This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Burns Strider" <bstrider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/17/2014 7:07:27 AM
Subject: CTR Sunday, August 17, 2014 News Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday August 17, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

BuzzFeed: "The Hamptons Welcomes Hillary Clinton Home For The Summer"

Politico: "Hillary Clinton hits up Hamptons book buyers"

"When Hillary Clinton signed books in Chappaqua, her hometown, it was muted, both inside the library where the event was held and elsewhere in the town. There was little overt buzz about the signing in the hamlet she's called home for 15 years. In East Hampton, it was another story."

New York Daily News: "Hillary Clinton fans flock to East Hampton for 'Hard Choices' book signing"

"Hundreds of Hillary Clinton fans flocked to East Hampton Saturday for a chance to chat with the former secretary of state. Clinton's book signing at BookHampton drew a line that stretched five blocks down Main Street."

Las Vegas Review-Journal: "High fashion, expense for Hillary travel"

"And she doesn't travel alone, relying on an entourage of a couple of 'travel aides,' and a couple of advance staffers who check out her speech site in the days leading up to her appearance, much like a White House trip, according to her contract and supporting documents concerning her Oct. 13 speech at a University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation fundraiser. The documents were obtained by the Las Vegas Review-Journal through the state public records law."

New York Daily News blog: Daily Politics: "Gov. Cuomo: I 'chat' with Hillary Clinton, but not about whether she's running for President"

"Appearing by phone on Fox News Channel's 'Sunday Morning Futures' to discuss his whirlwind trip last week to Israel, host Maria Bartiromo asked Cuomo whether Clinton has given him any indication she would not run for president, thus opening a potential pathway for him to get into the race."

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Articles:

BuzzFeed: "The Hamptons Welcomes Hillary Clinton Home For The Summer"

By Ruby Cramer

August 16, 2014, 9:44 p.m. EDT

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — At the independent bookstore on the main drag of this vacation spot for the rich, employees closed down shop hours early, wearing t-shirts custom-printed for the occasion: "Honored to Welcome Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Down the street, the owner of a monogram shop said she'd ordered napkins to sell during the Clintons' Hamptons vacation this month. One set read, "Hillary Clinton 2016?" The other bore the names of every likely Republican presidential candidate.

And at Herrick Park, a plot of green just beyond the bookstore, organizers at a charity softball game left two "CLINTON" uniforms waiting on a table, just in case the former first family decided to show up at the annual East Hampton event.

No one at the Artists & Writers game on Saturday afternoon knew whether the Clintons would make an appearance — Bill has attended three times in the past, and they hoped Hillary would stop by before her book signing down the street. Carl Bernstein, the journalist and a player on the "Writers" team, approached the uniform table and joked, "I'm gonna take Hillary's shirt."

Programs at the softball game proclaimed, "If you invite him, he will come." He didn't (he was said to be golfing), and neither did Hillary, but regulars here waited for the possible guests of honor with familiarity. The reception was just as warm back at the BookHampton shop on Saturday night, where the former secretary of state signed just under 1,000 copies of her memoir, Hard Choices.

In the cramped independent bookstore, Clinton greeted more friends and familiar faces than at her signing two months ago in Chappaqua, the Westchester hamlet where the Clintons have owned a home since 2001.

Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont and a past presidential candidate, came to the signing with his mother and several other family members, who Clinton met in a private enclave in the back of the store before the signing started. Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, also spent time with Clinton in the back room, along with Martha Stewart, who had been shopping nearby and stumbled on the signing.

Later, after Clinton took her seat at a table in the front of the room, her former colleague, Peter Orszag, the one-time director of the Office of Management and Budget, waited in line with his wife, Yahoo anchor Bianna Golodryga. When the couple approached, Clinton looked up in surprise. "It's a celebrity drop-by!"

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“We’re in vacation mode,” Orszag replied.

“It’s fun,” Golodryga told Clinton. “You should try it sometime.”

A BookHampton staffer said the Clintons have been customers of the shop for years, visiting at least once or twice every summer; the owner of the store, Charlene Spector, contributed to Clinton’s presidential campaign in 2008. As fans cycled through the line, Clinton seemed more at ease than at previous book signings, where interaction with attendees was often limited. Here, she took time to speak with most in line and occasionally signed photos and other personal items.

“We’ll see you in town,” one man said as he passed the table.

Another asked Clinton how she was enjoying Amagansett, where she is staying with her husband in a seven-bedroom home overlooking Gardiners Bay, worth a reported $18 million. “We always love it out here,” Clinton said. “It’s just the best.”

As Clinton signed another fan’s book, he asked her to name a favorite restaurant in the Hamptons. “There are so many,” she said. “What’s yours?” The man said his was Almond — a restaurant in Bridgehampton, owned by the brother of Anthony Weiner, who is married to one of Clinton’s closest aides, Huma Abedin.

Outside the signing, a woman wearing black clothes, an eyepatch, and a Prada fanny pack held up a white poster bearing the words, “The Worst Sec of State,” written in sloppy lettering. She stayed outside BookHampton, her arms raised, for more than three hours.

But inside, the event had the feeling of a family affair, signaling the extent to which the Clintons have made the tony Hamptons community their summer home in recent years. The Clintons’ Amagansett house this summer is on what people here joke is “the wrong side of the tracks,” north of Route 27 and the railroad line that runs through the Hamptons, and farther from the ocean-front beaches. Their rental is just next door to Harvey Weinstein, the film mogul and Democratic donor.

The signing capped off a difficult week for Clinton. After criticizing a line President Obama’s staff uses to describe his foreign policy doctrine — “Don’t do stupid stuff” — she called her former boss to insist she hadn’t meant to attack him. The episode culminated in a statement released by Clinton’s office that said she looked forward to “hugging it out” with Obama at a party on Martha’s Vineyard later in the week.

Clinton did not take questions at the East Hampton event. Following her vacation this month, Clinton is likely to continue promoting her memoir, an aide said.

Politico: “Hillary Clinton hits up Hamptons book buyers”

By Maggie Haberman

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

August 16, 2014, 9:57 p.m. EDT

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — When Hillary Clinton signed books in Chappaqua, her hometown, it was muted, both inside the library where the event was held and elsewhere in the town. There was little overt buzz about the signing in the hamlet she's called home for 15 years.

In East Hampton, it was another story. The Clintons have embraced the wealthy vacation enclave on Long Island since she ran for the U.S. Senate from New York in 2000. On Saturday, the whole town embraced Hillary Clinton back.

People in stores along Main Street and on an adjacent main stretch in the middle of the place best known as a haven for the .01 percent were overheard chatting about when her signing at nearby Bookhampton would begin.

There were signs in windows of other stores. Tickets had been handed out over the last few weeks. The couple's vacations, which have often been paired with fundraisers in the Hamptons, have rarely featured an open-press event with Hillary Clinton.

And for a couple who have grown wealthy in Bill Clinton's post-presidency, partly through paid speeches and book advances, East Hampton has become a second home. Bookhampton, owned by longtime Hillary Clinton supporter and donor Charline Spektor, is a frequent stop during their summers, according to Spektor's son.

"Bookhampton honored to welcome Hillary Rodham Clinton. Aug. 16, 2014," read the writing on royal-blue shirts the store's employees wore. The shop, which is surrounded by stores like Elie Tahari, Kate Spade and Tory Burch, closed at noon to prepare for the hundreds of people who would start entering the store at 5 p.m. to have a copy of "Hard Choices" signed.

The higher-profile names included home-decorating maven Martha Stewart, former Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean and American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten, all of whom chatted with Clinton in a private area in the store before the official signing began. "Martha! Martha!" the photographers who had been allowed inside the store called out, hoping for her to look up as she chatted with Clinton. Others, like former Office of Management and Budget head Peter Orszag and his wife, Yahoo News anchor Bianna Golodryga, and former New York City mayoral hopefuls Mark Green and Herman Badillo, waited in line.

"It's a celebrity drop-by!" Clinton exclaimed to Orszag and Golodryga as they approached the table.

"We're in vacation mode," Orszag told Clinton. His wife, in a reference to Clinton's peripatetic schedule, quipped, "It's fun — you should try it."

But Clinton seemed upbeat and comfortable in an environment that was filled with the familiar for her. There were plenty of people who Clinton recognized as they approached the desk, such as Patti Kenner, a donor who has supported the Clintons for years. Clinton flashed a huge smile and reached out her hands for Kenner.

A man used his face time with Clinton to ask her what her favorite Hamptons eatery is.

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“There are so many,” Clinton said, declining to answer. “What’s yours?” “Almond,” the man replied, referring to the restaurant owned by the brother of Anthony Weiner, who’s married to Clinton chief of staff Huma Abedin.

The Clintons are renting a reportedly $18 million home in Amagansett, a town near East Hampton, where they have often stayed in the past. Bill Clinton did not join his wife for the book signing and was said to be playing golf for the day after returning from Little Rock, Arkansas, where he had traveled a day earlier.

The signing fell at the close of one of Clinton’s roughest stretches since she re-entered the public eye this year during the book tour. An interview she gave to The Atlantic’s Jeffrey Goldberg, in which she threaded praise of President Barack Obama with her toughest criticism of his foreign policy, dominated headlines for much of last week.

Her last book signing was on Martha’s Vineyard on Wednesday, four days after that interview was published and hours before she was set to see Obama at a party for a mutual friend. On Saturday, she did not field media questions.

Clinton’s other difficulties came after she described herself in one of the earliest interviews as “dead broke” when she first left the White House, and with attention to her fees for paid speeches, particularly those she gave at public universities.

Clinton never alluded to The Atlantic interview as people streamed through the store, with the former secretary of state seated behind a desk, getting their books signed.

The closest she came to discussing foreign policy was when a family from Russia showed up at the desk. The husband told Clinton he had “loved” her chapter on Russia. Clinton’s response couldn’t be heard, but she ended the discussion by saying, “I tried. I will keep trying.”

Dean, the 2004 presidential candidate and former Vermont governor, milled around outside the bookstore, a small shop with wood bookshelves that was a far cry from the chain stores where she’s held many of her signings.

Outside the store was a chaotic scene, as police tried to keep crowds moving along the narrow sidewalk where the line had started forming hours earlier to see Clinton. There was a lone protester, who arrived wearing a pirate eye patch and a black fanny pack with a Prada logo. She held aloft a sign reading “The Worst Sec of State” in scrawled black writing. She stood outside the town’s Starbucks, as a barista handed out samples of coffee to passersby.

Dozens of people waited in front of the store to catch a glimpse of Clinton, who entered and left through a back door. Just a few hundred feet away and a few hours earlier, people hoped for a sighting of the other Clinton at Herrick Park, where the annual Artists and Writers Charity Softball Game took place.

Bill Clinton has occasionally made an unexpected cameo. Last year, he showed up along the first-base line.

The game’s organizers said they had no idea if he would this year. But just in case, there were two blue T-

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shirts — the writers team wore blue, the artists wore white — with the name “Clinton” on the back.

Carl Bernstein, the Watergate investigative reporter and author of a biography about Hillary Clinton, inspected the table with the shirts, joking, “I’m gonna take Hillary’s shirt.”

The Clintons never showed, and the shirts remained untouched, but the promise of it hovered over the game, in which Steve Jobs biographer Walter Isaacson, actress Lori Singer and Jon and Jamie Patricof, the sons of Clinton friend and major donor Alan Patricof, were among the players.

The Clintons-as-cottage-industry was in full effect throughout the town.

At The Monogram Shop, a linens store where the owner in 2000 featured a bathrobe mocking the Lincoln Bedroom fundraising scandals in her front window, there had been napkins reading “Hillary 2016?” and a set with Republican 2016 presidential hopefuls ordered for the occasion.

But “they didn’t ship!” the owner said, frustrated.

The notion of Hillary 2016 was broached with Clinton repeatedly by people who bought the book.

“The world is falling apart — you have to do something about it,” one woman told her somberly.

Another man said, “Good luck in 2016.” Clinton, who has not yet said definitively whether she’ll run but who is widely seen as a likely candidate, quickly responded, “Thank you!”

Clinton’s book tour has been intermittent and primarily conducted with signings in major cities as opposed to places that are significant on the political chessboard.

The tour has been going on since June 10 and is now well into its third month. It is not likely to be the last — aides said to expect more in the fall.

New York Daily News: “Hillary Clinton fans flock to East Hampton for 'Hard Choices' book signing”

By Debbie Tuma

August 17, 2014, 12:44 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Clinton’s book signing at BookHampton drew a line that stretched five blocks down Main Street.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hundreds of Hillary Clinton fans flocked to East Hampton Saturday for a chance to chat with the former secretary of state.

Clinton's book signing at BookHampton drew a line that stretched five blocks down Main Street.

"I can't wait to call her Madame President," gushed Angelina Martorano, 84, of Port Jefferson.

Clinton's memoir, "Hard Choices," was released two months ago.

Las Vegas Review-Journal: "High fashion, expense for Hillary travel"

By Laura Myers

August 16, 2014, 3:22 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton likes to travel in style.

She insists on staying in the "presidential suite" of luxury hotels that she chooses anywhere in the world, including Las Vegas.

She usually requires those who pay her six-figure fees for speeches to also provide a private jet for transportation — only a $39 million, 16-passenger Gulfstream G450 or larger will do.

And she doesn't travel alone, relying on an entourage of a couple of "travel aides," and a couple of advance staffers who check out her speech site in the days leading up to her appearance, much like a White House trip, according to her contract and supporting documents concerning her Oct. 13 speech at a University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation fundraiser. The documents were obtained by the Las Vegas Review-Journal through the state public records law.

CENTER OF ATTENTION

Clinton, a former first lady, U.S. senator from New York and U.S. secretary of state, is expected to run for president in 2016. Her lifestyles of the rich and famous ways and comments that she made about her wealth during a recent book tour have fueled criticism that she's out of touch with average Americans.

The Democratic contender said she pays taxes, unlike some people who are "truly well off." She also said she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, were "dead broke" when they left the White House in 2001. In the past eight years alone, the couple has earned more than $100 million, much of it from speaking fees, according to Politico.

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In fact, the former president spoke at the 2012 UNLV Foundation dinner, taking home a $250,000 fee. His spouse will get $225,000 to speak at the annual dinner. The size of Hillary Clinton's fee has come under fire from critics who question the large expense in an era when students are hard-pressed to cover tuition and leave school saddled with massive debt.

But Clinton's $225,000 is something of a cut-rate. Documents obtained by the newspaper show that she initially asked for $300,000 and reveal that she insists on controlling every detail of the private event, large and small, to ensure that she will be the center of attention.

"It is agreed that Speaker will be the only person on the stage during her remarks," according to the May 13 contract the Harry Walker Agency signed for Clinton's keynote address at the Bellagio.

According to her standard speaking contract, Clinton will remain at the event no longer than 90 minutes; will pose for no more than 50 photos with no more than 100 people; and won't allow any press coverage or video- or audio-taping of her speech.

The only record allowed will be made by a stenographer whose transcription will be given only to Clinton. The stenographer's $1,250 bill, however, will go to the UNLV Foundation.

The foundation, meanwhile, is prohibited from advertising the event on radio, TV or billboards. Mail and website ads are allowed, although Clinton staffers must approve in writing any promotional material. One unhappy UNLV Foundation official in an email complained of "meddling" after Clinton's agency edited a description of the annual dinner to "dumb it down."

And Clinton's demand for approval of all website material before it hits the Internet prompted a UNLV Web designer to grouse in an email that it seems "assbackwards in my mind."

The foundation complied with Clinton's wishes, however.

POLITICS IN PLAY

While big-name speakers such as the Clintons have been proven moneymakers, the foundation took a pass on a Hillary appearance in 2013 because Bill had appeared the previous year and the organization didn't want to come off as favoring Democrats.

"We need to be careful not to appear partisan," said a Feb. 18, 2013, email from the UNLV Foundation to the Harry Walker Agency.

Later, in a Jan. 31, 2014, email, UNLV suggested that Hillary Clinton might want to be interviewed by former TV broadcaster Tom Brokaw, who was supposed to speak in 2013 but fell ill and had to be replaced by talk show host Charlie Rose.

"It would temper any criticism by uber conservative donors that we're giving her a campaign stop,

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particularly in light of the fact the BC was here 2 years prior," reads an email from Tori Klein of the UNLV Foundation to Beth Gargano, a Harry Walker Agency representative.

But Clinton, who has had a rocky relationship with the press, had already vetoed media interviews.

Ironically, uber-conservative donor Sheldon Adelson, the chairman and chief executive officer of the Las Vegas Sands Corp. who donated an estimated $150 million to GOP campaigns and causes in 2012, will be honored at the UNLV Foundation dinner. His company helped UNLV raise millions of dollars this year and committed $7 million toward construction of a hotel college building and a proposed Center for Professional and Leadership Studies, the foundation said.

BIG NAMES

The annual dinner, one of Las Vegas' biggest fundraising events, attracts powerful donors. The top givers this year, who purchased the most expensive $20,000 tables, are a who's who of Nevada business and politics. They include:

Bank of America; Barnes & Noble College; Barrick Gold; the Bennett Family Foundation; Cashman Equipment Co.; the Engelstad Family; Kell and Nancy Houssels; Konami Gaming Inc.; Dana and Gregory Lee; Mr. and Mrs. Hae Un Lee of Lee's Discount Liquor; Joyce Mack; The Mendenhall Family; MGM Resorts International; NV Energy; PR Partners; the Wells Fargo Foundation; and Michael and Renee Yackira.

Clinton's contract allows her to invite up to 20 guests, including her staff, and have them sit together to be able to join the photo line.

None of the photos can be made public.

"The Sponsor is also required to communicate to the photo line attendees that the photo is for private, personal use only and that the photo cannot be used in any way to imply any kind of endorsement of an entity, individual, product or service," the contract says.

"Any use of the photo that suggests or implies any such endorsement is forbidden."

UNLV did win one major concession in contract talks that stretched more than a year: The Harry Walker Agency Inc. agreed to a $225,000 fee, down from Clinton's standard $300,000.

Clinton's fee usually includes expenses such as travel by private jet, other transportation, hotel rooms, phone charges, a TelePrompter, if needed, and all meals and "incidentals" for her and her staff.

"We can bring the fee down (because of the fact that a major portion of the $300K is for the jet)," an agency representative wrote in a May 23, 2013, email to a UNLV Foundation official.

"I believe the $225,000 ALL INCLUSIVE plus stenographer fee should do it," the agency said in a follow-up

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May 31, 2013, email after the university negotiated the discount and asked for confirmation.

Presumably, Clinton will have to pay for her own jet to Las Vegas, presidential suite and other costs she normally charges to events, unless some private donor picks up the tab.

According to a May 31, 2013 email, Clinton's standard contract usually includes:

■ Round-trip transportation on a chartered private jet "e.g., a Gulfstream 450 or larger jet," plus round-trip business class travel for two advance staffers who will arrive up to three days in advance.

■ Hotel accommodations selected by Clinton's staff and including "a presidential suite for Secretary Clinton and up to three (3) adjoining or contiguous single rooms for her travel aides and up to two (2) additional single rooms for the advance staff."

■ A $500 travel stipend to cover out-of-pocket costs for Clinton's lead travel aide.

■ Meals and incidentals for Clinton, her travel aides and advance staff, as well as all phone charges.

■ Final approval of all moderators or introducers.

BIG MONEYMAKER

The UNLV Foundation expects up to 1,000 people for the dinner, which is expected to turn a healthy profit. By early July, the organization had already sold out its top $20,000 tables with the $10,000, $5,000 and $3,000 tables going fast.

Individual tickets also are on sale for $200 each.

UNLV student leaders have sent a letter to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, which collects the $225,000 fee, asking that Hillary Clinton donate all or part of the money back to the university. They've received no reply.

UNLV Foundation leaders have defended paying such a high fee to Clinton, arguing that the dinner will make a profit and that her presence is both a big draw and an honor.

The foundation has raised more than $1 billion for the university over the years.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers@reviewjournal.com or 702 387-2919. Find her on Twitter: @lmyerslvrj

[COPY OF CONTRACT]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

New York Daily News blog: Daily Politics: “Gov. Cuomo: I 'chat' with Hillary Clinton, but not about whether she's running for President”

By Ken Lovett

August 17, 2014, 11:04 a.m. EDT

Gov. Cuomo during a rare Sunday morning national television appearance said he chats with Hillary Clinton, but not about whether the former secretary of state is running for President.

Appearing by phone on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" to discuss his whirlwind trip last week to Israel, host Maria Bartiromo asked Cuomo whether Clinton has given him any indication she would not run for president, thus opening a potential pathway for him to get into the race.

"I have not had any conversation like that with Secretary Clinton," he said. "I chat with her, but not about that."

Cuomo laughed off a question that the trip foreshadowed his plans for 2016, the next presidential year. Bartiromo contrasted Cuomo's visit to Irael and meetings with key leaders to President Obama playing golf on Martha's Vineyard at the same time. He did not defend Obama.

“I thought it was gubernatorial of me, Maria, more than presidential of me," Cuomo said. "I've been to Israel many times before. I was in the Cilnton administration and I worked with Israel."

"As you know being a New Yorker, we have special connections with Israel," he continued. "Being a New Yorker who went through 9-11 we have special sensitivity to terrorist attacks and the real of pain and suffering that's caused. That was the tone that we brought.."

But there's no doubt Cuomo, who is running for election this year, was seeking maximum attention for this Israeli trip. His Sunday interview was a rare appearance on a national Sunday show, though he did appear on Bartiromo's show earlier this year. She also emceeded for Cuomo an economic development grant announcement earlier in his term.

Whether his Israeli trip was meant to show solidarity with the country, cement support among New York's Jewish voters in a re-election year, dip his toe in the presidential waters, divert attention from the recent controversy surrounding his handling of his anti-corruption commission, or all of the above is unclear.

But what is clear is that Cuomo, who since taking office has focused almost solely on New York issues, has been wiling the past week to engage in international discussions as it pertains to the Middle East in a way he had previously avoided.

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"Hamas is a real opponent and their tactics are highly problematic," he said.

"And you put that in the scope of the region with this whole rise of this extremism and ISIS and Muslim Brotherhood, the United States needs Israel more than ever as a strategic ally because the region has real issues."

Cuomo was on the ground in Israel for about 28 hours. He traveled with a New York delegation that included Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate co-Leaders Jeffrey Klein and Dean Skelos, Daily News Publisher Mortimer B. Zuckerman, and two of his brother-in-laws, including fashion designer Kenneth Cole.

"It was really a united New York front," Cuomo said. "Politically, culturally, saying to Israel that we understand you're situation and we stand with you."

Cuomo while in Israel met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Reuven Rivlin, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon, and former President Shimon Peres. He also toured a tunnel that ran from Gaza more than a mile toward a kibbutz in Israel and was briefed on Israel's successful "iron dome" anti-missile defense system.

In addition, Cuomo toured Jerusalem, including the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He skipped visiting the Dome of the Rock, a sacred Muslim site, and also turned down an invitation from Palestinian officials to visit Gaza.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 2:05:10 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Here we go...
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> User Actions
>
> Following
>
> **Marco RubioVerified account** @marcorubio
>
> After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

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Jeremy Massey

Research Department

847 736 9211

JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/4/2008 12:54:47 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 9/4

08 Election Daily News Clips
September 4th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

Evening: McCain Convention Address

News Clips:

RNC NEWS

In a More Diverse America, A Mostly White Convention (WaPo 9/4/08)
By Eli Saslow and Robert Barnes; A01
Organizers conceived of this convention as a means to inspire, but some African American Republicans have found the Xcel Energy Center depressing this week. Everywhere they look, they see evidence of what they consider one of their party's biggest shortcomings. As the country rapidly diversifies, Republicans are presenting a convention that is almost entirely white.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303962_pf.html

Immigration Issue Gets Little Attention On Convention Floor (WaPo 9/4/08)
By Ben Pershing; A25
During the heat of the primary season late last year, Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) said it was imperative for his party to nominate a candidate who was tough on illegal immigration and didn't parrot President Bush's centrist stance on the issue. "If we don't," King said in December, "then we're in for another four to eight years of the squabbling we've had." Yet as Republicans prepared to ratify Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) -- author, with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), of the comprehensive immigration measure that died in the Senate last year -- as their presidential nominee this week, little of that squabbling has been on display in the Twin Cities.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303696_pf.html

Giuliani attacks Obama's record as 'nothing ... nada' (CNN 9/4/08)
* Giuliani blasts Obama's lack of experience
* Giuliani lauds Gov. Sarah Palin's executive experience
* He says Republicans "are the party that expands freedom"
* He says GOP thinks U.S. is "a beacon of freedom that inspires people everywhere"

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/03/giuliani.speech/index.html
LINK TO TRANSCRIPT OF GIULIANI SPEECH: http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/03/rudy-giulianis-prepared-convention-remarks/

Antiwar march planned for last day of RNC (AP 9/4/08)
By AMY FORLITI
As John McCain accepts his party's presidential nomination Thursday night, protesters calling for an end to the Iraq war plan to march outside the Xcel Energy Center.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CVN_CONVENTION_PROTESTS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-09-04-04-22-28

RNC bomb plan uncovered (CNN blog 9/4/08)
By Joe Johns
A 23-year-old man was plotting to set off bombs to coincide with the Republican National Convention, according to details federal prosecutors released Wednesday.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/03/rnc-bomb-plan-uncovered/

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain's Focus on Iraq War Carries Risk (WaPo 9/4/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A25

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The 55-page Republican Party platform, approved here this week, contains exactly one paragraph devoted to the war in Iraq -- a sign of how the conflict that dominated the last two national election cycles has faded as a major political issue.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303794_pf.html

McCain Shifts Right on Abortion (WSJ 9/4/08)
By GERALD F. SEIB; Page A2
What are we to conclude about the state of the abortion debate from the fact that Sen. John McCain wavered in choosing a running mate between Sen. Joe Lieberman, who gets a voting score of zero from groups that oppose abortion rights, and Gov. Sarah Palin, who gets perfect reviews from those same groups?
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122048113228196671.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

McCain and the politics of mortality (Politico 9/4/08)
By: Alexander Burns
Since John McCain announced Friday that first-term Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin would be his running mate, Democrats have been quick to point out that the 44-year-old governor could soon be just "a heartbeat away from the presidency." The veiled reference to McCain's advanced age is hard to miss.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=253B8DF9-18FE-70B2-A8961A86DC5B16C7

McCain Top Fund-Raisers Set New Target (WSJ 9/4/08)
John McCain's top fund-raisers met privately here Wednesday to begin a new effort to raise $100 million in the final two months of the Republican presidential candidate's campaign.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122048260041496857.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Driven to Serve, and to Succeed (NYT 9/4/08)
By MARK LEIBOVICH and DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
Senator John McCain's Republican primary campaign looked all but hopeless. He had risked the wrath of his party to push for an immigration overhaul and now, just months before the Iowa caucuses, his grand compromise was falling apart on the Senate floor as well.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/04/us/politics/04mccain.html_r=1&oref=slogin&ref=politics&pagewanted=prin

McCain Address to Be Wake-Up Call for GOP (WaPo 9/4/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Robert Barnes; A17
When he steps to the lectern at the Xcel Energy Center on Thursday night to accept the Republican presidential nomination, Sen. John McCain will face an immediate comparison to an opponent known for his soaring rhetoric who delivered his own speech to a football stadium full of people and a television audience of 38 million. And that's the easy part.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303693_pf.html

PALIN NEWS

Sarah Palin addresses Republican convention (LA Times 9/4/08)
By Bob Drogin, Maeve Reston, and Michael Muskal
Sarah Palin took center stage at the Republican National Convention tonight and faced an enthusiastic audience whose frequent cheers were like balm after the political pain of the past several days.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-ledeall4-2008sep04,0,7127394.story
LINK TO TRANSCRIPT: http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/03/palin.transcript/index.html

Palin comes out throwing punches (CNN 9/4/08)
* Delegate says Palin delivers one-two punch to Obama's face
* Palin rips Barack Obama as a man who didn't author "a single major law"
* "I accept the challenge of a tough fight," Palin says
* Giuliani calls Obama a "celebrity senator"

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/03/rnc.day/index.html

Palin: Iraq war 'a task that is from God' (AP 9/4/08)
By GENE JOHNSON
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin told ministry students at her former church that the United States sent troops to fight in the Iraq war on a "task that is from God."
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CVN_PALIN_IRAQ_WAR?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-09-03-22-48-15

Hot mic catches GOP strategists trashing Palin pick (CNN blog 9/4/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Alexander Mooney
Prominent Republican analysts Peggy Noonan and Mike Murphy became the latest victims of an open microphone Wednesday, caught after a segment on MSNBC trashing John McCain's pick of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/03/hot-mic-catches-gop-strategists-trashing-palin-pick/

Celebrity Media Hits the Trail (WSJ 9/4/08)
By REBECCA DANA and RUSSELL ADAMS; Page A14
Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin eats moose-burgers and paints her toenails pink. John McCain likes reality television. Win or lose, the Obama family is getting a dog this fall.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122048897232997351.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Official: Palin's never issued an order to Alaska Guard (Anchorage Daily news 9/4/08)
George Bryson
When presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain introduced Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate last Friday, the Arizona senator emphasized her role as the commander in chief of the Alaska National Guard.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/v-print/story/51665.html

The Unusual Challenges Palin Faced in Alaska (NYT 9/4/08)
By KIRK JOHNSON
... Sarah Palin's experience as Alaska's governor since taking office in late 2006 has been a keystone argument by Republicans that she is fit to serve as vice president. At the convention Wednesday in St. Paul, Ms. Palin and other speakers contended that her time as governor has given her more practical experience than Mr. Obama. Many Americans in other states, though, might not recognize the job she holds or the unusual challenges she has faced — from managing a $5 billion budget surplus in a time of economic distress elsewhere, to upending an entrenched political establishment within her own party that was literally around for the state's founding.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/04/us/politics/04alaska.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Palin shook up 'old boy's network' (USA Today 9/4/08)
By John Fritze and Matt Kelley
Long before a legislative investigation into the firing of Alaska's public safety director began, Gov. Sarah Palin faced controversy for her management style. Supporters — including the man who picked her to be his running mate, Republican presidential candidate John McCain — cite Palin as a leader willing to shake up the establishment. Others say she has been unnecessarily abrupt and dismissive of employees.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-03-palin-style_N.htm

Palin's Faith Is Seen In Church Upbringing (WSJ 9/4/08)
By SUZANNE SATALINE; Page A6
At the Pentecostal church where Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin worshipped for more than two decades, congregants speak in tongues and are part of a faith that believes humanity is in its "end times" -- the days preceding a world-ending cataclysm bringing Christian redemption and the second coming of Jesus.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122048406528596987.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Alaska Governor's National Debut Evokes Voter Passion on Both Sides (WSJ 9/4/08)
As they watched Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin give one of the most anticipated political speeches of the year, the verdicts from voters rolled in. It wasn't a scientific sampling, but from bars to living rooms to the convention floor, it was the first time most Americans had seen Gov. Palin up close.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122050082519598401.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

In 1988, There Was Another Surprise No. 2 Pick (WaPo 9/4/08)
By David S. Broder; A29
Before Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin electrified the Republican National Convention Wednesday night with her acceptance speech, one man sitting with the California delegation thought he had been there before.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303398_pf.html

Democrats say Palin mimics Bush divisiveness (CNN 9/4/08)
* Dems say "tirade" in Palin's speech proves she is unqualified
* Harry Reid spokesman calls Palin's attacks on leader "shrill and sarcastic"
* Spokesman: Speech "same divisive, partisan attacks" that Bush uses
* Obama adviser: Romney attack "as pathetic as his failed presidential campaign"
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/03/rnc.democrats.reaction/index.html

Report: Palin sent e-mails complaining of trooper (AP 9/3/08)
By STEVE QUINN
Gov. Sarah Palin sent e-mails to the state's top police official, criticizing Alaska State Troopers for their investigation of an officer who went through a bitter divorce with her sister, a newspaper reported Wednesday.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h7VIY5GfDmjy-A5HsGLuHvA0SHtgD92VJNAO0

Why the media should apologize (Politico blog 9/3/08)
By ROGER SIMON
On behalf of the media, I would like to say we are sorry. On behalf of the elite media, I would like to say we are very sorry. We have asked questions this week that we should never have asked. We have asked pathetic questions like: Who is Sarah Palin? What is her record? Where does she stand on the issues? And is she is qualified to be a heartbeat away from the presidency?
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0908/13143.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Ms. Palin's Introduction (WaPo 9/4/08)
A strong convention speech alone can't answer the questions about her readiness.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303516_pf.htm

Running Against Themselves (NYT 9/4/08)
Three days into the Republican National Convention, it is clear that the G.O.P. has settled on a message: "Washington is not working." The phrase is included in virtually every speech and every statement in St Paul.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/04/opinion/04thu1.html?pagewanted=print

Stark foreign policy differences between Obama and McCain (WaPo 9/4/08)
David Ignatius
In the days after the Russian invasion of Georgia, the world had a chance to examine the different foreign-policy styles of John McCain and Barack Obama. It was a telling comparison that offered some clear signs of how the two candidates would react to crises.
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_10372995?source=rss

Class of '64 (WaPo 9/4/08)
By Anne Applebaum; A15
And now, ladies and gentlemen, before the convention season comes to a close, let us pause a moment and suspend our partisan impulses: It is time to sing the praises of 44-year-old women. Whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, from Alaska or Chicago, rural or urban, a moose-hunter or a gun-controller, surely you can see that Sarah Palin and Michelle Obama, two of the stars of this year's political conventions, do have a few important things in common.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090303119_pf.html

The surge and a 'purge' (Washington Times 9/4/08)
As John McCain prepares to accept the Republican nomination for president tonight, the troop surge strategy he championed continues to yield benefits in Iraq. On Monday, the U.S. military handed security control of Anbar province over to the Iraqi government. The transfer was made possible by the extraordinary success that U.S.-led coalition forces and their Iraqi counterparts have had in fighting al Qaeda forces in Anbar, where the number of attacks against Iraqis and Americans has fallen by more than 90 percent since 2006. Anbar, which borders Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, is the 11th of 18 provinces to be turned over to Iraqi security control. Although coalition forces will remain in Anbar for now, security responsibility for the province now belongs to 60,000 members of the Iraqi army and police.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/04/the-surge-and-a-purge/

Palin's secession flirtation (LA Times 9/4/08)
For years she has courted the Alaska Independence Party, which wants to split the state from the U.S.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-brooks4-2008sep04,0,5675222.column?track=rss

Picking Sarah Palin, a daring choice (Denver Post 9/4/08)
Ruben Navarrette
Never mind the naysayers and inside-the-Beltway snobs who mock John McCain's selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate. This was a brilliant choice.
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_10372869?source=rss

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Editorial: The Vetting of Palin (Philly Inquirer 9/4/08)
Ignored or missed?
The disclosure that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's 17-year-old unmarried daughter is pregnant shouldn't concern voters. The real issue underlying this surprise detail, and other facts coming out about Palin, is what it says about John McCain's judgment.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20080903_Editorial__The_Vetting_of_Palin.html

Faith and fight have resurrected McCain campaign (San Antonio Express-News 9/4/08)
By Jonathan Gurwitz
One year ago, John McCain's campaign was broke. He had slashed his staff.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20080903_Faith_and_fight_have_resurrected_McCain_campaign.html

BUSH NEWS

This Time, Bush Finds Better Picture (WaPo 9/4/08)
By Dan Eggen; A03
When President Bush visited the Louisiana capital after Hurricane Katrina, most of New Orleans lay underwater, thousands were stranded in squalor, and his administration was feuding with the state's Democratic governor over who was to blame.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR2008090301922_pf.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

US says troops could quit Baghdad soon (Financial Times 9/4/08)
By Demetri Sevastopulo
General David Petraeus, the top US commander in Iraq, said declining violence in Baghdad raised the possibility that American combat troops could leave the capital by next summer.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fcfd348c-798c-11dd-bb93-000077b07658.html

Halliburton Ex-Official Pleads Guilty in Bribe Case (WSJ 9/4/08)
By Russell Gold
In a wide-ranging foreign-corruption investigation, fired former Halliburton Co. executive Albert J. "Jack" Stanley pleaded guilty to orchestrating more than $180 million in bribes to senior Nigerian government officials. The bribes were used to win a contract to build a liquefied-natural-gas plant in Nigeria.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122047391409696341.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
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202-609-7681 (office)
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 11:52:35 AM
Subject: Column: The ‘Clinton Cash’ con | TheHi ll--John, enjoy, Brent

http://thehill.com/opinion/brent-budowsky/241276-brent-budowsky-the-clinton-cash-con

Sent from my iPad

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org> "Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org> "Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	8/3/2012 7:17:27 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 8.3.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached is President Clinton's latest biweekly report. Please let me know if there are any questions or feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
August 3, 2012

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

Commercial farm lease agreements with Press Agriculture for the expansion of the Anchor Farm Project are being completed. Other key activities are the negotiation of crop sales contracts for the coming season, the inclusion of seed-growing contracts with seed companies, the purchase of fertilizer, and negotiation for the purchase of farm machinery.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Colombia

The Agency of International Cooperation of the Colombian Government has approved a $40,000 USD grant to the TANA organic spice group. Additional grant applications are under review by other agencies of the Colombian government that will enable TANA to reduce reliance on funds from CGSGI and other NGOs.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

CGI is currently has 359 paying members registered for the 2012 Annual Meeting, a decrease of 38 from this time last year. In the last bi-weekly report, the year-over-year gap stood at 66. We believe the narrowing of this gap is the result of systematic outreach to those whose membership has expired on a rolling monthly basis since January 1, 2012. Of the 359 registered paying members, 278 are renewals, a decrease of 30 compared to this time last year (308). New paying members total 81, down eight from the number at this time last year (89).

Tom Golisano has renewed his sponsorship of the Annual Meeting at $1,250,000.

Seal has agreed to perform at this year's Clinton Global Citizen Awards ceremony.

CGI America

Following up on the gathering of mayors that you convened in Chicago to discuss Mayor Emanuel's infrastructure trust as a job-creation vehicle, we are expecting representatives from 18 cities to join you at the Pocantico Center in Tarrytown next week. They include Asheville, Atlanta, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Jacksonville, Joplin, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, New Orleans, New York, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, and Philadelphia.

CGI University

In an effort to boost formal engagement with universities and increase the effectiveness of student commitments, CGI U will be launching the CGI University Network in the coming weeks. To join the network, universities must agree to provide at least $10,000 in commitment seed funding and travel stipends for CGI U student attendees from their respective campuses.

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Other

Penny Abeywardena, who leads the Girls & Women track at CGI, was recently named as one of the "Innovation 101" by a new United Nations forum, the DNA Summit (Decide Now Act), for CGI's work in putting women's rights at the forefront of the political agenda. The inaugural meeting took place last week in London at the House of Commons.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
William J. Clinton Foundation
77 Water Street, New York, NY 10005
T: 917.720.0295 | **M:** 646.873.0244
E: zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Terry Sheridan" <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 11/22/2011 12:04:13 PM
Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

That's fine. I'd like to see the paper, but happy to hold on
interviews till the 2nd round. 19/20 in DC should work. Go ahead and
post Bruce on this.

On Tue, Nov 22, 2011 at 1:36 PM, Terry Sheridan
<tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
> John:
>
> I had a chance to review your participation by phone in the interviews with the search firm, and they feel that it's difficult to be meaningfully engaged on the phone. Apparently they have done tele-presence before, but they find it creates constraints in engaging with the candidates. What they recommend is arranging an in-person meeting for the second round, and these could be done in DC on Dec. 19-20 if that makes it easier for you. They were also thinking that in between the first and second round, we could entertain flying a group of candidates out to San Francisco to meet Eric. We could also consider flying the candidates to Little Rock to meet with Bruce for that matter.
>
> Let me know if you think I should send a note to Bruce on this, or if you think you would want to discuss it with him. Also, please let me know your thoughts about your seeing the second-round candidates in DC. Thanks.
>
> Terry
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 3:40 PM
> To: Terry Sheridan
> Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search
>
> Terry,
> I need to be in DC on those days, but could probably participate in a number of the interviews by phone from DC. Let's discuss tomorrow.
> John
>
> On Thu, Nov 17, 2011 at 12:04 PM, Terry Sheridan <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
>> John:
>>
>>
>>
>> I hope your trip is going well.
>>
>>
>>
>> I wanted to follow up with you on a major project we are working on -
>> the executive search for the CEO of CGSGI. We have retained Russell
>> Reynolds for the search, and we are working with Annie Simonds from
>> their Washington DC office. They have identified a number of viable
>> candidates and we are scheduled to conduct in-person interviews in NY
>> on December 7th and 8th, with follow up interviews on December 19th and 20th.
>>
>>
>>
>> Bruce is on the search committee but obviously hasn't been able to
>> participate these past few weeks. In addition to myself and Annie
>> Simonds, the other members are Christy Louth, Executive Director of
>> CGSGI Canada, and Eric Nonacs, a member of the CGSGI Steering
>> Committee and of the CGSGI Canada Board of Directors, whom you may
>> know. Christy will particpate in the December 7th & 8th interviews,

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>> but is not available for the follow up interviews, and Eric is
>> unfortunately not available for either. We were counting on Bruce to
>> add an important management perspective, but I am not sure if he will
>> be able to participate. If he is not able, would you be able to help,
>> particularly for the first round on December 7th and 8th? It will be
>> important to have good representation on our end not only to evaluate
>> the candidates but also to attract them to the position. I know you
>> have a very full plate, but if your schedule would be able to
>> accommodate this, the search firm would of course brief you on the
>> candidate slate, and will be preparing a summary of specific questions
>> and areas we will want to explore in our interviews with candidates.
>> There will be a total of 8 candidates to speak to on 12/7 & 12/8, with the objective of narrowing the field to 4 candidates for the 2nd round later that month.
>>
>>
>>
>> Another alternative could be to reschedule the interviews for January,
>> but the objective has been to move this along at an aggressive pace as
>> Frank Giustra is very eager to fill this position (it has been vacant
>> since mid-year). Once we agree on the second-round candidates, we
>> could also fly the candidates out to San Francisco where Eric is based.
>>
>>
>>
>> I would appreciate your bringing this up with Bruce when you next
>> speak, and your thoughts on the possible alternatives if he is not
>> available. Thanks and safe travels.
>>
>>
>>
>> Terry
>

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/14/2015 12:35:14 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Carly capitalizes. Can it last?

View The Daily 202 on the Web

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

Carly Fiorina in Atlanta last Friday. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA: Carly Fiorina got the biggest bounce out of last week's debate. In the three weeks before the happy hour face-off, only Rick Santorum and George Pataki were mentioned less frequently than Fiorina across traditional and social media. Since last Thursday, the former Hewlett Packard CEO was discussed more often than every GOP contender but Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz and, of course, Donald Trump. To quantify that: From July 13 to Aug. 4, Fiorina was mentioned just 128,000 times, lackluster intensity that showed up in low polling numbers. In the week since debate day, the only woman among the 17 Republican candidates was talked about three times as much as the previous three weeks combined, according to our analytics partners at Zignal Labs.

She's getting lots of love from the mainstream media for picking a fight with Trump over his Megyn Kelly comments: The pre-debate conversation about Fiorina largely highlighted her outspoken support for defunding Planned Parenthood. The conversation since has mainly focused on her criticism of The Donald's misogyny. Fiorina did 11 interviews last Friday and then three Sunday shows. That visibility helped increase her standing in Iowa and New Hampshire polls released this week. She's getting welcome attention from unusual sources, including positive piece on the front of yesterday's New York Times and in today's Wall Street Journal . GQ published a Q&A, and The Huffington Post ran an op-ed yesterday in which she argued that "the status quo isn't working for women." After raising a paltry $1.7 million during her first quarter as a candidate, this attention should also help put money in her coffers. Here's a tally from Zignal of total mentions for the candidates not named Trump over the past seven days:

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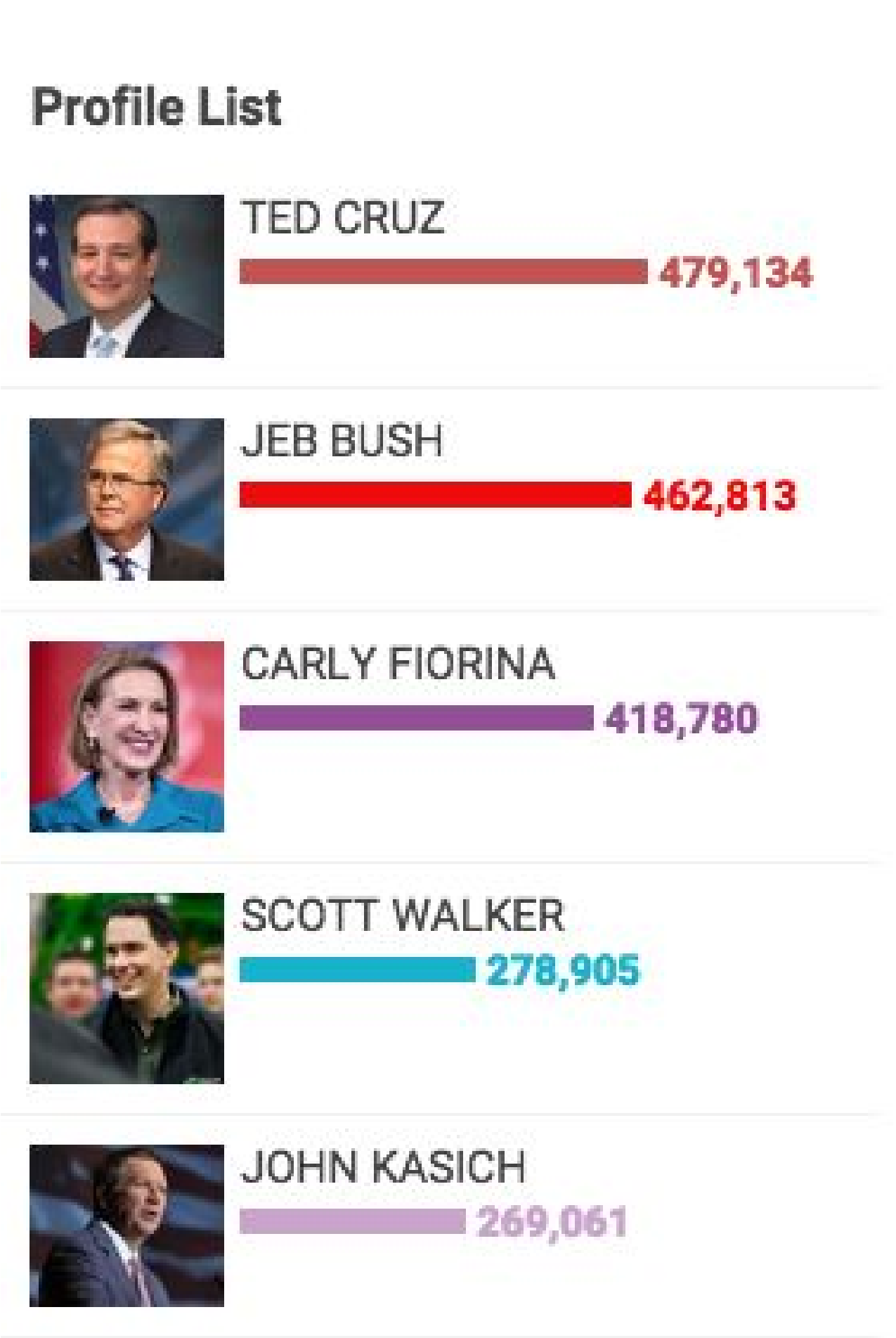

But more buzz is going to bring a lot more scrutiny. In her only previous bid for elected office, despite the tea party wave of 2010, Fiorina lost by 10 points to Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

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Reporters will now start covering what she says at her events. Last night, for instance, Fiorina declared at a town hall meeting that parents should NOT be forced to vaccinate their children. "When in doubt, it is always the parent's choice," Fiorina said in rural Iowa. Post reporter Jenna Johnson, who is trailing Fiorina, writes that the answer came to a question from a mother who said that because of her religious beliefs, her five children won't receive any vaccines that were created using cells from "aborted babies." Fiorina replied: "We must protect religious liberty and someone's ability to practice their religion. … We must devote energy and resources to doing so. Period."

Some pretty tough stories about Fiorina's business record are likely in the pipeline. "It's impressive on paper, underwhelming in reality," the Los Angeles Times' Michael Hiltzik notes in a column. "She was CEO of Hewlett-Packard from mid-1999 to early 2005, a period in which the company's stock sank 49% to 60% (depending on how you count), making it one of the worst-performing high-tech firms. … She cut HP's payroll by 10,000 employees in 2000 while surrounding her glamorous self with clouds of image and strategy consultants. She marketed overpriced knockoffs of other companies' consumer technologies and then, disastrously, doubled down on the PC business by acquiring Compaq in 2002, when the right move would have been to exit that low-margin business altogether. The Compaq takeover led to a bruising battle with the HP board, which she utterly mismanaged, leading to her bitter ouster in 2005."

Watch for more pieces in this mold over the coming days from both national and early-state papers, specifically focused on the HP layoffs. None of the above is news for Californians. [I worked for the San Jose Mercury News in 2006 when it came out that investigators working for HP had illicitly obtained reporter phone records to crack down on leaks.] But GOP voters in Iowa and New Hampshire don't yet really know much about Fiorina beyond that that she is a woman, has private-sector experience and is very good at delivering anti-Hillary zingers.

Programming note: I will be on vacation next week, but several of my Post colleagues are going to fill in as guest hosts of The Daily 202. Watch for Big Ideas from David Weigel, Karen Tumulty, Philip Rucker, David Fahrenthold and Robert Costa.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— Tom Harkin endorsed Hillary Clinton and will join her at the Iowa State Fair this

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weekend: "As Democrats, we're fortunate to have a slate of candidates that are all fine individuals, but we need a fighter who has a record of getting things done and the vision for the future that will build on the progress we've made," he writes in a Des Moines Register op-ed. "For my wife, Ruth and I, that candidate is Hillary Clinton." It is significant that Harkin, who retired from the Senate last year after four decades in Congress, will join HRC at the Iowa State Fair this weekend. Notably, the liberal Harkin backed Howard Dean in 2004 but avoided taking sides in the Clinton-Obama-Edwards fight prior to the 2008 caucuses. Bill and Hillary spoke at his final steak fry last year. This also constitutes a snub of sorts for his longtime colleague, Joe Biden, who has been actively considering a challenge to Clinton in South Carolina this week. Or it reflects the belief the Veep isn't going to get in.

Harkin in 2012 (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

The latest on Hillary's emails—

- **"The two emails on Hillary Rodham Clinton's private server that an auditor deemed 'top secret' include a discussion of a news article detailing a U.S. drone operation** and a separate conversation that could point back to highly classified material in an improper manner or merely reflect information collected independently, U.S. officials who have reviewed the correspondence told The Associated Press . The drone exchange, the officials said, begins with a copy of a news article that discusses the CIA drone program that targets terrorists in Pakistan and elsewhere. While a secret program, it is well-known and often reported on. The copy makes reference to classified

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information, and a Clinton adviser follows up by dancing around a top secret in a way that could possibly be inferred as confirmation, they said. Several officials, however, described this claim as tenuous."

- **Top Hillary aides Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills have agreed not to delete any work-related emails or documents following an order from a federal judge that they preserve the records**, according to their lawyers.
- **"The FBI is seeking to determine whether data from Clinton's private e-mail server may still exist elsewhere,"** an unnamed "U.S. official" told Bloomberg. "After acquiring the server on Wednesday, agents are attempting to determine whether e-mails may have been backed up on another machine."
- **The last batch of Hillary emails released by the State Department included one from Clinton asking to borrow a book called "Send: Why People Email So Badly and How to Do It Better."** ABC's Jonathan Karl notes that Chapter Six is called "The Email That Can Land You In Jail," and that the chapter includes a section entitled "How to Delete Something So It Stays Deleted."
- **Frustrated by a series of embarrassing leaks, John Kerry reportedly admonished State Department employees about making unauthorized disclosures to the press.** "In slightly more polite words, Kerry said if you want to leak, you can get the f— out," a State Department official told Foreign Policy.

— The United States believes ISIS used chemical weapons in Iraq this week against Kurdish forces, senior U.S. officials told the Wall Street Journal. The officials think that ISIS likely obtained mustard gas agent from Syria, which has a stockpile leftover from 2013. Officials believe the attack occurred late Wednesday, about 40 miles southwest of Erbil in northern Iraq and raises red flags about the Islamic State's capabilities and how to defend against it.

GET SMART FAST:

1. **NOAA** updated their outlook for El Niño, saying it looks like this year's will be the strongest since 1997-1998. That could mean more rain for California and possibly a warm winter for the Mid-Atlantic. (Capital Weather Gang)
2. **EPA** Administrator Gina McCarthy said the Animas River "is restoring itself" and water quality has returned to "pre-incident conditions" after her agency caused toxic sludge from an abandoned gold mine upstream in Colorado to flow into it. (NBC)
3. The **Connecticut** Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that the death penalty is unconstitutional. (Hartford Courant)
4. A **Colorado** baker who, citing his religious beliefs, refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple discriminated against them, the state Court of Appeals ruled in a 64-page opinion. (Denver Post)

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5. Ninety-eight prominent Jewish-Americans from Los Angeles, most with ties to the entertainment industry, signed an open letter supporting the **Iran deal**. (Hollywood Reporter)
6. **North Korea** condemned next week's joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise as a "declaration of war" and boasted of its ability to make retaliatory strikes against the White House, AFP reports. "The annual two-week 'Ulchi Freedom' exercise, which kicks off Monday, involves tens of thousands of troops in what is a largely computer-simulated rehearsal for a North Korean invasion."
7. "A recording posted online appears to show **al Qaeda** chief Ayman al Zawahiri vowing loyalty to the new leader of the Afghan Taliban," the Journal reports.
8. Despite higher-than-expected enrollment of Ohioans newly eligible for Medicaid because **John Kasich** expanded the program, overall costs were $2 billion below original estimates in the fiscal year that ended June 30. (Columbus Dispatch)

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Ta-Nehisi Coates' latest book is on the president's summer reading list.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. The White House shared the six books on **President Obama's** summer reading list while he's on Martha's Vineyard: "All That Is," by James Salter; "All The Light We Cannot

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See," by Anthony Doerr; "The Sixth Extinction," by Elizabeth Kolbert; "The Lowland," by Jhumpa Lahiri; "Between the World and Me," by Ta-Nehisi Coates ; and "Washington: A Life," by Ron Chernow.

2. **Ben Carson** defended the use of fetal tissue for medical research, after a blog published excerpts of a 1992 paper describing work the neurosurgeon-turned-presidential candidate carried out using aborted fetuses.
3. People close to **Al Gore**, including a spokeswoman, are pushing back aggressively on the idea that the former vice president might run for president after BuzzFeed reported that there are conversations about it.
4. **Marco Rubio** will pledge today to give tickets to his 2017 inauguration to the world's dissidents if elected.
5. NBC is searching for a host to replace **Donald Trump** on "The Celebrity Apprentice" when it returns at some point in the 2016-17 television season. (NYT)
6. **Bill Clinton** visited Hillary's campaign headquarters in Brooklyn and gave a pep talk to staff.
7. **Bernie Sanders'** New Hampshire operation is moving to a bigger headquarters next week, from the south side of Concord to the east side of Manchester. (NH1)
8. "Coming off a routine debate performance and a dip in the polls, **Scott Walker** says he soon will begin unveiling policy positions on health care, national security and other issues," per the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel .
9. **Walker** will spend Labor Day weekend in New Hampshire, traveling on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle through each of the state's 10 counties.
10. South Carolina state Sen. **Paul Thurmond**, Strom's youngest son, said he won't run for reelection. The 39-year-old and his wife are expecting their fifth child this December, per the Charleston Post & Courier.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— **"John Kerry leads delegation to Cuba for flag raising at U.S. embassy," by Karen DeYoung:** "The United States plans to raise the Stars and Stripes at its embassy in Havana Friday morning, kicking off a day of symbolism and carefully balanced outreach to both Cuba's communist government and its restive population…President Obama's inaugural poet, Richard Blanco, whose family left Cuba shortly before he was born in 1968, will read "Matters of the Sea," a poem he has written for the occasion…Later in the afternoon, a separate U.S. flag will be raised at the oppulent estate in western Havana that is the once and future residence of the U.S. ambassador…Members of Cuban civil society — including political dissidents — ave been invited to that ceremony and to a reception with Kerry will host." Meanwhile, on his 89th birthday, Fidel Castro insisted that the U.S. owes Cuba "many millions of dollars" because of the trade embargo.

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— **"An Iowa surprise: Donald Trump is actually trying to win ," by Philip Rucker and Robert Costa:** "For many Americans, the Trump presidential campaign amounts to a billionaire talking endlessly, and entertainingly, on television. But here in Iowa, it's another story. Trump is trying to beat the politicians on their turf, building one of the most extensive organizations in the Republican field…'I see them as a major threat to all the other campaigns because of the aggressiveness of their ground game,' said Sam Clovis, an Iowa conservative who leads former Texas governor Rick Perry's campaign. 'You cannot swing a dead cat in Iowa and not hit a Trump person,' Clovis continued. 'It's unlike anything I've ever seen'…Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad (R), in an interview Thursday, said of Trump: 'I think he's got a real campaign here.'" Trump will touch down right outside the Iowa State Fairgrounds in his private helicopter on Saturday, but won't speak at the Des Moines Register Soapbox because of the feud he's in with the paper's editorial board.

— **"Jeb Bush on Iraq: Mission was accomplished in 2009 on security ," by Sean Sullivan in Iowa:** "Jeb Bush vigorously defended some of the defining foreign policies and national security strategies implemented by his brother George W. Bush as president on Thursday, casting in a positive light elements of the Iraq War…'I've been critical and I think people have every right to be critical of decisions that were made,' Bush said Thursday. 'In 2009, Iraq was fragile but secure. It was mission was accomplished in the way that there was security there and it was because of the heroic efforts of the men and women in the Untied States military that it was so." Jeb called the 2007 troop surge "extraordinarily effective" and wouldn't commit to retaining the ban on enhanced interrogation techniques though said he "in general torture is not appropriate" and said Guantanamo prison isn't a "torture chamber."

— **"Mega-donors opposing the Iran deal have upper hand in fierce lobbying battle," by Catherine Ho:** "On one side of the fight are Sheldon Adelson, Paul Singer and Haim Saban, whose foundations have given a total of $13 million since 2010 to advocacy groups battling the Iran nuclear deal in Congress. And on the other are George Soros and a smattering of smaller donors. Soros and his foundation chipped in at least $68,500, a comparatively meager sum, over the same time period to lobbying groups who want the controversial pact to be adopted…The financial disparity between those opposing the deal and those supporting it is vast, at least where wealthy donors are concerned."

— "If Sanders is the purest and Clinton is the pragmatist, where's O'Malley's niche?" Dennis Goldford, a political scientist at Drake University, makes the point that one of O'Malley's challenges in Iowa is ideological. (Via John Wagner's piece on the former Maryland governor's grinding campaign)

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

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–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

NASA posted an image taken in West Virginia Thursday of the Perseid meteor shower (view the Post's collection of photos here):

(nasa)

Hillary Clinton rocked 1980s style in her #ThrowbackThursday post:

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(hillaryclinton)

The “Straight Outta Compton” meme, inspired by a new movie that hits theaters today, knew no end yesterday afternoon. This is from libertarian Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich.), who is in the center (Thomas Massie is on the left and Rand is on the right):

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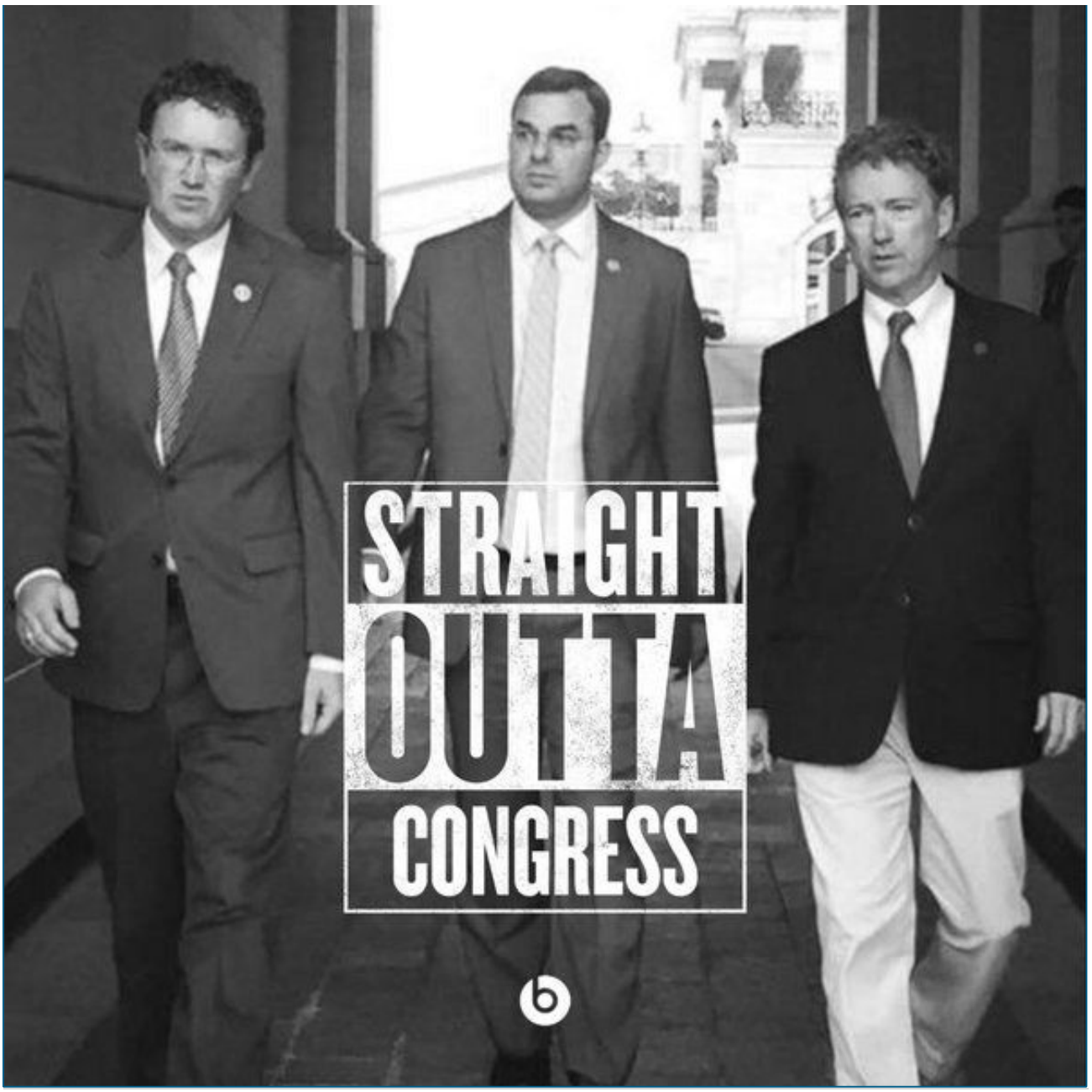

(@justinamash)

The White House's Twitter account for the Iran deal even got in on the meme:

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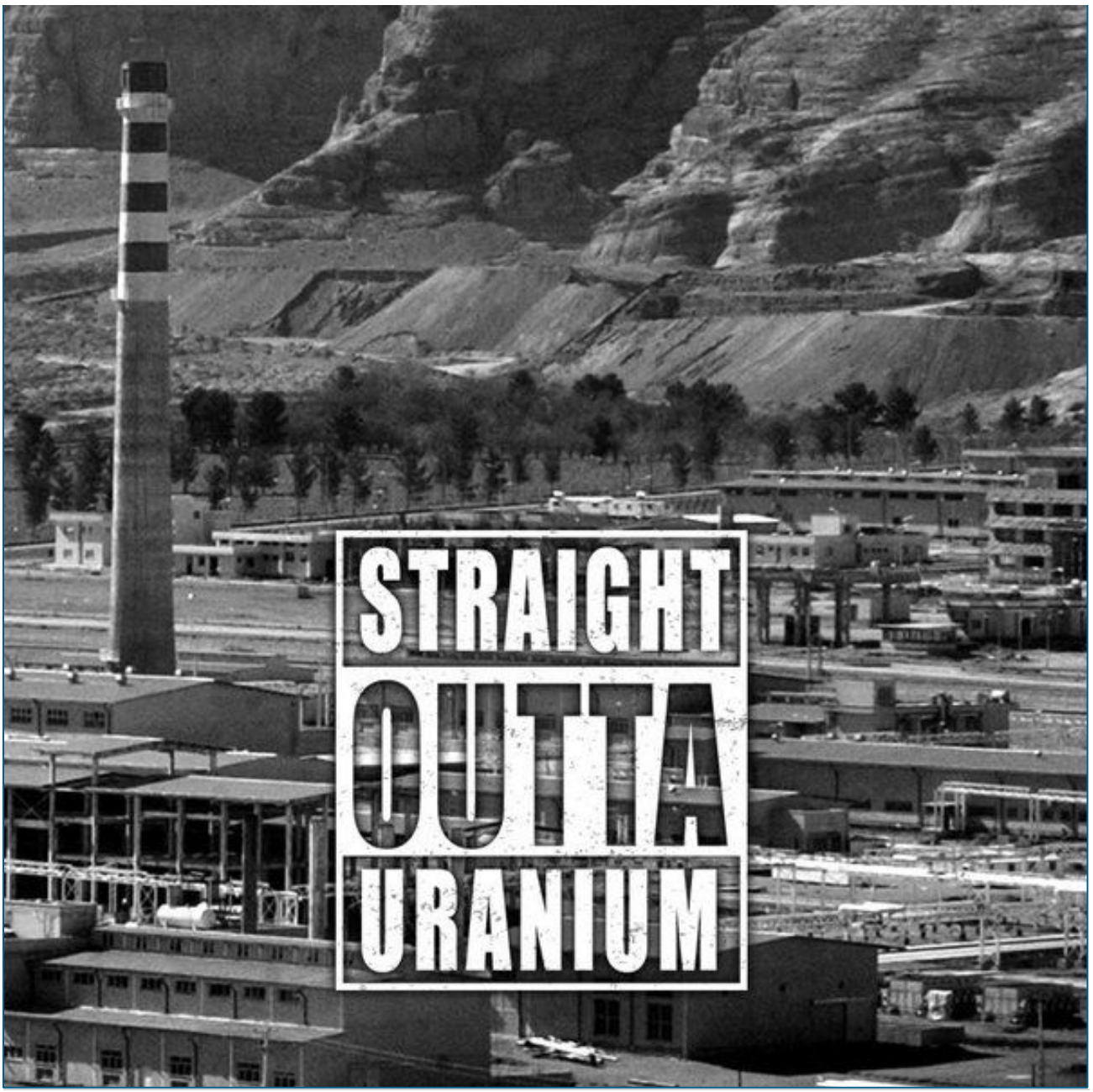

(@TheIranDeal)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) reposted a picture from Slate of herself as a Mad Max: Fury Road character:

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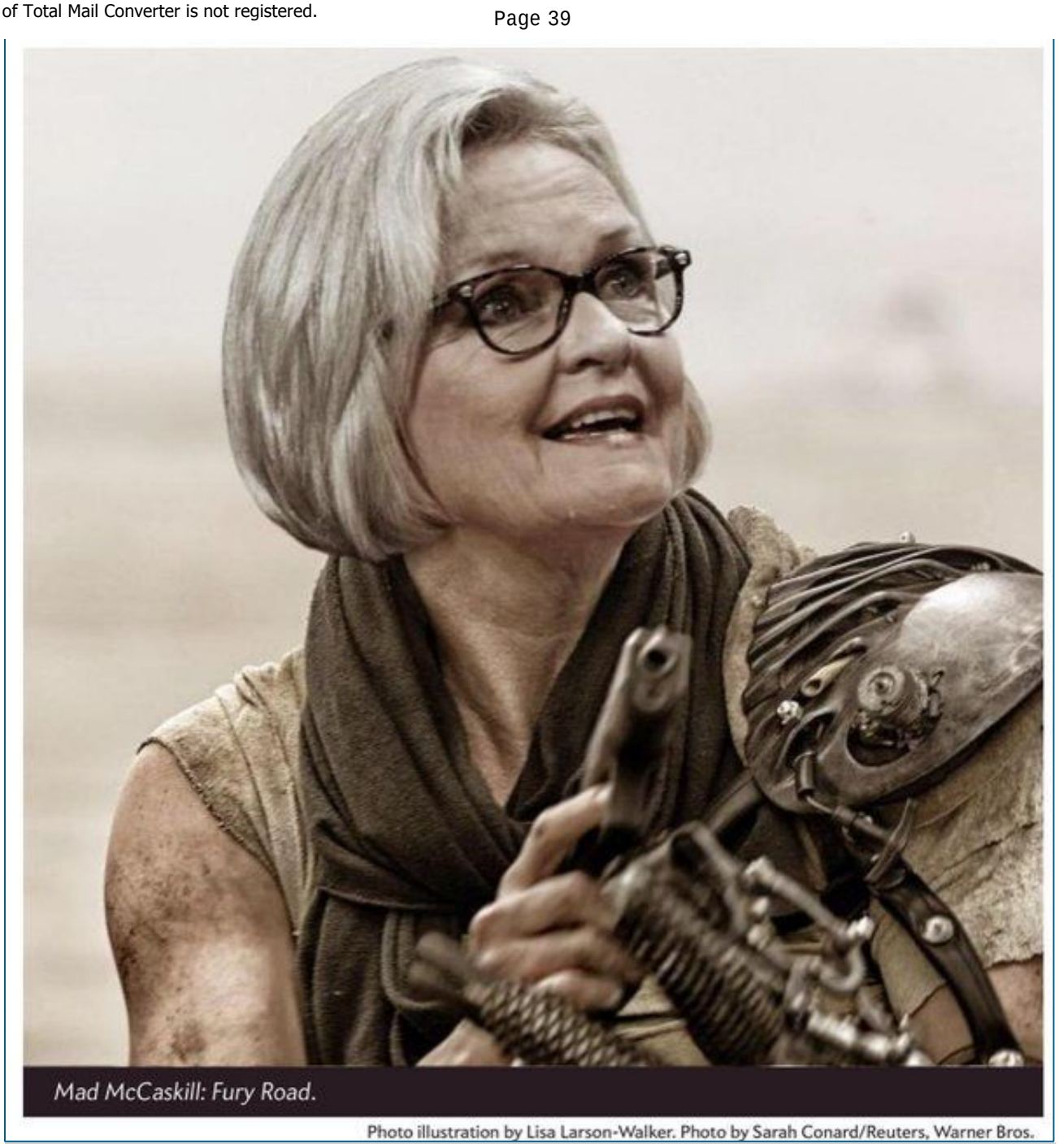

Photo illustration by Lisa Larson-Walker. Photo by Sarah Conard/Reuters, Warner Bros.

(@clairecmc)

“Pretty sure a witch turned Donald Trump into a chilled grapefruit dessert,” tweeted “Daily Show” writer Dan Amira:

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(@DanAmira)

Tweets of the day:

Scott Walker tried out the big slide at the Wisconsin state fair:

(@ScottWalker)

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), the DSCC chairman, backed the Iran deal:

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> After thoughtful deliberation, it's clear @TheIranDeal is the only option right now to stop #Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.
>
> — Senator Jon Tester (@SenatorTester) August 13, 2015

Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) announced the birth of his first grandchild:

> It's a boy! Very excited to announce the birth of my first grandchild, Alistair Lane. Both baby & mother are doing well. — Speaker John Boehner (@SpeakerBoehner) August 13, 2015

Former Obama adviser Dan Pfeiffer reacted to speculation about an Al Gore presidential bid:

> The fact that we are speculating about Al Gore is proof that the appetite for political news in the Twitter-era is now completely insatiable
>
> — Dan Pfeiffer (@danpfeiffer) August 13, 2015

House members, including Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), viewed Israel's Iron Dome air defense system (they also met privately with Bibi Netanyahu yesterday):

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(@RepAnnWagner)

Instagrams of the day:

Chris Christie was interviewed by Fox News's Greta Van Susteren on the boardwalk in Seaside Heights, N.J.:

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(chrischristie)

Jeb Bush shared an old picture of himself, his mother and President Reagan. “The Gipper was looking good!” he wrote:

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(jebbush)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "DNA Is Said to Solve a Mystery of Warren Harding's Love Life," by Peter Baker: "Long before Lucy Mercer, Kay Summersby or Monica Lewinsky, there was Nan Britton, who scandalized a nation with stories of carnal adventures in a White House coat closet and endured a ferocious backlash for publicly claiming that she bore the love child of President Warren G. Harding. Now nearly a century later, according to genealogists, new genetic tests confirm for the first time that Ms. Britton's daughter, Elizabeth Ann Blaesing, was indeed Harding's biological child. The tests have solved one of the enduring mysteries of presidential history and offer new insights into the secret life of America's 29th president."

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— **Wall Street Journal, "Donald Trump Made Millions from Multilevel Marketing Firm," by James V. Grimaldi and Mark Maremont:** "Over the past decade, Donald Trump has earned millions of dollars for extolling ACN Inc., a multilevel marketing firm that has weathered regulatory investigations in three countries. Mr. Trump not only endorsed ACN, he twice featured the company on his former reality TV show, 'The Celebrity Apprentice'…In an interview this week, Mr. Trump said ACN had hired him to give motivational speeches. 'I do not know the company. I know nothing about the company other than the people who run the company," he said. Mr. Trump said companies pay a fee to appear on 'The Celebrity Apprentice.'"

HOT ON THE LEFT

13 things Donald Trump was right about. From Mother Jones : "When he's not saying bad things about [Megyn] Kelly, Hillary Clinton, Rosie O'Donnell, women more generally, black people, Mexicans, President Barack Obama, various members of the press, John McCain, or Mohawks, Trump also makes a lot of good points … In 2003, he told the Dallas Morning-News that the Iraq War had been a 'disaster' that 'should not have been entered into.' … [He said] Katy Perry shouldn't have married Russell Brand. Trump was right. The marriage dissolved after 14 months; it clearly wasn't meant to be."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Conservative video-maker James O'Keefe: Homeland Security targeted me. From The Washington Post: "James O'Keefe, known for targeting liberal groups and Democratic politicians, says he is now the one being targeted — by the Department of Homeland Security. It all started in August 2014 when O'Keefe donned green fatigues and an Osama bin Laden costume and sneaked across the U.S. border to Mexico and then back into Texas … Ever since, O'Keefe says, he has been stopped and questioned at length by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers each of the five times he has tried to reenter the U.S."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Donald Trump will hold a rally in Hampton, New Hampshire. Jeb Bush will speak at the Des Moines Register's soapbox at the

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Iowa State Fair (Click here for a detailed schedule of who is speaking when). Clinton will hold a town hall meeting in Dubuque and speak at the Iowa Democratic Wing Ding fundraiser at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake. Bernie Sanders, Lincoln Chafee and Martin O'Malley will also speak at the event. Also on Friday, O'Malley will attend events in Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls. Carly Fiorina will attend events in Mason City, Clark Lake and Garner, Iowa. Rick Perry will campaign in Anderson, Greenwood and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Ted Cruz and Ben Carson will speak in Las Vegas. Marco Rubio delivers the foreign policy speech in New York that we previewed at the top.

–On the Hill: Both chambers are in recess.

–At the White House: President Obama is on vacation in Martha's Vineyard.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "He will be seeing the butter cow." – Donald Trump media advisory for his Saturday visit to the Iowa State Fair

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **The Capital Weather Gang forecasts :** "Today and tomorrow are still high-quality days to get outdoors and perform those chores (watering?) if needed. Sunday and into next week may not be quite as forgiving, with mid-90s possible along with more typical DC humidity. We're probably entering a dry spell as rain chances remain low."

— The Nationals lost 3-1 against the Giants in San Francisco.

— **The Redskins won 20-17 in their first preseason game over the Cleveland Browns, but it was a costly victory:** Niles Paul, who entered the game as the team's starting tight end and only proven, healthy player at the position, carted off with a season-ending ankle injury.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

In 1992, Ben Carson spoke at a press conference organized by Maryland for Choice, where he said he regretted appearing in a commercial encouraging voters to oppose a ballot measure codifying Roe v. Wade in Maryland. "My message is not to vote for or against Question 6, but to educate yourself," he said at the news conference, shown in part in the news clip below:

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(via YouTube)

Trump released a video on Instagram juxtaposing violent images against photos of Obama playing golf and the Clintons dancing. Click below to watch:

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(realdonaldtrump)

Gabby Giffords posted behind-the-scenes footage from the christening of the U.S.S. Gabrielle Giffords earlier this summer:

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(Gabby Giffords)

Bonus: In case you missed the best Trump Vine of the week, it is here (#bingbing) .

Comedy Central's **Larry Wilmore** gently chided protesters for interrupting Bernie Sanders' rally in Seattle last weekend: "Ladies, I agree that black lives matter. But black manners matter as well!" The host of "The Nightly Show" made the comment in a broader sketch on Sanders' rise in the polls against Hillary: "She's about to get Obama'd by an old white man!?" Watch the full episode here .

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 3:39:19 AM
Subject: Fwd: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

George destroys him.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 26, 2015 at 10:31:37 AM EDT
To: Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com >
Subject: Re: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

great work everyone. this interview is perfect. he lands nothing and everything is refuted (mostly based on our work)

On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when

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you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal** ," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

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SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

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And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

--

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Jesse F. Ferguson
Deputy National Press Secretary and Senior Spokesman
Hillary for America
@JesseFFerguson
Gchat: Jfferg

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/27/2015 2:12:48 AM
Subject: Re: NH Primary Toplines and Memo

Thanks, looking forward to catch up, this is helpful.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2015, at 8:39 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Team –

Attached are the toplines from the NH primary survey and a cover letter from Brodnitz (also pasted below). We're w orking with your assistants to schedule a call to review these results, likely on Tuesday morning.

Thanks.

To: Hillary Clinton for President Consultant Team
From: Pete Brodnitz
Date: June 27, 2015
Re: Topline Results

Horse-race

The last survey was conducted in February. Now that the race has become more engaged, the ballot in New Hamphsire has tightened considerably, but Secretary Clinton maintains a double digit lead over Sanders (48% support for Secretary Clinton, 34% for Bernie Sanders, 2% for Martin O'Malley, 1% for Lincoln Chafee, 2% "other" and 13% undecided).

Ballot Tracking

	Feb 2015	June 2015	Δ
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+61***	***+14***	***-47***
Hillary Clinton	73	48	***-25***
Bernie Sanders	12	34	***+22***
Martin O'Malley	2	2	***n/c***
Lincoln Chafee		1	
Jim Webb	3		
Other	2	2	***n/c***
Don't Know	9	13	***+4***

**Note: In February Jim Webb was asked. In June, Lincoln Chafee was asked.*

When undecided voters are pushed to make a choice, Clinton's lead breaks the 50% threshold w hile Sanders' vote share sees little movement (53% Clinton and 36% Sanders).

Sanders has raised his name identification and favorables considerably since w e last polled. His name ID has increased from 52% to 77% and his favorability increased from 44% to 70%. Secretary Clinton's overal favorabilitiy is 85% with 12% unfavorable. Currently Sanders' very favorable is 46% while that for Secretary Clinton's is 39%.

The Sanders vote does not appear to be an anti-Clinton vote. Clinton is the second choice of most Sanders voters. Almost seven in ten (66%) of Sanders voters say Secretary Clinton is their second choice preference.

As of now, only about three in ten voters are familiar enough to have an opinion of Martin O'Malley or Lincoln Chafee, respectively.

As show n in the ballot progression below, after voters hear a positive profile of both Sanders and O'Malley, Sanders gains 3% and O'Malley gains 4% support. Once voters subsequently heard a positive profile of Secretary Clinton the ballot reverts to close to initial ballot support. Providing voters negative information about both Clinton and Sanders did not significantly change ballot support. In fact, the final ballot (which comes after negative information about both Clinton and Sanders) is almost identical to the initial ballot – a 13% HRC advantage, compared w ith an initial 14% advantage.

Ballot Progression

I know it's a long way off, but if the **Democratic primary** for **President** were held today, would you vote for…?

Ranked by PrimB	Initial Ballot (PrimB)	Ballot After Sanders/O'Malley Profile (Q28)	Ballot After HRC Profiles (Q32) All	Heard Values	Heard Policy	Ballot After HRC Negatives (Q45)	Ballot After Sanders Negatives (Q54)
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+14***	***+7***	***+12***	***+11***	***+15***	***+8***	***+13***
Hillary Clinton	48	44	48	48	50	46	48
Bernie Sanders	34	37	36	37	35	38	35
Martin O'Malley	2	7	5	5	6	6	6
Lincoln Chafee	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Other	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	13	9	8	8	7	8	8

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The Candidates

When asked what words they associate with Clinton, the responses w ere generally positive and describe Clinton as strong, intelligent and capable. They described Sanders as honest/trustworthy, a liberal/progressive and other generally positive characteristics.

How ever, w hen asked about recent coverage of Clinton, we see that the negative coverage has cut through. When asked what they've recently heard, most voters report hearing about the email scandal (32%), contributions to the Clinton Foundation (14%) or stories surronding Benghazi (10%).

When presented with a series of attributes and asked how well it applies to Clinton, voters w ere most likely to ascribe strength, ability to make tough choices and fights for people like you to Clinton. Clinton performed the w orst on holding Wall Street accountable, being in touch w ith the lives of ordinary Americans and being genuine.

Half of all likely voters (51%) describe Clinton as moderate whereas close to half (46%) describe Sanders as very liberal. Notably, most primary voters describe themslves as liberal (50%) and only 38% describe themselves as moderate.

Message/Policy

While a majority of likely voters (50%) do not hold a position on TPP, among those w ho do the intensity of opposition is higher than the intensity of support (10% strongly support vs. 19% strongly oppose).

Meanw hile, a majority of voters prefer Clinton's approach to the banking industry of holding top executives accountable compared to Sanders' approach of breaking up the banks (regardless of w hether we reference the recovering economy or not). It should be noted that neither candidate's name was associated with the position tested and that Clinton's weakest attribute is her abiilty to hold Wall Street accountable.

After voters hear a positive profile on both Sanders and O'Malley, Clinton's lead dops to a seven point margin (44% Clinton, 37% Sanders, 7% O'Malley, 1% Chafee, 2% other and 9% don't know). How ever, once voters hear a positive profile on Clinton she re-gains her double-digit lead (+12 points).

- On a topline basis the tw o paragraphs about Hillary Clinton tested, one focusing on values and the other policy, are comparable. Further analysis w ill be needed to see if they perform differently among sub-groups.

Secretary Clinton's top vulnerability tested in this poll is the attack that claims as Secretary of State she signed off on a deal that gave the Russian government control over twenty percent of America's uranium production, after investors in the deal donated over one hundred and forty million dollars to the Clinton Foundation. Half of all likely voters (53%) are less likely to support Clinton after hearing that statement and 17% are much less likely to support her after that statement.

After voters heard a battery of negatives on Secretary Clinton, their top concern was that she does not seem honest (16%).

Sanders' chief vulnerability tested is his record on guns. Almost a quarter of all voters (23%) are much less likely and more than six in ten (63%) are less likely to support Sanders after hearing that the NRA helped Sanders win a seat in Congress, that he opposed the Brady Gun Bill, supports allowing guns on passenger trains and supported a bill designed to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits filed by families of victims of gun crimes like the Sandy Hook parents. As we heard in the recent focus groups, the issue of gun control is particularly salient given the recent shootings in Charleston, South Carolina.

<June 2015 HRC NH Primary Survey Toplines vFIN.pdf>

<NH June Topline Memo.docx>

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From: "Obama for America" <info@barackobama.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/31/2012 6:29:21 PM
Subject: You should forward this:

YOU SHOULD FORWARD THIS

John --

Every now and again, the other side likes to claim President Obama doesn't have a record to run on. They're wrong. Here's a taste of why:

(Just a couple of) the Obama Administration's accomplishments:

1. The first bill President Obama signed was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to help women fight back when they don't get equal pay for equal work.

2. His Recovery Act supported millions of jobs and helped to stave off a second Great Depression.

3. He pushed for and won middle-class tax cuts that benefitted every American worker, and saved the typical family $3,600 in taxes over the last four years.

4. President Obama rescued the auto industry, and now GM and Chrysler are healthier than they've ever been. The American auto industry has added nearly a quarter of a million jobs since June 2009 -- and they most likely wouldn't exist right now without President Obama's leadership.

5. He doubled funding for Pell Grants, helping to make college more affordable for nearly 10 million families.

6. His student loan reform ended billions in subsidies to banks serving as middlemen and reinvested those savings directly into students.

7. The President established the American Opportunity Tax Credit, worth up to $10,000 over four years of college.

8. His Race to the Top Initiative helped spur nearly every state to raise academic standards.

9. His tax cuts, social-welfare programs, and economic policies lifted nearly 7 million Americans above the federal poverty line in 2010.

10. President Obama has signed 18 tax cuts for small businesses since taking office.

11. We've seen 5.2 million new private-sector jobs over the last 31 months.

12. The unemployment rate is at the lowest level since President Obama took office.

13. Health care reform -- passed after decades of failed attempts by every previous President -- provides affordable health coverage to every American and will lower premiums by an average of $2,000 per family by 2019.

14. Obamacare expanded access to lifesaving preventive care such as cancer screenings and immunizations with no out-of-pocket costs for 54 million Americans.

15. Obamacare ends insurance discrimination against the 129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions.

16. Because of Obamacare, over 3 million more young adults have health insurance today than would if the new law hadn't passed.

17. The parents of over 17 million children with pre-existing conditions no longer have to worry that their children will be denied

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coverage.

18. President Obama has ordered the overhaul of federal government regulations to make them smarter, practical, and more efficient. Just a fraction of these commonsense initiatives will help save businesses $10 billion in the next five years alone.

19. His historic investments in clean energy have helped more than double the amount of electricity we obtain from wind and solar sources and helped increase biofuel production to its highest level in history.

20. President Obama is doubling fuel efficiency standards, which will save drivers more than $8,000 at the gas pump, not to mention lessen the impact of automobiles on our environment.

21. President Obama has taken unprecedented action to address climate change, reaching historic international agreements to curb carbon emissions, and taking action here at home to reduce carbon pollution from our vehicles and promote clean energy production.

22. He has taken historic action to protect our environment -- signing one of the largest expansions of protected wilderness in a generation and putting in place standards to reduce toxic air pollution that will save thousands of lives.

23. President Obama fought for and won landmark Wall Street reform that reins in the abuses that led to the financial crisis and ends the era of taxpayer bailouts and "too big to fail."

24. Wall Street reform created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the nation's first federal agency focused solely on consumer financial protection -- and the Bureau is already protecting families from unfair and abusive financial practices from Wall Street banks and shadowy corners of the financial industry.

25. As part of President Obama's commitment to transparency, the White House has posted its visitor records online for the first time ever.

26. President Obama's all-of-the-above approach to energy has helped cut the United States' dependence on foreign oil to its lowest level in 20 years.

27. President Obama responsibly ended the war in Iraq.

28. He announced a plan to end the war in Afghanistan and transition security responsibility to the Afghan people.

29. President Obama sent the largest security assistance package to Israel in history and funded the Iron Dome system, which is protecting Israeli homes and schools from rocket attacks.

30. President Obama rallied the international community to implement the toughest sanctions on Iran in history.

31. Through the President's historic increases in Veterans Affairs funding, he has expanded and improved healthcare and job training access for our returning veterans.

32. President Obama negotiated the New START Treaty with Russia to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in both countries. At the same time, he also secured commitments from dozens of other countries to lock down nuclear materials.

33. His administration naturalized 11,146 military service members as U.S. citizens in 2010; more than in any year since 1955.

34. President Obama set a bold new plan for the future of NASA space exploration, using the skill and ability of the private sector for short trips to the International Space Station, while building a new vehicle for exploration of distant space, and doing everything in his power to support the economy on Florida's Space Coast.

35. President Obama recognizes that tourism is one of America's largest economic engines; he's worked to encourage international visitors to come here, maintaining our security while keeping millions of Americans in good, paying jobs.

36. He has affirmed his personal support of marriage equality, directed the Justice Department to stop defending DOMA in federal courts, and took the practical and compassionate step of extending hospital visitation rights to same-sex partners.

37. He fought for and won the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, allowing gay and lesbian members of the military to serve openly for the first time in history.

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38. When Congress failed to fix our broken immigration system, his administration did everything in its power to improve it, streamlining the legal immigration process and announcing a policy that lifts the shadow of deportation from hard working young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

39. Oh, and he gave the order to send troops in after Osama Bin Laden -- and has decimated al-Qaeda's senior leadership.

View the list here.

What is this?

Every day from now until Election Day, we'll send you something that makes the case for voting for Barack Obama.

What can I do?

If you like it, we ask that you share it with any friends, family members, and neighbors you know who are still making up their mind about who to vote for (and everyone knows some). All you have to do is pass it on -- forward it, share on Facebook, or on Twitter.

Done. What else?

If you spot something that's especially persuasive or inspiring, or if you want to share your own graphic, essay, or personal story, send it on to **forwardthis@barackobama.com** and we'll pass the best ones along. **Click here to check out all of our "Forward this" posts.**

With less than a week to go in this election, and millions of voters still making up their minds, it's the job of everyone who supports President Obama to let everyone else know who they're voting for this year -- and why.

DONATE

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This email was sent to: **john.podesta@gmail.com**.
If that is not your preferred email address, you can update your information here .
We believe that emails are a vital way for the campaign to stay in direct contact with supporters. Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages.
This campaign is a community, and all ideas are welcome.
We appreciate any feedback you might have -- positive or negative.
Click here to contact the campaign with any questions or concerns.
Obama for America, P.O. Box 803638, Chicago, IL, 60680

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From: "Demetrio Fábrega" <mecof05@hotmail.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/11/2016 4:20:42 PM
Subject: Formulas against fascist propaganda

PERSONAL.

PLEASE DELIVER TO MR. JOHN PODESTA.

Mrs. Clinton should be protected against fascist propaganda tactics. The sooner she begins that fight, the better for her. Sanders is destroying her and he is practically nothing in comparison with what Trump must be preparing.

The following may be of assistance, although it should be presented in a more readable form, with lines not so long, with the same size type. It has been prepared with someone who was born long before the computer appeared and does not know how e-mails work.

FIRST.
Senator Sanders has given Mrs. Clinton a great opportunity to denounce his rhetoric of revolution. He referred to free health care for everybody in Cuba and free education at all levels as it exists in Cuba. But he does not mention that it is practically impossible to obtain such changes over night or even in two periods in the Presidency, unless there is an armed revolution, like the Russian Bolshevik revolution or Mao's two decades of revolutionary war in China or the Cuban armed revolution.

(The following paragraph was taken from Trudeau's speech. The rest includes other comments in a text sent by THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS).

SECOND.
"But those of us who seek to build a better future for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren also understand that there's a limit to how far vision and values will get you. Progressive ideals mean little without a practical and pragmatic plan for real change".

THIRD.
Is Mr. Sanders thinking that asking the people to stand up is going to have the same fast results as an armed revolution? In communist Russia they used propaganda to make the young people think as the leaders wanted. They said that "children, like soft wax, are very malleable and they should be moulded into good Communists" that they had to "rescue children from the harmful influence of the family, that they had to nationalize them". Maybe this kind of propaganda explains to some degree why Mr. Sanders and Mr. Trump attract the young people, but these thoughts do not fit in the United States. Our democracy does not allow that kind of propaganda. It does not allow an armed revolution.
I definitely will want to be in the White House with Mr. Sanders' help because he is passionately conscious of many things that have to be changed in America, but those things are only possible gradually. I don't think there is room for Fidel Castro's policies in America. I don't think the American people want to change our democracy for the ideals Mr. Sanders praises in Cuba. Even in Cuba, Castro had to impose a dictatorship and it took decades to obtain changes that have existed in the United States decades and decades ago. I am sure that the American people don't want a dictatorship to get free health assistance.

FOURTH.
"Social Security is the most powerful tool available to lift people out of poverty. Nearly two thirds of seniors depend on Social Security for the majority of their income, and millions more children and adults depend upon survivors and disability benefits. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of Census data, Social Security kept 21 million Americans out of poverty in the last year alone. All told, that's more people than any other government program".

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“Social Security isn’t a luxury — it’s a lifeline”.
“Of course, we don’t have to sit by and to do nothing. Since its beginning, Social Security has been adjusted from time to time, and that’s what we need to do now. With some modest adjustments, it is possible to keep the system solvent for decades more, even while increasing benefits”.

“Social Security works. No one runs out of benefits, and payments don’t rise and fall with the stock market. Despite scare tactics from Republicans in Congress, the facts are clear. Social Security has a $2.8 trillion surplus. If we do nothing, Social Security will be safe for the next 18 years, and after that will continue to pay three-quarters of benefits through the end of the century”.

“For the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security, the situation got worse this year. For just the third time since 1975, seniors who receive Social Security—along with many who receive veterans’ benefits, Social Security disability benefits, and other monthly payments—aren’t receiving any annual increase from their cost of living adjustment (COLA). CEOs at the top 350 American companies received, on average, a 3.9 percent pay increase last year. But seniors and veterans? Not a dime more”.

FIFTH.
“That’s why a group of us in Congress have introduced the Seniours and Veterans Emergency Benefits Act (SAVE Benefits Act). This bill would give a one-time payment of $581 to those people who aren’t receiving a COLA this year—a raise equal to the 3.9 percent pay increase the top CEOs received”.

SIXTH.
Senator Sanders has repeated a hundred times that the United States is the only big country without free health care. That may be true but he does not say what citizens actually pay for it, he does not mention the quality of the available health service although he praises the Cuban health service. Let us see some truths about it without rhetorical tricks.

Texts from Internet

"Countries with universal health care include Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Denmark, Finland,France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom".

"As excited as American liberals and proponents of expanding access to health care might be about the Supreme Court's decision to largely uphold the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. still stands out from much of the developed world in state efforts to make medical care available to the public. If universal health care in the U.S. is your goal, then today was a big step forward, but maybe also a reminder of how far behind America still lags".

"The above map shows, in green, countries that administer some sort of universal health care plan. Most are through compulsory but government-subsidized public insurance plans, such as the UK's National Health Service. Some countries that have socialized and ostensibly universal health care systems but do not actually apply them universally, for example in poverty- and corruption-rife states in Africa or Latin America, are not counted."

"What's astonishing is how cleanly the green and grey separate the developed nations from the developing, almost categorically. Nearly the entire developed world is colored, from Europe to the Asian powerhouses to South America's southern cone to the Anglophone states of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. The only developed outliers are a few still-troubled Balkan states, the Soviet-style autocracy of Belarus, and the U.S. of A., the richest nation in the world."

"The handful of developing countries that provide universal access to health care include oil-rich Saudi Arabia and Oman, Latin success story Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, and, famously, Cuba, among a few others. A number of countries have attempted universal health care but failed, such as South Africa, which maintains a notoriously inefficient and troubled public plan to complement the private plans popular among middle- and upper-class citizens.

None of this is to downplay the importance of today's Supreme Court ruling for supporters of the U.S. effort to expand health care coverage, nor to argue that U.S. health care is equivalent to that in, say, Egypt or Belarus. It's precisely because the quality of U.S. health care is so high that makes this map interesting."

"That brings us to another way that America is a big outlier on health care. The grey countries on this map tend to spend significantly less per capita on health care than do the green countries -- except for the U.S., where the government spends way more on health care per person than do most countries with free, universal health care.

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This is also true of health care costs as a share of national GDP -- in other words, how much of a country's money goes into health care".

Let's get our numbers right.

"The overall level of health spending in the United States is so high that public (i.e. government) spending on health per capita is still greater than in all other OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries, except Norway and the Netherlands," according to a recent OECD report, which covers most of the developed world."

"Whether or not that will change with President Obama's health care reform now Supreme Court-approved, access to health care will remain yet another way in which the U.S. stands out from the rest of the developed world".

What we need is to advance what we have already obtained, to improved what we have already conquered. I believe that Senator Sanders will not want an armed revolution to impose the promises he is always repeating in his campaign.

On the other hand, Mrs. Clinton has to mention that important people in power and people who have had power have amassed so much experience and knowledge that even the very rich want to hear what they can say. If I get two hundred thousand dollars for a speech, it is because Goldman Sachs wants to hear what I have to say, they want to weigh my experience and what I know about the world and U.S. foreign policy. Nobody will pay anything to hear somebody without much experience and find out what a person thinks or can do if the person is always repeating the same things in public.

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/14/2016 12:02:50 PM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP Newsletter: The Iran Deal in Action, U.S Anti-Extremist Messaging, and Upcoming Events

View this email in your browser

January 14, 2016

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Top Stories

The Iran Deal in Action: Diplomacy and National Security

The release of the US sailors serves as a shining example of the irrefutable role of diplomacy in national security.
Click here for more.

Ch-Ch-Changes in US Anti-Extremist Messaging Strategy

The US Government is currently struggling to find the

ASP in the News

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney in Politco
Bryan Bender, Politco

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney Interviewed On International Security Concerns
John Bersia, UCF

Consensus Members Featured in Stars and Stripes
LtGen John Castellaw, USMC (Ret.), LTG Bob Gard, USA (Ret.), VAdm Lee Gunn, USN (Ret.), LtGen Norm Seip, USAF (Ret.)

Fusion Reactors, When Proven, Could Bypass Financial Hurdles in Nuclear Industry
Umair Irfan , E&E Reporter

ASP's Holland and Gandhi Featured in The Hill
Andrew Holland and Ricky Gandhi, The Hill

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most effective method best way to reduce the number of people influenced by or recruited into terrorist groups like ISIS or Al Qaeda.

Click here for more.

Upcoming Events

ASP and Lloyd's of London Risk and Resiliency Forum

Date	**February 17, 2016**
Time	**12:00pm – 4:30pm**
Location	**Arnold & Porter LLP, 601 Massachusetts Ave NW, 11th Floor, Washington DC 20001**

On Wednesday, February 17th, American Security Project will host ***Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience*** in partnership with Lloyd's , JLT , and Risk Cooperative. This is an invitation-only opportunity for policymakers, business leaders and regulators to introduce the findings of the City Risk Index and share best practices and insights on risk assessment, mitigation, adaptation and transfer to help U.S. cities and institutions build greater resilience

To request an invitation, contact:

events@americansecurityproject.org

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

Where Will Oil Prices Go?
Andrew Holland
The beginning of 2016 has seen a collapse in oil prices, to levels that few would have predicted even a year ago.
Click here for more...

A Conversation with BGen. Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.)
John Bersia
ASP CEO General Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.) on US security in a world of discontent.
Click here for more...

Consensus Members in Stars and Stripes
American Security Project
An op-ed on the security implications of COP21 signed by four members of American Security Project's Consensus for American Security was published by Stars and Stripes online and in their Saturday, December 19th print edition.
Click here for more...

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Doubling Down on Norms in Paris

Philip Rossetti

In this case, the architects of this global climate deal took a leaf out of nuclear nonproliferation's book and focused less on binding enforcement provisions, and more on inclusivity—a strategy which ASP outlined in our recent paper on climate diplomacy

Click here for more...

Chuck Hagel: Climate Change is a National Security Problem

ASP Board Member Secretary Chuck Hagel, writes in an Op-Ed in Time Magazine about the the UNFCCC climate negotiations in Paris. He emphasized that "Climate change is a national security problem."

Click here for more.

Paris Update: Adaptation Builds Global Security

Andrew Holland

Secretary of State Kerry has announced an increased American pledge for adaptation aid to $800 million per year by 2020. As ASP's CEO wrote in "Strengthening national security through climate resiliency," funding for adaptation aid is cost-effective because it will address the risks presented by climate change before American troops have to be deployed.

Click here for more...

Climate Change, Paris, the Rise of ISIS, and What "Causes" Terrorism

Andrew Holland

Over the past few days, there have been a number of discussion in the press around the country and around the world on the links between climate change and terrorism. Let us be clear – no act of terror is due to climate change, but climate change has helped to create the conditions from which terrorist groups can plot and plan.

Click here for more...

NextGen Energy

Understanding What's Next in Fusion Technology

Ricky Gandhi

On Tuesday, December 15, the American Security Project hosted Understanding What's Next in Fusion Technology – an event that featured prominent scientists from nuclear fusion labs and companies.

Click here for more...

ASP's Holland and Gandhi Featured in The Hill

ASP's Andrew Holland and Ricky Gandhi recently published an op-ed editorial in The Hill in support of the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. In it, they discuss the various provisions of the bill, as well as their implications on the nuclear energy sector.

Click here for more...

Nuclear Security

The Iran Deal in Action

Maggie Feldman-Piltch

As Iran removes the core of their nuclear reactor and fills it with

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cement opening the door for the easing of sanctions in just a manner of days, it is clear times are changing.
Click here for more...

ASP CEO Featured in Politco on Iran
American Security Project
ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.) was featured in a January 14th Politico piece on the detainment and release of 10 US sailors in Iran.
Click here for more...

What to do About North Korea's Nuclear Weapons
Matthew Wallin
With North Korea's recent claims of having tested a hydrogen bomb, there is renewed concern about the situation on the Korean peninsula and the North's expanding nuclear program. Yet despite a possible increase in nuclear weapons capability, the strategic situation on the Korean peninsula has not changed since North Korea crossed the nuclear threshold.
Click for more...

Nuclear Pakistan
Sam Hickey
Pakistani officials have maintained that their nuclear program's only utility is countering the nuclear and conventional military threat posed by India, but Pakistan's nuclear program is not lagging dangerously behind India.
Click here for more...

Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran with Ambassador Thomas Pickering
Sam Hickey
On Monday November 2, 2015, Ambassador Thomas Pickering visited American University to address Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran.
Click here for more...

American Competitiveness

Business Council for American Security President and CEO of Risk Cooperative Dante Disparte on Understanding Social Risk Insurance
Traditional insurance coverage acts as a passive mechanism to protect against an unlikely but extreme financial loss. Particularly in emerging markets where historical loss information is limited, insurance underwriting requires multinational corporations to view risk through a different lens.
Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

Turkey Shoots Down Russian Warplane: Possible Consequences for the Turkey – Russia Relationship
Steffen Westerburger
Subsequently, the plane was downed with an air-to-air-missile. The two pilots successfully ejected from their plane, and one of them was then killed by Turkmen rebels while still parachuting down. These actions can have serious consequences in the relationship between Moscow and Ankara, and can further complicate the broader conflict in Syria and the Middle East.

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Low Turnout at Polls Challenges Legitimacy of Egyptian Government

Anil Powers

In spite of the government's insistence that these elections were part of Egypt's democratic transition, the low turnout indicates an erosion of political participation that has challenged the legitimacy of the nascent government.

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What's Wrong with Venezuela

John Bugnacki

The roots of Venezuela's economic misfortunes are rooted in five factors: corruption and authoritarianism, the resource curse, the decline of Venezuela's state oil company, state control over the economy, and drug gangs and violence.

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Asymmetric Operations

Saudi Arabia Ratchets Up Regional Tensions with Iran

Asha Castleberry

The diplomatic rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a clear sign that sectarian and national rivalries are getting worse in the region.

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Global Security Forum 2015

Sam Hickey

On Monday, November 16th, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted the Global Security Forum 2015 in Washington, DC. The event featured panels of government officials, think tank fellows, and business professionals to discuss the major national security issues facing the nation and the possible solutions to these bedeviling quandaries.

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Recently Published

Perspective - Alleviating the Resource Curse

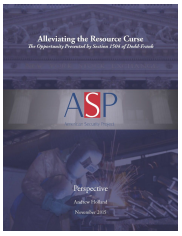

The goal is to increase transparency and provide the public with greater access to information related to the payments that U.S.-listed companies make to foreign governments to extract oil, gas, and mineral resources. The rulemaking has been delayed by lawsuits and SEC inaction. But now the SEC has an opportunity to put in place a policy for disclosure that is accessible and effective.

Click here for more.

About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Sullivan, Jake" <jacob.sullivan@yale.edu>
To: "Andy Manatos" <AMANATOS@manatos.com>
Date: 2/26/2016 12:17:56 PM
Subject: Re: Little-known powerful history for a possible Clinton/Trump campaign.

Thanks Andy. A scary reminder.

On Feb 26, 2016, at 11:01 AM, Andy Manatos <AMANATOS@manatos.com > wrote:

> John and Jake,
> Something to tuck away for a possible Clinton/Trump campaign.
> A little known piece of history that demonstrates how tough-guy Trump brinksmanship with Putin could **trigger nuclear war**.
> Andy
>
> <Trump & Nuclear war.doc>

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From: "The Broad Center" <press@broadfoundation.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/8/2011 2:22:11 AM
Subject: Senior Military, Corporate and Education Executives Selected for Superintendents Academy

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TBC Logo

news release

Senior Military, Corporate and Education Executives Selected for Superintendents Academy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011

Contact: Erica Lepping
310.954.5053

LOS ANGELES - Three high-ranking military officers, a telecom executive and four experienced educators have been selected to participate in The Broad Superintendents Academy , The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems announced today.

The Broad (rhymes with "road") Superintendents Academy is a 10-month executive management training program run by The Broad Center to prepare top leaders from education, military, business, nonprofit and government sectors to lead urban public school systems. The Broad Superintendents Academy is the only program in the country that recruits and trains executives with non-education backgrounds as well as successful high-level educators. Participants keep their jobs while attending extended weekend sessions across the country.

The Broad Superintendents Academy has trained more working superintendents in large urban school districts than any other national training program. Since the academy was founded in 2002, graduates have filled 71 superintendent positions and 101 senior school district executive positions nationwide , including 36 percent of all external superintendent openings in large urban districts in the past two years. Two-thirds of Broad Superintendents Academy graduates who are currently serving as superintendents for three of more years are outperforming comparison groups in raising student achievement on state reading and math exams, closing achievement gaps and raising graduation rates.

"The largest public school systems are the size of Fortune 500 companies, when you consider budget, number of employees, and number of facilities," said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, which funds The Broad Center. "We need superintendents who have effective CEO-level skills and who believe that their goal is to provide a world-class education that enables every child to compete successfully in the 21st century."

The Broad Superintendents Academy's tenth class includes high-ranking Air Force and Army officers – a three-star Army general who is the director of a Pentagon agency, a senior officer who oversees a $20 billion budget, and another who leads military programs supporting 100,000 service members. The 2011 class also includes a Qwest Communications executive from Portland, Ore., the CEO of a high-performing charter management organization in Houston, a former military officer and diplomat to Poland and Russia now serving as a superintendent in Colorado Springs, Colo., and career educators currently serving in cabinet-level positions in districts in Charlotte, N.C. and Hartford, Conn.

"We need the very best leaders to address the crisis in our public schools and ensure every student in every school receives an education that prepares him or her for life," said John Simpson, The Broad Superintendents Academy's superintendent-in-residence and former

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superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools in Virginia. "By participating in the Academy, these executives are all making a commitment to use their proven leadership and management skills to take on a new challenge as an urban school district CEO."

A list of participants and full biographies are available at http://broadacademy.org/fellows/2011.html, and photos are available upon request.

Upon graduating, this year's new class will join the ranks of academy alumni who are serving in senior school district roles across the country. Graduates of the program currently work as district or state superintendents in 43 cities across 25 states.

Broad Superintendents Academy graduates who were recently appointed to state or district superintendent positions include 2006 graduate John Deasy , who will become the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District in April. In December, 2003 graduate Linda Lane was named superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools, and 2004 alum Christopher Cerf was selected as New Jersey Education Commissioner. In North Carolina, 2009 academy fellow and retired Brig. Gen. Anthony Tata was recently named superintendent of the Wake County Public School System, after serving as chief operating officer in D.C. Public Schools.

The Broad Superintendents Academy is a 10-month executive management training program run by The Broad Center to prepare talented executives to lead urban public school systems. Participants of the academy attend extended weekend sessions while keeping their full-time jobs. The academy then helps place graduates in urban school districts and also provides extensive on-the-job support. For more information, or to apply for the 2012 class, please visit www.broadacademy.org .

The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising student achievement by recruiting, training and supporting executive talent from across America to become the next generation of urban school district leaders. The Broad Center is funded by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a national venture philanthropy established by entrepreneur and philanthropist Eli Broad to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. For more information, please visit www.broadeducation.org.

# # #

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/19/2008 3:13:19 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/19/08

Main Topics: Veepstakes, Oil Rig Publicity Stunt, Bush 3rd term

Summary of Shift: Running mate speculation overtook other stories to be the dominant news of the night. Although there seems to be a consensus that a pro-choice Vice President for McCain would enrage the GOP base, the mere possibility of such a pick has given McCain's 'veepstakes' coverage more air time. Also, McCain's choice of landing on an oil rig to tout his pro-drilling agenda provided for continuous attention from the news. Fox News ran an hour long bio-documentary on McCain, and CNN plans to run a segment on McCain's marriage(s) tomorrow evening.

Nonpolitical coverage centered on the Olympics, an attack in Afghanistan which left 10 French soldiers killed, Tropical Storm Fay, and a renewed debate over the legal drinking age.

Highlights:
1. CNN: Cafferty Sounds Off On Oil Industry Lobbyists; Giving More To McCain
2. CNN: 'John McCain Has Now Attached Himself To This Massive Oil Rig'
3. CNN: Ridge Promises Not To Attack Obama's Patriotism, Defends Record At Homeland Security Administration
4. FNC: Bounds Touts Benefits Of McCain Drilling Policy
5. FNC: Cameron Says McCain Uneasy About Aides Taking Control Of Campaign
6. NBC: Mitchell Questions Seriousness of Lieberman VP pick
7. MSNBC: Olbermann Highlights McCain's Own Words About Ambition
8. MSNBC: Olbermann Notes John Lewis Not In Consultation With McCain
9. MSNBC: Large segment of Republicans Don't Want 'Third Bush Term'

Clips:
Highlight #1
Cafferty Sounds Off On Oil Industry Lobbyists; Mentions They Are Giving More To McCain (CNN 08/19/08 5:09pm)
JACK CAFFERTY: See, a lot of Americans blame the big oil companies for our energy problems. The oil industry is fighting back, they're spending tens of millions of dollars on lobbyists to keep Congress from doing anything that would punish them. The big oil companies are on track to surpass last year's record spending for lobbyists of 83 million dollars, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, and it seems to be working. See, suddenly the oil industry is the subject of a bunch of proposed legislation in Congress – none of which is good for the oil companies – Democrats and environmentalists generally favor higher taxes on the oil companies, and more funding for renewable energy. Republicans want to drill more wells. When it comes to lobbying the Presidential candidates, big oil spending there too - 11 million dollars so far. **Republican candidate John McCain has benefited the most, he's received 1.4 million dollars in cash contributions from oil company employees.** That's the most of any candidate, three times as much money as Barack Obama has received. Remember I said it's working? So far, no legislation is cleared Congress on any of this. Gas prices have come down a little bit on their own, Congress is on vacation. A financial analyst would suggest the tens of millions spent on lobbying by the oil companies is money well spent.

Highlight #2
CNN Segment States 'John McCain Has Now Attached Himself To This Massive Oil Rig' (CNN 08/19/08 6:15pm)
CNN VOICEVER: Images are crucial in any campaign, so, for better or worse**, John McCain has now attached himself to this massive oil rig 150 miles off the coast of New Orleans.** [play clip]

JOHN MCCAIN: Whole lot of oil and natural gas. As we speak they are producing ten thousand barrels of oil a day. [end clip]

VOICEOVER: A dramatic way for McCain to lambast Barack Obama's skepticism about boosting offshore oil and gas drilling. […] Obama has said he's open to such drilling but only as part of a broader energy fix that includes electric cars and other alternatives to oil and gas. […] A CNN research poll last month found 69% of Americans favor an increase in offshore drilling. But the poll also found only 51% believe more drilling will reduce gas prices in the next year – a point environmental groups have jumped on to defend Obama.

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GENE KARPINSKI: Senator John McCain's plan is a hoax, and he should know better. New drilling in protected areas offshore is going to do nothing to reduce gas prices.

VOICEOVER: McCain insists an all of the above approach is needed to deal with the current crisis.

Highlight #3
Ridge Denies Failing In Search For Al Qaeda, Says He Will Never Question Obama's Patriotism (CNN 08/19/08 4:30pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Joining us now to discuss this and a lot more, a top McCain supporter, often mentioned as a possible vice presidential choice, the former governor of Pennsylvania, former of secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge.

Governor, Secretary -- I don't know what to call you -- thanks very much for coming back in.

TOM RIDGE: Tom is fine. It's nice to be back. Thank you.

BLITZER: What do you prefer?

RIDGE: Tom.

BLITZER: Tom. I'm not going to call you Tom.

RIDGE: Good.

BLITZER: Either way, it's nice to have you in THE SITUATION ROOM.

Rush Limbaugh, he really went after the notion that Senator McCain should pick any one as his running mate who supports abortion rights, as you do.

And listen to what he said on Monday.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RUSH LIMBAUGH, CONSERVATIVE TALK SHOW HOST: It just would be a shame. It would just be a sad thing if he chooses a pro-choice vice president or even a Democrat, because he could just obliterate all the success and all the progress that he experienced on Saturday night with the wrong choice.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: He's referring to his remarks at the Faith Forum...

RIDGE: Right.

BLITZER: ... out in California. Well, it looked like you were one of those guys he's referring to.

RIDGE: Well, Rush has never known to be shy about his giving his opinion and I'm sure his point of view may be held by other people within the party. All I know is that my friend of 25 years, John McCain, is strongly and forever pro-life. He also believes that you shouldn't be judgmental on other people's point of view with regard to this and some other very difficult issues. And, as I said before, I think he will make the right choice for his vice presidential nominee.

And, at the end of the day, I think Rush and everybody else, hopefully, can see that there's a clear choice, regardless of who the vice presidential candidate, a choice that says John McCain is needed now as president of the United States in this perilous time.

BLITZER: And, if he did pick you, he would be the president. He would be calling the shots. You would be the vice president. You would be doing whatever the president asked you to do.

RIDGE: You know, it's an interesting situation. Everybody would be proud to serve as vice president. But, at the end of the day, you're only a private, independent voice giving your opponent and counsel to the president in a private way.

But, at the end of the day, publicly, you echo the president's position. And I think every vice president

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understands that and appreciates that's the rule.

BLITZER: Let me get back to the top story, Senator Obama today speaking before the Veterans of Foreign Wars. And you're one of those veterans...

RIDGE: Correct.

BLITZER: ... yourself. You served in Vietnam.

He really went after Senator McCain and others in the McCain campaign for questioning his patriotism. And I will play a little clip for you.

RIDGE: Right. OK. Thanks.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: We do have differences in this election, but one of the things that we have to change in this country is the idea that people can't disagree without challenging each other's character or their patriotism.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: The suggestion from Senator McCain, Senator Lieberman, others, that, you know, Obama would do something for political purposes, even if it was against the interests of the United States.

RIDGE: Well, I don't believe that. Neither does Senator McCain.

I was a little disappointed. And he gives great speeches, strong rhetoric, but the notion that Senator McCain, of all people, would challenge anybody's patriotism is strictly a straw man that I think he had to put up in front of that group of VFW and then knock it down.

But I think Senator Obama needs to understand, when you're at the national level, vying for the president of the United States, if we challenge your point of view, in the sense that your energy policy is inflating tires, as opposed to drilling and nuclear, we're not challenging your patriotism. We're challenging your judgment.

If we challenge your view on the surge and its success in Iraq, we're not challenging your patriotism. We're challenging your judgment and experience.

BLITZER: But there have been comments that have been made...

RIDGE: Never from John McCain.

BLITZER: ... that get very -- very, very close to that specific charge from Senator McCain and from Lieberman, among others.

(CROSSTALK)

RIDGE: Well, I don't know. All I'm saying is, he referred to my friend of 25 years, Senator McCain. I take it very personal. John McCain doesn't question anybody else's patriotism.

And, if Senator Obama thinks that the Republican Party or anybody else, even people within his own party, who challenge him on his issues, challenge him on policy, challenge him on the approach he's taking, we're challenging his experience. We're challenging his judgment. We are going to challenge his equivocation on some of the critical issues.

We never, we haven't, and we won't challenge his patriotism.

BLITZER: **So, you believe he's a patriotic American...**

RIDGE: **Absolutely.**

BLITZER: ... who would do -- even if it were against his political interests, do what is best for the United States?

RIDGE: I certainly hope so. I mean, the responsibility of the president of the United States is not to read the polls.

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It's to render the judgment based upon experience and based upon relationships based on your assessment of what's going on.

So, I don't think Senator McCain or anybody else will ever challenge s man's patriotism.

BLITZER: Here's another criticism that Senator Obama leveled against Senator McCain today at this Veterans of Foreign Wars event. Listen to this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: so for all of his talk about following Osama bin Laden to the Gates of Hell, Senator McCain refused to join my call to take out bin Laden across the Afghan border. Instead, he spent years backing a dictator in Pakistan who failed to serve the interests of his own people.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: All right. As someone who knows a lot about homeland security and the hunt for Osama bin Laden, what do you say?

(CROSSTALK)

RIDGE: Well, I think Senator McCain has been strong in support of the president's overall initiative to combat terror around the world. And, clearly...

BLITZER: But did -- did the U.S. take its eye off the ball by going into Iraq and moving out of Afghanistan and the hunt for bin Laden?

(CROSSTALK)

RIDGE**: No, we didn't -- there were certainly fewer troops in Afghanistan. But you ask those men, hundreds -- thousands of individuals who spent months, if not years, looking for Osama bin Laden, they did not take their eye off the ball, clearly.**

BLITZER: More -- more, though, could have been done if troops wouldn't have been stretched that thin.

(CROSSTALK)

RIDGE: **There are two -- there are more than two venues. Even al Qaeda has said right now, the central venue -- again, this is questioning -- not questioning his patriotism, but his judgment -- even al Qaeda said, the central venue where we really want to make a difference is not in Afghanistan. It's in Iraq.**

(CROSSTALK)

RIDGE: And, so, John has his priorities consistent with the enemy's priorities, Iraq and Afghanistan. He's never wavered from either.

BLITZER: Senator McCain was out on an oil rig today talking about a critically important issue, energy independence.

(CROSSTALK)

BLITZER: Now, you served in the Congress with him.

RIDGE: Right.

BLITZER: You go way back with Senator McCain.

(CROSSTALK)

BLITZER: And the question is this.

When he -- for 26 years, he's been in Washington. And Senator Obama keeps saying, you know what? He never

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really did much, if anything, to get America weaned off of foreign oil.

Can you look back and think of something he did do in his legislative record that -- that helped move the United States away from this addiction?

RIDGE: Well, I think there have been -- again, I don't know his legislative record as well as the campaign does, but I do know -- I think it was '03, '05, '07 -- there were efforts to deal with nuclear energy. There have been efforts to deal with alternative energies.

I think the senator has a pretty good record in dealing with, in a responsible way, as a senator does, in a very piecemeal way. But what he's called for as a presidential candidate, let's not just talk about tax credits for renewable energies; let's not just talk about clean coal tragedy; let's not just talk about nuclear; as the president of the United States, I want an all-in approach; I want to talk about nuclear, drilling, clean energy technology, conservation, renewable fuels.

A far different perspective you have -- and you must have -- as a president than dealing with individual votes on the floor of the Senate.

BLITZER: I didn't know at the top whether to call you Mr. Secretary or Mr. -- or Governor or Congressman. Maybe somebody day I will call you Mr. Vice President.

RIDGE: We will just have to wait to see, won't we?

(LAUGHTER)

BLITZER: Well, it probably won't be that long to find out.

Highlight #4
Bounds Insists McCain Is Against Higher Taxes And Helping Americans With His Drilling Push (FNC 08/19/08 5:10pm)
TUCKER BOUNDS: John McCain is watching as skyrocketing gas prices pinch American families and the real revelation in this race is that Barack Obama is sitting by the wayside, opposing reasonable measures to bring down gas prices for our working Americans. So in our minds, it is really about John McCain's all of the above approach to tackling skyrocketing gas prices. It's positive footing, we're working toward election day, we feel very good about where we are.

E.D. HILL: What about the idea of raising taxes on America?

BOUNDS: Well I think it's a bad idea. I think it's something that we pointed to and Barack Obama's record voted in support of higher taxes 94 times in three years, something like that. That's a concerning record for Americans that value their hard work and hard earned dollar. American family budgets are hurting, people are trying to make their dollars go further, and if you really want to be able to stimulate the economy and grow jobs, you gotta cut taxes and you gotta beat back wasteful spending in Washington. John McCain's going to do it.

HILL: When John McCain takes a look at our economy, what does he think is the number one thing he can address right way to try to improve it?

BOUNDS: Well I think that what you're seeing today is a good indication, E.D., he's out on an oil rig, talking about taking measures to lower gas prices, which are actually driving up the costs of food, inflation rates, it's a serious impact on the American economy**. It works all the way down to the kitchen table. He's doing what he can and he's surrounded himself with very intelligent people that are giving him great advice. He knows and understands the economy after chairing the Commerce Commitee for so many years and understanding exactly how this economy works. I think you're going to see him take significant measured approaches to improving our economy.**

Highlight #5
Carl Cameron Says McCain 'Uneasy About His Aides Have Sort Of Taken Control Of His Candidacy' (FNC 08/19/08 6:11pm)
CARL CAMERON: A real wild card would be Joe Lieberman, a former Democrat turned Independent. If McCain picked him, that would really shake things up but that's about a long as a shot as anyone can calculate.

BRETT BAIER: And now that you've nailed down a date, the McCain camp will surely change it.

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CAMERON: **Oh absolutely. Senator McCain has been a little bit uneasy about his aides have sort of taken control of his candidacy and they're wondering when he's going to take it back.** And they think the way he may take it back may be the way he exemplifies his control.

Highlight #6
Mitchell Highlights the Seriousness of Liebermann as McCain's VP Pick (NBC 08/19/08 7:05pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: Sources say McCain is seriously considering a registered democrat, Joe Lieberman. The right wing is threatening a revolt.

RICH LOWRY: You're gonna have a lot of conservatives throwing up their hands saying, this is a ticket we can't support.

CHUCK TODD: It's a message of independence. It brings back the maverick John McCain. It solidifies his image with independent voters.

MITCHELL: The Liebermann possibility is so serious that state party officials say that they have been asked to check their party rules to see if a non-republican can be on the ballot in their state. […] If he does chose Liebermann, McCain would promise to serve for only one term. A much safer political choice for McCain, […] Tim Pawlenti.

Highlight #7
McAmbition: McCain's Book in 2002 Reveals His 2000 Running was Based Solely on Ambition (MSNBC 08/19/08 8:25pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Barack Obama strongly rejected John McCain's claim that ambition only; not principle, not patriotism drives him. McCain has also run a fowl of a previous presidential candidate that claimed McCain himself ran in 2000 explicitly not for patriotism, specifically not to pursue his reform agenda, but for, yes, ambition. Who made this startling claim about McCain? […] It was John McCain. In the book he wrote in 2002, […] 'I didn't decide to run for president to start a national crusade for the political reforms I believed in or to run a campaign as if it were some grand act of patriotism. In truth, I wanted to be president because it had become my ambition to be president. I was sixty-two years old when I made the decision and thought it was my one shot at the prize.'

Highlight #8
McCain's "Wiseman" John Lewis not too Keen on the Idea (MSNBC 08/19/08 7:22pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Here's John McCain at Saddleback Forum with Rick Warren picking out his personal wiseman.

RICK WARREN: Who are the three wisest people you know that you would rely on heavily in an administration?

JOHN MCCAIN: I think- John Louis. He can teach us all a lot about the meaning of courage and commitment to causes greater than our self-interest.

MATTHEWS: Well, he should have checked with Congressman Lewis before he made that claim. The democratic congressman gave a statement to Mother Jones […] saying, quote, 'Senator McCain and I are colleagues in the U.S. Congress, not confidantes. He does not consult me. And I don not consult him.'

Highlight #9
Large Segment of Republicans don't Want a Third Bush Term (MSNBC 08/19/08 7:22pm)
RITA HAUSER: I think I speak for a very large number of republicans who did not find this going to war, the way it was conducted as normal type activity for traditional republicans. You fight when you are attacked and seriously threatened. Not go off on adventures. What's important in McCain shows no sign of being willing to wind down on our commitment in Iraq, being willing to address the problem seriously, that have been caused by our commitment in Iraq, like doing the right thing in Afghanistan, Pakistan. And he says bluntly that he will stay there until 2012 or 2013. And that is not acceptable to a very large number of republicans and former republicans who now call themselves independents.

[…]

JIM LEACH: […] I think any sense of perspective has to indicate that America has gone through a rather tough patch. And the fact of the matter is that we have diplomatically, economically, militarily been behind the 8-ball in an increasing degree for each of past 4-5 years. And the question is, do we want a new direction? Do we want a new direction rooted in historical American values, or one that might be described as abborational, as unusual, in which we attack countries that haven't attacked us, in which we laid plans for long-term occupation of a land

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where America and the West are deeply resented. It's time for a change and I think that change has to come quickly.

[…]

MATTHEWS: Are you afraid, Ms. Hauser, that despite his Maverick reputation, that Senator McCain […] is as much enthralled with the neo-conservative policy of foreign adventurism

[…] preventive war, which means go to war to prevent a war. […] Do you think he's as much of a thinker in that regard as George W. Bush became?

HAUSER: **And even more so, in all of his statements. There's no question about it, we would have Bush 3. I think a lot of people are nervous about that, including a large segment of republicans. This war has never been paid for properly, in fact it hasn't been accounted for, and we don't know the extent of what it has costing, and what damage it is doing to our economy. So that's another reason republicans like to balance their books, they like to be managerial correct, and they like to know what they're getting themselves into. I also want to speak as a woman.** There's a very large number of republican women for choice, and McCain, the other night at the faith forum presented himself as the most pro-life senator in the congress, and one who would seek to repeal Roe v. Wade, and would put various justices on the court to try to do that. […] We have never had an appropriate place at the table of this President Bush for those Republicans who are for choice. And they are a very large segment of the Republican party.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 2/6/2015 6:02:16 AM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Agreed.

And a Rothschild is not exactly our best voice on income inequality.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Feb 6, 2015, at 12:30 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Well – We need someone to get our "friends" on the phone and tell them this doesn't help;
>
> **From:** Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 12:18 PM
> **To:** Joel Benenson; Robby Mook
> **Cc:** Mandy Grunwald; cheryl.mills@gmail.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; jake.sullivan@gmail.com ; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; cmills@cdmillsgroup.com ; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com
> **Subject:** Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
> I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!
>
> **From:** "jbenenson@bsgco.com " <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> **Date:** Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
> **To:** Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
> **Cc:** Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "john@algpolling.com " <john@algpolling.com >, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com " <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
> **Subject:** Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
> Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Agree
> >
> > On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I think this piece turned out well.
> > >
> > > But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
> > >
> > > > One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.
> > >
> > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > **Grunwald Communications**

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202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas
Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.
One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts. She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.
As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.
Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.
In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.
Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.
Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.
The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.
"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.
Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.
The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.
Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.
Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.
Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.
Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked

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under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.
More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.
A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.
"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. "

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.

Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM

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To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>

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>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From:	"Bulletin News Network" <Clinton-Editors@BulletinNews.com>
To:	bulletin@hillaryclinton.com clips@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	12/4/2007 11:35:15 PM
Subject:	Hillary For President News Briefing for Wednesday, December 05, 2007
Attachments:	ClintonNewsBriefing071205.doc

HILLARY FOR PRESIDENT NEWS BRIEFING (Executive Version)
Full version is attached and available online at http://www.bulletinnews.com/clinton

TO: CLINTON CAMPAIGN

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007 6:30 AM EST

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+ Clinton, Obama Camps Spar On Abortion.
+ Clinton Rejects Talk Of "Dynasty."
+ Bill Clinton Accuses Press Of Ignoring Wife's Experience, Obama's Lack Thereof.
+ Clinton Campaign Launching Database To Track Push Polls, Similar Tactics.
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Sen. Clinton's Campaign:

IN DEBATE, DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE BUSH OVER IRAN POLICY. Seven of the Democratic presidential candidates gathered at the Iowa State Historical Museum for a debate sponsored by National Public Radio and Iowa Public Radio, with New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson absent for the funeral of a soldier killed in the Korean War. Befitting the more staid format – the event was only broadcast on NPR – the candidates primarily exchanged mild jabs on Iran and discussed China trade and immigration. Although President Bush was the focus of the candidates' criticism for saying a new intelligence report that Iran abandoned its nuclear weapons program in 2003 did not change the threat from the regime, Hillary Clinton took fire for her vote on the Senate resolution that characterized the Iranian Revolutionary Guards a terrorist organization. The AP (12/5, Fouhy) reports, "Democratic rivals assailed" Clinton for her vote on the resolution, which "they portrayed as misguided and dangerous in light of a new intelligence report that says the Iranians stopped pursuing a nuclear weapon years ago." The Democrats, "unlike the campaign's Republican contenders, proposed no drastic crackdown on illegal immigrants. On China, they said more should be done to put U.S. companies on equal footing with Chinese imports, but again they proposed no radical new remedies." This article was published in some 34 papers and websites, including the New York Sun, the Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier, the Concord Monitor and Newsday

The Des Moines Register (12/5, Leys, 158K) reports the Democrats said "America should get tougher on China, tone down threats to Iran and find a humane way to control immigration." Sen. Chris Dodd "predicted that Republicans would try to trash Democrats over immigration." Dodd said, "They're going to use this as a wedge issue here, to inflame the passions and the fears of too many Americans. We've seen it before in our country. It's dangerous politics." The Register adds the "leading Democrats agreed that American citizens should not be asked to turn in immigrants whom they believe are in the country illegally." Obama said, "We do not deputize the American people to do the job that the federal government is supposed to do."

NPR (12/5, Horsely) led its report with the candidates discussion of the new National Intelligence Estimate on Iran, adding Clinton "said she is relieved by the intelligence findings, and called on President Bush to pursue diplomacy with Iran. Clinton has come under criticism from fellow Democrats for her September vote in favor of a Senate Resolution calling the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization. Obama - who skipped the vote while campaigning in New Hampshire - has said it gave President Bush a 'blank check' to go to war against Iran."

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The CBS Evening News (12/4, story 4, 0:45, Couric, 7.66M) reported, "Clinton's rivals attacked her for voting to label Iran's revolutionary guards a terrorist organization. Clinton said her vote in the Senate was meant to encourage diplomacy but John Edwards called it a pretext for war." John Edwards, presidential candidate: "That's supposed to be diplomacy? What possible conclusion can you reach other than that we are at war?" Senator Hillary Clinton: "I understand politics and I understand making outlandish political charges, but this really goes way too far."

The Los Angeles Times (12/4, Martelle, Abcarian, 881K) reports the "main Democratic presidential candidates teamed up" to "blast the Bush administration over its policy toward Iran, saying a new intelligence assessment proves the White House has needlessly ratcheted up military rhetoric." Sen. Joseph Biden said "the report indicated that Iran dropped its program before international pressure came into play." Biden said, "It was like watching a rerun of his statements on Iraq five years earlier."

USA Today (12/5, Lawrence, 2.28M) reports Clinton "portrayed herself as a full member of her husband's foreign-policy team and defended her approach to Iran in a genteel radio debate Tuesday dominated by international issues." The "tenor was mild compared to the crossfire between the Clinton and Barack Obama camps in recent days over experience, character and policy. Tuesday's skirmish: abortion." Clinton said Tuesday "that 'I vehemently disagree' with Bush that 'nothing has changed.' He should 'seize this opportunity' to launch diplomacy, she said."

The Politico (12/5, Brown) reports John Edwards "accused" Clinton "of failing to 'stand up' to President Bush and Vice President Cheney." Edwards said, "I just want to be clear to the listeners that we have a real division here. I mean, among the Democratic candidates, there's only one that voted for this resolution. And that is exactly what Bush and Cheney wanted."

The Washington Post (12/5, A10, Balz, Kornblut, 723K) reports Clinton "faced repeated criticism in a debate here for supporting a Senate resolution her rivals said encouraged saber-rattling rhetoric from President Bush toward the Middle Eastern nation." Clinton "sparred mainly with" Edwards, "who accused her of taking a step toward war when she voted in September for a resolution labeling the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization." Clinton said, "I understand politics, and I understand making outlandish political charges, but this really goes way too far. Having designated the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, we've actually seen some changes in their behavior."

The Wall Street Journal (12/5, Cooper, 2.06M) reports that on Iraq, Clinton "was clearly not in the mood for conciliation, accusing Mr. Obama of backing surgical bombing of Iraq (Mr. Obama said she took her facts out of context) and condemning Mr. Edwards for playing politics on the issue."

Clinton, Obama "Pull Punches." In an analysis for the AP (12/5), separate from the general AP story on the debate, Beth Fouhy contrasts the event's calm with the "intensifying effort" to win in Iowa, noting that the candidates "politely discussed" the three issues addressed. "But the focus for most political observers remained on Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama, who have stepped up a bitter war of words as polling has showed Obama opening up a slight lead in Iowa. In this format, the two chose to put aside their tough talk and generally found common ground on most topics. Clinton even said - 'I agree with Barack' - at certain points, such as on the question of whether U.S. citizens should turn illegal immigrants over to law enforcement. Obama, in turn, toned down his criticism of Clinton's Senate vote in September declaring the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization even as Edwards, Biden and Chris Dodd said the vote had amounted to a step toward war. 'They largely pulled their punches because they realize that escalating a tit-for-tat mudfest presents risks all around,' Democratic strategist Dan Newman said."

The New York Daily News (12/5, Kennedy, 729K) reports, "Democratic debate showdown: Hillary versus Barack. Let's get ready to ... snooze. The first faceoff between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama since she launched a scorched-earth campaign to take him down was no wrestling-cage match. Instead, they had a soothing, civilized chat about policy. That's because the confrontation came at an NPR-sponsored Democratic debate. There were no YouTube snowmen. No cheering sections. No TV cameras."

Edwards, Biden, Dodd Called Winners, Clinton Gravel Losers. On his 'The Fix' blog on the website of the Washington Post (12/4, 723K), Chris Cillizza lists the debate's winners as Edwards, Biden and Dodd. Edwards effectively parlayed his populism and "politely highlighted what he called real divides between himself and" Clinton, while Biden and Dodd "were given considerably more time to make their points" than in past debates, "and they did so effectively." Clinton is labeled a loser since despite her dwindling lead, she is still attacked as though she were the clear frontrunner, and because "she has taken considerable flack for her positions" on Iran and illegal immigration, while "her strongest issue, health care, was left out of the mix." Mike Gravel is also listed

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as a loser because "his role in these gatherings is to serve as the resident crank."

CLINTON, OBAMA CLASH ON UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE EXAMINED. The Wall Street Journal (12/5, Meckler, 2.06M) reports while the "leading Democratic presidential candidates agree on most policy issues, a sharp dispute has emerged: Who would do more to provide health coverage for the uninsured?" Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have been "engaged in a bitter back-and-forth over whose health plan covers more people. Former Sen. John Edwards has jumped in, saying his plan is the best of all." With the "race tight and health care the No. 1 domestic issue for Democrats, their differences have become a point of continuing tension." Clinton "charges that Mr. Obama's plan would leave 15 million people without insurance. Outside experts agree that number is in the ballpark." But Obama adviser Austan Goolsbee "argues that if Mrs. Clinton's health plan is enacted, she will have to waive the mandate for millions of people. That is because, he says, there isn't enough money for subsidies to make health insurance affordable enough for people to buy it."

The New York Times (12/5, Seelye, 1.18M) reports Clinton "has been attacking Senator Barack Obama's health care plan, saying that while her proposal would provide universal coverage, his would leave out 15 million people." But while Clinton is "right that Mr. Obama's plan would leave out millions, she is being misleading in implying that her own plan covers everyone. Mandates rarely achieve 100 percent compliance. In addition, they are almost impossible to enforce. Because of those difficulties, Mrs. Clinton's own plan would probably leave out millions." Joseph Antos, a health policy expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said, "If Obama's plan were to leave 15 million people without insurance, I think Senator Clinton's plan would certainly do the same, not because of a mandate but because of the fundamental problems of getting people to recognize that they should buy insurance and making them buy it."

CLINTON TO VOW TO ENERGIZE U.S. ECONOMY. The New York Sun (12/5, Wapshott) reports that Sen. Hillary Clinton, speaking to business leaders in New York, will paint "herself as the Democratic presidential candidate most likely to be able to protect Americans from the cold draft of a hesitant economy turning to recession. Delivering what she is billing as 'a major economic policy address,' she will attempt to convince business and money-market leaders that she is the candidate who can restore the American economy to the prosperity enjoyed during the administration of her husband, President Clinton."

CLINTON, OBAMA CAMPS SPAR ON ABORTION. The New York Post (12/5, Earle, 648K) reports that Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign "had a pro-choice supporter bash rival Sen. Barack Obama's record on abortion rights -- but his camp responded with past praise from his basher. Ellen Malcolm, president of pro-choice EMILY's List, held a press conference denouncing Obama for voting 'present' instead of 'yes' on a 'critical' abortion rights bill when he was in the Illinois Legislature. She also faulted a US Senate floor speech he gave opposing Chief Justice John Roberts, because Obama 'barely' mentioned Roe vs. Wade. But Obama's camp released a May 2006 letter from Malcolm praising his 'fighting to make change happen.'"

CLINTON REJECTS TALK OF "DYNASTY." The New York Post (12/5, Earle, 648K) reports that Sen. Hillary Clinton "yesterday rejected the idea of a Clinton 'dynasty' -- confronting head-on the criticism that only people named Bush or Clinton have sat in the White House since 1989. 'There is no dynasty. There is no determination from on high. People get to vote for whoever they want. People get to vote against whoever they want,' Clinton told National Public Radio after a Democratic debate yesterday." Clinton "also said she advised her husband on foreign policy when she took trips abroad and she invoked the Clinton name as a Bush-slayer. 'I was deeply involved in being part of the Clinton team during the first Clinton administration,' she said. And, she added, 'It takes a Clinton to clean up after a Bush.'"

BILL CLINTON ACCUSES PRESS OF IGNORING WIFE'S EXPERIENCE, OBAMA'S LACK THEREOF. The AP (12/5, Elliott) reports that at a campaign event for Sen. Hillary Clinton in Keene, New Hampshire, former President Bill Clinton lamented what he characterized as reporters' tendency to ignore Sen. Clinton's experience "-and, without naming him, the relative lack of experience of her closest Democratic rival, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. 'One percent of the press coverage was devoted to their record in public life. No wonder people think experience is irrelevant. A lot of the people covering the race think it is (irrelevant),' Clinton said to students at Keene State College. Clinton referenced a study from the Project for Excellence in Journalism that indicated much of the coverage of the race is dominated by daily horse race reporting rather than about policy issues." This article was published by some 25 papers and websites, including the Los Angeles Times, the Miami Herald, the Charlotte Observer and Newsday.

The Washington Post (12/4, Shear, 723K) reported on its 'The Trail' blog that former President Clinton "mocked what he called a 'fashionable idea' that politicians 'should somehow be disqualified from our national leadership because they have actually been changemakers in the past.' Referring to his wife as a 'positive change maker' for 35 years, Clinton said that her experience 'indicates you will be more likely to successfully execute change as president.' But Clinton saved his most pointed criticism for the press, which he said was doing a poor job of

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covering the presidential campaign."

CLINTON CAMPAIGN LAUNCHING DATABASE TO TRACK PUSH POLLS, SIMILAR TACTICS. The Des Moines Register (12/4, Jacobs, 158K) reported on its website, "Hillary Clinton's campaign is starting a file of 'dirty campaign tricks' after a handful of supporters reported that negative information about the Democratic presidential candidate is being peddled by telephone." A number of Iowans have reported anti-Clinton telephone push polling, noting that the callers "said they were from the Obama campaign." Meanwhile, "Clinton pollster Mark Penn said today the campaign has found no evidence tying recent push polls to any campaign. Late Monday night, Clinton's campaign manager Patti Solis Doyle, sent e-mails warning that some supporters have gotten calls telling them incorrect caucus locations."

The New Hampshire Union Leader (12/5, DiStaso) reports, "Also yesterday, a North Country Clinton supporter accused a John Edwards campaign worker of calling her last Friday, during the height of the tense hostage situation in Rochester, and trying to convince her to vote for Edwards. Edwards' campaign spokesman responded by accusing the Clinton campaign of using 'Friday's frightening situation to attack other campaigns.' Obama spokesman Bill Burton, in his own e-mail to Obama supporters, called Doyle's allegations a 'flat-out falsehood' and 'the latest attack in a silly season where our opponents have promised to stop at nothing in an effort to tarnish Barack Obama's character.' Obama's camp on Monday urged supporters to contribute $25 to 'show our opponents that this kind of negativity will only make us stronger in our determination to bring about the change America needs.'"

DEMOCRATIC FUNDRAISER HSU INDICTED. The AP (12/5, Neumeister) reports a Federal grand jury "on Tuesday indicted a top Democratic fundraiser accused of cheating investors of at least $20 million and using some of the money for illegal donations to political candidates such as Hillary Rodham Clinton." In the "15-count indictment, the government accused Norman Hsu, a 56-year-old clothing-industry entrepreneur, of duping investors nationwide with a massive Ponzi scheme." The government "said Hsu also violated federal campaign-finance laws by making contributions to various political candidates in the names of others."

The Los Angeles Times (12/5, Neubauer, Fields, 881K) reports prosecutors "said Hsu promised investors hefty returns on deals to provide businesses with short-term financing, persuading hundreds of people nationwide to entrust him with more than $60 million. But there were no such deals, the indictment says. Though Hsu made some payments to sustain investors' faith, tens of millions of dollars may have ended up in his pockets."

PENN SAYS CRITICISM OF OBAMA KINDERGARTEN DREAMS WERE JOKE. MSNBC's Live (6:40 a.m.) broadcast that Mark Penn, chief strategist for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, was asked yesterday on MSNBC if the Clinton campaign in panicking because of recent polling numbers. Penn said "No, we have a very comfortable lead in the national polls. I think it's a campaign, and the campaign, I think there's always -- you know, a back and forth, in such a campaign, nothing unusual going on." Penn was also asked about recent Clinton attacks on Obama and bringing up Obama's Kindergarten teacher, "isn't she playing into his hands?" Penn said "Oh that is so silly. You know, I have to say that I really wonder at the end of the day he put out an attack on her, trying to say that she had some 20 year plan, and at the end of a long thing as a joke, the campaign put out that he always wanted to run from kindergarten. It was a joke! And the spin machines here are so hyped up here about Senator Clinton and her campaign that someone would pick up on a joke like that and treat it as though it were serious."

OBAMA SAYS CLINTON UNABLE TO WIN GENERAL ELECTION "MANDATE." The Des Moines Register (12/4, Beaumont, 158K) reports that Sen. Barack Obama, speaking yesterday to Register editors and reporters, said "that Hillary Clinton's high negative poll ratings would make her unable to win a mandate for change, should she win the general election next year" because she wouldn't attract Republicans and independents. "'I believe that I can much more effectively attract new voters, and Republicans that have been disillusioned with the other side, and independents who are trying to find a political home, and potentially create a working majority for change,' Obama" said.

DOZENS OF BLACK SC MINISTERS ENDORSE OBAMA. The AP (12/5, Smith) reports Barack Obama "picked up the endorsement of almost 130 black South Carolina ministers Tuesday in this early voting state where he runs even with rival Hillary Rodham Clinton for the crucial black vote. ... Rev. Joseph Lowery and the Rev. C.T. Vivian, a close adviser of Martin Luther King Jr., attended the announcement." These "endorsements for the Illinois Senator came a week to the day after" Clinton "visited upstate South Carolina where she announced the endorsements of more than 80 black ministers." Rev. Joseph Lowery said, "we believe Barack Obama will not use his religion as a crutch or a hammer, but will draw on the moral imperatives of our faith and apply them to the political, social and economic problems of our country."

EDWARDS GOES POSITIVE IN FINAL WEEKS OF CAMPAIGN. The Politico (12/5, Kuhn) reports John Edwards'

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"role as the positive populist in the Democratic field has returned at a moment when the political stakes could not be higher. In the final month before the Iowa caucuses, the Edwards campaign has decided to refrain from the aggressive strategy that defined its message for months." The "daily rhetorical sparring between Obama and Clinton has only made the Edwards campaign more confident that the best tactic to distinguish its candidate is to rise above the intraparty bout, which Edwards was largely instigating as recently as mid-November." The "tactical shift away from the combative rhetoric is also rooted in the campaign's belief that the time to earn political benefit from criticizing Clinton may have passed."

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 1:15:33 PM
Subject: Fwd: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA

Should I tweet?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com >
Date: Apr 23, 2015 8:06 PM
Subject: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA
To: "hrcrapid@googlegroups.com " <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com >
Cc:

http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

Statement of Frank Giustra

POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2015 BY FRANK GIUSTRA
CATEGORY FRANK GIUSTRA ,

A book that has not yet been published has caused the New York Times to publish a wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article about the Clinton Foundation and my role in contributing money to it. There is not one shred of evidence to back up the Times' conclusions. **This is not about me, but rather an attempt to tear down Secretary Clinton and her presidential campaign.** If this is what passes for investigative journalism in the United States, it is very sad.

The facts do not comport with the story in the New York Times. The reporter, Jo Becker, wrote a similar piece in 2008, which was eventually debunked by Forbes. http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/12/giustra-clinton-kazakhstan-pf-ii-in_rl_0912croesus_inl.html

. I began working on financing the purchase of mining stakes from a private Kazakh company in early 2005. The purchase was concluded in late 2005.
. In late 2005, I went to Kazakhstan to finish the negotiations of the sale. Bill Clinton flew to Almaty a few days after I arrived in the country on another person's plane, not on my plane, as the Times reported. Bill Clinton had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company.
. I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company. I would note that those were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the Secretary of State. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the Secretary of State.
. Other media outlets have insinuated that I influenced the decision by the U.S. to sign a free trade agreement with Colombia. At one point, I was an investor in Pacific Rubiales, a Colombian energy company. I sold my shares in Pacific Rubiales several years before the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which, I will note, was approved by several U.S. agencies and the White House. To theorize that I had anything to do with that is sheer conjecture.

I hope that the U.S. media can start to focus on the real challenges of the world and U.S. society. Focus on poverty, homelessness, infrastructure, health care, education, or fractious world politics. You are a great country. Don't ruin it by letting those with political agendas take over your newspapers and your airwaves.

I am extremely proud of the work that we have done at the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership. Thousands of people, all over the world, have been helped by this initiative. I plan to continue that work long after the harsh glare of this week's media

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stories has faded.

4 Votes

Sent from my iPad

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/25/2008 1:35:13 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/25

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 25th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11:10am McCain: Press conference in Phoenix, AZ

12pm Fiorina: Press conference in Denver, Colorado

3pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Sacramento, CA

6pm J. Warner: Fund Raiser in Vienna, VA

8:30pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Los Angeles, CA

11:30pm McCain: Interview on NBC's "Tonight Show with Jay Leno"

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Biden, McCain Have a Friendship -- and More -- in Common (WSJ 8/25/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES
A longtime senator with a harrowing personal narrative who boasts a lengthy foreign policy résumé and is known for speaking his mind. ...In picking Sen. Biden as his running mate Saturday, Sen. Obama got a partner with striking similarities to his Republican opponent.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121954185485266719.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

The GOP's Delicate Passing of the Baton (Washington Post 8/25/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A15
When it gathers next week in Minneapolis-St. Paul for its quadrennial convention, the Republican Party will try to turn the page from George W. Bush to John McCain. It won't be an easy trick.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/24/AR2008082401668.html

McCain ad aims at swaying Clinton Dems (Politico 8/25/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Ramping up their effort to drive a wedge between Hillary Clinton's supporters and Barack Obama, the McCain campaign is to broadcast a new ad starting Monday featuring the Wisconsin Democrat who lost her slot as a convention delegate after saying she'd cast her ballot for McCain instead of Obama here.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=F9B3F3A5-18FE-70B2-A8068FBAEAE8FD2C
Link to video of ad ("Debra"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=597YG23mAWs

Humble pie nourished McCain's campaign (AP 8/24/08)
By CALVIN WOODWARD
Republicans lugged money, fame and promise into their race for the presidential nomination. One of them carried his own bags, tooled around New Hampshire with a few volunteers, flew commercial and won. John McCain's diet of humble pie in the summer of 2007 might have been the best thing that happened to his campaign.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080824/ap_on_el_pr/road_to_st_paul

McCain intrudes on Obama's convention message (AP 8/24/08)
By MIKE GLOVER and JIM KUHNHENN
John McCain certainly won't let Barack Obama have his Democratic convention all to himself. If Obama has a story to tell voters over the next four days, McCain is already pitching a far less flattering version from afar.

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http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iQM_QSedScKuBprltHnZaZm6dSTAD92OVBN80

Halperin: McCain's Houses Gaffe 'One Of The Worst Moments' Of The Campaign For...Barack Obama (ThinkProgress 8/24/08)
Last week Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) told Politico that he did not know how many homes he and his wife Cindy own. "I'll have my staff get to you," McCain said. ThinkProgress noted that even though McCain's comment highlights his poor record on the housing crisis and his economic policies that primarily benefit the rich, many in the media leaped to McCain's defense, saying the gaffe was not "a big deal."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/24/halperin-obama-houses-worst/

McCain: Biden A "Very Wise Selection" (CBS 8/23/08)
Tells Katie Couric Obama's Running Mate "Very Formidable," Is "A Good Friend And Good Man"
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/08/23/politics/main4377152.shtml?source=RSSattr=Politics_4377152
See NYT's"A Courteous Call and a Quick Strike From McCain": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/24/us/politics/24mccain.html?pagewanted=print

McCain Camp Issues Quick Response On Obama's Choice for Vice President (WSJ 8/23/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES
John McCain's campaign pounced quickly Saturday morning to attack Barack Obama's running mate Sen. Joe Biden by using the Delaware politician's own words against him.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121947414185366305.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDVUPqoowf8

McCain ad: Clinton's 'truth hurt' (USA TODAY 8/24/08)
By David Jackson
Republican John McCain launched a new ad Sunday claiming rival Barack Obama passed over Hillary Rodham Clinton as his running mate for "speaking the truth" about his liabilities.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-24-mccain-ad_N.htm?csp=34
LINK TO VIDEO OF AD ("Passed Over"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NrQ36Djf2E
See USA Today blog's "McCain ad says Sen. Clinton was 'passed over' because she told 'the truth'": http://blogs.usatoday.com/onpolitics/2008/08/mccain-ad-says.html
See CS Monitor blog's "McCain uses Hillary in new ad. Will Obama use Romney?": http://features.csmonitor.com/politics/2008/08/24/mccain-uses-hillary-in-new-ad-will-obama-use-romney/
Link to Clinton response: http://thepage.time.com/clinton-spokeswoman-responds-to-mccain-ad/

GOP Veep Sheet: McCain ponders Powell (Politico 8/24/08)
By: Alexander Burns
Another day, and no white smoke yet from John McCain's Sedona, Ariz., residence. The search for a vice president continues as the Democratic clans gather in Denver.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=F48BABDF-18FE-70B2-A8A1A2F14A000D86

Pawlenty Auditions for Veep (The Page 8/24/08)
In a media conference call, the Minnestota governor says choosing Biden is an "overcompensation" for Obama's inexperience, and suggests the Delaware Senator may serve as Obama's mentor and supervisor.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/~3/373466296/
Link to audio of call: https://secure.prairiesys.com/webdata/weba1/wavefile/108298904.mp3
See CNN blog's "Pawlenty: McCain VP can handle Biden": http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/24/pawlenty-mccain-vp-can-handle-biden/

Platform Will Reflect Shifts On National Security and Economy (WSJ 8/24/08)
By Nick Timiraos
Convention delegates are set to ratify a party platform that refers sparingly to the "war on terror," among other marked shifts in tone on national-security issues from four years ago.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121961113306967225.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

SOME MCCAIN CAMP INSIGHTS... (FirstRead 8/24/08)
By Kelly O'Donnell
Reporting on the road with the McCain campaign...
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/08/24/1288482.aspx

McCain-Romney? Dems fear it could hurt in West (San Francisco Chronicle 8/25/08)
Carolyn Lochhead

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With several polls showing Democratic Sen. Barack Obama trailing Republican Sen. John McCain in Colorado on the eve of the Democratic National Convention, some of the state's Democrats worried Sunday that McCain might pick former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as a running mate to solidify his support among a key voting bloc - Mormons.
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/25/MNDR12HM1O.DTL&type=politics

Obama Hits Wisconsin Barbecue (The Page 8/24/08)
[Obama's] Remarks focus on economic anxieties, hitting McCain on energy, being out-of-touch... hits McCain on national security, saying, "Talking tough and acting dumb is not a way to keep you safe and secure." ... McCain camp responds: "Today, Barack Obama attacked John McCain for voting for the 2002 Iraq War Resolution; Joe Biden also voted for the resolution."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/24/obama-hits-wisconsin-barbecue/
Link to McCain Camp Response to Obama Event: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-response-to-obama-event/

A Ballgame and a Slow Day for McCain (WaPo blog 8/24/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Now, it's McCain's turn to take it easy. ... So perhaps McCain deserved an afternoon off, at the ballgame....Earlier, McCain attended the North Phoenix Baptist Church... the pastor, Dan Yeary, did show a clip from the Saddleback Forum earlier in the month. There, on a big screen, was none other than John McCain, talking about his own greatest moral failure -- the failure of his marriage.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/24/a_ballgame_and_a_slow_day_for.html

For McCains, a Public Path but Private Wealth (NYT 8/23/08)
By DAVID M. HALBFINGER
When Senator John McCain is in Washington, he lives in a luxury high-rise condominium in Arlington, Va., owned by his wife, Cindy Hensley McCain. Mrs. McCain also owns their condos in Phoenix, San Diego and Coronado, Calif., and their vacation compound near Sedona, Ariz. And it is the beer business, Hensley & Company, she inherited from her father that is the source of the McCain family fortune. That fortune makes Mr. McCain one of the richest members of the Senate. Yet barely a sliver of it is in his name.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/23/us/politics/23mccain.html

GOP Fight in Nevada Could Cause McCain Trouble (WSJ 8/23/08)
By BRAD HAYNES; Page A4
Delegation Split May Prompt Votes For Libertarians
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121944799376665201.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain's Record Of Opposition To Clean Energy (Wonk Room 8/23/08)
This week, the Center for American Progress Action Fund and the University of Las Vegas organized a nonpartisan national clean energy summit in Nevada with Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), former president Bill Clinton, conservative energy entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens, New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg and "a parade of public and business leaders." The summit concluded with a series of consensus recommendations. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has a disappointing record on the summit's top recommendations for the federal government.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/23/mccain-energy-summit/

McCain Campaign Calls Madonna Show 'Divisive' (FOXNews 8/24/08)
John McCain's campaign engaged in somewhat of a celebrity feud with Madonna Sunday, after the material girl compared the Arizona senator with Adolf Hitler and Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe during her world tour.
http://feeds.foxnews.com/~r/foxnews/elections/~3/373809312/

Hollywood conservatives to rally for McCain (Washington Times 8/22/08)
Stephen Dinan and Ralph Z. Hallow
As Democrats celebrate in Denver next week, Republican presumptive presidential nominee Sen. John McCain will be trying to fire up some star power of his own by collecting checks and support from conservatives in Hollywood.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/22/hollywood-conservatives-to-rally-for-mccain/

Big Money Still Has Prominent Seat at Parties' Conventions (NYT 8/23/08)
By LESLIE WAYNE and MICHAEL LUO
...The rewarding of big-money donors at the coming conventions strikes some discordant notes for Mr. Obama — and Senator John McCain, too — as each has sharply criticized the influence of money in politics.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/23/us/politics/23convention.html?pagewanted=print
See LA Times's "Convention donors often have business before lawmakers and regulators": http://

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www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-convention25-2008aug25,0,3189583.story

Brother: Wives handle McCain finances (Politico 8/22/08)
By: Kenneth P. Vogel
John McCain tripped over a question about how many houses he and his wife own because when he was growing up, his mother — not his father — handled the family finances, according to McCain's younger brother.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=ECA4AE12-18FE-70B2-A8816843A5AE329B

McCain's Proposed Cuts Insufficient To Pay For McCain's Proposed Wars (Wonk Room 8/23/08)
By Lawrence Korband Laura Conley
In his two terms in office, President Bush has managed to turn a budget surplus of $236 billion in 2000 into a projected deficit of $482 billion in 2009. Last month, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, senior economic adviser to Senator John McCain (R-AZ), submitted the presumptive Republican nominee's budget proposal to the Washington Post editorial board. In it, McCain proposes to balance the federal budget by 2013, in part by curbing defense expenditures. While there is certainly a need to cut wasteful and unnecessary spending in the Pentagon budget, this proposal is a tepid effort at best.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/22/mccains-proposed-cuts-insufficient/

New McCain Ad Hits Obama Again (CBS blog 8/22/08)
Posted by Brian Montopoli|
The war over which candidate is out of touch with the common man continues. A day after Barack Obama's campaign put out an ad knocking John McCain for not knowing how many houses he owns, the McCain campaign has released a new spot, "Higher," that starts with an announcer saying this of Obama: "Celebrities don't have to worry about family budgets, but we sure do."
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/22/politics/horserace/entry4373599.shtml
Link to video of ad ("Higher"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHoUUEkQjTk

Pundits And Writers Start Hitting McCain For Non-Stop P.O.W. References (TPM 8/22/08)
By Greg Sargent
As all you regulars know, the McCain camp's constant evocation of his P.O.W. past as an all-purpose shield against any and all criticism is a singular obsession of this blog.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/pundits_and_writers_start_hitt.php

Jail inmate charged in McCain office threat (AP 8/22/08)
Prosecutors charged a jail inmate Friday with sending a threatening letter and white powder to a Colorado campaign office for GOP presidential candidate John McCain.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-22-mccain-threat_N.htm?csp=34

FL Dems: 'Priceless' (Politico blog 8/22/08)
By Ben Smith
State Democratic parties are gleefully driving Obama's message today, and the Florida Party is up with a video echoing the shots at McCain's houses and his shoes, and going a bit further than Obama does: It features footage of Cindy McCain talking about the virtues of traveling by private plane.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/FL_Dems_Priceless.html?showall
Link to video of ad ("Priceless"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7GApHeJTPU
Link to McCain Response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-response-to-florida-democratic-video/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

LAMBRO: A changeless party? (Washington Times 8/25/08)
For weeks, John McCain has been pounding Barack Obama in TV ads that depict him as an inexperienced, in-over-his-head celebrity candidate who is not up to the job of commander in chief. And for most of that time, the freshman Democratic senator, who said he offered the voters "a new kind of politics," has not responded with an effective counteroffensive of his own.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/25/a-changeless-party/

Accentuate the Negative (NYT 8/25/08)
By PAUL KRUGMAN
So the Obama campaign has turned to the politics of personal destruction, attempting to make a campaign issue out of John McCain's inability to remember how many houses he has. And the turn comes not a moment too soon.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/25/opinion/25krugman.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin

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Social Security on Ice (Washington Post 8/25/08)
The presidential candidates appear eager to avoid a serious debate about how to fix it.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/24/AR2008082401658_pf.html

McCain's reality isn't ours (Chicago Sun-Times 8/24/08)
Joe Bungalow, we ask you to peek in your closet and count how many pairs of shoes you own. Five pairs? Maybe six? Consider this: John McCain's family owns more homes than you own shoes.
http://www.suntimes.com/news/commentary/1122954,CST-EDT-edit24a.article

Too Much of a Bad Thing (NYT 8/24/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
...[McCain's] campaign is cheapening his greatest strength — and making a mockery of his already dubious claim that he's reticent to talk about his P.O.W. experience — by flashing the P.O.W. card to rebut any criticism, no matter how unrelated.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/24/opinion/24dowd.html?pagewanted=print

Last Call for Change We Can Believe In (NYT 8/24/08)
By FRANK RICH
As the presidential race finally gains the country's full attention, the strategy Barack Obama used to vanquish Hillary Clinton must be rebooted to take out John McCain. ...McCain's trigger-happy temperament and reactionary policies offer worse than no change. He is an unstable bridge back not just to Bush policies but to an increasingly distant 20th-century America that is still fighting Red China in Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the cold war. As the country tries to navigate the fast-moving changes of the 21st century, McCain would put America on hold.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/24/opinion/24rich.html

The wrong way to war (Washington Times 8/24/08)
Diana West
I hate to say it, but both John McCain and Barack Obama are wrong in their approaches to Iraq.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/24/the-wrong-way-to-war/

Voting for the Average Joe (Boston Globe 8/24/08)
By Joan Vennochi
WHO HAS the most common touch, Barack Obama or John McCain? Bank balances and real estate holdings don't provide the answer.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/24/voting_for_the_average_joe?mode=PF

The Point: A man of words is a man of substance (Philadelphia Inquirer 8/24/08)
By Mark Bowden
Given the manifest rhetorical talents of Barack Obama, oratory itself has become an issue in this year's presidential campaign. Attacking the Illinois senator for being a great orator may be like condemning Ryan Howard for hitting home runs, but John McCain, being a military man, knows that sometimes the best move is a frontal assault on his enemy's strongest point.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20080824_The_Point__A_man_of_words_is_a_man_of_substance.html

Obama and McCain's glass houses (LA Times 8/23/08)
Neither candidate qualifies as an 'ordinary American,' so stop the sniping over personal wealth.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-houses23-2008aug23,0,1801675.story?track=rss

Extreme Campaign Makeover (Washington Post 8/23/08)
IT USED TO BE that scandals were named for buildings. (Remember Watergate?) Now, it seems, they're about buildings. John McCain doesn't know how many houses he and his wife own. Barack Obama bought his with an assist from a man later convicted of felonies. So much for the substantive, high-road campaign.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/22/AR2008082202088_pf.html

McCain's Drill Appeal (NYT 8/23/08)
By CHARLES M. BLOW
Mr. Obama, I'm stunned. You've allowed John McCain to use the energy issue to steal your momentum and erase your lead in the polls. ... Yes, I know. It's a gimmick.... Put the intellectualism on hold and get smart. Concise, catchy and positive:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/23/opinion/23blow.html?pagewanted=print

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Why McCain and Obama reading Hemingway is good (Chicago Tribune 8/23/08)
By Julia Keller
Two men. One book. What gives?
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-et-candidatebooks23-2008aug23,0,7068826.story?track=rss

BUSH NEWS

Fla. homes evacuated as waters rise in wake of Fay (AP 8/24/08)
By SARAH LARIMER
The remnants of Tropical Storm Fay lingered Sunday, forcing residents in several parts of northern Florida to leave their homes as floodwaters rose.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080824/D92OU6SO0.html

Bush blames Democrats for high gas prices (AP 8/23/08)
President Bush on Saturday blamed the Democratic-led Congress for the high cost of gasoline and renewed his call for expanded offshore drilling to increase U.S. oil supplies.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-08-23-bush-gas_N.htm?csp=34

OTHER TOP NEWS

Census Data Will Put Economy at Top of Convention Agenda (NY Sun 8/25/08)
By RUSSELL BERMANSenator Obama will likely have another talking point at the Democratic National Convention tomorrow when the Census Bureau releases data on poverty, income, and the number of uninsured.
http://www.nysun.com/national/census-data-will-put-economy-at-top-of-convention/84481/

Pakistan government bans Taleban (BBC 8/25/08)
Baitullah Mehsud
Pakistan has banned the Taleban militant group which has been behind many suicide attacks in the country since 2007.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7580475.stm

Russian MPs back Georgia's rebels (BBC 8/25/08)
Both houses of Russia's parliament have urged the president to recognise the independence of Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7580386.stm

Russian Nuclear Pact Stalls (WSJ 8/24/08)
By Jay Solomon
The Bush administration's landmark nuclear-cooperation agreement with Russia is unlikely to gain passage before President George W. Bush leaves office, the latest sign of how Russia's offensive in Georgia has roiled the international scene.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121944599188265089.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Russia aims to keep control of Georgian port city (AP 8/23/08)
By BELA SZANDELSZKY
Thousands of Georgians demanded that Russian troops leave the outskirts of this strategic Black Sea port on Saturday and took to the streets in protest, while a top Russian general said his country's forces would keep patrolling the area.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080823/D92O5JHG1.html

Billionaire Harold Simmons funded ad linking Obama, ex-Weatherman Ayers (LA Times 8/23/08)
By Dan Morain
A major fundraiser for John McCain, he also helped pay for the Swift Boat ads that attacked the military record of Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kerry in 2004.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-simmons23-2008aug23,0,2360525.story?track=rss

al-Qaeda claims to have killed 130 in Algeria (AP 8/23/08)
al-Qaeda's North African branch claimed to have killed at least 130 people in Algeria in a spate of attacks this month — nearly twice the official death toll, said a statement carried on a website frequently used by militants.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-23-Algeria-bombings_N.htm?csp=34

"So Let Me Introduce to You the Next President–the Next Vice President..." (The Page 8/23/08)
Obama slips up while introducing his newly minted veep Biden in Springfield Illinois at the state house, accidentally calls him "the next President."...McCain camp responds: "The reality is that nothing has changed

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since Joe Biden first made his assessment that Barack Obama is not ready to lead."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/23/so-let-me-introduce-to-you-the-next-president-the-next-vice-president/
Link to full McCain response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-statement-on-obamas-springfield-speech-gaffe/

Bernanke: Financial crisis taking toll on economy (AP 8/22/08)
By Jeannine Aversa
Bernanke says financial crisis taking toll on economy, inflation outlook uncertain
http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080822/bernanke.html?.v=3

POLLS

CNN poll: Post-Biden poll shows dead heat (CNN blog 8/24/08)
CNN/Opinion Research Corp. national poll released late Sunday:
Obama 47, McCain 47
Dates conducted: August 23-24. Error margin: 3.5 points.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/24/cnn-poll-post-biden-poll-shows-dead-heat/

WashPost/ABC: Obama Up By Four (ThePage 8/24/08)
From WashPost/ABC:
Obama: 49
McCain: 45
Poll was conducted before Biden announcement, though three-quarters said picking Biden would not sway their votes.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/24/national-poll-gives-slight-edge-to-obama/
See WaPo's "Support for Each Candidate Holds Steady": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/23/AR2008082302288_pf.html
See ABC's "High Hopes, Major Doubts for Obama and McCain Alike": http://abcnews.go.com/PollingUnit/Politics/story?id=5639636&page=1

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From: "Andres Moreno" <amoreno@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/28/2008 7:01:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech at the NALEO Conference Washington, DC

Hello All,

Just spoke with our trackers Ryan and Kelli who were at today's Washington DC event. Below are their notes.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Demonstrators interrupt McCain's remarks on four separate occasions, including an individual identified as press
- Hits Obama for addressing NALEO afterwards rather then having a town hall
- Answers questions from elected Latino officials
- Claims immigration reform is top priority
- Stresses and Emphasizes immigration reform while adding need for border control first
- Suggest that he once supported Amnesty
- Says Government should be on the side of business not standing in their way

Washington, DC: McCain Speech at the NALEO Conference 06/28/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:

- Audience numbered approximately 450
- Crowd was welcoming, and offered standing ovations but in no way as passionate as they were for Sen. Obama
- Security was heavy due to both candidates attending event but we were able to get in fairly easily
- The room was decorated with NALEO signs, while the stage had stars, stripes, and banners
- Three podiums were set up on stage, one for the moderator, one for the candidates, and one for those asking questions
- Both McCain and Obama's embedded press were present as well as CNN, FNC, Univison, ABC, CBS and local affiliates
- McCain Introduced by: Rafael Anchia
- Moderator: Arturo Vargas

FULL Remarks:
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-remarks-before-naleo/
ARLINGTON, VA — U.S. Senator John McCain will deliver the following remarks as prepared for delivery to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Conference in Washington, D.C., today at 11:00 a.m. EDT:

Thank you. It's good to be with you. I want to speak very briefly, and then take your questions. I have the privilege today of speaking before my opponent, Senator Obama, whose talent as an orator, as you might notice, is somewhat greater than mine. I will not overemphasize that fact by indulging your patience with a lengthy speech. Fortunate for me and you, I enjoy listening and responding to my audience's questions more than I do delivering formal remarks. So, I want to share just a few thoughts with you, and then move quickly to your questions, comments or insults.

We meet after another week of rising gasoline prices, another stock market sell-off, more mortgage foreclosures and the increasing loss of the American people's confidence in the economy. The question of how government should respond to these troubling developments will shape much of the debate in this election, and I want to offer a few thoughts about what I believe we should do and not do.

It is a terrible mistake to raise taxes during an economic downturn. Increasing the tax burden on Americans impedes job growth, discourages innovation and makes us less competitive. Small businesses are the biggest job creators in our economy. Keeping individual tax rates low isn't intended as a favor to wealthy Americans. Most small business owners pay those rates, and taking more money from them deprives them of the capital they need to invest and grow and hire. There are two million Latino owned businesses in America, a number that is growing very rapidly. The first consideration we should have when debating tax policy is how we can help those companies grow and increase the prosperity of the millions of American families whose economic security

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depends on their success.

Government should be on their side, not in their way.

Our current business tax rate, the second highest in the world, will postpone our recovery from this downturn and make us increasingly less competitive in the world economy. When a corporation plans to expand and hire more workers, they face a choice between building a new plant here at home and building it in a country like Ireland where they will pay less than half the tax rate they now pay. Employers can hire more people, or they can pay more taxes. We can no longer afford the luxury of nostalgia for past times when American business faced little serious competition in the world.

The global economy is here to stay. We cannot build walls to foreign competition, and why should we want to. When have Americans ever been afraid of competition? America is the biggest exporter, importer, producer, saver, investor, manufacturer, and innovator in the world. Americans don't run from the challenge of a global economy. The courage, patriotism, ingenuity and industry of our forbears earned the reverence we hold for our storied past. But we have never been a country that substitutes nostalgia for optimism. We have never been a country that would rather go back than forward. We are the world's leaders, and leaders don't fear change, hide from challenges, pine for the past and dread the future. We make the future better than the past. That's why I reject the false virtues of economic isolationism. Any confident, competent government should embrace competition - it makes us stronger - not hide from our competitors a nd cheat our consumers and workers. We can compete and win, as we always have, or we can be left behind. Lowering barriers to trade creates more and better jobs, and higher wages. It keeps inflation under control and interest rates low. It makes goods more affordable for low and middle income consumers. Protectionism threatens all those benefits.

Opening new markets for American goods and services is indispensable to our future prosperity. But in the global economy what you learn is what you earn. Today, half of Latinos and half of African Americans entering high school will never graduate. By the 12th grade, U.S. students in math and science score near the bottom of all industrialized nations. As Bill Gates said, "This isn't an accident or flaw in the system. It is the system." Many parents fear their children won't have the same opportunities they had. That is simply unacceptable in a country as great as ours. In many schools, particularly where people are struggling the hardest, the situation is dire, and I believe poses the civil rights challenge of our time. We need to shake up failed school bureaucracies with competition; hold schools accountable for results; strengthen math, science, technology and engineering curriculums; empower parents with choice; remove barriers to qualified instructors, attract and reward superior teachers, and have a fair but sure process to weed out incompetents.

I have spent the last two weeks addressing the problem that is causing Americans the most pain right now, our dependence on imported oil, and how to free ourselves from a situation that threatens our economy, our environment and our national security. Obviously, the crisis most acutely affects lower income Americans, who often drive the furthest to work and own the oldest cars. There are a few, but not many, things we can do in the short term to alleviate the economic distress Americans are feeling as they pay more and more of their income for gasoline, and higher prices for groceries and almost all goods that are affected by spiraling increase in the price of oil. But we must commit ourselves to addressing this problem as quickly as humanly possible, and we must commit this country to the great national cause of breaking our strategic dependence on foreign oil. To do that, we must address both the supply and demand sides o f the problem. We must produce more oil at home, and while exploration and production will take some time, it will have an earlier effect on the oil futures market. When futures traders believe the supply of oil will increase in the years ahead and the cost of a barrel of oil will be lower, it will help curb some of the speculation in those markets that are driving prices so much higher today.

But the lasting solution to all the problems associated with our dependence on foreign oil is to begin in the term of the next president the most ambitious program ever to reduce our demand for the fuel that is a powerful inflationary force in our economy; is causing our climate to change with all the unimaginable problems that creates; and is ransoming our future to regimes that care little for our values or our security. We need to unleash the competitive forces of the free market to encourage clean alternatives — wind, solar, tide, nuclear, and clean coal. But to really achieve energy security, we must address the area where the demand for oil is the greatest the way we fuel our transportation system. I have promised a plan, which I called the Lexington Project, for the place where America's war for independence began, which will encourage the investment and innovation necessary to wean our cars, buses, and trucks off of our complete dependence on gasoline. This will take time, but the longer we wait to begin, the longer it will take to achieve. It is an ambitious plan, but I am confident that our industry and entrepreneurs, and all Americans are up to this next great challenge in our history. The genius, hard work and courage of Americans have never failed us, and will not fail us now.

Let me close by talking briefly about my respect and gratitude for the contributions of Hispanic-Americans to the culture, economy and security of the country I have served all my adult life. I represent Arizona where Spanish was spoken before English was, and where the character and prosperity of our state owes a great deal to the many Arizonans of Hispanic descent who live there. And I know this country, which I love more than almost

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anything, would be the poorer were we deprived of the patriotism, industry and decency of those millions of Americans whose families came here from Mexico, Central and South America. I will honor their contributions to America for as long as I live.

I and many other colleagues twice attempted to pass comprehensive immigration legislation to fix our broken borders; ensure respect for the laws of this country; recognize the important economic necessity of immigrant laborers; apprehend those who came here illegally to commit crimes; and deal practically and humanely with those who came here, as my distant ancestors did, to build a better, safer life for their families, without excusing the fact they came here illegally or granting them privileges before those who did. Many Americans, with good cause, did not believe us when we said we would secure our borders, and so we failed in our efforts. We must prove to them that we can and will secure our borders first, while respecting the dignity and rights of citizens and legal residents of the United States. But we must not make the mistake of thinking that our responsibility to meet this challenge will end with that accomplish ment. We have economic and humanitarian responsibilities as well, and they require no less dedication from us in meeting them.

When I was in prison in Vietnam, I like other of my fellow POWs, was offered early release by my captors. Most of us refused because we were bound to our code of conduct, which said those who had been captured the earliest had to be released the soonest. My friend, Everett Alvarez, a brave American of Mexican descent, had been shot down years before I was, and had suffered for his country much more and much longer than I had. To leave him behind would have shamed us. When you take the solemn stroll along that wall of black granite on the national Mall, it is hard not to notice the many names such as Rodriguez, Hernandez, and Lopez that so sadly adorn it. When you visit Iraq and Afghanistan you will meet some of the thousands of Hispanic-Americans who serve there, and many of those who risk their lives to protect the rest of us do not yet possess the rights and privileges of full citizenship in the country they love so well. To love your country, as I discovered in Vietnam, is to love your countrymen. Those men and women are my brothers and sisters, my fellow Americans, an association that means more to me than any other. As a private citizen or as your President, I will never, never do anything to dishonor our obligations to them and their families or to forget what they and their ancestors have done to make this country the beautiful, bountiful, blessed place we love.

Thank you.

Question and Answer:

1 Q): What will you do to keep the American Dream Alive
MCCAIN: People should be allowed to get FHA guaranteed loans at new value of homes. Jokes about Congresses low approval ratings. Says we need to invest new energy research and development.

2 Q): Ineffective Military spending is an issue, how will you ensure the safety of our troops while still investing here at home
MCCAIN: We need to fix the system and stop pork barrel projects which are disproportionately military because that is where the money is. Tells audience that their state and local projects should be considered based on merit and lobbying efforts

3 Q): Will he make comprehensive immigrations reform top priority as the next president of the United States.
MCCAIN: It has been, is now and will be in the future. I tried twice but failed. We must build a border first, it is what the American people want. We must treat immigratns humanely

4 Q): How will you Handle the Health care crisis?
MCCAIN: The problem is not quality it is availability. Some of the worlds richest people travel to the states for health care. Mentions his $5,000 tax credit so that individuals can go across state boarders for insurance. Says it is better then what companies have now. Stresses Wellness and Fitness and mentions State and Federal Governments working together to create risk pools for those with chronic illnesses. Ends his answer with saying that families need to make the choices

5 Q): Equal Education for Latinos
MCCAIN: Admits that there is segregation based on income where the poor receive lower quality education as compared to those with higher income. Choice and Competition are important. Says charter schools work, although they are not much better then public schools

6 Q): How can we strengthen American leadership globally while securing domestic Jobs
MCCAIN: I believe in free trade like the Colombian Free Trade Agreement. Mentions Mexico's current battle with drug cartels and praises the president of Mexico. Says he is for free trade but that we shouldn't be callous to the victims of free trade.

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7 Q): Latinos have a large representation in the front lines of the war. As a Vietnam vet and a father of a military member in Iraq I ask what is your future policy for Iraq?

MCCAIN: War was terribly mishandled. I went and saw the problems came back and asked for a new strategy, that new strategy is now working. Says he can urge our young Americans to serve a cause greater then their self interest

8 Q): Latinos have challenged some of the current enforcement of immigrations laws as being ineffective and inhumane. What policy will you have that will help secure America but also be humane?

MCCAIN: They are all gods children, I supported Regan's bill for Amnesty, Immigrants need to be treated humanely. Illegal Immigrants are sometimes taken advantage of and treated inhumanely because they are illegal.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/4/2015 1:13:38 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Carson and Trump were biggest losers at Republican Jewish Coalition meeting

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Carson and Trump were biggest losers at Republican Jewish Coalition meeting

Ben Carson addresses the Republican Jewish Coalition at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on Thursday. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

I spent nine hours at the Republican Jewish Coalition meeting yesterday, watching 13 of the GOP presidential candidates make 30-minute pitches to a crowd of 700 deep-pocketed donors and pro-Israel activists. Here are six takeaways from the cattle call at the Ronald Reagan Building:

1. Ben Carson is not getting better on foreign policy.

The retired neurosurgeon, falling in the polls, announced as he took the stage that he normally speaks “spontaneous.” But, this time, he was going to read from a prepared text because he wanted “to cover everything.” “It might be the first time anybody has seen me doing that,” he said.

That did not stop him from repeatedly mispronouncing Hamas. He called the terror group “hummus,” like the chickpea spread, but then alternated to different pronunciations at other moments. Trying to show a command of foreign policy, he rattled off a bunch of events from Israel’s history. It came off like he was lecturing a crowd of passionate Zionists about the history of the Jewish state, facts they are intimately familiar with. Unlike the others, he didn’t take any questions.

A week after visiting a refugee camp in Jordan and a year after going to Israel for the first time, most in the room agreed afterward that he looked way out of his depth.

2. Donald Trump was the only candidate who didn’t try to pander, but it didn’t come across as courageous.

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Trump addresses the RJC. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

He remains the frontrunner. A CNN national poll out this morning shows him leading with 36 percent. Ted Cruz is in second, with 16 percent, followed by Carson at 14 percent, Marco Rubio at 12 percent and Jeb Bush at 3 percent. The poll is stunning because Trump leads on every question, including who would be best on foreign policy and who would be most electable in the general. He's stayed at the top because he's done things his way.

Yesterday, all the other speakers meticulously checked the boxes and promised to fight for the issues most important to the people in the room. But after being introduced as "a mensch with chutzpah," the billionaire got booed for refusing to promise that he would move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem if elected. He did not back away from comments he made to the Associated Press the day before, in which he suggested that peace depends on Israel being "willing to sacrifice certain things."

But the most memorable parts of his presentation were a series of jokes that played on centuries-old Jewish stereotypes, including that people of the faith are stingy or money grubbing. "I'm a negotiator — like you folks," he said at one point. "Is there anyone here who doesn't negotiate deals?" Making matters worse, Trump repeatedly said that the people in the room were never going back him because he is self-funding his campaign. "You're not going to support me because I don't want your money," he said. The comments made waves in the Israeli media.

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To be sure, some laughed. But it was mostly nervous laughter. As one attendee cracked to conservative Post blogger Jennifer Rubin afterward, “I threw up in my mouth so many times I need a mint. Trump will probably sell mints. We Jews are good at buying things.”

3. There are two kinds of Republicans: those who think foreign policy is easy and those who know it’s hard.

Carly Fiorina speaks. (Reuters/James Lawler Duggan)

It’s the difference between being naïve and sophisticated. And watching the long line up, it was striking to see those who were clear-eyed and those who seem to have no idea what a Herculean learning curve every president faces once they sit in the Oval Office.

Presenting himself as a dealmaker who can break the impasse, Trump suggested he could bring peace to the Middle East within six months. Carly Fiorina talked about calling up Iran on her first day in power to change the terms of the nuclear agreement, ignoring the fact that it is a multilateral deal.

On the other side, Jeb Bush talked about how reckless it is to make “grandiose statements” that cannot be enforced or achieved. Ohio Gov. John Kasich discussed his experience in the House and as an executive to demonstrate that he knows he could not flip a switch and solve the Mideast crisis.

Bob Gates, Defense secretary to Bush 43 and Obama, preaches the virtues of restraint in

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an op-ed for today's Post about "the kind of president we need." It nicely encapsulates what establishment greybeards and the Washington wisemen in both parties want and that they are sure Trump does not have: "We need a president who is restrained. Restrained to respect the prerogatives of the other branches of government. Restrained in rhetoric, avoiding unrealistic promises, exaggerated claims of success and dire consequences if his or her initiatives are not adopted exactly as proposed. Restrained in expanding government when so much of what we have works so poorly. Restrained from foreign adventures and from using military force as a first option rather than a last resort. Restrained from questioning the motives of those who disagree and treating them as enemies with no redeeming qualities."

4. Pro-Israel Republicans are not all full-spectrum conservatives.

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Lindsey Graham calls out Ted Cruz. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

Lindsey Graham has been one of the RJC's best allies in Congress for years, and he was the only speaker who did not lead with Israel. Instead, he took exception to Ted Cruz, who went right before him and ducked on a question he'd been asked about his specific position on

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abortion.

The South Carolina senator ripped into his rivals, and this would include Marco Rubio, who oppose abortion in all cases. “If you are going to tell a woman who has been raped that she has to carry the child of the rapist, you’re going to lose most Americans,” he said. “If the Republican nominee won’t allow an exception for rape or incest, they will lose.”

He then criticized Republicans for “incredibly hateful rhetoric” toward Hispanics. “I believe Donald Trump is destroying the Republican Party’s chances to win in an election that we can’t afford to lose,” he said to applause. “You think you’re gonna win an election with that kind of garbage?!”

Graham’s tone was reminiscent of Bill Buckley’s when he called out the Birchers. It was a powerful moment that resonated with many in the room, who are hawkish on national security but more moderate and/or ambivalent on social issues.

5. Jeb Bush benefits from George W. Bush’s rock star status with the pro-Israel crowd.

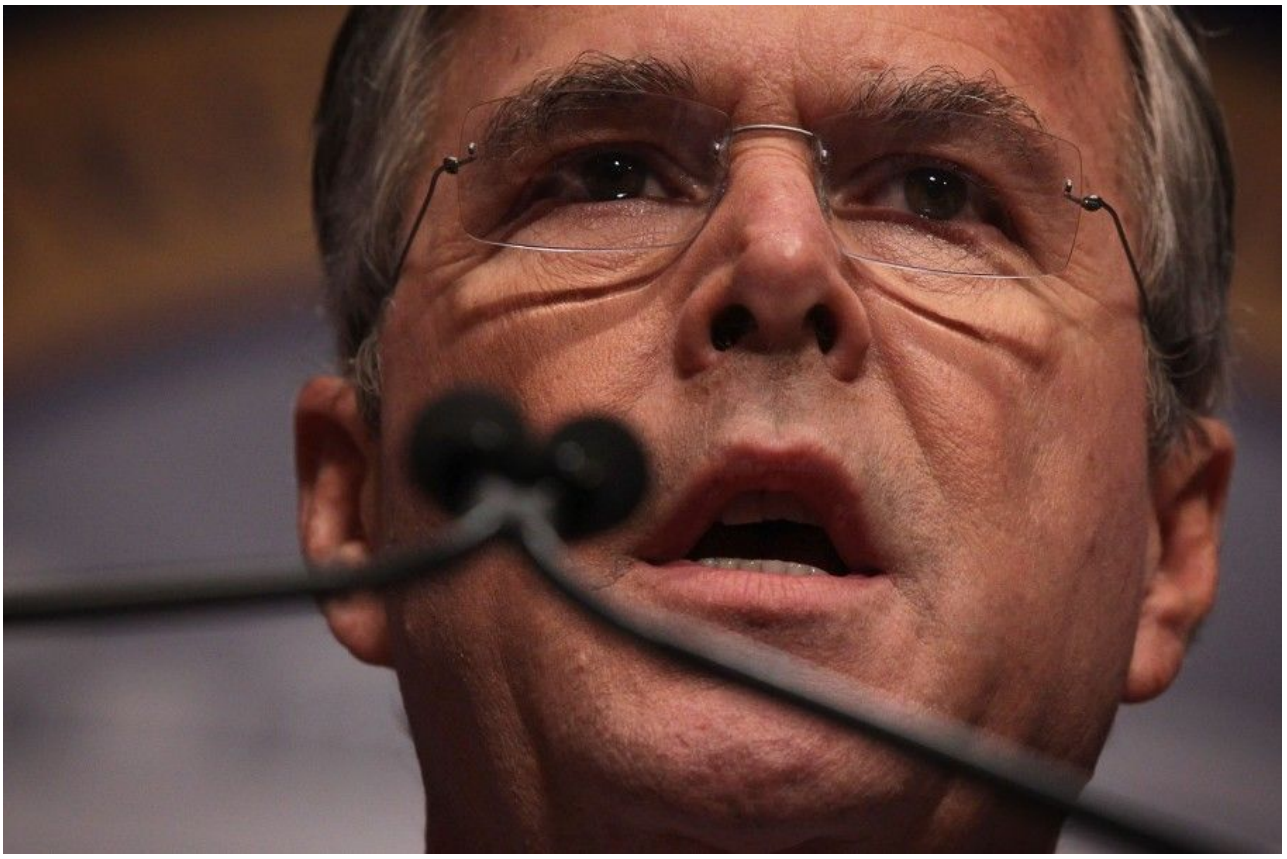

Jeb Bush fields a question from an RJC official. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

Jim Baker, a Bush family retainer for the past half century and an unpaid adviser to Jeb’s campaign, made waves when he criticized Benjamin Netanyahu in March. Asked about Baker at the event, the former Florida governor declared: “The person I rely on the most as it relates to U.S.-Israeli policy is my brother!” That drew possibly the loudest cheers of the

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whole day.

“I’ve got a damn good brother,” he added, to more cheers.

Besides Bush 43 White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, several Bush-era ambassadors were spotted. So there’s a degree of loyalty, even as Jeb has languished.

6. Chris Christie is effectively capitalizing on the post-Paris, post-California climate.

Chris Christie gave the most emotionally powerful speech of the day. (Reuters/James Lawler Duggan)

For the first time since Bridgegate, he looked like someone who could plausibly become the GOP nominee. He opened by seizing on the San Bernardino shooting and saying, if an attack can happen there, then “every place is vulnerable.”

One of the worst gaffes of the New Jersey governor’s political career came at a 2014 RJC meeting when he recounted taking a helicopter from the “occupied territories” of the West Bank and East Jerusalem to “understand the military risk that Israel faces every day.” He subsequently apologized, and any hard feelings about the kerfuffle seem to have subsided.

I watched three women sitting near me yesterday choke up as Christie recounted his fear on Sept. 11, not knowing whether he had lost his wife and would become a single father, and later having to attend funerals for friends.

“I just want you to remember the week after 9/11,” he said. “I want the American people to feel

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comfortable and safe when they go to bed at night. … If we don't have safety and security, the other issues don't matter."

A Quinnipiac poll published yesterday found that 82 percent of Republicans believe the government's anti-terrorism programs have "not gone far enough to adequately protect the country."

Rand Paul, Christie's opposite on the question of balancing national security with civil liberties, had to cancel his afternoon appearance because of the vote-o-rama in the Senate (Cruz and Rubio spoke in the morning before the chamber came into session). In a reflection of the moment we finds ourselves in, and Paul's struggles with this wing of the party, some in the crowd actually cheered when an emcee announced that he would not be able to make it.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— The National Christmas Tree was lit:

The National Christmas Tree is seen after being lit on the Ellipse. The lighting of the tree is an annual tradition attended by every president since Calvin Coolidge in 1923. (EPA/Michael Reynolds)

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— The Senate voted 52-47 to pass the budget reconciliation bill, which would repeal large portions of Obamacare and defund Planned Parenthood but will be vetoed by President Obama. Kelsey Snell reports: "But the decision by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to allow a vote on such charged issues as Obamacare and Planned Parenthood is likely to come back to bite moderate Republicans in states that tend to vote Democratic in presidential years. They include 2016 candidates like Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois, Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. Kirk and Collins were the only Republicans to vote against the final legislation."

Mitch McConnell and John Cornyn return to the chamber during a marathon series of rapid votes on bills and amendments known on Capitol Hill as a "vote-a-rama" on Thursday night. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

— Senate Republicans are playing the long game by trying to create a precedent: Republicans know the current reconciliation push is doomed. In the short-term, they are clearing the deck of the Obamacare and Planned Parenthood issues in order to avoid a government shutdown. **Politico's Jennifer Haberkorn notes that more than just optics are at play:** "Republicans are carefully constructing a legislative strategy, based on Senate rules and precedents, to make it easier to unravel the health law in 2017 if a Republican wins the White House. … Under the special rules of reconciliation, the Senate's parliamentarian has to determine whether each provision complies with the Senate's rules.

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Those rulings are based in part on precedent. So once the parliamentarian determines that this legislation complies, it makes it hard to argue that a similar repeal bid doesn't in January 2017 — when a new president might sign it into law."

—As part of the reconciliation push, Senate Democrats made an unsuccessful last-minute push to attach gun control language. A measures to expand background checks at gun shows failed 48 to 50, and another measure to prevent those who are on the terror watchlist from being able to buy guns failed 45 to 54.

— EX-IM LIVES: The Senate also sent a long-term highway funding bill to Obama's desk that contains a renewal of the Export-Import Bank, whose charter expired in June. Catherine Ho and Paul Kane go inside the high-stakes lobbying battle: "During the two-year struggle, the bank's corporate allies hired new lobbyists, assembled a coalition with a communications team, and recruited 250 companies and associations nationally to knock on lawmakers' doors … 'Timing was key,' said Austin Weatherford, chief of staff for Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), an early supporter of the [House discharge] petition [to bring back the bank] … 'When the speaker resigned, there was an opening because we were basically leaderless for that month.'"

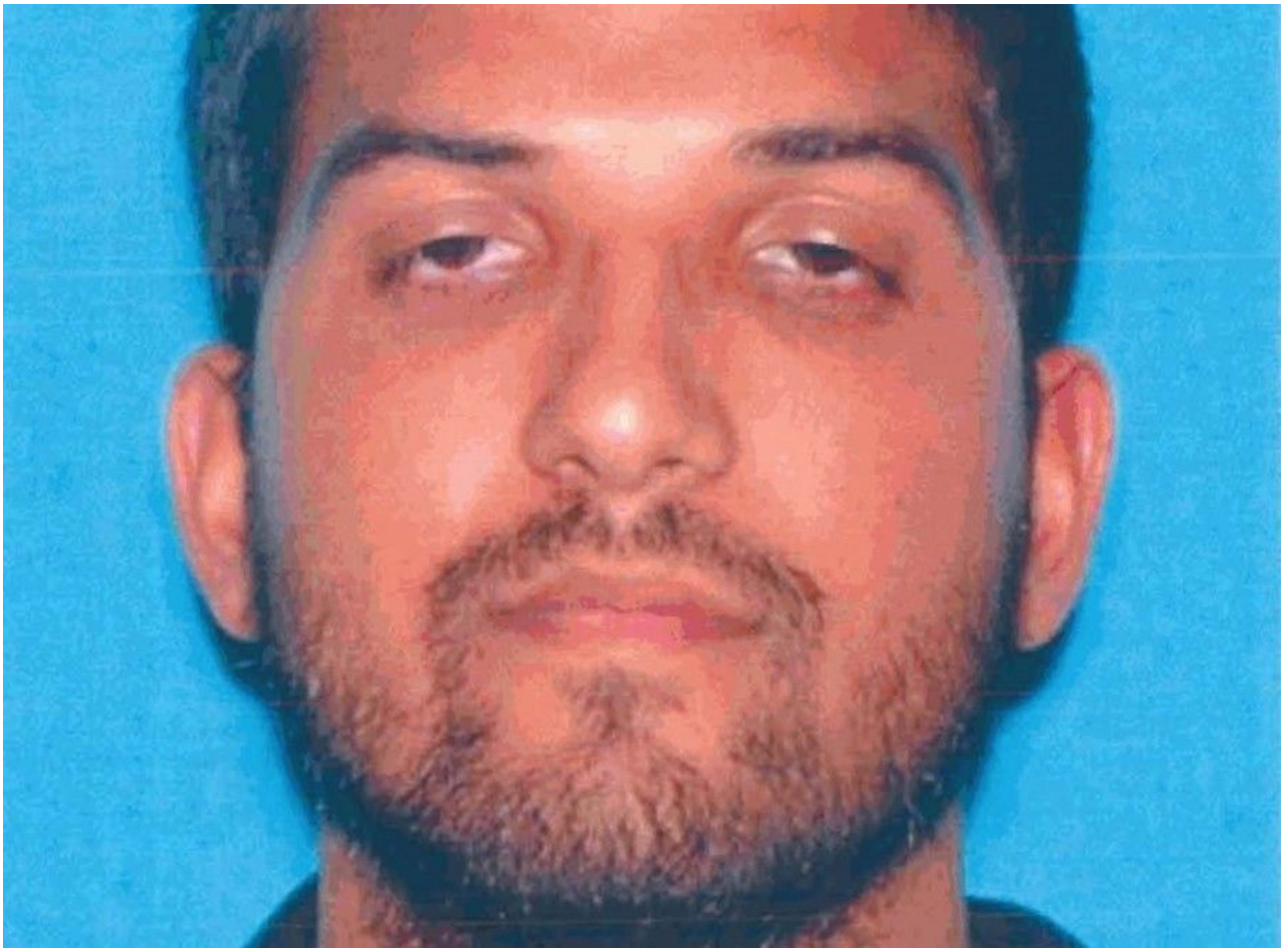

Syed Rizwan Farook is pictured in his California driver's license, in this undated handout provided by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. REUTERS/California Department of Motor Vehicles/Handout S

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— In California, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik — the couple identified as the shooters who killed 14 and wounded 21 in San Bernardino on Wednesday — apparently left behind an arsenal of pipe bombs and thousands of bullets in their rented Redlands, Calif., home. The FBI has taken over the probe, treating it as a potential terrorist attack.

Here are the latest developments:

- **Officials are trying to establish a motive for the shooting.** They said neither Farook, a devout Muslim and U.S. citizen, nor Malik, a Pakistani in the country on a visa, were on the terror watchlist. Farook had some contact that was not "substantial" with "persons of interest" via social media, authorities said. "It is possible this was terrorist-related, but we don't know," President Obama said yesterday.
- **A day before the attack, authorities found evidence that Farook began deleting files from his computer**, suggesting this was no spur-of-the-moment act.
- During the shootout that killed the couple, **police found more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition on or near them, and recovered two assault rifles and two 9mm pistols.** They obtained the firearms legally.
- San Bernardino police received high praise for their quick response and 300 officers arriving on the scene. **Interestingly, the sheriff's office there received one of California's largest stocks of military-grade equipment under a controversial program transferring surplus Pentagon material to local entities**, the Los Angeles Times reports.
- **Relatives of the victims waited in a gym for hours as survivors pulled up in buses on Wednesday.** It was a heart-breaking scene — 20 people remained once the buses stopped coming. Officials then broke the news: "'They were very caring. They sat each one down in a little circle with a chaplain and social worker,'" said the Rev. Kathleen Dowell … **"'But I've never witnessed something so sad in my life.'"**

— With no time left on the clock, the Packers stunned the Detroit Lions with an Aaron Rodgers Hail Mary pass to win 27-23. ESPN notes the play saved Green Bay's season:

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Aaron Rodgers makes the game-winning pass (Raj Mehta/USA Today Sports)

GET SMART FAST:

1. Leading scientists called for a moratorium on making inheritable changes to the **human genome** so that the gene pool does not get altered. (NYT)
2. Former Massey Energy executive **Don Blankenship** was convicted of conspiracy to violate federal mine-safety laws related to the West Virginia coal explosion that killed 29 in 2010, but he was acquitted on more serious charges of lying to investigators and investors. (Wall Street Journal)
3. The government's largest agencies paid out more than $80 million last year for thousands of **federal employees** to sit home for a month and longer while they faced allegations of misconduct, according to a report from Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman **Chuck Grassley**. (Lisa Rein)
4. Eleven people in nine states were infected with **salmonella** that has been linked to a nut butter spread. (CNN)
5. **California's** Supreme Court says consumers can sue companies who wrongly label foods as **organic**. (AP)
6. The **National Restaurant Association** is suing **New York City's** Board of Health to prevent it from making restaurants post warning labels on menus for dishes high in sodium. (Reuters)
7. **Chicago** police must now notify journalists before they destroy old records of police

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misconduct in the wake of the **Laquan McDonald** shooting. (Jeremy Borden)

8. A Chicago-area school district will allow **a transgender student** to use the girls' locker room in order to settle a federal civil rights complaint. (Emma Brown)
9. **Coldplay** will headline Super Bowl 50's halftime show. (BuzzFeed)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **Elizabeth Warren's** chief of staff and 2012 campaign manager, **Mindy Myers**, will run the **DSCC's** independent expenditure arm next year. Longtime aide **Dan Geldon** will get promoted into the COS role.
2. Partly to help make sure she gets into the next debate, the main **Carly Fiorina** super PAC is spending $1 million in New Hampshire on its first TV and radio buy. (Watch the 30-second spot.)
3. **Donald Trump** will participate in the next presidential debate after threatening not to come unless **CNN** paid $5 million to veterans' groups. The least surprising move of the day. (Robert Costa and David Weigel)
4. The North America **Building Trades union** endorsed **Hillary Clinton.** (Reuters)
5. **Ted Cruz** will announce his "Second Amendment Coalition" at a gun range in **Iowa**. (Des Moines Register)
6. **Bill Cosby's** wife will testify in a deposition related to a defamation lawsuit filed by one of his alleged sexual-assault victims. (AP)
7. Carnegie Mellon professor **Lorrie Cranor** has been named as the **Federal Trade Commission's** new chief technologist. (Andrea Peterson)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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One of the twenty female soldiers who qualified to begin Ranger School tackles the Darby Queen obstacle course, one of the toughest obstacle courses in U.S. Army training.

— **"In historic decision, Pentagon chief opens all jobs in combat units to women ," by Dan Lamothe:** "Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said Thursday that he is opening all jobs in combat units to women, a landmark decision that would for the first time allow female service members to join the country's most elite military forces. Women will now be eligible to join the Navy SEALs, Army Special Forces and other Special Operations Units. It also opens the Marine Corps infantry, a battle-hardened force that many service officials had openly advocated keeping closed to female service members. 'There will be no exceptions,' Carter said. 'This means that, as long as they qualify and meet the standards, women will now be able to contribute to our mission in ways they could not before.' … About 220,000 jobs, or about 10 percent, of the military remained closed to women before the announcement …. Another 110,000 jobs in careers like artillery officer were opened in a series of decisions since 2013."

Marco Rubio at the RJC meeting (Reuters/Yuri Gripas)

— **"Before Senate win, Rubio turned political 'juice' into personal profits ," by Rosalind S. Helderman:** "Even before he left office in late 2008, his longtime aide sent a letter on behalf of a new private consulting group Rubio was launching, seeking business from a potentially major client: Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami's busy public medical center. That was an initial step in what became a profitable two-year stretch for Rubio between his time as a state legislator and his 2010 election to the U.S. Senate. Although he

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spent much of his time on the campaign trail, Rubio built a consulting and legal practice that made more than half a million dollars. … Rubio's business deals during the period between his Tallahassee and Washington chapters demonstrated the ways he leveraged his enduring power inside government to make a profit on the outside. And they add to the contradictory picture of his personal finances that has emerged as his presidential campaign has gained traction — of a young man who struggled financially even as his personal income soared along with this political success."

The Jackson contract, in particular, shows how Rubio's business model initially circumvented a state-imposed two-year ban on former lawmakers lobbying the legislature: "In his final year as speaker in 2008, Rubio backed inserting $20 million for Jackson into the state budget. … In October 2008 — about three weeks before Rubio stepped down — his longtime aide, Viviana Bovo, wrote a proposal on behalf of the new firm to the Jackson Memorial chief executive. … Rubio advised the hospital on at least one major policy issue: whether to ask voters and the Miami-Dade County Commission to approve a tax hike to fund operations."

—**"Obama convenes meeting on criminal justice reform to buoy bipartisanship ," by Juliet Eilperin and Mike DeBonis:** "The House and Senate have been working to craft legislation to reduce mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders, as well as to revamp aspects of federal incarceration … one of the House bills … would require prosecutors in cases as wide-ranging as food tainting and corporate pollution to prove that defendants 'knew, or had reason to believe, the conduct was unlawful,' otherwise known as 'mens rea.' That measure has angered many Democrats, who argue that it could block criminal prosecution of some corporate entities — including those owned by Koch Industries … Obama specifically asked lawmakers to remove the provision, according to individuals familiar with the meeting, though House Republicans argued that it was a critical component for conservatives."

— **"Reagan, Bush 41 memos reveal sharp contrast with today's GOP on climate and the environment," by Joby Warrick:** "The memos, stamped 'confidential' and kept under wraps for years, portray a White House eager to assert U.S. leadership on climate change. Global warming will have 'profound consequences,' one document warns, and the United States 'cannot wait' until all scientific questions are resolved before taking action. The source of the memos: Not the Obama White House, but policy advisers to President George H.W. Bush. The memos were among several formerly classified documents from the Bush and Reagan administrations obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and released on Wednesday by the National Security Archive. The documents portray senior officials in the two Republican administrations pressing for an aggressive response to international

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environmental issues of the day — including, during Bush's term, climate change."

UPDATES FROM THE WAR ON ISIS:

Suspected ISIS soldiers are detained by Kurdish Peshmerga forces after they fled their frontline village to a Kurdish-controlled area in Sinjar, Iraq. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

— Obama wants more fighters KIA: POTUS is deploying more Specials Ops forces into Syria and Iraq partly because, a senior administration official says, **the United States has been eliminating one mid- to high-level Islamic State fighter every two days, on average**. The administration sees the mission of the force as "self-expanding — more raids on Islamic State sites will garner more intelligence leading to more sites," Karen DeYoung explains. "The more intelligence we get, the closer we'll get to these guys," says a senior official.

— **ISIS revenue streams have been degraded, and there some signs that the terrorists are having money trouble:** "U.S.-backed forces in Iraq and Syria have retaken significant amounts of territory from the group, depriving it of traditional sources of income," Hugh Naylor reports from Beirut . "Towns and villages that the Islamic State had relied on for tax revenue have been captured by Arab and Kurdish opponents. And lucrative spoils of war, including oil fields, properties to confiscate and captives to ransom off, have become scarcer as the group struggles to seize new areas."

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SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— Pictures of the day:

This image of Donald Trump signing a woman's chest at a Manassas, Va., rally has gone viral:

(@JDiamond1)

Here's Dick Cheney's new Capitol Hill bust, in profile:

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(@jfdulac)

Here's a view from the front:

(Reuters/James Lawler Duggan)

George W. Bush, in a playful mood, joked about the bust being displayed "in an undisclosed location." He said that his dad told him, "Send my best regards to ole Iron

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Ass." And he quipped, "I must confess I'm somewhat reluctant to come back to Washington. The last time I showed up here, I was hanged in the White House. This time, I've returned only to find my vice president getting busted in the Capitol!"

Bush waves to attendees as he exits with Senator Mitch McConnell after the unveiling of a marble bust. (Reuters/James Lawler Duggan)

Joe Biden wound up making remarks. Three hours after yesterday's 202 reported that no Democrats were on the program, Republicans announced that the the current vice president would deliver remarks:

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Joe Biden at the bust unveiling (Reuters/James Lawler Duggan)

Shaquille O'Neal was on Capitol Hill Thursday for events, where he towered over Fox News's Greta van Susteren:

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(greta)

Prince Harry shared photos on Instagram of his work on anti-poaching efforts in Africa this summer:

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(kensingtonroyal)

Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz documented the set-up of the National Christmas Tree before the lighting:

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(petewentz)

Two fun pictures from the ceremony last night:

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President Obama hugs a man dressed as Santa Claus as Muppets character Miss Piggy looks on during the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on the Ellipse. (Reuters/Yuri Gripas)

President Obama and (L-R) daughters Malia and Sasha, mother-in-law Marian Robinson and First Lady Michelle Obama smile during the national Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the Ellipse last night. (EPA/Olivier Douliery/Pool)

–Tweets of the day:

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Twitter was full of reaction to new details in the San Bernardino shooting. On the right, Texas Lt. Gov Dan Patrick responded to the New York Daily News cover stating that "God isn't fixing" the issue of gun violence:

(@DanPatrick)

National Review editor Rich Lowry argued that the Paris attacks disprove gun control works:

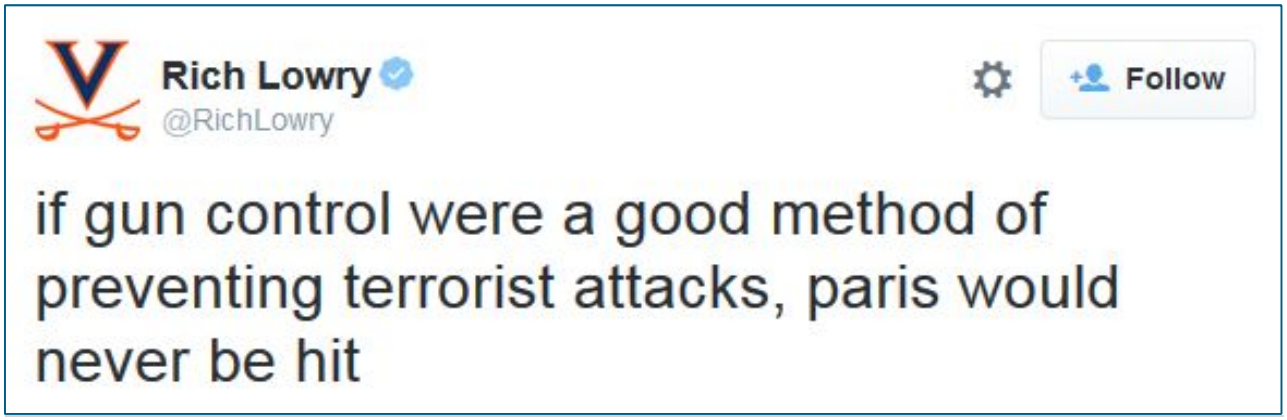

(@RichLowry)

Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) made a similar claim, only more directly:

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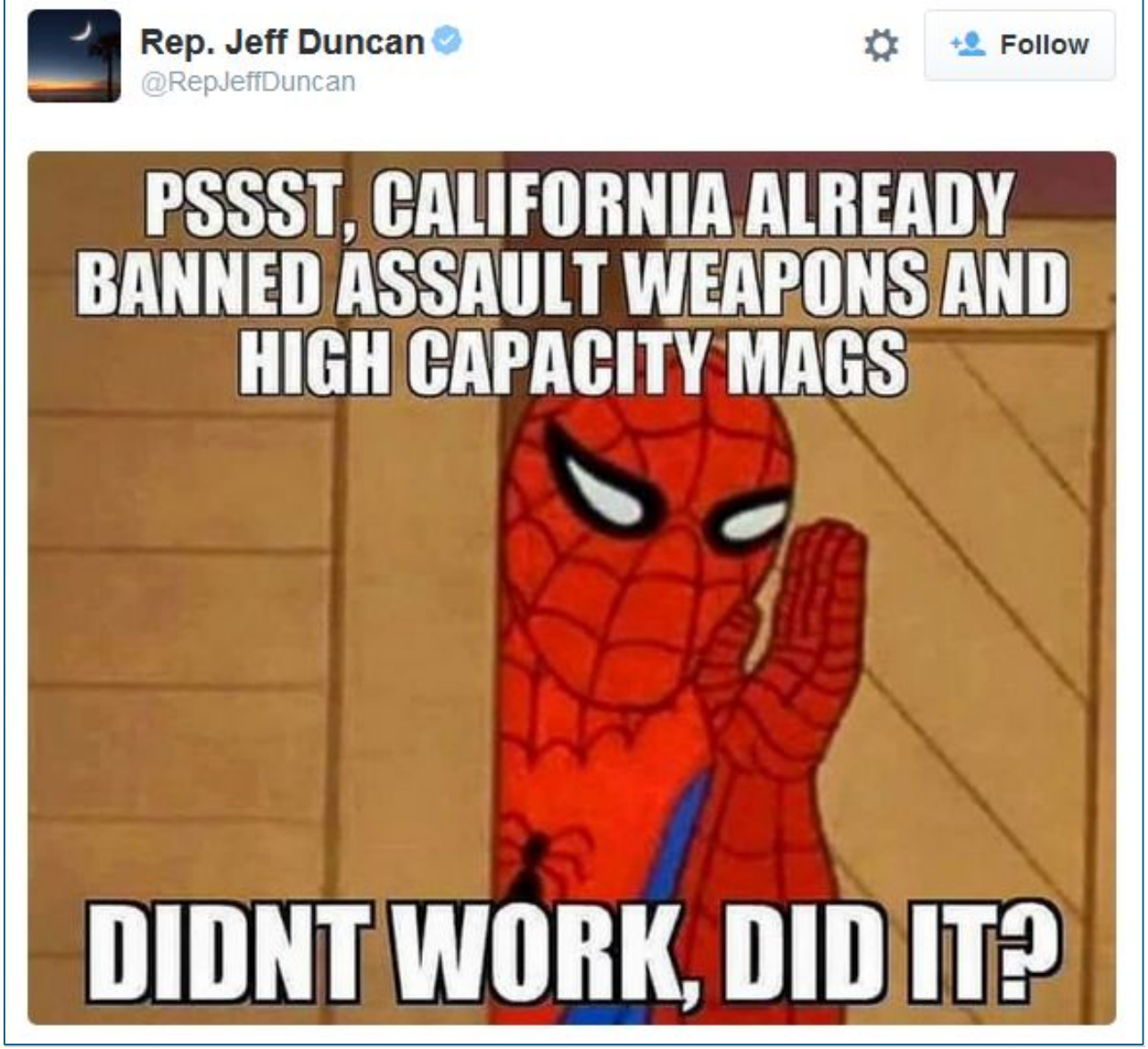

(@RepJeffDuncan)

From the left, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said he was “disappointed” that his background checks amendment failed during the vote-o-rama:

(@Sen_JoeManchin)

Comedian Amy Schumer — relative of Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) — urged fans to

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contact their senators about background checks:

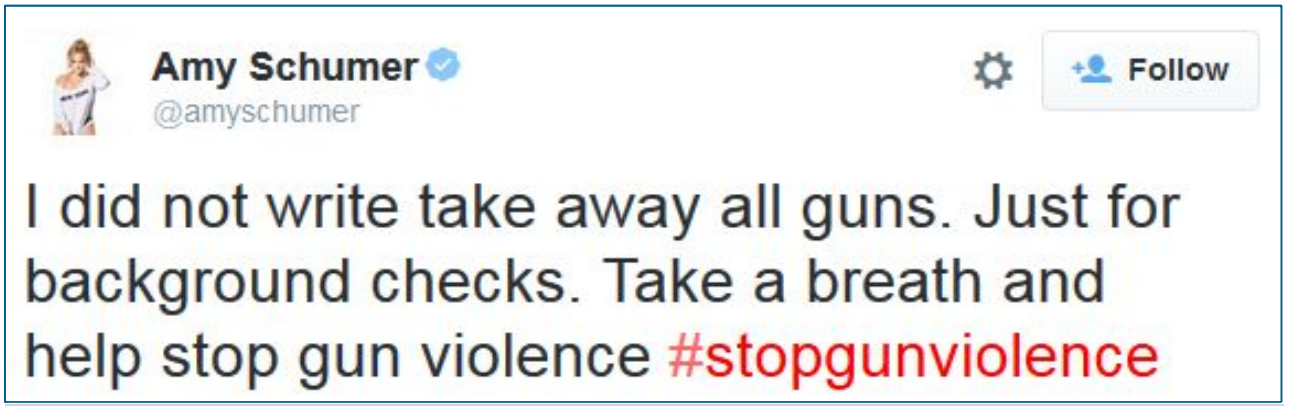

(@amyschumer)

Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), who uses a wheelchair, found a Cheeto in an unexpected place: her shoe!

(@tammyduckworth)

Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.) bumped into a guy dressed as Abe Lincoln on the Hill:

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(@RepHultgren)

–Instagrams of the day:

Reese Witherspoon was at the White House checking out the Christmas decorations:

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(reesewitherspoon)

“Scandal” star Bellamy Young, who was also there, met Bo Obama:

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(bellamyyoung)

Jon Stewart was on Capitol Hill advocating for 9/11 first-responders. Here he talks with Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.):

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(senatorkirk)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Bloomberg, "The IRS Is Losing Hundreds of Criminal Investigators, " by David Voreacos:

"Tax cheats can breathe a little easier. The gun-toting Internal Revenue Service investigators who send felons to prison are retiring in droves and there's no one to replace them. … Scandals and budget wars between the Obama administration and House Republicans are

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thinning out the ranks of the IRS's 84,000 employees. By the end of next year, the number of criminal agents is projected to fall by 21 percent since 2011. The number of investigators fell to 2,316 this year from 2,739. … Since 2013, only 45 new agents have been hired, and the IRS has said it doesn't expect to add any more in 2016. …New investigations fell 27 percent to 3,853 this year compared with 2013. Tax investigations fell by 32 percent, according to a CI annual report released Wednesday."

— New York Times, "Hillary Clinton fortifies ties and fund-raising with DNC ," by Maggie Haberman: "Trying to build up her arsenal for a general election, Clinton's campaign is asking donors to write big-money checks to the Democratic National Committee while taking a greater interest in how it is performing its duties. **In recent weeks, Mrs. Clinton's campaign aides have started to scrutinize what have historically been core functions of the party committee, some of which atrophied under President Obama**, according to people briefed on the reviews. … The Clinton campaign can coordinate spending and messaging with the party committee, whereas it is barred from doing so with super PACs, which have no limit on donations. (The campaign, however, is restricted in how much it can ask donors to give super PACs.) But the party must also stay neutral through the primary, in which voting does not begin until Feb. 1. That limits the type of control over the party committee that Mrs. Clinton's team can have."

— Baltimore Sun, "Freddie Gray's mother sobs, friend takes stand in officer's trial," by Kevin Rector and Ian Duncan: "As the grainy video of police lifting Freddie Gray by his arms and ankles and putting him into the back of a police van played in court Thursday, his mother let out a sob and burst into tears. Brandon Ross, who recorded the footage and was on the witness stand, stood up and wiped at his eyes to hold back tears. … The emotion Thursday in the trial of William G. Porter, one of six Baltimore police officers accused in Gray's arrest and death, matched the feeling in the video, in which Ross and others could be heard shouting at officers for the way they were treating Gray on that crisp morning last April. … Prosecutors began the proceedings Thursday morning by leading each of a series of witnesses through questions intended to establish that Porter 'criminally neglected his duty' by failing to seat-belt Gray in the back of the van and not calling for medical assistance when Gray requested it."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

Oprah Winfrey signs deal to write memoir. From the Hollywood Reporter: "Here's one book that won't need a boost from Oprah's book club to make the best-seller list: Oprah's own memoir. Winfrey, who heads up her own network and production company, and headlined the top-rated Oprah Winfrey Show from 1986-2011, has signed with Flatiron Books, an imprint of Macmillan, for her memoir 'The Life You Want,' which will be published in January 2017."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Jim Jordan gives Paul Ryan high marks but vows to keep pushing the House GOP. From RealClearPolitics : "Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and his fellow Freedom Caucus members are pleased with the changes coming from Ryan, including shuffling the panel that selects committee assignments for members, opening up the floor for amendment votes and consulting with individual members on big policy decisions. Jordan, who was friendly with Ryan before his colleague became speaker, said he's been 'great' so far."

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Hillary Clinton stops in Fort Dodge and Sioux City, Iowa. Donald Trump rallies supporters in Raleigh, N.C. Ben Carson attends an event for the American Legislative Exchange Council in Scottsdale, Ariz., then a fundraiser in Fountain Valley, Calif. John Kasich holds a town hall in Manchester, N.H. Rand Paul meets voters in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Mike Huckabee stops in Woodbridge, Fredericksburg and Henrico, Va.

— On the Hill: The House and Senate are in recess.

— At the White House: No public events are scheduled.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"As a presidential candidate, I have instructed my long-time doctor to issue, within two weeks, a full medical report," Donald Trump tweeted three hours after Politico published a story questioning his age, diet and lack of workout routine. "It will show perfection."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **"There could be a few clouds in the morning, but it's blue-sky filled overall,"** the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. We can enjoy lighter 5-10 mph breezes from the west and decently comfortable high temperatures in the near 50 to mid-50s range."

— **The Capitals beat the Montreal Canadiens 3-2.** (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

— **Metro unveiled a rider-friendly budget that does NOT include fare increases.** One initiative, which still needs to be approved by the board, would allow a 15-minute "same station entry/exit grace period" to end Metro's policy of charging riders who enter a station and leave it within minutes — most often during service disruptions. "That would cost the transit agency an estimated $2 million a year," writes Lori Aratani .

— **Why so many young African-American males understandably fear interactions with the police, captured in one horrifying 30-second cell phone video:** A white Prince George's County police officer who held a gun to an African-American man's head, apparently to impress his friends who were riding along in his squad car, was convicted of first-degree assault and misconduct in office. The P.G. cops finally released a video of the May 2014 incident. You can see the officer hold the gun close to the man's forehead and shout, "I dare you to [expletive] fight me, son." Read Julie Zauzmer's story and watch the video here.

— **Terrifying and stomach-curdling:** A 63-year-old Rockville woman was awakened at 4 a.m. by a man who slipped through an open window, raped her and held a knife to her stomach, threatening to kill her if she told anyone, Montgomery County police said. But, thank God, they've arrested a suspect based on fingerprints left in the window. (Dan Morse)

— **Terry McAuliffe proposed trimming Virginia's corporate tax rate from 6 percent down to 5.75 percent.** (Jenna Portnoy and Laura Vozzella)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

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BuzzFeed recorded disabled people making fun of Donald Trump after he insulted a disabled reporter:

(BuzzFeedVideo)

Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) took some credit for this bit from Jimmy Fallon:

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(SenatorLankford)

Watch as Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) loses part of his microphone during a TV hit (“Oh, crap!”):

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(Washington Free Beacon)

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From:	"Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	5/12/2015 6:42:48 AM
Subject:	Georgetown Qs
Attachments:	Potential Questions for JP - DCLunch'15.docx

Reattached and in plain text below:

Potential Questions for John Podesta (L'76)

Dean Treanor to remind alumni and guests that this is off the record.

On Georgetown Law...

- What is your most vivid memory of your time as a student at Georgetown Law?
- You've worn several (important) hats while continuing to teach at the Law Center over the years. What is it like to come over to a classroom in Hotung after spending the day in the West Wing? And what effect has this continued relationship with law students had on your work in these positions?
- How has being involved with Georgetown as an alumnus helped you in your career and life? What kind of involvement and engagement with Georgetown Law do you find most rewarding?

On his career path...

- Tell us about why you founded the Center for the American Progress.
- What would you be doing now if you had never come to Washington?
- What's the most important thing you've changed your mind about over the course of your career?

On politics…

- After working in 2 different administrations at the highest levels, what were the major differences in the functioning of the two administrations with regard to approach or management style? Would you anticipate a Hillary Clinton administration being similar to Bill Clinton's or Obama's?
- You were a longtime Hillary confidant. By Election Day you were in Obama's inner circle. How did that relationship progress?
- What do you see as HRC's biggest challenge in getting the Democratic nomination and in getting elected? Does the apparent lack of a serious challenger in the Democratic Primary to Hillary Clinton help or hurt her chance of winning the general election?
- Handicap the 2016 Republican presidential candidates.
- There are many recent alumni in the audience, and they want to know what's the best way to build a career in politics?
- How do we keep the millennials who worked on the '08 and '12 campaigns involved in the political discussion going forward, given that many are discouraged with the political system?
- What do you think is the biggest missed opportunity of the Obama administration?
- Are you satisfied with the level/quality of political discourse in the USA right now? If not, what are some

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ways you think it can be improved?

● There are strong feelings in the country right now around campaign finance in the post-*Citizens United* world. Super PACS are the norm and there's a great deal of money in the system right now relative to the past. What are your thoughts on the current state of campaign finance, and how will that inform the approach of the HRC campaign?

● You and your brother (and Georgetown Law Class of 1976 Classmate) Tony were pioneers of a sort in launching a K St lobbying shop led by top political aides coming and going between Congress, K St, and the executive branch. What do you think of lobbying and the so-called revolving door today?

On policies...

● *Referencing your "Big Data" Report for the Administration early last year, what steps do you believe might be taken by "Big Data" to ameliorate the potential for "disparate impact" you cited in the report?*

● *What do you see as the best way for science to become respected again in our national policy debates so that congressional policies can be made on sound foundations rather than sound bites?*

● *What impacts do you think environmental issues will have in the upcoming election, especially given the EPA's role in executing many of the Administration's environmental priorities?*

● *What are your views on the Keystone XL pipeline? Should the State Department issue the Presidential permit for this project? (Or if the State Dept decision has been announced by the time of the luncheon, what are your views on the decision?).*

● *What can be done to reserve the assault on public interest law over the last three decades?*

● *Should we be doing more to encourage research into and the development of viable fusion reactors (and other next-gen nuclear reactors) as a way to prevent climate change? If so, what more can/should we be doing? If not, why not?*

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From:	"Edward Vale" <eddie.vale@gmail.com>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	5/22/2009 5:26:05 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Statement by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney On Climate Change and Energy Policy

For Immediate Release
Contact Eddie Vale 202-637-5018

Statement by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney On Climate Change and Energy Policy

May 22nd, 2009

America's workers commend Chairman Henry Waxman and the members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for their leadership on the crucial issues of addressing climate change, investing in green technologies and creating jobs. Passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act out of committee was an important step forward, and as currently marked up, it makes significant, job-creating investments, while attempting to minimize impacts on existing workers.

The AFL-CIO supports cap-and-trade legislation that takes a balanced approach towards an economy wide-program and prevents foreign competitors from getting advantages over American companies. The American Clean Energy and Security Act also ensures that the nation maintains a diverse energy portfolio that includes renewable energy, fossil fuels, nuclear and hydro-electric.

The legislation also attempts to protect individual industries and geographical regions from being disproportionally or adversely affected. We are encouraged by the work of the Committee and hope that Congress will continue to move this legislation.

Congress should continue to improve the legislation. We recommend that the Energy Information Administration (EIA) do a full economic analysis before the bill is voted on and make the results available to Members and the public.

Addressing the issues of climate change and energy policy is of immense importance. We must do it properly to prevent harmful effects on America's workers.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/21/2008 11:45:42 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Pittsburgh, PA 10/21/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Slams obama's supporters for saying "some pretty nasty things about W. PA" -- McCain trips over his words, saying I couldn't agree with them more-- I couldnt disagree with you -- I couldn't agree with you more
    - tries to save face, saying W. PA is the most patriotic, god-loving part of the country; they love their Amendments, their Const.
    - McCain adds that those supporters deserve credit for saying this openly not behind closed doors in SF
- Continues the other attacks he's been making throughout the day/week, incl. Biden-Crisisgate (reminds crowd he's been tested, he was on USS enterprise on brink of nucl. war in Cuban missile crisis), Obama's spread-the-wealth/phony tax cut/government-giveaway approach, and saying obama campaign is attacking joe the plumber for asking an honest question
- Continues themes of energy independence, housing refinance plan, tax relief for small businesses and health care that works for them

Pittsburgh, PA: McCain Rally 10/21/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Cindy intros McCain

Speech Highlights
wont she make a great First Lady? and wont palin make a great VP? can hardly wait to intro her to DC and the old boy network and clean up the place and drain the swamp. [sarah! sarah! sarah!]

may i say its great to be here in Pittsburgh. we need to win PA. we're gonna bring real change to DC.

you may hvae noticed, **obama's supporters have been saying some pretty nasty things about W. PA lately [boos]. I couldn't agree with them more -- I couldnt disagree with you -- I couldn't agree with you more** than the fact that **W. PA is the most patriotic, god-loving part of the country.** I could not disagree with them more, this is a great part of america, This is the heartland, this is where ppl love America and they serve it.

So **I'll give those supporters some credit –at least they say these things openly instead of behind closed doors in SF fundraiser** [cheers]. **People of of W. PA love their 2nd Amendment-- their Amendment rights, their Constitution b/c they love their country and their values and families,** and they believe in the future of this country. That's what you're all about.

its this sort of saying different things to different ppl that makes Joe the plumber want to ask Obama some tough questions. its a credit to joe, he is the one person who was able to get an answer out of Obama. after months of campaign trail eloquence, we finally learned his economic goals – spread the wealth around [boos]

He believes in redistributing wealth not in policies growing the economy. he's more interested in controlling who gets your piece of the pie than in growing the pie. This explains big problems with his tax cut claim. How do you do that for 95% when 40% pay none now? Key to his plan, government writes them checks called a credit by taxing other people. Including people like joe. It's a government giveaway, don't need any more of that.

Obama tax increase comes at the worst time possible. Small business provides 16 million jobs. his plan would kill jobs, I wont let that happen. Btw, joe the plumber was in his driveway, asked a question, got an answer, didnt like the answer, so guess what? the Obama camp attacks him. Whats that all about?

america has an alt. to the phony tax cut my opponent started talking about just months ago. Mccain/Palin tax cut is the real thing. Double child deduction. Cut business tax, capital gains tax, help create jobs. Well keep American businesses in America, American didn't become greatest country in the world by government spreading the wealth around. We believe in spreading opportunity. That's what ill do as president.

Next president won't have time to get used to office lots of enemies. Biden [booooooooo] guaranteed if Obama is elected a international crisis will test new president. We don't want that! America is in crisis. He referred to jack Kennedy. I have experience. I was on board USS enterprise, waiting. We had a target. I know how close we came to nuclear war. I have been tested, he has not.

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What's more troubling is that he told campaign donors because it wasn't apparent he'd have the right response. We know he won't. We've seen the wrong response over and over. Surge strategy. –he's wrong. I'll bring our troops home with honor and victory, not in defeat. He said he'd sit down with the world's worst dictators. Georgia. Wrong on all of these things.

We cant spend next 4 as we have the last 8, luck change. We have to fight for a new direction. I've been fighting since I was 17 and have scars to prove it.

If I'm elected ill fight to shake up Washington every day. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I'm not gonna spend 750 billion of your money bailing out bankers. Gonna make sure we take care of the people who were devastated by wall st greed.

Started with home crisis, we're gonna turn it around. Buy up the bad mortgages. This administration should focus on American dream of owning home. I have retiree plan so they can rebuild savings.

Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keep taxes low creates job, strengthen economy. The explosion of government spending over past 8 yrs has put us into debt to countries that don't like us very much. If elected, I wont spend 1 trillion more, Obama will. Hell tax. I'm gonna make government live on budget like you do.

Ill freeze government spending – get rid of ones that don't work for Americans. First porkbarrell bill across my desk will be vetoed and you'll know their names. No more bridges to nowhere. DNA of bears in Montana – no money.

I won't fine small business and children. Obama will fine you for healthcare. I'll bring down cost with competition and choice. I'll make sure you can keep your plan. Every American family 5000 credit for insurance.

I wont make it harder to sell our goods oversees. Our trade will be free and fair.

Ill make sure we help workers find jobs that won't go away. Last time we raised taxes and restricted trade at time like this – great depression. I know my history lessons and I wont make the mistake Obama will.

When I'm elected president, with your help, we're gonna stop sending 700 bil to countries that don't like us very much. Obama will argue to delay drilling and building nuclear power plants. Listen to his words. Well drill now offshore when I'm president. We will invest in all the alternatives. Hybrid, flex fuel. Clean coal technology. PA sits on huge coal reserves. Lower cost of energy and create millions of new jobs in America.

Straight talk – state of the race. 14 days to go. A few points down. Media has written us off [boooooooooo]. Obama is choosing cabinet, measuring the drapes and planning with pelosi and reid to raise taxes, increase spending and concede defeat in iraq. Ill never concede defeat anywhere in the world. They forgot to let you decide. We've got them just where we want them.

America needs a fighter, puts all cards on the table. I have fought most of my life but I don't love America from the sidelines.

America is great but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? [Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I am an American and I choose to fight.

Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.
Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.
Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.
Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.
Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.
Fight for our children's future.
Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

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Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.
Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.
Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.
TY and god bless you and god bless the united states of America. I need your help. Thank you and god bless…

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Sara DuBois
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From: "Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/22/2008 11:29:45 AM
Subject: RE: FW: Clips: July 22, 2008

Yes, we've let them know that you will call in if it's possible but otherwise arranged for Dan to cover. Anna will send you the call in number again just in case.

Any progress on the Plan B for getting everyone home?

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 6:26 PM
To: Peter Ogden
Subject: Re: FW: Clips: July 22, 2008

I also have the callon energy tomorrow which I will miss. Maybe Dan can do.

On Tue, Jul 22, 2008 at 5:04 PM, Peter Ogden <pogden@americanprogress.org > wrote:
Today's clips.

From: John Neurohr
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:01 AM
To: Clips
Subject: Clips: July 22, 2008

Center for American Progress

Date	Headline	Text	Outlet	Contact
Center for American Progress				
07/21/2008	Yglesias Moves Again	Text	CQ Politics	
Matthew Yglesias to join CAP as new blogger				
Center for American Progress Action Fund				
07/21/2008	NV National Clean 07 21	Text	Associated Press (AP)	
John Podesta to speak at The National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Obama Campaign: Response to the latest McCain attack ad	Text	Wispolitics	
CAPAF report: "The McCain Plan to Cut Oil Company Taxes by Nearly $4 Billion,"				

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Macro World Investor	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

Center for American Progress Action Fund; Economics

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at ...	Text	MarketWatch.com	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Atlanta Business Chronicle	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Courier Serving the Greater Cincinnati Area	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Journal Phoenix, The	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee, The	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Columbus Business First	

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07/22/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Digital50	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Earthtimes.org	Center for

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Nashville Business Journal	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Portland Business Journal	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	San Antonio Business Journal	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	San Francisco Business Times	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy...	Text	Thomson Reuters	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

Domestic

07/21/2008	CITY'S POOR LOOK DIFFERENT THROUGH NEW ASSESSMENT	Text	City Limits	

Mark Greenberg on expanding poverty measures

07/21/2008	Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation	Text	Washington Post	

Rick Weiss' "Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation: Young Industry Needs Rules and Limits for Examining Individuals' DNA"

07/21/2008	Toledo Public Schools Academy Principal to Speak at Conference	Text	RedOrbit	Meghan Gilbert, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio

Cynthia Brown at Education Event 'From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold: Schools Expanding Learning time'

Economics

07/21/2008	Are you dipping into your retirement funds?	Text	Desert Sun, The	The Associated

Christian Weller on report, "Borrowing from Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/22/2008	McCain's head games on taxes	Text	Politico - Washington,DC,USA	

Robert Gordon and James Kvaal report, "Bush-McCain-Norquist Tax Agenda"

07/22/2008	Resist urge to raid retirement funds early	Text	Lawrence Journal-World	Michelle Singletary

CAP report on loans from 401(k) retirement plans

07/22/2008	Tapping retirement money too early can be costly	Text	New Haven Register	Tim Paradis

CAP report on loans from 401(k) retirement plans

07/21/2008	Workers Break Retirement Piggy Bank in Tight Times	Text	SmartPros	

CAP report on loans from 401 (k) retirement plans

Energy

07/21/2008	Read 'Cost of Freedom' recap	Text	FOXnews.com	

Dan Weiss on offshore drilling

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ENOUGH

07/21/2008	Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]	Text	AllAfrica.com	

ENOUGH on ICC indictment of al-Bashir as a step towards peace

07/21/2008	Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	Released : Monday, July 21, 2008 12:30 PM

ENOUGH on ICC indictment of al-Bashir as a step towards peace

07/21/2008	Sudan Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace	Text	AllAfrica.com	Washington, DC

Enough argues that pressure on Sudan's leader could be a step towards peace

07/22/2008	The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]	Text	AllAfrica.com

John Norris on justice in Zimbabwe

07/22/2008	The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]	Text	Calibre MacroWorld

John Norris on justice in Zimbabwe

Fellows

07/22/2008	At the Border, Your Laptop Is Wide-Open	Text	Connecticut Law Tribune

Peter Swire testifies on laptop search and data seizure

07/22/2008	Elizabeth Edwards To Be Keynote Speaker For Central Ohio Higher ...	Text	PRWeb

Elizabeth Edwards to be keynote speaker at Central Ohio HIgher Education Institute

National Security

07/22/2008	Bin Laden driver on trial at Guantanamo	Text	Russia Today

Ken Gude on Salim Hamdan Guantanamo trial

07/22/2008	How the next president can improve Homeland Security	Text

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[Message clipped]

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/15/2008 3:32:24 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/15/08

Main Topics: Jerome Corsi book, Russia-Georgia conflict, Rick Warren Candidate Forum

Summary of Shift:

The newly brokered cease fire in the Russia-Georgia conflict led the news today. In the Presidential race, there was much media anticipation of the Saddleback Church forum tomorrow with both Senators John McCain and Barack Obama. In addition to charging non-church members $500-$2,000 dollars to come see the event, Rick Warren is using the event to gain significant publicity, making appearances on virtually every network. MSNBC was the only station that aired debate surrounding the Jerome Corsi book. In other political news, Howard Dean's comment on NPR about the Republican Party being the 'white' party was mentioned on CNN.

In nonpolitical news, the Olympics continues to dominate in terms of coverage. Other stories include a penguin being knighted, a tough curfew imposed on a small Arkansas town gripped by crime, an FDA report on hormones in baby formula, and a tropical storm forming in the Caribbean.

Highlights:

1. Jerome Corsi coverage
   a. MSNBC: David Shuster discusses 'swift boating' effect on current election
   b. MSNBC Maddow skewers book, remarks on other inaccuracies
2. McCain overstepping his role, speaking too tough on Georgia-Russia conflict
   a. CNN: Cafferty speaks about McCain over playing his role in Georgia-Russia conflict
   b. MSNBC: Maddow talks about McCain's presumptuous foreign policy, interfering with current foreign policy, and Phil Gramm's return
3. ABC: Jake Tapper speaks to Rick Warren about the upcoming 'civil forum'
4. CBS: Bob Schieffer analyzes McCain's openness to a pro-choice running mate
5. FNC: Pfotenhauer defends McCain's commitments to the middle class, talks VP speculation

Clips:

Highlight #1

Shuster Discusses McCain's Response To Question About Jerome Corsi Book, Hypocrisy Of McCain's Silence On Smear Campaign (MSNBC 08/15/08 7:55pm)

[clip of McCain being asked about Jerome Corsi book, McCain responding]

DAVID SHUSTER: Gotta keep your sense of humor? Michell?

MICHELLE BERNARD: **Maybe he really didn't hear the question because there's nothing humorous about the book. I haven't read the book, I've seen what people have said about it and it appears to be a pack of lies and innuendo**. So I will give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he didn't properly hear the question. [...]

KEN VOGEL: Well even if he did hear the question, his-McCain's response was kind of offhanded as so many of his comments are and you know he could have been saying that you know you just have to shrug off these kinds of outlandish attacks during a Presidential campaign, even still though I think he would be wise to come out a little more forcefully, either denouncing it or at least distance himself from it. **Because the Obama campaign, as that statement says, has done a really effective job of kind of demonizing both this book and this author, as representative of this type of dirty politics that both these guys are working very hard to show that they're not associated with it and they don't condone - they're both trying to present themselves as kind of reformers** [...]

SHUSTER: They had an opportunity to condemn the book and they chose not to. They chose simply to focus simply on --well McCain had a hearing problem. [...] And yet, four years ago as we all know John McCain took a very strong stance against the swift boat book and the swift boat ads that were being used against John Kerry. I kinda wonder if that makes the story stick around for a little while because it becomes clear that McCain in the eyes of many is nakedly political by not condemning the book this time.

VOGEL: **Perhaps, and even in this cycle he has not come out as strongly against 527s as he has in 04 when Kerry was a victim and in 2000 when there were these types of independent groups that were very aggressively out there**. [...]

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SHUSTER: Ken that's what I dont understand. Why is it so difficult for McCain to condemn this and say look this book is filled with inaccuracies, I didn't support it four years ago, I condmned it then, I condemn it now, let's talk about real differences in policy.

VOGEL: I think he should [...]

Maddow And Kofinis Discuss Jerome Korsi Book, List Errors Mentioned in 'Unfit For Publication' (MSNBC 08/15/08 8:40pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: There's something about a hardcover book that connotes authority, sourcing, evidence, it's a symbolism imprinted in your developing brain from your first encounter with encyclopedia brown and therein lies the problem. [goes on to list errors mentioned in Obama's anti-Jerome Corsi document, Unfit for Publication]

CHRIS KOFINIS: **Well when you look at Jerome Corsi this is a guy whose become a poster child for lies and smears. I mean he did in 2004 against Senator Kerry, and he's doing it again. You know I should say he should be ashamed but I'm unsure if he has a soul - evidently he sold his soul in order to get this book published**. I mean its just tragic irony here. I think the Obama campaign did a very smart thing, they didn't just say these are lies and falsehoods, they went out in excruciating detail and made it very clear all the various mistakes, falsehoods, and gross distortions in this book. It's unfortunate that this stuff gets any press attention, but it's the reality of kindof the world that we live in- this book is being pushed by the right wing as heavily as it is.

RACHEL MADDOW: They learned in 2004 nobody has the luxury of ignoring these things any more. If you want to take account of their political impact [...]

Highlight #2
Cafferty Highlights McCain's 'Overplaying His Hand Here' On Georgia Conflict (CNN 08/15/08 6:30pm)
JACK CAFFERTY: Well I think there's a risk that John McCain is going to over play his hand here. He's starting to remind me of Al Hague back when Ronald Reagan got shot, Hague raced over to the White House and quickly informed the world – 'I'm in charge here.' Well, get over yourself you're not in charge. We have a President, granted he's on vacation. **Now there's talk McCain's going to send his own emissaries to Georgia, Senators Lieberman and Graham, which will probably only serve to muddy whatever waters are over there. Not that they're not muddy enough already. I'm not so sure that he hasn't already overdone it a little bit and maybe it's time for him to back down a peg or two**. […]
DAVID BRODY: Well I agree with Jack, I'll say this though: let's remember this was somewhat of a machismo moment a little bit for John McCain. You know the foreign policy, matters of war, it all really plays in very very well to what he wants to do. It's right in his wheel house. It's kind of a situation where he can't help himself to a certain degree. That's one part of it. The other part is let's remember the last time John McCain would want is to follow George Bush – they want to be out in front of this rather than the President coming out and all the sudden John McCain going yeah I agree with Bush on that. They don't want that narrative at all.

Maddow and Korb Discuss Presumptuousness of McCain, His Interjections In Foreign Policy, Influence of Gramm and Scheunemann (MSNBC 08/15/08 8:16pm)
LARRY KORB: Whenever you have a crisis, we can only have one voice in the country. We have one President at the time. And what should happen is he is the one sending the signals, sending the people around, so that this country speaks with one voice. And what's happening is McCain actually spoke before Bush did he's sending much stronger messages, almost like he's shooting from the hip- sending messages to Russia and Georgia. And it could be very dangerous if either side overreacts in this very very delicate time.

RACHEL MADDOW: John McCain, thus far in this Presidential campaign, he has been delivering weekly radio addresses [...]

KORB: **Well I think it is rather ironic because when he goaded Senator Obama to taking a trip over there overseas and then Senator Obama gave a speech in Berlin, he accused him of being presumptuous and acting Presidential. I'm much more concerned with what he's done now to upset American foreign policy. I think voters can decided if he's being presumptuous. But what he's doing is very dangerous for the security of this country**. [...]

MADDOW: Another member of the pretend Cabinet made a surprise appearance last night. Pretend Treasury Sectary Phil Gramm. It was Gramm's first appearance with McCain since he supposedly [...] **Like Randy Scheunemann, Gramm is another lobbyist who has helped shape McCain policies that just happen to**

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be in line with their clients. In Gramm's case, defending banks from laws that might help homeowners in the mortgage crisis, a crisis Gramm himself contributed to by deregulating banks much like he deregulated energy trading, a move even some Republicans admit let speculators drive up gas prices.

Highlight #3
Tapper Discusses Candidate Forum With Rick Warren, Religion In Election (ABC 08/15/08 6:40pm)
JAKE TAPPER: [...] Both Senator Obama and McCain are both Christians who have struggled to convey their faith in a country where faith is important and often controversial.

VOICEOVER: **John McCain has not always appeared comfortable talking about his faith. McCain has also had a rocky relationship in the past with some conservative Christian leaders. And he's not doing as well in the polls with evangelicals. Barack Obama seems more comfortable talking about religion** [...]

TAPPER: What does it mean when a politician explains their relationship with Jesus Christ? As a voter, what do you need to hear?

RICK WARREN: Well I want to hear a person say that it's not a religion, it's a relationship. I've had a personal relationship with Christ for now almost 50 years- he's my best friend. I talk to him all the time.

VOICEOVER: Warren says he wants to probe the candidate's values and vision and why they want this job.

WARREN: **There's a fine line between egotism and ambition. In Psalm 72, Solemon is the wealthiest, wisest and most powerful leader in the world, and he praised for more influence and he says so that I may help the sick and the poor, defend the defenseless, care for the oppressed.**

Highlight #4
Bob Schieffer Discusses Perils In Possible ProChoice McCain VP (CBS 08/15/08 6:35pm)
BOB SCHIEFFER: Well if John McCain was trying to run this out to sort of market test it to see how it sat with religious conservatives, I think he found today that there's not much market out there for this. Basically they just went nuts. Tony Perkins, the head of the Family Research Council, said if McCain put a prochoice person on the ticket with him he thought a lot of conservatives, especially evangelicals, would simply stay home. You also have to remember evangelicals kind of suspect John McCain-he's never been all that popular, thats not where his strength is. Remember the run in he had with Jerry Falwell in 2000. So I think if McCain was trying to see how this played, he found out today it does not play out very well with a very large part of the Republican base.

Highlight #5
McCain Policy Adviser Defends McCain's Commitments To The Middle Class (FNC 08/15/08 5:10pm)
NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well usually Heather they leave out the important parts of our proposal. First of all, We keep taxes at the low rate that they are right now because the last thing you wanna do right now is raise taxes in an economic downturn. It's really a recipe for recession. We also double the dependent deduction so that the American families who have children- that's a pretty big deal. That's taking it from 3,500 to 7,000 dollars per dependent. And we offer families a 5,000 dollar refundable tax credit to purchase health insurance. That's 2,500 dollars for individuals. They usually leave out those two pieces when they try to claim we don't do anything for the middle class. But the most important thing we can do for economic growth in general, job creation and that's what Senator John McCain's plan will do.
HEATHE NAUERT: […] How do you compete when Barack Obama has a whole lot of money and you guys are limited?
PFOTEHNHAUER: Well Heather we're going to have enough to prosecute this campaign. It's going to be a very tight race. The polls are already tied right now. Keep in mind Senator Obama dramatically outraised Hillary Clinton and then lost like 6 of the 9 last primaries. The person with the most money doesn't necessarily win. And certainly Senator McCain has beaten folks before who had much bigger war chests like maybe Governor Romney, ha.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/9/2015 12:42:36 PM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 9/9

Great! Will schedule the HRC Iran for tonight and the others for tomorrow AM.

On Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 7:25 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
Ok

On Thursday, September 10, 2015, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Re-upping these for the morning. Retweets may be a bit behind the times but the tweets should still be ok.

On Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 11:08 AM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
TWEETS 9/9

Evidence that unions push policies — higher minimum wage, $ for schools, govt programs — that benefit workers http://nyti.ms/1hXdo4W @amprog (139)

.@HillaryClinton's history confronting Iran's support for terrorism & countering its nuclear ambitions is unmatched
https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/08/counter-threats-from-iran/ (140)

Falling cost of batteries and distributed solar signal a major shift. It's time to open up the grid. http://www.vox.com/2015/9/9/9287719/utilities-monopoly?utm_campaign=vox&utm_content=article%3Afixed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter#
Want to piss off some utilities? Really great long-form piece from Vox about breaking down public utilities and opening up the grid to innovation...
(140)

RETWEETS 9/9

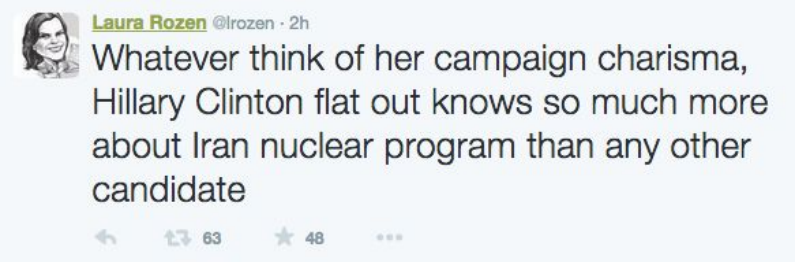

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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> --
> Milia Fisher
> Special Assistant to the Chair
> Hillary for America
> mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
> o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
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mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:41:45 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
Thinking.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Cc: Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Not ninnies.
>
> We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > That's because you love your own joke.
> >
> > But I think it is okay.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi, Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.

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This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

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Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this email or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.

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From:	"Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	10/22/2008 6:13:56 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MMR: Palin is a certified disaster for McCain, Crist still loves him though, Colorado voter suppression, Bush absent from trail, Morning 10/

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: Voter suppression shenanigans in Colorado
   KENNEDY: "Exactly. So, if I wrote my name on my driver's license, 'Robert F. Kennedy,' and I wrote on my registration to vote, 'Robert Francis Kennedy, Jr.,' my registration would be thrown out and that's what the new secretary of state of Colorado has done to these 6,400 new voters who are, again, mainly democratic."
2. MSNBC: Charlie Crist would rather not discuss exorbitant wardrobe costs
   CRIST: "I think the real issue is, you know, it's the economy and I think what people care about is not so much what attire people wear, but what they care about deeply is how people on this ticket are gonna cut taxes."
3. FNC: Florida's governor defends perceptions he's half-stepping
   CRIST: "I'm doing everything I can to help the ticket."
4. CBS: Crist loves McCain
   CRIST: "I think the world of John McCain."
5. CBS: The disappearing president – Bush conspicuously absent from campaign trail
   PLANTE: "But other than...one fundraising trip to Phoenix, the President has been a no-show. His Press Secretary says Mr. Bush has had a lot on his plate, the last few months."
6. NBC: Chuck Todd Declares New Numbers Sound Death Knell for Palin; McCain Took Independents and Center for Granted
   TODD: "[Palin has] become a bigger drag than Bush and that is a big problem for Sarah Palin. She, at least, had likability on her side in our last poll. She no longer has that. Our one pollster thought, really that the worst thing she could have done was show up on Saturday Night Live because she ended up playing into her caricature and almost hammering home the idea that she's a lightweight. It's--the whole thing is coming apart for her."
7. CBS: Report puts Palin's opulent clothing expenses in perspective
   MIKE ALLEN: "This would make the John Edwards haircut look like a bargain, at the same time she's trying to connect with Joe and Jane Plumber."

Clips:

Highlight #1

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Illuminates a Counterproductive Policy Colorado's SoS Adopted (MSNBC 10/21/08 9:38pm)

KENNEDY: Another method that is being used that's probably the most frightening is called "The Perfect Match Tight Match," and what that says is that, if you're registration, the information on your registration, the government agencies, the electoral officials in each state are required to check your registration information against existing government databases, your social security database and your driver's license database. If any of the information--in some states, it's a perfect match that's required--in swing states like Iowa and Florida, a perfect match is required.

RACHEL MADDOW: So that means like middle initial, hyphens, everything.

KENNEDY: Exactly. So, if I wrote my name on my driver's license, 'Robert F. Kennedy,' and I wrote on my registration to vote, 'Robert Francis Kennedy, Jr.,' my registration would be thrown out and that's what the new secretary of state of Colorado has done to these 6,400 new voters who are, again, mainly democratic.

Highlight #2

Asked about Palin's Wardrobe Allowance, Crist Changes the Subject (MSNBC 10/22/08 7:25am)

CHARLIE CRIST: I think the real issue is, you know, it's the economy and I think what people care about is not so much what attire people wear, but what they care about deeply is how people on this ticket are gonna cut taxes. They're gonna put more of the taxpayers' hard-earned money back into their pockets so they have an opportunity to do well for their families to be able to pay for an education.

Highlight #3

Crist says He's Campaigning Diligently for McCain and McCain Has Great Chances in Florida (FNC 10/22/08 7:14am)

GRETCHEN CARLSON: What is your take on this? Sarah Palin calling out the Main Stream Media, saying "Yeah, you guys woulda clobbered me," but more startling the reporter says "You're right, we would have"

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CHARLIE CRIST: Well that was rather surprising,[...] It's amazing to watch some of these things, and the back and forth that goes on, but what I'm excited about is what's happening here in Florida. We just had a new poll come out yesterday, A Rasmussen Poll, has John McCain ahead by one point, Senator McCain will be back in the Sunshine state tomorrow in the I4 corridor. He's doing very well and the ticket I think is gonna win Florida and you know how important that is, Gretchen, it's a battleground state, we're a Swing State 27 electoral votes, I think the attention that their paying to Florida is gonna really pay dividends come Election day and I'm very pleased for that.

CARLSON: [...] Is there any truth to [Crist not doing as much campaigning as he could]?

CRIST: None whatsoever. In Fact, I'm doing everything I can to help the ticket. I think it's so important to the future, not only of our country but the future of Florida, I mean John McCain is a guy who understands cutting taxes, having people have more of their hard earned dollars in their pockets, especially during the tough economic times were dealing with now is critical. He also understands how important it is to protect the environment about climate change, about things that traditionally Republicans hadn't focused on as much, but John McCain does, and he understands that these are issues that are important to Florida, it's the economy first and foremost always, but these other issues like alternative energy are incredibly important to my fellow Floridians too and Senator McCain gets it.

CARLSON: [...] A lot of the Foreign Policy discussion, quite frankly, have been lost in this election cycle, once the economy went to Hell, you know, five weeks ago. So, is this something now that voters will pay attention to- what Joe Biden said- will they return back to thinking about foreign policy and experience?

CRIST: Well I think experience always matters, and when you look at Senator McCain's experience it's un-paralleled, I mean this is a man who has served and served admirably, in the United States Senate for years, not only has he got that experience, as a seasoned public servant, but in addition, his experience dealing with commerce issues, Chairman of the Commerce Committee in the United States Senate, having served in our military, served honorably, a true American hero, a man of great strength, Senator McCain is ready on day One to be a great American president, and I believe that he will be.

CARLSON: [...] What does John McCain have to do in the next 13 days to get Florida?

CRIST: Well, continue to work hard as he's doing already, he was here last week. We were together in Miami and Melbourne, he'll be back, as I say, again tomorrow, continue to focus on the state, continue to do the things that matter to my fellow Floridians talk about reducing their taxes, putting more of their hard earned money in their pocket, that's a winning message and it's John McCain's message, I believe that'll win.

Highlight #4
Crist Goes out of His Way to Demonstrate Fealty to GOP Presidential Ticket (CBS 10/22/08 7:07am)
MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ: Is John McCain losing (Florida)?

CRIST: I don't think so. There was a Rasmussen Poll, just out yesterday, showed that John was up by one point here in FL. I think it's very competitive, I think it's gonna come down to the last day, I wanna welcome BR, my colleague, I understand he's in Tampa Bay today, good to have you in the state Bill [...] Florida is important, that's why Bill's here, that's why so many candidates, both presidential and vice presidential, are here in the Sunshine state, it's incredibly important, it's a swing state, with 27 electoral votes, I think that John's gonna do very well here, I look forward to a victory for him, he's gonna be back in the state, in fact, tomorrow, Senator McCain is.

RODRIGUEZ: [...] you've been criticized for not doing enough for John McCain in your state[...]a popular Republican Governor who's giving the perception he's not 100% behind the nominee? That's not good for John McCain.

CRIST: Well, I'm 110%behind him, I think the world of John McCain, he's a dear friend, he's a great United States Senator, he's a great candidate and he'll be an even greater President. And anything I can do to help Senator McCain win this election, I'm doing and I'm proud to do it.

Highlight #5
George Bush not Campaigning with McCain, Still Holding Fundraisers (CBS 10/22/08 7:13am)
BILL PLANTE: We know that the President would like to have another Republican moving [into the White House] when he moves out in three months, but the President has not been out on the Campaign trail for Senator McCain, something he offered to do when McCain locked up the nomination in March, so, what's up?

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GEORGE W. BUSH (video): And if he wants my pretty face standing by his side, at one of these rallies, I'll be glad to show up.

PLANTE: At the time, McCain seemed to think that was a fine idea

MCCAIN: I hope that he'll campaign for me as much as is keeping with his busy schedule

PLANTE: But other than...one fundraising trip to Phoenix, the President has been a no-show. His Press Secretary says Mr. Bush has had a lot on his plate, the last few months.

DANA PERINO: We've had a tremendous amount of issues hit this country, including Russia invading Georgia, had two major hurricanes, and also this financial crisis and the President has been fully focused on it.

PLANTE: So he's been too busy to campaign?

PERINO: I didn't say that. You heard exactly what I said. I know what you're getting at, but I'm not gonna play.

PLANTE: In fact, Senator McCain has gone out of his way to distance himself from the President, because Mr. Bush's approval rating hovers around 24%

MCCAIN IN TV AD: The last eight years haven't worked very well have they, I'll make the next four better.

PLANTE: Eight years ago President Clinton, despite his impeachment, had a 61% approval rating, he campaigned for Al Gore and thought Gore should have asked him to do even more. But this year, says Republican strategist Vin Weber, John McCain was smart, to keep his distance.

VIN WEBBER: I think that he had to do that, I mean the country very clearly does not want to see quote the third Bush term

PLANTE: There is still one thing at which the President is very effective- that is getting republicans to open their wallets, last night he did a $1,000,000 fundraiser here in Washington for the Republican Senatorial committee, but were told that that is his last political appearance before the election.

Highlight #6
"The Whole Thing is Coming Apart" for Palin, McCain Has Consistently Gone Too Far Right, Chuck Todd Proclaims (NBC 10/22/08 7:09am)
CHUCK TODD: You almost wonder if the entire three weeks of that economic crisis and how each of them reacted to it was almost a test for some voters. [...] [Palin has] become a bigger drag than Bush and that is a big problem for Sarah Palin. She, at least, had likability on her side in our last poll. She no longer has that. Our one pollster thought, really that the worst thing she could have done was show up on Saturday Night Live because she ended up playing into her caricature and almost hammering home the idea that she's a lightweight. It's--the whole thing is coming apart for her. [...] The irony is the two groups that everybody thought would be [McCain's] strength in the general election, older voters [...] and independents. This guy was Mr. Independent and he lost it. Man, he shifted the entire fall campaign. Any time he had a choice between the middle and the base, he always chose the base.

Highlight #7
CBS Puts Palin's Extravagant Clothing Costs in Perspective (CBS 10/22/08 7:06am)
MIKE ALLEN: This would make the John Edwards haircut look like a bargain, at the same time she's trying to connect with Joe and Jane Plumber.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

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E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Marissa Astor" <mastor@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 2:35:16 PM
Subject:	[AGENDA & MEMO] Friday Strategy Call at 8:00 AM ET
Attachments:	150407 Strategy on GOP 2016ers.pdf

Below please find the agenda for tomorrow morning's 8:00 AM ET Strategy Call.

There is a memo for the DNC discussion attached to this email for your review ahead of the call.

AGENDA:

1. Clinton Cash update
2. DNC plan (see attached memo)
3. Phones / Pool plan

Thank you!

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Date: 7/29/2014 8:02:11 AM
Subject: News Update - Tuesday, July 29

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, July 29

Headlines:

- **Hamas Denies Agreeing to 72-Hour Cease-Fire**
- **Israel Strikes House of Hamas Gaza Leader, Digs in for Long Fight**
- **Netanyahu: Demilitarization Must Be Part of the Solution**
- **US Fuming Over Israeli Criticism of Kerry**
- **US Lawmakers Back Israel Amid Gaza Fighting**
- **Bennett: Destruction of Tunnels Not Enough, Hamas Must Be Defeated**
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- **Washington Post: "John Kerry's Big Blunder in Seeking an Israel-Gaza Cease-Fire"**
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Jerusalem Post

Hamas Denies Agreeing to 72-Hour Cease-Fire

PLO official Yasser Abd Rabbo on Tuesday said all Palestinian factions were prepared to announce a unilateral 72-hour cease-fire in fighting between Israeli and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. According to Rabbo, the announcement was made with the consent of Hamas. Speaking at a press conference in Ramallah, Rabbo said the initiative for a three-day halt in fighting was based on a proposal by the UN's special envoy to the Middle East, Robert Serry. However, Hamas spokespersons have denied these reports and said they do not agree with this announcement and that a cease-fire cannot exist when Israeli forces are inside Gaza.

Reuters

Israel Strikes House of Hamas Gaza Leader, Digs in for Long Fight

Israel knocked out Gaza's only power plant, flattened the home of its Islamist Hamas political leader and pounded dozens of other high-profile targets in the enclave on Tuesday, with no end in sight to more than three weeks of conflict. Health officials said at least 30 Palestinians were killed in some of heaviest bombardments from air, sea and land since the Israeli offensive began in response to Hamas rocket fire. The Israeli assault intensified following the deaths of 10 Israeli soldiers in cross-border attacks on Monday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning of a long conflict ahead.
See also, "Five IDF soldiers killed in Gaza as army death toll rises to 48" (Jerusalem Post)

Ynet News

Netanyahu: Demilitarization Must Be Part of The Solution

Netanyahu was joined by Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz for a press conference in the IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv. "We won't end the operation without neutralizing the tunnels, which were built for the purpose of destroying our citizens and killing our children," the prime minister said. "This is the first step in demilitarizing the Gaza Strip. It has to be a part of any solution, and the international community must demand that," he added. "There is no war most just than this. We knew we were going to have hard days. Today is one of those difficult and painful days," Netanyahu said, adding that "We must have patience and determination in our struggle against a murderous terror organization that seeks to annihilate us."
See also, "Tunnels lead right to the heart of Israeli fear" (New York Times)

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Associated Press

US Fuming Over Israeli Criticism of Kerry

The Obama administration pushed back strongly Monday at a torrent of Israeli criticism over Secretary of State John Kerry's latest bid to secure a cease-fire with Hamas, accusing some in Israel of launching a "misinformation campaign" against the top American diplomat. "It's simply not the way partners and allies treat each other," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. Her comments were echoed by the White House, where officials said they were disappointed by Israeli reports that cast Kerry's efforts to negotiate a cease-fire as more favorable to Hamas.

Associated Press

US Lawmakers Back Israel Amid Gaza Fighting

Members of Congress are falling over one another to show their support for Israel. While much of the rest of the world watches the Gaza war in horror and scrambles for a cease-fire, U.S. lawmakers are pressing the Obama administration to take no action that puts pressure on Israel to halt its military operations. Many even have criticized the administration's effort to stop the violence that has killed more than 1,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and more than 50 IDF soldiers and three civilians this month. "At times like this, people try to isolate Israel," House Speaker John Boehner said Monday. "We are here to stand with Israel, not just as a broker or observer but as a strong partner and a trusted ally.

Ha'aretz

Bennett: Destruction of Tunnels Not Enough, Hamas Must Be Defeated

Economy Minister Naftali Bennett lashed out at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday over the latter's stated policy regarding the goals of the war in Gaza. In a statement to the press, Bennett publicly countered Netanyahu's declarations of demolishing Hamas' terror tunnels as the primary goal of the operation – saying that it was the "defeat of Hamas" that Israel should consider as the ultimate target of the war. Bennett nevertheless said that he did not support a full reoccupation of the Gaza Strip. Israel must operate in order to "forcefully root out Hamas' faith in its ability to win."

Jerusalem Post

MK Zoabi Banned from Knesset for Six Months

MK Haneen Zoabi (Balad) will be banned from all parliamentary activity except voting for the next six months, following a Knesset Ethics Committee ruling Tuesday on complaints by Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein and other lawmakers. Zoabi's punishment will take effect on Wednesday, the last day of voting before the Knesset goes on recess until October, at which point she will not be able to make speeches, submit parliamentary questions or initiate debates in committees or the plenary.

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Ynet News

Turkish PM Erdogan Returning Jewish American Award

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is returning an award given to him by a Jewish American group in 2004, after the group asked for it back because of comments he made regarding the conflict in Gaza. Turkey's US ambassador wrote to Jack Rosen, president of the American Jewish Congress, on Erdogan's behalf saying that because of Israel's actions in Gaza and "the regrettable stance" of the American Jewish Congress, Erdogan "will be glad to return the award." The letter, dated July 27, was made available Tuesday. Last week, Rosen described Erdogan as "arguably the most virulent anti-Israel leader in the world." He said Erdogan was given the Profile of Courage award for working for a peaceful solution in the Middle East his commitment to protecting Turkey's Jewish citizens.

Washington Post – July 28, 2014

John Kerry's Big Blunder in Seeking an Israel-Gaza Cease-Fire

By David Ignatius

Secretary of State John Kerry has made a significant mistake in how he's pursuing a Gaza cease-fire — and it's not surprising that he has upset both the Israelis and some moderate Palestinians. Kerry's error has been to put so much emphasis on achieving a quick halt to the bloodshed that he has solidified the role of Hamas, the intractable, unpopular Islamist group that leads Gaza, along with the two hard-line Islamist nations that are its key supporters, Qatar and Turkey. In the process, he has undercut not simply the Israelis but also the Egyptians and the Fatah movement that runs the Palestinian Authority, all of which want to see an end to Hamas rule in Gaza.

A wiser course, which Kerry rejected in his hunt for a quick diplomatic solution, would have been to negotiate the cease-fire through the Palestinian Authority, as part of its future role as the government of Gaza. Hamas agreed last April to bring the authority back to Gaza as part of a unity agreement with Fatah that was brokered by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Kerry has been motivated by two understandable short-term needs: First, he wants to stop the horrific slaughter in Gaza, with its heavy loss of life among Palestinian civilians, including children. Second, he seeks to fulfill the instructions of President Obama, who wants an immediate cease-fire and has become skeptical about solving the knotted Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Kerry's approach has ignited a firestorm in Israel, with commentators left and right accusing him of taking Hamas's side and betraying Israel. That criticism is unfair, and it prompted a complaint Sunday from Obama in a phone call to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Kerry's mistake isn't any bias against Israel but rather a bias in favor of an executable, short-term deal.

A case can be made for this "kick the can down the road" approach, as I did last week in discussing Kerry's recent diplomatic negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and with rival political leaders in Afghanistan. But Gaza has suffered from a generation of brutal expediency. Any deal that reinforces Hamas's stranglehold — rather

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than building a path toward change of government, elections and eventual disarmament — is misconceived. In the name of stopping bloodshed this week, it all but guarantees it in the future. That's why public opinion polls show a strong majority of Gazans back the idea of returning to Palestinian Authority control — because they want an end to the cycle of intermittent warfare.

Israel has undermined its own cause with statements that appear to be insensitive to Palestinian loss of life. One example is the claim of Israel's ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, that "the Israeli Defense Forces should be given the Nobel Peace Prize" for showing "unimaginable restraint," at a time when photos and videos provide wrenching evidence of civilian casualties in the densely packed cities of Gaza.

Kerry's initial plan was to support Egypt's demand that Hamas accept a cease-fire. When Hamas balked at surrender and it was clear that Egypt lacked the clout to make the deal stick, Kerry turned to Turkey and Qatar, which as friends and financial backers of Hamas had more leverage. That put the deal first and a stable solution to Gaza's problems second. The deal blew up anyway, victim of Israeli and Palestinian inability to get to yes.

By turning to Turkey and Qatar, Kerry also enhanced their position in the regional power game. That's contrary to the interests and desires of the United States' traditional allies, such as Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the moderate Palestinian camp headed by Abbas.

If Kerry has been shortsighted about seeking a path toward a more stable Gaza, so has Netanyahu's government. The Israeli prime minister denounced the Palestinian unity agreement forged by Abbas last spring, even though it opened the way for an alternative non-Hamas government. More important, Netanyahu consistently has failed to give Palestinian moderates the concessions that might enhance their power in both the West Bank and Gaza. When Palestinians heard Netanyahu say recently that Israel must maintain military control of the West Bank for decades, they ask: What's the point of negotiating a two-state solution?

Does Netanyahu really want a months-long, house-to-house military campaign in Gaza that could push Israeli casualties above a thousand and effectively mean re-occupation of the territory? If not, he had better figure out a way to empower Palestinian moderates who, with international help, can build something different in Gaza.

Whether Kerry gets a permanent cease-fire or not, the same basic issue will haunt Gaza going forward, which is how to establish the Palestinian Authority as a responsible government that actually controls the territory. Israelis fear that the authority might operate on the Lebanese model — with Hamas maintaining a deadly militia, just as Hezbollah does in Beirut.

That's the right long-term question to be negotiating — and it's where Kerry should be spending U.S. diplomatic capital, rather than in another pursuit of the interim deal.

Times of Israel – July 29, 2014

PM Wants Gaza Demilitarized, and the World Agrees — But How?

By Raphael Ahren

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In the early days of Operation Protective Edge, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defined the campaign's objective as "the restoration of quiet to Israel's citizens while inflicting a severe blow to terrorist infrastructure in Gaza." He deliberately formulated his goals vaguely to be able to declare victory and stop the operation at any given moment.

But since the start of the ground operation, as the extent of the terror tunnels became apparent and more and more Israeli soldiers were being killed, he has modified his goal in a way that makes it much harder for Israel to actually meet the operation's evolved objective: the demilitarization of Gaza.

Aware of the anticipated international backlash, and guided by his cautious and unadventurous nature, Netanyahu does not seek to reoccupy the strip or topple Hamas. It is hard, therefore, to see how Israel can succeed in the new goal. For how else, short of ousting Hamas, do you go about demilitarizing a highly militarized territory ruled by a ruthless, well-entrenched, Iranian-backed terrorist organization whose very raison d'etre is armed struggle to destroy the Jewish state?

Netanyahu spoke explicitly about the goal of partial demilitarization for the first time on July 15. "We agreed to the Egyptian [ceasefire] proposal in order to give an opportunity for the demilitarization of the [Gaza] Strip — from missiles, from rockets and from tunnels — through diplomatic means," he said in a statement.

Addressing the Israeli public on Monday evening, July 28, he reiterated his call: "The process of preventing the arming of the terrorist organization and demilitarizing the Gaza Strip must be part of any solution," he said.

Earlier during the day, in a phone conversation with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Netanyahu mentioned that Israel's security needs include Gaza's demilitarization — "according to the principle laid down in the interim agreements with the Palestinians."

Netanyahu was referring to "Oslo II," the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Article XIV states that except for the arms of the Palestinian police and those of the Israel Defense Forces, "no organization, group or individual in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip shall manufacture, sell, acquire, possess, import or otherwise introduce into the West Bank or the Gaza Strip any firearms, ammunition, weapons, explosives, gunpowder or any related equipment."

Over the last week, Netanyahu has repeated his call for the demilitarization of Gaza in interviews and meetings with world leaders. He has had some success: the international community has generally endorsed his demand. Canadian Ambassador to the UN Guillermo Rishchynski, for instance, on Thursday called for the complete "disarmament of Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups operating in Gaza, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad."

The Palestinian Authority must follow through on its commitment to remove "existing stockpiles of thousands of largely Iranian-supplied missiles nestled and shielded amidst the homes, grocers and schools of Palestinians," Rishchynski told the UN Security Council. "It means

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that Hamas fighters put down their arms and embrace the peace process."

A laudable goal, but not very realistic.

Even US Secretary of State John Kerry, after being harshly criticized by Israelis for his recent efforts to broker a ceasefire, on Monday declared that demilitarizing Hamas needs to be part of any framework that ends the current conflict. "We also believe that any process to resolve the crisis in Gaza in a lasting and meaningful way must lead to the disarmament of Hamas and all terrorist groups. And we will work closely with Israel and regional partners and the international community in support of this goal," he said in Washington.

Kerry's statement signaled a significant concession to Jerusalem. The ceasefire proposal — or draft, as the State Department later described it — that he submitted to the Israeli cabinet on Friday did not even hint at demilitarizing Hamas. Kerry's boss — President Barack Obama – had not gone as far as calling for Hamas to be stripped of its weapons in the framework of a solution to the current crisis. On Sunday, in a phone call to Netanyahu during which he called for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire, Obama merely said that, "ultimately, any lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must ensure the disarmament of terrorist groups and the demilitarization of Gaza."

Now that everyone (bar Hamas and Islamic Jihad) agrees that Gaza needs to be demilitarized, the question is how? Netanyahu seems thoroughly disinclined to choose the military route. Too many Israeli soldiers have already died in Gaza, and to "finish the job" would cost many more lives. Israel will not end Operation Protective Edge "without neutralizing the tunnels," he said Monday. Demilitarizing Gaza "must be part of any solution," he asserted, but hinted that this was the world's duty more than Israel's. "The international community needs to demand this explicitly."

The prime minister repeatedly alluded to diplomatic efforts to demilitarize Gaza, but so far has failed to explain how exactly this might work. There is no diplomatic mechanism that would convince Hamas and Islamic Jihad to simply "put down their arms and embrace the peace process," as the Canadian ambassador to the UN desired.

MK Shaul Mofaz, a former defense minister, actually proposed an interesting approach. In a working paper published earlier this month, he argues that just as Syria was forced to give up its arsenal of chemical weapons, so should the international community impel Hamas into giving up its arms. The plan calls for a $50 billion investment in Gaza in return for Hamas's compliance and seeks to involve a host of regional and global leaders.

In the paper, entitled "The Demilitarization of the Gaza Strip: The Proper Endpoint for Israel of Operation Protective Edge," Mofaz, also an ex-IDF chief of staff, writes that months of diplomatic legwork would be required to rally the likes of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the US to the framework of the deal. PA President Mahmoud Abbas, he wrote, would likely "want to lend a hand to this sort of move and he should be involved in the process."

Mofaz has presented his plan to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and

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Defense Committee and Netanyahu's National Security Adviser Yossi Cohen. But so far neither the prime minister nor any other leader has publicly adopted the plan. But nor have they offered any other concrete proposal for how the demilitarization of Gaza could be achieved in the near future.

Trying to take away Hamas's massive arsenal of guns and drones, Kassam, Grad, Fajr-3, Fajr-5, M-75 and M302 rockets, is not going to be a walk in the park, whether you choose the military or the diplomatic approach. "We say for the millionth time," Hamas official Izzat Al-Rishq warned Monday, responding to Obama's call for the demilitarization of Gaza, "those who try to take our weapons, we will take their life."

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Speech as delivered and Q&A with Swisher transcript attached and below.

02242015 Lead On HRC Speech

Lead On: Watermark's Silicon Valley Conference for Women
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Moderator: Kara Swisher
Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
February 24, 2015

(Cheers, applause.)

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you so much! Hello. (Cheers, applause.) Wow, what an amazing crowd! (Cheers, applause.) It's great to be here. (Applause.) Thank you all so much. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I want to thank Renee for her introduction, but more than that, I want to thank her for what Intel is doing that she just described. And I hope that -- (cheers, applause) -- more companies will join with her and with Intel to really elevate this issue about diversity and inclusivity in the workforce here in Silicon Valley, and literally around our country.

I want to thank everyone at Watermark for organizing this terrific gathering and supporting such a vibrant, visionary community of women leaders here in the Bay Area, because you can just feel the energy. I love it. I was watching backstage when Brene Brown was speaking. Isn't she amazing, and the work that she's done, and the insights she provides? ? (Cheers, applause.)

So for 20 years Watermark has been helping people, women grow networks, gain skills, crack ceilings in technology, entrepreneurship and beyond. So really it's all of you who should be applauded for being part of this movement.

And I am delighted that I can be here for this first Lead On Conference. It's a great theme and a very important one, because we do need to lead. We have the information, we understand the challenge, and if there's any place in the world where Lead On should be happening, it's right here in a place of big dreams and transformational achievements, where a kid can have a good idea and then build a billion dollar company, in a place where faith in the future is so strong that it's taken as a given.

In fact, you all know Moore's Law, computer processors will keep doubling in power roughly every two years. Well, there's something very American about that kind of optimism. After all, our country is a great entrepreneurial experiment. Families like my grandparents who came to our shores with nothing but hope and a willingness to work hard, the pioneers who set out for California by wagon train, the patriots who dared imagine that a new nation could be built on the novel proposition that all of us are created equal.

And even though it's taken centuries to turn that idea into reality, and we're still not there, those dreamers and doers would have been right at home here, because the innovation and success we see around us is proof that progress is possible, but also that it is not inevitable, not in a life, not in a country. After all, Moore's Law doesn't tell the whole story. Those processors don't get smaller and more powerful on their own. That takes incredible effort and ingenuity. It takes people not only working hard but working together.

And America's prosperity and security are not inevitable either. We've learned that we can bounce back from some pretty tough blows. So we know that progress is possible if we as a country harness all our talents, find the best and freshest ideas, no matter where they come from, and grow together, lift each other up.

Today, I want to focus briefly on two areas where you know and I know there's much more work to be done, women in technology and technology and our broader economy.

Now, many of you in this audience know far more about those two areas than I do or ever will. You live it every day. You

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bump your heads on the glass ceilings that persist in the tech industry. You watch too many of your daughters and granddaughters get diverted away from careers in STEM.

As familiar as this story is, and we heard Renee summarizing it as she made the announcement about what Intel will try to do, it is still shocking, the numbers are sobering.

On the Forbes list of the top 100 venture investors in tech, only four are women. Just 11 percent of executives in Silicon Valley, and only about 20 percent of software developers overall are women.

One recent report on the gender pay gap in the Valley found that a woman with a bachelor's degree here tends to make 60 percent less than a man with the same degree.

And we can literally count on one hand the number of women who have actually been able to come here and turn their dream into billion dollar businesses.

And think of this: While nearly 60 percent of college graduates are now women, they earn only 18 percent of the computer science degrees. That's actually less than half of what it was in the 1980s when women earned 38 percent of those degrees. We are going backwards in a field that is supposed to be all about moving forward.

Women and girls remain underrepresented in STEM education more broadly, and with STEM jobs growing faster and paying more than many other fields, this puts our daughters and granddaughters at a disadvantage that can have lasting consequences for them, their families, and yes, our economy. I think the bottom line here is we cannot afford to leave all that talent sitting on the sidelines.

So to borrow a familiar phrase, it's time to think different. All of us in the private sector, government, the nonprofit world and education, we all have a stake in making this better, from the classroom to the boardroom.

I love the way Watermark supports a class at Stanford's Business School focused on women entrepreneurship.

I really appreciated when Google became the first big tech company to disclose the demographics of its tech workforce, 83 percent male, 17 percent female, 2 percent Latino, 1 percent black.

So there's a lot of entry points into tackling this problem. At the Clinton Foundation we're working with partners to recruit more STEM teachers for schools. We've also organized a series of code-a-thons to bring together young women software engineers to collaborate on new apps to promote women's health and wellness, while also building new professional networks for themselves.

And many of you are involved in other efforts to open avenues for women and people of color to participate and succeed in this industry, and we have to keep that work going and growing, because inclusivity is more than a buzzword or a box to check. It is a recipe for success in the 21st century. Bringing different perspectives and life experiences into corporate offices, engineering labs and venture funds is likely to bring fresh ideas and higher revenues.

And in our increasingly multicultural country, in an increasingly interdependent world, building a more diverse talent pool can't just be a nice to do for business, it has to be a must do.

Now, of course, the challenges we're talking about are by no means limited to the tech field. Less than 5 percent of all Fortune 500 CEOs are women. And women entrepreneurs often have a much harder time accessing capital to start or grow a business.

Up and down the ladder, many women are paid less for the same work, which is why I think we all cheered at Patricia Arquette's speech at the Oscars because she's right, it's time to have wage equality once and for all.

But it's not just wage equality. Many working parents all too often don't have access to commonsense benefits like sick days and paid leave that would allow them to balance work and family. (Applause.) I think we are embarrassed by, even shocked by the fact we are just one of nine countries in the entire world without national paid family leave.

Now, you may not realize that because here in California this state has had paid leave for 10 years. And the last time I looked, it seemed to work well for both businesses and families.

But even that is not a silver bullet. As Sheryl Sandberg and others have reminded us, even the professional women who have

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access to these basic benefits are often set back in their careers, in some cases simply for taking advantage of family leave or flexible schedules, and in others because of more subtle biases or attitudes in the workplace.

When I was a young lawyer and was pregnant, I worked in a small law firm and there was no family leave policy. It had never come up before. I was the first woman to be a partner in that law firm. So nobody said anything to me, and I didn't say anything to them; I just kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger. (Laughter.) And I'd walk down the halls and some of my partners would avert their eyes. They didn't know what to say to me. (Laughter.)

So when the time came and I went in and gave birth, the next morning, the lead partner called and he said two things. He said, "Congratulations, and when are you coming back to work?" (Laughter.) I said, "Well, thank you very much, maybe in four months." Pause. He goes, "Oh, okay." He had no idea. (Laughter.) I had no idea, but I was in a position where I could say, okay, four months.

And too many women even in those days, I can remember so well, they lost their jobs, they were marginalized, they were demoted for doing one of the most important jobs anybody in a society has, producing the next generation. (Applause.)

Even though things have changed in many places, not nearly enough and not everywhere, in so many ways our economy seems to still be operating like it's 1955.

And that's not just a problem for working women, it's a problem for everyone. Just think about all the hard working families that depend on two incomes to make ends meet. When one is shortchanged, the entire family suffers. In fact, more than 40 percent of mothers are now the sole or primary breadwinners for their families, and our economy depends on the strong participation by women.

Women moving into the workforce in large numbers helped drive a significant amount of America's economic growth over the past 40 years. Without that movement, the average American family would be earning $14,000 less today and our gross domestic product would be about $2 trillion smaller. So when women's participation is limited, our country's prosperity is limited, too.

And there are still too many women who want to work more and earn more, but are held back by outdated policies and pressures that hurt them, that hurt their families. That translates into more families struggling. We're just leaving that money, that growth on the table. And many families then can't afford their standard of living, they can't afford to get into and stay in the middle class.

And sometimes when I would go out and talk about women's issues, which I've done for decades, and particularly as Secretary of State when I said that it was the great unfinished business of the 21st century because the data on all of this is overwhelming, I could see men's eyes glaze over. I could see particularly foreign leaders but some Americans too saying, "Oh yeah, here she goes. Just look like you're concentrating." (Laughter.) "Act like you're listening and this too shall pass." (Laughter.)

But when we began using the economic data collected by, you know, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and a lot of other organizations, both public and private, and I could say, do you know how much money you're leaving on the table, do you know how much greater your economic growth and GDP could be if women were able to participate fully in the economy, because this great unfinished business of the 21st century really is moving toward the full participation of women and girls in every aspect of society all over the world.

That is a goal that has inspired me from the time I was an advocate for children and families through today, and which I took with me into the State Department, because I wanted it to be a priority of American foreign policy, because where women are included you're more likely to have democracy, you're more likely to have stability and prosperity. So it's not just a nice thing to do, it's important to our economic growth and our security.

And since leaving the government, I've worked on it at the Clinton Foundation with my daughter. And Chelsea and I are working with Melinda Gates and other partners on an initiative we call No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project. We're collecting the best data and research available on the gains women and girls have made around the world over the past 20 years, and the gaps that still remain. And we're looking at ways to accelerate progress in the years ahead.

Next month, we'll publish a sweeping global progress report full of data, designed to be accessible, sharable, even snackable, and I hope you'll all check it out.

Now, there will be good news to celebrate. For example, around the world we've nearly closed the gender gap in primary

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education. But there's also bad news, including the persistent gap between boys and girls in secondary education.

When it comes to technology, the data reveals a massive digital divide. An estimated 200 million fewer women than men are online in developing countries. And you know better than most how Internet access can help unleash economic growth, lift people out of poverty.

So this is a problem but it's also an opportunity to build new markets, to improve education, to spur new growth. Technology has the potential to empower women and girls like nothing ever before, and it is helping inspire and mobilize grassroots action in places we'd never expect.

I've seen that firsthand. I've seen how innovations starting right here are helping to lift people out of poverty, giving them more control over their own lives, helping them hold their governments accountable.

I'll never forget one woman I met at a tech camp that we set up at the State Department in Lithuania to train pro-democracy activists from Russia and other former Soviet countries, help them stay one step ahead of the censors and secret police. It was part of a broader effort that included investing in new apps and devices to protect dissidents, like a panic button that a protestor could press on a phone that would signal to friends that she was being arrested, while simultaneously erasing all of her personal contacts.

For the tech camps we brought along experts from Twitter, Facebook, Microsoft, to explain how activists could protect their privacy and anonymity online, and thwart restrictive government firewalls.

I asked one women from Belarus if she was scared that coming to this tech camp would get her in trouble back home. She said, "No. My government can go to hell," she said. "I'm here to learn how I can promote democracy."

My goal was to make the State Department a hub of innovation, leading the way with what we call 21st century statecraft, harnessing new technologies, public-private partnerships, diaspora networks, tapping expertise right here in Silicon Valley to help build programs that would address the challenges, from the drug war in Northern Mexico to the epidemic of rape in Eastern Congo to persecution in the Middle East, and a partnership we called Civil Society 2.0 helped deliver technology training to more than 1,000 civil society organizations from 80 countries.

And I was very pleased that we were ranked in the State Department as having the most innovation friendly culture. Now the Federal Government has a long way to go, so you might think that's damning when saying praise, but we were pleased that the work we were doing was being recognized that we could effectively partner with Silicon Valley and the broader tech community.

We had a great public-private partnership called M Women, which brought together leading telecom companies from around the world to narrow the digital divide. And there was this wonderful woman from India at the launch event. She represented the Self-Employed Women's Association, SEWA, an economic cooperative that has transformed the lives of millions of poor women through microloans and other support.

Here's the story she told me. She said for most of her life she had never seen a cell phone. She made a meager living by picking flowers and then bringing them to the local market, where she would go from trader to trader hoping to find a buyer. Sometimes her entire day was spent this way with nothing sold. Then she joined SEWA and through SEWA she got a loan for $48 to buy her first mobile phone. Suddenly she could actually call different markets, arrange to sell her flowers at a fair price in a fraction of the time. She used the money she saved to start a small business. She stared buying and selling grain from neighboring villages also using her cell phone. It was her dream that every woman would get a phone.

Now the bottom line from all the data and all the stories is this, we still have a long way to go but progress is possible, especially when we make a commitment of resources and political will. In fact, I think we are at a pivotal point that requires all of us to work together, roll up our sleeves, figure out what we're going to do, whether it's here in Silicon Valley or halfway around the world, to help shape the future we want, to close the digital divide, to unlock our full potential, crack every last glass ceiling.

So technology presents both peril and promise for all human beings, and it also presents some challenges for our economy. And this is another area where we should be clear-eyed about the gains and the gaps. American innovation, including the work many of you do, holds such enormous potential, whether it's clean energy or cloud computing or the Internet of Things, new advances will continue to revolutionize how we live, learn, and do business. And increasingly the divide between the old economy and the new is breaking down. The next wave of innovation could reach far beyond not just Silicon Valley but certainly beyond our nation's borders, creating new industries and remaking established ones.

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And that's important because even the most successful tech startups rarely end up hiring large numbers of American workers. So there's enormous promise in the intersection of new technology, IT, but also nanotech, biotech, robotics, and traditional industries like energy, automobiles, healthcare, education and more. That's really the beating heart of the American economy. That's where most Americans work. So we should set our sights on increasing productivity, spurring growth and improving standards for all, not just a few at top.

And let's be honest, as we've learned the hard way, there can be a real human cost to some of these amazing innovations. We can't lose sight of that. Just as technology can boost productivity and create jobs, it has the potential to put many people out of their jobs by automating processes that used to require a full day's work, advances that are supposed to move us ahead can end up leaving a lot of people further behind.

And I know from my own travels and discussions how many Americans feel the ground shifting under their feet. The old jobs and careers are either gone or unrecognizable, and the old rules just don't seem to apply. And, frankly, the new rules are just not that clear. And the result is anxiety and dislocation.

Just think about how much our families have changed with caregivers becoming breadwinners. Well, our jobs have changed, too, and wages no longer rise with productivity, while CEO pay keeps going up. Young people expect to change jobs much more frequently, certainly, than their parents. So if we want to find our balance again, we have to figure out how to make this new economy work for everyone. That's why we have to ask how we organize ourselves so that technological change helps create more jobs not just disrupts and displaces them.

And how we try to have rising wages. We have to redouble our efforts to provide the education and skills, not just for our kids, but for adults, too, so they have the tools they need to change jobs, or start businesses. And we had to think hard about how to have the flexibility and support that American families need so that parents can be both great workers and great parents. And that brings me back to Moore's Law and the march of progress, because we can't do this without working together. We can't do it without really empathizing and understanding what our neighbors are going through. But, I think we can help more families find a way forward, find their footing in the middle class, find a way to see rising wages and rising hope.

I think it's within our grasp, but I know it's not inevitable. Our economic success is not a birthright. It can't be inherited. It has to be earned by each generation, just like it was earned by those who came before us. My grandfather was a factory worker in the lace mills in Scranton, Pennsylvania, proudly worked there from the age of 11 until he retired at 65. My father made it to college on a football scholarship, started a small business, my mother overcame a childhood of abandonment to help build a middle class life for me and my brothers and I knew I was a beneficiary not only of their love and hard work, but their aspirations for us and a larger community that believed as they did in America's promise.

I never doubted how fortunate I was to live in America at a time of such positive change from the post-war economic boom to the Civil Rights Movement, to the Women's Moment. And I hope for all of our children the same sense of possibility that I had. Now it can be easy to get discouraged sometimes if you look only at the headlines, but if you look at the trend lines you can see there is a movement stirring across our nation. It is about putting families first. It is about creating a 21st Century economy for 21st Century families.

You can see it in parents across California who demanded paid sick leave so they wouldn't have to choose between their jobs and their kids. You could see it in the security guards right here in Silicon Valley who are organizing for more hours not fewer. You can see it in the hourly workers in San Francisco who fought to make shift schedules more predictable and family life more stable. You can see it in the businesses and community leaders coming together to invest in early childhood education in Oakland. And you can see it in the moms demanding equal pay for equal work and the dads demanding access to quality affordable childcare.

So many people are just asking for that same chance, a chance at a living wage at their dreams and there are many reasons to think that we will reinvent ourselves, we will figure out how we're going to do this. We'll be part of the solution. That's really what I think lead on means. Yes, lead on for yourselves. All of us have to come to grips with rising and falling, as I heard Renee Brown say at the very end. We fall together, we rise together.

And as women let's do more to help all women lead on and succeed. My friend Madeline Albright famously said there is a special spot in hell for women who don't help other women. (Applause.) So what you do does not have to be big and dramatic. You don't have to run for office. (Cheers, applause.) Although if you do more power to you. (Cheers, applause.) But, seriously, a helping hand or a kind word can make a big difference. It's one of those click moments where you realize that helping somebody else not only feels good, but ends up helping you.

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The more we stand with each other the more obstacles we can overcome, the more we will be able to shape our own destiny. That's true not just for women, it's true for everyone. Indeed, it's true for our entire country. So you came here today under the banner of lead on, wanting to listen and learn and meet and talk and network, because there may be nuggets you can pick up and use for your own professional or personal betterment. But, there may also be ways you can think about, you know, I hadn't thought about how that could help my friend, or my coworker, my neighbor.

I'm going to try to have a conversation about what I heard today, or about an issue that you really have been kind of stewing over, but now maybe go out and find some other people to lead on with you to try to resolve, to prove every single day that progress is possible in our own lives and believe me I know that's not easy, because we have no time to waste.

You know in our report, the progress report we're issuing with the Gates Foundation on the progress women around the world, including in the United States have made over the last 20 years. We boldly assert that there has never been a better time to be a woman in the history of the world. (Applause.) And, indeed, I believe that with all my heart. The changes that I've seen in my own life, the changes I've watched my daughter go through, and what I now think about the future for my granddaughter, I'm absolutely convinced of that. But I also believe, and maybe it's part of the American DNA, we have a special obligation to make it better for each other as well as ourselves and to set an example for people across the globe.

When my granddaughter Charlotte was born on September 26th, 2014, I have to confess I was just overwhelmed. I've had lots of friends who got to grandparenthood before me and who have far more grandchildren than I will ever catch up to. And I heard them and I listened to them, and I thought that's really nice. (Laughter.) And then all of a sudden here is this new life, this new hope, this new opportunity, this blessing given to us in my family. And, of course, her parents, her grandparents, her extended family, we will do whatever it takes to make sure that this baby has every opportunity in the world. But even as I say that I know that's not enough. She will become a citizen of our country and of the world, 20-25 years, god willing, and what kind of world is going to be there waiting for her? Is it a world of hope or fear? Is it a world of possibility or of shrunken, destroyed dreams?

I don’t know. I do know that it really matters for the life I hope she will lead that we do everything we can now to make sure every child is given the same opportunities we will do our best to provide for her. I believe talent is universal but opportunity is not. And leading on means in large measure how we expand that circle of opportunity so every girl and boy has a chance to be all she or he can become with their own efforts, their own works, but with the support and the love of the rest of us.

The time to start is now. I'm excited about what we can do together, and I believe that all of us can certainly show the way as we lead on to the kind of future we want.

Thank you all very, very much

(Applause.)

END

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From: REPLY-REQUESTED@kirkpatrickforarizona.com <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 12/17/2014 12:41:50 PM
Subject: PLEASE SIGN: [Grand Canyon]

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

JUST 863 SIGNATURES TO GO! Click here to demand Congress ban new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

Uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy. We must protect the Grand Canyon.

Please sign your name demanding Congress ban new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

Name: John Podesta
Signature: PENDING

SIGN YOUR NAME >>

John -- this is AMAZING:

Since our call-to-action to protect the Grand Canyon, over 49,000 people have stepped up and signed our petition. That's INCREDIBLE!

But our work is not done yet. We need **50,000 STRONG** standing together to protect against uranium mining at the Grand Canyon.

So John, you've got to step up now.

Will you click here to sign your name immediately and help us get to 50,000 strong?

If we want Congress to ban new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon, we must send them a message loud and clear.

Please help us hit our goal of 50,000 signatures immediately:

http://action.kirkpatrickforcongress.com/Protect-Grand-Canyon

Thanks,

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Team Kirkpatrick

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters like you. However, if you'd prefer to take a break from emails, click here . If you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click here .

Our campaign is powered by supporters like you. Your grassroots support is critical to helping Ann fight back against Republican lies. If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to donate to our campaign, please click here . Thanks for having Ann's back!

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 7/2/2008 5:32:42 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/02/08

Main Topics: McCain in Colombia talking free trade and human rights, Continuing coverage of controversy over Wesley Clark comments

Summary of Shift: McCain's trip to Colombia was the biggest story today. He gave interviews live from Colombia with a focus on free trade and human rights. The Wesley Clark comments about McCain's military experience continue to drive heavy coverage, however MSNBC has been appropriately been repeating a story they put together on the theme this election of being outraged by comments made by the other party and the distraction from important issues it causes. The non-McCain related dominant headlines included the capture of a MidWest serial killer, the suspicious death of an inmate recently found guilty of a police officer's murder, and a Palestinian man drove a bulldozer into a bus in Jerusalem killing four and injuring many. Starbucks will be closing 600 of their chains. In other hard-hitting news, the Brangelina Twins are coming! Olympic trials have gotten underway, and wildfires continue to ravage the dry California terrain. Surprisingly, no flooding coverage.

Highlights:
1. McCain, Live from Colombia
a. ABC: McCain on "Good Morning America" Live from Colombia, States That He Never Said He Wasn't An Expert on the Economy
b. CNN: McCain May Have Problems Selling His Free Trade Ideas in Key Battleground States
2. CNN: McCain Communications Director Jill Hazelbacker on Free Trade and Job Security
3. CNN: McCain's Trip to Colombia may Attract Hispanic Voters
4. MSNBC: Theme Driving Campaign 2008 Is Continuous Outrage Over Other Candidate's Remarks
5. MSNBC: Ignoring Bush Critical For McCain to Succeed
6. MSNBC: Clark Stuff Silly, McCain's Image Set In Stone
7. CNN: McCain demands that the Obama camp "cut ties" with General Clark [No Clip]
8. MSNBC: Courting Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State Meets Privately With Obama & McCain [No Clip]
9. MSNBC: Candidates Wives Unfavorables, Michelle Obama 35%, Cindy McCain 17% [No Clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain on "Good Morning America" Live from Colombia, States that he Never Said he Wasn't an Expert on the Economy (ABC 07/02/08 07:04am)
ROBIN ROBERTS: So why is McCain abroad when American's are focused on the economy here at home and losing jobs […]

MCCAIN: I'm here for one day, I'm in Mexico the next day and then I'm back home **and also drugs are a big, big problem in America**. The continued flow of drugs from Columbia through Mexico into the United States is still one of our major challenges to all Americans and the Mexican government is struggling right now with battles against drug cartels. Colombia continues to make progress, but a large percentage of the amount of cocaine that continues to come into the United States of America comes from this country. I've been here many times. I've been here several times in the past as well as with Mexico, and I think it deserves our attention.

ROBERTS: **No discounting the drug problem as you just stated. Here at home, the U.S. economy is really at the forefront of voters' minds. We've seen that over and over again, so many want to know here on what you just said why are you in Colombia this morning?**

MCCAIN: Well, I'd be glad to repeat myself. I've come down here on two previous occasions. We have the issue of the drug trafficking from Colombia up through our hemisphere across Mexico and in the United States of America. Drug cartels have basically taken control of some towns on the Mexican border. There are still a couple of thousand people being held hostage here. There is clearly a continued threat of drugs pouring into the United States of America, which can harm us and our young people very badly. I'm happy to say there has been some success. The cost of cocaine on the street is up. **I also think it's important for our economy to maintain a free, to pass a free trade agreement between ourselves and Colombia. Colombia is our largest agricultural market in the southern hemisphere so I think there are issues**. I've been involved in these issues for a long, long time, and I've spent the last two weeks talking about all over America, the need for us to attain energy independence and I've come up with specific plans and proposals to do that. The American

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economy is hurting right now. Most of all at the gas pump where they're seeing the price of a gallon of gas go up and up and up.

ROBERTS: You mention free trade and it is part of the reason why you are making the trip to Colombia and to Mexico**. Again, here at home, many are very fearful of when it comes to foreign free trade and, in fact, there was a new poll, or half the country feeling it's a threat to the country**. 41% do see it as an opportunity for growth. Senator, you recently spent time in Indiana and in Pennsylvania spending a lot of time in communities there that have been hit really hard with job losses so what **do you say to those people who are fearful more jobs may be, indeed, headed beyond our borders and abroad?**

MCCAIN: **That our economy is in terrible shape, that we've got to take specific actions, keep their taxes low, less regulation, start exploring and exploiting offshore oil deposits so we can at least ease this burden**, give them a little bit of a break from their gas taxes, get to work on nuclear, solar, wind, tide, invest in pure research and development and coal, clean coal technology. We must also, I believe, stop distorting the market by subsidizing ethanol and preventing sugar based ethanol from coming in the United States. I know Americans are hurting very badly. I have town hall meetings almost every single day and I have a plan of action to bring our economy out of the situation it's in today and I don't believe increasing their taxes is the answer. I believe leaving their taxes low, get off this dependence on foreign oil and doing it quickly and we can. I call it the Lexington project. We can, as we sent people to the moon, we can also get off this dependence on foreign oil and keep people in their homes and stop this job loss. We can do it

ROBERTS: We can do it. You have admitted that you're not exactly an expert when it comes to the economy and many have said.

MCCAIN: **I have not. I have not. Actually I have not. I said that I am stronger on national security issues because of all the time I spent in the military. I'm very strong on the economy. I understand it. I have a lot more experience than my opponent.**

[…]

McCain May Have Problems Selling His Free Trade Ideas in Key Battleground States (CNN, 07/02/08, 6:37am)
JOHN ROBERTS: McCain talking free trade in Columbia today. This is the second time in as many weeks that he's pushing that message that free trade is vital to jumpstarting the US economy. And it's a sharp difference from Barack Obama. […]

DANA BASH: Make no mistake about it, John McCain may not be in a battleground state or any US state at all, but his trip abroad is all about his political message back home, that free trade will create new jobs. But that's a tough sell in hard hit industrial states. […] It has some political veterans scratching their heads.

DAVID GERGEN: He should be spending his time here laying out, much more emphatically and clearly, his economic plans.

JOHN MCCAIN: I am strongly in favor of the free trade agreement between the United States and the nation of Colombia.

BASH: McCain said he's going to Colombia to spot light his support for free trade. Which he calls crucial for jumpstarting the US economy, a sharp difference with Obama.

MCCAIN: He doesn't support the Colombia free trade agreement. I think it would be very serious consequences if we rebuked our closest ally.

[…]

BASH: McCain's new web ad promising trade equals jobs is proof that he hopes his trip abroad will help back home. His problem? There's new evidence most voters don't agree with McCain that free trade will help fix thier economic woes. A new CNN opinion research poll shows that 51% call free trade a threat to our economy, 41% call it an economic opportunity. Its especially risky for McCain in hard hit must win states like Ohio, where voters confront him.

Audience Member: Is there any way that the trade can become more fair and not just fair. I come from a closed plant.

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[…]

Highlight #2
McCain Communications Director Jill Hazelbacker on Free Trade and Job Security (CNN, 07/02/08, 7:35am)
JOHN ROBERTS: […] How is the Senator going to convince people in hard hit areas like Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana that free trade is a good idea.

JILL HAZELBACKER: […] This is a very simple issue for John McCain. He wants to level the playing field and keep us competitive. And Barack Obama is going to have to explain why he stands lockstep with the Unions. […] Lets be clear, we want to ship the goods overseas and keep the jobs here.

ROBERTS: But if the jobs are going overseas in manufacturing how do you convince people who have lost jobs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, that expanding free trade is going to be good for them?

HAZELBACKER: […] 95% of the worlds consumers are in markets outside the United States so we need to make sure we're competitive in that global economy. We need to replace some of the jobs of the past with jobs of the future. […]

[…]

Highlight #3
McCain's Trip to Colombia may Attract Hispanic Voters (CNN 07/02/08 08:35am)
JUAN CARLOS LOPEZ: […] We spoke about the Hispanic vote and how this trip may play into this electorate. Now the latest numbers show that Barack Obama has 59%, this is a Gallup poll, and Senator McCain has 29%. And he believes he is where he wants to be with the Hispanic vote and he believes he'll do well with that electorate.

JOHN MCCAIN: I think my support is going to be good, I come from a western state. I come from a border state. I received 70% of the Hispanic vote in my last election. I understand the issues and the challenges and I am confident of significant support.

LOPEZ: And it's a very important trip. Probably the first time a presumptive nominee travels to Latin America. And a very strong message, not only to the region but to Hispanics in the United States about his commitment to the region and Hispanic issues in this country.

Highlight #4
Theme Driving Campaign 2008 Is Continuous Outrage Over Other Candidate's Remarks (MSNBC, 07/02/08, 9:13am)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: The headline for this entire campaign year could be the words, "How dare you!" Outrage, and uh, playing it up as much as possible seems to be turning into the strategy of the year. This morning's San Francisco Chronicle highlights every "how dare you" moment from the last month, from McCain's military record, to Obama's patriotism, to the candidates wives. And the list goes on and on. […] Is this, I mean I've seen it before, a function of the idea that both candidates are running on a message of change or at least trying to. Do you think that's why they're so bent on trying to paint the other guy as the one using the same old political attacks, how dare he?

CHRIS KOFINIS: Well I mean part of it is just the thing that's expected when elections start heating up. But from my perspective, and I know Joe's going to disagree but, this is the politics of mass distraction from the republicans. This is the traditional playbook, they play it every election. I know how dare I? They play it every election, you attack character, you attack patriotism, you attack everything you can to distract the American people from the issues that really matter. I mean, you saw that in this situation with General Clark. Say what you want, he may have said it better, it may have been a little bit in-artful. For John McCain to then go out there and hire a guy that was a swift boater back in 2004 just reeks of hypocrisy. That's the problem that's most disturbing about this whole entire story.

JOE WATKINS: Not at all, not at all. I mean, you have to answer these negatives right away otherwise people start to think that maybe there's some truth to them. But what John McCain did and what the campaign did was very very smart. This is an age of instant information and people are moved instantly by what they hear, so if you don't respond to it people might take it to be the truth. And democrats this time, the democrats are the party with all the money this time. Barack Obama flip-flopped on his pledge to take public financing, he's going to raise over 300 million dollars. John McCain is going to take the public financing, he's only going to have about 84, 85 million dollars to spend. So we've got to be very very careful on the republican side, not to have people make

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negative comments about our candidate without responding.

KOFINIS: The democrats have all the money, and you guys have all the attacks. How dare you, Joe.

BRZEZINSKI: Uh, but you know Chris, help me understand how McCain campaign couldn't say how dare you about this General Clark stuff? I mean seriously.

KOFINIS: I mean I understand, but listen, if you look at his entire statement he was praising John McCain. The last sentence, I agree, was a little bit in-artful and should have been put differently. But in the end of the day, to go out there and talk and wax poetically about how dare someone question the patriotism of John McCain. No democrat has been doing that. They make it sound like democrats have been going around all day doing that. It is not true! It is a falsehood.

WATKINS: Wesley Clark did.
KOFINIS: And to be honest, look at what they've been doing with Barack Obama. They've attacked his faith, they've attacked his patriotism, they've attacked his character. I mean this is something the republicans unfortunately do every single time. I agree with Joe on one thing, you've got to hit people back, you've got to hit back on this. But how do you do it?

WATKINS: You have to let them know what the truth is. You have to let folks know what the truth is. The republicans have not been doing negative campaigning, democrats have been really more, I guess, guilty of doing the negative campaigning in this cycle. And republicans just want to keep it above board and talk about the essence of their candidate.

Highlight #5
Ignoring Bush Critical For McCain to Succeed (MSNBC, 07/02/08, 6:44am)
TUCKER CARLSON: "[…] I think McCain's best shot is to tear down Obama, he's not going to do that. He's not going to base his campaign on pulling the mask off of Obama and revealing the villain within. We know that. So I think his best strategy is to kind of sit tight and to be the alternative to a guy you find out you don't like. But again, I think this election is all about Obama.

[…]

CARLSON: But nobody's going to do it! Because, you know what, the republican party is in shambles! It's in shambles! Economically, the moral is dead. I mean, do you talk to republicans in Washington? I mean, they're really down and for good reason.

MIKE BARNACLE: […] Doesn't John McCain at some point, have to go after the Bush administration much tougher than he has already? He's got to make separation much more concise, much more clear to the American public.

CARLSON: Naw! No he doesn't. No, look! I'll tell you exactly why, because talking about the Bush administration at any level just reminds people that McCain's a republican and so is Bush on some very basic level, they're connected. You don't want to have an association with Bush, you want to ignore Bush. This is not about Bush. You want to make this about Barack Obama and the risk you take in voting for the guy. That's a scary decision, that should be McCain's one and only message. Don't do this, it's reckless.

PAT BUCHANAN: Tucker, I think you're dead right. If McCain goes after Bush, what do you do? He went after him down in New Orleans, we all know he messed up in New Orleans. It looks like piling on and it hurts you with republicans base. You want to ignore Bush and define himself by going after Barack Obama as a risky left-wing radical. And if his campaign could get there, and if he could energize some of these conservatives, and evangelicals and others, he's got a shot. But I agree with Tucker, he should not go after Bush.

Highlight #6
Clark Stuff Silly, McCain's Image Set In Stone (MSNBC, 07/02/08, 7:08am)
MIKE BARNACLE: […] The problem, or the larger envelope, or umbrella over all of this issue is that John McCain's life story is set in stone for the American public. They have a beginning, they have a middle, and the end, in November, whether he wins the presidency or not, we'll find that out. Americans know John McCain. They don't know Barack Obama nearly as well. And the idea that they're arguing on a national security basis or talking about military records is not a winner for Barack Obama. But I don't think people are focusing on that.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/19/2014 7:02:56 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday December 19, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday December 19, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: #Farewell @StephenAtHome ...But I know we'll meet again some sunny day. Your friend, PrezBillyJeff [12/18/14, 11:54 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton fought for long-term health monitoring for 9/11 emergency & law enforcement personnel #HRC365 https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/4022 … [12/19/14, 11:15 a.m. EST]

Headlines:

Tampa Bay Times: "Bill Nelson phones Hillary Clinton with a simple message: Run"

"A couple weeks ago, Sen. Bill Nelson was at home in Florida and decided to call up Hillary Clinton. She returned the call and Nelson, who was watching 60 Minutes with his wife, had a simple message: Get in the race for president."

The Hill: "Clintons hit for $1.5 million in private flights"

"'It is important, now more than ever, not to cede one of Clinton's greatest strengths — her passion for advancing the middle class and renewing American upward mobility — to the right-wing talking points factory and its efforts to sow seeds of mistrust on the left,' Correct the Record Executive Director Isaac Wright wrote."

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MSNBC: "Delayed Clinton timeline gives hope to potential opponenets" [sic]

"Even as the super PAC Ready for Hillary has been working for almost two full years to build a list of 3 million Clinton supporters, the former secretary of state herself has been moving slowly. She's now expected to wait until spring to announce a run, if she decides to make one."

USA Today: "Michele Bachmann is ready for Hillary"

"Now, as she leaves Congress, she will be free to pillory Clinton full time."

New York Times: "A Socialist in 2016? For Bernie Sanders, at Least, It's a Question Worth Asking"

"With his fiery populist attacks on Wall Street and 'the billionaire class,' he could become either a nettlesome thorn to Hillary Rodham Clinton or a convenient foil for her, if she runs."

Bloomberg: "Populists Press Democrats to Ease Clinton-Era Embrace of Bankers"

"Overturning the Democratic alliance with Wall Street won't be easy. While most of the finance industry's campaign contributions in 2014 went to the Republicans, Democrats still got $40 million. And Clinton, who represented Wall Street as a U.S. senator from New York, is tied to her husband's legacy."

Yahoo: "The Gingriches' guide to surviving a presidential campaign"

"The problem for Clinton, Gingrich predicted, will be the same one she had in 2008. 'She's gotten her candidacy ahead of her cause, which is what she did in '08,' he said. 'We're ready for Hillary, but for what? I mean, I think that's the real problem, and I think that's what Jeb Bush and the others are going to have to answer for us is 'So, why? … Why are you running and what would you do?'"

Articles:

Tampa Bay Times: "Bill Nelson phones Hillary Clinton with a simple message: Run"

By Alex Leary

December 18, 2014, 11:03 a.m. EST

A couple weeks ago, Sen. Bill Nelson was at home in Florida and decided to call up Hillary Clinton. She returned the call and Nelson, who was watching 60 Minutes with his wife, had a simple message:

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Get in the race for president.

"It's time for a woman," Nelson said from the Capitol this week, recounting the coversation. "I'm all for Hillary."

Clinton is almost certainly going to run but the question now is when she'll announce.

"Florida will decide the election," Nelson said.

He spoke on the day Jeb Bush said he's actively exploring a run on the Republican side. Nelson was Florida treasurer for the first two years of Bush's first term as governor. "We had a very good personal and professional relationship," Nelson said. Asked to characterize how Bush ran the state, Nelson replied, "Reasonably so. That's when we had a number of hurricanes and so I was with him quite a bit."

The Hill: "Clintons hit for $1.5 million in private flights"

By Peter Sullivan

December 19, 2014 9:48 a.m. EDT

The cost to campaigns and political committees of flying in Bill and Hillary Clinton on private jets to campaign for the midterm elections topped $1.5 million, according to a Politico review of filings.

Republicans have been pushing the narrative that Hillary Clinton is out of touch, ahead of her likely presidential campaign, and the Republican National Committee quickly seized on the article on Friday, sending out an email entitled "High-flying Hillary Part II."

While the Clintons could not legally pay for their travel for a campaign, the Politico review found that there were more than 60 payments made to the company Executive Fliteways for flights in 2013 and 2014, as the Clintons stumped for Democrats across the country.

The news comes as Clinton has also faced scrutiny for her paid speeches and the travel requirements for her events. "Hillary Clinton isn't just charging losing campaigns for extravagant travel, she also demands chartered jets for speeches — even at public universities," the RNC email states.

The Washington Post reported last month that at Clinton's speech at UCLA in March, in addition to being paid $300,000, her team also rejected the podium that originally was going to be used and specified that hummus must be available backstage.

The pro-Clinton group Correct the Record felt the narrative was a serious enough threat that it released a memo earlier this month seeking to rebut the claims.

"It is important, now more than ever, not to cede one of Clinton's greatest strengths — her passion for advancing the middle class and renewing American upward mobility — to the right-wing talking points factory and its efforts to sow seeds of mistrust on the left," Correct the Record Executive Director Isaac Wright wrote.

The questions come as liberal groups are urging Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to challenge Clinton from the left on economic issues.

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In June, after Clinton came under fire for saying she was "dead broke" upon leaving the White House, former President Bill Clinton defended her.

"She's not out of touch," he said.

MSNBC: "Delayed Clinton timeline gives hope to potential opponenets"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

December 19, 2014, 7:01 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is taking her time announcing a second presidential run, and that's good news for some hoping to challenge her for the 2016 Democratic nomination.

"She's the pacesetter in this thing. If she goes in January, that puts a lot of pressure against anybody who wants to compete against her," said Tad Devine, a veteran Democratic strategist who is now advising Sen. Bernie Sanders on a prospective presidential run. "If she holds off, that gives others more opportunity to organize, particularly on the ground."

Even as the super PAC Ready for Hillary has been working for almost two full years to build a list of 3 million Clinton supporters, the former secretary of state herself has been moving slowly. She's now expected to wait until spring to announce a run, if she decides to make one.

Meanwhile, Clinton has scheduled paid speaking gigs as late as mid-March, and allies point to April as the most likely time for an announcement – a big change from her first presidential run, when she made her move in January.

The extra time will give potential opponents a chance to catch up with the Clinton juggernaut, and might be especially useful for activists trying to change Sen. Elizabeth Warren's mind about a 2016 presidential race. Their draft campaign officially kicked Wednesday night in Iowa, and even though Warren reiterated that she's not running, the drafters say a lot could change in the coming months.

"This time before candidates announce is a key moment for us to organize and build momentum to show that Elizabeth Warren is the leader our country needs," Erica Sagrans, the campaign manager for the super PAC Ready for Warren, told msnbc.

Her group was joined this week by MoveOn.org and Democracy for America (DFA), two of the largest progressive groups in the country, which together pledged at least $1.25 million to the draft Warren effort. "Every additional day gives us a little more time to develop the infrastructure and support necessary to turn that passion into a movement that will build progressive power and change minds," said DFA's Neil Sroka.

A poll this week from Monmouth University found that Democratic voters like Clinton, but want her to face a primary challenge. Almost half said they wanted Clinton to be their party's nominee in 2016 – compared to just 6% who said the same for Warren – but the same portion said it would be better if she faced an active primary. Even 41% of Clinton supporters said they preferred a challenge.

But even as those hoping to draft Warren stressed their decisions are not dependent on those of any other prospective candidate, they acknowledged the benefit of more time. "The more people get excited about her potential presidency, and the more senator warren sees what the response is like in Iowa and across the country, the more she'll see that running for president is the biggest opportunity she has to make difference in the lives of regular people," said Ben Wikler of MoveOn.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is already staffing up for a presidential run, has decided to delay his own potential announcement until spring, reflecting Clinton's delayed timeline, according to The Washington Post.

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So far, former Sen. Jim Webb is the only major Democrat to formally announce that he's exploring a presidential run.

The move caught some other potential candidates by surprise, including Sanders, who is seriously considering a run, but had hoped to take his time on the decision. "He thinks that campaigns too long," said one source close to the senator, even though "some people are pushing him to get out there." But with Clinton's delayed schedule now clear, Sanders will have more time to assess support before making a decision.

Sanders has been loathe to say anything negative about Clinton, but in a public television interview while visiting Iowa this week, the senator criticized "ruling families" who dominate presidential politics.

Some Clinton advisors pushed for an early announcement, echoing her 2007 timeline, but she decided to take her time for both personal and political reasons, allies say. "Some in the orbit argued that Hillary should form an early exploratory committee. The winning argument was that her timeline should be well-thought-out and personal," said one Clinton ally.

A slower timeline will spare her from several months on the grueling campaign trail, save millions of dollars, and give her more time with her new granddaughter. An April announcement would also allow her to skip the first campaign finance reporting deadline of the year, meaning her first fundraising report wouldn't come out until July.

And the presence of three quasi-official pro-Clinton super PACs, often referred to as the "shadow campaign," mean Clinton can count on people doing work on her behalf, even if she's not in the race herself.

USA Today: "Michele Bachmann is ready for Hillary"

By Donovan Slack

December 19, 2014, 1:16 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON — Firebrand conservative Rep. Michele Bachmann is entering the 2016 presidential field after all, but not as a candidate. This time, she's angling for a key role as a full-time critic of everything Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Bachmann plans to sign with a national speakers' bureau and begin writing weekly syndicated columns next month as she transitions out of Congress after eight years. She has plans for a website and a nonprofit.

And she wants to tap her experience in Congress and her status as a former Republican presidential candidate to target Clinton if she runs for president.

"I was on the front lines of Benghazi, the Russian reset, all of President Obama's failed foreign policy forays, including his failed strategy of reaching out to Iran, and she was an author and the architect of his failed foreign policies," Bachmann said in an interview this week. "So I want to be involved in 2016 and hold her accountable for her decisions."

The Minnesota Republican is eager to begin the next chapter of her life, which may read much like the last one. During her time in Congress and her 2012 presidential bid, Bachmann has made a name for herself as a fierce — if sometimes gaffe-prone — rhetorical bomb-thrower.

She has called Obama a "dictator" and has accused him of having anti-American views and declaring himself king. Just this week, she said "Obama hearts the ayatollah in Iran." Bachmann sees Clinton as a direct extension of Obama.

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"If she would run and win, she would be Barack Obama's third and fourth term," Bachmann said. "So I intend to weigh in whenever possible. That's my goal, to continue to weigh in."

Bachmann's critics are quick to dismiss her as an intellectual lightweight, but she still commands ardent devotion from her grass-roots supporters. She was a driving force behind the rise of the Tea Party movement, which helped shift control of the House to Republicans in 2010 and has since pushed the Republican Party as a whole to the right. Bachmann raised millions for the cause and contributed to Tea Party candidates. She founded and led a Tea Party caucus in Congress, and she hosted and spoke at Tea Party rallies at the U.S. Capitol and across the country.

"What I was able to do was give voice to that movement on a federal level," she said this week.

Bachmann still has a political action committee, Many Individual Conservatives Helping Elect Leaders Everywhere — or MICHELE PAC — that raised more than $500,000 in the last election cycle and still has $150,000. There are no signs it will shut down anytime soon.

Her criticisms of Clinton are nothing new. Earlier this year, she told a conservative conference that Clinton is "not commander in chief material," that she "fails to inspire confidence," and that "practically anything that she has touched in her record as secretary of state — including her utter, abject failure in Benghazi — should disqualify her from ever being considered for the presidency." Bachmann has used those denunciations to raise money for MICHELE PAC.

Now, as she leaves Congress, she will be free to pillory Clinton full time.

New York Times: "A Socialist in 2016? For Bernie Sanders, at Least, It's a Question Worth Asking"

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

December 19, 2014

AMES, Iowa — Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont who calls himself a socialist, was riding in the back seat of a rented blue minivan this week when his aide abruptly announced they were being pulled over by the Iowa State Police for speeding.

"Hi ya, I'm Senator Bernie Sanders, how ya doing?" Mr. Sanders piped up, in his unmistakable Brooklyn accent, after the aide explained to the police officer that they were late for the senator's appearance here. The officer issued no ticket, just a warning to slow down: "No need making a headline for something silly."

Mr. Sanders, though, was in Iowa hoping to make headlines. At 73 and famously gruff, he may be on one of the most quixotic adventures in American politics: In a country that just put Republicans in charge of Congress, he is testing whether Democrats will embrace a socialist for the White House in 2016. He is certainly the only potential candidate to carry a brass key chain from a campaign of Eugene V. Debs, a five-time Socialist Party nominee for president.

He has virtually no chance of winning the nomination, but he does have a chance to shape the debate — presuming he actually runs. With his fiery populist attacks on Wall Street and "the billionaire class," he could become either a nettlesome thorn to Hillary Rodham Clinton or a convenient foil for her, if she runs.

"Sanders could become the vessel for the anger of the Democratic left," said David Yepsen, a longtime Iowa political reporter who now directs a public policy institute at Southern Illinois University. "Now that Democrats are searching for a nominee, how liberal are they going to be? And the fact that he's a little quirky could almost have some appeal."

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Here in Ames, that much was clear at least among the crowd of 250 college students, liberal activists and retirees who packed a church basement to hear Mr. Sanders. Using a milk crate as a podium, he delivered the kind of tirade for which he is well known in Washington. He did not mention his encounter with the police officer.

He railed against big banks (“Break ’em up!), fretted over climate change and income inequality, and deplored the high cost of a college education (“Totally moronic.”). He embraced a single-payer health system (“Guess what everybody! Health care is a right!”), proposed strengthening labor unions and lamented a lack of voter participation (“All over this country people are throwing up their hands in despair.”).

But Mr. Sanders reserved his greatest ire for what he called “one extreme right-wing billionaire family,” the brothers Charles and David Koch. In his view, they are the root of what is wrong in American politics.

“The Koch brothers are worth $85 billion. You might think that’s enough to get by, leave a couple of bucks to your kids,” the senator thundered, his voice rising, face reddening. “But apparently they feel an obligation to destroy Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.”

The crowd lapped it up. “We need a debate in the Democratic Party about where we’re going,” said Sandy Easter, a 65-year-old alternative healer and homeopath who distributed “Run, Bernie, Run” stickers. “I think he’s folksy — the real thing.”

But quirky and folksy can take a candidate only so far, and Mr. Sanders is hardly without liabilities. For starters, there is the socialist label.

“That’s something that Bernie is going to have to overcome,” conceded the Democratic strategist Tad Devine, who is advising Mr. Sanders. “He is going to have to convince people he is a serious, credible candidate.”

Mr. Sanders will turn 75 in 2016. After three decades in public office, he cannot exactly market himself as new or fresh, like Barack Obama did in 2008 or Mr. Sanders’s fellow Vermonter Howard Dean (who has endorsed Mrs. Clinton) did in 2004.

And Mr. Sanders has competition: Liberal groups like MoveOn.org are mounting a campaign to draft a populist with a far larger national following, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, even though she insists she is not running.

On a recent morning in the Capitol, the two senators could be found in opposite corners of the private Senate dining room. Over a Vermont-worthy breakfast of yogurt with granola and berries (with a touch-of-Brooklyn English muffin on the side), Mr. Sanders called Ms. Warren a friend, and said he had discussed his intentions with her.

“Private conversation,” he said, waving off questions about specifics. Pressed on whether he would run if she did, he flashed his prickly side. “Look,” he said, “Elizabeth is over there. You want to talk to her? Go talk to her.”

With his socialist leanings and unruly shock of white hair that evokes mad scientist references on Twitter, people think Mr. Sanders ought to be funny, but he is stone-cold serious. That trait earns him respect in the Senate, but could give his campaign a mandatory seminarlike quality.

“He seems rather humorless,” said Michael Kazin, a Georgetown University historian who wrote in The New Republic this spring that a Sanders run would be good for Democrats.

Mr. Dean has a different take. “Bernie actually does have a sense of humor,” he said. “But I would agree it’s well concealed.”

The son of a Polish-born paint salesman who “came to this country without a nickel in his pocket,” Mr. Sanders grew up listening to his parents fight about money, a fact that he says shaped his political views. He says wryly that “unlike, historically, most of my colleagues in this institution,” the Senate, he does not wake up each morning with visions of the Oval Office. “I honestly believe anybody who really, really wants to become president is a little bit crazy, because the problems facing this country and the world are so overwhelming.”

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He wonders if he is the man who can solve them. So a few months ago, he had a heart-to-heart with Mr. Devine, who has advised him in previous races.

Mr. Devine said Mr. Sanders should not be underestimated; he raised $8 million for his 2012 election, without a serious opponent, and still has nearly $4.5 million in the bank. He has enthusiastic followers on Facebook and Twitter.

But in order to avoid being dismissed as a gadfly, Mr. Devine said he told the senator that he would have to raise about $50 million, presumably through small online contributions. Not only that, he would have to build a ground operation in states like Iowa and New Hampshire and run as a Democrat to avoid being seen as a spoiler.

“He is going to have to convince millions of people that he’s got a real candidacy,” Mr. Devine said.

Thus the trip to Iowa, Mr. Sanders’s fourth visit to the state this year. He has also been to California, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Mississippi — part of an effort, he said, to figure out if he can indeed recruit millions into an “unprecedented grass-roots campaign.” He said he will decide over the next few months, based on “gut reaction,” if he should run.

Matthew Covington, an organizer for the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund, which has been hosting events for Mr. Sanders around the state, said he hoped Mr. Sanders would. After the event in Ames, Mr. Covington said Mr. Sanders was “laying out ideas and policy proposals that resonate with a lot of people.”

But could he win? Mr. Covington looked stricken at the question, and buried his face in his hands. “Can I not answer that?” he asked.

Bloomberg: “Populists Press Democrats to Ease Clinton-Era Embrace of Bankers”

By David J. Lynch

December 19, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EST

When populist Democrats such as Senator Elizabeth Warren complain about the consequences of Wall Street influence on government policy, here’s what they mean:

Since the March 2009 depths of the credit crisis, the KBW Bank stock index, which includes the nation’s largest financial companies, has gained 297 percent. During that same period, workers’ inflation-adjusted average hourly earnings have actually fallen.

Warren’s anti-bank revolt -- which almost derailed a government spending bill and may yet cost investment banker Antonio Weiss a top Treasury Department job -- signals a widening split among Democrats over economic policy.

“We’re seeing the same sort of division in the Democratic Party now that we saw throughout the 1980s,” said Stuart Rothenberg, a political analyst. “Between the Clinton pragmatists and the ‘true believers.’”

Even if Warren doesn’t challenge presumed Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, the former Harvard professor’s popularity among the grass-roots threatens the continuation of the business-friendly policies that originated two decades ago with Robert Rubin, a former Goldman Sachs (GS) and Citigroup executive who served as Treasury secretary.

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“A lot of people from the investor community look at Hillary as a return to Rubin economics from the ’90s,” said Chris Krueger, senior policy analyst for Guggenheim Securities in Washington. “Even if Hillary wins, she’s going to need the backing of Warren and that part of the party. And with that backing will come an understanding.”

Tall Task

Overturning the Democratic alliance with Wall Street won’t be easy. While most of the finance industry’s campaign contributions in 2014 went to the Republicans, Democrats still got $40 million. And Clinton, who represented Wall Street as a U.S. senator from New York, is tied to her husband’s legacy.

The post-1992 era, which saw Democrats win four of six presidential elections, has been better for capital than labor. Corporate profits as a share of the economy have more than doubled since President Bill Clinton’s inauguration while employee compensation’s share has slid.

Workers would be getting $500 billion more this year if the economic pie were divided as it was in early 1993, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

As a result, Democrats such as Warren of Massachusetts want the party’s eventual nominee to worry less about bond traders’ profits and more about ordinary Americans’ pay.

“There’s a role for a Democratic candidate to really go after the economic-fairness issue,” Senator Carl Levin of Michigan said at a Dec. 16 Bloomberg breakfast. “Whoever the candidate is, if it’s Hillary Clinton, I hope she will be able to step on some of the biggest toes around, and she’s going to have to do it.”

Financial Crisis

The Democratic Party’s ties to Wall Street were frayed by the 2008 financial crisis, which resulted in a taxpayer bailout of the banks and swept Obama into office. At a March 2009 White House meeting, the president warned bankers of the ugly popular mood of the time. “My administration” he told them, “is the only thing between you and the pitchforks.”

The Dodd-Frank law, the biggest overhaul of financial regulations since the Depression, followed in 2010. Yet today, the banks are bigger than they were before the crisis. And a provision in last week’s spending bill erodes Dodd-Frank by easing rules shielding taxpayers from bank losses.

Bigger Debate

Reflecting concern over the financial industry’s prominence in Washington, at least seven Democratic senators have publicly declared their opposition to Weiss, Lazard Ltd. (LAZ)’s global head of investment banking, as undersecretary of the Treasury for domestic finance.

“It really is a piece of a much bigger debate: whether or not what’s good for Wall Street is good for America,” said Dennis Kelleher, head of Better Markets, a nonprofit group that promotes stronger financial regulation. “The prevailing view, at least since the Clinton administration, is that it is.”

That view has been shaken by a decade in which the typical American family lost ground: Median household income in October was $53,713, more than 6 percent below the 2000 figure, according to Sentier Research.

In response, organized labor is seeking greater public spending on infrastructure, new overtime rules and the right to organize, as well as tighter limits on banks, said Damon Silvers, the AFL-CIO’s policy director and special counsel in Washington.

The populists also want easier monetary policy designed to sustain growth rather than focused on a concern over inflation, which erodes bond values. And they want an unapologetic attack on the widening income inequality, which may involve changes to the tax code.

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"It's a real fight within the party," said Silvers.

Third Time

The debate among Democrats over Wall Street's political heft suggests that in 2016 the financial industry will find itself as a central focus for the third consecutive presidential election.

"This is much more about the presidential election than anything else," said Simon Johnson, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and critic of the banks.

Democrats attacked Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney's private-equity background in 2012 four years after the giant financial institutions triggered a global crisis.

On Dec. 12, a group called "Ready for Warren" released a letter signed by more than 300 former Obama campaign aides and organizers calling on her to run in 2016. In an interview with NPR this week, Warren said, "I'm not running for president."

Changing Course

For Democrats, Wall Street has played a major role in determining policy since Bill Clinton named Rubin as Treasury secretary. Clinton, who had campaigned in 1992 on a slogan to "put people first" with new spending of $50 billion a year, reversed course after winning the White House and emphasized cutting the deficit.

Clinton eventually balanced the federal budget for the first time in 28 years, lowered trade barriers, overhauled welfare and reappointed Republican Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve. In so doing, the Arkansas Democrat put his party behind a centrist economic approach that spurred a rapid economic expansion and cheered the finance industry.

Personnel as well as policy bore a Wall Street pedigree. Three of the past four Democratic Treasury secretaries worked for Citigroup before or after their government tour, according to Warren, who says similar revolving doors spin at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM)

Campaign Money

Now, the wavering alliance between Democrats and Wall Street is reflected in campaign donations. After swooning for candidate Obama in 2008, when the finance industry gave 58 percent of its cash to Democrats, the industry has tilted toward Republicans. The president's rhetorical jibes at "fat-cat bankers" and the passage of the Dodd-Frank law explain the soured romance.

This year, 38 percent of the industry's $176 million in campaign contributions went to Democrats, according to data from the Center for Responsive Politics.

Though bankers see Obama as too tough on finance, many party progressives think he has too often done the industry's bidding.

As the next presidential campaign approaches, Democrats such as Warren, Senator Bernie Sanders, a Vermont socialist, and former Senator James Webb of Virginia will push Hillary Clinton to side more with workers. The former secretary of state has given paid speeches to investment banks while declaiming the rich-poor gap in other venues.

Warren is "trying to influence how Hillary frames her candidacy and the issues she focuses on," David Axelrod, a former top adviser to Obama, told MSNBC this week.

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In a recent Bloomberg News poll, 41 percent said Clinton's Wall Street ties were a disadvantage compared with 52 percent who welcomed them.

Banks Bigger

Populists in both parties share an antipathy for concentrated financial power. And despite the Dodd-Frank act, which was partly intended to prevent banks that were "too big to fail" from requiring taxpayer bailouts, the biggest institutions remain swollen.

The five largest banks hold more than $9 trillion in assets, equal to 52 percent of the economy, according to the Federal Reserve. Six years ago, on the eve of Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy, the assets of the five largest institutions equaled 48 percent of U.S. output.

Both Republican and Democratic presidents have been overly dependent upon Wall Street for policy advice, says Cam Fine, president of the Independent Community Bankers of America, which represents more than 6,500 smaller lenders.

"It is all Wall Street all the time," he said.

Industry executives dispute that, saying the regulators on the Financial Stability Oversight Council, which is designed to watch for potential bubbles, aren't Wall Street veterans.

"Look at who's around that table now, and they're all -- they're all excellent, but they all have either academic backgrounds or government backgrounds, for the most part," former Treasury official Lee Sachs, co-founder of Alliance Partners, told Bloomberg Television. "Actually the thing that's missing today is someone with a finance or market background."

Yahoo: "The Gingriches' guide to surviving a presidential campaign"

By Jeff Zeleny, Richard Coolidge and Jordyn Phelps

December 19, 2014

As the wife of a former presidential candidate, Callista Gingrich has some advice for the spouses of 2016 presidential hopefuls.

"Focus on the positive, try not to let the negativity get you down, because you really have to keep your [attention] on those issues that are most important to the future of this country. And some days that's a challenge," Gingrich said. "But just be open-minded and appreciate the moment."

Gingrich, who is out with a new children's book, "From Sea to Shining Sea," said that part of staying positive means steering clear of reading the news if you're the subject of the report. "Probably avoid that," she told "The Fine Print" in a joint interview with her husband, Newt Gingrich.

"We kept begging her," her husband, the former speaker of the House and 2012 GOP presidential hopeful, chimed in. "Margaret Thatcher had a ground rule: That she never read stories about her. And I think there's a certain virtue to don't get the Google Alerts. … If you look at the Twitter, for example, as we both do a lot of, there's a group of people on Twitter who really like to get all their anger out; so, if you pay too much attention, it can really get you down."

But don't expect the Gingriches to put their advice to personal use again come 2016: He's not running. They said their days on the frontlines of a

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presidential campaign are in the past.

“We had an opportunity, and I think we worked very hard,” Callista Gingrich said. “There is a new crop of candidates, and we will help as much as we can and be involved in the process.”

“There is a new generation coming down the road and a couple of people who have been around for a while,” added Newt Gingrich, who rattled off a roster of nearly a dozen Republicans whom he expects will run in 2016.

From that list, Gingrich said he doesn’t consider anyone a frontrunner -- not even former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

“I don’t think he is,” Gingrich said. “I don’t think anyone is a frontrunner. I think if you go back and look at his brother in 1999, the amount of money he had raised, the dominance he had over the field, no one has anything like that. Hillary arguably is a frontrunner, although I think she's a very fragile one.”

The problem for Clinton, Gingrich predicted, will be the same one she had in 2008.

“She's gotten her candidacy ahead of her cause, which is what she did in '08,” he said. “We're ready for Hillary, but for what? I mean, I think that's the real problem, and I think that's what Jeb Bush and the others are going to have to answer for us is ‘So, why? … Why are you running and what would you do?’”

Callista Gingrich said some moderate Republican women voters might gravitate to Hillary Clinton's candidacy, if she runs. She said it is time for Republicans to nominate a woman on their ticket.

"Oh, I think we're more than ready, but I think somebody needs to step forward that's able to handle the job ," she said. "Right now, we're not hearing about any of those likely people. So, I'm very hopeful that we'll see a woman run from the Republican Party in the very near future."

Callista Gingrich also discussed her newest children’s book, which is the fourth edition of a history series that follows a time-traveling elephant, Ellis, through major events in U.S. history.

“My books are really meant to serve as an introduction to the key moments that have shaped our nation,” Callista Gingrich said of the series. “And unfortunately, today, many of our kids are failing to learn our American history, including our founding principles and values and instead learning revisionist or politically correct history.”

She went on to add that the books are applicable to households across the political spectrum. “These books are not meant to be Republican books or conservative books, but really they're pro-American books,” she said.

For more of the interview, and to hear Callista Gingrich’s thoughts on when the Republican Party will have a female candidate for president, check out this episode of “The Fine Print.”

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	7/31/2012 3:05:38 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-If You Liked the Iraq War, You'll Love Romney's Foreign Policy

If You Liked the Iraq War, You'll Love Romney's Foreign Policy

Romney's trip abroad has demonstrated that his foreign policy operation is "bush league" in more ways than one.

By now the entire world has gotten a chance to see that Mitt Romney is no foreign policy or diplomatic genius.

He went to Britain and insulted his host's preparation for the Olympic Games – leading major British papers to run banner headlines like: "Mitt the Twitt" and "Nowhere Man."

He massively damaged whatever ability he might have had to broker Middle East peace were he elected President by theorizing that the economic difficulties of Palestinians stemmed from their inferior "culture."

On his visit to Poland, Romney received the endorsement of former Polish President and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa. The Polish Solidarity union itself – with which Walesa is no longer associated – responded by issuing a statement attacking Romney as an enemy of working people.

Romney's debut on the foreign policy stage opened to horrible reviews.

He seems to insult people wherever he travels. He has demonstrated that he is completely tone deaf -- that he has no ability to understand what other people hear when he speaks. That's bad enough in domestic politics – but it disqualifies a leader from effectively representing the interests of the United States in dealings with other countries.

America simply can't afford to have a President who is a bull in a china closest careening around the world insulting people and making enemies. As Obama Campaign spokesperson Jennifer Psaki put it, "he's been fumbling the foreign policy football from country to country."

And he has fumbled not just in failing to show diplomatic skill – but also when he has tried to demonstrate policy expertise. In explaining his theory that Palestinian economic difficulties resulted from their "culture," Romney cited the difference between the per capital Gross Domestic Product of Israel and the Palestinian territories. "….for instance," he said, " in Israel, which is about $21,000, and compare that with the GDP per capital just across the areas managed by the Palestinian Authority, which is more like $10,000."

But he didn't even get that right. Not even close. In fact, according to the *World Bank*, Israeli per capita GDP is $31,282 compared to only $1,600 for the Palestinian areas.

All of this led the *Washington Post* to conclude that:

Romney has distinguished himself from Obama, but perhaps in ways he did not intend.

From a tactical point of view, Romney has faltered at times in trying to prove he has the policy expertise, personal skills and cultural intelligence to represent the country abroad. (Washington Post, 7/31/12)

Pretty bush league, right? But Romney has demonstrated his foreign policy operation is "Bush league" in another way as well.

Twelve years ago another Republican was running for President with very little foreign policy skill or experience. He made benign noises – sounded almost like an isolationist – during the campaign. But when George W. Bush took office he surrounded himself with a cadre of foreign policy Neo-Cons who left the country unprepared for 9/11 and then sent the country careening into the worst foreign policy disaster in half a century: the War in Iraq.

The worst part about Romney's audition on foreign policy stage is that it made it crystal clear that the

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Neo-Cons are back.

All you need to do is have a look at the Romney foreign policy team:

John Bolton – Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security and Ambassador to the United Nations under George W. Bush. Bolton cherry-picked intelligence reports in the rush to war in Iraq.

Elliot Cohen – Defense Policy Advisory Board and Counselor of the Department of State during the Bush Administration. Cohen pushed false claims that there was a connection between Saddam Hussein and 9/11.

Robert Joseph – Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security under George W. Bush. Insisted on including the false claim that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger in Bush's 2003 State of the Union Address.

Dov Zakeim – Comptroller for the Secretary of Defense under George W. Bush. He predicted that Iraq War spending would be billions less than it was.

Cofer Black – Department of State Coordinator for Counter Terrorism under George W. Bush. Black played a key roll in the CIA's use of "enhanced interrogation techniques."

Dan Senor – Senior Advisor and Chief Spokesman for the Coalition Provision Authority in Iraq under George W. Bush. The *New York Times* wrote that, " As Iraq was entering its bloodiest days, Mr. Senor was a prophet and cheerleader for the Bush Administration." (NYT, 3/17/10)

All of these people were on the Bush foreign policy team. Now they are all on the Romney foreign policy team.

In fact, Dan Senor, who was one of the most ardent apologists for the disastrous War in Iraq, has emerged as Romney's chief foreign policy spokesman.

This same group – together with people like Paul Wolfowitz and Dick Cheney – surrounded the inexperienced George W. Bush and led him around by a ring in his nose. They will do exactly the same thing to the utterly spineless Mitt Romney if he is elected President.

This week's *Newsweek* Magazine has a cover story about Romney's "Wimp factor" – the fact that he has no core values and as a result would, if he were elected, be a puppet for the far right of the Republican Party.

The same would be true when it comes to foreign affairs.

Bottom line: if you liked the War in Iraq, you'll love the Bush foreign policy.

Americans United for Change has put up an excellent Web Video about the Bush/Romney foreign policy team. To view it, click: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_I4bgccrReg

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *He is a partner in Democracy Partners and a Senior Strategist for Americans United for Change. Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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DC Office 202-470-6955
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Maura Pally" <maura.pally@gmail.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 4:48:19 AM
Subject: Re: Grassley letter

Thanks, I think.

On Friday, July 3, 2015, Maura Pally <maura.pally@gmail.com > wrote:

> Putting on all of your radars that Grassley sent a letter to AG Lynch (dated June 30th though we just saw it) asking questions about contributions to the Clinton Foundation and the Uranium One deal. Letter is attached. Craig is connecting with comms team to be sure they are aware as well.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/2/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: Donfried in Germany | Spying vs. Privacy | Russia's War in Ukraine

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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GMF's World Wire

February 3, 2015

In Search of New World Order: World Leaders Discuss

GMF President Dr. Karen Donfried joined keynote speaker Kofi Annan, moderator Wolfgang Ischinger, and fellow panelists Frederica Mogherini and Herfried Muenkler to discuss the topic "in search of a new world order" at a celebration of German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on January 28 at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

LEARN MORE

Undoing of Germany's Privacy Dogma

Sudha David-Wilp
Many Germans are backing away from staunch opposition to their country's close cooperation with U.S. spy agencies. | *Christian Science Monitor*

READ MORE

Russia's Long War on Ukraine

Marek Menkiszak
The Kremlin's moves have not been kneejerk, but rather well-plotted and consistent with a long history of wanting to draw Ukraine closer to Russia.

READ MORE

Tweet of the Week

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@SarahW_KL :
Just read @SlaughterAM will attend #BrusselsForum by @gmfus - be still my heart. Hope #YoungProfessionalsSummit gets to hear her speak!

RETWEET

Is Turkey a Reliable U.S. Ally?

Michael Leigh
Turkey seeks to reinvigorate relations with the United States, but only now that the self-proclaimed Islamic State group has attacked Turkish targets and Russia has imposed sanctions. | *CQ Researcher*

READ MORE

International Powers in the Broader Middle East: An Israeli Perspective

On January 25, GMF's Young Transatlantic Network in Brussels hosted David Walzer, ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO, to discuss the Israeli perspective on recent events in the broader Middle East.

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From: "Lynn Thorp - Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/11/2010 6:34:19 AM
Subject: Use Your Energy to Protect Our Water

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Clean Water Action logo with wave background

Support a Clean Energy Future Without Offshore Drilling

Dear Mary,

Tell your Senators and Representative this can't continue

We need energy policies that protect not harm our water resources .

PHOTO: Containment booms and cleaning operations in the marshes near Block 69 in NE Pass swamped with oil from the Deepwater Horizon wellhead - the BP leased oil platform - which exploded on April 20 and sank after burning.

GRAPHIC: Take Action button

If you think that the still unfolding oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has caused the powerful oil industry any remorse, think again.

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate voted down a resolution that would have gutted the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to regulate sources of global warming pollution. The "Dirty Air Act" effort was heartily supported by Big Oil and its friends in the U.S. Senate and they will be back.

Mary your U.S. Senators and Representative need to hear from you. Congress must use its authority to deal aggressively with BP and with the oil spill disaster in the Gulf. Communities suffering the impacts of this disaster need to be made whole, and responsible parties must be held accountable for the full economic and environmental restoration costs.

But the job won't be done there. The U.S. Senate will soon debate bills to curb global warming and set our country on the path to a clean energy future. Big Oil and the rest of the dirty energy industry are pushing hard for policies that favor the dirty, polluting energy sources of the past including more offshore drilling, coal, and nuclear power. Tell your legislators that we can't continue to support these dirty energy sources.

We are pushing for energy policy that makes protecting water a priority when considering energy choices. We need to ensure a clean energy future and we can't do that without your help. Mary .

The BP oil spill is a terrible reminder that preventing pollution is the only way to truly protect our water resources. Yesterday's vote was an encouraging sign that special interests like the oil industry do not call all the shots. Your Senators and Representative need to hear from you that continued reliance on dirty energy is no way to prevent pollution!

Thank you for taking action today!

Lynn Thorp
National Campaigns Coordinator

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/14/2014 8:00:54 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | Who Needs Republicans?

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William Rivers Pitt | Who Needs Republicans?

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: In the 10 days since the Republicans took full control of Congress, Democrats in the Senate, House and White House have flexed hard in favor of a ruinous "trade" deal, a poisonous oil pipeline and an ongoing disaster of a war.

Read the Article

Why Prisons Don't Work, and How We Can Do Better: A Conversation With Maya Schenwar

Victoria Law, Waging Nonviolence: If prisons don't work, how do we do better? How do we address the harm violent offenders cause without locking them up? With 2.3 million behind bars in the United States, it's a question that everyone should be asking. Truthout's Maya Schenwar provides some answers in her new book.

Read the Interview

US Sanction Relief Fails, Threatening the Nuclear Talks

Gareth Porter, Truthout: US policy fails to lift many sanctions on Iran at all and postpones others, including UN Security Council sanctions, until late in the process; consequently, Iran is unlikely to accept US demands just a few days before the deadline for agreement.

Read the Article

What About the Other Iraqi Militias?

Julio Sharp-Wasserman, Truthout: Crimes by ISIS militias are rivaled by those of US-backed Shiite militias enlisted in the fight against ISIS. Mainstream reporting neglects this fact, obscuring valuable larger lessons about US foreign policy and military intervention generally.

Read the Article

The Roth Blunder Barrels On

Gerald E. Scorse, Truthout: Roth accounts are

BuzzFlash

Finally a Member of the Oligarchy Is Indicted for Culpability in Worker Deaths: 29 Coal Miners Killed

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Don Blankenship is a nasty piece of work, even in the pitiless, exploitative business of coal mining, but his outlook on profits before lives is not uncommon in the extraction industry and in corporations in general.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Obama Team Hints at Keystone Pipeline Veto

Read the Article at USA Today

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inherently unfair, contributing to the continuation of income and wealth inequality even as they impoverish the US Treasury. It's time for a change.

Read the Article

Women Hold the Lever to Move the World

Rivera Sun, Truthout: By connecting a consumer boycott of the meat and dairy industry to demands for renewable energy, the US public - particularly women - can take climate action into their own hands.

Read the Article

Laura Flanders | Sexist Smoke Serves Clinton Camp

Laura Flanders, GRITtv: When the stench of sexism is in the air, it's no surprise that feminist hackles rise, and that's typically worked for Clinton's political fortunes. But can we remember that there are plenty of models of valiant feminist leadership that, in contrast to the senator, don't involve waging war?

Listen to the Audio Segment and Read the Transcript

Ethan Nadelmann's Fiery TED Talk: What Has the War on Drugs Done to the World?

Sharda Sekaran, Drug Policy Alliance: Twenty years ago, Ethan Nadelmann left his teaching position at Princeton University to become a full-time advocate for ending the drug war. As the founding executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, Ethan's vision and leadership have had a monumental impact.

Watch the Video and Read the Article

Facebook and Apple Want Your Unborn! Or, Why Corporations Should Keep Their Hands Off Employees' Ovaries

Sayantani DasGupta, The Feminist Wire: Apple's and Facebook's recent offers to female employees of elective egg-freezing benefits have been roundly critiqued as a not-so-subtle message for women workers to delay their childbearing in favor of advancing their careers and corporate profits.

Read the Article

Ayotzinapa's Uncomfortable Dead

Charlotte María Sáenz, Other Worlds: Because there is no conclusive proof yet, the 43 missing Ayotzinapa students remain undead. Their parents refuse to accept this verdict, and in doing so, reveal the state's incompetency not only to deliver justice, but also to act with any kind of legitimacy or credibility.

Read the Article

Jim Hightower: Net Neutrality Stands in the Way of Larger Corporate Profits

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Jon Stewart Skewers Stupid Racist Coverage of Minneapolis Mayor

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Why the Press Is Less Free Today

Read the Article at The New Yorker

Riot Cops Arrest Walmart Employee Protesters at Peaceful Sit-In

Watch the Video at KTLA TV

Don't Ask How to Feed People, Ask How to End Poverty

Read the Article at The New York Times

Pope Francis: "Unbridled Consumerism" Is Destroying Our Planet

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Taking Stock of the Money Midterms

Marge Baker, OtherWords: In the first national elections since the Supreme Court's *McCutcheon v. FEC* decision - which removed overall federal limits on contributions to political candidates and party committees - the tidal wave of special-interest spending was even heavier than the most dire predictions.

Read the Article

Economic Update: Extreme Capitalism

Richard D. Wolff, Truthout: This episode looks at low Irish taxes on corporations, interns fighting back, the thriving opium market, Volkswagen bringing new labor relations to the United States and big banks caught

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cheating again. We also discuss college sports, the business oligarchy in the United States and forgiving countries' debts.

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From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 2/13/2016 1:02:40 AM
Subject: 1000% Over Budget and Years Behind Schedule

PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Former Rep. David Hobson: Not Cutting MOX Is My "Biggest Regret"

The MOX facility more than one-thousand percent over cost and years behind schedule. It lacks even a single U.S. utility customer for its commercial reactor fuel.

Former Rep. David Hobson writes: "When I tried to stop the project, I was met with resistance by the Energy Department, the Bush Administration, and many of my fellow Republicans. They told me canceling the project would hurt then-South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford's chances of being reelected, and would damage our relations with Russia."

Read more

Pentagon's 2017 Budget is Mardi Gras for Defense Contractors

This week, the Pentagon celebrated Fat Tuesday with the release of its fiscal year 2017 budget request, tossing out a variety of baubles for defense contractors.

Read more

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Divided Loyalty: Financial Industry Fights To Keep Its Interests Ahead of Investors'

It took almost six years, but the government is set to issue a rule that will increase transparency and accountability in financial advice given to retirement savers.

Read more

POGO Urges Senate to Oppose Obama's FDA Nominee

POGO wrote to the Senate urging members to oppose President Obama's nominee to head the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Robert Califf. This request comes in light of Califf's relationship with the pharmaceutical industry and POGO's own investigations.

Read more

Radioactive Pork Finally on the Chopping Block

An internal memo obtained by the Project On Government Oversight shows that the Department of Energy is shifting focus away from the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX).

Read more

From the World of POGO

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Video: Taxpayers Shortchanged Event

In case you missed it, you can now view the video from our roundtable public discussion event with Taxpayers for Common Sense, "Taxpayers Shortchanged: Demanding Better Value for Public Resources."

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/12/2015 12:26:00 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Koch brothers to again star as bogeymen in 2016 Democratic ads

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Charles Koch posed for a portrait in California after his sit-down with The Post last week. (Photo by Patrick T. Fallon for The Washington Post)

BY JAMES HOHMANN

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THE BIG IDEA: Senate Majority PAC, the main outside group focused on trying to regain control of the upper chamber for Democrats, will begin running its first television ad of the 2016 cycle today. And it might look familiar: a narrator says GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte puts the Koch brothers ahead of New Hampshire families.

The spot, which a source tracking the air war says is backed up by $250,000, comes in response to a much larger buy that Americans for Prosperity, part of the Koch political network, placed against Ayotte's likely challenger last week. "Fifteen months before the election, yet the out-of-state oil billionaire Koch Brothers have already spent $1.2 million dollars here in New Hampshire to keep Kelly Ayotte in the U.S. Senate," a narrator says. "And, back in Washington, Ayotte voted to protect huge tax breaks for the oil industry—costing taxpayers $40 billion."

Democrats spent tens of millions of dollars last year on nearly 100 different commercials that similarly linked Republican candidates with Charles and David Koch. Majority Leader Harry Reid, who regularly railed against the brothers on the Senate floor, liked to say that the GOP was "addicted to Koch." When Reid became the minority leader, some questioned the wisdom of this line of attack.

But leading Democratic strategist insist that correlation is not causation: just because they ran lots of ads tying Republicans to special interests and then lost does not mean it's an

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ineffective attack. In fact, they believe that tying Scott Brown to the Koch's was integral to his narrow loss against Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in the Granite State. They point to several different surveys that show the charge is potent, especially when it comes to galvanizing the Democratic base.

With the Koch network aiming to spend $889 million in advance of the next election, Democrats promise they will only amplify their criticism of the brothers. Another outside group, American Bridge 21st Century, announced plans earlier this summer to spend heavily on efforts linking the presidential candidates with the Koch's. We'll monitor polling to see whether the new ad moves numbers.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— Hillary Clinton turned her private email server over to the FBI, trying to end the drip-drip-drip of criticism for keeping it. Her campaign said last night that the former cabinet secretary released the server, along with a thumb drive that includes "thousands of emails" she already provided to the State Department, the Post's Carol D. Leonnig, Tom Hamburger and Rosalind S. Helderman report. Clinton's announcement followed the revelation that two Top-Secret emails traveled across the server, according to a top intelligence official. "The finding, contained in a letter sent to leaders of key oversight committees, marked the first indication from government officials that information regarded as top secret — the government's highest category of security designation — may have passed across Clinton's server while she led the State Department." The disclosure ensures that congressional Republicans will keep this issue front-and-center beyond the fall.

— A new Franklin Pierce University/Boston Herald survey shows Bernie Sanders now LEADING Hillary Clinton by 7 points in New Hampshire, 44 percent to 37 percent. The survey of 442 Democratic primary voters was taken from Aug. 7-10 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.7 percent. The Herald notes that Sanders' rise has been "meteoric": He trailed Hillary by 37 points in March (44-8).

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— Meanwhile, Donald Trump is still ahead among GOP voters in New Hampshire and Republican caucus-goers in Iowa, but there are signs his support may be slipping. According to the Herald poll of 447 Republican primary voters taken during the same time period as above, the race is very competitive. While Trump leads with 19 percent, Jeb Bush places second at 13 percent and John Kasich has moved up to third at 12 percent. Trump had a marked "very unfavorable" rating at 32 percent. In Iowa, Suffolk found Trump leading the field with 17 percent, followed by Scott Walker with 12 percent and Marco Rubio with 10 percent. But of those likely GOP caucus-goers who watched the debate, Trump and Walker were tied at 14 percent. Suffolk surveyed 500 likely caucus-goers from Aug. 7 to 10 with a 4.4 percent margin of error.

— Trump focused his ire on China during an appearance in Michigan last night: "Devalue means: suck the blood out of the United States," he told a crowd of 2,800. It came at the end of a day in which he tried to look more substantive, saying he wants to simplify the tax code before trying to create a flat tax. He also said that he would consider *partly* defunding Planned Parenthood, and that on abortion he supports exceptions for rape and incest.

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(realdonaldtrump)

— Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) completed five straight days of round-the-clock chemotherapy, his third round, marking the halfway point in his treatment for stage 3 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He posted this picture with his wife on Facebook last night:

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— Greece and its creditors reached an accord on its three-year bailout, with a vote now scheduled for late Thursday. Meanwhile, the European immigration crisis has worsened , as police beat migrants on the Greek Island of Kos with truncheons and sprayed them with fire extinguishers. The Guardian has a helpful explainer about what to make of the brewing tensions here .

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GET SMART FAST:

1. An international hacking ring pocketed more than $100 million from illicit trades over the past five years, federal investigators allege. (Drew Harwell)
2. Five employees at the **GAO**, including an outgoing Prince George's County school board member, were indicted for fraudulently reporting their incomes so that their kids could qualify for discounted meals offered by the government.
3. The **ACLU** won a constitutional challenge to strike down New Hampshire's law banning photographs of ballots. A federal judge said it restricts free speech to prevent people from taking selfies in the polling place; elections officials warn that the sanctity of the secret ballot is in jeopardy. (Union Leader)
4. **Amnesty International** voted to support the decriminalization of prostitution at its biennial meeting in Dublin. (The Independent)
5. The **FDA** warned a Canadian pharmaceutical company that **Kim Kardashian's** posts on Instagram and Facebook touting its prescription drug for morning sickness are "false and misleading" while omitting the side effects. A few hours later, the reality star (who is pregnant and on their payroll) deleted them. (USA Today)
6. Colorado's congressional delegation called on **EPA** chief Gina McCarthy to come visit the scene of the Animas River disaster that her agency caused, as Republican Sen. Cory Gardner called for hearings. In good news, the color of the water is starting to return to normal. (Denver Post)
7. "At least one former or current member of the Baltimore Police Department has been 'actively working' with defense attorneys for the six officers charged in the arrest and death of **Freddie Gray**, according to prosecutors — leaking them an 'arsenal of material' to use in a 'campaign of public-relations warfare,'" the Sun reports.
8. Bolivia's leftist president, **Evo Morales**, announced that he wants to restore normal ties with the U.S., citing the improved American relationships with Cuba and Iran.
9. Season 5 of **Homeland**, pulling out of the Middle East and relocating to Germany, will take on Vladimir Putin, ISIS and Edward Snowden, Showtime's president told TV critics. (Entertainment Weekly)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **John Kerry** knows it is "very likely" that Russia and China are reading his emails. "I certainly write them with that awareness," the Secretary of State told CBS .
2. **Chuck Schumer** has spoken by phone with between 20 to 30 Senate Democrats since coming out against the Iran deal. Members he's spoken with tell Politico that he's being careful not to lobby against the deal.
3. **Jeb Bush** called for a no-fly zone over Syria last night and said "more" than 3,500 U.S. ground troops "may well be needed" in Iraq. George W. Bush's brother, speaking at

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the Reagan Library, endorsed deploying U.S. troops to work more closely with Iraqi forces, including as forward air spotters to help identify air raid sites. (The full transcript of the speech is here .)

4. **Hillary** met privately with five Black Lives Matter protesters in New Hampshire for 15 minutes yesterday afternoon. The activists planned to disrupt her forum, focused on substance abuse, but they told the New Republic ahead of time (!) and then showed up too late to get past security.
5. **Clinton's** campaign also announced plans to visit Puerto Rico on Sept. 4 in order to offer support for letting the island declare Chapter 9 bankruptcy, an issue she avoided taking a position on until default was imminent and it was no longer politically courageous. Jeb, who endorsed the Chapter 9 option before Clinton, has already campaigned in Puerto Rico. (NBC)
6. Former New Hampshire Attorney General **Tom Rath**, one of the most sought after endorsers in the GOP primary, signed on with **John Kasich**. It is a meaningful blow for Jeb, who most Granite State insiders expected he would eventually get behind.
7. Ex-Rep. **Carol Shea-Porter** (D-N.H.) announced she'll run for her old seat, potentially setting up her fourth race in a row against now embattled Republican Rep. **Frank Guinta**.
8. **Chris Christie** has signed the no-new-taxes pledge, Americans for Tax Reform's **Grover Norquist** announced at 5 a.m.
9. **Ted Cruz** promised CNN he will release the names of all his bundlers, joining Jeb and Walker. The Texas senator campaigned in Mississippi yesterday with **Chris McDaniel**, who nearly defeated incumbent **Thad Cochran** in last year's primary.
10. The 4th Circuit rejected **Bob McDonnell's** request to have the entire court reconsider his case. That means the Supreme Court is the only option that the former governor has left, and it looks increasingly likely he'll need to pursue that recourse from behind bars. (Matt Zapotosky)
11. **Jim Gilmore,** the former governor of Virginia, is the only Republican of the 17 declared candidates who has not qualified to appear during one of the two debates CNN is hosting next month at the Reagan Library. Gilmore needs an average of 1 percent in three polls to score an invite.
12. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit will hear oral arguments on Oct. 7 in the case of whether or not **Larry Craig,** the former Idaho senator, needs to repay the government $243,000 for using campaign money to pay lawyers related to his disorderly conduct in a Minnesota airport bathroom. (Roll Call)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— **"Democrats target Virginia as they push to break down voting restrictions ," by**

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Rachel Weiner: "According to voting rights activists, 15 states with 162 electoral votes face new voting restrictions in 2016. Because of a 2013 Supreme Court decision overturning part of the 50-year-old Voting Rights Act, next year's presidential election will be the first in which Southern states, including Virginia, will not be required to have election-law changes approved by federal authorities… In Virginia…Democrats are working closely with their national counterparts to expand the electorate — testing ways, for instance, to work around voter-identification laws, narrower voting windows and other restrictions generally backed by Republicans."

— **"Super PACs throw lifelines to candidates scrambling for cash ," by Matea Gold and Philip Rucker:** "If this were any other election cycle, Rick Perry would have reached the end of his presidential bid this week when his campaign nearly ran out of cash…Perry's White House hopes will now live on a little longer, as a result of a trio of cash-rich independent groups…'We saw this coming,' said Austin Barbour, senior adviser to the Opportunity and Freedom PACs, which have begun building their own field operation in Iowa — a task typically handled by campaigns. 'We knew we would have to do more than just paid media and there's nothing in the playbook that says we can't do that.'"

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: With our report yesterday that Cruz is going after Rand supporters, here's a state-by-state breakdown comparing total mentions of the two candidates across social media. Cruz has the advantage just about everywhere – except Paul's home state of Kentucky and New Hampshire, according to our analytics partners at Zignal Labs:

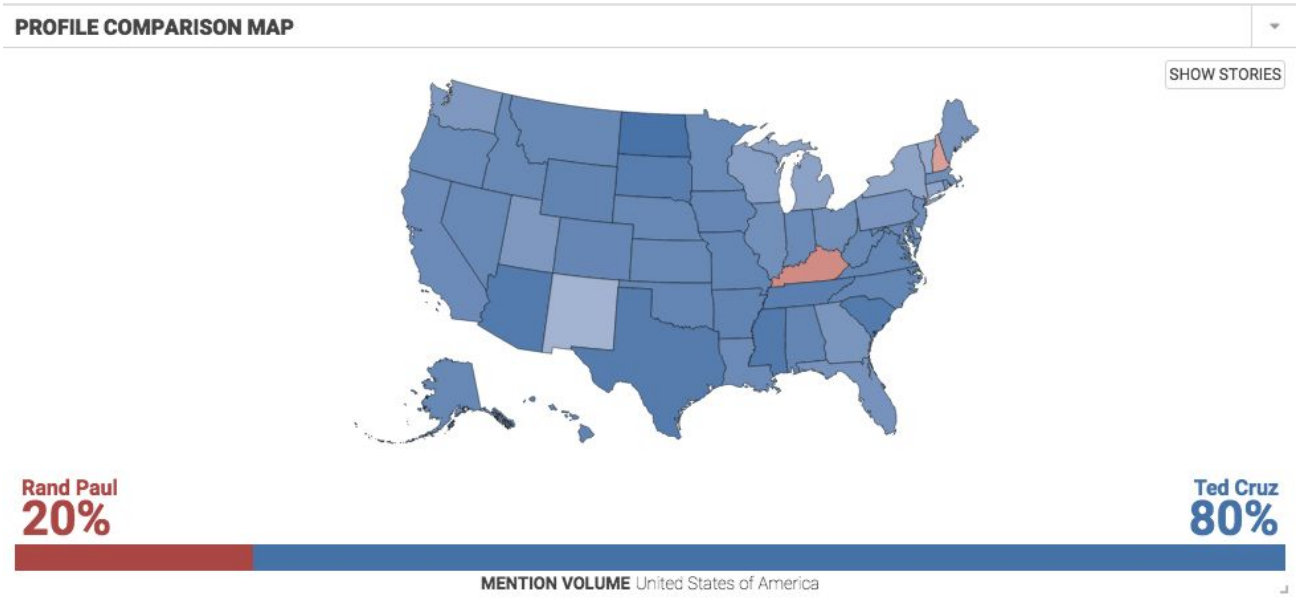

Judging by the word clouds for the two candidates, Cruz is doing a better job of driving the conversation on his terms. The Texan's bus tour – and an ad in Iowa promising to defund Planned Parenthood – are dominating his cloud. Paul's chatter is dominated by He Who Dominates All Presidential Chatter (Rand has relished his fight with The Donald):

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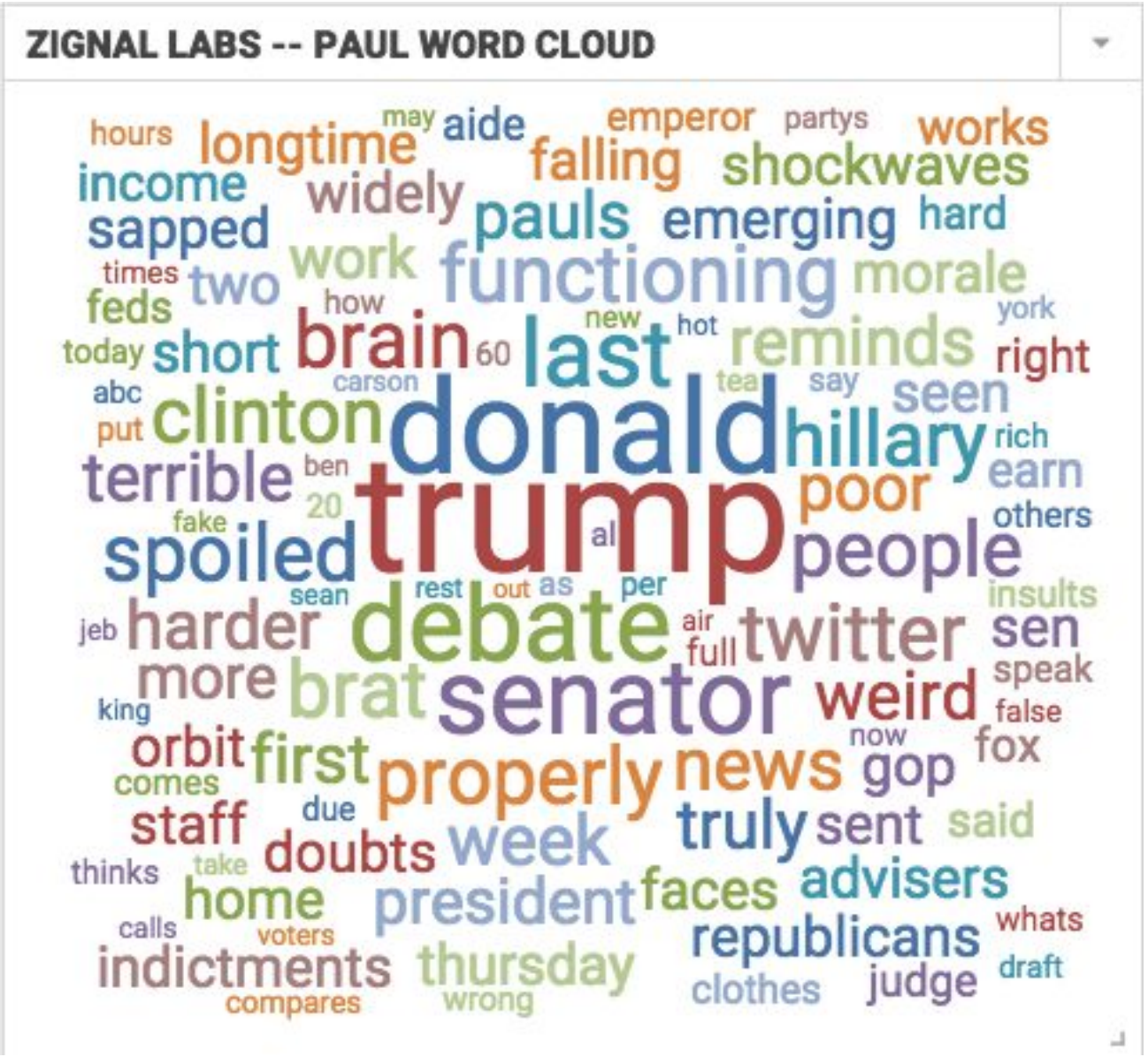

–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

Comedian Sarah Silverman tweeted that she was “so proud” to introduce Bernie Sanders at his Los Angeles rally on Monday night:

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(@SarahKSilverman)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is greeted by members of the North Korea women's soccer team:

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(@annafifield)

A local angler shows off the 17.47 pound snakehead he caught with a bow and arrow in the Potomac this weekend:

(@DCist)

Tweets of the day:

Stephen Colbert booked Jeb for his debut show on CBS. Ratings are likely to be really high

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because of network promotion and post-Labor Day interest in what he's all about. The conversation with Bush will be a great window into how much he's changed since leaving Comedy Central and giving up his faux-conservative character:

> .@JebBush will be on #LSSC Sept. 8! My first GOP candidate! Luckily I do 200 shows a year, so I think I can fit them all.
>
> — Stephen Colbert (@StephenAtHome) August 11, 2015

Scott Walker became the latest GOP candidate to criticize Hillary on higher education policy on Twitter (read about Bush and Clinton trolling each other here):

> .@HillaryClinton I've frozen in-state tuition rates for four years, while you charged colleges $225K+ just to show up. -SW
>
> — Scott Walker (@ScottWalker) August 11, 2015

Clinton hit back later in the day:

> Republicans like Gov. Walker are making it harder to afford college & pay off debt. Hillary says that's wrong—watch: https://t.co/5MUicqTUTm
>
> — Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) August 11, 2015

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) saw Hamilton, an acclaimed hip-hop musical about Alexander Hamilton, on Broadway. "Loved every minute of it," she tweeted, with this picture of the show's creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda:

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(@SenGillibrand)

Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.), part of a congressional delegation visiting Israel ahead of votes on the Iran nuclear deal, stopped by the Western Wall. “I took time to pray … for the future of our country and our Israeli allies,” he wrote:

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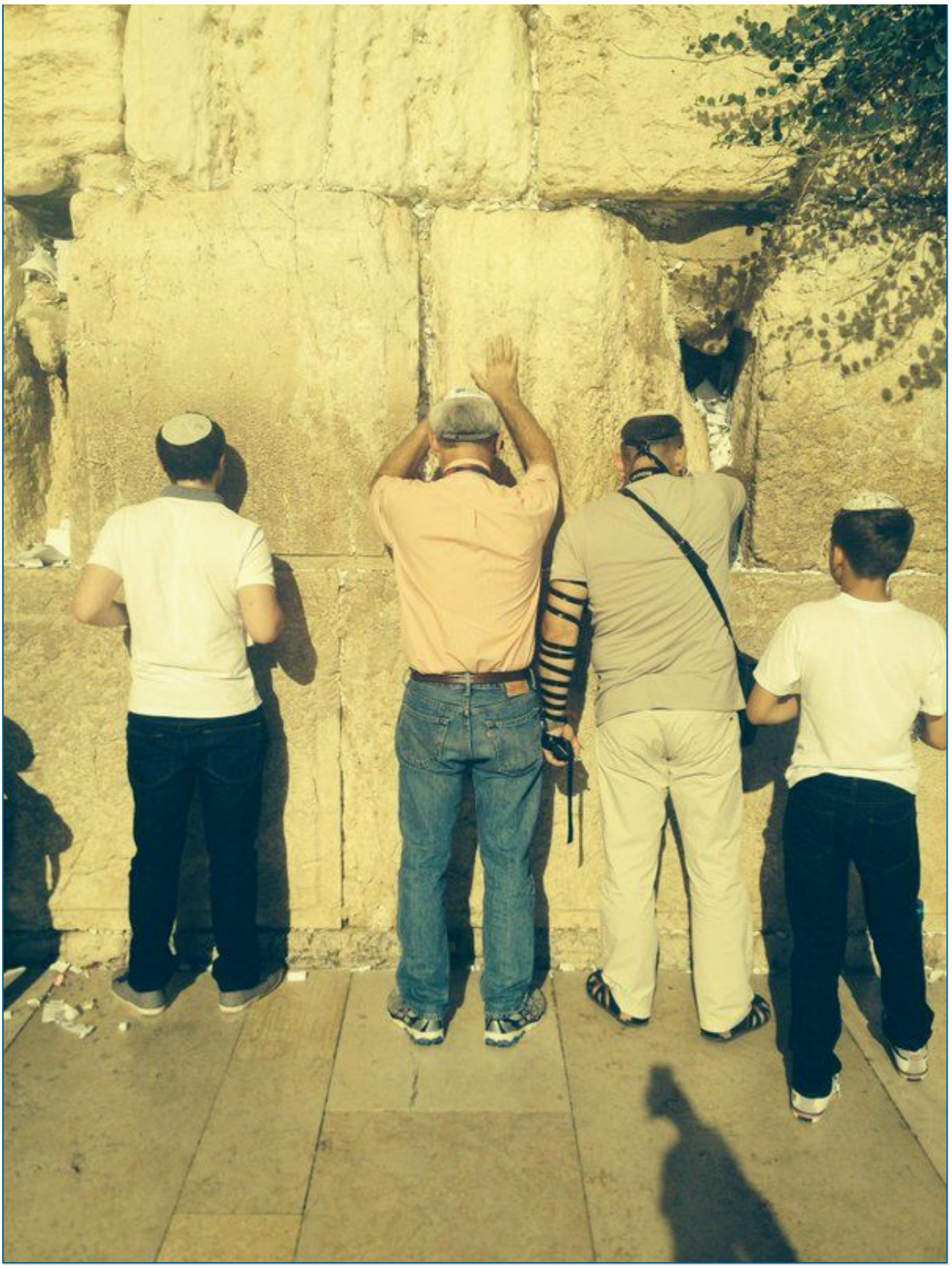

(@RepByrne)

Instagrams of the day:

Jeb joked about his status in the Republican presidential race. “I met a fellow joyful tortoise on my way to the Reagan Library,” he wrote:

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(jebbush)

On the campaign trail, Cruz helped a couple of supporters celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary:

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(cruzforpresident)

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) remembered the 50th anniversary of the Watts riots. “As unrest continues to unfold in Ferguson, Missouri, Cleveland, Ohio, and cities across the nation, we are reminded of how far we have to go to achieve equality and fairness for everyone,” she wrote:

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(repmarciafudge)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Wall Street Journal, "Former top Clinton fundraiser says, 'I was greedy,' " by Ianthe Jeanne Dugan: Norman Hsu, ex-top bundler for Hillary Clinton is "holed up in a federal penitentiary [in Milan, Mich.] on charges of operating a Ponzi scheme and breaking campaign finance laws…He passes time reading about politics…he has no Internet access—and teaching inmates about it. In 2012, he said he walked his students through the national elections and predicted winners. He claims he was correct 96% of the time…In one of his classes he screened the documentary "Recount"… "Gore didn't raise enough money," Mr. Hsu laments. He said he would continue supporting candidates—if only he could. 'In here,' he said, 'there are no favors you can do.'

— Boston Globe, "Specifics on Clinton policies have been slow to emerge ," by Annie Linskey: "Does she support the trans-Pacific trade deal? Under certain

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circumstances. Reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act that separated commercial and investment banks? She's going to talk about it — at some point. Building the Keystone XL pipeline? She said weighing in wouldn't be responsible given her previous involvement on the issue. A carbon tax? The revolving door between Wall Street and regulators? Nothing. And nothing."

— Los Angeles Times, "California gives immigrants here illegally unprecedented rights, benefits, protections" by Melanie Mason: "It started with in-state tuition. Then came driver's licenses, new rules designed to limit deportations and state-funded healthcare for children. And on Monday, in a gesture heavy with symbolism, came a new law to erase the word 'alien' from California's labor code…these piecemeal measures have taken on a significance greater than their individual parts…The various benefits, rights and protections add up to something experts liken to a kind of California citizenship. 'We've passed the Rubicon here,' said Mike Madrid, a Republican strategist. 'This is not an academic debate on the U.S. Senate floor about legal and illegal and how high you want to build the wall…. [The state] doesn't have the luxury of being ideological…. The undocumented are not going anywhere.'"

— The Democratic parties in four states have now voted to change the name of their annual "Jefferson-Jackson" dinner: Iowa, Georgia, Connecticut and Missouri. "At least five other states are considering the same change," Jonathan Martin reports in the New York Times. "For all the attention this summer to the fight over the Confederate battle flag, the less noticed moves by Democratic parties to remove Jefferson and Jackson from their official identity underscore one of the most consequential trends of American politics: Democrats' shift from a union-powered party organized primarily around economic solidarity to one shaped by racial and sexual identity."

- **Some pushback that has been largely absent from the conversation thus far:** "The move to erase Jefferson and Jackson is not being welcomed by all Democrats. Some of them fear the party loses what has long been its unifying philosophy by removing the names of founders, whose virtues and flaws illuminated the way forward. And they worry that as the labor movement declines, cultural liberalism is beginning to eclipse a fundamental message of economic equality that brought about some of the party's most important achievements, from the New Deal to Medicaid."
- **Useful historical context:** "It is partly because of the efforts of Democratic presidents that Jefferson and Jackson enjoy the standing they do. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the father of modern economic liberalism, was particularly devoted to elevating the two men, rushing to complete the Jefferson Memorial so his party could have a monument to compete with the Republicans' Lincoln Memorial. And it was the house intellectual of the Kennedy clan, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., who did so much to restore Jackson with his seminal biography, 'The Age of Jackson.' In more recent times, Bill Clinton memorably

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began his presidency with a pre-inaugural trip to Monticello and Mr. Obama took the president of France there last year."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Lowe's shopper gets white driver after refusing black man. From The Washington Post : "A black delivery driver for a Lowe's home improvement store in Virginia said a white woman in late July refused to let him into her home with her delivery because he's black. So, he said, his employer replaced him with a white driver. 'I got a phone call on the phone telling me to bring the delivery back. Saying that I couldn't do the delivery,' Marcus Bradley told WSET … 'I asked him why I couldn't do it and he said because you're black and they don't want you at the house.'"

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Gold King Mine spill exposes Obama hypocrisy, critics say. From The Washington Times : "The political fallout from last week's toxic spill at Colorado's Gold King Mine intensified [this week], with critics saying the incident has exposed clear hypocrisy within the Obama administration while threatening the credibility of the Environmental Protection Agency at a crucial moment. Other than express outrage as it has done in the wake of previous environmental disasters, the White House would not comment on the spill and instead directed all questions to the embattled EPA."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Jeb Bush will campaign in Reno and North Las Vegas, Nevada. Ted Cruz will campaign in Little Rock and Russellville, Arkansas as part of his multi-state bus tour. John Kasich will hold events in Derry and Belmont, New Hampshire. Rand Paul will campaign in Swanzey, Keene, Peterborough and Nashua, New Hampshire. Bobby Jindal will attend a breakfast in Urbandale, Iowa. Mike Huckabee will stop in Bettendorf, Winterset and Waukee, Iowa. Rick Santorum will hold events in Elk Horn and Des Moines, Iowa.

–On the Hill: Both chambers are in recess.

–At the White House: President Obama is on vacation in Martha's Vineyard.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I spent 35 years in the corroded rectum of the two-party system." — Former Trump adviser Roger Stone in an interview with NBC's "Today" show

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **Goodbye rain risk, and humidity. Hello lots of sunshine!** "We may still be dealing with some post-frontal clouds in the morning," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts . "A northwest wind around 5-10 mph keeps transporting in drier air. That means mostly sunny skies plus highs mainly in the low-to-mid 80s. A beauty of a day."

— The Nationals lost 5-0 to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

— **Local crime:** A security guard at the Macy's connected to Metro Center was stabbed in the shoulder by an apparent shoplifter at 3:45 p.m. yesterday. The suspect, who fled on the Metro, was later arrested at Union Station. The guard, at GWU hospital, should be okay.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Watch a time-lapse video of work in the Capitol rotunda:

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(U.S. Capitol)

Watch Rick Perry's new animated video targeting Clinton, taking low-budget to a new level:

(Governor Rick Perry)

Watch Jimmy Fallon spoof Donald Trump in the wake of the "blood" controversy:

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(The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon)

Watch Conan O’Brien imagine the latest frontier in Trump branding:

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(Team Coco)

A candidate for parliament in Canada posted the most insane campaign ad of the year , featuring a giant duck, a dragon and a robot. Watch here .

Finally, a cool summer activity to wake your kids up for: "Barring cloudy skies, this week's Perseid meteor shower may be a classic, excellent show. The shooting star spectacle peaks on the night of Wednesday into Thursday morning, with as many as 90 to 100 shooting stars an hour, according to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Royal Astronomical Society in the U.K. In the eastern U.S., the most prolific cosmic bombardment will likely be around 4 a.m. Eastern time." Here are some helpful tips on how to watch / where to look tonight. And here's a cool photo from Europe that just hit the wire:

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A meteor streaks across the sky during the Perseid meteor shower near Kraljevine on mountain Smetovi in the early morning of August 12. (Reuters/Dado Ruvic)

Bonus: Check out the stunning images that won the National Geographic Traveler photo contest.

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The Washington Post

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/21/2014 8:30:15 AM
Subject: How a US and International Atomic Energy Agency Deception Haunts the Nuclear Talks

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Gareth Porter | How a US and International Atomic Energy Agency Deception Haunts the Nuclear Talks

Gareth Porter, Truthout: In 2008, the Bush administration and a key IAEA official agreed on a strategy of misrepresenting Iran's position on the authenticity of intelligence documents, which they used to establish an official narrative of Iran "stonewalling" the IAEA investigation. That narrative continues to shape Obama administration policy in the nuclear talks.

Read the Article

Racist Policing in the De Blasio Era: Bill Bratton's Crusade to Save a Dying Brand

Nick Malinowski, Truthout: Is profiting from the criminalization of people of color racist, and is New York City Police Department Commissioner Bill Bratton maintaining a debunked policing philosophy for personal financial gain?

Read the Article

"Suffered or Permitted to Work" - When Is a Worker an Employee?

Ellen Dannin, Truthout: In the first week of the Supreme Court's 2014-2015 term lurks an easy-to-miss case. To miss it would be a mistake. *Integrity Staffing Solutions, Inc. v. Busk* reveals the ugly side of business today.

Read the Article

We Want Them Alive: The Search for Mexico's 43 Missing Students

Andalusia Knoll, Waging Nonviolence: The last time the group of missing students was seen was in the custody of Mexican municipal police forces, who detained them after opening fire on their caravan in an attack that killed six people and injured dozens more.

Read the Article

Israel-Palestine: Untying the Knot

L. Michael Hager, Truthout: The Israeli occupation

BuzzFlash

Global Trade Pacts Now Limit US Consumer Food Information

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Public Citizen condemned a World Trade Organization ruling that would prohibit mandatory country of origin labeling on meat sold in the United States.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

In Ferguson, the Grand Jury Is Out and the Fix Is in

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Meet the Iraq War Truthers: Why They're Convinced Bush Was Right on WMD

Read the Article at

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and settlement expansion, the Gaza cease-fire, reconstruction, PLO-Hamas reconciliation and Palestinian statehood are entangled issues. To untie the knot that lies at the center, the United States must use its military aid to Israel and Egypt as a bargaining chip.

Read the Article

The Lost Generation

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Thanks to our nation's addiction to 34 years of failed Reaganomics and to devastating libertarian extremist economic policies, the millennial generation is the United States' lost generation. Millennials have seen up close and personal how libertarian economics and unregulated capitalism have brought our nation's economy to its knees.

Read the Article

Suit Against Kern County Schools Alleges Disproportionate Discipline for Students of Color

Susan Ferriss, The Center for Public Integrity: A sweeping lawsuit filed in Kern County, California, this month alleges that African-American and Latino high school students suffer discrimination from disciplinary practices that remove them at disproportionate rates from regular school and place them in inferior alternative settings.

Read the Article

Governor Brownback Outsourced Child Support Services to Donor

Mary Bottari and Jonas Persson, PR Watch: In March 2013, the Kansas Department of Children and Families announced that all child support services would be outsourced, and a request for proposal was issued. Not limited to enforcement, the contracts would include services connected to court petitioning, locating parents and establishing paternity.

Read the Article

Applauding Black Death in the Hour of Chaos

Mariame Kaba, Prison Culture: "I heard a 19-year-old young black man say that he wasn't afraid to die for justice in Ferguson. Some in the assembled multiracial audience applauded. But what does it mean to be willing to die for a cause in a society that already considers you to be hyper-disposable?"

Read the Article

Salon

Ridiculous Pastor John Hagee: Ebola Is God's Judgment on the US for Trying to "Divide Jerusalem"
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

How a SWAT Team Killed an Innocent Man Outside His Childhood Home
Read the Article at Salon

How Edward Snowden Changed Journalism
Read the Article at The New Yorker

Exxon: Destroying Planet Necessary to Relieve Global Poverty
Read the Article at EcoWatch

David Swanson | On Killing Trayvons
Read the Article at War Is A Crime

Laura Flanders | New Factories Have Jobs You'd Really Want - and These Chicago Kids Are Skilling Up to Get Them

Laura Flanders, YES! Magazine: Manufacturing jobs are returning to the United States, but to fill them we'll have to train a new generation of workers. That's what this school is doing in a struggling neighborhood that once hosted the country's biggest candy empires, as factories return.

Read the Article

Fighting the Last War: Will the War on Terror Be the Template for the Ebola Crisis?

Karen J. Greenberg, TomDispatch: These days, two "wars" are in the

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headlines: one against the marauding Islamic State and its new caliphate of terror carved out of parts of Iraq and Syria, the other against a marauding disease and potential pandemic, Ebola, spreading across West Africa.

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: California's Dwindling Water Supply Is Contaminated, and More

In today's On the News segment: The last thing Californians needed was to learn that some of their dwindling water supply has been contaminated; last week, a lab official pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Clean Water Act; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering whether to extend Diablo Canyon's operating license for another 20 years; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/30/2014 6:54:40 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday August 30, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday August 30, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

The New York Times: "Hillary Clinton's Gay Rights Evolution"

"Regardless of what Mrs. Clinton believed in the 1990s, most activists interviewed said she had emerged as a forceful advocate at the State Department, devising policies to help gays and lesbians abroad and in the Foreign Service. And her speech in Geneva marked a major turning point in a movement that is increasingly focused on discrimination in countries where same-sex relationships are illegal."

Ottawa Citizen: "Hillary Clinton speaking in Ottawa Oct. 6 "

"The consensus frontrunner for the Democratic nomination in 2016 – and perhaps the next president of the United States – will be in OttawaOct. 6 for a luncheon speech at the Ottawa Convention Centre, the Citizen has learned."

Business Insider: "Hillary Clinton Had A Surprise Interview With Big Republican Cisco CEO John Chambers"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton showed up as a surprise guest at Cisco's huge internal sales conference that took place this week. She was interviewed on stage by CEO John Chambers."

Politico: "No escaping Bill Clinton, Barack Obama in Arkansas"

"Bill Clinton hasn't called Arkansas home in over 20 years, and Barack Obama has never lived here. But they're casting huge shadows on this state's race for governor."

The Daily Beast: "Special Ops Commander Swears: I Won't Be Hillary's VP"

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"Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill responded Thursday with one word to an emailed query: 'Rumors.'"

MSNBC: "Paul and Clinton blur partisan lines on foreign policy"

"After a decade in which Republicans championed an aggressive unilateral foreign policy under President Bush and Democrats rallied behind a more measured international approach under President Obama, the battle lines are getting blurry as presidential season approaches."

CNN: "Rand Paul: If 'Hillary Clinton worked for Bill Clinton, she'd probably have been fired"'

"Sen. Rand Paul on Friday defended his criticism of Hillary Clinton over the 2012 attack against a U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya."

Time: "Rand Paul: Bill Would Fire Hillary"

"Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is positioning himself as the GOP's ace Clinton critic."

Salon column: Paul Rosenberg: "Don't do it, Hillary! Joining forces with neocons could doom Democrats"

[Subtitle:] "Clinton's Iraq vote kept her from the presidency in 2008. Staying hawkish could harm the party for decades. Ask LBJ"

Articles:

The New York Times: "Hillary Clinton's Gay Rights Evolution"

By Amy Chozick

August 29, 2014

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — The crowd of supporters stretched around Main Street on a busy Saturday in August, hundreds of Hamptonites curving past the Ralph Lauren and Tiffany & Co. stores, waiting patiently to greet Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton had taken a break from her beach vacation to sign copies of her latest memoir, "Hard Choices." Her presence transformed BookHampton, the bookseller the Clintons frequent on their working summer vacations, into a sort of pre-campaign event with Secret Service agents, and well-wishers including Martha Stewart and Howard Dean.

The shores of Long Island are not exactly a proxy for the enthusiasm Mrs. Clinton may find on a nationwide presidential campaign. But among the many gay couples in the crowd, a refrain emerged.

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“You literally brought tears to my eyes when you said gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights,” said a stylish man in white jeans who greeted the former first lady with his partner in tow.

It’s a sentiment often expressed as gay voters mull what Mrs. Clinton’s potential 2016 presidential campaign would mean for gay rights. In her four years at the State Department, she prioritized international gay rights, including a 2011 speech in Geneva in which she urged countries to accept gays and lesbians. In the year and a half since she left her post, she has made gay rights a focus. Last fall she accepted an award at the Elton John AIDS Foundation gala in New York; the singer praised Mrs. Clinton’s efforts for human rights.

In June, at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Mrs. Clinton denounced Russia’s treatment of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people. In March 2013, she released a video endorsing same-sex marriage both “personally and as a matter of policy and law.”

The efforts have endeared Mrs. Clinton to many gays and lesbians who are raising money toward her potential run. But others look back on the policies of the Clinton Administration and question why it took Mrs. Clinton so long to get on board.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act, the 1996 measure President Clinton signed into law that barred federal recognition of same-sex marriages, are widely viewed as among the most significant setbacks the gay rights movement has encountered.

“She wasn’t at the back of the pack, but was she out in front with a banner? No,” said Tom Sheridan, a lobbyist who works on H.I.V.-AIDS policy. The Economist put it more bluntly, calling her “belated conversion” to support same-sex marriage “cautious to the point of cowardice.”

So far, Mrs. Clinton does not have an easy answer as to where she stood in the 1990s. An interview with NPR’s Terry Gross in June to promote “Hard Choices” turned awkward when the Defense of Marriage Act came up. Ms. Gross pressed Mrs. Clinton on whether she supported same-sex marriage as first lady but backed Mr. Clinton’s policies for political expediency.

“For me, marriage had always been a matter left to the states,” Mrs. Clinton said. As for whether she supported same-sex marriage when she was in the White House, she said, “I think I’m an American, and I think we have all evolved.”

For some gays and lesbians, the exchange opened old wounds.

“She was not just another evolving American,” the author Andrew Sullivan wrote on his website, The Dish. “She was the second most powerful person in an administration in a critical era for gay rights.” In Slate, Mark Joseph Stern wrote that her “apparent position on gay marriage — leave it to the states — is about as progressive as Dick Cheney’s circa 2004.”

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton declined to comment for this article, but pointed to a CNN interview in which she said that marriage “should be available to everyone regardless of who they love.”

To a generation of younger gay men in particular, Mrs. Clinton’s appeal extends to a more primal connection. Her ability to come back after a bruising defeat by Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic primaries appealed to gay men, many of whom had also weathered setbacks.

“We get her like we get our moms,” said Fred Sainz, a spokesman for Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group. “We’ve seen the travails she’s been through and the fact that she’s not just a survivor but a conqueror.”

Richard Socarides, a Democratic strategist, gay rights advocate and White House adviser to Mr. Clinton, said, “People see her as a survivor and someone who despite her many, many gifts and blessings, survived some personal and political setbacks and persevered in the face of them.” That, he added, “is very appealing to gay Americans because it’s a shared experience.”

When it came to choosing a Halloween costume after the contentious 2008 Democratic presidential primaries, the decision for Robby Browne, a real estate broker in New York, was simple: a blond wig and an orange Calvin Klein pantsuit like the one Mrs. Clinton wore when she endorsed Mr.

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Obama at the Democratic convention. Mr. Brown, who is among Mrs. Clinton's prominent gay donors, had told the former first lady he planned to dress like her.

"Without skipping a beat, she said, 'Be sure to shake a lot of hands,' " he recalled.

Ready for Hillary, an independent group that aims to build grass-roots support for Mrs. Clinton, has signed up tens of thousands of supporters and sold "Out and Ready for Hillary" rainbow T-shirts at booths at 28 gay pride festivals and on college campuses nationwide.

For Mr. Browne, 66, Mr. Clinton's 1992 campaign was a major break from the Reagan and Bush years.

"When the Clintons came along and said the word 'gays' at the '92 convention, I felt like I existed," said Mr. Browne, who lost his brother to AIDS.

The gay rights movement has made major strides since Mr. Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act. While gay activists said there was still much work to be done on making same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states, safeguarding against workplace discrimination and advancing transgender issues, they were hopeful that by 2016 both parties' nominees would accept, if not wholeheartedly endorse, same-sex marriage. Next year, the Supreme Court is expected to decide the constitutionality of the same-sex marriage bans that exist in 31 states.

The year 1996 "is ancient history," said Steve Elmendorf, a Democratic strategist.

That means Democrats can no longer rely on the built-in support of gay voters. Such voters still skew liberal, but polls show they are not without ideological diversity. Republicans see an opening with leaders like Senator Rob Portman of Ohio, whose son is gay. "I find it difficult to see all these Democrats celebrating Hillary Clinton coming to the marriage equality game as late as she did, when Republicans came to the marriage equality game late, too," said Gregory T. Angelo, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.

Freedom to Marry, a nonpartisan group, is working to recruit young Republicans who support same-sex marriage to become delegates and help "get anti-gay language out of the platform in 2016," said Evan Wolfson, its president.

Chad Griffin, the president of Human Rights Campaign and a former Clinton aide, said, "It's going to be difficult for any candidate, Democrat or Republican, to not support full equality in 2016."

Activists said the gay-rights movement has a tendency to embrace supporters, rather than cast judgment about when a politician got on board. After all, in the 2008 primary season neither Mrs. Clinton nor Mr. Obama supported same-sex marriage. They mostly split the gay vote.

"The L.G.B.T. community is, in some respects, very forgiving," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president of Glaad, a nonprofit organization (formerly known as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) that does not endorse candidates. "We've seen our own family and friends evolve around us so it's not out of context to see a politician evolve as well."

Regardless of what Mrs. Clinton believed in the 1990s, most activists interviewed said she had emerged as a forceful advocate at the State Department, devising policies to help gays and lesbians abroad and in the Foreign Service. And her speech in Geneva marked a major turning point in a movement that is increasingly focused on discrimination in countries where same-sex relationships are illegal.

"In one fell swoop, she changed the entire global playing field for gay rights," said Mr. Socarides, the Democratic strategist.

The speech also sent a message to activists in the United States. Mrs. Clinton "might not be as quick as others but once she's there, she's committed," said David B. Mixner, an author and Democratic donor. "I think she's grown into a forceful advocate for L.G.B.T. rights, especially internationally."

Others said there was a collective yearning among gays for a female president that has little to do with Mrs. Clinton's superficial Liza-appeal.

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Mr. Mixner noted that it was often lesbians and straight women who supported gay men through the AIDS epidemic. “There’s a very strong bond between the feminist community and the gay rights community,” he said. “It’s a real symbiotic relationship and it diminishes it to say we’re supporting her in some Judy Garland way.”

Ottawa Citizen: “Hillary Clinton speaking in Ottawa Oct. 6 ”

By Jason Fekete

August 29, 2014, 7:32 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is coming to Ottawa.

The consensus frontrunner for the Democratic nomination in 2016 – and perhaps the next president of the United States – will be in OttawaOct. 6 for a luncheon speech at the Ottawa Convention Centre, the Citizen has learned.

Clinton will arrive in the nation’s capital at a time of what many observers say is a strained Canada-U.S. relationship over issues such as the proposed Keystone XL pipeline; bilateral trade irritants; how to respond to the Israel-Gaza conflict; and delays in U.S. funding for a new Detroit-Windsor bridge.

The event is organized by Canada 2020, an Ottawa-based think-tank that has been working for six months to bring Clinton to the capital.

Clinton will deliver a speech and participate in a moderated question-and-answer session; the specific topic of the speech hasn’t been finalized.

“I think it’s no secret that she’s certainly interested in being a Democratic candidate, but hasn’t confirmed that yet,” said Tim Barber, co-founder of Canada 2020 and founding partner of Bluesky Strategy Group.

“We think that her perspective and, frankly, her world view, fits with our orientation . . . I do think that she’s one of the most recognizable people on the planet,” he said.

Tickets for the Ottawa event will cost $5,000 for a table of 10, with organizers hoping to attract at least 1,000 people to see the former U.S. secretary of state, senator and first lady.

Clinton has been delivering speeches around Canada and the U.S. in recent months to promote her new book, Hard Choices, including stops in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Edmonton.

Canada 2020 hopes her Ottawa speech will build on issues she has discussed over the past few months, such as foreign affairs (including conflicts in Syria and Gaza, and the crisis between Russia and Ukraine); energy and environment in North America; and the Canada-U.S. relationship.

She has also discussed the importance of having more women participate in the global workforce and in politics.

As well, Clinton has addressed the sticky issue of the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta’s oilsands and North Dakota’s Bakken formation to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

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Speaking to a business crowd in Toronto in June, she said the pipeline shouldn't be seen as a proxy for the relationship between Canada and the United States, noting that "it is, after all, one pipeline."

"A lot of people are wondering how she would handle Canada-U.S. in a different way from the Obama administration," Barber said. "I think that she will give a little flash of what that could look like."

Canada 2020 won't disclose how much Clinton is being paid for the Ottawa appearance, but she has regularly charged hundreds of thousands of dollars per outing.

For instance, Clinton was paid $300,000 US for a speech at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in March.

The University at Buffalo, meanwhile, paid $275,000 for Clinton to speak last fall, according to a copy of the school's contract with the Harry Walker Agency (which represents Clinton), recently released in the U.S. through freedom-of-information laws.

Clinton has donated the speaking fees to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, the family's non-profit organization that "works to improve global health, strengthen economies, promote health and wellness, and protect the environment."

The contract with the University at Buffalo stipulated a handful of other requirements for the speech, including that she be the only person on stage during her remarks and that "a presidential glass panel teleprompter and a qualified operator" be provided if requested. Clinton's office also had "final approval" on the moderator and the introducer, according to the contract.

One of the most recognizable people in the world, Clinton has been slowly distancing herself from the Obama administration on some foreign policy as she prepares for what is expected to be a run at the Democratic presidential nomination two years from now.

"Bringing in someone of this calibre into a major G7 capital I think is a really fun, cool thing to do," Barber said. "If she could announce her candidacy, that would be good, too," he quipped.

Canada 2020 is a registered not-for-profit organization that operates on donations and bills itself as "progressive." It's paying for the event by selling tables, and through corporate sponsorships.

Clinton has been to Ottawa before, during her time as secretary of state, for meetings with other G8 foreign ministers – including in 2010, when she was at odds with Prime Minister Stephen Harper over the Conservative government's refusal to fund abortions as part of its initiative on maternal and child health.

Luncheon details:

The Oct. 6 luncheon runs from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., with Hillary Clinton expected to be on stage for about one hour for the speech, and Q and A.

Big dollars for big speakers: payments to some prominent speakers

Hillary Clinton: Paid $300,000 US for a speech at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in March and $275,000 to speak at the University at Buffalo last fall (the money went to the Clinton family's philanthropic organization).

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton: Paid $250,000 in 2012 for speech at UCLA. In 2013, was paid $500,000 to speak at a 90th birthday gala for former Israeli president Shimon Peres (following controversy, the money was donated to an Israeli charity instead of the Clinton Foundation as initially planned). It's estimated that Bill Clinton has earned more than $100 million delivering speeches.

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Justin Trudeau, leader of federal Liberals: Had charged up to $20,000 for speeches to a variety of groups until 2012 (before he became leader), including one to the Grace Foundation in New Brunswick. The charity complained it lost $21,000 at an event for which Trudeau was paid $20,000 (Trudeau offered to repay the speaking fee). Does not charge speaking fees now.

Chris Hadfield, astronaut and first Canadian commander of the International Space Station: Fees are “$20,001 or more” as listed by Speakers’ Spotlight agency.

Clara Hughes, six-time Olympic medalist and mental health advocate: Fees are $10,001 to $20,000 as listed by Speakers’ Spotlight.

Ezra Levant, broadcaster on Sun TV, author: Fees are $5,001 to $10,000 as listed by Speakers’ Spotlight.

Evan Solomon, journalist, host of CBC’s Power & Politics: Fees are $5,001 to $10,000 as listed by Speakers’ Spotlight.

Business Insider: “Hillary Clinton Had A Surprise Interview With Big Republican Cisco CEO John Chambers”

By Julie Bort

August 29, 2014, 5:55 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton showed up as a surprise guest at Cisco's huge internal sales conference that took place this week.

She was interviewed on stage by CEO John Chambers.

That's a politically interesting combination. Chambers is a Republican who endorsed Mitt Romney in the 2012 presidential campaign. But that same year, he also said he was a fan of Hillary's hubby, Bill. He told Arik Hesseldahl at AllThingsD that year:

"I’m a strong Republican, but I think President Clinton got it right with business and knocked the ball out of the park."

Clinton's speech and interview was not taped, a source close to the company told us. So we can't listen on the conversation now that it's over. Cisco would not even officially confirm her visit.

But it was all over Twitter.

That same day, Clinton also gave an official, public appearance in the Valley. She spoke at the OpenSDx Summit sponsored by startup Nexenta Systems. At that appearance she was asked about one of Chambers' favorite political subjects: bringing corporate offshore money back to the U.S. (known as repatriation).

At that conference she was asked about a plan floated by Chambers and others to create an infrastructure bank where companies can invest offshore cash, reports The Wall Street Journal's Rachael King.

Clinton said she hasn't looked into that idea but noted, “It doesn’t do our economy any good to have this money parked somewhere else in the world.”

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She's been lately talking to a lot of tech companies. In July she visited Google, Facebook, and Twitter, she tweeted.

Still, if she runs for president and gets John Chambers' endorsement, that would be something of a coup.

Politico: "No escaping Bill Clinton, Barack Obama in Arkansas"

By Josh Gerstein

August 30, 2014, 7:07 a.m. EDT

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — Bill Clinton hasn't called Arkansas home in over 20 years, and Barack Obama has never lived here. But they're casting huge shadows on this state's race for governor.

The Democratic nominee, Mike Ross, cut his teeth in politics as a driver for Clinton in a gubernatorial contest three decades ago. Now, Ross is trying to distance himself from the highly unpopular current president without alienating the African-American community any Democrat needs to win here.

The GOP hopeful, Asa Hutchinson, hopes to ride into office on a wave of anti-Washington, anti-Obama sentiment. But he faces his own challenge: he led the highly unpopular impeachment of the only president Arkansas has ever sent to the White House.

While both former congressmen insist the race will be decided on local issues, Hutchinson acknowledges that he hopes to tap into anti-Washington anger.

"The political climate is in our favor this year," he said in an interview earlier this month. "There's a lot of frustration with Washington. They see my race as an opportunity to say we need a governor that's going to fight for us against intrusive EPA regulations… or intrusion on second amendment rights. That's part of their frustration with Washington. They want a strong governor."

Hutchinson said he hears "a lot" of dissatisfaction with Obama and his administration. "That frustration is an undercurrent in the politics of Arkansas."

"Obama is just poison down here," said Ouachita Baptist University political science professor Hal Bass. "There's a visceral antipathy for him that I confess I don't fully understand."

When the Republican Governors Association began running TV ads tying Ross to Obama's health care plan, he responded with spots in which he appears on camera to declare: "I voted against Obamacare."

Asked about his thoughts on Obama, Ross was terse.

"I don't have a relationship with him," Ross said. "I'm a conservative, pro-business, pro-gun, God-fearing Arkansas Democrat."

Ross's message, especially on Obamacare, may have been necessary to preserve Ross's chances of winning moderate voters, but two African-American officials from different parts of the state said this month that their offices fielded calls from constituents who said they were put off by the ads' message.

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Another prominent African-American Democrat, state career education director Bill Walker, Jr., said criticizing the president would probably help Ross's standing with many white voters, but not with African-Americans.

"In Arkansas, it's a double-edged sword," Walker added, before predicting that the black community will swing behind Ross as the election nears.

At the same time, Ross said he's a "huge advocate" of some measures to expand health coverage, such as Arkansas's private-insurance-based Medicaid expansion known as the "private option."

"The overwhelming number of folks in my district were against the Affordable Care Act," Ross said. "I said there were good parts and bad parts."

Ross said his Obamacare-related ads were needed to combat a flood of negative spots from Hutchinson and allies. "They've spent about $4 million trying to tie me to Nancy Pelosi… People in Arkansas are laughing at that," he said, noting that in 2011 he voted for Rep. Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) over Pelosi for speaker.

Another challenge Ross faces: since he's less known in the state, the TV ads trying to trash and rehabilitate him are the first introduction many voters are getting to him. Hutchinson is more widely known, but it's not so clear whether he's widely liked. He's had the exposure of running for statewide office three times, but each time he's lost, most recently in the 2006 governor's race when Democrat Mike Beebe trounced him 56 percent to 41 percent.

Most recent polls show Hutchinson leading Ross by a few percentage points, roughly 46 percent to 41 percent, with many voters yet to tune in to the race. One Rasmussen poll out this week showed the two men effectively tied.

"All these national folks who couldn't find Arkansas with a road map were writing stories saying Arkansas has gone red and Ross can't win," Ross said. But, "a year ago Asa was at 46 percent and he's still at 46 percent… People are still getting to know me. Asa hasn't moved. He's still stuck."

If there's a ceiling on Hutchinson's support, part of the reason could be his role in the effort to bring down Clinton during his second term in the White House.

Clinton is still revered by many in the state. "I miss Bill" is festooned on a swath of merchandise at the Clinton Presidential Library store. It's a sentiment which conjured up one worldview during the Bush years, but is taking on a different hue as Obama struggles with sagging poll numbers and Hillary Clinton publicly mulls a run for the White House.

Asked about Clinton, Hutchinson chooses his words carefully, making no mention of his role as a manager of the impeachment case the House brought against the president in 1998 over alleged false statements in connection with the Monica Lewinsky affair.

"I think President Clinton is a strong presence in Arkansas. He's popular. His library is an amazing asset for our state and an attraction. I'm sure his support for Mike Ross is helpful to him. He's certainly raised him money," the Republican candidate said.

One indication that the Clinton brand remains strong in Arkansas: Hillary Clinton is relatively popular here even as she is pilloried by conservatives across the country. A poll last year found her leading a generic Republican presidential candidate. A survey released last week by Public Policy Polling found her trailing the most-discussed Republican possibilities by a few points — a relatively strong showing in a conservative state where the GOP is fueling anti-Obama sentiment.

"In this environment, to me, that's pretty respectable," said Janine Parry, a University of Arkansas political science professor.

Ross said he has "no idea" if Hutchinson's role in impeachment will be a liability, but that the move was not popular in the state.

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“No, it wasn’t. President Clinton is the only president Arkansas ever had. Most of us are very proud of him and the job he did leading this country,” Ross said. He said he hopes Clinton will play a major role in turning out Democratic base this fall.

Hutchinson says he doesn’t believe much of the Clinton magic will transfer to his opponent.

“Arkansas has never been a coattail state,” the former congressman said. “Voters in Arkansas distinguish [Clinton’s] popularity versus my race for governor. He’s popular. He’s raised money. Beyond that I think the coattail’s very limited.”

There are also signs that the tactic of triangulation that Clinton famously perfected in the 1980s and rode all the way to the White House may be losing its effect.

“Back in the day, the name of the game was grab the center and hold to it tight,” Bass said Ouachita Baptist University professor Hal Bass. “I think polarization has made that tactic, that approach, far more problematical….Clearly, you cannot run as a liberal Democrat in Arkansas and have a chance of winning. The question is how much can you lean to the right without alienating your liberal constituency. I think [Ross] is trapped in that dilemma.”

Earlier this month, both candidates for governor visited a workforce-development conference organized by the Delta Regional Authority, a little known federal agency which tries to boost economic activity in the impoverished Mississippi delta region across eight states. The meeting was held at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, which was created after the Civil War as a teachers’ college for African-Americans and still has a mostly black student body.

While Ross lacks some of Clinton’s natural political charm, the Democratic hopeful does seem to have picked up the ex-president’s wonkiness and gift for detail.

When a woman at the delta conference asked why state prison inmates don’t grow their own food to save money, Ross responded that they do. He then proceeded to break the situation down by meat.

“Almost all the food that’s consumed in the prison system is grown by the inmates,” Ross said. “Everything from beef and pork….I’m not sure if they’re still doing chickens. Someone told me it’s cheaper to buy chicken than it is to grow it. I’m not sure about that.”

Hutchinson got a polite reception from the same audience as he laid out an eight-point economic plan and discussed the need for job training.

“Surrounding states are lowering their tax rates, reducing the burden of regulation, providing incentives…..we’ve got to do all of that,” he declared.

However, when it came time for the question-and-answer period, no one had a question for the former Congressman, save for a local reporter asking whether Arkansas students may be so far behind educationally that they can’t be trained for open jobs.

Hutchinson later said that it wasn’t his typical crowd. He also noted that he voted in 2000 to set up the Delta Regional Authority — the kind of alphabet-soup federal agency the Tea Party often rails against. In showing up this month and highlighting his vote for the DRA, Hutchinson was subtly distinguishing himself from the Republican Senate candidate on the ballot in Arkansas this fall, Rep. Tom Cotton. He voted to eliminate the agency.

Unmentioned was that the legislation creating the DRA was signed into law by Clinton, who would have been out of office at the time if Hutchinson’s impeachment drive had succeeded.

“Arkansas politics is always complicated,” the GOP candidate observed.

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The Daily Beast: "Special Ops Commander Swears: I Won't Be Hillary's VP"

By Kimberly Dozier

August 29, 2014

[Subtitle:] He commanded the bin Laden raid—and expanded U.S. commandos' global footprint. Now Adm. Bill McRaven is leaving the military. He promises—promises—that politics won't be next.

Admiral Bill McRaven left command of U.S. special operations this week as a somewhat bewildered man – surprised, stymied, and in some cases burned by the fame and notoriety that launched his three years there, as the military commander of the 2011 raid that killed terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

His fame and the public respect for his role was such that multiple special operations officials say he was even approached as a possible vice presidential candidate for the as-yet-undeclared Hillary Clinton presidential campaign – something he openly denies ever happened. But the rumors persist throughout special operations circles even as he accepted a top post with the University of Texas.

"I am not running with Hillary," he said forcefully when last asked this past spring – a statement reiterated by his spokesman this summer.

Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill responded Thursday with one word to an emailed query: "Rumors."

McRaven's fame is due in part to the raid and the San-Antonio native's own Texas-sized frame, southern drawl and knack for working a room of a dozen or two thousand – and also to the larger role his troops have played as special operations has quietly expanded its presence to fight Islamic militants worldwide.

They are the go-to force for the Obama White House, with hundreds deployed in the past few months to work with Iraqi and Kurdish forces fighting the onslaught of the militant Islamic State – a mission that could expand to Syria, depending on what the president decides after deliberations with his national security team Thursday.

"Admiral McRaven has led a community transitioning from its essential role in the post-9/11 wars to confronting the next generation of challenges – dynamic, dispersed, and networked," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel at the four-star Navy SEAL admiral's change of command with U.S. Army Ranger Gen. Joseph Votel.

In most ways, McRaven was exactly the right man for the job of running U.S. Special Operations Command. His counterterrorism credentials were ideal for the mop-up operations of al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, at least as the operation was then perceived before the near-meteoric rise of Islamic extremist groups in Africa, Syria and Iraq.

In other ways, he was miscast, the consummate action man, combat commander and blunt speaker wedging himself into a role that required the political skills of an ambassador with the emotional intelligence of a psychologist, and sometimes, the underhandedness of a spy.

He had set for himself the tall task of shaking up how special operations does business, trying to streamline everything from the way the command speaks to Capitol Hill to the way its top commander speaks to his far-flung officers overseas.

He ran straight into the buzz saw of Congressional egos, interagency earls defending their fiefdoms against his alleged overreach, and even the naysayers in his own ranks who quietly fought against his initiatives, poisoning them with a phone call to key Congressional or Pentagon staffers. Sometimes, the calls pointed out areas McRaven's team was genuinely pushing legal bounds, but more often, they were simply pointing out areas where the four-star SEAL's plans might steal influence from another organization, or rob a lawmaker of jobs in his district by moving a large facility.

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"I'm real pleased with where we are," McRaven said in May in answer to a Daily Beast question at a special operations conference in Tampa. "When you ask about my checklist and if we have achieved what I hoped we would achieve three years ago when I came to command, I would say we're very, very close to where I hoped we would be."

But he would not be drawn on answering a question of U.S. strategy in Afghanistan –a marked change from his openness answering the same question from the same reporter in his first year of command. Then, in 2012, he said he thought special operations forces and intelligence would be last out, as they had been first in. The story quickly filed went viral in Washington, and officials close to McRaven say he spent that afternoon on the phone explaining to senior administration officials that he was not prejudging President Barack Obama's Afghan war policy.

This time, he simply said, "I'm not going to address Afghanistan now," bunting the question with a diplomatic and opaque "We wish the Afghans well...and we will have to see where the future lies."

He similarly toned down his openness with "telling the special operations story" –his early catch phrase – in hopes of dispelling some of the stories about allegedly lawless operations by cowboy operators outside the bounds of U.S. law or diplomatic policy.

It didn't help when his special operations teams in Afghanistan were repeatedly accused by Afghan President Hamid Karzai of killing civilians in what Karzai called "night raids," accidentally or on purpose. Those charges that continued even as special operations commanders issued new rules that kept even the most elite troops outside targeted compounds while Afghan forces went inside and carried out the mission.

McRaven's own reputation took a bashing early own when the administration got slammed for telling the story of the Bin Laden raid, accused by Republican critics of using the operation for political gain. They blamed him as the source for a slew of articles detailing the raid, and claimed he'd ordered his officers to cooperate with the producer and scriptwriter of the film Zero Dark Thirty – charges they never proved.

The admiral said openly that he was simply trying to use the raid to convince administration leaders and legislators that special operations was the way ahead, especially in a time of trimmed budgets and a war weary public that was tired of watching all-out combat on cable news.

In retrospect, McRaven conceded privately to friends that maybe he was too open, said too much, appeared too often and even trusted some members of his own team too much, according to current and former U.S. special operations officers who worked on or were briefed on his initiatives. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the comments publicly.

Those on the receiving end of McRaven's entreaties say he was tireless in making repeated trips to Congress and the Pentagon to explain his initiatives and how he thought they would add to, not compete with or subtract from the current national security structure.

That personal touch worked, at times. The Defense Secretary and Joint Chiefs signed off on his proposal to allow him more latitude to speak directly to his own special operations commanders in the field - something now-retired Adm. Eric Olsen has complained publicly he was not allowed to do during his time running the special operations enterprise.

Now, when the new special operations commander Gen. Joe Votel wants to speak to the Central Command's special operations chief Maj. Gen. Michael Nagata about what is happening in Syria or Iraq, and perhaps share with Nagata what he's hearing from the special operations commander in Europe about al-Qaida's movements, he can simply pick up the phone and call him.

Before McRaven's initiative, the admiral would have had to instead share his concerns with the conventional commander in the region and hope it got passed on – a bureaucratic wall that hampered information sharing, and McRaven said kept him from sharing with his folks in the field emerging patterns he saw in terrorism or narco-trafficking.

McRaven also won the right from the Pentagon to move his forces between 70-90 countries where U.S. special operators work daily – as long as the U.S. ambassador and the conventional U.S. military commander in the region agree to it.

Where he lost was in his plan to create a special operations hub in Washington, meant to liaise with the different federal agencies like the CIA and FBI, and Congress. It was briefly known as "SOCOM NCR" or Special Operations Command, North Capital Region. He told those setting it up to push

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the envelop, as he thought he had limited political capital to spend from the bin Laden raid.

Multiple special operations officials, current and former, say his staff did as they were told, pushing the bounds of statute and budget just as they had built such joint operations centers in war zones. Some Congressional staffers say they overstepped the legal limits of what they were allowed to do with money already apportioned for other projects.

McRaven also explained openly that the new office would ultimately replace a similar multi-million-dollar operation in Tampa, an upsetting development for the late congressman Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla.

"The ideas were good, but they were half-baked," one senior staffer explained. "Every time we came back with a hard question, like how are you going to fund this over time, they would change the plan again," as if they were learning the Congressional funding process by doing, he said.

Congress ultimately blocked funding for SOCOM NCR until it got more answers, and the special operations legislative affairs office quietly withdrew the program from consideration this year, along with other initiatives that would have allowed Special Operations Command to spend money for foreign training without going through a lengthy State Department approval process.

The legislative hangover from SOCOM NCR unfortunately colored the fight over another McRaven initiative: to push more physical therapy and physical training to special operators. U.S. special operations officials who work on the programs said the idea is not just to keep them physically fit but to get them to come to a facility that also offers counseling.

But committees overseeing the program accused McRaven's shop of misappropriating about $10 million to fund the Human Performance Program that was supposed to be spent on something else. So they temporarily nixed that spending until the command could explain itself and re-apply for the money in the next year.

In a letter obtained by The Daily Beast, McRaven wrote his community that "regretfully" he had to give the order to "reduce the scope of the program," meaning many newly-hired contractors would have to be laid off until the issue could be resolved.

But from the public's point of view, these messy battles inside Congress over how to spend money or coordinate operations with the interagency matter little.

They remember high profile special operations successes like the land-and-sea raid this year that nabbed Libyan militant Ahmed Abu Khatala, one of the alleged perpetrators of the 2012 Benghazi attacks, and another raid that grabbed a long-time al Qaeda member in Tripoli earlier this year.

And they remember the 2012 Navy SEAL raid that rescued two aid workers from pirate-militants in Somalia, the SEALs parachuting in and hiking to the militant hideout where they were being held.

They even remember the raids that went awry as a worthwhile swing for the fences, like the SEAL raid this year that tried, but failed to capture a key Somali militant. The SEALs met fierce resistance, but what ultimately drove them to retreat was the presence of too many woman and children in the seaside compound, risking too many civilian casualties.

Perhaps that partly explains why McRaven's star power is such that his commencement speech to the University of Texas – where he will now take the helm as chancellor – went viral. And it surely explains why those rumors of a Hillary Clinton vice presidential run persist, no matter how many times he or his spokesman deny it.

McRaven declined requests through his staff to be interviewed, but the UT-Austin grad has told friends he wants to embrace his new job, and also to take the next several months to review his past three years. In the past, when he has identified flaws, or perceived weaknesses or sins against teammates, those close to him say he has worked hard to fix them.

For instance, when a near-crippling parachute accident kept him from the kind of operational missions the SEALs he was commanding were leading, he fixed that by going along on what his fellow operators considered missions far too dangerous for a commander of his rank. He didn't want to ask them to do something he hadn't or wasn't willing to do.

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McRaven's successor Votel is in many senses, his opposite. Wiry and more grey man than charismatic, Votel is known for his no-nonsense, rather closed demeanor. Those who have watched him expect the Minnesotan's time to be marked by the same number of raids and operations, but fewer sweeping McRaven-style initiatives.

Those close to Votel say he would like to return special operations to the shadows – a goal lauded by some who treasure the organization's former anonymity even as it is impractical in an age where even goat herders in remote villages have camera phones.

But Votel has made a start, so unknown that even legislators he's previously testified before on the Senate armed services committee got his name wrong in his confirmation hearing. It's not the kind of mistake they would've made with his predecessor.

MSNBC: "Paul and Clinton blur partisan lines on foreign policy"

By Benjy Sarlin

August 30, 2014, 9:41 a.m. EDT

Things might get weird in 2016 when it comes to foreign policy.

After a decade in which Republicans championed an aggressive unilateral foreign policy under President Bush and Democrats rallied behind a more measured international approach under President Obama, the battle lines are getting blurry as presidential season approaches.

On the Republican side, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has long been out of step with the party's hawkish wing, favoring a policy of "non-interventionism" that includes, with some hedging, ending all foreign aid and aggressively scaling back American military involvement abroad. While he's smoothed some of the harsher edges of his father, former Texas Rep. Ron Paul's, policy vision (which is less friendly to Israel and a lot more friendly to dictators), it still would represent a massive shift from the more active approach favored by every modern president.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton has been distancing herself from the White House. Almost every break with the administration so far puts her further to Obama's right, alarming some liberal doves who fear she hasn't learned from a 2008 primary loss fueled by anger over her vote to authorize the Iraq War.

Paul has made clear in recent weeks that the foreign policy debate will be at the center of his likely presidential campaign, in Sunday show appearances, op-eds and statements criticizing America's increased involvement in the Middle East. On Thursday, he published an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal accusing officials like Clinton, who supported backing moderate Syrian rebels in their war against dictator Bashar al-Assad, of indirectly encouraging the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The reactions from politicians and commentators to each of these developments, in particular Paul's op-ed, scrambled partisan lines.

"Simply put, if Rand Paul had a foreign policy slogan, it would be – The Rand Paul Doctrine: Blame America. Retreat from the World," a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee, Michael Czin, said in a statement.

The "blame America" and "retreat" lines recalled similar attacks leveled against Democrats like John Kerry throughout the Bush era. As if Democrats needed a reminder, former Senator Rick Santorum, an old Bush ally, e-mailed supporters a statement that sounded many of the same notes.

"Senator Paul is wrong, and his policies are wrong for America's security and prosperity," Santorum wrote. "We cannot defend liberty at home by ignoring threats abroad. This is not the time for neo-isolationism and reckless retreats."

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The DNC's reaction made some liberal commentators deeply uncomfortable. Vox's Ezra Klein decried it as "brain-dead patriotism-baiting that Democrats used to loathe" and noted that elements of Paul's arguments about ISIS were reflected in Obama's own skepticism towards military engagement in Syria. Klein, along with a number of other progressive columnists and former White House advisor David Axelrod, delivered a rebuke to Clinton as well after she criticized Obama's foreign policy from the right in an interview with The Atlantic.

Czin noted to msnbc that there are major substantive differences between Paul and Democrats in 2004. He's right: Kerry, now Secretary of State, was far from an anti-interventionist and devoted his Senate career to cultivating an active foreign policy. No prominent Democratic leaders have supported eliminating foreign aid, nor do they share Paul's intense skepticism of international institutions.

The broad dynamics of the Clinton and Paul kerfuffles suggest that the general election would be fought on a bizarre role reversal, however. Clinton, possibly with help from prominent Republican hawks, would attack Paul hard from the right. Paul, perhaps with support from some progressive doves, would attack from the left. There's no modern precedent to tell us what might happen next.

CNN: "Rand Paul: If 'Hillary Clinton worked for Bill Clinton, she'd probably have been fired"'

By Ashley Killough

August 29, 2014, 6:28 p.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul on Friday defended his criticism of Hillary Clinton over the 2012 attack against a U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

The Kentucky Republican, rebutting claims that Benghazi criticism is "politically motivated," said Clinton's handling of the attack was a legitimate topic of discussion as she considers a presidential bid.

"There will be discussion over the next four years whether or not Hillary Clinton is fit to lead this country," he said at a Dallas event hosted by the conservative group Americans for Prosperity. "Is Hillary Clinton fit to be commander in chief?"

The audience fired off a robust round of 'no's.

The first-term senator went on to compare Benghazi to the 1993 mission in Mogadishu, Somalia, in which 18 U.S. military members were killed. Two months after the tragedy, President Bill Clinton announced the resignation of Les Aspin, then secretary of the defense. Aspin had taken heat for denying security requests for U.S. forces in the region just a month before the attack.

"He ignored the request and he resigned ultimately in disgrace," Paul said. "I think had Hillary Clinton worked for Bill Clinton, she'd probably have been fired."

Paul has been hounding Clinton over foreign policy and Benghazi for the past year, and he frequently brings up the former secretary of state as he lays his own groundwork for a possible presidential campaign.

In an interview earlier this summer, Clinton was asked about Paul's attacks, specifically about a separate claim he has made, saying Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky could be a liability if Hillary Clinton runs for president.

"He can talk about whatever he wants to talk about," Clinton responded. "And if he decides to run, he'll be fair game too."

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Time: "Rand Paul: Bill Would Fire Hillary"

By Zeke J. Miller

August 29, 2014

[Subtitle:] In a speech Friday, the likely 2016 Presidential hopeful also took a jab at Barack Obama

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is positioning himself as the GOP's ace Clinton critic.

Speaking to the conservative Americans for Prosperity conference in Dallas Friday, the Republican 2016 hopeful escalated his verbal assault on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's fitness for service, arguing that even her husband, former President Bill Clinton, would have fired her for her handling of the Benghazi attacks.

Launching on an extended attack of Clinton's record, Paul said Clinton had repeatedly minimized the threat to the U.S. consulate in Benghazi before the September 11, 2012 attack and didn't act on calls to increase security at the diplomatic facility. Comparing it to the 42nd president's handling of the Black Hawk Down incident in Somalia, Paul said "If Hillary Clinton worked for Bill Clinton she probably would have been fired."

It was hardly Paul's first volley at Clinton. In a Wall Street Journal op-ed this week the non-interventionist lawmaker said the nation was "lucky" that Clinton's push for President Barack Obama to arm Syrian rebels went unheeded. "Mrs. Clinton was also eager to shoot first in Syria before asking some important questions," he said. Paul has also used the Clintons' treatment of Monica Lewinsky to argue that Democrats are engaging in "hypocrisy" when they suggest Republicans for waging a "war on women."

Paul is betting that he can distinguish himself from a crowded Republican field by proving he has the capacity and the will to take the fight to the powerful Clinton clan, a tactic that reliably draws loud cheers of support from Republican audiences.

Paul also criticized President Barack Obama's statement Thursday that he has yet to develop a strategy for American military airstrikes in Syria.

"If the president has no strategy, maybe it's time for a new president," Paul said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence addressed the gathering on Friday, with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz slated to speak on Saturday.

Salon column: Paul Rosenberg: "Don't do it, Hillary! Joining forces with neocons could doom Democrats"

By Paul Rosenberg

August 30, 2014, 9:45 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Clinton's Iraq vote kept her from the presidency in 2008. Staying hawkish could harm the party for decades. Ask LBJ

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Has Hillary Clinton forgotten why she's not president? In light of her headline-making Atlantic interview with Jeffrey Goldberg, in which she seemingly echoed the neocons' "who lost Syria/who lost Iraq" line, it would seem that she has. There are numerous folks around to remind her how foolish such saber-rattling is in terms of foreign policy effectiveness, but given how smart Clinton is, she has to already know this herself — as the Atlantic's own James Fallows noted in a typically savvy and well-crafted piece just a few days later:

Of course everyone including Clinton "knows" that you should only do something when it's smart and not when it's stupid. In her books and speeches, she is most impressive when showing commanding knowledge of the complexities and contradictions of negotiating with the Russians and Chinese, and why you can't just "be tough" in dealings with them….

But in this interview — assuming it's not "out of context" — she is often making the broad, lazy "do something" points and avoiding the harder ones. She appears to disdain the president for exactly the kind of slogan — "don't do stupid shit" — that her husband would have been proud of for its apparent simplicity but potential breadth and depth. (Remember "It's the economy, stupid"?)

But the problem isn't just that Clinton was acting deliberately stupid in foreign policy terms, for whatever reason. She was also acting deeply foolish in terms of domestic politics as well. Even if she can't actually lose the Democratic nomination this time, such belligerent hawkishness could utterly wreck the Democratic Party, just as Lyndon Johnson wrecked it with his pursuit of the Vietnam War.

Of course it's not popular to blame LBJ in that regard, but it's impossible to ignore. Johnson won one of the most lopsided landslides in history in 1964, running as an anti-war candidate, and then, thanks to pursuing a war he didn't even want, was driven out of office four years later, to be followed by 46 years now, in which Democrats have controlled the White House and both houses of Congress for a total of just eight years. Yes, it's always been fashionable to blame anti-war forces for the wreckage Johnson wrought, but Johnson, as president, was the one who set it all in motion — by embracing a moral crusade that he didn't even believe in. The question is — why? And what does this tell us about Hillary?

The most comprehensive answer I know to these questions comes from Robert Mann's 2001 book, "A Grand Delusion: America's Descent Into Vietnam." Mann, a professor at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication, is a former Senate staffer, and his book is the only account of the Vietnam War to focus substantially on the role of the Senate, beginning in the Truman administration, as the "loss of China" and the unexpected outbreak of the Korean War suddenly thrust the Democrats into the minority for the first time in 20 years. Not only were Kennedy and Johnson both shaped by their Senate experiences in the aftermath of this loss, so were many other key actors as well — but none as much as Johnson, who unexpectedly became Senate minority leader in 1952.

The quickest way I can summarize Mann's main thrust is to quote from my own Denver Post review of the book:

[Mann's] approach illuminates a fundamental axis of power, because the Senate long has been the primary counterweight to the presidency in foreign affairs. If it proved an especially weak counterweight in preventing the war's often secretive and deceptive escalation, Mann's treatment of the early Cold War era makes it clear just how strong Senate influence was in establishing the basic parameters that later led to presidential secrecy and duplicity.

…. A majority of Senate Republicans, still isolationist at least as far as Europe was concerned, voted against NATO and the Marshall Plan, but enthusiastically rallied around Joe McCarthy's anti-communist crusade against the Truman Administration, especially after the Korean War began.

The opportunistic hypocrisy of their posturing crippled Truman's congressional support in 1950, and captured both houses of Congress when Eisenhower swept into office two years later. But it left Eisenhower boxed in with no practical alternative but to continue Truman's containment policies he and other Republicans had so mercilessly attacked.

The Truman-Eisenhower prelude takes up almost a third of the book, but it is time extremely well spent. Lyndon Johnson's Senate leadership was defined by the struggle to reverse Democratic losses stemming from alleged softness toward communism, particularly in Asia. John Mansfield's Senate leadership was shaped in reaction to Johnson's style, as well as in deference to his role as President and party leader. By following the story through this formative period we gain unique insight into later behavior, such as the obsessive blindness that repeatedly prevented John F. Kennedy and Johnson from heeding the growing chorus of warning voices from Vietnam itself, from inside their administrations and from Capitol Hill.

But that's only a brief summary. The real story has different layers of moving parts. Mansfield, for example, was so knowledgeable, Mann notes, he had been teaching Asian history as early as 1933, and in 1954, he saw everything wrong with the direction in which America eventually headed:

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In his most prescient of moments, Mansfield warned that sending the American military to enter China would involve the nation “in every sense” in a “nibbling war.” “The terrain of the Indochinese conflict – the flooded deltas, the thousands of scattered villages, the jungles – is made to order for the nibbling of mechanized forces,” he said. “The French have been nibbled and chewed for years.”

The heart of the problem, Mansfield believed, was that Eisenhower continued to apply military solutions to a political problem.… Mansfield faulted the administration for having placed too much emphasis on the military power of Western nations. “Asian freedom,” he insisted, “must be defended primarily by Asians. A people whether in Asia or in the Americas, can preserve their independence only if they have it in the first place and if they are willing to fight to keep it.”

This reveals what I’m really afraid of — not so much that Clinton will swagger into quicksand over her head, like Johnson did, but more likely that she, like Mansfield, could nonetheless end up trapped into doing something that she could once have foreseen as folly.

Having been so concerned with Clinton’s reckless talk, I decided to do the sensible thing, and see if Mann saw things similarly. Unfortunately, he did.

In an interview, Mann first reaffirmed some major themes of his book. “The Truman and Democratic Party, in general, and congressional Democrats, in particular, took huge beatings at the polls in 1950 and 1952 and most of their problems involved the advance of Communism — particularly in Asia — and national security,” he said. “The public was persuaded — first by Joseph McCarthy and then by Eisenhower and Nixon — that they were weak on both.” As a result, Republicans won control of both the White House and Congress for the first time in 20 years.

“Democrats paid dearly,” Mann said. “Their defeat was catastrophic and the painful memories of it were long lasting for some leaders, particularly Lyndon Johnson. Future presidents Johnson, Kennedy, and Nixon were all in Congress at the time and the lesson was abundantly clear — don’t be weak on national security and don’t allow an inch of Asian soil to fall to the Communists.”

Mann pointed to the tapes of LBJ’s phone conversations with Georgia Sen. Richard Russell in 1964 and 1965. “It’s clear that Johnson is persuaded that he might lose his presidency unless he takes the strongest stance possible on fighting Communism in Southeast Asia,” he said. But it was a deeply misguided form of “political realism.”

“What Johnson didn’t realize is that the public had much shorter memories than the politicians,” Mann observed. “For Johnson, the electoral punishment the Democrats took in 1952 was severe and personal” — which is rather the opposite of realism. “Among his many mistakes in Vietnam was assuming the public still cared deeply about fighting Communism in Asia,” Mann continued. “It’s always perplexed me that Johnson forgot that by 1952 the public was already tired of fighting in Korea. In fact, one of the reasons the Democrats lost the 1952 elections was that Eisenhower promised to go to Korea and end the war,” which, of course, he did.

Of course, there is one line of counter-argument which Mann’s own book would support — that the Republicans were unsurpassed in opportunistically switching positions, while keeping their moral outrage intact. Eisenhower, after all, didn’t have Nixon accusing him of treason when he made peace — just as Nixon didn’t have Nixon calling himself a traitor when he went to China. Just to underscore how convoluted and opportunistic the Republicans were during this era, consider Mann’s account of how a leading Republican senator — and presidential hopeful — responded to the 1950 elections:

The 1950 elections only confirmed [Ohio Senator Robert] Taft’s decision to strike an even more partisan, hard-line position against Truman and the new 82nd Congress…

Taft wasted no time. In January, he launched his renewed campaign against Truman by embracing the nationalistic “Fortress America” sentiments of former Pres. Herbert Hoover, who had only recently advocated a drastic reduction of America’s military commitments around the world, especially in Europe and Asia. “We Americans alone,” Hoover said, “with sea and air power, can so control the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that there can be no possible invasion of the Western Hemisphere by Communist armies.”

Taft, of course, had long held that the Far East was “more important to our future peace than is Europe.” He demonstrated just how much he agreed with Hoover when he formally opposed Truman’s plans to implement the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. Taft voted against NATO and now he stood adamantly opposed to Truman’s plan to send four divisions to protect Western Europe from the Soviet Union. In early January 1951, Taft told the Senate that the US should “commit no American troops to the European continent at this time.” When Illinois Democrat Paul Douglas reminded Taft that the fall of Western Europe would leave the Continent’s industrial potential in Soviet hands, Taft replied that, in that event, the United States could destroy those industrial facilities with bombs. Taft’s extraordinary logic was too much for J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, who interrupted to say that it was “a very shocking thing for Europeans to realize that we are willing to contemplate their

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destruction."

Those who may think that today's neocons are unprecedentedly unhinged should take note. If Republicans could make such whack-job "policy" work for them even then, the argument might go, then perhaps Clinton isn't so crazy after all? But that sort of thinking ignores the Democrats' real advantages — most notably the deep popularity of their domestic political agenda. Even in 1952, Democrats still won slightly more House votes than Republicans did, and they quickly retook Congress. Eisenhower embraced the New Deal programs that earlier GOP candidates had opposed, and even Richard Nixon, two decades later, signed so many Democratic domestic bills that he's often held up as a secret liberal — not because he was, but because he had to go along, in order to survive and focus on what mattered to him most. In the long run, Nixon was able to start bending politics in a whole new direction — but only because Johnson, acting out of fear, had opened the door for him by fracturing his own party.

And that's what Clinton could be doing once again — only she would be undermining an emerging majority that hasn't even gelled yet, rather than one that's been around for a generation.

"I think you could argue that Clinton is still operating from a mindset that once influenced many Democrats to support war in Iraq and Afghanistan," Mann said. "They got beat up badly in the early 1990s for opposing GHW Bush in Iraq and they vowed never to be caught being weak on terrorism (and use of military force) again. After 9-11, there was nothing to be gained, and everything to be lost, by appearing weak on terrorism/Iraq."

But isn't ISIS really evil? Well, yes, they are. Maybe even evil enough to make it clear how over the top some earlier claims of absolute evil were. And certainly evil enough to be at war with half a dozen other Muslim outfits. Which bring us to another lesson Mann points out.

"Another key lesson from my book is the mistake of looking at communism as a monolithic worldwide force," Mann said "There were Soviet Communists, Chinese Communists, Vietnamese Communists, Yugoslavian Communists, etc. Fulbright spent a lot of time talking about how we needed to take a more sophisticated, nuanced approach to the communists. Some of his colleagues and Johnson thought he was crazy."

And now? "Fulbright's lesson applies to terrorists and the Muslim world," Mann pointed out. "Not every radical Muslim is an enemy of the U.S. Not every terrorist is out to attack the U.S. Not every Muslim is radical and violent, etc. We never seem to have the capacity for any kind of sophisticated, informed assessment of the world around us. Like George W. Bush, you're either with us or with the people who want to destroy us." That sort of mindset is what created most of the enemies we're facing in the first place.

In his article, Fallows made a very similar point:

Yeah, we should have "done something" in Syria to prevent the rise of ISIS. But the U.S. did a hell of a lot of somethings in Iraq over the past decade, with a lot more leverage that it could possibly have had in Syria. And the result of the somethings in Iraq was … ? A long story in the NYT tells us that the current leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the caliph himself, drew his political formation from America's own efforts to "do something" in Iraq….

Here's the dirtiest of dirty little secrets — and it's not really a secret, it's just something no one ever talks about: The entire jihadi mess we're facing now all descends from the brilliant idea of "giving the Soviets their own Vietnam" in Afghanistan. How's that for learning a lesson from Vietnam? Well, that's the lesson that Jimmy Carter's crew learned — and Ronald Reagan's gang was only too happy to double down on.

"Finally," Mann told me, "is the unwillingness to learn much if anything about our foes. We failed to learn about Vietnam, its people, culture and history. We refused to understand that we were fighting a nationalist insurgency that cared more about independence (mostly from China hegemony) than it did about Communism." Tragically, Mann quotes Kennedy on several occasions clearly seeing this — at a time when we were still merely assisting the French.

"Ho took help from the Communists because they were willing to help him fight for independence," Mann continued. "He eventually became a committed Communist, I believe, but I don't think he started out as one. He tried to get us to help him, because he actually thought we were serious about self determination."

Something very similar happened when we missed the opportunity to fully support the Arab Spring. If we don't have the courage of our own convictions, it's folly to expect others to believe in them for us. That goes for voters here in America, too.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/26/2015 10:17:27 AM
Subject: Mark Kirk and Tom Cotton

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

John -

With his poll numbers flagging and prominent Republicans calling for his retirement, Senator Mark Kirk is pinning his re-election campaign against Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth on a simple premise:

More war.

In an effort to scare up campaign cash, Senator Kirk, maybe more than any other senator, has dragged the Iran debate through the mud with bombastic proclamations designed to terrify the American people into opposing the diplomacy-first approach endorsed by our diplomats, negotiators, nuclear scientists, and many of our strongest allies throughout the world.

But he would do well to re-acquiant himself with Congressman Kirk, who had a much more nuanced view diplomacy when he occupied a safer seat in the run-up to the Iraq War (another war he supported).

“In my own experience, war has taught me to be the best friend of our State Department, a place where diplomacy is the preferred course of action.” - Congressman Mark Kirk 2002	“Neville Chamberlain got a lot of more out of Hitler than [State Department Negotiator] Wendy Sherman got out of Iran.” - Senator Mark Kirk 2015

Sign our petition: Call on Senator Kirk put his country ahead of his campaign and apologize to the State Department negotiators he so casually likened to Nazi appeasers.

It shouldn't surprise you to learn that Mark Kirk also added his name to the odious letter Senator Tom Cotton and forty-six other Republicans wrote to Iranian religious leaders earlier this year. Veterans and military family members deserve more from our elected leaders in this historic debate.

Thanks for sending that message to Senator Kirk.

All my best,

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
VoteVets.org

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@me.com>
To: "Fred Hiatt" <hiattf@washpost.com>
"Fred Hiatt" <Fred.Hiatt@washpost.com>
"Jackson Diehl" <diehlj@washpost.com>
"Jackson K Diehl" <Jackson.Diehl@washpost.com>
"Autumn Brewington" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com>
"Autumn Brewington" <BrewingtonA@washpost.com>
Date: 1/13/2014 3:37:23 PM
Subject: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it

All --

The purpose is to help the Administration out of the box on the signature of the BSA. The op ed reflects a lot of input from U.S. experts on the subject, some key Afghan leaders, and from some Administration officials. I believe that the Administration would find it helpful -- and this is a problem that certainly needs solving.

Let me know what you think.

"U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they reached agreement on a draft "bilateral security agreement" or BSA. The draft BSA lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after the end of 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training, and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.

Most U.S. Afghanistan experts believe such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to improve and professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate an inclusive political settlement including the Taliban. Some of our NATO allies will also leave forces but only if we do.

Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for the Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development simply will not materialize. Without this assistance, few believe any Afghan government can survive for very long. So the stakes are high -- for Afghanistan, and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the last twelve years.

Initially President Karzai said he would sign the BSA after its approval by a traditional convocation of Afghan leaders called a Loya Jirga. The BSA received overwhelming approval, But Karzai nonetheless declined to sign. He has required further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and non-interference in the April election to choose President Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened not to sign at all and to leave it to his successor.

U.S. officials have responded by pressuring President Karzai directly and indirectly and setting a succession of missed deadlines, most recently saying that the BSA must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.

One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement along the following lines.

First, he would praise Afghanistan's progress in assuming greater responsibility for its security, in improving the education, health, and well-being of its citizens, and in preparing for the upcoming Presidential election. He would state that, to support that progress, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids, he is committed to facilitating the peace process, and pledges full support for an April election free from all outside influences.

These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer President Karzai a face saver if in fact he wishes to sign the BSA.

Second, President Obama would announce the specific number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.

This step would go a long way to reassuring the candidates for the Afghan Presidency and the Afghan people of

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America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the success of the Afghan election and the morale of the Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, President Obama should resist any pressure to set at this point a date for the termination of the U.S. post-2014 deployment.

Third, President Obama would state that while he is willing to sign the BSA with President Karzai, he is also willing to sign it post-April with a new Afghan President. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring President Karzai -- or anyone else -- for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens President Karzai's hand, encourages further delay, and makes the United States look weak and desperate.

President Obama should make clear in his statement that his troop commitment is dependent upon the ultimate signature of the BSA. But a post-election April or May signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before the end of the year. Indeed, informed experts say that even without the BSA, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) (although our allies would have to negotiate a new SOFA for their forces with the new Afghan government).

Recent polling suggests that over 60% of the American people believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll suggests that 55% support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And public statements by members suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan Congressional support.

President Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops post-2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, place the Presidential election in doubt, and ultimately risk the collapse of the Afghan security forces. It would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would become once again a safe haven for terrorists -- who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made (with our help) in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure, and prosperous society.

There are less than three months to go before elections to replace President Karzai. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior. It must be based on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to President Karzai with whom the United States can sign a BSA that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries."

All -- That's it. May be a little long for you but Autumn has shown great skill in helping to shrink my stuff without losing the substance. And I will help. At the same time, the subject is important enough to warrant an extended treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve

Stephen J. Hadley
(202) 431-9797

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From: "Lawrence Gostin" <gostin@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "Law Faculty and Visitors" <LawFacultyandVisitors@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 10/20/2015 1:15:17 PM
Subject: O'Neill Institute Colloquium - MERS: An Emerging Threat to Global Health Security - Oct 21st from 1:20-3:20pm
Attachments: MERS JAMA.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the O'Neill Colloquium tomorrow (Wednesday) in the Hotung Faculty Dining room at 1:20 pm. We will host a conversation about the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome, prominently circulating in Saudi Arabia and recently causing a major outbreak in Seoul, Korea. We will be joined by Daniel Lucey, at Georgetown University Medical Center and by Professor Victor D. Cha, director of Asian Studies in the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Please find attached a short article on the subject authored by Dr. Lucey.

With good wishes, Larry

Join us for the O'Neill Institute Colloquium Wednesdays this semester from 1:20-3:20pm

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O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Colloquium:

MERS: An Emerging Threat to Global Health Security

Wednesday, October 21st, 2015
1:20 – 3:20 p.m.

Georgetown University Law Center
Faculty Dining Room, Hotung Room 2001
550 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

This session of the Colloquium will explore the issues around Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) as an global health threat. Panelists will discuss the clinical nature of the disease, the epidemiology of its spread as well as the social and political issues which have come into play in the two major outbreak areas of Saudi Arabia and South Korea, among other topics.

Panelists will include:

Daniel R. Lucey, MD, MPH worked with infectious disease and public health colleagues in five nations in the Middle East during much of 2013 related to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). In June 2013 he presented a treatment protocol for MERS to the FDA, spoke with colleagues at HHS, CDC, and NIH and gave presentations at the DC Department of Health and NYC DHMH. In 2015 he traveled twice to Korea to meet with colleagues during and after the 186-person MERS outbreak there. He has written about the earliest known outbreak of MERS in Jordan in April 2012, and the outbreak in Korea in 2015.

In 2014 he provided hands-on care to patients with Ebola in Sierra Leone in August, and in Liberia with MSF October-November. Dr. Lucey teaches at Georgetown University Medical Center, Law Center, and the School of Foreign Service as an Adjunct Professor. He is a senior scholar at the O'Neill Institute.

Professor Victor D. Cha is director of Asian Studies and holds the D.S. Song Chair in the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. In 2009, he was named as Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. He left the White House in May 2007 after serving since 2004 as Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council. At the White House, he was responsible primarily for Japan, the Korean peninsula, Australia/New Zealand and Pacific Island nation affairs. Dr. Cha was also the Deputy Head of Delegation for the United States at the Six Party Talks in Beijing, and received two Outstanding Service commendations during his tenure at the

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NSC.

He is the author of five books: 1) Alignment Despite Antagonism: The United States-Korea-Japan Security Triangle (Stanford University Press) (winner of the 2000 Ohira Book Prize), 2) Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies (Columbia University Press, 2004 with Dave Kang), 3) Beyond the Final Score: The Politics of Sport in Asia (Columbia, 2009); 4) The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future (HarperCollins, 2012); and 5) Powerplay: Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia (Princeton University Press, forthcoming). He has written articles on international relations and East Asia in journals including Foreign Affairs, International Security, Political Science Quarterly, Survival, International Studies Quarterly, and Asian Survey. Professor Cha is a former John M. Olin National Security Fellow at Harvard University, two-time Fulbright Scholar, and Hoover National Fellow, CISAC Fellow, and William J. Perry Fellow at Stanford University. He holds Georgetown's Dean's Award for teaching in 2010 and the Distinguished Research Award for 2011.

Dr. Lawrence D. Kerr is the Director for Medical Preparedness Policy in the Resilience Directorate at the White House National Security Council Staff. Dr. Kerr serves as the principal staff member responsible for coordinating policy regarding public health and medical resilience for biological events, whether the results of naturally emerging disease or deliberate release.

He previously served as the Senior Bio Advisor to the Director of the National Counterproliferation Center (NCPC) within the ODNI. Dr. Kerr advised the senior leadership on strategic plans to prevent and counter the spread of biological weapons of mass destruction in support of the *National Intelligence Strategy*. Before joining NCPC in April 2006, he was Director for Biodefense Policy with the White House Homeland Security Council in the Executive Office of the President (EOP). He served as Assistant Director for Homeland Security for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and as Director of Bioterrorism, Research and Development for the Office of Homeland Security in the EOP. Dr. Kerr joined the Life Sciences division of OSTP in January 2001 where he came from his position as Chief of Transplantation, Transplantation and Immunology Branch at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Michael A. Stoto, PhD, is a Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health at Georgetown University. Prof. Stoto also teaches at Georgetown's Law and Medical Schools, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. A statistician, epidemiologist, and health services researcher, Dr. Stoto's research includes methodological topics in epidemiology and statistics including research synthesis/meta-analysis and other analytical methods for comparative effectiveness research, population health assessment, evaluation methods, and performance measurement. His substantive research interests include public health assessment, especially the implementation of Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) and public health practice, especially with regard to emergency preparedness; drug and vaccine safety; infectious disease policy; and ethical issues in research and public health practice.

He previously served as a Senior Statistician at the RAND Corporation and as the director of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM), Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Dr. Stoto has worked extensively with AcademyHealth on methods for analyzing existing electronic health data for comparative effectiveness research and quality improvement, including serving as a consultant to the Electronic Data Methods Forum, as a member of AcademyHealth's Methods Council, and as a senior editor of the on-line journal *eGEMs (Generating Evidence & Methods to improve patient outcomes)*.

2015 O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Colloquium
The purpose of the Colloquium is to engage leading experts, Georgetown Law students and faculty, and interested members of the public in an enriching dialogue surrounding current and pressing issues in global health law, policy and governance. The 2015 Colloquium will address two themes. First, at a time of increasing inequality, economic uncertainty, and evolving health and other threats, how can health law and public health be used to foster security—personal, community, national, and ultimately global security that leads to healthier populations the world over? And, second, what are the roles of different stakeholders in effecting policy change and how can lawyers and others advance change through different roles, whether as government policymakers, community advocates, researchers, or litigators?

The O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University is the premier center for health law, scholarship, and policy. Its mission is to contribute to a more powerful and deeper understanding of the multiple ways in which law can be used to improve the public's health, using objective evidence as a measure. The O'Neill Institute seeks to advance scholarship, science, research, and teaching that will encourage key decision-makers in the public, private, and civil society to employ the law as a positive tool for enabling more people in the United States and throughout the world to lead healthier lives.

The O'Neill Institute Colloquium is open to all students, faculty, staff, and interested members of the public.

The hashtag for this event is #oneillcolloquium.

For more information on O'Neill Institute events, please visit *http://www.law.georgetown.edu/* ***oneillinstitute/.***

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From:	"Suzy George" <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com>
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Date:	4/28/2014 7:02:35 AM
Subject:	Strobe Talbott at Occidental College
Attachments:	Putin vs the 21st Century - Oxy speech as prepared for delivery.docx

Strobe's talk at Occidental last week.

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VLADIMIR PUTIN VS. THE 21ST CENTURY

Strobe Talbott
President of the Brookings Institution

Occidental College

April 22, 2014

[As prepared for delivery]

Thanks to Sanjeev [Khagram] for the introduction and to Larry [Caldwell] and Derek [Shearer] for bringing me back to Oxy. I've had fun and learned a lot over the past two days. Meeting with students and faculty has triggered memories of my own college days, which, in 2 ways, set the course of my life – one personal, one professional.

I met Derek the first week of our freshman year at Yale, 50 years ago. In addition to becoming a lifelong friend, he introduced me to his sister, Brooke, a California girl who became my wife.

I have Russia to thank for that double good fortune. Derek and I wouldn't have hooked up if we hadn't shared an interest the USSR, a country that no longer exists in those long-ago days had loomed on the horizon of the American consciousness like a dark cloud for 20 years and would continue to do so for another quarter century.

Derek and I enrolled in an advanced Russian language class for two reasons: the richness of a great culture and a patriotic need to understand the Soviet threat. In our summers, we both took summer courses in Russian that were paid for by the Pentagon.

In September 1964, when Derek and I arrived at Yale, the leader of the Soviet Union was Nikita Khrushchev. Within a few weeks, he was fired. His Kremlin colleagues charged him with recklessness – or what they called "harebrained scheming" that embarrassed the Soviet Union and, in one notable case, endangered the world. He came very close to starting World War III by putting nuclear missile on Cuba.

Khrushchev's comrades overthrew him in a palace coup while he was vacationing in – get this – Crimea. They confined him to house arrest for the rest of his life. He was later also criticized for his decision, back in 1954, to transfer Crimea from the Russian republic of the USSR to the Ukrainian republic as a kind of birthday present on the 300th anniversary of Russian empire's conquest of the peninsula.

So you can see, this snippet from Derek's and my youth is part of the backstory of today's headlines. It also underscores the generational divide here tonight. For Derek, Larry, and other members of the faculty here, the memory of the cold war and the day-in-and-day-out fear that it might lead to Armageddon is deeply embedded in our own lives. For us, it's biography, while for the students here, that existential threat is the stuff of history.

I'm guessing that most of the seniors were born in 1992. That was 3 years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, and a year after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Those of you in your twenties have grown up in what may be seen by future historians as a uniquely charmed moment – one that has lasted for a quarter of a century – when all the major powers on earth, prominently including the United States and Russia, were not just at peace but seemed to be consolidating that peace in a way that could allow the human enterprise to get its act together and deal, cooperatively and effectively, with the challenge of *this* century, notably the *new* existential threat that faces your generation: climate change.

But it's also quite possible that future historians (some of whom may be the history majors among you) will look back on the past month as a back-to-the-future tipping point – not just a detour in Russia's evolution toward being a normal, modern state, but a U-turn, reverting to aspects of the czarist and Soviet past in a fashion and to a degree that cast a new shadow over your generation, your century, and your children's.

So that brings us to the boss in the Kremlin today: Vladimir Putin. He, like Khrushchev, has a reckless streak. Here's a relevant footnote to his biography. In the second half of the 1980s, in the twilight of the Soviet era, Putin was helping run a network of spies from the KGB station in Dresden, East Germany. He held the relatively modest rank of lieutenant colonel. Why? Because his superiors didn't want to promote him further because they judged him to suffer from, and I quote, "a lowered sense of danger." That is, he was seen to be the opposite of risk-averse, someone who would take risks that might harm his country's interests.

But that didn't stop him from becoming the most powerful Kremlin leader since Stalin. How that happened is a bizarre story itself, which I'll come back to.

What I want to focus on now is the reckless and dangerous scheme that Putin executed a month ago, even though it's being treated as masterstroke, including in some precincts in our own commentariat.

The target, of course, was Crimea. It has a population comparable to that of San Bernardino County and is only half the size. But its annexation by a stroke of Putin's pen is a very, *very* big deal – and a very, *very* ominous one. It is the first expansion of direct rule from Moscow since 1945, nearly 70 years ago. That's significant all by itself: the largest state on earth – the only state that spans two continents – is expanding further, and doing so unilaterally and by force. Putin can now take a vacation of his own in Crimea without leaving what his government – and Google maps, by the way – now regards as Russian territory. Putin likes to compare himself to Peter the Great – Russia's iconic modernizer and westernizer – but he is actually channeling Catherine the Great, Russia's most audacious, insatiable conqueror.

The Crimea land grab is all the more significant because of what it means in the context of recent history, since the end of the cold war. In 1991, the year before the seniors here were born, Putin's predecessor in the Kremlin, Boris Yeltsin, made a decision of great wisdom, courage, and

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consequence.

As president of the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic when the USSR was splintering into 15 separate states, Yeltsin got his fellow leaders of the other breakaway republics, including the president of Ukraine, to agree that what had been the inter-republic borders of the USSR would become the international borders of the 15 new independent nations – and, crucially, that there would be *no* adjustments whatsoever. There would be no attempt to redraw the political borders to align with ethnographic composition of the populations on either side.

Just as the USSR had been a multi-ethnic mega-state, so would all the new states that came into being with the end of the Soviet system and polity. That decision — which Yeltsin made stick in the face of fierce opposition from the Russian parliament — made it possible for the dismantlement of the USSR to be largely free of violence.

That was in marked contrast to what happened in Yugoslavia. another multi-ethnic communist state that came apart at the seams at roughly the same time. In other words, Yeltsin spared a political space that spanned 11 time zones and had tens of thousands of nuclear weapons the mayhem, ethnic cleansing, and genocide that engulfed the Balkans throughout the 1990s.

So with that background, here's the nub of what Vladimir Putin did last month: he repudiated and reversed Yeltsin's crucial decision. There is a colossal irony here, and it concerns Putin's ultimate promotion to the presidency of Russia. We would never have heard of this guy were it not for Yeltsin. Toward the end of his own presidency, Yeltsin plucked Putin from obscurity and made him president primarily for one self-serving, short-sighted, and I'd add utterly irresponsible reason: to protect Yeltsin's family from revenge and prosecution once Yeltsin himself moved out of the Kremlin into retirement.

Putin kept faith with Yeltsin on that point. But he totally betrayed and upended Yeltsin's political legacy in many ways, but most dramatically in redrawing the border between Ukraine and Russia. In this regard, more than any other, Yeltsin's handpicked successor has made himself the anti-Yeltsin.

Putin has been breathtakingly explicit and uncompromising on why he has done this and why he might do it again. In his speech to the Duma explaining the annexation, he congratulated himself for bringing Crimea back into the bosom of Mother Russia, and he vowed to protect her other children in neighboring countries – that is, ethnic Russians whom he called "compatriots" even though they are, under international law, citizens of other states.

There's a musty, somewhat obscure term for what Putin has now made a hallmark of his presidency and what he clearly intends to be his own legacy: *irredentism*. That word was born in 19th-century war-torn Italy, and the practice, one might have hoped, died in the 20th century, the most violent in human history. But now, thanks to Putin, it's back. Worst case, it could become not just a relapse on Russia's part but a contagion to other parts of the world.

Here's warning signal of that danger. Most of the anti-EU parties that are likely to do well in the upcoming parliamentary election in Europe have approved Russia's annexation of Crimea and applauded Putin for championing national identity as a basis for statehood. So not only has Putin created a precedent that he seems poised to follow elsewhere along Russia's periphery, if he gets away with it, other leaders with territorial aspirations may feel that precedent has been legitimated. In that sense, *irredentism*, now that it's found its 21st century incarnation, can be renamed "Putinism." Or at least it's the external manifestation of Putinism, because there's an internal manifestation as well.

It has always been the case that when Russia breaks bad beyond its borders, it breaks bad *inside* its borders as well. There is an organic link between its aggressive international behavior and its repressive domestic politics. As the Kremlin beats the drums against foreign enemies, it stokes p heightened vigilance on the home front against fifth columnists, traitors, and spies. Those categories tend to overlap with intellectuals, journalists, dissidents, opposition politicians and, of course, professors. We're seeing that in spades right now.

I don't want to leave the impression that Putinism came out of the blue as a result of the current crisis in Ukraine. It's been taking form for some time. There have been plenty of hints over the last 15 years that you can take the man out of the KGB but you can't take the KGB out of the man.

I saw one such hint myself when I first met him 1999. He was the Kremlin national security adviser, still three rungs away from the pinnacle of his power. It was a creepy experience. For no good reason, he let it drop in our conversation that he knew which Russian poets I'd written my dissertations on at Yale and Oxford – Fyodor Tyutchev and Vladimir Mayakovsky (if you want to know more about them, see Professor Walt Richmond after class). Putin wasn't flattering me. Quite the contrary, he was letting me know that his own alma mater, the secret service, had a thick file on me and that he'd studied it carefully.

By the way, the reason for our meeting was to avert a crisis at the end of the Kosovo war when some rogue generals in the Russian high command took advantage of one of Yeltsin's benders and sent troops that were supposed to be subordinate to U.S. command as part of peacekeeping force to seize a strategic airfield before NATO troops got there.

This breakdown in civilian control of the military was a hairy moment that could have ruined U.S.-Russian cooperation. It was unquestionably intended by the disgruntled generals to do precisely that. In my meeting with him, Putin didn't seem surprised, concerned, or apologetic about that prospect.

Six years later, in 2005, when Putin was president, I participated in a bipartisan task force sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations that assessed the state and trend of U.S.-Russian relations. The group's report concluded that they were, and I quote, "clearly headed in the wrong direction… Contention is crowding out consensus." By the way, the co-chair of that effort was Oxy's own Jack Kemp.

Flash ahead 3 years to Russia's mauling of Georgia in August 2008. It has the look, in the rear view mirror, of a dry run for what is now happening in Ukraine. And speaking of that historically cursed country, the Orange Revolution a decade ago was, almost certainly, a wake-up call for Putin-the-autocrat – one that no doubt came to mind when there was a mild *Russian* version of people power in the fall of 2011 and the early months of 2012. That was when Muscovites and Russians in other cities turned out to protest Putin's self-anointed return to the Kremlin.

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But it was not until this past winter's Ukrainian uprising against the corrupt, brutal Yanukovich dictatorship this past winter that Putin decided to go for broke by invading Ukraine and conquering Crimea.

Now let's look ahead and assess the global significance of Putinism. In a nutshell, it jeopardizes the progress the world as a whole has made in recent decades to put in place an international system based on integration, cooperation, and partnership.

That last word – *partnyorstvo* – is especially important and has an interesting etymology. It was introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev into the vocabulary of U.S.-*Soviet* relations 25 years ago, in 1989, much as he'd introduced *glasnost* and *perestroika* into the vocabulary of Soviet internal reforms (and example of how Russian domestic reforms tend to be accompanied by some version of détente with the outside world).

Boris Yeltsin made partnership a motto of post-Soviet Russian foreign policy. Partnership was personal in the relations between Gorbachev and George Herbert Walker Bush; then between Yeltsin and Bill Clinton. All four of those presidents, two Russians and two Americans, agreed on the need for what Bush called "a new world order."

In essence, what they had in mind was a system -- with buy-in from all the major powers -- that respected the sovereign right of individual states to govern themselves while collaborating through international institutions to deal with challenges that can only be met through global cooperation.

Putin, in his first two terms as president, paid lip service to the principle of partnership and maintained a degree of continuity in its application to Russian diplomacy.

That continuity is now broken, and that's bad for the entire world, since the country Putin rules remains crucial to the creation of the kind of international system that is required to ensure a peaceful and livable 21st century.

Without Russia, it's hard to imagine an international system of the kind we need. Russia is eighth in the world in the trade of merchandise, hence an important member of the W.T.O. It's got more nuclear weapons than any country, including ours; hence it's essential to arms control. It's the fourth largest emitter of carbon (after China, the U.S. and India), so it's won't be possible to mitigate the effects of climate change without Russia as part of the effort. With 195 nations on the planet, the world needs a G-20 as an unofficial but effective board of directors, just it needs a UN Security Council that can live up to its name by reaching compromises in support of global *security*.

In all these functions, Russia can be a facilitator or it can be a spoiler. Vladimir Putin is now, big-time, in spoiler mode. That's in large measure because his popularity at home has almost doubled, to 80% approval. Those in the West who are condemning him are, basically, making his day. He's *acting* and getting away with it, while we in the West are *reacting* -- and, to say the least, not having much effect on Putin.

To wit: look at what's happening today. Vice President Biden is in Kyiv, doing everything he can to shore up the interim government and increase the chances of free, fair election in less than four weeks. Meanwhile, Putin is doing everything *he* can to destabilize Ukraine and thwart the elections. He's doing this in flagrant violation of the agreement that his own foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, made with Secretary Kerry, Cathy Ashton of the EU, and the Ukrainian government just a few days ago. Yet Putin is getting away with it. He holds the high cards. It's far easier to disrupt as society and a polity that have been badly governed for 20 years than it is to calm things down.

In short, Putin has already escalated the crisis from annexation of Crimea to a virtual invasion of Eastern Ukraine. That means the West is very likely going to have to go to the next tier of sanctions. That's evoked cockiness and scoffing in Moscow. So we've got to buckle our seatbelts. We're in for a long, bumpy, and dangerous ride.

That doesn't mean that Putin will win the long zero/sum game he's playing. In fact, Putinism will, ultimately, fail. That's for three reasons.

First, Putin's exploitation of Russian nationalism is virtually certain to backfire abroad. It's popular in ethnically Russian parts of the peripheral states — what Russians call "the near abroad"— but it's arousing fear and resentment in those areas that are dominated by other nationalities, giving them all the more incentive to establish as many ties as possible to the West.

Second, Putin's Russian chauvinism has the potential to backfire at home. While non-Russians make up only about 20% of the population, they outnumber Russians in nearly a third of the country's vast landmass. By deliberately playing the card of exclusivist ethnic politics Putin may also be playing into the hands of separatists, secessionists, and terrorists – including al-Qaeda-like Islamic radicals – with dreams of a Caucasus Caliphate in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia. I can imagine that those same future historians I've mentioned before might someday look back on Putin's cakewalk into Crimea as the beginning of the unraveling of the Russian Federation itself. While that would make Putin guilty in the eyes of his own people a harebrained schemer, it's not an outcome for any of us to hope for, since Eurasia would be destabilized and, in large areas, radicalized in a way that would be nightmare for the world.

Third point: what Putin is offering his own people is atavistic and unappealing in the extreme: authoritarianism (what he calls "the vertical of power"); crony capitalism; endemic corruption; a resource-cursed backward economy; a crippled public health system; and a demographic crisis bedeviling the Slavic population.

In short, he's offering them a reinstatement of the worst and ultimately fatal features of the U.S.S.R.

I'm sure you've all noticed that pro-Putin forces in Ukraine as well as many of his supporters in Russia are waving not just the Russian tricolor but the hammer-and-sickle of the USSR, a flag that the citizens of that country and their reformist leaders cast onto the dustbin of history more than two decades ago.

It's worth remembering that Soviet communism lasted only a bit longer than the 64 years that is now the average lifespan of a Russian male. Because history is on fast-forward, there's every reason to expect Putinism is not – as some commentators believe – the inescapable and perpetual destiny of Russia. It's not encoded into the genes of the Russian people or Russian political culture.

Putinism is, however, a stark reminder of how important individuals are in affecting the course of history and shaping the future –in this case, for the worse.

But there's also been at least one other case, what it was stunningly for the better. I'm thinking back almost 30 years, to March 1985, when

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the Soviet Politburo closeted itself to pick a successor to Konstantin Chernenko, the third gerontocrat in a row to die in office. If that conclave had picked anyone other than Gorbachev -- Gromyko, Grishin, Romanov, Aliyev (if you want to know more about them, see Professor Caldwell after class) – there might still be a USSR, a Warsaw Pact, and a cold war.

By the same token, flipped back to the negative side, if Yeltsin had chosen a successor other than Putin, the Yeltsin legacy might have survived and we'd be talking about a very different set of issues tonight.

How long Putinism lasts is overwhelmingly up to the Russian people themselves, of course. But it will pass more quickly if there's a forceful voice, backed by national and international resolve, to oppose it. The obvious – and perhaps the only – candidate for that role is Oxy's most famous alumnus, and our 44th president.

Barack Obama is a personification of globalization of the world – and the globalization of America itself. He's also represents the generation between Larry's, Derek's and mine and yours, the students here. He was born the year before the Cuban missile crisis. He is well schooled in the overarching issues. He studied international politics with Larry Caldwell and political philosophy with Roger Boesche, and he wrote his senior thesis at Columbia on nuclear deterrence and arms control. He was 30 years old when the U.S.S.R. collapsed. So he's known first-hand the cold war world and the post-cold war world.

With nearly three years to go in his presidency, Obama is positioned to lay out – for his own citizens and our allies and friends abroad -- the contours of the post-post-cold war world –a world that we will, for some time, have to share with a post-glasnost, post-perestroika, and post-partnership Russia.

We need our president to spell out for us a vision for dealing with Putinism for as long as it lasts. He hasn't done that yet. That's in part because he senses, correctly, that the American people are weary of the burden of leadership abroad -- especially when it means expensive investments in messy situations. But that doesn't relieve him of his own burden of leadership.

Given what's happened in the last month and the stakes for the U.S. and the world, given the spreading doubts that West can't do anything to rein in Putinism, this is a moment that cries out for Obama to tell us, "Yes we can…. and *here's how*."

Let's hope he seizes that moment— and that he does so *soon*. Come to think of it, why not invite him to do it right here? This is as good a Bully Pulpit as any.

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Date: 2/1/2015 9:38:35 PM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

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Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

From: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
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Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

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For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I'ive been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she'is thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here'is the quote again incorporating peoples' thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we're missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.

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>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word

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>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Eleni Kounalakis" <kounalakiset@gmail.com>
Date: 3/10/2016 7:33:36 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Greek Community Call

Thanks so much Eleni, really appreciate it, and all of your support. Look forward to seeing the draft.
best,
Laura

On Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 2:32 PM, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:

> Great. I'll have a draft in a few days.
>
> Ambassador Eleni T. Kounalakis
> 2500 Steiner Street, Ninth Floor
> San Francisco, CA 94115
> KounalakisET@gmail.com
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Mar 10, 2016, at 11:31 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
>> Great idea.
>>
>> On Mar 10, 2016, at 2:27 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>>> I like the idea.
>>>
>>> On Thursday, March 10, 2016, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:
>>>> Laura -
>>>>
>>>> We had a terrific call today with John Podesta and Governor Dukakis and the Greek American community. Some participants are asking for a position paper/memo on where Secretary stands on some key issues.
>>>>
>>>> I've been leading the EU/Russia sub-group effort on the migration crisis, so I have a good idea of how you are formatting the framing memos. This would be a little different, but would you let me take a crack at a 1 pager on issues important to the community, that they can use with their networks?
>>>>
>>>> We would also like to let call participants know that something is coming, if that works for you.
>>>>
>>>> Thanks and hope to hear back soon. Eleni
>>>>
>>>> Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
>>>> 2500 Steiner Street #9
>>>> San Francisco, CA 94115
>>>> KounalakisET@gmail.com

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/19/2008 3:29:15 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech Town Hall Meeting 06/19/08

Hi Everyone,

Here are my notes from tonight's town hall meeting ...

Big Highlights
· J Mac fields a round of mostly softball questions from friendly attendees
· Continues his optimistic assessment of Iraq
· Even though he says that he believes the American people don't want politicians to change their positions on issues, McCain continues to justify his recent change in position on offshore drilling

St. Paul, MN: McCain Speech and Town Hall 06/19/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details
· The audience was treated to campaign staple music, "Johnny Be Good" from Chuck Berry and "Right Now" from Van Halen while they waited for JMac's arrival. The event closed with Stevie Wonder's "Superstitious."
· McCain spoke behind a giant backdrop that combined The Declaration of Independence, American Flag, Statue of Liberty and Green Fields
· Governor and Mrs. Pawlenty introduced Senator McCain

Speech highlights
· McCain re-emphasized the importance of town hall meetings (no spin, no sound bytes taken out of context, restoring confidence in government, settling/discussing disagreements) and said he'd continue to ask for Obama to join him
· McCain again talked about Congress' low approval rating, but ignored Bush's
· Insisted he would put his country first
· Emphasized his platform of reform (eliminate earmarks), prosperity ('Americans are hurting,' FHA mortgages to help homeowners, lenders and governments, low taxes—unlike Obama, McCain says) and peace (independence from foreign oil—'I can't tell you the price of oil per barrel will go down real soon,' 'Things are tough in Afghanistan now,'—but there are a lot of people helping us: Canadians and Afghanis, radical Islamic extremism is evil that is 'hard to imagine,' our wars have been 'long, hard and tough and frustrating')
· Reiterated his vow to veto every earmark and the claim that he has not asked for a single earmark while Obama has asked for many
· McCain's motivation for energy independence
  o Economic (pivoted into reasons for gas tax holiday and states' rights for offshore drilling, suggests renewable and nuclear energy)
  o National security
  o Climate change
· Iraq
  o 'The enemy is tough'
  o 'We are winning'
  o Cites Baghdad, Mosul and Sadr City as examples of success
  o If we hadn't stayed, Iranian influence would have expanded and Al-Qaeda would have set up base in Iraq
  o The benefits of success include a poorly functioning democracy in Iraq
  o 'We will come home, but we will come home with victory and honor and not in defeat'
· I'm honored to have the nomination of the party of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt
· Cindy isn't here, she's in Vietnam with Operation Smile
· McCain asked members of One to stand and be recognized
· Said the building in which he spoke had to ask for money from the Federal Government

Question and Answer
1 Q) I've really admired you for years and was interested in your campaign eight years ago. I'm frustrated by misinformation out there. I'm not sure we're getting the real John McCain story out there. Instead 'they're calling

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you Bush the third and they're not being fair.' What can your campaign do to underscore your bi-partisanship and other positive attributes more?

MCCAIN: Thank you. Jack Kennedy said life isn't fair and I appreciate that saying more and more. I have a long record of working with dems and I investigated the Abramoff scandal and I fought against a tanker deal that would cost billions in taxpayer dollars. I have a record of reform. With that said, I'd like to restore the trust and confidence the American people have lost in their government. I'm reluctant to talk about my past experiences. I'd rather talk about my record. I'll do more to get it out there and thanks for the question.

2 Q) I have a son with a chronic illness and he is about to enter the workforce. He isn't a great student so I'm worried about the health care he can receive from the employers who are likely to hire him. So let's talk about health care reform.

MCCAIN: I won't go into all the details of my views. I suggest you go to countries with government-ran health care if you like that idea. We'll have to sit down with legislators and governors across America and establish risk pools and match Federal and State funding to make health care for everyone. I know this has been a challenge for you and your family and I wish your son the best. Do you have an approach to that problem, Governor Pawlenty?

PAWLENTY: We have the lowest uninsured rate in the country, luckily. McCain has outlined a plan like what we have in the state and it has worked pretty well. I think what he's describing would work in other states and across the country.

MCCAIN: Would you like to add anything?

3Q) I'd like to compliment you on your tie. Nuclear power and oil drilling hasn't worked. Would you approach drilling concurrently with the nuclear power issues of storage?

MCCAIN: I think we have to store and re-process. I think we have to do both. I think Carter made a bad decision when he said we wouldn't re-process spent nuclear fuel. We should emulate the French's power policies. Says that spent material must go somewhere, if not Yucca Mt. We could make an international site. Spent nuclear fuel is a national security issue so we can't be satisfied with the SQ.

MCCAIN: Did you want to add?

QUESTIONER: No.

4Q) Welcome to the state of Minnesota. [Feed cuts out]

MCCAIN: [Feed comes on and McCain is talking about batteries for cars. Feed cuts out. Feed comes in and says, 'We are the most innovative, entrepreneurial nation in the world.'] McCain states he believes Americans will react enthusiastically to a president who wants energy independence.

5Q) Thank you for coming. Very nice to meet you. Can you expound on your immigration policies?

MCCAIN: We need a workable temporary worker program. It should be connected to a tamper-proof biometric ID system. Today the business owner is the INS agent. The business owner can't determine from the ID as well as he could with a biometric ID system. It is a Federal responsibility to secure the borders. In 1986 we said we'd give amnesty to people and secure the borders. We only did the former, so I understand why Americans are frustrated. These immigrants are god's children and we must treat them humanely.

6Q) The peace that I haven't heard you talk about seems behind the things you're discussing. That is education. Costs are soaring. Some people might say that NCLB is a bit of a failure. So could you discuss your education policy?

MCCAIN: I agree. Education is crucial. We have to give displaced workers an opportunity for education. NCLB is flawed, but a good beginning. We should not scrap it and instead 'fix it where it needs fixing.' We've got to reward good teachers more. We've got find bad teachers another line of work. The key is choice and competition. New Orleans has made a stunning recovery since Katrina due to charter schools. I believe in charter schools. They aren't necessarily always better, but they provide choice and competition. Choice and competition are the answer. It isn't just money that does the job. Education is a key element to keep us in position as a world leader.

7Q) Thank you for being here. I've been the victim of too many sound bytes. Earlier you said you'd like to declare victory in Iraq and where does Iran fall into that?

MCCAIN: I've been the victim of sound bytes myself. As our efforts look more effective, then Gen DP will recommend troop levels. Our progress is very fragile. Some rogue elements are very malicious. Not only malicious but militias. The casualties are meeting record lows. It's the Iraqi military in Mosul, in Basra, in Sadr City with American support. That is a sign of success and that was the purpose of the surge. Petraeus

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said he talked with Obama on the phone and told him we are succeeding. If Obama had been successful in his call for withdrawal, we would have been involved in a wider war.

Is that sufficient?

QUESTIONER: Yes.

8Q) How would you have handled the war differently from Bush?

MCCAIN: I came back from Iraq after our initial victory and called for a different strategy. Republicans called me disloyal. Non-coms said we had insufficient troops. I came back and took on Rumsfeld and others.

9Q) A lot of people I talk to say there's no difference between the republicans and democrats. What are you going to do to show the conservatives you're the real deal instead of the hate America crowd who makes our laws nowadays?

MCCAIN: It's questions like this one that make me wish Obama would be here. I want to lower taxes and he wants to raise them. I want your families to make the decisions on health care and Obama wants the government to make the decisions. Obama would sit down with Ahmadenijad and I would not. I hope you'd examine my record. It's important to address the biggest issues of today (like inflation and homeownership). 81% of Americans think this country's off-track. My character and principle are closely aligned with Ronald Reagan and I believe he's a good role model. I think the American people want straight talk and they don't want us to change our positions.

Would you like to add what I said about One earlier?

QUESTIONER: No.

10Q) ONE VOLUNTEER: [Talks about One for a while.] Thanks for going on record with the One campaign and the fight against poverty. What will you or your administration do to bring Africa into the world economy?

MCCAIN: We need to continue programs that combat HIV/AIDS. I think we need to give the Bush admin credit for his help there. If you go into the lobby of Google, there's a giant globe with lights. It's people who are on the Internet and Googling. It's not lit up on Africa very much because people in Africa left behind. In Zimbabwe they subverted the election. The leader has been in charge for I forget how long. Governments matter. The Gates foundation is admirable because it mandates governments implement the ability to put the money in use instead of going to Swiss bank accounts. I will do whatever we can to help the continent of Africa. Thanks for the question.

Divided We Fall is here from the AARP and I'd like to thank them.

11Q) I am a naturalized citizen. Your record is tremendous, extraordinary and outstanding. How do you expect to take on long-term issues such as balancing the budget, stem-cell research, the lack of engineering and scientific talent and lack of jobs in that field? Are you prepared to take on the long-term issues of this nation?

MCCAIN: I am. We should provide available and affordable education. The cost of schools is going up at an unacceptable rate. We need to make sure students have loans available to them this fall. We have to inject choice and competition into the public schools. The first thing we need to do is ensure every eligible student has education available to them, especially starting with our veterans. We need to incentivize the scientific fields. We need to go back to the pre-9/11 days when we allowed foreigners to come here and educated themselves and then contribute to our economy.

12Q) On the phone I identified myself as a strong democrat and they invited me anyway. I'm a veteran from the Iraq war. The trend over the past eight years has been disturbing with veteran's health care. What will you do for veteran's health care? How would you handle their needs?

MCCAIN: Thank you for your service to our country. We need to applaud the people who work in the veteran's administrations, but they have insufficient resources and funds. I would like to see a focus on PTSD, of which there is a lot and battleground wounds. I'd like to give them a plastic card so they can go to a healthcare provider of their choice and get treatment immediately. Would you like to follow up?

QUESTIONER: No.

13Q) Thanks for coming to Minnesota. Our congresswoman has pledged to bring us closer to $2/gallon. Have you seen that proposal and what do you think of it, if so?

MCCAIN: I'd like to see that plan. The only way we'd achieve that is to eliminate our dependence on an oil cartel. They can basically set the price. The supply is facing dramatic demands from India and China. In the meanwhile, we have to exploit existing reserves, which is why I changed my mind on offshore exploration. I

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don't envision that our oil prices will reduce dramatically in the near future. I look forward to seeing her proposal.

Go ahead.

QUESTIONER: Some of your democratic counterparts have suggested nationalizing the oil. What do you think of that?

MCCAIN: I'd like to get more money to the states. Gov Crist supports that. The drilling has a proven record of being 'environmentally pretty good.' Katrina and Rita caused relatively little spills so I think there's a case to be made that it can be environmentally sound.

14Q) You said you're a straight-talker. I've lost faith in politicians because they spin the story. With all due respect, I'd like you to tell us the things we don't want to hear.

MCCAIN: I went to Iowa and said I don't support ethanol subsidies because they distort the market. Ethanol is a good source of fuel. I went to North Carolina and said the textile mills won't return. I'm telling the American people some straight talk now about energy. We should lead in our efforts to gain energy independence.

We are in a long struggle with radical Islamic extremism. I believe it will require a lot of sacrifice and a lot of service. When I meet the servicemen and women my doubts are resolved.

Any follow-up?

QUESTIONER: No.

15Q) If you become president would you overturn anything the SC has done?

MCCAIN: I thought this last decision they just made about extending the rights of American citizens to enemy combatants was a bad thing. One of the 30 people who were released committed a suicide bomb attack. I decry torture across the board and will never allow it as president. Hopefully we can do some legislative modification to soften the blow of that Supreme Court decision because its far-reaching impacts.

16Q) Would you talk to us often like Roosevelt or Reagan?

MCCAIN: Yes. I would update Americans regularly. I wouldn't tell Americans what they want to hear, I'd tell them what they should hear. I would hold press conferences at least every two weeks. 'I dislike the media intensely, as you know.' Still the President of the United States should talk to them regularly. I think we should do a venue where congress questions me as president like in the British parliament. There's got to be more involvement at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. We are gridlocked and putting our party first. I commit to briefing the American people on the conflicts we're in regularly.

17Q) I think Pawlenty would make an excellent VP. What do you think? What are his chances?

MCCAIN: I knew we should have stopped. This meeting is adjourned. I believe Governor Pawlenty is the next generation of the Republican Party in America. I wouldn't like to speculate on who the VP candidates are, but I know he has a place in the future of this country as well as this party.

The VP really only has two duties: to cast the tie-breaking vote and inquire daily as to the health of the president.

Thanks, everyone. I won't let you down and I'll put my country first. Thank you again.

--
Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst
PMUSA
(c) 208.420.3470
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/2/2016 12:30:32 PM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP & Lloyd's Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience View this email in your browser

Top Stories

ASP & Lloyd's Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience

On February 17, the American Security Project, in partnership with Lloyd's of London, JLT, and Risk Cooperative, hosted the Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience. The event brought together leading policymakers, business leaders, and regulators to discuss the potential uses and benefits of Lloyd's City Risk Index, as w ell as share best practices and insights.

Click here for more.

Cheney and Holland in WSJ: America's Chance to Help Break Russia's Energy Dominance

March 2nd, 2016

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ASP in the News

Business Insurance: Resilience Efforts Face Challenges
Mark Hofmann

Cheney and Holland in WSJ: America's Change to Help Break Russia's Energy Dominance
Andrew Vaccaro

Environmental Business Journal Interviews ASP CEO Stephen Cheney
C. Alexander Doyle

ASP CEO Stephen Cheney Interviewed by Arizona PBS Cronkite News

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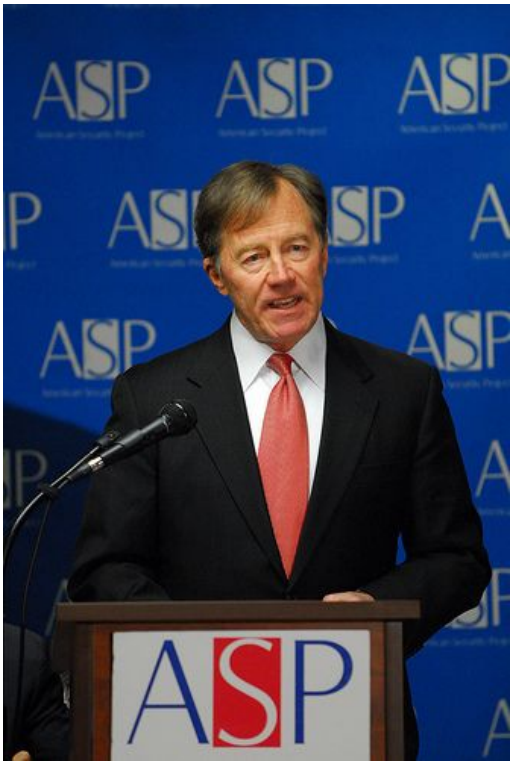

ASP CEO and BGen Stephen Cheney and senior fellow for energy and climate Andrew Holland recently published an article in The Wall Street Journal on how increased U.S. exports of LNG can help break Russian energy dominance in Europe.

Click here for more.

C. Alexander Doyle

ASP Member, General Fusion, Featured in Huffington Post
Esther Babson

ASP CEO Stephen Cheney Quoted on Resiliency for Phoenix Newspaper
C. Alexander Doyle

Upcoming Events

Puerto Rico on the Brink: Energy, Economy, and Security

Join American Security Project on March 21st for a discussion on energy, economy, and security in Puerto Rico and how understanding the ongoing debt crisis through these lenses will strengthen our response.

Click here for more.

On Our Blog

American Competitiveness and Economic Diplomacy

Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum – Judge Alice Hill, Featured Speaker

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Nicole Bohannon
Judge Alice Hill from the White House introduced the Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum even w ith framing remarks.
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Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum – Risk & Resiliency: Understanding the City Risk Index
Nicole Bohannon
The day's first panel, "Risk & Resiliency: Understanding the City Risk Index," brought together experts to help frame how to use Lloyd's index measuring resiliency of cities around the world.
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Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum – Gov. Tom Ridge, Featured Speaker
Nicole Bohannon
Gov. Tom Ridge gave his perspective on the importance of resiliency in all contexts at the Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum
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Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum – Emerging Risks: Impacts and Opportunities
Nicole Bohannon
The second panel, Emerging Risks: Impacts and Opportunities, focused on possible solutions to adapt to future threats.
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Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum – They Way Forw ard: How to Build Resiliency
Nicole Bohannon
The third and final panel, They Way Forward: How to Build Resiliency, explored long-range ideas for incorporating resilience in public policy and the private sector.
Click here for more...

Four National and Global Economic Trends That Will Mark This Century
Elias Stahl
A look at four troubling macroeconomic and demographic trends that will shape this century.
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F ortinet's Joe Sykora Honored as One of CRN's 2016 50 Most Influential Channel Leaders
Nicole Bohannon
Fortinet, a netw ork security products and services company serving on ASP's Business Council, has been aw arded one of CRN's 2016 Most Influential Channel Leaders.
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CEO of ASP BGen Stephen Cheney Reflects Concern over Proposed Zoomlion-Terex Merger
Elias Stahl
BGen Stephen Cheney, CEO of the American Security Project, expressed concern over the proposed buyout of the US crane-company Terex.
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Champion Free Markets, But Don't Risk National Security
In today's world, foreign investment is a key driver of global economic growth. However, when foreign investment places national security at risk, it's an entirely different story.
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Asymmetric Operations

Don't Ignore Africa: Terrorism in Africa
C. Alexander Doyle
As stories are coming out showing the slow, but sure, decline of ISIS, the international community needs to shift its focus to terrorism in Africa.
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Dissecting Turkey: Our NATO Ally's Interest in the Middle East
Elias Stahl
The United States must question whether Erdogan is pursuing what is in Turkey's strategic interest

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or the AKP's. What is Erdogan's vision for the Middle East, and how does it conflict w ith American policy goals? The US has essentially reinforced Turkey's regional ambitions under its call for an increased Turkish regional commitment, without qualifying w hat that commitment is.
Click here for more...

After ISIS: Issues and Questions for Stability
C. Alexander Doyle
If you follow the news closely, it seems that everyone has an answer on how to weaken or destroy ISIS. However, it seems that very few people are having the conversation on what happens after ISIS. Does the world just expect ISIS to be defeated and suddenly everything w ill be alright?
Click here for more...

On the Table? Turkey's Kurdish Policy
Elias Stahl
In a prescient article for The American Interest, Dov Friedman first exposes Turkey's divergent policy approach for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and the Syrian Kurdish administration (PYD), and then prescribes Turkish policy with the PYD to mirror its KRI counterpart more closely.
Click here for more...

Climate, Energy, and National Security

Energy Security in the U.S. Army
Andrew Vaccaro
Although the U.S. Army is making progress in energy efficiency and meeting renewable energy marks, there is still a need for increased resiliency for their installations by way of on-site power generation and micro-grids. It is time to increase funding for resilience projects on military bases and ensure greater energy security for our troops.
Click here for more...

ASP CEO Stephen Cheney Interview ed by Arizona PBS Cronkite News
C. Alexander Doyle
During the Pathways to City Resilience event sponsored by the American Security Project and Lloyd's of London, Arizona PBS Cronkite News interviewed ASP CEO Stephen Cheney in regards to climate change, drought, and what Arizona can do to become more resilient.
Click here for more...

ASP CEO Stephen Cheney Quoted on Resiliency for Phoenix New spaper
C. Alexander Doyle
After the Pathways to City Resilience event held by the American Security Project and Lloyd's of London, an Arizona newspaper is taking a closer look at Phoenix's risk index. American Security Project CEO Stephen Cheney's advice for the city is based on protection and prevention.
Click here for more...

Tw o Cheers for the President's Announcement on Clean Energy
Andrew Holland
This w eekend, in his weekly address, the President announced a "Doubling Our Clean Energy Funding to Address the Challenge of Climate Change." This funding was announced in the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, released on Tuesday, February 9. There are important additions to the President's budget to increase funding for clean energy innovation.
Click here for more...

Will Cheap Oil Derail the Paris Agreement?
Esther Babson
Plummeting oil prices have led to concern of whether states will follow through with the promises made in the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. The U.S. and China have maintained their supportive policies and rhetoric so far, but many reports have cautioned early optimism.
Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

Fortinet Signs Agreement with NATO: Will Sharing and Actionable Threat Intelligence Help Curb

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Cybersecurity
Nicole Bohannon
Fortinet, a member of the Business Council for American Security at ASP, signed an industry partnership agreement with the NATO Industry Cyber Partnership (NICP).
Click here for more...

The Zika Virus - A Window Into Future Security Threats
Nicole Bohannon
Over the next 20-30 years, a major epidemic could decide a country's stability. There must be international networks designed for earlier detection and coordination.
Click here for more...

Russian Aggression Prompts Refocused U.S. Spending
Bryn Woollacott
Secretary Ashton Carter has stated that the next defense budget must focus on “a return to great-power conflict” to guard against Russian aggression.
Click here for more...

Next Generation Energy

H.R. 4084 Unanimously Passed in the House
Andrew Vaccaro
On February 29th, the House unanimously passed H.R. 4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. The energy bill seeks to support federal research and development, as well as stimulate private investment for advanced nuclear technology.
Click here for more...

ASP Member, General Fusion, Featured in Huffington Post
Esther Babson
ASP Member, General Fusion, w as featured in a Huffington Post article about the increasing support for nuclear energy in Canada.
Click here for more...

Private-Sector Must Push for Energy Innovation
Nicole Bohannon
Norman Augustine, member of the ASP Board of Directors, w as featured in a new Bloomberg View opinion piece highlighting the importance of private-sector investment in energy technology.
Click here for more...

Nuclear Security

North Korea Satellite Launch Prompts Missile Defense Discussion
Bryn Woolacott
International efforts to limit North Korea’s ability to project military power have failed as this w eekend the state launched an object into orbit. The U.S. and South Korea have discussed the deployment of missile defense systems to combat this threat, which may further escalate the situation.
Click here for more...

Public Diplomacy

Crouching Panda, Hidden Potential: Public Diplomacy in China
Nicole Bohannon
What do cultural diplomacy and Kung Fu Panda 3 have in common? Creative collaboration that could be the difference between a flop and a blockbuster.
Click here for more...

ISIS may not be w inning the popularity contest, but...
Pascale Siegel
Pollsters say that ISIS's message has failed across the Muslim World. But - even a small percentage of the world's 1.5 billion Muslims poses a dire threat.
Click here for more...

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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/30/2008 1:35:19 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/30

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 30th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11:15am BUSH: Statement with cabinet members in the Rose Garden following a private meeting at the White House

12pm McCain: Public Event in Denver, CO
- Tracking scheduled for this event

2:55pm BUSH: Participate in the signing of U.S. Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, at the White House

6:30pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Kansas City, MO

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Charge Against Obama Lacks Evidence (Washington Post 7/30/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Dan Balz; A01
For four days, Sen. John McCain and his allies have accused Sen. Barack Obama of snubbing wounded soldiers by canceling a visit to a military hospital because he could not take reporters with him, despite no evidence that the charge is true.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/29/AR2008072902286.html
See WaPo blog's "Fix Pick: Obama, McCain and the Troop Visit That Wasn't": http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/07/fix_pick_obama_mccain_and_the.html

With Commercial, McCain Gets Much More Than His Money's Worth (NYT 7/30/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG
The number of times Senator John McCain's new advertisement attacking Senator Barack Obama for canceling a visit with wounded troops in Germany last week has been shown fully or partly on local, national and cable newscasts: well into the hundreds. ...Result for Mr. McCain: a public relations coup that allowed him to show his toughest campaign advertisement of the year — one widely panned as misleading — to millions of people, largely free, through television news media hungry for political news with arresting visual imagery.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/30/us/politics/30ads.html?ref=politics

McCain Goes Negative, Worrying Some in G.O.P. (NYT 7/30/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
In recent days Senator John McCain has charged that Senator Barack Obama "would rather lose a war in order to win a political campaign," tarred him as "Dr. No" on energy policy and run advertisements calling him responsible for high gas prices.... By doing so, Mr. McCain is clearly trying to sow doubts about his younger opponent, and bring him down a peg or two. But some Republicans worry that by going negative so early, and initiating so many of the attacks himself rather than leaving them to others, Mr. McCain risks coming across as angry or partisan in a way that could turn off some independents who have been attracted by his calls for respectful campaigning.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/30/us/politics/30mccain.html

Russian Diplomat Criticizes McCain's Proposal for G-8 (WSJ 7/30/08)
By ANDREW OSBORN
A senior Russian diplomat warned that Sen. John McCain's pledge to eject Russia from the Group of Eight leading nations could eventually lead to a breakdown in relations between Russia and the U.S.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121736477906194359.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

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Russia shrugs off McCain's criticism (Reuters 7/29/08)
By Dmitry Solovyov
A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official on Tuesday shrugged off anti-Russian remarks by U.S. presidential candidate John McCain and said Moscow could handle any unwanted turn in relations with Washington. ..."Let him first become the U.S. president, and then we will listen attentively to him," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told a news briefing.
http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSL931561020080729?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0

Politician Wants McCain Apology for "Fawning Germans" Remark (Deutsche Welle 7/29/08)
A German politician has called on US presidential candidate John McCain to take back disparaging remarks made about Germans by his campaign after Barak Obama visited Berlin last week.
http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3521716,00.html

Obama, Bernanke Talk Economy (WJS 7/30/08)
By AMY CHOZICK and LAURA MECKLER; Page A5
Keeping the presidential campaign focused on economic issues, Barack Obama met with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, while John McCain criticized his rival's proposals to raise taxes.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121733857714293193.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

McCain's Son Steps Down From Bank Post (WSJ blog 7/29/08)
By Damian Paletta
It's been a rough time for Nevada banks. On Friday, First National Bank of Nevada was shut down by federal regulators. Then on Saturday, Silver State Bancorp and its subsidiary, the Henderson, Nev.-based Silver State Bank, announced that Andrew K. McCain, son of Republican presidential candidate John McCain, was stepping down from the board for "personal reasons." Andrew McCain is one of McCain's sons from his first marriage.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/29/mccains-son-steps-down-from-bank-post/

Analysis: Obama, McCain both have lobbyist ties (CNN 7/29/08)
* John McCain, Barack Obama both speak out against lobbyists' influence
* Obama vowed to not accept money from Washington lobbyists
* Obama campaign says it does get money from state, local lobbyists
* Candidates can avoid lobbyists but still rake in millions from bundlers
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/29/lobbyists/index.html

McCain Draws Criticism For Shift on Tax Increases (AP 7/29/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain's signal that he may be open to a higher payroll tax for Social Security, despite previous vows not to raise taxes of any kind, is drawing sharp rebukes from conservatives.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121734243284593299.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Return of the $32,000 Tax Increase Claim (Washington Independent 7/29/08)
By Matthew DeLong
SPARKS, Nev. -- Live from Sen. John McCain's town hall meeting at Reed High School in this Reno suburb, where the presumptive Republican nominee is enjoying the company of an extremely friendly and enthusiastic, standing-room-only crowd in the school gymnasium. Before the event, campaign staffers handed out ID tags to the traveling press bearing a picture of the cast of "Reno 911."
http://washingtonindependent.com/view/return-of-the-32-000

McCain gets an earful from Mr. Right (LA Times 7/30/08)
By Mark Z. Barabak
A voter asks: Can't you give us conservatives more to get excited about?
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailmccain30-2008jul30,0,3412636.story
See Reno Gazette-Journal's "McCain defends himself to conservatives": http://rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080729/NEWS18/80729068&OAS_sitepage=news.rgj.com%2Fbreakingnews

McCain extends olive branch to Pelosi, Gore (San Francisco Chronicle 7/30/08)
BY Carla Marinucci
Republican Sen. John McCain, engaged in increasingly sharp attacks on rival Barack Obama, pledged that if elected president, he would work closely with Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, praising her as an effective leader and an "inspiration to millions of Americans."
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/29/MN0I121CI9.DTL&type=politics

Small group protests against McCain (Reno Gazette-Journal 7/29/08)
By JESSICA ESTEPA

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"McCain - Third Term for Bush!" "Flush the John!" "McSame McShame!"
About 50 protesters carried signs with those inscriptions Tuesday morning outside Reed High School, where Republican presidential candidate John McCain held a town hall meeting.
http://rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080729/NEWS18/80729066&OAS_sitepage=news.rgj.com%2Fbreakingnews
See Reno Gazette-Journal's "Sparks crowd confident of McCain's leadership": http://rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080729/NEWS18/80729067&OAS_sitepage=news.rgj.com%2Fbreakingnews

McCain shows movement on Iraq (MSNBC 7/29/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
For much of this election, the conventional wisdom has been that John McCain's presidential aspirations are intricately entwined with the war in Iraq. ...But McCain's position has also undergone something of a makeover. ...Says troop withdrawal should be based on ground conditions
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25918699/

McCain Team Fights Obama Storyline (Politico 7/29/08)
By Jonathan Martin
Democrat Is Dictating The Agenda And Soaking Up News Coverage As McCain And His Team Scramble To React
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/29/politics/politico/main4301792.shtml

Obama has cash to attack McCain's base (Politico 7/30/08)
By: Jeanne Cummings
In nearly every presidential cycle, candidates throw a little money at a state to try to turn it into a fresh battleground. It almost never works. But Barack Obama believes his historic nomination gives him more of an opening to press such a strategy. And what sets him apart from his predecessors is that he may actually have the money to attack his rival's base on a broader scale and in a more sustained way than any candidate before him.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/12078.html

Pentagon-Linked Think Tank At Odds With McCain's Position On Terrorism (TPM 7/29/08)
By Greg Sargent
The McCain campaign has repeatedly attacked Barack Obama as weak on terror, accusing him of a "September 10th mind-set" and hitting him for favoring a law-enforcement approach to terrorists as "criminals," rather than seeing the campaign against terror as a war. But a study released today by a think-tank that does research for the Pentagon concludes that a law-enforcement approach, rather than a "war on terror" framing, is precisely what's needed to effectively counter terrorism -- a position that's squarely at odds with that of the McCain campaign. From a summary of the study by the Rand Corporation...
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/pentagonlinked_think_tank_at_o.php

Mayo Clinic: McCain's Biopsy Cancer-Free (NYT blog 7/29/08)
By Kate Phillips
The McCain campaign issued a statement this evening from the Mayo Clinic in Arizona, where Senator John McCain had a small spot on his face removed and biopsied on Monday.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/29/mayo-clinic-mccains-biopsy-cancer-free/

McCain's Latest Flip-Flop: BlackBerry Ownership (Huffington Post 7/29/08)
Jason Linkins
The good folks over at Progressive Accountability have highlighted this bit of video, in which John McCain sums up his approach to negotiating with Iran thusly, "So, if they want to communicate with us and we want to communicate with them, fine. We all have blackberries. It's fine."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/29/mccains-latest-flip-flop_n_115698.html

McCain Adviser's Horrifying Iraq Track Record: Will the Press Notice? (TPM 7/28/08)
By Zachary Roth
Over the weekend, The New York Times noted that some of John McCain's foreign policy advisers from the "realist" camp are uneasy with the amount of influence enjoyed by neoconservatives like Randy Scheunemann, who's been serving as McCain's chief foreign policy aide and spokesman.
http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccain_advisors_horrifying_ira.php

New Ad Lampoons McCain's Love Affair With Media (TPM 7/29/08)
By Greg Sargent
Media Matters Action Network goes up with a new ad that tries to rebut -- and parody -- John McCain's recent

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Web video lampooning Obama's love affair with the media. The new spot shows McCain picking daisy petals as he asks himself whether reporters still love him...
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/new_ad_lampoons_mccains_love_a.php
Link to video of ad:

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Low-Road Express (NYT 7/30/08)
Well, that certainly didn't take long. On July 3, news reports said Senator John McCain, worried that he might lose the election before it truly started, opened his doors to disciples of Karl Rove from the 2004 campaign and the Bush White House. Less than a month later, the results are on full display. The candidate who started out talking about high-minded, civil debate has wholeheartedly adopted Mr. Rove's low-minded and uncivil playbook.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/30/opinion/30wed1.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

McCain's Tax Blunder (WSJ 7/30/08)
Page A14
One of the miracles of this Presidential election campaign is that John McCain still has a chance to win, notwithstanding his best attempts to kick it away. In his latest random policy improvisation, the Arizona Senator tried to give up the tax issue.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121737539116495163.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

McCain Is the Radical on Health Reform (WSJ 7/30/08)
By JOHN C. GOODMAN; Page A15
If you listen only to presidential campaign rhetoric, you might conclude that Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama proposed bold new changes for our health-care system, while John McCain is offering only small improvements. If so, you are in for a surprise. Most health-policy analysts believe that Mr. McCain is proposing the most fundamental health-care reform.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121737388416495023.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Why McCain's tax wobble unnerves the right (Globe and Mail 7/30/08)
By JOHN IBBITSON
Conservative critics are accusing John McCain of a flip-flop on taxes. But it would be more accurate to say the Republican presidential nominee is trying to persuade Americans that he can rescue Social Security without actually telling them how.
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080730.IBBITSON30/TPStory/National/columnists

McCain, Obama surprisingly close on affirmative action (Chicago Tribune 7/30/08)
By Clarence Page
Sen. John McCain's flip-flop on affirmative action made headlines over the weekend. But a closer look at this mother of all hot-button racial issues reveals that he and Sen. Barack Obama aren't all that far apart.
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-oped0730pagejul30,0,346308.column

Analysis: McCain Is Running On Angry (US News & World Report 7/29/08)
By Gloria Berger
...So far, McCain is running largely on angry. That is, the initial game plan of Hillary the Scold -- in which she claimed that she was the only candidate who had been "vetted," the only one who was truly "electable," the only one ready to be commander in chief. As her campaign belittled what it saw as fawning Obama press coverage, the candidate chided, "Shame on you, Barack Obama," all but sending her opponent into a corner for a timeout. McCain is clearly channeling her frustration when he declares that Obama "would rather lose a war in order to win a political campaign." Ouch.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/28/politics/main4298754.shtml

McCain's gaffe a minute on Iraq (Seattle Post-Intelligencer 7/29/08)
By JOHN YOUNG
As any player for the New York Yankees knows, media saturation is great, until you can't hit a lick, or until you hit a bartender. So, too, with Barack Obama's coverage during his eight-country trip. What great press, unless you square to bunt and get beaned. Hence a fascinating juxtaposition last week. The world press waited and waited, and waited, for the largely untested Obama to trip over his tongue. Meanwhile, back home before fewer microphones, battle-tested John McCain was a gaffe waiting to happen.
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/372684_youngonline30.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush Signs Housing Bill (AP 7/30/08)

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President Bush on Wednesday signed a massive housing bill intended to provide mortgage relief for 400,000 struggling homeowners and stabilize financial markets.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/31/business/31housing.html?hp

Bush Calls for New Highway Tolls, More Private Funding of Roads (WSJ 7/30/08)
By CHRISTOPHER CONKEY; Page A3
The Bush administration unveiled a plan to impose new tolls on freeways and encourage more private investment to finance road and mass-transit projects, a move aimed at stirring debate as lawmakers prepare for a major overhaul of transportation policy.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121737711076695281.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

US trying to salvage gains in Mideast talks (AP 7/30/08)
By ANNE GEARAN
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice invited top Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to Washington this week to preserve modest momentum in Mideast peace talks begun under U.S. sponsorship last year.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g14_OgVc3KvfIE0q7FpUa4Ou69QQD9282CJG0

Bush Tells Chinese Dissidents He Will Push Beijing to Make Reforms (Washington Post 7/30/08)
By Dan Eggen; A04
President Bush met privately with five Chinese activists at the White House on Tuesday before leaving on a trip to the Midwest, promising to "carry the message of freedom" to the Summer Olympics in Beijing next week.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/29/AR2008072902079.html

EPA Says Clean-Air Ruling Threatens Health (WSJ 7/30/08)
By STEPHEN POWER and MARK PETERS; Page A16
A federal court's decision to strike down the Bush administration's signature clean-air program threatens public health by encouraging companies to slow their pollution-control efforts, a top Environmental Protection Agency official told Congress.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121737952799895439.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

OTHER TOP NEWS

U.S., Iraq Move Closer To Reaching a Security Deal (WSJ 7/30/08)
By GINA CHON; Page A6
The Bush administration's embrace of a flexible timeline for pulling U.S. troops from Iraq has accelerated negotiations between Washington and Baghdad over a long-term security pact, officials from both sides said.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121737359317894997.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Turf War Hits Iraq's Oil Industry (WSJ 7/30/08)
By GINA CHON; Page A1
A political turf war is threatening the stability of Iraq's biggest cash cow: the embattled but so-far dependable South Oil Co.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121738167653795615.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Strategy Against Al-Qaeda Faulted (Washington Post 7/30/08)
By Joby Warrick; A04
The Bush administration's terrorism-fighting strategy has not significantly undermined al-Qaeda's capabilities, according to a major new study that argues the struggle against terrorism is better waged by law enforcement agencies than by armies.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/29/AR2008072902041.html

C.I.A. Outlines Pakistan Links With Militants (NYT 7/30/08)
By MARK MAZZETTI and ERIC SCHMITT
A top Central Intelligence Agency official traveled secretly to Islamabad this month to confront Pakistan's most senior officials with new information about ties between the country's powerful spy service and militants operating in Pakistan's tribal areas, according to American military and intelligence officials.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/30/world/asia/30pstan.html?hp

Alaska's Sen. Stevens Indicted On Corruption Claims (WSJ 7/30/08)
By EVAN PÉREZ, JOHN R. WILKE and JIM CARLTON; Page A3
Sen. Ted Stevens, Alaska's powerful benefactor in Washington for four decades, was indicted on public corruption charges -- a development that threatens to uproot the Republican Party's hold on the state and reverberate in the rest of the country.

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http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121734991480493801.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Trade Talks Crumble in Feud Over Farm Aid (Washington Post 7/30/08)
By Anthony Faiola and Rama Lakshmi; A01
International talks aimed at ushering in a new era of free trade collapsed in Geneva yesterday during a bitter split between developed and developing countries over the future shape of global commerce.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/29/AR2008072900556.html?hpid=topnews

Gas prices fall for 13th straight day (CNNMoney 7/30/08)
By Kenneth Musante
Retail fuel prices have fallen nearly 20 cents since July 16, reaching a level not seen since late May.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/07/30/news/economy/gasoline/?postversion=2008073006

BP 2Q profits soar; battle for TNK-BP persists (AP 7/29/08)
By JANE WARDELL
BP PLC reported a 28 percent rise in second quarter net profit Tuesday on surging energy prices and vowed to fight for its troubled Russian joint venture, TNK-BP. BP, Europe's second biggest oil producer behind, posted net profit of $9.47 billion for the three months ending June 30, up from $7.38 billion in the same period a year ago.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080729/ap_on_bi_ge/earns_bp

House approves benefits for military 'sole survivors' (AP 7/30/08)
* Hubbard Act restores benefits to military sole survivors
* Military allows sole surviving siblings to be discharged before end of enlistment
* Policy established after death of five brothers at sea during the Battle of Guadalcanal
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/30/sole.survivors.ap/index.html

Study: Obama's Overseas Trip Sucked Up Huge Amount Of Media Attention (TPM 7/29/08)
By Greg Sargent
You won't be surprised to learn that Obama's trip abroad got lots of media attention, but a new Project for Excellence in Journalism study details just how much attention it got, and the numbers are pretty extraordinary:
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/obamas_overseas_trip_sucked_up.php

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org>
Date: 6/22/2015 11:24:32 AM
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

Looks good. One change I wouldn't use sustainable financing. Could be misinterpreted. I'd use financing for sustainable development in the two positive references and maybe decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk in the negative reference
What do others think?

On Jun 22, 2015 1:36 PM, "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org > wrote:

Hello John,

Below is the refined question you just conveyed via phone:

*****

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing sustainable financing and decreasing unsustainable financing will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards for sustainable financing?

*****

Will hold on sending until I receive either a green light or additional edits.

Background notes of potential interest:

Last Friday Zhang Gaoli attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia and delivered remarks re China's plans for the 2016 G20. His speech was very general but did contain some positive indicators: he said G20 nations should develop new driving forces for sustainable growth of the global economy. He also focused on China's Silk Road initiative, which he welcomed other countries to join. That suggests they are at least thinking about linking these other programs in with G20.

Terminology re China hosting G20: Turkey currently enjoys talking about the fact that they hold the "G20 presidency" but thus far Chinese state press is using the term "chair" instead of presidency.

The 2015 G20 summit will be November 14-15 in Turkey. Then Turkey hands the baton to China. The 2016 summit will be in Hangzhou, China (likely next fall, exact date TBD).

Thanks,

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.

Director for China Policy

Center for American Progress

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Direct Line: (202) 741-6359

Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Re: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

Makes sense to combine - and perhaps leading with G20 will draw out some responses about that, too.

- I wonder whether it's useful to nail down any specifics on high quality, e.g. investing in sustainable technologies and services, in ways that comply with high social and governance standards - the downside is the risk of getting too focused on a back and forth on governance, though could be interesting to specify each component to see if he responds to each.
- In the SDG financing world, China's official position is that ODA is still the main vehicle, so may be useful to say something to the effect of "increasing sustainable development financing, including harnessing a broader range of sources towards sustainable development is essential ". (REF recent official Chinese gov position paper on post-2015 which states: "Development financing should be enhanced with North-South cooperation serving as the main channel." This statement is a pure political play, since domestic resources are the main vehicle of SD financing and drove China's own rise, not to mention ODA is not terribly sustainable, but this line plays well with developing countries.) This may be adding too much into a single question, but thought it worthwhile to flag.

Cheers,

Molly

From: Melanie Hart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: RE: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

John and team,

Pete combined the G20 questions into one shorter one and added a separate one on finance. Here's some updated suggested text from Pete:

(1) As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. How will China use its G20 presidency next year to drive further progress on these two issues?

(2) Relatedly, increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

I think Pete's finance language is excellent. My one concern is that if we send 2 questions, they might pick what is easiest to respond to rather than what we would find most interesting. One option would be to combine further, perhaps as follows:

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As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. It is in this environment that China is taking on the G20 presidency, and many observers around the world will be watching next year to see how China leverages the G20 to drive further progress on these two issues. Observers will also be monitoring whether and to what degree China leverages the AIIB to achieve these important goals. Increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

Additional thoughts/reactions from the team?

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.

Director for China Policy

Center for American Progress

Direct Line: (202) 741-6359

Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Eryn Sepp [mailto:esepp@equitablegrowth.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang
Importance: High

Hi Everyone—

John wants to respond on here to you all. He thinks we need to combine the two questions into one, and put a high standards sustainable finance question in.

Melanie, do we know who else is getting to ask questions?

John, the plain text is below:

To: John Podesta

From: Melanie Hart, Erin Auel, Molly Elgin-Cossart, Pete Ogden, John Norris

Re: **Quick Response Needed – Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang**

Date: June 19, 2015

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You are attending the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) think tank summit in Beijing June 26-27. There will be a side meeting with Li Keqiang. Around 40 guest scholars and officials will attend. **You are one of the high-level conference speakers invited to attend the Li Keqiang meeting. You have also been invited to ask Premier Li a question.** In that meeting only four people will ask questions (yourself included). CCIEE tells us the questions must be submitted in advance, no later than Monday evening (June 22) U.S. time. We should treat this as a hard deadline.

We suggest posing the following question:

Next year China will host the G20. Many nations around the world will be watching to see how China handles its G20 presidency and what that tells us about how China's rise will impact multilateral institutions. What does the Chinese government currently consider to be its top priorities for China's 2016 G20 presidency? As you know, 2015 is a very big year for sustainable development and climate change. We hope to see big progress this year on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Paris. Is the Chinese leadership thinking about how China can use its G20 presidency to unify and strengthen G20 support for implementing multilateral agendas on sustainable development and climate change?

Please share your thoughts asap (and no later than Monday evening) so that we can pass your preferred question on to Premier Li's team.

Additional meeting details below.

I. Meeting Format

Li will lead the meeting and do most of the talking. He has selected four people, including you, to ask questions. There is no pre-set theme for the meeting, but we have been told you are welcome to ask questions on topics including sustainable development, think tank cooperation, and economic issues.

II. Potential Participants

The meeting hosts have invited about 40 guest scholars and officials to attend the meeting. That group includes:

BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video speech)

Romano PRODI, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, Professor at China Europe International Business School, Former Prime Minister of Italy

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Danilo TURK, Professor of International Law, Former President of Slovenia

Kevin RUDD, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Former Prime Minister of Australia

Sir Don MCKINNON, Chairman of New Zealand China Council, Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand

Grzegorz W. KOLODKO, Founder and Director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Former Deputy Premier of Poland

Thomas SARGENT, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor of Economics at New York University

WU Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations

William BURNS, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Nubuo TANAKA, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Former Executive Director of International Energy Agency

III. Biography of Li Keqiang

Li Keqiang (Ke-chung) is the second-highest ranking official in the CCP. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, premier of the State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. From 2008-2013, he was vice premier of the State Council and deputy secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. In this role, he oversaw a portfolio of issues including economic development, price controls, finance, climate change, and macroeconomic management. During that time, he also directed the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee and of South-to-North Water Diversion Construction Project Committee. In 2013, he became Premier of the State Council. He has focused on economic development and meeting China's growth targets. He has also led efforts to set targets for reducing energy intensity, cap coal use, and boost renewable capacity. At a meeting of the National Leading Group on Climate Change on June 12, 2015, he backed China's commitments through the UNFCCC, stating "China stands ready to work with all other parties to ensure a comprehensive, balanced and strong agreement at the upcoming Paris Conference."

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From: Creamer2@aol.com
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
CAN@list.americansunitedforchange.org
Date: 9/1/2010 6:41:55 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-No Longer the Republican Party of Mount Rushmore

No longer the Republican Party of Mount Rushmore – Now the Party of Easter Island

I'm a pilot. So last week, as our Thirtieth Anniversary present to each other, my wife Jan Schakowsky and I packed up our two golden retrievers in a rented Cessna 182 and headed off to spend a week in the mountains of Montana.

Our destination was the Hawley Mountain Guest Ranch -- a small facility located in the Gallatin National Forest just adjacent to a million acres of federally protected Wilderness Area. Our plan was to base ourselves there and explore trails in the Wilderness Area on horseback.

On the way we stopped for the night in Rapid City, South Dakota, where we took a side trip to Mount Rushmore. If you've only seen pictures, you really can't fully appreciate the extraordinary achievement the monument represents -- carved over 14 years into the side of a mountain. Nor can you really experience the power of its testament to American values.

Of course there is George Washington -- the Revolutionary War General and first President who made America possible. There is Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic Party, and author of the Declaration of Independence. There are two Republicans. Abraham Lincoln symbolizes America's commitment to equal opportunity and liberty for all. And there is Theodore Roosevelt -- the Republican President who more than any other embodied our commitment to conserve and protect our natural environment and prevent its destruction for short-term commercial profit.

Roosevelt not only championed setting aside National Parks and other protected areas similar to the one we were about to visit. He also took on - and broke up - the "Trusts" -- the giant corporate semi-monopolies that dominated America's economy as it entered the 20th Century.

It is really pretty remarkable to ponder how far the modern Republican Party has strayed from the vision of Lincoln, the Great Emancipator -- and Teddy Roosevelt, the Conservationist and Trust Buster.

For decades now, the Party of Lincoln has transformed itself into the Party of Strom Thurmond and Jim DeMint. The party that once authored the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed that any child born in America was guaranteed full rights of citizenship, has become the party that campaigns to eliminate that right for no purpose other than rounding up some mid-term votes by pandering to fear. It has become the party that has attempted to transform a planned Muslim Community Center two city blocks away from New York's Ground Zero into a "desecration of sacred ground" -- all in the service of short-term political gain.

But the Republican abandonment of the values of Theodore Roosevelt is just as remarkable. The gulf between the vision of Teddy Roosevelt and the Party of "drill baby drill" is as vast as the Grand Canyon.

Our trip to a Wilderness Area in Montana last week has reminded me just how important Roosevelt's vision was to the future of America -- and for that matter to the well-being of the planet.

We spent the week riding trails through pristine forests. No gum wrappers or soda cans scattered along the way. Just Lodge Poll pine trees, wild flowers, streams with cool crystal clear water, and vast mountaintop meadows. The thing that is most striking to urban dwellers is the silence. When the wind is still, and the horses stop, the silence is palpable.

Throughout my life I have found that reconnecting with the natural world does more to nourish your spirit than just about anything you can do.

Federally protected wilderness areas are one of a number of different categories of land that has been set aside and is not available for commercial development. These include the eighty-four million acres of National Parks and Monuments that were visited over 285 million times last year. For millions of kids, the National Parks provide the most immediate and memorial lessons in understanding science, wildlife and the natural world.

The National Forests set aside millions of acres of trees and forest environment from unregulated commercial exploitation. They are intended to preserve and protect the forest resources that – after all – belong to all of us.

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But wilderness areas go further. Almost all mechanical presence is excluded from wilderness areas. Most have few roads. You don't hear the sounds of chain saws. You can go there on foot or horseback, but the idea is to allow some areas of our country to exist in their unspoiled state -- allowing the natural eco-system to function without substantial human intervention.

But rather than pursue the vision of Theodore Roosevelt, the modern Republican Party has made an alliance with the energy companies and others who demand that public lands be sold off or leased commercial development. Those forces want to exploit every morsel of land and natural resource for their own short-term individual gain. They favor drilling in the Alaskan Natural Wildlife Refuge. They oppose creating protected areas like national parks, forests and wilderness areas. And those positions are more than simply an affront to the beauty of nature.

Roosevelt's vision – his commitment to setting aside land to protect and nurture our fellow species and especially to protect our forests is critical to the success -- and even the survival -- of human beings on our small interdependent planet.

Pulitzer Prize-winning physiologist and ethno-geographer Jared Diamond's book *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* documents the causes of the collapse of human societies.

The story he tells of Easter Island is particularly compelling.

We are all familiar with Easter Island because of the hundreds of large, stylized statues that had been erected there by people who had no large domesticated animal power. They had nothing but their own muscle to transport and mount stone statues weighing many tons.

Easter Island was occupied about a thousand years ago as part of the great eastward expansion of Polynesian peoples into the Pacific. It is, however, the most remote piece of real estate out there and for that reason, there is no archeological evidence that its people had contact with the inhabitants of any other island – or any other human period – after it was first settled, until Europeans made contact there in the early 1700s.

At its peak, there were apparently about 15,000 people living on an island about nine miles in diameter. When they arrived, the archeological evidence indicates that the colonists found an island loaded with tall trees that were suitable to make large ocean-going canoes, for construction, and to make rope and cloth. The trees also provided various edible fruits, prevented soil erosion from brisk winds, and provided habitat for various land birds. They also found at least 25 nesting seabird species, making it formerly the richest breeding site in all of Polynesia. It was a great place for the seabirds because its isolation kept them free of predators – at least until the humans arrived.

For centuries, as their population grew, Easter Islanders received much of their protein from porpoises that they speared in deep water from the ocean-going canoes. Most fish came from deep-sea fishing, since Easter Island is too far from the equator to support coral reefs that would allow shallow-water fishing.

The Easter Islanders developed agriculture based on many of the crops common to other Polynesian societies. They also brought chickens and developed intensive chicken production. Their agricultural production allowed Eastern Island society to produce adequate food surpluses to feed the large numbers of laborers who were required to transport and erect the statues for which the island is famous. The island itself was divided into 12 pie-shaped zones, each run by a tribe with a chief. These groups apparently engaged in peaceful competition over who could build the largest, most elaborate carvings. Those were placed on even larger platforms and apparently used for religious (ancestor worship) and other communal events.

The Easter Islanders began gradually clearing the forests – both for agriculture and to harvest wood – shortly after they arrived. According to the archeological record, deforestation reached its peak around 1400 and was virtually complete between the 1400s and 1600.

According to Diamond, “The overall picture of Easter Island is the most extreme example of forest destruction in the Pacific and among the most extreme in the world: the whole forest is gone and all of its tree species extinct. Immediate consequences for the islanders were losses of raw materials, losses of wild-caught foods, and decreased crop yields.”

Probably most important, without the large tree trunks, they could no longer make large ocean-going canoes. As a result, large ocean-going porpoise and other deep-sea fish disappeared from their diet. The islanders had to depend more on birds for protein and on smaller, shallow-water fish. The birds quickly disappeared. Land birds disappeared completely, and sea birds were reduced to relic populations. Wild fruits from trees were dropped from their diet. Deforestation led to soil erosion and decreased crop yields. Wood, the major source of fuel, disappeared. Easter inhabitants were reduced to burning herbs, grasses and sugarcane scraps. Funeral practices changed. Easter Islanders were among the only Polynesian societies to cremate their dead, but this had consumed huge quantities of wood. When the wood was gone, they turned to

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mummification and bone burial.

The consequences of deforestation and these other human impacts were starvation, population crash, and a descent to cannibalism—the last major remaining source of animal protein besides chickens. The crisis caused the masses to lose faith in the chiefs and priests, and around 1680 they were overthrown by military leaders. Easter Island's formerly complex, integrated society collapsed into an epidemic of civil war.

In the years before the collapse of the old order, the environmental crisis had been exacerbated by attempts to build bigger and bigger statues in an ever more urgent attempt to appeal to ancestors for help. But, of course, the production of bigger statues also consumed huge quantities of wood and bark to construct the wooden "ladders" used to transport the statues across the ground and rope to pull them.

Like many other societies, Easter's collapse swiftly followed the society reaching its peak population, monument construction and environmental impact.

By the time of the first recorded European visit to the Island, in 1722 by Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen, most of the great statues had been "thrown down" and broken by competing clans. The Europeans were greeted by tiny canoes that were not ocean-going and a population that had shrunk to between 6,000 and 8,000. The landscape that Roggeveen saw was a wasteland, without a single tree or bush over 10 feet tall.

The contacts between the Europeans and the Easter Islanders resulted in further disaster. Europeans brought smallpox that killed thousands of Islanders who, of course, had no immunity. In 1862-63, two Peruvian ships abducted 1,500 of the remaining Easter Islanders to work as slaves in Peru's guano mines.

By the time Catholic missionaries took up residence on Easter Island in 1872, there were 111 islanders remaining. The society had collapsed. It collapsed as a result of deforestation, the destruction of the bird population and the political and social factors that led to the decisions that made these things happen. This was complicated by the fact that there was no possibility of emigration from the Island—an escape valve that did not present itself because of its isolation.

Collapse was not inevitable, since other island societies faced with potential deforestation developed communal forest management programs that protected their most valuable asset for future generations.

Diamond raises the question: "What did the Easter Islander who cut down the last palm tree say while he was doing it? 'We don't have proof that there aren't more palms somewhere else on Easter? We need more research? Or your proposed ban on logging is premature and driven by fear-mongering?'"

I'll conclude this story with Diamond's summary of why the story of Easter Island is so compelling.

> The Easter Islanders' isolation probably also explains why I have found that their collapse, more than the collapse of any other pre-industrial society, haunts my readers and students. The parallels between Easter Island and the whole modern world are chillingly obvious. Thanks to globalization, international trade, jet planes, and the Internet, all countries on Earth today share resources and affect each other, just as did Easter's dozen clans. Polynesian Easter Island was as isolated in the Pacific Ocean as the Earth is today in space. When Easter Islanders got into difficulties, there was nowhere to which they could flee, nor to which they could turn for help; nor shall we modern Earthlings have recourse elsewhere if our troubles increase.[i]

The Easter Islanders destroyed their environment and society with stone tools and their own muscle power. One of the great challenges of the 21st century is to assure that billions of people with metal tools, machines, nuclear energy and exploding technology do not destroy ours.

The key to the Easter Island story is not just what can happen to a society, but the *human decisions* that created the disaster.

The Republican President Theodore Roosevelt instinctively understood this. The modern Republican Party – despite the benefit of an additional century of scientific research -- does not.

One question before us in this falls election is whether the monument that embodies American values will be the bold carvings on the side of a verdant Mount Rushmore or the statues on a barren, windswept Easter Island.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the recent book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

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[i] Diamond, *Collapse*, p. 119

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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/25/2008 3:18:00 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/25/08

Main Topics: Democratic Convention, Hillary Supporters

Summary of Shift: With the Democratic Convention upon us most of the political coverage was based on the upcoming speeches. Michelle Obama sounding too strong was a hot topic as well as Joe Biden's track record and polling data. Angry Hillary supporters picketing the convention sparked numerous discussions over the legitimacy of Obama's candidacy and whether Hillary would have been a better choice. A split and angry democratic base was a major theme in all convention coverage.

In other news tropical storms approach the Caribbean and may threaten many southern states. Gas prices continue to drop but home foreclosures are on the rise.

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: Nicolle Wallace attacks Obama's VP choice and tries to rally angry Hillary supporters
2. FNC: Fiorina discusses why Hillary supporters may back McCain
3. CNN: McCain steps back as DNC takes place, and is endorsed by Daddy Yankee

Highlights, No Clips:

1. FNC: CARLY FIORINA: "They do not believe that Barack Obama is ready to lead in these challenging times. And they do believe that John McCain has a track record of integrity, independence, judgment, and experience that makes him ready to be the president of the United States."
2. FNC: DADDY YANKEE: "Down here, endorsing Senator McCain. Cause I believe in his ideals, his proposal to lead this nation. Like I said before, he's been a fighter for the Hispanic community. And I know that me personally, I'd choose him as the best candidate. Cause he's been a fighter for the immigration issue."
3. CNN: CAROL COSTELLO: "McCain has just announced his wife, Cindy, is heading to Georgia to assess the civilian casualties caused by the Russian invasion. He made the announcement at a fundraiser in Sacramento. Mrs. McCain is traveling with the UN's World Food program who's work she monitored in SE Asia and Africa this Spring and Summer."

Clips:

Highlight #1
Nicolle Wallace Attacks Obama's VP Choice and Tries to Rally Angry Hillary Supporters (MSNBC 08/25/08 01:24pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: […] Nicole Wallace sat down next to me and said we are not obsessed with Hillary Clinton, but now you can understand why, there is another ad out showing in effect are you Hillary supporters really happy with Obama? Come our way, come on over. Do you really think, as a proud Republican, that ranks wont close? That people, given the alternative, won't, I mean the democrats are counting on them falling together in the end.

NICOLLE WALLACE: Sure. Well look it's not an obsession, it's a strategy for victory. And we plan to fight and fight hard for people that had thought that Hillary was the most qualified, the most experienced candidate for commander in chief. We're hoping that perhaps we'd be their second choice. I think the selection of Joe Biden was a good one but it's an admonition. He may as well put a neon sign over his head that says not ready. Not ready to lead. SO I think we see an opening there. And I think it's very likely that they'll come together this week here, but the fight is happening in places like Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and Michigan, and other parts of this great state, so we are going to fight hard for her supporters, and really for all votes.

WILLIAMS: How does the selection, […] of Joe Biden change, and I can't wait to hear if you admit one inch of change, change the McCain's selection process?

WALLACE: It may be like a kaleidoscope that shakes a little bit, puts this race into a different light. You know, I don't think so, I think you know John McCain well enough to know that he is someone that knows his mind, and he is still thinking through his selection. I think that you have to ask the question though, if Senator Obama were still ahead 15 points is this who he would have picked. Would he have so easily conceded that he lacked the experience and the judgment and the wisdom to take on that incredible grave responsibility of commander in chief without someone like Joe Biden on the ticket? If the question was experience, why not Hillary?

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WILLIAMS: You realize now that if John McCain selects someone with strong economic credentials, any number of the skill sets that he lacks, and we all lack them, the same thing is going to be said.

WALLACE: Well look I think that the difference there is Barack Obama […] has been hope change and he picked the insiders insider. We said all along that we were going to put our country first. […] If he picks someone with particular strengths on the economy than that is in the best interest for the country. […]

HIGHLIGHT #2

Fiorina discusses Why Hillary Supporters May Back McCain (FNC 08/25/08 4:14pm)

CARLY FIORINA: We have been warmly welcomed here in Denver. I've been talking to democrats for many months. I've been meeting with democratic delegates here. **We had a press conference this morning with a number of democrats who have chosen to join citizens for McCain.** And come out publicly and say, you know what, the party doesn't own my vote. So we've had a very interesting time here.

NEIL CAVUTO: You've been trying to stir the pot a little bit, right?

FIORIANA: You know, it doesn't take that much stirring when a bunch of democrats believe that Barack Obama does not have the judgment or experience to lead; when they believe that Hillary Clinton was a better qualified candidate. Now they look at John McCain and say he has judgment, he has experience, he has character that we can trust.
[…]

CAVUTO: Is that why we're 45/45 in the latest polls? An economy that you said in the past, would seem to work against the republicans? It isn't hurting them[…]

FIORINA: First of all, Americans are hurting. I totally agree with your last guess. The economy is in difficult straits. And Americans are sitting around the kitchen table wondering if they're going to keep their job, wondering how they're going to pay their grocery bills.
[…]

FIORINA: I guess what I would say is I think what it indicates is that John McCain has been out talking with the American people for many months now. He first introduced a comprehensive economic plan to get Americans back to work on April 15th. And he's been talking about it ever since. And I think people understand he has a plan to get the economy going again. And I think at a very basic level most human being understand, you know, times are tough. Don't take more money out of my pocket.

CAVUTO: […] You rose like a rocket in this campaign, Carly. And I'm […] **wondering what that says about the interests of John McCain, whether he's going to reach out to more corporate types like yourself, in an administration, or what?**

FIORINA: I think John McCain has said publicly, on many occasions, that he will reach out to everyone to serve his administration. **He's absolutely talked about bringing private enterprise to his administration.** But I also think it says about him that he looks for opinions from all kinds of people. It's one of his great strengths.

HIGHLIGHT #3

McCain Steps Back as DNC Takes Place, and is Endorsed by Daddy Yankee (CNN 08/25/08 12:28pm)

ED HENRY: What's interesting is John McCain is trying to stay in the news, but not really with any heavy lifting. […] A little earlier, though, he came here first in Phoenix to the high school his wife attended; to get an endorsement from Daddy Yankee, a Latin recording star. […] But originally this was supposed to be a press conference. Instead, there were no questions allowed from the press. Instead, it was just this endorsement rolled out. And some very brief comments from Senator McCain. And when he did speak, he focused on the positive about the democratic convention.

JOHN MCCAIN: This is a very tough presidential campaign we're in. I have very honorable opponent and one who will receive the nomination of his party this week in Denver. And I look forward to the last couple of months' campaign with him. There are stark differences between us, but I think all of you can be proud that this country will go through an experience and the most fundamental part of democracy.

ED HENRY: He's leaving a much tougher tone to his television ads. He's got a new one out this morning, titled 'Deborah'. It's about a Clinton delegate named Deborah from Wisconsin who says that she's so disenchanted now that she's going to vote for John McCain instead of Barack Obama. **Obviously what McCain is trying to do is drive the wedge even deeper**

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between the Clinton and Obama camps, and try to develop these McCain democrats; just like the old Reagan democrats by really trying to open this wound.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Lily Adams" <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/17/2015 4:20:03 PM
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Good job on not getting CSPAN hot mic'ed yet.

-----Original Message-----
From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 11:04 PM
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Webb said he wouldn't have voted for war in Iraq, wouldn't have authorized the intervention in Libya and will not support Iran having any possibility of getting a nuclear weapon.

He didn't name us, and the first two things are not inaccurate, so I don't think it's worth putting anything out, but just flagging.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: HRC did great

Interesting that Bernie is making a big play on AA and Latino issues -- and getting good reaction,

Huge applause on Citizens United.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:40 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
> wrote:
>
> Oh my mistake. He seems hoarse.
>
>
> ---------
> Lily Adams

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> cell: (202) 368-4013
>
>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:39 PM, Christina Reynolds
>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>
>> I think he meant Bernie shouting at the crowd. It feels awkward on TV.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lily Adams [mailto:ladams@hillaryclinton.com]
>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:38 PM
>> To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Christina
>> Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook
>> <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>
>> It's from one corner of the room where his tables are
>>
>>
>> ---------
>> Lily Adams
>> cell: (202) 368-4013
>>
>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:36 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>> How is the shouting in the room?
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:32 PM
>>> To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony
>>> Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>
>>> Bernie is up.
>>>
>>> It's really like listening to Robby.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Christina Reynolds
>>>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Worth noting:
>>>> @Lis_Smith
>>>> BIG THEME of @MartinOMalley's speech tonight: Actions, not Words.

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>>>> As progressives, we need someone who can get. things. done.
>>>>
>>>> -----Original Message-----
>>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:16 PM
>>>> To: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com;
>>>> Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>>
>>>> Not yet. O'Malley is speaking now.
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>
>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:14 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>>> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Fantastic. Any incoming from the others?
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:13 PM, Jennifer Palmieri
>>>>>> <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Passionate, great response in the room.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

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From:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	9/3/2014 1:31:43 PM
Subject:	HRC @ Clean Energy Summit
Attachments:	2014-09-03 Clean Energy - 430pm.docx

John, I hope I've caught you in time. Below and attached is our draft for Nevada. Would love your feedback. Thanks!
Dan

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT
LAS VEGAS, NV
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

Thank you, Harry, for that generous introduction and for leading the way here in Nevada and for our country toward a clean energy future.

I also want to thank the Center for American Progress, the Clean Energy Project, MGM Resorts International, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for making this event possible. I'm particularly pleased to see so many business leaders here today. This kind of all-hands-on-deck partnership – from government, business, academia, and the not-for-profit sector – is exactly what it's going to take to make real progress on our energy and climate challenges.

And, as Harry and others have explained so well here, this is one of the most sweeping, urgent, and consequential challenges we face as a nation and a world.

The data is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers say. Sea levels are rising. Ice caps are melting. Storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc. Thirteen of the top fourteen warmest years have all come since 2000.

This July, scientists found levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere not seen in millions of years.

The threat is real.

But so is the opportunity.

If we come together to make the *hard choices* -- and make smart investments in infrastructure, technology and environmental protection, America can be the clean energy superpower for the 21st century.

Just look at what's happening in Nevada, thanks in large part to the leadership of Harry Reid.

This state has quintupled its renewable energy capacity since 2008. In the past four years, more than $5.5 billion have been invested here in clean energy production and infrastructure.

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Harry helped bring together a broad coalition, including major casino companies, local tribal leaders, and environmental groups, to replace one of the nation's dirtiest coal plant with five utility-scale solar projects now under construction.

Nevada is now one of the leaders in the nation in solar energy capacity per person.

The state has more geothermal projects under development than any other.

The "One-Nevada Transmission Line" has created new markets for renewable energy and hundreds of jobs.

And on average, clean energy jobs in Nevada pay higher wages -- thousands of dollars a year higher. That means more Nevada families making it into the middle class and more families *staying* in the middle class.

This is the promise of a clean energy future. A future where we move past the old false choice between protecting our environment and growing our economy and instead do both.

Again, Senator Reid has led the way. In the Senate, he has worked with Democrats and Republicans alike and championed legislation such as the Energy Independence and Security Act, which led to new fuel economy standards for vehicles for the first time in 30 years.

He provided crucial support for President Obama's efforts to cut carbon pollution from power plants, which will spur billions of dollars in private clean energy investment, improve air quality and respiratory health, and make a measurable dent in harmful emissions.

And Harry understands we need to do even more. Because while we can all be proud that domestic electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal more than doubled between 2009 and 2013, we still have a long way to go.

China and other competitors are already racing ahead with big bets on renewables. We cannot afford to cede leadership in this area. Our economic recovery, our efforts against climate change, and our strategic position in the world all will improve if we can build a safe bridge to a clean energy economy.

Part of that bridge will certainly come from natural gas. There are challenges here, to be sure, but the boom in domestic gas production is an exciting example of American innovation changing the game. If we do this right, it can be good for both our environment and our economy.

Gas is cleaner than coal… expanding production is creating tens of thousands of new jobs... and lower costs are helping give the United States a big competitive advantage in energy-intensive industries. We're also reducing our dependence on foreign oil and freeing up supplies elsewhere to help our European allies lessen their dependence on Russian energy.

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To capitalize on this boom, we have to face head on the legitimate environmental concerns about some new extraction practices and their impact on local water, soil, and air supplies. Methane leaks in the production and transportation of natural gas are particularly worrisome. So it's crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including not drilling when the risks are too high.

And to make sure natural gas really is an effective bridge fuel, we need to keep moving forward on renewables and a clean energy future.

Today tax incentives for alternative energy investments are unpredictable at best, while generous subsidies for fossil fuel are easy to come by. In fact, the world spends more than $500 billion dollars subsidizing fossil fuel every year, bloating budgets and creating incentives against innovation and progress. We can do better.

We can create a positive environment for private-sector innovation and risk-taking, with targeted tax incentives, a commitment to research and development, and policies that encourage rather than undercut the transition to clean, renewable sources of energy.

We can invest in the infrastructure of the future, including next-generation power plants to produce electricity more cleanly, smarter grids to deliver it more effectively, and greener buildings to use it more efficiently.

At this point, we know a lot about what actually works.

Take the Clinton Climate Initiative, which my husband started some years ago through our Foundation. We're working with private and public sector partners to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and spur investments in green construction, including through some innovative new financing tools.

Our Home Energy Affordable Loan program works a little like a 401k or Health Savings Account, saving families as much as $500 a year in utility expenses. And the return on investment is up to about 23 percent.

When we helped retrofit the Empire State Building, with 2.8 million square feet of office space, 275 jobs were created over two years and the building's annual energy consumption dropped by 38 percent, worth roughly $4.4 million a year.

And that's just the beginning of what's possible. Good ideas are everywhere you look.

Jessica Matthews and Julia Silverman, two students at Harvard, created a soccer ball that harnesses kinetic energy with every kick and can power a lamp for three hours from just 30 minutes of play. They brought it to the Clinton Global Initiative and blew everyone away. The ball is now being used in six countries where soccer is universal but electricity is not.

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If two college students can figure out a way to light up entire communities, imagine what we can do as a country if we roll up our sleeves and get to work?

Rumor has it that Apple will soon unveil their iPhone 6. When they do, millions of Americans will rush to get their hands on this latest prize of 21st century technology. Yet, when they plug their shiny new devices into the wall, they'll be relying on an electrical grid that was built in the 1950s and still uses technology from the '60s and '70s.

We can do better.

With a true 21st century smart grid, we could time our dishwashers or air conditioners to turn on when demand for power is less and costs are lower. We could manage stresses on the grid, cutting peak demand to avoid blackouts – which research shows occur about 285 percent more often today than in 1984 and cost our businesses billions of dollars a year.

If the public and private sectors put aside politics and come together to get this done, we could do it before the iPhone 7 comes out.

All of this work at home is crucial to what we want to achieve abroad. Because America's ability to lead the world on climate and energy hinges on our commitment to act ourselves. No country will fall in line just because we tell them to. They need to see us taking significant steps of our own.

I know first-hand how hard it is to mobilize progress on a global scale. But there's no way to tackle this challenge without it.

When President Obama and I went to Copenhagen in 2009 for a global climate change conference, we ran into a brick wall of opposition from countries like China, which has become the world's largest carbon emitter but resists any kind of agreement that would obligate them to do something about it.

We had to literally crash a secret meeting between the Chinese, Indians, Brazilians and South Africans to force the issue. I'll never forget watching the President gliding by flustered Chinese security guards and the look on their faces when we finally sat down at the table.

But our persistence paid off. Thanks to the agreement we hammered out there, for the first time all major economies, developed and developing alike, agreed to make national commitments to curb carbon emissions through 2020 and report transparently on their mitigation efforts. That was just a start, but it provided a foundation to build on.

Next year world leaders will return to the negotiating table in Paris with the hope of achieving an even stronger agreement applicable to all.

It will be another opportunity for American leadership. A chance to show the world that we're serious about meeting this challenge. That we can still do big things in this country.

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So going forward, we all need to step up. Not just our government, but our private sector, our civil society, our research institutions and universities, our families and communities — all of us.

I know we can do better. When we work together, our capacity for progress is nearly limitless.

Let's make America the clean energy superpower our world needs.

Let's leave our children – and, yes, our grandchildren – a healthy and sustainable future.

Let's get to work.

Thank you.

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From:	"Tom Matzzie" <tmatzzie@gmail.com>
To:	jdorner@americanprogress.org
Date:	10/5/2010 11:36:14 AM
Subject:	Re: [big campaign] Exclusive: Foreign-Funded 'U.S.' Chamber Of Commerce Running Partisan Attack Ads

We should all try to pull Karl Rove into these sorts of stories as much as possible. Rove is a one-step association away from Bush where I think the Chamber is more of a reach. The more Rove is in the frame, the better for exciting our people.

On Tue, Oct 5, 2010 at 10:29 AM, Joshua Dorner <jdorner@americanprogress.org > wrote:

http://thinkprogress.org/2010/10/05/foreign-chamber-commerce/

Exclusive: Foreign-Funded 'U.S.' Chamber Of Commerce Running Partisan Attack Ads

U. S. Chamber President Tom Donohue with George Bush

The largest attack campaign against Democrats this fall is being waged by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a trade association organized as a 501(c)(6) that can raise and spend unlimited funds without ever disclosing any of its donors. The Chamber has promised to spend an unprecedented$75 million to defeat candidates like Jack Conway , Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Jerry Brown , Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA), and Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA). As of Sept. 15th, the Chamber had aired more than 8,000 ads on behalf of GOP Senate candidates alone, according to a study from the Wesleyan Media Project. The Chamber's spending has dwarfed every other issue group and most political party candidate committee spending. A ThinkProgress investigation has found that the Chamber funds its political attack campaign out of its general account, which solicits foreign funding. And while the chamber will likely assert it has internal controls, foreign money is fungible, permitting the Chamber to run its unprecedented attack campign. According to legal experts consulted by ThinkProgress, the Chamber is likely skirting longstanding campaign finance law that bans the involvement of foreign corporations in American elections.

In recent years, the Chamber has become very aggressive with its fundraising,opening offices abroad and helping to found foreign chapters (known as Business Councils or "AmChams"). While many of these foreign operations include American businesses with interests overseas, the Chamber has also spearheaded an effort to raise money from foreign corporations, including ones controlled by foreign governments. These foreign members of the Chamber send money either directly to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, or the foreign members fund their local Chamber, which in turn, transfers dues payments back to the Chamber's H Street office in Washington DC. These funds are commingled to the Chamber's 501(c)(6) account which is the vehicle for the attack ads:

– The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has created a large presence in the small, oil-rich country of Bahrain. In 2006, the Chamber created a local affiliate called the "U.S.-Bahrain Business Council" (USBBC), an organization to help businesses in Bahrain take advantage of the Chamber's "network of government and business relationships in the US and worldwide." As the USBBC's bylaws state, it is not an actual separate entity, rather it is simply an office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 501(c)(6) trade association. Many of the USBBC's board members are Bahrainian, including Aluminum Bahrain, Gulf Air, Midal Cables, the Nass Group, Bahrain Maritime & Mercantile International, the Bahrain Petroleum Company (state-owned), Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, and First Leasing Bank. **With each of these foreign board members to the USBBC contributing at least $10,000 annually, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce raises well over $100,000 a year in money from foreign businesses through its operation in Bahrain**. Notably, the membership form provided by the USBBC directs applicants to send or wire their money directly to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The membership form also explicitly

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states the foreign-owned firms are welcomed.

– Like the Chamber's involvement in Bahrain, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce operates in India through a group called "U.S.-India Business Council" (USIBC), which has offices around the world but is headquartered in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Dozens of Indian businesses, including some of India's largest corporations like the State Bank of India (state-run) and ICICI Bank, are members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce through the USIBC. Annual membership dues range from $7,500 to $15,000 or more, and the money is given directly into the Chamber's 501(c)(6) bank account. **Like the USBBC, the USIBC generates well over $200,000 a year in dues for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce from foreign businesses.** On the USIBC website, many of the groups lobbying goals advocate changing American policy to help businesses in India. Under the manufacturing policy goal, USIBC boasts that it "can play a helpful role in guiding U.S. companies to India, while supporting various policy initiatives that will enhance India's reputation as a major manufacturing and investment hub."

– Many foreign "AmChams" or Business Councils operate outside the direct sphere of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce but nonetheless send dues money back to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For instance, the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt is a separate entity based in Cairo that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars from both Egyptian firms and American businesses. However, the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt calls itself "the most active affiliates of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the" Middle East. **Some foreign chambers, like the Abu Dhabi AmCham, which includes American firms and Esnaad, a subsidiary of the state-run Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, claims that it is a a "dues paying member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and part of the global network of American Chambers of Commerce."**In Russia, the relationship between the American Chamber of Commerce there and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce here is opaque. This might be because many of the dues-paying members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia are Russian state-run companies, like VTB Bank , and controlled by the Russian government. Asked by ThinkProgress if the Russian Chambers pay dues back to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Ksenia Forsheneva, the membership development manager at the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, replied, **"Unfortunately the information that you require is closed for the public."**

Previously, it has been reported that foreign firms like BP , Shell Oil, and Siemens are active members of the Chamber. But on a larger scale, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce appears to rely heavily on fundraising from firms all over the world , including China, India, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Russia, and many other places. Of course, because the Chamber successfully lobbied to kill campaign finance reforms aimed at establishing transparency , the Chamber does not have to reveal any of its foreign funding. Dues-paying members of the Chamber could potentially be sending additional funds this year to help air more attack ads against Democrats.

Here's how it works. Regular dues from American firms to the Chamber can range from $500 to $300,000 or more, depending on their size and industry, and can be used for any purpose deemed necessary by Donohue and the Chamber leadership. For example, the health insurance giant Aetna has reported that it paid $100,000 in annual dues to the Chamber in the past. But for specific advocacy or advertising campaigns, corporations can hide behind the label of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and give additional money. Last year, alongside their regular dues, health insurance companies like Aetna secretly funneled up to $20 million to the Chamber for attack ads aimed at killing health reform (publicly, health insurance executives claimed they supported reform). Last week, Politico reported that News Corporation, the parent company of Fox News, gave an extra $1 million to the Chamber for its election season attack campaign.

There are many reasons foreign corporations are seeking to defeat Democratic candidates this November. The Chamber has repeatedly sent out issue alerts attacking Democratic efforts to encourage businesses to hire locally rather thanoutsource to foreign counties. The Chamber has also bitterly fought Democrats for opposing unfettered free trade deals. To galvanize foreign businesses, the Chamber has commissioned former Ambassador Frank Lavin — who served as the McCain-Palin Asia campaign director and has appeared on television multiple times recently saying a Democratic Congress is bad for business — to speak before various foreign Chamber affiliates to talk about the stakes for the 2010 midterm elections.

Because campaign finance laws prohibit foreign entities from contributing to political races here in America, we asked the Chamber to defend the legality of its fundraising operation. We have yet to receive a response. But as word of our investigation began to leak out yesterday, the Chamber informed Politico's Mike Allen that it is now "preparing a response."

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/14/2008 7:00:36 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 09/14/08

Main Topics: Dishonest Ads, Sexism, Gibson Interview, Foreign Policy, Economy, Palin-McCain Ticket

Summary of Shift: None of the four candidates appeared on today's talk shows. The morning's tone was one of unfocused discussion. Surrogates and pundits touched on women's issues, the Palin interview, her readiness and this week's ads.

The remains of Hurricane Ike and the train crash in California kept the anchors busy to the exclusion of all else.

Highlights:
1. NBC: Giuliani touches on the negative tone of the campaign, the surge and Obama's experience
2. CBS: McCain's women's rights record debated
3. NBC: Panel explores the inherent difficulty Palin faces in juggling her professional and private commitments
4. NBC: Palin interview demonstrates unreadiness, but not likely to sway anyone
5. MSNBC: Embarassment from a solo palin drawing larger crowds will likely be passing
6. ABC: Fiorina Interview Part 1; Sexism, Earmarks
7. ABC: Fiorina Interview Part 2: Gender vote, equal pay
8. ABC: This Week panel Part 1: Palin-McCain ticket, Gibson interview
9. ABC: This Week panel Part 2: Dishonest ads, Honor
10. CNN: Pawlenty Interview Part 1: Obama vs. Palin's 'Executive Experience'
11. CNN: Pawlenty Interview Part 2: Tax cuts, economy, middle class

Clips w/ Labels and Transcriptions:

Highlight #1
Giuliani Touches on the Negative Tone of the Campaign, the Surge and Obama's Experience (NBC 09/14/08 10:45am)
TOM BROKAW: The ads are getting a lot of attention these days. We want to share with our viewers and with you something Senator McCain said about the tone of this campaign back on April 4th and then go from there . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: This will be a respectful campaign. Americans want a respectful campaign. They're tired of the attacks. They're tired of the impugning people's character and integrity. They want a respectful campaign. And I am of the firm belief that they'll get it, and they can get it if the American people demand it and reject a lot of this negative stuff that goes on.

BROKAW: And yet, Mr. Mayor, this is an ad that the McCain campaign ran attacking Senator Obama for what they called his principal piece of legislation when he was an Illinois state senator, sex education for kindergarteners.

["Sex Ed" ad plays"]

BROKAW: Any number of publications have looked at that ad, and here's what *The Washington Post* had to say, "the McCain ad is wrong when it claims in a voice dripping with sarcasm that Obama's one accomplishment in the education field was a sex education bill for kindergartners . . . the principal purpose of the bill was to make them aware of the risk . . . sexual predators. Given all the major issues that are before us today, wasn't that ad and its misrepresentation inappropriate on the part of the McCain campaign, Mr. Mayor?

RUDY GIULIANI: Tom, I think the only thing wrong about that ad is it lists it as an accomplishment of Senator Obama. In fact, the bill . . . didn't pass. I read the bill last night. The bill does say K through 12, and it goes beyond just what Senator Obama is saying now. It also talks about HIV/AIDS education for children K through 12. And when Senator Obama defended himself on this, Hillary Clinton attacked him on this, not just Senator McCain . . . so the reality is, look, everybody has their own biases and prejudices and how they view these ads. But I agree that the campaign has gotten too negative on both sides . . . I think the main reason for that is that senator Obama has refused to debate in these town hall meetings . . . a lot of these ads are going to get done that way. They're going to be able to confront each other with these things. Senator Obama can explain his

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views on sex education and just what he was doing with that. Senator McCain can either back off it or agree with it . . .

BROKAW: . . . when you were at the Republican National Convention as the keynoter in St. Paul the other night, you talked about some of Barack Obama's resume as a community organizer . . .

GIULIANI: [at convention] On the other hand, you have a resume from a gifted man with an Ivy League education. He worked as a community organizer. What? Maybe this is the first problem on the resume. He worked as a community organizer. He immersed himself in Chicago machine politics.

BROKAW: Senator Obama, who had an Ivy League education and could have gone to Wall Street, went back to Chicago on the south side . . . in that mocking fashion, it seemed to a lot of people that you were belittling the role of a community organizer, and it let to this button that was addressed to Senator Palin because she also talked about it. "Jesus Christ was a community organizer. Pontius Pilate was a governor." In retrospect, do you think you had too much sport with his role as community organizer, Mr. Mayor?

GIULIANI: [laughs] No, I think he had too little after I record as a community organizer. The point is that Senator Obama's record as a community organizer is a very sparse one, as is his record as a state senator . . . what I was talking about how little a record he had, how so many of those programs have failed, how little it's been really looked at by the media. This is -- and also, the group that recruited him was a Solowinsky group, that has all kinds of questions on their outlook . . . on capitalism. I think it's Senator Obama's belief that the tax system should be used for a redistribution of wealth rather than revenue for the country . . . which gets you to a very core . . . almost socialist notion that it should be used for a redistribution of wealth. I think what we haven't done adequately in this campaign, meaning Republicans, is maybe some of the emphasis on some of these other issues, it should be on the fact that Senator Obama is the most left-wing candidate the Democratic party has ever had . . . and his running mate, senator Biden, is the third most liberal member of the senate . . . and the community organizer thing was consistent with that kind of very left-wing approach . . . the question is what kind of work did Barack Obama do, and how effective was it long term? . . .

BROKAW: . . . Warren Buffett is a supporter of Barack Obama's, and he thinks that there can be an increase in the capital gains taxes without doing any long-term damage to the economy. And I think it would be probably a pretty big reach to describe him as a Solowinsky kind of economist.

GIULIANI: . . . be very careful, Tom, what you said is that he thinks it won't do damage to the economy . . . we have twice increased the capital gains tax . . . both times it deprived the government of revenue . . . that is what would happen right now. And at a time in which Barack Obama wants to fund trillions of dollars in government programs, I have to believe that he'd want to look for more revenue rather than less revenue. So what that says to me is that his real concept of taxation is to be used as a redistribution of wealth . . .

BROKAW: . . . let me also share with you something that . . . Dick Armey . . . had to say . . . on September 3rd, "the bubba vote and underlying racism will hurt Democrat Barack Obama in key battleground states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania . . . there's an awful lot of people in America, bless their heart, who simply are not emotionally prepared to vote for a black man." . . . so if Senator McCain wins, based on the Dick Armey formulation, does he win on race and playing the race card?

GIULIANI: Gee, I think I can speak for Senator McCain . . . he doesn't want a vote from anyone who's voting for him based on race. And I think that same thing would be true for Barack Obama. Unfortunately, there are people out there who are going to vote based on race one way or another. I hope that we're beyond that . . .

BROKAW: . . . we are celebrating and acknowledging the terrible sacrifices that people made seven years ago with September 11th, 2001, this past week in New York here at the Pentagon and also in Pennsylvania. It did come up, the whole question of national security at the Republican National Convention. This is what Lindsey Graham, your fellow speaker, had to say about what's going on in Iraq and what he described as the success of the surge. Let's listen to that and then get your response to it.

LINDSEY GRAHAM: Let there be no doubt about it, we are on the road to victory. Victory! You can say it at this convention. We are winning!

BROKAW: But the man in charge in Iraq, General David Petraeus, in an interview with the French press agency, said "al-Qaeda has been significantly damaged, degraded and is on the run, but it is still capable of launching lethal, sensational, dangerous and barbaric attacks." . . . he went on to say, "Iraq is still hard but hopeful. The progress was a bit more durable. But that the situation there remained fragile." He said he did not know that he would ever use the word "victory," quoting, "this is not the sort of struggle where you take a hill, plant a flag and

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go home to a victory parade. It's not war with a simple slogan. Not even President Bush will use the word 'victory' or 'winning.' He is using the word 'succeeding.'" wasn't that an overstatement on the part of Lindsey Graham?

GIULIANI: I think when you give speeches sometimes you're prone to do that. I can see those statements being kind of similar. Lindsey was talking about the road to victory. He didn't say we had victory. . . . [there]'s a definite decision that Barack Obama made and John McCain made. Barack Obama was just wrong about the surge. And John McCain, to his everlasting credit, was correct about it . . .

BROKAW: . . . we'll be hearing from Bob Woodward who's written a new book called "War Within," . . . as LBJ did during Vietnam, did the president forfeit his obligation to the American people to tell them the truth about, in fact, what was happening there, the difference between his public appearances and his private anxieties?

GIULIANI: . . . as far as John McCain is concerned, I mean, this is a very strong point in his favor. John McCain, going back to 2003/2004, including during the period you're talking about, was the strongest voice by far that we were making a mistake in Iraq. To the consternation of his own party. And, in that particular sense, there can't be anything John McCain has a stronger record on. It also demonstrates this idea . . . it's sort of a McCain/Palin/ Bush ticket, that's kind of wearing thin. The strongest opponent of the strategy in Iraq, not the taking out of Saddam Hussein, but the strategy in Iraq, by far, was John McCain. And he was right about the surge. And Obama was wrong.

BROKAW: . . . in a recent interview . . . John McCain was asked about governor Palin and her national security credentials . . .

ROB CALDWELL: What experience --

JOHN MCCAIN: Sure.

CALDWELL: --does she have in the field of national security?

JOHN MCCAIN: Energy. She knows more about energy than probably anyone else in the United States of America.

BROKAW: More about energy than probably anyone else in the United States of America. More about solar, more about wind, more about geothermal than the MIT scientists who are working on this initiative? Boone Pickens? Boone Pickens? Senator Al Gore? Do you think she knows more than any of those people do?

GIULIANI: I think John was referring to elected officials. He would not be referring to Boone Pickens and certainly wouldn't be referring to nuclear scientists and people like that. I think he was talking about politicians and probably, in particular, the people involved in the race. And I consider that on national security, the best experience you're going to have is executive experience, the kind of experience that a Ronald Reagan had, the kind of experience that a Franklin Roosevelt had . . . so I don't know. I think this experience thing kind of argues in favor of the McCain/Palin ticket. Probably you get to see that, you know, based on the seat you're sitting in.

BROKAW: Senator Obama and Senator Biden have both released their tax returns. As you heard, Senator Schumer has recommended very strongly that Governor Palin do the same thing. Will she do that, and will you recommend to her that she do that?

GIULIANI: Well, you know, I think that that's something they have to decide. That's not something that's my role to decide when to release them. I think they said they are going to release them . . . I should also point out that that whole investigation in Alaska that senator Schumer mentioned before, I mean, that's being run by Obama supporters. I don't know if you know that . . .

Highlight #2
McCain's Women's Rights Record Debated (CBS 09/14/08 10:31am)
BOB SCHIEFFER: This morning the Obama campaign sent over a new ad . . . what they're saying is that John McCain is the one not being fair to women . . .

[Obama equal pay ad plays]

SCHIEFFER: Gov. Swift, what's your response to that?

JANE SWIFT: First of all, I'll say that I think what they're referring to is a very narrow decision in the Supreme

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Court that had more to do with enriching trial lawyers . . . than about whether or not John McCain has stood up for women. John McCain has supported the family and medical leave act . . . he actually sponsored the glass ceiling commission. He has done a number of things, including always putting women in positions of leadership . . . I actually just joined with some folks in honoring members of congress this week . . . one of the things that we measured in our best of congres is do you put women in positions of leadership and certainly John McCain passes . . .

SCHIEFFER: All right. But do you believe that he supports equal pay for women?

SWIFT: I think that he does not believe that that is something that should be determined by endless lawsuits but we all believe that women have an opportunity to be—

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: He doesn't believe it should be legislated. Governor, he doesn't believe it should be legislated. . . .

JANET NAPOLITANO: I think you just said no, he doesn't believe in it because he has never acted to enforce it . . .

[. . .]

SCHIEFFER: . . . do you think that John McCain supports equal pay for women?

KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON: I know he does . . . because the bill they're talking about is a bill that would extend that statue of limitations and in this case, the person who was alleged to have done the discrimination was dead and it was years after the discrimination occurred. So what John McCain supports is equal pay for equal work, absolutely. But he's supporting a bill that would have a reasonable statute of limitations so that you can have the evidence for a fair trial.

SCHULTZ: What Sen. Hutchinson is talking about is the Lily Ledbetter case that the Supreme Court just decided against Lily Ledbetter and what we're trying to do is make sure we can pass a law that ensures that women . . . are entitled to equal pay and that would be gaurenteed in the law . . . and John McCain opposes legislation to overturn the Lily Ledbetter decision—

HUTCHINSON: No. No he doesn't.

SCHULTZ: Yes, he does.

[crosstalk]

SCHULTZ: Is he or is he not on the record opposing that decision?

HUTCHINSON: There is an alternative bill that does require the equal pay for work—

SCHULTZ: No, there is no alternative legislation that ensures that women get equal pay for equal work. And John McCain opposes that bill.

Highlight #3
Panel Explores the Difficulty of Palin's Professional and Private Commitments (NBC 09/14/08 10:14am)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Sarah Palin's bio, mother of five . . . and governor to boot, is giving a big boost to the Republican ticket, especially among working women . . . here are a couple of women who think she can do it all.

WOMAN 1: I think mom's can really relate to her . . . I think she's done an amazing job with her career.

WOMAN 2: She's got everything. I mean she's got this politics thing going, she's got the family, she's got all of the family issues that arise.

MATTHEWS: But there's another view too.

WOMAN 3: You cannot have the second most powerful job in the world and take care of five kids. You just can't do it.

MATTHEWS: Katty, you seem to agree. You wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* this week, quote, "Mrs. Palin has hit

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a nerve. It's not because she's a woman with children trying to do a man's job. It's because she's actually pushing the combination of professional and personal ambitions beyond the sensibilities of this generation of working women. As women we may be awed by her, but she's not necessarily a role model for so many professional women who now say they want to do it differently." . . . you're a mother of four, right? You've got a two year old, would you turn down the VP job?

[. . .]

KATTY KAY: Look, what's happenening is there is a trend among working women in America who for years did fifty and sixty hour weeks, try to do it, climb the old male ladder and they're now saying, either we choose between career and kids or we have to redefine the way we do careers . . . clearly Sarah Palin bucks that national trend. Is she capable of doing it? I'm absolutely sure she's capable of doing it. The real question that I'm hearing from professional women is not, "How can she do it?" but "Why?"

MATTHEWS: People have said, fairly or not, you wouldn't ask that of a male candidate for vice president who had young kids.

CYNTHIA TUCKER: I think that's absolutely true because men have not been traditionally seen as the ones who take care of the children . . . that is still largely seen as the woman's role. Let me say however, that I always thought that the women's movement was about giving women choice and if Sarah Palin wants to run for the vice presidency and be a mother of five children I think that's fantastic but it's also true that many women don't want that and don't want that expectation . . .

KAY:. . . there are women definitely who feel excited by her, who feel proud of her, who feel that they can relate to her in some way. But I'm hearing . . . lots of confused conversations from professional women friends saying, "Can she do it?", "How can she do it?", "Why is she doing it?" . . .

Highlight #4

Palin Interview Demonstrates Unreadiness, But Not Likely to Sway Anyone (NBC 09/13/08 10:11am)

CHRIS MATTHEWS: This was the first full week of battle since the conventions and Sarah Palin's tour as opener for John McCain [and it got them] running even with Barack Obama, who's now started to push back hard.

BARACK OBAMA: John McCain lately has been out taking about how he's the original maverick and how he's going to tell the lobbyists that they don't run Washington anymore. Here's the only problem: his campaign is run by some of the biggest lobbyists in Washington. Who's he going to tell? His campaign manager?

MATTHEWS The Democrats are also jumping for joy with new questions that Charlie Gibson raised about Sarah Palin's crash course in foreign policy . . .

CHARLIE GIBSON: When I asked John McCain about your national security credentials, he cited the fact that you have command of the Alaskan National Guard and that Alaska is close to Russia. Are those sufficient credentials?

SARAH PALIN: But it is about reform of government. And it's about putting government back on the side of the people and that has much to do with foreign policy and national security issues. Let me speak specifically about a credential that I do bring to this table, Charlie. And that's with the energy independence.

GIBSON: And under the NATO treaty, wouldn't we then have to go to war if Russia went into Georgia?

PALIN: Perhaps so.

GIBSON: Do you agree with the Bush doctrine?

PALIN: In what respect Charlie?

GIBSON: The Bush, uh, what do you interpret it to be?

PALIN: His world view.

MATTHEWS: . . . that was the foreign policy part of the Charlie Gibson interview . . . what was your take, how did she do?

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MARK WHITTAKER: . . . we've all crammed for exams the night before. You know, classes that we didn't really get around to actually going to the lectures and we had to get out the books the night before. She clearly came as across as somebody who had mastered or at least been studying for these questions just for a week or so. On that level, you have to say she did ok. But, the real questions is, is potentially being the leader of the free world something you can just, just try to cram for in the brief a period of time.

MATTHEWS: . . . were those her thoughts or were those the thoughts of the briefers from the McCain camp?

KATTY KAY: It sounded like she was repeating lines because actually quite often she did actually, literally repeat lines. There were various moments. She was asked about Israel and she said we shouldn't second guess Israel.

MATTHEWS: Four times she said the same exact phrase.

KAY: Exactly, and there were certain lines that were clear that [pauses] it was almost as if the spontenaiety had been prepped out of Sarah Palin and she did come across at certain points as nervous. But I came away from that interview thinking that if you liked Sarah Palin beforehand, you probably liked her after that interview. And if you didn't like Sarah Palin and were worried about her experience, you looked at that interview and thought she hasn't got the experience.

MATTHEWS: Didn't you think it was funny that they didn't prep her on the Bush Doctrine? Of all the things they went through, they went, "We forgot the big one!"

KAY: The most interesting bit of that whole interview was that three seconds of pause.

Highlight #5
Embarassment from Solo Palin Drawing Larger Crowds Will Likely be Passing (MSNBC 09/13/08 9:27am)
ALEX WITT: Do you think this is just the usual post-convention settling of all the polls for McCain and Palin or do you think when Americans got a chance to hear the full interview there with Sarah Palin, her first one, that that had an influence here?

STEVE THOMMA: Well, certainly the two convention bounces are dissipating. By definition, a bounce goes up, comes back down . . . that whole base has hardened . . . they're energized on the Democratic side and now they're energized for the first time on the Republican side . . .

WITT: Sarah Palin is going to be solo campaigning for the first time this week. Now, you know she drew that big crowd again in Nevada yesterday. Do you think John McCain can afford to not campaign with her. Should they be a tag time together?

THOMMA: There will be an embarrassing story or two if she pulls 20,000 voters and he pulls 2,000. I think two things, that's a short term story and officially the McCain campaign welcomes that, says we're happy to have people turn out anywhere. But sure, it's a short term embarrassment. I was at the rally they had in Virginia this week where they both appeared. And even when they're together, it was very noticeable, Alex, there's a lot more chanting of "Sarah, Sarah, Sarah" than there is of "McCain, McCain, McCain." Clearly the excitement in the party is for her.

WITT: Let's go now to the lighter side of politics, shall we . . . ?

TINA FEY (as SARAH PALIN): You know, Hillary and I don't agree on everything.

AMY POEHLER (as HILLARY CLINTON): [talking over "everything"] Anything. I believe that diplomacy should be the cornerstone of any foreign policy.

FEY: And I can see Russia from my house!

WITT: . . . I called that, Tiny Fey, as soon as I saw Sarah Palin . . .

Highlight #6
Fiorina on ABC Part 1; Sexism, Earmarks (ABC 09/14/08 10:00am)
CARLY FIORINA: Well I think you need look no further than the op-ed page in the New York Times today to realize that the Democratic Party is in full throated panic over Sarah Palin. You have a column by Maureen Dowd that is mean spirited and extreme, you have a column by Frank Rich that is disrespectful to a Presidential candidate who is vigorous, who is able to govern for 8 years, and who will be, current trajectory, the President of

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the United States, and you have a column by Tom Friedman whom I generally love, who is reverting back to the old argument that conservatives are stupid. Sarah Palin has transformed this race. She has transformed this race by energizing the Republican Party, she has transformed this race by having a whole set of independent and yes Democratic women say it is the Republican Party who gets it, it is John McCain who gets it, not the Democratic Party. Taken for granted-
GEORGE STEPHENOPOULOS: How about the argument Senator McCaskil just made about John McCain's age, and Sarah Palin on the issue of earmarks has not walked the walk.

FIORINA: Okay lets start with John McCain's age. I frankly find this disrespectful in the extreme. This is ageism. All you need to do is look at the schedule that John McCain has kept for the last two years to realize that he is one of the most vigorous, most energetic campaigners frankly in my judgment out there. So I think this continued resort to he's too old is desperation, frankly. Not to mention disrespectful to a very capable commander in chief. In terms of earmarks, Claire McCaskill conveniently forgets the fact that Barack Obama has asked for almost a billion dollars worth of earmarks in a very short tenure in the Senate. That's about a million dollars a day. **She also conveniently ignores the fact that Sarah Palin, as Governor, stood up and said I know earmarks are corrupting, we must ask for less of them.**

STEPHANOPOULOS: But she still requested them.

FIORINA: As Governor she did not, as Governor she vetoed about half a billion dollars.

CLAIRE MCCASKIL: No, she did. She just requested this year George, she requested hundreds of millions of dollars of earmarks for Alaska. She took the money for the bridge to nowhere. She hired lobbyists to get earmarks. This is a woman who has been lobbying for earmarks, has received earmarks. As a Mayor, as a Governor, this is a good example that I'm talking about. You know honor is talked about lot in this campaign. Honor comes with honesty. And you've got to be honest about the facts**. Sarah Palin has been an earmark queen in Alaska. That's the fact**s. […]

FIORINA: The facts are that Sarah Palin rejected the money for the bridge to nowhere. The facts are that Barack Obama has asked for more earmarks in his short tenure than Sarah Palin ever has. If we want to have an argument about the facts of reform, lets ask whether Barack Obama has ever stood up against his party, has ever took a tough position. Sarah Palin without question stood up against the Republican Party, is a reforming Governor, Barack Obama without question voted present over a hundred times rather than take a tough issue, tough position on a tough issue and he has never stood up against his party. So if we want to have an argument on the facts of reform, let's have it. Let's not dismiss John McCain as the commander in chief.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: She did stop the bridge to nowhere but she did keep the money.

FIORINA: Sarah Palin has made significant reforms and significant progress in the amount of earmark money that Alaska takes. She stood up as Governor and said we must reform this corrupting process. It is true as Mayor she worked within the system that she was a part of. But it is also true that she stepped forward against her own party and said enough is enough.

Highlight #7
Fiorina on This Week Part 2; Equal Pay, Women Vote (ABC 09/14/08 10:15am)
[…]
CARLY FIORINA: Well first let's just remember for the record it was the Barack Obama campaign that launched the first negative ad. Let's just recall we want to talk about honesty, let's recall the spate of ads that said John McCain was in favor of 100 year war in Iraq, please. I mean this high and mighty attitude that somehow John McCain has somehow stooped to a new level in politics, is a, untrue, and b, is as I recall Barack Obama promised the campaign of hope and politics of promise, etc. etc. But having said that, my personal opinion? Barack Obama made a critical strategic error by not choosing Hillary Clinton. There are a whole host of women in the Democratic Party who believe the Democratic Party does not understand what sexism is, routinely underestimates the impact of women, and they are coming in droves to the Republican Party because they think the party and John McCain get it. That's a fact. […]

FIORINA: Those are ridiculous charges, point one. But I think the important point here is that this is what the Democratic Party has done for years. It has tried to hold women hostage by frightening them on issues such as reproductive rights, Roe v Wade, American women in this country will not be held hostage by the politics of fear on Roe v Wade any more. I know many, many pro-choice women who are pro-McCain. And if we want to talk about equal pay for equal work, I think this once again is an example of John McCain walks the walk and Barack Obama talks the talk. And all you have to do is look inside their two Senate offices, and assess how are women paid relative to men. In John McCain's office, women are paid more. In Barack Obama's office, women are paid

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less. That's a fact. […]

FIORINA: I absolutely agree with Senator McCaskill. Women care about healthcare, education, national security, the economy, whether we're going to create jobs in America or overseas, and that is why they will vote for John McCain. Not all of them, but enough of them that he's going to win because wherever they come out on Roe v Wade, most women are not single issue voters. They are like men, caring about all the issues that matter to this country – we're going to win on the substance of the issues.

Highlight #8
This Week Panel Part 1 – Palin-McCain Ticket, Dishonest Ads (ABC 09/14/08 10:30am)
JAY CARNEY: If this were a legal arena, there would be a lot of things that were different, including, you know, fact checking some of these assertions made by the campaigns, especially the McCain campaign. Sarah Palin, on the issues, did poorly. I think she didn't know any of the answers on the Bush Doctrine. She talked about reforming government, and just kept saying they would find efficiencies in the agencies without defining what agencies – no major gaffes but it doesn't matter because tone matters more than substance in these debates, and we're still talking about Sarah Palin which means that's all the McCain campaign cares about because it's become a Palin-McCain ticket.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: And that is good for John McCain.

PAUL BEGALA: Right it's actually become a Palin-Obama race which is good for John McCain. Richard Nixon, when everybody was trashing Spiro Agnew, said you don't shoot down in a Presidential campaign. Democrats beat Spiro Agnew, they just couldn't beat Nixon.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And they beat Dan Quayle.

BEGALA: They couldn't beat Bush. So it seems to me Democrats' smarter move vis-a-viz say Charlie's interview, is this, Charlie Gibson has now spent more time rigorously interviewing Sarah Palin to be Vice President than John McCain did. I would put it on McCain. This was perhaps politically successful but Democrats should cast it as rash, reckless, impetuous, but that's about John McCain. And they seem not to be able to resist the shiny object that is Sarah Palin, who is not running against Barack Obama. […]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Paul, you're obviously very close to both Clintons and Hillary Clinton, can the Palin choice work to pull off her voters, or is that just a false hope on the McCain team.

BEGALA: Not a lot of them. I just can't imagine the profile of a Hillary Clinton diehard who is so committed to Hillary that she'd have problems with Barack is a profile of the Sarah Palin diehard, I think that that's a superficial guess by the McCain campaign. I don't see that happening, I think it's transparent, phony when she said oh Hillary's got a lot of grit and toughness, [crosstalk] Yeah but they were laughing at calling her the b-word just a few weeks ago as Claire McCaskill pointed out. […]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Paul let's begin with this strategy their team is taking with this, they're doing what you think they should do, focusing straight on on John McCain.
BEGALA: They are and they are trying to paint him as out of touch, you know, the notion that maybe McCain thinks googling is an alternative lifestyle and I think that's fine, it's sort of a way to sneak in the age issue, which Claire McCaskill is very frontal about.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Is that wise?

BEGALA: It is the first thing you hear in focus groups. But it's not discussed on television and polite company, right? And I think again I think the Palin pick is an entre into that even more than whether he can google, right? He is 72, he has had cancer 4 times, facing the most important decision of his life, does anybody believe he put country first or campaign first?
[…]
CARNEY: I think the age isn't the issue. The out of touch, the you know when talks about how he doesn't understand the economy, when he says in Washington, we're not really in touch with what goes on in real towns. And that's why I picked Sarah Palin. I think that it could help reinforce the idea that he is more of the same.
But I think they got to be careful about going after being ageist because senior citizens vote, and they resent being told- […]
BEGALA: Well Democrats can always find a way. God finds a way when there is no way, well there's no way to lose you can count on us to find one. But I think it's not just that, I think it's real. Right the race has tightened, Palin has energized the Republican base, but also begun to move the race towards independents. And I think anybody, I think my friends in the Obama campaign just a few months ago thought this was going to be easy. I

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think they've been disabused of that notion. I think Claire's right, they're hitting back hard, a much more sort of populist edge to it – something Obama did not particularly care for in the primaries as Hillary Clinton and John Edwards. I think that's probably more fertile territory than to continue to be distracted by whether Sarah Palin – […]
CARNEY: **They don't care if the ads are factually correct, they don't care if we criticize them.**

Highlight #9
This Week Panel Part 2; Culture War, Dishonest Ads (ABC 09/14/08 10:45am)
PAUL BEGALA: There is the factual response, which should matter at some level in politics, that this was to defend children from sexual predators at that age. But what I would do is go right at McCain's strength, which is word that Jay Carney used in an interview with him and I think that set him off and that's honor. This is a dishonorable thing to do. When McCain was a naval officer he embodied the word honor, and now as a politician, he embodied the word politician. It is as dishonorable as an attack as I can imagine. There's plenty of good, wonderful issues to attack Barack Obama on, but I think this shows McCain has become what he has always pretended to be – a typical politician. […] **So why not an ad that says John McCain wants to leave our children vulnerable to sexual predators. That would be unfair.**

[…]

JAY CARNEY: **John McCain doesn't want to debate issues that reinforce the – remind people why there's 80% wrong track in the country, why the economy is stumbling along, under the party in power which is the Republican party. We're returning to the culture war, making it a cultural distinction as you said, this is a divide of conservatives and Republicans, liberals and Democrats, what is distinct about this is how unJohn McCain like it is. […]**

Highlight #10
Pawlenty on Late Edition Part 1 – Leadership Contrast Between Obama and Palin (CNN 09/14/08 11:22am)
TIM PAWLENTY: Remember went Senator McCain invited Senator Obama to have a series of Town Hall meetings across the country and at first Senator Obama said that sounds like a great idea, focused on the issues, the tone and tenor of the debate may change, Senator Obama changed his mind and went into a different direction and his campaign has increasingly gone in a different direction as his star has faded. I mean he was ahead pretty substantially in the spring and early summer, now he's not even in a place like Minnesota, polls out this morning show the race tied. So he's getting somewhat desperate or hysterical when Governor Palin was first announced as a running mate, the emphasis was on things like her 17 year old daughter. So it wasn't the McCain campaign that started to focus on things unrelated to the economy, unrelated to the issues of our time, it was other folks including Senator Obama's campaign or his surrogates who were bringing these issues forward. So I think it's unfair to say now as Senator McCain's campaign is defending Gov. Palin, that somehow that's inappropriate.

WOLF BLITZER: But what about the point that Governor Richardson made that she really doesn't have much national security experience and visited Kuwait, visited Germany to meet with troops from the Alaska national guard, was on a vacation in Canada, and in Mexico had a refueling stop in Ireland, but hasn't had much experience and she told Charlie Gibson of ABC that she hasn't met with any world leaders.

PAWLENTY: **The facts are she has traveled internationally somewhat as you just described but more importantly, she's running for vice-president, and has as much or more executive experience and leadership experience as Barack Obama does and he's running for President. She's run a state, she's been the commander in chief of a national guard, she's been the leader on one of the most nationally and internationally sensitive issues of our time and that is energy. Barack Obama has not had that executive or leadership experience. So if we want to have a contest on who's had more leadership and executive experience, in way that relate to defining issues or leadership or executive experience, she far exceeds Barack Obama**. […] Well just quickly on that issue working with Senator Lugar on rounding up loose nuclear weapons, Barack Obama has cited that as one of his bold and courageous gestures working across party lines, my goodness Wolf, who's against rounding up loose nuclear weapons? We're all for that and I think it passed on a voice vote I think unanimously or I think close so that's not an example of some big bipartisan courageous bold leadership on his part, but more to the point, Governor Palin is somebody who's go the judgment and executive experience to exercise as issues come forward her state or behalf of the nation as Vice President if need be as President. Her experience and Barack Obama's experience are different, there's no question about that. But you can see in her experience she's led something, she's run something, she's done something, she's accomplished something. As it relates to Senator Obama, I have two questions: what has he run in terms of executive experience, the answer is nothing. And the answer is what also has he done? Another question, what he as he done? What has he accomplished? And his record in that regard

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is very thin.

Highlight #11

Pawlenty on Late Edition Part 2- Tax Cuts, Economy (CNN 09/14/08 11:40am)

WOLF BLITZER: Alright lets focus in on the last part, new tax cuts for corporations, but nothing for the middle class. What do you say?

TIM PAWLENTY: Well first of all Senator McCain's tax proposal has a lot for the middle class. For example, he's offering tax credit for individuals who can't afford their own insurance, so that would be tax relief for people to help them get health insurance. He also has said we should eliminate or phase out the alternative minimum tax, which is increasingly affecting middle income individuals. He's also been in favor of other tax credits and deductions for middle class individuals including doubling the exemption for people who have dependants for 3,500 to 7,000 dollars and he's also mindful of the fact the number one pathway to economic stability or success for people is something called a job and so having incentives or tax policies that encourage entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses to invest in buildings, to add equipment, and hire employees is the right direction for the country in contrast with Senator Obama who wants to heap a bucket load of new tax increases on America's businesses, particularly small and medium sized businesses. And they're providing, Wolf, 70% of the new jobs in this country. We need to do things to encourage entrepreneurs and small business owners, not discourage them.

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From: "Attila Tóth" <atothi@t-online.hu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/5/2014 3:54:36 PM
Subject: -no, that it says, is not so

Dear John Podesta,

I write my message down shortly and interestingly. I don't know where you are in Matrix cognition, but of my friend's Obama president act plan a illusion (-but he makes most at least). -- If you can abstract from everything the hammered you may go through the reality because of trends, differently. Please, presuppose it, that these thoughts of mine, from the future You write it:

We were out! The climate change is because of the heat pollution. So, the reduction of the increase of the carbon dioxide emission was ineffective, and the increase of the energy efficiency so. -- The development sealed everything. The time expired in 2014 already, the methane containers of the Earth started leaking irresistibly, we may not be thinking would be in 2040, the +2 C degrees were all the same etc. nothing stops this, the Earth was not like this yet in his story. We dealt with hopeful good things, but not with what he would have been needed. We spotlighted business interests, and we were blind onto the real business. --If only I could go back in the time in order to warn myself. We should have helped Attila. We would have found the ways and means of him.

Well, we're here, we have to find the real solutions. --Quick it is necessary to shoo away the new nuclear power, anti-gravitation, perpetuum-mobile devices. Neither development time, neither there is not an interest onto the change, and may be badder only. I guess you recognise it this only oil onto the fire.

For example, considering our Earth a closed system, into which the humanity achieves heating with hydrocarbons (-collected into the seas onto the day of the judgement), utilizes the energy with hot loss moreover with which gives growing heating (-guaranteeing the exponential oozing). The braking of this does not stop the destiny! The renewable energies do not reduce the energy balance of the closed system etc. an other solution is needed anyway, than to exterminate the humanity 2/3, --it does not solve the extinction etc.

After all, what I can say today before the safe extinction?

Onto cold generation of power conversion, and the exchange of the traffic devices stops the process. We return onto the level before the oozing, and the humanity may remain.

Yeah, right to this there is need for so drastic benefits by now, which it is not possible to imagine with something else,. We presuppose it, somebody manages to do the cold fusion, -little. New electric car, -little. Economical renewable energy, or perpetuum-mobile, -little. It would be necessary to find these out simultaneously by today, moreover with drastic benefits like that, that let him be worth it to install and to go over. --This is at my disposal. I cannot make it successful however without you, and I perish with you.

The ostrich may insert his head into the sand naturally, it the lion eats it yet. The hopelessness will not be obvious sure in a wide circle until 5 years. Do you have a child?

The technology change yields money for the oil companies, creates workplaces etc. not easier to solve these interests?

Please, hand over this letter of mine for Obama, or go away into a cinema with your family and enjoy the life.

Thanks,

Attila

Attila Tóth
www.toth-relativity.com

--In Hungarian:

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Röviden és érdekesen leírom mondandómat. Nem tudom hol tartasz a Matrix megismerésében, de aggályos számomra Obama elnök barátom cselekvési tervének illúziója (-de legalább Ő teszi a legtöbbet). -- Ha el tudsz vonatkoztatni a sulykolt trendektől, másként „élheted” meg a „valóságot”. Kérlek, feltételezd, hogy ezeket a gondolataimat, a jövőből Te írod:

Tévedtünk! A hősszennyezés miatt van a klímaváltozás. Tehát, hatástalan volt a széndioxid kibocsátás növekedésének a csökkentése, és az energiahatékonyság növelése. -- A fejlődés megpecsételt mindent. Az idő már 2014-ben lejárt, a Föld metántárolói feltartóztathatatlanul elkezdtek szivárogni, nem is gondolkodhatunk volna 2040-ben, a +2 fok mindegy volt etc. Ezt semmi nem állítja meg, a Föld történetében még nem volt ilyen. Reményteli jó dolgokkal foglalkoztunk, de nem azzal, amivel kellett volna. Üzleti érdekeket helyeztünk előtérbe, és vakok voltunk a valódi üzletre. --Bárcsak visszamehetnék a időben, hogy figyelmeztessem magam. Attilának kellett volna segítenünk. Megtaláltuk volna a módját.

Hát, itt vagyunk, meg kell találnunk a valódi megoldásokat. --Gyorsan el kell hessegetni az új atomenergiát, antigravitációt, perpetuum mobile eszközöket. Sem fejlesztési idő, sem érdek nincs a váltásra, és csak rosszabb lehet. Gondolom belátod ez csak olaj a tűzre.

Például, a Földünket egy zárt rendszernek tekintve, amelybe szénhidrogénekkel fűtést eszközöl az emberiség (-összegyűjtötte a tengerekbe az ítélet napjára), ráadásul hő veszteséggel hasznosítja az energiát amellyel növekvő fűtést ad (-garantálva az exponenciális szivárgást). Ennek fékezése nem állítja meg a végzetet! A megújuló energiák nem csökkentik a zárt rendszer energiamérlegét etc. Mindenképp más megoldás kell, mint kiirtani az emberiség 2/3-át, --az sem oldja meg a kipusztulást etc.

Mégis, mit tudok ma mondani a biztos kipusztulás előtt?

Hideg energiafejlesztésre átállás, és a közlekedési eszközök cseréje megállítja a folyamatot. Visszatérünk a szivárgás előtti szintre, és megmaradhat az emberiség.

Na persze ehhez olyan drasztikus előnyökre van szükség mostanra, amit mással el sem lehet képzelni. Tételezzük fel, sikerül valakinek a hidegfúzió, -kevés. Új elektromos autó, -kevés. Gazdaságos megújuló energia, vagy perpetuum mobile, -kevés. Ezeket egyszerre kéne kitalálni mára, ráadásul olyan drasztikus előnyökkel, hogy megérje telepíteni és átállni. --Én rendelkezem ezzel. Nélkületek azonban nem tudom sikerre vinni, és veletek pusztulok.

Természetesen a strucc bedughatja a fejét a homokba, attól még megeszi az oroszlán. 5 évig biztos nem lesz széles körben nyilvánvaló a kilátástalanság. Van gyereked?

A technológiaváltás pénzt hoz az olajcégeknek, munkahelyeket teremt etc. Nem könnyebb ezeket az érdekeket megoldani?

Kérlek, add oda ezt a levelemet Obamának, vagy menj el moziba a családoddal és élvezd az életet.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/5/2015 1:25:01 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Sneak peek at Heritage Action's report on the Republican presidential candidates

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Morning intelligence for leaders

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Marco Rubio speaks at the Heritage Action Presidential Candidate Forum in Greenville, S.C., on Sept. 18. (Photo by Sean Rayford/Getty Images)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Heritage Action wants more specifics from Ben Carson, has concerns about Marco Rubio's higher education plan and worries about Carly Fiorina's ties to the GOP establishment.

The political arm of the prominent conservative think tank will release a 24,000-word report on Monday, exactly 365 days before the general election, evaluating a dozen Republican candidates on their records and policy positions. The group will not explicitly endorse a candidate, but they've vetted the contenders across half a dozen categories.

Researchers for Heritage, which embraces with gusto its role as a thorn in the side of Republican congressional leadership and an enforcer of ideological purity, have been working on the "Presidential Platform Review" project since April .

"Americans are not looking for a president to simply manage the status quo in Washington," said Michael A. Needham, CEO of Heritage Action, a 501(c)(4). "They want someone that will fight the well-connected special interests and advance policies that work for everyone. Fortunately, conservatives have a deep and visionary field to choose from."

Ten Republicans came to Greenville, S.C., in September for a forum put on by the group, a reflection of the clout that Heritage President Jim DeMint still has in his home state. Donald Trump canceled at the last minute, citing a "significant business transaction." His absence made the cattle call, which drew thousands of conservative activists from across the country, feel less theatrical and more substantive .

Early excerpts, shared exclusively with The Daily 202, suggest that the forthcoming review will follow a similar mold. Here are some key nuggets:

— "Dr. Carson's instincts on opportunity-related issues like education and welfare policy appear to be sound, but he has not put forward a detailed policy agenda addressing impediments to mobility. … Dr. Carson has suggested that many of the poorest in America might be better off through the implementation of welfare policy designed to discourage idleness. … However, he has also supported policies that would harm jobless Americans such as an increase in the minimum wage pegged to inflation."

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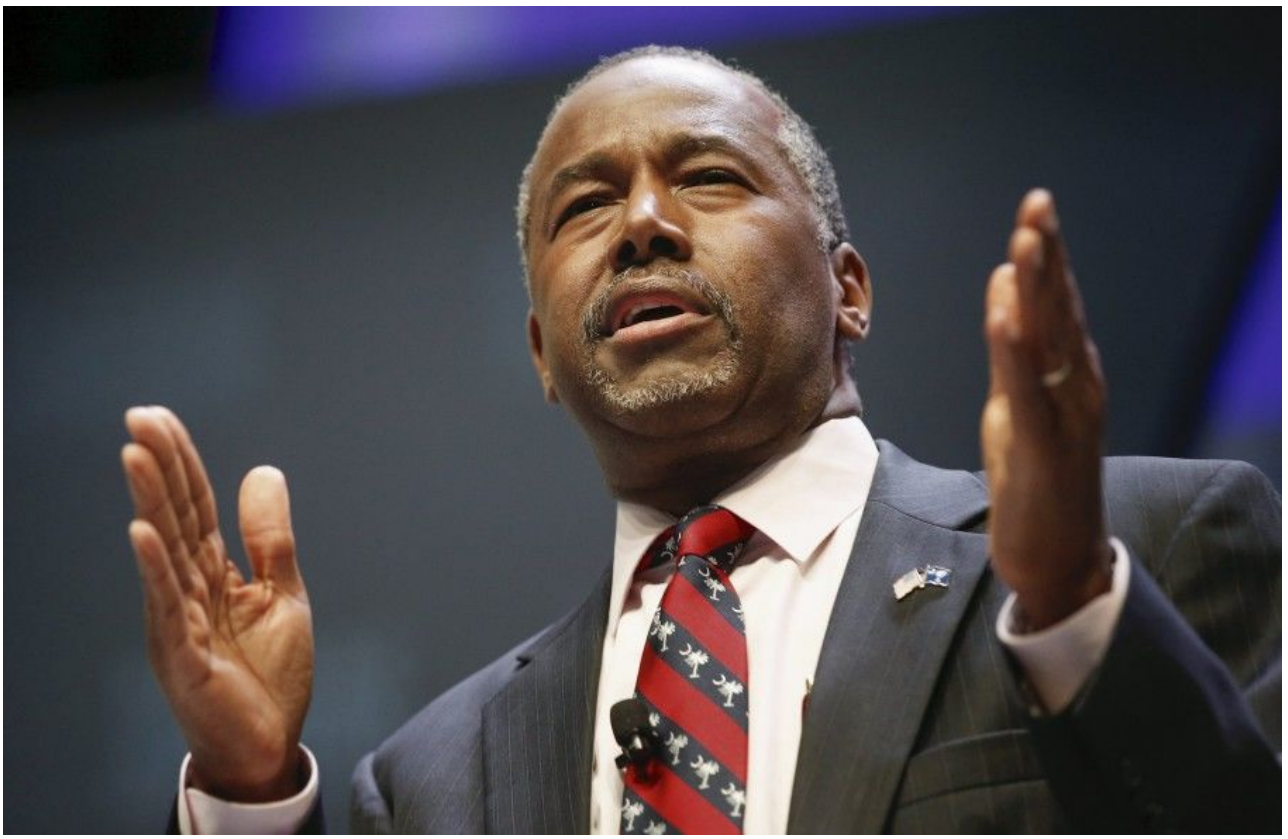

Ben Carson at the Heritage event (Chris Keane/Reuters)

— **“Rubio has innovative ideas on opportunity, though not all are consistent with limited government principles. …** His most promising idea is to reform the higher education accreditation system, which currently limits the flow of federal aid to institutions approved by self-interested accreditation bodies … Rubio’s proposal is more prescriptive than some alternative accreditation reform proposals. This reliance on government-set criteria also carries through to his proposal to increase federal involvement in publicizing data on student outcomes. … No doubt the higher education lobby would do all it could to lobby government to focus on metrics that play to the strengths of the institutions that benefit from the status quo.”

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Carly Fiorina at the Heritage event(Sean Rayford/Getty Images)

— "**Fiorina has recently delivered a strong critique of crony capitalism, but has previously aligned herself with the Washington establishment. …** On some of the specific policy debates relating to government favoritism, Fiorina has taken bold positions placing her at odds with the political establishment [e.g. doing away with the Export-Import Bank]. … However, some aspects of her record suggest Fiorina is not universally opposed to policies that favor well-connected businesses at taxpayers' expense. During the 2010 election cycle, Fiorina was critical of bailouts, but during the 2008 campaign, Fiorina argued that the Troubled Asset Relief Program 'was, unfortunately, necessary because credit is tight for hardworking Americans and small businesses.' And while acknowledging that 'simply throwing money at technology is not a solution,' Fiorina praised the Obama stimulus for its spending on broadband subsidies."

- "On amnesty, Fiorina has supported the DREAM Act for those who came illegally to the United States as minors … [and] she has expressed openness to granting special legal status to those who have violated the law and come to the country illegally."
- "Tapped by John McCain's presidential campaign as a key surrogate, Ms. Fiorina was eager to defend policies like cap and trade that she now claims to oppose. As the National Republican Senatorial Committee-endorsed candidate for Senate in California, Fiorina defeated a more conservative challenger in her primary. And since her stint as Vice-Chair of the NRSC in 2011, she has attacked conservatives working against the Washington establishment in efforts like the fight to defund Obamacare."

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Ted Cruz addresses a Heritage summit in D.C. early this year (Photo by Andrew Harnik for The Washington Post)

— **"Ted Cruz has been willing to pay a political price for taking on government favoritism.** … Though Senator Cruz initially voted for the trade bill that served as a bargaining chip for Ex-Im allies to secure reauthorization, he later switched his vote and exposed the backroom deals that had been struck by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, calling him out on the Senate floor for lying to the American people. It cost him political capital in the U.S. Senate, but in doing so, Senator Cruz demonstrated real leadership."

— **Judging them not viable, Heritage opted not to study the records of South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former New York Gov. George Pataki or former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore.**

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— **The U.S. Trade Representative released the full text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement**, the start of a new stage in President Obama's push for

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congressional ratification of the deal. (David Nakamura and Mike DeBonis story; the deal is here .)

George H.W. Bush, left, applauds after George W. Bush speaks at the dedication of his own presidential library in April 2013. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File)

— **A new biography of George H.W. Bush is sure to generate lots of buzz, especially some digs he takes at his son's vice president:** In interviews with biographer Jon Meacham, the 41st president said Dick Cheney (who had served as his Defense Secretary) built "his own empire" and asserted too much "hard-line" on his son's White House. He also called Don Rumsfeld an "arrogant fellow" who "served the president badly," according to the New York Times' Peter Baker, who writes up the book . "He had his own empire there and marched to his own drummer," the elder Bush said of Cheney. "It just showed me that you cannot do it that way. The president should not have that worry. … The big mistake that was made was letting Cheney bring in kind of his own State Department. I think they overdid that. But it's not Cheney's fault. It's the president's fault. … The buck stops there."

Other nuggets–

- Donald Trump wanted to be Bush's running mate in 1988.
- H.W. wrote in his diary of his wife's relationship with the Reagans: "Nancy does not like Barbara."
- Bush considered not running for a second term after the Gulf War.

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Awkward–

- Shot: Jeb's campaign put out a press release last Wednesday touting the support of Dan Quayle.
- Chaser: The new biography has Jeb privately urging his dad to drop Quayle from the ticket in 1992.

Jeb aides tell The Post's Ed O'Keefe that the former Florida governor hasn't read the book yet.

— **Obama argues that none of the 2016 Republicans are offering a single fresh idea.** "You could take the speech of any one of the current Republican candidates and put it side-by-side with what Mitt Romney was arguing in 2012, and what John McCain was arguing in 2008, and what George Bush was arguing in 2000 and 2004, and it'd be the same prescription," he said at a DNC fundraiser last night. "They're offering the same thing." (The dinner was in Potomac, Md., at the home of David Trone, who owns Total Wine & More.)

— **Correction:** Former Walmart CEO Bill Simon did not parachute *out* of his private plane in Arkansas. The aircraft *itself* had a parachute that he deployed when the engine cut out, which allowed him and his passengers to crash-land safely on a road. (Watch a cell-phone video here, via CBS.)

GET SMART FAST:

1. **Iran's** military allegedly hacked into the e-mail and social media accounts of several Obama administration officials, potentially related to the recent arrest in Tehran of an Iranian-American businessman. (Wall Street Journal)
2. **Britain** suspended all flights from Sharm el-Sheikh after intelligence officials hinted that an **on-board bomb** caused the Russian jet to go down over the Sinai Peninsula this weekend. Some outlets reported that **ISIS** is the suspected culprit . (Griff Witte and Erin Cunningham)
3. The **Illinois** cop whose staged suicide created a massive manhunt had been embezzling money from his police force and the Boy Scouts. Some who donated to the perp's family when he was thought to be a hero now want that money back. (Mark Berman and Mark Guarino)
4. A health organization related to the **Clinton Foundation** said it will refile some of its taxes which contained errors related to government grants. (Politico)
5. The **Supreme Court** justices seemed conflicted and divided after hearing the case of a Maryland man who says the state's redistricting laws are unconstitutionally partisan. (Robert Barnes)

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6. The U.S. military conducted a series of non-lethal airstrikes in **Afghanistan** hours before that deadly attack on a **Doctors Without Borders** clinic. (Sudarsan Raghavan)
7. **DOD** paid $6.8 million to various sports leagues for "patriotic festivities." (New York Times)
8. **Sacramento** cops arrested a suspect in the bar-fight stabbing of the hero airman who stopped the Paris train attack. (Dan Lamothe)
9. **Louisiana** police fired on a fleeing vehicle, critically injuring the driver and killing his 6-year-old son. (AP)
10. Incoming flights at the **San Diego** airport were halted during a five-hour standoff between a gunman and police at an apartment complex directly in airplanes' flight path. The man fired upon officers after breaking into the condo of his ex-girlfriend. (San Diego Union-Tribune)
11. Four in 10 **working moms** say in a Pew survey that being a parent has negatively impacted their career advancement. (WSJ)
12. In the Republican race, 95 percent of **TV ad spending** thus far has come from outside groups, while just 5 percent comes from the actual campaigns. It is the opposite on the Democratic side: 95 percent of spending has been directly from campaigns, and just 5 percent is outside groups. (NBC)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Rep. **Kevin Brady** (R-Texas) was chosen to be the next chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, succeeding **Paul Ryan**. (Kelsey Snell)
2. **Hillary Clinton** writes an op-ed ahead of **Benjamin Netanyahu's** Nov. 9 visit to the U.S. saying that she would improve relations with Israel. (Forward.com)
3. **Chris Christie** could get booted from the main stage of next week's Republican debate, based on the latest national polling. Fox Business will announce who qualifies tonight. (CNN)
4. **Marco Rubio,** under fire for his use of a credit card issued by the Republican Party of Florida when he was speaker of the state House, promised to disclose previously withheld spending records "in the next few weeks." (Sean Sullivan)
5. **Rubio** also vowed to end **DACA** if he becomes president, regardless of whether or not Congress passes something to replace it. The pronouncement, hardening a position he staked out earlier in the year, would cost the Floridian dearly if he's the nominee (particularly in Nevada and Colorado) but underlines the degree to which his apostasy on immigration endures as a problem in the Republican primaries.
6. **Donald Trump** telephoned Republican megadoner **Sheldon Adelson** to discuss the

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presidential race and then trashed Adelson on Twitter after it was reported he was leaning toward **Marco Rubio.** (New York Times)

7. Democrats on the House Oversight Committee are chastising Chairman **Jason Chaffetz** for rebuffing their efforts to investigate price hikes by two pharmaceutical companies. "My constituents are dying," said Ranking Member **Elijah Cummings**, a possible Senate candidate in Maryland. (Rachel Weiner)
8. Sen. **Tim Kaine** (D-Va.) will introduce a bill today to help prevent heroin overdose deaths by increasing access to the drug naloxone. His legislation, previewed for the 202, would encourage physicians to co-prescribe naloxone alongside opioid prescriptions and would make naloxone more widely available in federal health settings.
9. Ohio Democratic Sen. **Sherrod Brown's** daughter, Elizabeth, won a seat on the Columbus City Council. (Columbus Dispatch ; Picture of her voting ; picture of Sherrod watching returns while holding his grandchild here)
10. **Justin Trudeau,** sworn in as Canada's prime minster, named women to exactly half of his cabinet posts. "Because it's 2015," he said. (William Marsden)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

Paul Ryan on Tuesday (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

— THE NEW LITMUS TEST – "Debate over Medicare, Social Security, other federal benefits divides GOP," by Robert Costa and Ed O'Keefe: "The rift was exemplified this

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week by the biggest GOP stars of the moment. Newly installed House Speaker Paul Ryan said he plans to pursue a 'bold alternative agenda' that would include major revisions in entitlements. At the same time, Donald Trump railed against proposals to end or significantly change Medicare. The dispute is part of a larger GOP argument over which policies Republicans will present to voters next year and how far the party should go in pushing for changes. Three years ago, Mitt Romney and Ryan, his running mate, faced withering Democratic attacks after endorsing dramatic overhauls of Medicare and Social Security that proved unpopular. The Republican presidential candidates are jockeying to be seen as in solidarity with Ryan, the darling of party elders, or with Trump, a voice for grassroots voters.

There are two kinds of Republicans: those who want to win elections and those who want to govern. "This is the biggest fault line in the party: whether Republicans should be talking about reducing benefits,' conservative economist Stephen Moore told Bob. "Republicans have fallen on their sword for 30 years trying to reform Social Security and Medicare but the dream lives on — and it makes everyone nervous. Some see a political trap; others see it as necessary."

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Charles Kleinert, a former Austin police detective, was indicted on a manslaughter charge for the fatal shooting of an unarmed man last year during a bank robbery investigation. (AP Photo/Austin Police Department)

— "How law enforcement officers can kill someone and avoid prosecution, " by Wesley Lowery: "Families of people killed by police rarely see the officers taken to trial. It was supposed to be different for the children of Larry Jackson Jr.: The Austin police detective who shot and killed Jackson was scheduled to be tried this week for manslaughter. At the last

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minute, however, a judge dismissed the case against the white detective, Charles Kleinert, ruling that he was acting as a member of a federal task force in 2013 when he shot Jackson, an unarmed black man. As a federal agent at the time, the judge ruled, Kleinert is shielded from state prosecution. The ruling stunned Jackson's family, whose attorney called it a 'great civil rights injustice,' and dismayed the local prosecutor, who has vowed to appeal. Meanwhile, the case is shining a spotlight on a legal tactic rarely used in criminal cases, one that raises the question of when, if ever, a federal law enforcement officer can be charged with a crime for killing someone in the line of duty. The question is not theoretical: **So far this year, federal officers have been involved in 33 fatal shootings nationwide…"**

— **"New generation of trade group CEOs take more aggressive — and at times unorthodox — approach to lobbying," by Catherine Ho:** "Geoff Freeman, who took over as president and chief executive of the American Gaming Association in 2013, is 40. He replaced Frank Fahrenkopf Jr., the former longtime Republican National Committee chairman who served as the AGA's founder and first president for 17 years. He's part of a new generation of younger trade group leaders who are deploying a wide range of unorthodox lobbying tactics, a shift reflecting the new normal of the advocacy business. Like Freeman, some of the new CEOs are as much as two or three decades younger than their predecessors and came to power at the same time gridlock and chaos reigned in Congress. Rather than only forging relationships with federal lawmakers, these influence gurus are turning to state-level lobbying and media campaigns to shape public opinion."

— Jeb's comeback tour sounds like a therapy session, Philip Rucker reports from New Hampshire. In Manchester, after a young child asked what it was like to grow up the son of a president, Bush told a room full of kids that his father's approval weighed on him. "All he had to do was say, 'I'm disappointed in you,' and it would send me in a deep, spiraling depression," he said. Phil writes: "Bush is suddenly campaigning like he's in a therapy session, wounded and wrestling with his identity both as a political performer and as heir to the Bush family dynasty. … Bush wore his emotions on his sleeve and volunteered introspective interpretations of why he wasn't winning."

— **A guy who does TV training for Fox News anchors is prepping Jeb for next week's Fox Business debate:** Media coach Jon Kraushar has worked with Roger Ailes for decades, explains New York Magazine's Gabriel Sherman . "In the 1980s, Ailes and Kraushar were business partners at Ailes Communications, the political-consulting shop Ailes founded. It was during this time that Ailes and Krashaur famously coached Jeb's father and Dan Quayle to the White House in 1988. A year later, Ailes and Kraushar collaborated on the best-selling book You Are the Message, which has become something of a Bible for public speakers and television pundits. After going their separate ways, Ailes and Kraushar

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remained close. Fox pundits regularly go to Kraushar for training and Ailes recommends politicians to him. During the 2012 presidential election, Ailes sent Mitt Romney's running mate, Paul Ryan, to Kraushar for help."

ABC's Jon Karl asked Jeb to talk about his session with Kraushar during a sit-down on the bus: "He's telling me to be me. … My problem in the debates: I have to un-train myself to answer questions that are asked. … You have to pivot towards what you want to say, and learn to interrupt in a way that doesn't sound like you're just oppressively rude. You've got to garner the space."

LATEST POLLING:

A slew of new surveys shows the GOP field crystallizing, with Donald Trump still atop the pack but Ben Carson coming in a close second and Bush continuing to tank.

- A **Fox News Poll** of registered voters showed Trump with 26 percent, Carson with 23 percent, while Bush dropped 3 points since September to just 4 percent. Cruz and Rubio were tied with 11 percent. Trump and Carson remain the leaders if voters are asked to pick their second choice, but Rubio leapfrogs past Cruz and Jeb gains slightly. Trump does lose — badly — on the question of who voters think is "honest" and "trustworthy," coming in 7th with 38 percent while Carson and Huckabee win on that score. On the Democratic horse race, the Fox survey finds Clinton leading Sanders nationally by 25 points, 56 to 31 percent.
- **A Gallup survey shows Carson has a net favorable rating of plus 59 percent among Republicans, and plus 21 percent among all adults, compared to negative 22 percent nationally for Trump.** Interestingly, among African-Americans, Carson had a net negative 1 percent rating and the only Republican in positive territory (positive 4 percent) was John Kasich.
- A **Quinnipiac** survey of registered voters showed Carson and Trump tied for 1st place, and Carson beating Clinton by 10 points in a general election matchup (Hillary beats Trump by 3 points). Rubio is in 3rd in the GOP race, followed closely by Cruz and then Bush. Jeb actually had the worst net favorable rating at negative 33 percent, compared to negative 19 percent for The Donald.
- There were also some early state numbers. **In South Carolina, likely Democratic voters support Hillary over Bernie by 56 points**, 71 to 15 percent, according to a **Winthrop University poll** .
- A **WBUR poll** of likely GOP primary voters found Trump and Carson still leading, but **Rubio gaining 9 points in New Hampshire to 3rd place** after the debate and Christie (who gave an impassioned speech about drug abuse there in recent days)

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tracking up 6 points to 5th place. Bush is down 2 points, to six place.

The Weekly Standard's Bill Kristol celebrated when Trump dropped out of first place in a national polling average. A few hours later, Fox News released a poll showing that he is still on top:

(@BillKristol)

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ, Curated by Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck)

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Bernie Sanders' call to legalize marijuana set Twitter, well, atwitter yesterday and earned the Vermont senator nearly twice the number of mentions as Hillary Clinton. Sanders introduced a bill yesterday to remove marijuana from the DEA's "most dangerous" drug list and to exempt pot from the Controlled Substances Act, which would put the onus on states to decide whether to ban it or not. Much of the online buzz, though, came from a single seven-second Vine that was shared on social media more than 70,000 times on Wednesday, showing a guy's eyes light up during a Bernie rally.

— Pictures of the day:

Get ready, because there are only three days left until Donald Trump hosts "SNL." The ratings are going to be HUGE:

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(nbcsnl)

Jeb Bush’s tour bus looks pretty sharp against the fall foliage in New Hampshire:

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(jebbush)

Lawmakers remembered former Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), who died on Tuesday night. Here's a shot of Coble in one of his many madras blazers:

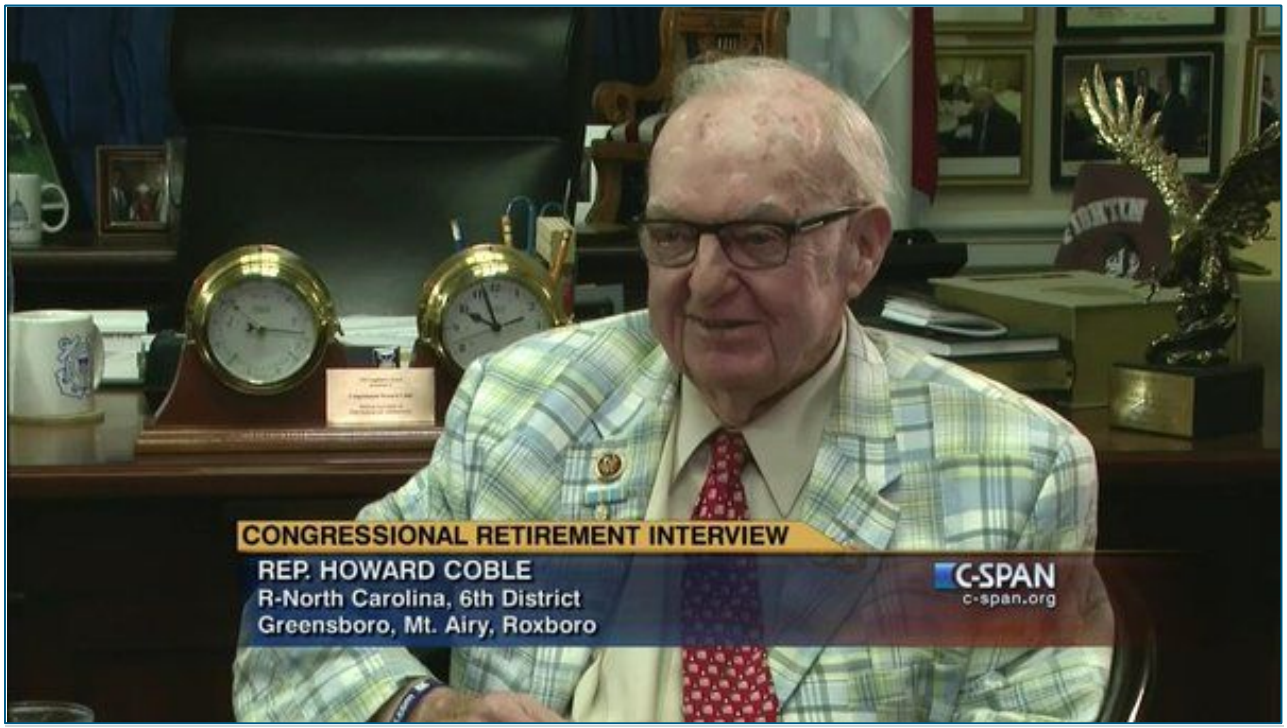

(@cspan)

And here Coble visits with Grover from Sesame Street:

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(@HowardCoble)

–Tweets of the day:

House Majority Whip Steve Scalise congratulated roommate Kevin Brady on getting the Ways and Means gavel:

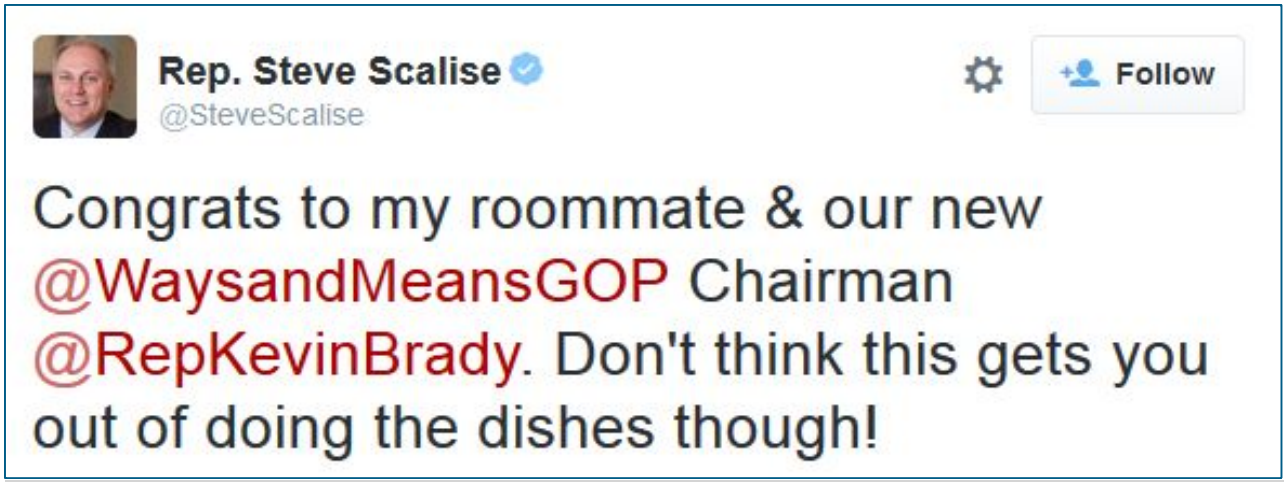

(@SteveScalise)

Marco Rubio picked up another endorsement in the Senate:

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(@TeamMarco)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D) spoke for many Minnesotans when she expressed indignation over a New York Times food section story that described the state's beloved Honeycrisp apples as "soft" and "inconsistent" in flavor. The Gray Lady also got into hot water with Minnesotans last year when she printed a recipe for grape salad and (inaccurately) claimed that it is something commonly eaten with Thanksgiving dinner in the state.

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(@amyklobuchar)

Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-Kan.) won a World Series bet against Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.):

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(@RepLynnJenkins)

–Instagrams of the day:

Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) celebrated the birthday of humorist and entertainer Will Rogers by visiting his statue at the Capitol (rubbing Rogers's boots is said to bring good luck):

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(tomcoleok04)

Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich.) showed off his shelf of libertarian classics:

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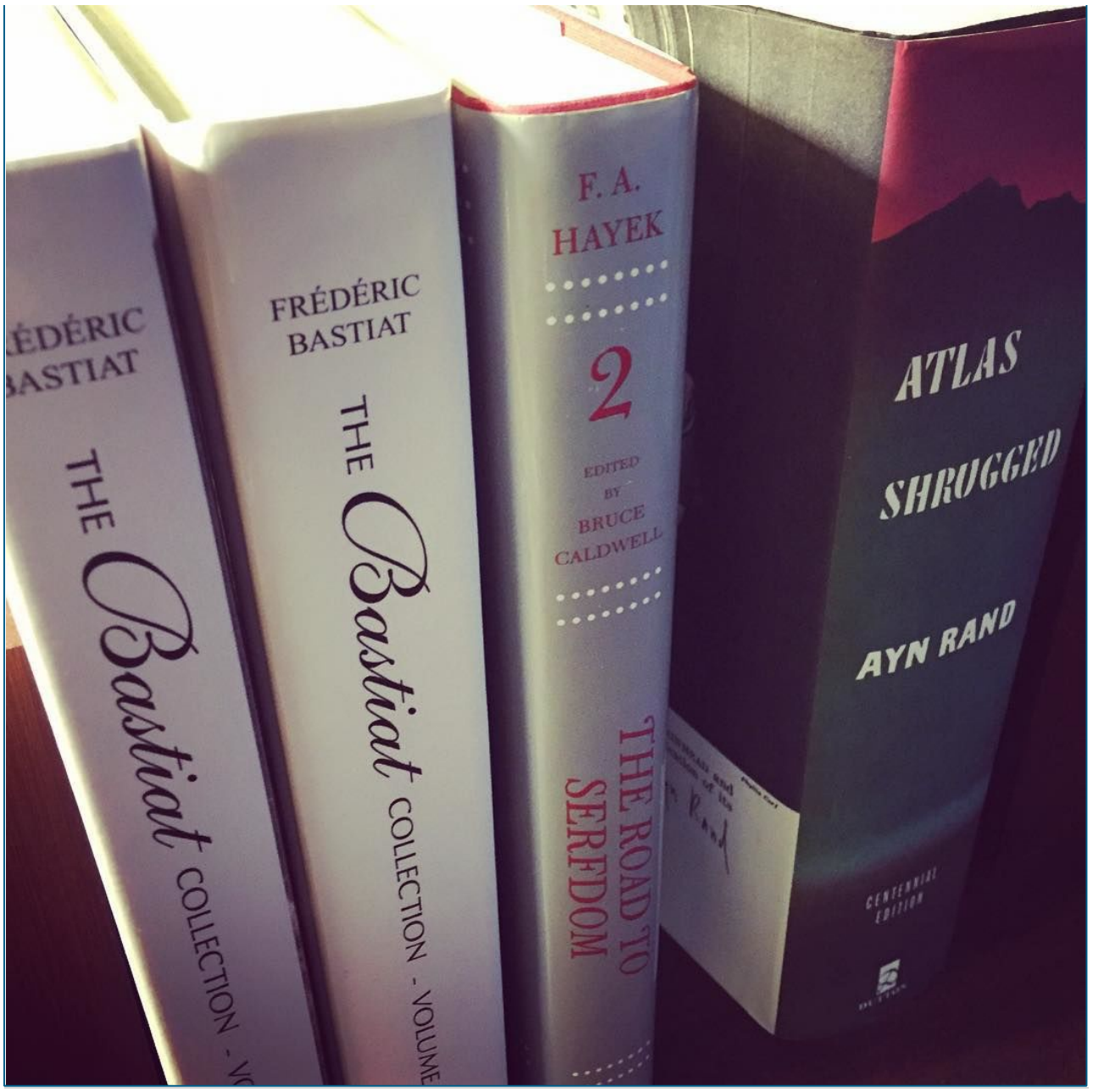

(justinamash)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

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Democrat Joe Ganim celebrates with his son Rob after winning the election as Bridgeport's new mayor at Testo's Restaurant on Tuesday. Ganim is an ex-convict who spent seven years in federal prison for corruption. (Cloe Poisson/Hartford Courant via AP)

— Hartford Courant, "Bridgeport comeback complete: It's once again Mayor Joe Ganim," by Christopher Keating and Gregory B. Hladky: "In a victory that would have been unthinkable only six months ago, convicted felon Joe Ganim won his city hall job back Tuesday night as he soundly defeated six other candidates to become Bridgeport's next mayor. 'Some will call this a comeback story. For me it is a city that I never left. I never stopped caring about the challenges that people face in every neighborhood,' Ganim told throngs of supporters. As the leader of the state's largest city, Ganim again becomes a key player in state Democratic politics because of the size of the city's delegation at party conventions. Ganim has a rocky relationship with the state's top Democrat, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, who repeatedly refused to endorse him during the campaign. Malloy, however, said the people of Bridgeport should not be punished for the past criminal actions by Ganim. **In 2003, Ganim was convicted by a federal jury on 16 felony counts of racketeering, bribery, conspiracy, mail fraud, and tax evasion for accepting more than $500,000 in cash, diamonds, expensive wine, tailored clothing, high-priced meals, and home renovations in a widespread kickback scheme that led to the convictions of 10 of his associates.** He served seven years in federal prison and then was eventually released from a Hartford halfway house in 2010." Read The Atlantic's take here .

— Los Angeles Times, "The difference between high fructose corn syrup and

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sugar? Jurors will decide," by Stephen Ceasar: "It's a bitter legal fight between the sweetest of enemies. On Wednesday, the sugar industry took to a Los Angeles federal courtroom and accused high fructose corn syrup producers of falsely claiming that their product is just as healthful as sugar. Corn syrup producers hit back, arguing that the sugar industry has long engaged in an unsavory campaign of misinformation. The false advertising spat pits two sweeteners that have each been blamed for contributing to a host of ailments, including diabetes, obesity and tooth decay. After years of delays and legal wrangling, the two titans of the food industry are engaged in a billion-dollar battle to determine whose claims of healthfulness — and unhealthfulness — are true.

"At the center of the trial is an advertising campaign that portrayed corn syrup as 'nutritionally the same as table sugar' and claimed 'your body can't tell the difference.' 'That's just wrong,' attorney Mark Lanier, who represents the sugar industry plaintiffs, told jurors during opening statements in the trial. 'And the corn refiners know it.' Attorney Dan Webb, who represents the corn refiners, countered that the effort was an 'educational campaign' to combat a decade's worth of falsehoods and junk science promulgated by sugar makers. 'It was to get the truth out there, he told jurors."

This trial is only one battler in a larger war. The Daily 202 has extensively covered the Corn Refiners Association campaign to get Congress to scale back lucrative subsidies given to sugar producers.

HOT ON THE LEFT

Harry Reid criticized "Morning Joe" for bringing the Koch brothers on as guests. From Talking Points Memo: The Senate Minority Leader chastised Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski on the Senate floor Wednesday. "It seems that some journalists are determined not to get on the wrong side of the Koch brothers and their billions," he said. "When the media rolls over for these modern-day robber barons as it's

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Gun sales break records for sixth month in a row. From the Washington Free Beacon: "The Federal Bureau of Investigation processed a record number of background checks in the month of October, indicating that gun sales were at an all time high for the sixth month in a row. The FBI's National Instant Background Check System processed 1,976,759 firearms related checks in October. That is a 373,290 increase in checks over

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doing now, our country's in trouble."

last year and a new record for the month. It also makes October the sixth consecutive month to see a record number of checks."

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Hillary Clinton appears on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in Los Angeles. Ben Carson continues his book tour with stops in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Boca Raton, Fla. Most of the presidential field is in New Hampshire, with Marco Rubio, Bernie Sanders and Carly Fiorina filing to appear on the primary ballot in Concord. Sanders is doing a rally and Fiorina is hosting a lunch. Later, Rubio tours a business in Manchester, while Lindsey Graham campaigns in Salem and Manchester; John Kasich stops in Greenland, Durham and Londonderry; Chris Christie holds a town hall in Nashua; and Jeb Bush greets supporters in North Conway and Somersworth. In Iowa, Bobby Jindal speaks in Des Moines. Martin O'Malley kicks off "Irish Americans for O'Malley" in Washington, D.C.

–On the Hill: The Senate meets at 9:30 a.m. to resume work on a defense appropriations bill. The House adjourned at 1:04 a.m. and will reconvene at 9 a.m. to continue consideration of the highway bill.

–At the White House: President Obama gives interviews to local radio hosts and delivers remarks at the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference. Vice President Biden travels to Nashville to deliver remarks at the National League of Cities 2015 Congress of Cities and Exposition.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: A 12-year-old girl asked Trump in New Hampshire about wind energy. "Well, the windmills look nice," he told her. "But they kill a lot of birds. Did you know that? You wouldn't believe what they do to the birds!" (National Review)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **Spotty rain today gives way to a warm blast tomorrow.** "Today, while unmistakably mild, most likely produces a shower or two and only patchy breaks in the cloud cover," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Friday is the barn burner when a few spots hit 80 and

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records likely fall – a rather 'fallacious' day for early November. A potent but slow poke of a cold front returns shower chances Friday night into Saturday as well as chillier readings."

— **The Wizards beat the San Antonio Spurs on a game-winning 3-pointer with less than a second remaining.** (Jorge Castillo)

Washington guard Bradley Beal hits the game winning 3-point shot as the Wizards defeat the Spurs 102 – 99 at the Verizon Center last night. (Photo by John McDonnell/The Washington Post)

— **D.C.'s new top prosecutor signaled he is close to resolving the investigation of the alleged illegal financing of Vincent Gray's 2010 mayoral campaign.** (Spencer S. Hsu and Ann E. Marimow)

— "**If your D.C. employer currently doesn't offer a commuter benefits program, that might change by the end of the year.** The deadline to comply with a new D.C. law requiring companies with 20 or more employees to offer commuter benefits is Jan. 1, and that means hundreds more workers will have access to the federal tax break. The District is one of a number of cities nationwide — but the only one in the Washington region– to require employers to provide the tax-free benefit. A similar law also goes into effect in New York on Jan. 1, and San Francisco has had one for several years." (Luz Lazo)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

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Here are two minutes of “SNL” promo teasers airing on NBC ahead of Trump’s appearance this weekend:

(Saturday Night Live)

Watch Bernie Sanders hang out with his grandson, Dylan:

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(captions for Bernie)

Bill O'Reilly told Jimmy Fallon that Republican candidates should stop "whining" about the debates:

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(The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon)

Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) told Federal Reserve Chairman Janet Yellen that God does not want interest rates to rise until the spring:

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(C-SPAN)

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/28/2008 12:06:30 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Fayettesville, NC 10/28/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain repeats earlier attacks
    - Warns that obama has "made a lot of promises" but their "definition of rich" has been "creeping down" from $250k to $150k
    - Repeats that obama is running for "redistributionist in chief"
    - says obama wants to punish the successful, i want to make everyone successful
- McCain revives anecdote about he and Lindsey Graham going to celebration in Baghdad and troops begged them to "let us win" and not retreat
- Ridge warns about Obama's Supreme Court picks; Graham says McCain will provide "adult supervision" of Pelosi and Reid; small-business owner who gives intro says he's more afraid of Dems on the Hill than of CEOs on Wall St and he warns that Obama will redistribute wealth to those who "don't deserve it"

Fayettesville, NC: McCain Rally 10/28/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Hank Williams Jr opens up, sings "McCain/Palin Tradition"
- Alan Hendricks (local small business owner) gives intro
    - My story- millions of Joe the Plumbers
    - Parents understood what sacrifice was
    - Father was from different generation of Americans- hardwork and desire equal success
    - Company less than 2 yrs old, six jobs, money flowing into our economy
    - If you ask my employees about modest tax break
    - Need John McCain next president, not going to destroy American dream to achieve it
    - in Senator Obama's view of America, I would be viewed as greedy in wanting to give that which i produce to my kids.
    - **Obama wants to redistribute to those who don't deserve it**
    - **i'm more afraid of Democrats on Hill than CEOs on Wall Street**
    - Join me and other Joe the Plumbers
    - [crowd chants USA]
- CINDY MCCAIN intros Ridge
    - Had to take family into consideration. Between Palin and McCain, 3 fine young men serving
    - I see over here- 2 star blue star flag. I'm a two star blue star too.
    - The surge decision- he did that with our son over there. That's leadership.
    - my husband has lived whole life by Code of Conduct- Duty, honor, and country.
    - Another gentleman- met in house of representatives, combat veteran, gov. of pennsylania, homeland security: Tom Ridge
- TOM RIDGE:
    - John if I didn't know better, we're at the Duke basketball game.
    - My vantage point, saw first hand how security is tied to prosperity. Cannot prosper unless you're secure. No doubt in any one's mind.
    - One real choice for Commander in Chief. John McCain.
    - When it comes to leadership, don't grow govt. to get out of hard times. Don't take money from hard working people. Govt. has no money of its own. It's your money.
    - Three additional reasons to support McCain:
        - next three nominees to the **Supreme Court.**

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    - During radio interview, state Senator from Illinois observed, lamented the fact that- he said it was too bad Supreme Court justices had taken on redistribution of wealth.
    - Security, prosperity, Supreme Court nominees.

- LINDSEY GRAHAM:
    - John McCain's gonna win N. Carolina. He's gonna win N. Carolina cause he fits N. Caroline like a glove. I'll beat Michael Phelps in swimming before Obama wins Carolina. This is the home of Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base.
    - Senator Biden said something I agree with. Joe made observation that Obama would be tested in the first six months. John McCain's already been tested.
    - Let me tell you this, [USA] Ladies and gentleman, those who wish this country harm, then youre dealing with wrong guy for John McCain to be next president.
    - **mccain will provide "adult supervision" to Nancy Pelosi and Reid.**
    - he'll be a commander, make you feel safe.

Speech Highlights

- Good work, Lindsey. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you Fayetteville, N.C. We're going to win here on Nov. 4th. Can I thank Hank Williams Jr. Senator Richard Burr, Congressman Tom Ridge who kept us safe after 9/11. First lady, Cindy McCain. Thank you. Proud of our children who are serving. Graham serves in the Reserves, works and he serves.
- Last 4th of July, Lindsey and I in Baghdad. 40lbs. of equipment troops put on everyday. General Patreus invited us to ceremony for those who had a choice to go home, but volunteered to stay in Iraq. They said, let us win, **let us win.** You know what? They are winning, and they're going to come home with honor and victory. I thank you for support. I thank you for your service
- Could I say a couple more words about Sarah Palin? Thank you for your support of her. My friends, want to say to again how grateful I am you are here. We'll win N. Carolina.
- You know, we can't spend the next 4 years, like the last 8. Waiting for luck to change. We have to fight for it. Been fighting for country since 17, have scars to prove it.
- If I'm elected, shake up Washington. Take America into a new direction. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it. [**crowd chants, "fight, fight, fight"**] I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them. Double child deduction, cut capital gains, cut taxes to keep businesses in America.
- Raising taxes make bad economy worse. Won't spend a trillion more dollars of your money, Obama will. Barney Frank announced they would.
- I'll make govt. live on budget just like you do. Freeze programs except health care, vet care. Get rid of programs not working for American people. Veto every pork barrel bill. I'll make them famous. Make sure to take care of working people. Plan to fix housing market so your value doesn't go down when your neighbor defaults.
- If I'm elected, stop sending 700 billion overseas to buy oil from countries who don't like us. The other night [drill baby drill] the other night- the other night- the other night in the debate Obama said he will consider drilling, consider nuclear. We'll drill now. Against nuclear power plants in America. I will invest in all types, encourage hybrid, flex fuel, clean coal. Create millions of new jobs in the united states of America.
- We've learned more about senator Obama's real goals in the pas months than the past years, because of Joe the Plumber. Obama revealed he wants to spread the wealth. Joe din't ask to be famous. Didn't ask for political attacks. Joe's dream is your dream, attack on him is attack on small businesses all over the country. Small businesses employ 80% of America. Need to support, not tax. Finally learned Obama's economic goal – spread the wealth .
- **Radio interview**, tragedy of civil rights movement is that it did not redistribute. He favors higher taxes on fairness. There's nothing fair about driving our economy into the ground. Wants to control wealth rather then create it. I'll create wealth by creating opportunity. You know, Obama is running to be **redistributionist in chief**, I'm running for commander in chief. Obama running to spread the wealth, I'm running to create the wealth. **Obama wants to punish the successful, I'm ready to make everyone successful.**
- It's fascinating, **made a lot of promises. Said people making less than 250,00 you'll benefit, then 200,000, then Biden said 150,000 a year. It's interesting how their definition of rich has been creeping down**. My opponent's massive new tax increase hurt economy. Answer not higher taxes, democrats in Washington will do that.
- Imagine Obama, Pelosi Reid. Fundamental difference, both disagree with Bush, he thinks taxes too low, I think spending too high. If we're going to change Washington, we need president who has fought for change.
- Next president won't have time to get used to office. We'll win in Iraq and Afghanistan, we'll bring our troops

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home in victory. Biden warned that Obama will be tested with international crisis. I've been tested. Biden said Jack Kennedy was tested in Cuban missile crisis, I know how close we were to nuclear war.

- Already know Obama won't have the right response to the test. Opposed the surge, and still won't admit the surge worked. Said he would sit down unconditionally with world's worst dictators. Said invaded country Georgia should show restraint. Let me give you state of race, a few points down, pundits written us out, just like fourth. Obama speaking to Pelosi to raise your taxes. Measuring his address. Planning first address to nation. I prefer to let the voters weigh in before I do something.
- What America needs is someone who will fight to the end, not for himself but for his country. I have fought for you most of my life in places where defeat mean more than returning to the senate. I know you're worried, in moment of national crisis that will determine the future.
- Will the world become safer? Will our children's future be brighter than ours? Yes we will lead, yes we will prosper, yes we'll be safer. We must be prepared to act swiftly, boldy, with courage.
- Have courage and fight. Fight for new direction, fight our country out the ditch and into the lead, fight for free people, fight for justice and opportunity for all
- Stand up and fight. America's worth fighting for. We never give up, we never quite. We don't hide from history, we make history.

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From: "American Security Project" <events@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/2/2015 10:30:24 AM
Subject: Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy - December 15, 2015

Join ASP on December 15th for a briefing in the U.S. Senate to discuss the breakthroughs and advancements made in fusion research.

View this email in your browser

Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy

December 15, 2015

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Location:
American Security Project

385 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20 515

Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy will be held **Tuesday, December 15 in 385 Russell** from **12:00pm – 1:30pm.** This event will be an opportunity for leaders in fusion energy from the private sector and research labs to discuss the significant progress made in advancing fusion and what this clean, safe, and abundant energy source means for America's national security and energy future.

Leading experts in fusion from the public and private sector will discuss the new developments that have been featured over the last several months in major media outlets like Time Magazine, the New York Times, Science, and Nature. ASP is the leading think tank detailing a plan for the future of fusion. We are excited to facilitate a greater understanding this complex but revolutionary energy source.

Lunch refreshments will be served throughout the event.

Please arrive by 12:00pm for registration.

The event will be begin promptly at 12:00pm.

ASP
American Security Project

Click to RSVP

Resources:

Private Investors Back Nuclear Fusion Energy

Fusion Energy – The National Security Requirement

Fusion White Paper – 10 Year Plan for American Energy Security

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Panel Includes:

Moderator:

- Mr. Andrew Holland

Panelists:

- Dr. Dennis Whyte
- Mr. Michael Delage
- Dr. Douglas Witherspoon

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	12/12/2014 7:48:29 AM
Subject:	12.12.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	12.12.14 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below.

12.12.14 Weekend Package

1. ICYMI: Politico: Howard Dean: "I'm Ready for Hillary"
2. Hillary Clinton and Benghazi Security: Responsibility, Action, and Transparency
3. Hillary Clinton on National Security
4. Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of the Middle Class

ICYMI: Politico: Howard Dean: "I'm Ready for Hillary"

By Howard Dean

December 10, 2014

Hillary Clinton is by far the most qualified person in the United States to serve as President. If she runs, I will support her. I have known Hillary for almost twenty-five years. We first met when I was the governor of Vermont and she was the First Lady, giving us the opportunity to work together in various capacities, particularly on expanding health care access. During those years, I have learned that she is one of the most conscientious and competent people I have ever met. She has an enormous capacity to analyze and solve problems. She has a work ethic that drives her to persist until the job is done and done right. And she has a record in the Senate of successfully working with both sides of our very combative political spectrum in order to accomplish goals that improve the lives of ordinary Americans.

One of the most important reasons I am supporting her is because Secretary Clinton understands the institutional requirements of the Supreme Court. More than 73 percent of Americans think the Supreme Court is no longer a fair arbitrator and is influenced by political considerations. I am one of those 73 percent. This Court has repeatedly made decisions that have harmed our country for the sake of extending a political and ideological agenda that is far outside the mainstream of American traditions—on issues like campaign finance, voting rights, the rights of women, and religious freedom.

America needs a thoughtful President who will appoint judges and justices who will stand up for the Constitution and the law instead of catering to the dictates of those who fund the right-wing Federalist Society. I am confident that Hillary Clinton will provide that leadership.

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton built up a strong record of working effectively with our partners and allies to deal with challenges to global peace. In her four years as Secretary of State, she traveled nearly a million miles and visited with foreign leaders in 112 countries to address common problems from terrorism to overcoming the oppression of women to global warming. She has the experience and knowledge required to protect American national security in a time of new challenges that threaten peace and prosperity, including the menace that is ISIL. Secretary Clinton's work serving President

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Obama has earned the respect of any thinking American—including Republicans—both inside the Beltway and around the country.

Finally, although the statistics suggest the economy is improving, over 60% of Americans aren't feeling good about their own situation. Nearly all of the gains in the past fifteen years have bypassed the vast majority of Americans, while the holdings of the top 20% have increased dramatically. This is a fundamental disparity that will be the greatest challenge our next President must tackle—how to reestablish a commitment to all of us to restore the opportunity to live and achieve the American Dream.

Hillary Clinton will not shrink from this challenge. In the coming months, I expect her to lay out her plans to attack income inequality and help rebuild the middle class. She knows how to sell a broad range of Americans on these policies, and has shown how to stand up against extremist economic policies.

America needs a President who will focus on the next hundred years, not one who hopes to turn the clock back by a hundred years. I am sure I will have disagreements with her as she focuses on getting Americans back to work and rebuilding an America that works for all of us. I value and respect her enough that whatever differences may exist will be minimal compared to the tasks we really need to do for the good of restoring our country. We need a mature, seasoned, thoughtful leader at a time when maturity and thoughtfulness are increasingly rare commodities in Washington, D.C.

If I have the opportunity, I will cast my vote for Hillary Clinton for President.

HILLARY CLINTON AND BENGHAZI SECURITY: RESPONSIBILITY, ACTION, AND TRANSPARENCY

BACKGROUND: A year-old State Department Inspector General review of security at U.S. diplomatic facilities was made public this week. The review issued security recommendations, the majority of which have already been implemented. The right wing has seized upon this year-old report in their continued, shameful attempt to blame Hillary Clinton for the tragedy in Benghazi. But the facts speak for themselves.

TALKING POINTS:

In the wake of the tragedy in Benghazi, Hillary Clinton took responsibility, took action, and was fully transparent.

Secretary Clinton repeatedly took responsibility and was determined to leave the State Department – and America – stronger and more secure.

Following the attacks in Benghazi, Clinton took action to prevent future attacks and improve embassy security around the world.

- Secretary Clinton appointed a nonpartisan, independent Accountability Review Board to review the attack and she began implementing the Board's 29 recommendations before leaving the State Department.
- After Benghazi, the Inspector General made 77 security recommendations based on a 6-month review, and all but five have been made already.

Secretary Clinton was transparent, answering questions before Congress and publicly releasing the Accountability Review Board's findings.

The legacy of Secretary Clinton's deliberate work to improve embassy security in a transparent way continues today at the State Department, with the public release of a new report and the timely execution of the report's recommendations.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON NATIONAL SECURITY

BACKGROUND: *In a changing and unpredictable world, Hillary Clinton's leadership on issues of national security has kept America secure and helped make the world a safer place.*

KEY POINTS:

- As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton worked through diplomatic channels to help the United States fight terrorism and safeguard our national

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security.

- Secretary Clinton made the case for the raid to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.
- Clinton built relationships with key players in the Middle East and funded counterterrorism training initiatives.
  - Through negotiations with Russia, Clinton successfully worked to reduce the number of nuclear missile launchers in the world.
  - Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history in order to encourage Iran to abandon, or at least stall, its nuclear program.
  - Clinton negotiated the Gaza cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, helping avert an all-out war in Gaza.
  - Clinton played a role to end the war in Iraq and begin a transition to civilian society in Afghanistan.
  - Clinton instituted new roles at the State Department to fight terrorism:
    - Clinton created the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online.
    - Clinton established the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance counterterrorism objectives and our national security.
  - Clinton identified and led on important issues which affect our national security, such as the global empowerment of women and climate change.
    - Clinton worked to empower women and girls around the world to participate in their economies. This helps make economies stronger and more stable.
    - Clinton prioritized addressing climate change in her time at the State Department. Weather events caused by climate change can lead to famine and destroyed infrastructure, which increase instability and unrest.

- Serving as a United States Senator representing New York during September 11, 2001, Hillary Clinton made it a priority to urge the pursuit of justice against Al Qaeda and improve our nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

BACKGROUND: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that hardworking Americans can succeed. In uncertain times, families need faith that opportunity for their children and grandchildren is alive and well. Hillary Clinton wants the American Dream to be a real possibility for every child and every family across our nation.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families. Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

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Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair share. She opposed tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

- Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

BOTTOM LINE: Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, fighting to increase wages, strongly advocating for progressive tax policies and access to education and healthcare to help middle-class families – Hillary Clinton has fought for an America and a future where everyone can rise to their potential.

HILLARY CLINTON'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

In her many public appearances over the past year, Hillary Clinton has continued to advocate for the middle class by sharing her vision all over the country:

In a speech to a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf, "Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start.'" According to Politico, Clinton "gave one of her strongest political speeches since her 2008 campaign ended in June 2008 as she headlined a women-focused event for Democratic gubernatorial Tom Wolf in Pennsylvania. Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start,' as well as women's pay equity and her gauzy first days as a new grandmother. For the first time in months, Clinton's public talk was neither a dry recitation of public policy nor a self-reflection about her tenure as secretary of state." [Politico , 10/9/14]

Clinton's language at a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf was "some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class." According to Politico, "The remarks were some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class. They came after she was accused of being out of touch for her comment in June about being 'dead broke' when she left the White House, and for giving paid speeches at exorbitant prices." [Politico , 10/9/14]

The theme of Clinton's speech at an event for Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf was working families. According to BuzzFeed, "The thread running through Clinton's message here in Pennsylvania, the state she won six years ago in a primary against Barack Obama, was working families — a theme she teased repeatedly throughout her speech with populist undertones, mentions of her granddaughter, and stories about her own trips as a child to Scranton, where Clinton's father, Hugh, was born to a working-class immigrant family." [BuzzFeed , 9/9/14]

In Pennsylvania, Clinton criticized the power of corporations, siding with middle-class families. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Though she and her husband have raised more than $1 billion from U.S. companies and corporate officials over the last two decades, Mrs. Clinton signaled that she sided with everyday families struggling to pay bills and keep afloat. Corporations, she said, 'seem to have all the rights, but none of the responsibilities of people …' She decried practices that pay women less than men for the same work and took aim at politicians who've belittled women's rights. 'A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families,' she said." [Wall Street Journal , 9/9/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she would fight to restore and re-open the middle class. According to TPM, "The notion of 'upward mobility' was central to Clinton's message to the New American audience in May. She described it as 'time-tested wisdom' that was 'at the heart of what I believe is the basic bargain of America.'… Here is how Clinton described that basic bargain of America, as she sees it, in May: 'No matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she can address income inequality and gender inequality. According to TPM, "So income inequality has been a big part of the message. But it's also been married to inequality between the sexes. At both the New American and CAP events, the same factoid made an appearance: That three-quarters of jobs that rely on tips -- like 'waiters, bartenders and hairstylists' as she said on both occasions -- are held by women…. And she said Thursday that these issues should be used to mobilize voters -- in the 2014 midterms and moving forward." [TPM , 9/22/14]

In recent speeches, Clinton has taken a tougher stance on big business, likely in "an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism" she may need in 2016, according to Reuters. According to Reuters, "Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country…. This is a change of tone for the former New York senator, who faced criticism for her Wall Street ties as recently as September, after appearing with Goldman Sachs (GS.N) chief executive Lloyd Blankfein. Allies and analysts see it as an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism that Clinton may need in order to broaden her appeal in a potential 2016 Democratic primary contest." [Reuters , 11/2/14]

During a New Hampshire midterm event, Clinton discussed expanding economic opportunity and raising the minimum wage. According to the Boston Globe, "Clinton spoke in New Hampshire about expanding economic opportunity, raising the minimum wage, and protecting women's rights. She acknowledged that, across the country, there is 'a lot of anxiety and insecurity.' But the former secretary of state and US senator from New York struck a hopeful note: She bookended her remarks talking about her new granddaughter and said seeing another generation in the family focuses the mind on what's important. Clinton said she and her husband were raised to believe the American Dream was within your reach if you worked hard. 'You should not,' Clinton told a packed gymnasium, 'have to be the grandchild of a governor or a senator or a former secretary of state or a former president to believe that the American Dream is in your reach.'" [Boston Globe , 11/2/14]

In midterm campaign appearances, Clinton has been echoing populist notes. According to Bloomberg, Clinton "has been sounding more populist notes of late as a campaign-trail advocate for Democratic candidates who are on the ballot next week. That's an important turn as she contemplates a run for president in 2016 because Clinton's biggest weakness among Democrats, and some Republicans, is the perception that she's too

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close to Wall Street and corporate America…. And the more anti-corporate tone is pleasing to the ears of liberals who have pined for Senator Elizabeth Warren, a scourge of Wall Street banks, to challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination. And, they say, it's a message Clinton can use against Republicans because many in the GOP have turned wary of Wall Street and big corporations since the 2008 financial crash." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

During a midterm appearance in New York, Clinton clarified earlier comments about companies and job creation, while maintaining the same theme: "Clinton's for the little guy." According to Bloomberg, "Days after Republicans feasted on her claim that corporations don't create jobs, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to 'be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades.' 'So-called trickle-down economics has failed,' Clinton said as she stumped for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in New York. 'Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out–not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.' While campaigning Friday for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, Clinton created a stir–and drew criticism from Republicans–by saying, 'Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.'…The cleaned-up message, though, hits at the same theme: Clinton's for the little guy." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

While campaigning for Democrats in the midterm election, Clinton frequently tells voters that "everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance." According to a CNN, an investigation into Clinton's most common lines on the trail found that Clinton frequently tells voters, "'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance...' Clinton has focused a great deal on economic populism on the stump, an issue other Democrats thinking about seeking the presidency in 2016 have started to tweak Clinton on. 'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance to keep going and to make something of themselves,' Clinton said in Iowa earlier this year. 'That was one of the most important lessons of my life.' Clinton usually uses the line to encourage compassion from a crowd, and to show that she has compassion, too." [CNN , 10/28/14]

In a San Francisco speech, Clinton revealed some of what may be her economic message: "Who's on your side?" According to the Washington Post, "Here in San Francisco on Monday, Clinton gave a spirited call to arms to Democrats as she road-tested what is likely to be her economic message if she runs again. The November midterms, she said, come down 'to a simple question: Who's on your side?' She sounded close to her party's populist marrow when she decried the erosion of economic security for many working Americans, and a long way from her tone-deaf remark earlier this year about being 'dead broke' when she and Bill Clinton left the White House in 2000. 'It's time to elect leaders who will fight for everyone to get a fair shot at the American dream,' Hillary Clinton said." [Washington Post , 10/21/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she could finish the economic recovery begun by Obama. According to TPM, "Clinton seems to have a handle of the line she wants to toe: Obama saved us from worse economic struggles (as his defenders have been saying for years), but the work isn't over. Implicit, of course, is that she -- if she runs -- would finish the job. 'We haven't seen a full recovery from the economic crash,' Clinton said Thursday at CAP. 'When the president came in, he deserves an enormous amount of credit for staunching the bleeding and preventing a further deterioration and getting us out of that ditch we were in. But we know unless we change our policies, a lot of the benefits are not going to be broadly shared.' 'It's not just about more jobs for more people and better paying jobs,' she said. 'It's making sure that the people themselves get to keep those benefits and build that future back that they are so desperate to see for themselves.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

In an interview with PBS this summer, Hillary said : "Bill and I have had terrific opportunities, both of us…have worked hard, but we've been grateful for everything that we've been able to achieve, and sadly that's just not true for most Americans today…It's important that we all try to figure out what we're going to do, and that's what I've done my entire life, fighting for a higher minimum wage, or family leave…equal pay for equal work…I think my record speaks for itself."

At a speech at the Aspen Ideas Festival in June, Hillary said : "At the end of the day, we're all on the same team. We're on the American team. And we've got to do a better job of getting our economy growing again and producing results and renewing the American Dream so that Americans feel that they have a stake in the future and that the economy and the political system is not stacked against them, because that will erode the trust that is at the basis of our democracy."

From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/7/2008 1:27:12 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/7

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 7th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11:30am McCain: Town Hall in Lima, OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event
12pm Lieberman: Fundraiser in Miami, FL

3:30pm McCain: Private Meeting in Wilmington,OH

5:30pm McCain: Fundraiser in Liberty Township, OH

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Family's Donations to McCain Raise Questions (NYT 8/7/08)
By MICHAEL LUO
The Jordanian business partner of a prominent Florida businessman, who has raised more than $500,000 for Senator John McCain, appears to be at the center of a cluster of questionable donations to his presidential campaign. ...It appears, however, that Mr. Sargeant, the finance chairman of the Florida Republican Party and the part-owner of a major oil trading firm, International Oil Trading Company, did not actually solicit the donations from the Abdullahs and their friends. That task fell to a longtime business partner, Mustafa Abu Naba'a.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/07/us/politics/07mccain.html

Win Points for McCain! (Washington Post 8/7/08)
By Paul Farhi; C01
Spread John McCain's official talking points around the Web -- and you could win valuable prizes! That, in essence, is the McCain campaign's pitch to supporters to join its new online effort, one that combines the features of "AstroTurf" campaigning with the sort of customer-loyalty programs offered by airlines, hotel chains, restaurants and the occasional daily newspaper.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/06/AR2008080603589.html?hpid=topnews

Paris Hilton spoof be damned; McCain continues to bombard Obama's celebrity (LA Times 8/7/08)
By Michael Muskal
In its latest ad, the McCain campaign taunts: 'Is the biggest celebrity in the world ready to help your family?' Obama campaign calls the spot 'another dishonest attack.'
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/europe/la-na-campaign7-2008aug07,0,1637457.story
Link to video of McCain ad ("Family"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3DxDBH9nn4
See WaPo blog's "Ad Wars: Is 'Celebrity' The New 'Flip-Flop'?": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/08/mccain_distances_himself_from.html?nav=rss_blog

McCain takes lead on YouTube hits (Washington Times 8/7/08)
By Stephen Dinan
Paris Hilton may think John McCain is just a "wrinkly white-haired guy," but the Republican presidential candidate apparently has figured out the younger generation just fine. Over the past two weeks, his "celebrity" attacks have stomped Democratic presidential opponent Sen. Barack Obama in YouTube hits.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/07/mccain-takes-lead-on-youtube-hits/

McCain's Freewheeling Days With Media Curtailed (NPR 8/7/08)
by Scott Horsley
Morning Edition, August 7, 2008 · Reporters traveling with Sen. John McCain haven't gotten a chance to ask the Republican presidential hopeful a lot of questions this week. Instead of open-ended news conferences, McCain

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has been offering up carefully scripted statements. It's part of a deliberate strategy by the campaign to keep the press corps — and the candidate — on a shorter leash between now and Election Day.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93360080

The Candidates on Faith (TIME 8/7/08)
Essays by John McCain / Barack Obama
JOHN MCCAIN: A Light Amid the Darkness
My mother has recounted to me how when I was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, she sometimes overheard my father praying for me. He was in charge of U.S. forces in the Pacific at the time and suffered from the burden of commanding a war in a country where his son was imprisoned. As my mother recalled, she could hear my father in his study, on his knees, beseeching God to "show Johnny mercy."
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1830148,00.html

McCain to Discuss Potential Job Losses (AP 8/7/08)
By BETH FOUHY
Republican presidential candidate John McCain is taking up the issue of possible job losses due to the closure of a DHL shipping site in Ohio, the result of a corporate merger aided by his campaign manager during his work as a lobbyist.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1830157,00.html

Brown urges McCain to use clout to save Wilmington jobs (Dayton Daily News 8/7/08)
By John Nolan
The candidate's top adviser lobbied Congress in favor of Deutsche Post for purchase of Airborne Express.
http://www.daytondailynews.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2008/08/07/ddn080708mccaindhl.html

Democrats question whether Crist friend used 'straw donors' (St. Petersburg Times 8/7/08)
By Wes Allison and Steve Bousquet
Democrats pounced on reports Wednesday that a major fundraiser for Florida Gov. Charlie Crist and Republican presidential candidate John McCain had tapped suspiciously apolitical Californians of modest means for thousands of dollars in campaign contributions over the past two years.
http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/elections/article760828.ece

McCain calls for "economic surge" (Fox New blog 8/6/08)
by Mosheh Oinounou
Vowing to cure the ailing economy with a combination of lower taxes, spending cuts and increased trade, John McCain pledged to launch an "economic surge" during a visit Wednesday to southeastern Ohio.
http://embeds.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/08/06/mccain-calls-for-economic-surge/

McCain Gives Pep Talk to Marshall Football Team (CBS blog 8/6/08)
By John Bentley
(HUNTINGTON, W.V.) – John McCain stopped by the Marshall University football team's practice here this morning, where he compared the years he spent as a POW in Vietnam to the adversity Marshall overcame when most of their football team perished in an airplane crash in 1970.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/06/politics/fromtheroad/entry4324943.shtml?CMP=OTC-RSSFeed&source=RSS&attr=FromTheRoad_4324943
Link to pool report: http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCain_calls_the_plays_at_college_football_practice.html?showall

McCain Bundler's Donors Raise Eyebrows (Pro Publica 8/6/08)
by Paul Kiel
Seldom is a news story so full of question marks as today's Washington Post piece on Harry Sargeant III. Sargeant, who runs a major defense contractor, has delivered more than $50,000 in contributions to McCain's campaign. So far, so what. McCain is the third candidate to benefit from Sargeant's network of donors this election cycle -- the other two being Rudy Giuliani and Hillary Clinton -- for a grand total of more than $100,000. That, too, is not remarkable. Hotshot bundlers often deliver for multiple candidates. But when you examine who the donors are, the question marks start popping up.
http://www.propublica.org/article/mccain-bundlers-donors-raise-eyebrows-806/

McCain campaign apologizes to reporter (Tallahassee Democrat 8/6/08)
By Paul Flemming
Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign has apologized for a Friday incident that denied access to a Tallahassee Democrat reporter. Senior Writer Stephen Price, asked to leave an area restricted to national reporters while other state reporters remained, got a personal apology from McCain's campaign Tuesday

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evening.
http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080806/CAPITOLNEWS/80806005

For signage, money gets you nowhere (The Examiner 8/7/08)
John McCain sure would like to be the candidate of every man and woman, but his online store isn't helping that objective. Although $25 will get you "Jewish Americans for McCain" or "Business Leaders for McCain" (or most any other variation) T-shirts on McCain's campaign Web site, if you give 10 times that amount — $250 — you'll have much less, not more, luck getting a personalized sign. We learned this from Craig Brownstein of Edelman PR here in Washington, who is a Democrat, gay and a supporter of McCain's campaign for president.
http://www.examiner.com/blogs-73-Yeas_and_Nays ~y2008m8d6-For-signage-money-gets-you-nowhere

McCain Pushes Congress to Vote on Energy (AP 8/6/08)
By BETH FOUHY
Republican candidate John McCain on Wednesday called on Congress to return from its summer recess to address immediately the U.S. energy crisis, though he missed numerous energy-related votes in the Senate last year.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1829997,00.html

More fuel thrown on energy debate (Boston Globe/AP 8/7/08)
Senators Barack Obama and John McCain tussled again yesterday over energy policy, taunting each other over who had the most inane conservation idea as much as debating substantive differences.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/08/07/more_fuel_thrown_on_energy_debate/
See Politico blog's "McCain puts tire gauge in mouth": http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCain_puts_tire_gauge_in_mouth.html?showall
See Politico blog's "Obama takes gauge opportunity": http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Obama_takes_gauge_opportunity.html

Repeat After Me... (NYT blog 8/6/08)
By Mary Ann Giordano
When Senator John McCain has stepped before a microphone these days, he has been very much on-message. That's quite clear from his repetition of several key phrases as he tries to set himself apart from his Democratic rival, Senator Barack Obama. One of them is, "We have to drill here and we have to drill now."
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/06/repeat-after-me/

McCain to give Stevens money to Pa. 9/11 memorial (AP 8/6/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain will give $5,000 that his campaign received from indicted U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens' political action committee to the Flight 93 National Memorial, a campaign spokesman said.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-06-mccain-stevens_N.htm

McCain critique stirs affirmative action ban debate (AP 8/6/08)
With one brief criticism of affirmative action, Republican presidential candidate John McCain has brought new attention to ballot issues aimed at dismantling preferential treatment programs for women and minorities. The question is whether McCain's support for one of those initiatives, in his home state Arizona, will make any difference.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-06-affirmative-action_N.htm

McCain Statement on Hamdan Verdict (McCain campaign 8/6/08)
U.S. Senator John McCain issued the following statement on today's verdict in the case of Salim Ahmed Hamdan: "I welcome today's guilty verdict in the first trial held under the Military Commissions Act (MCA). This process of bringing terrorists to justice has been too long delayed, but I'm encouraged that it is finally moving forward. I supported that legislation..."
http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-on-hamdan-verdict/
See Obama Statement on Hamdan Ruling: http://thepage.time.com/obama-statement-on-hamdan-ruling/

Rice says surge helps McCain, Obama (Politico 8/7/08)
By: Mike Allen
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she understands some of the questions Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) raised about the surge policy in Iraq, but says today's conditions in the war zone would be only "wishful thinking" without it.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12353.html

MoveOn Hits McCain No-Shows (Washington Post blog 8/6/08)

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By Jonathan Weisman
MoveOn.org, the liberal activist group that has been strangely quiet this campaign season, will release a new Internet ad tomorrow, mocking Sen. John McCain for calling for Congress to return to Washington to pass energy legislation despite the fact that he has missed a strong of high-profile energy votes in the Senate while campaigning.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/06/moveon_hits_mccain_no-shows.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxeHeIVZsTw

Pressure to Donate to Romney Alleged in Complaint (WSJ 8/7/08)
By JOANN S. LUBLIN and MARY JACOBY; Page A4
A former executive who says his boss pressured him to contribute to Republican Mitt Romney's presidential campaign has filed an employment-bias complaint that offers a rare glimpse behind the curtain of big-money corporate fund raising.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121806644837018651.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Potential McCain VP pick slams Obama's 'life oratory' (CNN blog 8/6/08)
By Martina Stewart
Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who is widely rumored to be on Sen. John McCain's short list of potential vice presidential picks, displayed his skills as a political attack dog Wednesday.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/06/potential-mccain-vp-pick-slams-obamas-life-oratory/
Link to video: http://www.cnn.com/video/#/ video/politics/2008/08/06/pawlenty.questions.cnn

Pawlenty touts 'Sam's Club' Republicanism (The Hill 8/7/08)
By Aaron Blake
Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) made the rounds in Washington on Wednesday, spreading his message of the GOP's need to embrace "Sam's Club" Republicanism.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/pawlenty-brings-sams-club-republicanism-to-national-stage-2008-08-06.html

Carly Fiorina Misrepresents The 'Nitty-Gritty Of John McCain's Health Plan' (WonkRoom 8/6/08)
Over at BlogHer, Carly Fiorina, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) senior policy adviser, promises to get into the "nitty-gritty of John McCain's health care plan." But in marketing McCain's proposal, Fiorina misrepresents the consequences of McCain's radical reforms.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/06/fiorina-health/

Straight Talk Express Involved In Collision, Carries Obama Bumper Sticker (PICTURES) (Huffington Post 8/6/08)
Florida has not been treating John McCain's campaign vessel, the Straight Talk Express, very well in the past two days. Since Tuesday the bus has been involved in a collision with a minivan and was photographed carrying a bumper sticker for Barack Obama.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/06/straight-talk-express-inv_n_117384.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The Energy Drill (NYT 8/7/08)
By GAIL COLLINS
"Tell them to come back and get to work!" John McCain yelled out. "Tell them to get to work!" This was at a biker rally in South Dakota where McCain was wooing the crowd by demanding that Congress return to Washington and do something about the energy crisis. Demanding that Congress come back from vacation to do something is a time-honored political gambit. But is it the best line of attack for a senator who last showed up for a vote himself back in early spring? Perhaps not.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/07/opinion/07collins.html

Not-so-bright ideas (LA Times 8/7/08)
It's all energy, all the time for Barack Obama and John McCain, who lately have talked about little else than their respective energy plans. Unfortunately, both blueprints could use some work. Obama is so eager to pander to voters angry about high gas prices that he has abandoned his own green principles by opening the door to more offshore drilling and calling for more oil production from domestic shale. Yet that's nothing compared with McCain, whose plan to boost nuclear power is an insult to voters' intelligence.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-energy7-2008aug07,0,7589547.story?track=rss

What McCain Should Do Next (WSJ 8/7/08)
By KARL ROVE

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Notwithstanding the hype about Barack Obama, here is where the presidential race stands: John McCain was within an average of 1.9% of his Democratic opponent in last week's daily Gallup tracking poll. It shouldn't be this close. Sen. Obama should be way ahead.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121806732113018763.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

The McCain Veepstakes (WSJ 8/7/08)
The Beijing Olympics are about to begin, but in Washington the real games of August involve vetting the potential Presidential running mates. As a young, rookie candidate running on "change," Barack Obama can help himself by choosing a safe, seasoned politician like Evan Bayh or Joe Biden. As the trailing candidate from an unpopular party, John McCain has the harder decision because there really is no obvious candidate.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121807196427019079.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

A Way Back to the High Road? (Washington Post 8/7/08)
By David S. Broder; A21
The first question I asked John McCain and then Barack Obama was: How do you feel about the tone and direction of the campaign so far? No surprise. Both men pronounced themselves thoroughly frustrated by the personal bitterness and negativism they have seen in the two months since they learned they would be running against each other.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/06/AR2008080602510.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

BUSH NEWS

Bush to Asia: Stop Oppression (AP 8/7/08)
By PAUL ALEXANDER
President Bush praised the spread of freedom in Asia while training a harsh spotlight Thursday on the region's democratic laggards, sharply criticizing oppression and human rights abuses in China, Burma and North Korea.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1830152,00.html

China responds to Bush speech on human rights (USA Today 8/7/08)
China rejected U.S. President George W. Bush's criticism Thursday of its human rights record and restrictions on religion, diplomatically telling him to stay out of its affairs even as he flew to Beijing to attend the Olympics.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-07-bush-speech_N.htm?csp=34

Rice warns of more Iran sanctions (Politico 8/7/08)
By: Mike Allen
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in an interview Wednesday that Iran's response to an international demand for a freeze in the regime's nuclear activity "is not a really serious answer" - and said new economic sanctions are likely to result.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12355.html
Link to video: http://cosmos.bcst.yahoo.com/up/player/popup/?rn=3906861&cl=9159883&ch=9052301&src=news

White House pleased by verdict in case against bin Laden's driver, defends military commission (AP 8/6/08)
The White House said Wednesday it's pleased with the outcome of the war crimes trial of a former driver for Osama bin Laden, although the jury delivered a split verdict.
http://www.startribune.com/politics/26335884.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Panel Convicts Bin Laden Driver in Split Verdict (NYT 8/7/08)
By WILLIAM GLABERSON
A panel of six military officers convicted a former driver for Osama bin Laden of one of two war crimes charges on Wednesday but acquitted him of the other, completing the first military commission trial here and the first conducted by the United States since the aftermath of World War II.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/07/washington/07gitmo.html?hp

Boeing Says Bidding Changes Favor European Tanker Team (WSJ 8/7/08)
By ANDY PASZTOR
Seeking to quickly revive a stalled $40 billion competition for the next generation of aerial-refueling tankers, the Pentagon proposed revised criteria for choosing between Boeing Co. and a partnership of Northrop Grumman Corp. and European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121805700442018139.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

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Fannie, Freddie's Right To Lobby Lawmakers Is Questioned (WSJ 8/7/08)
By JESSICA HOLZER; Page A3
After years of being criticized for their lobbying might, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are now defending their right to lobby at all.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121806932316918855.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Coming Soon: "An Inconvenient Truth" For The Economy (Huffington Post 8/6/08)
A private-equity billionaire, a former federal government official and a Baltimore newsletter editor have made a documentary film that they hope can do what an endless parade of policy papers has not: Persuade Americans that debt has created a looming economic crisis that would make the Great Depression look like a market correction.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/06/coming-soon-an-inconvenie_n_117398.html

Gingrich Cites Big Oil And Right-Wing Intern To Claim That All Economists Support Drilling (ThinkProgress 8/6/08)
Today, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich promoted his "Drill Here, Drill Now," dirty-energy-funded plan on C-SPAN's Washington Journal and Fox and Friends. On both shows, he touted the work of an intern at the right-wing American Enterprise Institute, who Gingrich claimed "understands more more about economics than most of the politicians in this country." His proof? The intern found a paper arguing that "the price of oil will drop almost immediately" if the U.S. expands domestic drilling.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/06/gingrich-intern-economist/

Boehner At Home Golfing While House Colleagues Conduct Oil Drilling Protest On Capitol Hill (ThinkProgress 8/6/08)
John Boehner Since last Friday, House Republicans have been engaged in a political stunt on Capitol Hill, staging fake sessions on gas prices while Congress adjourned for recess. Over the weekend, House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) urged Members to return to the Capitol, "although they themselves didn't show up"
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/06/boehner-makes-a-stand/

POLLS

CBS Poll: Obama Holding Off McCain (CBS 8/6/08)
Barack Obama leads John McCain 45 percent to 39 percent in the latest CBS News poll. Despite Obama's highly-publicized foreign trip and McCain's recent high-profile advertisements, the findings are unchanged since a CBS News/New York Times poll released last month. The percentage of undecided voters - 13 percent - also remains steady.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/08/06/opinion/polls/main4325670.shtml

Poll: Trouble Signs in Obama's Lead (TIME 8/6/08)
By Massimo Calabresi
After two weeks of sharpened attacks between the campaigns, Barack Obama is maintaining a narrow 5% lead over John McCain in the race for the White House, a new TIME poll shows. Overall, the poll shows Obama leading McCain 46% to 41% when undecided voters with a slight preference are included (the margin of error was plus or minus three percentage points). That gap is the same as the presumptive Democratic nominee held in June.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1829948,00.html
Link to More on Latest TIME Poll: http://thepage.time.com/more-on-latest-time-poll/

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Sara DuBois
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 9:15:19 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Yep, will do. Welker seems intent on meeting you at some point so we may try to reschedule for tomorrow if it works for you. Do you plan on coming back to the office after the series of HRC meetings ends at 4:30?

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:12 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
Let Jen and Kristina know that I am blowing off ABC.

On Jun 29, 2015 4:08 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Also- Trevor just followed up again with the following on the SCOTUS ruling:

"One more thing to flag. John is certainly aware of today's Supreme Court decision presenting a near-term obstacle for Mercury regulations. He may be asked about it, and he could underscore his confidence that the Obama administration will take the necessary steps to comply and fully implement the regulations, but should there be a delay, HRC will do so as President.

Of note, These pollutants are dangerous primarily to women and their fetuses. They have never been regulated. It's been 25 years since the toxics provisions were adopted by Congress in 1990. The regulations are long overdue."

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
Get a number.

On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

_____

We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

- investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

- protecting families from pollution

- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;

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2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

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3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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From: "Andre, Project On Government Oversight" <afrancisco@pogo.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/20/2014 12:00:51 AM
Subject: Weekly Reader: DoD's Forgotten Real Estate

POGO PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

The Department of Defense has no idea what's going on in more than half the properties it owns

September 20, 2014

Editor's Choice

Report Finds Pentagon's Real Estate Inventory Incomplete, Incorrect and Inconsistent

The Department of Defense has no idea what's going on in more than half the properties it owns and it has no plans to figure that information out, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office. The Pentagon's real estate holdings include more than 5,000 sites valued at about $828 billion. Read more on POGO's blog.

DOE Handling of Whistleblower Case Leaves Much To Be Desired

In 2013, the Department of Energy suspended Dr. James Doyle, a 17-year contract employee, after he wrote an article arguing the benefits of getting rid of nuclear weapon stockpiles. This week, POGO and 17 concerned organizations and individuals wrote a letter to the DOE with serious concerns about how Dr. Doyle has been attacked since publishing his article. Read more on POGO's blog .

Millions Wasted on Communication Towers in Afghanistan

The State Department paid $6.5 million for six communication towers in Afghanistan that were never used as intended, according to a new report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Two of the towers are now in use by the Pentagon, but it seems they will never serve Afghan civilians as intended. Read more on POGO's blog .

USIS Loses Federal Background Check Business

Background check contractor U.S. Investigations Services LLC (USIS) will lose nearly $3 billion in contracts from the Office of Personal Management after USIS was the victim of a cybersecurity attack that compromised the personal data of thousands of government employees. USIS is also being sued for fraud by the Justice Department for submitting 655,000 incomplete or improper background checks. Read more on POGO's blog.

SIGAR Tells Fellow Watchdogs to Shout from the Rooftops

Federal watchdogs are constantly producing important investigations about government waste, fraud and abuse, but many inspectors general offices bury their findings in dense reports. One watchdog, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, has chosen to heavily publicize its work and is now encouraging other offices to follow suit. Read more on POGO's blog .

From the World of POGO

Groups Call for Public Disclosure of the Legal Rationale for US Force Against Islamic State

This week, POGO joined a coalition of other transparency groups in calling for the public disclosure of all Office of Legal Counsel memoranda and other legal opinions setting forth the legal rationale for the United States to use military force against the Islamic State. Read the full letter on POGO.org .

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Congress Must Debate and Decide Whether to Authorize the Continued Use of Military Force Against Islamic State

In a statement this week, POGO's Danielle Brian urged Congress to hold a robust, transparent and fact-based debate about whether to authorize the use of military force against the Islamic State militant organization. Read the full statement on POGO.org.

Tell Your Senator to Support the Bipartisan FOIA Improvement Act

Tweets of the Week

Ex-military & government officials calling for war on ISIS have defense industry ties http://t.co/fQfWmeUV53 via @thenation
— Neil Gordon (@NEGordon) September 15, 2014

"The govt's assertion of the state secrets privilege in certain cases has been less than reassuring." Judge Trenga http://t.co/VKmKVhGJ59
— Liz Hempowicz (@lizzy_loo_hoo) September 16, 2014

When the NSA sues you - "Imagine a well-known, publicly traded company suddenly ceased operating, and the CEO couldn't explain why."
— Andre Francisco (@andrefrancisco) September 16, 2014

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/1/2008 12:22:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 10/01

08 Election Daily News Clips
October 1st, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

2:25pm BUSH: Meeting with Commander for NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan at the White House

7:25pm BUSH: Remarks at the United Service Organizations World Gala in Washington, D.C.
9:00pm McCain: Fundraiser with Cindy McCain in Los Angeles, Ca at Century Plaza Hyatt Regency

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Repeating Keating Era Mistakes, Regulator Warns (Huff Po 10/01/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
As the stock market recovers from its biggest single-day drop since the crash of 1987, a former federal regulator who had a front-row view of John McCain's role in the Savings and Loan scandal says he is repeating some of the same mistakes.
William Black -- a deputy director of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation during the "Keating Five" scandal that nearly ended McCain's political career -- says the Arizona Republican's chief errors at the time were underestimating the importance of regulation and relying too heavily on slanted advice from captains of industry.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/10/01/mccain-repeating-keating_n_130612.html

Hugo of Arabia? (Politcio blog 9/30/08)
By Ben Smith
A Democrat sends over this clip from John McCain's economic forum just now, in which McCain, talking about energy policy, stresses the importance of "ensuring that America is secure, and not dependent on oil from people like Hugo Chavez or other parts of the Middle East which is, we know, could be destabilized under certain sets of circumstances."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0908/Hugo_of_Arabia.html?showall

One-in-four chance McCain may not survive 2nd term (AP 9/30/08)
By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
WASHINGTON (AP) -- If John McCain is elected and goes on to win a second term, there's as much as a one-in-four chance America could see its first woman president - Sarah Palin. It's actuarial math. The odds highly favor either McCain or Barack Obama completing a first term in good health. After that, McCain's odds are still fairly solid, but his chances of dying or being in poor health go up faster than Obama's, mainly because of his age.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PRESIDENTIAL_HEALTH?SITE=ILROR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain Acting Like a Senator Not the President (The Next Right blog 9/30/08)
by Patrick Ruffini |
But more than a misjudgment -- hey, those happen all the time in politics -- it surfaced a problem that should have been clear all along: McCain's inability to create a Presidential persona apart from his legislative persona. Announcing that you're dropping everything, going back to Washington, and singlehandedly forcing a deal is not a Presidential thing to do, but it is a very Senatorial thing to do. Even in crisis, our Presidents have tended to project a calm, above-it-all demeanor that leaves the sausage-making to Congress, even if the behind the scenes reality is always somewhat different.
http://www.thenextright.com/patrick-ruffini/mccain-acting-like-a-senator-not-the-president

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PALIN NEWS

Past Debates Show a Confident Palin, at Times Fluent but Often Vague (NYT 10/01/08)
By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
But just as she does now, Ms. Palin often spoke in generalities and showed scant aptitude for developing arguments beyond a talking point or two. Her sentences were distinguished by their repetition of words, by the use of the phrase "here in Alaska" and for gaps. On paper, her sentences would have been difficult to diagram.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/us/politics/01palin.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Debate offers Palin, Biden high risks, big rewards (AP 9/30/08)
By BETH FOUHY
But a series of shaky Palin television interviews have left even some conservatives questioning whether she is ready to be vice president. She couldn't describe the Bush doctrine in foreign affairs, seemed to have little grasp of the proposed financial industry bailout and even appeared to endorse Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's position on chasing al-Qaida terrorists in Pakistan.
Palin's performance against Biden, the Delaware Democrat with 35 years in the Senate, could restore her initial luster or seriously weaken the GOP ticket.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VICE_PRESIDENTIAL_DEBATE?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=POLITICS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-09-30-21-09-24

On Social Policy Questions, Palin Sticks to Personal Views (WaPo 9/30/08)
By Alec MacGillis
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin stood by her opposition to abortion in cases of rape or incest and her skepticism that global warming is caused by human activity, but she stepped back from her past position favoring the teaching of creationism in public schools.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/30/on_social_policy_questions_pal.html

McCain fudges circumstances of Palin's Pakistan comments (CNN blog 9/30/08)
By Peter Hamby
But McCain refused to acknowledge that Joe Biden's recent criticisms of clean coal — comments used by the McCain campaign in a radio ad and Web video — occurred under similar off-the-cuff circumstances.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/30/mccain-appears-to-fudge-circumstances-of-palins-pakistan-comments/

Palin's Financial Disclosure Now Due Oct. 6 (NYT blog 9/30/08)
By Leslie Wayne
Those waiting for a peek at Governor Sarah Palin's personal finances are going to have to wait just a bit longer, under an agreement between the Federal Election Commission and the McCain campaign.
Federal election law requires the vice presidential candidate to file a personal financial disclosure statement within 30 days of their nomination. But, there seemed to be some confusion between the F.E.C. and the McCain campaign over the exact date of her nomination.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/09/30/palins-financial-disclosure-now-due-oct-6/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain for president: A certain leader for uncertain times (Boston Herald 10/01/08)
By Boston Herald editorial staff
Another sobering start to an exceedingly sobering week - but one which points to the need for a political leader who is steady in the face of crisis, mature in judgment and able to reach across the aisle to break the gridlock that has for too long gripped Washington.That man is Sen. John McCain and at this critical moment in history, this paper is pleased to endorse his candidacy for president of the United States….
Being president is about policy and about getting that policy right. But being president is also about character. During his decades of service to his country John McCain has given us all ample evidence of his courage, his character and his leadership. And never more has this nation needed a president with all that John McCain has to offer.
http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/editorials/view.bg?articleid=1122575&format=text

Vindication for fired U.S. attorney (LA Times 10/01/08)
By David Iglesias
As one of the nine U.S. attorneys fired by the Bush administration in 2006, I have been carefully monitoring the

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train wreck that followed. I am not happy to see the enormous damage that has been done to the Department of Justice, a once-venerated institution. But I am pleased that the internal investigations, including the report released Monday by the department, have fully vindicated what my colleagues and I have been saying for the last two years: Improper politicization has crippled the department, and the Bush administration's culture of partisanship-loyalty above all has done a terrible disservice to this country.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-iglesias1-2008oct01,0,2792832.story

Rescue the Rescue (NYT 10.01/08)
By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
Message to Congress: Don't get cute. Don't give us something we don't need. Don't give us something designed to solve your political problems. Yes, Hank Paulson and Ben Bernanke need to accept strict oversights and the taxpayer must be guaranteed a share in the upside profits from all rescued banks. But other than that, give them the capital and the flexibility to put out this fire.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/opinion/01friedman.html?ref=opinion

The GOP Blames the Victim (WSJ 10/01/08)
By THOMAS FRANK
Two weeks ago, I wrote that the breakdown of the nation's financial industry was undeniably a self-induced injury; that it would finally force conservatives to own up to the wrongheadedness of their deregulatory project; that they couldn't possibly blame the disaster on any of their traditional bogeymen.
But I had forgotten about conservatives' extraordinary instincts for blame-evasion. This is a movement, after all, that blandly recasts its greatest idols as traitors once their popularity has crashed; that routinely sloughs off responsibility for . . . well . . . anything since, by its logic, conservatism has never really been tried in the first place.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122282690823092989.html

A Vote Against Rashness (WaPo 10/01/08)
By George F. Will
It is potentially catastrophic that this crisis comes in the context of a closely contested election and a collapse of presidential authority. Congress should disconnect from a public that cannot be blamed for being more furious about than comprehending of this opaque debacle. The public wanted catharsis and respect for its center-right principles and got both with Monday's House vote. It still needs protection against obliteration of the financial system.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/30/AR2008093002320.html

Too Small for a Big Crisis (WaPo 10/01/08)
By Michael Gerson
America's economic crisis has become a political crisis -- with the second now compounding and exceeding the first.
In the past few days we have witnessed something extraordinary: the revolt of ideology against authority, even against reality. The Bastille of establishment opinion has been stormed and taken, at least temporarily. But the revolution has irresponsibility in its soul.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/30/AR2008093002319.html

Investigating a Scandal (NYT 10/01/08)
Editorial
Attorney General Michael Mukasey made the right choice by appointing a federal prosecutor to decide whether his predecessor, Alberto Gonzales, and others should face criminal charges for the firing of nine prosecutors for what appear to have been partisan reasons….For Ms. Dannehy's investigation to have any credibility, she must obtain sworn testimony from Mr. Rove, Ms. Miers and other witnesses who have defied Congressional subpoenas. She also needs to get the documents that the White House has refused to hand over to Congress and the inspector general.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/opinion/01wed1.html?ref=opinion

BUSH NEWS

Wall Street rallies as Bush renews pledge (Scotsman 10/01/08)
By Lindsay McIntosh
AMERICAN markets rallied yesterday following Monday's bloodbath, after George Bush vowed to get his $700 billion bail-out plan through Congress.
In his fourth address to the nation in a week, the US president warned that quick, decisive action was needed to avoid "painful and lasting" damage.
http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Wall-Street-rallies-as-Bush.4544111.jp

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OTHER TOP NEWS

Congress, White House Weigh Increase in Deposit Insurance (WSJ 10/01/08)
By GREG HITT and DAMIAN PALETTA
WASHINGTON -- Congress and the Bush administration are hashing out an agreement to raise the level of consumers' bank deposits guaranteed by the government, an idea they hope might bring enough support to revive President George W. Bush's planned rescue of financial markets.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122277181408289865.html

Senate to Vote on Revised Plan Wednesday Night (WaPo 9/30/08)
By Shailagh Murray
Leaders of the Senate, where most members have indicated support for the bailout plan, said they would seek a vote on a revised rescue package Wednesday night.
The bill is expected include three provisions aimed at winning over House Republicans: a one-year increase in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation caps for bank and credit-union accounts, extensions of numerous business tax breaks that have expired, and a fix to the "alternative minimum tax" for individual taxpayers.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/livecoverage/2008/09/senate_to_vote_on_revised_plan.html?hpid=topnews

Pelosi's tactics on financial bailout bill questioned (LA Times 10/01/008)
By Janet Hook, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
But she did not look like a speaker of the whole House this week, as the financial industry bailout she helped negotiate was unexpectedly defeated. Republicans deserted in droves, Democrats were split, and Pelosi ended the floor debate before the vote with a passionate critique of Republican economic policies.
http://www.latimes.com/business/la-na-pelosi1-2008oct01,0,7199661.story

Violence Declines Further in Iraq: Pentagon Report Cites Factors That Could Rekindle Attacks (WaPo 10/01/08)
By Ann Scott Tyson
Overall, civilian deaths across Iraq declined 77 percent in the three months from June to August compared with the same period a year ago, with June recording the lowest monthly death rate on record since the war began, the report said. Sectarian killings increased slightly in July and August, but they remained 96 percent lower than for the same period in 2007, it said. For example, there were 26 ethno-sectarian deaths in Baghdad in the summer months -- in contrast to more than 1,200 in the same period last year.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/30/AR2008093002783.html?hpid=topnews

Bloomberg Said to Seek Third-Term Bid (NYT 10/01/08)
By MICHAEL BARBARO and DAVID W. CHEN
In an act that promises to upend New York City's political world, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg plans to announce Thursday that he will seek a third term as mayor, according to four people who have been told of his intentions.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/nyregion/01bloomberg.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

US envoy looks to save nuclear deal in North Korea (Reuters, 10/01/08)
By Jon Herskovitz
SEOUL (Reuters) - A senior US envoy traveled to North Korea on Wednesday in a bid to rescue a faltering nuclear disarmament deal and prevent Pyongyang from rebuilding a plant that made weapons-grade plutonium.
http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE48T2AW20081001

Bargain Hunters Set Stocks Soaring: Credit Markets Tighten As Wall St. Awaits Rescue (WaPo 10/01/08)
By Renae Merle
The Dow Jones industrial average gained 485.21, or 4.7 percent, to close at 10,850.66 and restore most of Monday's record 778-point loss. The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index and technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index also closed up about 5 percent. The S&P 500 gained 58.35, to 1164.74, and the Nasdaq rose 98.60, to 2082.33. Both indexes lost about 9 percent Monday.
On any other day, the rebound would be considered a massive rally, but it was still not enough to offset Monday's slide, which wiped out $1.2 trillion in paper wealth.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/30/AR2008093000856.html?hpid=topnews

RNC ad, was cut, sent out before package failed (Politico blog 9/20/08)
By Ben Smith
The Republican National Committee's new advertisement critical of the the Wall Street "bailout" was produced and sent to television stations in key states before the package failed, officials at two stations said.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0908/RNC_ad_was_cut_sent_out_before_package_failed.html#comments

Reporter's Notebook: Stevens Trials Picks Up Steam (FOX News 10/01/08)
By Ian McCaleb
The trial of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens suddenly lurched forward Tuesday after three straight in-court days characterized by torpid testimony about the specifics of the overhaul of Stevens' ski chalet in Girdwood, Alaska.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,431083,00.html

Ex-Confidant Testifies Against Stevens (WaPo 9/30/08)
by Derek Kravitz
Allen, 71, is the government's star witness against Stevens and testified about the gifts he lavished on "Uncle Ted," Alaska's most recognizable and politically important figure. The Associated Press reports that Allen told jurors how he helped transform Stevens's small A-frame cabin into a two-story home, complete with a garage, sauna, wine cellar and wraparound porches, at a cost of $250,000.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/washingtonpostinvestigations/2008/09/oil_exec_takes_stand_against_a.html

POLLS

New Voters Like Obama,: But May Not Show up at Polls (WSJ 10/01/08)

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By SARA MURRAY
A nationwide poll of Americans who are eligible to vote for the first time, or who skipped the previous election but are registered now, found that they back Sen. Obama over Sen. John McCain by a margin of 61% to 30%.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122282400242492827.html

Fox News Poll: Obama Gains in Battleground States (Fox News 9/30/08)
The latest Fox News/Rasmussen poll in key battleground states finds Sen. Barack Obama gaining a net three to five points in each state.
Colorado: Obama 49%, McCain 48%
Florida: Obama 47%, McCain 47%
Ohio: McCain 48%, Obama 47%
Pennsylvania: Obama 50%, McCain 42%
Virginia: Obama 50%, McCain 47%
Key findings: "In all states, Obama gained ground among unaffiliated voters. While the sample sizes in each state are small and the shifts often modest, the consistency of the result is worth noting... The number saying that they would not be comfortable with Obama as President fell in all five states."
http://politicalwire.com/archives/2008/09/29/fox_news_poll_obama_gains_in_battleground_states.html

Poll: Obama Grabs The Lead In Florida (Talking Points Memo 9/30/08)
By Eric Kleefeld
This could be big news. A new survey of Florida from Public Policy Polling (D) is giving Barack Obama the lead in Florida, where John McCain has led in virtually all the polls up to now.
The numbers: Obama 49%, McCain 46%, with a ±3.2% margin of error. Three weeks ago, PPP gave McCain a lead of 50%-45%, which was about in line with other polls from the time.
The economy seems to really be the source of Obama's surge here. An overwhelming 64% of voters rank the economy as the single biggest issue, and Obama has a 55%-40% lead among this group. Obama is also ahead 54%-43% among the 15% who say the Iraq War is the biggest issue, while McCain makes it close thanks to overwhelming leads among the smaller groups who list the traditional conservative issues of taxes, moral values and immigration.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/09/poll_obama_grabs_the_lead_in_f.php

Insider Advantage: Obama Up In OH, VA (Time blog 9/30/08)
Posted by KYLE TRYGSTAD
New Insider Advantage polls show Obama leading by 6 points in Virginia and 2 points in Ohio.
Virginia (Sept. 29, 436 LV, MoE +/- 5%)
Obama 51
McCain 45
Und 3
Ohio (Sept. 29, 512 LV, MoE +/- 4%)
Obama 47
McCain 45
Und 7
http://time-blog.com/real_clear_politics/2008/09/insider_advantage_obama_up_in.html

ABC News/Washington Post Poll: Candidates Inch Closer (Time blog 9/30/08)
National numbers released Tuesday evening (likely voters):
Obama 50, McCain 46
Comes after Sept. 22 poll found Obama 52, McCain 43.
Dates conducted: Sept. 27-29. Error margin: 3 points.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/30/abcwashpost-poll-candidates-inch-closer/

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/25/2009 6:10:20 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Solving Problems Overseas, Thwarting Terrorism at Home

http://www.nsnetwork.org/node/1414

Solving Problems Overseas, Thwarting Terrorism at Home

Washington, D.C. - This week marked a significant step toward a counter-terrorism policy that is sound and secure, not based on hype. At the UN, President Obama was making progress on the international underpinnings of our security, strengthening international efforts to control nuclear weapons, gaining global backing against Iran, and moving forward on Middle East peace. He built up global goodwill and effectiveness by expressing America's commitment to the United Nations and to efforts to combat climate change, and by pushing successfully to broaden and democratize the key global forum for global economic cooperation.

With little fanfare back in Washington, the government has also been defusing what appears to be a highly developed and operational al-Qaeda plot - what outside experts believe may be the most important one we've faced since 9/11. The suspect, Najibullah Zazi, had travelled to an al-Qaeda camp in Pakistan; possessed detailed bomb-making instructions and apparently purchased significant amounts of bomb-making ingredients. Experts explained that this plot closely resembled the July 2005 attacks in London.

What was missing from this investigation were the multiple press conferences and politicized hype that accompanied terrorism prosecutions in the Bush years. This transparent politicization did nothing to keep America safe and sowed distrust, skepticism, and division. Rather, the FBI and police have gone about their work in a display of confident, competent, effective governance in the face of genuine threats.

Details continue to emerge in 'most serious' terrorist case in years, with careful, coordinated law enforcement in the lead. NPR describes most terrorist plots that have emerged in the US since 9/11 as "aspirational, rather than operational," but the case of legal Afghan immigrant Najibullah Zazi appears to be different "Documents filed in Brooklyn against the driver, Najibullah Zazi, contend he bought chemicals needed to build a bomb - hydrogen peroxide, acetone and hydrochloric acid - and in doing so, Mr. Zazi took a critical step made by few other terrorism suspects," said the Times. The Wall Street Journal summarized the details of the case: "The Federal Bureau of Investigation alleges that Mr. Zazi last week admitted to receiving explosives training during 2008 from al Qaeda in the tribal areas of Pakistan before returning to the U.S. The FBI said it found an image on Mr. Zazi's laptop computer containing nine pages of handwritten notes on bomb-making and handling, and that the case is connected to a plot to detonate bombs inside the U.S. The scope of the plot and potential targets are unclear." U.S. officials cited in the Journal article caution that there is still much to learn about the case, but that it could be the "first active al Qaeda cell uncovered inside the U.S. since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks."

Regrettably, some commentators are already asking whether interrogators are "working Zazi over" hard enough. But it's been clear from media reports that the FBI and police are gauging what they know - and what they let the public know that they know - very carefully. Former FBI interrogator Ali Soufan - who through traditional and lawful interrogation was able to determine that KSM was the 9-11 mastermind - explains the way the FBI goes about interrogations: "It is a knowledge-based approach. It is about outwitting the detainee by using a combination of interpersonal, cognitive, and emotional strategies to get the information needed. If done correctly it's an approach that works quickly and effectively because it outwits the detainee using a method that he is not trained, or able, to resist. This Informed Interrogation Approach is in sharp contrast with the harsh interrogation approach introduced by outside contractors and forced upon CIA officials to use."

In separate but likely unrelated news, FBI agents conducted two sting operations aimed at plots directed at targets in Springfield, Illinois and Dallas, Texas. Reuters reports that "Michael Finton, also known as Talib Islam, was arrested in Springfield, Illinois, and charged with attempted murder of federal officers or employees and trying to use a weapon of mass destruction," after "he used a cell phone to try to detonate the bomb he believed was inside a van he had just parked outside the federal building." In Dallas, federal officials arrested Hosam Maher Husein Smadi, a 19-year old Jordanian illegal immigrant, when he "tried to set off an explosive attached to a vehicle at the base of the 60-story Fountain Place office

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tower," according to CNN. Like the Illinois case, this plot also turned out to have been infiltrated as part of an FBI sting operation, and the explosive attached to the vehicle was a fake. [NY Times, 9/25/09 . WSJ, 9/24/09 . NPR, 9/25/09 . TNR, 9/25/09 . Ali Soufan, 5/13/09 . Reuters, 9/25/09 . CNN, 9/25/09]

Methodical investigation and low-key media coverage of serious terrorist-plot contrast with overly-politicized Bush administration approach. Though details of the Zazi case are still emerging, it already appears to be clear break from the pattern of government investigations of terrorist plots during the last administration. The New York Times reports: "The Zazi case 'actually looks like the case the government kept claiming it had but never did,' said Karen J. Greenberg, executive director of the Center on Law and Security at New York University law school. Her center has studied all the prosecutions of terrorism-related crimes since 2001, and she said many had turned out to be 'fantasy terrorism cases' where the threat seemed modest or even nonexistent. This time, she said, 'the ingredients here are quite scary,' and the government's statements have had none of the bombast and exaggeration that accompanied some previous arrest announcements." The sober manner in which the Zazi arrest was made is in sharp contrast to the tactics used by federal officials during the Bush administration, which did not always correspond to the seriousness of the suspected threat.

Last month, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge revealed that "he successfully countered an effort by senior Bush administration officials to raise the nation's terror alert level in the days before the 2004 presidential vote," according to CNN. After a pre-election message by Osama Bin Laden, "Attorney General John Ashcroft and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld strongly advocated raising the security threat level to 'orange,' even though Ridge believed a threatening message 'should not be the sole reason to elevate the threat level.'" In his new book, Ridge relates wondering whether the move was "about security or politics?" [Karen J. Greenberg, via NY Times, 9/25/09 . Former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, 8/21/09]

Obama administration keeps America safe from terrorist threat, while at the same time pushing bold international and domestic agenda. In April, former Vice-President Dick Cheney said that President Obama "is making some choices that, in my mind, will, in fact, raise the risk to the American people of another attack." This week has proven him completely wrong. Not only has the administration successfully prevented an attack at home, it has made significant accomplishments on the world stage, addressing some of the most dangerous long term threats to American security. The arrest of Najibullah Zazi,occurred during a week that the Washington Post described as a "whirlwind week of international gatherings and diplomacy -- a climate-change summit and Middle East meetings on Tuesday; the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council on Wednesday and Thursday; and a Group of 20 meeting of world leaders to discuss the international economy on Friday." [Dick Cheney, CNN, 4/20/09 . Washington Post, 9/24/09]

- **Achieved significant progress on nonproliferation.** Joe Cirincione, President of the Ploughshares Fund, writes in the Guardian, "[t]he past two days at the United Nations, culminating in a special UN Security Council session, have been remarkable. Obama consolidated international support for the nuclear agenda he first unveiled in Prague and embedded its principles in international law with the unanimous approval of a sweeping UN resolution." [Joe Cirincione, The Guardian Comment is Free, 9/24/09]
- **Restructured the G20 to be more representative and effective.** The New York Times reports, "President Obama will announce Friday that the once elite club of rich industrial nations known as the Group of 7 will be permanently replaced as a global forum for economic policy by the much broader Group of 20 that includes China, Brazil, India and other fast-growing developing countries, administration officials said Thursday." [NY Times, 9/25/09]
- **Strengthened the international response to Iran.** President Obama increased pressure on Iran heading into talks on its nuclear program by gaining Russian verbal support for sanctions if diplomacy fails. The New York Times reported that Russian President Dmitri Medvedev "signaled for the first time that Russia would be amenable to longstanding American requests to toughen sanctions against Iran significantly" if talks scheduled for next month head nowhere. "'I told His Excellency Mr. President that we believe we need to help Iran to take a right decision,' Mr. Medvedev said, adding that 'sanctions rarely lead to productive results, but in some cases, sanctions are inevitable.'" [NY Times, 9/24/09]
- **Reengaged the UN and challenged its members.** In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, President Obama said, "Now, like all of you, my responsibility is to act in the interest of my nation and my people, and I will never apologize for defending those interests. But it is my deeply held belief that in the year 2009 -- more than at any point in human history -- the interests of nations and peoples are shared... We have sought -- in word and deed -- a new era of engagement with the world. And now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges." [Barack Obama, 9/23/09]
- **Revamped missile defense and U.S.-Russia relations.** By ending the failed missile defense program last week, the Administration bolstered relations with Russia, a key partner for addressing nuclear proliferation. The Washington Post reported last week, "the abrupt reversal of U.S. defense policy immediately brought plaudits from Russian officials, who had viewed the prospect of an American missile shield system on their country's western border as an affront. The shift raised the possibility of greater cooperation between the two powers on containing the Iranian threat and in

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negotiating an extension of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which expires in early December." According to the New York Times, administration officials acknowledged "that missile defense might have had something to do with Moscow's newfound verbal cooperation on the Iran sanctions issue." [Washington Post, 9/18/09. NY Times, 9/24/09]

- **Pushed economic and domestic policy.** While the president was focusing largely on foreign and security policy, there were significant domestic and economic actions this week as well. The Washington Post reports that, "Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner on Wednesday once again pressed Congress to pass a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's financial regulatory system, telling members of the House Financial Services Committee that 'we can't let the momentum for reform fade as the memory of the crisis recedes.'" Meanwhile the healthcare debate rages on as "Advocates for a public insurance plan - the idea that has generated the most passion in the high-decibel health care debate - are pressing for a crucial test vote in the Senate Finance Committee," writes the Post. [Washington Post, 9/24/09. Washington Post, 9/25/09]

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/8/2014 2:11:41 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday October 8, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday October 8, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill: "Clinton allies look to build tech advantage ahead of '16"

"Hillary Clinton's allies are building a technological advantage for her prospective presidential campaign, meant to scare Democrats thinking about challenging her in a primary and intimidate Republicans who would oppose her in the general election."

CNN: "Warren Buffett will bet you that Hillary Clinton wins in 2016"

"Warren Buffett is so sure that Hillary Clinton will win the presidency in 2016, he is willing to wager some of his $58.2 billion net worth."

MSNBC: "Panetta hitches raft to Clinton, jettisons Obama"

"On arming the so-called moderate Syrian rebels, the most contentious issue that divided Clinton and Obama during her tenure in the administration, Panetta staked out a position further from the White House than Clinton's."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Leon Panetta boiled down Democrats' criticism of Barack Obama to one sentence"

"What's fascinating about this gripe with Obama is how much it plays into a) the argument that Hillary Clinton made against him in the 2008 presidential primary and b) the argument Hillary Clinton will likely make when (sorry, if) she runs for president in 2016."

Politico column: Roger Simon: "4 things Hillary can do to win"

"Here are four dramatic things Hillary Clinton can do to win the presidency. Wait, did I skip the fact she has not yet announced for office? Yeah, I

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am skipping that."

Politico: "Bill Clinton urges young voters away from 'resentment'"

"He [Pres. Clinton] described his time teaching law at this school as among the happiest times he and his wife — possible presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton — experienced."

Huffington Post opinion: Peter D. Rosenstein: "Hillary Rodham Clinton Represents the Unfinished Business of our Democracy"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton holds in her hands the hopes and desires of many but none more than the women and girls here in the United States and those who look to the United States around the world."

Mediaite: "Leon Panetta Defends Hillary from 'Unfair' Benghazi Criticisms on O'Reilly"

"A significant chunk of Bill O'Reilly's interview with Leon Panetta tonight was about Benghazi, as well as the Obama administration's reaction to that infamous attack. At one point, Panetta defended Hillary Clinton and said she would have definitely acted on any security issues if she had been aware of them."

National Review: "Panetta Hints He'd Take Hillary in a Match-Up Against Biden"

"'Hillary Clinton, I know could do the job,' he continued, 'because she's somebody who's got experience, she's got the toughness of mind and commitment to this country that I think is important.'"

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hawk eyes 2016"

"Former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton hasn't decided whether he'll run for president in 2016 — but he says he'd like to debate Hillary Clinton."

CNN: "Jindal is 'thinking and praying' about 2016 presidential run"

"He [Jindal] also slammed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a potential Democratic presidential candidate, for making decisions the he believes has set America on a path for 'more chaos, more conflict and more wars.'"

Articles:

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The Hill: "Clinton allies look to build tech advantage ahead of '16"

By Amie Parnes

October 8, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton's allies are building a technological advantage for her prospective presidential campaign, meant to scare Democrats thinking about challenging her in a primary and intimidate Republicans who would oppose her in the general election.

It is an effort that allies — including former digital gurus to President Obama's presidential campaigns — say will far exceed the current president's campaign efforts, which broke new ground and relied heavily on digital platforms to fundraise as well as organize and mobilize supporters.

The pro-Clinton super-PAC Ready for Hillary, for example, is on its way to targeting 3 million identified Clinton supporters who could be relied on to provide small-dollar contributions and come to the polls.

The political action committee, which has received money from more than 100,000 donors, is using a so-called "ladder of engagement" that begins with a "please like our Facebook page" request and ends with an email asking the visitor to donate or volunteer for the campaign.

Of the $4 million the super-PAC raised in 2013, $1.2 million was invested in digital advertising, the group's largest expenditure, officials say.

The PAC is also using the database to help Democrats in tight races around the country. That includes in Iowa, where it is helping Rep. Bruce Braley's struggling Senate campaign — and where it could benefit Clinton in the 2016 caucuses. The super-PAC used the database to send emails to supporters in the state, asking them to join Clinton in supporting Braley by chipping in $5.

"We can't sit on the sidelines — we need to work as hard in 2014 as would if Hillary were on the ballot," one email to Iowa supporters says.

Within the next few days, the group will launch a "national call tool" that will allow supporters to make calls to voters in crucial 2014 states, a source familiar with the effort told The Hill.

Should she decide to run early next year, Clinton would simply have to buy or rent the database to tap into the wealth of data the super-PAC has collected.

Republicans acknowledge Team Clinton is "leaps and bounds" ahead of where it needs to be, as one put it.

Tim Miller, the executive director of America Rising, the Republican super-PAC that has been targeting Clinton, said Republicans "need to realize this is an area where Clinton's team is investing early, and where they're going to invest, and we need to level the playing field."

Tony Fratto, who served as deputy press secretary to former President George W. Bush, also acknowledged that the Clinton operation has a running start.

"It's true that, in the digital space, having a head start can help," Fratto said. "I don't think there's any question about it. … No one else has an organization to speak of, and that could be a huge advantage for her."

To be sure, the digital and tech outreach is far better than the lackluster tech operation Clinton had in 2008, which the Obama campaign pummeled at the time.

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Team Obama revolutionized modern campaigning, building a sophisticated and comprehensive database and using technology as both a fundraising and organizing tool to mobilize potential voters.

“[The online effort] was much more aggressive because it was something they started earlier,” said Kevin Thurman, who served as Clinton’s deputy Internet director in 2008. “They were taking a large amount of data and making it more useful. We had to figure that stuff out.”

Thurman also added that Obama’s 2008 supporter base, made up of many younger voters, gravitated toward that medium because they were looking for a different kind of candidate.

In 2016, if Clinton chooses to run, she’ll be better positioned technologically, according to allies.

For example, when Ready for Hillary relaunched its website in March, it had help from 270 Strategies, a firm that employs a number of the players who executed Obama’s digital strategy.

Betsy Hoover, a partner at 270 who served as director of digital organizing for the 2012 Obama campaign, said the response rate to the Ready for Hillary site has been “huge,” and she said there’s a “definite infrastructure in place that will be helpful to the Clinton campaign.”

And while Hoover stopped shy of saying whether it would keep other Democrats out of a presidential primary, Thurman, who is not currently involved in any Clinton operation, said the former secretary of State is well ahead of other potential competitors; Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), he said, would come closest to having an online footprint.

Sources at Ready for Hillary say the group’s main goal in starting the digital venture before the campaign would be for Clinton to take over the data it has gathered when she announces a bid for the presidency.

Clinton, sources close to her say, learned her lesson on the digital front after her 2008 loss and became personally invested in trying to incorporate it more during her tenure at the State Department and beyond. In the immediate aftermath of her campaign, she started asking aides what she could have done better technology-wise in various states during the election. And when she arrived at Foggy Bottom, she invested resources to applying it around the world in the spirit of public diplomacy.

One longtime Clinton aide summed up her embrace this way: “It’s gone from being relegated to the basement to the corner office. … Once it was all very second guess, and now everyone has realized it’s absolutely central.”

CNN: “Warren Buffett will bet you that Hillary Clinton wins in 2016”

By Dan Merica

October 7, 2014, 2:17 p.m. EDT

Warren Buffett is so sure that Hillary Clinton will win the presidency in 2016, he is willing to wager some of his $58.2 billion net worth.

"Hillary is going to win, yeah," Buffett, a outspoken Clinton supporter, said at Fortune's Most Powerful Women Summit. "I will bet money on it. And I don't do that easily."

But while Clinton has said she is thinking about running for president, she has yet to announce.

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Buffett suggested on Tuesday that her announcement is a forgone conclusion.

"Hillary is going to run," said the chairman and chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway, later adding that "she is going to announce as late as possible."

"I don't see how you could have anybody better qualified," Buffett told CNN's Poppy Harlow in an interview. "I like what she believes in. ... I think she's extraordinarily able and energetic for that matter in pushing those beliefs."

Buffett has long supported Clinton -- he donated $2,000 to her Senate campaign in 2000. But the investor from Omaha, Nebraska, supported Clinton and then-Sen. Barack Obama in their fight for the Democratic nomination in 2008.

Buffett was less sure about which Republicans would run for president, he said at the fortune event.

"I don't know," he said. "Her opponent will be whoever wins the Republican primary and there are going to be a lot of people who want to do it."

MSNBC: "Panetta hitches raft to Clinton, jettisons Obama"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

October 7, 2014, 4:31 p.m. EDT

Why do President Obama's secretaries of defense keep trashing him?

This week, former Defense Secretary and CIA Director Leon Panetta joins his predecessor, Robert Gates, in writing memoirs about their time in government that includes unvarnished criticism of their former boss.

In Penatta's book, "Worthy Fights: A Memoir of Leadership in War and Peace," and media interviews timed to its release, the Democrat says President Obama has "lost his way" and was wrong to withdraw all troops from Iraq. He also criticizes the president's "failure" not to earlier arm so-called moderate Syrian rebels. Rather than assert initiative, Panetta writes, the president "avoids the battle, complains, and misses opportunities."

Gates went even farther in his book published in January, writing that the president made military decisions for political reasons.

There's a rich history of administration officials of both parties who have left government to write censorious books about a chief executive still in office. Besides these exposés' stated goals of record straightening, truth-telling, and lesson-dispensing, the books often have more personal aims as well. After all, these former officials wouldn't burn a bridge to the most powerful person in the world unless they had a compelling reason to do so, or at least feared no consequences.

Some commentators have wondered why Panetta and Gates (and to a lesser degree former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton) have shown such "stunning disloyalty" to the president, as the Washington Post's Dana Milbank wrote. Vice President Biden last week criticized the books as "inappropriate."

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But Gates and Panetta never took a loyalty oath to Obama. Neither man owes Barack Obama for their careers, nor does he have anything to offer them in his final two years in office. There is little downside to them for speaking out, and plenty of upside. Call it a side affect of the much-vaunted "Team of Rivals" approach Obama took in arranging his cabinet.

Gates was a Republican near the end of his career who was appointed defense secretary by George W. Bush and had served previously under Bush's father. Obama, after winning election in 2007, had to practically beg Gates to stay on the job. Panetta, meanwhile, had already served as White House Chief of Staff and Budget Director under Bill Clinton. When Obama took office in 2009, Panetta was happily retired at his beloved walnut farm in California.

Panetta owes a lot more to Bill Clinton than to Obama. who made the former House Budget Committee. And if anyone can offer Panetta anything of interest now, it's not the lame duck Obama, but Clinton's wife.

Hillary Clinton and Panetta (and Gates before Panetta) were often allies in internal administration debates, countering the influence of the more dovish Biden. Now on the outside, Panetta seems to be doing as much as he can to use his accrued credibility to boost Clinton.

In an interview with msnbc's Andrea Mitchell Tuesday, Panetta was asked who was more qualified to be president – Clinton or Biden, who is also considering a bid. "They both could do the job as president. But, I think Hillary Clinton, because she is out there, is somebody that i think could be a very strong president," he replied.

On arming the so-called moderate Syrian rebels, the most contentious issue that divided Clinton and Obama during her tenure in the administration, Panetta staked out a position further from the White House than Clinton's. While Clinton has said she "can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended…we'd be in a demonstrably different place," Panetta is willing to go farther.

"We would be in a better position to have in the rebel operation, a group that we would have worked with and helped arm," he told Mitchell. That position vindicates Clinton's support for arming rebels, while allowing her to stay closer to Obama,.

On Benghazi, the biggest scandal on Clinton's watch at State, Panetta offered another subtle, but notable assist to Clinton. She and former UN Ambassador Susan Rice have come under fire for using talking points that falsely stated the violence was the outgrowth of a protest, not a coordinated terror attack.

But in his book, Panetta blames the CIA and its then-director, David Petraeus, for delivering faulty intelligence. "I remember saying [to Petraeus] look, based on the weapons I see and the nature of the attack, I think this was a terrorist attack. He said look, the information we are getting from intelligence sources is that it really was a demonstration. I said you know, David, I don't see it that way," he told Mitchell.

The compound in Libya was essentially an intelligence operation with diplomatic cover. And in the aftermath of the attack, the CIA and the State Department fought a back-channel bureaucratic war over responsibility, evident in emails released by the White House that show the evolution of those infamous talking points.

By tacitly siding with Clinton's State Department, and against the CIA, Panetta bolsters Clinton on one of her biggest weakness with the credibility that only a former CIA Director can possibly bring to the table.

The situation is more complicated for Clinton, who wrote her own memoir and used the accompanying media tour to criticize the president's foreign policy. Her tenure as secretary of state has made her immeasurably stronger politically, and she'll need the president's supporters if she runs again.

But Clinton did, of course, lose the presidential nomination to Obama in a contest largely centered on the two candidates' positions on the 2003 invasion of Iraq. And she'll also need to distance herself from the deeply unpopular White House if she runs again.

Panetta, it seems, is ready to help.

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Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Leon Panetta boiled down Democrats' criticism of Barack Obama to one sentence"

By Chris Cillizza

October 7, 2014, 2:59 p.m. EDT

Former CIA director Leon Panetta was on "Andrea Mitchell Reports" on MSNBC on Thursday for an extended interview about the critiques he lobs at President Obama in a new book entitled "Worthy Fights". The most cutting -- and perhaps most insightful -- portion of the interview was when Panetta told Mitchell about his disagreement with Obama's approach to politics. "Too often in my view the President relies on the logic of the law professor rather than the passion of a leader," said Panetta.

That simple sentence encapsulates much of the criticism that I've heard from Congressional Democrats (as well as many in the activist community) about President Obama for years. (That similarity is not an accident; Panetta spent almost two decades in the 1970s and 1980s in Congress as a House member from California.) There is a sense that Obama believes that simply proposing his argument is enough to carry the day. That the nitty-gritty horse-trading of the sort past Democratic presidents like Lyndon Johnson and Bill Clinton were legendary for is simply anathema to how he views politics and his role in it.

Take the Affordable Care Act. Once it -- finally -- passed, Congressional Democrats kept waiting (and waiting) for President Obama to take the message reins and sell the hell out of it around the country. While Obama did do some barnstorming in support of the law, it was never to the extent -- or with the intensity -- that Democrats on the ballot in 2010 thought it should be. The losses they incurred -- especially losing control of the House -- were laid at the feet of Obama by many of the people who lost their seats and those Members of Congress they left behind.

Since that debacle there has been an ever-present sense that the passion of Obama on the campaign trail in his 2008 election has never been matched while he has actually been in the White House. Obama as diffident -- or indifferent -- to the differences between what is good for him and what is good for the party has been a continuing source of frustration for Democrats in Congress. Not only, they believe, has he not been willing to really fight for his priorities but he also seems to not grasp that when he says things like "every single one" of his policies are on the ballot this fall, it makes their political lives that much harder.

Some of this tension is natural -- and transcends parties. Presidents always have a certain way of doing things that they believe works because, well, it got them elected president. And Members of Congress always feel as though the president of their party isn't paying enough attention to them and their needs because he is too focused on his own political life.

But, Panetta's comment does strike at the core of what many Democrats don't like or don't trust about Obama. They simply don't believe he understood/understands how Washington works -- Panetta said almost exactly that later in his interview with Mitchell -- and has never truly grasped that a single compelling argument alone isn't enough to change minds.

What's fascinating about this gripe with Obama is how much it plays into a) the argument that Hillary Clinton made against him in the 2008 presidential primary and b) the argument Hillary Clinton will likely make when (sorry, if) she runs for president in 2016. That argument, in short: I have been there and done that. I know what it takes to move the levers of power in Washington -- and I am willing to do whatever it takes to make them move.

That's a message that will appeal to many establishment -- and activist -- Democrats who feel as though they have spent the last six years with a Democratic president who didn't understand -- and didn't want to understand -- the realities of getting things done in D.C.

Politico column: Roger Simon: "4 things Hillary can do to win"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Roger Simon

October 8, 2014, 5:01 a.m. EDT

Here are four dramatic things Hillary Clinton can do to win the presidency.

Wait, did I skip the fact she has not yet announced for office? Yeah, I am skipping that.

And am I skipping her battle for the Democratic nomination? Yeah, I am skipping that, too. For now.

I am going straight to the general election because the only way to get past Hillary fatigue is to get things over with quickly.

So how does Hillary win the presidency? Should she play it cautiously and hope the Republicans nominate somebody so out of touch with the American people that she cannot lose? Or should she run a campaign of big risks and big rewards?

Her nature may be to do the former. But some people I have been talking to suggest she do the latter.

So here are four, somewhat startling things, she can do:

1. Hillary should announce she will serve only one term as president.

I admit I was shocked when I first heard this idea. I couldn't see any rationale for it.

"The rationale for running for just one term is that you can say: 'Here are the three or four big things I want to do in my administration, and I am going to pursue them without the distraction of reelection," a top-flight Democratic strategist with presidential campaign experience told me.

"She says: 'I can try to accomplish what I want to and not be focused on my reelection 18 months after I get into office.'"

Also, it would save her the enormous amount of time, focus and energy it takes to raise money for a second term, which by 2020, could be $5 billion or so.

"It would send the message that we have a real agenda," the strategist said. "It would say: 'We are going to pursue economic growth, immigration reform, education reform and a sound foreign policy. We are going to keep the American people on our side, put pressure on Congress, drive our agenda and get something done.'"

2. Hillary should also require her running mate to serve for just one term.

"I think requiring the same pledge from the vice presidential candidate would send the message we are not going to play politics for four years," the source said. "I admit it's a pretty ballsy thing to do."

The real question could be: Can you find someone who is willing to serve as vice president for just four years and then not turn around and run for president?

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3. Hillary should not be afraid to choose a woman as a running mate.

Think that's risky? Maybe. But not really that much riskier than when Bill Clinton picked Al Gore as a running mate in 1992. The choice confounded those who believed tickets had to be "balanced" in terms of geography, age, religion, political leanings — or all of the above.

Yet Clinton and Gore both were from the South, they were only 19 months apart in age, they were both Southern Baptists, and they were both moderates.

And they both won. Twice.

Some powerful women in the Democratic Party have already come out against the idea, however. "It's certainly possible to have two women," Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California told The New York Times in April. "I am not sure it's wise. You want a ticket that represents men and women."

Ruth Mandel, director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, told the paper: "If Hillary Clinton decides to run, she will bring many women with her. Her candidacy would be a historic moment in mobilizing women's interest. But whether she would put another woman on the ticket, that's a very different calculus. As women, we tend to do our changes in increments."

But why get cold feet now? The Democrats have a deep field of qualified women, and there is no disputing the power of the women's vote.

Some 53 percent of voters in 2012 were women, and 55 percent of them voted for Barack Obama, compared with 44 percent who voted for Mitt Romney. Romney won the male vote by 52 percent to 45 percent, but it didn't put him in the White House.

Republicans who think they can spurn female voters and still win the presidency are probably kidding themselves.

4. Hillary should distance herself from Obama, not so much on issues as on attitude.

One senior Democrat already has a theme for her: "I can work with people."

"If she has a specific agenda and the ability to work with people," the strategist said, "then voters will assume she can get something done. It would be a big game changer."

Politico: "Bill Clinton urges young voters away from 'resentment'"

By Katie Glueck

October 7, 2014, 2:13 p.m. EDT

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday made a tailored pitch to young voters, urging students to back Democrats on the 2014 ballot because they are "too young" to cast votes of "resentment."

Those comments came at the University of Arkansas' flagship campus on the third stop of Clinton's two-day, four-stop tour stumping for Arkansas Democrats.

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“Why are all these people trying to get you to cast resentment votes?” said Clinton, this state’s beloved former governor, of national Republicans. “You’re too young. You should be voting for what you’re for. …You should be voting for your dreams.”

It was an echo of remarks he made a day earlier, when Clinton argued that the GOP was trying to convince Arkansans to view the midterm elections as their last chance to vote against President Barack Obama, who is deeply unpopular here. Clinton has been making the case that Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mike Ross should be viewed on their own merits, and that the national party is irrelevant in their races.

But polls show that Ross is behind GOP candidate Asa Hutchinson and Pryor is in one of the closest races of the cycle, against Rep. Tom Cotton.

Clinton’s emphasis here, speaking to a pavilion packed with cheering students, was more focused on the importance of the youth vote — a group that tends to back Democrats, but also tends to stay home during midterms.

“The reason this keeps happening is, you don’t show up in midterms!” he admonished as he lamented congressional gridlock.

As he did in earlier stops, Clinton noted that the polls show the Democrats either locked in close races or trailing — but said that was based on the assumption that young people don’t vote.

“This is all about whether you show up,” he said here, saying that midterms are “every bit as important to your future as elections when there is a presidential candidate on the ballot.”

Clinton zeroed in on issues like student loans and equal pay for men and women, hot-button issues for the base. But he couldn’t help waxing nostalgic about his past. He reminisced about the “broad-based prosperity” enjoyed during his administration. And he described his time teaching law at this school as among the happiest times he and his wife — possible presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton — experienced.

“I got to live my dreams,” he said, hitting the podium as he reflected on the “six jobs” he worked through law school, the gig he held down as an undergrad and his eventual ability to pay down his student debt. He argued that the Democrats on the ballot want to make that kind of future more accessible for everyone — and that students here should care about that, too.

Clinton, reminding the students to take the election personally, told the crowd: “I’ve got more yesterdays than tomorrows. You’ve got more tomorrows than yesterdays.”

Huffington Post opinion: Peter D. Rosenstein: “Hillary Rodham Clinton Represents the Unfinished Business of our Democracy”

By Peter D. Rosenstein

October 7, 2014, 2:26 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton holds in her hands the hopes and desires of many but none more than the women and girls here in the United States and those who look to the United States around the world.

She represents the fulfillment of what I am sure many of our fore-mothers erroneously believed about the Declaration of Independence and that was that they were meant to be included in these most famous lines, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

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Women learned and had confirmed for them again in the fight over the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution that it wasn't true. The simple words of that amendment first written by Alice Paul in 1923 and finally passed by both houses of Congress in 1972 failed to get enough state legislatures to pass it. The sentiment rejected was, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

So our Constitution, admired by people around the world, is an unfinished document purposely not granting full equality to more than half the population. Its preamble reads, "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." As late as the 1980's when the fight for the ERA was lost, Americans said they were not ready to ensure that women could see themselves in the statement 'We the People'. Hillary Clinton's election in 2016 would declare to the world that the United States is now ready to include all people in order to form a 'more perfect union'.

GOP consultant Katie Packer Gage was quoted in a Hill newspaper article saying about Hillary, "Women are not necessarily a group that feels in need of a champion". She totally misses the point about Hillary. Hillary can be elected because at one time or another all people feel the need for a champion. She is more than just a champion for women's rights and the rights of girls to get a fair shot at success. She has become a champion for those who have worked their entire lives and fear not being able to leave their children a better life and safer world. Whether it is her work for the Children's Defense Fund, rebuilding the education system in Arkansas, fighting for healthcare for all Americans or as Secretary of State, she is a champion to many around the world.

Champions aren't always universally loved. But even many of those who don't see her as their champion respect her intelligence and incredible work ethic. They understand, whether they agree with her or not, Hillary has lived her life guided by a steadfast set of principles leading her to help others be all they can be. Her faith has played a big part in her life and while she may not attend church each Sunday she is clearly a religious person. Brought up a Methodist she often attended services with her daughter at the Foundry United Methodist Church in the District of Columbia; a congregation with a strong commitment to community service.

Many know that a Hilary Rodham Clinton campaign in 2016 will be different from the one her consultants crafted in 2008. Hillary appears to have reached a stage in her life where she is totally comfortable being true to who she is and speaking out as the brilliant and caring person she is. When Hillary's feelings and beliefs share the stage with her knowledge she always shines. When she doesn't follow a script written by campaign consultants but rather follows her heart she wins.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is recognized as a world leader with more background and experience in policy and diplomacy than any person ever to run for President. Lest anyone forget her courage they must remember Hillary as the woman who stood up and spoke from her heart in 1995 at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. There she called on the world community "to protect women against violence, improve their access to health services and education and give them more self-determination." The most quoted line from that speech is; "It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights. It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls." No one could question that Hillary was a champion then.

This is the Hillary Rodham Clinton who if she runs and is elected President in 2016 will move us another giant step toward forming a 'more perfect union' and finishing the business of our democracy.

Mediaite: "Leon Panetta Defends Hillary from 'Unfair' Benghazi Criticisms on O'Reilly"

By Josh Feldman

October 7, 2014, 9:21 p.m. EDT

A significant chunk of Bill O'Reilly's interview with Leon Panetta tonight was about Benghazi, as well as the Obama administration's reaction to that infamous attack. At one point, Panetta defended Hillary Clinton and said she would have definitely acted on any security issues if she had been aware of them.

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O'Reilly brought up the frequent criticism that Clinton received multiple cables about security problems at the Benghazi consulate, but didn't act. He asked if that's fair or not. Panetta said, "I think it's unfair, because if I know Hillary Clinton, if she knew there was a security problem in Benghazi, she would have done something about it."

When pressed by O'Reilly, Panetta said he's not intimately familiar with the bureaucracy at the State Department, but insisted that if Clinton had been aware of any security issues, she would have acted.

Watch the video below, via Fox News:

[VIDEO]

National Review: "Panetta Hints He'd Take Hillary in a Match-Up Against Biden"

By Brendan Bordelon

October 7, 2014, 2:16 p.m. EDT

Leon Panetta worked closely with both Vice President Joe Biden and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton as CIA director and then secretary of defense. So it's not surprising he was diplomatic when asked about a possible presidential matchup between the two, but it was easy to tell whom the former secretary of defense favors.

"Who would be a better commander-in-chief?" NBC's Andrea Mitchell asked Panetta on Tuesday.

"You know, it's tough for me to kind of say that Joe Biden couldn't do that job," he said. "Because frankly Joe Biden has a lot of experience, particularly as vice president."

"Hillary Clinton, I know could do the job," he continued, "because she's somebody who's got experience, she's got the toughness of mind and commitment to this country that I think is important."

Panetta was former President Bill Clinton's chief of staff from 1994 to 1997, and it's been suggested he'll be angling for another White House post should Hillary win the White House in 2016.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hawk eyes 2016"

By Alexandra Jaffe

October 8, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

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Former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton hasn't decided whether he'll run for president in 2016 — but he says he'd like to debate Hillary Clinton.

"I'm not giving anything away here, but I'd love to debate Hillary Clinton one on one," he told The Hill, detailing his frustration with the former secretary of State and Democratic front-runner during a Tuesday interview at his political action committee's downtown Washington offices.

While there's renewed talk of him running for the White House as foreign policy becomes an important topic on this year's campaign trail, Bolton would rather discuss his efforts to "elevate national security in the national debate" through his PAC and super-PAwC — a timely endeavor making him a player in 2014.

Th groups together have raised more than $6.5 million as of the last reporting period, and they plan to spend all of it on the midterm elections. As for 2016, he's focused on the current elections and claims he has no timeline for making a decision on a presidential campaign.

"I don't know when, and I don't know what the factors will be [in making the decision]. I'm focused on November, and I'll just have to think about it when it's over," he said.

But it's clear the presidential race — and the likely skepticism he'd meet despite re-emerging as a respected voice within the GOPon foreign policy over the past year — is on his mind.

Bolton is traveling to Florida, Arkansas, Illinois and New Hampshire to campaign for candidates over the next two weeks.

And during his interview with The Hill, Bolton mentioned multiple times, unprompted, how the work of running a PAC has given him an inside look at how to run a campaign.

"I've certainly learned a lot about how campaigns over the years, and candidates, have wasted money in politics," said Bolton. "So, I'm trying to spend it in an effective fashion."

He said the political operation has "involved me in a lot of nitty-gritty that I think people who are running for office normally don't get involved in," essentially "how this business of running a campaign normally gets conducted."

If he runs, Bolton would be the rare presidential contender to never have been elected to public office. It's even rarer that such candidates go on to win.

He also took sharp jabs at two of his biggest potential rivals: Clinton, and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

Bolton went to Yale Law School a year behind Hillary and Bill Clinton, so, he jokes, "I've been burdened with them 20 years longer than the rest of the country."

But he pledges now: "It'll be a cold day in hell before I accept her getting the presidential nomination.

"Despite her efforts to distance herself from the administration, she would be Obama's third term. She really hasn't distanced herself from his foreign policy," Bolton said of Clinton.

And he's not convinced by Paul's sudden hawkish turn on foreign policy. The Kentucky senator, known as the leader of the growing libertarian strain within the GOP, recently departed from his typically noninterventionist stance on international conflicts to back military strikes on the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Bolton suggested the shift in the party toward a more hawkish foreign policy might ultimately prevent Paul from running.

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“I think his ambitions are in conflict with his basic beliefs. And where he’ll be on any given day, obviously only he knows. But I think the fact he’s been shifting shows the politician’s instinct, that his troops may be moving in a different direction than he’d like to go,” Bolton said of Paul. “And so, where he comes out, or in fact whether he even runs now, I think is an open question.”

But Bolton also suggested he’s open to embracing Paul, if his foreign policy conversion is genuine.

“I believe in redemption, and there’s room for everybody if they see the light,” he said.

He said he “welcome[d] the fact” that the rest of the 2016 Republican presidential field has shown a renewed focus on foreign policy and national security in recent weeks. He said he found Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal’s (R) Monday speech on the issue, as well as addresses by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) in recent weeks, heartening.

“I’ve talked to a lot of these folks, and I’m happy to talk to them at any point — I want people to dive into this and have a chance to gain more experience in it,” he added.

Bolton launched his political apparatus last year with the aim of making foreign policy and national security issues in the midterms. He acknowledges that recent news events, more than his PAC efforts, have brought those issues to the forefront of the national debate.

He has kept the focus of his PAC on foreign policy and has spent millions largely on digital ad campaigns, which Bolton sees as a wiser use of the money than costly TV campaigns. On Tuesday, the super-PAC launched a $5 million digital advertising campaign across New Hampshire, Arkansas and North Carolina.

He said he’s “optimistic” on Republicans’ chances this fall. He said foreign policy could be a deciding issue in Colorado and Iowa, two competitive Senate races, where Republicans have a shot at picking up seats.

“I’m pretty optimistic now, but I think there are a lot of idiosyncratic factors at work. I think the prospect of something happening on the international scene is very real, and we don’t know what the president’s reaction to it would be,” he said.

But the president’s foreign policy, as it’s unfolded during his two terms, has been “weak and feckless,” and that’s why Obama is having such a drag on Democrats this year, Bolton said.

“One reason Democratic candidates are fleeing from the Obama administration is the relationship between leadership as a general issue and leadership in foreign policy. And people see this as a badly failed presidency with a weak and feckless leader, when it comes to foreign policy, and they make the perfectly sensible jump from that to domestic policy too,” he said.

In particular, Bolton said, Obama’s strategy to tackle ISIS “is manifestly failing already,” and “ISIS has already adapted to it.”

“Instead of pursuing gradual escalation in order to prevent ISIS from consolidating its control over the territory it holds, we should’ve used the maximum force available to us.”

But he says, even if Americans are paying attention to national security now, his efforts won’t end in November.

“It’s not enough to say, Mr. X is now talking about foreign policy — problem solved. That doesn’t do it. And it doesn’t do it to have several Mr. X’s talking about foreign policy,” Bolton said. “It’s about restoring national security to where it should be on the priority list. So I see this as a long-term priority.”

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CNN: "Jindal is 'thinking and praying' about 2016 presidential run"

By Marianna Sotomayor

October 7, 2014, 3:56 p.m. EDT

Washington (CNN) -- Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said on Monday he was "thinking and praying" about a presidential run and said that an announcement could follow the midterm elections or "sometime after the holidays."

If he decides to run, Jindal would likely be the first Republican candidate to announce his decision. Most potential challengers have said they are waiting until spring 2015.

In his speech, Jindal tried to rouse hawks in the party by harshly criticizing President Barack Obama.

"The Russian reset, Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Iran, Libya, Europe, China, and the list goes on. In each of these areas, it's not just the President took too long to come up with an answer. It's that the answer was wrong," he said at an American Enterprise Institute event.

Jindal called Obama's cutting back on defense spending "foolish" and "unacceptable" at a time when the administration has considered intervening in several foreign conflicts.

The two-term governor went on to say that the U.S. is at war with ISIS and that the President's hesitancy to call it a fight is "a projection of weakness."

He also slammed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a potential Democratic presidential candidate, for making decisions the he believes has set America on a path for "more chaos, more conflict and more wars."

"Today, we are living with the consequences of the Obama-Clinton ideas when it comes to foreign, domestic and defense policy... If only it had the help of a wise, steady hand, a policy expert in dealing with foreign affairs, he'd have come up with better answers. But instead he just had Hillary Clinton," he said.

In a set of policy proposals, Jindal suggested that defense spending should be 4% of the country's GDP. He also called for increasing the Pentagon's funding, following the administration's decision to cut back $78 billion in 2011 as a way to decrease the deficit.

In the interim before potentially launching his campaign, Jindal hopes to see the Republican Party take the initiative rather than being known as the opposition party. Jindal mentioned that several Republican members have sided with Obama in the past, including on defense spending cutbacks.

"[The people] are frustrated with the President, but they have yet to hear a comprehensive alternative from the Republicans. All they heard so far is that we are opposed to many of his policies," he said. "What they are hungry for is a positive agenda from the Republican side."

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- October 8 – Chicago, IL: Sec. Clinton stumps for Illinois Gov. Quinn (Chicago Sun-Times)
- October 8 – Chicago, IL: Sec. Clinton keynotes AdvaMed 2014 conference (AdvaMed)
- October 9 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Arkansas Sen. Pryor (AP)
- October 9 – Philadelphia, PA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf (AP)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton and Sen. Reid fundraise for the Reid Nevada Fund (Ralston Reports)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Senate Democrats (AP)
- November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)
- December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/24/2015 12:17:16 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: As Ex-Im Fight Wraps, Suga r May Become The Right's Next Litmus Test

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Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-La.) will announce that he's running for president during a speech at 5:45 p.m. Eastern. (AP Photo)

BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA: Corn vs. sugar

Joint SCOOP with Tom Hamburger: The Corn Refiners Association, representing companies that produce high-fructose corn syrup, has just hired 10 outside lobbyists as part of an unorthodox attack on sugar producers and the unusually generous federal support that they receive. Their first target is an agriculture appropriations bill now working its way through a House committee. "While every other farm support program has received multiple rounds of reforms, big sugar has not been touched," said John Bode, CEO of the Corn Refiners group.

Watch for sugar supports to become the next Big Thing that movement conservatives oppose, even if they supported them in the past: Some on the right predict this issue will play out a lot like the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The bank's charter is likely to lapse, at least temporarily, next week after a sustained push by conservatives to cast it as a symbol of corporate welfare. The 2016 presidential contenders continue to seek out issues where they can get to the right of one another.

"Defeating the sugar lobby is the next campaign after Ex-Im," Grover Norquist, from Americans for Tax Reform, told The Daily 202 last night. "Both are cronyism in its undiluted, inexcusable majesty. Both have survived because they perfected the skills to control Congress for their own profit. If they go down, no political subsidy will be safe. The implication of these wins is bigger than the ban on earmarks."

The Club for Growth's Andrew Roth added that fighting the sugar subsidy "is high on the list" of priorities after Ex-Im: "If there is more muscle going into anti-sugar subsidy efforts, we welcome it."

Heritage Action's Dan Holler argues that the war on sugar is "a whole lot further along" than the push to kill Ex-Im was just a few years ago. Indeed, a 2013 amendment to reduce sugar price supports and enact other reform failed by just 15 House votes. "Using the protectionism that exists around sugar to highlight the dreadful nature of America's farm policy is very important to us," he said. (The sugar lobby declined to comment.)

The coming sugar war could become problematic for Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush, Republican presidential candidates from Florida who have been supportive of sugar but already have at least one big strike against them in the eyes of activists (**immigration**). Read more here .

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter.
With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— Iran's Supreme Leader appeared to pull back on the nuclear talks. "With exactly a week left before the deadline for a final agreement to limit Iran's nuclear program, the country's supreme leader appeared to undercut several of the central agreements **his negotiators have already reached with the West," the New York Times** reports . "In a speech broadcast live on Iran state television, the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, demanded that most sanctions be lifted before Tehran has dismantled part of its nuclear infrastructure and before international inspectors verify that the country is beginning to meet its commitments. He also ruled out any freeze on Iran's sensitive nuclear enrichment for as long as a decade, as a preliminary understanding announced in April stipulates, and he repeated his refusal to allow inspections of Iranian military sites." *This could also, of course, be a carefully orchestrated way to give his negotiators more leverage and play the United States…*

— The U.S. ambassador to France was summoned to the French Foreign Ministry after WikiLeaks cables suggested that the U.S. spied on its president. "President Francois Hollande called the U.S. spying an 'unacceptable' security breach," the AP reports from Paris. **"The documents appear to capture top French officials in Paris** between 2006 and 2012 talking candidly about Greece's economy, relations with Germany, and American spying on allies. While there were no huge surprises, the release of the documents late Tuesday angered and embarrassed French officialdom."

— Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) publicly expressed interest in reviving their failed push to require more background checks for gun purchases. Each senator said he would like to find a new way forward during interviews last night at a reception before a ceremony hosted by Sandy Hook families to honor Toomey. "We want to make sure we have the votes. Pat's going to have to, and I'll work with him, to get some of our colleagues on the Republican side," Manchin told my PowerPost colleague Colby Itkowitz. Toomey told her that he's "trying to figure out is there something that could get the support of the 60 votes that we would need in the Senate." He called Manchin "a great partner" and "someone I will continue to work with."

202 Reality Check: This story will generate tons of buzz (it is already the banner headline on the Drudge Report this morning), but **gun control — no matter how incremental — will NEVER, EVER, EVER pass in this Congress.** The president himself tacitly acknowledged last week during his post-Charleston press conference, BUT talking about his support for background checks will undeniably assist Toomey's tough reelection campaign next year in his blue state of Pennsylvania. [That would not be the case if he had a primary…]

— Momentum keeps building to take down the Confederate flag :

- Last night, "the board of the Citadel — the South Carolina military college whose cadets were among the first to fire on Union troops in the Civil War — voted to remove the Confederate flag from the school's Summerall Chapel to another, undecided location," Karen Tumulty and Robert Costa report.
- **The South Carolina state House voted 103-10 for a bill that allows debate** over removing the Confederate flag during a special session later this summer. The state Senate approved the measure by voice vote.
- "Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) pressed his state to quit issuing license plates with the insignia and replace those already on the road. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, both Republicans, also said they wanted to get rid of such license plates in their states."
- Six major retailers said they will stop selling merchandise featuring the Confederate flag: Wal-Mart, eBay, Sears, Target, Etsy and Amazon (whose chief executive, Jeff Bezos, owns The Post).
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Kentucky's Jefferson Davis **statue should be moved to a museum.**

But there is resistance:

- South Carolina state Sen. Lee Bright (R), a state co-chairman for the presidential campaign of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), called the proposal a **"Stalinist purge."**

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- One of the "no" votes in the South Carolina House was Eric Bedingfield, a top staffer and political adviser to Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.) who represents a Greenville-area district. (Great spot by Phil Rucker.)

— Last night's D.C. thunderstorms killed a 79-year-old man who was driving a pickup truck in the Poolesville area of Montgomery County. More than 100,000 homes and businesses lost power, Martin Weil reports, and at least two apartment houses were set on fire by lightning strikes, one in Arlington on North 21st Road and the other on Lakeside Drive in Greenbelt, Md.

GET SMART FAST:

1. Ex-Sen. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) will NOT challenge Republican Sen. Richard Burr next year, a lucky break for the GOP in what could have been a marquee race, Roll Call reports.
2. A federal judge in Wyoming issued an injunction last night to block the implementation of the Interior Department's fracking regulations on federal land, meaning that they will not go into effect today as planned. (The Hill)
3. The House canceled Friday votes so a huge delegation of several dozen lawmakers, including Speaker John Boehner, can join the president for a memorial service in Charleston.
4. "The computer upgrade that federal officials tout as having detected — although not prevented — a massive breach of information on federal employees is itself at high risk of failure, according to a new internal audit," per Eric Yoder.
5. The U.S. government said it will stop telling families of hostages taken abroad that they could face criminal prosecution if they pay ransom for the release of loved ones. (Steven Mufson and Adam Goldman)
6. A bipartisan coalition of senators, led by Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), agreed to a six-year federal highway package that would boost overall spending on U.S. roads and bridges. But it will still be tough to corral the votes in the House and Senate by a July 31 deadline. (Ashley Halsey III)
7. After the president's trade agenda advanced with the 60 votes it needed yesterday, Japan's Economic Minister said that he thinks the 12 nations involved in negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership may reach a broad agreement in the next month, per Bloomberg.
8. Ted Cruz flipped on TPA, the only Senate Republican to vote for it the first time and against it on reconsideration. "I cannot vote for TPA unless McConnell and Boehner both commit publicly to allow the Ex-Im Bank to expire—and stay expired," he wrote in an op-ed for Breitbart, warning of secret backroom deals to allow a vote on the reauthorization of the bank. "And, Congress must also pass the Cruz- Sessions amendments to TPA to ensure that no trade agreement can try to back-door changes to our immigration laws."
9. Data released yesterday shows that, one year after the Veterans Affairs scandal, the number of veterans on wait lists to be treated for everything from Hepatitis C to post-traumatic stress is 50 percent higher than at the same time last year.
10. A Suffolk University poll showed Jeb Bush narrowly leading among Republicans in New Hampshire, but with only 14 percent. Donald Trump debuts at 11 percent. Walker is third with 8 percent, and Rubio pulls 7 percent.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Lisa Jackson, the former head of the EPA, has been promoted to vice president of environment, policy and social initiatives at Apple. She will become the company's lead on all policy initiatives, including the environment, education and accessibility, CEO Tim Cook announced in a memo to employees.
2. Gov. Chris Christie (R-N.J.) will announce his campaign "as soon as next week," Politico reports in a story that gives itself lots of wiggle room. A July Fourth announcement could get lost, but he might also get a news cycle to himself. Christie's PAC announced separately that it has brought a New Hampshire political director and deputy state director aboard. (Union Leader)
3. Ending Spending Action Fund, the super PAC funded by TD Ameritrade chairman Joseph Ricketts, will unveil a multi-million dollar advertising campaign today against New Hampshire's Democratic governor, Maggie Hassan, ahead of her expected challenge against GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte. Consultant Dave Carney said the first ads will start right after the July Fourth holiday. (WMUR)
4. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) complains in an op-ed for The Boston Globe that the U.S. government never enforces rules that impose labor or environmental standards in trade agreements, calling out the administrations of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.
5. Guy Cecil, running the pro-Hillary Priorities USA, is replacing the super PAC's finance director (who was hired in January) with a longtime associate. The previous DSCC executive director also signed Ralston Lapp and re-signed Shorr Johnson Magnus to produce ads, per Politico's Glenn Thrush. a Philadelphia firm, and Ralston Lapp.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

—"Scott Walker to sign legislation expanding gun rights in Wisconsin," by Jenna Johnson: He plans to sign two new laws on Wednesday that expand the rights of gun owners by removing a 48-hour waiting period for those looking to purchase a firearm and allowing off-duty or retired police officers to carry concealed weapons at public schools.

— "Recruited by Harvard for the women's swim team, he'll jump into the pool as a man," by Valerie Strauss: "She was the quintessential recruit for the women's swimming team at Harvard University: a nimble breaststroker with a fierce work ethic and sharp intellect. But when Schuyler Bailar jumps into the school's Olympic-size pool this fall, he instead will be a member of the men's team, the first openly transgender collegiate swimmer in U.S. history. Emerging from a tortuous year of self-reckoning and a lifelong quest to feel comfortable in his own skin, Bailar, 19, will be navigating far more than the usual freshman challenges; he also will be a pioneer and role model as society openly grapples with shifting mores about traditional male/-female gender lines."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: On the day that he formally kicks off his presidential campaign, to say Bobby Jindal is a media afterthought would be putting it lightly. Our campaign analytics partners at Zignal Labs looks at how few people have mentioned the governor across social and traditional media during the month of June.

Jindal's busiest day this month, mentionwise, came when he took to Twitter to criticize President Obama for "inject(ing) gun control politics" into the Charleston story. That same day, the alternative media took him to task for a man who is serving ten years in prison over a seemingly minor marijuana possession charge.

Zignal's algorithms found that sentiment trended negative against Jindal by a 3-to-1 margin that day, meaning there were three critical tweets for every positive one on June 18. This chart shows how folks, particularly on social media, reacted:

Jindal also received a wave of attention earlier this week after IBM cancelled a ribbon-cutting ceremony to protest the governor's "religious freedom" executive order, which was viewed by many as anti-LGBT. That story was mentioned more than 2,000 times on social, broadcast and online media.

While these numbers look pretty abysmal, they also validate Team Jindal's theory of the case–which is that he's "a clean slate" with "a lot of upside." First, he's actually pretty unknown, despite being the sitting governor of a major U.S. state. Second, the vitriolic hate from the left could–if used properly–work to his advantage on the right. **Insiders tell us that a central part of the governor's pitch today will be that he is "FEARLESS,"** willing and even itching to take on the corporate wing of his party over social issues, especially protecting traditional marriage, in ways that no one else is. This, they hope, will pay dividends with evangelicals in the early states. **Read David A. Fahrenthold and I's curtain-raiser on the speech here.**

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–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Picture of the day:

A storm hits Washington, D.C.:

This storm is about to engulf the Washington Monument. (And me.)
(kasie)

Tweets of the day:

Bill Kristol raised eyebrows on Twitter:

> The Left's 21st century agenda: expunging every trace of respect, recognition or acknowledgment of Americans who fought for the Confederacy.
>
> — Bill Kristol (@BillKristol) June 23, 2015

And elicited some brutal responses:

> Bill Kristol's call for respecting the confederacy sounds odd at first, but remember, they did start an unnecessary war.
>
> — Josh Barro (@jbarro) June 23, 2015

Maryland Democrat Ben Cardin slammed Donald Trump:

> The @realdonaldtrump is a true actor but to come to #Baltimore and insult our city isn't exactly acting presidential https://t.co/GkSy1RgYZa
>
> — Senator Ben Cardin (@SenatorCardin) June 24, 2015

While Nancy Pelosi met with Malala Yousafzai:

Education for girls can change the world. Malala Yousafzai is courage personified & she is an inspiration to us all!
(@NancyPelosi)

Instagram of the day:

George Pataki revealed himself to be a Taylor Swift fan:

Kudos, @taylorswift #hardwork and #dedication should always be rewarded. Thanks for standing up for the American way.
(governorpataki)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Scott Walker, Set for a Bigger Stage, Faces G.O.P. Revolt in Wisconsin," by Trip Gabriel: "Leaders of Mr. Walker's party, which controls the Legislature, are balking at his demands for the state's budget. Critics say the governor's spending blueprint is aimed more at appealing to conservatives in early-voting states like Iowa than doing what is best for Wisconsin. Lawmakers are stymied over how to pay for road and bridge repairs without raising taxes or fees, which Mr. Walker has ruled out. The governor's fellow Republicans rejected his proposal to borrow $1.3 billion for the roadwork, arguing that adding to the state's debt is irresponsible."

— Wall Street Journal, "Time Running Out for Ex-Im Bank," by Nick Timiraos and Kristina Peterson: "A handful of Senate Democrats who had pushed to keep the bank alive voted to advance trade legislation Tuesday without any assurances the bank would win reauthorization before its charter lapses next Tuesday. The move extinguished the already tenuous possibility that a renewal might ride on the back of the trade bill … Both supporters of the bank and many of its critics believe the bank will win back its full powers in July, when Congress must vote to replenish highway funding that runs out at the end of next month."

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— National Journal, "Congress finally has a highway bill, but it wouldn't fix anything," by Jason Plautz: "With just over a month left before transportation programs are set to expire, the Senate has a bill on the table that would set state spending levels for roads and bridges all the way out to 2021 … [But] it doesn't do anything to actually provide the dollars that states will have to spend."

— Politico, "Dems weigh last-ditch move to sink trade bill ," by Lauren French and John Bresnahan: "At this point, it looks as if a number of House Democrats who voted against Trade Adjustment Authority when it was linked to fast-track are now open to backing it. Democrats say some labor officials who gave them a pass on the first round are urging them to support it. They are bowing to the larger reality that the fight over fast-track is over, and they lost."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Mike Huckabee Facebook Q&A goes hilariously off the rails. From Talking Points Memo: "Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) held a question and answer session on Facebook on Monday to field inquiries about his bid for president, but ultimately he was forced to answer quite a few bizarre questions … about 'the Illuminist,' living with bears, and whether he is gay … Eventually, Huckabee gave up and told his supporters he was headed to a radio interview."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

FBI files document communism in Valerie Jarrett's family. From **Judicial Watch** : "Federal Bureau of Investigation files obtained by Judicial Watch reveal that the dad, maternal grandpa and father-in-law of President Obama's trusted senior advisor, Valerie Jarrett, were hardcore Communists under investigation by the U.S. government. Jarrett's dad, pathologist and geneticist Dr. James Bowman, had extensive ties to Communist associations and individuals, his lengthy FBI file shows."

DAYBOOK:

— On the campaign trail: Bobby Jindal will announce his campaign for president. Ted Cruz will speak at an event at the Heritage Foundation. George Pataki will be in New Hampshire.

— On the Hill: The Senate will resume consideration of several trade bills. The House will vote on a package of bills to repeal EPA coal rules. The House Oversight

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Committee will hold its second hearing on the OPM data breach. The House Transportation Subcommittee on Railroads will hold a hearing on positive train control implementation.

— At the White House: President Obama will deliver remarks on the completion of a review of how the government responds to overseas hostage cases at 12:20 p.m., then meet with the co-chairs of high-level U.S.-China talks. In the evening, Obama will host a reception observing LGBT Pride Month. Press Secretary Josh Earnest will brief the media at 1 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "We have legacy systems that are very old. It's an enterprise-wide problem. I don't believe anyone is personally responsible." — Katherine Archuleta, director of the Office of Personnel Management, **defending herself during a Senate hearing on the massive hack of federal** employee data

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **Wonderful weather today:** "Last evening's stormy cold front swept away the heat and the humidity (good riddance!), leaving us with a pleasantly warm day today and a **comfortable night tonight," per the** Capital Weather Gang **. "Shower and storm** chances return tomorrow afternoon and especially tomorrow night, and it looks like they'll stick around through a much cooler weekend."

— **The Nationals beat the Braves 3-1** after a multi-hour rain delay. Stephen Strasburg returned rejuvenated after a three-week stint on the disabled list with neck **spasms. James Wagner reports that** he looked comfortable **as he pitched five** scoreless innings.

— **Watching yesterday's NTSB hearing about the fatal January 12 smoke incident at L'Enfant Plaza's Metro station did not inspire confidence about Washington's public transit system or the people running it.** The review board released 6,000 pages of documents which highlighted how problems were exacerbated by the transit agency's slow emergency response and communications breakdowns.

One of the more alarming nuggets in The Post's front-page recap **: "A key Metro** emergency responder was repeatedly rebuffed when trying to communicate with the District's fire commander at the site of the deadly incident … The Metro police official went to the window of the District fire official's SUV to speak with him, according to Hercules Ballard, Metro's managing director for rail transportation. The Metro officer 'tried to engage the battalion chief. The battalion chief rolled up the window and drove off,' Ballard said."

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Bernie Sanders is not boring **(He appeared on "Funny or Die.")**

And here's an introduction to D.C.'s first cat cafe:

(Washington Post)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/24/2014 7:22:43 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday July 24, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday July 24, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

[Click Here to Watch conservative One America Network's Segment on Correct The Record and the Need to Defend Against the Onslaught of Rightwing Attacks on Sec. Clinton]

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@Bstrider on role of CTR "We keep the truth out there...if the record needs correcting we correct it"http://correctrecord.org/the-conservative-one-america-network-features-ctr-showcases-need-and-success-against-onslaught-of-rightwing-attacks-against-sec-clinton/ … [7/24/14, 1:08 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: The conservative One America News Network features CTR and @BStrider re: defending@HillaryClinton http://correctrecord.org/the-conservative-one-america-network-features-ctr-showcases-need-and-success-against-onslaught-of-rightwing-attacks-against-sec-clinton/ … [7/24/14, 11:46 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@nytimesbooks review: #HardChoices is a "sober and substantive" memoir of @HillaryClinton's time at State Dept: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/13/books/review/editors-choice.html … [7/24/14, 10:15 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

CNN: "Clinton polling well in key presidential battleground"

"A Quinnipiac University survey of Florida voters indicates the former secretary of state, who's seriously considering a second bid for the White House, with leads from seven to 21 percentage points over potential GOP presidential candidates in possible 2016 showdowns."

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MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton tops all potential 2016 GOPers in Florida"

"A Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday shows the former secretary of state easily beating all potential 2016 GOP opponents in the battleground state of Florida – including the state's former Gov. Jeb Bush and current Sen. Marco Rubio – by a seven to 21 point margin."

Politico: "Latest front in Clinton wars: Virginia suburbs"

"Brock is now leading Correct the Record, a group devoted to defending Hillary Clinton."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton stands by 'Russian reset' in face of recent events"

"It worked. That is the argument former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made during a Thursday interview about her much talked about 2009 reset of U.S.-Russia relations."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton: I need to 'work on' press relations"

"Hillary Clinton, who has long had a tempestuous relationship with the media, on Thursday said she may need to 'work on' her 'expectations' of the press."

The Economist: "Dreamy footsoldiers of the Left"

"Over on the centre-ground, Ready for Hillary, a group working to rally a volunteer army for Mrs Clinton's use (should she choose to run in 2016), will 'amplify' any 2014 endorsements made by their heroine, instantly urging supporters to lend a hand to that campaign."

Slate blog: Weigel: "Where Have You Gone, Brian Schweitzer? A Nation Turns Its Lonely Eyes to You."

"The only mention of Schweitzer on cable in the month of July came on Monday, when pollster Pat Caddell suggested Schweitzer would be a good candidate against Hillary Clinton."

CBS News: "Is there room for Joe Manchin among Democrats in 2016?"

"On the spectrum of hypothetical 2016 presidential candidacies, the @DraftJoeManchin Twitter movement, if you can call it that, is the elephant in the room of dark horses."

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McClatchy DC: "Bernie Sanders for president 2016? It could happen"

"The fiesty liberal independent senator from Vermont says it could happen."

RealClearPolitics: "Heitkamp: Addressing Abuse Issues Can Unite Lawmakers"

"Rep. Donna Edwards and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp expressed a strong hope Thursday that the deeply divided U.S. Congress can come together to address the problem of domestic violence... And would electing a woman to the presidency help even more with passing legislation to protect vulnerable women? 'No question about it!' declared an enthusiastic Edwards, who lavished praise on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton."

Articles:

CNN: "Clinton polling well in key presidential battleground"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 24, 2014, 10:19 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is the clear 2016 frontrunner in the nation's largest presidential battleground state, according to a new poll.

A Quinnipiac University survey of Florida voters indicates the former secretary of state, who's seriously considering a second bid for the White House, with leads from seven to 21 percentage points over potential GOP presidential candidates in possible 2016 showdowns.

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton may be taking some criticism recently in the news media and among some liberal Democratic precincts, but nothing has changed among average voters in Florida where she remains queen of the political prom," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University poll.

According to the survey, which was released Thursday morning, Clinton also has an overwhelming lead in the hunt for the Democratic nomination, with former two-term Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the state's junior U.S. senator, Marco Rubio, leading the pack of potential GOP contenders.

Two-thirds of Sunshine State Democratic primary voters questioned in the survey say they'd back Clinton for their party's nomination, followed by Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts each at eight percent. Biden is mulling another presidential bid while Warren has said numerous times that she's not running in 2016. Other potential candidates registered at one percent or less.

Twenty-one percent of Republicans say they'd back Bush in the primary, followed by Rubio at 18%. Bush was at 27% and Rubio at 11% among Florida Republicans in Quinnipiac's May poll.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas is at 10% in the new poll, with Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky standing at 8%, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee – who ran for the 2008 nomination – at 7%, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 6%. None of the other possible contenders top 5%.

In hypothetical 2016 general election matchups, Sunshine State voters back Clinton over Bush 49%-42%. The poll indicates Clinton leads Ryan by

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13 points, Rubio by 14 points, Paul by 16 points and Christie by 21 points.

A Quinnipiac poll in Colorado released Wednesday in Colorado, another swing state, indicated much closer 2016 general election showdowns between Clinton and potential GOP candidates.

As for the current occupant in the White House, the survey indicates President Barack Obama has a 44%-52% approval/disapproval rating among Florida votes, compared to 46%-50% in May.

The Quinnipiac University poll was conducted July 17-21, with 1,251 registered voters in Florida questioned by telephone. The survey's overall sampling error is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton tops all potential 2016 GOPers in Florida"

By Aliyah Frumin

July 24, 2014, 9:33 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton's presidential prospects are looking bright in the Sunshine State.

A Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday shows the former secretary of state easily beating all potential 2016 GOP opponents in the battleground state of Florida – including the state's former Gov. Jeb Bush and current Sen. Marco Rubio – by a seven to 21 point margin.

Among Democratic presidential primary voters, Clinton is the clear favorite, receiving 67% support compared to Vice President Joe Biden and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who each received 8%.

Among Republican presidential primary voters in the state, Bush received the most support with 21%, followed by Rubio with 18%, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas garnered 10% followed by Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky with 8%, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee with 7%, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie with 6%.

Even in hypothetical head-to-head match-ups, Clinton beats all the potential Republican competitors. That includes Clinton over Bush by a 49% to 42% margin and Clinton over Rubio by a 53% to 37% margin.

"Inside the Beltway they may be talking about Mrs. Clinton's potential weaknesses should she run in 2016. But at this point in Florida, the nation's largest presidential swing state, her assets overwhelm any vulnerabilities," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University poll.

The former first lady is currently on a book tour for her memoir "Hard Choices," which was released in June. The publicity campaign is being seen as part of a months-long rollout leading up to a decision on whether or not she'll run for president. She has previously said that she'll decide by the end of the year.

Former President Bill Clinton claimed this week he doesn't know whether his wife will make a bid for the nation's highest office.

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Politico: "Latest front in Clinton wars: Virginia suburbs"

By Alex Isenstadt

July 24, 2014, 5:04 a.m. EDT

Fifteen years later, the Clinton Wars are back.

The backdrop this time isn't the White House or Hillary Clinton's likely presidential run. It's the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., where a onetime congressional staffer who made her name digging up dirt on the Clintons, Barbara Comstock, is trying to win a seat in Congress herself.

Lining up behind Comstock are some of the Clintons' chief '90s-era adversaries, including Ken Starr, Dan Burton and David Bossie. Determined to stop her is a host of Clinton loyalists led by Terry McAuliffe — who was once forced to testify before a congressional committee after Comstock unearthed his bombshell "Lincoln Bedroom Memo" — from his new perch as Virginia governor.

Comstock's bid against Democratic Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust has reopened the old wounds of Travelgate, Filegate, Monicagate and more. But the stakes go way beyond settling old scores. Clinton allies worry that if Comstock wins and Hillary Clinton returns to the White House as president, she'll reprise her role as Clinton investigator-in-chief.

"If she wins, she will no doubt practice the same politics of personal destruction she and her ilk practiced in the Clinton days," said Paul Begala, a former political adviser to Bill Clinton who has assumed the role of Comstock attack dog. The Republican, he said, has a "really almost sick, sort of stalker-like obsession with President Clinton."

Comstock — a 55-year-old, Georgetown-educated lawyer widely regarded as one of the premier opposition researchers of her generation, with a "wonderfully devious mind," in the words of one reporter who witnessed her at the peak of her sleuthing — declined to speak for this story. But she is already hinting publicly that she's itching to take on the Clintons again.

"We need to get to the bottom of the truth in Benghazi, and I will do that because I've done that before as a chief investigator in Congress," she said at the Virginia state GOP convention recently, referring to the 2012 attacks that left four Americans dead and marred Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

The Barbarellas

Comstock's history with the Clintons dates back to 1993. At the time, she was working as an aide to GOP Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia when some of his constituents lost their jobs in the White House travel office. Wolf tasked Comstock with finding out why the firings happened and whether the Clintons were trying to make room in the office for their personal allies.

Republicans won the House majority in 1994, and Comstock became the chief counsel on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. Much of the panel's investigative work centered on Clinton's fundraising practices and determining whether he had accepted funds from non-U.S. citizens ahead of the 1996 election.

Comstock's legal training prepared her to burrow through mounds of government documents, spotting patterns in discrete facts that eluded others. She deposed countless high-level White House officials and allies, including John Podesta and George Stephanopoulos. When Democratic fundraiser Johnny Chung appeared before the committee in 1999, Comstock did the grilling.

The other trait Comstock's admirers and critics consistently point to: a work ethic bordering on compulsive.

"Late night calls from Barbara Comstock were not unusual," David Brock, the onetime conservative opposition researcher and Comstock confidant,

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wrote in his 2002 book, “Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative.” “She often telephoned with the latest tidbit she had dug up in the thousands and thousands of pages of administration records she pored through frantically, as if she were looking for a winning lottery ticket she had somehow mislaid.” Brock is now leading Correct the Record, a group devoted to defending Hillary Clinton.

The late Barbara Olson, Comstock’s co-investigator on the committee, wrote in her own book that the two took extraordinary measures to prevent Clinton backers from sabotaging their work.

“We changed our locks; not even the cleaning crews had access to our tiny room,” Olson wrote in “Hell to Pay: The Unfolding Story of Hillary Rodham Clinton,” published in 1999. “I generally arrived at 6:30 a.m. and tried to leave for home before 8:00 p.m. My colleague Barbara Comstock continued the vigil and wouldn’t leave until 4:00 a.m.”

On the campaign trail, Comstock hasn’t shied away from discussing her time scrutinizing the Clintons. During a recent radio interview, she compared the Benghazi investigation to what transpired during the 1990s.

“Previously, when I was on Capitol Hill in the ’90s, I served as chief counsel on the House Government Reform Committee, and we had similar investigations where we were just blocked at every turn, we had people take the Fifth Amendment, we had the administration refuse to turn over documents,” she said in a May 1 appearance on “The John Fredericks Show.” “And you just have to really go at it. We wrote contempt reports, we insisted on getting documents and then finally we were to break open these cases.”

Comstock wasn’t a Clinton hater, people close to her insist. But she was, they say, convinced the first couple was involved in wrongdoing. Her best friend during those years was Olson, who became a high-profile Clinton critic. In Republican circles, the two became known as “The Barbarellas,” a reference to a racy 1968 Jane Fonda movie. In the White House, they were referred to as “The Barbaras.”

Olson was a passenger on the American Airlines flight that struck the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

“They were, of course, partisan,” Ted Olson, the former U.S. solicitor general who was married to Barbara Olson, said in an interview. “They believed in the things they were doing.”

Had Barbara Olson been alive to watch her friend run for Congress, Ted Olson said, “She would have been ecstatic, thrilled beyond words. … She would have been cajoling, wheeling and dealing, twisting arms, whatever it took to help Barbara.”

From Middlebury to the RNC

Comstock tread a surprising path to the oversight panel. She graduated from Middlebury College, a prestigious liberal arts school in Vermont, in 1981 with a degree in political science. During her undergrad years, she interned for Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy. She would later say that while working for Kennedy, she was given a copy of the National Review, and there began her evolution to conservatism.

“I’d be at hearings and think, ‘I agree with [Sen.] Orrin Hatch [R-Utah], not Ted Kennedy,” she told The Washington Post in 2001.

People who worked with Comstock during the 1990s say they never pegged her as a future candidate. Unlike other Capitol Hill staffers at the time, she didn’t discuss running for office and didn’t seem to be preoccupied with doing so. Yet she took on an increasingly visible role. The Clinton investigations dovetailed with the rise of 24-hour cable news, and Comstock was a popular choice among TV bookers, who saw her as articulate and presentable.

She was also skilled at delivering a sharp line.

“Unfortunately for the president, the facts and the law are his enemy,” she said in one January 1999 CNN appearance.

Comstock’s investigations into the Clintons ultimately yielded little, but her career in politics was just taking off. In 2000, she headed up opposition research for the Republican National Committee and continued to make mischief. During a Democratic primary debate, Bill Bradley attacked Al Gore for allegedly flip-flopping on abortion. Bradley, the Post reported, was relying on research assembled by Comstock and her team, which was looking to weaken Gore heading into the general election.

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Some believe that Comstock left a permanent imprint on how Republicans conduct opposition research, bringing a new level of legal precision to the work. Gary Maloney, a veteran GOP dirt-digger, said that the format the party's campaign committees use to document their research is a replica of the style Comstock used in the 2000 race.

"Comstock essentially built her own model of what to do," he said.

Following the 9/11 attacks, Comstock would become then-Attorney General John Ashcroft's spokeswoman. Later she took a job at a lobbying shop and started a political consulting firm. In 2005, she spent time working on the defense team of Scooter Libby, the former Dick Cheney adviser who was convicted of leaking the identity of a CIA operative.

All the while, Comstock was building a powerful circle of friends who would assist her in her next foray: a 2009 campaign for a seat in the state House of Delegates. She received donations from the likes of Karl Rove, Newt Gingrich and Haley Barbour. Comstock won narrowly, unseating a popular Democrat in a swing district.

A return to the warpath?

As she traverses the 10th Congressional District, Comstock, like many candidates this year, is pitching herself as a pragmatist who wants to serve her constituents and help the local economy. Many of Comstock's friends believe her brass-knuckled political past is behind her. She's more interested in the legislative nuts and bolts of public service, they say. Most political handicappers say she's a slight favorite in a Northern Virginia-based district that narrowly broke for Mitt Romney in 2012.

Clinton allies, however, are convinced that Comstock would quickly return to the warpath if she makes it to Congress — and are bent on stopping her.

McAuliffe will soon host a fundraiser for Foust and "plans to do everything he can" to help the Democrat, an aide said. His brush with Comstock came in February 1997 when, working late one evening, she uncovered a McAuliffe memo that seemed to suggest that the president have donors over for White House sleepovers. The revelation sent the Clinton White House into damage control mode.

Begala, meanwhile, has taken to Twitter to accuse Comstock of recently lifting a line from Bill Clinton's first inaugural speech. (Clinton: "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right with America." Comstock: "There is nothing that is wrong with the country today that can't be solved with what is right with America.")

In an interview, Begala bitterly recalled one time during the '90s when Comstock approached him in the parking lot of the church they both attended and asked, with a straight face, "Have I deposed you yet?"

Johanna Persing, a Comstock spokeswoman, declined to respond to Begala's plagiarism accusation but said that "Virginians have no interest in divisive talking heads living in the past. This election is about the future."

Other Clinton White House figures are also making a move. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has hosted a fundraiser for Foust and is slated to hold another in August. Foust also recently received a $1,000 donation from Jamie Gorelick, who as Clinton's deputy attorney general worked in a department that had a role in responding to many of the subpoenas that Comstock's committee served.

"She was the primary architect and energy behind Dan Burton's investigations of the Clintons," said Gorelick. "When you meet Barbara Comstock, she's very personable and lovely. But the work of that committee was highly divisive, and it was not a constructive way of running a congressional committee."

Foust, a mild-mannered 62-year-old Fairfax County supervisor, says he doesn't remember much about the Clinton wars; he was preoccupied starting a law practice and raising his kids. "I was very disappointed in Bill's personal conduct," he said in an interview at his campaign headquarters here, "but I thought it was a political witch hunt."

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Foust said other Clinton allies would soon join his campaign. As for the former president and former first lady, Foust added, “No one knows Barbara Comstock better than the Clintons … and I’m confident they will step up and help us.”

Comstock, for her part, has received checks and pledges of help from some of the most prominent Clinton antagonists from the ’90s. Ken Starr and his wife, Alice Starr, kicked in $1,000 to Comstock’s campaign. Burton, who chaired the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee and was Comstock’s boss, has also sent $1,000.

“I’ll help any way I can,” he said in an interview.

She’s also received help from David Bossie, the Citizens United president and high-profile Clinton critic who worked with her on the investigative panel. The group has endorsed Comstock and given her campaign $10,000.

“Hillary Clinton,” Bossie said, “will have to stay on the straight and narrow to stay out of [Comstock’s] sights.”

CNN: “Hillary Clinton stands by 'Russian reset' in face of recent events”

By Dan Merica

July 24, 2014, 12:35 p.m. EDT

It worked.

That is the argument former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made during a Thursday interview about her much talked about 2009 reset of U.S.-Russia relations.

The statement comes as Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, has distanced itself from the United States, and the country is widely seen by U.S. and European analysts as linked to the downing of a passenger airliner earlier this month in Ukraine.

"What I think I demonstrate in the book, is that the reset worked," Clinton told guest host John Harwood on NPR's “On Point” on Thursday during a conversation about her new memoir, "Hard Choices." "It was an effort to try to obtain Russian cooperation on some key objectives while (Dmitry) Medvedev was president."

Clinton later said the reset "succeeded" and was meant to be "a device to try to refocus attention on the transactional efforts that we needed to get done with the Russians."

The former secretary of state – and frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 – said the signing of the 2009 New START treaty, the increased sanctions on Iran and the securing of supply lines to American troops in Afghanistan were all successes that came from the reset.

But hindsight has not favored Clinton.

Russia has stepped up its aggressiveness on the world stage and the country's relations with the United States have suffered. The front cover of the latest issue of TIME Magazine even declares "Cold War II: The West is losing Putin's dangerous game."

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Putin now finds himself at the center of the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH 17 investigation. U.S. officials believe the plane was shot down over an area of eastern Ukraine that is now in control of Russian-backed separatists. The crash killed all 298 people on board, causing U.S. and European officials to step up rhetoric against Russia, with some blaming Putin directly for the deaths.

Putin has not taken responsibility for the downing, but in a written statement said, "no one should and no one has the right to use this tragedy to pursue their own political goals. Rather than dividing us, tragedies of this sort should bring people together."

The downing and the backing of separatists in Ukraine come after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine earlier this year. The move riled the international community and caused the United States and Europe to sanction important economic sectors of the country.

Clinton argued during the interview that when Putin retook the Russian presidency in 2012 she recognized the need to treat the country differently.

"When Putin announced in the fall of 2011 that he was coming back, I had no illusions," Clinton said. "I wrote a memo to the President, in fact I wrote two memos to the President, pointing out that we were going to have to change our thinking and approach. We had gotten all we could get from the reset."

Clinton's dealings with Russia have also turned political. Republicans have seized on Clinton's reset in light of recent events and the Republican National Committee has made the reset a hallmark of most of their sweeping attacks on Clinton. The group has argued "as relations with Russia continue to deteriorate, Clinton may need to reset her own Russian legacy."

During the interview with Harwood, Clinton acknowledged the number of foreign policy crises around the world but appeared to distance herself from decisions the Obama administration has made since she left in 2013.

"Every administration, every party in the White House has the responsibility during the time it is there to do the best we can to lead and manage the many problems we face," Clinton said when asked if the Obama administration is to blame for a number of issues around the world. "And I think we did in the first term."

On the topic of another international hotspot, Clinton strongly sided with Israel in the country's conflict with Hamas and the Gaza Strip.

Clinton said that she has "no doubt" that the current conflict "was a deliberate provocation" by Hamas to "engender more sympathy for their cause and also to put Israel on the back heal."

"I think the responsibility falls on Hamas," Clinton said.

Clinton did say, however, that she supports Secretary of State John Kerry's efforts to secure a ceasefire in the region and hopes the agreement will bring an end to the fighting.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton: I need to 'work on' press relations"

By Katie Glueck

July 24, 2014, 11:35 a.m .EDT

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Hillary Clinton, who has long had a tempestuous relationship with the media, on Thursday said she may need to "work on" her "expectations" of the press.

Her comments, which came on NPR's "On Point" program, follow criticism from former New York Times editor Jill Abramson that Clinton expects loyalty from journalists, especially female journalists.

"I think maybe one of the points Jill was making is that I do sometimes expect perhaps more than I should," the former secretary of state and possible Democratic presidential frontrunner said. "And I'll have to work on my expectations, but I had an excellent relationship with the State Department press that followed me for four years, and enjoyed working with them and whatever I do in the future, I look forward to having the same kind of opportunities."

In a POLITICO magazine article last week by Gail Sheehy, Abramson was quoted saying that Clinton is "incredibly unrealistic about journalists. She expects you to be 100 percent in her corner, especially women journalists."

Asked whether Clinton feels "so scalded" by her history with the press that it might be difficult to communicate in a possible presidential bid, she said she didn't think so.

The Economist: "Dreamy footsoldiers of the Left"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 26, 2014

[Subtitle:] Some Democrats haven't noticed that the next election is this year, not 2016

ELECTION fever grips the American Left. A mood of scrappy, let-us-at-'em impatience unites such gatherings as Netroots Nation, an annual shindig which this year drew thousands of activists, organisers, bloggers and candidates to Detroit from July 17th-19th. Unfortunately for the broader Democratic Party, the election that inspires the grassroots is the 2016 presidential race. The mid-term congressional elections, which will happen much sooner (in November this year), provoke a more muted response, even though there is a good chance that Republicans will seize the Senate and cripple the rest of Barack Obama's presidency.

The kind of people who attend Netroots Nation are passionately and uncompromisingly left wing. Their champion is Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a former professor who crusades against "big banks", "powerful corporations" and their enablers on the Right. "The game is rigged," thundered Ms Warren, whose demands include more generous Social Security benefits (pensions) for the old (paid for with steep tax hikes), cheaper student loans, a higher minimum wage and other forms of redistribution. Not for her the business-friendly centrism of the Clinton clan. Hillary Clinton did not attend Netroots Nation, instead giving a TV interview in which she suggested that a bit of economic growth might make it easier to curb inequality.

Sweet dreams are made of this

Ms Warren's warm-up act was Gary Peters, a local congressman who, unlike Ms Warren, is running for election this year. Mr Peters, a moderate ex-banker, is trying to win a Senate seat that Democrats desperately need to win but might not. He could use some grassroots support, but the crowd barely noticed him. They were too happy chanting "Run Liz, Run!" or waving "Elizabeth Warren for President" boater-style hats ("they're fun, they're old-timey," said a hipster handing them out). Ms Warren says she is not running for the White House. No matter. Some 100 days from an election that could condemn Mr Obama to near-impotence, some progressives prefer to daydream about President Warren, "who won't stand for all the Wall Street bullshit", to quote a new (endearingly terrible) folk song by her supporters.

The Democrats' footsoldiers can ill afford to daydream in 2014. Even as digital technology transforms elections, recent research shows that flesh-

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and-blood volunteers tend to trump paid advertising. Candidates need supporters to sway their friends and neighbours. This “ground war” is most crucial, for both sides, in the half-dozen swing states where Senate races could go either way. The trouble is, these states are quite conservative. So the Democrats running for office there often have views on guns, coal or fracking that appal progressives, who are therefore reluctant to knock on doors for them.

Like the Republicans with their Tea Party zealots, the Left must choose between purity and pragmatism. MoveOn, a lefty campaign behemoth which claims 8m members, has endorsed only nine Senate candidates so far in this election cycle, conspicuously excluding centrists in tight races in Georgia, Kentucky and Louisiana. The group will “sit out” some races; its members have drawn a “bright line” against endorsing senators who voted against increased background checks for gun-owners, for instance. In 2014 that rules out Mark Begich in Alaska and Mark Pryor in Arkansas.

Another group, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCCC), whose members raised over $2.7m for 2012 candidates, calls itself “the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party”. Its leaders can sound Tea Party-ish, declaring that “ideology” matters as much as finding candidates who can win. The PCCC has invested in such hopeless causes as the Senate race in South Dakota to demonstrate the power of “anti-corporate” messages delivered by the Democratic candidate there. Several leftish groups think the mid-terms are a chance to show that economic populism is the best way to woo unhappy voters, nationwide.

Yet Tea Party parallels are imperfect. Flinty conservatives often scoff that moderate Republicans are no better than Democrats. Progressives are different: many think that Republicans are wicked. That pushes their leaders, at least, towards pragmatism. “We may have to compromise on some things [to beat the Republicans],” says a boss at Democracy For America (DFA), a group founded by Howard Dean, a former Vermont governor and presidential hopeful who claimed to represent “the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party”. Take Alaska’s embattled senator. To DFA, Mr Begich has been “terrible” on oil and gas and “not good” on guns. But he is “fantastic” on inequality. In Louisiana local DFA members are holding their noses and helping a pro-oil Democrat, Senator Mary Landrieu. Ultimately, DFA vows to be “all over” any race that might decide the fate of the Senate. Should Democrats lose in 2014, blame candidates “who didn’t run on expanding Social Security or [raising] the minimum wage,” insists Charles Chamberlain, DFA’s executive director.

Both DFA and the PCCC plan to use digital wizardry to help members place campaign calls to districts across the country: a nifty trick in places where members despise their own party’s local candidates. MoveOn tells activists that saving the Senate is the “most important priority” of 2014, reminding them that Mr Obama’s ability to nominate judges is in the balance. Over on the centre-ground, Ready for Hillary, a group working to rally a volunteer army for Mrs Clinton’s use (should she choose to run in 2016), will “amplify” any 2014 endorsements made by their heroine, instantly urging supporters to lend a hand to that campaign.

On current showing, many will ignore such calls to arms in 2014. Despair with Mr Obama and this Congress may be part of the explanation. Progressive footsoldiers are waiting for the scrap that really interests them: a fight to drag the Democratic Party leftwards to victory in 2016. Republicans, who have plenty of problems of their own, cannot believe their luck.

Slate blog: Weigel: “Where Have You Gone, Brian Schweitzer? A Nation Turns Its Lonely Eyes to You.”

By David Weigel

July 24, 2014, 11:50 a.m. EDT

A full month has passed since Marin Cogan published the definitive 2014 profile of the much-interviewed Brian Schweitzer. Covering Schweitzer, who governed Montana from 2005 to 2013, was irresistable -- he gave good quote, he was openly speculating about a 2016 presidential bid, and if your news organization had the ad revenue, he would usher you into the magical landscape of his state. (When Schweitzer was expected to run for Senate, one adviser told me to come up and ride a prop plane with the man himself. Needless to say, this isn't something you're offered if you're profiling Martin O'Malley.)

Cogan blew up the reporter gravy train. Actually, she got Schweitzer to put down his own controlled demolition. In interviews for the piece, Schweitzer basically said that Rep. Eric Cantor seemed gay ("men in the South, they are a little effeminate") and that Sen. Dianne Feinstein was a slut for the national security state ("standing under the streetlight with her dress pulled all the way up over her knees").

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This damaged Schweitzer in a way none of his other quotes had damaged him. Ruby Cramer is the first reporter to survey the rubble, emptying her notebook from the times Schweitzer gave her quotes that seemed newsy if said by a 2016er and just sort of sad if said by a has-been. Cramer's the first to point out just how bad Schweitzer's timing was. Days after his gaffes...

“Hillary Clinton was quoted in a newspaper saying she and her husband are not among the ‘truly well off,’ and the political world rushed to wonder aloud how she could have ever said such a thing. Washington moved on. Schweitzer was suddenly laughable to the people who propped him up most — he had no place to show his skunk hide; no makeup artists to charm; no use, not at the moment, for the HD uplink, cell tower-powered, Israel-innovated, one-of-its-kind live-hit in-home studio at the end of his dirt road.”

Has Schweitzer been that invisible? Yep. On June 17, he appeared on MSNBC's Ed Show, to talk about energy exploration and the Middle East. ("We keep tying economic interest to these unpredictable conflicts on the Middle East when we have all the power to do it here at home and we have all the people behind it.") On June 19, Cogan's profile went online. Schweitzer has not appeared on cable TV sense then. He's contracted to MSNBC, and the network simply isn't using him. He has not slipped free of the contract to appear on CNN or Fox News. Actually, the only mention of Schweitzer on cable in the month of July came on Monday, when pollster Pat Caddell suggested Schweitzer would be a good candidate against Hillary Clinton.

Caddell is, of course, a shameless hack who is booked because he will say anything. He previously argued that Democrats needed to save their party by dumping Obama for Clinton. But the "booked because he will say anything" role belonged to Schweitzer just weeks ago. He's been silent as Clinton's been battered over her post-State speaking fees, and as ISIS swept into Iraq. Those are his issues!

I left Schweitzer a message, to figure this out and to, you know, give him a chance to weigh in on policy like he used to. But I suddenly remembered how there was literally zero buzz about Schweitzer at last weekend's Netroots Nation conference. Schweitzer had spoken at NN in the past (in 2010) and had been touted for years by progressive bloggers.

CBS News: “Is there room for Joe Manchin among Democrats in 2016?”

By Jacqueline Alemany

July 24, 2014, 11:02 a.m. EDT

On the spectrum of hypothetical 2016 presidential candidacies, the @DraftJoeManchin Twitter movement, if you can call it that, is the elephant in the room of dark horses.

"Fiscally responsible and socially compassionate", as he so often describes himself, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., is about as centrist as a senator can get. A selling point in the 2016 general election, perhaps, but not exactly a great message in a Democratic primary contest in which candidates usually appeal to the passionate left wing of their party.

Vocally pro-coal, anti-abortion rights, pro-gun and anti-Obamacare, Manchin hasn't exactly endeared himself to liberals during his political career.

"My first response was to type in 'hahaha,'" Neil Sroka, the communications director at the liberal group Democracy for America, said when asked about the possibility of Manchin seeking the Democratic nomination.

"Maybe in the early '90s he might have had a chance. Maybe, but you know, right now the Elizabeth Warren wing of the party is ascendant. And it's one where progressives are gathering more and more force. Manchin is no Elizabeth Warren."

But at a time when Republicans and Democrats are more divided along ideological lines than at any other point in the last two decades, could there be room for a rifle-brandishing moderate in a Democratic primary?

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The received wisdom in Washington is that Hillary Clinton, if she decides to run, would clog the "moderate" lane -- and most lanes -- of the Democratic nomination contest. But Mike Weber sees an opening.

"We've been deeply polarized as a nation," Weber, the New Mexico politico behind @DraftJoeManchin, told CBS News. "We can only be unified long-term as a nation again by a centrist president."

Weber started the Twitter account and its correlating 26 state-based draft pages after listening to Clinton's NPR interview with Terry Gross, in which the notoriously cautious former secretary of state bristled under tough questioning about her evolving position on same-sex marriage. Weber called the interview "obnoxious."

If Clinton takes a pass on 2016, however, Manchin might see that opening. Still, his centrist positions would glaringly contrast those of Warren, the liberal freshman senator from Massachusetts and the subject of her own presidential draft movement.

Manchin's supporters, though, point to his ability to use his policy differences as a means to facilitate conversation. It's earned him the reputation for being a dealmaker and the Senate's closest thing to a gridlock breaker. In fact, in 2013, Manchin reached across the aisle more than any Senate Democrat: of the 168 bills he co-sponsored, 43.5 percent of them were introduced by Republicans.

"Manchin would make a great president," said Mark McKinnon, the Republican media strategist who co-founded No Labels, an organization devoted to "problem solving and consensus building."

"He's the model of what we need in leadership today."

"Unfortunately, what makes him a great general election candidate would likely make it very difficult for him to survive a primary. Which of course is another problem in our politics today," McKinnon told CBS News.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., a frequent guest on Manchin's bipartisan evening cruises that he hosts on his boat, blames on the party primary system as one reason why the Congress is on track to be the least productive Congress in history; he paints the path of a centrist as a dead end.

"The partisan primary system, which favors more ideologically pure candidates, has contributed to the election of more extreme officeholders and increased political polarization," Schumer wrote in a New York Times op-ed Tuesday.

Recent Democratic presidential primary history isn't on Manchin's side: since 1972, with the exception of Bill Clinton, Democrats have generally shunned moderates when picking their nominees in a wide-open primary not involving an incumbent president or vice president.

Candidates like Gary Hart, Joe Lieberman and Hillary Clinton are among the high-profile candidates who failed against an eventual nominee that leaned more to the left.

But even in states that aren't traditionally liberal, Dick Harpootlian, the former South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman, argued that a centrist Democrat would have trouble.

"The primary voter here is probably more moderate than anywhere else in the country," Harpootlian told CBS News. "We're not liberal down here, but I still think he'd have a tough time explaining his positions."

"I think there are plenty of places that he would do well," Harpootlian said. "But his position on coal and guns is not moderate. Both extreme."

So, with all the talk of a possible Manchin candidacy, what does Manchin think about the prospect? Well, he seems to be straddling the fence.

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"I feel like I'm in a unique position to help our country become a better place for all Americans," Manchin said in a statement emailed to CBS News. "We will have to see what the future holds."

He was, however, more blunt in an interview with Charleston, W.V., CBS affiliate WOWK-TV last week.

"I'm not serious about running." Manchin said, adding that while he was very flattered, "on a national ticket, it would be a pretty far reach probably for me."

McClatchy DC: "Bernie Sanders for president 2016? It could happen"

By William Douglas

July 24, 2014

Bernie Sanders for President 2016?

The fiesty liberal independent senator from Vermont says it could happen. In an interview to air Thursday on Ora.tv's 'PoliticKing with Larry King,' Sanders says he's weighing his options. He said he's made no decision yet.

'For me to do well, to win a presidential election, would mean that we would have to put together an unprecedented grassroots movement,' he said in the Ora.tv interview. 'I mean, you would need many, many hundreds of thousands of people knocking on doors, educating, organizing. That is not an easy thing to do.'

When King noted that independently wealthy Ross Perot was able to wage a somewhat impactful, though unsuccessful, presidential bid in 1992, Sanders replied that 'the difference between Ross and me – and I like Ross – Ross has a few billion dollars in his bank account. I don't, and that is a significant difference.'

Sanders expressed some frustration with President Barack Obama for trying to work with Republicans in the House of Representatives and the Senate early in his presidency when it was clear that they had no intention of cooperating with the Democratic-held White House.

'I would say my main criticism of Barack Obama is that he seemed to think when he came in, the ensuing years, that he could negotiate with right-wing extremists who really had no intention of negotiating,' Sanders told King.

Sanders said 'negotiation is part of what politics is all about' but you cannot negotiate with people who refuse to negotiate, who really want to destroy you.'

'And I think it took him (Obama) a number of years to learn that lesson,' Sanders added.

RealClearPolitics: "Heitkamp: Addressing Abuse Issues Can Unite Lawmakers"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Adam O'Neal

July 24, 2014

Rep. Donna Edwards and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp expressed a strong hope Thursday that the deeply divided U.S. Congress can come together to address the problem of domestic violence.

Speaking at a breakfast organized by RealClearPolitics and Allstate, the Maryland congresswoman and the North Dakota senator discussed the state of the Violence Against Women Act; the new frontiers in combating domestic violence; and whether an issue as important as women's safety can bridge divides among polarized lawmakers.

Asked by RCP Washington Bureau Chief Carl Cannon whether it was possible to get a bipartisan consensus on these issues, Heitkamp answered, "Absolutely," adding that Sens. John Cornyn, Richard Blumenthal, and Amy Klobuchar see their work in the Senate as a continuation of progress they made as attorneys general and prosecutors in their home states.

Heitkamp also noted that work on domestic violence legislation is a bright spot in the otherwise contentious relationship between the House and Senate. She predicted that the two chambers would be able to agree on a domestic safe harbor bill, "which we're excited about."

Edwards noted that some impediments to significant reform lie in the details of legislation: The fight over reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act had broken down "over really partisan lines because of who would be covered under the new reauthorization. Were we going to cover people on tribal lands? Were we going to cover fully the LGBT community? And these tend to be really partisan kinds of fights."

Edwards added that sequester spending cuts have hurt women, in particular. She noted that funds for programs to protect women and children have not yet been restored to pre-sequester levels.

"I think it's really unfortunate," she lamented, adding that investing in protecting women and children in their homes could turn "into an economic boon. It doesn't really make sense to cut those programs."

The two agreed that one of the best ways to better address the problem of domestic violence and human trafficking is to elect more women to public office. And would electing a woman to the presidency help even more with passing legislation to protect vulnerable women?

"No question about it!" declared an enthusiastic Edwards, who lavished praise on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Despite the hopeful signs both lawmakers cited, the problem of domestic violence remains widespread and serious.

"We need to have a very strong law enforcement presence and we have to prosecute people who exploit human beings, who sell human beings. That has to be among the most heinous of all crimes in our country," said Heitkamp. "But we also have to understand the dynamics and how we're going prevent these crimes as we provide more empowerment on the front end."

Heidtkamp's and Edwards' remarks were followed by a panel discussion featuring leaders in the fight against domestic violence, including: National Network to End Domestic Violence President and CEO Kim Gandy; YWCA CEO Dara Richardson-Heron; Center for American Progress Crime and Firearms Policy Director Chelsea Parsons; and Rutgers University social work professor Judy L. Postmus.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	2/20/2015 7:42:54 AM
Subject:	2.20.15 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	2.20.15 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below. Thanks!

2.20.15 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton: Human Rights**
2. **Hillary Clinton: Engagement Abroad, Prosperity at Home**
3. **Hillary Clinton: Tough on Terrorism**
4. **Hillary Clinton: Tops New Iowa Poll**

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON HUMAN RIGHTS

"We have to show the world that free people and free markets, human rights and human dignity, respect for our fellow men and women, is our core strength."- Hillary Clinton, 1/21/15

BACKGROUND: February 20th is World Social Justice Day, when we honor and promote the ideal of social well-being and justice for all. Hillary Clinton has fought to make human rights a reality.

KEY POINTS:

- Hillary Clinton has been a lifetime advocate for human rights.
- In her time as Secretary of State, Clinton made human rights a foreign policy priority.
- One of her first steps at the State Department was joining the United Nations Human Rights Council, reversing the Bush administration's policy of shunning the organization.
- Secretary Clinton defended free speech and expression, standing by those "who exercise their fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly in a peaceful way, whether in person, in print, or in pixels."
- Upholding the fundamental freedom of the press, Hillary Clinton hosted the first World Press Freedom Day by the U.S
- She promoted the freedom of religion by challenging other countries, such as China, to protect "the rights to express oneself and worship freely."
- Secretary Clinton appointed the first Special Advisor for International Disability Rights to increase protection for "one group of people whose human rights are still denied in too many parts of the world today."

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- Hillary Clinton championed LGBT rights internationally and declared to the world that gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights.
- She partnered with other countries to pass the first United Nations resolution highlighting LGBT rights as human rights.
- Hillary launched efforts to seek women's full participation in society – and give future generations of Americans a chance at success.
- When Hillary Clinton was asked what was next for her, she said, "I would go back to being a voice for the voiceless, standing up against conditions that just leech the life out of children and oppress women and prevent people from fulfilling their God-given potential."

TALKING POINTS: ENGAGEMENT ABROAD, PROSPERITY AT HOME

"Economic statecraft has two parts: First, how we harness the forces and use the tools of global economics to strengthen our diplomacy and presence abroad; and second, how we put that diplomacy and presence to work to strengthen our economy at home." - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

KEY POINTS

- As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton bridged America's engagement abroad with prosperity at home. Clinton made commercial diplomacy and the promotion of trade central to U.S. strategic interests. Called "Economic Statecraft," this addressed the relationship between our economic security and our international affairs while leveraging our global diplomatic strength, growing our domestic economy and creating jobs.
- Clinton laid out a range of initiatives to enhance economic engagement including updating U.S. foreign policy priorities to put more weight on economic opportunities and beefing up the State Department's commercial diplomacy capacity.
- In her time at State, Clinton made a real, new and forward-looking vision for marrying our global diplomatic and domestic economic agendas. She created an Under Secretary For Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment. She appointed the first Chief Economist, allowing the Department to engage effectively with our partners in a world where security is shaped increasingly in boardrooms and on trading floors as well as on battlefields.
- Secretary Clinton understood the pivotal role ambassadors, who are the president's representatives in each country they serve, play in promoting America's economic growth and security. She instructed ambassadors to act as the CEO of the Embassy. As Bloomberg put it: "she ordered embassies to make it a priority to help U.S. businesses win contracts. Science officers now extol American clean-technology companies. Military affairs officers promote U.S. fighter planes."

RESULTS

- Clinton's economic statecraft helped ensure that America is exporting its products, not its jobs overseas. In Clinton's tenure, the State Department helped increase U.S. exports by an estimated 33 percent.
- Secretary Clinton's leadership at State led to an estimated 50 percent growth in exports to China over two years.

EXAMPLES

- Clinton and her efforts through the State Department helped ensure the purchase of more than 250 Boeing 737s by Russia and Indonesia for over $25 billion. These deals are expected to create tens of thousands of U.S. jobs.
- In her tenure as Secretary, the State Department helped secure an estimated $100 million for electric vehicles from Ohio to be sold in Iceland.
- Thanks in part to Clinton's State Department, the Swiss Department of Defence was the inaugural customer for Virginia's Aurora Flight Sciences with a contract valued at $5 million.
- Under Hillary Clinton's leadership, State Department efforts led to Palo Alto firms getting an estimated $668 million contract with Australia.
- As Secretary, Clinton supported a trade deal with a projected worth of more than $80 million between the U.S. company General Electric and Vietnam.

TALKING POINTS: TOUGH ON TERRORISM

MESSAGE: *In a changing and unpredictable world, Hillary Clinton's leadership on issues of national security has kept America secure and*

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helped make the world a safer place.

KEY POINTS:

- Hillary Clinton has recognized the threat and taken a tough stance against ISIS saying, "we have to do everything we can to…marginalize extremists through the Middle East."
- As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton worked through diplomatic channels to help the United States fight terrorism and safeguard our national security.
    - Secretary Clinton made the case for the raid to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.
    - Clinton built relationships with key players in the Middle East and funded counterterrorism training initiatives.
    - Through negotiations with Russia, Clinton successfully worked to reduce the number of nuclear missile launchers in the world.
    - Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history in order to encourage Iran to abandon, or at least stall, its nuclear program.
    - Clinton negotiated the Gaza cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, helping avert an all-out war in Gaza.
    - Clinton played a role to end the war in Iraq and begin a transition to civilian society in Afghanistan.
    - Clinton instituted new roles at the State Department to fight terrorism:
        - Clinton created the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online.
        - Clinton established the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance counterterrorism objectives and our national security.
    - Clinton identified and led on important issues which affect our national security, such as the global empowerment of women and climate change.
        - Clinton worked to empower women and girls around the world to participate in their economies. This helps make economies stronger and more stable.
        - Clinton prioritized addressing climate change in her time at the State Department. Weather events caused by climate change can lead to famine and destroyed infrastructure, which increase instability and unrest.
- Serving as a United States Senator representing New York during September 11, 2001, Hillary Clinton made it a priority to urge the pursuit of justice against Al Qaeda and improve our nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

RECENT STATEMENTS ON ISIS:

- **Clinton: "Canada, the United States, and many other nations are working together to stop the spread of ISIS and other violent jihadi extremists in the region."** "Canada, the United States, and many other nations are working together to stop the spread of ISIS and other violent jihadi extremists in the region. These militants are targeting religious and ethnic minorities, kidnapping and beheading civilians, persecuting and enslaving women, and attracting foreign fighters, including some with Western passports from the United States and Canada who could easily return home. This fight is crucial, and more broadly, we have to do everything we can to empower moderates and marginalize extremists throughout the Middle East and the wider Muslim world." [Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Global Perspectives – Winnipeg, 1/21/15]
- **Clinton: "There is a distorted and dangerous strain of extremism within the Muslim world that continues to spread."** "We are in a contest of ideas and values. And who are we contesting against? Well we are not contesting against the vast majority of Muslims. Islam itself is not the adversary. And the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people. Here amongst us this afternoon we see that every day, in Canada and the United States, with so many of our neighbors and fellow citizens. But we can't close our eyes to the fact that at this time in our world history there is a distorted and dangerous strain of extremism within the Muslim world that continues to spread. Now its adherents may be few in number. But they have the capacity to cause profound damage, most especially, to their own communities. With these vicious few, we are confronting an ideology of hate – a worldview based on tearing down and dividing rather than building up and bringing together based on a claim to absolute truth and total intolerance for the beliefs and rights of their fellow human beings." [Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Global Perspectives – Winnipeg, 1/21/15]

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON TOPS NEW IOWA POLL

***BACKGROUND**: A new NBC/Marist poll in Iowa finds that Hillary Clinton leads the field of potential Democratic presidential candidates in Iowa and beats the Republican contenders polled by wide margins.*

KEY POINTS:

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- Even as right-wing attack groups throw everything but the kitchen sink at Hillary Clinton, she continues to connect with Democrats, Independents and Americans of all backgrounds who are hungry for her experience, leadership and vision. Because of Hillary Clinton's years of public service, her strong record as a leader, and her commitment to fighting for middle class workers and their families, she has the support of so many Americans.

- According to the poll, 68% of Iowa Democrats said that they support Hillary Clinton for president, 56% ahead of the next potential candidate.

- In a poll of Iowa registered voters, Hillary Clinton leads head-to-head matchups against the two Republican contenders polled, beating Scott Walker 49%-38% and Jeb Bush 48%-40%.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- This latest poll is in line with what others polls and pundits have been showing for months – that Hillary Clinton has unprecedented support, despite the onslaught of Republican attacks against her.

    - According to a Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm College New Hampshire poll conducted January 31-February 5, 56% of the likely Democratic primary voters polled in New Hampshire said that Hillary Clinton was their first choice for president, 41% ahead of the next potential candidate. Hillary Clinton is viewed favorably by 89% of likely Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire.

    - A Fusion Massive Millennial poll conducted January 6-11, 2015 finds that 57% of young Democrats polled chose Hillary Clinton as their preferred Democratic presidential nominee, 47% higher than the next potential candidate. The poll also shows that in a head-to-head matchup with young Republicans' preferred GOP nominee, Mitt Romney, who eventually decided not to run, Hillary Clinton would win by double digits, 55%-31%.

    - A Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa poll conducted January 26-29, 2015 finds that 56% of the likely Democratic caucus-goers polled in Iowa said that Hillary Clinton was their first choice for president, 40% ahead of the next potential candidate. The poll also shows that Hillary Clinton is viewed favorably by 84% of Democratic likely caucus-goers.

    - An ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted January 12-15, 2015 finds that Hillary Clinton leads each of the top potential GOP candidates in hypothetical matchups by double digits. According to the poll, Hillary leads Jeb Bush 54%-41%, Mitt Romney 55%-40%, Chris Christie 53%-40%, Rand Paul 54%-41%, and Mike Huckabee 56%-39%.

    - For 17 out of the past 18 years, Hillary Clinton has been named Americans' Most Admired Woman, according to a Gallup poll from December 8-11, 2014.

    - Clinton is extremely popular among Democrats: an NBC/Marist poll from July 7-13, 2014 puts her favorability/unfavorability rating in Iowa at 89 percent/6 percent; in New Hampshire it's even higher, at 94 percent/4 percent.

    - In polls conducted this summer in Ohio , New Jersey and Florida , Hillary Clinton had commanding leads over potential 2016 GOP contenders.

    - According to a Quinnipiac press release on the Ohio poll , "Secretary Clinton, on the other hand, is almost everyone's favorite candidate."

    - Regarding the New Jersey poll, a Quinnipiac official stated , "As Gov. Christopher Christie traipses around the nation, his presidential potential seems alive, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the adopted girl next door, easily beats him in his home state."

    - Based on the Florida poll, CNN reported that "Hillary Clinton is the clear 2016 frontrunner in the nation's largest presidential battleground state."

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From: "Ann Kirkpatrick" <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 11/19/2014 2:01:15 PM
Subject: Protect the Grand Canyon: [PETITION]

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

John --

The Grand Canyon has always been close to my heart. It is one of our country's greatest wonders, and every time I visit the Canyon, I am stunned by its vast beauty and deep heritage.

Grand Canyon National Park is not only one of our state's greatest natural treasures, it is also a major economic driver. The Canyon delivers about 6,000 jobs and $475 million to our local economy each year.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon could pose a real threat to our wonder of the world. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

Earlier this session, I voted against a bill that could have opened up the area around the Canyon for more uranium mining by undermining the administration's 20-year ban.

It is absolutely critical we seek a long-term, permanent solution to protect the Grand Canyon.

Will you join me in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

Please click here to add your name to our list of supporters demanding Congress pass a permanent ban on new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon >>

As a native Arizonan, the Grand Canyon holds a special place in my heart. But if we're going to protect it, I need you to step up.

ADD YOUR NAME: http://action.kirkpatrickforarizona.com/Grand-Canyon

Thanks,

Ann

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/23/2016 6:30:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: The Winners from Russia-West Conflict

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The Winners from Russia-West Conflict

Nelli Babayan February 24, 2016

WASHINGTON—On February 15, EU foreign ministers agreed to remove the sanctions first imposed in 2004 on Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko and other Belarusian officials and companies, following the temporary lifting of EU and U.S. sanctions last October. This is only a small part of a bigger picture of the winners and losers of the West's conflict with Russia. The big winner, at least in the short term, is illiberalism...

FULL ARTICLE

Nelli Babayan is a Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, an initiative of The German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, DC. Follow her on Twitter @NelliBabayan .

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From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/5/2015 11:55:59 PM
Subject: First Draft on Politics: Republicans Gather Under the Lights to Talk Amongst Themselves

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The New York Times
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What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Republicans Gather Under the Lights to Talk Amongst Themselves

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A lectern during a walk-through in Cleveland for the first Republican presidential debate of the election season. Eric Thayer for The New York Times

By Maggie Haberman

Good Thursday morning from Washington as Cleveland bustles with preparations for the first debates of the 2016 election season. Fox News moderators are looking to keep the top 10 candidates on their toes as they wrangle in prime-time, while the seven other candidates will have their say hours earlier. For each group, the preseason is over.

The stage is set. The lights are ready. The candidates have crammed. And the political world is counting down the clock.

The heavily hyped, first sanctioned Republican presidential debate will air at 9 p.m., co-hosted by Fox News and Facebook. The selection process for which 10 candidates would make the stage was executed with all the buildup of an episode of "The Apprentice," the reality television show that **Donald J. Trump** helped create.

The main question for Thursday night is whether the debate, too, will seem like an episode of "The Apprentice," with the candidates ringed around Mr. Trump, who, as the front-runner in the polls, will be at the center podium. The candidates who have all been drowned out by the deluge of Trump news in the last two months will do whatever they can to break through.

Mr. Trump is one of two men to watch closely. The other is **Jeb Bush**, who stumbled Tuesday on a question about Planned Parenthood before a culturally conservative audience and who will have to soothe the jitters among his supporters about his performance over the long term.

As for the candidates who only just made it in, the debate offers **Gov. John R. Kasich** of Ohio the chance to introduce himself, while **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey, who was praised for his web video criticizing **Hillary Rodham Clinton** this week, can use his minutes to remind people of his moxie as a fighter.

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The Allure of 'the Happy Hour Debate'

A former Fortune 500 chief executive, a sitting governor, three former governors, the 2012 Republican runner-up and a sitting senator will take the stage in Cleveland on Thursday.

But not at the main event.

The seven candidates who are currently at the bottom of national polls – **Rick Santorum** (the runner-up), **Carly Fiorina** (the chief executive), **Gov. Bobby Jindal** of Louisiana, **Senator Lindsey Graham** of South Carolina, and the former governors, **Rick Perry**, **George E. Pataki** and **Jim Gilmore** — will face off in an earlier debate, beginning at 5 p.m. or what Mr. Graham's campaign termed "the Happy Hour debate."

Reactions to being relegated were mostly staid, save Mr. Santorum's, as each candidate geared up for their turn in the slightly-less-bright spotlight.

But the earlier debaters hold two potential advantages over their prime-time friends: with fewer candidates on stage, they will have more time on camera to articulate their arguments. Anyone who saw Mr. Graham rush through his opening statement in the Voters First Forum in New Hampshire on Monday knows that will be a welcome change.

They also don't have to worry about the great wild card, **Mr. Trump**, hijacking the debate with either inflammatory comments or rambling statements, which Mr. Perry may have been alluding to in his tweet welcoming the second-tier debate.

"I look forward to being @FoxNews 5pm debate for what will be a serious exchange of ideas & positive solutions to get America back on track," he wrote .

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– Nick Corasaniti

‘Debate Live’: Real-Time Coverage and Analysis

Times reporters will provide instant analysis , fact-checking and viewer reactions during the debates, with coverage beginning at 4:30 p.m. Follow along on your phone or computer at nytimes.com , facebook.com/nytpolitics and twitter.com/nytpolitics .

What We’re Watching

- To mark the 50th birthday of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, **President Obama**, **Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch**, and **Representative John Lewis** of Georgia, will participate in an online video conference to “discuss the significance” of the legislation.

- **Senator Mitch McConnell**, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, will hold a news conference at the Senate. While the House has already left for its August recess, the Senate has been trying to clear its to-do list before its own break while hitting snags on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and to pass a cybersecurity bill.

- And the Historical Congressional Cemetery will be full of goats. Thirty dairy goats will pick up where they left off in previous years, the cemetery says , helping to clear the grounds of invasive species like poison ivy. Visitors “are welcome to grab a glass of wine and take a short walk” to watch the cleanup crew.

As Their Counterparts Debate, Democrats Court Labor Groups

As the Republican rivals attack **Mrs. Clinton** in their party’s first presidential debate on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton will drift above it all.

Literally.

An aide said she would not watch the Fox News debate because she would be on an airplane flying between fund-raisers on the West Coast.

On Thursday, Mrs. Clinton, who is focusing on **Mr. Bush** as the likely nominee anyway, will be talking to donors in Los Angeles and speaking to home health care workers with the Service Employees International Union.

“They’re trying to make the case about her and she’s out there making the case of what she’s going to do for the American people,” the Clinton campaign’s pollster,

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Joel Benenson, said of the Republicans.

Mrs. Clinton will skip another union event, the Iowa Federation of Labor, which is holding its annual convention in Altoona this week. Her Democratic rivals, including **Martin O'Malley**, **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont, **Jim Webb** and **Lincoln Chafee**, all plan to speak at the influential union gathering in the crucial early nominating state.

Mr. O'Malley will greet the A.F.L.-C.I.O. members and leaders soon after being criticized by a labor leader for his stance against the construction of the Keystone pipeline, which environmentalists have lobbied hard to prevent

In a letter to Mr. O'Malley, **Terry O'Sullivan**, president of the Laborers' International Union of North America, said his opposition to the pipeline project was "pandering to extremist and elitist" environmentalists and amounted to "an attack on the jobs of thousands of members" of the group, according to BloombergPolitics. (A spokeswoman for Mr. O'Malley said that his clean energy plan would create jobs.)

The criticism against O'Malley speaks to how politically tricky the pipeline is — and may explain why Mrs. Clinton has remained mum on the issue.

– Amy Chozick

Our Favorites From The Times

- In a speech at American University that invoked the legacy of **John F. Kennedy**, **Mr. Obama** said that the nuclear deal with Iran was a choice between diplomacy and "some sort of war."

- A supporter and former close adviser to **Senator Rand Paul** of Kentucky has been charged with hiding secret payments to secure the endorsement of an Iowa lawmaker during the 2012 presidential campaign of the senator's father, **former Representative Ron Paul** of Tennessee, the Justice Department said on Wednesday.

- **Mr. Sanders** will speak next month at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., the conservative institution founded by **Jerry Falwell**, a seemingly prerequisite platform for Republican presidential candidates, but a rare venue for Democrats.

- And before the debate, the social media platform Snapchat will begin displaying untraditional campaign ads that can be shared by users and are targeted at young voters, an example of the expanding options available to political advertisers who are often clawing for a way to stand out in the digital sphere.

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Jon Stewart Steps Out of the Fray

He has compared **Mr. Trump** to hot-dog-stuffed pizza crust, called **Mr. Perry** a comedian's gift from God and said that **Senator Ted Cruz** of Texas was a dirty syrup guzzler (Canadian), but after Thursday night, "The Democalypse" 2016 will with be without its nightly newscaster.

Jon Stewart signs off on Thursday after more than 16 years behind the desk of "The Daily Show." His departure will spare this year's crop of presidential candidates of their nightly lampooning and cable news will get a reprieve from his hectoring over horse race coverage.

Although Mr. Stewart said he had grown weary of the show after so many years, his valedictory episode will surely be bittersweet as he leaves behind a colorful palette of White House hopefuls.

While much of his attention tends to fall on the follies of Republicans, Democrats such as **Mrs. Clinton** will be free of Mr. Stewart's riffs on her lunch habits, her ability to adopt regional dialects and her relentless desire to be president.

As he said after one of Mrs. Clinton's recent discussions about immigration in which he suggested she was pandering to Latinos: "Are we done here, people?"

– Alan Rappeport

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- The challenge for the candidates relegated to the earlier debate is to find a way to maintain a visual presence over the next few days. For **Mr. Jindal**, that means joining BuzzFeed for a pushup contest against some of his policy peeves, "Taxes," "Obamacare," and "Hyphenated-Americans."

- **Patrick J. Buchanan**, a speechwriter for **President Richard M. Nixon**, and a veteran upstart Republican candidate himself, writes in Newsweek that the polling success of **Mr. Sanders** and **Mr. Trump** shows that, "The American political class has failed the country and should be fired."

- And Rolling Stone offers — for those who wield them responsibly, of course — "The Official G.O.P. Debate Drinking Game Rules."

- Many of the top Republican donors are still sitting on the sidelines, and Thursday night's debate performances could help get them off the fence, Politico reports .

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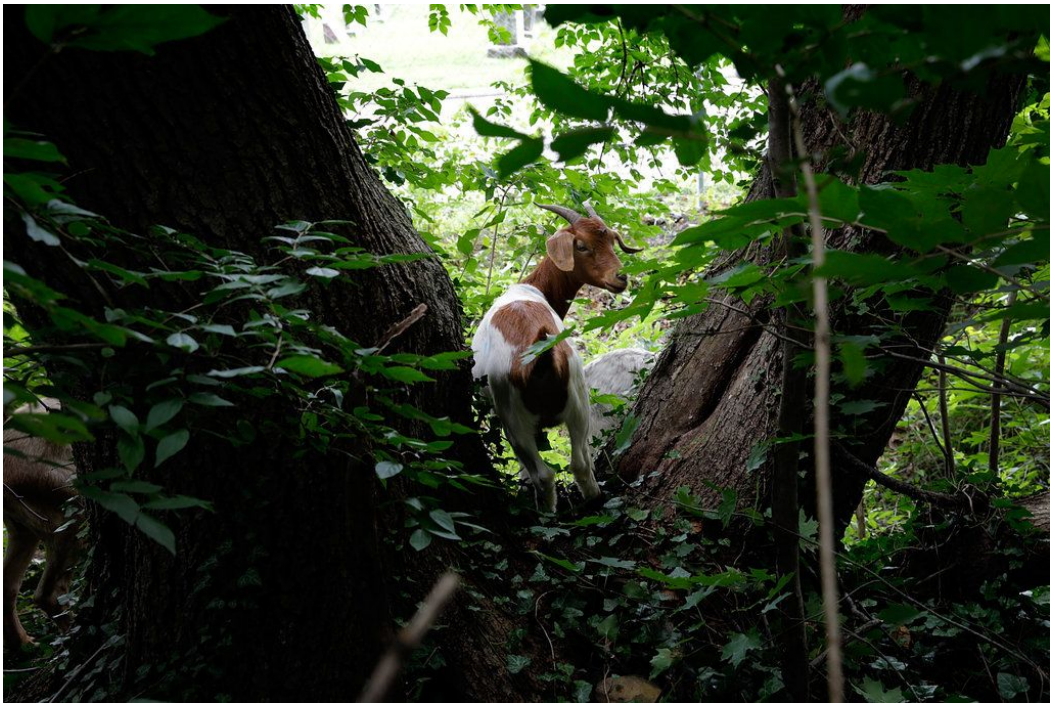

A goat helped clear the grounds of the Congressional Cemetery in Washington in 2013. Win McNamee/Getty Images

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 12/15/2015 11:51:55 AM
Subject: Fwd: Hillary Clinton Lays Out Comprehensive Plan To Bolster Homeland Security

Hillary Clinton Lays Out Comprehensive Plan To Bolster Homeland Security

During remarks in Minneapolis Tuesday, Hillary Clinton laid out a "360-degree strategy to keep America safe" - a plan for protecting the homeland from terrorist threats, including domestic radicalization. Her plan would seek to counter terrorists from every angle and stop every step in the process that could lead to another San Bernardino, from recruitment to training to planning to attacks.

"It's not enough to contain ISIS. We must defeat ISIS. Break its momentum and then its back. And not just ISIS, but the broader radical jihadist movement that also includes al Qaeda and offshoots like al Shabaab in Somalia," Clinton said.

Her homeland security plan is just one element of the three-pronged strategy that she laid out at the Council for Foreign Relations last month for defeating ISIS and combating terrorism globally.

In the wake of the horrific attacks in San Bernardino, Clinton reiterated her call for the nation to come together and show resolve, as the United States has done in the face of so many challenges before.

"The threat we face is daunting. But America has overcome big challenges many times before. Throughout our history, we've stared into the face of evil and refused to blink. We beat Fascism, won the Cold War, brought Osama bin Laden to justice. So no one should ever underestimate the determination of the American people. And I am confident we will once again choose resolve over fear. And we will defeat these new enemies, just as we've defeated those who've threatened us in the past." Clinton continued.

Clinton outlined a strategy that counters each step in the process of a potential terrorist attack on the homeland. She called for: redoubling efforts to shut down ISIS recruitment in the United States, especially by denying them virtual territory; cracking down on would-be jihadists from getting training overseas, and stopping foreign terrorists from coming here, in part by strengthening visa security; ensuring we can better discover and disrupt plots before they can be carried out; supporting law enforcement officers who risk their lives to prevent and respond to attacks; and empowering Muslim-American communities on the front-lines of the fight against radicalization.

Please see a full transcript of the remarks below:

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“Thank you. Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you.

“I'm delighted to be here at this great university, one of the premier public institutions of higher education in our entire country. Yes, indeed. Just, you know, one of those statements of fact that deserves a response.

“I want to thank my longtime friend, Vice President Mondale, for his kind words. His support in this campaign means a great deal to me personally, because I admire so much his service to our country. He is a great Minnesotan and a great American, and we're so privileged to have him with us today.

“I also want to acknowledge a few of the other elected officials who are here. I am, of course absolutely delighted to be joined by former colleagues and friends, your senators, Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, who are quite the dynamic duo for your state. And I am grateful to them for everything they're doing and for their help and support of my campaign.

“I also want to thank Tina Smith, your lieutenant governor, and Steve Simon, your secretary of state.

“And I understand that Betsy Hodges is here, Mayor of Minneapolis.

“And I also want to acknowledge the dean of the Humphries School, Eric Schwartz. Eric was my top advisor on refugee issues at the State Department. I also had the great privilege of working with him when he was on the National Security Council during my husband's administration. You know, he brings a mix of expertise and empathy that has been conspicuously missing from much of our public debate.

“And I am grateful he is here today, but I'm also a little jealous that all of you here at the university get to have the benefit of his experience.

“You know, over the past several months, I have listened to the problems that keep American families up at night. Now, most people don't expect life to be easy, but they do want more security, a good-paying job that lets you afford a middle class lifestyle, health care you can count on, a little bit put away for your retirement.

“Being secure also means being safe, safe at home, at school, at work. And today, I want to talk about how we keep our country safe from a threat that's on everyone's minds, the threat of terrorism.

“But I want to begin by saying, we cannot give in to fear. We can't let it stop us from doing what is right and necessary to make us safe, and doing it in way that is consistent with our values.

“We cannot let fear push us into reckless actions that end up making us less safe. Americans are going to have to act with both courage and clarity.

“Now, as we all know, on December 2nd, two shooters killed 14 people at a holiday party in San Bernardino, California.

“Sadly, in America in 2015, turning on the news and hearing about a mass shooting is not unusual. But this one turned out to be different, because these killers were a husband and wife inspired by ISIS.

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“Americans have experienced terrorism before. On 9/11, we learned that terrorists in Afghanistan could strike our homeland. From Fort Hood to Chattanooga to the Boston Marathon, we saw people radicalized here carrying out deadly attacks.

“But San Bernardino felt different. Maybe it was the timing, coming so soon after Paris. Maybe it was how random it seemed, a terrorist attack in a suburban office park, not a high-profile target or symbol of American power. It made us all feel it could have been anywhere, at any time.

“The phrase "active shooter" should not be one we have to teach our children. But it is.

“And now we are all grappling with what all this means for our future, for our safety, our sense of well-being, and our trust and connections with our neighbors. We want to be open-hearted, and we want to celebrate America's diversity, not fear it.

“And while we know the overwhelming majority of people here and around the world hate ISIS and love peace, we do have to be prepared for more terrorists plotting attacks.

“Just yesterday, a man in Maryland was charged with receiving thousands of dollars from ISIS for use in planning an attack. And here in Minnesota, authorities have charged ten men with conspiring to provide material support to ISIS.

“But in the Twin Cities, you have also seen firsthand how communities come together to resist radicalization: local imams condemning terrorist violence, local artists and activists pushing back against terrorist propaganda.

“I just met with a group of community leaders who told me about some of the work and the challenges that they are dealing with.

“As the first Somali-American police sergeant in Minnesota, and probably in the country, said recently, "Safety is a shared responsibility, so we have to work together."

“The threat we face is daunting. But America has overcome big challenges many times before. Throughout our history, we've stared into the face of evil and refused to blink. We beat Fascism, won the Cold War, brought Osama bin Laden to justice.

“So no one should ever underestimate the determination of the American people. And I am confident we will once again choose resolve over fear. And we will defeat these new enemies, just as we've defeated those who've threatened us in the past.

“Because it is not enough to contain ISIS, we must defeat ISIS, break its momentum and then its back. And not just ISIS, but the broader radical jihadist movement that also includes al Qaeda and offshoots like al Shabaab in Somalia.

“Now, waging and winning this fight will require serious leadership. But unfortunately, our political debate has been anything but serious.

“We can't afford another major ground war in the Middle East. That's exactly what ISIS wants from us. Shallow

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slogans don't add up to a strategy. Promising to carpet bomb until the desert glows doesn't make you sound strong, it makes you sound like you're in over your head. Bluster and bigotry are not credentials for becoming Commander-in-Chief.

"And it is hard to take seriously senators who talk tough but then hold up key national security nominations, including the top official at the Treasury Department responsible for disrupting terrorist financing.

"Every day that's wasted on partisan gridlock could put Americans in danger. So, yes, we need a serious discussion. And that's why in a speech last month before the Council on Foreign Relations I laid out a three-part plan to defeat ISIS and the broader extremist movement.

"One, defeat ISIS in the Middle East by smashing its stronghold, hitting its fighters, leaders, and infrastructure from the air, and intensifying support for local forces who can pursue them on the ground.

"Second, defeat them around the world by dismantling the global network of terror that supplies radical jihadists with money, arms, propaganda, and fighters.

"And third, defeat them here at home by foiling plots, disrupting radicalization, and hardening our defenses.

"Now, these three lines of effort reinforce one another. So we need to pursue all of them at once, using every pillar of American power.

"It will require skillful diplomacy to continue Secretary Kerry's efforts to encourage political reconciliation in Iraq and political transition in Syria, enabling more Sunni Arabs and Kurdish fighters to take on ISIS on both sides of the border, and to get our Arab and Turkish partners to actually step up and do their part.

"It will require more U.S. and allied airpower, and a broader target set for strikes by planes and drones, with proper safeguards.

"It will require Special Operations units to advise and train local forces and conduct key counterterrorism missions.

"What it will not require is tens of thousands of American combat troops. That is not the right action for us to take in this situation.

"So there is a lot to do, and today, I want to focus on the third part of my plan, how we defend our country and prevent radicalization here at home.

"We need a comprehensive strategy to counter each step in the process that can lead to an attack like the one in San Bernardino.

"First, we have to shut down ISIS recruitment in the United States, especially online.

"Second, stop would-be jihadists from getting training overseas, and stop foreign terrorists from coming here.

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“Third, discover and disrupt plots before they can be carried out.

“Fourth, support law enforcement officers who risk their lives to prevent and respond to attacks.

“And fifth, empower our Muslim-American communities, who are on the front-lines of the fight against radicalization.

“This is a 360-degree strategy to keep America safe, and I want to walk through each of the elements, from recruitment to training to planning to execution.

“First, shutting down recruitment. We have to stop jihadists from radicalizing new recruits in-person and through social media, chat rooms, and what's called the "Dark Web."

“To do that, we need stronger relationships between Washington, Silicon Valley, and all of our great tech companies and entrepreneurs. American innovation is a powerful force, and we have to put it to work defeating ISIS.

“That starts with understanding where and how recruitment happens. Our security professionals need to more effectively track and analyze ISIS's social media posts and map jihadist networks, and they need help from the tech community.

“Companies should redouble their efforts to maintain and enforce their own service agreements and other necessary policies to police their networks, identifying extremist content and removing it.

Now, many are already doing this, and sharing those best practices more widely is important.

“At the State Department, I started an interagency center to combat violent jihadist messages, to have a better way to communicate on behalf of our values, and to give young people drawn to those messages an alternative narrative.

“We recruited specialists fluent in Arabic, Urdu, and Somali to wave online battles with extremists to counter their propaganda.

“Now, those efforts have not kept pace with the threat, so we need to step up our game, in partnership with the private sector and credible moderate voices outside government.

“But that's just some of what we have to do. Experts from the FBI, the intelligence community, Homeland Security, DOD, the State Department, and the technology industry should work together to develop a unified national strategy to defeat ISIS in cyberspace, using all of our capabilities to deny jihadists virtual territory, just as we work to deny them actual territory.

“And at the same time, we also have to do more to address the challenge of radicalization, whatever form it takes.

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“It's imperative that the Saudis, the Qataris, the Kuwaitis and others stop their citizens from supporting radical schools, madrassas and mosques around the world, once and for all, and that should be the top priority in all of our discussions with these countries.

“Now, second, we have to prevent ISIS recruits from training abroad, and prevent foreign jihadists from coming here.

“Most urgent is stemming the flow of fighters from Europe and America to Iraq and Syria, and then back home again.

“The United States and our allies need to know the identities of every fighter who makes that trip, and then share information with each other in real time.

“Right now, European nations don't always alert each other when they turn away a suspected extremist at the border or when a passport is stolen. They have to dramatically improve intelligence sharing and counterterrorism cooperation. And we're ready to help them do that.

“We also need to take down the network of enablers who help jihadists finance and facilitate their travel, forge documents, and evade detection. And the United States and our allies should commit to revoke the passports and visas of jihadists who have gone to join ISIS or other groups, and bring the full force of law against them.

“As I've said before, the United States has to take a close look at our visa programs. And I am glad the administration and Congress are stepping up scrutiny in the wake of San Bernardino. And that should include scrutinizing applicants' social media postings. We also should dispatch more Homeland Security agents to high-risk countries to better investigate visa applicants.

“For many years, America has waived visa requirements for travelers from countries with reliable security procedures, including key allies in Europe and Asia. That makes sense. But we also have to be smart. Except for limited exceptions like diplomats and aid workers, anyone who has traveled in the past five years to a country facing serious problems with terrorism and foreign fighters should have to go through a full visa investigation, no matter where they're from.

“We also have to be vigilant in screening and vetting refugees from Syria, guided by the best judgment of our security and diplomatic professionals. Rigorous vetting already takes place while these refugees are still overseas, and it's a process that historically takes 18 to 24 months.

But Congress needs to provide enough resources to ensure we have sufficient personnel deployed to run the most thorough possible process.

“And just as important, we cannot allow terrorists to intimidate us into abandoning our values and our humanitarian obligations.

“Turning away orphans, applying a religious test that discriminates against Muslims, slamming the door on every single Syrian refugee; that is not who we are. We are better than that.

“It would be a cruel irony indeed if ISIS can force families from their homes and then also prevent them from finding new ones. So after rigorous screening, we should welcome families fleeing Syria just as the Twin Cities and this state have welcomed previous generations of refugees, exiles, and immigrants.

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“Of course, the key is to prevent terrorists also from exploiting our compassion and endangering our security. But we can do this. And I think we must.

“Third, we have to discover and disrupt jihadist plots before they can be carried out. This is going to take better intelligence collection, analysis, and sharing. I've proposed an "intelligence surge" against ISIS that includes more operations officers and linguists, enhancing our technical surveillance of overseas targets, intercepting terrorist communications, flying more reconnaissance missions to track terrorists' movements, and developing even closer partnerships with other intelligence services.

“President Obama recently signed the USA Freedom Act, which was passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress. It protects civil liberties while maintaining capabilities that our intelligence and law enforcement agencies need to keep us safe. However, the new law is now under attack from presidential candidates on the left and right. Some would strip away crucial counterterrorism tools, even with appropriate judicial and congressional oversight. Others seem eager to go back to discredited practices of the past.

“I don't think we can afford to let either view prevail. Now, encryption of mobile devices and communications does present a particularly tough problem with important implications for security and civil liberties. Law enforcement and counterterrorism professionals warn that impenetrable encryption may make it harder for them to investigate plots and prevent future attacks. On the other hand, there are very legitimate worries about privacy, network security, and creating new vulnerabilities that bad actors can exploit.

“I know there's no magic fix to this dilemma that will satisfy all these concerns. But we can't just throw up our hands. The tech community and the government have to stop seeing each other as adversaries and start working together to keep us safe from terrorists. And even as we make sure law enforcement officials get the tools they need to prevent attacks, it's essential that we also make sure jihadists don't get the tools they need to carry out attacks.

“It defies common sense that Republicans in Congress refuse to make it harder for potential terrorists to buy guns. If you're too dangerous to fly, you're too dangerous to buy a gun, period. And we should insist on comprehensive background checks and close loopholes that allow potential terrorists to buy weapons online or at gun shows. And I think it's time to restore the ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

“I know this will drive some of our Republican friends a little crazy. You'll probably hear it tonight. They will say that guns are a totally separate issue, nothing to do with terrorism. Well, I have news for them, terrorists use guns to kill Americans. And I think we should make it a lot harder for them from to do that ever again.

“And there's a question, a question they should be asked: Why don't the Republican candidates want to do that? You see, I have this old fashioned idea that we elect a President in part, in large part, to keep us safe, from terrorists, from gun violence, from whatever threatens our families and communities. And I'm not going to let the gun lobby or anyone else tell me that's not the right path for us to go down.

“Now, the fourth element in my strategy is supporting law enforcement officers who risk their lives to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks.

“In San Bernardino, city, county, state, and federal authorities acted with speed and courage to prevent even more loss of life. Like Detective Jorge Lozano, a 15-year police veteran, who assured terrified civilians, "I'll take a bullet before you do." There is no limit to the gratitude we owe to law enforcement professionals like that Detective Lozano who run toward danger to try to save lives. And not just in the immediate wake of an attack. Our police, firefighters, and emergency responders will keep putting their lives on the line long after the cameras move on.

“It's disgraceful that Congress has thus far failed to keep faith with first responders suffering from the lasting

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health effects of 9/11. Many of them were men and women I was so proud to represent as a Senator from New York. The Zadroga 9/11 Health Act never should have been allowed to lapse. It looks like Majority Leader Mitch McConnell may have finally dropped his opposition. And I hope the American people will hold him to that. And we will continue to honor the service and sacrifice of those who responded to the worst terrorist attack in our history.

“We have to make sure that local law enforcement has the resources and training they need to keep us safe. And they should be more closely synced up with national counterterrorism experts, including with better use of "fusion centers" that serve as clearinghouses for intelligence and coordination.

“And we need to strengthen our defenses and our resilience wherever we're vulnerable, whether it's "soft targets" like shopping malls or higher-profile targets like airports, railways, or power plants. We have to build on the progress of the Obama Administration in locking down loose nuclear materials, and other WMD, so they never fall into the hands of terrorists who seek them actively around the world.

“So we should be providing the Department of Homeland Security with the resources it needs to stay one step ahead, not trying to privatize key functions, like TSA, as some Republicans have proposed.

“And it's important for us to recognize that when we talk about law enforcement, we have made progress in being sure that our federal authorities share information with our state and local authorities, but that was an issue I tackled after 9/11, and we have to stay really vigilant so that information is in the hands where it needs to be.

“Finally, the fifth element in the strategy is empowering Muslim-American communities who are on the front-lines of the fight against radicalization. There are millions of peace-loving Muslims living, working, raising families, and paying taxes in our country. These Americans may be our first, last, and best defense against home grown radicalization and terrorism. They are the most likely to recognize the insidious effects of radicalization before it's too late, intervene to help set a young person straight. They are the best positioned to block anything going forward.

“That's why law enforcement has worked so hard since 9/11 to build up trust and strong relationships within Muslim-American communities. Here in the Twin Cities, you have an innovative partnership that brings together parents, teachers, imams, and others in the Somali-American community with law enforcement, non-profits, local businesses, mental health professionals and others to intervene with young people who are at risk.

“It's called the Building Community Resilience Pilot Program, and it deserves increased support. It has not gotten the financial resources that it needs to do everything the people involved in it know they can do. And we've got to do a better job of supporting it.

“Now I know that like many places across the country, there's more work to do to increase trust between communities and law enforcement. Just last month, I know here a young African American man was fatally shot by a police officer. And I understand an investigation is underway. Whatever the outcome, tragedies like this raise hard questions about racial justice in America and put at risk efforts to build the community relationships that help keep us safe from crime and from terrorism.

“When people see that respect and trust are two-way streets, they're more likely to work hand-in-hand with law enforcement. One of the mothers of the 10 men recently charged with conspiring with terrorists said, "We have to stop the denial," she told other parents that. "We have to talk to our kids and work with the FBI." That's a message we need to hear from leaders within Muslim-American communities across our country.

“But we also want to highlight the successes in Muslim American communities, and there are so many of them. I just met with the first Somali-American council member of the City Council here. And he was proudly telling me

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how much change Somali immigrants, now Muslim-Americans have made in parts of the city and neighborhoods that had been pretty much hollowed out. Let's look at the successes.

“If we're going to full integrate everyone into America, then we need to be seeing all their contributions, too. And that is one of the many reasons why we must all stand up against offensive, inflammatory, hateful, anti-Muslim rhetoric. You know, not only do these comments cut against everything we stand for as Americans, they are also dangerous.

“As the Director of the FBI told Congress recently, anything that erodes trust with Muslim-Americans makes the job of law enforcement more difficult. We need every community invested in this fight, not alienated and sitting on the sidelines.

“One of the community leaders I met with told me that a lot of the children in the community are now afraid to go to school. They're not only afraid of being perceived as a threat, they are afraid of being threatened because of who they are. This is such a open-hearted and generous community, I hope there will be even more efforts perhaps under the aegis of the university and certainly Governor Dayton and others, to bring people together to reassure members of the community, particularly children and teenagers that they are welcome, invited and valued here in this city and state.

“Now Donald Trump's proposal to ban all Muslims from entering the United States has rightly sparked outrage across our country and around the world. Even some of the other Republican candidates are saying he's gone too far. But the truth is, many of those same candidates have also said disgraceful things about Muslims. And this kind of divisive rhetoric actually plays into the hands of terrorists. It alienates partners and undermines moderates we need around the world in the fight against ISIS.

“You know, you hear a lot of talk from some of the other candidates about coalitions. Everyone seems to want one. But there's not nearly as much talk about what it actually takes to build a coalition and make it work. I know how hard this is because I've done it. And I can tell you, insulting potential allies doesn't make it any easier.

“And demonizing Muslims also feeds a narrative that jihadists use to recruit new followers around the world, that the United States is at war with Islam. As both the Pentagon and the FBI have said in the past week, we cannot in any way lend credence to that twisted idea. This is not a clash of civilizations. It's a clash between civilization and barbarism and that's how it must be seen and fought.

“Some will tell you that our open society is a vulnerability in the struggle against terrorism. I disagree. I believe our tolerance and diversity are at the core of our strength. At a Naturalization ceremony for new citizens today in Washington, President Obama noted the tension throughout our history between welcoming or rejecting the stranger. It is, he said, about the meaning of America, what kind of country do we want to be? And it's about the capacity of each generation to honor the creed as old as our founding, E Pluribus Unum. Out of many we are one.

“President Obama is right, and it matters. It's no coincidence that American Muslims have long been better integrated and less susceptible to radicalization than Muslims in less welcoming countries. We can't give in to demagogues who play on our basest instincts. We must instead rely on the principles written into our American DNA. Freedom. Equality. Opportunity.

“America is strongest when all our people believe they have a stake in our country and our future, no matter where they're from, what they look like, how they worship, or who they love. Our country was founded by people fleeing religious persecution. As George Washington put it, the United States gives "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." So to all our Muslim-American brothers and sisters, this is your country too. And I am proud to be your fellow American.

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“And I want to remind us, particularly our Republican friends, that George W. Bush was right. Six days after 9/11 he went to a Muslim community center and here's what he said, those who feel like they can intimidate our fellow citizens to take their anger don't represent the best of America, they represent the worst of human kind, and they should be ashamed of that kind of behavior.

“So if you want to see the best of America, you need look no further than Army Captain Humayun Khan. He was born in the United Arab Emirates. He moved to Maryland as a small child, and later graduated from the University of Virginia, before enlisting in the U.S. Army.

“In June 2004, he was serving in Iraq. One day, while his infantry unit was guarding the gates of their base, a suspicious vehicle appeared. Captain Khan told his troops to get back, but he went forward. He took ten steps toward the car before it exploded. Captain Khan was killed, but his unit was saved by his courageous acts. Captain Khan was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was just 27 years old.

“‘We still wonder what made him take those 10 steps," Khan's father said in a recent interview. "Maybe that's the point," he went on, "where all the values, all the service to country, all the things he learned in this country kicked in. It was those values that made him take those 10 steps. Those 10 steps told us we did not make a mistake in moving to this country," his father finished.

“As hard as this is, it's time to move from fear to resolve. It's time to stand up and say, ‘We are Americans.’ We are the greatest nation on earth not in spite of the challenges we've faced, but because of them. Americans will not buckle or break. We will not turn on each other or turn on our principles. We will pursue our enemies with unyielding power and purpose. We will crush their would-be caliphate and counter radical jihadism wherever it takes root. We're in it for the long haul. And we'll stand taller and stronger than they can possibly imagine.

“That's what we do here. It's who we are. That's how we'll win, by looking at one another with respect, with concern, with commitment. That's the America that I know makes us all so proud to be a part of.

“Thank you all very much.”

--

Adrienne K. Elrod
Director of Strategic Communications & Amplification
Hillary For America
www.hillaryclinton.com
@adrienneelrod

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Ricesusane@aol.com
Date: 10/16/2008 11:10:11 AM
Subject: Re: next steps

Susan,
I think we should not alter your format. Fine to go ahead and complete
in that fashion. I t would be useful to have Jim's overview follow
more closely the template we sent. At least it ought to cover the
topics included in the template. Sorry for the delay.
John

On Thu, Oct 16, 2008 at 11:26 AM, <Ricesusane@aol.com> wrote:
> Hi John,
>
> We look forward to your guidance on format for our papers.
>
> many thanks,
>
> Susan
>
>
> _____
> New MapQuest Local shows what's happening at your destination. Dining,
> Movies, Events, News & more. Try it out!
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: "James B. Steinberg" <djsberg@gmail.com>
> To: "Ricesusane@aol.com" <ricesusane@aol.com>, "Gayle Smith"
> <gaylesmithgayle@gmail.com>, "Mona Sutphen"
> <MSutphen@Stonebridge-International.com>
> Date: Thu, 16 Oct 2008 10:21:57 -0500
> Subject: next steps
> I have comments on all the memos from the last round .But I"ve been holding
> back on talking to the writers until we know where we are on format. Do we
> think we're going to hear from John soon? Should I send the comments out to
> the writers but have them hold off until we know on format, or just get
> another round of memos done. On most, my comments are relatively minor but
> on a few (especially the ones that were commissioned later -- China, Russia,
> DRPK -- they are more substantial
>
> for the call, on saturday, my only window is between 1-3:30 my time (2-4:30
> east coast) Sunday I can do anytime except early morning and after 5
>

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From:	"Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	9/3/2008 3:51:40 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] FW: NSN Daily Update: McCain's Selection of Palin Calls into Question his Foreign Policy Judgement

NSN Daily Update: McCain's Selection of Palin Calls into Question His Foreign Policy Judgment

9/3/08

The stakes tonight for Governor Sarah Palin's speech are extraordinarily high. The McCain campaign's contention that "She's going to learn national security at the foot of the master for the next four years, and most doctors think that he'll be around at least that long," is not good enough. She must be ready to step in immediately. The stakes are too high. If Palin is unable to demonstrate a clear understanding of national security issues in the weeks ahead it calls into serious question McCain's own judgment as Commander in Chief. Tonight, Palin must demonstrate that she does in fact have the judgment, and is on her way to acquiring the foreign policy knowledge to lead the world's largest military and largest economy. Other serious candidates for national office, who did not have extensive foreign policy backgrounds, such as Presidents Bush and Clinton, took the time to learn the issues well before election day. With nine weeks to go, Palin faces a steep challenge and so does John McCain's judgment.

At tonight's speech before the Republican National Convention, Governor Palin must demonstrate her foreign policy credentials. In her speech tonight before the Republican National Convention, Palin must show Americans that she has the foreign policy judgment and knowledge to lead the country in a crisis. Vice Presidents play an important role in foreign policy, demonstrated most recently by Vice President Cheney's trip to Eastern Europe, and even more importantly they have to be able to step in immediately if the President cannot fulfill his or her duty. But according to Maj. Gen. Craig Campbell of the Alaska National Guard, Palin plays "no role in national defense activities, even when they involve the Alaska National Guard. The entire operation is under federal control, and the governor is not briefed on situations." Last year, when asked her opinion on President Bush's surge strategy, Palin responded by saying: "I've been so focused on state government, I haven't really focused much on the war in Iraq." This is simply not good enough for the office to which she aspires. She must demonstrate that she takes these issues seriously and is prepared. [Alaska Business Monthly, 3/1/07 . AP, 9/1/08]

Candidates who are serious about running for national office understand that learning on the job is not enough and go out of their way to build an extensive foreign policy apparatus around them and educate themselves on the issues years before the election. Confronting the foreign policy challenges faced by the U.S. requires hard work, and years of preparation. Former President Bill Clinton, lacking foreign policy experience himself, spent years under the tutelage of experts such as Tony Lake, Warren Christopher and Sandy Berger. In 2000, President George W. Bush called Condoleezza Rice his foreign policy "quarterback" and had a cadre of foreign policy experts advising him as early as 1998 while he was governor of Texas. Senator Obama has done the same, building an extensive network of 300 foreign policy advisors and taking a position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But as McCain adviser Charlie Black has said, the McCain campaign's plan is to have Palin learn on the job: "She's going to learn national security at the foot of the master for the next four years, and most doctors think that he'll be around at least that long." [NY Times, 8/29/08 , NY Times, 9/13/92. 8/16/00 . Stanford Review, 10/29/99 . NY Times, 7/18/08]

John McCain's first foreign policy test, selecting a running mate, calls into question his decision making and judgment. John McCain appears to have been hasty in making his selection of Governor Palin as his running mate. Before their joint appearance announcing her selection, McCain had met Palin only once. Moreover, Palin "was not subjected to a lengthy in-person background interview with the head of Sen. John McCain's vice presidential vetting team until last Wednesday in Arizona, the day before McCain asked her to be his running mate," and McCain's aides "are on the ground in Alaska now to look more thoroughly into Ms. Palin's background." According to the New York Times, "the process reflects Mr. McCain's history of making fast, instinctive and sometimes risky decisions," a tendency he addressed in his

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2002 book, *Worth the Fighting For,* by writing, "Often my haste is a mistake, but I live with the consequences without complaint." This is simply not the way the decision-making process should proceed for someone who could potentially become the most powerful leader in the world. [MSNBC, 8/29/08 . NY Times, 9/02/08 . Washington Post, 9/03/08 . NY Times, 8/31/08]

Quick Hits

According to media reports, North Korea is reassembling its nuclear facilities, in response to the United States' refusal to remove the country from the list of state-sponsors of terrorism; the U.S. maintains that North Korea must provide more information on its nuclear programs before being taken off the list.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani escaped an assassination attempt in Rawalpindi.

While Georgia announced intentions to **rebuild and rearm its military,** Russian President Dmitri **Medvedev announced that Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili "no longer exists in our eyes. He is a political corpse ."** Elsewhere, 2 journalists were attacked in the Caucusus region of Russia, increasing fears of a renewed crackdown on the media.

Also in the region, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney embarked on a tour of former Soviet republics including the Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy is making a visit to Syria, the first such trip by a Western head of state in five years.

Aafia Siddiqui , a female Pakistani neuroscientist with ties to al Qaeda, has been indicted in the United States; she was captured in Afghanistan two months ago and possessed evidence of planning for a "mass casualty attack."

Former Attorney General Alberto Alberto Gonzales "could not recall" how he stored highly classified material and may have lied to FBI personnel, which, as Jeff Stein observes , sent Scooter Libby to jail.

A "mistaken fire" incident has led to **U.S. troops killing at least six members of the Iraqi Security Forces**.

NSN's Pat Barry points out on Democracy Arsenal that in the **three major speeches at the Republican National Convention last night, not a single one mentioned Afghanistan** .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/22/2014 1:34:12 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday October 22, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday October 22, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

CNN: Hillary Clinton finds a campaign message in personal speech

Clinton usually targets women voters in her appearances. But in Colorado, the former secretary of state and likely presidential candidate in 2016, spoke about how fortunate she felt to be born in America and the message she hopes to be able to leave with children.

Associated Press: The Clintons, the Democrats' 2014 super surrogates

“With speculation rampant about whether Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a second presidential run, the power couple has blanketed the political map this fall, attending fundraisers and get-out-the-vote rallies for a long roster of Democratic candidates.”

Washington Post: Hillary Clinton stumps for Udall in Colorado, calling race ‘especially important’ for women

Asserting that women's reproductive rights are more at risk than at any time in the past 40 years, Hillary Rodham Clinton made an impassioned plea to the women of Colorado here Tuesday to reelect embattled Sen. Mark Udall and the rest of the Democratic ticket.

Washington Post: Hillary Clinton sharpens her stump speech

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"Continuing her 2014 evolution from mostly apolitical figure to fierce partisan, Hillary Rodham Clinton is accusing Republicans of national "amnesia" about their own failings in office and telling Democrats they will have themselves to blame if they don't come out to vote in midterm elections."

The Hill: Hillary Clinton praises Udall on NSA reform

"Hillary Clinton praised Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), a leading critic of the Obama administration on NSA reform, for his work on intelligence matters during a campaign stop Tuesday."

BuzzFeed: Hillary Clinton Raises "Record" Millions For Senate Democrats

"Hillary Clinton raised a record $2.1 million for Senate Democrats at a Los Angeles fundraiser organized on Mondaynight by Jeffrey Katzenberg, the top film executive who has positioned himself to play a leading, influential role in the possible presidential campaign many expect from the former secretary of state."

The Hill: Dems: Pelosi isn't going anywhere

"'I think Nancy would love to be the first female Democratic Speaker to serve under the first female Democratic president,' [Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.)] said."

Associated Press, via Minneapolis Star Tribune: Former President Clinton talks jobs, health care in campaigning for Quinn, Durbin in Illinois

"Former President Bill Clinton became the latest high-profile Democrat to back the re-election bids of Gov. Pat Quinn and U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, saying Tuesday that the candidates focus on issues important to voters, like jobs and health care."

The Hill: How 2014 may shape Hillaryland

"If Democrats lose the Senate, the reverberations could be felt in a Hillary Clinton presidential campaign."

Articles:

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CNN: Hillary Clinton finds a campaign message in personal speech

By Dan Merica

October 22, 2014

Washington (CNN) -- Hillary Clinton used her Tuesday appearance in Colorado, where experts see the female vote deciding a number of statewide races, to court women with a personal message about her life and her hopes for the future.

Clinton usually targets women voters in her appearances. But in Colorado, the former secretary of state and likely presidential candidate in 2016, spoke about how fortunate she felt to be born in America and the message she hopes to be able to leave with children.

The personal remarks, while focused on turning out voters for Democrats Mark Udall, John Hickenlooper and Andrew Romanoff, sounds a great deal like a presidential candidate and resembled a message Clinton could use should she run for president.

"I have had a great set of experiences. I have been very fortunate in my life, but the most fortunate thing besides the parents to whom I was born, is that I was born in America," Clinton said. "I, from the moment of my birth, was blessed because of that. And I grew up believing with all my heart that if I worked hard, if I did was I was supposed to do, go to school, get an education, that I would have opportunities that were never available to my mother."

Clinton added, "Indeed that came true for me. I don't want that ever to be lost. I want everyone in this room to be able to look at any baby, any child and truthfully say, 'You have the same right to the American dream that I did.'"

This was Clinton's second trip to Colorado in a week. She spent a few hours with Udall last week at a private fundraiser and at a local coffee shop and market to meet voters.

Udall is in a tight race with Republican Rep. Cory Gardner, who some polls have slightly ahead.

"The only poll that counts is that poll on election day," Udall said, warming up the crowd for Clinton by using a tried-and-true campaign cliche.

Democrats in the state and nationally see Clinton as someone who can turn out women in Colorado, a key demographic that some experts see the election turning on.

"This election is important to everybody, but it is especially important to the women of Colorado," Clinton said, touching upon a woman's right to choose, personhood laws and availability of birth control - all topics the race between Udall and Gardner have focused on.

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"Women's rights here at home and around the world are clearly at risk," Clinton said, arguing those rights "are like the canaries in the mine."

Although Clinton was there to endorse Democrats and increase excitement, her presidential aspirations weren't far from the minds of many.

Before Clinton went on, Romanoff tried to pep up the crowd by asking, "Are you ready to hear from the next president of the United States?"

Even Udall got into the hinting at 2016 action when he said, "I think we hope she [Hillary Clinton] is going to come back over the next few years."

Associated Press: The Clintons, the Democrats' 2014 super surrogates

By Ken Thomas and Nicholas Riccardi

October 22, 2014 3:17 a.m. EDT

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — Bill and Hillary Clinton are the validators-in-chief for Democrats struggling through a bleak campaign season in states where President Barack Obama is deeply unpopular.

With speculation rampant about whether Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a second presidential run, the power couple has blanketed the political map this fall, attending fundraisers and get-out-the-vote rallies for a long roster of Democratic candidates. In states like Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina and Colorado, the Clintons are an asset at a time when many Democrats need a big name to help inspire supporters. The Clintons usually campaign for candidates on their own.

On the campaign trail, the former president, in particular, is in his element.

"I feel like an old racehorse in a stable and people just take me out and put me on the track and slap me on the rear to see if I can run around one more time," the ex-president joked at a recent Democratic Party event in New Hampshire — a theme he has used before while campaigning this round.

Obama appeared at his first political rallies last weekend — in Democratic-friendly Maryland and his home state of Illinois — but the Clintons can go where the president might not be helpful.

Bill Clinton starred in TV ads for Alison Lundergan Grimes in Kentucky, where Obama is so unpopular that Grimes has repeatedly refused to say whether she voted for him.

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The couple is a powerful fundraising force that fuels voter turnout and give activists a taste of what could come next.

"Some people excel at raising money. Some people excel at turning out voters. The Clintons excel at both," said Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., who leads the House Democrats' campaign arm. "There is not one single competitive district in the country where both don't do well."

Their campaign schedule is infused with anticipation of a second run for the White House by Hillary Clinton, former first lady, senator and secretary of state.

She's expected to announce her decision after the November elections, a move that could boost morale should Democrats cede control of the Senate and lose seats in the House.

This week alone, Hillary Clinton hauled in an estimated $3.5 million in California for the campaign committees of House and Senate Democrats, including $2.1 million at a Hollywood event with Democratic mega-donors Jeffrey Katzenberg and Steven Spielberg.

In Denver's suburbs Tuesday, the former secretary of state vouched for Colorado Sen. Mark Udall — who's locked in a tight race against Republican Rep. Cory Gardner — and Gov. John Hickenlooper, calling them "two of the most effective leaders in the country."

People showing up for the rally had to fill out part of their ticket entitled, "I Pledge to Vote," and hand in the stub at the door for admission. Campaign workers signed up attendees to work get-out-the-vote shifts.

It was Clinton's second visit to Colorado in as many weeks. During the last trip, she strolled through Denver's central train station with Udall, ensuring images of them on the local news.

Hillary Clinton's itinerary this week includes events with Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, a former Senate colleague; three rallies in New England with candidates running for governor; and a weekend appearance in Charlotte, N.C., with embattled North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan.

Bill Clinton is covering even more ground: Baton Rouge, La., for Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu on Monday; Chicago for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and western Kentucky for Grimes on Tuesday; Flint, Mich., and Long Island, N.Y., for Democratic candidates on Wednesday. Thursday brings a New Jersey fundraiser for Bonnie Watson Coleman, a congressional candidate; by Friday, Clinton will be in Syracuse, N.Y., for Rep. Dan Maffei and Milwaukee for Mary Burke, who is challenging Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

Yet no state personifies the Clintons' campaign push more than Arkansas, where Bill Clinton was governor for more than a decade. During the past two weeks, he has barnstormed the state at 10 events for Sen. Mark Pryor, Mike Ross, his one-time campaign driver who is running for governor, and a field of congressional candidates.

Bill Clinton's visits have encouraged early voting among black voters and college students. Robert McLarty, the director of the state Democratic Party's coordinated campaign, said Democrats have registered or re-registered 3,000 voters on college campuses at Clinton events and filled 8,500 get-out-the-vote shifts, the equivalent of someone committing to work a phone bank for 2 hours or canvass a neighborhood for 4 hours.

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New Hampshire, the nation's first presidential primary state, is also getting the Clinton treatment. Hillary Clinton will be there on the final Sunday before the election, helping a slate of female candidates, while Bill Clinton's speech at the state party's fall dinner drew a big crowd and raised $250,000.

Washington Post: Hillary Clinton stumps for Udall in Colorado, calling race 'especially important' for women

By Dan Balz

October 21, 2014 5:09 p.m. EDT

AURORA, Colo. - Asserting that women's reproductive rights are more at risk than at any time in the past 40 years, Hillary Rodham Clinton made an impassioned plea to the women of Colorado here Tuesday to reelect embattled Sen. Mark Udall and the rest of the Democratic ticket.

Clinton said women's rights - from equal pay to freedom of choice on abortion to affordable and accessible contraception - are central issues in the 2014 campaigns. "This election is important for everybody but it's especially important for the women of Colorado," she said.

The former secretary of state appeared at a rally that featured both Udall and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, each of whom are in competitive races. Also appearing was former Colorado House speaker Andrew Romanoff, who is running against Rep. Mike Coffman (R).

Udall's contest against Colorado Rep. Cory Gardner (R) is one of the closest in the nation and Democratic strategists here say the outcome could hinge on the votes of unmarried women.

Clinton praised Udall as a Senate workhorse whose accomplishments don't make headlines but are crucial to the well-being of Colorado citizens. She saved her most passionate comments for the end, when she talked about the importance of the elections for women of the state.

She said the right to abortion "is under assault today across our country and is less secure than it has been at any time in the last 40 years. These Democrats will never shame and judge a woman for decisions that are complex and deeply personal." Those decisions, she said, should be between a woman, her family and her doctor, "not with her boss or a politician."

Clinton took note of the fact that Udall has been criticized for focusing so much attention on women's issues, to the point that he has been referred to as Mark "Uterus."

"As far as I'm concerned, and as far as Mark is concerned, when he fights for women's rights, he is fighting on the frontier of freedom," Clinton said. "Women's rights here at home and around the world are clearly at risk."

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Without naming Gardner, Clinton took aim at him for having supported a so-called "personhood" amendment, which would legally recognize life as beginning at conception, and for attempting to run away from it.

This was the second time in a week that Clinton has campaigned in Colorado. First lady Michelle Obama is also scheduled to appear later this week, while former president Bill Clinton is expected to campaign in the state before election day.

Washington Post: Hillary Clinton sharpens her stump speech

By Anne Gearan

October 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

SAN FRANCISCO – Continuing her 2014 evolution from mostly apolitical figure to fierce partisan, Hillary Rodham Clinton is accusing Republicans of national “amnesia” about their own failings in office and telling Democrats they will have themselves to blame if they don’t come out to vote in midterm elections.

“This is our chance -- our chance to elect Democrats who are fighting to jump-start the middle class,” Clinton said at a $1.4 million Democratic fund-raising luncheon here Monday. “Our chance to elect Democrats who are working for better jobs, better wages, for an economy that works for everybody.”

“We’re in the home stretch,” she continued, “and it all comes down to who shows up.”

After President Obama and other Democrats worked hard to avert financial disaster and begin rebuilding the U.S. economy after 2008, “it is truly regrettable [that] we are having to work so hard to elect and reelect Democrats,” Clinton said.

“It’s as though the other side wants to cast an air of amnesia,” over the 2014 midterms, she said, warming to the theme.

“You know, we weren’t really on the brink of the worst economic catastrophe since the Great Depression; we weren’t really fighting two wars; we weren’t really worrying about what was happening if the economy fell so far and people’s livelihoods and their homes and their healthcare and everything else they were depending on was swept away.”

“That didn’t happen, seems to the other side,” Clinton said. “We’re here to remind them and all of us, it did happen.”

Although her own 2008 presidential loss had little to do with turnout, she playfully invoked it to remind Democrats of the dangers of staying home.

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“You never know what can happen in an election. You can’t take anything for granted. You just have to get out there and work. I don’t think any of us want to wake up the day after the election and wish we had done more,” she said.

Clinton is also road-testing an unabashedly women-centered economic message heavy on outrage over pay inequality and the professional costs women pay to both raise families and bring in a paycheck.

She was criticized for often bloodless rhetoric about women-oriented concerns when she ran as the first major-party women candidate for president. Now Clinton is pointedly talking about family leave, employer discrimination, employers’ denial of contraception coverage and the preponderance of women in low-wage jobs.

“The most vulnerable families in our country have the least support,” Clinton said. Imagine, she added, what women would do with the extra income they would make if paid the same as men: rent or buy better houses, buy more groceries, give their families added stability.

“Women up and down the income ladder face double standards and barriers to advancement,” Clinton said. “These aren’t just women’s issues. They hold back our entire economy.”

The Hill: Hillary Clinton praises Udall on NSA reform

By Peter Sullivan

October 21, 2014, 4:59 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton praised Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), a leading critic of the Obama administration on NSA reform, for his work on intelligence matters during a campaign stop Tuesday.

Speaking at a rally for Udall, who is facing a tough reelection race, Clinton praised him for "leading the Senate in asking the hard questions about intelligence and the tradeoff between liberty and security," adding "That was an important and challenging task that he took on."

Udall has called for President Obama's CIA director, John Brennan, to resign over gaining access to Senate investigators' files, and has led the charge against the NSA's bulk collection of Americans' phone records.

Clinton did not go into detail about any policy agreements or disagreements with Udall, but the comments could add some more insight into Clinton's views on intelligence matters, an area where she has mostly stayed silent.

Clinton appeared to back some reforms in June, when she told Fox News: "We have to make some changes in order to secure that privacy, that constitutional right to privacy that Americans are due."

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She added, though, that's it is a "really difficult balancing act" and has been critical of former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, saying she found it "sort of odd" that he left to China and Russia.

Most of Clinton's speech on Tuesday though, was devoted to touting Udall's positions on women's rights issues, as well as congressional candidate Andrew Romanoff and Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Clinton has been focusing on issues such as access to contraception, paid leave and equal pay in midterm campaign stops around the country. She spoke in stark terms on Tuesday.

"Women's rights here at home and around the world are clearly at risk unless people of good will, both women and men, regardless of political ideology, understand that women's rights are like the canaries in the mine," she said. "If women's rights are denied or rolled back anywhere, it is a threat to everyone's rights everywhere."

Udall has made access to contraception and Republican opponent Rep. Cory Gardner's past support for "personhood" measures that would outlaw birth control central to his campaign.

Gardner has sought to counter that attack by supporting over the counter access to contraception, but Clinton hit him, without saying his name, on that proposal.

"These Democrats will never deny women health insurance for contraception and then tell them to just buy it over the counter without even wishing them good luck in paying the bill," Clinton said.

Clinton gave several lines that could make their way into a presidential stump speech, closing by speaking of the American Dream.

"I want everyone in this room to be able to look at any baby, any child, and truthfully say, 'You have the same right to the American Dream that I did and the generations before me,' " she said.

BuzzFeed: Hillary Clinton Raises "Record" Millions For Senate Democrats

By Ruby Cramer

October 21, 2014 at 3:29 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton raised a record $2.1 million for Senate Democrats at a Los Angeles fundraiser organized on Mondaynight by Jeffrey Katzenberg, the top film executive who has positioned himself to play a leading, influential role in the possible presidential campaign many expect from the former secretary of state.

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A person with knowledge of the final tally confirmed that the Clinton event for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, held at Brentwood's Tavern restaurant, brought in $2.1 million. The number was first reported in Deadline.

The source said the total haul set a "record" for the DSCC.

An official with the DSCC, now struggling in the final days of the midterm elections to win enough races to keep control of the Senate, declined to confirm the total. The committee does not make public the amounts raised at its fundraisers.

The Clinton fundraiser on Monday was the second event during this year's election cycle that she has hosted for the DSCC. Also in attendance was the chairman of the committee, Sen. Michael Bennet, as well as both of California's U.S. senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, according to the DSCC official.

Clinton appeared earlier in the day at a San Francisco event for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, raising $1.4 million, a DCCC official said.

After promoting her new memoir at a series of book signings this summer, Clinton has jumped back into politics this month, hosting fundraisers for the Democratic committees and headlining a string of rallies for Democrats in states like Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Colorado, and Massachusetts.

Katzenberg, the CEO of DreamWorks Animation and a longtime player in the top-most circles of Democratic politics in Hollywood, is poised to be a major donor and fundraiser for Clinton, should she decides to run for president early next year.

Clinton and Katzenberg had a private meeting in Los Angeles in the spring of last year, and are said to be in touch.

The two have a long history. Katzenberg supported Bill Clinton in the '90s. In those years, he was close enough to the Clintons to lend them his vacation home and enjoy visits to the White House. But before the Democratic primary in 2008, Katzenberg and his two business partners, executives David Geffen and Steven Spielberg, split from the Clintons to back Barack Obama, then a U.S. senator.

Now, Katzenberg continues to play a strategic role in Priorities USA Action, the party's largest super PAC, where officials have said they are prepared to support Clinton early. He helped kick-start that group during the 2012 election with a check for $2 million. The PAC went on to raise and spend $65 million for Obama.

In addition to Katzenberg, who made remarks at the fundraiser, the event was co-hosted by Casey Wasserman, a major donor; Alan Horn, the Walt Disney Studios chairman; and, among others, Andy Spahn, Katzenberg's longtime political adviser.

Tickets for the event, which included a reception, photo line, and dinner, started at $32,400 per person, according to an invitation.

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The Hill: Dems: Pelosi isn't going anywhere

By Mike Lillis

October 22, 2014 6:00 a.m. EDT

House Democrats face long odds at the polls and are bracing for depleted numbers next year, but that doesn't mean they're giving up on House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) just yet.

Democrats on and off Capitol Hill expect Pelosi to remain as leader regardless of the outcome on Election Day.

Pelosi, true to form, has been elusive about her post-election intentions, saying she's focused on Nov. 4 without thoughts beyond.

But Democratic lawmakers, aides and strategists predict the unusual political dynamics in the House — where the GOP's struggles to pass major legislation has given the minority Democrats rare sway — combined with the prospect of a Hillary Clinton presidential run, will be enough to keep the 74-year-old Pelosi in Washington at least through 2016.

"I think she stays for sure, and there are two reasons," said a former House lawmaker who worked alongside Pelosi for years.

"One is the presidential cycle. … It's very much a symbiotic proposition: Hillary's chances and Nancy's longevity," the Democrat said. "The second reason [is] … that nothing major is going to happen in the next two years without House Democratic votes, and it puts her in a position of leveraging those votes to accomplish at least some of our agenda."

Retiring Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.) echoed that message, saying he's seen no indication the hard-charging Pelosi is ready to call it quits.

"I hear the rumors, you know, that she'll prevail in this election easily but then turn it over to her daughter. [But] she never told me that, and until she does I don't have any real reason to believe it," Moran, a 12-term congressman, said by phone. "I think we have to take Nancy at her word … that she's committed to leading the Democratic caucus and electing a Democratic president in 2016."

Asked about the Hillary Clinton factor, Moran didn't hesitate.

"I think Nancy would love to be the first female Democratic Speaker to serve under the first female Democratic president," he said.

Predicting Pelosi's future has become something of a biennial parlor game inside the Beltway — with good

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reason. The San Francisco liberal has led the House Democrats since 2003, the longest stretch since the legendary Rep. Sam Rayburn (D-Texas) died in office in 1961.

In a decade as leader, she became the nation's first female Speaker and helped to enact some of the most significant, if contentious, laws in generations — including the Wall Street bailout under President George W. Bush and healthcare reform under President Obama.

She's also emerged as among the most effective fundraisers, having pulled in more than $400 million for the Democrats since taking over as House leader, according to a tally kept by her office. It's a point that could also play a significant role in her decision, Democrats say.

"Nobody can raise money like she can … and she knows it, and she knows it matters for the party, and she cares deeply about that," said a former Democratic leadership aide.

Pelosi surprised many political observers when she remained as leader following the 2010 elections, when Democrats were whomped into the minority, losing 63 seats. She defied similar predictions after the 2012 cycle, when she was said to be eyeing the door.

"With the chance to help the party and move forward into a presidential year, I think the odds are that she stays," the former aide said. "But she was very close to choosing not to stay last cycle, and obviously, at some point the desire to spend time with family and friends and not deal with this stuff has gotta be strong, too."

Fueling speculation about her intentions, several of her closest allies on Capitol Hill — including Reps. George Miller (D-Calif.), Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Moran – are retiring at the end of the year.

Pelosi's office is coy when asked about her next steps.

"As the Leader has said, she's not here on a shift, she's here on a mission," said Drew Hammill, spokesman for Pelosi, Tuesday in a brief email.

With top election handicappers predicting that Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Republicans are poised to pick up at least a handful of seats next month, few are predicting that Pelosi and the Democrats will have an easier time of it in the next Congress.

Still, Boehner has struggled to manage his unruly conservative-leaning conference, particularly on major bills, such as funding to keep the government open. In turn, that's created a unique environment where GOP leaders have relied on Pelosi and the Democrats to move top priority legislation to the Senate. And the dynamic won't change next year, Democrats say, even if the Republicans pick up their projected seats.

"I just don't think that the Republican caucus is all going to join hands suddenly and sing Kumbaya," Moran said. "They're going to continue to be divided ideologically … so I think that Nancy will still have leverage."

A Democratic leadership aide noted that the Republicans' predicted gains — somewhere between five and 10 seats, by most counts — simply put them back where they were in the 112th Congress, when Boehner also struggled to pass controversial bills with only Republican votes.

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“That’s exactly where he was and he couldn’t function then,” the aide said Tuesday.

Boehner’s office declined to comment for this story.

Democrats all agree that Pelosi can keep her post as long as she wants it.

“There is no chance of a challenge to her,” the aide said. “She is the Democratic leader until she chooses to not be.”

Still, her silence on the topic has also led to intrigue about what a post-Pelosi Democratic Party would look like. Rep. Steny Hoyer (Md.), the Democratic whip who’s been Pelosi’s top lieutenant since challenging her unsuccessfully in 2002, is all but a shoe-in for leader if Pelosi were to step down.

“Steny is heir apparent as long as he wants it,” Moran said.

But the shuffle for the No. 2 spot could be more interesting. Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), currently the third-ranking House Democrat and a close Pelosi ally, could find himself challenged by one among a younger crop of up-and-coming leaders, including Reps. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), current Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Steve Israel (N.Y.) and Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Fla.).

“The real fight would then be for the No. 2 slot,” said the former lawmaker, who compared it to the bitter Pelosi vs. Hoyer contest of 12 years ago. “That whip’s race was really a proxy fight for the Speakership.”

Pelosi, meanwhile, has made it no mystery that she’s rooting for Clinton to take the White House in 2016.

Appearing with the former secretary of State on Tuesday at a fundraiser in San Francisco, Pelosi said Clinton would be “one of the best prepared leaders” ever to become president.

“I am frequently introduced as the highest-ranking woman in political office in our country,” said Pelosi, who has made women’s empowerment issues a central focus of the Democrats’ legislative agenda. “I’d like to give up that title and elect a Democratic woman for president of the United States.”

Associated Press, via Minneapolis Star Tribune: Former President Clinton talks jobs, health care in campaigning for Quinn, Durbin in Illinois

By Sophia Tareen

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

October 21, 2014 2:05 p.m. EDT

CHICAGO — Former President Bill Clinton became the latest high-profile Democrat to back the re-election bids of Gov. Pat Quinn and U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, saying Tuesday that the candidates focus on issues important to voters, like jobs and health care.

"I'm here to support Dick Durbin and Pat Quinn because I think they're about the future," Clinton told workers at Chicago-based manufacturing company Wheatland Tube. "What this election should be about is what your lives are about ... more jobs, higher incomes, better education and training, secure health care and stronger families and communities. ... The rest of it is all background music."

Quinn is seeking a second full term, but faces a tough challenge from Republican businessman Bruce Rauner as the venture capitalist tries to wrest away one of the last Democratic strongholds in the Midwest. The gubernatorial contest in President Barack Obama's home state is one of the most competitive and expensive nationwide. Clinton's visit was preceded by a Sunday rally headlined by Obama and fundraisers and events with first lady Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Rauner's campaign deemed the visits by Democrats "full rescue mode." Rauner was expected to appear with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in Rockford on Tuesday afternoon, part of a nationwide tour for Christie, who serves as the head of the Republican Governors' Association. Christie has been to Illinois for Rauner several times.

Durbin, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, is seeking a fourth term against Republican dairy magnate and state Sen. Jim Oberweis.

Clinton reiterated themes that have been prominent in Quinn's re-election bid: That the Chicago Democrat took over and led Illinois at a time of ethical and economic crisis. Quinn, a former lieutenant governor, assumed office in 2009 in the wake of ex-Gov. Rod Blagojevich's corruption scandal.

Quinn noted the drop in unemployment during his tenure. State figures showed a September rate of 6.6 percent, compared to 9.1 percent a year earlier. Durbin also praised Quinn's jobs record.

But Rauner has said Illinois still lags behind other states and isn't growing or competitive.

Clinton told the enthusiastic crowd — including several state lawmakers — that Republicans elsewhere are "relentlessly attacking the president," and using the midterm election as a referendum on his presidency. He said voters shouldn't become pessimistic.

The Hill: How 2014 may shape Hillaryland

By Amie Parnes

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

October 22, 2014 6:00 a.m. EDT

If Democrats lose the Senate, the reverberations could be felt in a Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

Guy Cecil, the executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), has long been seen as a favorite to manage Clinton's second bid for the presidency. But he's now in charge of keeping the Senate in Democratic hands, and a big loss could potentially boost other up-and-coming political operatives who want to lead the Hillary 2016 army.

Robby Mook, who managed Terry McAuliffe's (Va.) gubernatorial campaign, and EMILY's List President Stephanie Schriock, are among the other names consistently mentioned as possible leading candidates for the role.

Clinton allies insist Cecil won't be eliminated from consideration if Democrats lose the Senate — no matter how devastating the loss. They point to Cecil's overall tenure at the DSCC as proof of his talent.

In addition, they note that the president's party typically loses seats in the midterm elections of a second term — and that Cecil faces a particularly difficult atmosphere in this campaign year. The party is defending 23 seats this year compared to 10 for the GOP, and many of the Democratic incumbents are in red states.

"Whatever happens, nobody is going to blame the staff at the DSCC," said Steve Elmendorf, the Democratic strategist who served as deputy campaign manager on John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign. "We are fighting in a bunch of very hard states."

At the same time, perceptions in politics matter and some allies say it's hard to fathom Hillary Clinton selecting someone who led the DSCC during what could be a grim cycle for Democrats.

"Whether we love him or hate him, he will wear the victory or the loss," said one Clinton ally, who worked on the 2008 campaign. "There's no getting around that."

During the 2012 cycle, Cecil was credited with expanding the Democratic majority in the upper chamber, even as political observers expected Republicans to gain seats. And in 2010, he helped lead Sen. Michael Bennet's (D-Colo.) underdog campaign to victory, even though Bennet had never run for elected office.

A fixture at expensive lunches and dinners for candidates across the country, Cecil is also known to be accessible to top donors, some fundraising insiders say.

Perhaps more importantly, Cecil has a close working relationship with the Clintons, who treasure two things in aides: Talent and loyalty.

And Cecil has both, Clintonites say.

"Key for her is a team that is tight and close," one longtime Clinton insider said. "So personality counts for

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something along with ability.”

Former President Clinton has been known to call Cecil to check in on various races during the election cycle, and the two would strategize about which races most needed Clinton’s help. And Cecil has seen Hillary Clinton in recent weeks as well, attending a fundraiser at her home in September and crossing paths with her on Monday night during an event for Senate candidates hosted by Hollywood executive Jeffrey Katzenberg.

Hillaryland sources say Clinton still hasn’t made a decision about whether or not she will make another go at the White House and therefore is months away from selecting any potential campaign manager.

But they say she’s learned a thing or two about the role of a campaign manager from her last presidential bid.

In the middle of the hard-fought Democratic primary in 2008, Clinton had to fire her campaign manager Patti Solis Doyle after aides complained of an arrogance at the top. She replaced Solis Doyle with Maggie Williams, a longtime trusted political adviser, who was credited with helping to steer the campaign ship back in the right direction.

The Clintons, together with longtime aides including Williams, Cheryl Mills, Huma Abedin and Philippe Reines, undoubtedly will give their full attention to selecting a campaign manager — and to the optics behind it.

Even if Democrats lose control of the Senate, Clinton loyalists seemed confident that it wouldn’t hurt Cecil’s standing. Much of it, several allies explained, is out of his control. And the Clintons, who have been criss-crossing the country for Democrats in tight races, now have firsthand experience and the context needed to know what this particular cycle is about, they say.

“At the end of the day, I don’t think anyone can dispute that the DSCC, led by Guy, has done the best that they can, given the resources they have, especially with Obama’s low approval ratings,” one Clinton ally said. “There’s only so much you can do.”

Another Clinton insider who labeled Cecil as “highly regarded” boiled it down this way: “I personally don’t think the midterm results would impact decisions — it seems larger forces are at work, rendering results beyond the capacity of any individual. … And then there’s the fact that sometimes you learn more by losing than winning.”

Of course, if the midterms go better than expected for Democrats on Nov. 4, Cecil could see his stock rise.

“If we hold the Senate, he’s a genius,” one Clinton ally said. “He’ll be David Plouffe of the next cycle.”

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 23 – MN: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Gov. Mark Dayton (AP)

· October 23 – MN: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Gov. Mark Dayton (Star-Tribune)

· October 24 – RI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rhode Island gubernatorial candidate Gina Raimondo (Politico)

· October 24 – Mass.: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Mass. gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley (CNN)

· October 24 – NE: Sec. Clinton campaigns for ME gubernatorial candidate Mike Michaud (PressHerald)

· October 25 – NC: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Sen. Kay Hagan (AP)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the launch of The International Council on Women's Business Leadership (CNN)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Nancy Rotering" <Nancyrr@nancyroteringforcongress.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/24/2016 3:48:15 AM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: CHICAGO SUN-TIMES ENDORSEMENT

NANCY ROTERING

Democrat *for* Congress

Friends,

I am honored to announce that I have been **endorsed by the Chicago Sun-Times** in the race to take back the 10th District!

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"First it's Brad Schneider over Bob Dold, then Dold over Schneider, and now Schneider's looking for another rematch. Been there and done that. Time to move on. ***Our endorsement goes to Nancy Rotering****, the mayor of Highland Park, who took a terrific stand against gun violence by pushing through a municipal ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. A federal appellate court upheld the ban — an important symbolic step toward sanity in our nation's gun laws — and the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear a challenge to the law. Now Rotering is pushing a similar statewide ban in Illinois.* ***This is leadership.*** *Schneider, for his part, disappointed many supporters — now former supporters — when he unwisely opposed President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. Whatever enthusiasm we had for Schneider's candidacy waned as well."*

Help keep the momentum going by making a donation before tonight's deadline. This is the last time we will publicly report our grassroots fundraising strength before the election.

Add to the momentum with a contribution of $25, $50, $100, or more right now!

Sincerely,

Nancy

CONTRIBUTE

www.NancyRoteringForCongress.com

Mailing Address
PO Box 18
Highland Park, IL 60035

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Office Address
1910 First St. Suite 1S
Highland Park, IL 60035

Paid for by Nancy Rotering for Congress, Inc.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please unsubscribe .

Nancy Rotering is the two-term Mayor of Highland Park, Illinois and is running to represent Illinois' 10th Congressional District. She challenged the status quo to get the results residents needed. Nancy enacted tough reforms, balanced five consecutive budgets and had the courage to take on the NRA and pass one of the nation's only local assault weapons bans and won when the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the ban to stand. Under Nancy's leadership, a legal aid clinic opened providing free services to vulnerable residents. Nancy has been a leader in inclusive government, making sure all residents have a voice and that the civil rights of all are respected. To learn more about where Nancy stands on issues that matter most visit www.NancyRoteringForCongress.com.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/18/2015 7:39:32 AM
Subject: News Update - September 18

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, September 18

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Erdan: Rioters Have Turned Temple Mount into 'Warehouse of Terror'**
- **Jerusalem Mayor: Israel Too Merciful to Palestinian Rioters**
- **Saudi King Asks Obama to Stop 'Israeli Attacks' on Temple Mount**
- **Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to Debate "Iranian Fiasco"**
- **Gilad: Israel Worried About Daesh Threat to Jordan**
- **Likud vs. Lieberman: Joined Forces with Left Wing Parties**
- **Call to Inspect Israeli Nuclear Site Defeated**

Commentary:

- **Ma'ariv: "And at Its Heart, a Wall"**
  - By Alon Ben-David, Senior Correspondent for Israel Channel 10 and Aviation Week
- **NPR: "After Iran Deal Defeat, How Do Pro-Israel Lobbyists Regain Clout?"**
  -By Peter Overby, Power, Money, and Influence NPR Correspondent

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Times of Israel

Erdan: Rioters Turned Temple Mount into 'Warehouse of Terror'

With police on high alert in Jerusalem, Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan on Friday condemned the PA and Arab-Israeli lawmakers for spreading "incitement and lies" about the Temple Mount and fomenting unrest. Palestinian rioters have stashed weapons on the holy site, Erdan asserted, turning the compound into a "warehouse of terror." Erdan's comments came as the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee approved the draft of Border Police reservists to bolster security in the capital.

Times of Israel

Jerusalem Mayor: Israel Too 'Merciful' to Palestinian Rioters

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat declared "war" against Palestinian youths who throw firebombs and rocks in the capital, saying police must use live ammunition if they are to counter escalating attacks against them and against Jewish civilians. In a phone interview Wednesday with The Times of Israel, Barkat, who has served as mayor since 2008, insisted that such violence was "unacceptable anywhere else in the world" and that Israel has been too "merciful."

Ha'aretz

Saudi King Asks Obama, 'Stop Israeli Attacks on Temple Mount'

Saudi Arabia's King Salman Abdul Aziz spoke by phone with U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday and sharply condemned the "dangerous Israeli escalation at Al-Aqsa Mosque." The Saudi press agency reported that Salman told Obama that "the attack on worshipers at the mosque [earlier this week] is an offense against the Islamic holy places." The White House confirmed that the two leaders spoke about the Temple Mount, but did provide further details.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Knesset Foreign Affairs Officials to Debate "Iranian Fiasco"

Over the course of two months, Yesh Atid Chairman Yair Lapid has been attempting to steer toward an examination of "Israel's diplomatic fiasco concerning the Iranian nuclear agreement." After protracted efforts, he scored a victory yesterday and managed to force the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to debate the issue in the future. By the time the agreement between the P5+1 and the Islamic Republic was signed, Lapid called to establish a commission of inquiry on what he termed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy debacle.

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Middle East Monitor

Gilad: Israel Worried About Daesh Threat to Jordan

Israel has intensely expressed its concerns about Jordan's destiny due to the shifts the region is witnessing. Major General Amos Gilad, director of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau at Israel's Defense Ministry, said: "Jordan may be exposed to attacks by ISIS from the east, and attacks by Al-Qaeda from the north," using another acronym for Daesh. Ma'ariv newspaper reported on Wednesday that the US intensified attacks should destroy Daesh in Iraq, forcing the organization to head west towards Jordan.

Ma'ariv

Likud vs. Lieberman: Joined Forces with Left Wing Parties

Yisrael Beiteinu Chairman Avigdor Lieberman has stepped up his attacks against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. In a sharply-worded post he published yesterday on Facebook, Lieberman demanded that Netanyahu ask the people for forgiveness and resign his post following the escalation in the security situation. "When a Jew is murdered in Jerusalem on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, when stones are thrown on the Temple Mount before and during the holiday, and when we are told about a second consecutive month in which economic growth in Israel is lower than economic growth in Greece; when all these things happen between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the people of Israel should ask the prime minister where the security is and where the money is," Lieberman wrote.

Ynet News

Call to Inspect Israeli Nuclear Site Defeated

In a 61-43 vote, the International Atomic Energy Agency General Assembly on Thursday defeated a proposal submitted by Egypt and supported by Syria, Iran, Libya, and Iraq to force inspections on Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona. Israel had been working closely with the US and other Western allies behind the scenes in order to reach a majority that would block the proposal. Israel has managed to block similar proposals in recent years, saying their purpose was mainly to single out Israel. But this was the first time the proposal was made in the context of the nuclear deal with Iran.

Ma'ariv – September 18, 2015

And at Its Heart, a Wall

By Alon Ben-David

There is already a mini-Intifada in Jerusalem. "Mini" because it has not yet spread to the rest of the West Bank. But it comes from the people, it is neither led nor directed, it is bursting forth from social networks, and is perpetrated mostly by 14-20 year-old youths. Almost every year, the violence around the High Holidays intensifies, but this time there has been a substantial increase in the number of incidents and the climax is yet to come: this year, the Feast of the Sacrifice (Eid el-Adha) takes place immediately after Yom Kippur and before Sukkot, and Abu Mazen is anticipated to declare at the UN that Palestine is a state under occupation—a recipe that guarantees that the upcoming weeks will also be turbulent.

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As is nearly always the case, the focal point is the Temple Mount. None of the explanations relayed to the Palestinians through all channels will help—the Palestinian public is convinced that Israel is about to change the status quo on the Temple Mount. Much like the way Israeli social media spawned a group that believes the fallacious rumor that the arson of the family [home] in Duma was not a Jewish terrorist attack, the Palestinian social networks spread mendacious reports about the changes that Israel plans to implement at el-Aksa Mosque. That is enough to get the young people to take to the streets.

No established organization is guiding events there either, but there is a series of figures stirring them up: the Israeli Islamic Movement, the Shabab el-Aksa youth movement, and of course Hamas. Quite a few of the figures inciting on the mount are Israeli citizens, exploiting their free access to the site.

The increasing friction in Jerusalem did not begin sometime in the past few weeks. Residents of the seamline neighborhoods have been feeling it for years. There is a tendency to think that the violence erupted in Jerusalem during Operation Protective Edge and after the murder of the young boy Mohammed Abu Khdeir. Both events indubitably spurred the violence, but it began before then, with the Shalit deal. The six terrorists from Jerusalem who returned home were the first spark.

The capital has never really been unified, and the separation fence that was built leaving 300,000 Palestinians on the Israeli side just emphasizes this. West of the fence, the city is prosperous and thriving, and a few meters from there it becomes Palestinian villages, which have become neighborhoods in Jerusalem that have nothing in common with Israel. Israeli law rules in the west, while the law dares not enter the east.

For years, the enforcement authorities have neglected East Jerusalem and created enclaves in the capital where the arm of the law does not reach. Serving legal papers in Sur Baher requires a company of policemen, and every house demolition in Silwan entails a battalion. The young people currently setting the seamline ablaze grew up in an environment where the law was absent.

Stiffening the punishment for stone-throwing and fining the parents of minors who throw stones is a good idea. To date, when a stone-thrower got arrested, he would be released within three days and return as a leader of such attacks. The law did not deter them at all. When the price becomes more painful, there is a chance that it will keep some of the youth at home.

Not so the idea to lighten the police's rules of engagement. Since the disturbances of October 2000 and the trauma of the Orr Commission, the police learned how to deal with violent rioters without causing unnecessary injuries. This ability requires the concentration of many troops, but proved itself effective in hundreds of instances. Clashes such as this week's on the Temple Mount would have resulted in a dozen fatalities and a regional firestorm, and nowadays the police know how to spare us that experience.

The prime minister's populist instructions to allow the police to

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employ snipers in Jerusalem run contrary to every recommendation from intelligence figures. All of them, to a man, believe that causing a large number of casualties on the Palestinian side will only fan the flames of violence and cause it to spread. As we learned from the first and second Intifada, Palestinian fatalities do not mollify the turmoil. On the contrary, they fuel it.

Perhaps the prime minister needs to satisfy the online commenters, but the police are doing well by not getting dragged into it. If the IDF learned how to enter the refugee camp in Jenin, the most dangerous place in the West Bank, and carry out an arrest while causing a minimum number of casualties, the police also need to learn how to conduct arrests and ambushes in Jabel Mukaber and Shuafat with a minimum of friction.

But the wish to prevent casualties must not stop Israel from exercising its sovereignty, and the Temple Mount will be the test. It takes an effort of presence on the mount and full control over its entry points in order to eliminate the "I'tikaf," young people who come to stay the night in the mosque and prepare for clashes the next morning. The "Murabitat" choir, which follows and shrieks at every Israeli visitor that ascends the mount, must also be disbanded.

Israel has also neglected its sovereignty on the Temple Mount for years, and made policy based on fear and impotence. After 48 years, it is time for Israel to take back the keys to the Temple Mount from the Islamic Movement and the Wakf, and permit anyone who so wishes to visit and worship. If there is an arrangement for Jewish and Muslim prayer at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, and if Jews even manage to pray at Joseph's Tomb, there is no reason not to instate a regime facilitating universal freedom of worship on the Temple Mount.

Correct behavior will enable this wave of violence to fade out after the High Holidays, but there is no point in expecting the vision of the "city of peace" or hoping that brotherhood will blossom on the seamline. The mixture that Israeli construction in Jerusalem created between Jewish neighborhoods and Palestinian villages invites constant friction, and in the absence of separation, this friction will continue.

In the state of relations between us and the Palestinians, high fences make good neighbors. Ask the residents of Matan in the Sharon how their neighborly relations with the village of Habala were before a wall crossed between them. Coexistence can and must be enforced in the holy places, but whoever deludes themselves with a binational state is welcome to look at Jerusalem and realize what awaits us.

Like many Israelis, I also fear that I will not get to see a peace agreement in my lifetime. But in recent years, the word "peace" has become politically incorrect, and it seems that we also gave up the aspiration to live in peace. During my childhood, almost every Rosh Hashanah greeting included the holiday wish for "a year of peace and security." Those were years when the visit of an Egyptian president to Jerusalem seemed like a unsubstantiated illusion. It did not stop us from aspiring to peace. Last Rosh Hashanah, I looked in vain for the word "peace" among the holiday wishes. It was not there, and that was such a pity. We must face reality soberly, but we must also aspire to change it. Our forefathers would say the blessing "next year in Jerusalem," even when Jerusalem seemed farther away than the moon. Perhaps we will forever live by the sword here, but we must

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not give up our hope.

Alon Ben-David has been covering Israeli military affairs for more than 25 years and is a senior defense correspondent for Israel Channel 10 and Middle East correspondent for Aviation Week.

NPR – September 16, 2015

After Iran Deal Defeat, How Pro-Israel Lobbyists Regain Clout?

By Peter Overby

Nobody on Capitol Hill underestimates the lobbying clout of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. For six decades — almost since the birth of Israel — AIPAC has presented itself as the deliberately bipartisan, and frequently victorious, voice of American-Israeli unity.

It has maintained this emphasis on bipartisanship even as American views of Israel have grown more partisan. Israel's politics have turned sharply rightward and are now much more closely aligned with American Republicans than with Democrats.

It's something Steve Rosen couldn't have imagined when he worked as AIPAC's foreign policy director from 1982 to 2005. "If AIPAC became a Republican organization it would cease to exist," he says.

So here's AIPAC's problem: While it's been walking that bipartisan line — it maintains its board of directors as a mix of Democrats and Republicans — Mideast politics in Washington have become a partisan football.

Last winter, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of Congress. (It wasn't a joint session because that would have required both chambers to adopt a resolution to convene it, a high hurdle given the Iran deal.)

Netanyahu and the Republicans used his visit to underscore their united opposition to the deal.

AIPAC isn't in the business of opposing Israeli government positions. So it entered the partisan fray and opposed the Obama administration.

Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East negotiator for the State Department and now a scholar at the Wilson International Center in Washington, said AIPAC's mission was doomed from the start.

"This pro-Israeli community has a powerful voice, there's no question about it," Miller said. "But it does not and has never had a veto over what a willful and skillful and determined American president does."

AIPAC's spokesman declined to speak on the record for this story.

The group has lost big battles before: over proposed arms sales to Israel in 1975 and 1980, and in 1991, when President George H.W. Bush postponed $10 billion in loan guarantees.

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Miller said, "They lost all three of these fights. And yet no one could argue that 15 or 20 years later, this organization has any less influence."

In fact, after each of those battles, AIPAC membership and fundraising spiked. In special interest politics, there's nothing like a high-profile loss to make supporters open their wallets.

AIPAC has rivals in the pro-Israel lobby, most notably J Street. It's younger, more liberal, and much smaller. Last year J Street spent $400,000 on lobbying, compared with $3 million by AIPAC.

J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami said the outcome on the Iran deal, by itself, is not a turning point. "It's not everything changes from here on in. But one will look back at this and say this was a very important moment," Ben-Ami says. "And from here on in you can't talk about the American Jewish political community the same way that you did before."

AIPAC's backers dismiss J Street as just the latest of many attempts to build a more liberal pro-Israel advocacy group. They can run through a list of similar efforts that failed.

In the short term, Congress is expected to produce a big aid package for Israel, giving the factions on Capitol Hill a chance to kiss and make up.

But conservatives are exploring possible amendments to obstruct the Iran deal. Ben-Ami said that would cause trouble.

"If that legislation is used as a Trojan horse, to contain poison pills that are designed to undermine the deal, then there's going to be yet another fight," he said.

And at the same time, AIPAC members will start deciding how — and whether — to reconcile with Democratic lawmakers who chose Obama over AIPAC in the debate over the nuclear deal.

"How they move ahead and support those members of Congress or support others to replace them, is an open question," said Josh Black, a former AIPAC spokesman who now heads a nonprofit group called the Israel Project. "You know, in politics hindsight isn't just a matter of hindsight. It's a matter of accountability."

Peter Overby covers campaign finance and lobbying as NPR's Power, Money, and Influence Correspondent.

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From:	"Ian Mandel" <ian@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com "Ian Mandel" <ian@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date:	8/22/2008 11:33:39 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Weekly IE Watch
Attachments:	Weekly IE Watch_8.22.08.doc

Weekly IE Watch

8/16 – 8/22

Over the course of several years, conservatives have invested in building a network of 527s and third-party organizations that operate beyond the limits of partisan campaigns. A group of very wealthy, extremely committed individuals has already contributed millions of dollars and will continue to pour money into these organizations over the course of the election. These organizations are led by the same strategists and consultants responsible for the conservative media campaign against Kerry in 2004. They stand poised and ready to attack the Democratic nominee.

In early spring 2004, all signs indicated a Democratic victory. Voters liked, respected, and supported John Kerry. Then on March 2, the day after Kerry secured the Democratic nomination, Republicans began an 85-million-dollar media campaign across 18 battleground states that ran for 90 days – and likely cost Kerry the presidency. The Republican media strategy used independent organizations to pick up where Bush and the RNC left off. The Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and the Progress for America Voter Fund alone spent $58 million. All indications are that the right wing will engage in a similar campaign this year.

Right Wing Groups In The News

American Issues Project Announced $2.8 Million Anti-Obama Ad Campaign. The Associated Press reported, "A conservative nonprofit group with a past link to Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign wants to spend $2.8 million on an ad questioning Democrat Barack Obama's relationship to a founder of the 1960s radical group Weather Underground. The ad, which is expected to begin airing Thursday in Michigan and Friday in Ohio, focuses on William Ayres, whose Weatherman organization took credit for a series of bombings, including nonfatal explosions at the Pentagon and U.S. Capitol four decades ago." [Associated Press, 8/21/08]

American Issues Project Is 501(c)4 With Tie To McCain. The Associated Press reported, "American Issues Project, the sponsor of the ad, is a nonprofit 501(c)4 organization. One of its board members, Ed Failor Jr., was a paid consultant for McCain's campaign in Iowa last year. The campaign paid his firm $50,000 until July 2007." [Associated Press, 8/21/08]

Campaign Finance Experts Said Ad May Violate Election Law. Huffington Post reported, "A new ad raising Barack Obama's ties to 60s-era radical William Ayres may violate election law, according to campaign finance experts interviewed by the Huffington Post. 'This negative campaign ad is clearly express advocacy, and under a federal law passed in 2003, the Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act (known colloquially as McCain-Feingold), it cannot legally be paid for with corporate money, including those of a non-profit,' said Laura MacCleery, deputy director of the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice. 'The ad indisputably concerns an election, takes a position on the character and fitness for office of a candidate, and raises no legislative issue. Even this highly skeptical Supreme Court would turn up its noses at the foul odor emitted by this clear abuse of federal election law.'" [Huffington Post, 8/21/08]

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Obama Campaign "Accused McCain Of Having A Hand In The Ad." The Associated Press reported, "Obama's campaign accused McCain of having a hand in the ad, saying he 'dispatched his paid consultant to launch this despicable ad from a so-called "independent" committee.'" [Associated Press, 8/21/08]

After Claiming It Would Not Run The Ad, Fox News Ran The Ad Anyway. According to Think Progress, "American Issues Project had hoped to air the controversial ad on Fox News, but even the conservative network refused, reportedly wanting nothing to do with it. … This principled stand fell by the wayside today when Fox News accidentally aired the most [sic] of the ad. During a segment about Obama's ties to Tony Rezko, Fox News attempted to play McCain's latest ad on the subject. However, the Ayres ad began playing instead. After the ad was almost done, correspondent Molly Henneberg looked confused and said, 'This is not the right ad.' Shep Smith replied, 'It was an ad. Come on, give us a break. It's busy back here today.'" [Think Progress, 8/22/08]

Freedom's Watch Unveiled Senate Ad Campaign With Media Buy Targeting CO's Mark Udall. Politicker CO reported, "Freedom's Watch, the conservative advocacy organization, is opening its television advertising campaign in Senate races with a new spot targeting Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark Udall (D-Boulder). 'Energy reform? Mark Udall promised to fight to for it [sic]. So what did he do when the vote came up? He skipped it,' an announcer says in the 30-second spot. 'Instead of supporting oil exploration, nuclear energy, new refineries, anything that might reduce gas prices, Udall skipped it, went to a fundraisers and sent congress on vacation by one vote.' Tim Pearson, a spokesman for the organization, said the ad was airing in the Denver, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction media markets. Pearson declined to specify how much the organization was spending on the ad." [Politicker CO, 8/19/08]

American Issues Project Tied To 2004 Swift Boat Attacks

Christian Pinkston Serves As Spokesman For Anti-Obama Group. The Politico reported, "A new conservative group has produced a television ad attacking Barack Obama for his relationship with former Weather Underground bomber Bill Ayers. … The group, the American Issues Project, is a 501(c)4 -- which means it isn't required to disclose its donors. According to a press release set to go out shortly, it's the product of a coalition of conservative groups, including Iowans for Tax Relief. Its president is Ed Martin, a Missouri conservative. Another official, Ed Failor, Jr., is a former McCain aide in Iowa who left after the campaign's shakeup last summer." According to the Politico, "It's spokesman, Christian Pinkston, is a former aide to presidential candidate Jack Kemp, and went on to run the conservative group Empower America." [Politico, 8/21/08]

Christian Pinkston Founded The Pinkston Group. According to the "Leadership" page of the Pinkston Grou[s' website, "Christian founded the Pinkston Group seven years ago with a focus on influencing policy makers, opinion leaders, and the general public through the media. … Prior to founding the Pinkston Group, Christian served as Vice President of Public Policy in the Washington, D.C. office of Ogilvy Public Relations. Christian served for more than five years as executive director and communications director at Empower America, one of Washington's most respected and influential political institutions. He served as director of communications for a national political campaign and has been spokesman for two former Cabinet officials. Prior to that, he serv/ed on the staffs of a California Congressman and a U.S. Senator from Maine." [Pinkston Group Website, Accessed,8/21/07]

Swift Boat Veterans Paid $35,000 To The Pinkston Group In 2004 And 2005 For Consulting And Media Services. According to filings with the Internal Revenue Service, Swift Boat Veterans for Truth paid the Pinkston Group $35,000 for media and consulting services in 2004 and 2005. [IRS, accessed 8/21/08]

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Date of Expenditure	Amount	Purpose	Citation
9/30/2004	$15,000	Consulting/Media	3rd Quarter 2004 Filing
11/10/2004	$10,000	Consulting/Media	Post-General Election Report 2004
1/29/2005	$10,000	Consulting/Media	Mid-Year Report 2005

McCain's Top Aides Have Ties To Anti-Obama Group

American Issues Project Board Member Is Former Paid McCain Consultant. In July 2007, National Journal reported, "Ed Failor, Jr. signed on with 2008 White House hopeful John McCain this January" and would be paid $10,000 a month in consulting fees. [National Journal, 7/21/07; American Issues Project, accessed 8/21/08]

Failor Left McCain Campaign During Staff 2007 Shake Up. National Journal reported, "When he lost his paycheck in the second round of staff and consultant cutbacks that were forced early this month by another disappointing quarter of fundraising, Failor said he was willing to keep working for the Arizonan. But after campaign manager Terry Nelson (an Iowan) and senior adviser John Weaver resigned, Failor, who had close ties to both, also departed." [National Journal, 7/21/07]

McCain Bundler Is American Issues Project's Sole Funder. Politico reported, "The spokesman for American Issues Project, the independent group whose ad is the most negative of the cycle and links Obama to terrorism, says the group just filed a report naming its sole donor. The donor, spokesman Christian Pinkston said, is Dallas billionaire Harold Simmons, who made his first fortune in chain pharmacies and is now listed as the 73rd richest person in the world, with a net worth estimated by Forbes at $2.1 billion." [Politico, 8/22/08]

Harold Simmons Has Raised Up To $100,000 For McCain's Presidential Campaign. According to John McCain's website, Harold Simmons has raised between $50,000 and $100,000 for his 2008 presidential campaign. [JohnMcCain.com, accessed 8/22/08]

Harold Simmons Donated $2 Million To The Swift Boat Veterans For Truth. According to The Nation, Harold Simmons donated $2 million to Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. [Nation, 1/2/08]

Harold Simmons Has Donated To McCain Since He First Ran For Senate In 1986. According to CQMoneyline, Swift Boat donor Harold Simmons has donated $5,300 to John McCain, including his first senaterace in 1986. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 8/21/08]

American Issues Project Tied To Former GOP V.P. Nominee Jack Kemp. Politico reported that American Issues Project's "spokesman, Christian Pinkston, is a former aide to presidential candidate Jack Kemp, and went on to run the conservative group Empower America." [Politico, 8/21/08]

Pinkston Worked With Senior McCain Advisers Charlie Black And Wayne Berman For Kemp As V.P. Nominee In 1996. National Journal reported, "'Principal members' of Kemp's campaign staff 'were in place before he was named' running-mate, including **Wayne Berman**, a Commerce Dept. official under Bush, as campaign dir.; ex-NRSC general counsel Fred Maas as depty. Mgr; and **Charlie Black** 'as an unpaid adviser.' Other Kemp staff… [includes] Kerry Pymchuk and **Christian Pinkston** as speech writers." [National Journal, 8/13/96, emphasis added]

Charlie Black Ran Kemp's Unsuccessful 1988 Presidential Bid. The Washington Post reported, "Today, just one month after his worst Election Day as a consultant, Black is to assume leadership of the presidential exploratory committee of Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.). Black will become Kemp's chief political consultant and the chief executive

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officer of the exploratory committee. 'He is the boss, the preeminent political figure who will direct not only the exploratory committee, but the Kemp presidential campaign,' said John Buckley, Kemp's press secretary." [Washington Post, 12/1/86]

Right Wing Group Spending This Week

Over the past week, right wing groups have reported spending $in independent expenditures to defeat progressive candidates.

	Amount	Race
n Majority Campaign	$85,200.03	President
berty PAC	$25,087.20	President
ommittee PAC	$34,114.46	President
Campaign Fund	$50,575.80	President
Republican Congressional e	$21,675	CA-08 (Nancy Pelosi)

Conservative 527s Even Stronger, Better-Funded in 2008

Conservative Groups Already Spending Millions. Already in 2007 and 2008, conservative 527s have spent tens of millions and are prepared to spend hundreds of millions more – far exceeding their 2004 or 2006 spending.

Freedom's Watch Spent $15 Million Supporting the Surge. The Washington Post reported, "Freedom's Watch has loudly announced that there will be no limits on what it might do. From its $15 million summer ad campaign defending the Iraq strategy to its six-figure effort in the House special election in Ohio, the group has put Democrats on notice that its agenda will go far beyond the conservative principles of its largest financial backers." [Washington Post, 1/20/08]

Gingrich's Organization Spent Over $6.8 Million in 2007. American Solutions for Winning the Future, the organization chaired by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, spent $6,827,215 in 2007. [IRS Monthly Filings, accessed 3/28/08]

Presidential Coalition LLC Spent Over $3.5 Million in 2007. Presidential Coalition LLC, a Republican 527, spent $3,511,291 in 2007. [IRS Filings, accessed 3/28/08]

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Defense of Democracies Spent $2 Million Targeting Democrats on FISA. According to Newsweek, "A new series of TV commercials featuring sinister photos of Osama bin Laden may signal what's to come this fall: a wave of secretly financed political attacks. The spots, by a group called Defense of Democracies, which was just created by former Republican National Committee spokesman Cliff May, target 15 House Democrats for their failure to support a White House-backed electronic spying bill. May told Newsweek he plans to spend $2 million on the ads." [Newsweek, 3/10/08]

Club for Growth Spent Over $580,000 on Single Congressional Race. During the first two months of 2008, the ultra-conservative Club for Growth spent $581,880.50 on the congressional race in Maryland's 1st district. [FEC, accessed 3/28/08]

Club for Growth Conducted Detailed Presidential Research. Early in 2007, the Club for Growth produced detailed research documents on all potential presidential candidates and posted them on its website. [Club for Growth, accessed 3/28/08]

Citizens United Planning $10 Million Effort. Citizen's United produced an anti-Hillary movie and engaged in a court fight to air promotional commercials for the film. According to Newsweek, the group "has begun work on a $10 million effort that will include a feature film about Barack Obama. Among the issues 'on the table,' [Citizens United's Dave] Bossie told Newsweek, are Obama's ties to indicted developer Tony Rezko and former Weather Undgeround radical William Ayers." [Newsweek, 3/10/08]

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 7:33:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Today's Post story on HRC

Tony's response to do you know her.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com >
Date: Aug 16, 2015 4:29 PM
Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

Yes
Lloyd hand daughter

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2015, at 3:38 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Know her?
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
> Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
> Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
> To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
> Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com
>
> Dear Jake and John:
>
> I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.
>
> Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.
>
> Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.
>
> I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.
>
> Lorraine-
>
> Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are

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enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, “politics as usual’ is immediately heard as “politics as usual in Clinton-world.”

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

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In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon's 'silent majority,' -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women's rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

"The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which "brings us together in a peaceful loving state."

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking's insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From:	"Tikkun Staff" <magazine@tikkun.org>
To:	Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date:	8/11/2014 12:01:22 AM
Subject:	Tikkun Daily Digest: Rabbi Lerner on CNN, We Refuse to be Enemies, Mourning for Judaism, and more!

Tikkun DAILY (te•kün) To mend, repair, and transform the world.

Click on the links below to join the lively discussions taking place this week on the Tikkun Daily Blog! Unlike the carefully edited print magazine and web magazine site, Tikkun Daily is a spontaneous, open forum to which volunteer bloggers directly post their ideas and readers post their comments. You'll find a provocative variety of views here, *including some with which Tikkun editors heartily disagree,* so please remember that any given post is presented solely by its author and does not represent *Tikkun*'s editorial stance. To sign up for a daily email digest with links to the day's posts, click here :

Interview with Rabbi Michael Lerner on CNN

Aug 07, 2014 06:31 pm | Tikkun

Rabbi Michael Lerner appeared on CNN this morning Thursday, August 7th for a short interview. To hear his insights on the recent Israel/Gaza war, watch the full interview shared here.

comments | read more

Recording of Conference Call with Sami Awad

Aug 05, 2014 01:24 pm | Tikkun

Yesterday's (August 4th) conference call with Sami Awad, a Palestinian non-violent peace activist, was illuminating, informative and exactly what we need during this time of horrific violence. If you didn't have a chance to listen in on the call, we've uploaded the entire recording to Tikkun Daily.

comments | read more

Live Interview with Uri Avnery and More

Jul 28, 2014 10:00 pm | Tikkun

Listen to Uri Avnery's interview from Tel Aviv and then read some articles from Israel and Palestine, one on the demonstrators assaulted in Tel Aviv after protesting the Gazan War, and one about humanizing Palestine.

comments | read more

Rabbi Michael Lerner: Mourning for a Judaism Being Murdered by Israel

Aug 04, 2014 03:09 pm | Rabbi Michael Lerner

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If we act from a loving and generous place, seeking to overcome behaviors that were previously perceived as disrespectful and humiliating, that the icebergs of anger and hate (some of which our behavior helped to create) can melt away and people's hearts can once again turn toward love and justice for all.

comments | read more

"Israel Provoked This War: It's Up to Obama to Stop It" and Recommended Articles

Jul 29, 2014 08:12 pm | Tikkun

We present to our readers "Israel Provoked This War: It's Time for Obama to Stop It" and "Gaza: A Living Hell with No Escape", with an introduction by Rabbi Michael Lerner and a recommendation of other thoughtful articles.

comments | read more

Leila Dregger: We Refuse to be Enemies: "Vision Camp" for Israel-Palestine Ends on a Hopeful Note

Aug 04, 2014 02:17 pm | Leila Dregger

Amidst this seemingly hopeless situation Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of a peace research center called Tamera in Portugal, initiated what she calls a "vision camp" in the West Bank. It had mainly one goal: to create and maintain humaneness, trust, and equal exchange between Israel and Palestine.

comments | read more

MJ Rosenberg: The Jews Of Silence

Aug 03, 2014 11:39 am | MJ Rosenberg

All are dead in a war of choice, a war that was chosen as the preferred alternative to diplomacy. And yet we are silent.

comments | read more

Shmuel Chesed: Reflections on the War in Gaza

Aug 07, 2014 07:23 pm | Shmuel Chesed

When I think of most of my Jewish friends or the people I see at shul, I would be reluctant to voice my deep reservations about [Israel's] justifications. On the other hand, I feel guilty even repeating them privately to myself. It feels like an act of treachery against my Arab friends.

comments | read more

MJ Rosenberg: It's AIPAC's War Now

Jul 31, 2014 12:57 pm | MJ Rosenberg

Writing in Ha'aretz today, Gideon Levy predicts that ultimately the Netanyahu government will pay a heavy price for the atrocities being inflicted on the people of Gaza. He writes: I'm no fan of Hamas, quite the contrary. But Israel's attempt to put all the blame on Hamas is outrageous.

comments | read more

David Harris-Gershon: 12 Years Ago Today, Hamas Tried to Kill My Wife. I'm Marking that Day by Opposing the Gaza War and Attacks on All Civilians

Jul 31, 2014 01:23 am | David Harris-Gershon

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All I simply want to say, is this: I mourn today for what has occured, I am also mourning for what is occurring, and for what I fear will continue to occur. Unless someone steps in and demands that this ends. Now.

comments | read more

Valerie Elverton-Dixon: "We've Become Cruel"

Jul 30, 2014 08:56 pm | Valerie Elverton-Dixon

In the 2012 documentary,The Gatekeepers, Avraham Shalom, the head of Israel's Shin Bet from 1980-1986, reaches the conclusion that Israel's occupation of Gaza, Samaria and Judea has changed the character of the Israeli people. He says: "We've become cruel, to ourselves as well, but mainly to the occupied population..."

comments | read more

Tala Haikal and Saliba Sarsar: The Solution to Middle East Chaos

Jul 30, 2014 03:04 pm | Tala Haikal and Saliba Sarsar

Gaza, Syria, and Iraq are pained by that same disease of extremism and conflict. Civilians, more specifically children and women, are bearing the brunt of the injustices. In today's Middle East, we have sacrificed a generation to the flames of rage.

comments | read more

Wendy Elisheva Somerson: Bodies on the Line in Solidarity with Palestine

Jul 29, 2014 02:08 pm | Wendy Elisheva Somerson

For Wendy Somerson, every morning she wakes up she feels helpless in the face of such a large scale massacre being carried out in Gaza. So yesterday, instead of passively watching the news, her group of Jewish, Palestinian and allied activists made some news of their own.

comments | read more

David Glick: The Real Danger to Israel

Jul 29, 2014 01:05 pm | David Glick

People under occupation have a right to resist and fight back. Whether or not one condemns or approves of Hamas's rocket fire, one thing is clear: Israel is not really defending itself from rockets, it is instead defending its self-declared right to swallow up more and more Palestinian land and empty it of more and more Palestinians.

comments | read more

MJ Rosenberg: Two States: Still The Only Way End The Conflict

Jul 25, 2014 09:01 pm | MJ Rosenberg

I keep hearing from people who say "but what is Israel supposed to do?" They then go on to say that it is now more obvious than ever that if Palestinians control the West Bank Israel will not be safe. "They" will just launch missiles from there. But here I give you the facts.

comments | read more

David Harris-Gershon: Empathizing with Gaza does NOT make me anti-Semitic, nor pro-Hamas or anti-Israel. It makes me human.

Jul 25, 2014 01:36 pm | David Harris-Gershon

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On the ground in Gaza, Israel's war against Hamas has been devastating. Online and in the public sphere, a different sort of war has been taking place – a broad initiative to delegitimize those who raise questions about and critique Israel's actions.

comments | read more

Arlene Goldbard: Israel, Palestine, and Us: The Peace That Passeth All Understanding

Jul 28, 2014 10:30 am | Arlene Goldbard

Facebook has been a forest of assertions and denunciations this week. Maybe it's the company I keep, but almost everyone is posting links at an accelerated rate, and the subject of this battle of citations is Israel-Palestine.

comments | read more

Maiya Zwerling: Former Iran Hostage Voices Support for Diplomacy with Iran on Capitol Hill

Jul 25, 2014 07:23 pm | Maiya Zwerling

Long before Josh Fattal was released from Evin Prison in Iran, it had become abundantly clear to him and the rest of the world that his imprisonment had little do to with himself. His recent visit to Washington, D.C. comes at a crucial moment for the ongoing efforts to peacefully resolve the Iranian nuclear standoff.

comments | read more

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Rabbi Sammy Intrator: A Reflection on the Passing of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Jul 29, 2014 07:56 pm | Rabbi Sammy Intrator

Reflections on Rabbi Zalman, who, with depth, with love, with humor, and with songs, imparted a spiritual conscience of an old age that spoke to the generation of a new age.

comments | read more

Viji Sundaram: Helen Prejean: The 'Whole Death Penalty System is Botched'

Aug 05, 2014 03:04 pm | Viji Sundaram

The recent botched executions of three death row inmates have brought the death penalty issue under intense scrutiny once again. Sister Helen Prejean, who has been a spiritual adviser to many death row inmates and is the author of Dead Man Walking, shared her thoughts on the latest executions with NAM health editor Viji Sundaram.

comments | read more

Warren Blumenfeld: My Research Is My Therapy

Aug 02, 2014 11:00 am | Warren Blumenfeld

Questions about internalized oppression have been the backbone of Warren Blumenfeld research, and even before he came to consciousness of this fact, his research was his therapy, for it had challenged and continually challenges him to change and to grow.

comments | read more

Sara Weissman: YoHana Bat Adam: The Spiritual Heartist

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Jul 29, 2014 02:51 pm | Sara Weissman

Bat Adam calls herself the "heartist," a label that she feels embodies the message behind her art. She hopes her work will inspire viewers to soul-search, to "go to their hearts and be present to what they see."

comments | read more

Michael Lozano: LA Youth Fast for Central American Youth – 'We Are Just Like Those Kids'

Jul 29, 2014 01:53 pm | Michael Lozano

Young people in Los Angeles held a fast during the fourth week of July to call attention to the welfare of Central American children crossing into the United States. They are asking the Obama administration to take executive action to treat the children as refugees.

comments | read more

Warren Blumenfeld: Forceful Penetration as Terror Tactic in Immigration Debate

Jul 31, 2014 11:00 am | Warren Blumenfeld

Rather than characterizing immigration and migration issues as humanitarian concerns, the anti-immigration activists connect the narratives representing immigrants and migrants to our borders to the language of disease, crime, drugs, alien and lower forms of culture and life, of invading hoards, of barbarians at the gates who if allowed to enter will destroy the glorious civilization we have established among the lesser nations of the Earth.

comments | read more

Sara Weissman: Abe's Babes: Interfaith Theater to Counter Prejudice at the Dinner Table

Jul 30, 2014 05:41 pm | Sara Weissman

Disparaging comments about another group are unfortunately common in many communities. When these kinds of off-hand remarks emerge in our own homes or in the homes of our friends, how are we supposed to respond? Abe's Babes, a group of six Jewish, Muslim, and Christian women in Sydney, Australia, may have found an answer.

comments | read more

Jim Vrettos: What Would a Transformative Justice System Look Like — Politically, Economically, Spiritually and Intellectually?

Jul 29, 2014 07:08 pm | Jim Vrettos

Almost 2.5 million Americans are presently housed in prisons and jails and this marks an increase of almost five times as many as there were in 1980. The present criminal justice system and its hardline paradigm is a broken structure, a machine that has created and continues to create unimaginable human pain and misery and dehumanization for its victims and their jailers. But what would a revolutionary transformative America and its justice system look like?

comments | read more

Howard Cooper: Where are our Cities of Refuge?

Jul 29, 2014 03:00 pm | Howard Cooper

This week's Torah stories remind us of those six Biblical 'cities of refuge' -places where anyone could go and seek shelter, protection from bloodshed or vengeance. But in reality there are no places of refuge. The Torah is like a dream. And then we awaken from it - and the nightmare is that there is nowhere safe from death's sudden arrival, however guilty or innocent one might be.

comments | read more

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From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/31/2015 11:53:57 PM
Subject: First Draft on Politics: Bush Is Still Waiting for Polling to Catch Up With Fund-Raising

? View First Draft on the web | Add nytdirect@nytimes.com to your address book?

9/1/2015 nytimes.com/firstdraft »

The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Bush Is Still Waiting for Polling to Catch Up With Fund-Raising

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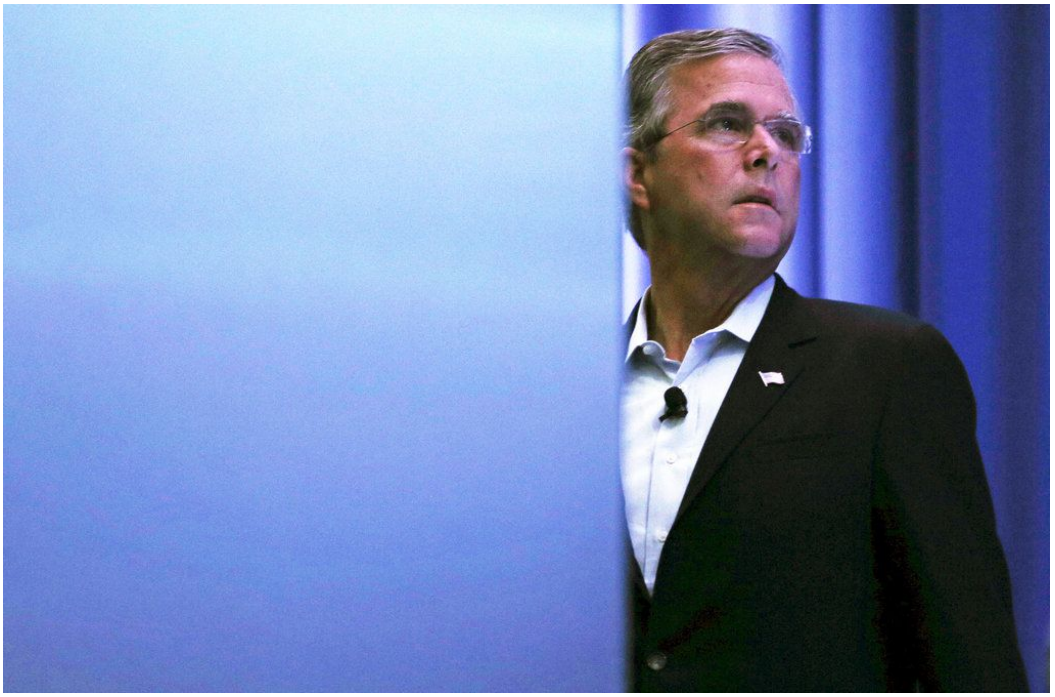

Jeb Bush spoke at the New Hampshire Education Summit meeting in Londonderry on Aug. 19. Brian Snyder/Reuters

By Maggie Haberman

Good Tuesday morning. Though the political world will be poring over the latest batch of emails from ***Hillary Rodham Clinton****'s time as secretary of state,* ***Jeb Bush****'s campaign is hoping a new month will help bridge the sustained gap between his success in fund-raising and his lagging poll numbers.*

September has finally arrived, and for Mr. Bush, it isn't a moment too soon.

Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, has not had a seasonal respite from his breakneck fund-raising of earlier this year. Nor has he had a stretch of good headlines. Instead, he's had **Donald J. Trump**, a middling outing in the first Republican debate, and a string of supporters wringing their hands about when things will improve.

The "super PAC" supporting Mr. Bush is set to go on air with television ads this month in the hopes of turning around his numbers. **Mike Murphy**, his longtime adviser who leads the group, has publicly sounded unconcerned about Mr. Trump's ascension and insists there is no need to act any sooner.

At the same time, the campaign has had to trim its sails in terms of spending, budget cuts that aides described as prudent rather than desperate. Three junior fund-raising consultants parted ways with Team Bush in recent days; while they were described in some reports as "key," their roles with the super PAC have ended as well. In many respects, this is the product of Mr. Bush running his pre-campaign and his super PAC in tandem for six months. When the two were disentangled, the campaign was flying without a net, and officials there took some time to adjust.

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His fund-raising team, by all accounts, has been among the more tumultuous campaign divisions, in part because of scheduling issues and in part because of personality clashes.

They are still adjusting, it seems, since budget concerns were the main reason Mr. Bush shook up his campaign before it started. Mr. Bush's aides believe he is held to a different standard from other candidates, much like Mrs. Clinton, and they point to a cash advantage that is still likely to dwarf that of his closest competitors. But Mr. Bush will need to start putting some points on the board, and soon, to shake off a rough beginning.

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What We're Watching Today

- **President Obama** arrived in Alaska on Monday evening for a trip to speak about climate change, rename a mountain and appear on a survivalist television show. On Tuesday, he will hike Exit Glacier, which is described as having a "moderately strenuous" trail, and tour the Kenai Fjords "to view the effects of climate change firsthand," the White House says.

- And **Gov. Bobby Jindal** of Louisiana and **Rick Santorum** will speak at the Northwest Family Leadership Regional Summit meeting in Iowa, where the public funding of Planned Parenthood will be a major topic.

Democrats Inch Closer to Magic Number on Iran Deal

It's a pivotal week for the Iran nuclear agreement as crucial remaining undecided Democrats make their views known, perhaps determining the deal's fate a week

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before Congress is set to begin formally debating it.

Five more Democratic House members on Monday announced that they would back the agreement, putting new momentum behind efforts by the House Democratic leadership to build a firewall against a possible veto override. On Tuesday, **Senator Chris Coons**, Democrat of Delaware, is to disclose his position on the nuclear pact at the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Delaware.

With at least 31 Senate Democrats now saying they would back Mr. Obama on the deal, the White House needs just three more to reach the 34 that would make a veto override impossible in the Senate. Mr. Coons and other undeclared Democratic lawmakers are being closely watched, including **Senators Benjamin L. Cardin** of Maryland, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee; **Bob Casey** of Pennsylvania; **Michael Bennet** of Colorado; **Maria Cantwell** of Washington; and **Cory Booker** of New Jersey.

Bolstered by the strong likelihood of lining up 34 votes, Senate Democratic backers of the deal now hope they can assemble 41 of the 46 Democratic votes to block congressional disapproval of the legislation through a filibuster, sparing Mr. Obama from having to issue a veto on the measure. But the Democratic ability to succeed might not become clear until the Senate returns next week.

Given the Democratic direction on the deal, its opponents now realize they might have to begin reversing some Democratic commitments when lawmakers make it back to Washington.

– Carl Hulse

Professors From Trump's Alma Mater Grade His Marketing Skills

Mr. Trump has made a few things clear to voters as he has barnstormed the country making his case for the presidency. He will build a wall; he is very rich; and he went to Wharton – the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious business school.

Professors on campus are staying mostly mum about Mr. Trump's presidential prospects, but when it comes to his political marketing skills, some of them cannot help but appreciate his results.

"Short, clear statements are easy to process," said **Michael Platt**, a professor of marketing and neuroscience at Wharton. "They do not rely on nuance or subtlety. That seems to resonate with people and possibly reinforces what I think are nonverbal signals Trump transmits, unknowingly, to the public."

Professor Platt suggested that Mr. Trump's celebrity and physical features – his height and his confident scowl – are exploiting ancestral mechanisms that are appealing to the general public. Studies show that when people look at a face more

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often, they tend to prefer it, so the attention showered upon Mr. Trump may be reinforcing his favorability.

Jonah Berger, who also teaches marketing at Wharton, said that Mr. Trump might be gaining attention by shooting from the hip.

"Controversy drives conversation," Professor Berger said. "I think whether on purpose or by accident, he's done a masterful job of using controversy to keep his name in the news."

As for Wharton, it has been handling its own bout of Trump publicity with care. The school has asked its faculty to avoid discussing Mr. Trump's politics publicly. And his incorrect use of its name — he calls it "The Wharton School of Finance" — has not gone unnoticed.

"He's not treated in the most reverent tone here," Professor Berger said. "But we wish all of our students well."

– Alan Rappeport

Our Favorites From The Times

- Some influential Republican figures worry that **Mr. Trump**'s suggestions that he would raise taxes in certain areas could catch on with rivals in the presidential race.
- **Rick Perry** has whittled down his staff in Iowa to one paid operative amid continuing fund-raising struggles.
- **Ben Carson** has tied **Mr. Trump** for the lead in Iowa, according to a new poll.
- And the size of the crowds that **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont has been drawing should pay its biggest dividends in Iowa.

Biden to Speak at $10,000-a-Couple Fund-Raising Dinner in Miami

When **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.** visits Miami this week, he will have an opportunity to sound out some of the city's biggest Democratic contributors about a presidential run.

It is not on his official schedule, but Mr. Biden will be the keynote speaker at a $10,000-a-couple fund-raising dinner on Wednesday for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee at the home of **Stephen H. Bittel**, a prominent commercial real estate developer who raised over $200,000 for Mr. Obama's re-election.

The vice president has longstanding relationships in Miami's donor community, and,

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as he considers a White House bid, has been in contact with **Michael Adler**, another real estate mogul there who raised well over six-figures for the Obama-Biden campaign in 2012.

Notably, **Senator Bill Nelson** of Florida will also be at the Wednesday dinner: Mr. Nelson, a supporter of **Mrs. Clinton**, said on Friday that he did not think Mr. Biden would run for president.

– Jonathan Martin

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- The suggestion by **Gov. Scott Walker** of Wisconsin that a border wall might also be worth considering on the United States-Canada border, was met, Fox News writes, by criticism from both parties.

- And **Gerald F. Seib** at The Wall Street Journal compares this election cycle to that of 1968, seeing similarities in the issues, tensions and the threats to establishment candidates.

- Republican hopes of taking back the Senate seat held by **Mr. Bennet** are faltering because of Republican Party chaos in Colorado, Politico reports.

- The New Yorker examines whether **Mrs. Clinton** is partly responsible for the Black Lives Matter movement.

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Times JOURNEYS

Christie Finds Welcome Banter on 'The Tonight Show'

Jimmy Fallon was shocked to hear he wasn't the first "Jimmy" to come to **Gov. Chris Christie**'s mind.

"I'm from New Jersey, do you know how many Jimmies I know?" Mr. Christie said,

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before they broke into a laugh.

Mr. Christie's appearance on "The Tonight Show" on Monday seemed less an interview and more a casual-yet-caffeinated banter between on-screen friends.

Mr. Fallon previewed the interview in his monologue, saying that Mr. Christie "showed up in one of **Miley Cyrus**'s outfits from the V.M.A.s last night."

And as Mr. Christie told a story about getting ice cream with **Mitt Romney** and **Senator Marco Rubio** of Florida and their families in New Hampshire over the Fourth of July, Mr. Fallon cut him off.

"First of all, you weren't like 'all right,' " Mr. Fallon said with a sheepish inflection, imitating how Mr. Christie told the story. Mr. Fallon then pumped his fists like a kid excited about his Rocky Road. "You were like, 'Yahoo!' "

Mr. Christie momentarily acted offended and wandered offstage, before returning to finish the story, explaining that the three Republican leaders floundered for cash to treat their children to ice cream before being saved by **Ann Romney**.

"Don't worry, would-be presidents, I have it handled," she chided them, Mr. Christie said.

But amid the joking and jockeying, Mr. Fallon hit on a point plaguing the Christie campaign as it struggles to gain traction in the crowded field.

"And now Trump is running, and boy, is he just going out and yelling and saying stuff," Mr. Fallon said. "I thought that was going to be your thing."

The smile Mr. Christie had been wearing for the entire interview twitched a little, before he responded: "Life is a strange, strange ride, Jimmy, and we'll just keep riding it."

– Nick Corasaniti

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/15/2008 1:31:36 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 9/15

08 Election Daily News Clips
September 15th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9am McCain: Breakfast/Rally in Jacksonville, FL

11am Palin: Breakfast in Golden, CO

12:30pm McCain: Town Hall in Orlando, FL

5:30pm Palin: Fund Raiser in Canton, OH

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Records show McCain more bipartisan (Washington Times 9/15/08)
Stephen Dinan
Sen. John McCain's record of working with Democrats easily outstrips Sen. Barack Obama's efforts with Republicans, according to an analysis by The Washington Times of their legislative records.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/15/records-show-mccain-more-bipartisan/

Financial, Defense Lead Area Industries in Political Giving (WaPo 9/15/08)
By Annys Shin; D01
Executives and employees of financial services firms and defense contractors have given the most money to the two major political parties and their presidential nominees, a review of donations by some of the region's largest companies and nonprofit organizations shows. The 10 firms whose employees gave the most money favored the Republican Party and its standard bearer, Sen. John McCain ... over the Democratic Party and ...Barack Obama.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/14/AR2008091401571_pf.html

Into the Rolodex for a Bundle; Business Networks Built Over Decades Fuel Political Donations (WaPo 9/15/08)
By Thomas Heath; D01
P. Wesley Foster, the real estate mogul who founded Chantilly-based Long & Foster, is hitting up acquaintances from a lifetime of business deals to help raise money for Sen. John McCain. When he runs out of names, he gets suggestions from the McCain campaign. ... Business Networks Built Over Decades Fuel Political Donations
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/14/AR2008091401569_pf.html

Both Sides Seeking to Be What Women Want (NYT 9/15/08)
By KATE ZERNIKE
For evidence of how intensely the presidential candidates are battling over women, consider their investment in Oprah Winfrey. After the news programs, "Oprah" is the chief recipient of campaign advertisements this year, with Senator John McCain buying more commercial spots on the program in the last month than Senator Barack Obama — even though Ms. Winfrey herself is backing Mr. Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/15/us/politics/15women.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

McCain's Outraged and Outrageous Campaign (TIME 9/15/08)
By Michael Scherer
Why John McCain's campaign is focused on trying to get its base good and angryhttp://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1841131,00.html?xid=rss-politics

Obama TV Ad Questions McCain's "Honor" (The Page 9/15/08)
The Land of Lincolner releases a new spot slamming his rival, calling his campaign dishonorable. "He's running

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'the sleaziest ads ever.' 'Truly vile.'… It seems 'deception' is all he has left."
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/393112141/
Link to video of ad ("Honor"): http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/honor_ad/

Union attacks McCain with TV ad on economy (AP 9/14/08)
By Stephen Ohlemacher
A powerful service workers union backing Democrat Barack Obama started a $2.1 million ad campaign Sunday that attacks Republican John McCain on the economy. The [SEIU]is running a TV commercial in six states that could be competitive in the presidential election: Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Iowa.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/09/14/union_attacks_mccain_with_tv_ad_on_economy?mode=PF

New Obama assault on McCain lobbyists (Politico 9/13/08)
By: Mike Allen
Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), in a new bid to strip his opponent of maverick credentials, on Saturday launched an ad, website and road show designed to highlight ties between Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Washington lobbyists.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=5C51F4FE-18FE-70B2-A88EF4854B653394
See USA Today's "Adwatch: Scrutiny over lobbyist leaves out key points": http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-14-adwatch_N.htm?csp=34

Obama raises $66M; McCain, $47M (AP/USA Today 9/15/08)
Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama raised $66 million in August, a record for a presidential candidate. The campaign included first-time donations from a half-million people.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-14-campaign_N.htm?csp=34

Rove: Some McCain ads don't pass '100 percent truth' test (CNN 9/14/08)
Former Bush adviser Karl Rove suggested Sunday that John McCain had gone "one step too far" in some of his recent ads attacking Barack Obama.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/14/rove-some-mccain-ads-dont-pass-100-percent-truth-test/

In interview, McCain says he'll reduce taxes for 'everybody' (NH Union-Leader 9/14/08)
By SHAWNE K. WICKHAM
John McCain yesterday said he will take Barack Obama's New Hampshire pledge not to raise taxes for anyone making less than $250,000. "Not only that, I'm going to cut taxes for literally everybody," the Republican nominee said yesterday in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C.
http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=In+interview%2c+McCain+says+he%27ll+reduce+taxes+for+%27everybody%27&articleId=631e32e1-da31-4d13-baec-6be70346cbb6

McCain on FCS: Flip-flop or fib? (Army Times 9/14/08)
By Bradley Peniston
Has Sen. John McCain renounced his longtime antagonism toward the Army's Future Combat Systems?
http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/09/defense_mccain_FCS_091208/

McCain is what U.S. needs now, wife says at speech in Pontiac (Detroit Free Press 9/14/08)
BY TINA LAM
Cindy McCain said her husband is not a man for all times, but he is a man for these times. "He's what we need now,"
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080914/NEWS15/309140002/1215/NEWS15

McCain's NASCAR stop in NH could help pull votes (AP 9/14/08)
...McCain spoke to a meeting of race drivers, thanking them for their support of the troops. He told the drivers they are the role models for the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. McCain was accompanied by NASCAR legend Richard Petty.
http://www.whnt.com/Global/story.asp?S=9006239
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXWo6JUZV-U
Link to pool report of NASCAR event: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-pool-report-3/
Link to pool report of McCain in NH: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-pool-report-2/

McCain, Obama call for closer US-China cooperation (AP 9/14/08)
John McCain and Barack Obama call for closer U.S.-Chinese cooperation on trade, the environment and nuclear

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proliferation in the upcoming issue of an American business group's magazine in an unusual effort to court voters abroad.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080914/D936N1380.html

Greenspan: Country can't afford McCain's tax cuts (AP 9/13/08)
Alan Greenspan says the country can't afford tax cuts of the magnitude proposed by Republican presidential contender John McCain — at least not without a corresponding reduction in government spending.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-13-Greenspan_N.htm?csp=34

McCain Barbs Stirring Outcry as Distortions (NYT 9/13/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER and JIM RUTENBERG
Harsh advertisements and negative attacks are a staple of presidential campaigns, but Senator John McCain has drawn an avalanche of criticism this week from Democrats, independent groups and even some Republicans for regularly stretching the truth in attacking Senator Barack Obama's record and positions.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/us/politics/13mccain.html?hp=&pagewanted=print

McCain-Palin Crowd-Size Estimates Not Backed by Officials (Bloomberg 9/13/08)
By Lorraine Woellert and Jeff Bliss
Senator John McCain has drawn some of the biggest crowds of his presidential campaign since adding Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to his ticket on Aug. 29. Now officials say they can't substantiate the figures McCain's aides are claiming.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=a1J0tfV3XJYs&refer=politics
See LA Times's "McCain-Palin crowd: 23,000, or a third that size": http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-ticket14-2008sep14,0,6087991.story?track=rss

Why McCain is going so negative (Politico 9/14/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
...McCain's tactics are drawing the scorn of many in the media and organizations tasked with fact-checking the truthfulness of campaigns. In recent weeks, Team McCain has been described as dishonorable, disingenuous and downright cynical.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=59999227-18FE-70B2-A843A61B46DCD096

McCain and Palin plan joint town halls in battleground states (CNN blog 9/13/08)
By Dana Bash
CNN has learned that John McCain and Sarah Palin plan to hold joint town hall meetings next week. A McCain adviser says early plans are to hold the town halls in western Michigan and Wisconsin... These events would likely mark the first time Palin takes questions from voters.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/13/mccain-and-palin-plan-joint-town-halls-in-battleground-states/#more-18359

McCain wrong on Palin earmarks (LA Times 9/13/08)
By Tom Hamburger and Maeve Reston
The Republican presidential nominee said his running mate did not seek them as governor of Alaska. But in fact, she asked for $198 million in February; that was down millions from last year.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-earmarks13-2008sep13,0,4231195.story?track=rss

McCain defends reaction to Obama 'pig' remark (LA Times 9/13/08)
By Maeve Reston
Joyce Behar, co-host of 'The View,' calls his Web ads lies. Obama 'shouldn't have said it,' McCain insists.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain13-2008sep13,0,3087111.story?track=rss

John McCain Has Some Odd Fans: His Jailers at the 'Hanoi Hilton' (WSJ 9/13/08)
By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV
They Play Down Torture and Wish Him Well; Museum Visitors Want to See His Cell
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122127000539031163.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain Taps Lobbyist for Transition (TIME 9/12/08)
By Michael Scherer
A prominent Washington lobbyist who has worked for every Republican President since Richard Nixon has been tapped by the McCain campaign to conduct a study in preparation for the presidential transition should John McCain win the election, according to sources familiar with the process.
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1840722,00.html?imw=Y

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McCain remains noncommittal on major highway bill (AP 9/12/08)
John McCain declined through an aide to say Friday whether he supports an $8 billion increase in highway funds heading for President Bush's approval, an issue that pits popular construction projects against his presidential campaign pledge to veto wasteful spending.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-09-12-McCain-highways_N.htm?csp=34

PALIN NEWS

Palin's Project List Totals $453 Million (WSJ 9/15/08)
By LAURA MECKLER and JOHN R. WILKE; Page A5
Last week, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain said his running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, hadn't sought earmarks or special-interest spending from Congress, presenting her as a fiscal conservative. But state records show Gov. Palin has asked U.S. taxpayers to fund $453 million in specific Alaska projects over the past two years.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122143893857134389.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Environmentalists Criticize Palin For Support of Aerial Wolf Hunting (WSJ 9/15/08)
An environmental group introduced a graphic television ad Friday condemning Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's support for aerial wolf hunting. The ad also seeks to take the Great White North mystique out of the vice-presidential candidate for voters in the Lower 48.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122145097318135295.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

McCain Team Hustles Amid Rising Interest (WSJ 9/15/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES and ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON; Page A8
The exploding interest in Sen. John McCain's campaign, fueled in part by the addition of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to the ticket, has his staff scrambling to expand events.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122143657347734185.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Palin's 'Mr. Mom' a secret weapon? (Washington Times 9/15/08)
Andrea Billups
He's a member of the steelworkers union, a registered independent and has championed the need for vocational - not Ivy League - education in his home state. ... Appeal seen to blue-collar vote
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/15/palins-mr-mom-a-secret-weapon/

Governor's 2 e-mail accounts questioned (Anchorage Daily News 9/15/08)
By LISA DEMER
BLACKBERRY: Is state business on private account really transparent?
http://www.adn.com/sarah-palin/story/526281.html

As Mayor of Wasilla, Palin Cut Own Duties, Left Trail of Bad Blood (WaPo 9/14/08)
By Alec MacGillis; A01
...Palin says her time as mayor taught her how to be a leader and grounded her in the real needs of voters, and her tenure revealed some of the qualities she would later display as governor: a striving ambition, a willingness to cut loose those perceived as disloyal and a populist brand of social and pro-growth conservatism. But...[t]he universe of the mayor of Wasilla is sharply circumscribed even by the standards of small towns, which limited Palin's exposure to issues such as health care, social services, the environment and education.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/13/AR2008091302596_pf.html

Once Elected, Palin Hired Friends and Lashed Foes (NYT 9/14/08)
By JO BECKER, PETER S. GOODMAN AND MICHAEL POWELL
Gov. Sarah Palin lives by the maxim that all politics is local, not to mention personal. ...Gov. Sarah Palin's visceral style and tendency to attack critics contrast with her public image, her record shows.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/us/politics/14palin.html

Active Role for Palin's Husband in Alaska Government (NYT 9/14/08)
By WILLIAM YARDLEY
In voting to issue a subpoena to Todd Palin in an investigation of the firing of the Alaska public safety commissioner, state lawmakers on Friday signaled that Mr. Palin, the husband of Gov. Sarah Palin, might have played a central role in one of the most contentious episodes of her governorship.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/us/politics/14todd.html?ref=politics

For Palin, political issues still unresolved in Alaska (Boston Globe 9/14/08)
By Sasha Issenberg

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...The governor leaves behind several unresolved issues that could force her in coming weeks to renegotiate the tenuous political divorce from the state's Republican establishment that she has used to cast a "maverick" silhouette as a vice-presidential candidate.... While Palin brags outside Alaska that she battled the state's "old politics-as-usual . . . big good-old-boys network," she will likely share a ballot in November with two of its charter members: Senator Ted Stevens and Representative Don Young, erstwhile rivals both struggling in their bids for reelection due to related corruption scandals.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/09/14/for_palin_political_issues_still_unresolved_in_alaska?mode=PF

Alaska Republicans close ranks around Palin (Anchorage Daily News 9/14/08)
By TOM KIZZIA
...Only a few months ago, many leading Republicans here were deriding Palin as a free-spending oil baron in the mold of Hugo Chavez. Now most are doing their best to cheer the governor on as a budget-cutting fiscal conservative running for vice president.
http://www.adn.com/sarah-palin/story/525499.html

Palin campaigns solo in Nevada (LA Times 9/14/08)
By Dan Morain and Erika Hayasaki
The Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential nominee promises a cheering Carson City crowd ethics reform, lower taxes and energy self-sufficiency.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-palin14-2008sep14,0,7376829.story?track=rss

Palin camp clarifies extent of Iraq trip (Boston Globe 9/13/08)
By Bryan Bender
Says she never ventured beyond Kuwait border
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/09/13/palin_camp_clarifies_extent_of_iraq_trip/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

Palin's earmark request this year (LA Times 9/13/08)
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin submitted a request this year for 31 federal earmarks worth $197.8 million. Her memo and the list of projects can be found on the website of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens at http://stevens.senate.gov/earmarks/Approps-StateofAlaska.pdf. Here are the biggest earmarks:
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-earmarksbox13-2008sep13,0,1896129.story?track=rss

Palin defends federal fund requests (USA Today 9/12/08)
By David Jackson
Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin on Friday blasted wasteful federal spending and insisted that she opposed the infamous "bridge to nowhere" project she had once championed. In her third interview with ABC News, the Alaska governor also defended her request for about $198 million in federal funds for special projects and said Democrat Barack Obama regrets not picking Hillary Rodham Clinton as his vice presidential choice.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-12-gop-ticket_N.htm?csp=34

A Police Chief, A Lawsuit And A Small-Town Mayor (NEWSWEEK 9/13/08*)
By Michael Isikoff and Mark Hosenball
*Print edition: 9/22/08
Eleven years before the current investigation into her dismissal of Alaska's top cop, Sarah Palin was embroiled in a similar dispute over another personnel issue: her firing of the police chief in her hometown of Wasilla. Palin's decision to terminate Irl Stambaugh ... in 1996 ... led to a bitter and protracted lawsuit charging that she fired Stambaugh out of pique—in part because he'd crossed the interests of influential backers, including bar owners and gun enthusiasts who'd contributed significantly to Palin's campaign ...Palin denied these allegations under oath, and ultimately prevailed, after a federal judge concluded that the mayor had the right to fire any department head she wanted. Palin "made the decision ... because the people of Wasilla had elected her to reform Wasilla's government and he actively worked to frustrate those efforts," says Taylor Griffin, a spokesman for the McCain-Palin campaign.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/158738/output/print

Palin says farewell to Alaska to campaign solo (AP 9/13/08)
Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who came to the friendly turf of her home state for her first campaign venture without John McCain, told supporters at a farewell rally Saturday that she'd return at the end of the campaign.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-13-Palin-Alaska_N.htm?csp=34

Anti-Palin rally draws hundreds in Alaska (AP 9/13/08)

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Hundreds of people protesting the policies of Republican vice presidential candidate and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin lined a busy street on Saturday, waving signs and chanting "Obama!" The protest came about two hours after Palin delivered a rousing speech at Anchorage's new convention center before leaving the state to return to the campaign trail.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-13-anti-Palin-rally_N.htm?csp=34

From Seneca Falls to … Sarah Palin? (NEWSWEEK 9/13/08*)
By Julia Baird
*Print edition: 9/22/08
Odd, yes, but there we are. Still, history suggests issues of policy will ultimately trump the politics of identity.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/158893

Put Palin on the Supreme Court (NEWSWEEK 9/13/08*)
Dahlia Lithwick
*Print edition: 9/22/08
Washington's old-boy problem hardly ends at the Oval Office.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/158748

Fueled by oil taxes, Alaska spending soared under Palin (Boston Globe 9/13/08)
By Brian C. Mooney
She may have fired the governor's chef and sold the state jet, but Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska has also presided over a dramatic increase in state spending in the last two years. Still, she can accurately claim that her state is in good fiscal health, thanks to an explosion of revenues from state taxes on oil industry profits.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/09/13/
fueled_by_oil_taxes_alaska_spending_soared_under_palin?mode=PF

Sen. says Palin sank 'Bridge to Nowhere' (Washington Times 9/13/08)
Stephen Dinan
Sen. Tom Coburn, the chief foe of the "Bridge to Nowhere," said Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin deserves credit for killing the project, which became the symbol of Washington pork-barrel spending.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/13/senator-says-palin-sank-bridge-to-nowhere/print/

Author Of Book Palin Targeted Lashes Back: She's My Mortal Enemy (HuffPo 9/13/08)
By Sam Stein
The author of the book Sarah Palin reportedly tried to have removed from her hometown library blasted back Saturday evening, saying the Alaska Governor had a "small-town mind," was an enemy of intellectual freedom and a "disastrous choice" for vice president.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/13/author-of-book-palin-targ_n_126236.html

Sarah Palin's Plan for High Risk Pools (WonkRoom 9/12/08)
The centerpiece of Sen. McCain's plan to "help" those with chronic conditions to get health insurance is the creation of high risk pools in every state.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/09/12/alaska-high-risk/

Tina Fey As Sarah Palin On SNL (VIDEO) (HuffPo 9/13/08)
Former cast member Tina Fey returned to Saturday Night Live to play Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin for the premiere of the show's new season. Fey bears a striking resemblance to Palin and nailed the candidate's distinctive accent. Fey and Amy Poehler opened the show with a joint appearance as Palin and Hillary Clinton. The two politicians addressed the ugly issue of sexism in the campaign.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/13/tina-fey-as-sarah-palin-o_n_126249.html
Link to video: http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/entertainment_tv/2008/09/saturday-night.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Why Feminists Hate Sarah Palin (WSJ 9/15/08)
By CATHY YOUNG
Left-wing feminists have a hard time dealing with strong, successful conservative women in politics such as Margaret Thatcher. Sarah Palin seems to have truly unhinged more than a few, eliciting a stream of vicious, often misogynist invective.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122143727571134335.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Comparing Obama and McCain On Public Service (WSJ 9/15/08)
By SHIKHA DALMIA; Page A23

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Both John McCain and Barack Obama exhorted Americans to dedicate themselves to public service in an appearance at Columbia University on Thursday, to mark the seventh anniversary of 9/11. But Americans need no lectures from politicians to participate in their nation's civic life. They need them to stay out of the way. Between the two, Sen. Obama is far less likely to do so.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122143710912734333.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Defending the Insiders (WaPo 9/15/08)
By Norman J. Ornstein; A19
I am a card-carrying Washington insider, just the kind of guy Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin says she disdains. To be sure, I'm not a member of the inner circle. But I'm no fringe element, either. ...Change in Washington? Not Without Them.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/14/AR2008091401641_pf.html

Both Sides Now (NYT 9/15/08)
WILLIAM KRISTOL
It's past time for such an antiestablishment awakening. If it goes too far, though, I of course reserve the right to become an antidisestablishmentarian again.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/15/opinion/15kristol.html

The Battle For Hope In Iraq (WaPo 9/15/08)
By Fred Hiatt; A19
It's thanks to Bush's national security adviser that the next president will take office with at least a prospect of success in Iraq.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/14/AR2008091401639_pf.html

The Palin-Whatshisname Ticket (NYT 9/14/08)
By FRANK RICH
The cunning of the Palin choice is that a candidate who embodies fear of change can be sold as a "maverick" because she looks the part.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/opinion/14rich.html?ref=opinion

Bering Straight Talk (NYT 9/14/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
An Arctic blast of action has swept into the 2008 presidential race, making thinking passé. Presidential candidates don't really need to think; just intimidate.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/opinion/14dowd.html?ref=opinion

Are We Experienced? (NYT 9/14/08)
By STEPHEN R. GRAY, DEEPAK BHARGAVA, LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, LIZ KRUEGER, TONY KNOWLES, GEORGE B. FITCH, LEO THORSNESS, NOAH FELDMAN and MARY KARR
Experience. In the 2008 presidential election, it's been a campaign slogan, a debating point and a subject of endless column inches and talk show hours. John McCain and Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Sarah Palin — whose life experiences offer the best preparation for the presidency and vice presidency? Does it help to be a naval aviator? A community organizer? A senator? A small-town mayor? Does one trump another? To answer those questions, the Op-Ed page asked people whose résumés overlap with the candidates' to explain how the qualities they've needed to draw on for their jobs and their lives would come in handy in the White House.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/opinion/14intro.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

To McCain, the truth is expendable (Chicago Tribune 9/14/08)
Steve Chapman
Last year, at a campaign event in South Carolina, John McCain called on a woman who had a question about the expected Democratic nominee. "How do we beat the bitch?" she asked. McCain laughed, said, "That's an excellent question," and noted he was leading Hillary Clinton in a poll, before assuring his audience that "I respect Sen. Clinton."
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-oped0914chapmansep14,0,4287762.column

Stopping At Nothing To Win (WaPo 9/14/08)
By David Ignatius; B07
In the military culture that shaped John McCain, there is no more important responsibility than the promotion boards that select the right officers for top positions of command. ...Two weeks later, it is still puzzling that he selected a person who, for all her admirable qualities, is not prepared by experience or interest to be commander in chief. No promotion board in history would have made such a decision.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/12/AR2008091202594_pf.html

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Charlie Gibson's Gaffe (WaPo 9/13/08)
By Charles Krauthammer; A17
...The New York Times got it wrong. And Charlie Gibson got it wrong. There is no single meaning of the Bush doctrine.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/12/AR2008091202457_pf.html
See WaPo's "What Is the Bush Doctrine, Anyway?": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/blog/2008/09/12/BL2008091201471.html?nav=rss_opinions

Gov. Palin's Worldview (NYT 9/13/08)
As we watched Sarah Palin on TV the last couple of days, we kept wondering what on earth John McCain was thinking.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/opinion/13sat1.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

He Came, He Cut Deals, He (May) Conquer (WaPo 9/14/08)
By Linda Robinson; B01
Iraq still divides Democrats and Republicans like no other issue, as the campaign rhetoric of both parties makes abundantly clear. Liberals and conservatives can now more or less agree that Iraq is a much, much safer country than it was 18 months ago. But each side is peddling its own story about Iraq's extraordinary turnaround -- and both are wrong.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/12/AR2008091202410.html?nav=rss_opinions

Passing Grades All Around (WSJ 9/14/08)
By JOHN FUND
ABC's Charlie Gibson homed in early and hard on Sarah Palin's views on foreign policy this week. ...Mr. Gibson's questions were tough but largely fair, with one exception. ...McCain advisers are relieved that Mrs. Palin passed the critical first hazing by a Bigfoot journalist.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122137230510732993.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Gov. Palin's Interview (WaPo 9/14/08)
Neither disqualifying nor reassuring, it shows the need for more exposure.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/13/AR2008091302037_pf.html

President of the world? (Washington Times 9/14/08)
Jeffery T. Kuhner
The world loves Sen. Barack Obama. A recent BBC poll of 22 countries - including Australia, Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Russia, India, China, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates - found foreigners overwhelmingly prefer Mr. Obama to Sen. John McCain. They believe the liberal Democrat will restore America's supposedly tarnished image. ...Mr. Obama's global popularity, however, is a mark of his weakness in foreign affairs:
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/14/president-of-the-world/

The Year of the Cloned Candidates (NYT 9/13/08)
By GAIL COLLINS
...The candidates running now are not the same ones we started out with. It's "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" all over again. ...Barack Obama turned into Hillary Clinton. ...Gov. Sarah Palin had only been on the Republican ticket about a week before she became a totally different person. Did you see her being interviewed by Charlie Gibson about foreign policy, trying to slither away from saying anything controversial and rewriting her own history whenever it suited her? She has obviously been replaced by a Sarah shell, stuffed with bits and pieces of John Kerry and Mitt Romney. ...you cannot blame McCain for misrepresentation. He has mutated into so many different versions over the past few months, his memory banks are probably totally shot.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/opinion/13collins.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

She's Not Ready (NYT 9/13/08)
By BOB HERBERT
While watching the Sarah Palin interview with Charlie Gibson Thursday night, and the coverage of the Palin phenomenon in general, I've gotten the scary feeling, for the first time in my life, that dimwittedness is not just on the march in the U.S., but that it might actually prevail.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/opinion/13herbert.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

Vote Republican If You Want Equal Pay (WSJ 9/12/08)
By CASEY B. MULLIGAN; Page A15
Democratic candidates Barack Obama and Joseph Biden have proclaimed that they favor equal pay for women, and have alleged that Republicans do not. Sen. Biden has also insisted that Republicans, including vice

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presidential nominee Sarah Palin, represent a step backwards for women. The economic record says exactly the opposite.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB122117698819025845.html

BUSH NEWS

Cheney Shielded Bush From Crisis (WaPo 9/15/08)
By Barton Gellman; A01
[This is the second of two stories adapted from "Angler: The Cheney Vice Presidency," to be published Tuesday by Penguin Press.]
Vice President Cheney convened a meeting in the Situation Room at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, with just one day left before the warrantless domestic surveillance program was set to expire. Around him were National Security Agency Director Michael V. Hayden, White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales and the Gang of Eight -- the four ranking members of the House and the Senate, and the chairmen and vice chairmen of the intelligence committees.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/14/AR2008091401974_pf.html

Conflict Over Spying Led White House to Brink (WaPo 9/14/08)
By Barton Gellman; A01
[This is the first of two stories adapted from "Angler: The Cheney Vice Presidency," to be published Tuesday by Penguin Press.] ...A burst of ferocity stunned the room into silence. No other word for it: The vice president's attorney was shouting. "The president doesn't want this! You are not going to see the opinions. You are out . . . of . . . your . . . lane!" Five government lawyers had gathered around a small conference table in the Justice Department command center. Four were expected. David S. Addington, counsel to Vice President Cheney, got wind of the meeting and invited himself.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/13/AR2008091302284_pf.html

Bush Will Bid to Soften Foreign-Policy Image (WSJ 9/15/08)
By JOHN D. MCKINNON; Page A4
President George W. Bush plans a series of events this month to soften his cowboy image on foreign policy and tout his administration's success in working with other countries.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122126456270730679.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Bush: U.S. and allies meeting terrorists 'head on' (AP 9/13/08)
President Bush on Saturday remembered the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the strength of U.S. citizens and troops who rallied to defend the nation, saying the United States and its allies will continue to fight extremists and terrorists "head on."
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-09-13-bush_N.htm?csp=34

OTHER TOP NEWS

Bank meltdown wallops campaigns (Politico 9/15/08)
By: Mike Allen
America's banking instability could upend the final 50 days of the presidential campaign, with both candidates forced to confront a calamity that has gotten only glancing attention during the first 20 months of the race for the White House.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=63B9B8F9-18FE-70B2-A8C96003B733E5B9

Lehman falls 80%as firm readies bankruptcy filing (MarketWatch 9/15/08)
By Simon Kennedy & Greg Morcroft,
Merrill Lynch jumps after Bank of America rescue; AIG needs more cash
http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/lehman-falls-80-firm-readies/story.aspx?guid= {8E886D48-E3C7-4CE2-95F4-7099CE1A49DB}

Gates foresees narrower U.S. combat role in Iraq (AP 9/15/08)
Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Monday that although no additional U.S. combat brigades are to withdraw from Iraq this year, he expects the U.S. combat role to keep shrinking.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2008-09-15-us-iraq_N.htm?csp=34

Bush's Overseas Policies Begin Resembling Obama's (WaPo 9/15/08)
By Dan Eggen; A02
Barack Obama contends that a John McCain presidency would amount to little more than President Bush's third term. But as it turns out, an Obama presidency might look a bit like Bush's second. On a range of major foreign policy issues over the past year, Bush has pursued strategies and actions very much along the lines of what

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Sen. Obama has advocated during his presidential race, according to the Illinois Democrat's campaign and many diplomatic and security experts.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/14/AR2008091401973_pf.html

Group With Swift Boat Alumni Readies Ads Attacking Obama (WaPo 9/14/08)
By Matthew Mosk and Chris Cillizza; A07
A new group financed by a Texas billionaire and organized by some of the same political operatives and donors behind the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth campaign against Sen. John F. Kerry in 2004 plans to begin running television ads attacking Barack Obama, a signal that outside groups may play a larger role than anticipated in the closing days of the presidential race.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/13/AR2008091302270_pf.html

POLLS

New Minnesota, Iowa Numbers (The Page 9/14/08)
From Minneapolis Star Tribune: McCain 45, Obama 45
Poll conducted Sept. 10-12; error margin 3.9 points
From Des Moines Register: Obama 52, McCain 40
Poll conducted Sept. 8-10; error margin 4 points.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/14/new-iowa-minnesota-numbers/
See Star Tribune's "Minnesota Poll: Obama, McCain are dead even in state": http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/president/28353589.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUs
See Des Moines Register's "Iowa Poll: Obama opens double-digit lead": http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080913/NEWS09/80913038

Poll: Public opposes increased presidential power (AP 9/15/08)
By MARK SHERMAN
Americans strongly oppose giving the president more power at the expense of Congress or the courts, even to enhance national security or the economy, according to a new poll.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AP_NATIONAL_CONSTITUTION_CENTER_POLL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-09-15-03-28-53

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Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/1/2008 5:47:03 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain Events Calendar 8-1

McCain Events Calendar:

This is the ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO) events memo that offers information on upcoming McCain events scheduled in the near future. The following events are currently scheduled during the rest of this week. Additional events may be scheduled

ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Fri Aug 1, 2008

1:30pm McCain: Meet and Greet in Orlando, FL
Where: 517 E Michigan St, Orlando, FL
Description: Venue: Pancho's Restaurant

4:20pm McCain: Media Availability in Panama City Beach, FL
Where: 4200 Marriott Drive, Panama City Beach, FL
Description: Venue: Bay Point Marriott Resort and Spa

7pm McCain: Concert in Panama City, FL
Where: 8 Harrison Ave. Panama City, Florida
Description: Venue: Marina Civic Center Complex
Event: "Country First Concert"
*This event is ticketed - free tickets: http://www.rpof.org/john-rich-concert
* * Doors open at 3pm CDT - start time is approximate

Sat Aug 2, 2008

McCain: Private Meetings in Washington, DC
Where: Washington, DC

Sun Aug 3, 2008

No events announced as of yet

Mon Aug 4, 2008

McCain: Appearance in Sturgis, SD
Where: Sturgis, SD
Description: Venue: Buffalo Chip Campground
Event: Tribute t o American Veterans and Active Duty Servicemen, Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

Tue Aug 5, 2008

McCain: Tours Nuclear Plant in New port, MI
Where: 6400 N Dixie Hwy, Newport, MI
Description: Venue: Fermi Nuclear Power Plant

Color Key:
Fund Raisers, **McCain Closed Events**, **McCain Public Events**, **Events/Shows**, **Surrogate Closed Events**, **Surrogate Public Events**, **VP Closed Events**, **VP Public Events**

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Chris Stone" <chris.stone@opensocietyfoundations.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/6/2015 8:49:06 AM
Subject: Re: Police reform?

As well as can be. We are now officially and formally undesirable in Russia. Hope you are thriving! From where I sit, things look good for your team.

Thanks for this.

Chris

_____
Christopher Stone
President, Open Society Foundations

On Dec 6, 2015, at 4:39 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Thanks Chris. Will circulate. Hope all is well.
>
> On Sunday, December 6, 2015, Chris Stone <chris.stone@opensocietyfoundations.org > wrote:
>> Hi, John. Your policy team was asking me for ideas on police reform a couple of months ago. Here's a concrete idea I've written up, and a good hook for it in Chicago.
>>
>> https://medium.com/open-society-foundations/get-the-politics-out-of-policing-fa41df0206c9#.2dvvg670r
>>
>> _____
>> Christopher Stone
>> President, Open Society Foundations

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From: "Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To: public@nytimes.com
Date: 5/19/2015 10:38:54 AM
Subject: Margaret, per our conversation

Margaret, far be it from me what the public editor of the NY Times should focus on, but:

Per our recent conversation and my recent column about "Clinton Cash Con" and the appropriate role of the NY Times, take another look at the Sid Blumenthal story in the Tuesday paper. I make no defense for Blumenthal. But that story involved New York Times doing stenography for the House Benghazi committee, sans legitimate reporting, replete with an email obviously leaked (without disclosure from the Times) by one of the most partisan committees in my memory.

Should the NY Times reporters be stenographers for a partisan committee, taking dictation and writing stories? And if the committee unethically leaks an email shouldn't the NY Times give some general indication of the partisan nature of the source? And shouldn't the NYT reporters do some legitimate reporting rather than repeating from partisan committee handouts?

As we discussed, I respect you and what you are trying to do. And I do not envy your position. We live in an age when political reporting is not what it used to be, and sadly, when political reporting in the New York Times is not what it used to be.

The NYT should not be not having exclusive arrangements with Peter Schweizer or writing stenography-handout stories from a partisan committee. In sorrow rather than anger, Margaret, I find it sad this happens because the NYT should be different and better. Your foreign correspondents are. Your political reporting is not. Too bad.

Best, Brent

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/27/2008 1:48:08 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/27

'08 Election Daily News Clips
Tuesday August 27th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

No McCain events scheduled today

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Democrats take aim at McCain's temper (Politico, 08/26/08)
By Daniel W. Reilly
John McCain's Democratic colleagues in the Senate are zeroing in on his oft-discussed temper, questioning whether the presumptive Republican presidential nominee is too volatile to be commander in chief. In separate interviews with Politico on Tuesday, Senate Majority Whip Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said they have seen McCain "explode." "He has a huge anger problem," Boxer said. "And he never hid that. ... I have seen it happen on the Senate floor many, many times. … He has exploded at me a couple times."
http://news.yahoo.com/s/politico/20080826/pl_politico/12846

Romney Leads Denver Counter-Offensive (WaPo 08/27/08)
By Shaillagh Murray
Blocks away from the Democratic convention site Tuesday, Republicans waged an aggressive "Not Ready '08" counteroffensive led by Mitt Romney , a potential running mate for Sen. John McCain who was trying out the attack-dog role.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/26/AR2008082603046.html

Romney, Pawlenty on attack in veep tryouts (AP 08/27/08)
By Liz Sidota
Mitt Romney, a potential John McCain running mate playing Republican pit bull on the periphery of the Democratic National Convention, charged Tuesday that a Barack Obama presidency would "make America a weaker nation."
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CVN_VEEPSTAKES?SITE=CACHI&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain hits Obama on confidence in America (Reuters 08/26/08)
By Andrew Gray
McCain, 71, suggested Obama, 47, had failed to express confidence in America as "the greatest force for good on this earth" when he gave a speech in Berlin last month before more than 100,000 people.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSN2636597520080826

Analysis: Democrats Hit Bush To nick McCain (AP 08/27/08)
By Charles Babington
For weeks, Obama and his surrogates have cast the Illinois Democrat as an agent of change, and McCain as a continuation of Bush's policies. In Denver this week, they've streamlined and amplified the claim into a nearly ceaseless soundtrack
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/27/analysis_democrats_hit_bush_to_nick_mccain/

Biden is wrench in McCain's VP choice (Politico 08/27/08)
By Jeanne Cummings
McCain knows Biden well. He knows how good he is as a knife fighter. He'll take McCain apart," said one Republican operative.
But a review of the much-rumored McCain shortlist clearly exposes the weaknesses each person on it might bring if matched up against the six-term senator from Delaware.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12867.html

McCain Criticizes Obama Foreign Policy (AP 08/26/08)
By AP Staff
epublican presidential candidate John McCain told veterans Tuesday that Democrat Barack Obama's opposition to the Iraq war and preference for collective diplomacy over U.S. leadership would create more trouble and aggression in the world.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26409839/

Decision on Offshore Drilling to Test Nominees (WSJ 08/27/08)
By Stephen Power
After Barack Obama and John McCain claim their parties' nominations, the senators will have to decide whether to back an energy-policy compromise that is uncomfortable for some members of their parties but represents a middle ground where many voters stand.
The plan, put forward by a so-called "Gang of 10" Republican and Democratic senators, would allow oil and gas drilling in some offshore areas that are

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off limits -- a move opposed by many Democratic leaders. The plan would raise $84 billion for various alternative energy and conservation measures, partly by taking away certain tax deductions from oil companies -- an idea opposed by many Republicans. Congress is likely to debate the drilling issue in September.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121978533892374097.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Factcheck: Claims omit details on McCain record (AP 08/27/08)
By Darlene Superville
The shotgun-style charges Democratic National Convention speakers fired at Republican Sen. John McCain Tuesday night weren't necessarily half-truths. But in some instances, they weren't the whole story either.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/27/factcheck_claims_omit_details_on_mccain_record/

Romney: McCain earned his homes; Obama didn't (Boston Globe, 08/26/08)
By Scott Helman
Former governor Mitt Romney, perhaps continuing his audition to be John McCain's running mate, attacked Barack Obama today for making an issue out of McCain's many homes. Speaking to reporters at a lunch sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, Romney said that while McCain deserved his houses because of the "hard work" of himself and his family, "Barack Obama got a special deal from a convicted felon." "I think it was a strange thing for Barack Obama to seize upon," Romney said. "If homes is going to be the topic of discussion that Barack Obama is going to end up on the short end of that one."
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/08/romney_mccain_e_1.html

McCain Holds Celeb-Packed Fundraiser (Washington Post 08/26/08)
by Michael Shear
Sen. John McCain may continue to attack Sen. Barack Obama as a celebrity, but that doesn't mean that McCain is above associating with them. At a fundraiser in the heart of Hollywood Monday night, McCain rubbed elbows with a chorus of television and movie stars while raising some cash in the final days before his Republican convention. About 1,600 crammed into a ballroom at the Beverly Hills Hilton, the campaign said. Earlier, Patricia Heaton, star of "Everybody Loves Raymond" joined McCain on the Straight Talk Air today for a flight from Sacramento to Burbank, descending down the front stairs of the plane together and posing for pictures. And in the morning, Daddy Yankee, one of the biggest stars in the Latino community, endorsed McCain in front of a gaggle of screaming teenagers, then joined McCain for a leg on the plane. Before the fundraiser, McCain taped an appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/26/mccain_holds_celeb-packed_fund.html#more

Romney is 'job-killing machine,' Dem says (Detroit News 08/26/08)
By Gordon Trowbridge
The head of Barack Obama's campaign on Monday described Mitt Romney as "a job-killing machine" who would hurt the John McCain campaign's economic appeal if he joins the Republican presidential ticket. "This is someone who was a job-killing machine in business," Plouffe said. "He's someone who has been proficient at using tax havens in places like the Cayman Islands that Americans have become increasingly tired of. "Will (naming Romney) help in Michigan? I don't know," Plouffe said. "But on things like outsourcing, there's almost an acceptance (by Romney) that it's OK to have all this job loss."
http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080826/POLITICS01/808260396

Biden: McCain doesn't fully support loans for auto industry (Detroit Free Press, 08/26/08)
By Justin Hyde
Democratic vice presidential hopeful Joe Biden wasted no time today in hitting Republican Sen. John McCain on auto industry issues, saying McCain does not fully support the industry's bid for $50 billion in government loans. After McCain announced his support for some loan funding on Friday, Barack Obama's campaign said it would back the full $50 billion request over three years, which would cost the government roughly $7.5 billion. Automakers plan to press Congress to approve the funds before it adjourns this year. "John McCain has not only opposed these much needed loans for our domestic auto makers, he has openly criticized and shown disdain for them," Biden said in a statement today. "His recent statements have shown once again that he is not only out of touch with American workers, but that he isn't being candid about what he does, and doesn't, support."
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080825/NEWS15/80825052

McCain plans 3-state VP rollout (Politico, 08/26/08)
By Jonathan Martin
John McCain is planning to rollout his vice-presidential nominee in three battleground states this weekend, with large-scale rallies planned for Ohio, Pennsylvania and Missouri, according to aides and advisers. The GOP nominee-in-waiting will move to immediately change the campaign conversation from Barack Obama 's football stadium acceptance speech Thursday to the new Republican ticket, to be revealed at a noontime Friday rally in a Dayton, Ohio, basketball arena. McCain and his running mate will then travel by bus to Pennsylvania, where they'll hold an outdoor event at a minor league baseball stadium in Washington County, just southwest of Pittsburgh. On Sunday, the duo will head to suburban St. Louis for another event to be held at a minor league baseball stadium, this one in O'Fallon, Mo.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12868.html

Romney Confronts His Own Criticisms of McCain (Washington Post, 08/26/08)
By Michael Shear
Is Mitt Romney ready to debate Joe Biden? That was the question posed to the possible McCain running mate by CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer. Biden, Romney said, is an "impenetrable thicket of words. I don't know if anyone is ready to debate him." Blitzer then showed a series of clips from a Republican primary debate, where Romney listed a litany of things that were wrong with McCain, including: that McCain is "outside the mainstream of Republican thought," was a driving force behind the McCain-Feingold campaign finance bill and the McCain-Kennedy immigration bill.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/26/by_michael_d_shear_phoenix.html

New McCain Ad: 'Tiny' (Townhall 08/27/08)
By Matt Lewis
http://townhall.com/blog/g/0219e349-da5c-4df7-a0b8-9b838fe95245
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhH2q6h7_Ow

McCain: Obama confused about U.S. role in world (Chicago Tribune, 08/27/08)

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By Jill Zuckman
Speaking to the 90th convention of the American Legion on Tuesday, Sen. John McCain accused Sen. Barack Obama of being confused about America's role in the world as he continued to pepper Obama with criticism during the Democrats' political convention in Denver.
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-mccain_wedaug27,0,6668932.story

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain takes after Obama in Legion speech (Politico, 08/26/08)
By Jonathan Martin
John McCain came very close Tuesday morning to outright questioning Barack Obama's patriotism, painting his Democratic rival as a detached, cocksure candidate who believes too much in internationalism and not enough in the stand-alone strength of America. Speaking to a crowd of several thousand American Legion veterans at the Phoenix Convention Center, McCain went right after Obama's strength — his rock star appearance in Berlin earlier this month, saying Obama "was the picture of confidence."
"But confidence in oneself and confidence in one's country are not the same," McCain said. McCain's campaign has insisted time after time that they're not questioning Obama's patriotism but merely his judgment, but McCain's statements are designed to continue building the narrative that Obama's campaign is about Obama and not America.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCain_takes_after_Obama_in_Legion_speech.html

Progressives: No Longer Playing Defense (WaPo 08/27/08)
By E.J. Dionne
The paradox is that there is far less jitteriness about progressive and liberal ideas. There are many more voters than even four years ago who are open to what the center left traditionally has stood for. Even more: They are increasingly resistant to what conservatives have been selling. Republicans used to be the party with philosophical self-confidence. The events around this convention suggest that liberals may no longer need assertiveness training.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/postpartisan/2008/08/progressives_no_longer_playing.html

Who Vetted Daddy Yankee? (Atlantic Blog (08/27/08)
By Marc Ambinder
The Reggaeton superstar who endorsed Sen. John McCain yesterday, was accused in 2007 of assaulting a soccer player at his hotel... and took a bullet in his leg during an altercation.
His lyrics are also quite NSFW and colorful.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/08/who_vetted_daddy_yankee.php

Obama Should Find His Inner Kansan (WSJ 08/27/08)
By Thomas Frank
Let me explain what I mean by relating a conversation I had on Saturday in the distinctly blue-collar city of Wichita, a lovable but slightly down-at-the-heels place that will probably never get to host the convention of a national political party. The man I talked to was state legislator Dale Swenson, who was swept into the statehouse in 1995 by one of the many Republican waves to crash over the heartland over the past few decades.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121979742566674947.html?mod=todays_columnists

Big Labor's Comeback (WSJ 08/27/08)
Review and Outlook
The paradox is that even as union numbers have declined, union political clout has increased, especially within the Democratic Party. That's in evidence in Denver, where no less than 25% of the 4,200 delegates are active or retired union members or belong to households with union members. More significant for the rest of America, labor has won the intellectual battle for control of the Democratic Party and is reasserting its agenda in a way not seen since the 1970s.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121979616286074815.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

The Catholic Choice (LATimes 08/27/08)
B Tim Rutten
Every four years, an astonishing array of conservative commentators and Republican campaign strategists suddenly discover an intimate concern for Catholic consciences and an overriding preoccupation with the Roman church's sacramental and liturgical norms.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-rutten27-2008aug27,0,2176517.column

John McCain, Jay Leno, 'everyday people' (Chicago Tribune, 08/26/08)
by Mark Silva
That "everyday people" sort of guy, Sen. John McCain, made an appearance on Jay Leno's *Tonight Show* last night. Seemed like the *Tonight Show* band had taken its cue from the Democratic convention, where Michelle Obama told the crowd; "You can make it if you try." The Sly and the Family Stone lyrics for the tune they played on McCain's entrance:
"Sometimes I'm right, and I can be wrong
"My own beliefs are in my song
"The butcher, the banker, the drummer and then
"Makes no difference what group I'm in
"I, I, I, I, I, am everyday people, yeah yeah"
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/08/john_mccain_jay_leno_everyday.html

Just Asking (Political Wire, 08/26/08)
By Taegan Goddard
Sen. John McCain appeared on the *Tonight Show* this week for the thirteenth time, according to Time. Others who have been on the show that many times: Pamela Anderson, Dr. Phil, Larry the Cable Guy, Simon Cowell, Jennifer Love Hewitt. So, who's the celebrity?
http://politicalwire.com/archives/2008/08/26/just_asking.html

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BUSH NEWS

Crisis Reveals Limits of Bush's Personal Diplomacy on World Stage (WaPo 08/27/08)
By Michael Abramowitz
More than many of his predecessors, President Bush has invested heavily in trying to forge a strong bond with key foreign leaders. But as his term winds down, new crises in Georgia and Pakistan are underscoring the limits of Bush's personal diplomacy, as the president is receiving criticism for overpersonalizing relations with Putin, the Russian prime minister, and with Pervez Musharraf , who resigned as Pakistan's president last week.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/26/AR2008082603152.html?nav=rss_politics

Cheney To Visit Georgia Next Week (Washington Post, 08/26/08)
By Dan Eggan
Vice President Cheney will travel next week to war-ravaged Georgia as part of a swing through several former Soviet republics, making him the highest-level U.S. emissary to visit the country since hostilities between Russia and Georgia broke out this month, officials said yesterday. The trip will put the Bush administration's most prominent hawk in a war zone still occupied by lingering Russian troops, and is likely to irritate leaders in Moscow, who have condemned the United States for siding with Georgia in the conflict.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/25/AR2008082502142.html?nav=rss_politics

Bush: Russia must reverse 'irresponsible' Georgia move (AFP 08/26/08)
By AFP Staff
S President George W. Bush on Tuesday demanded that Russia reverse its "irresponsible decision" to recognize Georgia's rebel regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5iKjJgyJQXP-1ZYS1hK8DEyVrZn_w

OTHER TOP NEWS

Taliban Gain New Foothold In Afghan City (NYTimes 08/27/08)
By Carlotta Gall
In the weeks since the prison break, security has further deteriorated in this southern Afghan city, once the de facto capital of the Taliban, that has become a renewed front line in the battle against the radical Islamist movement. The failure of the American-backed Afghan government to protect Kandahar has rippled across the rest of the country and complicated the task of NATO forces, which have suffered more deaths here this year than at any time since the 2001 invasion.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/27/world/asia/27kandahar.html?hp

Democrats hit McCain, but some urge caution (AP 08/26/08)
By Charles Babington
Democrats used the second night of their four-day convention to punch back more aggressively at John McCain, even as some party insiders warned that hitting too forcefully might jeopardize Barack Obama's upbeat, all-inclusive image.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CVN_RED_MEAT?SITE=CACHI&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

David Brooks: 'Most of the Delegates' at DNC Convention 'Sound Like a North Korea Pep Rally' (ThinkProgress 08/26/08)
By Matt Corley
On the PBS Newshour this evening, New York Times columnist David Brooks opined about the possibility of "unity at the Democratic National convention, claiming that while there are vocal supporters of Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) at the convention, "most of the delegates here have been fed these talking points here and they sound like a North Korean pep rally."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/26/brooks-dnc-north-korea/

Democrats to be out in force at GOP meet (AP 08/27/08)
By AP Staff
The Democrats also plan to distribute to reporters a multimedia press kit, which will include flash drives with an extensive catalog of McCain's record -- histories of his votes, past statements and other material the Democrats want to highlight.
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/washington/AP-CVN-GOP-Convention-Democrats.html

The Hillary Moment (Wall Street Journal, 08/27/08)
By Amy Chozick
Sen. Hillary Clinton's speech to Democrats here Tuesday night was arguably as vital to the party's hopes for winning the White House as Sen. Barack Obama's big address will be Thursday. Though Sen. Obama is the Democrats' nominee, Sen. Clinton is crucial to uniting a party that remains divided between her supporters and his. Polls show the race with Republican Sen. John McCain tightening. If Sen. Obama hopes to prevail, he'll need a focused party, strongly supported by Hillary Clinton. Last night she quickly set the tone: "Whether you voted for me, or voted for Barack, the time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose," she said. "We are on the same team, and none of us can sit on the sidelines."
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121979449353874679.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Jewish Obama backers to fight rumors (Politico, 08/26/08)
By Ben Smith
A Democratic group will try to neutralize concerns about Barack Obama among American Jews with a high-tech approach that uses the same communal networks through which rumors about Obama have spread.The Jewish Council for Educational Research is launching a website, JewsVote.org , with a suite of political tools that embody the new political focus of merging cutting-edge technology and old-fashioned community. Where the presidential campaigns have pioneered software that allows supporters to place calls to undecided voters in key states, the Jewish group turns that model inside out, encouraging Jewish Democrats to carry Obama's message to friends and family.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12773.html

S&P: Home prices drop by record amount in 2Q (Yahoo Finance, 08/26/08)
By Associated Press
A widely watched index released Tuesday showed home prices dropping by the sharpest rate ever in the second quarter, but the data for June suggest the severity of the housing slump may be waning. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index tumbled a record 15.4 percent during the quarter from the same period a year ago. The monthly indices also clocked in record declines. The 20-city index fell by 15.9 percent in June compared with a year ago, the largest drop since its inception in 2000. The 10-city index plunged 17 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history.
http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080826/home_prices.html

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POLLS

McCain Is Up In Florida, Ohio (Boston Globe 08/26/08)
By Foon Rhee
The Quinnipiac University surveys released today say that McCain is leading by 47 percent to 43 percent in Florida, where Obama led 46 percent to 44 percent last month. In Ohio, Obama has a 44 percent to 43 percent edge, down from 46 percent to 44 percent a month earlier. And in Pennsylvania, Obama has an identical 49 percent to 42 percent lead.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/08/mccain_moving_u.html

Joe Woe For O In Latest Poll (NYP 08/27/08)
By Carl Campinile
Barack Obama got exactly zero bounce from his new running mate, Joe Biden, according to a surprising new poll released yesterday - three days after the selection.
http://www.nypost.com/seven/08272008/news/nationalnews/joe_woe_for_o_in_latest_poll_126289.htm

17 Million Households Tune In to Michelle Obama (Wall Street Journal, 08/26/08)
By Amy Schatz
About 17 million households watched coverage of the Democratic convention Monday night, when Michelle Obama addressed the crowd, Nielsen Co. reported this afternoon. If the next three nights continue to draw similar numbers, this could end up being the most-watched Democratic convention in almost three decades. In 2004 and 2000, the Democratic conventions averaged about 15.5 million and 15.4 million viewing households respectively, according to **Nielsen's data** . The most-watched Democratic convention occurred in 1980, when 20.7 million homes watched Jimmy Carter accept the party's nomination.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/08/26/17-million-households-tune-in-to-michelle-obama/

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/9/2015 12:49:55 AM
Subject: News Update - July 9, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, July 9

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Israeli Citizen Held in Gaza for Last 10 Months**
- **Hamas: Israel Asked for Bodies of Soldiers**
- **Hamas Announces 2 New Missile Systems**
- **US Leaving Israel in the Dark on Iran Talks, say Israeli Officials**
- **Powers to Up Pressure for Deal as Congress Deadline Looms**
- **France not backing Away from Plans to Submit UN Resolution**
- **Secret deal between Lieberman and Netanyahu**
- **Prosecution Lets Olmert Stay out of Jail while Awaiting Appeal**

Commentary:

- **The Daily Beast: "Israel Is the Iran Deal's Biggest Loser"**
  - By Michael Koplow
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "How much are Israel's haters paying religious affairs minister?"**
  - By Ben Dror Yemini

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Ha'aretz

Israeli Citizen Held in Gaza for Last 10 Months

An Israeli man has been missing for nearly 10 months after crossing into the Gaza Strip last September. An Israeli court lifted reporting restrictions on the disappearance of Avera Mengistu on Thursday morning following a request from Haaretz. The family been critical of the state for its low-key response, saying the matter would have been handled differently if Israeli-Ethiopian Avera Mengistu were white. The family has not met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and he has not responded to a letter they sent after the incident, according to sources close to the family.

Ynet News

Hamas: Israel Asked for Bodies of Soldiers

The leader of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, said Wednesday that Israel has sent messages to the group through a European intermediary, asking the organization to return the bodies of two soldiers in their possession since Operation Protective Edge. According to Mashal, Hamas told the intermediary that the organization will not conduct negotiations with or supply any information about the two soldiers until Israel releases Shalit swap prisoners who were re-arrested. This is not the first time Hamas has claimed the existence of indirect talks with Israel to return the bodies. Last October, a member of Hamas's political echelon, Mohamed Nazal, said that there had been preparations to open a channel of indirect negotiation between the sides. Nazal claimed that the negotiations would begin soon; however, there has been no evidence of active negotiations between the group and Israel.

Jerusalem Post

Hamas Announces 2 New Missile Systems

Hamas announced on Wednesday the operational status of two new missile systems to be included in the Palestinian group's arsenal. In a statement marking the year anniversary of last summer's war in Gaza, Hamas said it has put into service the 'al-Attar A' and the 'Abu Shamala' missiles, named after Hamas commanders Raed al-Attar and Mohammed Abu Shamala, who were killed last August in Operation Protective Edge. "Time will prove their effectiveness," said Hamas spokesman Abu Oveida of the alleged new projectiles. He added that the war against Israel was "still ongoing," noting that the issue of releasing Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails was of priority for Hamas.

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Times of Israel

US Leaving Israel in the Dark on Iran Talks

The American negotiating team at the Iran nuclear talks in Vienna has not updated Israel on developments in the talks in nearly two weeks, Israeli and American officials acknowledged Tuesday. In a briefing to reporters in Vienna, senior American officials said that Wendy Sherman, who has led the Iran talks for the US, tried to contact Israel's National Security Adviser Yossi Cohen three times over the past ten days, but scheduling conflicts prevented the calls from going through. A senior official in Israel's Prime Minister's Office confirmed that the last update from Sherman took place 12 days ago, but insisted, "we have not declined any offers for further updates."

Times of Israel

Powers to Push for Deal as Congress Deadline Looms

Foreign ministers from major powers were set Thursday to turn the screws on Iran to finalize a historic nuclear deal on the eve of a deadline to present it to US lawmakers. If the US Congress does not receive the text by early Friday morning Vienna time — midnight in Washington — it makes the approval process longer and potentially more problematic. But despite this pressure, and almost two weeks of talks in the Austrian capital, it is unclear whether an accord aimed at ending a 13-year standoff can be sewn up at all, let alone in time.
See also, Obama Admin Fears Iran Deal Will Release Billions for Terror Attacks (The Daily Beast)

Jerusalem Post

France not backing Away from UN Resolution Plan

France denied on Wednesday that it was backing away from plans to submit a UN Security Council resolution calling for a two-state solution based on the 1967 lines. The denial followed comments to the contrary by a senior Palestinian and a well-connected American Jewish official earlier in the week. "France has not given up," a French Ministry spokesman said Wednesday at a daily press briefing. "A Security Council resolution would be useful to give a solid basis to new negotiations. But it must be consensual and then be implemented." The comments came after the spokesman was asked about a statement that Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riad Malki had made a day earlier. In an interview on a Palestinian radio station, Malki said that the French had backed away from their idea of presenting a Middle East resolution, largely because of US and Israeli opposition.

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Channel 2 News

Secret Deal between Lieberman and Netanyahu

Two months upon entering the opposition, Yisrael Beiteinu Chairman Avigdor Lieberman reached an agreement with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. According to the agreement, the Likud and Yisrael Beiteinu will be running representatives before the Committee for the Appointment of Judges, MK Nurit Koren from the Likud and MK Robert Ilatov from Yisrael Beiteinu from the opposition. The agreement ensures a block of 67 MKs will elect the two. The significance of the move is that the Israeli right will block three of the nine members of the committee, a block which will allow them to veto the appointment of Israeli Supreme Court judges that they don't want.
See also, " Secret Lieberman, Likud deal to grant right-wing veto power over judicial appointments (Ha'aretz)

Ha'aretz

Prosecution Lets Olmert Stay out of Jail while Awaiting Appeal

Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will not being going to prison just yet for accepting hundreds of thousands of shekels from American businessman Morris Talansky, after the prosecution agreed to delay implementation of his eight-month sentence until the appeal of his conviction and sentence is heard by the Supreme Court. On March 30 Olmert was convicted by the Jerusalem District Court of fraud, breach of trust and accepting something fraudulently under aggravated circumstances, charges he had been acquitted of in July 2012. He was convicted of accepting envelopes of cash from Talansky and keeping the money in a special kitty, without reporting to the tax authorities or the state comptroller.

Politico – July 9, 2015

Israel Is the Iran Deal's Biggest Loser

By Michael Koplow

With the latest deadline for nuclear talks with Iran looming at the end of the week, we can already predict the biggest loser in the event of a deal: Israel. An agreement along the lines of what has been reported is not what Israel wanted. It was never going to be. But the shortsighted, take-no-prisoners stance of the Israeli government has guaranteed that its concerns got shorter shrift than was absolutely necessary.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's incessant calls to prohibit any Iranian enrichment of uranium—when it was clear very early on that the P5+1 was not going to proceed along such lines—did not serve to set a negotiating baseline. Instead, it ended up marginalizing Israel and created a situation in which the American negotiating team became even more indifferent to Israeli interests. By making what was an unrealistic goal the centerpiece of his opposition strategy rather than focusing on attainable elements, such as thorough inspections or limits on ballistic missiles, Netanyahu damaged his own cause. The perception that he, not Iran, was the unreasonable party marginalized Netanyahu and assured that negotiators would not take anything else he said seriously, irrespective of the underlying truth at the heart of his position, namely that Iran is a bad actor that has spent decades fighting Israel and the West and destabilizing the Middle East.

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The arena of Iranian negotiations is not the only one in which Israel's tendency to take an extreme position has obscured the justice of an underlying issue. While Iran is the threat that looms largest in the eyes of the Netanyahu government, another major one is diplomatic isolation, a multi-tentacled menace that requires a coordinated response if Israel is to defeat it. The danger is embodied by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which seeks to isolate Israel economically and culturally, but the larger risk lies with a growing perception among mass audiences that Israel deserves extra opprobrium for actions that are depicted as extraordinarily beyond the pale. Recognizing the danger of this development, the Israeli government has attacked it with guns blazing, but often in a way that leads to Israel shooting itself in the foot.

One of the biggest drivers of Israel's isolation is the portrayal of Israeli actions in Gaza, where Israel has conducted large-scale military operations to prevent rocket fire against Israeli population centers multiple times over the last decade, most prominently during Operation Cast Lead 2008, Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 and Operation Protective Edge in 2014. In each instance, Israel has battled a designated terrorist organization that locates its own positions in densely populated civilian areas.

Thus, no matter how many precautions Israel takes, Palestinian casualty numbers are far higher than Israeli ones. The challenges that Israel faces in these confrontations should be self-evident, as acknowledged by people like Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin Dempsey. While Israel is not perfect, it does a good job in a nearly impossible situation anytime it goes into Gaza. But it does a terrible job defending these operations.

Rather than consistently make the reasonable and correct argument that civilian casualties are tragic but unavoidable given Hamas's tactics and admit that Israel makes mistakes but does the best that it can, Israeli officials tend towards exaggeration. The most representative example is the claim that the IDF is "the most moral army in the world," which has been made by prime ministers, defense ministers, deputy foreign ministers and others. The IDF certainly has high standards of conduct, investigates abuses when they occur, and operates in a security environment that presents challenges that no other military faces on such a constant and ongoing basis. It is also the case that IDF commanders and soldiers make decisions and take actions that violate the IDF's own code of ethics and behavior.

This latter fact does not make the IDF or its soldiers any different from soldiers anywhere at any time in history, and in no way should it subject the IDF to be singled out for special criticism. The IDF almost certainly does a better job than the vast majority of fighting forces would were they subject to the same conditions and opponents, but its soldiers are not generally immune from moral lapses.

Claiming that the IDF is the most moral army in the world does not inoculate Israel from criticism; rather, it stirs opponents of Israel to redouble their efforts to tar the Jewish state, which only serves to highlight the Israeli misconduct that inevitably occurs in the course of fighting. Rather than wage the battle of ideas on a plane that it can win, Israeli officials create a playing field that is tilted against them from the start. When you have to defend not only that your soldiers acted appropriately far more often than not during the fog of war, but

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that your soldiers acted more appropriately than any other soldiers in the world do or would, you are doomed to fail.

This is not to suggest that all Israel has to do is own up to its failings or moderate its rhetoric and its critics will melt away. Israel is always going to have a target on its back no matter how exemplary its behavior, which is the burden of being a Jewish state. But the double standard to which Israel is frequently subjected only becomes worse when Israeli leaders claim to be meeting a standard that no country could possibly meet, and easily discredited maximalist assertions make it far easier to ignore those Israeli claims very much rooted in reality.

When your foreign minister and economy minister use the word terrorist to refer to a Palestinian leader who has not advocated violence and who your own head of domestic intelligence certifies has not engaged in terrorism, your legitimate complaints about that leader's diplomatic intransigence and unwillingness to respond to negotiations tend to go unheeded. People who seek to delegitimize Israel or single it out as uniquely deserving of sanction are unlikely to be swayed by logic and fact, but their task is made easier when Israel itself stretches the bounds of logic and fact. In the process Israel ruins its credibility with those whose views on Israel are largely unformed.

Rather than create unnecessary obstacles for itself, the Israeli government would be better served by an honest public assessment of what can and cannot be accomplished, what can and cannot be defended. It betrays a sense of insecurity to bluster on about unsubstantiated assertions, particularly when Israel is a fundamentally just, decent, democratic country that makes mistakes but is doing a good job under difficult circumstances.

Owning up to missteps, including those of its own making, will not make Israel weaker, and will in fact earn it more respect among those who tend to be on Israel's side. Whether the goal is containing the threat from Iran or containing the threat of international isolation, scorched earth tactics only limit Israeli power and influence. Were Netanyahu and his government to focus on pushing for policies that are achievable and defending Israel on grounds that are more sustainable, they may find more success in meeting their objectives going forward.

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Yedioth Ahronoth – July 9, 2015

How Much are Israel's Haters Paying Religious Affairs Minister?

Those who insist on presenting Israel as a dark state are probably rejoicing over Shas minister's despicable comments against Reform Jews.

By Ben Dror Yemini

Israel is not one state. It's two. A state with a split personality.

The first state is democratic, liberal and at the same time also Jewish. The second state is dark and ultra-Orthodox. One of its spokespeople is Religious Affairs Minister David Azoulay of Shas, who by mere words declared that as far as he is concerned, Reform Jews are not really Jews.

Reform Jews, Azoulay should know, are the spinal cord of the United States Jewry together with the Conservatives, who – according to Azoulay's admission test – are not Jewish either. There is not a single institution – from AIPAC to the American Jewish Committee – which doesn't have Reform Jews as part of their leadership.

We are talking about pro-Israel bodies. We are talking about a community in which most members are our loyal supporters. Israel needs them, and they need Israel. Their love doesn't depend on one dark minister or another.

They understand the situation in Israel, but when only several weeks ago the President's Residence offended the Conservative community, and only last month that same Azoulay said that Reform Judaism was a disaster to the Jewish people, we have a problem.

It isn't over – it seems that Israel is insisting on presenting a dark face, and these two affairs get marginal coverage or are considered an unimportant episode here. But in the US these things receive major coverage. The New York Times has already published a large piece about the disgraceful comment, and Jewish newspapers like The Forward are pulling their hair out. What is happening over there in Israel?

There are many bad people, Israel haters, who insist on proving that we live in a dark state. They usually lie, but not always. They are probably rejoicing over Azoulay's existence, because evil people's job is done by fools. They usually inflate every racist and despicable comment made by some marginal rabbi in order to present Israel as a monster.

This time they have a fat fish in their hands – a minister in the Israeli government. And they don't have to engage in any manipulation. He delivers the goods. How much are they paying him?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu knows something, and more than just something, about such miserable statements. He knows that they cause huge damage. He doesn't have to throw Shas out of the government and he doesn't have to fire Azoulay either. But he can, and must, denounce the rebellious minister's comments in the clearest and most profound manner. The ball is in his court. He had better do something.

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Monsanto's Roundup Linked to Cancer - Again

Jeff Ritterman, M.D., Truthout: New science links glyphosate, Roundup's active ingredient, to cancer. Cancer rates in humans have doubled in areas where Roundup is sprayed as part of genetically modified soy production. Is it safe and wise to continue its worldwide use?

Read the Article

World Versus Bank: The Return of the World Bank and the People's Resistance

Alnoor Ladha and Martin Kirk, Truthout: Farmers' groups and peasant movements in developing countries, and think tanks and activist groups globally, are uniting behind a new people's resurgence against the World Bank.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | The Good News and Bad News About 5.9 Percent Unemployment

Dean Baker, Truthout: The economy created 248,000 jobs in September, and the unemployment rate fell below 6 percent for the first time since the early days of the recession. While we are still far from anything resembling full employment, it is getting easier for people to find jobs.

Read the Article

The Late Triumph of the Bush-Bin Laden Dance

Pierre Guerlain, Truthout: Airstrikes may be preferred by the defense sector and satisfy the thirst for revenge, but they cover up a kind of cluelessness about what to do in the Middle East. Dealing with symptoms never cures a disease, if the underlying causes are not treated.

Read the Article

Choice and Reproductive Justice: "Not an Either/Or"

Eleanor J. Bader, Truthout: Women of color are

BuzzFlash

Dumping University Tuition Is Not a Dream; It Is Now the Reality in Germany

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: As the windbag politicians in DC continue to appeal to jingoistic sentiments and proclamations that the United States is an exceptional nation, we are increasingly advancing toward ignorance, not knowledge.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

How 14 People Made More Money Than the Entire Food Stamp Budget for 50,000,000 People

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

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advocating for a reproductive justice approach that states that the human right to raise children - with adequate social supports - is as important as the right not to bear offspring.

Read the Article

Thanks to the GOP, the US Is Without Its Top Doctor as Ebola Spreads

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: At the Caucus Room restaurant in Washington DC, top Republican lawmakers and strategists held a private dinner where they hatched a plan to sabotage the Obama presidency in 2009. Thanks to this Republican plan, the US is without its top doctor while a deadly virus continues to spread.

Read the Article

"I Never Want Anyone Else to Go Through What I Did"

Victoria Law, Waging Nonviolence: Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women have been active in the fight to pass legislation limiting, if not banning, the practice of chaining and shackling women while they are in labor, childbirth and delivery.

Read the Article

Hong Kong - Now the Hard Part: Kick US Out, Build National Consensus

Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance: When protests in Hong Kong exploded, knowledgeable people looked for US involvement. It was not hard to find. The overt intrusion of the United States is evident in budgets, documents and websites; the covert involvement has not yet been uncovered but is no doubt there.

Read the Article

Massive Mongolian Mine Endangers Nomads' Water, Way of Life

Rachael Bale, The Center for Investigative Reporting: As the Oyu Tolgoi mine scales up in Mongolia, the operation has struggled to live up to promises of world-class environmental standards. While Rio Tinto company officials say the problems haven't had a major impact on locals' water, herders say the land has gotten drier.

Read the Article

Amy Goodman | Iraq Veterans Against the War Grapple With New War, PTSD Epidemic, VA Failures

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: Ten years ago, six members of the US military came together to break their silence over what they had witnessed during the US-led invasion of Iraq. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Iraq Veterans Against the War members say it is a bittersweet moment as the US has resumed bombing in Iraq.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Supreme Court Dodges Gay Marriage, Allowing Weddings in Five More States

Read the Article at Reuters

Oceans Are Getting Hotter Than Anybody Realized

Read the Article at Climate Central

US Approves Experimental Drug for Emergency Ebola Treatment

Read the Article at RT News

Nuclear Power Cannot Be Made Safe: It's Just a Clean Way to Die

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

A New Alabama Law Lets Judges Appoint Lawyers for Fetuses; Here's What That Looks Like

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Homeless Bill of Rights Aims to Protect Life-Sustaining Activities

Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

On the News With Thom Hartmann: First Ebola Case Diagnosed in the US, and More

In today's On the News segment: The Centers for Disease Control and

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Prevention announce the first case of Ebola in the United States; California becomes the first state to officially ban single-use plastic bags; New York state is going solar; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Obamacare Will Only Get Better in 2015

Crystal Shepeard, Care2: Beginning with the new enrollment period, 43 states will see an increase in the number of choices for insurance providers. This will increase competition, providing more choices at lower costs. Voters head to the polls a little over one week before open enrollment begins.

Read the Article

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Date: 9/3/2015 6:51:25 AM

Subject: Oct dinner & Iran events next week

All, the October dinner will now be on Thurs, October 15. We will email out about that in the next couple of weeks.

Also, please note below two Iran briefings next week. If available to attend one or both, can let Tara know – Tsonenshine@earthlink.net .

Have a great Labor Day weekend.

Thanks.

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The Iran Nuclear Agreement: Now or Never?

When: Tuesday, September 8, 2015 (1-3 p.m.)

Where: Senate Armed Services Hearing Room 236, Russell Senate Office Building

The International Crisis Group and Ploughshares Fund are pleased to invite you to a panel discussion on the Iran Nuclear Agreement now being considered by the U.S. Congress. The session will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Senate Armed Service Hearing Room 236 of the Russell Senate Office Building. Both organizations have been closely involved in analyzing and commenting on the technical and political aspects of the nuclear negotiations leading up to the current agreement and have strong views on its importance for U.S., regional and global nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

Participating in the panel will be Samuel R. Berger, former U.S. National Security Advisor; Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; both members of the Crisis Group Board of Trustees; Joseph Cirincione, president of Ploughshares Fund and professor at Georgetown University; and Dr. Ali Vaez, Crisis Group Iran Senior Analyst. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, president of the International Crisis Group and former UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations will moderate the discussion.

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Europe's role in and response to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has been a major issue during the current congressional debate. The question under consideration is whether European nations would increase their nuclear-related sanctions against Iran if Congress rejects the JCPOA in hope of a "better deal." Absent from the debate has been discussion of what Europe's strategy toward Iran will be, beyond sanctions. Perhaps equally important will be determining how Europe will help pursue implementation of the JCPOA, assuming that it will take effect.

The International Crisis Group and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace jointly invite you to discuss these questions. Two veterans of European statecraft will kick off the discussion, with a U.S. analyst commenting. Carnegie's Cornelius Adebahr will moderate.

REGISTER ADD TO CALENDAR

Press Contact: Clara Hogan | +1 202 939 2233 | chogan@ceip.org

Speaker

Jean-Marie Guéhenno is the president and CEO of the International Crisis Group. A former French diplomat, he served as the United Nations' under secretary general for peacekeeping operations from 2000 to 2008.

Wolfgang Ischinger is the chairman of the Munich Security Conference. He was the German ambassador to the United States from 2001 to 2006 after serving as German deputy foreign minister for three years.

Commentator

Suzanne Maloney is interim deputy director of the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution and a senior fellow in the Brookings Center for Middle East Policy. Most recently, she was a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, covering Iran, Iraq, the Gulf States, and broader Middle East issues.

Moderator

Cornelius Adebahr is an associate in Carnegie's Europe Program. An expert on European foreign policy, Adebahr focuses his research on EU-Iran relations, having spent two years in Tehran prior to moving to DC.

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From:	"Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	9/30/2008 6:06:29 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MMR: McCain confuses coal with oil, mixed messages on bi-partisanship, gotcha journalism, McCain's contempt, Morning 09/30/08

Highlights:

1. WSYX ABC OH: "World's Largest Oil Reserves Are in the United States of America," McCain Says
2. MSNBC: McCain Claims "The Important Thing Now is Bi-Partisanship."
3. FNC: McCain Says He Wants to Change Minds on Both Sides of the Aisle to Solve Crisis
4. WHO NBC ME: McCain: Now Is Not the Time for Blame
5. CNN: McCain Defends Double-Standard on "Gotcha Journalism"
   MCCAIN: "I think the circumstances were very different.
6. ABC: Nicole Wallace claims McCain warned of Fannie and Freddie
7. MSNBC: Bush Warns of Consequences Economic Slide Could Have
8. NBC: McCain's Double-Talk on Bi-Partisanship and Palin liability
   MITCHELL: "McCain, now in Des Moines, Iowa called for a bi-partisan solution. […] But, in the next sentence, he continued attacking Obama."
9. CBS: McCain Couldn't Rally Republicans and "Now He Owns a Failure"
10. CNN: Body Language Expert Finds Mainly Contempt in McCain's Ole Miss Performance
    DAN HALL: "McCain was trying to make it look softer there by smiling, but in fact his eyes were very narrow in what's a snake-eyes expression of anger, and there was contempt on his face."
11. WHO NBC ME: McCain's mixed messages on blame
    PATRICK DIX: "McCain finds a target for blame. And then says, it's not time for blame."

Clips:

Highlight #1

McCain: 'World's Largest Oil Reserves are in the United States of America' (WSYX-ABC-OH 09/28/08 7:28am)

JOHN MCCAIN: "My number one priority is to get this economy going and create jobs and give them a chance to stay in their home, educate their kids and realize the American dream. […] and I know that working families in America and Ohio are hurting, but I have a concrete plan to fix it and keep our nation safe. […] With alternate energy, clean coal, wind, tide and solar, automobiles that run on flex fuel, hydrogen and battery, making use of the coal reserves in Ohio and Pennsylvania and West Virginia. **The world's largest oil reserves are in the United States of America** and nuclear power. […] We've got to put Americans back to work."

Highlight #2

McCain Pays Lip Service to Bi-Partisanship (MSNBC 09/30/08 8:38am)

JOHN MCCAIN: Look, **the time right now is for us to work together in a bipartisan fashion**. I'll give everybody plenty of time to examine what I did. I've always put my country first. I said we needed 30,000 additional troops over there when it was [the] most unpopular thing to say in Iraq.

I came back because I thought I could make a difference. I did with a number of republicans. I worked together. The republican house members were not even at the table. I'll do whatever is necessary and I'll let others be the judge. I talked to the president this morning.

We have to increase, as Senator Obama suggested, from $100,000 to $250,000 insured deposits. We have to have the stabilization fund, exchange stabilization fund be used, that's $250 billion to shore up these institutions and the treasury has the ability to use $1 billion more on their own authority to start buying up these mortgages. So we've got to act and I'm confident we will pass legislation because we have to do it.

The important thing now is bi-partisanship. Sit down and work together. That's what I want to do and that's what I'm committed to do.

[…]

A lot of this was constructed by democrats.

Highlight #3

McCain Wants to Change Republicans' and Democrats' Minds (FNC 09/30/08 8:35am)

GRETCHEN CARLSON: "You went back to get more Republicans on board. So then you were in favor of voting

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yes yesterday. And in essence then going back on last week did not change enough Republicans' minds?"

JOHN MCCAIN: "No it didn't change enough Republicans minds. **We're going to have to change enough Republican and Democrats' minds**. […]"

Highlight #4
McCain: Now Is 'Time to Fix the Problem' not for Partisan Blame (WHO NBC DE 09/29/08 6:50am)
NEWS ANCHOR: Shortly after arriving at his hotel in west Des Moines , Senator McCain made a statement saying, "Now is not the time for finger pointing."

JOHN MCCAIN: I've gotta give you some straight talk. **I think it's partisan blame, and the time to portion blame and fix the blame is not now. Now it's time to fix the problem.**

Highlight #5
McCain Does Damage Control for Palin's Past Remarks (CNN 09/30/08 08:45am)
JOHN MCCAIN: [...] **"Let's not call it a bail out. Let's call it a rescue. Because it is a rescue. It's a rescue of Main Street America."** [...]

JOHN ROBERTS: "[...] Republican Congressman Mike Pent says, not only is this a bailout, not a rescue plan, it is the biggest corporate bailout in American history. [...] **Senator, over the weekend, your running mate appeared to contradict you on the subject of Pakistan when she told a voter that the U.S. should go into Pakistan after terrorists. You called the reporting of that in an interview with CBS yesterday, "Gotcha Journalism", but at the same time you have gone after Senator Biden for a comment he made under similar circumstances about clean coal technology, your campaign even released a video of part of his comments. Was that "Gotcha politics?"**

MCCAIN: "**I think the circumstances were very different.** [...] I believe it was a Town Hall meeting that he said it. Hers was an encounter in a pizza parlor where the question was framed so of course we're going to go after terrorists. We're going to go after terrorists wherever they are in the world. I don't disagree with that. The question is whether you broadcast it or not. It's whether you announce you're going to strike a sovereign nation. There's a big difference. [...] Response in a pizza parlor to the kind of question it was- Sarah Palin has made her position very clear. We don't announce that we're going to attack other nations."

ROBERTS: "She did appear to say that when she was waiting in line for a Philly cheesesteak."

MCCAIN: "What she said was that she's going to respond to terrorist attacks. And I'm saying we're going to respond to terrorist attacks**. I'm not going to announce that I'm going to attack Pakistan.**"

Highlight #6
McCain Warned about Fannie and Freddie, Wallace Says (ABC 09/30/08
NICOLE WALLACE: "John McCain is the one who warned two years ago about corruption and mismanagement at Fannie and Freddie, who I think a lot of people would hold them responsible for, if not the actual source, certainly the beginning of the erosion in this crisis on our mortgage system and our housing markets."

Highlight #7
Bush Warns of Formidable Consequences (MSNBC 09/30/08 8:44am)
GEORGE W. BUSH: […] the reality is that we are in an urgent situation, and the consequences will grow worse each day if we do not act. The dramatic drop in the stock market that we saw yesterday will have a direct impact on the retirement accounts, pension funds, and personal savings of millions of our citizens. And **if our nation continues on this course, the economic damage will be painful and lasting.**

Highlight #8
Sarah Palin is Still a Liability; McCain's Bi-Partisan Double Talk (NBC 09/30/08 7:08am)
ANDREA MITCHELL: **When it looked as though the bailout bill would pass John McCain started out Monday taking credit for it**. 12:33 in Ohio.

JOHN MCCAIN: It's not my style to simply phone it in. Senator Obama took a very different approach to the crisis or country faced. At first, he didn't want to get involved and then he was 'monitoring the situation.' That's not leadership, that's watching from the sidelines.

[...]

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MITCHELL: 5:15. McCain, now in Des Moines, Iowa called for a bi-partisan solution.

MCCAIN: Our leaders are expected to leave partisanship at the door and come to the table to solve our problems.

MITCHELL: But, in the next sentence, he continued attacking Obama. [...] And more controversy about Sarah Palin, after she said US troops should cross into Pakistan to hunt terrorists.

[Pizza parlor 'gotcha question']

MITCHELL: **It's an Obama position McCain has criticized**. Monday he tried to rescue his running mate.

[Segment from Couric interview]

MITCHELL: In fact, the McCain campaign is now so worried about Palin's ability to debate Joe Biden she's gone home with the the McCains for debate camp in Arizona, supervised by McCain's own top strategist.

Highlight #9
McCain Could Not Rally His Fellow Arizona GOP Legislators; Palin Still a Liability (CBS 09/30/08 7:17am)
JEFF GLOR: By suspending his campaign and jetting back to Washington, McCain staked a critical part of his campaign on a deal. Then, most of his fellow republicans voted 'No' and not a single representative from McCain's home state of Arizona voted 'Yes.'

MIKE ALLEN: McCain set himself up for trouble. He came in late. He was a little half-hearted and **now he owns a failure**.

GLOR: On Monday, a short statement from McCain acknowledged a grim situation with no clear ending.

JOHN MCCAIN: I believe that the challenges facing our economy could have a great impact on every American worker and family if our leaders fail to act.

[...]

JULIE CHEN: Meanwhile vice presidential candidate, Sarah Palin is answering charges that she and [...] John McCain were not on the same page when it came to attacking targets in Pakistan. In an interview with CBS Evening News anchor, Katie Couric, Palin blamed so-called 'gotcha journalism.'

[segment from Couric interview]

Highlight #10
Body Language Expert Analyzes McCain's "Snake Eyes" and "Being the Frowning Face" (CNN 9/30/08 6:58am)
GENIE MOSS: […] That's nothing compared to the body language bonanza during the first presidential debate. […] **There was disdain from McCain.**

DAN HILL: A really smirking smile from the corner of the mouth. […] **McCain, when he smiles, it's really more of a grimace-smile. There's a tension that permeates McCain's personality.**

MOSS: But then Hill's main takeaway from the debate was what he call's McCain's lack of respect for Obama.

HILL: McCain was trying to make it look softer there by smiling, but in fact his eyes were very narrow in what's a snake-eyes expression of anger, and there was contempt on his face.

MOSS: It didn't take a body language expert to notice that McCain didn't seem to look at Obama, when asked about it on ABC, McCain said he was focused on the moderator and viewers, despite the exchange of "good job", when the debate ended, McCain's look didn't linger. Our expert found a link to his own cufflink.

HILL: McCain really specializes in indignation. He is not afraid of being the frowning face.

Highlight #11
Local NBC Points Out McCain's Mixed Messages on Blame (WHO NBC 09/30/08 7:05am)
ELIZABETH KLINGE: Last week presidential candidate John McCain actually suspended his campaign, even

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threatening to skip the first presidential debate if Congress didn't work out the deal.

DAVE PRICE: **When it looked like Congress had a deal, McCain went back out on the campaign trail, and on the way to Des Moines in mid-day on Monday, Senator McCain again changed plans when the deal fell through.**

PAUL DIX: By the time John McCain's touches down in Des Moines at 3pm, the political ground had shifted, and plans changed. This trip was no longer just a campaign appearance. **Earlier in the morning, key supporter Mitt Romney said the bail-out deal quote, "... would not have been agreed to had it not been for John McCain." So depending on your view with McCain's guidance, or despite it, that deal didn't happen.** After some handshakes and smiles with some Iowa Republicans, the campaign rushes campaign to his west Des Moines hotel. Then, about 4pm he walks out before waiting cameras with grim words about the failed deal and a failing economy. […] Another bank had collapsed, the stock market plummeted, and congress bailed on the bailout. **McCain finds a target for blame. And then says, it's not time for blame. […]By 5pm, inside WHOTV studios, McCain's blame returns and spreads.**

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/9/2008 7:55:38 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain/Palin Town Hall in Waukesha, WI 10/09/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately our tracker wasn't able to gain access to this closed event. Good news: we were able to capture the event via streaming-video and TV news. Below are the notes for that effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain says ACORN must be investigated before nov. 4th "so we're not deprived" (of rt to vote)
- McCain says we don't care about a dried-up terrorist and his wife, but its a question about whether he's telling the truth. (same goes for his broken promise on taking public funding)
- McCain plays blame game, names Reps. Dodd and Frank as at fault for housing crisis: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5kv1GZFgj8
- McCain says Obama has a " radical far left pro-abortion record" -- Palin follows up that Obama didn't vote for health care for children who "survived a botched abortion"

Waukesha, WI: McCain/Palin Town Hall 10/09/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- 35-40 demonstrators outside pre-event (trade/jobs/econ message) -- Crowd of McCain supporters chants "TER-ROR" back at demonstrators

Speech Highlights

[Palin Highlights]

-
- McCain asked Obama to appear in town halls Obama said no
- And now I think that we can understand why. The other night Americans got a real good look at the choice that we are going to face On November 4th. And what we found the other night also was more examples of how our opponent continually wants to look backwards because that is where you find blame for some of the challenges that America is facing today. But we join you in looking forward because that is where we will find the solutions
- McCain only candidate offering us an optimistic vision f how we can meet these challenges and practical solutions and reduce your taxes and how we can rein in spending in order to allow private sector to grow and to prosper to create more job, hire more people that's how we are going to get the economy back on track .
- Plans to fix the economy, plans to win the wars, plans to protect your constitution rights, and I know that that is so important here in WI. Hard fight in WI, we need your help, you need direct answers to your questions that is why we are here, the next president of the United States John McCain.

[McCain highlights]

- id like to intro cindy - many in WI wonder why she isnt candidate
- straight talk: we are facing the greatest financial crisis of our lifetime, its affecting every small business owner, homeowner and their fams. we need some straight talk and leadership. we have to restore trust and confidence bcak in govt. we have to get econ turned around and do it immediately.
- there's a guy right there wearing a shirt that says failure is not an option - fialure is not an option that we'll have -
- you didnt get a lot of straight answer from obama a couple nights ago - he didnt tell you he wants to mandate health ins. acc. to his standards that employees are going to be taxed by him. i asked him 2x whats the size of the tax youll be laying on sm. businesses who cant afford this
- he wants to raise taxes on 50% of sm. businesses - and he's changed his position, he's all over the map
- we have to bring spending under control-- straight talk for young ppl - we've laid $10T debt on you, $5B debt to china - obama has proposed $860B in new spending - we're not gonna do that when i'm president
- heart of crisis is ability to stay in homes. Fannie and Freddie allowed this econ to go into the ditch, they encouraged ppl to buy homes they couldnt afford, this house of cards has collapsed. i proposed that Treas Secr to buy these mortgages directly from homeowners and mortgage services. lets buy those mortgages, give them mortgages they can afford and stay in their homes. we have to stabilize
- obama was happy to bail out Bear Stearns, Fannie/Freddie, AIG but he's opposed to helping homeowners of america. i want to help homeowners, not Wall st.
- Dream of owning a home should not be crushed--govt must act and i will act quickly and decisively.
- in 21 months of campaigning, ive leveled with you about taking on dc-- ive taken them on time after time, obama has not - we have to give middle income and working fams so they can create jobs, get costs under control, help students paying for college -
- Obama has never taken on his own party on any issue
- Need to give middle income and working families so they can keep jobs
- Help people pay for college, make healthcare more affordable
- Start a spending freeze to stop the spending spree
- What was my opponent's record before the crisis? Obama most notable involvement was to be taking money from the executives of Fannie and Freddie. He did not lift a finger to try to reform Freddie Mae and reform what was clearly an impending crisis that I and others said two years ago that we had to stop
- Obama wants a single payer, if you like that go to Canada -- He'll fine employers - That costs jobs for small business people
- We've lost 700,000 jobs and only small business has created 300,000. He claims he'll give people tax relief - There are small business in this room that have created jobs - I will not raise your taxes - He wants to increase spending by 860 billion - Says there'll be a net decrease in spending - My reductions will be real- Put gov't back on your side
-

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- earmarks and spending has corrupted, its your money. palin stood up against bridge to nowhere. obama has proposed nearly $1B in earmark projects. e.g. $3m for new projector in planetarium in own town. w/ ppl struggling, is that what we need to spend your money on? i guess it was sheer coincidence that the exec of that museum pledged to contribute $200k to obama's campaign. its an appearance problem.
- i have always put country first, i am proud of that service. i believe i can inspire a generation of americans to serve cause greater than self. i will reach across the aisle and work w/ anyone. america's greatest days are ahead of us not behind us. we are the greatest force of good in teh world. TY and god bless you and thank you for being here.

Question and Answer

- 1Q) we have sm business taking care of elderly. we try to pay for health ins, but its expensive -- we'd like to be able to pull together w/ other small businesses so we can have discounted rates like big cos. is that possible?
    - MCCAIN: how much has your int. rate and copay gone up in last few years?
    - QUESTIONER: it's more than doubled.
    - MCCAIN: So if you had same payments to make as you did 5-6 yrs ago, you wouldnt be facing same sort of crisis?
    - QUESTIONER: right, our deductibles are also really higher.
    - MCCAIN: that's the problem- inflationary costs. i think you should be able to pool, i think you should be able to go anywhere in america, it might be cheaper in AZ. obama calls that deregulatory and wrong- why is that wrong - there are commissioners in every states.
    - MCCAIN: ill we need community health centers, walk-in clinics, athletes teaching wellness and fitness b/c obesity is huge problem for our youth... but i also want to give you $5k refundable tax credit so you can get ins. of your choice. i know costs are high, we need to get costs down. small example. is this the greatest challenge practically speaking (yes). we should put ppl's health records on line. medical errors arent only expensive, sometimes they cost more than just money. they should be online - everyone you need to consult with, they should be able to access it. the point is give you the money and necessit--what you need. competition and choice. and not fine ppl, like obama wants. ask him whats the size of the fine.
    - PALIN: you did pretty much cover everything was gonna say. todd and i understand, owning a snow machine shop for yrs, wondering if we can cover our employees. you will not like obama's plan - a govt mandate where you will be fined if you cant afford to cover employees' health ins.
    - PALIN: want to give thumbs-up to this community for being voted 1 of the top places to live in USA. w/ such an active community-- and god has so blessed you w/ beautiful envrio. I went on run this morning your eat local campaign -- i hope that includes wild game, too, for those who are hunters.
    - MCCAIN: the greatest expert on health care today is former Gov. Tommy thompson, formers HHS secr. i rely on him and his advice and counsel. 1 of the great leaders. also, todd palin, when they were in snow machine business, every yr he's in this 2000-mi race and he's 4x champ, 1x he broke his arm with 500 mi to go and finished the race. remarkable father. he can tell you a lot about wellness and fitness.

- 2Q) "I'm a realtor; witnessing first hand the effect the mortgage crisis has had on many people's lives. **Will you assure us that as president you will take immediate action to investigate and prosecute and name the names of the people actually responsible?**." [cheers]
    - MCCAIN: "I will, and it is already a matter of record that members, democratic members of congress fought against reform and it's a matter of record in hearings that they said everything was fine. Senator Obama a year ago said these kinds of sub-prime loans are "fine" with him and the effect is that the same people that are now claiming credit for this rescue are the same ones that were willing co-conspirators in causing this problem that it is and you know their names, you will know more of their names. **Congressman Barney Frank and Senator Chris Dodd are two of them**." (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5kv1GZFgj8)
    - PALIN: mccain has taken on his own party and other party. he stood up 2 yrs ago and said something has to be done about fannie/ freddie.
    - MCCAIN: obama may claim he said something about it,there's no record. there's a letter i and others signed taking issue with this. they fought actively against reform b/c they were taking money from them.

- 3Q) the last moderator never brought up the issue of abortion. will you bring it up at next debate? i think you have advantage.

  JOHN MCCAIN: "I am proud of my pro-life record. For many years i believe that life begins at conception. **i don't know if you heard Senator Obama, when Rick Warren asked him, and he said--quote--it's above my pay grade. It's above Senator Obama's pay grade, the issue of the rights of the unborn.** Remarkable. So i believe the most noble words ever written is all of us are created equal, and endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these are life, and that means the unborn child as well as the born child. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt8VzyqYXLw

  "Senator Obama has a radical far left pro-abortion record, and you should examine it and his votes, but I also want to say very quickly, if i could, we need to change the culture in America. We understand that."

  MCCAIN: "We need to change the culture and we have -- we have to show compassion and courage to any young woman who is undergoing this very difficult situation. We have to have the compassion to understand the difficulties of this situation they find themselves in, and we have to have the courage to improve adoption practices in America so that adoption will be made far more common in America."

  MCCAIN: "Cindy and I are adoptive parents. The greatest joy of our life is our daughter, Bridget that was presented to Cindy by the nuns in Mother Teresa's orphanage [...]. Bridget has been the great joy of our life and I'm proud that we are adoptive parents, and we want that to be an example to all Americans so that adoption will be something that this much more widely practiced in America."

  SARAH PALIN: "John, may I add, also, too, as somebody that believes the most promising and precious ingredient of the sometimes mixed up world of ours is a child and I appreciate your reminder of the compassion needed in this issue. **What I don't find compassionate is Barack Obma's vote as an Illinois senator when three times he had the chance to vote to be able to provide healthcare for a child who was born alive as a result of a botched abortion. I would just ask you, sir, to go online and look at his record on that one, also**. Thank you for the question."

- 4Q) i heard 75% of AK oil was being sent to AK. true? why?
    - PALIN: i wish we could drill more. no its not 75% being shipped -- in fact, cong has pretty strict on export bans on oil and gas - we need

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to drill more, onshore and offshore, we need alt. energy supplies and we need to start conserving. mccain can talk more about all of the above approach. but no, it's not a huge portion of any domestic supply being exported.
  - MCCAIN: btw, obama has consistently opposed nuclear and offshore drilling. look at his record and not at his rhetoric.

- 5Q) what will you do about hate crimes legislation, where they're trying to silence our frdm of speech?
  - MCCAIN: any crime rendered should have swift and sure judgment. I don't think i can divine the intentions of perpetrators, i can only determine along w/ our justice system, the nature of the crime and the appropriate punishment. i think criminals ought to be prosecuted to fullest extent of law.
  - PALIN: 1st thing that comes to my mind when we talk about rts and frdm is we're talking about mccain who's spent his life fighting to make sure we have them. and again, kudos to you. your great WI Guard, 1/3 of your troops will be over in a war zone in '09. over there again to defend frdm, liberty and democratic values, again(st) something that mccain has fought all his life to protect rest of the nation.
  - MCCAIN: btw, i hope during this natl debate, americans will examine obama's on crime. very very weak when you look at votes he cast in US and IL senate. [someone yells, "What about ACORN?"]

- 6Q) i'm mad, really mad. it's not the economy. it's the socialists taking over our country. [cheers] sit down, i'm not done. let me finish please (McCAin: Yes. Excuuuse me.) when you have an Obama, Pelosi and rest of hooligans over there going to run this country, we should have our heads examined. its time for you 2 who are representing us to get there. [USA! USA!]
  - MCCAIN: i think i got the msg. he's right. the Dems have been in majority for 2 yrs. have you seen any improvement? [NO!] americans are angry and frustrated. we have to act, act together b/c we are americans first. i will work w/ anyone, anyone who will help fix these terrible challenges. we've got to work together as 1 nation indivisible. i promise ill do that. and that's my record.
  - MCCAIN: could i mention - there's someone here who keeps yelling **ACORN. "there are serious allegations of voter fraud in the battleground states across america. they must be investigated and no one should corrupt the most precious right we have. and that is the right to vote!"**[cheers] you've seen the allegations, the multiple registrs w/ same name, the more registrations than population. these are serious allegations and they need to be investigated before nov. 4th, so we're not deprived.

- 7Q) we are all a product of our assoc. is there not a way to get around this media and line up the ppl he has hung with?
  - MCCAIN: with your help and the ppl in this rm, we will find out, just as sen. clinton said in primary that we should find out about this assoc. **we dont care about an old dried up terrorist and his wife that on 9/11 said he hadnt done enough, but** obama is saying he's just a guy in the neighborhood. **its a question about whether he's telling the truth.**
  - MCCAIN: he's the 1st candidate since nixon to take unlimited money, some of which is being questioned now. he said he'd sit down with me to discuss public financing. he never did. He signed when he was a darkhorse candidate he promised to sign a pledge to take only public financing. He said I'll negotiate. It's not a matter of him taking the finances or not. It's about trust and being able to take his word.
  - PALIN: There's also a suggestion that is America able to ask all the questions and get a straight answer. Crowd: NOOO! Wwhy can obama give speech after speech about war and never utter "victory" and why would he vote not to fund our troops - biden called him on it. Leading us to be frustrated. I can't pick a fight with those have a barrel of ink. It's because I am like you and I wonder too when will the questions get asked and when will we get the answers. its dangerous territory when i suggest MSM isnt asking all the questions, you have to help us do that. i know that when my impatience in interviews shows, some of you might think, well im just trying to provide job security for tina fey. no its b/c i like you am wondering when will all the quesitons be asked adn when will we get the answers.
  - MCCAIN: do you know how many times the pol pundits have written off my campaign? and they're wrong now. you can count on it b/c we'll go to the american ppl and take our msg to you.

- 8Q) what are you gonna do to lower gas costs so we can put it back into economy where it belongs>
  - PALIN: here comes all of the above approach. we have to be able to drill here and drill now. we have to be able to get more supply into this very hungry mkt. we have to plug these in. biden told a voter there's no such thing as clean coal- wrong. there is, we need to get tech up to speed. he said offshore drilling is raping offshores.- no, there are enviro-friendly ways. and alt. energies. the winds, the hydrocarbon, the solar, etc. and conserve. i may come across as a lil green when i say that, but no.
  - MCCAIN: theres a whole lot to say, let me add 1 point, an excl point. i believe climate change is real, we need to stop greenhouse gases. we need nuclear. i hope he takes one of his infrequent trips to france and sees what they're doing with nucl.

- 9Q) at RNC, you asked us to fight for you. i have. in the next debate, you need to take it to obama: ACORN, rev. wright, shady characters surrounding him, we have corruption here and across this nation. take it to him, im begging you. [crowd cheers]
  - MCCAIN: TY! thank you for your courage. your reward will be in heaven. yes ill do that but i want to address greatest financial challenge with a pos. plan, we need to restore hope and trust in america. so we'll do both.

- 10Q) im president of foundation to support children with down syndrome. i personally cried when i saw your son on natl TV at convention. this boy has Down Syndrome, and his mother. we're asked what did you mean when you said we'll finally have advocate in WH?
  - PALIN: 1st, i understand every child should be cherished. we can do things practically. as gov, i fought for adn got incr. in funding for special needs kids in public schools. and its not about expanding budget, but about prioritizing. these children arent problem, but they are a priority.
  - QUESTIONER: 90% of women who find out they're carrying child w/ DS abort. i look fwd to seeing you in WH.
  - PALIN: lets take opportunity to provide kids w/ hope. and there's also autism and other issues thatve been neglected in health care system. we need to strengthen NIH. thats not about growing govt, its about reprioritizing. we'll make sure efficiently-run programs are

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there for you.

- 11Q) how serious a threat do you consider chavez?
    - MCCAIN: i think that chavez is a compelling living argument for energy indep in america, that we are not dependent on any of venezuela's oil. im hesitant to talk much about him b/c it gives him legitimacy. but i know the rhetoric.
    -
    - MCCAIN: Need to bolster our friends, Columbia. We need a free trade agreement between ourselves and Columbia.
    - PALIN: Concern is that Obama will sit down unconditionally with Chavez, Ahmadinejad, Kim Jon Il. Iran who seeks to destroy Israel, our greatest ally. Goes to his lack of judgment.

- 12Q) I'm an Iraq war vet. Obama made disparaging comments over what we're doing in Afghanistan. My son is an Iraqi baby orphan. When I talk to soldiers, what we want more than anything is to win the war against terrorism. What is your plan with how we're going to win in Afg. In Iraq, terrorism.
    -
    - MCCAIN: Give us a few words how this beautiful young man came to this country.
    - QUESTIONER: Mother Theresa's orphanage. With help of Secretary Rumsfield. An Iraqi translator risked his life. Became a citizen on March 5th of this year.
    - MCCAIN: All of us are deeply moved and grateful. Whenever we get depressed about our challenges, you hear a story like this, and you remember, it's only in America. (He gets choked up). Every soldier I meet says let us win. You never hear the word victory from Obama. I will bring our troops home with honor, we will win in Afgh, Iraq, and they won't have to go back. This strategy has worked. I've talked about it many times, except this is really what it is all about. This is what we've sacrificed for, the struggle of the 21st century, I will not be president of the first war we've lost of the 21st century. I won't let that happen. Thank you for your participation, everybody here had something else to do besides being here. I want to promise you we don't take this lightly. We understand your trust and confidence in us. We have always put our country first, ahead of self, party, everything. We won't let you down, we'll put our country first.
    - PALIN: I had no idea what to expect here. This has been amazing. Sir, we honor you, you said it best. Those on the fence, perhaps you've been tempted by something you've heard Obama had to say, perhaps that our soldiers have been air-rading villages and killing civilians. No that's not what our troops are doing. They're giving hope to children on the other side of the world, that's what our troops are doing. JM has advocated a strong solution for our economy, but I can't urge the importance enough of national security. This man is the man that I want as Commander in Chief. Thank you Wisconsin.

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
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410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "michelle patron" <michpatron@gmail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/1/2015 2:08:12 PM
Subject: What a climate deal means for oil markets

Hi JDP:

I hope this finds you well. I thought you might be interested in my guest column for Reuters on what a climate deal means for oil markets. I look forward to connecting soon.

Best,
Michelle

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/12/01/patron-oil-idUSL1N13Q2ER20151201#7ztSe7GYWMfRbBz7.97

COLUMN-Michelle Patron: What a climate deal means for oil markets

Tue Dec 1, 2015 8:15pm GMT

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(Michelle Patron writer is a former energy and climate advisor to President Barack Obama. The opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

By Michelle Patron

Dec 1 (Reuters) - Over the next two weeks countries from around the world are convening in Paris to develop a global plan to address climate change. A successful deal in Paris could have significant impacts for energy and equity markets.

In many ways, the heavy lifting for Paris has already occurred. Learning from failed past attempts to impose global rules, governments have developed a more flexible bottom up approach. Under the new system, each country puts forward its own nationally determined plan based on what it believes it can achieve over the next 10-15 years. More than 150 countries -- developed and developing, energy exporters and importers -- have already submitted these plans, covering over 90 percent of global emissions.

Plans include policy proposals in the electricity, transportation, industrial and forestry sectors. Some of these plans are quite ambitious. China and Mexico have set timelines to permanently halt the growth of their emissions. India and Brazil have plans to drastically expand the use of non-fossil fuels. While the first round of plans may not deliver enough action to limit global warming to two degrees centigrade, it signals a fundamental shift in how countries produce and consume energy. Scientists have set two degrees as a benchmark for "safe" levels of warming.

A successful deal in Paris would tie these plans together and create a process for countries to report and update their targets at regular intervals. This would enable the public to track the status of each country's progress and prompt governments to tighten existing and future targets. This process would boost confidence in implementation despite the absence of penalties for underperformance. Of course, the risk remains that domestic politics in the United States or other key emitters can impede progress down the road.

Agreement is by no means assured and could be derailed by disagreements over financing, namely demands by some developing countries for richer countries to underwrite climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Progress has already been made with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development calculating current climate capital flows from rich to poor countries at $62 billion per year, almost two-thirds of the $100 billion goal by 2020 set in Copenhagen.

The most immediate market impact is in the power sector where a strong agreement will extend and accelerate the shift from coal to alternative power sources including renewables, nuclear and in some cases natural gas. The International Energy Agency estimates that renewable energy will become the largest single power source by 2040 and the share of coal will decline from 41 to 31 percent. This trend is already underway. Last year, more new power plants were built that produce electricity from renewable sources than from all fossil fuel sources combined. As a result, green technology stocks will likely get a boost from Paris.

The impact on oil markets is more nuanced and depends on the pace at which governments ratchet up policies to constrain oil demand and limit the environmental impacts of production Oil prices are unlikely to move significantly on news from Paris since there is no instantaneous lever to reduce demand and current oversupply is drowning out other market signals.

Nevertheless, there are long-term effects with policies in place and more on the way that directly target the transportation sector, which consumes half the world's oil. Continued improvements in vehicle efficiency and removal of fossil fuel subsidies can moderately reduce demand with the impact growing over time as the vehicle fleet changes. Success in Paris can also inject momentum into global negotiations underway on aviation and marine fuel controls.

Perhaps the most critical variable for oil is how a deal impacts alternative fuels in road transportation. A strong political signal from Paris can boost public and private investment in transportation. A breakthrough on electric vehicle batteries or hydrogen can dramatically disrupt future demand. Consensus forecasts calling for $100 oil after 2020 do not factor in such a breakthrough. That may prove shortsighted. Weaker oil demand as a result of vehicle innovation has the potential to cap long-term oil prices well below these forecasts.

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There are also supply side impacts. Regulations that tighten controls on methane, a gas produced alongside oil and flared into the environment, may increase production costs. Meanwhile, growing pressure by environmentalists for companies to strand or abandon risky environmental investments, such as oil sands, deep water and Arctic drilling, can limit supply options and force companies back to onshore assets in politically unstable countries. The recent success of these "stranded asset" campaigns in blocking the Keystone pipeline and contributing to the withdrawal of Shell and Statoil from the Alaskan Arctic has emboldened environmental groups. The portfolios of major international oil companies are the most exposed to stranded asset risk whereby public and legal pressure prevents completion of these projects after significant capital investment has been sunk. Meanwhile, smaller independent companies with tighter budgets are more vulnerable to methane regulations. Both segments would be hurt by lower oil prices.

The bottom line is that global climate action widens the range of risks in the energy sector. Ten years ago, German utilities were seen as stable investments, now they are struggling under the weight of policies pushing renewables and reductions in technology costs. Prudent companies and investors should begin factoring these risks into their oil portfolios now. (Michelle Patron)

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From: "Molly Elgin-Cossart" <melgincossart@americanprogress.org>
To: "Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/22/2015 5:22:46 PM
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

I like it. Might be good to add the New Development Bank (better known as the BRICS Bank) to the list at the end - China has considerable leverage there and standards remain an open question.

From: Peter Ogden
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:50 PM
To: John Podesta
Cc: Melanie Hart; John Norris; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Eryn Sepp; Eryn Sepp (EG)
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

I like it, especially the use of "decreasing," which would get them pointed in the right direction (but also provide enough flexibility that they might go for it).

On Jun 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Looks good. One change I wouldn't use sustainable financing. Could be misinterpreted. I'd use financing for sustainable development in the two positive references and maybe decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk in the negative reference
What do others think?
On Jun 22, 2015 1:36 PM, "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org > wrote:

> Hello John,
>
> Below is the refined question you just conveyed via phone:
>
> *****
> As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing sustainable financing and decreasing unsustainable financing will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards for sustainable financing?
>
> *****
>
> **Will hold on sending until I receive either a green light or additional edits.**
>
> Background notes of potential interest:
> Last Friday Zhang Gaoli attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia and delivered remarks re China's plans for the 2016 G20. His speech was very general but did contain some positive indicators: he said G20 nations should develop new driving forces for sustainable growth of the global economy. He also focused on China's Silk Road initiative, which he welcomed other countries to join. That suggests they are at least thinking about linking these other programs in with G20.
> Terminology re China hosting G20: Turkey currently enjoys talking about the fact that they hold the "G20 presidency" but thus far Chinese state press is using the term "chair" instead of presidency.
> The 2015 G20 summit will be November 14-15 in Turkey. Then Turkey hands the baton to China. The 2016 summit will be in Hangzhou, China (likely next fall, exact date TBD).
>
> Thanks,
> Melanie
>
> ---
> Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
> Director for China Policy
> Center for American Progress
> Direct Line: (202) 741-6359

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Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Re: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

Makes sense to combine - and perhaps leading with G20 will draw out some responses about that, too.

- I wonder whether it's useful to nail down any specifics on high quality, e.g. investing in sustainable technologies and services, in ways that comply with high social and governance standards - the downside is the risk of getting too focused on a back and forth on governance, though could be interesting to specify each component to see if he responds to each.
- In the SDG financing world, China's official position is that ODA is still the main vehicle, so may be useful to say something to the effect of "increasing sustainable development financing, including harnessing a broader range of sources towards sustainable development is essential ". (REF recent official Chinese gov position paper on post-2015 which states: "Development financing should be enhanced with North-South cooperation serving as the main channel." This statement is a pure political play, since domestic resources are the main vehicle of SD financing and drove China's own rise, not to mention ODA is not terribly sustainable, but this line plays well with developing countries.) This may be adding too much into a single question, but thought it worthwhile to flag.

Cheers,
Molly

From: Melanie Hart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: RE: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

John and team,

Pete combined the G20 questions into one shorter one and added a separate one on finance. Here's some updated suggested text from Pete:

(1) As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. How will China use its G20 presidency next year to drive further progress on these two issues?

(2) Relatedly, increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

I think Pete's finance language is excellent. My one concern is that if we send 2 questions, they might pick what is easiest to respond to rather than what we would find most interesting. One option would be to combine further, perhaps as follows:

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. It is in this environment that China is taking on the G20 presidency, and many observers around the world will be watching next year to see how China leverages the G20 to drive further progress on these two issues. Observers will also be monitoring whether and to what degree China leverages the AIIB to achieve these important goals. Increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

Additional thoughts/reactions from the team?

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy

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Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Eryn Sepp [mailto:esepp@equitablegrowth.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang
Importance: High

Hi Everyone—

John wants to respond on here to you all. He thinks we need to combine the two questions into one, and put a high standards sustainable finance question in.

Melanie, do we know who else is getting to ask questions?

John, the plain text is below:

To: John Podesta
From: Melanie Hart, Erin Auel, Molly Elgin-Cossart, Pete Ogden, John Norris
Re: **Quick Response Needed – Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang**
Date: June 19, 2015

You are attending the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) think tank summit in Beijing June 26-27. There will be a side meeting with Li Keqiang. Around 40 guest scholars and officials will attend. **You are one of the high-level conference speakers invited to attend the Li Keqiang meeting. You have also been invited to ask Premier Li a question.** In that meeting only four people will ask questions (yourself included). CCIEE tells us the questions must be submitted in advance, no later than Monday evening (June 22) U.S. time. We should treat this as a hard deadline.

We suggest posing the following question:

Next year China will host the G20. Many nations around the world will be watching to see how China handles its G20 presidency and what that tells us about how China's rise will impact multilateral institutions. What does the Chinese government currently consider to be its top priorities for China's 2016 G20 presidency? As you know, 2015 is a very big year for sustainable development and climate change. We hope to see big progress this year on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Paris. Is the Chinese leadership thinking about how China can use its G20 presidency to unify and strengthen G20 support for implementing multilateral agendas on sustainable development and climate change?

Please share your thoughts asap (and no later than Monday evening) so that we can pass your preferred question on to Premier Li's team.

Additional meeting details below.

I. Meeting Format

Li will lead the meeting and do most of the talking. He has selected four people, including you, to ask questions. There is no pre-set theme for the meeting, but we have been told you are welcome to ask questions on topics including sustainable development, think tank cooperation, and economic issues.

II. Potential Participants

The meeting hosts have invited about 40 guest scholars and officials to attend the meeting. That group includes:

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BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video speech)
Romano PRODI, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, Professor at China Europe International Business School, Former Prime Minister of Italy
Danilo TURK, Professor of International Law, Former President of Slovenia
Kevin RUDD, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Former Prime Minister of Australia
Sir Don MCKINNON, Chairman of New Zealand China Council, Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand
Grzegorz W. KOLODKO, Founder and Director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Former Deputy Premier of Poland
Thomas SARGENT, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor of Economics at New York University
WU Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations
William BURNS, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Nubuo TANAKA, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Former Executive Director of International Energy Agency

III. Biography of Li Keqiang

<image001.jpg>Li Keqiang (Ke-chung) is the second-highest ranking official in the CCP. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, premier of the State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. From 2008-2013, he was vice premier of the State Council and deputy secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. In this role, he oversaw a portfolio of issues including economic development, price controls, finance, climate change, and macroeconomic management. During that time, he also directed the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee and of South-to-North Water Diversion Construction Project Committee. In 2013, he became Premier of the State Council. He has focused on economic development and meeting China's growth targets. He has also led efforts to set targets for reducing energy intensity, cap coal use, and boost renewable capacity. At a meeting of the National Leading Group on Climate Change on June 12, 2015, he backed China's commitments through the UNFCCC, stating "China stands ready to work with all other parties to ensure a comprehensive, balanced and strong agreement at the upcoming Paris Conference."

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From: "Stern, Todd" <Todd.Stern@wilmerhale.com>
To:
Date: 11/6/2008 2:12:05 PM
Subject: Re: my desire to help

Maybe we could do this and put his office in Alston.

Sent from Blackberry Wireless Handheld

From: Julius Genachowski
To: vjarrett@habitat.com
Cc: Michael Froman (fromanm@citigroup.com) ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Pete Rouse ; Stern, Todd
Sent: Thu Nov 06 20:28:12 2008
Subject: FW: my desire to help
Valerie – Larry Tribe sent me a copy of the email he sent you, with his idea for a White House position focusing on restoring constitutional governance – essentially undoing the Bush/Cheney damage. Sending to you in case you missed his original email in the flood I'm sure you're getting. Larry's a long-time enthusiastic supporter, as I'm sure you know…

Julius

From: Larry Tribe [mailto:larry@tribelaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 10:50 AM
To: Julius Genachowski
Subject: my desire to help
Importance: High

Hi Julius:

Wow! Wow!! How's that for articulateness?

As you'll see from my message below to Valerie, I've run out of language to describe my thrill at Barack's historic victory. I want to send the same message to you, hoping that you can help me help Barack.

I know you have your hands full during the transition, but I think the need I've identified is a real one, that I'm well suited to fill it, that my doing so would probably appeal to Barack, and that this shouldn't get put on a back-burner lest it get lost altogether.

I hope you agree and can do something to help make this happen.

With boundless congratulations and warm wishes,

Larry

From: Larry Tribe
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 10:18 AM
To: 'Valerie Jarrett'
Cc: NOCHUCK@aol.com
Subject: how I can help
Importance: High

Good morning, Valerie:

The word "congratulations" is much too banal. The thrill hasn't remotely begun to wear off. I've never felt more hopeful about our political future. I want to dedicate all my talents and energies to helping Barack seize the arc of history. Nothing matters to me more. After this message, I've pasted in a short piece I published in Forbes.com (which appeared yesterday as the first item on www.realclearpolitics.com) that puts in personal terms how I felt yesterday.

When I saw Barack and Michelle briefly in the "surrogates" tent after Barack delivered his remarkable speech, he told me he had read my email (of several days earlier) offering to assist with legal/constitutional issues in whatever role he wanted me to play, and he indicated he'd want to take me up on that offer in some way.

I don't know, of course, whether Barack was just being sweet or whether he had something serious in mind. Given all the things on his plate at the moment, I can't expect him to focus personally on how I in particular could be most useful, so I'm reaching out to you (and am copying Tree) so that my interest and availability can be put on the relevant radar screens while the transition proceeds.

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To cope with the challenge of restoring constitutional governance in light of all the damage the Bush/Chaney administration has done to the separation of powers and the rule of law, and to do so while his administration necessarily focuses its energies on such urgent matters as the economic crisis, Iraq, and Afghanistan/Pakistan, I think President Obama will need more than simply a White House Counsel's Office, which of necessity focuses on the President and his conduct of the chief executive's position, and more than simply an OLC in the Justice Department, which of necessity focuses on the Attorney General's direction of DOJ. To cope with the cross-cutting matters this challenge entails, I think the administration could benefit from a tightly-knit White House advisory apparatus touching on both domestic and international issues and overlapping the jurisdictions of DOJ and DOD, among other executive departments and agencies.

The group charged with this legal mission would address such related matters as the Bush/Chaney administration's abusive employment of "signing statements" predicated on bloated views of executive authority and improperly narrow views of congressional power; the difficult issues posed by the need to close the legal black hole at Guantanamo and figuring out what to do with the detainees there; deciding how to allocate responsibility between the civilian justice system and the military justice system in coping with terror-related offenses; considering various officials' possible accountability for torture and other violations committed in the recent past; replacing current uses of "enhanced interrogation" techniques with approaches more respectful of human rights; coping with the tradeoffs between security and liberty involved in electronic surveillance and other preventive techniques; rooting out the improper use of partisan considerations in the appointments process throughout the government; and otherwise rebuilding the constitutional framework. It seems evident that many of these matters overlap the responsibilities of, for example, DOJ and DOD.

One of the ways I think I might be most useful would be as an Assistant to the President heading up such a White House group, whose work might well be concluded within a year or two but might need to extend throughout the first term. Of course I'd also be prepared to take on any other and longer mission that Barack might want to assign to me and would certainly be willing to take as long a leave from Harvard as such a mission would demand.

Among other things, I'd be honored to serve as Barack's White House Counsel or even to take on a role requiring Senate confirmation, such as Solicitor General or Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Office of Legal Counsel, but I've been assuming that Barack already has others in mind for those more conventional posts, and I don't feel any need for the glitter that accompanies them or any eagerness to go through the confirmation process that they entail.

The main point I want to underscore is my eagerness to serve. Should it be helpful to talk in person, I'm still in Chicago following the events in Grant Park and will be here through Saturday evening. I have a couple of speaking engagements here relating to my latest book, one on Friday night and one on Saturday night.

I can be reached by email or on my cell, 617-512-7018. I'll be returning to Boston on Sunday morning.

Good luck in all that the transition involves.
Larry Tribe

Laurence H. Tribe
Carl M. Loeb University Professor
Harvard Law School
Hauser Hall 420
1575 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-495-4621

Here's what appeared in Forbes.com yesterday:

I am watching the sun rise over Lake Michigan in the land of Lincoln on this new day in America. This is the morning after a great divide in the biography of the United States. As a nation, we have come of age. I flew to Chicago Tuesday afternoon to witness history as the United States of America went to the polls on Election Day, 2008. Hours later, as President-elect Barack Obama spoke in Grant Park to claim his victory before a great throng of supporters and an eagerly listening world last night, almost exactly forty years after the chaos of 1968, I felt myself in the flow of time, a minor participant in a great saga punctuated by events that shaped my life as it shaped the lives of so many others.

The year 1968 was, for me and most of my friends, a time of tragedy and disillusion. Through the years that followed, years punctuated by Watergate and Vietnam and by decades of political polarization and paralysis, politics was the game that disappointed. Yesterday it was the game that delivered. The work of governing lies ahead, but the sun is rising and the challenges we face - in reconstructing a broken economy, restoring a threatened Constitution, ending a misguided war and waging a necessary one, starting to heal a wounded planet - look from here like opportunities to be

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seized, not obstacles to be feared.

How different this feels from the crazy election of 2000, brought to an abrupt and puzzling end by the Supreme Court's ill-starred decision to stop counting the ballots, when another new President was installed to preside over a nearly dysfunctional country. Having served as counsel before the Court to the losing candidate during that sad chapter in our democratic trajectory, I returned to ordinary life but wondered when, if ever, I could fully believe in the process again.

As the decade progressed, the most impressive student I had ever taught was quietly pursuing his own political trajectory. In 1989 I had met Barack Obama and hired him as my research assistant while he was still just a first-year Harvard law student. His stunning combination of analytical brilliance and personal charisma, openness and maturity, vision and pragmatism, was unmistakable from my very first encounter with the future President.

I thought about that encounter as he and his wife Michelle each gave me a hug in one of the off-stage tents in Grant Park last night. I recalled it as I found myself unable to express in words my sense of gratitude and of possibility. The President-elect and the First Lady-designate both thanked me for the part I had played in Barack Obama's education and his rise to power, but it was I, of course, who owed thanks to them, thanks for the journey on which they had embarked to reclaim America for all who dare to hope.

There will be countless efforts to dissect their improbable path from that cold winter morning in Springfield nearly two years ago - when a still-new Senator from Illinois announced his candidacy for the highest office in the land - to the unseasonably warm evening in Chicago when that quest reached its climax and when those who had led it confronted the daunting challenges of actually governing. This is not another attempt at such dissection. Nor is this another post-mortem on the failed efforts of President-elect Obama's more than formidable foes. It is simply a personal note to commemorate a milestone in a great nation's history.

As an immigrant to the United States, born in Shanghai to Russian Jewish parents who brought me with them when they settled in California in 1947, I have always felt great pride both in that ancestry and in the gift of citizenship conferred on me by the nation that went on to provide me with such extraordinary opportunities to thrive and to give something back for all that I have been given. My pride in that citizenship has never been greater than it is today. Truth to tell, I find myself unable to stop smiling, just as last night I found it difficult to stop crying.

Barack Obama's unique ability to explain and to motivate, coupled with his signature ability to listen and to learn and linked with the calm that marked his nearly flawless campaign, will serve him - and all of us
- well as we grapple with as daunting a set of problems as the nation has faced in three-quarters of a century.

It is of course true that only time will tell just how successful this brave, brilliant, and caring man will be in charting a new course for the country, something that will depend only partly on decisions that Obama will make as President. But one thing is already certain: The very fact of Barack Obama's election at this defining moment - quite apart from the programs he pursues and the ways in which he pursues them
- already speaks volumes to everyone on the planet. His election in and of itself displays how dramatically America has moved to transcend the divisions of its past and bids fair to give us a new lease on life in a world that had come, and not without reason, to see us in an awful light
- a world that will now give this nation a fresh look and a second chance.

The sun is now high over Lake Michigan. It is a new day in America. We can do this. Yes, we can.

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/20/2015 8:51:57 AM
Subject: Axe tweet on Clinton Cash -

David Axelrod ↰ @ davidaxelrod 3m 3 minutes ago Chicago, IL
Haven't read book attacking Clintons. But if, as reported, it charges that Obama Admin moved Colombia FTA to reward CGI donor, that's nuts!
6 retweets4 favorites
Reply Retweet6 Favorite4 More

Adrienne K. Elrod
Spokesperson
Hillary For America
www.hillaryclinton.com
@adrienneelrod

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "wendy Abrams" <wabrams1@me.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/16/2014 4:22:16 AM
Subject: Fwd: Brookings on Nuclear

Interesting.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Harris <jim@thoughtstep.net >
Subject: Brookings on Nuclear
Date: December 16, 2014 at 11:07:30 AM CST
To: Wendy Abrams <wabrams1@me.com >

Thought you might want to read. I have not read top to bottom but…pretty comprehensive. As you know, some of the smartest tech people in the world are putting real money into nuclear research, with the environment on their minds.

http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2014/backtothefuture

- - - - - - - -

Jim Harris

Thoughtstep, LLC ***Strategic | Marketing | Capital*** ™

jim@thoughtstep.net
v.312.543.3882

Twitter: @jhh1 *LinkedIn: Jim Harris*

www.thoughtstep.net

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com> "Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com> "Zachary Petkanas" <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	10/28/2015 12:58:53 PM
Subject:	PLS REVIEW: Sanders Hits
Attachments:	151028 Sanders Hits - For Pitch or Debate.docx

Hi everyone,

I wanted to us all on a single thread since this document could serve multiple purposes. Attached are some hits that could either be written or deployed during the next debate on Sanders. Note: these do not include the college and $20 trillion cost of his plans since Policy is working on them. Below is a quick summary of the hits that are in the document. It might be having a call soon to discuss if people think it's worth it.

Per HRC's request, we are doing a deeper dive on Sanders's agriculture record to see if there is anything that could be problematic to Iowa.

(As always, huge credit to the team for their help building these out.)

> Also: Tyson has been working on building out Sanders's muted response to possible tar sand oil traveling through a pipeline that goes through Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He found one letter he signed calling for an environmental study, something Shaheen did as well. So, while he could point to that, his outrage over potential tar sands in this pipeline is nowhere near his opposition to the Keystone Pipeline. We can send around more details once it's done, but wanted to put that on the radar.

SUMMARY

Labor/Pay to Play/Sugar - Sanders, often thought of as a champion of labor unions, accepted support from a company while it was involved in a bitter labor dispute—locking out union employees for nearly 22 months. In July 2012, he accepted $10,000 in contributions from American Crystal Sugar, while the workers had been locked out for nearly a year due to failed labor negotiations. The workers' union widely opposed the company's contract proposal because it could have doubled their out-of-pocket health care costs. At the same time American Crystal Sugar was proposing to cut back on workers' health benefits, it spent more than $2 million in lobbying money and campaign contributions to politicians like Sanders in order to preserve its favorable sugar commodity program. Sanders voted to protect the sugar program.

Crime Bill –Bernie Sanders's Presidential Campaign claimed it was researching statements made by Hillary Clinton in support of the 1994 crime bill in order to attack her in the Democratic Primary. But Sanders voted in support of the bill in 1994, and repeatedly spoke in support of it. Then Rep. Sanders criticized opposition to the bill and hoped President Clinton would be able to pass it. Furthermore, in his 2006 campaign for Senate, Sanders' campaign strongly highlighted Sanders support for the 1994 crime bill. His campaign boasted of the billions Sanders had provided to law enforcement since being elected, and used his support of the 1994 crime bill to prove Sanders was "tough on crime."

Guns - Sen. Sanders's progressive bona fides are called into question with his record on reducing gun violence. When he successfully ran for the House in 1990, he got the tacit endorsement of the NRA after pledging not to support the Brady Bill, which included waiting periods to receive weapons. Once in the House, he kept his word, voting against the legislation five times. Although he voted against the bill, he voted for an amendment that created the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allows people to purchase a weapon after three days even if their background check is incomplete. Later, Sanders, despite wanting to hold essentially every corporation accountable for something (such as fast food companies accountable for obesity), voted to protect gun manufacturers from legal liability. He also voted to strip millions from gun research, something the NRA has wanted to prevent officials from learning about gun violence. (NOTE: This doesn't include the guns from Vermont to New York)

LGBT (Marriage & Civil Unions) - Sen. Sanders is attacking Secretary Clinton, claiming she has been inconsistent and late to supporting marriage equality. But Sanders is rewriting history on his own record. In 2000, Sanders was reluctant to take a clear stand on civil unions and marriage equality, and did not speak out forcefully on the issue. Sanders called for an end to the divisiveness of the opposition, saying there were "a dozen

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other issues out there that are as important or more important as that issue." While other Vermont politicians were moving forward the cause, Sanders remained relatively quiet. Moreover, his oft-touted opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act omits Sanders's reasoning: he thought DOMA injected the federal government into a states issue.

Repealing Obamacare & Replacing it with State-Run Single Payer - Sen. Sanders has long advocated for a single payer, Medicare-for-all health plan that is administered by the states. His plan would repeal the Affordable Care Act, as well as Medicare, TRICARE, Medicaid, and SCHIP. His proposal would cost roughly $15 trillion. Vermont tried to implement a single payer plan but scrapped it because it would cost too much.

Wall Street (Commodities Futures Modernization Act) - Sen. Sanders repeatedly touts his opposition to the repeal of Glass-Steagall. What he fails to mention is that he voted for the legislation that included the Commodities Futures Modernization Act, signed into law by President Clinton. The Act exempted regulation of credit default swaps and derivatives. Sanders himself blamed the CFMA for Lehman's bankruptcy. Sanders's spokesperson said he voted for the bill because it was part of a larger bill that would have shut down the government had it not passed.

Ethanol - Sanders has voted to end ethanol subsidies. He hedged his answer on the Renewable Fuel Standard including ethanol earlier in 2015, but has subsequently come out in support.

Export-Import Bank - Sanders is a long critic of the Export-Import bank, calling it corporate welfare. However, roughly 3,000 small businesses rely on loans from the bank.

Nuclear Energy - Sanders voted for a waste removal compact that moved radioactive waste from Maine and Vermont to a dump site near a tiny community in Sierra Blanca, Texas. Sanders said the compact was "good environmental policy" and said he was "in strong support of the bill." Critics of the deal said that the site was not only environmentally unsound, but also near a small community that was low income and largely Hispanic. The compact was opposed by LULAC and the NAACP, and a local opponent to the deal called it "environmental racism."

NOTE: President Clinton signed the bill in 1997.

Immigration - Sanders's record on immigration is mixed. While he voted for the 2013 comprehensive bill, he opposed the McCain-Kennedy comprehensive bill. Sanders's objection was over guest worker program which he said drove down wages for American workers. As recent as this summer, Sanders used similar language about low-skill (and even high-skill) immigrants drive down wages for American citizens. Immigration advocates criticized him for those comments.

Sanders Not Straight on His Tax Plan - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much he is going to raise taxes and who is going to pay for them. When confronted on details of his tax plan, he simply says "it's coming." When he is asked what the highest rate would be, he demurs.

Sanders Not Straight on His Spending - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much his plans will cost and how he will pay for them. When asked for specifics, he demurs. When other estimates show trillions in new spending, he simply rejects them without offering his own estimate.

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 3/22/2015 3:24:14 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

+nick and john

I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
Not sure how reliable info is.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.

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From: "Paul Rothstein" <rothstei@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "Julie Cohen" <jec@law.georgetown.edu>
"Law Faculty and Visitors" <LawFacultyandVisitors@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 3/19/2015 3:55:14 PM
Subject: RE: Beware of philosophical arguments?

Ironic that Kant essentially preached that you should act toward others as you would want to be treated. (Simplified version.)

Paul

Paul Rothstein
Professor of Law
Georgetown University

"Law never *is*, but is always *about to be*." -Justice Benjamin Cardozo

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From: Julie Cohen
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Law Faculty and Visitors
Subject: Beware of philosophical arguments?

www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russian-man-shot-in-quarrel-over-immanuel-kants-philosophy-8820327.html

Julie E. Cohen
Professor of Law
Georgetown University Law Center
jec@law.georgetown.edu
http://www.juliecohen.com

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From: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:16:03 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Here we go...
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> User Actions
> Following
>
> **Marco RubioVerified account** @ marcorubio
>
> After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

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https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 8:49:46 AM
Subject: FW: Meeting with the Prime Minister and Israeli Cabinet Sunday, June 28, 2015 (Sensitive)

Dear Jake,
This may be of interest to you. I will send a summary of the JPPI BDS survey of US college campuses, and my recommendations to the PM and Israeli Cabinet on how to combat it.
I assume the BDS letter is still being drafted?
Stu

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 2:14 PM
To: Daniel B. Shapiro (ShapiroDB@state.gov)
Cc: 'HarleyJ@state.gov'
Subject: Meeting with the Prime Minister and Israeli Cabinet Sunday, June 28, 2015 (Sensitive)

Dear Mr. Ambassador/Dear Dan,

Thanks to you (and Joyce) for the prompt return of my email note and phone call to Joyce. I enjoyed our conversation on Thursday, June 25, as always.

I want you to know that Dennis Ross and I, along with Avinoam Bar-Yosef, had a hour-plus meeting Sunday, June 28, with the Prime Minister and the full cabinet, to present our Annual Assessment of the State of the Jewish People for JPPI. I can have the Hebrew version sent to me, or I can send the English version in a few weeks. It is really very important. It includes some fascinating and surprising demographic data; an analysis by Avi Gill of key "drivers" impacting the US-Israel-Diaspora triangular relationship; an examination of BDS on US campuses; a summary of the 45 community survey we did on Diaspora views on Israel's use of force in Gaza and ethical dilemmas; and much more. I will send you the detailed press statement on the Annual Assessment. I had interviews on the Assessment and Cabinet meeting with Voice of Israel and The Jerusalem Post.

In a pre-meeting with Dennis, he felt that if a deal is signed, it was critical that the US send a signal that it was unacceptable at any time, during or after the agreement, for Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon; that the US should provide Israel with the means to defend itself, including the Mission Ordinance Penetration (MOP) bombs plus a B52 to deliver it, as a signal to Iran; and that the US would support action by our allies if Iran undertook such an effort.

I want you to know that and I was able to get in several of the points we discussed in our phone call.. Dennis took the lead on Iran and made it clear that notwithstanding his Washington Institute letter on the problems with the emergency Iran nuclear deal, he expected it would be concluded, although sometime after the June 30 deadline, and that President Obama's veto of a likely congressional disapproval, would not be overridden. I took the lead on a presentation to the Cabinet on BDS. In addition to a summary of our findings on college campuses (e.g. Students for Justice in Palestine operate on 300 campuses, and 20, mostly in elite institutions in the northeast and in California, are hotbeds of activity; in a lunch a week ago Sunday with former Ambassador Dan Kurtzer, I learned about an active movement in Princeton)., I made a number of specific suggestions on how to counter the BDS movement. One which I made explicitly, and with Dennis did as well, was that the Cabinet had to recognize that its settlement policy and policy toward the Palestinians was used as a recruiting tool for the BDS leaders. While the leaders want nothing less than the end of the Jewish State, many of those on campuses, EU officials, and European public opinion could be swayed away from BDS if they saw Israel taking affirmative steps toward a two state process in word and deed. Dennis said explicitly that the announcing a policy of building only within the established settlement blocs would be an important step in beginning to defang the ability of the BDS leaders to recruit. I also stressed that Diaspora unity was essential, but that now the Jewish community was tearing itself apart on Israel issues, and those on the liberal/left side, who are pro-Israel and anti-BDS are being shunted aside. I said that even Ben-Gurion and Begin put aside their differences at a critical time in the 1948 War, No less is needed now.

This elicited a great deal of discussion in the Cabinet. The Prime Minister made the following responses:

1. Israel "will not accept an Iran deal" along the lines being considered. It will leave Iran as a "roaring" and emboldened presence in the region, which is a direct threat to Israel. thus, Israel will need to defend itself. This is the first priority.

2. On BDS, Israel should move from the defense to the offense. It should be attacked on moral grounds. It is "unjust" and "cruel". Israel must attack its attackers. The best defense is a good offense: "attack, attack, attack". Changing policy won't help, but "it may be useful for other reasons" (I found this an interesting qualification)

He said that there are several lines of defense:

(1) The Jewish community itself, where unity is necessary and "all Jews" should be included;
(2) Israel "needs a Hispanic alliance". He meets with any Hispanic group that comes to Jerusalem.
(3) There needs to be outreach to Asian Americans.
(4) Evangelicals, not just in the US. They are 22% of the population of Brazil; there are 60 million in China.
He said there is a "lot of energy" in the anti-BDS movement now.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/24/2015 12:28:45 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.24.15
Attachments:	6.24.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 24, 2015

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS

ABC and CBS did not report on 2016 issues. CBS had a segment stating that Lindsey Graham claimed he has shifted his stance on the Confederate flag and that it should be removed from the South Carolina state house.

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS..... 1

TODAY'S KEY STORIES..... 5

Hillary Clinton, near Ferguson, calls for confronting 'hard truths' about race // Politico // Annie Karni – June 23, 2015 5

Hillary Clinton Says Confederate Flag Debate Is Just the Beginning // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – June 23, 2015 7

The Republican Party needs to catch up with Hillary Clinton on race // WaPo // Jonathan Capehart – June 23, 2015 8

SOCIAL MEDIA..... 10

Dan Merica (6/23/15, 5:02 PM) – Clinton gets big applause in MO when she says, "We need to come together for common sense gun reforms that keep our communities safe."..... 10

Ronald Brownstein (6/23/15, 8:48 PM) – In '12 O lost whites by 20 pts. In @NBC @WSJ poll, @HillaryClinton trails w/whites by 7 vs @JebBush, 6 vs @marcorubio, even w/@ScottWalker..... 10

Rick Klein (6/23/15, 10:37 AM) – Rand Paul today on Confederate flag: 'Now it's a symbol of murder – it's time to put it in a museum." Via @JTSantucci..... 10

Heather Haddon (6/23/15, 6:37 PM) – @GovChristie commends Gov. Haley on taking down confederate flag; says it's time to "condemn the symbols of hate"..... 10

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton, near Ferguson, calls for confronting 'hard truths' about race // Politico // Annie Karni – June 23, 2015

For the third time since the Charleston massacre last week, Hillary Clinton addressed head on the "hard truths" about race the country needs to confront.

"Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," Clinton said at a forum at the Christ the King Church of Christ near Ferguson, Missouri, a city ripped apart by the shooting of a black teenager by a white police officer in 2014. "We can't hide from hard truths about race and justice. We have to name them, own them and change them," Clinton said.

She called Wednesday's slayings "an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God."

The key to change, Clinton said, was the ballot box — "finally persuading the 50 million Americans who do not vote that by not voting they make it possible for people who do not agree with them, do not support their aspirations, to call the shots," she said.

Her comments in Missouri followed an emotional address over the weekend, where she said the problems of racism in America go far beyond a horrific shooting, and that "millions of people of color still experience racism in their everyday lives."

Clinton — who called for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina state Capitol back in 2007 — on Tuesday also commended South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley for urging that it finally be removed from the statehouse, calling it "a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our nation's present or future. It shouldn't fly there, it shouldn't fly anywhere."

Democratic presidential candidate, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to supporters Saturday, June 13, 2015, on Roosevelt Island in New York, in a speech promoted as her formal presidential campaign debut.

Clinton also encouraged all retailers to follow the lead of Wal-mart, Amazon, Ebay and Sears, who have announced that they would stop selling products depicting Confederate flag imagery.

Supporters said Clinton's focus on racial injustice in America is resonating across the country, and that her forceful remarks have helped to buck the perception of Clinton as a cautious politician.

"Her comments personally resonate with me as an African American," said Nevada State Sen. Aaron Ford, who supported Barack Obama in 2008. "This morning at the gym I spoke with a couple people who were appreciative of the stance she has taken on this. Her courage in this instance is shining through."

Longtime Clinton ally Terry Shumaker, a New Hampshire attorney who co-chaired both of Bill Clinton's presidential campaigns, said her comments on race and gun control "blow a hole in the notion that she's overly cautious, overly scripted, that she has nothing but platitudes to say. With her comments on race, she's right out there in front."

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In the hour-long forum in Missouri, Clinton heard from a local developer trying to create a community, not just buildings; a teacher at an under-funded school discussing the importance of early childhood education; and an educator who sits on President Barack Obama's task force for policing, assembled after the Ferguson shooting.

Toward the end of the forum, Clinton was asked how the country can build more momentum for change.

"I don't want to sound like a civics teacher 101, but this is how I feel," she said. "If people voted for people who would represent them about these interests, that's the way we run. ... The hardest thing to do in a campaign is to convince people to actually take the time to vote. That's the clearest way to give the will."

Hillary Clinton Says Confederate Flag Debate Is Just the Beginning // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – June 23, 2015

Less than a week after a mass shooting at a black church situated in one community with a history of racial tensions, Hillary Clinton on Tuesday visited another black church in another community struggling with racial relations.

Speaking at Christ the King Church of Christ in Florissant, Missouri, Clinton welcomed the new push to abandon the Confederate flag but said it must be paired with renewed efforts to confront the deeper issues at the core of racial divisions, from policing to jobs to health care. That, she said, is the way to honor memories of the nine people killed last week at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

The shooting was "an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God," Clinton said from the pulpit here, in a St. Louis suburb that neighbors Ferguson. "Let us be resolved to make sure they did not die in vain. Do not be overcome by evil but let evil be overcome by good."

Clinton said she appreciates the calls from South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and other politicians to stop flying the Confederate flag on the grounds of the state capitol. "It shouldn't fly there," she said. "It shouldn't fly anywhere." She also commended Walmart, where she was once a board member, Amazon, eBay and Sears for announcing that they will stop selling the products adorned with the flag.

In an appearance that her campaign said was aimed at turning "grief, anger and despair into purpose and action," Clinton spoke to a predominantly African American group of ministers and locals, and joined a roundtable discussion that included Jason Purnell, an assistant professor at Washington University, and Tiffany Anderson, superintendent of the once-floundering Jennings School District. The church's leader Rev. Traci Blackmon, a member of the Ferguson Commission, a group working to rebuild the community and tackle some of the issues underlying last year's protests, and Rev. Karen Anderson, who heads neighboring Ward Chapel AME Church, led the discussion.

Clinton's response to the Charleston shootings reflects a significant change in strategy and her emphasis on enhanced political nimbleness. Clinton's 2008 campaign was often slow to respond to events but the current team–and the candidate herself–have taken strides to react more quickly. There are still layers of internal debates, but they generally take hours to resolve rather than days. She tweeted her condolences three hours after the Charleston shooting and used her first public appearance the next day to offer extended sympathies and begin talking about race.

The Clinton campaign had planned for weeks to have an event that would be open to press in the St. Louis area while the candidate was in town for a fundraiser hosted by an heiress to the Anheuser-Busch fortune. But Charleston's aftermath led Clinton to ask her staff over the weekend to focus the conversation on race and violence, a campaign official said.

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Since Wednesday's shooting, Clinton has spoken more extensively on race relations and gun violence than any other presidential hopeful (former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has focused his energy solely on arguing for stronger gun control laws, saying that the shooting "pissed" him off). Addressing the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco on Saturday, Clinton called for "common sense" gun control and added that the election of the first black president had not brought “America’s long struggle with race" to an end. “Our problem is not all kooks and Klansmen," she said. "It's also the cruel joke that goes unchallenged. It's the offhand comment about not wanting those people in the neighborhood."

In preparing for her public remarks, Clinton has talked through her thoughts on race with a range of people, including two top campaign staffers: senior policy adviser Maya Harris and Marlon Marshall, director of state campaigns and political engagement. Harris is a civil rights lawyer who has written about engaging women of color in the political process. Marshall grew up in Richmond Heights, a suburb about 15 miles south of Ferguson, and attended Michael Brown’s funeral on behalf of the White House, where he was deputy director of public engagement until late last year. He joined Clinton in Florissant on Tuesday.

As the debate over South Carolina's Confederate flag heated up over the weekend and on Monday, Clinton stayed quiet on the issue as her aides debated how to respond, as her spokespeople pointed reporters to comments she made in a 2007 interview, in which she said the flag should be removed from the grounds of the state capitol.

After South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley joined with other prominent Republicans in the state on Monday afternoon to call for the flag to be taken down, Clinton applauded the announcement. Haley “is right to call for removal of a symbol of hate in SC," Clinton wrote on Twitter. "As I’ve said for years, taking down Confederate flag is long overdue.”

It took 19 days for Clinton to respond to Brown’s August killing, drawing some criticism from impatient commentators, but when she did weigh in, her response was well-received by black leaders. She spoke about “the inequities that persist in our justice system” – an issue upon which she expanded in an April speech – and urged white Americans to imagine what it would be like if the criminal justice system treated them the same way it treats blacks.

The Republican Party needs to catch up with Hillary Clinton on race // WaPo // Jonathan Capehart – June 23, 2015

As the nation tried to make sense of the murder last week of nine African Americans in a historic black church in Charleston, S.C., Hillary Clinton delivered a powerful call to action to the nation on Saturday on race at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in San Francisco. I put it on par with President Obama’s 2008 speech on race because not only did she forthrightly confront some hard truths on America’s “deep fault line,” she also urged us to do something about it. And she will do it again today in St. Louis.

Clinton had left Charleston hours before the shooting. In her speech the next day in Las Vegas to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), Clinton said we “have to face hard truths about race, violence, guns and division.” She added, “Let’s unite in partnership, not just to talk, but to act.” When Clinton got to the Conference of Mayors gathering in San Francisco, the Democratic presidential candidate went further.

“Once again, racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence,” Clinton said. “[D]espite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America’s long struggle with race is far from finished. … I know there are truths we don’t like to say out loud or discuss with our children. But we have to. That’s the only way we can possibly move forward together.” And then Clinton spoke with an honesty I have not heard from a white politician since her husband President Clinton tried to lead a national “conversation about race” in the late 1990s.

And our problem is not all kooks and Klansman. It’s also in the cruel joke that goes unchallenged. It’s in the off-hand comments about not wanting “those people” in the neighborhood.

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Let's be honest: For a lot of well-meaning, open-minded white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear. And news reports about poverty and crime and discrimination evoke sympathy, even empathy, but too rarely do they spur us to action or prompt us to question our own assumptions and privilege.

We can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America. We have to name them and own them and then change them.

Clinton's "kooks and klansman" line echoes the tart observation made by President Obama in his podcast interview with Marc Maron over the weekend. The one where he said that "the measure of whether racism exists" is "not just a matter of it not being polite to say 'n—-r' in public." Whereas the president said we must figure out "what more we can do," the candidate who hopes to succeed him urged all of us to no longer remain silent in the face of overt or insidious forms of racism.

Clinton was already slated to be in St. Louis for a fundraiser. But a campaign aide told me that the events of Charleston so moved her that she insisted on doing more. That's why this afternoon, she will meet with education, community and religious leaders working on issues that impact systemic racism at a black church in Florissant, Mo., near Ferguson, another flashpoint in America's troubled racial history. I expect Clinton to reiterate her themes from San Francisco and to focus on ideas and solutions that address how the nation moves forward to tackle these issues.

Clinton's willingness to go all-in on race at this point of the presidential campaign stands in stark contrast to the dodging on the Republican side. Questions about race in general and the Confederate battle flag in particular have left the GOP tied up in knots. To be fair, the Democratic Party has had a decades-long head start in grappling with and understanding the myriad issues and nuances involved in talking about race. But after watching heartbreaking videos from Staten Island and Cleveland, McKinney, Tex., and North Charleston, silence is not an option.

Anyone who wants to be seriously considered for president of the United States must take race and racism seriously. He must be ready to discuss both with the thoughtfulness they require and be ready to offer solutions that can be implemented. I say "He" because the only viable woman in the race for the White House already has it covered.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dan Merica (6/23/15, 5:02 PM) – Clinton gets big applause in MO when she says, "We need to come together for common sense gun reforms that keep our communities safe."

Ronald Brownstein (6/23/15, 8:48 PM) – In '12 O lost whites by 20 pts. In @NBC @WSJ poll, @HillaryClinton trails w/whites by 7 vs @JebBush, 6 vs @marcorubio, even w/@ScottWalker

Rick Klein (6/23/15, 10:37 AM) – Rand Paul today on Confederate flag: 'Now it's a symbol of murder – it's time to put it in a museum." Via @JTSantucci

Heather Haddon (6/23/15, 6:37 PM) – @GovChristie commends Gov. Haley on taking down confederate flag; says it's time to "condemn the symbols of hate"

Alex Moe (6/23/15, 3:04 PM) – Rep. Hoyer says the #CharlestonShooting was a "horrific act" and plans to attend funeral on Friday in SC

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Ed O'Keefe (6/23/15, 5:52 PM) – INBOX: @SpeakerBoehner to lead bipartisan congressional delegation to #Charleston on Friday

Ed Schultz (6/23/15, 5:00 PM) – 1 hour to #edshow with @BernieSanders on #FeelTheBern at 5pET/4pCT/ 3pMT/2pPT on @msnbc! #TeamEdShow

Jennifer Jacobs (6/23/15, 8:13 PM) – NEW: Jeb Bush returns to Iowa July 13-14. Will speak in Ames, Sioux City and Councils Bluffs. #IAcaucus

Zeke Miller (6/23/15, 11:43 AM) – Right to Rise USA @r2rusa super PAC is out with a video explainer: "our goal is to show you Jeb's heart"

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Says Confederate Flag 'Shouldn't Fly Anywhere' // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 23, 2015

As lawmakers across the South spoke out against the Confederate battle flag and the nation's largest retailers pulled items with its image from their shelves, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday called the flag "a symbol of our nation's racist past."

Speaking at an African-American church just outside Ferguson, Mo., an impoverished black community where protests against a mostly white police force erupted in violence last summer, Mrs. Clinton made a forceful plea to remove the Confederate flag wherever it flew. And she encouraged other retailers to follow Amazon, Walmart, eBay and Sears/Kmart in discontinuing sales of items that display the flag.

"It shouldn't fly there. It shouldn't fly anywhere," Mrs. Clinton said of South Carolina, where a white gunman killed nine African-Americans last Wednesday during a Bible study session at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

"That night, word of the killings struck like a blow to the soul," she said. "How do we make sense of such an evil act — an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God?"

Mrs. Clinton, a Democratic candidate for president, spoke a day after Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina called for the Confederate flag to be removed from the grounds of the State House in Columbia. Ms. Haley, a Republican, called the flag a "deeply offensive symbol of a brutally oppressive past."

The Charleston attack forced the wide field of presidential candidates to wade into issues of racism, injustice, and fierce debates in the South over the meaning and misuses of Confederate symbolism. The suspect in the murders, Dylann Roof, 21, had brandished the flag on social media and posted deeply racist tirades.

Until Ms. Haley called for the Confederate flag's removal, several Republican presidential hopefuls had issued vague statements or said the matter was a state issue that should be left to South Carolina. One Republican candidate, Ben Carson, who is black, faulted his opponents on Monday for not calling "this tragedy an act of racism."

Mrs. Clinton spoke out against the Confederate flag in 2007 when she told The Associated Press while campaigning in South Carolina that she "would like to see it removed" from the State House grounds. But until Tuesday, she had not commented on the current debate.

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In her discussion Tuesday with community leaders at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Mo., Mrs. Clinton said the flag's removal would be "just the beginning of what we have to do" to combat racism.

She proceeded to list statistics about the economic disparities between black and white Americans, saying schools are more segregated today than they were in the 1960s, with 23 percent of black students in the South attending majority white schools in 2011, slightly lower than the percentage in 1968, according to her campaign.

It was no accident that Mrs. Clinton chose a town near Ferguson to hold the campaign event, one of only a handful of public appearances on her schedule in the coming weeks. The early months of her presidential campaign have been marked by sweeping speeches about race relations and issues like criminal justice reform and voting rights that may particularly resonate with African-American voters.

Mrs. Clinton's emphasis on race has been largely motivated by current events, with her campaign unfolding against the backdrop of riots in Baltimore this spring after the death of a black man who had been in police custody and, more immediately, the slaughter in Charleston.

Mrs. Clinton's approach also distinguishes her from her potential Republican rivals who have mostly only dipped a cautious toe into issues of racism. Candid talks like the one in Florissant could help Mrs. Clinton shore up support among the Democratic Party's base who overwhelmingly supported Barack Obama during her failed 2008 presidential campaign.

Throughout the event, Mrs. Clinton spoke frequently about her own Methodist faith and her regular Bible study classes and churchgoing. The Florissant church's pastor, the Rev. Traci Blackmon, ended the day's discussion with a prayer, asking the Lord to make sure Mrs. Clinton listens to the people she hopes to represent.

"There are those who are still suffering from injustice," Ms. Blackmon said. "There are those who we still walk by every day and forget."

Fast-Track Trade Bill Clears Key Hurdle in Senate **// WSJ // Siobhan Hughes – June 23, 2015**

The Senate on Tuesday gave President Barack Obama's trade agenda a big push forward, in a pivotal vote that clears the highest remaining procedural hurdle to granting the president expanded trade-negotiating power.

The 60-37 vote effectively precludes any filibuster opponents might mount and sets up the fast-track bill to pass the Senate by Wednesday. The House has already passed the measure, a priority for Mr. Obama that would stand as one of the most significant legislative acts of his presidency and a monument to the power of divided government to cut through partisan gridlock.

More Republicans support fast-track than Democrats, but GOP supporters had to rely on the votes of 13 business-friendly Democrats to advance the legislation, which would give Mr. Obama the power to submit trade deals to Congress for an up-or-down vote without amendments. Five Republicans and the chamber's two independents joined 30 Democrats in voting no.

The success in getting around the Senate's last procedural hurdle—with no votes to spare, since 60 were needed—was a victory for the White House, businesses and Republican leaders. It was a crushing blow to labor unions and environmentalists, who helped elect Mr. Obama and view his trade agenda—and the intensity with which he has fought for it—as a betrayal.

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"This has been a long and rather twisted path to where we are today but it's a very, very important accomplishment for the country," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) said on the Senate floor after the vote.

Some Democrats are concerned because the fast-track bill was separated from one that would extend a program to help workers hurt by international trade. Pro-trade Democrats who supported the bill Tuesday are essentially trusting GOP leaders to follow through on their promise to bring the aid measure to a vote and get it to Mr. Obama, as soon as this week.

The bill is seen as essential for Mr. Obama to wrap up negotiations on the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, a major trade deal involving countries around the Pacific Ocean. White House press secretary Josh Earnest praised the Senate vote, saying the legislation "will help America write the rules of the road."

Opponents of the fast-track measure were disappointed.

"This is a day of celebration in the corporate suites of this country," Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio) said. "They've got another corporate-sponsored trade agreement that will mean more money in some investors' pockets. It will mean more plant closings in Ohio and Arizona and Delaware and Rhode Island and West Virginia and Maine and all over this country."

Tuesday's outcome was made possible by last November's elections, which gave Republicans control of the Senate for the first time in eight years and meant that both chambers of Congress were in Republican hands for the first time in Mr. Obama's presidency. It also represented a personal victory for Mr. McConnell, who won re-election last year by saying he had the clout to assemble bipartisan majorities.

For his part, Mr. Obama put aside his disagreements with Mr. McConnell and instead threw himself into the task of lining up support for the fast-track bill with gusto—so much, in fact, that Mr. McConnell told reporters that after communicating with Mr. Obama and being on the same side of the issue he was practically having an "out-of-body experience."

The outcome of Tuesday's vote had been in doubt as late as Monday night, hinging on whether enough of the 14 pro-trade Senate Democrats who had voted for a fast-track bill last month would do so again.

Only one of them, Ben Cardin of Maryland, switched his vote to no saying that "the Republican leadership put worker protections at great risk" because with the fast-track bill about to pass, there was no guarantee that a program to help workers hurt by trade deals would also pass.

A last-minute defection on the Republican side came from Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who complained that negotiations had involved too much backroom dealing. His switch created more uncertainty about the vote and lowered the margin of victory from the last Senate vote on trade.

The workers-aid program, called Trade Adjustment Assistance, is expected to be on the Senate floor Wednesday for its own procedural vote, as part of a separate measure to extend trade preference for sub-Saharan African nations. The Senate would then pass that measure on Thursday and the House would get it to the president by the end of the week.

A third bill, to step up enforcement of trade laws, must be reconciled with a House version, a process leaders also hope to start by the end of the week before Congress leaves town for its July 4 recess.

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Mr. Earnest urged Congress to pass trade-enforcement legislation “promptly.”

Even if GOP leaders live up to their promises to Democrats and get all three bills to the president, the votes won’t end trade fights in Washington, but instead will open up a new front in the battle. If the Senate passes the fast-track bill by Wednesday, as expected, the White House will then have to turn its attention to wrapping up the Trans-Pacific Partnershipand convincing Congress to ratify it.

Because the fast-track bill will expedite passage of trade deals negotiated over the next six years but not guarantee their passage, the next phase of the fight will be even more important than the first round. Some Democrats who voted for fast-track legislation have warned Mr. Obama not to presume that they will also vote for the Pacific deal, the largest in history.

The coming battle will shift away from the process for ratifying trade deals and toward the substance of the pacts themselves. Trade negotiators have been working in secret on the trade accord, and lawmakers are able to study the text only by going into a secure room in which they are banned from taking any notes.

The fast-track bill will force the text into the public eye, requiring publication of the agreement 60 days before the president signs the accord. The president would then still have to submit implementation legislation to Congress before the deal is ratified.

The uncertain potential for Congress to ratify a new trade pact speaks to the open wounds left by the fast-track fight, which was brutal even by contemporary Washington standards. Mr. Obama blasted Democrats for distorting the issues, and said that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a liberal standard-bearer, was “wrong on this.”

The liberal wing of the party gave as good as it got, with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka outlining a plan to freeze campaign contributions until after the fast-track vote played out. Other liberal groups chased Sen. Ron Wyden (D., Ore.) around his state with a blimp and a recreational vehicle to pressure him to back off the fast-track bill that he helped write.

Hillary Clinton: Charleston shooting ‘an act of racist terrorism’ **// WaPo // Jose A. DelReal – June 23, 2015**

On the heels of delivering an impassioned speech on race relations last weekend, Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned the shooting of nine people at a church in Charleston as "an act of racist terrorism," and called for the removal of the Confederate flag from public spaces nationwide.

Clinton — who called for the flag to be removed from South Carolina statehouse grounds eight years ago, during her first presidential bid — praised South Carolina officials for making the same call Monday.

“I appreciate the actions begun yesterday by the governor and others in South Carolina to remove the Confederate flag from the statehouse, recognizing it as a symbol of our nation’s racist past that has no place in our present or our future," she said. "It shouldn’t fly there, it shouldn’t fly anywhere.”

She also commended retailers Wal-Mart, Amazon, eBay and Sears by name for announcing that they would no longer sell products that feature the flag.

The Democratic presidential contender was here to meet with community leaders at a mostly black church located near Ferguson, Mo., where race riots last year sparked a national debate on discrimination and policing.

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Her emphasis on racial issues follows the tragic shooting at the historically black Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, where a gunman killed nine people last Wednesday as they gathered for a Bible study. The attack will be the focus of Clinton's "community meeting" Tuesday afternoon at the United Church of Christ in Florissant, Mo.

Clinton has confidently waded into conversations on race relations on several occasions in recent months, with a particular emphasis on discussing the need for criminal justice reform in the United States. Her most recent string of speeches and appearances also serves as a clear message to communities of color: I'm with you — and I want your vote.

"Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," Clinton said at the annual Conference of Mayors on Saturday. "I know this is a difficult topic to talk about. I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we do not like to say out loud or discus with our children. But we have to."

Clinton's visit Tuesday came amid questions over her ability to reassemble the "Obama coalition" during the 2016 election, a coalition she is aggressively courting as she seeks the Democratic nomination. But six years into President Obama's tenure, parts of that coalition of young, female and ethnically diverse voters has become discouraged by the lack of political progress they see in Washington.

Clinton's campaign is seeking to cast her as a transformative figure similar to Obama — a "fighter," in the words of her campaign, and potentially the first female president — in hopes of sparking the same kind of political energy that propelled Obama to the White House in 2008.

"This is no longer what has been called a 'Ferguson issue.' It's a community issue. Change is needed," said Cynthia Donaldson, 54, a local resident and a Democratic voter who supports Clinton. "We also want to know her stance on unemployment and other issues. This is personal for me."

Donaldson, who says her daughter has struggled to find employment since graduating with a master's degree, says she is interested in hearing Clinton talk about expanding economic opportunity for everyone. "These things are not just happening in the black community."

While most of those in attendance live in the community — the group included several local elected officials — several students who attend university in the area also arrived hoping to see the former secretary of state.

"I think it's important to learn how to create diverse and inclusive communities, especially now and especially in St. Louis," said Kalie Penn, 19, a student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, about 20 miles away from Florissant. "She's here to talk about equality in our community, which is such a hot button issue.... It doesn't surprise me at all — she's been an advocate for equality."

Already Clinton has shown that reaching out to black and Hispanic voters is a top priority for her campaign team. In her first major policy address after declaring her presidential candidacy in April, Clinton spoke at Columbia University in New York about criminal justice reform, calling for the "end to the era of mass incarceration."

"Not only as a mother and grandmother, but as a citizen, as a human being, my heart breaks for these young men and their families," Clinton said then. "We have to come to terms with some hard truths about race and justice in America."

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Clinton's frank and, at times, highly personal statements on issues of gun violence and policy brutality stand in contrast to the responses by her GOP rivals, who last week fumbled questions about the motivation behind the attack in Charleston — the accused shooter has since been associated with white supremacist beliefs — and whether it is appropriate for the Confederate flag to continue flying outside the South Carolina state Capitol.

Her comments have also surprised many critics who accuse her of being politically guarded.

"It's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America bigotry is largely behind us," Clinton said Saturday. "But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

What primary? 92 percent of Democrats are comfortable voting for Hillary. **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – June 23, 2015**

Ninety-two percent.

That's how many Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents in a new NBC-Wall Street Journal poll said they could see themselves supporting Hillary Clinton for the party's nomination in 2016, a stark sign of how little genuine resistance there is within the party to the idea of the former secretary of state as the nominee.

In fact, support for Clinton on that question has risen since NBC-WSJ last asked it in March, even as Bernie Sanders appears to be picking up momentum in his primary challenge to Clinton. In March, 86 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents said they could see themselves supporting Clinton, while 13 percent said they could not imagine themselves supporting her.

Compare that to where the Republican field stands on that same question. Jeb Bush leads the way with 75 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents saying they could support him, while 74 percent said the same of Marco Rubio. Mike Huckabee (65 percent could support), Scott Walker (57 percent) and Rick Perry (53 percent) round out the top five for the GOP.

The simple fact is that for all the chatter about discontent toward Clinton, it's indisputable that her side is not only very comfortable with the idea of her as the nominee but significantly more so than Republicans are with any of their options.

How then to reconcile that 92 percent number with the fact that six in 10 (62 percent) of those same Democrats said they prefer a "challenging primary" over an "easy" one for Clinton? A couple of ways: (1) Human nature makes us like some level of competition. We like the idea that no one gets anything without hard work. (2) There is a desire to see Clinton tested in some way to prove that she is ready for what Republicans are going to throw at her. It's the same sort of mentality that suggests that a boxer who has been out of the game for a while needs to do some sparring before entering a prizefight.

The desire for Clinton to have a somewhat serious primary is, almost exclusively, born of a desire to make her stronger and more ready for the general election, not out of a belief that she has something to prove before she can be an acceptable choice for most Democrats.

The way that someone who is as big a favorite as Clinton loses a party nomination (or comes close to losing one) is a failure to understand that a significant pocket of discontent — ideological, generally — exists and is in search of a candidate. It doesn't exist in this race, and to the extent it ever did, the trend line on Clinton's numbers suggests that she has effectively shrunk that group to a relatively meaningless number.

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So yes, Sanders (or maybe Martin O'Malley) will clean up among the 8 percent of Democrats who say they simply can't support Clinton. And it won't worry Clinton or her team in the least. Nor should it. She is, in the minds of almost every Democrat, the party's de facto nominee. And almost no one has a problem with that.

Schumer: Carbon tax has a chance if Clinton wins **// Politico // Elana Schor – June 23, 2015**

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) outlined a path Tuesday for Hillary Clinton to enact a carbon tax if the Democrats prevail in the 2016 elections.

Schumer, the Senate Democrats' leader-in-waiting, said that a Clinton presidency and the return of his party to the Senate majority in 2017 could pave the way for lawmakers to enact a carbon tax to help fund the government.

The mere suggestion of a new fee on the emissions blamed for climate change, however, could become a political headache for Clinton and other Democrats, and it's routinely dismissed by Republicans. The Obama administration disavowed the idea after the 2012 election.

"If Hillary wins and we take back the Senate, I believe many of our Republican friends will say we've been starving the government for revenues," Schumer told an environmental event on Capitol Hill, "but many of them will not be for raising rates."

Noting that half a dozen European oil and gas CEOs came out in favor of a price on carbon this month, and that ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson has expressed openness to the idea, "you might get a compromise" carbon tax in that event, Schumer added.

"I think in 2017 people of both parties might come to that as the best way to fund the government," he said.

Schumer's comments came at an event hosted by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), who recently unveiled a carbon tax proposal at the conservative American Enterprise Institute that would offset the funds raised by cutting corporate taxes and returning rebates to the public.

The New York Democrat hinted at the potential controversy of his carbon-tax prediction by first asking if his remarks the event, which was streamed live online, would be "on the record" for the press.

Schumer also vowed that Democrats would successfully defend President Barack Obama's landmark climate change rules for power plants from GOP attacks, saying, "We will hold that — they'll need 60 votes to change things, and we're not going to let that happen."

Three Democrats considered swing votes on any Republican bid to unravel Obama's climate rules, Sens. Joe Manchin (W.Va.), Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.) and Joe Donnelly (Ind.), face reelection in 2018.

More changes rock pro-Clinton super PAC **// Politico // Glenn Thrush – June 23, 2015**

Guy Cecil, the new head of Priorities USA, has replaced the group's recently hired finance director and hired two major ad-firms – the latest moves in a major makeover of the underperforming pro-Clinton super PAC.

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Kim Kauffman, a longtime Cecil associate, will take over as deputy executive director in charge of finance for Justin Brennan, who has been on the job since January; Brennan, according to a Democrat with knowledge of the situation, is leaving to take a senior fundraising role with Ted Strickland's campaign for Senate in Ohio.

Cecil, former head of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee – and a top official with Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign — has also tapped the group's first-ever digital director, Tara McGowan, reflecting Priorities' intention to invest significant resources in social media and online advertising. McGowan worked on the Obama campaign's rapid-response team.

Priorities' current director of research, Patrick McHugh, is being promoted to the title of deputy director.

"Priorities is building a top-notch team of the best strategists and tacticians in the country," Cecil wrote in an email after POLITICO contacted him to confirm the moves. "Along with our new Executive Director Anne Caprara, Patrick, Kim, and Tara bring experience and passion to their work. We are lucky to have them."

Priorities – which produced a series of much-lauded ads on behalf of President Barack Obama's reelection campaign in 2012 – has re-signed Shorr Johnson Magnus, a Philadelphia firm recently known for its controversial "Wheelchair" ad attacking handicapped Texas Republican gubernatorial candidate Gregory Abbott in 2014, and added Ralston Lapp, a Washington-based firm run by veteran Democratic adman Jason Ralston.

"[Shorr Johnson Magnus] did some of the best advertising in 2012 and I'm looking forward to working with them again, along with the great team at Ralston Lapp," Cecil said. "We will have an aggressive and creative media strategy backing up all of our work."

The changes, made during a series of closed-door staff meetings over the past week, came after Cecil replaced the group's former executive director Buffy Wicks, who was closely allied to Obama, with Caprara, who worked closely with Cecil at the DSCC.

Cecil's appointment was intended to bolster the group, which is expected to report anemic fundraising numbers later this month, a stumbling start for a group that hopes to raise as much as $300 million for the 2016 cycle to compete with juggernaut GOP super PACS.

Priorities eventually raised and spent about $79 million on behalf of Obama – but got off to a late start because Obama and his staff refused to endorse the concept of a super PAC – on good-government grounds – until January 2012. Hillary Clinton has no such qualms, and has appeared at several meet-and-greets for potential super-PAC donors during a recent campaign trip to California

Holy %$#@! Rahm's Clinton White House files due out // Politico // Josh Gerstein – June 23, 2015

Is Rahm Emanuel as profane on paper as he famously is in real life?

The answer to that long-simmering question could be laid bare soon with the Clinton Presidential Library set to release nearly 20,000 pages of files Emanuel accumulated during his almost six years as a top aide in the Clinton White House.

The trove of Emanuel files slated to go public "include books, publications, reports, memoranda, speech drafts, press releases, polls, newspaper articles, pamphlets, emails, talking points, and correspondence," according to a notice the National Archives sent Monday to the Obama White House and a representative of former President Bill Clinton. "These materials cover a broad range of topics including education, crime, NAFTA, and health care."

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After his stint in the Clinton White House, Emanuel was elected to the House of Representatives from Illinois, ran the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and returned to the White House in 2009 as President Barack Obama's first chief of staff. He now serves as mayor of Chicago, where he was re-elected to a second term in April.

Barring a last-minute hitch, Emanuel's files are likely to go public in September. Archives records show the papers were requested in 2008 by then-Washington Post reporter James V. Grimaldi.

Records of Emanuel's service in Obama's White House are not likely to emerge until 2022 or later.

Clinton says Confederate flag has no place in US **// AP // Ken Thomas – June 23, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday the Confederate battle flag should not be displayed "anywhere," weighing in as South Carolina lawmakers seek to remove it from the grounds of their statehouse.

The Democratic presidential candidate called the deadly shootings of nine black church members in Charleston, South Carolina, "an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God."

Clinton called the Confederate flag a "symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our present or our future. It shouldn't fly there. It shouldn't fly anywhere."

Clinton joined with church members in the St. Louis suburbs, near the violent protests touched off last year in nearby Ferguson after the death of Michael Brown, an unarmed young black man who was shot by a white police officer.

Clinton said she appreciated the work of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican, and state lawmakers who are working to remove the Confederate flag from the statehouse grounds. She also commended Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the Arkansas-based company on whose board she once served, for announcing it would remove any product from its stores that features the Confederate flag.

She encouraged other companies to follow that example while noting that Amazon, eBay and Sears have done so.

Clinton has put America's struggle with race relations at the forefront of her presidential campaign in recent weeks and urged church members here to find ways to turn their grief, anger and despair into purpose and action. The Clinton campaign said she was initially scheduled to discuss economic issues during her stop in Missouri, but after the Charleston shooting, she said she wanted to hold the event in a church and discuss race.

Clinton largely avoided giving race relations a prominent place in her 2008 Democratic campaign against Barack Obama, who was vying to become the nation's first black president at the time. Yet she's leaned into a number of issues closely watched by African-Americans this time, discussing the need to change the criminal justice system, improve access to voting and help minority small business owners.

Clinton's campaign hopes to mobilize black voters in large numbers in the 2016 election, building upon the coalition of minority, young and liberal voters who powered Obama's two White House campaigns. The message has taken on fresh urgency since last week's church massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, which happened shortly after Clinton campaigned in the city.

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In Florissant, Clinton proposed a package of policies to promote racial equality, including tax breaks for struggling communities, help for minority and female entrepreneurs, early childhood education, "common sense" gun restrictions and universal voter registration. She told congregants that "all lives matter," a variation of the "Black Lives Matter" slogan that arose from the Florida shooting death of black teenager Trayvon Martin.

Clinton cited her background growing up in the Methodist church, recalling: "I grew up in an all-white middle-class suburb. I didn't have a black friend, neighbor or classmate until I went to college and I am so blessed to have so many in my life since."

Pointing to the Charleston shooting, she urged attendees, "Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good."

The former secretary of state was greeted by the Rev. Traci Blackmon, pastor of Christ the King United Church of Christ, which hosted the event. She told the audience that the Charleston shooting shows "we also must take this moment to not just focus who pulled the trigger that day but on the policies, the people and the structures that are pulling the trigger daily."

Clinton Campaigns at Christ the King United Church of Christ // KMOX CBS // Carol Daniel - June 24, 2015

ST. LOUIS (KMOX) – A packed church in North St. Louis County, just a few miles from where Michael Brown was killed and protesting and rioting raged for months, became the setting for Former Secretary of State, now Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton's first campaign stop in Missouri.

Co-hosts Rev. Traci Blackmon of Christ the King United Church of Christ and Rev. Karen Anderson of Ward Chapel AME Clinton planned a listening session for Clinton in just 48 hours. It included a panel of area leaders working in education, healthcare, housing and social justice reform.

The listening session included: Jason Purnell; PhD, assistant professor at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Tiffany Anderson; Superintendent of the Jennings School District, Chris Krehmeyer; President/CEO of Beyond Housing and Brittany Packnett; Executive Director of Teach for America-STL and a member of the Ferguson Commission.

Clinton spoke before hearing from the panel and said she was in Charleston, South Carolina just before the shootings. She said, "Word of the killings struck like a blow to the soul. How do we make sense of such an act?"

She stood at the podium in front of about 500 people in the sanctuary and asked, "How do we turn grief, anger and despair into action?" She went on to say, that those of us who are Christians are to forgive, quoting scripture which says that Jesus called us to forgive 70 times seven, calling it a daunting task. "But when fear, doubt and a desire for revenge might have been expected, what we saw was forgiveness."

She spoke of the need to confront racism after the killings in South Carolina, "Hate cannot win," says Clinton. "We can't hide from hard truths about race and justice. We have to name them, own them and change them."

At one point, Clinton took a page out of the Ferguson protests saying, "All lives matter." She also applauded efforts to take down Confederate flags after the church massacre.

"I appreciate the actions begun Monday by the Governor of South Carolina to remove the Confederate flag from the statehouse," says Clinton.

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Clinton called it a symbol of the nation's racist past that has no place in our present or future. She said, "It shouldn't fly there. It shouldn't fly anywhere." She also commended Walmart for deciding to remove any product that uses the flag and urged all sellers to do the same.

Rev. Blackmon introduced Clinton, who became a familiar face and voice during the Ferguson unrest. Prior to the introduction she spoke about the Charleston killings.

"We can't focus on the one who pulled the trigger that day, but on the policies and structures that pull the trigger every day," says Blackmon (to Clinton). "St. Louis is a tale of two cities. We live in a region that has some of the best education the nation has to offer. Yet in this region we have children attending unaccredited schools. We live in a region with supreme healthcare and yet have failed to expand Medicaid. In this region, you can travel 10 miles and that will determine if you live in a mansion or in misery. We are 19th in region but 43rd in economic mobility and we have division where we should have solidarity. Secretary Clinton can't answer all these questions today, but we are grateful she came here to listen."

During the panel discussion and listening session, Rev. Blackmon asked activists who sprang up for the Ferguson protests, to stand. Turning to Clinton, she said, "We are intergenerational. We come from various races and ethnicities. We're in this together and we aren't going away."

Each panelist told Secretary Clinton of the work they are doing to change the lives of St. Louisans. Dr. Tiffany Anderson got a standing ovation after explaining how the district is achieving.

"We pretty much have year-round school." Anderson described what it means to educate the child. "We have a pediatrician on staff that anyone in Jennings can make use of. We have mental health therapists in every school and we even making washers and dryers available to parents to use in exchange for one hour of volunteer time. "This is why we have packed PTO meetings."

Beyond Housing's Krehmeyer described the "Viking Advantage" college savings program that has given 800 Normandy students $500 MOST Scholarships and resulted in 85 percent graduating from college. "Community happens at the speed of trust" Krehmeyer says.

Clinton responded, "If it works in Jennings and Normandy, we need to make sure it keeps working."

Prior to Clinton's remarks, those in attendance were asked to write questions on notecards and place them in a basket. After collection, there was only time for three questions and one of those pertained to what Clinton felt about the mass incarceration of African-Americans and what has been termed the "School to Prison Pipeline."

Clinton responded that the vast majority of kids need something besides being thrown out of school or being referred to the juvenile justice system. Listen to her response below:

Many KMOX's Carol Daniel spoke to, felt Ferguson Commission member Brittnay Packnett, was the most pointed in her remarks. "Kids can't learn if they're dead. All of the conversations we're having about education are for naught if they end up like Mike Brown or Tamir Rice." A portion of her remarks directed at Secretary Clinton are below:

Clinton spent at least 15 minutes taking pictures and signing autographs and even a baseball cap after the discussion ended. As her motorcade pulled out of the church parking lot onto Old Halls Ferry Road a man and

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woman across the street were holding a large sign. The sign had large red block letters that read, “JUSTICE BENGHAZI.”

Rev. Starsky Wilson, a member of the Ferguson Commission, said after the discussion, “The key is will we see Secretary Clinton acting on what she’s heard here today and will we hear her echoing and amplifying the voices heard here today.”

For those who may question Clinton’s timing or choice of location for the discussion, Rev. Wilson said, “Quite frankly this is home base for a discussion about criminalization of youth of reform in criminal justice system and municipal courts in America. It became home base on Aug 9th.”

Monday evening, Clinton attended a private fundraiser at Grant’s Farm the ancestral mansion of the Busch Brewing family and former home of President Ulysses S. Grant. The event was hosted by Trudy Busch Valentine, the daughter of late chairman of the Anheuser-Busch Companies.

John Hancock, Chairman of the Missouri Republican Party, released the following statement on Hillary Clinton’s campaign visits in St Louis:

“The number of Americans who view Hillary Clinton unfavorably is increasing the longer she campaigns, so we are thrilled she is visiting the Show-Me State. Now Missourians will have an opportunity to see the real Hillary: out-of-touch, untrustworthy, and scandal-plagued. Next November, Missourians will soundly reject the liberal policies of Hillary Clinton—or whoever is the Democratic nominee for president—just as they twice rejected Barack Obama.”

Hillary Clinton engages in conversation on race at Christ The King // STL American // Rebecca Rivas - June 23, 2015

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a roaring applause from the majority black audience at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant when she told them that the Confederate battle flag, “shouldn’t fly anywhere.”

Rev. Traci Blackmon, pastor of the church, said Tuesday’s community meeting with Clinton was meant to discuss the impacts of racism, including the recent massacre where Dylann Roof, a white supremacist, allegedly murdered nine men and women at a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina.

To an audience of about 200 church members and elected officials, Clinton commended the response of Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina, who Monday called for the flag to be removed from state property. Soon after, large retailers, including Walmart, Sears, eBay and Amazon, announced that they are prohibiting any Confederate flag merchandise from being sold in their stores.

Clinton said the flag is, “a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our present or our future.”

Clinton also called the shooting “an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God.”

However, as Blackmon stated at the beginning of the meeting, our nation’s leaders need to recognize the policies that are “pulling the trigger daily.” She thanked Clinton for coming to listen, “so that we might be heard,” she said.

Blackmon invited four panelists to speak about the work they have been doing in the community to address racial inequality in various arenas. Jason Purnell, an assistant professor at the Brown School at Washington University, spoke about the health disparities among African Americans in St. Louis, which is the focus of a study he leads called For the Sake of All.

In St. Louis, he said there is an 18-year gap in age expectancy within less than 10 miles, and an African-American baby is three times more likely to die in St. Louis city and county.

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Clinton said his work is important because legislators need evidence-based research to push forward policies that address disparities.

Tiffany Anderson, superintendent of the Jennings School District, talked about changes in their schools that have made helped raise the academic performance, including providing free lunch to every student and going to a year-round schedule.

Chris Krehmeyer, CEO and president of Beyond Housing, talked on the "24: 1" initiative to holistically address problems in the majority black municipalities that "you've probably heard in the news." He noted that the group has started $500 college saving accounts for kindergarteners in the Normandy schools.

Clinton looked Brittany Packnett in the eye and continuously nodded as Packnett spoke about the damning effects of criminalizing African-American children in schools.

"We can't move forward until we are consistently incentivizing culturally-responsible leadership training for all public servants, especially people who have the ability to impact the lives of children," said Packnett, Teach for America – St. Louis' executive director and Ferguson Commissioner. She also served on President Obama's taskforce on police reform.

During Clinton's introductory remarks, she said, "All lives matter" while telling a story about her mother. Immediately, members of the Ferguson movement in the audience took to Twitter condemning Clinton for using a phrase that is often used as a dismissal to "Black lives matter."

She said about her mother: "Her own parents abandoned her. By 14 she was out on her own, working as a housemaid. Years later, when I was old enough to understand, I asked her, 'What kept you going?' Her answer was very simple: Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter."

John Gaskin III, a member of the NAACP national board and of St. Louis County NAACP, said in the context, he did not feel it was offense. But he did make him pause when he heard it.

"She was honest about race today," he said. "She spoke about what many people in this demographic want to hear, and that is for advancing civil rights, health care and issues that affect our folks disproportionately. As we look at her campaign trail, we haven't seen any meeting like this in a house of faith."

Clinton in Florissant calls Confederate flag, Charleston murders "racist" // St. Louis Public Radio // Jo Mannies – June 23, 2015

Although her comments about race and racism were national in scope, Hillary Clinton spent much of Tuesday's visit at a Florissant church listening to the local challenges that many in her audience grapple with daily.

The Rev. Traci Blackmon talked of the "tale of two cities," where some St. Louisans easily partake of some of the best education and health care that the nation has to offer. But others only have access to the worst.

A stretch of 10 miles, said Blackmon, determines "whether you live in a mansion, or in misery."

Blackmon sits on the Ferguson Commission, set up by Gov. Jay Nixon after the Aug. 9 police shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown touched off months of local, national and international outrage.

Clinton, now a Democratic candidate for president, listened to Blackmon and others during much of her two-hour stop at the Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant.

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For the most part, neither the candidate nor the other speakers said much specifically about Ferguson or its local aftermath. Rather, most of their hour-long discussion focused the broader related issues – such as racism, poverty and inequality – that Clinton agrees must be addressed.

"I am here to listen, but also to engage in the kind of open and honest discussion that I hope is happening all over America," Clinton said during her opening 20-minute address.

Says racism behind Charleston killings, use of Confederate flag

To that end, Clinton didn't shy away from the word "racist."

Last week's murder of nine African-Americans at a Charleston, S.C. church, she said, was "an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a House of God."

Clinton recalled that she had been in Charleston just hours before the killings, which "struck like a blow to the soul."

Clinton called for an end to the flying of the Confederate flag, which she called "a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our present or our future."

Referring to South Carolina, she added, "It shouldn't fly there. It shouldn't fly anywhere."

Clinton also called for the nation, and its leaders, to confront certain realities.

"I know it's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident," she said. "To believe that in today's America, bigotry is largely behind use. That institutional racism no longer exists."

But lamentably, that's not the case, Clinton continued. "Despite our best efforts and highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished.

"We can't hide from hard truths about race and justice. We have to name them and own them and change them."

Zeroing in on the local angles

Her audience appeared to welcome such candor.

"I think Hillary Clinton did an excellent job of addressing a lot of local issues here that started in Ferguson, that now have become part of the conversation nationwide," said Nicole Gipson of Hazelwood, a substitute teacher and a parent.

Gipson particularly welcomed the panel's discussion of "a lot of disparity of how African-American boys are treated in the classroom, compared to their white peers."

Morton Todd, Democratic Party chairman for St. Charles County observed, "It wasn't just a rally. It was a conversation."

Todd was among a number of Democratic officials and activists who shared the pews for Tuesday's visit –

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exemplifying that there was a political aspect to Clinton's presence as well.

As a Democrat, Clinton will need strong support from the party's African-American base if she is to win the White House in 2016.

She got a local boost shortly before her address when U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay,D-University City and the region's most prominent African-American official, announced that he was endorsing her for president.

"I am now part of Team Hillary," Clay said in a telephone interview from Washington, where he had to remain because of congressional business.

In an accompanying statement, the congressman said, "I will be advising her on critical issues including economic empowerment, protecting the right to vote and reforming the criminal justice system.... Missouri is ready for Hillary, and so am I."

Although Clinton focused on issues, not politics, during the church visit, Todd was among the attendees who grasped the political stakes.

"I think she has a real good chance," said Todd. "I think she's going to make Missouri more significant in 2016."

As evidence, Todd pointed to the GOP's reaction to Clinton visit. He singled out last weekend's announcement by the campaign of Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. – who is likely to run for re-election in 2016 – that it's involved in an official "Stop Hillary" effort.

State Republican Party chairman John Hancock asserted in a statement that Democrats were wasting their time to woo Missouri voters. "The number of Americans who view Hillary Clinton unfavorably is increasing the longer she campaigns, so we are thrilled she is visiting the Show-Me State," he said. "Now Missourians will have an opportunity to see the real Hillary: out-of-touch, untrustworthy, and scandal-plagued...."

Clay noted that it was Hillary Clinton's husband, Bill Clinton, who was the last Democratic presidential nominee to carry Missouri, in 1996. Clay predicted that Hillary Clinton's status as the first major woman presidential contender will help give her an edge in Missouri 20 years later.

The congressman added that the nation also is ready and eager to embrace Hillary Clinton's plain-speaking approach on such issues as race.

After S.C. tragedy, Nevada draws praise for lawmakers' restraint on guns // Las Vegas Sun // Kyle Roerink - June 24, 2015

Mourners Cynthia Wright-Murphy, right, hugs her sister Carolyn Wright-Porcher, right, outside the Emanuel AME Church, Saturday, June 20, 2015 in Charleston, S.C. A steady stream of people brought flowers and notes and shared somber thoughts at a growing memorial in front of the church.

From its Wild West past to its multitude of modern gun-related attractions, like firing fully automatic machine guns and posing for wedding photos with military-inspired weapons, Nevada isn't often recognized for its restraint on firearms.

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But that's what has happened with help from Everytown in the wake of a shooting that left nine dead at a historic church in Charleston. Everytown for Gun Safety, the nation's top gun control advocacy group, has praised Nevada legislators for blocking a measure to allow firearms to be carried in an expanded list of places and approving a bill outlawing gun possession by domestic violence offenders.

The gun control group, backed by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, lists Nevada as one of at least 15 states that defeated controversial, pro-gun measures proposed this year in legislatures across the country.

After failed efforts to reform gun laws in Congress, Bloomberg pledged $50 million to launch a state-by-state grassroots campaign to battle the NRA and other pro-gun groups. The push came last year after Congress failed to expand background checks in the aftermath of the 2012 massacre of 20 students at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn.

Erika Soto Lamb, communications director for Everytown, said the 2015 Legislature was supposed to be the "gun session" in Nevada, but parents, students, law enforcement and activists rallied to block NRA-backed proposals.

"Nevada, like many other states we work in, is an example of where the gun lobby didn't have a clear course to impose its will," she said.

In January, gun-control advocates were not optimistic when Nevada Republicans introduced at least 27 pro-gun measures. The state GOP came into the session in control of the governor's office and both chambers of the Legislature, and it expressed an appetite to loosen restrictions while expanding where people could carry firearms. The controversial bills came from Nevada GOP Assembly members who called to allow guns on school grounds and enable concealed carry without a permit.

Everytown lobbyists lined up with Democrats to fight back against the measures. By May, the fears were largely eliminated.

But it was GOP extremists — not Everytown and Democrats — who influenced the demise of the gun legislation. The Senate's GOP leaders ignored the controversial proposals from the Assembly's far-right members. The move kept incendiary bills off Gov. Brian Sandoval's desk and cleared Republican senators from casting votes that pro-gun groups like the NRA could use against them during campaign season.

Of the 27 pro-gun bills tracked by the Nevada Firearms Coalition — the state's NRA affiliate — 18 didn't receive a hearing in the Senate, said Don Turner, the group's president.

"It was political maneuvering," Turner said.

But the pro-gun lobby didn't go away without victories. Lawmakers approved bills to eliminate a Clark County gun registration program and allow car owners to defend themselves with deadly force inside of vehicles.

"Like with everything else, you ask Santa for presents and you're not going to get everything you want," Turner said.

Pro-Second Amendment lawmakers and gun-control advocates compromised on one bill — the one preventing those convicted of domestic abuse from buying guns.

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GOP Assemblyman Ira Hansen, one of the state's outspoken pro Second Amendment advocates from Sparks, fought until the last hours of the session to pass a measure that would allow students to carry concealed firearms on college campuses in the state.

His efforts fell short.

"In all honesty, I predicted the pro Second Amendment agenda would go through with no problem," he said.

Because of the GOP divide on firearms, Turner and Hansen downplayed Everytown's role in the session. But they didn't shrug at its influence in the state.

Everytown is the driving force of a 2016 ballot initiative that will ask voters to expand background checks on gun purchases. The push stems from Sandoval's 2013 veto of a bill to require background checks on all gun sales in the state — including those between family members.

In Nevada, Everytown collected more signatures than any group in state history to land the measure on the ballot, surpassing the requirement by more than 50,000 names.

Their efforts failed in Congress in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shootings, prompting them to start the grassroots effort now on display in Nevada. With Everytown's influence, Washington and Oregon recently approved background checks in the past year.

Hansen said he was "fearful" that voters would pass the initiative in 2016 — a presidential election where Democrats who support gun reforms would be likely to vote.

"I am sure Bloomberg can easily sink a few million into a very aggressive public relations campaign," Hansen said.

The hope among the initiative's proponents is that expanded background checks will keep firearms away from the mentally ill, convicted criminals and people like Dylann Storm Roof, the 21-year-old South Carolina man accused of killing nine people inside the Emanuel African Episcopal Methodist Church on June 17.

Currently, 18 states require all gun purchasers to submit background checks to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Speaking in Las Vegas last week, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton signaled that she would tackle gun reform if elected to office.

Tuesday on the Senate floor, the Minority Leader Harry Reid, called for action.

"The United States is the only advanced country where this type of mass violence occurs," Reid said. "Let's do something. We can expand, for example, background checks. ... We should support not giving guns to people who are mentally ill and felons."

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Without new legislation, Reid said, “we will be here again. Our hearts will be broken again.”

Ted Cruz's team stands by campaign aide who compared Confederate flag removal to a 'Stalinist purge' // **Business Insider // Hunter Walker - June 23, 2015**

Lee Bright, a local lawmaker who is serving as the South Carolina co-chair for the presidential campaign of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), compared the calls to remove the Confederate flag from the capitol building in his home state to a "Stalinist purge." According to a spokesperson for Cruz, those comments don't conflict with the candidate's position on the issue.

"What Senator Cruz has said is that this is an issue for the state of South Carolina and South Carolinians to sort out and I think that's what you're watching happen," Cruz campaign spokesman Rick Tyler said in a conversation with Business Insider on Tuesday evening.

The shooting at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina that left nine people dead on June 17 has reignited a nationwide debate over the flag. The alleged shooter, Dylann Roof, has been linked to a website that featured Confederate imagery and a racist manifesto. This prompted South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) to call for the flag to be removed from the capitol on Monday.

Bright made his comment when he was asked about Haley's move by the Charleston Post and Courier. He elaborated on it in an interview with Politico that was published Tuesday.

"It’s not just the flag," Bright said. "They want to take down the Confederate monuments, I’ve gotten emails from people who want to rename streets ... anytime you want to basically remove the symbols of history from a state, that’s something that just is very bad ... these are honorable men who fought for their homes, their home state, to disgrace them in the name of political correctness is just wrong. They’re not here to defend themselves."

Bright told Politico the Cruz campaign had not discussed the issue with him, but he said he hoped presidential candidates would not tell South Carolina how to handle the issue.

"I would encourage presidential candidates to let us deal with this," Bright said. "It’s deeply rooted history for a lot of us. I’m not going to stand by and let our ancestors’ memories be besmirched. It’s one thing to just take down the flag. They want us to concede that the soldiers that fell for the Confederacy were a bunch of racists and I’m not going to concede that."

Tyler, the Cruz campaign spokesman, said the senator agrees with the notion the issue should be decided by people in South Carolina.

"The idea of outsiders coming in to South Carolina and telling them how they should deal with their issue, the senator ... I think correctly, his view is, let South Carolinians work it out amongst themselves and sort it out," Tyler said. "And that's what's happening, there's a disagreement of opinion, but that's part of the process."

Bright did not respond to multiple requests for comment from Business Insider.

Hillary Clinton’s on aggressive fundraising push // **CNN // Jeff Zeleny and Dan Merica – June 24, 2015**

St. Louis - Hillary Clinton is racing across red states and blue states at a frenetic pace for a frontrunner, hoping to show that her early dominance in the Democratic presidential race will also translate into a muscular financial

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advantage as the campaign's first fundraising period ends next week.

The first true measure of Clinton's strength will come when she reveals how much money she has collected during the first three months of her candidacy. The specific figure is guarded with high secrecy inside her campaign, but several party fundraisers told CNN they believe she is on track to raise more than $30 million.

For a famous candidate who is universally known, Clinton has been working the circuit with unusual fervor to rebuild her base of donors and to inject an element of enthusiasm into the campaign, rather than sitting back and waiting for checks to arrive. Her Rolodex may be golden, but several fundraisers say it's also somewhat outdated, adding a layer of complexity to her early efforts.

She has personally attended nearly 50 closed-door fundraising events so far, according to a CNN tally, which vastly outnumbers the introductory sessions she has held with voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and beyond.

Based on attendance figures provided by campaign aides, Clinton-headlined events have brought in around $21 million, according to CNN analysis. Her top aides and operatives have headlined dozens more.

A concert featuring Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett on Wednesday night in New York is intended to entice donors before her June 30 fundraising deadline. It comes on the heels of a star-studded series of events last weekend in California, where a bearded Leonardo Dicaprio attended a fundraiser at Tobey Maguire's home.

But the majority of Clinton's fundraising activity has been far removed from the bright lights of Broadway or Hollywood. This week alone, she's visited Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri, standing before small audiences to collect checks of no more than $2,700, the maximum allowed for the primary campaign.

Here in south St. Louis County on Tuesday night, she arrived at Grant's Farm, the 281-acre ancestral home of the Busch family, which is named after former President Ulysses S. Grant. Trudy Busch Valentine, heir to the well-known brewing family, hosted the event.

Two campaign volunteers checked people outside the gates, asking attendees to provide photo identification to verify they had paid for the event. A line of cars idled outside, waiting to get in. A campaign aide said 250 people were on hand and gave the maximum amount, which means she raised at least $675,000 for her afternoon in St. Louis.

The fundraiser has been on her calendar for weeks. But Clinton added a public event to her schedule at a church in nearby Florissant on Tuesday, where she addressed the South Carolina church shooting, which she called an "act of racist terrorism."

The fundraising activity of the Clinton campaign is seldom discussed beyond the closed-door sessions. Only a few hosts contacted by CNN were willing to talk about the events they organized for Clinton's campaign.

"It was an amazing event," said Ellen Luger, the former head of the General Mills Foundation who hosted a fundraiser at her Minneapolis, Minnesota, home on Monday. Then, she quickly rang off, saying: "Bye."

Cindy Simon Skjodt, who hosted a fundraiser in Carmel, Indiana, said Clinton's remarks during the event were "engaging" and full of policy, but not wonky.

"Her remarks are brief," said an equally brief Skjodt, adding that Clinton spent more time taking pictures and shaking hands at the event than speaking.

The Clinton campaign has announced its intention to raise at least $100 million before the end of the year. But several fundraisers told CNN the effort has been more laborious than they expected, with some Democrats lacking a sense of excitement or urgency about the need to contribute.

With enthusiasm growing among some liberals for the candidacy of Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Clinton has redoubled her efforts to post a strong fundraising figure when the report is filed with the Federal Election Commission by July 15.

In her first presidential race, Clinton raised primary and general election money together, a strategy that allowed her to collect twice as much. She raised $26 million during her first fundraising period of 2007, but only some of it could be used during her primary race, with the remainder returned to donors after she lost to Barack Obama.

This time, campaign manager Robby Mook announced that Clinton would only raise primary money -- a maximum of $2,700 per check. This approach raised the burden for fundraisers, but also sent the signal that she was intent on fighting for the Democratic nomination.

Alan Patricof, the co-host of one of the Clinton's first fundraisers in New York, said the campaign was intently

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focusing on a robust fundraising report in July to quiet any doubts about the strength of her candidacy.

"You do the math of how many fundraisers you have to have to get to $25 million," he told CNN. "You just have to have a lot of people contributing."

At one of her first events, Patricof said Clinton made clear the "importance at the early stage, were the donors who were able to contribute or raise more significant amounts."

After that, he said, she would focus on smaller donors.

Clinton has spent far more time talking to donors than ordinary voters during the opening phase of her campaign. She is asking her top donors, known as Hillstarters, to recruit 10 people to each contribute $2,700.

"It is a warm gathering, these are not state of the union speeches," said Robert Zimmerman, a donor who attended one of Clinton's early New York fundraisers and is a member of her Hillstarter fundraising group.

She has held fundraising events in at least 17 states, including: Georgia, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Washington. She has also dispatched her top campaign advisers to attend fundraising events across the country.

"There's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all fundraising strategy," said Josh Schwerin, a campaign spokesman. "We're using a wide array of techniques to cultivate a diverse donor base and putting a premium on growing our list to give as many people as possible the opportunity to play a role in this campaign."

Clinton commends effort to remove Confederate flag? // CNN // Dan Merica – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton commended the groundswell in anti-Confederate flag sentiment at an event in Missouri on Tuesday, calling the battle flag "a symbol of our nation's racist past."

Clinton's comments about the flag come days after Dylann Roof, a white supremacist, killed nine men and women at a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The shooting, Clinton said, was "an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God," but one where the men and women killed "did not die in vain, did not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

The shooting has sparked a conversation about the Confederate flag that led Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina, to call for its removal from state property.

"I appreciate the actions begun yesterday by the governor and other leaders of South Carolina to remove the Confederate battle flag from the State House, recognizing it as a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our present or our future," Clinton said. "It shouldn't fly there, it shouldn't fly anywhere."

In response to the surge in focus, some of the nation's biggest retailers -- Walmart, Sears, eBay and Amazon -- also announced this week that they are prohibiting any Confederate flag merchandise from being sold in their stores.

Clinton commended those companies for their decision and urged "all sellers to do the very same."

"We can't hide from hard truths about race and justice, we have to name them, and own them, and change them," she added.

But Clinton's statement did not portray removing the flag from statehouses and stores as a cure to race issues in

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the United States. She said, instead, that it was "just the beginning of what we have to do."

Clinton's comments came during a roundtable event at Christ the King Church in Florissant, Missouri, a community just miles from Ferguson, where the shooting of a black male by a police officer in 2014 sparked protests and started an ongoing conversation about race and policing.

"Whether you live in Ferguson or West Baltimore, in coal country or Indian country, you should have the same chance as any American anywhere to get ahead and stay ahead," Clinton said.

Clinton also used the phrase "All lives matter" during a story about her mother, an interesting remark given how the phrase "Black Lives Matter" rose to national prominence during the Ferguson protests. "All Lives Matter" was a response by some to say no lives matter more than others.

In 2007, Hillary Clinton said she believed the Confederate flag should be "removed from the State House grounds" in part because "we should have one flag that we all pay honor to, as I know that most people in South Carolina do every single day."

On Saturday, as the conversation swirled, Brian Fallon, the Clinton campaign's press secretary, said the former presidential candidate's "position is unchanged from 2007."

After Haley announced her decision, Clinton tweeted: ".@nikkihaley is right 2 call for removal of a symbol of hate in SC. As I've said for years, taking down Confederate flag is long overdue. --H"

Other 2016 Democrats -- like former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders -- have called for the flag to be removed. And a handful of Republicans, including Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, supported Haley's decision to call for the flag removal.

Tuesday's event was hosted by Reverend Karen Anderson of Ward Chapel AME and Pastor Traci Blackmon of Christ the King, United Church of Christ. Both women have been involved in the post-Ferguson protests and conversation, including ministering to the protesters and preaching about the impact of Michael Brown's shooting in 2014.

Clinton's campaign announced last month she would be visiting Missouri, particularly for a fundraiser hosted by Trudy Busch Valentine, the heir to the well-known St. Louis brewing family.

But in light of the shooting in Charleston and the unrest in Ferguson, a Clinton aide said the candidate instructed her staff to find a church where she could meet with community leaders and talk about their work on race issues.

Clinton has run headfirst into issues of race since announcing her campaign in April, a departure from her failed 2008 bid.

On Saturday, Clinton told an audience in San Francisco that "America's long struggle with race is far from finished," despite how "tempting" it might be to isolate the Charleston shooting as a random event.

"I know this is a difficult topic to talk about," she said then. "I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black President we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we don't like to say

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out loud in discussions with our children, but we have to. That is the only way we can possibly move forward together."

Earlier in the week, Clinton called for a "candid national conversation about race and about discrimination, prejudice, hatred" in an interview, and said it was time for the United States to "face hard truths" about race in a speech before a host of Latino elected officials in Las Vegas.

Clinton to say removing the Confederate flag is important, but not the solution // CNN // Dan Merica – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton will argue Tuesday at an event near St. Louis that the groundswell of support in favor of removing the Confederate flag from statehouses and stores is an important step for the United States, but not the solution to addressing racial tensions.

Clinton will give remarks and participate in a roundtable at Christ the King Church in Florissant, Missouri, a community just miles from Ferguson, where the shooting of a black male by a police officer in 2014 sparked protests and started ongoing conversation about race and policing.

Clinton will "urge that in addition to the renewed conversation about the Confederate flag we can have, we must confront deeper, substantive issues around the racial divide that persists in America," an aide said ahead of the event.

Clinton's comments about the Confederate flag come days after Dylann Roof, a white supremacist killed nine men and women at a historic African American church in Charleston, South Carolina last week. The shooting has sparked a conversation about the Confederate flag, particularly the fact that the flag still flies in front of the South Carolina statehouse.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called for the flag to be removed from the grounds earlier this week as pressure mounted.

In 2007, Hillary Clinton said she believed the Confederate flag should be "removed from the Statehouse grounds" in part because "we should have one flag that we all pay honor to, as I know that most people in South Carolina do every single day."

On Saturday, as the conversation swirled, Brian Fallon, the Clinton campaign's press secretary, said the former presidential candidate's "position is unchanged from 2007."

After Haley announced her decision, Clinton tweeted: ".@nikkihaley is right 2 call for removal of a symbol of hate in SC. As I've said for years, taking down Confederate flag is long overdue. -H"

Other 2016 Democrats - like former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders - have called for the flag to be removed. And a handful of Republicans, including Sen. Rand Paul and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, supported Haley's decision to call for the flag removal.

Some of the nation's biggest retailers - Walmart, Sears, and eBay - also announced this week that they are prohibiting any Confederate flag merchandise for being sold in their stores.

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"We never want to offend anyone with the products that we offer," Walmart spokesman Brian Nick said.

In addition to addressing the Confederate flag conversation, Clinton will "talk about how we turn grief, anger and despair into purpose and action that will address the persistent problems facing communities like Florissant," the aide said.

The event will be hosted by Reverend Karen Anderson of Ward Chapel AME and Pastor Traci Blackmon of Christ the King, United Church of Christ. Both women have been involved involved in the post-Ferguson protests and conversation, including ministering to the protestors and preaching about the impact of Michael Brown's shooting in 2014.

Clinton's campaign announced she would be visiting Missouri last month, particularly for a fundraiser hosted by Trudy Busch Valentine, the heir to the well-known St. Louis brewing family.

But in light of the shooting in Charleston and the unrest in Ferguson, the Clinton aide said the candidate instructed her staff to find a church where she could meet with community leaders and talk about their work on race issues.

Clinton has run head first into issues of race since announcing her campaign in April, a departure from her failed 2008 bid.

On Saturday, Clinton told an audience in San Francisco that the United States' struggle with race is not over, arguing that as "tempting" as it is to isolate the Charleston shooting as a random event, "America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

"I know this is a difficult topic to talk about," she said. "I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black President we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we don't like to say out loud in discussions with our children, but we have to. That is the only way we can possibly move forward together."

Earlier in the week, Clinton called for a "candid national conversation about race and about discrimination, prejudice, hatred" in an interview, and said it was time for the United states to "face hard truths" about race in a speech before a host of Latino elected officials in Las Vegas.

'92 Confederate buttons weren't ours: Former Clinton aide // CBS // Hannah Fraser-Chanpong – June 23, 2015

A campaign button bearing the Confederate flag and emblazoned with the words "Clinton-Gore" sold for $8 on eBay but, according to a longtime aide to former President Bill Clinton, the button was not an official campaign item.

"I've never seen these buttons," Craig Smith told CBS News. "Don't have them, haven't seen them."

Ditch Confederate flag? Many S.C. lawmakers say yes

Smith oversaw state operations for Mr. Clinton's campaign in 1992, before moving on to work in the Clinton White House. Among his responsibilities on the trail was allocating staff to states and sending out campaign materials, like house party kits, t-shirts, yard signs and buttons, nationwide. Every item, he said, had to be made in the United States by union workers.

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"If it didn't have a union bug, we weren't making them," he said, "and we definitely weren't handing them out."

The button in question, and others featuring similar designs for sale or sold on eBay, does not show any indication of being union-made.

Smith added that individual states were given their own, small budget for "discretionary items" like state-specific merchandise. But those items had to include the state's name and follow the same production guidelines as items made for national distribution.

"It would have been in violation of multiple campaign policies," he said of a state producing a button like the ones sold online. "I just don't think they did it."

Smith said he thought the buttons were likely made by someone unaffiliated with the campaign looking to make a buck. He said if it had been pitched to him, it wouldn't have gotten past his desk.

"Not appropriate then," he said, "and not appropriate now."

Hillary Clinton: Country's Struggle With Race 'Far From Over' **// NBC // Andrew Rafferty – June 23, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said racism in America is "far from finished" and called the Confederate flag "a symbol of our nation's racist past" during a discussion at a church near last year's violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri.

The presidential frontrunner has focused her campaign on race relations following last week's deadly shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, where a white gunman is suspected of killing nine African-American church members. Her remarks at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Missouri, marked the third time she has spoken about the hate crime since Thursday.

"I know it's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America, bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists," Clinton said. "But, despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

The former secretary of State called the shooting "an act of racist terrorism" and applauded Republican leaders in South Carolina for pushing for the Confederate flag to be removed from the Capitol grounds.

She called the flag "a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our present or our future, it shouldn't fly there, it shouldn't fly anywhere."

She also called on sellers to follow Wal-Mart's lead and stop selling products that include the Confederate flag. Amazon, eBay and Sears have also stopped selling it.

Clinton said the country must give minorities the tools to "overcome the legacy of discrimination." That begins with early childhood education and continues with easier access to vote, including universal registration when Americans turn 18, she said.

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She also called for "common sense gun reform" and increasing communication between both police and the communities they serve.

The church she spoke at Tuesday was just a short drive from last year's violent protests in Ferguson after an 18-year-old unarmed black man was shot and killed by a white police officer. The officer was cleared of any wrongdoing after investigators found he acted in self-defense.

More retailers should remove Confederate flag products, Hillary Clinton says // LA Times // Kathleen Hennessey – June 23, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday praised Wal-Mart and other retailers for refusing to sell products bearing the Confederate flag, as she pushed for a broader conversation about modern-day, institutionalized racism and policies to address it.

Speaking at a black church near Ferguson, Mo., Clinton, who once served on the Wal-Mart board, urged “all sellers” to follow the lead set by the Arkansas-based retailer, as well as eBay, Amazon and Sears. Those companies have announced plans to purge their inventories of the Confederate symbol in the wake of the massacre in a Charleston, S.C., church.

Clinton also praised South Carolina leaders for steps toward removing the flag from the statehouse grounds. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and other state leaders have recognized the Confederate banner "as a symbol of our nation’s racist past that has no place in our present or our future,” Clinton said to cheers. “It shouldn’t fly there, it shouldn’t fly anywhere.”

The remarks represented Clinton's second extended discussion of racism in America since the shooting in a historically black church left nine black churchgoers dead last week.

As the leading Democratic contender for the presidency, Clinton has jumped into the national conversation that has followed the shooting. It has given her an opportunity to burnish her standing among her party’s liberal core, including African American voters, and to strike a strong contrast with Republicans.

On Tuesday, she took her campaign to Florissant, Mo., less than four miles from the spot where Michael Brown, a black 18-year-old, was shot last August by a white police officer, fueling the recent national debate over race and inequities in the justice system.

"All lives matter," Clinton declared, picking up on the rallying cry -- "black lives matter" -- of the movement that grew out of the protests in Ferguson, Mo.

In her brief remarks before a community meeting at Christ the King church in Florissant, Clinton labeled the attack on the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston an act of “racist terrorism.”

Many people, particularly in black communities, have suggested that "terrorism" is a word that would have immediately been applied to the shooting had the race of the suspected assailant and the victims been reversed. Authorities have charged Dylann Roof, a 21-year-old white man who appeared to embrace the Confederate flag as a symbol of his racist ideology, with murder and hate crimes.

"How do we make sense of such an evil act, an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God?" Clinton asked in her remarks Tuesday. "How do we turn grief, anger and despair into purpose and action?"

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The former secretary of State linked the current conversation to her domestic platform. She called for better early childhood education, changes to voting rules and reform of the criminal justice system.

"I know it's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America, bigotry is behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists," she said.

"But in spite our best efforts and highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

Hillary Clinton on course to win 2016 presidential election: Poll **// Economic Times – June 24, 2015**

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton is the firm favourite to be chosen as the Democratic Party nominee for 2016 US presidential polls and go on to be elected as the first woman president of America, according to a new poll.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll taken in the days after Clinton held her first public rally earlier this month, showed the former secretary of state garnering broad support for being chosen the Democratic presidential nominee.

Three-quarters of Democratic primary voters said Clinton was their top pick to be the nominee, compared with the 15 per cent who selected Bernie Sanders.

Clinton, 67, enters the 2016 contest with unusually broad support from fellow Democrats with some 92 per cent of Democratic primary voters saying they could see themselves supporting her and just 8 per cent saying they could not, according to the poll.

But it is not that Clinton just emerges as the strongest contender in the primary vote but the poll shows that she is looking set for a successful November 2016 election bid to become the first woman president of America.

The poll asked 1,000 likely voters about their opinions on potential presidential candidates, both Republican and Democrat.

It showed Clinton polling at 48 per cent to 40 per cent against her closest Republican contender, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the brother of former president George W Bush and son of former president George HW Bush.

Against the Florida senator Marco Rubio, Clinton polled 50 per cent against 40 per cent. And against Wisconsin governor Scott Walker she polled 51 per cent to 37 per cent.

The survey found that Americans are divided on whether they want the next president to be a Republican or a Democrat. But among many key demographic groups, Clinton outpaces the support for her party.

"The poll underscores Clinton's strength as a candidate, both among Democrats and key constituencies that could tip the balance in a general election. But the results also show a clear desire among Democratic voters for a rival to emerge and hint at potential cracks in her support," the Wall Street Journal said.

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Among Republican primary voters, the poll showed Bush ahead with 22 per cent of the vote. Walker was next with 17 per cent and Rubio third with 14 per cent.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson had 11 per cent, while former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee 9 per cent, libertarian senator Rand Paul 7 per cent, former Texas governor Rick Perry 5 per cent, New Jersey governor Chris Christie 4 per cent and Texas senator Ted Cruz 4 per cent were all in single figures.

Does Hillary Really Believe in the Hillary Doctrine? // New Republic // Jordan Michael Smith – June 23, 2015

In the run-up to her official 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton spoke at the Women in the World Summit in New York City in April. Some interpreted Clinton's remarks as evidence of her commitment to feminism. "The choice of the location in itself sends a strong signal," wrote Slate's Amanda Marcotte; "If there was any doubt that Clinton intends to run a woman-centric campaign, her speech erased it." Others viewed the speech as just another calculated exercise. "Hillary Unveils Her Plan to Advance Women's Rights (and Her Own Campaign)" read the headline of an article on New York magazine's website.

Such is the ambiguous nature of Clinton's image: Even more than most politicians, she inspires contrasting views about her authenticity. Does she really mean what she says?

Valerie M. Hudson and Patricia Leidl, the authors of The Hillary Doctrine: Sex and American Foreign Policy, have no doubts about the subject. "While perhaps others in the Obama administration might feel that the Hillary Doctrine is some type of rhetorical flourish, it is impossible to believe that is the case for Clinton herself," they write. The idea of a "Hillary Doctrine" was first propagated in a 2011 Newsweek cover story that defined it as the belief that "the subjugation of women is a direct threat to the security of the United States." Hillary first espoused this idea in a speech to the United Nations delivered as Secretary of State, and she reinforced it with policies, ordering all components of the State Department to undertake gender analyses of their areas of responsibility, for example.

Well, that's the Hillary Doctrine they discuss. Different "Hillary Doctrines" have been proclaimed by others. David Rohde (or his headline writers) defined it as belief that a bipartisan, long-term commitment to stabilizing far-off nations is essential to American security. Last August, John Cassidy argued that the Hillary Doctrine could be found in the Clinton's idea of "a sustained global campaign targeting radical Islam (some, doubtless, will call it a 'crusade') that encompasses all of the options at the disposal of the United States and its allies: military, diplomatic, economic, political, and rhetorical." Most recently, James Goldgeier, a State Department official during Bill Clinton's presidency, outlined the Hillary Doctrine as a worldview that "appreciates the limitations of U.S. power and yet still maintains the resolve to identify opportunities to lead the world." Clinton certainly highlighted issues facing girls and women as Secretary of State. But did she devote most of the considerable resources of her office toward implementing her rhetoric surrounding this issue?

Professors at Texas A&M and Michigan State, respectively, Hudson and Leidl make significant efforts to suggest that she did. After a brief history of the evolution of gender's place in American foreign-policymaking, they present research demonstrating the relationship between a nation's stability and its gender equality. Some of this pioneering research was conducted by Hudson herself; she examined 141 nations and found that the best predictor of a state's internal and external peacefulness was its level of violence against women. The Hillary Doctrine presents Guatemala as a case study in the argument that there is a "link between gendercide and genocide," and Saudi Arabia as a case for the argument that there is a link between a nation's attitudes toward its women and the risk that the country poses to the international community.

They note "a conspicuous silence" from Clinton about Saudi Arabia's brutal gender abuses, however, which underlines a wrinkle in their thesis. The Hillary Doctrine generously suggests that "perhaps Clinton believes that issues of women's status are best left to private conversations are the highest level of diplomacy." Perhaps. Or perhaps Clinton prioritizes the preservation of good relations with a major oil-producing country in the Gulf favorable to America over issues of human rights, like every other Secretary of State since Franklin Roosevelt's presidency.

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It would be an overstatement to say that the book is a glowing endorsement of the likely 2016 Democratic nominee. Hudson and Leidl freely admit that "the scorecard for the Hillary Doctrine is mixed." In areas such as the number of female ambassadors, the increased scrutiny the State Department gave to other nations' records on gender, and the inclusion of women in peace talks in Sudan and Afghanistan, Clinton's record shines. But Afghanistan can be seen as something of a failure failure, one where "the rights of women and girls continue to be cynically disregarded even as the [Western] coalition mumbles about the necessity of gender equality."

What The Hillary Doctrine fails to do is to justify the premise behind "The Hillary Doctrine:" that achieving gender equality is essential to the direct security of the United States. Achieving equality for girls and women around the world is a worthy aim, and America should pursue it for that reason alone. But arguing that America cannot be secure unless women are on par with men in every country in the world is an exercise in threat inflation. It also establishes a bar for American security that is both unrealizable and unnecessary.

No nation is perfectly secure, but America is as secure as any major power in world history. As Michael Cohen and Micah Zenko put it in a brilliant 2012 Foreign Affairs essay, "The United States faces no plausible existential threats, no great-power rival, and no near-term competition for the role of global hegemon." And yet, analysts continue to act as though America is beset by dangers. Yes, it is in America's "national security interests" to operate in a less sexist world. But it is not clear that it is in America's vital interests to operate in such a world. At least not if one defines "vital interest" as something that is necessary for a country to function with secure territory and sovereignty.

The Hillary Doctrine admirably forefronts the idea that the safety of women worldwide is a pressing moral issue. But it would have been more effective if it had better explained why this moral issue merits policymakers' finite attention and money. Instead, it endorses the idea that the country cannot be safe unless one of the world's most universal, long-standing, and intractable inequities is rectified. If Hillary Clinton is elected president next year, let's hope she knows the difference.

Hillary's Bernie Sanders problem: She wants to embrace populism and Wall Street at the same time //
Salon // Adam Green – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton wants to be known as an economic populist. She also wants to be known as a supporter of the American Dream who celebrates when people move from rags to riches.

These two ideals are not mutually exclusive, as Sen. Elizabeth Warren proves consistently when she tells her story of moving up from the ragged edges of the middle class while calling for our economic system to be unrigged so more Americans can enjoy upward mobility. But Clinton appears to be feeling a tension right now, trying to figure out how to present a vision that represents both of these ideals.

Two months ago she said, "The deck is stacked in favor of those at the top" and "my job is to reshuffle the cards." At her kickoff rally this weekend, she said "everybody will have a better time" on her watch – Wall Street bankers and the poor alike.

These are vastly different things. One signals she will challenge power, the other does not. One challenges ill-gotten gains, the other does not.

Clinton seems more pensive now than in 2008 – attempting to apply a heightened authenticity and level of reflection. But her laudable attempt to find language that meshes populism with an optimistic celebration of success has resulted in unnecessarily parsed words that risk hurting her authenticity and could be read as taking positions that one hopes she does not actually hold.

Rhetoric about lifting the fortunes of "all Americans" sounds good until you consider bad actors: Wall Street bankers who break the law and pad their pockets as millions of people lose their jobs and homes. Hedge fund

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managers who enrich themselves by gambling away people's pensions. Credit card scammers who profit by miring people in years of spiraling debt. Crony capitalists who invest millions in political donations in order to skew the tax and regulatory codes and get a return on investment of billions.

This is the opposite of the American Dream – some Americans actively hurting other Americans, cutting corners to enrich themselves while taking away the dream for others. Clinton's pronouncement that "I'm not running for some Americans, but for all Americans" papers over the question of whether she will pick a side when powerful interests attack everyday families.

Especially after Wall Street banks admitted to fraud, the illegal taking of people's homes, and other criminal activity that hurt millions of families, Americans need to hear more than a rising-tide-lifts-all-boats message from our next president. To inspire voters, and be a populist champion in this populist moment, Clinton needs to acknowledge that bad actors exist and show that she will fight to take away their power and ill-gotten gains.

To be clear, this does not mean vilifying all wealth or success. After all, most Americans don't lump the Google and Netflix founders in the same class as the Koch brothers, Jamie Dimon or Bernie Madoff. Clinton is right when she said recently in New Hampshire, "I don't think Americans are against success."

But she limits the potential of a Clinton presidency, and hurts her authenticity and populist bona fides as she seeks that presidency, when she unnecessarily narrows the scope of her argument to saying, "Americans are against people who get on the top of the ladder and start pulling it up."

Greed is one thing. Law breaking that destroys our economy and hurts millions of people's lives is another. Greed has existed forever. Law breaking by increasingly large Wall Street actors is what led to the financial collapse that took away the American Dream for so many everyday families.

There are more than 400,000 chief executives across our nation. If Clinton wants most CEOs to see their own economic fortunes rise by paying employees larger wages and pumping up the demand side of our economy, that's great. If she wants to make America's economic pie bigger so everyone has a shot at earning a bigger piece, that's a great part of the solution.

But when we know that some of the most powerful CEOs and hedge fund managers break the law and profit by taking away people's dreams, and when we know crony capitalists use campaign donations to bend the law and avoid taxes and regulation, it is insufficient to say, "Prosperity can't be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers."

Americans need to hear explicitly that Wall Street lawbreakers and crony capitalists would not see their piece of the economic pie grow under a Clinton presidency. Instead, the ill-gotten gains and power of bad actors must be reduced – not because of jealousy, but because they are mutually exclusive with millions of hardworking Americans being able to fully live out their dreams.

Therefore, Clinton saying "prosperity can't be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers" is good, but not sufficient.

It should not be controversial for Clinton to say what Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders have both said – that if a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist. That's just obvious. So is the idea that Wall Street bankers who break the law should go to jail – a proposition that Iowa voters agree with by nearly 20-to-1. And Clinton should assure voters that her Treasury secretary, attorney general, SEC commissioners and appointed regulators would crack down on Wall Street bad actors who put our economy at risk.

For Clinton to embrace this economic populist moment and inspire primary and general election voters alike, she must show a willingness to challenge power – plus offer big ideas that invest in our economy like debt-free college,

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massive investment in infrastructure and clean-energy jobs, higher worker wages, and expanding Social Security benefits. That's the bold economic vision Americans want and need.

How Much Will Demographics Help Hillary Clinton? // NY Mag // Jonathan Chait – June 23, 2015

Only a few years ago, the basic premise of the Emerging Democratic Majority — the theory that Democratic-leaning constituencies were growing as a share of the population — was deeply controversial. Analysts like Sean Trende denied before the 2012 election that the nonwhite vote was likely to continue rising at all. Now it is more or less a matter of general agreement, and the dispute has moved on to what it means.

David Wasserman crunches some numbers and predicts the level of demographic change that will be brought to bear on the 2016 electorate. The white vote is expected to drop from 72 percent of the electorate to 70 percent. Wasserman calculates that if every cohort votes the same way as in 2012, the Democratic margin will grow from the 3.85 percent margin that separated Barack Obama from Mitt Romney to 5.4 percent. Here is the state-by-state breakdown:

Supporters cheer as Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, bottom center, arrives to speak at her first campaign rally at Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island in New York, U.S., on Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Like many neutral and even liberal analysts, Wasserman frames this finding in a very cautious way. His headline is "Mapping the 2016 Electorate: Demographics Don't Guarantee a Democratic White House." And, of course, nobody thinks demographics guarantee a Democratic White House. Maybe Republicans can do a much better job of mobilizing their base than the Democrats this time, or maybe a big event like a recession will darken the skies for the Democrats. But in a closely divided electorate with relatively few swing voters, one and a half percentage points is a lot.

If You Buy a Onesie From the Hillary Clinton Campaign Store, You Are Basically Selling Your Soul // NY Post // Jaime Fuller – June 23, 2015

Peak campaign-email season has not arrived just yet. The primaries are still many months away, and although candidates want to make sure that you know they exist, they know they probably have money and resources to pilfer from you yet.

Now, in the lazy summer heat, campaigns are content to simply get to know you, and one of the best ways to do that, as the New York Times shows, is by convincing you to buy an incredibly useless bit of merchandise from their online stores.

There, candidates aren't only getting you to wear their brand out in broad daylight; they are learning your fears and dreams and whether you are the sort of person who will wear a pantsuit T-shirt in public. Even Rand Paul, patron saint of privacy, is not above using his campaign store to find out if you are a libertarian millennial who likes to party — otherwise known as someone who bought a Rand Paul cornhole set — or a libertarian yuppie who wears turtlenecks and invites friends over to eat cheese — otherwise known as someone who doesn't mind that their wine glasses say Rand Paul on them.

This is valuable information. As the campaigns learn more about individual voters they will be able to target them in a way that convinces supporters to give more money or volunteer for the campaign — just like Amazon learns how to read your mind and puts products you desperately want to buy on your homepage.

If you buy a pride T-shirt from Bernie Sanders, you will likely get an email from his campaign on how he feels about the upcoming Supreme Court decision on marriage equality. If you buy a "Future Voter" onesie from Hillary Clinton, she is going to start giving you updates on Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky — and tell you about her stance on paid leave. If you buy a Ted Cruz phone case, his campaign might send you an email about signing up for text updates or his social-media accounts. If you buy a Mike Huckabee polo shirt, you will probably get all the

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emails because you have signaled that you will spend money on anything.

This isn't the only way that campaigns are learning about you online, as National Journal points out. Even the emails you get after you buy something are testing what you like and what words are going to be most effective in getting you to part with your money, thanks to A/B testing, a practice now used by basically all organizations that send out emails for profit or fund-raising. "Looking at it cynically," National Journal concludes, "mining Internet users' data for political gain sounds vaguely Orwellian, where voters are turned into unwitting guinea pigs in a giant social experiment. Looking at it pragmatically, it's just smart business."

If this freaks you out, you can always wait until Urban Outfitters releases the 2015 version of its "2 Legit 2 Mitt" T-shirts, although no studies have proven that receiving daily "25 percent off" emails from Urban Outfitters is a slower way to make you lose your mind than daily emails from a 2016 candidate — or 20.

Pataki: Hillary Clinton likely broke law **// Boston Herald // Chris Cassidy – June 23, 2015**

Former New York Gov. George Pataki slammed Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton yesterday for “probably” breaking the law by erasing emails on a private server that likely left information open to Chinese hackers.

“It’s clear to me that having that home server not only violated State Department rules and regulations, deleting those emails was probably a crime because she had good reason to know that Congress wanted to see what was in them,” Pataki said on Boston Herald

Radio.

“But what is most disturbing to me is that the Chinese in all likelihood know what every one of those 30,000 emails said. The American people don’t. Congress doesn’t. The State Department don’t. That is wrong.”

Pataki also criticized New Hampshire television station WMUR for not pressing Clinton harder during a one-on-one last week, when she lamented the vulnerability of the State Department’s servers, but never mentioned her own.

“That’s exactly the question that any decent reporter would ask if they were trying to get to really learn something and get some real answers,” said Pataki, who made the comments on Herald

Radio’s “Morning Meeting” show.

“And I can’t believe they didn’t ask it. Well, actually I can believe they didn’t ask it.”

Pataki claimed the entire incident shows that Clinton is more concerned about her own political reputation than protecting the security of sensitive information.

“Clearly, Hillary’s basement server isn’t going to have that level of protection,” he added.

“It was grossly irresponsible for her to do this. It poses a tremendous security risk to America. But more importantly, it raises questions about her judgment in so many ways. She is so concerned about her political career that she will jeopardize

critical American communications.”

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Hillary Clinton on course to win presidential election, poll says // Guardian // Jessica Glenza – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton is on course to win the Democratic primary and would go on to trounce her Republican opponents, according to a new poll.

The NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that the former secretary of state was the first choice for nominee of 75% of her party, with Vermont socialist Bernie Sanders far behind on 15%.

Analysis Clinton v Bush: America is getting the dynastic matchup it said it didn't want

Despite rivals' protestations, Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush enjoy the support of their own party's voters. But the other party's dynasty candidate? Not a chance

Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, was on 2%, while Lincoln Chafee, the former governor of Rhode Island, polled less than 1%. Former Virginia senator Jim Webb, who has not yet formally declared he is running, was on 4%.

According to the poll, 92% of likely Democratic voters said they could see themselves supporting Clinton.

The poll asked 1,000 likely voters about their opinions on potential presidential candidates, both Republican and Democrat.

It showed Clinton polling at 48% to 40% against her closest Republican contender, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the brother of former president George W Bush and son of former president George HW Bush.

Against the Florida senator Marco Rubio, Clinton polled 50% against 40%. And against Wisconsin governor Scott Walker she polled 51% to 37%.

Among Republican primary voters, the poll showed Bush ahead with 22% of the vote. Walker was next with 17% and Rubio third with 14%. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson had 11%, while former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee (9%), libertarian senator Rand Paul (7%), former Texas governor Rick Perry (5%), New Jersey governor Chris Christie (4%) and Texas senator Ted Cruz (4%) were all in single figures.

The poll is likely to encourage the Clinton camp, whose campaign got off to a rough start when questions arose about Clinton's use of personal email as secretary of state, this spring. But it is possible that early polls may not reflect the true strength of Clinton's challengers.

Republican pollster Bill McInturff told the Wall Street Journal that Clinton had "the strongest and most advantageous" standing among Democrats he had seen in 35 years of campaign polling. "She starts with advantages among very important groups," he said. McInturff conducted the poll with Democrat Fred Yang.

Clinton's high rankings could be buoyed by increasingly positive support numbers for her 2008 rival Barack Obama, whose approval rating is up by 8 percentage points to 48% since September 2014, when it hit an all-time low of 40% according to the same polls.

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Among Republican candidates, Bush and Rubio remain neck and neck, with 75% and 74% of respondents saying they could see themselves supporting the candidates in a Republican primary. Bush pulls away slightly in favorability rankings, pulling 5% ahead of Walker with 22%, and 8% ahead of Rubio.

Most see Clinton as a moderate candidate (58%) who is trustworthy because of her “experience and background” (59%).

Respondents were fairly split over which party the next president should be from, with Republicans scoring 36% and Democrats 39%.

Ongoing concerns going into the election could set the mood for the campaign. A “decline in traditional moral values” was rated as the most alarming trend in America of all respondents (25%), seconded by possible terrorist attacks on the US (18%), while corporate and wealthy individuals’ influence over elections was rated as the most disconcerting facet of the upcoming campaign (33%).

Clinton on Flying Confederate Flag: Not in South Carolina, Not Anywhere // National Journal // Emily Schultheis – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton Tuesday praised the South Carolina legislature for its decision to take down the Confederate flag—but she that it is only an initial step in "America's long struggle with race."

"It shouldn't fly there, it shouldn't fly anywhere," Clinton told a community meeting at Christ the King church in Florissant, Missouri, Tuesday afternoon.

Clinton also said she wanted to "commend" Walmart (she once sat on the company's board) for ceasing to sell items that picture the Confederate flag, noting that other companies—Amazon, eBay, and Sears among them—have followed. "I urge all sellers to do the very same," she said.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley announced Monday that the flag would be taken down from the South Carolina State Capitol in Columbia, the week after a white-supremacist gunman killed nine African-Americans in a Charleston church. The killings brought new attention to the flag's history, prompting most of the 2016 field to weigh in on whether or not it should be flown.

Clinton's speech was in Florissant, a Missouri town near Ferguson, where questions about race and violence flared last summer after unarmed black teenager Michael Brown was shot and killed by a police officer.

Clinton told her audience that getting the country to a better place on questions of race and violence will involve dealing with broader issues of inequality, access to education, and economic opportunity. "You know and I know that's just the beginning of what we have to do," she said. "The truth is equality, opportunity, civil rights in America are still far from where they need to be."

To that end, Clinton repeated her calls for "common-sense gun reforms" and voting reforms like automatic universal voter registration and early voting for every state. "Whether you live in Ferguson or West Baltimore, coal country or Indian country, you should have the same chance ... to get ahead and stay ahead," she said.

On Monday, The Huffington Post reported on Confederate symbolism on the Arkansas flag, noting that Clinton's husband—former President Bill Clinton—had not moved to remove the symbols during his time as Arkansas governor.

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Hillary Clinton Has an Idea Conservatives Should Get Behind // National Review // Reihan Salam – June 23, 2015

Rather surprisingly, Hillary Clinton made a shrewd policy announcement last week. Until recently, Clinton's main answer to sluggish wage growth has been to cheer on labor activists calling for a higher minimum wage. Yet she has just embraced a far more attractive policy proposal that enjoys considerable bipartisan support. Drawing on legislation backed by Senators Tim Scott (R., S.C.) and Cory Booker (D., N.J.), Clinton is calling for a new tax credit that would encourage employers to create and expand apprenticeship programs. Conservatives would do well to follow her lead, and to go further.

To understand the appeal of apprenticeships, consider a central dilemma facing employers and workers alike. Many employers report that they are struggling to find qualified workers to fill vacant jobs, despite high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young adults. One obvious solution would be for employers to hire on the basis of a worker's potential to do a job well rather than her ability to do it well right off the bat, and then to provide the worker in question with the necessary training. This is easier said than done, however, as this training process can be costly. And once a worker is fully trained, she may well jump ship to another employer, in which case the employer who provided the training will have wasted a lot of time and money.

Workers could endeavor to ready themselves for the labor market by, say, enrolling in a local community college. But even the best vocational curriculum is no substitute for on-the-job learning. As Peter Cappelli, a leading expert on job training at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, has observed, schools are not well-suited to providing work-based skills and experience. "Instead," he argues, "employers need to be much more involved, not just in telling schools what they want but in providing opportunities for new grads to get work experience and learn the relevant expertise." Apprenticeships are one way to square this circle. Essentially, apprenticeships allow entry-level workers to gain work-based skills and experience at a wage commensurate with the fact that they have yet to master their new jobs. As a general rule, apprenticeships combine work with classroom instruction, and they culminate in some kind of occupational credential. Employers benefit by expanding the ranks of qualified workers they can hire as full-fledged employees. Workers benefit by gaining skills and experience they couldn't gain otherwise.

Given the potential benefits of apprenticeships, why are they so rare in the U.S.? Why aren't employers flocking to establish apprenticeship programs, even in the absence of a tax credit? Don't forget the risk that newly trained workers might decide to go from one employer to another. Employers can mitigate this risk by paying an apprentice a somewhat lower wage while she gains skills and experience, but not necessarily by enough to make an apprenticeship program an attractive proposition. By offering a modest public subsidy, like the tax credit proposed by Scott and Booker (and now Clinton), apprenticeship programs would become a better bet for more employers.

Of course, money doesn't grow on trees. Why should we spend scarce resources on increasing funding for apprenticeships rather than something else entirely? Robert Lerman of the Brookings Institution, an economist who has been advocating the expansion of apprenticeships for years, has cited promising research from Washington State on the long-term impact of apprenticeships:

Studies show U.S. apprenticeships are extraordinarily cost-effective. Analyses conducted for Washington State's Workforce Board show that taxpayers net almost three times their spending on apprenticeships within two and a half years of the program's completion, and the combined benefits accruing to participants and taxpayers are about five times the costs. By the time former apprentices reach age 65, benefits to taxpayers reach $23 for each dollar spent.

These findings should not be treated as definitive, and it is entirely possible that Washington State is an idiosyncratic case and that its experience might not apply elsewhere. Nevertheless, there is mounting evidence that on-the-job learning has benefits that traditional higher education does not, which makes it all the more striking that taxpayers spend so much on higher education while spending so little on helping young people gain meaningful work experience. Lerman has noted that increasing federal and state funding for apprenticeships

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threefold would mean spending a small fraction (2 percent) of the 2013 increase in funding for college loans. The case for rebalancing federal spending from traditional higher education to other post-secondary alternatives, including apprenticeship programs, is quite strong.

Even if we accept that it makes sense for the public sector to invest in apprenticeship programs, why should the federal government play a role? South Carolina, for example, has created a successful statewide apprenticeship program at relatively low cost. While state initiatives can and should continue, the case for a federal role is simply that state governments don't have a strong incentive to finance the training of workers who might eventually move to other states to take full advantage of their skills. Workers enrolled in apprenticeship programs in South Carolina might eventually make their way to North Dakota, and while that might not be ideal from the perspective of South Carolina, it's not a bad thing at all for the country as a whole. This isn't to say that the federal government should micromanage apprenticeship programs — far from it. Ideally, different firms and jurisdictions would pursue different approaches, tailored to different job functions and to different populations of workers. But a modest federal tax credit is a perfectly reasonable first step to take.

There is another reason to support the expansion of apprenticeship programs, albeit a more tentative one. Lerman has suggested that on-the-job training can engage many young people who struggle with formal education, and that it can help them become better husbands and fathers. University of Virginia sociologist Brad Wilcox has in a similar vein identified apprenticeships as a key part of a broader strategy to strengthen the economic foundations of marriage. Are they right to suggest that apprenticeships will make much of a difference in promoting family stability? I can't say. Yet the possibility is intriguing, particularly for those who see the presence of stable male parents in the home as important to the success of young men.

Clinton is the first presidential candidate to make apprenticeships a centerpiece of her domestic-policy agenda. But there is no reason she should be the last. Indeed, one could argue that apprenticeships are a better fit for conservatives than for liberals. After all, it's the left-of-center coalition to which Clinton belongs that is so committed to the care and feeding of the public higher-education institutions that have done such a poor job of preparing young Americans for the workforce.

Beghazi panel chairman: State Dept. didn't hand over requested emails / / The Hill // Martin Matishak – June 23, 2015

The leader of the House Select Committee on Benghazi says the State Department has failed to produce any copies it might possess of recently disclosed emails between Hillary Clinton and adviser Sidney Blumenthal.

"This is a straightforward question — State Department either has them or they do not," chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) said in a statement Tuesday.

"State should immediately produce to the committee emails that should have been produced months ago or explain why it is not in possession of these emails from Secretary Clinton," he added. "Either response has ramifications toward a full public record. This should be neither complicated nor time consuming."

Gowdy criticized the department the day after his panel released nearly 60 emails Blumenthal turned over to the select committee earlier this month.

He challenged the State Department to determine whether or not the agency already possessed them, giving the agency until close of business Monday to respond.

The department has asked for an extension, according to Gowdy.

The memos between Blumenthal and Clinton are separate from a batch of nearly 300 messages from Clinton's private email server that the State Department made public last month.

That initial cache showed Clinton had received about 25 memos from Blumenthal regarding Libya while she was

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secretary of State.

On Monday, State Department spokesman John Kirby said the agency was “working through” its inventory of messages to “determine if there are emails in that batch that we either didn't have or may have not provided.”

“Now I will say at least that the more that is asked for in terms of scope, the more resources it will consume here at the State Department, and the more time it will take. There's no doubt about that,” he added. “But ... it's up to them to determine what they want to look at.”

Gowdy dismissed that argument.

"Every request to State is met with delay, a request for extension and pleading to narrow the scope," he said. "The reality is the State Department under both Secretaries [John] Kerry and Clinton has failed in its obligation to provide transparency for the American people and congressional investigators.”

Gowdy added that panel Democrats "could help speed the process if they would stop providing cover and join the majority in demanding State step-up production."

"In the end, if President Obama and Secretary Kerry want to fulfill the President's pledge of the most transparent administration in history, they will ensure the Executive Branch complies with the Select Committee's outstanding requests," he added.

The Clintons, immune to scandal // The Hill // Richard Benedetto – June 23, 2015

Ever since Bill and Hillary Clinton publicly inoculated themselves on CBS's "60 Minutes" on Super Bowl Sunday in 1992 by admitting to "problems" in their marriage, they have been largely immune from a steady stream of maladies that might have killed most politicians.

From Gennifer Flowers to Paula Jones to Monica Lewinsky, it helped them survive a series of so-called "bimbo eruptions" — as Betsey Wright, Bill Clinton's deputy campaign chair in 1992, referred to them — that could have blocked or ended Bill's presidency.

As a bonus side-effect, the injected serum produced a thick skin and the keen ability to display pluck, defiance, combativeness and a skill for bending the truth that helped weather a long string of '90s scandals and controversies. They included Bill Clinton's past efforts to avoid the military draft during the Vietnam War, the questionable Whitewater land deal, various controversial presidential pardons, playing fast and loose with campaign fundraising rules, mishandling FBI background files on Republicans and "renting" the Lincoln bedroom to contributors.

And now, that serum seems still effective against a fusillade of charges focused on Hillary Clinton's secretive handling of her emails while secretary of State, her reaction to the Benghazi attack in Libya, her high-priced speaking fees and the financial sleight of hand between the couple's charitable foundation and foreign donors seeking approvals from the U.S. government while she was in the Obama Cabinet.

If any one of the current band of 2016 Republican presidential hopefuls was faced with just one such allegation, chances are they would be shamed and forced out of the race, hounded by a news media and a political opposition that would not let them talk about anything else.

But Hillary Clinton skates on in her 2016 Democratic bid for the White House largely immune. Despite the well-publicized controversies, polls show that although ratings of her character and integrity have taken a big hit, she still would beat any one of her many potential GOP rivals in the 2016 election. The serum is still potent.

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It wasn't long ago that far-smaller transgressions than the Clintons' brought lightning-quick ends to presidential candidacies. Hillary Clinton need look no farther than the current vice president, Joe Biden, who had his 1988 run for the Democratic presidential nomination brought down in flames in 1987 by charges of plagiarism and exaggeration of his academic record.

Democratic front-runner Sen. Gary Hart (Colo.) was chased out earlier that same year for having an extramarital affair with model Donna Rice.

And the end came quickly. An embarrassed Biden quit the race just two weeks after the plagiarism charges surfaced. A defiant Hart was out in less than a week, only to return six months later in a woeful comeback attempt.

Biden, then a U.S. senator, said in his dropout statement that the incessant pressure from the news media hampered his ability to campaign and at the same time chair the Senate Judiciary Committee, which was then considering President Reagan's controversial nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.

Some might argue that Biden and Hart flopped in a far different time, and that such behaviors might be more easily tolerated in today's evolving live-and-let-live atmosphere. But then again, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D) resigned in 2008 when it was revealed that he hired prostitutes. And New York Rep. Anthony Weiner (D) quit his House seat in 2011 after texting suggestive photos and messages to young women. Ironically, Weiner's wife, Huma Abedin, is a top aide in Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Which brings us back to the Clintons, and more specifically Hillary and her various ethical and veracity problems, not to mention questions about her competence to serve in the highest office in the land. By far, the most serious allegation against the Clintons is that they extorted millions of dollars in speaking fees and six-figure donations to their charitable foundation in return for State Department favors while Hillary was secretary of State.

If that could be proved, such behavior might bring criminal charges and possibly prison terms. But with Hillary Clinton having sole control of her government and personal emails, and having said that she destroyed those emails she deemed personal, legal proof of a quid pro quo would be nearly impossible to secure. The only other way would be if donors were willing to talk under oath in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

A recent high-profile case has some parallels. Former Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R), a rising GOP star, and his wife, Maureen, were found guilty last year of public corruption after they were charged with providing preferred government treatment to Johnnie Williams Sr., a businessman with a dietary supplement to sell. Federal prosecutors charged that Williams bribed the McDonnells for state favors with golf outings, fancy vacations, expensive gifts such as a Rolex watch and $120,000 in sweetheart loans. Williams, who had immunity, testified against the McDonnells, saying they helped him set up meetings with state officials to pitch his product.

The gifts and loans to the McDonnells are chickenfeed compared to the money lavished on the Clintons and their foundation. Yet, the McDonnells, whose convictions are on appeal, are facing prison terms. No federal prosecutors appear eager to look into the Clintons' case, as they were to investigate the McDonnells. Could that be because President Obama is their boss?

Talk about immunity.

Back to the 1990s: Fact-checking Whitewater **// Politifact // Christian Belanger Linda Qiu – June 24, 2015**

Former President Bill Clinton said in a recent interview that questions over Hillary Clinton’s trustworthiness have been put to rest in the past and will be again.

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Speaking on CNN's State of the Union, Clinton compared the media frenzy over leaked emails, speaking fees, and Clinton Foundation donations with a 1995 Whitewater report that he said "completely exonerated" Hillary Clinton.

"There had been a lot of discussion in this period about disclosure," he said. "You know, everybody wants disclosure, but I think what's good for the goose is good for the gander here. For example, I remember when Hillary was completely exonerated, when I was in the White House, in all that Whitewater business, when an official federal inquiry said that her billing records, they wished for her sake could have been found earlier, because they completely corroborated everything she'd said.

"And the next day, there was nothing in the media about it. There was stunning nondisclosure. So, now we have got social media, and we can have disclosure. And we can all live under the same rules. And it's going to be fine."

We delved into the details of Clinton's comments in two fact-checks. As for whether Hillary Clinton was "completely exonerated," we rated that Mostly True. As for whether the media ignored the story the next day, we rated that Half True. Read our fact-checks to take a trip in time back to the '90s.

Did Hillary Clinton have her name on only three laws in eight years as Jeb Bush says? // PolitiFact // Amy Sherman – June 23, 2015

As Jeb Bush reels off his accomplishments as governor cutting taxes and slashing state jobs, he says he's ready to put his record up against Hillary Clinton's.

A day after his announcement speech at Miami Dade College, Fox News' Sean Hannity asked Bush to comment on the Democrat's record.

Hannity: "Can you name in a serious way one specific Hillary accomplishment, or what would you say that's good about her?"

Bush: "She's smart. I think she's smart. I think she loves her country. I don't ascribe bad motives for people that I don't agree with. But as a senator, I think she passed -- she has her name on three laws in eight years."

There is some truth to Bush's claim about laws passed, but it doesn't tell the full story about her legislative accomplishments as a senator.

Laws with Clinton's name

Clinton was first elected as a senator from New York in 2000 and re-elected in 2006. She resigned to become secretary of state, so her Senate tenure was from January 2001 to January 2009.

Bush's spokesman sent us a list of three bills Clinton sponsored hat became law. These laws were uncontroversial matters that passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and voice vote in the House and then were signed by President George W. Bush:

S. 1241: A bill to establish the Kate Mullany National Historic Site in the State of New York. Bush signed the bill

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Dec. 3, 2004.

S. 3613: A bill to name a post office the "Major George Quamo Post Office Building." Bush signed the bill Oct. 6, 2006.

S. 3145: A bill to designate a highway in New York as the Timothy J. Russert highway. Bush signed the bill July 23, 2008.

But there are other ways that Senators can influence legislation even if they don't end up as the sponsor of the final version:

Co-sponsored bills: There were 74 bills that became law that Clinton co-sponsored. For example, she was one of 54 cosponsors on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, signed in January 2009 by President Barack Obama. (The fact that she co-sponsored these bills doesn't tell us much about her role in their passage, but Bush referred to bills that "she has her name" on, so it's worth noting those she co-sponsored.)

She co-sponsored one version but another version passed: For example, she co-sponsored S.1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in January 2009 while the version that passed was H.R. 1.

Sponsored amendments: She put forward amendments that influenced laws sponsored by others. She sponsored three amendments on a bill for security and disaster funding. The amendments passed in 2007 and the bill passed in 2008.

Two experts who study Congress -- Norman Ornstein, a scholar at American Enterprise Institute, and Sarah Binder, a political science professor at George Washington University and Brookings Institution scholar -- said that the number of sponsored or co-sponsored bills signed into law isn't a thorough measure of effectiveness or productivity for a member of the Senate.

"Offering amendments on the floor, holding hearings, contributing to oversight, helping to negotiate agreements, pushing federal agencies to be responsive to constituents back home -- all of these might contribute to making a senator 'effective,' but none of these endeavors of course would show up in a count of bills sponsored or passed or enacted," Binder said.

As for Bush's claim about the number of laws "she has her name on," Binder said that it's fair game to also look at the number of bills Clinton co-sponsored.

"Because 'have her name on' is so vague, I don't see the grounds on which to exclude co-sponsored bills," she said.

Ornstein said that the names that go on bills of any real significance are the committee chairs -- for example the Dodd-Frank 2010 banking reform bill. Sen. Chris Dodd and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank were the major figures behind the law, but other senators also had roles and don't have their names on the bill.

Meanwhile, the Affordable Care Act "does not have Al Franken's name on it, but a really important provision, the medical-loss ratio, was his handiwork," Ornstein said. "Effectiveness can be a behind-the-scenes role, adding a serious amendment, working inside to get the language exactly right. By any reasonable standard, including the private comments of her colleagues on both sides of the aisle when she was in the Senate, she was very effective."

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Our ruling

Bush said that as a senator, Clinton had her name "on three laws in eight years."

Bush used vague language here, so it's fair game to look at the three sponsored bills and the 74 co-sponsored ones that passed. Also, congressional experts warn that legislative influence goes beyond having your name as a sponsor or co-sponsor. Senators weigh in with amendments, debate and negotiations.

The statement is partially accurate, but leaves out important details so we rate this claim Half True.

No media coverage of Hillary Clinton's 'exoneration' in Whitewater, says Bill Clinton **// PolitiFact //**
Christian Belanger and Linda Qiu – June 23, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton said in a recent interview that questions over his wife's trustworthiness have been put to rest in the past and will be again.

Speaking on CNN's State of the Union, Clinton compared the media frenzy over leaked emails, speaking fees, and Clinton Foundation donations with a 1995 Whitewater report that he said "completely exonerated" Hillary Clinton.

Back then, the alleged exoneration didn't get much traction in the news, he said.

"The next day, there was nothing in the media about it. There was stunning nondisclosure," he said on June 14. "So, now we have got social media, and we can have disclosure. And we can all live under the same rules. And it's going to be fine."

His claim about missing coverage of Whitewater was as surprising to us as it was to the incredulous Clinton, so we decided to delve into the archives and see if we could confirm his claim. In a separate fact-check, we looked at the claim that the report "completely exonerated" her. That earned a rating of Mostly True.

Investigating Whitewater

The long, long Whitewater saga first came to public attention during Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, when the New York Times published an article detailing the Clintons' involvement in the late 1970s with Whitewater Development, a real estate corporation. Together with a longtime friend, James B. McDougal, the Clintons formed the company in order to buy and sell vacation property in the Ozark Mountains.

McDougal, however, was also the president of Madison Guaranty, a savings and loan association. Over the following decade, the company became engaged in a number of risky real estate ventures and lending deals, including a number of political donations to Bill Clinton's Arkansas gubernatorial campaign.

When Madison Guaranty finally collapsed in 1989, McDougal was indicted on federal fraud charges; though he was later acquitted, a separate investigation ensued, one that eventually implicated the Clintons as potential beneficiaries of illegal activity. To further complicate matters, Hillary Clinton's law firm had also represented Madison Guaranty as it fought unsuccessfully to prevent insolvency.

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After Clinton won the presidency, a confused mass of probes, committees, hearings, and special investigations ensued, proceedings that dogged Clinton through most of his tenure in the Oval Office. Questions were raised, as Republicans in Congress searched for a smoking gun: The only problem, to stretch a metaphor, was that nobody knew the make, the model, or even the existential status of the alleged firearm.

The investigation was rife with leaks of undisclosed documents that dripped out slowly, and as we'll see, that contributed a good bit to why the media covered the scandal the way they did.

The 1995 Pillsbury Report

The Pillsbury Report sat squarely in the midst of this bureaucratic tangle. Commissioned in order to investigate the Clintons' involvement in the Whitewater venture, it concluded that no civil action should be taken against anyone involved in the real estate deals.

This is not the first time Clinton has expressed his disapproval over the media's coverage of the 1995 report in question, which was authored by independent law firm Pillsbury, Madison, & Sutro and commissioned by the Resolution Trust Corporation, a now-defunct federal agency involved in the Whitewater investigation.

In his autobiography, My Life, Clinton writes that he "eagerly awaited" the coverage of the New York Times and Washington Post on the report's findings, but was disappointed by the results: "Immediately after the RTC report was released, the Post mentioned it in passing, in the 11th paragraph of a front-page story...and the New York Times didn't run a word. The Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and Washington Times ran an Associated Press story of about four hundred words on the inside pages of their papers."

In acknowledging that there was any press coverage at all, Clinton contradicts his recent statement that there was "nothing in the media" the day after the report was released. Nevertheless, his larger point seems to be that the press coverage of the event was severely lacking.

So, is Clinton's claim of "stunning nondisclosure" factual? The answer is slightly murky, since it's unclear when the report's findings came to light, and therefore how quickly news organizations responded to it. There exists a preliminary report dated to April 24, 1995, but it does not appear to have been released to the media at the time (more on this below).

It seems more likely that Clinton is referring to the Dec. 13, 1995, report to the RTC, which concluded, "It is recommended that no further resources be expended on the Whitewater part of the investigation."

The earliest media mention we could find of the December report is from the Dec. 16, 1995, Washington Post story that Clinton mentions in his book. The story focused on the White House easing conditions for the release of certain documents, noting that the report was sent to congressional committees two days earlier.

Over the next week, articles about the Pillsbury report trickled out. On Dec. 18, both the Wall Street Journal and the San Jose Mercury News ran short stories, less than 150 words, giving succinct summaries of the report.

The next day, ABC's evening news program Nightline briefly discussed the findings, while the New York Times, like the Washington Post, mentioned the report within a larger story on missing Whitewater files. Later that week, the New York Times' Sunday edition contained a story focused solely on the Pillsbury report.

On Dec. 20, the New York Daily News ran two editorials on the Pillsbury report, one giving a nod and the other

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exploring the findings at length.

So there was some press coverage, even if it wasn't sufficiently exculpatory for Clinton's taste. In fact, Howard Kurtz, in an editorial for the Washington Post on Dec. 22 (one praised by Clinton in his autobiography) discussed why there was scant media attention.

Kurtz quoted several reporters from major newspapers as saying that the report was old news — a draft had been leaked that June — and beside the point: Attention to the Clintons' participation in the land venture itself had dissipated, replaced instead by questions surrounding Hillary Clinton's role as legal adviser to Madison Guaranty, the firm embroiled in the real estate deals surrounding the scandal.

That particular issue would not be resolved until the Dec. 28 report on Clinton's Rose Law Firm was released, which concluded on a similar note to the other report: "It is recommended that no further resources be expended on this investigation."

We looked back to see if it was true that the December report's findings had already been covered in the summer, and discovered that it was: Seven different newspapers wrote about the April 24 Pillsbury report on June 26 or 27, with the Washington Post devoting two separate stories to the issue.

Kurtz's article also supplies another reason why media outlets might have been reluctant to devote too much coverage to the Pillsbury report, even after its findings were made public in December: It wasn't available to them in its entirety.

"As soon as we can get ahold of the report, it's our intention to write an article about it," a New York Times editor told Kurtz, "There's a lot of spin that goes along with these reports. That's why you have to look at them."

The New York Daily News, in its article from Dec. 20, gives the reason for this, writing that the report "was shown to the Daily News by congressional Democrats," but "the not-guilty verdict cannot be made public. It contains advice on how to prosecute other Arkansas figures, including their business partner James McDougal, and the government does not want that information to fall into the hands of defense attorneys."

Our ruling

Bill Clinton said that after a federal inquiry substantially cleared Hillary Clinton on the Whitewater scandal, "The next day, there was nothing in the media about it. There was stunning nondisclosure."

While the former president might technically be correct — after the Dec. 13 report was sent to Congress, nothing appeared in the papers the following day — there was some amount of press coverage over the following week and a half, including a discussion of why that press coverage was not more amplified, a discussion that Clinton himself acknowledges in his autobiography. Additionally, there had been substantial press coverage of the findings of a preliminary report once the media managed to obtain information from it.

We rate Clinton's statement Half True.

Clinton campaign video highlights 'equal' marriage rights **// The Blade // Chris Johnson – June 24, 2015**

The campaign for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unveiled on Wednesday a new video

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celebrating same-sex marriage days before an expected decision

The two-and-a-half minute video, titled “Equal,” shows various same-sex couples in happy moments, including several who are in the course of exchanging vows for their wedding ceremonies. One the early clips in the video shows the same footage from Clinton’s campaign announcement video of Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson, a Chicago same-sex couple who support Clinton and are planning to wed this summer.

Overheard in the video are recorded audio clips of Clinton’s speech earlier this month in New York City in which formally launched her 2016 presidential campaign and her 2011 speech on international LGBT rights in Geneva, where she articulated the now popular line: “Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.” As Republican presidential candidate tout their opposition to same-sex marriage, Clinton is running a campaign in support of LGBT rights and right of same-sex couples to marry. In addition to this video, she’s the only presidential candidate to issue a written statement recognizing June as Pride month.

Watch the video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2Y9abmNuRw

Clinton Aide Worked on UAE Project While at State Department // Free Beacon // Alana Goodman - June 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s top aide Cheryl Mills held several outside roles, including a board position with a UAE-funded university in Abu Dhabi, while working as chief of staff and counselor at the State Department, the Washington Free Beacon has learned.

After joining the State Department in the beginning of 2009, Mills continued to serve as general counsel for New York University for several months. She also sat on the board of the “NYU in Abu Dhabi Corporation,” the fundraising arm for the university’s UAE satellite campus. The school is bankrolled by the Abu Dhabi government and has been criticized by NYU professors and human rights activists for alleged labor abuses.

Mills resigned both positions in May 2009, according to a university spokesperson. Although she did not receive a direct salary from the Abu Dhabi board, she collected $198,000 over four months from NYU.

While the State Department told the Free Beacon that Mills did not start working as Clinton’s chief of staff until May 24, 2009, internal agency documents indicate she began months earlier.

Mills is identified as Clinton’s chief of staff in several U.S. diplomatic cables prior to May 2009. One confidential dispatch published by Wikileaks described a Feb. 5, 2009 meeting in Washington between Haitian President Rene Preval and Secretary Clinton.

“On the U.S. side, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Janet Sanderson … Special Advisor Vicki Huddleston, and Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills joined the Secretary,” said the cable, which was sent from Hillary Clinton’s office to the U.S. embassy in Port au Prince on Feb. 11, 2009.

Mills is also copied on over a dozen internal State Department memos vetting Bill Clinton’s paid speaking engagements between February and May 2009. The documents were released last year under a Freedom of Information Act request from Judicial Watch.

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In the memos, drafted by the State Department's deputy legal advisor, James Thessin, Mills is identified as "Counselor and Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of State."

On February 17, 2009, Thessin sent a memo to Bill Clinton's scheduler, recommending "To expedite these [conflict of interest assessment] requests in the future, you may wish to forward the request directly to me, with a copy to Waldo (Chip) Brooks, my Senior Ethics counsel ... his deputy, Violanda Botet ... and Cheryl Mills."

As the Free Beacon previously reported, Mills was still on the board of the William J. Clinton Foundation during this time.

A Clinton Foundation official told the Free Beacon that Mills resigned from its board in March 2009, but did not provide the specific date. The official also said the position was unpaid and "there was no board activity [involving Mills] after December 2008."

While Mills is also listed in some Clinton Foundation records as a director until as late as 2012, the foundation and its filing vendor told the Free Beacon this was due to an inadvertent filing error.

Mills' outside roles could have opened her up to potential criminal conflict of interest violations, according to ethics experts.

"A key element of those laws is whether the executive branch employee is making decisions or playing an important role in a particular matter which involves their other interest," said Ken Boehm, chairman of the National Legal and Policy Center, a government watchdog group. "At the minimum the whole thing is fraught with danger."

Mills would have been exempt from some ethics restrictions if she was granted "special government employee" status at the time, which would allow her to work in a part-time consulting role at the agency.

Last year, the State Department released a list of all of its SGE employees under Hillary Clinton in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from ProPublica. According to the list, Mills was classified as an SGE in 2013 but she is not listed in 2009.

The State Department told the Free Beacon on Friday that it is currently trying to determine whether Mills was a special government employee in 2009. It was not able to produce a response by publication time. Mills did not respond to request for comment.

Another Clinton aide, Huma Abedin, was classified as an SGE during her last few months at the State Department. During this time, Abedin also worked as a consultant at the Clinton Foundation and Teneo, a company founded by long-time Clinton associate Doug Band.

Ethics experts said even if Mills did have special government employee status, she could not be involved in government matters that would help NYU or the Clinton Foundation financially.

"The only rule that applies to both [SGE's and regular government employees] is that she cannot participate in matters that would financially benefit a current employer, for example NYU," said Richard Painter, who served as chief White House ethics counselor under President George W. Bush. "Same for anyone else or any foundation she worked for while working at State."

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The Clintons maintained close relationships with NYU and the UAE during and after Hillary Clinton's time at the State Department.

The secretary of state gave the NYU commencement address on May 13, 2009.

Bill Clinton was paid $175,000 in November 2009 for a speech in Abu Dhabi, according to Peter Schweitzer's book Clinton Cash. He also reportedly received $600,000 for a UAE government event in 2011. Since then, the former president has given additional paid speeches in the UAE, including a controversial 2013 address at NYU's Abu Dhabi campus.

The Clinton Foundation has also received between $1 million and $5 million from the UAE government.

"Federal of conflict interest statutes are very strict, and they want to ensure that federal employees, especially very senior special employees like Cheryl Mills, do not have any conflicts of interest in any matter that they have a hand in," said Boehm. "Given her position, the dual position of counselor and chief of staff, presumably she would have access to almost any decision of importance that came out of the State Department."

Mills currently runs the BlackIvy Group, a consulting firm that focuses on Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2013 she rejoined the board of the Clinton Foundation.

For-Profit Schools Target Vulnerable Vets, Give to Clinton Foundation // Washington Free Beacon // Brent Scher – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton took aim at the for-profit education industry last week saying it lies to military veterans to boost profits, but the industry's most predatory schools are Clinton Foundation donors.

Clinton during an event in Nevada last Thursday accused for-profit schools of exploiting the so-called 90-10 rule in order to "target service members, veterans, and their families with false promises and deceptive marketing"; the rule, established by the amended Higher Education Act of 1965, caps the percentage of total revenue for-profit schools can receive from Title IV federal financial aid. The rule forbids for-profit schools from receiving 90 percent of their revenue from federal financial aid—but the amount of federal money they receive in the form of veterans' benefits is not restricted—making service members and veterans attractive prey for the revenue hungry industry.

The school relying on veterans' benefits most has been the for-profit University of Phoenix, which took in nearly $1 billion in G.I. Bill funds from 2009 to 2014 according to PBS.

The Apollo Group, which is the parent company of the University of Phoenix, has donated up to $100,000 to the Clinton Foundation and at least part of that donation came as recently as 2014.

The University of Phoenix is highly effective at recruiting veterans. The school's San Diego campus, which has a high veteran population, took in $95 million through the G.I. Bill during that five-year span, which is more than any other college in the country.

Unfortunately, much of that money is going to waste. A recent study found that only 16 percent of University of Phoenix students graduate within six years. For online students, the graduation rate is just 5 percent.

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Brown Mackie College, also a 2014 Clinton Foundation donor, is part of the Education Management Corporation (EDMC), which is the country's second largest for-profit college company.

A lawsuit from whistle-blowers against EDMC that became public in 2014 alleged that it was recruiting veterans by overpromising on post-graduate employment prospects, and that EDMC was lowering the reported incomes of its applicants with the goal of receiving more G.I. Bill funds.

"[EDMC's] business is not that of an educational institution. It is a sales company," argued the attorneys in the suit. "Defendants place virtually no stock in providing students with quality educational services and therefore are not entitled to participate in the federal financial aid program."

An earlier lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice argued many of the same points, stating that EDMC disqualified itself from $11 billion in federal and state funds due its recruitment practices.

The DOJ complaint stated that EDMC, which is partially owned by Goldman Sachs, operated a "boiler-room style" sales team.

Recruiters were instructed to "exploit applicants' psychological vulnerabilities," and targeted applicants "who were unable to write coherently, who appeared to be under the influence of drugs, or who sought to enroll in an online program but had no computer," according to the suit.

Clinton's criticism of the industry extended beyond its abuse of the 90-10 loophole.

"Unfortunately there are some programs that take people's money and do not produce the results that were promised, and we've got to crack down on that and put them out of business," said Clinton last week during an event at Trident Technical College.

The Laureate International Universities, partially owned by the liberal billionaire George Soros, have donated between $1 million and $5 million to the Clinton Foundation. New York Magazine characterized Bill Clinton as the "face" of Laureate, which enrolls 800,000 students worldwide.

Clinton was paid an undisclosed salary for his "honorary chancellor" position with Laureate, but resigned earlier this year.

Laureate has been criticized for "turbocharging" enrollment at its schools and lowering admission standards to the point that its schools are now "the place you go when no one else will accept you."

The Clinton Foundation also received money from Kaplan in 2014, which earlier this year made a $1.3 million settlement payment to DOJ for using unqualified instructors to teach students that were paying for their education with federal funds.

Kaplan has been criticized for targeting students who would likely drop-out—so it can receive government aid money without providing any service.

The main target was "African-American women who were raising two children by themselves," according to a

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whistle-blower. Other markers that those in the sales department were looking out for were "low self-esteem, reliance on public assistance, being fired, laid off, incarcerated, or physically or mentally abused."

Kaplan derives 88 percent of its revenues from federal funding.

The Clinton campaign did not return a request for comment.

MSNBC Guest: Clinton Reminiscient of Nixon With Suspicion and 'Nipping' Scandals // Washington Free Beacon // Andrew Kugle – June 23, 2015

New York Times bestselling author Evan Thomas said Hillary Clinton has President Richard Nixon's qualities of suspicion and scandals nipping at her.

Thomas wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed in which he compared the similarities between Clinton and Nixon.

MSNBC host Abby Huntsman said, "You say like Nixon, Hillary sees enemies everywhere. She's guarded, she's secretive, and an awkward campaigner hardly comes across as a politician who loves people, or the media, for that matter."

"Hillary is not Nixon; obviously she is not," Thomas said. "But she has some of the same qualities of suspicion and these little scandals that kind of nip at her and she risks making them worse by stonewalling, and by fending them off, and manipulating the press. Didn't work for Nixon. May not work for Mrs. Clinton if she keeps at it."

Clinton has been criticized for her lack of access to members of the press and the number of scandals that she hasn't addressed.

Hillary Clinton tells Americans to face their racism // Washington Times // S.A. Miller – June 23, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton urged Americans on Tuesday to take action against the persistence of racism in the country, commending political and business leaders who have taken the initiative to remove the Confederate battle flag from public display.

The former secretary of state plunged into the race debate following the shooting massacre at a historic black church last week in Charleston, South Carolina.

"I know it is tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists. But despite out best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech at church near Ferguson, Missouri, where violent protests erupted last summer following the shooting of a young black man by a white police officer.

"We can't hide from hard truths about race and justice. We have to name them and own them and change them," she told the crowd at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Flouissant, Missouri.

Mrs. Clinton, who has been aggressively wooing black voters, began focusing on race relations early in the

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campaign. She called for justice reforms after Baltimore's race riots in April.

She has made several speeches on race since the shooting Wednesday killed nine people at a Bible study meeting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

Dylann Roof, a 21-year-old white man with ties to white supremacists, has been charged with nine counts of murder in the attack, which appears to have been motivate by racial hatred. The Justice Department is investigating the killings as a hate crime.

In the speech, Mrs. Clinton called the church massacre an "act of racist terrorism."

She commended South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican, for announcing her support for removing the Confederate battle flag from the State House grounds.

"It shouldn't fly there. It shouldn't fly anywhere," Mrs. Clinton said.

She also applauded Wal-Mart for taking the lead in announcing it would remove Confederate flag merchandise from its shelves. Several major retailers followed, including Amazon, eBay and Sears.

Hillary Clinton a 'LINO' – Liberal in Name Only? **// Fox // Elizabeth MacDonald – June 23, 2015**

Hillary Clinton has rebooted her campaign as a classic Democrat liberal, with a 45-minute policy speech on New York City's Roosevelt Island last week, named for President Franklin D. Roosevelt who launched the social welfare state. Income inequality, higher minimum wage, pre-kindergarten education, and tax credits were on tap, and it's anticipated her campaign will roll out new policies in stages in coming months.

The former secretary of state is racing across the country with her policies in hand, with more than 20 fundraisers scheduled through July 3, as Vermont's socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders threatens to undercut her progressive leanings.

But as Hillary Clinton declares war on the billionaire class, her six-figure speeches, deep pocket donors on Wall Street and corporate America from places like Citigroup (C) and Goldman Sachs (GS), already has the presidential hopeful talked about as a "LINO"—a liberal in name only.

Clinton really isn't running for a third term of an Obama presidency, an Administration that, it turns out, relied on what I called back in 2010 on Forbes on Fox "trickle down government" (which GOP presidential hopeful Mitt Romney quoted two years later).

One thing Hillary Clinton is that President Barack Obama was not—a deal maker just like FDR, Ronald Reagan (who both cut and raised taxes), and her husband Bill Clinton. Republicans in control of Congress often depict Clinton as someone who listens and is willing to horse-trade just like her husband, who cut deals on financial deregulation (hotly debated), a balanced budget, welfare reform, and trade.

Hillary Clinton's progressive leanings are there. Clinton now decries President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy in favor of tax cuts for the middle class. Clinton is also taking a page from her husband who campaigned on a middle class tax cut, but instead delivered a child care tax credit (and cut capital gains taxes).

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Clinton now wants tax credits for things such as student loans, and repeatedly voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, which slams small business. Clinton backed Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, fought for a nationalized health insurance system, and comprehensive immigration reform.

But Clinton's business leanings are also there, with speeches talking of the need for a strong private sector that's necessary to create jobs. Bubbling up, too, is the still serious controversy about her State Dept. email server and the Clinton Foundation, with "pay to play" charges over cash donations from companies and foreign donors.

As secretary of state, Clinton worked on behalf of the private sector, for companies like American Airlines (AAL), General Electric (GE), Microsoft (MSFT), Exxon Mobil (XOM), Corning (GLW), FedEx (FDX), and Boeing (BA). Nearly five dozen companies donated more than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation also had lobbied the State Department during her tenure, says the Wall Street Journal. Other outlets put the number as at least 181 Clinton Foundation donors that lobbied the U.S. State Department while Hillary Clinton was in charge.

Hillary arrives by private jet for Ferguson-area speech on race relations and Charleston 'terrorism' – but friend of Michael Brown hammers her: 'Where you been, Hillary? It's been ten months, girl!' // **Daily Mail** // **David Martosko – June 23, 2015**

Hillary Clinton arrived in a private jet on Tuesday to talk race relations at a church whose rooftops can see Ferguson, Missouri. And she left some in St. Louis's urban black community feeling cold, coming to town for a campaign speech nearly a year after the riot-inducing shooting death of Michael Brown.

In the neighborhood where Brown died in August 2014, his longtime friend Robert Nettles told DailyMail.com that Clinton's brief visit to the scarred town is 'just a little late.'

'Where you been, Hillary?' Nettles asked Tuesday afternoon. 'It's been ten months, girl!'

Clinton's somber talk at an all-black church just up the road from the Ferguson riots' boarded-up windows was a stark contrast from her high-flying arrival at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, in a private part of the facility most people never see.

Exclusive DailyMail.com photos show her descending the steps of a large private jet and getting into a white van for a 10-minute ride to Christ the King United Church of Christ in nearby Florissant.

She will hold court Tuesday night at a $2,700-per-person fundraising event in St. Louis's deepest pocket of wealth, hosted by an Anheuser-Busch heiress at an wildlife preserve once owned by President Ulysses S. Grant's family.

But in the afternoon her rhetoric was focused at the chronic street-level drama that has pitted black against white, and calmly wrapped itself up in last week's racist mass-murder at a South Carolina church – an event that she called 'an act of racist terror.'

'I know it's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident,' Clinton told the mostly black audience, 'to believe that in today's America bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists.'

'But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished. We can't hide from hard truths about race and justice. We have to name them, own them and change them.'

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And speaking about this week's swift move in South Carolina toward removing a Confederate battle flag from the state capitol grounds, Clinton said still more action is needed.

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, she said, was right to see the flag 'as a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our nation's present or future.'

'It shouldn't fly there,' Clinton said. 'It shouldn't fly anywhere.'

Clinton herself is now facing public doubts about the role of the Confederate 'stars and bars' emblem in her own campaign, along with those of her husband Bill when he was governor of Arkansas.

The pair presided over eight years of Confederate Flag Day commemorations. Bill, himself a future president, signed a bill that described the Arkansas state flag as including a singular blue star to commemorate the slaveholding confederacy.

Four separate interviews in Ferguson suggest African-Americans at the epicenter of last year's marquee race-politics story aren't ready to have Clinton lead America out of its past and into a more color-blind future.

Hillary Clinton camp won't say if Confederate flag button was official part of the '92 presidential campaign // Daily Mail // Kate Pickles and Evan Bleier – June 23, 2015

Hillary Clinton is refusing to say whether a Clinton-Gore pin featuring a Confederate flag was part of her husband's official campaign merchandise.

Examples of the distinctive red and blue badge, from the 1992 election, are now being sold on Ebay.

It comes as politicians, including President Obama, called for the Confederate battle flag to be taken down in the state capitol, a week after a white gunman allegedly shot dead nine black worshipers at a church in South Carolina.

Many argue the flag which 21-year-old Dylann Roof, charged in the Charleston church shootings, was pictured with the Confederate, is a symbol of hatred and should be consigned to museums.

But the former Arkansas first lady has not responded to questions by The Blaze over whether she knew if the pin was part of the official campaign. She has also failed to respond to requests over whether she is opposed now, or opposed then, to an act signed by her husband honoring the Confederate flag, the website said.

Mrs. Clinton weighed in on the South Carolina confederate flag debate back in 2007 and still holds the view that it should be taken down.

America's largest retailer Walmart said on Monday that it will be removing all products promoting the Confederate flag from its stores in the wake of controversy following the South Carolina shootings.

As South Carolina leaders are pushing to remove the flag that flies at the statehouse in Columbia, officials in Mississippi and Tennessee are grappling with whether to retain Old South symbols.

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Mississippi voters decided by a 2-to-1 margin in 2001 to keep the state flag that has been used since 1894.

It features the Confederate battle emblem in the upper left corner - a blue X with 13 stars, over a red field.

Republican Governor Phil Bryant on Monday repeated his long-held position that the state should keep the flag as is.

'A vast majority of Mississippians voted to keep the state's flag, and I don't believe the Mississippi Legislature will act to supersede the will of the people on this issue,' Bryant said in a statement.

Democratic Senator Kenny Wayne Jones of Canton, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, said the Confederate emblem is a 'symbol of hatred' often associated with racial violence.

Jones said the flag represents the power structure's resistance to change during the 1960s and '70s, when civil rights activists were pushing to dismantle segregation and expand voting rights.

'We should be constantly re-examining these types of stereotypes that label our state for what it used to be a long time ago,' Jones told The Associated Press.

Since the 2001 Mississippi election, bills that proposed changing the flag have gained no traction, with legislators saying voters settled the issue.

At the Tennessee Capitol in Nashville, a bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate general and an early Ku Klux Klan leader, has sat in an alcove outside the Senate chamber for decades.

Democratic and Republican leaders are calling for the bust to be removed.

Craig Fitzhugh, the state House Democratic leader, said it should go to the archives or a museum and be replaced in the Capitol by a statue of Lois DeBerry, an African-American who became the first female speaker pro tempore of the Tennessee House.

Women and minorities are underrepresented in government symbols, Fitzhugh wrote.

'We need to revisit what we have displayed in the Capitol so that it better represents a Tennessee for all of us,' he wrote Monday.

Former Clinton Advisor: Hillary 'Absolutely' Has to Answer for Arkansas' Confederate Flag **// Mediaite // Alex Griswold – June 23, 2015**

Appearing on CNN's New Day, former Clinton advisor Paul Begala said that Hillary Clinton "absolutely" had to answer for her husband's embrace of Confederate symbols as Governor of Arkansas.

"The Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign comes out and says, as she said back in 2007, 'I don't like the Confederate flag, you should take it down,'" host Chris Cuomo noted. "Does she have to answer for her time as first lady in

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Arkansas with Bill standing by the Arkansas flag proudly when it, too, is said to borrow from the Confederate symbology?"

"Well sure, absolutely," Begala responded. "Times change, circumstances change."

The Confederate image in the Arkansas flag is not as blatant as other states' (such as Mississippi). But in 1987, Bill Clinton signed a bill designating that a blue star added to the flag was in honor of Arkansas' Confederate past.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

Martin O'Malley, the Confederacy, and the Maryland state song **// CBS // Jake Miller – June 23, 2015**

Martin O'Malley has waded aggressively into the recent debate over the Confederate flag, but he wasn't so vocal about another Confederacy-related dispute that arose in Maryland while he was the state's governor.

O'Malley called Sunday for South Carolina to remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the state capitol in the wake of a church shooting in Charleston that claimed the lives of nine black parishioners.

"What a terribly jarring and callous sight then--in the wake of this racist massacre--to see the American flag at half staff, while above it at full staff over the state Capitol of South Carolina flew a Confederate flag," O'Malley, a long-shot Democratic candidate for president in 2016, told the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "If the families of Charleston can forgive, can let go of their anger, is it really too much to ask the state government officials of South Carolina to retire the Confederate flag to a museum? America must do better."

He continued in the same vein with an email to supporters on Monday, calling the flag a "rallying banner for hate" and a "symbol of 150 years of bigotry and racism."

But Maryland, too, has its own complicated history with the Confederacy. The state never seceded from the union, but it might have done so absent an intervention by the federal government. Many Marylanders, particularly in the eastern part of the state, were sympathetic to the confederate cause.

That complicated history is reflected in the state's official song, "Maryland, My Maryland," which was adopted in 1939 by the state legislature. The song urges Maryland to secede, referring to Abraham Lincoln as a "despot" and the Union itself as "northern scum."

"Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain," the sixth verse reads. "Virginia should not call in vain."

The song has never erupted into a full-blown controversy like the one currently surrounding the flag in South Carolina. But there have been periodic attempts to change the song's lyrics, most recently in 2009, when then-state Sen. Jennie Forehand, a Democrat, sponsored a bill to do just that.

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Forehand told the Washington Post that she couldn't recall O'Malley, then the state's governor, speaking out on the issue. The paper reports O'Malley was even "among several state leaders coaxed by a Washington Post reporter that year into singing bits of the song that were posted online."

CBS News has reached out to O'Malley's campaign for comment, but no response has yet been received.

The shooting in Charleston, allegedly committed by a 23-year-old white man with white supremacist leanings, has breathed new life into a debate that has persisted for generations across much of the American South.

Under the terms of a compromise struck in 2000, the Confederate flag was removed from atop South Carolina's capitol dome and relocated to a civil war memorial on the statehouse grounds. But South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican, called Monday for the flag to be moved from the capitol premises entirely, saying the controversial banner "does not represent the future of our great state."

The move drew support from the Republican Party's roster of presidential canddiates, including South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, offered similar praise for Haley's decision. She also made sure voters knew she's been pushing to retire the flag for years:

.@nikkihaley is right 2 call for removal of a symbol of hate in SC. As I've said for years, taking down Confederate flag is long overdue. -H

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) June 22, 2015

O'Malley returning to Iowa on Sunday **// Des Moines Register // Grant Rodgers – June 23, 2015**

Former Democratic Maryland governor and presidential candidate Martin O'Malley will return to Iowa on Sunday for house parties in Sioux City, Carroll and Ames.

Sunday's visit will be O'Malley's third trip to Iowa since he announced his candidacy May 30 in Baltimore. He attended house parties on June 11 in Marshalltown and Mount Vernon before drawing approximately 150 people to Iowa City pub the Sanctuary for an evening event.

The noon event in Sioux City is set for the house of Ben Nesselhuf and Angie Schneiderman. Nesselhuf is a former South Dakota Democratic Party chairman and the former campaign manager for 2014 Iowa Democratic 4th District congressional candidate Jim Mowrer.

A 3:30 p.m. event in Carroll will be hosted by Carroll County Democratic Chair Tim Tracy, and a 6:30 p.m. Ames event will be hosted by John and Carolyn Klaus.

O'Malley is scheduled to return to the state again July 17 in Cedar Rapids to appear alongside fellow Democratic contenders Lincoln Chafee, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Jim Webb at the Iowa Democratic Party's "Hall of Fame" dinner.

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SANDERS

Meet the Hilarious Comedian Now Impersonating Bernie Sanders // Bloomberg // David Weigel – June 23, 2015

"Bernie Sanders" fixes his eyes on the camera and shares his pain. His presidential campaign is not getting taken as seriously as it deserves.

"Despite the fact that 80 percent of everyone agrees with me on 90 percent of everything," he says, "the corporate-controlled media says that I look like a train conductor with cotton candy hair, and I sound like a bullfrog with the personality of a library card."

To prove the media wrong, "Sanders" heads off on a tour of various extreme-fun settings. He skateboards. He moshes at an LMFAO concert (or the concert of a band that's as much LMFAO as he is "Bernie Sanders"). He drops acid. All of this to prove that he's not boring, by rattling off statistics in his brittle Brooklyn accent.

The Bernie Sanders in this Funny or Die video is not the Bernie Sanders who's serving his third term in the United States Senate. This Bernie Sanders is the latest interpretation of James Adomian, a 35-year old comedian who previously perfected a dopey version of George W. Bush and a realistically paranoid spin on Jesse Ventura. For a decade, Adomian has done for put-upon white male politicians what Wendy Carlos did for synthesizers.

"I've always liked Bernie Sanders," says Adomian, who lives in Los Angeles. "I've always wanted to do a Bernie Sanders impression, but I didn't believe people were familiar enough with him to pull it off. And I've gone down the rabbit hole of doing impressions that not everybody gets. It's not fun. Sometimes, when you do Christopher Hitchens, the audience says, 'Who?' and you want to say, 'Don't you people read the news?' But I always wanted to do Sanders. When he ran for president, I just pounced on it. Ah-hah! Well, he's running–everyone has to know who he is."

Adomian had tried out the Sanders persona before, briefly, when performing in front of Washington, D.C. audiences that might have recognized it. Over the last month, as Sanders has campaigned for president, Adomian has taken "Bernie Sanders" onto other stages, and onto comedy podcasts. On May 18, "Sanders" walked onto Community creator Dan Harmon's podcast Harmontown, wearing a blazer, slacks, and vest that Adomian had cobbled together because he did not own a suit.

"I'm a presidential candidate that everyone agrees with on everything, but no one will vote for me," Adomian-as-Sanders said. "If one third of the two thirds that support my position were to vote for me, that would be one sixth of the population and I still would not win."

"So you think it would be tough—you don't think you're going to win?" asked Harmon.

"Look, I'm not here to talk about winning and losing," said the "candidate," wearing two white wigs on either side of his dome to simulate the Sanders hairstyle. "That's the problem with American capitalism. We've been too obsessed with the losers. That's how the middle $40 billion in the federal budget goes to the top 1 percent of the top 2 percent of the top, let's say, 17 percent of the country."

On the May 29 episode of "Sklarborough Country," Adomian had further refined the character. He was less self-deprecating, more wonkish; he'd spit out numbers and statistics faster than hosts Randy and Jason Sklar could process them.

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"Let's talk hard numbers," said Adomian-as-Sanders. "The top 10 percent of the top 12 percent controls over 40 percent out of the top 80 percent of all of the income that's enjoyed by the bottom 4 percent of the top 9 percent of the bottom 9 percent. That's the kind of numbers we're looking at. There was a time in this country, 1950, a family of four could afford a house for only $50,000. Now, for that same amount of money, $50,000, year on year, inflation adjusted–you can only afford a doorknob and turn it halfway."

The first version of "Bernie Sanders" was not unlike the lovable, obsessive losers Adomian had inhabited for years—Paul Giamatti, Orson Welles, Jesse Ventura. The former Minnesota governor and professional wrestler, who has spent his post-government years wading further and further into fever swamps, became a regular Adomian character. He would fill his voice with gravel, pace around the stage, and see if anyone was ready to go off the grid with him, or join the presidential campaign he was always five minutes away from starting. "I'd not necessarily take questions, but take everything back to either conspiracies or wrestling," says Adomian.

The Sanders impression is something else—something much more sympathetic. "If you look at not just me, but at anybody doing an impression, you can tell when the comedian is drawing blood and when they're not," says Adomian. "When I'm doing an impression this way, nobody's going to think I'm Bernie Sanders. They're going to see how I perceive him and how I choose to bring him to life. I like this guy. You're presumably going to see that. When he's doing interviews, he doesn't answer the question the way it's wanted. He doesn't get railroaded. He sort of corrects the interviewer. I love that. It's been a while since I had a character or an impression that was juicy enough to let me improvise like that."

Adomian wasn't too fond of the last character that let him improvise. In his mid-twenties, he got his first major national exposure for an immaculate impersonation of George W. Bush. Plenty of Bush mimics imitated the president's occasional word-mangling; Adomian blended that with a doppleganger physical imitation. "From 2004 to the end of his presidency, I'd go around at live shows and take questions from the audience," he recalls. "It was really fun. People loved it. If I didn't know the answer to something, he certainly wouldn't either. There was no way I'd be stumped."

Adomian brought out "George W. Bush" on TV (Mind of Mencia, MAD TV), at shows, even at the progressive blogger conference that's now called Netroots Nation. In 2008, Adomian provided the voice of Bush for the HBO drama about the 2000 Florida election, Recount. That same year, in Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay, Adomian played Bush as a simple, hard-partying stoner who retreats to his man cave with a bag of "Alabama kush" whenever Dick Cheney nears. Egged on by the titular potheads, Adomian's Bush got high, then called former President George H.W. Bush to declare his independence from the neocons. "Daddy," he said, "I don't need your friends to tell me what to do anymore!"

George W. Bush kicked open doors for Adomian, bringing him national audiences and regular work, establishing him as a peerless mimic. The only problem: George W. Bush was president. Most Bush imitators lost a vocation when Barack Obama became president. Adomian was happy to move on.

"It's fun to be able to celebrate the positive aspects of life, as opposed to what it was like with George W. Bush," he says. "That was more like: Jesus Christ, does it have to be this much of a nightmare? I'd much rather live in a world where I get to make fun of things that are good and awesome. Hopefully, Bernie Sanders will go a long way."

Adomian's thinking syncs up perfectly with the thinking at Funny or Die. The eight-year old website tilts strongly and openly to the left. In 2010, it reunited the actors who'd played presidents on Saturday Night Live (with Jim Carrey taking the late Phil Hartman's role) for a video supporting the creation of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau. Last year, it produced an episode of Zach Galifianakis and Scott Aukerman's nihilistic interview show "Between Two Ferns," where President Obama traded insults and promoted the Affordable Care Act's enrollment period.

Funny or Die's bet was that comedy could be earnest, and could side with a politician, without sacrificing laughs.

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Adomian's "Bernie Sanders" is working in the same space. The portrayal of Sanders as a lovable, numbers-obsessed square is not far from the image that's getting thousands of progressives to turn out for the candidate's speeches. When asked if he'd play "Sanders" to raise money for the campaign, Adomian considered it.

"I guess I'd have to research campaign finance laws, which would be a hassle," he said. "I don't know if Citizens United prevents me from working for a campaign–I'm not a corporation, maybe there are more rules for a real person. But I'm open to it. I am prepared, by the way, to continue doing a Bernie Sanders impression should he win the presidency."

Will Sanders stun Hillary in 2016 like Obama did in 2008? // Market Watch // Darrell Delmaide – June 24, 2015

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Warren has officially missed the boat on running for president, but that doesn't mean Hillary Clinton has clear sailing to the Democratic nomination.

Two leaders of the "Ready for Warren" movement that sought to draft the Massachusetts Democrat have accepted her decision not to run and switched their support to Vermont independent Bernie Sanders as the new standard bearer for progressive policies.

Best of the Web Columnist James Taranto on the history of the Confederate flag and federalism. Photo credit: Getty Images.

These policies, which are resonating with enthusiastic crowds, include federal investment in infrastructure to create jobs; a higher minimum wage; paid sick leave; higher tax rates for the rich; campaign finance reform; a tougher line on trade accords; subsidies for higher education; and further reforms to guarantee health care for all, among others.

"While Warren is the champion who inspired this movement, the draft effort was never just about her — it's about her message and the values she represents," Erica Sagrans and Charles Lenchner wrote last week in a blog post on CNN. "Bernie Sanders has caught fire in a way that's reminiscent of the draft-Warren movement itself — from the Internet to town halls in Iowa, Sanders has captured the imagination and support of people looking for a real progressive challenger in the 2016 Democratic primary."

Indeed, as reports flood in from Iowa, New Hampshire, Las Vegas, Denver, Minneapolis, and elsewhere of standing-room-only crowds, switches to larger venues to accommodate the thousands of people who show up for his rallies, and impassioned testimonials from Democratic voters, Sanders is clearly on his way to realizing the hopes many had pinned on Warren.

So "Ready for Warren" has become "Ready to Fight" and endorsed Sanders for president, a move that could bolster his nascent campaign infrastructure and channel grassroots donations to the Vermont senator.

While Sagrans and Lenchner don't completely abandon hope of convincing Warren to run, the success of Sanders on the campaign trail and their support for him make it less likelier than ever that she will enter the race.

None of this matters, however, to the Beltway pundits who continue to smirk at the mention of "socialist" Sanders and see him at best as a slightly clownish sparring partner for Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination.

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The Wall Street Journal/NBC poll out this week delivered the latest confirmation of Clinton's position at the head of the pack — with 75% of Democratic primary voters saying she is their preferred candidate, compared to 15% for Sanders, and registered voters saying she would defeat any of the three leading Republican candidates in the general election.

But the perceptions reflected in the polls and inside the Beltway are lagging the reality on the ground, much as they did when Barack Obama built up a groundswell of support against frontrunner Hillary Clinton in 2008.

An embarrassingly obtuse Chris Matthews led a "Hardball" panel last week in cheerleading for Clinton because "she's a Democrat and he's a socialist."

He dug the hole deeper as he caricatured Sanders' policies as meaning "take from the rich and use it for school programs and stuff like that."

Needless to say, his panelists — including former Obama campaign adviser David Axelrod and former Clinton speechwriter Lissa Muscatine — agreed with Matthews' glib assessment.

"I think Hillary`s fundamental approach reflects the mainstream of the Democratic Party," Axelrod opined, before continuing dismissively on Sanders' chances. "I think people will have a fling with Bernie. Bernie's like a great fun date because you know he`s not going to be around too long." Cue laughter from the audience.

Muscatine continued the charade by pretending like Matthews that Sanders' desire for a more equitable distribution of wealth excludes growth while Clinton's lip service to greater equality is based on growing the pie, raising all boats with a rising tide, or whatever cliché you prefer.

It is a media bubble like this that explains why MSNBC, which bills itself as a liberal counterweight to the conservative viewpoint of Fox News, is circling the drain in ratings as it misses the point of what's going on in this country.

Sanders has drawn within 10 points of Clinton among Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire, site of the first primary, and he has just begun to campaign.

Meanwhile, the barrage of news about Clinton's deleted emails and conflicts of interest inherent in Clinton Foundation donations and speechifying for exorbitant fees by both Bill and Hillary Clinton has eroded support for the former first lady more than the polls indicate.

As Clinton's trustworthiness sinks into negative territory and more people get exposure to Sanders without the filter of a dismissive media establishment, what began as an impossible campaign and is now in the realm of only the improbable may end up surprising the political establishment in the same way Obama's success did in 2008.

Sanders crowds show Iowa Democrats' passion // Quad-City Times // James Q. Lynch – June 23, 2015

The crowds Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is drawing at campaign stops are a sign of Iowa Democrats' passion for the issues he is talking about, but they don't mean former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 2016 precinct caucus campaign is in trouble.

"You can never go wrong being the most liberal candidate" in the Iowa Democratic caucus campaign, longtime

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Democratic strategist Joe Shanahan said Tuesday.

But it's often the establishment candidates who come out on top at the caucuses, he told news reporters from across the country at a Poynter Institute workshop on covering the caucuses at Drake University. He cited the example of Howard Dean, a Vermont governor who took the 2004 caucus campaign by storm but finished a distant third to John Kerry.

Shanahan, whose campaign experience stretches back to early campaigns for former Sen. Tom Harkin, expects many Democrats to vote their consciences on issues such as income inequality, peace and health care.

Republican caucus-goers also are likely to vote their consciences at the February caucuses, said Tim Albrecht of Redwave Digital in Des Moines.

He cautioned reporters against handicapping the caucus race by who can win, because activists often cast a "conscience-clearing vote" for the candidate who most closely aligns with their beliefs "even if they can't win."

Albrecht and Chuck Larson Jr., Shanahan's partner at LS2 Group, predicted that Iowa Republicans will quickly get behind the party's nominee because the GOP base is so hungry for victory.

"We want victory. We want to change the course of the country," Larson said. "We will see a highly motivated and united GOP."

Democrats' response to Sanders doesn't mean Democrats will be divided when they have a nominee, said Brad Anderson, who ran President Barack Obama's campaigns in Iowa.

He's been "genuinely surprised" by the size of Sanders' crowds in Iowa — 700 in Des Moines and Davenport and 500 in Iowa City — and attributes that to Sanders addressing Iowa Democrats' top three issues: "income inequality, income inequality and income inequality."

Anderson doubts Sanders was able to capitalize on those audiences because he didn't have enough staff to capture names, addresses and phone numbers of the people who attended the rallies.

In the end, he predicted that the enthusiasm Sanders is generating will help the party.

"Everyone is thankful for the excitement Bernie Sanders brings," said Anderson, who works for Link Strategies, a Des Moines-based campaign consulting firm. "It will make Clinton a stronger candidate."

Bernie Sanders plans 6 stops this weekend **// Union Leader // June 23, 2015**

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders has six campaign stops Saturday and Sunday in New Hampshire.

The U.S. senator from Vermont is also secured a campaign office in Concord, starting July 1, the Union Leader has learned.

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Sanders begins the two-day swing with a 10:30 a.m. town hall-style meeting at Nashua Community College. He is scheduled to speak at a house party at the Bow home of Ron and Meredith Abramson at 2 p.m., then speak at a town hall meeting at New England College in Henniker.

Sanders has three town meetings on Sunday: 10:30 a.m. at the Governor's Inn in Rochester, 1:30 p.m. at Oyster River High School in Durham, and 4 p.m. at Lake Opechee Inn in Laconia.

CHAFEE

Verbatim: Lincoln Chafee on His High School Years With Jeb Bush // NYT // June 23, 2015

One of my dorm mates in 10th grade is running for president also, Jeb Bush. We had some spirited games of Ping-Pong and our paths have not crossed much since high school, but I think we still consider each other friends."

— Former Gov. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, discussing the subject of high school friends in an interview with The Skimm. Mr. Chafee and Mr. Bush went to Phillips Academy (known as Andover), a boarding school in Massachusetts, from 1967 to 1971.

WEBB

Jim Webb Is the Only Presidential Hopeful Who Won't Comment on the Confederate Flag Controversy // Mother Jones // Max J. Rosenthal and Tim Murphy – June 23, 2015

By now, every 2016 presidential contender from both parties—those announced, those undeclared—has weighed in on the Confederate flag controversy that erupted after last week's mass shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, except for one: Democrat Jim Webb.

A former senator from Virginia, Webb has defended the Confederate Army and the rebel flag in the past. But on Monday, when contacted by the Washington Times, he declined to comment on the ongoing controversy over whether the Confederate banner should continue to fly on the grounds of the state Capitol in South Carolina. On Tuesday, Webb's spokesman, Craig Crawford, told Mother Jones in an email that Webb "just has not been on the habit of commenting on news of the day. He's not an official candidate." Webb has previously said he plans to make an official announcement on running for president by the end of June.

The silence makes Webb the only candidate in the field who has not commented on the movement to take down the Confederate battle flag, which Republican South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley publicly backed on Monday afternoon. All the Democratic candidates have supported this proposal, with Hillary Clinton saying the Confederate flag "shouldn't fly anywhere." Almost all the Republican candidates have backed Haley's move as well, with some qualifying their statements to say that removing the flag is an issue for South Carolina's residents to decide. But Webb has been conspicuously mum.

Webb, who has two relatives who served in the Confederate Army, has a long history of contrarian stances on the Confederacy, which headquartered its capital in Richmond for the majority of the war. In a 1990 speech at the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, which Webb called a "deeply inspiring memorial," he argued that Confederate soldiers' "enormous suffering and collective gallantry are to this day still misunderstood by most Americans."

"I am not here to apologize for why they fought," Webb also said in that speech, "although modern historians

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might contemplate that there truly were different perceptions in the North and South about those reasons, and that most Southern soldiers viewed the driving issue to be sovereignty rather than slavery." Many historians consider that view a whitewashing of the Civil War's origins.

In his 2004 book Born Fighting, a popular history of Scots-Irish immigrants in the United States, Webb complained that present-day attacks on the Confederacy and the Confederate flag were part of "the Nazification of the Confederacy." The book included a lengthy attack on post-Civil War Reconstruction policies, and Webb claimed that the federal government "raped the region" during this period. The passage was repeated in his memoir, published in 2014.

"The entire region has been colonized from the outside, impoverishing basic infrastructure such as schools and roads while the banking system and corporate ownership sent revenues from Southern labor to the communities of the north," he wrote in his memoir. The damage done, he contended, "in some measure validated much of the resentment expressed toward the Yankee and his minions."

That assessment is based on a 1938 report to President Franklin Roosevelt on the economy of the South. Webb has also referred to this report during his current tour of Iowa, as he decides whether to run for the White House.

Webb's longtime strategist, Dave "Mudcat" Saunders, is an even more ardent fan and defender of the Confederacy. As the New Yorker reported in 2008, Saunders "sleeps under a Rebel-flag quilt, and when challenged on such matters he has invited his inquisitors to 'kiss my Rebel ass'—his way of making the point that when Democrats are drawn into culture battles by prissy liberal sensitivities they usually lose the larger war." Saunders is currently advising Webb on his potential presidential campaign.

OTHER

Haley's stock rises amid flag furor **// The Hill // Niall Stanage – June 24, 2015**

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) is attracting widespread praise for leading the bipartisan effort to remove the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the Statehouse.

Haley's swift response has put her back in the national spotlight, stoking speculation that she could be the vice presidential nominee on the GOP's 2016 presidential ticket. The 43-year-old governor saved her party from divisive bickering and damaging headlines that could have lingered for months.

While other prominent Republicans hemmed and hawed, Haley was clear at her press conference Monday that the flag must come down. Defenders of the flag, meanwhile, largely remained silent.

The long-term political impact of Haley's new stance — which is much different than her position last year — is unclear. But the short-term effect is obvious.

"It's been her finest hour as governor," said David Woodard, a Clemson University professor who also serves as a Republican consultant in the state. Woodard noted that he had worked for one of Haley's rivals in the GOP primary when she was first elected in 2010 and has never been particularly enthused about her.

"I think she has handled it about as well as could be imagined," said Will Folks, the South Carolina political blogger who sparked a firestorm in that same 2010 campaign when he claimed he had an affair with the married Haley. (Haley denied his story.)

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Folks added that he thought she had “done a good job of being a uniter. And I say that as someone who has been critical of the governor on a wide range of issues. I don’t think she’s done a good job as governor.”

Republican consultant Ford O’Connell also extolled Haley’s performance and, asked about the broader political implications, suggested that “her VP stock is probably on the rise again at the moment.”

Haley, whose national persona is that of a self-controlled politician, let her emotions show in the aftermath of the killing of nine African-Americans at a historic black church in Charleston, S.C., last Wednesday evening.

When she appeared at a press conference announcing the arrest of the suspected perpetrator of the attack, Dylann Roof, Haley’s voice cracked and she became tearful.

“We woke up today, and the heart and soul of South Carolina was broken,” she said. “And so we have some grieving to do, and we’ve got some pain we have to go through.”

Haley’s actions in the heat of the moment have not won universal acclaim. A Facebook post she wrote shortly after the atrocity noted that “we’ll never understand what motivates anyone to enter one of our places of worship and take the life of another.” Some critics suggested those words were evasive given the broad understanding even at the earliest stages that the attack was racially motivated.

Others have pointed out that, as recently as last year, Haley suggested during a televised debate in her reelection campaign that the Confederate flag did not need to be removed from the Capitol grounds. She said that the flag was “a very sensitive issue” and that perceptions of the Palmetto State were important. But she also said of her efforts to attract new employment to the state, “I can honestly say I have not had one conversation with a single CEO about the Confederate flag.”

That changed abruptly on Monday with Haley’s news conference urging the flag’s removal. Standing by her side were many of the major political figures in the state, including Republican Sens. Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham, House Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn and GOP Rep. Mark Sanford, who also served as Haley’s predecessor as governor.

In February, the Public Policy Polling firm found that 50 percent of those surveyed in South Carolina supported keeping the Confederate flag, while 40 percent were opposed. The shooting appears to have changed that sentiment.

“I thought the people she had with her [helped create] a tremendous amount of momentum now to do this thing,” Woodard said.

The political agility of Haley’s remarks drew accolades, as she emphasized how private citizens would retain the right to fly the flag if they wished and insisted that Roof had exhibited “a sick and twisted view” of the emblem.

However, she added, “for many others in South Carolina, the flag is a deeply offensive symbol of a brutally oppressive past. … It’s time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds.”

During her remarks, Haley mentioned her own election — she is the nation’s second Indian-American governor,

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after Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) — as evidence that South Carolina could transcend the wounds of its past. She had made the same point in the 2014 TV debate that touched on the flag issue, suggesting her election was one of the things that had "fixed" public perceptions of the state.

That point also highlights a reason for attractiveness on the national level to a Republican Party that has struggled with crucial demographic groups, including younger women and non-whites.

O'Connell said that Haley could potentially help with this problem were she to be added to a presidential ticket. One asset, he suggested, is that "she could stop the bleeding of women to Hillary Clinton."

In 2012, there had been some speculation that Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney could choose Haley as his running mate. That didn't happen, and some have suggested that Haley could struggle with the rigorous vetting that is required of vice presidential nominees.

During her first term, a data breach at the state's Department of Revenue resulted in personal information from almost 4 million people being exposed. In 2013, she was fined $3,500 by the state ethics commission for failing to disclose the addresses of eight campaign donors. Still, Haley won reelection handily in 2014.

Earlier this year, Haley took some heat from the right when said she could accept an increase in the gas tax if it was coupled with other tax cuts. That issue is likely to resurface if she were being vetted for the No. 2 slot in 2016.

Now in her second term, Haley is scheduled to leave the governor's mansion at the start of 2019.

Many people believe she has national aspirations.

"There's no more room for her to run for office here," Woodard said. "I think she would look for something at a national political level."

Clay endorses Hillary Clinton for president // St. Louis Post-Dispatch // Chuck Raasch – June 23, 2015

Rep. William Lacy Clay has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president.

That announcement came today from Clay, D-St. Louis, who said in a statement that Hillary and Bill Clinton "share my lifelong commitment to expanding opportunities for women, minorities and working families who are struggling to achieve economic security and a chance at a better life for their children."

Clinton is in the St. Louis area Tuesday for a community meeting at a church in Florissant and a closed fund-raiser Tuesday night at Grant's Farm. Clay called Hillary Clinton a "long-time friend."

Clinton leads polls ranking Democratic primary contenders in a field that includes Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., previously endorsed Clinton.

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How Obama Can Heal the Democrats' Split on Trade // The Daily Beast // Jonathan Alter – June 24, 2015

The White House looks to make a big push for infrastructure spending to unite the Party, fix our bridges and roads, and save Obama's legacy.

President Obama won a major bipartisan victory in the Senate Tuesday on trade promotion authority, clearing the way for approval in 2016 of the largest trade agreement in world history. But Obama has a problem: He won with the help of only 13 of the Senate's 44 Democrats. House Democrats are even more annoyed with their president, who has leaned into trade legislation more aggressively than he has other parts of his economic agenda.

Those Democrats badly miscalculated this month. As Democratic Rep. Gerald E. Connolly put it, their tactical vote to kill one of the party's priorities—trade adjustment assistance (TAA), an important progressive program to help laid-off workers get re-trained at community colleges—was like the sheriff in Mel Brooks' Blazing Saddles putting a gun to his head and holding himself hostage.

Having lost what they mistakenly thought was their leverage, Democrats will now reverse themselves and vote this week for TAA, a program they think doesn't do nearly enough to protect workers from the harsh winds of global trade but is still better than nothing at all. And to make matters worse, they'll need the Republican congressional leadership to help them keep it.

This week's bill signing will hardly end the trade debate. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal itself won't be finalized until this fall and submitted for ratification until early next year—just in time for the first presidential primaries. Hillary Clinton will have to keep bobbing and weaving on trade all the way to the 2016 general election.

In the meantime, Obama needs to figure out how to repair the rift in the Democratic Party and show the country that he can deliver something big for working people who don't see much for themselves in trade deals. White House officials tell me they are working hard to fund a big infrastructure bill, but they are doing so amid a new oppositional liberal climate.

The latest trouble began when large numbers of liberal Democrats started acting like the Tea Party Republicans who broke from the leadership of their party to oppose the trade deal. From the anti-establishment base of both parties came an understandable but ultimately irrational cry of defiance, like King Canute raising his arms to stop the global tides from rolling in.

That bipartisan resistance to reason—whether genuine or political—is problematic in the 21st Century. Labor on the left and Tea Party isolationists on the right have made trade deals a scapegoat for the often-harsh consequences of globalization. But the global economy is not a threat; it's a fact. Our challenge isn't to stand athwart history yelling stop; it's to nudge it and shape it for the long-term interests of the country as a whole.

With the highway trust fund and tax reform both on the table, Obama should devote the rest of 2015 on the domestic side to finding the money for infrastructure.

Like Obamacare and any other landmark legislation, TPP has winners and losers, but the winners aren't just pharmaceutical companies and other big corporations. Sharp reduction or elimination of tariffs and other barriers in Asia will, on balance, help American workers. For instance, removing Vietnam's 80 percent tariff on U.S. autos will almost certainly mean jobs for Detroit autoworkers over the next decade, and there's a big boost in TPP for the U.S.'s job-creating heavy equipment manufacturers (John Deere tractors are popular everywhere but often too expensive to buy with all the tariffs). The U.S. has major competitive advantages in services and IT that will be enhanced by the deal. And all of our new mom-and-pop online businesses will get a chance to export more, creating jobs.

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The Obama Administration made a big mistake in not letting the details circulate more widely. Secrecy breeds suspicion. It didn't help that the news media and social media are largely bored by global trade, which means that vested interests are often the only voices. And the current deal has shortcomings, especially in the enforcement provisions. As Sen. Elizabeth Warren points out, the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) process makes it easy for corporations to bring claims against governments, but difficult for unions and environmentalists to do so. This needs to be fixed at the bargaining table over the next couple of months.

But whatever the deal's shortcomings, it is clearly advantageous to the U.S. to set the trade rules for 38 percent of the global economy. The alternative is to let China (not a party to the TPP) cut its own preferential deals with its neighbors, which would be terrible for Asian workers, the environment and U.S. strategic interests. Even with the enforcement problems, the deal is a big win for the international environmental and labor standards that, well, environmentalists and labor leaders have been arguing for since the 1970s.

Michael Froman, the U.S. Trade Representative, tells me that on everything from intellectual property to Internet freedom to bans on expropriation, "we've taken U.S. law as our starting point in these negotiations." Froman, a friend of Obama from Harvard Law School days, has received a chilly reception from many congressional Democrats who are mindlessly leery of his background at Citibank. They should listen more to his logic, which suggests that it's not in our interests to set off a competition for which nations can have the fewest environmental and labor regulations and the lowest wages: "We're fighting to see a race to the top in the global economy, not a race to the bottom that we can't win and shouldn't even try to run."

Of course the debate is not really about a logical assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of TPP. It's about the financial and emotional body blows inflicted on organized labor and middle-class Americans in recent decades—blows that Obama understands abstractly but has not countered with sustained legislative efforts. His many speeches about jobs and infrastructure—the same thing, since construction jobs can't be out-sourced—have been necessary but hardly sufficient.

So far, Obama hasn't played good poker on his economic agenda. He should have recognized that the Republicans needed a trade deal to show the country they could get something positive done, then linked TPP to a jobs program.

Fortunately there's still time for the president to put his nose to the grindstone on jobs in the same way he has with trade. With the highway trust fund and tax reform both on the table, Obama should devote the rest of 2015 on the domestic side to finding the money for infrastructure. Unlike immigration reform or gun safety, this is achievable with Republicans.

Few Republicans recall that the GOP was founded in the 1850s on what were then known as "internal improvements" as well as opposition to slavery in the territories. But many seem ready for creative policy-making on the issue. Rep. Barbara Comstock and other influential conservatives I've spoken with are open to a big transportation bill if a way can be found to pay for it other than an increase in the gas tax.

The best solution (after a gas tax hike) lies in repatriated earnings. As Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee explains: If American companies that have fled overseas were taxed at a low rate (well below the capital gains rate) on their repatriated earnings, the receipts would fund as much as $500 billion in infrastructure investment. Matched by the private sector (quite likely, actually), about $1 trillion would be available over ten years for rebuilding the roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, rails and sewage systems of the United States—enough (with the spin-off businesses) to offer jobs to millions of the unemployed and propel a whole generation of older displaced construction workers to retirement with some dignity. With interest rates still at historic lows, we have an historic opportunity to lock in huge projects that will quickly pay for themselves.

Republicans have other ideas for funding the transportation bill and establishing an infrastructure bank. Several have offered a deal involving offshore drilling rights. Or maybe it can be part of a Grand Bargain with Rep. Paul

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Ryan on tax reform.

Whatever the solution, it should be sold not as stimulus—a dead-on-arrival argument with the Republican Congress—but as a matter of strength and competitiveness and national greatness. China spends ten times as much on infrastructure as the U.S. as a percentage of its GDP. Do we really want China to have a better infrastructure than ours?

Of course "infrastructure" sounds like a snooze. Many Americans don't even know what it means. So the domestic agenda of the end of the Obama era is better framed as simply: Rebuild America.

Thinking big this way is terribly out of fashion in cynical, polarized Washington. But both parties have an interest in using the bipartisanship of the trade agreement as a model for the huge infrastructure investments that can help rebuild this country. Republican members need to show the public that their congressional majority can keep working positively, as well as bring home long-overdue local projects to their constituents. Democratic members, frustrated by their loss on trade, need a big win for working people and for themselves. So does the president.

In fact, his legacy depends on it.

Democrats work to blunt GOP attacks on global affairs in 2016 **// Politico // Nahal Toosi – June 23, 2015**

Democrats may nominate a former secretary of state as their presidential nominee, but they're still worried Republicans could win the 2016 foreign policy debate.

On Tuesday, a progressive network of foreign affairs experts plans to release a document aimed in part at influencing the White House race, one of several formal and informal attempts in the works aimed at shaping an already lively back-and-forth on America's role in the world.

The Truman National Security Project's platform touches on subjects ranging from countering violent extremism to upgrading the U.S. energy grid. At times deeply wonky and somewhat idealistic, the paper calls for ambitious American leadership at a time of "blurring borders" and "contested spaces," according to an advance copy.

The Truman platform comes amid growing recognition that foreign policy and national security, which rarely decide presidential elections, may play an outsized role this time for at least two key reasons: the U.S. economy is less of a concern and the rise of the Islamic State terrorist group in an increasingly tumultuous Middle East.

With the election still a year and a half away, Democrats insist they have plenty of confidence and time to prepare. The Democratic front-runner for president is, after all, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who can boast more foreign policy and national security experience than any of the many candidates on the GOP side.

Still, there is a lingering worry that Republican allegations that President Barack Obama has diminished America's stature will overshadow Democratic efforts to promote solutions to a host of global challenges.

"It's incumbent on progressives and on Democrats to put forward a compelling, clear, forward-looking affirmative vision," said Michael Breen, executive director of the Truman Project.

Republicans have traditionally been viewed by voters as stronger on national security, but the turmoil following the U.S. invasion of Iraq briefly helped give Democrats the advantage. In more recent years, however, the

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Republicans have rebounded: A Gallup poll last September that asked which party would better protect the U.S. against terrorism gave the GOP a 23-point edge.

Those numbers weigh on Democrats, some of whom have been engaged in formal and unofficial efforts to change the trajectory.

Over the past year, some 40 Democratic foreign policy wonks have been meeting informally every six weeks or so to discuss the challenges facing the party and a future administration. The so-called "Unison group," named after the Virginia town in which an early meeting was held, doesn't plan to issue papers or take official positions, and it is not affiliated with a campaign. Participants work both in and out of government but attend meetings in their personal capacity.

Still, the sessions give attendees ideas to chew over that they can potentially use to advise campaigns. The group was born out of the recognition that Democrats need to come up with innovative, out-of-the-box ideas even when they are in control of the executive branch — and that they shouldn't just leave that work to the Obama administration.

Vikram Singh, one of the group's coordinators, said that although Democrats realize they face a challenge on foreign policy and national security in 2016, they don't feel that Republicans have put forth much in the way of alternatives.

He and others said that Republican calls for tougher policies and better leadership, for example, haven't been accompanied by concrete pledges, say, to send U.S. combat troops to Syria to fight the Islamic State.

"When you dig in to what Republicans are saying, they have a really hard time," said Singh, who also is a vice president at the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

Foreign policy and national security wonks on the right have long assumed those issues will be a major part of the 2016 election, and they have launched their own initiatives aimed at influencing the race. Perhaps the best known is the John Hay Initiative, which brings together more than 250 experts and former senior officials, has some 23 working groups and has helped staff some of the Republican campaigns.

The group was launched by some of GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney's former advisers in the days after his loss in 2012.

"We have tried to be a resource on foreign policy and national security to a number of candidates," said co-founder Brian Hook, a former assistant secretary of state in the George W. Bush administration. "We work with them in varying ways."

Republicans already are going after Clinton's foreign policy credentials and trying to tie her to the Obama administration's perceived weaknesses, even though Clinton has long been considered more of a hawk than the president in whose Cabinet she served.

GOP candidates question whether Clinton's tenure at the State Department was fruitful, pointing out that her attempts to "reset" the relationship with Russia yielded little, and criticizing her response to the attacks on American officials in Benghazi, Libya.

Aside from think tank types (some of whom may be angling for a job in a future Democratic administration and thus are careful in their comments), some Democrats currently in public office also are speaking out about the need for a new foreign policy vision.

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In an essay earlier this month for Foreign Affairs titled “Principles for a Progressive Foreign Policy,” Sens. Chris Murphy, Brian Schatz and Martin Heinrich sketched out a more active role for Congress, saying it can “no longer stand idly by, simply reacting to world events.”

The Democratic senators’ eight principles touched on many of the same topics as the Truman Project’s strategic platform, including the potential security threats posed by climate change and the importance of defending human rights and gender equality abroad.

Heather Hurlburt, who studies policy and political discourse at the New America think tank, said Democrats or Republicans trying to influence 2016 should try to do so soon, before the various campaigns lock down all their foreign policy advisers, carve out their positions — and expect the wonks to fall in line.

“This is the moment that, when people have smart ideas and thoughts, there’s an incentive to get them out there in public,” Hurlburt said. “Now is the time for ideas.”

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Jeb Bush: I would fire OPM director over hack attack **// WaPo // Ed O’Keefe – June 23, 2015**

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called for the ouster of the federal government's personnel chief for failing to heed a watchdog's warnings of potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

The recently disclosed breach of the Office of Personnel Management’s security-clearance computer system took place a year ago and is now believed to have affected the personal data of more than 18 million current, former and potential federal workers.

Those disclosures have come as Bush has launched a new focus in recent days on cybersecurity and the ongoing dangers faced by the public and private sector. On Tuesday morning, Bush, appearing on the radio program, "Bill Bennett's Morning in America," strongly criticized the Obama administration's lax management of the situation.

"It's outrageous," he said, recounting recent reports that Chinese hackers had access to the personal data for more than a year, and that federal officials now believe the number of people affected is much greater than initially acknowledged.

Bush also called on Obama to fire Katherine Archuleta, the head of OPM, who has led the agency since Nov. 2013. Previously, she served as national political director of Obama's 2012 reelection campaign.

"You have a political hack -- you have the national political director of the Obama reelection campaign as the head of this," Bush told Bennett. "And just as has been the case across the board when we have this sheer incompetence

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or scandalous behavior, there's no accountability. No one seems to be fired. If I was president of the United States, that person would be fired.

"They did not follow up on inspector general's recommendations to tighten up security to create a stronger firewall," he added. "The net result is that the Chinese, apparently the Chinese have had access to this information for over a year and it's a dangerous threat to our national security."

The White House said last week that President Obama remains confident that Archuleta "is the right person for the job."

In an op-ed about cybersecurity for the Web site Medium, Bush endorsed House Republican legislation that calls for improved information-sharing between the federal government and the private sector.

"Cybersecurity should be considered a critical element of our national defense, economic well-being, and national resilience," he wrote. "We need a President with the experience and trust necessary to mobilize public and private resources to ensure that our critical infrastructure, networks, and communications remain secure. These efforts will help guarantee America remains on top throughout the ongoing technological and communications revolutions that will transform fundamental aspects of our world, economy, and society."

Jeb Bush goes after Hillary Clinton, de Blasio on education **// CNN // Ashley Killough – June 23, 2015**

A little more than a week into becoming an official presidential candidate, Jeb Bush is sharpening his policy attacks against the left, attempting to underscore his own experience by drawing contrasts with the country's top Democrats.

On Tuesday, Bush went after President Barack Obama, Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio by playing offense on two issues he wants to own: education and national security.

Education

In an op-ed for the New York Post published Tuesday, Bush lambasted de Blasio over his high-profile fights with charter schools, accusing the mayor of "doing everything in his power" to deprive "low-income kids of the education they need to succeed."

He was referring in part to de Blasio's showdown last year with charter schools, which are publicly funded but privately run. The public dispute started after the mayor, citing spacing and financial concerns that he said could affect public school students, denied requests from some charter schools to use rent-free, unused public space.

But after sharp backlash, he ultimately decided to provide the free space, due in part from pressure by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who sided with the charter schools.

In the op-ed, Bush also hit Clinton, saying the Clintons "have an outsize influence in New York politics" and "have largely" defended the mayor. Bush did not state specifically how the Clintons have stood by de Blasio, though Bill Clinton reportedly advised de Blasio at the time on the charter school issue.

Although the mayor has longtime ties to Hillary Clinton -- he helped run her 2000 Senate campaign in New York --

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he has yet to endorse her presidential run and did not attend her major campaign speech in New York earlier this month, sparking speculation of tension between the two.

Representatives for Clinton and de Blasio did not immediately return requests for comment on the op-ed.

While a number of Republican presidential candidates are staunch advocates for school choice, Bush is attempting to become the leading voice on the issue and make it a defining hallmark of his campaign.

He's making the school voucher program he implemented as governor a key part of his presidential platform and has been a longtime supporter of Success Academy -- the network of charter schools that fought with de Blasio -- and stood by the organization during the battle last year.

The former governor frequently mentions in his stump speech the story of Denisha, an African-American woman who went to a private school as part of the Florida voucher system and became the first person in her family to graduate high school, then later college. She was featured in his presidential announcement video, and the campaign released an expanded version of her testimony on Tuesday.

But he has also faced public fights of his own over school-choice issues. A major provision of his voucher program, known as Opportunity Scholarship Program, was struck down in 2006 by the Florida Supreme Court, which said the program was using state dollars to fund private schools, some of which were religious. (The program still provides vouchers to students in failing schools who want to attend higher performing public schools, but not private ones.)

Bush, however, also ushered in another program as governor that gives businesses tax credits for donating to nonprofit scholarship organizations that help send students to private schools. Still in place, that program is currently facing legal challenges from opponents.

As he's pursued a presidential bid, Bush has also faced pushback from the right over his support for Common Core standards. In an interview with conservative radio host Bill Bennett Tuesday morning, Bush acknowledged that the standards have become so controversial that perhaps it's necessary to omit the term "Common Core" from the education conversation altogether, something he's readily done on the trail in recent months.

"Obviously that term -- Common Core -- is poisonous because it means different things to different people, which I respect," he said. "But ... I've not met someone that says, 'hey give me lower standards' or 'let's don't have any accountability.' That's the common ground amongst Republicans and frankly amongst a lot of frustrated liberals as well."

National security

While Bush has gradually begun to take subtle digs at his Republican opponents in the presidential race, his comments on Tuesday showed that he's fully on board with taking aim at Democrats, an approach that signals his strategy of focusing more on the general election than the Republican primary.

In the same interview, Bush harpooned the Obama administration on matters of national security, saying the head of the Office of Personnel Management -- the government agency that recently experienced a massive cyberbreach allegedly at the hands of the Chinese government -- should have been fired.

"If I was President of the United States, that person would be fired," he said. "They did not follow up on the

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inspector general's recommendations to tighten up security to create a stronger firewall."

And on ISIS, Bush tore into Obama's foreign policy, using strong rhetoric to blame the President and Clinton, the former secretary of state, for the unrest that has developed in Iraq after the U.S. withdrew its remaining combat troops four years ago.

"There's no question that the President and Hillary Clinton have created a maddening situation where hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives tragically," he said. "But we've created such instability by the lack of involvement after we promised to do so, that we have to stick with it. I don't think it's going to take a generation, but we can't expect this to happen in a week, either."

14 Years Ago, Jeb Bush Removed Confederate Flag In Florida // CBS // June 23, 2015

More than a decade ago, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush faced a similar decision as South Carolina officials—whether to remove the Confederate flag from state grounds.

Bush as Florida's governor, 14 years ago and with far less fanfare, removed the Confederate flag from the state capitol in Tallahassee.

"Regardless of our views about the symbolism of the ... flags — and people of goodwill can disagree on the subject — the governor believes that most Floridians would agree that the symbols of Florida's past should not be displayed in a manner that may divide Floridians today," a Bush spokeswoman said at the time.

On Feb. 2, 2001, Bush quietly retired the flag and placed it in the Museum of Florida History.

Though his action drew scant public attention at that moment, Floridians soon responded with a mix of praise and vile for the then-governor's decision, according to a review of his email correspondence.

"It is deeply disturbing to see all of this ethnic cleansing that has suddenly emerged in almost all the Southern states today," one Republican supporter wrote Bush a month later. "I am very proud of my Confederate ancestors and I feel I have rights too, but I feel my rights are being trampled on and the various government officials are standing by and letting these loud-mouth people ignorant of history, remove all the symbols of the Confederacy and my ancestors."

Another supporter told Bush his decision saddened her.

"We should be able to remember 'all' of the history from the South which includes this," she wrote that February. "History is history! It is not discrimination but history and 'everyone' should realize that. I think by removing the flag you are bowing to minority pressure vs. taking a stand and leaving up another portion of the Southern heritage.

"The Civil War was not fought only for slavery, but for independence. I wish people of all races would realize what the Confederate flag really represents and if they did, they would not resent the flag."

In 2004, three years after the flag was retired, tensions still stirred for some.

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"I would like to know why we can have a whole month to hear about black history. But every time a southerner raises his heritage the proud CONFEDERATE Flag we are considered a hate group or racist," another correspondent wrote. "The Confederate flag is Southern Heritage not HATE."

A year later, in December 2005, a writer ended his email plea to Bush in all capital letters. "PLEASE GIVE US BACK OUR HERITAGE, REPLACE THE CONFEDERATE FLAG TO ITS PROPER PLACE, ABOVE THE CAPITAL BUILDING," he wrote. "YOU WILL SOON BE GONE FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA, BUT THE SCARS YOU LEAVE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE."

In 2001, one writer said Bush "risks the next election by taking the action he took on removing the flag."

Yet Bush won the next election in Florida — and not everyone was as outraged by his decision to move the flag to a history museum.

One fellow Republican, from Orange County in the Orlando area, told Bush he disagreed with those in the party who had criticized his move.

"I believe that the action to remove the confederate flag was an appropriate and appreciated act of respect to many Floridians — especially African-Americans — for whom it holds a very different, and far less positive meaning," he wrote in March 2001, a month after the flag came down. "I applaud you for respecting those wishes and sensibilities from communities whose wishes and sensibilities have not always been respected."

Just after the flag came down in 2001, a woman wrote Bush, "You have no right to impose your northern prejudices and misconceptions on the people of Florida and to snub your nose at its history."

The governor replied that the flags would be "respectfully displayed" at the history museum. And he added a P.S.: "I am a Floridian born and raised in Texas."

#Millennials: Want to #Hang With #JebBush **// Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – June 23, 2015**

Being a young Jeb Bush donor has some pretty sweet perks.

According to documents obtained by The Daily Beast, the campaign is looking to motivate millennial would-be backers with the possibility of joining a reception with "special guests" in Kennebunkport, the picturesque seaside town where generations of Bushes have summered.

"Please accept Jeb Bush, Jr.'s challenge to become a member of the Young Professionals 15 in FIFTEEN team in support of Jeb 2016!" read a document circulated among wealthy Republican millennials. Jeb Bush, Jr. is Bush's youngest son.

The first 20 young professionals who raise $15,000 for Jeb Bush before the June 30 deadline will be invited to Kennebunkport for an "Evening Picnic" on July 9. That event will feature said special guest attendees.

The Bush campaign didn't respond to a request for further details on the picnic plans and mysterious guests.

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All the Emerging Leaders also get “Limited edition YP 15 in FIFTEEN gifts” and the privilege of being on a conference call with Jeb Jr. And, per the document, they’ll be listed on the host committee for a “Young Professionals” launch party in the Hamptons.

“YP 15 in FIFTEEN includes direct solicited contributions only,” says the document.

Participants get a tracking number so the campaign can follow who’s raised how much money.

Elder Kennebunkport aspirants needn’t fear. Members of the over-32 set can be part of the 27-in-FIFTEEN team if they raise $27,000 by the deadline. Documents indicate that there’s no twenty-person cut-off for them; if you crack $27,000, that golden picnic ticket is yours.

The first 20 young professionals who raise $15,000 for Jeb Bush before the June 30 deadline will be invited to Kennebunkport for an “Evening Picnic” on July 9.

Plus, there are even cooler bonuses for the $27,000-raisers: They get to stick around past the picnic for a “Morning Political and Campaign Briefing with Jeb 2016 Senior Staff.” And they get to be on a conference call with Jeb Sr. Yee-haw.

But the youths stuck with just a Jeb Jr. conference call aren’t necessarily getting sold short. The Washington Post reported that the younger Jeb -- nickname: Jebby -- is “a frequent travel companion and active campaign surrogate for his father, with a focus on building support among Hispanic and millennial voters.” The paper also noted that Jeb Jr. has helmed fundraisers for his old man in Miami nightclubs, New York apartments, and Washington D.C. restaurants (presumably at the few that don’t suck).

It’s unclear if the Kennebunkport event will be inside the Bush family grounds. If they do, construction is currently underway for a house on that compound that will be designated as Jeb’s. The Boston Globe reported that the home is going up on an acre worth $1.3 million

“[A]s he tries to appeal to middle-class Americans in his likely Republican presidential campaign — and distinguish himself as his own man, distinct from the legacies of his father and brother — having a vacation home erected on a spit of land in coastal Maine could be a vivid reminder of the complications facing his campaign,” wrote the paper.

The Globe’s warnings may not be packing much punch. Inviting generous millennials out to the family’s ancestral town could indicate that Bush isn’t as concerned about his family’s #brand as the paper suggests he needs to be.

Why Jeb Bush Wants the United States to Be More Like Estonia // Mother Jones // Max J. Rosenthal – June 23, 2015

On Monday, Jeb Bush posted a column on Medium touting the need for ramped-up cybersecurity efforts. "Given the reliance of the United States government and the private sector on the internet, it is disturbing we remain vulnerable to its disruption and misuse," he wrote.

The piece was mostly devoid of specific ways to fix those vulnerabilities, but what Bush did propose raises some privacy concerns. The former Florida governor cited Estonia, a tiny Baltic nation that's a world leader in cybersecurity efforts, as a model to emulate. What he didn't say was that Estonia's model is predicated on pervasive government involvement in policing the country's internet infrastructure, with the central government establishing a secure online national ID system for citizens. This is a digital version of what US conservatives have long opposed: a national identity card.

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Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the Estonian president who's perhaps best known for yelling at Paul Krugman on Twitter in 2012, wrote in a New York Times op-ed the following year that people should in fact be more concerned with cybercrime and hacking than government intrusion on privacy.

"At a time when the greatest threats to our privacy and the security of our data come from criminal hackers and foreign countries (often working together), we remain fixed on the idea that Big Brother, our own government, is the danger," he noted.

In his Medium post, Bush offered one concrete suggestion: backing the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, a bill that would give private companies greater legal cover to share information on potential cybersecurity threats with the government. Bush called the failure to pass the bill a "critical impediment to cybersecurity," but privacy advocates and technical experts who spoke to Mother Jones last week disagreed, noting the measure would result in private-sector companies passing information on consumers and citizens to government agencies.

"This isn't a cybersecurity bill—it's a surveillance bill," said Elizabeth Goitein, co-director of the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice. "There is absolutely no reason to think that that is going to provide any significant cybersecurity benefits."

Jeb Bush: Obama Should Fire His 'Political Hack' OPM Director // National Journal // Dustin Volz – June 23, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush wants President Obama to fire the head of the Office of Personnel Management amid a cascade of revelations about the size and scope of an enormous hack of federal employee data from the agency.

The Republican presidential candidate Tuesday sharply condemned the president's handling of the theft of personal data of millions of former and current government workers, and said OPM Director Katherine Archuleta needs to be removed.

"You have a political hack—you have the national political director of the Obama reelection campaign as the head of this," Bush said on Bill Bennett's Morning in America radio program. "And just as has been the case across the board when we have this sheer incompetence or scandalous behavior, there's no accountability. No one ever seems—no one seems to be fired. If I was president of the United States, that person would be fired."

Bush's call for Archuleta's ouster is similar to statements made by a handful of lawmakers—both Republicans and Democrats—last week following her testimony before the House Oversight Committee. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, the panel's chairman, said that Archuleta, in addition to Donna Seymour, OPM's chief information officer, should be fired for ignoring cybersecurity recommendations made in inspector general reports issued over the past several years.

Reps. Ted Lieu and Jim Langevin, both Democrats, also have said Archuleta, who has been at the helm of OPM since late 2013, needs to go. Despite the pressure, the White House press secretary Josh Earnest has said the administration stands firmly behind Archuleta.

Bush, in his radio interview, echoed many of the grievances bubbling up on Capitol Hill.

"They did not follow up on inspector general's recommendations to tighten up security to create a stronger firewall," Bush said. "The net result is that the Chinese—apparently the Chinese—have had access to this information for over a year and it's a dangerous threat to our national security."

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Archuleta began a week-long gauntlet of testimony Tuesday before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Financial Services and General Government subcommittee. In response to a series of questions about who should be held accountable for for the two massive breaches disclosed over the past month, Archuleta said: "I don't believe anyone is personally responsible."

"If there's anyone to blame, it's the perpetrators," Archuleta said, later adding, "I'm angry as you are that this has happened to OPM."

Sen. John Boozman, an Arkansas Republican and chair of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee, told reporters after Tuesday's hearing that he was not ready to call for resignations at OPM, though he said that may change as he learns more about the situation.

"I don't know exactly the extent of the second breach that's been classified, so we'll do that this afternoon and we'll have her on," Boozman said, referring to a closed-door briefing the Senate was scheduled to receive from administration officials on Tuesday. "I don't think it's fair for me to do that without having all the information."

Senior administration officials investigating the breach of employee records and security-clearance information believe China to be the culprit, but the White House has not publicly condemned Beijing.

School choice is the best hope for New York's kids – and America's **// NY Post // Jeb Bush – June 23, 2015**

Last year, I met a 14-year-old student who is thriving through his attendance at a Success Academy school, a high-performing charter-school network serving New York City's poorest communities.

He's an excellent student and debating champion. He also lives in poverty, facing hardships most of us can't imagine.

And yet the school he attends has him believing it's possible to achieve the American Dream.

As a decades-long advocate for school choice, I have met countless parents and their children who have been given a second chance because of charter and private schools.

We know school choice works just by looking at New York City's network of charter schools.

According to a study by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University, "the typical student who remained in a NYC charter school for four years was about two years ahead of his or her traditional public school counterpart on math and four months ahead on reading."

Our experience in Florida provides important lessons for the nation as well.

Prior to the adoption of our A+ reforms, graduation rates in Florida had declined for several consecutive years to one of the lowest in the country.

During my governorship, we adopted three separate voucher programs and nearly tripled the number of charter schools to spark competition in our public K-12 system.

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The teachers unions in Tallahassee fought us every step of the way.

But we pushed back for students and their parents, and the results speak for themselves.

We delivered some of the most dramatic gains in student achievement in the nation, especially among kids in poverty and students with learning disabilities.

I am proud that more than 300,000 students in Florida are now benefitting from a school-choice program.

I am more heartened that our high-school graduation rates have increased by nearly 50 percent since we made choice a staple of our education system.

Sadly, teachers unions and much of the education establishment in America continues to fight against parental control of education.

Mayor de Blasio, a protégé of Hillary Rodham Clinton, has taken up their cause, fighting to undercut school choice at every turn.

While calling New York a tale of two cities, the mayor appears to be doing everything in his power to keep it that way — depriving low-income kids of the education they need to succeed.

The families of New York City charter-school students have not taken this treatment lying down.

They've rallied by the thousands under the slogan "don't steal possible," and at their urging, Gov. Cuomo and the state Legislature passed a law guaranteeing charters rent-free access to unused public-school facilities.

Yet these schools continue to face a constant barrage of political attacks and policies that constrain their growth.

The Clintons, who have an outsize influence in New York politics, have largely stood by as Mayor de Blasio has attempted to undermine the benefits that the Success Academies and other school-choice programs have provided to low-income children.

Will former Secretary Clinton continue to put the interests of the entrenched education establishment above the interests of kids in America?

There should be no doubt about my priorities.

As president of the United States, I will reduce the power and authority of the federal Department of Education, sending more money and flexibility back to the states so greater school-choice opportunities can be made available to parents and their children.

It makes no sense to force students to attend schools where they aren't learning.

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And it doesn't make sense to spend taxpayer dollars on programs that aren't getting the results families deserve.

Few things are more important to the future of our nation than giving our children the opportunity to receive a high-quality education that equips them to compete in the modern economy.

Jeb Bush blasts the White House on cybersecurity // Fortune // Robert Hackett – June 23, 2015

Politicians are hitching their wagons to the star of cybersecurity.

Earlier this year, President Obama called for a cybersecurity summit at Stanford University, using the occasion to push for new legislation and announce new executive orders. Presidential hopeful Rand Paul raised his profile recently by filibustering a key portion of the Patriot Act on the Senate floor. And Jeb Bush has gotten in on the act, calling out what he deems the nation's digital defense failings in a post on the social blogging platform Medium.

Bush's thousand word proclamation—titled "The President Must Prioritize Cybersecurity"–is mostly rhetoric. In it he praises the economic potential of the Internet and admonishes attackers that have burglarized businesses and the public sector. He lauds Estonian ingenuity and decries the leadership of the Obama administration. He blasts defense budget cuts and defends the oft-vilified snoop work of the U.S. National Security Agency.

In word, he plants his flag. And that flag bears the distinct marks of hawkish heraldry.

"We have allowed these adversaries to threaten our citizens' inherent right to a trusted, free and open internet," he writes, censuring the attackers that have lately targeted retailers, health care companies, federal agencies, and others. "It doesn't have to be this way."

Bush's statement sets his political platform into motion on the digital front. Using the example of the bleeding edge electronic reforms of the post-Soviet state Estonia, he says, "if you rely on the internet, you need to invest in protecting it." And he asserts of the Internet and its central role in U.S. commerce: "Something so important must be a priority for the U.S. government, and yet it is not."

He's not wrong. Government has the poorest record of any industry sector when it comes to fixing software vulnerabilities, according to a recent report by the application security company Veracode. It also scores the lowest in adopting commonly accepted web application security measures. In an interview with Fortune, Veracode CTO and chief information security officer Chris Wysopal said: "The government sector—it shouldn't be a surprise—is actually the worst over all industry vertical we looked at. Worse than retail."

Still, there's no denying that cybersecurity has become a top priority for the Obama administration, which has presided over a nation wracked with revelations of NSA leaker Edward Snowden; beset by endless cyberattacks; and left limping after embarrassing breaches of federal data. President Obama unprecedentedly named, shamed, and sanctioned North Korea for its role in hacking Sony Pictures Entertainment at the end of last year. He also passed executive orders boosting federal power to impose economic sanctions against hackers overseas.

But Bush points to the recent data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management as "emblematic of the cultural failure of the Obama Administration to take these threats seriously." Then he uses the opportunity to pile on with a barrage of rhetorical questions:

What use is it that President Obama issued an Executive Order or gave a thoughtful speech about cybersecurity if his own Office of Personnel Management—the human resources department of the entire US Government—failed to take basic steps to protect the sensitive personal information of millions of its employees?

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Where is the accountability? What consequences will there be for political appointees or bureaucrats who failed to heed warnings and adequately protect these key databases? What will happen to Katherine Archuleta who served as the National Political Director For President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign before assuming her role as OPM Director? What message will it send to other managers throughout the government—and private sector—if there isn't accountability?

Bush falls just short of calling for Archuleta's head. He stands opposed, he says, to the current leadership's policies. Never mind that Bush supports increased cybersecurity information sharing between the corporate world and government—a position he shares with president Obama, even if the latter disagrees with the Republican-backed bill that's now wending its away through Capitol Hill.

In general, Bush asks a lot of questions but doesn't answer many. That's probably because the answers are tough, technical, and to be determined. As far as a plan goes, the only concretely stated one is to increase investment and spending in cybersecurity. But one should keep in mind that it's not necessarily more money—more defense, military, and intelligence agency spending—that will beget better cybersecurity. After all, the U.S. spends more on defense than any other country by a long shot. It's just as important to infuse the culture with better processes and practices.

Bush also takes a moment to side with the controversial work of the NSA. "The NSA is critical to our defense against foreign cyber-threats, and yet the political class in Washington has been more interested in treating the NSA as an enemy of the state rather than its defender," he says. "We need to preserve and enhance the capabilities of the U.S. intelligence community and law enforcement to identify, deter, and respond to cyber-attacks."

Overall, Bush's post sets out to differentiate his position from competitors like Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, who, aside from being a former member of the Obama administration, has been skewered for her unsecure email practices. And his stance puts him in direct opposition to contenders such as the libertarian Kentucky senator Paul, who have come down hard on NSA spying and on military spending.

Jeb Bush's record, of course, isn't blemish-free. Earlier this year he accidentally exposed nearly 13,000 social security numbers when making the contents of his email archive public. (In his defense, the Florida Department of State had reportedly approved the cache for publishing.) But the point is: Poor security is endemic to the Internet. And while it may be convenient to lambast the opposition for an ever escalating spate of hacking catastrophes, cybersecurity should be a nonpartisan issue. No doubt there will be a high hurdle for any politician to convince the public that there's a simple solution to the nation's security woes.

Jeb Bush: Obama caused 'massive' tax increase on middle class // PolitiFact // Lauren Carroll – June 23, 2015

After six years with a Democrat in the White House, middle-class Americans face a bigger tax bill than they did before, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said in a speech launching his 2016 presidential campaign.

"The party now in the White House is planning a no-suspense primary, for a no-change election," he said in his June 15 remarks in Miami. "They are responsible for the slowest economic recovery ever, the biggest debt increases ever, a massive tax increase on the middle class, the relentless buildup of the regulatory state, and the swift, mindless drawdown of a military that was generations in the making."

The claim that President Barack Obama and the Democrats have significantly raised taxes is bound to come up frequently in the 2016 election, so we decided to take a whack at it now.

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When we asked Bush's campaign specifically what tax increases he was talking about, they pointed to the Affordable Care Act.

It's a claim we heard before, and one that is flawed. Bush is correct that the Affordable Care Act raises taxes. But pinpointing the middle class as the recipient of "a massive tax increase" is misleading. It's the upper-class that is feeling the brunt of the impact. And health care subsidies, in some cases, may be offsetting tax increases.

A note: The term "middle class" is hard to define, but for the purposes of this article, we are roughly looking at a generous threshold that comprises households making up to $250,000 a year.

Health care taxes

Let's get the big number out of the way. The health care law is expected bring in more than $1 trillion in new taxes over 10 years, according to a 2013 Joint Committee on Taxation report. The revenue is coming in through 21 new or increased taxes.

Of those 21, 12 could affect households making less than $250,000 a year, according to the Tax Foundation.

We've looked at this list of 12 before. Some primarily target the middle class, others could hit certain people within the middle class, and others are debatable. Bush's campaign specifically sent us a list of the conservative Americans for Tax Reform's "top-five" Obamacare middle class tax increases. The five Bush cited are all included in our larger list of 12.

A couple of the taxes are obvious, direct taxes on individuals -- such as a tax on indoor tanning services and the penalty for not complying with the individual mandate to have insurance. These only apply to select individuals.

Many more are applied to companies, such as the excise tax on certain medical device manufacturers or the so-called "Cadillac tax" on high-cost health insurance plans. Many economists anticipate that companies will pass these taxes along to consumers in the form of higher premiums or more expensive products.

In any case, none of these taxes affects every single member of the middle class. It's possible there are individuals who will incur most of these additional costs, while others face a couple.

Whether or not these taxes are -- as Bush put it -- "massive" increases on the middle class depends on individual circumstances, said Kyle Pomerleau, a Tax Foundation economist.

"I would say that the tax increase in total was large and that some of it definitely hits the middle class in some way," he said. "The degree to which individuals are impacted depends on their situation."

For some perspective, total federal revenues are estimated to be about $40 trillion over 10 years. Tax revenue from the health care law, about $1 trillion, accounts for about 2.5 percent. Looking at the revenue just from the 12 that might affect middle-class taxpayers (as well as those in other income brackets), it's about 1.25 percent of overall tax revenue.

"Almost certainly, yes, taxes have gone up for lower- and middle-income people," said Roberton Williams, a fellow with the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. "But have they gone up a lot? Probably not."

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"If I were pulling words out of the air, ‘massive’ is not the word I would pull," Williams said.

Many of these taxes tend to affect more people at the upper-end of middle class, because people with lower incomes are less likely to opt for the taxed services -- such as optional medical procedures or flexible savings accounts, Williams said

Conversely, some middle-income households might even see tax benefits of the Affordable Care Act -- namely, insurance premium subsidies -- outweigh any tax increases, he added.

Premium tax credits will save taxpayers about $19 billion in 2015, while the five taxes cited by Bush and the Americans for Tax Reform list are worth much less, said Laurel Lucia, health care program manager at University of California Berkeley’s Center for Labor Research and Education. In total, those five taxes are worth about $11 billion per year, she said, citing congressional research.

"I certainly agree Obamacare has increased taxes on the middle class," said University of California Los Angeles law professor Eric Zold. "But it is not clear that the middle class as a group are not better off by the combination of Obamacare costs and benefits."

Other tax policies

It's worth noting, of course, that the health care law isn’t the only policy that has impacted taxes in the last few years.

Some changes have had a positive impact on the wallets of the middle class. Some changes have had a negative impact.

Soon after taking office, Obama signed a bill raising the sales tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products to support the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Less than 20 percent of the population smokes, though polling shows that the percentage of the population that smokes decreases as income increases.

In terms of tax cuts, Obama extended the Bush-era tax cuts for people making below $250,000, as well as an array of beneficial measures for small businesses. Additionally, he signed off on several stimulus tax measures to assist with the 2008 economic recovery -- such as a temporarily reduced payroll tax and an increased earned income tax credit. Some are still around, but others have phased out.

It's fair to say that under Obama, for the most part, taxes have decreased for lower-income people and increased for upper-income people, Williams said. And it's a mixed bag for the middle class.

Our ruling

Bush said, "The party in the White House" is responsible for "a massive tax increase on the middle class."

Bush pointed to the Affordable Care Act, which certainly does involve tax increases -- some of which affect the middle class, though not exclusively. It’s not accurate to call the tax increases for the middle class "massive." Some individuals might see their tax bill go up, while others see the tax benefits of the health care law outweigh the

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costs, and some might experience a change so small they don't notice it.

Looking only at the health care law also ignores other pieces of tax policy that have affected the bottom line for the middle class.

We rate this claim Mostly False.

RUBIO

Rubio hasn't learned running for president is different // Chicago Sun-Times // Mark Shields – June 23, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. – who, according to polls of Republican voters nationally, wins higher favorable and lower unfavorable ratings than any of the potential 2016 presidential candidates — has shown some real nerve and more than a little brass. After The New York Times reported on Rubio's unorthodox personal finances— including his use, as speaker of the Florida House, of the state GOP's credit card for personal expenses, cashing in his retirement account, and buying, with effectively no money down, three houses (one of which he was forced to sell after five months of missed mortgage payments) — Rubio did not retreat. Instead, he used a fund-raising mailing to attack the Times for implying that he is not "rich enough to be president," seeking to turn the story against the Democratic front-runner, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: "It's true, I didn't make over $11 million last year giving speeches to special interests. And we don't have a family foundation that has raised $2 billion from Wall Street and foreign interests."

Nice try, senator, but no sale. Running for the White House is totally different from running for governor or senator. In the words of former presidential pollster Peter D. Hart, "when you run for president, you are flying at a much higher altitude than you have ever before experienced." The scrutiny, the pressure and the demands increase exponentially. The American voter is far likelier to cast her ballot based on issues — education, health care, taxes — in a vote for the House or the Senate, where we have less feeling of actually knowing the nominees. But our vote for the White House is almost always the most "personal" we cast. We are bombarded with information and impressions of the individual candidates. We hear from their high-school classmates, their car pool colleagues, people they worked for (or who worked for them), their siblings, their in-laws and their old neighbors.

We have also learned, painfully, that failed American presidents have been failures not of intellect or education or experience but rather of character, values and personality. In fact, Richard M. Nixon, our only chief executive to resign in disgrace, had a first-rate mind. He had graduated from Duke University School of Law, served as a Navy officer, been both a U.S. representative and a U.S. senator from California, and served two terms as vice president before being elected and re-elected president.

In our most recent presidential election, Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee, had been attacked in the primaries by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich for his work as a venture capitalist leader of a bunch of "rich people figuring out clever legal ways to loot a company" and by then-Texas Gov. Rick Perry for being a "vulture capitalist" whose Bain Capital laid off workers in acquired companies solely to improve the bottom line.

This, reinforced by similar attacks from President Barack Obama's campaign, helps explain why Romney lost to Obama by an 81-18 percent margin when it came to the quality of "cares about people like me," which 21 percent of voters told exit pollsters on Election Day is the most important one for presidential candidates. Romney won majorities among voters who identified "vision for the future" (29 percent), "shares my values," (27 percent) and "strong leader" (18 percent) as their most important presidential quality. But he flunked the empathy test.

So it's totally legitimate for the press and the voters to look at and examine how a would-be president, especially

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one who makes fiscal austerity a central issue, has made and has managed his or her own money. Because Heraclitus remains as right today as he was 25 centuries ago, when he wrote, “Character is destiny.”

PAUL

Rand Paul: Flag ‘inescapably a symbol of human bondage and slavery’ // Politico // Adam B. Lerner – June 23, 2015

Rand Paul waited until Tuesday to take a stand on the debate over the Confederate flag, but he minced few words.

In an interview on WRKO radio in Boston, the Kentucky senator said he agrees with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s call Monday for the flag to be taken down.

“I think the flag is inescapably a symbol of human bondage and slavery, and particularly when people use it obviously for murder and to justify hated so vicious that you would kill somebody, I think that that symbolism needs to end, and I think South Carolina is doing the right thing,” Paul said.

The American flag and Mississippi state flag fly at half staff outside the Forrest County Courthouse in Hattiesburg, Miss., Monday, May 11, 2015, in honor of Hattiesburg police officers Benjamin Deen and Liquori Tate, who were shot to death Saturday night. Four people have been arrested and charged in their deaths and are to make their initial court appearance on Monday afternoon.

“Obviously it’s a decision for South Carolina to make, but if I were in South Carolina that’s what I would vote to do and that’s what I would recommend to anybody who asked me my opinion,” he said.

Paul’s reaction, which came a day after Haley’s announcement and after the reactions of a number of other prominent 2016 contenders, drew a far firmer connection between the flag and slavery. Others, including Scott Walker, Jeb Bush and John Kasich, praised Haley’s decision without commenting directly on the symbolism of the flag itself.

“There have been people who have used it for Southern pride and heritage and all that, but really to every African-American in the country it’s a symbolism of slavery to them and now it’s a symbol of murder to this young man,” Paul said.

Rand Paul Says Confederate Flag Belongs in Museum // Bloomberg // Ben Brody – June 23, 2015

Weighing in on the South Carolina Confederate flag debate for the first time since the shooting of nine African-American church worshippers last week, Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul said Tuesday that the “symbolism needs to end.”

“I think the flag is inescapably a symbol of human bondage and slavery,” the Kentucky senator said in an interview with with Florida-based WKRO radio, according to audio posted by BuzzFeed. “Particularly when people use it obviously for murder and to justify hatred so vicious that you would kill somebody, I think that that symbolism needs to end.”

Paul, who has made minority outreach a centerpiece of his campaign, said it's up to South Carolina whether it removes the flag from the grounds of the state's capitol, as Governor Nikki Haley urged Monday, prompting

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support from other presidential candidates.

“But if I were in South Carolina, that’s what I would vote to do,” he said. The flag's presence at a war memorial is controlled by the state legislature.

Since last week's killings in a Charleston church, for which a white man has been charged, the debate over the flag has also spread to Mississippi and Virginia.

“There have been people who have used it for southern pride and heritage and all of that, but really to I think to every African-American in the country, it’s a symbolism of slavery to them," Paul said. “Now it’s a symbol of murder for this young man and so I think it’s time to put it in a museum.”

A Paul campaign spokesman, Sergio Gor, said in an e-mail the interview reflected the senator's stance. “You should have his position from that,” Gor said.

On Sunday, Paul came under scrutiny for receiving campaign money from a man said to be a white nationalist whose group inspired the accused Charleston shooter. Paul's campaign said he would donate the money to a fund to help the shooting victims' families.

Rand Paul Super-PAC Slams “Bailout Bu$h” in Bizarre Web Ad // Mother Jones // Patrick Caldwell – June 23, 2015

Here come the crazed attack ads. More than seven months out from the first votes in the 2016 presidential primaries, America's Liberty, a super-PAC backing Sen. Rand Paul's bid for the Republican nomination, has put out an online ad attacking Jeb "Bailout" Bush. It is...strange.

The video, which had more than 10,000 views as of Tuesday afternoon, is framed as an infomercial, with an exuberant, wild-bearded speaker named Max Power (perhaps borrowed from Homer Simpson, who took the same name from a hair dryer) serving as the pitchman. The ad offers a Bailout Bu$h action figure—which sadly does not actually seem to be for sale, probably because it appears to be a different action figure with an image of Bush's face pasted on—as Power shouts about how Jeb worked for Lehman Brothers right before the crash and supported the Troubled Asset Relief Program. "This offer guarantees a presidential candidate cannot win a single primary state, let alone the general election," a voice-over says at the end of the ad as Power bathes in a tub of money.

Per the Washington Times, America's Liberty is spending in the five figures to run the ad online in early primary states, though it is also clearly running in DC, since I encountered it when it popped up before a music video on YouTube.

America's Liberty has close connections to the Paul camp. The super-PAC's founder and president is John Tate, who worked as Ron Paul's presidential campaign manager in 2012 and currently also serves as president of Campaign for Liberty, a longtime Ron Paul organization.

Rand Paul weighs in on Confederate flag: It’s a symbol of slavery // MSNBC // Benjy Sarlin – June 23, 2015

Republican Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul on Tuesday praised South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s call to remove the

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Confederate flag from state capitol grounds, making him the final major GOP contender to weigh in on the issue.

"I think the flag is inescapably a symbol of human bondage and slavery — and particularly when people use it obviously for murder and to justify hatred so vicious that you would kill somebody — I think that that symbolism needs to end, and I think South Carolina is doing the right thing," Paul told radio station WKRO.

Paul had kept quiet on the topic in the days following the massacre at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a historic black house of worship, that left nine people dead. A spokesman for the senator told the Washington Post on Monday that he was "out of pocket" and not available for comment.

"There have been people who have used [the flag] for Southern pride and heritage and all of that, but really … to every African-American in the country it's a symbolism of slavery to them," Paul said on WKRO. "And now it's a symbol of murder for this young man, and so I think it's time to put it in a museum."

While the other major candidates weighed in before Paul via statements and interviews, they carefully avoided taking a substantive position on the issue until Haley joined a bipartisan group of top state officials on Monday in calling on the legislature to take down the flag. Haley's move, which provided political cover for candidates wary of upsetting voters in the early primary state, garnered immediate praise former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Paul's absence from the debate was especially glaring given his unusual role in the party on matters of race. The senator has called on his party to aggressively court African-American votes and has put in major work on issues like criminal justice reform, which civil rights groups have made a top priority in recent years.

There's also an uncomfortable history for Paul, however: He gained national attention criticizing the 1964 Civil Rights Act during his 2010 Senate run (he later indicated his support for the law), and co-wrote a book with a radio shock jock, Jack Hunter— who dubbed himself the "Southern Avenger" and wore a Confederate flag mask. Paul also notably supported the presidential campaigns of his father, former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Tex.), who has fiercely criticized Abraham Lincoln and published years of racially inflammatory newsletters.

CRUZ

Cruz reverses support for TPA trade bill, blasts GOP leaders **// Politico // Manu Raju – June 23, 2015**

Ted Cruz is reversing his position on a major trade bill, calling it a "corrupt" backdoor deal between Republican leaders and the White House.

The Texas firebrand and Republican 2016 presidential hopeful had been a vocal supporter of trade legislation, even co-authoring a Wall Street Journal op-ed in April saying that the fast-track bill, known as Trade Promotion Authority, is a "fair deal" for the American worker. In May, he voted to advance the TPA bill, which also included a worker aid package favored by Democrats.

But just hours before a decisive Tuesday vote, Cruz is changing his tune. He says he will vote to block the TPA bill, citing a series of deals between Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Democrats — namely over an unrelated issue dealing with the Export-Import Bank. He also contends that a separate trade deal being worked out by Obama could change immigration laws and not give Congress a say.

In a fiery op-ed on the conservative Breitbart website, Cruz lashes Obama and GOP leaders, saying the American

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people “do not trust” them.

“Enough is enough,” Cruz said. “I cannot vote for TPA unless McConnell and Boehner both commit publicly to allow the Ex-Im Bank to expire—and stay expired.”

The announcement is significant because free-trade proponents have no margin for error. They cannot lose more than three Senate votes from last May on the procedural motion to end debate on the TPA bill. If they do, the fast-track bill could die — and with it, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the most sweeping trade bill in history.

“Why does Republican Leadership always give in to the Democrats? Why does Leadership always disregard the promises made to the conservative grassroots?” he wrote.

Cruz, who has long aligned himself with the tea party wing of the party, has taken some flak from the right for backing the trade bill initially — so voting “no” now could insulate himself from some of that criticism. Yet it could further alienate himself from big business and deep-pocketed donors who are staunch proponents of expanded markets.

Cruz cites a deal cut on the Senate floor last month between McConnell and Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) that would give Congress a vote to extend the charter of the expiring Ex-Im Bank, an entity that Cruz says is riddled with “corporate welfare.”

Cruz suggests that McConnell misled him last month on the day of the trade vote.

“At lunch that day, I asked Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell what precise deal had been cut to pass TPA,” Cruz wrote. “Visibly irritated, he told me and all my Republican colleagues that there was no deal whatsoever; rather, he simply told them they could use the ordinary rules to offer whatever amendments they wanted on future legislation. “

He added: “Taking McConnell at his word that there was no deal on Ex-Im, I voted yes on TPA because I believe the U.S. generally benefits from free trade, and without TPA historically there have been no free-trade agreements.”

The U.S. Trade Representative’s office, meanwhile, disputes Cruz’s assertions in his Breitbart op-ed that the TPA could change federal immigration law.

“We have been abundantly clear that we are not proposing and will not agree to anything that changes U.S. immigration law, procedure, or practice,” said U.S. Trade Representative spokesman Matt McAlvanah.

Why Ted Cruz Can’t Quit the Gay Marriage Fight **// Bloomberg // Heidi Przybyla – June 23, 2015**

The Republican Party is hoping that a Supreme Court ruling before month's end will close a chapter in American politics that has caught much of the party between evangelicals who emphatically opposes gay marriage and many voters who are supportive of same-sex couples.

Ted Cruz is trying to ensure that the debate is far from over.

While Republican leaders hope that the issue will be neutralized either way the high court rules—by affirming

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social conservatives seeking to protect states that still bar same-sex marriages or by issuing an unambiguous statement in support of gay couples—Cruz has other goals.

The Texas senator is making evangelicals a bedrock of his 2016 presidential campaign. He's making it clear that regardless of the case's outcome, he'll keep pressing the issue.

'Religious Liberty'

"I believe 2016 will be the religious liberty election," Cruz said at a gathering of faith activists in Washington last week. "Religious liberty has never been more threatened in America than right now today.'"

Cruz has legislative, political and fund-raising motivation. In the Senate, he's sponsoring a constitutional amendment shielding states that still bar gay marriage, and he's already attacking his competitors. In his speech last week, he derided Republicans who weren't supportive of religious liberty laws in Indiana and Arkansas that opponents said would allow businesses to discriminate against gay customers.

"I'll tell you what was saddest, just how many Republicans ran for the hills," Cruz said, adding that Indiana was "a time for choosing."

Cruz's legislative challenge is going nowhere fast, given that it requires a two-thirds majority of both chambers of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures to amend the Constitution. But by using his power to sponsor legislation, he can distinguish himself from other conservatives in the crowded 2016 presidential field. That may help him with the party's coveted evangelical base.

In the process, Cruz can also create headaches for more centrist (and more front-of-the-pack) candidates such as former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who need to get through the nominating process without having to take stands that could hurt them in a general election.

Underlining the concerns of some party strategists, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, also among the Republican field's top-polling candidates, recently threw his support behind a constitutional amendment to allow states to ban gay marriage.

Practically Silent

Congressional Republican leaders are using megaphones to blast President Barack Obama's health care law, which also figures in a major case the court will decide by the end of June. By contrast, they've been practically silent on gay marriage.

The same goes for Bush and Rubio. It's a reflection of the party's desire to downplay a matter on which polls show they are at odds with the public. A Gallup poll in May found that a record 60 percent of Americans support gay marriage.

"The reality is the ground is shifting on this issue because of people getting to know more about the fact that, for the vast majority of people, this is not a choice, this is who they are," Ohio Senator Rob Portman, a Republican whose son is gay and who supports gay marriage, said in an interview. "Most of the candidates are not talking about it, which is different than it would have been eight years ago."

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On the other side of the debate, Gary Bauer, president of American Values and one of the nation's most vocal social conservatives, agrees that "the party establishment and some of the donor base is very uncomfortable with these issues."

Voter Turnout

"What they need to ponder is the very real chance of demoralization among voters that care about these issues that would suppress voter turnout," Bauer said.

As a senator, Cruz can introduce legislation on gay marriage, but there are other Republican candidates who are competing for the evangelical vote and who are eager to make an issue of gay marriage.

In May, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal signed a religious freedom executive order. Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, is promising to fight "judicial tyranny" and calling on his fellow candidates to join him.

"If you lack the backbone to reject judicial tyranny and fight for religious liberty, you have no business serving our nation as President of the United States," Huckabee said in a letter last week to more than 100 conservative leaders and organizations.

Cruz and the others are backed by activists who say the gay marriage debate is a part of a broader assault on religious liberty that will eventually strip them of their ability to openly practice their beliefs.

Religious leaders are concerned the ruling will force Catholic and other religious-based adoption services to give same-sex couples equal preference, Bauer said. "The battle is morphing away from just the question of the definition of marriage," he said. `"That's going to be a huge battle that is likely to be very divisive."

King's Call

Iowa Representative Steve King, a Republican who is heavily courted by Republican presidential candidates because he's from the state where the first ballots of the presidential election will be cast, has called for "civil disobedience" if the court rules in favor of same-sex marriages. The National Organization for Marriage is urging all the Republican candidates for the 2016 presidential nomination to sign a pledge promising to support a constitutional amendment similar to what Cruz has proposed defending marriage as between one man and one woman. And the Southern Baptist Convention says it will reject any ruling affirming gay marriage.

Meanwhile, other Republicans are making clear it's a fight they'd rather not have. During last week's Faith & Freedom Coalition meeting in Washington, D.C., Cruz was the only 2016 candidate to aggressively address the gay marriage issue.

Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson, a Republican facing a tough reelection battle, said his priorities are addressing the nation's debt and deficit and turning back Obamacare.

'Pretty Definitive'

Once the court rules, "I would move on," he said in an interview. "The Supreme Court rulings are pretty definitive. They just are."

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That won't be easy to do for the 2016 field of Republicans because of voters like Linda Cleaver of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, a member of the Faith & Freedom Coalition.

"It will go everywhere and affect everything," she said of the ruling. "It's Bill of Rights time," she said in rejecting the argument that forcing Bush, Rubio and Walker into an aggressive posture against gay marriage will hurt them if they become the party's nominee.

"I don't care what they think," she said of Republican strategists who argue the party has a better chance of winning the White House if it avoids divisive social issues. "They have their opinion, but they're out of touch."

Ted Cruz's team stands by campaign aide who compared Confederate flag removal to a 'Stalinist purge' // **Business Insider // Hunter Walker - June 23, 2015**

Lee Bright, a local lawmaker who is serving as the South Carolina co-chair for the presidential campaign of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), compared the calls to remove the Confederate flag from the capitol building in his home state to a "Stalinist purge." According to a spokesperson for Cruz, those comments don't conflict with the candidate's position on the issue.

"What Senator Cruz has said is that this is an issue for the state of South Carolina and South Carolinians to sort out and I think that's what you're watching happen," Cruz campaign spokesman Rick Tyler said in a conversation with Business Insider on Tuesday evening.

The shooting at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina that left nine people dead on June 17 has reignited a nationwide debate over the flag. The alleged shooter, Dylann Roof, has been linked to a website that featured Confederate imagery and a racist manifesto. This prompted South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) to call for the flag to be removed from the capitol on Monday.

Bright made his comment when he was asked about Haley's move by the Charleston Post and Courier. He elaborated on it in an interview with Politico that was published Tuesday.

"It's not just the flag," Bright said. "They want to take down the Confederate monuments, I've gotten emails from people who want to rename streets ... anytime you want to basically remove the symbols of history from a state, that's something that just is very bad ... these are honorable men who fought for their homes, their home state, to disgrace them in the name of political correctness is just wrong. They're not here to defend themselves."

Bright told Politico the Cruz campaign had not discussed the issue with him, but he said he hoped presidential candidates would not tell South Carolina how to handle the issue.

"I would encourage presidential candidates to let us deal with this," Bright said. "It's deeply rooted history for a lot of us. I'm not going to stand by and let our ancestors' memories be besmirched. It's one thing to just take down the flag. They want us to concede that the soldiers that fell for the Confederacy were a bunch of racists and I'm not going to concede that."

Tyler, the Cruz campaign spokesman, said the senator agrees with the notion the issue should be decided by people in South Carolina.

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"The idea of outsiders coming in to South Carolina and telling them how they should deal with their issue, the senator ... I think correctly, his view is, let South Carolinians work it out amongst themselves and sort it out," Tyler said. "And that's what's happening, there's a disagreement of opinion, but that's part of the process."

Bright did not respond to multiple requests for comment from Business Insider.

PERRY

Rick Perry Is Still on the Payroll of a Controversial Pipeline Company // Mother Jones // Patrick Caldwell – June 22, 2015

When former Texas Gov. Rick Perry launched his bid for the Republican presidential nomination earlier this month, he declared his campaign would emphasize energy policy. "Energy is vital to our economy, and to our national security," Perry said during his announcement speech. He vowed to green-light the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Perry's staunch support of the energy industry is nothing new; he was a reliable ally of the energy sector throughout his 14 years as governor. But this year, Perry gained a new incentive for helping energy companies: He started working for one. And two weeks into his presidential campaign, he's still on its payroll.

On February 3, two weeks after ending his term as governor, Perry took a position on the corporate board of Energy Transfer Partners, a Texas-based pipeline company that transports natural gas and crude oil. "The Board selected Mr. Perry to serve as a director because of his vast experience as an executive in the highest office of state government," ETP's website says. "In addition, Mr. Perry has been involved in finance and budget planning processes throughout his career in government as a member of the Texas House Appropriations Committee, the Legislative Budget Board and as Governor."

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, ETP said Perry could "receive cash compensation" as well as "equity compensation." The company declined to disclose how much Perry will be paid for the gig and isn't required to file disclosures revealing that figure until next year, but in the past the post has come with about $50,000 in annual salary. "You can expect compensation to be along the same lines as what was [last] reported," an ETP spokesperson wrote in an email to Mother Jones.

Politicians running for higher office typically step down from corporate positions while campaigning in order to avoid a conflict of interest. Jeb Bush, for example, began to leave his spots on corporate boards last year in preparation for his presidential run. The ETP spokesperson confirmed Perry still sits on the board. (He's listed as one of seven members of the board on the company's website.) A spokesperson for Perry's campaign didn't respond to a request for comment.

Perhaps not coincidentally, Kelcy Warren, the company's CEO, has been a major backer of Perry's political career. The billionaire contributed more than $250,000 to Perry's super-PAC in 2012 during his first campaign for president.

As Mother Jones' Bryan Schatz detailed last month, ETP is embroiled in a controversial natural gas pipeline project that has riled up locals in Texas. The company—working with the Mexico-based Grupo Carso, an industrial conglomerate owned by billionaire Carlos Slim—is getting ready to start construction later this year of a 42-inch-wide, 143-mile-long pipeline that will run outside Big Bend National Park and is scheduled to be finished in 2017.

An ETP subsidiary is also seeking permission to construct the 1,100-mile Bakken Pipeline, which would carry crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois, and from there to refineries in Texas. If regulators in Iowa grant

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permission to ETP, this 30-inch pipeline could transport up to 570,000 barrels of oil per day—about half the amount that would flow through the Keystone XL pipeline. Just days before joining ETP's board, Perry appeared on Iowa television and endorsed construction of the Bakken Pipeline. "I don't have a problem with that—it's a pipeline, it's underground," Perry said when asked about farmers' land possibly being seized by eminent domain for this pipeline project. He added, "We probably have as safe a pipeline industry in the country as there is in the world."

Twenty local groups have formed the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition to fight the project. Even some Republicans have expressed opposition, including Republican state Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, who objected to the use of eminent domain. The Iowa Utilities Board isn't planning to hold a public hearing on the proposal until November, when Perry will likely be crisscrossing the state to gain votes before the February Iowa caucuses. Certainly, ETP won't object if Perry, as he stumps, talks about the need to build more pipelines. But as he pitches his drill-drill-drill energy vision, will Perry tell voters he's on the pipeline payroll?

HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee Backs Nikki Haley on Confederate Flag Removal **// Bloomberg // Ali Elkin – June 23, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee on Tuesday said he supports South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley's call to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds.

His comments come after he said Sunday the flag debate, which erupted after the shooting of nine African-American worshippers in a Charleston church last week, was “not an issue for a person running for president.”

“Now that Republican governor has spoken out and has said that it is an awful symbol and she wants it to come down. Do you agree with her? Yes or no,” interviewer Ed Henry asked Huckabee on Fox on Tuesday.

“Absolutely, because that's where it needed to be settled,” said Huckabee, a former governor of Arkansas, a former Fox host, and winner of the 2008 Iowa caucuses. “She took leadership of her state and that's what governors do. She was accompanied by the congressmen, by the senators, by the leaders of the House and Senate. That's where this issue should be and it is being settled. It shouldn't be settled by the New York Times or a bunch of talking heads from the Washington roundtable. It ought to be decided by the people who live in that state. That's what's happening and I salute Governor Haley and the other people of South Carolina for saying 'Look, if this is a distraction, this is something that inflames people, it's not that important to us.'”

He denied that he had punted on the question earlier. He said on NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday that while he didn't personally display the Confederate flag anywhere but stopped short of stating his position on South Carolina's display.

“I didn't punt at all,” Huckabee said. “I just simply said that the president of the United States has nothing to do with what flags go on capitol grounds.”

He isn't the only 2016 Republican candidate who came to support Haley's move on Monday. South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker (who hasn't declared his candidacy yet) also did.

Huckabee also said faith was a more critical topic for the country to tackle than race in the wake of the shooting.

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“I keep hearing, Ed, people talk about, 'We need more conversations about race,'” Huckabee said. “Actually, we don't need more conversations, what we need is conversions, because the reconciliation that changes people is not a racial reconciliation, it's a spiritual reconciliation. When people are reconciled to God—we saw it in those church members—when I love God, and I know that God created other people regardless of their color as much as He made me, I don't have a problem with racism. It's solved.”

Mike Huckabee: ‘I salute’ S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley on Confederate flag issue’ // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 23, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee says he is saluting South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who called Monday to remove the Confederate flag from the state Capitol grounds.

“I salute Governor Haley and the other people of South Carolina for saying look, if this is a distraction, if this is something that inflames people, it’s not that important to us,” Mr. Huckabee, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate, said on Fox News. “What’s more important is a state where we can create the kind of atmosphere that we saw out of the church members of Charleston.”

Ms. Haley and other South Carolina leaders on Monday called for removing the flag from the state Capitol in Columbia, less than a week after a white gunman killed nine black parishioners in a Charleston church. Images have since surfaced online of the suspected gunman, Dylann Roof, 21, holding the Confederate flag and a gun.

“And I keep hearing … people talk about, we need more conversations about race,” Mr. Huckabee said. “Actually, we don’t need more conversations. What we need is conversions. Because the reconciliation that changes people is not a racial reconciliation; it’s a spiritual reconciliation when people are reconciled to God. We saw it in those church members. When I love God and I know that God created other people regardless of their color as much as he made me, I don’t have a problem with racism. It’s solved.”

On Sunday’s “Meet the Press” on NBC, Mr. Huckabee had said the issue over the flag is “not an issue for a person running for president” and that if the state government of South Carolina wanted to address the issue, that’s fine.

“But … if you can point me to an article and section of the Constitution in which a United States president ought to weigh in on what states use as symbols, then please refresh my memory on that,” he said. “But for those of us running for president, everyone’s being baited with this question as if somehow that has anything to do whatsoever with running for president. And my position is, it most certainly does not.”

“As president, you’re focused on the economy, keeping America safe,” Mr. Huckabee continued. “Some really big issues for the nation. I don’t think they want us to weigh in on every little issue in all 50 states that might be an important issue to the people of that state but not on the desk of the president.”

Mr. Huckabee said in the Tuesday interview on Fox that he had not been punting on the issue.

“I didn’t punt at all — I just simply said that the president of the United States has nothing to do with what flags go on … Capitol grounds,” he said. “Look, I think that we miss the real point of this, and when I’m asked that question as a presidential candidate, what I’m being baited for is, ‘Is South Carolina a racist state?’

“And so what I said was … as a frequent visitor to South Carolina, I look at this objectively,” Mr. Huckabee continued. “You’ve got a female governor who is of Indian descent, you have the only elected African-American U.S. senator in the south from a state of 4.8 million people elected largely by people who are mostly white. That’s not racism. And so the flag is an important issue for South Carolina, but I don’t think the president of the United States needs to be picking the symbols that fly on state Capitol grounds. It wasn’t a punt, I didn’t squirm, I didn’t

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vacillate on it."

He went on to say that the issue shouldn't be settled "by The New York Times or a bunch of talking heads from a Washington roundtable — it ought to be decided by the people who live in that state."

FIORINA

Carly Fiorina: Cybersecurity 'Has To Be a Central Part of Any Homeland Security Strategy' **// Bloomberg // Ben Brody – June 23, 2015**

Despite a Republican presidential field that (mostly) says the U.S. needs to get more aggressive on national security, the candidates have been muted on recent revelations that China has pilfered a massive cache of personal information on millions of U.S. government employees.

But cybersecurity should be a "huge" part of the general security conversation, and now is the right time to talk about it, according to Carly Fiorina, who is among those seeking the Republican nomination.

The former Hewlett-Packard CEO, who has had first-hand experience with cyber-security issues, sent out a statement in reaction to the hack at the government's Office of Personnel Management, which could have exposed data from up to 14 million current and former government employees, including 127-page applications for security clearances. Bloomberg invited her to expand.

"This has to be a central part of any homeland security strategy," Fiorina said in the interview. "The Chinese have had a long-term effort to hack into our databases and systems, which suggests that we should have been on guard for a very long time.

"I'm outraged about this," she added. "It is yet another example of the complete breakdown of government competence."

Speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, U.S. officials investigating the intrusions at OPM and a number of government contractors have confirmed that the hacks have been traced to the Chinese intelligence service.

As a Republican presidential hopeful, Fiorina has political reasons to cast doubts on the competence of President Barack Obama's Democratic administration. Her background as a technology executive also makes talking about cybersecurity an opportunity for her to distinguish herself in the crowded field.

Her experience, however, is indisputable. She served on civilian advisory boards for the CIA and National Security Agency. She was also instrumental in securing a literal truck-load of servers for the NSA in the weeks after 9/11, according to the National Review.

So what would be her first concrete policy suggestion for preventing another hack? Centralize the government's cybersecurity operation and put it in the Department of Defense or the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

"You have to have a consolidated command that has the accountability, the responsibility, for protecting the

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security of all government systems and databases," she said. "You can't have this piece-mealed throughout government."

On this, she seems to agree with the president, who directed the government to centralize cybersecurity efforts after a 2009 report found that "The Federal government is not organized to address this growing problem effectively now or in the future" and that "Responsibilities for cybersecurity are distributed across a wide array of federal departments and agencies, many with overlapping authorities, and none with sufficient decision authority...."

The effort is far from complete, though. Even the deployment of hack detection and prevention is still ongoing and a patchwork of agencies, from the NSA and the Department of Homeland Security to the FBI are taking responsibility for the security of government computers.

Fiorina also spoke about streamlining government bureaucracy.

"You have to have exceedingly competent people who are there because of their particular expertise, not simply there because they've been in government long enough to get there," she said. "Not everybody has the skills to do this work."

In addition to a centralizing cybersecurity, Fiorina said the government should work with the private sector to detect and repel attacks, although Congress has hampered this by declining to pass legislation that would protect companies that report breaches to the government from legal action.

"Everything in our nation now is dependent in very real ways in network-centric technologies," she said. "While that gives us great capability, it also gives us great vulnerability."

TRUMP

Trump Surges in Popularity in N.H., Taking Second Place in Suffolk Poll **// WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – June 23, 2015**

He's dismissed by the political professionals, but there is no denying that the appetite for Donald Trump among Republican primary voters is real.

The New York developer and reality television star is second among 2016 presidential candidates in a new Suffolk University poll of New Hampshire Republicans – behind only former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The poll of 500 likely GOP presidential primary voters found 14% back Mr. Bush. Mr. Trump is right behind at 11%. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio come next, with 8% and 7%, respectively. The poll tested 19 GOP candidates – a rare survey that included ultra-longshots like Mark Everson and former Govs. Bob Ehrlich and Jim Gilmore.

While Mr. Trump is experiencing a bump in popularity after announcing the launch of his campaign last week (he filed formal Federal Elections Commission paperwork Monday), he remains the most disliked GOP candidate in the field. Suffolk found he is the only GOP candidate with a net unfavorable rating in New Hampshire — 37% of those surveyed had a favorable opinion of Mr. Trump, compared to 49% who had an unfavorable view.

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The candidate with the largest gap between favorable and unfavorable ratings is Mr. Rubio, at 61% favorable to 14% unfavorable. Mr. Rubio was also chosen as the second choice by 13% of poll respondents. Mr. Bush was the second-choice pick of 14% of those surveyed.

The poll of 500 likely New Hampshire Republican presidential primary voters was conducted from June 18, the day after Mr. Trump announced his campaign, through June 22. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Poll: Trump near top of GOP pack in New Hampshire **// CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 23, 2015**

Donald Trump is outpolling all other Republican candidates in New Hampshire except for Jeb Bush, according to a new survey released Tuesday.

In a poll fielded immediately after their presidential announcements last week, Bush earned 14% of the vote in the crowded GOP field, followed by Trump with 11%. Nearly a third of respondents said they were undecided.

The results from Suffolk University are the clearest indication yet that Trump, the billionaire with a penchant for bombastic rhetoric and unorthodox claims, is catching on with Republican voters early on in the cycle.

Pollsters tend to caution that surveys more than six months before any votes are cast may simply be registering each contender's name recognition -- of which Trump has plenty. Trump also joins a crowded GOP field in which none of the candidates — including Bush — have been able to break out of the pack.

In the 2012 cycle, several candidates with a penchant for making headlines with their controversial claims -- such as businessman Herman Cain and former Rep. Michele Bachmann and even Trump himself (though not an official candidate) -- also garnered top spots in early polls only to crash to Earth as the campaign dragged on.

Trump, as well, is a deeply polarizing figure in the Granite State -- 49% of respondents said they had an unfavorable opinion of him, while only 37% viewed him positively.

"Trump's controversial candidacy is being constructed in a way that gives him visibility and exposure in the short term but may also limit his growth in the long run, like a glass ceiling," David Paleologos, who directed the poll, said in a statement.

New Hampshire, with its first-in-the-nation primary, is a key battleground for 2016 hopefuls.Trump has made five visits to the Granite State this year, according to p2016, a website that tracks candidate visits to the early states.

Trailing Bush and Trump were Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at 8%, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio at 7%, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 6% and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 5%. No other candidates earned more than 5% in the Suffolk survey.

When asked for their second choice candidate, 14% of likely GOP voters named Bush, 13% selected Rubio, 10% picked Walker, 7% said Trump and 6% said businesswoman Carly Fiorina.

Suffolk surveyed 500 likely New Hampshire Republican voters between June 18 and June 22, yielding a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

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Trump's Running – but the Joke's on You // Daily Beast // Charles Gasparino – June 22, 2015

Donald Trump says he's really rich—worth nearly $9 billion ($8,737,540,000 to be exact). Forbes estimates that he's worth less than half that much, around $4 billion. Does it matter? The answer is definitively no, because once the Donald Trump presidential charade is over he's gonna be worth much more than $8 billion—and worth every penny of it.

I have to say up front I've known Trump for years and I like him even if much of his presidential announcement speech had my skin crawling. (Describing many Mexican immigrants as "rapists" is at the top of my list.) But I have long appreciated Trump's resilience both in business and in his personal life; anyone who remembers the early 1990s vintage Trump, when he was both mocked as a business has-been and was by some estimates insolvent, also knows that more recently his name and brand keeps getting bigger and his wives keep getting hotter.

All of which leads me to believe that this man—who needs to brag about his wealth and intelligence like most people need to breathe—is looking at this presidential thing like he looks at everything else: how to make a brand that's big and profitable even more so.

For the record, I don't know how much Donald Trump is worth, and in the past he has been touchy when reporters have challenged his fortune's size. (He sued one reporter who quoted unnamed sources saying Trump was merely worth hundreds of millions instead of billions for libel. In 2011, a New Jersey appellate judge dismissed the case, saying Trump failed to prove "actual malice.")

Even so, every Wall Street firm I covered wanted Trump's business as he pulled himself back from his near-death experience in the early 1990s, when some of his Atlantic City properties filed for bankruptcy. Trump himself never filed for bankruptcy, which is probably why, as he began to rebuild himself, his Wall Street broker was none other than the late Alan "Ace" Greenberg, the legendary stock trader who only handled accounts of the megawealthy.

Donald Trump isn't really running for president; he's running to make more money and enhance a brand that's bigger than his real-estate holdings and golf courses.

To be sure, in his announcement speech Trump offered scant evidence that he's worth what he says he is; indeed, he has just filed the standard forms with the Federal Election Commission, which will start a more-intensive vetting process over his financial disclosures.

Those forms are pretty exhaustive, I might add; just go to the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and take a look at what candidates need to disclose and you'll understand why rich people generally don't run for president. Candidates are required to disclose, in detail, assets and income, then transactions and gifts and travel reimbursements. Another layer of detail involves disclosing liabilities and something called "agreements or arrangements."

Lastly, presidential candidates must disclose "positions (other than with the U.S. government)" and "sources of income in excess of $5,000." This is why Karl Rove said on Fox News Sunday that other candidates should "ignore" Trump until he files with the FEC, which he did late Monday afternoon.

Trump fired back on Twitter: "@KarlRove still thinks Romney won! He doesn't have a clue! @FoxNews," and in another he vowed to make his initial financial disclosures this week: "@KarlRove, who spent $430 million in the last cycle and didn't win one race, said I'm not a candidate until I file papers. Next week Karl!"

Trump's campaign manager told me that the full disclosure will be completed in 30 days; Trump, he said, won't seek extensions as Rove and others have predicted.

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We shall see. In any event, like Rove, I had my doubts that Trump would go through with the whole disclosure process. What I never doubted is that he loves the attention because the debate over the net worth of the new and improved Donald Trump no longer turns on the vagaries of the real-estate market but on the value of his brand.

Keep in mind much of the difference between the Forbes net worth estimate and Trump's own, which he says was compiled by "highly respected" accountants, is the value of the Trump brand, which Forbes says isn't worth the $3 billion-plus Trump says it is.

But how do you really value a brand? Brands are worth what people think they're worth, and when you're name is everywhere from hotels and apartments buildings to reality TV, it's easy to see how the numbers add up and will keep adding up as he does this presidential dance that, quite frankly, is amazing reality television.

That's why I have no doubt that Trump will turn this new "serious" stage of his life into a business winner. The way I see it, Donald Trump isn't really running for president; he's running to make more money and enhance a brand that's bigger than his real-estate holdings and golf courses. And with the people who matter to him the most, it doesn't get cheapened by occasionally disgusting rhetoric about immigrants or possible exaggerations about his wealth.

He's playing to his fans and there are many millions of them. They like him on television and they like his real estate and golf courses. Another bet: I don't think Donald will run for president after all, regardless of Monday's FEC filing, or even if he does make those detailed financial disclosures and somehow gins up enough publicity to get into the first GOP debate in August.

In the end, I think he will call it quits because, after awhile, Donald is going to realize he's squeezed all the marketing juice out of the presidential lemon that is possible, and anything more will end up hurting, not helping, one of the world's great brands.

He knows that, and that's why he's so rich.

UNDECLARED

WALKER

Scott Walker, Promising 'Bold Leadership,' Faces G.O.P. Discord in Wisconsin // NYT // Trip Gabriel – June 23, 2015

As Gov. Scott Walker prepares to announce his campaign for president next month, promising to bring what he calls "big bold leadership" to Washington, as he did in Wisconsin, he faces a cloud over that story line: Republicans back home are in revolt.

Leaders of Mr. Walker's party, which controls the Legislature, are balking at his demands for the state's budget. Critics say the governor's spending blueprint is aimed more at appealing to conservatives in early-voting states like Iowa than doing what is best for Wisconsin.

Lawmakers are stymied over how to pay for road and bridge repairs without raising taxes or fees, which Mr.

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Walker has ruled out. The governor's fellow Republicans rejected his proposal to borrow $1.3 billion for the roadwork, arguing that adding to the state's debt is irresponsible.

"The governor rolled out $1.3 billion in bonding," Scott Fitzgerald, the Senate majority leader, said in an interview. "It's not been well received, is the best way to put it."

The budget stalemate forced Mr. Walker late last week to move the goal posts on the announcement of his all-but-certain presidential candidacy. For months, he said it would come after he signed a new budget — timing meant to contrast his ability to get things done with Washington dysfunction.

But last Thursday, Mr. Walker said he would announce after "the end of the budget year." That is, any time after June 30, the last day of the fiscal year. With lawmakers saying they might not finish their work before mid-July, he will not wait for a finished budget.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Walker, AshLee Strong, said the governor "is optimistic an agreement will be reached in the coming weeks."

It is unclear if Mr. Walker's family feud with his Legislature will ripple out to voter perceptions beyond Wisconsin. Polls suggest that he is the early front-runner in Iowa and a top-tier candidate nationally, thanks to his reputation with conservatives for defeating public-sector unions and surviving a recall election in his first term.

Mr. Walker is making the case that unlike the senators in the Republican race, who include Marco Rubio of Florida, Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky, he has a record of hard-won policy achievements.

"Some want you to think they fight," Mr. Walker wrote of his rivals on the conservative website RedState last week. "But speeches aren't fighting or winning."

In front of partisan audiences around the country, Mr. Walker often portrays himself as more ideologically conservative than he has been in Wisconsin. He takes credit, for example, for signing an anti-union "right to work" law this year, something that actually bubbled up from his Legislature after the governor insisted in his re-election race in 2014 that it was not a priority.

"I don't think he'd be in the position he's in right now if it wasn't for the Republican Legislature," said Mr. Fitzgerald, who sponsored the bill. "We've been a big part of that list of reforms."

Mr. Walker has notched other recent successes in the Legislature that are red-meat issues on the campaign trail, such as requiring drug testing for people on public assistance and loosening tenure protection for professors.

One issue he played down in 2014 but has seized on in early nominating states, where social conservatives are highly influential, is banning abortions after 20 weeks.

Mr. Walker repeatedly refused to say if he favored such a ban during his close re-election last year, when polls showed him unpopular among women. In March, as doubts about his anti-abortion credentials were raised by national conservatives, he pledged to sign a 20-week ban that was "likely to come to my desk."

What he did not explain was that he had asked Wisconsin lawmakers to send him just such a bill, during a meeting

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in his office with Mr. Fitzgerald and Robin Vos, the speaker of the State Assembly, also a Republican.

“Walker weighed in and said the 20-week abortion ban is something he would like to see hit his desk,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “It sent a message to us.”

The governor specified that the bill should include no exceptions for rape or incest, according to Mr. Fitzgerald.

The dispute with the Legislature is, at root, a debate over what is best for Wisconsin’s economy. Republican lawmakers favor investments in infrastructure and higher education, and the governor is committed to not raising taxes.

Mr. Vos has accused Mr. Walker of avoiding an “adult conversation” on infrastructure costs.

On the campaign trail, Mr. Walker boasts of lowering taxes by $2 billion and presiding over a drop in unemployment from 7.7 percent in January 2011, when he took office, to 4.6 percent. His fiscal discipline is echoed in his penny-pinching lifestyle (he recently told of buying a $1 sweater at Kohl’s.)

What he does not mention is that Wisconsin ranked 35th in job growth in the nation during his first term, and that it trails its neighbors in the upper Midwest.

The tax cuts and weakening of public sector unions have not spurred the economy enough to avoid a projected budget deficit over the coming two years.

The state’s nonpartisan budget office estimated this year that Wisconsin would save $345 million in its budget over two years by accepting Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Unlike the Republican governors of four nearby states, Mr. Walker refused expansion, a litmus test for conservatives.

The governor got the greatest resistance on his budget blueprint, which covers two years, over two proposals: to fill a hole in the transportation fund with the debt financing, and to cut $300 million from the University of Wisconsin system.

“The university doesn’t deserve this cut,” said Senator Luther Olsen, a Republican, as lawmakers voted last month to restore $50 million of the governor’s cuts. “We are fools if we go around bashing one of the best things in the State of Wisconsin.”

To pay for road and bridge projects, Mr. Vos, the Assembly speaker, and other Republicans favor raising vehicle registration fees. Mr. Walker labeled a fee increase the same as a tax increase, and promised a veto.

“He wants to make a political point that ‘I didn’t increase fees or taxes,’ ” said Representative Gordon Hintz, a Democrat on the Joint Finance Committee, which crafts the budget. “The false choice created by the governor’s presidential politics leads to outcomes which negatively impact the people of Wisconsin.”

To accommodate the governor, Republicans are wrangling behind closed doors over some combination of borrowing and delaying needed projects.

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The governor's press secretary, Laurel Patrick, said Mr. Walker has been consistent in opposing an increase in the gas tax or vehicle fees without a corresponding cut in taxes. "While obviously not our preferred option, if legislators choose to reduce bonding for transportation in the budget, Governor Walker would sign it," Ms. Patrick said in a statement.

Mr. Fitzgerald, the Senate majority leader, said he did not have the votes to pass a budget yet. "We're trying to figure out how to get out of the box," he said.

Scott Walker Reportedly Requested 20-Week Ban Without Exceptions For Rape, Incest // HuffPo // Laura Bassett – June 23, 2015

After declining to say whether he would support a 20-week abortion ban during the 2014 election, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) specifically requested that state legislators send such a bill to his desk without exceptions for cases of rape and incest, according to a report by The New York Times.

Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R) told the Times that Walker met with him and Robin Vos, the Republican state Assembly speaker, and told them he wanted to see a 20-week abortion ban on his desk that did not contain exceptions for rape or incest victims.

"It sent a message to us," Fitzgerald said of the meeting.

A spokesperson for Walker, who is running for president, did not immediately return a request for comment from The Huffington Post.

The state Senate passed a 20-week ban without exceptions earlier this month, and Walker told reporters that he would sign it.

"I think for most people who are concerned about that, it's in the initial months when they are most concerned about it," said the 2016 presidential hopeful. "In this case, it's an unborn life, it's an unborn child, that's why we feel strongly about it. I'm prepared to sign it either way they send it to us."

If Walker signs the bill, it will likely face a court challenge. The Supreme Court decided in Roe v. Wade in 1973 that states cannot ban abortions before the fetus would be viable outside the womb, which is estimated to occur between 22 to 24 weeks of pregnancy. A federal appeals court struck down Idaho's 20-week ban earlier this year, ruling it "unconstitutional because it categorically bans some abortions before viability."

The true payoff from Scott Walker's war on tenure // NY Post // Naomi Schaefer Riley – June 22, 2015

"For the love of God, tenure does not mean you have a job for life." So says Rebecca Schuman of Slate, fuming about the vote by the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee that would remove tenure at public universities from the current state law.

Instead, Wisconsin's board of regents, appointed by the governor, would be able to fire faculty "when such an action is deemed necessary due to a budget or program decision requiring program discontinuance, curtailment, modification or redirection."

Schuman, like the faculty at Wisconsin, is outraged by this development and at Gov. Scott Walker for putting it

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into motion.

But she also suggests that tenure does not mean what we think it means. Faculty are fond of saying that tenure is not total job security — professors can be fired for just cause — but they have little evidence for the case. Schuman absurdly writes that “tenured professors get fired all the time.”

Like so much else in academia, perhaps the phrase “all the time” doesn’t mean what the rest of us think it means.

Indeed, defending one tenured professor who was fired, a blogger for Academe (a publication of the American Association for University Professors) wrote, “Normally, the firing of a tenured professor is such an extraordinary event that it involves acts of breathtaking misconduct or total incompetence.”

Which comes much closer to the truth. So what’s the point of getting rid of tenure?

Sadly, it will not do much for the bottom line.

Eliminating tenure, or at least loosening its grip, will allow the university more flexibility in cutting programs with too few students.

Which is a shame, because even if only a few people want to take Russian literature, it would be nice if the university could offer it. But this is a public school, accountable to taxpayers.

Moreover, the fact is that more and more of the classes students take are not classes like Russian literature or philosophy. They’re taking vocational classes where the protections of “academic freedom” are simply unnecessary.

Professors who teach computer science or engineering, let alone dairy science or agricultural business management, simply don’t need to say controversial things in class.

Eliminating tenure would have some real benefits, though. First, it would send a message that the school cares about teaching.

Tenure is a system that rewards research. It gives teachers a permanent job for what they’ve already published.

But teaching is a dynamic profession, and it needs to be evaluated regularly and thoroughly. It’s rare for a tenured professor (or any professor) to find his or her teaching evaluated by other faculty members or administrators.

Yet, as any student could tell you, they should be.

Ending tenure would also send the message that the university is looking for a different kind of professor. Right now college teaching attracts some of the least entrepreneurial types. They are people looking for job security, not high salaries.

Indeed, tenure is a perk, and just like health insurance or pension plans, it means that colleges can pay people less. Richard Miller, the president of the Olin College of Engineering (which does not offer tenure), told me that having

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tenure is like being placed in “golden handcuffs.”

But “there are more important things than permanent employment.” Sadly, too many professors seem to have forgotten that.

The real problem with tenure, though, is that it fails to do what its proponents suggest. Universities are bastions of ideological uniformity.

At the Ivy League, for instance, 96 percent of donations in the 2012 presidential election went to Barack Obama. And it’s only been getting worse in recent years.

Professors who don’t adhere to the orthodoxy on race, gender and politics in general will find themselves not only ostracized, but investigated by federal authorities.

University faculty simply hire clones of themselves year after year, and then give those clones permanent jobs if they can survive seven years of keeping their heads down and their mouths shut. It’s not a process that encourages much disagreement or fresh thinking.

Fortunately, the process for becoming governor is a little different.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie to announce 2016 bid as early as next week // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – June 23, 2015

Chris Christie is in the final stages of preparing his 2016 presidential bid, with a formal announcement possible as soon as next week, according to several sources familiar with the discussions.

The New Jersey governor’s planning has intensified in recent days. On Monday, his campaign-in-waiting announced that he’d hired two additional staffers in New Hampshire, a state seen as critical to his White House hopes. Earlier this month, Maria Comella, a longtime Christie aide, departed the governor’s official office to take a senior position at his political action committee.

A Christie spokeswoman, Samantha Smith, declined to comment. The governor’s aides have previously said that he isn’t likely to launch his presidential campaign until the New Jersey legislature finalizes the state budget — expected to be around the end of June.

The announcement will mark the latest chapter in a tumultuous political career. After defeating a Democratic incumbent in 2009, Christie established himself as the GOP’s foremost rising star — a swaggering, tell-it-like-it-is pol who seemed to be the antidote for a party that was struggling to win over voters in blue states. In the years since, however, Christie’s national prospects have been damaged — especially by the revelations that his top aides concocted a plan to close lanes on the George Washington Bridge in an act of political retribution against a local mayor who refused to endorse the governor’s 2013 reelection bid.

Christie’s once-stratospheric poll numbers — both nationally and in his home state — have since plummeted. A Fairleigh Dickinson University poll released on Tuesday showed Christie with just a 30 percent approval rating in New Jersey, while a Suffolk University poll showed him winning the support of only 5 percent of likely voters in

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New Hampshire.

But Christie's aides insist there's room for him in the 2016 field. With Jeb Bush struggling to distance himself from the rest of the pack, they say, the lane for an establishment candidate remains open. Aides to Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who is also contemplating a run, have put forward a similar argument for his potential candidacy.

The hope, Christie's team says, is that his authentic, tell-it-like-it-is political brand will style will shine through, both on the debate stage — Republicans are preparing to hold their first primary debate in August — and in New Hampshire. The state has a history of breaking for moderate, independent-minded Republican candidates, and Christie has been a frequent visitor there. Those familiar with his early planning for a 2016 bid say he's prepared to make it the cornerstone of his electoral strategy.

In anticipation of his announcement, Christie has been hopscotching the country in recent weeks, attending Republican cattle calls in Oklahoma City, Utah and Washington, D.C., where he delivered fiery speeches castigating a Republican rival, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, over national security.

"If you want to know how little [senators] know, watch what Rand Paul's done the last two weeks," Christie told Republican donors at a conference in Deer Valley, Utah, hosted by Mitt Romney, referring to Paul's opposition to the Patriot Act. "Because I will tell you, he's made America weaker and more vulnerable, and he's done it for his own personal and political gain, and he's done it to raise money."

Christie has also delivered speeches in early primary states in which he's detailed his policy proposals on issues like entitlements, taxes, and electronic surveillance.

In addition to building a campaign apparatus, Christie has also hired for a super PAC, America Leads, that will be supporting his candidacy. The group recently announced that it had brought on Gene Ulm, a veteran Republican pollster, and Mike Leavitt, a mail consultant.

While Christie won't be nearly as heavily funded as Bush — whose super PAC is believed to have brought in around $100 million so far — the New Jersey governor has a team of donors that includes Home Depot CEO Ken Langone and hedge fund manager Stanley Druckenmiller. Both are expected to write big checks. ("I am going to work my ass off to make sure that Chris Christie never needs money," Langone told POLITICO in January.)

Earlier this month, Christie dropped another hint that he was nearing a run. While campaigning in New Hampshire, the governor said that his family — one of the last major hurdles to his entering the race — was on board.

"This is about me now," he said.

Chris Christie's approval rating: 30 percent // Politico // Nick Gass – June 23, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is still not winning any favor with Garden State voters, according to a Fairleigh Dickinson PublicMind poll released Tuesday.

Christie, who is in the midst of planning a presidential run, has an approval rating of 30 percent, below what is usually expected for a White House hopeful in his own state, where 55 percent disapprove of his performance. His numbers are down from the last FDU poll in April, in which 36 percent of voters approved of the job he was doing,

compared to 50 percent who did not.

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"The good news is that none of his potential presidential opponents have emerged with a decisive lead yet. The bad news is that he is the governor in a state where a sizable majority give a thumbs down to his leadership," said Krista Jenkins, professor of political science and director of PublicMind.

Christie's job approval numbers are similar to those of fellow Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal, whose Louisiana electorate has shown disapproval with that presidential aspirant as well.

A plurality of Garden State voters (42 percent) said that they like Christie less than when he first took office. A plurality of Republican voters (38 percent) said the same thing. At the same time, 41 percent said their opinion of him was unchanged, well within the margin of error.

Voters also disapproved of the job their state legislature is doing, 24 percent approving to 44 percent disapproving.

The poll was conducted June 15-21, surveying 792 registered voters via landline and cellphone, with an overall margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.7 percentage points.

Watch Chris Christie's Approval Rating Free Fall in One Chart // Bloomberg // Andrew Feather – June 23, 2015

Gov. Chris Christie demonstrated his political strength in 2013, winning 60 percent of the vote and maintaining his strength in public opinion polls. That, however, didn't last long. His approval rating soon went into free fall as the "Bridgegate" investigation ramped up, along with other allegations, such as those made by the mayor of Hoboken on Hurricane Sandy funds.

Christie's approval rating is now at a record low 30 percent, which is six percent less than the lowest approval rating of his predecessor, Jon Corzine, according to the October 2009 edition of the Farleigh Dickinson University Public Mind Poll.

Christie may seem to be in a uniquely difficult position for a presidential run, but Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's approval rating fell to just 41 percent in April, according to a Marquette University Law School Poll, and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, who is announcing his 2016 decision on Wednesday, had an approval rating of 31 percent in April, according to a poll by Southern Media Research Group.

Christie's home-state support sinks t o new depths // MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 23, 2015

Every presidential candidate wants to be able to brag about the home-state support he or she enjoys. It makes sense – a policymaker's constituents had an opportunity to see his or her work up close. The more those voters were impressed, the more a White House hopeful can ride a wave of popularity onto the national stage.

But as the 2016 race unfolds, a "home-state haters" problem is kicking in. Louisianans, for example, have soured on Gov. Bobby Jindal (R). Marylanders aren't at all excited about former Gov. Martin O'Malley's (D) presidential campaign.

And in New Jersey, the bottom has fallen out on Gov. Chris Christie's (R) support. Last month, a Monmouth University poll put the Republican governor's approval rating at just 35%. This morning, Politico reports an even lower number.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is still not winning any favor with Garden State voters, according to a Fairleigh Dickinson PublicMind poll released Tuesday.

Christie, who is in the midst of planning a presidential run, has an approval rating of 30 percent, below what is usually expected for a White House hopeful in his own state, where 55 percent disapprove of his performance. His

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numbers are down from the last FDU poll in April, in which 36 percent of voters approved of the job he was doing, compared to 50 percent who did not.

In case it's not obvious, 30% is a dreadful number. It's the kind of approval rating a politician will find difficult to explain away when he's seeking a promotion.

In fact, it's arguably the kind of number that should keep Christie out of the race. The beleaguered governor has prepared all kinds of answers to dismiss his many problems – the scandals, the downgrades, the pension mess, the policy missteps – but there is no talking point that can adequately explain a 30% approval rating.

There are only laughable excuses. Last month, Fox's Megyn Kelly reminded the governor that two-thirds of his own constituents do not believe he'd be a good president. Christie replied, in reference to New Jersey residents, "They want me to stay. A lot of those people that 65 percent want me to stay. I've heard that from lots of people at town hall meetings, 'Don't leave,' and 'Don't run for president because we want you to stay.'"

There's a point at which the line between arrogance and delusion blurs. As we talked about at the time, the notion that New Jersey voters are so in love with Christie that they can't bear the thought of him moving to the White House is plainly silly. Garden State voters are being asked if they approve of Christie, not whether they hope to keep him in Trenton.

Christie Backs Haley on Confederate Flag // **Daily Beast** // **June 23, 2015**

Chris Christie finally broke his silence on the Confederate flag in a statement to The Daily Beast on Tuesday. "Governor Haley has demonstrated what it means to be a leader during extremely difficult and tragic times for her state and our country. I commend Governor Haley for her decision to remove the flag from the grounds of the state capitol," Christie, the last presidential candidate to stay mum on the issue, said. "While this is a necessary step towards addressing a divisive symbol of racism in our country, this step will mean little if we do not also honestly confront and discuss the fact that these murders were born out of ugly hate and racism. That is what we must stand up against and fight even more than any symbol; it is long overdue that we not only shine a light on and condemn the symbols of hate, but on the haters themselves as well."

OTHER

Bush leads in N.H. polls. Trump is second. // **Politico** // **Nick Gass – June 23, 2015**

Jeb Bush leads the crowded field of Republican presidential contenders in New Hampshire, according to a Suffolk University poll released Tuesday. Donald Trump is in second.

The poll represents more good news for Bush in the Granite State, where he has led by an average of 4.2 percentage points in recent months, according to the RealClearPolitics average.

Among likely Republican primary voters, former Florida Gov. Bush picked up 14 percent, while the billionaire real-estate mogul Trump grabbed 11 percent. Most respondents—29 percent—are undecided.

No other candidates are in double digits, with 8 percent for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, 7 percent for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, 6 percent for retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, 5 percent for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and 4 percent each for businesswoman Carly Fiorina, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

"Jeb Bush continues to lead, but Donald Trump has emerged as an anti-Jeb Bush alternative in New Hampshire," said David Paleologos, the director of the Suffolk University poll. "Many of those who like Trump are voting for him, and although many more dislike him, the unfavorables are split up among many other candidates. It's the politics of plurality."

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At the same time, voters are seemingly more hesitant to allow Trump on the debate stage. Asked whom they would approve if they had the opportunity to approve or deny each candidate, Trump came in 11th place, with 60 percent saying they would allow him. More than eight-in-ten (83 percent) voters said they would approve Bush, the highest percentage of any candidate.

Among all likely GOP voters, 49 percent said they have an unfavorable opinion of Trump, while 37 percent said they see him in a positive light.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee sit at 2 percent, and six other Republicans are tied at 1 percent, including former New York Gov. George Pataki, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and former Maryland Gov. Bob Ehrlich.

The poll was conducted June 18-22 among 500 likely Republican primary voters, carrying an overall margin of error of plus-or-minus 4.4 percentage points.

'Selzer Score' gives clarity on Republican field // Politico // Hadas Gold – June 23, 2015

Hoping to offer a more accurate read on the crowded, contentious Republican primary race, the legendary pollster J. Ann Selzer has developed an intriguing new method called the "Selzer Score."

Selzer, the pollster for The Des Moines Register and Bloomberg Politics, developed the system by giving different weights to varying criteria, including a voter's first choice (double the weight), a voter's second choice (normal weight) and candidates who a voter "could ever consider voting for" (half the weight). The weights are all added together, and that becomes the candidate's "Selzer Score."

Using Selzer's method on a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll of (a relatively small group of 236) GOP primary voters, National Journal's Charlie Cook found that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (77.5), Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (71) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (62.5) easily make the top three, which more or less mirrors most national polls. Where the Selzer score makes things more interesting is in the rest of the field, where candidates such as Carly Fiorina barely register nationally.

"Our problem is, we have a group of people who are huddled at the bottom," Selzer said earlier this month on Bloomberg Politics. "How could we spread the field was my goal."

Fiorina's Selzer score is 18.5, fourth from last, putting her 4 points above South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, and even further ahead of Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former New York Gov. George Pataki. Donald Trump's Selzer score is 20, putting him in the lower tier, though his "could not see supporting" score is the highest of all the candidates, at 66 percent.

It's not perfect, but it probably gets closer to the true lay of the land than straightforward horse-race numbers, especially since many voters are likely to shift from their first to second (and even third or fourth) choice over the course of next six or seven months. (Voters who refuse to even consider voting for a certain candidate are certainly far less malleable.)

At the very least, it's something journalists can have fun with.

2016ers embrace flag removal after hedging // CNN // Maeve Reston – June 23, 2015

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All of a sudden, Republican presidential candidates found a position on the Confederate flag Monday.

In the days after the racially-motivated massacre of nine African-Americans at a church in Charleston, many of the GOP candidates tried to skirt the issue of the Confederate flag -- calling for prayer, a time for grieving, and support for the families of the nine victims. In some cases, they chided reporters for bringing up "politics" at such a sensitive time.

But within seconds of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's statement that South Carolina should honor its heritage but remove the flag from state grounds -- and her pledge to use her authority to force the legislature to deal with the issue this summer -- the candidates dispensed with their maneuvering and articulated clearer positions on the flag.

Jeb Bush -- who had originally noted that he sent the flag to a museum as governor of Florida, but had only vaguely called for South Carolinians to "do the right thing" -- moved quickly to define what he thought that "right thing" was.

Bobby Jindal, John Kasich, Chris Christie and Scott Walker, had all insisted that the aftermath of the tragedy was a time to grieve, not to engage in a political debate. But on Monday afternoon, Walker tweeted that he was glad Haley was calling for removing the Confederate flag from state grounds: "I support her decision," he tweeted. Kasich, Ohio's governor, similarly said he shared Haley's view that the flag "should come down."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who had staked out the politically safe route of calling for more debate, said Monday that removing the flag was "an act of healing and unity that allows us to find a shared purpose based on the values that unify us." The next day, Rand Paul said in a radio interview with WRKO in Boston that he would vote to take down the flag were he a South Carolina legislator.

And Graham, the South Carolina Republican senator, who had called for more debate during an interview with CNN Friday, released a far more forceful statement Monday after appearing with Haley and many other state officials. The Confederate flag, he said, should be taken off the Capitol grounds to deal with the issue "once and for all" after the "horrific, racially motivated shooting."

The outlier among the candidates on Monday was Marco Rubio, who stuck by his original position that removal of the Confederate flag was an issue for the "people of South Carolina."

"I appreciate and respect (Haley's) statement that 'This is South Carolina's statehouse, it is South Carolina's historic moment, and this will be South Carolina's decision,'" Rubio said in a statement. "I have no doubt that given how the people of South Carolina have dealt with this tragedy so far, they will continue to inspire the nation with their courage, compassion and unity."

For the GOP candidates who wrestled with the issue over the past few days, the difficulty of staking out a position boiled down to this: How does a presidential candidate -- aiming to alienate as few voters as possible -- deal with the volatile stew of issues that campaigns are loathe to touch. This case set off simultaneous debates over racism, gun rights, and whether the Confederate flag can legitimately be couched as a "state's rights" issues.

"This is an issue that has an exceedingly high number of threads in it. It involves race, it involves culture, it involves crime, it involves justice," said Matthew Dowd, a former strategist for President George W. Bush. "And then you have politicians who are incredibly scared of their own shadow, because they are so afraid they are going to be jumped on by what I would call the 'conserva-gensia', who don't necessarily represent real people -- whether its someone on Fox News or Rush Limbaugh."

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In a news cycle keyed to rapid response, Dowd added that it's very difficult for politicians "to really be thoughtful about an issue, as opposed to giving a microwaved answer."

Still, the killings in Charleston happened during a period when the Republican Party is straining to expand its appeal to minorities. Steve Schmidt, a Republican strategist who advised George W. Bush and 2008 presidential nominee John McCain, said many of the candidates missed a clear chance to show leadership by quickly stating a bold position on an issue that resonates not only with African-Americans, but with voters of all races who were horrified by Wednesday's shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

"A presidential candidate who seeks to be the nominee of the party of [President Abraham] Lincoln should be able to talk contextually and historically about this flag, about these issues, about what it once meant and what it means today," Schmidt said. "This is one of those moments where the right thing to say and do is so obvious --- and you watch, one by one by one by one, how the political calculations and maneuverings take place at the expense of doing the right thing," Schmidt said.

He added: "This is something most people would regard as a pretty simple and easy thing to get right."

The balance that many candidates were trying to strike, said Ari Fleischer, former press secretary to Bush, was in respecting the rights of South Carolinians to decide what to do with the flag.

"There's a higher principle about the role of the federal government that runs into conflict with the raw emotions that play out after a tragedy and it squeezes Republicans," Fleischer said. "They're squeezed because the higher principle is Republican federal candidates place a lot of value in the right of states to decide these matters without federal interference -- whether it's an emotional issue like the flag, or whether it's gun rights, gay marriage" -- even nutrition standards, he said.

In a politically important state like South Carolina, which will hold one of the first presidential primaries, many voters see no need for out-of-state politicians to meddle in their affairs -- as Haley obliquely stated during her press conference on Monday.

Fleischer said he disagreed with those who have framed the flag issue as a test of character. "The test of character is the ability to see long term, and to know what the role of the federal government is, and should be, while also creating an environment to actually solve the problem," he said.

Still, many unaligned political strategists, watching the maneuverings of the last few days were puzzled by why it took so long for candidates to parse their positions.

Moments after the presidential candidates flooded Twitter with newly formed opinions about the Confederate flag following Haley's press conference, Craig Robinson, a former political director of the Iowa Republican Party, tweeted incredulously: "A president can encourage a foreign country to tear down a wall, but a presidential candidate can't encourage a state to take down a flag?"

What the GOP Lost When It Won the South **// Daily Beast // Matt Lewis – June 23, 2015**

As the Republican field and corporations like Wal-Mart slowly but surely distance themselves from the Confederate flag, a subplot involves a trend I've been documenting for a while now: How the GOP is being forced to engage in some major soul searching.

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The coalition the GOP assembled in order to win national elections in the latter part of the 20th century has delivered the popular vote in just one of the last six presidential elections, and it's not realistic to expect they can win many more by relying solely on old, rural, non-college educated white men.

Not only have the demographics changed—but so have a lot of attitudes.

That's not to say the way to save conservatism is to embrace liberalism—far from it. But it is to say that conservatives must shed negative stereotypes that, after all, have nothing to do with conservatism to begin with. My forthcoming book, Too Dumb to Fail, is subtitled: "How the GOP Won Elections by Sacrificing Its Ideas (And How It Can Reclaim Its Conservative Roots)" largely about how conservatives can adapt to the 21st century.

Regardless of his ethnicity, I think a young urbanite who manages his stock portfolio on his smart phone and then orders an Uber should be a conservative. And he might—if when he thinks of "conservative" he pictures someone like AEI president and author Arthur Brooks. Someone who is sophisticated, tolerant, and thoroughly modern. But he won't if he associates that word with an image of, say, a fat, intolerant redneck. (This is not to suggest many Southerners fit this description. There are many things about the South I love. But this is a stereotype.)

The injection of Southerners into the Republican coalition—a coalition they ultimately came to dominate—couldn't help but change the image of the GOP. There were racial, cultural, political, and even religious implications. Republicans captured the South, yes, but the South also captured the GOP. There were no doubt many salutary benefits to this arrangement—most obviously, an electoral boon that lasted for decades. But it also guaranteed we would eventually see a day of reckoning.

First, though, some background. You've probably heard of The Southern Strategy, but might not know exactly what it means, or how the Republican Party allegedly employed it. The Southern Strategy, As Mike Allen defined it in the Washington Post, "described Republican efforts to use race as a wedge issue—on matters such as desegregation and busing—to appeal to white southern voters."

"The electorate is rapidly becoming less white, less rural, and better educated. Yet the GOP is still culturally synonymous with, well, white, rural, less-educated southern whites, who remain a major pillar of the party's support."

Whether or not you accept that this was an intentional strategy, or just how things shook out, this much is true: Around 1964, the once reliably Democratic South started to become a Republican stronghold. We may differ about what this means, and about whether the GOP deserves culpability for stirring up racial animus in order to achieve it. (As Sean Trende notes, the trend actually began in the 1920s, and that long before civil rights became a hot-button political issue, "FDR performed worse in the South in every election following his 1932 election.")

In one of the chapters, Too Dumb to Fail details the many ways the so-called Southern Strategy impacted conservative policy—but the impact it had in terms of cultural signaling is among the most important, if more superficial, effects.

(And here I'm not talking about overt racism, which I think we all condemn, but instead subtle cultural customs and signals that may seem out of touch in an America that is increasingly cosmopolitan.)

Let's take George W. Bush, the most successful Republican politician of the post-Southern Strategy, post-Reagan era. After losing a Congressional race, George W. Bush (possibly as a reference to a much worse George Wallace line?) vowed "never to get out-countried again. " This was smart politics for Bush, who ultimately went on to become President of the United States, but it helped reinforce the image of a Republicans as someone who, well, looks and talks like George W. Bush. (I realize that Texas is often considered more Western than part of the "Deep South," but you get my point.)

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This brings us to today. As we all know, the demographics of the country are changing rapidly. The electorate is rapidly becoming less white, less rural, and better educated. Yet the GOP is still culturally synonymous with, well, white, rural, less-educated southern whites, who remain a major pillar of the party's support. And so you get to the point where guys like Scott Walker and Rand Paul spend a week ducking questions about whether the Confederate flag should be flown on government property...in 2015.

So here's what the GOP has to figure it out: how do they continue to get the Bubba vote while shedding appeals to the cultural symbolism of the past? How do they sell their conservative ideas about free markets, strong national defense, and conservative family values to 21st century Americans?

The seeds of this challenge were partly planted when the GOP became the de facto party of the South—with all the good and bad that that entails. And now the chickens have come to roost. As you watch Republicans scramble to address the changing political landscape—some more nimbly than others—keep in mind this is the backdrop.

GOP candidates seek distance from white supremacist group // Des Moines Register // June 22, 2015

Republican presidential candidates moved Monday to quickly distance themselves from the leader of a white supremacist group whose views appear to have influenced Dylann Roof, the suspect in the murders of nine African Americans at a Charleston, S.C., church.

Earl Holt, who describes himself as president of the Council of Conservative Citizens, has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to Republican candidates in recent years, including to four current White House contenders: Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, according to news accounts and campaign-finance records.

By late Monday afternoon, all four said they were donating Holt's contributions to charity.

U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst and U.S. Rep. Steve King of Iowa and other Republican members of Congress also received donations from Holt. In 2014, Ernst received a $1,000 contribution. King has received $2,500 (five $500 contributions) since 2012, according to Federal Election Commission data.

Ernst is donating that money to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund, set up to aid victims' families, spokeswoman Brook Hougesen told the Register.

King will donate the money to both the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund and to the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, where the slayings occurred, according to a statement on his campaign website.

"Our prayers are with the families and friends of those affected by this tragedy," the statement says.

Cruz, who initially planned to refund the campaign contributions, later concluded the funds would be better used to help the victims' families and will contribute the $11,000 to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund, his spokesman, Rick Tyler, said in a statement.

Paul's leadership PAC has received $2,250 from Holt. In an email Monday, Paul's spokesman, Doug Stafford, said the PAC also is donating the contributions to the victims' fund.

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Santorum said he also would give away the money. "Rather than put more money back in the pockets of such an individual, my 2012 campaign committee will be donating the amount of his past donations to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund to support the victims of this tragedy," he said in a statement.

"I abhor the sentiments Mr. Holt has expressed," he added. "These statements and sentiments are unacceptable. Period. End of sentence. Our campaign is about, and has always been about, uniting America, not dividing her."

Walker, who has received $3,500 from Holt since 2011, will give the money to charity, his spokeswoman, AshLee Strong said.

The Guardian first disclosed the Holt contributions.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil-rights group based in Alabama, has described the Council of Conservative Citizens as a "hate group."

The organization's "statement of principles" includes the goal of ensuring that "the American people and government should remain European in their composition and character." The council also opposes "all efforts to mix the races of mankind."

In a "manifesto" on a website linked to Roof, the murder suspect said he learned details about black-on-white crime from the Council of Conservative Citizens' website.

The council has condemned the killings. In a statement posted Sunday on the council's website, Holt said it "was not surprising" that Roof credited his group for information on black-on-white crime. But he added that his organization is "hardly responsible for the actions of this deranged individual merely because he gleaned accurate information from our website."

On Monday, the council's spokesman, Jared Taylor, said Holt was not granting interviews.

Taylor said the shedding of donations amounted to "grandstanding" by candidates and said they were infringing on Holt's free-speech rights. "Are they really trying to deny Mr. Holt the ability to donate to campaigns?"

Asked about the group's mission, Taylor said: "We don't hate anyone... We take the view that whites as a group have legitimate interests, and it's entirely good and proper that they should get together to discuss them."

Holt, whose occupation is sometimes is listed as "slumlord" in federal election records, has donated more than $60,000 to GOP candidates in recent years, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

Federal campaign records list Holt as living in Longview, Texas. The council is based in St. Louis, Mo., and in a 2014 article, Holt said he lived in St. Louis between 1983 and 2009.

Other recipients of Holt donations include Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, former Minnesota congresswoman Michele Bachmann, former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, and Utah Rep. Mia Love, the first black Republican woman elected to the U.S. House, federal records show.

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As the news of Holt's ties to the council spread Monday, congressional candidates quickly announced they were dumping the contributions. Portman's aides, for instance, said they already had donated to charity the $250 that the Ohio Republican received from Holt in 2010.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

The Best and Worst of the 2016 Campaign Merch // NY Mag // Véronique Hyland – June 23, 2015

Forget the 2016 candidates' political platforms — everything you need to know about them can be read in their sartorial offerings. Whether their e-store contains rumpled polos (Ted Cruz) or pantsuit T-shirts (Hillary Clinton), they're clearly very much on message. And while the merch may be as much of an electoral data-gathering mechanism as it is clothing, that doesn't mean it can't have fashion merit.

While she doesn't have a full-fledged Seventh Avenue–designed collection like Obama did, Clinton definitely wins in the arena of design, not to mention cheeky copywriting — even the ad copy on a humble iced-coffee tumbler notes, "Please note: Sweet tea is also acceptable." (Way to make a play for the southern vote.)

The rest are varying degrees of fashion-backward, from Rand Paul's take on athleisure to Rubio's "Marco Polo" shirt and Bernie Sanders's sub–Word Art–caliber slogan tees; Scott Walker and Rick Santorum haven't yet opened merchandise arms, so the jury is out for now. Click through the slideshow for a partisan assessment of which ones got our vote, and which ones we'd veto.

Why are so many running for president? // Philadelphia Tribune // Julian Zelizer – June 22, 2015

Why are so many people running for president in 2016?

A bunch of candidates who have thrown their hats in the ring -- Donald Trump, George Pataki, Carly Fiorina, Ben Carson, Mike Huckabee, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley -- have little chance of winning, so one is left to wonder: What do they hope to achieve?

If winning isn't probable, what else can primary candidates intend to accomplish?

There are a number of things that candidates can achieve for themselves or their parties without actually becoming the nominee.

Selling a message: Often candidates want to make sure that their party colleagues are paying attention to certain issues. They feel that the existing leadership and crop of candidates are ignoring key problems that are central to the health of the nation. There are many people in public life who find this to be enough reason to undertake a serious campaign. This was why Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota entered the Democratic primaries in 1968, with the goal of making sure that Democrats who opposed the Vietnam War had a seat at the table.

As a political veteran, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont must realize that the odds of defeating Hillary Clinton are slim. Yet regardless of the outcome, he is bringing to the forefront of the party debate concerns about economic inequality, a broken political process and the rapid deterioration of the environment. Even if Sanders doesn't gain much traction in terms of actual votes, his ability to push Clinton toward dealing more squarely with these problems would be considered a victory.

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Mobilizing new constituencies: Sometimes losing politicians help to mobilize new constituencies into the party. Ronald Reagan did this with right-wing Southern conservatives in the 1976 Republican primaries when he challenged President Gerald Ford. Ford defeated Reagan, though barely, but Reagan brought into the party and energized conservatives who ordinarily had not voted in primaries like Texas.

In 2004, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean used pioneering social media technology to attract younger liberals into the Democratic selection process. Although John Kerry won the nomination, only to lose to George W. Bush in the general election, the groups Dean energized would be central to Barack Obama's 2008 victory.

Among the Republicans in 2015, Sens. Rand Paul and Ted Cruz -- both still long shots for the victory against a Jeb Bush or a Marco Rubio -- have the possibility of reaching libertarian and social conservative Republicans who have become disaffected with the GOP over the past decade. Even if they don't win, they can bring into the party new groups of voters who can help the GOP in this and other elections, as well as their own future candidacies.

Selling themselves: There are some candidates who get into the primaries these days as a vehicle for their own careers. Donald Trump, the real estate mogul and former reality television star, appears to see the selection contest as a way to advance his own fame and reputation. Running for president has been just another way to keep his name alive in the national media.

Others, like Ben Carson, jump into the contest without a clear agenda or connection to broader groups. Their goal seems to be a desire to elevate their own role in the public arena. With such a vibrant world of political media, consulting and think tanks, running for president can enhance a person's stature and offer opportunities. Mike Huckabee earned himself a spot on Fox News after previous runs.

With Trump, one lure may be that he has name recognition and can likely get into the first GOP debate (on Fox, limited to 10 candidates) and the first tier of the first CNN debate (the network will have a second debate for those who don't make the first cut). That is priceless national exposure.

Another big outcome of a presidential run could be a vice presidential or Cabinet slot, and this must be on the minds of some of the longer shots. The visibility and stature that can come from running could enhance the appeal of a future appointment of someone like Pataki or Chris Christie.

Testing the waters: For many other candidates, it is clear that winning in American politics can take several tries. Entering the primaries and caucuses is a learning experience. When Mitt Romney ran in 2008, he believed that he had a good chance for the nomination. But even when he lost, the experience helped him be a stronger candidate in 2012, when he won the nomination. Running is also an effort to solidify the credentials needed to approach campaign contributors and super PACs in future years with the hope of being a credible candidate.

There are lower-key candidates, like John Kasich, Scott Walker, and Martin O'Malley, who have high aspirations in the near future but also realize that getting through the competition in 2016 can make them stronger for the next time around.

The primaries and caucuses continue to serve as a powerful national forum through which to achieve a large number of goals. Particularly in an age when there is so much politically centered media, constantly covering the endless campaign and giving attention to any candidate who enters, and when super PACs can single-handedly finance campaigns, the temptations to declare for the presidency are stronger than ever.

South Carolina Dems Blast DCCC for Using Confederate Flag Issue t o Fundraise // The Blaze // Kaitlyn Schallhorn – June 23, 2015

Prominent South Carolina Democrats are speaking out against the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for fundraising off the Confederate flag issue that has engulfed the country less than a week after nine

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parishioners were shot dead in a church.

A DCCC email sent shortly after 3 p.m. Tuesday asked people to vote on whether or not the Confederate flag should be removed from the South Carolina Capitol grounds, a divisive issue that was reignited in the Palmetto State after authorities say Dylann Roof, 21, attempted to start a race war by gunning down nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

Once recipients of the email submit their vote on the flag, they are taken to a donation page where they're asked to make a recurring monthly donation or a one-time $3 donation in order to receive a free "Yes, I Voted Obama" sticker in the mail.

Another email, sent after 7 p.m. Tuesday, again asked recipients to vote on the flag issue and attempted to take credit for Gov. Nikki Haley's (R-S.C.) call for the flag's removal.

FIRST: President Obama, Hillary Clinton and leaders nationwide demanded South Carolina take down the Confederate flag.

THEN: 41,338 Democrats signed our grassroots petition to DEMAND South Carolina take down the Confederate flag.

NOW: The South Carolina Governor has responded to our demands. She just called on South Carolina legislators to act!

"I have a great deal of respect for the DCCC, but this is just an inappropriate time to be raising money off of this," Bakari Sellers, an influential South Carolina Democrat and former state House member, told TheBlaze. "We haven't even had our first funeral."

Sellers, who does support the removal of the Confederate flag, is an attorney who was first elected to the state House at age 22.

In an email to TheBlaze, Antjuan Seawright, political advisor to the South Carolina Senate Democrats, said he has also asked for the DCCC to cease the emails. Seawright said Senator Clementa Pinckney, who died in the shooting, was a friend.

One of the emails sent out by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee using the Confederate flag issue in South Carolina to solicit donations.

One of the emails sent by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee using the Confederate flag issue in South Carolina to solicit donations.

State Democrats responded to the email blasts on social media as well. Jamie Harrison, chair of the South Carolina Democrats, said in a tweet that he has asked for the DCCC to stop the fundraising campaign.

Tyler Jones, political director and spokesman for the South Carolina House Democrats, also spoke out about the DCCC's email.

Despite the DCCC's claim in the email blast, Hillary Clinton has remained relatively mum on the Confederate flag issue this go around — she spoke out against the flag in 2007 during her first bid for president — except for a single

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tweet after Haley's Monday afternoon press conference.

In fact, while addressing the Charleston tragedy in San Francisco on Sunday, the 2016 presidential hopeful spoke of the country's purported problem with gun violence and racism — but made no mention of the flag.

Clinton's campaign also remained silent Monday after images of Clinton-Gore 1992 campaign paraphernalia featuring the Confederate flag cropped up on social media.

The DCCC did not immediately respond to a request for comment from TheBlaze.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Obama Ordering Changes in U.S. Hostage Policies // NYT // Julie Hirschfeld Davis – June 23, 2015

President Obama on Wednesday will announce that the government will no longer threaten criminal prosecution of the families of American hostages who are held abroad by groups like the Islamic State if they attempt to pay ransom for the release of their loved ones. The change is one of many that are intended to fix what the administration has acknowledged is a broken policy on United States captives, a senior administration official said.

In a presidential directive and an executive order, Mr. Obama also plans to make clear that while he is keeping a longstanding federal prohibition against making concessions to those who take hostages, the government can communicate and negotiate with captors holding Americans or help family members seeking to do so in order to ensure their safe return.

American officials negotiated a swap to win the freedom of Bowe Bergdahl from his captors in Afghanistan, trading five Taliban detainees held at the military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. But they have told the families of Islamic State and Al Qaeda hostages that the "no-concessions" policy prevented them even from talking about potential terms of release in those cases, and warned that relatives could face criminal charges for offering ransoms themselves.

At times, families were given conflicting messages, as in the case of Theo Padnos, who was held by the Syrian branch of Al Qaeda for nearly two years before his release last summer. His mother, Nancy Curtis, has said the State Department threatened her with prosecution should she attempt to pay a ransom, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation offered to help her execute the transaction.

The Department of Justice "does not intend to add to the families' pain in such cases by suggesting they could face criminal prosecution," a report describing the changes will say, according to the official familiar with it, who would detail it only on the condition of anonymity ahead of Mr. Obama's public statement.

The announcement will be the culmination of a wide-ranging review ordered by Mr. Obama in December on how the government treats hostages captured overseas. The phenomenon has emerged as a particularly wrenching one during his presidency with the rise of the Islamic State, whose kidnappings for ransom and videotaped beheadings of captives have focused public attention on the issue.

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Family members of American hostages who have been vocal critics of Mr. Obama's policy, some of whom were interviewed extensively as part of the review, are scheduled to be briefed on the recommendations on Tuesday.

The families have complained that the United States policy on their cases was confusing, and they said they felt bullied, neglected and trapped in a bureaucratic vortex of low-level officials with clashing agendas and conflicting information. Some have talked about what they considered the ultimate indignity: being threatened by officials of their own government if they tried to muster ransom in an attempt to free their family member.

Among those facing such warnings was Diane Foley, the mother of the American journalist James Foley whose videotaped killing by a militant of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, was widely circulated on the Internet.

As the review has drawn to a close, Mr. Obama has increasingly met in person with those most familiar with the issues it is seeking to address. He met briefly with Ms. Foley in April, when she visited Washington to talk with the review team, led by the National Counterterrorism Center. And during a visit to Miami in May, he met with the parents of Steven J. Sotloff, another American journalist held with Mr. Foley, who was also killed.

Those deaths dramatized the dilemma inherent in the American "no-concessions" policy toward hostage-takers, which stands in stark contrast to many European countries that routinely pay ransoms for captives. American officials have said doing so would reward and enrich kidnappers, both emboldening them and enabling them to capture more United States citizens.

By taking the executive action, the president is acknowledging that the prohibition has created confusion inside and outside the government, sometimes handcuffing officials charged with recovering captives or their families.

The overhaul notably does not include a move urged by family members and some lawmakers to create a high-level hostage czar who would report directly to the White House and have primary responsibility, across the federal government, for freeing American captives. Instead, it creates an interagency hostage recovery "fusion cell" to be headquartered at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which would include a senior-level "family engagement coordinator" to support relatives and keep them informed.

In addition, Mr. Obama will create a new White House team to oversee hostage policy, and appoint a special envoy at the State Department to lead the government's contacts with foreign nations on hostage issues. A new "issue manager" in the intelligence community will coordinate hostage-related intelligence, including working "systematically and proactively" to declassify information that could be shared with captives' family members.

The report will say that "whenever possible, families will receive more information, faster, on their loved ones and the efforts to recover them," an official said.

That was one of the principal requests by the relatives of hostages and former hostages, who said they had come to detest the phrase "We're doing everything we can," doled out, they said, as government officials kept them in the dark about crucial details of their family members' situations.

Mr. Obama will acknowledge many of those problems and seek to confront them in part by creating a small family engagement team with a coordinator who would serve as a point of contact for relatives to the fusion cell and be a part of the White House hostage policy team. The report will say that officials should "clearly and accurately articulate to families what efforts the United States government is undertaking to locate and recover their loved ones."

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Under the new policy, all government officials who interact with hostages' families must also receive specialized training on the dynamics of hostage-taking, its impact on victims' relatives and how to support both current and recovered hostages and their families.

Amazon to Remove Confederate Flag Items, Following eBay and Others // WSJ // Greg Bensinger – June 23, 2015

Amazon.com will remove merchandise depicting the Confederate battle flag, according to a person familiar with the matter. The online store joined other national retailers that have banned the symbol following the killings of a nine African-Americans in South Carolina.

EBay, Sears and Wal-Mart also have vowed to remove from their stores some merchandise that depicts the flag. Pressure has mounted on retailers to stop the sale of the flag after it was discovered that Dylann Roof, the alleged shooter in South Carolina, had a Confederate vanity license plate on his car and displayed the flag in photographs on social media sites.

In South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley called for the removal of the flag from the statehouse grounds, though the legislature has not yet agreed to take it down. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said he asked the state attorney general to take steps to halt the sale of license plates featuring the flag.

Drawing a line around goods deemed to be offensive can be tricky. Amazon's policy, which is posted on the site, says it doesn't allow the sale of "products that promote or glorify hatred, violence, racial, sexual or religious intolerance or promote organizations with such views." However, the site has long permitted the sale of Confederate flag merchandise.

EBay has a similar policy but allows the sale of some Nazi-related merchandise, noting its historical significance. The retailer said it prohibited the sale of goods that "amount to Nazi propaganda." Shoppers on the site can find currency, stamps and model kits that feature the swastika symbol.

EBay said it would begin today removing some merchandise from its site. "We have decided to prohibit Confederate flags and many items containing this image, because we believe it has become a contemporary symbol of divisiveness and racism," said an eBay spokeswoman.

Reggie VandenBosch, vice president of sales for Valley Forge Flag Co., which sells Confederate flags among other items, said Amazon had not informed him of its decision, but he said the site's ban would not make a big business impact.

"They have the perfect right to do it," said Mr. VandenBosch. "The market is so very small compared to the American flag, I really don't even think about the Confederate flag."

Dems weigh last-dit ch move to sink trade bill // Politico // Lauren French and John Bresnahan – June 23, 2015

With the Senate poised to clear a high-profile trade bill sought by President Barack Obama, the onus is shifting back to House Democrats. And the big decision they're wrestling with is this: whether to vote against a related worker aid program they've long supported in a last-ditch bid to derail fast-track.

It's the second time in as many weeks they face that choice, but the stakes are dramatically higher this time.

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Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) have yet to say how they will vote when the House takes up Trade Adjustment Authority legislation, which could happen as early as this week as part of a bill to expand trade with Africa.

If House Democrats vote against TAA and it's defeated a second time, it would put Obama in the awkward position of deciding whether to sign a fast-track bill without government help Democrats say is essential for workers whose jobs move overseas because of free trade.

Obama appeared at a fundraiser for House Democrats on Friday in San Francisco, and both the White House and the California Democrat insist their relationship is fine. But Democrats opposed to the president's trade initiative will be watching Pelosi for signs on how they should vote on the TAA measure, which Obama wants.

Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) walks with others to a vote on Trade Promotion Authority on Capitol Hill June 12, 2015 in Washington, DC. The House of Representatives voted down a bill that will could effect the fast tracking of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

Republican leaders separated the fast-track bill, known as Trade Promotion Authority, from TAA as a way to isolate House Democrats and stop them from using worker aid as a bargaining chip. That strategy appears to be on the brink of succeeding, after the Senate voted Tuesday to advance TPA with an assurance from GOP leaders that they'd take up TAA in subsequent votes.

Now House Democrats will have to choose whether to try and block worker aid again, even though the fast-track bill is likely to become law regardless. Critics have said doing so would be tantamount to punishing laid-off workers because Democrats lost the bigger political fight.

The uncertainty among House Democratic leaders about how to proceed underscores how divisive trade has become within the party, and how bent labor and progressives are to defeat the fast-track bill. The Senate is expected to approve the aid measure this week and Obama has been courting lawmakers aggressively for their support.

Hoyer, who broke with Pelosi and the majority of other Democrats to back TAA earlier this month, said Tuesday he wouldn't "speculate" on which way he would vote until the Senate sends the House a worker assistance bill.

"We haven't seen the TAA [bill] yet," Hoyer told reporters on Tuesday. The Senate isn't expected to have a final vote on TAA until later this week. "I am not going to speculate until we see the bill."

When pressed by reporters — a half-dozen times in total — Hoyer declined to offer any further clue about how he would vote.

Pelosi's office said she's discussing the issue with fellow Democrats. A Democratic leadership aide said Pelosi, who voted against both TAA and fast-track, wouldn't decide until after a Democratic Caucus meeting on Wednesday. Senior Democrats are also gathering Tuesday evening for two leadership meetings that will focus on the trade vote.

When the trade package hit the House floor two weeks ago, Pelosi refused to say how she planned to vote until right before the voting started, when she announced her opposition.

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The majority of House Democrats opposed both bills after unions made the trade votes a litmus test. It's unclear how aggressively unions will target members on a standalone aid bill, but top activists like the AFL-CIO and the Coalition to Stop Fast Track have linked the fast track and TAA votes over the past week, slamming Democrats who back either measure.

Pelosi and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka spoke over the weekend about the upcoming TAA vote, according to a Democratic leadership aide.

Unions kept pressure up on senators early this week with protests at the district offices of wavering Democrats. The United Food & Commercial Workers International Union had planned events in California, Delaware, Florida and Maryland to ratchet up pressure on Sens. Dianne Feinstein, Tom Carper, Chris Coons, Bill Nelson and Ben Cardin, among others.

The White House hasn't ruled out signing a fast-track bill without a separate worker assistance measure but Obama has said he strongly prefers that both bills become law. But if House Democrats sink TAA again in order to register their opposition to the larger trade agenda, it could force Obama to decide whether to sign one without the other.

Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.), a trade pact supporter, said last week that the president has indicated he will sign TPA before Congress passes TAA, in order to remove any incentive for Democrats to vote against the worker aid program again.

The overwhelming majority of House Democrats were opposed to granting Obama "fast track authority" to help hash out the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive trade package that would include the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim nations. But Republicans and pro-trade Democrats are hoping that once the Senate passes fast-track, Democrats will blink and allow the aid bill to move forward to protect workers.

Obamacare repeal still vexes GOP **// Politico // Rachel Bade – June 23, 2015**

Republicans for months have been planning to use a fast-track budget procedure to extend Obamacare subsidies if the Supreme Court strikes them down — all while completely gutting the underlying law.

But just days before the court's ruling, the party is still grappling with the question of how much of the law to repeal, in part because of its exorbitant cost.

The plan to use the expedited procedure — called reconciliation — is in flux as lawmakers realize they would have to come up with hundreds of billions in spending cuts to pay for a full repeal of Obamacare. And some Republicans aren't sure they want to go there.

A new cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office underscored the magnitude of the task: The budget scorekeeper last Friday said a full Obamacare repeal would add $353 billion to the deficit over the next decade. That price tag jeopardizes the GOP plan to use the expedited legislative process for a full repeal because any bill that uses the fast-track procedure, such as subsidy extensions followed by a fuller repeal, must reduce — not increase — the deficit.

That means Republicans will either have to forgo part of the Obamacare repeal they've promised for years — threatening to peel away the conservative support needed to pass their Plan B; or they'll have to expand their package to include budget cuts to things like education, in order to pay for a fuller repeal. The latter could meet opposition from moderates or vulnerable Republicans up for reelection in 2016.

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"They could still repeal major elements of the ACA and offset with other provisions to meet the net figure, but for the love of me I don't know what those offsets would be unless it were tax increases, which obviously would not be considered," said Bill Hoagland, longtime GOP budget expert who has advised Republicans on how the process works.

Republicans, after all, have been unable to agree on the needed $60 billion to patch up crumbling roads and bridges over the next several years.

Policy writers in the House and Senate face a conundrum: They'll have to walk a very tight rope between appeasing conservatives — despite the growing cost of repeal announced last week — and ensuring they don't alienate moderate Republicans who fear leaving constituents without a viable alternative to help pay for health care.

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking. The nation's highest court will deliver its verdict any day now, which could constitute the biggest blow to Obamacare yet, stripping 6 million of their Obamacare subsidies and leaving them unable to afford coverage.

Republicans in both chambers are coalescing around a plan to continue Obamacare subsides for a time to ensure millions don't lose the means to pay for coverage.

"While Republicans did not create this mess, we are ready, we are willing, and we are able to do our best to protect the American people from any more harm caused by the president's flawed law," said No. 2 Senate Republican leader John Cornyn (R-Texas) on the Senate floor Monday, adding that the plan "will empower the states to opt out of Obamacare, allowing them the flexibility to more effectively lower costs and increase choices … [and] promote market-based options without the threat of harmful, onerous, expensive mandates."

But a major unanswered question is what to do after the so-called bridge period ends. Should the reconciliation bill commit to repealing as much as possible under budget rules thereafter? Or will Republicans keep some of the Medicaid expansion, Medicare savings and taxes?

The Confederate flag is seen next to the monument of the victims of the Civil War in Columbia, South Carolina on June 20, 2015. The racially divisive Confederate battle flag flew at full-mast despite others flying at half-staff in South Carolina after the killing of nine black people in an historic African-American church in Charleston on June 17. Dylann Roof, the 21-year-old white male suspected of carrying out the Emanuel African Episcopal Methodist Church bloodbath, was one of many southern Americans who identified with the 13-star saltire in red, white and blue.

A House GOP leadership staffer said they're interested in repealing as much as possible under reconciliation rules, though a plan discussed last week included only a partial repeal.

"Obviously, we wouldn't be moving an Obamacare replacement without repealing the law too, so that's a given," the aide said.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has backed a contingency plan by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) that would simply repeal the mandates.

Meanwhile, presidential candidates Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas) are tacking right, pouring cold water on extending subsidies without a full repeal. And as soon as this week, a group of 25 conservative Senate Republicans are preparing to send McConnell a letter urging him to include a full repeal "in any legislation

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considered pursuant to the reconciliation instructions" in the budget.

"This letter is to affirm our shared commitment to repealing the Affordable Care Act, and to use every procedural tool at our disposal to repeal Obamacare at the earliest possible opportunity," the letter reads, according to a copy obtained by POLITICO. "The American people expect and deserve no less from the new Republican Congress they elected last fall."

But whether that's even possible is up for debate, especially considering the CBO's new report.

Repealing the individual and employer mandates as well as all the other Obamacare taxes and fees would cost more than $1.1 trillion. Eliminating the Medicare savings also included in ACA would tack on another nearly $879 billion.

According to the new score, Republicans can save $822 billion over a decade by repealing subsidies and $824 billion more if they repeal the Medicaid and CHIP expansions — but at least some Senate Republicans have shown they're a bit squeamish about doing so without providing an alternative.

"The political rationale behind the need to do a Burwell response presumably suggests that the GOP would pay a cost if it simply repealed the subsidies or if it also repealed Medicaid expansion," said one staunch conservative Senate aide who thinks the logic is flawed.

Another option being discussed includes finding savings outside of health care to offset the cost of a larger repeal, such as education cuts. But that could be like searching for pennies under couch cushions since lawmakers have already cut to the bone in recent years.

Meet the Diehard Right Wingers Who Just Can't Quit Obamacare // TPM // Gus Garcia-Roberts – June 23, 2015

In the day I meet Steve Pierce, his forehead is raw and glistening from just having been blasted by liquid nitrogen, treatment for the skin cancer which seems to ail virtually every old sun-blasted rancher like him. "Feels like just about the world's worst ice cream headache," he complains.

We're driving his giant red GMC Yukon SUV from Prescott, Arizona, the idyllic desert mountain town where Barry Goldwater announced his 1964 run for president, to Pierce's ranch 30 minutes away, where plump cattle graze on bleached, windblown grass next to the little chapel where his daughter was married. The sprawling property is called Las Vegas Ranch, and it's been in the Pierce family longer than the gambling town has been around.

A Republican lifer in Wranglers and cowboy boots, Pierce is his party's old school ideal: a self-sufficient small business owner living off the land, growing steaks for people who can afford them. He's also a prominent Arizona state senator, formerly president of the senate and majority whip.

So it's somewhat surprising that he has invited me to his home district in order to sell me on the benefits of Obamacare.

Here in Yavapai County, most everybody you'll meet is Republican. In 2012, Mitt Romney received nearly two votes here to each of Obama's. And yet in this rural red county in a very red state, it's only taken a couple of years for federally-subsidized health care to quietly seep into the hinges of everyday life and governance. The rate of signups for the program in the county has nearly doubled from 2014, when 22 percent of the area's potential

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market share signed up for a plan through the federal exchange, to March 2015, when 43 percent did, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The latter figure ranks the county sixth among 54 areas in the state in percentage of the potential market share which has signed up, outranking far more liberal areas in Arizona. This is what Obamacare Country looks like.

After a Supreme Court ruling in 2012 that allowed states to opt out of Medicaid expansion, the ACA is once again in danger of being undercut in court. In King v. Burwell, the Supreme Court is considering a lawsuit on the legality of federal health care subsidies in Arizona and 33 other states that have not set up their own healthcare exchanges. Before the end of June, 6.4 million Americans could lose subsidies across the country, according to data from Kaiser, including 126,506 in Arizona, where roughly 77 percent of those who have signed up for the ACA receive subsidies.

The possibility that the country's highest court could kneecap the ACA has Republicans strategizing feverishly, and often at odds with each other, about how to lessen the backlash from millions of Americans who would have to pay more or lose health care coverage. In Arizona, Republican Governor Doug Ducey has pre-emptively dug in his heels, signing a law designed to prevent the state from setting up its own exchange in order to keep ACA subsidies coming in. Yavapai County acts as a pop.-200,000 lab slide of a phenomenon occurring in conservative regions around the country, where party politics have been pitted against everyday pragmatism, often resulting in spectacular GOP infighting.

In this rural red county, it's only taken a couple of years for the ACA to seep into the hinges of everyday life.

Ducey's predecessor, Jan Brewer, was once the darling of the right wing, including for her harsh stance on health care. In 2011, she helped close a budget gap by slashing Medicaid eligibility in the state. But she stepped into the conservative maw less than two years later when she began to push for Obamacare-funded Medicaid expansion. "Jesus had Judas," Maricopa County Republican Committee chairman A.J. LaFaro testified at the time. "Republicans have Governor Brewer."

When Pierce backed up the governor with a vote in the state senate, he became a magnet for the ire of conservatives. The powerful conservative group Americans for Prosperity, backed by the billionaire Koch brothers, listed him in its "Hall of Shame" for his "disgusting" act of "betrayal." County Republicans voted to censure him, a largely symbolic gesture of scorn.

Brewer, whose gubernatorial term expired in January, says she still has "the scars on my back" from clashing with Arizona's Republican hardliners. "We have some really, really—I don't even know if they're right wing Republicans, they're libertarians," she tells me in an interview in a downtown Phoenix law office. "They're anarchists. And they're mean!"

Probably no Republican politician in Arizona has poked the far-right flank of the party with quite as much abandon as State Senator Steve Pierce. Once an invited speaker at Tea Party rallies and the owner of about five dozen guns, Pierce agreed with Arizona's notorious Senate Bill 1070 that forced aliens to carry registration documents, and he is a climate change skeptic. ("I tend to just believe we're in a severe drought," he told me.) Yet despite these conservative bona fides, he lost the senate presidency after clashes with the party and was censured by Republicans for his support of federally-funded health care.

Pierce's bouts with his own party have been legion: He's voted against a bill which allowed private property owners to build their own gun ranges; last year, he asked then-Gov. Brewer to veto a polemic "religious freedom" bill allowing Arizona business owners to discriminate against gays, after he had initially voted for it; and this March, he helped kill a bill that would've allowed Arizonans to carry guns into public buildings, such as courthouses or schools. After one such standoff with fellow Republicans—over his vote with Democrats on an amendment requiring background checks for purchases at gun shows—Pierce says he "told them all to go fuck themselves" and bolted to his ranch, where he was deluged with angry emails from pro-gun activists around the country.

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Ideologically, Pierce is opposed to federally subsidized health care, which he believes is a government “intrusion” and part of a “huge overreach in federal power” under Obama. But in 2013 when Brewer introduced her plan to expand Medicaid with ACA funds, Pierce seems to have taken a surprising tack: He gauged his constituency. His was an aging district with a retiree town for a county seat—the median age in Prescott is around 54—with a financially failing community hospital and a jail overrun with the mentally ill. He says he decided that voting for Medicaid expansion was “the right thing to do. I don’t represent the people on the far right, or the Republicans. I represent everybody who lives out here.”

Steve Pierce on the way to his ranch

Pierce didn’t stand alone; 14 out of the state’s 15 sheriffs, nine of whom were Republican, backed the expansion. One of those sheriffs was Yavapai County’s Scott Mascher, whose own conservative bona fides include vowing not to enforce federal gun control laws, but who argued that the Medicaid expansion would help reduce recidivism and length of stays for mentally ill prisoners. (The lone holdout among the sheriffs was Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who that year was busy losing a federal lawsuit that accused him of racial profiling in targeting Latinos during traffic stops.)

The expansion of Medicaid, following the Arizona legislature’s deep cuts to who was eligible for the state health care program, was a lifeline for dozens of hospitals and medical centers which were in danger of closing because so many uninsured people could not pay. After Obamacare coverage went into effect in January 1, 2014, hundreds of thousands of residents—including those with new Medicaid cards and people with subsidized private insurance—could suddenly pay their bills.

If the Supreme Court rules that federal subsidies are unconstitutional for enrollees in the 34 states without their own exchanges, the loss of health care for up to 126,506 Arizona residents will have a domino effect on health providers in the area. While only subsidies for private insurance are at stake in Burwell, people in Arizona worry that the loss of that revenue will hit clinics hard and threaten some of them with closure, limiting access to health care for everyone, including Medicaid recipients.

It’s an issue driven home at, of all places, the bleak Yavapai County Jail. Sheriff’s office captain David Rhodes shows me the mental health unit, home to mentally ill prisoners who have committed minor crimes akin to vagrancy. According to Rhodes, that has included a homeless man who spent a six-month stint here for defecating in a Prescott bush simply because, with the dismal state of available mental health facilities at the time, there was nowhere else to send him.

“For us in law enforcement, it really comes down to common sense.”

Now that health care coverage is more widespread, Rhodes has implemented a surprisingly progressive program, designed to get mentally ill prisoners back to state-deemed competency and their jail time diverted to private outside mental health care agencies.

Rhodes, who is Republican, says his months-old approach relies on an intact Affordable Care Act, and that cutting subsidies would create a chain reaction resulting in private mental health agencies dipping back into the red and in many cases cutting services. “Ideologically, it’s a controversial issue,” Rhodes says of Obamacare. “But for us in law enforcement it really comes down to common sense. What kind of services are available for people who are mentally ill? It wasn’t as if by not allowing them to have coverage those people went away.”

Laura Norman of the West Yavapai Guidance Clinic, a 16-bed operation which takes many of Rhodes’s released prisoners, says the local mental health community will be watching the SCOTUS decision closely. “We actually have a very good idea of what will happen, because we’ve seen it before,” says Norman. “People who don’t need to be in jail will be in jail. Psychiatric issues will go unaddressed. People who don’t need to go to the ER will be in the ER. There are many people who are functioning extremely well in our community who will no longer be able to do that.” At the moment, Arizona receives $145 million in active grants through the ACA, part of which goes to

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funding clinicians in rural areas.

The only hospital within 90 miles of Prescott, and the county's biggest employer, is the not-for-profit Yavapai Regional Medical Center West. Its Republican CEO, John Amos, is a buff former physical therapist who worked his way up the hospital's ranks to his top position. Like the other hospital chiefs represented by the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, Amos lobbied for the passage of Medicaid expansion. Amos told Pierce, in convincing him of the importance of the expansion, that in the two years after childless adults were disqualified from Arizona's Medicaid program in July 2011, uncompensated care at the hospital—the all-important rate of bills that aren't getting paid—had rocketed from 3.5 percent to 8.5 percent. Without enough patients on private health care plans and revenue plummeting, the hospital had to cut more than 100 fulltime positions. Pierce says Amos was concerned that he might have to close the maternity ward and the cardiac unit.

Only 13 other Republican lawmakers in Arizona—nine state representatives and four senators—joined Pierce in voting for Brewer's plan to expand Medicaid. But the numbers have been favorable to Pierce. Amos, the CEO of the local hospital, says that uncompensated care has dipped back to around 3.5 percent, close to what it was in 2011 before the Arizona legislature pushed childless adults off of Medicaid. No longer are there threats of closing medical wards.

And then there's this figure: 98.38 percent, Pierce's take of the vote in 2014, his most recent bid for re-election, when rival Republicans couldn't find anybody to run against him.

Pierce will be term-limited out of the senate next year, his eighth, and has no plans to continue his political career by jumping to Arizona's House of Representatives, mostly because he's weary of battling the right wing fringe: "There's twice as many crazy people in the House."

Given the political costs, it doesn't surprise me that Pierce and Brewer are the only Republican politicians in favor of Arizona's Medicaid expansion—and by proxy, Obamacare—who agree to speak to me, even after I repeatedly email and call every state rep and senator who voted for it. But it is the evasive nature of their constituents, those everyday Republican Arizonans who have signed up for private insurance through the ACA, that really catches me off guard. Simple math suggests there are a good number of them: In 2012, just over 100,000 citizens of Yavapai County voted in the presidential election, with more than 64,000 of those opting for Romney. In the same county, 8,846 people signed up for the ACA at the last open enrollment.

I came to Arizona wanting to know: Who were these people, and how did they feel about the prospect of their newly affordable health care wiped away with a Supreme Court decision?

But these are not the sort of people who write letters to the editor of their local newspapers. I know because I scoured back issues of Prescott's The Daily Courier, where letters from the populace included one titled "Obamacare lies are Hitler-esque" but none from self-identifying Republicans expressing their first-hand experiences with the program. And these are not the sort of people who reach out to organizations like Families USA, which is building a story bank of Americans in danger of losing their ACA subsidies.

"If I did, I wouldn't tell you," Rhodes tells me when I ask him if he knows of any regular Republican Joes getting their coverage through Obamacare subsidies.

"It's not the sort of thing people want to talk about."

"It sounds like you have your work cut out for you," writes Barry Denton, president of the Yavapai Republican Men's Forum. "I personally do not know of any Republican that has signed up for the Affordable Care Act. I truly believe most try to avoid it."

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The owner of the best Indian restaurant in Prescott is also no help. I'm failed by the bartender at the town square saloon. The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County hangs up on me. The Highway 69 Republican Club, Republican Women of Prescott, Yavapai County Young Republicans, and a host of other such political groups—and non-political ones; I'm looking at you, Italian/American Social Club and Yavapai County Jeep Posse—ignore my overtures.

The social stigma inherent in having to rely on any public subsidy and, worse, doing so through the enemy camp of Obamacare is probably why I'm striking out, says Richard Dehnert, vice mayor of Yavapai's town of Clarksdale and community relations coordinator for a local health clinic. "It's not the sort of thing people want to talk about," Dehnert says. He tells me he'll reach out to a Republican doctor friend of his who, while between jobs, signed up his wife for the ACA so that she could get care for some pre-existing conditions. I never hear from them.

Phoenix-based insurance agent Steven Pettit, who bills himself as an "Obamacare expert," says he doesn't learn his clients' political affiliation but that it's not hard to tell. "Most people tend to be pretty excited to be getting covered," Pettit says. "But a few seem to be doing it begrudgingly, like they're almost upset to be signing up, and I'd guess those are the Republicans."

Because of the Sasquatch-like elusiveness of these characters, and their talismanic political value, when a Republican does publicly acknowledge participating in—and even appreciating—Obamacare, it tends to go viral quickly. Butch Matthews of Little Rock got his taste of Internet fame after telling ThinkProgress in 2013 that he was ecstatic with the $13,000 he was saving per year through the Affordable Care Act. Self-proclaimed "Tea Party Patriot" James Webb got heaps of attention when he made the unverifiable claim that he was voting for Hillary Clinton because he loves his Obacamare plan. Then there was the factually-porous ordeal of Luis Lang, a South Carolina Republican who the Charlotte Observer reported had refused to sign up for Obamacare but then repented after he was stricken with an affliction which threatened to make him blind. By then, the sign-up period was over, and he reportedly blamed the president for making the coverage too complicated.

When I recently asked Lang about the viral article he said that he never mentioned Obama during an hour-and-a-half interview with the Observer, and is only a registered Republican because "you gotta pick something." "The last president I did vote for, believe it or not," he added, "was Clinton."

Ironically, the one Republican I meet in Arizona who admits to even considering signing up for a plan through the federal ACA exchange is the same one who just recently complained of "a dictator in Washington who tells us how to do our health care."

It's 105 degrees, and Arizona's special strand of conservative politics has been in full weird desert bloom during my visit in late May. On the second day, gun-toting "free speech" protesters announce a plan to meet at a Denny's in Phoenix before descending on a local mosque to draw pictures of Muhammad. (The Denny's, in a plot twist, closes to thwart them.)

Across town in a Mexican restaurant, Richard Mack is explaining to me that he just flew in from Houston, where he was stumping for office on behalf of Carl Pittman, a member of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, which Mack founded.

"Here's another thing about him," Mack says of sheriff candidate Pittman. "He's black. That dispels another rumor about me: that I'm racist."

'Well, we helped 50 million people'...Does that make it constitutional?

Mack, a former sheriff of Graham County and a human bullhorn against Obamacare, commands attention like a stern step-dad. Deeply tanned, he wears his thick head of hair slicked back and is sporting an Arizona State Sun Devils shirt. He totes a large computer bag from which he pulls a seemingly bottomless supply of reading materials, including a booklet detailing his lawsuit which successfully challenged a provision of the Clinton-era

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gun control Brady Bill before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996.

Mack has recently achieved a new fame of the sort that he hasn't approached since then. That's because Mack's son started an online crowdfunding page to raise money for medical bills after his parents both suffered health crises.

Liberals lapped up the irony that Mack had blasted the idea of health coverage for those in need and then was left uncovered himself. Conservatives admired his principled refusal to sign up despite grave personal peril to himself and his wife.

Since the GoFundMe page first went up six months ago, Mack has received $45,489, some of which he says he has already started to spend. No small amount of that bounty was donated by people who use the page to criticize his decision not to sign up for Obamacare.

"We have raised—and this is a guestimate—$15,000 from liberals wanting to tell us to go to hell," says Mack.

The family portrait on Mack's GoFundMe page

Richard Ivan Mack's saga of social enlightenment and financial malaise began with a tenure at the Provo Police Department in Utah, where he spent most of 1982 as an undercover cop driving a taxicab and attempting to worm his way into illegal activities. (A Supreme Court of Utah decision which reversed a drug dealing conviction he secured describes Mack hounding the suspect for psychedelic mushrooms multiple times, even knocking on the suspect's door during a birthday party for his young son, before the target finally relented and arranged for him to purchase $40 of marijuana.)

Mack was a Graham County sheriff from 1989 to 1997, when he lost in an election. The subsequent jobs he tells me about were diverse: customer service for a health systems company, teacher at a juvenile detention center, used car salesman. He declared bankruptcy in 2004. Mack's luck began to change in 2009 when he self-published a 50-page booklet called The County Sheriff: America's Last Hope, which he claims was a runaway hit. He started getting so many speaking requests —he charged $500 at first; now he bills $3,000—that he quit his job, giving up his health benefits despite having suffered a minor heart attack during his car dealership days, in order to hit the circuit and write books full-time.

In January, Mack survived a massive heart attack while working out on a treadmill at the gym. The medical bills from that emergency were compounded by the fact that a month earlier, his wife, who suffered from arthritis, had been in the hospital with a severe MRSA infection.

"I've always put money away for our hospital bills, but not $130,000," Mack tells me incredulously.

Mack believes that the "founding fathers were against the establishment of a welfare state" and that the Constitution they wrote does not allow Congress to provide national health care to Americans.

"'Well, we helped 50 million people,'" Mack mimics in a do-gooder voice, then rebuts himself: "Does that make it constitutional?"

The way Mack tells it, the answer is no, and that is all that matters—until about three-quarters of his way through his bean and cheese tostada. That's when he tells me that he and his wife considered signing up for the ACA many times after she was hospitalized.

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"We both have talked about, 'Yeah, maybe we should just sign up,'" Mack says. "We're in such hot water here, you know. But this was after we had this [infection], so it wouldn't have paid for her MRSA hospital stay. Hers was only about $30,000 so I thought, 'Well, we'll work it out, pay that one off.' But then I had a heart attack, and then we couldn't do it anyway." The massive emergency room bills seemed to make signing up for future coverage pointless.

Perhaps more notable is Mack's casual admission that he currently has health care coverage. He received it recently as part of his impending employment at the Phoenix-area private school Heritage Academy, where he will be teaching American History starting in August.

Mack can sleep better with this arrangement. "Getting insurance through a job is fine with me," says Mack. "Going to the government website and saying, 'Yes, I want to do this because it's such a wonderful program'—I don't believe that."

Legislature to tackle removal of Confederate bat tle flag // Post and Courier // Cynthia Roldan – June 23, 2015

Members in both chambers of the state's General Assembly return to the capital today after one of their own and eight churchgoers were killed by a gunman last week.

They are expected to tackle how to address the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, a day after Gov. Nikki Haley called on its removal while flanked by more than two dozen national, state and local lawmakers.

How they're going to remove the flag remained unclear as of Monday afternoon. House Minority Leader Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia, said there are multiple ways. But first, two-thirds of each chamber have to vote to amend the resolution that called them back to into special session to have it include the battle flag's removal as one of the issues they must discuss.

After that, a bill can be filed that tackles the issue, Rutherford said. The House would likely vote on a bill the week of July 6, after the bill makes it through committees.

"Because we were scheduled to come back tomorrow, it's something that we cannot ignore," Rutherford said. "While we respect the victims, the rights of the victims and the families, we can't just walk away from the legislative calendar. Otherwise we'd miss the opportunity to do anything."

There is a faster way. After the resolution is amended, the House can pull the bill once it's filled directly to the floor. But every lawmaker in the chamber has to agree with that move, which is unlikely, Rutherford said.

INTERNATIONAL

A border village in Haiti struggles with new Dom inican rules // WaPo // Joshua Partlow – June 24, 2015

OUANAMINTHE, Haiti — Several mornings a week for the past five years, Smith Laflur has left his one-room cinder-block shack, walked past the stray goats and the sour cherry tree, down the quiet dirt lanes and out into the shouts and motorcycle roar of this clamoring border town.

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He has stepped around the smoldering trash piles and the clothes drying on the bank of the Massacre River, which separates Haiti from the Dominican Republic, and hopped up onto the border bridge on his way to another day's work. At the metal gate, he hasn't showed a passport — or papers of any kind — but mentioned his boss, a customs official who owns several houses, and with that he has crossed into Dajabon.

Over the years, Laflur has built a swimming pool, erected concrete walls, fixed toilets and swept the patio at the Drink Bar — the type of hard manual labor that feeds his five children and that is far harder to find in his native Haiti. But his daily routine, and the livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of Haitians, has been put at risk by new immigration rules that intend to oust Haitians who don't have documentation to stay in the Dominican Republic, even those who were born there.

"Everything we can get is here," Laflur said at one of the Drink Bar's wooden tables. "I don't know how to find work in Haiti."

In the days before the June 17 deadline for undocumented migrants to register for residency permits — if they could prove they lived in the Dominican Republic before 2011 — many predicted police roundups and waves of deportations. So far, what has happened instead is voluntary departure by more than 12,000 Haitians who fear that such a crackdown could turn violent.

Ouanaminthe is now the scene of returning Haitian families packed into trucks lashed high with suitcases and burlap sacks. In their rush to leave, they abandoned furniture and appliances; some said immigration agents stole money or threatened harm if they didn't flee. Smith Blanco, a 23-year-old who worked as a cook in Santo Domingo, stood in a dirt lot with his belongings, not sure where to go next.

"I didn't want to come here, but I was worried," he said."Their president wants all the Haitians to leave. So we're leaving."

The Dominican government has encouraged these departures, with free bus rides to the border.

"The government of the Dominican Republic has not expelled one person as of this hour," Roberto Rodriguez Marchena, the president's spokesman, said in an interview Monday night. "We didn't create this; we didn't invent this to mistreat people or expel people. What we want — and the international community has to understand this — we want to order our country. Please, let us bring order to our country."

The roots of the current immigration policies date to a 2004 law that was challenged in court and not implemented until last year, during the presidency of Danilo Medina. The law calls for registering the estimated 600,000 people — Haitians or people of Haitian descent — living without documents in the country. Rodriguez, the spokesman, said that a quarter of the country's health budget is consumed by Haitians living in the country illegally and not paying taxes, and more than 40 percent of the births along the border are to Haitian women.

The government has described its new program as measured — and with an eye to avoiding disruptions to industries relying on manual labor and to the human rights of Haitians. There are exceptions for retirees and university students. So far, 288,000 people have begun the registration process. The remainder, roughly the same number, are subject to deportations if the government chooses.

"These people," Rodriguez said, "that are in our territory should go to Haiti and look for their documents, and then request to come to our country with a student visa, or a work visa.

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“What we can do is apply [the law] with humanity, and this is what we’re going to do. In our government, we’re not going to abuse a single person.”

‘Things are too hot’

The country’s far northern border has seen some of the worst moments in the troubled relationship between these island-locked neighbors. When sugar prices fell in the 1930s, the Dominican government sought to drive out Haitian cane cutters. Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered a bloody military campaign that became known as “The Harvest,” with soldiers slaughtering more than 10,000 Haitians along the Massacre River using machetes and shovels.

Leonilda Jus moved with her aunt to the Dominican Republic decades after that, in 1974, but the jobs available were the same. She grew up cutting sugar cane, picking tomatoes, digging onions. She gave birth to 12 children there, nine of whom survived, and eventually moved from the outskirts of the capital to the northern city of Santiago. The sugar cane industry has shriveled, but her sons found jobs in construction and on farms.

On Saturday, two of them, Thony Dume, 29, and Felix Mondesir, 24, worked on an addition to the rented shack in Ouanaminthe where they had moved four days before, to make room for more relatives returning from the Dominican Republic.

“It wasn’t a problem living there before. The police and many others knew me,” Dume said. “But now things are too hot.”

On March 2, before deciding to move, Dume stood in line at one of the government’s immigration offices to register himself — Ministry of Interior and Police number DO-29-000345. That gave him 45 days to prove he had the right to live in the Dominican Republic, even though he was born there. During that time, he needed to get written documentation from seven neighbors to vouch for his existence, plus testimony from a corner store where he shopped, and proof of residency from his landlord, in addition to a birth certificate or other government papers, none of which he had. To hire a lawyer to complete the process would cost up to $900, he said, equal to what he could earn in five months at his job milking cows in Santiago.

Instead, he got on a bus and headed for Dajabon.

Over the years, the Dominican border town has grown into a bustling commercial center, with vendors from around the country selling their wares at the market to Haitian customers. The shoppers crowd the border bridge with goods stacked on their heads, loaded into wheelbarrows and motorcycle carts.

"They make our economy dynamic," said Ana Carrasco, 53, who retired from local government to run a restaurant in Dajabon. “People come to buy eggs, chicken, spaghetti. If they don't buy it in this market, they don’t eat. Hunger doesn’t have a flag, nor a border, nor a color, nor politics. It’s hunger. It’s necessity.”

Until last week, when they couldn’t cross the border, Carrasco used Haitian laborers to work in her restaurant and clean her home. She said she supported the registration effortbut she worried about the harm the policy might cause to the economy . Dominicans in town have come to rely on the shadow services offered by Haitians. All day at her restaurant, Haitians drop by with their offers and wares: shoeshine boys, girls selling baby clothes, a woman who sells brand-name tampons at half the price offered in the stores.

“This issue affects my business, because my employees can’t come to work,” she said. “But we have to resolve this — the country should be able to know who they are. You have to do it, for everyone’s sanity. No matter what the cost, it needs to happen.”

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Other Dajabon business owners have more to lose. On the 1,700 acres of Hiroshi Rodriguez's rice farms, the manual labor is done by trucked-in Haitian workers, because, as he said, "Dominicans don't want to work."

On separate occasions over the past two months, soldiers and immigration officials have come and taken them away. He finds it particularly frustrating because soldiers, he said, take bribes from the farmers to let the day laborers pass the highway checkpoints.

"This makes me enraged. They don't let me work but they're trafficking Haitians."

"The government is going to have to recognize that all the companies need them," he added. "Pretty soon this is going to explode."

Tired of sneaking around

On Saturday morning, Smith Laflur headed for the bridge. It was his son's third birthday, and if he was going to afford a present, he needed to get to the Drink Bar. He pushed through the crowd to the border gate. He told him who he was, and his boss's name, but this time the guard shook his head.

"Not today," he said. "Things aren't good right now."

Laflur argued for a while, then turned away and sat on the railing over the river. In the past, he'd considered trying to get to the United States, but he was afraid of the open ocean. He didn't have the money to apply for a Haitian passport, and his boss in the Dominican Republic had never helped him with a work permit. He was tired of sneaking around.

"I want to arrive in a country with my own papers," he said. "I want to be able to walk as a free man."

Iran's Supreme Leader Seems to Pull Back on Nuclear Talks // NYT // Thomas Erdbrink And David E. Sanger - June 23, 2015

TEHRAN — With exactly a week left before the deadline for a final agreement to limit Iran's nuclear program, the country's supreme leader appeared to undercut several of the central agreements his negotiators have already reached with the West.

In a speech broadcast live on Iran state television, the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, demanded that most sanctions be lifted before Tehran has dismantled part of its nuclear infrastructure and before international inspectors verify that the country is beginning to meet its commitments. He also ruled out any freeze on Iran's sensitive nuclear enrichment for as long as a decade, as a preliminary understanding announced in April stipulates, and he repeated his refusal to allow inspections of Iranian military sites.

American officials said they would not be baited into a public debate with the ayatollah, who has the final word on nuclear matters. But with Western foreign ministers already hinting that the negotiations may go past the June 30 deadline, both American and European officials have said in recent weeks that they are increasingly concerned about the possible effects of the ayatollah's statements.

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Even if the remarks were made chiefly to mollify hard-liners and military leaders, they say, they could sharply limit the flexibility of Iran's chief negotiator, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, as he heads into the week when the most difficult concessions are likely on both sides.

It is possible, outside experts say, that the ayatollah's series of statements over the past two months, seemingly stepping back from major commitments made by Mr. Zarif's team, are carefully choreographed to bolster Iran's negotiators, who can argue that they cannot deviate from the supreme leader's strictures.

"My best judgment is that this is about leverage," Cliff Kupchan, the chairman of Eurasia Group, a political risk research and consulting firm in Washington, said in a telephone interview. "This is the last time to get the best possible deal. I think what he's shooting for is the most sanctions relief he can get as soon as he can get it, and the least intrusive inspection regime going forward."

Almost as interesting as what Ayatollah Khamenei said is what he omitted. He said nothing about lifting the United Nations arms embargo on Iran, which the United States is resisting. Nor did he rule out inspections under the International Atomic Energy Agency's "additional protocol," a set of inspection standards that more than 100 other nations allow — and that permit some inspections on military sites. But he did object to "unconventional inspections, interrogating certain Iranian individuals and inspecting military sites."

Iran has distrusted the nuclear watchdog agency since five of its nuclear scientists were blown up or shot on the streets of Tehran, a series of assassinations the Iranians accuse the United States and Israel of organizing.

By contrast, in the State Department's "fact sheet" about the preliminary agreements struck in Lausanne, Switzerland, in late March and early April, the United States summarized the agreement on inspections this way: "Iran will be required to grant access to the I.A.E.A. to investigate suspicious sites or allegations of a covert enrichment facility, conversion facility, centrifuge production facility, or yellowcake production facility anywhere in the country."

The ayatollah has repeatedly mixed his unyielding statements with assurances that he supports the negotiations, and tributes to the patriotism of the negotiators. But his remarks on Tuesday were his strongest yet, and came just two or three days before Secretary of State John Kerry and other foreign leaders are supposed to convene in Vienna.

One of his statements, for example, suggested that a central premise of the deal — that sanctions would be lifted only in close coordination with Iran's dismantlement of centrifuges and reduction of its stocks of low-enriched uranium — is not possible.

"All economic, financial and banking sanctions, implemented either by the United Nations Security Council, the United States Congress or the administration, must be lifted immediately when the deal is signed," the ayatollah said, according to his personal website, Khamenei.ir.

Only after that has happened will Iran start abiding by its commitments, he said. "The rest of the sanctions must be lifted in rational intervals," he said.

Much may depend on what the ayatollah means by the word "signed." It is possible that Iran will reach an understanding with the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia, but not "sign" the agreement for months. That would give Iran time to come into compliance with the terms, allowing President Obama to "lift" oil and financial sanctions on the first day of the accord. But the ayatollah seemed to rule out any linkage between Iran's actions and the lifting of sanctions.

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Tehran, he said, does not accept the “strange formula” for removing the sanctions, adding that “removing the sanctions must not be dependent on implementing Iran’s commitments.”

The ayatollah also said that verification of Iran’s actions by the International Atomic Energy Agency was out of the question.

“We have said from the first place that we want cruel sanctions to be lifted,” Ayatollah Khamenei said. “You cannot ask us to fulfill our commitments and wait for the I.A.E.A.’s confirmation for removing the sanctions. We completely disagree with it.”

The ayatollah also vowed to maintain an active nuclear program, which he says is for peaceful purposes. “Freezing Iran’s research and development for a long time, like 10 years or 12 years, is not acceptable,” he said.

Under the preliminary agreements described in April by the United States, some research work would be permitted, but Iran could not operate new, advanced centrifuges for more than a decade.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Bill Clinton, the Confederacy, and the Arkansas State Flag // WSJ // Peter Nicholas – June 23, 2015

As a national debate rages over the symbolism of the Confederate flag, some critics of the Clintons have questioned why as governor of Arkansas Bill Clinton approved a state flag design that carried a reference to the Confederacy.

In 1987, Mr. Clinton signed Act 116 reaffirming a state flag design that included a star symbolizing the state’s membership in the Confederacy.

Hillary Clinton was the state’s first lady at the time. The law passed unanimously — 29-0 in the state Senate, 93-0 in the House.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton praised South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s call for the rebel flag to be taken down from the capitol grounds in that state.

“It shouldn’t fly there,” Mrs. Clinton said. “It shouldn’t fly anywhere.”

The measure codified a package of resolutions passed by the Arkansas legislature in the early 1920s establishing the basic design of the Arkansas state flag. In 1923, Arkansas lawmakers added to the flag a star representing Arkansas’s participation in the Confederacy, according to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture.

The action taken by Mr. Clinton and the legislature appears to have been part of a broader state celebration marking Arkansas’s sesquicentennial. Between 1985 and 1987, the legislature also passed measures establishing the state beverage (milk), musical instrument (the fiddle), and fruit/vegetable (the vine ripe pink tomato).

Why did Arkansas lawmakers in 1923 tack on the extra star?

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In part it was an expression of regret over the demise of the Confederacy, experts say.

Michael B. Dougan, a history professor emeritus at Arkansas State University, said the legislature in 1923 "stuck an extra star in there for the Confederacy.

"It stands for the affirmation of the constitutionality of the doctrine of secession: While they might take away Arkansas's freedom to perpetuate slavery forever, at least the star of the Confederacy would shine on the flag."

These days the star – which sits above the word "Arkansas" on the flag – doesn't seem to stir up much bitterness.

Sharon Pruitt, an NAACP official in Arkansas, said in an interview that she sees the star as an unobjectionable part of the state's heritage.

"To me, it shows the progressivism of Arkansas," Ms. Pruitt said. "We once belonged to this Confederacy, however, today, we have our own state flag and we actually represent the United States of America."

Cyberterror, China, and the Clint on competency deficit // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 23, 2015

Understandably, much of the focus in the 2016 race and in the media more generally, when it comes to foreign policy, concerns the Middle East, jihadist terrorism and, to some extent, Russia. But it may have taken a "cyber 9/11" or "cyber Pearl Harbor," as the recent hack of the Office of Personnel Management is being called, to wake people up to the extraordinary incompetence and dereliction on the Obama administration's part regarding China. CNN reports:

The personal data of an estimated 18 million current, former and prospective federal employees were affected by a cyber breach at the Office of Personnel Management — more than four times the 4.2 million the agency has publicly acknowledged. The number is expected to grow, according to U.S. officials briefed on the investigation.

FBI Director James Comey gave the 18 million estimate in a closed-door briefing to Senators in recent weeks, using the OPM's own internal data, according to U.S. officials briefed on the matter. Those affected could include people who applied for government jobs, but never actually ended up working for the government. . . . U.S. investigators believe the Chinese government is behind the cyber intrusion, which are considered the worst ever against the U.S. government.

The Post reports on the extent of the internal malfeasance:

The computer upgrade that federal officials tout as having detected — although not prevented — a massive breach of information on federal employees is itself at high risk of failure, according to a new internal audit.

The independent inspector general's office within the Office of Personnel Management is conducting a thorough review of the upgrade but issued a "flash audit alert" to top agency leaders "to bring to your immediate attention serious concerns we have" that require "immediate action."

"There is a high risk that this project will fail to meet the objectives of providing a secure operating environment for OPM systems and applications," the alert says.

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This technological failure cannot be separated from yet another foreign policy failure: the inability of the Obama-Clinton-Kerry team to manage the threat from China. You would think, for one thing, that the attack on the government would have required a strong response against China, but nothing of the sort seems to be in the works. That's par for the course for this administration.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) issued a statement Tuesday, properly laying blame at the feet of the administration:

At this week's U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, our country must forcefully raise concerns about the Chinese Communist Party's increasingly aggressive actions.

We must confront China about its persistent cyber attacks against our government and companies, such as the recent hack of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which resulted in the theft of up to four million federal employee's personal information. The United States needs to establish an effective deterrent, unambiguously signaling to Chinese rulers that the costs of attacking us substantially outweigh the benefits. President Obama's inability to defend our networks from these attacks, despite spending $12.7 billion on cybersecurity last year, is yet another example of his and Secretary Clinton's weakness toward China.

In order to safeguard freedom of the seas and human rights, which are in our national interest, we must press China to cease its provocations in the South China Sea and support the rights of its people.

By contrast, Hillary Clinton has been mute. This is not surprising. As secretary of state she did everything but offer the Chinese a "reset button." You might recall that in 2009, right out of the box, she traveled to China to assure its people that she wasn't going to be hassling them about human rights. ("Successive administrations and Chinese governments have been poised back and forth on these issues, and we have to continue to press them. But our pressing on those issues can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crisis.") Predictably, human rights in China have gotten worse and worse over the course of Obama's tenure.

In 2012, Mitt Romney urged that we take a stronger stance against China's domestic repression and regional aggression, calling for "a strategy that makes the path of regional hegemony for China far more costly than the alternative path of becoming a responsible partner in the international system." That never happened, nor did the promised "pivot to Asia" that Clinton talked about ever take concrete form. Instead, we left our allies feeling neglected, and the Chinese continuing to assert their sovereignty in the South China Sea, steal U.S. businesses' intellectual property and engage in cyberterrorism. And we are slashing our navy, demonstrating to friend and foe alike that we do not intend to project U.S. power. China's ascendancy is one more legacy of Clinton's tenure at the State Department.

And don't expect anything to change if she gets into office. Bloomberg reports:

A Hillary Clinton presidency would be "friendly" toward China despite the perception the architect of the U.S. military rebalance to Asia was a combative secretary of state, according to Chinese billionaire Yan Jiehe.

Yan Jiehe said he has met former U.S. President Bill Clinton at least five times since 2010, with Clinton attending the Shanghai wedding celebrations for Yan's son, and met Hillary in the U.S. A sizable donor to the Clinton Foundation, Yan is the founder of China Pacific Construction Group.

If she clinches the Democratic Party nomination and then the presidency in 2016, Hillary Clinton would face a resurgent China that is challenging decades of U.S.-led economic and military order. Her time as secretary of state

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from 2009 to 2013 is already being scrutinized for how she'd confront the prospect of China as a major global power.

Maybe Clinton was not influenced by the donations or her husband's relationship with Chinese moguls. Maybe she was just snookered and entirely clueless as to China's ambitions, just as she was with Russia. In either case, one has to ask — as with so many other aspects of her record — why in the world would we give someone with such a rotten record, who let so many American foes grow bolder and more aggressive, a promotion to commander in chief?

Hillary, pay your interns **// USA Today // Carolyn Osorio – June 23, 2015**

As the high school girl who slept in a Hillary for President T-shirt for most of 2007, cried when she conceded to Barack Obama, railed at Congress during the Benghazi hearings and was an early follower of Texts from Hillary, I took heart from the 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign had created.

When Hillary announced her second run for the White House, I felt my passion for politics reignite. I quickly applied for and was offered a position as a Hillary for America fellow to work on the campaign. I couldn't have been more excited until I was told I'd have to move to Nevada and work full time on my own dime.

I couldn't believe my ears. I did not apply as a routine volunteer but as a fellow. Its application process with an elaborate screening and interview process was now revealed to be an ugly lie. If Hillary hopes to inspire young people, to prove she understands our interests she should offer substance to earn our votes.

Cheap, cheap

The campaign's "cheapness" is being lauded as a successful step away from her failure in 2008. Voters are evidently supposed to feel pleased with Hillary's miserly commercial flights (in first class) and economical Amtrak trips while discounting her unpaid staff's out-of-pocket expenses as simply smart business.

I had hoped a trailblazer would be more willing to break the mold of indentured servitude that haunts my generation. Finding out Hillary perpetuates the exploitation known as unpaid internships was like discovering that Santa wasn't real.

I guess I shouldn't be surprised. Unpaid work is common in campaigns, and as secretary of State, Hillary worked for the Obama administration. At the same time it was cracking down on unpaid internships in the private sector, it continued not paying the 300 annual interns in the White House.

Obama's wave of Millennial support in 2008 has emphasized the importance of the youth vote. The Clinton campaign has already started to court young people as evident in her huge social media efforts right out of the gate, even enlisting Beyoncé.

But it doesn't bode well that a campaign seeking younger votes would callously overlook my generation's biggest struggle: employment. Nearly 14% of us are unemployed. After two straight years of unemployment, I thought things were looking up with a potential Hillary victory.

Internships, once a prestigious foot-in-the-door experience, have increasingly been shown to be an abusive way for employers to gain free labo.." I myself had bad experiences at unpaid internships in both California and New York. I promised myself that when I graduated two years ago to never let anyone do that to me again.

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Minimum wage

For a woman whom I supported to demand this of me felt repulsive. Forget arguments about raising the minimum wage. I can't even get a wage. What exactly are Hillary Clinton's priorities and how do I change them?

I'm sure people will read this and think, "Well, that's how it's always been. Who is this 20-something girl to complain?" To that I say: the traditional family used to be the "way it's always been," until we changed it.

So, Hillary, I ask you to question your role in this exploitative system. My generation is in trouble. Young people today are put in the impossible position of trading their self-worth just to survive.

Our struggles are devalued as the first world problems of ungrateful children. At what point do the expectations that young people ought be grateful go too far? If we aren't getting paid, we should be grateful to have the experience. If we don't get the job, we should be grateful we even got the interview. If we're passed up for a promotion, we should be grateful we have a job; if we lose our job, we should be grateful we have a spouse or parent who can take care of us. At what point is it actually worse?

It might make me sound like a Stockholm syndrome victim, but after all of this, Hillary is still the best chance we have. If there is to be a better world for my future children, she's the only hope.

Hillary will get my free vote even if she will never have my free help.

'Clinton Cash' aut hor demolishes Hillary's self-defense **// NY Post // Peter Schweizer – June 22, 2015**

Grave incompetence or brazen dishonesty?

Those are the only two conclusions one can reasonably come to after reviewing Hillary Clinton's stunning Sunday interview on local New Hampshire TV.

When WMUR local TV host Josh McElveen asked Clinton why her State Department greenlit the transfer of 20 percent of all US uranium to the Russian government, Clinton claimed she had no involvement in her own State Department's decision to approve the sale of Uranium One to Russia.

"I was not personally involved because that wasn't something the secretary of state did," said Clinton.

The transfer of 20 percent of US uranium — the stuff used to build nuclear weapons — to Vladimir Putin did not rise to the level of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's time and attention?

Beyond being an admission of extreme executive negligence on an issue of utmost national security, Hillary's statement strains credulity to the breaking point for at least three other reasons.

First, nine investors who profited from the uranium deal collectively donated $145 million to Hillary's family foundation, including Clinton Foundation mega-donor and Canadian mining billionaire Frank Giustra, who pledged $100 million.

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Since 2005, Giustra and Bill Clinton have frequently globetrotted together, and there's even a Clinton Foundation initiative named the Clinton-Giustra initiative.

But Hillary expects Americans to believe she had no knowledge that a man who made a nine-figure donation to her foundation was deeply involved in the deal? Nor eight other mining executives, all of whom also donated to her foundation?

Second, during her Sunday interview, Clinton was asked about the Kremlin-backed bank that paid Bill Clinton $500,000 for a single speech delivered in Moscow. Hillary's response? She dodged the question completely and instead offered this blurry evasion.

"The timing doesn't work," said Clinton. "It happened in terms of the support for the foundation before I was secretary of state."

Hillary added that such "allegations" are being "made by people who are wielding the partisan ax."

The reason Hillary ignored addressing the $500,000 direct payment from the Kremlin-backed bank to her husband is because that payment occurred, as the Times confirms, "shortly after the Russians announced their intention to acquire a majority stake in Uranium One."

And as for her comment that the timing of the uranium investors' donations "doesn't work" as a damning revelation: In fact, the timing works perfectly.

As "Clinton Cash" revealed and others have confirmed, Uranium One's then-chief Ian Telfer made donations totaling $2.35 million that Hillary Clinton's foundation kept hidden. Telfer's donations occurred as Hillary's State Department was considering the Uranium One deal.

Third, Clinton correctly notes in the interview that "there were nine government agencies who had to sign off on that deal." What she leaves out, of course, is that her State Department was one of them, and the only agency whose chief received $145 million in donations from shareholders in the deal.

Does she honestly expect Americans to believe she was simply unaware that the deal was even under consideration in her own State Department?

Moreover, is that really the leadership statement she wants front and center heading into a presidential campaign? That in the critical moment of global leadership, with the Russians poised to seize 20 percent of US uranium, she was simply out to lunch?

Perhaps a review of her emails would settle the accuracy of her Sunday claim. But, of course, she erased her emails and wiped clean the secret server housed in her Chappaqua home.

To be sure, like those emails, Hillary Clinton wishes questions about her role in the transfer of US uranium to the Russian government would simply vanish.

But that's unlikely. A recent polling memo by the Republican National Committee finds that the uranium transfer

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issue is “the most persuasive message tested” and one that “severely undercuts her perceived strength of resume.”

Hillary’s Sunday comments only served to elevate and amplify the need for serious answers to axial questions.

In the absence of such answers, Americans are left to believe only one of two potentialities regarding her involvement in the transfer of 20 percent of US uranium to Vladimir Putin: She was either dangerously incompetent or remains deeply dishonest.

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To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	1/28/2016 11:29:45 AM
Subject:	INSCT presents "What's Putin Up To? Russia's Assertive Foreign Policy," with Brian Taylor | Feb. 9, 2016

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What's Putin Up To? Russia's Assertive Foreign Policy

With Professor Brian Taylor

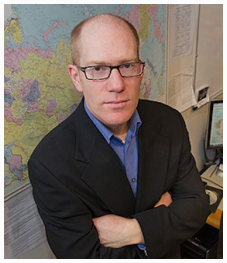

Brian Taylor is Director of the Center for European Studies and a Professor of Political Science in the SU Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. His expertise is in Russia, Post-Soviet Politics, and Comparative Politics.

He is the author of *State Building in Putin's Russia: Policing and Coercion After Communism* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and *Politics and the Russian Army: Civil-Military Relations*, 1689-2000 (Cambridge University Press, 2003). Current projects include a book on Russia's power ministries, especially law enforcement structures and their role in state building in the post-Soviet period.

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/18/2008 10:57:18 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech / Roundtable in Springfield, MO 06/18/08

Hi all,
We did not have a tracker on the ground at this event, but we were able to monitor it from streaming video. Below are our notes.

Big Highlights

- A protester interrupted McCain's speech, yelling about $500,000 going to Big Oil and 'stand up against the current administration.' McCain responded that he's happy to take people's questions but Americans are tired of people yelling at each other.
- Acknowledges the flooding, said he's going to be in IA tomorrow
- Says he voted against alternate energy bills because they were temporary and "often the result of who had the best lobbyist instead of who had the best ideas"
- Reasserts commitment against drilling in ANWR while encouraging states to pursue offshore drilling
- Says Obama's using him support for offshore drilling to claim McCain's Bush's 3rd term, but Obama voted for Bush's 2005 energy bill
- In speech, touts drilling in OCS as short-term solution, clean coal and nuclear power as longer-term solution
- Roundtable topics: Coal-gassification and carbon-capturing; accelerating nuclear plant construction through deregulation; carbon sequestration; terrorist threats against oil pipelines
- Q&A topics: Short-term solutions to families; drilling in ANWR, Fair Tax, earmarks, draft

Springfield, MO: McCain Speech and Roundtable 06/18/08

(**Disclaimer:** The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Mike Nietzel, (Pres of MO State University) gave introductory remarks
- According to local news reports , seating limited to first 350 people (first-come, first-serve)
- McCain played with pen throughout roundtable.
- Roundtable members include:
    - Moderator retired U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Jim Jones, president of the Institute for 21st Century Energy
    - Greg Boyce, CEO of the Peabody Energy Corporation
    - Mike Chesser, CEO of Great Plains Energy
    - Tammy Jahnke, dean of MSU's College of Natural and Applied Sciences

Link to transcript of speech: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-remarks-at-springfield-missouri-event/

Speech highlights, not in prepared remarks

- At the beginning, says people in MO, IL, and IA are having trouble with the floods. I'm going to be in IA tomorrow. They are showing prayers. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.
- Protester yells: $500,000 has gone to Big Oil. Stand up against the current administration! (about 1/3 into remarks)
    - McCain: I've heard this at other events. I would've told that man if he'd let me finish that i'm happy to take his question. Americans are tired of us yelling at each other.

Roundtable Highlights:

- JAHNKE introduces herself and thanks McCain- we have $2.5M in federal money for our programs.
    - MCCAIN: So federal money is important to you?
    - JAHNKE: yes.

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- BOYCE: Thank you for your comprehensive view, in terms of long-term and short-term problem of energy supply. We look at the problem from a global scenario. There are people in poverty. Coal is a huge energy resource. Coal is 85% of energy resource that we have in this country, so it's key for us. We've probably missed 10 or 15 years of advancing clean coal technology, but it's not too late. Your vision is critical to be able to change the energy structures that we have.
    - MCCAIN: Where are we technology-wise on coal-gassification?
    - BOYCE: It's being used worldwide on an extensive scale. Not here because we don't know have a facility and we don't know what a plant of that large scale would do. Right now we're caught up in carbon-capturing system. Not clear It would require regulation in terms of who permits the storage, who owns the aquifier that liquid carbon would be stored in, etc.
    - MCCAIN: If early next year I could pass the legislation that you'd need to move forward. How long til it could come to fruition on your end?
    - BOYCE: We need permits. As soon as legislation in place, there's construction. realistically, 3-5 year time frame on a fast track. The technology exists. it's a matter of labor and design, construction of large-scale industrial construciton. Good side is it's a new manufacturing jobs for people in this country.

- CHESSER: We think the demand for energy is going to grow in next 30 years, so the demand's going up. and the federal govt is going to be critical in carbon sequestration and building these nuclear plants. My fear is that we're going to go backwards to things like natural gas. No we should accelerate forward to things like carbon sequestration. In the next 5-7 years, we're going to need to build a bridge to the future system. We can do innovative things in the short-term but we're going to need a long-sighted strategy.
    - MCCAIN: Do you have nuclear facilities?
    - CHESSER: Yes.
    - MCCAIN: Plans to move forward?
    - CHESSER : Yes. Sites that we're looking into. For smaller utilities, we'd need to partner with others to build nuclear plants.
    - MCCAIN: Impediments to move forward?
    - CHESSER Biggest is financial security. We need a regulatory system in place where we can earn the return and not have to wait. The rising costs of electricity are also increasing costs, so nuclear will be more of a clear and present choice.

- JONES: I first concentrated on energy as national security issue (terrorists line of attack being to attack our energy supply) and as I got into it, I realized it also impacts our economic security. What we're talking about is going to materially affect future generations; it's not a short-term problem. So we started an energy institute, the mission being to grassroots educate people to make sure people understand the problem is greater and broader than high gas prices at present. So we can stay on economic playing-ground. We need to approach this like building the highway system or going to the moon. There is optimism, but it's long-term, not short-term; we need long-term strategic plans. Advocate change. Our institute is taking us out to 2030 with a strategic plan to better harness the supply and demand and still respect the enviro. National component- unifying the supply sector, investing in R&D so we can bring in technology, and to play a national leadership role in being part of the solution and not the problem. We're going to have to rely more on diversity, efficiency (private sector is doing good job at this), affordability, and apply our role as world's leader in technology toward clean energy, steward on climate change. We should be able to cut in half the 5 years it takes to get through the regulatory scheme it must to build a nuclear plant.
    - MCCAIN: Possible risk we face due to our dependency on foreign oil?
    - JONES: Being over-dependent on one source is unwise strategy. Nixon said never again will we be dependent on foreign oil so that we would never again face something like the gas crisis of the 1970s.
    - MCCAIN: True that bin Laden has sent instructions to attack oil facilities and they've made some attempts?
    - JONES: Absolutely. Our debt going overseas to pay for this-- some of this is coming back to haunt us, aka through terrorism. In our national interest to decrease this dependence. There are solutions, they are diverse. We need to do more to assist the R&D, more people that are dedicated to this kind of engineering and science, and we need to have a long-term attention span on this.

Question and Answer

- 1 Q) Sara Craig (McCain asked her to speak because there'd been a special request from her pre-event to ask the first question): All of us are dealing with energy, causing financial crunches.(1) What are your plans as Pres? (2) as a Sen, what are you going to do to help us now (today, tomorrow, next week). Panel

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is talking about next 5, 10, 20 years. We're hurting today. (3) What assurance can you give us that that will follow through?

- MCCAIN: Will you give us some examples of challenges your family is facing?
- Craig: My hubby and I are self-employed. I travel, he does automotive repairs. When gas prices go up, business shuts down for 2 weeks, so people stop with auto repairs. My business is health and wealthness and sales--it's kind of luxury. with high prices, people buy only what they need, so it's a major pay cut, and I can't take care of my family.
- MCCAIN: I asked you to elaborate because I think families everywhere are facing teh same kind of challenges.
    - Immediately, I would give you a little break at the pump, and I've been derided for that. **A lot of this money from gas taxes goes to wasteful, pork-barrel unnecessary spending. It's poor people who suffer from this. Economists say this will hurt the Highway Trust Fund**. Well maybe we should stop building a bridge to nowhere that costs $230Million in your tax funds.
    - I would shame my Congress colleagues to stop wasteful spending, and divert money into much-needed programs that would help. I would do what I can to restore trust and confidence in government. There was a poll the other day that showed 13% approval rating of Congress. We should sit down in bipartisan manner and concrete and positive fashion to address these matters. I'd like to make sure that by balancing the budget, we fix Social Security and Medicare. But in the short term, we need some relief-- maybe another stimulus package. And other short-term measures for short-term relief.
    - 6 months ago, we would've been talking health care. But now it's gas and energy and we don't know where it's gonna end up (cites Russian oil minister). We need to give Americans concrete plans with concrete dates of when we'll be independent of foreign oil or at least not so dependent on its whims.
    - Also, I want to give you afforadble health care and fix NCLB. Also, install training and education programs for displaced workers in community colleges like htis.
    - So I'd love to tell you there's some magic elixir. But it'll take short-term relief and long-term proposals. And I'm sure I could think of more.

- McCain sees a ONE representative. Asks him to stand and talk about the organization and ask a question. ONE person talks about organization (2.5 million volunteers).
    - MCCAIN: Thanks for all you do. I hope this makes you feel a little better.
    - MCCAIN: We have challenges. we can beat them. We have to understand the problems better and be leaders.
    - MCCAIN: I might be biased, but I believe the country was in doldrums before Reagan, but he said the best days are ahead of us and I believe that.

- 2 Q) College students concerned about tuition rising. What're your plans?
    - MCCAIN: Student loans are vital for allowing people to receive a quality education in America. I'm worried that the problems on economic market would threaten availability of student loans. We need to have governors make sure these are available. I'd like to see incentives to reward service for this country with educational benefits, esp. for military service. Make sure people especially have more science, math and technology education. Also, fix NCLB, etc.

- 3 Q) Clayton Rothchild: Many of my youthful peers turning to Obama? How do you plan to win this bloc?
    - MCCAIN: (1) I congratulate him on winning the nomination. (2) I ask my children and get a lot of advise and counsel on the challenges they face, what they're interested in, and how they communicate (Internet, Ipods-- young people not using the traditional means of info and knowledge.) (3) I go to their venues. (4) I promise them a safer and more prosperous nation. (5) And BTW, we have a website that's pretty good.

- 4 Q) Thanks for encouraging offshore drilling. What would have to change for you to support going after oil in ANWR (safely and ecologically, of course)? Becuase the more aggressive we become in showing we'll go after our own oil, then they'll be afraid that the days of depending on their oil is coming to an end.
    - MCCAIN: I'd be glad to review changing my views based on changing facts. **But I believe ANWR is a**

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pristine place and I won't drill there, just like I wouldn't drill if there were oil in Grand Canyon. But we should let states, esp. FL and CA, if they so decide, to pursue "offshore exploration and exploitation," and I encourage them to do so.

- 5 Q) What about the rumors that Saudi Arabia can produce a barrel for $2 but we pay $130? What can you do about it?
    - MCCAIN: It's called a cartel and they are setting the price of oil- artificially. (2) but also, two growing economies, China and India, are upping their demand. We can't force other nations to change. But we can become independent of Saudi oil and then then can do whatever they want with their oil. Most of the experts i've talked to said that the Saudi promise to increase their production are not going to have a big effect. We need to maximize use of domestic oil supplies, increase independence, increase imports from Mexico and Canada.

- 6 Q) Follow-up to question on ANWR (question 4): In terms of being pristine, the Grand Canyon and ANWR don't seem to be on same scale. Under what circumstances could we take advantage of it in an ecological manner to get the oil that's there?
    - MCCAIN: I don't see an ecological way to do this which is why I oppose it. I am happy to look at new policies, but as of now I don't see a way to do it.

- 7 Q) International student: Thanks McCain for stance on national security, but says post-9/11 they're being almost suffocated by regulations. What plans do you ahve for international students and immigration as a whole?
    - MCCAIN: We need better technology so we can screen people, ideally in their countries of origin. We need to balance need for national security with programs that work for allowing students to come over and/or to work here (legally) to contribute to our country. After 9/11 this has gotten more difficult, but we can do it.

- 8 Q) Jeff Parnell, running for Congress. I'm a sponsor-supporter of Fair Tax. Have you looked at Fair Tax and what are your thoughts?
    - MCCAIN I've looked at it and read articles, e.g. in WSJ. We have to come up with Alternate Tax System. We all know we need a fairer, flatter tax: two tax rates with generous deductions.

- 9 Q) How do you plan on getting funding without raising taxes on the little people?
    - MCCAIN: By restraining spending. I voted against Part D because it was an unfunded liability on you. You would be paying for my prescriptions, is that fair? Need a president who will wield the veto pen, who will make earmarkers famous. The last bill the Pres signed had a ton in earmark spending. I'm not opposing the projects, but the process. **People say that's not enough; but it's a heck of a start.**

- 10 Q) Mother of 2 Marines-- I'd love to see someone like Gen. Jones as a VP. And what's your stance on the draft?
    - MCCAIN: Gen. Jones has served with honor and courage. I don't believe in the draft. I think we've got the best military, most efficient, most skilled. And it takes a long time to train the military, esp. given 'the type of fighting we're doing, which by the way, is ferocious.' And my experience in 'Nam-- it's the poorest who are hit hardest by the draft.

- 11 Q) How and if we're going to address the imbalances we have vis-a-vis the rest of the world. We give out all this money and then we forgive their loans when they can't pay it, and then we have this huge debt.
    - MCCAIN: A lot of the money that we give doesn't leave the US. There's some that we give for great programs, e.g. to fight HIV/AIDS. But a lot of money is wasted or misspent. I will scrub every one of these programs so they do what they were designed to do. Every agency of govt will have to sit down and tell us what their budget it, their mission, their end-of-the-year goals, and if they don't do it, then we'll put them out of business by the end of the year.

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- 12 Q) You're the driver of the Straight Talk Express and you don't believe in pandering. But you've been accused of flip-flopping Bush tax cuts, a lot of which go to the wealthy. (1) Why do you feel like this policy is best for hard-working, middle-class Americans, (2) how do you plan to pay for it?
    - MCCAIN: Those tax cuts are in effect today and I don't want to raise taxes. Obama wants to raise taxes, incl. capital gains taxes that will affect 100 million Americans.
    - MCCAIN: The problem's not tax revenues, but spending. Obama voted for the energy bill that was a Xmas tree for corporations. I don't want to raise taxes. It's a fact that every time we've dropped taxes, there's been an increase in revenue--going back to JFK. We need to keep taxes low.

- I have to go. Thanks for being here. Thanks the panel for doing a great job. Missouri is going to be a battleground. I'll be back and back and back, I'm asking for your vote.

--
Sara DuBois
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: eddie@progressiveaccountability.org
To: sara@progressiveaccountability.org
bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/6/2008 10:58:47 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: [blog-cabal] Tracking Update: McCain Company Tour in Jackson, OH08/06/08

Pls send around clip of him messing up stage exit when ready!

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: Wed, 6 Aug 2008 13:56:46 -0400
To: <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Subject: [blog-cabal] Tracking Update: McCain Company Tour in Jackson, OH 08/06/08
Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was not allowed into this closed event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video (and our tracker, Lee, got footage outside the event). Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain tries to exit wrong side of platform, has to walk back the other way
- McCain calls for an "economic surge" since the surge in Iraq has succeeded
- Supporters/undecideds outside event say they're disappointed the event is closed

Jackson, OH: McCain Company Tour 08/06/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- about 10 supporters gathered outside to see McCain's bus pull up
- Meghan McCain accompanied him into event
- McCain's tone was noticeably unenthusiastic/rote
- According to interviews with local people (not at event) conducted by tracker,
    - Next-door to Merillat, where McCain spoke, is Meridian plant, which closed down in 2006 and fired all its employees - bitterness in community [footage available]
    - Merillat is non-union, according to a local restaurant worker
- 3 Interviews with supporters/undecideds at the event expressed disappointment that event was closed [footage available]
- McCain speaks at podium with about 20 employees standing behind him on platform
- Tries to exit platform wrong way - has to walk back the other way

Notes from Speech (not included in prepared remarks)

- Thanks Karen Strauss, John Lewis, State Sen John Kerry
- Great people here at the company - hard times, hurt by housing industry- but spirit of hope - their msg to me is it's time get economy moving again
- Concludes with TY for your hard work and your outstanding dedication to safety
- Jokes next time I'll wear the proper shirt [all employees wearing casual/Hawaiian shirts, etc]

LINK TO FULL REMARKS: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-remarks-after-touring-ohio-plant/

[Please see Senator John McCain's remarks as they are prepared for delivery in Jackson, Ohio today. Senator McCain will deliver the following remarks following his tour of the Merillat Kitchen Cabinet Plant:]

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It's time to get America's economy moving again. Companies like Merillat and families across Ohio face challenges in their business and around the kitchen table. Our energy prices are too high. We are losing jobs. Our housing market is in decline. The cost of everything is going up, and in the face of this, Washington is on vacation.

Now is the time for action. We need an "all of the above" plan to address our energy crisis with alternative energy, drilling and nuclear power. We need to crack down on those who have abused our credit market and caused this housing decline. And we need to take action to support American businesses so that we stop jobs from going overseas and create more jobs here at home.

America has the second highest business tax rate in the entire world. Is it any wonder that jobs are moving overseas when we are taxing them out of the country? Unfortunately Senator Obama's plans would raise taxes on businesses even more. He has promised tax increases on income, tax increases on investment, tax increases on small businesses. This is exactly the wrong strategy. Raising taxes in a bad economy is about the worst thing you could do because it will kill even more jobs when what we need are policies that create jobs.

What we need today is an Economic Surge to keep jobs here at home and create new ones. [paraphrase--not in prepared remarks: The surge in Iraq was so successful, we need to have an economic surge here at home] We need to reduce the tax burden on businesses that choose to make their home in the U.S. We need to open new markets to U.S. products. We need to reduce the cost of healthcare. And we need to end the out of control spending in Washington that is putting our debt on the backs of our children.

Now is the time for action, and when I am President, we are going to get it done.

--
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 6/27/2015 2:39:57 AM
Subject: Re: Letter

Will do. Will send final list of names tomorrow.

> On Jun 27, 2015, at 7:28 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Jake,
> If you are still going forward with the letter, please be sure to add Mort Zuckerman, who has been outspoken on the Iran nuclear issue, on the negative side (e.g. Jerusalem Post op-ed, June 23, 2015)
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 11:33 AM
> To: 'Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com' <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
> Cc: 'John.Podesta@gmail.com' <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; 'huma@hrcoffice.com' <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> I agree. The question is whether this will be in the agreement, since it is outside the 10 year window.
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
> Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 02:22 AM
> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> I read that to mean that it not acquire 25 kgs of HEU, which surely is the White House position!
>
>
>
>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 5:51 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>
>> Jake,
>>
>> Right after the paragraph #5, is the paragraph to which I referred. It says, in part, "Most importantly, it is vital for the United States to affirm that it is US policy to prevent Iran from producing sufficient fissile material fron a nuclear weapon-or otherwise acquiring or building one-both during the agreement and after it expires."
>>
>> This should a point Hillary could take-up.
>>
>> I hope this is helpful. Best wishes,
>>
>> Stu
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
>> Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 01:07 PM
>> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
>> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
>> Subject: Re: Letter
>>
>> Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.
>>
>>

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

>>
>>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Dear Jake,
>>>
>>> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>>>
>>> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>>>
>>> Best wishes,
>>>
>>> Stu

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/23/2008 2:36:30 PM
Subject: [big campaign] MMR: Palin Interview on Nightly News, Palin's Shopping Spree, Evening 10/23/08

Media Monitoring Report:

Highlights:

1. NBC: Palin: I won't label myself as a feminist; McCain: Let's talk about Ayers some more
   PALIN: I'm not going to label myself anything Brian and I think that's what annoys a lot of Americans, especially in a political campaign is to start trying to label different parts of America, different backgrounds, different, uh, uh, I'm not going to put a label on myself.
2. MSNBC: Tom Ridge: We can talk about experience but Palin's authenticity, unaffected by receipt of exorbitant wardrobe, is more important than experience
   TOM RIDGE: The fact of the matter is, whether she wears designer clothes or not. What difference does it even make and why are we even talking about it? Let's talk about she was the governor of an energy rich state, she had executive experience—
3. FNC: La Jeunesse suggests 501(c)4s play anonymous Russian roulette
   WILLIAM LA JEUNESSE: Well, now they're back, as a social welfare organization. Under the tax code, they're known as a 501(c)4, but under scrutiny, they're more like a political firing squad and you don't know who's pulling the trigger.
4. CNN: Jeanne Moos Addresses the Shopping Spree Heard 'Round the World
   JEANNIE MOOS: Not since her days of evening gown competition has Sarah Palin's wardrobe gotten this much scrutiny. The website Politico broke the story. Left wing blogs were gleeful, providing slideshows intending to accent high heels, while politicians and TV anchors went out of their way not to seem well heeled.
5. MSNBC: Olbermann highlights McCain's New Hampshire misstep
   KEITH OLBERMANN: Oops! Just say oops and get out. We'll play Sen. McCain's misfortune today, live on national TV form Manchester, New Hampshire in just a moment. It's bleeped but you still may need to get the kids out of the room.
6. MSNBC: Chris Matthews points out that Sarah Palin's wardrobe is worth more than Joe the Plumber's house
   CHRIS MATTHEWS: That's right. Sarah Palin's VP wardrobe, bought for the occasion, is $23,500 more expensive than Joe the Plumber's entire house. If you're going to deal in icons and symbols, get them straight.
7. NBC: Access Hollywood teaches us how to dress like Palin, even if we don't have $150,000
   SUZE YALOF SCHWARTZ: A lot of women right now look at the candidate's wives or even the candidate Sarah Palin and say, "Oh, I wish I could afford these things."
8. MSNBC: Olbermann: "John was Against Spending Campaign Money on Clothing Before He Did It"

Clips

Highlight #1

Palin: I Won't Label Myself as a Feminist; McCain: Let's Talk About Ayers Some More (NBC 10/23/08 7:15pm)

BRIAN WILLIAMS: Part of Sarah Palin's day today was spent prepping for tomorrow when Sarah and Todd Palin will be deposed under oath in that so-called Trooper Gate case, currently under investigation in Alaska . . . Palin's lawyer is traveling with her, the deposition along with yesterday's revelation of that new $150,000 wardrobe and her struggle earlier this week to define the job of vice president have all brought a lot of unwelcome attention to the Palin side of the campaign when McCain, who was in Florida today, is the one trying to get traction with 12 days to go . . . today, in an interview, he struck out hard against the Bush administration . . .

[cut to interview]

WILLIAMS: Back to the issue of terrorists and terrorism, this word has come up in relation to Mr. Ayers—

PALIN: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Uh, hanging out with terrorists, domestic terrorists.

PALIN: Yes.

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WILLIAMS: Are we changing—it's been said that it gives it a vaguely post-9/11 hint, that we don't normally associate with domestic crimes. Are we changing the defenition? Are the people that set fire to American cities during the 60s terrorists? Under this definition. Is an abortion clinic bomber a terrorist? Under this definition. Governor?

PALIN: [sighs] There's no question that Bill Ayers, via his own admittance, one who sought to destroy our US Capitol and our Pentagon, that is a domestic terrorist. There's no question there. Now, others who would want to engage in harming innocent Americans or facilities that, uh, it would be unacceptable, I don't know if you're going to use the word terrorist there but it's unacceptable and it would not be condoned of course on our watch but I don't know if what you're asking, if I regret referring to Bill Ayers as an unrepentant domestic terrorist, I don't regret characterizing him as that.

WILLIAMS: I'm just asking what other categories you would put in there, abortion clinic bombers, uh, protestors in cities where fires were started, Molotov cocktails were thrown, people died.

PALIN: I would put in that category of Bill Ayers anyone else who would seek to campaign to destroy our United States Capitol and our Pentagon and seek to destroy innocent Americans.

WILLIAMS: Sen. McCain, ahead of your campaign—

MCCAIN: Let me just mention one thing ahead of that. It's not the unrepentant terrorist who stayed on the run from and said as short a time ago as 9/11 that they wished they'd've bombed more.

PALIN: More.

MCCAIN: His wife was on the 10 most wanted list. It's the relationship with Mr. Ayers that Sen. Obama has not been forthcoming and that's what Sen. Clinton said in their debates and that's what I say.

WILLIAMS: Are you going to keep your promise not to involve Rev. Wright?

MCCAIN: I have not involved Rev. Wright. And people can make up their minds. As again I saw about Mr. Ayers, is the full extent of the relationship with Sen. Obama is not known. And Sen. Obama has not been forthcoming, he has not told the complete truth to the American people. Nor did he tell the truth to the American people when he said he would take public financing and signed a piece of paper if I would back when he was a longshot candidate.

PALIN: And also, it is not meanspirited, it is not negative campaigning to ask someone about their record and Barack Obama does have a record of association with Bill Ayers. I don't think that that is off base. In fact, Barack Obama challenged you to bring up Bill Ayers in the debate.

MCCAIN: Yeah, he asked me to

WILLIAMS: Gov. Palin, what is an elite? Who is a member of the elite?

PALIN: Oh, I guess just people who think that they're better than anyone lese and John McCain and I are so committed to serving every American. Hard working, middle class Americans who are so desiring of this economy getting put back on the right track and winning these wars and America starting to reach her potential. And that is opportunity and hope provided everyone equally. So anyone who thinks that they are, I guess, better than anyone else. That's, that's my definition of elitism.

WILLIAMS: So, it's not education, it's not income based, it's—

PALIN: Anyone who thinks they're better than someone else.

WILLIAMS: A state of mind, it's not geography?

PALIN: Of course not.

WILLIAMS: Senator?

MCCAIN: I know where a lot of them live.

WILLIAMS: Where's that?

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MCCAIN: Well, in our nation's capital and New York City. Uh, I've seen it, I've lived there, I know the town, I know what a lot of these elitists are. The ones that she never went to a cocktail party with in Georgetown. I'll be very frank with you. The ones that dictate what they believe to America rather than let Americans decide for themselves. And I just for one second want to go back to this who's a terrorist. It is true that William Ayers and his wife, they were not acts of spontenaitey when they planned to bomb the capitol and planned to kill other Americans. It was a terror network. I don't condone and never would condone and want anybody who violates the laws, whether be bombing an abortion clinic or throwing a Molotov cocktail as you cited those. I want them prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. But there was a terrorist network called the Weathermen.

PALIN: Uh-huh

MCCAIN: That's what they were called, that's what they called themselves.

PALIN: Uh-huh.

MCCAIN: And it was a planned and calculated overall strategy to destroy American and that is what William Ayers wa—and his wife were integral parts of.

WILLIAMS: You recently talked about the liberal feminist agenda in America vis a vis the attacks on Gov. Palin. Gov. are you a feminist?

PALIN: I'm not going to label myself anything Brian and I think that's what annoys a lot of Americans, especially in a political campaign is to start trying to label different parts of America, different backgrounds, different, uh, uh, I'm not going to put a label on myself. But I believe in women's rights, I do believe in equal rights. I am so thankful I was brought up in a family where really gender has never been an issue. I was expected when I was growing up in a family that was very athletic, very active, very much into equal opportunities in education and everything else. I was expected to do the same thing that the guys were doing and that has been a good foundation too for me in the position that I'm in now as his running mate understanding that hey, gender's not going to, this isn't going to hold me back. In fact, it's time for women to be provided that opportunity to finally shatter that highest and hardest glass ceiling that is still in place in America's political system, but we're going to shatter that because I think that more and more American women are recognizing, "Right on! We've go someone in whom we can believe in also!" Someone who is committed to putting our country first, someone who recognizes the life/family balance that's so necessary as we try to progress our families and the businesses that we own. They can see in me someone committed to protecting our small businesses so that more jobs can be created, someone who is committed to supporting John McCain and the strategies we need in place to win these wars, so that our families, our children are safe in this homeland. So I'm not going to label myself feminist or not, but I do believe that American women can recognize in me an advocate and a friend who'll be in their White House for them.

Highlight #2
Tom Ridge: We Can Talk About Experience But Palin's Authenticity, Unaffected by Receipt of Exorbitant Wardrobe, is More Important Than Experience (MSNBC 10/23/08
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Does the Palin-McCain ticket . . . will you need to carry Pennsylvania to win this thing? . . .

TOM RIDGE. Yes. Yes.

MATTHEWS: Thank you.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Let me ask you about Sarah Palin . . . does she still got the excitement level she had a month ago?

RIDGE: . . . when they appeared here in Central Pennsylvania, they had about 7,000 people, they could have had fourteen thousand people . . . yes, there's a certain genuineness and authenticity, I mean, we can talk about who has more experience, who knows more about this issue or that issue but there's a certain refreshing approach that she's brought. She doesn't talk inside beltway, she doesn't talk like the Washington psychobabble . . .

MATTHEWS: Do you think it's odd that the Republican party dished out $150,000 in designer clothing when they wanted her to be what you call the genuine article? If she's the genuine article, why do you dress her up like she's from the East Side of New York? What's the idea? . . . I don't know who Valentino is.

RIDGE: Good. Then why bring it up?

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MATTHEWS: Because it's $150,000 and it's all over the place. And if you're selling her as the lady from the countryside and if you present her as the fashion plate, which is it? That's all.

RIDGE: . . . the fact of the matter is, whether she wears designer clothes or not. What difference does it even make and why are we even talking about it? Let's talk about she was the governor of an energy rich state, she had executive experience—

MATTHEWS: Why? Why? You know why, because your party is talking about Joe the Plumber. Every damn speech that McCain gives now is about some guy named Joe the Plumber out there who really exists and his house is not worth . . . what her latest clothing allowance is worth. That's why. We're trying to find some authenticity about the real economic challenges facing people and you're spending more money on clothes for your guy than an iconic hero's house is worth. That's why.

RIDGE: Well, listen, listen, let's, let's, Chirs because it's absolutely ridiculous to be having this conversation on national TV. Let's not get into who is spending what on their clothes on either side of the aisle. I dare say, if you went digging into closets perhaps from your candidates, you'd find some pretty expensive clothes. That's immaterial. It's who's going to put the clothes on the backs . . . of that middle class that they talk about . . . [MSNBC, Hardball, 10/23/08]

Highlight #3
La Jeunesse Suggests 501(c)4s Play Anonymous Russian Roulette (FNC's "Happening Now" 10/23/08)
WILLIAM LA JEUNESSE: There are many loopholes in politics, this is a new one, remember that 527 group, that attacked John Kerry so successfully four years ago with those "swift boat ads" well after that the feds cracked down on the reporting requirements. Well, now they're back, as a social welfare organization. Under the tax code, they're known as a 501(c)4, but under scrutiny, they're more like a political firing squad and you don't know who's pulling the trigger.

COMMERCIAL VOICE: John McCain was caught red handed pressuring the regulators to go easy on his friend Charles Keating.

LA JEUNESSE: On TV and the internet, John McCain's under attack, by the tax exempt Public Campaign Action Fund. A 501(c)4 dedicated it says to Campaign Finance Reform and Publicly Financed Elections. So, why attack a candidate who openly supports both? Well, turns out the supposedly non partisan fund is a shell for a left wing hit squad, known as Campaign Money Watch, funded predominantly by labor unions and billionaire democratic fundraisers. In fact, according to government filings, of the 2.5 million raised by the group since 2004, not a dime was used against a democrat.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well the United States Supreme Court has created loopholes by saying "if you don't give directly to the candidates, if you're spending money independently of the candidates, you don't have to have limits imposed on you."

LA JEUNESSE: And it's not just the democrats...

COMMERCIAL VOICE: But Barack Obama is friends with Ayers...

LA JEUNESSE: This ad came from a conservative 501(c)4- American Issues Project- it to has watchdogs wanting the government to call these groups what they are- Political Action Committees- that would abide by finance caps and transparency rules. The group insists, however, it's playing by the rules.

ED MARTIN: I'm all for transparency and I think it's very, very important, but we have the rules we have and we've been able to you know, kind of set this up and use it to get these ideas out and I think that's our goal.

LA JEUNESSE: Now, under the law, electioneering, basically doing this kind of advertising, and direct mail, is supposed to be a "secondary function" for the social welfare organizations, clearly it's not. That's why critics say John, they should be referred to as a political action committee, and the amount of money limited, and filings under the Federal Elections Commission, so we know where the money's coming from, but, as we know, in politics, money is like water it will find a way.

Highlight #4
Jeanne Moos Addresses the Shopping Spree Heard 'Round the World (CNN 10/23/08 12:56pm)
JEANNIE MOOS: Sarah Palin before, Sarah Palin after. After what? Her new $150,000 wardrobe.

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[...]

MOOS: Not since her days of evening gown competition has Sarah Palin's wardrobe gotten this much scrutiny. The website Politico broke the story. Left wing blogs were gleeful, providing slideshows intending to accent high heels, while politicians and TV anchors went out of their way not to seem well heeled.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I have on old jeans.

CHARLIE CRIST: I get my clothes at Dillards.

[...]

BILL RICHARDSON: I pay for my own.

MOOS: The Republican National Committee says it used donated money, not taxpayer funds to buy Palin's clothes.

BARBARA WALTERS: $4,716 on hair and make-up .

JOY BEHAR: And that's just lipstick for the pig.

MOOS: On the View, they laughed about it, fought about it,

ELIZABETH HASSELBACK: Are you looking into Joe Biden's supposed botox shots?

BEHAR: I don't think Joe the Plumber wears Manolo Blahniks.

MOOS: But Sarah the shopper didn't shock celebrity stylist Robert Verdi

ROBERT VERDI: I think it's easy to spend $150,000 in one fell swoop.

MOOS: A single designer suit can cost $3-6,000. An agent who handles T.V. News talent told us- Clothing allowances are often built into contracts [...] Even seven year old Piper Palin was seen carrying $790 Louis Vuitton bag- maybe her mother's- The Obamas have so far avoided embarrassing expenses. Michelle wore a $148 on "The View" and though he landed on "GQ", Barack Obama insists his suits are well worn.

BARACK OBAMA: I basically buy five of the same suit, and then I patch them up.

MOOS: By the way, Saturday Night Live wouldn't reveal how much it spends outfitting Tina Fey in matching Palin garb. The McCain campaign says Governor Palin's clothes will eventually be donated to charity. [...] The next time they chant "Drill, Baby, Drill" fashionistas can chant "Shop, baby, shop"

Highlight #5
Olbermann Highlights McCain's New Hampshire Misstep (MSNBC 10/22/08 8:40pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Oops! Just say oops and get out. We'll play Sen. McCain's misfortune today, live on national TV form Manchester, New Hampshire in just a moment. It's bleeped but you still may need to get the kids out of the room . . . here's the Senator.

JOHN MCCAIN: Rates were cut in the Clinton years, revenue went up, rates were [REDACTED], cut, in the Bush years, revenue went up.

OLBERMANN: You know, I'm just thinking here, maybe that was insufficient bleepage, I think we should play that again with beefed up bleeps.

MCCAIN: Rates were cut in the Clinton years, revenue went up, rates were [REDACTED], cut in the [REDACTED] years. Revenue went up.

Highlight #6
Chris Matthews Points Out Palin's Wardrobe Worth More than Joe the Plumber's House (MSNBC 10/23/08 5:35pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: So today, John McCain kicked off his "Joe the Plumber: Keep Your Wealth: Bus Tour" down in Florida. Catchy name. Let's keep things in perspective with regards to Joe. Let's say the McCain campaign bought Joe the Plumber's house back in Ohio, instead of Sarah Palin's new wardrobe. How much money would

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they have left over? $23,500. That's right. Sarah Palin's VP wardrobe, bought for the occasion, is $23,500 more expensive than Joe the Plumber's entire house. If you're going to deal in icons and symbols, get them straight.

Highlight #7
Access Hollywood Teaches Us How to Dress Like Palin, Even if We Don't Have $150,000 (NBC 10/23/08 7:45pm)
REPORTER: News broke yesterday of Sarah Palin's $150,000 campaign wardrobe . . .

SUZE YALOF SCHWARTZ: A lot of women right now look at the candidate's wives or even the candidate Sarah Palin and say, "Oh, I wish I could afford these things."

REPORTER: . . . coveted campaign couture can cost thousands . . .

[. . .]

SCHWARTZ: [Palin] always covers up the cleavage.

REPORTER: Sarah Palin accentuates her shape but not too much in fitted suits like the $3300 Valentino she wore at the GOP convention . . .

Highlight #8
Olbermann: "John was Against Spending Campaign Money on Clothing Beofre He Did It." (MSNBC 10/23/08 8:25pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: John was against spending campaign money on clothing before he did it. From the archives, May 25th 1993, Sen. McCain speaking on the floor of the Senate, quote, "the amendment before the senate is a very simple one. It restricts the use of campaign funds for inherently personal purposes. The amendment would restrict individuals from using campaign funds for such things as home mortgage payments, clothing purchases." Continuing, "if we are truly going to have campaign finance reform, I do not believe that campaign funds should be used fo such things as country club dues, tuxedos."

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E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Cassandra Butts" <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/24/2008 7:55:29 AM
Subject: Re: Energy and EPA names

Is there anyone you would take off the list based on your experience with them or knowledge of their work? Christine and I don't know the energy and environment worlds as well -- we are pinch hitting for Federico who has been busy with the campaign -- and can't make the same judgments as we have for other positions.

On Wed, Sep 24, 2008 at 2:44 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> These seem wildly different in potential although all could play a roll.
>
> On 9/24/08, Cassandra Butts <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com > wrote:
> > John, to follow are some of the names that have come us as we have consulted
> > on top candidates for Energy and EPA. We'd appreciate your thoughts and
> > additions. Needless to say, your name has come up repeatedly in our
> > consultations. Best, Cassandra
> >
> > Energy
> >
> > -Frampton, George
> > -Gee, Robert W.: From 1997 to 2000 he served as Assistant Secretary for
> > Policy and International Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Fossil
> > Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy; oversaw the operation of the
> > Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the national research program to develop
> > and demonstrate advanced clean coal, natural gas, and petroleum
> > technologies.
> > -Jackson, Shirley Ann: Former chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
> > current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
> > -Holstein, Elgie
> > -Immelt, Jeff
> > -Pershing, Jonathan
> > -Schwarzenegger, Arnold
> > -Schweitzer, Brian
> >
> > EPA
> >
> > -Bloomberg, Michael
> > -Gregoire, Christine
> > -Grumet, Jason
> > -Hayes, David
> > -Learner, Howard: executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy
> > Center, a Chicago-based environmental legal advocacy group that has been a
> > key player in setting up the region's cap-and-trade program for global
> > warming.
> > -Sebelius, Kathleen
> > -Stern, Todd
> >
>
> --
> Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 4/22/2008 5:26:58 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: Media Monitoring Report - Morning 04/22/08

A friendly reminder -- if you'd like the video clip of any of these transcripts, just email me at CCroft@progressivemediausa.org .

Best,

Cammie

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Media USA
ccroft@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)

On Tue, Apr 22, 2008 at 12:13 PM, Sara Du Bois <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org > wrote:

Main Topics: Clinton on McCain, Giuliani on McCain, Gas prises rising, Late Night hosts poke fun at McCain

Summary of Shift:
Networks split coverage between Earth Day segments and the Democratic race as polls open in PA this mornin g. With gas prices reaching a new record overnight, PA primary coverage focuses on the economy as a deciding factor and single women as this cycle's target demographic. McCain, on Day 2 of his "Time for Action" tour today in Ohio, receives little media attention.
In the second day of the North American Summit, Bush and Canadian and Mexican leaders will focus on expan ding commerce. Laura Bush co-hosts NBC's "Today Show," where she and the twins discuss their new children 's book, Bush family life and green tips. Al Qaeda #2 Zawahri releases a new audio message urging Muslims to support Al Qaeda in Iraq. Coverage continues of Army and Marine Corps recruiting convicted felons, and of Defense. Secretary. Robert Gates's comments yesterday that Iran is determined to get nukes but that another war in the Middle East would be "disastrous."

Highlights:
1) McCain dances awkwardly with 'forgotten America'
2) Clinton says her administration would utilize McCain's experience
3) Giuliani discusses purpose of 'Time for Action' tour and talks economics
4) CNN says gas prices rising faster than expected, almost a penny per day
5) Late-night shows hit McCain for being really, really old
   a. Kimmel airs fake McCain youth outreach ad
   b. Leno: McCain is old, Bush is dumb, and Rumsfeld's war is endless
6) Hillary tells Olbermann she'd be willing to use nuclear weapons if Iran launched nuclear attack on Israel [no clip]
7) New USA Today/Gallup poll shows both Democrats would beat McCain, Hillary by 6 points and Obama by 3 [no clip]

Clips:

Highlights #1 and #2
HRC Administration Would be Friendly to McCain; McCain Dances Awkwardly in Selma (CNN 04/22/08 07:03 am)
HILLARY CLINTON: "When I am president I am going to ask him (John McCain) to come over to the White House quite often and take trips with me because he has a perspective, I don't agree with it, and I think he is the wrong person to be president at this time, but we are friends and we will remain friends."

KYRA PHILLIPS: "For his part, John McCain will campaign in working class Youngstown, OH today, part of the tour that takes him off the beaten path for most Republican candidates actually."

PHILLIPS: "McCain met with a group of gospel singers in Selma, Alabama yesterday. And visited landmarks of

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the civil rights struggle"

PHILLIPS: (Clip of McCain attempting to dance) "this is the part I like to watch, John, ok he is trying to get the moves there"

Highlight #3
Giuliani: McCain Tour Shows He Cares, McCain Economic Plan Better Than Democrats' (CNN 04/22/08 07:55 am)
RUDY GIULIANI: "I think the reason they were selected are these are parts of the country that are suffering more than some others. Suffering from transition, maybe from steel or maybe from mining, other situations**.** He wants to show people there I care about you, you're going to be part of my planning, you're very much a part of the America John McCain wants to lead."

KYRA PHILLIPS: "Well, he has also pledged to extend president Bush's tax cuts. Let's take a look at what the "Wall Street Journal," a conservative paper of course, had to say about his tax plan. **McCain is proposing tax cuts that would cause the deficit to explode or would require unprecedented spending cuts equal to one-third of federal spending on domestic programs.** How do you respond to that?"

GIULIANI: "A large number of those I proposed myself. I think those are the tax cuts that will spur the economy. You look at what the Democrats want to do, it would be a disaster for the economy. The capital gains rate would go from 15% to double or triple. The tax on dividends would go from double to triple."

GIULIANI: "I think that the Democratic candidates have a very poor understanding of our economy at the kind of stage it is at right now."

Highlight #4
Gas Prices Rising by a Penny Per Day (CNN 04/22/08 6:09am)
ALI VELSHI: "It's almost been a penny a day. A new record for the price of unleaded gasoline. National average now $3.51 a gallon. These increases are moving faster than we expected them to."

Highlight #5
Jimmy Kimmel Airs Fake McCain Youth Outreach Ad (ABC 04/22/08 12:14am)
JIMMY KIMMEL: Arizona's senator John McCain has pulled ahead now of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, in several recent polls. If elected, you know, he will be 105 years old when he takes office. Which would make him the oldest president ever. It makes sense that he doesn't have a lot of support from younger voters, but he's not giving up on the youth vote. In fact, he has a new ad running that I guess is designed specifically to show young people that he's still with it.

[Begin video clip]
FAKE MCCAIN: Hey, America's youth, John McCain is down with you. Whether I'm listening to chubby checker on my hi-fi or sneaking liquor into a drive-in movie or stuffing myself into a phone booth with 20 of my frat brothers John McCain is far out. So vote for cool cat John McCain. I'll share my drugs with you!
JOHN MCCAIN: I'm John McCain, and I approve this message. [End video clip]

Leno: McCain is Old, Bush is Dumb, Rumsfeld's War is Endless (NBC 04/21/08 11:37pm)
JAY LENO: "According to some of the political blogs, Democratic operatives have been looking for dirt on John McCain since February. You know what you call someone who digs up dirt on John McCain? An archaeologist."

LENO: "And earlier this evening, President Bush made an appearance on the tv show "Deal or No Deal." President Bush was on "Deal or No Deal." I guess he got turned down for "Are you smarter than a fifth grader? " He couldn't get on that one… And in an interview, First Lady Laura Bush, who used to be a librarian, by the way, said she cannot fall asleep without reading. That's what she says. She can't fall asleep without reading. As opposed to her husband, who can't read without falling asleep. That's the whole difference.

LENO: "Speaking of reading, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld now working on a book about his strategy for the war in Iraq. It will be a while before it goes to the publisher 'cause he just doesn't know how to end it. Can't come up with an ending. See, much like his real life."

--

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Sara L. DuBois
Progressive Media USA
Sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Sidney Blumenthal" <sidney.blumenthal@gmail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/30/2014 4:53:31 PM
Subject: More, Re: Going positive. Sid

On going positive, there will always be contrary evidence of drag somewhere in the economy. The larger point is to use specific statistics to point to the upward trend lines.

Positive developments are not, of course, restricted to economic indicators. Any domestic sector can be highlighted from energy to education, from protecting the environment to the number of children and working families now covered under health care, etc.

Trend lines should always begin with the base line of the depth of the economic crisis in late 2008-early 2009. Always compare and contrast when possible.

Here's a big story from page one of the Financial Times today, completely ignored by the US press, but nonetheless could still be stressed by the White House, and developed even further to discuss number of jobs that will be created, how the environment is being protected, etc.

Text Paper Translate Listen

Shale boom to put US on top of petroleum output league

Saudi Arabia set to be overtaken as flow of oil and related liquids quickens

ED CROOKS – NEW YORK ANJLI RAVAL – LONDON

The US is overtaking Saudi Arabia to become the world's largest producer of liquid petroleum, in a sign of how its booming oil production has reshaped the world of energy.

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From:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date:	9/21/2014 3:35:57 AM
Subject:	UABA Commentary: Ukraine to the US: Live free or die!" The US to Ukraine: "Do the best you can!"
Attachments:	14-09-20 Commentary Poroshenko visit to the US.pdf

Ukrainian American Bar Association

PDF copy attached

COMMENTARY: September 20, 2014

Ukraine to the US: *Live free or die!*"
The US to Ukraine: "*Do the best you can!*"

On September 18, 2014, I had the honor and privilege [at the invitation of Congressman Bill Pascrell. (D-NJ), a strong supporter of Ukraine] to personally witness a truly historic event - Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko addressing a joint session of Congress. President Poroshenko's speech was very eloquent and emotionally charged, but laser focused on the realities of Ukraine's present geopolitical situation. His oration garnered many a standing ovation from members of the House and Senate. His speech emphasized that Russia's war against Ukraine is not only a local war of aggression, but, if this unprovoked hostility in violation of international norms is not contained and reversed now, it will infect Europe in the future with bloodshed and will ultimately militarily engage the United States, thus, returning the world to the dangerous [and possibly] nuclear bipolar political and military stance that existed in the previous century. In President Poroshenko's words "*It is Europe's, and it is America's war, too. It is a war of the free world – and for a free world!.... To prevent this, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are in the line of fire right now*".

The Ukrainian President pointed out that in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, Ukraine voluntarily surrendered the 3rd largest nuclear arsenal in the world. In return, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China **and the United States** agreed, jointly and severally, to assure Ukraine's economic, political independence and territorial integrity. In the past year, Russia breached this international agreement in a blatant and violent manner. It first invaded and annexed Crimea, and then instigated an insurrection in Eastern Ukraine by alleged separatists/terrorists that were guided and supported by Russian troops, which hostilities are in reality an invasion and violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity. During the course of this Kremlin inspired "insurrection", 298 lives were lost in the downing of Malaysian flight 17 by Russian equipped terrorists. President Poroshenko emphasized that "*the United States made a commitment that it would stand behind Ukraine's territorial integrity – and we hope that it will live up to that promise.*"

The Ukrainian President's speech ended with an emotional appeal to America. He said:

"Live free or die!" – was one of the mottos of the American Revolutionary War.
"Live free or die!" – was the spirit on the revolutionary Maidan during the dramatic winter months of 2014.
"Live free or die!" are the words of Ukrainian soldiers standing on the line of freedom in this war.
"Live free!" – must be the answer, with which Ukraine comes out of this war.
"Live free!" – must be the message Ukraine and America send to the world, while standing together in this time of enormous challenge.

The question arose in my mind: So what has been the reaction of the United States to date and what will be its future response to Russia's blatant invasion of Ukraine and Moscow's overt violation of the Budapest Memorandum? And how would the American President react to Ukraine's impassioned plea for military aid?

Needless to say, the initial response to Russia's invasion were numerous verbal condemnations of the Kremlin's actions which resounded vociferously throughout the world. All civilized nations deplored this blatant and callous undermining of the basic principles of international law that were the cornerstone of the peace and stability on the European continent for 70 years after World War II. As a stern scolding of Russia, the United States and the EU instituted a variety of economic sanctions on an escalating basis. It is true that these economic sanctions have had a negative effect on Russia's economy, but it has not stopped the Kremlin's aggression [much less reversed it] and Putin has doubled down even further on his bellicose rhetoric and actions. The United States had also pledged nonlethal military support to Ukraine such as food rations and blankets for the Ukrainian Armed Forces; a poorly prepared military which is defending Ukraine from the onslaught of a well-equipped, fully armed Russian fighting apparatus [much of whose weaponry was purchased by Russia from the West]. Ukrainian President Poroshenko acknowledged and appreciated this American non-lethal assistance for Ukraine but stated Ukraine's soldiers in the field *".. need more military equipment – both non-lethal and lethal. Blankets and night-vision goggles are important but one cannot win the war with blankets Even more, we cannot keep the peace with a blanket."*

Recently, the American Congress initiated legislation that would give President Obama the authority to grant lethal and nonlethal military aid to Ukraine. The Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 sailed through the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate with unanimous bipartisan vote in short order. Similar bills were introduced in the House: H.R. 5241 "Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act" which prohibits any recognition of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation; H.R. 5190, the Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014, authorizes the President to give military assistance to Ukraine and the designation of Ukraine as a Major non-NATO Ally (MNNA). Hopefully, Congress will act upon this legislation in a timely manner since time is of the essence for Ukraine.

After his speech, President Poroshenko ceremoniously met with American President Obama at the White House only to get additional verbal assurances and pontifical statements of solidarity – but no lethal military assistance nor MNNA status. Apparently, the core foreign policy principle of the United States towards Ukraine [as expressed by President Obama at a fundraiser earlier this month] is that since the US "does very little trade with Ukraine, what happens to Ukraine doesn't pose a direct threat to America." In essence, money trumps all! Is that what *"live free or die"* means? Is that one of the founding principles of our democratic society? This ill-founded foreign-policy position is grossly naïve at best and is grounded on a systemic lack of understanding of the historical realities of the existing world order, how it came to be, and inadvertently puts global stability into great jeopardy. International agreements are not to be disregarded merely because there's no money in it - especially if they deal with nuclear nonproliferation. What happened to our solemn pledges to uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations as embodied in the UN charter, the Helsinki Accords, the Budapest Memorandum and a plethora of other international agreements? America readily supplies lethal weapons worth billions of dollars to questionable allies in the Middle East. We are ready to put "boots on the ground" to protect countries in that region, many of which have well-equipped armies of their own and the economic strength to fully support their own military, but these same countries do not put their citizenry's boots on the ground to defend their own territorial integrity from invasion. We are asked to do it for them - and we have done that! However, when it comes to Ukraine, which does not ask America to put our soldiers in the line of fire - Ukrainians already have their sons and daughters dying daily on the front lines - but asks only for adequate weapons so that Ukraine's sons and daughters can suitably defend themselves, America rebuffs Ukraine's dire requests with lame excuses.

The Obama Administration must seriously take a long hard look at itself and its foreign-policy and the image it portrays of the United States and of our core American principles to the rest of the world. The Administration must recognize that its present anemic policy towards Ukraine jeopardizes our own country's national security in the future. Regrettably, the Administration's actions to date have given the green light to despots in other countries [i.e. Putin] to ignore international norms and freely grab territory by unprovoked surreptitious warfare. These dictators only need to make an economic calculation as to whether they can withstand the financial price of a scolding by the West--and all international agreements, promises, and pledges they signed don't matter. International politics and world law and order should not be all about money. In the long run, the present American

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myopic foreign policy towards Ukraine will unwittingly create a conflagration on the European continent in which our children or grandchildren will be putting their "boots on the ground". America can continue to give blankets to Ukrainian soldiers so they can be warm in the winter -- and also to use them to cover and bury their dead. But, by failing to give Ukrainians the necessary means to defend themselves, we, as a country, are telling Ukraine *"Do the best you can!"*. And that is simply the wrong message! It does not reflect the principles of freedom upon which this country was created. We Americans should and must do much, much more to aid Ukraine and to reestablish the primacy of the principles that we claim are our core values - and that our promises mean something.

The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author

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From: "Andrei Cherny" <acherny@democracyjournal.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/29/2013 2:50:31 AM
Subject: ALICE Americans and Our Shrinking Middle Class

DEMOCRACY
A JOURNAL OF IDEAS

Support New Progressive Ideas

October 29, 2013

Dear John,

On Sunday, *The Washington Post* published a piece I wrote on the new ALICE class -- Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These Americans have a unique set of experiences and outlook that make them distinct from both the poor and the middle class from which they have been cleaved. This kind of analysis -- and the agenda of asset building that comes with it -- is what we do at *Democracy*.

From the middle class to the Middle East, *Democracy* is the place where new thinking gets developed and new ideas get launched. In just our most recent issue , we analyzed the crisis in the Republican Party, America's relationship with Russia, the state of anti-Semitism, the future of organized labor, and new policies around parenting. Whether it is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, middle-out economics, or many other solutions and innovations from our pages, we don't just put forward ideas, we work to get them attention and traction. As Senator Elizabeth Warren recently said, "ideas are like seeds" and the role of *Democracy* is to create a "place for an idea to take hold, a place where others could add to it and make it grow."

But we can only do that work with your help. Our publication is almost completely funded by the contributions of our readers. If you're someone who believes that ideas matter, will you make a tax-deductible donation today?

This year, *Democracy* has had more readers than ever before. From Chris Hayes on MSNBC to Ross Douthat in *The New York Times*, we've been cited as a must-read across the political spectrum. But while our annual budget is small, we can't continue our mission without your help. Thank you for considering a donation -- of any size -- so that the work we do to create progressive ideas can survive and thrive.

While you're at it, please consider subscribing to our print edition and giving the gift of *Democracy* to a friend or loved one this holiday season. It makes a great Christmas stocking stuffer -- or discussion topic for this year's Thanksgiving/Hanukkah celebrations.

We appreciate your support.

Best,
Andrei Cherny
President, *Democracy*

---

dajoi@democracyjournal.org
http://www.democracyjournal.org

Forward email

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From: "Maria Kanellopoulou" <mariad.dossier@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/28/2016 4:53:09 AM
Subject: Re: interview request with Mr Podesta

Dear Mr Podesta

I have been following the election results so far and I think perhaps there is a window of opportunity for our interview after Super Tuesday.

I would be more than grateful if you could find 40 minutes that we can talk on the phone.

Thank you in advance and good luck with your efforts

Maria Kanellopoulou

On 4 February 2016 at 13:21, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> Dear Sir
>
> Compliments for the win in Iowa and good luck for the next battle in New Hampshire. Do you think it would be possible to talk tomorrow? Or should I try again contacting you after New Hampshire election?
>
> Thank you
> Have a nice day
>
> Maria
>
> On 28 January 2016 at 19:33, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> > So sorry the right number is +30 6944 259916
> >
> > On 28 January 2016 at 19:32, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > Dear Mr Podesta
> > >
> > > I have just finished drafting my questions and starting tomorrow morning I am at your disposal whenever you can spare half an hour for a telephone call.
> > > Just give me a ring two hours before at +306944259915 (and bear in mind that we have 7 hours time zone difference :))
> > >
> > > Best regards and best of luck in Iowa!
> > >
> > > Looking forward to talking to you
> > >
> > >
> > > On 27 January 2016 at 15:55, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > Ok
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > On Wednesday, January 27, 2016, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > > Dear Mr Podesta
> > > > > Thank you for your quick reply!!!
> > > > >
> > > > > What if I send you 12 written questions that you can address at your free time? If we make the deadline it will be published in this issue if not at the next.
> > > > >
> > > > > If you do agree I will try to send them tomorrow so you have all the time possible.
> > > > >
> > > > > Thank you !
> > > > >
> > > > > On 27 January 2016 at 14:27, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > > > Difficult in that time frame given our primary election schedule. Perhaps for the next issue.

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On Wednesday, January 27, 2016, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:

ATT Mr Podesta

Esteemed Sir

My name is Maria Kanellopoulou and I am a Greek journalist collaborating with the monthly political magazine CRASH. Me and the magazine I represent, would be greatly honored if you would consider giving us an interview for our next issue which will be published in the mid February.

In case that our request is granted we will be happy with a skype/telephone interview or even a written one if other possibilities are out of question due to your heavy schedule.

The questions of the interview will cover your collaboration with Hillary Clinton, your career and any comments you may wish to make regarding the situation in Greece,
.
"Crash" is among the first in circulation Greek monthly political magazines. It regularly hosts interviews with politicians from all across the political spectrum, including the heads of all Greek political parties, as well as members of the Greek cabinet and distinguished political personalities. We have also hosted many interviews with politicians from foreign countries (Tony Benn, Iriny Lopez), Members of the European Parliament (Nikos Chountis, Nigel Farage), and diplomats (American diplomat Brady Kiesling, Russian ambassador in Greece Andrey Maslov) "Crash" also emphasizes on interviews with personalities of international caliber.It has hosted, among others, interviews with Oliver Stone, Isabel Allende, Thomas Piketty, Robert Fisk, James Galbraith, Kerry Kennedy, Greg Palast, Hans-Werner Sinn, Dani Rodrik, Philippe Legrain, Paul Mason, Hugo Dixon, Peter Spiegel, Toni Negri, Noam Chomsky and others

My personal work in the magazine is mainly oriented in geopolitical issues and foreign affairs but It would give me great personal pleasure and professional pride to be granted some of your precious time.
Thank you in advance

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 7:30:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: National TV

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: May 1, 2015 at 2:28:35 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: National TV

Two nights this week had zero coverage of Clinton Cash on the network nightly news programs.

Morning show coverage this week on Clinton Cash has been driven by the cables with only one day of mentions on NBC Today Show and CBS This Morning each during the first half hour of hard news.

Fox and Friends has covered it the most on morning shows, every day but one in the last two weeks.

Yesterday, only MSNBC Morning Joe covered it in the morning.

No day in the last two weeks has had coverage of Clinton Cash on all three network morning shows and all three cables.

Five nights in the last two weeks have had no coverage of Clinton Cash on all three network broadcasts.

April 20 Morning- Only Fox

April 20 Night- ABC and NBC

April 21 Morning- all except ABC

April 21 Night- None

April 22 Morning- Only Fox

April 22 Night- None

April 23 Morning- ABC and the cables

April 23 Night- ABC and NBC

April 24 Morning- all except ABC

April 24 Night- None

April 27 Morning- NBC and cables

April 27 Night- CBS only

April 28 Morning- only Fox

April 28 Night- none

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April 29 Morning- MSNBC and Fox

April 29 Night- None

April 30 Morning- MSNBC only

April 30 Night- CBS Only

May 1 Morning- CBS

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From: "Lisa Reed" <lisa@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/29/2008 4:34:13 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Alexandria, VA 10/29/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Gives President credit for not being attacked since 9/11
- Says Hugo Chavez hurt his feelings. [sarcasm] Would like to sit down with him with release of political prisoners, free elections, and there are functioning human rights organizations
- Brings up drilling in Florida, says revenues should go to Tallahassee rather than Washington.
- Repeats Obama's television appearance as an "infomercial" interrupting the World Series

Arlington, VA: McCain Rally 10/29/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Speech Highlights

(**Introduces Charlie Crist, Senator Mel Martinez, Joe Lieberman, Tom Ridge, Lindsey Graham)**

It's great to be back in Florida. We need to win Florida on November 4th, and with your help -- we're going to win here, and bring real change to Washington. We need a new direction, and we have to fight for it.

My friends, you hear a lot of things, but you know, it's no accident that the United States of America has not been attacked since 9/11. I do believe that the President of the United States deserves some credit for that, don't you?

I've been fighting for this country since I was seventeen years old, and I have the scars to prove it. If I'm elected President, I will fight to shake up Washington and take America in a new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home. We're going to double the child deduction for working families. We will cut the capital gains tax. And we will cut business taxes to help create jobs, and keep American businesses in America. Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands and strengthens our economy.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money. Senator Obama will. And he can't do that without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, NASA, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes.

I'm not going to spend $750 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. Senator Obama will. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people who were devastated by the excesses of Wall Street and Washington.

I have a plan to fix our housing market, so that your home value doesn't go down when your neighbor defaults, and so that people in danger of defaulting have a path to pay off their loan.

Including Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. By the way, I heard that Fidel Castro wrote some sentiments about me the other day. And let me just say, it hurt my feelings. And I want to tell you, I'll sit down with one of the Castro brothers right after the empty the political prisons, right after they have free elections, right after the human rights organizations are functioning. You saw the other day about what the Castro Brothers are about. When Cuba was hit with a natural disaster and they refused American humanitarian aid. That's what they're all about, my friends. And have no illusions.

If I'm elected President, we're going to stop spending $700 billion to buy oil from countries that don't like us very much.

My friends, with more money and more revenues to the state of Florida, we will drill offshore and drill now. With the agreement of the state of Florida. And my friends, I've already talked to your state's great Governor, we're going to drill off the shores of Florid a, then we need to give Florida more of those revenues. They shouldn't be sent to Washington, they should be sent to Tallahasee.

Senator Obama will argue to delay drilling for more oil and gas and against building new nuclear power plants in America. If I am president, we will start new drilling now.

We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. We will invest in clean coal technology. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs.

We've learned more about Senator Obama's real goals for our country over the last two weeks than we learned over the past two years, and that only because Joe the plumber asked him a question in Ohio. That's when Senator Obama revealed he wants to quote "spread the wealth around."

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Now, Joe didn't ask for Senator Obama to come to his house, and he didn't ask to be famous. He certainly didn't ask for the political attacks on him from the Obama campaign. Joe's dream is to own a small business that will create jobs, and the attacks on him are an attack on small businesses all over the country. These are people like Gus the homebuilder and Peter the exterminator right here in Miami. Small businesses employ 84 percent of Americans, and we need to support these small businesses, not tax them.

After months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned what Senator Obama's economic goal is: to spread the wealth. In a radio interview revealed this week, he said the same thing -- that one of the quote, "tragedies" of the civil rights movement is that it didn't bring about "redistributive change."

You see, Senator Obama believes in redistributing wealth, not in policies that grow our economy and create jobs. He said that even though lower taxes on investment help our economy, he favors higher taxes on investment for quote "fairness." There's nothing "fair" about driving our economy into the ground. We all suffer when that happens, and that is the problem with Senator Obama's approach to our economy. He is more interested in controlling wealth than in creating it, in redistributing money instead of spreading opportunity. I am going to create wealth for all Americans, by creating opportunity for all Americans.

Senator Obama is running to be Redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief. Senator Obama is running to spread the wealth. I'm running to create more wealth. Senator Obama is running to punish the successful. I'm running to make everyone successful.

Senator Obama has made a lot of promises. First he said people making less than 250,000 dollars would benefit from his plan, then this weekend he announced in an ad that if you're a family making less than 200,000 dollars you'll benefit -- but this week, Senator Biden said tax relief should only go to "middle class people -- people making under 150,000 dollars a year." It's interesting how their definition of rich has a way of creeping down. At this rate, it won't be long before Senator Obama is right back to his vote that Americans making just 42,000 dollars a year should get a tax increase. We can't let that happen.

This Democratic Congress is planning all sorts of new taxes. This week, we are hearing they want to tax your 401k contributions. This is a time when we need to be encouraging more investing, not taxing it. We can't let them get away with making a bad economy even worse. Now is the time to grow our economy, and that's what I'm going to do.

My opponent's massive new tax increase is exactly the wrong approach in an economic slowdown. The answer to a slowing economy is not higher taxes, but that is exactly what is going to happen when the Democrats have total control of Washington. We can't let that happen. We need pro-growth and pro-jobs economic policies, not pro-government spending programs paid for with higher taxes.

This is the fundamental difference between Senator Obama and me. He thinks taxes are too low, and I think that spending is too high.

If we are going to change Washington, we need a President who has actually fought for change and made it happen. The next President won't have time to get used to the office. We face many challenges here at home, and many enemies abroad in this dangerous world.

Senator Biden warned that Senator Obama would be tested with an international crisis. I have been tested. Senator Obama hasn't. Senator Biden referred to how Jack Kennedy was tested in the Cuban Missile Crisis and I have a little personal experience in that. I was on board the U.S.S. Enterprise, and I sat in a jet cockpit on the flight deck waiting to take off. We had a target. I know how close we came to a nuclear war and I will not be a president that needs to be tested.

We know Senator Obama won't have the right response to that test, because we've seen the wrong response from him over and over during this campaign. He opposed the surge strategy that is bringing us victory in Iraq and will bring us victory in Afghanistan. He said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. When Russia invaded Georgia, Sen. Obama said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. When I am president, we are going to win in Iraq and win in Afghanistan, and our troops will come home in victory and honor.

Let me give you the state of the race today. There's less than a week to go. We're a few points down. The pundits have written us off, just like they've done before. My opponent is working out the details with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid of their plans to raise your taxes, increase spending, and concede defeat in Iraq. He's measuring the drapes, and he's planned his first address to the nation for before the election. I guess I'm old fashioned about these things -- I prefer to let the voters weigh in before presuming the outcome.

What America needs now is someone who will finish the race before the starting the victory lap, someone who will fight to the end, and not for himself but for his country.

I have fought for you most of my life, and in places where defeat meant more than returning to the Senate. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to back down when the stakes are high.

I know you're worried. America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future.

Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I'm an American. And I choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight. Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history. Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

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--
Lisa L. Reed
Progressive Accountability Office
601.434.2986

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	3/2/2015 7:29:00 AM
Subject:	3.2.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150302 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
March 2, 2015

HRC

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Clinton Seen Launching 2016 Bid in April (The Wall Street Journal)
By Peter Nicholas and Carol E. Lee
March 2, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

Hillary Clinton and her close advisers are telling Democratic donors she will enter the presidential race sooner than expected, likely in April, a move that would allay uncertainties within her party and allow her to rev up fundraising.

Clinton aides have spoken of the earlier timetable in private meetings, according to people engaged in recent discussions about the presumed Democratic front-runner's emerging 2016 campaign. Many within her camp have advocated her staying out of the fray until the summer.

Jumping in sooner would help the Democratic field take shape, reassuring party leaders and donors that the former first lady, senator and secretary of state is running. A super PAC loyal to Mrs. Clinton has faced hesitation from donors who don't want to make big pledges until she is a candidate. Such concerns would evaporate after she announces.

But Mrs. Clinton would become an even larger target for Republicans when she enters the race. She also would be pressed to opine on a raft of thorny issues in the news, including how to combat the military advances of Islamic State militants in the Middle East.

One influential proponent of an earlier announcement is John Podesta, who is expected to play an important role in Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign, one person familiar with the matter said. Mr. Podesta, who in January resigned as senior adviser in the Obama White House, declined to comment, as did a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton.

Many Democratic activists say they would like to see the race begin in earnest -- something that won't happen until Mrs. Clinton jumps in.

Mrs. Clinton "should get in right now. If she's going to run, get a campaign going," said Jason Frerichs, a county Democratic chairman in Iowa, the state that holds the first contest of the 2016 campaign.

Mrs. Clinton, according to some close associates, doesn't relish the campaign trail and is in no particular hurry to announce, especially given the scant competition for her party's nomination. Most polls show Mrs. Clinton running far ahead of her nearest potential challenger, Vice President Joe Biden.

"She's obviously biding her time before she gets out there," said Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, a Democrat.

Mrs. Clinton, 67 years old, made known her feelings about grueling campaigns in a private meeting last month with London Mayor Boris Johnson. Mr. Johnson later said she had bemoaned the lengthy U.S. presidential campaigns.

During her 2008 bid, she teared up at a campaign event in New Hampshire when describing the rigors of campaign life: lack of sleep, an overreliance on pizza and limited ability to exercise.

"If I were taking this on, seeing what candidates went through last time around, I'd sure want to put it off as long as I could," said Doug Goldman, a major fundraiser for President Barack Obama who lives in San Francisco. At this point in the 2008 cycle, Mrs. Clinton already was a candidate.

Mrs. Clinton's team has considered first forming an exploratory committee, a common in-between step candidates use to signal they are running while avoiding the formal launch of a campaign. But her camp now appears likely to scrap that idea.

A later entrance into the race comes with certain perils. She hopes to raise more than $1 billion for the campaign, people familiar with her plans said, and some Democratic donors are concerned that if she waits until the summer, she would be hard-pressed to meet that goal.

With no apparatus in place, Mrs. Clinton also has a limited capability to rapidly respond to potential threats to a campaign.

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Republicans and even some Democrats have questioned the foreign contributions collected by her family's charitable foundation, as recounted in a spate of recent news stories.

As yet, the response from the Clinton side mostly has come in the form of prepared statements from the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

Behind the scenes, the Clinton team is busy preparing for the race. Mrs. Clinton has been meeting with numerous policy experts as she crafts a message and platform. Close adviser Huma Abedin has been holding private meetings with supporters the campaign would call on for help after it is under way.

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Election 2016: Hillary Clinton Reported Ready To Announce Candidacy Next Month (International Business Times)

By Marcy Kreiter
March 1, 2015
International Business Times

Hillary Clinton reportedly plans to announce her candidacy for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination in April. The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday Clinton and her close advisers decided on the move to allay uncertainties and boost fundraising.

News of the pending announcement comes as stories surfaced about money the Clinton Foundation has accepted from foreign and corporate donors while she was secretary of state. The reports threaten to complicate Clinton's presumed plan to focus on her foreign policy credentials in any campaign.

Clinton had been expected to put off an announcement until summer, but donors had been holding back, thwarting fundraising efforts. A source told the Journal John Podesta played a big role in the decision. She is expected to skip the step of forming an exploratory committee.

Money appears to be the issue. Clinton is expected to raise more than $1 billion for her campaign, topping the $716 million the Center for Responsive Politics said was collected by President Obama in 2012.

Clinton, who is considered the frontrunner and faces little competition, had been reluctant to enter the fray so soon. Polls have shown her far ahead of her nearest rival, Vice President Joe Biden.

Clinton has been working with policy experts to craft a message and platform, and close adviser Huma Abedin has been meeting with supporters.

The Washington Post reported last week that during Clinton's tenure as secretary of state, the Clinton Foundation raked in millions of dollars from seven foreign governments, including one donation for earthquake relief in Haiti from Algeria that should have been cleared by the State Department first. The donation coincided with an Algerian effort to lobby the United States on human rights issues.

Other questionable monies came from Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Australia, Norway and the Dominican Republic.

The foundation, which has raised nearly $2 billion since its inception in 2001, defended some of the gifts as multiyear grants that were awarded before Hillary Clinton joined the Obama administration. The Post also reported foreign donations made up made up a third of gifts exceeding $1 million over time.

Jerry Brown's popularity as governor doesn't extend to a presidential race (LA Times)
By Cathleen Decker
March 1, 2015
LA Times

Katherine Martinez is a Democrat from San Andreas, fiercely supportive of her state's — and party's — governor.

"I have definitely followed him and definitely voted for him," she said of Jerry Brown, and she has pushed back on anyone who had "the nerve" to criticize him.

But vote for him for president against that far-more-probable candidate, Hillary Rodham Clinton?

"Oh, man," she said, and then grappled with why. "You know, Hillary has got the international experience Jerry Brown has not — and only on that reason I would go with Hillary. I love both of you."

She is not alone. In a new USC Dornsife-Los Angeles Times poll, Brown has zoomed in popularity. He is now the most popular politician on the state stage. Almost two-thirds of voters — a cosmically high proportion — approve of how he's doing his job. Almost six in 10 Californians have a positive view of him.

And Hillary Clinton would clock him in his home state were the two to meet in a run for the presidency.

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Not that that is actually going to happen. Clinton keeps insisting that she's marking off the pros and cons of a run, all the while building a campaign organization that will be ready from Day One to clobber a few competing Democrats no one has ever heard of.

People have heard of Brown, but his campaign calculus is different. He has toyed a bit with the idea of running a fourth time for president but has bowed to reality. He's 76 years old, closing in on 77 in April, meaning that he would be 78 on election day were he to thwart sanity and run. He's a sitting governor in a state that is ungovernable from afar.

But, oh, how the wayback machine would spurt to life if a presidential campaign pitted Brown against a Clinton. Brown is, after all, the presidential candidate who, in 1992, called Bill Clinton a "hypocrite" and the "prince of sleaze" and "a fraud" and predicted that he'd "destroy the Democratic Party."

Brown is the candidate who, that same year, took part in a debate with Clinton that resembled a roller-derby rumble, each man ending up figuratively bloodied and unkempt. It was that debate, in Chicago, in which Brown took on Hillary Clinton's financial and legal dealings in Arkansas.

"Let me tell you something, Jerry," Clinton said in one finger-shaking exchange. "I don't care what you say about me.... But you ought to be ashamed of yourself for jumping on my wife."

Small historical note: That exchange led Hillary Clinton to defend her career in words that, while heartfelt, gave heartburn to campaign staff members who had to explain that she hadn't meant to slight stay-at-home mothers: "I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas, but what I decided to do is fulfill my profession."

By the end of that campaign, feelings were so raw that Brown didn't do Clinton the traditional grudging courtesy of endorsing him.

The follies continued in 2010, when Brown was running for governor against the moneyed Republican Meg Whitman. Whitman aired an ad reprising Bill Clinton's 1992 criticism of Brown, prompting Brown to defend himself in a rather unseemly way — by raising the specter of Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky.

"I mean Clinton's a nice guy, but who ever said he always told the truth?" Brown said during an East Los Angeles appearance. "You remember, right? There's that whole story there about did he or didn't he. OK.... I did not have taxes with this state." (The latter a not-very-transparent reference to Clinton's assertion that he "did not have sexual relations with that woman.")

But politics is a transactional business, and arguably the best politicians are the most transactional. Clinton endorsed Brown two days later and campaigned for him as well.

The theory has held that Brown, however tempted, would not run for president again because of the afore-mentioned complications. The poll, conducted for the USC Dornsife College of Letters Arts and Sciences and The Times, demonstrated another reality: Even in Brown's home state, there's really no demand for him.

Overall, California voters sided with Hillary Clinton over Brown 49% to 26%, and 20% sided with neither. Among Democrats, it was even worse for Brown: 61% for Clinton to 25% for him. Among the Democratic Party's key voter groups, just as bad: Latinos went for Clinton 57% to 26%; women went for her 54% to 22%; and liberals sided with her 66% to 23%.

This is how locked-in Clinton's vote was: Even among those who said they have a favorable view of Brown and approve of the way he's done his job, he couldn't exceed 30%.

Brown's closest showing was among Republicans, who went for Clinton 29% to 26% (with a hefty 42% saying neither one, thank you.)

Dan Schnur, director of USC's Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, said it made sense for Brown to be doing well in California — but falling hard before Clinton in a mock presidential run.

"Voters like them for very different reasons and very different roles," he said. "She is a trailblazer. He is adult supervision. She says, 'Let's shatter the glass ceiling.' He says, 'Get off my lawn.' "

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Regular voters are not quite that caustic. Chuck Todd, like Katherine Martinez a poll respondent, said that he sided with Clinton not because he dislikes Brown — in fact, he thinks Brown "has done a really good job here" — but because of what Clinton would bring to a campaign.

"I think she's got an awareness of international concerns," said Todd, a freelance infographics artist from Concord (and not the identically named "Meet the Press" host). "I think she's going to be a strong leader because of her background."

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Emily's List is Ready for Hillary (Bloomberg)
By Jennifer Epstein
March 2, 2015
Bloomberg

Emily's List hasn't yet endorsed Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential race, but that's just a formality. The PAC, founded in 1985, has helped Democratic women reach every level of elected office short of the White House. Now the group is focusing its resources on the one goal that has eluded it.

Since soon after President Barack Obama won a second term, Emily's List has been preparing for Clinton to run, convening conversations about electing a woman president, and commissioning polling on Americans' views. But the groundwork goes back even further, to the group's founding three decades ago to support Democratic women running for Senate and to the years it's spent advocating for women in politics.

On Tuesday, Clinton will return the favor, delivering the keynote speech at the group's 30th anniversary gala in Washington as she prepares to embark on what people close to her are not shying away from calling an historic campaign. Bookending the significance of her second shot at the presidency, she'll be introduced by Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski, the first woman elected to the Senate in her own right, in 1986.

"She has a message and we have a mission that are both clearly attuned to what this country seems to be needing right now: more women's voices speaking for women and families," said Emily's List communications director Jess McIntosh. "Not on behalf of special interests. Not the ego-driven Washington dysfunction that we've seen."

Back in early 2013, when Clinton's 2016 campaign seemed not as certain as it does in March 2015, Emily's List launched its Madam President initiative with the goal of supporting a Democratic woman in the 2016 race. While the group mentioned then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand as possible candidates, Clinton was the top target.

"Let's be clear: they did that for Hillary," said Democratic strategist Maria Cardona, a senior adviser to Clinton's 2008 campaign.

Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock almost said as much. "I have to say there is one name that seems to be getting mentioned more than others," she told reporters nearly two years ago at the launch of Madam President. "We do not know if Hillary is going to run, but we are hopeful that she may."

Emily's List commissioned polling—conducted by one of the firms that has since signed on to work for Clinton—to make its point, finding that 86 percent of voters in nine battleground states said they believed the United States was ready to elect a woman president, while 72 percent said it was likely that a woman would be elected in 2016. Other polls have found the support to be not quite as strong—especially among Republicans, as it's become clear that Clinton is the woman most likely to get to the presidency first—but there's nonetheless evidence that public opinion has become more supportive of electing a woman just since Clinton's first attempt in 2008.

Emily's List is by no means a newcomer to the Hillary Clinton bandwagon.

Clinton drew 1,000 women to the Washington Hilton—the same place where she'll speak Tuesday—in the spring of 1996 for what the New York Times described as an Emily's List-organized "pep rally to bolster her spirits" amid the strains of the Whitewater scandal.

It endorsed Clinton's first presidential bid on the same day that she announced the creation of an exploratory committee and backed Clinton in her 2000 Senate campaign. "And our members were fans of hers long before that," McIntosh said.

The group's staff is also deeply entangled with Clinton.

Schriock was often discussed as a possible campaign manager before Clinton decided to go with Robby Mook. Instead, she'll stay at Emily's List and manage the group's interactions with the campaign, a role clarified last week when she left the board of Priorities USA, the super-PAC that aims to be the largest outside group supporting Clinton. Denise Feriozzi, who is heading up independent expenditures as Emily's List's political director, will take Schriock's place on the board.

While Feriozzi won't be directly working with the Clinton team to avoid running afoul of campaign-finance laws, she has deep connections in the Clinton network and is steeped in its values, since she worked for the 2008 campaign in Iowa, Nevada, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Executive director Jess O'Connell knows Hillaryland well, too—she was national director of operations for Clinton in 2007 and 2008.

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Emily's List founder Ellen Malcolm was a national co-chair of Clinton's 2008 campaign and hasn't shied away from supporting the 2016 bid, throwing her support behind Ready for Hillary two years ago. "I've seen—we've all seen—how smart, tough, resilient and caring Hillary is. I've been ready for Hillary to be president for decades," she said then.

There are no official ties between Emily's List and Ready for Hillary, but the two organizations have, along with American Bridge and Priorities USA, made up much of the organized effort to prepare for Clinton to run. Ready for Hillary will dissolve once Clinton announces her candidacy and, at that point, much of the organization will be absorbed within Emily's List.

"We want to make sure the assets built by Hillary's supporters, such as a robust social media presence, are not lost when Ready for Hillary shuts down," spokesman Seth Bringman said. The group plans to cease operations as soon as Clinton enters the race.

While a decision hasn't been finalized, the group is considering transferring its social media accounts—including a Facebook page with almost 2.2 million likes and a Twitter account with 143,000 followers—to Emily's List. It also aims to go through the complex legal process of transferring its e-mail list of more than 3 million to the official Clinton apparatus.

"Emily's List shares our grassroots approach and our goal of making history in 2016, so transferring our social media accounts to them would make perfect sense," Bringman said.

In the meantime, Ready for Hillary is continuing to organize and fundraise, in part by seizing on Clinton's speech to Emily's List. It's bought tables at Tuesday night's gala and has asked members to organize house parties to watch the speech. The group is also hosting a pre-speech call featuring former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, the co-chair of Priorities USA.

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This time, Hillary will run as a woman (CNN)
By Donna Brazile
March 1, 2015
CNN

After spending much of her 2008 campaign seemingly running away from the fact that she is a woman, Hillary Clinton is showing signs that 2016 is going to be a different story.

It seems that Hillary has found her outer woman, which is to say, she's found the person that she wants to present on the campaign trail, and that person is resolutely female. This time she seems to have decided to fully embrace her womanhood as an asset in her quest for the White House and to trust that the voters will do the same.

Of course, Hillary hasn't officially announced that she will be running for president -- and Universal Studios has not officially announced that there will be a sequel to the blockbuster "50 Shades of Grey." But it's hard to imagine 2016 happening without both of those things, seeing as how they both have such excellent prospects of success.

Hillary recently spoke at a Silicon Valley conference for women in the tech field with the theme of "Lead On." That lent itself nicely to the professional goals of the members of the audience as well as to Hillary's own leadership goals.

She spoke of the dearth of women not only in the tech field, but in the ranks of Fortune 500 CEO's. In fact, one recent diversity study found that the major S&P 1500 company boards had more men with the name John, Robert, William, or James on them than women of any name combined.

Left unsaid in her speech was any reference to the complete lack of a female occupant of the Oval Office thus far, but the thought could not have been far from anyone's mind, let alone Hillary's.

Clinton was comfortable talking at length about her own experiences being pregnant and giving birth while working as a partner in a law firm, and using that as a launching pad to discuss the importance of women in the workforce both here and around the world. And from there she highlighted her own work on behalf of the women of the world as secretary of state.

She segued into the discussion of the plight of working middle-class families that will be so central to the 2016 race, and the centrality of women's economic issues to those struggles of the middle-class. From there it was a natural progression to talking about 21st century families and the importance of things such as paid leave.

And all of that dovetailed perfectly into closing remarks about the future that revolved naturally around the birth in September of Clinton's first grandchild, Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky. That brought up Hillary's new role as a grandmother, and the perspective it has given her on the future and what needs to be done to guarantee that it's the best possible future.

The Silicon Valley address could serve as a template for how Clinton intends to approach her career goals from the vantage point of being a woman seeking her own place in the workforce. In the coming weeks, which serendipitously happen to be part of Women's History Month, Hillary's speaking schedule is heavy with events and gatherings that center around women. If she's not running for president, then she could be gearing up to get a talk show on the Lifetime network.

All of which stands in stark contrast to Hillary's last presidential campaign. In 2008, she seemed to think that she had to reassure voters that a woman could be president, primarily by not accentuating the fact that she was a woman. This time around, there seems to be a shared assumption that, of course, a woman would make an excellent president, in part simply by virtue of being a woman.

In that previous campaign, Hillary ran as the most experienced candidate, primarily to draw a distinction between herself and her relatively less experienced challenger, Barack Obama. But now, almost eight years later, Clinton can let her experience speak for itself. She has more of it -- almost too much, from one perspective: She'll be 69 by the time the 2016 election takes place. So this time instead of highlighting her experience, she's highlighting the experiences she has in common with the women, mothers and grandmothers out there.

Of course, Hillary's message will have to resonate beyond female voters. Fortunately, the dynamics of the 21st century economy and the place of the family within it lend themselves to a family-friendly feminism.

We live in a society where women are necessary breadwinners whose income is counted upon for families to make it.

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Gender pay equality and supportive work environments benefit spouses, children, extended families and entire communities. Today, feminism, family and economic issues intertwine like never before.

Hillary's stressing of the importance of women's workplace issues both to the family and to the struggles of the middle-class puts the Republicans on the defensive as they try to co-opt middle-class economic issues.

Potential GOP presidential candidates are already trying to position themselves to steal the thunder of the Democratic nominee when it comes to issues of wage inequality and middle-class stagnation. But how exactly do they propose to reinvigorate a middle-class that is overwhelmingly composed of families with two wage-earners if they don't fight for women's workplace issues? For instance, child care may be thought of as a woman's issue, but it's really a family issue, virtually by definition, and an economic issue on top of that.

Among topics that are sometimes seen as more traditional women's issues such as family planning, access to birth control and the right to choose, Hillary has the advantage in that she can make her stance clear, based on her life experiences as a woman. It's the Republicans with extremist views on these issues who have to dance around their real beliefs and avoid making outrageous and absurd statements such as embarrassing pronouncements about rape and pregnancy.

If Hillary seems more comfortable running as a woman, it's partly because society at large seems more comfortable with a populist-tinged feminism than it was in 2008. Patricia Arquette's Oscar night speech in support of equal pay for women -- although predictably dismissed by right-wing media such as Fox News -- was enthusiastically received by the public in general. In fact, far from being thought radical, Arquette's statements backstage were thoroughly deconstructed by the left for not being progressively correct enough.

Women have been steadily making strides in the years since Hillary's 2008 campaign, and as they did, they smoothed the way for one of their own to run for the highest office in the land without having to play down her gender.

Hillary is now wisely embracing her gender as a way of capturing the same "hope and change" historical quality of Obama's presidency. Voters always want change, and Hillary Clinton has been a constant on the political stage for decades now. She's certainly no stranger to Washington, or to the West Wing of the White House. But electing her president would still represent massive change on a fundamental level.

Hillary Clinton wants 2016 to be the Year of the Woman. And she wants to be The Woman.

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No, gender wage gap is not that wide; Women need to ask for pay raises (USA Today)
By Katrina Trinko
March 2, 2015
USA Today

Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that she wants equal pay for women.

In lauding Patricia Arquette for using her acceptance speech as best supporting actress to advocate for women, Clinton said, "We all cheered at Patricia Arquette's speech at the Oscars because she's right. It's time to have wage equality once and for all."

But look at the numbers closely and it's clear, no matter how great a talking point wage equality is, that most women and men make about the same amount, when you factor in the industries where they are employed and their years of experience, along with decisions about whether to work part-time or at all when raising children.

So what is the wage gap?

In 2014, Clinton tweeted, "20 years ago, women made 72 cents on the dollar to men. Today it's still just 77 cents. More work to do. #EqualPay #NoCeilings"

Part-time work a factor

But that statistic simply doesn't take into account that a female preschool teacher who works part-time by choice won't make anywhere near what a male scientist who works full-time does.

And no one should know how these factors matter better than Hillary Clinton, who paid her own female Senate staffers 72 cents on the dollar, according to a February analysis by the conservative Washington Free Beacon.

Presumably, Clinton would attribute that wage gap to the differences in the roles between the staffers, not to sexism on her part. In fact, a 2009 Labor Department report found that the real gender wage gap was about 5 cents per dollar.

Of course, 5 cents on the dollar isn't acceptable. But it's not clear that it's discrimination at work or that this is a situation politicians such as Clinton should seek to involve the government in. One factor could be women's reluctance to ask for raises.

Pay increase angst

A 2014 survey by Glamour found that 43% of women had asked for a raise in their current job vs. 54% of men, and only 39% had asked for more than the amount offered -- again, vs. 54% of men. That's a problem.

It's not easy to ask for a raise -- and I remember my first time asking for a raise as an excruciatingly stressful and unpleasant experience. I wanted my boss to just simply recognize my good work and give me a raise. I felt humiliated and weird about having to aggressively make the case for my own work's merit.

But I did it -- and got a raise.

Women do need to close the last of the gap. They should also continue to work toward top leadership positions, in which women are routinely significantly outnumbered by men.

But personal initiative, not politicians' interference, is the way forward.

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Will the Clinton Foundation Come to Haunt Hillary? (Bloomberg)
By David Knowles
March 1, 2015
Bloomberg

Hillary Clinton's political enemies believe they may have finally located her Achilles' Heel.

In the days following a Washington Post report that the Clinton Foundation accepted millions of dollars in donations from foreign governments while Clinton served as secretary of state, and that a $500,000 contribution from the government of Algeria potentially violated an ethics agreement with the Obama White House, criticism of the Democratic presidential frontrunner has been pointed, especially from her would-be Republican rivals.

On Sunday, former Texas Governor Rick Perry framed the issue as one of trust.

“Are you going to trust an individual who has taken that much money from a foreign source? Where’s your loyalty?” Perry told CNN’s Dana Bash. “I’m really concerned, not just going forward, but what has been received at the Clinton Foundation over the course of years and how that affects this individual’s judgment.”

At last week's Conservative Political Action Conference, the Clinton Foundation donations rose to the top of the list in terms of Hillary attack lines.

“Mrs. Clinton, name an accomplishment. And in the meantime, please explain why we should accept that the millions and millions of dollars that have flowed into the Clinton Global Initiative from foreign governments do not represent a conflict of interest,” prospective GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina declared.

"We could have had Hillary here, but we couldn't find a foreign nation to foot the bill," joked Senator Ted Cruz.

On social media, Clinton's foes have been hammering the former secretary of state over the donations.

The criticism was not just from those hoping to see Clinton go down to defeat in the 2016 election. California Democratic Representative Jane Harmann called the failure to disclose the donations "troubling."

“Yes, there was a process set up. All of the other contributions were reviewed, as I understand it. There was transparency. This was an unsolicited donation of $500,000 at a time when U.S. was deluged with help for Haiti,' Harman said on Fox News Sunday. "I guess it got lost in the system. I think it needs to be explained. I don’t understand why the money wasn’t returned, or after the fact, approval wasn’t sought.”

In a statement released last week, the Clinton Foundation admitted its error with Algerian donation.

“Immediately following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Embassy of Algeria made an unsolicited donation of $500K to [the] Clinton Foundation Haiti Relief fund,” a foundation spokesman said in a statement issued Wednesday. “This donation was disclosed publicly on the Clinton Foundation website, however, the State Department should have also been formally informed. This was a one-time, specific donation to help Haiti and Algeria had not donated to the Clinton Foundation before and has not since.”

Hillary Clinton, however, has yet to speak publicly on the matter.

As to whether foreign government donations to her family foundation should preclude her from becoming president, as they might result in influence-peddling, initial investigations, including one by the Wall Street Journal, have yet to turn up any evidence of illegality. Clinton's supporters, meanwhile, are brushing the criticisms aside, citing the work the charity does.

"If the biggest attack on Hillary's going to be that she raised too much money for her charity, okay, I'll take that," Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe told the Washington Post. "No one's alleging anything beyond that she raised money and people gave her money and foreign governments gave her money. At the end of the day, that's fine. It went to a charity. It helped a lot of people."

On its website, the Clinton Foundation also seemed to be preparing for what seems like Clinton's inevitable White House run.

"Should Secretary Clinton decide to run for office, we will continue to ensure the Foundation's policies and practices regarding support from international partners are appropriate, just as we did when she served as Secretary of State," a statement read.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Rick Perry Questions Hillary Clinton's Ethical Judgment (Washington Post)
By Jose A. DelReal
March 1, 2015
The Washington Post

Former Texas governor Rick Perry is raising questions about Hillary Clinton's ethical judgment after reports that her family's foundation received millions of dollars from foreign governments during her tenure as secretary of state.

"Are you going to trust an individual who has taken that much money from a foreign source? Where's your loyalty?" Perry, who is considering a 2016 White House bid, told CNN's Dana Bash in an interview airing Sunday. "I'm really concerned, not just going forward, but what has been received at the Clinton Foundation over the course of years and how that affects this individual's judgment."

A Washington Post report last week revealed that the Clinton Foundation — which is a philanthropic organization — accepted donations from seven foreign governments. At least one of the donations reportedly violated an ethics agreement between Clinton and the Obama administration.

"It's not only the appearance of impropriety. It's also the ethical side of this that, I think, most Americans really have a problem with," Perry said.

Perry also addressed a small dust-up between himself and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who appeared to compare labor protesters in the United States to Islamic State terrorists during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference on Thursday. Responding to the remarks, Perryt old MSNBC that the comparison was "inappropriate."

During the CNN interview Sunday, however, the former Texas governor said he accepted Walker's explanation.

"I think the initial response when I heard that: 'That's not right. You don't make that connect.' The governor has gone back and clarified his remarks since then and clearly said that's not what he was talking about," Perry said. "I respect that clarification and support him on that."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Rick Perry Questions Hillary's 'loyalty' (MSNBC)
By Jane C. Timm
March 1, 2015
MSNBC

Following a weekend full of conservative attacks on Hillary Clinton at the Conservative Political Action Conference, former Texas Governor Rick Perry added to the list, questioning the former secretary of state's "loyalty" in an interview that aired Sunday.

Responding to news that the Clinton foundation had not notified the State Department when it previously accepted a donation from a foreign nation, Perry argued that Clinton was disloyal.

"I think it falls flat in the face of the American people when it comes to, are you going to trust an individual who has taken that much money from a foreign source? Where's your loyalty?" Perry said in an interview that aired on CNN's "State of the Union."

The donation – from Algeria – was for $500,000 and came right after the Haiti earthquake. All of the funds were distributed for relief there. The Clinton Foundation is a nonprofit that focuses on issues like economic and leadership development and health security. Since 2010, they've raised a total of $36 million for Haiti efforts.

"Are you going to trust an individual who has taken that much money from a foreign source?" Perry asked.

The foundation acknowledged they should have alerted officials about the donation from the country.

"As the Clinton Foundation did with all donations it received for earthquake relief, the entire amount of Algeria's contribution was distributed as aid in Haiti," the statement said. "This donation was disclosed publicly on the Clinton Foundation website, however, the State Department should have also been formally informed."

But Perry said Americans will question this.

"I'm really concerned that – not just going forward—but what has been received at the Clinton Foundation over the course of the years and how that affects this individual's judgment," Perry said.

Perry is actively exploring a second presidential bid; he joined the crowded Republican field and spoke at this weekend's Conservative Political Action Conference, but Perry barely registered on the event's straw poll, earning just 1.1% of the votes.

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Dem: I'm troubled by Hillary donation controversy (The Hill)
By Rebecca Shabad
March 1, 2015
The Hill

Former Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.) said Sunday that's she troubled by the Clinton Foundation's failure to disclose foreign donations it accepted while Hillary Clinton was still secretary of State.

On "Fox News Sunday," Harman was asked whether the latest reports bother her.

"Yes, there was a process set up. All of the other contributions were reviewed, as I understand it. There was transparency. This was an unsolicited donation of $500,000 at a time when U.S. was deluged with help for Haiti. I guess it got lost in the system. I think it needs to be explained. I don't understand why the money wasn't returned, or after the fact, approval wasn't sought."

The Clinton Foundation recently admitted that it had received an unsolicited donation of $500,000 for its Haiti earthquake relief fund from the Algerian government in 2010.
"I think the appearance of what is happening is poor," said Harman, who serves as president of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Harman said it's okay for foreign governments to give limited amounts of money to groups as long as it's disclosed.

Clinton is expected to run for president next year and would be considered the Democratic frontrunner.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hillary Clinton Already Is a Brand (Bloomberg)
By Albert Hunt
March 1, 2015
Bloomberg View

Hillary Clinton has enlisted a Coca-Cola marketing whiz to help brand her expected presidential campaign.

This is quintessential Clinton. The most politically savvy couple in America has a penchant for seeking out the latest shiny toy, a magic bullet to make everything work.

By many accounts, the Coca-Cola executive, Wendy Clark, is able. She has worked closely with Roy Spence, a longtime Clinton ally. But more than branding or marketing, it'll be experience, ideas, vision and character that will determine the success of Clinton's presidential quest. The Clintons usually don't do well when they lose sight of that.

Their most infamous miscalculation of this kind was in late 1994, when in the depths of Bill Clinton's presidency, the couple secretly turned to a political consultant named Dick Morris to fix things. He came up with a bunch of small bore issues and then told the press Clinton would run as a moral guide for the country.

This recasting had little bearing on Clinton's re-election in 1996. In any case, Morris wasn't around to enjoy that triumph: He had to step down after he was found to have hosted a call girl in a Washington hotel room paid for by the Clinton campaign, and had let his companion listen to his conversations with the president.

There are plenty of other examples, though they are more benign.

After a rocky start in the White House, Bill Clinton enlisted a smart veteran Republican, David Gergen, as a cure-all. It was mismatch from the get-go. The Clintons later turned to self-help promoter and motivational pitchman Tony Robbins.

This time around, there are reports that Hillary Clinton was ecstatic when pollster Joel Benenson joined her probable team, believing that he would bring the secret formula that helped catapult Barack Obama. Benenson is very capable, but he didn't perform magic and he isn't any better than Geoff Garin, who was Clinton's pollster in 2008.

In fact, the former secretary of state has already made her most important hire: John Podesta, the veteran Democratic operative, who will be her campaign chairman. He is the Democrats' equivalent of Jim Baker -- the legendary Republican in the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations -- with unsurpassed judgment and potentially the ability to bring order to the unwieldy Clinton constellation and talk to the candidate, and her spouse, as a semi-peer.

Podesta appreciates the need to bring in fresh faces such as Benenson and maybe Clark. One of the flaws of the 2008 Clinton campaign was its insularity.

Another major -- and even bigger -- shortcoming was that she followed the advice of chief strategist Mark Penn for her to run as a tough commander-in-chief who supported the Iraq War. The tactic, which de-emphasized her gender, was a misreading of the times. Obama, who defeated her, understood that.

There have been many reports that this time, Hillary Clinton will strongly stress women's issues and the gender angle. She's been a feminist her entire adult life; the only difficulty here would be if the effort looks too contrived.

All campaigns adapt or tweak their pitch to meet political realities. In 2008, Obama didn't really oppose gay marriage, and one wonders if Jeb Bush really believes the Iraq War was such a noble undertaking, as he suggested in a recent speech in Chicago.

Clinton will also adjust. But as she tries to convey a vision for governing, she's going to have to run as who she is: smart, if not especially innovative; disciplined; experienced in the ways of Washington and the world; hawkish on national security (witness her leading role in the military intervention in Libya in 2011, and her support for the Iraq War in 2002); and moderately liberal on domestic issues with a bit of a soft spot for Wall Street.

No amount of rebranding will change those basics.

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For Hillary and Bibi, a long and sometimes fraught relationship (Washington Post)
By Anne Gearan
March 1, 2015
Washington Post

JERUSALEM — The phone call between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lasted 45 minutes. For 43 of them, she talked and he listened.

The U.S. secretary of state lectured the Israeli leader, accusing him of trying to do an end run around American opposition to settlement-building and embarrassing Vice President Biden during a visit to Israel, according to interviews with people present during the 2010 call or who were briefed on it afterward. She read from a script for part of the lecture, so as not to miss any key points.

“The word ‘humiliation’ appeared very prominently,” recalled Michael Oren, then the Israeli ambassador in Washington. “As in ‘You have humiliated the United States of America.’ ”

There probably aren’t many times in Netanyahu’s professional life when he has listened to anyone for 43 minutes. Netanyahu prefers to do the lecturing, as he will Tuesday when he addresses a joint meeting of Congress over the objections of the Obama administration.

And there aren’t many people who could make Netanyahu sit still for a tongue-lashing. Clinton is one of them.

“I was often the designated yeller,” Clinton said last year.

Should Clinton win the presidency in 2016, her long and complicated history with Netanyahu will enter a new phase. If Netanyahu survives an election this month, the same issues that cloud the U.S.-Israel relationship now — negotiations with the Palestinians and a disagreement over outreach to Iran that turned sharply bitter over Netanyahu’s Tuesday address — will almost certainly still fester.

From Netanhayu’s perspective, Clinton would be an improvement over President Obama, who has all but washed his hands of an Israeli leader he finds overbearing, Israeli officials and observers said in interviews here.

But there is also little doubt that Netanyahu would prefer a more hawkish Republican in the White House, these observers said. The question is how brazenly he will make that preference known, as he did in 2012 when he was widely perceived as supporting Obama’s GOP opponent, Mitt Romney.

Clinton hosted Netanyahu at the White House as first lady, and their relationship grew more substantive when she was a reliable pro-Israel voice in the Senate and dispenser of tough love to the Israeli government during Obama’s first term.

As secretary of state, Clinton defended Israeli security demands and sharply criticized settlement policies.

On orders from the White House, she demanded a total freeze of settlement expansion — a demand that made Netanyahu livid.

She also praised him publicly for taking “unprecedented” steps toward peace, defended Israeli military action in the Gaza Strip in 2012 and nudged Netanyahu into a cease-fire with old-fashioned shuttle diplomacy.

“I learned that Bibi would fight if he felt he was being cornered, but if you connected with him as a friend, there was a chance you could get something done together,” Clinton wrote in her State Department memoir last year.

The speech fracas

That chance appears remote now, at the nadir of Netanyahu’s relationship with the Obama administration.

The White House considers the Israeli leader’s address to Congress partisan meddling intended to sink a potential nuclear deal with Iran. Democrats complain it is another example of Netanyahu’s undisguised preference for Republicans, and many plan to boycott. Netanyahu is speaking at the invitation of the Republican-led Congress.

Netanyahu says he has no choice, because the emerging deal leaves Israel exposed to a potential nuclear strike.

“I respect the White House and the U.S. president. But on a serious subject, it’s my duty to do everything for Israel’s security,” Netanyahu said at a campaign rally last week.

The speech reflects an utter break between Netanyahu and Obama. In bypassing the White House and scheduling Tuesday’s

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speech just before Israelis vote in a national election, Netanyahu had “injected a degree of partisanship, which is not only unfortunate,” national security adviser Susan E. Rice said on PBS last week, “I think it’s destructive of the fabric of the relationship.”

Secretary of State John F. Kerry, who succeeded Clinton as secretary of state in 2013, sought to play down any tensions Sunday, however. “We have an unparalleled close security relationship with Israel, and we will continue to,” Kerry said on ABC’s “This Week.”

The U.S. critiques are being delivered indirectly now, in contrast with the 2010 Clinton phone call.

Netanyahu will not see Obama, Biden or Kerry during his brief visit to Washington. The White House has offered a diplomatic fig leaf, saying it would be unseemly to host Netanyahu so close to the March 17 elections. Netanyahu is not likely to cross paths with Clinton either, although she is delivering a speech in Washington on Tuesday evening.

Netanyahu is also addressing a gathering of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee on Monday. Clinton, a frequent speaker in years past, will not address the group.

She has said nothing about the controversy surrounding Netanyahu’s congressional speech but is on the record as strongly supporting the Obama administration’s approach to negotiating with Iran.

The goal of international talks now nearing a deadline this month is a deal to curb Iran’s nuclear program and ensure it cannot be quickly converted to bomb-making. Clinton told an audience in Canada in January that the talks, initiated by secret contacts during her tenure as top diplomat, would be damaged by any new Iran sanctions applied by Congress.

Wary respect

Clinton’s tough line with Netanyahu was born of a two-decades-old acquaintance built on wary respect and a shared sense that each can do business with the other.

Their relationship did not seem to suffer from the rougher patches during Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state, officials said. Clinton and Netanyahu made a point of showing no hard feelings when Clinton visited Israel just two months after the March 2010 settlement debacle and telephonic dressing-down.

Clinton quotes Netanyahu from his brief portion of that phone call in her 2014 State Department memoir, “Hard Choices.”

“Let me assure you and the president that the timing was entirely unintentional and unfortunate,” she said Netanyahu told her.

“I didn’t enjoy playing the bad cop, but it was part of the job,” Clinton wrote.

The longtime Likud leader and the likely Democratic presidential contender have sparred and made up enough times to regard one another as worthy adversaries, U.S. and Israeli officials and former officials said. They are familiar with one another in public — she calls him “Bibi.” He calls her “Hillary.” But they are not close personal friends.

“Her relationship with him is very bad, just not as toxic as Obama’s,” said Alon Pinkas, who was Israel’s consul general in New York when Clinton was a pro-Israel senator from New York.

“As much as it is replete with dislikes and misunderstandings, the relationship has the potential to succeed” if both politicians face one another as national leaders in 2017, Pinkas added. “I suspect it won’t, because he can’t help himself.”

Many other observers, including Israeli and U.S. officials who would not speak for the record, described the relationship in more optimistic terms.

“They have a long relationship of mutual intellectual respect,” Oren said. “They both are very, very smart people, and people of very strong physical stamina.”

Other similarities: ambition, determination and a shared declaration that the bond between their two nations may stretch thin at times but will never break.

In her memoir, Clinton calls Netanyahu a “complicated figure” whose hawkish views were shaped by his military and family experiences.

“Despite our policy differences, Netanyahu and I worked together as partners and friends. We argued frequently, often during phone calls that would go on for over an hour, sometimes two. But even when we disagreed, we maintained an unshakable commitment to the alliance between our countries,” Clinton wrote.

When Clinton was first lady and Netanyahu was the opposition Likud leader and then prime minister, she and then-President

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Bill Clinton chafed at Netanyahu's perceived cozy relationship with the Clintons' adversaries. His Republican contacts included then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.) and evangelical leader Ralph Reed.

For his part, Netanyahu was outraged in 1999 when Hillary Clinton sat by as Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha, accused Israel of poisoning Palestinians and then closed their joint appearance with an embrace.

Clinton and Netanyahu dealt with one another occasionally during the years Clinton was in the Senate and Netanyahu held two cabinet posts. He returned as prime minister in 2009, the year that Clinton — having lost the 2008 Democratic presidential nominating contest — joined Obama's Cabinet as secretary of state.

Netanyahu has been the top Israeli leader for all but a few months of the Obama administration, and he called early elections in anticipation of keeping the job. Although opposition figure Isaac Herzog leads slightly in national polls, Netanyahu has the better chance of forming a government, Israeli and U.S. officials said.

Clinton became the chief public voice for the administration's insistence on a settlement freeze in 2009, despite her misgivings that it set too high a bar for Israel. Although viewed as friendlier to Israeli security arguments than Obama, she never wavered from the administration line in her dealings with Netanyahu, U.S. and Israeli officials said.

"There was no wink and a nod, no 'This is what we're asking, but I really think something different,' " said one official who was present in many of their meetings.

Netanyahu rejected the U.S. position out of hand, however, and in her book, Clinton called the U.S. position misguided. "In retrospect, our early hard line on settlements didn't work," she wrote.

Under pressure from Clinton and U.S. envoy George J. Mitchell, Netanyahu adopted a partial, time-limited freeze to help set the tone for talks.

A 10-month moratorium went into effect in late 2009, but it did not lead to productive or sustained negotiations. Clinton jawboned Netanyahu for more than five hours to extend the moratorium during a meeting in New York in September 2010. Although he eventually agreed, Netanyahu could not sell the extension to his cabinet and the moratorium expired.

The Palestinian peace issue largely languished for the remainder of Obama's first term. Kerry resumed an intensive push for a settlement that fell apart nearly a year ago despite his long association with Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Possible future partners

If Netanyahu and Obama have written off hopes for their relationship during Obama's nearly two years left in office, Netanyahu may see brighter prospects for the next president.

Netanyahu's Likud party is ideologically close to traditional Republican policy positions, and Netanyahu has not been shy about his connections to Republicans including Romney, an old friend from Netanyahu's years living in the United States.

None of the current crop of Republican presidential hopefuls appears likely to try to muscle Netanyahu on the Palestinian issue, and many of them share his doubts on the potential Iran deal.

Netanyahu posted a Twitter message thanking likely Republican presidential contender Jeb Bush for supporting his Iran speech.

"You're welcome Mr. Prime Minister, I'm anxious to hear what you have to say!" replied the former Florida governor.

Should Clinton win the White House, however, she and Netanyahu would probably forge an efficient bond, U.S. and Israeli observers said.

"I'd bet that under either a third Bush or a second Clinton, things might not be great between the United States and Netanyahu, but they would be better than they are right now," Wilson Center Mideast scholar Aaron David Miller wrote last week in Foreign Policy.

The Iran deal at issue now is likely to be resolved before the 2016 election, but not the underlying fear for Israelis that Iran remains what Netanyahu calls an "existential" threat next door. Clinton is on record voicing much the same concern, along with doubts that Iran would abide by any deal it struck.

If a deal is signed, Clinton would carry it forward but would probably also find ways to reassure Netanyahu that the United States will not be hoodwinked.

And unless the West Bank security and political situation deteriorates rapidly or Netanyahu severely overplays his hand on

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settlements, a President Hillary Clinton would be unlikely to push Netanyahu very far on a peace settlement, U.S. and Israeli observers said.

A prevailing view among Mideast watchers is that the next big U.S. peace push would probably wait for a different Israeli leader.

“She will keep good relations with Netanyahu if he gives her a semblance of movement, and they can all kick the can together,” said a senior Israeli official who requested anonymity because Netanyahu has not yet secured another term.

“Hillary can’t afford to fight Netanyahu unless she has a smoking gun, and he’s too smart to give her a smoking gun.”

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American right unholsters surest shot against Hillary (The Sunday Times)
By Toby Harnden
March 1, 2015
The Sunday Times
SHE has shattered glass ceilings throughout her career, showing herself able to rise to the top in a man's world, and now seems poised to try to win the most powerful job in the world.

But the neatly dressed blonde who wowed a raucous crowd inside a convention centre outside Washington was not Hillary Clinton, the Democratic favourite for the White House in 2016, but rather Carly Fiorina, the first woman to lead a company in the Fortune 20 liist of the biggest US businesses.

Fiorina has cleverly positioned herself as the "anti-Hillary", the only woman in a Republican field of more than a dozen men and the candidate most prepared to mount relentless attacks on the former US secretary of state — including a few that a male opponent might struggle to get away with.

A former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, Fiorina, 60, has never held political office and failed in her 2010 attempt to win a Senate seat in California.

While this may make her an unlikely Republican nominee, conservative activists are tipping her as a possible vicepresidential pick, not least because she could help neutralise Clinton.

Preferring skirts to her rival's trademark trouser suits, she spoke last week at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Maryland, and served up plenty of red meat for party activists hungry for ideas about how to defeat Clinton.

Presenting herself as a freemarket conservative and foreign policy hawk, Fiorina boasted of having done business in more than 80 countries and of serving for several years on the advisory board of the CIA. She spoke of knowing King Abdullah of Jordan and Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister.

"I have met Vladimir Putin, and I know that his ambition will not be deterred by a gimmicky red 'reset' button," she said, referring to her talks with the Russian president at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation event in China and the ill-fated "reset" in relations with the Kremlin announced by Clinton in 2009.

She also mocked Clinton — the Democrat frontrunner due to declare her candidacy by the summer— for boasting that she flew nearly 1m miles during her four years as secretary of state.

"Like Mrs Clinton, I too have travelled the globe," Fiorina said. "Unlike Mrs Clinton, I know that flying is an activity, not an accomplishment."

Fiorina lambasted Clinton over foreign donations to her family foundation.

"Mrs Clinton, please name an accomplishment," Fiorina demanded. "And in the meantime, please explain why we should accept that the millions and millions of dollars that have flowed into the Clinton Global Initiative from foreign governments doesn't represent a conflict of interest."

Fiorina, who first emerged on the political scene as an adviser to Senator John McCain when he was the Republican nominee in 2008, showed a softer side too, talking of her battle with cancer and her stepdaughter's death.

She seems to have got under the skin of the Clinton camp, which has bristled at suggestions their candidate copied the title of her 2014 book Hard Choices from Fiorina's 2007 memoir Tough Choices.

Last week Clinton aides were forced to deny claims she had stolen the phrase "unlock their full potential" from Fiorina, whose organisation is the Unlocking Potential Project.

After Fiorina's speech the Democratic National committee sent out emails linking to articles criticising Fiorina's tenure at Hewlett-Packard.

"Carly Fiorina lacks Secretary Clinton's resumé when it comes to serving and empowering working families and middle-class Americans," wrote Adrienne Elrod, of Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton group. "Hillary's resumé is one of success and this

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is why Ms Fiorina attacks Hillary and her work to protect children and help every American reach their potential." The CPAC was an opportunity for the full range of potential 2016 Republican presidential candidates to set out their wares.

Jeb Bush, the early frontrunner, was credited with a deft performance in front of an audience containing many who viewed him as suspiciously moderate.

Senator Rand Paul, a libertarian running against the party establishment, was expected to win the CPAC straw poll for the third year in a row; an outcome, his opponents groused, that was down in large part to his favouring legalising marijuana for medical use — a reform backed by the young activists who dominate the gathering.

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From: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/23/2015 12:51:52 PM
Subject: Re: Daily Media Report 6.23.15

He has a request into us for an hour-long interview with hrc. Seriously.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 23, 2015, at 7:44 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

> That is the right question.
>
> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2015 7:42 PM
> **To:** Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
> **Subject:** Fwd: Daily Media Report 6.23.15
>
> Why is Jake Tapper such a dick?
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
> Date: Jun 23, 2015 3:45 PM
> Subject: Daily Media Report 6.23.15
> To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>, "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>, "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>, "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
> Cc:
>
> ## National:
>
> -- Report on how presidential candidates were talking about the Charleston church shooting; reported that HRC was having a discussion about race near Ferguson, Missouri; showed footage of HRC talking about race in Missouri today; reported that HRC addressed segregation in schools in America; panel with Michael Eric Dyson and Charles Ogletree; Dyson said what HRC was doing is "exceptionally good" because she was talking about structural realities; Ogletree said he appreciated that HRC would move beyond the issues and have a deep discussion about race; played footage of HRC talking about the Confederate flag. MSNBC's The Ed Show, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Michael Eric Dyson Charles Ogletree HRC race talk.mp4
>
> -- Discussion about the SC Confederate flag controversy; Eric Bolling said he had a problem with who was weighing in on the controversy; Bolling mentioned HRC said she was against the flag in 2007 when she ran for POTUS; Bolling said HRC was in the White House (sic) as First Lady when WJC signed a bill in Arkansas to create the top star on the Arkansas flag that was a hat tip to the Confederacy; Bolling asked where HRC was then. Fox News' The Five, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eric Bolling on WJC and the Confederate flag.mp4
>
> -- Discussion about how GOP contenders responded to the SC Confederate flag controversy; panel with SE Cupp and Bill Burton; Cupp mentioned that HRC has the added burden of explaining to voters why Democratic policies over the last seven years helped blacks while by almost every metric life for blacks has gotten worse. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and black voters.mp4
>
> -- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Nick Confessore; Alex Wagner read an excerpt from HRC's Missouri speech, "We can't hide from hard truths on race. We have to name them, own them, and change them;" Wagner reported that HRC has been speaking to young people, people of color; Wagner said it would seem that the Confederate flag would be a good issue for HRC to take up; Confessore said he didn't think the flag would last long as an issue for HRC's campaign, said HRC's platform on social problems would be what attracted young people and people of color to HRC's campaign; Wagner said the flag gives HRC a central locus to unite other issues she's been talking about behind. MSNBC's Now With Alex

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Wagner, 2015 06 23, Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Nick Confessore on HRC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Jess McIntosh; McIntosh said she was concerned we would turn our focus to symbols and less on the effects of the evil institution of slavery; McIntosh briefly noted that HRC talked in her speech about everything from income inequality faced by African Americans to the higher rates of asthma among African American kids. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jess McIntosh on HRC and racial inequality effects.mp4

--Report on HRC and Race Relations: HRC talking about race relations at a church near Ferguson, MO. Jake Tapper questions whether she is genuine in her interest in race or whether she is just trying to gain support for her bid at the presidential nomination. CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Jake Tapper on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Brooke Baldwin speaks about HRC giving a speech in Florissant, Missouri. Clips of HRC giving her opinion about the Confederate flag as a symbol of racism that existed in our country in Florissant, MO. South Carolina is agreeing to debate on removal of the Confederate flag and no longer issuing the Confederate flag emblem on license plates and other items. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin.2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brooke Baldwin on HRC speech.mp4

--Report on HRC's Poll Numbers: David Asman claims that HRC's poll numbers have not gone down despite her negative coverage. Asman claims that HRC may be in trouble with socialist, Bernie Sanders, pushing her more to the left. Fox's Fox After the Bell. 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC poll numbers.mp4

--Report on HRC and Her Presidential Run So Far Compared to Nixon: Abby Huntsman claims that HRC has focused on speaking to the public in her campaign, but she has not focused on speaking to the media. For this reason, a new WSJ OP-ED has compared HRC to President Richard Nixon. In the OP-ED, Nixon and HRC both see enemies everywhere and is not a good campaigner. According to Evan Thomas, Nixon was shy and awkward, but fear of his enemies drew him into the White House. Thomas claims that HRC tries to manipulate the press, and it will not work because it did not work for Nixon. Nixon and HRC share personality flaws. Evan Thomas claims that she will have small scandals that will constantly come back to her. Thomas claims that she is not the person she positions herself as, and that she has a husband who has committed a number of scandals himself. Ari Melbur claims that it is not proactive to compare anyone to Nixon, and that HRC has not done anything that is relatable to Nixon's impeachment or wrongdoings while in office. Melbur claims that HRC has not done anything that could compare her to Nixon in a negative light. Evan Thomas claims that Nixon plays on fears, and that it is important to look at what Nixon did versus what he said and then compare to HRC. Thomas claims that he integrated Southern public schools. Thomas claims that Nixon would have taken the Confederate flag down. Nixon was pro affirmative action. Evan Thomas claims that when he governed, he was similar to HRC. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC compared to Nixon.mp4

--Report on HRC's Faults in Her Last Run for Presidency: Howard Fineman claim that HRC followed in the footsteps of WJC. Now, she is running as the heir of BHO's coalition. Fineman claims that now she is especially going after race as an issue to keep BHO's supporters. Fineman claims that HRC must appeal to racial justice, cultural justice, and social justice. Abby Huntsman asks whether Bernie Sanders pushing HRC to the left will cause people to vote for Jeb Bush, who is more moderate. Fineman claims that HRC will be more hesitant on economic and trade issues during the general election. Fineman claims that HRC's strategy is to be appealing through social issues and hesitant on economic issues. MSNBC's The Cycle.2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Fineman on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC and the Dynasty Issue: Howard Fineman speaks about the dynasty issue. Fineman claims that the number one concern about politics is not dynasty politics but the money in politics. Fineman claims that the public is more worried about the huge floods of money coming into politics and corporations. Fineman claims that name recognition and name familiarity is generally a good starting point. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Dynasty.mp4

-- Report that HRC would speak in Missouri near the scene of the Michael Brown shooting; said HRC would participate in a community meeting; reported that an HFA statement said HRC's conversation would address the massacre in Charleston and broader issues around strengthening communities; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was leaning very far in on race; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time HRC addressed race in a week, said this would be the keystone speech; Seitz-Wald said HRC was trying to repair some damage from 2008; Tamron Hall said HRC may be trying to repair some damage from her delay in commenting on Ferguson. MSNBC's News Nation . 2015.06.23, HRC in Missouri and race.mp4

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- Report on NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Anne Gearan and Alex Seitz-Wald; Gearan said the numbers were very good news for HRC; Gearan said as much as HFA's strategy had been criticized that something is working; Andrea Mitchell also noted that the numbers would tell HFA that their strategy was working for HRC. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports . 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC poll.mp4

-- Report on HRC's speech on Tuesday at a church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was "leaning way in on race"; noted HRC was going to meet with local elected officials in a private meeting about an hour before her main event; noted two pastors would participate in HRC's main event, said that HFA officials told him that it was HRC's idea to do this; shifted into a report about the NBC/WSJ poll; ASW said HRC is talking about voting rights and criminal justice reform to get black voters to go to the polls. MSNBC's Live with Thomas Roberts , 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in MO.mp4

-- Report on the WSJ/NBC poll; angle is that HFA is trying to tamp down expectations as Bernie Sanders pulls in big crowds; Andrea Tantaros noted that Maria Cardona said she wouldn't be surprised if Sanders won Iowa or New Hampshire, said that was a sign HFA is trying to keep expectations low; Tantaros said HRC needed the base to think HRC didn't have the primary in the bag so they would show up for her; guest Taya Kyle said HRC was good at twisting the facts, said that HRC lacked morality; guest Charles Payne said HRC would be devastated if HRC lost Iowa or New Hampshire. Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and reporters lash out.mp4

-- Report on BHO's decision to allow families to pay ransoms in international hostage situations; guest Taya Kyle; Kyle said HRC saying that people die in America every day was in the face of what it was like for the family member of a hostage; Kyle said if Chelsea was in a hostage situation that she didn't think HRC would have the same take on it. Fox News' Outnumbered . 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and Benghazi.mp4

-- Report on HRC and Confederate flag; discussion about HRC's tweet that the Confederate flag should come down. Fox News' Outnumbered .2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC confederate flag tweet.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Eliana Johnson and Betsy Woodruff; Johnson said HRC was doing well in polls due to name recognition because Marco Rubio and Scott Walker are still unknowns to most Americans; Woodruff said the percentage of Democratic primary voters who could see themselves voting for HRC has gone up since March; Johnson said Democrats weren't excited about HRC. Fox News' Happening Now, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eliana Johnson w Betsy Woodruff on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Kasie Hunt; Hunt said Bernie Sanders is getting a lot of crowds in many places, said she was not convinced that anyone was convinced that Sanders would be nominated over HRC; Hunt said she thought the early states represented the biggest risks for HRC given their small size and unpredictable natures, said HRC was still the really strong frontrunner at this point. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Kasie Hunt on HRCs front-runner status.mp4

-- Report that candidates embraced the removal of the Confederate flag after hedging; panel with SE Cupp; Cupp mentioned that she hoped HRC got the same amount of questions as the Confederate flag as the GOP candidates given that WJC celebrated Confederate flag day as Governor of Arkansas and signed a bill that allowed one of the stars on the Arkansas flag to stand for the Confederate States. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report that HRC planned to speak at a Missouri church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said he expected HRC to address race and policing; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time in a week that HRC talked about race; Seitz-Wald said the black voting block was important for HRC in the primary and the general election "if she makes it there." MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Alex Seitz-Wald on HRCs race and policing stances.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with ; reported that the majority of Democrats wanted there to be a competitive primary; showed footage of Lincoln Chafee on "Your World" on Monday; Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry; Lowry said Sanders is nipping at HRC's heels in some of the early states; Hannah said people were curious about Sanders because no one knew who he was six months ago; Hannah noted that 92 percent of Democrats said they could support HRC; Lowry said HRC tacking left was a general election strategy to motivate her base; shifted into report about HRC's answer about The Clinton Foundation to WMUR on Sunday; Hannah said HRC has faced media scrutiny and the GOP candidates have taken HRC

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to task but HRC's favorability is still hire than her unfavorability. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on how politicians responded to SC governor's call for the Confederate flag's removal from the State Capitol; mentioned that HRC tweeted that Nikki Haley was right to call for the removal of the Confederate flag. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Report on HRCs tweet about SC Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on GOP grappling with Confederate flag issue; panel with Paul Begala and Tara Setmayer; Chris Cuomo mentioned that HFA pointed to HRC's comment on South Carolina's display of the Confederate flag in 2007; Cuomo asked Begala whether HRC had to answer for her time as FLOAR when WJC stood by the Arkansas flag; Begala said yes, said times change; Begala mentioned that Zell Miller with WJC's help tried to get the Confederate flag off the Georgia flag; Setmayer noted that WJC and HRC celebrated Confederate Flag Day in Arkansas; Setmayer said HRC have to explain her evolution like Republicans do; shifted into report on the NBC/WSJ poll; Setmayer said the polls were what she'd expect at this time because the election is so far away; Cuomo asked Begala whether Biden or Kerry would be a bigger threat to HRC; Begala dodged, said there would be a tough primary battle but HRC would win. CNN's New Day, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Paul Begala on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on HRC's comments about the Russian uranium deal; interviewed Laura Ingraham; Ingraham said HRC passed off good questions as partisan drumbeating; reported on Peter Schweizer's NY Post op-ed; reported that HRC said there were nine agencies involved in the decision; Ingraham asked rhetorically who in the BHO administration would not do what HRC asked them to do if she wanted something done; shifted to report on the NBC/WJC poll that showed 67 percent of voters were satisfied with a Bush-Clinton election; Ingraham said Democrats were happier with that pairing than Republicans. Fox News' Fox and Friends,2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Laura Ingraham on Peter Schweizer and HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report on BHO using the "N" word during a podcast interview; panel with Nia-Malika Henderson and Sara Murray; Henderson said the question was how other Democrats pick up the conversation of race; Henderson noted that HRC gave a major speech on Saturday about race, said HRC would have more conversations about race in Missouri; shifted into report about the NBC/WSJ poll; Murray said HRC was able to gain a lot of ground since the relaunch; Murray said the relaunch was optically very good for HRC; Murray said the poll shows the panic surrounding HRC may have been overblown; Chris Cuomo said Joe Biden was not in the race, said Biden's potential entry could give people on the Left pause for concern. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, NiaMalika Henderson Sara Murray on polls and race.mp4

-- Report that Bernie Sanders drew 5,500 people to his event in Denver; panel with Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov; Tarlov said people are interested in Sanders but will absolutely not vote for him; Halper said Sanders is the heart and soul of the Democratic Party; Halper said Sanders could win Iowa and New Hampshire; Tarlov questioned how Sanders could win Iowa when he was 40 points behind; Halper said Democrats rejected HRC last time around and could do it again this time; Halper brought up John Kerry, Al Gore, Elizabeth Warren, and Deval Patrick as people who may jump in if they weren't satisfied with HRC; Tarlov said the only person who could shake up the primaries would be Warren. Fox News' Fox & Friends, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov on HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report that HRC was expected to talk about race on Tuesday when she campaigned in Missouri; noted that HRC dominated the NBC/WSJ poll; Joe Scarborough said this poll was out-of-line from most of the polls over the last month or two; Scarborough said it would likely be an all-nighter if HRC and Bush face one another in the general election; Brzezinski said she thought there was a real disconnect between the conversation inside Washington and America on HRC; Brzezinski said Americans ("they") will just vote for HRC, "they go crazy"; Mike Barnicle noted that HRC is on her own clock. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Brzezinski said Americans go crazy for HRC.mp4

-- Report on HRC's answer from WMUR on Sunday about the 20% of uranium that was transferred to Vladimir Putin; Ed Henry (guest host) said Peter Schweizer thought HRC's comments about people wielding the partisan axe were about him; reported on Schweizer's op-ed in the NY Post; reported that nine of the investors who profited from the uranium deal donated to The Clinton Foundation; Henry said now that HRC's coming out with specifics that Schweizer's come back in this op-ed and refuted HRC's statements line-by-line. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Peter Schweizer oped about HRC Russia uranium deal.mp4

States:

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Nevada:

--Report on HRC on Confederate Flag: HRC tweets about Confederate flag. Several other 2016 presidential candidates also tweeted about this controversy. KTNV(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News*, Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag controversy.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and flag: HRC's campaign claims that HRC wanted the Confederate flag to be removed since 2007. WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s *Morning News at 7*, Charleston (SC). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag.mp4

--Report on HRC and racism: HRC will join with church members near Ferguson Missouri. She will address race and strengthening communities. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s *WOTC News at Daybreak 7A*, Savannah (GA). 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC race church.mp4

--Report on HRC support: Reporters claim that HRC is ahead of the Democratic candidates by a land slide. Reporters also claim that HRC has a lead in terms of her Republican counterparts as well. WMBF (NBC)'s WMBF News at 11, Myrtle Beach (SC).2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading Democrat and Republican.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC and flag controversy: HRC tweets about Confederate flag and Charleston, South Carolina, shooting. Reporters claim that HRC wants the flag removed, according to her campaign. KMEG(CBS)'s S*iouxland News at Sunrise*, Sioux (IA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag campaign.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Reporters claim that HRC will be making a campaign stop in Missouri, her first stop there since she became a Presidential Candidate. HRC will make statements about Michael Brown and race, according to reporters. KTVO(ABC)'s *KTVO News at 5*, Ottumwa (IA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in Missouri.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC polls: According to the NBC News/Wall Street Journal polls, HRC is in the lead on the Democratic side with 75%, 15% for Bernie Sanders, 4% for Jim Webb, and 2% for MOM. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New Englan*d, Boston (MA) .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading in polls.mp4

--Report on HRC in NH: HRC and her campaign have claimed that it is difficult for any candidate to get more than 50 percent of the vote in a New Hampshire state primary. WBIN's *NH1 News Tonight*, Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in NH.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Repot on Bernie Sanders and Flag Controversy: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders tweeted about the flag controversy in support of removing the flag. KTVN(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News*, Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders flag.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New England*, Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHO-DM(NBC)'s *Early Day*, Des Moines (IA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

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--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WMBF(NBC)'s WMBF *News at 11* , Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders as opposition: Bernie Sanders came in second in a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. HRC won with a massive percentage over Sanders. Reporters claim that Sanders will only be useful for some competition, but he will not win the Democratic nomination. MSNBC's *The Rundown with Jose Diaz Balart*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; HRC, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC in new poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders and HRC stances: Reporters claim that Sanders might pull HRC to the left, and this leftist stance may hurt her in the general election. Fox Business Network's *Varney & Company*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC and Sanders leftist.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and HRC: Reporters claim that Sanders is inching up on HRC in some of the early states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. CNN's *New Day* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC early states.mp4

--Report on new NBC/WSJ Poll: Bernie Sanders comes in second with 15% of primary voters claiming they would vote for him in the primaries. MSNBC's *Morning Joe* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders WSJ.mp4

--Report on Sanders likelihood of success: Reporters claim that sanders does not have that presidential persona to do well; however, despite these facts, he is doing well and drawing numbers of crowds. Reporters claim that because Sanders is doing well in Iowa and New Hampshire, he will do a decent job in the primaries. Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor* . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders' success.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Obama: Sanders claims that what President Obama has done is not enough, and that as president, more must be done in terms of economy and taxes. Fox Business Network's *Cavuto: Coast to Coast* . 2015.06.23, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Obama.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Trade Deal: Sanders claimed that he is differentiating himself from other candidates. Reporters showcase Sanders speaking out on the trade deal in the Senate. Al Jazeera America. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Trade.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and African American vote: Reporters claim that Sanders comes from a dominantly Caucasian state. Therefore, he may have difficulty getting this vote. HRC stands as the strongest for this group of voters. MSNBC's *Live with Thomas Roberts* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders as a Threat: David Asman claims that it is possible that Sanders could win New Hampshire. Ed Henry claims that there is anger on the left because HRC is seen as a centrist. Henry claims that HRC must declare herself on trade and taxes because Sanders is appealing largely to the left. Henry claims that this leftist approach might hurt her in the general elections. Fox Business Network's *After the Bell*. 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders on HRC.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders interview on The Ed Show: In an interview with Bernie Sanders, Sanders claims that he is grateful for the support that he has gotten from Elizabeth Warren's supporters. Sanders claims that today in Congress was a major defeat and a setback. Sanders claims that the trade agreement is the cause of major setbacks in our economy and for jobs for American people. MSNBC's *The Ed Show*. 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders intereview.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM and WSJ/NBC poll: MOM comes in at last place with 2% on NBC/WSJ poll. *CNN's New Day*. 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM poll.mp4

--Report on MOM and African American Vote: Reporters claim that MOM will not do well with the African

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American vote because he has “baggage” with African Americans after the Baltimore unrest. MSNBC’s *Live with Thomas Roberts* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on MOM and Flag Controversy: MOM tweeted saying that the Confederate flag should be removed from South Carolina.WTAT-CHS(FOX)’s *Morning News at 7,* Charleston (SC) . 2015.06.23., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM Flag Controversy.mp4

--Report on MOM and New Poll: 2 percent say that they would support MOM in the primaries. WHDH-BOS(NBC)’s *7 News Today in New England* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, Polls.mp4

--Report on MOM in New Hampshire: MOM will be in New Hampshire and speak to the Greater Dairy London Dairy Chamber of Commerce on July 8. WMUR-MAN(ABC)’s *News 9 Tonight* , Manchester (NH). 2015.06.23., MOM in NH.mp4

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From: "Iowa Daily Democrat" <editor@iowadailydemocrat.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 1/26/2016 1:05:50 AM
Subject: We first need to give diplomacy a chance

the IOWA DAILY DEMOCRAT
The Online Source for Progressive News

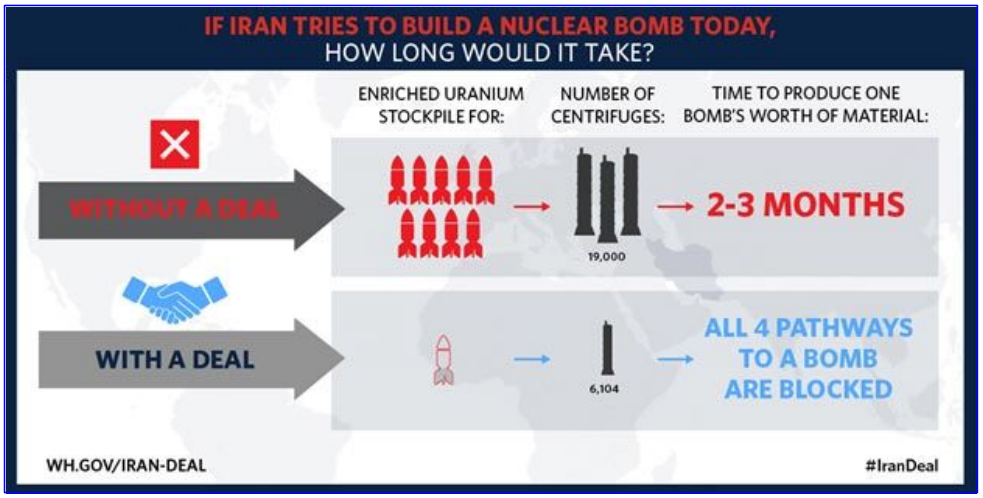

We first need to give diplomacy a chance

by Randy Evans

Editor's note: this is reprinted from the Bloomfield Democrat.

There are some events that get riveted in our memories and remain there decades later.

For me, the autumn of 1962 was one of those times. This 12-year-old kid was scared back then like he had never been scared before — or after.

During 13 days that October, the world watched with growing anxiety as the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, moved to the brink of nuclear war. The crisis began when U.S. military spy planes gathered photographic evidence that Soviet ballistic missiles were being installed in Cuba, just 90 miles from the United States.

CONTINUE

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The Revenant and our criminal justice system

I stand with Sanders

Iowans Must Caucus for Martin O'Malley

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To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
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Date: 1/27/2010 1:26:40 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Fact Check of McDonnell's Response

http://mediamattersaction.org/factcheck/201001270009

VA Gov. McDonnell: Brand New Face, Same Old Lies

> Newly inaugurated Governor Bob McDonnell was tapped by Republican Party leaders to deliver the official GOP response to President Obama's first State of the Union address. While McDonnell's face may be fresh, his speech repeated a slew of the same old, worn out, debunked Republican talking points.

Wrong On Economic Recovery

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> Today, the federal government is simply trying to do too much.
>
> Last year, we were told that massive new federal spending would create more jobs 'immediately' and hold unemployment below 8%.
>
> In the past year, over three million Americans have lost their jobs, yet the Democratic Congress continues deficit spending, adding to the bureaucracy, and increasing the national debt on our children and grandchildren. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

CBO: The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act Has Created Up To 1.6 Million American Jobs. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, "CBO now estimates that in the third quarter of calendar year 2009**,** ARRA's policies raised real GDP by between 1.2 percent and 3.2 percent, lowered the unemployment rate by between 0.3 and 0.9 percentage points, and **increased the number of people employed by between 600,000 and 1.6 million** compared with what those values would have been otherwise." [CBO, 11/30/09 ; emphasis added]

CBPP: Recovery Act Is Keeping 6 Million Americans Out Of Poverty. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Although meant chiefly to help the broad economy, the stimulus plan Congress enacted earlier this year (the American Recovery and Re-Investment Act of 2009, or ARRA) had the important secondary effect of significantly ameliorating the recession's impact on poverty. This analysis, which comes one day before the Census Bureau will release updated poverty figures (for 2008), examines seven of the recovery act's provisions - two improvements in unemployment insurance, three tax credits for working families, an increase in food stamps, and a one-time payment for retirees, veterans, and people with disabilities - and finds that they alone are preventing more than 6 million Americans from falling below the poverty line and are reducing the severity of poverty for 33 million more. Those 6 million people include more than 2 million children and over 500,000 seniors. This analysis includes state-specific estimates for California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Illinois." [CBPP, 9/9/09]

Wrong On The Budget Deficit

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> In the past year, over three million Americans have lost their jobs, yet the Democratic Congress continues deficit spending, adding to the bureaucracy, and increasing the national debt on our children and grandchildren.
>
> The amount of this debt is on pace to double in five years, and triple in ten. The federal debt is already over $100,000 per household. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

Note: The FY 2009 deficit was $1.4 trillion .

Before Obama Took Office, The FY 2009 Deficit Was Projected At $1.2 Trillion. According to the

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Washington Times: "President-elect Barack Obama vowed Wednesday to tackle Social Security and Medicare spending as this year's deficit was projected to reach $1.2 trillion and with Congress preparing to run that figure even higher with its economic recovery package. [...] **The Congressional Budget Office announced a projected fiscal 2009 deficit of $1.2 trillion even if Congress doesn't enact any new programs**." The paper added: "About the only person who was silent on the deficit projection was Mr. Bush, who took office facing a surplus but who saw spending balloon and the country notch the highest deficits on record." [*Washington Times*, 1/8/09 ; emphasis added]

National Debt More Than Doubled Under Republican President Bush

- **2001: The National Debt Was $5.7 Trillion When President Bush Assumed Office.** On January 19, 2001, the day before President Bush was sworn in as President, the national debt was $5,727,776,738,304.64. [U.S. Treasury Department, accessed 4/14/09]
- **2009: The National Debt Was $10.6 Trillion When President Bush Left Office.** On January 20, 2009, the day before President Bush was sworn in as President, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08. [U.S. Treasury Department, accessed 4/14/09]

Wrong On Republican "Cooperation"

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> We want results, not rhetoric. We want cooperation, not partisanship.
>
> There is much common ground. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

Republicans Have Shown Absolutely NO Interest In "Cooperation" Or "Results":

Michael Steele , 12/10/09: "The Democrats have accused us of trying to delay, stall, slow down, and stop this bill...They are right. We do want to delay, stall, slow down, and ultimately stop them from experimenting on our nation's health care."

Sen. Jim DeMint , 7/17/09: "If we're able to stop Obama on this, it will be his Waterloo, it will break him."

Sen. Chuck Grassley , 7/6/09: "'I take pride with being an obstructionist,' he said, if that means scuttling a public option that could lead to a single-payer system."

Sen. Chuck Grassley , 9/1/09: "The only way to get a bipartisan agreement is to defeat a Democratic proposal."

Rep. Steve King , 8/25/09: "I think it's time to really slow down or stop the negotiations with the Democrats."

Wrong About Americans' Views Toward Health Care

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> All Americans agree, we need a health care system that is affordable, accessible, and high quality.
>
> But most Americans do not want to turn over the best medical care system in the world to the federal government. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

Poll: Americans Support Current Bill, Want It Strengthened. CBS News released a telling poll on January 11, 2010. Regarding extending coverage to the uninsured, the poll showed that 57% of Americans support the current plan or want it stronger - only 32% believe it goes too far. On controlling health care costs, 60% support the plan or want it to go even further - only 24% think it goes too far. And concerning new regulations on health insurance companies, 61% support the plan or want it stronger - only 27% believe it goes too far.

Wrong On The Republican Health Care "Plan"

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> Republicans in Congress have offered legislation to reform healthcare, without shifting Medicaid costs to the states, without cutting Medicare, and without raising your taxes. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

GOP Plan Costs $61 Billion And Leaves 52 Million Americans Uninsured. The *Los Angeles Times*

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reported the CBO put the cost of the Republican bill at $61 billion over ten years, "[b]ut the CBO analysis also concluded that under the GOP plan, 52 million nonelderly Americans would have no insurance in 2019 -- even more than the 50 million in 2010." [*Los Angeles Times*, 11/5/09]

- **GOP Plan Only Offers Coverage To 3 Million More Americans Over Ten Years.** According to the CBO: "By 2019, CBO and JCT estimate, the number of nonelderly people without health insurance would be reduced by about 3 million relative to current law, leaving about 52 million nonelderly residents uninsured." [CBO.gov, 11/4/09]

- **GOP Plan Keeps Number Of Uninsured At Same Rate As Current System.** The CBO also noted: "The share of nonelderly resident with insurance coverage in 2019 would be about 83 percent, roughly in line with the current share. CBO and JCT estimate that enacting the amendment's insurance coverage provisions would increase deficits by $8 billion over the 2010-2019 period." [CBO.gov, 11/4/09]

GOP Bill Allows Insurance Companies To Deny Americans Coverage For Pre-Existing Conditions. In his write up of the Republican bill's CBO score, Jonathan Cohn wrote, "under the Republican bills, the CBO notes, there will be enormous variation in rates between the sick and the healthy. Remember, unlike the Democrats, the Republicans--in their determination to avoid passing new regulations--wouldn't prohibit charging people more because they have pre-existing conditions or would otherwise represent greater-than-average health risks." [*The New Republic*, 11/5/09]

GOP Bill Increases Premiums For Sick Americans. Jonathan Cohn of *The New Republic* wrote, "yes, the Republican health care bill will lower premiums overall. But many people in poor health will see their premiums go up. And many people will get lower premiums only because they're getting inferior coverage. Meanwhile, more than 50 million people will have no insurance whatsoever." [*The New Republic*, 11/5/09]

Wrong On Energy

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> But this Administration's policies are delaying offshore production, hindering nuclear energy expansion, and seeking to impose job-killing cap and trade energy taxes.
>
> Now is the time to adopt innovative energy policies that create jobs and lower energy prices. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

A Clean Energy Standard Would Save $95 Billion On Energy & Gas Bills. According to the Center for American Progress: "A national renewable electricity standard, a key piece of the clean energy legislation currently before Congress, would save households and businesses in every state billions of dollars in electricity and natural gas bills... The numbers come from the Union of Concerned Scientists, who earlier this year analyzed a renewable electricity standard that would aim to have 25 percent of our electricity come from renewable sources by 2025. They found that this standard would save families and businesses $95 billion in electricity and natural gas bills through 2030 and spur new investments and hundreds of thousands of new clean-energy jobs." [Center for American Progress, 5/19/09]

Clean Energy Legislation Would Boost GDP By Up To $111 Billion. According to the University of California-Berkeley: "Comprehensive clean energy and climate protection legislation, like the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) that was passed by the House of Representatives in June, would strengthen the U.S. economy by establishing pollution limits and incentives that together will drive large-scale investments in clean energy and energy efficiency...New analysis by the University of California shows conclusively that climate policy will strengthen the U.S. economy as a whole. Full adoption of the ACES package of pollution reduction and energy efficiency measures would ... boost GDP by $39 billion-$111 billion. These economic gains are over and above the growth the U.S. would see in the absence of such a bill." [UC Berkeley, accessed 1/22/10]

Investment In Clean Energy Technology Would Create Up To 1.9 Million American Jobs. According to the University of California-Berkeley, "new analysis by the University of California shows conclusively that climate policy will strengthen the U.S. economy as a whole. Full adoption of the ACES package of pollution reduction and energy efficiency measures would create between 918,000 and 1.9 million new jobs." [UC Berkeley, accessed 1/22/10]

- **Investment In Clean Energy Technology Creates FOUR TIMES As Many Jobs As An Investment In Oil & Gas.** According to the Center for American Progress, "spending $1 million on energy efficiency and renewable energy produces a much larger expansion of employment than spending the same amount on fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Among fossil fuels, job creation in coal is about 32 percent greater than that for oil and natural gas. The employment creation for energy efficiency-retrofitting and mass transit-is 2.5

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> times to four times larger than that for oil and natural gas. With renewable energy, the job creation ranges between 2.5 times to three times more than that for oil and gas." [Center for American Progress, *The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy*, 6/17/09]

Wrong On Homeland Security

Gov. Bob McDonnell:

> Americans were shocked on Christmas Day to learn of the attempted bombing of a flight to Detroit. This foreign terror suspect was given the same legal rights as a U.S. citizen, and immediately stopped providing critical intelligence. [McDonnell Prepared Remarks, 1/27/10]

Once Apprehended, The U.S. "Gleaned Usable Action Intelligence" From Abdulmutallab. As reported by *Reuters*:

> A Nigerian charged in the incident, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, spent months in Yemen and told investigators he had trained with al Qaeda militants who took refuge there to plot attacks against Americans.
>
> The White House says he is already providing useful information. **"Abdulmutallab spent a number of hours with FBI investigators in which we gleaned usable actionable intelligence," spokesman Robert Gibbs said on Tuesday.**
>
> [...]
>
> That could be valuable in light of reports that Abdulmutallab, who attempted to blow up a transatlantic airliner as it approached Detroit, told investigators after he was captured that more attackers like him were on the way.
>
> "**We are continuing to look at ways that we can extract that information from him," Obama's top counterterrorism adviser John Brennan said on Sunday.** "I think we have to assume that there are others out there." [*Reuters*, 1/6/10]

–Media Matters Action Network

--
Melinda Warner
301.514.8212
melindarwarner@gmail.com

--
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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 3/22/2015 4:23:34 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

Do we know which correspondent? Which producer?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Mar 23, 2015, at 12:12 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

> Unclear exactly what 60 is doing, but Craig has had an initial meeting with them to see if we can finesse this from starting off in such a ridiculous place as to have its premise be that book. Let's also remember that the last time 60 went hard on a book that tried to scandalize something related to us it was the Benghazi telling by the former British commando, and the outcome was Lara Logan's suspension and the publisher having to pull the book off the shelves.
>
> So the hope is that before we start having to push back on the story we have at least some hope of combatting the premise as ridiculous.
>
> And of course, having the book would help that.
>
> I'll keep everyone posted.

> On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:33 PM, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> Yes, the foundation team heard that 60 minutes was looking into it. That's one of the reasons we desperately want to get the book ahead of time.
>
> On Sun, Mar 22, 2015 at 6:27 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>> I heard the same. I think from nick or josh
>>
>> On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>>
>>> +nick and john
>>>
>>> I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
>>> Not sure how reliable info is.
>>>
>>> Jim Margolis
>>> Sent from my iPhone.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/12/2014 1:14:04 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday December 12, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday December 12, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

National Journal: "Clinton Supporters Don't Mind Waiting for a Campaign Kickoff"

"December 11, 2014 Hillary Clinton is keeping her closest supporters waiting for any sign of a presidential campaign announcement. But they don't mind it at all."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton: Why Wait to Announce 2016 Bid?"

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Bloomberg: "Welcome to the Democrats' Post-Obama Family Feud"

"It's turning out to be an awkward week for the Dean family. As former Vermont Governor Howard Dean announced Wednesday that he would back a Hillary Clinton presidential bid, the progressive group he founded declared that they were launching a major campaign to coax Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren into the race."

National Journal: "Elizabeth Warren: The GOP's New Favorite Foil"

"With congressional compromises collapsing all around them and facing a pending government shutdown, Republicans are testing a new message: Blame it all on Elizabeth Warren."

Boston Globe: "Mass. group hopes to give Clinton a headstart"

"Now, a new entrant from Massachusetts: Sign for Hillary. The online venture, which went live Thursday afternoon, has a very specific mission: giving Clinton a headstart on the laborious process of collecting signatures to get on the ballot in Democratic primaries all over the country."

Politico: "Backers: Romney more open to 2016 run"

"For most of the past year, Mitt Romney supporters have publicly said he should consider running again. And for most of the past year, Romney has seemed uninterested. Until recently."

Politico: "Ex-Obama aide makes Warren-2016 push"

"The onetime aide, Christopher Hass, has circulated the letter on an Obama alumni email group and said it will be released on Friday."

Articles:

National Journal: "Clinton Supporters Don't Mind Waiting for a Campaign Kickoff"

By Emily Schultheis

December 11, 2014

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[Subtitle:] Absence makes the heart grow fonder for the former secretary of State.

December 11, 2014 Hillary Clinton is keeping her closest supporters waiting for any sign of a presidential campaign announcement. But they don't mind it at all.

Clinton's decision to accept paid speeches as late as March of next year is sending the message to leading Democratic operatives that a possible campaign announcement may not come until next spring. And as Clinton delays the seemingly inevitable decision, she's receiving surprisingly little blowback from Democratic activists who usually are spoiling for intra-party competition.

Democratic operatives in both Iowa and New Hampshire say that Clinton's high national name ID, residual support, and organization from 2008 along with the efforts of the pro-Clinton group Ready for Hillary mean there's really no downside to the former secretary of State taking as much time as she needs before entering the 2016 race.

"Hillary Clinton is going to do what Hillary Clinton is going to do, and everyone is just going to react to it when that happens," said Norm Sterzenbach, an Iowa Democratic strategist. "She could get in at almost any time over the next six to seven months and would still be the front-runner.… I don't think it really changes much for her."

Earlier this week, Clinton accepted an invitation to speak to the New York and New Jersey chapter of the American Camp Association on March 19, which has led to speculation that any campaign announcement won't come until late March. She also has scheduled paid speeches for Jan. 21 in Canada and Feb. 24 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For Clinton's eventual campaign, the benefits of a later announcement are obvious: If she isn't a candidate, it's harder for people to treat her like one—and easier for her to not answer specific policy questions she'd rather avoid. Earlier this month, she gave the keynote address at the League of Conservation Voters dinner in New York without discussing whether she supports the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

The earlier she gets in, of course, the earlier her supporters can begin organizing in an official way—and nowhere is that more important than in the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary. These states are used to starting early, and many supporters are itching to start mobilizing for a Clinton campaign.

But in the meantime, the Ready for Hillary super PAC fills that void—and has been giving Clinton backers a place to go since 2013. Supporters of Clinton say the group has helped keep potential Clinton backers engaged and involved—and kept them from looking elsewhere in the time before Clinton's decision is announced.

"Ready for Hillary has helped give Secretary Clinton the luxury of time," said Jerry Crawford, a longtime Clinton supporter who advises Ready for Hillary. "It has kept some of the pressure off in terms of moving quickly into campaign mode."

The group sent more than two dozen staffers to key midterm states, including Iowa and New Hampshire, earlier this fall. It has had advisers and volunteers in key presidential states for more than a year, who have been holding house parties and organizational events to bring more people on board. As a result, the group has signed up "tens of thousands" of supporters in Iowa alone.

"I think people would be getting antsy now if there were no Ready for Hillary," said Terry Shumaker, another longtime Clinton backer who advises the group in New Hampshire. "[Even in 2013] there was this pent-up desire, in New Hampshire particularly, where the Clintons have many supporters, to do something to encourage her to run. Ready for Hillary has been able to channel that energy in a very positive way."

Should Clinton choose a later announcement, she'd be helped by the fact that presidential campaign activity in both parties seems to be holding off until at least early next year. With the exception of Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, who formed an exploratory committee last month, no 2016 hopeful has made formal moves to enter the race yet—and some even say it will be late spring or summer before they do anything official.

That said, the idea of a spring announcement from Clinton does scramble the typical calculus for candidates in these states, some operatives said. In Iowa, for example, prospective candidates usually start forming exploratory committees on the January before the caucuses, staffing up in the state and making trips out.

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At this point, several Democrats have made pilgrimages to Iowa and New Hampshire; however, the only Democrat who has logged regular trips to the early states and begun doing the legwork for a bid is Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. Still, the absence of additional intra-party competition—which Clinton faced in 2008 with the early entrance of Barack Obama into the race—gives Clinton more room to take her time.

Crawford said that exhaustion from a particularly tough midterm year in Iowa has many of its Democratic operatives and activists thankful this cycle's presidential prospects are taking things slow. Iowa, he said, has "just endured a grueling and depressing U.S. Senate race"—a reference to Democrat Bruce Braley's 9-point loss to GOP state Sen. Joni Ernst—and its political class is grateful for the time off before presidential season begins in earnest.

Activists and observers give varying timelines for when people will start to wonder whether Clinton not running after all—some say once April begins, while others named May 1. But most expect that the answer will come before then, especially if it's a "no."

"If somebody is waiting for an announcement from Mrs. Clinton, then that person is probably prepared to wait not only through December and January but also through February and March," said Kurt Meyer, who chairs Iowa's Mitchell County Democratic Party. "She need not declare for our sakes."

Jim Davis, a 2008 supporter of Clinton and longtime Democratic activist who's backing her again, said he's willing to wait.

"From my standpoint, until she makes it clear one way or another, I'm not going anywhere," he said.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton: Why Wait to Announce 2016 Bid?"

By Peter Nicholas

December 12, 2014, 6:16 a.m. EST

She is giving speeches at a dizzying clip. Popping up at the White House to chat with President Barack Obama. Schmoozing with Prince William and his wife, Kate, during the royal couple's recent trip to New York.

It all suggests a Hillary Clinton presidential bid is under way.

Only there's no candidate.

Mrs. Clinton hasn't announced she is running. And it's now looking as if she could wait until spring before she officially jumps into the 2016 presidential race. The last time she ran, she declared in January of 2007. Were she to stick to the same timetable, she'd tell us of her plans next month.

Why wait? After all, most people already seem convinced she's running, and Mrs. Clinton has done little to discourage the idea.

Let's look at both sides of the argument.

Three reasons it might be in her interest to delay an announcement:

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–Self-interest. Once she declares, she's on the hook to release a personal financial disclosure form. That will provide fresh fodder for critics who believe former President Bill Clinton and Mrs. Clinton have entered the ranks of the super-rich, propelled by six-figure speaking fees. There's a palpable strain of populism in the Democratic Party, personified by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.). A spotlight on the Clintons' personal wealth could stir up the left, stoking calls for a primary challenge from Ms. Warren.

–Money. Some Democrats have complained that donors won't commit to candidates not named Hillary Clinton while she's a potential candidate. She's effectively frozen the Democratic field. By keeping people guessing, Mrs. Clinton starves potential primary opponents of the campaign money they need to begin a credible presidential bid.

–Convenience. Mrs. Clinton is the runaway front-runner for the Democratic nomination. She has a campaign apparatus waiting. No other prospective candidate in either party comes to the race with such built-in advantages. Meantime, she can counter any Republican attacks by saying she's not even a candidate. And she can continue making money through paid speeches, such as one coming up in March to a summer camp conference in Atlantic City.

Three reasons to announce now:

–Party loyalty. Democrats are at a crossroads, following their disastrous showing in the midterm elections last month. The party is divided between Warren-style liberals and pragmatic centrists. Fissures have developed between Mr. Obama and Democratic congressional leaders. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said Thursday she was "enormously disappointed" the White House agreed to a $1.1 trillion spending bill that would roll back language in the Dodd-Frank law regulating financial institutions. Mrs. Clinton, once she enters the race, would be the party's instant standard-bearer and could help bridge divisions.

–Control. Many Democrats aren't waiting for Mrs. Clinton; they're starting her campaign with or without her. That's not necessarily in her interest. Last week, an enterprising super PAC in California went so far as to release a music video that has the feel of a Clinton campaign theme song. Was the video a ham-handed plea for the white male working class vote? Or an inspired attempt to broaden the appeal of a woman determined to break the ultimate glass ceiling? You be the judge.

In any case, the video went viral. If a Clinton campaign were up and running, there would be less attention paid to freelance efforts and more focus on the ideas coming from the actual candidate. Mrs. Clinton would be better positioned to control the messages coming out under her name.

–Reality. Is there really any doubt that Mrs. Clinton is dead-set on running? If not, why put off the inevitable? Why not get it over with and announce after the holidays? "I'm baaaack," Mrs. Clinton said in September at a Democratic fundraising event in Iowa, the state that hosts the first-in-the-nation nominating contest. She's back. So … get in.

Slate: "Down and Out"

By Jamelle Bouie

December 11, 2014, 3:03 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The Democratic Party's losses at the state level are almost unprecedented, and could cripple it for a long time to come.

The most immediate consequence of the Democrats' midterm disaster was losing control of the Senate and ceding Congress to the GOP. For the next two years, Democrats will have to deal with conservative legislation, right-wing hijinks, and—in all odds—a vacancy crisis, as Republicans freeze confirmations and refuse to fill spots in the executive branch and on the federal bench.

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That is bad for the Democratic Party. What's on the horizon is worse. As Amy Walter notes for the Cook Political Report, Democrats lost big at all levels of government, including the states. "Today," she writes, "about 55 percent of all state legislative seats in the country are held by Republicans. That's the largest share of GOP state legislators since the 1920s." What's more, "just 11 states have an all Democratic-controlled legislature," and Democrats hold single-party control in just seven states. By contrast, "Republicans have a legislative majority in 30 states, including the battleground states of Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina," and single-party control in most of the South.

This, Walter says, is a slow-moving disaster for congressional Democrats. She's right. Absent major gains in 2016, 2018, and 2020, Democrats will be shut out of the next round of redistricting. If, she writes, "Democrats can't get a seat at the redistricting table in 2020, they may find themselves locked out of a congressional majority for another 10 years." And even if they do get a seat at the table, argues Greg Sargent for the Washington Post, there's still the problem of population distribution; even in blue states, most Democratic voters are crammed in a handful of urban areas, which dilutes their strength in House elections. Sargent quotes David Wasserman (also of the Cook Political Report): "If Democrats were to get neutral maps drawn by God in all 50 states, they would still fall well short of winning back the House," says Wasserman. "What Democrats really need is a massive resettlement program."

With that said, there are more costs to Democratic weakness in the states than just House elections. States are where parties build talent and try new ideas. Here, the GOPis instructive. Its brightest stars are either governors (Scott Walker, John Kasich, and Chris Christie) or former state officeholders (Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and Joni Ernst). And Republican-controlled statehouses have been incubators for conservative ideas, from experiments in tax cutting (Bobby Jindal's Louisiana and Sam Brownback's Kansas) to full-fledged assaults on public-sector unions (Walker's Wisconsin and Christie's New Jersey). In all likelihood, the next Republican president will either come from the states, or will borrow his approach from the present generation of GOP governors. Likewise, if Democrats win the White House for a third term, they'll face opposition from Congress and empowered Republican majorities at the state level. Indeed, if not for statehouse Republicans, the Affordable Care Act would be a smoother project, with broader buy-in for exchanges and the Medicaid expansion.

Democrats might have strong national prospects in the form of Hillary Clinton, but they have little to look to in the states. Only a few places stand as incubators for progressive strategies and ideas, and nationwide, Democrats have close to nothing in the way of a bench for federal and statewide office. The liberal counterparts to Walker, Christie, Brownback, and Mike Pence—ideologically motivated governors with national profiles—don't exist. And as a result, liberals can't point to a forward-looking agenda that exists outside the bounds of the presidency.

Worse, without a strong presence in the states, liberals lack a base for institutional pressure. Outside of Congress, there are few party voices pushing President Obama to the left, or urging a more liberal approach to key policy matters. And while part of this is just the nature of the game—parties try to maintain unity when they control the White House—part of it has to do with the lack of strong liberal voices (and strong liberal agendas) throughout the country. If you have your doubts, you just have to look at the field of presidential candidates for the 2016 Democratic primary who aren't Clinton. At most—for viable, liberal alternatives outside of Congress—there's outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. The rest are either sitting senators or moderate governors, like New York's Andrew Cuomo.

Put simply, the two statewide Republican waves have put Democrats and liberals on the near-term defensive. The former will struggle to build a new bench for the post-Obama era, and the latter will fight to put effective pressure on a national party that—if it follows the lead of its likely nominee—isn't eager to embrace the unapologetic liberalism of its activist class. And the honest truth is that things could get worse. With a sudden economic downturn, Democrats could enter 2016 as serious underdogs, giving Republicans a real chance to elevate new talent and give their statewide strategies a spin on the national stage.

CNN: "Torture report splits 2016 Democrats"

By Dan Merica

December 11, 2014, 4:07 p.m. EST

The release of the CIA torture report on Tuesday, detailing brutal post-9/11 interrogation tactics, has led to an array of responses from potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidates.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, in an interview with The New York Times released Thursday, moved to the left of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when he called for a "special prosecutor" from the Justice Department to look into those who carried out the torture.

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"I think there needs to be some accountability so that this doesn't happen again," O'Malley said. "I don't believe the United States should torture. Period. Full stop."

All Democrats eying the presidency are against torture, but so far O'Malley is the only to advocate for a Justice Department investigation.

Clinton, during her time of the speaking circuit, has advocated for the release of the torture report but not a special prosecutor.

"I thought we needed more transparency," Clinton said at a June event, reflecting on her time as secretary of state. "I didn't want people to be criminally prosecuted, people who were doing what they were told to do, that there were legal opinions supporting what they were told to do, but I wanted transparency."

She added, "And that's what Dianne Feinstein is trying to provide with that 6,000-page report. And I think the American people deserve to see it."

A Clinton spokesman has not responded to emails asking for comment after the release of the report.

Independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders issued a statement on Tuesday after the torture report was released.

"The United States must not engage in torture," Sanders said. "If we do, in an increasingly brutal world, we lose our moral standing to condemn other nations or groups that engage in uncivilized behavior."

Sanders, however, did not comment on a special prosecutor and his spokesman was unable to provide a statement on Thursday from the senator.

In a conversation with reporters on Wednesday, Sanders did, however, say that if anyone lied to elected official on torture, "they should be fired immediately."

And former Sen. Jim Webb, the only Democrat who has announced an exploratory committee into the 2016 race, questioned why lawmakers didn't provide better oversight of the program.

"The policies that allowed or turned a blind eye to these acts are no longer in place. The question is whether the intelligence committees are properly conducting oversight functions today," he said in a statement.

Webb also sent a number of tweets about the torture report that seemed to cast doubt on why Congress was looking into the matter now.

"Where was the Intelligence Committee when the torture was going on," question Webb in one tweet.

"The question is not torture, but how far Congress has descended in its historical oversight role on key issues of foreign policy," he said in another.

Politico: “Bill Clinton: Let’s push for more info on CIA torture”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Katie Glueck

December 11, 2014, 9:06 p.m. EST

Former President Bill Clinton is backing the release of a report documenting the CIA's use of torture after the Sept. 11 attacks, saying the country should "keep pushing" to find out more about what happened.

In an interview Thursday with Fusion's Jorge Ramos, Clinton also rebutted critics' claims that the report's release by the Senate Intelligence Committee will spark reactions that could endanger Americans.

"What I hope will happen is that we will keep pushing on this, find out exactly what happened, give anybody who disagrees a chance to have their say, and then do what we should always do in cases like this — say what our policy is going to be on this and stick with it and have it consistent with international law," Clinton said. "I do not think we are in more danger because of this."

The Democratic former president added that the release of the report showed that "we believe, instead of putting these problems under the rug and hiding them, it's better to come out and say, 'OK, this is what happened, now let's talk about how we can fix it, how we can make it better.'"

Clinton also declined to fault former President George W. Bush, who was in office at the time the CIA was using the harsh tactics on terrorist suspects.

Clinton's wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — a likely Democratic presidential contender in 2016 — has yet to publicly weigh in on the report and its release. Hillary Clinton served in the Senate during Bush's presidency.

Bloomberg: "Welcome to the Democrats' Post-Obama Family Feud"

By Lisa Lerer

December 12, 2014, 5:45 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The Progressive movement is in search of a leader and a voice to pressure Hillary Clinton to embrace populist economic issues.

It's turning out to be an awkward week for the Dean family. As former Vermont Governor Howard Dean announced Wednesday that he would back a Hillary Clinton presidential bid, the progressive group he founded declared that they were launching a major campaign to coax Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren into the race.

"Some of the other candidates may not be happy about this but they'll thank us for it later," Jim Dean, executive director of Democracy for America, and Howard's brother, said of the effort to woo Warren. "Part of this is trying to wake the party up." His position couldn't be more different than his brother's, who praised Clinton as a "mature, seasoned, thoughtful leader" in an editorial published by Politico that morning.

As the Jims of the Democratic world are clamoring for an alternative to Clinton, the Howards are racing to line up behind her even though she hasn't decided whether to run. The two powerful women at the center of the discontent, however, are little more than indicators of a far broader family feud over the Democratic party's future heading into 2016. On one side of the debate are strategists and officials, including some aligned with Clinton, who believe their path to the White House in the post-Obama era rests with wooing centrist, working class voters. To progressive activists, union members, and other parts of the "professional left," as an Obama aide once called them, victory lies in running on an aggressive, populist economic message.

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"Some of the jockeying now is trying to strategically make sure Hillary understands that she can't be an economic moderate without generating pushback," said Andy Stern, the former head of the Service Employees International Union. "Progressives are anxious that her policies, not her heart, will be too generous toward Wall Street."

That debate will take center stage this weekend, when liberal activists gather in Washington for RootsCamp, an annual "unconference" that brings thousands of progressives to the Washington Convention Center. A major topic in the hallways will be the announcement by liberal groups this week of plans to spend more than a million dollars, including opening offices in the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire, trying to convince beloved economic populist Warren to challenge Clinton. Despite Warren's insistent refrain that she is not running for president, activists see a glimmer of hope. "She's been very consistent in her statements saying she is not running present tense," said Neil Sroka, a spokesman for Democracy for America. "Tense matters."

For now, though, progressives are a movement in search of a leader. With Clinton's take-over of the Democratic party near complete, there's no national figure willing to take up their cry. Other than Warren, former Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold, known for his principled stances against big money in politics, has a government job already—working for the State Department that Clinton used to run. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's political clout was weakened by the midterm loss of his lieutenant governor in the race to succeed him and the governor has pulled staff out of Iowa. Even Al Sharpton, who hammered Clinton for taking weeks to comments on the racially-charged riots in Ferguson, Missouri, put out a press release to brag about his birthday call from Clinton.

Of course, Clinton could decide not to run, Warren could change her mind, or any number of unpredictable events that tend to scramble presidential races could upend the Democratic field. But, so far, there's little sign that many Democrats are thirsting for a Clinton alternative. In Iowa, for instance, she is the top candidate for 53 percent of likely Democratic caucusgoers, according to a Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register poll. That's roughly five times bigger than Warren, who followed with 10 percent support as a first pick of party insiders. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, and independent, and former Virginia Senator Jim Webb, who've expressed interest in running, trailed behind at three and one percent, respectively. "If she chooses to run, and I hope she does, I think she will have no significant opposition," said Ted Strickland, the former Ohio Governor who now heads the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the advocacy arm of a liberal think tank. "I'm not saying there won't be a primary contest but I don't see any reasonable possibility that she could be denied the Democratic nomination."

Strickland, along with other Clinton-backers, sees commercial motives in the Draft Warren effort. "If someone has said they are not a candidate for president, period, is it respectful or disrespectful to use that person's name for their own purposes?" asked Des Moines lawyer Jerry Crawford, who co-chaired Clinton's 2008 campaign in Iowa and helps lead Ready for Hillary, a group laying the groundwork for a campaign, in the state. "If Secretary Clinton said she wasn't running, I wouldn't be out there disrespecting her by engaging in a draft movement."

Unlike the Tea Party, which remains a powerful force in the Republican party, the influence of progressive groups has waned during the Obama years. With the Senate soon to be in Republican control, progressives aspire to become their own power center that can force Democrats to stand strong on economic issues. By aligning themselves with Warren, who's an outspoken advocate of Wall Street regulation, groups like MoveOn not only grow membership lists and bank accounts, they also raise their profile. "Could there be some self-serving motives behind this? Of course," said Strickland. "If you're not engaged in some kind of specific effort, it's a little more difficult to keep support coming in."

While Warren is their billboard, the real target is likely Clinton. A history of pro-business economic policies and a roster of rich Wall Street donors make progressive and union activists anxious about the direction of her leadership and political loyalties. Though she has yet to announce a campaign, they're trying to send the message that their concerns should not be taken for granted. "I think the fact that people are encouraging a person who probably isn't going to run may just be a manifestation of wanting to make clear that Secretary Clinton is not going to walk in and assume there's a coronation," said Stern. "She's going to have to work it policy-wise, particularly on the economy"

That's no surprise, given that most Democrats have already turned their attention to Clinton. Operatives are jockeying for jobs. Donors are eager to open their wallets. And politicians are rushing to position themselves for a campaign that doesn't yet exist. Why should her progressive opposition be any different?

National Journal: "Elizabeth Warren: The GOP's New Favorite Foil"

By Sarah Mimms

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

December 11, 2014

With congressional compromises collapsing all around them and facing a pending government shutdown, Republicans are testing a new message: Blame it all on Elizabeth Warren.

In less than 24 hours this week, two bicameral deals over must-pass legislation appeared near collapse. Congress needs to extend federal funding if it wants to keep the government running, and it is also facing the expiration of a terrorism insurance program that lawmakers from both parties are set on extending. But both deals hit turmoil in their final hours, in part over planned additions to the legislative packages that would pull back parts of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street regulation law.

As stalemates loom, Republicans aren't putting blame for the impasse on Harry Reid, or on Nancy Pelosi, or even on President Obama. They're targeting Warren: One Republican aide griped anonymously to Politico that if the deals collapsed, it was because of Warren's influence over the rest of the party.

How much power the Massachusetts Democrat has over negotiations, however, is an open question. Staffers on both sides of the aisle involved in the discussions over the omnibus spending bill and Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) say Warren was not party to any of those talks. Instead, Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Chuck Schumer lead those negotiations, respectively. And given Warren's frantic reaction to the provisions when they became public this week, it appears she was just as shocked by last-minute changes to Dodd-Frank as everyone else.

Republicans say Warren is responsible nonetheless. "Being present in the room is not necessary to have your presence felt," Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer explained. "Every leading Democrat feels like Elizabeth Warren is looking over their shoulder to go further to the left."

The swiftness with which Republicans blamed Warren signals that they see her as both a threat and an easy target. And as Warren's star rises within the Democratic Party, it's a tactic that promises to see much more airtime.

Warren was recently named to Democratic leadership (she won't actually take her seat in soon-to-be Minority Leader Reid's office until January) and while she's repeatedly said whe won't run for president, she's often mentioned as a potential contender in the race—though not unless Hillary Clinton takes a pass. But she has no committee chairmanships and, for now, little real power in the Senate. Warren is the least-senior senior senator in Congress, having served for less than two years.

Republicans see Warren as a way to paint the Democratic Party as increasingly beholden to its liberal wing and removed from moderates. (Democrats take the same tact with Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, often referring to the Texan as "Speaker Cruz" to imply that his wishes hold sway in the House.)

Warren is hardly the only Dodd-Frank champion among congressional Democrats. And she's far from alone in opposing the changes pushed by Republicans this week. Liberal icons like Sen. Sherrod Brown and even Wall Street-aligned Democrats like Schumer oppose the Dodd-Frank reforms. "It's not unique to her," one senior Democratic aide said, adding that many Democrats see using the deals to reopen Dodd-Frank as a nonstarter. "I don't think her being outspoken on it has made other people outspoken."

But other members of the Democratic Conference in the Senate aren't seen as rising stars the way Warren is. Few are considered potential presidential candidates. And none serves as well in the role of liberal specter over the next two years as Warren will, particularly now that she is a member of leadership. "The more exposure she gets, the better for us," Spicer said. Warren could easily become a poster-woman for the Democratic Party over the next two years, he argued, serving the same purpose as Pelosi and Reid have in Republican advertising and strategy.

Of course, Warren isn't as well known as Pelosi or Reid—and certainly not Hillary Clinton—and the Republican focus on her will only serve to increase her national profile, as she contemplates moving up in the political sphere. But Republicans argue that Warren's popularity is limited to a specific constituency; sure, she could do well among Democrats, but she'd have a hard time appealing to the center. In highlighting her, Republicans are betting that the negatives will outweigh the positives.

"You're building them up, but in the process of building them up you're making them so unviable," Spicer said. "If you told me today that Hillary Clinton had announced that she isn't running [for president] and Elizabeth Warren is, I would be doing the biggest jig in my office."

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But the senior Democratic aide simply pointed to the 2014 elections, when Warren traveled the country on behalf of Democratic candidates, drawing huge crowds. "Look at how many people show up when she goes and campaigns, even in red states," the aide said. "She has the pulse of what people are anxious about ... that there's a system that is working against growing wages and better-paying jobs. And that's exactly why people are crying out for. And that's why she resonates in Massachusetts, that's why she gets invited to places like West Virginia, Kentucky. She has a message for all audiences. It's a universal message."

Republicans plan to use that very message against Warren. Republican pollster David Winston notes that in 2008, exit polls showed that Americans felt that government should do more by an 8-point margin. In the wake of the 2014 midterm elections, that number flipped significantly; Americans now prefer that government do less by a 13-point margin.

"[Warren's] whole focus is government being the solution. What she's saying and what the public is saying are two different things," Winston said.

Democrats disagree. In a speech last month at the National Press Club, Schumer mounted a strong defense of a pro-government Democratic Party, pointing to Gallup polling that has shown that about a third of Americans prefer a more active government, a third prefer less government intervention, and a third want something in the middle. Those numbers have hardly changed since 2010. Warren, who will work under Schumer when she joins the leadership team, is a key part of spreading that message.

Warren's promotion to leadership only reinforces the idea that she speaks for the party as a whole, Winston and Spicer said. And as she gains influence within the conference, they say, it only helps Republicans. "I understand why Harry Reid and Democrats put her in leadership, but I wouldn't be surprised if a year or more from now they regret that," Spicer said.

But Warren's influence isn't limited to just the Senate. Pelosi forwarded a copy of Warren's entire floor speech on her objections to the Dodd-Frank provision in the omnibus to reporters Wednesday. And the grassroots effort lead by MoveOn.Org, Ready for Warren, and other liberal groups to draft Warren to run for president is only raising her profile even higher.

Warren is hardly walking away from that position. She spoke at length on the Senate floor Wednesday, saying she would vote against the omnibus spending bill that will keep the government's doors open over the Dodd-Frank provision. She has worked tirelessly over the past few days to unite Democrats in the House and Senate around the issue, even holding a press conference with colleagues in the House urging Democrats in the lower chamber to pull their support from the bill until the Dodd-Frank language is removed.

And House Democrats did just that, forcing Republican leadership to pull the omnibus at the last minute and huddle with their members over how to pass the bill with just hours remaining before a scheduled government shutdown.

Warren wasn't alone in her opposition to the Dodd-Frank changes, but she was among the most vocal. For Republicans, that's good enough.

Boston Globe: "Mass. group hopes to give Clinton a headstart"

By David Scharfenberg

December 12, 2014

Hillary Rodham Clinton has not yet declared for president. But more than a few politicos are working to build the scaffolding for her campaign.

Ready for Hillary and Priorities USA Action, super PACs stacked with high-profile supporters, have grabbed headlines. But several other, smaller groups have sprouted, too.

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There's Faith Voters for Hillary. There's Hillarypac (and its mortal enemy, Stop Hillary PAC). Another committee, Stand for Hillary, recently deployed a singing cowboy in an online video.

Now, a new entrant from Massachusetts: Sign for Hillary.

The online venture, which went live Thursday afternoon, has a very specific mission: giving Clinton a headstart on the laborious process of collecting signatures to get on the ballot in Democratic primaries all over the country.

The signforhillary.com approach is pretty simple.

Step one: Get Clinton supporters to commit in advance to signing a petition in the 20 states that require or allow candidates to collect signatures (17 states require them, according to Sign for Hillary's count, while three others allow candidates to compile them in lieu of paying a filing fee to get on the ballot). Step two: If and when Clinton formally declares, send out the nomination papers to be signed and mailed back.

"I've never seen it done anywhere," said Harold Hubschman, a Sign for Hillary cofounder who owns a professional signature-collecting firm. "And I've been looking."

The states that require signatures (Massachusetts is not one of them) ask for relatively few. In Alabama, it's 500. In Virginia, it's 5,000.

But there are some tricky provisions. Several states, for instance, require a certain number of signatures from each of their congressional districts. And quite a few mainstream presidential candidates have failed to make a primary ballot for one reason or another.

In 2012, Republicans Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum, Rick Perry, and Jon Hunstman Jr. all failed to qualify in Virginia. Perry campaign officials testified in court that an employee of a firm the campaign hired to collect signatures came up short after falling into a diabetic coma.

Sign for Hillary organizers, who hope to collect 100,000 signatures, say they're sure Clinton's political machine would be up to the task. But they figure there's no harm in giving the nascent campaign a headstart. And they say the effort, if successful, will free up Clinton campaign volunteers to do other work.

Arline Isaacson, a veteran lobbyist and gay rights advocate involved with Sign for Hillary, adds that the project — which advisers plan to hand over to the Clinton campaign if she declares — will be collecting names and addresses that could be of value for fund-raising and other purposes.

"We're not just getting any Tom, Dick, and Harry to sign a petition, which is what you do in most states — you stand out there with a clipboard and you get anyone who's willing to come along and sign a paper," she said. "Everyone signing this is a genuine, bonafide, card-carrying Hillary supporter."

Hubschman said he and Sign for Hillary cofounder James E. Fleming, another veteran political operative, had long been kicking around the idea of a Web-driven effort to identify petition signers in advance. And the expected Clinton campaign, he said, seemed like the perfect place to start.

The former senator and secretary of state, he said, "is a force of nature right now in Democratic politics" and her potential candidacy provided a good opportunity "to go viral."

Richard Goldstein, legal counsel for Sign for Hillary, said there is nothing in the law to prevent Clinton from absorbing the group or designating it an official affiliated committee if she declares. But any donations individuals make to Sign for Hillary would count against the maximum they can give to Clinton herself.

Sign for Hillary officials are capping donations at $99, so as not to compete with a possible Clinton campaign.

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Hubschman said he hopes the Clinton campaign will let Sign for Hillary continue to run the operation if she declares. But he insisted he's not angling for any paid work with the campaign. He said he simply believes that Clinton would make a great president.

He and the singing cowboy.

Politico: "Backers: Romney more open to 2016 run"

By Ben White and Maggie Haberman

December 11, 2014, 6:25 p.m. EST

For most of the past year, Mitt Romney supporters have publicly said he should consider running again. And for most of the past year, Romney has seemed uninterested.

Until recently.

While some people close to Romney insist he hasn't moved from saying he has no plans to run, the 2012 Republican nominee has sounded at least open to the idea in recent conversations, according to more than a dozen people who've spoken with him in the last month.

In his private musings, Romney has sounded less than upbeat about most of the potential candidates in the 2016 Republican field, according to the people who've spoken with him, all of whom asked for anonymity in order to speak freely.

He has assessed various people's strengths and weaknesses dispassionately, wearing what one ally called his "consultant cap" to measure the field. He has said, among other things, that Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, would run into problems because of his business dealings, his work with the investment banks Lehman Brothers and Barclays, and his private equity investments.

"You saw what they did to me with Bain [Capital]," he has said, referring to the devastating attacks that his Republican rivals and President Obama's team launched against him for his time in private equity, according to three sources familiar with the line. "What do you think they'll do to [Bush] over Barclays?"

Romney did not respond to a request for comment left with his son's firm, Solemere Capital, where the former Massachusetts governor serves as an adviser. Spencer Zwick, finance chair of Romney's 2012 campaign chairman and now a senior executive at Solamere, declined to comment on any discussions Romney may have had with investors or anyone else about 2016.

"I'd very much like him to run and think he would make a great president and a lot of people who supported him in 2012 and even those who did not support him want him to run," Zwick said. "That doesn't mean he will run."

For most of the past year, even Republicans who admire Romney have believed the chatter about him possibly running for president has been mostly sparked by his former staffers or people involved with Solemere, seeing it as a boon for business.

Romney's new tone in discussions with people behind closed doors came as Bush has seemed to move closer toward a run. A number of donors and operatives who had assumed Bush would take a pass now believe he is likely to enter the race.

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People close to Romney stressed that he has deep respect for Bush.

“He thinks Gov. Bush was a good governor,” said one source close to Romney, who added that the former Massachusetts governor has still maintained he has no plans to run. However, the source added, there is a “growing chorus” of people who would like to see him do it again.

“There’s a core group of people around Mitt who think he should take another stab at it,” said the source. That has grown to include some former donors, who have told other candidates that they are waiting to see what Romney does. With a crowded GOP field expected to take shape, the stance also buys donors time to decide on a candidate.

Those people say Romney has felt vindicated by many of the events of the past two years, such as Russia’s incursion into Ukraine.

Most Republicans still doubt that Romney would subject himself to a third grueling national run. They believe he is basking in the praise of his supporters, after the sharp disappoint of his 2012 loss, for which he was vilified by some Republicans at the time. He was widely seen as running a feckless campaign, marked by overcaution and the questionable strategy of making his business record a centerpiece of his bid.

But top Wall Street executives who met with Romney on his recent trip to New York said they came away from the sit-downs – which mostly focused on Solemere, his son Tagg’s Solamere investment firm – more convinced the 2012 nominee was thinking about another run.

“I came away from the conversation with the distinct impression that he was running and that he did not think anyone in the field right now was particularly strong,” said one top executive who met with Romney and requested not to be identified while speaking about a private conversation.

“It sounded like he felt he could win, and that the country had turned in his direction and he looks at the field and does not see anyone who does not look very beatable,” said the executive.

This executive and another who met with Romney said they were struck by the former Massachusetts governor’s comments about Bush, who is also strongly considering a run. These executives said Romney indicated that he would not defer to Bush as the standard-bearer of the establishment wing of the Republican Party.

They also said Romney indicated that Bush would run into even more issues about his business dealings than Romney did over his private equity fortune in 2012. Bush’s latest investment funds, according to a Bloomberg Businessweek story published Thursday, include offshore tax havens and Chinese investors — an indication they would be an ongoing focus if the former Florida governor enters the race. (A Bush aide said in an email that “there are no offshore tax havens” and called the story’s conclusion “a huge and inappropriate leap.”)

As for Romney, he “tells people not to commit to a candidate that is not their first choice and that they aren’t excited about,” said the second executive, who was involved in the meetings. “He does not think much of the current field and does not think it is jelling. He still views himself as the leader of the establishment wing of the Republican Party. He does not feel he owes the Bushes anything and does not think Jeb is the de facto leader of the establishment GOP.”

Among the people Romney has spoken with recently is casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, according to three people familiar with the encounter. Adelson single-handedly kept Newt Gingrich alive against Romney in the 2012 GOP primary through a super PAC, before giving $30 million to a pro-Romney group after he clinched the nomination.

Another person close to Romney said that the former governor’s “body language” is different now and he is “certainly taking a harder look” at getting in the 2016 race. Still, one Romney supporter cautioned that people who want him to run sometimes hear what they want to hear in the former governor’s comments.

Nonetheless, several people have noticed a change in tone, which comes after Romney previously indicated to people that he would only get into the race under an extreme circumstance in which party leaders drafted him during an inconclusive primary process.

“In September he said to me that he’s run twice and now it’s other people’s turn,” said Bobbie Kilberg, a GOP fund-raiser in Virginia who is hoping

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Republicans can coalesce early around a single center-right establishment candidate.

People who believe Romney has shifted in his thinking said they are unclear about whether he would attempt to run regardless of the field, or whether he would wait to see how Bush and other candidates fare.

Another top Republican operative who is supportive of a Jeb Bush candidacy said that he did not believe Bush would have as much trouble with his financial dealings in a campaign as Romney did.

“Jeb’s wealth and investments are nothing on the scale of Romney’s. He is not building car elevators,” this person said, offering a hint of the bitterness that could ensue if both Romney and Bush run.

Indeed, Bush, for his part, has begun conducting opposition research on himself to identify any potential issues that could arise, a standard move for potential candidates but nonetheless one that indicates his level of seriousness about the process, two people familiar with his plans said.

He has also had discussions about how he would get out of his business ventures. Indeed, one Bush supporter said the former Florida governor would be far more proactive than Romney was in responding to attacks about his business record, which Romney made central to his run.

There will be “no fetal position” from Bush, said the source, a reference to Romney’s decision to wait until he had been defined by Democrats to start hitting back and defining himself.

Politico: “Ex-Obama aide makes Warren-2016 push”

By Maggie Haberman

December 11, 2014, 10:19 p.m. EST

A former campaign aide to President Barack Obama who is volunteering with a super PAC trying to draft Democrat Elizabeth Warren to run for president says he’s gathered “in the hundreds” of signatures from fellow Obama alumni to prod the Massachusetts senator into the race.

The onetime aide, Christopher Hass, has circulated the letter on an Obama alumni email group and said it will be released on Friday.

The letter comes after the progressive group MoveOn.org announced this week it is spending $1 million to try to draft Warren into the race and challenge likely candidate Hillary Clinton. Ready for Warren, the draft effort, has struggled to raise money after disavowed them publicly. The first-term senator has said repeatedly she will not run for president.

“Some of you may have already seen this passed around by other Obama folks over the past few days, but I wanted to make sure as many fellow OFA alumni as possible had a chance to see and take part,” Hass, who recently served as digital director for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn’s failed reelection bid, wrote on the email list. “Later this week, a public letter is going to be released with the names of former OFA staffers who are urging Elizabeth Warren to run for president.”

He added: “This is born out of a lot of things — not just affection for Warren (though there’s plenty of that) but also the desire for there to be a real, competitive primary in 2016 that will make our party, our eventual candidate, and our country stronger. I’ve seen the list of signers, and there’s a lot of great people on it. If you want to add your name, today is your last chance.”

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"We helped elect Barack Obama — now we're calling on Elizabeth Warren to run in 2016," Hass' letter states. "We know that the improbable is far from impossible."

The letter states that former Obama campaign staffers and Organizing for America aides are making the pro-Warren push.

"Rising income inequality is the challenge of our times, and we want someone who will stand up for working families and take on the Wall Street banks and special interests that took down our economy," the letter says.

Just after the burst of activity around Warren this week, former presidential hopeful Howard Dean wrote an op-ed in POLITICO explaining why he is supporting Clinton. The pro-Warren moves were made by a group he founded, Democracy for America. But Dean wrote that he expects Clinton to talk about income inequality and the middle class if she runs.

The various groups' efforts to lure Warren into the race, as improbable as their success may be, serve an additional purpose — boosting their own fundraising and email lists.

Some Obama allies have seen Warren as the person likeliest to run a campaign using his 2008 formula. But Obama had crossover appeal with Democratic voters that Warren does not, and he had made clear by this point in 2006 that he was seriously considering launching a campaign. By contrast, Warren signed a letter with other Democratic women senators urging Clinton to run.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 15 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton discusses closing gender data gaps with Michael Bloomberg (AP)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From:	"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To:	"Jen Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	3/21/2015 2:54:44 PM
Subject:	SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash
Attachments:	Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc

Definitely would be good to get a copy…

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From:	"Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com "Susan McCue" <susan@one.org> "Begala, Paul" <pbegala@hatcreekent.com> "Stan Greenberg" <sgreenberg@ggrr.com>
Date:	1/3/2008 4:13:17 AM
Subject:	Varoga energy 527

FYI--not sure where the AV groups are on this.

latimes.com Top of the Ticke

Here comes one more 527

Numerous political activists and consultants are quietly establishing campaign organizations these days with the goal of influencing the 2008 presidential campaign.

It's tough to tell which will actually develop and have any impact on the race. But The Times' Dan Morain, who monitors campaign finances, has come upon documents for voters to keep their eye on.

It's the American Alliance for Energy Independence.

Given the events in Washington this week, a practiced eye might assume that the United States' energy future is likely to be an issue in the 2008 general election campaign. Congress approved and the president signed one bill increasing gas mileage requirements for all vehicles, and a second measure to grant loan guarantees to power companies that might seek to build new nuclear power plants.

And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency blocked California's effort to curb greenhouse gases.

While energy has received passing attention in the presidential campaign, two Democratic politicos are convinced that given the stakes, the issue needs a tad more attention. Hence, they took out papers recently to create American Alliance, a 527, so named for the revenue code section that defines rules governing such independent political organizations.

Both organizers come by way of former Iowa Gov. **Tom Vilsack**, who had a short-lived presidential candidacy and sought to make energy a key issue before dropping out and endorsing Sen. **Hillary Clinton** .

Craig Varoga, the Alliance's president, was former campaign manager for Vilsack's brief presidential effort. **Joe Householder** was the governor's communications director in his 2002 reelection campaign. In 2003 and 2004, Householder became communications director for Clinton, and now works at Public Strategies, a Texas-based consulting firm.

Varoga hopes to attract donations, say $2 million, for ads and activities to generate attention for the concept of energy independence and to urge presidential candidates to get specific on the topic, a perennial issue for the past several presidential contests.

"If we wake up in November 2008," says Varoga, "and there was no serious discussion about energy independence, we'll be worse off."

--Andrew Malcolm

Dec 21, 2007 9:44:00 AM | Permalink | Comments (1) | TrackBack (0)

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From:	"Hillary for America Press" <press@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	press@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	6/27/2015 2:28:22 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.27.15
Attachments:	6.27.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

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Ben Jacobs (6/26/15, 6:28 AM) - O'Malley now mentions Ambassador Chris Stevens in discussing #Benghazi..... 10

Alex Seitz-Wald (6/26/15, 6:28 AM) - O'Malley invokes Benghazi, but quickly moves on. No mention of HRC..... 10

Martin O'Malley (6/26/15, 7:03 AM) - So grateful to the people of MD for leading the way on this important issue of human dignity and equality under the law. #MarriageEquaility..... 10

President Obama (6/26/15, 7:10 AM) - Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else. #LoveWins..... 10

Dan Merica (6/26/15, 7:26 AM) - Bernie Sanders on #SCOTUSMarriage: "Today the Supreme Court fulfilled the words engraved upon its building: 'Equal justice under law.'"..... 10

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Praising High Court, Hillary Clinton Assails G.O.P. Field // NYT // Nicholas Fandos – June 26, 2015

FAIRFAX, Va. — Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday night berated her Republican presidential rivals for protesting the Supreme Court's decision legalizing gay marriage and for resisting stricter gun laws after the mass shooting in Charleston.

Reflecting on what she called "an emotional roller-coaster of a day," Mrs. Clinton lauded the 5-4 decision recognizing gay marriage and renewed her calls for "common sense" gun control. But she saved her strongest words for criticizing the Republican contenders, who she said "seemed determined to lead us right back into the past" on those and other issues.

"Instead of trying to turn back the clock, they should be joining us in saying loudly and clearly saying no — no to discrimination, once and for all," Mrs. Clinton said. "I am asking them, please, don't make the rights, the hopes of any American into a political football for this 2016 campaign."

Following the court's decision Friday morning, several Republican presidential hopefuls, including Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, called for a constitutional amendment allowing states to define marriage as they wish.

Mrs. Clinton, who has repeatedly argued for "common sense" gun control measures since the shootings last week, also drew attention to a vote by the Republican-led House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday against an amendment that would have channeled increased funding to the Centers of Disease Control to study gun violence.

"How can you watch massacre after massacre and take that vote?" Mrs. Clinton said.

She proceeded to critique the Republicans systematically on a long list of issues, from the Affordable Care Act to climate change to women's reproductive health, and without using his name, again rebuked Donald J. Trump for referring to Mexican immigrants in his campaign announcement speech this week as rapists and criminals.

Mrs. Clinton opened her speech, though, by addressing the court's same-sex marriage ruling directly. She called it a triumph for love, equality and the country, and read aloud the concluding portion of the court's majority opinion, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy.

"Today's decision confirms we've been working toward equality as a nation, step by step, case by case, court by court, and that equality has been right there in the Constitution all along," Mrs. Clinton said. "There is something quite remarkable about that."

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Her remarks came before the Democratic Party of Virginia's annual Jefferson Jackson Dinner at George Mason University here. Before taking the stage, she spent the afternoon in Charleston, where she attended the funeral of Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, a state senator and the pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, who was killed there along with eight others in a mass shooting last week.

Mrs. Clinton's visit to Virginia was the first since declaring her candidacy in April. It is also one of her first campaign events outside the early primary states. She has close ties to Democrats in the state, but Virginia is expected to be hotly contested in 2016.

Hillary Clinton is already campaigning in Virginia, and this is why. **// WaPo // Rachel Weiner – June 26, 2015**

Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton will make her campaign debut in Virginia on Friday night, her first stop as a presidential candidate in a state that Republicans feel they must win if they are to recapture the White House.

Clinton will headline a Democratic rally at the Patriot Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, which has replaced the annual party dinner in Richmond. Democratic leaders are hoping enthusiasm for the former secretary of state will inspire activists to start mobilizing for this fall.

The visit is one of Clinton's first forays outside the early primary states, a sign of how critical Virginia is to both Democrats and Republicans in 2016. State legislative elections in November, with control of the state Senate at stake, will be an early sign of which party is better mobilized for 2016.

Virginia Democratic Party spokeswoman Morgan Finkelstein said the goal is for attendees to come away thinking that "the time to kick it into gear has come — it's not September, it's not next fall, it's now."

Clinton's task is to deliver that burst of enthusiasm. With the official launch of her campaign earlier this month, she has been shifting from small roundtables to larger rallies. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), her socialist-leaning Democratic rival, is competing with her on that front, drawing huge crowds in Iowa and elsewhere as he attacks Clinton from the left.

"She's reached Virginia early because Virginia is going to be probably one of the two or three most important states," said Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University.

"If she doesn't perform well, if she doesn't energize and kind of send a little bit of energy through the core of the Democratic Party in Virginia, it could just make things in Virginia more difficult for her to get going."

To repeat President Obama's success in the state in 2008 and 2012, Clinton will need to in particular turn out Virginia's Hispanic and African American voters in large numbers.

A spokesman for Clinton's campaign would not offer any details on her speech, beyond that she will be "sharing her vision for Virginians that will help them get ahead, and stay ahead."

Republicans see the state as equally critical. Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus is giving a news conference Friday afternoon outside the site of the Clinton event, joined by state party chairman and 2014

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U.S. Senate candidate Ed Gillespie.

“A quick stop in the state for a Democrat fundraiser won’t win back the trust of the voters still waiting for answers from Hillary Clinton,” RNC spokeswoman Ali Pardo said in a statement.

Gillespie and Priebus have been helping to rebuild a state party that is fractured and financially strained by ideological division. The GOP has been recruiting minority candidates in Virginia in an effort to expand its base.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), a close friend of Clinton’s who will introduce her Friday evening, has said repeatedly that the best way to help her win is to focus on the state’s economy.

But he has also made several recent moves that will appeal to the Democratic base. He engaged in the state primaries, helping unseat a conservative Democrat and propel his preferred candidates to victory. He is phasing out Confederate license plates in the state, launching a study of whether to bring back parole and easing the restoration of voting rights for ex-felons. In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act, he is pushing again for Medicaid expansion despite firm Republican opposition.

Thousands are expected to turn out for Clinton, but the shift from a relatively intimate dinner in a hotel ballroom to a giant event has vexed some party activists.

“People were disappointed,” said Harry Wiggins, chairman of the Prince William County Democratic Party, who is not attending the event. “I think a lot of people were surprised that it’s turning into essentially a pep rally.”

Finkelstein said the party was planning to hold a more traditional dinner later this year.

“People do not like change,” said Fairfax Democratic Party Chairwoman Sue Langley. But she said she was looking forward to the Clinton rally, especially because “we don’t have to dress up.”

LGBT Issues, Racism, Immigration: Hillary Clinton Pitches Herself As A “Fighter” For All Occasions // **Buzzfeed // Ruby Cramer – June 27, 2015**

FAIRFAX, Va. — On a Saturday night in April — hours before Hillary Clinton declared herself a candidate for president — advisers previewed her campaign message for the first time. The crux was this: She would be a “tenacious fighter.”

Later that week, she unveiled the pillars of her campaign — the “four fights.”

And at her first rally two months later — when she ascended an H-shaped stage on Roosevelt Island to explain, with a careful mixing of biography and position, her reasons for running — she cast herself repeatedly as a “fighter for all Americans.”

The characterization, reinforced in official memos and emails and reprinted frequently in the press, has acted increasingly as the discernible through-line in a campaign that has already sought to address a vast spread of policy issues: mass incarceration, immigration, small businesses, voting rights, the economy.

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At a Virginia Democratic Party dinner here on Friday night, the Clinton campaign turned to the same theme again to address the last nine days — a period that began with a mass shooting at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina, and ended with the Supreme Court's decision in favor of nationwide same-sex marriage.

Terry McAuliffe, the governor of Virginia and an old friend of the Clintons, introduced the candidate at George Mason University's Patriot Center. Clinton, he said, was "smart." She was "tough." She was "compassionate." Then he paused. "But most of all, why do I love Hillary Clinton?"

"Because Hillary Clinton is a tenacious fighter," McAuliffe told the crowd of 2,000 in the arena. "She's been beaten up, she's been knocked down, but every time she does, she gets right back up. She dusts herself off, and she gets right back in that arena again, folks."

While other political figures were reticent to discuss the racial motivations behind the shooting, McAuliffe said, Clinton "stepped forward and began a national conversation about race [and] gun violence." The week after nine died in Charleston, Clinton described the killings "an act of racist terrorism." And earlier on Friday, she attended the funeral of one of the victims, Rev. Clementa Pinckney.

"Now, I know it's tempting to dismiss a terrible tragedy like Charleston as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America bigotry is largely behind us," Clinton said on Friday night.

"But despite our best efforts, and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with racism is far from finished. And let's be honest, let's be honest, despite today's ruling, our struggle to end LGBT discrimination is also far from finished."

"That's because fear and hatred are far from finished. And so our march goes on."

In one, long line that closed her speech — and moved the arena into a standing ovation — Clinton pitched herself as the president to best wage that fight.

"I will go to bat for the successful, the striving, and the struggling; for the innovators and the inventors; for the factory workers and food servers who stand on their feet all day; for the nurses who work the night shift; for the truckers who drive for hours," she said, starting to lose her breath, "for the farmers who feed us; for the veterans who served our country; for the small business owners who took a risk; for the gay couple who loved each other; for the black child who still lives in the shadow of discrimination; and the Hispanic child who still lives in the shadow of deportation."

"Just as Terry said," Clinton told the crowd, winding down, "I'm on the side for everyone who's every been knocked down but refused to be knocked out."

"I will always stand my ground."

When she finished speaking, Clinton moved from the podium to shake hands below the stage, and the loudspeakers filled the hall with a song by pop singer Kris Allen that the campaign will no doubt play again and again and again.

They could knock you down and make you fall…

We'll get back up cause after all…

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We're born to be fighters.

Clinton camp weekend plans: Energize states besides Iowa and New Hampshire // CNN // Dan Merica – June 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign aides have long said they are focused on Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada - the four critical early nominating states. This weekend, the campaign turns its focus to the other 46 states.

Clinton campaign aides, volunteers and supporters will hold over 200 activities and events in the 46-non early nominating states this weekend, campaign officials told CNN on Friday.

Events will include phone banks, happy hours and house parties. Volunteers will canvas at a farmer's market in Oahu, Hawaii, march in a gay pride parade in San Francisco and make phone calls at a bingo hall in Durant, Oklahoma, among other events.

The 72-hour push -- called the "Weekend of Action" -- serves multiple practical and symbolic purposes for the campaign.

Symbolically, the simultaneous activities will also help aides rebut questions about the excitement around the Clinton campaign. Since the former first lady announced, political watches and critics have questioned whether Democrats are as excited for Clinton as they were for President Barack Obama in 2008.

It is unclear whether each event this weekend will be well attended and the proof of success in sparking excitement will be good turnout, but aides will likely use the 200-event push to show Clinton's broad support across the country.

Despite describing themselves as a small, scrappy operation, the Clinton campaign has grown quickly since the former secretary of state announced her presidential run in April. Shortly after announcing, the campaign dispatched at least one volunteer to each state and territory.

This 72-hour spree is meant to serve a similar purpose: It is a way for the campaign to flex its grassroots muscle, especially to other Democratic campaigns who don't currently have the operation to put together this kind of a show of force.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ben Jacobs (6/26/15, 6:27 AM) - Martin O'Malley: "there are real lessons to be learned from the tragedy in #Benghazi."

Ben Jacobs (6/26/15, 6:28 AM) - This speech is the first time any Democrat has mentioned #Benghazi in 2016

Ben Jacobs (6/26/15, 6:28 AM) - O'Malley now mentions Ambassador Chris Stevens in discussing #Benghazi

Alex Seitz-Wald (6/26/15, 6:28 AM) - O'Malley invokes Benghazi, but quickly moves on. No mention of HRC.

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Martin O'Malley (6/26/15, 7:03 AM) - So grateful to the people of MD for leading the way on this important issue of human dignity and equality under the law. #MarriageEquaility

President Obama (6/26/15, 7:10 AM) - Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else. #LoveWins

Dan Merica (6/26/15, 7:26 AM) - Bernie Sanders on #SCOTUSMarriage: "Today the Supreme Court fulfilled the words engraved upon its building: 'Equal justice under law.'"

Bill Clinton (6/26/15, 7:58 AM) - America's continuing journey toward a more perfect union just took another very important step. #SCOTUSMarriage

Caitlin Huey-Burns (6/26/15, 8:48 AM) - "Governor Bush does not believe amending the Constitution is the right course," per spokeswoman Kristy Campbell re scotus ruling.

Claude Brodesser (6/26/15, 8:57 AM) - .@GovChristie accuses Chief Justice Roberts of engaging in "mental gymnastics" to reach Obamacare opinion.

Maggie Haberman (6/26/15, 9:01 PM) - (AP) - Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood: Gay marriages cannot take place immediately in state

Edward-Isaac Dovere (6/26/15, 10:01 AM) - @HillaryClinton is sitting in the front row of the Pinckney funeral, her head swaying left and right as the gospel choir sings

David Chalian (6/26/15, 11:24 AM) - "Chris Christie for President, Inc" has invited donors to "presidential launch announcement & call day" on Tues.

Teddy Schleifer (6/26/15, 11:31 PM) - More Ted Cruz reaction: "The federal government has declared its intention to go after people who believe in traditional views of marriage."

Hugh Hewitt (6/26/15, 12:45 PM) - Also from @JebBush to me in interview which will open show: He is open to using Reid Rule to blow up filibuster to repeal Obamacare

Zeke Miller (6/26/15, 1:04 PM) - Jeb Bush: Hillary's private e-mail server is as bad as 'Snowden' and 'Manning' youtube.com/watch?v=OLbNx1 ...

Charlie Spiering (6/26/15, 1:14) - On Sean Hannity @TedCruz refers to "the darkest 24 hours in our nation's history"

Jennifer Epstein (6/26/15, 1:11 PM) - Sanders campaign says 208,337 people have signed a petition asking @TheDemocrats to start presidential debates sooner & have more of them.

Jennifer Epstein (6/26/15, 2:41 PM) - Virginia Democrats say they've sold more than 2000 tickets (&counting) for tonight's event with Hillary Clinton, bringing in $1 million

Philip Rucker (6/26/15, 8:01 PM) - Hillary Clinton upped her game tonight. Most fiery, partisan, passionate speech of her campaign. Can she take VA JJ juice to Iowa and NH?

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HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Visits Virginia, a Bellwether State in 2016 Race // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 26, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton will make the first stop of her presidential campaign in Virginia on Friday to headline the local Democratic Party's Jefferson Jackson dinner.

Her remarks will come against the backdrop of major Supreme Court decisions. She celebrated on Thursday the court's ruling to affirm a key part of President Obama's Affordable Care Act, writing on Twitter: "Yes! SCOTUS affirms what we know is true in our hearts and under the law: Health insurance should be affordable & available to all."

And she has implored the justices to rule that states cannot ban same-sex marriage.

Mrs. Clinton will likely address both cases in the Virginia address, but the state, with its large black population, will also present her the opportunity to continue her remarks on race and what she calls "common sense gun control" in the aftermath of the attack at a black church in Charleston, S.C.

Virginia represents a trend indicator of sorts in the 2016 race. For the Clinton campaign, the goal will be to appeal to a broad cross-section of black and white voters.

Senator Barack Obama won the state in 2008, the first time a Democratic presidential nominee captured Virginia since President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. President Obama also defeated Mitt Romney in Virginia in 2012.

Mrs. Clinton has deep ties to Virginia. A longtime ally and fund-raiser for Bill and Hillary Clinton, Terry McAuliffe, was elected governor in 2013.

Mr. McAuliffe's campaign manager in that close election, Robby Mook, now runs Mrs. Clinton's campaign and is introducing a similar data-driven grass-roots strategy. He brought with him an army of young operatives (the so-called Mook Mafia), many of whom helped Mr. McAuliffe defeat his conservative Republican opponent, Ken Cuccinelli.

Clinton Volunteers On Hunt For Brooklyn Apartments // NYT // Amy Chozick and Maggie Haberman – June 26, 2015

When Jesse Lehrich heard he might have a chance to work on Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign, he did what most young staffers did. He moved to New York as an unpaid volunteer until Mrs. Clinton officially announced her candidacy and opened her headquarters in Downtown Brooklyn.

First, he stayed with his brother in a one-bedroom in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, until his eight boxes of clothes in the living room started to become annoying.

"He said: 'I hope this isn't a long-term solution, but I won't let you sleep on the street,' " Mr. Lehrich, who turns 26 this weekend, said of his older brother.

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Eventually, he found a room in an East Village apartment just above the glowing red silhouette of a rooster that marks the famed gay bar the Cock.

Mr. Lehrich has three roommates and his room does not have windows, but at $1,700 a month (partly paid for with his saved-up bar mitzvah money), the price was right. “All I’ll be doing is working and sleeping,” he said, “so who needs windows?”

For decades, idealistic twenty-somethings have shunned higher-paying and more permanent jobs for the altruism and adrenaline rush of working to get a candidate to the White House. But the staffers who have signed up for the Clinton campaign face a daunting obstacle: the New York City real estate market.

In Iowa and New Hampshire, “supporter housing,” the practice of locals hosting the army of young volunteers who descend on the state each election cycle, is a time-honored tradition. Every political organizer has tales of talking about the days of F.D.R. with an old lady in Waterloo or sharing a bunk bed with the son of a union organizer in Manchester. But in New York, the situation is not so straightforward. Few New Yorkers have the extra space of, say, a farmhouse in Iowa. The wealthy donors who contribute to Mrs. Clinton’s campaign have proved more comfortable cutting a check than opening their TriBeCa lofts and Upper East Side townhouses to strangers. And Mrs. Clinton’s campaign prides itself on living on the cheap and keeping salaries low, which is good for its own bottom line, but difficult for those who need to pay New York City rents.

The lack of affordable housing has put an added burden on the Clinton campaign to play a Craigslist-like role in finding staffers a place to sleep, whether it’s pairing them with roommates or pleading with supporters for a spare room.

Jasmin Harris, a 22-year-old Clinton campaign worker, had been matched with a middle-age couple who agreed to host her in their Brooklyn Heights apartment. They even did her laundry. But after six weeks, they had out-of-town family coming to visit and needed the spare room back, and Ms. Harris was waiting on a recent afternoon for the campaign to pair her with another supporter. “I don’t know exactly where I’m going, but I’ll be somewhere else tonight,” she said. “I have my bags packed and am waiting for an email.”

A recent email from the campaign pleaded with donors to provide staffers with “a spare room — or just a spare couch!” because “you and I both know that finding a place to live in New York can take longer than an afternoon of apartment hunting.”

Marc Lasry, a hedge fund manager, a major Democratic donor and a friend of the Clintons, let the campaign’s communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, stay in his family’s Manhattan home, a penthouse on Central Park West, for a handful of nights early on. The city, he said, “is expensive, particularly for young people. We have five children, so we are used to having a lot of people around, and we’re happy to put up folks from the campaign.”

Mr. Lasry is not the norm. When the campaign’s finance director, Dennis Cheng, reached out to New York donors, some of them seemed concerned with the prospective maze of campaign finance laws and with how providing upscale housing in New York City might be interpreted. Several of the hedge fund managers and finance titans who support Mrs. Clinton hosted would-be aides before the campaign’s start in April, but ended the practice once a formal campaign existed. (A campaign finance lawyer, Kenneth A. Gross of Skadden, Arps, said, however, that hosting campaign workers would not be considered an in-kind donation.)

Scott Murphy, a former congressman representing the area outside Albany, hosted Josh Schwerin, 29, a press aide on the campaign who previously worked for Mr. Murphy, in his Upper West Side co-op before the campaign started.

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Mr. Schwerin got what used to serve as a maid's room. "You could touch both walls if you were on the air mattress, and the bathroom was through the kitchen, so he didn't have a lot of privacy," Mr. Murphy said. "But," he added, "it was in line with what he paid for it." (Which was, of course, nothing.) Mr. Schwerin later found an apartment near Fort Greene Park, a 12-minute walk to the office.

Many of the campaign workers who moved to Brooklyn from across the country were unfamiliar with the borough and thought it would offer cheaper prices than "the city" (read: Manhattan). But in the past year, average rents in Brooklyn have risen by 4.3 percent, nearly twice the increase of those in Manhattan, to $3,252 a month. Rents in Brooklyn Heights, a neighborhood adjacent to campaign headquarters, are the highest in the borough, according to Jonathan J. Miller, the president of the appraisal firm Miller Samuel.

The campaign has worked with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce for guidance on where staffers could find housing. The chamber suggested Clinton Hill, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bensonhurst and Dyker Heights, but has not made much progress in convincing staffers to consider these less gentrified neighborhoods, said Carlo A. Scissura, the president and chief executive of the chamber.

"These folks are coming from all parts of the country to work for Hillary, and the broker says, 'I want 15 percent of annual rent,' and they're like 'What are you talking about?' " said David J. Maundrell III, the founder of aptsandlofts.com , a real estate brokerage specializing in Brooklyn.

Some have had luck at a rental building on the edge of Downtown Brooklyn, Avalon Fort Greene, where at least six Clinton aides have taken up residence, prompting some campaign staffers to affectionately call it "the dorm," a reference to their small quarters and proximity to one another.

Adrienne Elrod, 39, a campaign spokeswoman, is originally from Arkansas but moved to Brooklyn from Washington with her corgi-terrier mix, Bernie (not named after Mrs. Clinton's primary opponent Senator Bernie Sanders). If she stretches her arms far enough in her tidy studio in "the dorm," she can almost touch the foot of her bed and her kitchen countertop at the same time.

An exercise aficionado, Ms. Elrod has a bike resting against a patch of bare wall. Her refrigerator is adorned with a few stickers, including the "H" logo with an arrow that symbolizes Hillary for America.

"It's a 10-minute walk from the office," Ms. Elrod said. "It's easy to come home in the middle of the day to walk the dog."

Marlon Marshall, 35, a veteran organizer who is now the director of state campaigns and political engagement for the Clinton campaign, crashed in the spring with the pollster Joel Benenson in his Upper East Side co-op.

Mr. Benenson recalled sleeping on a friend's couch in New York City during Mario Cuomo's campaign for governor in 1994, when his family was living in Albany. And in 2008, during the Obama campaign, when Mr. Benenson still lived in New Jersey, he and his wife, Lisa, played host to four young organizers.

"We refer to them as our Obama kids," he said. So when he was asked to house campaign staffers this time, he didn't hesitate. "We hardly ever saw Marlon," he said of Mr. Marshall, who primarily used the place to sleep for a few hours before going back to work.

Mr. Marshall, who had never lived in New York before, ended up renting a friend's two-bedroom apartment in a Fort Greene co-op, an eight-minute walk from the campaign's headquarters.

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He now hosts a rotating cast of staffers in his spare bedroom and in his free time explores the borough. “I have been to the Smorgasburg, and it is the greatest thing in my life,” Mr. Marshall said of the borough’s popular weekly food festival.

Cheering Marriage Decision, Hillary Clinton Heads to Provincetown // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 26, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton transformed her H-and-an-arrow campaign logo into a gay-rights rainbow on Friday to mark the Supreme Court’s same-sex marriage ruling. She issued a statement calling the court’s decision “an affirmation of the commitment of couples across the country who love one another.” Her campaign sells a variety of branded “Hillary” items timed to June’s Gay Pride Month.

But on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton will make perhaps her most gay-friendly move: She will visit Provincetown, Mass.

The seaside enclave — in the state that was first to legalize same-sex marriage — has long been a Shangri-La for gay men and lesbians who enjoy raucous, romantic or just relaxing weekends in the scenic city at the northern tip of Cape Cod.

In 2012, the Census reported that Provincetown had 163.1 same-sex couples per 1,000 people, the most of any city in the country.

As much as it may call to mind drag-queen pool parties or kitschy rainbow-festooned nightclubs, Provincetown has served a far more serious purpose: Historically, it was one of the few resort locales where gay men and lesbians could openly enjoy a vacation without the threat of discrimination or worse.

Mrs. Clinton, who maintains strong support among gay people, and whose campaign recently released a video showing same-sex couples before and during their weddings, will attend a fund-raiser in Provincetown hosted by Bryan Rafanelli, an event planner, and Alix Ritchie, a prominent gay-rights activist. The event is part of a string of fund-raisers Mrs. Clinton has arranged in and around Boston in early July.

It was planned weeks ago — but just became extremely well timed.

Hillary Clinton’s Long Road to Supporting Gay Marriage // WSJ // Peter Nicholas – June 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton applauded the Supreme Court ruling that legalizes gay marriage nationwide, putting out a statement Friday praising the gay rights activists who “sacrificed so much for this victory.”

Yet it wasn’t so long ago that these same activists might have seen Mrs. Clinton as an adversary on the issue.

For most of her career in politics Mrs. Clinton supported many gay-rights stances but opposed same-sex marriage, favoring arrangements like civil unions that fell short of marriage. Not until 2013 did she take the position that gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry.

Her evolution has largely tracked public opinion. As the country has gotten more comfortable with same sex marriage, Mrs. Clinton’s opposition has softened.

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Facing re-election in 1996, her husband Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which described marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

That was Mrs. Clinton's position on the matter, too.

Running for a U.S. senate seat in New York, Mrs. Clinton in 2000 said: "Marriage has got historic, religious and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time, and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman."

Whatever her position on gay marriage, she maintained strong political ties to members of the gay community. In that same Senate race, she collected $125,000 from a fundraising event organized by a gay activist in New York, The Wall Street Journal reported at the time.

As a sitting senator in 2004, she spoke on the Senate floor against a proposed constitutional amendment barring same sex marriage. Yet she maintained that "marriage is not just a bond, but a sacred bond between a man and a woman."

A wrinkle emerged in 2006 when, according to press reports, she told a group of gay elected officials that if New York state officials were to legalize gay marriage, she would not oppose such a move.

"Obviously my friends and people who spoke to me — we've had many long conversations and I think ... that the way that I have spoken and I have advocated has certainly evolved and I am happy to be educated and to learn as much as I can," she said.

She maintained her opposition to same sex marriage as a candidate for president in 2008 – as did the ultimate winner, Barack Obama.

A secretary of state doesn't normally wade into politically-fraught domestic debates. So, as Mr. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden announced their support for same sex marriage in 2012, Mrs. Clinton didn't choose to weigh in. In March 2013, though — two after she stepped down as secretary of state — she proclaimed her support for same sex marriage.

"I support it personally and as a matter of policy and law," she said.

Evaluating whether she has flip-flopped, PolitiFact, an independent fact-checker, wrote last week that when it comes to gay marriage, "we give Clinton a Full Flop."

Undisclosed Clinton Emails Seen Prompting Broader Congressional Inquiry // WSJ // Bryon Tau – June 26, 2015

WASHINGTON—Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's failure to turn over at least 15 work-related emails to the State Department is expected to prompt a broader congressional inquiry into her email practices while she served in the Obama administration.

The State Department revealed this week that a small number of emails were missing in part or in whole from their archive of more than 55,000 pages of work-related emails that Mrs. Clinton gave to the department last year.

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Those emails were obtained by the House Select Committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi attacks from Sidney Blumenthal, a close confident and former aid of Mrs. Clinton's.

Republican lawmakers involved in the investigation said the revelations raised new and troubling questions about the Democratic presidential candidate's compliance with the law.

"It looks like the State Department didn't give us everything that Blumenthal did, and Hillary Clinton didn't give everything to the State Department," said Rep. Jim Jordan, an Ohio Republican on the panel investigating the matter.

As Secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton exclusively used her own email account run off a personal server for all her work-related correspondence in an arrangement that was legal though discouraged during her time in government. The arrangement has prompted questions about whether Mrs. Clinton has complied with records laws that require preservation of federal records.

The emails' absence in State Department records contradicts Mrs. Clinton's public claims that she turned over all relevant federal records before deleting her entire email server. In a March news conference, Mrs. Clinton assured reporters that her attorneys did a thorough search before turning over all work-related correspondence as required by federal record-keeping laws.

The revelations also intensified calls for Mrs. Clinton to turn over her personal email server to a neutral third party—a call that Republicans on the Benghazi committee have been making for months.

"We not only want to see it—but the American people deserve to have those official documents that were contained on her private server," said Rep. Mike Pompeo about the email server.

The State Department acknowledged Friday that the 15 missing emails appeared to be work-related and not personal—and therefore should have been given by Mrs. Clinton to the department.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said he couldn't account for why they weren't produced by Mrs. Clinton initially and that he wasn't certain that the department was in possession of her full set of emails.

"Unless you have another inventory to check it against, like in this case we had Mr. Blumenthal's emails—it's hard to know," he said.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton said that "she has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

Mr. Pompeo, a Republican member of the panel, said he was "doing everything that we have the power to do" to get answers from Mrs. Clinton.

Mr. Kirby said that the department wouldn't itself investigate whether it was in possession of all of Mrs. Clinton's emails. The department's independent inspector general is conducting a general review of information management, but a spokesman for the IG didn't say whether Mrs. Clinton's emails would be part of the scope of the investigation.

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Democrats have accused the Benghazi panel of straying from its original mission of investigating the 2012 terrorist attack. “This Benghazi select committee has become the committee to investigate Hillary Clinton. Period,” Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, said last week.

House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) has said he is open to the possibility of subpoenaing the server. A spokesman declined to comment. Benghazi committee chairman Trey Gowdy (R., S.C.) said he was “considering carefully” his committee’s next steps.

Richard Painter, a White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said that running one’s own personal server email server instead of using government email means “you’re stuck with the consequences.”

“When you have hundreds of thousands of emails and you start using your personal emails, stuff could get lost,” he said.

From opposition to embrace: Obama's and Clinton's public evolution on same-sex marriage // AP // Jim Kuhnhenn and Lisa Lerer – June 27, 2015

WASHINGTON — When President Barack Obama praised the Supreme Court's watershed same-sex marriage ruling, he held it up as evidence that a "shift in hearts and minds is possible."

Obama may well have been describing his own public trajectory on gay unions — a complicated path that took him through opposition and ambivalence to enthusiastic embrace.

His journey is not unlike the rest of America. But over the years he has worn his uncertainty on his sleeve, publicly musing about his stance before becoming a full-throated advocate for marriage and other aspects of gay rights.

"When all Americans are treated as equal, we are all more free," Obama declared Friday.

As far as political figures go, Obama's road to "yes" is hardly unique.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign jumped on the Supreme Court decision, changing its red campaign logo to a rainbow colored H, releasing a gauzy video of gay wedding ceremonies, and blasting out supportive tweets aimed at building its campaign list.

In a fiery speech Friday night to Democratic activists in Northern Virginia, Clinton said that "love triumphed in the highest court" and declared: "We can sum up the message from the court and the American people in just two words: Move on."

But like Obama, such expressions of support mark a remarkable shift for Clinton, who opposed gay marriage for more than two decades as a first lady, a U.S. senator and a presidential candidate. Just three months ago, Clinton's position was that while she personally supported gay marriage the issue was best left for individual states to decide — a policy stance held by most of the Republican presidential field.

"It has been an evolutionary process," said Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights group. But he said Obama now stands as one of the great champions of gay rights, up there with the likes of Harvey Milk.

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As for Clinton, he said, "she connects with gay people on a level that is beyond explanation."

Obama has carefully staked out his position on same-sex marriage throughout his political career. During his 1996 Illinois state Senate race, he replied to a questionnaire from a gay newspaper in Chicago: "I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages." Two years later, he declared himself undecided.

By 2004, as he ran for the U.S. Senate, he said he opposed gay marriage for politically strategic reasons, saying Republicans would exploit the issue, and he advocated instead for gay civil unions. In his 2006 book, "The Audacity of Hope," he cited his own faith as a reason to oppose same-sex marriage, though he also wondered whether "in years hence I may be seen as someone who was on the wrong side of history."

He came out firmly for same-sex marriage in 2012 and called for it in his second inaugural address. But earlier this year, his former top strategist, David Axelrod, wrote that Obama had feigned opposition to gay marriage for most of his political career, grudgingly taking Axelrod's advice that African-American religious leaders and others would oppose him if he let it be known he supported gay marriage.

"If Obama's views were 'evolving' publicly, they were fully evolved behind closed doors," Axelrod wrote.

Obama disputed the account, telling BuzzFeed News that he thought civil unions were "a sufficient way of squaring the circle," but that "the pain and the sense of stigma that was being placed on same-sex couples who are friends of mine" changed his mind.

"I think the notion that somehow I was always in favor of marriage per se isn't quite accurate," Obama told BuzzFeed.

But even after he endorsed gay marriage, he took his time embracing other aspects of the gay community's agenda.

It wasn't until July 2014 that Obama gave employment protection to gay and transgender workers in the federal government and its contracting agencies.

Still, gay rights advocates hold him up as one of their biggest political advocates.

"It's absolutely right to note that this administration did not get off to a good start with LGBT advocates," Sainz said. "But the sheer volume of what he has done will be hard for another president to replicate, simply because so much of what he has done has been so incredibly powerful, momentous and life changing for LGBT people."

Clinton's path into the embrace of the gay community has been similar. She backed her husband's Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, described marriage between a man and a woman as a "fundamental bedrock principle" in a 2004 Senate floor speech, and dodged the question when asked in 2007 whether she agreed with Gen. Peter Pace, then the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, that homosexuality was immoral.

But as secretary of state, Clinton emerged as a champion of gay rights, declaring that "gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," at a 2011 conference in Geneva.

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Sainz said that in Clinton, the LGBT community sees a kindred spirit. "It's in our DNA to support her," he said. "We have been forced to deal with some of lives greatest indignities and have come out on the other side."

Hillary Clinton slams GOP as 'party of the past' **// Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – June 26, 2015**

FAIRFAX, Va. — Hillary Clinton looked to draw a red line for her Republican rivals on LGBT rights in her first large swing-state rally outside of the early-voting states on Friday night, pointedly urging them not to turn “the hopes of any American into a political football for this 2016 campaign.”

“Instead of turning back the clock, they should be joining us in saying ‘no’ — ‘no’ to discrimination for once and for all,” Clinton said in a fiery speech at a fundraising rally for the Democratic Party of Virginia here in Fairfax just hours after the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide.

“This morning, love triumphed in the highest court in our land. Equality triumphed. America triumphed,” she said before quoting the final paragraph of Justice Anthony Kennedy’s decision.

While the event was not intended to be a Clinton rally, it quickly turned into one as speaker after speaker praised the former secretary of state in front of the crowd of around 2,000. She was introduced by her longtime friend Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who himself spoke after Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine — who also left no doubt about where their political loyalties lie.

The Democratic front-runner did not call out any of the Republican White House hopefuls by name, but she derided the calls from some of them to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, insisting that the lesson of a week that saw the Supreme Court affirm the legality of Obamacare and that saw a widespread backlash against the Confederate flag was that Republicans should “move on.”

“Today’s decision confirms we’ve been working toward equality as a nation step by step, case by case, court by court, and that equality has been right there in the Constitution all along,” said the former first lady and senator, who didn’t support marriage equality when she first ran for president in 2008.

Coming straight to the rally from the Charleston funeral of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney — who was killed along with eight other African-American churchgoers in the shooting last week — Clinton also promised to fight for a “better, smarter, safer, approach to getting the gun violence in this country under control.”

Clinton sat in the front row at the afternoon service, at which President Barack Obama delivered a eulogy for Pinckney that the former secretary of state said “stirred” her. Hours later, in perhaps the most political of her campaign speeches so far, she applauded both South Carolina’s Republican governor Nikki Haley and McAuliffe for speaking out against public use of the Confederate flag.

But she was also withering in her criticism of some Republican rivals in particular.

Responding to Donald Trump’s characterization of Mexican immigrants as “bringing drugs, they’re bringing crime, they’re rapists,” Clinton suggested — without using Trump’s name — “maybe he’s never met them.”

And on a day after new polls showed that Clinton’s primary Democratic rival for the nomination Bernie Sanders is gaining on her in some early-voting states, she made clear that she would keep her focus on Republicans, not her fellow party members.

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"Across the board, they are the party of the past," she said to applause. "Not the party of the future."

Gay marriage ruling: A political gift to Hillary Clinton? // Politico // Annie Karni – June 26, 2015

You might say the Supreme Court's decision to make same-sex marriage a nationwide right was an in-kind contribution to Hillary for America.

Never mind that the 5-4 ruling could easily have gone the other way: It gives her a chance to stress the importance of nominating liberal Supreme Court justices, and creates a moment of enthusiasm in the LGBT community that her campaign needs to ride. It places her squarely in the mainstream of public opinion. And it puts her stance in sharp relief against the Republicans fulminating, to various degrees, at the majority's break with tradition.

It also delivers to her opponents in the Democratic primary a chance to tell voters that they were on the right side of history first — but that might not matter much.

"Along with millions of Americans, I am celebrating today's landmark victory for marriage equality, and the generations of advocates and activists who fought to make it possible," Clinton said in a statement Friday morning. "From Stonewall to the Supreme Court, the courage and determination of the LGBT community has changed hearts and changed laws."

She said the ruling "represents our country at its best: inclusive, open, and striving towards true equality."

With about 60 percent of Americans supporting gay marriage, according to recent polls, Clinton's position in favor of a constitutional right to same-sex marriage offers a winning contrast with most of the Republican field — especially among younger voters. The Supreme Court ruling takes away some of that drama, now that the issue no longer hangs in balance.

But Democrats said there are still opportunities for Clinton to position herself as a fighter for civil rights. "There's going to be a backlash among religious conservatives to this ruling today," said Hilary Rosen, a Democratic strategist and loyal Clinton supporter. "There will be plenty of leadership opportunities for Hillary Clinton and other politicians to oppose the whittling away of this victory, with trumped-up exemptions. Republicans will make the mistake, I predict, in raising the rhetoric level." She pointed to Indiana's controversial religious freedom law as an example.

In her statement, Clinton hinted that the Supreme Court's ruling hadn't put the issue to bed. "For too many LGBT Americans who are subjected to discriminatory laws, true equality is still just out of reach," she said. "While we celebrate today, our work won't be finished until every American can not only marry, but live, work, pray, learn and raise a family free from discrimination and prejudice. We cannot settle for anything less."

Clinton is also expected to speak in the coming weeks about the importance of electing a president who can nominate progressive Supreme Court justices, a campaign aide said. This week's court rulings — on Obamacare, fair housing and same-sex marriage — highlight how galvanizing a political issue the appointments of justices can be, and the Clinton camp is eager to seize the moment.

In terms of the Democratic primary, however, Clinton's rivals might be tempted to ask why it took her so long to support the constitutional right to same-sex marriage — just last year, she said it was an issue left to the states to decide. Her opponents in the primary, former Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, were well ahead of her at the time.

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As governor, O'Malley led Maryland's 2012 fight to legalize same-sex marriage — and likes to remind primary voters of that fact. "I'm glad Secretary Clinton's come around to the right positions on these issues," he said in April in a rare direct jab at the Democratic frontrunner. "I'm grateful to the people of Maryland for leading the way on this important issue of human dignity and equality under the law," he said in a brief statement Friday morning.

Sanders, meanwhile, voted against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, signed into law by President Bill Clinton. And Vermont was the first state to legalize same-sex unions in 2000. He supported the legalization of gay marriage in 2009. "For far too long our justice system has marginalized the gay community," Sanders said in his statement Friday, "and I am very glad the Court caught up to the American people."

It's not yet clear whether either candidate can take advantage of Clinton's changing views.

"In Iowa, some Democratic activists are very proud of having been in the lead on this issue early in the game," said Kenneth Sherrill, political science professor emeritus at Hunter College. "If O'Malley or Sanders are able to say, 'I was with you during your period of trouble,' that might be helpful to them. On the question of who is a courageous leader, who's willing to take risks in the name of justice, they may use this to picture Clinton as cautious and late to the game."

The LGBT community, however, has been fired up for Clinton's candidacy, and seemingly willing to overlook her less-than-perfect record on the issue of gay marriage. Many leaders in the community stressed that all mainstream national Democrats have been evolving on the issue — and they're simply happy that the time has come that a Democratic frontrunner for president can embrace a constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

"One of her platforms is equality for all, which is not something we saw in 2008," said Eunic Ortiz, president of the Stonewall Democrats of NYC, which won't endorse any candidate until 2016. "It's something she has evolved on. This is now equality for all, and we are looking forward."

Clinton was fully embracing the decision Friday morning online. On Twitter, the campaign changed her banner to say the word "HISTORY," in an all-caps, rainbow-colored font.

"She's certainly going to rejoice about the decision," Sherrill said. "At least she can say she came out for marriage equality before the Supreme Court did."

Republican National Committee Files FOIA Request on Hillary Clinton Personnel Practices // Bloomberg // Billy House – June 26, 2015

The Republican National Committee is pressing the State Department for information on whether former secretary of state Hillary Clinton and her chief of staff at the department, Cheryl Mills, failed to disclose a special arrangement allowing Mills to hold outside jobs.

A Freedom of Information Act request the RNC sent to the department Friday demands a copy of all records related to Mills' "selection, approval, status, and/or classification of Mills" as a special government employee in 2009 and again in 2013. Coming on the heels of a disclosure that Clinton's release of business-related emails she sent on a private account was incomplete, the RNC's latest move underscores Republicans' determination to maintain a relentless focus on the Democratic presidential frontrunner's managerial practices.

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The RNC request follows a report that Mills had a special arrangement in 2009 that enabled her to continue to hold outside positions with the William J. Clinton Foundation, New York University, and as a board member for the school's UAE-funded Abu Dhabi campus.

At issue, for the RNC, is why Mills then was not included on a list of all special government employees for the year 2009, released by State last year in response to a FOIA request from ProPublica. She was included in a list for the year 2013.

Clinton's campaign had no immediate comment on the FOIA request.

“The fact that Secretary Clinton’s top State Department aide was allowed to receive outside income while serving as her Chief of Staff, and failed to disclose it is troubling," says RNC Research Director and Deputy Communications Director Raj Shah. "Now we are seeking to determine Mills’ and Clinton’s roles in covering it up."

The FOIA request Friday from the RNC calls for all records related to “ProPublica’s FOIA request regarding State Department special Government employees” including any discussion related to why Mills may have not been included in the 2009 list.

"To clarify, this request includes any records that may exist about ProPublica’s FOIA and why Cheryl Mills’ 2009 special Government status was excluded from the State Department’s FOIA response," the FOIA request states.

A State Department spokesman said the agency does not typically comment on FOIA requests.

Previous news accounts have reported another close Clinton aide, Huma Abedin, had been given special government employee status under Clinton, which also allowed her to have outside work along with being a part-time employee of the State Department.

The RNC has previously sent the State Department FOIA demands focused on Mills and other top aides who served there under Clinton, including Abedin and another longtime political adviser, Philippe Reines, regarding anything that said the words “Freedom of Information Act” or “FOIA” for discussions on the topic or other matters in which they may have intervened.

The RNC had not previously asked "for all records pertaining to any individual FOIA request or any matter outside of FOIA policy, such as employees receiving Special Government Employee status," said Shah.

Prominent Clinton backers to host open houses **// Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – June 26, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's campaign is having prominent Democratic supporters host volunteer organizing events over the next two weeks.

The supporters will host open houses at offices around the state, spokeswoman Lily Adams said. They include former Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson; former Planned Parenthood of the Heartland President Jill June; State Reps. Abby Finkenauer of Dubuque, Phyllis Thede of Davenport, Mary Mascher of Iowa City and Timi Brown Powers of Waterloo; State Sens. Bill Dotzler of Waterloo and Jeff Danielson of Cedar Falls; former State Reps. Wes Whitead of Sioux City and Tyler Olson of Cedar Rapids; former state Sen. Staci Appel of Ackworth; Cedar Rapids City Councilman Justin Shields; former Cedar Rapids Mayor Lee Clancey; and former state party Chairwoman Sue

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Dvorsky of Coralville.

Clinton's campaign, which faces a growing left-flank challenge from U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, has been eager to show its early organizing strength. The campaign says it has opened 10 organizing offices in Iowa, with 27 organizers, who have held about 2,500 one-on-one meetings with voters since Clinton officially entered the race in April.

Hillary Clinton fired up over 'historic day' **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – June 26, 2015**

FAIRFAX, Virginia – Hillary Clinton fired up almost 2,000 Virginia Democrats Friday night here at a party fundraiser hosted by her old friend, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, in one of the first major rallies of her second presidential campaign.

She said she was thrilled to be speaking to Democrats on "Such a historic day for our country."

Just hours ago, Clinton had attended the funeral for slain South Carolina pastor Clementa Pinckney, and before that celebrated the Supreme Court's marriage equality decision. She called it "an emotional roller coaster of a day," pleased that "love triumphed in the highest court in our land."

But she cautioned that the fight on both LGBT rights and race relations is not over. She also vowed, "I for one am never going to stop fighting" for gun control.

Inside the cavernous Patriot Center arena on the campus of George Mason University, it felt more like June 2016 than June 2016.

The screaming fans who often rose to their feet and chanted Clinton's name, the many invocations of "our next president," and setting in a key swing state, made the rally feel like a general election pep rally. That, even though Clinton aides have said she is squarely focused on the primary campaign and even as Sen. Bernie Sanders surges in polls.

Speaker after speaker praised Clinton as if the Democratic nomination were a fait accompli. "Hillary Clinton is our choice for the future!" said Sen. Mark Warner, the state's popular Democratic senator, to cheers.

And Clinton kept her sights squarely on Republicans, firing off on them on issue after issue. "Across the board, they are the party of the past, not the future," she said.

Rep. Gerry Connolly obliquely mentioned the other Democrats running for the nomination before waving them off. "Nobody has a stronger resume to be president of the United States than Hillary Rodham Clinton," said Connolly, who welcomed everyone to "Clinton territory."

Nearly every speaker said it was time to put a woman in the White House.

Former Sen. Jim Webb, who is considering a run and lives in nearby Arlington, was not mentioned. Neither was former Gov. Martin O'Malley, who hails from just across the river in Maryland.

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But more than anything, the event was a chance for Clinton to help her old friend McAuliffe build the Democratic Party in a key presidential battleground state.

Clinton is rushing to fill her coffers ahead of the end of the finance quarter next week, but she will make no money from her appearance here. All the proceeds – more than $1 million, according to officials – will go to the Virginia Democratic Party.

McAuliffe chaired Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and Bill Clinton's 1996 reelection run. He's raised tens of millions of dollars for both Clintons, and is now working to win the Virginia state Senate for Democrats and hold the seat in 2016.

Reunited on stage, McAuliffe now the governor of a large state and Clinton cruising to the Democratic nomination after both lots their first tries at each, they displayed the easy chemistry of old allies.

"This is personal for me," said McAuliffe of Clinton. "We've worked hard together, we've played hard together."

The governor explained that if he and his wife are on vacation with the former first couple, and he wants to enjoy a beer or cocktail in the evening, "I don't go looking for Bill Clinton. I go looking for Hillary Clinton. She's a lot more fun that Bill Clinton is!"

The love was mutual. Clinton said she was "starting to run out of superlatives" while praising McAuliffe after he introduced her.

"He's my kind of leader, a pragmatic progressive," Clinton added. "He prefers common ground to scorched earth."

Clinton will need a strong Democratic Party if she makes it to the general election in 2016 in the Virginia, which has become a key state in Democrats' post-Obama election electoral map.

Virginia Democrats have been on a tear lately, and especially under McAuliffe. The party now controls all five statewide offices for the first time in 40 years and has won two presidential elections in a row.

McAuliffe and the party are gearing up to try to win control of the state Senate in November of 2015, and the political organization they build can then be turned around to support Clinton.

Clinton Campaign's Amanda Renteria: How They're Building Latino Support // NBC News // Suzanne Gamboa – June 26, 2015

NEW YORK -- It may take several knocks on the same door before getting to an offer of a cafecito and election talk, but Hillary Clinton's national political director Amanda Renteria is sure those offers will come often as Latinos see they are a big part of Clinton's campaign focus.

"The first time, it's, 'Thank you very much.' The second time, it's, 'Okay, I'll listen' and the third time it's like, 'Come on in. Let's have a cafecito. Let's talk about this,'" Renteria said, talking about the Democratic candidate's on-the-ground efforts to reach potential Hispanic voters.

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In an interview with NBC News, Renteria spoke about how the Clinton campaign is building its relationships with America's largest minority group.

The mission is one that has risen in importance as the Latino electorate has grown, even though it performs under its potential, and as campaigns take note of the oncoming onslaught of young Latinos who are turning 18 by the hundreds of thousands every year.

The history of the last two presidential elections is fresh enough to remind campaigns that President Barack Obama, though he did not win the white vote, got more than 70 percent of the Latino vote and secured two elections with a multiracial coalition that will continue to grow so that eight presidential elections from now whites will not longer be the majority.

For her part, Clinton has been speaking to Latino groups, including two recent visits to Las Vegas, a city whose population is about one third Hispanic. She's met with young immigrants without U.S. legal status as well as Latino officeholders, laying out her proposals such as a greater emphasis on early childhood education and her support for a path to citizenship for immigrant families.

"I think speaking Spanish isn't enough ... it's about the issues and who has been fighting for them," said Renteria, who is Mexican American. "I think when you see things coming from the Republican party and none of the Republicans stood up to the divisive words, the inflammatory words that a friend of theirs said, the community sees that kind of stuff."

Although she didn't name him, Renteria was referring remarks by Donald Trump, the real estate mogul and reality show TV host whose remarks about Mexicans and Mexico when he announced his presidential bid have drawn strong backlash. Just Thursday, the Spanish language network Univision announced it was dropping their deal to broadcast Miss Universe pageants (Trump is part owner, along with NBC Universal), over his referrals to immigrants crossing the border as rapists, drug users and criminals.

Clinton criticized Trump's comments at the time, saying "hotter and more negative" public discourse can trigger people who are less stable, a reference to the fatal shootings at a black church in South Carolina last week that ended the lives of nine people.

As Renteria sees it, Clinton can draw some affinity between Latino values and her life, even if she can't claim Hispanic identity or connect through a Latino spouse or children, as can Republican candidates Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

In her NALEO speech in Las Vegas last week, Clinton wove through issues relating to values often named by Latinos as part of their makeup: family, children, education and immigration reform.

She also spoke some about her own mother. In future events, Rentería said, Clinton will talk more about herself and her mother, Dorothy Rodham, who was raised by her severe grandparents after her parents divorced and who was on her own at 14.

"The whole story of it takes a village, that's so like the Latino community. It takes the grandparents, the mom, the vecinos (neighbors), everyone involved," said Renteria, invoking an African proverb that is a favorite of Clinton and was the title of a children's book she wrote.

Part of Renteria's job as national political director is to oversee interaction with coalition groups, those that advocate for Latinos, African Americans and others, and build support among them. She said she likes to describe her job to her parents as "trying to grow the biggest tent that's ever been built."

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She said that after South Carolina, she finds it more of a responsibility to focus on a "welcoming" campaign. "I think it really does affect the fabric of our community, the fabric of our country. I think that for me that was a big change in terms of the seriousness of what we are doing ... and really building the tent," she said.

Renteria is part of that tent. From the Central Valley of California, Renteria's father is an immigrant from Zacatecas, Mexico who worked California's farm fields. Her mother was born in the U.S and is of Mexican descent. After studying economics at Stanford and working in the financial industry and as a teacher, Renteria become the first Latina hired as a chief of staff in the U.S. Senate. She made a run for Congress last year but lost to Republican incumbent Rep. David Valadao.

"We as a community need to have a voice in the political environment. I didn't grow up in this, but once you realize what kind of impact you can have and how you can help others in public service I hope more Latinos and different voices come together and are part of it," she said.

Hoping to build on Obama's success in galvanizing multiracial coalitions, the Clinton campaign wants to unite generations and bring together singular groups such as Latinos or African Americans for Hillary, so that they become for example, People of Color for Hillary, Renteria said.

"How do you build (support) deep within the communities, across generations, but also how do you then, bring everyone onto the stage?" she said, adding that taking a position on voting rights is one way.

When asked what are the issues Clinton will stress as she reaches out to Hispanics, Renteria said they would include the Democrats' achievements on health care access, and elaboration on her early campaign declaration that she would go beyond Obama's immigration executive action, including finding a way for parents of children not legally in the U.S. to remain and work.

"We already have an idea legally of what we can do a little bit further than the president ," Renteria said, "in large part, because he went as far as he did and we learned what worked and what didn't and now we get to tweak it a little bit more so it can work for more people."

Hillary Clinton hits Republicans over marriage, Obamacare rulings **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 26, 2015**

The Democratic frontrunner was speaking at a Jefferson Jackson fundraiser for the Virginia Democratic Party at George Mason University on a night in which she was repeatedly referred to by fellow Democrats as the next President of the United States.

"This morning, they all decried the Supreme Court's ruling," Clinton said, noting that "we even heard them call for a constitutional amendment" against same-sex marriage.

A fired-up Clinton then seemingly spoke directly at the 13 declared Republican presidential hopefuls.

"I am asking them, please, don't make the rights, the hopes, of any American into a political football for this 2016 campaign," she said. "LGBT Americans should be free not just to marry, but to live, learn and work, just like everybody else."

Republican response to the Supreme Court's decision was universally opposed, but politically mixed. Former

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Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called for respect for the court's decision, despite opposing it. On the other side of the spectrum, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said he wants to amend the Constitution to leave the decision over who can marry up to each state.

Clinton read the last paragraph of Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion from the stage on Friday, ending with, "And to that I say, amen, thank you."

"This morning, love triumphed in the highest court in our land," Clinton said. "Equality triumphed, America triumphed."

She did not mention former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee or Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders during the event, all of whom are vying to be the Democratic Party's nominee.

Clinton's stance on same-sex marriage has evolved over the years. Her husband, President Bill Clinton, signed the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, which defined for federal purposes marriage between one man and one woman. As a senator, Clinton backed civil unions and partner benefits for same-sex couples, and came out in favor of same-sex marriage in 2013, shortly before the Court struck down a key provision of the 1996 law.

But the former secretary of state's attacks on Republican hopefuls were not limited to same-sex marriage.

Reacting to the other landmark decision by the Supreme Court this week, Clinton said, "All the Republican candidates were furious that earlier this week the Supreme Court once again confirmed what we have all known and believed for years: (Obamacare) is settled law and it is here to stay."

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court saved Obama's controversial health care law on Thursday, ruling that the Affordable Care Act was authorized to provide federal tax credits to states with federal marketplaces.

"Even after two Supreme Court verdicts and a presidential election, they are still fighting to take us backwards," Clinton said, referring to the 2012 Supreme Court decision on the issue and that year's presidential election. "I think we can sum up the message from the Court and the American people: 'Move on.'"

As she has in the past, Clinton said she doesn't think the health care law is perfect, pointing to drug and out-of-pocket costs as two areas that she says need to be addressed.

But she embraced Obama throughout the speech, and she applauded the way the President eulogized Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the South Carolina state senator who was killed along with eight others in last week's church massacre in Charleston, South Carolina.

She referenced the tragedy when she hit House Republicans for voting on Wednesday to put restrictions on whether the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can study gun violence and make recommendations.

"How can you watch massacre after massacre and take that vote?" she asked. "That is wrong. It puts our people at risk, and I, for one, am never going to stop fighting for a better, safer approach to get the gun violence in this country under control."

Friday's event was meant to focus on the successes of Virginia Democrats -- including longtime Clinton friend and

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Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe. But as the program went on, the event started to feel like a Hillary for America rally.

Rep. Bobby Scott said he was happy to welcome "the next President of the United States of America to the commonwealth of Virginia." Sen. Tim Kaine said, "I'm so excited we get to be here to welcome Secretary Clinton, our next President." And Sen. Mark Warner added, "I don't know about you, but I made my choice. I'm ready for Hillary."

McAuliffe, Clinton's 2008 campaign chairman, was even more effusive, to the point of getting personal.

"Folks, let me say this, this is personal for me," he said. "I have known Hillary for decades. We have worked hard together, we have played hard together."

The famously blunt governor went on to tell the audience that when he and his wife travel with Bill and Hillary Clinton and the governor wants a drink, "I don't go looking for Bill Clinton. I go looking for Hillary Clinton, because she is a lot more fun that Bill Clinton."

McAuliffe described Clinton as a fighter who has "been knocked down" but gets up every time and "gets right back in that arena again."

"And yes, after 239 years," he concluded, "it is time for a woman President of the United States."

Clinton weathers the summer of Sanders **// CNN // Jeff Zeleny – June 26, 2015**

Hillary Clinton always insisted she wasn't expecting a coronation in her second presidential bid, but a single-digit lead over Bernie Sanders was surely not what she had in mind.

It's now clear that Clinton, despite a raft of political advantages that make her the envy of rivals from both parties, faces a stubborn obstacle in her quest to win the Democratic nomination.

She must weather the summer of Sanders.

Her once commanding and comfortable lead in New Hampshire has narrowed to 8 points, according to a new CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary poll. Sanders, a senator from neighboring Vermont, has emerged as the leading progressive alternative to Clinton, consolidating support from Democrats who had been clamoring for Elizabeth Warren to enter the race.

An early sense of curiosity surrounding Sanders, who is drawing Obama-size crowds to his campaign rallies, is now translating into actual support for his candidacy.

"I think we are probably doing a lot better than you would have thought two months ago when we got into this, right?" Sanders said in an interview. "Clearly, what I do know, is the stronger that I get, the attacks are going to come from all kinds of sources."

Yet don't expect those attacks to start coming from Clinton, at least not directly.

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The Clinton campaign, which has been carefully tracking the Sanders momentum for the last month, has no immediate plans to go after Sanders. Taking an aggressive posture could not only elevate him even more in the eyes of liberals, it could also backfire and create deep divisions inside the Democratic Party that she is still far more likely than not to lead.

Several Democrats close to the campaign, even some who have been underwhelmed by the first three months of her candidacy, tell CNN that Clinton and her team are far from panicking.

Clinton plans response to Sanders

But Clinton does intend to respond to Sanders -- and the progressive wing of her party -- in a far more nuanced way this summer. She intends to take several steps, including:

** Escalating her direct challenge of Republicans, increasingly calling them out by name, in an effort to cement her image as a fighter for Democratic interests. There's nothing more energizing to Democrats than a few well-honed attacks on Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Scott Walker and the rest of the Republican field.

** Delivering a series of policy speeches throughout the summer, amplifying her call for social and economic issues that animate progressives. She intends to tackle college affordability, women's pay equity and paid family leave -- among other issues -- in hopes of making her candidacy more acceptable to voters who may be more inclined to favor Warren or Sanders.

** Campaigning aggressively in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two contests in the primary fight, to demonstrate that she knows she must work hard to capture the Democratic nomination and will put in the work needed to win over any skeptical liberals.

Clinton struggles on empathy question

Since jumping into the race, Clinton has struggled to persuade voters that she is empathetic. The latest New Hampshire poll shows 45 percent say Sanders is the candidate who cares the most about people like you, compared with 24 percent who believe Clinton is.

Sanders, a political independent who proudly calls himself a socialist, is heading to New Hampshire for a weekend campaign swing to try and expand upon his early support.

So far, he has avoided directly going after Clinton, mentioning her by name only when asked by reporters. His aides say he has no plans of changing that strategy.

"What I am doing is, in fact, speaking to issues that are in the hearts and the minds of the American people in a way that is a little bit bolder than other candidates have in the past," Sanders said in an interview. "And I think people are responding to that."

The New Hampshire poll shows that many Democrats are responding favorably to Clinton's candidacy, including 74 percent who say they have a positive impression of her. She also is more trusted to handle the economy and health care, two of the leading domestic issues in the contest.

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Clinton has been spending considerable time in June raising money, eyeing the first campaign fundraising deadline next week. A series of interviews with local Democratic leaders in New Hampshire and Iowa suggests there is a hunger among party activists for more -- not less -- of Clinton.

Desire for a contest

There is also a hunger for a competitive primary fight.

"There are two kinds of groups," said Jean Pardee, the Democratic chairwoman in Clinton County, Iowa. "There are those who are concerned that Hillary's baggage will keep her from winning. There is another group who likes the blunt, outspoken answers that Bernie Sanders gives."

Pardee and other party leaders say the growing interest in Sanders is only a warning sign for Clinton.

"As of now, I don't see it as a problem," Pardee told CNN. "I think it will make her and her staff work a little more carefully and harder. They certainly won't take anything for granted, as in 2008 they did."

State Department: It's 'Hard To Know' How Many Other Emails Hillary May Have Failed To Turn Over //
Daily Caller // Chuck Ross – June 26, 2015

A State Department spokesman admitted it's "hard to know" how many work-related emails former Sec. of State Hillary Clinton failed to turn over to the agency.

"We don't know the degree to which there may be other emails that another third party may have — in this case Mr. Blumenthal — that we do not have," State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters at a press conference Friday.

He was responding to Thursday's bombshell revelation that the agency did not have 15 Libya-related emails sent between Clinton and her longtime friend, Sidney Blumenthal. Blumenthal turned over 60 emails he sent to Clinton when she was in office. He provided the records to the House Select Committee on Benghazi last week.

In doing so, it quickly became apparent that Blumenthal's emails included some exchanges which Clinton had not turned over to the State Department in December.

That despite Clinton's confident assurance at a press conference in March that she "provided all…emails that could possibly be work-related" to the State Department.

Kirby mostly dodged reporters questions on Friday but was forced to admit the State Department has no way to determine how many other official government emails Clinton failed to turn over.

Cornered by a reporter about whether the discrepancy revealed in the Blumenthal emails indicates Clinton failed to turn over other records, Kirby said: "it would appear to be so."

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“Unless you have another inventory to check it against, like in this case we had Mr. Blumenthal’s emails, it’s hard to know,” Kirby said.

“We only knew about these 15 because Mr. Blumenthal had them and provided them to the Select Committee so there was something to check it against,” he added.

“I couldn’t possibly hypothesize about what other email traffic that might relate to Benghazi or Libya that we don’t have.”

Clinton has made it all but impossible to figure out just how many official records she failed to turn over. She has said her team went through her email account and picked out work-related emails and deleted the rest. Her attorney has also indicated to the Select Committee the personal server she used to maintain the email account has been wiped clean. That attorney, David Kendall, has also said Clinton will not turn over the server.

In his comments, Kirby took off the table the one sure way of knowing whether Clinton has been telling the truth. He said that the State Department has no plans to ask Clinton for her private email server. He also said the agency will not undertake an investigation into Clinton’s email gap.

“I know of no such investigation — certainly not by the State Department,” Kirby said.

No probe over undisclosed Clinton emails, State says **// The Hill // Martin Matishak – June 26, 2015**

The State Department says there won't be an internal investigation into why the agency couldn’t find part or all of 15 emails from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s personal email server.

“I know of no such investigation, certainly not by the State Department, no,” State Department spokesman John Kirby said during a Friday press briefing.

Clinton’s former agency found it lacked the communications following the House Select Committee on Benghazi’s release of nearly 60 emails it had received from Clinton adviser Sidney Blumenthal earlier this month.

“We were clear about that in our communication with the committee that of the 15 that we did not have, that Mr. Blumenthal had, they were not specifically related to Benghazi, which was the original mandate on the select committee,” Kirby said.

“Again, we only knew about these 15 because Mr. Blumenthal had them and provided them to the select committee, so there was something to check it against,” he told reporters. “We don't know the degree to which there may be other emails that another third party may have, in this case, Mr. Blumenthal, that we do not have.”

Earlier this year, Clinton, a 2016 presidential candidate, gave her old agency around 30,000 emails from the private server she used while serving as the nation’s top diplomat.

Clinton’s attorney later said all data stored on the server has been destroyed.

The missing memos all predate the Sept. 11, 2012, siege on the diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, but the select committee seized on the discovery as another sign Clinton has not been forthcoming about her State Department tenure.

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“This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server — especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third party arbiter,” panel Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) said in a statement Thursday night.

He said the revelation "is significant and troubling” and “has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work.”

“This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record,” Gowdy said.

Kirby said the emails “would appear” to be work-related, thus meeting the benchmark for Clinton set for herself before turning them over.

But he said it’s not up to the State Department to determine how the emails were initially missed.

“That would be a matter between the select committee and former Secretary Clinton,” Kirby said.

Clinton Is Going To Take Fire on Iraq and Benghazi from Democrats, Too // Foreign Policy – David Frances – June 26, 2015

The 2016 Republican presidential field long has poked at two of Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton’s most visible political vulnerabilities: her 2002 vote for the Iraq war, and the 2012 attacks against the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. A speech from a member of her own party suggests Democrats will also target those Achilles’ heels.

In a Friday speech outlining his foreign policy, former Maryland Governor and Democratic presidential candidate Martin O’Malley pointedly mentioned Iraq and Benghazi. Speaking at the TruCon 2015 conference, he didn’t mention Clinton by name, but it was clear his arrows were aimed toward the former senator and secretary of state.

“We must recognize that there are real lessons to be learned from the tragedy in Benghazi,” O’Malley’s said. “Namely, we need to know in advance who is likely to take power—or vie for it—once a dictator is toppled.”

Later, he said, “The invasion of Iraq—along with the subsequent disbanding of the Iraqi military—will be remembered as one of the most tragic, deceitful, and costly blunders in U.S. history.“

“We are still paying the price of a war pursued under false pretenses and acquiesced to by ‘the appalling silence of the good,” he said.

O’Malley’s foreign policy adviser, Doug Wilson, denied the his boss was trying to frame the debate with Clinton. “You see no mention of candidates’ names in what he had to say. This was not a speech about Hillary Clinton,” Wilson told CNN.

But O’Malley didn’t mention Iraq and Libya by accident. His statements on the war in Iraq and Benghazi lays the groundwork for future avenues of attack for Democrats trying to unseat Clinton from her perch above the rest of

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the field. His other comments on foreign affairs issues like Iran and the Islamic State largely toed the Democratic line.

Republicans are taking the same tack as President Barack Obama did in 2008 — going after Clinton's vote as a New York senator to authorize the Iraq war. They also refuse to let the Benghazi issue die. O'Malley's comments show the issue is also fair game in the Democratic primary, even though a 2014 GOP House investigation found Clinton had done nothing wrong.

It's clear this week, despite no wrongdoing, that the scandal has yet to breathe its last breath. In May, Clinton released hundreds of pages of emails related to Benghazi from a private Internet server she used from home while still serving at the State Department. On Thursday, the State Department announced that all or part of 15 email exchanges between Clinton and her long-time adviser, Sidney Blumenthal, were missing. Conspiracy-minded critics pounced.

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server — especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third party arbiter," Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, said Thursday.

Newly disclosed Hillary Clinton emails may undercut her earlier claims // Reuters // Jonathan Allen – June 26, 2015

A batch of 15 newly disclosed Hillary Clinton emails appears to contradict her assertion last month that memos about Libya she received from an old friend while she was U.S. secretary of state were "unsolicited."

Clinton did not hand over the emails to the State Department last year when she provided the agency with what she said was a complete record of her work-related emails, the department said on Thursday night.

The disclosure that the record was incomplete, for reasons that remain unclear, has added to criticism of the favorite to become the Democratic Party's nominee for the 2016 presidential election.

Political opponents say Clinton side-stepped federal record-keeping and transparency laws by using a private email server in her home for work-related correspondence. The Republican Party said on Friday it was renewing its demands that Clinton relinquish the server to be examined.

"Greetings from Kabul!" Clinton wrote in one of the newly disclosed emails in July 2012, in reply to a memo on the Libya election from her old friend and informal adviser Sidney Blumenthal. "And thanks for keeping this stuff coming!"

Blumenthal was barred from a job at the State Department by aides to President Barack Obama because of lingering distrust over his role advising Clinton's run against Obama in the acrimonious 2008 Democratic primary, according to the New York Times.

A Clinton spokesman did not immediately respond to questions about whether the newly disclosed emails undercut Clinton's comments at a campaign stop in Iowa last month on her relationship with Blumenthal.

"He's been a friend of mine for a long time and he sent me unsolicited emails, which I passed on in some instances," Clinton said of Blumenthal in May.

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In a March 2012 email, Clinton replied to an email from Blumenthal about possible French and British actions in Libya. "This strains credulity based on what I know," she wrote to Blumenthal. "Any other info about it?"

In a third example, she thanked Blumenthal for sending her intelligence about the Libyan National Transitional Council in August 2011 ahead of a meeting with NTC leaders. "I'm going to Paris tomorrow night and will meet [with National Transitional Council] leaders so this and additional info useful," she told him.

Clinton has seen her trustworthiness ratings erode after the revelations in March about her unusual email habits while she was the nation's top diplomat.

She used a single private email account for all her personal and work correspondence, connected to a computer server kept in her New York home, an arrangement that she said broke no rules.

In March, Clinton deflected accusations of undue secrecy by saying she had "absolute confidence" she had given any emails that could possibly be work-related to the State Department, including all that mentioned Libya. She later called for the entire cache to be made public.

It remains unclear why Clinton apparently did not include these 15 emails when she handed over her records in December, and whether there are other omissions yet to be made public.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said on Friday the department did not know if other emails were missing.

The undisclosed emails first came to light after a Republican-led committee of U.S. lawmakers investigating the 2012 attack on diplomatic staff in Benghazi, Libya, obtained Blumenthal's record of the emails through a subpoena.

Clinton did include a number of emails between her and Blumenthal in her disclosure last year. Some of those had already been made public, but none of those included examples of Clinton actively encouraging Blumenthal's correspondence.

Nick Merrill, a Clinton spokesman, said Clinton had provided the State Department with all the work-related correspondence she had in her possession. He declined to say whether emails had been deleted from Clinton's private server at an earlier date, prior to the department's request.

Blumenthal could not be reached for comment.

Hillary Clinton TBT: 'Marriage Is Between A Man And A Woman' **// Inquisitr – June 26, 2015**

A Hillary Clinton TBT message has been making the rounds on Friday via Facebook, and it's casting a shadow over her celebration of the same-sex marriage Supreme Court victory.

First, I'll start with Clinton's reaction to the momentous decision of five Supreme Court Justices to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states.

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As you can see, it was quite the celebration, but it was also something that she did not support while her husband was in office.

First, the Hillary Clinton TBT meme that has conservative America, in particular, buzzing.

The Wall Street Journal dug up the full quote from the frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic nomination in a piece entitled, "Hillary Clinton's Long Road to Supporting Gay Marriage."

"Her evolution has largely tracked public opinion," writes WSJ's Tim Hanrahan. "As the country has gotten more comfortable with same sex marriage, Mrs. Clinton's opposition has softened."

In 1996, he points out, her husband, President Bill Clinton, signed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

So there is no saying that Hillary held a different view from her husband, he also includes this quote, which she gave while running for the U.S. Senate in 2000 for the state of New York.

"Marriage has got historic, religious and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time, and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman."

And here's some video from 2004.

Nevertheless, Clinton has been a pretty strong supporter of marriage equality during the campaign trail.

But what do you think, readers? Is the Hillary Clinton TBT attack fair? Is Mrs. Clinton just saying what she thinks everyone wants to hear, or is it possible her support is legitimately held? Sound off in the comments section.

Al Gore: 'Too early' to back Hillary Clinton **// Page Six // Emily Smith – June 26, 2015**

Al Gore declined to back Hillary Clinton for president when asked who he thinks would be next in the White House.

When questioned by WPP founder Sir Martin Sorrell at the Cannes Lions festival of creativity about whom he would back for 2016, Gore — Bill Clinton's vice president from 1993 to 2001 —notably didn't take the chance to praise Hillary.

In a packed Cannes Lions session Friday, Sorrell asked Gore, "Would you refuse to answer the question [who will be the next president of the United States]?"

Gore responded, "I wouldn't refuse to answer that question, I would try to cleverly dodge the question … I would say it's actually too early."

Gore merely smiled, but didn't comment further, after Sorrell added, "I think Hillary will win and it would be great

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to have a female president of the most powerful nation on the planet."

Gore has reportedly had a complicated relationship with the Clintons since 2000. Political insiders speculate Gore may be remaining neutral for now but would eventually back the Democratic nominee.

Gore last October described Hillary in an interview with Bloomberg as an "extremely capable person," adding she did an excellent job as secretary of state and a New York senator. But he also said it was too early and "I am not going to engage in horse race analysis before the horses even go to the gate."

The former vice president used his speech at Cannes to call on the ad and creative world to help him in his fight against climate change. When asked about climate deniers, Gore said it was a campaign run by polluters and compared their actions to the tobacco industry, which employed actors posing as doctors to reassure consumers that smoking was safe: "It was deeply unethical, immoral, destructive, really evil, and that is exactly what the climate denial industry is doing."

Gore believes global warming would be a big issue at the next election: "The age of fossil fuels is beginning to end … years ago a Saudi minister once said, 'The stone age didn't end because of a shortage of stones.'"

But he blasted lobbyists and special interests for blocking reform: "American democracy has been hacked … the US became the world's leader by making better decisions than any other nation … the role of money really degraded the decision-making quality in the US.

"Big sources of special interest money are able to prevent the passage of almost any meaningful reform in the public interest, it really pains me to say … That has had a cascading impact on the ability of the US to continue providing the thought leadership to the world as a whole.

"It is urgent not only for the interests of the US but for the future of humankind … that the US find ways to quickly restore its ability to make decisions based on its best values and to limit the corrupting impact and degrading impact of lobbying and campaign contributions."

When asked if he thought the Obama administration had "lost traction," Gore continued that presidents have been constrained by Congress, and "The most serious dysfunction in American democracy is now in the legislative branch, in Congress, because they spend most of their time begging rich people and special interests for money."

Urging the world's most powerful ad executives and creatives to join him in the fight against climate change, he added, "Please help … this is for real."

During the session, Gore also poked fun at Sorrell's headline-grabbing salary. After Sorrell, who heads the world's biggest ad agency and earned $66 million last year, stated, "I am an expert in renumeration," Gore joked, "I think I read about that every year." And when Sorrell kept interrupting him with questions, he quipped, "Your mind is so active, Martin."

There were also laughs when Gore talked about his $14 billion venture capital firm Generation Investment Management, founded in London with David Blood, and Sorrell asked, "You weren't going to call it Blood and Gore, were you?"

Sorrell ended the interview by asking which was the more honest TV portrayal of life in the White House, "The West Wing" or "Veep." Gore shot back, "You are leaving out 'House of Cards'?"

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The former vice president added, “I think Julia Louis-Dreyfus is an absolute comedic genius, I was honored that she came and asked for some advice before their first season, then again second season. But one of my former speechwriters was a writer on ‘West Wing,’ and I think both shows have been fantastic.” But he added, “‘House of Cards’ — for the most part — should not be taken literally.”

Hillary Clinton’s Achilles Heel: Trust // Fiscal Times // Eric Pianin – June 26, 2015

While Hillary Clinton remains the odds-on favorite to capture the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, the former secretary of state continues to be dogged by questions about her honesty and integrity.

After a steady stream of negative reports about dubious fundraising by her family’s global foundation, the tens of millions of dollars that she and former President Bill Clinton raked in giving speeches to colleges and special interest groups, and the controversy over her use of her private email account to conduct official business during her four years at the State Department, recent polls show that doubts about her credibility may be her Achilles heel.

The Washington Post and other news organizations reported Thursday that Clinton withheld from the State Department at least 15 emails related to the 2012 terrorist attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya – once again calling into question her contention that she had handed over her complete public record.

The discrepancy came to light several days ago after a House special panel investigating the Benghazi tragedy that led to the death of four Americans subpoenaed former Clinton White House adviser Sidney Blumenthal’s records. After Blumenthal turned the emails over to the panel, the State Department said on Thursday that it could not locate “all or part” of the emails among the 55,000 pages messages from a private server Clinton used while in office.

“This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton’s self-selected public record, and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server -- especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third-party arbiter,” Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC), chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll earlier this month shows that the number of people who view Clinton as honest and trustworthy has dropped from 53 percent a year ago to just 41 percent now. Slightly more than half now don’t see her as honest and trustworthy.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a self-described Democratic socialist, is steadily gaining ground on Clinton in the early primary battleground states of Iowa and New Hampshire, with the latest CNN/WMUR Granite State Poll showing Sanders trailing Clinton in New Hampshire by just eight percentage points, 43 percent to 35 percent.

A Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm Poll conducted June 19-22 shows Clinton leading Sanders in Iowa 50 percent to 24 percent and in New Hampshire by 56 percent to 24 percent. That represents a six- to eight-point increase in his support since those states were polled by Bloomberg in May.

As Bloomberg noted, with nearly identical support in Iowa and New Hampshire, Sanders’ rise in the polls suggests that his appeal goes well beyond his populist, anti-Wall Street message, and that voters are giving him higher marks than Clinton on “authenticity” and integrity.

A tireless Clinton ran until the end // Boston Globe // John C. King – June 26, 2015

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The candidate was speaking in a hoarse, raspy voice. Late at night, behind schedule again.

I was leaning on a table in the back of the room, straining to hear and scribbling notes.

“The man is a HOSS. A HOSS. Just a . . . HOSS!! You got to understand what we are seeing here.”

“Horse,” is what James Carville was shouting at me in his Cajun cadence, somehow giddy despite the late hour and, more importantly, the character cloud that had pushed his candidate from front-runner into free fall as New Hampshire primary day approached.

Gennifer Flowers and allegations of marital infidelity. A newly released 1969 letter in which Bill Clinton called the Vietnam draft “illegitimate.”

“It seals his fate,” then-US Senator and Clinton rival Tom Harkin told me when I asked him about the draft letter.

Clinton’s poll numbers were tanking, and Democratic circles buzzed with talk that the Arkansas governor was toast and perhaps Governor Mario Cuomo of New York or Senator Lloyd Bentsen would enter the race to save the party.

My bosses suggested returning to Washington as the best option to track all the rumors and rumblings. I begged to stay: I wanted to see whether one man’s remarkable personal tenacity was enough to defy political gravity.

The language and lessons of that tumultuous 1992 primary stand out most among seven cycles of cherished New Hampshire memories that I covered for the Associated Press and later for CNN.

The campaign began with the Clintons confident. His “Putting People First” economic plan promising jobs and a middle-class tax cut was welcomed in a state that was struggling. The Democratic field was not considered all that strong.

Clinton’s Southern roots and lexicon brought a bit of head scratching. Like when the candidate compared critics to “pigs squealing under a gate” or questioned the timing of political attacks by noting, “if you see a turtle on a fence post, chances are it didn’t get there by accident.”

But those same Southern roots fit the Clinton narrative: This was not a Northern liberal like Michael Dukakis or Walter Mondale; the pro-death penalty governor gave Democrats a chance to win the White House.

In the heady days, Hillary would introduce Bill, who would then brag New Hampshire and the nation were about to get “two for the price of one.” But as 1991 gave way to 1992, and the first-in-the-nation primary was drawing near, confidence gave way to crisis. Crises, to be more accurate.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the Clintons traveled from New Hampshire to Boston to sit side by side on a hotel suite couch for an interview with CBS’ “60 Minutes” to brush the Flowers allegations aside.

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“I have acknowledged causing pain in my marriage,” said Bill Clinton, declining to offer details.

“I’m not sitting here like some little woman, standing by my man like Tammy Wynette,” Hillary Clinton said. “I’m sitting here because I love him.”

Again, I was next to Carville, the Clinton campaign strategist. This time he was silent, hanging on every word of the interview, gasping at one point when a light stand began falling toward the Clintons.

I was there because the Clintons had agreed to an Associated Press interview after the CBS taping. We began in the elevator down to the lobby, the Clintons holding hands, and continued in the car en route to Logan Airport.

“They bought and paid her,” Hillary Clinton said of Flowers and the Star tabloid.

Bill Clinton was more sympathetic.

“There have been a lot of victims in this process and maybe she [Flowers] is one of them,” he said.

“Not any more,” his wife quickly retorted.

On the tarmac at Logan, they split — Bill Clinton headed back for events in New Hampshire; Hillary Clinton flew home to Little Rock to be with then 11-year-old Chelsea as her parents’ marriage became the flashpoint of American politics.

It was just one of many vivid memories of trailing Clinton in that New Hampshire campaign’s tumultuous final weeks. There were late nights with impromptu stops, including one Friday, as midnight approached, opening the door of his second VFW post in an hour.

“This place must be OK — they’ve got Roy Orbison playing,” Clinton said with a smile . Once inside, he shook every hand and fed a quarter into the jukebox, pausing at Mariah Carey and ultimately selecting Patsy Cline.

Another day it was what reporters dubbed a “death march” through a shopping mall. Even some of the governor’s aides surrendered to exhaustion and sat on the floor while Clinton looked for more hands to shake, more skeptics to convert.

Repeatedly, in speeches and one-on-one appeals, Clinton suggested the attacks on him were designed to steer the campaign away from voters and their economic anxiety.

One such appeal is now the stuff of New Hampshire primary legend, his promise — delivered in Dover — that if the voters gave him a second chance, “I’ll be there for you till the last dog dies.”

He didn’t win, but he declared his second-place finish evidence he was 1992’s “comeback kid.”

Covering Clinton in those days was to experience “Survivor” long before the age of reality television, and he

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always remained grateful to New Hampshire.

On Inauguration Day 2001, after handing the White House over to George W. Bush, Clinton flew home to Little Rock, and invited a few reporters who had been there in the early days of the 1992 campaign along for the ride.

The conversation was full of memories of Dunkin' Donuts, the loyal band of Clinton New Hampshire supporters, and the roller coaster final weeks.

"That was wild," the now former president said on that nostalgic flight. "I love that place."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

O'Malley lays out foreign policy vision // MSNBC // Alex-Seitz-Wald – June 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley laid out his foreign policy vision in his most extensive remarks on international affairs to date at the Truman Project, a progressive national security group in Washington, D.C., on Friday.

As a former governor of Maryland, O'Malley has arguably less direct foreign policy experience than his Democratic rivals. Front-runner Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state, while the rest of the field served in the Senate, which has a constitutional role in making and approving foreign policy.

But O'Malley was the first declared Democratic presidential candidate to give a traditional speech exclusively on foreign policy, and he used the remarks Friday to bolster his credentials and to subtly distinguish himself from Clinton.

The former governor called for a more holistic approach to national security — which he argues should go beyond typical military threats to include dangers like climate change, infectious pandemics, droughts, and cybersecurity. And traditionally economic issues like immigration and energy policy should also be viewed as key national security concerns, he added.

After years of war, "it's understandable that many Americans would like to disengage from the world around us. That's understandable, but it's not responsible," he said. He detailed a range of threats to the U.S., including the so-called Islamic State, which he called "a gang of murderous thugs who have perverted one of the world's great religions."

The U.S. national security structure, which was created after World War II, was organized in a way that did not account for these modern-day threats. O'Malley called for a "new National Security Act," the Truman-era law that made sweeping reorganizations of the basic structure of the military in 1947.

"Development, defense, diplomacy; they all stand together as equal parts of our national security – or at least they should," he said.

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O'Malley drew on his experience as governor where possible, discussing his work on combating various threats and calling for training National Guard troops to take a lead on cybersecurity in the U.S. homeland. "Critical infrastructure remains extremely vulnerable to hackers," he said.

But he also acknowledged that he had more learning to do. "This time is not exclusively for questions! If you have answers, we would really like to hear your answers," he quipped at the start of a question-and-answer session, which was open only to participants and not the press.

While he never mentioned her name, O'Malley drew some apparent contrasts between himself and Clinton.

The Iraq War, which Clinton voted to approve in the Senate, "will be remembered as one of the most tragic, deceitful, and costly blunders in U.S. history," he said. The former governor added that the war would not have been possible without the "appalling silence of the good," quoting Martin Luther King Jr.

He even invoked the Benghazi terror attack, which occurred under Clinton's watch, but retreated from the issue quickly. "There are real lessons to be learned from the tragedy," he said.

O'Malley's campaign denied that his comments were a veiled rebuke of the Clinton. "This was not a speech about Hillary Clinton and the State Department," O'Malley's senior foreign policy adviser Doug Wilson told reporters afterwards.

Wilson is also the chairman of the board of advisers for the Truman Project.

"This governor has traveled. He has met with foreign leaders. He has met with [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu," Wilson said, of O'Malley's foreign policy credentials. "So I think he feels that he has qualifications in this area. He may not be a Bookings Institution policy wonk, but he is somebody who has a sense of the realities of the world."

Proving foreign policy chops is a challenge familiar to every governor who runs for president. But American nonetheless tend to nominate and elect governors for the presidency more often than senators or candidates from other jobs.

The Truman Project, which trains many young progressive foreign policy operatives, invited all Democratic presidential candidates to speak. Top Clinton policy aide Jake Sullivan will speak Friday, but not on behalf of the campaign. Vice President Biden, who is still considering a presidential run, spoke Thursday evening.

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders's Early Online Haul: $8.3 Million **// NYT // Derek Willis – June 26, 2015**

The enthusiastic crowds that have been greeting Bernie Sanders on the campaign trail have been matched by online donor excitement.

Mr. Sanders, the socialist Vermont senator running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has raised at least $8.3 million online through June 17, according to Federal Election Commission records. His campaign won't file its initial report until July 15, but filings by ActBlue, the online fund-raising committee that serves as a conduit for

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Democratic campaigns, show that Mr. Sanders has brought in more money in May and the first half of June than any other Democratic candidate using ActBlue.

It's likely that Mr. Sanders will report more than $9 million raised as of June 30, the deadline for midyear F.E.C. reports. That amount is larger than any Republican not named Mitt Romney raised in the first half of 2011.

His total is greater than that of Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor who also uses ActBlue and has collected more than $331,000 in his first month of online fund-raising. But Mr. Sanders's online success is likely to be eclipsed in the first set of filings by Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has a larger network of donors and more time to raise money. (ActBlue is not Mrs. Clinton's primary online fund-raising vehicle; she has received at least $43,000 through ActBlue users between April 20 and June 17).

On April 30, the day Mr. Sanders announced his candidacy, he generated more than $1 million via ActBlue. He got $1.6 million on May 3. Not counting those two largest days, on average ActBlue users sent $177,598 to Mr. Sanders each day between May 4 and June 17.

Without the support of a "super PAC," Mr. Sanders's total may seem small compared with some of the other 2016 candidates, but anywhere close to $10 million would be a very respectable total for a candidate who raised a total of $6.2 million for his 2012 Senate race. One question is whether this initial flood of donations represents the high-water mark or can be sustained.

Unlike candidate filings, ActBlue's F.E.C. reports don't make for easy browsing, because they often include tens of thousands of rows on a spreadsheet detailing millions of dollars of contributions. And absent special congressional elections in Mississippi, New York and Illinois, ActBlue would not have needed to file its own report until next month. But because of those races, we get a glimpse of donor support for Mr. Sanders.

This Is Bernie Sanders' Plan to Beat Hillary Clinton **// Mother Jones // David Corn – June 26, 2015**

It's fortunate for Hillary Clinton that Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent socialist from Vermont who is challenging her for the Democratic presidential nomination, despises and eschews negative advertising. That's because the political consulting firm that Sanders has retained to advise his campaign has a well-developed expertise in devising attack ads. Earlier this year, this outfit, Devine Mulvey Longabaugh, won a Pollie award from the American Association of Political Consultants for creating the best Democratic congressional ad of 2014. The spot slammed Dave Trott, a Republican running for a congressional seat in Michigan, for making millions of dollars by foreclosing on residents of his state, and it focused on the harrowing eviction of a 101-year-old Detroit woman. Trott survived this assault and handily won the seat in the Republican district, but the Washington Post called the commercial "one of the most brutal attack ads you'll ever see."

The Sanders campaign has no plans to hurl these kinds of ads at Clinton. As Tad Devine, the veteran political operative who leads this firm and a longtime adviser to Sanders, notes, mudslinging is not part of the campaign strategy that Sanders and his advisers have crafted. There won't even be one speck of dust directly tossed at Clinton. But, Devine tells me, implicit negative messages aimed at Clinton will certainly be "embedded" in Sanders' advertising and social media messaging.

Sanders does have an overall plan on how to beat Clinton. As Devine explains, it goes something like this: Raise enough money to devote significant resources to building a full operation and maintaining a media presence in the early states of Iowa and New Hampshire, as well as Nevada and South Carolina. At the same time, develop a basic foundation for campaign organizations in other states, so if Sanders fares well in the initial contests, these preliminary outfits can quickly be built out. Devine and other Sanders advisers estimate they will need to raise $40-$50 million by the Iowa caucuses to be in such a position, and they claim Sanders is on track to hit that mark, mainly with thousands and thousands of low-dollar contributions. (Sanders has drawn crowds of thousands at recent campaign events.) "I don't know if we can outright beat her in Iowa and New Hampshire," Devine says, "but we have a real shot at it in both places."

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And when—or if—that happens, Devine figures, Sanders will have about a million contributors already on his side, and this group will enthusiastically kick in more money to replenish Sanders' coffers and fund the continuation of Bernie-mentum. "I worked for Walter Mondale in 1984," Devine recalls, "but I saw what Gary Hart did." Hart, a former senator who went up against Mondale in a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, placed a surprising second in Iowa and won New Hampshire. "Things then moved fast. Some polls moved 50 points in seven days," Devine says. (Mondale, though, did end up squelching the Hart insurgency by exploiting the Democratic establishment in key states.)

If Sanders does score well in the early states, Devine insists, his campaign will have a delegate-accumulation strategy reminiscent of the one Barack Obama's 2008 campaign employed to focus as much on snagging delegates as winning caucuses and primaries. "Even if Clinton beats us in some states by 20 points, we can split the delegates with smart focusing," Devine says. And then Sanders will be in a position to make the case to the Democratic establishment that he can assemble an electorate in the general election that is favorable to Democrats (as Obama did in 2008). "We don't know yet what it will look like," Devine remarks. "We haven't done the strategic modeling yet. I've been trying to persuade Bernie we should do that." Instead, he says, Sanders at this point would rather concentrate on promoting his message: Inequality is killing the middle class, climate change must be addressed, big-money politics must be reformed, and new progressive policy ideas, such as free college tuition and expanded Social Security benefits, must be advanced. (Devine also gave Sanders a PowerPoint presentation on how the campaign can use Big Data methods: "He was impressed, but we're not sure we can scale up to that. We won't have $1 billion.")

And what about Clinton? How will Sanders take her on?

Sanders recently boasted that he has "never run a negative ad," noting that he "hates and detests these 30-second negative ads." Devine says this is part of Sanders' DNA. "You need to know Bernie's history with negative ads to get this," Devine says. In 1988, when Sanders was the mayor of Burlington, Vermont, he ran for an open congressional seat as an independent and lost a close race to Republican Peter Smith. Two years later, Sanders was back to challenge Smith. In that 1990 race, Smith aired tough ads assailing Sanders, and Sanders' aides advised him to hit back. Instead, Sanders bought airtime for a five-minute spot in which he talked straight to the camera and decried the attack ads. (It didn't hurt Sanders that the National Rifle Association was slamming Smith for having voted for a ban on semi-automatic weapons.) Sanders ended up winning that race by 16 points. "This was his formative experience," says Devine. "Negative ads have to be denounced and jiu-jitsued."

During his 1994 re-election race, Sanders had a close call. He won by only three points. He responded by doing what he swore he would never do: He hired a Washington consultant, Devine. But he told Devine he would stick to his no-negative-ads stance. In the next election, Sanders aired only positive spots and won by 22 points.

Ten years later, Sanders ran for the Senate, with Devine still advising him. His Republican opponent was a millionaire businessman named Rich Tarrant who dumped about $7 million into the race in a state where, Devine says, no candidate had ever spent more than $2 million on a campaign. "It was a vicious campaign against Bernie," Devine recalls. "He ran ads that accused Bernie of supporting child molesters and terrorists. Chuck Schumer and Harry Reid were telling Bernie, 'You must respond.'" Sanders replied with an ad Devine had cut, in which Sanders noted he was being unfairly attacked and asked voters to visit his website to get the truth. Subsequent commercials by Sanders attempted to refute the stream of attack ads from Tarrant. The Sanders campaign also pushed an ad in which country singer Willie Nelson endorsed Sanders and cited his work for family farmers. Sanders beat Tarrant by more than a 2-1 margin.

So Sanders has survived and thrived in politics by neutralizing negative ads and resisting the urge to attack. And part of his shtick is that he doesn't do conventional politics. So, Devine notes, he will not directly criticize or poke at Clinton. For sure, no personal attacks or cheap shots. "That won't help him," Devine says. "He rejects the status quo of politics." Sanders won't even do a straight-up contrast ad—as in, Bernie Sanders believes X about subject Y, but Hillary Clinton believes Z. "If we do that, we're done," Devine says. "If we do a classic comparative ad, it's over. We'll have to be smarter."

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And Team Sanders does have what it considers to be a smarter way: implying a contrast. In previous campaigns, Devine says, "We have constantly embedded contrast in everything we do." One example: During the 2006 Senate race, Tarrant's residence became a political issue because he had claimed a Florida mansion as his home for tax purposes. Sanders ran a biographical ad in which he declared he worked in Washington and lived in Burlington—an indirect jab at Tarrant. In the campaign against Clinton, Devine notes, "There will be a lot of implicit negative. But it won't look negative. It won't feel negative."

That's how Sanders recently handled the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact. He opposes the measure as a sop to corporate America and billionaires. Asked about Clinton's view—she has referred positively to this trade deal in the past but more recently has avoided stating a firm position—Sanders didn't proclaim that she's in bed with the 1 percent; he called on her to take a clear stance. "It's not a question of watching this," he said. "You're going to have determine which side are you on." Devine points out that "this is not negative, but contrasting. When you offer voters a contrast on the issues, they don't take that as a negative." He adds that Sanders is "very good at this."

Contrast without attacking—that's the mantra. "As someone making the ads, it will be a difficult challenge," Devine says. "We have to present the differences in the ads without him coming across as part of the political system." Devine fears that if Sanders crosses that line, the Clinton campaign will fire back hard: "They have all the tonnage. We're dead."

Bernie Sanders Is Enjoying a Mini-Surge **// The New Yorker // John Cassidy – June 26, 2015**

On Thursday, while the political world was focussed on the Supreme Court's Obamacare ruling, two polls came out showing Bernie Sanders making up ground on Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire and Iowa. In a survey carried out by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center for CNN and the Manchester-based WMUR TV, Clinton was leading Sanders by just eight percentage points: forty-three per cent to thirty-five per cent. Meanwhile, a poll carried out in Iowa for Bloomberg found that Sanders now has the support of about a quarter of likely Democratic voters, by far his strongest showing yet in the state that will be the first to vote in the Democratic primary. "It's tremendous progress that he is making with voters in the first two states," Tad Devine, Sanders's chief political strategist, told Bloomberg's John McCormick. "It's something we felt on the ground."

At this stage, it's necessary to issue a few qualifiers.

First, it's not July 4th yet, and there are still seven months until the 2016 primaries begin. At this early stage, opinion polls bounce around quite a bit, and no single survey should be accorded very much weight. Second, Clinton is trouncing Sanders in the national polls. Third, even in the early primary states she still has a big advantage. In Iowa, Sanders has yet to come within twenty-five points of her in any poll, and in New Hampshire a separate Bloomberg survey found that she retains a much bigger lead than the CNN/WMUR survey suggested: twenty-six points. "Clinton remains enormously well-known and well-liked in New Hampshire, a state she won before," Doug Usher, of Purple Strategies, the research firm that carried out Bloomberg's New Hampshire poll, said. "She benefits from a gender gap in a primary that will be disproportionately female, and even Sanders's voters admit Clinton is likely the nominee."

So there's no need for panic in the Clinton camp, which has adopted the public position that it expected a competitive primary all along. But for Sanders, and for Democrats who would like an alternative to Clinton, the signs are encouraging. The seventy-three-year-old Vermont senator is clearly enjoying himself, hurtling around the country, drawing large crowds, and promoting his progressive agenda. In the past few days, for instance, he has welcomed Pope Francis's encyclical on climate change, criticized Congress for granting President Obama fast-track authority to complete the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and reiterated his call to expand Medicare into a national health-care system for everyone.

As Sanders promised when he started out, he isn't criticizing Clinton directly. But he is seeking to draw a contrast between his clear positions on such issues as trade with his opponent's nuanced statements. And he's insisting he's in it to win. Speaking to David Corn, of Mother Jones, Devine explained that Sanders's strategy is based on raising enough money—forty or fifty million dollars—to advertise in the early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire,

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Nevada, and South Carolina, and he claimed that, thanks to lots of small donations, this strategy is working so far. "I don't know if we can outright beat her in Iowa and New Hampshire," Devine said, "but we have a real shot at it in both places."

That may be stretching things. Still, if Sanders keeps gaining, he will certainly have the capacity to disrupt some of the Clinton campaign's carefully laid plans. Should they go after Bernie? Should they ignore him? Something in the middle? Up until now, the Clintonites have been running a professional and highly scripted operation that has achieved most of its initial goals, but that sometimes resembles painting by numbers. Clinton has the money, the infrastructure, and the support from other prominent Democrats that Sanders lacks, but the Vermont senator has advantages, too: enthusiasm at the grassroots, the flexibility that comes with being a one-man band, and the ability to position himself as a scrappy underdog and outsider.

"You can make the case that a certain amount of Bernie Sanders's support is a protest vote, but there's more to it than that," J. Ann Selzer, the president of Selzer & Co, which carried out Bloomberg's poll in Iowa, said. "People like him. They like what he stands for. They like showing up at his events and hearing him say things they believe in." In short, Sanders is running a classic insurgency campaign. And as many establishment candidates have discovered in the past, running against such an opponent can be an uncomfortable experience.

Read Late 1970s Bernie Sanders' No-Holds-Barred Critique Of Mass Media // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski – June 26, 2015

In the late 1970s Bernie Sanders, then still known mostly as the perennial Liberty Union candidate and freelance writer, wrote a critique of mass media and television for the Vanguard Press, an alt-weekly that ran from the mid 1970s into the early 1980s.

In the critique, Sanders holds contempt for the mainstream media, which he said abided by the "well-tested Hitlerian principle that people should be treated as morons and bombarded over and over again with the same simple phrases and ideas."

Sanders noted three major functions of the television industry.

"First, it is supposed to make as much money as possible for the owners of the industry and for the companies who advertise," he wrote. "Second, like heroin and alcohol, television serves the function of an escapist mechanism which allows people to 'space out' and avoid the pain and conflict of their lives — and the causes of those problems. Third, television is the major vehicle by which the owners of this society propagate their political points of view (including lies and distortions) through the 'news.'"

Today, the socialist Vermont senator who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination still views mass communication as an important issue facing the country. He maintains a page on his website where he notes, "media consolidation suppresses diversity and ignores the needs and interests of local communities."

The Vermont weekly Seven Days has dug deep in Sanders' history in the state, as a perennial candidate, mayor, congressman, and senator. A "Bernie Beat" archived details his record in the state coming back into the early 1970s. This article is among those posted in their extensive archives.

Sanders noted a "fundamental contradiction" in television like many aspects of a capitalist society. He said owners of the mass media industry don't want to educate people because "to do so would be to act against their own best interests."

"What the owners of the TV industry want to do, and are doing, in my opinion, is use that medium to intentionally

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brainwash people into submission and helplessness," wrote Sanders.

"With considerable forethought they are attempting to create a nation of morons who will faithfully go out and buy this or that product, vote for this or that candidate, and faithfully work for their employers for as low a wage as possible."

Sanders said if "the television industry encouraged intellectual growth, honesty, and the pursuit of truth, it would put most major corporations out of business." He noted "most advertising consists of lies designed to sell products which are either identical to the competition, totally useless, grossly overpriced, or dangerous to human health or the environment."

"The last thing that the owners of the TV industry would want is for people to know the truth about the products sold on the air," he wrote.

Sanders concluded by noting control of television is a political issue that is necessary to address for those "who are concerned about living in a democratic and healthy society."

Clinton backer has 'crush' on Bernie Sanders **// The Hill // Judy Kurtz – June 26, 2015**

Margaret Cho, a Hillary Clinton supporter, says she's got a "crush" on Bernie Sanders.

"I am in Hillary's corner," the comedienne told Larry King on his show, "PoliticKING," on Thursday, "although I have a little crush on Bernie Sanders. I think he's kind of great."

Cho told King that it's not the married Democratic presidential candidate's looks that hooked her, but rather, "I think he's very much about telling the truth. He's really talking about like, how this is all a race about money. It's just billionaires kind of comparing who's got the most money, and that's actually true when you think about the presidential race."

Despite her "crush," the outspoken entertainer and LGBT rights activist said she's "long been" a fan of Clinton: "I had a hard time sort of deciding between Hillary and Obama. I did go to the Obama camp eventually. But Hillary is great."

Cho, 46, added of Sanders' political rival, "Hillary's already been president for eight years. So she always knows the job. So she's cool."

The Vermont senator, Cho said, "may be pulling" Clinton to the left. "Sanders is very much to the left," she said. "He's kind of got this very different appeal."

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

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Jeb Bush has a new problem: John Roberts **// Politico // Eli Stokols – June 26, 2015**

Jeb Bush is always facing nagging questions about the Bush family's political legacy. Now he's got another: John Roberts.

With conservatives up in arms over Roberts' role in preserving Obamacare, Jeb Bush suddenly finds himself called to answer for the chief justice appointed by his brother, George W. Bush. And not just Roberts — Jeb is also taking flak for David Souter, the liberal justice appointed by his father, George H.W. Bush.

In a radio interview Friday afternoon, Jeb Bush was pressed by host Hugh Hewitt to explain the Roberts and Souter nominations to disappointed conservatives.

Bush was reluctant to criticize the chief justice, preferring to talk more broadly about the need to appoint battle-tested conservatives to the high court after back-to-back rulings on Obamacare and same-sex marriage that delighted the left.

"I'm disappointed in both decisions," Bush told Hewitt. "It's important I think to think about going forward what kind of judges we need in the highest court in the land.

"When I was governor, we tried to find people with a proven record of judicial restraint, and people that were committed to enforcing the constitutional limits on government authority. In essence, what I'm saying is I think we need to have people that have not just theoretically, but have had a proven record of not legislating from the bench."

That's what conservatives thought they were getting in Roberts, who was appointed to his position by George W. Bush in 2005. After his majority opinion in King v. Burwell, which preserved Obamacare's tax subsidies, they're not so sure.

"It's fair to say conservatives are re-assessing their view of John Roberts," said John Andrews, the organizer of the Western Conservative Summit in Denver, where seven GOP presidential hopefuls will address 4,000 Republicans this weekend. "These rulings have sharpened the consciousness of conservatives about the importance of judicial appointments, for sure."

Three of the nine current Supreme Court justices were appointed by a Bush: George H.W. Bush appointed Clarence Thomas in 1991; George W. Bush tapped Samuel Alito and Roberts for two vacancies in 2005.

Conservatives couldn't be more pleased with Thomas and Alito. When it comes to the chief justice, however, it's a different story now that the Roberts Court has twice ruled in favor of Obamacare.

Following the court's 6-3 decision to uphold Obamacare subsidies on Thursday, Jeb Bush's campaign pointed the finger at the president, emailing his supporters with a fundraising pitch that argued, "This is the direct result of President Obama."

Hewitt, however, wouldn't let him get away with that line, noting that the decision itself came from Roberts, who wrote the majority opinion.

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“Is he still a model for you going forward?” the host asked Bush.

“I liked one of his rulings and I didn’t like the other,” Bush replied, referring to his agreement with Roberts’ dissent in the same-sex marriage case. “He is a person of unimpeachable integrity and great intelligence.”

Bush’s velvet-glove criticism of Roberts wasn’t nearly tough enough for a conservative base that loathes Obamacare.

“The biggest political loser in this decision was Governor Jeb Bush who can’t be trusted with Supreme Court nominations,” wrote the conservative publication Human Events. “The Bush family has packed the court liberals in conservative clothing. America can’t take the risk of another Bush making the same mistake.”

Hewitt reminded Bush about the justices appointed by his father and brother, specifically Souter, who’s no longer on the court. The now retired justice wound up siding mostly with the court’s liberal wing during his tenure and became a huge disappointment to conservatives.

Roberts, once beloved on the right and a jurist whom conservatives hoped would preside over the court for decades to come, is now drawing unfavorable comparisons to Souter for having ruled to uphold the Affordable Care Act — first by saving the individual mandate in the summer of 2012 and now by declaring the tax subsidies offered under the health law to be constitutional.

“All justices disappoint their presidents some of the time but Souter was like a 90 percent swing and miss,” Hewitt said. “How do you avoid Souters?”

“You focus on people to be Supreme Court justices who have a proven record of judicial restraint,” Bush answered.

Jeb Bush is heading to Charleston for a private meeting with pastors **// Reuters – June 26, 2015**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Jeb Bush, a Republican contender for president, will sit down with pastors on a visit on Monday to Charleston, South Carolina, where nine African-Americans were shot to death at a historic black church, his campaign said on Friday.

Bush, the former Florida governor who leads many polls of Republican voters in the race for the party's 2016 presidential nomination, had canceled a planned campaign stop in Charleston a week ago when the shootings took place.

Instead of a campaign event, Bush will hold a private session with pastors from the Charleston community. In an attempt to keep the session low key, the news media will not be allowed in.

Bush has vowed to campaign in places where Republicans have not always gone in recent years, such as black churches and impoverished neighborhoods.

President Barack Obama gave a speech in Charleston on Friday about racial differences in the United States at the funeral for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was among those shot to death.

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Hillary Clinton, who is the Democratic frontrunner for president, was among those at the funeral on Friday.

While Florida governor, Bush engineered a move for the state to stop displaying the Confederate battle flag. A source familiar with the situation said Bush had consulted with South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley in the days before she announced an effort this week to remove the flag from the grounds of the state capitol in Columbia.

Jeb Bush Tries to Win Without Speaking to His Favorite Strategist // Bloomberg // Michael C. Bender – June 26, 2015

The singular failure of Jeb Bush's political career was his 1994 loss in the Florida governor's race by less than two percentage points. The defeat cast Bush, a rising Republican star, into the political wilderness just as his older brother, George, won an upset victory over Ann Richards in Texas, putting him on the path to the presidency. When Jeb ran again in 1998, he brought in Mike Murphy, an ad man credited with helping John Engler and Christine Todd Whitman win governorships in Michigan and New Jersey. Bush won by more than 10 points. He had Murphy at his side as he cruised to reelection in 2002. Now he's trying to win the presidency without his favorite strategist whispering in his ear.

Murphy is in charge of Right to Rise, a super PAC created to get Bush elected. Because of regulations requiring a separation between candidates and super PACs, they can't formally coordinate their efforts between now and the election. All the major candidates in the 2016 race will have super PACs working on their behalf, but Bush and Murphy are trying something unprecedented in U.S. presidential elections: building a separate, and better-funded, organization that will in some ways eclipse the official campaign as a vehicle for promoting the candidate. Murphy's Los Angeles-based team will produce digital marketing, television ads, and opposition research on behalf of Bush, whose campaign headquarters are across the country in Miami. "He's a good friend, and I'm going to miss him," Bush says. "I hope to see him on election night and give him an embrace. But from here on out, I won't be talking to him."

Unlike the campaign, the super PAC can accept unlimited contributions. Bush spent the months before announcing his candidacy on June 15 taking in tens of millions of dollars for the group, which will report how much it's raised in mid-July. He has been the featured guest at least 39 times for Right to Rise fundraisers, according to invitations compiled by the Sunlight Foundation. The list includes events where the suggested donation was $100,000 a person in Chicago, Miami, and New York. Going forward, he'll be allowed to appear at the group's events as a guest, but he can't discuss strategy or coordinate with Murphy directly.

For Murphy, who declined to be interviewed, the setup offers some clear benefits. For one thing, he'll be the autonomous ruler of the super PAC staff, free of the office politics of the campaign. He plans to use his own Virginia-based consulting company, Revolution Agency, to produce TV ads and a digital marketing effort to reach voters via social media and text messaging. In a June 17 conference call with donors, Murphy said he was no longer coordinating with the campaign but was "well informed as of a week ago" about Bush's strategy. He said Right to Rise would focus on fundraising this year, holding on to most of its cash until primaries begin in early 2016—though Murphy said Right to Rise would "do a few frugal, highly targeted things to help boost the governor's narrative" this summer, as the candidate travels around the country meeting voters.

The call, which was reported by BuzzFeed, illustrates the limits of the no-coordination rules. In the midterms, candidates and super PACs devised numerous tactics for telegraphing their strategies. One was tipping off mainstream news organizations to ad buys or strategic shifts. American Crossroads, a major Republican super PAC, and other groups used Twitter to share polling data with party committees, posting tweets filled with cryptic strings of data—in one case from an account named for a West Wing character. Aides to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee tweeted a link to ad scripts devised by New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen's campaign that were used by Senate Majority PAC, the largest outside Democratic group. "If Bush's chief strategist is doing conference calls to lay out exactly what the plan is and how that's part of the campaign, then there is no independence," says Bill Burton, a co-founder of Priorities USA, a Democratic super PAC created in 2012 to support President Obama's reelection that's now working for Hillary Clinton. (Burton is no longer involved.) "That's not to suggest Mike Murphy and the Bush campaign or anyone is breaking the laws. It's just that the law is

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really stupid."

Bush says his campaign and Right to Rise are on parallel tracks. "I don't think we're exporting any responsibilities," he says. The campaign already has staff on the ground in Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. Right to Rise staffers have been trailing Bush and his events for months, stockpiling footage for ads. "The super PAC? We'll see what they do," Bush says. "I hope it enhances the message that I hope to bring."

Bush's top adviser on the campaign is Sally Bradshaw, who has been working with him since his father's presidential campaign in 1992. Murphy, who also worked on the 1992 campaign, is a foil for Bush, who sometimes struggles to tell a joke but has a keen appreciation for the role humor can play in buoying or tanking a campaign. In the 1998 governor's race, when Bush faced off against a Democrat named Buddy MacKay, Murphy came up with a simple tag line: "He's not your buddy." The line, or a version of it, was used in every possible ad. "That's a great example of Mike's creativity," says Cory Tilley, a Tallahassee political operative who handled communications for Bush in his Florida races. "That took the edge off some so it didn't look like a down-in-the-gutter attack." One TV spot accused MacKay and Florida Democrats of being soft on crime because they'd relaxed sentencing laws to address prison overcrowding. "Thanks, Buddy," said a burglar in the commercial.

Along with Bradshaw, Murphy has been able to tell Bush when he's strayed off course—or help him regain focus after campaign setbacks. "Murphy is one of the few people that Jeb can hear that from and believe it," says Brian Crowley, a Florida political analyst.

Nuclear 2.0? Jeb Bush is Open to Ending the Senate Filibuster to Repeal Obamacare // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – June 26, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said Friday he's open to eliminating the Senate's 60-vote threshold if it helps Congress repeal Obamacare and enact "free-market oriented" health care reforms.

Appearing on Hugh Hewitt's radio show, the former Florida governor was asked if he'd support invoking the "Reid rule"—also known as the "nuclear option"—to nix the legislative filibuster to replace the Affordable Care Act.

At first, Bush said his focus was coming up with a health care plan that Republicans can unify behind.

"I think we Republicans first need to unify behind the replacement," he said. "If there's unity there, we can act. Right now, though, for the last few years we've been organized against Obamacare... But there hasn't been any kind of unity about what the alternative is and that's what my focus is."

Hewitt pressed Bush, pointing out that Republicans are unlikely to get 60 Senate to defeat a filibuster if Democrats stick together and block efforts to repeal Obamacare, as they have done for years. "At that point," Hewitt said, "would you at least be open to making the argument that on this issue, before it gets its tentacles too deep, that we break the filibuster and ram through a repeal and replacement?"

Bush responded that he was open to it.

"I'd have to see—if the repeal is what I'm going to advocate, then I might consider that," he said, adding that if the replacement includes high-deductible, low-premium catastrophic coverage and helps the middle class, "then I would certainly consider that."

Bush is unique among presidential candidates who have signaled any openness to ending the legislative filibuster.

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Democrats ended the 60-vote threshold for nominations to the executive and judicial branches (except the Supreme Court) in November 2013, drawing fierce conservative pushback. Since then, Republicans have preserved the change but have not sought to further dismantle the filibuster.

Even Senator Ted Cruz of Texas—a rival Republican candidate who is no stranger to supporting scorched-earth legislative tactics—wouldn't support the idea of scrapping the filibuster in February 2015 as he was pushing legislation to overturn President Barack Obama's immigration executive actions.

RUBIO

Rubio pushes back against health care ruling, new gun control efforts, and negotiating with terrorists // NH1 // Paul Steinhauser – June 26, 2015

EXETER – Marco Rubio says "I believe Obamacare's bad for Americans. Bad for the country."

Asked by NH1 News about the Supreme Court's ruling Thursday upholding the Affordable Care Act, the senator from Florida and Republican presidential candidate said "I disagree with their decision."

"I think a better approach is the one we're pushing for, and that is a patient centric, consumer centric, Obamacare replacement that would allow individual Americans to buy health insurance of the kind they want from any company in any state in America that would sell it to them," he added.

Rubio spoke to NH1 News and other news organizations outside the historic town hall in Exeter, minutes after the high court's ruling. Rubio was in Exeter to headline an event hosted by the conservative organization Concerned Veterans for America.

Asked by NH1 News about new gun control efforts in Congress in the wake of last week's horrific shootings at an historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina that left nine people dead, Rubio said "I think it's ineffective and it won't achieve what we're trying to achieve, and that's keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. Criminals don't care what the law is. That's why they're criminals."

Rubio's visit came one day after President Obama announced a policy overhaul that will allow the United States government to communicate and negotiate with hostage takers. Noting that his administration has too often failed the families of Americans taken hostage by groups like ISIS, the President said that the new rule "does not prevent communications with hostage takers by our government, the families of hostages or third parties who help these family."

But Obama said he wouldn't change a longstanding policy against paying ransoms to terrorist groups.

Rubio said he disagrees with the President, adding that "we have to understand that when you negotiate with terrorists, you are in essence incentivizing them to take more hostages in the future. You place other Americans, including service men and women, in danger."

Rubio's come under attack recently by Donald Trump, a rival for the GOP nomination. Asked by NH1 News about Trump's comments and whether the real estate mogul and reality TV should be taken seriously, Rubio said "I'm going to focus on my campaign and my message."

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“One of the reasons Barack Obama is president of the United States today is because Republicans in the last election spent an inordinate amount of time attacking each other and calling each other names. We’ll have disagreements on policy. I look forward to that debate. But my message is going to be about the future of America. I’m not running against any other Republican,” he added.

Earlier, during the Concerned Veterans for America event, Rubio gave the President an F grade when it comes to the overhaul of the troubled Veterans Affairs department.

"It’s not just a funding issue, it’s not even ‘a want to’ issue, it is the fact that the model itself may not work in the 21st century,” Rubio said.

“The key is, it’s up to the veteran to choose,” Rubio added. “Putting the veteran in charge. If you don’t do that, you’ll have failing grade no matter who the president is.”

This was Rubio’s first trip to the first-in-the-nation primary state in two months. But top Rubio campaign officials told NH1 News to expect to see a lot more of the candidate in the Granite State going forward.

Rubio calls for preserving American dream **// Eagle-Tribune // Doug Ireland – June 26, 2015**

SALEM, N.H. — Florida Sen. Marco Rubio called for a 21st-century approach to solving the nation's problems during a town hall meeting Thursday at the Derry-Salem Elks Lodge.

Recalling his Cuban parents' struggle to make ends meet after coming to the United States in 1956, the Republican presidential hopeful said the nation's next leader must make sure Americans have the same opportunities to succeed as they did.

"The answer to why I'm running for president is really about my family," he told the crowd of nearly 150 people. "Their life wasn't an instant success. They struggled."

Rubio said his parents — a bartender and a maid — were able to better themselves through hard work.

"They were able to retire with dignity and security, and they were able to leave their four children better off than them," Rubio said. "There was no goal out of reach because we were Americans."

But he said many low-income Americans no longer have the opportunities to succeed like his parents did because of a soaring national debt and uncertain economic climate.

Rubio called for programs and policies that boost job growth and training for workers. A simpler tax code and less government regulation are also needed, he added.

"We have to make it easier to open a business," Rubio said. "We have wiped them out because of these regulations."

He spoke of the need for a child-tax credit to help working families, and said programs such as Medicaid and Social Security need to be improved and preserved.

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Fishing for votes, Rubio turns attacks into jokes // Boston Herald // Chris Cassidy – June 26, 2015

SALEM, N.H. — Florida U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio turned the press attacks on his personal finances into punch lines while campaigning here yesterday — including a New York Times report that he "splurged" on an "extravagant ... luxury speedboat."

"Probably the most stunning argument I've heard recently from our friends in the press is that I'm not rich enough to be president of the United States," Rubio said to laughs during a town hall. "And, look, it's true I don't have a family foundation that's raised $2 billion, some of it with foreign donors ... But Jeanette and I have been blessed ... we've been able to buy a luxury speedboat, cleverly disguised as a fishing boat."

The Times story earlier this month claimed Rubio had been splurging on luxuries even though he was "bedeviled by financial struggles." A Politico report the next day revealed the "luxury" ves-sel was an $80,000 fishing boat he bought after receiving a book advance.

Rubio hit the Granite State for the first time in several weeks, appearing at two town halls in Exeter and Salem and delivering a policy speech in Manchester.

He also met briefly with five Massachusetts Republican lawmakers in Salem — state Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, state Sens. Vinny deMacedo and Ryan Fattman and state Reps. Shawn Dooley and Keiko Orrall.

All but Tarr say they are definitely supporting Rubio and plan to campaign for him on both sides of the border.

"I'll come up to New Hampshire if needed," Dooley said. "Our focus will be to deliver Massachusetts for him. I don't think this will be a campaign season that will be won or lost in New Hampshire. Massachusetts will play a factor in the primary."

Michael Dewitt, a former 2012 Mitt Romney staffer from Meredith, said he's "90 percent" leaning toward Rubio but also considering Jeb Bush and Scott Walker.

"He was easily the coolest, most down-to-earth guy that we had dealings with," Dewitt said of his encounters with Rubio on the Romney campaign. "I've seen a lot of politicians, and a lot of them are just full of ... themselves. He's very articulate. He's very well-versed on the issues. He's very passionate about ... the country and where we're going."

Dubya's Real Brother Is Rubio // The Daily Beast // Tim Mak – June 26, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. -- What if George W. Bush's real brother -- ideologically, at least -- is Sen. Marco Rubio?

Rubio barnstormed the Granite State Thursday, bringing with him a campaign stump speech that was heavy on the compassionate conservatism and deeply hawkish foreign policy closely associated with Bush 43.

The Florida senator can embrace George W. Bush's message and rhetorical stylings -- higher defense spending and domestic policies that will appeal to conservatives but targeted at lower-income Americans -- but with the personal authority to speak about the poor in this country. And he can do it without the dynastic baggage that

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fellow 2016er Jeb Bush brings to the presidential contest.

The Republican Party hasn't seen compassionate conservatism in a while. During the heyday of the Tea Party movement, Republicans around the country decried Obama as a food stamp president and demanded drug testing for welfare recipients. Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney came off as apathetic to the poor, and his "47 percent" comments cemented his reputation as a heartless plutocrat in the minds of many voters.

But Rubio grew up the son of a bartender and a maid, both immigrants. He has a mortgage -- just one -- that he and his wife pay on the fifth of every month. The Florida senator can speak with familiarity about being poor -- which couldn't be said of Romney, a gazillionaire memorably described by Mike Huckabee as “the guy who fires you”; John McCain, the son and grandson of admirals; and George W. Bush, the son of a president.

There are a lot of negative connotations in being compared to George W. Bush. But with Bush's approval rating recovering with the passage of time, Rubio brings a new face -- and new personal authority -- to an older perspective on conservatism.

"We have to reinvigorate our economy, and that begins with recognizing the plight of millions of Americans who today live paycheck to paycheck," Rubio told a small group of New Hampshire voters at the Derry-Salem Elks Lodge Thursday. "Do you know why I'm a conservative, why I love free enterprise? Because it's the only economic model in the history of the world where people like me even have a chance."

And Rubio’s emphasis on increased defense spending and a renewed willingness to use America’s military might abroad is also reminiscent of George W. Bush. Asked by an attendee what he would do in his first 100 days in the White House, Rubio's first three off-the cuff ideas were about national security.

"I would immediately ask Congress for a supplemental budget authority to increase defense spending," Rubio said. It was a topic he hammered over and over again: "We need a strong America on the global stage, because nothing else matters if we're not safe. And that starts with having the strongest military in the world. Today we are eviscerating our military, we have had rapid reductions in defense spending... We can't solve all the world's problems, but we can always be on the side of moral clarity."

But the capital-B, capital-I Big Idea that Rubio is campaigning on is that the things that guaranteed middle class stability and opportunity for the poor in the 20th century no longer work today. Touching on subjects ranging from social security to whether a college education will guarantee a job to the Veterans Administration, Rubio held three town halls in New Hampshire, all of which touched on how to improve the lot of the less well off.

"One of the fundamental issues that I've been campaigning on is the argument that the 21st century is dramatically different from the 20th, that things that used to work in the past don't work as well now because the world has changed," Rubio said at a Concerned Veterans for America event, where he urged reforms to the VA system broadly, Tri-Care military health insurance, and the vets' disability claims process.

Rubio also wants to reform the higher education system. He wants more students to pursue technical degrees, and college credit to be more easily granted for students with prior work experience or military service. A military service member who served two tours in Iraq shouldn't be made to sit through a course on modern Middle Eastern politics, he said.

"In the 21st century it is not enough to just have a college degree," Rubio said. He wants college loans to be granted only after colleges tell each student the average annual wage for the major and degree that they've chosen.

Many of the other ideas are fundamentally the same as 2000s conservatism: tax cuts for small businesses,

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increasing the child tax credit for working families, and reversing environmental regulations that hinder economic growth.

"The more people you hire, the more you pay them, and the more you expand -- the less you will owe the IRS. We need a tax code that allows businesses to immediately [reinvest] back into their employees," Rubio said.

His style impressed some of the locals, many of whom consider it their civic duty to put presidential candidates on the hot seat.

"His off-the-cuff remarks: he's moving up on the electability scale. He's sliding up," said Jorg Dreusick, a veteran from Pelham, New Hampshire who placed Rubio near the top of his list of top five presidential contenders. He attended both the morning event in Exeter, N.H. and the early afternoon event in Salem, N.H.

One thing Rubio simply didn't do while campaigning in New Hampshire: he didn't toss the crowd the red meat they really wanted. He got the largest applause out of one crowd when he spoke about Benghazi ("incompetence") and about President Obama ("who has chosen to divide us against each other, for [the] purpose of winning elections"). But those lines were responses to questions raised by the crowd.

Unlike some other presidential candidates, who thrive on the raucous response of the conservative primary audiences, Rubio didn't pander. Asked for his priorities as president, he geeked out on the proper role of the National Security Council, an issue unlikely to resonate with vast swaths of the electorate. Then he said he wanted centralized cybersecurity procedures so that agencies use best practices to protect information.

He even went out of his way to take a little shot at someone the many Patriots fans in attendance surely consider a hero.

"Tom Brady, when is he going to retire?" he asked the New Hampshire crowd.

Rubio among lawmakers vowing to repeal Obamacare following Supreme Court ruling // Fox News Latino – June 26, 2015

Thursday's Supreme Court ruling validating federal health insurance subsidies for nearly 6.4 million Americans had consumers breathing a sigh of relief that they would be able to afford their policies, but the reaction was markedly different from governors and lawmakers in states that have fought against the Affordable Care Act.

Many of them strengthened their calls to repeal the act, setting the tone for what will likely be a common GOP refrain during next year's presidential campaign.

Florida would have been ground zero for the aftermath, with more than 1.3 million people relying on the federal subsidies. Setting up a state exchange was a political non-starter. Republican Gov. Rick Scott and House Republicans strongly opposed a Senate bill that would have created one as well as expand Medicaid.

Scott and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican presidential candidate, both reaffirmed their commitment to repealing the law Thursday.

"It's a bad law," Scott told reporters. "It's made promises after promises."

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Texas, like many of the 34 Republican-led states relying on the exchange, had no backup plan if the court had struck down the subsidies. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott had no interest in setting up a state exchange for the 832,000 Texans relying on the federal tax credits that lowered their monthly premiums.

"The Supreme Court abandoned the Constitution to resuscitate a failing health care law," Abbott, a Republican, said in a statement. "Today's action underscores why it is now more important than ever to ensure we elect a President who will repeal Obamacare and enact real health care reforms."

He and other GOP governors said it would have been up to the president and Congress to fix it.

At issue in the case were the subsidies given by the federal government to consumers in the 34 states that relied on the federal health insurance exchange. A handful of words in the Affordable Care Act suggested the subsidies were to go only to consumers using exchanges operated by the states. In its 6-3 ruling, the high court said those subsidies did not depend on where people live.

The court's decision to allow the subsidies to continue was a relief to many who had purchased health insurance policies through the federal exchange.

Among them is Jennifer Greene, a 58-year-old from Boca Raton, Florida, who feared she would have to go without insurance if she lost her $547-a-month tax credit.

She had insurance through her job at a large grocery store chain but lost it because she missed too much work following surgery to remove part of her colon, which required lengthy follow-up care.

Greene signed up for a mid-level insurance plan in February, paying $25 a month after the tax credit. She was able to keep her primary care doctor and has relied heavily on the insurance to cover follow-up appointments with specialists and a hernia surgery.

"Those things are not affordable without insurance," she said Thursday. "Having the insurance makes the difference of staying healthy or ignoring your health issues."

With the coverage expansion under the law, about 90 percent of Americans now have health care. After the Supreme Court ruling, the focus will shift to those who remain uninsured. But closing the gap will mean convincing some 20 states that have resisted the law's Medicaid expansion to drop their opposition.

The biggest payoff could come if Texas and Florida expand their programs, but governors and legislators in those states have blocked all Medicaid expansion efforts.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a potential Republican presidential candidate, called on Congress to repeal and replace the law, saying Obama's signature domestic policy achievement had failed the American people. Some 183,000 Wisconsin residents are getting health insurance through the exchange.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, another potential GOP presidential contender, said in a Twitter message that "leaders must turn our attention to making the case that ObamaCare must be replaced."

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Gov. Phil Bryant was among several Mississippi Republican leaders who criticized the Supreme Court's decision.

"Today's decision does not change the fact that Obamacare is a socialist takeover of health care forced down the throats of the American people without proper review, and it does not slow the massive and unprecedented transfer of wealth that is at the heart of the subsidy system," Bryant said.

Pennsylvania was one of the few states that had applied to set up a state exchange, but Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf said he would withdraw those plans given Thursday's ruling.

As the law's opponents regroup, consumers say they are grateful the court allowed the federal premium subsidies to continue.

Shawn Turner of Cisco, Illinois, finished chemotherapy for uterine cancer last summer and relies on the $830-a-month in tax credit she and her husband receive for regular follow-up scans to make sure the cancer is gone. If the court had struck down the subsidies, she said they would have had to dip into their savings or start selling their possessions to pay for their insurance.

"I'm just so relieved and happy, not just for me but for everyone who's being helped by this," said Turner, 55.

Cindy Williams, a 63-year-old breast cancer and liver cancer survivor from Texas, receives a federal premium subsidy of more than $500 a month. She said she would not be able to afford to go to the doctor or buy her medications without it.

Williams, who lives in the Austin suburb of Pflugerville, said she was thrilled to hear about the court's ruling.

"I am so happy because that means that I can keep my insurance, that I can stay healthy and move on with my life," she said.

PAUL

Rand Paul: Clintons 'proud' to incarcerate a generation of black men // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 26, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said that Bill and Hillary Clinton were "proud" to be in power at a time when legions of young black men were put in prison as part of the war on drugs.

"Bill Clinton presided over the incarceration of an entire generation of young black men," Paul, a GOP presidential candidate, said Thursday on "The Wilkow Majority" on SiriusXM. Young black men, Paul said, are being put in jail "at a rate never before seen in history" because of the war on drugs.

"Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton, they were all proud to do this, but now that I've been speaking out and saying that mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow, now all the sudden the Clintons are saying now we're going to be back on the other side of this issue now," he said.

Paul has long emphasized criminal justice issues, for example co-sponsoring legislation that would reform

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mandatory sentencing laws.

He pointed to poll numbers that showed him doing well against - or surpassing - Hillary Clinton in some swing states. A recent Quinnipiac poll, for example, showed Paul running even with Clinton in Ohio and ahead of her in Pennsylvania

"Someone from the DNC is listening to our radio interview now and they're looking for ways to attack me because they see me as a threat to Hillary Clinton," Paul said. "I'm going to the south side of Chicago, I'm going to the inner city Philadelphia, I'm going to Baltimore, I'm going to Ferguson and I'm saying what have the Democrats done for you? What have they done to alleviate poverty? What have they done on crime? What have they done for the young men in your community and you know what it's starting to gain traction."

Paul went to Chicago last month, spoke to the Baltimore County GOP earlier this month, and spoke at the Constitution Center and held a rally outside Independence Hall in Philadelphia last month.

Rand Paul Calls Mass Incarceration The "New Jim Crow" While Slamming Clinton // Buzzfeed News // Andrew Kaczynski and Megan Apper – June 26, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul said Thursday that Bill and Hillary Clinton are "proud" to have presided "over the incarceration of a whole generation of young black men" in comments singling out mass incarceration as "the new Jim Crow."

The senator from Kentucky is an advocate for making changes to the criminal justice system and has co-sponsored legislation with Democratic Sen. Cory Booker to help keep nonviolent criminal offenders out of prison.

"Bill Clinton presided over the incarceration of a whole generation of young black men," Paul said on The Wilkow Majority. "We are putting young black men in jail at a rate never before seen in history and it's because of this war on drugs."

Paul said Hillary and Bill Clinton were "proud to do this."

Hillary Clinton spoke earlier this year of ending "the era of mass incarceration." Clinton's remarks rejected the "tough-on-crime" mantra and legislation advocated by her and her husband during his time as president which included signing the 1994 crime bill.

"And so Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton, they were all proud to do this," said Paul. "But now that I've been speaking out and saying that mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow, now all of a sudden the Clintons are saying, 'oh wait a minute, we are going to be back on the other side of this issue right now.'"

Paul said Democrats saw him as "a threat to Hillary Clinton" because he goes to communities like Ferguson, Missouri and Baltimore, Maryland and says "what have the Democrats done for you?"

"And I hate to tell you this, but someone from the Democrat National Committee is listening to our radio interview right now and they are looking for ways to attack me, because they see me as a threat to Hillary Clinton, because I'm going to the south side of Chicago, I'm going to the inner city of Philadelphia, I'm going to Baltimore, I'm going to Ferguson, and I'm saying, what have the Democrats done for you? What have they done to alleviate poverty? What have they done for crime? What have they done for the young men in your community and you know why? It's starting to gain traction, and that is why we lead her in several states that Obama won."

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Paul said he that understands marijuana isn't good for people, but the law needs to be fair and not incarcerate one race more than another.

"I think that the law needs to be fair and that we shouldn't incarcerate one race more than another and I think the law should be fair in the sense that the penalties should be proportionate to the crime," said Paul.

"You can kill someone in Kentucky and be eligible for parole in 12 years, but we have people in jail for marijuana sales for 55 years, life, 20 years, 25 years. We've gone too far in all of this and then when you add up the numbers, even the white kids and black kids use marijuana at about the same rate and in national surveys the arrests and incarceration rate is four times greater for black males than it is for white males."

Rand Paul's Tax Plan May Be Radical, But It's Not Impossible // Forbes // Joseph Thorndike – June 26, 2015

Last week Rand Paul unveiled his plan for the "Fair and Flat Tax." That makes him the latest – but certainly not the last – presidential candidate to embrace the rhetoric of flatness. If recent experience is any guide, it won't be an easy sell. Just ask Steve Forbes, Newt Gingrich, Rick Perry, or any of the other failed candidates who put flat taxes at the center of their campaigns.

A long view of history, however, suggests that flat taxes may have some legs. The United States has been using graduated rates for the federal income tax since 1913, but there's precedent for flat rate levies, too.

Congress has twice enacted single-rate taxes on income, the first in 1861 and again in 1894. Both disappeared before they were collected. But the debate surrounding their adoption — as well as the discussion in 1913 — reveals ample support for proportional, rather than progressive, taxation.

Confusing Polls

When it comes to taxes, "flat" is one of those words that often elicits favorable poll responses. Last yearReason.com reported that 62 percent of Americans endorsed the idea of a flat rate tax on income. Similarly,Rasmussen Reports found that 58 percent of respondents favored a flat income tax in 2011.

Other polls have been less encouraging. In 2011 The Hill found that only 35 percent of respondents supported a single-rate tax. Another 2011 survey found similar results. "Flat tax proponents face an uphill battle," observed David Brady and Tammy Frisby in a Wall Street Journal op-ed. "Americans in general opposed the flat tax proposal 39% to 28%."

If the polls are confusing, it's probably because the flat tax is confusing, too. There is no single definition of a flat tax. Politicians have used the term to describe a wide range of plans with little resemblance to each other. Some flat taxes are imposed on income, others on consumption. Some are flat in the sense that they wipe out all deductions, credits, exclusions, and similar tax preferences. Others – including Paul's – retain some popular (and costly) deductions, like those for mortgage interest and charitable giving.

A single rate would seem crucial for any tax claimed to be flat. But some flat taxes have featured graduated rates. Anyone remember the Fair Flat Tax Act of 2007? Don't let the name fool you; it was introduced not by Paul but by Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon. Wyden, who now serves as ranking minority member of the Senate Finance Committee, made room in his outline for a series of graduated rates as well as some popular deductions.

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However, almost every flat tax is rooted in arguments for less graduation in the rate structure. Even Wyden's plan would have slashed the number of brackets from six to three.

The hostility to graduation can seem nonsensical. After all, we've had a progressive rate structure for more than a century; it's obviously crucial to the tax system.

Or maybe not.

The 1913 income tax was not flat. It featured graduated rates ranging as high as 7 percent. But progressive rates were peripheral in arguments for adopting the tax. Supporters wanted to use the income tax to counterbalance regressive consumption taxes, especially the tariff. In general, they believed that even a flat rate tax would do the job.

"Graduated rates were not seen as essential to achieve the goals of an income tax," explained legal historian Steven Bank in a 1996 article on the origins of the flat tax. "The progressive rates were a response to the perception that the tariff was burdening the poor, in the form of higher prices, with more than their fair share of taxes." The thinking was that when levied with the tariff, the income tax would produce a relatively flat overall tax burden, he said. "Thus, consistent with the country's tradition, the income tax in the Act of 1913 was used to achieve the goal of a flat or proportionate rate tax system," Bank wrote.

Of course, rates increased rapidly after 1913. Just four years later, income in the top bracket was taxed at 77 percent. But for the most part, the income tax was viewed as a compensatory tax, designed to balance other, more regressive levies. In 1913 the tariff needed a counterweight. Today, it's payroll taxes.

Over the years, some left-leaning politicians have suggested using the income tax as a way to redistribute wealth or income. Franklin Roosevelt comes to mind. But more moderate (and numerous) politicians have defended the income tax as a way to redistribute the tax burden, with the ultimate goal being something close to proportionality.

Which brings us back to Paul's Fair Flat Tax. It's certainly radical and a sharp break with the recent past. As my colleague David Brunori has pointed out, it would reshape not just the tax system, but government as a whole, by starving the federal government of revenue.

But radical doesn't mean implausible. Since proportionality lies at the heart of Paul's plan, history suggests it might have a shot.

Rand Paul Is Winning the Pot Reform Primary **// U.S. News & World Report // Steven Nelson – June 26, 2015**

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is the favored candidate of leading marijuana reform advocates. Pot legalization is popular with young voters and likely will be on a half-dozen state ballots in 2016.

Sen. Rand Paul bested his rivals for the White House in a candidate report card issued Friday by the Marijuana Policy Project, one of the largest organizations pushing to regulate the drug like alcohol.

The group gave the Kentucky Republican an A- in recognition of his efforts to overhaul federal drug laws and his support of states' right to legalize marijuana.

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Second place – a B+ – went to former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., who has not officially announced a bid, and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, a former Republican seeking the Democratic nomination.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent also seeking the Democratic nomination, got a B, as did former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican who favors reducing criminal penalties.

MPP leaders have discussed formally endorsing Paul, and the group's political action committee this year contributed $5,000 to his presidential campaign, $5,000 to his Senate re-election bid and another $5,000 to a Paul-supporting PAC.

None of the other presidential campaigns have received funding from the group, which helped spearhead the successful legalization campaigns in Alaska and Colorado.

No serious contender has said they support legalization, despite majority support in many polls. Sanders and Chafee, however, have hinted they may evolve on the issue.

The Democrats' front-runner, Hillary Clinton, earned a B- in the report card for supporting states' right to legalize the drug and expanded research.

Many leading Republican contenders fared worse. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who supports state autonomy, got a C+. Businessman Donald Trump earned a C.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush, R-Fla., and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., got a D, as did Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is widely expected to seek the GOP nomination. Also earning a D was Vice President Joe Biden, who has not yet announced if he will seek the Democratic nomination.

Gov. Chris Christie, R-N.J., who has promised to end state-regulated recreational marijuana sales if he's elected president, earned an F.

CRUZ

After a tepid start to presidential run, Ted Cruz plans to 'play hard' in Iowa // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 26, 2015

RED OAK, Iowa — Sen. Ted Cruz wound his way through the small towns and rolling hills of western Iowa last week, doing the gruntwork of retail campaigning: shaking hands, posing for photos, giving stump speeches and, most importantly: making entreaties for support in a state that could determine the trajectory of his presidential campaign.

"Whether we win or lose, this race will be decided by the men and women gathered here," he said last Friday to a group of mostly older people sitting on folding chairs in a conference room.

Iowa's first-in-the nation caucuses are often a high-stakes event for presidential campaigns — and this year the state is especially critical for Cruz, a stalwart conservative in a crowded field. The Texas Republican's uncompromising stances seem designed to appeal to the conservative base that dominates the state GOP, as well as the state's heavy concentration of evangelical Christians. On Friday in Sheldon, Iowa, Cruz forcefully denounced Supreme Court rulings upholding a key part of the Affordable Care Act and affirming the rights of gays to marry nationwide.

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But the early evidence suggests that victory in Iowa may be an uphill climb for the Texas senator.

Cruz's poll numbers in the state are underwhelming so far: a Des Moines register poll last month put him in eighth place among likely caucus-goers, with 5 percent saying they would support Cruz. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was in first place with 17 percent of the vote. State Republicans have expressed surprise that Cruz, who has only one paid staffer in Iowa, had visited the state as an officially declared candidate just twice before last week's trip.

Now Cruz is doubling down on the Hawkeye State. Cruz is again making a swing through the state Friday. His last stop: a speech Saturday at Drake University in Des Moines, titled "Believe Again."

"I'm going to spend a lot of time in the great state of Iowa," Cruz promised more than a week ago at a restaurant in Denison, where a print of "American Gothic" hung on the wall behind him and a man rang a cowbell each time the senator made an applause line.

He has visited the state twice before as a candidate, with several more visits in the works over the coming weeks. He is vowing to visit all of Iowa's 99 counties, launching a fresh push to recruit key grass-roots volunteers and opening a campaign office soon.

"If Ted Cruz is your guy, I want to talk to you," Bryan English, Cruz's Iowa campaign chair, said to about 75 people who came to hear the candidate speak in Red Oak. They included the father of Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), who said he plans to support Cruz.

But Ernst herself — who took a very public motorcycle ride with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) earlier this month — remains uncommitted. Other key state leaders have already signed on to other campaigns. And some here wonder why it took so long for Cruz to push this hard in Iowa.

Cruz went to Iowa a week after his announcement in March, and returned in April to attend a homeschooler conference in Des Moines. A third planned trip was canceled because of weather. He did not attend the Ernst event three weeks ago that featured many other GOP presidential hopefuls — including Walker — instead speaking at the North Carolina Republican convention. Cruz has also had to spend a large chunk of time in Washington, where the Senate has been in session.

"We haven't seen him," said Craig Robinson, a former Iowa Republican party political director. "It's one of those things where if he's going to be competitive here, and he has some stiff competition for the space he wants to occupy, he has to have a more constant presence in the state. You can't be gone for two months."

An Iowa Republican who did not want to be identified in order to speak freely was more blunt: "Ted Cruz can absolutely win the Iowa caucuses, but thus far he's not running the campaign that can do it for him."

In an interview Saturday, Cruz defended his strategy, saying much of the campaign's time and energy for the first few months had been focused on fundraising, on recruiting statewide leadership teams and on peeling away caucus-goers who once backed current presidential candidates, including Mike Huckabee, who won the state in 2008, and 2012 caucus winner Rick Santorum. Members of Cruz's Iowa team include former Iowa secretary of state Matt Schultz, who supported Santorum, and Joel Kurtinitis and state Sen. Jason Schultz, who both endorsed former Texas congressman Ron Paul during the last cycle.

Cruz said he is "playing hard" here – as well as New Hampshire, where he wants to appeal to Catholics, and South Carolina, where there are many evangelical Christians.

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“If you look at our leadership teams you see conservatives, you see evangelicals, you see libertarians … I’m not aware of any other candidate that enjoys that breadth of support from the many groups that comprise the Republican majority,” Cruz said before an event at an indoor gun range in Johnston, Iowa.

Cruz advisers say that the candidate’s strategy is to coalesce his conservative base while pulling in support from evangelicals and conservative libertarians and casting aside what the candidate calls “the mushy middle.”

The campaign describes the electorate in a bracket-style system: conservatives, libertarians, evangelicals, and moderates. It believes Cruz’s path to victory involves winning the conservative bracket and getting large numbers of people in the evangelical bracket, as well as libertarians, to back his campaign.

But the biggest focus has been on fundraising. Cruz’s campaign raised $4 million in its first week and a collection of super PACs supporting the candidate have raised $37 million, according to CNN. The campaign itself said it is on pace to have raised $8 million to $10 million by June 30.

“In the early parts of a campaign, you cannot succeed without having the resources to communicate your message,” Cruz said.“There are seasons and phases in a presidential race.

“There are other candidates in the field who are not seeing significant fundraising success, who can spend every day doing nothing but grass-roots events because they’re not having success raising money,” he said.

Cruz’s campaign downplayed its minimal staffing in the state saying that its strategy all along has been to focus on recruiting the key, lesser-known grass-roots activists who can make inroads with his base, and to reach to conservatives who may not have voted in 2012.

“The era when a candidate could come move to an early state for a year, catch fire and then build a national campaign based on the momentum of that one state is no longer likely to occur because the time frame is compressed,” said Cruz. “And so we are also very deliberately running a national campaign.”

Cruz advisers said the candidate needs to win one of the first three primary states — or be in the top three in Iowa. Additionally, the campaign is pouring resources into states that will vote March 1 and March 15, a strategy they believe will position Cruz well after the crowded early primaries and caucuses shake out. Regardless of outcome, the campaign wants to be positioned to immediately dive into the delegate-rich second round of states, which includes Cruz’s home state of Texas.

“Our intent is to be standing” on March 15, an adviser said. Cruz will spend August stumping in states including Arkansas, Wyoming and Alabama. Cruz’s team also wants to try to solidify conservatives in more liberal states such as Massachusetts and Minnesota.

But Iowa Republicans believe the state is ripe for a candidate like Cruz. While Cruz advisers say they have solid teams in New Hampshire, where he has drawn large, rowdy crowds, and South Carolina, they are traditionally less friendly to a candidate, such as Cruz.

“I think Iowa is crucial for his candidacy,” Robinson said. “I’m surprised by his campaign strategy of saying we’re going to compete later on in the race and not go all in in Iowa. Iowa is a state where he can make his mark.”

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In this evangelical-dominated state, Cruz has the advantage of being able to deploy an evangelical pastor as a campaign surrogate: his father, Rafael. The elder Cruz has often drawn headlines for the wrong reasons — for instance, comparing President Obama to Fidel Castro. But he's been warmly received by many of the evangelical voters who made up 57 percent of Republican caucus-goers in 2012, according to entrance polls. He's been a steady presence here in Iowa, showing up at more than a dozen events across the state over a three-day period this month.

Cruz assailed against what he said are efforts to strip away religious freedom. He reaffirmed his promises to protect the Second Amendment, repeal Obamacare and abolish the IRS. He vowed to destroy the Islamic State, and ensure Iran doesn't acquire a nuclear weapon. And he described himself as the only candidate who is willing to take on anyone — Republican, Democrat or otherwise — to fight for his beliefs.

"If you look at the other candidates and ask on those issues on your list, where have they stood and led. What have they meaningfully done to lead on those issues?" he said in Denison.

Cruz paces around when delivering speeches and speaks with the cadence and zeal of a sermon. Here in Red Oak, he asked the enthusiastic crowd to imagine a president that won't allow Iran to have nuclear weapons.

"Scripture tells us there's nothing new under the sun," he said.

"We could if we could get you in there," a woman in the crowd said.

"Well, Amen, ma'am," said Cruz. "That's exactly what we're working to do."

PERRY

Rick Perry Calls Supreme Court's Gay Marriage Ruling a Shame **// KYFO // Justin Massoud – June 26, 2015**

Former Texas Governor and 2016 Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry has accused the U.S. Supreme Court of ignoring the 10th amendment with its decision to overturn all gay marriage bans in the country.

"Regardless of what any court says, true marriage will always be between one man and one woman," said Perry via press release. "This truth is biblical and a super majority of Texans have affirmed this through the democratic election process. It is a shame that once again the Supreme Court has decided to ignore the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and decided to legislate from the bench and impose their will on the states."

The Supreme Court ruled in favor (5-4) of legalizing same-sex marriage Friday (June 26). Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Steven Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Anthony Kennedy were the majority opinion in the decision. Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, John Roberts and Samuel Alito dissented.

SANTORUM

Santorum Compares Same-Sex Marriage Ruling to Dred Scott Case **// Politics PA // Nick Field – June 26, 2015**

The Supreme Court ruled that state bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional and Rick Santorum is not

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happy.

The former Pennsylvania Senator and presidential candidate has long been an opponent of same-sex marriage and his response today was no different.

“Today, five unelected justices decided to redefine the foundational unit that binds together our society without public debate or input,” Santorum stated. “Now is the people’s opportunity respond because the future of the institution of marriage is too important to not have a public debate. The Court is one of three co-equal branches of government and, just as they have in cases from Dred Scott to Plessy, the Court has an imperfect track record. The stakes are too high and the issue too important to simply cede the will of the people to five unaccountable justices.”

The cases Santorum cited, Dred Scott and Plessy, are generally considered the most infamous in the history of the Supreme Court.

In Dred Scott v. Sanford, the Court ruled that Scott, a slave at the time in Missouri, could not sue for his freedom. Additionally, Chief Justice Roger Taney’s majority opinion asserted that African-Americans, whether then enslaved or free, were not American citizens and therefore had no legal standing.

The Dred Scott case is considered by historians as one of the major causes of the Civil War. It is unlikely today’s decision will lead to similar circumstances.

The Plessy v. Ferguson decision declared racial segregation as constitutional and created the “separate but equal” doctrine.

Santorum went on to state that he will lead the fight against the Court’s ruling that LGBT Americans have, as the Justice Kennedy put it, “equal dignity in the eyes of the law.”

“As President, I will be committed to using the bully pulpit of the White House to lead a national discussion on the importance to our economy and our culture of mothers and fathers entering into healthy marriages so that every child is given their birthright- to be raised by their mother and father in a stable, loving home,” Santorum concluded. “I will stand for the preservation of religious liberty and conscience, to believe what you are called to believe free from persecution. And I will ensure that the people will have a voice in decisions that impact the rock upon which our civilization is built.”

Justice Kennedy did address religious liberty, however, in his majority opinion.

The following is the last paragraph of section IV of Kennedy’s opinion:

Finally, it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered. The same is true of those who oppose same-sex marriage for other reasons. In turn, those who believe allowing same-sex marriage is proper or indeed essential, whether as a matter of religious conviction or secular belief, may engage those who disagree with their view in an open and searching debate. The Constitution, however, does not permit the State to bar same-sex couples from marriage on the same terms as accorded to couples of the opposite sex.

Of course, Santorum’s statement was released just a half hour after the ruling was announced so it is possible he

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had not yet read the decision.

HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee rages at Supreme Court's marriage ruling: It's like repealing 'the law of gravity' // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – June 26, 2015

Presidential candidate and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) fumed at the Supreme Court on Friday after it legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

"I will not acquiesce to an imperial court any more than our Founders acquiesced to an imperial British monarch. We must resist and reject judicial tyranny, not retreat," he said in a statement.

Huckabee, a former pastor and one of the most outspoken social conservatives in the 2016 race, urged elected officials not to "surrender" in the face of the ruling.

"This ruling is not about marriage equality, it's about marriage redefinition. This irrational, unconstitutional rejection of the expressed will of the people in over 30 states will prove to be one of the court's most disastrous decisions, and they have had many," he said. "The only outcome worse than this flawed, failed decision would be for the President and Congress, two co-equal branches of government, to surrender in the face of this out-of-control act of unconstitutional, judicial tyranny."

Huckabee also compared the ruling to repealing the law of gravity.

"The Supreme Court can no more repeal the laws of nature and nature's God on marriage than it can the law of gravity. Under our Constitution, the court cannot write a law, even though some cowardly politicians will wave the white flag and accept it without realizing that they are failing their sworn duty to reject abuses from the court," he continued.

The former governor also raged at the Supreme Court on Thursday after it upheld a critical component of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

FIORINA

Carson, Forrester endorse Fiorina's campaign // Concord Monitor – June 26, 2015

Two Republican state senators have voiced support for Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard and one of the many GOP candidates for president.

State Sens. Sharon Carson of Londonderry and Jeanie Forrester of Meredith announced their endorsement in a press release from Fiorina's campaign Thursday.

"Carly's positive vision for unlocking the potential of our nation is appealing to me and so many others who have met her here on the campaign trail," Carson said in the release. "She is talking about what we can do as a nation, not dwelling on what we can't. It is time for an uplifting, real-world leader with the executive experience to tackle

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our challenges. That's Carly Fiorina."

Forrester called the candidate "a Washington outsider."

"Her life experiences come from the private sector, not government," Forrester said in the press release. "Like me, Carly has a business, charitable and nonprofit background and it is this background that has prepared her to lead our nation. She has accomplished much, knows what it is like to be held accountable and understands how to work with others to inspire change. I am pleased to be supporting her for president."

Carson echoed that support.

"Carly will bring a fresh perspective to Washington to roll back crushing regulations, simplify our onerous tax code and finally shrink the size and price tag of our federal government," Carson said in the release. "And she has specific ideas on how to do it: use zero-based budgeting to legitimize every federal tax dollar spent and cut waste; and leave vacant those federal jobs left by retiring baby boomers. She's serious about changing Washington for the better and I know she will be successful."

Kerry Marsh, the New Hampshire state director of Carly for America, said the campaign is very excited to have the senators' support.

"Senators Carson and Forrester understand, like Carly, that our nation is at a pivotal point," Marsh said. "Republicans must win the White House in 2016 to stop Washington from crushing our small businesses and holding back the potential of our citizens. Carly's personal story, her vision and her ability to connect with voters will give Republicans a real shot at winning in 2016 and our nation real hope for positive change."

Presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina woos, wows Colorado Republicans **Denver Post // Lynn Bartels – June 26, 2015**

Carly Fiorina told Colorado Republicans Friday morning she supports civil unions but not gay marriage, health care policy should be left up to the states and to let "The Donald go do what The Donald's going to do."

Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard and the only woman running for president in a crowded Republicans field, got her first round of applause when she talked about energy, which drives Colorado's economy.

"We should be, we could be, we must be, we will be, if I am president of the United states, a global energy powerhouse in the 21st century," she said.

Fiorina spoke at the Brown Palace in Denver at an event sponsored by RealClearPolitics. She also will address the Western Conservative Summit, which kicks off its three-day gathering in Denver on Friday. She received a warm reception — state Rep. Perry Buck, R-Windsor, cheered as Fiorina took the stage after being introduced by Carl Cannon, the Washington bureau chief for RealClearPolitics.

"I like her because she's not a politician," said Buck, who was one of a number of Republican state lawmakers who attended the event. "I like her business smarts and the economy is the most important thing. I do think she has some great international experience that I don't think some of the other candidates have."

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Fiorina has taken on the Democrats' frontrunner, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in various speeches since announcing in May she was seeking the GOP nomination for president.

Here's some of what Fiorina had to say:

GAY MARRIAGE

I support civil unions and I have for a very long time because I do not believe government can discriminate in any way. Everyone should be protected equally under the law. It's why I provided benefits to same-sex couples way back in 1999 when I came to Hewlett Packard.

On the other hand, marriage means something very specific. I do not think it is the purview of five people on the Supreme court, unelected and unaccountable, to think in their hubris that they have the power to change that. I hope that after this decision we will focus on preserving and protecting religious liberty because there are millions of people who disagree with this decision. I'm one of those people who believes marriage is between a man and a woman.

OBAMACARE

Whatever you thought of the Supreme Court ruling, set that aside. Here are the facts about Obamacare. The law itself was longer than a Harry Potter novel and not nearly as interesting. It was accompanied by tens of thousands pages of regulations. No one understands it. We need to repeal it because it's too complicated. My own view is we let states manage high-risk pools.

I'm a cancer survivor — I understand you can't bankrupt the families with pre-existing conditions. If people truly need help we need to give them that. (But the decision needs to be made) in the states, as close as possible to the people impacted by the decisions.

DONALD TRUMP

Let the Donald go do what the Donald's going to do. I'm going train my fire on Hillary Clinton, on the policies she is trying to lay out for this nation, and talk about why our values and our principles work better to unlock the potential of every American in this country.

THIS AND THAT

* I truly know from having lived and worked all over the world that only in this nation can a young woman start out typing and filing and answering the phones, go on to become the chief executive officer of the largest technology company of the world and run for the presidency of the United States.

* I'm not a professional politician but I'm not a political neophyte. I played a very active role in two presidential campaigns, I ran my own Senate campaign in the state of California. I spent last year helping other people win, including here in Colorado with Cory Gardner.

* Of course my business record is fair game. I led Hewlett-Packard for six years. It was a very difficult time. We had the dot.com bust, 9/11, the worst technology recession in 25 years.

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CEO PAY, AN ISSUE RAISED BY CLINTON

You have to let shareholders vote on it and you have to be utterly transparent. Those were the rules that applied when I was the chief executive. I changed the rule so shareholders would vote on my pay.

But I don't hear Hillary ever saying a baseball player makes too much, a Hollywood mogul makes too much, my husband made too much when he got $500,000 for a speech, gee, it wasn't right that we accepted tens of millions of dollars from foreign governments while I was secretary of state.

CYBER ATTACK

How is is that the Office of Personnel Management couldn't manage to push back against a Chinese cyber attack. I've advised two secretaries of defense, a secretary of state, a secretary of homeland security. We have known without a doubt for at least 12 years that the Chinese were trying to hack into our federal government databases. Now we have 18 million people's most personal records in the hands of the Chinese. That, ladies and gentleman, is ineptitude.

Afterward, Fiorina received rave reviews.

"I'm pro Carly, very much so," said state Rep. Jack Tate of Cetennial. "I think she has a depth of intellect and a record of accomplishment that makes her stand out among all the candidates."

Debbie Brown with the Colorado Women's Alliance said, "I get more impressed every day." She also said she found it interesting that Fiorina doesn't shy away from the press.

Carly Fiorina: Marco Rubio is a 'politician with a great future,' 'would make a great veep' // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 26, 2015

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO and 2016 GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, asked for rapid-fire assessments of some of her Republican rivals, said Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida would be a good selection for a presidential ticket — but maybe not in the slot Mr. Rubio has in mind at this point.

During a Thursday evening appearance on Fox News' "Hannity" program, Ms. Fiorina said it's far more productive for her to be training her fire on former Secretary of State and 2016 Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton than on other Republican candidates.

"Some candidates are training all their fire on each other, and I think that's unfortunate, actually," she said.

But asked during a different part of the show for quick answers on some of the other 2016 GOP contenders, these were her responses:

On Mr. Rubio: "I think he is a politician with a great future. I think he would make a great veep."

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On Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky: "I think he is outside the mainstream of this party, and I think that we are a nation that must always [face] outward into the world. When we are not leading, which doesn't mean rushing off to war, the world is a far more dangerous and tragic place."

On former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush: "Jeb Bush is a very good man. I think that it's difficult for people to think about a Bush 3."

On Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (who has said he's been approached about a Walker-Rubio ticket, or vice versa): "Guy with a lot of grit — a lot of grit and a lot of heart. He has a very different experience than I do, which is a lifetime in Wisconsin politics."

On Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas: "Smart man — a very smart man. And I think that being president requires unifying the country."

On former Texas Gov. Rick Perry: "Rick Perry's a good friend of mine. Rick Perry got me to outsource a lot of manufacturing from California to Texas, as a matter of fact."

Ms. Fiorina and Mr. Rubio were actually tied for fifth at 6 percent in a CNN/WMUR poll released Thursday on the GOP field in the early state of New Hampshire.

Mr. Bush was in first at 16 percent, followed by businessman Donald Trump at 11 percent, Mr. Paul at 9 percent and Mr. Walker at 8 percent.

TRUMP

Creative Advice for Donald Trump, a 'Proudly Egotistical Showman' **// NYT // Alexander Burns – June 26, 2015**

In Fred Davis's imagination, a whole new Donald J. Trump would have announced for president last week: a softer, humbler version of "the Donald," with a common touch and a demeanor far removed from (in Mr. Davis's words) the "proudly egotistical showman" of reality television fame.

Mr. Davis, a top adviser and creative director to Senator John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign and known for his arresting television commercials, laid out his vision for overhauling Mr. Trump in a three-page memo last month to the real estate mogul's campaign manager.

"No braggadocio, no 757s or helicopters (as much as I love them), a different Mr. Trump would be portrayed," Mr. Davis wrote. "Remember this morning when you said he was really 'down to earth'? Right now that is simply unbelievable, it would be my job to make it believable and authentic."

That pitch was as far as things went: Mr. Davis now advises Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, another likely Republican presidential candidate.

In Mr. Trump's campaign kickoff last week, he eschewed humility entirely, announcing that he was "really rich" and estimating his net worth at nearly $9 billion, and offending Hispanics by saying that Mexican immigration means more crime, drugs and rapists in the United States.

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In an interview, Mr. Davis confirmed that he had met with Trump advisers – as well as a "super PAC" supporting Senator Ted Cruz of Texas – after his longtime client, Gov. Rick Snyder of Michigan, announced he would not run for president. But Mr. Davis's proposal for a toned-down Mr. Trump never gained traction.

"I never met or talked to Trump, but somebody over there didn't seem to agree," Mr. Davis said. "My guess is that it was the Donald, but I don't know."

At least superficially, Mr. Davis and Mr. Trump might have seemed an intriguing match: Mr. Davis is known for producing quirky and creative ads, which often garner intense attention online and in the political press.

Corey Lewandowski, Mr. Trump's campaign manager, described Mr. Davis as "one of the best in the business," but said the campaign planned to take its own distinctive approach to advertising.

"We've talked to a number of firms, but Mr. Trump, because of his success in business – he has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, he's doing O.K. – he wants to do things a little differently," Mr. Lewandowski said.

In his memo, Mr. Davis proposed an extensive – and presumably costly – media campaign, including immediate advertising in Iowa and New Hampshire, and on national cable.

"I envision something beautiful and elegant, not like any political ad ever, with minimal visuals of Mr. T. Instead it would feature a lot of people across the country talking about finally needing this place to work," Mr. Davis wrote, adding of Mr. Trump, "He is present in the film in an understated way, causing people to think, 'maybe I was wrong about that man.'"

Flashing enthusiasm, Mr. Davis added: "This is a very exciting project. Almost life-defining, if you'll pardon a touch of hubris."

How Donald Trump's man in Iowa plans to mess with the GOP — and win // WaPo // Colby Itkowitz – June 26, 2015

DES MOINES — After years of flamboyant flirtations with presidential politics, Donald Trump is devising a genuine game plan to try to prove that an unfiltered showman can become a vote-getting presidential candidate.

It begins, appropriately for the star of TV's "The Apprentice," with a key hire — a longtime Republican operative who is causing a stir in GOP circles here as Trump's man on the ground and the architect of a strategy designed to upend the traditions of the all-important, first-in-the-nation caucuses.

Chuck Laudner is best known for engineering Rick Santorum's upset caucus win here in 2012 by driving around the former senator from Pennsylvania in his pickup truck. He is now traversing the state, laying the groundwork to convert celebrity gawkers who flock to events featuring Trump, a famed real estate magnate, into first-time caucusgoers.

To Laudner, that means running what he calls a "parallel campaign." While the 15 or so other Republican candidates fight over the 120,000 regular GOP caucusgoers who turn out every four years to spend hours in school gymnasiums or church basements for the grueling voting process, Laudner is seeking out "people who wouldn't be caught dead at a Republican event."

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“I want to do something different,” he added, “which means everything has to be different.”

Few in the party establishment take Trump seriously as a contender. He is considered more of a sideshow, a carnival attraction in an otherwise strong field of respected senators and governors. Many dismiss Laudner’s efforts as the work of someone enjoying the perks, such as private flights, that come with working for a mogul. John Brabender, a top Santorum adviser, said he couldn’t blame him, pointing to “the novelty of it, of being in Trump land.”

But several new polls that place Trump near the top nationally and in New Hampshire are forcing people to take notice. Although those results could be a sign simply of name recognition, Trump is signaling, through the Laudner hire and other moves, that he intends to wage a serious campaign. He has hired 40 paid campaign staff members around the country, including eight in Iowa.

“Everybody wanted Chuck,” Trump said in an interview this week, boasting of his ability to lure a top-tier consultant.

Trump bristled at the speculation, rampant among rival consultants, that Laudner is being paid far more than the typical rate. Trump and Laudner declined to disclose the salary.

“I pay him the same as everyone else,” Trump said. “It’s very important, very important. I’m a business person. I don’t want to be anybody’s sucker.”

Some Iowa party leaders say Trump has earned a second look merely by bringing a well-respected consultant on board.

Laudner, 49, has been in Iowa politics for 30 years. He ran Rep. Steve King’s first campaign, was King’s chief of staff and led the state party during the 2008 cycle.

“I think about the people who, especially inside-the-Beltway people, they will tend to make offhanded comments that Trump isn’t serious, he’s just playing with it,” said King (R). “All along the way, I said, ‘Trump’s in, I know he’s in.’ The reason I know that is Chuck wouldn’t be there if it was a game.”

Laudner has brought Trump to Iowa nine times this year, including the night he made his official campaign announcement. On Saturday, Trump is returning to headline a sold-out fundraiser for the Madison County GOP at the John Wayne museum. Later, he’ll attend a barbecue for the county party. Co-chair Heather Stancil said the group has sold more tickets for the event than ever before.

Trump and his team first identified Laudner in late 2014. During a January 2015 trip to Iowa to speak at a land investment expo, Trump invited Laudner and his wife on his jet for a chat. Trump asked them questions about caucus rules and ad buys. The couple hung back during the speech. As Laudner recalls, after an informal survey of attendees who said things such as, “That’s exactly what this country needs,” they accepted Trump’s offer.

Laudner said he immediately viewed Trump as a disruptive force for the caucuses. Although typical candidates maneuver to recruit local opinion leaders and activists and fill their living rooms for meet-and-greets, with a few dozen prospective voters at a time, Trump could operate at a higher level, Laudner said.

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“If I was working for any of these other campaigns, ‘Oh, you gotta be at Pizza Ranch,’ ‘Oh, you gotta meet Suzy because Suzy is the most important person here,’ ” Laudner said, mockingly, during an interview recently at a Tasty Taco here. “And you go to this town, and Jack, if you get Jack, you get the whole town.” But, he added, pointing at the sparse lunchtime crowd, “you wouldn’t get as many people who are in this restaurant right now.”

Trump’s appeal is not based on policy alone, Laudner said. No matter that he has favored abortion rights or once supported a ban on assault weapons, positions that would be deal-breakers for most candidates vying to win the conservative-dominated Iowa caucuses. He can be presented as someone who challenges the Washington political elite with a brazen fearlessness that can come only from having nothing to lose — “the biggest bull to send into the china shop,” Laudner said.

This approach could be a risk in friendly Iowa. Just this week, Trump got into a fight with Spanish-language broadcaster Univision after he said Mexican migrants are “bringing drugs, they’re bringing crime, they’re rapists, and some, I assume, are good people.”

Laudner considers the bombast as a plus, saying, “Once he stops being Donald Trump, people are going to think he’s a politician.”

To underscore the point, Laudner wants to make a scene at the Iowa State Fair in August by walking Trump through the crowd, unannounced, to create “chaos and mayhem.”

On a recent Saturday, wearing a thin-striped gray collared shirt tucked into C.E. Schmidt jeans over scuffed brown cowboy boots, Laudner was deploying one of his well-worn strategies: Be everywhere.

He slipped his TRUMP business card to attendees at a somber veterans suicide awareness event, crashed a campaign appearance by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) at a shooting range, and later met local craft brewers at an outdoor beer festival downtown.

He wore an oversize navy blue TRUMP button pinned over his left breast, a walking advertisement and a surveying tool.

At the veterans event, a man in a burgundy Elks jacket tapped the button with his index finger. “I like that pin,” said the man, Roger McQueen, president of the Iowa Elks Club.

McQueen said he doesn’t think Trump has a chance, but added that Trump “makes us think about things differently.”

Later, as Cruz spoke to about 25 people at the shooting range, Laudner asked a tea-party friend to keep his ear to the ground, and suggested that he could arrange a meeting with Trump.

At the brew fest, a man wearing an olive green “Life Is Good” baseball cap spotted Laudner’s button. The man said he was leaning in favor of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, but he added of Trump: “I like his no bull---- approach.”

Asked in an interview about Laudner’s plan to leverage celebrity into votes, Trump sounded unsure.

“I don’t know. Maybe it won’t translate,” he said. But, he added: “I get the biggest crowds, I get standing ovations.

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. . . I'm a person who wins. When I do things, I win. The goal isn't to do well."

Trump bump terrifies GOP // Politico // Jonathan Topaz and Daniel Strauss – June 26, 2015

All jokes aside, the Republican Party is officially afraid of Donald Trump.

He has virtually zero chance of winning the presidential nomination. But insiders worry that the loud-mouthed mogul is more than just a minor comedic nuisance on cable news; they fret that he's a loose cannon whose rants about Mexicans and scorched-earth attacks on his rivals will damage the eventual nominee and hurt a party struggling to connect with women and minorities and desperate to win.

"Donald Trump is like watching a road-side accident," said former George W. Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer. "Everybody pulls over to see the mess. And Trump thinks that's entertainment. But running for president is serious. And the risk for the party is he tarnishes everybody."

Those risks were amplified this week after a trio of polls showed him likely to earn a coveted invitation to the party's debates, which ironically were restructured with the very goal of avoiding the circus-like atmosphere of 2012. Having Trump introduce the 2016 field to a national audience was not exactly the Big Tent the party's bigwigs had in mind.

"I'm not excited about somebody as divisive as Trump or somebody as obnoxious as Trump being on the debate stage," one RNC member confessed.

Trump currently sits in eighth place among Republicans, according to the Real Clear Politics average of national polls — ahead of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry. And this week, he came in second in two New Hampshire polls and in a Fox News national poll, finishing behind only former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in all three.

Under the rules instituted by Fox News, the top 10 candidates by national polling average will be included in the first debate, to be held in August. Trump's star could easily fade by then. But as of now, he would be in — over 2012 Republican runner-up Rick Santorum, who won 11 states and around 4 million votes last cycle; over Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the popular governor of a key swing state; over South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a leading foreign policy voice in the field; and over Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, known as a policy wonk.

He'd also make it in over Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO who the party establishment desperately wants on the debate stage. Fiorina has earned strong reviews from early-state activists, and party insiders say her inclusion in the debate is critical — both to demonstrate the GOP's diversity and to help male candidates find the right tone in connecting with female voters, whom Republicans have struggled to win over in recent years.

"If Donald Trump elbows out Carly Fiorina, for example, that would be a real tragedy for our side," said Republican strategist Ron Bonjean.

Beyond that, there are concerns about what he'll do once he's on the stage — namely, go hard after the other Republican hopefuls and say incendiary things that will hurt the party.

In recent months, he's said that Fiorina got "fired viciously" from HP and "got clobbered" in her 2010 California Senate loss to Barbara Boxer (she lost by 10 points.) He's rippped Florida Sen. Marco Rubio as "very weak" on immigration. He's called Jeb Bush "an unhappy person" and said he "couldn't negotiate his way out of a paper bag."

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Asked whether Trump will keep up the attacks, campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said he would. “They should be worried about Donald Trump,” Lewandowski said of the party establishment, before criticizing Rubio and Bush on several issues.

And worried they are.

“There is a real concern, particularly on the debate stage, that Trump won’t play by the rules and he’s going to throw some below-the-belt punches,” said Republican strategist Ford O’Connell.

“Republicans in a primary don’t like to see the candidates attacking each other,” said Peter Feaman, an RNC National Committeeman from Florida. “They’d like to see the focus stay where it should be, and that’s the leadership of the Democratic Party for the last eight years.”

“The challenge with somebody like him is that when you’re running in these races, there’s sort of an assumption that you’re racing with professionals,” said Katie Packer Gage, a former deputy campaign manager for Mitt Romney. “He makes up facts. It’s a challenge because he’s very unpredictable.”

And above all the RNC — whose self-assessment of the party’s failure in 2012 urged the importance of appealing to non-white voters, especially Hispanics, 71 percent of whom voted for President Barack Obama — is nervous about Trump’s rhetoric. He accused Mexican immigrants of being rapists and smuggling drugs in his announcement speech, and said at a January Republican cattle call in Iowa that half the undocumented immigrants in the U.S. are criminals. In 2011, he led the racially loaded calls for Obama to release his long-form birth certificate and, in April, blamed the president for the riots in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray.

Fleischer, one of the five co-authors of the RNC autopsy report, said Trump largely embodied all of the party’s problems with non-white voters. “When he says something irresponsible like getting Mexicans to pay for a wall, he will alienate Hispanics … he’s irresponsible, he’s divisive, he’s hurtful,” he said.

Asked about those concerns, Lewandowski responded: “Who’s saying this, old white guys? You’re saying you’ve got old white guys saying they’re concerned about Donald Trump’s messaging about illegal immigrants coming across our southern border. Wow, that speaks for itself.”

Several Iowa Republicans expressed dismay at Trump’s momentum, labeling him as someone whose brash personality and celebrity status make him a bad fit for the rural first nominating state.

“Most of the rank-and-file Republicans think, ‘What have we done to let a guy like Donald Trump on the debate stage?’” said one Iowa Republican activist with ties to the party. “When I saw the New Hampshire poll, I was like, ‘Oh my god.’”

“He’s just not Iowa nice,” the person added — relaying several stories about Trump’s recent trips to the Hawkeye State. At two events, the person said, Trump insisted on speaking earlier than scheduled so that he could get back to his home in New York City: “It was kind of embarrassing. He left before our donors showed up.” (Lewandowski said he hadn’t seen that at any events in Iowa and touted Trump’s large crowds in the state.)

Party insiders acknowledge that there’s a sliver of voters — those fed up altogether with the political system — who are drawn to Trump. “I love him,” said Jeanne Sangenario, who was on Romney’s New Hampshire women’s leadership team in 2008 and now serves as Seacoast Republican Women director. “Because I know he would take no baloney from anybody from any world leader and he would get things done and the economy would come back big time, he would get it done. No two ways about it.”

Other Republicans say voters will drown him out — particularly in a more formal debate setting where viewers expect a serious discussion.

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“I do remember growing up in Kermit [Texas], every time the carnival came to town it always drew a big crowd,” said Republican consultant John Weaver, who worked on Arizona Sen. John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign and has signed up to work with Kasich. “But nobody wanted the carnival barker to be mayor.”

Donald Trump bans Univision staff from his Miami golf resort // Politico // Dylan Byers – June 26, 2015

Donald Trump sent a letter to Univision CEO and president Randy Falco on Friday informing him that "no Univision officer or representative" is allowed to use his Trump National Doral, the resort and golf club immediately adjacent to Univision offices in Miami, the On Media blog has learned.

The move is the latest in a public dispute that started Thursday when Univision announced it would end its business relationship with the Miss Universe Organization, which is co-owned by Trump and NBCUniversal, based on what it described as Trump's "insulting remarks about Mexican immigrants" during the launch of his presidential campaign. Trump later announced that he would sue Univision for breach of contract and defamation, and accused Univision of defaulting on an "iron-clad" $13.5 million contract, which he said it had no right to terminate.

In the letter, Trump writes to Falco, "Please be advised that under no circumstances is any officer or representative of Univision allowed to use Trump National Doral, Miami—its golf courses or any of its facilities. Also, please immediately stop work and close the gate which is being constructed between our respective properties. If this is not done within one week, we will close it."

In a post-script, Trump added: "Please congratulate your Mexican Government officials for having made such outstanding trade deals with the United States. However, inform them that should I become President, those days are over. We are bringing jobs back to the U.S. Also, a meaningful border will be immediately created, not the laughingstock that currently exists."

Shortly after publication of this item, a Univision spokesperson told the On Media blog that the following directive had been sent to all employees: "As part of this decision, [Univision Communications Inc.] employees should not stay at Trump properties while on company business or hold events/activities there."

Trump, who is running for the Republican presidential nomination, said in a speech earlier this month that he would build a wall to stop Mexico from dumping "rapists" and criminals on U.S. soil, though he later issued a statement accusing the media of trying "to distort my comments regarding Mexico and its great people." Univision said Thursday that it would severe its business relations with Trump based on those remarks, including its five-year contract with the Miss Universe Organization, which gives Univision broadcasting rights to the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants.

In an interview with the On Media blog on Thursday, Trump accused Univision of capitulating to pressure "put on them by various sources in Mexico."

"The Mexican government is putting pressure on Univision to get me to stop exposing the weaknesses the U.S. has at the southern border," he said during the interview, citing his claims that U.S. leaders were "incompetent" on trade with Mexico, allowing the country to take advantage of the U.S., and that the southern border "is a sieve" that "illegals are pouring through."

"The government of Mexico and the lobbyists and the special interests have put tremendous pressure on Univision, a company that is very subservient to Mexico, to get Trump to stop exposing the terrible situation at the border and the terrible trade deals that are being made by the United States to the benefit of Mexico," he said.

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"I will not be party to that, because my love of the country is too great to allow this to happen."

On Friday, Trump also published a photograph of a hand-written letter from Univision's Jorge Ramos that included the anchor's personal cell phone number, a move that was likely to inflame tensions between the two parties.

Donald Trump's war with Univision gets nasty // CNN // Tom Kludt and Mark Mooney – June 26, 2015

Donald Trump's fight with Univision is heating up. On Friday he published an anchor's personal phone number, called for the resignation of a top executive and banned all of the channel's executives from using Trump's golf course in Miami.

"Under no circumstances is any officer or representative of Univision allowed to use Trump National Doral, Miami," the letter read.

Trump added a P.S.: "Please congratulate your Mexican Government officials for having made such outstanding trade deals with the United States. However, inform them that should I become President, those days are over."

Trump also posted a personal hand-written note that Univision correspondent Jorge Ramos had sent him requesting an interview. The note included Ramos' cell phone number.

Univision fired back on Friday, sending out a memo to its employees that they "should not stay at Trump properties while on company business or hold events/activities there."

The war began after Trump made offensive statements about Mexicans, including calling them "rapists," while announcing he was running for president.

In response, Univision, the largest Spanish language network in the country, broke off its deal to air the Miss USA Pageant, which is partially owned by Trump.

Trump also lashed out at Univision President Alberto Ciurana who apologized to Trump after he posted a photo comparing Trump to the Charleston gunman who killed nine people.

"Apology not accepted," Trump wrote. "I call for his resignation as president of Univision and Univision should not be allowed to host the Presidential debate. It is a total conflict of interest." Univision plans to hold a presidential forum.

In an interview with CNN's Erin Burnett Thursday, Trump called the photo that Ciurana posted "disgraceful."

"When he put that up, he then took it down... he's got tremendous liability," Trump said.

UNDECLARED

WALKER

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Scott Walker calls for Constitutional amendment to let states define marriage // Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 26, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, seizing the moment after the Supreme Court's landmark ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, called Friday for a Constitutional amendment that would allow the states to decide whether gay marriage should be legal.

Walker's call came shortly after the high court ruled 5-4 that same-sex couples could marry across the country, overturning a number of state same-sex marriage bans.

The ruling was "a grave mistake," the Republican governor said, touting his support for amending his state's constitution "to protect the institution of marriage from exactly this type of judicial activism."

"As a result of this decision, the only alternative left for the American people is to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to reaffirm the ability of the states to continue to define marriage," Walker said in the statement.

Walker's statement put him directly at odds with one potential 2016 rival, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who said he didn't support pursuing a constitutional amendment.

"[G]iven the quickly changing tide of public opinion on this issue, I do not believe that any attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution could possibly gain the support of three-fourths of the states or a supermajority in the U.S. Congress," Graham said in his statement. "Rather than pursuing a divisive effort that would be doomed to fail, I am committing myself to ensuring the protection of religious liberties of all Americans."

Such an amendment would face steep odds on Capitol Hill.

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal: Supreme Court Decision Is Not the End of the Obamacare Debate // TIME // Bobby Jindal – June 26, 2015

Thursday, the Supreme Court had its say on Obamacare; soon, the American people will have theirs.

As a matter of law, the Court's decision upholding subsidies for states participating in the federally run insurance exchange, healthcare.gov , violates the plain text of Obamacare. The statute expressly restricted insurance subsidies to those individuals purchasing coverage through an "Exchange established by the state." But just as Chief Justice Roberts three years ago decreed that the individual mandate functioned as a tax, even though both Congress and President Barack Obama stated that it wasn't, the Court decided that "Exchange established by the state" meant any type of Exchange, whether established by states or by Washington.

It's a sad outcome for the rule of law — and the English language. But when it comes to the political debate surrounding Obamacare, the Court's ruling ultimately decides little. Of course, Obama, who took an entirely predictable victory lap yesterday, would have you believe otherwise. But we've seen his triumphalism before — and have seen it come crashing back to reality.

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Three years ago, Obama stated he wouldn't "refight old battles," mere hours after seven Supreme Court justices — including his own former solicitor general — struck down the law's mandatory Medicaid expansion as unconstitutional "economic dragooning" of the states. On election night 2012, the president promised to "move forward" — months before at least 4.7 million Americans received insurance cancellation notices thanks to Obamacare. And this April, the president arrogantly declared that "the repeal debate is and should be over" — mere weeks before his native state of Hawaii shut its failed insurance exchange, an effort the federal government spent more than $200 million funding.

So, much as the President would like the debate on Obamacare to be over, it isn't. The debate persists in large part because the law has singularly failed in its prime objective: Containing health care costs. Consider why this Supreme Court case mattered so much to the administration in the first place. The law spends over $1.7 trillion on subsidized coverage to make insurance more "affordable," largely to offset the new mandates and regulations that have raised the price of insurance.

And with myriad insurers proposing double-digit premium increases for next year — some as high as 50% — candidate Obama's 2008 promise to lower insurance premiums by $2,500 per family is further away then ever. No wonder the law remains singularly unpopular. When it comes to winning the debate on Obamacare, there is still all to play for.

But in order to win, we conservatives first have to play. That means outlining our alternative vision for health care: How we would restore freedom and choice to a health care sector currently lacking for both — and most importantly, how we would slow, and hopefully reverse, the trend of skyrocketing health care costs.

As I write this, I stand as the sole major declared presidential candidate (with the possible exception of Bernie Sanders) to put forward my vision on health care, and an alternative to Obamacare. As proud as I am of my plan, that is a boast I wish I were not able to make. Because Republicans, from the top down, must outline a clear and coherent vision for health care to win the trust of the American people to repeal this President's health law.

While we should be shouting our vision from the rooftops, many of my fellow candidates have managed barely a whisper about how exactly they would repeal Obamacare, or what they would do to tackle the main issue plaguing our health care system: rising costs. Sen. Mike Lee recently stated that lack of an Obamacare replacement plan should be a disqualifier for any conservative presidential candidate. He's absolutely right. We owe it to the American people to release our plans well before November 2016, and to have a robust debate within our party about what should come after Obamacare.

Because, contrary to this President's self-proclaimed edicts, yesterday's Supreme Court decision is not the end of the debate on Obamacare.

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled, the debate shifts back to the elected branches of government — the ones that caused our health care mess in the first place. It is there that conservatives can complete our work to repeal Obamacare.

Jindal: Obama & 'apprentice-in-chief' Hillary Clinton taking U.S. down 'wrong path' // Radio Iowa // O. Kay Henderson – June 26, 2015

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal is in Iowa today, his first trip here since officially entering the Republican presidential race this week.

"I think as conservatives we need to stand up for our principles," Jindal told Radio Iowa this morning. "Let's do something new. Let's endorse our own beliefs. You know, for too long conservatives have tried to hide our beliefs, try to make the left and the media like us and it doesn't work."

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Jindal said President Obama and Hillary Clinton have led the country down the wrong path economically, internationally and culturally.

"This president has done more damage in my lifetime than I've seen from any other president in our country," Jindal said. "I worry that his apprentice-in-chief, Hillary Clinton, his apprentice-in-waiting, would continue down this wrong path."

Jindal accuses the Obama Administration of being more interested in waging war on trans fat than on "naming" and defeating radical Islamic terrorists. And Jindal said, domestically, the Affordable Care Act is a bad law that needs to be repealed and replaced with market-based alternatives.

KASICH

Kasich urged to use vetoes in budget **// Toledo Blade // Jim Provance – June 27, 2015**

COLUMBUS — A $71.2 billion, two-year budget is heading for Gov. John Kasich's desk as the calls rolled in for him to exercise his line-item veto pen.

"There are going to be some vetoes, and there will probably be some disagreements on vetoes," he said Friday. He offered no clues as to what they might be.

The House voted 61-34 to send the spending plan to the governor, with a single Democrat joining Republicans in support and three Republicans breaking with the majority to oppose it.

Among other things, the governor has been urged to strike language imposing more restrictions on abortion clinics, penalizing Toledo and other cities that won court orders to continue operating traffic cameras, restricting the collective bargaining power of some workers, and eliminating journalists' ability to review gun concealed carry permit records.

The governor will sign the budget Tuesday.

The plan contains an estimated $1.97 billion in income tax breaks for businesses and individuals over two years, pumps $955 million more into basic K-12 school aid, and orders a freeze in college and university tuition over the next two years.

The plan banks hundreds of millions in surpluses, bringing reserves to nearly $2 billion. Perhaps days from announcing a GOP bid for the White House, he contrasted that with the federal fiscal picture.

"Normally in good times, it's party time," he said. "Everybody wants to spend. The [Ohio legislative] leaders feel the pressure over this. I've been part of this process. I left Washington with a $5 billion surplus. The next thing I knew we were $18 trillion in the hole down there with more debt and more spending."

State Reps. Teresa Fedor and Michael Ashford of Toledo and Mike Sheehy of Oregon, all Democrats, opposed the budget.

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"We could have balanced more of our budget to have more opportunity for the middle class," Ms. Fedor said. "More charter school reform hasn't happened yet. The issues for Toledo need to be addressed. The traffic camera issue should lay low until we find out from the courts what is happening, and there was definitely an attack on women and their right to control their reproductive systems and health care."

The budget won support from all northwest Ohio Republicans — Reps. Barbara Sears (Monclova Township), Tim Brown (Bowling Green), Robert Sprague (Findlay), Steven Kraus (Sandusky), Robert McColley (Napoleon), Bill Reineke (Tiffin), Bob Cupp (Lima), Tony Burkley (Payne), and Jeff McClain (Upper Sandusky).

With the exception of increasing the cigarette tax by 35 cents to $1.60 a pack, lawmakers did not embrace Mr. Kasich's proposals to move further from income taxes toward consumption taxes. The governor had proposed higher taxes on sales, oil and natural gas drilling, other tobacco products, and larger businesses.

Mr. McColley said transitioning to a consumption tax-based economy is probably a good idea over the long run.

"But we need to do that slowly and deliberately," he said. "It is something we need to do with a great deal of planning, which is one reason I'm happy to see the 2020 tax (study) council being introduced in the budget and being implemented in the near future."

The budget would reduce income taxes by 6.3 percent across all brackets. It also offers a 75 percent cut on the first $250,000 earned by small businesses, a 100 percent cut next year, and a flat 3 percent tax on income above $250,000.

"We feel this budget is tired…," Rep. Denise Driehaus (D., Cincinnati) said. "I think this budget was offered back in 2005. It's got the same tax policy. It's as if we didn't learn anything from that… I know we expect a different result."

The budget promises no school district will receive less state funding than it did this year and offers about $200 million more to colleges and universities in exchange for a two-year freeze on tuition and efforts to reduce costs.

Republican House members pointed to efforts to control Medicaid costs, but did not mention that the budget quietly continues to fund the controversial Medicaid expansion Mr. Kasich has championed.

Pro-choice advocates are urging the governor to strike language from the plan that threatens to close the Capital Care Clinic, Toledo's last abortion clinic. Capital Care recently won the first round in its legal fight against the state's attempt to close it because its emergency-care agreement is with the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, more than 50 miles away.

The budget bill would require such an agreement to be with a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic.

OTHER

Move On or Keep Fighting? GOP Candidates React to Gay-Marriage Ruling **// WSJ – June 26, 2015**

The Supreme Court decision guaranteeing marriage equality to gay couples drew criticism on Friday from

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Republicans running for president in 2016, but the contenders took different tones and promised different degrees of pushback–signaling just what a tricky political issue this is for the party.

Some candidates expressed disappointment but signaled it was time to move on, while others blasted the court and vowed to keep fighting.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum said: “Today, five unelected justices decided to redefine the foundational unit that binds together our society without public debate or input … The stakes are too high and the issue too important to simply cede the will of the people to five unaccountable justices.”

Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, struck a significantly less confrontational note:

“While I strongly disagree with the Supreme Court’s decision, their ruling is now the law of the land. I call on Congress to make sure deeply held religious views are respected and protected. The government must never force Christians to violate their religious beliefs. I support same-sex civil unions but to me, and millions like me, marriage is a religious service not a government form.”

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush restated his support for traditional marriage but struck a more conciliatory tone about accepting gays.

“Guided by my faith, I believe in traditional marriage. I believe the Supreme Court should have allowed the states to make this decision,” he wrote. “I also believe that we should love our neighbor and respect others, including those making lifetime commitments. In a country as diverse as ours, good people who have opposing views should be able to live side by side. It is now crucial that as a country we protect religious freedom and the right of conscience and also not discriminate.”

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said the right to redefine marriage should rest with the states but that he accepts the court’s ruling as the law.

“As we look ahead, it must be a priority of the next president to nominate judges and justices committed to applying the Constitution as written and originally understood,” he said in a statement. The next president must also “strive to protect the First Amendment rights of religious institutions and millions of Americans whose faith holds a traditional view of marriage.”

Carly Fiorina, former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard Co., called the court’s decision “only the latest example of an activist court ignoring its constitutional duty to say what the law is and not what the law should be.” Ms. Fiorina said in the statement that the ability to “redefine marriage” should have stayed among the states.

Echoing the concerns of others in the GOP field, she also expressed concern about “protecting the religious liberties and freedom of conscience for those Americans that profoundly disagree with today’s decision.”

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee blasted the court’s decision upholding gay marriage: “The Supreme Court has spoken with a very divided voice on something only the Supreme Being can do — redefine marriage,” said Mr. Huckabee, a candidate who is a favorite among evangelical conservatives. “I will not acquiesce to an imperial court any more than our Founders acquiesced to an imperial British monarch. We must resist and reject judicial tyranny, not retreat.”

Donald Trump tweeted his reaction to the ruling, taking a jab at Mr. Bush in the process. “Once again the Bush

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appointed Supreme Court Justice John Roberts has let us down. Jeb pushed him hard! Remember!"

Chief Justice Roberts was one of the four dissenting justices in Obergefell v. Hodges, which struck down restrictions on same-sex marriage in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee that a Cincinnati-based federal appeals court upheld last year and validated a series of lower court opinions that expanded the institution across most of the nation since 2012.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a GOP presidential candidate who is trying to appeal to evangelical voters, accused the court of bowing to public opinion and threatening the religious freedom of people who are committed to traditional marriage.

"The government should not force those who have sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage to participate in these ceremonies. That would be a clear violation of America's long held commitment to religious liberty as protected in the First Amendment."

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry joined those who said they were disappointed, and responded to promising to appoint more conservative justices to the bench if he was president.

"I fundamentally disagree with the court rewriting the law and assaulting the 10th Amendment. Our founding fathers did not intend for the judicial branch to legislate from the bench, and as president, I would appoint strict Constitutional conservatives who will apply the law as written."

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is expected to announce his candidacy for the GOP nomination, is the only member of the 2016 field to call for a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's ruling. In a statement, he called the ruling a "grave mistake" and said that the power to redefine marriage should rest with the states.

"I call on the president and all governors to join me in reassuring millions of Americans that the government will not force them to participate in activities that violate their deeply held religious beliefs," he said.

Mr. Walker's call for a constitutional amendment illustrates he has shifted his views to more aggressively back gay-marriage bans since the court in 2014 declined to consider requests from Wisconsin and four other states to reinstate such bans. Mr. Walker had backed his state's ban on gay marriage but said his fight was "over in Wisconsin" after the court's decision, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Earlier this month, he told ABC News that if the court ruled in favor of gay marriage, a constitutional amendment was "the only next approach."

Robert Nichols, a spokesman for another potential candidate, Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich, said Mr. Kasich would respect the court's ruling. "The governor has always believed in the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, but our nation's highest court has spoken and we must respect its decision."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is is expected to announce he's running for president next Tuesday, said that he didn't agree with the majority's opinion and sided with Chief Justice Roberts in arguing that voters, not the courts, should have decided on the issue.

Still, Mr. Christie, who believes marriage should be reserved to heterosexual couples, said that the U.S. should now abide by the law. Mr. Christie dropped his opposition to gay marriage in New Jersey after the state's Supreme

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Court ruled in favor of it in 2013.

“Our job is going to be to support the law of the land and that’s the law of the land,” Mr. Christie said while taking questions after signing the New Jersey budget on Friday.

Reaction from the Democratic candidates was celebratory:

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton was the first White House contender to tweet her reaction to the ruling:

Mrs. Clinton, who came out in support of gay marriage in 2013, also issued a statement praising the Supreme Court ruling:

“This ruling is an affirmation of the commitment of couples across the country who love one another,” Mrs. Clinton said. “It reflects the will of the vast and growing multitude of Americans who believe that LGBT couples deserve to be recognized under the law and treated equally in the eyes of society. And it represents our country at its best: inclusive, open, and striving towards true equality.”

She added that the next goal must be a broader effort to end discrimination. “While we celebrate today, our work won’t be finished until every American can not only marry, but live, work, pray, learn and raise a family free from discrimination and prejudice,” she said. “We cannot settle for anything less.”

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont also hailed the court’s decision. “Today the Supreme Court fulfilled the words engraved upon its building: ‘Equal justice under law.’

“This decision is a victory for same-sex couples across our country as well as all those seeking to live in a nation where every citizen is afforded equal rights. For far too long our justice system has marginalized the gay community and I am very glad the Court has finally caught up to the American people.”

Martin O’Malley recalled passing gay marriage in Maryland as governor and tweeted, “There’s no greater human right than love.”

Affordable Care Act alternative now key for GOP hopefuls **// Boston Herald // Lindsay Kalter – June 26, 2015**

The Supreme Court decision upholding Obamacare will give GOP presidential candidates a new angle to woo voters, but they’ll have to hone their rhetoric and swap out the old “repeal” mantra for well-defined plans to improve it, political operatives say.

“It’s a huge opportunity for Republicans if they handle it right,” said Fergus Cullen, a former chairman of New Hampshire Republican Party. “It’s not enough for Republican candidates to say, ‘We need to repeal every word of Obamacare.’ The Republican position on health care cannot be, ‘Do not get sick, do not get hurt, do not get old.’ They have to come up with an alternative.”

The 6-to-3 ruling backs the Obama administration, agreeing that all low- and moderate-income residents should have access to subsidies, regardless of whether they live in states with their own health insurance exchanges, as the law’s wording required, or used the federal exchange instead.

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"Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them," Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote.

The ruling ups the pressure for Republicans to breathe new life into Obamacare pushback in early-voting states such as New Hampshire, where they'll need to entice anti-ACA voters with plans that include age-based refundable tax credits and scrapping the employer mandate, said Sally Pipes, head of California-based think tank Pacific Research Institute.

"The Republican candidates will really have to articulate what their vision of health care will be," Pipes said. "I think people in a state like New Hampshire would appreciate what's good for job growth, which includes getting rid of employer mandate."

GOP national pundit Ford O'Connell said Republican candidates "will need to provide more than just red meat," and should focus on three primary changes to the system: allowing consumers to buy insurance across state lines, de-linking it from employment and strengthening patient power over their insurance accounts.

"Voters will want insurance that can travel with you, not the car you're driving," O'Connell said.

Although cries for a repeal will likely still sound from the Republican voting pool, the administration's victory may pave the way for Congress to make tweaks and improvements to the law rather than fully replace it, said Wendy Parmet, director of the Northeastern Program on Health Policy and Law.

"One of the things that has happened over the last several years has been that Republicans have tried to wage existential challenges to the Affordable Care Act," Pamet said. "It's going to be clear that it isn't going away. It's becoming part of the fabric of society."

She added, "Maybe we can get to politicians cleaning up a little and making it work better."

The Subtle, But Hugely Significant Shift In The Republican Response To The Marriage Ruling // Buzzfeed // Rosie Gray – June 26, 2015

Two of the leading Republican contenders responded nearly in lockstep on Friday to the Supreme Court ruling that has legalized same-sex marriage nationwide: by waving a white flag in the fight over marriage — and promising to take up arms in a new culture war battle over religious freedom.

"While I disagree with this decision, we live in a republic and must abide by the law," Marco Rubio said in a statement, then called for officials to "protect the First Amendment rights of religious institutions and millions of Americans whose faiths hold a traditional view of marriage."

"It is my hope that each side will respect the dignity of the other," Rubio said.

Jeb Bush cited his Catholic faith to explain his personal belief in "traditional marriage," but added, "I also believe we should love our neighbor and respect others, including those making lifetime commitments." He then pivoted to the need to "protect religious freedom and the right of conscience and also not discriminate."

No one said they agreed with the court, but a number of the candidates signaled the desire to cut their political

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losses on the losing issue of marriage — and instead reframe their party's social agenda in terms of protecting the viewpoints of the dissenting. The distinction may seem like mere semantics, but it represents a profound shift in the culture wars, in which Republicans are deliberately moving from offense to defense.

For decades, Republicans rallied the religious right by championing "family values," and pressing for policies meant to infuse American society with Judeo-Christian morals — from anti-sodomy laws to crackdowns on pornography and keeping condoms out of schools. Social conservatives presented themselves as the country's "moral majority" — the banner under which Jerry Falwell mobilized millions of Christian voters in the '70s and '80s — and their mission was to defeat the disproportionately powerful secular elites in media and government.

The populist disavowal of Washington elite has remained, but as the GOP's agenda on gay issues has fallen out of favor in recent years, party leaders are no longer claiming to be in the majority. Instead, they are making appeals to pluralism — which are much more popular — arguing that while society has changed where LGBT issues are concerned, religious conservatives should be able to object when they believe their principles have been infringed.

Not all of the 2016 candidates on Friday followed the example of Bush, Rubio, and also dark-horse candidate Lindsey Graham, who said in a statement that he opposes a marriage amendment to the Constitution: "Rather than pursuing a divisive effort that would be doomed to fail, I am committing myself to ensuring the protection of religious liberties of all Americans." Conservative culture warriors like Rick Santorum, Mike Huckabee, and Bobby Jindal all quickly released statements harshly condemning the court, signaling that they still have an appetite to fight the marriage movement on the merits.

And, more importantly, Scott Walker — considered a top-tier candidate — took a sharper tone on Friday's ruling. Walker argued in favor of a marriage amendment to the Constitution and called the court's decision a "grave mistake." Walker is expected to make a serious bid to win the Iowa caucuses next year; his response seems aimed at the conservative Iowa voters who can help him do that.

But those candidates signaling surrender in the marriage fight are no doubt hoping that an emphasis on religious freedom will be enough to placate the still-influential conservative Christian primary voters in states like Iowa and South Carolina. It remains to be seen whether those voters are ready to embrace the same political pragmatism that their prospective standard-bearers are exhibiting.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Same-sex marriage ruling shakes up 2016 presidential race **// AJC // Daniel Malloy – June 26, 2015**

WASHINGTON — Friday's U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage across the country gave Democrats running for president a rallying cry, while Republicans disagreed with resignation, vitriol or somewhere in between.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was conciliatory, saying:

"In a country as diverse as ours, good people who have opposing views should be able to live side by side. It is now crucial that as a country we protect religious freedom and the right of conscience and also not discriminate."

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., sounded ready to move on from this legal fight:

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“While I disagree with this decision, we live in a republic and must abide by the law. As we look ahead, it must be a priority of the next president to nominate judges and justices committed to applying the Constitution as written and originally understood.”

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, meanwhile, sounded like he was preparing for armed insurrection:

“I will not acquiesce to an imperial court any more than our Founders acquiesced to an imperial British monarch. We must resist and reject judicial tyranny, not retreat.”

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was not going that far, as he vowed to appoint conservative justices if elected and spoke of the religious liberty fight to come:

“I call on the president and all governors to join me in reassuring millions of Americans that the government will not force them to participate in activities that violate their deeply held religious beliefs. No one wants to live in a country where the government coerces people to act in opposition to their conscience. We will continue to fight for the freedoms of all Americans.”

Democrats were in a celebratory mood. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley even went down to the Supreme Court to join in.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community’s battles go beyond marriage:

“For too many LGBT Americans who are subjected to discriminatory laws, true equality is still just out of reach. While we celebrate today, our work won’t be finished until every American can not only marry, but live, work, pray, learn and raise a family free from discrimination and prejudice. We cannot settle for anything less.”

Clinton in recent days has used the issue to fire up supporters. When her campaign sent out an email asking backers to “tell us why you’re a part of this campaign,” Kevin Lowery, of Milton, wrote back.

Lowery told the Clinton camp he is glad Clinton supports protections for gay couples, considering that he had married his husband in New York City a couple years ago, but the union still was not recognized in Georgia.

Clinton replied Thursday with a blast email to all of her supporters quoting from Lowery’s letter and adding: “Any day now, the Supreme Court will decide whether or not to recognize marriages across the country. Like millions of people, I’m waiting and hoping. And I’m thinking of families like Kevin’s.”

In a phone interview, Lowery said he was surprised by Clinton’s reply.

“I feel like people like her operate in an entirely different world than I do,” Lowery said. “To be brought into such close connection, it’s probably one of the coolest things I’ve ever felt, one of the closest things I’ve felt to ever meeting a celebrity.”

Then came Friday’s even bigger news.

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"I feel like I'm on Cloud Nine," Lowery said.

Opposition to same-sex marriage: political advantage or 'political suicide'? // Radio Iowa // O. Kay Henderson – June 26, 2015

Today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling which has legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states is drawing both cheers and jeers. Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal, campaigning in Iowa today, said the ruling tramples on states' rights.

"I'm a proponent of traditional marriage between a man and a woman," Jindal told Radio Iowa this morning. "I don't think the court should be overturning what states have decided on this. In Louisiana, it's in our state constitution."

Jindal said this ruling will "pave the way for an all-out assault on religious liberty."

"What is happening today is you see that Christian business owners, florists, caterers and musicians — they're being forced to participate in wedding ceremonies that violate their beliefs, their conscience," Jindal said. "I think that's wrong."

Republican candidate Rick Santorum, campaigning in western Iowa this morning, called the ruling a "bad decision" that will "harm the country." Santorum favors an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage.

During a campaign stop in Pella Thursday, Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee said he doesn't accept the "idea" of same-sex marriage.

"I don't believe it is a Biblical norm. I have friends who are homosexual. I love them. They're my friends. I don't quit loving them because of what they do or who they are," Huckabee said. "I don't accept the idea of a same-sex marriage not because I don't like people, but because I believe the institution of marriage is something very sacred, unique, that is not just a human institution. It's a divine institution that reflects the very relationship of Christ and his church. For me, that's something I can't yield."

Huckabee, Santorum and Jindal are among the nine GOP candidates who will speak in mid-July at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames. The event's hosted by Bob Vander Plaats of The Family Leader and Vander Plaats told Radio Iowa this morning this ruling will bring "common sense" Americans who oppose same-sex marriage "out of the woodwork."

"We're going to start seeing what the candidates are saying," Vander Plaats predicted.

Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley are praising the court's decision on same-sex marriage. State Senator Matt McCoy, a Democrat from Des Moines who is the only openly gay member of the legislature, said it's not a big issue for Democrats and he predicts it won't be for Republicans either.

"I think this is an issue that's going to get a lot of oxygen for the next several months, then it is absolutely going to become one of the least important issues of the campaign," McCoy told Radio Iowa.

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However, McCoy said Democrats do need to realize this decision may not have gone the way it did if a Republican president had been in office since 2009.

"I think we need to remind Democratic voters just why we have the decision we have today," McCoy said. "And that's primary due to the good appointments that we've had on the court."

Jennifer Harvey of West Des Moines and her partner legally married in 2009, shortly after Iowa's Supreme Court ruled the state's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. Harvey suggests opposition to same-sex marriage is a perilous position for a politician.

"I think for politicians who decide to take a stand on that, it might not be right now, but in the very near future that'll be a form of political suicide," Harvey said. "If you watch how political sentiment has changed, people very quickly come ot realize that It just sort of makes sense. I think this is settled. I think this will be a non-starter in the next three, four or five years."

Harvey was a bit surprised by her emotional reaction to today's decision.

"Kind of just a big sign of relief, like we can finally stop talking about this," Harvey said, laughing. "It feels like it's been small victory, small victory, small victory and I was surprised to find myself feel this ping of real joy and kind of a, 'Wow! It's finally done.'"

Harvey and her partner, Chris, are the parents of two children and she says in the past six years that same-sex marriage has been legal in Iowa, there's been a "climate change" in how her family is treated and perceived by others.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

President Obama Eulogizes Charleston Pastor as One Who Understood Grace // NYT // Kevin Sack and Gardiner Harris – June 26, 2015

CHARLESTON, S.C. — In one of his presidency's most impassioned reflections on race, President Obama eulogized the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney on Friday by calling on the nation to emulate the grace that he displayed in his work and that the people of South Carolina demonstrated after the massacre of nine worshipers at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Before nearly 6,000 mourners and a worldwide television audience, Mr. Obama, who met Mr. Pinckney during his first presidential campaign, placed the shootings in the context of America's long history of violence against African-Americans. He also reiterated his plea to restrict the availability of firearms and called for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the State House in Columbia.

Mr. Obama thrilled the mostly African-American audience by preaching with revivalist cadences, and by closing his 40-minute address by singing, in solo, the opening refrain of "Amazing Grace." The crowd came to its feet and joined in, leading the Rev. Norvel Goff, a presiding elder in the A.M.E. church, to later "thank the Reverend President."

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“Maybe we now realize the way racial bias can infect us even when we don’t realize it,” Mr. Obama said as Mr. Pinckney’s coffin, draped in a blanket of red roses, sat before him. “So that we’re guarding against not just racial slurs, but we’re also guarding against the subtle impulse to call Johnny back for a job interview, but not Jamal. So that we search our hearts when we consider laws to make it harder for some of our fellow citizens to vote.” By treating every child as important regardless of skin color and by opening up opportunities for all Americans, Mr. Obama said, “We express God’s grace.”

As the nation’s first African-American president, Mr. Obama has often struggled to find the proper balance of timing, words and place to speak about America’s racial divisions. Intent on being seen as a president for all and confronted with what he saw as the more urgent economic crisis, he approached racially charged disputes cautiously in his first term.

But politically unfettered after his re-election in 2012, and angered by the racially motivated killings in Charleston and the deaths of black men at the hands of white police officers, the president on Friday dispensed with his usual reticence, rediscovered the soaring rhetoric that inspired his supporters in 2008, and spoke with unusual — and occasionally acerbic — directness. “For too long,” Mr. Obama said, “we’ve been blind to the way past injustices continue to shape the present. Perhaps we see that now. Perhaps this tragedy causes us to ask some tough questions about how we can permit so many of our children to languish in poverty, or attend dilapidated schools, or grow up without prospects for a job or for a career.”

As he spoke, Mr. Obama was backed by a stage filled with African Methodist Episcopal preachers, cloaked in the purple vestments of their church, and a black-robed gospel choir.

Mr. Obama joined with others paying tribute in stressing that the 21-year-old white man charged in the killings had failed to achieve his stated goal of inciting racial conflagration. Rather, he said, the killings had the opposite effect, generating an unprecedented show of racial unity and inspiring a nationwide revolt against Confederate symbols.

“It was an act that drew on a long history of bombs and arson and shots fired at churches,” Mr. Obama said, “not random, but as a means of control, a way to terrorize and oppress, an act that he imagined would incite fear and recrimination, violence and suspicion, an act that he presumed would deepen divisions that trace back to our nation’s original sin.”

He paused for effect. “Oh, but God works in mysterious ways,” Mr. Obama said. “God has different ideas. He didn’t know he was being used by God.” The crowd erupted in applause as women waved their hands toward the ceiling.

Mr. Obama commended South Carolina’s Republican governor, Nikki R. Haley, for her call this week to bring down the Confederate flag in Columbia, saying it would be “a meaningful balm for so many unhealed wounds.”

“Removing the flag from this state’s Capitol would not be an act of political correctness,” Mr. Obama said. “It would not be an insult to the valor of Confederate soldiers. It would simply be an acknowledgment that the cause for which they fought — the cause of slavery — was wrong. The imposition of Jim Crow after the Civil War, the resistance to civil rights for all people, was wrong.”

The service lasted more than four hours as speaker after speaker, first legislators, then church leaders, then cousins and friends, and finally the president, took the podium to pay homage to Mr. Pinckney, who was both a respected state senator and a pastor in the most prestigious A.M.E. pulpit in South Carolina.

TD Arena in Charleston, just steps from the historic whitewashed church where the killings took place on June 17 during a Wednesday night Bible study, was packed with pastors in their black robes and collars, women in flowered hats and parents eager to expose their children to a moment of history. An estimated 5,000 people were

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turned away because of a lack of space. Members of Emanuel, where Mr. Pinckney had been pastor for five years, were given prime seating on the arena floor.

The dignitaries in attendance included the first lady, Michelle Obama; Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden; House Speaker John A. Boehner, who traveled on Air Force One for the first time during the Obama presidency; Ms. Haley; Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former secretary of state and current Democratic presidential candidate; Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina; Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. of Charleston; dozens of members of Congress and the South Carolina Legislature; and civil rights leaders like the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and Martin Luther King III.

“Sister Jennifer and the girls,” Mr. Goff said, addressing Mr. Pinckney’s wife and two daughters, “I want you to know that the world has come to you.”

After the service, the Obamas and the Bidens met with the families of those killed as well as the survivors of the massacre.

Mr. Obama, who acknowledged that he did not know Mr. Pinckney well, said that friends of the pastor’s had remarked “that when Clementa Pinckney entered a room, it was like the future arrived; that even from a young age, folks knew he was special, anointed.”

While the service centered on paeans to Mr. Pinckney, some speakers took the opportunity to address the nature of his death and its remarkable political aftermath. “Someone should have told the young man,” said the Right Rev. John Richard Bryant, senior bishop of the A.M.E. church, referring to the suspect in the killings, Dylann Roof. “He wanted to start a race war but he came to the wrong place.” The audience rose in a thunderous ovation, punctuated by an organist’s wailing exclamations.

A sign on an easel to the left of the stage declared: “Wrong church! Wrong people! Wrong day!”

State Senator Gerald Malloy, one of Mr. Pinckney’s closest friends, spoke of Mr. Pinckney’s support for often unsuccessful legislative efforts to expand Medicaid coverage, regulate discriminatory lending practices and block voter identification requirements. “He answered life’s most pervasive question, and that is what are you doing for others,” Mr. Malloy said.

The pastor’s funeral was the third in a series of nine that is scheduled to conclude on Tuesday. Three others are planned for Saturday, one each on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Pinckney’s burial in Marion, S.C., home to his mother’s family, concluded a three-day tour that took his coffin first to Columbia, where he lay in state beneath the State House rotunda, then to his simple childhood church in Ridgeland, S.C., and, on Thursday night, to Emanuel itself. Thousands of dark-suited mourners waited in line for hours to walk through the church, peer into Mr. Pinckney’s open coffin and pay respects to his devastated family.

Ushers handed out a glossy program filled with photographs of Mr. Pinckney, from childhood through his pastorate. In one, he was dressed in blue hospital scrubs holding one of his newborn daughters. Others showed him as a boy, dressed in his uniform of a vested suit and necktie.

The program included letters to Mr. Pinckney from his family, their first public comments since the shootings.

“You promised me you would never leave me!” Jennifer Benjamin Pinckney wrote to her husband. “You promised

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me we would be together for years to come! You promised me we would watch our children grow, get married and have children of their own. You promised me that we would grow old together and spend our latter years without the demands of the Church or the State. I feel robbed, cheated, and cut short."

Mr. Pinckney's eldest daughter, Eliana, 11, observed that "when someone loves you, they care even if they are not there." Her sister, Malana, 6, wrote: "Dear Daddy: I know you were shot at the Church and you went to Heaven. I love you so much! I know you love me and I know that you know that I love you too." She signed it, "Your baby girl and grasshopper."

Supreme Court rules gay couples nationwide have a right to marry // WaPo // Robert Barnes – June 26, 2015

A deeply divided Supreme Court on Friday delivered a historic victory for gay rights, ruling 5 to 4 that the Constitution requires that same-sex couples be allowed to marry no matter where they live.

The court's action rewarded years of legal work by same-sex marriage advocates and marked the culmination of an unprecedented upheaval in public opinion and the nation's jurisprudence.

Marriages began Friday in states that had previously thwarted the efforts of same-sex couples to wed, while some states continued to resist what they said was a judicial order that changed the traditional definition of marriage and sent the country into uncharted territory. As of the court's decision Friday morning, there were 14 states where same-sex couples were not allowed to marry.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who has written all of the court's decisions recognizing and expanding gay rights, said the decision was based on the fundamental right to marry and the equality that must be afforded gay Americans.

"Under the Constitution, same-sex couples seek in marriage the same legal treatment as opposite-sex couples, and it would disparage their choices and diminish their personhood to deny them this right," Kennedy wrote. He was joined in the ruling by the court's liberal justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

All four of the court's most conservative members — Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. — dissented, and each wrote a separate opinion.

The common theme in their dissents was that judicial activism on the part of five members of the court had usurped a power that belongs to the people.

"If you are among the many Americans — of whatever sexual orientation — who favor expanding same-sex marriage, by all means celebrate today's decision," wrote Roberts, who for the first time in his tenure marked his disagreement with a decision by reading part of his dissent from the bench.

"Celebrate the achievement of a desired goal. Celebrate the opportunity for a new expression of commitment to a partner. Celebrate the availability of new benefits. But do not celebrate the Constitution. It had nothing to do with it," he wrote.

Scalia called the decision a "threat to American democracy," saying it robs citizens of "the freedom to govern themselves."

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In a statement in the White House Rose Garden, President Obama hailed the decision: “This ruling is a victory for America. This decision affirms what millions of Americans already believe in their hearts. When all Americans are truly treated as equal, we are more free.”

It wasn’t until 2012 that Obama declared that same-sex couples should be able to marry, and it was only last year that he said he thought the Constitution provided such a right. But by Friday evening, the rainbow colors that gay rights activists have adopted were projected onto the north face of the White House. With the Supreme Court’s ruling, Obama said, “Today we can say in no uncertain terms that we have made our union a little more perfect.”

There were wild scenes of celebrations on the sidewalk outside the Supreme Court. Same-sex marriage supporters had arrived early, armed with signs and rainbow flags. They cheered at the announcement of a constitutional right for gay marriage, which did not legally exist anywhere in the world until the turn of this century. The first legally recognized same-sex marriages in the United States took place just 11 years ago, the result of a Massachusetts state supreme court decision.

Jim Obergefell, who became the face of the case, Obergefell v. Hodges, when he sought to put his name on his husband’s Ohio death certificate as the surviving spouse, said, “Today’s ruling from the Supreme Court affirms what millions across the country already know to be true in our hearts: that our love is equal.”

“It is my hope that the term gay marriage will soon be a thing of the past, that from this day forward it will be, simply, marriage,” he said.

But Austin R. Nimocks, senior counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom, a group that supports traditional marriage, said: “Today, five lawyers took away the voices of more than 300 million Americans to continue to debate the most important social institution in the history of the world. . . . Nobody has the right to say that a mom or a woman or a dad or a man is irrelevant. There are differences that should be celebrated.”

The Supreme Court used cases from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, where restrictions against same-sex marriage were upheld by an appeals court last year, to find that the Constitution does not allow such prohibitions.

Kennedy over the past 20 years has written the Supreme Court’s most important gay rights cases: overturning criminal laws on homosexual conduct, protecting gays from discrimination and declaring that the federal government could not refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed where they were legal.

He often employs a lofty, writing-for-history tone, and Friday’s decision was no different.

Referring to the couples who brought the cases before the court, Kennedy wrote: “It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization’s oldest institutions.”

Kennedy did not respond directly to the court’s dissenters, but he addressed the argument that the court was creating a constitutional right. The right to marriage is fundamental, he said. The difference is society’s evolving view of gay people and their rights, he said.

“The limitation of marriage to opposite-sex couples may long have seemed natural and just, but its inconsistency with the central meaning of the fundamental right to marry is now manifest,” he wrote. “With that knowledge must

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come the recognition that laws excluding same-sex couples from the marriage right impose stigma and injury of the kind prohibited by our basic charter."

As in previous decisions, Kennedy did not spell out how courts should scrutinize laws that treated gays differently. But Mary Bonauto, who argued the case for gay plaintiffs at the Supreme Court, said that message from Kennedy's combined opinions "is one of inclusion: Stop making rules for gay people."

Scalia was a sharp critic of Kennedy's style, saying it was "as pretentious as its content is egotistic."

"The Supreme Court of the United States has descended from the disciplined legal reasoning of John Marshall and Joseph Story to the mystical aphorisms of the fortune cookie," Scalia wrote.

Roberts wrote a lengthy dissent that was a point-by-point takedown of the majority opinion. Gay activists had wondered whether the 60-year-old justice might take note of the increasing public support for same-sex marriage and find a way to join the majority on what they called the "right side of history."

But he and the other dissenters said the question was not whether same-sex marriage was a good idea, but who should decide.

"The court invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the states and orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia, for the Kalahari Bushmen and the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs," Roberts wrote. "Just who do we think we are?"

Roberts rejected a comparison to Loving v. Virginia, in which the court struck down bans on interracial marriage. That did not change the age-old definition of marriage as between a man and a woman, he said. He raised concerns that the decision could lead to polygamous marriages — he mentioned a married threesome of lesbians called a "throuple."

He noted that voters and legislators in only 11 states had authorized same-sex marriages, and said it was better for gay marriage to be adopted through the democratic process than by judicial order. He said religious leaders could take little comfort from the majority opinion that their beliefs would be respected.

That theme was picked up by Alito in his dissent. He said there could be "bitter and lasting wounds" from the decision and warned that the decision will be "exploited by those who are determined to stamp out every vestige of dissent."

The questions raised in the cases decided Friday were left unanswered in 2013, when the justices last confronted the issue of same-sex marriage. A slim majority of the court said at the time that a key portion of the Defense of Marriage Act — withholding the federal government's recognition of same-sex marriages — was unconstitutional. In a separate case that year, the court said procedural issues kept it from answering the constitutional question in a case from California but allowed same-sex marriages to resume in that state.

Since then, courts across the nation — with the notable exception of the Cincinnati-based federal appeals court that left intact the restrictions in the four states at issue — have struck down a string of state prohibitions on same-sex marriage, many of them passed by voters in referendums.

Gay marriage ruling was 50 years in the making — wit h important Texas ties // Dallas News // Michael A. Lindenberger – June 26, 2015

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WASHINGTON — In explaining his decision to require every state in America to allow gay couples to marry, Justice Anthony Kennedy said some things are simply too important to be left to the hands of voters.

“Of course, the Constitution contemplates that democracy is the appropriate process for change, so long as that process does not abridge fundamental rights,” he wrote in his groundbreaking and deeply divisive majority opinion.

And yet, Friday’s history-making ruling was one the country largely got ready for in less than half a century, thanks to a sometimes painful struggle by gay and lesbian Americans.

In the summer of 1969, a small crowd of angry onlookers — drag queens and people living on the streets among them — clashed with New York police as they hauled people out of the Stonewall Inn and into waiting paddy wagons for, essentially, the crime of being gay in a bar. What followed were several days of riots, hundreds of arrests, and the birth of the modern gay rights movement.

From Stonewall to the Supreme Court, there is a straight line showcasing the rise of gay rights and the fading potency of the traditional, conservative moral authority that has warned, and still warns, that gay marriage could mean society’s undoing.

The line crosses through Texas in an important way. Justices, Kennedy said, had often been cautious when dealing with advances in human rights to its citizens, and those delays harmed the people affected in ways that weren’t undone years later when other decisions changed the law. “Dignitary wounds cannot always be healed with the stroke of a pen.”

He was in part referring to his own role 12 years ago, when he authored the Lawrence vs. Texas ruling in which a six-person majority upended precedent and ruled that laws making gay sex illegal could not stand.

Gay marriage, of course, was illegal everywhere in America, and not a single national politician of either party had ever suggested there was anything wrong with that. Many gay rights advocates felt marriage, if it were to ever come, was decades away.

But the Texas case was a fundamental turning point.

About two hours past sunset on Sept. 17, 1998, the first night of the year’s longest heat wave, John Lawrence’s legal troubles began. An acquaintance was angry because he thought Lawrence was having an affair with his lover, a younger man named Tyron Garner.

Shortly after 10:30 p.m., the acquaintance walked out of Lawrence’s apartment and called the police to make a false report. In the flush of jealousy, he told them an angry black man was waving a gun and shouting at the neighbors.

Officers barged in minutes later, finding an undressed Lawrence in his bed, Garner sitting on a couch nearby and another man inside — but no gun.

They were arrested for violating Texas’ law against having gay sex, taken to jail and released early the next morning. They’d eventually be convicted and fined $200. (The man who made called about the gun was charged

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with making a false report.)

“John and Tyron were just regular guys who wound up being arrested and charged with homosexual conduct,” said lawyer Suzanne Goldberg, a Columbia law professor who in 1998 was a lawyer for Lambda Legal Defense Fund who helped represent the pair.

“It would mean coming out publicly to the people they worked with and to their families,” Goldberg said. “Neither had planned on taking the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. But they both understood the important potential of their case, and they were courageous in deciding to pursue it.”

“I don’t know that they expected, that any of us expected, then that their pictures would end being splashed around the globe.”

What made the case worth fighting for gay legal activists was the tremendous power the relatively minor — and often unenforced — statutes against gay sex carried in other areas of gay life.

“In states like Texas that had these sodomy laws on the books, there was a very strong barrier to being out,” recalled Washington lawyer Paul Smith, who would argue successfully Lawrence’s case before the Supreme Court in 2003. “If you were an out person you could lose your jobs, custody of your kids, and people could refuse to rent to same-sex couples — all on the basis that admitting you were gay was basically admitting that you were a criminal.”

String of cases

But as for gay marriage, in 1998 it was still illegal everywhere.

A string of cases brought by couples who were denied licenses had entered the courts in the years immediately after the Stonewall Inn riots, as new organizations such as the Gay Liberation Front began to slowly move gay advocacy out of the shadows. Cases were filed — and lost — in Kentucky, Minnesota and elsewhere.

In Texas, a couple was granted a marriage license only to face an immediate backlash — including threats of prosecution — once officials learned that the blushing bride had been a gay man in drag. The license wasn’t honored.

Only one of the cases, involving a Minneapolis couple, reached the Supreme Court, in 1972. The justices heard no arguments and dispensed with it in a single sentence.

But five years before Lawrence and Garner were arrested, Hawaii’s top court opened the door to gay marriage by a crack. In 1993, the Hawaii Supreme Court sent a case brought by a gay couple back to the trial court with new instructions: For the first time, the state would have to prove that its denial of a marriage license to a gay couple could be justified.

State and federal officials had rushed to slam shut that possibility.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the widely popular Defense of Marriage Act, making it illegal for the federal government to treat gay couples as married, whether or not Hawaii or another state issued them a license. The law

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also meant that no state would have to recognize a gay marriage performed in another state.

Two years later, Hawaiians voted to bar gay marriage, rendering moot the ongoing trial from 1993. Voters in Alaska followed suit the same year.

But the people who were thinking most about the issue were the same ones who were fighting hardest to keep laws like the Texas anti-sodomy statute on the books.

That connection had been on the minds of the lawyers and the justices the first time the Supreme Court confronted the question of gay sex laws, in a 1986 Georgia case.

“This court will quite soon be confronted with questions concerning the legitimacy of statutes which prohibit polygamy, homosexual same-sex marriage, consensual incest, prostitution, fornication, adultery” and other horrors if it decriminalizes gay sex, warned the lawyer for Georgia.

The justices were persuaded.

“Respondent would have us announce … a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy. This we are quite unwilling to do,” Justice Byron White wrote in his 5-4 majority opinion.

Scalia’s dissent

Seventeen years later, the court changed its mind, and ruled in favor of Lawrence and Garner. That sent Justice Antonin Scalia fuming. He read his scathing dissent word for word from the bench.

“It is clear from this that the court has taken sides in the culture war, departing from its role of assuring, as neutral observer, that the democratic rules of engagement are observed,” Scalia said. “Many Americans do not want persons who openly engage in homosexual conduct as partners in their business, as scoutmasters for their children, as teachers in their children’s schools, or as boarders in their home.”

Echoing lawyer Hobbs from 17 year before, he said the arrival at the court of arguments for gay marriage would only be a matter of time.

He was no less disgusted on Friday, when he wrote that the court’s decision amounted to tyranny. “It is not of special importance to me what the law says about marriage. It is of overwhelming importance, however, who it is that rules me. Today’s decree says that my Ruler, and the Ruler of 320 million Americans coast-to-coast, is a majority of the nine lawyers on the Supreme Court.”

Whatever one thinks of Scalia’s rhetorical bursts, it’s only fair to note this about his 2003 predictions: He was absolutely right.

The first federal court decision making gay marriage legal came just months later, in Massachusetts. The first page of the opinion cited the ruling in Lawrence vs. Texas.

Smaller changes

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But what counted most, many scholars and some of the strongest opponents of gay marriage say, were the smaller, incremental changes in the way Americans looked at homosexuality and other moral issues.

Did the California Supreme Court's 2008 ruling in favor of gay marriage pave the way for Californians to marry? It's hard to say. Within months, voters in the overwhelmingly Democratic state went to the polls to change the state's constitution and bar same-sex marriages.

But the backlash triggered a response of its own. Hollywood icon Rob Reiner opened his check book, and his Rolodex, and bankrolled what would become Freedom to Marry, a national movement founded by activist Evan Wolfson. Slowly but surely the idea of gay marriage was being discussed everywhere.

"There was both the reality and perception of dramatic moral change on part of the American people," said the Rev. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "You could see it even as the Fortune 500 companies saw that it was in their interests to join that moral revolution in their advertising."

By 2013, when the Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act, conservatives were resigning themselves to defeat.

Harvard professor Michael Klarman, who has studied the link between judicial decisions and broad social change, said even the biggest court rulings are rarely the most important elements of that change.

"Thinking that those discrete landmark-seeming events are really driving anything long-term is, I think, a mistake," he said. Smaller, step-by-step changes in the way people see each other, the way individuals feel about gays in general, had much greater impact over time.

Gay people finally feeling free to come out, he said, is what made the biggest difference.

Theodore Olson doesn't disagree. The former top U.S. appellate lawyer under President George W. Bush, he joined with Demcoratic super-lawyer David Boies to sue California to force its hand on gay marriage.

"There was discrimination everywhere," he said. "Of course, it is not all gone. But the atmosphere has totally changed."

Proof of that came just hours after the court announced its decision. Standing in the Rose Garden, President Barack Obama said the decision arrived with the force of a thunderbolt, but grew out of decades of struggle.

"It is a consequence of the countless small acts of courage of millions of people across decades who stood up, who came out, talked to parents, parents who loved their children no matter what, folks who were willing to endure bullying and taunts, and stayed strong, and came to believe in themselves and who they were.

"And slowly made an entire country realize that love is love."

INTERNATIONAL

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Terrorist Attacks in France, Tunisia and Kuwait Kill Dozens // NYT // Ben Hubbard – June 26, 2015

BEIRUT, Lebanon — In a matter of hours and on three different continents, militants carried out attacks on Friday that killed scores of civilians, horrified populations and raised thorny questions about the evolving nature of international terrorism and what can be done to fight it.

On the surface, the attacks appeared to be linked only by timing.

In France, a man stormed an American-owned chemical plant, decapitated one person and apparently tried to blow up the facility. In Tunisia, a gunman drew an assault rifle from a beach umbrella and killed at least 38 people at a seaside resort. And in Kuwait, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a mosque during communal prayers, killing at least 25 Shiite worshipers.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks in Tunisia and Kuwait, according to statements on Twitter. But it almost did not matter for terrorism's global implications whether the three attacks were coordinated. Each in a different way underlined the difficulties of anticipating threats and protecting civilians from small-scale terrorist actions, whether in a mosque, at work or at the beach.

The attacks occurred at a time of fast evolution for the world's most dangerous terrorist organizations, which continue to find ways to strike and spread their ideology despite more than a decade of costly efforts by the United States and others to kill their leaders and deny them sanctuary.

The United States has killed leaders of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere, but the group has maintained a string of branches and melded itself into local insurgencies. The Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, has worked on two levels, seeking to build its self-declared caliphate on captured territory in Iraq and Syria while inciting attacks abroad.

Fueling that expansion are civil wars and the collapse of state structures in Arab countries from Libya to Yemen that have opened up ungoverned spaces where jihadists thrive, while social media has given extremists a global megaphone to spread their message.

While officials in the three countries investigated the attacks, many noted that leaders of the Islamic State have repeatedly called for sympathizers to kill and sow mayhem at home.

Earlier this week, the spokesman for the Islamic State, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, greeted the group's followers for Ramadan, telling them that acts during the Muslim holy month earned greater rewards in heaven.

"Muslims, embark and hasten toward jihad," Mr. Adnani said in an audio message. "O mujahedeen everywhere, rush and go to make Ramadan a month of disasters for the infidels."

The attacks targeted each country in a particularly sensitive spot.

Tunisia, widely hailed as the sole success of the Arab Spring uprisings that began more than four years ago, suffered a sharp blow to its tourism sector, a pillar of the local economy.

The bombing in Kuwait followed the pattern of similar attacks on Shiite mosques in Saudi Arabia and was aimed at

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sowing sectarian divisions in a country where Sunnis and Shiites serve together in top government bodies and open friction between the sects is uncommon.

The motivation behind the attack in France was less clear, although the beheading suggested that the perpetrator had at least been inspired by the Islamic State, which frequently propagandizes similar killings in the territories it occupies.

And because the day's events appeared to bear some of the infamous hallmarks of the Islamic State and its supporters, some analysts speculated that the attacks had been timed to mark the first anniversary of its declaration of a caliphate. Even if that is not the case, the SITE intelligence Group, which tracks extremist propaganda, said the attacks inspired "celebration from Twitter accounts of Jihadi fighters and supporters of the Islamic State."

Lina Khatib, director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, said "We have entered a new jihadist era," adding that the Islamic State had used its international brand to establish sleeper cells abroad, whose actions were meant to advance its efforts to build a state.

"Everything in the end serves the purpose of strengthening the project of the Islamic State," she said.

United States intelligence and counterterrorism officials were scrambling Friday to assess the connections, if any, between the attacks in France, Kuwait and Tunisia. Officials said that if the assessment found that the attacks were linked, officials would seek to determine whether the Islamic State had actively directed, coordinated or inspired them.

Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, condemned the attacks, which he called "heinous." But there was no word yet on whether they were coordinated, he said. "We just don't know yet."

In claiming the Kuwait attack, the Islamic State called the suicide bomber "one of the knights of the Sunni people" and lauded him for killing Shiites, who are considered apostates in the group's hard interpretation of Islam.

The assault resembled others launched by the Islamic State recently on Shiite mosques in neighboring Saudi Arabia, prompting many to believe that the militant group is seeking to set off a sectarian war between Sunnis and Shiites.

Some Kuwaitis said that with sectarian tensions rising across the region, it was only a matter of time before they reached Kuwait.

"Ever since I heard about Qatif and the Shiite mosques there, I just had this feeling that we were next," said Bodour Behbehani, a Shiite graduate student in Kuwait City, recalling a mosque bombing last month near Qatif, a city in Saudi Arabia.

The American war on terrorism has taken many forms over the years. But the spread of such small-scale attacks highlighted what even American officials have called a failure to win the ideological — or information — war that feeds militancy and inspires recruits.

The challenge, analysts and government officials say, is to reorient a strategy centered on combat to one that challenges extremist groups on all fronts simultaneously: political, social, ideological and religious. A primary aim, they say, should be to win the information war and undermine the appeal of radical Islamist ideologies.

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Such terrorist attacks have shattered the assumption that the Islamic State can be confined to territories it controls in the Middle East, said Bruce Hoffman, director of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University. Although Western governments can work to monitor those who might be plotting attacks, this will not solve their root cause.

"Chasing individuals is probably a fool's errand given the geographically disparate nature of the threat," Dr. Hoffman said. "There comes a point where you have to tackle the organization behind it."

And monitoring has limits. The authorities in Tunisia said the gunman there was a young Tunisian with no prior police record. The authorities in France said that the attacker arrested there had connections to radical Islamists but that surveillance of him stopped in 2008.

The Kuwaiti authorities did not identify the attacker in their country.

To fight the Islamic State, the United States has formed an international coalition that is bombing its fighters and their bases in Iraq and Syria, a process that President Obama has said seeks to degrade and destroy the group. But while the group has lost many fighters and some territory, Friday's attacks demonstrated the continued power of the jihadist movement to inspire attacks abroad by local actors.

It is an extraordinary coincidence that "all three attacks happened at the same day and time," said Brian Fishman, a counterterrorism research fellow at New America, a research organization in Washington. He said the attacks suggested that the focus on taking territory from the Islamic State could make the United States miss other ways it poses dangers.

"We can't get attached to a single metric for understanding this organization," he said.

ISIS claims to be behind deadly Tunisia attack // WaPo // Liz Sly – June 26, 2015

BEIRUT — Assailants beheaded, bombed and gunned down victims on three continents Friday, killing more than 60 people and raising fears that a global surge of terror strikes could be imminent.

There was initially no reason to believe the disparate attacks — at a factory in France, a beach resort in Tunisia and a mosque in Kuwait — were connected.

But then the Islamic State asserted responsibility for two of them, first the bombing in Kuwait in which 25 died and later, in a separate statement, the assault on the beach in Tunisia, which killed 39.

The second statement contained a warning that more attacks soon will follow: "Let them wait for the glad tidings of what will harm them in the coming days, Allah permitting," it said, referring to the "apostates" who had been the target of the assault.

The three incidents followed an appeal Tuesday from the Islamic State's spokesman, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, for Muslims to mark the holy month of Ramadan by carrying out acts of "jihad," or holy war.

"Make Ramadan a month of disasters for the kuffar," meaning infidels, he said in the audiotaped address. He

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promised followers “tenfold” rewards in heaven if they died in such acts during the holy period, associated by most Muslims with fasting, prayer and peaceful reflection.

The attacks suggested that some may have heeded his words.

About 9:30 a.m. in the quaint town of Saint-Quentin-Fallavier in southern France, a deliveryman crashed a vehicle into a shed containing gas cylinders at an American-owned factory, causing an explosion. After the driver was caught by firefighters, police found a severed head on the factory fence flanked by two flags bearing Arabic inscriptions.

Minutes later and 3,000 miles away, a man wearing a suicide belt walked into a Shiite mosque in Kuwait City and detonated his explosives among worshipers gathered for Friday prayers, killing 25.

Two hours passed before at least one gunman burst into a Mediterranean beach resort in the Tunisian town of Sousse and randomly opened fire on bathers lounging under beach umbrellas, killing 39.

The Islamic State asserted responsibility for the attack in Kuwait, saying in a statement circulated on social media accounts that one of its members, Abu Suleiman al-Mowahid, targeted the mosque because it had been used to try to convert Sunni Muslims to the Shiite branch of Islam.

It was too early to say whether the Islamic State was connected to the French attack or whether the strike was conducted on behalf of the Islamic State or was inspired by its propaganda. A Pentagon spokesman, Col. Steve Warren, said U.S. officials are investigating possible links.

But the timing and geographical scope of the violent acts appeared likely to play into the Islamic State’s narrative that it is posing an ever-greater threat to global security, analysts said.

“For ISIS, terror is a strategy, a way to keep conveying a sense of expansion,” said Emile Hokayem, an analyst with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, using an acronym for the extremist group. “This is not a movement that’s on its last legs. It’s still there, seeking to impose and shape the agenda and be at the center of the conversation.”

In France, the gruesome killing caused jitters in a country still reeling from the Charlie Hebdo slayings in January, in which two gunmen mowed down staffers at a satirical newspaper in Paris.

French prosecutor François Molins said at a news conference that the man detained in Friday’s attack, identified as Yassin Salhi, 35, had periodically drawn the attention of French intelligence services between 2011 and 2014 because of his links with ultraconservative Muslims, known as Salafists, in Lyon. Security services had filed reports between 2006 and 2008 on the man’s radicalization, he said.

The victim found beheaded at the factory was the 54-year-old manager of the transportation firm that employed Salhi, the prosecutor said. In addition to the beheading, there were also two injuries in the explosion at the factory operated by Air Products, a global gas and chemical company based in Allentown, Pa.

French President François Hollande called it “a pure terrorist attack, especially inasmuch as a corpse has been found, decapitated with a message.”

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He summoned security chiefs and placed security agencies in southeastern France on a state of high alert.

Tunisia also was still reeling from a recent terrorist attack — the assault by gunmen in March at the Bardo museum in the capital, Tunis, in which 22 people died. The bloodshed on the beach in Sousse is expected to further dent the North African country's vital tourism industry.

Witnesses described scenes of chaos as a gunman opened fire with an automatic rifle, sending sunbathers scrambling for cover amid beach umbrellas and sun beds. Tunisian authorities said the assailant was killed, and it was unclear whether more than one attacker was involved.

"A state of panic," said Tunisian journalist Moez Ben Gharbiya, describing the scene from the seaside town, a popular spot for European tourists about 90 miles south of Tunis.

The bombing in Kuwait fit a recent pattern in which the Islamic State has been targeting Shiite mosques in Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The tactic echoes the way in which an earlier iteration of the group provoked sectarian strife in Iraq by relentlessly bombing Shiite mosques, and this appears to be the goal now, Hokayem said.

"By going after Shiites in Saudi and Kuwait, ISIS is playing a sophisticated game where it thrives off of existing sectarianism in the Sunni world," he said.

Kuwaitis, however, rallied behind the Shiites, a small but widely accepted minority in the tiny nation. The country's emir immediately visited the mosque, and Kuwaitis lined up to donate blood to the injured, who numbered more than 200, according to media reports in Kuwait.

"This criminal act on one of the houses of God is a desperate and wicked attempt to divide the unity of the Kuwaiti people, and it comes amid threats faced by the entire region," said Crown Prince Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah in a statement on Kuwaiti state television.

World leaders elsewhere denounced the attacks.

The United States "condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks" in the three countries, a White House statement said.

British Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted that he was "sickened by the attacks in Tunisia, France and Kuwait," and he summoned an emergency meeting of his security chiefs to assess the heightened threat.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Clinton act s on racial justice // Quad-City Times // Rep. Phyllis Thede – June 26, 2015

There isn't a soul in America who wasn't shocked by the massacre that occurred last week in Charleston.

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Yet again, a young man looking to do harm was able to acquire a gun and we must face how as a nation we continue to tolerate these mass shootings without acting. But last week's massacre also highlighted a topic that is too often overlooked and swept under the rug – the deep racist sentiments that persist in pockets of our society.

Over this past week, Hillary Clinton has consistently and persistently brought to the forefront a much-needed dialog about race.

It is all too easy for us to dismiss the murderer in South Carolina as crazy or fringe. As Clinton said this week, "our problem is not all kooks and Klansman. It's also in the cruel joke that goes unchallenged. It's in the off-hand comments about not wanting 'those people' in the neighborhood."

In Iowa, we know that racial disparities still exist. Iowa has the second highest percentage of incarceration of African Americans in the country with African American males making up 26 percent of the prison population despite only comprising about 3 percent of the state's population. In 2010 it was reported that three in four white Iowans own a home, which can only be said for three in every 10 black families. In education, 16 percent of black Iowans graduated college compared to 25 percent of white Iowans in 2010.

Scripture tells us that there is a time to keep silent and a time to speak out, a time break down and a time to build up. Now is the time to speak out and to build up. I applaud Hillary Clinton for bringing these issues to the forefront, and wholeheartedly believe she will help build a safer, more tolerant, and inclusive country.

MISCELLANEOUS ADDED BY STAFF

12 Winning Brand Tweets After the Suprem e Court's Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage // Adweek // Lauren Johnon – June 26, 2015

When the Supreme Court ruled this morning to legalize same-sex marriage in all states, many marketers expectedly took to Twitter to celebrate.

Brands like Mastercard, Target and Ben & Jerry's were prepared for today's news with videos and photos that were ready to tweet, while others like YouTube seemed to whip up tweets on the fly. Hillary Clinton, who is running for president, got a huge reaction to her tweet, which can only help her campaign in winning over the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. And Gap, The White House and American Airlines have swapped out their regular Twitter avatars for themed ones.

Yesterday, MasterCard posted a video telling the story of a couple who won tickets to see Gwen Stefani, the brand's spokeswoman, in celebration of Pride Month. Today, the tweet is getting a boost with Promoted Tweets around the #LoveWins and #MarriageEquality hashtags—two of the buzziest topics on Twitter right now. And Maytag is owning the #SCOTUSMarriage hashtag.

Here are 11 more tweets from brands this morning:

http://www.adweek.com/news/technology/12-winning-brand-tweets-after-supreme-courts-ruling-same-sex-marriage-165600

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/18/2008 1:41:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/18

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 18th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

TBA McCain: Attends Russert Memorial Service in Washington, DC

11am BUSH: Meets with the prime minister of Bulgaria in the Oval Office

1:40pm BUSH: Meets with the Chinese delegation to the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue in Washington , D.C.

2:30pm CHENEY: Speaks at the Heritage Foundation sponsored event on U.S. policy toward Asia in Washington , D.C.

3pm McCain: Round Table/Speech in Springfield, MO

7pm BUSH: Speaks at the 2008 President's Dinner in Washington, D.C.

7:30pm McCain: Finance Event in Chicago, IL

9pm McCain: Town Hall in Chicago, IL
- Tracking scheduled for this event

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Candidates Clash on Terrorism (Washington Post 6/18/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut and Karen DeYoung; A01
The campaigns of Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama on Tuesday engaged in a heated exchange over the rights of terrorism suspects, with each side accusing the other of embracing a policy that would put the country at risk of more attacks in the future.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/17/AR2008061702819.html

Three Questions for McCain (NYT 6/18/08)
By DAVID LEONHARDT
A week before Pennsylvania's Democratic primary — in April, back when Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were still the big story — John McCain traveled to Pittsburgh to remind everyone how different his economic agenda would be from theirs.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/18/business/18leonhardt.html

McCain in Springfield, Mo. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch 6/18/08)
By Jo Mannies
Sen. John McCain plans to conduct a seminar on energy and national security this afternoon in the student union at Missouri State University. But the purpose of his visit involves politics as much as policy. McCain's appearance speaks to the importance of socially conservative voters in Missouri — and across the nation.
http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/politics/story/33EE324D239E45A68625746C00133528?OpenDocument

McCain's visit to Springfield is open on first-come, first-served basis (KY3 6/17/08)
by David Catanese and Gene Hartley
When John McCain visits Missouri State University, the public may attend. It will be open on a first-come, first-served basis, the national press office said late Tuesday morning.

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http://www.ky3.com/news/local/20014809.html

John McCain open to drilling offshore, not in Arctic Refuge (LA Times 6/18/08)
By Bob Drogin
McCain's support of protecting the wildlife refuge puts him at odds with the Bush administration. The Obama campaign criticizes the policy and the Republican's rejection of a windfall-profits tax.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign18-2008jun18,0,3060742.story

Visiting Houston, McCain urges diverse energy sources (Houston Chronicle 6/17/08)
By ALAN BERNSTEIN
With pokes at Vice President Dick Cheney and rival Barack Obama, John McCain, who was visiting Houston today, called for an energy policy that combines heightened exploitation of American oil and nuclear power with a greater emphasis on conservation and development of alternative energy sources.
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/politics/5841366.html
Link to video: http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid823433113/bctid1612745597

McCain plays with fire on offshore drilling (Politico 6/17/08)
By: Charles Mahtesian and David Mark
By calling for an end to the federal ban on offshore oil drilling, John McCain is placing a risky bet. He is wagering that skyrocketing gas prices have finally reached a tipping point, a threshold moment that has led voters to rethink their strong and long-held opinions against coastal oil exploration.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11154.html

Governor Backs Florida Drilling (WSJ 6/18/08)
By Stephen Power, Laura Meckler and Russell Gold
President Bush, Florida's governor and Republican presidential candidate John McCain are calling to lift a federal ban on offshore oil drilling, showing how voter anger over soaring gasoline prices is pushing politicians to rethink U.S. energy policy.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121372245926581441.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Your Tax Bill: How McCain, Obama Differ (WSJ 6/18/08)
By Tom Herman
Capital-Gains Rates Are Likely To Rise, No Matter Who Wins; Far Apart on Estate Taxes
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121374794468982701.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Club for Growth balking at idea of helping McCain (The Hill 6/17/08)
By Aaron Blake
Club for Growth President Pat Toomey said this week that his economically conservative group might sit out the 2008 presidential election and focus on congressional races.
http://thehill.com/campaign-2008/club-for-growth-balking-at-idea-of-helping-mccain-2008-06-17.html

McCain Wins Support as Last Best Hope of Former Republican Foes (Bloomberg 6/18/08)
By Hans Nichols and Kristin Jensen
Senator John Cornyn says ``war hero'' John McCain is ``clearly my choice'' for the presidency, citing his stances on national security, cutting wasteful spending and picking judges ``who believe in the Constitution.''
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=avgwOsPaqVk8&refer=home

That List Of "Democrats And Indys" Backing McCain? It's A Bit Of A Sham. (TPM 6/17/08)
By Greg Sargent and Eric Kleefeld
This is a fun one. A few days ago, the McCain campaign proudly released a list of "prominent Democrats and Independents" supporting his candidacy. The idea was to appeal to disgruntled Hillary supporters and others by sending a message that it's okay to be a Dem and not support Barack Obama.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/mccain_dems.php

McCain Takes Harder Line On Hezbollah Than Bush (Huffington Post 6/17/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
Visiting Beirut on Monday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice lent her personal support to the new power-sharing agreement reached between the country's U.S.-supported prime minister and the armed group Hezbollah.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/17/bush-administration-takes_n_107626.html

McCain's Declaration of Independence (Washington Post 6/18/08)
...While McCain is using global warming to neutralize Obama's charge that he's running for Bush's third term, he

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angered environmentalists this week by proposing to lift a ban on offshore oil drilling.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/17/AR2008061702269.html

McCain Showcases His Environmental Side (NYT 6/18/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG
Senator John McCain of Arizona began running this commercial on Tuesday on cable news and in closely contested states like Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, where his advertisements have been running for the past couple of weeks.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/18/us/politics/18madbox.html

Fix Pick: "McSame" as Bush? (Washington Post blog 6/18/08)
By Chris Cillizza
John McCain = George W. Bush. For much of the last few months, Democrats and their affiliate groups have worked hard to ensure voters become familiar with that equation.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/06/fix_pick_mcsame.html

McCain Talks Energy, Slams Obama as "Carter" (Washington Post blog 6/17/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Speaking in a city famous for oil, Republican Sen. John McCain lashed out at his Democratic rival for wanting to tax the profits of the nation's oil companies, calling it a recycled idea that will increase dependence on foreign energy.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/17/mccain_talks_energy_slams_obam.html
Link to video: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/06/17/VI2008061701983.html
Link to transcript: http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/17/AR2008061701949.html

Terrorism Takes Center Stage as Obama Responds to McCain Camp's Charges (Washington Post blog 6/17/08)
By Alec MacGillis
It was only a matter of time, but the McCain and Obama campaigns today engaged more directly than ever before on one of the central disagreements between them -- the high stakes question of how to pursue Islamic terrorists.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/17/terrorism_take_center_stage_as.html?hpid=topnews

Obama Campaign Rolls Out Richard Clarke To Hit Back At McCain's "Sept. 10th Mindset" Attack (TPM 6/17/08)
By Greg Sargent
Richard Clarke made an appearance as an Obama surrogate on a conference call with reporters moments ago, hitting back very hard against the McCain camp's claim today that Obama has a "September 10th mindset."
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/obama_campaign_rolls_out_richa.php

McCain Campaign Accuses Obama Of Having "A September 10th Mindset" (TPM 6/17/08)
By Greg Sargent
Aggressively moving to shift the debate away from domestic issues to national security, the McCain campaign hit Obama with some of the most incendiary language of the campaign, accusing Obama on a conference call with reporters moments ago of having a "September 10th mindset."
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/mccain_campaign_accuses_obama.php

Obama: McCain 'Out of Touch' on Ed. (MSNBC 6/17/08)
By Athena Jones
McCain is "out of touch" with people who struggle to pay for college, Obama told a small group of students during a town hall at a community college outside Detroit Tuesday.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/17/1149517.aspx

Straightening Out McCain's Straight Talk (Slate 6/17/08)
By John Dickerson
How his campaign is trying to get his message across.
http://www.slate.com/id/2193749/

DNC: Investigate McCain For Election Law Violations (AP 6/17/08)
Democratic Party officials plan to file a new lawsuit to compel federal regulators to investigate whether Sen. John McCain violated election laws by withdrawing from public financing.

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/17/dnc-investigate-mccain-fo_n_107630.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The Court McCain Wants (Washington Post 6/18/08)
By Ruth Marcus; A15
Conservatives, seizing on the Supreme Court's ruling last week on Guantanamo detainees, want to turn the court into election fodder. I hope they succeed.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/17/AR2008061702009.html

McCain's Energy Drill (WSJ 6/18/08)
Behold, a miracle: Public anger over $4 gas is forcing at least some of our political class to confront their energy contradictions. Last week, Republicans Jim Walsh of New York and Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland -- two longstanding opponents of offshore drilling -- asked for a mulligan. We can now add John McCain to the roll: In a speech in Houston yesterday, the Senator finally came out in favor of increasing domestic energy supplies.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121374864081982763.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

The Oil Future (Washington Post 6/18/08)
Government can't repeal the law of supply and demand, but it could curb speculative excess.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/17/AR2008061702037.html

No giant leap by McCain (Houston Chronicle 6/18/08)
By LOREN STEFFY
In town Tuesday for his first serious discussion of energy issues, John McCain offered a plan with something for everyone and specifics for none.
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/steffy/5843389.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush to Seek an End to Ban on Oil Drilling (NYT 6/18/08)
By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
President Bush, reversing a longstanding position, will call on Congress on Wednesday to end a federal ban on offshore oil drilling, according to White House officials who say Mr. Bush now wants to work with states to determine where drilling should occur.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/18/washington/18drill.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

President Bush promises flood aid (Baltimore Sun blog 6/17/08)
by Katie Fretland
The federal government has sent 2 million liters of fresh drinking water to flood-damaged areas in Iowa and is setting up a task force to help residents secure long-term housing, President Bush said in an address today. Bush plans to travel on Thursday to the flood zones to meet with residents and survey damage.
http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/president_bush_briefed_on_floo.html
Link to Bush remarks: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/06/20080617-1.html

Congress subpoenas Bush, Cheney FBI interviews (LA Times blog 6/18/08)
By Johanna Neuman
Valerie Plame, the former CIA operative whose identity was leaked by White House operatives eager to discredit her husband Joe Wilson for his antiwar views, was back in the news today.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/presidentbush/2008/06/spy-gate-subpoe.html

Mr. Bush v. the Bill of Rights (NYT 6/18/08)
In the waning months of his tenure, President Bush and his allies are once again trying to scare Congress into expanding the president's powers to spy on Americans without a court order.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/18/opinion/18wed1.html?ref=opinion

American President Pleads Guilty to Hopeless Idealism (NYT 6/18/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
President Bush was in one of his oddly chipper moods when he arrived for dinner with Gordon Brown at 10 Downing Street on Sunday night.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/18/opinion/18dowd.html?ref=opinion

OTHER TOP NEWS

Mississippi breaks Midwest levee (BBC 6/18/08)
The Mississippi river has burst through one levee in the US state of Illinois and threatens to break many more

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throughout the American Midwest.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7460712.stm

Senate Dems won't block FISA compromise (The Hill 6/17/08)
By Manu Raju
Senate Democratic leaders said Tuesday that they would not stand in the way of a compromise overhaul of the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), despite their concerns with the impacts of the sprawling measure.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/senate-dems-wont-block-fisa-compromise-2008-06-17.html

Midwest farmland flooding boosts food prices (Reuters 6/17/08)
By Nick Carey
The Mississippi River surged up through storm drains and flooded part of an eastern Iowa river town on Tuesday as the worst Midwest floods in 15 years ruined cropland and drove up world food prices.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080617/ts_nm/usa_flooding_dc;_ylt=Anhe8zeSObeDMOZm5DPC_4us0NUE

Hamas Says Gaza Cease-Fire Reached With Israel (AP 6/17/08)
By JOSEF FEDERMAN
The Gaza Strip's ruling Hamas militant group said Tuesday it has reached a cease-fire with Israel meant to halt a cycle of deadly Palestinian rocket attacks that rained hundreds of rockets on Israel in the past year and Israeli reprisals that have killed hundreds of Palestinians.
http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=5182817

Baghdad car bomb kills at least 51, police say (AP 6/17/08)
Another 75 are injured as attackers target mainly Shiite section of the city
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25211885/

POLLS

Obama has narrow lead on McCain: Reuters poll (Reuters 6/18/08)
By John Whitesides
Democrat Barack Obama has a narrow 5-point lead on Republican John McCain in the U.S. presidential race, but holds a big early edge with the crucial swing voting blocs of independents and women, according to a Reuters/Zogby poll released on Wednesday.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSN1736113820080618

Poll: Obama has clear lead over McCain in Pennsylvania (AP 6/18/08)
Barack Obama, 52 percent
John McCain, 40 percent
...The Quinnipiac University poll was conducted from June 9-16...
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/politics/5843810.html
Link to Quinnipac poll: http://www.quinnipiac.edu/

Poll: Obama has modest lead over McCain in Ohio (AP 6/18/08)
Barack Obama, 48 percent
John McCain, 42 percent
...The Quinnipiac University poll was conducted from June 9-16...
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/politics/5843809.html
Link to Quinnipac poll: http://www.quinnipiac.edu/

Poll: Obama has slight lead over McCain in Florida (AP 6/18/08)
Barack Obama, 47 percent
John McCain, 43 percent
...The Quinnipiac University poll was conducted from June 9-16...
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/politics/5843807.html
Link to Quinnipac poll: http://www.quinnipiac.edu/

Ignore the polls — trust fundamentals (The Hill 6/17/08)
By Mark Mellman
Analysts of the latest ABC/Washington Post poll note ominously that Barack Obama's current lead is identical to John Kerry's in June 2004.
http://thehill.com/mark-mellman/ignore-the-polls--trust-fundamentals-2008-06-17.html

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Sara DuBois
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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
"James B. Steinberg" <djsberg@gmail.com>
"Mark Lippert" <mlippert@barackobama.com>
Date: 10/23/2008 5:57:33 AM
Subject: RE: Dennis Ross

It is pretty forward leaning, so I am actually asking him to withdraw it.

D

From: john.podesta@gmail.com [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 1:51 PM
To: Denis McDonough; James B. Steinberg; Mark Lippert
Subject: Re: Dennis Ross

Do you know content? If inconsistent with BO positions we should ask for a different byline. He has plenty of other things he can put behind his name. If it sounds like what you would say if asked, let it go.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: "Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2008 08:39:00 -0500
To: James B. Steinberg<djsberg@gmail.com>; John Podesta<john.podesta@gmail.com>; Mark Lippert<mlippert@barackobama.com>
Subject: Dennis Ross
Fellas –

Dennis was asked to write an article about transition for Sunday's Outlook, and he did it. He says that he argues that this transition cannot be "business as usual" and there cannot be a lull in efforts to stop Iran's nuclear program.

He is identified in the byline as someone who gives advice to BO.

I would have preferred Dennis not write this or at least not be publicly identified as one of our advisers, but we are where we are. If you all have serious heartburn, please let me know and I will go back at Dennis.

Thanks,
DM

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/13/2008 2:56:56 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 08/13/08

Main Topics: Russia, "The Obama Nation" book

Summary of Shift:

The Russian Georgian conflict remains to dominate political coverage. The release of "Obama Nation" fueled many discussions on the legitimacy of the book and its possible effects on the Obama campaign. Barack also received negative coverage for requiring DNC speech attendees to volunteer. With the DNC Convention nearing, several networks discussed the various planned speakers and rumors of Barack Obama's VP choice.

In other news, a shooting occurred at the Arkansas Democratic Party headquarters killing the State Party Chair Bill Gwatney. "Golden Boy" Michael Phelps continues to dominate the Olympics and media coverage. Controversy over the age of China's gymnastic team was also a hot topic.

Highlights:

1. Russian Georgian Conflict
   a) MSNBC: Olbermann blasts McCain on Randy Scheunemann, conflicts of interest, inflammatory rhetoric, politicizing war
   b) CNN: McCain's tough stance on Russia could be due to leftover Cold War anger
2. CBS: Dean Reynolds: the new tough McCain campaign tactics, Bush style
3. MSNBC: Hardball guests discuss James Corsi's Anti-Obama book
4. MSNBC: Shuster notes McCain hypocrisy for working with Abramoff connected Ralph Reed

Highlights, No Clips:

1. CNN: CINDY MCCAIN: "The blog was her idea, and she came up with it on her own, and she came up with the idea of what she wanted on the blog. […] Her father and I at first weren't sure because we were trying to protec t her. As it turns out we both love the blog."

Clips:

Highlight #1

Olbermann Blasts McCain On Randy Scheunemann, Conflicts of Interest, Inflammatory Rhetoric, Politicizing War
(MSNBC 8/13/08 8:12pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: As war rages in Georgia, Russia's invasion of that tiny U.S. ally is raising new questions. Not just about the wisdom and competence of John McCain's foreign policy, but also about the integrity and the ethics that have shaped his position toward Russia. McCain's position may in fact have helped fuel this crisis. It certainly left today a foreign head of state making an extraordinary appeal for help from a capital virtually under siege and calling McCain out by name for not matching deeds to words. Our fifth story tonight the price for McCain's foreign policy possibly in this case a literal price. Did the nation of Georgia think it had bought John McCain. His rebuke at the hands of that nation's leader presently new details about McCain's top foreign policy adviser. **On April 16th Russia announced it would establish legal ties with Georgia's two separatist regions, South Ossetia and Abkahzia, both friendly with Russia. Legitimizing them, a move widely seen as undermining Georgia' sovereignty there. The next day, the Washington Post now reports, Georgia sought help. Agreeing to pay $200,000 to a lobbying firm headed by this man, Randy Scheunemann to renew its contract with Scheunamann who is also and was also at the time McCain's top foreign policy adviser. That same day Scheunemann participated in crafting a strong statement by McCain taking Georgia's side, telling reporters quote we must not allow Russia to believe it has free hand. Did statements like that, purchased or not, give Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to launch his military offensive in South Ossetia last Friday? Did it in turn become Russia's excuse for invading Georgia? Over the years Georgia has paid Scheunemann's firm $800,000. Scheunemann's company, the Associated Press reports today, has lobbied McCain and his staff on Saakashvili's behalf 49 separate times.** With his capital under siege today, Saakasvili spoke like a man stuck only with a receipt. Asked about the U.S. response or lack thereof, he used the word appeasement and put at least partial blame for the crisis itself on President Bush […]

OLBERMANN**: McCain responded this is no time to politicize the matter, even when it was pointed out he and his surrogate Joe Lieberman did exactly that just yesterday.** […]

JONANTHAN ALTER: […] I do think it is really unseemly that Randy Scheunemann had this lobbying contract. It's always

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the second raters by the way who are foreign agents or lobbying for foreign governments- the top foreign policy people do it in a more subtle way, maybe they're consultants, they're not lobbyists. **So this really stinks, the whole deal of him. Because you don't know who's he representing? Is he representing the interests of Georgia or the interests of the United States? And you never want to get into a situation like that and it's rather, I hate to say it, inexperienced maybe on John McCain's part to be putting up with this kind of thing. And also there's the question of whether in his rhetoric toward Putin, he's just been too inflammatory for American interest.** […] The question though is one of subtly and moderation in one's approach to foreign policy. **He's supposed to be the adult here. You know the mature foreign policy statesman. Those are the grounds on which he has asked us to elect him President. These are not well tempered measured remarks that he's been making**. […]

CLARENCE PAGE: […] I'm just wondering Keith, how we would have felt if Barack Obama had said I speak for all of the people of the United States saying we are all Georgians now. **That, some people would call that a little arrogant**. […]

OLBERMANN: […] McCain said in the 21st century nations don't invade other nations. **Do you suppose the irony of what he said was lost on Mr. McCain and does he assume nobodies going to draw the obvious parallel with his full support we invaded Iraq in 21st century and five years later we're still there?**
PAGE: I think he's hoping we don't draw significance from it but I think we will. You just did. This is the kind of thing people are looking at in assessing John McCain.

McCain's Tough Stance on Russia Could be Due to Leftover Cold War Anger (CNN 08/13/08 8:23pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: Some of the toughest talk about the Russian invasion of Georgia is coming from the campaign trail. Today Secretary of State Rice revealed that she has been in regular contact with both Barack Obama and with John McCain as this crisis unfolds. **Now McCain of course, has been blasting the Russian's ever since the story broke last week and it has us thinking whether or not there might be something going on beyond the headlines, something a little more visceral for him**. […]

TOM FOREMAN: There is no question that McCain has more hands on experience with Russia then Barack Obama does, and he's been presenting himself both as **the voice of reason and of strength in this latest clash. But some foreign affairs experts are not buying it.**

{Clip of Reagan]

FOREMAN: **In the final years of the Soviet Union Ronald Reagan was thundering at the Russians, John McCain was a first term Senator cheering him on. And 21 years later he still distrusts Russia**. […]

[Clip of McCain in Michigan]
JOHN MCCAIN: "And I am interested with good relations between the United States and Russia but **in the 21st Century nations don't invade other nations."**

FOREMAN: A tough line, especially from a supporter of the Iraq invasion.

JOHN MCCAIN: "The now Prime Minister of Russia, has been clear for a long time, that I've been concerned about Russian behavior in a broad variety of areas."

FOREMAN: And now listen to how this foreign policy expert is reacting.

CHARLES KUPCHAN: Well over the last few years McCain's views on Russia seem to be getting more and more confrontational. And I think **he's really aligned himself with the far right, not with the centrist within the Republican Party and in some ways it seems almost that he either thinks the cold war is still on or wants it to return.**

FOREMAN: McCain has been critical of efforts to reach out to Russia politically and economically, even those of President Bush. He has repeatedly attacked Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who is a former KGB boss.

MCCAIN: I looked into Mr. Putin's eyes and I saw three letters: a K, a G and a B.

FOREMAN: McCain wrote in foreign affairs magazine: "**Today we see in Russia diminishing political freedoms, a leadership dominated by a clique of former intelligence officers. Efforts to bully democratic neighbors such as Georgia, and attempts to manipulate Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas.** " McCain has pushed to have Russia thrown out of the G8, that group of the worlds largest democracies formed to promote economic and political cooperation. He has fought to bring the Soviet Union's former republics into NATO, a military alliance of western powers

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formed to oppose Russia's military might.

KUPCHAN: **I think it's arguably dangerous in the sense that by assuming that Russia may be more aggressive than it is, and by pushing Russia's back up against the wall, it's possible one can produce a self-proclaiming prophecy.**

[…]

Highlight #2
Dean Reynolds Discusses The New Tough McCain Campaign Tactics, Bush Style (CBS 08/13/08 6:40pm)
DEAN REYNOLDS: John McCain decried what he called partisan political sniping. [play clip]

JOHN MCCAIN: This isn't a time for partisan sniping between the campaigns. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: However the sharpest criticism has come from the surrogate standing next to McCain this afternoon. Attacking Barack Obama's stand on the crises as quote morally neutral, the sharper edge by his aides and the candidate is further evidence that the McCain campaign has changed. Gone are the bile green backdrops, and the hard to master teleprompter. [play clip]

MCCAIN: He has the audis-audacity to hope you don't mind. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: Replaced by splashier events, reminiscent of a previous Republican campaign for the White House. But it's more than staging, it's tone. The campaign theme is no longer reform, prosperity and peace. It's now Country First. What that means exactly was made clear Tuesday when an introductionary speaker framed the contest with Obama this way: [play clip]

JOE LIEBERMAN: Between one candidate, John McCain, with experience whose been tested in war and tried in peace, another candidate who has not. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: Remember, this was McCain months ago: [play clip]

MCCAIN: I pledge to conduct a respectful campaign. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: But now it frequently seems respect takes a backseat to ridicule. This attack [Hilton celebrity ad] ran during the Olympics.

KEN GOLDSTEIN: McCain ads are much more likely to be negative, and the Obama advertisements are much more likely to be positive.

REYNOLDS: And as often as McCain speaks out against partisanship, there was a broad Republican consensus that his tamer approach was not working. And that something new was needed. Something like we are seeing today.

Highlight #3
Hardball Guests Discuss James Corsi Anti-Obama Book (MSNBC
RICH MASTERS: […] James Corsi is making no bones about it he wants to defeat Barack Obama. And for legitimate news organizations to give this guy any more credibility than what he deserves, is really really tough right now. It'd be almost laughable for a guy who has called Hillary Clinton a fat cow. **This is a guy who fundamentally has no journalistic bones in his body. And the reason its number one right now is because there are a bunch of right wing think tanks and groups that have purchased this stuff to inflate those numbers so that we are talking about this right now.** […]

DAVID SHUSTER: Charlie Black said the McCain campaign would make a different choice. Here's what Charlie Black said a month ago: "We don't want to talk about his patriotism and character, referring to Barack Obama. We concede that he is a patriot and a person of good character. That flies in the face of this book. […]

MASTERS**: John McCain could have a Catholic problem right now. You've got Reverend Hagee who trashed the Catholic Church as the great Satan. Again, McCain didn't say one word about that. Now we've got this guy who again attacks Pope John Paul. I think John McCain needs to come out because McCain –these folks who are speaking maybe not on his behalf but he certainly hasn't disavowed this bunch of lies that is out there. Somebody has got to step up and say it and John McCain who is an American war hero, should have the courage to do what he did four years ago** and condemn this pack of lies. […]

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Highlight #4

Shuster Notes McCain Hypocrisy For Working With Abramoff Connected Ralph Reed (MSNBC 08/13/08 7:30pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: Just a few years ago former Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed was caught up in the Jack Abramoff lobbyist scandal. John McCain led a Senate investigation into the scandal, ripped the characters involved, and bragged about the people who are going to jail. **Well, now it seems John McCain is now singing a different tune- at least about Ralph Reed**. Reed is now a part of McCain's victory 2008 fundraising team. And Reed recently sent out an e-mail soliciting donations for McCain. Yes, if you want a politician to forgive and forget, help them collect some campaign cash.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/11/2008 4:37:14 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Employee Town Hall in Erie, PA 08/11/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was not allowed into this closed event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- Says American industries have disappeared b/c they couldn't keep up w/ technology; that Africa is severely lacking in access to info=power, but technology is a good thing
- Says it's a 'fundamental' economic principle that price of oil won't come down dramatically b/c of demand from places like India and China
- 'Jokes' in first 90 days in office, he will call Tom Ridge, tell him to come back from vacation and come work; then vague promises about national security and restoring trust and confidence
- Repeats that he understands that PA ppl cherish 2nd Amendment and religion b/c they are the 'resevoir' of patriotism

Erie, PA: McCain Employee Town Hall 08/11/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Jeff Immelt, CEO of GE, gives brief introductory remarks
- Gov Ridge gives brief intro remarks
- Lawn around GE facility was lined with signs that read: "Support the troops: end the war"

Speech Highlights

- GM is an excellent example of green and profitable tech
- Chow line in prison/gov. joke
- Global economy is a reality
- Americans are hurting
- What we need to do is keep taxes low and encourage innovation
- I want to give ppl a little break from gas tax - it's hurting lowest-income Americans
- We need energy independence
- I am hopeful and Americans want hope.
- We need to drill offshore
- Tom knows - it's hard doing the Lord's work in the city of Satan
- We need wind, tide, solar, locomotives, nuclear and automobiles
- Remember the first cell phone? It was about this big and it cost $1,000 - but technology makes things more efficient and affordable
- The fact is that nuclear power is safe
- We need clean coal technology
- **I'm tired of hearing people say, 'we can't.' We can and we will. That's America's history.**
- Our oil $ goes to terrorists. It's one of the biggest wealth transfers in the history of the world
- Republican, democrat, libertarian, vegetarian, let's work together
- I have always put my country first from the time I took oath as a midshipman and POW and refused to go first, even though I could
- I'm excited about labor and management, GOP and Dem working together

Question and Answer

- 1Q) What role do you think technology plays in job growth in the US?
  - JM: I have no doubt about it. In 1960s, 15 of top industries in US have literally disappeared - through acquisition / mergers or they didn't keep up with technology. But also technology has made info accessible around the world in incredible ways. I went to Google one time and in their lobby they have a globe that shows all the places where ppl are using Google and it's incredible except in Africa, it's

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black. Info is power. **US has most competitive and productive worker in world is in US. And I won't concede that that's not true. And ppl that question that make me wonder. Where did the internet come from? Besides Al Gore** - and btw, I have great respect for him. Most of the great technological advances come out of USA, e.g. Bill Gates,etc. And we also have to reform education. Info technology is great but there are also downsides: terrorists use it; internet child porn is an evil we have to stop; and human trafficking. It's one of the greatest achievements in history of the world.

- 2Q) Mass transportation
    - JM: I just asked Jeff about it, so when GE introduces mass transit, please give me credit. I think what you're seeing here is an explosion of mass transit in USA. **I can't tell you the price of oil is going to come down dramatically. To say it will ignores the reality that India and China are also competing for the supply. It's just a fundamental principle of economics.** A lot of states are already doing it, e.g. AZ. If you go and do Maglev or other advanced technologies, if you can develop these technologies that will carry passengers further at lower cost, you'll see an explosion of mass transit. You're already seeing it b/t Dallas and Houston; Amtrak's sort of doing it in NE. You'll see it in W Coast, then further in. You'll now see in a matter of months or just years GE leading the way.

- 3Q) You mentioned clean coal, but US has 1 of biggest natural gas reserves in whole world. Should govt have incentive system for drilling natural gas?
    - JM: Liquid natural gas is great. I call my energy approach all-of-the-above, and Lex Project b/c of urgency. I want a permanent R&D, incl. for natural gas technology. I paid attn to T Boone Picken's plan of coupling wind and solar with drilling. Some differences too - we should drill offshore as a "bridge" until we're energy independent. To not do that is not fair to the lowest-income Americans. If we have reserves off our shores then by golly we ought to go get it. And we should get natural gas too - it's clean. And clean coal. And certainly solar is important, where technology has advanced - and GE is a part of that. Unleash the technology as obvi natural gas is a part of it.

- 4Q) Another Amtrak ordeR?
    - JM: Yes sir. I will do everything in my power. With all due respect to airlines, if you have to go from NYC to DC as I do often, if there's a cloud in the sky, you're likely to wait. ATC is broken. And the Acela was great for its time. I think it's time for another one.

- 5Q) Plans for 1st 90 days in DC?
    - JM: **Call Tom Ridge from whatever vacation he is taking and get him to work.** [applause] The POTUS's first obligation is ensuring nation is safe: getting natl security team together. If you need affirmation, look at the events in Georgia now. Make sure nation is safe is 1st priority of any Pres. I could give you a laundry list of things to address, but it's all tied to fundamental mission, which is restore trust and confidence in govt. 84% think country is on wrong track, 9% Cong approval. That means reform way we do business in govt; reform SS b/c it's going broke. Same thing with Medicare and a # of issues that out-of-control spending is leading to go broke. Like Tip O'Neill and Reagan, Dems and GOPs have to work together to fix SS. And jobs and jobs and jobs - that's my top priority.

- PA will be 1 of the battlegroudn states. So you'll be seeing a lot of me. **We'll be telling ppl that we knwo you believe in 2nd Amendment and cherish religions is b/c they love USA. Great resevoir of patriotism and love of country is right here. That's why I love Ridge**. Instead of finding way out of service after graduating from Harvard, he went to Vietnam. Proud to be in his company and yours.

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager

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From:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/1/2015 10:49:38 AM
Subject:	RE: Heads up for call with HRC

Thanks.
Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or morning news...

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Heads up for call with HRC

While on the phone on a different topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video makes sense.

Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found in our interest to do so.

Just wanted to update folks.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Terry Sheridan" <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/20/2011 10:03:00 AM
Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

Thanks, John. Talk to you tomorrow.

Terry

----- Original Message -----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Terry Sheridan
Sent: Sun Nov 20 15:39:44 2011
Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

Terry,
I need to be in DC on those days, but could probably participate in a
number of the interviews by phone from DC. Let's discuss tomorrow.
John

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011 at 12:04 PM, Terry Sheridan
<tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
> John:
>
>
>
> I hope your trip is going well.
>
>
>
> I wanted to follow up with you on a major project we are working on - the
> executive search for the CEO of CGSGI. We have retained Russell Reynolds
> for the search, and we are working with Annie Simonds from their Washington
> DC office. They have identified a number of viable candidates and we are
> scheduled to conduct in-person interviews in NY on December 7th and
> 8th, with follow up interviews on December 19th and 20th.
>
>
>
> Bruce is on the search committee but obviously hasn't been able to
> participate these past few weeks. In addition to myself and Annie Simonds,
> the other members are Christy Louth, Executive Director of CGSGI Canada, and
> Eric Nonacs, a member of the CGSGI Steering Committee and of the CGSGI
> Canada Board of Directors, whom you may know. Christy will particpate in
> the December 7th & 8th interviews, but is not available for the follow up
> interviews, and Eric is unfortunately not available for either. We were
> counting on Bruce to add an important management perspective, but I am not
> sure if he will be able to participate. If he is not able, would you be
> able to help, particularly for the first round on December 7th and 8th? It
> will be important to have good representation on our end not only to
> evaluate the candidates but also to attract them to the position. I know
> you have a very full plate, but if your schedule would be able to
> accommodate this, the search firm would of course brief you on the candidate
> slate, and will be preparing a summary of specific questions and areas we
> will want to explore in our interviews with candidates. There will be a
> total of 8 candidates to speak to on 12/7 & 12/8, with the objective of
> narrowing the field to 4 candidates for the 2nd round later that month.
>
>
>
> Another alternative could be to reschedule the interviews for January, but
> the objective has been to move this along at an aggressive pace as Frank

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> Giustra is very eager to fill this position (it has been vacant since
> mid-year). Once we agree on the second-round candidates, we could also fly
> the candidates out to San Francisco where Eric is based.
>
>
>
> I would appreciate your bringing this up with Bruce when you next speak, and
> your thoughts on the possible alternatives if he is not available. Thanks
> and safe travels.
>
>
>
> Terry

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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Matt Paul" <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>
"Michael Halle" <mhalle@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
"Amanda Renteria" <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com>
"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
"Alex Hornbrook" <ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
"Katie Dowd" <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/19/2015 3:09:22 AM
Subject: Weekly Attacks/Responses

All,
We're going to start sharing this once a week, just to give you a better sense of the key attacks we're seeing and how we're responding. We will also be sharing with some of our key friends and allies, so they have resources to help push back as needed. Let us know if you have any questions.

WEEKLY HRC DEFENSE/GOP OFFENSE REPORT
July 13, 2015-July 17, 2015

Below are the major attacks and responses of the week:

ATTACKS- ON THE SHARING ECONOMY & UBER

- After Monday's economic framework speech, one major point of attack was on the sharing economy. Some media outlets such as TechCrunch and Mashable, as well as Republicans , misrepresented Hillary's comments as an attack on Uber and/or other emerging companies in the sharing economy.

RESPONSES

- **HFA** We posted this on **Medium** from CTO Steph Hannon to provide her take on the speech and on the sharing economy as a former Google executive. In the post, she clarified Hillary's view, highlighted her strong innovation record and reiterated Hillary's will to protect all workers.
- Thanks to outreach from tech
- On the day of Jeb Bush's Uber ride, we posted a fact-check, "Reality Checks on Uber," clarifying Hillary's stance on the sharing economy. It included posts, speeches and tweets from Sen. Warner, Fred Wilson (venture capitalist) and Shervin Pishevar (Uber advisor and board member—offering positive support thanks to outreach from digital and policy) reinforcing Hillary's message.

OFFENSE ON GOP

The Briefing posted an Uber-like graphic showing the ways in which Jeb Bush doesn't agree with Uber
Correct the Record released an e-mail blast portraying Jeb Bush as an anti-Silicon Valley candidate, drawing strong contrast with Hillary's pro tech company record.

ATTACKS ON THE IRAN DEAL

- A number of Republicans criticized Hillary's role in and support of the Iran nuclear deal. For example:
  - @JebBush- The difference between @HillaryClinton and me is clear #irandeal
  - @ScottWalker-#IranDeal threatens US safety and exemplifies Obama-Clinton foreign policy: reward our enemies and undermine our true friends like Israel-SW. Walker also attached HRC on Israel and Iran at the Family Values Summit this weekend

RESPONSES

- **Correct the Record** blasted a fact-sheet on Hillary's Secretary of State record on leading the effort to impose crippling Iran sanctions and countering the Iran threat.
- The campaign released a well-received **official statement** on the Iran agreement, which is also posted on The Briefing
- HRC addressed Iran in a lengthy answer during the NH town hall
- Policy put together a doc with background and a short Q&A for friends and allies (attached). We distributed that to

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people going on the Sunday shows this weekend.

ATTACK - EMAILS

- Ongoing references to HRC's email practices;

RESPONSES

- **HFA** posted to the Briefing a lengthy Q&A document on Hillary's email practices, which includes all information the campaign or Hillary have highlighted in the past -- this product will give Hillary and campaign staff the ability to point reporters/observers/surrogates to a "one stop shop" on questions about her emails.

OTHER GOP OFFENSE

- In conjunction with Hillary's speech at NCLR in Missouri, **HFA** posted to the Briefing a detailed timeline of Hillary's swift denunciation of Trump's offensive comments followed by Republican foot-dragging on condemning them. Additionally, it featured contrast material on how Republican candidates are in lockstep with Trump on the substance of how to approach immigration.
- To augment Hillary's economic speech Monday, **HFA** produced three documents for the Briefing: 1) a robust contrast product on how Hillary's vision helps working/middle class Americans, while Republican candidates support a failed trickle-down theory; 2) a roundup of key positive reviews of Hillary's economic speech from outside validators; and 3) a detailed fact sheet explicating Hillary's profit-sharing proposal.

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From:	"The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	12/21/2015 1:09:22 AM
Subject:	The Daily 202 -- sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation -- Are some Trump supporters ashamed to admit it when a pollster calls?

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PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

Are some Trump supporters ashamed to admit it when a pollster calls?

Donald Trump speaks Saturday during a campaign rally in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (AP Photo/ Charlie Neibergall)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Donald Trump fares better in online and automated polls than in more traditional surveys conducted by live callers. A slight but statistically-significant gulf has stubbornly persisted over the six months since the billionaire Republican upended the race for the White House.

Dartmouth political scientist Kyle Dropp thinks "social desirability bias" is at play. In other words, people are afraid to tell another human being that they support the Republican because, even though they like him, they know about his controversial statements and do not want to be judged negatively.

This has happened before. Ronald Reagan and Arnold Schwarzenegger, for example, both underperformed in the polls when they were running for governor of California because a certain segment of the electorate did not want to publicly support an actor. (Reagan is viewed very differently today than he was in 1966.)

Dropp, the executive director of polling for Morning Consult, conducted a controlled study last week to explore which kinds of Republicans and right-leaning independents respond differently to an automated call, an internet survey and a real person on the other end of the line.

Overall, **Trump pulled 38 percent in the internet poll and 32 percent in the live-caller poll.** Jeb Bush, in contrast, garnered the same percentage online as on the phone. Most of the difference can be chalked up to education and engagement.

"Among adults with a bachelor's degree or postgraduate degree, Trump performs about 10 percentage points better online than via live telephone," Dropp writes this morning on the Consult. "And, among adults with some college, Trump performs more than 10 percentage points better online. **Conversely, Republicans with a high school education or less favored Trump on the phone over online.**"

"There was also a split between engaged voters—people who say they are very interested in the election, or have previously voted in primaries or midterms—and the general registered voter population," he continues. "**Trump's advantage in online polls compared with live telephone polling has a spread of eight to nine percentage points among these**

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engaged voters." (See the methodology here .)

— Generally, Trump performs much better among those who are less educated and less informed. These blue-collar voters, like everyone else, are likely to have friends with similar backgrounds and views. Because support for Trump is widespread, there is less of a social stigma in backing him. Indeed, it may be a badge of honor.

Interestingly, Ben Carson tends to perform better in live-caller polls than in online polls. Social scientists believe this might be explained by Republicans who are eager to demonstrate, when speaking to another person on the phone, that they can support an African-American candidate for president. But they perhaps don't feel pressure to do that when they perceive that their response will be more anonymous.

The Post's in-house polling guru, Scott Clement, said other explanations should be considered for the divergence in Trump's numbers, "such as different ways respondents hear and read response options or the level of effort respondents give to answering questions with a live interviewer providing motivation vs. an automated or web survey."

"The big question is which mode is 'correct,' or better reflects respondents' true support," Clement emails.

A Trump spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment.

— This is a global trend: Henry Olsen, a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, says that anti-immigration, working-class parties in Europe also do better in online polls than live-caller ones. "Support for immigration and globalization are perhaps the only political sentiments that unite elites from both business and the academy, from right and left," Olsen wrote in The Atlantic recently. "Openly supporting an anti-immigration candidate can risk social opprobrium, ridicule, or worse. In other words, for every group of vocal Trump supporters, there are probably a lot more who just don't advertise it."

— Not picked up in any of the forms of polling: Trump's lagging organization. "A successful ground game is crucial in Iowa because of the state's complicated method of caucus voting, but the Trump campaign has lagged in reaching some of its own benchmarks," the New York Times' Trip Gabriel reports . "Mr. Trump's Iowa director predicted that he would recruit a leader for each of the state's 1,681 Republican precincts by Thanksgiving. Instead, the first major training session for precinct leaders, heavily promoted in emails and conference calls, drew only about 80 people to West Des Moines last weekend, with about 50 participating online. … Mr. Trump has about 15 paid Iowa staff

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members, compared with 36 working for a 'super PAC' supporting Ben Carson that is organizing in his behalf in Iowa." Before the 2008 caucuses, Barack Obama had over 200 paid staff members in more than 60 offices across Iowa. Bloomberg's John McCormick reports from Iowa this morning that Trump supporters may need less guidance on how to caucus than widely assumed.

— The narrative – Evangelical elites coalescing behind Cruz over Rubio: Tom Hamburger scoops details of a post-Christmas retreat for Cruz with more than 100 evangelical leaders flying in to Cisco, Texas, on Dec. 28. The event includes a rally and concert but also hours of closed-door visiting time for Cruz with leading religious broadcasters, megachurch ministers and pastors from early states. The Cisco fly-in is one of three carefully-planned meetings that are already boosting Cruz with a critical constituency that he believes can make the difference for him in Iowa, South Carolina and the majority of the states voting and caucusing on Super Tuesday The Texas senator won the backing of a key evangelical coalition after a secret Dec. 7 meeting in which top national activists agreed to roll out a stream of endorsements, many timed for maximum impact between now and March 1.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— **A car plowed into pedestrians on the sidewalk on the Las Vegas Strip last night, killing one person and injuring 37 people, six critically.** The Review-Journal reports that a woman — in her 20's, apparently from Oregon and driving a 1996 Oldsmobile — was arrested shortly after the crash after fleeing the scene. The deputy police chief said **terrorism has been ruled out,** but that **the crash is being investigated as intentional**. "Police are getting a warrant for a blood test, but (they said) she wasn't exhibiting extreme impairment," the R-J relays. "A 3-year-old toddler in the car with the driver was unharmed."

— **Miss Universe host Steve Harvey announced Miss Colombia as the pageant's winner, but it was actually Miss Philippines .** It led to a bizarre ending where Miss Colombia had to take off the crown after she thought she won. The screw-up is a weird sort of vindication for Trump, who sold control of the pageant after NBC and Univision cut ties with him in June.

Watch the looks on everyone's faces in this 90-second video :

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(YouTube)

Trump took advantage of the moment:

> "@Themyamccurry : Where's @realDonaldTrump when you need em? #MissUniverse2015 "
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 21, 2015

— The Wall Street Journal reports that Iranian hackers infiltrated the control system of a small dam less than 20 miles from New York City two years ago. "America's power grid, factories, pipelines, bridges and dams—all prime targets for digital armies—are sitting largely unprotected on the Internet," writes Danny Yadron . "The 2013 dam hack highlighted another challenge for America's digital defenses: the fog of cyberwar. Amid a mix of three-letter agencies, unclear Internet addresses and rules governing domestic surveillance, U.S. officials at first weren't able to determine where the hackers had infiltrated … Hackers are believed to have gained access to the dam through a cellular modem … Two people familiar with the incident said the summary refers to the Bowman Avenue Dam, a small structure used for flood control near Rye, N.Y. … Investigators said hackers didn't take control of the dam but probed the system." –

— All schools in Nashua, New Hampshire, are closed today because of a "detailed"

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threat of violence made against both of the city's high schools, the Union Leader reports.

— **Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's People's Party lost the majority in Sunday's parliamentary elections**, buffeted by high unemployment and corruption probes. Rajoy's party still won the most seats but only got 29 percent of the vote, with newer, anti-austerity Podemos nabbing 20 percent. Rajoy said he would try to form a government. (The Telegraph)

GET SMART FAST:

1. **FIFA** banned President **Sepp Blatter** and UEFA President **Michel Platini** from soccer for eight years for numerous ethics violations. (AP)
2. The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** will add the **African lion** to the endangered species list. (Amy Ellis Nutt)
3. **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens"** earned $238 million in the U.S. this weekend, breaking the all-time record set earlier this year by "Jurassic World." (Michael Cavna)
4. A 20-year-old man involved in the **gang rape** of a woman on a bus in **India** was released from prison after just three years. (CNN)
5. **Israel** is believed to be responsible for killing notorious Lebanese terrorist **Samir Kuntar** in an airstrike. (Ruth Eglash and Hugh Naylor)
6. Israeli Vice Premier **Silvan Shalom**, a veteran of **Benjamin Netanyahu's** government, resigned amid allegations that he has sexually harassed many women throughout his political career. (AP)
7. The **State Department** agreed to ignore **Oman's** poor human-rights record in exchange for the country's support of the Iran nuclear deal, Reuters reports.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Two additional **Bernie Sanders staffers** were suspended while an internal review investigates how the campaign accessed voter information gathered by the Clinton campaign. (John Wagner)
2. Rep. **Richard Hanna** (R-N.Y.) will retire next year after completing his third term, giving Democrats a prime pick-up opportunity. (Syracuse Post-Standard)
3. New Mexico Gov. **Susana Martinez,** the RGA chair who was buzzed about in years passed as a VP prospect, apologized for her staff throwing a rowdy hotel party and for her rude behavior to police officers called to investigate. (Niraj Chokshi)
4. **Jimmy Carter's** 28-year-old grandson Jeremy died. He hadn't been feeling well Saturday so laid down to take a nap. When he didn't wake up, his mother checked on

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him and found that his heart had stopped. (AP)

SUNDAY SHOW HIGHLIGHTS:

— **Trump** said on ABC there is no proof **Vladimir Putin** has killed enemies or journalists, defending his praise for and endorsement from Russia's president. (Jose A. DelReal)

— **Rand Paul** called on **Marco Rubio** to resign over his abysmal attendance record in the Senate, including skipping last week's big vote on the spending bill. The comment, on CNN, came in response to Rubio criticizing Paul for seeking re-election in the Senate while pursuing the GOP nomination.

— **Jeb Bush** insisted on CBS that he "hated" being the GOP frontrunner and that he is more comfortable ranking lower in the polls because it means less scrutiny.

SECOND-DAY COVERAGE OF THE DEMOCRATIC DEBATE:

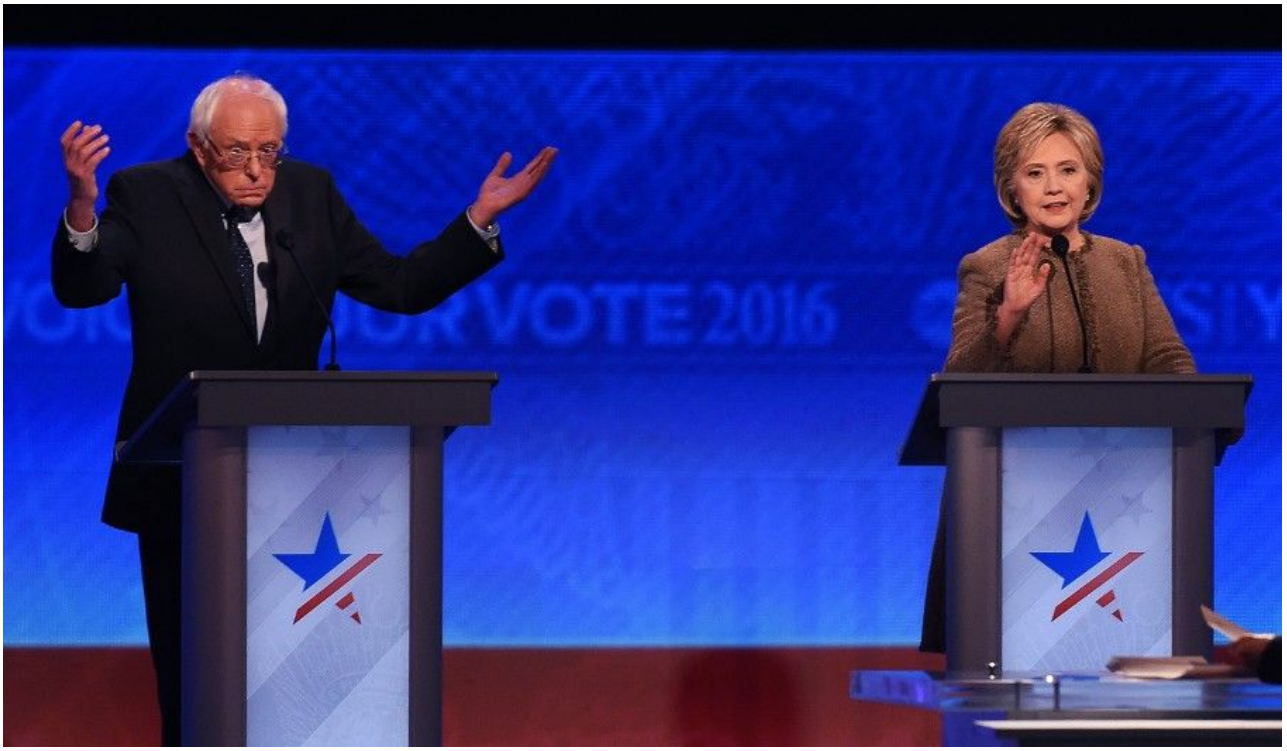

Hillary and Bernie debate on ABC in Manchester, New Hampshire. (AFP/Getty Images/Jewel Samad)

— **Low ratings, as expected:** The ABC debate got a 6.0 household rating . The previous Democratic debate, on CBS, got a 6.1 household rating, which equated to about 8.5 million viewers. Here's the debate summarized in three minutes .

— Hillary was late getting back on stage after a commercial break because a Martin O'Malley aide was using the sole bathroom backstage. "What viewers didn't know was the sole women's bathroom was a little further than the men's room from the stage," the Boston Globe's Annie Linskey reports. "And when the debate went to a long commercial

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break Clinton lost out to Lis Smith, the caffeine-guzzling deputy campaign manager for O'Malley. … A top Clinton staffer who was strategically posted outside the bathroom (presumably to avoid these kinds of situations) gave Smith a verbal OK to make a quick pit stop, according to one person familiar with the ladies' line. … When Clinton finally returned, moderator David Muir was already asking another candidate a question. But the audience applauded as the front-runner walked up to her erstwhile empty podium."

Trump criticized her for being off (not very "presidential," he claimed):

(@realdonaldtrump)

— **Sanders complained on the Sunday shows that the DNC scheduled debates at times where there would be fewer viewers to help Clinton.** (John Wagner)

— **Republicans attacked Clinton for suggesting that the administration's strategy against ISIS is paying dividends.** Chris Christie called Clinton "Ms. Happy Talk," saying she wants to only talk her way to the presidency. Trump faulted Clinton for suggestions ISIS supporters featured Trump in a recruitment video (they have not, though some have used his rhetoric to promote their agenda, says the Post Fact Checker)

> Hillary Clinton spokesperson admitted that their was no ISIS video of me. Therefore, Hillary LIED at the debate last night. SAD! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 20, 2015

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz says she got "a little carried away" at the debate:

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(@dwstweets)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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Marco Rubio visits Giese Sheet Metal in Dubuque, Iowa, on Friday. (Nicki Kohl/Telegraph Herald via AP)

— "Smart strategy or overconfidence? Rubio plays hard-to-get with voters ," by Sean Sullivan and Karen Tumulty: "Marco Rubio no doubt wants to sit behind the big desk in the Oval Office. What is not so clear is how hard he is willing to work to get there. Republican activists — including many who appreciate Rubio's formidable political gifts and view him as the party's best hope for beating Clinton — say they are alarmed at his seeming disdain for the day-to-day grind of retail politics. Even some staunch supporters are anxious. 'Rubio has not put in the face time that he really needs to have, I don't think,' said Al Phillips, an influential South Carolina pastor who backs Rubio. 'I think that's been somewhat to his detriment.' That may be, as some of his allies fret privately, a sign of overconfidence in his own abilities… **"Rubio's relative indifference toward wooing key activists contrasts with his eagerness to land top donors. His benefactors describe him as accessible and warm.** … He recently secured support from billionaire hedge fund managers Paul Singer and Kenneth Griffin. He's believed to be the favorite to win over billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson."

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Justices at the 2013 State of the Union (Reuters/Charles Dharapak/Pool/Files)

"The Loyalty Effect" –> "Justices tend to agree with presidents that pick them — but stray later," by Robert Barnes: "Most members of the court make more decisions favorable to the president who brought them to the dance than they do to subsequent presidents, even those of the same party, according to a new study by two prominent Supreme Court experts. The law professors say what they call the 'loyalty effect' is evident even when other factors such as ideology and a personal relationship with the appointing president are taken into account. … That means that Democratic justices are less likely to vote for subsequent Democratic presidents, while the rate of variance for Republican nominees and subsequent Republican presidents is not as pronounced. … Judicial independence is a mainstay of American democracy, but politics plays a vital role in how a justice gets his or her job."

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Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the Belgian-born architect of the Paris attacks, was featured in the January issue of Dabiq, ISIS' English language online magazine. (Dabiq Magazine via AP)

They may quote the Koran, but they're just thugs –> "The Islamic State creates a new type of jihadist: Part terrorist, part gangster," by Anthony Faiola and Souad Mekhennet: "The Islamic State is constructing an army of loyalists from Europe that includes an increasing number of street toughs and ex-cons as the nature of radicalization evolves in the era of the Caliphate. Rather than leave behind lives of crime, some adherents are using their illicit talents to finance recruiting rings and travel costs for foreign fighters even as their backgrounds give them potentially easier access to cash and weapons, posing a new kind of challenge to European authorities. … The picture now emerging of the Islamic State's machinations in Europe is distinct from the development of al-Qaeda, which relied heavily in its early years on ostensibly pious recruits and wealthy foreign sponsors."

Big setback for Big Oil –> "As decision nears, opposition builds to offshore drilling along Atlantic Coast," by Joby Warrick in Virginia Beach: "When then-Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) first pushed the idea in 2010, it was easy to find Virginians who favored oil and gas drilling along the Virginia coast, even in this tourism-dependent city of 450,000. The city council voted 8 to 3 that year in support of the giant offshore rigs, betting, along with the mayor, that 'there's going to be money made.' But that was before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and before oil prices began their historic slide. At its December meeting two weeks ago, the same city council abruptly reversed course, voting to rescind its 2010 resolution after some of the city's biggest business alliances campaigned against drilling. … **"The Obama administration is expected to**

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finalize by early spring a plan that could allow limited oil and gas development off the coasts of four Southeastern states —Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. All four have heavily supported drilling in the past. But lately, resistance to the plan appears to be growing, particularly in coastal towns where politicians and business leaders are expressing doubts about whether oil and gas can deliver the economic benefits the industry's backers claim."

Rhode Island Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

— Rhode Island's freshman governor is a rising star, a Democrat willing to take on Big Labor without antagonizing state employees. The Post's editorial page editor, Fred Hiatt, today contrasts Gina Raimondo's willingness to take on tough problems with the congressional penchant for passing the buck. Four key paragraphs:

- "Raimondo stands out on a number of counts: a Democrat elected in a year when even Massachusetts was choosing a Republican governor; a woman, when 44 states are led by men; perhaps oddest of all, a Democratic reformer of state pensions . During four years as state treasurer, Raimondo infuriated Rhode Island's public employee unions, but she nonetheless went on to win the 2014 Democratic primary for governor and the general election."
- "After 18 months of negotiations, almost all of the unions agreed this year to a court

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settlement that preserves most of the reform. And Raimondo's first budget directed much of the savings (about $300 million per year) to programs that will help the next generation, including more prekindergarten classes, school construction and a scholarship fund for community college students."

- "Raimondo, who is backing Hillary Clinton for president, doesn't try to sell voters on fiscal responsibility for its own sake. She says she wants the Democratic Party to be the party of growth and innovation, to be pro-business and pro-government."
- "Rhode Island is tiny (just over 1 million people), and maybe politics that work there can't work on a larger stage. Still, you can't help wishing that a bit of her philosophy might rub off on Washington: 'Don't ignore big problems," she says, "and don't try to pretend that problems are smaller than they are.'"

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

–Pictures of the day:

Post sportswriter Dan Steinberg chided Redskins general manager Scot McCloughan "for being so damn buttoned up all the time." McCloughan was celebrating the Redskins 35-25 victory over the Buffalo Bills:

(@dansteinberg)

Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker (R) shows off the Victorian Christmas festival in Canton:

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(@senatorwicker)

Blaine Boyd, the First Lady's director of correspondence,will be showing how FLOTUS "shares holiday cheer" around the country for the next 12 days:

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(@michelleobama)

The Hubble Space Telescope sends back this image of a “globular cluster” known as Terzan 1, a “home for old stars.” About 20,000 light years away from Earth, its one of 150 such clusters in the Milky Way.

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(@nasa)

–Tweets of the day: Maryland Rep. Donna Edwards (D), who is running for Senate, remembers the Montgomery bus boycott:

> 59 rears ago today, the 381 day #MontgomeryBusBoycott , protesting segregated #PublicTransit , successfully concludes. pic.twitter.com/9aXJF84Y5K — Rep Donna F Edwards (@repdonnaedwards) December 20, 2015

"These are the people that Big Men Donald Trump and Chris Christie are afraid of," Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) tweeted with this:

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Post political editor Dan Eggen found a video spoof of Trump talking with a British accent:

> This is amazing – Donald Trump if he had a British accent and perfect elocution: https://t.co/f5GhI0VIvQ
>
> — Dan Eggen (@DanEggenWPost) December 21, 2015

— Instagrams of the day:

White House photographer Pete Souza has a moment with some Star Wars friends:

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(@petesouza)

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) cuts off Chris Christie’s green wrist-band now that the former is free of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The two campaigned together in New Hampshire this weekend:

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(@chrischristie)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Ted Cruz sharpens tone while on tour, in nod to Donald Trump," by Matt Flegenheimer: "As he vaults toward the top of the Republican presidential field, leading some Iowa polls and climbing nationally, Mr. Cruz has taken care to compliment Donald J. Trump at every opportunity. And in the throes of a seven-day, 12-city swing to demonstrate strength beyond the early-voting states, Mr. Cruz's flattery seems at times to have taken a new form: imitation. In ways cosmetic and substantive, Mr. Cruz has in recent days seemed to more closely resemble the man he has been chasing — or, more precisely, quietly drafting behind — for months. … Perhaps most notably, Mr. Cruz has sharpened his already uncompromising language, eager to retain his own hold on popular anger against the political class, and to demonstrate conservative purity amid attacks from Rubio over immigration and national security policies. He has coined a new phrase, 'undocumented Democrats,' to describe those in the country illegally, and beefed up sections of his stump speech focused on immigration."

— New York Times, "Hospitality and gambling interests delay closing of billion-dollar tax loophole," by Eric Lipton and Liz Moyer: "In the span of a mere 11 days this month, $1 billion in future federal tax payments vanished. As congressional leaders were hastily braiding together a tax and spending bill of more than 2,000 pages, lobbyists swooped in to add 54 words that temporarily preserved a loophole sought by the hotel,

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restaurant and gambling industries, along with billionaire Wall Street investors, that allowed them to put real estate in trusts and avoid taxes. They won support from the top Senate Democrat, Harry Reid of Nevada, who responded to appeals from executives of casino companies, politically powerful players and huge employers in his state. And the lobbyists even helped draft the crucial language. The small changes, and the enormous windfall they generated, show the power of connected corporate lobbyists to alter a huge bill that is being put together with little time for lawmakers to consider. Throughout the legislation, there were thousands of other add-ons and hard to decipher tax changes."

— Politico, "Sanders data controversy spotlights powerful gatekeeper ," by Nancy Scola: "At the heart of the Bernie Sanders data mess is a firm that functions as the digital plumbing of the Democratic Party: NGP VAN. Democrats are nearly wholly dependent on it, which is why the breach — the company says it's the first in its nearly 20-year history — and the Sanders campaign's subsequent cutoff from the system is so rattling the party. While Sanders may have defused the flap by apologizing to Clinton during Saturday's debate … the extent of the damage done to both campaigns isn't yet clear. If nothing else, it's reminded Democrats of the risks of leaning so heavily on one private company to provide its technology infrastructure. How such an unsexy suite of software with an impenetrably acronymed name became both the fulcrum and the soul of Democratic politics — 'I [heart] the VAN' stickers are everywhere at gatherings of progressive field operatives — is a story of first-mover advantage and persistence."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Fox News confronts Carly Fiorina for a made-up story about a military general. From Talking Points Memo: "Chris Wallace grilled Fiorina (for saying) that Gen. Jack Keane 'retired early' after a quarrel with President Obama. Keane himself appeared on Fox News and denied Fiorina's claim. On Sunday, Wallace asked her about it. 'But then there's Keane who never served in the Obama administration,

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Christie calls Jeb a hypocrite for insulting Trump. From the Washington Examiner : While campaigning Sunday in New Hampshire, Christie criticized Bush for calling Trump a "jerk" after Bush told Trump at last week's debate that he couldn't "insult his way to the presidency."

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Wallace said. 'Says he's never spoken to Barack Obama. Weren't you just flat wrong about that?' 'Well, I was wrong about Keane, yes. He is the exception that proves the rule,' Fiorina said."

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Christie will make three stops in New Hampshire, and will hold a town hall in New London at 6 p.m. Ben Carson will attend a business tour in Manchester and a Christmas celebration in Concord. Bernie Sanders is holding a town hall meeting in Sioux City, Iowa, at 7 p.m. Central. Mike Huckabee will make several stops in Iowa, holding meet and greets in Swisher, Van Horn and Marshalltown. Jeb Bush is holding a town hall meeting in Alton, N.H., in the evening. John Kasich is also in New Hampshire, and he will hold two town halls and and a "Women for Kasich" lunch in Greenland. Martin O'Malley is holding a town hall in Windham at at 5:45.

— On the Hill: Recess

— At the White House: President Obama is in Hawaii for Christmas vacation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I am probably still going to pick the flowers and the china for state dinners and stuff like that, but will certainly turn to him, as prior presidents have" for "special missions," Hillary Clinton said during Saturday's debate when asked about what Bill's role will be.

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **"The long-advertised stretch of unseasonably mild Christmas week weather is on our doorstep, and the warmth on Christmas Eve may well be historic,"** the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Clouds lower and thicken today as a weak front approaches from the west. Gentle flow from the south (around 5-10 mph) helps temperatures reach 50-55."

— The Redskins stay atop the NFC East with their 7-7 record after the win against

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Buffalo. (Liz Clarke)

— The Capitals routed the New York Rangers, 7-3, at Madison Square Garden. (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

— **Two male volunteer firefighters in Prince George's County have been charged with assault** after allegedly beating up two female career firefighters and dragging them out of a house in Landover in an apparent dispute over who should put out the fire. (Bowie Patch)

— **The final spending bill pumps a lot of money into the local economy:** $557 million for the District's DHS campus, $390 million toward an FBI campus, $154 million for improvements to Fort Meade and $150 million to Metro. (Jonathan O'Connell and Rachel Weiner)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Ted Cruz and his family put their own spin on Christmas classics. A funny 90-second video:

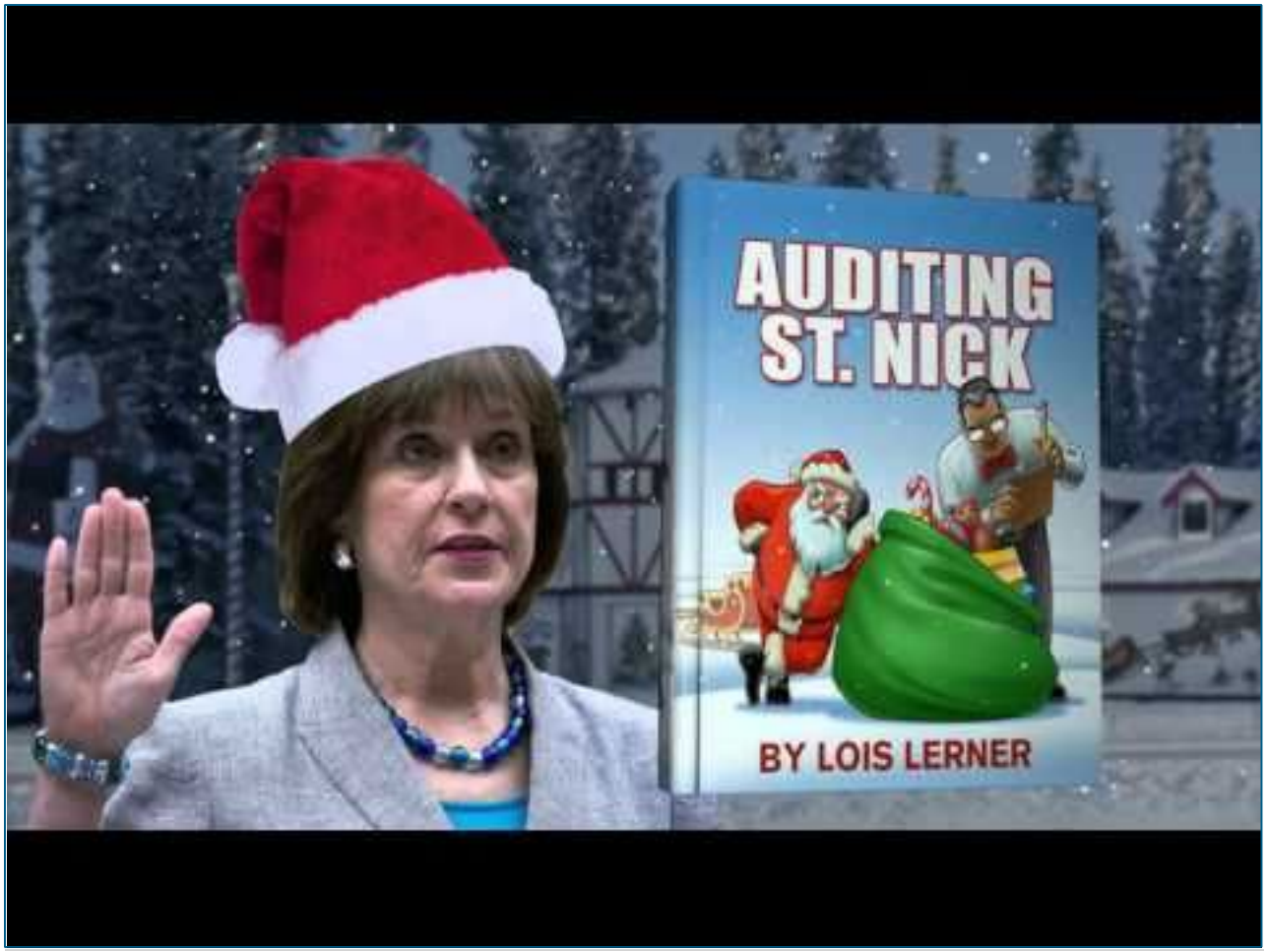

(@tedcruz)

Jeb Bush released a new web video arguing he is the only Republican to "shut down" Trump:

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(@jebbush)

John Kasich is trying to make the most of the bromance between Trump and Vladimir Putin, saying in a web video the two “would make tyranny great again:”

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(@johnkasich)

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler reprise their roles as Sarah Palin and Hillary on SNL:

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(@SNL)

“SNL” also lampooned the last GOP debate:

(@cnn)

Stormtroopers and R2-D2 were spotted in the West Wing on Friday:

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(@AFP)

Star Wars fans wage a giant light saber battle in Los Angeles:

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(@euronews)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/7/2014 2:06:12 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday August 7, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday August 7, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "A silver lining in early attacks on Clinton?"

"'There's only one plausible reason why they're throwing the kitchen sink against her now — they're scared. They know if she runs, she wins. And that involves throwing every piece of oppo research at her now,' said Adrienne Elrod of Correct the Record, the rapid response group that has become Clinton's main semi-official defender in the press."

The Diplomat opinion: Amb. M. Osman Siddique: "The Economics of US Foreign Policy"

"Turning this understanding into action, Secretary Clinton worked diligently during her tenure at the State Department to strengthen the U.S. economy and create American jobs."

Newsday: "Hillary Rodham Clinton book signing draws fans -- and some critics -- to Huntington's Book Revue"

"All of the 1,200 books that the bookstore ordered were sold -- complete with Clinton's signature on them, said bookstore officials. And as many as 1,000 people snaked around the shelves snapping selfies and pictures of Clinton as well as the photographers and reporters invited there."

New York Daily News blog: Daily Politics: "'Ready For Hillary' dinner party hitting the Hamptons"

"Actress and activist Ashley Judd is billed as a special guest, alongside David Brock, founder of the Democratic rapid response team Correct the Record; and Craig Smith, a senior advisor for Ready for Hillary."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton has finally almost passed Bob Gates in book sales"

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“One Clinton advisor suggested to Politico that the book be compared to former defense secretary Bob Gates' book ‘Duty.’ Which we did, and the comparison wasn't great: ‘Duty’ had outsold ‘Hard Choices’ handily in total volume, and it wasn't clear when Clinton would catch up. Now it is.”

Washington Times: “Scaife funeral proves philanthropy trumps politics”

“So if philanthropy can bring together Dick Scaife and Bill Clinton in a celebration of America, how does one explain the bitter denunciations of the Brothers Koch, who are at the very pinnacle of philanthropy themselves?”

MSNBC: “Ready for Warren heads to Iowa”

“Erica Sagrans, the Democratic operative who founded the group, told msnbc she’s traveling to the Iowa State Fair Thursday, where she and local volunteers will spend the rest of the week connecting with party officials and engaging grassroots supporters of the progressive senator.”

Washington Post: “On the trail in Kentucky, Bill Clinton gets practice playing second fiddle”

"Nearby, a man sells “Hillary Clinton for President” buttons, one for $5 or three for $10. “Is she running?” a woman asks him. “Man, I hope so,” says a man wearing a UMW shirt. “If she’s anything like him.” “She has not declared, but we’ve talked to some people and think she’s very close to it,” the button-peddler says, stroking his long, brown beard. “Okay, I’ll take three.”"

Christian Science Monitor: “Bill Clinton factor: Can he tip Senate race to topple McConnell? (+video)”

“Grimes can be heartened by this: The Clintons went all out for their friend Terry McAuliffe last year in a nail-biter race for Virginia governor. Mr. McAuliffe eked out a narrow victory – with a little help from his friends.”

Louisville Courier-Journal (K.Y.): “Grimes, Bill Clinton stump in coal country”

“Clinton also sought to distinguish between Grimes and the administration, noting Obama has only two more years in office while Grimes is seeking a six-year term. And he compared her to former Sen. Wendell Ford, who Clinton said, always voted for Kentucky first, but still worked with presidents he disagreed with.”

Articles:

MSNBC: “A silver lining in early attacks on Clinton?”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 7, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EDT

As Hillary Clinton eases into an August pseudo-vacation, she — and the news-consuming public — may finally get a respite from the mud sling of her book tour. With non-stop attacks from her opponents and vigorous scrutiny from the media, the summer often felt like a one-woman presidential campaign, even though the real thing is more than a year off and Clinton has not yet said if she'll be a part of it.

Her opponents scored some blows, and she made a few notable stumbles of her own, but there could be a silver lining in the exhaustive early drubbing — her opponents might run out of new attacks to sell to an increasingly bored public.

Few people have been more scrutinized than the former first lady: Clinton has been the target of a hostile independent counsel with subpoena power in the 1990s, Republican opposition researchers during two Senate bids, and even supporters of fellow Democrat Barack Obama during the 2008 campaign cycle. The book tour tilled much of what ground remained. It's hard to find anything that isn't already old news.

"There's only one plausible reason why they're throwing the kitchen sink against her now — they're scared. They know if she runs, she wins. And that involves throwing every piece of oppo research at her now," said Adrienne Elrod of Correct the Record, the rapid response group that has become Clinton's main semi-official defender in the press.

In political dark arts, timing is critical and campaigns often wait for the right moment to release what they've dug up — usually close to Election Day, not two years out. Would team Clinton prefer to have the conservative FreeBeacon bring to light in June 2014 explosive never-before-heard audio of the former first lady discussing her legal defense of a child rapist, or for a mainstream publication to write about in June of 2016?

During the book tour, Clinton had the chance to fortify her defenses against a variety of criticism. "We are sharpening our responses to the incoming, it's our boot camp," said Tracy Sefl, a senior adviser to the pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary.

Nonetheless, the fact that the FreeBeacon (and the professional researcher the website hired) could find anything new at all suggests there may be more out there. "This idea that we've been wasting our best oppo in 2014 is wishful thinking on their part," said Tim Miller, one of Clinton's main antagonists and the executive director of the Republican super PAC America Rising, which has become the hub of opposition research for the Republican Party.

Shauna Daly spent plenty of time digging through Clinton archives as the deputy research director for Obama's 2008 campaign. While the Clinton paper trail is "endless," she said, the GOP's anti-Clinton message sounds more like a "cacophony" than a coherent and damaging attack. "Some people don't always have the best restraint," she added.

The newly fractured political infrastructure means that instead of official party organizations, where dirt is doled out strategically, attacks are now mostly driven by a plethora of new super PACs and ideological media outlets that compete with each other for donors and influence. The Republican National Committee, Democrats like to crack, has been reduced to sending out an intern dressed as a squirrel to stalk Clinton.

"I suspect that on the right, the funders want to see some bang for their buck. But, what they're doing feels frenetic, not strategic," said Sefl, who used to work as an opposition researcher for the Democratic National Committee.

Miller denies that, saying they're attacking Clinton because she's effectively running a presidential campaign — even if it's not called that. "Our only objective as an organization is to make sure our nominee is in the best position to defeat the Democratic nominee once we reach the general election in 2016," he said.

Ryan Williams, who had to defend Romney every day from attacks while serving as a spokesperson for the candidate's 2012 campaign, noted that the best anti-Clinton material has come from Clinton herself. "She's exposed herself as a very gaffe-prone candidate," he said, referring to her "dead broke" comment and others. "Before this book tour, we weren't even talking about Hillary Clinton as an elitist."

The downside of Clinton's perceived front-runner status is that every misstep she makes is news. Meanwhile, the rise of Twitter — which was not widely used during her last run — means those missteps are disseminated to political junkies instantaneously.

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But most voters aren't Twitter junkies, and it's much harder to reach them, said Rodell Mollineau, who recently stepped down as president of American Bridge, the Democratic opposition research super PAC. Republicans are sending up trial balloons to see what works, he said, so Democrats need to be ready to pop them as they come.

"Their belief is that if they keep throwing it out and throwing out and throwing out, it will eventually get into the public consciousness. That takes time," he said.

That means you can expect to hear a lot more about Clinton's wealth, age, and speaking fees — not to mention Benghazi and the Russia "reset" — during the next two years, if she runs. Clinton has said she'll decide by the end of the year.

In her new memoir "Hard Choices," the former secretary of state wrote about wanting to do a round of media interviews in Pakistan at the nadir of U.S. relations with the country. "You'll be a punching bag," her staff warned her. Her response? "I smiled and replied, 'Punch away.' "

The Diplomat opinion: Amb. M. Osman Siddique: "The Economics of US Foreign Policy"

By M. Osman Siddique, the United States Ambassador to Fiji, Tonga, Nauru and Tuvalu from 1999-2001

August 7, 2014

[Subtitle:] U.S. foreign policy can help support the American economy, writes Ambassador M. Osman Siddique.

In an era of profound shifts and challenges in the global economy, how does the United States assert leadership in its foreign policy?

We must of course maintain the defense capability to protect ourselves and our national interests. But as recent misadventurous wars have demonstrated, military strength alone does not protect American interests or American lives. To maintain (and, in too many cases, to restore) our leadership, we must also make ourselves indispensable economic partners. While shared ideals and mutual respect connect nations, what brings nations together often are powerful economic ties. I have seen this firsthand while serving as a U.S. Ambassador, and throughout my career as an international businessman.

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton knew this, too. She recognized that strong and long-lasting relationships between countries are not formed through isolated agreements. Rather, they endure when both parties involved are seeking greater respect, greater value, and greater confidence in what can they can accomplish together.

Turning this understanding into action, Secretary Clinton worked diligently during her tenure at the State Department to strengthen the U.S. economy and create American jobs. Often quietly and behind the scenes, she worked to create new economic opportunities for Americans by expanding the reach of American businesses into new markets. In 2013, Businessweek noted: "Clinton has argued that commercial diplomacy and the promotion of trade, long the neglected stepchildren of the foreign policy establishment, are central to U.S. strategic interests…. her work as a spokeswoman for American business is a less visible part of her legacy. Yet it may be the most durable."

One of the many examples of this work is a deal she helped secure between Boeing and Indonesia's Lion Air. Secretary Clinton encouraged Lion Air to purchase 240 new jets from Boeing, for a total of $21.7 billion. After this deal was secured, President Obama estimated that it would create over 100,000 new jobs in the United States. These are not short-term contracts, but rather jobs that will sustain hardworking American families for years.

Her economic diplomacy went well beyond supporting large American corporations. She was mindful that most American jobs are created by small businesses, and therefore worked relentlessly to open up global business opportunities for our small businesses and entrepreneurs. One of her

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signature initiatives was to mobilize Americans who were members of the diaspora community to reach out to their countries of origins and to work to advance and secure American economic interests as well as moral imperatives. Her seamless bridging of the economic, political and security dimensions of U.S. foreign policy has provided a more robust direction to our participation in the global economy.

Economic statecraft may not be the flashiest side of foreign policy, but it's important for economic development in America and around the world. That is why I have continued on in my career to conduct business here and abroad.

Over the years, America has wound its way through periods of high global engagement and eras when we've taken a more isolationist stance. But our world is a better place when public servants like Secretary Clinton strengthen both our foreign policy and economic ties with countries around the world. It is a clear win-win.

Newsday: "Hillary Rodham Clinton book signing draws fans -- and some critics -- to Huntington's Book Revue"

By Zachary R. Dowdy

August 6, 2014, 9:54 p.m. EDT

Laura Cerrano, 30, of Farmingdale waited on line for more than seven hours to meet Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former U.S. Secretary of State whose appearance and new memoir, "Hard Choices," drew more than 1,000 people onto Huntington's main drag Wednesday night.

Cerrano said she wanted to "be a part of history" in meeting Clinton, who ran for president in 2008 and is a potential 2016 candidate.

"It's an experience, once in a lifetime," she said, adding that she arrived at Huntington's Book Revue at 11 a.m., but did not get to shake Clinton's hand until after 6 p.m. "How often do you get to meet Hillary Clinton?"

All of the 1,200 books that the bookstore ordered were sold -- complete with Clinton's signature on them, said bookstore officials. And as many as 1,000 people snaked around the shelves snapping selfies and pictures of Clinton as well as the photographers and reporters invited there.

"I just love her," said Danielle Steinmetz, 23, of Wantagh. "She's such an inspiration and role model. It's great to finally meet her. It's a dream come true."

But not everyone who came to the book store on New York Avenue, north of Main Street, was a Clinton devotee.

"This is our statement to her: She lied. She's a liar," said Rosemarie Brady, of Dix Hills, who was among a group of about 50 people who held protest signs across the street from the event.

The demonstrators lined New York Avenue's east side, while those hoping to get a peek of Clinton waited on the west side of the street. The groups exchanged remarks -- sometimes loudly over the din of rush-hour traffic -- as a cadre of Suffolk police kept watch.

The demonstrators' signs had various messages: "Benghazi Does Matter" and "Support Our Troops Not Benghazi Hillary."

"We don't like her," Brady said. "We don't trust her. We're offended by her."

Some of the protesters were members of Oath Keepers, an organization that describes itself as "a nonpartisan association of current and formerly serving military, police, and first responders who pledge to fulfill the oath all military and police take to 'defend the Constitution against all enemies,

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foreign and domestic.' "

Tyrone Costa, the group's sergeant-at-arms for Suffolk County, said Clinton has a shoddy record.

"She didn't tell the truth when she made it on the tarmac in Croatia," he said, referring to a March 1996 trip Clinton made to Tuzla, Bosnia, as first lady. Clinton said she arrived amid gunfire at the airport, but a news crew that accompanied her on the trip documented no such hostilities.

Clinton's critics didn't stop longtime supporter Mike Prete, 63, of Smithtown from showing up. He said he has been impressed with Clinton's record as secretary of state, adding that he hopes she runs for president again.

"I've followed her career," said Prete, who retired five years ago from a job in the financial sector. "I'm hoping that she does run."

New York Daily News blog: Daily Politics: "'Ready For Hillary' dinner party hitting the Hamptons"

By Annie Karni

August 6, 2014, 7:54 p.m. EDT

Real estate investor Dan Neidich and his wife, philanthropist and Whitney Museum chairwoman Brooke Neidich, are hosting an A-list dinner party to raise money for a potential Hillary Clinton presidential bid on Friday, Aug. 22 in Wainscott, N.Y.

The soiree will be co-hosted by former Gov. Jon Corzine, Corzine's wife, Sharon; and Claude Wasserstein, the former wife of the late billionaire Bruce Wasserstein, among others.

Actress and activist Ashley Judd is billed as a special guest, alongside David Brock, founder of the Democratic rapid response team Correct the Record; and Craig Smith, a senior advisor for Ready for Hillary.

The dinner will be a "discussion about the work being done to lay the foundation for a potential Hillary Clinton presidential campaign," according to an invite obtained by The News.

The event will raise money for the Ready For Hillary PAC, which is building a grassroots movement of support for a potential Hillary Clinton presidential bid.

The invite does not list ticket prices, but Ready for Hillary voluntarily caps donors at $25,000.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton has finally almost passed Bob Gates in book sales"

By Philip Bump

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August 6, 2014, 4:51 p.m. EDT

Remember Hillary Clinton's book? For weeks, "Hard Choices" was the talk of the town, and not always because the rollout was going so smoothly.

Before the first week's sales numbers were out, there were rumblings that sales wouldn't hit public expectations -- certainly landing well short of sales of "Living History," her previous autobiography, but perhaps even missing lower targets. One Clinton advisor suggested to Politico that the book be compared to former defense secretary Bob Gates' book "Duty." Which we did, and the comparison wasn't great: "Duty" had outsold "Hard Choices" handily in total volume, and it wasn't clear when Clinton would catch up.

Now it is. This next week, probably.

We got updated sales numbers from Nielsen BookScan, tracking only hardcover sales of the books, and mixed in a number of other prominent political books from the year to see what we got. At long last, Clinton's book is on the brink of passing Gates' -- thanks to a higher average weekly sales total. (Which is to be expected; since sales taper off over time, Gates' book having been out longer means more weeks with lower sales, dragging the average down.)

The books we decided to compare, in addition to the two mentioned above:

Ben Carson's "One Nation"

Dinesh D'Souza's "America" (which has had its own sales troubles)

Daniel Halper's "Clinton, Inc."

Ed Klein's "Blood Feud"

Elizabeth Warren's "A Fighting Chance"

And, lo:

[GRAPHS OF TOTAL BOOK SALES AND BOOK SALES BY WEEK]

There you go. Still in second place, but clearly not for long. At long last, the Clinton advisor's early optimism is about to bear fruit.

Washington Times: “Scaife funeral proves philanthropy trumps politics”

By R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

August 6, 2014

One would never guess who attended Dick Scaife’s memorial service in the Pennsylvania countryside last week. Scaife has been referred to as the “father of modern conservatism.”

In his lifetime, he donated a fortune across a whole range of philanthropic endeavors, from the arts to medical research to politics — conservative politics. His conservative causes were very elevated — sophisticated thinks tanks, professorial chairs, intellectual reviews — but also at times they were very partisan. In the 1990s, Scaife was a leading opponent of Bill Clinton, and he frequently drew blood. When Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke of the “vast right-wing conspiracy” she doubtless had him in mind.

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Yet at the memorial service, standing there with the conservative chieftains was a lone Democrat, Mr. Clinton, yes, the very same. The 42nd president not only put in an appearance, but he actually spoke on Dick Scaife's behalf, saying, "Our political differences, our philosophical differences, our religious differences, our racial and ethnic differences, they're important . They help us to define who we are. But they don't have to keep us at arm's length from others." And he concluded, "I think the counterintuitive friendship we formed is a good symbol of Richard Mellon Scaife's legacy . He fought as hard as he could for what he believed, but he never thought he had to be blind or deaf" to reviewing his positions.

Yale Gutnick, Scaife's lawyer, explained both men's affinity best. Mr. Gutnick said they became friends because they "shared a mutual love of America." After all the battles of the 1990s, they came together for the country they loved, Scaife giving more than $100,000 to Mr. Clinton's foundation for the victims of AIDS. Scaife was a great philanthropist. Mr. Clinton is learning. Scaife had said that of all the people he wanted to have speak at his funeral, he wanted the former president. They had buried the hatchet.

So if philanthropy can bring together Dick Scaife and Bill Clinton in a celebration of America, how does one explain the bitter denunciations of the Brothers Koch, who are at the very pinnacle of philanthropy themselves? This week The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Times have both featured pieces about the truly astonishing invective that has been hurled at the Kochs for philanthropic acts that have absolutely nothing to do with politics. The Kochs have separated their support for conservative-libertarian causes, which can be simply educational, and for the Tea Party, which is obviously more partisan, from their philanthropy of a nonpolitical nature. It has not quieted their critics, not even when the philanthropy was for the arts or for minority education.

Consider David Koch, who lives in New York City. Recently, he gave $100 million to the New York-Presbyterian Hospital. He has donated $20 million to the American Museum of Natural History and another $100 million to the City Center of Music & Drama. In 2012, he gave $10 million to the Mount Sinai Medical Center and $65 million to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He has also given money to his alma mater, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to the American Ballet Theatre, and to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Of course, many New Yorkers have been grateful. Yet there are the noisy critics. Two unions called rallies against David Koch's donations to New York-Presbyterian Hospital, citing the Koch brothers' opposition to Obamacare. Apparently, the Kochs are not allowed to have ideas on medical policy, if they are going to enjoy the privilege of giving money to medical care.

More recently, the brothers gave a $25 million donation to the United Negro College Fund, the fund's fifth-largest donation in history. Armstrong Williams tells us in The Washington Times that the grant was greeted with hysteria. Harry Belafonte called it the gift of "white supremacists." Lee Saunders, head of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, broke off relations with the United Negro College Fund, and Twitter reverberated with ignorant jeremiads against "UNCF literally sell[ing] 'their soul to the devil,' accepting checks from the Koch Brothers without knowing their evil history."

In a day when Bill Clinton and Dick Scaife can smoke the peace pipe, what explains this sort of uncivilized outburst against generous nonpolitical philanthropy? It is irrational and hateful. Yet that is where our politics are heading today. Bill Clinton and Dick Scaife are the exceptions. The response to the Koch brothers is more normative and, frankly, it worries me.

MSNBC: "Ready for Warren heads to Iowa"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 6, 2014, 2:35 p.m. EDT

Ready for Warren, the new super PAC hoping to draft Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the 2016 presidential race, is headed to Iowa.

Erica Sagrans, the Democratic operative who founded the group, told msnbc she's traveling to the Iowa State Fair Thursday, where she and local volunteers will spend the rest of the week connecting with party officials and engaging grassroots supporters of the progressive senator. Eventually, the group hopes to hire an organizer on the ground in the first caucus state.

"We're showing people we're for real and building an organization in the early states," Sagrans said, adding that the group already has a strong

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base of volunteers in the state who have signed up via email and social media. “There’s going to be a lot enthusiasm for Warren in Iowa.”

Though Warren has repeatedly and emphatically insisted she isn’t running for president, the senator has put herself front and center this summer firing up progressives and campaigning for fellow Democratic women in hot U.S. Senate races. Warren supporters also point out that then-Sen. Barack Obama said the same thing in 2006 before challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 2008. Obama upset Clinton in Iowa, where she came in third.

“We need a progressive champion in the race, whether that’s Warren or somebody else,” said Sagrans, a former staffer on Obama’s reelection campaign.

The group, which launched in July during the Netroots Nation Conference in Detroit, recently started accepting donations on their website. It’s also in the process of putting together a national finance council to solicit larger contributions, and may release the names of its bigger donors in order to promote transparency.

For this year, Ready for Warren hopes to get involved in congressional midterm races by supporting candidates who have similar views as Warren’s and for whom the senator has campaigned. On August 28th, the super PAC will be holding house parties across the country to build support.

Former Secretary of State Clinton has had her own well-funded draft campaign for more than a year and a half, which served as a model for Ready for Warren. Clinton has said she will decide if she’s running by the end of the year.

Washington Post: “On the trail in Kentucky, Bill Clinton gets practice playing second fiddle”

By Ben Terris

August 6, 2014, 7:59 p.m. EDT

Katy Perry’s “Roar” blasts through the speakers in this downtown Lexington mansion-turned-event space. The song has the power of summoning Alison Lundergan Grimes at events like these, and just like that she appears from behind a blue curtain. The crowd is especially raucous today, because this time former president Bill Clinton appears beside Grimes, the Kentucky Democrat who is aiming to unseat Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Clinton bites his lower lip into his familiar smirk, waves to the standing crowd. Then he sits, and it’s like he isn’t there.

“I’m a Clinton Democrat,” Grimes thunders into the microphone, the eponymous figure not even flinching at the sound of his own name. He sits motionless behind her, his mouth slightly agape as he listens intently. Grimes speaks for about 15 minutes. She does a call and response about how McConnell always says no (to things like a minimum- wage increase, equal pay for equal work) while she says yes. She talks about how the race is a referendum on McConnell’s 30 years in office, and says: “Let me get this straight, I am the pro-coal candidate.” Then she finally gets around to introducing Clinton.

“I was pretty happy just sitting back there listening,” he says. “I don’t know if Alison left me much to say.”

The crowd at the Wednesday lunch event, made up of the upper echelon of Kentucky Democratic politics (including three former governors, the current one, and the one Democrat who has announced his intent to run for that office in 2015) takes a moment from picking at their chocolate cheesecake topped with caramel and specks of mint to laugh.

Clinton has never been at a loss for words. But at two stops across the state Wednesday in support of Grimes, he got some good practice at playing second fiddle.

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If the day felt like a trial run at campaigning, should his wife choose to seek the presidency in 2016, he brought it upon himself. At both events he mentioned Hillary at the outset, thanking the state for voting for her in the 2008 Democratic primary against Barack Obama.

"I really do love Kentucky," Clinton says, his voice hoarse, giving him the added benefit of sounding like he's choked up with emotion. "When people said Hillary was a washed-up candidate, you voted for her by 37 points. I appreciate that. Not that I was following too closely."

After the morning event at the mansion — where tickets started at $200 and which included an operatic performance of "My Old Kentucky Home" — Clinton and the Grimes team hopped on a little private plane and flew to Hazard, in the coal country of Eastern Kentucky. They were met by more than 1,000 people. The crowd included some miners from the western part of the state who had been bused in by the United Mine Workers of America, which has endorsed Grimes. So many had turned out, in fact, that not everyone could make it into the auditorium.

"There's room for chairs, but the fire marshal said no more people can come in," campaign manager Jonathan Hurst says plaintively to the line snaking around the outside of the Hal Rogers Center.

One family drove five hours to be there, another complains that an 88-year-old man shouldn't be stuck out in the heat.

"The fire marshal? Hell, he's from Hazard," says Jordan Whitaker, a fourth-generation miner who wanted to see Clinton. He remembers being a kid back in 2000 when Clinton last visited the area. The president shook his hand so hard he nearly fell off his mother's lap.

Inside, Clinton makes use of an oft-repeated McConnell line that it was not the senator's job to bring jobs to Kentucky.

"When Hillary was the senator from New York, she was virtually unopposed when she ran for reelection," he tells members in Hazard, asking them to pipe down when they erupt into cheers. "Because the Republican area of our state, Upstate New York which was like Eastern Kentucky … thought she was the only public official that had an economic development plan for them

Onstage in Hazard, Clinton again sits behind Grimes as she speaks. The Hazard crowd out-whoops the morning mansion gathering, and the former president seems more animated. He pulls off an "avuncular-chic" look, gazing upon Grimes proudly as she galvanizes the gathering, chuckling at the jokes he had heard just hours earlier and fussing with his eyeglasses and some papers.

The role of political uncle is an easy one for Clinton in this case. He has known Grimes since she was young, having become friends with her father when Jerry Lundergan was the Democratic Party chairman in Kentucky and he was the governor of neighboring Arkansas.

There's a sentiment in the Grimes camp — rarely spoken on the record — that if President Obama weren't so unpopular in Kentucky, Grimes might be up by 10 points over McConnell. As it stands, all the polls have the race neck-and-neck. Meanwhile, Clinton, the last federally elected Democrat to win the state, remains a Kentucky favorite. And amid the raucous crowd — where people yelled, "We'd take you for a third term" and "I'm ready for Hillary" — it's easy to see why. He can speak the language.

In Hazard, standing in front members of the United Mine Workers of America, Clinton talks about crusading for the rights of miners suffering from black lung as a young lawyer. He says that fight is one of the things he is "most proud of" in his life, and dozens of men and women wearing UMW camo shirts with the tagline "We are everywhere" stand up in wild applause.

Eastern Kentucky has been decimated by job losses in the coal industry. The Obama administration's proposed regulations designed to cut coal plant emissions aren't a particular favorite in the area. During the campaign, the McConnell team has pointed out that the Environmental Protection Agency building is named after Clinton and that he has "applauded" Obama on the issue. The former president avoids any mention of this in his speech.

Instead, Clinton reminisces about the last time he came to Hazard, in 2000, to try and pass the a tax credit that would help rural areas.

"I'll never forget that day in Hazard. I'll never forget how hot it was. … You couldn't breathe, the air was so thick and hot. But there was a sense that America was on the move and that small towns and rural areas got to be a part of it."

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Then, he holds up a small packet of papers, Grimes's jobs plan for Kentucky.

"It would be wrong to try and build a future for America that leaves rural America and small-town America out," he says, waving the packet. "Every page of this is about you."

After the speech he mingles inside a while, then goes outside to shake the hands of some of the people who didn't make it in. People shout his name — "Bill! Bill!" — and try to touch him. Selfies abound.

Nearby, a man sells "Hillary Clinton for President" buttons, one for $5 or three for $10.

"Is she running?" a woman asks him.

"Man, I hope so," says a man wearing a UMW shirt. "If she's anything like him."

"She has not declared, but we've talked to some people and think she's very close to it," the button-peddler says, stroking his long, brown beard.

"Okay, I'll take three."

Christian Science Monitor: "Bill Clinton factor: Can he tip Senate race to topple McConnell? (+video)"

By Francine Kiefer

August 6, 2014

[Subtitle:] Bill Clinton's campaign swing in Kentucky aims to give a boost to Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, who is slipping in the polls in a key Senate race.

In the most closely watched Senate race in the country, Bill Clinton is campaigning for Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes in Kentucky on Wednesday.

Lucky Grimes.

It's not so easy to get the popular former president to come to your aid. Mr. Clinton's time is precious. He runs a global foundation. He's a highly sought-after speaker. And then there's the matter of his wife's potential presidential campaign.

So in this election cycle, when President Obama's name is mud in a red state like Kentucky, it helps to be an FOB (friend of Bill) if you want his support. Or to live in a state that could help Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2016. Ms. Grimes, who is in a tight race against Republican Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, qualifies on both fronts.

Clinton was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win Kentucky in a presidential election – both times. His wife handily beat Mr. Obama

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there in the 2008 presidential primary.

In February, the former president raised more than $600,000 for Grimes at a Louisville fundraiser. Today, he's campaigning for her first in Lexington and then in Hazard, deep in depressed coal country. Coal is a tough issue for Grimes, because of Obama's "war on coal," as Senator McConnell calls it.

"It's not a big surprise that [Clinton's] campaigning" in Kentucky, says Jennifer Duffy, who tracks Senate races for the independent Cook Political Report. "It stems from a long friendship."

The bond began with Grimes's father, Jerry, and was forged back in the 1980s. That's when Mr. Lundergan – who shares a pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps narrative with "Bubba" – was a delegate in the state legislature and chairman of the state Democratic Party. Clinton was governor of close-by Arkansas. During an event at his first presidential inaugural, a teenaged Alison handed the president a bouquet of roses at the Lincoln Memorial.

Now Clinton is trying to keep the bloom on the rose of his protégé, Kentucky's young secretary of state whom he encouraged to run. She's trailing McConnell by just 2 points, at 45 percent to 47 percent, according to the July Bluegrass Poll commissioned by Kentucky media.

With a poll margin of error at +/- 4.1 percent, the race is still a virtual tie, but Democrats are worried that she has fallen back in every Bluegrass poll since her February high, when she was up by 4 points.

"It is so close and there is plenty of time to reverse that trend," Democratic political consultant Danny Briscoe told the Courier Journal in Louisville, Ky. "But it shows that Mitch McConnell's attacks are working and she's going to have to respond better than she has so far."

Republicans need a net gain of six seats to take the Senate this year, and "Bill Clinton is going to be a fairly hot commodity and Hillary Clinton, too, depending on how much she wants to campaign in these fairly red states," says Kyle Kondick of the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

His value is in fundraising, lending credibility to candidates, and inspiring the base in states where Obama is not popular. "The kind of Clinton Democratic Party is something different from the Obama Democratic Party," says Mr. Kondick. "It's a little less obviously liberal."

Clinton's campaign events so far this campaign cycle include Democratic fundraisers in his home state of Arkansas (for James Lee Witt, former head of FEMA under Clinton, who is running for Congress; Patrick Henry Hays, longtime friend, also running for Congress; for former US Rep. Mike Ross, who drove for Clinton when he ran for a second term as governor, now running for governor himself; and for embattled Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor).

He's also headlined state Democratic Party fundraisers in Florida and Michigan – both battleground states that would be key to a Hillary Clinton win.

Political experts expect him to pick up the pace come fall. Indeed, the Grimes campaign expects him back in Kentucky and says he will feature in television ads.

Will all this make a difference? In Kentucky, actually, some political analysts have their doubts. Stuart Rothenberg has said that there is so much media coverage of the Kentucky race that voters will be able to make up their own minds – without needing to rely on a celebrity to do it for them.

Clinton's fundraiser and ad spot for his son-in-law's mother, former US Rep. Marjorie Margolies – who was trying to regain the seat she lost after casting the deciding vote for an unpopular Clinton spending plan – did not stop her from losing her primary in May

But Grimes can be heartened by this: The Clintons went all out for their friend Terry McAuliffe last year in a nail-biter race for Virginia governor. Mr. McAuliffe eked out a narrow victory – with a little help from his friends.

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Louisville Courier-Journal (K.Y.): "Grimes, Bill Clinton stump in coal country"

By Mike Wynn

August 7, 2014, 2:37 a.m. EDT

HAZARD, Ky. – After working 33 years in an Eastern Kentucky coal mine, Cleo Tackett said he's seen a lot of politicians talk about coal jobs during elections, but he's still waiting for one who can help the region's depressed economy.

"We need somebody in there that will work to replace coal jobs," he said. "Our coal seams have gotten down to where they ain't 30 inches high. The rest of the country got 6 foot. Just do the math, we can't compete."

In a region hostile to the Obama administration, Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes sought to appeal to Eastern Kentucky voters like Tackett on Wednesday as she appeared in Hazard with former President Bill Clinton and promised a crowd of more than 800 that she would stand up for coal — and miners.

It was a message clearly on voters' minds as they hoisted signs, screamed "Ditch Mitch," and cheered Grimes in her bid to unseat Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell this November.

Eastern Kentucky has lost more than 7,000 coal jobs since 2011, and where Grimes spoke in Perry County, mining employment was down 20 percent last year, compared with 2012 — when more than 67 percent of local Democrats voted "uncommitted" in the primary election rather than support President Barack Obama.

But for more than an hour Wednesday, Grimes, Clinton and high-profile Kentucky Democrats slammed McConnell as an out-of-touch Washington insider who has failed to create or save any coal jobs.

And to the cheers of miners, they pledged that Grimes would serve as a "Clinton Democrat," supporting better wages, mine safety and health.

"One candidate believes it's about jobs and incomes … and the other believes a senator has no business trying to create jobs," Clinton said in a shot at McConnell. "Nobody can tell me it's not a senator's job, especially one with 30 years of experience."

Clinton also sought to distinguish between Grimes and the administration, noting Obama has only two more years in office while Grimes is seeking a six-year term. And he compared her to former Sen. Wendell Ford, who Clinton said, always voted for Kentucky first, but still worked with presidents he disagreed with.

Grimes, for her part, had the crowd chanting "Mitch McConnell" as she asked who has served in the Senate for years as thousands of coal jobs have disappeared and EPA regulations "have hit Kentucky hardest."

"Let's get something straight. senator, I am the pro-coal candidate in this race," Grimes said. "… I am the Kentucky candidate who will work to make sure we have a comprehensive mine safety policy as well as a commitment to our miners and their widows to get their black lung benefits."

She even borrowed one of Clinton's most famous lines: "It's the economy, stupid."

The McConnell campaign has made coal a central issue in the race, arguing that a vote for Grimes amounts to a vote for Obama's "anti-coal" policies.

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McConnell's team released a statement Wednesday, taking aim at Clinton and arguing that the EPA headquarters even bears his name.

"It must not have occurred to Alison Lundergan Grimes that after Barack Obama declared the war on coal, he named the building tasked with executing his mission after the man she's bringing to Eastern Kentucky," McConnell spokeswoman Allison Moore said.

Clinton carried Kentucky twice while running for president, and he helped Hillary Clinton win more than 65 percent of the vote in Kentucky during her 2008 primary bid against Obama.

The United Mine Workers of America, which has endorsed Grimes, bused miners in for Wednesday's event — they wore camouflage shirts that read "we are everywhere." And union leaders say they hope to effect a "game change" for Grimes in Eastern Kentucky, running ads on her behalf this fall.

Meanwhile, Nancy Cade, a professor of history and political science at the nearby University of Pikeville, said it's unclear how much Clinton can help turn out voters in Eastern Kentucky.

"I think he can help the Grimes campaign," she said. "Whether it will be enough, I have my doubts."

Dennis Brooks, the county judge-executive in Wolfe County — and a Grimes supporter — agreed that she faces obstacles in the region. But he said Clinton's appearance generated lots of excitement.

"He's got a great name and he's just been good for our country," he said. "The words Bill Clinton will draw people out in Eastern Kentucky."

Sunshine Smoot, 35, a pediatrician from Breathitt County, who showed up to hear Clinton speak, said he carries clout in the area as "he was one of our most successful presidents in the past. We had a good economy under his reign."

For Tackett, 55, who described himself as a conservative Democrat, his support for Grimes stems from the belief she can find jobs to replace mining while protecting the coal jobs that remain.

He said many voters in the region are conservative because of beliefs on religion and abortion, but that the Democratic message on economic issues — and even health care — still resonates with people in Eastern Kentucky.

Tackett added that McConnell should have realized decades ago that changes were needed in the region's economy. So, he asked after hearing the speeches Wednesday, "why ain't he done nothin' to help this part of the country?"

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

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- August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)
- August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)
- September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/29/2015 10:32:20 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Cigars on ice

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for December 30th

Skimm'd after a few rounds of Heads Up.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We will waste them in the outhouse" – A Putin quote from a 400-page book filled with, you guessed it, Putin quotes. Titled "Words that Change the World," the book was gifted to Russian officials, because stocking stuffer.

SKIMM THIS

GOTCHA

THE STORY

Yesterday, the US said a friend of the terrorist who planned the Paris attacks was killed by an airstrike in Syria. The US says he was "actively planning additional attacks against the West."

BACK UP.

Last month, a series of terror attacks in Paris left 130 people dead. ISIS claimed responsibility, and Abdelhamid Abaaoud – the ringleader of the attacks – was killed in a police raid days later. Since then, two things have been going on: 1. Authorities have been tracking down any possible suspects linked to the attacks 2. the US-led coalition has been ramping up the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

Yesterday, the US said targeted airstrikes have killed 10 ISIS leaders in the past month. One of those leaders was a French national and the VIP friend of Abdelhamid Abaaoud.

theSKIMM

Earlier this week, Iraqi forces reclaimed Ramadi – a key city in Iraq – from ISIS. So, it's been a good week in the fight against ISIS. But hold the champagne. There's still a long way to go before the US can put ISIS on ice.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU SPILL WINE AT AN AWKWARD DINNER WITH YOUR BF'S PARENTS...

Could've done without that. Earlier this week, northern England was hit by a series of bad storms that caused massive flooding and damaged thousands of homes. Now, it's getting hit again by "Storm Frank." England's floods minister (yes, that's a real title) is warning that "a very bad situation" might be on the way. Helpful. Parts of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales are also on alert. The US Midwest can relate. It's been dealing with heavy rains and tornadoes since last week that have caused travel delays around the US, and now Missouri is prepping for more major flooding. Missouri's gov. has ordered evacuations along the Mississippi River and activated the National Guard. When it rains it pours.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR WEIRD UNCLE MAKES A CREEPY COMMENT ABOUT YOUR OUTFIT...

Ughhh. Yesterday, "Glee" actor Mark Salling (hint: the one with the mohawk) was arrested on child porn charges. He was a regular on the show for four seasons, but hasn't done much since. This isn't his first issue with the law. His ex-girlfriend once sued him for sexual battery, which got settled out of court. Don't think a Mr. Schue song is going to work in this situation.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU FEEL A COLD COMING ON...

It could be worse. Even though the rest of the world has stopped compulsively reaching for Purell, West Africa has been dealing with Ebola all year. The number of cases has been winding down, and yesterday, Guinea was officially declared Ebola-free for the first time since March 2014. Cue the loud exhale. For the next few months, health workers will be watching closely for any new cases. Meanwhile, Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free earlier this year, and Liberia has a few more days before it can make it official. The Ebola outbreak killed more than 11,000 people around the world, mostly in these West African countries. So now, they're finally almost out of the woods.

THING TO KNOW

Chip Kelly: Used to be the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. Until last night when he was fired. Possibly because he opted to let go of most of the team's star players as part of his own 'Chip Kelly formula'. He thought it could win the team a championship. Spoiler: that didn't work out too well.

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SKIMM SHARE

Pre-game your New Year by sharing theSkimm. It's good karma.

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SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

'indicates Skimm'bassador.

'Chelsea O'Neal (College Station, TX); ***Kelsey Greissing** (Washington, DC); ***Shelby Jantzer** (Overland Park, KS); ***Erica Colombo** (Alexandria, VA); ***Brian Sorensen** (Athens, GA); ***DC Spell** (Salem, MO); ***Mindy Norley** (Ponca City, OK); ***Kate Kielceski** (Montrose, PA); *Shelby Short (Overland Park, KS); ***Leslie Cox** (Greenville, SC); ***Kyra Rhoades** (Fowler, IN); *Xandy Evans (Everett, WA); *Carly Biddle (Mishawaka, IN); **Michele Spinak** (New York, NY); ***Noga Hurwitz** (Palo Alto, CA); **Page Kahle** (New York, NY); ***Megan Porter** (Dallas, TX); *Shubhika Prakash (Syracuse, NY); ***Tara Dugan** (Boston, MA); *Brooke Maedel (Signal Mountain, TN); ***Diana Hand** (Lake Forest, IL); *Kelsie Fields (Columbus, OH); ***Julia Sims** (Nashville, TN); ***Kirstin McQuigg** (Los Angeles, CA); **Emilie Dodge** (New York, NY); **Ann Shumbo** (Manhattan Beach, CA); **Maureen Farrell Wright** (New York, NY); **Barry Phillips** (Phoenix, AZ); **Arden Michno** (New York, NY); **Doug White** (Hudson, IL); **Nadira Mangray** (New York, NY); **Erica Brim** (Glenmoore, PA); **Hilary Hugin** (New York, NY); **Hopper Littman** (McMurray, PA); **Karen Schaefer** (Dacula, GA); **Kevin McNamara** (Arvada, CO); **Mary Kay McCarthy** (Omaha, NE); **Noor Faraby** (Arlington, VA); **Raquel Szomstein** (Miami, FL); **Stephanie Lemley** (Morgantown, WV); **Tracie Burgess** (Tulsa, OK); **Will Blodgett** (New York, NY); **Amy Bigley Works** (Washington, DC); **Mary Kate Downing** (Safety Harbor, FL); **Marcus McGuire** (Delray Beach, FL); **Courtney Sloan** (Lincoln, NE); **Nancy Kattenfeld** (High Point, NC); **Steven Medwetz** (Northfield, MN); **Grace Srichomkuan** (Charlotte, NC)

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/23/2008 7:45:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech, Town Hall Meeting Fresno, CA 06/23/08

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Andres who is on the ground in Fresno today. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS

- Clean Car Challenge - McCain offers a $5,000 tax credit for zero-emissions cars
- $300 million Prize! 'for the development of a battery package that has the size, capacity, cost and power to leapfrog the commercially available plug-in hybrids or electric cars'
- When directly asked, McCain maintains that he does not support drilling in ANWR
- Claims Senator Obama does not support nuclear energy -- hits him on that point
- Reaffirms anti-choice position
- McCain talks about putting the responsibility of health care in the American people's hands
- Promises to mention 'Asian-Americans' in speeches from now on after being prompted by a 'passionate' audience member
- McCain forgets an audience member's question (see question #12)
- McCain ends question and answer period by hitting Obama for not attending the town hall with him (Note: McCain holds media availability immediately after town hall hitting Obama again on the issue)

Fresno, CA - McCain Speech, Town Hall Meeting 06/23/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:
- Approximately 350 in the audience; standing room only but small venue, elementary schools have bigger auditoriums only maybe 250 seats. Risers bisect the room in 2/3rds standing only behind risers
- Almost entirely white crowd with a few hispanics and a couple African Americans
- Hand-made campaign signs on the sides of the auditorium
- Reform, prosperity, peace slogan signs behind and on podium
- Well staffed, more professional feel from the staff.
- Little press mostly local - channel 30, channel 47 cbs, univision, local newspaper,

FULL Speech:
LINK: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/65ee015f-0eb2-46e3-b7c5-5e9da01d08d4.htm

Remarks By John McCain on Energy Security and Our National Security

June 23, 2008

ARLINGTON, VA -- U.S. Senator John McCain delivered the following remarks as prepared for delivery at a town hall meeting in Fresno, CA, today at 10:00 a.m. PDT (1:00 p.m. EDT):

Thank you all very much. I appreciate the kind introduction from Jim Woolsey, and the warm welcome to Fresno State. I'm here to listen about energy issues as well as to talk. So let me just offer a few ideas before we begin our discussion.

All across this state and nation, people are hurting because the price of gasoline is higher than it should be, and more than many folks can afford. Because of far-off events in the world oil market, a barrel of oil has more than doubled in a year. And the bad effects of that are spreading across our economy. The cost of business is rising, the cost of food and other essentials is rising, the whole cost of living is rising. What isn't rising is the value of your paychecks and the rate of America's economic growth. Back in the 1970's, they used to call this "stagflation." And it feels the same today, because the unwise policies of our government have left America's energy future in the control of others.

America imports about one third of its oil from Canada and Mexico and no one need worry about a reliance on friendly, stable neighbors, and partners in NAFTA. The Middle East and Venezuela are a different story. We import roughly a quarter of our oil from them, and they have a disproportionate impact on world prices. When we buy foreign oil from these and other sources, there are many consequences -- all of them far-reaching and none of them good. Worst of all, by relying on foreign oil, we enrich bad actors in the world, some of whom finance terrorists.

Some in Washington seem to think that we can still persuade OPEC to lower prices -- as if reason or cajolery had never been tried before. Others have even suggested suing OPEC -- as if we can litigate our way to energy security. But America is not going to meet this great challenge as a supplicant or a plaintiff. We are not going to meet it with words at all -- we are going to meet it with action. We're going to produce more, conserve more, and invent more. And to a large extent, this strategy hinges on innovations in the cars and trucks we drive.

Ninety-seven percent of transportation in America runs on oil. And of all that oil, about 60 percent is used in cars and trucks. Yet the CAFE standards we apply to automakers -- to increase the fuel efficiency of their cars -- are lightly enforced by a small fine. The result is that some companies don't even bother to observe CAFE standards. Instead they just write a check to the government and pass the cost along to you. Higher end auto companies like BMW, Porsche, and Mercedes employ some of the best engineering talent in the world. But that talent isn't put to the job of fuel efficiency, when the penalties are too small to encourage innovation. CAFE standards should serve large national goals in energy independence, not the purpose of small-time revenue collection.

Innovation in the use of alternative fuels in transportation presents the greatest opportunity for energy independence. At the moment, entrepreneurs and engineers are trying to figure out which among the various alternatives to oil works best. Alcohol-based fuels are the farthest

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along in both development and commercial use. Some, such as ethanol, are on the market now, and new sources of ethanol are on the horizon that will not require the use of so much cropland. Corn-based ethanol, thanks to the money and influence of lobbyists, has been a case study in the law of unintended consequences. Our government pays to subsidize corn-based ethanol even as it collects tariffs that prevent consumers from benefiting from other kinds of ethanol, such as sugarcane-based ethanol from Brazil. The result is that Americans take the financial hit coming and going. As taxpayers, we foot the bill for the enormous subsides paid to corn produ cers. And as consumers, we pay extra at the pump because of government barriers to cheaper products from abroad.

Here's a better way. Instead of playing favorites, our government should level the playing field for all alcohol fuels that break the monopoly of gasoline, lowering both gasoline prices and carbon emissions. And this can be done with a simple federal standard to hasten the conversion of all new vehicles in America to flex-fuel technology -- allowing drivers to use alcohol fuels instead of gas in their cars. Brazil went from about five to over 70 percent of all new vehicles with flex-fuel capacity. It did all that in just three years. Yet those same automakers that helped Brazil make the change say it will take them longer to reach the goal of 50 percent new flex-fuel vehicles for America. But I am confident they can do more, and do it faster, in the interest of our energy security. And if I am elected president, they will. Whether it takes a meeting with automakers during my first month in office, or my signature on an act of Congress, we will meet the goal of a swift conversion of American vehicles away from oil.

At the same time, smart policy can also help to broaden the market for energy-efficient cars. Right now we have a hodgepodge of incentives for the purchase of fuel-efficient cars. Different hybrids and natural-gas cars carry different incentives, ranging from a few hundreds dollars to four grand. They're the handiwork of lobbyists, with all the inconsistency and irrationality that involves.

My administration will issue a Clean Car Challenge to the automakers of America, in the form of a single and substantial tax credit based on the reduction of carbon emissions. For every automaker who can sell a zero-emissions car, we will commit a 5,000 dollar tax credit for each and every customer who buys that car. For other vehicles, whatever type they may be, the lower the carbon emissions, the higher the tax credit. And these large tax credits will be available to everyone -- not just to those who have an accountant to explain it to them.

Furthermore, in the quest for alternatives to oil, our government has thrown around enough money subsidizing special interests and excusing failure. From now on, we will encourage heroic efforts in engineering, and we will reward the greatest success.

I further propose we inspire the ingenuity and resolve of the American people by offering a $300 million prize for the development of a battery package that has the size, capacity, cost and power to leapfrog the commercially available plug-in hybrids or electric cars. This is one dollar for every man, woman and child in the U.S. -- a small price to pay for helping to break the back of our oil dependency -- and should deliver a power source at 30 percent of the current costs.

My friends, energy security is the great national challenge of our time. And rising to this challenge will take all of the vision, creativity, and resolve of which we are capable. The good news is, these qualities have never been in short supply. We are the country of Edison, Fulton, and two brothers named Wright. It was American ingenuity that took three brave men to the moon and brought them back. Think of all the highest scientific endeavors of our age -- the invention of the silicon chip, the creation of the Internet, the mapping of the human genome. In so many cases, you can draw a straight line back to American inventors, and often to the foresighted aid of the United States government.

For all the troubles and dangers our energy vulnerability presents, we know that we can overcome them, because we have overcome far worse problems and met far greater goals. Together, we Americans can achieve anything we set our minds to. I believe this about our country. I know this about our country. And now it is time to show those qualities once again.

Thank you.

Question and Answer

1 Q) I've been listening to the experts on the energy crisis -- they say speculators have caused prices to go up. How come Congress hasn't done anything about these speculators?

MCCAIN: I'm aware of that too -- but we don't know how much those speculator costs are actually driving up the cost of gas. But if there's anybody who took advantage of Americans for themselves, then they should be held accountable.

2 Q) What's your plan for bringing the troops home? What is your time-line?

MCCAIN: Would you like me to talk about energy and global warming as well? And by the way if I don't answer your question, you'll be able to follow up. Because that's what these town halls are all about -- the back and forth.

This war has been badly mishandled for the past four years. I went to Iraq and saw that and came back arguing for a new strategy. And our new strategy, I know, called the surge is succeeding. And let me tell you, I hate war. I believe that if we had done what many advocated -- set a date for withdrawal, we would have risked a wider war. Today the Iraqi government is functioning, but they have a way to go. The casualties and attacks are gone. Everything is in our favor, but we're not done. We still have work to do. So, I understand your frustrations and sorrow of the war. And I thank you for your commitment to peace. I am also committed to peace. I believe we will withdraw over time -- and I believe we will come home with victory and honor, without defeat.

FOLLOW-UP: For a country that's able to do all these wonderful things, I think that we are also a country that can show with empathy for other people of the world. We went over there and invaded when this country was of no threat to us. We went to war on a lie. We killed all these people over there, our 4,000 dead soldiers. We could have handled this in a much more peaceful way.

MCCAIN: Thank you for your opinion. I'd be happy to go over WMD's, etc. But I feel the important part of this debate is -- we are where we are and we need to figure out what to do NOW.

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3 Q) In relation to ANWR - do we still have the luxury to put the environment over our energy needs? Also if you still have that belief, why?

MCCAIN: I believe in the long-term, I believe that climate change is real. We have to go to green technology. The states should decide if they want to drill -- if California wants to do it, they should be able to. The moratorium on off-shore drilling should be lifted.

The problem I have with ANWR is that it is a pristine area and I'm not sure it can be done in an environmentally safe way.

Senator Obama says he doesn't support nuclear power -- I support nuclear power.

4 Q) What about alternative infrastructure?

MCCAIN: Absolutely and we have to provide those incentives. All of the alternate forms of energy - we should provide lots of incentives to pursue them.

5 Q) Are there any plans for making higher percentage ethanol available for U.S. citizens?

MCCAIN: I'll look into that. But let me reiterate, I want to do flex-fuel first. I want to see us to the E-85 standard.

FOLLOW-UP: What are your plans for hydrogen?

MCCAIN: Can I say you're very smart? Your parents investment in your education has been well-spent. There's a lot of challenges, but we have to continue to develop hydrogen solutions.

Oh and another thing. We are sitting on a lot of coal. Why don't we have more clean coal technology? And electric cars -- we need more of those. Right now, they're too expensive, but just like with cell phones, the cost will come down.

6 Q) The right to life issue is very important to me. Obama's vote against legislation for the child that was born alive after an unsuccessful abortion.

MCCAIN: I don't understand. I don't understand how someone could vote against a ban for partial-birth abortion. **I believe in the rights of the born and the unborn.**

Human rights extend around the globe.

7 Q) As a young person, my friends are defaulting to the democratic side without event researching. What are you going to do to sell your message to the younger community?

MCCAIN: I try to go to venues that young people use for the sources of information and knowledge -- like the Internet and Jon Stewart. I am going to give young Americans a safer and more secure America. I know how to reform Washington. I pursued Mr. Abramoff and his friends. I have fought for reform the entire time I've been in Congress. I'm going to fix government so you have a more prosperous future.

FOLLOW-UP: The price of oil has gone up as the dollar has fallen. Can you comment on that?

MCCAIN: My view is that we are in spiral. Our debt is rising, we're borrowing to pay our debts and we're importing what we can't afford. Our dependence on foreign oil is an economic one and an environmental one. You're right -- they are connected.

8 Q) What can Washington and you do to bring mass transportation to American towns?

MCCAIN: I think mass transportation is good. I think we have to focus on those areas where there's real need and a willingness of local authorities to contribute to building the system. We have this great system on the East Coast -- Acela. I use that frequently.

It all has to do with cost per passenger per mile. We have to recognize that folks are not going to run a train from Florida to California -- folks are not going to do that. And we're subsidizing that. We need to redirect the money to more popular routes.

And if you want to do this, you have to stop this pork barrel spending. Who hasn't hard about the bridge to nowhere in Alaska? It's outrageous.

I'm not ashamed to tell you that there's certain high growth areas that are badly in need. We gotta be fair to the American people.

9 Q) Do you have plans to regulate the actual fees for services in your health plan?

MCCAIN: I think it has to be better policed and regulated -- more in keeping with the actual costs. But that's not the root of the problem -- Americans are not as responsible for their health care as they ought to be.

FOLLOW UP: More specifics?

MCCAIN: **If that money was coming out of your pocket, you'd be more careful about how you spent it**.

10 Q) What about the Asian-American vote? We pay taxes too. I feel like Asian-Americans have been left out of the political process. You and others -- never mentioned 'Asian American.' We feel that we are being left out. Are you going to reach out to Asian-American communities?

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MCCAIN: Yes. Could I say that there are Asian-American members of Congress and others who have contributed much to our country. If I have gave the impression that I've neglected the contributions of your community, my apologies.

FOLLOW-UP: Lots of Asian-Americans -- but no mention. Will you mention us from now on?

MCCAIN: I got your message loud and clear. You listen to me in the future.

11 Q) How are we going to charge all these electric cars? Think about it. Reform that.

MCCAIN: Everyone remembers the rolling black-outs with large discomfort. Right now, we have not built a nuclear power plant in more than 30 years. It takes 5 years to build a nuclear power plant. I want to assure you that nuclear power has got to be a part of any plan to solve our energy needs.

The French -- 80% of their electricity comes from nuclear energy. We need to store and re-process like them.

FOLLOW-UP: Nuclear power is not the way to go. We know that the half-life of this radioactive material is a million years -- and we haven't figured out a way to dispose of that. We need to rely on changing our lifestyle and conservation.

MCCAIN: I agree with that -- but I am not going to tell Americans that they have to shiver in the dark.

12 Q) What lessons besides securing the borders have you learned? And 2, governor of Alaska for VP?

MCCAIN: We are still in the process of the VP search. Excuse me what was your first question?

QUESTIONER: Inaudible

MCCAIN: There is the need for temporary workers. The lesson I learned was that Americans demand and want the borders secure first. And we have the technology to do that. And we need to have a temporary worker program that works. Immigration is a national security issue and one of great importance.

13 Q) I would like you to pursue solar energy and not nuclear because it is hazardous. Solar is cheap and very safe.

MCCAIN: I will pursue solar to it's fullest degree. Some straight talk -- solar alone will not solve all of our energy needs. It has to be part of a multi-tiered solution.

14 Q) Many of us have long commutes. The valley is so filled with commuters without mass transit. My gas prices have sky-rocketed. There's an immediate need -- and I don't see an answer to that. Do you?

MCCAIN: I don't, but I'd like to get you some relief -- and that was my gas-tax holiday. All I wanted to do was give you a little relief for the summer. But I would also like to make sure that we don't raise your taxes. I don't see an immediate relief -- but I do see an exploitation of our reserves.

Who pays the most on a per capita basis for gasoline? It's of people of low income and fixed income with older cars. And I liked to get them some relief.

15 Q) What is your stance on the Palestinian-Israel conflict? What are your thoughts on bringing back the middle class?

MCCAIN: So many, millions of Americans are finding that they signed documents they didn't understand and aren't able to make those payments anymore. I'd like people to be able to go and get a 30-year FHA guaranteed loan. So that's an immediate help, to keep Americans in their homes. I don't want to raise taxes -- I'm not gonna raise taxes on them. I believe that it's very important that we restore trust in government. I will always put my country first. These are tough times. I want to assure you that I will do everything in my power to restore the American dream. What I should know is that you and your family is hurting right now, I'll reach across the aisle and get problems solved for you.

16 Q) Veteran. Served with McCain.

MCCAIN: Thank you for your service.

Could all our vets raise their hands? Thank you and God bless.

17 Q) I'm a veteran. The forgotten war of Korea. What I want to hear from you and your administration sir when you become president, are you going to improve the conditions for the veterans that return with injuries?

MCCAIN: Yes sir, it's part of my plan. The Korean war may be the forgotten war, but those who fought in it will never be forgotten. Thank you for your service.

My friends, what happened at Walter-Reed can never happen again. There are numerous cases of PTSD and its terrible. We have to change our system so we are able to get care more quickly to our vets. We have to expand the capability of the VA. I want to take every veteran that needs a routine health care need, give them a plastic card so they are able to get health care anywhere.

Conclusion

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

I hope you will ask Senator Obama to join me in a town hall meeting here in California.

My friends, one thing I promise you, you can always count on, I will put my country first.

--
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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/16/2015 12:33:44 PM
Subject: Daily Media Report 6.16.15

National:

-- Report on the House pushing trade legislation deadline to July 30; mentioned that HRC seemed to agree with Nancy Pelosi's position on trade, said HRC has not taken a clear stance on trade; showed footage of HRC talking about trade in Concord on Monday; interviewed Lori Wallach; shifted into conversation about the trade deals in Congress. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRCs trade position was unknown.mp4

-- Report on Mitt Romney talking about HRC on Morning Joe on Monday; Alex Wagner said she thought it was amazing that Romney said HRC was not real enough; panel with Kurt Andersen, Ophira Eisenberg, and Jesse David Fox; panelists talk about whether there's a difference between being inauthentic and untrustworthy; Andersen said Romney calling someone stiff was extraordinary. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Alex Wagner on Romneys HRC wealth comments.mp4

-- Report that HRC and Jeb Bush were both running for POTUS; Krystal Ball said she had a hard time getting excited about the race; Ball said HRC wants to be the champion of everyday Americans; Ball said HRC was backing universal pre-k, family-friendly work policies, and a progressive restructuring of the tax code; Ball said Bush was running as a problem solver; Ball said the proposed policies spark little excitement because they don't answer how HRC or Bush would get anything accomplished. MSNBC's The Cycle , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush Clips, National, Krystal Ball unexcited about Jeb Bush v HRC.mp4

-- Report that HRC was ripping BHO's and WJC's trade deals, tied HRC's trade stance to Bernie Sanders doing well in the polls; interviewed Mark Plotkin; Plotkin said HRC couldn't "out-left" MOM or Sanders but "she can't be the nominee unless she gets nominated" so she's tacking left to pick up some of the liberals; Cavuto said HRC was going to the left of BHO; discussion about whether Democrats were moving too far to the left. Fox News' Your World with Neil Cavuto, 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Mark Plotkin on HRCs move to the left.mp4

-- Report on Sidney Blumenthal's testimony before the Benghazi Committee; reported that Blumenthal handed over sixty previously undisclosed emails to the committee; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said there could be new fallout for HRC, questioned why HRC had not turned over the emails that Blumenthal turned over; used footage of Gowdy and Cummings talking about Blumenthal's deposition; shifted into conversation about HFA banning a journalist from being a pool reporter; Henry reported that The Daily Mail reporter was barred from the pool, said the reason HFA gave was that they usually use people who are already in the White House press pool and The Daily Mail reporter was not in that pool. Fox News' The Real Story with Gretchen Carlson , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ed Henry on Blumenthal and The Daily Mail.mp4

-- Discussion about Donald Trump running for POTUS; panel with Simon Rosenberg and Larry O'Connor; O'Connor said Trump did more for the economy and everyday Americans than HRC; O'Connor called HRC a corrupt First Lady, a do-nothing Senator, and a do-less-than-nothing Secretary of State; Rosenberg pointed out that regardless the topic that O'Connor found a way to insert a diatribe against HRC. Fox News' The Real Story with Gretchen Carlson, 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Larry OConnor disses HRC.mp4

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-- Andrea Mitchell reported on her question for HRC about her talking about hedge fund guys when they are HRC's big contributors; panel with Michael Steele and Ed Rendell; Mitchell noted this was the first time HRC was asked about the money issue since she entered the race; Rendell said HRC's answer was really good; Rendell said the two POTUSes who helped poor people the most were FDR and JFK; Rendell said HRC has always fought for the bottom tier; Rendell noted HRC was way ahead of the curve on healthcare. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Michael Steele and Ed Rendell on HRCs wealth.mp4

-- Discussion about the Benghazi Committee's deposing Sidney Blumenthal; reported that the Committee was asking Blumenthal why he emailed HRC unsubstantiated intelligence, whether he was paid for his work, and whether he used his Clinton connections to help his business interests; reported that Blumenthal handed over more emails to the Committee; Bernard McGuirk was the guest; McGuirk said Blumenthal was sleazy; Kennedy questioned whether HRC broke the law by withholding the emails that Blumenthal provided to the Committee; shifted into report on David Martosko being barred from covering HRC's events three times on Monday; showed footage of Martosko from Fox News' The Kelly File; reported that the pool reporters released a statement against HFA's decision to block Martosko; discussion about how this was reflective of what an HRC administration would look like; Andrea Tantaros said HRC was acting like a dictator; noted the time Amy Chozick said a Clinton aide followed her into the bathroom.Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Blumenthal deposition and Daily Mail pool.mp4

-- Report on HRC addressing her wealth on Monday; interviewed Ken Vogel; Vogel said the Clintons' wealth is on the minds of most Americans as much as some in the media have focused on; Vogel said the sources of some of HRC's income since WJC left the White House were questionable such as her speeches from some organizations and the donations to The Clinton Foundation; Vogel said those might be more interesting to voters; Diaz-Balart asked about Romney's wealth in the last cycle and asked whether that theme had disappeared this time around; Vogel said how Romney made his money was problematic for voters, said that narrative could be used against HRC. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ken Vogel on HRCs wealth.mp4

-- Report on Sidney Blumenthal's testimony to the Benghazi Committee; noted that Blumenthal turned over 60 new Libya emails; panel with Rich Lowry and David Goodfriend; Lowry said he was curious about Blumenthal's emails because he managed to alert the administration that Benghazi was a terrorist attack shortly following the attack, said the Committee would likely ask about a gap between emails that Blumenthal handed over and the emails that the State Department handed over; Goodfriend harked back to Ed Henry being upset about HRC not calling on him to ask a question, held up a box of tissues he brought for Henry; Goodfriend said HRC would call on Henry sometime; Goodfriend said many of Blumenthal's emails were likely to not be important; Martha MacCallum said she didn't know if Americans would ever see the full extent of what was on HRC's server. Fox News' America's Newsroom w/ Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Americas Newsroom on Blumenthals deposition.mp4

-- Report on the Benghazi Committee deposing Sidney Blumenthal on Tuesday; reported that Blumenthal exchanged dozens of emails with HRC regarding Libya and the Benghazi attacks; Kelly O'Donnell reports; O'Donnell said Blumenthal turned over about 60 additional emails to the Benghazi Committee that could provide more insight; O'Donnell said this was a deposition, not a hearing; O'Donnell explained that depositions are often done behind closed doors. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Kelly ODonnell on Blumenthals deposition.mp4

-- Showed a clip of Jeb Bush making his announcement speech; reported HRC answered her question about how she squares her populous rhetoric with her ties to Wall St. donors; quoted HRC as saying she was grateful for her and Bill's success, and it was a secondary issue because people are more interested in what a candidate would do as President for voters and their families. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 6/16/15 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Jeb Bush Hillary Clinton Clips, National, HRC on Wall St connections

-- Andrea Mitchell spoke with pundits; Mitchell said despite problems with their names, both HRC and Bush have large organizations behind them; reported that HRC could be burdened by the same money questions as Mitt

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Romney, in that she is so much wealthier and well connected to Wall St. compared to the people she is representing; played a clip of HRC and Andrea Mitchell's exchange, where HRC said she was grateful for her and Bill's success, and it was a secondary issue because people are more interested in what a candidate would do as President for voters and their families; pundits said HRC's response was a good, and that she did not need to always brandish her progressive credentials, because she was advocating for universal healthcare at a time when nobody else was; reported that Trump announced his candidacy for President, that he has a message that resonates with some Americans, but probably won't be a serious contender. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 6/16/15 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Commentary, National, Andrea Mitchell discussing HRC Wall St

-- Reported HRC gave a launch speech that barely mentioned foreign policy; reported that foreign policy is not on the candidates' or the voters' radar, both wanting to focus on the economy instead; Albright said Americans are tired of war in the Middle East, but there still must be an international component to any presidential campaign; Albright said the United States needs allies around the world to help solve problems around the world, which means the United States must be engaged with foreign policy issues. After a commercial break, Andrea Mitchell discussed HRC with NH Senator Jeanne Shaheen; HRC gave a "shout out" at the annual flag day dinner to Shaheen, the only woman to be both a governor and a senator; Shaheen said Bush's latest poll numbers show him ahead in NH, and there is a lot of interest around his candidacy, however it is still a long way to the primary; reported that HRC said Obama should leverage his authority to improve the bill; Shaheen agreed that Congress needs to pass the best bill for American businesses and helping displaced American workers; Shaheen said Congress needs to make sure that workers can compete on a level playing field, that Asian countries will not be able dump goods into American markets, and that there will be enforcement safeguards in place; Shaheen said that is what she is looking for in a candidate; reported on Shaheen's provision in the Defense Bill that would provide service members and their families with better access to contraceptives. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 6/16/15 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Jeanne Shaheen Commentary, National, Andrea Mitchell on HRC and foreign policy.

-- Reported that when a candidate runs for President, the government requires the candidate to disclose financial information within 30 days of declaring; reported HRC, Rubio, and Bush are probably already working on those disclosures, and Trump will need to follow suit; played a clip of Trump giving his views on illegal immigrants; reported that Trump might cause trouble for Republicans by making offensive comments about Hispanics on the debate stage, reported that because Trump doesn't depend on outside money, and can appeal to the base, he will be able to attack Bush and Rubio to a degree of severity that other candidates cannot.MSNBC Live with Thomas Roberts , 6/16/15 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Marco Rubio Jeb Bush Commentary, National, Trump finances

-- Commentator on Andrea Mitchell Reports claims that HRC has always fought for people in the bottom economic tier; claims that she does not have to brandish her accomplishments and credentials because she fought for universal health care before anyone else; highlights that she took criticism for that policy but ultimately rose because of her fight for health care reform. MSNBC - U.S. Cable, 6.16.15

-- Andrea Mitchell comments on HRC's flag day dinner speaking engagement where she gave a shout out to Jeanne Shaheen, the only female governor and senator; Mitchell interviews Shaheen and mentions TPP; Shaheen states that all of the details of the TPP are not out yet and she states that she agrees with HRC that we need to pass the best bill possible and that workers are given a level playing field. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Rachel Maddow commentary on HRC's campaign launch speech; claims that she is acting opposite of Jeb Bush who is running away from his last name whereas, HRC is embracing hers; highlights that HRC mentioned both President Obama and WJC in her speech in the Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island. MSNBC- U.S. Cable, 6.16.15

-- Clip of HRC speaking about President Obama and WJC inheriting difficulties due to Republican predecessors;

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clip of HRC stating that her worldviews are influenced by Obama and WJC; clip of HRC answering a question about Jeb Bush running away from his last name where she declines to answer the question and instead highlights that she is proud of having served alongside WJC and later Obama; Maddow commentary on Al Gore running away from the Clinton presidency during his own presidential bid in 2000; Maddow claims that HRC is not making the same mistake as Gore; Maddow claims that Jeb Bush is taking a different path by running "first names only". MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Andrea Mitchell on Rachel Maddow; Maddow questions Mitchell about whether it was expected for HRC to embrace WJC and Obama the way she has been; Mitchell responds that it was not clear before the campaign what exactly she would do but that HRC, while proud of her association with WJC and Obama, is clearly defining her own policy; Mitchell cites the lack of economic and welfare reform that was present in WJC's bids for presidency as evidence of this; Mitchell claims that HRC is moving to the left because the country has moved to the left and because she is under pressure from people who support Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders; Mitchell also notes that HRC has moved away from Obama in terms of trade policy; Mitchell claims that while HRC may not agree with all of Obama or WJC's policies, she still supports what they stand for and represent; Mitchell believes that "this could work for her"; Maddow raises the point that HRC has not been available to reporters and asks if Mitchell thinks that will change; Mitchell claims that it will change and states that HRC is adept at answering press questions; Mitchell brings up HRC's wealth and states that HRC answers that question by stating that "the American people don't begrudge other people's success"; Mitchell believes that is an interesting answer. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Clip of HRC's launch speech and Jeb Bush's launch speech; Lawrence O'Donnell highlights how while Republican candidates are distancing themselves from the last Republican presidency, HRC is aligning herself with the recent Democratic presidencies; clip of HRC talking about the difficulties Obama and WJC inherited from predecessors and their ability to pull America up despite those difficulties; claims that WJC and Obama, like herself, believe that lasting change should be "built by all, shared by all" which is a central Democratic value; Anne Gearan, Casey Hunt and Maria Teresa Kumar join the commentary; Anne Gearan states that HRC is talking about her husband more frequently than before and "embracing the Pantheon of recent Democratic presidencies" however, she is distancing herself from trade policies of those presidencies (i.e. TPP and NAFTA); O'Donnell also claims that when she was Secretary of State she said the TPP was the "gold standard"; Kumar states that people are worried HRC is flip flopping and that labor was surprised by her stance against TPP; Hunt brings up the point that DOMA and Don't Ask, Don't Tell were implemented under WJC's presidency so is wondering if the country has changed and HRC is catering to the new status quo or if her policy is her "coming out of her shell"; Gearan claims that HRC needs to overcome her unfavorable/untrustworthy polls; Kumar claims that HRC was ahead of her time in the 90s and that the times are finally catching up to her now; Hunt doesn't believe that there is yet a Republican candidate who is capable of even standing up to HRC; O'Donnell brings up the fact that no other candidate has been polled about trustworthiness. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Chris Matthews claims that Bernie Sanders is creating charges against Wall St. while HRC is promising to create equal opportunity to those on Main St.; Matthews mentions that HRC says there is nothing wrong with success; clip of HRC stating that there is nothing wrong with prosperity but that those who are prosperous must pay their share and a clip of Sanders advocating for a total redistribution of wealth; David Axelrod believes that HRC's approach reflects the mainstream of the Democratic Party and claims that people's affinity to Sanders is a "fling" or a "first date"; thinks that she's ultimately going to be the nominee; Lissa Muscatine is on the show and states that both HRC and Sanders agree that income inequality is a major issue but disagree on how it should be addressed; Axelrod highlights that negotiating with Congress will be a big issue but that HRC has stated that she will be a better negotiator than her predecessors and that people see her as someone who can navigate Washington; clip of HRC scolding the financial industry; clip of Sanders threatening to destroy Wall St.; Eugene Robinson believes the sweet spot is between HRC and Sanders, where Elizabeth Warren stands; Matthews claims that Jeb Bush's speech was better than HRC's; claims that Jeb's speech "sang" while HRC's sounded like "one a regular person would write"; Muscatine claims is was a political speech that was personal and genuine

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and clear in terms of policy and detail; Axelrod claims that HRC is so confident of winning the presidency that she "gave her SOTU speech early". MSNBC- U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Matthews claims that HRC is taking a cautious approach on the TPP; clip of HRC taking a middle-of-the-road approach in a speech; Matthews shows a similar clip of WJC speaking the same way about NAFTA in the 1992 debates; Matthews claims that WJC and HRC finessed the issues; Axelrod claims that it was easier for WJC to do that than it will be for HRC because she was Secretary of State when the TPP began being discussed and had at one point called it the "gold standard for trade agreements"; Axelrod believes it will be challenging for her to navigate this issue. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Matthews states that HRC gave her first full press conference; praises her line from her campaign launch where she states "I'll be the youngest woman president"; Howard Fineman states that HRC is running as her mother's daughter; claims that Angela Merkel; Erin McPike claims that HRC emphasizing her female president narrative appeals to female voters; Perry Bacon believes that Obama-Clinton foreign policy is not something to highlight because it allowed for the growth of ISIS and that is why she did not touch upon her experience as Secretary of State much during the campaign launch speech; Fineman also states that she is trying to seem like an outsider. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Chris Hayes states that Jeb Bush and HRC have made interesting choices on their campaign logos by not including their famous last names; mentions that Mitt Romney claims that HRC is too elite and too wealthy to connect with most people; also mentions that HRC embraced her gender in a way that she hadn't done before in 2008; Rebecca Traister claims that HRC's 2016 campaign is a repudiation of the 2008 campaign; claims that even the comparison she struck between herself and FDR is symbolic because it shows she is moving farther to the left and letting go of her Ronald Reagan reverence; commentary on HRC's statement that she will only be working with "willing participants"; Hayes and Traister claim this is very different from her typical "reach across the aisle" rhetoric; Hayes comments that the hardest question to answer is: why do you want to be president? but that HRC can answer it easily and with significance by saying that she would like to be the first female president; Traister believes that HRC has sensed a shift in the American electorate and has been receptive and flexible in her own beliefs/policy given that shift; Traister mentions that HRC's work now has roots in her work in criminal defense and child development when she was young. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- New details in the Benghazi investigation come to light; Sydney Blumenthal mentioned as a HRC confidant; he has turned 120 new pages of emails between him and then HRC; Blumenthal will go before the committee investigating Benghazi today; the emails supposedly have information about weapons circulating Libya and the security situation there. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Commentary about HRC dodging a question during her first presser and whether that was a smart move; claims that the main question people want to know is when HRC will start answering questions; claims that HRC looked good and presented herself well during the campaign launch but that she has dodged difficult, gritty questions; claim that HRC has been doing a "listening tour" but that she needs to start talking soon; claims that she needs to align with Obama in order to claim his supporters but also should not be too close to him so she's balancing on a fine line. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Morning Joe commentary about whether Mitt Romney or John Kerry might decide to run; mention that in 2007 the frontrunners were HRC and Rudy Giuliani but that changed unexpectedly; commentary about her 20 minute presser; clip of HRC supporting Obama during her presser, claiming that he does not get the credit he deserves; HRC answered a question about Romney's comments about her wealth; reporters praise her calculated answer where she states that she believes her wealth is a secondary issue to what she will accomplish as president;

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commentary about how she provided a powerful response; claims that she gets better at answering these pressing questions; also claim that her policies actually don't always cut to the rich and the wealthy and that maybe she's not as tough on Wall Street as she should be. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Morning Joe commentary about *National Review* article claiming that Republicans need an answer to HRC; *National Review* claims that HRC is relying on the Republicans to not make the case the conservative values can improve the lives of Americans in a practical way but that this view of hers can be refuted; commentator raises point that Sanders will challenge HRC which will allow a credible candidate to enter and Howard Dean is that candidate; Howard Dean claims that HRC is talking about things like economic justice that both Democrats and Republicans are passionate about; Dean believes she is making a good case; Dean believes that if the Republicans cannot dent the Obama coalition then they will not be able to win. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Morning Joe commentator believed that both Jeb Bush and HRC “gave the speeches they needed to give”; believes that HRC did not explain why exactly she’s running though; she did not give a “this I believe” speech which was problematic. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

-- Morning Joe commentary about how several media outlets are upset at the Clinton campaign because a reporter was shut out of and not allowed to cover an event; one man was the pool reporter but the Secret Service would not let him it; reporter claims that between when they sent him a confirmation and the dinner, they look him up and that was why he was asked to leave; Clinton campaign spokesperson told the reporter that the paper did not qualify because it wasn’t part of the regular print pool; commentators claim that because the Daily Mail has such a large online presence, they are not a media outlet a candidate would want to upset. MSNBC - U.S. Cable, 6.16.15

-- Reporter mentions that HRC has stated in the past that she would go further than Obama; she wanted to push for executive orders that would be more widespread that DACA or DAPA; Jeb Bush protester claims that words need to be validated by action and both Jeb Bush and HRC have yet to stand with the Latino community and fight alongside their community. MSNBC - U.S. Cable , 6.16.15

--Report on Sidney Blumenthal turning over emails that were sent to HRC about Libya and his deposition in front of the Congressional committee today; panel commented on how HRC potentially broke the law; Blumenthal was banned from the State Department by the Obama Administration; panel also claimed that Blumenthal was HRC’s top intelligence advisor at State Department. Fox News - Outnumbered 6.16.2015

--Report on Sidney Blumenthal turning over emails that were sent to HRC about Libya and his deposition in front of the Congressional committee today; commentary from Congressman Trey Gaude (R-SC) who said it’s important for the committee to look into Blumenthal and his emails whereas Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said the committee is one that has just investigated Hillary Clinton. Fox News - The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson 6.16.2015

--Report on HRC rally and access to press; David Martosko, DailyMail journalist, stated that reporters at the rally only reported on what HRC campaign wanted them to and said journalists have a duty to do more than that; reported on collective statement from 13 news organizations saying no print news should be denied from the press poll if they are willing to take part. Fox News -The Kelly File 6.16.2015

--Report on HRC in New Hampshire and press; reported on DailyMail journalist that wasn’t allowed in the press pool; Andrea Mitchell questioned how HRC can run a populist campaign when her and WJC made $25 million last year; HRC staff wouldn’t call on Fox News reporter and staff wouldn’t let him talk to her; ongoing issue of how much access press will have; notes that from a political standpoint not talking to press is a good strategy because no need to answer tough questions right now, but could become a long-term issue for HRC. Fox News

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- Hannity 6.16.2015

--Report on HRC Clinton Foundation funds; asked rally attendees what they think about the Clinton Foundation taking funds from Saudi Arabia, majority didn't see it as a big deal; interviewed Rand Paul on the topic who said, "do we want her [HRC] to be the commander in chief when she's taken money for people who've allowed, you know she basically presided over the sale of a uranium company to the Russians while taking shareholders from the Uranium company, so I think that that would really disqualify her from being a candidate"; continued to talk about Clinton Foundation and the $26 million from Sweden. Fox News - Hannity 6.16.2015

--Report on HRC trustworthiness poll and rally where she called GOP candidates believing in yesterday; comments from a panel noting that her trustworthiness will hurt her, but some saying she has no reason to talk to the press right now; reported on Marco Rubio ad about "yesterday" noting it was a good ad to run. Fox News - Hannity 6.16.2015

--Report on NY Times article saying HRC looked at a chart of income inequality in the U.S. and pointed out that, "the top category and said that the economy required a 'toppling' of the wealthiest 1 percent"; reported on the amount of times HRC says "uh-huh"; panel negatively commented on the article and amount of times she said "uh-huh." Fox News - Red Eye 6.16.2015

--Report on HRC talking to the press and voting rights stance; panel said HRC will be the nominee but Bernie Sanders is gaining some speed, but HRC did as well as she could with the questions; reported on HRC voting rights stance saying she is probably using this issue to hit the GOP which isn't right. Fox News - The Kelly File 6.16.2015

--Report on HRC distancing herself from Obama's policies and DailyMail reporter not allowed in press pool; reported that in NH, HRC said she would expand and even go further than Obama's policies and WJC; reported outrage from press corps that Daily Mail was not allowed. Fox News - Fox and Friends First 6.16.2015
--Reported on DailyMail reporter not being allowed in the press pool; interviewed the reporter who said that HRC campaign aide gave a number of excuses as to why he couldn't be in the press pool, but said he suspects it's because the campaign doesn't like his reporting; reporter noted that he was not allowed in the press pool for a flag day event HRC was doing too. Fox News - FOX & Friends 6.16.2015

--Reported HRC release spotify playlist; reported that HRC is keeping in touch with young voters through spotify, but criticized some of the lyrics of the songs on the playlist. Fox News - FOX & Friends 6.16.2015

--Reported on DailyMail reporter not being allowed in the press pool; commentator said this is evidence of control of the campaign because of the hand selected reporters that were called on during the press conference. Fox News - America's Newsroom w/Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum 6.16.2015

--Reported on Sidney Blumenthal turning over emails from time at State Department; author of Clinton Cash, Peter Schwitzer, commented that Blumenthal is a close ally and was emailing sensitive intelligence information to HRC and had interest in contractors in Libya. Fox News - America's Newsroom w/Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum 6.16.2015

-- 30-second teaser on Trump announcing his candidacy for President and HRC making a new campaign promise. CNN's Early Start with John Berman and Christine Romans , 06/16/2015 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Trump announcing HRC new campaign promise teaser

-- Dana Bash Reported Jeb Bush launched his White House bid; reported that in his speech, Bush reached out to minorities in a way Republicans do not always generally do; reported that Bush attacked HRC by name, and other Democrats; reported that Bush used a lot of "red meat" Republican lines, but also criticized the Washington establishment, a swipe against Republican Senators also running for President; reported Bush will be in NH, a "must-do-well" for him and then travel to Iowa and South Carolina; reported Bush will not deliver teleprompter speeches in NH, but instead will hold town hall meetings where he can have a dialogue with voters; Dana Bash said Bush is in his comfort zone, and at his best, when he can have a dialogue with voters. Bash transitioned back to the studio, where Romans reported on Donald Trump; Romans reported Trump will

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announce his candidacy for president today; reported Trump will announce his $9 billion net worth, almost double Forbes's original estimate; reported Trump told the Des Moines Register that he would be the most successful person to ever run for President; Berman noted that Trump is currently polling in the top 10, allowing him access to national debates; Berman said Trump might have a roll in this election. Berman transitioned from Trump to HRC; Berman reported HRC is highlighting her middle class roots, and saying she wants to be the small business President; reported HRC discussed her plans to make high-quality pre-school available to all children; Berman played a clip of HRC from NH, discussing child development; Berman reported HRC would double funding for head start programs and provide a tax cut to help parents raise young children; Romans said Bush's foundation focused on early childhood education, and it is interesting that both HRC and Bush are focusing on this issue. CNN's Early Start with John Berman and Christine Romans , 06/16/2015 **Vantage**:2015 06 16 Jeb Bush Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Commentary, National, Bush announcing Trump announcing HRC pre K

-- Romans reported 120 pages of emails between HRC and Sidney Blumenthal have just been released to the committee investigating the Benghazi attacks; reported the emails contain information about weapons in Libya and the security situation in Benghazi in the year and a half leading up to the attack; reported Blumenthal will face questions about Benghazi and the emails from the House Committee in a closed hearing today. CNN's Early Start with John Berman and Christine Romans,06/16/2015 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, HRC new Benghazi emails

-- Cuomo spoke with NH voters in a roundtable segment; Cuomo asked one of the voters if negative ads, such as ads criticizing HRC for the controversy surrounding her emails, would sway her; one of the voters said HRC is a "moving target"; Cuomo asked if HRC was a woman running for office, or running for office on women's issues; voter replied HRC is a woman running for office, that just because she is elected president, does not mean the wage gap will close or woman will be equal in all respects; none of the voters said they would vote for HRC just because she is a woman; Cuomo asked if people were paying attention to the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage; voters replied that many younger people support same-sex marriage, and do not think it should even be an issue anymore; one voter said Americans need a diversity of candidates, because with a diversity of candidates comes a diversity of perspectives; Cuomo asked voters their opinions on outside money and special interests in politics; voters expressed their disdain for outside money; one voter asked, what will the candidates do to protect minority children, and help them move up in society; transitioned back to the studio, where Cuomo said part two of the segment will air tomorrow, where he discussed who is actually making an impact on the ground, whether it is just HRC and Bush, or others. CNN New Day , 06/16/2015 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Commentary, National, CNN roundtable with voters mention HRC

-- Reported on Donald Trump's impending announcement; CNN political commentator said Trump was the guy who was still hounding POTUS about producing his birth certificate long after the issue was already settled; Kohn said Trump was going to bring up these non-issues again, joking that Trump might ask if HRC is actually a woman; Costello asked if Trump will eventually hurt the Republican Party with his questions and behavior; Former GOP Capitol Hill Communications Director Tara Setmayer replied that if Trump is eventually going to hurt the GOP field, than you also have to say Chaffee and Sanders will eventually hurt the Democratic field because they are not serious candidates; Setmayer criticized Sanders for being a self-professing Socialist and Chaffee for talking about the metric system; Costello and Kohn disagreed, saying Sanders was a serious candidate; Setmayer said most people in the political world are not taking Trump's candidacy seriously, but his candidacy will be amplified by the media; Kohn said the dynamic between saying the craziest things and getting more media attention plays to the right-wing base of the GOP, as demonstrated by Ted Cruz as well; Setmayer said some independent voters might find Trump's straight talk refreshing, while Kohn disagrees, citing Trump's poll numbers. CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello , 06/16/2015 **Vantage**: 2015 06 16 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Ted Cruz Commentary, National, Trump candidacy not serious mention HRC

States:

New Hampshire:

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Report on HRC singing a school note: HRC signs a school note for a young boy that attended her campaign event. The note went viral on social media.WMAUR-MAN(ABC)'s News 9 at Six, Manchester (NH). 2015.06.16, HRC signing slip.mp4

Report on Suffolk University Poll: Suffolk University poll claims that Bernie sanders has 31% of the Democratic vote in New Hampshire. HRC has 41%.WMUR-MAN(ABC)'S News 9 at Five, Manchester (NH). 2015.06.16, HRC and Sanders in NH.mp4

South Carolina:

Report on HRC in South Carolina: HRC will be focusing on job training and apprenticeship programs to help people get ahead. This will be an RSVP event. WACH-COL(FOX)'s WACH Fox God day, Columbia (SC). 2015.06.16., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in SC.mp4

Report on Rand Paul talking about HRC: Rand Paul attacked HRC on her Benghazi situation. WACH-COL(FOX)'s WACH Fox God day, Columbia (SC).2015.06.16., Hillary Clinton; Rand Paul, Clips, National, HRC and Rand Paul.mp4

Report on HRC and Benghazi: Clinton friend testifies about Benghazi trials and Clinton emails. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s CBS This Morning, Savannah (GA).2015.06.16., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Benghazi emails.mp4

Nevada:

Report on HRC in Nevada: HRC will make a stop in northern Nevada after her campaign event with national leaders at a Las Vegas conference. HRC will be speaking to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed officials conference on Thursday. KRNV(NBC)'s News 4, Reno (NV) .2015.06.16., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Nevada.mp4

--Report on HRC in the lead: Reporters claim that HRC leads in polls, and she is the clear front runner amongst the Democratic candidates.KOLO(ABC)'s Good Morning Reno, Reno (NV), 2015.06.16, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC lead.mp4

--Report on Sidney Blumenthal and HRC: Sidney Blumenthal will testify about frequent emails he sent about Libya when Clinton was Secretary of State. Blumenthal has worked in Clinton's White House and is a longtime friend and adviser to the Clinton family. He was responsible for sending Clinton monthly reports about Libya while she was Secretary of State. KOLO(ABC)'s Good Morning Reno 6 am , Reno (NV). 2015.06.16., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Benghazi.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC in Iowa: Reporters claim that HRC is the well known name in Iowa. Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders is not a well-known name yet, but that he is gaining large crowds of supporters in Iowa. KCAU(ABC)'s ABC9 News this Morning at 6, Sioux City (IA), 2015.06.16., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in Iowa leading.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Bernie Sanders in Iowa and attacking HRC: Reporters claim that Sanders has been attracting large crowds in Iowa. He has also been attacking HRC on not voicing a straightforward opinion on the trade deal. Al Jazeera America, 2015.06.16., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders Iowa on HRC.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders winning Iowa: Reporters claim that Sanders could win the caucuses, especially in Iowa because Democrats are underestimating HRC's competition. Fox Business Network's Mornings with Maria Bartiromo, 2015.06.16, Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders caucus.mp4

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--Reporters on Bernie Sanders' as competition: Reporters claim that Sanders will not triumph over HRC. Reporters claim that HRC will not allow her agenda and policies to shift further to the left, even if Sanders calls her out for it. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 2015.6.16., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders likelihood.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders increasing likeability: Bernie Sanders was given three standing ovations before he even began his speech. His poll numbers are rising in several states. Reporters claim that HRC should take the Sanders' threat more seriously. Fox News' Hannity , 2015.6.16., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders' threat.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders interview: Bernie Sanders' claims that people want real change. Sanders' claims that he is gratified by the types of crowds that he is getting. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 2016.06.15., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders interview.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders in Iowa: Reporters claim that 800 people attended his event at Drake University on Friday. Reporters claim that HRC has had just as much support. Reporters claim that Sanders could easily catch up to HRC's campaign, and that HRC should not underestimate Sanders in Iowa. KCAU(ABC)'s Good Morning America, Sioux City (IA), 2016.6.16., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders in Iowa.mp4

--Report on Sanders in South Carolina: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders will be visiting Charleston on Sunday. WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s Morning News 7, Charleston (SC) , 2015.6.16., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders in Charleston.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Latino Vote: Reporters claim that Sanders will be visiting Las Vegas. He will be attending the Latino conference, in which he will speak. KLAS-LV(CBS)'s 8 News Now at 4 am , Las Vegas (NV), 2015.6.16., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sander in Las Vegas.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM attacking HRC: MOM responds to HRC's response on the TPP by claiming that fast track is not a "process" issue. MOM claims that fast track is an important issue dealing with American's lives. CSPAN's Washington Journal.2016.06.16., Martin O'Malley; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, MOM on TPP.mp4

--Report on MOM and campaigning: Reporters claim that MOM and other Democratic candidates must appeal to voters by becoming more personable. They claim that in order to be more appealing they must be engaged with audiences by shaking hands and directly speaking to them. KCAU(ABC)'s ABC9 News This Morning at 6 , Sioux City (IA), 2015.6.16., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM campaign.mp4

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 12/21/2007 10:50:08 PM
Subject: Clips: Sat 12/22

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Saturday, December 22nd, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

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HRC Articles/Mentions

For Clinton Campaign, Different Strategies At Play *NYT*
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Hillary Clinton Embraces Her Husband's Legacy *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/21/AR2007122102588_pf.html

Clinton Gets Lots Of Help From Her Friends *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-emily22dec22,1,3442626.story?coll=la-headlines-frontpage

Clinton Enlists Daughter, Mom In New Hampshire *Newsday*
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Clinton Campaigns With Family, GOP Voter *AP*
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h4nM9ZeCSgTBYYDqMHrwVKX2GHKwD8TM3K301

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Vilsack Said Iowans Can Make History By Backing Clinton *AP*
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The Arcane Campaign Planks Of '08 *AP*
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Clergy Cash: Obama, Clinton Beat Huckabee *Politico*
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Hill's No Winner: Obama *NY Post*
http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12222007/news/nationalnews/hills_no_winner__obama_946080.htm

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Campaign Takeout *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/22/2007-12-22_campaign_takeout-1.html?print=1&page=all

Keene Sentinel Editorial: **In The Democratic Primary, Hillary Clinton**
http://www.nhelects.com/NHPrimaryArticles.asp?LinkID=117&HTitle=ArticlesTitle

Op-ed: **Trust Me On This By Joe Queenan** *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-op-queenan23dec23,1,561389.story

Blog Post: **Hey Obama -- Who Are You Calling Desperate?** *TPM*
http://tpmelectioncentral.com/2007/12/hey_obama_who_are_you_calling_desprate.php

Blog Post: **The Corrupt Clinton Foundation** *Left Coaster*
http://www.theleftcoaster.com/archives/011559.php

Blog Post: **Richardson Goes Negative, Hammers Alleged Clinton 'Flip-Flop'** *Carpetbagger Report*
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/14001.html

Blog Post: **Theories Of Change** *Talk Left*
http://www.talkleft.com/story/2007/12/21/12145/989

Blog Post: **The Matthews-Schultz Clinton Tantrum** *Taylor Marsh*
http://www.taylormarsh.com/archives_view.php?id=26719

Blog Post: **The Change Candidate?** *Ezra Klein*
http://www.prospect.org/csnc/blogs/ezraklein_archive?month=12&year=2007&base_name=the_change_candidate#103350

2008

As Primaries Begin, The FEC Will Shut Down *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/21/AR2007122102299_pf.html

Rising Foreclosures In Iowa Put Pressure On Candidates *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119829523045346665.html

Health Care Pushed To Fore By Calif. Vote *WP*
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Obama, Edwards Go Long *WSJ*
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The Mercurial Political Force: It Rises, It Scatters, It Just Goes Away *WP*
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A Request For Clemency Leads To A Political Issue For Huckabee *NYT*
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Romney, Huckabee Sharpen Barbs *LAT*
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'Facts Are Stubborn,' Romney Once Said, And He Should Know *NYT*
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Romney's Father, MLK And The Meaning Of 'Saw' *WP*

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Giuliani, On The Mend, Slows Campaign Pace *NYT*
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WP Editorial: **The McCain Prescription**
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Column: **American Pastoral By Peggy Noonan** *WSJ*
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Fliers Fed Up? Airline Employees Feel The Same *NYT*
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9/11 Panel Study Finds That C.I.A. Withheld Tapes *NYT*
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Charged Detainee Is Hijacker's Brother-In-Law *Miami Herald*
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FBI Prepares Vast Database Of Biometrics *WP*
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Structural Flaws May Ground Older F-15s Indefinitely *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/21/AR2007122102545_pf.html

Interview: **Michelle Rhee: Schoolhouse Rock** *WSJ*
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WP Editorial: **Supporting The Troops**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/21/AR2007122102006_pf.html

LAT Editorial: **Reid Retreats On Eavesdropping Bill**
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-ed-fisa22dec22,1,102591.story?coll=la-news-a_section

NYT Editorial: **The Price Of Food Safety**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/opinion/22sat2.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **Nightmare Before Christmas By Bob Herbert** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/opinion/22herbert.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Free To Die In Iowa By Michael Judge** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119828898946246417.html

Op-ed: **More Juice, Less Punch By Jonathan R. Cole And Stephen M. Stigler** *NYT*
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Political/Administration/Capitol Hill/Media

Bush's Drive Against 'Earmarks' Gains Steam *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119829504180646699.html

Bush's Chief Terrorism Adviser Is Leaving, Unscathed *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/washington/22terrorism.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Gridlocked Congress Is Good For Oil And Other Industries *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119829469704146689.html

NYT Editorial: **Information Con Game**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/opinion/22sat3.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Op-ed: **A License For Local Reporting By Roderick P. Hart, Alex S. Jones, Thomas Kunkel, Nicholas Lemann, John Levine, Dean Mills, David M. Rubin And Ernest Wilson** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/opinion/22lemann.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Iraq/Afghanistan

U.S. May Look To Send More Troops To Afghanistan *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119829443110646647.html

Poles' President OKs Plan For Iraq Troop Exit *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-fg-coalition22dec22,1,1460538.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Op-ed: **The State Of Iraq: An Update By Jason Campbell, Michael O'Hanlon And Amy Unikewicz** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/opinion/22ohanlon.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

International

U.S. Envoy Says Iran Could Revive Halted Nuclear Arms Program *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/world/middleeast/22iran.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Rice Has Sharp Words For Taiwan, As Gates Does For China *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/world/asia/22diplo.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Gates: Pakistan An Al-Qaeda Target *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/21/AR2007122102279_pf.html

Bush Names Successor As Sudan Envoy Steps Down *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/21/AR2007122101045_pf.html

LAT Editorial: **Robert Gates' Uncommon Sense**
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-gates22dec22,1,4222180.story?coll=la-news-comment

NYT Editorial: **Weakening Pakistan**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/22/opinion/22sat1.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Man Of The Year? By Garry Kasparov** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119828977548646431.html

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Lorella Praeli" <lpraeli@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/14/2015 11:37:38 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 7.14.15

National:

-- Robin Meade says HRC attacked Scott Walker in her economic agenda speech. Shows video of HRC speaking at NCLR saying that she will fight back against efforts to undermine worker bargaining power and that she will stand up for unions. Meade says HRC criticized Jeb Bush for saying Americans need to work longer hours. Says HRC came out swinging. Morning Express with Robin Meade . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Scott Walker;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,HRC attacks republicans on worker rights.mp4

-- Robin Meade says HRC went after Donald Trump in her La Raza speech for his comments on Mexican immigrants. Says Trump has been criticized for calling Mexicans rapists. Shows clip of HRC saying "Basta" to Donald Trump and to all the other Republicans, why did it take weeks for them to speak out. Meade says a few Republicans did respond including Jeb Bush and Chris Christie. Morning Express with Robin Meade . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump;Chris Christie;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,HRC condemns Republicans on immigration stance.mp4

-- Panel discusses the issue of inequality. Panelist says HRC's biggest contributors since 1999 were financial institutions such as hedge funds. Says that this is going to be one of the biggest issues of 2016 and it has been addressed by a lot of the candidates but no specific proposals have been given so far. Panelist says HRC made the point in her speech yesterday that inequality is rampant and panelist says that if you look at inflation-adjusted incomes, today 50% of America makes less than $52,000 annually which is less than the $55,000 of ten years ago. Panelist asks if we will see protestors at HRC fundraisers because she takes money from Wall Street. There's a debate about how far left HRC will go and that has everything to do with wage growth. Says HRC went after Uber yesterday. Jokes that, "tech companies kill jobs" will be one of HRC's slogans. Says there are some structural reasons that we have wage decline, although HRC will not acknowledge that. Mornings with Maria Bartiromo. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC's economic agenda.

--Shows clip of HRC saying that workers don't need a lecture, they need a raise. Host says HRC laid out her plan to fix the economy by raising the minimum wage. Says conservatives in the UK did just that. Member of the European Parliament, Daniel Hannan, is a guest on the show. Says that he understands being against raising a minimum wage, but in the case of having a wealthy country and a minimum wage already in case, you are just talking about how to tweak the system so that there are incentive for people to find work. Says many jobs have been created in the UK under this system. Fox & Friends . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Discussion of HRC economic agenda with Daniel Hanna.mp4

--Reports that HRC is using her economic speech to try to distance herself from Obama while also taking on her rivals. Says it may be difficult to distance herself from Obama. Says when they were campaigning in 2008, she was much harder on Iran than he was and now she is applauding the deal. Timothy Carney joins the show and says HRC hasn't been heavy on the policy but has been effective at laying out the problems and if the problem is rising inequality, that has persisted and gotten worse under Obama. Says all the problems from the Bush presidency are there with the Obama presidency as well so she can say that whatever Obama did that was good, he didn't solve this problem. Says she is giving the best opening for attacking Obama. A.B. Stoddard says HRC tried in her speech to sound like she was appealing to the Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders supporters by talking about the Dodd-Frank law and increasing profit sharing. Says she's not going as far as the progressive wing wants because she doesn't want to tilt too far before the general election. Carney says HRC doesn't have to fight Bernie Sanders at this point. A.B. Stoddard and Carney don't think Biden will jump into the race. Happening Now . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders,Commentary,National,Discussion of HRC campaign strategy.mp4

-- Report that Obama called HRC last night to tell her about the Iran deal. Blake Burman says she seemed to throw her support behind the deal when she addressed reporters on Capitol Hill. Shows clip of HRC saying we have to treat this as an ongoing enforcement effort and she would be devoted to this as president. Notes that she said she has concerns but it is an important step. Burman reports that Bernie Sanders said this is a victory for diplomacy over saber rattling. Varney & Company . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders,Commentary,National,HRC reaction to Iran deal.mp4

-- Report that HRC called the Iran deal an important moment and a step toward curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. Reporter says she made her remarks on the deal on Capitol Hill after addressing Democrats. Squawk Alley. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC comments on Iran Deal.mp4

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--Report that HRC issues a cautious endorsement of the Iran deal which she helped lay the groundwork for as secretary of state. Shows clip of HRC saying the deal is an important step. Andrea Mitchell Reports . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC cautiously supports Iran Deal.mp4

--Coverage of George Pataki's tweet attacking HRC. Shows tweet that says, I am saddened and shocked that in endorsing this deal @HillaryClinton has so clearly forgotten the lessons of 9/11. Cavuto: Coast to Coast . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;George Pataki,Commentary,National,Pataki attacks HRC via Twitter.mp4

-- Wolf Blitzer discusses 2016ers reactions to the Iran deal. Quotes Marco Rubio's statement that Obama has consistently negotiated from a position of weakness giving concession after concession to a regime that has American blood on its hands, holds Americans hostage, and has consistently violated every agreement it ever signed. Says HRC called this a very important moment. Shows clip of HRC saying this is an important step. Wolf . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Marco Rubio,Commentary,National,2016ers Reactions to Iran Deal.mp4

--White House correspondent Margaret Talev comments on the political importance of the Iran deal. Says for Obama it is a domestic calculation and 2016 will play a role. Says that how HRC is brought into this debate by the Republicans will be monitored very closely as the deal moves to Congress. Market Makers . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Role of Iran deal in 2016.mp4

-- Larry Sabato comments on the political implications of the Iran deal saying that all Republicans will renounce it because they know that it will be unpopular with the Republican base. Says they will use this a fuel against the Democrats in the 2016 race. Says senior Democrats HRC and Bernie Sanders will be for the deal and Republicans will be strongly against it. Says this will be a hot debate all the way through the election. Ron Brownstein says HRC differed from Obama in 2008 by being more tough and hawkish so it's not inconceivable that she might take a tougher stance. Says we could be headed towards a "repeal election." World Business Today. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary of impact of Iran Deal on 2016.mp4

-- Bret Baier comments on the likelihood of the Iran deal making it through Congress. Says the key political thing that has happened today was HRC on Capitol Hill meeting with Democrats saying to them that they should support this deal. Says that HRC is tying herself to this deal right now. Says HRC being on Capitol Hill defending the deal is important for the 2016 race. Host says everyone wanted to know what HRC's reaction would be. If she had stuck her neck out and said she needed more time to review the deal it would have sent a different message than her giving unmitigated support. Bret Baier says it has huge implication for 2016. America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC role in Iran Deal Support.mp4

-- Reporter says that the Iran deal is an executive agreement that could be altered or junked by a future president but Obama is banking on HRC succeeding him and sustaining the deal. Says even if a Republican were to beat HRC for the White House, Obama is hoping that the deal will be difficult enough to reverse that it will stay. Squawk on the Street . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Obama strategy for Iran Deal longevity.mp4

-- Jeff Zeleny says most Republicans agree that this is a bad deal, but anyone who wins the White House is going to inherit this deal. Says HRC is on Capitol Hill. Says she told a closed-door meeting of Democrats the she supports the broad concept of this deal, although she needs to review it of course. Says she helped pave the deal for the framework of this deal as Secretary of State. Zeleny says this will become an issue of the election, as foreign policy already has been, there will be a major divide between Republicans and Democrats. CNN Newsroom with Carol Costello. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Role of Iran Deal in 2016 election.mp4

-- Bill Hemmer says HRC was attending private meeting on Capitol Hill when she made remarks on the Iran Deal. Shows clip of HRC's remarks about the Iran deal. Says HRC's support will be needed as the deal is voted on. Notes that this deal will be on the forefront of the 2016 campaign. America's Newsroom w/ Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC remarks on Iran Deal.mp4

-- Report that HRC was on the Hill today and spoke about Iran. Shows clip of HRC saying that we have to make the deal an ongoing enforcement effort. Gretchen Carlson says HRC is tying herself to the deal. Bret Baier says HRC was behind the deal 100% privately. Says this is significant in 2016 because there are large pockets of people who have concern with this deal. Says Republicans are going to point to this as a marker that HRC would be like a third term of Obama. The Real Story with Gretchen Carlson . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC expresses support for Iran Deal.mp4

-- Jeff Zeleny comments on HRC's change in opinion on Iran talks. Says in 2007 HRC called it frankly naïve to think that negotiating with Iran would be possible. Says so much has changed since then and HRC was Obama's Secretary of State, helping lay the groundwork for this deal. Says HRC got a briefing last night from Obama on the deal and then was briefed today. HRC spoke positively about it as she spoke to Democrats on Capitol Hill. Shows clip of HRC saying the deal is an important step that will enable us to turn our attention to doing what we can with other partner to try to prevent Iran's other bad actions. Zeleny says so many Republican candidates are criticizing the deal. Says there will be an intense debate over the next 60 days on this issue. Says alternatives are difficult to hammer down because people are still reading the deal. CNN Newsroom with Brooke

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Baldwin. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on Iran Deal Debate.mp4

--Reports that HRC was on the Hill today to meet with Democrats as well as a private meeting with Nancy Pelosi. Says she gave a tentative endorsement of the Iranian deal. Shows clip of HRC saying the deal is an important step. Says HRC was primarily on the Hill to pitch her own campaign and get support from those she deems necessary to her success, but she was also doing some sales of this deal to Democrats. Kristen Welker weighs in and says HRC's role is vital in convincing House Democrats to support the deal. Says HRC did not give a full throated backing but instead said it was an important step forward. Says she was briefed by several important people in the administration. Shows exchange between HRC and Kristen Welker in which Welker asks for takeaways from briefing and HRC replies that it was an excellent briefing. Comments on the fact that HRC just kept walking and smiling and would not respond to questions. Notes that advisors say she is still reviewing the deal. MSNBC Live with Thomas Roberts . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC reacts to Iran Deal.mp4

-- Reporter says the next president will have to deal with the Iran deal. Shows clip of HRC saying the deal is an important moment and saying she applauds the administration for their efforts. Reporter says Republicans all criticized the deal. Countdown to the Closing Bell with Liz Claman . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Report of HRC supporting Iran Deal.mp4

--Report presidential candidates weighing in on Iran deal. Quotes HRC as saying, "this is an important step in putting a lid on Iran's nuclear program…this agreement will need to be enforced vigorously, relentlessly." Also discusses the negative reactions of Jeb Bush, Donald Trump, Scott Walker, and Marco Rubio. Shepard Smith Reporting. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush;Marco Rubio;Donald Trump;Scott Walker,Commentary,National,Iran Deal reactions from 2016 candidates.mp4

--Report that HRC visited the Hill to meet with Senate democrats and gave a minute to the press to talk about the Iran deal. Shows clip of HRC saying this deal would need rigorous enforcement and we still have a lot of concern about the bad behavior and actions by Iran. Mark Halperin says HRC is doing exactly what she should with this deal and he doesn't think she's going to take any hits for it. He says you can tell she understands the issue. Host says a lot of this deal comes down to the next president and HRC is known for being more hawkish than Obama on Iran. Halperin says it's good for her because she can say this while still supporting the deal. Says she has a lot of coverage not only from senate democrats like Chuck Schumer but also people around the country. With All Due Respect. 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Mark Halperin comments on HRC and Iran.mp4

--New poll shows Donald Trump at the top of the Republican field with 17%, ahead of Jeb Bush. Alex Wagner reads Donald Trump quote saying that he is honored that HRC is attacking him rather than Jeb Bush. Shows clip of Trump in 2012 saying HRC is a terrific woman and he likes her and WJC a lot and he thinks she does a good job. Panel says now that Trump is running for president, he has changed his stance. Says that they also disagree on issues. Panel notes that HRC cannot seem to come out and state a point of view so it's hard to compare and contrast her with the Republicans. Alex Wagner says HRC is trying to appeal to progressives, but there is still a lot of skepticism about ability to deliver big ticket items. Brittney Cooper says there isn't a whole lot of belief in HRC on the progressive left and it's very clear that HRC is a centrist candidate. Says she is being pulled to the left by the mass incarceration speech that the president is going to give. Cooper says she hopes this will give HRC an excuse to move to the left. Wagner says in a way it's Obama's policy legacy that is moving HRC left more than Bernie or Warren. Panelist notes that in 2008 HRC said the capital gains tax shouldn't be higher than 20. NOW with Alex Wagner . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC as a progressive candidate.mp4

Spanish:

-- Report on Scott Walker joining race and on HRC's economic framing speech and attack on Republicans. Began with coverage of Walker joining the race -- "another one on the list" -- and how, even before officially declaring, he was second in polls behind the front runner Jeb Bush. Then it said that HRC was one of the first to criticize Walker, "accusing him of making his political career at the expense of workers and their labor rights" and saying that he would limit unions' negotiation powers at a national level, as he did in Wisconsin. In her speech, Clinton said that we must protect unions and workers' rights. She also criticized Jeb Bush, who also defended companies that she accused of hurting workers. Al Despertar, Univision . 2015 07 14 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Commentary, National, Al Despertar (Unv) HRC Econ Framing, GOP Attacks 1.

-- Report on Jeb Bush using Uber and HRC attacking Bush in speech. Says that Bush will be in San Francisco on Thursday and will hail an Uber to support innovative companies. Then says that Clinton "immediately" attacked that in her economic framing speech, saying that while many such companies have brought important innovation and development, many don't protect workers as they should. Says that she used the example of Uber and how it treats its workers. Al Despertar, Univision . 2015 07 14 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Clips, National, Al Despertar

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(Unv) HRC Bush Attacks Uber

States:

Nevada:

--Report on Harry Reid endorsing HRC: Reporters claim that Reid has been indicating his support for HRC. KRNV(NBC)'s News 4 Today, Reno (NV). 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Reid endorse.mp4

--Report on HRC and Harry Reid: Reid has claimed that he is a HRC fan, but he will officially endorse someone later on. KVVU-LV(FOX)'s FOX5 News This Morning, Las Vegas (NV) . 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Reid endorses HRC.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC and Bush: Reporters claim that HRC criticized Bush on his comments regarding Americans' need to work longer hours. Bush claims that HRC's claims on his comments were false. Bush claims that HRC would be a third term of Obama, and that America needs to strive for more economic growth. WHO-DM(NBC)'s Des Moines (IA), Today in Iowa at 6. 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Bush attacks economy jobs.mp4

--Report on Jeb Bush attacking HRC: Reporters show a clip of Bush claiming that HRC does not care that many workers who work part time want to work full time. Bush claims that HRC just wants to create another government program to solve this issue. KTIV(NBC)'s News 4 Today, Sioux City (IA). 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton; Jeb Bush, Clips, National, HRC Bush attack workers.mp4

--Report on HRC and Nuclear Deal: HRC calls this deal an important step in foreign policy. Reporters claim that enforcement is what HRC calls the key to ensuring the success of this deal. KTIV(NBC)'s News 4 at Noon , Sioux City (IA). 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC nuclear enforcement.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC finances: HRC will make a list of her campaign's biggest fundraisers, a promise that no other candidate has made yet, according to reporters. HRC has claimed that she wants to reduce the influence of money on elections. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s WTOC News at Daybreak 6:30 am , Savannah (GA). Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC election fundraising.mp4

--Report on HRC's economic speech: HRC is starting to lay out her economic agenda. She spoke about her vision to increase wages for workers. HRC promised to offer tax incentives to allow workers and businesses to grow together. WMBC(NBC)'s WMBF News Today at 6:30 am , Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC economic agenda.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC in New Hampshire: Reporters claim that HRC will expand on her economic speech. HRC will be returning to New Hampshire on Thursday; the trip will be her fifth trip to the state after announcing her presidential bid. WCVB-BOS(ABC)'s Newscenter 5 at Five, Boston (MA). 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC New Hampshire.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Sanders in Boston: Boston for Bernie Sanders is organizing a rally for Bernie Sanders. New England Cable News' NECN Today, Boston (MA).2015.07.14., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders Boston.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders in Missouri: Sanders spoke to 1,000 members from the largest Hispanic organization

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in Kansas City. He used Donald Trump as an example to criticize the fact that Republicans will divide America based on race and country of origin. Sanders stated that he believes there should be a responsible path to citizenship. KWQC-DAV(NBC)'s KWQC Today at 5 am , Davenport (IA). 2015.07.14., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders attacks Trump immigration.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders in Missouri: Report on Bernie Sanders in Missouri: Sanders spoke to 1,000 members from the largest Hispanic organization in Kansas City. He used Donald Trump as an example to criticize the fact that Republicans will divide America based on race and country of origin. Sanders stated that he believes there should be a responsible path to citizenship. KLAS-LV(CBS)'s 8 News Now at 5 pm , Las Vegas (NV). 2015.07.14., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders Trump attack.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and HRC battle: HRC will not acknowledge Sanders unless she agrees with him on certain issues. Reporters claim that if HRC were to give Sanders attention, it would give him more coverage, and she would lose some of her footing in the election. FOX News' Happening Now .2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders HRC coverage.mp4

--Report on Sanders and his way of speaking: Reporters claim that Sanders is so blunt and decisive because he is only thinking of a primary for right now. HRC is not speaking similarly because she is thinking of the general election. MSNBC's The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell. 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC Sanders speaking.mp4

--Report on Trump attacking Sanders: Donald Trump claims that his crowds are much larger than Sanders. Rachel Maddow claims that Sanders crowds, are in fact, bigger. MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show. 2015.07.14., Donald Trump; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders Trump Rachel.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders paying interns: Bernie Sanders is paying his interns $10.10. In comparison to HRC's campaign, Sanders needs money for paying for what he promises, according to reporters. MSNBC's The Cycle. 2015.07.14., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders interns.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM lashing out at Donald Trump: MOM commented on Trump's immigration comments, and criticized Trump on his views on immigration and undocumented immigrants. CNN's CNN Newsroom Live. 2015.07.14., Martin O'Malley; Donald Trump, Clips, National, Trump comments MOM lashes out.mp4

--Report on MOM in Iowa: MOM will be in Iowa on Thursday and Friday. This will be his fifth stop in Iowa after launching his campaign. WQAD-DAV(ABC)'s WQAD News 8 at 5, Davenport (IA). 2015.07.14., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM campaign launch.mp4

--MOM on Trump: MOM did not have any kind words for Trump or any Republican candidates. MOM touted his own accomplishments and his immigration reform. WMBC(NBC)'s WMBF news Today at 6:30 am , Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.07.14., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM on Trump and Republicans.mp4

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/18/2008 1:45:31 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/18

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 18th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9am McCain: Employee Town Hall in Warren, MI
- Tracking scheduled for this event
11:55am BUSH: Attends a private fundraising event in Tucson, Arizona

5:05 pm BUSH: Attends a private fundraising event in Houston, Texas

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain focuses on Michigan again (Detroit News 7/18/08)
By Gary Heinlein
John McCain's presidential campaign got a shot in the arm -- reportedly $1.4 million -- at a fundraiser Thursday in the sprawling Lake Michigan home of Republican activist and former Ambassador to Italy Peter Secchia. The candidate, who will host a town hall meeting in Warren today, jetted into Muskegon on his "Straight Talk Air" 747 late Thursday afternoon to meet with supporters and contributors such as Mike Novakoski, chief officer of a Holland-area construction company.
http://detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080718/METRO/807180378

McCain Discusses GM's Situation (WSJ 7/18/08)
By Sharon Terlep
Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Thursday he doesn't believe General Motors Corp. needs a federal government bailout, but if conditions worsen enough for the auto maker, all options need to be considered.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121633808872963853.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

A Mixed Take by McCain Camp on Obama's Trip to War Zones (NYT 7/18/08)
By LARRY ROHTER
For months, Senator John McCain and other Republicans have been criticizing Senator Barack Obama for not having visited Iraq in a long time, even running a daily tally that is now well past 900 days. But now that Mr. Obama is about to travel there and elsewhere in the region, Republicans seem unable to decide whether that is worthy of praise or an opportunity for payback for Mr. Obama's unrelenting criticism of their own policy.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/us/politics/18mccain.html

Obama's Trip Causes Discord in McCain Camp (WSJ blog 7/17/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes and Laura Meckler
As Sen. Barack Obama prepares to visit Iraq to survey the situation on the ground, the McCain campaign is engaging in an internal war—of words, that is. After months of calling for the Democratic candidate to visit Iraq John McCain now has to deal with the massive amount of attention Obama is receiving by going.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/17/obamas-trip-causes-discord-in-mccain-camp/
See WaPo blog's "McCain Softens Spokeswoman's Take on Obama Trip": http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/17/mccain_softens_spokeswomans_ta.html

Americans' Faith in Afghan War Fades (ABC 7/18/08)
By EMILY FRIEDMAN
The Pentagon and presidential rivals Barack Obama and John McCain all seem to agree on the need to send more troops to Afghanistan, but they are at odds with much of the country these days on the need to send more Americans into the lawless Afghan mountains.

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http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=5397008&page=1

McCain to focus on domestic issues in swing state sweep (USA Today 7/17/08)
By David Jackson
As Barack Obama travels abroad, John McCain will visit battleground states. The presumed Republican presidential nominee is lining up trips next week to Colorado, New Hampshire, Ohio and Pennsylvania to emphasize jobs, energy and health care while Obama is in the Middle East and Europe.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-17-McCain_N.htm

McCain Camp Releases Video Criticizing Obama on Iraq (CBS blog 7/17/08)
By Michelle Levi:
John McCain's campaign launched what they're calling a "documentary" video today, which features soundbites of Barack Obama offering seemingly contradictary positions on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/07/17/politics/fromtheroad/entry4270282.shtml
See HuffPo's "McCain's Eight Minute Ad: An Anti-Obama Iraq "Documentary": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/17/mccains-eight-minute-ad-a_n_113440.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHEli4XKRmM
Link to Obama Camp Response to Washington GOP Attack: http://thepage.time.com/obama-camp-response-to-washington-gop-attack/

McCain Campaign Blasts Obama Trip as Overseas 'Rally' (FOX News 7/17/08)
by Judson Berger
When Barack Obama embarks on his upcoming trip to Iraq and Afghanistan he will do so as part of a congressional delegation. But top aides for John McCain are casting his voyage as little more than the Obama world tour.
http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/07/17/mccain-campaign-blasts-obama-trip-as-overseas-rally/

McCain says he's glad Obama going to Iraq, sort of (AP 7/17/08)
John McCain's presidential campaign had a hard time Thursday with Barack Obama's upcoming overseas trip.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hOGOj62EWD1HAGNUx5mDMxsY7EGQD9200HOG0

McCain and Obama on Afghanistan (TIME 7/17/08)
John McCain: Time for an Afghan Surge
The status quo in Afghanistan is not acceptable. Security has deteriorated, and our enemies are on the offensive. From the moment the next President walks into the Oval Office, he will face critical decisions about Afghanistan.
http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1823945,00.html
See TIME'S "The Service Agenda": http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1823951,00.html

Hearing-Gate Exposed! McCain Has Worse Afghanistan Hearing Record Than Obama (ABC News blog 7/17/08)
By Z. Byron Wolf
... It turns out that presumptive Republican nominee Sen. John McCain has attended even fewer Afghanistan-related Senate hearings over the past two years than Obama's one. Which is a nice way of saying, McCain, R-Ariz., the top Republican on the Senate Armed Service Committee, has attended zero of his committee's six hearings on Afghanistan over the last two years.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/07/hearing-gate-ex.html

McCain's humor often backfires (Politico 6/18/08)
By: Ben Smith
Ever hear that joke about waterboarding? How about the one about killing Iranians? And why is Chelsea Clinton so ugly? ... As he campaigns through the densest media thicket in American history, it's become clear that McCain hasn't acquired the layer of polish that produced, for instance, Ronald Reagan's gentle, oft-repeated jokes and Bill Clinton's colorful, folksy yarns.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11823.html

McCain renews call for gas-tax holiday at Union Station campaign stop (The Kansas City Star 7/18/08)
By DAVE HELLING and SCOTT CANON
Sen. John McCain on Thursday renewed his call for a "brief" gas tax holiday — and quickly ran into a political fender-bender with his new Missouri campaign chairman, Sen. Kit Bond. The Republican told an estimated 1,200 people at Union Station that suspending the federal tax on gasoline and diesel fuel would help put millions of dollars into the hands of businesses and lower-income Americans.

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http://www.kansascity.com/703/story/710218.html
Link to video: http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics/elections/story/709046.html

Helling One on One with McCain [interview] (Kansas City Star 7/17/08)
The Kansas City Star's Dave Helling sat down with John McCain for a one-on-one interview following the candidate's town hall meeting Thursday at Union Station in Kansas City.
http://videos.kansascity.com/vmix_hosted_apps/p/media?id=2006202&item_index=&genre_id=00000839

McCain calls Obama health care plan 'HillaryCare' (CNN 7/17/08)
By Peter Hamby
KANSAS CITY, Missouri– John McCain devoted a substantial chunk of his town hall meeting Thursday to drawing contrasts with Barack Obama on health care policy, stressing his opposition to the presumptive Democratic nominee's health care plan and noting the "great difference" between them on abortion.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/17/mccain-calls-obama-health-care-plan-hillarycare/

McCain declares self the underdog in Missouri (AP 7/17/08)
Although Missouri has gone red in the past two presidential elections, Republican presidential candidate John McCain cast himself as the underdog here to Democrat Barack Obama as he made his second stop in the state this week.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-17-mccain-missouri_N.htm

Yes We Can? Not So Fast, Says McCain (Washington Post blog 7/17/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- In case the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee is casting about for a new slogan, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) has a suggestion for him: "No, we can't."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/17/yes_we_can_not_so_fast_says_mc.html

McCain In 2003: We Can 'Muddle Through In Afghanistan' (ThinkProgress 7/17/08)
By Jon Soltz
Today, video was unearthed in which Senator John McCain in 2003 says we can just "muddle through in Afghanistan." ...The video offers a glimpse into the true thinking of those, like McCain, who backed launching the war in Iraq and committing our forces there indefinitely. Particularly, they believed that Afghanistan wasn't a concern and we didn't need to take it seriously. In fact, just a year earlier, on CBS' Face the Nation, McCain said capturing Osama bin Laden wasn't "that important."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/17/mccain-03-afghanistan/
Link to video: http://youtube.com/watch?v=Wazv45RYj60

McCain gets Social Security but criticizes system (AP 7/17/08)
By DAVID A. LIEB
Although Republican presidential candidate John McCain has called Social Security "a disgrace," he still cashes his own retirement check every month.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gwHGMYappR5eiPj4JoZ8L-7YUacAD91VPP78E

McCain hasn't ignited evangelicals' passions (AP 7/17/08)
Still they support the GOP candidate over Obama by 62 to 18 percent
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25721565/

The secret hidden within John McCain's campaign schedule (LA Times blog 7/18/08)
By Andrew Malcolm
Just 3 1/2 months out from the presidential election, McCain's national campaign schedule is being driven by the quest for money, not by the hunt for votes.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/07/mccain-money.html

McCain: Obama Is An Extremist, "I Don't Know" If He's A Socialist (TPM 7/17/08)
By Eric Kleefeld
John McCain appears to be upping the ante in his efforts to paint Barack Obama as out of touch with America: He now says Obama is so extreme, he's not ruling out Obama being a socialist.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccain_obama_is_an_extremist_i.php

Pfotenhauer: 'I Was Misinformed' About Hurricane Oil Spills (ThinkProgress 7/17/08)
Today on MSNBC, David Schuster challenged Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) policy adviser Nancy Pfotenhauer's claim that "we withstood hurricanes Rita and Katrina and did not spill a drop" of oil.

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http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/17/pfotenhauer-misinformed-oil-spill/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Going jaw to jaw with our enemies (Boston Globe 7/18/08)
By Ted Sorensen
SENATOR JOHN McCain has apparently decided to focus not on the sagging economy under the disastrous Bush economic and fiscal policies, which McCain would continue, but on Senator Barack Obama's willingness to communicate with hostile foreign leaders, such as those in Iran, North Korea, and Syria.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/18/going_jaw_to_jaw_with_our_enemies/

Telling moments, or trivial pursuits? (USA Today 7/18/08)
Eight seconds of dead air is an eternity on TV, so when Republican presidential candidate John McCain struggled that long to answer a reporter who had just asked whether it's fair that some health insurance plans cover Viagra for men but not birth control medication for women, it drew plenty of attention. It even spawned an attack ad from Planned Parenthood.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/telling-moments.html#more

Would McCain's health proposal get the job done? (Chicago Tribune 7/17/08)
By Gary L. Miller
Will the next president lead the way to affordable, high quality health care for all Americans? If John McCain gets the job, the answer is "no" and Republicans should be outraged that their candidate has not developed a more creative solution true to conservative ideals.
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/letters/chi-080717mccain_briefs,0,801692.story

The Coming Activist Age (NYT 7/18/08)
By DAVID BROOKS
We're entering an era of epic legislation. There are at least five large problems that will compel the federal government to act in gigantic ways over the next few years.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/opinion/18brooks.html

BUSH NEWS

Pelosi calls Bush a 'total failure' (CNN blog 7/17/08)
By Alexander Mooney
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday called President Bush "a total failure" — among the California Democrat's harshest assessments to date of the Commander-In-Chief.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/17/pelosi-calls-bush-a-total-failure/
Link to excerpts: http://thepage.time.com/transcript-of-pelosi-interview-on-cnn/

A Seat at the Table (NYT 7/18/08)
We welcome the news that President Bush has decided to send one of his top diplomats to talks on Iran's nuclear program. That is quite a change from just a few months ago when Mr. Bush denounced as appeasement any effort to talk to "terrorists and radicals."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/opinion/18fri1.html?ref=opinion

It's official: Bush sewage plant on the ballot (LA Times blog 7/17/08)
By James Gerstenzang
Will this plant be getting a new name? Will the honoree show up for the renaming ceremony? ... But now comes something that just might tempt President Bush: A ballot measure was certified today to name a major piece of San Francisco infrastructure after the president. That means voters will decide in November whether to rename the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant the George W. Bush Sewage Plant.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/presidentbush/2008/07/its-official-bu.html

Rove: 'This Administration Put More Into Alternative Energy Research Than Any Administration in History' (ThinkProgress 7/17/08)
Last night on The O'Reilly Factor, Karl Rove attempted to defend the Bush administration's energy record by falsely claiming that it had spent more on alternative energy research than "any administration in history":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/17/bush-cuts-alt-energy/

Ashcroft: I was not pushed out, my departure was 'voluntary.' (ThinkProgress 7/17/08)
Earlier this week, the Dallas Morning News released an interview with former U.S. Attorney David Iglesias, who stated that former Attorney General John Ashcroft was "pushed out" of the Bush Administration because he

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"refused to sign off on the warrantless wiretaps." Iglesias said that "had Ashcroft done the wrong thing, the unconstitutional thing, and signed off on it, he'd probably still be the AG." During a hearing today before the House Judiciary Committee, Ashcroft denied Iglesias' account
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/17/ashcroft-i-was-not-pushed-out-my-depature-was-voluntary/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Iran-linked attacks subside in Iraq (USA TODAY 7/18/08)
By Jim Michaels
The number of deadly armor-piercing roadside bombs, which the U.S. government has linked to Iran, has dropped by nearly 70% in the past three months, the U.S. military says.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2008-07-17-efp_N.htm

Electrical Risks at Bases in Iraq Worse Than Previously Said (NYT 7/18/08)
By JAMES RISEN
Shoddy electrical work by private contractors on United States military bases in Iraq is widespread and dangerous, causing more deaths and injuries from fires and shocks than the Pentagon has acknowledged, according to internal Army documents.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/world/middleeast/18contractors.html?hp

Mortgage Giant Freddie Mac Considers Major Stock Sale (WSJ 7/18/08)
By JAMES R. HAGERTY, MONICA LANGLEY and SUSAN PULLIAM; Page A1
Issue of Up to $10 Billion Would Aim to Stave Off Rescue Plan
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121634565697564389.html?mod=hpp_us_whats_news

Judge allows Hamdan military trial to go forward (Christian Science Monitor 7/18/08)
By Warren Richey
It's a win for the Bush administration, which insists that Guantánamo proceedings are necessary to fight the war on terror.
http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0718/p02s05-usju.html

Gore seeks 100%green energy (Financial Times 7/18/08)
By Fiona Harvey
The US should aim to generate all of its electricity from zero-carbon energy sources within a decade, Al Gore, the former vice-president, urged on Thursday.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e59b5fa-5454-11dd-aa78-000077b07658.html

A Cast of 300 Advises Obama on Foreign Policy (NYT 7/18/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Every day around 8 a.m., foreign policy aides at Senator Barack Obama's Chicago campaign headquarters send him two e-mails: a briefing on major world developments over the previous 24 hours and a set of questions, accompanied by suggested answers, that the candidate is likely to be asked about international relations during the day.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/us/politics/18advisers.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

Obama's First Step on World Stage (TIME 7/18/08)
By DAVID ESPO
Sen. Barack Obama's trip to the Middle East and Europe marks his first high-profile step onto the international stage, a campaign-season audition of sorts for a presidential hopeful pledging a new era in diplomacy and an end to the U.S. combat role in Iraq.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1824169,00.html

In Iraq, Mixed Feelings About Obama and His Troop Proposal (NYT 7/17/08)
By SABRINA TAVERNISE and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
...his support for troop withdrawal cuts both ways, reflecting a deep internal quandary in Iraq: for many middle-class Iraqis, affection for Mr. Obama is tempered by worry that his proposal could lead to chaos in a nation already devastated by war. Many Iraqis also acknowledge that security gains in recent months were achieved partly by the buildup of American troops, which Mr. Obama opposed and his presumptive Republican opponent, Senator John McCain, supported.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/world/middleeast/17voices.html?ref=politics

Obama Raises $52 Million in June, Keeping Campaign on Pace to Its Goal (NYT 7/18/08)
By JEFF ZELENY

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Senator Barack Obama's campaign said Thursday that it collected $52 million in June, the second-best fund-raising month of the year, through an aggressive mix of small and large contributions that produced more than twice the amount raised by Senator John McCain.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/us/politics/18donate.html

Troubles May Diminish Fannie And Freddie's Lobbying Clout (WSJ 7/18/08)
By Elizabeth Williamson
The financial troubles of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could diminish their legendary influence on Washington decision making as lawmakers prepare to put a tighter leash on the two mortgage giants.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121632903090863321.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Terrorism Funds May Let Brass Fly in Style (Washington Post 7/18/08)
By R. Jeffrey Smith; A01
The Air Force's top leadership sought for three years to spend counterterrorism funds on "comfort capsules" to be installed on military planes that ferry senior officers and civilian leaders around the world, with at least four top generals involved in design details such as the color of the capsules' carpet and leather chairs, according to internal e-mails and budget documents.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/17/AR2008071703161.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/5/2015 7:15:04 AM
Subject: Upcoming Events: Maduro ’s Venezuela, Aircraft Carrier Report Release, and more

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 2:57:01 PM
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

If you have a second call me. 203-999-0738

On Apr 23, 2015 9:43 PM, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder <David@db-research.com > wrote:

One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:

Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
To: John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

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Stories for tomorrow:

- Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
- New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
- ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
- Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
- WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
- Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
- Bloomberg- Laureate
- NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed

Story Lines:

1. Nervous Dems
2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/15/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: Digital Privacy | Russia in Syria | Political Change in China

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Our Organization | Our Work | Our Events | Our Experts | Support GMF

GMF's World Wire

December 16, 2015

Transatlantic Talk with FTC Commissioner Julie Brill on Privacy and Security in a Digital Age

On December 8, GMF hosted Commissioner Julie Brill from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for a Transatlantic Talk in Berlin. Cherno Jobatey, editorial director of *Huffington Post Germany* and *ZDF* host, moderated the discussion focused on digital privacy and security including the recent "Safe Harbor" ruling.

WATCH NOW

Putin's Power Play in Syria

Angela Stent
Russia's military intervention in Syria demonstrates that it intends to be accepted as a global actor and play a part in every major international decision. | *Foreign Affairs*

READ MORE

Addressing the Russian Energy Challenge

Andreas Goldthau
Instead of looking to replace Russian energy in Europe, the EU needs to use its regulatory power to turn the tables with its major supplier.

READ MORE

Tweet of the Week

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@Hromadske :
What does new NATO member #Montenegro mean for the alliance? @Bruno_Lete of @gmfus explains http://en.hromadske.tv

RETWEET

Drivers and Scenarios of Transition to Democracy in China by 2030

GMF Non-Resident Senior Fellow Minxin Pei discusses his pioneering research on the likelihood and possible implications of political change in China.

LISTEN NOW

Call for Applications - Brussels Forum's Young Professionals Summit

GMF is proud to announce that applications for the Brussels Forum's Young Professionals Summit (YPS) are now open. YPS will take place March 17-20, 2016, in Brussels.

APPLY NOW

Policy Leadership Civil Society

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Recent & Upcoming Events

Our Experts
Find an Expert

Manage preferences | Forward email | Unsubscribe | Subscribe

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org> "Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org> "Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	1/14/2013 7:11:18 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 1.14.13.docx

Hannah,
I have attached and pasted below President Clinton's latest biweekly report.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
January 14, 2013

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation will be partnering with the First Lady's office on a national physical activity initiative. This will be announced in late February.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

The PGA Tour has pledged to support a Clinton Health Matters Initiative community initiative in the Greater Jacksonville area.

The Clinton Health Matters Initiative is in conversations with the Riady family about supporting community initiatives in two small communities in Indonesia.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

CEO is in preliminary discussions with *Inc.* magazine about the possibility of integrating CEO's Entrepreneur Mentoring Program with the Inc. Business Owners Council (the Council), a membership organization made up of top *Inc. 5000* entrepreneurs and family business owners. The Council, which currently has local presence in the NYC, Philadelphia, and San Francisco areas, holds monthly meetings for its membership that feature expert presenters from the pages of Inc. magazine, and facilitates peer-to-peer development to support business growth and wealth-creation amongst business owners. Current discussions between Inc. and CEO are focused around the feasibility of creating an enhanced EMP program that would provide high-growth entrepreneurs from underserved populations with a Mentor from the Council membership, as well as access to key Council privileges including workshops with guest speakers, special events, and access to exclusive networking opportunities.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

While in Malawi, Walker Morris escorted Jens Johannson from U&We, largest seller of Plan Vivo in Sweden, to meet with Trees of Hope project farmers, local program monitors and CDI Lead Farmers.

CDI is finalizing the steps needed to be ready to distribute initial carbon credit sale funds to smallholder farmers in Trees of Hope. CDI is working with the local bank FMB to set up accounts for each of the farmers receiving funds. FMB has offices in the rural areas CDI serves and also provides banking services at local locations of two farm supply stores, so that project farmers will have readily available access to deposit and withdraw funds.

Rains came late this year but have generally been good. The Santhe area, where CDI operates three commercial farms, had a two week spell of no rains in late December/early January which was causing concern, but they recently experienced good rains.

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Rwanda

The Mt. Meru Soyco factory is still progressing according to the timeframe. Two forty-foot containers with additional construction materials have reached the site. The CEO for the project is expected to be back on the site early this week.

Regarding the AGRA project, all crops are maturing on the field. By the end of the month, the CHDI team hopes to do field days, which involve mobilizing a large number of farmers to demonstrate to them where some technologies have been successful.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Colombia

The Acceso Fund Investment Committee approved a $500,000 investment in the Acceso Training Center in Cartagena which will train 20,000 Cartagena residents over the next 10 years. Two Colombia based investors will also participate in financing an additional $500,000 for the Center. Training will initially be for the hospitality industry with other sectors such as ports and logistics being added in the future. This center will provide meaningful opportunities for the low income citizenry to participate in the growing hospitality market in Cartagena. The Training Center will be located in the Manga area of Cartagena and is expected to open next month.

Clinton Global Initiative

Office Relocation

On Monday, January 14, the CGI office relocated to 30,000 square feet in The Time-Life Building (1271 Avenue of the Americas).

CGI University

January 30, 2013 is the final application deadline for CGI University, which will take place at Washington University in St. Louis from April 5-7, 2013. We currently have 2,025 applications from students.

The American Association of University Women has become a sponsor, committing a total of $300,000 over two years. Sponsorship commitments for CGI U now total $950,000.

The Resolution Project will host a social venture competition at CGI U and will provide $100,000 in commitment funding to the winners.

Press Highlights

CGI member and founder of New Incentives, Svetha Janumpalli, was featured in the Forbes article “30 Under 30: Social Entrepreneurs.”

Commitments

In 2012, CGI members made 167 commitments with a total estimated value of more than $2.4 billion.

Below is the breakdown of the 2012 Annual Meeting Commitments by Track.

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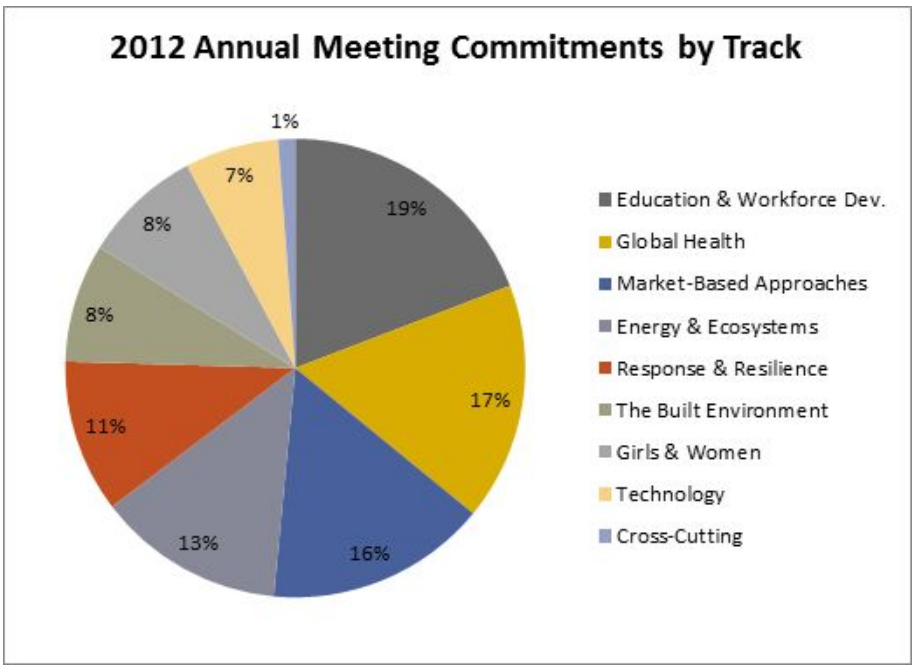

As the chart below shows, Africa was the most popular region for commitments, with 76 commitments including Africa in their scope of work.

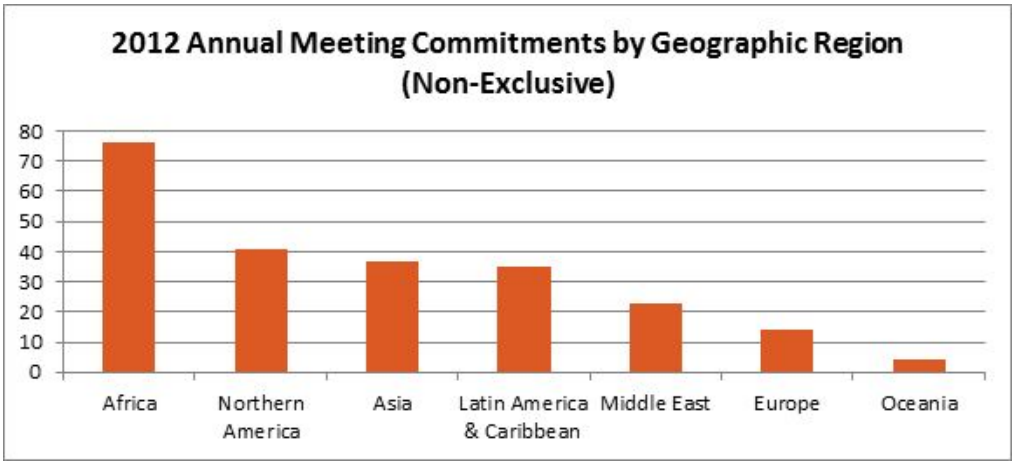

January Convenings

Sustainable Agricultural Training for Rural Farmers: 1/16/2013
Driving Internet Adoption: The Importance of Locally Relevant Content: 1/16/2013
Talking Trash: Finding Solutions to the Growing Problem of Marine Debris: 1/24/2013
Girls, Women, & Technology Commitment Opportunity: Women Leading Women in Information and Communication Technologies: 1/29/2013
Transitioning to Healthier, More Sustainable Oils: 1/30/2013

Recent Developments

UN Women and the U. S. Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues held a two-day international working forum on Women, ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), and Development in Washington D.C. on January 10 and 11. They credited CGI with planting the seed for this conference.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
Associate Counsel & Initiative Liaison | William J. Clinton Foundation
77 Water Street, New York, NY 10005
Direct: 917.720.0295 | Mobile: 646.873.0244
zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org | www.clintonfoundation.org

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/9/2015 10:49:01 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Hey Jude

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for November 10th

Skimm'd over sushi and football .

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"An all-new Orca experience" – SeaWorld's CEO. Yesterday, he said the company is ending killer whale shows in San Diego and putting the animals in a more "natural" setting. This is his way of saying he hopes people forget about "Blackfish."

SKIMM THIS

THINGS IN THE PENALTY BOX

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

THE STORY

Yesterday, a job opened up at the University of Missouri.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The school's president stepped down. And the chancellor got demoted. That's because over the past few months, racial tension on campus has been high. Think: racial slurs and a swastika symbol being smeared in poop in a dorm. Recently, students have been calling on the president to resign, saying he didn't do enough to handle the incidents. Last week, a student went on a hunger strike in protest. But the tipping point happened over the weekend, when dozens of football players said they would boycott the sport until the president resigned. It worked. Yesterday, the president said he takes "full responsibility for the inaction," and the chancellor will "transition" into another job.

theSKIMM

A lot of people are thinking it's no coincidence that the resignation comes just after the football team's boycott. Forfeiting this weekend's game could have cost the school $1 million . Translation: money talks.

SKIMM THIS

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RUSSIA

THE STORY

Yesterday, Russia was accused of being really, really good at cheating .

WHAT HAPPENED?

An international anti-doping commission reported that there's a "deeply rooted culture of cheating" in Russian sports. Examples? A lot of its athletes — especially in track and field — are allegedly doping, and officials were reportedly bribed and intimidated to look the other way. Meanwhile, the government has been accused of destroying drug test samples before an inspection. The report says the cheating is so bad that Russian athletes should sit out track and field competitions at next year's Olympics in Brazil.

theSKIMM

A lot of people are getting bad deja vu, saying this reminds them of Soviet times when cheating among athletes was a big problem. But Russian officials are saying 'nyet true.' They have until the end of the week to respond to the allegations.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR FRIEND ASKS IF YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT JEB BUSH'S BABY HITLER COMMENT ...

Hell yeah! Tonight is GOP fight night on Fox Business at 9pm ET. Fox has wasted zero time reminding everyone just how badly its rival network CNBC was thought to have screwed up the last debate. Fox promises a "real debate" this time. Nice. Meanwhile, frontrunner Ben Carson has some explaining to do. He's been re-memorizing his resume ever since it came out last week that he never got a scholarship to West Point ...although Carson said he did in his memoir. Details, details. Who won't be there? Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ) and former Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-AK), who didn't poll high enough to make the cut. They'll be at the kids table debate. PS – drink when you hear these terms .

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FRIEND WHO KEEPS GETTING SPEEDING TICKETS IN THE MAIL...

It could be worse. Yesterday, Rolling Stone got hit with yet another lawsuit in a string of lawsuits related to last year's campus rape article. Refresher: last November, everybody read the magazine's story detailing an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia's Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Rolling Stone later retracted the story. Earlier this year, a UVA associate dean named in the article sued the magazine, saying it made her out to be the "chief villain." Then, three fraternity members sued the magazine. Now, the UVA chapter of Phi Kappa Psi is suing Rolling Stone for $25 million, saying the story did major damage to its members' reputations.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU GET DEJA VU...

Myanmar can relate. Earlier this week, the country had what's being called its freest election in decades . The results are still coming in, but it's looking like the pro-democracy party led by Aung San Suu Kyi is headed for a big W. Her party won the last time the country had free elections in the 90s. But it turned out the military – which had been in power for a long, long time – wasn't quite ready to give up control just yet. Cue Suu Kyi spending a lot of time under house arrest. And becoming a Nobel Peace laureate and pro-democracy symbol around the world. Fast forward to today, and it looks like the country still wants her party in charge. Now, everybody's holding their breath to see if the military is finally ready to sing a few rounds of "Let It Go," and step outta the way.

SKIMM THIS

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN THAT GUY YOU'VE BEEN SEEING TAKES HOURS TO TEXT YOU BACK...

Now I know how Spain feels. Yesterday, lawmakers in Catalonia – hint: the part of Spain that includes Barcelona – OK'd a plan for eventual independence from the motherland. For years, a lot of Catalans have been feeling like they're ready to break free. Spain thinks this is no bueno. It's not thrilled about the idea of Catalonia — which makes up a huge part of Spain's GDP — flying solo, especially while the country is still recovering from a recession. But Catalonia – which has its own language and traditions – isn't a fan of paying taxes to Spain while being treated like the newbie matador at the bullfight. Yesterday's move puts them on the road to a referendum vote, maybe by 2017.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

'Nu Couché": The name of a painting that you can't afford. By the artist Amedeo Modigliani. Yesterday, it sold for $170.4 million at a Christie's auction, aka the second highest price ever paid for an artwork at an auction.

SKIMM GIFT

Bonjour. You look like you could use a trip. How does the South of France sound? For two? C'est bon. Enter here.

SKIMM'BASSADOR HALL OF FAME

We love all Skimm'bassadors. But we really, really love ones who make it into the Hall of Fame…

Elizabeth Gregory (Villanova, PA); **Ali Diehl** (Athens, GA); **Amy Morrison** (Toronto, Canada); **Emily Fleming** (San Antonio, TX); **Lainey Segel** (Needham, MA); **Lauren Blood** (Columbia, MO); **Lucy Magnus** (Hartford, CT); **Kiersten Fisher** (Raleigh, NC); **Samantha Cooper** (Long Beach, NY)

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Share That Sh*t

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From: "Teresa Amott" <tamott@knox.edu>
To: "Trustees at Knox" <trustees@knox.edu>
Date: 9/22/2014 7:13:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Faculty appointment announcements

Dear Trustees,

It has been an astonishingly busy start of the year, with a number of last-minute matters vying for our scarce time. In the midst of it, though, we will take a moment to congratulate three faculty at this afternoon's faculty meeting. As you may recall, both the Timme and Buckhardt Chairs were vacated by recent retirements, so we have made two new appointments to these chairs. In addition, the Malley tenure decision was announced today.

Best,

Teresa

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Teresa Amott** <tamott@knox.edu >
Date: Mon, Sep 22, 2014 at 11:08 AM
Subject: Faculty appointment announcements
To: facstaff dist <facstaff_dist@knox.edu >

Dear Knox Community,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that two of our colleagues have been appointed to endowed professorships in recognition of their distinguished teaching, scholarship, and service to Knox College and that a third colleague has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. I have made these appointments upon the recommendation of the Faculty Personnel Committee and the Dean of the College and, in the case of the tenure and promotion, the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Steve Cohn has been appointed the Charles W. and Arvilla S. Timme Chair in Economics. Professor Cohn earned his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, M.P.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from Princeton University, and B.A. from Amherst College. His scholarship includes *Reintroducing Macroeconomics: A Critical Approach* (2006) and *Too Cheap to Meter: An Economic and Philosophic Analysis of the Nuclear Dream* (1997); his current work is on the evolution of Chinese economic theory from 1949 to the present. He has published and presented professional work, domestically and internationally, on critiques of neoclassical economic thought, environmental economics, and the contemporary Chinese economy and Chinese political-economic theory. Cohn has taught at Knox since 1984, and recently returned from teaching at the Chinese Studies Institute at Peking University. He also has chaired the Department of Economics and served as consultant and director of the Micro and Macro Critique Workshops for the Global Development and Environment Institute. The Timme Chair has had a very distinguished history at Knox: the previous holder was Roy Andersen, who retired last June, and, prior to that, Wilbur Pillsbury.

Charles W. Timme, a retired financial officer and analyst with the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Agency for International Development, neither attended nor worked at Knox. His only connection to the College was his cousin, Judge Robert Castendyck, a member of the Class of 1944. Yet this relationship led him and his wife, Arvilla, to bequeath their estate to Knox College in 1993, resulting in the largest individual gift in Knox's history at that time. The Timme gift created two endowed funds – the faculty chair in economics and a fund to support student projects and research in economics facilitated through the Vovis Center for Research & Advanced Study.

Jessie L. Dixon will hold the Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in Modern Languages. Professor Dixon received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Romance Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago, and her B.A. from Knox College. Her scholarship includes publications and presentations on Cuban underground hip-hop, Caribbean literature, Afro-Hispanic literature, and the teaching of elementary and intermediate Spanish. Dixon has taught at Knox since 1994, and in 2004, she was awarded the Phillip Green Wright Lombard College Distinguished Teaching Award for Tenured Faculty. Dixon currently serves as chair of the Department of Modern Languages and has served as director of the Knox programs in Barcelona, Besancon, and Buenos Aires, as well as short-term programs in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Ghana and Benin. Dixon is also co-chair of Knox's summer program, College for Kids.

The Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in Modern Languages was established in 2009 through the generosity of Dr. Richard W. Burkhardt '39 and Dorothy Johnson Burkhardt '39. Both Burkhardts had long and distinguished careers in the academy. Dr. Burkhardt served on the faculties of Syracuse and Ball State Universities; he served as vice president and dean of the faculty at Ball State, a position he held for almost 20 years, until he retired in 1985. During the 1978-1979 academic year, Dr. Burkhardt also served as acting president of the university. Mrs. Burkhardt served as instructor of French, Spanish and Russian, also at Ball State, from 1958 to 1983, and was awarded the Palmes Academiques by the French government for her efforts to promote cross-cultural learning between France and the United States. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at Knox from 1976 to 1990, when she was elected a life trustee. In 2010, the Burkhardts provided funding to enhance the language teaching lab in George Davis Hall which today carries their name. Sadly, we lost both dear friends of Knox last year, but I know they would have been delighted at this appointment.

Nikki Malley, Music, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. Nikki received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in Musicology and B.A. in Music from Knox College. Her areas of teaching expertise include Jazz History and

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Performance, and Music of the African Diaspora, and her scholarly work is focused on the "music" of auctioneering. Prof. Malley serves as the Director of the Knox Jazz Ensemble, Artistic Director of the Knox Rootabaga Jazz Festival; she has directed the Knox Jazz Ensemble and Knox Cherry Street Combo, plays in the Knox-Galesburg Symphony and Galesburg Community Chorus, and has been a featured soloist in many performances. In 2013, Nikki secured a grant from the Jerome Mirza Foundation to establish a jazz residency on campus.

Please join me in congratulating these three colleagues on these richly deserved recognitions.

Teresa

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****
Teresa L. Amott
President
Knox College
309.341.7211 (o)
309.341.7856 (f)

--
****
Teresa L. Amott
President
Knox College
309.341.7211 (o)
309.341.7856 (f)

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 9:40:54 AM
Subject: RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

No big deal and not even a small deal. I'm sure it was great in Hebrew.

On Apr 19, 2015 3:01 PM, "Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com > wrote:

Sorry John meant to cc you,,,,

From: Haim Saban
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Laura Hartigan; Alex De Ocampo
Cc: Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)
Subject: RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Huma ,,,,Laura forwarded your enquiry to me.

It was an interview on Israeli TV in Hebrew,,,,,on the day she announced,,,,,,someone took my statement and translated it freely to English,and stated what THEY wanted to state NOT what I said.

Never said that she opposes the deal,,,said" I don't know and if I knew I couldn't say".....they took out the part that said "I don't know",,,kept the rest and then concluded that it's a hint that she opposes,,,,,baloney stuff.,,,,,

All questions that I am asked about policy I simply answer "I don't know",,,,,and I just praise her experience courage persistence tenacity etc,,,,no policy discussions.

The Hill needs to go the Hebrew lessons if they want to quote Hebrew interviews.

From: Laura Hartigan
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 11:43 AM
To: Haim Saban; Alex De Ocampo
Subject: Fwd: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Just an FYI.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 17, 2015 at 11:53:41 AM PDT
To: <LHartigan@saban.com >
Subject: FW: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Did you guys talk to anyone in comms about this?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ian Sams** <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 1:57 PM
Subject: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >

http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/239091-saban-hints-clinton-opposes-the-iran-deal

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April 17, 2015, 06:00 am

Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

By Naomi Friedman

1454

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Just minutes before Hillary Clinton announced her candidacy for the 2016 presidential election, Israeli Channel One News interviewed Haim Saban, an American-Israeli media magnate and long-time Clinton supporter. Noticeably excited, he explained that she had waited to make the announcement until she had carefully prepared the ground for her campaign.

Then came the big question: *What is her position on the Iran deal?*

ADVERTISEMENT

Saban responded carefully, “She will have to, at some stage, express her opinion. But we know that in essence and in every important matter, she is committed to the security of Israel. She is a friend of the State of Israel. And we've seen this over the past 25 to 30 years. So, there won't be any problems with relations between the United States and Israel when Hillary Clinton is president. No problem. On the contrary.”

But Ya’akov Ayalon, the host of the nightly Channel One news pressed on: *And where does Hillary Clinton stand on this issue?*

"I know where she stands but I can't talk about it," Saban admitted.

"Give me a hint," Ayalon had to ask.

"I hinted to you – that I know," Saban couldn’t repress a laugh. "But I can't reveal to you things that were said behind closed doors. She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this.”

The implication: Clinton is against the Iran deal.

Why? Because Israelis – across the political spectrum – are against the deal, and Saban knows this. From the extreme left of Zionist parties and partisans to the extreme right, Israelis oppose the deal. For Haaretz reporter **Ari Shavit** , it’s President Obama’s big mistake. Former Prime Minister and head of the Labor Party Ehud Barak came right out and urged the United States to tell Iran to “**dismantle or else** .” Barak said, "The Pentagon and the forces of America under the backing and probable directive of the [US] president [could] create an extremely effective means to destroy the Iranian nuclear military program over a fraction of one night.” And as the former IDF Chief of General Staff and Israeli Minister of Defense, Barak might know a thing or two about this topic.

Barak is not alone. **Israelis, across the political spectrum, want the military option on the table – on the negotiating table, where it belongs**. The debate in Israel is not whether the deal is good. It’s whether Prime Minister Netanyahu is responsible for the bad deal – by spoiling Israel’s relations with the United States, or whether Obama is responsible for the bad deal by virtue of his unrealistic idealism and tendency to over-compromise.

So when Yaakov Ayalon says, “Give me a hint” and Haim Saban says “I hinted to you – that I know,” and just after he’s said “there won’t be any problems with relations between the United States and Israel when Hillary Clinton is president,” that means he is convinced that Hillary Clinton is against the Iran deal.

And this is big news. Israelis have been anxiously waiting for Hillary Clinton to openly state her position on the Iran deal. Congress is the last bastion of hope for Israel. Well before the P5+1 negotiations in Lausanne, Israeli news analysts focused intently on the Corker-Menendez bill. If Hillary Clinton comes out against the deal, more Democrats will join Republicans in demanding that Iran abandon its nuclear ambitions. And this is what Israelis, across the political spectrum, are praying for.

Friedman is an American-Israeli writer and editor in the fields of political science, history, and information

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technology.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com.
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/20/2008 5:17:45 AM
Subject: FW:

John:

I am sending this to her – Philippe just sent it.

See contents and points re: her.

cdm

ON THE WHITE HOUSE

Clinton Decision Holding Up Other Obama Choices

Just under a week after news broke that President-elect Barack Obama met with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to discuss naming her the Secretary of State, Mr. Obama's aides announced that the job of White House counsel was going to Gregory B. Craig, Mr. Obama's longtime foreign policy adviser.

Now, wasn't Mr. Craig supposed to be getting one of the foreign policy jobs, like deputy secretary of state or national security adviser? After all, he's been meeting with officials in the various embassies in Washington for months, getting advice on how a President Obama might handle everything from Iran's nuclear ambitions to Middle East peace negotiations to the worsening situation on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The official word out of the Obama camp was that Mr. Craig, who represented Bill Clinton during the House impeachment trial, was always viewed as a natural for White House counsel, a job that would take advantage of his years as a Washington powerhouse lawyer.

But several Obama advisers acknowledged privately that Mr. Craig couldn't take a foreign policy job if Mrs. Clinton ended up at State — too much animosity and bad history there.

In fact, all of the foreign policy jobs in the administration have been held up because of the uncertainty over the appointment of Mrs. Clinton. Once that's cleared up, Democratic aides said, the rest of the national security team will follow.

Meanwhile Mr. Craig, a close and trusted Obama adviser on foreign policy during the campaign, exited the sausage-making apparatus, and has ended up in what many believe is a much better place. As White House counsel he can roam the world of both foreign and domestic policy, engaging in everything from handling Guantanamo and torture to digging up skeletons from the Bush administration. "Everyone thinks it's a consolation prize," a senior Democratic adviser said. "In the protocol list it outranks national security adviser."

Speaking of which: If Mrs. Clinton does not end up at State, then Jim Steinberg, the former deputy national security adviser in the Clinton administration, is at the top of the list for the national security adviser job. Mr. Steinberg could even get the job if Mrs. Clinton takes Secretary of State, Democratic aides say, although some consideration might be given to whether Mr. Steinberg has the heft to keep Mrs. Clinton's outsized personality in check.

Susan Rice, one of the earliest foreign policy advisers to sign on with Mr. Obama, also gets a new lease on life if Mrs. Clinton is out of the running for Secretary of State. Like Mr. Craig, Ms. Rice worked for the Clinton administration, handling Africa policy during the 1990s.

But the two of them formed a tag team to debunk Mrs. Clinton's claim to foreign policy experience during the campaign.

When 11,000 pages of Mrs. Clinton's public schedule as first lady were released back in March, Mr. Craig said they showed that Mrs. Clinton was out of the loop when critical foreign policy decisions were made and that her trips abroad were largely ceremonial.

"The fact is, and this was established by the White House schedules, that she did not attend NSC meetings or routinely meet with the Secretary of State or the National Security Adviser," said Mr. Craig, who was also a senior State Department official during the Clinton administration. "She did not routinely get briefed by the intelligence community, and there is no evidence that she participated or asserted herself in any of the crises that took place during the eight years of the Clinton presidency."

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Ms. Rice, for her part, questioned the link between being First Lady and acquiring foreign policy knowledge. No question, it would be tough to put those three together at the helm of any Obama foreign policy team.

Ms. Rice could get the post of United States ambassador to the United Nations , a cabinet-level position under President Clinton. President Bush downgraded the position when he came into office, but many expect that Mr. Obama could upgrade the job back to its old level, particularly if he appoints Ms. Rice.

Of course, if Mrs. Clinton doesn't get the Secretary of State job, Democratic advisers say a whole host of opportunities open back up for all of the Obama foreign policy types who got on her bad side during the primaries.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/26/2014 5:36:06 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday November 26, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday November 26, 2014 Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton launched the Climate & Clean Air Coalition w/ 37 nations working to reduce emissions #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/stemming-the-tide-of-climate-change/ … [11/25/14, 8:01 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Times-Picayune: "Hillary Clinton hosting New York fundraiser for Mary Landrieu"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is hosting a New York City fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., on Monday."

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Treads Lightly On Policy Issues As She Eyes 2016"

"Clinton is expected to make her political intentions known in the coming weeks, likely in early 2015. Her speeches are closely watched for signs of how she might offer a rationale for her candidacy."

CNN: "Is the Clinton magic gone in Arkansas?"

"This state launched the Clinton brand two decades ago and handed Hillary Clinton one of the biggest victories of her 2008 primary battle against Barack Obama."

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Washington Post blog: "Clinton has a clear lead among Democrats — but would face stiff competition from Romney, Christie"

"The new Quinnipiac survey has Clinton with support from a whopping 57 percent of Democrats, followed at a distant second by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, at 13 percent. Vice President Joe Biden trails with 9 percent, while no other candidate breaks the 4 percent threshold."

New York Times opinion: "Who Will Save the Democratic Party From Itself?"

"Not everyone agrees that Hillary Clinton's selection as the Democratic nominee is unstoppable. The first to challenge her is Jim Webb, a one-term former senator from Virginia. Here is the case for the Democratic Party renegade."

New York Observer: "Hillary Clinton's Deafening Silence On Ferguson"

"Meanwhile, few aspirants hoping to succeed President Obama had much to say about Ferguson."

Times-Picayune: "Hillary Clinton hosting New York fundraiser for Mary Landrieu"

By Bruce Alpert

November 25, 2014, 5:55 p.m. EST

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is hosting a New York City fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., on Monday.

Landrieu, trailing in recent polls to Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy for the Dec. 6 runoff, continues to face an avalanche of negative ads from conservative advocacy groups, such as Karl Rove's American Crossroads. But the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, apparently confident of Cassidy's victory, has canceled planned TV ads in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette, according to Politico.

Clinton, who campaigned at a New Orleans rally for Landrieu before just before the Nov. 4 primary, is hosting the Landrieu fundraiser at the home of long-time Clinton supporters Sarah and Victory Kovner. Tickets range from $1,000 to $12,600, with proceeds going to Landrieu's Senate campaign, the Louisiana Democratic Party and Landrieu's political action committee. Clinton, the former First Lady and New York senator, is the current frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Meanwhile, outside groups reported new allocations Tuesday to fund efforts aimed at defeating Landrieu.

Ending Spending Inc. reported in a filing Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission reported that it spent $187,000 for "direct contact" with Louisiana voters in opposition to Landrieu. The group was created by Joe Ricketts, founder of TD Ameritrade. Tea Party Patriots reported a $7,000 allocation for e-marketing efforts against Landrieu and $2,031 for automated calls and script writing on behalf of Cassidy.

Vote 2 Reduce Debt, another conservative group, is spending $1,600 on internet ads and phone banks in support of Cassidy, according to an FEC filing Tuesday.

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Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Treads Lightly On Policy Issues As She Eyes 2016"

By Ken Thomas

November 26, 2014, 9:33 a.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton offered praise for President Barack Obama's executive actions to stave off deportation for millions of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. But the Democrats' favored presidential hopeful has been less forthcoming on other issues in these early days of the 2016 contest.

Clinton is not, so far, a candidate, and she's limiting her commentary about the daily news cycle confronting Obama — a strategy that could keep down chatter about where she and the unpopular president agree and where they diverge.

The former secretary of state, senator and first lady is not talking about the Keystone XL pipeline, rejected by one vote in the final weeks of the Democrat-led Senate. She has yet to speak publicly about a sweeping climate change agreement between the U.S. and China, an extension of talks over Iran's nuclear program or the Senate's move to block a bill to end bulk collection of Americans' phone records by the National Security Agency.

When Obama announced his moves to prevent the deportations for nearly 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, Clinton quickly embraced the decision on Twitter. The president, she wrote, was "taking action on immigration in the face of inaction" in Congress. In doing so, she signaled that as a candidate, she would run against the Republican-led House and Senate that convenes next year. Clinton also drew a distinction from her would-be GOP opponents who have spoken of immigration reform in large part as a border security problem.

On other weighty policy matters, however, Clinton is mum.

"You've got to make choices if you're not a candidate," said Lanny Davis, a White House special counsel during the Clinton administration who attended law school with Bill and Hillary Clinton. "She is not a candidate for president. When she becomes a candidate, she has to start answering questions."

Nick Merrill, a Clinton spokesman, declined to comment.

Clinton is expected to make her political intentions known in the coming weeks, likely in early 2015. Her speeches are closely watched for signs of how she might offer a rationale for her candidacy.

Clinton campaigned for Democratic candidates during the fall, often pointing to pocketbook issues like equal pay for women, raising the minimum wage and expanded family leave policies. "A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families," she said at an October rally.

Since then, Clinton has taken a more circumspect posture in public events, appearing at charity events and voicing support for issues related to her work at the Clinton Foundation. That approach allows her to stay above the political fray in the aftermath of Democrats' poor showing during the midterm elections.

Clinton has stayed close to Obama on immigration, releasing a statement that noted that previous presidents of both parties had taken similar steps.

The following night, in an interview at a New York Historical Society event, Clinton reiterated the need for Congress to act on a comprehensive immigration bill. She also put the issue in the context of families, saying the decision probably affected wait staff who were serving the dinner.

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"There is probably no more pressing issue at this time than to fix this immigration system," said Alex Padilla, California's secretary of state-elect. "As a leader, it was right for her to speak up. A lot of people wanted to know what she thought."

Other policy issues carry more political risk.

Clinton has avoided weighing in on the Keystone XL pipeline, saying it wouldn't be appropriate for her since the environmental review by the State Department happened during her watch. The issue is tricky for Democrats because labor unions have supported the plan but environmentalists adamantly oppose it.

Clinton has called climate change the nation's "most consequential" issue but has yet to weigh in on the agreement Obama reached with China to set new targets for cutting emissions. The deal was negotiated by John Podesta, a Clinton White House chief of staff who is expected to play a prominent role in a Clinton presidential campaign.

Both issues could receive attention from Clinton on Monday, when she is scheduled to address the League of Conservation Voters in New York.

On NSA surveillance, Clinton has talked broadly about the need to balance the need for security without infringing upon Americans' privacy amid a debate over the government's collection of data. But she has kept a low profile on the issue.

Republicans contend Clinton is being overly political in the lead-up to a presidential campaign.

"Everything Hillary does is for political purposes," said Republican National Committee spokeswoman Kirsten Kukowski, "which includes taking positions for political expediency and not answering tough questions for political reasons."

CNN: "Is the Clinton magic gone in Arkansas?"

By Dan Merica

November 26, 2014, 9:34 a.m. EST

This state launched the Clinton brand two decades ago and handed Hillary Clinton one of the biggest victories of her 2008 primary battle against Barack Obama.

But as she considers another bid for the White House in 2016, Arkansas isn't so friendly.

In the final weeks of the 2014 election, top Democrats in Arkansas told Hillary Clinton and her associates that she wasn't welcome to stump for the party's candidates in the state, according to a knowledgeable source. While there were some in Arkansas who wanted her to come, the "stay away" contingent won the argument and Hillary Clinton was left to raise money for Sen. Mark Pryor from New York.

Bill Clinton made up for the absence, making 13 stops in the state during campaign season imploring voters to not make the election a repudiation of President Barack Obama.

Still, Democrats across Arkansas lost big. The governor's mansion flipped red, along with Pryor's Senate seat. The state's four-member House

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delegation is solidly Republican.

The rout was part of a broader repudiation of Democrats across the South this election cycle. But the results in Arkansas were particularly tough for the Clintons and raise questions about whether the state most associated with the couple is no longer welcome territory ahead of Hillary Clinton's potential 2016 race.

"The coattails were short," outgoing Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe told CNN. "It is a fact."

Changes in Arkansas

Bill Clinton handily won Arkansas during both of his presidential elections. But the politics of the South changed during his time in office as many states were increasingly dominated by Republicans.

Arkansas was a genuine battleground state during the 2000 election, when Al Gore and George W. Bush both campaigned here and spent money on television ads. Seeking to distance himself from Bill Clinton after his impeachment, Gore didn't campaign with the former President and lost Arkansas to Bush by 5 points.

By 2008, Arkansas was seen as so unfriendly to Democrats that Obama wrote the state off -- even as he won other southern states like North Carolina and Virginia that Republicans carried for decades.

Before the 2014 election, Hillary Clinton's supporters -- many at the grassroots level in Arkansas -- would quietly talk about the former first lady's chances of competing and winning Arkansas in 2016. They touted her standing with white women and working class voters.

But after Election Day, those optimistic Democrats are harder to find.

"Limited," said Vincent Insalaco, the chair of the Arkansas Democratic Party, when asked about Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the state. "It is limited here in Arkansas."

"I think she could run a strong race here, but I think the electorate has changed," said Clarke Tucker, a newly elected Democratic state representative. "The state has changed."

Hillary Clinton moved to Arkansas in 1974, joining her soon-to-be husband, Bill, who was already a rising political star in the state. The couple would go on to dominate the state's politics for the better part of two decades and left a long list of confidants -- known as FOBs or Friends of Bill -- in key Democratic positions across the state.

But times have changed. Republican power bases in northwest Arkansas have grown, religious conservatives are a powerful voting bloc and the state's Latino population has yet to become a force at the ballot box.

"Arkansas is a real demographic nightmare for Democrats," said Andrew Dowdle, the vice chair of political science at the University of Arkansas. "It is a complete reversal of fortunes."

All of this complicates the idea that Hillary Clinton could win Arkansas in 2016. During the 2008 primary, Hillary Clinton dominated Obama, winning 70% of the state, her largest victory during that year's primary fight. That was the only time she has been on the ballot in the state, however, and was a contest with just Democratic voters.

The 2014 exit polls in Arkansas weren't positive for Hillary Clinton, either. Thirty-nine percent of voters said she would make a good president, according to the exit polls. Fifty-six percent said she would not.

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Those same exit polls found that former GOP Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who is also considering a 2016 run, is seen as a better presidential option in the state than Hillary Clinton. Fifty percent of voters in Arkansas said he would be a good president, compared to 46% who said he wouldn't.

With the former first lady eyeing another run at the presidency in 2016, Democrats and Arkansas experts said that while she would easily win the Democratic primary, she would struggle mightily to overcome what has become a changed state.

Democrat's silver lining: Obama is gone in 2016

Democrats in Arkansas blame Obama -- not the Clintons -- for their losses.

One reason Beebe, the outgoing governor, sees things getting better for Democrats in 2016 and beyond is because "Obama will be gone."

"I think it is all Obama," Beebe said. "I don't think there is any question that most folks feel like it was a repudiation of the president and the president's policies. But I think it is cyclical and the reason I say that is if you look at the history."

"Democrats are looking at what can she do different from Barack Obama," said Dowdle. "If you are a Democratic party activist, you would end up hoping she would win white women. ... That idea that a woman candidate could end up running and making the gap grow is not going to happen."

Exit polls show that Beebe is partly right: Nearly 70% of voters in Arkansas said they disapprove of Obama. Only 30% said they were satisfied with him.

For Inalasco, 2016 -- and a Hillary Clinton run - is a moment to rebuild.

"I would hope that she would carry Arkansas," he said, rejecting the idea that Democrats are done in the state. "But if she runs it is so, so positive for us on the local level, here, for what we can do with her popularity."

As for whether the Clinton magic is gone in Arkansas, Inalasco deferred his answer for two years.

"I guess," he said, "we will see what happens in 2016, won't we?"

Washington Post blog: "Clinton has a clear lead among Democrats — but would face stiff competition from Romney, Christie"

By Jose DelReal

November 26, 2014, 8:26 a.m. EST

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues to lead the 2016 Democratic presidential field — it's not even close — but another Clinton administration is far from a sure thing, even if the election were held today: A new poll out Wednesday shows that even as the clear Democratic favorite, she would face stiff competition from several would-be GOP candidates.

The new Quinnipiac survey has Clinton with support from a whopping 57 percent of Democrats, followed at a distant second by Massachusetts

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Sen. Elizabeth Warren, at 13 percent. Vice President Joe Biden trails with 9 percent, while no other candidate breaks the 4 percent threshold.

Clinton has yet to announce whether she will run but is widely expected to enter the race. The vice president has publicly flirted with the idea of running, while Warren has so far dismissed the possibility of a 2016 candidacy.

The field is far less clear on the GOP side, where former presidential candidate Mitt Romney remains the favorite with 19 percent support. The 2012 Republican presidential nominee has publicly said that he is not interested in mounting a third presidential bid. The poll has former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush following Romney among GOP voters with 11 percent support.

When Romney is taken out of the equation, Bush leads with 14 percent support, is followed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 11 percent. Both Bush and Christie have said publicly that they are considering throwing their hats in the ring, but have not formally entered the race.

Despite Clinton's enormous lead among potential rivals in the Democratic primary, the survey indicates she would struggle against several GOP candidates. Romney has 45 percent to Clinton's 44 percent, if the election were held today. And Clinton would have 43 percent to Christie's 42 percent.

She is a clearer favorite when matched against other GOP candidates, with a 46 percent to 41 percent edge over Bush, and a 46 percent to 42 percent advantage over Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan. And Clinton trounces Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, 48 percent to 37 percent.

The telephone survey of 1,623 registered voters was conducted by cell phone and landline between Nov. 18 and Nov. 23. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

New York Times opinion: "Who Will Save the Democratic Party From Itself?"

By Thomas B. Edsall

November 25, 2014

Not everyone agrees that Hillary Clinton's selection as the Democratic nominee is unstoppable. The first to challenge her is Jim Webb, a one-term former senator from Virginia.

Here is the case for the Democratic Party renegade.

When Webb, who served as secretary of the Navy under Ronald Reagan, announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee on Nov. 19, he sought to capitalize on Democratic discontent. Taking a swipe at both Wall Street and Clinton's potential bid for the nomination, Webb declared:

"Our Constitution established a government not to protect the dominance of an aristocratic elite, but under the principle that there should be no permanent aristocracy, that every single American should have equal protection under the law, and a fair opportunity to achieve at the very highest levels."

Webb suggested that he could bring working class whites back into the Democratic fold and restore the biracial Democratic coalition:

"We have drifted to the fringes of allowing the very inequalities that our Constitution was supposed to prevent. Walk into some of our inner cities if

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you dare, and see the stagnation, poverty, crime and lack of opportunity that still affects so many African-Americans. Or travel to the Appalachian Mountains, where my own ancestors settled and whose cultural values I still share, and view the poorest counties in America – who happen to be more than 90 percent white, and who live in the reality that "if you're poor and white you're out of sight.""

The Democratic Party used to be the place where people like these could come not for a handout but for an honest handshake, good full-time jobs, quality education, health care they can afford, and the vital, overriding belief that we're all in this together and the system is not rigged.

Webb's exploration of a presidential bid is based on the premise that he can tap into a crucial but alienated segment of the electorate.

This bloc includes voters convinced that Wall Street owns both parties, voters tired of politicians submitting to partisan orthodoxy and voters seeking to replace "identity group" politics with a restored middle- and working-class agenda.

Webb's election history – his victory in Virginia is the only race that he has run – suggests that he will have difficulty achieving his goals. Before we turn to examine the forces that will make his candidacy a difficult one, let's take a look at some positives.

Webb is a decorated veteran – he served from 1968 to 1972 in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, and was awarded the Navy Cross – as well as a pointed critic of military intervention in Iraq, Libya and Syria. Opposition to the war in Iraq was a centerpiece of his 2006 Senate campaign.

Webb is a prolific author of both novels and nonfiction. His books are dominated by themes of war and fighting from "Fields of Fire" to "Born Fighting" to "A Time to Fight." Webb notes with pride on his website his heritage as the descendant of "between 250,000 and 400,000 Scots-Irish" who migrated to America in the eighteenth century, traveling in groups of families and bringing with them not only long experience as rebels and outcasts but also unparalleled skills as frontiersmen and guerrilla fighters. Their cultural identity reflected acute individualism, dislike of aristocracy and a military tradition, and, over time, the Scots-Irish defined the attitudes and values of the military, of working class America, and even of the peculiarly populist form of American democracy itself.

Webb is one answer to the weaknesses of today's center-left, the so-called "upstairs-downstairs" coalition described by Joel Kotkin, presidential fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University. Kotkin argues in his recently published book, "The New Class Conflict," that the Democratic Party has been taken over by what he calls "gentry liberals," an elite that has undermined the historic purpose of the Democratic Party.

Kotkin contends that "The great raison d'être for left-wing politics – advocating for the middle- and working classes – has been refocused to attend more closely to the policy imperatives and interests of small, highly affluent classes, as well as the powerful public sector."

I asked Kotkin what he thought of the themes Webb intends to raise, and he wrote back "I think he's onto something."

The Democrats, Kotkin believes, need "someone — Sherrod Brown, Webb, Jon Tester, somebody! — who speaks to the issues of upward mobility and incomes." Both Senator Brown and Senator Tester have staked out populist positions in support of their working-class constituents in Ohio and Montana.

Most Democratic politicians and strategists, according to Kotkin, "just have no feel at all — as Harry Truman and Bill Clinton did, for example — for the aspirations of the middle class. This is why they are losing them, and deservedly so."

Morris Fiorina, a political scientist at Stanford, is similarly critical of the "upscale capture" of the Democratic Party. In an email, he wrote that in the aftermath of the financial collapse of 2008, "the country is desperate for economic relief, but as time goes on it becomes clear that the administration's economic policy is to take care of the financial sector, where hundreds of people are clearly guilty of fraud in any layman's view. The result is building disappointment, resentment, and rage in the public, which results in the 2010 debacle."

"Today," Fiorina writes, "We have a situation where voters can choose between a party that openly admits to being a lap dog of Wall Street and a party that by its actions clearly is a lap dog but denies it. At least vote for the honest one."

Asked about Webb, Fiorina replied, "the emotional side of me loves him." But, Fiorina cautioned, "the rational side is worried about how he would actually behave if he were president."

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Further to the left side of the political spectrum, Krystal Marie Ball, co-host of the MSNBC show The Cycle, waxed poetic on the air about the former Virginia senator on Nov. 22, telling viewers that Webb was “such a contrast from Hillary Clinton.”

"Clinton," Ball said, “is polished and produced and perfectly calibrated. He is not. He is rough. He is authentic. He cares about issues. He speaks plainly. He doesn’t try to oversmile, for example, he just is exactly who he is. And there’s something very compelling about that, and it is a stark contrast from the very carefully packaged and branded Clinton image.”

Al Hunt, a Bloomberg columnist, warned that Webb “could be Hillary Clinton’s worst nightmare,” noting that Webb seems an improbable candidate. He has taken illiberal positions, was President Ronald Reagan’s Navy secretary, has few relationships within the Democratic Party, and has no serious fund-raising network. What he does possess is a long-held and forceful opposition to U.S. interventions in Iraq and Libya, and potentially Syria, as well as solid anti-Wall Street credentials. In Democratic primaries, these may be Clinton’s greatest impediments to rallying a hard-core activist base.

To gauge Webb’s prospects, I looked at the exit poll data for the 2006 Virginia Senate race, when he unseated George Allen, the favored Republican. I then compared Webb’s performance among key constituencies to the performance of all House Democrats running nationwide in the same year.

The results of this comparison do not support the portrayal of Webb as a candidate equipped to win over key white constituencies.

Take, for example, the ballots cast by white men. Webb lost among these voters by a 24-point margin, 38-62. Exit poll data on all House races in 2006 shows that Democratic House candidates lost white men by a smaller 9-point margin, 44-53. White women voted for Allen over Webb by 53-47; while House Democratic candidates split the votes of white women, 49-50.

Similarly, self-identified conservatives chose Allen over Webb by a 76-point margin, 12-88, while House Democratic candidates lost this segment of the electorate by a substantial but smaller margin, 58 points (20-78). Webb did not do any better with white evangelical and born-again Protestants, losing these voters by a larger margin than did House Democratic candidates.

To further check the validity of these comparisons, I looked at 2006 exit polls in two other close Democratic Senate contests, in Montana, where Tester beat Conrad Burns by less than 3,000 votes, 198,302 to 195,455, and Claire McCaskill in Missouri, who beat the incumbent Republican Jim Talent, 50-47.

Tester and McCaskill both performed better among white men and women, conservatives and white born-again and evangelical Protestants, than Webb did.

Let’s forget Webb for a moment and take the question a step further. What are the prospects of winning the presidential nomination for a candidate who challenges current Democratic Party strategic orthodoxy? This strategy calls for identity group, rather than class-based, mobilization, on the assumption that turning out single women, the young, and racial and ethnic minorities is more effective than an uphill struggle to revive support in the recalcitrant white middle and working class.

As much as such a shift to a class-based strategy might result in economic policies more beneficial to less affluent Democratic constituencies, and therefore to more votes in the long haul, so far there has been insufficient intraparty pressure to force a change in strategic orientation.

It is not lost on Democratic strategists that President Obama won twice deploying a group-based rather than a class-based strategy. Even if the next Democratic nominee does not inspire the high minority turnout levels of 2008 and 2012, the 2016 electorate will be less Republican than it was in 2012. Every four years, the heavily Republican white share of voters drops by a little over 2 percent, and the disproportionately Democratic minority share grows by the same amount.

There are, however, fundamental problems with the current Democratic strategy, not least of which is that it is a strategy for winning presidential elections but not necessarily for exerting real political control.

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The current approach depends on a Republican Party that refuses to adjust to the transforming composition of the electorate. The 2014 elections demonstrated, however, that the Republican Party and its candidates are not immune to feedback and will change if they have to in order to win.

Insofar as the Republican Party tempers its retrograde stance on social-sexual and moral-racial issues, Democratic campaigns stressing alleged threats from conservatives — the threat to freedom and privacy posed by the Christian right; the threat to Hispanic family unity posed by anti-immigrant activists; the threat to programs serving the poor posed by deficit hawks — will run out of gas.

That moment may be closer than expected. An Oct. 15 Washington Post/ABC poll found that the public held the Democratic Party "in worse regard than at any point in the past 30 years." An Oct. 24 Pew Research Center survey found, in turn, that the public favored Republicans over Democrats on such key issues as handling the economy, the budget deficit, immigration and terrorism.

Democrats, according to Pew, retained an advantage on less tangible qualities such as empathy, honesty and a willingness to compromise.

As attractive as those characteristics are, they are not top priorities for voters. Both Pew and Gallup have found that, except in times of crisis – for example, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks — voters' top priorities consistently include bread-and-butter issues, jobs and the economy.

In September 2006, just before Democrats regained control of the House and Senate, the party held a 30-point advantage, 58-28, on the question, "which party is better able to handle the economy," according to Gallup. Going into the 2014 elections, Gallup found there had been a huge swing on this question, with Republicans now ahead 48-43.

If those numbers do not change significantly before Nov. 8, 2016, it won't matter whether the nominee seeks to strengthen a biracial coalition by broadening white support or by increasing turnout among the party's identity group constituencies. The Democrats' lack of credibility on economic issues will hobble, if not extinguish, the party's prospects. Unless the Democrats develop a coherent, comprehensive strategy for the have-nots, it won't matter whether the party's nominee is Clinton, Webb or anyone else.

New York Observer: "Hillary Clinton's Deafening Silence On Ferguson"

By Lincoln Mitchell

November 26, 2014, 10:15 a.m.

"The frustrations that we've seen," said President Obama in a statement yesterday about recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, "are not just about a particular incident. They have deep roots in many communities of color who have a sense that our laws are not always being enforced uniformly or fairly. That may not be true everywhere, and it's certainly not true for the vast majority of law enforcement officials, but that's an impression that folks have and it's not just made up. It's rooted in realities that have existed in this country for a long time." The comments demonstrate the President's keen understanding of the environment that has contributed to the demonstrations and frustration felt in Ferguson and elsewhere in the U.S. following a grand jury's decision not to indict Darren Wilson. "Next week," the President continued, "we'll bring together state and local officials, and law enforcement, and community leaders and faith leaders to start identifying very specific steps that we can take to make sure that law enforcement is fair and is being applied equally to every person in this country." That sentence should provide great succor to those who want to see few if any changes to the system that produced Darren Wilson and subsequent demonstrations.

Meanwhile, few aspirants hoping to succeed President Obama had much to say about Ferguson.

Most of the Republicans seeking their party's nomination for the presidency in 2016 said little or nothing about the grand jury decision and the events that followed. This was wise and reflected a strategic environment in which Republicans no longer compete for African American votes. By saying anything at all, Republican candidates such as Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio or Bobby Jindal would only risk making a verbal gaffe that would hurt them with the white moderates they need to win in a general election. Somewhat predictably, the most visible Republican presidential candidate in the hours since the grand jury decision has been Rand Paul. Mr. Paul indicated that there is a need for reforms in the criminal justice system and that issues related to drug use and poverty should be addressed as well.

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The voice most glaringly absent in recent days has been that of Hillary Clinton. Ms. Clinton the front-running non-candidate for the Democratic nomination for President has, in recent months, not been shy about offering opinions about Ukraine, Isis or President Obama's various foreign policy foibles, but for some reason has not had very much to say about the grand jury's decision or the demonstrations that followed that decision. This is a reflection of Ms. Clinton's generally cautious political style, but also raises questions about Ms. Clinton and the Democratic Party itself.

African Americans are a huge part of the Democratic Party base. It is extraordinary that the party's second most visible leader does not see it necessary or helpful to speak out during a moment that is so important to so many African Americans. There are lots of things that can go wrong for a politician when she speaks out at during times like these, but taking risks defines leadership.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton hosts fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu (Times-Picayune)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Ryan Anderson" <ryaneanderson@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/6/2009 9:43:53 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tom Andrews: The Missing Exit Strategy for Afghanistan

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-andrews/the-missing-exit-strategy_b_197875.html

The Missing Exit Strategy for Afghanistan

Tom Andrews

May 6, 2009 | 12:54 pm

President Obama said it best when he talked about U.S. policy in Afghanistan on the CBS news program 60 Minutes last month: “There’s got to be an exit strategy”.

Well, there isn’t one. There *is* an escalation of 21,000 US forces and there *is* a wartime spending bill requesting $94.2 billion more for Iraq and Afghanistan. **But, as of today, there isn’t even a hint of what the President believes we need - an exit strategy.** The Appropriations Committee is expected to dutifully vote out their bill Thursday and send it to the floor of the House for a vote next week.

I realize how hard it would be for Congressional Democrats to require the Obama administration to develop an exit strategy as a condition for continued war funding. After all, this is *our* guy, right? The last thing our guy needs is a Democratic Congress second guessing, making demands, and putting conditions on the war funding.

But this is exactly what we and the administration need *precisely because he is our guy*.

Unlike Mr. Limbaugh, we want and need President Obama to succeed. The very real prospect of the United States embedded in an endless war in Afghanistan would undermine everything this administration is trying to do while imperiling the very Congressional Democrats President Obama needs to move his agenda. This is *exactly* the right time to engage the administration in a respectful but critical discussion about where this military escalation is leading us.

Sending tens of thousands of more U.S. troops into Afghanistan – without a plan to get them out – is a bad idea for many reasons.

First off – the ink on the President’s plan to send an additional 21,000 troops into Afghanistan wasn’t even dry before the Pentagon acknowledged that it already has a request in to the administration for an additional 10,000 troops. What’s worse, there are indications the Pentagon has even more requests waiting in the wings.

The fact is, there are simply not enough U.S. soldiers to secure Afghanistan. Estimates as to what would be required range for 200,000 to 600,000 troops. And, don’t look to our NATO allies to be of any help. The leader of Canada’s Liberal Party told me last week that the only way Canada citizens would support sending *any* troops was if there was a clear exit strategy with a date certain for their withdrawal. As a result, all Canadian soldiers will be on their way home by 2011.

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Those of us who live on this side of the border should be demanding the same from our political leaders.

The lack of an exit strategy is already making things worse in Afghanistan. Failing to say when and how we will remove our forces is playing into the hands of Taliban leaders who are using the presence of our troops on Afghanistan soil–and the announced escalation–as their most powerful recruitment tool. *The New York Times* reports that the escalation has mended fences between the otherwise fractious leadership of the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban who announced that they are joining forces to fight the new troops as they arrive.

A BBC/ABC public opinion poll of Afghanis reveals that fully 80% of the population is opposed to an escalation of American troops. Many of those who are shooting at our soldiers are not jihadists; they are proud Afghanis who are famously sensitive to the presence of foreign forces on their soil.

The lack of an exit strategy also works against President Obama's regional strategy–outreach to the neighboring nations who have zero interest in a Taliban dominated Afghanistan because it would threaten their national security as much, if not more, than our own. How likely will China, Russia and particularly Iran be to join the U.S. if the outcome might be tens of thousands of U.S. troops on their border?

We need Congress to step up now and help prevent what has now become "Obama's War" from turning into a quagmire that undermines, if not destroys, the critically important agenda the President is fighting to pass here at home.

We need to step up too. We can start by contacting Members of Congress and urging them not to succumb to a vote-now, ask questions later approach to war funding even if it *is* our guy who is asking for it. We need a critical check-and-balance before it is too late to stop an endless war in Afghanistan.

The war spending bill is on the floor of the House of Representatives next week.

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From: "The New Republic" <info@tnr.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/19/2013 8:02:22 AM
Subject: Can the Pope change the Vatican?

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	10/12/2015 7:30:05 AM
Subject:	Upcoming Events: Spectrum Policy and Exclusionary Auction Rules; Corruption in Russian Domestic Politics

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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/4/2015 11:48:53 AM
Subject: Daily Media Report 6.4.15

National:

-- Larger conversation about Lincoln Chafee; guest Randy Cohen said Chafee was the Rockefeller Republican Americans always wanted, noted the only real difference between HRC and Chafee was that HRC supported the Iraq War; Alex Wagner said the Iraq War would be a problem for HRC, said there would be time to talk in future segments about why HRC's Iraq War vote would affect HRC in 2016. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's Texas stop today; panel with Evan Smith, Cristina Beltran, Jonathan Capehart, Nicholas Confessore; Smith noted no Democrat had won state-wide in Texas in 20 years; Smith said HRC had roots that went back to the McGovern campaign in 1972; Smith noted HRC won the primary in Texas in 2008; Beltran said HRC's speech in Texas would galvanize voters; Confessore said HRC showing up in Texas would help Democrats down-ballot long term; Capehart said HRC was showing up on Republican turf. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner, 6.4.15

-- Discussion on HRC's speech about voting rights in Texas; Dana Perino said voting rights was a phantom issue; Juan Williams said voting rights was not a funhouse issue for black people. Fox News' The Five , 6.4.15

-- Report on FDA's consideration of "female Viagra"; cuts to an entire Krystal Ball special segment when she walks around on the street asking people what politician should be a spokesman for female Viagra; most people said HRC, some said WJC; one woman immediately said, "Scott Walker." MSNBC's The Cycle , 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's TSU stop about voting rights; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said HRC's focus in Texas was voting rights; Henry said HRC would call for a federal mandate to make sure there's an early voting day; showed footage of Marco Rubio on Fox News saying he didn't know if there was a need for the federal government to set a national standard on voting; Shepard Smith said HRC was raising money in Texas; Henry said Henry Munoz helped to fundraise for HRC, said Munoz's actions called into question whether the DNC was already supporting HRC. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting , 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's TSU stop about voting rights; Toure said HRC's stop showed that HRC was not taking black voters for granted; ; interviewed Vox's Jonathan Allen; Allen said the June 15th announcement could steal a little thunder from HRC's announcement on June 13th; Allen noted HRC's support of a 15 day early voting window when she was in the Senate in 2007, said this was consistent with HRC's past; Allen said this was HRC's gathering time to gather Democratic voters; also discussed Jeb Bush's announcement on June 15th; Allen said there could be some competition between Bush and HRC if HRC does television in the days following her announcement. MSNBC's The Cycle , 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's TSU stop in Houston on Thursday; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said HRC wants to talk about voting rights, said HRC wants a federally mandated standard of up to 20 days of early voting; Henry reported on the TSU email that said there would be no opportunities to interview HRC; Henry said usually memos like this are run by the campaign, said he'd never seen a previous campaign say the speech is the interview; Henry said he had to make his shouting voice a little louder; shifted into discussion about Henry Munoz; Henry reported Munoz helped put together a fundraiser to HRC. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 6.4.15

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-- Interviewed Kristen Soltis Anderson; Anderson said Scott Walker and Marco Rubio were within three points of HRC in the CNN poll; Anderson noted HRC had become more vulnerable against the GOP's top flight candidates. CNN's Wolf , 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's speech in Texas about voting rights; said HRC was expected to come out swinging hard against photo ID and for early voting; interviewed Joy Reid; Reid said HRC's messages around the country have been tailored about women, young people, and people of color; shifted to CNN poll that showed HRC's trustworthiness was underwater; used footage of Lincoln Chafee talking about HRC's trustworthiness; Reid said HRC only needs to focus on Democrats; Reid said Democrats were looking at electability and HRC looks good on that score. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 6.4.15

-- Report that HRC planned to talk about voting rights at TSU on Wednesday; interviewed Chris Cillizza; Cillizza noted HRC was also raising money in Texas; shifted into conversation about Rick Perry. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 6.4.15

-- Report that HRC planned to speak at a TSU; interviewed Mark Murray; Murray said HRC would call out Republicans for curbing voting rights, said HRC would call for 20 days of early voting across the country; Murray said HRC had strong days usually when she talked about policy and not The Clinton Foundation. MSNBC's NewsNation, 6.4.15

-- Report on Fox News poll that showed a majority of Americans were either not at all or not very concerned about HRC potentially trading influence as Secretary of State for donations to The Clinton Foundation; panel with Lars Larson and David Goodfriend; Larson said a lot of Americans don't trust HRC, said HRC saying a speech was an interview would not help people trust her; Martha MacCallum noted voters also didn't trust WJC due to his problems with women; Goodfriend said what the Fox News poll didn't test was more important than what it did, said Americans want someone who looks out for everyday Americans; Goodfriend said HRC reflects the candidate everyday Americans are looking for; shifted into conversation about press access at HRC's TSU's event; Goodfriend said presidential candidates are in a new world where there are avenues to talk to people that count more than talking to the press; Larson said the press had been very nice to HRC over the last few days; Goodfriend said HRC was running a disciplined campaign and Americans were getting a good connection with HRC. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 6.4.15

-- Report that HRC was expected to call for 20 days of early voting nationwide; panel with Zack Roth; Ross said HRC was expected to go big with voting rights, said HRC would call for weekend and evening voting; Roth said HRC would urge Congress to strengthen the Voting Rights Act, said HRC would draw a contrast with Republicans; shifted into panel with Krystal Ball and Abby Huntsman; Ball said HRC's voting-rights stance was significant and smart. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 6.4.15

-- Report about how Democrats were making a push for the Latino vote; noted HRC would speak at a Latino conference on June 18th in Las Vegas; mentioned HRC held a roundtable in Las Vegas last month; mentioned MOM was also making a push for the Latino vote; interviewed Javier Palomarez; larger conversation with Palomarez about MOM's speech at the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; interviewed Leigh Ann Caldwell; Diaz-Balart wondered whether MOM's forthrightness would force HRC to be more forthright on Hispanic issues; Diaz-Balart noted that some of the Latinos who worked with BHO went to work with MOM; Caldwell said HRC was not taking anything for granted; Caldwell noted the Clintons' strong performance with Latinos in previous elections, said HRC had some missteps like drivers licenses. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 6.4.15

-- Report on Lincoln Chafee's announcement; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald noted Chafee went after HRC on her ethics; used footage of Lincoln Chafee talking about not being convinced HRC would be the nominee; shifted into discussion about a report that said the DNC's finance chair was fundraising for HRC; Seitz-

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Wald noted other candidates questioned whether the DNC could be impartial, said Debbie Wasserman Schultz was the chair of HRC's 2008 campaign. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 6.4.15

-- Discussion about HRC going to Texas; Mika was exasperated that HRC did not have enough challengers, said she would love to see Joe Biden jump in; Scarborough said Kerry and Gore should consider jumping in the race; Mika said HRC was going to call for nationwide early voting; Scarborough asked why Mika hates; Mika said she just wanted to see a real conversation, said she wanted to see HRC get better. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's voting rights speech in Texas; John King said HRC wanted to make the case that the GOP wanted to make it harder in some places to vote; King said this was part of HRC's strategy to maintain the Obama coalition; panel with Jeff Zeleny and Tamara Keith; Zeleny noted HRC was a young campaign worker in Texas in 1972; Keith said HRC calling for early voting was symbolic but would help get the Obama coalition to turn out for her. CNN's New Day , 6.4.15

-- Brief report that HRC was icing out the press in Houston on Thursday; said HFA said HRC's speech would be the interview; showed footage of John Sununu saying Americans do not trust HRC. Fox News' Fox and Friends First, 6.4.15

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Bernie Sanders career record: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders comes from a failing political record. After running for senate, and losing it, he ran for governor, became governor, but was not very successful. Reporters claim that his new pursuit is to run for presidency. MSNBC. *Morning Joe* . 6.4.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders' publicity: Reporters claim that not too much attention will be given to HRC's opposition unless the opposition attacks HRC. Bernie Sanders is drawing larger crowds in Iowa. Reporters claim that he could draw more attention than his opponents, such as Lincoln Chafee. CNN. *News Day* . 6.4.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders' likeability: Buddy Cianci, the former mayor of Providence, Rhode Island, claims that Sanders is not likely to do very well in Rhode Island. Cianci states that Sanders will not do well in this state because it is a HRC state, and Sanders is too far to the left to appeal to the voters living in Rhode Island. BLOOM. *With All Due Respect* . 6.4.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders as a politician: Reporters claim that Sanders does not have a sufficient political organization or funding to run a successful campaign. However, Sanders' ability to act very genuine has created a loyal following. Al Jazeera America. 6.4.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders' recent gains: Sanders has drawn packed events. The audiences have been very enthusiastic. Sanders' followers are more engaged and enthusiastic than any other candidate on either side. Al Jazeera America. 6.4.15

--Report on Sanders' as Democratic second pick: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders may be the crowd favorite, following HRC. Reporters claim that the alternative could overtake HRC. MSNBC. *The Ed Show.* 6.4.15

--Report on claim that Sanders could effect HRC in general election: If too many people are backing Sanders,

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and do not go out to vote for HRC, then Republicans have a better chance to win the general election. Sanders gaining such a compassionate following could lead to negative consequences for HRC. Fox News. *Your World with Neil Cavuto.* 6.4.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders' likelihood of success: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders does not have the money, following, or style to be successful in the presidential race. Reporters claim that he has no chance against HRC in the primaries. Fox News. *Your World with Neil Cavuto* . 6.4.15

Martin O'Malley

--Report on MOM's pushing for the Latino vote: Reporters claim that the O'Malley campaign is going after the Latino vote in a way that is different with HRC's campaign. He has a strong record on the issue of immigration. He has spoken to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Immigration advocates are well aware of that, they praise him, and he has done the most action in regards to the Latino community. MSNBC. *The Rundown with Jose Diaz-Balart.* 6.4.15

--Report on MOM's interaction with Latino community: Interview with President and CEO of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce found that MOM's first public engagement with President were very positive. Would MOM have some form of immigration reform in the first 100 days? He would deal with it within the first 100 days in office. He promised to look at it beyond the civil rights, but also the economic aspect of this. Latinos look at it from an economic perspective. MOM committed to looking at it from this perspective.MSNBC. *The Rundown with Jose Diaz-Balart.* 6.4.1.5

States:

Texas:

-- Members of the Texas Republican party picketed Hillary Clinton's fundraiser in Dallas, demanding that she release emails from her tenure as Secretary of State. Her trip to Texas also includes stops at Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. WFAA News 8 Update , Dallas (TX), 6.4.2015

-- Hillary Clinton scheduled her speech on expanding voter access at the same time as Rick Perry's declaration of candidacy for president. The anchor briefly remarked that it was an act of political gamesmanship. KXAS NBC 5 Today, Dallas (TX), 6.4.2015

-- Hillary Clinton is attending a series of fundraisers across Texas this week. She is expected to advocate for an early voting period of at least 20 days during her speech in Houston. KTVT CBS 11 News , Dallas (TX), 6.4.2015

-- Reporter Jon Karl pointed towards Hillary Clinton's declining favorability, observing that many voters do not consider her a trustworthy candidate. While she may not be seriously challenged during the primary, Karl suggests that these statistics will pose a significant problem to her in the general election. WFAA Good Morning America, Dallas (TX), 6.4.2015

-- Report on HRC receiving the Barbara Jordan Leadership Award at Texas Southern University where she will make a speech supposedly calling for early expanded elections and criticizing states like Texas for tightening election laws. KHOU 11 News , Houston (TX), 6.4.2015

-- Report on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) passing up opportunities to secure HRC's emails; it was the chief records custodian who alerted NARA that HRC might run off with her official records; the

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NARA and the State Department have had to turn over 73 documents in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. KRIV FOX 26 News at 5AM , Houston (TX), 6.3.2015

-- Report on HRC Austin visit and fundraiser at the home of Marc Winkelman; Republican party of Texas plans to present Clinton with a computer server as a spokesman for the GOP said "it's a reminder that Texans deserve to know the truth about the secret email server Clinton kept as Secretary of State." KTBC-AUS (FOX) Good Day Austin Austin (TX), 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC Austin visit and fundraiser at the home of Marc Winkelman; public can hear from HRC later at public speech in Houston where she will speak against voting restrictions in several states including Texas. KEYE-AUS (CBS) Austin (TX), 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC Austin visit and fundraiser at the home of Marc Winkelman; reported on the CNN poll from earlier this week that has HRC's favorability rating at its lowest point since 2001. Republican party of Texas called out HRC for sticking to scripted events and avoiding tough questions. KEYE-AUS (CBS) Austin (TX), 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC Austin visit and how she has not answered questions from the media so far in the campaign; footage of Carly Fiorina saying, "I hope you will continue to be as aggressive with Mrs. Clinton wherever she is on this street corner, but yes I think we need a nominee who will ask her these questions about trustworthiness, about transparency, and about track record." KTBC-AUS (FOX) Austin (TX), 6.4.15

-- Report on low HRC favorability rates and Clinton Foundation; cited Clinton Cash when discussing donations to the foundation from Sweden and how those donations were not disclosed to the State Department ethics officials. KEYE-AUS (CBS) Austin (TX), 6.4.15

South Carolina:

-- Report on Hillary Clinton favorability: According to a recent Washington Post poll, HRC's favorability rating is down to 45%. Many now say that they do not believe she is honest or trustworthy. Reporters say that she could become vulnerable as the race continues. WLOS (ABC). *Good Morning America* . Greenville (SC). 6.4.15

-- Report on HRC's Voting Rights speech: Reporters claim that HRC will speak about denouncing voting restrictions in several states. She will speak on behalf of voting rights expansion. WHNS (FOX). *Morning News @ 6.* Greenville (SC). 6.4.15

New Hampshire:

-- Report on HRC favorability: According to a recent Washington Post poll HRC favorability rating is down to 45%. Many now say that they do not believe she is honest or trustworthy. Reporters say that she could become vulnerable as the race continues. *WMUR-MAN (ABC). Good Morning America* . Manchester (NH). 6.4.15

Iowa:

-- Report on HRC favorability: According to a recent Washington Post poll, HRC favorability rating is down to 45%. Many now say that they do not believe she is honest or trustworthy. Reporters say that she could become vulnerable as the race continues. KCAU (ABC) *Good Morning America* . Sioux City (IA). 6.4.15

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-- Report on HRC new offices: HRC opening new offices in Iowa City, Dubuque, Des Moines, Ames, and Counsel Bluffs. There are 9 total offices including Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. KCRG-IOW (ABC) *KCRG TV9* *Morning News*. Iowa City (IA). 6.4.15

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/13/2008 5:22:49 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Only a Global Response Can Address a Global Crisis

Only a Global Response Can Address a Global Crisis

Washington, D.C.—Last week it became apparent that only a unified international response can stop the global credit crisis. This weekend, a coordinated approach was finally crafted after meetings of the G7, IMF, World Bank, European Union and other international organizations. The international infrastructure of alliances and institutions that was set up after World War II played a crucial role in helping forge a strategy which, by infusing capital into the banking system and guaranteeing interbank loans, has at least for the moment buoyed the markets.

The United States has been the world's financial superpower for decades; it was the engine for creating global financial institutions 50-plus years ago, the driver behind opening global financial markets in recent decades, and the trigger of the current global crisis. Yet the U.S. was a follower, not a leader, in forging an innovative response. Just three weeks ago, senior Administration officials were scoffing at Democrats' proposals to have the government take ownership stakes in banks. Yet that approach is at the heart of the British approach adopted globally this weekend, infusing capital into banks in exchange for equity.

The Bush Administration, it appears, kept on the same ideological blinders that have undermined American leadership, power and prestige over the past eight years. It is hard to imagine how Senator McCain would reverse the trend. His proposals to create a new "League of Democracies," unpopular with even our closest allies, would undermine the global forums that are responding to this crisis, and alienate global actors such as Russia and China who, democracies or no, have a role to play. McCain has in the past derided many of our closest allies with his belligerent rhetoric - especially Germany and France. He would continue the same ineffective international and economic leadership which has characterized the Bush administration and which we can't afford during this time of economic uncertainty.

After weeks of instability, a global response to the worldwide financial crisis is beginning to take shape. "European leaders agreed Sunday on a coordinated rescue plan to guarantee inter-bank lending, inject cash into the banking sector and take other measures to beat back the crisis caused by the global financial meltdown. At an emergency summit in Paris on Sunday evening, the leaders of the 15 nations that use the euro currency announced a Europe-wide plan to guide and coordinate packages that will be announced by national governments starting today. The leaders pledged to work together to prop up banks whose credit activities have been all but frozen in recent days, trying to send a strong message of unity and action before financial markets open today." Meanwhile, U.S. officials are "assembling a 'toolkit' of methods to implement the program, including investing money directly into banks and buying individual mortgages from them." [LA Times, 10/13/08. Washington Post, 10/13/08]

International institutions have facilitated a coordinated international response, playing a stabilizing role amidst economic turmoil. From the G7 to the IMF and World Bank to the European Union, international organizations met this weekend in efforts to curb the current global financial crisis. After individual countries attempted to deal with these problems, there has finally been a recognition that the global markets are so interconnected that only a global response can be effective. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Director of the IMF said, "We have now a comprehensive response to the crisis, and I think that the market will reflect it." As a result of this weekend's meetings, global financial markets have made strong gains. "Investors are eager to see cooperation because even if markets perceive that the situation with European banks is improving, those institutions are so closely linked to their U.S. counterparts that continued pessimism about American banks could undermine European governments' efforts." [LA Times, 10/13/08 . WSJ, 10/13/08]

In the age of American capitalism, global leadership during the economic crisis has come from elsewhere. The contours of the global response to the world's financial instability is notable in part because the consensus plan appears to have originated with the UK government, instead of the U.S. **"**The sweeping measures began early Monday as Britain pledged to spend billions in taxpayer money to shore up battered banks. The British Treasury said the initial steps could be worth $64 billion to three banks. In effect, the moves mean the partial nationalization of those institutions _ the Royal Bank

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of Scotland, HBOS and Lloyds TSB." "As recently as Sept. 23, senior officials had publicly derided proposals by Democrats to have the government take ownership stakes in banks. The Treasury Department's surprising turnaround on the issue of buying stock in banks, which has now become its primary focus, has raised questions about whether the administration squandered valuable time in trying to sell Congress on a plan that officials had failed to think through in advance." The Bush administration's inability to lead the globe has been evident for the past seven years. It was most evident during the invasion of Iraq but has been evident in other critical issues such as crafting an international response to global warming. The financial crisis is simply the latest example. [NY Times, 10/13/08 . NY Times, 10/12/08]

John McCain's treatment of our international partners diminishes our ability to act globally and hurts our position as a world leader. McCain has said that the G8 should become "a club of leading market democracies: It should include Brazil and India but exclude Russia." McCain would also exclude China from this expanded G8. In the run up to the war in Iraq John McCain charged, "that the [NATO] alliance is failing the test because of the 'flawed calculations' and 'vacuous posturing' of Germany and France." He called these two partners an aging '40s actress "still trying to dine out on her looks but doesn't have the face for it," and a "Rip Van Winkle . . . lack[ing] the political courage and cooperation with its allies on the question of Iraq." McCain has even refused to say whether he would met with Spain's Prime Minister, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. This is hardly the language of a leader looking to work with international partners to solve the serious challenges of our time. [John McCain, 2/13/03 . NY Times, 9/30/08 . Reuters, 10/15/07 . Huffington Post, 9/18/08]

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From:	"Adam Jentleson @ American Progress Action" <ajentleson@americanprogressaction.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	5/12/2008 4:26:08 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] FW: PRESS CALL TODAY: Carol Browner and Daniel Weiss on John McCain's Global Warming Speech

FYI. We'll be releasing a more comprehensive paper after his speech.

From: Center for American Progress Action Fund [mailto:media@americanprogressaction.org]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 10:22 AM
To: Adam Jentleson @ American Progress Action
Subject: PRESS CALL TODAY: Carol Browner and Daniel Weiss on John McCain's Global Warming Speech

Center for American Progress Action Fund

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2008

Contact
Christina Hadley, 202.481.8182
chadley@americanprogressaction.org

PRESS CALL TODAY: Carol Browner and Daniel Weiss on John McCain's Global Warming Speech

WASHINGTON, D.C. – **TODAY, Monday, May 12, at 12:00 PM EDT** the Center for American Progress Action Fund will host a conference call with Albright Group Principal and former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner and CAPAF Senior Fellow Daniel J. Weiss to discuss John McCain's environmental proposals and questions that remain unanswered after today's speech.

CAPAF has identified three major questions that exist about John McCain's environmental proposals. On today's call, Browner and Weiss will discuss which were answered today, and which were not.

The questions are:

· Will McCain modernize his plan to reflect the latest science?

· Will McCain only support global warming legislation if it heavily relies on nuclear power?

· Will McCain continue to favor tax breaks for oil companies while opposing tax incentives for clean energy?

See backgrounder below for more information.

WHAT: PRESS CALL – McCain Global Warming Plan

WHEN: TODAY, Monday, May 12, 2008 at 12:00 PM EDT

WHERE: By telephone 866.682.6100, ID: McCain Global Warming Plan

WHO: Carol Browner, Principal, the Albright Group LLC, former EPA Administrator, 1993-2001

Daniel J. Weiss, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress Action Fund

Questions for Sen. McCain on His Global Warming Speech in Portland, Oregon

On Friday, May 9th, Sen. McCain said, "As president, I will dedicate myself to addressing the issue of climate change globally." But is this rhetoric or real?

1. Will McCain modernize his plan based on the latest science?

His 2003 bill, S. 280 , would achieve a 50% reduction below 2005 levels, while scientists believe that we need an 80% reduction to stave off the worst impacts of global warming.

2. Will McCain only support global warming legislation if it heavily relies on nuclear power?

The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act would require a 62%-66% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050. The Senate plans to debate it the week of June 2nd. This bill does not include subsidies for nuclear power, while Sen. McCain's bill would provide $3.7 billion in federal assistance. McCain has said that he would support Lieberman-Warner only "if we have a dramatically increased role for nuclear power….nuclear power has got to be a very big part of any effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

On Friday, May 9th, the *Washington Post* reported that the "presumptive GOP nominee didn't say for sure that he would vote for the [Lieberman-Warner] bill." He wants to add subsidies for nuclear power plants – radioactive pork.

Nuclear plants are difficult and expensive to build without significant federal assistance because large scale private lenders are reluctant to invest

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in them due to huge costs, safety concerns, and radioactive waste disposal problems.

According to the Congressional Research Service , nuclear power received $74 billion (2003$) in subsidies from 1948 to 2003. This was more than half of all energy R&D. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 makes available another $13 billion.

It takes 10-15 years to build a nuclear power plant, but only 18-24 months to build a wind farm. A heavy reliance on nuclear power will delay reductions of greenhouse gases, as well as increase reduction costs compared to efficiency and renewables.

3. Will McCain continue to favor tax breaks for oil companies while opposing tax incentives for clean energy?

On December 13, 2007, the Senate failed to end debate (invoke cloture) on the energy bill because it would have shifted $13 billion in tax breaks from big oil to wind, solar other renewable energy sources, and efficiency. It failed by one vote, 59-40 , with 60 votes required. Sen. McCain was the only senator to miss the vote. Afterward, his spokesperson said that he would have voted with big oil .

On the campaign trail Sen. McCain made it clear that "I oppose subsidies. Not just ethanol subsidies. Subsidies." He opposes subsidies for renewable energy, though the looming expiration of existing renewable energy tax incentives could cost over 100,000 jobs . Yet he continues to support subsidies for big oil and nuclear power.

http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/mccain_gw_questions.html

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From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: adapt-cal@yahoogroups.com
Date: 4/6/2013 10:47:42 AM
Subject: Re: Please sign this petition my friends. Collateral Damage of the Homecare ...

Click here: Petition | United States Department of Labor: Don't remove the "companion exemption" to the FLSA until money is th

Please sign this petition my friends. My freedom to live outside of an institution is a life or living death issue for me, all my disabled friends our caregivers and millions of other like us.Our Caregivers could see their already crappy income cut so badly they wont be able to pay their rent! SHOW US THE MONEY! Here's my letter to the New York Times:

Collateral Damage of the Homecare Rules –

In your editorial, "Homecare Rules in the Homestretch," you fail to understand the reality of living on government funded Medicaid and the Russian Roulette pistol aimed at the heads of the Seniors, People with Disabilities and our Home Care Workers who depend on it, every year when budgets are cut. Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS (In Home Supportive Services) are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 159 hours of IHSS a month.

I know of a proud union member, a mother over 60, who has multiple disabilities of her own and takes care of her adult son with athetoid cerebral palsy who will see her household income of about $2520 a month in California drop to $1431, as her hours are cut from 280 hours a month to 159 hours. She doesn't have the stamina to supplement her income with more jobs and she has trouble finding other caregivers because her son cannot be understood very well by others. The union has taken over $40 a month from her for check each month to lobby for what will cut her income by a pretty big fraction. **70% of the caregivers in California are family members whose households stay intact with IHSS. A cut in hours can threaten their ability to stay in their homes**. Seniors and People with Disabilities with Live in Caregivers will be uprooted as well. Jerry Brown just got done settling a lawsuit trying to cut the IHSS program in California by 20% and settled for cutting it by about 8 percent. Do you really think he's going to take time and a half for over 50,000 providers? His representative on an Olmsted conference said they wouldn't.

When I was in the Young Socialist Alliance in college, before I had my accident, I believed in theories in a vacuum. Then I became disabled and saw how these things work out on a real-life level. In California, we have the most highly advanced In-Home Supportive Services program, and the reason it was so good is that the disabled person received money to find somebody and all of that money went directly to the caregiver. The attendant got all the bang for the buck. And while ADAPT American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today was fighting to get In Home Care, this wonderful program to all the states, they came up with things like "Money Follows the Person" and "Community First Choice Option" where that money continued to go to the disabled person to pay directly to their caregiver with no middleman.

But suddenly all kinds of profiteering is going on as big bad corporations and yes even sometimes big bad unions behaviors are immerging as monied interests smell a beautiful dollar to be made in the graying of the baby boomers. On a good day the union is our greatest blessing on a bad day they are our greatest curse. The only way to come up with a reasonable solution that takes everyone's welfare into account is to sit down and work it out. I think what's been most frightening to me in all of this is the ease with which able-bodied regard People with Disabilities as invisible. The SEIU would not even sit down at the table with People with Disabilities to work out a compromise. Would this happen to a person of color? Are we the last population to be seen as a fraction of a person -- or a person who is really there at all?

People have been making industries of people with disabilities for decades, in the nursing home industry, the charity industry, and now the medical industrial complex and the unions too on a bad day. People from ADAPT clawed our ways out of nursing homes that were profiteering off of us and now we have to fight against the nursing agency industry, managed care corporations, and even at times a union that is so out of touch with its rank and file providers needs that it would create three crappy jobs from one not so good one in order to collect two or three union dues on a one house. It is the people disabilities and rank-and-file providers, who are in a symbiotic relationship, huddled together to keep industries and unions from objectifying us and moving us around like "furniture" in their business plans. You can choose to be naïve and come up with lovely little fairy lands in your own mind, but make no mistake, your naïveté will be paid for by the rank-and-file workers whose pay will be cut badly and people with disabilities who will go back to nursing homes.

The ADAPT-NCIL compromise would simply eliminate the exemption for third party employers, treating Medicaid consumers in consumer directed programs (including public authorities, fiscal intermediaries and agencies with choice) the same as private employers so they can still use the existing exemption. According to the DOL analysis, this change - alone - would eliminate the companionship exemption for 70% of home care workers. It covers all of the "bad players" and concerns raised in the DOL analysis that exist in traditional home care while minimizing the negative impact on people with disabilities and preventing the unexpected consequences such changes would have on real live people in Medicaid funded programs.

WHERE ARE our points of view in this newspaper? In the DOL discussions? Why include us? It's only our bodies, our civil rights, our freedom to live lives akin to political prisoners in institutions! If anyone had any respect for people with disabilities we would have included us in the discussion.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Appointed Member Since Its Inception
Los Angeles County Public Authority Board PASC
that oversees the In Home Care of over
200,000 Seniors and People with Disabilities

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Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

"**Nothing About Us Without Us!**" (**Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis**") is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members the group(s) affected by that policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability based or other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/14/2008 5:58:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/14/08

Main Topics: Schunemann, Georgia, Vice Presidential Picks

Summary of Shift:
Discussion on VP picks becomes more protracted as the conventions draw closer. The fact that McCain might pick a pro-choice VP has caused a stir. McCain continues to take a hard line stance against Russian occupation of Georgia, and it was reported that Schunemann, his chief policy advisor, was at one time paid by the Georgian government to lobby to McCain. More Edwards coverage discusses that his wife probably stayed in the marriage because of their children.

Olympics and Georgia remain the most covered stories. Condoleeza Rice is in transit to France to meet with Sarkozy, and following this will head to Georgia in attempt to negotiate over the Russian occupation. U.S. aid has arrived in Georgia to assist with the thousands of displaced persons. In the U.S., reports have shown that foreclosures are up 55% from last year, and by 2042 minorities in the U.S. will become the majority. Additionally, the democratic state chairman of Arkansas was gunned down by a person who appears to have no ties with him.

Highlights:
1. ABC: Schunemann Lobbied McCain while being Paid by the Georgian Government
2. FNC: Steven Hayes Discusses McCain's Possible Pick of a Pro-Choice VP
3. ABC: McCain's Stance on Russia and His Advantage With International Crises

Highlights, No YouTubes:
4. FNC – SUSAN EISENHOWER: "John McCain, in contrast, is in deficit spending and is already racking up significant debts."

Clips:
Highlight #1
Schunemann Lobbied McCain while being Paid by the Georgian Government (ABC 08/14/08)
John McCain's foreign policy advisor appears to have close ties to the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. **Randy Schuneman and his business partner lobbied the senator will being paid by the Georgian government.** For the duration of the campaign Schunemann is taking a leave of absence from the firm.

Highlight #2
Steven Hayes Discusses McCain's Possible Pick of a Pro-Choice VP (FNC 08/14/08)
MEGYN KELLY: Presidential candidate John McCain is just weeks away from the GOP convention, and he is expected to unveil his VP pick any day. **And now there are new reports that the presidential hopeful may be considering a pro-choice pick for the #2 spot on his ticket.** But would a pro-choice running mate doom the McCain candidacy?

[…]

STEVEN HAYES: … I mean, if you look at how the campaign has run itself, … **they've made clear that the priority here is getting independent voters and even stealing some democrats, disaffected Hillary voters** and others to vote for John McCain. And I think they think that's the key to the victory. The question is, would a pro-choice running mate appeal to that group in such a way that it would offset or counter-balance what they would lose in the Republican base if the Republican base didn't turn out because it was a pro-choice candidate.

KELLY: … Is it a fair assumption that he would lose part of the Republican base if he goes to the pro-choice vice presidential candidate, like Tom Ridge, former governer of Pennsylvania, who McCain mentioned when he made these comments because what's the alternative? No matter who he picks, McCain's further to the right than Obama on the issue of choice.

HAYES: … I don't think it's that voters would necessarily flock to Barack Obama, … pro-life voters, single issue voters, some conservatives who aren't single-issue **voters but still take their pro-life stance very seriously might simply stay home... how many people will that be? Is it enough to offset whatever he might gain in independent democrats?**

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KELLY: … the Supreme Court is on the docket, so to speak, in this election. And you've got John Paul Stevens pushing 90, uh, the most liberal member of this court. It's very possible in the next four years that he might be replaced. He might step down. If McCain has a pro-choice running mate, given McCain's age, people might worry, somehow, that that person would succeed to the top spot…

HAYES: … he did a town hall in Pennsylvania where he **talked specifically about judges, and says look, I think I will have the opportunity to appoint two, maybe three supreme court justices and this is an issue where conservatives are going to like me. I will appoint justices like Roberts, like Elito…** the question then would be, given the age factor, how does that play with voters, I mean if McCain is reassuring them that he's going to pick the kind of judges that conservatives are going to like, what would a pro-choice running mate do to that question?

Highlight #3

McCain's Stance on Russia and His Advantage With International Crises (ABC 8-14-08)

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: Well, Diane we see this developing into a major international crisis. Now, with President Bush delaying his vacation, sending humanitarian aide and US troops to help . . . this does have echoes of the Cold War . . . it ends up, I believe, helping in the short run, John McCain. He has been somewhat prescient on this issue. **He has long warned of an aggressive, belligerent Russia, said they should be kicked out of the G-8 organization**. More and more analysts are coming around to that view right now. Barack Obama is playing it a little more safe . . . I think **whenever you've got a major international crisis going, it's likely to play into John McCain's advantage**. That is one area where he does till hold an advantage over Obama.

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 5:23:32 PM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Agree with Jake and John
We're not running against King.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2015, at 7:28 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.

On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:
It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:

- Immigration plan
- Clinton Cash update

Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call

Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays
Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.

--
Kristina Schake
Hillary for America

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/12/2008 7:04:34 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in York, PA 08/12/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Jacob, on the ground in York, PA. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Unprecedented fanfare, incl. pulling Straight Talk Express into the venue itself, Lieberman comments "It's great to be here with Rocky McCain"
- Begins stump with 5 min explanation of situation in Georgia, mentions pipeline and that he spoke to Georgian Pres. to offer support
- Promises we will be "largely" out of Iraq in next 4 years, says "I will bring the peace"
- Says he knows about Three Mile Island, but Navy ships haven't 'had an accident--never a serious accident' w/ nuclear
- Says he understands the problems of Social Security so well that it's a compelling reason for him to be President
- Repeats that he thinks people cherish their 2nd Amendment rights and religion b/c of patriotism
- ONE camp. rep asks his thoughts on poverty as major cause of most of problems we've seen since 9/11, McCain says countries need wherewithal to want positive change themselves, and he won't give aid to corrupt dictators

York, PA: McCain Town Hall 08/12/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- 15-20 demonstrators outside before event: from NOW and local bricklayers - signs hitting McCain's on women's issues and same as Bush on economy [tracker footage available]
- Ticket-only event
- About 2000 people in audience: mostly white, older, casual dress
- Uncharacteristically enthusiastic crowd
- Meghan McCain in bus; Nicole Wallace
- Pre-event fanfare
    - Unusual plethora of RNC paraphenalia outside event
    - Arlen Specter gives brief remarks
    - Showed 2 new videos: (1) showing McCain as sportsman/conservationist like T. Roosevelt (2) showing McCain in POW camp, juxtaposed w/ clips of him cheerleading 'action'
    - **Spectacular entrance: Straight Talk Express pulls *into* venue while 'Rocky' theme plays and giant flag raised**
    - **sports-event announcing: please welcome Gov. Tom Ridge, Lieberman, and Sen. John McCain. Ton of music and fanfare, like leadup to a big concert (or some sort of... 'celebrity' event)**
- Lieberman gives intro remarks
    - **"It's great to be here with Rocky McCain"**
    - To make sure the crowd is friendly, they put the Dem on first.
    - Why am I as an indep Dem supporting a GOP? B/c we're all Americans.
    - "I am supporting John McCain b/c he is ready to lead America forward- he's the best" (really slow) And in doing so, I'm just following the role model that McCain has been - always put America first, working across party lines to get things done.
    - Choice couldn't be more clear b/t McCain (tested in war and in peace, with experience; always put the country first vs. not -- a talker vs. leader the country needs)
    - never know when America will face a crisis, like in Georgia, and McCain responded strong, clear, principled; the kind of guy we need in the WH
    - We helped create Homeland Security - Bush turned to someone the country needs, Tom Ridge - and

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since we've not had another terrorist attack in USA

- Tom Ridge gives intro remarks
    - Lieberman said it better than anyone could say it b/c in his heart and his head, he understands the values America needs
    - [story of Lieberman and McCain understand that you run to win and win to govern
    - PA is a state of independents- GOPs are going to support McCain but independents too. Why? America is desperate for leadership - these are perilous times--Russia/Georgia put exclamation point on this-- we need someone ready to lead.
    - There are red states adn blue states - we need a President that is red, white, and blue
    - McCain will bring both natl and internatl leadership

Speech Highlights

- Ridge is a great friend - not an accident we haven't had another we owe a debt of gratitude to "gov. John--Tom Ridge"
- Cong. John Platz in attendance; And arlen specter is here fighting a battle and he's winning
- TY GOPs, Dems, Indeps, libertarians, vegeterians - THs are essence of democracy - we are facing tough times here and abroad and we need great courage; TY vets
- We have to be serious for a few min here - over the past several days, we've seen that internatl aggression is tragically not a thing of the past - we thought we'd put it behind us, but we see it rearing it's head in 21st century. Some Americans might wonder why we should care about Georgia, but history is often made in remote, obscure places and it was made today. Georgia was a 4th century convert to Christianity - if you go to Georgia, as I have several times, you see churches that date back - Georgia's been attacked again and again but have maintained their language and cultural pride. they were part of USSR, but were able to maintain their independence after its dissolution.
- They're at a strategic crossroads - the Russians tried to bomb their pipeline - and I dont have to tell you
- On Fri, Russian troops moved into Georgian province of S Ossetia -- I traveled to S Ossetia and it had a billboard that suggested Russia's ambitions there - on Sat, started bombing apt bldgs, etc. etc. Yesterday Russian troops drove Georgians out of S Ossetia and started up in Khakazia - Georgians asked for a ceasefire and Russians bombed the airport - Yesterday they started attacking other cities, e.g. Gori and Tbisili -- Pres. Mdevev stated he has halted the offensive but reports suggest attacks continue. Foreign minister suggests they want regime change in Georgia and Pres has 'gotta go' --
- Russia has used violence ag/ Georgia to send a signal to any country that seeks to ally with West. We learned at great cost what happens when we let aggression go unchecked. We need independent peacekeeping mission and increased humanitarian, etc. aid
- We need to remind Russian leaders what comes along with being part of civilized countries
- I spoked to Sashkishvili - knows American support is with him and he wanted to give his thanks to you for this tiny little democracy - i told him that i speak for them when i said today we are all Georgians
- these events are a long way from home - the energy crisis that we have today derives in pat from the fact that we get most of our energy from that part of the world - Georgians have a pipeline that carries oil to Caspian Sea
- Another reminder that we need to stop spending billions to countries that don't like us very much
- And the msg we want to send to Washington is Come back from your vacation and fix this problem! Drill here and drill now! Drill offshore! it's no wonder we have 9% Cong approval rating - maybe Arlen, some of your staff is here today, but I'm not so sure about them
- This has been coming for 30 years. We have to have a Lex Project. We have to have an all-of-the-above project. We sit on one of the largest coal reserves - incl. here in PA. We need clean coal - we need to invest $2B in R&D
- Nuclear - I know about Chernobyl and **3 Mile Island,** but we've been sailing Navy ships around the world for 60 years and **'we've never had an accident- never had a serious accident'.** The French do it. We need to store and reprocess.
- So we can! You hear on the radio we can't we can't we can't - that's not America - America has met every challenge and we can overcome with technology, we can do it. 700k new jobs with 45 nuclear power plants.
- Yesterday we visited locomotive-producing GE - and some think that's not high-tech - but they make the best in the world. So my friends we can do it
- Lieberman is great. Americans are tired of the fighting, the gridlock, the putting our parties above our country - they want us to stand up and do what's right. I have a record of reaching across the aisle adn that's what I will do b/c America wants us to put our country first. We may have disagreeements from time to time and those are healthy and good for us
- I didn't talk to you about the war in Iraq or a lot of things I want to talk to you about, but ever since I was 17

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and raised my hand and took oath as midshipmen I've always put my country first. Long ago and far away i was offered a chance by the N Vietnamese to leave POW camp early-- 'i'm sure it was b/c my father was a high-ranking Navy admiral' but my friend, Everett Alvarez had been there first and it was against our code of conduct and I will always put my country first

Questions and Answers

- [jokes we have a work-release person here]
- 1Q) How do you plan to help our schools acquire new technology and train our teachers?
    - JM It's very important to provide our newest and best technology. and some of it is spreading-- there are online classes, etc. But, esp in low-income America, there are still blackboards, etc. We need to upgrade technology there. This is the civil rights issue of 21st century. WE all have opportunity to send our kids to school, but is it an opportunity if we send them to a failing school? I want every American to have choice Cindy and I had when we sent our kids to private schools in Phoenix. Charter schools, home-schooling (great cheers). By_upgrading quality of education [?], we'll upgrade our facilities. NCLB was good start, now we have to fix it. Education improvement in NYC and NOLA (charter schools not better than public schools, but theyr'e competition, so the quality has improved). *Children should not be penalized for the economic situation they reside in.*

- [little girl - when you're done talking, can you sign my book?]
- JM: there was a veteran... was it you, sir? oh! there!

- 2Q) Will you maintain our military to stay at current level or greater? And what will you do for vets' benefits?
    - JM: We have to expand the size of the military adn we're doing that now. One of the many mistakes in Iraq was that we didn't expand the size of the military and we've put enormous strain on Guard and Reserve.
    - Yes, incl. educational benefits. And another thing. We've had an increase in PTSD and good news - we've been able to save more ppl b/c of efficiency in getting ppl from battlefield to medical care. So we need to increase our ability to treat PTSD and those battle wounds. But for avg vets in need of routine care, they should have a plastic card to go to physician of their choice and not have to wait in line to wait in line.

- 3Q) For those of us who are headed into miliitary service, how are things going to look for us in next 4 years?
    - JM: **By end of next 4 years ,we will be largely out of Iraq.** And not bc wev'e set a date for withdrawal, but b/c we will ahve one. But that withdrawal will be based on conditions on the ground, not on a set date for withdrawal. Obama said sruge wouldnt work, voted not to fund men and women fighting there, still refuses to acknowledge it's succeeded; hadn't been there in over 900 days and gave a speech before he went--hard to believe. So there's a great difference. He wanted us out last March. The surge has succeeded, Petraeus is great. Men and women like you are the greatest and I'm proud of you. "We have succeeded--it's not we are succeeding--we have succeeded and we are winnign" and if we had had this convo 2 wks ago, we wouldnt have consumed our convo with tiny little Georgia. I've been in wars, i know wars, I hate wars - no one hates war more than the vet. So at the end of 4 years, **I will bring the peace**

- 4Q) Value of homes is declining. Plans to turn it around?
    - JM: These are tough times in America. I shouldve mentioned it. The housing crisis is probs one of the most if not the most severe aspect of it b/c it's the American Dream. We just passed thru the Senate something that will incentivize ppl to stay in their homes. And I hope we dont' get to this b/c Senate bill will work--What I'd like to see is a homeowner to be able to get a 30 year FHA mortgage rate at new value of home--not the person who bought 2 houses and let them idle hoping the value would increase.

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- 5Q) What will you do to bring jobs?
    - [gov-chow line joke]
    - JM: We can bring jobs to PA and the heartland of America. At GE plant, they make the most efficient and fuel-efficient locomotives in the world. And they're hiring b/c demand overseas is going up, e.g. Brazil. And i mentioned nuclear, creating jobs. I believe USA will lead in green technology and green innovation. So if you have a fundamental faith in America, then you know we're the best workers, best producers. Every technology has come from USA. We will become energy independent. Yes we have challenges: education, housing. But somehow to believe America is not capable of this is a fundamental contradiction of teh history of this country. And I believe in it.

- 6Q) For the longest time you didn't have an Ag policy. now you do - hooray! but yours now is based on foreign trade. How do you plan for us to become energy independent in terms of what goes into your body? Problems for farmers w imports and exports.
    - JM: I believe US farmers are best in the world and can compete w/ best of the world. And i think it's outrageous that our biggest overseas market for our products, Colombia, whose leader BTW just carried out a daring rescue, and Pelosi refuses to hold a vote on trade agreement with them. And Pelosi also won't hold vote on drilling. I say things you sometimes dont like. I opposed ethanol subsidies b/c they distort the market.

- 7Q) Conservatives believe you dismiss our requests for serious conservative stance on issue. In your quest for POTUS, is it in you to take a serious stance with conservative policy to fight the lure of socialistic policies and the Dems?
    - JM [pretends to grimace / sigh]: Yes.
    - Can I say something: Judges. 2-3 vacancies on SCOTUS "according to ppl who decide these things"-- err, [corrects himself] Alito and Roberts were 2 of the greatest justices we ever had. Obama didn't support them. I will only nominate strict-constructionists.

- 8Q) I'm paying into a SS system that I'm not going to reap benefits from. What's your proposal?
    - JM: jokes- 'I should've recognized the guy behind you.' Sometimes we have to have straight talk. Benefits won't be there unless we fix the system. If there's ever a compelling argument for bipartisanship, it's SS. Why should we lay a multitrillion dollar debt on next generation of Americans? Ridge and I came to DC together - I was proud to be there w/ only other Viet vet. and btw, he graduated Harvard and could've gotten deferment, but he served in Vietnam - so we came and SS broken, adn O'Neill and Reagan worked together and fixed SS for 25 years. So we have an example. Lieberman and I aren't going to invent a way. **I understand SS problem so well that I think I should be your next POTUS.**

- 9Q) I was a diehard HRC fan. I'm deciding between you adn Obama. I'm not sure where you stand. Where do you stand on college; gas prices?
    - JM: First of all, I appreciate that you would take the time to be a part of this. Also, on HRC- she ran a great campaign, she inspired young women. Education-- if your grades are good, universities adn colleges are competing to get you. We've got to make education affordable. Like healthcare, we've got double-digit inflation on education. This fall might be a problem of availability of student loans - we need to make sure Governors will keep that from being a problem.
    - JM: If you have specialty like math, science, engineering, we need to find a way to keep you in school b/c we need that. And I say this w/ my daughter who graduated with degree in Art History.
    - And 2nd thing, we need to reward service, e.g. TFA, Peace Corps. I will continue to expand those programs and their rewards. And rewards should be last thing to motivate toward service, but we need to provide educational benefits.
    - **And tell your friends to come. Some straight-talk, I need to do a better job w/ young voters.**

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- 10Q) Costs of health care and uncertainty of Medicare.
    - JM: Before the housing crisis, HC was #1 issue at town hall mtgs. Prob is system today has no real breaks or incentives to bring down costs. I'd like to give families $5k tax credit so they can go across state lines and get HC they need. Health and wellness (Shaq's challenge). What about so-called uninsurables? We're going to have to advocate GAPs w/ contributions by state and fed so we can pool risks and provide HC. If you like govt-run HC systems, go to Canada or England and see if you like it - that's what Obama's proposing. We have to preserve quality of HC, and improve accessibility and affordability

- JM: ONE organization is here. Cindy & co went to Rwanda with them, where there were 800k killed. Adn btw, it was inspired by Bono.
- **ONE rep: we realized after 9/11 that a lot of the probs USA faces, incl. military, is result of poverty around the world.** What is your plan for combating that?
    - JM: 1 of the ways for addressing all this that Cindy saw and Huckabee and Frist saw -- and BTW, best line of debates was Huckabee's 'jesus would be smart enough not to run for public office'. One of the most impressive parts of Rwanda was the women, who have decided theyre not going to stand for this and are assuming poistions of responsibility and power. These countries need wherewithal to make postive change themselves. Aid money we give these 3rd world countries end up in Swiss bank accounts and I won't stand for it. Bill Gates and etc do great work Provide help but not to corrupt govts.

- we're going to be up late on Election Night. And I'm the underdog and I love it, I always relish that position. **I don't believe Pennsylvanians cherish their 2nd Amendment rights or their religion b/c they're bitter, but b/c they love America.** And I'll tell them they're the heart of America. And they're why the ppl of Georgia are looking to America. We will continue to be beacon of hope.

--
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From: "Terry Sheridan" <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/17/2011 5:04:38 AM
Subject: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

John:

I hope your trip is going well.

I wanted to follow up with you on a major project we are working on - the executive search for the CEO of CGSGI. We have retained Russell Reynolds for the search, and we are working with Annie Simonds from their Washington DC office. They have identified a number of viable candidates and we are scheduled to conduct in-person interviews in NY on December 7th and 8th, with follow up interviews on December 19th and 20th.

Bruce is on the search committee but obviously hasn't been able to participate these past few weeks. In addition to myself and Annie Simonds, the other members are Christy Louth, Executive Director of CGSGI Canada, and Eric Nonacs, a member of the CGSGI Steering Committee and of the CGSGI Canada Board of Directors, whom you may know. Christy will particpate in the December 7th & 8th interviews, but is not available for the follow up interviews, and Eric is unfortunately not available for either. We were counting on Bruce to add an important management perspective, but I am not sure if he will be able to participate. If he is not able, would you be able to help, particularly for the first round on December 7th and 8th? It will be important to have good representation on our end not only to evaluate the candidates but also to attract them to the position. I know you have a very full plate, but if your schedule would be able to accommodate this, the search firm would of course brief you on the candidate slate, and will be preparing a summary of specific questions and areas we will want to explore in our interviews with candidates. There will be a total of 8 candidates to speak to on 12/7 & 12/8, with the objective of narrowing the field to 4 candidates for the 2nd round later that month.

Another alternative could be to reschedule the interviews for January, but the objective has been to move this along at an aggressive pace as Frank Giustra is very eager to fill this position (it has been vacant since mid-year). Once we agree on the second-round candidates, we could also fly the candidates out to San Francisco where Eric is based.

I would appreciate your bringing this up with Bruce when you next speak, and your thoughts on the possible alternatives if he is not available. Thanks and safe travels.

Terry

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From:	"Tara McGuinness" <tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org>
To:	tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org
Date:	6/20/2008 12:05:51 PM
Subject:	Weekly Update - June 20
Attachments:	Weekly Update June 20.doc

This week June 20, 2008 – PMUSA Soon to Be ProgressiveAccountability.org Update

New McCain Campaign Developments . . .

On Tuesday, McCain launched a new ad highlighting his break from Bush on global warming. [TIME , 6/17/08]

The McCain campaign hired two new press aides, Leah Yoon and Laura Perloff. Both come from NPR. [Fishbowl DC , 6/19/08]

McCain met with Hispanic leaders in Chicago in a closed-door event to discuss immigration. [Associated Press , 6/19/08]

Progressive Media USA and Partner Activities This Week . . .

Energy

McCain spent this week focused on energy. On Monday, he announced he reversed his previous stance calling to end for the federal ban on offshore drilling. The following day, President Bush announced that he also supports an end to the ban. Later in the week, McCain appeared to be open to drilling in ANWR. PMUSA and our partners worked to frame McCain and the same as Bush on energy, to point out McCain's flip-flop and to paint McCain as a friend to Big Oil, not families.

RESEARCH: The research team put together documents on McCain's missed votes and votes against increased fuel efficiency and renewable energy, McCain's lobbyist connections to Big Oil, and how McCain and Bush are the same on energy policies. We posted these documents to McCainSource.com, shared them with our partners and sent them to reporters.

PRESS: PMUSA worked with the League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Americans United for Change and Friends of the Earth released statements criticizing McCain's push for offshore drilling. PMUSA sent our McCain oil research document to Senator Reid, Rep. Markey, Rep. Pelosi and Rep. Emanuel. Senator Reid and Congressman Markey spoke out against McCain's position and today Congressman Emanuel sent a letter to McCain asking if he would drill in the Great Lakes. Campaign Money Watch released a report connecting McCain's support for offshore drilling with his ties to the energy industry.

- "'John McCain's big money donors and lobbyist friends have struck again,' said David Donnelly, director of Campaign Money Watch. 'McCain's reversal on off-shore drilling is a blatant pitch for donations at today's Houston fundraising events.' McCain's speech on energy policy, which he is scheduled to deliver today in Houston, comes on the same day that Campaign Money Watch is releasing a report on McCain's connections to the energy sector, including the oil, gas and nuclear power industries. The report can be viewed at http://www.campaignmoney.org/mccainenergy. " [Campaign Money Watch, 6/17/08]
- "Congress passed a permanent ban on drilling in the lakes in 2005 and McCain isn't likely to suggest drilling in such a habitat. But that doesn't stop Emanuel from closing: 'I hope your newfound stance on offshore drilling will not be followed by support for drilling in the Great Lakes.'" [Politico , 6/20/08]
- "Instead of siding with the hardworking American families being exploited by an energy industry awash in record profits, Senator McCain supports allowing Big Oil to begin the wholesale 'exploitation' of our coasts. Rather than offering consumers real relief from skyrocketing energy prices, Senator McCain's plan would merely pad Big Oil's bottom line while putting thousands of miles of pristine beaches and coastline at risk." [Sierra Club , 6/17/08]
- "Just mentioning the words 'renewable energy' doesn't hide the fact that Senator McCain is now embracing the outdated energy policies of the past," LCV President Gene Karpinski said. "If Senator McCain is serious about ending our addiction to oil and helping working families with inefficient cars, why has he voted against or missed every fuel efficiency bill since 1990? Drilling in protected areas offshore won't solve our energy needs in the short term and in the long term, will increase the threat of global warming. We need to break our addiction to oil — not look for another fix." [League of Conservation Voters, 6/17/08]
- "If John McCain were looking for a way to prove he's running for George Bush's third term, he couldn't do better than this. Maybe we should start calling him 'Exxon John.'" [Friends of the Earth Action, 6/16/08]
- "'Senator McCain and President Bush just couldn't bare the agony of being apart on this major environmental issue for even a day' said Jeremy Funk, spokesman for Americans United for Change. 'It didn't matter that they are already of one mind on everything from endless war in Iraq to more tax breaks for millionaires to privatizing Social Security – there was now this pesky difference on off-shore drilling and they just had to nip it in the bud, for the sake of the McBush relationship'" [Americans United for Change, 6/18/08]

PROGRESSIVEACCOUNTABILITY.ORG worked with Marc Ambinder to get him to post a story on McCain's comments at a Missouri town hall where he seemed open to drilling in ANWR. Following Ambinder's post, LCV and Sierra Club released statements hitting McCain. McCain was forced to address the issue.

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- "He then volunteered that he had changed his position on offshore oil drilling, which he now supports, because of the rising price of oil. Asked if the high price of oil tempts him to reconsider drilling in ANWR, he said: 'No, but again, if somebody says, 'will you look at this information?' …I'll be glad to look at that information. I think it's incumbent on me to review it. But I certainly haven't changed my position.'" [Wall Street Journal , 6/20/08]

PAID MEDIA: Sierra Club ran a radio ad in several Ohio media markets calling attention to Senator McCain's ironic use of windmills in Ohio TV advertising despite his failure to support renewable energy initiatives in the Senate, and asking him to vote for incentives for wind power and other renewables when they come up on the floor.

ONLINE: PROGRESSIVEACCOUNTABILITY.ORG created a web video that shows how McCain and Bush are the same on offshore drilling.

Here are some of the stories that used our frame:

"McCain's energy plan gets positive reception; Most oil execs respond favorably as he touts policy and raises funds in campaign trip here" [Houston Chronicle , 6/18/08]

"While McCain has traditionally sided with environmentalists on climate change, he has a mixed voting record on oil drilling and support for renewable energy." [Washington Post , 6/17/08]

"He's been saying well look I broke with President Bush on global warming but on the other hands, he and the President are in lockstep now on increasing more oil drilling and so that could really complicate Senator McCain's efforts to reach out to independent voters…" [Wolf Blitzer, CNN's The Situation Room, 6/18/08]

"Well while President Bush calls for an end to the federal moratorium on offshore drilling, it might be a good time to point out that Republican presidential nominee John McCain has uh been pitching that for two days." [Megyn Kelly, FOX News, 6/18/08]

The End of "The Maverick" Vaneer

In the last few weeks, McCain has run from endorsing bi-partisan climate change legislation in the Senate and startled many with his reaction to a Supreme Court ruling on detainees. We framed McCain's embrace of offshore drilling as the death blow to McCain's maverick image is gone.

We put together a memo for the Sunday shows that highlights all the opinion pieces which have declared the Maverick as gone. The memo also included polling information on how many people believe McCain will continue Bush's policies, data on how McCain is unpopular with his base and how McCain has moved to the right on his "Maverick" issues to please the base.

Here are some of the stories about the end of the Maverick.

- "Yet while it would be hard to categorize him as a doctrinaire Republican or conservative, Mr. **McCain appears to have ceded some of his carefully cultivated reputation as a maverick**." [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times , 6/17/08]
- "It wasn't too many years ago that 'maverick' was the cliche of choice in describing him. But that term didn't even make the list this year when voters were asked by the Pew Research Center to sum up McCain in a single word…Voters have notoriously short memories, **but it could be argued that McCain cheapened his own brand**. He embraced President Bush and attempted to become, like Bush, the choice of the Republican establishment." [Paul West, Baltimore Sun , 6/15/08]
- "**The man once celebrated for his informality with reporters emerged in a severe gray suit a**nd stood in front of four American flags, flared with the help of adhesive tape. He scolded one reporter for asking a question without raising her hand. One star correspondent, arriving a few minutes late for the event, was forced to wait outside until McCain finished." [Dana Milbank, Washington Post , 6/17/08]
- "But McCain needs to win independents to win the presidency, and **there are indications that the McCain 'brand' -- his image as an independent maverick -- has been damaged** in the past few years." [Jake Tapper, ABC News , 6/20/08]
- "I like McCain, and I promised myself I'd defend him against any Democratic effort to blur his record with Bush's. **I didn't anticipate that the erstwhile maverick would be making it harder to distinguish between the two**." [Brian Dickerson, Detroit Free Press , 6/20/08]

McSame

The McSame frame continues to gain traction, including a front page New York Times story this week.

- How Close McCain Is to Bush Depends on the Issue

  "— The Democrats like to say that electing Senator John McCain would usher in the third term of George W. Bush , and they do not mean it as a compliment. **The Republicans counter that calling the senator "McBush" is political spin and that Mr. McCain is his own man. A look at Mr. McCain's 25-year record in the House and Senate, his 2008 campaign positions and his major speeches over the last three months indicates that on big-ticket issues — the economy, support for continuing the Iraq war, health care — his stances are indeed similar to Mr. Bush's brand of conservatism. Mr. McCain's positions are nearly identical to the president's on abortion and the types of judges he says he would appoint to the courts."** [New York Times , 6/17/08]

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- **Fix Pick: 'McSame' as Bush?** John McCain = George W. Bush.

  "For much of the last few months, Democrats and their affiliate groups have worked hard to ensure voters become familiar with that equation… And, according to a new poll conducted by the Washington Post and ABC News voters are internalizing the message. Thirty eight percent of those surveyed said McCain would take the country in a 'new' direction, while 57 percent said a McCain administration would mostly keep America on the 'same' course." [Washington Post , 6/18/08]

Trade

McCain gave a speech on free trade in Canada today. Our research team pulled together a document on McCain's record and many of his insensitive statements about the jobs not coming back. We shared this document with our partners.

AFL-CIO hosted a press conference call to respond to McCain's speech. The call featured Senator Sherrod Brown and a worker.

- "Instead of delivering a speech from Ottawa, Canada, Senator McCain should visit Ottawa, Ohio, where the Phillips plant closed," [Sen.] Brown said. "We need trade policies that create new jobs at home, not ship them to Mexico. We need a new direction, not a third Bush term." [AFL-CIO release, 6/20/08]

FISA

Congress is voting on a FISA compromise today. Our research team put together a document outlining how McCain aides Charlie Black and Wayne Berman ran a secretive lobbying campaign for retroactive immunity while working on the McCain Campaign. The document also shows that McCain has received lots of money from the telecom industry and supports the industry position on this issue.

We gave this document to Talking Points Memo who will write a story on it. We also gave this document to reporters who have been working on FISA.

Oil in Iraq

This week it was announced that top U.S. oil companies will receive no-bid oil contracts in Iraq. Research put together a document on McCain's lobbyist ties to Big Oil and contractors in Iraq. Talking Points Memo is working on a story about it for next week.

In the States

This week saw Senator McCain stopping in Iowa and Minneapolis, MN. Alliance for a Better Minnesota hosted two events, launched two websites, and conducted a visibility outside of the event using the "McSame" frame. Next week, the Senator will be in California, Colorado and Ohio. California and Colorado will focus on the immediate economic and environmental impacts of McCain's proposal to conduct more drilling for oil, while Ohio will demand more immediate actions to lower Ohioans' gas bills.

Iowa
Due to the continued natural disaster, coverage in the mainstream media has been hard to come by. However, surrogates we've been working with had their own message to give Senator McCain.

McCain earmark opposition assailed
By JANE NORMAN
Des Moines Register

Washington, D.C. - Republican presidential candidate John McCain opposed legislation last year that included money for flood control in Des Moines, which shows he is wrong to push for reforms to the congressional earmark system, a Democratic lawmaker charged Thursday.

State Sen. Jack Hatch of Des Moines said the earmarked money was needed to relieve water problems on the city's north side, which were magnified over the weekend when a levee break forced an evacuation of the Birdland area and ruined several dozen homes and businesses.
[Snip]
President Bush eventually vetoed the bill, which authorized more than 900 navigation, flood-control and environmental projects across the country. A report on the bill said the Des Moines metropolitan area suffered more than $152 million in flood damage in 1993.
"The Birdland Park and Central Place levees on the Des Moines River failed during the 1993 flood event and do not provide reliable flood protection, placing nearly 200 homes and businesses at risk," the report said.
Every member of the Iowa congressional delegation voted to override Bush's veto, the first override of his presidency.
McCain strongly backed Bush.
"This legislation is fundamentally flawed, authorizing nearly 1,000 new projects without any method for prioritizing the needs of our national water infrastructure," he told the Senate. He added that the bill was "full of pork projects and unchecked government spending." [Des Moines Register, 6/20/08]

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Blog

McCain: Same As Bush On Oil
Written by: Gordon Fischer, 6/18/2008 9:41 AM

MCCAIN JUST LIKE BUSH ON OFFSHORE DRILLING
This week both McCain and Bush push oil industry plan to end to the federal ban on offshore drilling.
On energy issues, McCain and Bush share an agenda aimed at helping Big Oil. Yesterday, both Bush and McCain called for an end to the federal moratorium on offshore drilling. Additionally, McCain has repeatedly voted against and skipped votes on renewable energy and increased fuel efficiency.
McCain has a dismal 24% lifetime rating from the League of Conservation Voters .

Big Oil loves McCain, like they love Bush.
Today's *Houston Chronicle* headline on McCain's speech reads: ***"McCain's energy plan gets positive reception; Most oil execs respond favorably as he touts policy and raises funds in campaign trip here"***
McCain has received more than $1 million from the oil & gas industry according to a Campaign Money Watch analysis of data from the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics Center.
Like Bush, McCain is surrounded by Big Oil lobbyists. At least 22 staffers or fundraisers for McCain's campaign have lobbied for Big Oil. They have represented 5 of the 9 oil companies in the 2008 Fortune 200.
Like Bush, McCain offers billions in tax cuts for Big Oil, but no relief for families. According to the Center for American Progress Action Fund,McCain's tax plan gives nearly $4 billion in tax breaks to the top five American oil companies, but gives families very little. Economists have panned McCain's gas tax holiday, saying it won't help families with gas prices. [Iowa True Blue, 6/18/08]

Minnesota
Minnesota was graced with McCain's presence at an "undecided voters" town hall and fundraiser. They hosted two events, one with foreclosure victims in partnership with ACORN and another with veterans focused on the GI Bill with VoteVets. In addition to holding a "McSame" presence outside of the fundraiser , they released two websites.

McCain v Minnesota is focused on the impacts of the Iraq War has had on funding in Minnesota, Senator McCain's health care plan, and foreclosure numbers tied with McCain's personal housing wealth.

Pawlenty Poker . In preparation for Governor Pawlenty receiving the VP nod, which has received a lot of buzz recently, Alliance for a Better Minnesota is targeting Pawlenty as a run-of-the-mill Conservative that has harmed Minnesota's interests. The website is a poker game, where the player acts as Pawlenty betting away important MN infrastructure funding in order to "Win" the grand prize, a VP nod. Play the game to see fun special appearances from other lawmakers.

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Protest Clips

McCain's Minnesota visit met by anti-war protesters
by Mark Zdechlik , Minnesota Public Radio**,** June 19, 2008

Minneapolis — Protesters who plan to march during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul in September got a warm-up Thursday with presidential candidate John McCain visiting the Twin Cities for two appearances.

Outside the Hilton Hotel in downtown Minneapolis on Thursday afternoon, about 100 people peacefully demonstrated during a fund raising event for John McCain.

About a dozen more chanted outside McCain's townhall meeting at the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

Union protesters

But antiwar protester Meredith Aby says today's turnout will not even compare to the tens of thousands of protesters expected to march on the Republican convention.

"The RNC is going to be huge. The September 1 demonstration is on day when nobody has to go to work, unlike today, and that we've been building for, for years, whereas his demonstration is something that was called for two weeks ago, but even trying to figure out his schedule has been very hard, even trying to figure out where to organize something at," Aby said.

About two-thirds of those assembled appeared to be anti-war protesters who want to end the war in Iraq. Union members also demonstrated calling for greater access to health insurance.

There was a heavy police presence, but there were no arrests.

One Republican Party official said he expected several hundred people to attend McCain's fundraiser.

The townhall meeting was an invitation-only event for 200 undecided voters the campaign said it identified through a telephone marketing firm.

One of the protesters was Gary Struss, with the Sheetmetal Workers union, Local 10. He said a McCain administration will be a continuation of President Bush's policies.

"I'm gonna protest Mc Bush being John McCain and his failed policies because his policies are the same as George Bush and they have failed America," Struss said.

The protests were largely peaceful. One man was arrested for trying to enter the townhall event, which was closed and guarded by security officers. [MN Public Radio, 6/19/08]

McCain's pitch: Republican Pledging to fight hard in Minnesota to win the presidency
By Bill Salisbury and Rachel E. Stassen-Berger, 06/20/2008

Outside the hotel, anti-war activists and union members formed a crowd that exceeded 100. About three dozen Minneapolis police officers were stationed around the hotel. There were no incidents.

Meredith Aby, a lead organizer of a planned protest march at the September Republican National Convention in St. Paul, spoke into a bullhorn as motorists passed by. A sign reading "McBush" seemed to be the most popular, and the crowd was decidedly

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younger than those attending the fundraiser.

"He says this state's in play for the 2008 election, and I just don't think that's true," Aby said. "Minnesotans value peace, and they value justice, and I don't think he values either of those things." [Pioneer Press, 6/20/08]

New Mexico

Letter to the Editor

Green Development Benefits from Federal Tax Relief
Juan Reynosa

Hobbs has a great opportunity to become the hub of energy production in New Mexico, not just within the oil industry, but also within the emerging realm of renewable energy. Solar and wind industries are growing rapidly in our country, and with the introduction of the Lieberman-Warner bill, Congress is aiming to give economic development incentives to both of these renewable energy sectors.

Not only is it one of the greatest economic opportunities for rural communities right now, but it also provides opportunities to young people with barriers to employment by providing career pathways to green jobs.

Hobbs has always been on the forefront of oil and gas production, and it is this fact that has helped the town survive throughout many economic fluctuations. Yet with increasing gas prices and peak oil production on the horizon, New Mexicans in Hobbs have an opportunity to diversify our economic development strategy to include other energy sources that are as readily available as oil is: solar and wind energy.

New Mexico has consistently strived for more economic development throughout the state and you can see this in Hobbs with the development of the casino/racetrack, the prison, and the new nuclear enrichment plant. Yet solar and wind power, besides offering a cleaner form of energy, have much more to offer. There are many tax incentives, rebates, and credits attached to implementing these energy sources and the jobs created by these industries, especially for young people, are career ladder jobs with benefits and almost always have to pull from the local job market. [Hobbs News Sun, 6/19/08]

Blog

Renewable Energy: Time to Go Forward
By **eli il yong lee** - Jun 16th, 2008

The Consumer Price Index, the key measure of inflation, just went up to 4.2%. The US Department of Labor places the blame squarely on rising fuel costs.

Last Friday's Albuquerque Journal editorialized, "If Tecton strikes natural gas, the drilling needs to be done in compliance with strict standards on air quality, noise and visual pollution. There's a long way to go before alternative energy sources free us from reliance on fossil fuel. In the meantime, we simply don't have the luxury of arbitrarily blocking oil and gas."

Has anyone asked Westsiders how they feel about having drilling in their backyard? And just when would the Journal like to get started on developing alternative energy sources? When gas hits $9 a gallon, like it is in many parts of Europe?

It seems like America's reliance on oil has gotten us to where we are now - windfall profits by fossil fuel executives, exorbitant gas prices, runaway global warming, and climate crises like Katrina and the recent flooding in Iowa.

America needs renewable energy now. Starting new fossil fuel endeavors is a step backward, not forward. [Clearly New Mexico, 6/16/08]

Ohio
Next week, Senator McCain will be swinging through Ohio. In advance of his visit, ProgressOhio distributed an email about gas prices to its list and received an overwhelming response. People are submitting their feelings, and they are very upset about how closely McCain has aligned himself with big oil.

Tell McCain How Much You're Paying At The Pump

Gas prices have hit an all-time high. Our country is in the midst of a recession, thanks in part to our crippling dependence on oil. Here in Ohio, families are struggling with the impact of $4-per-gallon prices.

But maybe John McCain has been too busy fundraising with Texas oil billionaires lately to hear about it.

Click here to tell John McCain how much you're paying, and how gas prices are hurting your family.

- **McCain Voted Against Taxing Oil Companies to Finance a Tax Rebate For Consumers.** McCain voted twice against a measure that would have provided an income tax rebate to Americans by temporarily taxing enormous oil company profits.
- **McCain Voted Against Reducing Dependence On Foreign Oil.** He voted against legislation calling on the President to submit a plan to reduce foreign petroleum imports by 40 per cent.

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- **Since launching his campaign in 2007, Senator McCain has skipped out on every key environmental vote the Senate has considered.** In one instance, his absence killed the rollback of billions of dollars in tax breaks for the oil and gas industry to invest in renewable energy tax credits. McCain was the one senator not voting.

When Senator McCain swings through Ohio next week after his trip to Texas, we'll have a message for him. But we need your help.

Let us know how much you're paying at the pump, and the impact it's having on your family. We'll compile those responses and send them to McCain's Senate office.

Click here to tell John McCain how much you're paying, and how gas prices are hurting your family.

A few responses:

"Senator McCain, if these prices continue I will need to reduce the amount I contribute to my 401k as the cost of my medical insurance has increased by 33%, to say nothing of the cost of food. Drilling for more oil is not the answer, oil companies need to invest in new technology."

"High gas prices, which have nothing to do with either over-regulation or with "homeland security" concerns, have forced me to rethink the necessity of every trip I would make in my car, whether for work, chores, or pleasure. It now costs me nearly thirty dollars to fill the same exact gas tank I used to fill for barely twelve. Nothing in terms of the alleged "War on Terror" can sufficiently explain such a spike, but rampant giveaways, deliberate choking of supply, and sociopathic profiteering does. Big Oil is is deep in YOUR pocket, Senator, and their interests clearly trump those of the American people in your mind. This makes you unsuitable to represent us in OUR White House."

"My husband and I are retired. I have to travel to a nursing home daily to help my 93 year old mother. It takes a tank of gas to visit my grandchildren in Cleveland, so we can't go very often.
We need to remove speculators from fixing oil prices and require refineries to prove they are off line and not faking it to increase prices.
There is plenty of oil for Americans to use if there was honesty within the oil companies. GREED is the major problem not shortages. Opening up offshore and Alaska might help 10 years from now,but by that time we had better have alternative energies or vehicles to transport us.
You know all the lobbiests by their first names tell them you are fighting for middle class Americans not the oil barons from now on."

"This has impacted my single person business more than anything, in that clients have to come to me, and my business seems to be affected by that. More importantly, it is easy to see why Bush & Co. are twiddling thumbs in the White House -- they want the situation to get bad enough to make their dreams of more off-shore drillling come true. If John McCain does not distance himself from this obvious political mischief and self-serving ineptitude by resisting such obvious ploys from the present administration, he will be nothing more than a lackey for the folks he'd like to avoid."

Wisconsin

Columns

John Nichols: Call out New York Times on McCain/Bush comparison
John Nichols — 6/19/2008 10:53 am

Recalling the worst of Judith Miller's reporting on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the New York Times ran one of its "fair and balanced" stories on the presidential race Monday.

The piece, which purported to assess similarities and differences between unpopular Republican President George Bush and hoping-to-be-popular Republican presidential candidate John McCain, was another example of how major media in the U.S. seek to portray a relatively predictable conservative as a free-thinking political "maverick."

The folks at Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), the media watchdog group created in the tradition of pioneering media critic -- and brilliant reporter -- I.F. Stone, are appropriately upset with the Times. [snip entire FAIR takedown of NYT piece, highlighting enviro similarities][Capitol Times, 6/19/08]

Wineke: McCain hates war? I don't believe that.
Bill Wineke bwineke@madison.com JUN 17, 2008
John McCain says he "hates war." I know he says that because a television ad saying so appears on my set at least once or twice every hour.
McCain says he "hates" war because his father and his grandfather were admirals, because he flew jets during the Vietnam War and because he spent five years as a prisoner of war.
Those would all be good reasons to hate war. They are all good reasons for us to admire and respect John McCain and his family.

But there is a ringer in McCain's ads. The ringer is this: John McCain most assuredly does not hate war.

He was an enthusiastic backer of the Iraq War before we invaded Iraq. He has backed the war every day since we invaded. His

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differences with the Bush adminstration are not over whether we should have invaded Iraq in the first place but are over whether we should have waged the war more aggressively once we started it.
McCain's prescription for what America should do next in Iraq is more of the same.

That's a legitimate point of view and it deserves legitimate debate. But to introduce that point of view by saying "I hate war" is disingenous, to say the least. [Madison Capitol Times, 6/17/08]

Marc Perkel: The problem is McCain's judgment, not his age
Dear Editor:
John McCain's campaign is accusing Democrats of ageism because they say McCain is "confused," "oblivious," and "out of touch." But this isn't a criticism of McCain's age because Bush is far younger than McCain and Bush is also confused, oblivious, and out of touch. McCain is just like Bush, who is a young, vigorous guy.
The problem with McCain isn't his age, it's his poor judgment. It's not that McCain is too old, it's that McCain, like Bush, is just plain wrong and he hasn't learned anything from Bush's mistakes.

Marc Perkel, San Bruno, Calif. [Madison Capitol Times, 6/19/08]

Blog/Email list outreach

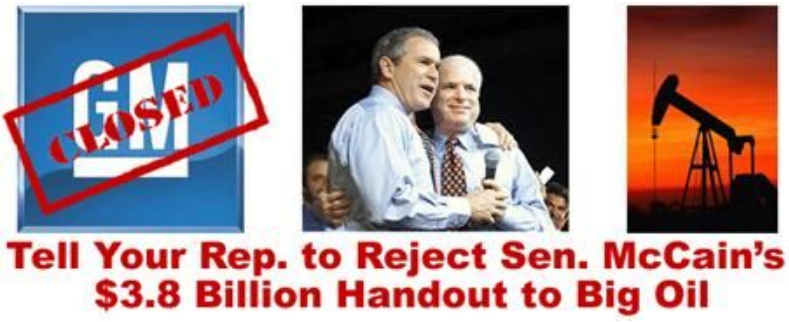

One Wisconsin Now has launched a petition to Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation demanding that they stand against Senator John McCain's plan to giveaway $4 billion in new tax breaks to his friends in Big Oil. In 2006, Bush and McCain supported budget giveaways of $5 billion in tax cuts. This at a time when working people are struggling to pay $4-a-gallon gas prices and Big Oil companies are raking in records profits. One company pocketed as high as $7 billion in only one quarter recently.

According to a report from the Captial Times, "The unprecedented rise in gasoline prices helped put 2,600 General Motors employees out of work in Janesville." That plant is scheduled to close as early as the end of 2009. It is pretty clear that the pain at the pump is spreading quickly to many other areas of our economy, especially in working family wallets. Take a moment to sign a petition to your representative in Congress! Tell them to reject the Bush/McCain policies of more tax giveaways to an industry that has devoured so much and given back so little. [OneWisconsinNow.org, 6/20/08]

Blogs

Drilling Himself in the Foot -- Even Oiled up McCain Has No Where to Move
By Keith Schmitz
The president today is going to announce a push on Congress to open up off-shore locations for oil drilling. This is not smart on many levels -- it will take ten years to get black gold, the oil companies will only sell it overseas anyways, the price of oil will drop just pennies, conservation will do us better over the long term.
But unlike Kramer on Seinfeld Bush doesn't do levels.
He is also not doing John McCain any favors. Turns out Barack Obama has a post primary bounce, especially in Florida.
Turns out that bounce may go higher. There are some places where NIMBYism towards off-shore drilling won't play well.
Florida is one of them. [Folkbum's Rambles and Rants, 6/18/08]

McSame on Offshore Drilling
By **Cory @ One Wisconsin Now** - Jun 19th, 2008 at 9:28 am EDT
Anyone that is watching television in the state of Wisconsin has probably seen the new John McCain ad on the environment. The ad over-reaches trying to put a happy face on John McCain's record in the Senate. Although the ad tries to paint McCain as a "maverick" on the environment, reality shows that his departures from the Bush party line are rare at best. Conveniently, just after starting the current ad buy, McCain provided us with the latest example of why he is McSame as Bush on the environment.

This week both Bush and McCain pushed an oil industry plan to end the federal ban on offshore drilling. The oil industry is hardly known for its protective policies over the environment. Actually in many ways the most serious environmental issues of our day can, in some way, be laid at their feet. Yet this same oil industry appears to be the policy guide for both Bush and McCain on offshore drilling.

In the Senate John McCain has stood in the way of many pieces of legislation that focused on renewable energies and new solutions. Through his support of the oil industry plan this week, he has made a policy choice that is guaranteed to lead our energy policy into an eventual dead end. We cannot drill our way out of this energy crisis and relying on this kind of backward

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thinking does little for us long term, but it does do a lot for the oil industry's bottom line.

It is no coincidence that McCain backs up Bush and Big Oil at the same time that he has been raising funds from Texas oil execs. He has raised some $1 million from oil and gas interests already. Further, McCain has at least 22 staffers and fundraisers that have lobbied for Big Oil interests . While there are some Republican leaders that are taking a stand against Big Oil, John McCain is not one of them. He has fallen into line on many issues and offshore drilling is just the latest. No amount of ad buys can change his McSame record on offshore drilling and the environment. [OneWisconsinNow, 6/19/08]

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/23/2015 1:41:32 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Susana Martinez's once-rising star fades

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Susana Martinez's once-rising star fades

Susana Martinez delivers the State of the State address at the State Capitol in Santa Fe last year. (AP Photo/The Santa Fe New Mexican, Luis Sanchez Saturno)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— On paper, Susana Martinez makes lots of sense as a potential running mate for the eventual Republican nominee. She's a Latina in a party that struggles with Hispanics and women, a former district attorney in a moment when the public yearns for security and a conservative who got reelected in a blue state last year with 56 percent of the vote.

In practice, the chairman of the Republican Governors Association has become a punch line among some GOP elites in D.C. She's gotten a reputation within corners of the consultant class as Palinesque: gaffe-prone, not intellectually curious, and not up for the rigors of a national campaign.

Making it in Santa Fe is not the same as making it in Washington. New Mexico's population is, after all, just 2.1 million.

— The latest setback for any future aspirations Martinez might have came yesterday when the tape of a police officer's belt recorder was released publicly. The governor sounds intoxicated as she speaks with the cop about a noise complaint in her hotel room and a report that bottles had been thrown from the balcony. The officer then discusses what to do about her with a security guard from the Eldorado Hotel and Spa.

"Honestly, you know, I've only really been working here for like a month and a half," the guard tells the cop in the exchange around 1:30 a.m. the Sunday before last. "So this actually is my first run-in with this sort of thing. … I would never expect the first time to be the governor. I really don't know what to do in this situation because I can tell that she's … kind of …"

"Inebriated," the cop finishes.

"Yes," the guard replied.

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Susana Martinez stands in front of a state map of drunken-driving deaths during a news conference in Albuquerque on Dec. 7. The incident in question happened Dec. 13. (AP Photo/Russell Contreras, File)

The governor's office told local press that it was snowballs, not bottles, thrown from the room. And her office said yesterday that she only had a drink and a half. Apologizing for telling a police dispatcher not to send officers, the governor told the Albuquerque Journal last Friday that she was "absolutely not" drunk during the episode. **Listen to the 4-minute audio here.**

— Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, both sons of Cuban immigrants, are obviously in the top tier of the GOP contest. But if the nominee is looking for a Hispanic from the west to join the ticket, Nevada Republican Gov. **Brian Sandoval might be a safer bet**, especially after this hotel episode. The former federal judge was also easily reelected last year.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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Hillary Clinton mingles with Iowa voters yesterday at a high school in Keota. (Photo by Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

— Hillary asks Bernie supporters to join her once she's the nominee. "It's hard for me to believe that anybody who would support Senator Sanders would want to see any of the Republicans elected president of the United States," Clinton said in Iowa last night . "I would just ask that when this nomination is wrapped up that they come and join with us to make sure that we don't turn the White House back over to the Republicans." After incorrectly claiming during Saturday's debate that ISIS shows videos of Trump to lure recruits, Clinton also tweaked her line of attack to say that videos of Trump are being shown on "Arabic television" to incite jihadists. (Abby Phillip)

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Paramedics and doctors try to revive a baby after a boat with refugees and migrants sunk while crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos. (AP Photo/Santi Palacios)

— Shot: Americans support barring Syrian refugees from the U.S., 51 percent to 43 percent, according to Quinnipiac polling released this morning.

Chaser: Thirteen more refugees, mostly children, drowned overnight off the coast of a Greek island while trying to sail in a makeshift boat from Turkey to Europe.

— More from this morning's Q poll: Americans oppose Donald Trump's plan to ban all Muslims from coming to the country by a more than 2:1 margin (66 percent to 27 percent). The partisan divide on the issue, however, is sharp. Democrats would accept Syrian refugees (74-22) while Republicans (82-13) and independents (51-42) would ban them. All three groups oppose barring all Muslims: Dems (79-18); Republicans (51-41) and independents (67-22). A majority (55 percent) of Americans believe domestic extremists are a bigger threat than foreign radicals, while 55 percent think Islam is a peaceful religion. Americans also support (50-42) sending ground troops to fight ISIS.

On other issues: Americans want the next president to fight climate change, 69 to 23 percent, while a narrow majority, 50 to 27 percent, oppose new gun control laws. But a large 89 to 9 percent majority back background checks for purchases at gun shows and online. (Full breakdown here.)

— On the economy, a new Pew survey shows 45 percent of Americans rate the

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economy as "fair," compared to 27 percent who see it as "excellent" and 28 percent who rate it as "poor." Americans are less optimistic about the economy next year than they were a year ago. Last December, 31 percent believed the economy would improve over the next year. Only 20 percent do right now. While 41 percent say that plenty of jobs exist in their communities, the highest level in eight years, **68 percent of those with incomes of less than $30,000 feel they're falling behind.** And 73 percent of total respondents support raising the minimum wage.

— A new CNN/ORC poll continues to show Trump dominating the GOP field: He wins Republican and GOP-leaning voters with 39 percent, with Cruz finishing a distant 2nd with 18 percent (up 2 points since last month). Ben Carson and Marco Rubio lost some traction, both coming in at 10 percent. Trump smashes his competition on who can best handle the economy, illegal immigration *and* ISIS.

— Squeezing the vice on Vladimir Putin, the Treasury Department barred businesses from dealings with dozens more Russian companies and individuals. It's part of ongoing U.S. sanctions against the Russian energy sector and came one day after the U.N. extended sanctions against Russia for another six months over its illegal invasion of Ukraine. *Wonder what Trump thinks…* (Steven Mufson)

GET SMART FAST:

1. The **GDP** grew by 2 percent in the third quarter, falling below experts' estimates. (Wall Street Journal)
2. **NASA** has indefinitely postponed the launch of its next **Mars lander** (called InSight) because of a leaking instrument. (Rachel Feltman)
3. **Iraqi** forces stormed **Ramadi's** city center in their latest push to recapture the city from **ISIS.** (Pamela Constable and Mustafa Salim)
4. **Britain** is deploying troops to **Afghanistan** to help retake Helmand province from the Taliban. (Pamela Constable)
5. **Kentucky** altered its marriage licenses to accommodate county clerks who are against same-sex marriage, one of Republican **Matt Bevin's** first moves as governor. (Sandhya Somashekhar)
6. The Obama administration is boasting that 8.2 million Americans signed up for insurance through **HealthCare.gov**, but that numbers includes more than 2 million people who purchased coverage last year and had it automatically renewed despite warnings that they should shop around to avoid rate hikes. (Amy Goldstein)
7. Senate Republicans claimed victory after the inspector general of the **Department of Health and Human Services** committed to a probe of fetal tissue research funding.

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Planned Parenthood welcomed the development, though, saying it wants updated guidance. (David Weigel)

8. Up to 3,200 prisoners were mistakenly set free early in **Washington state** since 2002 because of software-coding errors that miscalculated sentences, which the state's corrections department knew about for three years before going public. (Seattle Times)
9. Last year nearly 31,000 Americans, or 9.6 of every 100,000, died from **alcohol-induced illnesses**, an increase of 37 percent since 2002. That doesn't include DUIs or homicides influenced by alcohol. If those categories were included, the number of deaths would be close to 90,000. (Christopher Ingraham)
10. After a teenager convicted of gang rape was freed from prison after only three years, **India's parliament** passed a law allowing prosecutors to try juveniles as adults if they are charged with violent crimes like rape and murder. (Rama Lakshmi)
11. A **hacker** who allegedly stole identifications and scripts from a number of celebrities was charged in federal court in New York. (New York Times)
12. Three more people in **Hawaii** have been infected with **Dengue fever**, bringing the total number of diagnosed cases to 170. (Hawaii News Now)
13. **Brazil's attorney general** said he's investigating allegations that bribes were paid to a powerful politician to secure contracts for the building of venues for next summer's Olympics in Rio. (AP)
14. **Zimbabwe** will start using the **Chinese yuan** as its official currency. (Adam Taylor)
15. **Boeing** will pay the **FAA** $12 million in fines to settle complaints its safety regulations fell short of standards. (Bloomberg)
16. **Ford** recalled 313,000 Crown Victorias and Mercury Grand Marquis because their headlights can suddenly go out, a defect already blamed for 11 deaths. (USA Today)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS

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Robert Hurt (AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)

1. **Rep. Robert Hurt** (R-Va.), who toppled Democrat **Tom Perriello** in 2010, announced his retirement, creating a possibly competitive race in the Charlottesville area. (Rachel Weiner)
2. The top editor of the **Las Vegas Journal-Review** told staff last night he's leaving in the wake of **Sheldon Adelson** taking control The Adelson family is running a letter on the front page of today's edition promising to be "fair, unbiased and accurate." (CNN)
3. **Bowe Bergdahl** was arraigned in military court at Fort Bragg and deferred his plea until next year as to whether to have a jury or a judge hear the desertion case against him. (Dan Lamothe)
4. **Robert Durst** will return to Los Angeles by the summer to face murder charges for the death of friend Susan Berman. The case was popularized by the HBO miniseries "The Jinx." (Los Angeles Times)
5. Ten South Carolina supporters of **Lindsey Graham** endorsed **Jeb Bush** a day after the senator ended his campaign, including **David Wilkins**, who chaired Graham's campaign in the Palmetto State and who served as an ambassador under W. (Charleston Post and Courier)
6. The other Koch Brother — billionaire Palm Beach businessman **Bill Koch**, president of Oxbow Corp. and the 1992 America's Cup yachting champ — will hold a $1,000 a head fundraiser for **Rubio** at his home on Jan. 10. (Palm Beach Post)
7. **Ted Cruz** promised to withdraw the U.S. from the **Paris climate agreement** if elected.

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(Katie Zezima)

8. **Trump's** proposed plan to cut income taxes for every level could cost the government $9.5 trillion over ten years, according to the **Tax Policy Center**. (Kelsey Snell)
9. **Trump** will appear on **Fox News** during the 11 p.m. hour for a New Year's Eve special. (Politico)
10. Evangelist **Franklin Graham** (Billy's son) quit the Republican Party because the omnibus funded **Planned Parenthood,** an organization he compares to Nazis. (David Gibson)
11. **Greg Brannon**, the tea party-backed doctor who lost a Senate primary last year to **Thom Tillis** but had **Rand Paul's** active support, will challenge Sen. **Richard Burr** in next year's GOP primary. (The News & Observer)
12. **Bernie Sanders** is going up on the air in **Nevada** today with the one-minute bio spot he's been running in Iowa and New Hampshire. Ahead of stops in Reno and Las Vegas next week, the campaign is trying to show they're serious about organizing for the Feb. 20 caucuses.
13. Charity Navigator, one of the nation's largest watchdog groups for charities, has removed the **Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation** from its "watch list," lifting a cloud from the global philanthropy. (Rosalind S. Helderman)

Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel talks with Bill, Hillary and Chelsea during an event sponsored by the Clinton Global Initiative in 2014. (AP Photo/Matt York)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

Great deep dive –> "The quiet impact of Obama's Christian faith, " by Greg Jaffe: "President Obama did not grow up in a religious household and became a practicing Christian as an adult. He has written more extensively about his spiritual awakening than

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almost any other modern president, addressing it in two books before he was elected to the White House and in more than a dozen speeches since. His faith had been central to his identity as a new kind of Democrat who would bring civility to the country's political debates by appealing to Republicans through the shared language of their Judeo-Christian values. With just one year left in his second term, Obama now holds a different distinction: No modern president has had his faith more routinely questioned and disparaged. Recent polls show that 29 percent of Americans and nearly 45 percent of Republicans say he is a Muslim. … Throughout his political career, Obama has described his faith as one that acknowledges doubt and man's inherently sinful nature. 'He has a very stoic and fatalistic view of mankind,' said Sen. Timothy M. Kaine (D-Va.) … For Obama, faith is a means to move from that dire reality — the world as it is — to the promise of the world as it ought to be. This idea of faith as an ennobling struggle runs through virtually all of his most ambitious speeches."

Is Obama too concerned about collateral damage? –> "As bombing in Syria intensifies, a debate about the rules of engagement," by Missy Ryan and Karen DeYoung: "President Obama's order to intensify air attacks in Syria has led to new internal debate over whether to loosen tight restrictions on strikes against Islamic State targets that risk civilian casualties … But so far, at least, the White House has resisted proposals to change the rules of engagement for the bombing. Each strike … is weighed against likely collateral damage and must be individually approved by top officers at the coalition operations center in Baghdad. … In Iraq, local commanders have publicly complained about U.S. reluctance to strike targets in populated areas. According to new figures released by the military Tuesday, about **56 percent of all coalition aircraft return from 'strike missions' without having used their weapons**, either because of bad weather or a judgment that the risk of civilian casualties is too high."

Unintended consequences of ethics rules –> "Meet the author of 'The Revenant' — except you can't because of his federal job," by Ben Terris: "When 'The Revenant,' the highly anticipated new film adapted from Michael Punke's book, had its big opening in L.A. — an evening featuring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy and Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu — the author was nowhere to be seen. He was 10,000 miles away in Nairobi, putting the finishing touches on an international trade agreement enacting a $1.3 trillion trade deal covering GPS devices, semiconductors and touch screens. Punke, 51, may be having the literary moment of a lifetime — more than a decade after his novel was released to high praise but modest sales — but as the deputy U.S. trade representative and ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Switzerland, he's missing out on a lot of the fun. In fact, he wasn't even allowed to talk about 'The Revenant' for this article. Federal ethics rules prohibit him from doing any side work — even a little promotional campaign — that

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might enrich him and potentially abuse his high-ranking office in the process."

Big investigation exposes troubling gaps –> "For 55 officers involved in fatal shootings this year, it wasn't their first time," by Keith Alexander, Steven Rich, Wesley Lowery, Amy Brittain and Sandhya Somashekhar: "More than 50 police officers involved in fatal shootings this year had previously fired their guns in deadly on-duty shootings. … For a handful of officers, it was their third fatal shooting. For one officer, it was his fourth. The findings concerned many law enforcement experts, who said most officers never fire their weapons on the job. The analysis also exposed another gap in the federal government's oversight of fatal police shootings nationwide: the absence of a system for tracking multiple shootings by individual officers. The 55 officers were identified as part of a Post project tracking all fatal shootings by police in the line of duty in 2015. It is the first nationwide attempt to determine whether fatal police shootings are isolated events in an officer's career or whether some officers repeatedly fire their weapons in deadly encounters. The Post also found that another 45 officers had previously been involved in non-fatal shootings."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCHLONG-GATE:

Donald Trump (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

Trump defended his use of the word "schlonged" to describe Clinton's 2008 Democratic primary loss, saying he did not intend it "in a vulgar way." (Jose A. DelReal)

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Clinton communications director Jen Palmieri announced that the campaign wouldn't respond. And, in so doing, responded…:

> We are not responding to Trump but everyone who understands the humiliation this degrading language inflicts on all women should. #imwithher
>
> — Jennifer Palmieri (@jmpalmieri) December 22, 2015

Jeb Bush complained that the comment lets Clinton portray herself as a victim. (Sean Sullivan)

Dana Milbank riffs on the latest Trump imbroglio with a column written in Yiddish .

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Ted Cruz announces on on March 23 in Lynchburg. (Photo by Matt McClain/ The Washington Post)

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Cruz was smart to announce first. To parse the Republican race for president in this most unusual campaign year, our analytics partners at Zignal Labs broke the GOP field into two categories: Trump, and everyone else. Today, they look at the most buzzed about moments across social and traditional media in the GOP campaign of 2015. **For the non-Trump GOP field, the Texas senator's declaration of his candidacy was the most mentioned day of the campaign thus far.** He was the first major candidate out of the gate. And his well-choreographed speech during the convocation at Liberty

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University showed he'd be a top-tier candidate.

The four other biggest moments were:

- Controversy erupts over Ben Carson's claim that he was offered a West Point scholarship
- Carly Fiorina goes after Planned Parenthood at the debate and then jumps to second behind Trump in poll
- Rand Paul announces his candidacy in Kentucky
- Marco Rubio announces his candidacy in Miami

This chart of total mentions since February 1 shows the peaks and valleys of the GOP contest so far:

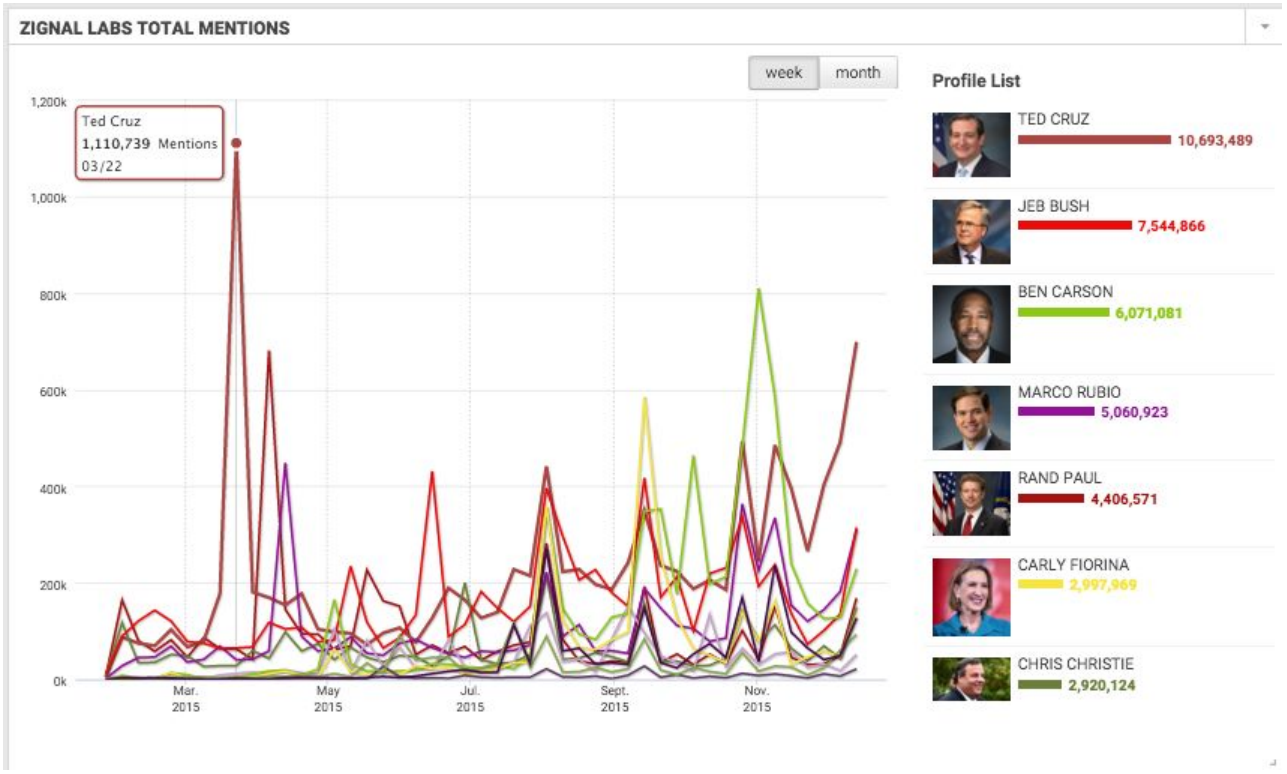

— Pictures of the day:

Jill Biden took over the White House Instagram feed to show off some of her favorite holiday decorations at the Veep's residence. Check out the education-themed tree, and a life-size replica of Champ, the family's German Shepard:

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(@whitehouse)

Some intrepid readers might recognize this Gingerbread replica of the Wilmington, Del., train station, where then-Sen. Biden frequently made the 90-minute commute to-and-from Washington:

(@whitehouse)

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Meanwhile, Michelle Obama let Miss Piggie take over her Instagram feed:

(@michelleobama)

And the Grinch stole Christmas in Diamondhead, Miss.:

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(@senatorwicker)

Jeb Bush notes he made a few new friends in the Granite State:

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(@jebbush)

Bernie Sanders has a moment with actor Mark Ruffalo, who is explaining his green energy jobs initiative to the senator:

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(@berniesanders)

Carly Fiorina has one dedicated fan in Florence County, S.C.:

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(@carlyforamerica)

And finally, Donald Trump brags about being one of Barbara Walters' 10 Most Fascinating People of 2015:

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(@realdonaldtrump)

–Tweets of the day:

Scott Walker wished ex-rival Ted Cruz, who recently sent an email to help him retire his campaign debt, a happy birthday:

> .@tedcruz Happy Birthday from one 40 something to another! — Scott Walker (@ScottWalker) December 22, 2015

And The Donald mocked Jeb Bush's new ad campaign:

> Weak and low energy @JebBush , whose campaign is a disaster, is now doing ads against me where he tries to look like a tough guy. — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 22, 2015

> .@JebBush just took millions of $'s in special interest money to look like a tough guy. Will never work!
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 22, 2015

— Instagrams of the day:

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine (D) shared his holiday card:

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(@timkaine)

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.) snapped this photo with Santa at Osuna Nursery:

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(@replujangrisham)

‘

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House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) took his wife, Jennifer, on “Date Night” ice skating at the New Orleans Christmas in the District:

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(@stevescalise)

And Delaware Sen. Tom Carper (D) helped raise money for The Salvation Army:

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(senatorcarper)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "As TV ad rates soar, 'super PACs' pivot to core campaign work," by Nick Corasaniti and Matt Flegenheimer: "Soaring advertising costs in early primary states are compelling major 'super PACs' to realign their tactics, de-emphasizing costly broadcast commercials in favor of the kind of nuts-and-bolts work that presidential candidates used to handle themselves. They are overseeing extensive field operations, data-collection programs, digital advertising, email lists, opposition research and voter registration efforts. The shift away from the broadcast television buys that had been the groups' main role in past presidential campaigns is among the most significant developments in outside political spending since the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision. … It is not yet known whether field and data efforts spearheaded by outside groups will be as effective as they are in the hands of a candidate."

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— Wall Street Journal, "Sun-soaked states see populations grow, Census Bureau reports," by Janet Adamy and Paul Overberg: "The populations of big Sunbelt states bulged this past year while pockets of the Midwest and Northeast declined, accelerating a migration shift that will help shape who captures the White House in 2016. Census Bureau figures released Tuesday, which tally state-by-state population changes in the 12 months ended July 1, show how key swing states in the 2016 election are growing. Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Nevada all notched notable gains in population. 'These states were already important in terms of electing the president…it just means they're going to become more important,' said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington. … In general, Democrats see a 2016 advantage in the fact that many of these states are gaining minorities who traditionally lean disproportionately toward Democratic candidates. But after 2020, Republicans may benefit because red states, led by Texas, are projected to gain a chunk of electoral votes during the once-a-decade reapportioning of House seats and Electoral College votes."

— Politico, "Solar blowback hits Reid's Nevada, " by Esther Whieldon: "Harry Reid's home state dealt a lethal blow Tuesday to rooftop solar power — the latest skirmish of a nationwide green energy battle that has pitted the Senate Democratic leader against his favorite target, the Koch brothers. The move by Nevada's utility regulator, which voted to slash the economic incentives for homeowners to install solar panels, was most immediately a showdown between billionaires Warren Buffett, owner of the state's largest power company, and Elon Musk, whose SolarCity is the nation's largest installer of panels that create electricity from the sun. But it also served as a proxy fight in a national struggle about states' green energy programs, in which free-market groups backed by industrialists Charles and David Koch have fought to roll back incentives that they argue distort the marketplace and force some customers to subsidize other people's power choices."

— Roll Call, "Boehner-backed candidate bows out of race to replace him ," by Warren Rojas: "Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds' abrupt withdrawal last week from the 16-way contest to fill the vacancy created by John Boehner's retirement is another sign of how little conservatives think of the former speaker. Reynolds was seen as a favorite among the 14 Republicans in the race and was believed to have Boehner's backing. But that didn't work in Reynolds' favor among some conservatives. 'It is pretty clear that Boehner is behind Roger Reynolds,' Lori Viars, a board member of the Conservative Republican Leadership Committee, told Cincinnati.com in October. And that, she hinted, might not be such a good thing. 'While Boehner is a big fish in Butler County, a lot of conservatives who vote in primaries have not been happy with him,' she warned."

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— BuzzFeed, "How earthquake scientists In Missouri stumbled on military blasts in Iraq," by Dan Vergano: "Iraq is girded by a network of 10 seismic monitoring stations that were set up in 2005 following the U.S. invasion, tied to a central facility in Baghdad first erected in the 1970s. Iraqi universities — using U.S. military funding — established these seismic monitors to map small earthquakes and watch for any signs of nuclear tests next door in Iran. But a team of American scientists report that the seismic data also includes a treasure trove of blast signatures in the strife-torn region. Lead scientist Ghassan Aleqabi of Washington University in St. Louis, who helped establish the Iraq network … stumbled on the data after correlating it to news accounts of car bombs and large explosions."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Republican state rep says gun-toting citizens should "help clean our society of these scumbags" after a man shot someone at a mall in Wisconsin. From the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison: "Wisconsin does not have a death penalty law, but with significant practice and careful aim, law-abiding citizens can help clean our society of these scumbags," state Rep. Bob Gannon said in a statement. "Criminals no longer have any fear of our courts or our prisons, so it's time that the citizens of this fine state stand up and fight back."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Fox Business Network says its next GOP debate could feature as few as six contenders on stage. From the Washington Examiner: "Candidates must qualify for the main debate by placing in the top six of a recent national poll or within the top five in an Iowa or New Hampshire poll, according to the network." CNN reports that there will be an undercard debate that night.

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Marco Rubio has a pancake breakfast in Franklin, New Hampshire. Bernie Sanders is campaigning in Red Oak and Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the morning. Then he's going to Chicago this afternoon to appear with

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Chuy Garcia and talk about criminal justice reform.

–On the Hill: Recess.

–At the White House: President Obama continues his vacation in Hawaii.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"He played more golf last year than Tiger Woods." — Donald Trump, who owns 17 golf courses, attacking President Obama for golfing too much

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **"Occasional showers are likely today as a warm front moves through, with a few areas of moderate to heavy showers possible,"** the Capital Weather Gang forecasts . "Despite early fog and overcast skies all day long, morning 50s rise into the low-to-mid 60s this afternoon with a noticeable mugginess to the air. Afternoon winds increase to around 10 mph from the southeast." Separately, **we are going to have the first full moon on Christmas since 1977**, notes Martin Weil .

— ALARMING: A man was assaulted by a group of teenage hoodlums aboard a Red Line train between Union Station and NoMa-Gallaudet University during Monday's evening rush hour, Faiz Siddiqui reports. They wanted to rob him. "Lori Kaplan (senior director of audience insights at NPR), the wife of the victim, said Tuesday that her husband, whom she did not want to identify, was 'terribly concussed' and suffered a broken jaw. He was undergoing X-rays and MRI exams." **Flashbacks:**

- Nov. 13 : "A man was stabbed Friday afternoon outside the Tenleytown-American University Metro station in upper Northwest Washington."
- On the afternoon of July 4 , 24-year-old Kevin Sutherland died after being stabbed 30 or 40 times as fellow passengers watched, just outside the NoMa-Gallaudet station.

— Also troublesome: "A handgun, radio and badge were stolen Monday afternoon from the private vehicle of a U.S. Secret Service agent who had parked near the agency's downtown headquarters," Peter Hermann reports . "The theft occurred about 4 p.m. in the 1000 block of G Street NW, two blocks from the Metro Center station." CNN reports that the agent is assigned to the Presidential Protective Division.

— Virginia will no longer recognize concealed carry permits from 25 states that have reciprocity agreements with the state. (Jenna Portnoy)

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— Maryland Senate Democrats will attempt to override all six of Larry Hogan's 2015 vetoes. (Josh Hicks and Ovetta Wiggins)

— The Redskins got a boost in the legal fight to keep their name. Citing the First Amendment, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington ruled the government *cannot* ban offensive trademarks. (Ian Shapira)

— The Redskins' Trent Williams was selected to his fourth straight Pro Bowl, and Jordan Reed and Ryan Kerrigan were chosen as alternates. (Mike Jones)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Sarah Palin turned the tables on her impersonator, spoofing Tina Fey's "30 Rock" character Liz Lemon:

(@IJReview)

A skier almost get slammed by a drone falling from the sky during a slalom run. Watch here , via NBC Sports.

A solider surprised his six-year-old daughter by appearing at her Kindergarten assembly in Iowa. Watch the video , via the Des Moines Register.

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A new pro-Marco Rubio ad portrays the senator as "one Republican presidential hopeful who has actually done something" (an implicit jab at Cruz) and the one "Hillary is afraid to run against." The Post's Fact Checker, assessing the commercial, gives Four Pinocchios to its central claim:

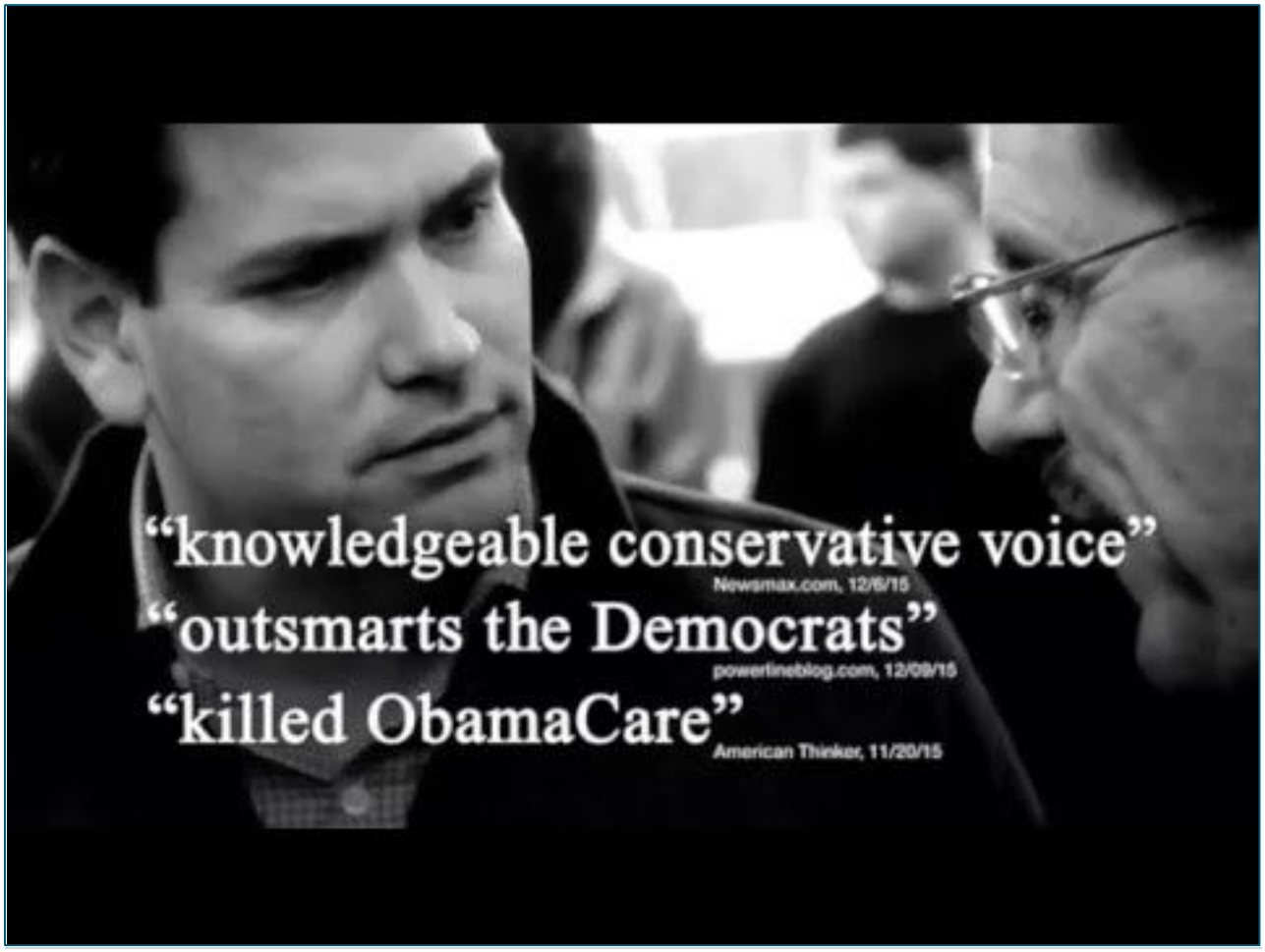

(ConservativeSolutionsPAC)

Iraqi security forces work to retake Ramadi from the Islamic State (Warning: some graphic images):

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(@ViceNews)

Bill Bennett interviewed Paul Ryan about the end-of-year spending bill:

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(@speakerpaulryan)

Highlights from the Kennedy Center Honors:

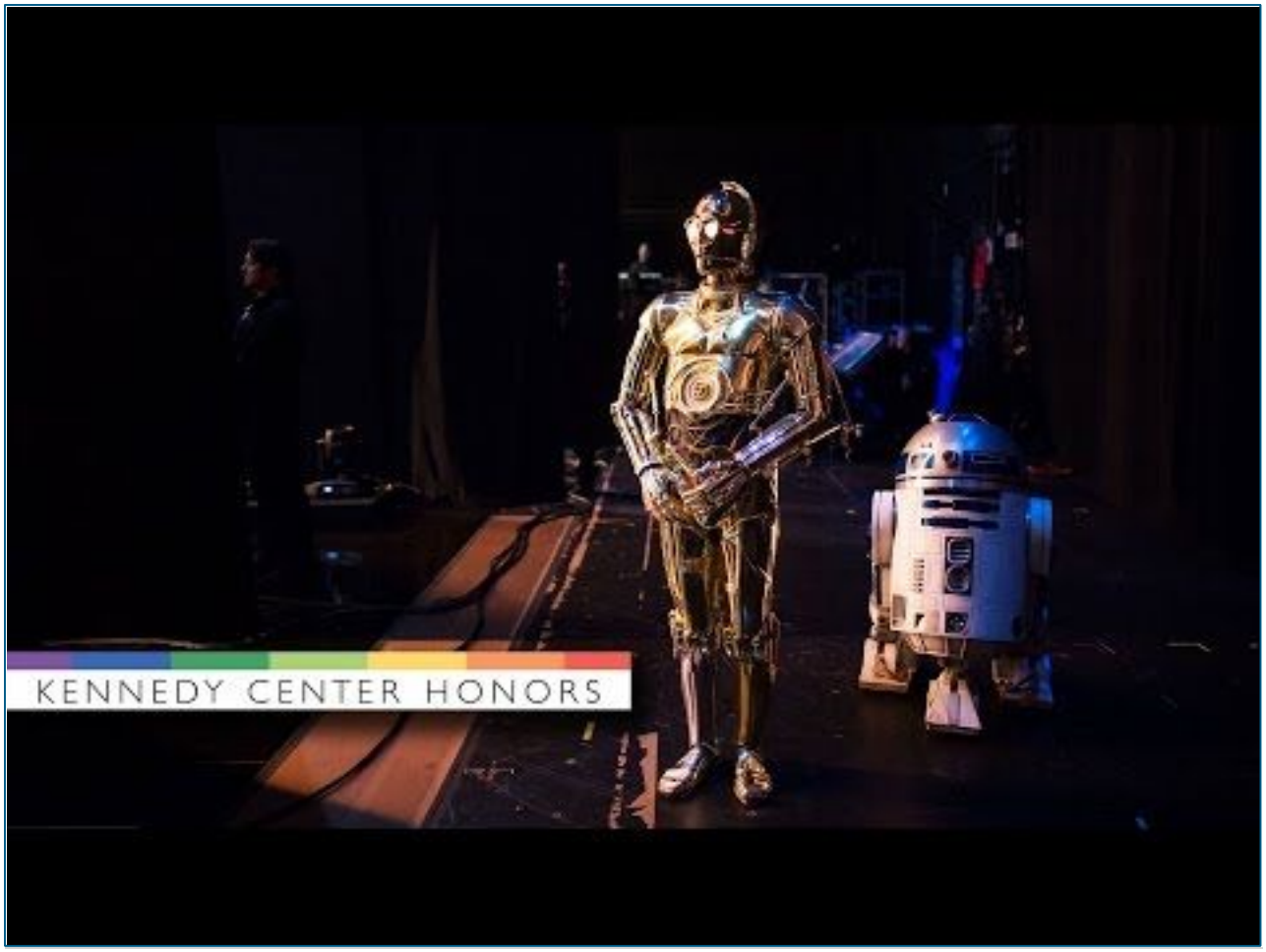

(@TheKennedyCenter)

Ending on a positive note: A man buried in a Chinese landslide was pulled from the rubble after more than 60 hours. The man, Tian Zeming, was rescued around dawn. He underwent surgery for a broken hand and on his foot, which had been wedged against a door panel. The Associated Press, citing state television , reports that he had been trying to get out of his room when the building collapsed, and the door panel created a space for him to survive.

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/2/2008 5:04:28 PM
Subject: [big campaign] MMR: VP Debate Prep and Post, Palin's Qualifications, Evening 10/02/08

Media Monitoring Report 10/02/08

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: Pfotenhauer: To avoid being vague, Palin should be clear
   TAMRON HALL: "Can she be vague?"
   NANCY PFOTENHAUER: "I think she's at her best when she's clear about, she's clear about who she is and describing the path that needs to be followed moving forward."
2. MSNBC: Holtz-Eakin accuses CBS of editing interviews against Palin
   HOLTZ-EAKIN: "She gave, out of two hours of interviews, some questions and answers that may not have been the best"
3. CNN: Joe Lieberman dodges question on Palin's intelligence
   JOE LIEBERMAN: "They're both plenty smart enough to do this job. The question is, what does Sarah Palin bring to national office? She brings executive experience. She brings the heart and head and voice of middle class America, and she'll be their advocate"
4. MSNBC: Andrea Mitchell: Palin's been dragging the campaign down but with the debate she "stopped the bleeding"
5. MSNBC: Thompson: We have too much experience in DC, Palin brings something new to the table
   FRED THOMPSON: "There's more to qualifications than experience and he says prudence that comes from experience. And described the typical guy . . . who's been inside the Washington beltway and usually been in Congress for 20 or 30 or 40 years. And I said, what has that brought us?"
6. CNN: Halcro on Palin: "This is about populism . . . she has a tremendous gift for broad brush strokes, glittering generalities"
7. MSNBC: Wallace: "It is not debatable that she brings the same executive experience to the ticket that Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton Brought"
8. FNC: Wallace: Palin answers slowly because she's "thoughtful"; Obama is a liar
   NICOLE WALLACE: "Thinking for a couple minutes on live TV is something that doesn't happen a lot because it looks like forever but you know, she stopped and thought about it. She a thoughtful woman, she's not throwing out canned sound bites, she thinks through every question."
9. CNN: Tucker Bounds claims Palin is an "expert" on energy; Obama wants to raise taxes
10. CNN: Palin good at "complicated issues"
    TUCKER BOUNDS: "She's gonna talk about a variety of complicated issues, she talks about complicated issues, running a state where you manage ten million dollars and oversee thousands of employees"
11. FNC: Barney Frank responds after being called a coward by Bill O'Reilly
    BARNEY FRANK: "Your stupidity gets in the way of rational discussion."

Clips:

Highlight #1

Pfotenhauer: To Avoid Being Vague, Palin Should Be Clear (MSNBC 10/02/10 11:33am)

TAMRON HALL: We saw at the convention, she was able to . . . talk about her life as a hockey mom. And that worked in that setting . . . I want to talk to you about the substantive, having a command of the facts I'm going to play a little of that Katie Couric interview . . . let's play when she was asked about Supreme Court decisions she did not agree with.

[. . .]

HALL: . . . we know how hindsight feels, you think to yourself, why didn't I saw this, I could've said that . . . how do you avoid that? How do you prove she has a command of the facts? A knowledge of where Sen. McCain . . . stands.

PFOTENHAUER: Knowing Sen. McCain's policies . . . is very different from, frankly, several gotcha questions . . . unless you're a Washington attorney, it's difficult to roll Supreme Court decisions trippingly off the tongue . . .

HALL: What about the question about what papers she reads? . . . she was also asked in that same series of interviews about what papers that she would read . . . and she did not give a specific paper . . . what I'm talking

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about is: can she be vague?

PFOTENHAUER: I think she's at her best when she's clear about, she's clear about who she is and describing the path that needs to be followed moving forward. And frankly, clear about the distinctions between the Obama path and John McCain's path . . . I think that the stronger and more clearer she is, the more persuasive she will be to the American people.

Highlight #2
Holtz-Eakin Accuses CBS of Editing Interviews Against Palin (MSNBC 10/02/10 7:43pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: What's it about tonight . . . ?

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN: It's about knowledge of the middle class, connecting a real middle class experience, which is hers . . . versus the artificial, arugula style middle class . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: I love the new slurs when they arrive, what is an arugula middle class?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: It's a not very real middle class . . .

MATTHEWS: . . . is this the cultural issue that you guys are going to raise tonight? That she's one of "us" and he's not.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: This is about literally connecting with the pressing problems facing America.

MATTHEWS: Do you think these informational questions that Katie Couric's been asking have been fair? . . .

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Every question is fair . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Are the answers she gave good ones?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: She gave, out of two hours of interviews, some questions and answers that may not have been the best . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Are you saying that CBS deliberately edited out the good answers?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: We believe that there were excellent answers throughout those two hours that could've been put on TV . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: . . . unemployment has risen under the Republicans.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: We have seen unemployment go up recently . . .

MATTHEWS: What's wrong with the old Ronald Reagan question: Are you better off than you were four years ago? . . .

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Because they're not running against George Bush . . .

Highlight #3
Joe Lieberman Dodges Question on Palin's Intelligence, Says Debate Opportunity to Get Away from Gotcha-Final Exam Questions (CNN 10/02/08 1:40pm)
JOE LIEBERMAN: "Tonight's a real opportunity for Sarah Palin to get this discussion away from the gotcha sorta final exam kinda questions she's been asked, and to the qualities that led John McCain to select her. [...] She's a typical, middle class person from a typical, middle class family. [...]"

[...]

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KIRA PHILLIPS: "[...] But is she smarter than Joe Biden? [...]"

LIEBERMAN: "This is not an IQ test. She's plenty smart, and Joe Biden is plenty smart. [...] I'm not here to say anything negative about him. I'm here to say that Sarah Palin is ready to be vice president based on her record. [...]"

PHILLIPS: "[...] Is she smarter than Joe Biden? You know Joe Biden., and she's going for the vice presidential position? You don't think that's important? [...]"

LIEBERMAN: "They're both plenty smart enough to do this job. The question is, what does Sarah Palin bring to national office? She brings executive experience. She brings the heart and head and voice of middle class America, and she'll be their advocate in exactly the areas that John McCain wants her to work in, in energy independence in reform of our government [...]

Highlight #4
Andrea Mitchell: Palin's Been Dragging the Campaign Down but she Used the Debate to Stop the Bleeding (MSNBC 10/02/10 10:58pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: She was really becoming a drag on this ticket . . . she stopped that bleeding. Now it gets back to the larger issue, which is not a good issue for John McCain. But next week in his next debate [Obama] will have a chance to really address that head on and see whether McCain can frame the economic questions to the advantage of his candidacy because she is no longer as big a problem as she was beginning to become . . . tonight she had answers, they weren't the questions that the moderator asked but she had rehearsed, clearly coached answers and on style points, she may have done herself a lot of good.

Highlight #5
Thompson: We Have Too Much Experience In DC, Palin Brings Something New to the Table (MSNBC 10/02/08 2:33pm)
CHUCK TODD: Responding to something David Brooks wrote in the *New York Times* . . . "if you wanted someone to destroy a corrupt establishment, she'd be your woman. But the constructive act of governance is another matter. She has not been enaged in national issues, does not have a repertoire of historic patterns and, like President Bush, she seems to compensate for her lack of experience with brashness and excessive decisiveness." . . .

FRED THOMPSON: . . . there's more to qualifications than experience and he says prudence that comes from experience. And described the typical guy . . . who's been inside the Washington beltway and usually been in Congress for 20 or 30 or 40 years. And I said, what has that brought us? If there's any time in American history we ought to realize, those with the highest intellects and those with the most knowledge . . . we're not being served very well by them. All that experience needs to be leavened a little bit with other qualifications I think are more important nowadays than ever before . . .

[. . .]

TODD: . . . one thing that Governor Palin brings to the ticket is her experience dealing with energy issues. Do you feel like the McCain campaign hasn't highlighted this enough? That she hasn't been used to talk about energy? We havn't seen her in front of a nuclear power plant, we haven't seen her talk about offshore oil drilling . . .

THOMPSON: Yeah, I think that's probably right. But there's going to be plenty of time to deal with that . . .

Highlight #6
Halcro on Palin: "This is about Populism . . . She has a Tremendous Gift for Broad Brush Strokes, Glittering Generalities" (CNN 10/02/08 3:45)
ANDREW HALCRO: "I think you have to realize, the debate you're looking at, the clips you're showing where's she's very decisive, those were sound bytes that were crafted after nine months on the McCain campaign trail. Those were issues that had basically been hashed a rehashed, from January through when that debate happened; end of October. In defense of Governor Palin, it's dramatically different to be on the campaign trail talking about the natural gas pipeline, or her position on pro-life over a nine month period and being thrown into, argueably a much larger scale and issues that she was unaware of. "

RICK SANCHEZ: "What was her talent? Why'd she beat you guys?"

[…]

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HALCRO: "[…] The ability to take the focus off public policy, and put it on public relations. We would have debates, and I would walk off the stage towards the end of the general campaign, […] and say, you know this isn't about public policy. This is about populism. And she has a tremendous gift for broad brush strokes, glittering generalities […]"

Highlight #7

Wallace: "It is not debatable that she brings the same executive experience to the ticket that Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton Brought" (MSNBC 10/02/08 6:43pm)

DAVID GREGORY: . . .Gov. Palin has been criticized in this recent interviews for not having command of issues, appearing not to understand complex issues . . . 6 in 10 voters see her lacking the experience to be an effective president and a third are now less likely to vote for McCain because of her. What happened?

NICOLE WALLACE: Well there's polls and there's pundits and then there's people David . . . this is someone who isn't going to speak as someone who's had a front row seat for the policy debates for the last thirty years. This is someone who speaks as someone who's been affected by those debates . . . she knows what it's like to not have health insurance . . .

[. . .]

GREGORY: Let me ask you another question about experience . . . watch this:

JOHN MCCAIN: I am prepared. I am prepared, need no on the job training. I wasn't a mayor for a short period of time, I wasn't a governor for a short period of time. For 20-some years . . . I led, I didn't manage for profit . . .

GREGORY: When he was talking about a mayor and governor, he wasn't talking about Governor Palin but . . . he could have been . . .

WALLACE: . . . it is not debatable that she brings the same executive experience to the ticket that Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton brought . . .

[. . .]

GREGORY: What has been unfair in the treatment of her do you think?

WALLACE: You know, I think that the interviews that she's done, the questions have certainly been above board . . . it's what happened afterward . . . when the maniacs on cable news got a hold of it. The ripped this woman to shreds like I've never seen anyone dig their teeth into a politician alive or dead . . . I think that voters have taken notice that no woman, no candidate has been treated the way this woman and her, her children, I mean her 17-year old daughter has been ripped apart by the American media . . .

Highlight #8

Nicole Wallace: Palin Answers Slowly Because She's "Thoughtful"; Obama is a Liar (FNC, Studio B, 10/02/08)

NICOLE WALLACE: I think people will see tonight a feisty, strong, tough and straight talking governor who is the chief executive of a state, that is an energy producing state and someone who can speak, who maybe hasn't participated in the debates in the halls of congress for the last 25 years but she knows what it's like not to have health insurance, so she understands how vital that debate is and the way it turns out to American families. She's someone for whom **tax cuts or tax increases aren't just a debate that takes place in the senate, they're not a weapon for Barack Obama to use, or to lie about, frankly in his case.**

SHEPERD SMITH: What did he lie about?

WALLACE: Well, he likes to look the American people in the eye, he did it in the debate last Friday, and say he'll cut taxes for 95% f the American people. It's a flat lie. He has voted to raise taxes on people making as little as 42,000 dollars a year.

[…]

The only clips you see [from the Couric interview] are couple questions that she had to think about, and you know, thinking for a couple minutes on live TV is something that doesn't happen a lot because it looks like forever but you know, **she stopped and thought about it. She a thoughtful woman, she's not throwing out canned sound bites, she thinks through every question.**

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[…]

She speaks to the heart of American's anxiety about the state of our economy and the challenges and we've spent alt of time talking about the meltdown n wall street. She got you know both hands on the steering wheel of the American economy and how it affects working families.

[…]

I am certain that the media will to be able to tell us whether she's had a great night or not…

Highlight #9
Tucker Bounds Claims Palin is an "Expert" on Energy; Obama Wants to Raise Taxes (CNN, CNN Newsroom 10/02/08)
TUCKER BOUNDS: I think we're pointing to some very serious points which is we're gonna have a spirited debate tonight about real issues and Joe Biden has shown a propensity, just like his running mate Barack Obama to say whatever is politically expedient, often times not exactly based in truth. **Also pointed to a vote that both of those candidates made in support of higher taxes for Americans making just 42,000 year**. I think those are important points to make when you consider that these are two candidates that are talking about running to represent the middle class but their records don't actually show they've stood up for the middle class when it counts most – in their paychecks

[…]

BOUNDS: I also want to point out that, you know, in the course of an hour or two long interview there are some things that are gonna be said that aren't gonna look as smooth as they should but there certainly based in some firm convictions. And those are convictions that are largely held by a large swathe of voters… **she's an expert on energy issues.**

Highlight #10
Tucker Bounds: "Complicated Issues"
TUCKER BOUNDS: Well, I think the Sarah Palin that we've all come to know will show up here tonight and I think what's most important is that these debate settings, unlike an impromptu interview, allow a candidate to talk about their record, allow the candidate to talk about their past and their life experience and how those things translate into the kind of public service that Americans expect and need right now…

[…]

BOUNDS: **Energy is certainly a complicated issue** . She's gonna talk about a variety of **complicated issues**, she talks about **complicated issues**, running a state where you manage ten million dollars and oversee thousands of employees and take on those issues that present themselves to voters and residents up there in Alaska, there are a lot of **complicated issues**…

Highlight #11
Barney Frank Responds After Called a "Coward" by Bill O'Reilly (FNC, O'Reilly Factor, 10/02/08)
BARNEY FRANK: Your stupidity gets in the way of rational discussion.

--
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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 3:00:27 AM
Subject: Fwd: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest

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strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's security. "She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel," recalled Jacobs. "And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer."

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Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. “She said ‘I’m going to do what’s in the best interest of the U.S.,’ and that was the end of it,” Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, “although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it’s got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people.” He urged Jewish donors “to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits,” adding: “I’d hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support.”

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton’s senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

“It’s a tricky issue for her,” said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran “are going to put her in a box.”

Clinton’s allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. “I know where she stands, but I can’t talk about it,” Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, “She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don’t need to worry about this.”

He soon backtracked, saying “I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal.”

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn’t hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

“Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don’t think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is,” said the donor.

Saban’s representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban’s financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran

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deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

"For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy," said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street's PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

"She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community."

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/2/2008 10:48:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting Nashville, TN 06/02/08

Hello Big Campaign,

Just off the phone with our tracker Evan who was on the ground today in Nashville, TN. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain gaffe: "I will win in January,"
- McCain attacks Obama for not voting to condemn MoveOn's NYT ad, attacks Obama's patriotism
- Characterizes situation in Iraq, "Success is remarkable"
- States his position on gay marriage -- marriage is between a man and a woman
- Asked about his flip-flop on the Bush tax cuts and why he supports such tax cuts for the wealthy now
- Asked how he would used faith as president
- In a response to a health care question, Bill Frist jumps in and highlights the importance of dealing with chronic diseases in a health care policy. (NOTE: McCain's health care plan puts those with chronic diseases at risk.)

Nashville, TN: McCain Town Hall Meeting 06/02/08

Background Details:
- Bill Frist gave introductory remarks
- Sen. Fred Thompson introduces McCain
- Also in attendance, Congressman Jack Wamp , Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn and country singer John Rich
- Audience approximately 800 in size; mostly white, affluent crowd
- Usual press - traveling and local affiliates
- Demonstrators inside the event -- they shouted several times during the event, but they were hard to hear
- No trouble getting into the event, staff noticeably less organized than those at previous events

Speech Highlights:
- Protesters briefly interrupt opening thank-yous
- McCain tells a few jokes to warm up crowd
- Says in DC, we sometimes get into a 'bubble' or a cocoon
- We are a united party -- but we've got a little work to do
- Said "I will win in January"
- Gas Tax holiday
    - lowest income people need to drive -- I wanted to give them some relief
    - I still want to give low income people a break -- so they have a little extra cash -- and can buy school supplies
- Independence from foreign oil
    - I will get that done, we will have a plan of action
    - We are gonna have to embark together on this effort -- we're going to need to develop alternative forms of energy, nuclear power needs to be part of that
    - Why are we not using more nuclear power? b/c we haven't figure out how to reprocess or store the waste
    - 'Nuclear power is clean" -- navy ships have used it for 60 years without an accident
- Situation in Middle East
    - Folks are there any doubts in your mind as to the intent of Ahmadinejad ?-- Obama wants to sit down and talk with him without any preconditions (Boos in the background)
    - Iran is sending into Iraq lethal devices
    - I will never sit down until Ahmadinejad renounces the evil things he's doing in Iraq
- Iraq
    - 800+ days since Obama has been to Iraq; and never has sat down with Petraeus or the other commanders on the ground
    - McCain reads quote: Obama said, 'I'm not persuaded that 20,000 additional troops in Iraq is going to settle the sectarian violence in Iraq ....', Obama was against the surge
    - McCain - I suggest that he immediately sit down with Gen. Petraeus

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- Talks about MoveOn.org ad that appeared in the NY Times; Senator Obama didn't vote -- my friends, all of us should vote to defend our generals (hits Obama on patriotism)
- The war in Iraq has been long and hard and tough; it was terribly mismanaged for 4 years
- "Success is remarkable" in Iraq
- the key thing isn't American presence, but American casualties
- if we withdraw -- if we had done what Obama wanted -- what happens? chaos, more fighting, and we'd have to go back
- I'm glad Saddam is gone and that the Iraqi people have a chance at democracy, freedom
- Senator Obama does not have the experience or knowledge -- and clearly the judgement
- I've had the honor to serve this nation for a long number of years -- and i hate war, and everyday we prey that they can come home, but everyday we pray to win so that we won't have to go back
- I believe I can inspire a nation of young Americans to serve

Question and Answer

Q 1) General Petraeus -- I served with him. Tells story about Petraeus and what a great man he is.

MCCAIN: Thank you for serving. I am honored. It's just hard to understand why Obama would not vote to condemn an ad by an organization that questions the patriotism of such a great man as Petraeus.

Q 2) Hillary Clinton -- you mentioned Obama, but not her. Taxes on phone bills -- the tax that was originally intended to pay for the Spanish-American war. Also, sales taxes from the mall don't stay in the communities.

MCCAIN: I'll be glad to look into that. By the way, there's many individuals who want to tax the Internet. Don't let them do it.

Follow-up: Character issue. Like you I was opposed to gay marriage -- I agree with civil unions. Infidelity is a terrible cancer on this country. I think if we are going to talk about gay marriage, we also need to talk about the preservation of marriage.

MCCAIN: I respect her, I admire her. We have stark differences. I respect the campaign that she has run. I believe in the sanctity and unique status of marriage as between man and a woman (cheers and small boos).

Q 3) Iranian threat. What would be your response to Iran if they were to bomb Israel? And how would you fund faith based organizations.

MCCAIN: I think faith-based organizations are great entities.
I will never allow a second Holocaust. I believe there are many measures we can use to thwart Iran before taking any military action.

Q 4) Tax cuts -- we need tax cuts and spending cuts. Reads statement about Bush tax cuts and how McCain in 2001 and 2003 said he was opposed to the tax cuts because they gave breaks to the wealthy. As president, what kind of tax cuts that you do propose? Do you have your own thoughts or are you simply trying to make the Bush tax cuts permanent?

MCCAIN: If you do not make the Bush tax cuts permanent -- you will essentially raising taxes for everyone. At the time, I had my own spending-cut package in Congress. We need to control spending -- I favor further tax cuts. You can't dispute cutting the capital gains tax. Obama wants to raise the capital gains tax.

Follow-up: Those tax cuts are distributed to the wealthy. Are you looking to do that different than what you said in 2001?

MCCAIN: We're talking a lot of people. The capital gains taxes affects more than just wealthy people -- 100 million Americans report capital gains taxes on their income. I favor further tax cuts. But first we have to get spending under control.

Q 5) Military member -- Iraq, good news coming out. Military is strapped thin however. What will you do?

MCCAIN: I think you are right. The army and the marine core are smaller now. One of the mistakes that we made is not to increase the size of the military. I will do whatever it takes to increase the size of the military.

Q 6) Military member - Only Republican in whole family. I like you. "I'm the only one in my family that likes you." I wanted to know if I can get a picture with you.

MCCAIN: I'd be honored. Tell the members of your family that you're the smartest member.

Q 7) Have you chosen your VP?

MCCAIN: No.

Follow-up: Can I make a suggest?

MCCAIN: Sure.

QUESTIONER: Our good friend, Fred Thompson.

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Q 8) Freedom from religion. This country was founded on faith and God. What or who is the supreme authority in your life and how will it be evident in your presidency?

MCCAIN: I think the experience I had here and faraway, the only reason I am here today is because of my faith. I believe I am here because I got one more day, one more hour, one more minute.
Tells story from POW experience. We were used as propaganda. One of those methods was to use rope to tie your arms back. One night I was in that situation. A guy walked in -- a gun guard -- he loosened the ropes that were holding me. He came at the end of his shift and tightened them again. On Christmas day, I was let out to walk outside, the guard drew a cross on the ground. That's the one person I always wanted to see again.

Q 9) Iraq war veteran and a poet. I understand you are one of those Senators who did not read all of the intelligence report leading up to the invasion of Iraq. Can you tell me who the poet laureate of Arizona is?

MCCAIN: I do not know. You wanna tell me?

Questioner: That's all I needed to know.

MCCAIN: I was briefed many, many times. And everything showed that Saddam had WMD's.

Follow-up: Inspirational authors to you?

MCCAIN: Joel Austeen. Ernest Hemingway -- because of serving a cause greater than ourselves. History. I could go on and on. I read all the time.

Q 10) Social conservatives are worried about your background on this. Who will you appoint to the Supreme Court? And how will you combat judicial activism?

MCCAIN: Standard judiciary answer. I'd appoint people like Alito and Roberts. Appointing judges is one of the most important jobs of the President. In all candor, guys who know that very fact are Thomspon and Frist.

Q 11) Thank you for your character. Thank you for your service. What is your stand on immigration? And will you autograph my book?

MCCAIN: I think the people that inspire me are our founding fathers.
I believe that are founding fathers in their writings and the most noble words they've written -- we're all created equal ....

Q 12) Health care. My aunt is 92 and suffers from chronic pain. A big problem these days are doctors are being prosecuted by the federal government for aggressively prescribing pain medication. I want you to stop the persecution and reverse this trend/policy.

MCCAIN: Trials are not brought without evidence. But we're lucky, we have Bill Frist here -- what do you think Bill?

FRIST: Chronic disease has to be the focus of health care policy. It was one of the biggest problems. We must continue to invest in science so we can help solve your problem.

Follow-up: Many doctors are afraid to be aggressive because of the prosecutions that are happening.

MCCAIN: I will look into it. And do everything I can if there are abuses.

Q 13) Thank you for your service. I served as a nurse. NARF -- about health care policy? There needs to be more doctors that specialize in the treatment of seniors.

MCCAIN: I'll look into it.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Media USA
ccroft@progressivemediausa.org
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206-999-3064 (cell)
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From: "ABA International" <intlaw@americanbar.org>
To: "John D Podesta" <podesta@LAW.GEORGETOWN.EDU>
Date: 8/14/2014 3:15:00 AM
Subject: Coming This Fall: Outstanding CLE Programming With ABA International

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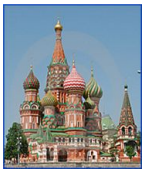

September 19, 2014

6th Annual Conference on the Resolution of CIS-Related Business Disputes
Radisson Royal Hotel - Moscow, Russia
http://ambar.org/Moscow2014

October 21-25, 2014

ABA International Fall Meeting
Hilton Buenos Aires - Buenos Aires, Argentina
http://ambar.org/ILFall2014

November 13, 2014

15th Annual "Live From the SEC"
Live Webcast from Washington, DC and London, UK
http://shopaba.org/SEC2014

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November 17-18, 2014

North America Regional Forum:
Doing Business Within the Region and Collaborating Abroad
Pan Pacific Vancouver Hotel - Vancouver, BC, Canada
http://ambar.org/Vancouver2014

American Bar Association Section of International Law
intlaw@americanbar.org - www.americanbar.org/intlaw

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From: "Team Kirkpatrick" <info@kirkpatrickforsenate.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 1/20/2016 5:03:11 PM
Subject: McCain, Palin, Trump

Hey John --

As someone who has been in Washington for 33 years, John McCain has had to make a lot of decisions. So when McCain named his best decision yet, we figured it would be about helping Arizona families.

But instead McCain said it was...*Sarah Palin.*

John McCain: Choosing Sarah Palin In 2008 'The Best Decision I've Ever Made' - *Huffington Post*

- Yes, Sarah Palin who tried to boost her foreign policy credentials by saying she could see Russia from Alaska.
- The same Sarah Palin who denies man-made climate change and suggests evolution isn't real.
- **And the same Sarah Palin who just endorsed Donald Trump.**

It's not surprising. McCain, Palin, and Trump have all built political careers on getting soundbites and TV show appearances rather than results. Trump's a reality TV star turned politician, Palin's a politician turned reality TV star, and McCain's the most prolific Sunday talk show TV pundit in DC.

The best decision Arizona families could make is clear: elect Ann Kirkpatrick and retire John McCain. Ann will make sure Arizona families can find work, have health care, and are safe from national security threats.

John McCain is more vulnerable than ever and "Senator Kirkpatrick" could soon be a reality. *National Journal* and *Politico* have ranked our race as one of the top Senate races.

But here's the problem -- we're critically short of our $30,000 January goal and don't have a lot of time to make up ground. Help us out with a contribution of $5 or more.

Let's get to work,

Team Kirkpatrick

This email was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu

To unsubscribe, go to: **http://kirkpatrickforsenate.com/subscriptions**

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Senate

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 7/16/2015 10:57:42 AM
Subject: RE: Iran

Jake,
I am sorry, but I do not see it. Can you share it?
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
Subject: Re: Iran

Stu -- have you read her statement?

On Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 10:34 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:
Dear Jake,
It is clear the campaign and Hillary want to be seen as simply praising the Iran deal without any of the qualifications and assurances to our allies we have discussed for weeks. You had even strengthened the language I proposed on using all means to stop an Iranian nuclear weapon during or after the expiration of the term of the Agreement. Is this now all by the boards? I am very concerned about her loss of Jewish and moderate support, without the kind of statement I assumed would be forthcoming.

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Karen Sack" <Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org>
Date: 4/15/2015 11:10:19 AM
Subject: Re: Human polar bear in DC Tuesday

On the road. Sorry

On Apr 15, 2015 4:18 PM, "Karen Sack" <Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org > wrote:

> Dear John,
>
> I am sure you are wickedly busy given everything going on at the moment, however, if you have time for a 30 minute break on Tuesday, Lewis Pugh will be in DC and if you are interested, I can arrange for him to have a quick sit-down with you. After doing a series of swims in the Antarctic to protect the Ross Sea, he joined forces with a Russian ice hockey star in Moscow and seemed to have taken the Russian media by storm. He also met the Defense Minister. We call it speedo diplomacy ☺ - a little piece from an interview Lewis did, attached.
>
> Let me know if you have any time on Tuesday afternoon and I can try and set something up.
>
> Best,
>
> Karen
>
> **Karen Sack**
>
> Managing Director, Ocean Unite
>
> e-mail: Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org
>
> m: + 1 202.415.5403
>
> skype: karensack
>
> twitter: @karen_sack
>
> *"We must protect the ocean as if our lives depend upon it -- because they do." --Sylvia Earle*

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/13/2015 7:19:19 AM
Subject:	HRC Clips | 2.13.15
Attachments:	20150213 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
February 13, 2015

HRC

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Save the Children's Insurance (NYT)
By Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bill Frist
February 12, 2015
The New York Times

NO child in America should be denied the chance to see a doctor when he or she needs one — but if Congress doesn't act soon, that's exactly what might happen.

For the past 18 years, the Children's Health Insurance Program has provided much-needed coverage to millions of American children. And yet, despite strong bipartisan support, we are concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program. As parents, grandparents and former legislators, we believe that partisan politics should never stand between our kids and quality health care.

We may be from different political parties, but both of us have dedicated our careers to supporting the health of children and their families. This shared commitment inspired us to work together in the late 1990s to help create CHIP to address the needs of the two million children whose families make too much money to be covered by Medicaid, but cannot afford private insurance.

The resulting program, a compromise between Republicans and Democrats, disburses money to the states but gives them flexibility to tailor how they provide coverage to meet the needs of their own children and families. Some expanded Medicaid; others created separate programs. As a result, the number of uninsured children in America has dropped by half. Children miss less school because of illness or injury, and we've seen a significant decline in childhood mortality.

Today, state governments continue to rely on the program to meet crucial health and budget priorities. It's not surprising that every single governor who responded to a 2014 survey — 39 in all — supported saving CHIP.

Of course, the American health care landscape has changed significantly since CHIP started. Under the Affordable Care Act, many families with children are now receiving financial help to enroll in private health coverage through the new health insurance marketplace. But while it is possible that private, family-wide policies offered by employers and marketplaces may one day render CHIP unnecessary, for now substantial gaps still exist — and too many children can still fall through them.

One specific provision of the Affordable Care Act, often called the "family glitch," has been interpreted to prevent many families from receiving subsidized health coverage in the new marketplace if one parent is offered "affordable coverage" through his or her job. In this case, "affordable" is defined as less than roughly 9.5 percent of household income for that parent to sign up alone — even though the actual cost of available family coverage is far higher. For families affected by this glitch, CHIP may be the only affordable option for making sure their children are covered.

We already know what happens when CHIP is no longer an option for families. According to a recent report from the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, as many as 14,000 children in Arizona lost their health insurance after 2010, when it became the only state to drop CHIP.

We don't want to see the same thing happen across the country. If CHIP is not reauthorized, more families will be hit with higher costs. As many as two million children could lose coverage altogether. Millions more will have fewer health care benefits and much higher out-of-pocket costs, threatening access to needed health services. And because families without adequate insurance often miss out on preventive care and instead receive more expensive treatment in hospital emergency rooms, all of us will be likely to end up paying part of the bill.

While reauthorization is not due until the end of September, Congress needs to act now. With more than four-fifths of state legislatures adjourning by the end of June, lack of action and clarity from Washington by then will make budgeting and planning virtually impossible.

Reauthorizing CHIP for the next four years would cost about $10 billion — an investment in our children that will pay off for decades to come. This is an opportunity to send a message that Washington is still capable of making common-sense progress for American families.

As 2015 unfolds, we know Congress will continue to debate the future of health care reform. We most likely won't see eye to eye about some of the more contentious questions. But one thing everyone should be able to agree

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on is that our most vulnerable children shouldn't be caught in the crossfire.

This isn't about politics. It's about our kids and our nation's future. What could be more important than that?

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Hillary calls for extending CHIP funding (The Hill)
By Jesse Byrnes
February 12, 2015
The Hill

Hillary Clinton is pushing for Congress to reauthorize the federal government's child healthcare program, lending her support to congressional Democrats looking to keep the program around.

"[D]espite strong bipartisan support, we are concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program," Clinton and former GOP Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (Tenn.) wrote in an op-ed in The New York Times on Thursday.

"As parents, grandparents and former legislators, we believe that partisan politics should never stand between our kids and quality health care," the pair added.
Clinton, the presumed 2016 Democratic presidential frontrunner, is calling on Congress to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program's (CHIP) funding for the next four years, labeling the approximately $10 billion expense "an investment in our children that will pay off for decades to come."

Senate Democrats have launched their own push to reauthorize the program, signing on as co-sponsors of a bill that would extend funding through 2019. Currently, the program's funding runs out at the end of September. A companion bill was also introduced in the House on Thursday.

The program, which has been around for the better part of two decades, covers about 10 million children. Some Republicans have cast CHIP as duplicative given benefits under ObamaCare, and say additional subsidies and eligibility under Medicaid make the program as unnecessary.

"If CHIP is not reauthorized, more families will be hit with higher costs. As many as two million children could lose coverage altogether. Millions more will have fewer health care benefits and much higher out-of-pocket costs, threatening access to needed health services," Clinton and Frist wrote.

"And because families without adequate insurance often miss out on preventive care and instead receive more expensive treatment in hospital emergency rooms, all of us will be likely to end up paying part of the bill," they added.

The op-ed also marks the second time in as many weeks that Clinton has jumped into a healthcare debate. Last week she tweeted that "#vaccineswork" after two possible 2016 Republican contenders, Gov. Chris Christie (N.J.) and Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) suggested that parents should have some choice on whether to immunize their children.

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Clinton Consults Experts to Chart Foreign-Policy Agenda (WSJ)
By Peter Nicholas
February 13, 2015
The Wall Street Jounral

Voters aren't seeing much of Hillary Clinton these days, leading some Democrats to wonder when their front-runner will enter the 2016 contest. Behind the scenes, she is prepping carefully for the race of her life.

Private meetings that she's held with various foreign-policy experts offer some hints as to how she might part ways with President Barack Obama when it comes to crises in Ukraine, Syria and other global trouble spots. The major takeaway from these private talks is that she wants a strategy more suited to shaping conditions overseas, as opposed to reacting to events as they arise, people familiar with the meetings said.

In these meetings, Mrs. Clinton's habit is to go a round the room, asking questions and taking notes with pad and pen in hand. She has been looking for an analysis of current conditions and possible solutions – but also a more proactive posture, some familiar with the meetings say.

Mr. Obama has seemed flat-footed at times in response to the Islamic State's advances in Syria and Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggressive moves to gain territory in Ukraine.

"There's a degree of concern that what we're doing oftentimes looks to be reactive in response to what the problem of the moment is — as opposed to what is the strategic approach and what might we be doing differently," said one person familiar with her thinking who requested anonymity.

As Secretary of State during Mr. Obama's first term, Mrs. Clinton played the role of loyal adviser in a foreign-policy apparatus that was run out of the White House; Mr. Obama was the one making the decisions.

It seems clear that if Mrs. Clinton wins the White House she would chart a different path than the one charted during the Obama administration.

In her 2014 book, "Hard Choices," and in various speeches, Mrs. Clinton suggested she would have been more interventionist in Syria in 2012–more willing than the president to arm moderate rebels in hopes of stopping the civil war. She has been unsparing in her criticism of Mr. Putin, likening territorial grabs in Ukraine to Adolph Hitler's aggression before World War II.

"She's much less risk-averse" than Mr. Obama, said Aaron David Miller, vice president of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars who has taken part in Mrs. Clinton's foreign-policy briefings.

If she becomes president, Mrs. Clinton might have some latitude to pursue a more activist foreign policy. Context is everything.

Mr. Obama took office at a time when the nation was weary of the Iraq war. His caution suited an electorate that was skeptical of new military engagements. But after eight years of Mr. Obama, the public might be ready for a president who favors a more muscular approach, Mr. Miller said.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll last month showed that 56% disapproved of the president's handling of foreign policy, compared to just 37% who favored the job he's doing.

"If she becomes president, her political space on foreign policy will be a reaction to what has been criticized by many as an over-course correction [by Mr. Obama]," Mr. Miller said. "She'll have an easier time of it, I think, than Obama had in this direction."

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Hillary Clinton should jump in now (WAPO)
By James Downie
February 12, 2015
The Washington Post

If she runs, Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic nominee in 2016. Everyone knows this. Even accounting for the unreliability of early polls, her current lead over the rest of the field (between 40 percent and 60 percentage points) dwarfs her 10 point to 20 point lead over then-Senator Barack Obama at this stage eight years ago. All that is left for her to do is formally enter the race. So why hasn't she?

Some of those who think Clinton should wait make two arguments in Thursday's Wall Street Journal: Waiting to announce lets the media focus on Republicans fighting each other, and it saves money on campaign operations. (There is a third argument that others make privately: Announcing now prolongs the period when Clinton is under even more scrutiny, having to take stances on every issue while avoiding "gaffes." But Clinton is hardly silent right now, and if Democrats are truly fearful that Clinton could seriously hurt her chances in the next few months, they should probably be looking harder for another candidate.)

Clinton should want the media to focus on her would-be GOP opponents clawing at each other, but, as the Iowa caucuses get closer, Republican candidates will only get nastier toward each other. At the moment, with the exception of Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), the GOP candidates are still playing nice. That comity will not last. If Clinton waits until "between April and July," which the Journal reported is the most likely date, her announcement may not just take media attention away from Paul's tweeting, but from some more serious internal GOP fighting.

As for the expense of starting the campaign earlier, it is true that (at least according to former top adviser Mark Penn) Clinton's 2008 campaign managed to blow through most of the money it raised in its first year. But the proper response to the fear of repeating those errors is not to delay the campaign, but to learn from the mistakes in 2008 and from veterans of the Obama campaign, which somehow managed not to spend as foolishly. And without serious opposition, the costs for this primary will inevitably be lower.

Instead, by not setting up an official campaign, Clinton has left a vacuum that various super PACs have struggled to fill. These groups haven't been able to raise the money they were hoping to (precisely because Clinton has delayed her entrance), and at the same time various Democratic insiders are fighting with each other for influence over Clinton. This has meant that, somehow, the prohibitive favorite for the Democratic nomination has managed to have a week of negative headlines.

Some might say the costs of delaying are overblown. But they are eerily similar to the strife and indecision that sank Clinton last time. As Joshua Green reported in 2008, in what is still the best post-mortem of that Clinton campaign, "Her advisers couldn't execute strategy; they routinely attacked and undermined each other, and Clinton never forced a resolution. Major decisions would be put off for weeks until suddenly she would erupt, driving her staff to panic and misfire. … What is clear from the internal documents is that Clinton's loss derived not from any specific decision she made but rather from the preponderance of the many she did not make. Her hesitancy and habit of avoiding hard choices exacted a price that eventually sank her chances at the presidency." Sound familiar?

Clinton can avoid those mistakes this time by announcing in the next few weeks, setting up a campaign apparatus above the overlapping super PACs and committing to specific advisers. The longer she stays out, the more one has to wonder if she has truly learned from the errors of eight years ago.

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Hillary Clinton Waits ... And Waits ... And Waits (HuffPo)

By Sam Stein

February 12, 2015

The Huffington Post

WASHINGTON -- The continued volatility of the Republican presidential field, and the sheer tameness of the Democratic one, have convinced prominent backers and donors for Hillary Clinton that she should take her time before announcing her candidacy.

In late January, Politico reported that Clinton was thinking of delaying the launch of her campaign from April until July. The move reflected both a lack of a sense of urgency to enter the race and a worry that jumping into the electoral fray might sully Clinton's standing with the public. The idea was received coolly in the press, which noted that staying away from the campaign trail is an odd strategy for winning a campaign.

For those cheering Clinton on, however, the downsides appear incredibly limited. They counter that the media's criticism is mainly a product of its self-interest, which would be served by Clinton announcing a presidential bid.

"She is in the catbird seat," Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) told The Huffington Post in an interview last week. "If she wants time to figure out her strategy, figure out her issues, figure out who her inner staff should be, she is in no hurry. There is no hurry that she has to announce."

A spokesperson for the former secretary of state declined to comment on the timing of a possible presidential run. However, HuffPost spoke with several donors who said they suspect there is no rush on her part, based on the fairly informal outreach they've received to this point (as opposed to harder pitches to get involved). One high-profile donor said last week that while he was previously convinced that Clinton would announce in early February, he now is getting "a completely different vibe" -- though he noted he didn't get this impression directly from conversations with the Clintons themselves.

In the time between that discussion and the publication of this story, the pros and cons of a delayed announcement have become clearer. As far as advantages go, the Democrats most likely to challenge Clinton in the primary have neither hit the ground running (former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb's next scheduled Iowa stop, for instance, is in April) nor shown particularly sharp fangs. Even those who seem most committed to the race don't appear especially interested in attacking Clinton too hard.

Presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) told MSNBC this week that a matchup between him and Clinton would be "a real clash of ideas." But the clash won't involve negative advertising, should it get to that point. Sanders, according to his longtime adviser Tad Devine, has never run those type of spots and has no plans to do so in the future.

"He never has and he won't," Devine told HuffPost this week. "As the guy who made his ads, I know."

But even as Clinton remains relatively inoculated from attacks from outside her universe, internally, things aren't going so smoothly. This week, a spat between leading operatives running pro-Clinton political action committees spilled out into the open, resulting in an acrimonious split and an awkward reconciliation. Of course, that type of drama -- which comes with having a network of big-name advisers and fundraisers built over several decades -- is likely to happen to Clinton whether or not she's a declared candidate. And certainly, the case could be made that she's best served by not being too close to that type of political muck.

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Still, this week's events indicate that the internal squabbling and Clinton's longer-than-expected timeframe are hurting the outside financial infrastructure that was supposed to be in place by the time she announced. And with conservative outside groups flexing their financial muscle -- the billionaire Koch brothers have announced that they plan to spend $889 million in the 2016 election -- some Democrats are openly nervous.

"It is frightening for two people to have such disproportionate influence," Schumer said. His concerns would be lessened, he added, if the Kochs were more willing to funnel money to their legislative causes than to their favored political party. The senator said that he had reached out to the billionaire brothers during the Senate fight over immigration, hoping to convince them to spend money to support the bill. But the Kochs balked, even though they are nominally supportive of immigration reform. "Ninety percent of their ads don't talk about their philosophy," Schumer said. "So this idea that they believe in the free market and reducing regulations, they don't talk about that in their ads!"

In the end, while money may be a problem in 2016 for Democrats in general, it won't be an issue for Clinton specifically. One longtime Clinton donor, Dennis Mehiel, told HuffPost last week that he wasn't worried about Clinton raising funds, or for that matter, getting into the race later in the process. He argued that the dynamics were different in the Democratic field than in the much more crowded Republican one, making it more plausible to wait on Clinton.

"You have this big donors base out there that [Mitt] Romney built," Mehiel said. "If he isn't in the race, there is a scramble for those people. Jeb Bush can't wait months because people will get claimed."

"I'm not sure the donor base for the Clintons is going anywhere until they hear from Hillary," he added. "If she wants to announce in July instead of February, it doesn't change my calculus."

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London mayor finds U.S. campaign system 'peculiar' (WAPO)
By Mary Jordan
February 12, 2015
The Washington Post

"Peculiar": that's how Boris Johnson the outspoken mayor of London describes how long it takes to run a presidential campaign in the United States.

In fact, Johnson, often cited as a possible future prime minister, said the advantages of the compact six-week parliamentary election system in Britain came up in his meeting Wednesday with Hillary Clinton, who is already raising millions, hiring operatives and been declared the Democratic front runner for an election 21 months away.

Johnson said Clinton lamented the "protracted system" here and noted the "attraction of having a short, sharp parliamentary election" that decides British leaders. "I am inclined to sympathize with her," the London mayor said. The nearly two year-long campaign on this side of the Atlantic "puts such an emphasis on raising money," he said, and does "seem peculiar to those of us on the outside."

Johnson spoke by phone just as he arrived by Amtrak in Washington, the next stop on his six-day trip to the East Coast, and headed over to Capitol Hill to meet with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and the British American caucus.

The stated purpose of Johnson's trip is to stir up British business, though the British press has focused on its usefulness in burnishing his credentials as a player on the global stage. Johnson said he did speak about the Islamic State and Iraq with Clinton. He said the former secretary of state told him she thought that Europe and Britain "needed to toughen up its response to Putin." Meanwhile, a parade of presidential contenders, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, have been back in Johnson's home city of London fielding, or ducking, questions about foreign policy.

In Washington, Johnson will speak at Brookings Institution, and Bruce Katz, the founding director of the Metropolitan Policy Program, said the conversation with the London mayor will be on global trade and cities building tech and medical hubs, rather than "what people usual talk to him about: 'Is he going to be prime minister?'"

Katz likened Johnson to Fiorello LaGuardia, New York's larger-than life mayor in the 1930s. "He's a performer as well as a politician," he said.

Johnson will also swing by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum to bring fresh attention to the recent announcement that the Smithsonian plans to open its first international exhibition space in London. The proposed 40,000 square feet complex would open in 2021 and be on the site of the 2012 Olympics

With the bestselling erotic novel, "Fifty Shades of Grey," which was written by a British author, hitting the movie screens this week, the mayor took questions about it and said that he couldn't really get through it, "I am ashamed to say." The Telegraph quoted him calling the book "terrible bilge," adding that, despite several attempts to read it, he found that it never started "hotting up." Nonetheless, the mayor called the work "a brilliant British export."

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Biden in Iowa: Is he there to talk about colleges or caucuses? (WAPO)
By Katie Zezima
February 12, 2015
The Washington Post

Vice President Biden is in Iowa Thursday - but why?

To tout the community college plan President Obama outlined in the State of the Union, of course. Oh, and mention potential presidential candidates in 2016.

Policies embraced by the presidential candidates in the other party, Biden said, as well as Democrats and others running for office in the next two years, will determine the next 10 to 15 years of the lives of the students he addressed at Drake University in Des Moines.

Biden has run for president twice before, and he has said that he's considering a third crack at the nomination. But his trip comes as Hillary Rodham Clinton is ramping up her staffing and cementing herself as the only dominant Democrat in the race.

He chuckled when asked if he is considering challenging her. "Yes,there's a chance," he said.

Biden has been engrossed in world affairs of late, attending the Munich Security Conference last weekend, where talk pivoted around Ukraine and the possibility of a peace deal that was announced Thursday.

According to CNN, Biden told a group of former campaign staffers and Iowa-based friends that he was coming to the state. So could he be planting the idea that the third campaign could be the charm?

If so there are no outward signs, meanwhile, Clinton has so far done a pretty good job of pilfering West Wing talent. White House counselor John Podesta and communications director Jennifer Palmieri are heading to Clinton's budding campaign.

Biden talked up the community college, but not after talking at length about Iowa politicians. He said his trip reminded him of "what it used be like," when Republicans and Democrats could be friends and work together. Biden said Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican, greeted him at the airport and came on his plane and lauded former senator Tom Harkin (D).

Biden is also participating in a roundtable discussion at Des Moines Area Community College's Ankeny Campus.

But at least one high-profile Iowa politician wants Biden to mix business with a bit of other, well, business. "When Vice President Biden comes to Des Moines this Thursday, I'm going to ask him to get in," Branstad said. He said he is bored by "what looks like a coronation for Clinton."

But when it comes to Democratic voters who said they also had Clinton fatigue, none mention Biden as a possible contender.

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Biden says 2016 should be debate about continuing Obama's policies (Reuters)
By Kay Henderson
February 12, 2015
Reuters

DES MOINES, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Vice President Joe Biden was vague on Thursday about whether he would seek to succeed President Barack Obama, but said the 2016 White House campaign should be centered on whether to continue Obama's policies.

With Hillary Clinton the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, Biden has made no apparent move toward launching a campaign. On a visit to Iowa, the state that holds the first nominating contest early next year, he said a decision is months away.

"That's a family personal decision that I'm going to make sometime at the end of the summer," Biden told reporters.

Biden, as the sitting vice president, would typically be next in line for the nomination for his party. But the strength and appeal of former Secretary of State Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton, has put Biden on the sidelines.

In remarks at Drake University, Biden said the next campaign should be about Obama's economic policies, which he said are working.

"I call it sticking with what works," Biden said, "and what we ought to do." He chastised fellow Democrats who he said have tried to distance themselves from Obama administration policies.

"In my view those seeking to lead the nation should protect and defend and run, yes, run on what we've done, own what we have done, stand for what we have done, acknowledge what we have done and be judged on what (we have) done if we have any chance of a resurgence in 2016," Biden said.

The Republican National Committee quickly picked up on Biden's remarks and said it bolstered their argument that the next Democratic nominee will be campaigning to serve Obama's "third term."

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Biden: I'll make a 2016 decision 'at the end of the summer' (WAPO)
By Rebecca Sinderbrand
February 13, 2015
The Washington Post

Vice President Joe Biden said Thursday that his 2016 decision is still months away.

"That's a family personal decision that I'm going to make sometime at the end of the summer," he told reporters in Iowa, when asked about the possibility of another presidential bid.

As former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton and several of her underdog Democratic challengers have begun gearing up for White House runs with staff hires and long-range campaign planning, Biden has so far stayed on the sidelines.

The vice president said Thursday that he was still not actively developing a campaign apparatus in the first-in-the-nation caucus state.

"I've been here a lot, I have a lot of friends," he told reporters in Des Moines. "I'm going to see some of my friends [who] are still in the legislature, and they're here today. But no, I'm not doing any organization, if that's what you mean."

But Biden suggested last month that despite his lack of activity on the infrastructure front, it was too soon to rule him out of contention. He could decide to challenge presumptive candidate and front-runner Clinton, he said then — a prospect that's considered highly remote.

"Yes, there's a chance," he laughed when asked by ABC's George Stephanopoulos if he would challenge Clinton. "But I haven't made my mind up about that. We've got a lot of work to do between now and then."

He added that he wasn't thrown by Clinton's early 2016 moves.

"Secretary Clinton is a really competent person and a friend. The person who is going to be the next president of the United States is the one who is going to be able to articulate the clearest vision to the American people of where they're going to take the country," he said, telling ABC that he didn't think it was necessary to make up his mind about the race "until the summer."

"I think this is wide open on both sides," he said.

On Thursday, during his Iowa appearance to plug the administration's higher education policies, he offered a possible rationale for a run: The next election, he said, would be a fight to preserve the Obama administration's record. "Some say that would amount to the third term for the president. I call it sticking with what works," he said.

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Iowa Republicans are embracing Joe Biden to troll Hillary Clinton (Business Insider)

By Colin Campbell

February 12, 2015

Business Insider

Republicans are mocking Hillary Clinton's absence from the 2016 campaign trail by rolling out the red carpet for Vice President Joe Biden.

Biden, who hasn't ruled out running for president next year, visited Iowa on Thursday for two events on college campuses. The state's GOP reacted to the news by gleefully noting it's been some time since Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, dropped by the key presidential primary state.

"We welcome Vice President Biden to Iowa and are glad he is here to give Iowa voters the time and consideration they deserve," the party's chairman, Jeff Kaufmann, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, co-chair Cody Hoefert accused Clinton of expecting a "coronation" despite coming in third place in Iowa when she last ran for president in 2008.

"Say what you will about Vice President Biden, but at least he's here," Hoefert said. "While the Republican Party prepares for one of the most vibrant nomination contests in memory, the Democrats are frozen in place waiting for Hillary Clinton's coronation. Hillary has never had a warm relationship with Iowa voters, and it's clear she doesn't care much to fix it now. I'm confident Iowa voters will remember this in 2016."

Clinton's team insists she will fight hard for the state's votes if she launches a bid for the White House. Her campaign is widely viewed as all but certain and polls show she is well ahead of any potential rivals.

"If she runs, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote," Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill told The Des Moines Register. "Anyone who thinks otherwise should think again."

However, Clinton has had almost no public appearances or media interviews so far this year. In January, she notably held two events but they were paid speaking engagements in Canada. (Clinton has been fiercely criticized for taking sums as high as $300,000 in speaking fees.)

The national Republican Party also recently mocked Clinton for her lack of public events. The party bought a "Hillary's Hiding" billboard in Iowa on Wednesday and even released a fake movie trailer the next day noting she launched her 2008 campaign much earlier:

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Who's going to win Iowa and N.H.? Introducing the POLITICO Caucus (Politico)
By James Hohmann
February 13, 2015
Politico

Most Iowa insiders believe Scott Walker would win their state's caucuses if they were this week.

But they're not this week, and virtually none of the most influential thought leaders in the Hawkeye State believe that the Wisconsin governor will sustain his recent bounce in polls.

This is one of several intriguing findings in the debut survey of The POLITICO Caucus. More than 100 of the most plugged-in activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire have agreed to answer a weekly survey over the next year, which will be published here every Friday. It's a diverse mix of powerful figures from across the political spectrum, including party chairmen, members of Congress, radio hosts and rising stars who command loyal followings.

The insiders are immersed in the nomination battles and their views could be a leading indicator of where the polls are heading. The vast majority of those who are participating are not committed to a candidate yet, though some are playing key roles on the burgeoning campaigns.

The consensus across this group is that Hillary Clinton is almost guaranteed to become the Democratic nominee. Only four of 70 who answered guessed that a Democrat other than Clinton will ultimately win their state.

But there's widespread agreement that the GOP field really is wide open. In New Hampshire, the feeling is that Jeb Bush would win the first-in-the-nation primary if it was this week but that it's premature to call him a frontrunner.

Six in 10 Iowa insiders surveyed believe Walker would win the caucuses if they were this week. But only two of the 32 Iowans who returned questionnaires believe the Wisconsin governor will ultimately prevail. "He will now go through a scrutiny that will determine how prepared he is to sustain this frontrunner status," one Iowa Republican remarked.

Here are the key takeaways from our first weekly survey:

Jeb Bush and Scott Walker are fighting for frontrunner status. But neither has it.

Most Republican insiders answered "no" when asked if there's a GOP frontrunner. The field is stronger than in 2012, and any one from a handful of candidates could emerge as the nominee, they believe.

Walker got a big boost from his breakout speech at an event put on last month by Iowa Rep. Steve King in Des Moines. But the insiders are keenly aware he remains untested outside Wisconsin.

Bush is a bigger media draw, enjoys higher name ID and has access to more money than any other GOP candidate. For these reasons, one New Hampshire Republican said he is the frontrunner "simply by default."

Others on the right argued that none of these advantages is enough to make Bush a "real" frontrunner the way that Mitt Romney was at this stage in 2012. "It's too early," said one of the GOP respondents from New Hampshire. "There's a lot of kicking of tires yet to happen."

An Iowa Republican remarked, "This is the most wide open contest I have ever seen."

The world matters. At least, a surprisingly high number of insiders think 2016 will be a national security election.

Roughly half of those interviewed identified the economy – from stagnant wages to income inequality – as the defining issue of 2016. The next-most cited issue was foreign policy and/or national security, with about a quarter of those surveyed predicting it will drive the debate.

Several insiders mentioned specifically the Islamic State and the Levant, or ISIL.

A nonpartisan academic from Iowa said the use of force directive introduced to Congress by President Barack Obama "automatically moves foreign affairs up on this list for 2016."

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Clinton, as the former Secretary of State, will likely position herself as the candidate with unrivaled foreign policy chops. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who looks increasingly serious about running, is playing up his roles on the Senate intelligence and foreign relations committees.

Rand Paul is winning the GOP ground war. So far.

Hillary Clinton has a built-in, years-in-the-making campaign organization that insiders from both parties agreed is unrivaled. Her 2008 supporters are still with her, and many Obama hands are ready to get on board.

On the Republican side, the majority surveyed in both states said Rand Paul has the most robust organization. His father, Ron, finished third in Iowa and second in New Hampshire in 2012, giving the Kentucky senator a network to build from.

“Paul probably has the best organization at this point, with good management and strong grass roots,” said a New Hampshire Republican. “Others will catch up and level this out though.”

Others in Iowa mentioned retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who has benefited from an aggressive movement to draft him into the race, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has been spending a lot of time in the state.

Does being a Bush help or hurt Jeb? Insiders are split.

Most Democrats think George W. Bush would be a serious drag on Jeb in a general election. But Republicans are almost evenly divided about whether the Bush name is more of an asset or a liability for the former governor.

“It is a wash if Jeb gets out and shows he is his own person,” said an uncommitted Iowa Republican. Another said anyone who doesn’t think it’s a net positive is “nuts” but added, “Bush fatigue is a real issue.” A New Hampshire Republican called it a “two-edge sword” with the grass roots. Another described it as a “net asset in a primary” and a “net liability in the general.”

If Rand Paul benefits from his father’s network, so does Jeb Bush, wrote another Republican respondent from the Hawkeye State. “On one hand both his Dad and Brother won here,” this person said of Bush. “A lot of activists who were a part of those camps will be a great starting point for an organization. But the name brand isn’t going to help with conservatives, tea party folks and the liberty crowd.”

Clinton could be America’s first woman president. And one of its oldest. The pols think age could be a bigger potential problem.

Asked whether the former First Lady’s age or gender is more of a possible liability in the campaign, six in 10 picked her age. Only a handful said gender; the rest said neither.

“Mitt Romney and Hillary Clinton are the same age, but that won’t stop someone like, say, Rand Paul, whose father ran for president in his mid-70s, from trying to make it a thing,” said a New Hampshire Democrat.

An Iowa Democrat said that Clinton’s gender will be the bigger issue, “but that won’t manifest till the general election.” Others called the question absurd.

Several Republicans worried that Clinton’s potential to break the ultimate glass ceiling is a big asset and may draw independent women to her candidacy.

Yes, the inside line has Hillary Clinton walking away with the Democratic nod.

Almost no one in either party thinks Clinton won’t wind up winning both early states. They may want her to spend time on the ground and insist that she’ll have to earn it, but there are few who doubt that she’ll win at the end of the day. Clinton finished third in Iowa last time and won an upset in New Hampshire.

“It seems very unlikely that anyone in the primary field as of now could come near her,” said an Iowa Democrat. “Nobody sees that changing, and Iowa Democrats are equal parts bored and furious about it.”

There are varying opinions about who, if anyone, will emerge as Clinton’s main Democratic challenger. Most Democrats said no one. Warren was the most mentioned, followed by former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, ex-Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Just one Democrat mentioned Vice President Joe Biden.

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Republicans see Ted Cruz as likeliest to emerge as the social conservative favorite.

Evangelicals picked the last two winners of the Iowa caucuses: Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum. Both are running again, but neither can count on the support they had in 2008 and 2012, respectively. An Iowa Republican predicted that “a firebrand” like the Texas senator is more likely to win over base voters.

Among GOP insiders, twice as many picked Cruz to become the leading social conservative candidate as anyone else. But the field is scattered, with nominations for Santorum, Huckabee, Carson, Walker, Rubio, Bobby Jindal and others.

“I think in the short term it will be Ted Cruz,” said an Iowa Republican. “In the long-term I think a guy like Santorum will emerge again because of his ability to weave” his moral beliefs through an array of social and pocketbook issues.

A New Hampshire Republican warned against counting out Huckabee: “It depends on how well a campaign [he] runs.”

Political chatter this week is all about Scott Walker not having graduated from college. Does it matter? Our insiders say no.

The question of Walker’s lack of a college degree split respondents: A few more said it will hurt than help his prospects. Several of those who thought it would be a plus remarked it could enhance his “regular guy” image.

But very few believe Walker’s scholastic deficit will move votes.

“A surprising number of people seem to know Harry Truman pulled it off and the Democratic Party Chair here is also without a college degree and the sky has not fallen,” said one New Hampshire Democrat. “The precise circumstances of leaving college—not the fact of no degree—could be more problematic to New Hampshire voters if the circumstances are unsavory.”

“I can’t wait to see this play out,” said an Iowa Democrat. “I will be terribly disappointed if one of his rivals, or a surrogate, does not put their foot in their mouth on this issue. … I think it will make him seem more populist.”

Who’s a bigger help to Hillary? Both Democrats and Republicans pick Bill Clinton over Obama.

The former president is viewed by both Democrats and Republicans as much more of an asset for Hillary than Obama. Only one of the Democrats surveyed think that he hurts her, although two other Democrats said there are sure to be some moments where he becomes unhelpful – just like in 2008.

All but a handful of Republicans think having Bill Clinton on the campaign trail helps her.

Among 31 Democrats who answered the question, 16 said Obama is an asset, while 7 said he is a liability. The rest said they’re either unsure or it depends on what happens overseas and with the economy.

“The President is up and down in New Hampshire like a yo-yo,” said a Democrat there.
“They should see him as an asset, but I am not sure that they do,” added an Iowa Democrat. “He will win them caucus voters and help solidify her base.”

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Spat highlights jockeying among Clinton campaign surrogates (AP)
By Ken Thomas and Philip Elliott
February 12, 2015
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The ugly public spat was, perhaps, inevitable.

With Hillary Rodham Clinton more or less the only game in town for Democratic talent seeking a piece of the 2016 presidential race, the independent, campaign-like apparatus that has sprung up around her has become an uneasy grouping of longtime loyalists and former rivals. All are looking for a share of the money and prestige that comes as part of working on a presidential election.

That jockeying for position burst into public view this week when David Brock, a Clinton critic-turned-defender, dramatically resigned from the board of a Democratic super PAC following a newspaper report that he said rivals helped engineer to make him look like an inefficient manager of donors' dollars. Just a few hours later, and after the intervention of two longtime Clinton allies, Brock issued a statement saying he'd consider coming back.

The spectacle was the sort of politics-as-blood-sport relished by some in Washington, but one with the potential for real consequences for the former secretary of state. If she becomes the Democratic nominee, Clinton will need a unified network of such outside groups that can help her official campaign compete with the collection of Republican-aligned outfits poised to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to keep her out of the White House.

Who runs them, and who personally profits from doing so, needs to come second, said John Morgan, a Florida attorney and a top campaign donor for former President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama.

"This can't be about the consultants making money," he said. "This has to be about Hillary Clinton being president."

Clinton, who has kept a low profile in recent weeks, is being advised by several longtime aides and veterans of Obama's two winning campaigns. Without much apparent competition for the party's nomination, the former first lady and New York senator has signaled that she may wait until the summer to fully launch her bid.

In that vacuum, Democrats involved with super PACs and other such outside groups are taking on a larger role, already helping defend Clinton against Republicans and actively preparing for the campaign.

While outside groups, a catch-all term for any political organization that isn't Clinton's yet-to-launch official campaign, cannot coordinate activities with that eventual campaign, they will be crucial to providing technical know-how and deep pockets, while also conducting research, running TV ads and cultivating rank-and-file activists on Clinton's behalf.

Jockeying for position inside the unofficial apparatus is underway, and with it comes tensions.

The latest rift emerged after The New York Times reported that two firms led by Brock, a powerful Democratic operative, had paid a fundraiser a 12.5 percent commission on large donations to his groups. The commissions led to more than $6 million in fees for the fundraiser and her staff during the past several years, the newspaper reported. While not illegal, that high commission was cash that went to a fundraising consultant — not to the groups' stated mission — and it ran counter to the typical practice of paying a monthly retainer.

Calling the newspaper report a "political hit job" orchestrated by his rivals, Brock angrily resigned from the board of Priorities USA, a super PAC that expects to be a major outside advertising partner for Clinton in 2016. The group had expected Brock's organizations to partner with Priorities, and Brock's flare-up threatened to upend the longstanding plans to leave research and fact checking to his orbit.

Leaders of the group intervened, spoke with Brock and said they would take his concerns seriously. Brock said later that day he would consider rejoining the board, thus ending a standoff that played out publicly and invoked memories of the infighting that plagued Clinton's campaign in 2008.

Priorities essentially sat out the 2014 elections to avoid competing for donations with Democrats running in the midterm elections. The group, which spent more than $70 million on the 2012 election, ended last year with nearly $500,000 in the bank and isn't yet raising money.

"We have said from the very beginning that we wouldn't start fundraising without a candidate, and that is still the

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case," Jonathan Mantz, Priorities' senior adviser for finance, said in a statement. "Make no mistake, we will have the resources we need to be effective and to work with our allies to help elect Hillary Clinton in 2016."

Those resources will need to be deep, as Democrats expect to face a tsunami of Republican money. Groups backed by conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch alone want to raise and spend almost $1 billion on elections in 2016, hoping to recapture the White House for the GOP.

Since Clinton may not launch her presidential bid until the summer, there could be months of sluggish or stalled fundraising, increasing the competition among the outside groups.

Morgan, for example, said former Obama campaign manager Jim Messina, now the co-chair of Priorities, emailed him recently asking him to donate $25,000 to support Ready for Hillary, a separate super PAC promoting a future Clinton campaign. Morgan said he declined because he wanted to devote all of his fundraising energies to an official Clinton campaign, once she announces.

"I said to (former President Clinton), 'If she runs and you want me to do a fundraiser ... I'm all-in, just tell me when,'" Morgan said, describing a recent phone call with the former president.

By then, some Democrats say, the squabbling will have subsided.

"At the end of the day, when we have a candidate that we nominate, Democrats will be together," said Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers and a Priorities board member, adding that Brock had done "terrific work" and said the kerfuffle would soon pass.

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David Axelrod: 'Podesta has to get control of the Clinton operation' (Politico)

By Lucy McCalmont

February 12, 2015

Politico

David Axelrod says likely incoming Hillary Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta already has his work cut out for him and needs to get the presumed campaign in order.

"John Podesta has to get control of the Clinton operation. And I think that's part of his job over there," the Obama campaign guru said Wednesday on MSNBC's "Hardball."

Even though Clinton has yet to announce a 2016 bid, the widely expected campaign has already had its fair share of infighting, specifically among its fundraisers.

The Clinton-backing group Priorities USA Action is coming up short on pledged donations as other groups seek to shore up cash for the former secretary of state, POLITICO reported. Earlier in the week, David Brock resigned from the super PAC's board, implying the leadership has differing agendas.

Podesta, a top aide in the Obama White House, is expected to take a leading role in the Clinton campaign. Last month it was confirmed that Podesta would be stepping down from his White House post in February. Clinton is expected to make an announcement in the spring about whether she will run.

The infighting is fodder for mocking. During an event in New Hampshire on Wednesday, Democratic strategist James Carville joked that he had some "breaking news" regarding a diplomatic breakthrough.

Carville said Secretary of State John Kerry "has just announced a cease-fire between Hillary's 'super PACs,'" The New York Times reported.

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Democrats choose Philadelphia as site of 2016 convention (AP)
By Ken Thomas
February 12, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats will nominate their pick to succeed President Barack Obama in Philadelphia next summer, choosing a patriotic backdrop — think the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence — in a state that's voted their way in the past six presidential elections.

The Democratic National Committee said Thursday the convention will be held the week of July 25, 2016, in Philadelphia, which beat two other finalists: Brooklyn, New York, and Columbus, Ohio.

"There is clearly no better city to have this special event than Philadelphia. The role of Philadelphia in shaping our nation's history is unmatched," said Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the DNC chair.

The City of Brotherly Love, famous for its roots in the nation's founding, scrumptious cheese steaks and Rocky Balboa boxing films, is poised to be the site where President Barack Obama hands the reins of the Democratic Party to Hillary Rodham Clinton, their party's leading contender for president if she runs again.

Clinton, a former New York senator, has deep ties to the city and state: Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, twice carried the commonwealth in the 1990s and their family counts ex-Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter — key members of the convention's host committee — as allies. During a campaign stop in Philadelphia last fall, Clinton recalled her father's upbringing in Scranton, 125 miles northwest of the city, and summer vacations at a family cottage on Lake Winola, 15 miles farther north.

Philadelphia's organizers plan to hold the convention at the Wells Fargo Center, the home of the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and NHL's Philadelphia Flyers, with events also at the city's convention center.

The Wells Fargo Center is part of a sports complex that includes the homes of baseball's Philadelphia Phillies and the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles, giving Democrats the option of staging its final night in the open air. Obama delivered his acceptance speech in 2008 at Denver's Invesco Field at Mile High.

Philadelphia hosted the Republican National Convention in 2000 and the Vatican chose the city as the site for the World Meeting of Families, which Pope Francis is to attend in September.

With Republicans holding their national convention in Cleveland the preceding week, both parties will make their made-for-TV pitches in neighboring states familiar with hard-nose presidential politics.

Democrats have carried Pennsylvania in every presidential election since 1992 but the GOP often covets the state.

Ohio remains one of the most contested states in recent presidential elections and is a linchpin for Democrats. The last Democrat to win the White House without carrying Ohio was John F. Kennedy in 1960, and no Republican ever has.

In recent elections, Democrats have picked battleground states, choosing Denver in 2008 and Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2012. Obama's campaigns used the conventions to register new voters and recruit volunteers.

Electoral politics appeared to be less of a factor this time, with a greater focus on available hotel rooms, transportation, security and fundraising.

Democrats could have chosen Columbus, giving the party a fitting place to respond to Republicans departing Cleveland. Or they could have turned to Brooklyn, where New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio made a major push to land the convention to promote the city as an urban success story.

Wasserman Schultz said the decision was difficult, but Philadelphia offered the best combination of logistics, security and finances. She denied New York City's recent tensions between the police and de Blasio played a factor.

The convention is expected to cost about $84 million. Lily Adams, a DNC spokeswoman, said the contract "does not prohibit the host committee from accepting corporate contributions," a break from past practices under Obama.

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Hillary Clinton's Play for Pennsylvania (National Journal)
By Emily Schultheis
February 12, 2015
National Journal

Democrats face two major demographic challenges in the 2016 presidential campaign. First, can Hillary Clinton, assuming she's the party's nominee, win back the white working-class voters who have drifted toward Republicans in recent years? And second, will she be able to maintain the Democratic coalition that twice elected Barack Obama president—including the sky-high turnout among African-American voters his campaign spurred?

Those questions will be partly answered in Pennsylvania, where Democrats have just announced they're holding their 2016 convention.

As Philadelphia's selection for the 2016 Democratic convention spurs headlines about the symbolism of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, the importance of the state goes far beyond that. It's a microcosm of the challenges Democrats face in putting together a winning coalition.

Pennsylvania is the GOP's perennial white whale: Every four years, Republicans puts money and time into a last-minute effort to mine the state's electoral votes—and every time since 1988, they've been unsuccessful. Though it's still early, Democrats and observers in the state say that with Democrats' presidential-year electoral advantages there, there's little chance that dynamic will change this time around.

"It's a state that has become solidly blue in presidential politics and now, in many ways, is a cornerstone of the Democratic electoral coalition, along with other big states—along with New York, Illinois, and California," said Chris Borick, a veteran Pennsylvania pollster at Muhlenberg College, adding that winning Pennsylvania is "almost a given for Democrats."

A February Quinnipiac poll found Clinton starting out strong in Pennsylvania with high favorability ratings and double-digit leads over all her would-be GOP challengers. Fifty-five percent of the state's voters viewed her favorably, compared with 38 percent who viewed her unfavorably—far better than any of the GOP hopefuls fared. In hypothetical head-to-head matchups, Clinton bested New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie by 11 points (50-39), former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush by 15 points (50-35), Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky by 19 points (53-34), and both former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania by 20 points (54-34).

But Pennsylvania is a geographically and demographically diverse state—and how Clinton fares there among the state's electorate will be an indication of her ability to shape a winning national coalition. Victory for Democrats now largely hinges on the southeastern part of the state, where they need to draw a strong turnout in Philadelphia proper and to win a majority in the four suburban counties (Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, and Delaware) that surround it. At the same time, a significant chunk of the state—the southwestern part near Pittsburgh and the northeastern part surrounding Scranton—is full of white, working-class voters whom Democrats have struggled with in recent years.

Pennsylvania Democratic operatives and observers say Clinton has a track record of connecting better with the state's working-class electorate than Obama did in 2008 and 2012—but that African-American turnout drop-off is certainly a concern. In an interview with BuzzFeed, Obama said he didn't "think any president inherits a coalition," adding that "any candidate has to win over people based on what they stand for, what their message is, what their vision is for the future."

Back in the 2008 Democratic primary, when Clinton defeated Obama by just under 10 points, the former secretary of State did well among exactly those kinds of voters. Exit polls found Clinton ahead of Obama among Pennsylvania's white voters, low- and middle-income voters, and those without a college degree.

"Her father came from Scranton, so she's always had a strong base there in the same way that Joe Biden has," said Charlie Lyons, a veteran Democratic strategist in the state. "And I think she comes out of that area strong, and in the southwest I think she has the potential to come out perhaps even stronger than the president did."

As a surrogate for now-Gov. Tom Wolf in Philadelphia last fall, Clinton came out swinging with what observers say is the closest indication she's given of the kind of message her campaign could have—one heavy on economic fairness, equal pay, and education funding. These are the kinds of issues that play well among both minority voters and working-class whites.

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As for African-American voters in Philadelphia, observers in the state say it would be tough for Clinton to match the kind of turnout Obama drew among that demographic—but that the drop-off wouldn't be enough to affect her chances in the state. In 2008, exit polling data showed Obama winning 95 percent of African-American voters in Pennsylvania, compared with just 5 percent for Republican nominee John McCain; even if turnout among that demographic decreases, the margins will likely be similar.

"She clearly has room to build on voters that Obama didn't have—while being challenged to make sure she has the same or close levels of turnout in the Democrat-rich Philadelphia city limits," Borick said.

Even if Pennsylvania seems unlikely to top 2016's list of presidential swing states, it will undoubtedly be home to one of the most competitive Senate campaigns on the map this cycle: the race to unseat GOP Sen. Pat Toomey, who rode into office on the Republican wave of 2010.

And while party conventions rarely have an effect on the presidential electoral outcome in a state, they're known for energizing the party base and drawing attention to in-state candidates—which, for Philadelphia, could have a positive effect on turning the city's African-American voters out to the polls that fall for both Clinton and Toomey's Democratic challenger.

"Pat Toomey is going to be seriously challenged," said Dan Fee, a veteran of both of former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell's gubernatorial campaigns. "This is a year, and this is a race, in which there will be significant turnout in areas that will never vote for Pat Toomey."

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Hillary Clinton is hiding (WAPO)
By Jennifer Rubin
February 12, 2015
The Washington Post

The Wall Street Journal reports some Democrats are nervous Hillary Clinton has not begun her campaign:

Some Democrats worry that if Mrs. Clinton coasts to the nomination without much of a fight, she might be rusty when she squares off against her Republican opponent in debates. “You wouldn’t want the first significant televised debate to be against a Republican opponent,” said Douglas Goldman of San Francisco, a longtime Democratic donor.

The report solemnly observes, “Mrs. Clinton hasn’t been invisible. She sends out tweets on issues that are in the news, delivers paid speeches and has been quietly assembling a senior campaign team.” So she is only visible to a group that has ponied up $200,000 or to future employees?! Well, for mere voters she is invisible, and more important to the media, she is unreachable.

Think of the questions she’d have to answer if she were out in public these days:

* Was the attack on the kosher supermarket in France aimed at killing Jews?

* Should the president identify our enemies’ ideology as FDR identified the Nazis?

* Since we now have to go back into Iraq, was it a mistake, in 20-20 hindsight, to pull all our troops out?

* Are you in favor of the sort of concessions the president is making to Iran, such as allowing the regime to keep thousands of centrifuges?

* Iran wields influence in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. Is this a bad thing? If so what went wrong in the U.S. approach to the Middle East?

* Is our Russia policy a success, as the president has claimed?

* Would you have refused to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and publicly complained about his invitation to speak before Congress?

* When have U.S.-Israeli relations been so poor? Why do you think nearly 3/4 of Israelis don’t trust President Obama?

* Why are Sunni allies complaining about the administration’s approach to the Islamic State?

* Would you condition sufficient funding of our military during wartime on a tax hike?

* Is it appropriate to tell the enemy what troops we will use and when we will leave?

* Should we have released Guantanamo detainees to Yemen?

* Do you think that if we closed Guantanamo and moved the detainees to prisons in the homeland the Islamic terrorists would behave any differently?

* You proclaimed our Libya policy to be a great success. Were you wrong?

* How did Islamic terror groups manage to grow and spread so dramatically in the last six years?

* Would you alter the NSA surveillance program that was found to have no abuses and was successful in disrupting terrorist plots?

* Was it wrong to say in 2009 that a decade of war was ending?

* Should a U.S. president cite war fatigue as a reason for not acting to defend U.S. interests?

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* Why did human rights worsen on your watch in places like Russia, China and the Middle East?

* What foreign governments have paid for your speeches or made contributions to the Clinton foundation?

You would think Clinton would be anxious to share her wisdom with the country and to influence deeply consequential decisions that the next president will have to live with. If she is avoiding doing so because of her personal political ambitions, that would be rather self-indulgent, no? And if she does not want to upset the president or left-wing voters, how is she ever going to make tough decisions? Arguably, if she does not want to tell us her views or hasn't decided which views play best, she really should not be the future commander in chief, many would agree.

The Democrats should be less concerned about fundraising and debate prep and more concerned about why Clinton is in hiding. Jeb Bush will be giving a major foreign policy address next week. Former Texas governor Rick Perry routinely writes and speaks on national security issues. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) is among the leading voices in the Senate on issues ranging from Iran to the Islamic State to human rights. And yet, the former secretary of state, who is supposed to be the smartest woman on the planet and the most expert candidate on foreign policy, can manage only an occasional tweet. That should be deeply worrisome to Democrats.

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New faces may give GOP edge in 2016 (Dallas Morning News)
By Carl Leubsdorf
February 12, 2015
The Dallas Morning News

Americans always like something new. A recent focus-group session with a cross section of Colorado voters showed how that might affect the unfolding 2016 presidential campaign.

Participants in the nonpartisan focus group conducted by veteran Democratic Party pollster Peter Hart showed disdain for the older, more established 2016 hopefuls (think Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush) and positive curiosity about two newer faces (think Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Rand Paul).

About the same time, 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney echoed those sentiments in announcing he would not run again, saying he believed “one of our next generation of Republican leaders … may well emerge as being better able to defeat the Democratic nominee.”

It would be surprising if such attitudes didn’t surface elsewhere. Overall, they suggest a potential Republican advantage, thanks to a large field of newer faces. And it should be a warning to Democrats, who are not only poised to nominate Clinton but also have a far smaller bench of future leaders.

This is the political fallout from the sweeping Republican 2010 and 2014 victories, which produced a new generation of GOP officeholders and prevented a similar group of Democrats from emerging.

The GOP field includes four potential contenders in their 40s - Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida. Four others are in their 50s - Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Mike Pence of Indiana, and Paul of Kentucky and Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. Former Govs. Bush of Florida, Mike Huckabee of Arkansas and Rick Perry of Texas, and Dr. Ben Carson are in their 60s.

By contrast, of the six most-mentioned Democrats, only Warren, 65, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, 52, are younger than Clinton, 67. Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb are all older.

The GOP also has a broad array of up-and-coming prospects. Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and newly elected Sens. Cory Gardner of Colorado and Joni Ernst of Iowa are all in their 40s.

A corresponding Democratic list is far smaller. It includes Texas’ 40-year-old Castro twins - Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julián Castro, the former mayor of San Antonio, and Rep. Joaquin Castro. But neither has won statewide office. The number of fellow Democratic 40-somethings who have won is small, led by Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, 45; and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, 48.

Prospects in their 50s include Sens. Tim Kaine of Virginia and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and California Attorney General Kamala Harris, a favorite to win a U.S. Senate seat in 2016. Sens. Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Mark Warner of Virginia are in their early 60s.

It’s easy to see Clinton tapping one of these as her running mate - perhaps Kaine. He’s from a crucial swing state, was Richmond’s mayor and Virginia’s governor, and is an emerging leader in Senate debates on authorizing military action abroad.

But Romney’s withdrawal virtually ensures a race pitting an older Democrat against a younger Republican. The question is how much younger. Bush is 51/2 years younger than Clinton, while Walker is 20 years younger.

History sends a mixed message. In four of the last six elections, Democrats Barack Obama and Bill Clinton defeated significantly older Republican rivals. But in the 1980s, two older Republicans, Ronald Reagan and George Bush, beat younger Democrats.

On NBC’s Meet the Press, Chuck Todd noted that, on average, presidents elected in the past century were 7.6 years younger than their predecessors. In 2016, the issue may be whether youth again carries the day or Obama’s presidency spurs voters to elect someone older and more experienced.

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They lean Democratic, but one union likes Jeb Bush (Miami Herald)
By David Lightman
February 12, 2015
The Miami Herald

WASHINGTON

Courting political power brokers at a recent closed-door meeting, Jeb Bush included one unlikely face.

There among big names from the worlds of lobbying, fundraising and politics was one leader of a labor union, Harold Schaitberger, general president of the International Association of Fire Fighters. “They went around the room and introduced themselves. They came to me, and you could almost see everyone taking note,” he said later of the meeting hosted by the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors.

That meeting, one of several Bush held in Washington over the last month, was an important moment in the former Florida governor’s campaign to woo the nation’s political A list as he considers a run for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination.

The firefighters’ union is likely to endorse a Democrat for president, just as it’s done in every recent election. But lots of members have a clear affection for Bush, a strong supporter of their interests when he was governor. And that also could temper the firefighters’ support for likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

“Jeb Bush was a governor who understood our profession,” Schaitberger told McClatchy, “and had a decent track record of supporting our agenda.”

The union plans to hear from candidates at a March forum in Washington and to make an endorsement later this year.

Unions have long been important Democratic supporters and donors, but the rank and file has been more willing to consider Republicans. About 18 percent of 2012 presidential voters lived in union households; 58 percent voted for President Barack Obama but a solid 40 percent went for Republican Mitt Romney.

The firefighters union, for example, estimates its membership is about 40 percent Democrat, 40 percent Republican and 20 percent unaffiliated.

While the union’s money and manpower are hardly a guarantee of success, it can matter. In 2004, then-Sen. John Kerry was in a tight race for the Democratic presidential nomination with Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Gov. Howard Dean of Vermont, the favorites of most unions.

The firefighters were the only major union to back Kerry, and they poured time and manpower into the Kerry campaign. Their presence throughout Iowa’s 99 counties was crucial -- every community has a firehouse or has dealt with the people who work there.

They helped propel Kerry to a come-from-behind victory over Dean in the state’s first-in-the-nation caucus. Dean reacted with a now infamous scream on TV; Kerry went on to win the nomination.

The union was less effective in the 2008 cycle. It backed another longtime supporter, Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut, for the Democratic nomination. But Dodd’s campaign fizzled and died in Iowa. The union supported President Barack Obama in the general election.

In this election cycle, the firefighters are likely to have another old friend to consider, Clinton.

She would appear to have the edge for their endorsement. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Clinton, then a senator from New York, quickly helped the firefighters get aid and resources.

Bush, though, probably would not be subject to a negative campaign from the firefighters, and their local word of mouth could be a boon.

“The AFL-CIO and the service workers unions are more prominent, but because of the public safety aspect, the firefighters have a lot of respect. That translates to clout,” said Wayne MacDonald, a former New Hampshire Republican chairman.

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Their criteria for support is simple: Back us and we'll back you, or at least back away from hurting you. In the 2012 election cycle, the union spent $5.3 million, and in last year's elections, spent $6.4 million. In recent years, as Republicans have turned more conservative, contributions have been tilted more toward Democrats.

The union did back five winning Republican U.S. Senate candidates last year and made no endorsement in North Carolina and Virginia, where Democratic incumbents faced tough challenges.

Bush is recalled fondly because as governor, he pushed a plan to restore some pension benefits to firefighters and law enforcement officers that had been reduced several years earlier. He also named Charles Kossuth Jr., a veteran firefighter and union official, as a commissioner of the powerful Florida Public Employees Relations Commission.

The Florida Professional Firefighters union endorsed Bush for governor in 1998 and 2002. James Tolley, the Florida union's president, said Bush could do well among members next year.

Sympathetic firefighters also could give Bush credibility with working-class voters. Teachers' unions were angry at him for his efforts to revamp the state's education system. Government employees' organizations disliked how he ended civil service protection for thousands of workers.

"He drew the line at firefighters and law enforcement," said Matthew Corrigan, author of "Conservative Hurricane: How Jeb Bush Remade Florida."

The national firefighters union will consider other Republicans and Democrats. Virtually all potential candidates will get a chance, though one exception is New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

He's not invited to the March forum. "He's been trying to destroy our retirement system from day one," Schaitberger said. "He dishonored their service as public servants." Christie has been pushing for cuts to future pensions, citing the system's growing unfunded liabilities.

Their ire at Christie illustrates the other strategic edge firefighters offer. "You can't double-cross us and get away with it," said Schaitberger.

Sometimes people do. The union had an icy relationship with former President George W. Bush, particularly after he vetoed a 2002 spending bill he had earlier said he'd sign. It was to provide financial help for the firefighters, including money to help improve radio communications.

Jeb Bush, though, has a very different history, a plus in an election where voters are likely to listen to the people who rescue and protect them.

That's why, said MacDonald, "the firefighters can be useful."

The Miami Herald

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Major prod from NY's minor party (Newsday)
By Dan Janison
February 13, 2015
Newsday

While others wait for Hillary Rodham Clinton to announce her intentions, New York's left-of-center Working Families Party this week urged Sen. Elizabeth Warren to jump into next year's presidential race.

Warren (D-Mass.) has said she plans to finish her first Senate term instead. But that stance may not matter any more to Warren fans than Clinton's still-uncommitted position deters her supporters.

WFP members comprise less than half of 1 percent of the state's registered voters. But the union-backed minor party makes it a priority to prod Democrats in a liberal direction. The thinking is that the presence of Warren, who's relatively new on the scene, could force Clinton to choose between pleasing the bluest parts of a blue state or being more of a centrist.

More significantly, WFP's statement comes on what has long been the political home turf of the former senator and U.S. secretary of state.

Saying he was speaking only for himself, former Gov. David A. Paterson, now chairman of the state Democratic Party, noted he agrees more with WFP stances than do some other Democrats. But Paterson warned "extremism is what made the Republican Party lose the last two elections and could make them lose a third in 2016."

Paterson inveighed against Democrats "beating ourselves" through dissension. "Maybe the ... [WFP is] just reminding some of us, or all of us, of the valid points they make," he said.

Paterson, like other New York Democratic players, stuck with Clinton's candidacy in 2008 even after it became clear she'd lose the nomination to then-Sen. Barack Obama.

Asked about the presumption that New York is Clinton country, Bill Lipton, the WFP's statewide director, replied through a spokeswoman: "Senator Warren's populist message resonates with working families nationwide. A Warren candidacy ensures that every contender will need to address issues that matter to working families." That can be interpreted to mean Warren could prod Clinton to take what progressives view as better economic positions than she'd be inclined to take otherwise.

Lipton said on Sunday that Warren has "taken the fight directly to Wall Street and to the big banks that increasingly have a vise grip on our economy and our democracy."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, an ally of the WFP, also counts himself among friends of the former secretary of state, having helped run her successful 2000 campaign for the Senate and worked in the administration of President Bill Clinton.

De Blasio took questions at City Hall yesterday after it was announced that the 2016 Democratic National Convention will be held in Philadelphia rather than in Brooklyn or Columbus, Ohio. One reporter asked if he thought the city at least won a consolation prize in the form of Clinton seeking to open a Brooklyn campaign headquarters. De Blasio didn't bite. "It's a perfectly fair question, but it's a hypothetical wrapped in another hypothetical," he said. "First of all, she has gone out of her way to say she has not made a decision yet on whether she will run.

"Second, clearly, there has been nothing communicated to us about where the headquarters will be," he said. "If she gets to the point of running, I would strongly encourage her to have her headquarters in New York City, in any of our boroughs. But that's still a ways off."

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Progressives: Between Hillary and a Hard Place (Daily Beast)
By David Freedlander
February 13, 2015
Daily Beast

Elizabeth says she's a no. Bernie is a fighter, but he is also, you know, Bernie. O'Malley doesn't excite, Webb used to be a Republican, and Hillary is, well, a Clinton.

The 2016 presidential primaries are fast approaching. What is a good progressive to do?

At a moment when a handful of issues that liberal activists have campaigned on for years, from raising the minimum wage to the growth of corporate power to climate change to criminal justice reform, are entering the mainstream debate—even within the Republican Party—progressives are facing the prospect of being rendered voiceless just as the nation is tuning in to the 2016 presidential primary.

"What progressives are saying is, how are we going to get people out of bed to vote if we don't stand up on the issues that people care about," said Ed Ott, a longtime New York labor leader and a professor of labor studies at the City University of New York. "There is a lot of anger at the Democratic Party. People want to know where they stand."

This strange moment for progressives was crystallized over the weekend when the liberal Working Families Party, which is based in Clinton's home state of New York and which backed her in both of her Senate runs, decided to join liberal groups such as Move On and Democracy for America in supporting a Draft Warren effort.

The move dismayed some progressives. Warren has consistently maintained she isn't running, and fantasies that she will change her mind distract from some more achievable goals, some liberals maintain.

"The whole Warren thing is kind of silly," said Howie Klein, a progressive activist who blogs at the website Down with Tyranny. "If I could pick anybody to run for president it would be her, but she is not going to do it. It started out as a not-bad idea but I think it has gone on long enough."

Without a candidate to get behind, some liberal and labor groups are focusing instead on changing the complexion of the electorate, hoping that Clinton can be pulled to the left by forces on the ground. After a summit on the issue of raising wages (headlined, it should be noted, by Elizabeth Warren) the AFL-CIO announced that they would barnstorm the first four primary states to rally voters around the issue.

The Progressive Change Campaign Committee, meanwhile, is trying to persuade progressive leaders in Iowa and New Hampshire to hold off announcing that they are ready for Hillary until she publicly announces where she stands on key liberal issues such as expanding Social Security and breaking up big banks.

"We really have a one of a kind role at this point, which is being a grassroots force that is working to incentivize all of the Democratic presidential candidates to sound more like Elizabeth Warren," said Adam Green, the group's executive director. "It's a different strategy, but we want Warren's positions to be the mainstream Democratic position."

Although PCCC did not sign on to the Draft Warren effort, Green said that the organizing around it is helping to pull Clinton to the left even without Warren.

"In many ways the prospect of Elizabeth Warren running might be more powerful than the actual candidacy of Elizabeth Warren," Green added. "If she makes no comment about running for president for the next six months there is every incentive in the world for Hillary Clinton to co-opt her message so that Warren doesn't jump in. If Hillary said, 'We should cut Social Security, we don't need to regulate the banks,' I think you would see not just Warren but a lot of people jump in."

A dozen progressive activists, donors and operatives from around the country said much the same thing: their first choice was Warren, and despite her denials, they believe there is still time for her to get into the race, and that she would meet a groundswell of grassroots and fundraising support if she did.

"We are in a conditional situation—if Hillary runs strong [Warren] won't run," said Bob Fertik, a progressive activist and political consultant. "But Hillary could decide not to run, or she could flame out on any given day for any reason—it could be about Bill, it could be a thousand reasons. If that happens then the entire progressive

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movement would rise up behind Elizabeth Warren."

Most progressives interviewed for this story did not sound particularly enthusiastic about the other Democratic challengers.

On Martin O'Malley, the two-term governor of Maryland who is running cautiously to the left of Clinton, Fertik said, "Nobody has heard of him."

"He seems like someone who is running really hard to be vice president. I have no feel for the guy one way or the other," said Klein.

"I can't imagine he is going to get traction," said Robert Borosage, the head of the liberal Campaign for America's Future.

Bernie Sanders should be the progressive choice. The socialist senator from Vermont rails against the billionaire class, and unlike Warren, has never been wrapped up in the political money game. Which is precisely the problem.

"Unlike Elizabeth, Bernie is actually running for president. What do you think it says about him that we are all trying to get Elizabeth in," said one person involved in the Draft Warren effort.

"Sanders is extremely progressive," said Douglas Kahn, who has given more than $100,000 to liberal candidates over the last couple of election cycles. "I would love his ideas and principles to be the platform of the…Party. That is not likely to happen."

Klein has been raising money for Sanders, but now he thinks the Draft Warren effort has sucked up all of the progressive energy, and he is not certain Sanders will run.

"I think the whole Elizabeth thing has been very disappointing for Bernie."

Some progressives say they remain curious about the prospect of Webb.

"I think he is going to be stronger than a lot of people think," said Borosage. "Hillary wants to be to the right of Obama on foreign policy, and that opens up space for [Virginia's Jim] Webb, especially if we get ensnared in the Ukraine or the Middle East and things go south. There remains a huge anti-war sentiment out there."

"People have short memories," responded Klein. "Webb is no lefty. He was to the right of Hillary Clinton on practically every vote."

Which raises the question: What about Hillary? She after all supports Dodd-Frank, favors a higher minimum wage and has long history of fighting for working families. And all the activists spoken to for this article said they would support her in a general election.

But they also said that at last the public seemed interested in income inequality, and they doubted that Hillary Clinton could carry the torch, especially if she coasted in the primary.

"What this election should be about is the very structure of the economy," said Borosage. "And where is Hillary when it comes to shackling Wall Street, when it comes to CEO pay, when it comes to unions. She needs a challenge so we can hear these things out."

Zephyr Teachout, who ran a left-leaning charge against New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2014 and who was a key organizer on Howard Dean's 2004 campaign, said there was plenty of time for someone to emerge, someone perhaps who isn't being yet discussed in the corridors of Washington D.C.

"The big fear about Hillary Clinton is that she might be a very weak candidate, and that she doesn't reflect the best interests of a lot of traditional and populists Democrats. I certainly share those fears, but there is plenty of time for a true populist to jump into the race."

So don't despair then?

"No! Despair is the ultimate strategy of the neo-liberals, and it doesn't accomplish anything."

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Hillary Clinton's suffocating presence (The Economist)

February 12, 2015

The Economist

THE field of Republican presidential contenders may be limited to a narrow range of conservative fellows in mid- to late-middle age, but at least there are a lot of them. The Democratic field is, for all practical purposes, Hillary Clinton.

Ahead by an average of 49 points in early polls, it is not clear that Mrs Clinton has any serious competition. There is some sign that Joe Biden might jump in, but his poll numbers are dismal for a second-term vice-president. Martin O'Malley, Maryland's former governor, might run. Jim Webb, a former Virginia senator, is a possibility. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, the Senate's loveably irascible socialist, might take the opportunity to speak truth to weary beat reporters. As for Elizabeth Warren, no amount of valentines has wooed her away from her position on not running (though as our Lexington recently noted, her denials are always in the present tense).

There was an air of inevitability about Mrs Clinton early on in the 2008 race, too. However, Barack Obama was, and is, a rare political talent. If anyone comparably gifted is perched on the Democratic bench, his or her light has been kept well hidden. Democrats like to cast Republicans as out-of-touch fuddy-duddies, but the Democratic field, as it now stands, is remarkably long in the tooth, with an average age of 69. The GOP field averages a relatively youthful 57. Where are the Democrats in their avid middle years longing to play on a national stage, labouring now to lay the groundwork for a big run down the road? When the payoff is huge, it can make sense to play even when the odds are slim. Ted Cruz knows he probably won't win this year, but he is bold enough to give it a shot. Why so little intrepid ambition among the Democrats? Mr O'Malley, we salute you.

One partial explanation of the thin Democratic field is that rising talent has been recently nipped in the bud. The past two mid-term elections saw Democrats lose control first of the House in 2010, and then of the Senate in 2014. Meanwhile, Republicans have been taking over statehouses and governorships at a swift rate. Democrats who might have been up and comers came and went.

More importantly, perhaps, is the fact that Mrs Clinton simply scares the bejeezus out of would-be rivals. "For all her positive attributes", writes Dan Balz of the Washington Post, "former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton is a suffocating presence when it comes to intraparty presidential competition". The Clinton machine has been operating nationally, with limited interruptions, for over three decades, leaving Mrs Clinton with unmatched heft within the party. "Her command of the Democratic machinery, from fundraising to grass-roots organizing, is so extensive that almost everyone else is understandably intimidated about even testing their talents against her," Mr Balz says.

Maybe Mrs Clinton has been indeed bigfooting around, scaring off would-be contenders. Or maybe the Democratic establishment, terrorised by the thought of a unified Republican government, has rallied early around their most formidable known quantity, warning off aspirants who might weaken Mrs Clinton in a primary fight. Despite their recent losses in Congress and in the states, the presidential electoral map remains in the Democrats' favour. Why would a party one election away from utter, catastrophic defeat gamble on anyone less unimpeachably solid? For Democrats, this is no time for romance. You may thrill in your heart of hearts to Mrs Warren's polemics against the plutocrats, but if no one but Mrs Clinton seems so certain to withstand the Republican onslaught, you may reasonably wish Mrs Warren, and others with their eyes on the prize, to sit this one out.

But is Mrs Clinton really such a safe bet? She struggled with a concussion and blood clots in 2012. What if something like that happens again? In any case, she is not as spry as she once was. She and Mrs Warren are

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only a few months apart in age, yet Mrs Warren seems markedly younger and more reliably energetic. It's not nice, but such considerations matter in politics. A cakewalk in the primaries risks leaving vulnerabilities unexposed and unfortified.

It's also worth noting that the Democrats' electoral advantage at the presidential level is not a sure thing. It materialises only if the party machine succeeds in getting young, poor and minority voters to the polls. Mr Obama beat Mrs Clinton from her left, and went on to beat John McCain by exciting sometimes tough-to-reach Democratic constituencies. Mrs Clinton's gender is certainly a source of excitement, but her presidency would mark a shift to the right for Democrats at a time when the party's energy is coming from the left. A competitive primary pitting Mrs Clinton against an attractive progressive rising star or two would test whether she remains capable of generating real enthusiasm across the party's varied base. It seems like a test worth running.

Democrats ought to worry at least a little about the possibility that Hillary Clinton has become the contemporary Democratic version of Bob Dole in 1996: an elder statesman, a presumed nominee, universally admired and, when it really counted, insufficiently voted for.

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Will Hillary Run For Bill's Third Term Or Barack's? (Investor's Business Daily)
By Stephen Moore
February 13, 2015
Investor's Business Daily

It's no secret that Hillary Clinton — the former first lady, New York senator and secretary of state — is joined at the hip with President Obama's foreign policy foibles, most notably the Benghazi debacle. But less understood is how much her economic philosophy and positions now overlap with his.

In the debate over what version of Hillary Clinton we would get in the 2016 presidential race — the centrist 1990s "New Democrat" modeled after her husband, Bill, or a replica of the modern leftism of her bitter rival Barack — the liberal/progressive wing of the party has apparently won out.

Clinton gave a hint of this tactical lurch to the left late last year when she infamously declared at a Boston campaign rally: "Don't let anybody tell you it's corporations and businesses that create jobs."

To many political observers, this was her "you didn't build that" moment — as she, like her former boss Obama, gave a haughty scolding to the nation's employers.

The New York Times reported this week that Clinton is seeking advice from a corps of 200 economic advisers, many of whom are retreads from the Obama administration.

The list includes top Obama economists Gene Sterling and Larry Summers, and a cadre of left-wing thinkers from the Center for American Progress. She has opted to endorse the greed-and-envy politics of the old left.

The Times noted that Hillary is expected to embrace "standard Democratic initiatives like raising the minimum wage, investing in infrastructure, closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting taxes for the middle class." Her speeches of late have a sharper anti-business edge than when she ran for president in 2008.

"This is not your father's Democratic Party," laments Larry Kudlow of CNBC. "Hillary has shifted to the populist left on economics and away from her husband's position on things like cutting the capital gains tax and growth policies. I think it's a big mistake."

A review of her speeches of late underscores this sharp departure from the politics of Bill Clinton in the 1990s and her campaign for president in 2008, when she ran as a centrist and got run over by the liberal, populist Obama.

Fearing Warren

Those close to Clinton say that she's committed to not letting that happen again. One long-time adviser tells me, "She is petrified of a challenge" from Elizabeth Warren, the new goddess of the far left, "and she's not going to let that happen again."

This has forced Hillary to veer away from the moderate positions — Robert Rubin economics — that her husband championed during his two terms in the Oval Office: balancing the budget, welfare reform, spending control, tax cuts and free trade.

In the past, Hillary has said positive things about the fossil-fuel revolution in the U.S. and technologies such as fracking that have made shale oil and gas more abundant. Now she sounds as obsessed with climate change as Obama or the radical green activists.

She's also taken on the left's hyper-fascination with income inequality. In a recent speech honoring Robert F. Kennedy, she exhorted:

"What would he say about the fact that such a large portion of economic gains have gone to such a small portion of our population?"

She also cited an array of statistics about the stall in incomes of blacks and Hispanics as "the rich get richer."

Of the sometimes-violent protesters outside of St. Louis this fall, she asked:

"What would Robert Kennedy say to the thousands of Americans marching in our streets demanding justice for

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all?”

The income inequality issue is tricky for Clinton and all Democrats because the gap between rich and poor has grown wider under Obama. Hillary has tried to strategically separate herself from Obama’s economic results by acknowledging that middle incomes kept falling behind over the past decade.

“Obama’s income-redistribution policies have clearly made the income gap between rich and poor wider,” says economist Richard Vedder of Ohio University and an expert on labor and wages.

He also finds that, under Bill Clinton, the poor and middle class did well. But Hillary is distancing herself from those policies that created a rising tide in the 1980s and 1990s.

Bill’s Legacy

On financial markets, Clinton also seems to be adopting a Wall Street-bashing populism that sounds more like Warren all the time. In response to the GOP’s modest reforms in the Dodd-Frank banking regulation law, she tweeted out to her supporters:

“Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong.”

Her husband signed one of the most sweeping financial deregulation bills in U.S. history, which overturned the Glass-Steagall Act and thus broke down walls between investment and lending banks.

Warren has ramped up her populist rhetoric, attacking deregulation and the Wall Street “weapons of mass financial destruction,” while Clinton has been more guarded.

But can she pull this economic populism off with conviction? This is the woman who, in the 1980s, turned a few thousand dollars into nearly $1 million with fancy (and perhaps shady) cattle futures trading.

While she rails against the rich, she demands $200,000 for speeches to investor groups railing against the rich. She has collected millions of dollars of political donations from Wall Street hedge fund and derivative traders, whom she now says make too much money and helped tank the economy seven years ago.

Welcome to Hillary Clinton 2.0 — or is it 3.0? She has drifted to the left with her party over the past decade just as she and her husband veered to the center in the 1990s as the recipe for winning.

Some Clinton insiders I talk to say that she’s merely circling back to her Hillary Rodham Clinton roots, when this young liberal from Vassar in the 1970s lashed out at America’s social injustices — and sermonized about the “politics of meaning” in the 1990s. In 1994, she designed HillaryCare, the precursor to ObamaCare.

A Hillary Clinton presidency is less likely to be a Clinton third term than an Obama third term.

• Moore is chief economist at the Heritage Foundation and a member of the IBD Brain Trust.

Investor’s Business Daily

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Lexington: A true believer meets reality (The Economist)
14 February 2015
The Economist

Barack Obama's campaign guru on disappointment--and Hillary

IT DID not take long for David Axelrod, the rumpled campaign genius who steered Barack Obama's rise from state senator to president, to detect that governing the country might prove less uplifting than getting his boss elected. In memoirs published on February 10th Mr Axelrod recalls fretting, soon after the inauguration in 2009, that White House insiders were already talking about breaking Mr Obama's campaign commitments. This prompted Rahm Emanuel, the new president's chief of staff to scream at Mr Axelrod: "I'm god-damned sick of hearing about the fucking campaign. The campaign is over. We're trying to solve some problems here." From this and other clues, Mr Axelrod deduced that there was a "tension" between a campaign that had promised to bring hope and change to America and the task of actually governing.

Mr Axelrod's autobiography, "Believer: My Forty Years in Politics", is in part a story about a broken heart. The Chicago-based strategist was already a veteran when he met Mr Obama. By then he had run (and won) enough campaigns to develop his "remedy not replica" theory of politics. This holds that voters almost always choose change over the status quo, even when a popular incumbent is stepping down, and moreover look for a candidate who seems to correct the perceived weaknesses of a departing leader. He watched Mr Obama deliver a soaring hymn to a post-racial, post-partisan America at the 2004 Democratic National Convention and helped him win election to the Senate in Washington, boosted by opposition to what he called a "dumb" war in Iraq. Soon, Mr Axelrod concluded that the young lawyer might just be the cure for a country sick of George W. Bush.

Mr Axelrod helped his improbable candidate win the 2008 presidential primaries, taking his youth and inexperience and turning them into strengths at a time of deep alienation with politics as usual. He coined the slogan "Yes We Can", and helped craft television ads and speeches in which Mr Obama vowed to tame Washington and restore frayed global alliances.

If "Believer" were merely an account of Mr Axelrod's bruising return to reality, as the 2008 agenda became bogged down by recession, partisanship and gridlock, it would be little more than a historical footnote--even if, as one of the innermost circle, Mr Axelrod has uncommon insights to offer. Notably, the book adds to the growing body of evidence that Mr Obama is quite an odd man. Though Mr Axelrod is at pains to relate how his former boss is more human and anguished by tales of woe and suffering than many suppose, he does concede that Mr Obama is astonishingly self-assured, and self-aware. "I don't need to be president. It turns out that being Barack Obama is a pretty good gig in and of itself," he is quoted telling Mr Axelrod, shortly before announcing his candidacy. After a terrible first debate performance during the 2012 election, Mr Obama confides that he agrees with a pundit who suggests he lacks the "neediness" that drives most politicians to perform in pursuit of "validation". And though Mr Axelrod blames Republicans for wrecking Mr Obama's plans to seek bipartisan deals, the strategist does say that the president has aggravated political opponents by lecturing them on why it is in their own political interests to agree with him.

"Believer" is more than a work of history because of the name of the woman Mr Obama beat to the nomination in 2008. With the most successful Democratic strategist of his generation as the author, "Believer" raises pointed, still-valid questions about Hillary Clinton's presumed ambition to represent her party in 2016. As a loyal Democrat, Mr Axelrod has suggested in interviews around the book's launch that--in the light of Mr Obama's "great, unfulfilled promise" to change Washington--Mrs Clinton's years of Washington experience will be much more of an asset in this campaign than in 2008, allowing her to run as a candidate of change. Yet many of Mr Axelrod's observations about voter disillusion, and the importance of mobilising great armies of enthusiastic volunteers, will still apply in 2016.

Meet Hillary, the candidate of change

Mr Axelrod comes close to conceding that Mrs Clinton was correct in her pessimism about Washington. In the book he recalls Team Obama's shock when the president found it was facing "monolithic" Republican opposition to his agenda, rather than the bipartisan support they had "naively" expected as the economy stood on the brink of a depression. "Maybe this was what Hillary was talking about when she chided us during the campaign for raising 'false hopes'," he writes.

Even if no candidate can run on "Hope and Change" this time, that does not make "I Told You So" a winning slogan. At the core of the 2008 Obama insurgency was a belief that being a "very capable" Democrat was not enough to win the presidency. Mrs Clinton, with whom Mr Axelrod had worked in the past, was skilled at serving

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up Republican-bashing red meat, boasting in one primary debate: “If you want a winner who knows how to take them on, I’m your girl.” But many voters had decided that it was not just Republicans, but politics that was broken. Mr Axelrod writes: “The change she was offering was not away from Washington’s habit of parsing words and passing on tough issues (She habitually sought safe harbour).” Nor was she willing to break with a system full of lobbyists and deep-pocketed political action committees, he adds. “The only real change she was offering was in political parties, and that simply wasn’t enough.”

This time Mrs Clinton faces no serious rivals for the Democratic crown, even before she announces her intentions. But pondering Mrs Clinton’s vulnerabilities in a 2006 memo, Mr Axelrod wrote: “For all her advantages, she is not a healing figure...After two decades of the Bush-Clinton saga, making herself the candidate of the future will be a challenge.” Even if the country is more resigned to partisanship than in 2008, that is still true.

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America's Pakistan Dilemma (The Diplomat)

By Sarah Graham

February 12, 2015

The Diplomat

One of the few remarked-upon passages in Hillary Clinton's otherwise unenlightening Hard Choices was her recollection of the decision not to inform Pakistani authorities of the U.S. raid to kill Osama bin Laden. In her retelling, the suggestion that the U.S. should tend to the diplomatic sensitivities of its ally was summarily dismissed by the most senior officials in the room. This would pose too great an operational risk given the known links between the Pakistani military and terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and the Taliban, even, scarily, at the risk that Pakistani authorities might mistake the U.S. incursion for a fully-fledged military attack by someone else.

So well known are these terrorist connections, in fact, that sponsorship of terrorism by various elements of the Pakistani state has its own Wikipedia page, and analysts consider the use of terrorist groups as proxies to be an established operating principle of Pakistani foreign policy. Among senior U.S. officials since 2001, Clinton has been the most willing to openly discuss the contradictions in U.S. policy. She coined the memorable phrase "snakes in the backyard" to describe the impunity with which militants operate in Pakistan's northwestern provinces. John Kerry has taken a much softer approach. His visits to Pakistan have been accompanied by lavish promises of aid and a generally polite glossing over of the strategic contradictions in one of Washington's most complicated diplomatic relationships.

Ensnared by History

Like Gulliver, the U.S. is ensnared by its history with Pakistan and the flawed logic behind decades of strategic involvement of the region. Despite its great power and wealth, Washington has only limited means of influencing Pakistan, and few viable options for rethinking its current policy in the short term. This is not a new problem for the U.S. At relatively few points in history do we see a really clear convergence of strategic interests between Pakistan and the U.S., and it is the U.S. that tends not to get the better side of the bargain. Though the stakes have rarely been higher, Washington is continuing in a sort of policy paralysis, leaving other players to exercise a decisive influence on the stability of the region.

Take U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's announcement last month that the United States would provide an additional $250 million in humanitarian aid. This joins about $26 billion in total assistance – military, economic and humanitarian, but most of it military – since 2001, which now works out to about $1.5 billion annually after peaking at $2 billion in 2010. These astronomical sums have so far been insufficient to substantially influence Pakistan's behavior in the direction the U.S. wants. Kerry announced the disbursement after months of Pakistani military operations against Al Qaeda and the Pakistani Taliban in Waziristan. The government had effectively ceded control of the border province to the Pakistani Taliban in 2006. As the shocking killing of 150 schoolchildren in the province in December indicates, militant operations have not been completely disrupted, and many worry that the despite (or because of) the latest outrage a real commitment to do so is still a long way off.

But if the $250 million in humanitarian assistance was intended as a reward for credible action on the anti-terrorism agenda, then the unintentional signal of giving this relatively small sum is that most American aid is actually not contingent on Pakistan supporting the U.S. in its core strategic objectives in the region: combatting terror and promoting stable governance. And humanitarian assistance might not be the best lever on the highest echelons of the military that are unaccountable to the people, and that benefit most from U.S. military aid. In fact, the only credible pressure that has been exerted on the Pakistani military in the past few years seems to have been from the Taliban.

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Time will tell how effective and committed Pakistani military action against the Pakistani Taliban will be, and whether new groups with the tacit or active support of Pakistani officialdom will fill the vacuum it leaves. There has been a long tradition in Pakistan of this kind of selectivity. The Haqqani network – worryingly, one of the most globally "connected" terrorist organizations in the region – is perhaps the most notorious player that evidently enjoys official impunity. Despite the U.S. expressing many times its wish to see the Haqqani network outlawed, Pakistan has only just designated it a banned organization, and many observers fear it will continue to operate freely despite that designation. The Islamic State also has South Asia in its sights, ensuring that the Pakistani military's ambivalence in the fight against terror, the ongoing flow of U.S. aid, and the suffering of local populations are set to continue.

Kerry has long been an advocate for humanitarian aid as a means to combat terrorism by enhanced development and supporting civilian institutions. As a senator in 2009 he sponsored a bill authorizing a much-expanded civilian aid program for Pakistan. The humanitarian help is badly needed, but it is wrong to expect it will be decisive for the U.S. counterterrorism agenda. "Carrots" are ultimately ineffective without "sticks," and the United States is too constrained by its current obligations to offer any credible disincentives to Pakistan's "double game." The United States has given so much aid to Pakistan over the years that it must come up with ever more astronomical sums to impress the Pakistani leadership with sufficiently enticing "carrots." If we recall the economic concept of marginal utility, then it is hardly unexpected that the "return" in the form of purchased loyalty on each additional dollar the United States gives is diminishing.

Drone Strikes

In place of the viable military effort on Pakistan's part that the U.S. has hoped for, Washington has depended instead on its own drone strikes program to pursue counterterrorism operations. However, drone strikes are deeply controversial, damaging to America's reputation, and prod some local populations towards terrorism. Nor can drone strikes solve the problems that make joining or supporting Islamist militants attractive to local publics. Only a real commitment by the Pakistani military and government, one that involves a well-crafted civil-military strategy, and then economic development, can achieve this.

The history of U.S.-Pakistani relations shows that Pakistani and U.S. strategic objectives have been in alignment on very few occasions. The prevailing wisdom is that Pakistan was a solid supporter of Washington's interests during the Cold War, but in fact it did so only up to a point and for reasons of its own. In 1954 the U.S. pursued a strategic alliance with Pakistan in the hope that, as a newly independent and Muslim-majority state, engagement with Pakistan could act as a bridge to a multilateral strategic alliance in the Middle East.

This constituted a fundamental misreading of Pakistan's core strategic concerns on Washington's part – its prime strategic focus was not the Middle East, but rather South Asia and its rivalry with India. In the end Washington cobbled together Mideast and Southeast Asian treaty frameworks, with Pakistan in both, but neither provided much more than symbolic value to U.S. interests during the Cold War. Meanwhile, U.S. military aid to Pakistan was profoundly important in stoking Indo-Pakistani tensions and alienating India from the United States.

This was precisely why Pakistan had courted the U.S. as a military backer since its earliest days as an independent state (it also forced Eisenhower's announcement of a not-yet-finalized deal by leaking details of it to the U.S. press). While India's vocal, non-aligned status was politically vexatious to the United States, Washington had no strategic interest in jeopardizing Indian security. As the largest non-Communist, democratic state in Asia, Washington had a stake in seeing India stable even if it was non-aligned. Thus, while Pakistan had some utility to U.S. Cold War objectives, they were never one and the same. Washington's failure here was in being too quick to dismiss the difference between its own strategic interests and Pakistan's actual strategic interests.

The 1960s and 70s offer similar examples. JFK entered office determined to tilt to India for the sake of cultivating warmer ties with the non-aligned bloc. Pakistan threatened to pursue military aid from China in retaliation, and

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eventually did so in 1966. There has been good deal of attention recently to the Pakistan-Bangladesh war of 1971 and Nixon and Kissinger's shameful role in it. Despite warnings that genocide was occurring, Nixon continued to offer diplomatic and the possibility of military support to Pakistan.

The striking thing about the archival record of Nixon's policies is the extent to which the U.S. administration felt it had no leverage to exert over Pakistan after being so committed for so long. The U.S. interest in South Asia was in a stable region outside the Communist sphere of influence, yet the repercussions of 1971 would seek an Indian treaty of "friendship" with the USSR and ongoing military ties between China and Pakistan (which were, admittedly, less worrisome with the opening of U.S. diplomatic relations), and nuclearization. Pakistan had enjoyed a privileged status as a Cold War ally and China was waiting in the wings to extend its influence – even had Nixon been more moved by the humanitarian implications of the events in Bangladesh, he would have needed to consider what opposing Pakistan's crackdown and dropping its ally might mean for the credibility of U.S. grand strategy.

The roots of the present problem of Islamist terrorism lie with the U.S.-backed Mujahideen forces that Pakistan hosted and trained during the Soviet invasion of the 1980s. It seems to be only here that we can find a deep alignment of U.S. and Pakistani interests. Yet the legacy of this phase of U.S.-Pakistani cooperation is as brutal as it is well known. Its effects pose a devilish irony: Washington has expended its blood and treasure to establish a post-conflict government in Afghanistan that seems to be interested in stability and combatting terror. Yet the flow of aid from the United States to Pakistan depends on the ongoing cross-border insurgency, and Pakistan has a vested interest in this continuing.

'Strategic Depth'

Hillary Clinton has criticized the notion that Pakistan should pursue "strategic depth" in Afghanistan. What she acknowledged here was the fact that Pakistan has traditionally favored a weak government in Afghanistan, most especially one that India can't influence. India, on the other hand, regards Afghanistan as a natural ally and has recently committed substantial sums to rebuild Afghanistan. We thus find that it is India's interests, and not Pakistan's, that are in alignment with Washington's. As the U.S. seeks a stronger relationship with India, the threat to India from Islamist terrorism has proven an ongoing irritant. India took exception, in fact, to Kerry's aid deal as a stamp of approval of Pakistan's military efforts against the Taliban. A Ministry of External Affairs spokesman alleged that Pakistan has done very little of substance to disrupt terrorism, and other analysts see merit in that assessment.

Other longstanding American national interests are undermined by its aid relationship with Pakistan. Pakistan is considered the most likely country in the world to proliferate nuclear weapons. Behind closed doors U.S. officials must be painfully aware of their limited ability to deter Pakistan from undesired behavior, particularly given that the transfer of sensitive information or materials could be accomplished in relative secret and by relatively few individuals.

Another key U.S. interest in the region is in strengthening democracy, yet in Pakistan democracy is chronically fragile precisely because the military has long seen itself as the arbiter of government, and the military benefits most from the relationship with the U.S. In September last year, and capitalizing on high poverty rates, weak and failing institutions, poor infrastructure and tribal tensions, the military flexed its muscles over the civilian government by orchestrating a month of mass demonstrations designed to destabilize Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. This raised the specter of the fourth outright military coup in Pakistan's history. If humanitarian aid of the kind Kerry announced is the lever with which to influence Pakistani policy, the U.S. must consider what the vastly larger sums it gives in military assistance really does to the balance between civilian and military power inside the country.

Nor has U.S. civilian aid seemed to make much of a dent in the Pakistani poverty rate, which hovers at 20 percent according to the UNDP. While the Pakistani government claims the cost of conflict to Pakistan since 2001 to be in the order of $100 billion (or half its current GDP), the capacity for foreign aid to bridge the gap and

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act as a stimulus to balanced economic development is limited. Hence, boosting civilian aid probably isn't going to directly influence those who are playing Pakistan's "double game" and is unlikely to create the conditions for change from underneath their feet.

In the wake of the school massacre, the Pakistani government asserted that it would no longer discriminate between "good" and "bad" terrorists in its counter-terrorism efforts. Time will tell if the outrage leads to a fundamental change of position for the Pakistani military. What is true is that a matter of significance to U.S. regional strategy is still largely out of Washington's control. If she becomes president, Clinton will confront the longstanding dilemma that dropping Pakistan will make a bad situation worse. As the Afghani government strengthens, the U.S. will seek to wind back its commitments to Pakistan, and Clinton is probably well placed to manage that process since her tough talk already conveys a resolve to do so. Can the U.S. get out of its unrewarding friendship for good? Probably not, but it should be considering all possible options. After all, Pakistan's acknowledgment that terrorists can be "good" as well as "bad" was a very frank admission about what its real position has been – an admission that U.S. officials, in the traditional tactful mode, let slide.

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/16/2008 6:09:41 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/16/08

Main Topics: Lieberman Interviews, Economic Woes on Wall St. and Prices, Graham Interview

Summary of Shift: Virtually all news networks began today with various signs of rising economic problems. Along with continued coverage of the Freddie and Fanny mortgage bank bailout, news about local banks running out of capital, the Dow and S&P trading low, soaring gas prices, and a steep increase in the consumer price index dominated the morning. Several experts were brought on air to discuss a coming recession with global repercussions. In an apparent policy break, the White House has indicated it will send an envoy to meet with Iranian officials. Race politics were briefly discussed in light of a New York Times poll showing only 5% of African Americans with a positive view of McCain, and with the context of McCain speaking at the NAACP today. Finally, Congress was quick to override President Bush's veto of the Medicare bill passed last
week.

Highlights:
1. Lieberman Media Blitz
   a. MSNBC: Joe Lieberman Appears on Morning Joe to discuss Mortgage Banks, War Option Against Iran
   b. Lieberman refuses to admit that Afghanistan is the Central Front in the War on Terror
   c. Lieberman comments on Obama's flip flops on Iraq and how John McCain can win in Iraq and Afghanistan
2. NBC: Graham, Biden Interviewed; Graham Emphasizes McCain Foreign Policy, Surge
3. CNN: The McCain Family Beer Business May Cause Conflicts of Interest if John McCain becomes President
4. NBC: Body Language Experts Analyze John and Cindy McCain, note embarrassment and discomfort
5. FNC: New Jib Jab Video Depicts McCain in Military Garb and Collapsing in a Retirement Home

Clips:

Highlight #1
Joe Lieberman Interviewed, Presses War Option With Iran, Notes Position on Mortgage Banks
(MSNBC 07-16-08)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: How difficult has it been for you to work with the Democratic Party, to feel a kinship with the Democratic Party and get to the point where you are right now where some Democrats say 'Oh he's not loyal and if he goes to the Republican National Convention, he's a traitor.' Just personally, not politically, does that hurt? […]

JOE LIEBERMAN: Sure it does all the conflict of the 2006 Democratic primary campaign were basically, people were against me because of one issue. I understand its Iraq, it's important, its not the way the party has been most of the time. But my relations with my colleagues in the Democratic caucus are pretty good. We work together, we get things done. I work with people on all sides ideologically and life goes on. But I feel I was reelected as an Independent. I made two big promises to people in Connecticut. I try to what was right and best for them and I'd always work across party lines to get things done for them and for the country and that's what I'm trying to do and I'm going to let the
politics take care of itself.
[…]

MIKE BARNICLE: Do you, Senator, ever feel resentment towards people in your own party who you stood with them in many fights across the past couple of decades and now they walk away from you in 2006. What has happened to you in the Senate caucus? Did you have stronger friendships with say a Chris Dodd before 2006? Do you go out to dinner with them?

LIEBERMAN: You know I have a good record on the environment, but this isn't an alge tide. Every expericne you have - and that was a disappointing one in 06 - is part of me. Chris Dodd, Joe Biden, they have been friends for decades and they remain good friends. My argument is really not just to the Democratic Party but both parties. They may be ferocious on one or two parties but won't work with anybody they happen to disagree with. Frankly this is part of one or two issues. Frankly is part of the

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reason I'm supporting John McCain. A guy that has consistently said Ted Kennedy I don't agree with you on nine out of ten issues but I agree with this one and I'm going to work with you to get it. We've got to get back to particularly on the crisis we have and particularly right here at home with the economy. So, to me, the parties have gone off the track. And as a result, the country has gone off the track. And I think that's a big part of why the American people have lost confidence in their government and we've got to get it back.

HAROLD FORD: We're learning this morning that some in the Senate, including Senator Dodd, Senator Shelby, have concerns about the so-called bailout of Freddie and Fanny that the assistance, government assistance. And two, what are Senator McCain's thoughts on that? It's good to see you. You know I don't agree with your choice of President but you know you're my friend. So your thoughts on both of those issues?

LIEBERMAN: It's mutual my friend, you're the kind of Democrat we need more of. So we may not agree on a choice of a candidate but we're always going to work together because we know we agree on more things than we don't. My understanding of Freddie and Fanny Mac is that they're basically solid. But these days, sometimes the reality can be overtaken by the psychology. And the psychology here is very bad. And there's a danger of a panic. So I think the moves that Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke have recommended to strengthen Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are critically important. These people hold trillions of dollars in mortgages. If the panic continues and really takes them down, whether it's justified or not, it'll have a big affect on mortgage rates, probably not only on our economy but the global economy. Now, look, Chris Dodd and Rick Shelby, they may have some specific concerns about parts of the proposals. But I don't think either one of them is going to stop us from reassuring the public that we're going to stand behind these two critically important institutions. And my understanding is that's generally the position that John McCain has taken. We can't afford the psychology to become panic and to lead to, at worst, a collapse of Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Can't let it happen.

SCARBOROUGH: Mike?

BARNICLE: Senator, then, let me ask you -- Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, I mean, they're basically tied to the government at one level. And yet they're going to be bailed out by taxpayers. You're going to be sitting there looking at whatever proposal comes before you. And they're both entities where the heads of these entities and many people up top of these entities are making millions and millions of dollars in salary each year.
So how is it that we take our public money, taxpayer money, and bail out basically something that has something to do with government? I mean, why aren't these people being paid like a GS-13 salary, like a Yosemite Park park ranger? What's going on here?

LIEBERMAN: You know, I love that -- you know, I was just thinking as you were talking, Mike, you're the voice of probably a guy in South Boston who's name is Freddie Mac...

BRZEZINSKI: Yes, so true.

LIEBERMAN: about Freddie Mac. Right. So, look, I think what we're talking about here is guarantees in case these two entities fall. But you're right, if the guarantees have to be implemented and its taxpayer dollars in there, that's got to come with conditions.
And I don't know that we can pay them like we pay a normal civil servant because they these are big trillion-dollar operations. But we're going to have a right on behalf of the taxpayers to go in there and set some limits on the salaries the that executives of these two institutions have. I've looked at them and they're outrageous.

FORD: Can I ask one last question senator -- with Ambassador Holbrook having been here this morning. He talked about Iran. He talked about your candidate's position being to the right of that of President Bush; that if indeed that McCain would be willing to go to war with Iran and he's willing to remove Russia from the G-8.
What are your thoughts? And how does the campaign answer those assertions?

LIEBERMAN: Well, look, **John McCain is a great internationalist**, not just on -- not as a foreign policy but on trade. Incidentally, if some of the proposals that Senator Obama has made for not supporting trade agreements or going back to protectionism ever were passed, I'm afraid it would send this economy of ours into a deep recession, maybe even worse. **Because exports today are probably the most significant growth factor in our economy. But, look, John McCain is always going to know when to be tough and when to be accommodating. And I think he has a very clear opinion which I share, that when you're dealing with a fanatical regime like the one in Tehran, that leads the masses in shouting**

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death to America and talks about blowing up Israel, that the only way you're going to get them to the peace table is to make sure that they know that if they're not reasonable, they're going to suffer. And I think that's the way we get to peace. The best way to achieve peace sometimes is to prepare for war. But John McCain will secure a peaceful world as president, because he's strong.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: OK, Senator JoeLieberman. Always good to see you.

LIEBERMAN: Good to see you again.

Lieberman Refuses to Admit that Afghanistan is the Central Front in the War on Terror (CNN 07/16/08 08:29am)
JOHN ROBERTS: Where is the central front in the war on terror?

JOE LIEBERMAN: Well I think the enemy ought to have a lot to say about that. The fact is that **Osama Bin Laden has made it very clear that the central front in the war on terrorism is in Iraq. That's why it's so critical that we are doing so much better thanks in a large part to John McCain's guts** in saying that what the Bush administration was doing there wasn't working, and that led to the surge which is now working.

ROBERTS: So if in fact Iraq is still the central front in the war on terror how do you explain that Afghanistan has become deadlier for US forces, and now even John McCain says 3 extra brigades are urgently needed to fight the war in Afghanistan?

LIEBERMAN: Well the two are not inconsistent. Well I think about WWII. Senator Obama has taken a position that we have to lose, that we have to retreat and lose in Iraq to win in Afghanistan. We don't have that luxury; we have to win in both places. […] **What's worked in Iraq, which is the surge that John McCain advocated so courageously, shows us the way to win now in Afghanistan.** […] We've got to respond, like Senator McCain said yesterday, with the same kind of comprehensive military, economic, diplomatic surge. […]

ROBERTS: But you're resisting this notion that the central front in the war on terror has shifted to Afghanistan?

LIEBERMAN: **I am. But I'll say that the active battlefront may be shifting to Afghanistan because we've succeeded in Iraq. […]**
ROBERTS: You know what critics are saying, critics are saying that the central front on terror has not shifted to Afghanistan because of success in Iraq. Critics are saying that because President Bush went into Iraq, he took his eye off the ball in Afghanistan and allowed the Taliban, allowed Al Qaeda to regroup.

LEIBERMAN: […] **Look you can argue whether it was right to go into Iraq or not. […] But we're there, and once we are there we've got to win it. And that's what John McCain understood.** […]

Lieberman Comments on Obama's Flip Flops on Iraq and How John McCain Can Win in Iraq and Afghanistan (FNC 07/16/08 08:42am)

STEVE DOOCY: […] Have you taken a pad and pencil and figured out how many times Barack Obama has actually flip-flopped on Iraq?

JOE LIEBERMAN: it's a real serious question because it seems to me this is not just kind of normal political flip-flop back and forth, but really the judgment here is who do we want of these two people, John McCain or Barack Obama, to be president, to be commander in chief, and to shade your position based on the time, apparently of the campaign. […] But now I think he got such a reaction against that from moveon.org and a lot of people in the antiwar left of the democratic party that yesterday the speech he gave basically said the same thing, and though I respect him for coming back finally to where he was and what I think he believes, I think it's terribly wrong because it doesn't acknowledge, one, that we're winning, and we are withdrawing troops now based on our success there.

DOOCY: absolutely.

LIEBERMAN: But, two, it's just not what we want in a president. He's going to Iraq, but he's already decided his position. He's not going to listen to Petraeus or our troops, he's not going to listen to his own eyes with

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what he sees there, and I think that's not the kind of leadership we need in the oval office know.

DAVE BRIGGS: I don't know if you've read this quote from Senator Joe Biden, but I want to get your reaction to it. It reads "if John McCain wants to know where the bad guys live, come back with me to Afghanistan. We know where they reside, and it's not in Iraq". Your reaction to this quote from Senator Joe Biden?

LIEBERMAN**: I love Joe Biden, he's a really good friend, but absolutely wrong, and really Joe Biden should retract that comment o of respect. The troops have died there fighting the bad guys. Osama Bin Laden said that Iraq is the central battlefront in the war against terror.** […] **We've got Al Qaeda on the run, and we're about to score a great victory. In fact, that's part of why the action is now moving to Afghanistan. And look, if anybody knows how to within the war in Afghanistan, it's John McCain** advised by generals like David Petraeus. […] Obama seems to be saying you've got to lose the war in Iraq to win the war in Afghanistan, but you can't choose your battlefronts here. This is as if Roosevelt said during world war II, all we can do is try to defeat the Japanese and Asia pacific region, we're going to forget about the Nazis in Europe. You can't do that then, and you can't do it today.

Highlight #2
Matt Lauer Interviews Graham, Biden; Graham Emphasizes McCain Surge Position (NBC 07/16/08)
MATT LAUER: What is the most glaring difference in the approach these two men will take?

LINDSEY GRAHAM: Well I think it is to how the war is to be prosecuted. When Senator Obama says Iraq is not a central battle in the war on terror. That is a huge difference between him and Senator McCain. General Petraeus said in April that for al-Qaeda, Iraq is their central battle front. If we lost in Iraq, al-Qaeda would claim victory, Iran would have be emboldened, so the idea that a failed state in Iraq would not effect the war in terror in general is a huge difference. **John understood that is why he risked his career on the surge to make sure we wouldn't lose.**

BIDEN: […] This is about being commander in chief of US interests around the world.

[…]

LAUER: What now is the definition of victory? Is it an end of violence, the insurgency, is it a victory on the war on terror? What do you see as victory?

GRAHAM: Victory would be a stable government that we left behind. **History will not judge us not by when we left Iraq, but what we left behind.** From the national security perspective, from an American view, victory is a stable functioning government where the people in Iraq live under the rule of law, al-Qaeda has no safe haven and they contain Iranian ambitions in the region. A stable, functioning government allied with us on the war on terror- **the biggest victory coming out of the war in Iraq is that Muslims, with out help, took up arms against al-Qaeda sympathizers. Any time a Muslim fight al-Qaeda agents and sympathizers, we're safer. That's what happened from the surge.**

[…]

GRAHAM: We've already had meetings with Iranian officials. Ambassador Crocker met with them. I want to meet**, I don't want my President to sit down with Ahmadinejad without any preconditions and elevate him. That's terrible.**

Highlight #3
The McCain Family Beer Business may Cause Conflicts in Interest if John McCain Becomes President (CNN 07/16/08 07:32am)
JOHN ROBERTS: Despite John McCain's high profile job and the even higher profile job that he is after**, Cindy McCain will also be the big bread winner in that family.** David Mattingly explains why her beer business could be a problem for her husband if he's elected.

DAVID MATTINGLY: Fair to say that Cindy McCain is not only the wife to Senator John McCain; she's also his meal ticket. Her reported 2006 income of more than 6 million dollars **exceeded her husband's earnings 16 times over. That money pays for a wealthy lifestyle of high-end condos, an Arizona**

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ranch, flying in a corporate jet, and more.

KEN VOGEL: He wouldn't be able to afford that if it weren't for her. **Politically, he's in Congress arguably because her company and her well funded his first congressional campaign and has certainly been helpful in subsidizing his presidential campaign.**

MATTINGLY: It's a lifestyle built on beer. Cindy McCain is the chairman of one of the largest Anheuser Busch distributors in the country. A company founded by her father with a value estimated at over $100 million. In congress Senator McCain has been able to avoid a conflict of interest by staying out of the family business and recuse himself from beer related issues. **But critics of that industry doubt that a President McCain would be able to stay so hands off.**

BRUCE LIVINGSTON: It would not be possible. The Hensley Corporation, which Cindy McCain is an owner of, has lobbied ten times in the last 8 years on various issues that have gone to congress and executive branch agencies.

MATTINGLY: As President, McCain would run a mammoth bureaucracy with regulatory controls over alcohol sales, distribution and consumption. The next administration would probably have to deal with issues of beer taxes, labeling, maybe even the politically sensitive merger just announced involving the giant Anheuser Busch. These are all issues that could cause a conflict because they could have an impact on the McCain family bottom line. Though she does not run the day to day operations, Cindy McCain's Hensley and company website links to a news letter calling for a roll back in the federal beer tax. And this 2005 letter posted on the Internet by the Los Angeles Times, shows company executive Andrew McCain, yes that is the Senator's son, lobbying against a federal beer-labeling proposal.

ROBERTS: Hensley and company sold more than 23 million cases of Anheuser-Busch beer last year. Making it the third largest Anheuser distributer in the United States. We should also mention that Hensley also distributes Stella Artois, Bass and other beers produced by InBev, which recently bought Anheuser-Busch.

Highlight #4
Body Language Expert Dissects John And Cindy McCain (NBC 07/16/08)
ANN CURRY: There's a photo of him covering his eyes. Now it looks like he's embarrassed, something just happened.

JOE NAVARRO, BODY LANGUAGE EXPERT: And we do that all the time. One of the things we do is when he does it, Tiger Woods does it, I do it, you do it, you see here something or you do something that's just not right and you cover your eyes. This is so powerful that even children who are born blind, when they don't hear things that they don't like, they will actually sometimes cover their eyes.

CURRY: So your saying there's something in our brain. We're born with- these are not learned cues all of them. Your saying this is-fundamental. Why?

NAVARRO: Exactly. Millions of years of- I think it's part of the way the brain protects itself. This is part of our paleocircuitry that protects us from things that may harm us. **So we block things we don't like.**

CURRY: Embarrassment included.

NAVARRO: **Embarrassment included.**

CURRY: In an interview I did with Cindy McCain, John's wife, you say I apparently asked her an uncomfortable question. Well actually-

NAVARRO: This is with her husband. What you see here-

CURRY: No, actually this one. I'm sorry. So what is it about her physicality?

NAVARRO: Well you see her. **She closed her eyes and she delayed. She closed her eyes and delayed opening her eyes which really means she didn't like the question you asked and I believe it was a question about her husband's age.** And not that there's anything wrong with that. Maybe it's a question that's too often asked of her. **She definitely didn't like it.**

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CURRY: Now to the photograph of the two of them together. Your saying compared to that you can see the photograph that's she much more relaxed. Right and one of the ways we know it's a true smile is the facial muscles are relaxed but notice how the corners tend to go up above the ear not towards the ear. A fake smile what we do in public is towards the ear, a true smile above.

Highlight #5
New Jib Jab Video Depicts McCain in Military Garb and Collapsing in a Retirement Home (FNC 07/16/08 07:56am)
BUSH: "Come gather round Dick, Condi, Scooter and Rove, it's time to get packin' , we must hit the road, but there's war and recession and bad mortgage loans"

CHENEY: "and our legacy needs savin'."

BUSH:"So forget he's a jacka** who's liberally prone." […]

MCCAIN: "Gather Conservatives, lend me a hand, unless you want this liberal wuss in command. I spent years in a rat hole in North Vietnam. Now the Jihad needs containing! So forget my skin cancer and swollen left gland." […]

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/19/2008 6:05:36 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/19/08

Main Topics: Rick Warren, Frist & Jindal Surrogates, Civil Forum Debate, Atlanta Fundraiser Protests

Summary of Shift:
Heavy Vice Presidential nominee speculation ran rampant throughout all networks, ahead of Obama's expected announcement this week. A politico story claims McCain will make his announcement on the day following Obama's official nomination, August 29th, which also happens to be McCain's 72nd birthday. Obama's camp's cheating accusations against McCain at the Civil Forum on Saturday continue to draw speculation on the bias of the media towards Obama. The candidate's performance at the Civil Forum debate was another main topic of political discussion.
Tropical Storm Fay hits the Florida mainland today, with heavy attention to its heavy rains, flooding, and electricity outages covered. Pakistani President Musharraf's resignation draws discussion surrounding the fate of U.S.-Pakistan relations and the country's commitment to fighting extremists within it's borders and that of Afghanistan's. Afghanistan was also in the news due to a second day of Taliban suicide attacks against U.S. bases surrounding the country's independence holiday. Georgia and Russia began exchanging prisoners. Russia vows that it is pulling troops out of the country, but evidence of such is still unfounded. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice is in Belgium for an emergency NATO meeting on the matter, promising that Russia will be punished for its actions. Olympic coverage continues.

Highlights:
1. ABC: Rick Warren Discusses McCain's Credibility In Light of Marriage Infidelity
2. FNC: Charlie Frist Discusses McCain's Genuineness When Speaking on Faith, And Need For Energy Independence
3. FNC: Bobby Jindal Talks McCain's Oil Rig Visit, Energy Needs, and McCain's Pro-Life Record
4. FNC: McCain Civil Forum Cheating Scandal and Bias in the Media Analyzed

Local Highlights:
1. NBC-Atlanta, GA-11: McCain Interviewed By Local Atlanta News, Protesters Surrounding Fundraising Visit Highlighted
2. NBC-Atlanta, GA-11: Local Atlanta News Covers Interviews McCain On His Fundraiser and the Ralph Reed/Jack Abranoff Lobbying Scandal
3. CBS-Atlanta-46 News: Protesters Against McCain and Privatized Social Security Highlighted Surrounding Fundraiser in Atlanta

Highlights, No Clips:
1. NBC – MATT LAUER: "MATT LAUER: And if Senator Obama's move is the punch, when does John McCain throw the counter-punch?"

CHUCK TODD: "Well, look, there's a report out this morning that somehow he may do it the Friday after Obama accepts the Democratic nomination. So it would be the day after the end of the Democratic Convention. The McCain campaign is shooting down that report a little bit, saying that's not true, don't believe the hype. But he is planning a very, very large rally, something McCain doesn't do very often, in Dayton, OH. So that's what's got a lot of people assuming that on McCain's 72nd birthday next Friday is when he'll announce his pick Matt."

Clips:
Highlight #1
Rick Warren Discusses McCain's Credibility In Light of Marriage Infidelity (ABC 08/18/08 10:00pm)
CYNTHIA MCFADDEN: Is it fair to say that in some ways this is a character test that you're giving these two men?

RICK WARREN: Well, I'm testing their character, I'm testing their convictions, I'm testing their confidence.

MCFADDEN: A religion test?

WARREN: No, absolutely not. I'm totally opposed to religious tests for the presidency. I think it's appropriate to know what a person believes, what their religion is, but I don't think that's the test for the presidency.

MCFADDEN: I've heard you say you want to understand what their personal relationship with Jesus is.

WARREN: Yes.

MCFADDEN: Does that mean a Jew or a Muslim would be out as far as you're concerned as president?

WARREN: Not at all. I can vote for a Jewish president easily. The only kind of president I don't think I could vote for is would be an atheist. I could not vote for an atheist president because I just think that's pretty arrogant. I think that the presidency is too big for any human individual. And I think we do need god.

[…]

MCFADDEN: McCain has had his own problems with the evangelical community. Most recently questions about whether he was faithful to his first wife. Let me be very specific with you. John McCain was divorced April 2 of 1980. He had actually filed for a wedding license March 6, a month earlier, of 1980. Sounds as if he had been involved with another woman before divorcing his wife. Is that a problem for you as you look at John McCain's candidacy for the presidency?

WARREN: All leadership is built on credibility. Leadership is built on trust. If you don't tell the truth, and I'm not just talking about in an affair, but in a lot of other areas, then you lose the right to lead. Now, is forgiveness possible? Yes. But there's a difference between forgiveness and trust.

MCFADDEN: Can you trust John McCain at this point?

WARREN: I think I can because of a consistent period since that time.

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MCFADDEN: For Saturday's forum, Barack Obama won the coin toss and went first. But warren asked both men essentially the same questions on a wide range of topics. It was quickly clear they held wildly different views. […] Though the crowd gave both standing ovation, John McCain's answers clearly played better in the room. On Sunday, an NBC reporter claims people associated with Obama's campaign suggested that McCain may have had unfair access to Warren's questions. A charge both Warren and McCain deny. You know, there are some people who feel this a sham operation. That really we know you as an evangelical are a republican, a John McCain supporter. The numbers seem to support that, that most evangelicals overwhelmingly are registered as republicans and support john McCain.

WARREN: Well this is the first time I'll mention on the air, I'm not a registered republican or a democrat. I'm actually registered as an independent. So that might be the big surprise to America. The truth is, I think there are a significant number of people out there who are disillusioned and disenfranchised by both sides. I'm somewhere here in the middle and I would like to find and create a common ground for the common good.

MCFADDEN: But ultimately you've got to vote for one of them.

WARREN: Of course you do and that's going to have to be a personal choice. I'm a pastor, not a prophet. So I never predict who anybody else is going to vote for.

MCFADDEN: But he's more than willing to offer advice about how he hopes his parishioners will go about making their decisions. Yesterday's church service was entitled, the type of leadership America needs.

WARREN: Satan does not have any new ideas. The three basic traps that every leader falls into, money, sex and power.

MCFADDEN: The antidote to such sins, Warren believes can be found in the teachings of the Bible about integrity, generosity and humility and go to the candidate's character. He leaves it up to those in the pews to decide which candidate comes closest to sharing their view. And that will come as a surprise to some as issues like abortion have been seen as a litmus test for evangelical voters. Sunday afternoon, we talked to Rick Warren one last time about how he felt the session went.

WARREN: I was very surprised and pleased by how it came off. The fact that both of these men were able to totally explain their different views without attacking each other.

MCFADDEN: So on balance, how do you feel? Could you go into the voting booth and cast your ballot for either one of them?

WARREN: I never take sides, and I will tell you this. I'm for my friends and they both happen to be my friends.

MCFADDEN: Do you think at some point, Rick, you owe the people who look to you for guidance for more than that? I mean, at some point before this election are going to let up?

WARREN: No, and the reason why is I think they're smart enough on their own. I don't think anybody needs anybody else telling them who to vote for.

MCFADDEN: So if someone were to come to you and say, you know what? Forget character, I'm going to vote for the guy who is opposed to abortion. Would you say they need to go back and think harder?

WARREN: No. I would say you probably made your hierarchy of values and for you the value of preserving life is the top value. Great. Good decision.

Highlight #2
Charlie Frist Discusses McCain's Genuineness When Speaking on Faith, And Need For Energy Independence (FNC 08/19/08 7:59am)
STEVE DOOCY: […] In the world of politics your name is frequently mentioned as perhaps a number two for John McCain. What do you make of the fact that it sounds like either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday it sounds like Barack Obama is finally going to reveal who his number two is?

CHARLIE FRIST: Well, I guess the reality is eventually that decision has to be made, on both sides of the aisle, obviously. And talking about number two is not really a concern of mine. […]

GRETCHEN CARLSON: Will you comment at least on the event on Saturday night, when the two candidates got together and spoke at the civil forum at the Saddleback Church on Saturday? I'm sure that you saw at least parts of it. What was your opinion of how that went down? For me, it was a precursor of the debates that we are going to see later on this fall.

FRIST: Well I think that's probably accurate. Obviously I was very pleased with how Senator McCain did**. His answers were straightforward, straight talk if you will, you know he just speaks from the heart and says what he believes in his soul. And when you see that communicated so forth rightly, it's hard not to admire, to respect, and care deeply about where he speaks and what he says and the sincerity and genuineness of his message.**

DOOCY: Governor, also later on today your candidate John McCain is going to make a tour of an oil platform out in the Gulf of Mexico because he does support drilling for more oil in the outer continental shelf. Barack Obama has kind of modulated his answer. He said, well he's for it kinda. Is there a difference between his stand, Obama's, and McCain's?

FRIST: Well no question about it, Senator McCain is very forthright about the notion of being sure that we have sufficient domestic supply of oil so that we're not so dependent on foreign oil. As we all know, I think pretty well now, there's a transfer of wealth that's occurring, about 700 billion dollars a year that we're sending to the Middle East. Some of these people are people that don't like the United States very much. You know, when the founders created this country they signed a declaration. It was a declaration of independence not the declaration of dependence. We have to be independent. This is as much an economic issue as it is a national security issue. Senator McCain understands that. And he's understood it for a long time. And that's why I think he's taken this position to be sure that individual states have the opportunity or the right to make this call, rather than the Federal government suppressing our independence and so we got to move forward as a country. John McCain knows it, he gets it, and he understands it.

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Highlight #3
Bobby Jindal Talks McCain's Oil Rig Visit, Energy Needs, and McCain's Pro-Life Record (FNC 08/19/08 8:43am)
BOBBY JINDAL: I'll repeat what I've told you before. I've got the job that I won't. Won't be the nominee. Don't want to be the nominee. I'm certainly voting for Senator McCain, want to see him as President, think his policies on energy and cutting taxes are better for our country than Senator Obama's. But I'm going to support him as Governor, not as vice president.

STEVE DOOCY: Governor, tell us a little bit about what john McCain is going to do today on an oil rig out in the Gulf of Mexico.

JINDAL: At 10:00 central time he'll be out there on a Chevron platform, and the point of his trip is to demonstrate that our country needs to an embrace an all of the above strategy to our energy crisis. What we're doing now is crazy, not only with are we paying $3.70 or more per gallon, but we're also hurting our manufacturing base, given our high cost of energy. And what Senator McCain is doing today in Louisiana is emphasizing that we need to be drilling off our coast for oil and gas. It doesn't make sense to go and beg countries that are not friendly to us to produce more oil for us while we're not willing to drill ourselves. He's going to emphasize that drilling alone is not enough. We also need more coal, we need more nuclear energy, more conservation. Here's the crazy thing, Senator Obama has said he wants to raise taxes on coal and natural gas, he's said that nuclear energy is not the right answer for America. We need an all of the above approach. We need renewables, all of this needs to be part of breaking our dependence on foreign countries for energy. Our current policy makes no sense, in essence, we're borrowing money from China to pay countries that aren't always friendly to us for energy that's so important to our economy.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: And Senator McCain made that point at the civil forum on Saturday night. He also made the point about how he feels about being pro-life, but interestingly enough Governor, just a few days before, he kind of put a trial balloon out there in saying that he may choose a pro-choice V.P. How do you align those two things, because Rick Warren didn't ask a follow-up question, couldn't in his forum, although that was the question begging to be asked Saturday night.

JINDAL: Well, a couple of things. I'm certainly pro-life, and what is important to me is that Senator McCain himself is pro-life. **He's got a pro-life voting record, he's committed his administration to be pro-life.** Really the next President of the United States is going to have a tremendous influence through his appointment to the Supreme Court. One of the things we know about Senator Obama, his voting record, his rhetoric all suggest, you know, he's not for any type of restrictions. He said at the forum he was against late term abortions. He hasn't voted that way, however. What we know about Senator McCain that he's committed to having a pro-life administration. The most important thing that are going to be done by the next president on this issue, I believe, are going to be the appointments to the court. I'm looking for Supreme Court appointments that will actually read the constitution, not try to create law. Remember, this court gave us a 5-4 ruling striking down Louisiana's death penalty for child rapists. I'm not looking for another justice that's reading international laws, I'm not looking for another Justice that's looking at opinion polls. I want a Justice to read the constitution.

Highlight #4
McCain Civil Forum Cheating Scandal and Bias in the Media Analyzed (FNC 08/18/08 8:20am)
STEVE DOOCY: […] The McCain camp is angry that NBC may stand to the left. His campaign manager, Rick Davis, sent a letter to NBC complaining that their coverage of the event was biased because Andrea Mitchell suggested that John McCain essentially cheated and knew ahead a time, because he heard what had gone on.

[…]

GRETCHEN CARLSON: […] Andrea Mitchell at NBC reports that potentially the Obama campaign, a little miffed that they think McCain may have heard some of those questions. Why would they go out of their way, both camps, why would the Obama camp go out of their way to make a point of this? And number two, why would Andrea Mitchell report this?

BOB BECKEL: […] The Obama campaign should not have said anything here. Look, **McCain had a good day. And if you're looking for a reason that he has a good day you don't want to leave the impression that some other guy cheated. That's not John McCain, that's not the way you think about John McCain**. […]

DENNIS PRAGER: **[…] I think most people who are fair about this believe that most people in the media want Barack Obama to win.** The question then that people will ask is does it effect their reporting? I think that it does. In this case, even if he did cheat and I don't believe for a second that he did, but even if he did, how do you explain how good he was in the second half of the debate? When he could not possibly have cheated?

Local Highlight #1
McCain Interviewed By Local Atlanta News, Protesters Surrounding Fundraising Visit Highlighted (NBC-Atlanta, GA-11, 08/18/08 6:05pm)
DENIS O'HAYER: The price tag for this fundraiser at the Marquis is very similar to the ones for Senator Barack Obama's fundraiser earlier this summer. Just over a couple of thousand to get in, tens of thousands to get close. And Georgia is a state that Barack Obama could make close, according to John McCain. That is why he is promising that he will come back. Senator McCain told me he sees Georgia as a battleground state, but unlike his visit in February, this Georgia stop includes no public campaigning. He insisted that that does not mean he really sees this state as safe.

MCCAIN: I think we got a challenge here and I think we got to campaign here, and I look forward to it. It's a very important part of the nation.

O'HAYER: Is that why you mention John Lewis as one of your three wise people during your interview with Rick Warren?

MCCAIN: No, actually, I've had the honor of knowing John Lewis, who I know is a very dedicated member of the democratic party, but I've admired and respected him for many years.

O'HAYER: McCain is running t.v. ads here, highlighting among other things, energy. Lately, he's been insisting on an all-of-the-above energy plan that includes offshore oil drilling, something he previously opposed. He again attacked Democratic rival, Barack Obama's suggestion that conservation measures like better tire inflation will do more faster to lower oil prices.

MCCAIN: That's not the vision that Americans want, nor do they want him saying no to nuclear power which we have to have.

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O'HAYER: McCain said he would order conservation measures including hybrid vehicles for the government. But he said a McCain administration would not mandate conservation for consumers.

MCCAIN: Americans are conserving as we speak, in fact, one of the reasons why the price of a barrel of oil went down is because the President announced that we are going to lift the Federal moratorium on offshore drilling. But also because the demand has been reduced.

O'HAYER: And as we parted from our brief interview, Senator McCain shook my hand and said, I have to come back and campaign here. And we expect him sometime this Fall. […]

TED HALL: Anti-McCain demonstrators picketed and chanted at the hotel entrance during McCain's arrival today. […]

JON SHIREK: The anti-McCain demonstrators were from several groups that generally support democrats including labor unions such as AFL-CIO, and the teamsters, also anti-war groups were here. Organizations such as Iraq Vets Against the War. A retiree organization marched here against McCain and against a plan to privatize any part of social security. And the Democratic Party of Georgia blasted McCain saying that he swooped into Georgia simply to pick up some big checks from lobbyists and others at the private fundraiser and then left without campaign publicly.

JANE KIDD: Barack Obama understands the struggles of everyday Georgians, and when he's elected to the White House, he will be working for them. He won't owe lobbyists anything.

SHIREK: There were also a group of McCain supporters here, taking a stand in the midst of the Obama supporters. Georgia's Students for McCain, college students from all across Georgia.

Local Highlight #2
Local Atlanta News Covers Interviews McCain On His Fundraiser and the Ralph Reed/Jack Abranoff Lobbying Scandal (NBC-Atlanta, GA-11, 08/18/08 7:05pm)
TED HALL: Republican Presidential candidate, John McCain with a quick stop here in Atlanta this afternoon. He was the star of a private campaign fundraiser here at the Marriot Marquis downtown. A lot of leading Georgia republicans paid thousands of dollars just to be there. But there was also some controversy about one Georgia republican who offered his help. […]

DENNIS O'HAYER: That one Georgia republican, Ralph Reed, the former head of the Christian Coalition who lost a primary fight for Lieutenant Governor two years ago. Many McCain supporters claim Reed was behind a whisper campaign that derailed McCain's 2000 presidential bid in the South Carolina primaries. Reed was also an associate of lobbyist, Jack Abranoff. Abranoff pled guilty in 2005 to Federal fraud charges in connection to a campaign involving Indian gambling casinos. John McCain chaired the Senate hearings into Abranoff's activities, but Reed was never even charged with wrong doing. On August 7th, Reed sent an email asking Georgia republicans to attend and contribute to McCain's fundraiser. Democrats pounced, charging McCain was violating his own standards. McCain said, Reed acted on his own.

MCCAIN: He's had nothing to do with our campaign. Any role, formal or informal. My understanding is that he sent out an email on his own, but I had no communication with him whatsoever since I condemned the whole Abranoff affair.

O'HAYER: There were reports that Reed told a Capitol Hill newspaper, McCain's Georgia Finance Chairman asked for his support. McCain said that's not true.

Did the campaign to your knowledge ask him to send out an email?

MCCAIN: I know the campaign did not.

[…]

HALL: Of course we want to point out that 11alive News did leave several messages with Ralph Reed to get his side of the story but so far he has not called us back. **Outside the hotel, anti-McCain demonstrators chanted and marched. They protested McCain's positions on the war in Iraq, and privatizing part of social security. They also said McCain was in town to take campaign money from lobbyists with ties to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abranoff.**

SEN. DAVID ADELMAN: Senator Obama has made a pledge to change the culture of corruption in Washington. John McCain today in Atlanta embraces the culture of corruption.

HALL: Some McCain supporters from across our state also demonstrated. They're with the group, Georgia Students for McCain.

Local Highlight #3
Protesters Against McCain and Privatized Social Security Highlighted Surrounding Fundraiser in Atlanta (CBS-Atlanta-46 News 08/18/08 3:05pm)
STEPHANY FISHER: Republican presidential candidate, John McCain was in Atlanta tonight. But not everyone who showed up for the visit was there to support him.

PROTESTER: What America wants! What America needs! Talk About it! What America has got to have!

FISHER: Protesters gathered outside the Marriot Marquis where McCain's fundraiser was held. This group is upset with McCain over recent comments he made over social security. He called the system a disgrace and said it needs to be fixed.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com>
To: "Laura Hartigan" <lhartigan@saban.com>
"Alex De Ocampo" <adeocampo@saban.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 12:01:47 PM
Subject: RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Sorry John meant to cc you,,,,

From: Haim Saban
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Laura Hartigan; Alex De Ocampo
Cc: Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)
Subject: RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Huma ,,,,Laura forwarded your enquiry to me.
It was an interview on Israeli TV in Hebrew,,,,,on the day she announced,,,,,,someone took my statement and translated it freely to English,and stated what THEY wanted to state NOT what I said.
Never said that she opposes the deal,,,said" I don't know and if I knew I couldn't say".....they took out the part that said "I don't know",,,kept the rest and then concluded that it's a hint that she opposes,,,,,baloney stuff.,,,,,
All questions that I am asked about policy I simply answer "I don't know",,,,,and I just praise her experience courage persistence tenacity etc,,,,no policy discussions.
The Hill needs to go the Hebrew lessons if they want to quote Hebrew interviews.

From: Laura Hartigan
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 11:43 AM
To: Haim Saban; Alex De Ocampo
Subject: Fwd: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Just an FYI.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Date:** April 17, 2015 at 11:53:41 AM PDT
> **To:** <LHartigan@saban.com >
> **Subject: FW: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal**
>
> Did you guys talk to anyone in comms about this?
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Ian Sams** <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 1:57 PM
> Subject: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal
> To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/239091-saban-hints-clinton-opposes-the-iran-deal
>
> April 17, 2015, 06:00 am
>
> # Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal
>
> **By Naomi Friedman**
> 1454
>
> **0**
>
> Just minutes before Hillary Clinton announced her candidacy for the 2016 presidential election, Israeli Channel One News interviewed Haim Saban, an American-Israeli media magnate and long-time Clinton supporter. Noticeably

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excited, he explained that she had waited to make the announcement until she had carefully prepared the ground for her campaign.

Then came the big question: *What is her position on the Iran deal?*

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Saban responded carefully, “She will have to, at some stage, express her opinion. But we know that in essence and in every important matter, she is committed to the security of Israel. She is a friend of the State of Israel. And we've seen this over the past 25 to 30 years. So, there won't be any problems with relations between the United States and Israel when Hillary Clinton is president. No problem. On the contrary.”

But Ya’akov Ayalon, the host of the nightly Channel One news pressed on: *And where does Hillary Clinton stand on this issue?*

"I know where she stands but I can't talk about it," Saban admitted.

"Give me a hint," Ayalon had to ask.

"I hinted to you – that I know," Saban couldn’t repress a laugh. "But I can't reveal to you things that were said behind closed doors. She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this.”

The implication: Clinton is against the Iran deal.

Why? Because Israelis – across the political spectrum – are against the deal, and Saban knows this. From the extreme left of Zionist parties and partisans to the extreme right, Israelis oppose the deal. For Haaretz reporter **Ari Shavit**, it’s President Obama’s big mistake. Former Prime Minister and head of the Labor Party Ehud Barak came right out and urged the United States to tell Iran to “**dismantle or else** .” Barak said, "The Pentagon and the forces of America under the backing and probable directive of the [US] president [could] create an extremely effective means to destroy the Iranian nuclear military program over a fraction of one night.” And as the former IDF Chief of General Staff and Israeli Minister of Defense, Barak might know a thing or two about this topic.

Barak is not alone. **Israelis, across the political spectrum, want the military option on the table – on the negotiating table, where it belongs**. The debate in Israel is not whether the deal is good. It’s whether Prime Minister Netanyahu is responsible for the bad deal – by spoiling Israel’s relations with the United States, or whether Obama is responsible for the bad deal by virtue of his unrealistic idealism and tendency to over-compromise.

So when Yaakov Ayalon says, “Give me a hint” and Haim Saban says “I hinted to you – that I know,” and just after he’s said “there won’t be any problems with relations between the United States and Israel when Hillary Clinton is president,” that means he is convinced that Hillary Clinton is against the Iran deal.

And this is big news. Israelis have been anxiously waiting for Hillary Clinton to openly state her position on the Iran deal. Congress is the last bastion of hope for Israel. Well before the P5+1 negotiations in Lausanne, Israeli news analysts focused intently on the Corker-Menendez bill. If Hillary Clinton comes out against the deal, more Democrats will join Republicans in demanding that Iran abandon its nuclear ambitions. And this is what Israelis, across the political spectrum, are praying for.

Friedman is an American-Israeli writer and editor in the fields of political science, history, and information technology.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Sandy Theis" <noreply@progressohio.org>
To: "john podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 3/13/2015 4:01:02 PM
Subject: Petition: Sen. Portman remove your name from the GOP 's 47 Iran letter now.

ProgressOhio

Outrageous. Destructive. Beneath contempt. Treason?

Those are the words being used to describe a letter sent by 47 Republican U.S. Senators to the government of Iran in an attempt to undermine negotiations over its nuclear program.

Our junior senator, Rob Portman, signed this letter. **Tell Rob Portman right now to remove his name from the GOP's Iran letter.**

We all know Washington is regularly mired in partisan gridlock, but this is different. By interfering with the diplomatic efforts of the United States and our allies to dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program, Rob Portman is risking both American lives and the lives of millions of people in the Middle East--and all to score political points."

Send a message to Portman now: let our President do his job. Stop putting lives at risk. Stop embarrassing our country before the eyes of the entire world. **Sign on now--and then ask your friends to do the same.** We'll make sure Rob Portman gets the message loud and clear.

Sincerely,

Sandy Theis
Executive Director

PS - Tell Rob Portman that he's gone too far. Ohio won't stand for his dangerous grandstanding.

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From: "Clyde Prestowitz" <buzzbybrown@gmail.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 4/30/2015 8:55:57 AM
Subject: The Hill: TPP Will Undercut U.S. National Security

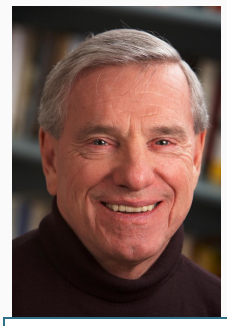

Clyde Prestowitz
The Hill

For media contact:
Kate Brown
202-213-7051
buzzbybrown@gmail.com

TTP Will Undercut U.S. National Security

By Clyde Prestowitz

To persuade Congress to give him authority for concluding negotiation of a proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement, President Obama is emphasizing that such an undertaking is essential to national security.

The appeal to patriotism is always powerful, but in this instance it is being used as the last refuge of a weak economic argument.

The most optimistic estimates of potential U.S. economic gains from a TPP put them at only 1-3 percent of GDP in ten years. But experience suggests this forecast is wildly optimistic, and that while the agreement might be good for some global corporations it could well be a disaster for average citizens. The 2001 deal to bring China into the World Trade Organization was forecast dramatically to reduce the U.S. trade deficit while creating lots of new American jobs. In actuality, the trade deficit soared and millions of jobs were off-shored to China. Like the TPP, the 2012 U.S.-Korea free trade agreement was billed as a super modern deal that also would cut America's trade deficit while again creating lots of jobs. The reality has been the reverse of the forecast.

The president himself has acknowledged that previous deals didn't fulfill expectations, but is arguing that "this time will be different." Unfortunately, he doesn't say why except to label the TPP a "21st century" agreement.

In fact, it's a strange mishmash of old deals with a few new countries thrown in. U.S. free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Australia, and Singapore already exist. The additions of Brunei, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Viet Nam offer only small markets while much experience suggests low expectations are in order for any market opening by Japan. Oddly, despite the TPP label, the arrangement does not include most of the major Pacific countries like the Philippines, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, and China. Indeed, of the roughly 750 million person population of the TPP countries, about 500 million are in the Americas. One wonders what the point is in view of the fact that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group, established largely at Washington's behest in 1989 and encompassing all of the Asia-Pacific countries including both China and Russia, is already committed to achieving free trade by 2020.

To go beyond this and become truly a 21st century agreement, the TPP would have to deal with the truly major issues of the global economy such as currency alignments. Having been the major cause of recent global economic crises, Global

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capital flows and exchange rate movements are far more important in today's international economy than flows of goods and services. Yet, the TPP doesn't mention currencies.

Without a good economic rationale, the White House and the U.S. foreign policy establishment are crying national security, saying that America must reassure its Asian allies of its commitment to them and that dangers would arise from China writing the trade rules of the future. Of course, it was only fifteen years ago that the same people were insisting it was a matter of national security to bring China into the WTO and make it a "responsible stakeholder in the global system."

While U.S. foreign policy experts now fret, it seems that America's Asian allies feel already see China as a responsible stakeholder and feel little need of reassurance. Even as they negotiate the TPP, they are already writing the future rules of trade with China by negotiating to join China's proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), by rushing to become founding members of China's Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, and by concluding bi-lateral free trade agreements such as those between Australia and China, and Singapore and China.

The truth is that the TPP is mostly a solution looking for a problem. It is the knee jerk, orthodox reaction of an outdated foreign policy elite to a misperceived threat in a world they no longer understand, if they ever did. In truth, the agreement itself may well be more of a risk to than a defense of U.S. national security.

To read the article in its entirety in *The Hill*, please click here.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/9/2015 9:16:57 AM
Subject: The Watts Rebellion, Operation Chaos and the Infectious Logic of National Security

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Monday, 9 February 2015

truthout

Remembering the Watts Rebellion, Operation Chaos and the Infectious Logic of National Security

Kara Z. Dellacioppa, Truthout: Was the 1965 Watts rebellion in Los Angeles an impetus for the development of a covert, CIA-coordinated program called "MH Chaos," which was devised to infiltrate and disrupt US social movements and organizations expressing domestic dissent?

Read the Article

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker Tripped Up by Truth

Mary Bottari, PR Watch: Governor Walker made edits to the University of Wisconsin's mission statement, scratching out "the search for truth" and taking an ax to "Wisconsin Idea," the guiding philosophy that the university is created to solve problems and improve people's lives beyond the boundaries of the campus.

Read the Article

Burying Vietnam, Launching Perpetual War: How Thanking the Veteran Means Ignoring What Happened

Christian Appy, TomDispatch: We rely on 1 percent of Americans "to protect our freedoms" in roughly 70 percent of the world's countries, and all that is asked of us is that we offer an occasional "thank you" to people we don't know and whose wars we need not spend time thinking about.

Read the Article

Syriza's Ultimate Hope Is for an Honorable Compromise With Greece's Lenders

C.J. Polychroniou, Truthout: The newly elected Syriza government is challenging the troika's bailout terms, which have ruined Greece's economy, but the country's lenders remain steadfast on austerity knowing that Greek leaders have no "plan B."

Read the Article

BuzzFlash

Brian Williams' Racially Coded Inflammatory Hurricane Katrina Coverage

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Racial prejudice was prevalent in much of the corporate reporting coming out of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and Brian Williams was on board with that despicable narrative.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Banking Giant HSBC Sheltered Murky Cash Linked to Dictators and Arms Dealers

Read the Article at the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

Civil Rights Attorneys Sue Ferguson, Missouri, Over

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Bush-Appointed Judge Dismisses Nuclear Zero Lawsuit; Marshall Islands to Appeal

David Krieger, Truthout: A lawsuit against the United States by Marshall Islands for not complying with its international agreement on nuclear disarmament was recently dismissed in US federal court, but the tiny Pacific Islands country, site of 12 years of devastating US nuclear testing, vowed to appeal the decision.

Read the Article

Deadbeat Corporations Are Shirking Their Fiscal Duty

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Over the past few decades, corporate and billionaire-owned politicians have used our tax code to effectively transfer wealth away from working people to their patron corporations and the rich.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | Will the United States End Up Like Greece? The Risks of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Dean Baker, Truthout: The TPP will make it more difficult for the United States to get countries to stop propping up the dollar. The result could be a persistence - long into the future - of large US trade deficits, with the resulting loss of demand and millions of jobs.

Read the Article

Amy Goodman | Freed CIA Whistleblower John Kiriakou Says, "I Would Do It All Again" to Expose Torture

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: John Kiriakou, a retired CIA agent who has just been released from prison, talks about his decision to blow the whistle on the Bush administration's torture program. In 2007, Kiriakou became the first CIA official to publicly confirm and detail the agency's use of waterboarding.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Gareth Porter | The Nisman Murder and the AMIA Terror Bombing: A Tangled Thread

Gareth Porter, Middle East Eye: The evidence already available about Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman's death from a gunshot to the head creates a strong presumption he was murdered. He was about to present his accusation that President Fernández de Kirchner and her foreign minister conspired to absolve Iran of the 1994 bombing on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association building.

Read the Article

Largest Steelworkers Strike in Decades Shows No Signs of Abating

Kate Aronoff, Waging Nonviolence: The United Steelworkers are currently engaged in their largest strike since 1980. An estimated 3,800 refinery workers across four states - California, Kentucky, Texas and Washington - walked off the job on Sunday at nine refineries that, together, represent 10 percent of US refining capacity.

Missouri, Over Debtors Prisons
Read the Article at NPR

Consumer Protection Agency Seeks Limits on Payday Lenders
Read the Article at The New York Times

New Evidence That Half of the US Is Broke
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

List of Oil and Gas Wastewater Wells Dumping Into California Aquifers Grows
Read the Article at NBC

Greece: ECB Kicks Syriza in the Face; Syriza Turns the Other Cheek
Read the Article at the Huffington Post

When It Comes to Misremembering, Brian Williams and Ronald Reagan Have a Lot in Common
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

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Read the Article

Monsanto Is Making Us Sick: A Protest at Monsanto's Headquarters

Alexis Baden-Mayer, Organic Consumers Association: On January 30, members of the Organic Consumers Association joined Moms Across America, SumofUs, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Harrington Investments and GMO Free Midwest in a protest and confrontation at Monsanto's annual shareholder meeting at corporate headquarters outside St. Louis, Missouri.

Read the Article and Watch the Video

On the News With Thom Hartmann: President Obama Takes a Cue From Greece, and More

In today's On the News segment: The White House unveils its 2016 budget, which would put an end to austerity; the United Steelworkers union staged a walkout for the first time since 1980; the government of Croatia canceled the debts of its poorest citizens; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org
Date: 1/6/2015 1:43:35 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday January 6, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday January 6, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Nashua Telegraph editorial: "Hillary, measured against the field"

"If Democrats want to take advantage of the disarray and divisions plaguing the Republican Party, they would be smart to unite behind their strongest candidate early and, just like four years ago, let the GOP beat itself to a pulp."

Winnipeg Free Press: "Tickets to see Clinton selling fast"

"Tickets to see former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton speak at the RBC Convention Centre WinnipegJan. 21 are more than 90 per cent sold out."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Will Voters Choose the Nixon Candidate in 2016?"

"My friend made this prediction with Hillary Clinton in mind, and for all the differences between her and Nixon the comparison is revealing."

MSNBC: "Defining 'dynasties' down"

"There's a qualitative difference between Bush and Clinton is this area and it's probably best not to lump them together too quickly."

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New York Times opinion: Keith Boykin, Clinton White House aide: “Not All Political Dynasties Are Equal”

“Of course, I will gladly support a dynasty that adds diversity to the White House and advances my political agenda, but our democracy will be better off with new names on the ticket.”

New York Times opinion: Dewey Square Group’s Mary Anne Marsh: “There Are Some Advantages to a Political Dynasty”

“Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton know their name is no guarantee of success. They have both lost elections before. If the 2016 election is Bush versus Clinton one of them will know what it is like to lose again -- and that makes a dynasty no different than any other candidate.”

New York Times opinion: Doug Wead, senior advisor to Ron Paul: “Political Dynasties Are an Affront to American Tradition”

“No Republican will attack the Democrats for allowing the Clinton family dynasty because that would anger the Bush family in their own party. If public figures in the Democrat Party decry the dangers of the Bush dynasty they risk alienating the Clintons, whose support they must have to be successful. Thus both the Clintons and the Bushes escape criticism because of the other.”

New York Times editorial: “Gov. Cuomo’s Expanded Horizons”

“Now he is reportedly planning to attend the annual gathering of financial and political bigwigs in Davos, Switzerland, later this month. And he has scheduled five international trade missions — China, Mexico, Canada, Israel and Italy. Those trips could help New York’s economy. They could also help fill a gap in the résumé of an ambitious politician who needs foreign policy experience.”

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: “Van Susteren's Martin O'Malley conflict”

“Fox News host Greta Van Susteren appeared on ABC's ‘This Week’ on Sunday and touted Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley as ‘the big sleeper candidate’ of the 2016 presidential race. What Van Susteren did not say is that her husband is a longtime O'Malley friend and a donor to the Democratic governor's political efforts.”

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Articles:

Nashua Telegraph editorial: "Hillary, measured against the field"

By the Telegraph Editorial Board

January 6, 2015

Now that it's 2015, it's time to get serious about 2016, and for most Democrats that means saying a prayer that Hillary Clinton announces her presidential candidacy sooner rather than later.

Why? Because, considering the alternatives, she offers the party its best chance of retaining control of the White House until at least 2020. A quick scan of the alternatives proves that point.

By default, Vice President Joe Biden tops the list of possible Clinton challengers. No one is smarter, more knowledgeable or more experienced than Biden. But his "loose lips sink ships" reputation is a serious liability. There are people whose temperament suggests their talents are best served as a second banana or a foil to others. Biden is that kind of guy. While he has served President Barack Obama well, Biden has also had to apologize a time or two for off-the-cuff comments that embarrassed the administration. These blunders have undermined public confidence that he should be entrusted with being the most powerful and important leader in the world.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts is emerging as the moral equivalent of George McGovern. She's become the darling of liberal Democratic activists, particularly because of her hardline populist positions against Wall Street excesses. Warren preaches the political and financial systems are rigged against lower and middle class Americans and points to the ever-widening gap between the nation's rich and poor as proof. Where she comes up short is on foreign policy experience, which, as we have seen over the past six years, is an important requirement to serving as president. Add to that the simple fact that she's just too liberal for the country as a whole, and it's clear she's not someone Democrats want leading the ticket.

Speaking of being liberal, the next most recognizable name on the potential candidates list is Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. The professed socialist is officially an independent, but he has said he might run for president as a Democrat. He hits on many of the same points as Warren but is viewed by most political observers as someone who seeks to influence the debate, rather than as a serious challenger for the nomination. If elected president, Sanders wouldn't take office until he was 75 years old.

The next big name on the list is New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who just won reelection. He is the son of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, whose decision not to run for president is viewed as helping thrust a then-little-known Arkansas governor named Bill Clinton into the spotlight. Cuomo can point to a Democratic friendly record on marriage equality, gun control and hydraulic fracturing, but he's also could face ethics problems because of his interference in a commission assigned to investigation corruption in his administration.

After that, there is an ever-changing list of virtual unknowns or has-beens whom Republicans would cheer if they were chosen to be the Democrats' standard bearer. Among that horde are outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Illinois U.S. Rep. Luis Gutiérrez, West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

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We could go on, but the point is clear. If Democrats want to take advantage of the disarray and divisions plaguing the Republican Party, they would be smart to unite behind their strongest candidate early and, just like four years ago, let the GOP beat itself to a pulp.

Winnipeg Free Press: "Tickets to see Clinton selling fast"

By Geoff Kirbyson

January 6, 2015, 3:00 a.m.

You're running out of chances to see the woman who could be the most powerful person in the world in a couple of years.

Tickets to see former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton speak at the RBC Convention Centre WinnipegJan. 21 are more than 90 per cent sold out.

"Ticket sales have been great," said Christian Darbyshire, partner at Tinepublic, a Calgary-based events and communications company that's running the Clinton luncheon.

"We've just put some additional tickets out there."

This won't be your typical rubber-chicken meal, if for no other reason than a single seat costs $299.25, including taxes, and a table of 10 will set you back $2,992.50, also including taxes.

Clinton's 90-minute speech will be part of the Global Perspectives series, which is sponsored by CIBC.

Her schedule hasn't been finalized for her visit yet, but Darbyshire said he wasn't able to comment on when she gets in, where she'll be staying, who she'll be visiting or when she'll be leaving.

He also wasn't at liberty to discuss whether there would be members of the U.S. Secret Service on security detail while she's here, but it's entirely possible there will be more sunglasses-wearing men in dark suits talking into their shoulders than Winnipeg has ever seen.

Clinton is seen as a contender for the 2016 U.S. presidential race.

This won't be the first time Winnipeg has hosted a high-powered U.S. politician. Clinton's husband, former U.S. president Bill Clinton, spoke at a $1,100-per-plate dinner here in 2003 as well as another event at the Centennial Concert Hall.

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Will Voters Choose the Nixon Candidate in 2016?"

By Stephen Sestanovich

January 5, 2015, 1:52 p.m. EST

With Jeb Bush and Mike Huckabee about to enter the 2016 presidential race, I'm reminded of a friend's joking prediction that next time around the American people may be looking for Richard Nixon. He meant that after a fling with more interesting leaders, the voters could decide on someone seasoned, predictable, and reliable–even someone they don't feel too good about. That was Nixon in 1968–a political figure long out of office, associated with a distant administration, his career seemingly over but able to make a comeback in hard times.

My friend made this prediction with Hillary Clinton in mind, and for all the differences between her and Nixon the comparison is revealing. The former senator and secretary of state has got a lot of baggage, and many people dread her return to politics, but no one can say she's unqualified. Clearly this same thought is tempting others to join the race. How else to explain the Mitt Romney boomlet of a few months back? Jeb Bush has many virtues, but he's basically a Nixonian candidate too. Just when you thought we'd gotten the Bushes out of our system, they're back. Remember the way people joked about Nixon's re-emergence in 1968? "Tanned, rested, and ready." That will, implicitly or not, be the Bush bumper sticker of 2016.

Both parties, of course, have a host of anti-Nixonian alternatives to choose from—candidates who can say to the electorate, Why go with someone tired and familiar when I offer you novelty and purpose? In addition to Mr. Huckabee, this group includes Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Elizabeth Warren, and Al Franken. All of them surely rail at the idea of letting a pair of resume-heavy baby-boomer has-beens fight it out for the presidency.

Yes, there are similarities between today's national mood and the one that made Richard Nixon president in 1968. In 2016, the voters may again go for a candidate with whom they aren't really happy. Yet the anti-Nixonians should not despair. For more than half a century the American people have picked their presidents differently. They spurn the time-tested, qualified candidate, gambling on someone they know relatively little about–someone fresh, different, even inspiring. That's how Barack Obama became president. You could say the same of George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, and John Kennedy. We picked Nixon once. We don't do it often.

MSNBC: "Defining 'dynasties' down"

By Steve Benen

January 5, 2015, 4:09 p.m. EST

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Frank Bruni asked over the weekend whether “two dynasties” compromise our political “destiny,” and given the way next year’s presidential race may shape up, the New York Times columnist is hardly the only one asking.

“Jeb and Hillary. Hillary and Jeb. It’s getting to the point where a mention of one yields a reference to the other, where they’re semantically inseparable, presidentially conjoined. […]

“We’re a country of self-invention (that’s the myth, at least) in thrall to legacies and in the grip of dynasties, riveted by the mightiest surname in modern Democratic politics and its Republican analogue, imagining not just a clash of the titans but a scrum of the successors.”

The premise is a little shaky. For example, I’m not sure if the former Florida governor and former Secretary of State are so inextricably linked – the former left public office nearly a decade ago, and during that time, the latter has served as a respected U.S. senator and the nation’s top diplomat, with a very competitive national candidacy in between.

They don’t enjoy similar status in their respective parties, either. In 2016 polling, Hillary Clinton enjoys overwhelming Democratic support, while Jeb Bush, who hasn’t run a successful campaign in over 12 years, has underwhelming GOP backing, trailing Mitt Romney in every national poll that includes both of their names.

But more important is this notion of “dynasties.” Obviously, the prospect of a Bush and/or a Clinton seeking the presidency is going to lead to chatter about their familiar last names, but I’m not sure the parallels line up as neatly as many pundits want to believe.

Consider:

Jeb Bush is the grandson of a senator, the son of a president, and the brother of another president.

Hillary Clinton is the wife of a president.

Sure, one can argue that Clinton benefits from the association, but the whole point of a political “dynasty” is the inheritance – some are born into powerful families, and they parlay that status to advance their public-service ambitions.

That’s not a criticism – I’m not making a value judgment about dynasties – but neither Bill nor Hillary Clinton inherited much of anything in the way of political power and influence from their families. Jeb, on the other hand, has a very different background.

That’s not necessarily a bad thing, and there have been some important familial political dynasties in American history, which have contributed a great deal to the country. But there’s a qualitative difference between Bush and Clinton is this area and it’s probably best not to lump them together too quickly.

Postscript: George P. Bush, Jeb’s son, recently became Texas’ land commissioner. He’s the beneficiary of a legacy in ways with no modern parallel.

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New York Times opinion: Keith Boykin, Clinton White House aide: “Not All Political Dynasties Are Equal”

By Keith Boykin

January 5, 2015

I was fresh out of law school in 1992 when I put a new job on hold and drove my old car from San Francisco to Little Rock to work on Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. It was an exciting generational conflict, pitting a charming 46-year-old governor against a 68-year-old president.

A 2016 rematch of these two marquee names would provide none of the generational tension, as a 63-year-old Jeb Bush faces a 69-year-old Hillary Clinton, but it would provide an exciting gender option.

Political dynasties are inevitable. A few names have prominently shaped American presidential politics: Adams, Roosevelt, Kennedy, Bush and Clinton. Where you stand on these political dynasties often depends on where you stand politically. As a child, I swooned over Ted Kennedy's liberal challenge to Jimmy Carter in 1980, and today I'm ready for Hillary in 2016, but I had no enthusiasm for George W. Bush's 2000 campaign and have none for his brother Jeb's impending challenge either.

But even Clinton and Bush loyalists, if they're being as honest as Barbara Bush was last year, have to admit the concentration of power in so few hands is not good for democracy.

The Clinton dynasty, however, comes with an important advantage over the Bush dynasty. The economy created 21 million private sector jobs when Hillary's husband was in the White House, which compares well to the 462,000 private sector jobs lost when Jeb's brother George was president.

Today Clinton's biggest appeal may be her gender. After eight years with the nation's first black president, many Americans are eager to elect another history-making candidate and won't be as excited about another old white guy (sorry Joe Biden).

Of course, I will gladly support a dynasty that adds diversity to the White House and advances my political agenda, but our democracy will be better off with new names on the ticket.

New York Times opinion: Dewey Square Group’s Mary Anne Marsh: “There Are Some Advantages to a Political Dynasty”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Mary Anne Marsh

January 5, 2015

Political dynasties are as old as America. The Adams, Roosevelts, Kennedys, Bushes and Clintons all have served in many offices including president.

While a famous name may get people's attention, open eyes, doors and wallets, it isn't a guarantee of success. Ultimately, every election is about trust. And you have to earn it. Voters want you to stand on your own two feet and make your case to earn their trust and their vote. The 2016 election is no different in this respect.

But it is in others. Voters may have the chance to choose between two dynasties. If Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton run for president, and win the nomination of their respective parties, voters will have a choice of individuals who know well what it is like to be president without ever holding the job.

That alone could be an advantage in this election. With the trust of institutions at an all-time low in public opinion, voting for someone who knows the job well may be an advantage in 2016. Voters won't focus on the dynastic aspect of their candidacies, but rather on the direction they want for the country and whom they trust to get the job done. Just like any other election.

Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton know their name is no guarantee of success. They have both lost elections before. If the 2016 election is Bush versus Clinton one of them will know what it is like to lose again -- and that makes a dynasty no different than any other candidate.

New York Times opinion: Doug Wead, senior advisor to Ron Paul: "Political Dynasties Are an Affront to American Tradition"

By Doug Wead

January 5, 2015

Political dynasties are a threat to democracy, corrupting the political marketplace and compromising the free exchange of ideas. The founding fathers warned against them and shunned all trappings of royalty.

One reason America has seen a rise in political family dynasties is that they have appeared in both political parties simultaneously, negating the natural political checks and balances.

No Republican will attack the Democrats for allowing the Clinton family dynasty because that would anger the Bush family in their own party. If public figures in the Democrat Party decry the dangers of the Bush dynasty they risk alienating the Clintons, whose support they must have to be successful. Thus both the Clintons and the Bushes escape criticism because of the other.

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The national media, driven by profit, stay quiet in the face of dynastic claims because famous names sell.

But when Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the 16th president, was being promoted for the White House, Joseph Pulitzer opposed the idea vehemently in his New York World. “True democracy recognizes no claims of birth or name,” Pulitzer wrote. “The merits of the man, not the accident of his ancestry, should be the passport to positions of public trust under a republican government.” Pulitzer called the idea behind the promotion of Lincoln as “rotten Republicanism.”

The growing danger to our national security in Iraq and the exponential growth of Islamic terrorism can be seen as an unintended consequence of a president who was finishing family business with Saddam Hussein.

In the Middle Ages, a son would pick up his father's spear on the battlefield and finish the fight. But today’s spears have nuclear tips.

New York Times editorial: “Gov. Cuomo’s Expanded Horizons”

By The Editorial Board

January 5, 2015

Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York gave a politically important speech last week that got lost in the news that his father, former Gov. Mario Cuomo, had died that same afternoon. The speech — his second inaugural address — touched on some of the high points of his first term while laying out an ambitious agenda for his next four years.

Mr. Cuomo asserted that he had tamed a dysfunctional state capital in his first four years in office. “We made the government work,” he said, adding that the “we” included both “Republicans and Democrats who put New York first and political parties second, even in this age of hyperpartisanship.”

While he acknowledged that more remained to be done to address education, ethical failure and other state problems, much of the speech seemed pitched to a wider audience. In tones and cadence that reminded many of his father, whose oratory made him a national political figure, Mr. Cuomo said that it is important to look beyond New York because “the most severe problems we face go beyond the borders of our state.”

These problems include economic inequality, which calls into question “the American promise itself”, as well as racial discrimination in education and in the administration of justice. He described “two education systems”, one for the rich, one for the poor, adding that public education had become “the great discriminator” in some communities. He warned that the American justice system needs review and reform, not just in New York City or even in Ferguson, Mo., but nationwide. At risk, he suggested, “are the primary democratic institutions of this country.”

Perhaps inevitably, the breadth of the speech raised questions about Mr. Cuomo’s longer-term ambitions. In his first term, the governor did not seek national attention. He stayed mostly inside the state until last year when he went to Israel, Afghanistan and Puerto Rico. He has publicly dismissed talk of presidential aspirations and said that if Hillary Rodham Clinton seeks the Democratic nomination, he would not.

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But now he is reportedly planning to attend the annual gathering of financial and political bigwigs in Davos, Switzerland, later this month. And he has scheduled five international trade missions — China, Mexico, Canada, Israel and Italy. Those trips could help New York's economy. They could also help fill a gap in the résumé of an ambitious politician who needs foreign policy experience.

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Van Susteren's Martin O'Malley conflict"

By Dylan Byers

January 5, 2015, 3:42 p.m. EST

Fox News host Greta Van Susteren appeared on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday and touted Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley as "the big sleeper candidate" of the 2016 presidential race.

What Van Susteren did not say is that her husband is a longtime O'Malley friend and a donor to the Democratic governor's political efforts. John P. Coale, a trial lawyer, has given $21,715 to O'Malley's "O'Say Can You See" PAC, which is dedicated to promoting O'Malley's record.

On Sunday's program, "This Week" host Martha Raddatz asked Van Susteren if there would be any suprises in the 2016 race.

"I actually think the big surprise is going to be the Democratic side of the ledger, whether or not former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton runs," Van Susteren said. "I'm actually not convinced -- I'm not convinced she's going to run and I think the big sleeper candidate is actually going to be Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland. I realize that the governorship was lost and that the Republicans in Maryland this last run that -- last run."

O'Malley has "been [to Iowa] a number of times. He's a knock-on-the-door type candidate.... So I think that he may be a sleeper," Van Susteren said.

As our colleague Ken Vogel recently reported, O'Malley's "O'Say Can You See" PAC paid $45,000 in the third quarter to a firm called Revolution Messaging "that created slick movie-trailer-style videos touting O'Malley's record" and $32,000 "on a pair of finance consultants who specialize in part on high-dollar fundraising." Coale's $21,715 mostly in-kind contributions went to transportation.

UPDATE (6:14 p.m.): Van Susteren responds on her blog, in part:

First, all I said was that I thought he is a sleeper candidate. I did not endorse him or say he was a good or bad candidate — just that I thought he might be running. Second, most know my husband is friends with O'Malley and has contributed to him in the past. My husband is from Baltimore, Maryland (where Gov O'Malley was Mayor) and has known O'Malley for years. My husband's relationship with O'Malley goes way back and it (and his

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contributions) have been in the media many times. By the way, my husband has also contributed to the Clintons over the years….and to Republicans, including Senator John McCain. I don't know what other contributions since frankly I don't go through my husband's checkbook and I also know all political donations are PUBLIC. I am sure he has made other donations but the public nature of political contributions means you can't be sneaky.

Third, it is MY husband, and not me. I am not divorcing because of the way he spends his money. :)

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 6 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton attends fmr. Gov. Mario Cuomo's memorial service (CNN)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
blog-cabal@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/22/2008 2:56:02 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain-Palin Rally in Cincinnati, OH 10/22/08

Hello All,
This is your tracker, Ryan, on the ground in Ohio now. Below are my notes from the event. Enjoy.

Big Highlights

* Palin - I guess you won't be supporting Barack the wealth spreader this election.

- McCain

o This week we learned that Obama's tax plan looks like welfare so he added an employment cause, 16 days before the election. He'll say anything to get elected. If you're unemployed you won't get anything at all.
o If Obama is elected, we'll have a national crisis, so says Biden, btw, the inexperienced one. America's already fighting two wars.
o I am not a president that needs to be tested, I have been tested.
o I'll protect the value of your home by buying up those bad mortgages. We have to protect the American dream of owning a home.
o I'm going to make gov't live on a budget just like you do.
o What America needs now is a figher, puts the cards on the table, does what's best for the American people. I've fought for you most of my life, there are other ways to love this country, but I've never done so from the sidelines.

Cincinnati OH: McCain-Palin Rally 10/22/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Audience cheers for "Sarah!" before event, not McCain
- Stream of Audience proceeds to file out of event after Palin speaks, and during McCain's speech.

4,000 in audience, venue not at capacity, large airport hanger.
o Lots of young adults on stage
o McCain, Palin, Cindy, Todd, and Congressman Porter pull up in the Straight Talk Express Plane directly into airport hanger. Walk off plane onto stage.
* No protesters seen at event, none in crowd.
* Very positive upbeat crowd, who cheered loudly and banged on thunder sticks.
* no demonstrators or inappropriate comments inside venue.
* 25 cameras, national, local, and at least one foreign.
* Intro speakers spoke about New Hampshire and their own races, positive comments about McCain. Mentioned ACORN.
o State Representative and chairman of Cincinnati's McCain-Palin staff

- Gretchen Wilson sings "Redneck Woman" to warm up crowd

o * Cindy intros Sarah Palin: between our fam and the palins, we have 3 sons in military, John has special interests in the war.

Speech Highlights:
[Palin Highlights]
One of the most unique welcome's I've had to this state was looking down from the plane and seeing my face plowed into a cornfield. Piper got a kick out of that. You are so kind, so unique, so loving.
If you served in the military in the past stand and let us honor you. We owe you.
It's going to be a hard fought contest in Ohio, it's going to come down to the wire.
Are you ready to make JM the next POTUS, to shake up D.C.?
You have a clear choice in 13 days, on taxes, Obama's not being real clear. It's not mean spirited to call someone out on their record or their associations. It is in fairness to you the voters so you know what the choices are.
He's hiding his agenda of redistributing your hardearned money. The gov't takes your money and gives it away

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according to a politicians priorities.
We're for a real tax cut when the gov't takes less of your $$ in the first place.
Ohio, you know how to raise them right, we got to hand it to Joe the Plumber down in Toledo. He got Obama to finally state his true economic plan. A lot of folks identify with Joe. Tito the Builder was upset for the attacks against JTP for mearly asking a ?.
If you believe America is the land of possibilities, if you don't want your money redistributed, then I guess you're JTP too.
I guess you won't be supporting Barack the wealth spreader this election.
That's because his plan discourages hard work and will stifle this economy.
We have a plan to lower your taxes. We'll cut the capital gains tax, business tax. We'll keep USA business in the USA, keep more $$$ in the USA.
We'll get the USA energy independent, we need to drill here and drill now. It's a matter of economic and national security.
You have the choice between a politician who puts his faith in gov't and one who puts his in you. Between one who won't disavow voter reg. fraud, and one who won't tolerate it.
nov 4 coming quickly, its the time for choosing. itll come down to what we believe in. mccain and i believe in what reagan believed in: the forward movement of frdm and not constant expansion of govt. we believe that its time to break the highest and hardest glass ceiling. we believe the best of USA not all gahtered in DC, but in kindness and goodness and courage of everyday, hardworking ppl. we so believe in the promise of this country in all of its opportunites. and we believe america is not the problem, america the solution. USA. we may not be a perfect nation but we learn from our mistakes. we're that beacon of hope for all that seek equality and frdm and opportunity. we're still that shining city on a hill reagan spoke of.

and i am so thankful we have a man ready and worthy to lead that nation. he inspires us w/ heroic and trustworthy deeds and not just words. so if you believe in what we believe in, and you're ready to shake up DC and clean up WS, and get economy back on track
from now until election day, which is coming so soon, you'll hear our opponents go on and on about how they'll claim to fight for you". since my running mate usually wont say this on his own behalf, ill say it for him: there is only 1 candidate in this race who has ever really fought for you. he is the only man with courage to keep fighting for you. he is john mccain.

[Highlight's from McCain's Speech]
I can't wait to introduce her to D.C.

I study history, I'm not going to break that tradition, we're going to win Ohio

We've heard a lot of words, finally heard what Obama believes thanks to JTP, he wants to spread the wealth around

He takes your piece of pie instead of growing the pie

Will cut income taxes for 95 percent, when more than 40 pay none, how do you reduce the number zero? That's the key to his whole plan, the government will write them all checks and the treasury will tax other people, including lots of other people like you and joe and small businesses.

This week we learned that Obama's tax plan looks like welfare so he added an employment cause, 16 days before the election. He'll say anything to get elected. If you're unemployed you won't get anything at all.
He'll kill jobs when we need to be creating jobs.

McCain-Palin tax is the real thing. We'll keep American businesses in America.

What a crowd, what enthusiasm, is there any doubt we're going to win this election? America didn't become this greatest in the world by spreading the wealth.

We'll bring our troops home in honor and victory. Not in defeat.
If Obama is elected, we'll have a national crisis, so says Biden, btw, the inexperienced one. America's already fighting two wars.

I am not a president that needs to be tested, I have been tested.
We've seen the wrong response from Obama over and over. The surge, he'll sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators, when Russia invaded Georgia he said Georgia should show restraint.

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We have to act, we need a new direction and we have to fight for it. I've been fighting for this country since I was 17 and I have the scars to prove it. I'll take America in a new direction from my first day to the last. I'm not afraid of the fight. Not going to spend 170 trillion to bail out Wall Street, I'll protect the value of your home by buying up those bad mortgages. We have to protect the American dream of owning a home.

Let retirees keep their money longer, raising taxes makes a bad economy much worst. The explosion of government spending, has weakened the dollar, made everything more expensive. If I'm elected President, when I'm elected president… I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money, Obama will. I'm going to make gov't live on a budget just like you do. I will freeze gov't spending on all but the most important programs. We'll get rid of the ones that aren't working for the people. I've veto every porkbarrel bill. I'll help those who lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

Obama wants to raise taxes and restrict trade, like in the Great depression. Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it, I won't let that happen. We're going to stop sending money overseas to pay for oil,

He'll consider offshore drilling, we're going to drill offshore and we're going to drill now. We'll invest in all alternative energy sources, nuclear, wind, clean coal.

What America needs now is a figher, puts the cards on the table, does what's best for the American people. I've fought for you most of my life, there are other ways to love this country, but I've never done so from the sidelines.

We're at a moment of nat'l crisis. Yes we will lead.

I'm an American. And I choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

TY and god bless!

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/18/2012 7:27:31 AM
Subject: Re: Clinton Foundation Letter

I agree with your unhappiness, but not your approach. I think you should talk with someone at UNDP and try to find out how much they have committed and if it is a grant or matching funds, what the scope of the project is, what the deliverables are, etc. Or you can wait and try to get those details from Darien.

The problem is that President Clinton apparently told Ira he supported this in concept. With Ira, if you give him an inch he will take a mile.

Bruce

----- Original Message -----
From: Amitabh Desai
To: Bruce Lindsey; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC
Sent: Wed Apr 18 12:47:19 2012
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

In reading the attached letter from the Barbados PM, I'm a bit inclined to recommend WJC writing back and delicately saying something like: this is an issue of shared importance and I'd like to be helpful but am not sure yet exactly what a project could or should look like (and how much it would cost and over what timeline, with what specific deliverables) and I therefore would welcome input from you (the PM) and other leaders in the region before this is discussed publicly, and I'd like you to speak with my staff (listing us and not Ira).

And/or we can call the UN Secretary General's folks and say their UNDP/energy folks should deal with us and not Ira.

The above seems like a nuclear option but at this point unless we do something, it seems like Ira is going to proceed on something that we don't really have a handle on, and it could be good, but on the other hand - and given precedence with CHAI and CCI - it could spend (a lot of) money without us knowing specifically what WJC and the world will get in terms of results (on a timeline) and/or us being able to control how WJC's name / legacy are being impacted / used in relation to this project.

Maybe I am being petty but just wanted to raise this option with you, and I'm happy to proceed as you wish. Tackling islands is something we all believe in but it's hard to know what Ira's plan is and hard to trust it since we seem to learn of things after the fact, as evidenced by us learning of this "launch" via the email below today. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ira Magaziner
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:29 AM
To: Terry Krinvic
Cc: Amitabh Desai
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

Terry:

Attached is a letter that will come to President Clinton from the Prime Minister of Barbados inviting him to speak on May 8 at a high level conference of energy Ministers from all of the Island nations in the world. The conference is being sponsored by UNDP and we will be participating. I will be there.

UNDP is providing funds to the Clinton Foundation for our work on clean energy and we will be launching our work at this conference.

Obviously, if President Clinton can speak, that would be great. If he cannot attend but could provide a video, that would also be very helpful.

I am sorry for the short notice, but the conference has come together rather quickly.

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Thanks

Ira

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Emily Klein" <emily@flextimeglobal.com>
Date: 4/6/2015 3:14:11 PM
Subject: Re: Met at Kafe Leopold in Georgetown

Thank you for your extremely thoughtful note. You have set a high bar, but I think it is very fair to judge her on whether she answers the questions you have posed. I am confident that she will address those questions and I hope to your satisfaction. As the next few weeks and months roll along, I hope you will stay in touch and let me know whether we have cleared the bar.
John

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Apr 6, 2015, at 10:47 AM, Emily Klein <emily@flextimeglobal.com > wrote:

John,

We met the week before last at Kafe Leopold in Georgetown as I was en route back to Boston. I was sitting with two colleagues next to your table when I noticed you were there having lunch with Donna Shalala. Thank you for your willingness to connect and share your email address with me.

I've long held an interest in politics, spent a decade living and working in DC after graduate study at GW, as I had mentioned, in public policy and public administration. I am a registered Independent voter, voted for Obama in the last two elections, and also have voted for Republicans in Gubernatorial races here in Massachusetts.

I am excited about the prospect of Hillary running for the presidency again, yet as a middle-aged (47) professional, I'm not yet convinced she is my candidate. For the first time in my voting history, I know that my vote cast will not be based on gender or social issues alone. Yet at the same time, when my 8 year old daughter turned to me last year to say it would be great to see Hillary the first woman president, I had to agree if for no other reason than seeing in her young eyes the hope and possibility that a statement like that could reveal.

In preparation for a campaign announcement and the months ahead, what I wanted to share with you are a few perspectives on things I believe the Hillary campaign strategy should address:

Congruence:

Hillary is a historical figure, a woman with phenomenal accomplishments, but presents in public with a lot of incongruity. For example, in terms of income inequality, how can Hillary project empathy and humility when the majority of her life, at least the last 25+ years of it, was spent in the 1%? Given campaign finance her relationships with Wall St is understood. Yet what does it mean to have these relationships and campaign for closing the income inequality gap? In what ways will Hillary's goals about addressing income inequality be innovative, realistic and actionable? In what ways can they include Wall St. banks?

How can Hillary's campaign platform focus on advancing women and children's issues when the Clinton Foundation receives donations from countries with blatant disregard for women's rights? In what ways can she explain this publicly and authentically without political spin?

Purple:

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The ability to reach across party lines and strive for bipartisanship is a worthy ideal despite the polarizing environment that occupies Washington. Emphasizing how Hillary will work with the Republican congress going forward is as essential as showcasing ways she has done this in the past. What are her views on defense, immigration and healthcare that are not entirely in lock step with President Obama's, for example? How can that appeal to the Independent voter that does not vote party line?

Foreign Policy

Foreign policy is a top campaign issue for 2016. Many Americans have been disturbed about Obama's foreign policy missteps, and have not felt safer in an increasingly dangerous world rife with radical Islamic extremists. The general sentiment about President Obama's earlier statements on ISIS (J.V team, not having a strategy to combat it, not using the verbiage radical Islamists) left the American voting public uneasy about the ability of the Democratic party to execute a muscular approach to military and diplomatic affairs. While I thought the NYT article yesterday on the Obama Doctrine was excellent, many Americans remain skeptical about a successful Iranian deal that cuts off pathways to nuclear weapons with a country unlikely to loosen its grip on extreme religious ideology, the form that teaches hate and destruction to its youngest citizens and sponsors terrorism.

Hillary's depth of knowledge related to world affairs and foreign policy should include a strategy for communicating a forward thinking geopolitical vision in ways that present her unique strengths. This foreign policy strategy needs to convince the voting public why Hillary, why now, (in part, by compare to Obama) and to her Republican challengers who will do everything to associate her with past missteps and perceived party weaknesses.

Engagement

Thriving companies in the private sector are focused on increasing transparency, flattening hierarchies and encouraging employee engagement.

How can Hillary create a digital campaign to engage US citizens in a large-scale dialogue that's unique: social media, video, crowd-sourcing ideas, online events? Engaging the hearts and minds of the American voters in 2015-2016 should be an exercise in transparency, collaboration and one that goes beyond party platform, beyond label and beyond gender alone.

John, thank you for taking the time to read this (long!) note. If there's a chance for us to meet, either here in the Boston/New England region or in Washington DC, I'd be excited by the opportunity to discuss campaign strategy with you further, especially around ways that will appeal to voters beyond the base.

Sincerely,

Emily

--
Emily Klein
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Co-Author of Workshift: Future-Proof Your Organization for the 21st Century *(Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)*
Transforming Organizations From The Inside Out

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/31/2008 5:25:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/31/08

Main Topics: "Celeb" Ad, McCain's Double Standards, Bush on Iraq

Summary: Interest in McCain's "Celebrity" ad and Obama's "Low Road" response carried over from last night. Analysis of the exchange between the campaigns was the meat though discussion of the risk of backlash provided a welcome break. President Bush spoke briefly about SOFA negotiations and shorter tours for soldiers in Iraq. At the same time oil companies continued to release record profit figures.

Highlights:

1. "Celeb" coverage continues
   a. ABC: "Celeb" brings out the "angry, bitter, old man" in McCain
   b. MSNBC: Maddow: "Celeb" fallout is "the car crash between the McCain of 2000 and the McCain of 2008"
   c. MSNBC: McCain strategist Todd Harris defends Paris Hilton ad, yet admits it detracts from McCain brand
   d. CBS: Bob Schieffer predicts backlash from negative Paris Hilton ad
   e. FNC: Nicole Wallace on "Low Road": "If we wanted to join them on the low road, we'd have to ask them to pull over"
   f. MSNBC: Nicole Wallace denies Paris Hilton ad is "personal"
   g. MSNBC: Wallace defends "Celeb"
   h. CNN: Bash: "Celeb" may be off message, too negative
2. MSNBC: Maddow accuses McCain camp and media of racism, double standards for Obama
3. MSNBC: Barnicle discusses historical analogues, highlights debates as a potential turn-around
4. FNC: Bush talks about SOFA negotiations, announces shorter tours in Iraq

Highlights, No Clip:

1. FNC – HOWARD WOLFSON: "I think John McCain has failed to capitalize on the power of the internet in a way that is very damaging."
2. CNN – ROLAND MARTIN: "John McCain is acting like a jilted lover. He once said the press was his base. They are frankly upset that the press seems to be liking Obama."

Clips:

Highlight #1
"Celeb" Brings Out the "Angry, Bitter, Old Man" In McCain (ABC 07/31/08 7:05am)
CHRIS CUOMO: Some odd campaign news today, there's a round of new commercials, really have us scratching our head here.

DIANE SAWYER: What sort of committee meeting do you have where they say, "Let's use Brittney! Let's use Paris! Yes, that'll be a blow." Anyway, we're going to be asking this morning . . . is this savvy strategy by the McCain campaign? . . .

[. . .]

SAWYER: . . . that new brand of negative TV ads this morning that use Brittney Spears and Paris Hilton as a kind of political nuclear attack . . .

JAKE TAPPER: . . . the McCain campaign thinks they have an effective line of attack against Sen. Barack Obama. That he is an arrogant . . . celebrity. **But does the new McCain line of attack bring out a negative caricature of McCain? That he's an angry, bitter, old man.** The new McCain ad depicts Barack Obama as a celebrity, akin to Brittney Spears and Paris Hilton . . . framing Obama as a celebrity allows McCain an opportunity to accuse Obama of other flaws. Quote, "Like most worldwide celebrities . . . this status has fueled a certain arrogance." This new Republican Party website, "Obama Audacity Watch," catalogues alleged arrogance . . .

[. . .]

TAPPER: Some former McCain aides wonder if the McCain brand will be hurt by his new strategy of

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attack, attack, attack.

DAN SCHNUR: You want to draw contrasts between yourself and your opponent but you want voters to see that as valuable contrasting information rather than simply as name calling.

TAPPER: John Weaver, McCain's former political aide who left the campaign last summer, tells ABC news that the Brittney ad is, quote, "childish," the new negative strategy Weaver says, quote, "reduces McCain." "John is capable of inspiring Americans. It's not the John McCain brand at all. It's like asking Wilt Chamberlain to play point guard." And now Obama is casting McCain, who already has a reputation for having a temper, as negative and angry. With 97 days to go, the caricature crayons are out.

[. . .]

TAPPER: A third party liberal group is now attacking McCain online, saying that he is the out of touch celebrity, pointing out that he wore expensive Italian loafers to a meeting with the Dali Lama. So there you have it, Paris, Brittney, Ferragamo loafers, the great debates of 2008 . . .

SAWYER: As someone said, "While Rome burns." . . . is this going to work? Is the McCain camp smart?

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: Well, they are certainly confident about this . . . and they are not backing off at all, they're feeling good. And I think one of the things they're happy about is that we're sitting here right now talking about all this. They wanted to get attention, they are getting attention. I think the question is, will the focus on the tactics overwhelm the message that the McCain camp is trying to send. There is a tradition of this kind of ad, going all the way back to 1988 when Republicans said that . . . Dukakis wanted Iowans to grow Belgian endive . . .

SAWYER: What about the former campaign aide saying it's childish? Is there a risk that there's a backlash and it does make Sen. McCain seem angry?

STEPHANOPOLOUS: Yeah, angry, cranky, too negative, bit of a whiner, given the fact that most polls show that he is behind right now . . .

Maddow: "Celeb" Fallout is "the Car Crash between the McCain of 2000 and the McCain of 2008" (MSNBC 07/30/08 8:10pm)
RACHAEL MADDOW: I think that a national election that is a national referendum on Bush and McCain and the Republican Party of the last eight years is an election that Barack Obama wins in a landslide. An election that is asking Americans what they think of Barack Obama, which is what John McCain has actually turned this campaign into at this point, that's an election that Barack Obama might win . . . this might be exactly where John McCain wants the campaign to be.

KEITH OLBERMANN: Does that explain this quote of the year from yesterday? . . ."McCain not really be speaking for the McCain campaign." Are they really that lost in terms of the head to head and issue to issue? Are they really that devoted to, "Don't vote for Obama, he's 'fill-in-the-blank'"?

MADDOW: . . . that's not the only example of the McCain campaign saying that John McCain doesn't speak for the campaign. They did the same thing on affirmative action. They said don't listen to what John McCain says, just allow us to be a vague, not-Obama presence in the corner that you might vote for if we succeed in scaring you enough about Barack Obama . . . if John McCain doesn't speak for his campaign, what kind of president would he be? . . .

KEITH OLBERMANN: It would be like when the great football quarterback, the late Bill Walsh, retired from the San Francisco 49ers and left . . . a play list . . . that his successor . . . was supposed to call for the first three games of the next season. I don't know who would leave him the list. Maybe it would be Cheney. This John Weaver . . . to the Atlantic . . . "For McCain to win in such troubled times he needs to start telling the American people how to lead us. That McCain exists . . . there is legitimate mockery of a political campaign now and it isn't at Obama's . . . " Is that one guy . . . or is there any groundswell of opinion that McCain and his campaign are making fools of themselves . . .?

MADDOW: **I think this is the car crash between the McCain of 2000 and the McCain of 2008 . . . not only between people who have worked with John McCain and want to be associated with the McCain of 2000, people who thought that that reputation from 2000 would have carried over** . . . he said he was

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going to be the McCain of 2000, that it was going to be a substance driven campaign, that he wasn't going to be scurrilous and negative . . . what his campaign is doing now, is a series of four negative campaign ads . . . it does seem pitiful . . .

McCain Strategist Todd Harris Defends Paris Hilton Ad, Yet Admits It Detracts From McCain Brand (MSNBC 07/30/08 5:02pm)
MIKE BARNICLE: And I can see him in December of 2007, in January and February of 2008, the same John McCain. So I guess the question is being asked by a lot of people in the politics business, the media business, the cosmetics of politics, What's happened to McCain? Is this stuff going to work? Why is he going this way?

TODD HARRIS: Well, this is about one thing and one thing only, which is to steer the conversation surrounding this race onto the issue of whether or not Barack Obama is qualified to be leader of the free world. That is issue terrain that the McCain people -- the McCain campaign feels very comfortable fighting this battle on. They feel that if this is what the campaign is about, a referendum on Obama's leadership, then that's their best shot.

And so yes. Is this -- you know, is the ad subtle? No. But you know, the media likes subtlety like it likes a kick in the head, and so this is going to catch a lot of eyeballs, get a lot of attention. And if this ad steers conversation toward that conversation of whether or not Obama is ready to be president, then it's going to be effective.

BARNICLE: Are you going to sit there and take that? I mean, you're a Democratic strategist. Come on.

STEVE MCMAHON: Well, I think my job tonight's actually a little easier than Todd's, don't you think, Todd?

MCMAHON: Listen, you know, the Obama campaign likes to say that Senator McCain's election would be like a third Bush term. But of course, before you get to a third Bush term, you have to have a third Bush campaign, and that's pretty much what they're running here. They're not running a campaign that Todd and John Weaver ran a long time ago.

John Weaver, of course, is the person who in 2000 ran the happy warriors campaign, when he was a happy guy. And Johnson Weaver today, in fact, said that his silence is over, that this campaign has diminished John McCain. He's not only not recognizing his old friend, John McCain, but he's, I think, furious at the campaign for doing this to his old friend.

The fact of the matter is John McCain can only win if he's a hopeful, optimistic leader and if he's offering a vision for America that people can embrace, not by tearing down Barack Obama, and certainly not by childish ads like this one.

HARRIS: Well, I think we have put all of this into some amount of context, though. It's like this whole campaign -- and on the Obama side has been all, like, kid gloves and lollipops.

MCMAHON: They've not run a negative ad. . .

HARRIS: No, no. But his supporters have -- they've run ads that have distorted McCain's record, and his supporters have called John McCain a warmonger. They've talked about distorting his position on Iraq. It's not like this has all been kid gloves. And yes, this is a hard-hitting ad, but it's been a hard-hitting campaign so far.

BARNICLE: We're going to show you the latest -- well, let's show you the newest McCain campaign ad right now and get your reaction to it. Here it is.

["Celeb" ad]

BARNICLE: You know, we sit here in living rooms and dens across America, and these ads come beamed across and you sort of half pay attention to them. I think a lot of people just half pay attention to them. But there's an element in that ad, right toward the end of the ad, where it has Obama's face up and the word "foreign" next to it, with "more foreign oil." There it is. It's right there on the screen now.

HARRIS: Well, it's true. I mean, you know, Obama -- he keeps saying no to -- no to expanded nuclear...

BARNICLE: Yes, but the "foreign"...

HARRIS: ... energy, no...

BARNICLE: ... the "foreign" deal. Obama's foreign deal.

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[CROSSTALK]

BARNICLE: No, I know, but you know -- you know...

HARRIS: Actually, he should say yes to foreign oil because that's his energy policy.

BARNICLE: Am I overreacting to that?

MCMAHON: **Well, I don't think these things are coincidental. I do think, though, that Senator McCain has a choice to make here, and he's got to decide whether or not he wants to be happy warrior or he's got to decide whether or not he wants to be -- run for grouch-in-chief. And the danger when you're 72 years old, when you're running a campaign that just seems like a grouchy old man campaign, is that that's not what people want in a president. And it's not somebody who's offering a vision for the future.**

If you look at the two campaigns, Senator Obama is offering a hopeful, optimistic, aspirational vision for America's future, and John McCain is running as Walter Matthau in **"Grumpy Old Men."**

BARNICLE: See, you stuck the age thing in three times there, the age, 72, the "Grumpy Old Men," the Walter Matthau thing...

[CROSSTALK]

BARNICLE: But earlier, Steve, you had said that...

HARRIS: [INAUDIBLE] the age stuff.

BARNICLE: Yes. You had felt that part of the McCain campaign had diminished the candidate. Do you think any part of this campaign has diminished John McCain?

HARRIS: Well, look, it's been a tough campaign, and it's going to continue to be a tough campaign. But you've got Barack Obama, who is treated, let's face it, line a celebrity amongst the media, who is getting -- is getting kid glove treatment. I don't think he's being put under the kind of media microscope that he needs to be.

And so, you know, if the press is not going to do it, then it's going to be incumbent upon the McCain campaign to call into question whether or not Barack Obama is prepared to lead this nation and to be commander-in- chief. That's the threshold question of this question. If ads like this get people talking about that, then it's probably going to be effective.

MCMAHON: You know, it's interesting. The footage from this ad, this footage is from his European trip. And Senator McCain's campaign actually taunted Barack Obama into going to Europe, going to Iraq, going to Afghanistan...

[. . .]

MCMAHON: So the Obama campaign goes, and they get crowds unlike the crowds that John McCain saw in Colombia and Mexico and Canada, when he was campaigning out of the country. And now they're upset by it.

HARRIS: Well, no one ever taunted McCain into...

MCMAHON: Now they're shocked that people in Europe might actually...

HARRIS: ... giving a speech...

[. . .]

BARNICLE: Let's stick with McCain, though, because you're right, he does get, you know, shortstopped in the media. He doesn't get as much attention, as much positive attention as Obama has. And yet I go back to my own eyesight, my own experience, and the fact that so many people, independents, really liked this guy, you know, when he came on stage at these town hall meetings with a smile and the microphone in his hand. And he was not your average Republican. There was an independent streak that he articulated. Where has this guy gone?

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HARRIS: Well, McCain -- I will concede, certainly, McCain is not at his best when he's delivering overly partisan messages because McCain is at his best when he's not being partisan. That's why his approval rating among independent voters has always been so high. That's why so many crossover Democrats have always supported John McCain.

So to the degree that he can -- he needs to deliver this message talking about Obama. I think it's critical that the campaign frame this race as a referendum on whether Obama is prepared to be president. But it is a tough situation they're in because they need to do it in a way that doesn't make John McCain overly partisan.

MCMAHON: Here's the challenge the McCain campaign has, in addition to the -- to the grouchiness that they're displaying today. John McCain was the guy that you just described. He was the...

BARNICLE: How old is he, Steve?

MCMAHON: I don't know. I don't think...

[LAUGHTER]

MCMAHON: By the way, I don't think it's a function of his age. I think it's a function of the way he's behaving.

[. . .]

MCMAHON: It tends to remind people of his age. But that's -- but the point here, I think, is he used to be that guy you described. He used to be the maverick. He was the person -- he was the Democrats` favorite Republican. But to get the nomination, he decided he had to become George Bush. He flip-flopped on tax cuts. He adopted Bush economic policies. He walked away from his own immigration reform bill. He flip-flopped on offshore oil drilling. He's become a doctrinaire Bush Republican, and he's offering a Bush third term, and that's not what people want.

BARNICLE: Well, you know the ad we just showed you. Here's what Barack Obama said about that John McCain ad. Give a listen to this.

BARACK OBAMA: You know, I don't pay attention to John McCain's ads, although do I notice that he doesn't seem to have anything very positive to say about himself, does he. He seems to only be talking about me. You need to ask John McCain what he's for, not just what he's against.

BARNICLE: And he went to say that he's trying to -- Obama said, you know, He's trying to portray me as being a risky choice for a candidate.

HARRIS: Well, he is a risky choice . . . And if you compare the Obama record to McCain's record...

MCMAHON: Wow.

HARRIS: ... to McCain's record of change, you know, there's no question. Only one of these guys has actually been a change agent in Washington, and that's been McCain.

Bob Schieffer Predicts Backlash From Negative Paris Hilton Ad (CBS 7/31/08 7:05am)
BOB SCHIEFFER: Well it's certainly a sign they've changed strategy. They brought aboad a new strategist, Steve Schmidt, about a month ago from the old Bush campaign team. And he's bringing in some of the techniques the old Bush team used against John Kerry. They have concluded that while Barack Obama is famous that a lot of people really don't know him. So what they're trying to do is define him and tell people who is in their version. Now the question is, is this going to work? They're trying to picture him as an elitist, as someone who is aloof, sort of divorced from regular life. They're aiming this at those white, blue collar democrats who voted for Hillary Clinton and didn't vote for Barack Obama in the primaries. They're saying this is really not your kind of guy. The question though Maggie is will people believe this? This is kind of a stretch. To say Barack Obama has something in common with Paris Hilton and you have to wonder if people are going to buy that. I'll tell you the other part of it is, it's very surprising, it's very unlike John McCain and the kind of campaign he said he was going to run. So, maybe they will be able to define on their terms, but I think there's a high possibility that all this could blow up in their face and backfire.

Nicole Wallace on "Low Road": "If We Wanted to Join them on the Low Road, We'd Have to Ask them to Pull Over" (FNC 07/31/08 8:27am)
STEVE DOOCY: An new ad from the McCain camp paints Obama as a celebrity . . . take a look:

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["Celeb" ad plays]

[. . .]

MARTHA MACALLUM: I'm looking at what Barack Obama had to say yesterday in Reaction to this ad . . . something like, I don't know why he's always talking about me, you know if you have problems in your own life you point the finger at everyone else . . . what do you think about that?

NICOLE WALLACE: I think what's most surprising is, is that all the fuss being made about the celebrities and no attempt being made by the Obama campaign to defend against what is really the most serious questions raised in this ad. Which is his opposition to offshore drilling . . .

DOOCY: When you look at the Barack Obama phenomenon . . . when you ask them, what kind of experience does he have . . . they say, well I don't know . . . when you do point out the differences . . . that's fair but why did you add the celebrity at the top . . .?

WALLACE: Well, present company excluded, we have our challenges in focusing attention our vision for the future. Some of the challenges are . . . you must acknowledge reality and the reality is Sen. Obama is a celebrity we haven't seen the likes of in the political arena, certainly in my lifetime . . . in this election you can't just inspire people with your words and your crowds or your images or your photos but you must inspire them with your deeds and your vision. So that's the gap that we see opening up.

MACALLUM: Let's take a look at the Obama response ad . . .

["Low Road" ad plays]

MACALLUM: What's your reaction to that Nicole?

WALLACE: Well, look, if we wanted to join them on the low road, we'd have to ask them to pull over. [laughter] They launched the first attack ad against us . . .

Nicole Wallace Denies Paris Hilton Ad Is 'Personal' (MSNBC 07/31/08 7:15am)
MATT LAUER: This ad is much more personal and it is demeaning, isn't it?

NICHOLE WALLACE: Well this ad in some ways is a celebration of his celebrity. I mean I don't think there is much to debate this morning about whether he is or is not a celebrity The ad though if you watch the whole thing because if you show it in its entirety it makes a very serious point and sober point. There are two big roadblocks on our way to economic recovery and they include our dependence on Mideast oil and a move by the Obama campaign to raise taxes on almost every American.

LAUER: If that's the importance of the ad why bury the lead? Why is it the first thing we see are these images of Paris Hilton and Britney Spears? .. I have nothing against either one of them but they're not known for their gravitas and in some ways they can become the punch line of jokes. That's demeaning.

WALLACE: Well we've never made jokes about Paris Hilton in this campaign and look I don't think we're making a joke of Senator Obama and neither were the 200,000 Germans who were there to celebrate his celebrity. So again we are going to focus in the next 90 odd days talking about the issues I think we are very much in line with what the American people expect from their next President. But no one can forget or over look or obsure the fact that Barack Obama is the celebrity in this contest. And Senator John McCain, an American hero, is the underdog.

LAUER: Ok Robert let me bring you in here. So this issue of celebrity. What they're saying is there is all this raw excitement. There's this screaming and cheering, hundreds of thousands of people turning out at events and maybe they're trying to touch on this. Is there a possibility on your part that celebrity starts to overwhelm the message or become the message itself?

ROBERT GIBBS: I think what you see is people are excited abou change.

[…]

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WALLCE: Well Matt I wish you'd come to our events because you'd see people yelling and screaming. Yesterday we were talking to employees of the Wagner Company in Denver Colorado and they certainly had a lot to cheer about Senator John McCain talking about his getting America working again. And for keeping us safe. So I wish you'd come out with us and see our fans. They might not be 200,000 strong and they certainly not European, but they are cheering and they are enthusiastic about McCain's leadershp.

Nicole Wallace Defends Paris Hilton Ad (MSNBC 07/31/08 7:25am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Do you think its fair to wrap Obama in celebrity skin? What does he have in common with Paris Hilton or Britney Spears?

NICHOLE WALLACE: Well look I think this ad celebrates his celebrity, celebrates the excitement that's being generated, it is certainly more akin to the excitement a celebrity generates than a normal politician. We're running the campaign of an underdog. It's a position we're comfortable with. But if you run the entire ad, which I hope you will do, it makes a far more serious point – and that's to the big two hurdles to our economic resurgence which is as you talk about quite often. The number one issue in this election Barack Obama stands in the way by opposing drilling, efforts to reduce our dependence on Mid-east oil and by advocating higher taxes. The ad makes a serious point and acknowledges the reality of this election.

SCARBOROUGH: Well Nichole you call it a celebration of his celebrity at the same time the McCain campaign put out a statement yesterday that he's fussy just like celebrities and suggesting also that he's shallow just like celebrities. I don't know if you all were really intending that as a compliment.

WALLACE: Well I don't know any celebrities. I don't know. Maybe my counterpart has met some in the course of his campaign, but we don't have many traveling with us. I haven't had a chance to meet many celebrities but I think it's an overreaction to anything does certainly across as fussy. If you want to be President of the United States of America at this point in our history, you have to be able to, I think, see through things and make your points. We certainly have and we have a lot to overcome in this election cycle. But if you came out here with us, you would see we have supportive crowds who really ask us about the issues. They ask us about the economy, they wanna talk about our plans for keeping the country safe, and that's the campaign we're running.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Robert, is he a fussy celebrity? Describe your candidate.

ROBERT GIBBS: You know the last time I saw Britney Spears on stage with a politician, the guy looked a lot like John McCain because that's who it was. It was John McCain. Barack Obama is down to earth. He's spent this entire campaign talking about the issues that are important to people. The McCain campaign has decided apparently that the best way and the only way to win this campaign is to become very personal and very negative. That's why basically the last four commercials that they've released have been attacked as being false and baseless, the low road in politics, no evidence for the attacks or the evidence that they use in these ads. Look, we're going to let them take the low road, it's a place they feel very comfortable in. We'll let them do that. We're going to talk about the issues facing this country – joblessness in this country and how to create good jobs.

[…]

WALLACE: Listen you talk about the low road, if we wanted to take the low road, we'd have to ask you to pull over. The first negative attack ad in this campaign came from you campaign. And I think that when you walk around talking about knife fights and challenging the Republican nominee to a duel, you are insulting the American voters who have serious problems. You talk about serious problems, we have serious plans to solve serious problems. And the American people want to be inspired, not just by words but by deeds. And I think that is where the real gap is showing up on your side. And I think look there's always time to change, we can stop it right here and right now and we can agree between the two of us that we'll go back to our headquarters and get everyone on the phone and start these town hall meetings next week.

SCARBOROUGH: Robert?

GIBBS: Well you know you cited the report by Rick Davis we did accept doing a limited number of these town hall meetings. We want to talk to John McCain but we want to talk to real voters. And we're excited to talk to them about the change that we see. They've watched 8 years of the same failed policies, and now they see John McCain has taken the same failed policies and that's what he wants to bring to this country.

SCARBOROUGH: You won't agree to the 10 townhall meetings, how many will you agree to?

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[…]

SCARBOROUGH: So you are saying in fact you believe and the campaign believes that Barack Obama doesn't care whether America wins or war or not; he just wants to be President. That's your position this morning.

WALLACE: Our position is that he placed a higher premium on doing what needs to be done to win an election than having the judgment necessary to win a war.

GIBBS: Joe here's all you need to know about this answer. Charlie Crist is auditioning to be Vice President. When you are trying out for Vice President you will say or do anything.

Bash on "Celeb" Ad: May be Off Message, Too Negative (CNN 07/30/08 6:05pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Let's get to John McCain's new ad, it tries to use Barack Obama's star power against him . . . tell us about this new ad that some say could be a gamble for him.

DANA BASH. . . some Republicans I talked to say this is a bit of a risky strategy. The McCain campaign . . . is using campaign cash to highlight and even embrace Barack Obama's broad appeal while trying to turn it into a negative trade.

In fact, one of McCain's advisers, Steve Schmidt, put it this way . . . "Do the American people want to elect the world's biggest celebrity, or do they want to elect an American hero?" On the stump, rapid-fire attacks on Barack Obama's policies.

JOHN MCCAIN: He wants to raise your taxes to pay for bigger government. We've been doing that for years and it doesn't work.

BASH: Yet on the air...

"CELEB" NARRATOR: He's the biggest celebrity in the world.

BASH: John McCain is now comparing his rival to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, mocking him as a vapid celebrity.

"CELEB" NARRATOR: But is he ready to lead?

BASH: With this new ad, McCain strategists are trying to channel their frustration with the attention Obama gets into a hit on his readiness and seriousness.

RICK DAVIS: It's much more something you would expect from someone releasing a new movie than running for President.

BASH: McCain advisers say they are convinced Obama comes across as arrogant and are trying to capitalize on that.

STEVE SCHMIDT: This is a close election. We've seen much presumption from the Obama campaign.

BASH: But a new CNN/Opinion Research poll shows McCain advisers may be wrong on that. Only 37 percent say they view Obama as arrogant, pretty close to what they say about John McCain.

BRITNEY SPEARS (singing): Oops! I did it again...

BASH: The Obama campaign responded to McCain's new ad by accusing him of "... a steady stream of false negative attacks... Some might say, 'Oops! He did it again.'"

This is the latest in a series of McCain attack ads against Obama and increasingly biting rhetoric by McCain against his rival and several Republican strategists I talked to today . . . say they are concerned about the negativity. One told me he worries the McCain camp is allowing it's, quote, "disdain" for Obama to overshadow some valid, substantive political arguments against him.

Highlight #2
Maddow Accuses McCain Camp and Media Of Racism, Double Standards For Obama (MSNBC 07/30/08 6:41pm)

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RACHEL MADDOW: The larger narrative I think here is that Barack Obama is sort of an empty suit and that Barack Obama doesn't deserve this. I think I heard Pat articulate some of this a the top of the show today as well. This idea that Obama doesn't really know his place. That Obama is being presumptuous, you saw that certainly with Dana Milbank's I think very over the top column today in the Washington Post. Honestly, I'm very troubled by this being sort of run by the way it is broadly in the media- all quarters of the media left right and center. Frankly it's John McCain whose been running weekly radio addresses as if he's President. He literally ran two ads in May that described him as President McCain. In terms of whose acting like he's already President, he gave speeches talking about what the world is going to be like at the end of his first term. And nobody said who does McCain think he is? But people are willing to say that about the young candidate, the black candidate and in a way I think it is not all validated by the facts of how these candidates are behaving, but by who they are. I think it really reflects a national prejudice, not the campaigns.

Highlight #3
Barnicle Discusses Historical Analogues, Highlights Debates As Potential Turn-Around (MSNBC 07/30/08 5:52pm)
MIKE BARNICLE: Michael, what do you think? A pretty good retort there.

MICHAEL CROWLEY: It is. Once again, we see why Obama is a good politician. It's a funny riff. He seems comfortable. He is taking on a very charged subject head on and laughing at it. It is not a laughing matter. He's exactly right. I think that's why he has been somewhat under performing the generic Democrat in the polls. Ultimately, I don't think the attack mode suits John McCain well. We saw today one of his long time confidants and advisers, John Weaver, came out and said he doesn't like the tone of this campaign. I really do think it's dangerous for McCain to be as negative as he has been. Maybe Obama can afford to be kind of chuckling about this right now.

BARNICLE: Gene, let me ask you, off what Michael said, there's been a couple of new attack ads put out by the McCain day. Every campaign puts out attack ads. It's not just John McCain. We should point that out. But there's a feeling out there, when you talk to ordinary people, not us, that this stuff isn't going to sell this year, the patriotism thing, the flag lapel stuff. What do you think?

JEANNE CUMMINGS, POLITICO: Maybe it won't sell, but it would be the first time it didn't sell. I think that the Obama people are right to respond very aggressively to this sort of thing. I think the dynamic of this race feels very much like Carter/Reagan in reverse roles. Reagan was the risky one. He was this crazy actor, too conservative, going to hit the nuclear button; we can't trust him. That's the position of Barack Obama right now. As soon as Reagan went into one debate and showed he wasn't a crazy man, in fact, they can trust him, things changed. I think we could be looking at that dynamic.

BARNICLE: Yes, the debates are clearly going to be crucial, just the cosmetics of the debate.

MICHELLE BERNARD: The cosmetics of the debate. I just want to step back for a second, because I think what Barack Obama did today, I thought was fascinating. He was his own anti-Willie Horton ad. He's gone out on the offensive. He's kind of looking at what could be coming down the pike, in terms of 527s, things we've heard people say about Michelle Obama, people talking about his name being Hussein. He did it such a very charismatic way that it can only help him.

By the time we get to the debates, there's going to be a stark contrast, not just in age, but in appearance, in height, in the way that they speak. I think that a lot of members of the American public are going to find it very difficult to only focus on what they're hearing in terms of policy from the candidates, because the two of them look so differently and Barack Obama is a much better speaker than John McCain.

BARNICLE: Except that, back to your point, Michael, the point you just raised. We were talking earlier about the McCain of late `99 and 2000, the McCain of December 2007, and January and February of `08. It's the John McCain that a lot of people, I think, got used to, very attractive, sort of mellowed out, very independent, a lot of people attracted to his candidacy as a result of that. Do you think it's a bit too jarring for the people who do follow these things, average American voters who do follow these things, to see a different John McCain now?

CROWLEY: Yes, absolutely, Mike. I think, you know, when he won New Hampshire in 2000, that was on the strength of independents, who were taken with this guy who seemed to be practicing a new kind of politics. There's some relationship to Obama's new brand of politics. McCain was running a different kind of politics. He seemed to be more honorable and above the typical fray. That just seems to be out the window. I think you have

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to be really troubled when a guy like John Weaver, who is someone who is really close in his orbit, who helped to orchestrate that 2000 primary win New Hampshire, thinks that this isn't the happy warrior. This isn't the John McCain that was so successful in politics, that made his name nationally, that became such a potent force.

It just feels now like much more of a paint by numbers Republican campaign. At a time when the Republican brand, frankly, is in the toilet, I think he's better off going with the formula that worked for him in 2000 than just reprising the old RNC attack ad approach.

BARNICLE: We're going to take a break here in order to do some media bashing when we get back. We'll be back with the round table for more of the politics fix. You're watching HARDBALL, only on MSNBC.

Highlight #4

Bush Talks about SOFA Negotiations, Announces Shorter Tours in Iraq (FNC 07/31/08 8:05am)

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This has been a month of encouraging news from Iraq. Violence is down to its lowest level since the spring of 2004, and we're now in our third consecutive month with reduced violence levels holding steady. General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker caution that the progress is still reversible, but they report that there now appears to be a "degree of durability" to the gains we have made.

A significant reason for this sustained progress is the success of the surge. Another is the increasing capability of the Iraqi forces. Iraqi forces now have 192 combat battalions in the fight -- and more than 110 of these battalions are taking the lead in combat operations against terrorists and extremists.

We saw the capability of those forces earlier this year, when the Iraqi government launched successful military operations against Shia extremist groups in Basra, Amarah, and the Sadr City area of Baghdad. Because of these operations, extremists who once terrorized the citizens of these communities have been driven from their strongholds. As a result, our Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, was able to walk the streets of Sadr City last Wednesday, as something that would not have been possible just a few months ago.

This week, the Iraqi government is launching a new offensive in parts of the Diyala province that contain some of al Qaeda's few remaining safe havens in the country. This operation is Iraqi-led; our forces are playing a supporting role. And in the moments -- in the months ahead, the Iraqis will continue taking the lead in more military operations across the country.

As security in Iraq has improved, the Iraqi government has made political progress as well. The Iraqi Council of Representatives has passed several major pieces of legislation this year, and Iraqi leaders are preparing for provincial elections. And Prime Minister Maliki recently returned from a successful visit to Europe, where he held important diplomatic discussions with Chancellor Merkel, Prime Minister Berlusconi, and His Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.

The progress in Iraq has allowed us to continue our policy of "return on success." We now have brought home all five of the combat brigades and the three Marine units that were sent to Iraq as part of the surge. The last of these surge brigades returned home this month. And later this year, General Petraeus will present me his recommendations on future troop levels -- including further reductions in our combat forces as conditions permit.

As part of the "return on success" policy, we are also reducing the length of combat tours in Iraq. Beginning tomorrow, troops deploying to Iraq will serve 12-month tours instead of 15-month tours. This will ease the burden on our forces -- and it will make life easier for our wonderful military families.

We're also making progress in our discussion with Prime Minister Maliki's government on a strategic framework agreement. This agreement will serve as the foundation for America's presence in Iraq once the United Nations resolution authorizing the multinational forces there expires on December the 31st.

We remain a nation at war. Al Qaeda is on the run in Iraq -- but the terrorists remain dangerous, and they are determined to strike our country and our allies again. In this time of war, America is grateful to all the men and women who have stepped forward to defend us. They understand that we have no greater responsibility than to stop the terrorists before they launch another attack on our homeland. And every day they make great sacrifices to keep the American people safe here at home. We owe our thanks to all those who wear the uniform -- and their families who support them in their vital work. And the best way to honor them is to support their mission -- and bring them home with victory.

Thank you very much.

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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	3/15/2015 9:17:39 AM
Subject:	3.15.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150315 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
March 15, 2015

HRC

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A Young Manager for Clinton Juggles Data and Old Baggage (The New York Times)
By Amy Chozick
March 15, 2015
The New York Times

On MSNBC last week, 70-year-old James Carville denounced the coverage of his old friend Hillary Rodham Clinton's use of a personal email account at the State Department, ticking off two decades' worth of scandals surrounding the Clintons that he attributed to an irresponsible news media.

Mr. Carville complained to the host, Andrea Mitchell, that he had ''lived through this.''

''Do you remember Whitewater?'' he asked. ''Do you remember Filegate? You remember Travelgate? You remember Pardongate? You remember Benghazi?''

Meanwhile, far from the television lights, Robby Mook, the 35-year-old who is likely to manage Mrs. Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, kept his head down and worked the phones from his standing desk to build a field operation in Iowa, set up technology to collect data to target voters and hire a campaign staff in a handful of key states. Mr. Mook was 12 and auditioning for school plays in Vermont when Bill Clinton was first elected president. He was a popular high school freshman when Kenneth W. Starr investigated Whitewater.

The uproar over Mrs. Clinton's use of personal email as secretary of state, which shielded her correspondence from public records requests, has presented the first media firestorm in her pursuit of the White House. But it has also revealed the stark generational divide that confronts her budding 2016 campaign.

Over more than two decades in national politics, the Clintons have amassed an army of well-meaning defenders who will bring to 2016 old battle wounds and axes to grind that date back to the White House and Arkansas -- perhaps not the ideal message in a presumptive campaign that seeks to reintroduce the 67-year-old Mrs. Clinton as a fresh, forward-looking candidate.

It falls largely on Mr. Mook, and the band of young operatives he has assembled (called the Mook Mafia), to move the grievance-laden Clinton machine into the modern political age. The success of Mrs. Clinton's campaign will rest in part on whether this younger generation of earnest, data- and social-media-savvy operatives can prevail.

''They are going to be the first ones to hit the beach on D-Day,'' said Chris Lehane, a Democratic operative and former aide to Mr. Clinton. ''To get the campaign off the beach while under fire, the front-line troops will need to be in charge and empowered to run a modern-day, forward looking, smart campaign.''

The Clintons anointed Mr. Mook as much for his ease with data and technology as for his calm temperament. They value his rare ability to charm and include the abundant advice-givers without allowing them to become too intrusive. Still, asserting himself among so many influential veterans will not be easy.

Even as Mr. Mook was starting to build the infrastructure of the campaign, a crowded circle of advisers joined him in deliberating over how Mrs. Clinton should respond to the email controversy. They included John D. Podesta, her presumptive campaign chairman, who has known the Clintons since George McGovern's presidential campaign in 1972; the former Clinton administration officials Cheryl D. Mills and James E. Kennedy; Huma Abedin, a longtime aide to Mrs. Clinton; and Mandy Grunwald, who has advised the Clintons since 1992.

Ultimately, the strategy they settled on -- having Mrs. Clinton publicly address the controversy on Tuesday -- harked back to the approach used in 1994, when Mrs. Clinton, wearing a blush-colored sweater set, held a lengthy news conference to address the Whitewater inquiry and a 1970s commodities trade in Arkansas. Comparisons quickly erupted. ''Mrs. Clinton is stuck in the '90s,'' declared the conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

The next day, the operation took its first coordinated step toward wrangling the Clintons' old friends and former aides, like Mr. Carville. Mrs. Clinton's 31-year-old press secretary, Nick Merrill, hosted a conference call with about 25 far-flung surrogates to make sure they delivered the same message about the emails.

Part of why Mr. Mook landed the job was that in 2013, as the campaign manager for Terry McAuliffe -- a close friend to Mr. Clinton who is now governor of Virginia -- he deftly nurtured the Clintons' vast network of friends with frequent phone calls, but did not get distracted by the noise and drama that often attaches itself to the couple.

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‘‘Eighty percent of it is people just want to be heard, and Robby was always available,’’ said Tina Flournoy, chief of staff to Mr. Clinton.

He particularly impressed Mr. Clinton, who may be the ultimate strategist of his wife’s 2016 campaign. The former president checked in often about specific districts or counties, but Mr. Mook did not change course based on his influence, said Mr. McAuliffe, who compared him to ‘‘a horse in the Kentucky Derby’’ with blinders on.

‘‘President Clinton loved him, and they had a great relationship,’’ Mr. McAuliffe said in an interview. ‘‘But Robby is happiest when he is in his office with his computers and his data.’’

It helped, of course, that Mr. Mook led that campaign to an unlikely victory after Mr. McAuliffe’s first attempt at the governor’s office flamed out in the 2009 Democratic primary.

Brennan Bilberry, the McAuliffe campaign’s communications director, described Mr. Mook’s approach as ‘‘test everything, question assumptions and let data drive things.’’

Mr. Mook was inducted into the extended Clinton family during the 2008 presidential primary, when he was Mrs. Clinton’s state campaign director in Indiana, Nevada and Ohio: three states that were rare bright spots for Mrs. Clinton in her bruising battle against Barack Obama.

But despite Mr. Mook’s efforts, the campaign did not keep pace with the Obama team’s use of social media, digital targeting and data analytics.

‘‘The Clinton field program was not at the same level of sophistication,’’ said Geoff Garin, who succeeded Mark Penn as Mrs. Clinton’s chief strategist in 2008 and was Mr. McAuliffe’s pollster. ‘‘By the time of the 2013 campaign, Robby was advancing the state of the art rather than trying to catch up with it.’’

That will take some getting used to for the Clintons, who came to power when cellphones seemed state of the art. In her last campaign, Mrs. Clinton tapped Patti Solis Doyle, an aide since 1992, as manager. Ms. Doyle was later ousted, and Maggie Williams, another former White House aide to Mrs. Clinton, took over.

‘‘Maintaining your relationships and doing it well takes work, and it’s a credit to them,’’ Ms. Flournoy said of the Clintons.

The unassuming son of a retired physics professor and hospital administrator, Mr. Mook, who did not respond to messages seeking comment for this article, wears a simple uniform of chinos and a polo shirt. He keeps an exhausted campaign staff energized late nights with his goofy sense of humor, including a killer impersonation of Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Mook joined the McAuliffe campaign directly from his job as executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (‘‘without even taking a day off,’’ Mr. Garin said). He irked some old Clinton operatives by bringing in a mostly new campaign staff to help with Mr. McAuliffe’s second attempt at the governor’s office.

And the group surrounding him has its detractors, who say Mr. Mook has recreated the cliquish atmosphere that prevented fresh voices from penetrating the Clinton orbit in the past.

In November, ABC News reported on leaked messages from an email list operated by Mr. Mook and another young Democratic aide. The sophomoric jokes they contained about Mr. Clinton were not particularly damaging but did raise some concerns about their discretion.

But other episodes suggest a maturity to Mr. Mook. In 2008, after the Obama campaign’s offices in Indiana were vandalized, he reached out to Mitch Stewart, Mr. Obama’s state director, to offer him and his staff the use of the Clinton campaign space. The gesture, and others like it, endeared Mr. Mook not just to the Clintons but also to Obama aides, many of whom have signed on to senior positions under Mrs. Clinton.

Mr. Mook’s experience working for the Clintons leaves him well-positioned to bridge the campaign’s generational gap. ‘‘He’s old from the perspective that he worked for the Clintons in 2008, and new enough that he wasn’t really part of the inner circle of running the campaign,’’ said Thomas R. Nides, a friend and adviser who worked for Mrs. Clinton at the State Department.

No one could have predicted that the first big test of his abilities would come so early, with the email controversy,

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but people close to Mr. Mook say he has blocked out the crisis and is focused on the expected start of the campaign in April.

‘‘He will be, I think, in a Hillary campaign what he was in the McAuliffe campaign,’’ said Ellen Qualls, a Democratic strategist based in Alexandria, Va. ‘‘King of avoiding distractions and shiny objects.’’

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As governor, Bush talked about troops in private e-mail (The Washington Post)
By Ed O'Keefe
March 15, 2015
The Washington Post

Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records.

The e-mails include two series of exchanges involving details of Florida National Guard troop deployments after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the review by The Washington Post found.

Aides to Bush said Saturday that none of the e-mails contained sensitive or classified information, and that many of the events mentioned in them were documented in press accounts, either contemporaneously or later. But security experts say private e-mail systems such as the one used by Bush are more vulnerable to hackers, and that details such as troop movements could be exploited by enemies.

Bush is actively considering a run for president and has sharply criticized likely Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton for her use of a private e-mail account when she served as secretary of state. He called it "baffling" that Clinton didn't consider the potential security risks of discussing diplomatic and national security issues by using an e-mail account not tied to a government server. An unknown number of the e-mails housed on Bush's server were redacted or withheld from public release because they contained sensitive security issues, Bush representatives have said. Communications director Tim Miller said general policy was for Bush to discuss sensitive National Guard issues in person with only occasional briefings by e-mail that "wouldn't contain information that should not be in the public domain."

"This Democrat opposition research dump of a few innocuous e-mails that Gov. Bush voluntarily posted on a Web site only highlights how large the gap is between him and Clinton in the area of transparency," Miller said in a statement.

As governor, Bush used his account, jeb@jeb.org, to conduct official, political and personal business, including plans to woo new businesses to the state, judicial appointments and military matters, the e-mail records show. His e-mail server was housed at the governor's office in Tallahassee during his two terms; he took it with him when he left office in 2007.

He later turned over about 280,000 e-mails for state archives under the requirements of Florida records laws, or about half of the total e-mails on the server.

In one e-mail sent four days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the top general for the Florida Air National Guard told Bush that "we are actively planning sequences in preparation for mobilization orders should they come."

"They have not come at this time," wrote Ronald O. Harrison, who was adjutant general of Florida. "We are pretty good at anticipating the type of forces potentially needed and are prepared to respond to the Presidents call."

"Keep me informed of the mobilization," Bush wrote in reply.

Bush officials noted that many of the deployment orders issued after 9/11 were included in news reports at the time, including some of those mentioned in the Bush e-mails.

In November 2001, Bush and an aide to then-Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan exchanged messages about the deployment of National Guard troops to a nuclear power plant in Crystal River, Fla. The aide wrote Bush that a state lawmaker had called to say she thought "it is imperative that the Crystal River nuclear facility have National Guard security."

Bush wrote back: "Florida power does not want it. We are reducing or getting rid of guard protection in the other plants."

Aides to Bush argue that the nuclear plant discussions were innocuous and mostly public anyway. After the 9/11 attacks, the International Atomic Energy Agency had warned that terrorists might try to attack nuclear power plants.

Bush dispatched Guard troops to protect two South Florida nuclear power plants but not the Crystal River

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facility. The plant's operator, Florida Power Corp., declined the governor's offer of security, according to local news reports at the time.

Aides also say Bush's server was secure because it was kept at the governor's office.

But Johannes Ullrich, a cybersecurity expert who is dean of research at the SANS Technology Institute, said private accounts in general are more susceptible to attacks than government e-mail addresses, particularly attacks in which a hacker establishes a look-alike account that allows them to impersonate as the account holder.

Encryption technology was also far less sophisticated in 2001, he said, which could have made Bush's e-mails particularly insecure while traveling. If hackers gained access to Bush's account, he said, there's a chance they could break into the account of the National Guard commander or other officials with whom Bush exchanged e-mails.

"The bigger issue here is, what else can an attacker do?" Ullrich said. "Now I may be able to penetrate a National Guard commander's laptop by infecting it or by impersonating Jeb Bush's account. . . . Now you may even be able to give the order to remove troops or change deployments."

In recent days, Democrats - reeling from the criticism of Clinton's e-mail practices - have stepped up their critique of Bush on the same topic, arguing that he used his personal e-mail to avoid public scrutiny of his actions as governor.

"The GOP presidential hopeful's attacks on this issue are completely disingenuous, and there are still a litany of questions Republicans need to answer, like what e-mails has Jeb Bush not turned over?" said Holly Shulman, a spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee.

Bush rebuffed such criticism during an event in New Hampshire on Friday. "I'm not surprised that the Clinton operatives would suggest this. It's kind of standard operating procedure," he told reporters, referring to Democratic charges that his e-mail situation was no different than Clinton's.

He added later that he was "totally transparent. I have a BlackBerry as part of my official portrait, for crying out loud. There was nothing to hide."

Under Florida law, Bush was required to hand over e-mails related to his time in office. Bush aides say there were about 550,000 e-mails on Bush's server when he left office in 2007, although a portion of those came from before he began his tenure. About half that number were eventually turned over to state archives.

As noted Saturday by the New York Times, the archive process continued until last May, when attorneys for Bush delivered 25,000 additional messages. Aides have defended the pace of Bush's compliance, saying that it took seven years because of his volume of correspondence.

In February, Bush launched a Web site, JebBushEmails.com, telling visitors that "they're all here so you can read them and make up your own mind."

Bush's aides have strongly defended the process used to release his messages, noting that other potential GOP presidential candidates haven't released any e-mails or are having e-mails released only as part of ongoing government investigations. The list includes former Texas governor Rick Perry; Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal; Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker; and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Perry and Jindal have used private e-mail for government business, according to the Associated Press. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley (D) - who is also weighing a presidential bid - said last week that he used a private Gmail account as governor to communicate with aides and Cabinet officials.

When Bush published his e-mails in February, aides said many messages would be withheld or redacted to comply with state law barring the release of messages including Social Security numbers, confidential business issues or law enforcement and other security matters. Some of thepublished e-mails initially included Social Security numbers, forcing Bush's team to quickly redact them - an early stumble for the governor's fledgling presidential efforts.

A spokeswoman for the Florida secretary of state's office did not return a request for comment Saturday to explain why some e-mails were released and others withheld, saying any answer would require a fuller legal interpretation that wouldn't be available until next week.

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Bush's archives include a handful of other messages from leaders of Florida's National Guard. There are copies of the "Florida National Guard Activity Report" from August 2000 and December 2000, with information about troop deployments to the Caribbean, South Korea and Kuwait; the activation of units; and details on training exercises and drug seizures.

In October 2000, Harrison e-mailed Bush to remind him that 170 Florida Air National Guardsmen from Jacksonville would be deploying to Saudi Arabia to enforce the southern Iraq no-fly zone. The message said they would "coincidentally travel over with a group of 90 from the Texas Air National Guard" - a unit that was under the command of Bush's brother, George W. Bush, who was then Texas governor.

The next month, a lieutenant commander with one of the deployed units e-mailed Jeb Bush to thank him for sending a message of support, noting that "our unit has played a key role in missions directly related" to ongoing tensions between Iraq and Israel.. The officer added that "you can assure your brother the F-15s from your state could take the F-16s from his state!"

Immediately after news broke March 2 about Clinton's use of a private server, Bush faulted her for not releasing her e-mails from her time as secretary of state, writing on Twitter that "Transparency matters." He later raised concerns about Clinton's decision during an interview with Radio Iowa.

"For security purposes, you need to be behind a firewall that recognizes the world for what it is, and it's a dangerous world, and security would mean that you couldn't have a private server," he said. "It's a little baffling, to be honest with you, that didn't come up in Secretary Clinton's thought process."

On Friday night, after a meeting with potential supporters, Bush was asked to respond to criticism that he, like Clinton, was allowed to self-select which e-mails should be turned over for archiving.

"I was way too busy to decide," Bush said, before clarifying that his general counsel was among those involved in selecting which e-mails to turn over.

"It was a process that was based on the law itself, and we complied with the law and all during this time we've complied with the law, even in my post-governorship," he said.

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President Obama jokes about Clinton's emails, Scott Walker and marijuana at Gridiron Club dinner (Washington Post)
By Ben Terris; Roxanne Roberts
March 15, 2015
Washington Post

Nine years after he made his Gridiron Club dinner debut as a fresh-faced young senator, President Obama took the podium again Saturday night, sounding wistful about the passage of time.

"Just a few years ago I could never imagine being in my 50s," he mused. "And when it comes to my approval ratings, I still can't."

No, seriously, folks. Remember, he told the white-tie crowd of elite journalists, when he was considered the tech-savvy hipster in the executive mansion? But now, "Hillary has a server in her house!" he exclaimed. "I didn't even know you could have one of those. I am so far behind."

Only in Washington does this scene not necessarily strike people as strange: Hundreds of reporters hobnobbing with the government officials they normally cover in an evening of fine dining and parody songs that make Weird Al Yankovic seem hip. Oh, and even though it's an event thrown by a group of journalists, guests are told not to spoil the fun by publishing anything.

But that's the Gridiron Club's annual dinner, a tradition of goofy skits, silly songs and music by the United States Marine Band that has remained virtually unchanged since 1885.The night, at its core, is unabashedly sentimental — the main objective is to promote "good fellowship."

The president — speaking at the dinner for a third time as president, fourth time overall — told the room that Democrats had determined they needed to do better with older white voters.

"Which is why I'm here," he said. He noted that if the crowd laughed at his jokes more than the last time he was around in 2013 there might be a reason for it.

"I'm not saying I'm any funnier," he said. "I'm saying weed is now legal in D.C."

[From 2013: President Obama at elite Gridiron Club jokes about sequester, Biden, Rubio]

The dinner is a love letter to a Washington that never really existed — a romanticized place where politicians, despite all the squabbling, share an abiding respect for each other, the press and the political process. If it was ever true, it's certainly not now — but it's must be nice to pretend for a few hours.

Why is this night different from all other nights? Because on this night, when Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker makes a joke about Hillary Clinton, it's not part of a future negative ad campaign.

"I really do have a lot of close friends who are Democrats," said Walker, serving as the official Republican speaker for the evening. " I even have Hillary's private email. . . It's HillaryClinton@Wallstreet.com . You know the best part of that joke, Elizabeth Warren wrote it for me."

Big laughs all around, even though soon enough half the room will be out to get him. And it didn't take long for someone to get retribution. But only jokingly of course.

"I'm sure Governor Walker has some really neat accomplishments," said Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe. "I mean, it's literally been years since his own constituents tried to recall him."

Obama got in on the Walker bashing a little too, but made sure to poke fun of himself in the process.

"[Walker] punted on the question of evolution, which I do think is a problem," Obama said. "I absolutely believe in the theory of evolution — when it comes to gay marriage."

With a guest list of 650 — a fraction the size of the much-hyped White House Correspondents' Association dinner — Gridiron is arguably a far more coveted ticket within Beltway circles. Gridiron is also the most insular of the city's press dinners. None of the speakers have to play to C-SPAN or CNN cameras, so they keep it for Washington, by Washington, with insider jokes designed for VIP political junkies who breathlessly parse every off-hand aside for hidden meaning.

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And if that's not you? Well, at least. . . .

"This is great people watching," said Aneta Bazzie, a visitor here for an unrelated event — a conference of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials — as the crowd of famous-for-Washington types, dressed to the nines, paraded past her into the Washington Renaissance Hotel.

"Who's that?" her friend Susan Gillette asked, pointing at Andrea Mitchell in a sparkling ball gown.

"Who's that?" Bazzie asked about political scion/MSNBC personality Abby Huntsman. "You should write down she is wearing a nice dress."

"Who's that?" Gillette asked about Democratic ad maker Mark Putnam, and then about former Senator Ben Nelson, and then about Valerie Jarrett.

"Oh I know you!" Bazzie says running up to Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, and pointing to her sweatshirt bearing the name of their shared home state. "We're from West Virginia." All politics is local.

It was Obama's third appearance at Gridiron since becoming president; he originally seemed to avoid such Beltway traditions but seems to have raised his tolerance for them.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest broke away from a conversation with Politico reporter Mike Allen to head into the dinner. "It'll be all right," he predicted. "Everything's in better form when the president's here."

He was joined by an array of guests that included Cabinet members, congressmen, diplomats; baseball legend Hank Aaron;, TV news personalities Wolf Blitzer, Gayle King and Chris Matthews; and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"I'm just going to sit quietly and hope the president doesn't notice me," said possible Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson. He was on his way to change into his tux in the gym, when the hotel's general manager spotted him and gave him a free room for the evening.

Not at the dinner: Supposed 2016 frontrunners Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton. (Walker joked that the Gridiron Club "couldn't afford her.")

But oh, she was present in spirit. The controversy over Clinton's private email account is exactly the kind of personality-driven saga that Gridiron loves to mock in its ever-corny song skits. To the tune of Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off," naturally:

Oh the muckrackers'll rake, rake, rake, rake, rake

Harvard law professors' bleeding hearts will ache

Don't need you so I'll take, take, take, take, take

Take you out, take you out.

Or at least that's what we're told they did. One of the many peculiarities of the event is that the 65 members of Gridiron represent some of the most influential editors and political reporters in the nation's capital — and yet the dinner is closed to the press who would cover it. Which means this story, as always, is cobbled together from a viewing of the dress rehearsal, glimpses of the script, transcripts from helpful staffers and the damp cocktail-napkin scribblings of sympathetic guests.

The skits are a mixture of hokey and slick, the journalists dressed in elaborate costumes but often bolstered by strong-voiced ringers for the song parodies. There were male reporters playing Colombian prostitutes in a Secret Service skit. There were puns and bad jokes but nothing damning: The same reporters who appear on Sunday morning talk shows decrying the letter GOP senators sent to Iran had nothing to say about it on stage.

That fell to the president. "You don't diminish your office by taking a selfie," he said. "You do it by sending a poorly written letter to Iran. Really. That wasn't a joke."

The humor can be broad. There was a skit portraying the massive field of Republican presidential aspirants, all dressed in marathon garb: Rick Perry was portrayed as a dunce, Ben Carson insane, Rand Paul an overreaching know-it-all, Scott Walker a drop-out, Rick Santorum an egomaniac, Mike Huckabee an opportunist,

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and Jeb Bush as a guy saddled with an unfortunate moniker (sung to the Wizard of Oz's "If I Only Had a Brain"):

"No matter what a man inherits

You should judge him on the merits

Not his much too famous name

Just because he's presumin'

That he could be a new man

If he had another name."

And the Koch brothers were portrayed as ultimate king makers (to the classic Coke commercial tune):

"We'd like to buy the world for Koch

There's a billion we will spend

We pay to play in the USA

So freedom doesn't end."

The midterm shellacking of the Democrats was mocked with Johnny Cash's "I've Been Everywhere":

"We lost everywhere, man

We lost everywhere, man

Not just out Senate lair, man

We did not have a prayer, man

We're in need of some repair, man

We lost everywhere."

Are you beginning to get the picture? There were nods to Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, gay marriage, the Secret Service and McAuliffe, who was called "most ambitious man alive" in a song poking his quest for higher office (to Fleetwood Mac's "Don't Stop"):

"Don't stop thinking about McAuliffe

He'd stop at nothing to win

His whole life, American dream

National race his ultimate scheme."

But as any politician will tell you, it's better to be mocked than ignored. (Oddly, no mention of Marco Rubio, despite what looks like a serious campaign ramp-up. And Bobby Jindal? We hardly knew ye.) There was, as always, a toast to the president and the entire room linking arms and singing "Auld Lang Syne." A fantasy, like Cinderella's, that always ends by midnight.

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President Obama jokes about Peril, promise of Clinton candidacy both on display lately (Associated Press)
By Nancy Benac
March 15, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — All the peril and promise of Hillary Rodham Clinton's expected presidential campaign played out in high relief this past week.

In one hour, really.

There she was, in her element, enjoying a hero's welcome at a U.N. conference on women. Cellphone cameras snapped away as she spoke with passion of women's rights as the "great unfinished business of the 21st century."

And there she was, a half-hour later, in her own personal hell just down the hall, carefully fending off questions from reporters asking about secrecy, ethics and whether she had played by the rules as secretary of state in using a private email account and server.

"I fully complied with every rule that I was governed by," she insisted without apology, in a deja vu moment that revived memories of all too many Clinton dramas past.

The back-to-back events showcased the past vs. future tug of war that could be a prominent dynamic of Clinton's campaign: the years of accumulated baggage versus the historic prospect of electing the first woman president.

For better or worse, Clinton has a long history with voters — two decades of triumph and travail related to her time as first lady, senator, failed presidential candidate and secretary of state.

In all its incarnations, the Bill-and-Hillary show has had more than its share of theatrics. While younger voters missed much of the show — Whitewater, travelgate, Monica Lewinsky and much more — the past looms large in Clinton's profile.

But Clinton's candidacy also dangles the making of history, the ultimate fulfillment of that "great unfinished business" for women of which she spoke at the U.N.

The mostly female audience at the conference was practically giddy to be in Clinton's presence and burst into applause when her introducer mentioned the presence of "a future president" in the room.

Clinton does not discourage such talk.

At a forum with Democratic women earlier in the month, she looked out over those in the crowd and asked if they hoped to see more women run for offices such as school board, governor, mayor, member of Congress.

"I suppose it's only fair to say," she added coyly, "don't you someday want to see a woman president?"

Clinton had hoped to spend much of March promoting her work on women's issues. But that theme largely has been overshadowed by the email controversy and questions about the propriety of the Clinton Foundation accepting foreign contributions when she was secretary of state and after she left the Obama administration.

At 67, it will be a challenge for her to give off the "new car smell" that President Barack Obama once famously said American voters want.

Republican pollster David Winston said the idea of a female president holds obvious appeal but can only be taken so far.

"It gives her an opportunity to be listened to that will be helpful to her," says Winston, "but she's got to do something with that opportunity."

Likewise, the idea of the first black president was a powerful part of Obama's winning 2008 campaign but had limited impact in the end.

In exit polls, just 9 percent of 2008 voters said race was an important factor in their choice for president.

Andy Kohut, founding director of the Pew Research Center, said the Clintons — and they are largely viewed as a

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package deal — offer both dynamism and the risk of “Clinton fatigue,” from all the years of charges and allegations.

“There are so many parts to the puzzle,” he said. “They’re complicated people.”

If the past few weeks have proved anything, it’s that it will be challenging for Hillary Clinton to steer the conversation around all that and in a forward-looking direction.

“The thing about having baggage is that it’s something you always have to manage,” Winston says. “What she’s got to do, and she obviously struggled with it this week, is how do you manage it in such a way that it allows you to say the things you want to say?”

Clinton is expected to announce her candidacy within the next month. Aides think she will be able to more nimbly respond to controversies once she has a full campaign apparatus in place.

At the U.N., before giving her response to the email controversy, Clinton took a moment to speak to reporters about gender equity and tell them that despite progress, “when it comes to the full participation of women and girls, we’re just not there yet.”

If it takes her own presidency to lead the way, she had to be thinking, all the better.

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Hillary's meritocracy problem: The GOP will paint her as an elitist — and the right can make that charge stick (Salon)
By Bill Curry
March 15, 2015
Salon

Things were looking bleak for Walter Mondale on the 1984 day I dropped in on one of his top aides to critique his performance. The brilliant Paul Tully listened to this politically-minded nuclear freeze activist for as long as he could bear, then slammed his fist on his desk so hard the drawers rattled "Bill!" he screamed at me. "I can change everything but the candidate!"

Many Democrats this week are hoping Tully is wrong and that an experienced politician of deeply ingrained habits might change, either on her own or with some outside help. The debate over Hillary Clinton's email is also a debate about every concern Democrats harbor about their frontrunner. The way the questions have been posed — can she change? must she change — means they never go anywhere.

As framed by a facile media and D.C. political class, these questions are about as useful as the endless chatter before a Super Bowl about whether a quarterback or coach needs "to the win the big one" in order to "secure his legacy." So much of the talk is cosmetic. Some say that Hillary needs to adjust her personality: She must take criticism better, accept more responsibility, smile at the press. Others talk horserace, believing that a real campaign structure, the right consultant or an open-for-business Clinton war room will stem the attacks.

Few mention any need to change *policy* – for example, her faith on global capitalism, or her fondness for military intervention. And for all the talk of Hillaryworld dysfunction, no one challenges her campaign's basic model of mortgaging itself to the status quo to raise the billion dollars it costs to gather the demographics and pay the consultants to craft the empty ads it takes to win.

Hillary's most avid fans say she doesn't have to change a thing. Her spin is that all's well. The race hasn't started yet. Voters aren't paying attention; those who are don't care; those who care are Fox News voters she wouldn't win over anyway. This is a tempest in a Tea Party, a tiny flame lit by the far right and fanned by a Clinton-hating news media. She did nothing illegal or wrong. There was no real issue — and if there was one, the steps she took to address it were more than adequate. Case closed.

Polls support her on that. A Pew survey this week found just 17 percent of respondents followed the email story closely. Most were old—just 4 percent of the under-30 crowd said they were interested—and set in their ways. Forty-four percent of conservative Republicans were apparently glued to their screens. In other polls Hillary's support held steady.

But we take all polls too literally. It's hard to capture a softening of resolve or the emergence of doubt in a survey. The problem for Hillary is that her issues run deeper than this.

The week before the email story broke Hillary pocketed $300,000 for a Silicon Valley speech she gave to "women in technology." Her campaign—no matter what the pundits say, and however she may pay for it, she has one—spun it as a preview of her 2016 'message.' If so, she has a mountain of work to do. A month after the president struck a new and widely applauded populist chord in his State of the Union, Clinton managed to sound like the old consensus-seeking Obama. She actually vowed to restore bipartisanship in words so corny it hurt to hear them: "I'd like to bring people from right, left, red, blue, get them into a nice warm purple space where everybody is talking and where we're actually trying to solve problems."

She recited the usual Democratic economic litany but took care not to offend the odd technology billionaire who might be listening. Given the venue, one might expect as much, but weeks later she offered up the same riff, worse actually, at an Emily's List gala where she called for a "new participation age" and for America to "help more people start small businesses and invest in the…entrepreneurs that will create the new jobs of tomorrow." Also, Hillary said she'd cut "red tape."

The Emily's List audience was worshipful and Hillary tried her hardest to be more spontaneous and "real." That meant two lame pantsuit jokes, another about her hair and one about the color of that Internet dress. Talking about Sen. Barbara Mikulski she said, "We have to work out macro issues and also macaroni and cheese issues … for hardworking families they're one and the same." Listening to it all a second time, I felt bad for her.

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Her worst performance was the 20-minute press conference she held at the U.N. to take a very few, selected questions about her emails. It was a strange venue for lots of reasons, not least among them that she has still to explain her 2009 order to U.S. diplomats to spy on other diplomats, including U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. You'd think it the wrong place to plead the right to privacy. Her team bet it was the right place to cut short a media availability and they bet right.

The event has been criticized for everything from how long she waited to hold it to how quickly it unraveled and even its crazily discordant Guernica backdrop. Two of the criticisms matter. The first is that in delivering a masterpiece of syntactical elusion Clinton never conceded making a mistake of any kind. The second is that she seemed to think none of the issues raised had any validity.

She's wrong. The issues raised are not only valid but vital. Both our right to privacy and our right to know what our government does in our name are under assault. Politicians of both parties promise to safeguard and even expand these rights, but with each passing year our government knows more about us and we know less about it. At stake is our very autonomy as persons and as citizens.

The issue of transparency looms largest in matters of foreign and defense policy. The harm done our nation and the world under cloak of state secrecy is beyond measure. What we do in the open makes us proud; from the Marshall Plan and the Berlin airlift to the Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps. It's what we do in secret that shames us, whether overthrowing and assassinating elected leaders in Guatemala, Congo and Iran to condoning mass bribery and spying on our own allies. The way to fix American foreign policy is to take it public. If we've learned anything in the last week it's that Hillary doesn't understand or believe that.

When Clinton does what no other cabinet officer dared do and then offers an excuse as flimsy and annoying as her convenience, she plays into an image that could be her undoing. It's not the shadowy, secretive Clinton narrative the media loves to push. It's the true story of the new American oligarchs who play by separate rules; who live privileged lives to which they feel entitled and who condescend to the less educated and prosperous whose expressions of democratic will they trust far less than their own expert knowledge.

Making charges of elitism stick is what Republicans do best. Think about it. Three times they were able to persuade voters that some poor Democratic sap—first Michael Dukakis, then Al Gore, then John Kerry–was more elitist *than the Bushes.* It didn't help that Dukakis was buttoned down, that Gore was stiff or that Kerry spent a lifetime cultivating the very accent the Bushes worked so hard to shed, but Republicans are good at this. Hillary reminds us of the flaws of her 2008 campaign but also of the ghosts of every losing Democratic presidential candidate of the last 30 years.

It isn't just the Republicans' flair for dividing us that makes this such a problem. America struggles under a failed meritocracy. Jefferson dreamed of a meritocracy — but not one that flocked to Wall Street or that took more than it gave. Nor did he dream of a country that rewarded its elites so richly that integrity and hard work would no longer ensure a decent life for everyone else.

Hillary knows how to give a populist-sounding speech. In 2008 she died two political deaths before her resurrection as an economic populist, of all things. She'd do well to recall that from then on she outpolled Obama by 400,000 votes. If she'd run that way from the start, she'd have likely won. This time she can't afford even one political death. If she falters in a primary, she's toast.

Clinton can't truly change her message or even her style without changing her policies and the very business model of her campaign. Can she do it? This much seems clear: In a political vacuum, she won't even try. If she's not challenged, she'll see no real reason for it. And if no real primary competition emerges, it will be up to progressives to apply the necessary pressure. We need to establish our own bottom line, to galvanize a strong movement to support it, and not back down.

All who would protect Clinton from such competition do her no favors — and the country a great disservice.

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Hillary Clinton Spokesman: We Did Read Each Email (The Wall Street Journal)
By Laura Meckler
March 15, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

Hillary Clinton has taken a lot of hits over her decision to exclusively use a personal email account for her work as secretary of state. Among them: that in deciding which of the emails to turn over to the State Department, and which to withhold, nobody opened and read each email.

That was the conclusion that some reporters and experts drew from a nine-page fact sheet from Mrs. Clinton's office, which lays out the process she used in detail. Nowhere in that description does it say that the emails were individually reviewed. Rather, it describes a series of searches—using keywords and the names of public officials, for instance—used to figure out which emails were related to her work.

Now a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton says that in fact, each email was individually reviewed.

"Every email was reviewed," spokesman Nick Merrill said in an email. In an attempt to clear up any confusion, he added: "What was in the fact sheet were examples of techniques used by the reviewers to double and triple check they were capturing everything. This was NOT in lieu of reading them all, was in ADDITION to reading them all. We did not mean to imply otherwise."

There has, in fact, been confusion on this point, because the fact sheet made no mention of anyone reading the emails. Several publications wrote pieces saying that nobody in Mrs. Clinton's team read through all the emails. Some argued that it was easy to imagine emails relevant to Mrs. Clinton's official duties that could remain uncaptured by searching on names and keywords.

Federal law puts the responsibility on individuals to decide which of their documents are federal records that must be preserved. Mrs. Clinton's office said that in making decisions, she erred "on the side of including anything that might potentially be a federal record."
The Clinton fact sheet laid out the process in some detail. It said she began with 62,320 emails during the four years she was in office and said Mrs. Clinton asked her attorneys to sort through the account and figure out what needed to be turned over to the State Department after officials there requested the emails last year.

The fact sheet said that first, her attorneys pulled out those that had a government email address in any address field. That yielded 27,500 emails, which were designated official communications.

Then, searching among the other emails, Mrs. Clinton's lawyers looked for names of government and other officials, including close aides. They also sorted addresses by sender and recipient to look for email addresses that weren't obviously official.

Finally, they did a keyword search of the emails without government addresses, using terms such as "Benghazi" and "Libya," which presumably would have retrieved any emails about the attack on the diplomatic post there. Through those additional steps, the attorneys found 2,900 additional emails that were considered official.

It didn't mention an email-by-email review.

Some experts interviewed by the Wall Street Journal found the approach described in the fact sheet—which didn't mention reading every email—acceptable. Others found it lacking.

Jason R. Baron, former director of litigation at the National Archives, said the method described by the Clinton fact sheet wasn't robust enough to guarantee that official emails were retained, and her team should have reviewed all emails individually.

"You would have to do a line-by-line review to see if any sentence was related to government business," said Mr. Baron, who is now an attorney at Drinker Biddle & Reath. "If any portion of the document is related to government business, then it's a federal record."

By contrast, Jan Baran, an elections and ethics attorney who represents Republicans, said Mrs. Clinton's approach appeared to be reasonable, presuming her team included all emails produced by their searches.

"That is a reasonable standard approach to finding documents," he said. He said it isn't customary to read each

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email individually.

In the end, Mrs. Clinton gave the State Department copies of 30,490 emails last year, and she determined that 31,830 other emails were personal. She said she “chose not to keep” the personal messages, implying they were deleted.

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A timeline of Hillary Clinton's e-mail saga (The Washington Post)
By Glenn Kessler
March 15, 2015
The Washington Post

"When I got to work as secretary of state, I opted for convenience to use my personal e-mail account, which was allowed by the State Department, because I thought it would be easier to carry just one device for my work and for my personal e-mails instead of two."

- Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 10, 2015

Given the interest in Clinton's e-mail arrangements as secretary, as a reader service, the Fact Checker has compiled an extensive timeline concerning government rules and regulations on the use of private e-mail accounts and her actions.

The timeline shows that before she became secretary, the State Department made clear that certain e-mail records should be retained and that official communication systems were preferred.

During Clinton's term as secretary, regulations were tightened concerning the preservation of e-mail records, and concerns were raised about the use of personal e-mail accounts for official business. But the legal requirement to immediately preserve e-mails from nongovernment e-mail accounts was not made mandatory until nearly two years after she stepped down.

1950: President Truman signs into law the Federal Records Act, which establishes the records-management responsibilities of government officials.

Oct. 30, 1995: The State Department Foreign Affairs manual is updated to reflect the emergence of something called "electronic mail." The manual notes: "All employees must be aware that some of the variety of the messages being exchanged on E-mail are important to the Department and must be preserved; such messages are considered Federal records under the law."

The manual then described how to determine which e-mails are such federal records, giving as examples: "Records that document the formulation and execution of basic policies and decisions and the taking of necessary actions; records that document important meetings; records that facilitate action by agency officials and their successors in office."

The manual also says that it is up to officials themselves to determine which e-mails should be considered federal records: "E-mail message creators and recipients must decide whether a particular message is appropriate for preservation."

Nov. 4, 2005: The State Department updates the Foreign Affairs manual to state that "sensitive but unclassified" information should not be transmitted through personal e-mail accounts. "It is the Department's general policy that normal day-to-day operations be conducted on an authorized AIS [Automated Information System], which has the proper level of security control to provide nonrepudiation, authentication and encryption, to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the resident information," the manual says.

Jan. 13, 2009: Clintonemail.com domain name is registered to a person named Justin Cooper, a senior adviser to former president Bill Clinton. (He then signs it over to a company called Perfect Privacy LLC, which offers private domain registration.) Hillary Clinton begins her confirmation hearings the same day.

Jan. 21, 2009: The Senate confirms Clinton as secretary of state.

Oct. 2, 2009: The U.S. Code of federal regulations on handling electronic records is updated: "Agencies that allow employees to send and receive official electronic mail messages using a system not operated by the agency must ensure that Federal records sent or received on such systems are preserved in the appropriate agency recordkeeping system." The responsibility for making and preserving the records is assigned to "the head of each federal agency."

June 29, 2011: A State Department cable to employees is issued under Clinton's signature (as are all cables) after Google revealed that hackers were targeting the personal e-mail accounts of U.S. government employees. The cable warns: "Avoid conducting official Department business from your personal e-mail accounts."

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August 2012: The State Department inspector general issues a scathing report on the performance of U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Scott Gration that includes criticism of the fact that he used a private e-mail account to handle “sensitive but unclassified” material. Gration is later fired.

“The Ambassador’s requirements for use of commercial e-mail in the office and his flouting of direct instructions to adhere to Department policy have placed the information management staff in a conundrum: balancing the desire to be responsive to their mission leader and the need to adhere to Department regulations and government information security standards,” the IG report said.

Feb. 1, 2013: Clinton steps down as secretary of state.

March 15, 2013: Clinton’s private e-mail account is first exposed after a hacker named “Guccifer” accessed the account of former Bill Clinton aide Sidney Blumenthal. The hack shows that Clinton communicated with Blumenthal using the private e-mail account of hdr22@clintonemail.com, and Guccifer published a screen grab of their exchanges showing that the two discussed a number of sensitive foreign policy issues.

The leak attracted little attention at the time, though an article in Gawker asked, “Why was Clinton apparently receiving e-mails at a non-governmental e-mail account?” John Cook, the author, added: “Neither the State Department nor the White House would immediately comment on whether the White House knew that Blumenthal was digitally whispering in Clinton’s ear, or if the e-mails were preserved as the law requires.”

Cook in 2015 said that Gawker filed a Freedom of Information request for copies of the e-mails, citing the specific e-mail address, but was told by State no records existed.

Sept. 9, 2013: The National Archives updates regulations on the handling of e-mails and federal records: “While agency employees should not generally use personal e-mail accounts to conduct official agency business, there may be times when agencies authorize the use of personal e-mail accounts, such as in emergency situations when Federal accounts are not accessible or when an employee is initially contacted through a personal account.”

Summer 2014: State Department officials responding to a request for documents from the House Select Committee on Benghazi realize there are no records to or from an official State Department e-mail account for Clinton.

Nov. 14, 2014: President Obama signs an update of the 1950 Presidential and Federal Records Act. The law expanded the definition of “federal records” to specifically include electronic communications. The law also clarified the responsibilities of federal government officials when they use nongovernment e-mail systems, which includes copying an official record or forwarding a complete copy of the e-mail within 20 days of transmission.

December 2014: In response to a request from the State Department, Clinton provides 50,000 pages of printed e-mails. The Department provides 900 pages related to Benghazi to the House committee in February.

March 4, 2015: Clinton tweets: “I want the public to see my email. I have asked State to release them. They said they will review them for release as soon as possible.”

March 10, 2015: Clinton tells reporters that she set up the system because she did not want to carry two devices - one for work e-mail and one for personal e-mail. She says she turned more than 30,490 work-related e-mails over to the State Department and deleted 31,830 e-mails that she deemed to be personal.

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State Dept. email archiving process puts Clinton on the spot (CNN)
By Kevin Bohn
March 14, 2015
CNN

The State Department only last month started automatically preserving dozens of high-level officials' emails, according to a department spokeswoman, a revelation that comes amid the controversy surrounding former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's own email use.

This is key because Clinton, in her news conference on Tuesday to answer questions about why she exclusively used a private email address to communicate during her tenure, told reporters she'd thought her communications to senior department officials were always saved. That's an important point, given legal requirements for preserving federal records.

"In meeting the record-keeping obligations, it was my practice to email government officials on their State or dot-gov accounts so that the emails were immediately captured and preserved," she said.

The news about the State Department's archiving practices -- and the change that started in February -- could refuel the furor of Republicans over Clinton's choice to not use her government email account, to have a private server in her family home house her emails, and to decide (with her staff) which emails to delete and which to turn over to the State Department for review.

Rep. Susan Brooks, a member of the select committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi attack, said in the Republicans' weekly media address Saturday, "You see, right now there is no way for us to know whether we have all of the State Department communications that rightfully belong to the American people."

"The only way to truly know is by having access to Secretary Clinton's personal server," the Indiana Republican added. "We are asking Secretary Clinton to turn her server over to a neutral, third-party arbiter. After a complete inventory, this arbiter can make a determination as to which emails should be public and which should remain private. These decisions would be completely impartial and independent."

So far, Brooks' committee had gotten just under 300 of Clinton's emails from the State Department.

Last year, as it was trying to update its records, the State Department asked former secretaries of state for nonpersonal emails from their personal accounts that could be work-related.

That request prompted Clinton to turn over 30,490 emails -- about 55,000 pages. Clinton has asked for those emails to be made public, and department officials are reviewing them to make sure no sensitive information is released.

Clinton's office had said her account contained 62,320 sent and received emails from March 2009 to February 2013.

"About half were personal that were not in any way related to work. I had no reason to save them," Clinton said at her press conference.

The fact that all emails from senior officials weren't automatically saved until recently doesn't mean they are gone, according to the State Department.

"I wouldn't state it's lost to history, because there are always -- there are technical means of gaining access to past information," spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Friday.

At the same time, Psaki said the State Department chose to change its approach -- by automatically saving all emails -- "because it's an imperfect system."

"This is a more efficient and better way," she said of the new system. "But, obviously, there were ways to preserve (emails), and employees and individuals were expected to do that prior to this new process."

Separately, Psaki said that a letter was recently sent to former State Department staffers asking for their help in the preservation effort.

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“If they should become aware ... of federal record in their possession -- such as an email sent or received on a personal email account while (they were) serving in their official capacity at the Department -- that ... record (should) be made available to the Department,” Psaki said the ex-staffers were told.

Even before last month’s chance, emails of current Secretary of State John Kerry, who uses a government address, were already being saved automatically.

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GOP to Clinton: Hand over your email server (CBS News)
By Reena Flores
March 14, 2015
CBS News

Republicans are casting a wider net in their investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email address during her time as secretary of state.

In the GOP's weekly address Saturday, Indiana Rep. Susan Brooks, who is a member of the House Select Committee in charge of scrutinizing the events leading up to the 2012 attack on a U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, is calling for Clinton to pass on the actual email server that hosted her private address, rather than just copies of the relevant electronic messages.

"Right now there is no way for us to know whether we have all of the State Department communications that rightfully belong to the American people. The only way to truly know is by having access to Secretary Clinton's personal server," Brooks said in a new video. "That is why we are asking Secretary Clinton to turn her server over to a neutral, third-party arbiter."

Citing the need for the surveyor to be "completely impartial and independent," Brooks also called on a third party to sift through the thousands of pages accumulated over Clinton's tenure in President Obama's Cabinet.

"After a complete inventory, this arbiter can make a determination as to which emails should be public and which should remain private," the Indiana congresswoman said. "By handing her server over to a neutral, third-party arbiter, Secretary Clinton can help us move forward with figuring out what happened to our people."

What this "independent" arbiter might look like is still anyone's guess. While South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy, who chairs the House Select Committee, and Sen. Lindsey Graham have said they've lost confidence in the State Department to make determinations about what should be made public, no formal steps have been announced for another lawyer or federal judge to handle the matter.

A neutral third-party is not entirely unheard of, but the appearance of politicizing the results could be detrimental to the integrity of the investigation itself.

The House Select Committee issued a subpoena for Clinton's emails last week following the original email revelations. The subpoena asked for "all communications of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton related to Libya and to the State Department for other individuals who have information pertinent to the investigation," according to a committee statement.

"There are gaps of months and months and months," Gowdy said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," unsatisfied with the emails his committee has received.

The subpoena drew the wrath of several Democrats on the Benghazi committee, who called the move "completely unnecessary and unfounded."

"You rushed to issue a unilateral subpoena to Secretary Clinton with no debate, no vote and no deliberation whatsoever by committee members," a letter from committee Democrats to Gowdy read.

House Democrats' quick defense of Clinton assured Gowdy that the former secretary was in full cooperation with the federal standards existing at the time.

But conservative groups are not the only ones seeking this information. Though Mr. Obama has staunchly defended Clinton's record as a Cabinet member, veterans of the Democratic Party like California Sen. Dianne Feinstein have deemed Clinton's secrecy on the matter damaging to a potential 2016 run for the White House.

"From this point on ... the silence is going to hurt her," Feinstein said last week. "She is the leading candidate, whether it be Republican or Democrat, to be the next president."

The Associated Press is additionally suing the State Department over the email controversy. The news agency filed a lawsuit last week in an attempt to force the release of Clinton's email correspondence, after repeated attempts to secure that information from numerous failed U.S. Freedom of Information Act requests.

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In the meantime, the State Department's own review of Clinton's emails is only in the first phases of an appraisal that could take "several months."

Despite the directives from Clinton to the State Department instructing a release of unclassified information, Republicans aren't wavering in their criticism of the former first lady.

"It was not out of a sense of transparency that she acted," Brooks charged in her address. "It was our select committee's oversight that compelled Secretary Clinton to hand over some of her e-mails."

Mr. Obama, in his own address this week, urged the nation to support a new "Student Aid Bill of Rights."

"It's a simple declaration of values - what I call a Student Aid Bill of Rights," the president said in a video. "It says that every student deserves access to a quality, affordable education. Every student should be able to access the resources to pay for college. Every borrower has the right to an affordable repayment plan. And every borrower has the right to quality customer service, reliable information and fair treatment, even if they struggle to repay their loans."

The president, who used a visit to Georgia Tech earlier this week to speak on the need for higher education accessibility, also asked Americans to sign a declaration stating those principles of affordable schooling and reasonable loan plans.

The nation's chief executive asserted his own steadfast support of higher education and also said that he would take the issue to members of Congress, as well as to leaders in the private sector.

"Making sure that students aren't saddled with debt before they even get started in life is in all our interests," the president said.

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Hillary Clinton Seeks to Reassure Democrats on Email Controversy (The New York Times)
By Maggie Haberman
March 14, 2015
The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton was not speaking to reporters when she gave her 21-minute news conference this week about her State Department emails. She was talking to Democratic supporters and seeking to assure them that the controversy could be easily explained.

With the Sunday news shows expected to begin a second week of focus on Mrs. Clinton's emails, her allies say that, as rusty as she was when she took reporters' questions at the United Nations, she accomplished her mission: giving Democrats something, anything, that would explain her actions.

Her late-night Twitter message a week earlier, publicly calling for the State Department to release her emails, merely raised more questions. Democrats who sought talking points were in the dark, as her growing group of advisers, including John Podesta, according to several people involved in the response effort, had said she needed to address it more forcefully.

The news conference Tuesday left many critics largely unsatisfied and clamoring for more. But Democratic voters were the the ones she hoped to reach.

"She doesn't have to convince everybody, she just has to convince most people," said Hilary Rosen, a Democratic strategist. "Most people have a reasonable test: Do you reasonably think that Hillary Clinton, as secretary of state, conducted herself with integrity and leadership and used a Blackberry with her personal address?"

Ms. Rosen added, "I think that she passed that test last week."

She pointed to the vacuum that currently exists within the party in terms of a challenger — even those few Democrats considering contesting her have barely touched the email story — and said the media is filling it.

"I don't think this story is the press's fault by any means; I do think the press has turned itself into a checks and balances," she said. "That's going to be a fact of life through this primary."

Mrs. Clinton is no stranger to addressing controversy in public. Her history is rife with examples of scandals, real or contrived, that were punctuated by belated efforts to tamp them down. When she ran for the United States Senate in 2000 from New York, she sparked a firestorm when she nodded along as Suha Arafat, the wife of the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, accused Israelis of poisoning Palestinian children. She later said the simultaneous translation had been off.

That moment, which occurred in November 1999, drove news cycles in the pre-social-media era, and troubled Jewish voters enough that Mrs. Clinton spent a fair amount of time reassuring potential constituents well into 2000. By Election Day, it was a distant memory.

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Clinton's control issues (The Washington Post)
By Kathleen Parker
March 15, 2015
The Washington Post

On March 2, the story broke that Hillary Clinton had possibly violated e-mail regulations while secretary of state.

You could almost hear the collective gasp in Washington: Oh, no, here we go again.

But the next evening, Clinton was feted at the Emily's List 30th-anniversary gala dinner as though nothing had happened. Only the trumpets were missing from what felt like her coronation as the Democratic presidential nominee and, possibly, the next president of the United States.

Fast-forward a dozen days and Clinton's position in the presidential sweepstakes seems less assured, her inevitability not so inevitable.

The most perplexing question isn't about the e-mails themselves but why she put everything at risk over such a small detail, declining to segregate her personal and business e-mail.

There can only be one answer, and it isn't "convenience," as Clinton claims. Think of another word that begins with the letter "C": control.

Clinton claims she opted for the convenience of one cellphone and a personal server - rather than use a government-issued phone for business and another device for personal matters. Too much stuff to lug around?

So the whole question of her conduct as secretary of state boils down to a few ounces of electronic equipment. Hate to say it, but only a woman could come up with such an excuse. It's all about the purse.

Plainly, Clinton didn't want anyone snooping around her virtual file cabinet. Who does? But this isn't the point. When you are secretary of state and are mulling a run for president, you steer clear of anything and anyone remotely questionable. No one should know this better.

Questions that merit serious consideration include whether the Clinton server was secure. Clinton insists that it was because her New York home, where the server lives, is protected by the Secret Service. Given the optional sobriety of agents these days, this is less than reassuring. Then, too, hacking doesn't require on-site handling.

Here's the real muddle for Clinton. Whether her server suffered no breaches - and whether there's nothing in those 32,000 deleted personal e-mails - matters little. In politics, you're guilty as perceived. It looks bad.

Most likely this error (rather than crime) is a function of remoteness more than dishonesty. The Clintons have been around so long, they are the essence of bubble life. Removed from the hubbub of ordinary existence - escorted, driven, valeted, catered to, styled, fluffed and obeyed - being Clinton means never having to hear the word "no." It must be easy to forget that you have to live by the same rules as everyone else.

This is a concept the Clintons have never fully accepted. One can understand, given their extended public life - and the hyper-scrutiny under which they live - that they might seek to erect high walls around their private lives. Fame and celebrity breed not just insularity but also paranoia.

Maybe there's nothing of interest in those personal e-mails, but how would we know? Team Clinton handpicked the "personals" and now they're deleted, thus creating the impression that she is hiding something. The Clintons always seem to be hiding something. Not so much holding their cards close to the chest as kicking the body back behind the dust ruffle.

Even though investigations into every "gate" associated with them in the past - Travelgate, Filegate, Troopergate, you-name-it-gate - failed to produce much more than a blue dress, there seemed to be something not quite right. And now there's this. Not illegal per se but not quite right.

Clinton says she figured that, because all her communications to State Department staff went to the dot-gov server, they automatically would have gone into storage as required. True, but what about the rest? What's in those deleted e-mails? Don't we imagine that personal and business often overlap in the Clinton Rolodex?

Adding to the suspicion is that the 55,000 pages of e-mails that Clinton did turn over to the State Department surfaced only after the House select committee investigating Benghazi requested her correspondence about the

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attack. Would she have turned them over anyway?

Maybe. Still and again, it doesn't look good. And the entire mess serves as a reminder of a movie we've seen before - and it wasn't so great the first time. Whether this episode proves fatal remains to be seen, but we won't hear the end of it until every note of condolence, yoga date and wedding plan is known to someone other than Hillary.

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Clinton easily beats any rivals in poll (Los Angeles Times)
By David Lauter
March 15, 2015
Los Angeles Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton is not only the best-known but also the most favorably viewed of the potential presidential candidates from either of the two major parties, according to a new Gallup poll.

The poll was conducted Monday through Wednesday, mostly after the news broke about Clinton's use of a private email account while she was secretary of State, but before the news conference last week in which she addressed the issue.

Roughly 9 in 10 Americans said they knew enough about Clinton to have an opinion, and the poll released Thursday found that 50% viewed her favorably, while 39% had a negative impression. On both counts, that put her in better position than any of the potential Republican candidates at this early stage of the presidential race.

But Clinton's favorability has declined since she left the State Department, as Americans have begun to see her again as a presidential candidate rather than in the less political role as the nation's top diplomat. When she left the agency, about two-thirds of Americans polled had a favorable view of her, a number that has dropped steadily as partisanship has taken its toll.

Last June, when Clinton released her book "Hard Choices," 54% of Americans in a Gallup survey had a favorable view. Comparing that number with the latest figure indicates that the email controversy had not had a significant impact on the public's perception of Clinton when the new poll was taken.

Among the Republican hopefuls, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie were the best-known, with about two-thirds of respondents holding opinions on them.

But in Bush's case, that opinion was closely divided -- 35% favorable and 33% unfavorable. Christie stood in a worse position, with negative perceptions outweighing the positive, 34% to 31%.

Among the potential contenders for the Republican nomination, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida had the highest net favorability, with 26% holding a positive view and 21% a negative one, the poll found. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker also had a net favorable rating, but was somewhat less known, with 20% favorable and 18% unfavorable.

The least popular Republican candidates overall were former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and the two Texans considering running -- former Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Ted Cruz. For Santorum, negative views outnumbered positives, 27% to 20%; for Perry it was 32% to 25%, and for Cruz, 28% to 22%.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who some have hoped will challenge Clinton, had a net positive rating, but was far less known than Clinton. The poll showed 22% viewing her favorably and 19% unfavorably. Warren has repeatedly said she is not running and has taken no steps toward starting a campaign.

The Gallup survey questioned 1,522 U.S. adults by land lines and cellphones. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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Will April bring shower of announcements? (The Hill)
By Cameron Joseph
March 14, 2015
The Hill

Get ready for April to bring a shower of presidential campaign announcements.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (D) is moving hard towards a launch early next month, according to sources close to her team.

Republican Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.), Ted Cruz (Texas) and Rand Paul (Ky.) are also likely to hit the launch button in the coming weeks, according to sources familiar with their plans, pushing the 2016 race into high gear in what could be a crucial month of the campaign season.
And, like most things in politics, the rush to launch is being driven mostly by finances.

April 1 marks the beginning of a new fundraising quarter, giving candidates plenty of time to build their campaign war chests before they have to report the figures publicly in July.

“It makes sense to start as early as possible to have a strong quarter. The financial challenge is so immense that you need all the time you can get,” said Texas-based GOP strategist Matt Mackowiak.

“It seems like it’s early, but as you start planning your calendar out for the rest of the year, you realize we’re a ways down the road here and you’ve got to do the things you have to do now,” he added.

Several candidates appear ready to take advantage an early announcement, giving them the full second quarter to pad their campaign coffers.

The exact timing of Clinton’s decision remains an open question, though it appears increasingly likely that she’ll move in early April.

Cruz is also expected to announce sometime early in the month, while Paul has been eying April 7 as a possible launch date for some time.

Cruz and Paul aides declined to comment to The Hill on exact timing of the campaign.

Rubio is also expected to announce as soon as April, according to sources close to the senator.

The candidates’ moves towards official campaigns, whether they claim they’re “exploratory committees” or outright declare White House runs, gives them their best chance to set their narratives and garner big media attention, making their rollouts crucial.

With so many candidates likely to announce in a tight time window, how they scrap and claw for media attention will be key.

“All these guys want to be able to post up against Hillary,” said Florida-based GOP strategist Rick Wilson, who has ties to Rubio, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R).

“If you’re Ted Cruz your mailing list is your main fundraising mechanism, and if you’re going to run a campaign off of that you have to go in saying ‘I’m your guy to take on Clinton.’ And it’s very difficult to do that without a big target like Hillary and without themselves being in the game,” Wilson noted.

Jumping in during a busy month has its risks, however.

“If Hillary does take the formal step of announcing in April, she’s going to chew up a couple of days or a week of news,” said Mackowiak. “The candidates want to have the days to themselves, so working around others’ schedules makes a lot of sense and that may require some adaptability on the Republicans’ side.”

Launching early has drawbacks, however. Candidates have to face up to the media more often once they’re in and have no excuse to duck issues or events.

They also can’t coordinate any longer with friendly super-PACs, a big reason why both Bush and Walker, who

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already have national fundraising networks and high name recognition, are likely to wait until the summer to officially announce.

The former Florida governor's delay also allows him to continue to work closely with his Right to Rise super-PAC to haul in big checks before he officially joins the race.

As the campaigns ramp up, there's also been a rush to snap up staff on both sides of the aisle.

Clinton has been especially busy in recent weeks, moving to pad out her national press team and early-primary state operations with a bevy of new hires.

Jesse Ferguson, who until recently was a top strategist for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, is slated to have a senior communications role in the national office, with a number of other names from the DCCC and Democratic National Committee are expected to join him in the coming weeks.

Clinton has also hired half a dozen top Democratic operatives to run her efforts in early-voting Iowa and New Hampshire including top Matt Paul, a longtime advisor to former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack (D), and Mike Vlacich, who ran Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's (D-N.H.) 2014 campaign.

Cruz, Rubio and Paul have all also brought on new advisors in recent weeks or shifted top strategists from their official Senate offices to the campaign side.

All those last minute moves are to ensure that their campaign apparatus will be all systems go once they officially pull the lever.

"This is like a duck: placid on the surface, busy underneath," said Wilson. "You're going to keep seeing those staff moves."

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Hillary Clinton: running to win - but on her own terms (The Guardian)
By Ed Pilkington in Fayetteville, Arkansas
March 14, 2015
The Guardian

Feminist pioneer or self-interested careerist? Her closest friends, who have known her since she was lured south by boyfriend Bill, provide clues to the riddle as she prepares her bid to become America's first female president

On Thanksgiving Day in 1996, when Hillary Clinton was in the White House, she had a long conversation with her best friend, soulmate and confidante, Diane Blair. The two women had forged a relationship in the 1970s when they were both teaching in Fayetteville in Arkansas – Bill's home state – and would remain close until Blair's death from cancer in 2000.

With the blunt honesty of a trusted friend, Blair raised with Clinton one of the most vexed problems that has bedevilled her years of public service: her toxic dealings with the press. Couldn't she avoid a lot of grief, Blair suggested, by developing friendlier relations – even fake ones – with media figures? And shouldn't she stop changing her hair so often?

Blair clearly touched a nerve, provoking a defiant riposte from the first lady. In today's context, at the end of a week in which Hillary Clinton has yet again found herself face-to-face with a sceptical press demanding answers about her use of a private email address while working as America's top diplomat, her robust words almost two decades ago sound uncannily prescient.

"I'm a proud woman," Clinton began. "I'm not stupid; I know I should do more to suck up to the press. I know it confuses people when I change my hairdos. I know I have to compromise."

But then Clinton's tone suddenly shifted. "But I'm just not going to," she said. "I'm a complex person and they're just going to have to live with that. I'm used to winning, and I intend to win on my own terms."

"Win on my own terms" – the phrase would make a great title to a chronicle of the battles Clinton has fought under the public spotlight. It runs through her White House struggles to introduce healthcare reform and her war with what she famously dubbed the " vast right-wing conspiracy ". It was evident in her bruising clash with Barack Obama in her first bid for the presidency in 2008. And judging from this week's events at the UN, where she treated reporters asking about her use of a private email server while secretary of state with a dismissiveness that verged on contempt, it looks like it's becoming a storyline in the 2016 presidential campaign that she is expected to launch within weeks.

The 'Fateville' years Clinton's attitude towards the press is not the only insight that can be gleaned from the friendships that she made during her early years in Arkansas. Through Diane Blair's confidences, contained in private papers that were recently opened at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and interviews with several other close friends in Fayetteville and Little Rock, seeds of many of her later achievements and troubles, strengths and flaws, can be seen to have been planted in the rich soil of Arkansas.

Saint or sinner? Feminist pioneer or self-interested careerist? Which is Hillary Clinton? Diane Blair herself pondered deeply that question, asking herself in one of her private notes why her great friend was so polarizing, why to her Hillary Clinton was "funny, wicked and wacky" yet to others she came across as "a malevolent, power-mad, self-aggrandizing shrew".

That unanswered question, so pertinent today, can to some extent be answered from Clinton's Arkansas days. Some of her most controversial qualities – her fierce guarding of her privacy, the belief in doing things her own way, her fraught relationship with money – are all visible in nascent form during the period from 1974, when she moved to Fayetteville and then Little Rock, to 1993, when she entered the White House. So too are positive attributes that in the cut-and-thrust of the news cycle rarely enjoy an airing, such as her passionate embrace of women's and children's rights, and her undiminished and unbreakable loyalty to those she loves.

Hillary Rodham was 27 when she came to Fayetteville, a progressive college town tucked in the north-west corner of the state. "Fateville", she called it, poking fun at the local southern drawl. It wasn't fate that drew her here, though, so much as the relentless charm offensive Bill Clinton waged to attract her here, drawing her away from a potentially stellar legal career on the east coast.

Jim Blair, who later married Diane (Bill, as governor, officiated at their wedding), remembers the contortions Bill got into over luring Hillary to Fayetteville: "He talked about trying to persuade his girlfriend to come to Arkansas, but if she came she would be giving up a really great political career in her own right and he was in mixed

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emotions about talking her into it."

Bill's tactic was to bombard Hillary with female company drawn from his circle of friends in Fayetteville where he was teaching law. "Bill called me and said: 'I want you to have her over, I want you to like her and I want her to feel welcome'," said one of those women, Margaret Whillock.

Whillock did what she was told. She invited Hillary over to a lunch of gumbo on her very first day in Fayetteville, and the chemistry worked. "We had a meeting of minds, I guess you'd say," Whillock told the Guardian. "Hillary is much warmer and thoughtful than the press or anyone else has given her credit for. You don't see that side of her."

First and foremost among the friendships Hillary made was Diane Blair, who was teaching politics at the university. The two women had much in common: they were both bookish, progressive, feminist outsiders; like Hillary, Blair was a newcomer to Arkansas, hailing from Washington DC as Hillary had from Chicago.

[Bill] talked about how if his girlfriend came, she would be giving up a really great political career

Jim Blair

The intimacy of their friendship sustained over many years rings out from the Blair papers. In correspondence, Clinton calls her friend "Missy Diane", and signs Christmas cards to her from the White House "From Potus and Flotus".

The two women regularly exchanged tips on good reads (they both loved Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow, Memoirs of a Geisha) and sent each other cartoons for light relief. In 1996, Clinton sent her friend a strip that could be read two ways – as a reference to bovine spongiform encephalopathy then in the headlines, or as a self-deprecating dig at the first lady's own beleaguered public image. The cartoon depicted a cow lying on a psychiatrist's chair, with the caption: "I'm not a mad cow, I just have issues."

Blair reciprocated by sending Clinton a newspaper clipping about a Walmart store in Miami that had yanked T-shirts from its shelves that were deemed too political because they bore the prediction "Someday a woman will be president." "Outrage of the day, maybe the year!" Blair scrawled across the cutting.

There were moments of plaintive tenderness too. "I consider you a fellow canary," Clinton wrote in one letter. "We flap our little wings harder and harder while chirping as loudly as our voices permit about what's happening around us. Sometimes we even are heard outside our cages! I don't feel as if I have any choice but to fly straight on."

Ann Henry was another Fayetteville woman who forged a lasting bond with Clinton, helped along by their shared experiences as just about the only female lawyers in town. In October 1975, Henry hosted the reception party for Hillary and Bill's wedding at her home, feting 250 guests.

"When I first met her, she was open and direct, confident and easy to visit with; we just hit it off, and it remains that way," Henry told the Guardian.

Hillary was fired up by ideas and by causes. The three women – Ann, Diane and Hillary – would spend long hours plotting how to bring reform to Arkansas, a state that was routinely towards the bottom of national league tables for educational and other standards. "We would discuss how to improve life for students, raise education, open up opportunities for women. We were very focused," Henry said.

While at Fayetteville, Clinton set up a clinic within the law school that offered free legal advice to those who couldn't afford it, as well as the first rape hotline in the town, which still exists today. After moving to Little Rock in 1976 when Bill was elected the state's attorney general, she helped found Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families that has grown to be an influential voice.

Henry said she was struck immediately by Clinton's crystal clear sense of self. "I think she knew early on who she was and what she wanted her life to be. She was very straightforward about that."

'I'm not going to pretend to be somebody that I'm not'

When the difficulties began, as soon they would, Clinton could also draw upon a clear coping mechanism. She once confided in Henry her technique for comforting her infant daughter Chelsea at the end of a hard day. "We are going to wash off the dirt of today," Hillary would say to the little girl, "and then tomorrow will be a new day

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and we will stand up strong."

Hillary Rodham had her own dirt to wash off. After the wedding, she found herself at the receiving end of good ol' southern disapproval when she decided to keep her maiden name – an act that was seen as virtually seditious in unreconstructed 1970s Arkansas.

The chorus of tut-tutting reached such a volume – from small-town gossip to high politics – that her friends felt duty bound to intervene. After Bill was elected governor of the state in 1978, Ann Henry told Hillary that people were upset to receive invitations from the governor's mansion in the name of "Governor Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham."

"For a woman to keep her maiden name in the culture of Arkansas at that time, it was a real issue," Henry said. "People took it to mean 'He's not man enough for her to take his name.' She was getting all this flak: all the men were thinking she's becoming a problem, and some of the women did too."

Jim Blair gave Hillary the same advice, though he put it more colourfully: "I told her she ought to have a ceremony on the Capitol steps and let Bill put his foot on her neck."

The name change duly followed, hastened by Bill's 1980 defeat after two years in the governor's job that came as a wake-up call to both of them. Hillary Rodham became Hillary Rodham Clinton. She threw away her austere glasses and styled her hair. Yet the experience of being forced to change her outward appearance clearly rankled with her for years afterwards. In the course of that Thanksgiving heart-to-heart with Diane Blair, she said: "I have compromised. I gave up my name, I got contact lenses. But I'm not going to pretend to be somebody that I'm not."

The kerfuffle over her name was tame compared with the storms that were to come: Whitewater, Gennifer Flowers, healthcare reform, Travelgate, the Lincoln Bedroom, Monica Lewinsky, Benghazi, the list goes on. This month alone we gained two new entries to the litany: the controversies over the Clinton Foundation's acceptance of donations from foreign governments and Hillary's private emails at the State Department.

Having met Hillary on her first day in Arkansas, Margaret Whillock has had a special perch from which to observe her friend's repeated struggles over four decades. "She's been pounded so much, it's been distressing to watch. There's always been a critic, always someone having something bad to say about her," Whillock said.

The attacks have taken a toll, Whillock said. "She is more private now, more reserved. When she has let her guard down – that's when the pounding has started up again."

Clinton's need for privacy was noted by several people, so in contrast as it is with the irrepressible effervescence of her husband. "She's a much more private person than Bill. She has a very private nature," said Ernest Dumas, a prominent local journalist and editor of a book of essays called The Clintons of Arkansas.

Bobby Roberts, who served as an adviser to Bill Clinton during his years as governor, agrees. "Bill is very gregarious, very outgoing – he was out in front of us all the time. She's not like that. Secretive is not the word – I think she's just more private, less expressive, than he is."

For Dumas, the current firestorm over Clinton's exclusive use of a private email address for all her official business as secretary of state between 2009 and 2013 was utterly in character. "The email controversy is the least surprising political storm I've ever heard," he said.

He discerns similarities between the present furore and Clinton's handling of the Whitewater affair – the real estate investment in the Ozark Mountains that she and Bill made in the 1970s that went bad, later prompting the agonizingly drawn-out Kenneth Starr investigation that sapped the energy of the Clinton presidency. By the time they signed the deal, the couple had moved to Little Rock where Hillary joined the Rose Law Firm.

At the height of the Whitewater imbroglio, she claimed some of the billing records of her Rose Law Firm had gone missing. When the paperwork turned up two years later it revealed nothing untoward, but the delay in disclosure fuelled speculation about her motives.

"Whitewater was much ado about nothing, as we learned," Dumas said. "But it would never have amounted to anything if Hillary had been a bit more open about things. If she'd turned over the records it would have put an end to it pretty early."

Clinton's hankering for privacy should not be confused with reticence. Even in those early Arkansas days, her

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burning desire to be out there, to call the shots, was apparent – a precursor of the overtly political role she played in the White House and her later entry into electoral politics.

“She was always involved in policy discussions,” remembers Stephen Smith, Bill Clinton’s friend and political adviser during his term as attorney general and then in his early years as governor. “Any time we had meetings to talk about policy or campaigns, she was part of the team.”

“She was the most important person in Bill Clinton’s administration, and yet you never saw her,” said Dumas.

When Bill Clinton, in his second term as governor in 1983, came to appoint a chairman to the commission he set up to reform Arkansas’ failing education system, he consulted Hillary for advice on whom to pick. She knew just the right person. “Maybe I’ll do it,” she told him.

That anecdote was related by the Clintons to Roy Reed, a former reporter for the Arkansas Gazette and the New York Times. Reed told the Guardian that he thought Hillary’s nascent political ambitions, so evident back then, originated with idealism. “She believed in better education, that came through loud and clear, and over time people started to see it as a strength.”

Clinton talked to Diane Blair about her convictions in that heart-to-heart on Thanksgiving Day. “What I really love,” the then first lady told her great friend, “is inventing policies, seeing them put into practice, making things work. I’d be happy in a little office somewhere making things happen.”

Blurring public and private It’s a long leap from that little office somewhere to the multi-billion dollar presidential campaign she is about to unleash, but perhaps a small step in terms of basic instinct.

The other ambition Clinton displayed early was to make money. As she explains in her autobiography, Living History, she saw her role in Arkansas as partly to bring in the cash.

“Money means almost nothing to Bill Clinton,” she writes, “which is just as well, because as Governor of Arkansas he never made more than $35,000 a year. I worried that … we needed to build up a nest egg.”

The self-perception is revealing. Here was Hillary, the governor’s wife and a partner in one of the most prestigious law firms in Arkansas, seeing herself as hard-up and in need of a cushion. There are echoes here of the tone-deaf comment she made last summer about being “ dead broke “ when they emerged from the White House, and her similar remark to the Observer that she and Bill were not “truly well-off”.

As it worked out, the Clintons made nothing out of Whitewater. But she did do phenomenally well out of another Arkansas investment. So well, in fact, that it too landed her in hot water. In 1978, she put $1,000 into cattle futures, and within 10 short months had netted $99,000 in profits – an enviable rate of return that was later to draw the attention of investigators in Washington.

In the current controversies over the private emails and the foreign donations, one of the charges levelled against Clinton is that within her world, within “Hillaryland” as she has called it, the public and the private are blurred. Politics, money, friendship all fuse into one.

The seed of that inclination can also be seen to have been planted in Arkansas. The cattle futures investment was arranged for her by the Clintons’ great friend, Jim Blair, Diane’s husband, who was outside counsel for Tyson Foods and was an experienced futures trader.

“It was so absurd,” Blair told the Guardian. “It never occurred to me that people would make something out of this. This was just a deal among friends. I was just trying to give her a little advice and help her make a little money, because they didn’t have any.”

Blair believes that, like Whitewater, the furore over “Cattlegate” was politically motivated. “Hardline conservatives recognised her as a real talent to change the world, and they don’t like the world to be changed,” he said.

I have compromised. I gave up my name, I got contact lenses. But I’m not going to pretend to be somebody that I’m not.

Hillary Clinton

He added: “It was hard for me to see my friends attacked like that, to think that I had done anything that would give their enemies ammunition.”

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Which brings us back to the beginning – the vexed relationship with her detractors in politics and the press. Diane Blair offers deep insights into her friend's agitated approach to the public. She relates how resentful Clinton feels about being in the media glare, "her total exasperation with this obsession and attention, and how hard she's finding it to conceal her contempt for it all."

Blair also captures Clinton's fear that the world is out to get her, a mistrust so intense it borders on paranoia. "Mostly, she can't figure out why those people out there are so anxious to destroy them," she writes.

That image of a woman crouched in defensive posture is as fresh today as it was when Diane Blair wrote it decades ago. We saw that woman standing in front of the cameras this week at the UN – distrust, exasperation, maybe even a hint of contempt written across her face.

As she prepares to launch her final bid to become America's first female president, the question posed by her best friend booms out loud: why funny and wacky to those who love her, yet to others a self-aggrandizing shrew? Hillary Clinton is still seeking an answer to that riddle. She's running out of time.

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Today's Woman (The New Yorker)
By David Remnick
March 15, 2015
The New Yorker

Early last week, while the political world was waiting for Hillary Clinton to address the moral, diplomatic, and technological questions posed by her e-mail habits, the United Nations issued a report asserting that more than one in three women experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetimes. One in ten females under the age of twenty is subjected to "forced sexual acts." In more than thirty countries, it is not illegal for men to beat their wives. In the United States, eighty-three per cent of girls between twelve and sixteen confront sexual harassment in school. Even the earnest bureaucrats of the U.N., who tend to favor euphemism and skip over cruelties like honor killings and "corrective rape," could not help but label the rate and the variety of mayhem regularly exacted upon half of humankind as "alarmingly high."

The report went on to say that female political representation, while creeping higher, is still depressingly low—not least in the world's oldest constitutional democracy, the United States. The parliaments of South Africa, Ecuador, Finland, Senegal, Sweden, Cuba, Belgium, and Rwanda are all more than forty per cent female. The percentage of members in the U.S. House of Representatives who are women is eighteen. And, since it will soon be political high season on cable TV and at the town halls and diners of Iowa and New Hampshire, it bears repeating that no woman has ever been the President of the United States.

It was hard not to think of this status report on the condition of women in the twenty-first century while Hillary Clinton stepped into the lights before an agitated crowd of reporters at the U.N. last Tuesday. A large tapestry of "Guernica" hung behind her, and she looked no happier in that setting than the tormented figures in Picasso's image of civil war. And yet contrition was not in her plans. Instead, she chose a familiar course, offering explanations that were by turns petulant and pretzelled. Asked about the way she chose to deal with federal guidelines on e-mail when she was the Secretary of State, she said, "I opted for convenience." Clinton's further explanations were so familiar, such a ride in the Wayback Machine, that you had to wonder, Why do I suddenly feel twenty years younger yet thoroughly exhausted?

The U.N. Secretary-General's report is a progress report on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which grew out of the 1995 World Conference on Women. At that conference, Clinton, as First Lady, gave an unsparing assessment of so many of the grimmer aspects of the female condition: political exclusion, discrimination, rape as a weapon of war, genital cutting, forced illiteracy, forced abortion and sterilization. She performed in a way that suggested both conviction and political talent independent of her role as the President's wife and counsellor. The speech was as eloquent in its way as Barack Obama's "race speech," in the 2008 campaign, not because of its radical originality—like Obama's, it was rooted in decades of progressive thought—but because of its potential to affect policy and mainstream opinion. "It is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights" was a message she delivered with clarity, particulars, and force.

This was one reason that the press conference last week—given, presumably, as Clinton was preparing to announce a run for the Presidency, in 2016—was so dispiriting. At that moment at the U.N., she should have been returning to those feminist themes, but she used the opportunity to claim that she was only trying to protect the sanctity of her communications about her "yoga routines," her daughter's wedding, and her mother's funeral. This was a notably transparent exploitation of gender. It's one thing for a politician to be stupid; it is quite another for her to assume that we are. And what to make of a politician who protested the war in Vietnam and investigated the Watergate scandals but now writes a valentine to Henry Kissinger in the Washington *Post*—a book review in which Clinton calls Kissinger "surprisingly idealistic"? The peoples of Chile, Cambodia, Argentina, Bangladesh, and East Timor surely want to know more.

As the Clinton campaign machinery creaks into motion, voters, too, will want to know more. For one thing, who will compete with her? The likeliest Republican candidates do not exactly stride the earth as political colossi. Governor Scott Walker, of Wisconsin, is fast accumulating pots of right-wing money, but that is no guarantee that he can emerge from the ideological margins. Jeb Bush only recently secured his mother's blessing to run and cannot hope to inspire a frenzy of support with the proposition that he is somewhat brighter than his retired older brother.

It is the job of the press to put pressure on power and on pretenders to power. Even in a solo primary race, reporters will scrutinize not only Hillary Clinton's record but also her hawkish foreign-policy impulses, the dealings of the Clinton Global Initiative, and the contradiction between the need to ease the inequality gap and the candidate's tropism toward big money. But, in the absence of a Democratic challenger, the pressure will never be what it ought to be.

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The 2008 Democratic race was not just good sport; it also made both Obama and Clinton better. In the contest for the White House, the stakes are plain and enormous: the rights of women; the fate of the earth; the gaping disparities of income and opportunity; the stability of the Middle East, South Asia, and Europe. However vexed by the politics of gender, America is ready for a woman President. Long past ready. A female President committed to the kind of vision Clinton set out twenty years ago in Beijing could exert a powerful influence on the lives of women all over the world. But if, in the end, Hillary Clinton's only competition is herself, if all she has to contend with is the press and her less attractive instincts, she will have gained a too easy path to power at the cost of being less prepared to exercise it.

There are twenty months left before Election Day, 2016. Bush v. Clinton, the likeliest race (though don't count on it), promises endless discussion of families who are as familiar to us as the Simpsons. But where are the other candidates? What is behind the national impoverishment of political talent? Isn't there a chance that the greatest nostalgia we might feel, come primary season, is not for earlier iterations of the Clintons and the Bushes but for the President who has not yet finished his time in office?

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From: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/23/2015 7:15:27 AM
Subject: Last Updates

Cruise departure delayed due to fog, so worked a few confirmations out with Pete Ogden, Harold and Janice--see below. All added to your calendar and won't add anything else to minimize confusion since you're flying solo:

TUES:

1:30 pm: Pete Ogden, Your Office, 30 mins (flexible to move to Wednesday if you prefer)

Contact: pogden@americanprogress.org

WEDS:

Future of Nuclear Call – Brian likely needs to move the time. His assistant Daniel will email you directly regarding the timing change.

THURS:

3 pm Meeting with Dan and Jake – CONFIRMED Location of Perkins Coie, Richmond Conference Room (4th floor). Building protocol is to take you to the 6th floor, and then an escort will take you to the 4th floor. Point of contact is Leslie Bull, one of the assistants there: 202-654-6389. She knows to expect you.

FRI:

Lunch with Harold and Janice (Harold invited Janice): 12 – 1:15 pm: Acadiana

Loc: Acadiana, 901 New York Ave., NW (at 9th). Reservation is under your name.

A note on Mike Berman: He's got medical appts coming out the wazoo this week (says you're familiar with the situation), and your best days/times are when he's going through 5-6 hour series of tests. Says we should try for next week, so we will.

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From:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/27/2015 8:40:54 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Climate Change Rollout Clips as of 3:30 p.m.
Attachments:	Climate Change Rollout Clips 7.27.15.docx

Official Clips from Comms team below and attached.

Thanks!

H4A Climate Change Rollout Clips

July 27, 2015

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Clinton Unveils Far-Reaching Climate Change Plan // NYT // Trip Gabriel and Coral Denport - July 26, 2015

Promising more than a half-billion solar panels by the end of a first term and an ambitious target of clean energy for every home in America in a decade, Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled goals on Sunday evening to reduce the threat of climate change.

She said she would continue President Obama's sweeping plan to limit carbon emissions from power plants, and announced targets that even push beyond current goal's for greenhouse gases.

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Mr. Obama's proposed regulations are expected to be finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency in August, and the real work of making the changes — shutting down coal plans and increasing the number of renewable electricity sources — would fall to the next administration.

The Clinton campaign said the goals, set out on its website in a video, were the first of a six-plank plan to address climate change that Mrs. Clinton would continue to unveil in coming weeks and months.

Other areas of focus will be improving the efficiency of buildings, ensuring that fossil fuel production is "safe and responsible," and protecting financial markets from climate-related risks.

In the video and at an earlier event, Mrs. Clinton said that critics of taking strong action, who include most of the Republican presidential candidates, were ignoring the seriousness of the threat.

"Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, 'I'm not a scientist,'" Mrs. Clinton said in Ames, Iowa on Sunday. "Well I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

Mrs. Clinton also promised to help any workers who lose their jobs as coal plants respond to Mr. Obama's plan to limit carbon emissions. Appalachia, once a bastion of Democratic support, has been hostile to Mr. Obama for what officials like Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican majority leader, call a "war on coal."

"I will be very clear, I want to do more to help in coal country," Mrs. Clinton said at the event. She expressed gratitude to men "who mined the coal that created industrial revolution that turned on the lights that fueled the factories, who lost their lives, who were grievously injured, who developed black lung disease."

Mrs. Clinton's pledge to produce "enough renewable energy to power every American home within 10 years of taking office" — that is, by 2027 — is even more ambitious than Mr. Obama's plan.

The president has pledged to get the United States to produce 20 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 — essentially tripling renewable power from today.

Mrs. Clinton's plan would arrive at 33 percent, said Heather Zichal, who served as Mr. Obama's senior climate change adviser until last year.

"I think this initial statement from her is a strong signal that she's committed to a thoughtful policy that pushes the envelope," she said.

Mrs. Clinton's rollout of a climate plan, the latest in a series of policy agendas, was in part intended to counter the threat on her left from Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator who draws thunderous cheers at rallies when he calls for the immediate action on the warming climate. And unlike Mr. Sanders, Mrs. Clinton has not clearly stated whether she opposes building the Keystone XL pipeline, which has become the leading rallying cry of grass-roots environmentalists.

On Friday, Tom Steyer, the billionaire climate activist, said that in order to receive his backing and financial support, a candidate would have to pledge to enact an energy policy that would lead to the generation of half the nation's electricity from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050.

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Martin O'Malley, the former governor of Maryland who is also seeking the Democratic nomination, has already put forth such a plan.

In a statment, Mr. Steyer praised Mrs. Clinton's proposal without offering explicit financial support. "Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security," he said.

Hillary Clinton lays out climate change initiative // WaPo // Vanessa Williams - July 26, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton called for harnessing the power of the sun to generate enough renewable energy to run every home in the country within the next decade, as part of a climate change initiative announced Sunday.

"Future generations will look back and wonder, 'What were we thinking? How could we possibly be so irresponsible?' " the Democratic presidential candidate says in a video that accompanied the plan, which was posted on her Web site Sunday night.

"I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I know what's happening in the world will affect my daughter and especially my granddaughter," she said.

In addition to touting her plan, which would include installing more than half a billion solar panels nationwide during the first term of her presidency, Clinton criticized the Republican presidential candidates, who generally dismiss the notion of climate change.

"It's hard to believe that people running for president refuse to believe the settled science of climate change," she says in the video as quotes attributed to GOP hopefuls fill the screen. One such quote, attributed to former Florida governor Jeb Bush, reads: "I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist."

Earlier Sunday, while campaigning in Iowa, she used the "grandmother with two eyes and a brain" quip, receiving chuckles and applause. She praised Iowa's efforts to embrace renewable energy, noting that the state produces 30 percent of its energy from wind. Windmills are a common sight on the horizon across the state.

A fact sheet on the plan presented on her Web site said that Clinton will fight efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan. And she proposes a Clean Power Challenge, including competitions for grants for renewal energy products, as well as more assistance to states and cities and more choices for consumers.

Clinton is scheduled to discuss the plan during a speech Monday in Des Moines.

Two reasons why Hillary Clinton's first climate change proposal is much more modest than it sounds // WaPo / / Philip Bump – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton announced the first "pillar" of her energy and climate agenda on Sunday, outlining a proposal to increase the number of solar panels to 500 million by the end of her first term -- and to have enough renewable power generation to provide electricity to every home in America by 2027.

The proposals, particularly the latter, are striking. The main challenge of climate change is that the world (and the United States morseo than many places) is dependent on burning fossil fuels for electricity. Burning those fuels

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releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which traps heat. So moving the country to renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted and therefore stop exacerbating the problem.

So why is this not as impressive a proposal as it might at first seem?

1. Residential electricity usage is only part of the problem.

Data from the Energy Information Administration suggests that residences consume less than half of the electricity sold in the country. Clinton's proposal doesn't suggest that every house will use renewable power; just that the capacity exists.

So a lot of electricity will still be generated the old-fashioned way. And while the fracking boom has helped increase the amount of natural gas that's used in production -- better once burned than coal, but potentially problematic when extracted -- we still rely heavily on coal for our power.

2. Hitting that solar growth target is hard -- but not as hard as you might think.

Here's how much solar energy the residential sector has added over the past few years, thanks to improvements in generation, decreases in panel pricing, and a robust private sector push for installation.

That's helped boost the amount of renewable electricity used in the residential sector overall.

Can we increase solar usage 700 percent? Vox's Brad Plumer figures that the spike in solar usage puts the figure "within the realm of possibility." Solar has the benefit of being scalable on an individual level, which means that some organizing can help. And studies have found that solar power adoption is contagious.

But despite the recent growth, as the chart above shows, solar is still a tiny part of the overall energy mix. In recent years, far larger growth in renewable power generation has been in wind.

The new proposal is only the first pillar, we'll note, so we'll set aside the fact that this doesn't address other large sources of greenhouse gas emissions, like gasoline and diesel fuels.

For those eager to hail Clinton as a champion of the environment, a third note of caution from a press conference today. On one of the top issues for environmental activists, Clinton doesn't have any proposals at all.

Hillary Clinton Sidesteps Keystone in Climate Plan Rollout // WSJ // Colleen McCain Nelson – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged to make combating climate change a central focus of the 2016 presidential campaign, saying Monday that she would not allow “deniers” to thwart progress or prevent the U.S. from leading on the issue.

While Mrs. Clinton cast herself as a crusader for clean energy, she declined to weigh in on a key environmental debate, taking no position on whether to build the Keystone XL pipeline. At an event in Iowa touting her climate plan, Mrs. Clinton said that as secretary of state, she set in motion the review evaluating the pipeline and now

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would allow her successor, John Kerry, and President Barack Obama to make the final decision.

Donald Trump Tops GOP Field in New Hampshire, Second in Iowa: Poll

"I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started," Mrs. Clinton said. "And I think that we have to let it run its course."

Many Republicans have expressed skepticism about the science of climate change, with some questioning whether it's real and others doubting that human activity plays a role in global warming — or could play a role in reversing it.

The Keystone XL pipeline, which would move oil from Canada's oil sands to refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast, has emerged as a touchstone issue for environmentalists, as well as the energy industry.

Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders have been vocal opponents of the project. Mrs. Clinton said her Democratic rivals never served as secretary of state and added that she is confident Keystone's impact on greenhouse gas emissions would be a major factor in the administration's determination of whether to build the pipeline.

Lis Smith, Mr. O'Malley's deputy campaign manager, said Monday: "Every Democrat should follow [Mr. O'Malley's] lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels."

Mrs. Clinton said she's committed to making the U.S. a "clean-energy superpower" and that on day one of her presidency, she would begin work on two key goals: installing more than half a billion solar panels by the end of her first term and generating enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within a decade. Mr. Obama put the county on a path to a clean-energy future, she said, but more needs to be done.

"The reality of climate change is unforgiving no matter what the deniers say," Mrs. Clinton said. "This is one of the most urgent threats of our time, and we have no choice but to rise and meet it."

The Republican National Committee on Monday deemed Mrs. Clinton's climate policy vague and costly.

"Hillary Clinton's energy 'plan' is to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama's EPA overreach, which held down wages and cost American jobs," RNC spokesman Michael Short said. "Clinton avoided specifics and refused to take a position on important job-creating energy projects like the Keystone Pipeline, reminding voters why they think she's untrustworthy."

Mrs. Clinton did not detail how, exactly, she would pay for her clean-energy proposals. She said she would offer more specifics in the future and that some of these initiatives would pay for themselves.

Mr. Obama has faced strong resistance in Congress to his climate agenda and largely has relied on executive actions to rein in carbon emissions. Mrs. Clinton said she may pursue a similar strategy but added that addressing climate change should be a nonpartisan issue.

"We still have a lot that we can do without getting congressional support," Mrs. Clinton said. "However, it is in everybody's interest. This is not a Republican or Democratic problem."

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Hillary Clinton Previews Plans to Combat Climate Change // WSJ // Colleen McCain Nelson - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Sunday offered a preview of her plans to combat climate change, pledging to set high goals and build a clean-energy economy.

At an organizing event in Iowa, Mrs. Clinton swiped at Republicans who question the threat posed by climate change and said she was serious about addressing the issue.

“Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying I’m not a scientist,” she said. “I’m not a scientist either—I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain…I know that if we start addressing it, we’re going to actually be creating jobs and new businesses.”

The Clinton campaign is expected to release more details about her climate policy Sunday evening, and she will deliver a speech about her plan Monday morning in Des Moines.

Mrs. Clinton has previously characterized climate change as an urgent threat and has voiced support for President Barack Obama’s executive actions to limit carbon pollution.

She has stayed silent, though, on the question of whether the Keystone XL pipeline should be built, declining to weigh in on what has been a contentious yearslong debate. Mrs. Clinton oversaw the Obama administration’s review of the project during her tenure as secretary of state.

She made no mention of Keystone on Sunday but called for an emphasis on generating more wind and solar energy. Mrs. Clinton called for a rebalancing of tax incentives, which she said are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels.

“Our politics are imprisoned by the past,” she said.

Democratic presidential candidates Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders have been unequivocal in their opposition to Keystone and have made climate policy a central component of their campaigns.

Mr. O’Malley has laid out an aggressive plan for combating climate change, calling for the U.S. to transition to 100% clean energy by 2050. Mr. O’Malley, the former governor of Maryland, has called for federal legislation capping carbon emissions and has pledged to reject the Keystone XL pipeline and deny new permits for drilling in Alaska and Antarctica.

Mr. Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont who is running in the Democratic primary, has been a vocal opponent of the pipeline, which has been under review by the Obama administration for more than six years. He has urged “bold action” and has said the U.S. needs to accelerate technological progress to generate more solar and wind energy.

Mrs. Clinton’s rollout of a plan to address climate change comes on the heels of billionaire climate-change activist Tom Steyer calling for 2016 candidates to develop concrete plans to increase the share of clean energy in the U.S.’s power generation mix to 50% by 2030.

Mr. Steyer, who spent $73 million during the 2014 midterm elections, has set a high bar for winning his support in

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2016. A spokesperson for his advocacy group, NextGen Climate, on Friday said candidates who don't embrace Mr. Steyer's goal aren't likely to be backed by the organization.

In Iowa, Clinton says climate plan will promote renewables // AP // Thomas Beaumont - July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled Sunday a plan aimed at combating climate change that includes proposed revisions in the tax code to promote renewable energy and goals for renewable sources for consumer electricity.

In Iowa, the nation's second-leading wind energy producer, Clinton said people are "just not paying attention" if they don't acknowledge climate change.

"This is not complicated folks," the former secretary of state told more than 200 people at Iowa State University. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain. And I know we're facing huge problem."

Climate change has become a key issue in the Democratic presidential primary, where Clinton is the heavy favorite.

Billionaire Tom Steyer has led an effort to promote the issue. The California-based Steyer hosted a fundraiser for Clinton in May.

Clinton proposes, through tax incentives, to increase the amount of power derived from renewable sources to support every home in the United States within 10 years.

For instance, Clinton said she supports renewing the wind energy tax credit as part of over time shifting the U.S. energy system from one based on fossil fuels.

"We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels," Clinton said during a day of campaigning in central Iowa.

Clinton also hinted that her plans would impose changes on the coal industry, though she also pledged the government's help for workers to make the transition.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," Clinton said later during an event at a central Iowa rural home.

Weaning the country off of coal is a tricky political position in key places on the political battleground map. Southeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania are regions of states that have been pivotal in recent elections. And they remain the home of key coal-producing areas.

Crediting coal-miners for having "created an industrial revolution," Clinton said "it is important that we help them transition to a new economy."

Clinton's plan also includes the goal of installing 500 million solar panels within four years.

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It would also increase capacity to the nation's power grid with a combination of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric and geothermal.

Clinton did not include a price tag for the plan or describe how it would be financed.

Clinton was scheduled to discuss the plan in detail during a public event in Des Moines Monday morning.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, also seeking the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, noted Sunday that he unveiled a climate change plan in Iowa that addresses not just consumer energy use, but industrial and transportation, as well.

As governor, O'Malley doubled Maryland's renewable fuel production, and reduced greenhouse gases in the state by 10 percent during his two terms.

Clinton offers energy plans, declines comment on pipeline // AP // Catherine Lucey – July 27, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton is detailing new energy proposals in Iowa to address climate change. She calls global warming one of the "most urgent threats of our time."

But she's still not taking a position on the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

The Democratic presidential contender is proposing that every home in the United States be powered by renewable sources by 2027. Her plan calls for installation of 500 million solar panels over four years.

Clinton laid out clean-energy ideas during a tour of a regional bus station in Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday.

When asked about the Keystone XL oil pipeline opposed by environmental activists, she would not comment except to say she wants a State Department review of the project to run its course.

Hillary Clinton rolls out climate agenda // Politico // Darren Goode and Hadas Gold - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton unveiled her most detailed proposals on climate change since becoming a presidential candidate, calling for moving the economy on “a path towards deep decarbonization by 2050” and “enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America” by 2027.

Progressives have been badgering Clinton to take a strong stance on climate change. Earlier this month in New Hampshire a group of activists disrupted her first town hall in the state, demanding she pledge to end extraction of fossil fuels on public lands.

The plan is the most specific that Clinton’s made yet as a candidate on how she would combat climate change, she and though she has often been outflanked on the left by her Democratic challengers, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

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But on Sunday evening she won praise from billionaire climate-change activist Tom Steyer, who last week called on presidential candidates to embrace a goal of generating 50 percent of the nation's power from carbon-free sources by 2030 with an eye toward "a completely clean energy economy" by 2050.

Clinton spokesperson Brian Fallon said that the plan Clinton laid out is the equivalent of 33 percent of power coming from green energy sources like solar, wind and geothermal by 2027, which when coupled with nuclear power, exceeds Steyer's 2030 goal.

In a statement after Clinton's plan emerged, Steyer said the Democratic front runner had "emerged as a strong leader" in addressing climate change.

"Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs—and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change," he said.

Clinton's plan calls for having 500 million solar panels installed by the end her term if she's elected president. That would be part of the effort to hike solar capacity to 140 gigawatts by the end of 2020, the equivalent of about 140 nuclear reactors and an increase of 700 percent from current levels.

She also wants to add more power generation from other renewable sources, like wind and geothermal.

Clinton called for extending federal clean energy tax incentives, and she pledged to defend the Obama Clean Power Plan, which would cut greenhouse gases from power plants. She also would launch a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would award competitive grants and other incentives for states.

Her campaign will roll out out a more detailed energy and climate strategy in the coming months that will call for reducing oil consumption, modernize the nation's energy infrastructure, improve building efficiency and "protect the health and retirement security" of coal miners.

In a speech on Sunday in a ballroom at the Iowa State University alumni center, Clinton was bullish on her climate change goals.

"I am setting some really high goals that we are going to meet when I am president," Clinton said, noting that just as many people work in the solar power sector as do in the coal industry.

"Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying 'I'm not a scientist,'" she continued. "I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

Clinton also unveiled a new video on Sunday hitting Republicans for denying climate change.

"Future generations will look back and say 'what were we thinking? How could we be so irresponsible,'" Clinton says in the video.

In one clip, quotes from Republican candidates such as Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Donald Trump denying climate change appear on the screen as Clinton says "It's hard to believe there are people running

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for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change."

On Monday, Clinton will speak about her climate change plan at a Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority station.

Two of Clinton's primary challengers, O'Malley and Sanders, have sought to outflank her on the left on climate change.

Sanders has noted his views on climate and staunch opposition to building of the Keystone XL oil pipeline as two areas his record is distinguishable from Clinton's.

O'Malley's campaign released a preemptive strike via email Sunday afternoon, touting his signing into law as governor a statewide target of reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020.

O'Malley, who is running a distant third in the Democratic race, is also pushing for electricity to be solely derived from renewable sources by 2050. That's the exact same pledge Steyer is seeking from 2016 presidential candidates, but Steyer has also already held a fundraiser for Clinton at his San Francisco home.

Hillary Clinton Vows to Defend, Extend Obama Climate Policy // Bloomberg // Mark Drajem - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton said she would both defend and go beyond the efforts by President Barack Obama to address climate change in the first detailed description of her potential environmental polices if elected president.

Clinton released what her campaign said was the opening salvo of the Democrat's energy and climate change agenda Sunday, while she was campaigning in Iowa.

Among other things, Clinton pledged to defend from legal or political attack the Obama administration's rule to cut carbon pollution from the nation's fleet of power plants.

A Clinton administration would go further, rewarding communities that speed rooftop solar panel installation, backing a contest for states to go beyond the minimums called for in the environmental rules, and boosting solar and wind production on federal lands.

A four-page campaign fact sheet said the goal was to increase the share of U.S. power generation from renewable sources to 33 percent by 2027, compared to 25 percent under Obama's carbon plan.

The announcement "makes it more clear than ever that she cares deeply about climate change and will make it a top priority throughout her campaign," Tiernan Sittenfeld, senior vice president of the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, said in a statement.

State Mandates

The majority of U.S. states had already established their own renewable power goals by 2012, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

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California has a goal of buying 33 percent of its power from renewable energy resources by 2020. The state describes this renewables portfolio standard on its website as “one of the most ambitious” in the country.

The early announcement of Clinton’s climate plan contrasts with the last presidential election cycle, in which neither major-party nominee highlighted the issue. Environmental advocates started a social media effort to try to get both campaigns to at least talk about the the climate.

Since winning re-election, Obama has made fighting climate a top priority and introduced a series of measures. He said this month that getting a global deal on cutting greenhouse-gas emissions is the remaining top priority of his tenure.

The mix of policies laid out by Clinton include a pledge to produce enough renewable energy in a decade to power every U.S. home, and to curb gasoline demand, neither an easy task. U.S. gasoline usage is up this year, as lower prices boost driving. The campaign’s plans don’t include any actions aimed specifically at helping oil, natural gas or coal producers.

Clinton said she would help coal-dependent communities, such as those in West Virginia or eastern Kentucky, cope with the transition away from the carbon-heavy fuel. Obama had made a similar pledge in his most recent budget.

Hillary Clinton Outlines 'Bold' Climate Change Proposals // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Sunday set two "bold national goals" to combat climate change, promising that if she's elected president, she would set the United States on a path toward producing enough clean renewable to power every home in America within a decade.

She would also initiate a process that would bring the total number of solar panels installed nationwide to more than half a billion before the end of her first term, her campaign said in a fact sheet released Sunday as it also posted a video in which Clinton lays out her ambitions.

"We cannot wait any longer" to act on climate change, the Democratic front-runner says in the video. "It's time we stand for a healthier climate, stand for cleaner air, for science, for innovation, for our children, for reality, for the future."

Sunday's announcement and an accompanying speech set for Monday at the LEED Platinum-certified Des Moines Area Regional Transit Central Station are intended as a first step in framing Clinton's views on climate and energy issues. More details about her specific positions and policy areas not discussed will be unveiled in the coming months, the campaign said.

Clinton's unveiling of her big-picture views on renewable energy while visiting Iowa is no accident. The state produces nearly a quarter of the nation's ethanol and is building a growing number of wind farms. Twenty-eight percent of Iowa's power comes from wind, and the state trails only Texas in wind power production. The dominance of renewable energy industries in the state makes it a key political issue, one on which Clinton believes her views align not only with Democrats but with most voters.

In the video, Clinton hints at Republicans who, to varying degrees, deny the existence of climate change while the screen populates with quotes from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush ("I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist."), Kentucky Senator Rand Paul ("It's absolutely and utterly untrue.") and Donald Trump ("Hoax"), among others.

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“Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, 'I’m not a scientist,'" Clinton said Sunday while speaking at Iowa State University in Ames, before adding a laugh-line that she also uses in the video. "Well, I’m not a scientist either. I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

If elected, Clinton would fight back against Republican efforts to demolish the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, a set of regulations on greenhouse gas emissions expected to be finalized in the coming days or weeks. Those rules and others "set the floor, not the ceiling," the campaign said in its fact sheet, and Clinton would aim to encourage innovation with a Clean Energy Challenge for states, cities and rural communities to get federal support for clean energy programs.

Clinton supports extending and adding to existing tax credits to encourage the production and use of energy from renewable sources, as well as the expansion of the production and use of renewable energy on public lands and in federal buildings.

One concern that contributes to opposition—from Republicans and from some Democrats who represent coal country—to the expansion of the clean energy and the phasing out of the use of coal is what happens to all the people who work in the industry. But, Clinton said Sunday in Ames, she would focus resources on aiding regions already in decline because of the diminishing role of coal. “I will be very clear: I want to do more to help in coal country," she said.

About a dozen orange-shirted members of NextGen Climate Iowa, the state branch of the super-PAC founded and funded by billionaire investor and climate activist Tom Steyer, watched Clinton speak on Sunday and then waited in line to pose for a group photo with Clinton. Steyer is using his wealth to support candidates and groups that back his approach to climate change, and has already given the primary maximum $2,700 to Clinton and hosted a fundraiser for her at his San Francisco home.

On Friday, he said that candidates who he supports must have concrete plans for making clean energy at least half the overall power supply generated in the United States by 2030. Steyer is also opposed to the construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Clinton has repeatedly avoided taking a position on whether Keystone should be approved by the Obama administration, saying she wants to let the State Department-led process run its course without her interference. Others running for the Democratic presidential nomination, though, have been more clear, going right for the liberal activist base that has rallied against the project in what's become a symbolic fight for both sides. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley both say they're opposed to the pipeline and have attacked Clinton for not doing the same.

“I have helped lead the opposition against the Keystone pipeline,” Sanders told reporters earlier this month as Clinton visited Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill. “I don’t believe we should be excavating or transporting some of the dirtiest fuel on this planet. I think Secretary Clinton has not been clear on her views on that issue.”

O'Malley's campaign, meanwhile, prebutted Clinton's Sunday announcement with a memo on "what real climate leadership looks like" that recaps his opposition to Keystone and to offshore and Arctic drilling, as well as his proposals to create millions of jobs by boosting the clean energy industry.

The initial reaction from climate groups to Clinton's framework was positive. "“Secretary Clinton’s spot-on video makes it more clear than ever that she cares deeply about climate change and will make it a top priority throughout her campaign," League of Conservation Voters senior vice president for government affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld said in a statement. "Her goals of getting to 500 million solar panels by 2020 and ensuring that we are producing enough renewable energy to power every home in America in ten years display the kind of leadership we need to ensure that our nation leads the world in building a clean energy economy."

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Hillary Clinton Declines to Say Where She Stands on Keystone XL // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton declined Monday to weigh in on the Obama administration's ongoing deliberations over the Keystone XL oil pipeline, avoiding an issue that has become a litmus test for climate activists.

After launching the first part of her agenda aimed at combating climate change, the former secretary of state told reporters in Iowa she "will refrain from commenting [on Keystone] because I had a leading role in getting that process started and we have to let it run its course."

Clinton said that during her time as President Barack Obama's top diplomat, she "put together a very thorough, deliberative, evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental impact" of the proposed pipeline, which would run from Alberta, Canada, to Nebraska.

Before launching her presidential campaign, Clinton refused to comment on the pipeline permit approval process, saying she didn't want to preempt or influence the process. Monday was the first time she'd been asked since entering the race in April.

Other candidates running for the Democratic nomination have seized on Clinton's caution and attacked her for refusing to take a definitive stance.

"I have helped lead the opposition against the Keystone pipeline," Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said earlier this month as Clinton visited Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill. "I don't believe we should be excavating or transporting some of the dirtiest fuel on this planet. I think Secretary Clinton has not been clear on her views on that issue."

Minutes after Clinton spoke Monday, Democratic presidential candidate and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's campaign criticized Clinton for what it described as a lack of leadership. "Governor O'Malley is opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline because we can't move to a clean energy future if we continue to rely on dirty, short-term fossil fuel fixes," deputy campaign manager Lis Smith said in a statement. "Real leadership is about forging public opinion on issues like Keystone—not following it. Every Democrat should follow his lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels."

Clinton acknowledged that the pipeline is a politicized issue and stressed that she is in a unique position.

"No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started," she said.

Hillary Clinton sets renewable energy goals to spur more wind, solar power // Reuters // Alana Wise - July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called on Sunday for a dramatic national shift to energy sources such as solar and wind, setting a goal of generating enough clean renewable energy to power every U.S. home within a decade after she takes office.

Clinton, the front-runner for her party's 2016 presidential nomination, also pledged to have more than half a billion solar panels installed nationwide within four years of taking office.

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"I want more wind, more solar, more advanced biofuels, more energy efficiency," Clinton said at a rally on Sunday in Ames, Iowa. "And I've got to tell you, people who argue against this are just not paying attention."

The two goals, announced in a video on Sunday night, were the first elements of what Clinton said would be a comprehensive climate-change agenda to be released over the next few months.

Clinton has been under pressure from Democratic presidential rival Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-styled socialist who has called for swift action on climate change, and environmental activists anxious to see her spell out details of a climate plan.

Her campaign said the goals would lead to a 700 percent increase in the nation's installed solar capacity from current levels, and eventually could lead to the generation of at least one third of all electricity from renewable sources.

Clinton also called for extending federal clean energy tax incentives and making them more cost effective. In Ames, Clinton said she would continue the wind production tax credit and recalibrate other tax incentives that are "too heavily weighted ... toward fossil fuels."

Clinton also said she would fight efforts to roll back President Barack Obama's executive actions to curb carbon emissions from power plants. She said the actions could build a "clean energy economy" that would bolster growth.

"If we start addressing it, we're going to actually be creating jobs and new businesses," she said.

Clinton will discuss the proposals on Monday at an energy-efficient transit station in Iowa, the state that kicks off the 2016 presidential nominating race and is a leading wind energy producer.

Clinton praised Iowa for promoting wind energy and advanced biofuels, and for establishing state tax rebates for installing solar panels in homes and businesses.

She criticized Republicans who are reluctant to say climate change is a man-made phenomenon.

"They will answer any question about climate change by saying: 'I'm not a scientist.' Well, I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I know we're facing a huge problem," Clinton said.

Clinton vows to boost U.S. clean energy use in response to climate change // Reuters // Alana Wise – July 27, 2015

U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Monday described climate change as "one of most urgent threats of our time" and vowed to meet the challenge with a plan to generate enough clean energy to power every U.S. home by 2027.

The Democratic front-runner compared fighting climate change to the race to put an American on the moon by the end of the 1960s.

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"The next decade will be as decisive for climate change as the decade for getting to the moon was for space exploration," Clinton said at a campaign stop in Iowa, which will hold the first presidential nominating contest in February.

"Sea levels are rising, ice caps are melting, storms, wildfires and extreme weather are wreaking havoc. This is one of most urgent threats of our time and we have no choice but to rise and meet it," said Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in the November 2016 election.

Clinton promised to have more than half a billion solar panels installed nationwide within four years if she makes it to the White House.

The former secretary of state has been under pressure from Democratic presidential rival Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-described socialist who has called for swift action on climate change, and environmental activists anxious to see her spell out details of a climate plan.

She vowed to "stop the giveaways to big oil companies" and to defend President Barack Obama's plan to reduce emissions from power plants, which is hitting the coal industry.

More details of Clinton's climate change agenda will be released over the next few months.

The Republican National Committee said Clinton's energy policies were vague and aimed at distracting attention from the controversy of her use of a private email account while she ran the State Department.

"Hillary Clinton's energy 'plan' is to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama's EPA overreach, which held down wages and cost American jobs. Clinton avoided specifics and refused to take a position on important job-creating energy projects like the Keystone pipeline, reminding voters why they think she's untrustworthy," said RNC spokesman Michael Short.

Hillary Clinton pushes renewable energy with focus on solar // CNN // Dan Merica – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged Sunday that as president she would put the United States on a path toward generating enough renewable energy to power every home in the country by 2027 - ten years after she would hypothetically take office.

In a video posted to her campaign website, Clinton knocked Republicans for refusing "to accept the settled science of climate change" and cast her push as a fight for children and grandchildren.

"I am just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I know what is happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially my granddaughters," Clinton said, using a line she often delivers at campaign events. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act."

The video - titled "Stand for Reality" - featured a slate of quotes from Republicans on climate change, including when former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told Esquire Magazine in 2009, "I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist." The slate also included quotes from Sens. Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

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"You don't have to be a scientist to accept scientific evidence," Clinton tweeted. "Climate change is real and we must act. -H."

Clinton's plan focuses largely on residential power usage and is buoyed by a focus on solar. By the end of her hypothetical first term as president, Clinton promised that the United States would have more than 500 million solar panels installed across the country.

The presidential candidate also stressed building an energy grid more focused on renewable energy, particularly solar, by the end of the decade. According to a fact sheet circulated by Clinton's campaign, a Clinton presidency would hope to increase output of solar energy by 700% by the end of the decade.

On Monday, Clinton will expand on her clean energy push in Iowa when she tours that LEED Platinum certified Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) Central Station.

Clinton's said he plan would incentivize investment in renewables by increasing the number of government grants for clean energy, extending federal clean energy tax incentives and expanding renewable energy on public lands.

"The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible. Or, they can keep us trapped in the past," Clinton says in the video. "We cannot wait any longer. It is time we stand for healthier climate, stand for cleaner air, for science, for innovation, for our children. For reality, for the future."

The former secretary of state's clean energy pitch comes at a time where many Democrats are focused on climate change, particularly the need to decrease the use of fossil fuels. According to the World Bank, over 85% of U.S. energy consumption came from fossil fuels.

Clinton was confronted by climate change protestors at a town hall earlier this month in New Hampshire. The former secretary of state was first asked a "yes or no" question about banning the extraction of fossil fuels from public grounds. Clinton did not give the protestors the answer they wanted, telling them she would not ban the practice until alternatives were in place.

According to the fact sheet, Clinton does not rule out using federal land for fossil fuel development, but says that she would ensure "taxpayers get a fair deal for development on public lands, and that areas that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table."

Some of Clinton's top supporters have also been outspoken on the need for 2016 Democrats to tackle climate change.

Tom Steyer, a hedge fund billionaire and the head of NextGen Climate, a non-profit focused on climate change, issued an open letter on Friday that called for all 2016 Democrats to "lay out a clear and concrete plan to achieve at least 50 percent clean or carbon-free energy by 2030."

"Whether or not candidates make this commitment will be a critical factor for Americans who are deciding what candidates to support at polls," wrote Steyer, who has already hosted a fundraiser for Clinton at his home in California.

An aide to Steyer tells CNN that Clinton's energy proposal meets the standard the environmentalist outlined last

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week.

Clinton's campaign claimed Sunday that their plan matches the Steyer pledge, but a supportive statement from the environmentalist did not outright say Clinton's plan met his standards.

He did call the plan "an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy," adding that Clinton "emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security" due to the proposal.

Campaign aides stressed that Sunday's announcement was their opening salvo, not their entire clean energy platform, and Clinton herself said in the video that she will lay out her entire platform "over the next few months."

But other 2016 Democrats were quick to pounce on Clinton's proposal.

In a memo titled, "What Real Climate Leadership Looks Like," Lis Smith, Martin O'Malley's deputy campaign manager, stressed that the former Maryland governor outlined his clean energy plan last month and has backed up his plan with "action, not just words."

"Eschewing the piecemeal, poll-tested 'all of the above' energy strategies of the past, O'Malley has made clear that he will use the full force of his executive power to make the transition to a clean energy future the number one priority of our federal government," Smith wrote.

Despite the critics, Clinton's plans was met with warm regard from environmental groups.

Tiernan Sittenfeld, an executive for the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, called Clinton's video "spot on" and said it proved Clinton "will make it a top priority throughout her campaign."

"This," Sittenfeld sad, "underscores Secretary Clinton's longtime commitment to confronting the climate crisis."

Here is Hillary Clinton’s climate plan // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton will roll out a comprehensive climate and energy policy proposal Monday that would dramatically increase the country’s use of renewable energy.

Clinton’s plan, which she will unveil at an energy efficient transit hub in Iowa, will promise to create enough clean renewable energy to power every home in the U.S. within 10 years of Clinton taking office.

That includes a 700% increase in solar panel installation by the end of her hypothetical first term, for a total of half a billion installed solar panels. Clinton will also call for a rapid expansion of power generation capacity from wind, hydro, geothermal, and other renewable sources.

The former secretary of state will also propose incentives for the technological development of solar and other sources through a number of partnerships and competitions. For instance, she would create a “Solar x-prize” for communities that make it easier to install roof-top panels. And she would create new tax incentives and competitive grants to encourage states and the private sector to invest in clean energy.

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She will also call for improvements to the electrical grid, expanding renewable energy production on public lands and increase federal R&D funding.

“I am setting some really high goals that we are going to meet when I am president,” Clinton said in Ames, Iowa Sunday.

Clinton’s plan would also adopt a proposal known as “Deep Decarbonization Pathways,” an international partnership of high-emitting countries that works to find ways to transition industrial countries to low-carbon economies.

“The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible or they can keep us trapped in the past,” Clinton said in a video posted to her website previewing the plan. “We cannot wait any longer.”

In the video, Clinton also goes after Republicans, listing quotes from top GOP presidential candidates casting doubt on the science of climate change.

Billionaire Clinton donor Tom Steyer, who funds his own climate group and is pushing Democrats to be more aggressive on global warming, called Clinton’s plan an “ambitious framework” and said it made her “a strong leader in solving the climate crisis.”

Democratic rival Martin O’Malley has already rolled out a plan that he promise would transition the country 100% renewable energy, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders often says climate change is a top priority.

Hillary Clinton Calls Out GOP Climate Change Deniers in New 'Stand With Reality' Video // ABC // Liz Kreutz - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton today attacked the Republican presidential contenders who deny "the settled science of climate change" and laid out two renewable power goals in a new video that outlines part of her plan to tackle global warming.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Clinton narrates over a graphic that shows quotes from Republican presidential candidates, including Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump.

"You don't have to be scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act," she continues.

By contrast, in the video -- titled "Stand with Reality" -- Clinton calls herself "just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain" who knows that "what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter."

Clinton then lays out two national goals that she would implement "on day one as president."

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The first pledge: to have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term. And the second: to have the U.S. generate enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years.

"The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible, or they can keep us trapped in the past," Clinton says. "We cannot wait any longer."

On the campaign trail, Clinton repeatedly calls for a "global fight against climate change," which she says is "one of the defining threats of our time." The video, which was posted to her campaign website Sunday night, however, is the first time the Democratic presidential candidate has laid out specific policy proposals on how she would plan to tackle the issue should she become president.

Hillary Clinton Says Climate Plan Will Promote Renewables // NBC // July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton planned to unveil a plan Sunday aimed at combating climate change that includes revisions in the tax code to promote renewable energy.

In Iowa, the nation's second-leading wind energy producer, Clinton said people are "just not paying attention" if they don't acknowledge climate change.

Clinton said she supported renewing the wind energy tax credit and getting other tax incentives "fixed" to promote renewable fuel.

Though Clinton hinted that under her plan the coal industry would face changes, she said the federal government would help the industry.

Climate change has become a key issue in the Democratic presidential primary, where Clinton is the heavy favorite. Billionaire Tom Steyer has led an effort to promote the issue. Steyer hosted a fundraiser for Clinton in May.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," Clinton said later during an event at a central Iowa rural home.

Changes in the tax code aimed at promoting renewable energy and transitioning away from coal is a tricky political position in key places in the country. Southeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania, states that have been pivotal in recent elections, remain the home of key coal-producing areas.

Clinton was making her comments at Iowa State University in Ames and later in Carroll.

Clinton said she planned to post the plan on her campaign website at 7 p.m. EDT, and explain it in more detail during an event Monday in Des Moines.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, also seeking the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, noted Sunday that he unveiled a climate change plan in Iowa. Campaign aides to O'Malley said that as governor, he made climate change a top priority, doubled Maryland's renewable fuel production, and reduced greenhouse gases by 10 percent during his two terms.

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Clinton sets goals for solar panels, clean energy // CBS // Rebecca Kaplan and Hannah Fraser-Chanpong – July 27, 2015

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton announced Sunday that her plans to combat climate change as president include installing more than half a billion solar panels across the U.S. by the end of her first term and generating enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years of taking office.

Clinton, the frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic nomination, announced the goals in a video released by her campaign Sunday evening. Her campaign said the two initiatives were part of a comprehensive energy and climate agenda she'll lay out over the next several months.

"Future generations will look back and think 'what were we thinking, how could we possibly be so irresponsible?' " Clinton says as the narrator of a video that features images of children, wildlife, and images associated with energy production. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and brain and I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter."

The video also takes direct aim at the Republican presidential candidates for statements skeptical of climate change. Clinton speaks, the video shows quotes from candidates including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush ("I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist"), Florida Sen. Marco Rubio ("I'm not a scientist") and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz ("There's been no warming whatsoever") and other candidates.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Clinton says. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all, you just have to be wiling to act."

Clinton argues that increasing the use of wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and other renewable energy will help prevent as many as 3,000 premature deaths and 700,000 asthma attacks each year.

Expanding the installation of solar panels across the U.S. would increase the current capacity to 140 gigawatts by the end of 2020, a 700 percent increase her campaign said. It would be like having rooftop solar systems on 25 million houses across the country.

A fact sheet released by the campaign offered a number of federal government initiatives Clinton would implement to help reach the goals, including partnerships with states, cities and rural communities that are leading on clean energy, competitive grants to states that exceed federal carbon pollution standards, awards for communities that make it easier and cheaper to install rooftop solar systems, strengthening grid reliability and resilience, and making it easier to get low-cost renewable energy to market.

She is also promising to talk about plans to reduce oil consumption in the U.S. and around the world, improve the safety and security of the existing energy infrastructure, make fossil fuel production safer, and protect the health and retirement security of former coal workers and their families.

At an event in Iowa Sunday, Clinton said those who don't acknowledge the existence of climate change are "just not paying attention." Iowa is the second-largest producer of wind-generated electricity in the nation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Clinton's plan follows one laid out by another Democratic candidate, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, which promises to end the country's reliance on fossil fuels entirely by 2050 and to double American energy

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efficiency within 15 years. O'Malley promises an entire nation powered by renewable energy within the 35 years, as opposed to Clinton's pledge to power every home with renewable energy in 10 years.

Though Clinton has not revealed the full extent of her policies to address climate change, O'Malley said he would deny permits for drilling off the coasts of Alaska and Antarctic and promises not to build the Keystone XL pipeline. Clinton has not yet said what she would do about the pipeline.

Clinton's biggest challenger for the Democratic nomination, Independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, regularly talks about climate change in his stump speech, describing dire weather conditions created by the warming of the planet. He has not yet laid out a formal plan to combat climate change, although last month he introduced legislation which would provide $200 million in loans and grants for solar panels on public housing and low-income family homes.

Hillary Clinton Focuses On Renewable Energy In Climate Change Plan // HuffPo // Marina Fang - July 26, 2015

In an ambitious climate change plan, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton pledged to make sure every American home is powered by renewable energy by 2027 if elected president and install half a billion solar panels around the country before the end of her first term.

Her campaign released a copy of the plan Sunday evening. Clinton spoke about climate change at two campaign events in Iowa earlier in the day, telling supporters that climate change deniers are “just not paying attention.”

"Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, 'I’m not a scientist.' Well, I’m not a scientist either. I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain," she said.

Clinton’s proposal also calls for promoting tax credits to incentivize a push toward renewable energy and away from coal.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," she said on Sunday.

Clinton plans to address these proposals in more detail at an event on Monday, according to her campaign. The plan is a preview of more specific policy positions that she will announce in the coming months, which will include a Clean Energy Challenge involving competitive grants for states and municipalities to develop and implement renewable energy solutions.

On Sunday evening, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters quickly issued statements applauding Clinton's plan.

Climate change activist Tom Steyer endorsed Clinton's plan in a statement, calling her "a strong leader in solving the climate crisis."

“I look forward to other candidates laying out aggressive plans to tackle climate change head-on. It’s time for all leaders to acknowledge the problem our country faces and engage in a robust debate about the best way to tackle climate change and build a clean energy economy," he said.

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The billionaire founder of NextGen Climate, who hosted a Clinton fundraiser at his San Francisco home in May, called for all of the presidential candidates to develop concrete plans to increase clean energy usage. Steyer said last Friday that he would not support candidates without such proposals.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), one of Clinton's challengers in the race, unveiled a climate change plan last month. Responding to Clinton, his campaign noted Sunday that as governor of Maryland, he doubled the state's renewable fuel production and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent.

O'Malley and fellow Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) have also been outspoken against the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, while Clinton has largely avoided the issue.

Hillary Clinton Pledges to Install 500 Million Solar Panels If Voted President // TIME // Helen Regan - July 26, 2015

"We are on the cusp of a new era"

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Sunday made tackling climate change one of her key goals were she to enter the White House, pledging to have more than half a billion solar panels installed nationwide by the end of her first term in office.

Clinton also called for a major increase in other renewable energy sources, saying she wants every U.S. home to be powered by clean energy within a decade, reports Reuters.

"I want more wind, more solar, more advanced biofuels, more energy efficiency," she said at a weekend rally in Iowa. "And I've got to tell you, people who argue against this are just not paying attention."

The two goals were unveiled in a video posted to Clinton's campaign website Sunday, and are part of a comprehensive agenda on climate change that will be laid out over the next few months.

"We are on the cusp of a new era," she said in the campaign video. "We can have more choice in the energy we consume and produce."

According to the former Secretary of State's campaign, her climate change agenda will increase output of solar energy by 700% by the end of the decade.

On Monday, the presidential candidate will explain her clean energy plan in more detail at a tour of an energy-efficient transit station in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hillary Clinton sticks to safe ground on climate // Vox // Jonathan Allen – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton unveiled a proposal to combat climate change last night, and it appears to be in the pragmatic Clintonian space of sticking to safe ground. Rather than trying to outdo her Democratic rivals, Clinton's plan seems designed to allow her to contrast with Republicans who either don't acknowledge the reality of climate change or aren't really ready to do anything about it. As Seema Mehta and Evan Halper of the LA Times report, Clinton says her approach would put the US on a path to have all homes and businesses powered by renewable energy by 2027 — a goal her campaign frames as both light on details and far short of where environmentalists

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would like her to be.

The Clinton package is incomplete, however. Unlike her rivals in the Democratic presidential contest, Clinton has yet to take a position on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport oil from the Canadian tar sands to Gulf Coast ports. She also has yet to weigh in on a campaign to ban hydraulic fracturing nationwide, or to take a firm position on offshore oil drilling.

The proposal Clinton released Sunday for boosting solar installations by 700% is vague on details about how it would be funded.

Clinton continues to enjoy a commanding lead among Democratic primary voters. She seems unconcerned by the more detailed and aggressive proposals offered by challengers within her party.

Vox's Brad Plumer writes that Clinton's goal involves a 700 percent increase in solar power between now and 2020 — and concludes that it's possible to achieve that level.

US solar capacity grew 418 percent between 2010 and 2014 (it was starting from a small base). So 700 percent growth between 2014 and 2020 is at least within the realm of possibility. But it would require additional policy changes — and clean energy prices would have to keep dropping.

Hillary Clinton is calling for a 700% increase in solar power. Is that realistic? // Vox // Brad Plumer - July 26, 2015

In the coming months, Hillary Clinton's campaign is planning to release a series of proposals for dealing with global warming. Her first installment is out Sunday evening, and it calls for a major increase in renewable power.

Specifically, she's proposing to boost the amount of wind, solar, and other renewables so that they provide 33 percent of America's electricity by 2027 — enough to power every home in the country:

Let's put this in perspective. Renewable energy currently supplies just 13 percent of America's electricity, with hydropower providing 6 percent, wind power providing 4.4 percent, and the rest coming from biomass, geothermal, and solar.

Without new policies, the government expects that fraction to rise to 16 percent by 2027. If you add on President Obama's forthcoming Clean Power Plan — an EPA program to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions from power plants — then renewables are projected to grow to 25 percent of US electricity by 2027.

Clinton is proposing to bump that up even further, to 33 percent. One key question is how.

Clinton's plan calls for a 700% increase in solar power

Part of her plan would involve continuing the rapid growth of solar panel installations nationwide. In her proposal, Clinton calls for US solar power to grow 700 percent from current levels:

That sounds like a big number, but it's not implausible. After all, US solar capacity grew 418 percent between

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2010 and 2014, so 700 percent growth by 2027 is at least within the realm of possibility. It would require the right policies in place (and for solar prices to keep dropping).

On that score, Clinton's campaign offered a number of policy proposals for boosting renewables:

-- First, if elected president, Clinton would veto any attempts by Republicans in Congress to scrap Obama's Clean Power Plan. This is mostly a defensive maneuver.

-- Second, she'd push to extend the federal tax credits for wind and solar that are scheduled to expire soon. (The 30 percent tax credit for residential solar systems is set to disappear in 2016.) This is a key step, but it would depend entirely on Congress. It's not something Clinton could ever do on her own. And note many lawmakers would prefer to let these tax credits sunset, so this proposal is hardly guaranteed.

-- Third, Clinton wants to set up a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would gives states and localities incentives to go even further than the carbon standards the EPA is putting out. The campaign says it will offer more details on this in the coming weeks and months. One component? A "Solar X-prize" that would reward communities that figured out how to cut red tape and speed up solar installation times.

-- Clinton also has a smattering of proposals to boost public investment in clean energy R&D, in transmission lines, and in renewable installation on public lands.

-- Finally, Clinton calls for aid to coal communities that will inevitably suffer if coal continues to decline in favor of cleaner energy sources. No details on this yet, but her campaign notes that the government should "provide economic opportunities for those that kept the lights on and factories running for more than a century." (Note that the Obama administration has proposed a $3 billion aid package for coal communities, but few members of Congress seem interested for now.)

How ambitious is Clinton's renewables goal? It depends how you look at it.

If the US actually managed to get 33 percent of its electricity from renewables in 2027 and we kept most of our nuclear plants running (which currently supply another 19 percent), then the country would be getting roughly half its electricity from zero-carbon sources.

That would obviously be a major shift from where we are today. It's also in line with the "50% clean energy by 2030" goal that green activist and billionaire Tom Steyer is demanding candidates get behind.

On the other hand, this isn't, by itself, a comprehensive climate plan. Electricity only accounts for 38 percent of US carbon-dioxide emissions. Other major sources include transportation (i.e., cars, trucks, and planes that burn oil), industrial processes (i.e., cement plants or chemical plants that use coal or gas), homes and buildings that use natural gas for heating, and so on:

So boosting renewable electricity is only one part of the picture here. We'll see what else Clinton ends up proposing.

Could the US electric grid handle that much wind and solar?

This is another big question about Clinton's proposal. As wind and solar expand, US grid operators will face challenges integrating all these intermittent sources of electricity. After all, the sun isn't always blowing and the wind isn't always shining.

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This is a little hard to answer, just because it would depend on the precise mix of renewables, where the growth in wind and solar occurred, whether utility regulators made certain policy changes, and so forth.

But for context, my colleague David Roberts has written an excellent series on the challenges that wind and solar pose to the grid. Part one looks at the hassles of dealing with intermittent renewables. Part two looks at how solar and wind start to face severe economic limitations past a certain point (and Clinton's stated goals would put wind and solar within striking distance of those levels). And part three looks at potential market reforms that could ease these constraints. Definitely read that series if you haven't already.

Hillary Clinton's Climate-Change Plan Is Anything But Comprehensive // TNR // Rebecca Leber – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton has unveiled a plan for tackling climate change—or, more accurately, part of a plan, with the promise of additional announcements in the coming months. The Democratic presidential frontrunner detailed a plank of her environmental platform on her website Sunday night, for making the United States "the world's clean energy superpower." But on fossil fuels, where environmentalists have remained the most skeptical of her intentions, Clinton's plans remain vague.

Clinton announced two ambitious goals:

"Have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of Hillary's first term"—a 700 percent increase in solar capacity that would power 25 million homes.

"Generate enough renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years of Hillary taking office," which would require expanding renewables (wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower) enough to power 33 percent of the U.S. electricity sector by 2027, up from just 13 percent today.

Campaign chair John Podesta, a former White House senior adviser on climate change, characterized the plan as historic. "Her proposals provide incentives for businesses and individuals to gain access to renewable energy and lower their monthly bills," he wrote Monday. "It pairs national action with a commitment to provide more resources to the groundswell of states and cities that are taking innovative actions above and beyond federal policies."

The League of Conservation Voters and Democratic billionaire donor Tom Steyer both praised Clinton's announcement, but she hasn't satisfied all environmentalists' demands for a comprehensive climate action plan. Clinton hasn't said where she stands on the Keystone XL pipeline, tar sands oil extraction, natural gas, fracking, and Arctic drilling. Surely, Clinton's position on these areas will be more controversial than her targets for clean energy. Climate Hawks Vote said in a statement that "Clinton's climate plan is remarkable for what it does't say, yet: no effort to keep fossil fuels in the ground, no price on carbon; no word on Keystone XL, Arctic oil, or other carbon bombs; no word on fracking; no call for adaptation."

But by releasing a plan for clean energy, Clinton has achieved two things.

First, it helps to blunt environmentalists' criticism of Clinton for her relative silence on the issue. Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has a plan to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity by 2050—what "real climate leadership looks like," his campaign declared in a memo to reporters before Clinton's announcement. Senator Bernie Sanders hasn't announced a climate change plan yet, but has supported bills for rooftop solar, opposes Keystone, and overall has (by at least one count) the best environmental record of any senator.

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Second, Clinton has answered Steyer's challenge. On Friday, the green donor set his first expectation for candidates wanting his support in the 2016 election, requiring that they first lay out a plan to reach at least 50 percent renewables in the electricity sector by 2030. The Clinton campaign noted on Twitter that it passed Steyer's test, if you count existing nuclear energy, at 19 percent. Steyer's campaign arm NextGen Climate counts nuclear in its 50 percent tally:

And Steyer is satisfied with Clinton's answer, for now. 'Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security," he said in a statement. "Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs—and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

But Clinton's climate plan can't ignore more difficult questions on how much to rely on fossil fuels during the transition to cleaner power. As Vox's Brad Plumer notes, electricity accounts for 38 percent of U.S. carbon emissions—transportation, buildings powered by gas, industry, and more make up the rest. There's also methane, a particularly potent emission that is on the rise in agriculture, landfills, and the oil and gas sectors.

Until she rolls out the rest of her climate platform, Clinton's still vulnerable to criticism from progressive environmentalists. Friends of the Earth spokesperson Ben Schreiber said that "while it is great that Secretary Clinton has recognized the importance of renewable energy, the reality is that her plan will not lead to the transformation that we desperately need. If we are going to avoid the worst impacts of climate change we are going to need an Apollo program for renewable energy, not just the corporate stimulus that Secretary Clinton has offered."

Hillary Clinton unveils climate change policy // LA Times // Evan Halper and Seema Mehta – July 27, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton sought to position herself as a crusader against climate change Sunday by unveiling some robust goals, even as she continued to avoid some of the more contentious battles around global warming.

Clinton announced that she will push to vastly expand the number of solar panels installed in the United States, as well as to boost overall renewable energy to the point that it will be able to fuel all homes and businesses by 2027.

The proposals reflect Clinton's commitment to continuing the path on climate change set by President Obama, who champions numerous policies that bolster renewables and push a reduction in fossil fuel consumption.

The Clinton package is incomplete, however. Unlike her rivals in the Democratic presidential contest, Clinton has yet to take a position on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport oil from the Canadian tar sands to Gulf Coast ports. She also has yet to weigh in on a campaign to ban hydraulic fracturing nationwide, or to take a firm position on offshore oil drilling.

The proposal Clinton released Sunday for boosting solar installations by 700% is vague on details about how it would be funded.

Clinton continues to enjoy a commanding lead among Democratic primary voters. She seems unconcerned by the more detailed and aggressive proposals offered by challengers within her party.

Clinton's plan, which campaign officials said is just the first part of a larger platform that will be rolled out gradually, appeared to be aimed squarely at distinguishing her from Republicans.

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In a campaign video detailing her plan, Clinton said, “It’s hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they’re not scientists than listen to those who are.”

As Clinton speaks in the video, quotes from GOP candidates expressing skepticism that global warming is a real threat appear on the screen. Climate change has proved a challenging issue for Republican politicians, many of whom are critical of energy policies aimed at curbing it.

Polls show that most voters believe climate change is a real threat and they want action taken. But voters also rarely cite it as their top concern.

Hillary Clinton draws contrast with Republicans as she lays out economic plan

Hillary Clinton draws contrast with Republicans as she lays out economic plan

Regardless, the issue works well for Clinton as she campaigns in Iowa, a leader in wind production. The industry's rapid expansion here has been made possible in large part because of federal tax credits.

At a rally before about 400 people in Ames, Clinton cited the wind turbines sprouting on farms across the state.

She voiced her support for continuing the wind production credit, saying the nation’s tax code is weighted too heavily in favor of fossil fuels rather than renewable energy.

Continuation of such incentives is cited in the brief fact sheet the Clinton campaign distributed Sunday night. It also included programs to award states that are the most aggressive on renewable energy with more federal funding, a reduction in red tape that inhibits the expansion of solar energy and policy changes that would make solar power affordable for low-income households.

At the center of this part of Clinton’s energy agenda is a policy recently implemented by Obama. Clinton vows to be a protector of the Clean Power Plan, which puts strict limits on the amount of greenhouse gases power plants can release. Several states have gone to court seeking to block enforcement of the new rules.

Clinton also praised coal miners’ contributions to economic growth, a tacit acknowledgment that the shift toward clean energy is viewed skeptically by communities reliant on coal for their livelihoods. Many of those areas, including in battleground states like Ohio, are home to conservative white Democrats crucial to Clinton's White House hopes.

“It’s important that we help them transition to a new economy,” she said. “I want to do more to help people in coal country and other parts of our nation that are not enjoying the kind of growth and development and prosperity we’re seeing in a place like Story County,” where the rally was taking place.

Some environmentalists are uneasy with Clinton’s approach so far to climate change. They would like to have seen her work as secretary of State to scuttle the Keystone project. Her relationships with donors and advisors connected to large fossil fuel companies make them anxious. And her support during her 2008 presidential run for “clean coal” as a viable, green alternative has not been forgotten.

At a town hall event in New Hampshire this month, an activist with 350.org pushed her to commit to banning fossil fuel extraction on public land. Clinton declined to do so, saying such energy production is necessary to keep

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the economy moving until there are enough alternatives in place.

Hillary Clinton Refuses to Take a Position on the Keystone Pipeline // Mother Jones // Tim McDonnell – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton took a strong stance on clean energy Monday, telling a crowd in Des Moines, Iowa, that her efforts to tackle climate change would parallel President John F. Kennedy's call to action during the space race in the 1960s.

"I want to get the country back to setting big ambitious goals," Clinton said. "I want us to get back into the future business, and one of the best ways we can do that is to be absolutely ready to address the challenge of climate change and make it work to our advantage economically."

Her remarks tracked closely with an ambitious plan her campaign released Sunday night, which set a target of producing enough renewable energy to power all the nation's homes and businesses by 2027.

"America's ability to lead the world on this issue hinges on our ability to act ourselves," she said. "I refuse to turn my back on what is one of the greatest threats and greatest opportunities America faces."

"I think it's bogus," said Bill McKibben. "The more she tries to duck the question, the more the whole thing smells."

Still, the Democractic front-runner refused—as she has several times before—to say whether or not she supports construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. That project, which would carry crude oil from Canada's tar sands to refineries and ports in the United States, is seen by many environmentalists as a blemish on President Barack Obama's climate record. It has been stalled for years in a lengthy State Department review that began when Clinton was still Secretary of State. The Obama administration has resisted several recent attempts by Congress to force Keystone's approval, but it has yet to make a final decision on the project—although one is expected sometime this year.

"I will refrain from commenting [on Keystone XL], because I had a leading role in getting that process started, and we have to let it run its course," Clinton said, in response to a question from an audience member.

Her non-position on Keystone earned derision from environmentalist Bill McKibben, whose organization 350.org has been at the forefront of opposition to the pipeline.

"I think it's bogus," he said in an email. "Look, the notion that she can't talk about it because the State Dept. is still working on it makes no sense. By that test, she shouldn't be talking about Benghazi or Iran or anything else either. The more she tries to duck the question, the more the whole thing smells."

Clinton also punted on an audience request to reveal further details of how exactly she would finance the renewable energy targets she announced yesterday, which aim even higher than those already put in place by Obama. She reiterated that one key step would be to ensure the extension of federal tax credits for wind and solar energy that have expired or are set to expire over the next few years. And she said that she would continue Obama's practice of pursuing aggressive climate policies from within the White House, saying that "we still have a lot we can do" without waiting for a recalcitrant Congress to act.

Clinton acknowledged that the clean energy boom would come at a cost for the US coal industry, which is already

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in steep decline. She said she would "guarantee that coal miners and their families get the benefits they've earned," but didn't elaborate on what she meant or how specifically she would achieve that.

Environmental groups offered a generally positive reaction to Clinton's policy announcement Sunday. In a statement, League of Conservation Voters vice president Tiernan Sittenfield commended her for "calling out climate change deniers and effectively illustrating the urgent need to act on a defining issue of our time." She also earned praise from billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer, who has set a high bar on climate action for any candidate who wants to tap his millions.

"I refuse to let those who are deniers to rip away all the progress we've made and leave our country exposed to climate change," Clinton said.

Hillary Clinton Just Went Big on Clean Energy. That Was the Easy Part. // Slate // Josh Voorhees – July 27, 2015

At long last, Hillary Clinton has finally given the climate crowd something to get excited about. On Sunday the Democratic hopeful unveiled the first specific plank of what she is promising will be a comprehensive plan to address global warming. Clinton's bold-faced goals are something to behold: Installing more than half a billion solar panels in the United States by the end of her first term, and generating enough clean energy to power every home in the country within a decade of taking office.

Her energy proposal won't be enough to completely win over climate hawks, who have been skeptical of her environmental bona fides—but it's a solid start. Climate activists have long demanded that the next president go further than President Obama, and Clinton's proposal would do just that. In addition to protecting the historic climate rules being implemented by Obama's Environmental Protection Agency, Clinton is pledging to boost solar, wind, and other renewables to the point where they provide 33 percent of the country's electricity by 2027. Obama, meanwhile, has put the country on the path to reach about 25 percent by that same year.

Exactly how Clinton would get us to her goal remains unclear. But the broad brushstrokes suggest she'd rely heavily on tax incentives to spur the growth of renewables—particularly solar, which she says would see a 700 percent increase in U.S. capacity under her plan. At the center of her proposal is what her campaign has dubbed the Clean Energy Challenge, which would include: grants and "other market-based incentives" to encourage states to go above and beyond the actions required by federal law; a boost to federal investment in clean energy R&D; and an expansion of renewable production on public lands. She's also expected to push to extend current federal tax credits for solar and wind that are set to expire soon. Clinton's campaign pegs the estimated cost of the entire plan at about $60 billion over 10 years, which would be offset by eliminating tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

"We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system, which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels," Clinton said Sunday while campaigning in central Iowa ahead of her more formal climate rollout on Monday in Des Moines.

My colleague Eric Holthaus will have much more on the policy specifics and how they stack up against the plans already put forth by Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley in a bit. But on the strictly political side of the equation, it's clear that Clinton's proposal is clever. She's telling Americans what she'll add—rooftop solar for more than 25 million homes!—without having to address the more politically fraught conversation of what she's willing to subtract. Notably missing from the policy rollout was any mention of blocking Keystone XL, the controversial pipeline that has become a high-profile litmus test for the climate crowd, or a pledge to curb fossil fuel extraction on public lands.

Clinton's got a ways to go before fully captivating the climate hawks. The four-page fact sheet released by her campaign offered only vague promises that her climate policy planks will ensure "that fossil fuel production taking place today is safe and responsible, that taxpayers get a fair deal for development on public lands, and that areas

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that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table." Until Clinton fills in the blanks on just what is "safe and responsible" and what isn't, the issue will remain a red flag for Team Green, particularly given Clinton's previous comments suggesting a much more moderate, let's-not-move-too-fast approach to issues of drilling and mining. "Hillary Clinton is half the way there," climate activist Bill McKibben said in a statement Monday that made it clear he and his allies will be watching for Clinton to weigh in on offshore drilling in the Arctic and coal mining in the Powder River Basin.

For now, though, Clinton has seized some much-needed momentum on an issue she's had problems with in the past. Not incidentally: Her clean energy proposal appears to pass the clean energy litmus test unveiled late last week by Tom Steyer, the billionaire environmentalist who is expected to spend tens of millions of dollars through his super PAC in the 2016 election.

Hillary Clinton has big plans for solar power. Are they achievable? // CS Monitor // David J. Unger – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton sees your plans for a clean-energy future and raises you a few hundred-million solar panels.

The Democratic presidential frontrunner rolled out an ambitious plan late Sunday to decarbonize the US power sector, the first of what her campaign says will be a series of energy and climate policy announcements.

Although light on details, Mrs. Clinton's plan sets high targets for renewable energy deployment and goes further than energy policies put in place by President Obama – the first occupant of the Oval Office to take direct executive action on climate change. The plan is an attempt to fend off critics from the left who say the former secretary of state has been slow make climate a part of her campaign. It also puts Clinton in stark contrast to Republican candidates, the majority of whom either avoid discussing mainstream climate science or dismiss it outright.

Recommended: Climate change: Is your opinion informed by science? Take our quiz!

"I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter, and especially on my granddaughter," Clinton says in a video unveiling the climate plan. "It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change – who would rather remind us 'they're not scientists' than listen to those who are."

The US will install more than a billion solar panels by 2020, according to Clinton's plan, raising total installed capacity from today's 21 gigawatts to 140 gigawatts. That represents a 700 percent increase over four years. As Vox's Brad Plumer points out, that's a big number, but not entirely implausible. Between 2010 and 2014, solar capacity grew by 418 percent, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

The plan also calls for the US to generate enough renewables to power every US home by 2027. That equates roughly to generating a third of US electricity from wind, solar, and other renewable sources – up from 13 percent today. It also goes beyond the 25 percent of electricity generation from renewables that is projected to come with President Obama's proposed Clean Power Plan. That plan, which would regulate carbon emissions from US power plants for the first time in the nation's history, is being challenged in Congress and in court. If elected president, Clinton says she will defend the plan from its critics.

"The Clean Power Plan is a crucial tool in our national strategy to reduce carbon pollution, level the playing field for and increase the deployment of renewable energy, and build a clean energy future," the campaign's fact sheet reads. "But smart federal standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further."

Deep-pocketed environmentalist donors are expected to play a large role in this election cycle. Billionaire

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investor and climate activist Tom Steyer has urged presidential candidates to adopt a target of generating half of US power from carbon-free sources by 2030. Clinton's plan would bring her platform in line with that target or potentially exceed it, assuming nuclear generation remains flat or even grows.

The plan is expected to cost around $60 billion, according to a campaign spokesman, to be offset by eliminating tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

The question, then, is whether or not Clinton's vision is both technically feasible and politically viable. Most analysts suggest that a significant decarbonization of US energy supply over the coming decades would be challenging, but certainly within the realm of possibility. The technology for carbon-free power generation already exists – it's a matter of deploying those technologies and ensuring they work in harmony to create a stable grid.

Indeed, "it is technically feasible to achieve an 80% greenhouse gas reduction below 1990 levels by 2050 in the United States," according to a joint study released last fall by the consultancy Energy and Environmental Economics, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The study outlines several different pathways to meet that target that rely on different generation mixes and estimates the incremental cost of such an endeavor to be less than 1 percent of US GDP.

It's harder to say whether or not such a plan is politically viable. Cap-and-trade bills that would put a price on carbon have been largely a non-starter in Congress, and executive actions are vulnerable to legal and Congressional challenges. But there are some signs that public support for climate policies is growing, which could shift how presidential candidates view the issue. Forty-six percent of Americans say that global warming is a serious problem, according to a June survey by Pew Research Center. That's an increase of 13 percentage points from spring of 2013.

Here's How Hillary Clinton Wants to Fight Global Warming // National Journal // Ben Beman and Clare Foran - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton began the closely watched rollout of her energy-and-climate platform Sunday evening by announcing goals that would greatly expand the deployment of renewable power in the coming years.

However, the announcement does not address a suite of controversial topics, including whether Clinton supports the Keystone XL pipeline and whether she would allow oil drilling in Arctic waters.

But the Clinton campaign emphasized that Sunday's proposal is just part of a broader climate-and-energy agenda that will unfold in the coming months.

Clinton's plan calls for more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term, and having the U.S. generate enough renewable energy to power every home within a decade of the start of a Clinton presidency.

Achieving the goals would mean expanding the amount of installed solar-energy generating capacity by 700 percent from current levels by the end of 2020, and adding more green-power generation capacity to the electric grid than any other decade in U.S. history, according to a summary of the plan.

According to the Clinton campaign, the clean energy agenda outlined on Sunday would meet the test that environmental mega donor Tom Steyer laid out last week when he called on all candidates to put forward a plan to ramp up renewable and carbon-free energy so that it accounts for more than half of all power generation by 2030.

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Brian Fallon, a Clinton campaign spokesman, said on Twitter: "Clinton's goal translates to 33% of electricity by 2027. Counting nuclear, as Steyer does, she exceeds his 50% goal."

Steyer was quick to praise Clinton while making clear that he hopes to see the 2016 Democratic frontrunner outline additional actions she will take to fight global warming.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis," Steyer said in a statement, adding: "we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

The campaign unveiled the clean-energy pledge by releasing a video and outline of the plan Sunday evening.

"Future generations will look back and wonder: What were we thinking? How could we possibly be so irresponsible?" Clinton's voice intones during the video. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter."

"You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all; you just have to be willing to act," Clinton adds.

“Exactly what I need as a busy college student."Samantha, StudentSign up form for the newsletter

Sunday's rollout is a pivotal political moment in Clinton's relationship to environmentalists, including the more-progressive wing of the movement that has questioned her green bona fides.

Some environmentalists are dubious about Clinton's commitment to powerfully confronting global warming and fossil fuels. The more lefty and aggressive sectors of the green movement, such as Vermont activist Bill McKibben, note her lack of a Keystone position.

And Clinton has applauded the economic benefits of the nation's fracking-fueled oil and natural-gas boom, and the lower carbon emissions of gas compared to coal, while calling for "smart" regulations.

The summary of her plan does not touch on where she may seek to allow or bar development, promising only future information on the topic.

There will be a major initiative, the campaign said, on ways to "ensure that fossil fuel production taking place today is safe and responsible, that taxpayers get a fair deal for development on public lands, and that areas that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table."

Steps to achieve the renewable power goals announced on Sunday include protecting the Obama administration's carbon-emissions standards for power plants, according to the Clinton campaign, as well as new initiatives. That means, a "new partnership with states, cities, and rural communities that are ready to lead on clean energy." This work would include grants and "market-based" incentives to help states cut carbon beyond the standards Obama is imposing and accelerate green-energy deployment.

The campaign says Clinton, if elected, would pursue a wide-ranging set of initiatives to expand deployment of

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renewable energy, such as removing barriers to transmission and fighting to extend green energy tax credits on Capitol Hill, and expanding renewables development on federal lands and buildings, among other steps.

Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, has vowed that Clinton would make climate change and clean energy major themes of her race for the White House.

Subsequent announcements will address issues such as reducing oil consumption in the U.S. and around the world, guarding against supply disruptions, and modernizing energy infrastructure, the campaign said.

On the heels of Sunday night's announcement, Clinton will tour and give a speech on energy and climate Monday at the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Central Station, which has a "platinum" certification in the U.S. Green Building Council's rating system.

Two other contenders for the Democratic nod are appealing to progressive voters with aggressive climate proposals and records of their own.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has been gaining in the polls and attracting large crowds, has sponsored legislation to impose a tax on carbon emissions.

Sanders also is a longtime opponent of the Keystone XL pipeline and has endorsed the movement among some universities, churches, foundations, and other institutional investors to dump their holdings in coal and oil-and-gas companies.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, another Keystone foe, unveiled a broad plan in June. It proposes a mandate to require that all of the nation's electricity come from renewable sources by 2050, while expanding EPA's carbon emissions rules for power plants to cover other large pollution sources and rejecting any expansion of offshore drilling, among other measures.

O'Malley, saddled with very low polling numbers, sought to promote his plan ahead of Clinton's announcement Sunday.

"Eschewing the piecemeal, poll-tested, 'all of the above' energy strategies of the past, O'Malley has made clear that he will use the full force of his executive power to make the transition to a clean energy future the Number 1 priority of our federal government," his campaign said.

Clinton, in her Senate career before becoming secretary of State, drew high marks from the League of Conservation Voters, which carefully tracks lawmakers' votes on a suite of environmental and energy matters.

She scored an 82 percent record for her career, though her numbers were dragged down somewhat by missing a number of votes while running for president eight years ago.

Hillary Clinton outlines climate change plan // Washington Examiner // Zack Colman – July 17, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton laid out a climate plan Sunday that aim to get half of all electricity generated in the United States from zero-carbon sources within 10 years.

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Under the plan, Clinton said one-third of power a decade after taking the White House — were she to win the presidency — would come from renewable sources, enough to power every U.S. home. Once combined with existing nuclear power, which doesn't emit carbon, more than half of the nation's electricity would come from zero-emitting sources.

The strategy comes on the heels of pressure from Democratic rivals seeking the White House bid who have darted to the ex-secretary of state's left on climate change. It also comes after billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer prodded candidates Friday to offer detailed plans to get at least half of the nation's power from energy sources that don't emit greenhouse gases.

Shooting for that 50 percent mark underscores the Steyer's rising profile in the Democratic politics along with how central climate change has become for the party as a potential wedge issue with Republicans — only one GOP candidate so far has endorsed scientists' findings that humans are largely the cause of a warming planet.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security. Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs — and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change," Steyer said in a statement through his super PAC, NextGen Climate Action.

Steyer already has hosted a fundraiser for Clinton. He hasn't yet said publicly how much he wants to spend in 2016, though it's expected to surpass the $57 million Steyer spent on the 2014 election. Meanwhile, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and ex-Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have competed for a slice of the liberal environmental base that was a key voting bloc for President Obama in part by touting climate and energy policies sought by the Democratic Party's progressive wing.

Progressives have continued to press Clinton for more details about her climate strategy and have been wary of her credentials, citing her resistance to comment on whether she'd OK the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline. Clinton has said she doesn't think it would be proper to comment on the Canada-to-Texas project because she presided over its application while at Foggy Bottom.

Clinton's team said she would "make it a top priority to fight efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan," the signature Obama administration climate regulation that's due to be finalized this summer. A growing number of states have signaled they won't comply with the regulation, which seeks to limit carbon emissions from power plants, and it's been in congressional Republican crosshairs for months.

The Clinton campaign also said it would prioritize investment in electric transmission infrastructure, push to extend clean energy tax credits while making them "more cost effective," and try to link up half a billion homes with solar power by the end of a prospective first term, increasing total solar capacity by 700 percent, up to 140 gigawatts.

The strategy also calls for increasing renewable energy production on federal land and expanding clean energy investment in rural communities.

Clinton also looked to shore up support from the Democratic Party's centrists by saying any climate push should include a plan for ensuring coal communities don't fall by the wayside — a plan for which the campaign said would come at a later date. Much of the opposition to Obama's climate agenda comes from coal-heavy states, as they say regulations will put people out of business.

Other parts of Clinton's energy platform will be coming in the ensuing month, her team said. Plans for updating

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energy infrastructure, reducing global oil consumption and for pursuing "safe and responsible production" of fossil fuels are on the docket.

Hillary Clinton talks big on climate change but silent on Keystone XL // Washington Times // S.A. Miller – July 27, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton's move to cozy up to the party's environmentalists came up short Monday when she again refused to take a position on the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Mrs. Clinton said that she couldn't offer an opinion because she helped establish the approval process for the controversial cross-country pipeline when she was President Obama's secretary of state.

"No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started, and I put together a very thorough, deliberative, evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental impact and other considerations of Keystone," Mrs. Clinton said at an event in Des Moines, Iowa, where she outlined her plan to fight climate change.

"I will refrain from commenting, because I had a leading role in getting that process started, and I think that we have to let it run its course," she said.

U.S. approval of the pipeline has been stymied since Mr. Obama took office.

Environmentalists fiercely oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, which would run from Canada to Nebraska and hook up with existing pipelines to the Gulf Coast, and have made opposition to it a litmus test for Democratic presidential candidates.

Mrs. Clinton had already come under fire for rolling out a climate change agenda that featured ambitious goals to "decarbonize" America but lacked details about how she would accomplish it.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is waging a long-shot bid for Democratic presidential nomination, pounced on Mrs. Clinton.

"Governor O'Malley is opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline because we can't move to a clean energy future if we continue to rely on dirty, short-term fossil fuel fixes," said O'Malley campaign manager Lis Smith. "Real leadership is about forging public opinion on issues like Keystone — not following it. Every Democrat should follow his lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels."

Hillary Clinton's climate change goals include plan to 'decarbonize' America // Washington Times // S.A. Miller - July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton entered the climate change debate Sunday, setting ambitious goals to "decarbonize" America and blasting her Republican rivals for ignoring scientists who warn of a looming disaster from global warming.

Mrs. Clinton announced what she described as the first pillars of a comprehensive energy and climate agenda with a three-minute Web video that presented a montage of scenes of children on playgrounds, farmland and windmills juxtaposed with footage of wildfires, a blazing sun and flood damage.

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“I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what’s happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter,” Mrs. Clinton said in her narration for the video.

Mrs. Clinton promised that, if elected president, she would set two goals to fight climate change: increase the number of solar panels by more than 500 million across the country by the end of her first term and set a 10-year goal of generating enough renewable energy to power every single home in America.

Mrs. Clinton’s goals served as her opening bid to satisfy the Democratic Party’s liberal base, which wants a more aggressive effort on climate change and environmentalism than President Obama has been able to muster.

Mrs. Clinton’s liberal opponents for the nomination, most significantly Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont, already have staked out tough stances and made the issue a centerpiece of their campaigns.

The campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley responded with a memorandum that did not name Mrs. Clinton but highlighted the former Maryland governor’s long-standing plan to combat climate change and make the country 100 percent powered by renewable energy by 2050.

The memo stressed that the climate change issue needed “actions, not just words,” and referenced Mr. O'Malley’s longtime opposition to the Keystone XL cross-country oil pipeline, which is the bane of environmentalists. Mrs. Clinton has not taken a public stand on the pipeline.

Mr. O'Malley has forcefully challenged Mrs. Clinton from the left on a host of issues but has failed to gain traction in the polls, slipping further into the single digits as Mr. Sanders, a self-identified socialist, has gained steam with his own agenda.

The Clinton campaign said the former first lady, senator and secretary of state would discuss more of her plan to increase renewable energy sources and address climate change Monday after a tour at the green-energy certified Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) Central Station in Iowa.

To achieve her goals on climate change, Mrs. Clinton would launch a “clean energy challenge” that forms a partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead on clean energy, according to the campaign.

The challenge will include:

• Competitive grants and other market-based incentives to empower states to enact carbon pollution standards tougher than the federal government’s and accelerate clean energy deployment.

• Awards for communities that successfully cut the red tape that slows rooftop solar installation times and increases costs for businesses and consumers.

• Work with states, cities and rural communities to strengthen grid reliability and resilience, increase consumer choice and improve customer value.

• Expand the Rural Utilities Service and other successful USDA programs to help provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy, not just to rural Americans but to the rest of the country as well.

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The campaign said Mrs. Clinton also would fight efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan, a proposed rule by the Environmental Protection Agency that would cut carbon emissions from power plants and is being challenged in court.

In the video, Mrs. Clinton called out eight Republican presidential candidates for either denying climate change or claiming they couldn't judge whether climate change exists because they are not scientists.

The screen was filled with the text of quotes from former Sen. Rick Santorum, Sen. Rand Paul, Sen. Marco Rubio, real estate mogul Donald Trump, former Gov. Jeb Bush, former Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. John Kasich.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change. Who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Mrs. Clinton said. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all; you just have to be willing to act."

Mrs. Clinton said Republicans were stuck in the past and she was offering leadership for the future and the opportunity to make America a "clean energy superpower," which is a phrase she has used repeatedly on the campaign trail.

"We're on the cusp of a new era. We can have more choice in the energy we consume and produce. We can create a more open, efficient and resilient grid that connects us, empowers us — improves our health and benefits us all," she said in the video. "The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible, or they can keep us trapped in the past. We cannot wait any longer. It's time we stand for a healthier climate, stand for cleaner air, for science, innovation, for our children, for reality, for the future."

Hillary Clinton Just Released Her First Major Climate Change Proposals // Mic // Zeeshan Aleem – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton has released the first two major policy proposals for her vision for tackling climate change and ensuring the United States' primacy as the "world's clean energy superpower."

The plan, which she announced through a video released on Sunday, sets forth two enterprising goals. Her first commitment is a pledge to have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term in office. Her second objective is to power every home in the U.S. with clean renewable energy within a decade of her arrival in the White House.

The Clinton campaign also outlines her plan to form a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would create a network of partnerships between the federal government and states, cities and smaller communities to incentivize investment in renewable energy with grants.

The proposals are only the first of a number of climate policy commitments expected to emerge from Clinton's campaign in the coming months, but already some progressive outfits have responded with cautious optimism to her opening rhetoric.

The plan: Clinton's solar panel agenda would boost the amount of installed solar capacity by 700% by 2020 — the same as "rooftop solar systems on over 25 million homes," according to the campaign.

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Her commitment to increasing the amount of renewable energy in the U.S. would double the share of renewables in overall power generation. Currently, renewable energy accounts for about 16% of total power generation in the country; Clinton's 10-year plan would increase that to 33% by 2027. Clinton's camp points out that that's eight percentage points higher than called for under the Obama administration's forthcoming "Clean Power Plan."

In her video announcing the proposals, Clinton takes aim at Republicans who deny climate change and singles out Jeb Bush's comment saying "I'm not a scientist" before describing himself a "skeptic" of global warming.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change — who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Clinton says in the video. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all, you just have to be willing to act."

The reaction: Clinton's message was received fairly well by a number of players in the climate policy field.

Tom Steyer, the head of NextGen Climate, offered vague but warm encouragement on Clinton's ideas in a statement issued by the Clinton campaign: "Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security. Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs."

Steyer's opinion carries weight for Democratic candidates: His support is accompanied by vast amounts of cash. Steyer is a former hedge fund manager and was the single biggest public spender in the 2014 elections. According to the New York Times, in order to win the backing of his super PAC, a candidate "must pledge to enact an energy policy that would lead to the generation of half the nation's electricity from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2030... and 100% from clean sources by 2050." When combined with nuclear energy, Clinton's 10-year plan for growing renewable energy more than meets Steyer's 2030 benchmark, as Clinton press secretary Brian Fallon pointed out on Twitter:

Some other climate policy groups praised Clinton's stance on renewable energy, but emphasized that she has yet to prove her mettle on combating fossil fuels.

"Clinton is half the way there — this is a credible commitment to renewable energy, and a recognition that the economics of electricity are changing fast," 350.org co-founder and climate change activist Bill McKibben said in a statement emailed to Mic. "Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate change equation — and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects like offshore and Arctic drilling, coal leasing in the Powder River basin, and the Keystone XL pipeline. Because at the end of the day, growth in renewables doesn't mean enough if we're simultaneously kicking the decarbonization can down the road with more pipelines and more extraction on public lands."

In the past, Clinton has angered green activists with her work on a variety of climate-related issues. But this time around, it seems like her campaign is off to a decent start on the issue.

In climate change plan, Hillary Clinton makes big bet on solar power // Mashable // Andrew Freedman – July 27, 2015

In a speech in Iowa on Monday, Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton began laying out what she says will be a forward-thinking, "ambitious" set of policy proposals and goals to address the threat of manmade global warming.

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She does so as she faces a primary challenge from Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, who both have progressive records on global warming.

Clinton declared two goals, both of which involve a significant ramp up of renewable energy use in the U.S. The first goal is for the country to have "more than half a billion solar panels" installed in the U.S. by the end of Clinton's first term in office, which would be in 2020.

The second goal also centers on solar power, which has been expanding rapidly in recent years as the cost of manufacturing and installing solar panels has plummeted.

Clinton said she wants the U.S. to generate enough renewable electricity to power every single home in the country within a decade.

These goals, which were first announced on Clinton's campaign website on Sunday night, would involve a 700% increase in installed solar capacity, which is equal to having rooftop solar systems on more than 25 million homes, the Clinton campaign stated in a fact sheet.

The policy proposals, the campaign stated, would put the country on a "deep emission reduction" pathway by the year 2050.

“The reality of climate change is unforgiving no matter what the deniers say,” Clinton said during an appearance at an environmentally-friendly transit station in Des Moines.

Since declaring their candidacy, none of the Republican presidential candidates have voiced support for the scientific consensus on climate change, which is that the world's climate is warming mainly due to manmade emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists say that this year, in fact, is likely to be the warmest on record.

Clinton pledged to defend President Obama's EPA climate regulations, known as the Clean Power Plan, which is the central component of the current administration's goal of cutting global warming pollutants, such as carbon dioxide, to 26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2025.

That regulations are under attack in the courts and on Capitol Hill.

“I will defend President Obama’s Clean Power Plan,” she said. “I refuse to let those who are deniers … to rip away all that we’ve managed to do,” she said.

Clinton also said she would reduce economic incentives, such as tax breaks, for oil production and "extend incentives instead for clean energy."

As secretary of state, Clinton helped lead America's climate negotiations at the Copenhagen Summit in 2009, which failed to produce an ambitious agreement that contained binding emissions reductions worldwide. Many climate activists considered that summit to be a bitter disappointment.

Still, Clinton touts the non-binding Copenhagen Accord as a diplomatic accomplishment on her website.

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The Accord, which was the first time that developing nations such as China agreed to take action to reduce their emissions, paved the way for a new climate treaty to be negotiated in Paris this year.

Clinton's record at those climate talks may come back to haunt the U.S. in Paris, however.

In Copenhagen, it was Clinton who rolled out a $100 billion per year Green Climate Fund to help fund emissions reduction efforts and climate adaptation work in developing countries.

That fund has not yet been fully capitalized, however, and this is a major sticking point as the international community approaches the next crucial round of U.N. climate talks, set for Paris in early December. Many developing countries say that without a working Green Climate Fund, they cannot take potentially painful emissions cuts at home.

In Iowa on Monday, Clinton said the U.S. must lead by example in order to secure climate agreements with other nations. “No country will fall in line just because we tell them to,” she said.

“America needs to lead this fight, not go M.I.A.,” Clinton said.

Clinton has earned the backing of billionaire Tom Steyer, whose group, NextGen Climate Action and a related political action committee, supports candidates who seek to address global warming. Steyer sent an email to reporters lauding Clinton's proposal on Sunday night.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country’s economic security," Steyer said in a statement. "Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs — and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

Clinton dodges Keystone question

On the question of whether or not to approve the Keystone-XL Pipeline from Canada to the U.S., however, Clinton refused to take a position when asked about her stance by a reporter on Monday.

The pipeline would move oil from Canada's oil sands region in Alberta south to refineries along the Gulf Coast, where it would be prepared for export.

In dodging the Keystone issue, Clinton cited her involvement in the review process for the pipeline during her time at the State Department. Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama have yet to make a decision on whether to approve the pipeline, which falls under the State Department's purview since it would cross an international border.

Clinton said she is confident that “The pipeline’s impacts on global greenhouse gas emissions will be a major factor in that decision."

Bill McKibben, the founder of the environmental group 350.org , lauded Clinton's policy proposals on Monday, but criticized her position on Keystone.

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"Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate change equation — and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects like offshore and Arctic drilling, coal leasing in the Powder River basin, and the Keystone XL pipeline," he said in a statement.

"... At the end of the day, growth in renewables doesn't mean enough if we're simultaneously kicking the decarbonization can down the road with more pipelines and more extraction on public lands," McKibben said.

Hillary Clinton's Climate Change Video Finally Calls Out Republicans' Bogus "I'm Not A Scientist" Platform // Bustle // Lauren Barbato – July 27, 2015

For the next leg of her campaign, Hillary Clinton is taking on climate change. In a video released by her campaign Sunday night, Clinton unveiled her official climate-change position, as well as the policies she intends to put in place if she reaches the White House. So, what is her position on this major 2016 talking point? Well, let's just say Clinton's stance on the validity of science places her more in line with Pope Francis than Jeb Bush.

"I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain," Clinton says in the opening lines of the video. "I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter, and especially on my granddaughter."

Clinton goes on to attack her Republican foes, including frontrunners like Bush, Donald Trump, Rick Perry and Sen. Marco Rubio, for rejecting climate-change science — or, just science in general — in 2015. More and more, taking a stance against climate change has become a hallmark of the Republican Party, and Clinton wants to make sure none of us forgets it.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change," Clinton says. "Who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are."

"You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all," Clinton continues."You just have to be willing to act."

So, what is HRC going to do about this climate-change threat? First, she praised the renewable energy industry for preventing premature deaths and asthma attacks, while also creating new jobs for Americans.

But Clinton also put forth a much stronger call to action in her latest video. "On day one as president, I will set two ambitious national goals that will test our capacities," Clinton said.

And her two goals are (drumroll, please):

- ensuring America has more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of 2020
- set a 10-year goal of generating renewable energy that can power "every single home" in the United States

Clinton promised that a "comprehensive agenda" will be released within the next few months, but she did give a few hints while addressing a crowd of supporters in Ames, Iowa, on Sunday. For instance, Clinton said she plans to use tax incentives, including a possible renewable of the wind energy tax credit, to reach her 10-year goal of powering homes in America with renewable energy.

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The former secretary of state also talked about transitioning America from fossil fuels to new sources of energy. “We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels,” Clinton said Sunday in Iowa.

So far, Clinton’s video is a welcome change from much of the climate-change talk we’ve been hearing this campaign season. While we await Clinton’s full agenda, we can at least take comfort in knowing that Clinton has more in common with Pope Francis than Rick “The Pope Is Not A Scientist” Santorum et al.

How Hillary Clinton's Climate Change Plan Stands Up To Martin O'Malley's, aka The Only Two Global Warming Strategies In The Entire Race // Bustle // Kendyl Kearly – July 27, 2015

It’s still 2015, but candidates in the 2016 presidential race have already begun to claim the most important issues to their platforms, and hash out large-scale plans for dealing with them. Environmentalism is a huge cause for the major candidates on the left, and two of them have been the first to share large environmental protection agendas. On Sunday evening, Hillary Clinton joined Martin O’Malley in providing climate change plans.

O’Malley shared his ideas for a green presidency back in June, winning Democratic praise for being the first major candidate to do so. The proposal is aggressive and came right after Pope Francis’ encyclical that expressed the need to protect the Earth from climate change. Although Clinton and O’Malley have the same goal in mind, their plans to accomplish it have some notable differences.

One of Clinton’s largest goals centers around solar energy. She says she will expand the amount of installed solar capacity by 700 percent by 2020. According to her website, she wants more than half a billion panels installed by the end of her first term.

O’Malley also wants clean energy to be a part of his presidency. He advocates for the extension of tax credits that fuel the wind and solar panel industries. He would launch an organization that centers around financing community wind and solar programs. He supports loans and grants for farmers and small business owners that encourage them to adopt clean energy.

Unlike Clinton, O’Malley mentioned the use of biofuels. As president, he would use tax credits and EPA volume targets to build a thriving biofuel industry. Although Clinton has not yet said whether biofuels would be a part of her plan, she supported their use during her 2008 campaign.

O’Malley believes that the way to make his plan sustainable is through training workers to embrace environmentally friendly practices. He wants to create an organization that focuses on clean energy jobs. This organization would theoretically partner with communities, build clean energy infrastructures, make buildings more energy efficient, and expand fields and forests. Clinton mentioned a “Clean Energy Challenge” that would partner with states, cities, and rural communities, but it’s unclear now what exactly such a challenge would do for those communities.

Whereas Clinton keeps her agenda related to clean energy, O’Malley addresses job creation and economic issues with his ideas. He has also expressed his disapproval of off-shore drilling and tar sand oil energy, while Clinton has been less clear on such controversial environmental issues.

Their timelines differ as well. O’Malley believes that in 35 years, the country could be 100 percent powered by clean energy. Clinton says that by 2020, renewable energy could be a third of all energy generated. Her other goal is for every American home to be powered by clean energy within 10 years of taking office.

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At this point, O'Malley's plan is a lot more specific than Clinton's when it comes to implementation and funding. However, Clinton says she will give more details in the coming months. Though she's given more concrete ideas than most other Democratic candidates, she might face pressure to add more specifics if she wants to compare favorably to O'Malley.

Hillary Clinton's Plan to Combat Climate Change With Half-A-Billion Solar Panels //ThinkProgress // Emily Atkin – July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton is going all in on renewable energy.

On Sunday evening, the Democratic presidential candidate released a fact sheet detailing her plan to fight climate change, and it focuses heavily on promoting clean energy generation across the country.

Among other things, the plan includes a promise to install half a billion solar panels by 2021, or the end of Clinton's first term. That would represent a 700 percent increase from current installations, she said. Clinton also promised that, if elected, enough renewable energy would be produced to power every home in the country within 10 years.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," Clinton said in Iowa on Sunday, Yahoo reported.

The aggressive transition to renewables proposed by Clinton would be achieved partially through extending and strengthening tax breaks those industries, Clinton said. Last week, the Senate proposed renewing two tax incentives for the wind industry, which are currently expired.

Clinton is expected to explain more details of the plan during a Monday event in Des Moines, according to Yahoo's report.

Though Clinton has been outspoken about the need to address climate change, many environmentalists have expressed doubt that her policies would be as strong as they may like. They often point to her historic "inclination" to approve the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, and her support for domestic fossil fuel production, specifically natural gas.

But tackling climate change has been central to Clinton's campaign so far. In her campaign kick-off speech, she promised to make America "the clean energy superpower of the 21st century" and condemned Republican politicians for willfully ignoring the science behind human-caused warming. Her campaign chairman John Podesta was the architect of President Obama's plan to tackle carbon emissions through regulations, and Clinton has promised to keep those regulations in place "at all costs." As ThinkProgress pointed out in April, Clinton's is the first major presidential campaign ever to make combating climate change a central issue.

That certainly does not mean that Clinton's is the only presidential campaign that's put a hard focus on tackling global warming. Indeed, Democratic contender Martin O'Malley arguably has an even more aggressive climate agenda. His plan is to make the country powered completely by renewable energy by 2050 — meaning no fossil fuel use at all. He has condemned President Obama for approving offshore drilling, supporting domestic oil production, and shying away from bold stances on high-carbon tar sands oil from Canada, which would be transported by the Keystone XL pipeline if it were approved.

"We cannot meet the climate challenge with an all-of-the-above energy strategy, or by drilling off our coasts, or by building pipelines that bring oil from tar sands in Canada," O'Malley wrote in an op-ed published last month.

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Clinton's other Democratic rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) hasn't released an official climate plan yet. But in an interview with the Washington Post in May, he said he would go further than President Obama has in tackling the problem.

Sanders' plan, he said, "would look like a tax on carbon; a massive investment in solar, wind, geothermal; it would be making sure that every home and building in this country is properly winterized; it would be putting substantial money into rail, both passenger and cargo, so we can move towards breaking our dependency on automobiles. And it would be leading other countries around the world."

Hillary Clinton proposes installing half a billion solar panels across America by 2020 // Fusion // Rob Wile – July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton released Sunday the outlines of how she would tackle climate change if elected president, proposing two ambitious goals.

First, she would install half a billion solar panels across America by the end of her first term.

It would represent an approximately 546%-increase from current production levels. The average solar panel produces 200 watts, and current U.S. solar photovoltaic output was 18.3 gigawatts as of January 2015 according to GTM Research.

This would be part of a larger plan to allow every home in the U.S. to be powered by renewable energy within a decade of her taking office. Currently the residential sector consumes 40% of total electricity output in the U.S, and electricity accounts for 40% of all U.S. energy consumption.

She's calling it the "Clean Energy Challenge," and published this chart to show how much renewable energy would be generated compared with proposals set forth in President Obama's Clean Power Plan:

"Through these goals," the campaign says on its website, "we will increase the amount of installed solar capacity by 700% by 2020, expand renewable energy to at least a third of all electricity generation, prevent thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of asthma attacks each year, and put our country on a path to achieve deep emission reductions by 2050."

However, she does not propose ending fossil fuel consumption. Instead, she says she wants to, "reduce the amount of oil consumed in the United States and around the world," and to make sure it is being produced in a "safe and responsible."

No further details were provided on these points.

Many GOPers including Marco Rubio have responded to questions about how they'd address climate change with variations on "I'm not a scientist" (that group also includes Jeb Bush, though he also acknowledged that climate change was occurring but that a balance had to be struck between addressing it without incurring major economic costs).

At an Iowa campaign event Sunday, the Wall Street Journal's Colleen McCain Nelson reported, Hillary mocked the "scientist" remarks.

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“I’m not a scientist either—I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain…I know that if we start addressing it, we’re going to actually be creating jobs and new businesses.”

Last week, renowned climate scientist James Hansen issued one of the most dire climate warnings in years, finding that glaciers at both poles are melting 10-times faster than previously believed, the result of a feedback loop of cold water from already-melting glaciers forcing warmer saltwater underneath remaining glaciers.

As a result, the seas are going to rise way faster, and sooner, than anyone is prepared for.

“We conclude that continued high emissions will make multi-meter sea level rise practically unavoidable and likely to occur this century,” he wrote. “Social disruption and economic consequences of such large sea level rise could be devastating. It is not difficult to imagine that conflicts arising from forced migrations and economic collapse might make the planet ungovernable, threatening the fabric of civilization.”

We are now just four months away from the Paris Climate Conference, at which countries are supposed to come up with a sweeping agreement to address climate change.

But as Slate climate correspondent Eric Holthaus reports, the policies being floated in advance of the summit would actually lead to 3.1 degrees Celsius-temperature-rise this century, according to Climate Action Tracker, a group of independent climate research organizations, with both the U.S.’s and China’s CO2 reduction plans rated as inadequate.

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Cameron Langford
Communications Intern | Hillary for America

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Milia Fisher
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mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Elias, Marc \(Perkins Coie\)" <MElias@perkinscoie.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/21/2015 5:39:34 PM
Subject: Re: Brock

What is it a published book or a research book?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 21, 2015, at 8:38 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Marc, can we communicate with Brock about getting a copy of this Clinton Cash book? We need it very urgently if possible.

NOTICE: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you have received it in error, please advise the sender by reply email and immediately delete the message and any attachments without copying or disclosing the contents. Thank you.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/17/2008 1:30:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/17

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 17th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:30am McCain: Town Hall in Kansas City, MO
- Tracking scheduled for this event
6pm McCain: Fundraiser in East Grand Rapids, MI

9:10pm BUSH: Attends a private Republican Party reception in Napa, California

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

NAACP gives low-key response to McCain (USA Today 7/17/08)
By Susan Page, USA TODAY
John McCain won plaudits if not support Wednesday for addressing some of opponent Barack Obama's strongest supporters.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-16-mccain-naacp_N.htm?csp=34
Link to video of McCain speech: http://video.syndication.msn.com/v/Legacy.aspx?mk=en-ap&g=a0e7eec9-3f58-4e2d-9ba5-ab94d89d707a&f=&fg=rss&partner=en-ap
Link to transcript: http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080716/NEWS0108/307160036

NAACP gives McCain a respectful reception (LA Times 7/17/08)
By Robin Abcarian
The turnout doesn't match the one Obama got, but his speech on education reform is well-received.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain17-2008jul17,0,6691602.story
See CNN's " McCain receives polite but tepid welcome from pro-Obama crowd": http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/16/mccain.naacp/index.html

McCain calls for education reform (Cincinnati Enquirer 7/17/08)
By Howard Wilkinson
Heading back to Lunken Airport on his campaign bus Wednesday afternoon, after spending an hour downtown making his case to a respectful but skeptical crowd at the NAACP convention, Republican Sen. John McCain couldn't say whether he won over a single vote. ...Many in the audience, while they disagreed with much of what he had to say, were appreciative of the simple fact McCain showed up - something other GOP presidential nominees, like George W. Bush in 2004 and Bob Dole in 1996, failed to do.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080717/NEWS0108/807170379/1169/NEWS

McCain earns some points (Cincinnati Enquirer 7/17/08)
By Cliff Peale and Denise Smith Amos
Taking several politically unpopular positions in front of the nation's biggest civil-rights organization Wednesday morning, John McCain worked hard for the support he got. There just wasn't very much of it.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080717/NEWS0108/807170403/1169/NEWS&GID=ipczqaIst3hznWo1gX+8Zah/aFn+r4MtW0fOg37Flzc%3D

McCain at the N.A.A.C.P. Convention (NYT blog 7/16/08)
By Larry Rohter
As Senator John McCain was arriving in Cincinnati to address the annual convention of the N.A.A.C.P. on Wednesday, another speaker was talking about the sub-prime mortgage crisis and how it disproportionately affects African-Americans. ...It was also in Cincinnati, in February, that a conservative radio talk show host who helped introduce Mr. McCain at a rally here referred to Mr. McCain's Democratic opponent, Senator Barack Obama, in disparaging terms while invoking Mr. Obama's middle name, Hussein, three times. That prompted Mr.

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McCain to apologize and repudiate the comments.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/mccain-at-the-naacp-convention/

McCain's Education Plan Includes a Policy Departure (NY Sun 7/17/08)
By ELIZABETH GREEN
If elected president, Senator McCain would support private school vouchers, give full funding to the federal No Child Left Behind law, and push for an expansion of "virtual schools," the Republican candidate said yesterday in unveiling his education plan during a speech to the NAACP.
http://www.nysun.com/national/mccains-education-plan-includes-a-policy-departure/82100/

Figures in Both Campaigns Have Deep Ties to Mortgage Giants (Washington Post 7/17/08)
By Jonathan Weisman; A06
When Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's stock prices plunged and rumors of their insolvency swirled, the presidential campaigns of Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama released terse statements about the mortgage giants, then went nearly silent. ...Rick Davis, McCain's campaign manager, was president of the Homeownership Alliance, which advocates the expansion of homeownership through low-interest mortgages funded by Fannie and Freddie. Arthur B. Culvahouse Jr., who is heading McCain's vice presidential vetting panel, was a lobbyist for Fannie Mae. Mark Buse, a longtime McCain aide, lobbied for Freddie Mac before returning to McCain's Senate staff.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/16/AR2008071602565.html

Obama, McCain swap talking points on trail (Washington Times 7/17/08)
By Joseph Curl
The two presidential candidates switched places Wednesday, with Republican Sen. John McCain talking about education in poor black communities and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama discussing national security and touting his credentials to be commander in chief.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jul/17/obama-mccain-swap-talking-points-on-trail/

Candidates starkly divided on economy (Politico 7/17/08)
By: Jeanne Cummings and Eamon Javers
Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain are both bracing to take over a troubled economy in January.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11821.html

As economy dominates, Obama, McCain seek answers (AP 7/17/08)
By Charles Babington
The economy is deteriorating so quickly and dramatically that it threatens to overtake many proposals the presidential candidates have been offering for months. Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain are suggesting tax, spending and regulatory plans in response to soaring gasoline prices, a home lending crisis and other woes hitting consumers. But it is far from clear that their ideas can seriously improve matters or even pay for themselves without expanding the deficit, as the candidates claim.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/07/16/
as_economy_dominates_obama_mccain_seek_answers/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

An Abramoff Connection Among McCain's 'Bundlers' (NYT blog 7/16/08)
By Leslie Wayne
As chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, John McCain began hearings that helped bring down Jack Abramoff, the disgraced lobbyist who was the central figure in a political scandal that landed Mr. Abramoff in jail. Now, as Mr. McCain releases the names of hundreds of "bundlers" — his top money collectors — one person who popped up is Juan Carlos Benitez, a lawyer and lobbyist whom Mr. Abramoff had championed for a Bush administration post.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/an-abramoff-connection/

McCain uses 'bundler' money more than Obama campaign (USA Today 7/16/08)
By Fredreka Schouten
Elite Fundraisers Have Helped Collect More Than Half McCain's Money
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5383342&page=1

Obama and McCain Expand Courtship of Hispanics (NYT 7/17/08)
By LARRY ROHTER
Three times this month, Senators John McCain and Barack Obama have addressed national Hispanic advocacy and community service organizations. As a result, it is possible to draw a picture of the strategy and tactics that each of the presumed presidential nominees intends to employ to win the Hispanic vote, expected to be decisive

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in several states.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/us/politics/17hispanics.html?ref=politics

McCain and Bush's Uneasy Alliance (TIME 7/16/08)
By James Carney
It was in Portsmouth, Ohio, the other day when a supporter neatly summed up the obstacle lying between John McCain and the White House. "When," the young man implored, "are you going to go out and say, 'Read my lips. I am not the third term of Bush'?"
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1823695,00.html

Few House GOP donate to McCain (The Hill 7/16/08)
By Alexander Bolton and Michael O'Brien
Few House Republicans have contributed to Sen. John McCain since he clinched the Republican nomination at the end of February.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/few-house-gop-donate-to-mccain-2008-07-16.html

McCain: Hagel could have a place in administration (AP 7/17/08)
Presidential hopeful John McCain had kind words for fellow Republican Chuck Hagel on Wednesday, but wouldn't speculate on whether the Nebraska senator might be Democrat Barack Obama's choice for a running mate.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-16-mccain-hagel_N.htm

Catholic Activists Ask McCain to Boot Faith Adviser (Washington Post blog 7/16/08)
By Michelle Boorstein
Tensions are heating up among politically-minded Catholic activists after a group of left-leaning Catholics today publicly asked Sen. John McCain to boot a faith adviser who resigned from the Bush-Cheney campaign in 2004 because of allegations he sexually harassed a college student.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/16/catholic_activists_ask_mccain.html

Reporters Spar With McCain Press Aides Nicolle Wallace, Brooke Buchanan (VIDEO) (Huffington Post 7/16/08)
By Nico Pitney
Clearly not all reporters are enamored with John McCain's press operation. Early Wednesday, the Fox affiliate in St. Louis posted video of an awkward, testy exchange between several reporters and McCain's senior press aides -- Brooke Buchanan, the national press secretary, and Nicolle Wallace, the former White House communications director.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/16/reporters-spar-with-mccai_n_113085.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FWD0wAJxMA

McCain Surrogate Fiorina Meets With Clinton Supporters (WSJ blog 7/17/08)
By Christopher Cooper and John Emshwiller
The McCain campaign dispatched its top female surrogate Tuesday to meet with about 25 disaffected supporters of Sen. Hillary Clinton in Westchester, N.Y. ... at a private home ... [O]ver glasses of iced tea and finger food, she fielded questions from Democratic women she described as "intensely uncomfortable with the notion of a President Obama."
http://feeds.wsjonline.com/~r/wsj/washwire/feed/ ~3/
337462967/

Despite Differences, Hagel Reaps Praise From McCain (WSJ blog 7/16/08)
By Laura Meckler
Sen. John McCain heaped praise on Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Republican who opposes the Iraq war and who has said he would consider joining Democrat Barack Obama's ticket. While Hagel sees the war in Iraq much like Obama does, McCain said that Hagel's views were understandable because he has made an "informed decision" and Obama has not.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/16/despite-differences-hagel-reaps-praise-from-mccain/

Analysis: What's wrong with pandering to Latino voters? (CNN 7/16/08)
* Candidates talk about immigration reform at Latino events
* Hispanics care about a lot of other issues, says Juan Carlos Lopez
* Latinos: The largest and fastest growing minority in the nation
* Candidates' so-called pandering to Latinos shows the power of the Hispanic vote
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/16/hispanic.vote/index.html?eref=rss_politics

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TV Ad Wars: Global Obama v. Latin Mac (Huffington Post 7/16/08)
John McCain and Barack Obama both have new TV ads running. And each has at least one ad which is strange, in its own way. Though Obama has a brand new ad starting Thursday which works better than the similar ad he launched early in the week.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-bradley/tv-ad-wars-global-obama-v_b_113192.html
Link to McCain ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yU2-LTFLf0
Link to Obama ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV8MF6wPpnM

Planned Parenthood Ad Aims at McCain (NYT blog 7/16/08)
By Michael Falcone
Updated What many are calling Senator John McCain's "Viagra moment" has become fodder for a new television ad from the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the political and advocacy arm of the abortion rights group.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/planned-parenthood-ad-aims-at-mccain/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eivTm-VmfXg

New MoveOn Ad: 'Timeline' (NYT blog 7/16/08)
By Jim Rutenberg
For all the talk about how outside groups may not play as much of a role this presidential election season as they did in the last one, the groups do seem to keep popping out new ads. Here's the latest from MoveOn, calling for a timetable for a troops withdrawal from Iraq (and relying on reports that Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki wants such a timetable) and criticizing Senator John McCain for his stated openness to a long-term, peace-time, American troop presence in Iraq.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/new-moveon-ad-timeline/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXl2XXp7fic

Vets' Ad: 'Finish the Job' in Iraq (NYT blog 7/16/08)
By Michael Falcone
The advocacy group, Vets for Freedom, is hitting the airwaves with a new television commercial today, part of its $1.5 million general election advertising and grassroots push touting the Bush administration's Iraq policy.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/vets-ad-finish-the-job-in-iraq/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB92Lq67sAc

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

What McCain Economic Policy? (Washington Post 7/17/08)
By Harold Meyerson; A21
"Government is not the solution to our problem," Ronald Reagan told his fellow Americans in his first inaugural address. "Government is the problem." For modern American conservatism, Reagan's words may as well have been inscribed on the tablets handed down at Mount Sinai. The market was god and Reagan was its Moses, and Republicans have sworn fealty to both for the past quarter-century. One invariable feature of the 2007-08 Republican primary debates was the effort of each candidate to cast himself as Reagan's one true heir. John McCain proudly recounted how he enlisted as a foot soldier in Reagan's revolution. How was he to know that government was about to become a solution again?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/16/AR2008071602434.html

Listening To the Governors (Washington Post 7/17/08)
By David S. Broder; A21
Governors offer real world wisdom. Obama and McCain would be wise to listen.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/16/AR2008071602432.html

Judges Are No Reason to Vote for McCain (WSJ 7/17/08)
By BOB BARR
The judiciary is becoming an important election issue. John McCain is warning conservatives that control of today's finely balanced Supreme Court depends on his election. Unfortunately, his jurisprudence is likely to be anything but conservative.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121625042990560111.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

It's Not Too Soon to Plan the Transition (WSJ 7/17/08)
By MAX STIER and GARY GINSBERG; Page A13
Dear Senators, We know you're busy campaigning and the election is just four months off. But what should be occupying a large portion of your time right now is how you will govern after the election when you have some 4,000 posts to fill.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121625051695660117.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

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Talking Sense on Iraq (NYT 7/17/08)
It has been obvious from the start of the 2008 campaign that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are the biggest foreign policy challenges awaiting the next president. But there has been precious little detailed discussion of them on the campaign trail.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/opinion/17thu1.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

Citizen McCain (NYT 7/17/08)
By MICHAEL I. MEYERSON
Does the Constitution prohibit John McCain who was born to two Americans in the Panama Canal Zone from becoming president?
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/opinion/17meyerson.html

Memo to Obama, McCain: No one wins in a war (Boston Globe 7/17/08)
By Howard Zinn
BARACK OBAMA and John McCain continue to argue about war. McCain says to keep the troops in Iraq until we "win" and supports sending more troops to Afghanistan. Obama says to withdraw some (not all) troops from Iraq and send them to fight and "win" in Afghanistan. ... Have they learned nothing from recent history? Have they not learned that no one "wins" in a war, but that hundreds of thousands of humans die, most of them civilians, many of them children?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/17/memo_to_obama_mccain_no_one_wins_in_a_war/

Commentary: McCain right, Obama wrong on school vouchers (CNN 7/17/08)
By Roland S. Martin
* Parents of children in failing schools want options, Martin says
* He writes that vouchers are part of solution to improving education
* McCain is right to support vouchers, Martin says
* Obama is wrong to follow teachers union in opposing vouchers, he says
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/16/martin.vouchers/?iref=mpstoryview

A president's test: not agenda but response (Christian Science Monitor 7/17/08)
By Peter Grier | Staff
The US government's unprecedented efforts to rescue mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are a reminder that the most important things presidents do are often not action items from preset agendas but reactive moves to events unforeseen.
http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0717/p01s06-usec.html

McCain: You've Got Authenticity -- It's Time for Something Else (Huffington Post 7/16/08)
By Tom Alderman
"Let McCain be McCain," is the campaign mantra. His greatest appeal is when people get a sense of how authentic he is, says Senior advisor Mark Salter. Sounds right. We value authentic individuality. It's part of our national DNA -- which is why Sen. McCain has been so front-and-center all these years. He's nailed authentic -- and it isn't enough.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-alderman/mccain-youve-got-authenti_b_113110.html

BUSH NEWS

Fund-Raiser Apparently Offers Access for a Price (NYT 7/17/08)
By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG and ADAM B. ELLICK
The White House on Wednesday disavowed the actions of a Houston businessman and Bush campaign fund-raiser who was caught on videotape apparently trying to trade access to top administration officials — including Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice — in exchange for six-figure donations to President Bush's library foundation.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/washington/17bush.html

Iran and U.S. Signaling Chance of Deal (Washington Post 7/17/08)
By Glenn Kessler; A16
President Bush's decision to shift policy and send a senior U.S. envoy to nuclear talks with Iran this weekend was made after increasing signs that Iran was open to possible negotiations and that international sanctions were having an impact on the Islamic republic, U.S. officials said yesterday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/07/16/ST2008071602550.html

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Bush Exerts Executive Privilege Over Cheney Interview in House CIA Leak Probe (AP 7/16/08)
President Bush has asserted executive privilege to prevent Attorney General Michael Mukasey from having to comply with a House panel subpoena for material on the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity. A House committee chairman, meanwhile, held off on a contempt citation of Mukasey — who had requested the privilege claim — but only as a courtesy to lawmakers not present. Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, rejected Mukasey's suggestion that Vice President Dick Cheney's FBI interview on the CIA leak should be protected by the privilege claim — and therefore not turned over to the panel.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,383721,00.html

Federal Appeals Court Upholds Right to Detain Enemy Combatants, Questions Detainee's Status (AP 7/16/08)
The Bush administration has the authority to capture and detain suspected enemy combatants in this country but must give them an adequate opportunity to challenge their military detention, a closely divided federal appeals court ruled Tuesday.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,383584,00.html

Bush Administration Trying To Redefine Contraception As Abortion (The Gavel 7/16/08)
The New York Times reports that the Bush Administration's Department of Health and Human Services is drafting a rule that would place new restrictions on domestic family planning programs. While current law allows health care providers and professionals to refuse to provide abortions based on their religious beliefs, this provision would threaten the funding of organizations and health facilities if they do not hire people who would refuse to provide birth control and defines abortion so broadly that it would include many types of birth control, including oral contraception.
http://www.speaker.gov/blog/?p=1441

Capitol Hill Storm Envelops Fannie-Freddie Rescue (WSJ 7/17/08)
By DAMIAN PALETTA and SARAH LUECK
The Bush administration's hastily arranged strategy to stabilize Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac came under siege on Capitol Hill, as Republicans tried to slow it down and Democrats moved to marry it with a program the White House has threatened to veto.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121624520800459813.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

OTHER TOP NEWS

Obama raised $52M in June (AP 7/17/08)
Democrat Barack Obama's presidential campaign says it raised $52 million last month. The Obama campaign and the Democratic National Committee ended the month of June with a combined total of nearly $72 million in the bank. Last week the campaign of Republican John McCain reported raising more than $22 million in June, which was his best month of the year. Together, the McCain campaign and the Republican National Committee began July with about $95 million in the bank.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-17-fundraising_N.htm

Iraq Eyes Full Security Control by Year-End (Reuters 7/16/08)
By Dean Yates
Iraq hopes to have security control of all its provinces by the year-end, the national security adviser said on Wednesday, underscoring the government's growing confidence in its own forces.
http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,566412,00.html

France to Test Groundwater at All Nuclear Plants (Der Spiegel 7/17/08)
In a response to calls by activist groups and the discovery that leaks found last week might have happened years ago, France has agreed to examine the groundwater near all its nuclear plants. Though the anti-nuclear groups see this as a positive step, they say it still doesn't go far enough.
http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,566412,00.html

US plans to station diplomats in Iran for first time since 1979 (The Guardian 7/17/08)
By Ewen MacAskill
Washington move signals thaw in relations
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/17/usa.iran

Shares Revive Amid Confusing Signs From S.E.C. (NYT 7/17/08)
By JENNY ANDERSON
Euphoria tinged with a bit of panic swept Wall Street on Wednesday, as battered financial shares roared back in their biggest one-day rally ever.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/business/17bank.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Economic Fears Slice Oil Prices for Second Day (NYT 7/17/08)
By JAD MOUAWAD and MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM
Concerns about a slowing economy and rising inflation pushed oil prices down sharply for a second day on Wednesday, an unusual dip in the oil price rally that began more than six years ago.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/business/17econ.html?hp

Inflation surge puts Fed in a quandary (Christian Science Monitor 7/17/08)
By Mark Trumbull
After the biggest monthly rise in consumer prices since 1991, the central bank can't ignore the risks of inflation.
http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0717/p01s02-usec.html

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac Not in Danger of Failure, Bernanke Says (AP 7/16/08)
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Wednesday that troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are in "no danger of failing."
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,383421,00.html

Mullen Favors More Iraq Troop Cuts -- For Now (ABC 7/16/08)
By LUIS MARTINEZ
Adm. Mike Mullen, the nation's top military officer, says that, for now, he would likely recommend withdrawing more U.S. troops from Iraq this fall if improved security trends continue over the summer. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said at a Pentagon briefing today that security is "unquestionably and remarkably better," and that "if these trends continue, I expect to be able early in the fall to recommend to the secretary and the president further troop reductions."
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=5390390&page=1

More U.S. Troops May Go to Afghanistan This Year (AP 7/16/08)
Pentagon leaders on Wednesday signaled a surge in U.S. forces in Afghanistan "sooner rather than later" — a shift that could come later this year as they prepare to cut troop levels in Iraq.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,384421,00.html

Gore to Set Climate Change Goal (AP 7/17/08)
By RON FOURNIER
Just as John F. Kennedy set his sights on the moon, Al Gore is challenging the nation to produce every kilowatt of electricity through wind, sun and other Earth-friendly energy sources within 10 years, an audacious goal he hopes the next president will embrace.
http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1823732,00.html

Senate Report Examines Role of Banks in Tax Evasion (NYT 7/17/08)
By LYNNLEY BROWNING
The secrecy surrounding offshore bank accounts was pierced Wednesday by a Senate report that examined how UBS, the big Swiss bank, and LGT, which is run by the royal family of Liechtenstein, helped wealthy individuals evade American taxes. The 115-page report, prepared by Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, laid out how eight individuals used offshore accounts to dodge taxes.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/washington/17tax.html?ref=business

Shares Rise at 2 Carriers, Despite $1 Billion in Losses (NYT 7/17/08)
By ABHA BHATTARAI
Two major airlines each reported quarterly losses of more than $1 billion on Wednesday, reflecting the industry's struggle to cope with higher jet fuel costs and an economic slowdown.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/business/17air.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&oref=slogin

House Passes Intelligence Bill Seeking Access to Spy Secrets (AP 7/16/08)
The House on Wednesday passed legislation governing next year's intelligence budget that demands lawmakers be given greater access to the nation's most closely held secrets.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,383882,00.html

Bayh As Veep? But He Co-Chaired Neocon Committee For The Liberation Of Iraq With McCain! (TPM 7/16/08)
By Greg Sargent
Senator Evan Bayh's appearance today with Barack Obama at the "21st Century Threats" summit has stirred a lot of talk in the press about the possibility of him being on Obama's Veep short-list. But we're not sure that's

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such a viable idea. That's because in 2003, Bayh was an honorary co-chair of the neocon pro-war Committee for the Liberation of Iraq -- a group he joined along with none other than John McCain and Joe Lieberman, according to a press release from during the run-up to the invasion.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/bayh_as_veep_he_cochaired_wing.php

How Changes In Medicare Affect Patients (WSJ 7/17/08)
By ANNA WILDE MATHEWS and JANE ZHANG
The major goal of the new Medicare law passed this week was to block a scheduled cut in fees paid to doctors. But there's also plenty in the law that directly affects Medicare beneficiaries.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121623946819959433.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Interior Dept. Opens 2.6 Million Alaskan Acres for Oil Exploration (NYT 7/17/08)
By FELICITY BARRINGER
The Interior Department on Wednesday made 2.6 million acres of potentially oil-rich territory in northern Alaska available for energy exploration. At the same time, it deferred for a decade any decision to open 600,000 acres of land north of Teshekpuk Lake that is the summer home of thousands of migrating caribou and millions of waterfowl.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/us/17alaska.html

POLLS

85% of U.S. Unhappy with Economy (TIME 7/16/08)
By Bill Saporito
You would expect Americans, in a period of falling home prices, a wobbly stock market and an ongoing war, to be less than satisfied with the direction of the country. It's natural. But Americans are not simply dissatisfied. They are very unhappy. O.K., deeply, pessimistically unhappy. Un-American Dreamy unhappy: 85% of respondents in an exclusive Time/Rockefeller Foundation poll believe that the country is on the wrong track.
http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1823668,00.html
Link to more on poll: http://www.rockfound.org/index_caw_bm.shtml

More Poll Findings: The Economy Trumps the War, by Far (NYT blog 7/16/08)
By Megan Thee
With the campaign now in full swing and a two-man race under way, voters say they worry most about the economy and far less about the war in Iraq, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/more-poll-findings-the-economy-trumps-the-war-by-far/

Congress ratings plunge in poll (USA TODAY 7/16/08)
By Ken Dilanian
Congressional job approval ratings have sunk to their lowest point in three decades, according to the latest Gallup Poll.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-07-16-poll-congress_N.htm?csp=34

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/17/2015 3:01:54 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.16-17.15
Attachments:	H4A 5.16-17.15 Clips.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 16-17, 2015

SUMMARY OF THIS WEEKEND'S NEWS

Hillary Clinton announced she will spend next week in Iowa and New Hampshire to share her ideas about her plans to make pro-small business policies a focus of her presidential bid.

George Stephanopoulos, is under scrutiny for his previously undisclosed $75,000 contribution to the Clinton Foundation. NBC Universal, News Corporation, Turner Broadcasting and Thomson Reuters are among more than a dozen media organizations that have made charitable contributions to the Clinton Foundation in recent years, the foundation's records show. The donations, which range from the low-thousands to the millions, provide a clear picture of the media industry's ties to the Clinton Foundation.

Political reactions to George Stephanopoulos's admission of donations to the Clinton Foundation continued on Friday, with questions centering on whether the former Clinton strategist was fit to moderate presidential debates. Most 2016 Democratic presidential hopefuls shrugged off questions about a possible conflict of interest after Stephanopoulos revealed he donated $75,000 to the foundation from 2012 to 2014.

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THIS WEEKEND'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton to Pitch Herself as Candidate for Small Businesses // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - May 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton plans to make pro-small business policies a focus of her presidential bid and will spend next week in Iowa and New Hampshire to begin sharing those ideas, a senior campaign official said Friday.

Clinton sees small businesses as being at a critical post-recession moment in which, with the right policies, they can thrive, the official said, and will outline her suggestions for ways to encourage risk-taking on Main Street over what the official described as irresponsible speculation on Wall Street.

Among her ideas: finding ways to cut red tape for small businesses and entrepreneurs; expanding access to capital; simplifying taxes and offering relief for business owners; and boosting their ability to export.

On Tuesday, she'll discuss her proposals at a roundtable with small business owners, in Cedar Falls, after spending Monday at smaller events in North Central Iowa. On Friday, she'll meet with business owners in New Hampshire. In between, on Wednesday, she'll make a pit-stop in Chicago for three $2,700 per person fundraisers.

Next week will mark the first time since she declared herself a candidate that Clinton will devote to visiting small businesses and meeting with entrepreneurs, but she's already discussed some of her ideas of those ideas at least briefly, most notably during a roundtable last month at Capital City Fruit, a fruit distributor just outside Des Moines. There, she heard from entrepreneurs who struggled to get loans for their businesses and had concerns about the rising cost of health care. She mentioned wanting to cut red tape, though she didn't say how she would do so, nor did the official who offered a preview of next week's plans.

She also foreshadowed her plans to emphasize policies for small businesses when she interjected last week at a Las Vegas roundtable on immigration: "I want to be the president for small business."

Clinton hasn't yet discussed her ideas for helping small businesses export their products. And on trade, she's laid out only broad principles. Spokesman Nick Merrill said in a last month that her standards for supporting the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the trade deal under consideration by Congress, included determining whether it would "open new opportunities for our small businesses to export overseas" while protecting American workers and companies. Though she supported the trade deal while serving as secretary of state during President Barack

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Obama's first term, Clinton has yet to take a definitive stance on TPP, in what's widely seen as effort to avoid undermining her former boss or upsetting liberals.

Clinton's attention to small business, which the official said will be a constant throughout the campaign, is also a way for Clinton to remind voters of her humble beginnings, long before she was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to deliver a single speech or started having around-the-clock Secret Service protection. Her father, Hugh Rodham, owned a small drapery business in their hometown of Park Ridge, Ill., just outside Chicago, that Clinton has often mentioned in public appearances since launching her campaign last month.

To gear up for her trip, Clinton spent Thursday visiting small businesses near her campaign headquarters in Brooklyn Heights—Area Kids, a children's toy and clothing store; Brooklyn Women's Exchange, nonprofit craft shop; and Monty Q's, a pizza place.

As she toured Montague Street in the well-to-do neighborhood, a camera crew filmed her visiting those businesses.

Clinton Foundation donors include dozens of media organizations, individuals // Politico // Josh Gerstein, Tarini Parti, Hadas Gold, and Dylan Byers - May 15, 2015

NBC Universal, News Corporation, Turner Broadcasting and Thomson Reuters are among more than a dozen media organizations that have made charitable contributions to the Clinton Foundation in recent years, the foundation's records show.

The donations, which range from the low-thousands to the millions, provide a picture of the media industry's ties to the Clinton Foundation at a time when one of its most notable personalities, George Stephanopoulos, is under scrutiny for his previously undisclosed $75,000 contribution.

The list also includes mass media groups like Comcast, Time Warner and Viacom, as well a few notable individuals, including Carlos Slim, the Mexican telecom magnate and largest shareholder of The New York Times Company, and James Murdoch, the chief operating officer of 21st Century Fox. Both Slim and Murdoch have given between $1 million to $5 million, respectively.

Judy Woodruff, the co-anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour, gave $250 to the foundation's “Clinton Haiti Relief Fund" in 2010.

The following list includes news media organizations that have donated to the foundation, as well as other media networks, companies, foundations or individuals that have donated. It is organized by the size of the contribution:

$1,000,000-$5,000,000

Carlos Slim

Chairman & CEO of Telmex, largest New York Times shareholder

James Murdoch

Chief Operating Officer of 21st Century Fox

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Newsmax Media

Florida-based conservative media network

Thomson Reuters

Owner of the Reuters news service

$500,000-$1,000,000

Google

News Corporation Foundation

Philanthropic arm of former Fox News parent company

$250,000-$500,000

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Publisher

Richard Mellon Scaife

Owner of Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

$100,000-$250,000

Abigail Disney

Documentary filmmaker

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Howard Stringer

Former CBS, CBS News and Sony executive

Intermountain West Communications Company

Local television affiliate owner (formerly Sunbelt Communications)

$50,000-$100,000

Bloomberg L.P.

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Discovery Communications Inc.

George Stephanopoulos
ABC News chief anchor and chief political correspondent

Mort Zuckerman
Owner of New York Daily News and U.S. News & World Report

Time Warner Inc.
Owner of CNN parent company Turner Broadcasting

$25,000-$50,000

AOL

HBO

Hollywood Foreign Press Association
Presenters of the Golden Globe Awards

Viacom

$10,000-$25,000

Knight Foundation
Non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting journalism

Public Radio International

Turner Broadcasting
Parent company of CNN

Twitter

$5,000-$10,000

Comcast

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Parent company of NBCUniversal

NBC Universal

Parent company of NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC

Public Broadcasting Service

$1,000-$5,000

Robert Allbritton

Owner of POLITICO parent company Capitol News Group

$250-$1,000

AOL Huffington Post Media Group

Hearst Corporation

Judy Woodruff

PBS Newshour co-anchor and managing editor

The Washington Post Company

Most Dems shrug off Stephanopoulos's disclosure of Clinton donations // CNN // Dan Merica - May 15, 2015

Political reactions to ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos's admission of donations to the Clinton Foundation continued on Friday, with questions centering on whether the former Clinton strategist was fit to moderate presidential debates.

Most 2016 Democratic presidential hopefuls shrugged off questions about a possible conflict of interest after Stephanopoulos revealed he donated $75,000 to the foundation from 2012 to 2014, which he did not disclose during a recent interview with the author of an anti-Clinton book.

But former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee's spokeswoman said Stephanopoulos breached journalistic ethics.

"Governor Chafee believes it is a clear violation of the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics," said Debbie Rich. "When asked about whether journalists should engage in political activity, the SPJ Ethics Committee says the simplest answer is 'No.' Don't do it. Don't get involved. Don't contribute money, don't work in a campaign, don't lobby, and especially, don't run for office yourself."

Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, the only declared Democratic candidate besides Hillary Clinton, told

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Brianna Keilar on CNN's "State of the Union" in an interview scheduled to air Sunday that Stephanopoulos should have made the donations public earlier.

But, Sanders added, "I don't -- between you and me -- I don't think it's the biggest deal in the world."

Lis Smith, former Gov. Martin O'Malley's top aide, said that Stephanopoulos' Clinton ties don't worry their operation. "We have immense respect for him, and he has always been fair," she said.

And Craig Crawford, former Sen. Jim Webb's spokesman, said in an emailed statement that he can't see Stephanopoulos' ties "making any difference to Jim."

Chafee, O'Malley and Webb have not announced whether they will run or not. O'Malley is expected to run and will announce his decision on May 30 in May.

Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus called the donations issue "obviously troubling" on Fox News's "Hannity" on Thursday night.

Most of the Republican candidates for President have stayed quiet about the controversy so far, but Rand Paul said on "Hannity" Thursday night that "he's too close to the Clintons to really give an objective interview."

Wisconsin Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, also speaking on CNN's "State of the Union," added that he thought Stephanopoulos has shown a liberal bias in his previous moderations of Republican debates.

"Look, I got no issues with George," Ryan said. "He's a nice guy. But you know, he has -- everybody has political views."

Stephanopoulos told CNN that he would not moderate ABC's planned Republican presidential primary debate, but that he would continue covering the 2016 race. In a conversation with CNN's Brian Stelter on Thursday, the anchor said his only remaining relationship to the Clintons is a journalistic one.

Stephanopoulos was one of former President Bill Clinton's top aides during his 1992 presidential campaign and remained a close adviser in the White House. He left the Clinton administration after the first term and became a political analyst for ABC shortly thereafter.

The Right Baits the Left to Turn Against Hillary Clinton // NYT // Ashley Parker and Nicholas Corasanti – May 16, 2015

WASHINGTON — A Twitter post recently caught the eye of Bill McKibben, the environmental advocate and godfather of the Keystone XL pipeline protests. It included an image from “The Simpsons” showing Homer and his family basking in mountains of cash in their living room, followed by a report on Hillary Rodham Clinton’s appearing at a fund-raiser with a lobbyist from the Keystone fight.

Mr. McKibben’s environmental organization, 350.org , has been trying to raise awareness about the ties it sees between lobbyists for the oil pipeline and former aides to Mrs. Clinton. He promptly shared the post with his 150,000 Twitter followers, and the reaction was immediate.

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“You expect different from a Clinton?” one person responded on Twitter. And from another: “Did you need another reason not to vote for Hillary Clinton?” Lost in the response was the source of the offending tweet. It was not another environmental organization or even a liberal challenger to Mrs. Clinton. Instead, it was a conservative group called America Rising PAC, which is trying, with laserlike focus, to weaken the woman who almost everyone believes will be the Democratic Party’s candidate for president in 2016.

Continue reading the main story

For months now, America Rising has sent out a steady stream of posts on social media attacking Mrs. Clinton, some of them specifically designed to be spotted, and shared, by liberals. The posts highlight critiques of her connections to Wall Street and the Clinton Foundation and feature images of Democrats like Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York, interspersed with cartoon characters and pictures of Kevin Spacey, who plays the villain in “House of Cards.” And as they are read and shared, an anti-Clinton narrative is reinforced.

America Rising is not the only conservative group attacking Mrs. Clinton from the left. Another is American Crossroads, the group started by Karl Rove, which has been sending out its own digital content, including one ad using a speech Ms. Warren gave at the New Populism Conference in Washington last May.

“Powerful interests have tried to capture Washington and rig the system in their favor,” intones Ms. Warren, as images of Mrs. Clinton with foreign leaders flash by.

The new-style digital campaign captures some basic facts about 21st-century communication: Information travels at warp speed on social media, it is sometimes difficult to know where that information comes from, and most people like to read things with which they agree. The result, said Ken Goldstein, a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco who specializes in political advertising, is something more sophisticated.

“Politics is usually basic math,” he said, “and this is a little bit of calculus, thinking a couple steps ahead.”

The tactic is making for some awkward moments online. The A.F.L.-C.I.O. sent to its more than 60,000 followers an America Rising tweet praising its president, Richard L. Trumka, for a speech that was seen as challenging Mrs. Clinton on economic issues, only to take it down a few hours later, saying it was a mistake.

Laura Hart Cole of Verbank, N.Y., whose father, Philip A. Hart, was a senator from Michigan and a liberal icon, was shocked to learn that she had, like Mr. McKibben, shared the meme from America Rising on Twitter. Republican groups, she said, “have a history of sleazy tactics.” But she added: “I guess it’s fair. If what they’re saying is factual, then I guess it’s fair play. It’s a dirty game.”

Conservative strategists and operatives say they are simply filling a vacuum on the far left, as well as applying the lesson they learned in 2012, when they watched in frustration as Mitt Romney was forced to expend time and resources in a protracted primary fight. By the time he secured his party’s nomination, President Obama hardly had to make the case that his opponent was a coldhearted plutocrat; Republicans like Newt Gingrich had already made the argument for him in the primaries.

Few Republicans are more familiar with that nightmare than Matt Rhoades, who was Mr. Romney’s campaign manager. He founded America Rising in response to a recommendation contained in an autopsy of Romney’s failed presidential run that was ordered by the Republican National Committee. The group’s original goal was to compete with American Bridge, the Democratic opposition research group, but its focus under Mr. Rhoades has been to subject Mrs. Clinton to an ordeal similar to Mr. Romney’s.

“The idea is to make her life difficult in the primary and challenge her from the left,” said Colin Reed, America

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Rising's executive director. "We don't want her to enter the general election not having been pushed from the left, so if we have opportunities — creative ways, especially online — to push her from the left, we'll do it just to show those folks who she needs to turn out that she's not in line with them."

Colin Reed of America Rising PAC, which created Twitter posts disparaging Hillary Rodham Clinton, and designed to be shared by liberals. Credit Gabriella Demczuk for The New York Times

No one thinks attacking Mrs. Clinton from the left is likely to turn the most liberal Democrats into Republican voters. But Steven Law, president of American Crossroads, said the goal was simply to erode what should be her natural core of support.

"It can diminish enthusiasm for Hillary among the base over time," he said. "And if you diminish enthusiasm, lukewarm support can translate into lackluster fund-raising and perhaps diminished turnout down the road."

This year, Zac Moffatt, a co-founder of Targeted Victory, a right-leaning political technology firm, who handled Mr. Romney's digital operation and has worked with groups like America Rising and American Crossroads, laid out the strategy in a memo to several clients. "There was a hole to fill in the market," he said, and if Democrats were not willing to challenge Mrs. Clinton, Republicans could do it themselves.

"We were seeing people on the left who were interested in content about Hillary Clinton, and that there would be opportunities for groups to share this information with Democrats on the left," Mr. Moffatt said.

To reach these groups, Mr. Moffatt had a plan: using micro-targeted advertising units on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

For example, as Mrs. Clinton was traveling through Las Vegas this month on a campaign swing, "liberal Democrats" (as identified by Targeted Victory's voter file) in the Las Vegas area saw a video pop into their Facebook news feeds, highlighting recent news reports about foreign government donations to the Clinton Foundation. The video was shared by America Rising and received over 6,300 views, most from people who would never follow a group like America Rising on social media.

Other groups are also using micro-targeted advertising to inject their content into the Facebook and Twitter news feeds of "liberal Democrats," environmentalists and declared supporters of Ms. Warren, among others.

"You might start looking at union households. You might start looking at Bernie Sanders's core of support," Mr. Moffatt said, referring to Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mr. Law said members of his staff at American Crossroads had easily been able to inhabit the liberal role, despite being fervent Republicans. "We wear these little bracelets — W.W.E.W.D.," Mr. Law joked, referring to "What would Elizabeth Warren do?"

In the face of Republican activity aimed at undermining its liberal support, the Clinton campaign has been publicly circumspect. Asked for a comment, it would only note that in a Quinnipiac University poll last month, Mrs. Clinton led her closest opponent, Mr. Sanders, by 46 points among voters who consider themselves "very liberal."

And even some of those unhappy with Mrs. Clinton, like Joel Gombiner of Brooklyn — who posted the "Did you need another reason?" response to the Twitter message shared by Mr. McKibben — think the conservative groups may be outsmarting themselves.

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“They view this as a means of weakening the Democratic Party and weakening the chance in a presidential election,” said Mr. Gombiner, 26. But “that’s the whole point of a democracy, that the arguments make you stronger.”

House Votes to Block Undocumented Youth From Serving in the Military // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur - May 15, 2015

A vote Thursday evening in the House of Representatives provided a jarring reminder of how far the national immigration debate has shifted in the last two years.

By a margin of 221 to 202, the chamber voted to strip language from the National Defense Authorization Act that would have encouraged the Pentagon to allow young undocumented immigrants to serve in the military if they're protected under President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (commonly called DACA).

All 221 votes came from Republicans; 20 Republicans joined a unanimous Democratic caucus to oppose the amendment, offered by Representative Mo Brooks, Republican of Alabama.

The political implications were immediately on display as Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign released a statement criticizing the House.

"If these courageous young men and women want to serve, they should be honored and celebrated, not discriminated against," said Amanda Renteria, Clinton's national political director, adding that "[w]hile we keep up the pressure for comprehensive action, allowing DREAMers to serve in the military is the right step forward."

None of the top Republican presidential contenders weighed in. A spokesperson for Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, an outspoken critic of illegal immigration, declined to comment. The issue captures a schism between many base voters who oppose leniency for people in the country illegally and Hispanic voters in swing states who support pro-immigration policies.

For Republicans in Congress, the base appears to be winning, marking a sea change since the Senate voted 68-32 in June 2013 to grant a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants.

Brooks hailed the Thursday vote as a defeat for those "who seek to help illegal aliens" and "deprive American citizens and lawful immigrants of military service opportunities." The initial language favoring DREAMers in the military was offered by Representative Ruben Gallego, Democrat of Arizona.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Zeke Miller (5/15/15, 10:48 AM) From @Reince's prepared remarks to @GOP spring meeting: hits Clinton speeches: "It's not about paying the bills, it's about paying Bill"

Zeke Miller (5/15/15, 10:54 AM) @Reince to say: "At the [Clinton] Foundation, the Clinton family is both the

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benefactor and the beneficiary"

Jennifer Epstein (5/15/15, 4:00 PM) Bill and Hillary Clinton earned at least $30 million in 2014-15: $25 million in paid speeches, $5 million+ from Hard Choices

Maggie Haberman (5/15/15, 4:08 PM) Clintons made more than $25 mill on over 100 speeches in 16 months http://nyti.ms/1PoL7Dq

Adam Weinstein (5/16/15, 10:59 AM) buried lede: rubio's top donor gave rubio's wife a $54K part-time job to run a charity that gave away only $250.

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Snapchat is going to be huge in 2016 — and regulators have no idea how to handle it // Fusion // Brett Logiurato – May 6, 2015

As he gears up for a presidential run, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley held a conference call with donors and supporters Thursday night, informing them that he would make some kind of announcement on May 30.

He also had a message — and an exclusive photo — for his followers on Snapchat.

"Stay tuned for May 30th…" he said, referring to the date when he'll announce whether or not he'll challenge former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

O'Malley, who is widely expected to run, is one of a handful of politicians experimenting with Snapchat, a messaging app that has exploded in popularity over the past year.

O'Malley's team has found it useful — along with the streaming app Periscope — to engage a broad audience. They'll post candid photos and videos of O'Malley's impromptu guitar-playing on the stump, for example.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Kentucky), who declared his candidacy for the Republican nomination last month, has been using the service for almost a year and a half in an attempt to garner support from young people — and young followers. Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Wisconsin), of "Real World" fame, is spearheading Snapchat's use in the House of Representatives. Other campaigns said tentative plans with Snapchat are in the works, or that they're looking to the potential of experimenting with the service.

Combine that with the news that Snapchat has hired Peter Hamby, a well-respected CNN political reporter, to head its new news division. It's a good bet that Snapchat stands to be the breakout app of the 2016 campaign, much in the same way other services like Twitter and YouTube have blossomed in the recent past.

"In every election cycle, campaigns will have new technology to employ," said Paul S. Ryan, the senior counsel for the Campaign Legal Center. "In that sense, it's nothing new. We've gone through this before."

What is new, however, is the potential conundrum that an app like Snapchat uniquely presents. One of the key features that has made it popular with young people is the fact that its messages disappear within seconds — unless

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the user receiving the Snapchat takes a screenshot.

For its part, the Federal Election Commission sounds quite unsure how and if it would attempt to regulate not just Snapchat, but any app. Julia Queen, a spokeswoman for the FEC, told Fusion that the commission has "internet regulations but they don't specifically cover apps."

The commission has also issued advisory opinions — which Queen said is "its official response to a question about how federal campaign finance law applies to a specific factual situation" — on issues arising from text messages and campaigns.

The potential challenge here for the FEC, Ryan said, would come in enforcement. If someone wants to break the rules via Snapchat, how would anyone know?

"That Snapchats do disappear could present an interesting enforcement challenge for the FEC," Ryan said. "You can subpoena email. Tweets are public. You can examine archived records. That seemingly would not be the case with Snapchat."

Fusion also reached out to the House Ethics Committee as part of a story on Duffy, who frequently uses Snapchat to communicate with his staff and constituents. They did not have comment.

FEC Chair Ann Ravel responded to a tweet last year asking what she thought about a story that detailed potential violations involving the use of Twitter.

That story detailed how some Republican groups and allied "super PACs" shared polling data through anonymous, sometimes West Wing-themed Twitter accounts. Super PACs, which can raise unlimited amounts of money to support candidates, cannot directly coordinate with candidates or official party committees.

The question in the story is whether or not those messages violated election law. It wasn't enough that the information was posted publicly — anyone can see those messages. But Ryan said it would be a violation if there was a private "decoder ring" that groups shared with one another to decipher the poll numbers.

Could there be a similar issue arising with an app like Snapchat — where groups could send each other sensitive information that could disappear without a trace?

"The potential problem would be that there could be no record of violations with the law," Ryan said.

The proverbial 'smoking gun,'" he added, "disappears. It's a unique mode of communication that evaporates."

But for now, most candidates are looking past the potential regulatory issues and see the app as a potential goldmine for attracting younger eyeballs. Paul's team has used the app to provide a behind-the-scenes look into the candidate's stump appearances, as well as glimpses into television interviews and more.

Sergio Gor, a spokesman for Paul, told Fusion that the campaign doesn't think about any of the prospective regulatory snafus. But he said Paul views the app as an essential tool toward growing the Republican Party's reach with an expanded base of voters.

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Paul "believes that we must take our message far and wide," Gor said. "As the first member of congress to have joined Snapchat in January 2014, our team has discovered that we are able to reach a young and highly energized audience. Senator Paul has made it a mission to make the Republican party bigger and bolder and engaging new audiences such as Snapchat is vital if we want to grow the party."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

SNL's Hillary Clinton Looks Forward to Relaxing Summer Full of Ruthless Campaigning // Mediate // Tina Nyguen – May 17, 2015

Saturday Night Live is about to let out for the summer — season finale, yall — but while everyone is at the beach, soaking up the sun and jumping in the waves, Kate McKinnon's Hillary Clinton will do everything humanly possible to win the presidential election that's over a year and a half from now.

Does it mean walking through a beach in a wool pantsuit? Running alongside a tandem bicycle? Making children cry about their sandcastles not being as nice as your scale model of the White House? Pffft,

(And Darrell Hammond's Bill Clinton, well — yeah, he likes summer too.)

Reid: O'Malley Who? Leader Dismisses All but Clinton // Roll Call // Steven Dennis - May 15, 2015

Harry Reid, in classic Harry Reid style, utterly dismissed the presidential aspirations of his Senate colleague Bernard E. Sanders, former Sen. Jim Webb and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley in one biting sentence in an interview airing Friday.

For the Senate minority leader, the independent from Vermont and the Democrats from Virginia and Maryland governor, respectively, don't even merit a mention.

"Right now we have Hillary Clinton. And that's it," the Nevada Democrat told MSNBC's and Telemundo's Jose Diaz-Balart. "There's not another Barack Obama out there. There are no all stars out there. She has a clear field and I'm glad she does."

Why Hillary Needs Obama // Cook Political // Amy Walter - May 13, 2015

Every presidential election is a response to the current president, even when the current president isn't seeking re-election. If people don't like the guy in the White House, it's almost impossible for a member of his party to be elected to succeed him. Even when voters are happy with their incumbent president, it's not always a guarantee of success for the party's nominee. Voters are often looking for a change in style as much as substance (see: Bush v. Gore, 2000). This is why we should spend as much time checking in on President Obama's job approval ratings as we do the polling data of the potential presidential candidates.

For Hillary Clinton to win, she needs Obama to succeed. Picking fights with the president – a la Elizabeth Warren – does her no good if it makes him look weak.

The magic number for Obama – and ultimately Hillary's chances – is somewhere around 47 percent. If Obama's job approval rating is above that, a Democrat has a decent to a good chance of winning in 2016. Below that

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number, especially if Obama is in the 45 percent range or below, it will be hard for a Democrat to gain entry to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

How Obama is perceived by voters in the presidential battleground states is more important than his overall national approval rating. Given that the fight for the Electoral College will come down to the results of seven to nine states, a national poll does us little good. The good folks at the Quinnipiac University Poll have been surveying many of these key swing states and I've incorporated their data into the accompanying chart.

In looking at data from five swing states (all of which Obama carried in 2012), Obama's approval ratings are not only significantly below his pre-election showing in 2012, but they also fall below the political "Mendoza line", with no state giving him better than a 45 percent job approval rating. One of the most surprising is Obama's weak 40 percent approve to 56 percent disapprove in Pennsylvania, an important brick in the Democrats so-called "Blue Wall."

Helpful disclaimer alert: we are working with a very small universe of data from April (one pollster and one poll) and there's certainly a possibility that these numbers may be more outlier than reality. However, there are warning signs out here for Democrats and we should all watch these numbers very closely over the next year and a half. While a popular president can't always ensure his party's success in the next election, a weak one almost always ensures failure.

Hillary touts Beyonce's support // The Hill // Jesse Byrnes - May 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton has the support of Beyoncé, and her camp is showing it off.

Playing off of fans' nickname for the singer, Clinton's campaign tweeted Friday: "Say you'll Bey on Team #Hillary2016, too: http://hrc.io/1KaIjGw "

Beyoncé and others, such as Sharon Osbourne and Meghan Trainor, attended a fundraiser co-hosted in Manhattan by L.A. Reid, the chairman and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment's Epic Records this week.

It was one of a trio of $2,700-per-attendee fundraisers in which Clinton was expected to rake in more than $1 million, according to Bloomberg, and amid her push for money among celebrities.

Beyoncé and husband Jay Z hosted fundraisers for President Obama's reelection campaign in 2012, and the female pop star powerhouse appeared at events for both of Obama's inaugurations.

At least one Beyoncé fan has urged the mega singer to team up with Clinton in 2016.

Republicans criticize Clinton for not talking to press // Salon // Associated Press - May 16, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential hopefuls gathered in Iowa are taking jabs at Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton for not fielding more questions from the press.

Former business executive Carly Fiorina says that if Clinton is going to run for president, "she is going to have to answer some questions."

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Fiorina spoke at a dinner hosted by the Iowa Republican Party that drew about 1,300 people Saturday. Also chiming in was Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who joked about whether Clinton “ever takes any questions.”

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush took a similar approach earlier in the day, saying he has answered hundreds of questions compared to Clinton, who has taken just a handful.

The former secretary of state is making a second campaign visit to Iowa on Monday.

The Right Aims at Democrats on Social Media to Hit Hillary Clinton // NYT // Ashley Parker and Nick Corasaniti - May 16, 2015

WASHINGTON — A Twitter post recently caught the eye of Bill McKibben, the environmental advocate and godfather of the Keystone XL pipeline protests. It included an image from “The Simpsons” showing Homer and his family basking in mountains of cash in their living room, followed by a report on Hillary Rodham Clinton’s appearing at a fund-raiser with a lobbyist from the Keystone fight.

Mr. McKibben’s environmental organization, 350.org , has been trying to raise awareness about the ties it sees between lobbyists for the oil pipeline and former aides to Mrs. Clinton. He promptly shared the post with his 150,000 Twitter followers, and the reaction was immediate.

“You expect different from a Clinton?” one person responded on Twitter. And from another: “Did you need another reason not to vote for Hillary Clinton?” Lost in the response was the source of the offending tweet. It was not another environmental organization or even a liberal challenger to Mrs. Clinton. Instead, it was a conservative group called America Rising PAC, which is trying, with laserlike focus, to weaken the woman who almost everyone believes will be the Democratic Party’s candidate for president in 2016.

For months now, America Rising has sent out a steady stream of posts on social media attacking Mrs. Clinton, some of them specifically designed to be spotted, and shared, by liberals. The posts highlight critiques of her connections to Wall Street and the Clinton Foundation and feature images of Democrats like Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York, interspersed with cartoon characters and pictures of Kevin Spacey, who plays the villain in “House of Cards.” And as they are read and shared, an anti-Clinton narrative is reinforced.

America Rising is not the only conservative group attacking Mrs. Clinton from the left. Another is American Crossroads, the group started by Karl Rove, which has been sending out its own digital content, including one ad using a speech Ms. Warren gave at the New Populism Conference in Washington last May.

“Powerful interests have tried to capture Washington and rig the system in their favor,” intones Ms. Warren, as images of Mrs. Clinton with foreign leaders flash by.

The new-style digital campaign captures some basic facts about 21st-century communication: Information travels at warp speed on social media, it is sometimes difficult to know where that information comes from, and most people like to read things with which they agree. The result, said Ken Goldstein, a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco who specializes in political advertising, is something more sophisticated.

“Politics is usually basic math,” he said, “and this is a little bit of calculus, thinking a couple steps ahead.”

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The tactic is making for some awkward moments online. The A.F.L.-C.I.O. sent to its more than 60,000 followers an America Rising tweet praising its president, Richard L. Trumka, for a speech that was seen as challenging Mrs. Clinton on economic issues, only to take it down a few hours later, saying it was a mistake.

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Conservative strategists and operatives say they are simply filling a vacuum on the far left, as well as applying the lesson they learned in 2012, when they watched in frustration as Mitt Romney was forced to expend time and resources in a protracted primary fight. By the time he secured his party’s nomination, President Obama hardly had to make the case that his opponent was a coldhearted plutocrat; Republicans like Newt Gingrich had already made the argument for him in the primaries.

Few Republicans are more familiar with that nightmare than Matt Rhoades, who was Mr. Romney’s campaign manager. He founded America Rising in response to a recommendation contained in an autopsy of Romney’s failed presidential run that was ordered by the Republican National Committee. The group’s original goal was to compete with American Bridge, the Democratic opposition research group, but its focus under Mr. Rhoades has been to subject Mrs. Clinton to an ordeal similar to Mr. Romney’s.

“The idea is to make her life difficult in the primary and challenge her from the left,” said Colin Reed, America Rising’s executive director. “We don’t want her to enter the general election not having been pushed from the left, so if we have opportunities — creative ways, especially online — to push her from the left, we’ll do it just to show those folks who she needs to turn out that she’s not in line with them.”

No one thinks attacking Mrs. Clinton from the left is likely to turn the most liberal Democrats into Republican voters. But Steven Law, president of American Crossroads, said the goal was simply to erode what should be her natural core of support.

“It can diminish enthusiasm for Hillary among the base over time,” he said. “And if you diminish enthusiasm, lukewarm support can translate into lackluster fund-raising and perhaps diminished turnout down the road.”

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“We were seeing people on the left who were interested in content about Hillary Clinton, and that there would be opportunities for groups to share this information with Democrats on the left,” Mr. Moffatt said.

To reach these groups, Mr. Moffatt had a plan: using micro-targeted advertising units on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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And even some of those unhappy with Mrs. Clinton, like Joel Gombiner of Brooklyn — who posted the “Did you need another reason?” response to the Twitter message shared by Mr. McKibben — think the conservative groups may be outsmarting themselves.

“They view this as a means of weakening the Democratic Party and weakening the chance in a presidential election,” said Mr. Gombiner, 26. But “that’s the whole point of a democracy, that the arguments make you stronger.”

Meet the guy who was protected Hillary Clinton's Wikipedia page for almost a decade // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani - May 15, 2015

Since 2006, Hillary Clinton has carefully adjusted her positions on major issues like same-sex marriage and the war in Iraq. Through every step of that evolution, one man was there to note each change.

Jonathan Schilling, a New Jersey software engineer, has been a highly-active editor of Clinton's Wikipedia page since 2006. During that time Schilling logged at least 2,269 edits over 10 years to the former Secretary of State's popular page.

Clinton's page gets an enormous amount of traffic, which Schilling estimates was close to 150,000 monthly views before Clinton announced her 2016 presidential campaign last month.

Since 2006, Schilling has kept a watchful eye over Clinton's Wikipedia entry, eliminating unsubstantiated claims, and clipping out bias and inaccuracy. His edits are usually small: a tense changed, a credible source added, facts tweaked to reflect new reporting.

Wikipedia is a crowdsourced platform, and many users make edits to Clinton's page. But few have logged the hours that Schilling has. According to Wikipedia's stats, he has been the top editor of the page for years.

Schilling sees keeping political biases out of entries as a major part of his volunteer job. He told Business Insider a trick to keep out ideologically-motivated editors is to address controversies thoroughly and include the details.

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"I intentionally make these things long because then you can include everything: the good, the bad the ugly, the neutral," Schilling said. "So, everybody who reads it should be able to get some idea, something about it here or there."

Schilling said he also relies heavily on facts attributed to concrete sources, avoiding trend pieces from news outlets like Politico that he perceives as important, but occasionally suspect.

"You actually have to be careful with using Politico articles as a source on Wikipedia because they're under so much pressure to churn out stuff," Schilling explained. "They find trends one day, they find the opposite trend the next day."

Once a contentious page plagued by trolls and opinionated users making unfounded claims, Clinton's Wikipedia entry has calmed down significantly.

"Back in 2007, there were more vandals, more troublemakers, more people trying to tilt the article one way or the other," Schilling said.

Now, Schilling claims, a slightly higher barrier of entry and automatic robots that flag suspect edits make the page a little easier to manage.

According to Schilling, Wikipedia pages generally become less contentious over time. So, while Clinton's page is "mature," other presidential candidate's pages are becoming virtual battlegrounds. Schilling said Carly Fiorina's page has seen a flurry of activity since her launch, primarily over how her tenure at CEO of Hewlett-Packard should be defined.

In fact, the biggest fight on Clinton's page isn't necessarily over the former Secretary of State's legacy. According to Schilling, the most significant spat on the page is over Clinton's name itself.

"There has been a huge argument over if the article title should get changed," Schilling said, from the current Hillary Rodham Clinton to just Hillary Clinton. "During last year's go-round, Jimmy Wales, the founder of Wikipedia, actually contacted her office to see what she prefers. ... She said Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Editing can be particularly difficult for pages with a political slant, with opinionated editors and political staffers attempting to change the page. In the wake of recent revelations that lawmakers and Capitol Hill staffers edited Wikipedia pages of high-level members of Congress, Schilling claims that many political operatives have been more careful about what kind of revisions they make.

Though he rarely sees staff edits on the pages he contributes to, Schilling said that it has happened. Schilling noted that when Vice President Joe Biden was a Senator, his office was a repeat offender.

"When I was working on the Joe Biden article, there was a case where it became known that some of his foreign policy supposed achievements had been put in by someone in his office," Schilling said.

Asked about why he does it, Schilling said that part of his motivation was readership.

"You get incredible visibility," Schilling said. "The words I've written, from this article and others, have been read

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by tens of millions of people."

"Where else can you write where you get 2,000,000 readers?" Schilling said.

Schilling vowed he will keep editing through the election and into the foreseeable future, partially because he feels that he's already put in a lot of work. Last year, the software engineer achieved his goal of getting the page to "featured article" status, a level which denotes the highest level of quality a Wikipedia page can rise to.

"Even if I cut out other Wikipedia stuff, it'll be hard to walk away from this one," Schilling said. "I've got over 2,000 edits on the page over 10 years. That's a heavy personal investment."

Hillary Clinton's hypocritical bid to settle a grudge and smash free speech // NY Post // Post Editorial Board - May 15, 2015

Her fans may see it as a principled stand, but we suspect it's just Hillary Clinton holding another grudge against her critics.

According to The Washington Post, Clinton told a roomful of supporters (behind closed doors) that as president she would require her Supreme Court nominees to pledge in advance to overturn the 2010 Citizens United decision.

That's the case where the high court upheld the right of a conservative group to air its anti-Clinton documentary, "Hillary: The Movie," and run ads for it during the 2008 Democratic primaries.

The anti-free-speech McCain-Feingold law had banned such "independent expenditures"; the ruling essentially gutted that law. And the court made it plain that politicians can't limit independent political spending by any organization — not by Citizens United and other advocacy groups, not by labor unions, not by corporations.

It was a fervent defense of First Amendment free-speech rights, but Democrats have always denounced it as a supposed cave-in to Wall Street — which explains why announcing her litmus test reportedly won Clinton a huge ovation.

Of course, Hillary was already on record favoring a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United — even while aiming to raise an unprecedented $2 billion for her latest White House bid.

In other words, corporate special-interest money is evil — unless it's backing her ambitions or her family's pocket foundation.

As for Supreme Court litmus tests, they're a curious thing. The idea that a Republican might name only pro-life judges moves liberals to scream, "Fanatic!"

But progressives see their own litmus tests, whether for pro-choice judges or to overturn an unpopular Supreme Court decision, as clarion calls for justice.

Time was when liberals like Hillary Clinton were the fiercest defenders of the First Amendment. When it comes to Hillary and Citizens United, though, it's not free speech — it's personal.

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Hillary Clinton's brothers could cause major problems for her presidential campaign // Business Insider //
Colin Campbell and Hunter Walker - May 16, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's two brothers, Tony and Hugh Rodham, could be a problem for her presidential campaign. Over the years, the pair has been at the center of multiple controversies for their business dealings and Republicans are already using them to attack Clinton.

One aide for a rival 2016 campaign told Business Insider that Clinton's brothers will definitely cause issues for her White House bid.

"Will they be a problem? Yes. They underscore everything that people fear and hate about the Clintons," the aide said. "They're essentially the id of Bill and Hillary Clinton. A bunch of money-grubbing and opportunistic hillbillies with no sense of ethics, decency, or even legality."

Indeed, while Hugh Rodham has yet to make headlines this cycle, last weekend, the New York Times published a story delving into Clinton's youngest brother, Tony Rodham. The paper reported he had repeatedly tried to profit from his connection to the former first family.

The newspaper pointed to a wide range of Tony Rodham's business activities including a Haitian gold mining venture and speeches he gave before Chinese investor conferences and a California cosmetics company.

"The connections to the Clintons have given Mr. Rodham, a self-described 'facilitator,' a unique appeal and a range of opportunities," The Times' Steve Eder wrote. "But his business dealings have often invited public scrutiny and uncomfortable questions for the Clintons."

Earlier this year, Tony Rodham was linked to alleged political favors in a report published by the Department of Homeland Security's investigator general. The report criticized a top DHS employee for appearing to go out of his way in 2010 and 2011 to assist "a politically connected regional center," where Tony was listed as the CEO.

The Times cited several other instances where Tony Rodham had tried to use his influence. After the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, former President Bill Clinton helped lead the recovery commission. According to the paper, Tony pressured his brother-in-law for funds. Tony himself reportedly discussed the arrangement in court proceedings that "were the result of a lawsuit over unpaid legal bills filed by his lawyer in a child support case."

"I deal through the Clinton Foundation. That gets me in touch with the Haitian officials," Tony said. "I hound my brother-in-law, because it's his fund that we're going to get our money from. ... And he keeps telling me, 'Oh, it's going to happen tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow.' Well, tomorrow hasn't come yet."

Both Bill Clinton's office and the Clinton Foundation told The Times that they never helped Tony Rodham with the project, which ultimately never moved forward. However, it does appear Bill Clinton has been willing to help Rodham out with his finances. In the same court proceeding, Rodham reportedly discussed getting help landing a $72,000-a-year job at a company owned by now Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), a longtime Clinton ally.

"I was complaining to my brother-in-law I didn't have any money. And he asked McAuliffe to give me a job," Rodham was quoted saying, adding that the job wasn't enough to pay his bills. "It's kind of like the job he got me a long time ago when I worked in the prison."

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In a phone conversation on Wednesday, Business Insider asked Tony Rodham whether he was concerned controversies about his various ventures could become an issue in his sister's campaign.

"I'm not going to talk about that," he said before hanging up.

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill sent a statement to Business Insider saying Clinton "loves" her brothers. While Merrill acknowledged Hugh and Tony Rodham have had their "ups and downs," he said it would be up to them to decide whether they want to address questions about their lives that could come up in the context of her White House bid.

"She loves her family more than anything. Her brothers have always been there for her, and she will always be there for them. Each though have their own lives, their own jobs, their own ups and downs. It is for them to decide how much of their private lives to share publicly in the context of their sister's campaign," Merrill said.

Still, Clinton's rivals are clearly willing to use her brothers against her. Republicans quickly pounced on The Times' story on Tony Rodham. The national GOP forwarded the article to reporters on Monday morning along with a statement attempting to link Tony to questions about Clinton's personal finances.

"The New York Times delves into Tony Rodham’s practice using the family name to secure controversial business deals as a 'facilitator,'" wrote Raj Shah, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee. "This comes amid scrutiny of Bill Clinton’s six-figure speaking fees, controversial foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation and other eyebrow raising money making endeavors to 'pay our bills.'"

And Tony Rodham isn't the only one of Clinton's siblings who could invite unwanted scrutiny during her White House bid.

Hugh Rodham, the middle sibling, was once described as the "the Billy Carter of the Clinton administration" for a pair of controversies caused by his business ventures.

In one instance, Hugh, who is often called "Hughie," accepted $400,000 in fees from two felons who were issued pardons by President Bill Clinton. The second issue involved a business venture Hugh and Tony were both reportedly involved in along with a Russian-backed political boss who was a rival to the US-allied government in Georgia. According to the New York Times, President Clinton's national security adviser asked the brothers to back out of this venture, which the paper described as having "caused trouble for US foreign policy."

Apart from his business dealings, Hugh's conduct during visits to the White House was allegedly unbecoming. According to "For Love of Politics," an account of the Clinton presidency written by author Sally Bedell Smith, Hugh Rodham treated the White House "like a dorm." Smith quoted Ann McCoy, a longtime friend of the Clinton's, describing Hugh's behavior.

"Hughie would show up in the worst outfits. ... He would be wearing shorts with golf balls on them and a T-shirt. He would sit in the Solarium, and Hillary wouldn't bat an eyelash. People would come all dressed up for dinner, and Hughie would waddle up in his shorts and fall asleep," McCoy was quoted saying.

Hugh Rodham has also tried his hand in the media. During the Clinton administration, he hosted a radio show. More recently, Hugh seems to have tried to revive his media career and some of what he had to say would be decidedly off message for the Clinton campaign. A promotion for an unspecified "radio program" that was posted on YouTube in 2012 features Hugh blasting President Barack Obama, who had Hillary Clinton in his Cabinet at the time. In the clip, Hugh discusses the 2012 election.

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"The new radio program that you're about to listen to, which is on the internet streaming live will tell you, the voters, the unvarnished truth. Let me tell you what's the importance of this election. If you're unhappy with the no jobs policy the weak economy and all the rest of the things that the current administration provided you in the last four years and are unhappy with what the challengers have to say then we will try to get down to the nitty gritty of what's important and what's important is how you perceive your role as an American," he says.

During Bill Clinton's presidency, Hugh also attempted to launch his own political career by challenging former Republican Senator Connie Mack in Florida. Hugh lost that race and along the way he was reportedly accused of campaign finance violations and forced to admit he had a spotty voting record. The Orlando Sentinel quoted one anonymous "leading state Democrat" describing Hugh simply as "an embarrassment" for the party in Florida.

"We in the Florida party had nothing to do with him, wanted nothing to do with him," they said.

Hugh Rodham did not respond to a message Business Insider left at his Florida law office this week seeking comment on this story.

While the Rodham brothers would not speak to us, lawyer and political consultant Lanny Davis, a longtime Clinton family friend, sent us a comment on their behalf. Davis suggested there were inaccuracies in the various allegations leveled against the Rodhams over the years, but they don't want to defend themselves due to a desire to protect "their families privacy." Davis also expressed the brothers' wish that Clinton's rivals and members of the media will refrain from targeting her family.

"Tony and Hugh live their own lives, and while there are plenty of facts to dispute, they are not going to do so as part of a political charade," Davis said. "They hope this desire for privacy is understood by both the Republicans and the media, but either way they plan on vigorously guarding their family's privacy by not responding to purely political attacks on relatives who are neither public officials nor running for any office."

Michael Morell: Foreign governments have Hillary's email // Politico // Adam B. Lerner - May 15, 2015

Former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell said that he believes some foreign intelligence agencies possess the contents of Hillary Clinton's private email server.

"I think that foreign intelligence services, the good ones, have everything on any unclassified network that the government uses," Morell said Friday in an interview on the Hugh Hewitt Show.

"I don't think that was a very good judgment," he added of Clinton's decision to use the private server for official State Department business. "I don't know who gave her that advice, but it was not good advice."

"She's paying a price for it now," Morell said of the server. "It was not good."

Morell appeared on the program to promote his new book, "The Great War of Our Time: The CIA's Fight Against Terrorism — From al Qa'ida to ISIS," which contains a passage on what happened in Benghazi before and after the attack that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

A version of the passage was published this week by POLITICO Magazine.

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Allies Remember a Driven Hillary Rodham During '72 Texas Visit // Texas Tribune // Abby Livingston - May 16, 2015

WASHINGTON — As Garry Mauro drove up to Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern's Texas headquarters in October 1972, a young couple burst out of the office, begging for a ride to the Austin airport.

Mauro, who would serve as state land commissioner from 1983 to 1999, obliged, racing the tall, bushy-haired Democratic operative and the 24-year-old law student from West Sixth Street east to the Robert Mueller Airport.

"We gotta get to New Haven because we gotta register late for law school," Mauro, now 67, recalled Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham saying.

It was a frantic moment that followed an impetuous decision by the Yale Law School students to come to Texas for a doomed political endeavor in the middle of their studies.

Thanks to several books — including the Clintons' own memoirs — their short few months in Texas have become a part of Austin lore. The couple worked on the failed Texas campaign for McGovern, a liberal U.S. senator from South Dakota. During their few months in Austin, San Antonio and elsewhere, Clinton and Rodham befriended several allies who would help Bill Clinton's political ascent in Arkansas and on to the White House. And as Hillary Clinton makes a second run for the White House, some of those bonds forged in Texas are poised to help again.

Bill Clinton arrived to Austin first as McGovern's Texas political point man, but Hillary Rodham was not far behind.

"Bill asked if I wanted to go too," she wrote in her memoir, Living History. "I did, but only if I had a specific job."

That job was registering black and Hispanic South Texas voters for the Democratic National Committee.

The campaign's challenge was insurmountable. McGovern's liberal policies repelled old Lyndon B. Johnson allies like John Connally, who led the "Democrats for Nixon" effort. Stricken by a state party at war with itself, McGovern ended up losing Texas in November by a two-to-one margin.

But ever since, the Clintons have had a personal connection to the state.

"Although Bill was the only person I knew when I got to Austin, Texas in August, I quickly made some of the best friends I've ever had," Hillary Clinton wrote in her memoir.

Clinton declined to be interviewed for this story. And many of the people who worked with her on the 1972 campaign have passed away. But there are still several who worked with her in Texas who remember the serious and driven law student.

"We Want a Real Lawyer"

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Sara Ehrman first laid eyes on Rodham in McGovern's San Antonio headquarters, a former nursing home.

A longtime Washington-based Democratic political operative, Ehrman led the campaign for South Texas. She and her team put up out an S.O.S. to Washington that they were in dire need of legal counsel.

What they got was a law student who looked more like an undergraduate, dressed in all brown: pants, shirt and glasses.

"This young woman looked 19 years old, and she came in and said she was a lawyer, and everybody started howling and saying we want a real lawyer," Ehrman said.

Even so, Ehrman, who was in her 50s, instantly formed a maternal bond with Rodham.

"We were not Texans," Ehrman, now 96, said of the connection. "We did not know all the intricacies of Texas politics, which were very complicated at the time."

Ehrman describes Rodham's brief stint at the San Antonio headquarters as "prepared, mature for her age, focused and in charge."

"We bonded," she added. "We just knew each other."

Rodham split her time between San Antonio and Austin, where Bill Clinton was based with writer Taylor Branch. Branch and Clinton ran the state campaign together and the three shared an apartment.

Eddie Bernice Johnson, who is now in her 12th term in Congress, worked closely with Bill Clinton on the 1972 campaign. But she recalled encountering the couple together just once during that time.

"I only saw them together one time, and then he treated her very gently, but I didn't really realize" they were dating, she said in an interview.

Besides Ehrman, one of Rodham's closest friends from the Texas experience was a University of Texas at Austin graduate named Betsey Wright.

Wright would often visit Barton Springs with Rodham, according to David Maraniss' book on Bill Clinton, First in His Class.

But she would have an exhilarating and rocky political future. She would later move to Arkansas and become a pivotal Clinton operative during his rise in state politics, serving as Bill Clinton's gubernatorial chief of staff and campaign manager in the 1980s. Many have said she was the inspiration for Kathy Bates' political enforcer character in the novel and movie Primary Colors, a roman à clef on the Clintons.

Bill Clinton called Wright "the Texan who had, by far, the greatest impact on my career."

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“Without Betsey Wright, I could not have become president," Bill Clinton later wrote in his memoir.

The Clintons, however, "cut her loose before they moved into the White House" according to The New York Times. She pleaded no contest in 2010 to charges that she attempted to smuggle contraband inside of a Doritos bag while on a 2009 visit to death row. Wright now lives in Arkansas, and in recent years she was a fellow for a state library system.

Wright did not respond to emailed questions for this story. But in 1992, she said in a New York Magazine interview that, like Mauro, she was impressed that the couple worked full time on a presidential campaign while simultaneously attending law school.

“I’d never been exposed to people like that before. I mean, they spent the whole semester in Texas, never attended a class —then went back to Yale and aced their finals,” she said.

Did Mauro ever see either one of them study?

“Christ, no,” he said.

A Lost Cause

Neither Rodham nor any of her colleagues were under the impression that they could deliver a Texas victory to the McGovern campaign.

“We all knew McGovern wasn’t going to win,” Mauro said in a recent interview with The Texas Tribune. “But historically, you just didn’t get less than 40 percent of the vote [in Texas] if you were a major party nominee.”

This was the first time 18-year-olds could vote in a presidential election, adding to Rodham’s challenge in registering South Texas voters. She also concentrated on Hispanic voters. Franklin Garcia, who died in 1984, was her guide in the region.

"Hispanics in South Texas were, understandably, wary of a blond girl from Chicago who didn’t speak a word of Spanish," Clinton wrote in Living History. "[Garcia] took me to places I never could have gone along and vouched for me to Mexican Americans who worried I might be from the immigration service or some other government agency."

Bill Clinton was often on the road, organizing events and hanging flyers in county courthouses.

But it was a lost cause.

“When the vote count came in, I’ll never forget walking out to the car,” Mauro said. “I ripped the McGovern bumper sticker off.”

The Nixon landslide did not surprise either Clinton, they would later write. Their circle of friends soon disbanded and scattered across the country. The couple made a trip to Mexico for vacation and then went back to New Haven for finals.

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That Godforsaken Place

A year later, Rodham decamped in Erhman's Washington apartment in 1973 while working as a staffer on the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry into the Watergate scandal. Bill Clinton headed to Arkansas to begin his political career.

Branch occasionally saw Rodham during that year.

"I could tell she loved him, but she did not want to move to Arkansas," he said, noting her awareness of her legal work's place in history.

"I did notice some strain over that," he added. "Even at the time, I was pretty sure she would do it because her attachment to him was pretty evident."

But Rodham did go to Arkansas.

"When Hillary decided to go to Arkansas to marry Bill Clinton, I drove her down," Ehrman said. "And all the way down, for hundreds of miles, I kept saying, 'Are you crazy? Why are you going to that Godforsaken place where you can't even get French bread?'"

Ehrman said the conversation went in circles, and each time Hillary Rodham had the same answer: "But I love him ... and I'm going to be with him."

Over the next decades, the Clintons would return to Texas, both for delegates, campaign dollars and out of a sense of political loyalty.

Bill Clinton counts Mauro and Austin ad executives Roy Spence and Judy Trabulsi as the closest Texas friends who helped him through his presidential runs.

Mauro managed Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign for Texas, and Spence was a close media adviser to Hillary Clinton in her 2008 presidential campaign and is expected to hold similar influence this time around. Mauro does not have an official title with the campaign at this point, but he told the Tribune recently that he's working the phones on behalf of the couple.

Eddie Bernice Johnson, too, became a reliable Congressional and political ally, until she supported then-Sen. Barack Obama in the 2008 campaign. She immediately sided with Hillary Clinton in this presidential campaign.

Also while in Texas, the couple befriended donors like the late Bernard Rapoport of Waco, who would financially back both of their campaigns.

Texas helped deliver the Democratic nomination to Bill Clinton in 1992, and gave Hillary Clinton life support to continue her own campaign into the spring of 2008.

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But also, they frequently returned to the state over the years to boost their old friends' own campaigns.

"All these people went in different directions and made a real difference," Mauro mused.

"We only got 32 percent of the vote," he added. "But...you look at all the people involved in that and what they went on to accomplish in their careers, it was probably an incubation, a seminal moment in Texas politics, if not national politics."

Clintons Earned $30 Million in 16 Months, Report Shows // NYT // Maggie Haberman and Steve Eder - May 15, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her husband made at least $30 million over the last 16 months, mainly from giving paid speeches to corporations, banks and other organizations, according to financial disclosure forms filed with federal elections officials on Friday.

The sum, which makes Mrs. Clinton among the wealthiest of the 2016 presidential candidates, could create challenges for the former secretary of state as she tries to cast herself as a champion of everyday Americans in an era of income inequality.

The $25 million in speaking fees since the beginning of last year continue a lucrative trend for the Clintons: They have now earned more than $125 million on the circuit since leaving the White House in 2001.

In addition, the report shows, Mrs. Clinton reported income exceeding $5 million from her memoir of her time as secretary of state, “Hard Choices.

The Clintons’ riches have already become a subject of political attacks, and her campaign has been eager to showcase Mrs. Clinton as a more down-to-earth figure. Her only declared Democratic opponent at this point, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, is an avowed socialist, while Republicans like Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin have considerably more modest means.

A major dimension of Mrs. Clinton’s candidacy is expected to be policy proposals to narrow the gap between the rich and poor and to address stagnant wages. Yet she is far from those problems; while she said she and President Clinton were “dead broke” when they left the White House in early 2001, they are now part of the American elite.

The report makes clear that Mrs. Clinton, since leaving the State Department, has joined the family speechmaking business with gusto. But the former president can still command higher fees than his wife, collecting about an average of about $250,000 per speech to $235,000 for Mrs. Clinton.

And while Mr. Clinton’s largest honorarium was the $500,000 he collected from the EAT Stockholm Food Forum in Sweden, his wife’s engagements topped out at $350,000.

Of Mrs. Clinton’s speeches, 10 were delivered to audiences outside the United States, but they were not nearly as far-flung as those by her husband over the years. Nine were to Canadian groups: the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Whistler, British Columbia; trade organizations in Montreal and Vancouver; the think tank Canada 2020, which generates socially progressive policy; and five organized by the events firm tinePublic Inc. The 10th speech was to a health care company audience in Mexico City.

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Mrs. Clinton also spoke to a mix of corporations (GE, Cisco, Deutsche Bank), medical and pharmaceutical groups (the California Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association), and women's organizations like the Commercial Real Estate Women Network.

Mr. Clinton's speeches included a number of talks for financial firms, including Bank of America and UBS, as well as technology companies like Microsoft and Oracle.

The disclosure forms cover Jan. 1, 2014 to May 14 of this year. They show that even as his wife has begun her pursuit of the presidency, Mr. Clinton has shown no signs of slowing down: He gave three speeches in recent days, including one Thursday for the American Institute of Architects in Atlanta, and two on Tuesday in New York — one for Univision Management and one for Apollo Management Holdings.

The disclosure forms do not reveal what taxes the couple paid on their income, but a campaign official who requested anonymity said they had paid an effective tax rate of about 30 percent.

Mrs. Clinton's last filing, which covered her final years as secretary of state, disclosed more than $16 million in income. Most of the money, mainly covering 2012, stemmed from about 70 honorariums for President Clinton.

The Clintons have come under increasing scrutiny for their financial activities since she announced her run for president last month. Much of the attention has been focused on the Clinton Foundation and the donations it received from foreign entities during the time that she was secretary of state.

But the couple has also faced criticism for giving highly paid speeches to certain groups, particularly the financial industry.

The speaking circuit has enriched many well-known Washington figures and former presidents, but the exorbitant pay for light work can distance them from the realities most Americans experience at their jobs. In one case, the report shows, Mrs. Clinton received $100,000 for a speech to the California Medical Association — by satellite.

Bill and Hillary Clinton Earned Over $25 Million In Speaking Fees Since January 2014 // Vanity Fair // Melissa Locker - May 16, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton and former president Bill Clinton earned in excess of $25 million for delivering 104 speeches since the beginning of 2014, new financial filings revealed. A few calculations on a Scrooge MacDuck calculator reveal that is a lot of money to backstroke through, or, you know, use in a campaign for the presidency.

The financial revelations came when the Clintons filed required income statements from January 2014 onward with the Federal Election Commission on Friday, and reported by The Washington Post. The disclosure reveals that both Clintons have been working very, very hard on the speech circuit giving 104 paid speeches between them since January 2014. For those without a calculator handy, $25 million for 104 speeches breaks down to an average of over $240,000 per speech. Not all of the Clintons' speaking fees were reflected in the F.E.C. filing, though. Any lecture fees donated to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation were not reported as they did not provide Clinton with personal income and, thus, were not required to be disclosed.

While Hillary Clinton has retired from the paid lecture circuit now that she is running for president, Bill Clinton is still putting in the miles, telling NBC News, "I gotta pay our bills." His hefty fees and busy work schedule can translate into substantial earnings—he took in $500,000 in one day by collecting $250,000 each for lectures at Univision and Apollo Management Holdings.

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The filing also revealed that as the Clintons' political capital and experience grows, so do their speaking fees. During Clinton's 11 years as a U.S. senator and then as President Obama's secretary of state, according to The Washington Post, Bill Clinton made $105 million for 540 speeches, for an average of just (or rather "just") $194,444 per speech. In 2012, Hillary Clinton reported that her husband earned more than $16.3 million for 72 speeches, or an average of over $226,000 per speech. Still, good work if you can get it.

Of course Clinton was not the only presidential hopeful who filed with the F.E.C. on Friday. Republican candidate Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida filed his income statements and revealed much smaller holdings, including the fact that he cashed-out two of his retirement accounts worth between $60,000 and $195,000. Rubio and his wife also hold at least $450,000 in home mortgage debt. Republican candidates Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky sought 45-day extensions.

Hillary Clinton personally took money from companies that sought to influence her // Vox // Jonathan Allen - May 16, 2015

Almost a decade ago, as Hillary Clinton ran for re-election to the Senate on her way to seeking the presidency for the first time, the New York Times reported on her unusually close relationship with Corning, Inc., an upstate glass titan. Clinton advanced the company's interests, racking up a big assist by getting China to ease a trade barrier. And the firm's mostly Republican executives opened up their wallets for her campaign.

During Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State, Corning lobbied the department on a variety of trade issues, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The company has donated between $100,000 and $250,000 to her family's foundation. And, last July, when it was clear that Clinton would again seek the presidency in 2016, Corning coughed up a $225,500 honorarium for Clinton to speak.

In the laundry-whirl of stories about Clinton buck-raking, it might be easy for that last part to get lost in the wash. But it's the part that matters most. The $225,500 speaking fee didn't go to help disease-stricken kids in an impoverished village on some long-forgotten patch of the planet. Nor did it go to a campaign account. It went to Hillary Clinton. Personally.

The latest episode in the Clinton money saga is different than the others because it involves the clear, direct personal enrichment of Hillary Clinton, presidential candidate, by people who have a lot of money at stake in the outcome of government decisions. Her federally required financial disclosure was released to media late Friday, a time government officials and political candidates have long reserved for dumping news they hope will have a short shelf life.

Together, Hillary and Bill Clinton cleared $25 million on the lecture circuit over the last 16 months, according to a Hillary Clinton's personal financial disclosure required of presidential candidates. A lot of the focus will naturally go toward the political argument that Clinton's wealth makes her out of touch. The US has had plenty of good rich presidents and bad rich presidents. What's more important is whether they are able to listen to all of the various interests without being unduly influenced by any of them.

There's a reason government officials can't accept gifts: They tend to have a corrupting effect. True, Hillary Clinton wasn't a government official at the time the money was given. But it is very, very, very hard to see six-figure speaking fees paid by longtime political boosters with interests before the government — to a woman who has been running for president since the last time she lost — as anything but a gift.

Who gave and gave and gave and lobbied?

Corning's in good company in padding the Clinton family bank account after lobbying the State Department and

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donating to the foundation. Qualcomm and salesforce.com did that, too. Irwin Jacobs, a founder of Qualcomm, and Marc Benioff, a founder of salesforce.com , also cut $25,000 checks to the now-defunct Ready for Hillary SuperPAC. Hillary Clinton spoke to their companies on the same day, October 14, 2014. She collected more than half a million dollars from them that day, adding to the $225,500 salesforce.com had paid her to speak eight months earlier.

And Microsoft, the American Institute of Architects, AT&T, SAP America, Oracle and Telefonica all paid Bill Clinton six-figure sums to speak as Hillary Clinton laid the groundwork for her presidential campaign.

And that list, which includes Clinton Foundation donors, is hardly the end of it. There's a solid set of companies and associations that had nothing to do with the foundation but lobbied State while Clinton was there and then paid for her to speak to them. Xerox, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, in addition to Corning, all lobbied Clinton's department on trade matters and then invited her to earn an easy check.

By this point, most Clinton allies wish they had a button so they didn't have to go to the trouble of rolling their eyes at each new Clinton money story. The knee-jerk eye-roll response to the latest disclosure will be that there's nothing new to see here. But there's something very important to see that is different than the past stories. This time, it's about Hillary Clinton having her pockets lined by the very people who seek to influence her. Not in some metaphorical sense. She's literally being paid by them.

That storyline should be no less shocking for the fact that it is no longer surprising. The skimpy fig leaf of timing, that the speeches were paid for when she was between government gigs, would leave Adam blushing. And while most Democrats will shrug it off — or at least pretend to — it's the kind of behavior voters should take into account when considering whether they want to give a candidate the unparalleled power of the presidency. It goes to the most important, hardest-to-predict characteristic in a president: judgment.

George Stephanopoulos Makes a Passive-Aggressive Non-Apology for Clinton Donation // The Daily Beast // Lloyd Grove - May 15, 2015

You see, Good Morning America host George Stephanopoulos was just too darned generous to poor kids and AIDS victims.

In a non-apology apology that is unlikely to appease the referees of press ethics, let alone his Republican detractors—and may just baffle morning television viewers who haven't paid attention to the blossoming scandal within the media-political complex—the former top aide to Bill and Hillary Clinton put the very best face possible on his lapse in judgment in not disclosing $75,000 in donations to the Clinton Foundation when he conducted a contentious April 26 interview with foundation critic Peter Schweizer on This Week With George Stephanopoulos, ABC News's Sunday show.

Although Stephanopoulos's case is very different from—and nowhere near as serious as—the embellishments of suspended NBC Nightly News anchor Brian Williams, his explanation of his mistake on Friday morning was much in the same vein as Williams's claim last February that he made up a story about a helicopter ride in Iraq simply in an innocent, good-hearted attempt to honor America's fighting men and women.

Willams wrapped himself in the flag; Stephanopoulos cloaked himself in charity.

His 48-second statement, which he read near the end of GMA's first block, went as follows: "Now I want to address an issue you may have seen about me. Over the last several years, I've made substantial donations to dozens of charities, including the Clinton Global Foundation. Those donations were a matter of public record, but I should have made additional disclosures on air when I covered the foundation, and I now believe that directing personal

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donations to that foundation was a mistake. Even though I made them strictly to support work done to stop the spread of AIDS, help children, and protect the environment in poor countries, I should have gone the extra mile to avoid even the appearance of a conflict. I apologize to all of you for failing to do that."

It is hard to argue that asking tough questions of a charity's critic on the air—as Stephanopoulos did last month with Schweizer, whose much-publicized book Clinton Cash has been the target of war room-level pushback from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign—without bothering to mention that you've donated to that charity, is anything other than a serious breach of accepted journalistic standards. Or that letting viewers know about such a potential conflict of interest is "going the extra mile."

Apparently Stephanopoulos still fails to grasp that there is nothing "extra" about what should have been a common-sense disclosure. What's more, on GMA Friday morning, he didn't see fit to mention the sheer size of his donations; no doubt many of his viewers would consider $75,000 real money, even for a television personality reportedly making double-digit millions.

Even Stephanopoulos unwittingly acknowledged the bad appearance of things during an April 28 appearance on The Daily Show, two days after his Schweizer confrontation. He told Comedy Central's Jon Stewart: "I read the book that this is based on, Clinton Cash, and I actually interviewed the author on Sunday. This is a tough one, because when you actually look, look closely at it, he even says there is no evidence of any direct action taken on behalf of the donors. But everybody also knows when those donors give that money—and President Clinton or someone, they get a picture with him—there's a hope that it's going to lead to something. And that's what you have to be careful of."

When Stewart pointed out that "the entire system appears to be shrouded in that type of quid pro quo, or the appearance of it," Stephanopoulos agreed, saying: "Even if you don't get an action, what you get is access and you get the influence that comes with access and that's gotta shape the thinking of politicians. That's what's so pernicious about it."

Could Stephanopoulos, who is also ABC News's chief anchor and political correspondent, be hoping for access to and exclusives from Bill and Hillary, giving him a competitive edge during the 2016 presidential campaign?

It's a fair question. Even if Stephanopoulos never discussed his contributions to their foundation with the Clintons, as appears to be the case, the Clintons are undoubtedly aware of them. Like all successful politicians, they have a keen eye for, and a long memory of, people who give and don't give them money.

So if Stephanopoulos really wants to put this issue to rest—and I think he can—he's going to have to do better than the once-over-lightly treatment he accorded it Friday morning. A "modified limited hangout"—to use Nixon aide John Ehrlichman's phrase during the Watergate adventure—just won't do in this case.

Wolff: Stephanopoulos donation furor overdone // USA Today // Michael Wolff - May 15 2015

NEW YORK — Network news anchors used to be a powerful symbol of the modern age, of great events, of important men and women, of America itself. Now they are just the symbol of the media — an unpopular, suspect and intrusive presence in everybody's life.

NBC's Brian Williams fell victim to an anti-media backlash for having exaggerated his war reporting and other exploits. Now ABC's George Stephanopoulos is on the hot seat for having contributed to the Clinton Foundation.

In both instances — unintended breaches of professional decorum — the furor vastly outweighs the crime. Human error becomes high scandal. Personal lapses become an overarching and apparently devastating indictment of the fundamental corruption of modern media.

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Stephanopoulos contributed, wisely or not, $75,000 to a charity focused on international health issues — one that is led by a former Democratic president whose wife is a presidential candidate herself.

Within 24 hours, the social media opprobrium and sturm und drang about Stephanopoulos — not so much a personal lapse as a technical infraction — pushed the story onto the front page of The New York Times.

Stephanopoulos is, of course, being held accountable for the Clintons, with whom, almost two decades ago, he had a high-profile White House position. Since then, he has not only publicly fallen out with the Clintons, but over the course of more than a decade, he has risen to the top of another profession.

Then again, that's part of the present argument. The media is not separate from politics, it is its insidious arm. And it is not just Stephanopoulos being held to account for the Clintons, but all the media, or at least, the liberal media. Indeed, this close-to-conspiracy-minded view about the liberal, or mainstream, media — a theoretical entity that can be defined as broadly as needed to make the argument — is the narrative of the conservative media.

With the greatest irony, and, one might guess, mirth, the conservative media has become much more politically influential than the liberal-ish media, in part by its constant and canny positioning as an outsider David to the big-media Goliath.

That's been the extraordinarily effective niche marketing tactic of the conservative media: ever-wounded virtue against the arrogance and superciliousness of the other side.

That prompts the most basic question: Why is non-conservative media (only defined as not being right-wing) so bad about defending and marketing itself? How come it lets itself be conservative media's patsy and fall guys?

Arguably, this is the result of its own marketing strategy. Almost everything about network news has become smaller — the money, the influence, the audience. And yet its pretense — a still profitable pretense — remains very much that it is the voice of the nation.

That's laughable and an easy sort of pomposity to puncture. Stephanopoulos is probably more knowledgeable about American political life than any television anchor has ever been, and yet he is made to play a remote television anchor instead of a sharp insider, a role that fools nobody.

Likewise, Williams, a talented television performer, is forced to imitate the mien and experience of Edward R. Murrow — here, too, fooling nobody.

In marketing terms, you can manage an aging brand for the profits it still produces or risk changing it up and losing those profits for an uncertain new future. Big media chose the former way for network news.

That emperor's-new-clothes position, pretending that it yet represents a great consensus, has not only made network news vulnerable to right-wing media, but has made it a prime target of the resentments of the broader liberal media, as well.

Liberal media — again, the definitions here is as broad as you like — is arguably now bifurcated into two classes. There is a bottom-heavy class of younger people more and more routed into digital media with significantly less earning power and with existentially uncertain futures, together with a remaining established set forced into ever-

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greater cost-cutting and the management of steady decline. And then there is a very small circle of people who, by some legerdemain, are able to pretend that nothing at all is different. Life is great. The future rich.

It would be impossible to ignore in both the Stephanopoulos and Williams cases the undertone of bitterness and something close to malevolence that has attached to them in the wide coverage of their particular contretemps. There is a deep hatred out there.

Stephanopoulos' contribution to the Clinton Foundation might create a perception issue for a journalist covering the race — although, reasonably, this puts the charity in his debt rather than the other way around. Perhaps something to weigh. But all of a sudden, it is the stuff of potentially career-ruining demonization. Indeed, the splitting of such ethical hairs is one of the leading stories of the day in the view of not merely the Internet but The New York Times, which also is constantly pilloried for the least deviation from some undefined standard of correctness.

The Times, like most other media outlets in high dudgeon over the Stephanopoulos contribution, does not seem to understand that this is not really a story about Stephanopoulos, but about the larger war against the media, mostly being fought by the media itself.

ABC News Disputes RNC Chair's Implication The Party Can Pick Its Own Debate Moderators // Huffington Post // Michael Calderone - May 15, 2015

NEW YORK -- ABC News pushed back Friday against Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus' claim that ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos "was never going to moderate a Republican debate anyway," a suggestion that the party could prevent a television network from assigning the journalist of its choice.

"ABC News decides who moderates ABC News debates," a network spokeswoman said. "The GOP primary debate is nine months away. Before George recused himself, we hadn't made any decisions about our debate coverage team."

Stephanopoulos preemptively pulled himself out of ABC News' Republican primary debate in February following revelations that he donated $75,000 to the Clinton Foundation. Prior to the disclosure, the network's star anchor had notably conducted a grilling of Clinton Cash author Peter Schweizer regarding his accusations against the Clintons of corruption related to foreign donations, former President Bill Clinton's paid speaking appearances and Hillary Clinton's decisions as secretary of State.

Though Stephanopoulos donated to the Clinton Foundation to support charitable programs tackling AIDS and deforestation, the failure to disclose those donations while covering the recent Clinton controversy could tarnish a journalistic reputation he's been building since he left politics for ABC News in 1997.

In an interview Thursday on Fox News' "Hannity," Priebus said his concerns about Stephanopoulos moderating stemmed not from the donations, but rather the anchor's previous role as Bill Clinton's communications director during the 1992 election and his first term in the White House. "How can I, as chairman of the national party, have the former employee of the Clintons, who's running on the other side, be the person on the stage deposing our candidate?" Preibus said.

Fox News host Sean Hannity asked Priebus if he'd told ABC that Stephanopoulos shouldn't moderate the debate. "I've said it to everybody," Priebus replied.

Sean Spicer, the RNC's chief strategist and communications director, would not confirm that Priebus had previously expressed concerns about Stephanopoulos directly to ABC News. "We don't publicly discuss the

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private conversations that we have had with any of our debate partners," Spicer said in an email to The Huffington Post.

Spicer did not respond to questions about whether the RNC has the power to prevent a network debate sponsor from selecting the journalist of its choice.

Priebus has taken firmer control of the 2016 Republican debate process in hopes of avoiding the 20-debate circus of four years ago. In January, the RNC announced that it had sanctioned nine debates and threatened to discipline candidates who buck the party's rules. The RNC is insisting that TV networks partner with conservative media outlets at its debates, but Priebus' suggestion that the political party could overrule its network sponsor's choice of moderator implied a surprising degree of editorial control.

Stephanopoulos came under fire in 2012 for asking Republican candidate Mitt Romney about his views on banning birth control at a New Hampshire primary debate, a question some conservatives argued was out of bounds. Rand Paul, a Kentucky senator and 2016 candidate, once accused Stephanopoulos with colluding with Democrats in posing the question. A Paul spokesman told HuffPost on Thursday that Stephanopoulos should recuse himself from all political coverage with Clinton in the race.

Hannity brought up the contraceptives question during Thursday's interview with Priebus, asking the RNC chairman if he's going to "draw a line in the sand" to ensure that any "known liberals" won't be moderating Republican contests.

Preibus told Hannity that those who "could give a rip about our party ought not be the people moderating our debates."

Trump: Clintons 'kiss my a--' for donations // The Hill // Mark Hensch - May 15, 2015

The billionaire mogul Donald Trump says Bill and Hillary Clinton personally approached him about making donations to the Clinton Foundation.

“Both of them,” Trump said on Thursday evening when The Daily Mail asked if the Clintons had directly asked for contributions. He added that he wasn’t promised any favors.

“But they do kiss my ass,” he quipped.

Trump, who is considering a run for the White House in 2016, reportedly gave at least $100,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

Gifts to the foundation were thrust into the spotlight this week after ABC anchor George Stephanopoulos acknowledged giving $75,000 to the organization. Stephanopoulos did not disclose those contributions during a tense on-air interview with Peter Schweizer, the author of Clinton Cash, which questions whether donors who gave to the foundation tried to curry favor with Hillary Clinton while she was secretary of State.

Trump said he was not satisfied with some of the foundation’s recent activities.

“I wish they would spend the money more wisely. And certainly I wish they would not spend it on themselves,” he

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said, citing former President Clinton and his daughter Chelsea Clinton's recent visit to Africa.

"It's supposed to be for good causes, not for luxury airplane flights," he added.

Trump additionally argued his donations did not disqualify him from criticizing Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2016.

"Nobody has been tougher on her than I have," he said.

"I haven't given her money," he added. "I've given her foundation money to be used properly."

Trump said he plans on making a final decision on a White House run "in June."

Sharon Native Tapped As Clinton's Top Aide // The Vermont Standard // Katy Savage - May 15, 2015

Robby Mook is making an effort to stay out of the spotlight but that hasn't been easy.

As Hillary Clinton's campaign manager — and the first openly gay campaign manager of a major presidential candidate — the 35-year-old from Sharon has made national headlines. But Mook is quiet when it comes to talking about his success. His focus is on the candidate.

That's just "typical Robby" said Matt Dunne, a Hartland resident who knew Mook as a high school student. "He doesn't want to be the story. He's all about the candidate and getting the job done and his profile is irrelevant to him, which is why I think people trust him in the political world."

Some say his low profile is what makes him successful. Clinton's campaign is not about him, and it's also not about Clinton. The focus is on everyday Americans.

Clinton's campaign is being built on the grassroots level through the newly developed program. Staff from the campaign will soon go to all 50 states and work with Clinton supporters to organize meetings and engage volunteers.

Mook is humbled by his position, he said.

"Hillary has picked some of the best pros in the business to work around me on this campaign, and it's going to be a fun, rewarding campaign," said Mook in an email.

Mook joined former Gov. Howard Dean's 2004 campaign for president after graduating from Columbia University. He worked in the Wisconsin office and in the New Hampshire office as a deputy field director under Karen Hicks.

"He's like a dog with a bone," Hicks said. "He doesn't let anything drop off his plate and he's a very, very good organizer. He's just the right person to lead this campaign."

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His humility is perhaps what sets him apart from other campaign organization. It's earned his name prestige in the political sphere.

"He's not in it for himself," said Dean. "Washington campaign staff is in it for themselves, especially at that level. That's what happened in Hillary's campaign the last time."

Dean had lunch with Mook just the other week. He declined to reveal what they talked about, saying political advice is meant to be private.

Mook was already making a name for himself in politics as a teenager. As a freshman in high school, he worked on the campaign for Dunne, who was seeking re-election to a House seat in Vermont.

"He was intrigued by the political stuff I was doing and he asked to help," Dunne said.

Dunne was so impressed by Mook's skills and charm that the summer after his freshman year at Columbia University, he recommended Mook as the first paid staffer for the Democratic House Campaign — an organization that works to elect Democrats to the state House of Representatives.

Mook admitted to Dunne that he had no idea what he was doing, but Dunne saw a confidence in Mook that was rare to see for someone of his age. Mook laid out the architecture of the group that still exists today.

Mook was patient with older candidates who were new to fundraising, like John Murphy, a state representative from 1969-99.

"By the end of that John was successful and delighted with Robby," Dunne said. "That's a rare quality of someone of that age."

It wasn't long before superiors took notice.

Mook first worked with Clinton as a campaign director in Nevada, Indiana and Ohio in her 2008 bid for president. Clinton won all three of those states.

He managed Jeanne Shaheen's successful campaign for a United States Senate seat representing New Hampshire.

"Robby is what everyone looks for in a campaign manager: He's smart, energetic and focused and knows how to bring out the best in staff. Hillary Clinton made a great decision in bringing Robby on board for her 2016 campaign. His knowledge of New Hampshire will be invaluable as she campaigns in the first-in-the-nation primary," Shaheen said in an email.

Mook became the political director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2009. In the 2012 elections, he steered the Democrat's eight-seat gain.

He impressed others with his advanced team-building skills. People trusted him for his modesty. And he became

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known as a clever strategist.

“He had a way of motivating people to do what they didn’t think they had the energy to do,” said New York Rep. Steve Israel to Politco when talking about the gain in 2012. “That’s largely the result of the dual talents that he had. Some people think strategically. Some people think operationally. Robby’s strength was that he was able to think on both levels.”

In 2013 Politico named him one of the “50 Politicos to Watch.” That same year he was the campaign manager for Terry McAuliffe’s successful campaign for governor of Virginia.

Those in his home state aren’t surprised by his success.

“In some ways when he started off I was his mentor,” Dunne said. “I would say that it’s slipped a little bit. I look to him for political advice.”

Friends say he’s goofy and a little nerdy, but also extremely funny. People gravitate toward him because of his humor. It’s motivated candidates when they felt like giving up and has kept the moods in difficult situations positive.

“I’ve always tried to not take myself too seriously, which enables me to work better with my team,” Mook said.

The humor was first noticed at Hanover High School. He was an “imaginative” actor where he participated in several plays.

Bill Hammond, the then-drama director at Hanover High School, compared Mook’s acting style to Jim Carrey and Dick Van Dyke. He had a malleable face and body.

Hammond didn’t expect him to take up politics.

“Politics is a really important job in society but a lot of people use it for their personal gain. I have great confidence that Robby is in it because he really wants to make things better,” Hammond said.

Dunne, a graduate of Hanover High School, cast him in that play.

“He continues to have that wonderful sense of humor which I think is necessary when you’re involved in politics at the level he is,” Dunne said. “That’s probably what sets Robby apart as a strategist, is that he is not someone who seeks the limelight.”

His success started here.

“Vermont will always be a special place for me, it’s where I grew up and learned the ropes,” Mook said. “I think what I learned when I was working on the races in Vermont, was really how to build them from scratch.”

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What a Presidential Candidate's Financial Disclosures Do, and Do Not, Reveal // Bloomberg // Richard Rubin - May 15, 2015

Presidential candidates are supposed to start disclosing their personal finances as soon as Friday. That doesn't mean the public will be getting a complete picture of their relative wealth.

Candidates report assets' value in ranges so broad that they can be virtually meaningless. Their homes, cars and federal retirement plans are generally off limits from public view. Nor are presidential contenders subject to rules that make members of Congress disclose stock transactions within 45 days and reveal who holds their mortgages. The deadline is flexible, too.

At least two 2016 presidential hopefuls—Rand Paul and Ted Cruz—who would otherwise have to file on Friday have already sought legally allowed extensions. Hillary Clinton plans to file by the end of Friday, but her campaign has not yet said whether it will make the document public before the government does. The Federal Election Commission has up until 30 days to process and release the paperwork.

"It offers a window into a candidate's financial holdings, but the window is not crystal clear," said Rob Kelner, a Republican attorney who specializes in election law at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington and who is advising potential presidential candidates.

The reporters, opposition researchers and transparency advocates who comb through the reports find them maddening. The rules are set by Congress, which of course has an interest in maintaining vagueness.

"The top-level thing we always try to glean is their net worth and there are definitely some problems with that," said Daniel Auble, a senior researcher at the Center for Responsive Politics. "They report everything in ranges, and the higher the value of the assets, the bigger that range is. So accuracy is a problem."

Others dismiss those complaints. Focusing on the difficulty of calculating net worth misses the point of requiring candidates to disclose information about their personal finances, says Gregory Walden, an attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in Washington. He has assisted candidates, including Mitt Romney, with filing financial disclosure reports.

"It's not intended to be a net worth statement," he said. "It's intended to guard against conflicts and potential conflicts."

See you in September

Federal law requires presidential candidates to file disclosures within 30 days of announcing their candidacy, or on May 15, whichever is later. They can get two extensions of up to 45 days each, and the Federal Election Commission can take up to 30 days to release the filings. So it could be September before the candidates who declared first have to say anything publicly.

The rules require candidates to list their sources of income, transactions, liabilities and assets, all within broad ranges. They also must release information about their spouses and dependent children.

For people with many different assets, adding up all of those ranges can yield unhelpful results. For example, someone with holdings of $2 million in 10 stocks would report them all as $1 million to $5 million, meaning that the public would know only that the holdings were worth a total of $10 million to $50 million.

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For example, Romney's individual retirement account—which was so big that it later prompted tax proposals from President Barack Obama—was worth $20.7 million to $101.6 million during the campaign. Jay Rockefeller, the former Democratic senator from West Virginia and descendant of what was once one of the country's wealthiest families, reported two trusts that each had more than $50 million in them, the highest possible category.

"You just have no idea."

Often, candidates and lawmakers don't provide much detailed information about obscure-looking holdings such as hedge fund or private-equity investments that aren't major-company stocks.

"It may be an accounting firm or a law firm," said Bill Allison, a senior fellow at the Sunlight Foundation. "It may be a car dealership. You have no idea."

Candidates don't always see it the same way, particularly those who haven't sought or held federal office before, Walden said.

"They're surprised at the granularity, the specificity of the request," Walden said. "Many of them can't see the public interest in disclosing certain things that they can't see being a potential conflict."

Even with the limitations, the forms can reveal financial relationships and maneuvers that can cause political difficulty for candidates and lawmakers.

For example, Hillary Clinton's forms as secretary of state showed that she had moved her New York home into a trust for estate planning purposes.

"Politically challenging"

"Many candidates find these forms to be politically challenging because the media and their opponents mine them for little toxic nuggets that can be used against the candidates," Kelner said. "Candidates' level of satisfaction with filling out a financial disclosure form is inversely related to their wealth."

Candidates of any wealth level aren't required to reveal any information about their personal property—boats, cars, jewelry, artwork, furniture—and they don't have to disclose their personal residences unless they generate income.

That's why Romney's financial disclosure forms didn't list any of the multiple homes that became an issue for him during his presidential campaigns in 2008 and 2012. Also, unlike members of Congress and the incumbent president, candidates don't have to disclose any detail about their mortgages.

"If someone has a beach bungalow in the Bahamas," Allison said, "the taxpayers won't know about that if they can claim it as a residence."

Income tax forms

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More detailed glimpses into candidates' financial status come from income tax forms, which they may provide voluntarily. If past history is any guide, that will come much later in the course of the 2016 campaign.

There's no requirement for candidates or elected officeholders to make their tax filings public. However, it has been a long-standing annual tradition for presidents and vice presidents to release theirs. As a result, most serious candidates for the White House follow suit. Usually, however, this comes as late in the campaign as possible and only after a flurry of queries from reporters and challenges from opponents.

In 2008, Barack Obama released his tax returns in March and challenged the much wealthier Clinton to do the same, which she did. That pattern repeated itself on the Republican side in January 2012, when Newt Gingrich released his tax returns, helping prompt Romney to do the same.

Those tax documents don’t necessarily present a full picture of someone’s wealth, but they do provide more detailed information on decisions about charitable contributions, investment strategies and foreign holdings.

For now, the public is getting zero information about all of the people who are doing everything candidates do without actually saying they’re running for president (unless you count those who already have to file financial disclosure forms as sitting members of Congress).

Until they say the magic words, Scott Walker, Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum, Donald Trump and Chris Christie won’t have to disclose a thing, though some of them have released information in their current or previous jobs.

“The longer the wait, the more they can do kind of under the radar,” Allison said. “And that includes not disclosing their net worth and their assets.”

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Martin O'Malley Tells Supporters He's Inclined to Run For President // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur - May 15, 2015

Martin O'Malley inched one step closer to mounting a long-shot presidential bid on Thursday night, telling supporters, friends, and former staff by phone that he's leaning toward running for the Democratic nomination.

"He said that he is inclined to run for president, and that if he does, needs the support of all his longtime friends and supporters," said a source who was on the call, but is not authorized to speak for O'Malley's potential campaign.

As Bloomberg and others have reported, O'Malley told his backers that he intends to make an announcement on May 30 in Baltimore, the city where he served as mayor for seven years.

If he does decide to make the race, O'Malley, a former two-term governor of Maryland, would be the second candidate running to the left of Hillary Clinton, who is dominating in Democratic polls. The other is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who launched his campaign last month.

O'Malley spoke of the "economic challenges" facing the country and touted his intent to "bring new leadership, progressive values, and record of getting results to attack these challenges," said the person on the Thursday call.

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Martin O'Malley schedules presidential fundraiser for eve of his big announcement // Business Insider // Colin Campbell - May 15, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), an expected 2016 presidential candidate, has an upcoming fundraiser signed "O'Malley for President."

Though the notice for the May 29 fundraiser, obtained by Business Insider on Friday, appears to reveal his plans. O'Malley spokeswoman Haley Morris denied that is the case.

"No," Morris said when asked if the fundraiser confirms O'Malley's intentions. "This is just what is required by FEC law as he makes a decision by May 30 announcement."

O'Malley aides have previously told The Washington Post that he intends to announce his decision whether or not to run on May 30 in Baltimore, Maryland. According to Politico, FEC rules require a candidate to officially file their 2016 paperwork within 15 days of conducting campaign activities.

The May 29 fundraiser is hosted by Martin Knott, a Baltimore-area businessman who has raised money for the former governor in the past. MSNBC reported that Knott is expected to become the O'Malley campaign's finance chair.

"This will be his first major event leading up to his announcement, and we need every single one of his friends there," Knott writes in the notice to potential donors. "I contributed the maximum of $2,700 today. I hope that you will join me in contributing what you can, regardless of if you are able to make it to my home."

The online invitation for O'Malley's announcement event also says it was "Paid for by O'Malley for President."

View the invitation below:

On May 29th, I will have the privilege of hosting Governor O'Malley's Presidential kick-off fundraiser in his hometown of Baltimore. We would be honored if you would join us.

When I met Martin back in 1999, I was immediately impressed by his passion and commitment to service -- and his ability to get things done. His 15 years of executive experience and record of success in our City and great State give me every reason to believe that he will do great things for our country. I am incredibly humbled, and excited, to be a part of the O'Malley for President team.

This will be his first major event leading up to his announcement, and we need every single one of his friends there. All of the details are below, and here is a link to contribute and secure your spot at our inaugural event: https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/withomalley .

I contributed the maximum of $2,700 today. I hope that you will join me in contributing what you can, regardless of if you are able to make it to my home.

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Look forward to seeing you on the 29th.

Let's start this off right.

Best,

Martin Knott

O'Malley for President

As he prepares to launch, O'Malley faces a steep path to nomination // WaPo // John Wagner – May 16,2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. — As he moved through a diner here this past week, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley was followed by a crush of reporters. But many breakfast patrons at Chez Vachon seemed to have little idea who he was.

One woman asked if O'Malley had been governor of South Carolina. Buck Mercier, of nearby Hooksett, struck up a conversation with the Democrat about hunting and gun regulations, nodding as O'Malley told him, "I'm for common sense, man."

"Nobody knows him," Mercier, a retired construction worker, told a group of reporters after O'Malley had moved on. But that's not all downside, he noted: "I don't think anybody can say anything bad about him."

O'Malley, who plans to formally launch his presidential bid May 30 in Baltimore, will start the race still largely unknown among voters, despite repeated visits to Iowa, New Hampshire and other early nominating states. He barely registers in polls that show Hillary Rodham Clinton as the overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination, and she is expected to vastly outspend him.

And yet, some analysts and activists see a path for O'Malley — albeit narrow — to become a real factor in the race, especially if he performs well in Iowa, the first caucus state, and gains momentum going forward.

"Can he make it happen? I don't know," said Joe Trippi, a veteran Democratic strategist. "It's a long, tough mountain to climb, but he's in a position to make it happen."

[In bid to get noticed, O'Malley hits Clinton from the left]

O'Malley is offering himself as a progressive, forward-looking alternative to Clinton, staking out liberal positions on issues including trade and immigration.

His party credentials could be considered stronger than those of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a self-described socialist who launched his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last month, and of onetime Republican Lincoln D. Chafee, a former senator and governor from Rhode Island who is considering getting into the race. Former senator Jim Webb of Virginia is also looking at the contest.

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“There are so few Democrats in the field that O’Malley might be able to emerge as Clinton’s chief challenger,” said Tom Henderson, the longtime chairman of the Polk County Democrats in Iowa.

“People want to look at the different candidates and then pick somebody,” Henderson said of Iowa, where Clinton finished third in 2008, disrupting an early sense of inevitability and opening the door for a young senator named Barack Obama.

Some powerful Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (Nev.), say it is farfetched to expect a similar scenario this cycle, after Clinton served as secretary of state and has been the focus of “draft Hillary” efforts.

“Right now, we have Hillary Clinton. And that’s it,” Reid told MSNBC on Friday. “There’s not another Barack Obama out there. There are no all-stars out there. She has a clear field, and I’m glad she does.”

Clinton’s recent embrace of some more liberal positions — including on immigration policy — could make it more difficult for O’Malley to run to her left. And the presence of Sanders in the race also could complicate O’Malley’s bid to get a foothold among progressives.

O’Malley “has got to be able to squeeze himself in there somewhere,” said Kathleen Sullivan, a former chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party who is supporting Clinton. “He must think he has a path if he’s going to run.”

O’Malley has appeared undaunted in recent days, securing office space in Baltimore for a campaign headquarters, launching fundraising efforts, and lining up his treasurer and finance chair.

Stung by criticism that his “zero-tolerance” policies years ago as mayor of Baltimore contributed to the unrest after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody, O’Malley has started to talk more in his public appearances about the challenges faced by cities.

On Wednesday, he told reporters that Obama and the Democrats in Congress did not do enough to help urban areas emerge from the 2008 recession, leaving “whole swaths of Americans, particularly in American cities . . . worse off than they were eight years ago.”

When O’Malley tries to plot a path to the nomination, he said he thinks about the 1984 presidential campaign of Gary Hart, where he was introduced to politics as a 20-year-old campaign worker.

Hart started out as a huge underdog against former vice president Walter Mondale. He exceeded expectations in Iowa, then won New Hampshire and gave Mondale a scare for the nomination as the race unfolded.

“Front-runners are inevitable right up until they’re not inevitable,” O’Malley said in a recent interview. “The unknown candidate today can become very, very well-known tomorrow.”

A Bloomberg-Saint Anselm poll this month showed that Clinton was the first choice of 62 percent of likely Democratic voters in New Hampshire. She was followed by Sanders with 18 percent, Vice President Biden — who hasn’t said he’s running — with 5 percent, O’Malley with 3 percent, and Chafee and Webb with 1 percent apiece.

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Dan O'Neil, a Manchester alderman who led O'Malley around the diner here, said the coming months will be pivotal for O'Malley. His trips to New Hampshire over the past two years have focused on campaigning for local and state candidates, rather than selling himself.

"The political people know who he is," said O'Neil, who considers himself an O'Malley supporter. "Now he's got to get out and meet the voters. I think once people get a chance to meet him, they'll give him a strong look."

At a house party in Durham later that day, O'Malley gave a short talk in which he decried stagnant wages and the country's growing wealth gap. He called the Baltimore riots and subsequent state of emergency "one of the most heartbreaking weeks we've had in a long time."

When O'Malley started taking questions, a woman asked why she should consider him instead of Clinton.

"The 'distinct-from-Hillary' question," O'Malley quipped, to some laughter. He cited his executive experience as a mayor and governor and said he has "a track record of getting things done and being ahead of the curve."

"I see things in a way that are much more in tune with where our country is going," said O'Malley, who is 15 years younger than Clinton, "rather than with where our country has come from."

Wendy Alley, a former chairwoman of the Dover Democratic Committee, said she has become a fan of O'Malley after seeing him a few times but is having a hard time spreading the word.

"I keep talking him up, and some people are like, 'Who?' " Alley said. "There are almost two challenges for him: getting people to know him, and then getting people to realize he's the better choice."

Dick Harpootlian, a former Democratic Party chairman in South Carolina, another early nominating state, said he thinks that a strong challenger could make headway against Clinton, but he doesn't know whether O'Malley is that candidate.

"Hillary is running a humdrum campaign," said Harpootlian, adding that he'd like to see Biden run. "If O'Malley can step up the game on an emotional level and excite people, there's a path — but a very narrow path."

Presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley makes crucial Iowa hire // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs - May 15, 2015

Martin O'Malley is getting serious about challenging Hillary Clinton in Iowa.

While Clinton has already had more than 40 staffers on the ground since April in the state, which holds the first nominating contest in the Democratic primary, O'Malley has locked down one of Iowa's top Democratic operatives.

According to multiple Democratic sources, Joe O'Hern, a veteran field operative in the state, is slated to be the caucus director for the former Maryland governor in Iowa, a position which oversees voter contact. The Des Moines Register credited O'Hern with putting together "the largest field effort ever in a midterm election" for the Iowa Democratic party in 2014 and he also oversaw campaign efforts in the midwest for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2012.

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The operative joins Jake Oeth, a Des Moines-based consultant who served as the political director on Bruce Braley's unsuccessful 2014 Senate campaign in Iowa. Oeth has been a consultant for O'Malley's political action committee since the beginning of the year and is slated to be state director should O'Malley run for the White House.

O'Malley has long been active in Iowa, sending 11 staffers to the state during the 2014 midterm elections and making repeated trips to campaign for Democratic candidates. As the Maryland Democrat gears up for an expected launch of his presidential campaign at the end of May, the hire of O'Hern represents his most decisive step towards building a robust campaign operation that could potentially pose a threat to Clinton.

Spokespeople for O'Malley's political action committee did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

After Boston bombings verdict, O'Malley reaffirms opposition to death penalty // WaPo // John Wagner - May 15, 2015

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, who is poised to launch a White House bid this month, reaffirmed his strong opposition to capital punishment Friday following a federal jury's decision to sentence to death one of those convicted for the Boston Marathon bombings.

The Democrat said in a statement that while he respects the verdict, he remains opposed to the death penalty as "a matter of principle and as a matter of policy."

"The death penalty is ineffective as a deterrent, and the appeals process is expensive and cruel to the surviving family members," O'Malley said. "Furthermore, the nations responsible for the vast majority of public executions include North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, China and the United States of America. Our country does not belong in that company."

Maryland abolished its death penalty in 2013 at O'Malley's urging. As governor, O'Malley, a practicing Catholic, spent several years lobbying state lawmakers on the issue before becoming successful.

A federal jury on Friday sentenced Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death for his role in the Boston Marathon bombings two years ago after after deliberating for more than 14 hours.

O'Malley, who has been ramping up for a presidential bid, plans an announcement about his political future May 30 in Baltimore.

As he prepares to launch, O'Malley faces a steep path to nomination // WaPo // John Wagner - May 16, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. — As he moved through a diner here this past week, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley was followed by a crush of reporters. But many breakfast patrons at Chez Vachon seemed to have little idea who he was.

One woman asked if O'Malley had been governor of South Carolina. Buck Mercier, of nearby Hooksett, struck up a conversation with the Democrat about hunting and gun regulations, nodding as O'Malley told him, "I'm for common sense, man."

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“Nobody knows him,” Mercier, a retired construction worker, told a group of reporters after O’Malley had moved on. But that’s not all downside, he noted: “I don’t think anybody can say anything bad about him.”

O’Malley, who plans to formally launch his presidential bid May 30 in Baltimore, will start the race still largely unknown among voters, despite repeated visits to Iowa, New Hampshire and other early nominating states. He barely registers in polls that show Hillary Rodham Clinton as the overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination, and she is expected to vastly outspend him.

And yet, some analysts and activists see a path for O’Malley — albeit narrow — to become a real factor in the race, especially if he performs well in Iowa, the first caucus state, and gains momentum going forward.

“Can he make it happen? I don’t know,” said Joe Trippi, a veteran Democratic strategist. “It’s a long, tough mountain to climb, but he’s in a position to make it happen.”

[In bid to get noticed, O’Malley hits Clinton from the left]

O’Malley is offering himself as a progressive, forward-looking alternative to Clinton, staking out liberal positions on issues including trade and immigration.

His party credentials could be considered stronger than those of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a self-described socialist who launched his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last month, and of onetime Republican Lincoln D. Chafee, a former senator and governor from Rhode Island who is considering getting into the race. Former senator Jim Webb of Virginia is also looking at the contest.

“There are so few Democrats in the field that O’Malley might be able to emerge as Clinton’s chief challenger,” said Tom Henderson, the longtime chairman of the Polk County Democrats in Iowa.

“People want to look at the different candidates and then pick somebody,” Henderson said of Iowa, where Clinton finished third in 2008, disrupting an early sense of inevitability and opening the door for a young senator named Barack Obama.

Some powerful Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (Nev.), say it is farfetched to expect a similar scenario this cycle, after Clinton served as secretary of state and has been the focus of “draft Hillary” efforts.

“Right now, we have Hillary Clinton. And that’s it,” Reid told MSNBC on Friday. “There’s not another Barack Obama out there. There are no all-stars out there. She has a clear field, and I’m glad she does.”

Clinton’s recent embrace of some more liberal positions — including on immigration policy — could make it more difficult for O’Malley to run to her left. And the presence of Sanders in the race also could complicate O’Malley’s bid to get a foothold among progressives.

O’Malley “has got to be able to squeeze himself in there somewhere,” said Kathleen Sullivan, a former chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party who is supporting Clinton. “He must think he has a path if he’s going to run.”

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O'Malley has appeared undaunted in recent days, securing office space in Baltimore for a campaign headquarters, launching fundraising efforts, and lining up his treasurer and finance chair.

Stung by criticism that his "zero-tolerance" policies years ago as mayor of Baltimore contributed to the unrest after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody, O'Malley has started to talk more in his public appearances about the challenges faced by cities.

On Wednesday, he told reporters that Obama and the Democrats in Congress did not do enough to help urban areas emerge from the 2008 recession, leaving "whole swaths of Americans, particularly in American cities . . . worse off than they were eight years ago."

When O'Malley tries to plot a path to the nomination, he said he thinks about the 1984 presidential campaign of Gary Hart, where he was introduced to politics as a 20-year-old campaign worker.

Hart started out as a huge underdog against former vice president Walter Mondale. He exceeded expectations in Iowa, then won New Hampshire and gave Mondale a scare for the nomination as the race unfolded.

"Front-runners are inevitable right up until they're not inevitable," O'Malley said in a recent interview. "The unknown candidate today can become very, very well-known tomorrow."

A Bloomberg-Saint Anselm poll this month showed that Clinton was the first choice of 62 percent of likely Democratic voters in New Hampshire. She was followed by Sanders with 18 percent, Vice President Biden — who hasn't said he's running — with 5 percent, O'Malley with 3 percent, and Chafee and Webb with 1 percent apiece.

Dan O'Neil, a Manchester alderman who led O'Malley around the diner here, said the coming months will be pivotal for O'Malley. His trips to New Hampshire over the past two years have focused on campaigning for local and state candidates, rather than selling himself.

"The political people know who he is," said O'Neil, who considers himself an O'Malley supporter. "Now he's got to get out and meet the voters. I think once people get a chance to meet him, they'll give him a strong look."

At a house party in Durham later that day, O'Malley gave a short talk in which he decried stagnant wages and the country's growing wealth gap. He called the Baltimore riots and subsequent state of emergency "one of the most heartbreaking weeks we've had in a long time."

When O'Malley started taking questions, a woman asked why she should consider him instead of Clinton.

"The 'distinct-from-Hillary' question," O'Malley quipped, to some laughter. He cited his executive experience as a mayor and governor and said he has "a track record of getting things done and being ahead of the curve."

"I see things in a way that are much more in tune with where our country is going," said O'Malley, who is 15 years younger than Clinton, "rather than with where our country has come from."

Wendy Alley, a former chairwoman of the Dover Democratic Committee, said she has become a fan of O'Malley after seeing him a few times but is having a hard time spreading the word.

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“I keep talking him up, and some people are like, ‘Who?’ ” Alley said. “There are almost two challenges for him: getting people to know him, and then getting people to realize he’s the better choice.”

Dick Harpootlian, a former Democratic Party chairman in South Carolina, another early nominating state, said he thinks that a strong challenger could make headway against Clinton, but he doesn’t know whether O’Malley is that candidate.

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How Bernie Sanders won the talk radio primary // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – May 16, 2015

Bernie Sanders may be a long shot for the presidency, but on liberal talk radio, he’s already king.

The Vermont Independent senator has for years been a fixture on the airwaves and internet streams of left-wing political talk shows, building a national audience eager to enlist in his populist crusade against the 1%. So when Sanders declared his dark-horse presidential bid last month, the response from talk radio listeners was overwhelming — and nearly unanimous.

“For my audience, the core of the Democratic Party, it’s Bernie Sanders. There’s no question,” said Atlanta-based talker Mike Malloy. “It is very consistent. It is unwavering for Bernie Sanders. It’s consistent responses no matter where the calls are coming from.”

From local personalities to nationally syndicated and satellite radio heavy-hitters, interviews with nearly a dozen liberal talk radio hosts show Sanders is so far crushing the primary — at least when it comes to their medium.

“For my audience, the core of the Democratic Party, it’s Bernie Sanders. There’s no question.”

Talk radio host Mike Malloy

Few people understand the pulse of the hardcore activist base better than the radio hosts taking calls and emails from listeners every day. They say their audience views Hillary Clinton skeptically (but would vote for her in a general election), and that listeners know next to nothing about Martin O’Malley, Jim Webb, and Lincoln Chafee, who are also considering Democratic presidential bids.

For Sanders, meanwhile, conditions are perfect.

While perpetually overshadowed by its far more popular conservative counterpart, progressive talk nonetheless reaches at least 20 million devoted listeners on radio and the Internet, according to Michael Harrison, the editor and publisher of Talkers Magazine, an industry publication.

Political talk radio listeners of all stripes tend to be more politically engaged and ideologically extreme than average voters, and thus more likely to vote in primaries. And the nature of the medium, which costs little to produce and is free to consume, lends itself to anti-establishment voices like Sanders.

“The default environment of radio is populist, is grassroots, is close to the ground,” Harrison said. Lately, commercial radio has gone through its most corporate phase in history, but it’s trending back towards “independent and populist talk,” Harrison added.

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Like other left-wing audiences, talk radio listeners are looking for an alternative to Clinton. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren is also very popular here. “My audience is pretty much in the ‘anybody but Hillary’ camp,” said Iowa-based Ed Fallon, who has fielded many pro-Sanders calls.

But unlike some other corners of the progressive movement, Sanders has put down deep roots in talk radio. “My audience has known Bernie for a long time. He’s been very accessible on radio for years,” said New York-based syndicated host Sam Seder.

And as listeners have become increasingly convinced that Warren is not running for president, they’ve coalesced around Sanders.

“It has been 99% a love affair between Bernie Sanders and my audience,” said Boston-based radio host Jeff Santos, whose show can be heard in the presidential state of New Hampshire. “Since he’s announced, it’s been unanimous and incredibly impressive.”

Sanders’ most important relationship in liberal talk started in a living room in Montpelier, Vermont, after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Thom Hartmann had just started broadcasting his show from there and booked Sanders, then the state’s congressman.

The lawmaker was such a hit with listeners that it was quickly decided he should have a regular guest slot. Dubbed “Brunch with Bernie,” Sanders essentially took over an hour of Hartmann’s show every Friday, expounding on the week’s news and taking calls.

“They’re over the moon for Bernie Sanders, they’re over the moon for Elizabeth Warren, but when you tell them they’re a narrow slice of America, they get really mad.”

Hartmann now hosts the top-rated progressive talk radio show in the country, and Sanders still does an hour of “Brunch with Bernie” every week, more than a decade later.

Some on Sanders’ staff have questioned this use of the senator’s time, but Sanders enjoys it too much stop, an aide said.

When the senator announced his presidential bid, Hartmann quickly offered his endorsement and his listeners were eager to enlist. “I haven’t had a dissenting or skeptical or cynical voice about Bernie’s candidacy since he announced,” Hartman said from his studio, now in Washington, D.C., near the Capitol.

Sanders is also close with host Bill Press, another top liberal talker based in Washington. Press, a former chairman of the California Democratic Party, hosted some early Sanders presidential brain trust meetings at his Capitol Hill home.

“As a talk radio host reaching the progressive base every day, I have never seen the level of all-out excitement that I’ve heard from viewers and listeners in the last couple days,” Press said shortly after Sanders announced his run.

For the activists who consume liberal talk radio, the fact that Sanders has probably joined more picket lines than any other of Congress is a major selling point.

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"The progressive radio audience is really excited to have Bernie Sanders in the race and feels he's one of them," said Ari Rabin-Havt, who hosts a morning show on Sirius/XM's liberal talk channel. "You hear it in nearly every call on the presidential race since his announcement."

That's not true for other challengers to Clinton. "Martin O'Malley isn't a known quantity to this audience at all. Jim Webb is not a known quantity," said Rabin-Havt, echoing other hosts. "This audience knows and likes Bernie."

This audience could be a valuable in a partisan primary, but even Sanders' biggest fans acknowledge he has little chance of winning the Democratic nomination — let alone the White House.

Still, they appreciate his ability to influence the debate. "I think the whole [disappointment with the] Obama presidency has sort of reoriented people to not be as focused on the intent or will of a specific candidate, but rather the different mechanisms to push them in a certain direction," Seder explained.

But Sanders' near-universal appeal among liberal talk listeners has made things awkward for hosts who approach 2016 more pragmatically.

Los Angeles-based syndicated host Norman Goldman, who thinks Sanders' appeal is too thin, has engaged in daily battles with callers since the senator announced.

"They react like a betrayed lover. They act like I've been cheating on them," he said. "They're over the moon for Bernie Sanders, they're over the moon for Elizabeth Warren, but when you tell them they're a narrow slice of America, they get really mad."

Fellow Los Angeles-based host Stephanie Miller, who supported Barack Obama over Clinton in 2008, is now with the former secretary of State. "I love Bernie Sanders, and I love all his ideas, I've had him on many times," she said, but Miller doesn't think he can win.

That alleged marginalization of Sanders has prompted some callers to threaten to stop listening to her to show. "Last time, I got called the Obama-loving Hillary-hater," Miller said. "Now I'm the Bernie Sanders-hating Hillary apologist."

GOP

When is a campaign not a campaign? When it's a Super Pac // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – May 17, 2015

Jeb Bush, RNC Spring meeting

These days, presidential candidates are not just raising money for their own campaigns. They are also raising money for outside groups with generic sounding names like Priorities USA, Right to Rise and Our American Renewal.

These are Super Pacs (political action committees), affiliated with each outside campaign but nominally independent. In 2012, they were helpful appendages. This year, heading into 2016, they are becoming fully fledged substitutes for campaigns, taking over functions including opposition research, polling and even knocking on doors.

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Super Pacs are just five years old. Like most developments in modern campaign finance law, they were created by accident through judicial decisions, not by legislation.

First, in 2010 the Citizens United supreme court decision struck down restrictions on independent expenditures in campaigns by nonprofits. Citizens United was followed the same year by a decision by the DC circuit court of appeals in a case called SpeechNOW, which said political groups that sought to make only independent expenditures could not be subject to federal campaign contribution limits.

These two decisions combined to create “super” versions of previously existing political action committees, that would make expenditures independently of the candidates they supported and thus could raise as much money as they wanted. In other words, one donor can fund an entire Super Pac.

In the 2012 Republican primary, Super Pacs were credited with keeping the campaigns of Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum alive for months, extending the race into the spring.

In that race and the general election that followed, Super Pacs were primarily used to run television ads. American campaigns have long focused on saturating the airwaves with advertisements; Super Pacs provided a new vehicle to air even more commercials. Campaigns, however, still have major advantages over Super Pacs when it comes to buying television time.

Within 60 days of a general election or 45 days of a primary, political campaigns are entitled to something called “lowest unit rate”. It means that a political campaign gets the lowest rate a television station offers to any advertiser, and it is coupled with the requirement that stations give political campaigns “reasonable access” to run ads. Lowest unit rate also means TV stations cannot censor or restrict ads that federal campaigns seek to run.

None of these rules apply to Super Pacs. This means that they have to pay a much higher rate per ad and may find it more difficult to get their advertisements on television.

However, all such advantages for campaigns pale next to the fact that Super Pacs can raised unlimited money from an individual donor. Federal campaigns can only take $5,400 from any individual ($2,700 for a primary election and another $2,700 for a general election). So while campaigns can get more value for their money when spending on advertising, Super Pacs don’t have to worry too much about value.

And this year, they are not worrying too much about just running television ads.

A bipartisan matter

Ready for Hillary

An intern works at the Ready for Hillary offices in Arlington, Virginia. The Super Pac wound down after Hillary Clinton declared her candidacy for president. Photograph: Andrew Harnik/AP

The nascent campaign of Jeb Bush has been entirely headquartered out of an organization called Right to Rise. The group is on pace to raise more than $100m in May alone and is expected to be significantly better-funded than Bush’s inevitable presidential campaign.

Bush has also set up a connected nonprofit, Right to Rise Policy Solutions, which is serving as a parking place for campaign policy advisers until the former Florida governor announces his candidacy.

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Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Right to Rise is that it is expected to be led by Bush's top political adviser, Mike Murphy. Because Super Pacs cannot coordinate with campaigns, this means that Bush will probably be unable to communicate with Murphy for the duration of the campaign.

While Bush has yet to declare his candidacy, Ted Cruz, who has announced his bid for the White House, has also bragged about the success of the four interrelated Super Pacs that are backing his campaign.

In a speech at the April meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition in Las Vegas, the Texas senator boasted that a Super Pac supporting him had "raised $31m" in the first week of his campaign. "That's more money than any other Super Pac has raised ... in the history of politics" in a comparable period, he said.

Each of the four Super Pacs supporting Cruz is funded entirely by one major donor and devoted to one specific campaign task.

Nor are Republicans alone in such activity. Hillary Clinton, the clear Democratic frontrunner for 2016, is holding a number of fundraisers for one of her affiliated Super Pacs, Priorities USA. A separate group, Correct the Record, has spun off from the Democratic research Super Pac American Bridge, solely to do rapid response for Clinton.

Correct the Record insists it will be able to coordinate with the Clinton campaign, despite taking unlimited contributions, because it will not run any ads on her behalf.

Not all of this may end up being legal. But as Rick Hasen, an election law expert who teaches at University of California, Irvine, points out, even "if some of these things don't pass muster with the courts", such matters probably won't be resolved until after the 2016 election.

Furthermore, campaign finance may have changed dramatically by the time such legal issues are resolved.

"Nothing is permanent when it comes to campaign finance," said Hasen.

For now, though, the landscape is dominated by Super Pacs.

At Iowa dinner, Rand Paul hits Jeb Bush on Iraq as Lindsey Graham returns the favor // Politico // Eli Stokols - May 16, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa — Sen. Rand Paul was alone among the 11 Republicans who spoke here at the Iowa Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner Saturday night in taking a shot at Jeb Bush over his comments last week about the Iraq War.

"We had a question this week that was asked to a certain candidate who used to be the governor of Florida who's running in the Republican primary," Paul said. "And the question was: Knowing what you know now do you think it was a good idea to topple Hussein, to begin the war in Iraq?"

Bush, of course, has spent the week backpeddling after initially telling Megyn Kelly in a Fox News interview that

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he would have authorized military force in Iraq even “knowing what we know now”; four days after the interview aired, Bush acknowledged that he would not, in hindsight, have made the same call as his brother did.

“He fumbled around, and I think he had four or five different questions on four or five different days. But one of his responses was a very defensive response: ‘Well, that’s hypothetical. What would that have to do with this election?’ I think the question has everything to do with this election.”

Paul then pivoted and turned his attacks on Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee, who he said needs to answer difficult questions herself.

“I’ve got a question for Hillary Clinton: Was it a good idea going to Libya? Was it a good idea to topple Gaddafi?” Paul said, referring to Libya’s former dictator. “It’s the same answer: No.”

Paul argued that the terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi “should forever preclude” Hillary Clinton from holding higher office, before implicating Bush and the rest of his more hawkish rivals for a more bellicose approach to foreign policy.

“We ought to think before we act,” he said.

Taking the stage 10 minutes after Paul, Lindsey Graham went out of his way to defend Bush, blaming the unraveling of stability in Iraq on President Barack Obama, not George W. Bush.

Graham, who has made a habit of trolling the Kentucky senator, also mocked Paul’s focus on civil liberties, picking up on his statement that the federal government should still “call a lawyer” to get a warrant before arresting terrorists instead of illegally spying.

“I’m not going to call a judge,” said Graham. “I’m going to call a drone and kill you.”

Rick Perry to announce presidential run June 4 in Dallas // Trail Blazers Blog // Christy Hoppe - May 15, 2015

Former Gov. Rick Perry has chosen Dallas to officially declare his second run for the Republican presidential nomination in three weeks.

For months Perry has said that he would announce his decision in May or June. But his constant travel to the early contest states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida has left little doubt of his intentions.

Perry joins a burgeoning field of contenders, including fellow Texan Sen. Ted Cruz.

The announcement was made via the Twitter account of his wife, Anita.

Unlike four years ago, when he rushed into the contest after seeing he could raise quick money and was leading in polls, Perry enters this contest as an underdog.

He is polling in single digits, but again unlike his last run, he has spent more than a year in preparation. He has consulted weekly with conservative experts on foreign relations and economic policy. He has assembled advisers

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and campaign teams in the early states and has even taken tutoring in public speaking.

He has frequently acknowledged mistakes in his last run – entering while still ailing from recent back surgery and being under-prepared for the rigors and questions on the campaign trail.

In the 2016 contest, he will begin from behind, not only trying to push his message through the similar-sounding policies advanced by a large pack of candidates, but he also must erase memories of his previous debate flops and campaign stumbles.

Perry has been stressing that he is the only GOP candidate – save for potential rival South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham – who has served in the military.

He also has touted his executive experience as Texas governor for 14 years. But he has competition with that credential from top-tier contenders Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

He will also mostly certainly stress his economic record in Texas, which has led the nation in job creation. He underscores lawsuit limits, minimum regulations on businesses and low taxes for firing the state's economic engine, which has sputtered in recent months with the plunge in oil prices.

Sources predict that after his announcement, he will immediately resume campaigning in Iowa, where he will be this weekend and into next week.

He is joining most other GOP candidates at a forum on Saturday and then spending the next several days on a nine-day tour of small towns throughout the state.

Amtrak's biggest challenge: The Hudson River Tunnels, and Chris Christie // Yahoo // Jon Ward - May 15, 2015

The crash of Amtrak Train 188 on Tuesday, which killed at least eight passengers, jolted the East Coast and the nation and refocused attention on the state of the nation's infrastructure, which is crumbling.

While speed rather than infrastructure may have been the problem in Tuesday's crash, Amtrak does face a long-term infrastructure crisis 100 miles north of Philadelphia: what to do with the North River Tunnels, which house two century-old two-way tracks under the Hudson River in New York.

The tunnels — which serve around 20 New Jersey Transit and three to four Amtrak trains per hour during peak service times — are a key chokepoint for the entire Northeast Corridor. They are the entry point for Amtrak trains going into New York, and the exit for those leaving the city.

Amtrak CEO Joseph Boardman described the tunnels in February as "one of the most critical pieces of infrastructure in the New York Metro area — if not the nation."

The tunnels are inspected daily, and engineers would shut them down if a leak or structural compromise were discovered. No one is talking about a threat like imminent collapse. But they are aging and have come under increasing strain in recent years.

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The flooding of the tunnels in late October 2012 due to Hurricane Sandy put the integrity of the ancient tunnels up against a clock. Chlorides and sulfides from the seawater remain in the concrete, the embedded steel, the track and the electrical systems — all of which need to be replaced at some point in the next decade or two.

“The damage to the tunnel following Super Storm Sandy has changed the situation entirely. Instead of work being a long term goal, it is now an urgent necessity,” Amtrak said in a recent document.

No one knows exactly how long the North River Tunnels will remain operative, but Amtrak CEO Joseph Boardman said in 2014 that 20 years is the maximum amount of time the pair of two-way tunnels could continue running without one of them being shut down for major repair.

To shut down one of the tunnels would mean running all New Jersey Transit and Amtrak trains to the city through a single tunnel, which would cause a 75 percent reduction in service. Only six trains an hour would go through the tunnels then.

Amtrak and NJ Transit service would grind to a crawl, causing a massive displacement of commuters, who would overload subway, bus and ferry alternatives.

It would be an “economic catastrophe,” said Tom Wright, executive director of the Regional Plan Association.

“The economic impact of a single day of the Northeast Corridor being out is almost $100 million dollars on the economy,” said New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio this week.

The only way to avoid such a scenario is to build a new tunnel under the Hudson, divert much of the traffic to a pair of new two-way tracks that would go through the new tunnel, and then shut down one of the aging tracks to do a full renovation.

The biggest challenge to doing this is that politicians in New York, New Jersey and Washington have so far been unable to come together on a funding scheme to pay for what Amtrak is calling the Gateway Project, which they have estimated will cost $15 billion and take 10 to 15 years to complete.

“What’s shocking,” said Wright, “is it almost feels like they’re waiting for [a crisis] to happen.”

There is a twist to the story that involves a possible 2016 presidential contender: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Because in fact, construction was underway on a new tunnel under the Hudson that was scheduled to be finished in 2018.

But Christie canceled the project.

In the fall of 2010, exactly a century after the North River Tunnels were opened, Christie, who had been elected in a heavily Democratic state the year prior, was in the midst of a budget fight, seeking to make up an $11 billion shortfall in a $29 billion budget.

Christie argued that New Jersey taxpayers could not — by themselves without any help from New York City or New York state — shoulder the cost overruns on the tunnel project, which he said would be $2 billion to $5 billion beyond the $8.7 billion price tag.

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Christie diverted state money — along with funds from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey — from the tunnel project to more immediate state transportation projects. That move helped Christie avoid raising the state's gas tax — which according to the Tax Foundation is the lowest in the nation at 14.5 cents a gallon — to replenish the transportation trust fund, and also averted toll hikes.

Democratic lawmakers who had fought to get funding for the tunnel project, known as Access to the Region's Core, or the ARC Tunnel, were furious.

"The governor has put politics before performance, and it is the people of New Jersey who will pay the high price," Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., said at the time.

Lautenberg blasted Christie's decision as "the biggest public policy blunder in New Jersey's history."

The issue has continued to dog Christie. Last August, while he was on vacation in California, Christie was sucked into a lengthy back and forth with New Jersey residents on Twitter angry over his cancellation of the ARC project.

"@GovChristie please ride to NYC and back to NJ on @NJTRANSIT for one week and then say this was a good idea," wrote a user named Evan using the handle @Martinoe71.

Christie defended his decision, referring to the ARC as "an ill-advised project" and said that he was working "on 2 alternatives: Amtrak Gateway tunnel and/or extension of the 7 train."

When one New Jersey resident said that Christie "knows the 7 extension is dead," the governor shot back, "The 7 extension is not dead."

Even Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., a sometime ally of Christie's, jumped into the thread to argue for more investment in rail.

The issue is still coming up during Christie's regular town hall meetings. At a town hall in Kenilworth, N.J., on March 31, a man asked the governor why he had canceled the ARC project.

Christie replied that it was being funded only by money from New Jersey, the federal government and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Christie said that New York state and New York City refused to agree to share the burden of cost overruns.

"It was like a game of chicken, you know. They didn't think I'd cancel it. They didn't know me," Christie said.

Unlike in his Twitter spat last summer, however, Christie told the crowd that a tunnel under the Hudson was "a good idea."

"We need it," he said.

A week ago, a group of transportation experts convened a daylong meeting at the newly constructed One World

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Trade Center in Manhattan to discuss the future of transportation under the Hudson River, calling it the Trans-Hudson Summit.

Peter Rogoff, the federal Department of Transportation's under secretary for policy, called on the political players in Albany, New York City and Trenton — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio and Christie — to take action.

"We need to figure out if we're just going to wring our hands and watch the patient expire — going to that six trains an hour scenario — or whether we're all going to take the more difficult political steps necessary to actually address the challenge, rectify the problem," Rogoff said.

Rogoff made a pointed critique of Christie's decision to cancel the ARC project.

"We are determined to look forward, not backward. But in understanding the urgency we face today, we also have to recognize that we did lose a whole decade," he said.

"We need to take a look at who benefits, and who as a region should contribute," he said. "But we need to recognize that we need to get on with it. We don't have another decade to spend thinking about it and talking about it."

Inside Marco Rubio's stumble on immigration and what it says about his ability to lead // Yahoo News // Jon Ward and Andrew Romano - May 15, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C., and MIAMI — On the afternoon of July 30, 2013, Marco Rubio walked onto the floor of the Senate to give another stem-winder — the latest in a season of feisty speeches.

"Is there an issue on which we are willing to do everything we can and lay it all on the line?" Rubio asked his fellow senators. "If it is not this one, which one is it?"

For months, the freshman from Florida had been one of the central figures in American politics. The previous November, Republican Mitt Romney had received only 27 percent of Latino support on his way to losing the election, and that same night the GOP pinned its hopes on Rubio, a 41-year-old Cuban-American who had served in Washington for less than two years.

Rubio accepted the challenge, and in early 2013 he took up the cause of immigration reform. In reality, he had little choice: It was the issue of the day and everybody was taking sides. Still, Rubio did more than just weigh in: He adopted a leadership role, and a position at odds with many in the base of his party, and by the end of June he had helped push a comprehensive reform bill through the Senate. Immigration reform became Rubio's signature issue; month after month he championed it, wooing both conservative talk radio and Spanish-language media and exhausting himself in the process.

As Rubio entered the Senate chamber, the deal was halfway home. The bill had shifted to the deeply conservative House, where the debate continued to rage.

But Rubio was not on the Senate floor to argue for immigration reform. Not today. In fact, now that tea party conservatives who had propelled him to office in 2010 had turned on him — radio personality Glenn Beck went so far as to call Rubio "a piece of garbage" — the senator had stopped talking about immigration almost completely. Instead, he had come to play second fiddle to another senator even newer to the chamber than he.

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Rubio had come to support Republican Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's quixotic quest to defund Obamacare.

After immigration reform passed the Senate, Rubio could have continued his crusade and worked to ensure that the House passed something as well. Instead, he decided to change the subject. In July, he sponsored legislation to outlaw abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy; a few weeks later, he withdrew support for a gay judge whom he had previously supported.

Now, while Rubio criticized Obama from the lectern, Cruz — the tea party's latest darling — sat a couple of feet to his right, nodding and grinning. At one point, Rubio likened the Affordable Care Act to New Coke — a product that Coca-Cola was forced to recall in 1985 after only a few short months on the shelves.

"It was a disaster," Rubio said. "Everybody hated it. What did Coca-Cola do when New Coke began to flounder? They did not say, 'Well, we are just going to continue to make more of it.' They backed away from it."

Rubio wasn't referencing his decision to back away from immigration reform — but he might as well have been.

"[Coca-Cola] learned from their mistake, and they did not double down," he continued. "That is the way it is in the real world. That is the way it is in our lives."

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Rubio had a point that day. Everybody backtracks. Repositioning is a fact of life, especially in politics.

But what Rubio did in 2013 seemed different. The problem wasn't that he shifted his focus or emphasis. The problem was that he ditched his own immigration-reform bill while it was winding its way through Congress — and started desperately trying to convince conservatives that he was still one of them instead.

In short, Rubio appeared to panic. "He just decided to run from it like a scalded dog," says one influential Republican consultant.

"It was not his finest hour," adds Alex Castellanos, a Cuban-born Republican consultant who is not supporting any one candidate in 2016.

The episode raised important questions about Rubio's leadership skills — questions that still linger nearly two years later, as the senator embarks on his first campaign for the Oval Office.

The presidency is a singular job; no prior experience can really prepare someone to lead the free world. But how a candidate operates under pressure has long been a key indicator of how he or she will respond to crisis as president.

When Wall Street collapsed in September 2008, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., were

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essentially tied in the polls. But then McCain announced that he wanted to “suspend” his campaign and delay the coming debate. He appeared to be flummoxed and indecisive. “It’s going to be part of the president’s job to be able to deal with more than one thing at once,” Obama said at the time — and voters eventually agreed.

On Aug. 5, 1981, Ronald Reagan fired 11,345 striking air-traffic controllers, setting the tone for the rest of his presidency and strengthening his hand in later talks with Mikhail Gorbachev, who was reportedly impressed. In 1960, John F. Kennedy helped get Martin Luther King Jr. released from jail; Richard Nixon refused to get involved. As the Democratic Party seemed to disintegrate in 1948, Harry Truman took risk after risk, supporting civil rights and railing against Congress on a 21,928-mile whistle-stop tour; his rival, Thomas Dewey, spoke in platitudes and rarely mentioned Truman’s name. The list goes on.

Immigration reform is as close as Rubio has come, so far, to a similar crisis.

No one doubts Rubio’s raw talent: his speaking ability, his intellect, his sense of humor, his telegenic and charismatic personality. But there are doubts about his readiness for the presidency.

Earlier this spring, McCain and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had a conversation with Rubio about his future.

A McCain aide said the conversation was about “keeping open the possibility of running for reelection while he runs for president.” Rubio, 43, has plenty of time to seek the presidency; by giving up his seat he will trigger an expensive battle that the GOP might very well lose.

But two sources, one who claimed to have firsthand knowledge of McCain and McConnell’s intentions, said the meeting was to discourage a presidential run.

Aides to McCain and McConnell both vehemently denied that was the case. “After having lots of people tell him not to run for president over the years, Sen. McCain would be the last person to tell somebody else not to run,” the McCain aide said.

McConnell spokesman Don Stewart said that “while [McConnell] has conversations with Sen. Rubio all the time, he did not tell him not to run for president.”

Because Rubio is such a political phenom, many political insiders who spoke with Yahoo News wondered how he got himself into such an uncomfortable position over immigration. The answer, according to multiple sources, is that there was a divide between Rubio’s advisers over whether he should wade into the comprehensive-reform debate, with his political team counseling against it and at least three of his policy advisers pushing him to participate. Rubio’s public reversals likely reflected that internal tug of war — a misstep that a steadier leader may have avoided.

“I think Marco had genuine good intentions,” says Ana Navarro, a Miami-based Republican strategist who is friends with Rubio but is supporting Jeb Bush in 2016. “There’s no doubt he put in a lot of time and risked political capital in his attempt. But it all went to hell and turned into a perfect political storm. He managed to antagonize everybody on both sides of the issue. It was a mess — and ultimately all for nothing.”

Rubio declined to be interviewed for this article. Asked by Yahoo News in the halls of the Capitol whether he had “panicked” in 2013 when he backed away from the immigration bill, he did not break stride and ignored the question. Today, Rubio says he couldn’t have saved immigration reform; in fact, he insists that his continued advocacy would only have hurt the bill’s chances in the House. He also argues that future attempts will have to begin with border security and proceed, piecemeal, from there.

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Rubio could still have the last laugh. If elected, he may one day usher his own brand of immigration reform through Congress — and look, in retrospect, like a canny operator who knew when to fold and wait for a better opportunity.

But that's not how he looked, or acted, in the summer of 2013. Two Marco Rubios emerged over the course of that year. One was the bold leader who stuck his neck out on reform and tried to steer his party in a new direction. The other was the cowed follower who retreated into comfortable conservative talking points the minute things went south.

And so the central question of Rubio's candidacy is simple: If the senator from Florida wins the White House in 2016, which Rubio is America going to get?

For Marco Antonio Rubio, vacillating over immigration is nothing new.

As the son of working-class Cuban émigrés, Rubio has long been caught between two worlds on the issue. On the one hand, Cuban-Americans — especially older Cuban-Americans — tend to distinguish between Cuban exiles (who cannot return home) and other Latino immigrants (who technically can). Rubio was raised to believe in that distinction.

"Nothing against immigrants, but my parents are exiles," he said during his 2010 Senate campaign. "The exile experience is different from the immigrant experience. … Folks that are exiles are people that have lost their country … and would still be living there if not for some political reason."

And yet, at the same time, the Cuban-Americans Rubio grew up with in the tight-knit urban enclave of West Miami were a lot like the rest of America's Latino immigrants. As a boy, he experienced bigotry firsthand. "You're a bunch of Cubans," someone shouted at his family during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. "Why don't you go back home?" His parents both struggled to make ends meet in the service industry. For decades his dad toiled away tending bar in South Beach hotels; his mother slaved away as a maid until she retired in her 70s. They were surrounded by people who faced similar challenges — and Rubio continues to be today, because he still lives in West Miami.

"Virtually everyone is Hispanic and virtually all of my neighbors came from somewhere else not that long ago," Rubio said in 2012. "You know them not as a statistic, you know them as a human being — a walking, talking person who is in pain and who came here because they were hungry and their kids were starving and their family was, you know, hurting. … They did what they had to do to provide for them."

Rubio's mixed feelings about immigration — his deep-seated faith in the special status of Cuban-Americans offset by his visceral empathy for the broader immigrant experience — have shaped his politics since the start of his career. Immigration reform is treacherous terrain, especially for a rising Latino American star — and every time the ground has shifted, Rubio, sensing both the promise and the peril ahead, has adjusted his positioning in response.

By some estimates, more than three-quarters of the 200,000 men and women who work Florida's farms and fields are undocumented immigrants. For years, the Sunshine State's heavily Republican legislature has blocked any proposal to help these workers. But when Rubio arrived in the House in 2000, he surprised farmworker activists by siding against his fellow Republicans — and their backers in agribusiness.

"Rubio got it right away," says Greg Schell, the managing attorney for the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project, who at the time was pushing for a "radical" piece of legislation that would guarantee workers a minimum number of hours per week regardless of weather or crop conditions. "We met with him and explained it to him and he said,

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'Gee, that sounds totally fair.' He wasn't put off by the fact that it hadn't been done anywhere else. So our initial response was, 'Gosh, this guy might be a champion of workers — even though he's a Republican.'"

For a time, Rubio was that champion. With Frank Peterman, a liberal African-American Democrat from St. Petersburg, the young legislator went on to co-sponsor a bill that would have banned labor contractors from withholding the cost of tools and transportation from workers' salaries, and another that would have granted workers the right to sue contractors who didn't pay the minimum wage. (Neither passed.) Rubio was also in favor of providing resident tuition discounts to the children of undocumented immigrants who had lived in Florida for at least three consecutive years before graduating from high school. Many of his constituents back in West Miami would have benefited from these proposals.

By the time he became House speaker in 2007, Rubio was no longer actively campaigning for in-state tuition breaks or farmworkers' rights. But he still found a way to help the immigrant cause. As the Washington Post's Manuel Roig-Franzia reported in "The Rise of Marco Rubio," GOP lawmakers in Tallahassee were pressuring the new speaker to make immigration enforcement part of his agenda — but "Marco did not want anything to do with it," according to one of his advisers. Instead, he decided to bury six immigration measures in what Roig-Franzia describes as "the legislative equivalent of the basement." By preventing them from coming up for debate, Rubio kept Florida from adopting the kind of draconian laws that would later cause controversy in Arizona and Alabama.

That kind of ferocious debate wasn't good for the state, Rubio reasoned — and it wouldn't have been good for its most promising Latino Republican, either. "We didn't do anything on immigration at all during those two years," says J.C. Planas, a fellow Cuban-American Republican from Miami who was one of Rubio's early allies in the House but later broke with him during an internal leadership battle. "The speaker didn't let those immigration bills come to the floor because it wouldn't have helped him." In this case, Rubio's political interests aligned with the interests of Florida's undocumented immigrants.

That calculus changed, however, when he decided to challenge incumbent Republican Gov. Charlie Crist for the party's 2010 U.S. Senate nomination. Initially a long shot — a February 2009 Quinnipiac poll measured Crist's support at 53 percent to the speaker's measly 3 percent — Rubio began to gain momentum later that year by running to the governor's right and captivating the nascent tea party movement.

His rhetoric on immigration shifted accordingly. On the campaign trail, Rubio began to use the loaded phrase "illegal aliens." He initially said that SB 1070, a bill that would allow authorities to stop people and demand their immigration papers, would transform Arizona into a "police state" — then he changed his mind and told a conservative magazine that he would have voted for it. He championed a controversial electronic verification system designed to help employers determine the legal status of potential hires. He curried favor with tea partyers by arguing that the DREAM Act, which would have provided a path to citizenship for immigrants who were illegally brought to the U.S. as children, would have contributed to a "broader effort to grant blanket amnesty." He also described "an earned path to citizenship" as "code for amnesty." And he went on to abandon his earlier support for tuition breaks for the children of undocumented immigrants. "We're a nation of laws," Rubio declared at the time. "If you're here in violation of the laws, you shouldn't benefit from these programs."

By the time Rubio defeated Crist, those who had worked with him in Florida were beginning to wonder what — if anything — he stood for.

"His tone has changed on the subject," said state Rep. Juan Zapata, another Miami Republican. "And to me it's very obvious that it's for political reasons."

"You can't be a leader if you can't tell your friends they're wrong," adds Planas today. "Sure, there's always a certain amount you have to bend. That's politics. But, ultimately, I've never really seen Marco take on his friends publicly before, and that is troubling. I think he's still finding his way."

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Rubio would continue to find his way once he arrived in Washington. As the tea party passions of 2010 began to die down, and as the 2012 presidential contest began to heat up, the landscape shifted yet again. If Mitt Romney wanted to displace President Obama, the thinking went, he would have to improve the GOP's dismal performance among Latino voters. And if Romney couldn't do it, perhaps the party's next nominee could. Rubio was mentioned as both a possible running mate and a possible successor.

And so Rubio began to drift back toward the center. In January 2012, when two young men held up a sign reading "Latino or Tea-Partino?" during one of the senator's speeches, he told the crowd, "I'm not who they think I am. I don't stand for what they claim I stand for." A few months later, Rubio revealed that he was developing his own version of the DREAM Act. "If you were 4 years old when you were brought here … and have much to contribute to our future, I think most Americans, the vast majority of Americans, find that compelling and want to accommodate that," he said at the time.

In April, Rubio met with Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., the House's top immigration-reform advocate, to discuss the details of his plan. Gutierrez was pleasantly surprised. "Here he was, a guy who had ridden the tea party wave into Washington and described the DREAM Act as amnesty," Gutierrez told Yahoo News. "And now he wanted to take on the nativist voices in his own party. Whenever a Republican raises his hand and says, 'Hey, I want to do something for immigrants,' I jump for joy. 'Let's get it done.'"

The biggest shift, however, came at the end of 2012, when Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., approached Rubio in the Senate gym to ask if he was interested in collaborating on comprehensive immigration reform — and Rubio, who had previously insisted that "the best way to address immigration issues is sequentially," didn't say no. "[I want to] tie a pathway to citizenship to border security and enforcement," Rubio told Durbin and his colleagues, according to a report by the New Yorker's Ryan Lizza. "If you think that the Gang [of Eight] can put something together that's consistent with these principles, then I'll work with you. Otherwise, I'm not going to waste your time." Initially, Democrats viewed the pathway and border security as separate issues. But they quickly agreed to connect them — and for the first time, Rubio agreed to consider a pathway to citizenship.

Thus began Rubio's alliance with the so-called Gang of Eight.

"The politics of this have been turned upside down," said New York Sen. Chuck Schumer at the Gang's initial press conference on Jan. 28, 2013. "For the first time ever there is more political risk in opposing immigration reform than supporting it."

"There are 11 million human beings that are undocumented," Rubio added. "We have an obligation and a need to address the situation."

For the next six months, Rubio was, as one Senate aide told Lizza, "the cool jock and the captain of the football team" — the guy with whom "everyone wanted to hang out" but who still managed to remain a little aloof. In order to preserve his conservative credibility and prevent right-wing Republicans from torpedoing the deal, Rubio repeatedly distanced himself from the Gang over hot-button issues, opposing union demands and supporting biometric tracking for visa holders. But he also served as the group's official ambassador to the right — "the linchpin on the Republican side," as Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, one of Rubio's fellow GOP Gang members, put it.

Despite Rubio's cautious maneuvering, the Democrats couldn't have been more grateful. "He has been invaluable," Durbin told Lizza in mid-2013. "He's willing to go on the most conservative talk shows, television and radio, Rush Limbaugh and the rest. They respect him, they like him, they think he may have a future in the party."

"He's the real deal," added Schumer. "He is smart, he is substantive. He knows when to compromise and when to hold. And he's personable."

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Even McCain, who initially grumbled about having to share the GOP spotlight with the junior Floridian, offered some qualified praise for Rubio's communication skills. "Look, I'm very proud of myself, OK?" McCain said. "But he articulates [the need for reform] better than anybody I know."

McCain was right. In April, Rubio insisted that "leaving things the way they are" would be "the real amnesty." A month and a half later, he told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that the "secure the borders" crowd had it wrong. "They want to see the enforcement first and then the legalization afterward," Rubio said. "And that was initially how I thought about the issue as well. The problem with that is, what do we do in the meantime?"

But then, on June 27, 2013, the bill passed the Senate — and Rubio began to run away. Two polls showed double-digit drops in his net favorability rating among Republicans. Conservative pundits were pouncing. Spurred on by the Heritage Foundation's Robert Rector and Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, tea party activists booed Rubio lustily at a rally outside the Capitol.

"I remember the hostility — my God, it was there," says Brent Bozell, founder of the Media Research Center and president of For America, a conservative political advocacy group. "I traveled around the country on the defund battle and I would talk to people, and they were not happy with him."

And that's when Rubio seemed to lose his nerve. When he went home to Florida for August recess, he mentioned immigration only when asked about it by constituents or reporters. Otherwise he avoided the topic. "Politically, it has not been a pleasant experience, to say the least," he told one audience.

By the fall, Rubio had gone from ignoring his own bill to repudiating it. "The House is just not going to jump on board for whatever the Senate passes," he told the Tampa Bay Times in October. On CNN he was even more dismissive, referring to the Senate proposal as a purely partisan bill — calling it something "the Democrats in the Senate are demanding" — as if he and his fellow Republicans had never supported it.

The shift was startling. "In 2013, Rubio came on board," says Gutierrez. "He was enthusiastic. He hired wonderful staff. He added experts. I met with him for over an hour — just he and I and his staff. He was extremely generous with his time and very devoted to putting together the kind of team that would lead us to a bill. But then, after it passed, he suddenly said, 'I'm not for that.'"

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Rubio's official position is that once immigration passed the Senate, the matter was out of his hands; any attempt to influence the House would have been counterproductive.

"After the Senate passed the bill, the Senate was done with its work," says Russell Moore, head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, who worked closely with Rubio's office on immigration reform. "Rubio knows that doing what [South Carolina Republican Sen.] Lindsey Graham did and lecturing the House is not going to get it passed. He did his job and then moved on."

Others, including some who have worked for Rubio in the past, say that Democrats like Schumer negotiated an agreement in the Senate that they knew would anger conservatives in the House, because they — and the White House — ultimately didn't want a bill to pass.

"They didn't want to give him that win," one former Rubio aide insists. "They saw the writing on the wall in terms of what it would do in 2016."

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Looking back, it's easy to think immigration reform was always doomed. Conservative distrust ran deep; many Republicans believed that even if the House passed a palatable bill, it would be changed and corrupted when combined with the Senate version.

Yet, even as Rubio fled the scene, comprehensive reform appeared to have a shot. Conservative groups tied to Karl Rove ran television ads thanking Rubio for his work. The Koch brothers' political organization, Americans for Prosperity, decided to hold its annual conference in Florida, and even awarded Rubio a prime speaking slot, a clear attempt by the pro-reform group to bolster him.

For months, a bipartisan group in the House had been locked in negotiations; a deal was close. The House Judiciary Committee had passed four separate pieces of immigration legislation. There was ongoing discussion about giving undocumented immigrants a path to legal status rather than citizenship — a discussion that remains a central part of the debate among Republicans to this day.

"I think we're going to get to conference and I think we're going to pass something ultimately," Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a lead Republican negotiator in the House, said at the time. "I'm frankly still very optimistic. I've never thought that this was going to be an easy process."

Advocates say that Rubio could have kept a respectful distance from the House negotiations while continuing to tout the virtues of immigration reform in the press.

"He allowed a wonderful opportunity pass to illustrate that he's got the chops to bring people together," argues Javier Palomarez, president of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "That, to me, is not a very smart move at all: After you've put your name on it, you've put all this work, to just let it sit out there and walk away."

According to a source inside the House negotiations, Rubio's actions hurt their momentum. So why did he change course, effectively making his own bill's uphill battle even more difficult than it already was?

Of all the 2016 candidates, Rubio has the most devoted and tight-knit kitchen cabinet. So far, they have managed to prevent any leaks about what took place within their ranks during the summer of 2013.

But Yahoo News has uncovered some clues about the internal struggles that led to the biggest stumble of Rubio's career.

None of the three paid staffers most intimately involved with Rubio's immigration reform efforts — including his then chief of staff — still work for him today.

Close observers of Rubio World say the senator's team was sharply divided for much of 2013 about the wisdom of pursuing immigration reform. On one side of the debate were his political advisers, who ranged from uneasy to unhappy: veteran operative Terry Sullivan (who moved that year to work full time on Rubio's PAC and is now his campaign manager), plus his outside consultants Todd Harris, Heath Thompson and Malorie Thompson.

Communications director Alex Conant and longtime aide Alberto Martinez, who is now Rubio's chief of staff, were generally neutral.

At the same time, three of Rubio's policy-minded staffers were heavily invested in working toward a deal: then

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chief of staff Cesar Conda, legislative director Sally Canfield and an aide named John Baselice.

Rubio's pullback from immigration after it passed the Senate is attributed to his political advisers, who many think never wanted him out front on the issue to begin with, and who declined to speak about their private consultations with him.

The sharp divide among Rubio's advisers — and the subsequent departure of those pushing for immigration reform — helps to explain why he seemed to be flailing in the summer of 2013. That kind of snapback — the senator's sudden abandonment of his own signature legislation — is what happens when there are two competing groups in a politician's camp, each pulling equally hard in opposite directions, and one of the groups loses its grip.

Over the next year, Conda drifted away from Rubio's orbit; Sullivan took his place as the senator's point person. In April 2014, Conda resigned from Rubio's Senate staff to work for the senator's political action committee, Reclaim America — a normal step for an adviser who is gearing up for a presidential campaign. But then, in November, Conda quit the PAC to go into private practice. He is said to still be in touch with Rubio, but his influence is nothing like it once was.

When asked over email if he could describe the debate inside Rubio World in 2013, Conda responded tersely, "You'll have to chat with Conant."

Conant said he would not discuss "personnel matters," but said any linkage between immigration reform's demise and the departures of Rubio's key policy staffers was "silly." They "left the government after years of great service for awesome private-sector jobs."

Canfield and Baselice both departed in 2014 as well. Canfield, who was with Rubio until the end of the year, now serves in a senior position at a pharmaceutical company called AbbVie. Baselice left in July 2014 and now works at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Like Conda, neither would agree to talk about what happened in 2013.

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It's not hard to see how a more seasoned leader than Rubio could have managed the immigration fallout better. He might not have been so swayed by his advisers' conflicting opinions; he might have stood firm on principle, even after his poll numbers began to crater; he might have avoided the kind of transparent pandering that alienates friend and foe alike.

But as Rubio kicks off his presidential campaign, there are signs that he has learned the lessons of 2013 and emerged as a stronger candidate because of them. According to a veteran Republican consultant who has worked with Rubio's team, the senator was upset, in retrospect, that his political advisers had yanked him back from immigration reform — and he decided to empower his policy people as a result. He went on to spend all of 2014 delving into the minutiae of taxes and foreign affairs. Even here, political considerations seemed to be in the mix — Rubio's pivot from foreign policy moderate to uber-hawk, though plausible, has been jarring. Nonetheless, Rubio gave a series of serious-minded speeches that rebuilt his reputation as a man of substance, and penned a book that the New Republic called "chock full of policy ideas" when it was released in January.

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“He’s better today than he was a few years ago,” argues Castellanos. “You can just feel it. These guys go to the Super Bowl, and the first time they get into the bright lights, they choke. Rubio was marked by the searing fire of defeat. I think he has grown up and gotten better for it.

“If he’s still the same guy,” Castellanos adds, “he’s in trouble.”

Rubio’s position on immigration reform hasn’t changed since the end of 2013; whenever he’s asked, he insists that the only realistic way to reform the system is to start with border security. His standing on the issue seems to have stabilized as a result.

“Even [Republicans] who disagree with Rubio on immigration reform — many of whom I’m hearing from now — are warming to him now because they see in him somebody who is able to get something accomplished,” says Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention, noting that Rubio did help get a bill through the Senate.

“He was able to do that as a freshman senator,” Moore said. “He was pushing for strong border security measures, and he got a good deal of that in the negotiations.”

When Rubio announced his presidential bid on April 14, he chose to speak in Miami’s historic Freedom Tower — the Ellis Island of the Cuban exodus. He didn’t harp on immigration reform, but he did reach out, in his way, to America’s 11 million undocumented immigrants: “the single mother who works long hours for little pay so her children don’t have to struggle the way she has”; “the student who takes two buses before dawn to attend a better school halfway across town”; “the workers in our hotel kitchens, the landscaping crews in our neighborhoods, the late-night janitorial staff that clean our offices.” The sense Rubio gave in remarks was of a man who knows these people need his help — and who is committed to helping them in the long run, even if he stumbles along the way.

After the speech, Carlos Avila, a 31-year-old lawyer from New Jersey, stood outside Freedom Tower waiting for Rubio to exit. In 2008, Avila and his wife had voted for Obama, but now they were dissatisfied with the lack of economic progress “for people like us” and leaning Republican. Asked what he liked about Rubio, Avila, whose parents brought him to the U.S. from Ecuador when he was 4 years old, immediately mentioned immigration. “Rubio is not a perfect candidate,” Avila said. “But his immigration stance, I think it’s a political calculation. Obama was the same on gay marriage. I think if Rubio were to get into the White House, he would be supportive of immigration reform.”

Rubio’s staff believe their man has been battle-tested by his immigration experience. They may even believe that he — as the most prominent Latino in the field and the only Republican candidate who has actually shepherded immigration reform through the Senate — could do more, if elected, to fix America’s broken immigration system than anyone else.

The road ahead will prove whether they are right. A presidential election is an unforgiving affair; eventually, the person behind the politician is exposed. At some point before Nov. 8, 2016, Rubio will confront a crisis that will strip him bare and reveal him for either the fearless and inspirational leader that his foot soldiers believe him to be — or as a politician with his finger eternally to the wind.

With Another Bush Eyeing White House, Family Money Machine Springs to Life // WSJ // Beth Reinhard and Christopher S. Stewart - May 15, 2015

Democrat Hillary Clinton is the one presidential candidate expected to match or surpass Mr. Bush’s fundraising. She can turn to donors from her husband’s two presidential campaigns and her own 2008 bid. In addition, she stands to inherit much of PresidentBarack Obama’s fundraising network.

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Mr. Bush, the former governor of Florida, recently told donors in Miami Beach that he raised more money in his first 100 days as a potential candidate than any previous Republican contender. (His brother set the previous record by collecting $37 million in the first few months of 1999.) The tally is widely expected to exceed $100 million, though details won't be disclosed until Mr. Bush's super PAC, Right to Rise, files a report by July 31 with the Federal Election Commission.

In Iowa, Will Jeb Bush's Opponents Hit Him on Iraq?

The Wall Street Journal identified 326 donors who hosted fundraisers this year for Mr. Bush's super PAC, based on invitations and news reports compiled by the Sunlight Foundation, a nonpartisan government watchdog.

One in five were either members of the "Team 100," those who raised at least $100,000 for the Republican National Committee during George H.W. Bush's 1988 presidential campaign—or "Pioneers" or "Rangers," who collected at least $100,000 or $200,000 for George W. Bush's national campaigns.

Nearly a quarter worked in at least one of the Bush White Houses or received a presidential appointment; 24 were tapped by Mr. Bush's father or brother to serve as ambassadors; 46 worked in Mr. Bush's administration in Florida or were appointed to advisory boards. A number of donors belong to more than one of these categories.

Mr. Bush's top allies include 11 billionaires, six former and current owners of professional sports teams and former Vice President Dan Quayle. There is an internationally competitive sailor, a former chairman of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, as well as the author of "Nice Guys Finish Rich: The Secrets of a Super Salesman."

Mr. Bush's Republican rivals are seeking support from a similar pool of well-heeled donors. But no one can match the deep-pocketed, multigenerational network boasted by the Bushes, many of whom have been close family friends for decades. Some paid visits to the family compound in Kennebunkport, Me., and watched the Bush children grow up.

"When you hitch your wagon to the Bushes, you become part of an extended family," saidDirk Van Dongen, a Washington lobbyist and former Pioneer and Ranger who helped organize two fundraisers for Jeb Bush. "They remember their friends and they are good to their friends."

William Draper, the former Export-Import Bank chairman who recently co-hosted a fundraiser for Mr. Bush in California, went to Yale with his father. Along with the annual Christmas cards from Barbara Bush, he said, "my wife gets a letter from her every few weeks."

Some relationships mix personal, political and financial ties. Craig Stapleton, a host of the first fundraiser for Mr. Bush's super PAC in Greenwich, Conn., for instance, received a presidential appointment from George H.W. Bush to the Peace Corps Board of Directors and co-owned the Texas Rangers baseball team with George W. Bush.

Mr. Stapleton, now a senior adviser at private-equity firm Stone Point Capital, went on to be a top fundraiser for George W. Bush's national campaigns. After Mr. Bush was elected president, he appointed Mr. Stapleton to two ambassadorships, first to the Czech Republic, then to France. Mr. Stapleton, who is married to the cousin of the first President Bush, didn't respond to a request for comment.

Bruce S. Gelb, former vice chairman of Bristol-Meyers Co. recently attended a Jeb Bush fundraiser in New York City. Mr. Gelb was appointed by the administration of George H.W. Bush to the U.S. Information Agency and then was offered an ambassadorship to Belgium after raising about $3 million for Mr. Bush's campaign.

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Both Democrats and Republicans have over the years embraced the tradition of rewarding donors with such coveted posts. “I didn’t realize it at the time there was some cachet of being ambassador,” said Mr. Gelb, a boarding-school classmate of Mr. Bush. “When you say you’ve been ambassador, people go a little bonkers.”

Mr. Gelb also was a Pioneer for George W. Bush and raised money for Jeb Bush’s, son,George P. Bush, in his 2014 campaign for Texas Land Commissioner.

Former President George W. Bush is credited with breaking ground on campaign fundraising by pushing supporters to bundle donations from their friends, family and business associates. Jeb Bush is continuing that strategy with more ambitious goals, even before an official campaign launch. Donors to his super PAC are divided among those who raise at least $500,000, $250,000, $100,000 and $50,000.

“Fundraising is to some extent a competitive sport that attracts type-A types who like to win,” Mr. Van Dongen said. “When you bring donors together, it’s like a company bringing together its top sales people—you get time with the boss, recognition in front of your peers.”

The Bush network has its limits. “All you can do is help someone get in the door,” saidLawrence E. Bathgate II, a longtime Bush family supporter. “But once the door is open, they have to sell themselves. That’s what’s confronting Jeb Bush.”

Bush compares Clinton's avoidance of questions to 'The Simpsons' // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs - May 16, 2015

DUBUQUE, Ia. – Jeb Bush invited Iowans to "ask whatever you want."

And they did — about how he feels about his brother's mistakes in Iraq and why he backs controversial education standards and other hot topics.

"We're probably around 800 to 900 questions asked and hopefully answered," Bush, a Republican who will make up his mind "pretty soon" about whether to run for president, said at the start of his town hall meeting at Loras College in Dubuque Saturday morning.

Bush said Democrat Hillary Clinton has been a candidate for a month and has answered only 13 questions from the press.

"She's had 33,000 ... minutes where she hasn't answered a question. For those that really follow TV, 33,000 minutes is two times the number of 'Simpson's' shows that existed in the 25 years," he said to laughs from an audience of a little more than 100.

The Dubuque event kicked off Bush's second trip to Iowa of the 2016 election cycle. Clinton makes her second trip here next week.

Bush is making hops around Iowa in a private plane – to two fundraisers in Iowa City for Republican U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, to private meetings in the Des Moines area, and then the Iowa GOP's Lincoln Dinner Saturday night. His wife, Columba, and son Jeb Jr. are traveling with him.

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Bush, who is struggling to gain favor with likely GOP caucusgoers in Iowa, told the Dubuque audience he hadn't been there since he campaigned for his father, George H.W. Bush, in 1979 and 1980.

"I'll just remind everybody that's interested in political history. He started here in Iowa as an asterisk, literally an asterisk, and he won the Iowa caucuses," he said.

Bush took questions for nearly an hour, from 11 people in the crowd.

The first questioner asked about education, but made brief mention of Bush's interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly on Monday. Bush has taken heat all week for telling Kelly he would've authorized the Iraq War "knowing what we know now." Bush later said he misinterpreted the question. His answers varied until Thursday, when he said: "I would not have gone into Iraq."

In Dubuque Saturday, Bush said: "I misstepped for sure. I answered a question that wasn't asked."

Another Iowan, 30-year-old Jeff Lenhart, a Dubuque Democrat who works at a homeless shelter, asked Bush how he feels about his brother being responsible for the deaths of 6,000 Americans in Iraq.

"Look, I'm proud of my brother," Bush answered to loud applause.

Bush continued: "The facts that were there for the president and in a bipartisan way approved – bipartisan in every way – was grounded on faulty intelligence. And they made mistakes along the way that related to not focusing on security first. My brother acknowledges that. I acknowledge that. Those were mistakes. ... My brother did something that I thought was pretty heroic and courageous. Against all odds politically, he rectified this by a that surge created a significantly more stable Iraq than he left."

Another questioner, Les Feldmann of Rickardsville, grilled Bush on common core education standards. Bush said he favors state-driven standards, and that the federal government should be expressly prohibited from getting involved.

When Feldmann persisted in questioning him, Bush said, to applause: "I'm just for higher standards, man. ... What we shouldn't have is low standards or no standards. That's the problem."

Later, Feldmann told the Des Moines Register he thinks what Bush did with education standards in Florida was "excellent." But Bush has been promoting the Common Core Education Standards, which are "copyrighted and patented," and involve the federal government hanging money over state officials' heads, Feldmann said.

Bush wrapped up his speech by saying that converting from the Episcopalian faith to Catholicism was "one of the smarted things I've ever done in my life." Dubuque has a disproportionately heavy Catholic population, and Loras is one of three Catholic colleges in the Dubuque diocese.

Elsewhere Saturday morning, GOP presidential candidate Rand Paul attracted about 160 in Burlington and Donald Trump, who is weighing a bid, drew nearly 200 in Sioux City.

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2015

WASHINGTON — Eight years after Hillary Rodham Clinton was haunted by her Senate vote to authorize the use of force in Iraq, another leading White House hopeful is struggling with questions about the war.

And just as Mrs. Clinton seemed torn then between mollifying Democratic primary voters who were against the war and positioning herself to run in the general election, Jeb Bush, a Republican, appears deeply conflicted. He is grappling with how to remain loyal to his older brother, George W. Bush, while acknowledging what has become a mainstream view in both parties: that there would not have been an invasion if policy makers had known in 2003 that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction.

In Arizona on Thursday, with his fourth different answer of the week, Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, finally conceded that, if he had had such knowledge, he "would not have gone into Iraq."

For Mrs. Clinton in 2008, mishandling what her opponent Barack Obama called "the biggest foreign policy disaster of a generation" created an opening for him and ultimately helped undermine her campaign.

There is no strong antiwar current in today's Republican electorate as there was during the 2008 Democratic contest, but Iraq could prove just as thorny for Mr. Bush now because of what it represents.

The if-you-knew-then questions and gibes from his rivals about the 2003 invasion of Iraq are a stand-in for a larger challenge confronting Mr. Bush: demonstrating that he is not merely another would-be heir to a political dynasty.

"That's the issue here: Are you actually a unique, different person or are you a third Bush?" said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. "To the degree that he's defined as a third Bush, he has a bigger mountain to climb, though I think he certainly has the potential to carve out a path because he has an extraordinary record as governor."

In his opening months as an all-but-declared candidate, Mr. Bush has seemed unsurprised, if irritated, by questions about how he is different from the previous presidents named Bush. He has explained that he loves his father and brother, but recognizes that he will have to make his own case to win the nomination. (Unmentioned is that much of his strength as a candidate owes to the fund-raising network he largely inherited from his family.)

Yet while he has been willing to address the issue of his family ties generally, the past week shows he is either unprepared or deeply reluctant to discuss specific policy issues stemming from his brother's presidency.

Mr. Bush's resistance to engage on Iraq also underlines the degree to which he is determined to run his campaign on his terms. But he may be too sure of himself and his approach.

His dayslong bobble became the talk of Republican politics, from the campaign trail in Nevada to Washington. A group of Republican senators meeting this week on Capitol Hill were nearly incredulous that Mr. Bush did not have a better answer and joked about how many press aides he needed to respond to such a basic matter, according to a party strategist who heard the conversation.

"Jeb's curb appeal was supposed to be experience, pedigree and smarts, and therefore ready to lead," said one Republican senator, who insisted on anonymity to speak candidly about a presidential hopeful. "These kinds of statements plant him squarely in the middle of the primary pack — with G.O.P. voters unsure of exactly what political lessons he truly has learned."

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Sensing vulnerability, and eyeing an opportunity to bring the closest thing there is to a Republican front-runner down a peg, Mr. Bush's primary opponents have pounced. Nearly all of them immediately and succinctly answered the question he dodged for days.

"I don't know how that was a hard question," Rick Santorum, the former senator from Pennsylvania, said Thursday at the Republican National Committee spring meeting in Arizona.

Some took advantage of the opening to attack Mr. Bush for what they say is the baggage he would bear as the party's nominee.

Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, said that the country should be wary of "having a nominee who is stuck in relitigating the Iraq war."

"We need to know what we're getting ourselves in for," Mr. Paul said in an interview on Thursday. "The difficulty that Jeb is going to have is on two fronts. One, he's got conservative mistrust in the primary. That's going to be difficult to overcome. But should he become the nominee, he's going to have difficulty with independents who were opposed to the Iraq war. I see it as a very difficult place for him to be in."

Mr. Paul has his own difficulties: The Republican primary voters he must court, on the whole, are considerably more hawkish on national security than he is. But his remarks bluntly raised what has loomed over Mr. Bush's likely candidacy just as much as his positions on immigration or the Common Core education standards: the perception that he embodies the restoration of a dynasty many do not want to see restored.

Mr. Paul may overstate the extent of Mr. Bush's legacy problems with Republicans — a New York Times-CBS poll this month showed 7 in 10 Republicans viewed George W. Bush favorably. And there is little doubt that the party members are far more animated about what they see as President Obama's foreign policy blunders than about the mistakes of the last Bush administration.

But Mr. Bush's difficulties discussing his brother and Iraq hand his opponents the same cudgel that Mr. Obama so effectively used against Mrs. Clinton in 2008. "It is about the past versus the future," Mr. Obama said then. "And when I am the nominee, the Republicans won't be able to make this election about the past."

Or, as the conservative writer David Frum, a former speechwriter for George W. Bush, put it on Twitter this week: "Jeb Bush has just converted an election that should be about the past eight years into an election about the eight years before that."

Mr. Bush's aides say he is anxious to move past his schedule focused on fund-raising to a more intensive campaign that will allow him to discuss his own vision.

But it is unclear he will ever be able to shed himself of forced exercises in retrospection.

Danielle Pletka, a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, noted that when Senator Marco Rubio of Florida began his presidential campaign last month he "chose to do so with this explicit break with the past, which of course means the Bushes and the Clintons."

"That's going to be more resonant for Republicans than 'He's going to get us into another Iraq war,' " Ms. Pletka

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said.

Mr. Bush's overarching problem "is this eternal relitigation of every decision of George W. Bush," she added.

"As much as he's saying 'I'm my own man,' every time he says that, we're reminded he's not."

Five Ways That Jeb Bush Makes it Hard for Himself // New Yorker // Amy Davidson - May 16, 2015

Running for President is hard. And there are factors that can make it harder still, a variety of which Jeb Bush modelled this week, in florid fashion. It started with this exchange, with Megyn Kelly:

Kelly: On the subject of Iraq.

Bush: Yuuup.

Kelly: Obviously very controversial. Knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion?

Bush: I would have. And so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody, and so would have almost everybody who was confronted with the intelligence they got.

This wasn't a good answer, even though, as Rick Santorum, of all people, correctly pointed out, "I don't know how that was a hard question." And, having made a mistake with the invasion, Jeb Bush proceeded to bungle the occupation, taking four days and many grumpy contortions to get from his first answer to the testy statement, on Thursday, that "Knowing what we now know, what would you have done? I would not have engaged. I would not have gone into Iraq." Why was that so difficult? Here are five ways that Jeb Bush made, and may continue to make, running for President hard.

1. He didn't listen. "I interpreted the question wrong, I guess," Bush told Sean Hannity on Tuesday. He said something similar on Wednesday: "Whatever I heard, it was translated, knowing what you knew then what would you do?" But there was no ambiguity in Kelly's question. Perhaps it was "translated" from the language of what was actually said to that of whatever Jeb Bush wanted to hear. He might have thought, in the lacuna of that "Yup," I'm a smart guy and I know what Megyn Kelly is going to say, even before she gets the words out. Both of those explanations are, to an extent, credible, based on the Hillary Clinton reference in his answer. (She voted to authorize the war, but has said that her decision might have been different if the intelligence had been better.) But neither is admirable and both are harbingers of disastrous debates—not to mention Oval Office meetings ("Whatever the Prime Minister said, it was translated…"). Obama has his anger translator; maybe Jeb Bush has a complacency translator.

2. He didn't have an answer ready. There are a lot of predictable questions when you're running for President, and, after being sure that you know which is being asked, you should be ready to answer them. This would be true of questions far more obscure than a central decision of your party's last President—a President who happened to be your brother. (It's worth noting that some people were opposed to the war, knowing what they knew then.) After he and Hannity had dealt with the supposed mysteriousness of Kelly's question, and Bush had delivered a swirl of phrases related to Iraq, in what appeared to be no particular order ("there were mistakes"; "the surge was quite effective"; "we need to make sure that our friends know that we have their back"), Hannity tried to get him to focus:

Hannity: In other words, in 20/20 hindsight, you would make a different decision.

Bush: Yeah, I don't know what that decision would have been, that's a hypothetical. The simple fact is that mistakes were made. As they always are in life and foreign policy.

And in campaigns. How could Jeb Bush have come to an interview that was set up as a do-over without any answer at all? Perhaps it is because of his next mistake:

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3. He assumed that people agree that “hypothetical” is a dirty, out-of-bounds word. “That’s a hypothetical”—well, yes, because you aren’t President yet, and we want to know what you would do if you were. That’s a hypothetical. Perhaps what Bush meant was “past-counterfactual”—but there’s nothing wrong with that sort of question, either. Bush is not alone in this trait, unfortunately; in the primary debates, we can expect to see many candidates using “hypothetical” as a synonym for “trick question” or “weird”—”gotcha” with five syllables, each an accusation of media fanciness. As a dodge, though, it falls apart with the sort of questions to which people expect a simple answer. Voters in the voting booth must make the best guess they can. Hypotheticals help. When Bush, on Thursday, prefaced his belated definitive answer with a sighing, snappish “If we’re all supposed to answer hypotheticals,” the effect was unpleasant. He sounded like…

4. He might live in a bubble. This is what confused Santorum: “I’ve been asked that question a hundred times.” Where and with whom does Bush spend his time talking, if he’s been avoiding it? His foreign-policy team might be too wrapped up in its own rationalizing, or, worse, an enduring belief that there was a lot of good in that war. But, as with the other bad habits listed here, this goes beyond Iraq, to the question of whether Jeb Bush is too cosseted by parental and establishment blessings—raising money has been easy for him—to realize what hard work becoming, and being, President might be. Yes, his brother did it, but he did it badly. As Santorum also said, of the campaign, “If you are not prepared for it, I think we’ve seen in the past you are not going to do very, very well. This is a long process.”

5. He suggested that his impulse to uphold familial honor was an answer, not its own question. Bush acted as if it were pure bad manners to ask him to comment on other Bushes. “I’m not going to go out of my way to say that my brother did this wrong or my dad did this wrong,” he said on Thursday, according to the A.P. “It’s just not going to happen. I have a hard time with that. I love my family a lot.” What are voters to make of “it’s just not going to happen”? Should they assume that, as President, he will say that his father and his brother were right, and act the same way? Or will he say that they were right, but then act in the way that he thinks is right, without ever reconciling those positions or explaining his own rationale? Maybe it’s indelicate to put one brother in the position of having to say what he thinks of another. But then the brother shouldn’t run for President. Delicacy in this case is the enemy of democracy.

But the family question does suggest a way that the pressure on Jeb Bush might ease, if he does manage to get the nomination: many of the weaknesses on his list are Hillary Clinton’s, too.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev Given Death Penalty in Boston Marathon Bombing // NYT // Katharine Q. Seelye - May 15, 2015

BOSTON — Two years after bombs in two backpacks transformed the Boston Marathon from a sunny rite of spring to a smoky battlefield with bodies dismembered, a federal jury on Friday condemned Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death for his role in the 2013 attack.

In a sweeping rejection of the defense case, the jury found that death was the appropriate punishment for six of 17 capital counts — all six related to Mr. Tsarnaev’s planting of a pressure-cooker bomb on Boylston Street, which his lawyers never disputed. Mr. Tsarnaev, 21, stood stone-faced in court, his hands folded in front of him, as the verdict was read, his lawyers standing grimly at his side.

Immediate reaction was mostly subdued.

“Happy is not the word I would use,” said Karen Brassard, who suffered grievous leg injuries in the bombing.

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“There’s nothing happy about having to take somebody’s life. I’m satisfied, I’m grateful that they came to that conclusion, because for me I think it was the just conclusion.”

She said she understood that all-but-certain appeals meant the case could drag out over years if not decades. “But right now,” she said, “it feels like we can take a breath and kind of actually breathe again.”

The bombings two years ago turned one of this city’s most cherished athletic events into a grim tragedy — the worst terrorist attack on American soil since Sept. 11, 2001. Three people were killed, and 17 people lost at least one leg. More than 240 others sustained serious injuries.

Last month, after deliberating for 11 hours, the jury found Mr. Tsarnaev guilty of all 30 charges against him in connection with the bombings and the death a few days later of a fourth person, an M.I.T. police officer. The same jury spent 14 hours over three days deliberating the sentence.

With its decision, the jury rejected virtually every argument that the defense put forth, including the centerpiece of its case — that Mr. Tsarnaev’s older brother, Tamerlan, had held a malevolent sway over him and led him into committing the crimes.

According to verdict forms that the jurors completed, only three of the 12 jurors believed that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev had acted under his brother’s influence.

Beyond that, the jury put little stock in any part of the defense. Only two jurors believed that Mr. Tsarnaev had expressed sorrow and remorse for his actions, a stinging rebuke to the assertion by Sister Helen Prejean, a Roman Catholic nun and renowned death penalty opponent, that he was “genuinely sorry” for what he had done.

When the jury entered the courtroom at 3:10 p.m. Friday, the forewoman passed an envelope to Judge George A. O’Toole Jr. of United States District Court, who had presided over the case. Jurors remained standing while the clerk read aloud the 24-page verdict form, which took 20 minutes. It was not clear until the end that the sentence was death, though all signs along the way pointed in that direction.

Not a sound was heard in the packed courtroom throughout the proceedings. Those in attendance — survivors, victims’ families, the public, the news media — had been sternly warned that any outburst would amount to contempt of court.

The Tsarnaev verdict goes against the grain in Massachusetts, which has no death penalty for state crimes. Throughout the trial, polls also showed that residents overwhelmingly favored life in prison for Mr. Tsarnaev.

Many respondents said that life in prison for one so young would be a fate worse than death, and some worried that execution would make him a martyr.

But all the jurors in his case had to be “death qualified” — willing to impose the death penalty to serve. In that sense, the jury was not representative of the state.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh said in a statement that the sentencing brought “a small amount of closure to the survivors, families and all impacted by the violent and tragic events.” His statement avoided explicit praise of the verdict.

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Some legal experts said that the jury's 14 hours of deliberations seemed relatively quick in a case this complex. Eric M. Freedman, a death penalty specialist at Hofstra University Law School, said that the relative speed of the verdict could provide the defense with two possible grounds for appeal: "the failure to grant a change of venue, despite the overwhelming evidence the defense presented about community attitudes in Boston," he said, and "the failure to instruct the jury that if a single juror refused to vote for death, the result would be a life sentence."

"Unfortunately for all concerned," Mr. Freedman said, "this is only the first step on a long road."

But other lawyers said that 14 hours was not all that fast and doubted that it provided grounds for appeal.

"I've seen juries return verdicts in 25 minutes if the evidence is strong," said Michael Kendall, a former federal prosecutor in Boston. "But rarely do you have a case like this — a crime of such enormity to start with, plus a mountain of evidence and a defendant who is so unsympathetic."

He said he thought the jury had been struck by Mr. Tsarnaev's callousness. "After he blows up this child on purpose," he said of 8-year-old Martin Richard, the youngest of the victims, "he's out at the convenience store buying milk, then he smokes a little dope and plans on blowing up New York."

Among those in the courtroom were Bill and Denise Richard, the parents of Martin and of a daughter, Jane, who was 7 when she lost a leg in the attack. Despite their losses, the Richard family had called for Mr. Tsarnaev to receive life in prison. They said they feared that appeals would drag out a death sentence for years, making it hard for them to move forward with their lives.

The jury, which was not sequestered, had been told to shield itself from news accounts of the trial, and it is not known whether word of the Richard family's decision had filtered through to any of the jurors.

Many of the jurors looked emotionally depleted after the sentence was read, with some near tears. They had been involved in the case since January, when jury selection began, and had heard testimony over 10 weeks, much of it gruesome and horrific as survivors described losing their limbs and their loved ones.

Judge O'Toole did not set a date for formally sentencing Mr. Tsarnaev. But at that point, some of the survivors will have a chance to tell the court — and Mr. Tsarnaev — how the bombings had affected their lives.

It was the first time a federal jury had sentenced a terrorist to death in the post-Sept. 11 era, according to Kevin McNally, director of the Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project, which coordinates the defense in capital punishment cases.

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch called the death sentence a "fitting punishment."

In Russia, when informed of the verdict by a reporter, Mr. Tsarnaev's father, Anzor, simply exhaled and hung up. He then turned off his cellphone.

Prosecutors had portrayed Mr. Tsarnaev, who immigrated to Cambridge, Mass., from the Russian Caucasus with his family in 2002, as a coldblooded, unrepentant jihadist who sought to kill innocent Americans in retaliation for the deaths of innocent Muslims in American-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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"After all of the carnage and fear and terror that he has caused, the right decision is clear," a federal prosecutor, Steven Mellin, said in his closing argument. "The only sentence that will do justice in this case is a sentence of death."

With death sentences, an appeal is all but inevitable, and the process generally takes years if not decades to play out. Of the 80 federal defendants sentenced to death since 1988, only three, including Timothy J. McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, have been executed. Some of the sentences were vacated or the defendants died or committed suicide.

Most cases are still tied up in appeal.

Republican Party to Vote in Support of Religious-Freedom Laws // TIME // Zeke J. Miller - May 15, 2015

The Republican National Committee is expected to approve a resolution Thursday reaffirming support for so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Acts, undeterred by controversy in Indiana and Arkansas over whether such measures sanction discrimination against gays and lesbians.

The Resolution Affirming Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA) passed through the RNC's resolutions committee Wednesday during the RNC's spring meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., and will be voted on by the full 168-member governing body Friday. The party traditionally votes on all resolutions as a package, and the RFRA resolution is expected to pass with little or no opposition.

"The Republican National Committee stands firm in upholding natural, human, constitutional, and, under the RFRA, statutory rights of religious freedom," the resolution states.

A nationwide firestorm erupted after Indiana Governor Mike Pence signed a RFRA resolution into law that critics contended would allow business owners with religious objections to opt out of servicing same-sex weddings. Indiana's resolution went further than the federal statute, which has been on the books since the Clinton administration. A similar controversy in Arkansas led to Governor Asa Hutchinson demanding changes to the law to bring it in line with the federal statute before signing it.

The cautiously worded RNC resolution encourages states to mirror the federal law, rather than the controversial Indiana version.

"The Republican National Committee supports and encourages States' actions to enact laws that mirror the federal RFRA to protect citizens' rights to lead all aspects of their lives according to their deeply held religious beliefs," it states.

The resolution comes as the issue of religious freedom has become a significant conversation piece on the presidential campaign trail.

"The Republican Party will always stand for and defend religious freedom," RNC press secretary Allison Moore tells TIME.

Separate RNC resolutions expected to pass Friday include one supporting Republican lawmakers in their criticism of the emerging nuclear agreement between the Obama Administration and Iran, and another calling for the replacement of the Administrative Procedure Act, a law that sets how executive agencies propose and enact regulations.

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Yet another resolution reaffirms the party's neutrality in the presidential nominating procedure, even as the RNC has seized control of the debate process. The party and television networks hosting the early debates this summer are struggling with how to include a field of more than a dozen candidates on stage.

FBI Investigating Possible Links Between Amtrak Crash, Other Trains Hit by Objects // ABC News // Dean Schabner and Meghan Keneally - May 16, 2015

The FBI is looking into whether there is any link between three different trains that were all apparently hit by objects just a few miles apart, within a few minutes, the night of the deadly Amtrak derailment.

One of those was the Amtrak train that derailed Tuesday night north of Philadelphia, killing eight people and injuring more than 200. Another was another Amtrak train, a southbound Acela train that was apparently hit in a passenger window.

The third was a SEPTA commuter train that had its windshield shattered, and train personnel believed someone had shot at them.

Philadelphia transit police dispatchers can be heard on scanner audio from Tuesday night, warning that a commuter train may have been shot at.

The train was held at the North Philadelphia Train Station that night, after one of its winshields was struck by an object and shattered.

"Transit 1, let those personnel know, the rock put out a text, that that train was shot at, so use caution," a SEPTA Transit Police dispatcher can be heard saying on the scanner audio posted by Broadcastify.com. "All units copy."

A conductor on the Amtrak train that crashed Tuesday night also told investigators that she remembers hearing the train's engineer "say something about his train being struck by something" to a different train's engineer. The windshield of the Amtrak train was also found to be damaged.

On another recording of scanner calls from Tuesday night posted by Broadcastify.com, dispatchers can be heard discussing that SEPTA train.

"The train that's standing is the one that's standing by North Philadelphia regional rail," a dispatcher can be heard saying. "An unknown object made contact with that train shattering the windshield. We do not have an update on any injuries because they are prohibited from making any communication with the engineer while he's still on the rail. But it is a train that has had a foreign or unknown object make contact, shattering the windshield the train is going to be standing on the hill."

According to SEPTA, an unknown projectile struck the engineer's window of SEPTA Trenton Line train #769 at around 9:10 p.m. Tuesday. The engineer did not report any injuries. The train was initially held near the North Philadelphia Station based on damage to the train window and later based on the suspension of the line due to the Amtrak derailment.

The 80 passengers were walked off the train and transferred to buses, SEPTA said.

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The Amtrak engineer, identified earlier this week as Brandon Bastion, met with National Transportation Safety Board investigators today and he was "extremely cooperative," NTSB board member Robert Sumwalt said Friday evening.

Bastion told investigators that the last thing he remembered happening before the crash was ringing the train bell as he passed through the North Philadelphia train stop. He did not mention anything about his alleged radio conversation with a local Philadelphia train engineer.

Sumwalt said that the conversation was brought to light during an interview with one of the Amtrak train's three conductors who was on board at the time of the crash. That conductor told investigators that she overheard the conversation between the two engineers on her portable radio just moments before the train derailed.

"Right after she recalled hearing this conversation between her engineer and the SEPTA engineer, she felt rumbling and her car went over on its side," Sumwalt said.

Tornadoes touch down in parts of Texas, Oklahoma // Reuters // Sharon Bernstein - May 16, 2015

Several tornadoes touched down in northwest Texas and western Oklahoma Saturday evening, part of an night of severe weather predicted for a swath of the U.S. ranging from Oklahoma to Nebraska, the National Weather Service said.

The twisters that swept down to the ground in the Texas panhandle and in Oklahoma in the early part of the evening landed in areas that were not highly populated, said Keli Pirtle, a spokeswoman for the Storm Prediction Center of the National Weather Service.

Throughout the central and southern Great Plains of the U.S. forecasters predicted thunderstorms, high winds, hail and more tornadoes for Saturday night.

A tornado that hit the city of Van, Texas, southeast of Dallas, May 10 killed two people and caused $40 million in damage, authorities said.

About 90 houses were destroyed in the town, which has a population of 2,500.

INTERNATIONAL

Abu Sayyaf, key ISIS figure in Syria, killed in U.S. raid // CNN // Laura Smith-Spark and Ray Sanchez - May 16, 2015

(CNN)U.S. Special Operations forces killed a key ISIS commander during a daring raid in eastern Syria overnight Friday to Saturday -- securing intelligence on how the terror organization operates, communicates and earns money, U.S. government officials said.

The ISIS commander, Abu Sayyaf, was killed in a heavy firefight after he resisted capture in the raid at al-Omar, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said in a statement.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Sayyaf's wife, an Iraqi named Umm Sayyaf, was caught and is being held in Iraq.

The ground operation was led by the Army's Delta Force, sources familiar with the mission told CNN. There were about two dozen members of Delta Force involved, sources said. They were part of a multi-branch force of about 100, the sources told CNN's Barbara Starr.

Carter said he had ordered the raid at the direction of President Barack Obama. All the U.S. troops involved returned safely.

National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said Obama had authorized the raid "upon the unanimous recommendation of his national security team" and as soon as the United States was confident all the pieces were in place for the operation to succeed.

"Abu Sayyaf was a senior ISIL leader who, among other things, had a senior role in overseeing ISIL's illicit oil and gas operations -- a key source of revenue that enables the terrorist organization to carry out their brutal tactics and oppress thousands of innocent civilians," she said in a statement.

"He was also involved with the group's military operations."

Abu Sayyaf was a Tunisian citizen, a senior administration official said.

A U.S. official with direct knowledge of the intelligence and the ground operation described Sayyaf as "CFO of all of ISIS with expertise in oil and gas" who played a increasing role in operations, planning and communications.

"We now have reams of data on how ISIS operates, communicates and earns its money," the official told CNN, referring to some of the communications elements, such as computers, seized in the raid.

Umm Sayyaf, his wife, is currently in military detention in Iraq. A young woman from the Yazidi religious minority was rescued.

"We suspect that Umm Sayyaf is a member of ISIL, played an important role in ISIL's terrorist activities, and may have been complicit in the enslavement of the young woman rescued last night," said Meehan. ISIL is an alternative acronym for ISIS.

Meehan said Umm Sayyaf was being debriefed about ISIL operations, including any information she may have on hostages held by the terror group.

Abu Sayyaf and his wife are suspected to be involved in or have deep knowledge of ISIS hostage operations, a U.S. official with knowledge of the operation told CNN. A team from the FBI-led High Value Interrogation Group is expected to interrogate the wife, the source said. They will seek to figure out what she may know about the capture, movement and treatment of hostages.

But Michael Weiss, author of "ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror," said Abu Sayyaf was largely unknown to close observers of the organization.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Weiss said he's skeptical the United States would risk lives to capture the head of ISIS's oil operations. ISIS hasn't made significant money from captured oil fields since U.S. bombers began striking its infrastructure, he said.

A Pentagon spokesman confirmed in February that oil is no longer a main source of revenue for ISIS.

"It may be the case that he wasn't the primary target in this operation," Weiss said. "The U.S. might have been trying to kill or capture a higher-value ISIS leader who was thought to be at the same location. But it'd make sense to play up Abu Sayyaf's prominence after the fact since U.S. soldiers' lives were at risk here."

But risking American lives to capture Abu Sayyaf makes sense to Derek Harvey, a former U.S. Army colonel, intelligence officer and the director of the Global Initiative for Civil Society and Conflict at the University of South Florida.

"The most important thing about the raid is not getting Abu Sayyaf; it's getting his records," Harvey said.

Harvey asserted that Sayyaf was one of ISIS's top financiers, with likely access to the group's contacts with banks, donors, Turkish and Lebanese business interests as well as links to criminal and smuggling networks.

Sayyaf might not have been the intended target, Harvey acknowledged. But he had undeniable value as a target because ISIS is also a business.

"They're meticulous record-keepers," he said.

Meehan's statement added that Obama is "grateful to the brave U.S. personnel who carried out this complex mission as well as the Iraqi authorities for their support of the operation and for the use of their facilities, which contributed to its success."

Meehan said the U.S. did not coordinate with nor advise Syria in advance of the operation.

"We have warned the Assad regime not to interfere with our ongoing efforts against ISIL inside of Syria," she said, adding that the "brutal actions of the regime have aided and abetted the rise of ISIL and other extremists in Syria."

Airdrop, firefight

There is reason to believe that Abu Sayyaf may have been in contact with ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, sources familiar with the operation told CNN.

Although he was not taken alive, U.S. forces did capture some of his communications equipment, the sources said.

More details are starting to emerge of how the overnight raid deep in ISIS-controlled territory was carried out.

There was hand-to-hand combat during the operation, which was helicopter-borne, the sources told CNN.

About a dozen ISIS fighters were killed in the firefight at a residential building in Deir Ezzor, the sources said.

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A senior administration official told CNN the purpose of the mission was to capture the target, but he engaged U.S. forces so was killed. While the purpose was to capture the forces had the option to kill if they deemed it necessary, the official said.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a London-based monitoring group, said at least 19 ISIS militants had been killed by coalition bombing targeting ISIS' location in al-Omar oil field in eastern Deir Ezzor in the early hours of Saturday.

Preliminary information indicates that the U.S.-led coalition airdropped forces following the bombardment, it said.

There are six oil and gas fields in Deir Ezzor, all of which fell into ISIS hands in July last year. They include al-Omar oil field, Syria's largest oil facility.

Computer records

Abu Sayyaf is not a name familiar to many ISIS watchers and may well be a pseudonym. Sources familiar with the operation said he also was known by the names Abu Muhammad al Iraqi and Abd al Ghani.

But the fact that the United States clearly had him under close watch and was ready to put its forces at risk to carry out a ground raid, rather than ordering a drone strike, suggests the target was seen as very valuable.

CNN National Security Analyst Peter Bergen said the decision to send in U.S. Special Operations forces into Syria was unusual but not unprecedented.

"Taking out the guy who runs effectively the most important financing stream is obviously significant, but what's really significant is the computer records and all the materials that he would have with him as the head of this financing arm, if indeed that is the case that he is really that important," said Bergen.

The potential to seize valuable intelligence material and documents may have been what led the U.S. government to opt for a high-risk ground operation rather than a bombing mission, he said.

Such targeted operations push ISIS to be more careful about how they organize themselves and run their operations, he said. "They are going to be looking over their shoulder."

Interrogation of Umm Sayyaf may also yield valuable information.

For weeks, unconfirmed reports have been circulating that al Baghdadi was seriously injured in an airstrike back in March in northern Iraq. That has led to speculation over who might emerge as his successor if he is incapacitated.

Iraqi authorities have said Abu Alaa al-Afari, his top deputy, and a senior ISIS security figure named Akram Qirbash were recently killed in an airstrike.

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ISIS advance in Ramadi

The U.S. operation comes at the same time as a months-long fight for the key central Iraqi city of Ramadi appears to be going ISIS' way.

The Islamist extremist group captured the police headquarters, the Ramadi Great Mosque and even raised its trademark black flag over the provincial government building, sources said Friday.

The ISIS push began Thursday, with armored bulldozers and at least 10 suicide bombings used to burst through gates and blast through walls in Ramadi, according to a security source who has since left the city. Dozens of militants followed them into the city center.

Iraqi and allied forces have fought back, with a number of coalition airstrikes targeting ISIS assets around Ramadi, in Anbar province.

ISIS controls a huge swath of territory across Iraq and Syria, where it is chief among the opposition groups fighting to unseat long embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Officials: Islamic State tightens grip on capital of Iraq's Anbar province // WaPo // Mustafa Salim and Hugh Naylor - May 16, 2015

BAGHDAD — Islamic State militants tightened their grip on Ramadi on Saturday as officials, police and residents accused the Sunni extremists of executing dozens of civilians and blowing up homes in the capital of Iraq's largest province.

On Thursday, the insurgent group launched a brutal offensive involving car bombings and heavy shelling to seize Ramadi, which is about 80 miles west of Baghdad. The militants controlled most of the city by Friday afternoon, hoisting the group's black flag over government buildings as pro-government forces retreated.

"They blew up the houses of the officers and [tribal] sheiks who fought them," said Hamid Shandoukh, a Ramadi police colonel, speaking by telephone from the city's Malaab area.

The attack is a significant setback to Iraq's U.S.-backed government, which is waging a military campaign to retake territory that the Islamic State seized in sweeping advances last summer. The United States has assumed a prominent role in that effort, leading an international coalition that is conducting airstrikes against the extremist group in Iraq as well as in Syria.

Dozens of residents across Ramadi have been executed by Islamic State fighters, including women and children, according to residents and pro-government forces. "We don't have precise figures, but we can say that dozens of them were shot by Daesh," Shandoukh said, using the Arabic term for the group.

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Police, counterterrorism forces and tribal fighters have retreated to Malaab and a nearby military command hub, where hundreds of them are surrounded by Islamic State fighters. Police and local officials say that supply lines to the facility have been cut and that those on the inside are in desperate need of food as well as military reinforcements to defend against shelling and car bombings.

“We are calling on the government to provide food as well as military reinforcements to these areas that are besieged by Daesh,” said Suleiman Kubaysi, head of media relations for Anbar’s provincial council. He spoke by telephone from Baghdad.

Anbar capital is a key prize

Ramadi, capital of the largely Sunni province of Anbar, has been a stronghold of opposition to the Islamic State and its al-Qaeda precursor. A little less than a decade ago, the city’s residents were at the forefront of a U.S.-backed revolt by Sunni tribesmen against al-Qaeda.

Ramadi’s apparent fall is a major blow to U.S.-supported efforts by the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to form another Sunni force against the Islamic State, said Hassan Hassan, an Abu Dhabi-based Middle East analyst and co-author of “ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror.” ISIS and ISIL are acronyms for the Islamic State.

“This is a heavy blow to the idea of getting Iraq’s Sunnis to rise up to fight ISIS,” he said, adding that Ramadi is “vital” to such an effort. Despite capturing most of Anbar last summer, the Islamic State had been unable to conquer Ramadi in repeated attempts that included an attack last month. In that assault, militants gained control of northern areas of the city.

Now, with its capture of most of the city, the Islamic State has received a major morale boost after losing significant territory recently to Iraqi forces, including the city of Tikrit, Hassan said. “This is important for ISIS in terms of bouncing back and reclaiming momentum,” he said.

During a telephone call Friday that highlights concern in Washington about the Ramadi attacks, Vice President Biden promised Abadi deliveries of heavy weapons, the White House said.

During a television interview Saturday morning, an Iraqi military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Saad Maan, said that troop reinforcements had been sent to the city. “Painful” airstrikes from the U.S.-managed coalition also inflicted damage on the Islamic State, he said, without giving details of the military support.

Kubaysi, the provincial councilman, said a convoy of several dozen military vehicles carrying soldiers and counterterrorism forces arrived at the Malaab area from Baghdad on Saturday afternoon. But the additional troops have not engaged in fighting, he said.

“They are waiting for more reinforcements to arrive from Baghdad before they fight,” he said.

Falih al-Essawi, deputy head of Anbar’s provincial council, said that several members of Iraq’s SWAT team arrived Friday night but that the city is still waiting for special forces units to join the fight.

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Coalition airstrikes were targeting militants in the city, Essawi said. He added that officials put the preliminary death toll from recent fighting in Ramadi at more than 500 people, including police, soldiers and civilians.

Unconfirmed video posted on social media by the Islamic State shows the group's fighters capturing the main hospital in downtown Ramadi. In photographs posted online, the group also claims to have seized rocket-propelled grenades, boxes of ammunition and vehicles from police and military installations in the city. The group also posted pictures of what it says are executions in the city.

Informants in 'sleeper cells'

Col. Eissa al-Alwani of the Ramadi police said the pro-

government forces besieged in the city's military operations compound were quickly running out of ammunition. The Islamic State is targeting the compound, where three of Alwani's brothers are trapped, with heavy shelling and car bombs, he said.

In other parts of the city, he said, Islamic State "sleeper cells" have begun informing the group's fighters about residents who joined the police and military. Those who were identified as government collaborators, including families, are being executed and their homes are being blown up, Alwani said.

"Yesterday, they killed 20 of my cousins, and they blew up my house in Albu Alwan," he said by telephone from the Malaab area.

He added: "There will be a massacre if there is no help."

In the battle for Tikrit, about 120 miles north of Baghdad, pro-Iran Shiite militias proved decisive in overwhelming Islamic State forces.

But those militias have not participated in the fight in Anbar, in part over fear of stoking sectarian tensions with the area's largely Sunni residents. The Islamic State took control of most of Anbar by capitalizing on Sunni grievances with the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

Bodies of Marines, Nepalese Recovered From Crashed Chopper // NYT // The Associated Press - May 16, 2015

KATHMANDU, Nepal — The bodies of six Marines and two Nepalese soldiers who were aboard a U.S. Marine helicopter that crashed during a relief mission in earthquake-hit Nepal have been recovered, Nepal's army said.

The wreckage of the UH-1 "Huey" was found Friday following days of intense searching in the mountains northeast of capital Kathmandu. The first three charred bodies were retrieved the same day by Nepalese and U.S. military teams, and the rest on Saturday, the Nepalese army said in a statement .

The aircraft went missing while delivering aid on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. John Wissler, commander of the Marine-led joint task force, said in Kathmandu on Friday that his team could not immediately determine the cause of the crash or identify the bodies found.

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He described the crash as "severe," and said the recovery team at the site encountered extreme weather and difficult terrain.

The wreckage was located about 24 kilometers (15 miles) from the town of Charikot, near where the aircraft went missing while delivering humanitarian aid to villages hit by two deadly earthquakes.

The area is near Gothali village in the district of Dolakha, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of Kathmandu.

The U.S. relief mission was deployed soon after a magnitude-7.8 quake hit April 25, killing more than 8,200 people. It was followed by a magnitude-7.3 quake on Tuesday that killed at least 117 people and injured around 2,800.

The helicopter had been delivering rice and tarps in Charikot, the area worst hit by Tuesday's quake. It had dropped off supplies in one location and was en route to a second site when contact was lost.

U.S. military officials said earlier in the week that an Indian helicopter in the air nearby had heard radio chatter from the Huey aircraft about a possible fuel problem.

In Wichita, Kansas, Marine officials on Saturday notified the parents of the helicopter's 31-year-old-pilot, Capt. Chris Norgren, that he was among those killed in the crash, a local high school president, Leticia Nielsen, told The Wichita Eagle newspaper.

A total of 300 U.S. military personnel have been supporting the aid mission in Nepal.

On Saturday, Elhadj As Sy, secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross, said an appeal had been made for $93 million to help some 700,000 earthquake survivors over the next two years.

The U.N. General Assembly also called for urgent assistance to help Nepal's earthquake survivors and to rebuild the impoverished Himalayan nation, urging the international community to support the U.N.'s appeal for $415 million for essential needs over the next three months.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the assembly that it is urgent to get aid to all those in need before the monsoon season starts in June.

Afghan forces straining to keep the expanding Taliban at bay // WaPo // Tim Craig - May 16, 2015

KABUL — Taliban militants are expanding their reach into new areas of Afghanistan, straining security forces who are locked in some of the bloodiest battles of the 13-year-old insurgency, provincial and local law-enforcement officials said.

In the first spring fighting season since the U.S.-led coalition ended combat operations in Afghanistan, heavy clashes are being reported in at least 10 Afghan provinces. The provinces are in every corner of the country, creating widespread unease about whether the Afghan government and army can repel the threat.

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“This is the worst fighting season in a decade,” said Attiqullah Amerkhil, a Kabul-based political and military analyst. “There is now fighting in every part of the country.”

Such dire assessments have become something of an annual tradition here, where it’s difficult for analysts and journalists to safely obtain information from rural areas of the country. But coalition statistics and interviews with nearly two dozen provincial officials suggest that security is indeed worsening in many areas of the country.

Since January, Afghan soldiers have experienced 70 percent more casualties than in the same period last year, according to Col. Brian Tribus, director of public affairs for the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan. Civilian casualties have increased 10 percent over that same period.

The violence can be partially attributed to an expanding battlefield that is testing the 174,000-man army’s ability to respond. The ongoing Pakistani military operation has driven scores of militants across the border in search of new safe havens.

That has created a tightening geographic ring of chaos around the Afghan capital, presenting a major challenge for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and the country’s chief executive, Abdullah Abdullah.

“The Taliban is taking advantage of a weak government, and there is a lack of coordination between Afghan forces, so they just keep attacking more districts,” said Mohammad Asif Afghan, a local police commander in Helmand province in southwestern Afghanistan.

In Ghowr province in central Afghanistan, most residents of two major districts fled their homes this week because of the fighting, according to Raqeeba Naeel, who represents the province in parliament.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, the Taliban abducted 30 motorists, including women and children, from highways in Paktika province near the eastern border with Pakistan, according to local police. In a statement, the Taliban confirmed the abductions, saying it was looking for government officials.

Some of the worst violence is happening in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan, where the army rushed reinforcements to keep control of the provincial capital. But local officials say the situation remains tense.

“Residents are terrified, and everyone is concerned that the Taliban may attack this city again,” said Mohammad Yousuf Ayubi, the head of the provincial council, who added militants still control many surrounding districts.

On Friday, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported it has received 204 “war-wounded” at its trauma center in Kunduz since mid-April. That is more than double the number of patients it treated because of fighting last year.

“The surgeons are dealing with severe abdominal and chest injuries, with many patients requiring a series of complex surgical interventions, said Laurent Gabriel, the MSF coordinator at the trauma center, who noted that one-fourth of the “war-wounded” patients have been women or children.

Hekmatullah Azamy, a researcher at the Kabul-based Center for Conflict and Peace Studies, also blamed the Ghani government for the worsening violence. Instead of preparing his government and army for a tough spring season, Azamy said Ghani was too focused this spring on trying to launch peace talks with the Taliban.

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“The Taliban is intensifying its attacks, and this is the greatest threat that Afghanistan faces, and that is largely because the Afghan government was not prepared for this,” Azamy said. “It was just way too optimistic about a peace process.”

Azamy noted that Ghani and Abdullah still haven’t named a defense minister and attorney general. Thirty of 34 Afghan provinces still lack a permanent district governor or police chief.

“In all these provinces, except a few, you have acting people who are not seriously committed to the job,” Azamy said.

During a meeting with Western journalists one week ago, Ghani acknowledged that Afghanistan will “face a difficult year.”

“But at the end of it, I think we are going to come out much stronger,” the president said.

Ghani appears to be succeeding in getting Pakistani leaders to play a more active role in trying to control the flow of fighters and ammunition across the border.

After a visit to Kabul on Tuesday, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan now considers the Afghan Taliban to be the “enemy,” a surprisingly strong statement, given Pakistan’s past alliance with the group.

Generals from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States met Wednesday in Kabul to discuss how they can better coordinate operations.

The Afghan army continues to expand its capabilities, U.S. military officials said.

In late April, as part of a broader effort to go on the offensive in traditional Taliban strongholds in southern Afghanistan, the Afghan army’s 203rd Corps mounted a 22-day slog through the mountains in the Nawa district of Ghazni province.

Afghan troops killed or wounded 250 Taliban fighters, dismantled 700 bombs and seized 35,000 tons of explosives. When the operation ended earlier this month, Afghan forces controlled the district for the first time in at least a decade, said overseeing Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali.

But Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, the deputy governor of Ghazni province, said the Afghan army would have to permanently station 1,000 soldiers in Nawa to keep the Taliban from returning. Some provincial officials doubt the 148,000-member Afghan police force can stand up to the militants.

Yaftali, however, isn’t sure his troops will remain in large numbers.

“Ideally, when it comes to the security of the district . . . the Afghan government should get involved,” Yaftali said when asked about Ghazni’s request. “So, no comment.”

Pope Francis Calls Palestinian Leader Mahmoud Abbas An 'Angel Of Peace' // Huffington Post // Associated Press - May 16, 2015

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VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope Francis praised Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as an "angel of peace" during a meeting Saturday at the Vatican that underscored the Holy See's warm relations with the Palestinians.

Francis made the compliment during the traditional exchange of gifts at the end of an official audience in the Apostolic Palace. He presented Abbas with a medallion and explained that it represented the "angel of peace destroying the bad spirit of war."

Francis said he thought the gift was appropriate since "you are an angel of peace." During his 2014 visit to Israel and the West Bank, Francis called both Abbas and Israeli President Shimon Peres men of peace.

Abbas is in Rome for the canonization Sunday of two 19th-century nuns from what was then Ottoman-ruled Palestine. The new saints, Mariam Bawardy and Marie Alphonsine Ghattas, are the first from the region to be canonized since the early days of Christianity.

Abbas on Saturday offered Francis relics of the two new saints.

Church officials are holding up the new saints as a sign of hope and encouragement for Christians in the Middle East at a time when violent persecution from Islamic extremists has driven many Christians from the region of Christ's birth.

Abbas' visit also comes days after the Vatican finalized a bilateral treaty with the "state of Palestine" that made explicit its recognition of Palestinian statehood.

The Vatican said it had expressed "great satisfaction" over the new treaty during the talks with the Palestinian delegation. It said the pope, and later the Vatican secretary of state, also expressed hopes that direct peace talks with Israel would resume.

"To this end, the wish was reiterated that with the support of the international community, Israelis and Palestinians may take with determination courageous decisions to promote peace," a Vatican statement said.

It added that interreligious dialogue was needed to combat terrorism.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

This Hillary-Clinton-in-Brooklyn video brings the Beastie Boys to Sesame Street // WaPo // Philip Bump - May 15, 2015

I have to assume that whoever posted the video from Hillary Clinton's day in New York City on Thursday knew what they were doing when they titled it "Hello Brooklyn." As in, "Hello Brooklyn," the C-side sub-track from the Beastie Boys' "Paul's Boutique" that achieved cult status for its driving bass line and intense intro.

The Clinton video is a bit less energetic.

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You'd be forgiven if you were watching it and assumed it was a behind-the-scenes from some time when Clinton appeared on Sesame Street. About halfway through, though, you'd probably think, Where are the puppets?

The video, in the already-familiar, heavily edited-Clinton-being-a-beloved-regular-person genre, manages to pack several New York City tropes into its 57 seconds.

· A stoop in front of a brownstone

· A diverse (though heavily female) group of regular people

· A plumbers' truck

· A cab driver talking in an accent although the accent is not exactly the traditional New York accent and the cab is one of the apple-green "boro" cabs, not a traditional yellow one. (Bad casting, Team Hillary!)

It could certainly have used:

· A bodega

· A game of pick-up basketball

· Some cops or firefighters

· A car driving by, blaring music

· A rat

· A tourist buying a hot dog and biting into it with enthusiasm before experiencing the onset of nausea

· Clinton and her entourage struggling to make their way around a group of people that decided the best place to have their conversation was immediately outside the doorway of the brunch place

· A mustache

· But the real problem here is that the intro promises to answer the question, "How do Brooklyn residents feel about their new neighbor?" By our count, there were about 60 people in the video who were not Clinton staff (look for the Huma Abedin cameo right at the beginning!) or Secret Service. The population of Brooklyn is 2.6 million, meaning that Clinton spoke to 0.002 percent of the borough. This is not an entirely representative sample.

Of course, Brooklyn will vote for Clinton anyway. That's the other thing here: If Clinton can't find 60 people that love her in one of the bluest zones in the United States, there's a bigger problem at play. Try this on the streets of Oklahoma City or Laramie and see how it goes.

And a tip to Clinton's communications team: Clinton should absolutely have walked out of whatever building that was, thrown her head back, and yelled, "Hellllllllllllo Brooklyn!" The Beastie Boys were very popular, and there was a reason why.

Why Barack Obama's popularity matters to Hillary Clinton // WaPo // Philip Bump – May 17

When George H.W. Bush ran for the presidency in 1988, he was running as the second-in-command to a still-popular Ronald Reagan. He beat Democrat Michael Dukakis handily. When his son ran in 2000, he was running against the second-in-command to a still-popular (more popular than Reagan, even) Bill Clinton. But he won.

Which raises the question: Next year, when a third Bush (or some other Republican) looks to succeed a two-term Barack Obama, how much does Obama's popularity matter?

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The short answer, as the University of Virginia Center for Politics' Alan Ambramowitz wrote earlier this year, is that, historically, higher approval ratings for the outgoing president have correlated with a higher percentage of the popular vote for the member of his party looking to replace him. We'll note only now that George W. Bush won the presidency in 2000, but not the popular vote.

Ambramowitz figures that each 10 percentage points of approval for a president is worth about 1.8 percent of the popular vote for the candidate from his party. If Obama's at 50 percent approval, the eventual Democratic nominee, whoever she might be, might be expected to earn just more than half of the popular vote. If Obama's at 45 percent, Ambramowitz figures that Democrat is looking at just more than 49 percent of the vote.

What's particularly interesting is how much more strongly the president's approval rating in presidential years correlates to his party's success in those years than his approval in non-presidential years links to results in the House. There are a lot of reasons for this, including that we included the president's reelections in the data below, which naturally has a robust correlation. The difference is still dramatic, though.

Right at the center, where the two 50 percent lines overlap, is the election of 1976.

In other words, just because Obama was at 44 percent approval right before last year's midterms isn't necessarily why his party got clobbered. (It certainly didn't help.) In 1990, George H. W. Bush was much more popular, but Republicans got a lower percentage of the vote than Democratic House candidates did in 2014. (There are a lot of reasons for this, too, including that there were far more Democratic incumbents in 1990.)

A number of other large factors (like the strength of the economy) will weigh for which ever Democrat wins the party's hotly contested nomination. And some small ones will, too, but ... to a smaller extent. How Obama is viewed by this time next year is not a dealbreaker. But if he's at, say, 25 percent approval, the Post's post-Election-Day front page can probably be prepared in advance.

MISCELLANEOUS

Iowa Democratic Party Leaders Add Their Names to Letter Urging Elizabeth Warren to Run for President in 2016 // Move On // Brian Stewart - May 14, 2015

From: Lily Adams-

IOWA — Eighteen additional Democratic Party leaders from across Iowa have joined with Run Warren Run supporters from around the country in urging Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to run for President in 2016.

In a letter, re-released on Thursday, 18 Democratic Party leaders join 16 previous signers in counties and cities across the state in a letter citing Sen. Warren's record as a tireless advocate for working families and calling on the issue's biggest champion to join the 2016 presidential contest.

The full letter is below:

Our country is at a crossroads. The rich get richer, but middle-class families and those struggling to make it into

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the middle class work harder while falling further behind. Income inequality is at its highest since 1928 and wages remain too low. The game is rigged.

If you work hard, if you play by the rules, it doesn't matter where your parents were born, what color your skin is, whether you're a woman or man, or who you love—you should be respected in our society, you should be valued, and you should be able to make ends meet. You should be able to walk down the street without fear. You should be able to live on a sustainable planet. And your voice should count in our democracy. Washington can no longer be run by lobbyists, the powerful, and corporate interests for their own advantage.

As the 2016 presidential campaign begins, it is time for Democrats to be bold, to stand for something, to propose innovative, inspiring solutions to our nation's toughest challenges, and to stand strong for core American values.

We need leaders who aren't afraid to tell the truth, and fight back—no matter what powerful interests say—and we need all the candidates in the caucus to offer a bold vision for an economy that works for all Americans.

Contested caucuses test and strengthen candidates and ensure progressives have a chance to make our voices heard. Having a real debate is what democracy is all about.

That's why Americans from all walks of life have risen up to encourage Senator Elizabeth Warren to run for President. Sen. Warren is a fighter for middle-class and working families who has stood up to the corporate interests and Wall Street banks. I urge Elizabeth Warren to run for President in 2016.

One thing Iowans value is the first-in-the-nation caucus, and a chance for candidates to come into our homes and libraries and community centers to talk to real voters. We look forward to all the candidates coming to Iowa to share their views about the critical issues that matter to us.

The latest signers of the letter include:

- Heather Chamberlin-Ryan, East Des Moines Democratic Party Vice-Chair
- John Colombo, Franklin County Democratic Party Chair
- Maria Dickmann, Davenport School Board Member
- Dan Friedrichs, Boone County Democratic Party Chair
- Marcia Fulton, Union County Democratic Party Chair
- Laura Hubka, Howard County Democratic Party Chair
- Maggie Rawland, Move to Amend Des Moines Vice-Chair
- Rosemary Schwartz, Benton County Democratic Party Chair
- Stephanie Schwinn, Bremer County Democratic Party Chair
- Justin Scott, Delaware County Democratic Party Vice-Chair
- Bryce Smith, Candidate for Iowa State House
- Carol Smith, Union County Democratic Party Vice-Chair
- Julie Stewart, Dallas County Democratic Party Chair
- Joe Stutler, Iowa Democratic Veterans Caucus Vice-Chair
- Jim Throgmorton, Iowa City Council Member

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- Carolyn Walker, Move to Amend Des Moines Chair
- Beth Winterhof, Cherokee County Democratic Party Vice-Chair
- Kerry Waughtal, East Des Moines Democratic Party Secretary

Here's what some of the latest signers had to say about Sen. Elizabeth Warren and why they want her to run for President in 2016:

"Senator Warren is a progressive voice and isn't afraid to push the democratic party to where it should be. She's fearless and one of the few politicians who stand up for the American people and does the right thing." – John Colombo, Franklin County Democratic Party Chair.

"She's unapologetic and unafraid to go after Wall Street, big banks, and the status quo in Washington. She's a breath of fresh air for American politics." – Justin Scott, Delaware County Democratic Party Vice-Chair.

"I support Elizabeth Warren because she believes in returning to the values and principles that made our country successful. Economic and social fairness, equal opportunities, courage, and strengthening the working and middle classes." – Stephanie Schwinn, Bremer County Democratic Party Chair.

"I'm very passionate about saving our democracy from the power of corporate personhood. Particularly, my parents were immigrants and our democracy is about opportunity for all. I am very pleased we have a woman named Elizabeth Warren who is feisty and strong and will not back off when presented with opposition" – Maggie Rawland, Move to Amend Des Moines Vice-Chair.

"I support Elizabeth Warren because I have watched her fight against the tide, against all who said that she couldn't and shouldn't; she has fought diligently for the middle class and poor. She is knowledgeable and is working to stand up against corporations, banks and Wall Street and even the President (in reference to the Trans Pacific Partnership) to remove the barriers that are increasingly making the wealthy wealthier, and the poor, poorer." – Beth Winterhoff, Cherokee County Democratic Party Vice-Chair.

The original signers of the letter include:

- Robert Bell, Madison County Democratic Party Chair
- Kimberley Boggus, Des Moines Activist
- Tim Bottaro, Former Democratic Party State Central Committee Member
- Mike Carberry, Johnson County Supervisor
- Gerene Denning, Johnson County Central Committee Member
- George Ensley, Boone County Democratic Party Co-Chair
- Ed Fallon, Former State Representative & Former Gubernatorial Candidate
- Neil Morgan, Ringgold County Democratic Party Chair
- Don Paulson, Muscatine County Democratic Party Chair
- Kevin Perkins, Small Business Owner, Davenport
- Heather Ryan, East Des Moines Democratic Party ChairDave Somsky, Former Woodbury County Democratic Party Chair
- Dave Somsky, Former Woodbury County Democratic Party Chair

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- Veronica Tessler, Small Business Owner, Iowa City
- Jerry Tormey, Urbandale Area Democratic Party Co-Chair
- Phyllis Ann Weeks, Former Marion County Democratic Party Chair
- Lorraine Williams, Washington County Democratic Party Chair

Since launching in December, the Run Warren Run campaign has hired field and campus organizers on the ground in Iowa, opened offices in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, identified supporters in all 99 Iowa counties including prominent political and business leaders, and held more than 90 events in Iowa. Nationwide, more than 321,000 Americans have signed up to support the effort, and supporters have organized more than 400 events across the country.

--

Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: john.podesta@gmail.com
To: sewallconroy@comcast.net
Date: 11/1/2008 3:40:52 AM
Subject: Re: Agency Leads

Re #1 I'd ask Michele if she would feel comfortable with a hamre lead; if yes let's ask him; if no let's just go with michele and bill.
Re #2 they are all good. Be good to have some diversity so I'm partial to making Clark or Ron co-leads, but can live with any resolution presented.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: sewallconroy@comcast.net
Date: Sat, 01 Nov 2008 02:38:30 +0000
To: <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Subject: Agency Leads
John,

We'd like your feedback on two leadership roles in Agency teams.

1) A replacement (if any) for Sam Nunn on DOD. John Hamre was one of the names we'd discussed before in considering a more senior face to put on the DOD team as you desired. Do you want us to ask him or to develop other candidates, or have Bill Lynn and Michele Flournoy stay as co-leads?

2) James Loy cannot serve (conflict of interest) as co-lead of DHS with Randy Beers. Randy has proposed two candidates: John Gannon and John Gordon. While Susan and I would be fine with either, we do not know if either would do it.

John Gannon was to have led the pre-Nov 4 Intel/DHS transition but had a conflict of interest and time that led him to step away from the lead. John Gordon's business interests may similarly impede him from playing a role. We'd like your guidance regarding whether to proceed with seeking a co-lead for Randy and if so whether you have preferences.

An alternative model would be to have Randy lead and appoint a deputy -- perhaps Clark Kent Ervin (african american, former DHS counsel) or Ron Lee from NSA since he'd rather be on DHS. Please let us know your thoughts.

Thanks. -Sarah

John Gordon

Gordon was at the WH as HS Advisor til 2004. He is highly respected for his professionalism. Gordon will do it for the country as a committed career officer.

> General John A. Gordon earned a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in 1968, an M.S. degree at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1970, and an M.A. degree from Highlands University in 1972.
>
> General Gordon served in the White House as the President's Homeland Security Advisor from June 2003 until June 2004 and as the Deputy National Security Advisor for Counter Terrorism and the National Director for Counter Terrorism from June 2002 to June 2003. Prior to joining the White House team, General Gordon was the first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration and Under Secretary of Energy, responsible for the entirety of the nation's nuclear weapons program, serving from June 2000 until June 2002. As an Air Force four-star general, he was the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from October 1997 until June 2000. General Gordon's 32-year Air Force career included significant concentration on research and development, strategic planning, missile and space operations, intergovernmental operations, and international negotiations.
>
> General Gordon is now a private consultant and serves on the boards of several corporations and nonprofit organizations.

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John Gannon

BAE Systems has named Dr. John Gannon as vice president for Global Analysis, a new line of business formed within BAE Systems Information Technology.

Gannon joins BAE Systems after serving as Staff Director of the House Homeland Security Committee, the first new committee established by Congress in more than thirty years. In 2002-2003, he was a team leader in the White House's Transitional Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security. He served previously in the senior-most analytic positions in the Intelligence Community, including CIA's Director of European Analysis, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production. In the private sector, he developed the analytic workforce for Intellibridge Corporation, a web-based provider of outsourced analysis for government and corporate clients.

Gannon served as a naval officer in Southeast Asia and later in several Naval Reserve commands; retiring as a Captain. He was also elected to the Falls Church, Va., City Council and was subsequently appointed to the city's Planning Commission and later to the city's Economic Development Commission and Charter Review Commission.

Gannon holds a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., and master's and doctorate degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. He is an adjunct professor in the National Security Studies Program at Georgetown University.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/17/2015 6:52:06 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday February 17, 2015 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday February 17, 2015 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton co-sponsored a bill to shelter homeless veterans #HRC365 https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/1180/cosponsors … [2/17/15, 11:42 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@RepMurphyFL says @HillaryClinton will "deliver tangible results for the middle class and our nation's economy" http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-hillary-clinton-my-word-20150213-story.html … [2/17/15, 11:21 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton is known as "someone who can work across the aisle," @RepMurphyFL writes for @orlandosentinel http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-hillary-clinton-my-word-20150213-story.html … [2/17/15, 10:52 a.m. EST]

Headlines:

New York Times: First Draft: "Hillary Clinton Met With Elizabeth Warren in December"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton held a private, one-on-one meeting with Senator Elizabeth Warren in December at Mrs. Clinton's Washington home, a move by the Democrats' leading contender in 2016 to cultivate the increasingly influential senator and leader of the party's economic populist movement."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton trounces Chris Christie in New Jersey poll"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"The poll, conducted by Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics, shows Clinton garnering 58 percent of the vote in such a contest, compared to 35 percent for Christie."

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "Hillary Clinton and the 2016 Democrats: Mostly Liberal, Together"

"The field of potential Democratic presidential candidates is ideologically cohesive. While there is room to the left of Mrs. Clinton's Crowdpac score of -6.4, there is not a lot."

Time: "The Risk of Rand Paul's Trolling Strategy"

"In recent months, the Kentucky Republican has used social media to post snarky, provocative comments aimed at his likely opponents in the 2016 Republican presidential primary as well as Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton."

National Law Journal: "Hillary Clinton Cleared of Campaign Finance Allegations"

"The FEC said in a Feb. 12 letter that the commission 'found that there is no reason to believe' that Clinton violated campaign finance laws by not registering as a presidential candidate to date or that the Ready for Hillary political action committee violated laws by failing to register as an authorized committee."

Vox: "Hillary Clinton's uncontested nomination is dangerous for her and her party"

"The most proximate way in which Clinton's lack of opposition hurts her is in allowing her to maintain her current state of un-candidacy. This means she continues to give high-dollar buckraking speeches with no clear end-date on the calendar."

Articles:

New York Times: First Draft: "Hillary Clinton Met With Elizabeth Warren in December"

By Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Martin

February 17, 2015, 10:30 a.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton held a private, one-on-one meeting with Senator Elizabeth Warren in December at Mrs. Clinton's Washington home, a move by the Democrats' leading contender in 2016 to cultivate the increasingly influential senator and leader of the party's economic populist movement.

The two met at Whitehaven, the Clintons' Northwest Washington home, without aides and at Mrs. Clinton's invitation.

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Mrs. Clinton solicited policy ideas and suggestions from Ms. Warren, according to a Democrat briefed on the meeting, who called it “cordial and productive.” The former secretary of state, who has been seeking advice from a range of scholars, advocates and officials, did not ask for Mrs. Warren to consider endorsing her likely presidential candidacy.

The conversation occurred at a moment when Ms. Warren’s clout has become increasingly evident. Since last November’s election, Senator Harry Reid, the Democratic leader, appointed the Massachusetts freshman to a leadership role in the Senate; Ms Warren led a high-profile effort to strip a spending bill of rules sought by large banks; and a patchwork of liberal groups began movement to draft her into the presidential race.

Ms. Warren has repeatedly said she is not running for president, and she has taken no steps that would indicate otherwise. Still, she is intent on pushing a robust populist agenda, and her confidantes have suggested that she would use her Senate perch during the 2016 campaign to nudge Mrs. Clinton to embrace her major causes: addressing income inequality and curtailing the power of large financial institutions.

The get-together represented a step toward relationship-building for two women who do not know each other well. And for Mrs. Clinton, it was a signal that she would prefer Ms. Warren’s counsel delivered in person, as a friendly insider, rather than on national television or in opinion articles. And for Ms. Warren, the meeting offered the opportunity to make clear what she believes are the most pressing national issues.

That Mrs. Clinton — who is currently developing her economic platform — reached out to Ms. Warren suggests the former first lady is aware of how much the debate over economic issues has shifted even during the relatively short time she was away from domestic politics while serving as the country’s chief diplomat.

Mrs. Clinton was often criticized by the right as a doctrinaire liberal during her husband’s presidency and, as a presidential candidate, ultimately ran as more of an economic populist than Mr. Obama. But she is now seen by some on the left as insufficiently tough on Wall Street. That perception, denounced by allies as an unfair criticism, has stuck in part because of her husband’s policies, and because of the lucrative speaking fees she has collected from financial firms and private equity groups since she left the State Department in early 2013.

The meeting in December fell two months after a more awkward encounter: Mrs. Clinton and Ms. Warren crossed paths at a Massachusetts rally for the Democratic nominee for governor there last year, Martha Coakley. At that event, Mrs. Clinton repeatedly described Ms. Warren as a champion against special interests and big banks; Ms. Warren, in turn, barely acknowledged Mrs. Clinton, who was the featured guest, in her remarks.

Both Mrs. Clinton and her husband appear anxious to keep a close eye on the former Harvard law professor; the former president in the past has appeared sensitive about Ms. Warren’s oblique criticism of his deregulation of financial institutions. Beyond policy differences, the Clintons are eager to demonstrate that they, like Ms. Warren, appreciate the economic difficulties many Americans are facing.

The December meeting recalled another private session between Mrs. Clinton and a Democratic upstart: In 2005, shortly after he was sworn into the Senate, Barack Obama paid a visit to Mrs. Clinton in her Senate office. In that instance, though, it was Mr. Obama who was seeking counsel.

Politico: “Hillary Clinton trounces Chris Christie in New Jersey poll”

By Adam B. Lerner

February 17, 2015, 9:35 a.m. EST

Chris Christie may be the Garden State’s blunt-talking favorite son, but if a presidential contest were held today in New Jersey between the governor and Democrat Hillary Clinton, she would trounce him, a new poll finds.

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The poll, conducted by Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics, shows Clinton garnering 58 percent of the vote in such a contest, compared to 35 percent for Christie.

Perhaps most surprising is the finding that only 8 percent of Democratic voters in the Garden State would support their Republican governor in a presidential contest. In his 2013 reelection campaign against Democrat Barbara Buono, Christie managed 32 percent of Democratic votes, according to exit polls compiled by The New York Times.

Clinton also holds commanding leads in the Garden State when pitted against former Florida Republican Gov. Jeb Bush — 58 percent to Bush's 32 percent — or Wisconsin's Republican Gov. Scott Walker — whom she bests 60 percent to 29 percent in a hypothetical matchup.

The poll also asked New Jersey voters whether or not the current Democratic front-runner has the "right look," "right demeanor" and "right experience" to occupy the Oval Office. Voters overwhelmingly decided that these three labels do apply to Clinton: Forty-seven percent more voters said she has the "right look" than not, 50 percent more voters agreed she has the "right demeanor" and 68 percent more voters said that she has the "right experience" to be elected president.

The poll, released Tuesday, was conducted among 694 registered New Jersey voters using live callers between Feb. 3 and Feb. 10. The samples were weighted to reflect New Jersey's demographics, with an adjusted margin of error of plus-or-minus 4.1 percentage points.

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "Hillary Clinton and the 2016 Democrats: Mostly Liberal, Together"

By Derek Willis

February 17, 2015

Among seven potential Democratic presidential contenders, Hillary Clinton is the overwhelming favorite — and the third-most liberal candidate. How the other candidates are arrayed on an ideological spectrum could make her run for the White House easier than the last time out.

In some ways, the cast of candidates for 2016 resembles the group from the 2008 race, with a field ofstalwartly liberal politicians. Mrs. Clinton was slightly more liberal in 2008 than now, according to Crowdpac, which scores politicians on a left-right scale of -10 to 10. (Crowdpac bases this mainly on campaign contributions, but also on votes and speeches.) Her problem was that Barack Obama, who was further to the left of her — at -7.8 to her -6.9 — also had the donors who were to the left of her. He ran a better campaign, particularly in Iowa, and benefited from a surge in money from small-dollar donors.

This time, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts (-8.2) and Bernie Sanders (-8.3), Vermont's independent senator, are to her left. Ms. Warren has the higher fund-raising profile of the two, with a leadership PAC that raised more than $2 million during the 2014 election cycle. But she and Mrs. Clinton (and to a lesser extent Mr. Sanders) would be competing for a similar pool of donors. During her 2012 Senate race, Ms. Warren raised more than $3.4 million from individuals who also gave to Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign, Federal Election Commission data shows.

The field of potential Democratic presidential candidates is ideologically cohesive. While there is room to the left of Mrs. Clinton's Crowdpac score of -6.4, there is not a lot.

The lack of distance between the Democratic hopefuls suggests that creating a wedge between someone like Ms. Warren and Mrs. Clinton would be harder among Democratic donors, and perhaps among the broader primary electorate.

There are few issues where the gap between those two is significant. Gun control policy and immigration are possible points of contention, according to Crowdpac, which also generates scores for issues. On both issues, Ms. Warren is scored as much more liberal than Mrs. Clinton.

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The situation is different for Republicans, with considerable space available to the right of Jeb Bush (4.2) — and a lot of candidates to vie for it.

There is more room to the right of Mrs. Clinton. Most of the other potential candidates fit there, including Vice President Joe Biden, who has a -4.4 score, and Jim Webb, the former Virginia senator, who is at -5.3. Those two resemble the more centrist Democratic candidates that won the nomination in previous elections. Al Gore, for instance, had a Crowdpac score of -5.1 in 2000. Bill Clinton rated a -4.45 in 1996.

Mr. Obama is the most liberal Democrat elected to the presidency in the period Crowdpac has analyzed, which began in 1980.

Mr. Obama was able to broaden his pool of donors beyond what earlier Democratic primary candidates managed. Donors likely to support Democratic candidates will include moderates and some conservatives, but as the party has shifted left, its donors have gone with it. Mrs. Clinton benefits from that shift even as she stands quite a distance from her husband on the ideological spectrum.

Time: "The Risk of Rand Paul's Trolling Strategy"

By Tessa Berenson

February 17, 2015, 12:42 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] What happens when you troll in real life?

Trolling has always been a part of presidential politics, but few candidates have taken to it quite as aggressively as Sen. Rand Paul.

In recent months, the Kentucky Republican has used social media to post snarky, provocative comments aimed at his likely opponents in the 2016 Republican presidential primary as well as Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

In December, he took to Twitter to repeatedly criticize Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's opposition to opening relations with Cuba in what many observers argued was straight-up trolling. In January, he posted a jokey "secret tape" of Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush talking about the White House on SoundCloud. And on Valentine's Day, he posted a mock Pinterest page for Clinton that showed her ideas to remodel the White House (including a heart-shaped hot tub and a girly Oval Office).

In many ways, Paul's trolling is the obvious next step in presidential politics. President Obama has already adopted a lighter tone online, starring in BuzzFeed videos, submitting to YouTube stars' goofy questions and capitalizing on memes, while Speaker John Boehner has gone ahead and used Taylor Swift GIFs to troll the White House's plan to make community college free, among other things. It was only a matter of time before a presidential candidate started speaking in the Internet's native language of snark.

Vincent Harris, Paul's chief digital strategist behind the trolling, told Yahoo! News that the edgy tone is necessary to cut through the clutter:

"The strategy and the number one problem that people have in politics is just getting their information across to somebody — how do you reach somebody at all," he said. "News and information has to be entertaining, it's got to be interesting and it's got to be different than how everyone else is communicating."

Already, some Beltway insiders have pushed back against Paul's strategy.

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"I don't think you want to be troller-in-chief," an unnamed Republican digital strategist told Politico. "This might be how they think they separate from the pack, reach out to younger people. … I just think it's pretty close to trolling, which we think is weird for a regular person, much less someone who wants to be leader of the free world."

But the real test will come when the rest of the public takes notice. For now, Paul's trolling is being read by young people who spend all day on the Internet, jaded political professionals and the fairly troll-ish Beltway press corps, so there isn't a real downside to it. But as the general public starts to tune in over the coming months, there's a risk that a snarky tweet meant to get attention will succeed in breaking out of the Internet and into the regular offline world.

Only then will we know whether voters are ready for a troller-in-chief.

National Law Journal: "Hillary Clinton Cleared of Campaign Finance Allegations"

By Zoe Tillman

February 17, 2015, 12:06 p.m. EST

The Federal Election Commission has cleared Hillary Clinton and supporters of her would-be presidential run of allegations of campaign finance violations.

The FEC said in a Feb. 12 letter that the commission "found that there is no reason to believe" that Clinton violated campaign finance laws by not registering as a presidential candidate to date or that the Ready for Hillary political action committee violated laws by failing to register as an authorized committee.

The commission sent the letter to Stop Hillary, a political action committee that filed a complaint with the FEC against Clinton and her supporters more than a year ago. The group sued the agency in Washington federal district court in December, accusing officials of delaying action on its allegations. On Tuesday, Stop Hillary notified the court that it was dropping the case now that the FEC had acted.

An attorney for Stop Hillary, Dan Backer of DB Capitol Strategies in Alexandria, Va., told the NLJ on Tuesday that the group would consider whether to go back to court to challenge the FEC's decision once they reviewed documents from the agency proceedings. Assistant General Counsel William Powers of the FEC said in the Feb. 12 letter that documents related to the case would become part of the public record within 30 days.

"For now we don't know and we don't want to waste the court's time or the FEC's time," Backer said. "We can't know until we review the respondent's communications to the FEC."

A spokeswoman for the FEC declined to comment. A representative of Ready for Hillary was not immediately reached for comment.

Stop Hillary claimed in its FEC complaint that Ready for Hillary used an email list belonging to the authorized campaign committee for Clinton's previous U.S. Senate run, called Friends of Hillary.

"This email was sent or 'deployed' by Hillary Clinton or a vendor employed by the authorized committee to do so," Stop Hillary wrote in the December lawsuit. "Such a deployment would, as is industry standard practice, require approval by the list owner, in this case Hillary Clinton, of the specific content being deployed."

Stop Hillary claimed that Clinton authorized Ready for Hillary to act on her behalf, and that meant Clinton was a presidential candidate who needed

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to register as such with the FEC. Stop Hillary also said that Ready for Hillary should have registered as an authorized committee and been subject to certain campaign finance regulations.

The commission found that the facts presented by Stop Hillary about the email list "do not suggest that Clinton became a candidate" under federal election law, according to a legal analysis included with Powers' letter. Ready for Hillary told the FEC that it paid Friends of Hillary $136,841 to use the email list and that Friends of Hillary was not involved in the email that Ready for Hillary sent out.

Even if Clinton had authorized Ready for Hillary to act on her behalf, the commission said, "she would not become a candidate as a result of those activities so long as they were related only to testing the waters. And the available record here reflects that Clinton and Ready for Hillary PAC have confined their activities solely to evaluating a potential candidacy."

Powers wrote in the FEC's letter that "there were an insufficient number of votes" to find that Ready for Hillary violated campaign finance laws by failing to report the money it spent on its rental of the email list from Friends for Hillary.

Vox: "Hillary Clinton's uncontested nomination is dangerous for her and her party"

By Matthew Yglesias

February 17, 2015, 8:30 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is essentially running unopposed for the Democratic Party nomination in 2016. Yes, Bernie Sanders is in the race. But he has so little support that his natural core constituency is pouring all its time and energy into trying to nudge Elizabeth Warren into the race. But she's not running.

It's a problem. A problem for the Democratic Party, a problem for the United States of America, and ultimately a problem for Hillary Clinton herself.

Not because there's anything wrong with Clinton as a nominee per se. But because there's a lot wrong with a non-existent primary campaign and an untested candidate. Everyone — in many ways including Clinton herself — would be better off if a serious candidate such as Warren, Joe Biden, or someone else managed to enter the race with enough backing and plausibility to force Clinton into a real campaign. That would mean real debates, real media strategy, real policy rollouts, and all the other accompaniments of a presidential nominating congress.

Anything less leaves her dangerously unprepared as she heads into the ultimate contest with a Republican who will have emerged battle-tested from an unusually deep field of plausible contenders.

The un-candidate

The most proximate way in which Clinton's lack of opposition hurts her is in allowing her to maintain her current state of un-candidacy. This means she continues to give high-dollar buckraking speeches with no clear end-date on the calendar. For Clinton personally, this is a balancing act. On the one hand, buckraking has some downsides in terms of public perception. On the other hand, she gets money. For the broader Democratic Party, though, it's all downside. An actual primary campaign would shift Clinton's balance of considerations — focusing the mind on doing what has to be done to win the presidency.

But the bigger problem is simply that running for president is hard.

A vigorous primary campaign is a means through which, among other things, the key potential vulnerabilities in a candidate's biography get aired. Was Clinton lying about her opposition to gay marriage the way David Axelrod says Obama was? Have too many years at the pinnacle of

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American politics left her out of touch with middle class struggles? Can she distance herself from Obama administration foreign policy initiatives that didn't work out (settlement freeze? Russia reset?) without sounding disloyal or ineffectual? Can she answer questions about the complicated finances underlying her husband's foundation?

As long as she's "not running" we just don't know. And the closer she gets to obtaining the nomination without answering the questions, the more vulnerable the position she leaves herself in for the general election.

Unprecedented dominance

Clinton's problem isn't that these are devastating weaknesses. It's simply that like all candidates she has some weaknesses. And normally one function of the primary campaign is to give everyone an opportunity to make sure that the eventual nominee is someone who is able to parry these questions in a reasonable way. In 2012 both Rick Perry and Tim Pawlenty looked like strong candidates on paper, but their inability to deliver competent debate performances gave party leaders a chance to ditch them rather than deal with an embarrassing meltdown in the middle of a general election campaign.

But Clinton's odds of securing the Democratic nomination are so overwhelming that it seems doubtful she'll be tested in any but the most cursory of ways.

She's not by any means the first overwhelming favorite to win a nomination. But even presidential primary juggernauts like Al Gore and George W. Bush in 2000 faced more-than-token opposition from Bill Bradley and John McCain. The underdogs in both cases had at least some endorsements from elected officials and couldn't be simply ignored. Bradley's challenge, in particular, proved rather easy to brush back. But Gore still had to show up, campaign in key states, mobilize volunteers, and debate the issues. The likes of Jim Webb and Bernie Sanders aren't even remotely in that class.

To be clear, I like Sanders, but the fact that his natural constituency is spending all their time on a doomed effort to get Elizabeth Warren into the race tells you what you need to know. Webb's idea of running on an agenda of making Democrats friendly to white men is, merits aside, a mathematically impossible way of securing the Democratic nomination even if he had endorsements or money (which he doesn't).

This isn't opposition Clinton needs to deal with in any way — not with debates, policy initiatives, or anything else. She'll just ignore them, hit the GOP field, and coast to the nomination without the party ever getting a real chance to kick the tires.

A thin electoral resume

Given the extraordinarily long period of time during which Clinton has been in the public eye, this may not seem so bad. But despite being perhaps the single most-covered person in politics over the past quarter century, her record as an actual candidate for office is a bit thin. She ran about five points behind Al Gore in New York in 2000, vanquished nominal opposition in the Democratic landslide year of 2006, and then botched a 2008 primary campaign in which she held formidable advantages.

There is much more to political than electioneering, and Clinton's considerable political skills shouldn't be discounted.

Her ability to secure the Senate nomination in a state where she'd never lived, her 2008 reconstitution of her husband's political operation, and her dominating position in 2016 are all testament to those skills. But in terms of dealing with the media, speaking extemporaneously, and wooing the voters she's had at best a mixed record of success. When she popped her head up for a quasi-campaign book tour, she immediately fumbled and interview claiming to have been "dead broke" when she left office. At the end of the day, presidential campaign gaffes rarely seem to matter much. But they surely don't help. And one reason they don't matter is that nobody makes it through the nominating process without showing they can take the heat.

In 2016, Clinton isn't going to have to show that. And it might cost her — and her party — dearly down the road.

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	MElias@perkinscoie.com "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "Teddy Goff" <teddy.goff@gmail.com> "Huma Abedin" <Huma@clintonemail.com> "Ethan Gelber" <egelber@hrcoffice.com> "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Joel?? Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Jacob Sullivan" <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> jeff@algpolling.com "Tony Carrk" <tony.carrk@gmail.com> "Katie Dowd" <katie.w.dowd@gmail.com>
Date:	4/2/2015 4:53:43 PM
Subject:	Iran Statement

FYI the below just went out to the press from HRC on Iran:

Statement From Secretary Clinton on Iran

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It can never be permitted to acquire a nuclear weapon. It is also vital that these efforts be part of a comprehensive strategy to check Iran's regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From: "Congressman John Garamendi" <info@garamendi.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/28/2015 12:19:07 PM
Subject: Friday at the Sacramento Airport....

Dear John & Mary,

Friday at the Sacramento Airport, as Patti and I got off the plane, we were stopped by a fellow passenger. "Congressman, I just want to thank you for SB 250, your 1982 law that established the Emergency Medical System for California. It has worked for 33 years. I'm the Deputy Director and we save lives every minute. Thank you for your vision."

Wow! What a wonderful way to complete a week of reflection set in motion by the Pope's visit to Washington and the Congress. Yes, reflecting on my public policy work is satisfying. It's a good journey and I always look to tomorrow's challenges.

The list of issues is long and in every way affects all humanity today and future generations as well. Next week I will engage our European allies in a discussion of nuclear weapons. I'm deeply troubled by the restart of a nuclear arms race involving the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China. America will spend over $1Trillion dollars in the next 25 years rebuilding our nuclear bombs and fielding new stealth bombers, missiles, submarines, satellites, and defensive systems. One trillion dollars of your tax money will not be spent on education, infrastructure, healthcare and so many more important issues here at home and abroad, but rather on creating a far more dangerous world.

In Congress we must debate and act on Climate change, challenging our Republican Colleagues to honor the Pope's message on this threat to future generations. We must seek creative ways to revitalize our economy, preserve environmental resources, and create new opportunities for people to receive an affordable education, and a good middle class job. In Congress, I have worked across the aisle to secure emergency fire and drought funding, to fight for American jobs with my Make it in America bills, and to promote diplomacy and peacebuilding.

In this journey I have not been alone. Patti has always been at my side for every step and every issue, and you are there too with advice, financial support and a good word of encouragement.

Yes, it is a good journey, and part of that journey is the never-ending necessity to raise money for the next election, which is just 10 months away. We are quickly approaching the September 30th quarterly reporting deadline, and **my campaign needs your support. If you pitch in $25, $50 or $100 to my campaign, we can continue to address pressing issues facing our nation.**

I am passionate about investing in American families to ensure prosperity for generations to come. That is why I will be seeking reelection in 2016. Your support throughout the years has been critical to my success, and I hope I can count on you to stand with me in the coming months. **You can help by making a contribution here. Big or small, it all counts, so please click here and send what you can.**

Thank you for your support,

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Congressman John Garamendi

Paid for by Garamendi for Congress

916-863-6881
PO Box 440
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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From: "Rabbi Michael Lerner" <shul@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 8/30/2015 12:04:08 AM
Subject: Radical & Joyous High Holiday Celebrations with Environmental Focus This Year

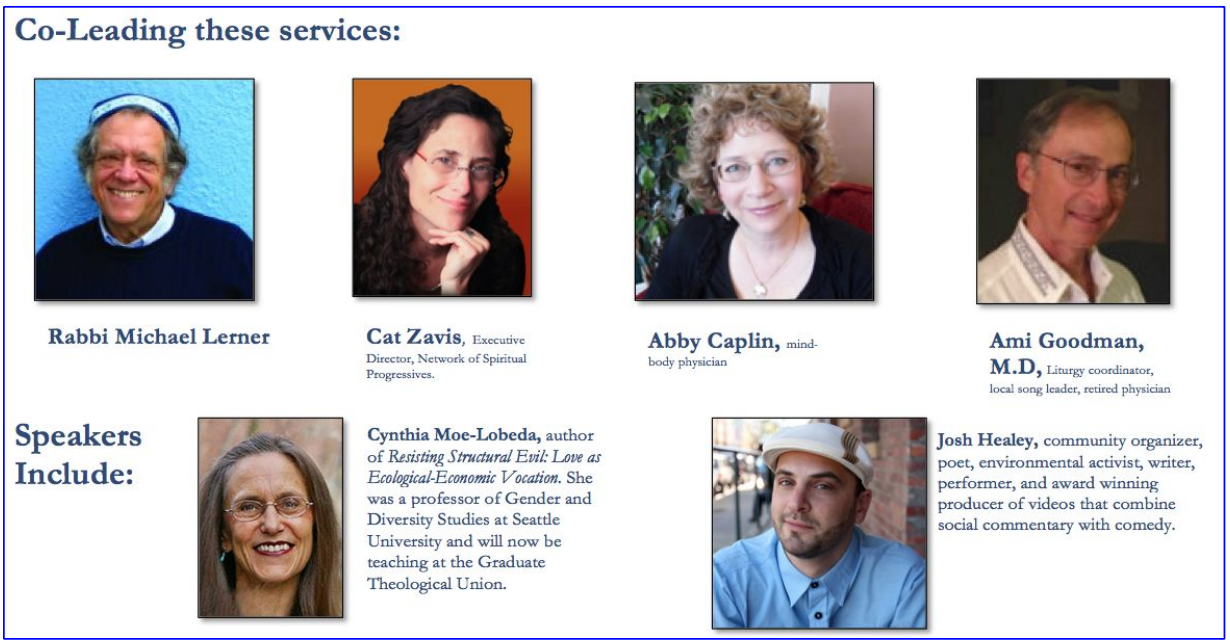

Join a community that knows that inner transformation and healing the larger world are equally important aspects of the High Holiday process of “teshuva” (returning to our highest selves). This year, as part of our High Holiday services, we will be teaching skills in grieving for the world, self-empathy, and other-directed-empathy as part of deepeing our own inner capacities to really face what each of us needs to work on in order to be the most loving, compassionate, spiritually evolved and beloved human being we could possibly be, even as we simultaneously rejoice with awe and wonder at the grandeur and mystery of the universe, and immerse in the richness of the traditional High

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Holiday prayers. You can see why many non-Jews who have come to our services in the past have told us how enriching it is for them to be part of this experience even when they, like many of the Jews who come, don't fully understand the Hebrew chants--the music itself carries many to a deep place inside, and there's plenty of English guidance to the prayers as well.

Our special focus this year is on prayers and guided visualizations for saving the life-support system of the planet at a time when the environmental crisis continues to deepen.

We are a Jewish community that prays for the wellbeing of not only Israel but also of Palestine, that supports the nuclear deal with Iran, that seeks to end racism because Black Lives Matter, and that knows that the selfishness and materialism we often encounter in other human beings is an internalization of the larger dynamics of the competitive marketplace that undergirds global capitalism. We also know that changing all this cannot be accomplished without simultaneously changing ourselves and that Judaism has wonderful spiritual practices for both inner and outer transformation.

This year, JOIN US for an extraordinary High Holidays.

You don't have to be Jewish, believe in God, or know Hebrew to get a lot out of our High Holiday celebrations with Beyt Tikkun Synagogue. In the past, people have come from Australia, U.K. Israel, Canada and Buenos Aires to be with us--it's worth the shlepp from far way to have this unique spiritual experience. More info and to register: www.beyttikkun.org/hhd

Beyt Tikkun Synagogue – Without Walls
BeytTikkun.org/HHD
shul@tikkun.org | 510-644-1200

Location: Services will be held at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley (1798 Scenic Ave). 1 Block from the UC Berkeley

Rosh Hashanah:
September 13th, 14th, 15th
Yom Kippur:
September 22nd, 23rd

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/31/2014 6:42:27 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday July 31, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday July 31, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: In the Senate, @HillaryClinton supported tax credits for student loan recipients #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/XeXXLz [7/30/14, 4:56 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Washington Post: "Hundreds of big donors, including Obama bundlers, are 'Ready for Hillary'"

"At least 222 donors have signed up as co-chairs of Ready for Hillary's national finance council — a commitment that requires donating or raising $25,000 each, or at least $5.6 million between them, according to a membership list obtained by The Washington Post.."

National Journal: "How Can Republicans Blunt Hillary Clinton's Foreign Policy Edge?"

[Subtitle:] "It's been years since Democrats held a national security advantage in a presidential race. If Clinton runs, the GOP will be scrambling to take it away."

CNN: "Applying for new job? Clinton tinkers with her bio"

"Just like anyone thinking about applying for a new position, Hillary Clinton – or people close to her – have tinkered with and beefed up the promotional biography she uses at different events."

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Business Insider: "Clintons Dismiss Tell-All Books About Them As 'Complete Crap'"

"Team Clinton has taken their public criticism of tell-all books about President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton to a new level, accusing a trio of authors of 'concocting trashy nonsense' and producing "complete crap" about them, according to a new Politico report published Thursday."

Roll Call blog: Five by Five: "New Benghazi Report Reaches 'Noncontroversial Conclusions,' Congressman Says"

"Rep. Adam B. Schiff, D-Calif., said Thursday that a House Intelligence Committee investigative report on Benghazi that the panel voted to approve reaches 'noncontroversial conclusions' and that it should be declassified swiftly."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Obama, Clinton could collide on Vineyard"

"The trip by Clinton overlaps with Obama's Aug. 9-23 vacation at Martha's Vineyard."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "How Hillary Clinton has become more popular than Barack Obama"

"While Obama has taken flak for what some call his administration's use of 'soft power,' Clinton has skillfully managed to separate herself from the president, despite once being a key part of his team and directing U.S. foreign policy."

Articles:

Washington Post: "Hundreds of big donors, including Obama bundlers, are 'Ready for Hillary'"

By Philip Rucker and Matea Gold

July 31, 2014, 11:46 a.m. EDT

A diverse cadre of big money Democratic players has directed millions of dollars into a super PAC supporting a potential presidential bid by Hillary Rodham Clinton, underscoring the extent to which the party machinery is tilting in her favor.

At least 222 donors have signed up as co-chairs of Ready for Hillary's national finance council — a commitment that requires donating or raising $25,000 each, or at least $5.6 million between them, according to a membership list obtained by The Washington Post. More than 600 other donors are considered members of the finance council, required to give or raise $5,000 each.

The Ready for Hillary fundraising team includes scores of President Obama's biggest campaign bundlers — evidence that the rift between the two camps has healed considerably since 2008. The super PAC also features donors representing all major sectors of the Democratic Party's money base, from Hollywood to Silicon Valley to Wall Street, the list shows.

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The former secretary of state, who is months way from announcing a decision about a 2016 campaign, enjoys a massive head start in assembling a finance network compared with any other candidate, Democratic or Republican. The breadth and depth of support for her campaign-in-waiting could give serious pause to any Democrat weighing a primary challenge, such as Vice President Biden or Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

"If you look at the finance council as a whole, it's very representative of what a potential Hillary Clinton campaign's finance council will look like," said Adam Parkhomenko, co-founder and executive director of Ready for Hillary. "You have people who've been supporting her for 10, 20, 30 years; you've got people who've never made a contribution to any political campaign before; and you have people who were really active in 2008 and 2012 for President Obama's campaigns."

Shortly after November's midterms elections, Ready for Hillary plans to hold a national finance council meeting in New York to discuss the super PAC's future and Clinton's potential campaign, officials said. While Ready for Hillary can't coordinate with a campaign, it could probably rent or exchange its lists of supporters and donors, campaign finance experts say.

The group has positioned itself as the repository of grass-roots support for Clinton, with many backers giving symbolic gifts of $20.16. But its membership list shows it is being bolstered substantially by big donors. Of the $8.2 million the super PAC reported raising through the end of June, $1.1 million came from donors who gave less than $200, according to a Post analysis of Federal Election Commission reports.

The super PAC's finance council includes Hollywood players (legendary sitcom producer Marcy Carsey and "Homeland" and "24" producer Howard Gordon), technology entrepreneurs (Salesforce.com chief executive Marc Benioff and Enscient Corp. founder Shelly Kapoor Collins), gay rights activists (Tim Gill and Jon Stryker), trial lawyers (Dallas lawyer Marc Stanley), Wall Street financiers (former Goldman Sachs partner Daniel Neidich) and billionaire heavyweights (hedge fund guru George Soros and philanthropist Eli Broad).

Ready for Hillary's leaders have made concerted efforts to woo key backers of Obama's campaigns to make the case that Democrats who were bitterly divided in 2008 will unite behind Clinton. The invitation for a $1,000-per-ticket reception at an upscale Chicago steakhouse in June was co-hosted by longtime Clinton friend Kevin O'Keefe, who ran her Illinois effort in 2008, as well as high-profile Obama bundlers Alan Solow and Laura Ricketts.

"We were careful to show a unified group, so many people important to her and Obama were all together," said Kevin Conlon, a public affairs executive who helped organize the reception.

Fifty major fundraisers who served on Obama's 769-member national finance committee in 2012 already have signed on as co-chairs or members of Ready for Hillary's finance council, according to the Post analysis.

Among them are Benioff, Gill, Qualcomm co-founder Irwin Jacobs, New Jersey public relations executive Michael Kempner, technology investor Steve Spinner and former California state controller Steve Westly.

The corps of former Obama backers also includes Ursula Terrasi, who runs a home store in Kansas City. She said she was drawn to Obama as a candidate — meeting him during the 2008 campaign, she said, "was the most exciting thing." But now she is lining up behind Clinton, whom she said she has "admired from afar."

"I feel it's time for a woman president," said Terrasi, who as a Ready for Hillary co-chair hosted a Kansas City fundraiser that drew some 250 people.

The coalescing of deep-pocketed donors around Ready for Hillary is particularly remarkable given the existence of a different super PAC, Priorities USA Action, that Hollywood producer Jeffrey Katzenberg and other Clinton backers have deemed as the preferred vehicle for big money. After some initial tension between the two groups, Ready for Hillary agreed to voluntarily cap its donations at $25,000.

Priorities USA, meanwhile, has held off fundraising efforts in order not to siphon funds away from the super PACs working to back congressional Democrats in the midterms. So far this cycle, it has collected less than $6,000 in individual contributions, while giving $250,000 each to the Senate and House super PACs.

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But the midterms haven't slowed down Ready for Hillary. The group has made donations to several state parties and, once Clinton hits the campaign trail this fall, will assist candidates she endorses.

"We'll echo her," Parkhomenko said. "We're going to take that energy and excitement around a potential Hillary Clinton candidacy and put that into action around 2014."

While the vast majority of the super PAC's 90,000 donors have given small sums, more than half of Ready for Hillary's money — nearly $4.8 million through the end of June — came from 1,018 contributors who each gave the organization more than $500, officials said.

Many Ready for Hillary co-chairs hail from outside the world of Clinton loyalists. They include New York art dealer Larry Gagosian, who gave money to support Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in 2012, and Northern California philanthropists John and Marcia Goldman, major Democratic benefactors who have given thousands to the party's congressional super PACs.

Other co-chairs are relatively new to big-money politics: Sharon Elghanayan Corzine, who is married to former New Jersey governor Jon Corzine, had only written a few large checks in the past before giving Ready for Hillary $25,000 at the end of March.

But the Ready for Hillary leadership also includes plenty of Hillaryland stalwarts: Esprit clothing line founder Susie Tompkins Buell, former congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Democratic National Committee official Carol Pensky, Washington philanthropist Edie Fraser and former State Department adviser Shelly Porges.

"It is like a groundswell," Pensky said. "Once she actually announces, I do think it's going to be incredible to see the support that is going to come her way."

Fraser said that she and other Clinton friends make a point not to talk about their fundraising efforts with Clinton for fear of getting into murky legal waters. Federal election laws prevent candidates from directly coordinating with super PACs.

"There's basically an arm's-length reach," Fraser said. "I don't think any of us talk to her about Ready for Hillary."

The super PAC also provides a way for longtime Clinton fundraisers — as well as newcomers — to get in early on what they see as her all-but-certain 2016 campaign.

Dan Kessler was only 18 when Clinton ran for president the first time. Now, at age 24, he is a Ready for Hillary finance council co-chair and organized a fundraiser at a Philadelphia nightclub that drew 400 young professionals. Kessler said he has helped put together similar events in Boston, Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh and Seattle.

Kessler said he first met the Clintons as a child; his father, Alan, is a prominent Democratic fundraiser who has backed Bill or Hillary Clinton's campaigns since the 1980s. He said he feels "a real driving predicate of galvanizing this youth involvement across the country."

"Nothing's certain," Kessler said, "but if and when she decides to run, I feel that the networks that I've built across the country are going to be tremendous."

National Journal: "How Can Republicans Blunt Hillary Clinton's Foreign Policy Edge?"

By James Oliphant

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

July 31, 2014

[Subtitle:] It's been years since Democrats held a national security advantage in a presidential race. If Clinton runs, the GOP will be scrambling to take it away.

For evidence that foreign affairs are swiftly emerging as a central factor in the nascent 2016 presidential race, look no further than Dallas, deep in the heart of Texas and 7,000 miles away from the brutal conflict in Gaza.

There, on Wednesday, Texas Gov. Rick Perry gave a speech reaffirming his solidarity with the people of Israel. While it might feel a little like the mayor of Sacramento standing up to Vladimir Putin, the move said much about the wide-open Republican field.

With the world aflame in Gaza, Ukraine, Syria, and elsewhere, potential 2016 candidates are sharpening their foreign policy and national security credentials, seeking outside counsel, and raising their profiles. Perry is just one example. In recent months, others such as Sens. Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, and Marco Rubio have been proving the adage that politicians should never let a crisis go to waste.

The Obama administration has given them a target in plain sight. And while it's relatively easy to lob brickbats from the cheap seats, saying that the president should be, in effect, doing more everywhere, there's another reason why possible contenders have to be working on their foreign policy game now, not later: the prospect of a Hillary Clinton candidacy.

Clinton, the former secretary of State, could place Democrats in an unfamiliar position in the next presidential race, giving them the edge in foreign policy and national security. You would have to go back to Al Gore's race against George W. Bush in 2000 to find the last time that happened—and Gore was never the nation's leading diplomat.

"It's assumed she is a heavyweight on foreign policy," said Vin Weber, the former Republican congressman from Minnesota and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. "You can't look like you're completely outclassed."

Conversely, should Clinton not run and Democrats embrace someone such as Elizabeth Warren, who seems almost exclusively focused on domestic economic issues, that edge would vanish and some Republican—be it Perry, Rubio, or someone else—will be in a position to capitalize. That means they have to lay the groundwork now.

Clinton presents a formidable challenge. She is widely viewed, rightly or wrongly, as more hawkish than Obama, more willing to use American military power. And she has been subtly distancing herself from the president's approach toward hotbeds like Syria and Russia. Her comments in a weekend interview on CNN were seen by some as a critique of the administration. The United States, Clinton said, needs to "go back out and sell ourselves" on the world stage. "What do we stand for and how do we intend to lead and manage?" she asked, adding, "I don't think we've done a very good job of that."

It essentially means that Clinton would, should she run, be occupying the space that might normally be held by a traditional national security Republican, someone like John McCain or Mitt Romney. The New York Times even wondered aloud whether Clinton could be considered a neoconservative in the mold of, wait for it, Paul Wolfowitz. That doesn't mean Clinton would be firewalled from Republican attacks. As Weber says, she can't entirely separate herself from Obama. For one thing, she'll have to defend her move at State to "reset" relations with Putin and Russia—although now she says she was "skeptical" of Putin all along.

In terms of outreach to the foreign policy establishment, Clinton, too, is light-years ahead of her potential rivals. At the State Department, she formed a bipartisan outside advisory group, which included neoconservative scholar Robert Kagan; John Negroponte, who served as an adviser to President Reagan and national intelligence director under George W. Bush; Stephen Krasner, a former aide to Condoleezza Rice at State; and Stephen Hadley, who served as Bush's national security adviser.

Clinton's centrist street cred could force some contenders to veer more sharply to the right to define themselves. There are signs that's already happening. In an interview this week with the Daily Beast, Cruz said he would consider scuttling any nuclear-arms deal struck by the Obama administration with Iran if he considered it a threat to national security. Last month, Rubio likened Sunni insurgents in Iraq and Syria to al-Qaida and criticized Obama for publicly ruling out sending U.S. ground troops to the region. And then there's very real political risk that conservatives such as Cruz could end up alienating mainstream voters with a relentless focus on foreign policy side issues, namely Benghazi.

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But no one's carved out a niche like Paul, who has found himself under repeated attack by the GOP national security establishment. Perry led the charge with a withering op-ed in The Washington Post earlier this month, in which he said the Kentucky libertarian wants to create a "giant moat" around America "where superpowers can retire from the world."

Paul's camp denies the senator's foreign policy should be viewed as "isolationist," as Perry charges. Lorne Craner, a foreign policy adviser to Paul, told National Journal that Paul should be considered a "realist" along the lines of former Republican foreign policy titans like James A. Baker III, Casper Weinberger, and George Schultz. "He has a very high bar for military intervention," said Craner, who worked at the State Department under Colin Powell. "That is important. I think we've learned last 10 years—the last 40 years really—to think carefully before you get into a war."

Ostensibly referring to Perry and some other of Paul's critics, Craner added: "Republicans used to have a reputation as the foreign-policy grownups. That's not the way most voters would describe it at this point."

Paul's recruitment of Craner is part of his extended outreach to Washington's foreign policy community. He's also met with Elliott Abrams, the former Middle East policy expert in the Bush administration, among others. While praising Paul's intellect, Abrams said, "I think he wants to see a very diminished American role.... I think his view is quite distinct."

For his part, Cruz tapped Victoria Coates, a former aide to Donald Rumsfeld, as his top national security adviser after she did a turn advising Perry during the 2012 campaign. Rubio brought aboard Jamie Fly, a member of the National Security Council during the Bush administration and the former executive director of the Foreign Policy Initiative, a neoconservative advocacy group, as his national security adviser. According to The Post, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has consulted with Richard Haass, the president of the Council of Foreign Relations.

Christie illustrates the hazard of trying to master foreign relations on the fly. In March, he had to apologize to GOP mega-donor Sheldon Adelson after referring in a speech to Palestinian regions in Israel as "occupied territories." Weber says that while foreign policy is rarely the primary concern of voters, a "gaffe can be fatal. Every presidential candidate has to make sure they look knowledgeable on America's role in the world."

It's a concern that no doubt was in the forefront of Perry's mind as he delivered his remarks on Israel on Wednesday from the relative safety of Dallas. Like many of his potential rivals, the governor is learning to swim in water that's getting deeper by the day.

CNN: "Applying for new job? Clinton tinkers with her bio"

By Dan Merica

July 31, 2014, 11:47 a.m. EDT

Just like anyone thinking about applying for a new position, Hillary Clinton – or people close to her – have tinkered with and beefed up the promotional biography she uses at different events.

Since leaving the State Department in 2013, Clinton's speaking agency provided organizations before which she was appearing with a variation of the lengthy bio that she uses at the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation. The organization would, in turn, use some or all of the bio in promotional and press materials.

"The bio we used came directly from the Harry Walker agency," said an organizer of a past Clinton event who didn't want to be identified. "It was verbatim and they insist on that as part of the agreement. It is in her contract."

But recently, Clinton has dispensed with her old bio and gone with a shorter description that emphasizes her new memoir and work as secretary of state, including specific highlights from her four years as America's top diplomat.

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A Clinton spokesman tells CNN that the bio was updated for Clinton's new memoir and subsequent book tour. The bio now, however, reads much like the same pitch Clinton has given for why her four years at State were a success and why she would possibly succeed as president.

Clinton undertook efforts "to restore America's leadership after eight years in which it was badly eroded," states the bio, an apparent swipe at former President George W. Bush.

During her nearly two month book tour around her memoir "Hard Choices," Clinton has been asked repeatedly what her major accomplishments were at State. In an answer that now mimics her bio, Clinton told NPR in June that "the most important thing I did was to help restore America's leadership around the world. ... We were flat on our back when I walked in there the first time."

These efforts, according to the bio, included "repairing our fraying alliances to negotiating a cease-fire in Gaza that defended Israel's security and headed off another war in the Middle East," "mobilizing an international coalition to impose crippling sanctions against Iran" and "standing up to China and helping reassert the United States as a Pacific power."

"Thanks in large measure to Hillary's leadership, people were finally able to say: America's back," reads the bio. "She championed human rights, internet freedom, religious freedom, and rights and opportunities for women and girls, LGBT people, and young people around the world, as she has her entire career."

The bio also emphasizes economic actions Clinton took, stating that the former secretary of state "went to bat for American workers and companies around the world to boost exports, create jobs back home, and level the playing field against unfair competition from China and elsewhere."

This is a noticeable departure from Clinton's old bio, which highlighted Clinton's lengthy history in public life, including eight years as first lady of the United States and eight years as the United States senator from New York.

While the old bio mentions Clinton's time as secretary of state – "In her four years as Secretary of State, Clinton played a central role in restoring America's standing in the world and strengthening its global leadership," states to bio – it lacks the specificity that the new bio includes.

Examples of Clinton's new bio began to crop up around events the former secretary of state will attend this fall.

For four upcoming events – an August 28 tech keynote in San Francisco, a September 15 medical keynote in Washington, DC, an October 8 medical keynote in Chicago and a December 4 women's event keynote in Boston – Clinton used the new bio.

In most of her previous speeches – for example, her March speech at the University of California Los Angeles, her April speech at the University of Connecticut and her February speech at the University of Miami – Clinton used a version of her older bio.

Business Insider: "Clintons Dismiss Tell-All Books About Them As 'Complete Crap'"

By Colin Campbell

July 31, 2014

Team Clinton has taken their public criticism of tell-all books about President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton to a new level, accusing a trio of authors of "concocting trashy nonsense" and producing "complete crap" about them, according to a new Politico report published Thursday.

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"Their behavior should neither be allowed nor enabled, and legitimate media outlets who know with every fiber of their being that this is complete crap should know not to get down in the gutter with them and spread their lies," spokesmen for Bill, Hillary, and their daughter, Chelsea Clinton, reportedly said in a joint statement.

The three books — "Blood Feud" by Ed Klein, "Clinton, Inc." by Daniel Halper, and "The First Family Detail" by Ronald Kessler — contain several salacious anecdotes regarding the former first family. In July, the New York Post quoted allegations from Kessler's upcoming book that Bill Clinton "has a buxom blond mistress who visits so often when Hillary Clinton isn't home in Chappaqua that the former president's Secret Service detail have given her an unofficial code name: Energizer." One Klein anecdote depicts Hillary Clinton, an expected presidential contender in 2016, criticizing President Barack Obama by saying, "You can't trust the motherf**ker."

The Clintons are not alone in viewing some of the books' accounts as highly suspect. Klein has come under particular scrutiny from critics who have all but accused him of fabricating his quotes. Previously, a source close to Hillary Clinton told Business Insider Klein was one of the most "despicable" people in the world. (Klein responded: "In typical Clinton fashion, when people can't handle or respond to the truth, they attack the messenger.")

The Clintons' statement to Politco lumped all three authors together as "despicable actors."

"With Klein, Halper and Kessler, we now have a Hat Trick of despicable actors concocting trashy nonsense for a quick buck, at the expense of anything even remotely resembling the truth," the statement said. "It's an insult to readers [and] authors, and should be reserved for the fiction bin, if not the trash."

Roll Call blog: Five by Five: "New Benghazi Report Reaches 'Noncontroversial Conclusions,' Congressman Says"

By Tim Starks

July 31, 2014, 9:57 a.m. EDT

Rep. Adam B. Schiff, D-Calif., said Thursday that a House Intelligence Committee investigative report on Benghazi that the panel voted to approve reaches "noncontroversial conclusions" and that it should be declassified swiftly. Schiff serves on the Intelligence panel as well as the new Republican-created select committee investigating the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Libya.

His full statement:

"The Intelligence Committee report adds to the body of investigative work now completed by numerous committees in Congress, and reaches the same noncontroversial conclusions – that the initial talking points provided by the intelligence community were flawed because of conflicting assessments not an intention to deceive, that there was no stand down order, that the diplomatic facilities lacked adequate security, and that our personnel at the scene acted bravely and appropriately.

"This bipartisan report should be declassified quickly, so that the American people may know what we have learned behind closed doors, and how it concurs with other analysis already made public."

The select Benghazi panel, meanwhile, has been interviewing victims' families. Chairman Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., recently announced that it would hold its first hearing in September, and that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Central Intelligence Agency Director David Petreaus need to testify.

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The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Obama, Clinton could collide on Vineyard"

By Rebecca Shabad

July 31, 2014, 10:58 a.m. EDT

President Obama and Hillary Clinton will both be on Martha's Vineyard next month at the same time, The Boston Globe reports.

Clinton is scheduled to sign copies of her memoir Hard Choices at the Bunch of Grapes Bookstore in Vineyard Haven on Aug. 13. She's considered the 2016 Democratic frontrunner for president if she decides to enter the race.

The trip by Clinton overlaps with Obama's Aug. 9-23 vacation at Martha's Vineyard.

The bookstore appears to only be a 25-minute drive away from Chilmark, Mass., which is where the Obamas will be staying, according to Martha's Vineyard Times.

It's unclear, however, if the two will meet up.

The president and his family have vacationed on the Vineyard every year since he took office except 2012 because of his reelection campaign, the report noted.

This year, locals told the Times that the Obamas will be staying in a seven-bedroom, nine-bathroom house worth an estimated $12 million that overlooks the Vineyard Sound.

Joanne Hubschman owns the home, which features 17 rooms in total, a hot tub, infinity pool, and a tennis-basketball court. Hubschman's late husband was a former executive at General Electric.

The Obamas vacationed last December in Hawaii, which is where the president grew up.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "How Hillary Clinton has become more popular than Barack Obama"

By Sebastian Payne and Sean Sullivan

July 31, 2014, 12:17 p.m. EDT

"You're likable enough, Hillary."

How times have changed since then-Sen. Barack Obama made that remark in a televised debate ahead of the 2008 New Hampshire primaries. Back then, more of the public preferred Obama over rival Sen. Hillary Clinton. In a poll conducted soon after Obama gave that backhanded compliment, 54 percent said they had a favorable opinion of Clinton compared to 63 percent for Obama. The Democrats, and eventually the nation, decided that Obama was the more popular one, as demonstrated by his later primary successes and two presidential election victories.

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But six years later, the popularity ratings of Obama vs. Clinton have reversed. According to a new Quinnipiac University survey of Ohio voters released Thursday, things are pretty bad for President Obama in the Buckeye State. He has a 36 percent approval/59 percent disapproval rating. Things are better for Clinton — she leads a handful of potential 2016 presidential opponents, including popular home state Gov. John Kasich (R).

"The bad news for Democrats is that President Obama's approval rating in Ohio is close to his all-time, all-state low. The good news for the party is that the president doesn't appear to be hurting the Democrats' consensus front-runner for 2016, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton," said Quinnipiac pollster Peter Brown in the polling memo.

Ohio, a perennial swing state, is fertile ground for Clinton ahead of a possible 2016 run for president. She sports a +9 net favorable rating. And she beats four potential GOP foes in head-to-head match-ups, according to the poll: Clinton tops Kasich 47 percent to 40 percent; she gets past Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) 46 percent to 42 percent; she bests former Florida governor Jeb Bush 48 percent to 37 percent; and she tops New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie 46 percent to 37 percent.

Other polls reinforce the Quinnipiac findings. At the beginning of 2014, 49 percent said in a Post-ABC poll they held a favorable opinion of Obama, but 58 percent said the same for Clinton. Although Clinton's favorable ratings have fallen by nine points since Clinton resigned as secretary of state, her new popularity suggests she has weathered the scrutiny and strains of high political office better than the president has.

Clinton is now seen by the public as the stronger leader. A CNN/ORC poll carried out this month offered a direct comparison of the characteristics of both politicians, and in every category, Clinton beats Obama. By double-digit leads, Clinton is seen by more people as a decisive leader and able to manage government effectively. More people also believe Clinton "generally agrees with you on issues you care about," cares about "people like you," as well as "sharing your values." Although it's not a direct comparison, the same poll puts Clinton on a 59 percent job approval rating from her time as secretary of state. Obama has a 41 percent approval rating.

Some of the groups who have felt alienated by the Obama presidency are being won round by Clinton. Take Wall Street, always one of the president's most complicated relationships. Although Wall Street financiers raised over $12 million during Obama's last campaign, few financiers appear to have much love for the president. It was his administration that pushed the Dodd-Frank banking reforms into law, and Obama said recently that "further reforms" are required. As one banker put it to CNN Money: "There's been so much finger pointing. He's made it seem bad to be successful and to be millionaires and billionaires."

But Clinton has cultivated a warmer relationship with Wall Street. Last week, she spoke at the Ameriprise Financial Conference in Boston — adding to her frequent visits to Goldman Sachs and to investors such as those from The Carlyle Groups. Going back to 1999, Clinton backed the repeal of the Glass-Steagall banking law, which some, including potential 2016 candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), believe played a part in the financial crisis. Clinton's popularity on Wall Street may help her against Republicans if the GOP chooses an openly critical candidate in 2016, such as Sens. Rand Paul (Ky.) or Ted Cruz (Tex.). But Jeb Bush might pose more of a threat; a top Republican lawyer recently told Politico that he would "love" a Clinton vs. Bush race in 2016, as "either outcome would be fine."

On foreign policy, look for Clinton to contrast her more hawkish tendencies with the Obama administration's approach. During an interview on CNN on Sunday, Clinton appeared to criticize the Obama administration's interactions with other nations. "How do we try to enlist the rest of the world in this struggle between cooperation and order and conflict and disorder, which is really at the root of so much that's going on today? And I don't think we've done a very good job of that," she said. She also noted the popularity of George W. Bush in Africa because of his efforts to battle AIDS there. He made me "proud to be an American again," Clinton said.

Clinton's message was clear when she was secretary of state — "the United States is back." She was keener to intervene in Libya, favored keeping troops on the ground in Iraq and infamously voted for invading Iraq in 2002, before trying to distance herself from that vote during the 2008 presidential primaries.

Obama has sought to end wars and bring troops home. Last month, the president said that U.S. troops could not solve Iraq's problems and that it's up to Iraqis to work out a solution.

While Obama has taken flak for what some call his administration's use of 'soft power,' Clinton has skillfully managed to separate herself from the president, despite once being a key part of his team and directing U.S. foreign policy.

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From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 12/19/2015 1:01:00 AM
Subject: Many top federal contractors have human rights violations

PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Many Top Federal Contractors Have Human Rights Violations

As Human Rights Week wraps up, we invite the public to explore our Federal Contractor Misconduct Database for instances in which the federal government's largest suppliers — such as Royal Dutch Shell — were alleged or found to have violated basic human rights and freedoms.

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Safety Board Slams Pantex for Lax Emergency Preparedness

Pantex's disaster preparedness problems include a lack of training for staff, poor communication with public safety personnel, and inefficient decision-making tools for emergencies.

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Federal Fraud Recoveries Drop More than 38 Percent

In fiscal year 2015, the Department of Justice recovered more than $3.5 billion in cases involving fraud against the government—a dramatic decrease from the previous fiscal year's total.

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EITI Report Shows Impact of Resource Extraction on Taxpayers

The U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) released a report on oil, gas, minerals, and renewable resources, and made data about those resources available to the public.

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POGO's Federal Contractor Misconduct Database comes alive in an online interactive graph.

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Nuclear Weapons Complex Misconduct by the Numbers

POGO's recently re-launched Federal Contractor Misconduct Database sheds new light on waste, fraud, and abuse by nuclear weapons complex contractors.

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From the World of POGO

Editor's Note:

Greetings everyone!

With the holidays approaching, the Weekly Reader will be on a brief hiatus, to return Saturday, January 9th.

Warm holiday wishes from all of us at POGO,

Leslie Garvey

Digital Media Manager

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/12/2008 4:05:44 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain Misprounces Mikhail Saakashvili's Name

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/08/whats-my-name.html

What's My Name?
Posted by Adam Blickstein

Too bad Wikipdia doesn't phonetically spell out the names of world leaders who are at war with Russia cause John McCain could use the assistance (or at least maybe one of his top foreign policy aides who used to work for the Georgian government could have helped):

[VIDEO]

To quote Bob from Office Space: We're gonna be getting rid of these people here... First, Mr. Samir Naga... Naga... Naga... Not gonna work here anymore, anyway.

August 12, 2008 at 07:57 AM | Permalink

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/5/2015 12:49:21 AM
Subject:	H4A 6.05.15
Attachments:	6.05.15 H4A Clips .docx

H4A News Clips
June 5, 2015

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

ABC and NBC both had brief segments on Rick Perry entering the race today; Perry is citing his military experience and record as Governor of Texas. On CBS John Dickerson was interviewed and noted HRC was the titan of the race; Dickerson said Chafee was interesting because he challenged HRC's trustworthiness and foreign policy judgment, while MOM argues that America needs a new generation. Dickerson said the danger for HRC was that voters would hear a consistent message from Republicans and Democrats for a long time.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Says G.O.P. Rivals Try to Stop Young and Minority Voters // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 4, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday accused Republicans including her potential rivals Jeb Bush, Scott Walker and Rick Perry of "deliberately trying to stop" young people and minorities — both vital Democratic constituencies — from exercising their right to vote, as she presented an ambitious agenda to make it easier for those groups and other Americans to participate in elections.

Speaking at Texas Southern University here in front of her largest crowd yet as a candidate for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, Mrs. Clinton accused Republicans generally of enacting state voting laws based on what she called "a phantom epidemic of election fraud" because they are "scared of letting citizens have their say."

"What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other," Mrs. Clinton told a crowd of about 2,000 in a basketball arena at the historically black campus.

She called for automatic voter registration in every state when young people turn 18, criticized Republican-sponsored voting laws in North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin, and urged Congress to take immediate action to reinstate an important provision of the Voting Rights Act that she said the Supreme Court had "eviscerated" in a 2013 ruling.

In addition to areas she said needed to be addressed, like easier online registration, shorter lines at polling precincts and a minimum of 20 days for early voting before an election, Mrs. Clinton called for a nationwide law modeled on one recently passed in Oregon that automatically adds voters to the rolls when they turn 18, using driver's license data. Residents would have to opt out to avoid being added to the voter rolls.

But she also used the occasion to attack by name several of her potential Republican rivals.

"There are people who offer themselves to be leaders whose actions have undercut this fundamental American principle," Mrs. Clinton said.

Mr. Perry, the former Texas governor who formally entered the race for the Republican nomination on Thursday, "signed a law that a federal court said was actually written with the purpose of discriminating against minority voters," she said, and he "applauded" when the Voting Rights Act was "gutted."

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"But Governor Perry is hardly alone in his crusade against voting rights," Mrs. Clinton continued. In Wisconsin, Governor Walker "cut back early voting and signed legislation that would make it harder for college students to vote," she said. Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey "vetoed legislation to extend early voting." And when Jeb Bush was governor of Florida, she recalled, "state authorities conducted a deeply flawed purge of voters before the presidential election in 2000" that sent his brother George W. Bush to the White House.

"What part of democracy are they afraid of?" she said.

Orlando Watson, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, called Mrs. Clinton's remarks "misleading and divisive" and "shameless," and said they "ignore the fact her Democrat-led home state of New York does not allow early voting while dozens of Republican-led states do."

Mrs. Clinton's early and aggressive stance on voting rights could help bolster her liberal credentials and energize black voters. In her appearance at Texas Southern University, where blues music and a high school marching band played before she arrived, she invoked the civil rights leaders who worked on the 1965 Voting Rights Act, in a speech that had the feel of an impassioned pitch to the young and minority voters who largely supported Mr. Obama over Mrs. Clinton in 2008, and whom she will need to win in 2016.

Mrs. Clinton recalled helping register poor and Hispanic voters in Texas for George S. McGovern's presidential campaign in 1972. And she praised Barbara Jordan, the congresswoman and civil rights leader for whom an award Mrs. Clinton accepted on Thursday was named.

Texas is a solidly red state, but by delivering her remarks here, Mrs. Clinton could communicate to voters in battleground states without seeming too overtly political, her supporters said.

"Ohio will hear it. Pennsylvania will hear it," said Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat who presented Mrs. Clinton with the inaugural Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion.

"The rhetoric is great," said Representative James E. Clyburn, a South Carolina Democrat and the highest-ranking African-American in Congress. "But that's all you can do when you're not in office, is talk," he cautioned. "It takes getting elected to get something done."

Mr. Clyburn, who clashed with Bill Clinton on racial issues during the 2008 Democratic primary, said of Mrs. Clinton's remarks, "I'd hope people would respond with their voting, sufficiently enough for her to win the office and follow through."

Mrs. Clinton spoke not just of minority voters, but also of young people who she said had been disenfranchised by new voting laws in states like Texas.

"If you want to vote in this state, you can use a concealed weapon permit as a valid form of identification, but a valid student ID isn't good enough," Mrs. Clinton said.

Hillary Clinton calls for sweeping expansion of voter registration // WaPo // Anne Gearan & Niraj Chokshi – June 4, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday called for sweeping changes in national voter registration laws aimed at making it easier for young people and minorities to take part in elections, putting her on a collision course with Republicans who say such reforms are a political ploy that would lead to widespread abuses.

In a speech at a historically black college here, Clinton called for federal legislation that would automatically register Americans to vote at age 18 and would mandate at least 20 days of early voting ahead of election days in all states.

Clinton believes that universal registration would help "expand access to the ballot box," particularly for young people, the elderly and minorities, an aide said ahead of Clinton's speech at Texas Southern University.

Nationwide mandatory voter registration would help Democrats, whose support frequently comes from younger, poorer and minority groups that may also be less likely to sign up to vote at 18 on their own. The change would have to be approved by Congress — now controlled by Republicans — so it is unlikely to happen in time to benefit Clinton in the 2016 election if she is the Democratic nominee.

Clinton said Republican state legislatures are deliberately restricting voting by curtailing early access to the polls and other measures in an effort to suppress Democratic turnout.

Several GOP presidential hopefuls, including Rick Perry in Texas and Scott Walker in Wisconsin, pushed such restrictions as governors. Clinton spoke on the same day that Perry announced his own second White House run near Dallas.

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Republican efforts to limit voter registration have a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and on young voters, Clinton said.

Under universal voter registration, every citizen would be automatically registered to vote on their 18th birthday, unless they actively opt out.

About 71 percent of eligible adults nationwide are registered to vote, according to Census figures, and a lower percentage actually show up at the polls. Registration and turnout tend to be higher among older and relatively affluent white voters, who are also more likely to vote Republican.

Although early voting has become fairly common in the last decade, it remains a cause of suspicion for many Republicans who say it increases the opportunity for fraudulent voting. Republicans have raised similar objections to same-day registration and other efforts — many of them led by Democrats — to make voting easier or more convenient.

Election analysts generally agree that voter fraud is rare, although there have been a handful of well-publicized examples of fraudulent names being added to the rolls.

Clinton's address comes as Democrats are pursuing legal challenges to voting rule changes approved by Republican legislatures in several states. The candidate and her allies claim the changes are aimed at narrowing the electorate in ways that benefit Republicans.

"This is, I think, a moment when we should be expanding the franchise," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said in an interview Wednesday. "What we see in state after state is this effort by conservatives to restrict the right to vote."

In recent weeks, top Clinton campaign lawyer Marc Elias has co-filed lawsuits over voting access in Ohio and Wisconsin, both key presidential battleground states with Republican governors who may join the 2016 race.

"This lawsuit concerns the most fundamental of rights guaranteed citizens in our representative democracy — the right to vote," lawyers wrote in a federal complaint filed Friday in Wisconsin.

"That right has been under attack in Wisconsin since Republicans gained control of the governor's office and both houses of the State legislature in the 2010 election," the lawsuit alleges.

Since the 2010 Republican wave, 21 states have implemented new laws restricting voting access, some cutting back on early voting hours and others limiting the number of documents considered valid identification to vote, according to a new analysis from the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan think tank at the New York University School of Law. For 14 of those states, the 2016 contest will be the first presidential election with the new restrictions in place.

Some limits also flowed from the 2013 Supreme Court decision that invalidated some parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The day that decision came down, Perry praised it as a "clear victory for federalism and the states" and vowed to proceed with the implementation of a strict photo ID requirement, previously blocked under the law. That requirement is currently being challenged in court, with a resolution expected as soon as this summer.

About three dozen states and D.C. offer early voting of some kind, allowing voters to cast ballots before Election Day without an excuse. The average early voting period is roughly 22 days, the bipartisan National Conference of State Legislatures reported earlier this year. Oregon's breakthrough "new motor voter" law passed earlier this year is the closest any state has come to the kind of automatic registration Clinton called for. Under the new law, all Oregonians applying for a new or updated driver's license are automatically added to the voter rolls, unless they opt-out.

Hillary leans hard into the battle over voting // WaPo // Greg Sargent – June 4, 2015

As you may have heard, Hillary Clinton is already leaning into the ever-simmering battle over voting. Her Democratic allies are preparing to wage a national legal battle against GOP state-level voting restrictions, and she is calling for a national 20-day early voting period.

But now, Clinton is rolling out a third prong in her push for an expansion of voting access: In a speech in Texas that is underway right now, she is calling for universal, automatic voter registration.

Automatic voter registration for citizens has long been championed by voting reformers as a key part of modernizing our voting system. Clinton's proposal would require the registration of all citizens in every state when they turn 18 years of age, unless they opt out. She is also endorsing the general goal of universal registration for those over 18, without endorsing a specific mechanism to accomplish this. According to the Brennan Center, there

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are various ways to add people to the voter rolls, such as when changes of address are filed. States can also implement required universal registration for people of all ages, as Oregon has done. Clinton cited Oregon as an example today.

Voting reform advocates favor universal, automatic registration as a way to streamline and simplify the registration process, to eliminate matching problems between state databases, reduce the possibility of voter registration fraud, and maximize voter participation.

In political terms, Clinton's call for universal voting registration appears to be a bid to energize millennial voters. As it is, the broader voting access push — like her recent moves leftward on immigration, climate change, and sentencing reform — is partly about mobilizing core Obama coalition groups, including minorities. Today's proposal is more heavily focused on the young. After all, one of the key unknowns of the cycle is whether Clinton will be able to turn out Obama voters on the same levels he did, and young voters — who were excited by the historical nature of Obama's candidacy — are key to that.

"There's a good policy reason why Clinton might support universal voting, but there's also a good political reason," Rick Hasen, a voting law expert, tells me. "These are issues that motivate the Democratic base. Talking about Republicans suppressing the vote gets Democrats excited, just like talking about voter fraud motivates Republicans."

Indeed, Clinton's proposal today seems likely to draw opposition from conservatives and Republicans. For one thing, they would probably seize on the chance to attack her for favoring another government mandate and federal encroachment on states, and also to argue that government mandated registration could produce other types of fraud. The Clinton camp will probably try to pitch this proposal — and her push for more voting access in general — in a way that rebuffs GOP efforts to turn independents against it, casting it as key to maintaining the integrity of the process.

For another thing, as Hasen has noted elsewhere, the battle over voting access revolves around a much deeper dispute, in which some opponents of increased access have explicitly argued that making voting harder actually leads not only to less voter fraud but to more informed choices.

"There are two ways of thinking about voting," Hasen tells me. "The first, which is associated with conservatives, is that voting is about choosing the best candidate. If you take that view, you might want restrictions that winnow out uninterested or uneducated voters. Democrats and liberals are more likely to take the second view — that we should all have an easy way to vote and share in political power."

That seems like an argument the Clinton campaign might want to have.

Clinton names and shames Republicans for voting restrictions // Politico // Annie Karni – June 4, 2015

For the first time since hitting the campaign trail two months ago, Hillary Clinton took on her Republican rivals by name, calling out four presidential contenders as she spoke authoritatively about restoring voting rights and asked rhetorically, "What part of Democracy are they afraid of?"

The former secretary of state also called for a new national standard of at least 20 days of early in-person voting in every state, a move she argued would reduce long lines at the polls and expand participation.

"What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to another," Clinton said in a fiery 30-minute speech at Texas Southern University, a historically black college.

But it was the portion of her speech where she uncharacteristically went on a personal attack against former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie that was the apex of her speech. About two-thirds of the way into her remarks, she blasted the group for "fear-mongering" on a "phantom epidemic of election fraud."

"Former Governor Rick Perry signed a law that a federal court said was actually written with the purpose of discriminating against minority voters," she said. "He applauded when the Voting Rights Act was gutted." She slammed Texas for having laws where student IDs are not accepted as valid identification at the polls but a concealed weapons permit is.

"In Wisconsin, Scott Walker cut back early voting and signed legislation that would make it harder for college students to vote," she said, and called out Christie for vetoing legislation to extend early voting.

"In Florida, when Jeb Bush was governor, state authorities conducted a deeply flawed purge of voters before the 2000 presidential election," she said. "Today Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop

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millions of American citizens from voting."
Of her four targets, only Perry is a declared candidate so far.

Clinton challenged the entire group to "explain why they're so scared of citizens having their say."

Arguing for a change of law to allow voting on the weekends, she said: "If families coming out of church on Sunday are inspired to vote, they should be free to do just that. We know that early, in-person voting will reduce those long lines and give citizens the chance to participate."

Clinton said the fight to protect voting rights was "for the student who has to wait hours for his or her right to vote, for the grandmother who's turned away from the polls because her driver's license expired, for the father whose done his time and paid his debt to society but still hasn't gotten his rights back."
The event at Texas Southern University, during which Clinton accepted an award named after Barbara Jordan, the first African-American woman to represent Texas in Congress was her only public event during her Texas trip, sandwiched by fundraisers.
Clinton has been building up her attacks on her likely Republican opponents. In South Carolina earlier this month, she drew a contrast with remarks on equal pay by Walker, and Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky. But she did not mention them by name.

At a roundtable discussion on immigration reform in Las Vegas last month, she challenged Republicans to attack her by moving beyond President Barack Obama on the issue, and told the participants, "this is where I differ from everyone on the Republican side."

While her campaign maintains Clinton is squarely focused on the primary, Clinton on Thursday showed that the personal attacks are not a one-way street as she embraced an issue that is a flash point between Democrats and the GOP.

Democrats, and particularly minority groups, are energized and angered by what they see as blatant Republican attempts to disenfranchise them. Obama has claimed that the very right to vote is threatened. Democrats have hit the issue hard, not only on the merits but also because it galvanizes the party's base and helps raise money.
On the GOP side, leaders argue restrictive voting laws they support are necessary to maintain ballot box integrity. But many of those laws disproportionately impact minority communities.

Outside groups supporting Clinton see the overall contrast with the Republican party as a strong play for the former secretary of state. As senator, they note, Clinton introduced the Count Every Vote Act, which would have made Election Day a national holiday and put in place early voting, same-day registration and uniform standards for IDs across the states.

"Nearly the entire Republican Party has worked to restrict voting, from Republicans like Scott Walker and Marco Rubio who supported limiting opportunities for early and weekend voting, to Rick Perry who signed legislation that disenfranchised up to 600,000 registered Texas voters," said Adrienne Watson, spokeswoman for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record. "Hillary Clinton her entire life has championed the right of Americans to have a voice at the ballot box."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Chris Murphy (6/4/15, 12:15 pm) - No one is going to fight harder for CT families than @HillaryClinton. That's why I'm proud to endorse her today.

Norah O'donnell (6/4/15, 7:06 am) - .@CBSNews confirms Jeb Bush event on June 15 in Miami will be his presidential announcement: bit.ly/1dfHazv

Mark Murray (6/4/15, 9:46 am) - No doubt O'Malley racked up progressive achievements as MD GOV. But that '07 op-ed undercuts that he's always been a true-blue progressive

Gabriel Debenedetti (6/4/15, 6:44pm) - O'Malley super PAC @GenFwdPAC drops $33k for ads in Iowa, according to new FEC filing: http://1.usa.gov/1FyEOTb

Peter Nicholas (6/4/15, 1:27 pm) - Bernie Sanders, on CNN, says "Secretary Clinton had the same information I had" and yet she voted to authorize Iraq war in 2002.

Peter Nicholas (6/4/15, 1:30 pm) - DNC Chair DWS rejects idea that Dem pres candidates should criticize Hillary's ethics. Lincoln Chafee had said "too many ethical" qs re HRC

Mark Murray (6/4/15, 12:56 pm) - Perry's speech epitomizes GOP's rhetorical shift from economy/debt (No.1 issue in 2012) to national security/foreign policy

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Caitlin Huey-Burns (6/4/15, 1:39 pm) - Rubio, on Fox, calls HRC's immigration position big shift from 2008 when she wasn't sure if she'd give licenses to undocumented immigrants

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Why a Presidential Campaign Is the Ultimate Start-Up // NYT // Neil Irwin – June 4, 2015

A new start-up in Brooklyn Heights has 80,000 square feet of freshly leased office space, computer boxes used as improvised furniture and enormous ambitions.

Its growth plans put Silicon Valley start-ups to shame. The new outfit expects to hire hundreds of people and raise and spend one or two billion dollars by late next year. Its competition is stiff, with similarly well-funded rivals in Florida, Wisconsin and elsewhere.

But if the Brooklyn team succeeds, it will make history. It is a political campaign, not a fledgling tech company, and it aims to get Hillary Rodham Clinton elected president of the United States.

Like the presidential campaigns of a host of other candidates, announced and unannounced, it faces a complex management challenge that parallels those of fast-moving tech start-ups, according to people who have worked in both. Those commonalities contain lessons about how to build a company — or, for that matter, get someone elected president.

Campaigns are "The Fastest Start-ups in the World," as Matt McDonald, a former McKinsey consultant who worked on the 2008 John McCain effort and other Republican campaigns, calls them in a new report issued by Hamilton Place Strategies, the Washington public affairs firm where he is a partner. He points out that buzzy social media firms may attain multibillion-dollar paper valuations quickly, but take years to reach a scale equivalent to a major presidential campaign in spending and employee count.

A serious candidate for president, after all, requires a high-functioning team that is built from scratch in just a few months. That typically means appointing a campaign manager who may have a background as a political strategist but who becomes de facto chief executive of a complicated enterprise that has no time to evolve gradually. Start-ups and campaigns are both driven by people with a range of motives: an idealistic desire to change the world along with less noble goals of attaining a great fortune or power.

An enormous staff must be assembled, learn how to work together and execute intricate and interrelated tasks. Among them are raising vast sums of money and developing and executing what is essentially an enormous marketing campaign. In the end, of course, participants hope to persuade millions of people to "buy" — meaning, show up at the polls and vote for the candidate on Election Day.

"A lot of start-ups and a lot of campaigns are similar," said David Plouffe, the manager of Barack Obama's 2008 campaign who is now chief adviser at the fast-growing transportation upstart Uber. "Decisions need to be made, and there are new challenges every day, while at the same time you're trying to hire a lot of people and scale an organization."

Ken Mehlman, who headed George W. Bush's 2004 re-election campaign and is now an executive at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the private equity firm, sees similar challenges. "I viewed my job as being the C.E.O. of a company that in the beginning was a start-up, and was ultimately a very large company," he said. "My underlying thesis is that my job wasn't to be a political genius. My job was to take best management practices and apply them to politics."

Those Obama and Bush campaigns were, almost by definition, the most successful of the last 15 years. One propelled a man with barely two years of experience in the Senate to a two-term presidency, and the other re-elected an incumbent whose popularity was starting to be weighed down by a war. Their lessons are already being emulated by the 2016 presidential campaigns, and could as easily be borrowed by aspiring Mark Zuckerbergs.

The 2008 Obama campaign, for example, put a premium on hiring people for whom the job was a bit of a stretch. All else being equal, for example, it preferred to appoint as director for a given state someone who had been a deputy director in a previous campaign, not someone who had served in the same role many times.

Part of this was necessity; when the Obama effort began in 2007, Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Democratic nomination had locked up many experienced operatives. But in the view of Mr. Plouffe and his colleagues, their approach had advantages because it created a team that had something to prove and was unlikely to be complacent.

"If you assemble a bunch of grizzled veterans, you're not going to get that sense of inventiveness, and the culture will be one that is not terribly conducive to good ideas emanating from everywhere," said Mr. Plouffe. "It happens more naturally in the tech world, where the C.E.O. can come out of anywhere and brilliant people may not have a lengthy résumé."

A related strategy was to create relatively rigid pay bands and avoid getting into lengthy negotiations over salary, the approach being more "this is what this job pays; take it or leave it."

It meant that many people working on the campaign did so for less money than they could have made elsewhere. This helped to create a culture of frugality and made it more likely that people joined the staff because they believed in the campaign, not just for a paycheck.

George W. Bush's campaigns were known for frugality, and Hillary Clinton's nascent 2016 campaign reportedly strives for it (among the manifestations of the thrift: no business cards, and employees are to use their cellphones rather than a desk line).

Mr. Mehlman said that in the 2004 Bush campaign, this culture came from the top: His own salary was $150,000

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a year, and no one made more than that. Travel arrangements were made on the cheap, the logic being that every dollar spent on a high-end hotel was one fewer available for advertising or voter outreach in swing states.
“I stayed in Motel 6’s just like everyone else,” he said.
The parallel for start-ups is striking. While there are exceptions, young companies typically want to keep expenses down to minimize the rate at which they burn cash, and they want people drawn by belief in the company, not by the allure of a cushy office, generous expense account or high salary.
There are important differences, of course. For people working for campaigns, the potential reward tends to be a job at the White House or a top government agency, while for start-up employees it is a giant payday from stock options.
But campaigns and start-ups share common challenges as they ramp up operations. A campaign that wins its party’s nomination must expand exponentially as it moves from primaries to a general election. What was once a small, tight-knit group must suddenly add many more people, often those with more experience.
It is much like a start-up that goes from a dozen people in a garage to hundreds of staff members, many with deeper résumés than the original ragtag crew. Part of the job for those at the top is massaging egos and trying to keep everyone committed and enthusiastic even as that transition takes place.
“You need to layer in some more senior hands who have been through it before, but deciding who is in decision meetings and who is in charge can be difficult as you scale from a primary campaign to the general,” Mr. McDonald said. “It’s not dissimilar to the old stereotypical Silicon Valley start-up where a company raises venture capital money and gets the company to a certain level, and the V.C.s say, ‘Thanks very much, now we’ll hire a real C.E.O.’ ”
Some of the management questions are fundamental. Should power be concentrated at the top of an organization or distributed broadly? Should there be strict lines of authority in which everyone stays in his or her narrow lane, or a more open management structure where people cut across organizational barriers?
Veterans of both worlds argued that a hybrid approach makes the most sense. They stressed the importance of the leaders setting clear goals and giving subordinates leeway to reach them — combined with accountability should they fail.
Both the Bush and Obama campaigns emphasized measuring success and failure quantitatively. Even for seemingly subjective areas like communications, the Bush campaign would calibrate how many potential voters in a swing state were likely to have seen a news broadcast of a positive story. In other words, a nice press clip was great, but it counted as a success only if it was seen by large numbers of voters in Ohio and Florida.
“Great campaigns are formulaic in the way they establish responsibilities for campaign staff, but also ruthless in their tracking and demands for results,” said Tucker Bounds, a veteran Republican campaign operative who later worked at Facebook, which has a similar culture of high expectations and reliance on data.
One of the biggest tests of management is how it copes with a crisis. For a tech start-up the issue might be a failed product introduction, a big move by a competitor or fund-raising problems that necessitate layoffs; for a campaign it might be the loss of a major primary or the emergence of an unflattering videotape.
Both types of organizations are built on momentum, and both risk a vicious cycle when something goes wrong. Negative headlines can be self-fulfilling, as would-be campaign supporters or a company’s customers and investors flee.
Leaders in either world must rise to the occasion. Mr. Plouffe, for example, described how the Obama 2008 campaign weathered a loss to Hillary Clinton in the New Hampshire primary, which sapped the campaign’s momentum.
“You make clear that you will diagnose what went wrong, and have a sense that this is a tough blow,” Mr. Plouffe said. “You have to tell people how you’ll get through it.” In that case, he said, he had to explain how the campaign intended to win future states and ultimately enough delegates to capture the Democratic nomination.
“Without that it would have seemed like happy talk,” he said. “But the first time you deal with a setback and recover, those bonds between people on the team really strengthen. When you show the ability to fight through it, you become a band of brothers and sisters.”
The best-managed campaign won’t necessarily win the presidency. The political winds, the skills and positions of the candidates and the state of the economy all help determine that. Similarly, the best-run company doesn’t necessarily prevail against a competitor with a better product.
Leading a start-up effective enough to win the presidency is no easy task. But it may pale next to the challenge and opportunity ahead: reconstituting a successful management team to steer the 2.7 million civilian employees of the executive branch. Having mastered the high-speed start-up, in other words, the candidates and their lieutenants may get to apply their talents to running the government of the United States.

Appealing to Union, Hillary Clinton Calls Teachers ‘Scapegoats’ // NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 4, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton made an appeal for an endorsement from the American Federation of Teachers this week, suggesting in a private meeting with union officials that critics have turned teachers into “scapegoats for all of society’s problems.”

“From what I’ve seen, all of the evidence, and my own personal experience, says that the most important and impactful thing we can do for our public schools is to recruit, support and retain the highest-quality educators,” Mrs. Clinton said before a question-and-answer session with teachers, according to the union, which released her remarks.

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"It is just dead wrong to make teachers the scapegoats for all of society's problems," she said. "Where I come from, teachers are the solution." Mrs. Clinton's remarks were first reported by BuzzFeed.

Mrs. Clinton, as well as two other Democratic presidential hopefuls, former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, appeared at the union's executive council meeting this week. But even allies of Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Sanders acknowledge that Mrs. Clinton is likely to earn the federation's backing.

Still, Mrs. Clinton is under some pressure from advocates of an education overhaul, who have been at odds with the teachers' union for several years and believe President Obama has been a supporter of their issues. Representatives for teachers have publicly denounced Mr. Obama's education agenda and programs like "Race to the Top," which awarded bonuses to school districts based on performance markers. That makes Mrs. Clinton's comments about teachers as "scapegoats" all the more striking.

In an interview in March, Ann O'Leary, who has since become a senior policy adviser for Mrs. Clinton's campaign, indicated that the candidate planned to engage in a dialogue with both the teachers and advocates of an overhaul, something Mr. Obama has been accused of not doing.

Lea Crusey, of the group Democrats for Education Reform, who called Mr. Obama "a consistent champion for reform," said advocates had "been in contact" with Mrs. Clinton's team, and that they hoped to hear from her on issues such as college affordability, charter schools and "continued support for accountability."

Mrs. Clinton has a long record on the subject, including on efforts to overhaul public education. In Arkansas, when she was first lady, she was part of a task force that tried to improve the state's poor-performing schools.

Hillary Clinton, in Texas, Tries to Win Over Forlorn Democrats // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 3, 2015

It's lonely to be a Democrat in Texas these days.

As Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a two-day swing through the state mostly to raise money, even swaggering Texans with gold belt buckles and ranches that sit behind gated expanses are beginning to feel a little, well, used.

Last year, liberal groups like Battleground Texas sold local Democrats a tall tale that turnout would spike in the midterm election and that the state would show it still had hints of blue. Then, Wendy Davis, the Democratic candidate for governor, lost in a landslide to Greg Abbott, a Republican.

Adding insult to injury, many of the Hispanic voters who were supposed to help turn the tide either didn't vote or favored Mr. Abbott.

Democrats had hardly licked their wounds when Mrs. Clinton and the outside groups that support her came knocking for money for 2016, when the state is all but certain to keep its solid red streak. "All Texas is to anyone is a stop to pick up money," one disillusioned donor said.

Mrs. Clinton's decision to deliver a substantive, high-profile speech on voting rights here on Thursday — in addition to fund-raising stops in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio — can do much to assuage those concerns.

(She will most likely tell her usual story about the summer she spent in Texas in the 1970s helping to register Hispanic voters on the George McGovern presidential campaign.)

The speech was not made final until last week, and the site, Texas Southern University, had to find a larger auditorium to accommodate the local officials, supporters and national news media who would attend, Democrats involved in the planning said.

But immediately after Mrs. Clinton's plea to increase access to the polls, she will head to (where else?) a fund-raiser in a gated community in this city's upscale Memorial area. (Guests were told they would receive details and the address after delivering their $2,700 checks.)

Texas Democrats are a nostalgic clan, still basking in the legacy of such homegrown firebrands as Lyndon B. Johnson, Ann Richards, the columnist Molly Ivins ("Real Texans do not use the word 'summer' as a verb," she famously wrote of the elder George Bush) and Barbara Jordan, the congresswoman and civil rights leader after whom the award Mrs. Clinton will accept here on Thursday is named.

It makes sense that Mrs. Clinton chose the home state of L.B.J., the architect of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, to talk about voting rights. She will also condemn Republican rivals, including former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, who have supported laws increasing requirements for voters. The restrictions, voting rights activists say, prohibit minorities, the poor and young voters — groups that tend to vote Democratic — from casting ballots.

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Texas has among the strictest voting laws of any state in the country, and turnout is generally abysmal, particularly among its Hispanics.

“I hope it’s in Texas because Texas is a microcosm of all of this,” Representative James E. Clyburn, Democrat of South Carolina, said in an interview, referring to Mrs. Clinton’s voting rights speech. “She is going to where the problem is.”

It’s not just the voting laws that have the state’s Democrats feeling down. Recently, the Texas Legislature supported bills that would allow residents to openly carry handguns and permit students to carry concealed weapons on college campuses, policies most Democrats abhor.

An exasperated Arthur L. Schechter, a Houston-based donor whose support for Bill Clinton earned him an ambassadorship, pointed to the recent shootout at a Waco bar between rival biker gangs.

“It’s like the days of Wyatt Earp are back,” he said.

Hillary Clinton declares war on Voter ID // WaPo // Janell Ross – June 4, 2015

When Hillary Clinton gave her speech Thursday on voting rights, her campaign staff had already given a pretty ample set of previews to publications across the country.

No one was expecting fire. But Clinton’s speech – focusing on some of what Clinton presented as the ugliest truths about voting in the United States – was no boilerplate stump speech. Clinton went big. She called for universal and automatic voter registration and a 20-day (or more) period of early voting in every state, before every election. Clinton's speech identified the work of protecting and expanding voting rights as a critical part of her campaign.

Clinton talked about the fact that African Americans consistently rank among the most deeply affected by the contours of Voter ID laws, must wait in the longest lines on Election Day and cast ballots at polling sites that very often house fewer machines and poll workers than other sites. That, Clinton told the crowd, “is no accident.”

Then, her campaign sent out a tweet that drove the point home.

In case you don’t know, a student ID can’t be used to vote in Texas, but a concealed carry permit can. The implication: the Democratic Party’s base of young and minority voters are far more likely to be rendered unable to vote than the GOP’s gun-loving base. For Clinton, that's a situation that inherently ties her political fate to groups of voters she says are imperiled.

It was also no accident that Clinton’s carefully stage-managed speech was scheduled for Texas Southern University, a historically black college in Houston. After all, the current Voter ID law that governs voting in Texas was initially blocked by federal officials. Then, within hours of the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 2013 Voting Rights Act decision eliminating the requirement that states like Texas run voting changes past federal authorities, the state put the law into effect.

African Americans, even in big red states like Texas which the most hopeful Democrats insist sits on the verge of turning purple, remain a core part of the constituency that Clinton needs. But Clinton needs to more than attract African-American voters to her campaign. She needs them fired up to vote.

Consider this. Black America’s first record-setting turnout for Barack Obama in 2008 might have been about making history. But in 2012, when a larger proportion of blacks voted than any other group for the second presidential election in a row, plenty of the nation’s political prognosticators attributed that to the sense that black access to the franchise was under active attack.

And so, Clinton came to Houston. She declared war on Voter ID and other Republican efforts to rein in things like early voting. And she asked the audience to join her.

The day before Clinton waged her frontal attack, New York University’s Brennan Center for Justice issued a report offering a far more subdued but equally cautionary look at the nation’s voting rights situation. And the center's assessment of 2015 is, well, nuanced.

The most stringent Voter ID laws could disenfranchise anywhere from 8 to 12 percent of the population in these states, the Brennan Center’s Myrna Pérez, deputy director of organization’s Democracy Program, told me.

That’s also a group disproportionately made up of people of color, very young voters and the very old, the poor and women. These groups are less likely to have one of the forms of ID these laws require and more likely not to have the kinds of underlying documents needed to obtain them such as a birth certificate or passport. For women, the common practice of changing one's last name can seriously complicate the work of obtaining ID needed to

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vote.

After a raft of bills around the country in 2011 aiming to require ID to vote, and several legal challenges, some have been put in place. Fourteen states have passed voting law changes that if not overturned by a court will be in place for the first time on Election Day 2016. North Dakota also passed its own Voter ID law this year. But only some of these laws include the kind of narrow lists of acceptable forms of ID like the law in Texas, according to that Brennan Center report. And those are the laws voting rights organizations are fighting in court.

In the court of public opinion, fighting these laws is arguably more difficult. That's because polls show huge majorities of Americans agree with the concept of requiring ID to vote. So when Clinton pushes for more early voting, it's likely to be popular; when she warns that voter ID disenfranchises African Americans, it's a tougher sell.

But Clinton isn't the only one taking up the cause, and the movement isn't all in one direction.

At the other end of the spectrum, a small group of states that will likely surprise people in the political know – Florida, Oklahoma and New Mexico – have seen bipartisan groups of legislators create laws to make online voter registration a reality. Maryland and Minnesota came close to overturning laws that bar convicted felons from voting, a practice that excludes millions of citizens around the country from voting booths.

And in Oregon, Democrats pushed through a measure that will come very close to Clinton's universal registration idea. The state will register anyone with an Oregon driver's license who is eligible to vote. Oregon license holders will have to take steps to opt out of registration if they are adamant about it. The law is expected to add anywhere from 300,000 to 400,000 voters to Oregon's rolls.

These fights have largely happened off the front page and in the little-watched state Houses of America. Clinton is trying to put them on the national radar -- with a clear eye toward getting key demographic groups geared up to elect another Democrat as president.

51 percent of Democrats say Benghazi is a legitim ate issue for Hillary Clinton // WaPo // Amber Phillips – June 4, 2015

Most voters aren't paying much attention to Republicans' ongoing investigation into the Benghazi attacks that happened during Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. It's a political witch hunt, Democrats cry.

But more than any other problem she's faced so far, the 2012 attack on U.S. diplomatic compounds in Libya that killed four Americans, including ambassador J. Chris Stevens, is seen as fair game for 2016.

In a Washington Post/ABC News poll released Tuesday, 55 percent say how she handled Benghazi is a legitimate issue for the 2016 campaign. Most interestingly, it's far from a partisan issue; that number includes 51 percent of Democrats and half of independents.

The Benghazi attack ranks slightly higher as a legitimate issue for voters than other, more recent negative headlines for Clinton: The Clinton Foundation's fundraising from foreign governments (53 percent) and her use of personal e-mail while she was head of the State Department (48 percent). Both those numbers break down along much more partisan lines, too.

Of course, the fact that voters think Benghazi is a legitimate issue doesn't mean they think it's a negative one for Clinton.

In total, half of voters disapprove of the way Clinton handled questions about the deadly attack, with 33 percent approving. But that breaks down much more along partisan lines; 82 percent of Republicans compared to 23 percent of Democrats disapprove of her response to the questions. So many/most Democrats who see it as a legitimate issue don't necessarily see it as a negative.
This would seem to be good news for Republicans, who have been hammering away at Clinton on Benghazi for three years now, accusing her of getting a free pass and skirting tough questions. In Congress, House Republican lawmakers are on their eighth sanctioned investigation into the incident, with their findings expected to be released in the throes of the presidential election in 2016.

On the presidential trail, GOP candidates have mostly stayed away from the touchy subject, preferring to attack Clinton on other issues, including the money she took for very well-paid speeches since departing as secretary of state (among other problems for the Hillary camp).

Attacking Democrats on Benghazi can be tricky, though. The GOP's 2012 nominee, Mitt Romney, faltered in a debate against Obama on the question.

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But Clinton isn't the only presidential hopeful with a complicated issue in the Middle East. The Washington Post/ ABC poll also asked voters whether Jeb Bush's hypothetical handling of his brother's Iraq war was a legitimate issue. The former Florida governor's stumbles over the question have produced arguably his most negative headlines thus far.

But the issue seems to be less of an issue for Bush than Benghazi is for Clinton. More voters (48 percent) say no, what he would have done in Iraq is not an issue, while 44 percent say it should be part of the 2016 debate. Again, things aren't as partisan as you might expect -- 44 percent of Republicans say it's a legitimate issue, for example -- but overall, people don't seem as interested in hypotheticals about what George W. Bush's brother would have done if he had been in Dubya's shoes (and with more information).

But perhaps that's because it is precisely a hypothetical question. In the same poll, just 23 percent of Republicans said they think Bush would continue the same policies as his brother if elected.

No one can say for certain whether either Benghazi or the Iraq war -- which recently matched its lowest approval rating in ever among the American public -- will sway voters next November. But these latest numbers should serve as a reminder to candidates that the past is never really in the past.

Hillary Clinton Calls for Automatic Voter Registration // WSJ // Laura Meckler – June 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton proposed Thursday that Americans be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18, unless they opt out, one of a series of voting-law changes she said would expand access to the ballot box.

In her remarks to a largely African-American audience in Houston, she accused Republicans of making voting harder, particularly for minorities and young people. Republicans say they are focused on rooting out voter fraud.

The front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination also proposed expanded in-person early voting, called on Congress to restore parts of the Voting Rights Act struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013 and said felons who have served their sentences should have voting rights restored.

The speech marked the latest in a series of policy announcements likely to be popular with core Democratic voters. Democrats also see voting rights as critical to helping them win elections.

“We have a responsibility to say clearly and directly what’s really going on in our country. Because what is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to another,” she said at Texas Southern University, a historically black college.

Many candidates for office currently expend significant energy helping register people to vote who they hope will vote for them. This work is particularly urgent for Democrats, as young people and minorities are less likely to register but more likely to vote Democratic. In his two presidential victories, Barack Obama’s campaign worked to “expand the electorate” in key states by registering likely supporters. Universal registration would obviate the need for these efforts.

The proposals contrast with Republicans, who have worked to require photo identification at the polls and purge registration lists of those ineligible to vote. They argue that these steps are necessary to combat voter fraud, and that early voting isn’t worth the cost.

Hans von Spakovsky, manager of the Election Law Reform Initiative at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said the Clinton plan wouldn’t succeed in expanding voter turnout and could result in people being put onto the rolls more than once.

“Americans feel one of their rights is the right to be left alone by the government,” he said. “People should be able to make the voluntary decision as to whether they want to participate or not.”

Mrs. Clinton cited a law enacted in Oregon this year to automatically register eligible citizens who have driver’s licenses, as long as they don’t opt out. Lawmakers in 14 other states, plus the District of Columbia, have introduced similar proposals, according to a count by the Brennan Center for Justice, which is advocating for universal registration systems. The proposals vary; some also register people who have conducted business with other government agencies as well.

“The biggest obstacle to free and fair elections is the ramshackle voter registration system,” said Michael Waldman, president of the Brennan Center. The center estimates that at least 50 million eligible citizens aren’t registered.

Under the current system, he said, people fall off the voter rolls when they move and remain there after they die. He argued that a stronger government hand would lead to more accurate voter rolls. He said the government would have to conduct checks to make sure people who aren’t eligible to vote, such as noncitizens and, in some

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states, felons, aren't registered.

Mrs. Clinton's speech comes at the same time her campaign is supporting Democratic efforts to challenge voting rules in Wisconsin and Ohio, which allege GOP-backed laws are restricting people's right to vote. The campaign isn't a party to the suits, but its top election attorney is working on the cases.

The Wisconsin rules being challenged in court include a photo-ID requirement, reduction in the early voting window, an increase in the in-state residency requirement and elimination of weekend and evening voting times. Courts have found voter-ID requirements to be constitutional.

Mrs. Clinton also sold herself as an early champion of voting rights. She pointed to her work registering voters in Texas in 1972 for Sen. George McGovern's presidential campaign, and to legislation she introduced while in the U.S. Senate to make Election Day a national holiday, expand registration and increase early voting.

In her speech, Mrs. Clinton urged Congress to pass legislation restoring federal oversight of elections in states that historically discriminated against minority voters, after a 2013 Supreme Court decision found Congress hadn't adequately justified that supervision when reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act in 2006.

Mrs. Clinton also called for a national standard of at least 20 days of early, in-person voting in every state, with early polls open on some weekends and evenings. She said this standard would reduce wait times at polling places and give more people the chance to vote, particularly those who work or have family obligations on Election Day. The campaign said that a third of states have no early voting.

Why Hillary Clinton is pushing early voting in 2016 **// AP // Ken Thomas – June 4, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton is calling for an expansion of early voting and pushing back against Republican-led efforts to restrict voting access, laying down a marker on voting rights at the start of her presidential campaign.

The Democratic presidential candidate is using a speech Thursday at historically black Texas Southern University to denounce voting restrictions in North Carolina, Texas, Florida and Wisconsin and to encourage states to adopt a new national standard of no fewer than 20 days of early in-person voting, including weekend and evening voting.

Clinton is plunging into a partisan debate in many statehouses, which have pitted Democrats who contend restricting voter registration aims to suppress turnout among minority and low-income voters against Republicans who say the steps are needed to prevent voter fraud. The issue is closely watched by black voters, who supported President Barack Obama in large numbers and will be an important constituency as Clinton seeks to rebuild Obama's coalition.

Democrats have signaled plans for a large-scale legal fight against new voter ID laws and efforts to curtail voting access. Party attorneys recently filed legal challenges to voting changes made by GOP lawmakers in the presidential battleground states of Ohio and Wisconsin. One of the attorneys involved in the lawsuits is Marc Elias, a top elections lawyer for Democrats who is also serving as the Clinton campaign's general counsel. The campaign is not officially involved in the lawsuits.

Clinton will also urge Congress to take steps to address a 2013 Supreme Court ruling striking down a portion of the Voting Rights Act. Clinton said at the time of the decision that the court had "struck at the heart" of the landmark law and warned that it would make it difficult for the poor, elderly, minorities and working people to vote.

She is also expected to urge the full adoption of the recommendations of Obama's bipartisan commission on voting administration.

Raising the voting issues allow Clinton to draw sharp distinctions with the potential Republican presidential field, which has largely endorsed the changes.

Three potential GOP rivals — Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and John Kasich of Ohio and former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas — helped overhaul their states' election laws. Democrats, meanwhile, still blame former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, another likely GOP candidate, for purging his state's voting rolls of certain eligible voters prior to the 2000 election, which ended with his brother, former President George W. Bush, narrowly winning the state following a lengthy recount.

"Time and again, members of the 2016 Republican field have put partisan political interests above the fundamental American right to vote," said Donna Brazile, a Democratic strategist and longtime Clinton adviser.

Republicans have defended the changes, saying they ensure the integrity of the voting process. Under Walker, Wisconsin's changes included requiring a proof of residency except for overseas and military voters, reducing the early voting period and increasing residency requirements.

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"Any measure that protects our democracy by making it easier to vote and harder to cheat is a step in the right direction. This is a bipartisan issue and Hillary Clinton and the Democrats are on the wrong side," said Kirsten Kukowski, a spokeswoman for Walker's political action committee.

About 20 million people voted early in the 2014 elections. However, about one-third of states do not have any early voting. Republicans note that Clinton's home state of New York is one of the states that lack early voting.

Thursday's event will be hosted by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, and Clinton will be honored with an award named after Barbara Jordan, the late Texas congresswoman and civil rights leader.

The former secretary of state has been actively raising money for her campaign and the speech is part of a two-day trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Texas, where she is holding private fundraisers in Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Houston.

Dem ocrats fret over recent Hillary Clinton polling // Politico // Katie Glueck – June 5, 2015

Despite polls, many early-state insiders say there's enthusiasm for Hillary's presidential bid — especially among women.

Early-state Democrats are evenly divided over whether Hillary Clinton's campaign should be worried about recent polls showing her highest unfavorability ratings in years.

Exactly 50 percent say there's cause for concern while the other 50 percent saw no reason for alarm.

That's the assessment of this week's survey of the POLITICO Caucus — a bipartisan group of influential activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Twenty-plus Republicans beating her up, Elizabeth Warren talking about the working man issues that terrify her, a couple of candidates like Bernie [Sanders] and Martin [O'Malley] to fill in her policy blanks and a media that feels stiffed by her lack of access, so all we can focus on is emails and the notorious Clinton Foundation and newly acquired wealth that suggests, at a minimum, the appearance of impropriety," one Granite State Democrat said, offering an explanation for her sinking favorability. "Frankly if Hillary could step back at look at herself she would rate herself unfavorably as well."

That remark comes during a week in which two major national polls delivered troubling results, including a CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday that showed Clinton with her highest unfavorability ratings of the past 14 years. A separate poll released Tuesday by The Washington Post and ABC News found that Clinton's favorability was just 45 percent — her lowest in that survey since April 2008, when she was in the middle of a nomination battle with Barack Obama.

Caucus participants largely chalked those numbers up to a spate of unflattering stories about donations made to the Clinton Foundation, as well as scrutiny of Clinton's email practices when she was at the State Department. Some blamed the media — the "drumbeat" of negative headlines was a common explanation for her slide in popularity. But others argued that she should engage more with the press about those subjects.

"She is not proactively addressing the issues of concern to Americans," said an Iowa Democrat who, like everyone in the POLITICO Caucus, was granted anonymity in order to speak freely. "Her refusal to take questions is taking a toll. These polls indicate that she needs to take a more proactive role. Not that she needs to be completely responsive to the media, but she can't ignore them."

"Emails, Clinton Foundation, etc," one New Hampshire Democrat responded. "She is taking the initial barrage from the punditocracy trying to frame the narrative of the race — which is largely about process and character, not very much about issues — and because she is not taking the bait she's in a little bit of a roper-doper strategy right now. I think she needs to go on offense."

But many Democrats also attributed falling poll numbers to the fact that she is now a partisan candidate for political office, rather than secretary of state, and noted that she still outpaces the Republican candidates in polls. And several who responded that the Clinton campaign should be concerned by those surveys said the information should be used only to make minor adjustments.

"Any candidate facing waves of partisan attacks for weeks on end sees the impact in their numbers, but the list of folks capable of sustaining this kind of a barrage and still looking this good is very small," said a Granite Stater.

Another New Hampshire Democrat, who believes the Clinton campaign should be concerned about the polls, explained, "Hillary Clinton generates extremely strong passions, both positive and negative. She needs to be completely candid and transparent about the [Clinton] Foundation's dealings and accomplishments and cannot

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engage in either spin or obfuscation. As long as she is straight, truthful and credible, she will be fine."

Despite the rising negative ratings and polling suggesting high numbers of voters question her trustworthiness, three-quarters of early-state Democrats say Clinton is generating sufficient excitement about her presidential bid — especially among women.

"Regular people, particularly women of all age groups are beyond excited about this candidacy," a New Hampshire Democrat said.

"Sufficient is the right choice of words," said another New Hampshire Democrat. "Hillary is, and remains, solid in the eyes of Democrats."

Some respondents, however, wondered whether there's enough energy and enthusiasm for the long haul.

"There is almost "forced" excitement from establishment types trying to sell the Clinton brand as the perfect standard bearer for rank and file Democrats," said one New Hampshire Democrat. "In New Hampshire, there does not appear to be a barrage of new Clinton supporters; rather, just the usual Clinton supporters."

An Iowa Democrat cautioned, "Sufficient to win a primary yes, a general election right now — we aren't there."

On the Republican side, unsurprisingly, 94 percent of insiders said her campaign should be concerned by the polls, and 91 percent said they're not seeing much enthusiasm about her candidacy. Several insiders likened Clinton to former Sen. Bob Dole, who won the 1996 GOP nomination but lost to Bill Clinton.

"Hillary Clinton is this cycle's version of Bob Dole. It's her turn but holy sh**!" one Granite State Republican said.

Here are three other takeaways from this week's POLITICO Caucus:

Expectations are high for Clinton's June 13 announcement rally

Hillary Clinton has been a candidate since April, but she will officially kick off her race on June 13 at a rally in New York. That's a good time for her to spell out exactly why she's running, Democratic insiders say — it's a way to show skeptical voters that she's pursuing the White House because of an issue set or philosophy, rather than out of a sense that she's inevitable or entitled.

A New Hampshire Democrat suggested Clinton answer these questions. "Why is she the best person out of 320 million people to be President? Where's the passion? And what can you say that will truly inspire non-base voters? "

"She needs consistency of effort in transferring attention from herself to the issues on which she is running," an Iowa Democrat said. "June 13th plays an important role in putting the attention on her priority issues."

A New Hampshire Democrat added that Clinton should try to explain that the campaign is bigger than she is, and bigger than the Clinton brand: "That this campaign isn't about her and it isn't about Washington, that it's about Manchester and Davenport and other communities and the issues that matter there — a quality education for your kids, safe neighborhoods, good roads and bridges, confronting the drug epidemic, lowering the costs of healthcare, childcare, student loans and energy prices. Don't make this campaign about the Clintons, but about families all across the country who are just trying to do the right thing everyday."

Other non-Democrats — Republicans and a handful of nonpartisan respondents — indulged in some wishful thinking.

Clinton should say "I am not a crook," suggested at least two insiders.

"I have decided to spend more time with my family and thus I am resetting my priorities and going to devote my life to the Clinton Foundation," deadpanned a New Hampshire Republican.

As Warren fades, Sanders rises

Supporters of Sen. Elizabeth Warren are increasingly taking her at her word that she won't run for president — which makes room on the left for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Fully 100 percent of Iowa Democrats, and 72 percent of New Hampshire Democrats, see Sanders as the heir to Warren's support, rather than former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley or former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

"The lane is on the left," an Iowa Democrat said. "There's not enough room for Left of Hillary but Right of Bernie. Why settle for a mainstream liberal when you can have a lefty dream candidate?"

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“Bernie is taking it to the streets. He’s calling for political revolution. While he is not the picture of change one might imagine, he has the ability to reprise the role of Howard Dean in 2004 in the Democratic primary,” an Iowa Republican said.

A New Hampshire Republican, questioning enthusiasm for Clinton, said, “Hundreds of people are turning out for a socialist from Vermont!”

But an Iowa Democrat noted, “Sanders is the flavor of the month in [Iowa]. He has connected with the [Dennis] Kucinich and Dean supporters from years ago. The big question is whether they are curious or committed.”

Carly Fiorina is on fire — for now

One hundred percent of New Hampshire Republicans and about 80 percent of Iowa Republicans say GOP candidate Carly Fiorina is gaining traction.

“People love Carly when they see her. Momentum in Iowa is real,” a Hawkeye State Republican said.

A New Hampshire Democrat added a word of support: “She is different from all the other candidates in the Republican field, and for more than her gender. Her business background, her communication style, her willingness to talk like a general election candidate right now, her never holding office, and her personal story, are all interesting. If she is not one of the 10 people on that debate stage, the process is not working.”

An Iowa Republican noted that Fiorina’s status as the GOP field’s most frequent critic of Hillary Clinton is going a long way for her candidacy.

“Fiorina has been wowing crowds and exceeding expectations wherever she goes in Iowa,” the insider said. “It’s one part love for the Clinton zingers, one part excitement in a charismatic Republican woman, and one part interest in the unknown, but she is making headway in Iowa in a real way.”

But, a New Hampshire Republican said of the former Hewlett Packard head, “she’s had a free ride so far attacking Hillary, which is easy, with no critical review of her record or policies. That will change.”

Clinton calls out GOP opponents by name on voting rights // CNN // Dan Merica & Eric Bradner – June 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton accused four potential GOP presidential rivals by name of being "scared of letting citizens have their say" as she called Thursday for every American to automatically be registered to vote.

Clinton told an audience at the historically black Texas Southern University that she supports the concept of signing every American up to vote as soon as they're eligible at age 18, unless they specifically opt out. She called for expanded access to polling places, keeping them open for at least 20 days and offering voting hours on evenings and weekends.

For the first time in her campaign, she attacked her likely opponents by name as she laid into four GOP governors -- Texas's Rick Perry, Wisconsin's Scott Walker, Florida's Jeb Bush and New Jersey's Chris Christie -- telling them to "stop fear-mongering about a phantom epidemic of voter fraud."

"All of these problems voting just didn't happen by accident," she said. "And it is just wrong -- it's wrong -- to try to prevent, undermine and inhibit Americans' right to vote."

The former secretary of state's move to put voter access front and center in the 2016 presidential campaign highlights a contrast with laws implemented by GOP-controlled legislatures in states like North Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin and Florida that cut down on early voting times and tighten voter identification rules.

The Supreme Court also ruled in 2013 that a key aspect of President Lyndon Johnson's Voting Rights Act of 1965 is no longer constitutional.

"What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other," Clinton said.

In her 2008 campaign, Clinton rarely addressed voting rights. But Democrats have fretted that policies imposed by GOP state legislatures in recent years could dissuade African-Americans and those in urban areas from voting, cutting into crucial blocs of Democratic support in swing states.

The Democratic frontrunner highlighted the issue in a heavily political speech as she received an award in the

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name of Barbara Jordan, a pioneer African-American lawmaker and civil rights leader.

"Forty years after Barbara Jordan fought to extend the Voting Rights Act, its heart has been ripped out," Clinton said. "I wish we could hear her speak up for the student who has to wait hours for his or her right to vote; for the grandmother who's turned away from the polls because her driver's license expired; for the father who's done his time and paid his debt to society but still hasn't gotten his rights back."

Her complaints about the Republican governors: Perry signed a law that courts later ruled intentionally discriminated against minority voters; Walker signed one that made voting more difficult for college students; Christie rejected an expansion of early voting; and Bush oversaw a purge of the state's voter rolls.

And she attacked the nation's high court for its 2013 ruling on the Voting Rights Act as well as its 2010 decision on campaign finance laws.

"We need a Supreme Court who cares more about the right to vote of a person than the right to buy an election of a corporation," Clinton said.

While the speech appears to be good politics, the likelihood of achieving universal voter registration is questionable even to people who support it.

Rob Richie, the executive director of the Center for Voting and Democracy, a group in favor of universal registration, said Thursday that the "very decentralized" voting systems in the United States make it "feasible" but "difficult."

The primary problem: The United States does not have a national ID system like other countries that have universal voter registration.

"There is not a simple single approach because we do not have this simple, singular ID that connects us," said Richie, noting that instead of registering to vote nationally, in the United States, you register with your state.

One solution to the problem would be to implement a national identification card, said Richie. The problem: Groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and others are vehemently against a national ID, calling it a "slippery slope" to surveillance and monitoring citizens.

Clinton supports the concept of universal registration, but not a specific method, an aide said.

The former first lady has long been a supporter of voting rights: She helped register voters in Texas' Rio Grande Valley during the George McGovern's failed 1972 presidential run and as a senator introduced legislation to make Election Day a national holiday and reduce lines at polling stations.

Clinton's top campaign lawyer, Marc Elias, has also taken on the fight by filing lawsuits challenging voter restriction laws in Ohio and Wisconsin. He told The New York Times on Wednesday that "we should all want to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote and have their vote counted."

Clinton's aides have said that they are aware of the lawsuits and are supportive of their goals.

Obama won 93% of African-American voters in 2012 and 95% in 2008, according to exit polls. Some Democrats worry that Clinton needs a similar performance with African-American voters and disenfranchisement is an issue that Democrats hope will activate that base.

The first few months of Clinton's campaign have seen a number of events and trips focused on African-American voters.

In her first speech as a candidate, Clinton called for mandatory police body cameras across the country and end "era of mass incarceration," an issue that connected with African-American activists concerned about black men dying at the hands of law enforcement.

Clinton also focused on a minority-owned business in her first trip to South Carolina, a state with a sizable African-American population that overwhelmingly picked Obama over her in the 2008 primary.

Hillary Clinton's Call to Ease Voting Impacts Growing Latino Vote // NBC News // Suzanne Gamboa – June 4, 2015

Although the setting for her voting rights speech was a historically black college, presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton's call for making it easier for Americans to vote has implications for the political involvement of Latinos.

Every year, at least 50,000 Latino youth turn 18. Pew Research Center has projected that Latinos would account

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for 40 percent of the growth in America's eligible to vote through 2030 and in that year, some 40 million Latinos would be able to vote.

Speaking at Texas Southern University - established in Houston in 1927 as Colored Junior College to educate blacks - Clinton proposed automatic voter registration for young people when they turn 18, unless they opt out. She also proposed a national standard of no fewer than 20 days of early voting in every state.

Clinton added that she'd push for Congress to pass a bipartisan bill hammered out in the last Congress but never voted on that would restore Voting Rights Act protections from voting discrimination.

"I believe every citizen has the right to vote and I believe we should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote," Clinton said.

Although the Supreme Court decision gutting protections against discrimination in the Voting Rights act is often discussed in the context of black voters, the decision has significantly impacted potential Latino voters, said Maria Teresa Kumar, founding president of Voto Latino, a group that works to get young Latinos to vote.

For example, the county that brought the lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court decision on the Voting Rights Act, Shelby County, experienced a 297 percent growth in its Latino population during 2000 to 2010.

"Most folks think the Voting Rights Act (challenge) was to disenfranchise blacks," Kumar said. "When you look at the states that started implementing voting restrictions after the decision - Texas, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina - the voting restrictions paralleled the states with the fastest Latino growth."

A Texas voter ID law that was rejected by a federal court in Washington, D.C. was deemed racially discriminatory, which Clinton mentioned and used to take a swipe at former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican who announced his presidential bid Thursday.

Since President Barack Obama's 2012 election, a number of Republican-controlled state legislatures and governors have passed or signed laws instituting restrictions on voting.

Supporters of the restrictions have said they are aimed at curbing fraud, but opponents have tagged them as a response to the coalition of black and brown voters who heavily supported Obama in both elections.

While requirements for specific forms of identification at the polls have gotten the most attention, a slew of other laws have been instituted on voting, including reductions in early voting periods, elimination of election day voter registration, cuts in voting hours, elimination of laws allowing young people to register when they get driver's licenses (though they could not vote until they turned 18) and more.

"We should be clearing the way for more people to vote, not putting up any roadblock anyone can imagine," said Clinton, who received an award at the event. The award is named after Barbara Jordan, whose legislation in Congress broadened the Voting Rights Act's protections to Latinos and other groups.

The Republican Party criticized Clinton's comments saying she was "misleading" and "divisive."

"The vast majority of Americans - including minority voters - support commonsense measures to prevent voter fraud," said Orlando Watson, an RNC spokesman. He said Clinton's home state of New York does not allow early voting while dozens of Republican-led states do. "Her exploitation of the issue underscores why voters find her dishonest and untrustworthy," Watson said.

But Pratt Wiley, the Democratic Party's national director of voter expansion, said people are kept from registering to vote in other ways. About 60 percent of all Americans are registered to vote when they get their driver's licenses, through what is known as motor voter laws, Wiley said.

Groups all over the country are asserting that state departments that oversee driver's licensing are falling down on the job of giving people the opportunity to register to vote by not asking if people want to register, he said. Also, counties are not processing applications when they get them, are slow to do so or are losing applications, Wiley said.

"Voter ID is part of a whole suite of restrictive laws and tactics" that Republicans have employed to keep people from voting, Wiley said. "These laws are not passed to make our system safer. They were not passed to save money ... But that's what you do if your election strategy is to have as few people vote as possible. That's what the Republican strategy is."

He provided quotes from some Republicans that he said demonstrated the strategy:

_ "I guess I really feel we shouldn't contort the voting process to accommodate the urban - read African-American

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- voter-turnout machine," Ohio GOP Chairman Doug Preis said.

_ "I've had some radical ideas about voting and it's probably not a good time to tell them, but you used to have to be a property owner to vote," Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla. said.

_ "If it hurts a bunch of lazy blacks that want the government to give them everything, so be it," Buncombe County, North Carolina GOP Precinct Chair Don Yelton said on The Daily Show about the state's voter ID law.

Daniel Garza, executive director of LIBRE, a conservative group that wants to increase Latino voting, said he has no problem with requiring identification to vote because his group believes in preserving the "integrity" of the vote and the principle of "one man, one vote."

"I've never been in a meeting where people have said we need to suppress the vote. I've never heard a conservative in a room saying 'What can we do to keep Latinos from voting? It doesn't occur, it doesn't happen," Garza said.

Garza said he did not know enough about the other voting restrictions passed in states, so could not comment on that. But he said his group puts a priority on informing Latinos and wants them to be informed and is not trying to keep people home.

"The left has worked hard to suppress our voice. We've been slammed by the left to shut up to not do outreach, to not engage," Garza said.

In her speech, Clinton recalled her days working to register voters in the Rio Grande Valley 33 years ago.

"Some of the people I met were understandably a little wary of a girl from Chicago who didn't speak a word of Spanish, but they wanted to vote. They were citizens, they knew they had a right to be heard. They wanted to exercise all the rights and responsibilities that citizenship conveys," she said.

Clinton is scheduled to speak next week before the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), a bipartisan group. Any increase in getting young people to register and turn out to vote would benefit Latinos because it is a young population.

The Supreme Court's decision on the Voting Rights Act removed protection for 7 million Latino voters, said Arturo Vargas, NALEO's executive director.

"We would want to have those protections restored," he said. "But we are very interested in a modernized Voting Rights Act that looks to prospectively protect the rights of all voters."

Hillary Clinton lays out sweeping voting rights vision // MSNBC // Zachary Roth – June 4, 2015

In a major speech on voting rights Thursday, Hillary Clinton laid out a far-reaching vision for expanding access to the ballot box, and denounced Republican efforts to make voting harder.

Speaking at Texas Southern University in Houston, Clinton called for every American to be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 unless they choose not to be. She backed a nationwide standard of at least 20 days of early voting. She urged Congress to pass legislation strengthening the Voting Rights Act, which was gravely weakened by a 2013 Supreme Court ruling. And she slammed restrictive voting laws imposed by the GOP in Texas, North Carolina, Ohio, and Wisconsin, which she said affect minorities and students in particular.

“What is happening is a sweeping effort to dis-empower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other.”

“We have a responsibility to say clearly and directly what’s really going on in our country,” Clinton said, “because what is happening is a sweeping effort to dis-empower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other.”

“We should be clearing the way for more people to vote, not putting up every road-block anyone can imagine,” Clinton added.

From a political perspective, forthrightly calling out Republican voting restrictions and advocating greater access to voting will likely help Clinton shore up key sections of her base – minorities and students in particular. And it could put the GOP on notice that further efforts to make voting harder may backfire by giving Democrats a tool to motivate their supporters.

Clinton, the prohibitive front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, called out by name several of her potential 2016 rivals – Rick Perry, Scott Walker, Jeb Bush, and Chris Christie – for supporting restrictive

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voting policies. She said Republicans should stop “fearmongering about a phantom epidemic of voter fraud.”

Clinton said relatively little about the most hot-button voting issue, voter ID – an approach that also appears politically savvy. Despite evidence that as many as 10% of eligible voters, disproportionately minorities, don’t have the ID required by strict versions of the law, polls show voter ID is generally popular.

Instead, Clinton sought to move the voting rights debate for 2016 toward more advantageous terrain for Democrats and voting rights supporters: expanding access to voting and voter registration, to make it easier to cast a ballot and bring more Americans into the process.

Noting that between one quarter and one third of all Americans aren’t registered to vote, Clinton called for an across-the-board modernization of the registration process. The centerpiece: universal automatic voter registration, in which every citizen is automatically registered when they turn 18 unless they affirmatively choose not to be, effectively changing the system’s default status from non-registered to registered. Oregon passed such a law earlier this year, and several other states, including California, are considering the idea.

“I think this would have a profound impact on our elections and our democracy,” Clinton said.

Clinton also said registration should be updated automatically when a voter moves, and called for making voter rolls more accurate secure. And she said Republican efforts to restrict voter registration, seen in Texas, Florida, and other states, disproportionately affect marginalized communities, and students.

Around 50 million eligible voters aren’t registered, according to a recent study by the Center for Popular Democracy, based on Census Bureau data. That’s three times as many as the number who are registered but stay home.

Clinton said the nationwide early voting standard of at least 20 days should also include evening and weekend voting, to accommodate those with work or family commitments.

“If families coming out of church on Sunday are inspired to go vote, they should be free to do just that,” Clinton said, in a reference to the Souls to the Polls drives that are popular in Africa-American communities, in which people vote en masse after church.

Wisconsin, Ohio, and North Carolina — all Republican-controlled states — have cut their early voting periods in recent years, with the latter two states also eliminating same-day voter registration. And a third of all states offer no early voting at all. Democratic efforts to create or expand early voting have been killed, or allowed to languish in committee, by Republicans in at least 15 states, eight of them in the south, according to a tally compiled by the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

In addition, Clinton called for Congress to fully implement the recommendations of a bipartisan presidential panel on voting released last year, which included online voter registration and establishing the principle that voters shouldn’t wait more than 30 minutes. And she suggested that laws barring ex-felons from voting should be liberalized, adding her voice to a growing push against felon disenfranchisement laws.

And Clinton lamented the Supreme Court’s weakening of the Voting Rights Act.

“We need a Supreme Court that cares more about protecting the right to vote of a person to vote than the right of a corporation to buy an election,” she said.

Asked by msnbc on a call with reporters whether it was realistic to propose legislation, given the record of the Republican-controlled Congress, a senior official with the Clinton campaign pointed to ”encouraging signs” in the states, arguing that such changes could be implemented at the state level with federal support.

On voter ID, Clinton’s criticism of Texas’s law was centered on a provision that allows concealed gun permits but not student IDs, suggesting partisan bias. She didn’t offer the kind of broader condemnation of ID laws per se often voiced by voting and civil rights groups. And in criticizing Wisconsin and North Carolina’s slew of voting restrictions, she focused on cuts to early voting rather than those states’ ID laws.

Hours before Clinton spoke, a de facto arm of her campaign that provides pro-Clinton information to the media sent out an email documenting the GOP 2016 hopefuls’ records of supporting restrictive voting policies, which it contrasted with Clinton’s expansive approach.

Clinton’s speech comes less than a week after her campaign’s top lawyer, Marc Elias, filed suit to challenge Wisconsin’s voting restrictions. Last month, Elias filed a similar lawsuit challenging Ohio’s early voting cuts.

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted called the lawsuit “frivolous” in a statement to msnbc and said Elias is wasting Ohioans’ tax dollars. “Hillary Clinton is calling for a national standard for early voting that is less than what Ohio

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currently offers," Husted said. "Given this fact, I call on her to tell her attorneys to drop her elections lawsuit against Ohio."
The Clinton campaign has said it's not officially involved in the lawsuits but supports them.

In choosing to give the speech in Texas, Clinton was going into the belly of the beast. In addition to the ID law, which has been struck down as racially discriminatory and is currently being appealed, Texas also has the strictest voter registration rules in the country. And last week, a voting group alleged that the state is systematically failing to process registration applications, msnbcreported.

Clinton has long had a strong record on voting issues. As a volunteer for the 1972 George McGovern presidential campaign, Clinton worked to register Latino voters in Texas. And in 2005 as a senator, she introduced an expansive voting bill that would have made Election Day a national holiday and set standards for early voting.

At Texas Southern, Clinton received the Barbara Jordan Leadership Award, named for the crusading civil rights leader who was the first southern black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hillary Clinton Calls For Automatic, Universal Voter Registration // HuffPo // Ryan Reilly – June 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton in a speech on Thursday called for universal, automatic voter registration, saying every citizen in the country should be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18, unless they opt-out.

Clinton spoke at Texas Southern University in Houston, where she was receiving the Barbara Jordan Public-Private Leadership Award. She also said Republican-led efforts in several states to further regulate voting and voter registration disproportionately harm both underrepresented communities and young people.

Clinton also called for a national standard that would require every state in the country to offer at least 20 days of early in-person voting, including keeping polling stations open on weekends and evenings.

During her speech, Clinton also called on Congress to pass legislation to give the federal government power to review changes to state voting laws before they go into effect. A Supreme Court decision in 2013 struck down a key provision of the landmark Voting Rights Act that required certain states to have their voting changes pre-cleared by the Justice Department or by a panel of federal judges before they were implemented.

The Robby Mook Playbook // Buzzfeed // Ruby Cramer – June 4, 2015

Eight years ago in Nevada, on the first race he managed for Hillary Clinton, Robby Mook provided everyone on the team with a copy of his 175-page training manual. Some staffers, the field organizers, received a second item: one standard-issue composition notebook, bound in black-and-white marble, the kind kids use in school.

These were "organizing books." They were considered vital to the field operation, or as Mook called it, "the program." And like everything pertaining to the program, the organizing books came with a system, and the system with instructions. In this particular case, they could be found in the manual. (Page 110, "Getting Organized.")

Your notebook should be divided into three sections per day: calendar, notes, and action items…

Every morning began with a new calendar entry — a simple table, two columns. Down the left-hand margin, organizers wrote out 24 timestamps, one for every half-hour interval in the day. (Twelve hours, minimum.)

To the right, they scheduled and recorded their activity.

You will track progress to goal using the tools provided by the campaign including maintaining your organizing notebook…

For eight months, it went like this. They started in desert summer, 100-degree days. For eight months, they logged every half-hour of every hour of every long and hot day. For eight months, time passed in 30-minute intervals — from the statewide call (which got earlier as the caucuses got closer), to the single break in the daily schedule (lunch, 12:30 to 1 p.m.), to the long slog of the afternoon (the one-on-one meetings with volunteers, the call-time, the house meetings in the evening), to the final, most important task of the day.

At 9 p.m., it was time to report.

All Hillary Clinton for President-Nevada staff are expected to report nightly by 9:15 p.m.… These reports are vital to ensuring that our strategy is succeeding and an important recognition of the tremendous contribution staff are making…

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Organizers went first, entering the results of their day into a finicky computer system called the Donkey. Next, the regional directors. Then the field director. It was his job to take their aggregate data and combine it all into one last report. And that went to Mook.

Then the day was over.

All of this — the ledgers, the reports — was in service of the goals. Mook laid them out in the training manual, his initial plan. To beat Barack Obama in Nevada, the Clinton campaign would need to enlist exactly 2,475 volunteers, train 1,744 precinct captains, and generate 24,751 caucus-goers. And to meet those goals, the team would have to meet their smaller daily goals.

The benchmarks underwent constant examination and adjustment. They were continually evaluated, tweaked, and reset, all based on data from the field team's nightly progress reports. It was a three-part process, played out ceaselessly, day after day — as if the heartbeat of the campaign.

On Jan. 19, 2008, that's how Clinton won. There was some initial confusion about the national delegate count. Because of his victory in a more heavily weighted district, Obama walked away that night with an extra delegate. But Clinton carried the vote. Mook, at 28 years old, delivered the campaign's first caucus win — and at a time when they needed it badly. He then took his playbook to Ohio, Indiana, Puerto Rico. Most of his team came with him — and they beat Obama there, too. The operative, clean-cut and unassuming, was Clinton's most winning state director. He came out of 2008 a star.

But working for Mook was hard. The days were long and unrelenting. The structure was rigid.

Failure to report nightly will have serious consequences and may be grounds for dismissal.

They were exhausted all the time. And yet, the next morning, they woke up and did it all over again… They wanted to.

Some members of the Nevada field team struggled to explain why in interviews — though most pointed to Mook. It's not that he wasn't regimented, they said. He was. All the time. But there was something else that kept them going. And it was essential.

In 2010, Mook helped write another manual — this one for Democrats hoping to run a race like Nevada. They called it the "Engagement Campaign." There, a manager's job is plainly described as winning: "setting clear, measurable, WINNING campaign goals and creating a culture of excellence and commitment to meet those goals."

But the other required component, the manual says, is "motivation."

Since one of your major resources is people — and since people are the resource that generate your other key resource, money — an Engagement Campaign is all about motivating people…

Brian DiMarzio, the deputy field director in Nevada, described it another way. There was one night on the campaign, he said, that didn't end the way it always did. Clinton happened to be in town, and it was thunderstorming badly. After her event, the staff dragged everything back to headquarters in the pouring rain. The power was out, and they sat there in the darkness, dripping wet.

Then, from the silence, they heard clapping.

It was Mook. He was going into his routine.

It started slow at first. Then other people joined in and the pace picked up and the clapping got louder. It was still dark in the office — and they were still wet. But soon everybody was clapping. They clapped faster and faster, and then they were cheering too, and the sound in the room got so loud and fast it was almost frenzied.

Finally they went still… and Mook started to speak.

"Everyone was back in that place he gets you in," said DiMarzio. "He'd talk about the event you just did, and about how it's neck-and-neck, and it's so close, and" — he slipped into a Mook impression — "'do you want to look back at the end of this campaign, if we lose by 1,000 votes and think, I could have maybe pulled in a couple hundred votes myself if I'd just done 15 minutes harder each day?'"

It was contagious, DiMarzio said. Former colleagues described similar moments. Sometimes on a staff call — other times in the office. (One referred to it as "the preach.")

It's about motivating staff, volunteers, and voters… To do that, you must do more than merely talk about the

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candidate's biography and policy positions…

"He could get you to give everything that you had, you would give it, and then thank him for it later," said DiMarzio. "When you're working more than 12 hours every day and it's 10:30 p.m., you finish and think, I'm gonna strangle Robby. But at the end of the day, you'd be clapping with everyone else — and you believed it."

… To engage people, you must inspire them.

"By the end of it, you're on Team Robby, and you're not getting off."

A lot of people are on Team Robby.

It is a big team, full of committed teammates. By the time Clinton lost 2008, it had a name: the "Mook Mafia." Its members share one thing. They have witnessed or experienced firsthand a campaign with the 35-year-old operative.

In the Mafia group, Mook is equal parts friend, mentor, and figurehead. But for many of the affiliated, Team Robby is as much about its leader as the political philosophy he champions: namely, the power of "organizing."

Mook is now at the helm of Clinton's second presidential campaign — and that model will be tested like never before, on the biggest stage there is. In each of the early states, he'll construct what he did eight years ago in Nevada: a true organizing program.

It will be the biggest challenge of his young career. Mook has managed plenty of races since 2008. Most recently, he helped Terry McAuliffe, the longtime Democratic fundraiser and Clinton family friend, become governor of Virginia. But now Mook is running a campaign larger than his background in field. And to accomplish what he does best, he'll have to foster the environment his campaigns require.

At the center of the intractable, messy thing known as "Clintonworld," Mook needs another Nevada: that rare mix of discipline and accountability with enthusiasm and encouragement that makes his field programs possible.

It will be a momentous first — for Mook, for his followers, and for a generation of operatives who see themselves as organizers. Never before has a manager constructed a national campaign operation like this, so deliberately or so squarely, under the banner of organizing or in the mold of the so-called "Engagement Campaign."

Hillary Clinton delivers a speech at a high school in Las Vegas in 2007. Isaac Brekken / AP

About 10 years ago, Clinton was pitched on an early version of this strategy. It was, she was told, a "new kind of organizing" — and it was going to change politics.

This was the summer after the 2004 election, when a collection of campaign aides from that cycle got the chance to attend a private gathering of Democratic senators. It was an audience with some of the party's top legislators — and a rare opportunity to speak directly with the senator many in the room viewed as the party's next nominee.

So when the moment came, they talked to Clinton about organizing. Howard Dean's presidential campaign had done something special in New Hampshire, they said. And there were technological advances rapidly changing the face of elections. Imagine the gains Democrats could make, the operatives told Clinton, if they could weave it all together.

Dean, of course, didn't make it past February in the primaries. But for many of the operatives and activists who came up in politics around the time of his brief rise, the former Vermont governor helped redefine the very concept of "field."

Most campaigns focused almost exclusively on building supporter lists, often from scratch. The effort requires identifying voters — supporters, undecideds, backers of the opponent, and various shades in between. The process, called "voter contact" in field-speak, is simple, time-consuming, and necessary. And it happens only one way: door by door, call by call, for hours and hours, every day. Campaigns can use staff and volunteers — but often, they pay a team of canvassers to do the work.

In New Hampshire, Dean aides flipped the traditional field operation on its head.

They pulled people off voter contact — away from the doors and the phones — and instead trained them as organizers in the tradition of the '60s and '70s. Using techniques from the protest and labor movements of that era — one-on-one meetings, house meetings — the Dean campaign set out to build a volunteer army.

The idea went was this: Organizers sought to cultivate relationships with voters, enlist them as volunteers, and then develop those volunteers into "volunteer leaders" — who would invest even more time, take on even more

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responsibility, and recruit even more volunteers. The objective was an organization of devoted supporters, not cogs in the machine or paid labor. And the result, ultimately, was far greater capacity for voter contact.

The volunteers, together, could do more at the phones and the doors and on Election Day than the campaign ever could have otherwise. Or at least, that was the bet. Each half-hour spent on organizing — finding, meeting with, or training volunteers — was a half-hour that could be spent simply identifying voters.

But the risk was worth pursuing, the Democratic aides told Clinton in 2005.

Zack Exley, an adviser on the Dean race who attended the meeting with the senators, said that he and the other operatives urged Clinton to embrace the organizing practices of 2004 — and to push officials at the Democratic National Committee to do the same.

"We were saying to her, 'Senator, you need to take care of that,'" Exley recalled of the exchange. "'This is a new kind of field organizing that's possible. If you connect it with the right online stuff, it'll change everything. You gotta get on this.'"

Clinton was a receptive listener — but remained unconvinced.

"The organizing takes care of itself," the senator told the operatives, according to Exley. "Once you have that clear message, then organizing just takes care of itself."

She believed organizing would "rise up around a good message automatically," Exley said. "Kind of like if setting up a field campaign was like placing a media buy."

Three years later, Clinton lost on message and on organizing.

Barack Obama captured Democrats' eagerness for something different. And in both Iowa and South Carolina, despite pressure from headquarters to keep up with voter-contact metrics, aides were given the room they needed. Many were among the upstarts of the 2004 races, an ascendant new class of operatives-as-organizers.

Clinton had some of them, too. Mook won in Nevada — and his mentor, Karen Hicks, the engineer of Dean's New Hampshire program, oversaw the early states. But aides at headquarters hardly made a full-scale commitment to organizing. Even as Mook went to work building his field program, his operation remained badly under-resourced.

"Robby ran a very organized campaign on a shoestring in Nevada," as Hicks put it.

One summer day, as temperatures climbed into triple digits out West, a Clinton aide back in Virginia sent a staff-wide email to say: There's ice cream cake in the freezer.

"We never got any of the resources we needed," said one former Nevada staffer. "We have 75-year-old ladies we're sending out to canvass in the 110-degree heat… and somebody in Arlington is saying there's ice cream cake in the freezer?"

This time, Clinton has made organizing the priority.

Campaign officials have said that the state directors in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada will not only have the resources they need — but they'll also get the candidate often, and in settings tailored to benefit their organizing efforts. Internally, they have even replaced the word "field" with "organizing" in staffers' titles.

As Exley put it, with Mook in charge, "she's not making the same mistake this time."

But there will be challenges. One question is whether the organizing model can actually scale effectively across the board in a presidential campaign. Obama came close in 2008. But before that, there were only isolated cases: John Kerry did it in Iowa in 2004. And Dean, whose campaign helped introduce organizing conceptually to a national electoral audience, really only did it in one state — New Hampshire.

Hicks, the operative who pulled it off, said the approach "lends itself to a primary" — and to a presidential candidate capable of exciting volunteer support. But there are two things organizing requires, and they stay the same, she said, "no matter what the campaign." First is a commitment to disciplined goals. Second is a commitment to the "shared values" — the methods and the principles that guide the campaign.

Mook has excelled at both. But it doesn't happen on its own. His campaigns come with requirements — a particular kind of leadership and a particular kind of anatomy.

If there is a prototype of the Mook campaign, it is Nevada in 2008.

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For the evangelical belief in data — look to the sign that hung on his office wall, a reminder to himself and the staff of the three steps in their ongoing, data-driven process. “Set Goals, Experiment and Learn, Celebrate and Appreciate,” it read.

For the sense of “accountability,” fostered by the subculture of field and all its peculiarities — look to his idiosyncratic shorthand. One favorite: “No silos!” (Always said as if with an exclamation point.) The meaning: Keep communication open between departments. Another Mook term was the “plus delta.” (A twist on the “action item.”) This one, derived from the Greek letter denoting change, was a word for something specific that a staffer could improve or incorporate into his or her goals.

For the self-discipline — look to his fascination with “personal mastery,” which he preached to some of his staffers. It’s a concept from The Fifth Discipline, a 1990 book by MIT’s Peter Senge. Personal mastery is defined as a lifelong practice, divided into three parts: redefining and deepening your personal vision, focusing your energy, and “seeing reality objectively” as it pertains to others and, most important, to yourself. (The book touches on other Mook tropes: Senge writes that organizations are best built around a “shared vision,” not a leader’s goals or personality. And teams, he says, develop “extraordinary capacities” beyond the sum total abilities of individual members.)

And for his precise focus on the thing this was all for, the final goal — look to Dec. 12, 2007, when just one month before the caucuses, Mook got his regionals together to deliver big news. The numbers they’d all been working toward, the ones in the manual, wouldn’t be enough. They needed to double their goal — from 24,751 caucus-goers to 60,000.

Most of the team was alarmed. There’s a photo of two field staffers, Stuart Rosenberg and Dan DeBauche, as they listen to Mook in the meeting. (It still makes the rounds every few months.) Rosenberg is dismayed, bent over in his seat, head in hand. “Stu looks like he’s about to have a coronary,” said DeBauche, the regional field director for South Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City.

DeBauche is shown leaning back in his chair, hands clasped behind his head. He looks fine. “Everyone was freaking out, but internally we already had a plan,” he said. A couple nights before the meeting, Mook and Marlon Marshall, the field director, had pulled DeBauche in to help game out the new numbers. The expression, he said of the photo, reflected the calm of the boss. Mook knew it was possible, so long as they could answer the one question that mattered: “How do we get to 52% with this new reality?”

DeBauche, left, with Rosenberg, right, in the meeting with Mook and Marshall in December 2007. Courtesy of Zack Exley

That’s the thing, essentially, they were asking, of themselves and of one another, with every meeting, every organizing-book entry, every nightly report. And the answer — it was another question, one written in all caps on printouts, taped to the office wall:

“DID YOU REPORT YET?”

When organizers fell short, managers consulted the data — or the marble composition books — before advising adjustments. (This is phase two: “Experiment and Learn.”) If organizers were holding a good number of one-on-one meetings with potential volunteers but barely recruiting any, they’d get help on their asks. If they weren’t scheduling enough, they’d get help with time management.

“If your numbers weren’t good, we needed to understand why,” said DiMarzio, the deputy field director, of the organizing books. “That means you are going to use every minute of every day as effectively as you could be to elect Hillary Clinton.”

Mook made clear that meeting daily goals, even for the most junior members of the organizing team, was essential to 52% in Nevada. Three hours of call-time wasn’t three hours at a desk with a phone and a list of numbers — it was three hours for which you were beholden to your teammates, accountable for winning.

“He ensures that everyone understands their part in achieving our shared goal,” said Mara Lee, who served as Mook’s caucus director in Nevada.

The work itself was a grind. Field staffers on the campaign recalled daily disappointments: It wasn’t uncommon to invest hours in a volunteer who would then flake on a commitment. Or to spend a day working the phones with little success. (Consider the numbers: Say an organizer makes 150 calls to potential volunteer recruits. From those calls, the organizer might schedule 15 volunteer shifts. Of those shifts, 10 volunteers might show up. And in that small pool, the organizer might find one potential precinct captain. It’s hours of work for the possibility of one precinct captain.)

Once, as a “trial by fire” for a new batch of organizers, DeBauche asked they make phone calls for 12 continuous

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hours, from 9 a.m. “straight through until 9 p.m.,” he said.

He still hasn’t forgotten one. Lisa. She made 681 calls that day.

“Of course I remember,” he said. “That’s just ridiculous!”

Through the hot slog of Nevada, Mook worked just as hard as his team.

Eight years later, the old staff still expressed disbelief at his schedule: He did things like arrive at the office at 6 a.m., leave at 3 a.m., and then do it again the next day, they said.

Mook wanted the office to see him share in the work. He made it a frequent practice, across departments, to take on jobs here and there, said Lee. “He is notorious for doing the work himself: making fundraising calls, knocking on doors, marching in the parade, separating literature — or whatever task is needed.” Field staffers said Mook would jump into a regional’s office, grab a call list, and run down 10 or 15 names.

He wanted to show them, Lee said, that “no one is too senior or too important.” He also wanted to set the bar high for work ethic, another former field staffer said. “He wanted us to see that he was always working so that we would do the same.”

And he took every opportunity: At headquarters, a business center in Las Vegas, the campaign occupied two ground-floor suites separated by a narrow courtyard. Mook chose an office with large plate window that provided a view outside — and into the other office suite across the way. Members of the field team recalled a ubiquitous image from their time in Las Vegas: Mook at his desk, always working, always within view.

The plain details of the Nevada campaign could sound grim: a strict, grinding affair, all in service of a losing candidate whose primary defeat meant her staffers could never completely share in the Democratic euphoria of election night 2008.

And yet, the large share of the field team talks about their time in the desert, living in 30-minute blocks, with warmth and zeal.

There is a second necessary piece to Mook’s campaign: It is cultural, and it begins with him. There’s no easy explanation of the tone he sets, how he sets it, and keeps it, even as the demands of the work grow. (“He’s just one of those people,” offered Exley.)

Not everyone left Nevada as devoted to Mook as his team of organizers. There were other departments — communications, operations. Mook ran them, but his mind was always on the program. And his core following was there, in the field department.

Those who worked as his organizers struggled putting into words exactly what draws people to the young campaign manager. But many are, and have been for years. Mook showed that from the start, in the summer of 2003, when a group from Howard Dean’s campaign spent a sweltering weekend in Durham, N.H., learning how to organize.

Hicks, leading the New Hampshire operation, had asked a veteran of the trade to act as their teacher. And so Marshall Ganz, a Harvard professor who worked as an organizer with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers in the ’60s and ’70s, spent those few un-air-conditioned days going over the basics: the relationship-building, storytelling, the one-on-ones, house meetings, and the nuts and bolts of the quantitative side.

That was the part Mook liked — he was, as Ganz observed, “the data guy.”

But to colleagues, he was just as skilled with the interpersonal element. “He was the best at people. Everybody coming out of the New Hampshire experience was a mad genius at field. He was a mad genius but didn’t come across that way,” said Exley. “People talk about the way Bill Clinton makes you feel like you’re the only person in the room — Robby has that.”

“I think people felt genuinely loved by him. He exuded this love of individuals.”

Some former staffers described him as they might a well-loved camp counselor. He was serious about the work, but could be goofy. He had an infectious enthusiasm for campaigns. And he put others at ease, old Nevada colleagues said, because he was comfortable with his own eccentricities — of which there were many.

He’d walk into the campaign office, and to greet the staff, let out one long “TEEEEEAAAAAAAAAMM.” There were state-specific variations, too. One former aide recalled him once yelling out to the Ohio office, “APPALAAAACHHIA WOOMMENNN.” (They’d been targeting female voters in the state’s Appalachian communities.)

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When an organizer submitted his nightly report on time, without first needing a reminder, Mook might offer his praise by spelling out a fake URL — "www.accountability.com !" — as if a lighthearted pat on the back.

And then there were the nicknames. Everyone in Nevada had one. (Brian DiMarzio was "Bri Guy." Dan DeBauche, "De-Boo," pronounced DEE-boo. And Mara Lee, "Nobody Does It Like Mara Lee," rhyming, of course, with the Sara Lee jingle.)

Creating the right culture, Ganz said, ultimately becomes the "central skill" required of a manager on an organizing-based campaign. "The old school says there's a boss that shouts at everybody and tells them what to do," he said. "People are terrorized."

Mook makes his first television appearance as campaign manager last month. CNBC

"A campaign needs to be a story, a strategy, and a structure. The narrative is the values and the inspiration," said Ganz. "The reason you need the details and the numbers is not just so that you can watch people — it's so that you can learn."

"You have to create a spirit of learning and of support."

There was a larger effect in Nevada. People talk about the experience in personal, almost electrifying terms. Some are eager to explain, to try to tell you how it all felt in the end — the conditions, the exacting work, the shared culture, just being around him. It was something close to whatever they felt that rainy night in Las Vegas, soaking wet and clapping — something close, a few said, to "inspiration." It was heightening.

"It's a crazy thing to be that inspired by somebody who is just a guy, you know?" said DeBauche. "He gets the most out of people. If you have any self-awareness, you leave that realizing that you accomplished things you didn't think were possible."

"I knew it was happening as it was happening."

For DiMarzio, Mook was like a coach. "He taught me how to organize my work, how to be disciplined and focused, to do things I didn't think I could do," he said.

"When someone teaches you, and empowers you, you start to think, I can do this. I can do amazing things. Maybe I can do anything. Robby said I could."

The mechanics of Mook's campaigns have produced an unusual thing. It has roots in Nevada and has grown in size and shape in the years since. It was, in the months running up to his job on the 2016 campaign, talked about in the media more than any of Mook's previous accomplishments or qualifications as a manager.

And it still is, many of its members say, badly misunderstood.

To observers, the Mook Mafia and an email listserv by the same name most resemble a "cult." The group is less an exclusive club, more a loose confederation of friends and former colleagues, men and women, from various campaigns, numbering around 150 people. The members are tight-knit enough to attend an annual reunion. They don't disagree it's cult-like. But they also don't mean it in a bad way.

It's just a by-product of the Mook experience.

They worked the hardest they ever had, felt more capable, more enabled than ever by a state director who didn't appear concerned with his own standing. Just the team's. And they bought into that, to the whole thing. They committed to the organization, to the process, the cause — the leader. It wasn't "just for the candidate" that they all worked like hell, as one field staffer said, "but for Robby and the whole team — because you really were a team."

The Mook Mafia has, in fact, been the most visible manifestation of that team — of the buy-in that produces what appears to be, to the outside, such strange devotion. The email list. The nicknames. ("Deacon Mook," "Reverend Marshall.") The hashtags. ("#Mafia4Life.") The reunion itineraries (with maps, pictures, schedules). The grainy website, a WordPress blog from 2009, featuring job listings and a Mafia logo. (The bubble lettering is, in place of a color, filled with an image of Mook and Marshall.)

There's been a conscious effort to keep the welcome feel of the campaign. But they haven't always succeeded.

In 2008, an invite-only offshoot group called the "Free Radicals" materialized briefly, somewhere out of Indiana. It was too exclusive, a "Mafia elite" for senior staff — and so they shut the thing down. The incident was "small," a former aide said, "but pretty big to a lot of people who weren't invited to join in."

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The logo on the Mook Mafia's old website, now defunct. Wordpress

It's all very intense. And Mook is often the focus.

Members once printed Mafia tees that read "Est. 2004," not because the group dates back that far — but because that's the year Mook got his start in politics. And in 2009, when the WordPress blog went live, a member left a comment to congratulate the group: "glad Mafia finally got on the web. next feat: a facebook page for Robby Mook."

Marlon Marshall, his longtime right hand, emailed the list more often than his counterpart and played a heavier role in facilitating events like the reunions. Mook, meanwhile, is known as a private guy. He is social, but not a partier. He does interviews, but not if he can help it. And he is the first openly gay person to manage a major presidential campaign, but he won't be boasting about that or much else.

He is an unlikely fit for the figurehead role, and that may be why he's in it.

Peter Senge spends a good deal of his management book, The Fifth Discipline, describing the qualities that make an effective leader. ("Personal mastery," the concept Mook mentioned to other staffers in Nevada, plays a major role.)

There are leaders who are "heroes in their own minds," writes Senge, and they will never successfully lead an organization. True leaders don't think of their own interests: "Their focus is invariably on what needs to be done, the larger system in which they are operating, and the people with whom they are creating — not on themselves as 'leaders.'" True leaders have shared vision, and that results in a loyal following.

As Senge puts it: "Leaders with vision are cult heroes."

It was November 2014, and it looked like he was going to get the campaign manager job, when early one morning, Mook and his group ended up in the headlines. The first one, an ABC News "EXCLUSIVE," landed at 6:01 a.m., the same day the Clintons and their friends and former aides kicked off a big reunion weekend in Little Rock, Arkansas: "Read the Secret Emails of the Men Who May Run Hillary Clinton's Campaign."

The group hadn't been a secret. Neither was the Mook Mafia email list. But the article, quoting a set of largely innocuous messages, cast the group as controversial, maybe even salacious. (The most "eyebrow-raising" email was a mock press release quoting Bill Clinton: "This is even more exciting than walking through the back of the Bellagio.")

The Mook Mafia list was shut down that day.

At some point over the year, the group's WordPress blog was also removed, its various pages scraped from the Internet Archive. And the last annual reunion, one of the longest Mafia traditions, never happened. Since late 2008, when they all met up in Nevada, members of the group have made time once a year for a weekend away. This was a first.

At no point did the story put Mook's job in danger, but the incident rattled some Clinton advisers. There were theories about the leak: Some thought it came from a former staffer, one with an axe to grind against Mook. Some saw it as a move to boost another operative's chances at campaign manager. Whatever the reason, some of the emails were said to have been circulating among reporters for months. And when they made it into print, when the email list was deactivated — the Mook Mafia died a little.

Since the ABC News story, there has been no activity inside the group.

It was the earliest, starkest sign that Mook would have to work hard to create and preserve the very particular environment his campaigns require to succeed — and that building it in the middle of Clinton's world would be an exceptional challenge.

In the four decades since Bill's first run for office, he and his wife have acquired a tangled and unwieldy network of friends, associates, and confidants. Many worked on, advised, or meddled in unhelpful ways with Hillary Clinton's first presidential bid. The campaign's outstanding feature, in the end, was its dysfunction. The infighting tampered with the team's operation, and spirit, in a way Mook's system could not abide.

Two months into the 2016 race, Mook has put the mechanics in motion. There's no doubt they'll focus on organizing in this campaign. Senior campaign officials will tell you that Clinton is headquartered in Brooklyn — but that the lifeblood of the operation is in the early states. They'll tell you that the state directors are building a volunteer leadership organization, that digital will enhance but not replace the classic model. They'll tell you this is a campaign to win Iowa, the first of the caucus states.

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But there's more to it than that. There's a difference between what Mook hopes to do and what Ganz, the organizing expert, described as a purely "mechanical" field program. People can "run around doing what they're told, reading scripts, getting responses."

Or they can participate in an organizing program. But to make it work, Ganz said, "people have got to support it, and protect it, and invest in it, and believe in it."

In the 2010 manual he helped write, "Campaigning to Engage and Win," creating a "deliberate culture" is ranked as the first task of any manager — ahead of the budget, of fundraising, of building the website, of developing trust with the candidate.

Every campaign has a culture — the way staff and volunteers engage with each other and with your opponent and their staff. The challenge is taking the time and creating the space to develop that culture deliberately… Create a culture of accountability, not rules… a culture of excellence… a culture of learning…

"Culture" is not a loose term. It is built into the program.

Strong campaigns are those where staff and volunteers are committed not just to the candidate, but also to each other in a common purpose to win.

Eight years ago in Nevada — in a one-page document about halfway through the training manual — Mook outlined his idea of the culture for the campaign, the "Team Values," in five categories: Respect, Accountability and Discipline, Communication and Honesty,Leadership and Creativity, and Teamwork and Loyalty. A string of bullet points follows the headings, expanding on the tenets and qualities behind each one.

The last in the list reads, "Know we are at our best when we are together."

There will be no shortage of resources for field in this campaign, no question that the organizers will get what they need, no resentment in Iowa or New Hampshire, Nevada or South Carolina, over ice cream cake in the freezer at headquarters.

The question is whether the entire staff — from the volunteers to the campaign chair to the most seniors advisers to Bill Clinton — will support, protect, and invest in what Mook does… Whether he can be the leader he was in Nevada, overseeing a growing staff in Brooklyn, at the top of a billion-dollar Clinton operation… Whether he can walk down the hallway and duck into an office and run down 15 names on a call list… Or head into the bullpen and let out one long, steady "TEEEEEAAAAAAAAAMM." Can he do any of that this time? Can he give a nickname to someone who's been in Clinton's orbit for a decade, or get them talking about plus deltas or personal mastery or setting goals — or ask them to use every minute of every day, ask them to work harder than they ever have?

Can he make them followers — can he push them, inspire them, get them clapping in the dark at night?

This is what the culture requires. Everyone in the campaign must give themselves over to the rules; the structure; the rigor of adjustment; the constantly changing goals; the trust in common, sincere shared values; the purpose. Everyone must be accountable and must believe. Everyone must buy in.

His success will depend on it.

Will Hillary Be Our 3rd Black President? **// The Daily Beast // Michael Tomasky – June 5, 2015**

Were Obama's 95-5 margins an aberration because of his race? So everyone says. But maybe 95-5 (or something close) is the new normal.

Here's one story I predict you're going to read (should you choose to) about 367 times over the next 17 months: that Hillary Clinton isn't going to do as well or maybe even nearly as well among African American voters, because, well, it's obvious. Black people, we'll be told, won't be enthusiastic about turning out to vote for her, because what's she ever done for them. And of course some portion of those 367 stories will feature breathless speculation that the Republican, whoever it is, just might surprise us among black voters, because remember what George W. Bush did in 2004, and the younger generation of African Americans don't feel the old loyalty to the Democrats their parents did, and, and, and, you can write the rest yourself.

It will be a key element in the "Hillary's in Trouble" meme that's going to dominate the coverage of her campaign in the mainstream media. But is there any truth to it?

Yes, a little. Clinton and John Podesta and her other strategists are acknowledging as much with the big speech she gave yesterday in Texas laying the lumber into Republicans about voting rights and recent GOP voter-suppression schemes. This was her first capital-P Political speech of the campaign, and the fact that she chose to make that

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speech about this topic and not a broader economic one, or one aimed squarely at women, say, demonstrates clearly enough that Clinton is concerned about getting out the black vote.

It was also a partisan speech, of the sort she doesn't usually give and most presidential candidates don't typically deliver this early in the process. If it's true that partisanship turns off centrist voters, and it is to some extent, then the Clinton camp obviously made the calculation that with respect to this issue and the larger goal of black turnout, alienating some white independent voters is a price worth paying.

But how much worrying does Clinton really need to do here? The standard media line, as suggested above, will be that Obama skewed things by being black and all, and that if you go back to 2004 and recall that George W. Bush got 16 percent of the black vote in Ohio, that was somehow a more "normal" state of affairs, since there were two white candidates.

So let's look at the numbers. Yes, Obama did skew things. He won the black vote 95-4 in 2008 and 93-6 in 2012. By contrast, John Kerry won the black vote 88-11. If you go back to 1964, that's exactly what the Democratic nominee averages, 88 percent. The Republican averages 10 percent.

Aside from head-to-head numbers, there's the matter of turnout. Obama also inspired blacks to vote in larger numbers, of course, so they made up 13 percent of the overall electorate in 2008 and 2012, as opposed to 11 percent in 2004. The increase in Ohio was particularly striking. In 2004, blacks constituted 10 percent of total Ohio vote. In 2012, they were 15 percent.

When Gerald Ford was getting 15 percent of the black vote in 1976, his party wasn't carrying out a jihad to make sure as few black people could vote as possible or uncorking champagne when the Supreme Court struck down the Voting Rights Act.
But here's the question. Are the Obama-era numbers an aberration, or are they more like a new normal? The near-universal assumption among journalists is aberration. But here's the case for why they might be something closer to the new normal, which rests on two points.

The first is the much-discussed demographic change. The white vote over the last three presidential elections has gone from 77 percent (2004) to 74 percent (2008) to 72 percent (2012). If the Obama era was an aberration, you'd expect that figure to bounce back up. But electoral demographers say quite the opposite. One comprehensive statistical model predicts that the white vote will just keep dropping, down maybe to 70 percent in 2016. The African American vote is expected to at least hold steady at 13.

But second and more important, it's about the Republican Party of then versus now. When Gerald Ford was getting 15 percent of the black vote in 1976, his party wasn't carrying out a jihad to make sure as few black people could vote as possible or uncorking champagne when the Supreme Court struck down the Voting Rights Act. Or, for that matter, trying to make sure as few working poor people as possible could have access to health insurance.

When I was young I thought Ronald Reagan's Republican Party was bad on race, and it was, but the GOP is a far more openly and aggressively anti-black-people party today. Back then, there were still a fair number of moderate Republicans in the House and Senate who voted for civil rights measures. Arguably the greatest legal crusader against segregation of the 1960s and 1970s was a Republican, the venerable John Doar. Heck, Republicans in Congress even reauthorized the VRA when Dubya was president! Those days are long, long gone. Maybe not forever, but certainly for the foreseeable future.

Clinton will have to work it. And she is—a proposal for automatic voter registration for every citizen who turns 18 (unless that citizen decides to opt out), which she called for in the speech, is great stuff. But her competition—unless they nominate Rand Paul, which seems increasingly unlikely—is making it easier for her. She probably won't duplicate Obama's numbers, but if someone wants to bet you that her black-vote totals will be closer to John Kerry's than to Obama's, that's a bet I'd advise you to take in heartbeat.

Hillary Clinton Cannot Afford to Lose Black Voters // The National Journal // Emily Schultheis – June 4, 2015

Barack Obama didn't need to do much—almost anything—to win record turnout from African-American voters. Hillary Clinton will need to pull out all the stops to score just a fraction of that support.

An exaggeration? Black political leaders don't think so.

"Make no mistake, there will be some drop-off," said Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri, a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, whose comments echoed those of other influential African-American Democrats.

Indeed, black leaders concede it will be nearly impossible for Clinton to replicate the level of turnout Obama's candidacy generated among this core demographic—a group of voters central to the national coalition necessary for a Democrat to win the White House. So she'll need to coax them to the polls by honing specific messages about

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policies relevant to the black community, something her team says she's preparing to unveil.

On Thursday, Clinton will call for expanded early voting in every state, including weekend and evening hours over many days before Election Day—positions supported by Democrats who say working-class voters need greater access to the polls.

And she'll specifically criticize laws in North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin that, she argues, reduced rather than expanded access to the polls.

These are significant targets for Clinton. Democrats have their eyes on changing demographics in counties in North Carolina, Texas, and elsewhere that might begin to shift those states away from Republicans, perhaps as soon as 2016.

Black voters, specifically, are growing as a share of the electorate in many states. But while pollsters think Clinton will win them by similar margins to Obama—95 percent of African-Americans voted for the president in 2012—her team should not underestimate the challenge she will have motivating African-Americans to show up when the first black president isn't at the top of the ticket.

In 2012, the U.S Census Bureau estimated that just more than 66 percent of eligible black voters showed up at the polls—the highest turnout ever for this demographic group, higher even than turnout among whites. Indeed, Obama's support among black voters "went off the charts," said Brookings demographer William Frey—enough so that minority turnout, especially black turnout, was a deciding factor in the president winning a second term.

And in states like Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida, a difference in turnout of even a few percentage points could have big repercussions, Frey added.

"You could call it the excitement factor," he said. "At least in these states ... where blacks are a huge part of the minority population, she's going to need that."

In other words, unlike Obama, Clinton will really have to work for high black turnout.

"I can't in all honesty say that she will receive the same level of support as an African-American president," said Rep. Marcia Fudge of Ohio, "but clearly I do believe that if her message is strong she can get close."

Late last week, Clinton appointed LaDavia Drane, the former executive director of the CBC, as her African-American-outreach director. Drane joins a staff at Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters with several other high-profile African Americans among its ranks, including Marlon Marshall, the director of state campaigns; Maya Harris, a top policy adviser; and Karen Finney, a senior spokeswoman.

Harris, sister of California Democratic Senate candidate Kamala Harris and formerly of the Center for American Progress, has done research specifically on encouraging greater turnout of minority women, and she argued that they are a reliable voting bloc when they're given strong policy reasons to vote. That's true of black voters overall, she noted, and is part of the campaign's calculus.

"One thing we know is that issues matter—that at the end of the day, whether [African-American] voters are going to turn out is going to depend on whether they have been motivated to turn out," Harris told National Journal. "Secretary Clinton is well-situated to do that, both in terms of what she has already demonstrated in her life's work and in the issues she's talking about."

That motivation will come partly from policy proposals and partly from focusing on parts of Clinton's biography, the campaign says. Speaking in South Carolina last week, she put deliberate focus on her early career experiences at the Children's Defense Fund and her work for women and children. The campaign is also talking about specific policy positions that are relevant to the black community—health care, a minimum-wage increase, substance-abuse issues, and perhaps most noticeably, criminal-justice reform, which Clinton addressed in a speech at Columbia back in April. Clinton aides are quick to note that it was her first policy speech as a candidate—and with its proposals to provide body cameras for police officers nationwide and end the "era of mass incarceration," it was a direct response to unrest over police activity in Baltimore and other cities.

"Her speech in New York was amazing," said Bakari Sellers, a former South Carolina state legislator who backed Obama in 2008 but is now supporting Clinton. "It's a serious plank in terms of African-American outreach, it's one that can be developed, it's one that can help galvanize not just your typical participants ... but also a new generation of voices."

The other key piece of necessary strategy is the ground game. Cleaver said African-American leaders are welcoming signs from Clinton that her team will build a robust turnout operation in urban areas, which is something Obama—whose candidacy was naturally a source of excitement to many black voters—didn't need to do. Clinton's 2016 team, with campaign manager Robby Mook at the helm, is placing heavy emphasis on

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grassroots strategy; it has sizable field teams in the four early states.

"The president did not have to do a lot in the urban core, and didn't—he used his resources elsewhere," Cleaver said. "So I think you're going to find elected officials celebrating the fact that there's a great deal of attention being paid to the ground game."

That starts in South Carolina, the only one of the four early states with a large African-American population. Clinton's campaign has hired a team of staffers and field organizers—including state director Clay Middleton and state political director Jalisa Washington, both of whom are African Americans with strong ties to the state's politics. A half-dozen field organizers are already in place in the state, focusing on traditionally African-American neighborhoods and gathering places as they start to introduce themselves and the campaign to the state's voters."We are going to where the voters are. So we are in faith-based communities, we are at churches, we are at several social-justice organizations," Middleton said. "We have field organizers that look like the community and understand the community and can relate to those individuals."

Bernie Sanders Is Surging Among White Democrats, Minorities Love Hillary **// NBC News //**
Perry Bacon Jr. & Dante Chinni - June 3, 2014

When Hillary Clinton gives a speech in Houston on Thursday at a historically-black college calling for 20 days of early voting in every state, she will be reemphasizing her long-held commitment to defending the voting rights of minorities.

She will also be appealing to some of her strongest supporters: non-white Democrats.

In the early stages of the Democratic primary race, one of Clinton's rivals, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has drawn huge crowds and surged in polls, although he remains well-behind the former secretary of state.

Sanders appears to have been benefited from the much-discussed divide between traditional Democrats like Clinton and those who are more liberal on economic issues like Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

But another divide has emerged that favors Clinton: white versus non-white Democrats. In a new Washington Post/ABC News survey, 56 percent of white Democrats backed Clinton, while 14 percent supported Sanders. Among self-described liberals, Sanders had 17 percent support, compared to 63 percent for Clinton. (Vice President Biden, who has given no indication he will run, polled in double-digits among both groups.)

But among non-white Democrats (the survey did not break them down by ethnicity), Clinton had 72 percent support, compared to 5 percent for the Vermont senator.

This finding mirrors that of other surveys. As Dante Chinni wrote last week, Wall Street Journal/NBC News polling shows that 68 percent of non-white Democrats say Clinton does not need a primary challenger, while the majority of white Democrats (53 percent) want her to face other candidates.

Among white Democrats, 56 percent say Clinton will bring "real change," compared to a whopping 81 percent of non-white Democrats, according to the WSJ/NBC survey. A CNN poll showed Sanders with 14 percent of the white vote, compared to 5 percent among non-white Democrats.

A Pew poll in March, before Clinton formally started her campaign, showed that 74 percent of black Democrats said there was a "good chance" they would back the former first lady. Only 54 percent of white Democrats agreed with that statement, with many of them (34 percent) opting with the less enthusiastic "some chance."

Sanders disproportionate support among whites and liberals is an advantage early in the primary process because it starts in Iowa and New Hampshire, two overwhelmingly-white states. In Iowa, 93 percent of the Democratic electorate was white in 2008.

And caucuses in particular reward the kind of intense supporters who are drawn to a candidate like Sanders.

But he will need to vastly expand his base to become a true challenger to Clinton. More than 40% of the people who voted for Obama in 2012 were ethnic minorities. Blacks may be the majority of voters in some Democratic primaries in the South, as they were in 2008.

For Clinton, barring the entrance of a candidate who would have more appeal to minority voters (First Lady Michelle Obama would be very strong with blacks and Biden would be more formidable than Sanders), this advantage among non-white voters provides a kind of security blanket for her in the primary.

But the former secretary of state is likely to keep courting non-white voters, in part to prepare for the general election, where maintaining Obama's huge advantage among minority voters is a virtual requirement for winning.

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While Clinton has said little to address economic liberals in her first few weeks as a candidate, she has strongly emphasized her commitment to creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and reforming America's criminal justice system, issues that are strong priorities for black and Hispanic activists.

Clinton has a long-standing and ardent opposition to some of the voting provisions adopted recently by GOP governors and state legislatures, such as limits on same-day registration and requirements to present a photo ID to cast a ballot. In one of her first political speeches after leaving the State Department in 2013, Clinton called a North Carolina law, "the greatest hits of voter suppression."

She is expected to use similar language on Thursday, as well as calling for Congress to write a new version of the Voting Rights Act, after one of its core planks was struck down two years ago by the Supreme Court.

Is Hillary Ready for More Debates? **// US News // David Catanese – June 4, 2015**

Since January, Republicans with dreams of occupying the White House have dutifully traipsed to a dozen gatherings before audiences eager to compare and contrast their options for the presidency.

In order, there was the Iowa Freedom Summit, the Freedom Partners Koch brothers summit, the Conservative Political Action Conference, the Iowa Ag Summit, the South Carolina National Security Action Summit, the New Hampshire Freedom Summit, the First In the Nation Republican Leadership Summit, the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition forum, the South Carolina Freedom Summit, the National Review Ideas Summit, the Southern Republican Leadership Conference and Florida Gov. Rick Scott's Economic Growth Summit.

And on Saturday, the GOP contenders will make it a baker's dozen by descending on Boone, Iowa, for Sen. Joni Ernst's "Roast and Ride," which is also, essentially, a summit. With motorcycles and barbecue.

These summits aren't debates, but they do allow likely primary voters to measure a contender's message, style and substance against his or her competitors. Additionally, they attract gobs of media attention for the slew of contenders seeking a breakout moment.

Yet so far, all of this action has taken place on the Republican side.

The Democratic field, which grew to four this week, has had no such platforms. Not one.

What's more, while Republicans have agreed to hold at least nine and up to a dozen primary debates, the Democratic National Committee is only sanctioning half as many.

All of this is resulting in an obvious dialogue disparity between the two parties, one that progressives are now moving to remedy, U.S. News has learned.

In a move which could potentially place pressure on front-runner Hillary Clinton to interact with her field of Democratic rivals sooner than expected, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee has made initial inquiries to Democratic campaigns about holding one or more additional debates, beginning as early as this August.

The PCCC, an ardent cheerleader of the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party, is advocating what they're dubbing an "open debate" format, in which questions would be formulated by voters rather than media figures.

They've even begun a dialogue with conservative groups to organize a similar venture among Republican candidates, and are floating the idea of holding an "open debate" for the general election.

The initial test, though, will be whether the liberal group can foster agreement to participate from all camps on the Democratic side.

"Debates are absolutely essential if we want a race to the top with them racing with each other to support big ideas," PCCC co-founder Adam Green says. "There's going to be broad support among most progressives for more debates, not less."

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley signaled swift interest in the organization's pitch.

"It's a great idea," says Lis Smith, O'Malley's deputy campaign manager. "Gov. O'Malley enjoys taking unscripted questions from voters wherever he goes, and we think it's critical that Democrats have more – not fewer – debates."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, is circulating a petition and imploring the Democratic Party to begin holding debates this summer, seemingly eager to take part in any format.

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"More debates will encourage more people to vote, and when more people vote, Democrats win," he wrote in an email to supporters this week.

But it's Clinton's participation that's the key to this effort, and so far her campaign has been quiet on the topic.

After the DNC announced its plan for six debates, Clinton tweeted that she's "looking forward to a real conversation," without making a firm commitment to the number proposed. Her campaign did not respond to multiple inquiries from U.S. News.

"We informed Hillary that this was brewing and let them know we'd like to talk to them about it," Green says. Asked if he thought Clinton would ultimately sign on to his idea, he replied, "We will find out."

As a historic party front-runner leading her field by an exorbitant margin in the polls, there may not be much incentive for Clinton to expose herself further.

But that's where pressure from interest groups and her rivals comes in. O'Malley, Sanders and newly minted candidate Lincoln Chafee have shied away from attacking Clinton directly so far, but that's prone to change if she's skirting engaging with them. In fact, this could become the first fault line in what's been a quiet primary.

And the PCCC isn't the only group that will be looking for facetime with all of the candidates.

"We'll look for opportunities, once the field is set in the fall, to have all the candidates engage with and make the case to our 8 million members on key issues they care about," Ilya Sheyman, executive director of MoveOn.org Political Action – one of the nation's leading progressive groups – tells U.S. News in an email.

During the 2008 campaign, the last time there was an open-seat race for the presidency, Democrats held more than two dozen debates between their candidates, which eventually narrowed from eight to only Clinton and Barack Obama.

Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Columbia, S.C., on May 27, 2015. Clinton plans to deliver the first major speech of her Democratic presidential primary campaign in New York City next week in a new phase of her campaign adding some fanfare and policy specifics to a White House bid marked by small events in parts of the country since its launch.

The glaring reduction this cycle may best be explained by the perceived lack of competitiveness on the Democratic side of the ledger. While a cast of more than a dozen Republicans are bunched up in national and early primary state polling, Clinton looms as the nominee-in-waiting, amassing a 46-point lead over her Democratic rivals in the latest CNN survey.

"I just don't see where there's an opening for anybody," Democratic pollster Celinda Lake says. "There's not a lot of Democratic primary voters looking for an alternative to Hillary Clinton."

Many progressives consider that argument irrelevant, though. They see early debates as the only way to pressure Clinton on their pet issues, such as college affordability, financial regulation and expanding Social Security.

Plus, Green thinks his unique format could be potentially advantageous to Clinton, because the questions will be driven by substance, not cable newshounds trying to advance headlines on topics like The Clinton Foundation or her email use.

"I assume they'd much rather talk about college affordability and Social Security than more petty things like the right-wing scandal of the day," he says.

Whereas Republicans worry a protracted debate schedule could damage their party brand and wear down their ultimate nominee, some Democrats see less risk in greater exposure of their national candidates.

"Our candidates, with the exception of Bernie Sanders, aren't a bunch of crazy people. I don't worry about them saying something that would hurt the party brand. I think getting our ideas out there in the mainstream would benefit," says Boyd Brown, a Democratic National Committee member from South Carolina and an O'Malley supporter. "The more debate, the better."

Now they wait to see if Clinton agrees.

IRS sends Congress unsigned form letter to brush off demands for Clinton Foundation investigation // The Washington Examiner // Pete Kasperowicz – June 4, 2015

The IRS responded to a Republican request for an investigation into the Clinton Foundation's tax-exempt status with a one-page form letter that starts with "Dear Sir or Madam."

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In May, more than 50 House Republicans asked the IRS to review the Clinton Foundation's tax-exempt status, after it became clear that the foundation had failed to report millions of dollars in grants from foreign governments.

That letter, led by Rep. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, said a review was "appropriate" given that this money was accepted and not reported while Hillary Clinton was serving as secretary of state.

In response, the IRS sent Blackburn a form letter, which Blackburn received late Wednesday. The letter thanked her for submitting the request, and said the IRS has an "ongoing examination program" to ensure tax-exempt groups comply with tax law.

"The information you submitted will be considered in this program," it said. The letter was from Margaret Von Lienen, director of exempt organizations examinations, but she didn't sign it.

Blackburn said the perfunctory response is far below the level of customer service members of Congress should be getting.

"The IRS response is not acceptable and lacking in the requisite tact that should accompany a congressional inquiry," she said. "It is unbelievably disrespectful that Margaret Von Lienen couldn't even take the few extra seconds needed to sign the letter."

"It begs the question – do they even take our request seriously? This is exactly why people don't trust the IRS," she added, noting that 51 of her colleagues took the time to ask a series of questions that deserve an answer.

"We'd expect officials at the IRS, who also work for and are paid by the U.S. taxpayer, to take the same care and effort in crafting a response to our inquiry," she said. "The allegations swirling around the Clinton Foundation are very serious and raise issues of great public importance."

Clinton camp wants donors to contribute – by giving staffers a place to crash // Fox News – June 4, 2015

Apparently facing a space crunch at their new 2016 headquarters in New York City, the Clinton campaign has started asking supporters to pony up their Big Apple pads for the cause. An email sent Wednesday asks them to sign up to "host" Clinton campaign workers arriving to the city.

“Do you have a spare room – or just a spare couch! – where a new staffer could stay?” Marlon Marshall, director of State Campaigns and Political Engagement at Hillary for America, asks in the email.

Marshall, who did not respond to requests by FoxNews.com for comment, said in his email pitch: “You and I both know that finding a place to live in New York can take longer than an afternoon of apartment hunting.” But he wrote that the campaign needs its new hires to start "right away" at the Brooklyn HQ.

He then promised that the to-be bunkmates will most likely “be working long days, so they really just need a place to sleep, and they’ll be so grateful to be staying with someone who shares their beliefs and their goals.”

Of course, Marshall is right -- scoring an apartment in crowded New York isn’t easy or cheap. According to the April 2015 Elliman Real Estate report, Manhattan rents have gone up for 14 consecutive months, with the largest increases seen in entry-level apartments. Brooklyn rents rose to a new record in April as well apartments of all sizes in northwest Queens.

Whether droves of Clinton supporters are willing to go the extra mile and open their doors to her campaign staff, though, is an open question.

The host-a-staffer drive isn’t the first of its kind.

In September 2012, President Obama’s campaign supporters were hit with a similar request.

The pitch began by asking volunteers to open up their private residences to some “dedicated organizers” working on Obama’s re-election campaign.

The email asked: “A group of the most dedicated organizers and volunteers will be coming to Northern Virginia for the remaining weeks of the campaign. They heard we’re looking to run a fierce ground game for President Obama this fall – and they want to be a part of it. But here’s the thing: They need somewhere to stay. And I’m hoping you can lend them a hand with that.”

So what’s an apartment or house owner get in return? Tales from the frontlines of a reelection campaign.

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Obama's pitch said: “I bet they’ll come back at night with some amazing stories about all the people they’ve reached and the energy they’re sparking – stories that you might not get to hear.”

Ohio secretary of state slams Clinton over voter access // Fox News - June 4, 2015

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted blasted Hillary Clinton's call for an overhaul of voter access laws Thursday, saying her proposals were less than what the Buckeye State already offers.

Clinton’s top campaign lawyer Marc Elias launched a court challenge to Ohio voting laws last month, claiming restrictions are designed to suppress minority and young voters.

In a speech at Texas Southern University in Houston on Thursday, Clinton blasted Republicans for “systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting” and called for universal, automatic voter registration for young people when they turn 18, as well as a new national standard of 20 days of early, in-person voting, including weekend and evening voting.

“What part of democracy are they afraid of? I believe every citizen has the right to vote and I believe we should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote,” Clinton said at the historically black university.

However, Husted took issue with Clinton’s remarks, saying her proposals are weaker than what Ohio already has on the books.

“With 28 days to vote and the ability to cast a ballot without ever leaving your home, Ohio voters enjoy some of the most generous voting options in the country. For this reason, and many others, our state is a national leader in voter access,” Husted said.

The complaint against Ohio, filed by a group of lawyers -- including Elias -- on behalf of The Ohio Organizing Collaborative and three individuals, called for an injunction on a number of measures passed in Ohio in recent years.

These included laws that limit the time and locations for early voting, such as abolishing an early voting period known as “Golden Week” in which voters could register and cast an in-person ballot on the same day.

The laws, passed by a Republican legislature and signed by GOP Gov. John Kasich, “were designed to and will disproportionately burden specific populations, including African-Americans, Latinos and young people – each of which are, not coincidentally, core Democratic constituencies,” the complaint said.

Husted mentioned the legal challenge in his remarks:

“Hillary Clinton is calling for a national standard for early voting that is less than what Ohio currently offers. Given this fact, I call on her to tell her attorneys to drop her elections lawsuit against Ohio. Stop wasting Ohioans tax dollars defending your frivolous lawsuits,” Husted said.

Attention, pundits: If the polls confirm Hillary’s slide, it must be true // Fox News // Howard Kurtz - June 05, 2015

But the evidence was hidden in plain view.

For many weeks now, it’s been clear that Hillary has had an awful campaign launch, that she has been submerged by an array of negative stories, and that her message has been underwater as well.

But when I’ve brought this up—on the air, in print, at social gatherings—what I’ve heard again and again is: It doesn’t matter. It’s not a problem. This is media-bubble stuff. She’s emerged unscathed. It’s not hurting her in the polls.

But now it is.

The pundit class is so poll-addicted that if something doesn’t show up in fav/unfav, or right track/wrong track, or cares-about-people-like-you, it didn’t happen. I know that journalists were just as aware as I was that Hillary has been hammered since the day her listening tour began. But most of them couldn’t believe their own eyes because, well, it wasn’t there in the data.

Of course, polls can be a lagging indicator, and the barrage had to be chipping away at Clinton’s image—especially among independents. And that’s exactly what happened.

In the CNN poll, 57 percent say she’s not honest and trustworthy, compared with 42 percent who say she is.

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In the Washington Post/ABC poll, 52 percent say she's not honest and trustworthy, compared with 41 percent who think she is.

Now polls bounce around, of course, but those are troubling numbers.

They show the combined impact of the private emails scandal, the ethical questions swirling around the Clinton Foundation, the six-figure speaking fees, and one more thing: the constant avoidance of the press.

It's not that people are up in arms about journalists getting stiffed. We aren't very popular either.

But by barely responding to questions about the negative stories, she ceded the turf to all the damaging headlines. Her operation seemed antiseptic and orchestrated. And by having bland conversations with small groups of voters, Hillary made no competing news. She left a vacuum filled by all the financial and email stories.

Perhaps that will change after Hillary does her Roosevelt Island kickoff in New York next week. But impressions about trustworthiness are hard to change, especially with a figure as well known as Hillary Clinton.

There is some truth to the spin that Hillary was always going to slip in the polls when she descended from the lofty perch of secretary of State to the grubby reality of campaigning. But that doesn't fully explain her slide on the honesty question in just the last couple of months.

Most political journalists are smart. They can see when a presidential candidate is struggling. And they don't need the latest pollster's survey to report what they're seeing and hearing.

This is what Hillary Clinton's campaign is saying about her poll numbers // Business Insider // Hunter Walker – June 4, 2015

Some negative numbers from a pair of recent polls on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign have made headlines this week and caused some Democrats to express concern. However, Team Clinton has a different read on the numbers.

Business Insider had a lengthy conversation about Clinton's poll performance with a campaign spokesperson on Wednesday.

The spokesperson, who asked to remain anonymous in order to discuss polling and strategy, pointed out there have been several surveys in addition to the two that generated much of the hand-wringing, which came from CNN/ORC and The Washington Post and ABC News. Both of those polls showed Clinton's popularity is down, with about 50% of voters saying they have an unfavorable impression of her.

The other recent polls cited by the campaign spokesperson came from The New York Times and CBS News, the Des Moines Register, and The Wall Street Journal and NBC News. The spokesperson noted that all of the recent polls show Clinton well ahead of her Democratic primary rivals. Additionally, she is leading in head-to-head matchups with all of her presumed and announced Republican opponents.

While touting Clinton's lead on her prospective opponents, the spokesperson argued her standing has remained strong in spite of what they described as a period of sustained recent media scrutiny.

In the weeks surrounding Clinton's April campaign launch, there has been extensive press coverage on a series of controversies involving her personal finances, family charitable foundation, and her use of a private email address while she was secretary of state. Along with bad headlines, the spokesperson noted these flaps have fueled attacks from Clinton's Republican rivals.

Clinton's campaign believes there is one number that shows she has weathered the recent scrutiny.

The Des Moines Register poll, which surveyed Democratic voters in Iowa's influential early primary, contained a specific data point that the spokesperson said her team sees as evidence Clinton wasn't badly hurt by the recent controversies and scrutiny. That poll showed at least 70% of Democratic primary voters in Iowa are not bothered by the questions about Clinton's emails or foundation. According to the spokesperson, the campaign believes that proves various controversies that have emerged around Clinton won't factor into the Iowa caucus — and potentially other states' primaries.

One of the main negative numbers from the CNN/ORC and Washington Post/ABC poll concerned Clinton's trustworthiness. The CNN poll found 57% of voters do not think Clinton is "honest and trustworthy. According to the Washington Post/ABC poll, 52% of voters don't see Clinton as "honest and trustworthy."

The spokesperson pointed out the CNN poll did not ask voters whether they found any of the likely Republican

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candidates trustworthy. Because of this, they said there was no point of comparison for Clinton's numbers.

Further, the spokesperson said Clinton's campaign believes a more important question is asking voters who they trust to address the issues they care about. They described this question as more finely tuned whereas a question about general trustworthiness can be more subjective.

Additionally, the spokesperson said this is the key question Clinton is trying to address with her campaign, which is designed to brand her as the candidate who can serve as a champion for Americans who will improve the economy.

The Clinton campaign spokesperson pointed out The Washington Post/ABC poll showed Clinton is doing eight points better on the more finely tuned question of whether she "understands the problems of people like you" than the general trustworthiness question. In that poll, they noted she was doing nine points better than one of her top Republican rivals, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), on the more specific trustworthiness question.

Still, in spite of these arguments, there's no denying Clinton's favorability numbers have declined in recent polls.

The spokesperson suggested this was a natural part of Clinton's transition from being secretary of state to becoming a more apolitical figure, and then reentering the political fray. They said the American public is skeptical of the government and politicians. As a result, they argued anyone who made themselves an official 2016 candidate would have issues with trustworthiness and would not be able to avoid some decline in their numbers.

In the end, though they said Clinton's team is satisfied with where she is sitting in relation to her rivals, the spokesperson forecast the number of people who say they trust her to confront the issues they care about will improve. They identified this question as the key one her campaign is designed to answer and predicted it will begin to do so as Clinton unveils more specific policies following her relaunch event next week.

Why you might eventually like Hillary Clinton // The Chicago Tribune // Jonathan Bernstein – June 4, 2015

This Candidate, you're going to believe, can really connect with the American people. He/she is a new kind of [Democrat/Republican]. This Candidate's qualifications for the presidency aren't just impressive. It's uncanny how well This Candidate's skills and history seem exactly made for the challenges the U.S. faces in 2016. Most politicians just spout cliches, you'll think, but This Candidate talks with, not at, us.

Oh, and on a personal level: What about that heartbreaking anecdote about This Candidate's family history? Why didn't This Candidate talk more about the personal stuff earlier? People would have realized then just how special he/she is. And what a refreshing collection of technocrats, oddballs and respected veterans are running This Candidate's campaign!

Some things in elections are difficult to predict, but the cycle of enthusiasm for presidential nominees isn't one of them. It's real, foreseeable and practically irresistible. As John Sides said on Wednesday in the Washington Post, "campaigns almost always rally each party's voters behind their nominee." This is in the context of what he predicts will be a temporary (and modest) decline in Hillary Clinton's polling numbers among Democrats. But the ebb-and-flow pattern is even more relevant to the generally dismal polling numbers the Republican candidates have compiled in this presidential cycle.

The way we feel about politicians is affected by context. A good example is to look back at John Kerry's favorable/unfavorable ratings over time. Back before 2004, the year of his first presidential campaign, Kerry was mostly unknown, but those who knew him liked him. He has a rating of 30 percent favorable and 9 percent unfavorable.

As his campaign for the Democratic nomination began, his unfavorability spiked (with both Republicans and Howard Dean supporters learning who he was probably and not liking him), leaving him with a rating of 31 percent favorable and 32 percent unfavorable.

Then he won a bunch of primaries, and his "you'll love this candidate" moment arrived in spring 2004, when he peaked at 61 percent favorable. By the fall, his unfavorable rating had almost doubled from 23 percent to 44 percent, and after losing to President George W. Bush he fell further. By July 2005, he was at 42 percent favorable, 48 percent unfavorable.

Kerry's standing recovered once he returned to being a senator — with 48 percent favorability in spring 2013. After he became secretary of state, a (seemingly) less partisan position, he got a big bump up. Last time Gallup checked, in February 2014, he was at 55 percent favorable, 34 percent unfavorable. It isn't that Kerry became more appealing or less appealing. It's that we respond to political context more than we do to individuals. It just feels as if we're reacting to those politicians.

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I don't mean to sound cynical. The temporary enthusiasm we will feel for our party's future nominee is healthy for democracy. It's healthy, too, when our critical faculties re-engage along with disillusion. It's even fine that most of us skip the critical stage by tuning out politics for a few years. After all, the ability of most citizens to safely ignore politics most of the time is a sign of the stability and success of the polity.

So there's no need to worry much about the favorability ratings of presidential candidates right now, especially with regard to the general election. And [This Candidate] shouldn't be worried, either.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

Ad Backing Martin O'Malley Jabs at Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush // NYT // Nick Corasaniti – June 4, 2015

A new TV ad from the "super PAC" supporting former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland is titled "Wall Street's Public Enemy No. 1." But it seems the intended target of the ad is Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush.

The ad from Generation Forward splices excerpts from Mr. O'Malley's recent presidential announcement speech, centered around his suggestion that the head of Goldman Sachs would be "just fine with either Bush or a Clinton." It then repeats his criticism that "the presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families."

Mr. O'Malley has focused his early campaign message on the anti-Wall Street sentiment popular among the Democratic left. But Generation Forward, while staying at least on the surface in line with that theme, framed the critique around political dynasties as well.

The $25,000 ad purchase will focus on the Iowa media markets of Cedar Rapids, Des Moines and Davenport, and will start airing with Thursday's evening news.

The title of the ad comes from a phrase uttered by the Fox Business Network correspondent Charles Gasparino, who said that Mr. O'Malley is "public enemy No. 1 in the halls of Goldman Sachs, in the halls of Black Rock, the big money management firm. All throughout Wall Street right now."

O'Malley's claim on unprecedented wage stagnation for 70 percent of Americans since World War II // WaPo // Michelle Ye Hee Lee

O'Malley officially entered the Democratic presidential race last weekend, framing himself as a progressive alternative to front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton. His launch speech focused on economic inequality and attacked Wall Street and corporate power.

In describing the "growing gap of injustice in our country today," O'Malley said 70 percent of Americans are "earning the same or less" than they were 12 years ago, for the first time since World War II. Is he correct?

The Facts

O'Malley's staff pointed to June 2014 research from the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute and 1947-2013 historical Census data as sources of his figures.

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) found slow and unequal wage growth in recent decades, and a "near stagnation" of hourly wage growth over the past generation for the majority of American workers. Hourly wage data compiled by the group, from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, show a breakdown by percentile from 1973 to 2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. Hourly wages for the 10th through 60th percentiles in 2013 were lower, or relatively flat compared to their hourly wages in 2001.

The trend begins to change in the 70th percentile, whose 2013 hourly wages ($23.88) were slightly higher than in 2001 ($23.57). The increase in hourly wage becomes progressively bigger in the 80th, 90th and 95th percentiles. It is unclear exactly at which point between the 60th and 70th percentiles that the trend changes.

This spreadsheet dates to 1973, and there were two other 12-year periods when hourly wages fell or remained flat for the 70th percentile: 1973 to 1985, and 1979 to 1991.

EPI President Lawrence Mishel said the group does not track the information back to World War II. But given that wages grew after the war and through the 1960s, Mishel said he is confident there was not the same wage stagnation in the 1950s or 1960s.

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The EPI data support O'Malley's general point that wage stagnation in the last 12 years has been broader than in other periods, including previous recessions, and occurred over two economic recoveries, Mishel said.

The 1947-2013 Current Population Survey data from O'Malley's staff show a breakdown of family income (not earnings) for each fifth percentile, adjusted to 2013 dollars. The table shows that family income at the 80th percentile is lower in 2013 than in 2001, and was the case for 12-year periods going back to 1999. It is important to note that according to experts, Census data prior to 1960s are not as reliable as more recent data.

The data support a "story of broad stagnation" for the American economy and American families, although the language in the speech is imprecise, said Gregory Acs, director of the Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center.

O'Malley says "70 percent of us" in America are earning the same or less. That can be interpreted to apply to 70 percent of individual Americans, or Americans at the 70th percentile.

The percentile data do not reflect individual Americans' wages, and instead shows the distribution of wages. The Current Population Survey does not follow the same people over time. So the people who were in the 70th percentile in 2001 may not be in the same percentile in 2013, even though his statement could mean that 70 percent of the same Americans earn less or the same 12 years later.

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics does measure that information. The ongoing study began in 1968, of nationally representative sample of individual Americans. But such longitudinal study would not support O'Malley's claim, according to Urban Institute's Stephen Rose. Tracking individual wages this way would show growth in majority of 12-year periods, if only for the life cycle effect: people tend to earn more money up to about 50 years old, then even out until retirement.

O'Malley spokeswoman Haley Morris said the point that he is trying to make is about broad and evident trends, not specific families or individuals.

The Pinocchio Test

O'Malley's general point has some merit — that wages for the bottom 70 percent of Americans fell in the past 12 years. But neither dataset provided by his staff supports the specifics in his claim, especially that this is the "first time that that has happened this side of World War II." (PolitiFact rated this comment "Half True.")

The EPI table dates to 1973, and the most recent 12-year period (2001 to 2013) was the third time wages fell between 1973 and 2013 for up to the 70th percentile. Census data from the campaign show the same trend started in the 12-year period beginning in 1999, for family incomes at the 80th percentile.

The 12-year decrease began in 1999, and the data do not exactly refer to "70 percent of us" in America nor to earnings.

We wavered between Two and Three Pinocchios. But the details matter — especially when making such a specific statement in a speech as significant as the announcement of his run for president. So O'Malley earns Three Pinocchios.

Eight years ago, O'Malley argued that Democrats needed to focus on the center, not the left // NBC News // Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, & Carrie Dann – June 4, 2015

Martin O'Malley is running as a progressive with a gubernatorial record to back it up. The latest example came yesterday, when he vowed he "would never give up" on efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform, per NBC's Leigh Ann Caldwell. But contrast today's Martin O'Malley with this 2007 Washington Post op-ed he co-wrote with Harold Ford Jr. (!!!) entitled: "Our Chance to Capture the Center." In the op-ed, the two said, "Some on the left would love to pretend that groups such as the Democratic Leadership Council, the party's leading centrist voice, aren't needed anymore. But for Democrats, taking the center for granted next year would be a greater mistake than ever before." More: "Contrast the collapse of a conservative president with the success of the last centrist president. Bill Clinton ran on an agenda of sensible ideas that brought America a decade of peace and prosperity. He was the only Democrat to be elected and reelected president in the past seven decades, and he left office more popular than almost any other president in recent memory."

Remembering the context of that 2007 op-ed

Don't forget the context of that Aug. 2007 op-ed: It came when Hillary Clinton (whom O'Malley had already endorsed) was facing Barack Obama and John Edwards from her left. What's more, that entire message -- Democrats must stick to the center to win the White House -- was pretty much undercut by Obama's successful presidential victories in 2008 and 2012. One of the reasons why some progressives haven't been jumping on the

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O'Malley bandwagon was the sense that he ALWAYS hasn't been a progressive. And this 2007 op-ed, plus his endorsement of Hillary over Obama in 2008, only adds to that sense, despite his progressive record as Maryland governor. First Read reached out to O'Malley's campaign for comment on the '07 op-ed, but we didn't hear back by our publication time.

Lincoln Chafee hits Hillary Clinton on war, trustworthiness // CNN Jeremy Diamond – June 4, 2015

The latest Democratic presidential candidate is running to Hillary Clinton's left on foreign policy, but when it comes to questions about her emails and foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation, Lincoln Chafee sounds like a Republican.

Chafee pointed to what he described as Clinton's "long record just going back over decades of questionable ethical practices," pointing not just to recent questions over Clinton's tenure as secretary of state, but also to the decades-old Whitewater scandal on Thursday in an interview with CNN's Chris Cuomo on "New Day."

"It seems like it just never stops," Chafee said. "Anytime you're running for office...trustworthiness is a main concern of the voters," Chafee said Thursday on CNN's "New Day."

Chafee hinted at a recent CNN/ORC poll that showed 57% of Americans believe Clinton is not honest and trustworthy, up from 49% in March.

Those numbers came as Republicans have continued to hammer Clinton on her use of private email housed on a personal server during her time as secretary of state and over foreign donations made to the Clinton Foundation during that same time.

"Those poll numbers and that perception of untrustworthiness, it just cannot sweep away. It's something very, very important no matter what office you run for," Chafee said.

Clinton's other two primary opponents, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, have looked to set up a contrast with Clinton but have been warier of attacking Clinton, notably on the questions swirling around the Clinton Foundation and her email use.

But Chafee hasn't hesitated, even before he formally announced his candidacy Wednesday.

Chafee is also going after Clinton's record on foreign policy, calling her a "hawk" in the interview Thursday. And he is saying that Clinton's vote in favor of the Iraq War in 2002 -- which she has since called a mistake -- should disqualify her from carrying the Democratic Party banner into the 2016 general election.

"I would submit to the Democrats across the country we are going to be compromised in trying to win the election in 2016 if our nominee supported the war in Iraq," Chafee said Thursday. "In 2016, this should be a republican war, a Republican mess (in Iraq)."

He said he plans to raise questions about how the U.S. got "into this endless tragic quagmire" in Iraq and "who made the mistakes that got us there."

Not Chafee, he would argue, as he voted against authorizing military intervention in Iraq when he was a U.S. senator.

Chafee said he would present himself as the candidate who wants to "wage peace," not war.

He is also running on a less common presidential platform: bringing the metric system to the U.S., which he said would ring "big economic benefits" to the country.

Martin O'Malley Just Took His Populist Pitch Full-Throttle // ABC News // Ali Dukakis – June 4, 2015

The Democratic Party's newest candidate on the block, Martin O'Malley, took his Wall Street offensive full-throttle Wednesday, attempting to capitalize on signs that questions about the Clintons' personal earnings and the dealings of their foundation could mean a fall from grace for presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton.

In his first public engagement as a presidential candidate, the former Maryland governor joined the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., for 45 minutes of questions and answers with the chamber president and CEO Javier Palomarez. O'Malley then took a handful of questions from reporters who had been pre-selected on a first-come basis.

O'Malley launched his populist appeal right out the gate, answering Palomarez's first question asking him to describe who he is and why he should be president after a recent CBS News poll found 72 percent of Democrats

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don't know him well enough to decide whether they'd support his bid for president.

"I am one of six kids born to Tom and Barbara O'Malley who are two Americans born into The Depression," O'Malley said.

He added that his father was only able to afford college thanks to the G.I. Bill, and "the generous country that understood that the stronger we made our citizens, the more we made it possible for more families to send their kids to college, the stronger we would be as a nation."

Citing chatter that O'Malley, 52, has shown reluctance to take on Clinton directly, Palomarez asked, "So the question is, and no pun intended here governor, are you, as they say, 'Ready for Hillary'?"

O'Malley remained steadfast in painting himself as a candidate of the people looking to save the American Dream, which he said "is in deep trouble."

"Other candidates in this race have come to the conclusion that they have that combination of experience and vision to be able to do this and so now the way it works is now that we've made up our minds, now the public gets to decide, and that's the way it's supposed to work," he said, striking Clinton.

While answering a questions about whether he'd accept contributions from big businesses to his campaign, O'Malley said, "I understand I've been named public enemy number one by Goldman-Sachs, so while I'm three days a presidential candidate, I am one day a public enemy of Goldman-Sachs."

O'Malley, also a former mayor of Baltimore, hit populist high notes as he charted the history of America's workers and wage from its high-functioning peaks during the New Deal, citing a sea change 30 years ago that brought the U.S. economy to the perilous state it's in today.

"We need to realize that our economy is not money, our economy is people, and we need to put wage policies at the center," he said.

He later added, "No state and no city is an island, we need to get our national economy functioning again by getting wages to start rising instead of declining."

Even in response to questions unrelated to America's economic climate or Clinton herself, O'Malley seemed to work income inequality and the importance of taking down big money giants into many of his answers.

When faced with a damning statement from the Maryland ACLU that named his legacy as governor, specifically his "zero tolerance" policing strategy, as a culprit in creating high tension and distrust between the citizens and police in Baltimore, O'Malley cited his record of cutting the crime rate and number of police-involved shootings "to the lowest level I think in modern times," but ultimately brought his message back to income inequality.

"These policing incidents are the spark, but the rage that erupted in Baltimore that night was not only about policing, and not only about race – it was about the fact that our economy is leaving huge portions of our population behind," he said in reference to the April rioting after the funeral of Freddie Gray, the man who died in police custody.

Of course, the populist message isn't unique to O'Malley. Also playing on the Democratic primary field is Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, who solidified his reputation as a fierce critic committed to taking down Wall Street fat cats far before he set his sights on the White House.

And with the effort to draft perhaps big business' greatest watchdog in government, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., to run for office officially coming to an end this week, it seems O'Malley may be sensing it's his time to distinguish himself on one of the issues that matter to the party most – and that happens to be an area of weakness for his main opponent, Clinton.

O'Malley Is Running To The Left, But In 2007 He Urged The Center // NBC News // Mark Murray – June 4, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who has tried to seize the progressive mantle in his White House bid, wrote an op-ed he eight years ago where he argued that the center - not the left - should be the Democratic Party's focus.

The 2007 Washington Post op-ed he co-authored with former Congressman Harold Ford Jr., then the chairman of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council was entitled "Our Chance to Capture the Center."

The two men wrote, "Some on the left would love to pretend that groups such as the Democratic Leadership Council, the party's leading centrist voice, aren't needed anymore. But for Democrats, taking the center for

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granted next year would be a greater mistake than ever before."

The op-ed is a contrast with what O'Malley has been promoting in his presidential bid.

At his speech officially announcing his presidential candidacy last Saturday, O'Malley said, "Our economic and political system is upside down and backwards and it is time to turn it around."

In his eight years as Maryland governor, O'Malley racked a record with progressive achievements on gay marriage, gun control and immigration.

But the context of that 2007 op-ed is striking: It came when Hillary Clinton (whom O'Malley had already endorsed) was facing Barack Obama and John Edwards from her left in the 2008 contest. What's more, that entire message - Democrats must stick to the center to win the White House - was pretty much undercut by Obama's successful presidential victories in 2008 and 2012.

O'Malley and Ford also wrote: "Contrast the collapse of a conservative president [George W. Bush] with the success of the last centrist president. Bill Clinton ran on an agenda of sensible ideas that brought America a decade of peace and prosperity. He was the only Democrat to be elected and reelected president in the past seven decades, and he left office more popular than almost any other president in recent memory."

Reached for comment about this 2007 op-ed, the O'Malley campaign cited a 2002 Baltimore Sun article with O'Malley calling himself a "progressive liberal." The article, however, also recounts O'Malley's appearance at a Democratic Leadership Council event.

"O'Malley said he was recruited to join the DLC soon after he was elected mayor three years ago. He said that although he enjoys debating strategy with the organization, he doesn't subscribe to all the positions of its leadership," the Sun article says. "He said he made clear his differences in discussions that included leaders such as Sens. Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut and Evan Bayh of Indiana and focused on what the council calls the 'battle over the soul of the Democratic Party.'"

Martin O'Malley going after 'bullies of Wall Street' in campaign, but he has ties to big banks too // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – June 4, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has been bashing Hillary Clinton for being too cozy with Wall Street, but he's got some ties of his own to financial big-wigs.

O'Malley has been looking to show he's a populist warrior in the Democratic presidential primary, hoping he can get to Clinton's left and capitalize on the anti-Wall Street mood coursing through the progressive base while ripping Clinton for her well-heeled support.

"When you have somebody that's the CEO of one of the biggest repeat-offending investment banks in the country telling his employees that he'd be fine with either Bush or Clinton, that should tell all of us something," O'Malley said on ABC Sunday, pointing out that Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein has said he'd be happy with either Clinton or former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the White House.

O'Malley also warned the "bullies of Wall Street" during his Saturday campaign announcement that "the presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families."

But while he was the finance chairman of the Democratic Governors Association in 2008, Goldman Sachs gave $100,000 to the organization.

O'Malley admitted on Wednesday that he "probably" had asked for big checks from financial giants in the past before refusing to rule out soliciting more from the financial industry for his presidential bid.

"I probably have. I was the chair of the Democratic Governors Association. I'm quite sure I've called everybody that they've put up sheets in front of me," he said when asked about past donations during an event in Washington with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, referring to the fundraising call sheets candidates dial through looking for donations.

"I'm not prone to call up the head of Goldman Sachs or those individuals, nor am I inclined to tell those people in the financial industry that they shouldn't be involved in my campaign, in fact I think they should," he continued. "There's a lot of good people who work in our financial industry."

Hillary Clinton has been slammed by O'Malley for her ties to Wall Street.

That's a different tune than a Wednesday fundraising email from O'Malley's campaign that asked for donations to "help us fight back against Wall Street."

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According to CNBC, O'Malley wined and dined with Wall Street leaders including Robert Wolf, president and chief operating officer of UBS Investment Bank, and Marvin Rosen, a corporate and securities lawyer, at the swanky Lever House in November 2013.

Some of O'Malley's current campaign supporters have ties to big banks as well.

George Appleby, who introduced him last weekend in Iowa, is a registered Des Moines lobbyist who counts Wells Fargo and OneMain Financial, formerly the Citigroup Management Corporation, among his clients.

O'Malley began his career as a member of the business-friendly Democratic Leadership Council, and his current rhetoric runs counter to a 2007 op-ed he coauthored with the group's then-leader and former Rep. Harold Ford (D-Tenn.), who currently works for Morgan Stanley and at the time was at Merrill Lynch.

The two wrote then that Democrats must seek a "centrist agenda" and praised Bill Clinton's presidential campaign for its "sensible ideas."

And when O'Malley was governor, he appointed former Legg Mason CEO Richard C. Mike Lewin to the Maryland Transportation Authority and former Deutsche Bank Alex Brown managing director Mark Kaufman to head Maryland's committee on financial regulation.

Kaufman helped O'Malley keep banks from foreclosing on families during the financial crisis and was named the 2014 consumer advocate of the year by the Maryland Consumer Rights Association.

O'Malley is now calling to break up the big banks and reimpose the Glass-Steagall Act, which would impose tighter restrictions on the banking industry.

Professor Adam Sheingate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore said O'Malley "never took a populist anti-Wall Street stance" when he was mayor or governor, though he pointed out that O'Malley successfully pushed through some new financial regulations while he was in office.

"He can say he took on the financial services industry, and he did some things that I don't think went very far in terms of curtailing payday loans and require banks to renegotiate mortgages instead of foreclose on people," he said.

O'Malley's campaign downplayed his ties to banks.

"Governor O'Malley's strong call to finally rein in Wall Street has clearly struck a chord with the powers that be. They can try to leak as many meaningless tidbits as they want, but Governor O'Malley has shown he will stand up to his own party to call for real structural and accountability reforms of Wall Street," O'Malley spokeswoman Haley Morris told the Daily News.

"Rather than engaging in this silly back and forth, every candidate should have the courage to say where they stand on this issue."

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders asks Congress to spend $5.5 billion on 1 million jobs for youths // WaPo // Aaron Davis – June 4, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders on Thursday called on Congress to immediately fund a million jobs for disadvantaged young Americans, adding to a pile of high-cost plans that might only become reality if he prevails in his longshot bid for the White House.

Sanders's bill, which he introduced in a D.C. neighborhood with relatively high unemployment and crime rates, would send $5.5 billion to local and state governments to fund job-training programs. Much of the money would go to helping unemployed African Americans. Sanders suggested the investment could pay for itself if it keeps more young black men out of jail.

"If current trends continue, 1 in 3 black males born today can expect to spend time in prison during his lifetime. This is an unspeakable tragedy," Sanders said. "But this crisis is not just a destruction of human life. It is also very, very costly to the taxpayers." Sanders pegged the country's annual prison tab at $70 billion.

"It makes a lot more sense to me to be investing in jobs, in job training . . . than to be building more and more jails and to be locking more and more people up," Sanders said.

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The bill, introduced with longtime Michigan Rep. John Conyers (D), comes as declared Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Hillary Rodham Clinton have tried to find the right tone to respond to riots from Ferguson to Baltimore over police tactics that stirred national debate over racial and economic inequality.

For Sanders (I-Vt.), the bill's introduction also highlighted the long and detailed — if highly controversial — policy plans he has put on the record over three decades on Capitol Hill. The Vermont independent has recently renewed legislative efforts for $1 trillion in infrastructure spending and $750 billion in new taxes on overseas profits to make all state college and universities free.

Announcing the policy in D.C. also marked a rare campaign-style appearance for a candidate in the nation's capital. While election-year fundraisers in the city abound and Clinton is expected to appear before a congressional committee investigating her e-mail retention as secretary of state, candidates usually seek backdrops as far from D.C. as possible.

On Thursday, Sanders traveled just three miles down Pennsylvania Avenue from the U.S. Capitol. Across the Anacostia River in a building atop a rundown strip mall, Sanders noted the unemployment rate, which hovers around 15 percent there and above 20 percent in the city for young black men.

The event raised the possibility that Sanders may embrace D.C. in his campaign, where he has readymade access to the city's large press corps, and his role as a current elected lawmaker is unique among Democratic contenders.

It was the third event Sanders has held in D.C. since the spring, including his announcement outside the Capitol, and a town hall meeting before he became a candidate. At that event, he warned of impending disaster in the next federal budget decided by congressional Republicans.

As he rushed back to the Capitol for a vote Thursday in a compact car with Vermont tags, Sanders declined to comment on whether President Obama had done enough on youth unemployment, or on the positions of his competitors. Clinton has spoken without specifics about addressing youth unemployment, and O'Malley has talked about using the fourth year of high school for skills training.

"This issue is a crisis facing American society. It is an international disgrace," Sanders said. "It has to be dealt with, and I hope every candidate feels that we have to address this issue."

Bernie Sanders, The Wide-Eyed Pragmatist // HuffPo // Sam Stein – June 4, 2015

With days to go before Congress adjourned for August recess last year, the prospects of passing a Veterans Affairs reform bill looked dim. Weeks of turmoil over long waits, cover-ups, and potentially avoidable deaths at VA hospitals had not produced a legislative agreement. Instead, the two lawmakers responsible with crafting one hadn't spoken in days.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who as chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee was half of this duo, hastily organized a press conference to lash out at his House counterpart, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), for pushing a proposal outside the agreed-upon parameters. Miller's office responded by leaking emails showing that Sanders' staff had refused to join a meeting in retaliation for not being given advance notice.

The VA reform effort seemed likely to end up in the same trash heap as all the other attempts to respond to the crises of summer 2014, from illegal border crossings, to lost IRS emails, to the dwindling highway trust fund.

And then, it was saved.

A phone conversation took place between Sanders and Miller. Their staffs held marathon negotiating sessions. And three days before the calendar turned to August, they finalized a deal. It permitted veterans to get care at private hospitals under certain conditions, spent $5 billion to shore up the VA's own system, allocated additional funds to leasing new facilities and implemented new policies to encourage doctors to work for the VA.

The revitalization of VA reform legislation is an unsexy tale. It is the story of two lawmakers who swallowed their ideological pride to make moderate progress. But it also illustrates a defining paradox of one of the more dynamic figures currently in politics.

Bernie Sanders, the wide-eyed socialist running for president in 2016, just happened to produce one of the few -- and perhaps the largest -- bipartisan legislative breakthroughs in the last Congress.

"I'm a pragmatist," Sanders said in an interview with The Huffington Post. "If I was a writer or paid to go around giving speeches, then that is something I could do. But I was elected by the people of Vermont to be their elected representative in Washington. And that requires me to shape and pass legislation."

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Few people think of Sanders this way. His reputation -- reinforced by his firebrand speeches, rumpled suits and Dr. Emmett Brown hair -- is that of an uncompromising ideologue. And he often plays the part. He's been virulently opposed to Trade Promotion Authority for years and has an unbending view of Social Security: it should be expanded, not cut. This past week, he indicated on "Meet The Press" that he'd support a bill reforming the NSA's bulk data collection program, even if he thought it didn't go far enough. Days later, he voted against it.

But those who work with him in Congress see Sanders differently. Miller called him a "realist" whose inability to play coy was refreshing.

"He is very open and honest as he goes through the process," Miller said. "You know where Bernie is coming from."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who helped write the Senate version of the VA reform bill, praised Sanders for having the gumption to drop F-bombs one minute and counteroffers the next.

"Negotiating with Bernie was not a usual experience, because he is very passionate and he and I are both very strong-willed people and we spend a lot of time banging our fists on the table and having the occasional four-letter word," McCain said. "But at the end of the day, Bernie was result-oriented."

Sanders rose through the political system, rather than entering it late. He was a mayor for eight years and a congressman for 16, during which time he figured out that protest votes and purity could only get him so far. He pursued smaller priorities to attach to larger pieces of legislation that he invariably found less than ideal. A Rolling Stone article from 2005 called him "the amendment king of the current House of Representatives," as he'd passed more roll call amendments than any other member.

This pick-your-spots approach extends to the current day. Sanders has routinely flouted the Democratic Party's agenda on gun control. He got $12 billion for community health centers included in the final version of Obamacare, which he ultimately voted for despite being an unwavering single-payer advocate. He secured a provision for an audit of the Federal Reserve in the final version of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, which he voted for despite worries that it didn't go far enough.

The latter, in particular, separates Sanders from certain politicians to whom he's often compared. He helped strike a deal to make the Fed audit a one-time thing, which ultimately led to its passage. But it also ended up splintering Sanders from his collaborator on the issue, former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas), who had wanted the audit to be rolling.

"We were very disappointed when Sen. Sanders gutted Audit the Fed in 2010 and are even more disappointed that he has thus far refused to cosponsor Audit the Fed this Congress," said Megan Stiles, communications director for Paul's Campaign for Liberty.

Sanders' team doesn't mind such criticisms, in part because there's little risk that anyone outside Paul's universe will brand him a sell-out. Compared to other politicians running for president, Sanders is downright rigid. That he has pursued a few policy victories on the side just makes him a more open-minded member of that rigid class.

"After decades of Congressman Paul trying, Bernie was able to actually get a piece of legislation passed," said Michael Briggs, Sanders' long time aide.

The tougher criticism comes from those who argue that Sanders' victories aren't nearly as impressive as he wants voters to believe. Despite the praise from McCain and Miller, others ask how the VA was allowed to deteriorate so badly with him chairing the veterans' affairs committee.

"I think he is an ideologue and had a very difficult time getting anything done for vets," said Paul Rieckhoff, the founder and executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "Oftentimes he just viewed the criticism of the VA as an attack on the VA ... Saying he reached a compromise with John McCain after the whole world saw what happened is not a win."

To be sure, problems persist within the VA, even after last summer's passage of the law. Sanders said he wanted more money in the final bill to shore up long waits at VA hospitals. His staff, meanwhile, frames the legislation as reform-minded pragmatism rather than political ingenuity, though they do praise some of its smaller components, such as student loan repayments for VA doctors.

"The fact is, he was able to work with McCain across the party aisle and accomplish the most significant piece of legislation in the past year," Briggs said. "Yes, the bar is pretty low. But they got it passed, without much help from Paul Rieckhoff."

So far in his run for the White House, Sanders has spent little time talking about this or other elements of his legislative record. This is partly because producing legislation is an inherently unflattering process filled with

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messy trade-offs. But more to the point, it's not the most galvanizing part of his candidacy. It's better, after all, to warn of the ills of politics than to tout that you, too, know how to play the game.

"In given moments in my political career, we had to make compromises to get things done. And of course I've done that. And I will continue to do that," Sanders said. "But at the end of the day, the way we bring about real change and the way we are most effective is by rallying the people to stand up and fight back."

Bernie Sanders scrambles to build Iowa team to meet popular demand // The Des Moines Register – June 4, 2015

Campaign aides for liberal warrior Bernie Sanders are scrambling to hire more staff in Iowa and open an Iowa office to keep up with momentum as each of his events attracts a crush of hundreds.
"People are out ahead and we're trying to play catch-up organizationally to give these people a vehicle to participate in the campaign," Sanders' campaign manager, Jeff Weaver, told The Des Moines Register on Thursday morning.
Sanders is the no-party Vermont U.S. senator who's running for president as a Democrat. His rebel yell calling for a revolution — he wants to fight economic inequality and wrest control of the government from millionaires — has brought Iowans running.
Sanders's crowd-attracting abilities are reminiscent of another revolution-rallying, white-haired grandfather-like figure who was also famous for stemwinders on big change for the federal government: Ron Paul, the Republican who finished in third place just 3 points behind the leaders in the 2012 Iowa caucuses.
While Paul was a libertarian-leaning conservative who blasted U.S. intervention in the Middle East and the war on drugs, Sanders is liberal independent who supports the decriminalization of marijuana possession and says Muslim countries should be the ones who lead the fight against Islamic terrorists.
After Sanders' April 30 formal presidential campaign announcement speech yielded an estimated 5,000 in Vermont, he packed in roughly 700 for a Davenport town hall, 300 in the tiny town of Kensett and several hundred at a recreation center in Iowa City. When all the seats were full, Iowans grabbed exercise balls to sit upon.
Sanders is the rival-in-chief to Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton. He has seen his support triple with Iowa likely caucusgoers in the last four months, according to the new Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll. But he's the first choice of only 16 percent of Democratic likely caucusgoers, 41 points down from Clinton, who is currently the first choice for 57 percent.
During his speeches in Iowa, Sanders calls for guaranteed sick leave and vacation for workers, more cushion from Social Security for retirees, a reduction in unemployment, a minimum wage increase, free public college, free preschool to help reduce the need for expensive child care, government-run health care that covers the entire population, and other changes.
Weaver, Sanders' campaign manager, is in Iowa this week to sign a lease for a Des Moines campaign office and bring on more staff to help Sanders' Iowa director, Pete D'Alessandro, who has been almost single-handedly dealing with swarms of Iowans who want to connect with the campaign.
This is the first early state where Sanders has opened a headquarters; New Hampshire is next, Weaver told the Register.
"Iowa's a very important state to us. We're going to be competing here very aggressively. We won't have what she has," Weaver said, referring to the big staff and nine offices Clinton already has in Iowa, "but we'll be competing very aggressively."
On the same day Sanders drew 700 in Davenport, Ron Paul's son Rand Paul, who is running for president in the 2016 race, drew about 100 in Davenport. Politics watchers on Twitter argued that Sanders was offering "free money" while Paul was promoting hard work.
"This is not about handouts — people pay taxes in this country," Weaver responded Thursday. "We're talking about leveling the playing field so every person has the opportunity to succeed to their maximum potential."
Sanders is focused on the day-to-day lives of Americans who don't have enough money to pay the mortgage or send their child to college or to afford quality child care, Weaver said.
"The Republicans give lip service to this idea of everyone succeeding, but the deck starts so lopsided there's no way for people in many cases, especially for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, to succeed," he said.
Sanders intends to return to Iowa soon, he said.

The 1 percent's "centrist" propaganda war: Why Bernie Sanders & Elizabeth Warren are so threatening to the establishment // Salon // Conor Lynch – June 4, 2015

After last Novembers elections, the GOP had a bit of a revelation. Once they had gained control of the congress, bipartisanship suddenly became the mature and necessary thing to do. The people spoke, after all, and had given the go ahead for Republican's to push through their ideology, and it was now the responsibility of the Democrats to play along. "Serious adults are in charge here and we intend to make progress," said Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, with an air of superiority. Yes, this is the same fellow who made the following remark a few years back: "Our top political priority over the next two years should be to deny President Obama a second term." It is also the same party that has fought bitterly against nearly every policy that President Obama has advocated, like health care reform, the economic stimulus, immigration reform, etc.

Of course its all nonsense. The GOP is about as interested in bipartisanship as Reagan was interested in a balanced

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budget. They say one thing, and do something entirely different. They are politicians, this is what they do.

But still, this does lead to a different question that has been floating around lately, which is whether the Democratic Party should be embracing the liberal movement, led by people like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, or falling back to a more centrist plan that Bill Clinton embraced back in the '90s. This question seems legitimate, but it actually is not.

In reality, it is a question that is subtly being posed by the right wing and Wall Street Democrats, in the hope of slowing down a movement that is quickly becoming a true force in American politics. Former speechwriter for George W. Bush, Peter Wehner, wrote quite an embarrassing piece last week in the New York Times that argued that the Democratic party has indeed gone too far to the left, saying that "Democrats believe that they are riding a tide of presidential inevitability. They may want to rethink that. They are placing a very risky bet that there are virtually no limits to how far left they can go."

I have discussed the article previously in more detail, but the gist of his argument is based on comparing the views of modern Obama with '90s-era Clinton, as if we have nothing to learn from time and evidence, lamely ignoring changes that have occurred over the past three decades, like the increasing scientific evidence of climate change, the skyrocketing rate of inequality, and the complete disaster that is the war on drugs.

These arguments for centrism are just red herrings cloaked as pragmatic advice, designed to distract people from real problems, like the fact the GOP is actually a dying breed, while the rise of the modern liberal movement is overwhelmingly associated with the millennial generation.

Indeed, the largest base for conservatism today will be, quite literally, dying off in the near future. The Republican party is the old white party, which is not a very good survival strategy, as white people will cease to be a majority in about three decades, and todays elderly will be dead. This seems to be a much more significant problem than the Democratic party going too far to the left, which is actually a wise strategy for the future, if we are to believe the data suggesting the millennial generation is the most liberal yet. In fact, a few years ago, a Pew poll suggested that millennials (18-29) view socialism more favorably than capitalism, which is quite astonishing for the United States.

Elizabeth Warren and the rising liberal movement have created a real fear within the Republican party and Wall Street. Certain right wing pundits paint Warren as nothing less than a radical socialist, aiming to overthrow the capitalist system. This is fear. Fear that the new liberal movement is not just a fad, and that the future is moving leftward.

The argument for centrism within the Democratic party is a distraction, but also a tactic. After all, what does centrism really mean in Washington? It means corporatism. It means the neoliberal alliance between Wall Street and D.C. that we have seen wreak havoc over the past 30 years. It means the Clinton administration signing financial deregulation into law, and refusing to regulate derivatives. It means the promotion of corporatist trade deals like NAFTA and the TPP.

Centrism also means "easily bought," and funded by the 1 percent. Take the "centrist" think tank, "Third Way," which was founded by former Clinton staffers. This organization has aggressively gone after Elizabeth Warren and the liberal movement, saying in a Wall Street Journal editorial:

"If you talk to leading progressives these days, you'll be sure to hear this message: The Democratic Party should embrace the economic populism of New York Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Such economic populism, they argue, should be the guiding star for Democrats heading into 2016. Nothing would be more disastrous for Democrats."

Its the same argument that Wehner made, this time from so-called (Clinton) Democrats. It may seem like they are stuck in the nineties, but it is more likely a result of their funding and history. Third Way's board of trustees is made up almost entirely of investment bankers and CEOs, and it is funded by the banking community.

So, is this group simply a DINO (Democrat in name only) organization? That wouldn't be entirely fair, as the Democratic party contains different factions, and neoliberal Democrats still exist — just look at Andrew Cuomo (and even Obama in some cases). The fact is, Wall Street is afraid of modern liberalism, and is working hard to kill it from within with the same arguments that were made in the eighties and nineties. The only difference is, today, we know just how bad neoliberalism has been for the majority of people, and how good it has been for folks on Wall Street.

The financial crisis and the current inequality we face discredits the neoliberal ideology of the past thirty years. Centrism tends to be promoted as pragmatism, and the only way to win national elections. This may have been true in 1992, but today it is false. Centrism is a wolf in sheep's clothing; a strategy for corporatism, to stop progress with a slogan of practicality. But giving in to the crony-capitalist status quo is not a practical move for the middle class, just the one-percent.

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CHAFEE

Lincoln Chafee and the last mile **// Politico // Adam Lerner – June 4, 2015**

Announcing his quirky run for the White House Wednesday, Lincoln Chafee may have inadvertently touched one of the more obscure third rails of American politics: conversion to the metric system, or "metrication" to those in the know.

Touting his time as a farrier in kilometer-loving Canada, the Rhode Island Republican-cum-Independent-cum-Democrat called metrication a "bold embrace of internationalism" that, in due course, "will help our economy."

Political journalists chortled, and for good reason: More than two centuries of history show that Americans really can't be persuaded.

"Nobody is really interested in giving up their measurement systems," said Russ Rowlett, a retired professor of mathematics at UNC Chapel Hill who authored "How Many? A Dictionary of Units of Measurement."

In every country minus the U.S., Liberia, and Burma, the metric system has been applied via some sort of top-down coercion, said Rowlett. "We have such a large economy, we don't feel that same pressure."

"Ordinary people don't," he clarified. "Industry does."

The measurement question has surfaced and resurfaced in American politics since the country's founding.

Even the Articles of Confederation, the proto-constitution that was famously discarded because it did not provide the federal government with enough authority, allowed the central government the "sole and exclusive right and power" to fix the standard of weights and measures. The U.S. Constitution similarly then gave this power to the Congress in the same clause that allowed it the exclusive right to coin money and regulate its value.

In 1790, then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson issued a proposal to Congress to establish a base-ten system of measurement, less than a decade before the French First Republic adopted the metric system in 1799. Jefferson's system included ten inches in every foot, 10,000 feet in every mile and a whole host of new measurements like a ten-foot-long "decade," a 100-foot-long "rood" and a 1,000-foot-long "furlong."

In true congressional fashion, the legislature balked and did nothing, partly because subsequent bills relating to land acquisition depended upon the old mile measurement. Americans largely retained the system of English measurements established by the British parliament in prior centuries, including the inch, foot, mile, pound and gallon.
ARLINGTON, VA - JUNE 03: Democratic presidential candidate and former Sen. Lincoln Chafee (D-RI) announces his candidacy for the U.S. presidency at George Mason University June 3, 2015 in Arlington, Virginia. Chafee joins Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley in seeking the Democratic nomination.

By the mid-1800s the metric system began to gain steam around the rest of the world, largely because of colonialism and the support of engineers, scientists and businesses who favored its easy conversions and internationalism. In 1875, 17 countries — including the United States — met in Paris and signed a treaty establishing the International Bureau of Weights and Measures that internationalized the metric system. The treaty is largely credited with giving the system the final push it needed to achieve near-universality.

But the U.S. and UK continued to resist.

By the 1970s, as globalizing forces picked up, both countries saw renewed pushes for metrication. The UK slowly but surely adopted the metric system as businesses switched over to meters and grams to secure access to European markets. And in 1975, the U.S. Congress likewise passed the Metric Conversion Act, which called for making the metric system the "preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce."

"To say that this legislation is historic is an understatement," President Ford said in a statement upon signing the bill.

Still, Ford and the Congress were reluctant to push metrication too hard. He added that "the conversion contemplated in this legislation is to be a completely voluntary one. The Government's function … will be to coordinate and synchronize increasing use of metric measurement."

Dr. Donald Hillger, president of the U.S. Metric Association, which advocates complete metric adoption, believes this word, "voluntary," was the nail in metrication's coffin. "If that word were not in there and if they had decided

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to fully support the issue" by giving the legislation "teeth," he said, "they could have [pushed conversion]."

Ford's successor, Jimmy Carter, supported the 1975 legislation, but also did not push to make metric conversion mandatory. The bill established the U.S. Metric Board, and during Carter's presidency the group began sponsoring public service announcement to promote the metric system. One of these was a series of television shorts that aired alongside Saturday morning cartoons in 1978 called "The Metric Marvels." Produced by the makers of "Schoolhouse Rock!" the series featured superheroes like Meter Man, Liter Leader, Super Celsius, and Wonder Gram.

"Metric superheroes, fighting to stamp out metric ignorance and introduce the system that rules the world!" the theme song declared.

But the system never stuck. President Ronald Reagan began his tenure by overturning a law to promote teaching of the metric system in American schools, and in 1981 and in 1982 Reagan disbanded the U.S. Metric Board, citing his "program to reduce government spending and streamline its operations" in a letter to the board's chairman.

Reagan wrote that the secretary of commerce would continue to support "voluntary metrication" and that he would continue to support the 1975 law, but federal efforts to convert the public largely languished.

In 1988, Reagan did sign a bill requiring the federal government to go metric by the end of 1992, however, and in 1994 President Clinton signed a law requiring metric units on a variety of consumer products. But the public stubbornly refused to follow the federal push, and Congress declined to make adoption mandatory.

A 2010 survey by Consumer World found that, more than 30 years after the law's passage, up to 80 percent of those tested could not identify how much sugar was in a product when it was expressed in grams rather than in common household measurements like teaspoons.

Part of Americans' reluctance can be attributed to the fact that, even though supporters assure that metrication will ease barriers to trade and boost the economy in the long-run, in the short run converting all of the signs — not to mention hearts and minds — would be costly. For instance, in 1995 the GAO estimated the total cost of changing all of the nation's highway signs to kilometers to be between around $520 million and $650 million in today's dollars. Considering the clumsiness such a conversion would impose on older generations accustomed to the old system, the costs could skyrocket. From supermarket goods to construction sites to pants sizes, shifting to metric would require substantial changes.

So the United States has stayed a "soft metric" country, with both Democrats and Republicans content to let private industries decide which measurements they use. In response to a 2013 "We the People" petition, Under Secretary of Commerce Patrick Gallagher wrote that, since the 1970s, the U.S. has settled on promoting metric within the government while privately pushing a dual system that allows private citizens "the power to make this choice."

Even though the issue has lost steam with the U.S., plodding along industry by industry, immigrant family by immigrant family, Chafee apparently believes he can revive it.
At the very least, support for metrication provides a point of contrast with his Democratic rivals. The Clinton, Sanders, and O'Malley campaigns all did not respond to a request for comment on the issue (though O'Malley reportedly told the Atlantic's Derek Thompson that he's "not passionate about the metric system" when cornered on an Amtrak train).

But Republican Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has already incorporated it into an attack. In an email to POLITICO, his spokesman Michael Reed said Chafee is a "Typical Democrat — wants to make America more European. Governor Jindal would rather make the world more American."

Dr. Hillger refused to assess the Rhode Island Democrat's chances against front-runner Hillary Clinton, though he is pessimistic about Chafee's ability to drive debate. "I don't think [metrication] will be the issue that will challenge her," he said.

But he's optimistic that, eventually, Americans will have to abandon their beloved inches for centimeters, and miles for kilometers.

"It's inevitable."

OTHER

Democrats Get a Primary **// TIME // Joe Klein – June 4, 2015**

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The zinger captured the current 2016 campaign zeitgeist on several levels. There is a yeasty popu-lism rising in both parties. Among the Democrats, it's anti-Big Business; for the Republicans, it is anti-Big Government (and labor). There is also a rising discomfort with the aforementioned royalist candidates, Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton. Bush's relatively moderate conservatism separates him from the pack temperamentally, but he is hardly the front runner at this point. No one is. Clinton is very much the presumptive Democrat, but not a very dynamic or compelling one. Indeed, the entry of O'Malley and Vermont's Bernie Sanders into the race during the last week of May produced something of an energy jolt among Democrats, who have a preternatural need for a horse race, even when the horses are lame, and a long-festering desire for an ideological fight between left and center.

It should come as no surprise that Sanders seems to be catching fire among the leftish faithful, drawing big crowds and scoring double digits in an Iowa poll. He is a recognizable Democratic type–the prophet scorned, gushing rumpled authenticity. Usually, this phenomenon occurs when Democrats find themselves enmeshed in a foolish war: Eugene McCarthy in 1968, George McGovern in 1972, Howard Dean in 2004. Sanders' distinction is that he is an economic Jeremiah, pitchforking the depredations of Wall Street. This is fertile turf. It is a fight that has been coming since moderate Democrats began courting Wall Street donors in the mid-1980s. Bill and Hillary Clinton's wanton sloshing about in the plutocratic pigpen of their foundation makes it a particularly fat target this time. Sanders flies commercial.

But the populist case against the Clinton-Obama economic policies has real substance as well. It is no coincidence that the fundamental distortion of the American economy, with the deck stacked to benefit the financial sector, also dates back 30 years, when Democratic Congresses began to slip pro-bank provisions into the tax code, reaching a peak during the Clinton Administration with the demolition of the wall between commercial and investment banking and the flagrant refusal to regulate exotic derivative financial instruments—which, in turn, led to the Great Recession.

Both Sanders and O'Malley would take specific action against the Wall Street giants. They would break up the too-big-to-fail banks; they would reinstate the Glass-Steagall rules that used to separate legitimate banking from casino gambling. And if O'Malley got off the best zinger of the early campaign, Sanders has the best policy proposal: a tax on Wall Street transactions, tiny enough to impact only the computer-driven churning that makes the markets more volatile than they should be. He would spend some of the proceeds on a $1 trillion infrastructure-improvement program that would create, Sanders estimates, 13 million jobs—another good idea.

This should be a bright line in the primary, the most important substantive issue facing Hillary Clinton: How would she reform the tax and regulatory codes that unduly favor the financial sector?

I went to an O'Malley house party in Gilford, N.H., on the last day of May and met Johan Anderson, 68, who had been a successful sales executive but is now working two minimum-wage jobs to augment his Social Security. He had been a Republican and a town official in Stamford, Conn., "back in the days when you could be a Republican and a human being"—that is, before the party's rightward lurch. Now he was engaged in the ancient New Hampshire pursuit of candidate shopping. "I really respect Hillary Clinton," he said. "She's obviously very smart and experienced. But I wonder about her leadership abilities. She made a mess of her health care plan [in 1994], and she didn't organize her last campaign very well [in 2008]. My heart is with Bernie Sanders. I'd love to vote for him, but can he win? O'Malley is young [52] and brings a real freshness and energy to the race."

I'm not sure how many people like Anderson are out there: perhaps enough to make Clinton a better candidate, perhaps enough to give her a scare. But there will definitely be a Democratic primary.

Democrats' Supreme Court Litmus Test: Citizens United // Bloomberg News // Sahil Kapur – June 4, 2015

In past presidential elections, Supreme Court litmus tests were a Republican issue, with candidates vying for the evangelical vote by attacking the Roe v. Waderuling that legalized abortion nationwide. This year, Democrats have a litmus test of their own: Three of the four declared presidential candidates are suggesting they'll seek Supreme Court nominees who want to overturn Citizens United.

Martin O'Malley on Wednesday became the latest contender to jump aboard the bandwagon. In an interview with Bloomberg, he made it clear he will try to engineer a reversal of the landmark 2010 ruling, widely blamed for a new wave of big money in politics. The 5-4 ruling, which pitted justices appointed by Republican presidents against those appointed by Democrats, paved the way for super PACs and unlimited spending by corporations and unions to influence elections. In the 2014 election cycle, super PACs -- entities that can raise and spend political money in unlimited amounts -- raised close to $1 billion to influence Senate and House elections, according to the non-partisan Sunlight Foundation.

"I would appoint judges who don't think corporations are people. We need to overturn Citizens United," the former Maryland governor said after a Washington event hosted by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "And we need to recognize that big money is having a corrupting influence on our politics."

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Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, long a vociferous opponent of the 2010 ruling, kicked off the debate May 10 in an interview on CBS. "If elected president," he said, "I will have a litmus test in terms of my nominee to be a Supreme Court justice and that nominee will say that they are going to overturn this disastrous Supreme Court decision."

One week later, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton told activists in Mason City, Iowa that the Citizens United ruling was "a grave error" by the Court. "I will do everything I can to appoint Supreme Court justices who protect the right to vote and do not protect the right of billionaires to buy elections," she said.

A spokesperson for Lincoln Chafee, the former Rhode Island governor and U.S. senator who launched his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination earlier this week, declined Thursday to weigh in.

A nationwide poll released this week by the New York Times found that a whopping 84 percent of Americans think money has "too much" influence in political campaigns. The survey found that 78 percent said political spending should be limited, while 19 percent said it should remain unlimited.

The Citizens United decision, prompted by a legal challenge to a documentary that took aim at Hillary Clinton during her 2008 presidential bid, has long drawn the ire of progressive activists and campaign finance reformers, upset over the seven-figure political donations it has enabled. It has sparked calls for a constitutional amendment to overturn the decision, an idea that has lacks support from congressional Republicans.

In Citizens United v. FEC, the justices overturned a provision of the 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act and struck down limits on political spending by corporations, unions and nonprofit groups as a violation of the First Amendment. Those groups can now give unlimited amounts to influence an election as long as they don't coordinate with the candidates themselves. In practice, however, most of the big-spending committees are closely linked to candidate committees. The court followed up in the 2014 McCutcheon v. FEC ruling by invalidating limits on the aggregate amount that people can give to candidates and political committees in a two-year election cycle.

Caroline Fredrickson, the president of the American Constitution Society, a progressive legal advocacy group, said the backlash has echoes of how conservatives responded to the 1973 Roe ruling, which remains deeply divisive today.

"I think it's happening," she said. "Whether it'll reach the level of fervency of Roe v. Wade, it's hard to say. But it certainly seems to be going in that direction."

GOP

As Republican Debates Near, Candidates Vie to Make Cut // NYT // Maggie Haberman & Jeremy Peters – June 4, 2015

Carly Fiorina is a woman on the clock, a nine-week clock to be exact. That is when the first Republican debate of the 2016 election will happen. And if she does not get her poll numbers up, she will not make the cut.

“I need your help to get on that debate stage,” Ms. Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive, wrote in an urgent plea to supporters the other day. “I need to grow my team of supporters.”

Rick Santorum, the former senator and two-time presidential candidate, also might find himself excluded. “If you’re a United States senator, if you’re a governor, if you’re a woman who ran a Fortune 500 company,” he vented to reporters recently, “then you should have a right to be on stage.”

The announcements by Fox News and CNN that they will limit the first two debates to candidates who rank in the top 10 in national polls has given the Republican Party a “Hunger Games”-type atmosphere. Facing the possibility of being excluded from the first nationally televised face-offs of the 2016 election – and deprived of the priceless media attention the events can generate – some of the lesser-known candidates are under tremendous pressure to raise their visibility.

They are imploring supporters to give more money. They are increasing their national television presence. And they are not waiting for the spotlight to find them.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, who barely cracks the top 10 in many polls, has spoken to Fox News at length twice in recent weeks, stressing conservative positions. Ms. Fiorina invited reporters and cameras last week to follow her to the same hotel in Columbia, S.C., where Hillary Rodham Clinton was speaking. She then stood outside and taunted Mrs. Clinton, landing copious headlines.

For Republicans in states like Iowa and New Hampshire that hold the first primaries and caucuses, the trend is

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troubling. They fear candidates are too focused on getting on television to enhance their poll standing, when they should be out meeting voters in town halls and greasy spoons. Making matters worse, they say, is that the networks are using only national polls to determine who makes the top 10 – not state-based polls — so a candidate who builds momentum in Iowa could still be left off the stage.

There are already signs that the early-state rituals are being neglected, with a number of candidates waving off traditions like the Iowa straw poll in August. Jeb Bush and SenatorMarco Rubio of Florida have said they will skip it, and representatives of Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin last week declined to send anyone to an informational meeting on the poll.

Making the cut for the first debates is now "on everybody's mind," said Steve DeMaura, executive director of Carly for America, thesuper PAC working for Ms. Fiorina. "If you're currently at 5 percent or below, you have to know that everybody is trying to get in," he said.

Some Republicans said the traditional role of taking the measure of candidates has effectively been outsourced to the networks.

"The centralization of the presidential primary process is very concerning, especially when you have the very real prospect of network executives, not actual voters in an early primary or caucus states winnowing the field," said Matt Strawn, a former chairman of the Iowa Republican Party. "The strength of early states like Iowa and New Hampshire," he added, "is the fact that a candidate, no matter their station or title in politics, is expected to look voters in the eye."

Those at risk of being left out could include politicians who in any other election year would be competitive.

There is Lindsey Graham, a popular senator from South Carolina; two former governors of big states, Rick Perry of Texas and George Pataki of New York; and three sitting governors: Mr. Christie, Mr. Jindal and John R. Kasich of Ohio. In Mr. Kasich's case, exclusion would come with an added indignity: the first debate will take place in his own state.

The scramble underway shows the degree to which the Republican Party is still struggling to exert control over the debate process after the last election cycle, in which a series of debates — 20 in all — seemed to exasperate party leaders and, occasionally, candidates too. The Republican National Committee has sanctioned only nine debates this time, with the possibility for three more. But there are 15 declared or likely candidates, and each will be looking for ways to stand out in such a crowded pack.

Then there is the gnawing question of what to do with Donald Trump. Mr. Trump ranks high in national polls because of his name recognition. Many Republicans worry that the inclusion of Mr. Trump, who few believe will follow through with an authentic presidential campaign, will squeeze out someone like Mr. Kasich or Mr. Jindal.

Despite the frustrations of state officials and back-of-the-pack candidates, the party and the networks say there is no easy way to avoid leaving some people out.

"Nobody knows how to do this. Nobody," said Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House who saw his campaign for president in 2012 take off after he delivered two aggressive debate performances in South Carolina.

Chief among the concerns among the campaigns is the networks' methodology for selecting the top 10. Early polls have shown the contenders closely bunched together, with the differences in their ranking still statistically insignificant.

Mr. Santorum's top political adviser, John Brabender, likened the criteria set by Fox News and CNN to pulling numbers out of a hat. And Mr. Pataki's spokesman, David Catalfamo, said the criteria would have barred "Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and probably Abraham Lincoln" from the stage.

Network executives, who said they could find no precedent for a televised debate including more than 10 people, believe they have been as fair as possible under unusual circumstances. And they point out that they have long used national polls to narrow who gets on the debate stage. CNN has set up a two-tiered debate for Sept. 16, with the lower-polling candidates participating in a segment that will air before the main event. Fox said it would l offer airtime on the same day of its Aug. 6 debate to candidates who do not clear the top 10.

But these secondary debates – likely to be taken as consolation prizes for being denied a seat at the adults' table – may not mollify everyone. And that has raised questions about what candidates might do to get a piece of the spotlight.

"People got to do what they've got to do to draw attention," said Armstrong Williams, a friend and adviser to Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon who is a Republican candidate, adding: "I can see them just totally disrupting the rules and the process."

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Mr. Gingrich offered one possibility. “So you don’t want me to be on the stage? Fine. So I’m going to be the guy who comments about dumb answers online,” he said. “You could imagine the social media around the debate being bigger than the actual debate.”

BUSH

How Jeb Bush made a mockery of ‘exploring’ a presidential campaign // WaPo // Chris Cillizza – June 4, 2015

Finally, after months and months of hand-wringing, fingernail-chewing and nervous pacing, the world will know June 15 whether Jeb Bush is going to run for president.

WHAT WILL HE SAY!?

He will say, of course, that he is running for president.* This is the same thing he has been doing, actively but unofficially, for at least the last six months. And we will cover it as though this is a breaking news event on par with a natural disaster or a 23-inning baseball game.

Here's some breaking news for you: It is not a breaking news event.

While all candidates -- and campaigns -- draw out their announcement schedule long after they have made up their mind in order to raise interest (and by interest, I mean money), Bush has taken the "exploratory" phase of a campaign to its logical extreme with his if-I-runsmanship over the last six months.

"Lawyers say Mr. Bush, a former Florida governor, is stretching the limits of election law by crisscrossing the country, hiring a political team and raising tens of millions of dollars at fund-raisers, all without declaring — except once, by mistake — that he is a candidate," wrote Eric Lichtblau and Nick Corasanti this week. The duo quote Karl Sandstrom, a former Federal Election Commissioner and a campaign finance lawyer, saying that Bush's approach "makes a mockery of the law."

Right. Here's the thing: The only reason Jeb hasn't announced for president is because by not doing so, he has allowed himself to raise oodles of cash for his Right To Rise super PAC. Once he says "I'm running," Jeb can't coordinate with the super PAC anymore, which takes the super PAC's fundraising power down several notches. But as long as Bush is "actively exploring" a candidacy, he can go to these events, talk about the platform he would run on and ask those donors to be supportive in the event he runs.

The reason Bush has drawn this process out even further than others: He has taken the novel step of essentially outsourcing much of his campaign to the super PAC, which can raise money in unlimited amounts. When he officially launches, he won't be able to control precisely what the super PAC does, but he gets the benefit of no contribution limits.

It's all very wink wink, nudge nudge, and it speaks to the ridiculousness of campaign finance law in the modern age. The idea that Jeb Bush is somehow not an official candidate because he hasn't filed his "statement of candidacy" with the FEC is absolutely ludicrous.

Ask yourself this: Is there any doubt in your mind that Jeb Bush will announce he is running for president in 11 days time? Any? And then ask yourself when the last time was that you had any doubt about him running? Four months ago? More?

This exchange between Bob Schieffer and Bush over the weekend on CBS' "Face the Nation" makes quite clear how thinly stretched Bush's equivocations on a candidacy are.

Schieffer: Do you think, in some way, you may be just at least violating the spirit of the law? Do you feel that you have violated the law?

Jeb: No, of course not. I would never do that. And I'm nearing the end of this journey of traveling and listening to people, garnering, trying to get a sense of whether my candidacy would be viable or not. We're going to completely adhere to the law, for sure. Look, politics is politics. There's always people that are going to be carping on the sidelines. And should I be a candidate, and that will be in the relatively near future where that decision will be made, there'll be no coordination at all with any super P.A.C.

Schieffer: Now, you're not telling me that there's a possibility you may not run?

Jeb: I, look, I hope, I hope I run, to be honest with you. I'd like to run, but I haven't made the decision.

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Even Jeb had trouble selling that last line.

Bush is, of course, taking advantage of the holes in campaign finance law. Common sense makes clear he is running for president. But, campaign finance law isn't dictated by common sense -- obviously.

All advocates for common sense reigning in politics can hope for is that the way in which Bush has stretched the law will force the FEC (or Congress) to reconsider the way in which a candidate becomes a candidate. Judging from the level of activity out of the FEC (and Congress) in recent years, however, I wouldn't hold my breath.

Jeb Bush Facing Crucial Two-Week Stretch // Bloomberg // Michael C. Bender - June 5, 2015

Bush will visit Germany, Poland and Estonia next week, before campaigning in Florida, Iowa and New Hampshire.

When Jeb Bush returns next week from Estonia, the tiny, technologically advanced country that shares a border with Russia, he'll have about 48 hours to shake off the jet lag before a June 15 rally in Miami, where he formally announces his decision to enter the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

That will be the midpoint of a crucial two weeks in which Bush will first try to establish his foreign policy credentials, and then introduce himself to voters. The week before his campaign launch, the former Florida governor travels to Germany, Poland and Estonia; the week after, he will be stumping in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

In case there's any doubt what Bush will be announcing later this month, his spokeswoman Kristy Campbell offered this Thursday: "Governor Bush is thankful for the support and encouragement he's received from so many Americans, and is excited to announce his decision."

“The Bush kids have had a chance to have a front-row seat in history.”

Jeb Bush
Bush's "decision" will come just two days after Hillary Clinton holds her much-ballyhooed first campaign rally in New York City. But if there were any concerns about sharing the spotlight with the other political dynasty in the race—or about the quick transition from Europe to a campaign announcement at Miami Dade College's Theodore Gibson Health Center (a complex that includes a 3,200-seat gymnasium)—they may have been overridden by other scheduling issues.

The fact is, Bush has waited so long to make it official that he's running into a bit of a calendar crunch: The last week of June is expected to bring highly anticipated U.S. Supreme Court rulings on Obamacare and gay marriage, both decisions that have the potential to dominate the political news cycle and force candidates off message as they respond. Then comes the long Independence Day holiday weekend and the start of family vacation season. And then, the first Republican presidential debate in Cleveland on August 6. To have any chance of getting a ticket to be on stage, a candidate has to be officially in the race.

Before Bush becomes the 11th major Republican candidate in the race, he'll have a chance to polish his foreign-policy résumé with a week in Berlin, Warsaw and Tallinn, Estonia. It's the kind of opportunity that some of his potential Republican rivals haven't been able to seize, especially the governors among them.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has curiously claimed that President Reagan's firing of air-traffic controllers who went on strike in 1981 was the most important foreign policy event of the past five decades (and wrongly said the move influenced U.S.-Russian relations).

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie refused to answer questions about foreign policy issues while traveling to England in February. Asked by a Washington Post reporter during the trip about the terrorist threat from Islamic State, Christie said, “Is there something you don't understand about 'no questions'?”

Foreign policy prompted Bush's one major gaffe in the seven months since he served notice in December that he was serious about running for president.

In an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly on May 9, Bush said he'd have authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq even knowing the intelligence was faulty. Bush struggled for the next week to give a clear answer, finally saying on May 14 that he “would not have engaged” in Iraq, knowing what he knows now.

“That's one that shook a lot of people,” a Bush fundraiser who requested anonymity to speak about private conversations told Bloomberg. “That's a question you know was coming. It should have been a slam dunk and gone, and it didn't happen that way. But even the most professional of these guys stumble from time to time.”

Bush has also incorrectly claimed that the Islamic state didn't exist when his brother, George W. Bush, was president, and that al-Qaeda had been wiped out.

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But expectations for Bush should be high.

A fluent Spanish speaker who lived in Venezuela before entering politics, Bush led trade and advocacy missions to at least 18 countries as governor, including Peru and Israel, as well as a six-day trip in 2005 that included stops in Dusseldorf and Munich, two of Germany's largest cities.

As a former senior advisor to London-based Barclays PLC, Bush says he traveled overseas 89 times to 29 countries in the eight years after leaving office. Last year, Bush started an investment fund with backing from a Chinese conglomerate. He has said he had been traveling about four times a year to China, where his father, George H.W. Bush, served as U.S. ambassador before being elected the nation's 41st president.

"The Bush kids have had a chance to have a front-row seat in history," Bush said at a Republican National Committee rally during his father's 1992 re-election bid. "We've seen the tumbling of the Berlin Wall, the hammer and the sickle going down from the Kremlin on Christmas Day just a few years ago. We've seen so many incredible things happen."

In Berlin, Bush will participate in a question-and-answer session during an economic conference on June 9, where he'll have a prime speaking slot sandwiched between Google Inc. Chairman Eric Schmidt, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel supports the nuclear negotiations with Iran that Bush opposes, but Bush's father remains very popular in the country because of the role he took promoting German reunification while he was in the White House. Outside the former president's library in College Station, Texas is a statue of horses leaping over pieces from the Berlin Wall, a Cold War relic that came down during his term in the White House. Germany unveiled its own monument in Berlin in 2010, known as the "Fathers of German Unity," that includes bronze busts of Bush, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

That legacy may help Bush counter the one left by his brother. The nation's 43rd president remains generally disliked in Europe because of his aggressive foreign policy and unpopular war in Iraq, said Alexander Privitera, a senior fellow at at the Johns Hopkins American Institute for Contemporary German Studies.

While Europeans are "going to be looking for signs of whether he's similar to his brother," Privitera predicted that "there won't be thousands protesting against Jeb Bush. A lot of people will associate him with memories that are overcharged with emotions."

In Poland, Bush will participate in a roundtable with the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, a pro-democracy, free-market group, and meet with senior members of the Polish government about efforts to support Ukraine.

In Estonia, where the Internet phone service Skype was born and where residents can vote and pay their taxes online, Bush will participate in a roundtable discussion about transatlantic security with the International Center for Defense and Security, a group focused on cyber attacks, social cohesion and energy policy in the Baltic-Nordic region. Bush will also tour NATO's Cyber Defence Center of Excellence, and meet Estonians from the e-Estonia Showroom, a briefing center that highlights the country's digital successes.

Bush called Estonia "this really cool, tiny country" during a speech in Florida on Wednesday. He held up the Balkan nation, population 1.3 million, as an example of a relatively simple tax code.

"You can fill out your tax return in Estonia online in five minutes," Bush said. "That should be a worthy aspiration for a great nation."

Bush leads GOP field in NC, Clinton up on most Republicans // Public Policy Polling – June 4, 2015

For the most part Jeb Bush has been struggling in PPP's recent Republican primary polling across the country- one exception though is the South. Bush leads our North Carolina polling for the second time in a row. He's at 19% to 12% each for Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker, 11% for Ted Cruz, 10% for Mike Huckabee, 9% for Ben Carson, 8% for Chris Christie, and 2% for Carly Fiorina. Bush also led our most recent surveys in Florida and South Carolina.

Bush has the same problems with the far right in North Carolina that he does everywhere else- only 35% of 'very conservative' voters have a favorable opinion of him to 44% with a negative one and he's in 6th place in the horse race with that group. But Bush has a commanding lead with voters who identify themselves as being just 'somewhat conservative'- with them he's at 30% with the next closest Republican contender coming in at 13%. In 2012 the front runner with 'very conservative' voters shifted around a lot over the course of the cycle but Mitt Romney was generally leading the field with 'somewhat conservative' voters- who might be seen as the moderates

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at least within the confines of the GOP electorate- and that was enough to propel him to the nomination.

The candidates at the top of the heap in North Carolina in terms of their overall popularity are Mike Huckabee at 56% favorability and Marco Rubio at 55% favorability. We've found a similar story in a lot of places recently. Chris Christie continues to be very unpopular with only 29% of voters seeing him positively to 47% who have a negative view. All but two candidates are within 1 point of where we found their support in April- the exceptions are Scott Walker who dropped from 16% to 12% and Rand Paul who improved his support from 6% to 12%. Walker still leads with voters identifying as 'very conservative' despite his overall drop this month.

On the Democratic side Hillary Clinton continues to be as dominant as ever. 62% of Democrats say they want her to be the nominee to 14% for Bernie Sanders, 5% for Jim Webb, and 4% each for Lincoln Chafee and Martin O'Malley. Clinton polls over 80% with African Americans, over 60% with liberals, moderates, women, seniors, and younger voters, and polls over 50% with men. There's not much sign of her position for the Democratic nomination weakening at all.

Clinton leads 7 out of 9 Republicans for the general election in North Carolina, generally by modest margins. The two exceptions are Rand Paul and Scott Walker, who she's tied with at 44% and 45% respectively. Marco Rubio trails by only one point at 45/44, Ben Carson and Mike Huckabee are each down by 2 at 46/44, Chris Christie has a 3 point deficit at 43/40, Carly Fiorina is down 6 at 46/40, and Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz each trail by 7 at 47/40 and 49/42 respectively. This continues a string of polls showing that the Presidential race in North Carolina is likely to be close once again next year, following up on the state's being the second closest in the country in both 2008 and 2012.

Almost all the Presidential candidates have negative favorability ratings in the Tar Heel State- the only exceptions are Ben Carson and Scott Walker. All non-Clinton Democratic candidates trail by a wide margin in possible match ups with Walker- Bernie Sanders is down 10 at 43/33, Jim Webb trails by 11 at 42/31, Lincoln Chafee has a 13 point gap at 42/29, and Martin O'Malley is down 16 at 44/28. That's a function of only 54-59% of Democrats voting for their second tier candidates because of their current unfamiliarity with them but at any rate it makes it clear that for all the hand wringing about Hillary Clinton she is still by far and away the Democrats' strongest candidate.

PERRY

Rick Perry 'Super PAC' Ads Going Up in Iowa // NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 4, 2015

The "super PAC" supporting former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas has made a large reservation for television ad time in two Iowa markets, just as the former Texas governor has announced his second campaign for the White House.

Opportunity and Freedom PAC, which is being led by Austin Barbour, a Republican consultant, began placing nearly $170,000 worth of ads this week, according to a person tracking media spending, who was unauthorized to speak publicly.

Mr. Barbour did not respond to a call for comment. But the ad purchase is in two Iowa media markets, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, for the first two weeks of June.

The amount of airtime is significant. Running ads this early is not particularly effective in terms of luring voters, since few are paying attention. But it is likely an attempt to raise Mr. Perry's profile to help him qualify for the early debates, hosted by Fox News and CNN, two networks that are trying to manage an unwieldy field of nearly 20 candidates and relying on polling performance to determine participation.

Follow the New York Times Politics and Washington on Facebook andTwitter, and sign up for the First Draft politics newsletter.

After 'oops,' Rick Perry is ready to try again // WaPo // Dan Balz - June 4, 2015

On Thursday, Perry made his candidacy official on his official Web site.

"I am running for president because I know our country's best days are ahead of us," said a message on the site, which included a video that stressed his ability to bridge political divides in Washington.

The post came hours before Perry was scheduled to announce his plans for 2016 at an airplane hangar in this northern suburb of Dallas, surrounded by military veterans and others in a patriotic display.

There is little suspense about what he intends to say, according to advisers, but there are plenty of questions about

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whether greater preparation, good intentions and personal determination are enough to overcome the impressions he left behind after his first campaign.

When he first announced his candidacy for the White House in August 2011, he seemed almost the perfect candidate to compete seriously for the Republican nomination. He was a long-serving Texas governor in a party whose political base was in the South. He governed during a period of rapid growth and job creation in his native state. His anti-Washington instincts made him a tea party darling before there was a tea party. He had never lost an election.

Within weeks of his announcement, he was atop the polls, a major threat to the front-runner, Mitt Romney. But within weeks of achieving those lofty poll numbers, his candidacy was in a rapid descent, caused by his opponents' attacks and his own maladroit performances in a series of early debates.

By the time he said "oops" on a debate stage in Michigan (he couldn't remember all the agencies in Washington he planned to zero out as president), his candidacy was already history, as he has since admitted.

Now, as he prepares to announce his intentions, he is in an utterly different position — mired in low single digits in early polls, lightly regarded by many of his rivals, ignored or dismissed by many in the media and struggling for the kind of attention that a politician who served 14 years as chief executive of one of the nation's most populous states might normally command.

He and his advisers believe that, if he was overestimated but ill-prepared four years ago, he is the opposite now, underestimated and in their estimation readier for the challenges that a presidential campaign presents. They say he likes nothing better than to be underestimated.

These advisers say a second campaign is not simply for redemption but rather because Perry believes he has something to offer his party and his country. But the former governor also is eager to prove all the doubters wrong — and those doubters are widespread.

Talk privately to strategists working for other candidates and they say he is a likable politician and one who could cause problems for some other candidates, but not one they see as a genuine threat to compete for the nomination.

Many share the view of Matthew Dowd, who helped former president George W. Bush win two elections to the White House and is now an independent analyst. Dowd sees an extremely difficult road ahead for Perry, owing to the impressions he made four years ago.

Asked about Perry's prospects of becoming the GOP nominee, Dowd said: "I wouldn't say impossible but very difficult. . . . The caricature has been made of him and it's hard to get out of it."

But Matt Rhoades, who was Romney's campaign manager and who saw Perry as enough of a threat in the late summer of 2011 to move aggressively to bring him down, offered a dissenting view — suggesting that people are foolish to write off the former governor as an afterthought in the nomination battle.

"Gov. Perry has worked hard and done the right things to reposition himself for a run in 2016," Rhoades, the founder of the conservative political action committee America Rising, said in an e-mail message. "I believe his candidacy will have a major impact on the primary and voters will give him a second chance."

Perry long has been open about the mistakes of his first campaign, saying at one point last year that he was "a bit arrogant" in thinking he could suddenly jump into that race with minimal preparation. He also entered shortly after major surgery for a back ailment, and he was plagued by health problems for weeks that he said affected his candidacy.

In the intervening years, he has devoted himself to policy briefings, some foreign travel, trips to the early states — all in contrast to his previous campaign. Ray Sullivan, who served as one of Perry's senior advisers during the governorship and the 2012 campaign but who is not formally a part of the 2016 campaign, said he expects voters will take a fresh look.

"When he entered in 2011, he gave himself and our campaign team six weeks to prepare," Sullivan said. "He entered the race as a front-runner and had no ramp-up time and no room for really any error. He clearly learned from that experience and is a much better prepared, more informed campaigner for it."

In his season of preparation, Perry has offered himself as a fiscal conservative with a sterling record of economic success during his time in office; a social conservative in good standing with the Republican right; and an optimistic leader who will provide muscular leadership whether in dealing with the issue of immigration by securing the U.S.-Mexico border or taking on Islamic State militants and other foreign-policy challenges.

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Many of the themes he has been talking about this year were the same ones that were supposed to boost him four years ago. “We did a horrible job of telling that story last time,” said a senior Perry adviser who declined to be identified in order to speak openly. “We jumped in and thought everybody knew that story. The American people are going to see a very different Rick Perry.”

Like his many rivals, Perry has taken part in candidate forums, done quieter trips to Iowa and New Hampshire and counts on his retail skills as a candidate to win over voters who still have negative impressions from 2012. He has won applause and some plaudits for robust rhetorical skills, and some voters who have seen him over the past year say he is not the same candidate they remember from 2012.

So far, none of this has translated into significant support. The latest Washington Post-ABC News poll, released earlier this week, showed Perry at 2 percent nationally among registered Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, tied for 12th place among 16 candidates tested. In the Real Clear Politics average of recent polls, he is 10th on the list of candidates.

The polls may be only an early snapshot, certain to change with time, but they are important now because they will be used to determine who is invited to participate in the first two GOP debates later this summer. Perry is at risk of not being among the 10 candidates on the stage, though his advisers say they are confident he will be among the candidates in the opening debate in Cleveland on Aug. 6.

Perry’s path begins in Iowa, seen by other Republicans as the linchpin state where he must finish in at least the top three. He is far from that today, standing 11th at 3.3 percent in the most recent Bloomberg Politics-Des Moines Register Poll, though history says there could be considerable movement among the candidates there before next year’s caucuses.

His advisers also concede that, after his 2012 campaign, there is little margin of error. Some other candidates have had small stumbles this year but have not paid a significant price. Perry can ill afford any such missteps.

In that sense, Perry will be running, at least for the time being, against the image of his last candidacy as much or more than against any of the others in the field. Said one Perry loyalist: “He has to continue to grind it out — and do well.”

Meet the people who are going to try to get Rick Perry elected president // WaPo // Patrick Svitek – June 4, 2015

Rob Johnson and Jeff Miller

Johnson and Miller are by far Perry's most senior advisers. Miller, who spearheaded Perry's 2012 bid in California, has long been expected to run his 2016 campaign, while Johnson, it is said, will eventually settle into a role as Perry's top strategist. Johnson ran Perry's 2012 campaign, a credential that makes him the highest-ranking holdover from the last bid. Miller has received the most credit for rehabilitating Perry's national image in the years since his 2012 campaign ended in embarrassment. The two are among Perry's closest confidantes.

In some ways, Johnson and Miller have filled the void left by Dave Carney, the veteran New Hampshire-based strategist who had been with Perry for years before orchestrating his 2012 run. This time around, Carney is not expected to be involved in Perry's presidential operation.

Abby McCloskey and Avik Roy

McCloskey and Roy likely will serve as Perry's top policy hands. McCloskey, a Dallas economist who used to work for the American Enterprise Institute, played a central role in organizing a series of briefings over the past several months aimed at bringing Perry up to speed on a wide range of issues. Roy, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and Forbes opinion editor, is among the most respected GOP voices on health care, though his work for Perry's 2016 campaign is expected to span a variety of issues.

Margaret Lauderback

Another holdover from Perry's 2012 campaign, Lauderback is expected to serve as his top fundraiser. Having also raised money for his 2010 gubernatorial re-election bid, she is well-versed in the vast world of GOP fundraising in Texas — and Perry's longtime connections to it. Her resume also includes finance consulting gigs for Republican Governors Association, National Republican Senatorial Committee and Greg Abbott's 2014 gubernatorial campaign.

Greg Strimple

A veteran Republican pollster, Strimple is completely new to Perry's orbit for 2016. Strimple, president of Idaho-based GS Strategy Group, has served as a senior adviser to Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie

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and Arizona Sen. John McCain. The top pollster on Perry's 2012 campaign, Tony Fabrizio, now works for another GOP presidential candidate, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

The Barbours

The Barbour family, a big brand in GOP politics, has long been close to the Perrys. Brothers Austin and Henry, both Mississippi-based operatives, are poised to be the most involved in Perry's 2016 plans. Austin is running a pro-Perry super PAC called Opportunity and Freedom PAC, while Henry remains an informal adviser who reliably has the former governor's ear.

The early-state operatives

Perry's point men in the early-voting states have played especially active roles in light of his nearly nonstop travel to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina since stepping down as governor in January. Calling the shots in Iowa is Bob Haus, the veteran GOP strategist who served in the same capacity for Perry's 2012 bid. Katon Dawson, Perry's top adviser in South Carolina, is another return player from the 2012 campaign. New to Perry's early-state crew is New Hampshire's Mike Dennehy, the longtime Republican strategist who helped engineer John McCain's come-from-behind win in the 2008 Granite State primary.

Lucy Nashed and Travis Considine

Having worked seven years in Perry's office, there perhaps is no other spokesperson on the campaign as well-equipped to discuss his gubernatorial record than Nashed. She is expected to lead Perry's press shop, which likely will also include Travis Considine, a former spokesman for former Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. Considine and Nashed were Perry's most active liaisons to the press as he wound down his governorship and prepared for a 2016 bid.

Other people to know

— Erin DeLullo is handling Perry's outreach to the universe of conservative groups that promise to shape the 2016 primary. A Washington-based fundraiser, DeLullo has spent years introducing candidates to the outside organizations such as the staunchly limited-government Club for Growth.

— Jamie Johnson is an Iowa-based ordained minister with deep ties to the evangelical community who's helping connect Perry with social conservatives in the early-voting states. During the 2012 race, Johnson worked in Iowa for former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, the eventual winner of the caucuses.

— Anita Perry, the former first lady of Texas, has long had a role in her husband's political life — and 2016 looks no different. It was she who broke the news this month on Twitter that Perry would announce his presidential plans Thursday in Dallas.

Rick Perry spent $350 per vote in 2012 **// WaPo //Phillip Bump – June 4, 2015**

Rick Perry's 2012 campaign went badly. I know that's not what he'd like us to talk about on the day that he announces his 2016 candidacy, and I am confident that some Perry supporters will pointedly request that we focus on his policies* and not his past performance. Well, too bad! Because his past performance was so bad -- historically bad -- that it's worth revisiting.

Particularly if you're thinking about giving him money.

Perry didn't actually spend that much, at least compared to other recent candidates. That's in part because he did badly enough, early enough that he stopped writing checks. According to FEC data, he ended up spending less than everyone on the graph below, save Mike Huckabee.

But he still spent a lot, in average-American terms. Nineteen million in 2012 dollars! And for that, he got ... very few votes.

And that 0.1 million votes was very close to being 0.0, because of rounding. According to U.S. Election Atlas, he earned 42,251 primary votes and 12,646 votes in the caucuses. That's 54,897 votes, which rounds up to 0.1 million by the skin of its teeth.

A lot of money spent for a not-a-lot of votes? That means Rick Perry's votes cost a lot more. A whole lot more.

(Now you see why we did that weird, drop-down format in the earlier graphs.)

We also conducted this exercise after Perry dropped out in 2012, at which point he had spent more than $1,000 per vote. He wound up getting enough votes after he dropped out of the race, though, to fall well below that

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threshold.

The fuller picture also means his campaign isn't quite the most expensive per-vote in recent federal primaries. That would have been Linda McMahon's 2010 Connecticut Senate campaign, at $454 per vote.

Anyway, this is Rick Perry 2016, a whole new guy! He's learned his lessons! He probably won't win this time, either, but at the very least, he'll likely end up with a slightly better cost-per-vote ratio.

Or so those people writing checks hope.

What Rick Perry thinks about the issues **// VOX // Andrew Prokop & Tez Clark – June 4, 2015**

Rick Perry is so conservative that when he ran for president in 2011, he proposed eliminating so many federal agencies that he couldn't remember them all.

In his 14 years as governor of Texas, Perry pursued a low-tax, deregulatory agenda. And as he launches his 2016 bid for the Republican presidential nomination, he's sure to lean on that record.

But like many politicians, when Perry had the responsibility of governing a state, he diverged from his party's national line on some issues. He tried to build new highways all over Texas. He let unauthorized immigrants get in-state tuition at colleges and universities. He mandated that girls entering the sixth grade be vaccinated for HPV. And he supported reforms of his state's criminal justice system.

In his campaign announcement speech Thursday, Perry unsurprisingly emphasized the most conservative parts of his record and agenda, saying, "We need to return power to the states and freedom to the individuals." And he tried to tout his credentials on foreign policy and national security, arguing that America needed to lead in a dangerous world.

Slash taxes and eliminate several government agencies

During his 2011 presidential campaign, Perry proposed slashing both federal taxes and federal spending. On taxes, his plan gave Americans the option of paying a flat tax rate of 20 percent with many fewer deductions, eliminating the federal estate tax, and cutting the corporate and capital gains tax rates.

On spending, he backed a cap of federal expenditures at 18 percent of GDP, and a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. He proposed eliminating the Departments of Commerce, Education, and Energy, and repealing Obamacare and the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory reform law. He's no fan of the Federal Reserve either, saying in 2011 that its easy money policies might be "treasonous," and that if Ben Bernanke visited Texas, "we would treat him pretty ugly."

Mandated HPV vaccine, then disavowed it

One of the biggest controversies Perry was involved in during his governorship focused on his 2007 executive order mandating that sixth-grade girls be vaccinated for HPV.

Though there was an option for parents to have their children opt out of the vaccine, Perry was criticized by conservatives who thought the vaccine encouraged sexual risk-taking, people who doubted the science of vaccines and feared they could cause health problems, and others who thought Perry was serving the interest of pharmaceutical companies. (Perry's former chief of staff Mike Toomey was a lobbyist for Merck, and pushed for the executive order).

So as his presidential campaign geared up in 2011, Perry declared that the executive order was "a mistake" and backed the legislature's support for overturning it. "I didn't do my research well enough to understand that we needed to have a substantial conversation with our citizenry," he said. "If I had it to do over again, I would have done it differently."

Opposes same-sex marriage and supported Texas's sodomy ban

As governor, Perry supported Texas's law banning gay sex, which the Supreme Court overturned in 2003. He's also been an opponent of same-sex marriage, saying that "it's fine with me that a state is using their sovereign rights to decide an issue," but that "obviously gay marriage is not fine with me."

In June 2014, Perry reportedly made comments comparing homosexuality to alcoholism. He soon walked that back, saying, "I stepped right in it." His main interest, he said, was in talking about how "whether you're gay or straight, you need to be having a job."

Tough on border security, but let unauthorized immigrants get in-state tuition

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As governor, Perry has argued repeatedly for the importance of border security. During the summer 2014 child migrant crisis, he deployed the National Guard to his state's border with Mexico. On immigration reform, he's said, "I don't think anyone with a sense of reality thinks that we're going to ship 11 or 12 million people back to where they're from." But he's argued that border security has to come first.

As governor, Perry signed a law that let unauthorized immigrants pay in-state tuition at Texas public universities. And when he was questioned about it during a 2011 presidential debate, he said that if you oppose the law, "I don't think you have a heart." Lately, he's said that that "was a really bad choice of words," but that he stands by his support for the law. He said the choice he faced was, "Are you going to put these people in a position of having to rely upon government to take care of themselves, or are you going to let them be educated and be contributing members of society, obviously working toward getting their citizenship?"

His sweeping plan for new highways was blocked

Early in his governorship, Perry unveiled an ambitious plan to build a network of toll roads and rail lines that would be called the Trans-Texas Corridor. But as the New York Times's Deborah Sontag recounted, the plan became intensely controversial. What horrified some opponents, Sontag writes, "was the realization that the corridors were going to rip through the heart of rural Texas and require 146 acres of right of way for every mile of road — or 584,000 acres total." After public opposition grew, Perry's party abandoned the plan, and Perry himself eventually disavowed it.

Criminal justice policy shouldn't be driven by "fear"

Perry argues that under his leadership, "Texas fundamentally changed its course on criminal justice." He says the state started focusing "on diverting people with drug addiction issues from entering prison in the first place, and programs to keep them from returning."

Specifically, he touts his support for drug courts allowing some low-level offenders to avoid going to prison, and greater investment in treatment and rehabilitation programs for drug addicts. "I am proud that in Texas, criminal justice policy is no longer driven solely by fear, but by a commitment to true justice, and compassion for those shackled by the chains of addiction," he wrote in a 2015 essay.

A skeptic of climate science

Like many Republicans, Rick Perry questions the scientific consensus that humans are causing climate change. He's claimed that "there are a substantial number of scientists who have manipulated data," and that global warming is "a scientific theory that has not been proven" and "is more and more being put into question." He said last year that "calling CO2 a pollutant is doing a disservice the country, and I believe a disservice to the world," and that he was "offended" that skeptics of climate science were called "deniers."

Drastic overhaul of Social Security is necessary

In 2011, Perry said that our Social Security program is a "Ponzi scheme," and argued that the program needed a massive overhaul to survive. (PolitiFact rated the "Ponzi scheme" characterization as false.) He proposed letting younger workers have access to private accounts in Social Security, as well as letting some state and local government workers opt against paying into the program.

A foreign policy hawk

In the Republican Party's split between hawks and doves, Perry has sided firmly with the hawks. He's argued that ISIS "represents a real threat to our national security," and called on Obama to "do more with our military and intelligence communities" against them. The more non-interventionist policies of Sen. Rand Paul, Perry says, would "only endanger our national security even further."

In his announcement, he criticized President Obama for prematurely withdrawing troops from Iraq. "Our president failed to secure the peace," he said. He also said he'd withdraw from any nuclear agreement with Iran that "legitimizes their quest to get a nuclear weapon."

Tea Party Unloads on 'Complete Imbecile' Rick Perry // The Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – June 4, 2015

When Texas Gov. Rick Perry was indicted last month on two felony charges stemming from how he dealt with a misbehaving Democratic state official, the image of the stuttering 2012 Republican primary challenger was replaced with that of a hero-cowboy in the eyes of many conservatives. Perry was under attack from the left wing, and his response was not to apologize but to walk through a hail of blue-hued bullets and emerge laughing, without a mark on him. But some conservative true believers have begun to notice something rather suspicious: The

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company Perry keeps seems more suited to a mainstream Republican—or a right-of-center Democrat—than to their hero-cowboy.

Perry is associated with three operatives who have concerned some members of the die-hard right wing: lobbyist Henry Barbour, former Bill Clinton aide Mark Fabiani, and McCain-Palin campaign chief and MSNBC pundit Steve Schmidt.

Well, maybe "concerned" is putting it somewhat mildly.

"The only two options are that Rick Perry is a complete imbecile and he has no idea who these people are and what they've done and how the conservative base—who votes in primaries—feels about these guys, or he's doing it on purpose because that's the kind of message he wants to send," said Keli Carender, the national grassroots coordinator for the Tea Party Patriots. Either way, she assured: "It will be an issue. We will make it an issue."

Barbour is already working on Perry's 2016 bid for the White House. But conservatives know him best for his role running the political action committee Mississippi Conservatives, founded by his uncle, Haley Barbour, the former governor of Mississippi. In this year's Magnolia State primary fight—and "fight" is an understatement—between U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran and state Sen. Chris McDaniel, Barbour reportedly played an influential and controversial role. According to National Review, his PAC funneled money to produce ads against McDaniel that alleged he would set back "race relationships between blacks and whites and other ethnic groups." The ads, which seemed intended to drive African-American voters to the polls, enraged McDaniel's Tea Party supporters.

As reported by Breitbart News, some conservatives loathe Barbour so much that they tried to get the Republican National Committee to censure him, to no avail.

"Republicans should not hire Henry Barbour unless and until he apologizes for the tactics he helped fund in Mississippi…I don't think [keeping Barbour around] necessarily means Perry is endorsing what he did, but it means he's certainly not properly condemning it or taking it seriously enough," Quin Hillyer, a conservative writer and activist, told The Daily Beast. "What he helped finance was so far beyond the pale that he should be blackballed by conservatives, and if Perry wants to be considered a conservative, he should no longer employ Henry Barbour."

Rick Shaftan, a Republican consultant who involved himself in the Mississippi primary, offered a somewhat different view of Barbour to The Daily Beast: "I don't like what he did in Mississippi, but you know what? It shows he's a ruthless, cutthroat operative, and there's something to be said for that on the Republican side. Because we don't have enough of them. If the force of evil can be brought to do good, then that's a good thing."

Normally, staffers don't matter much to voters, Carender noted. But Mississippi is different for many on the far right. It's become the ultimate test of Tea Party fidelity, a measuring stick for whether a conservative will sell out his principles to inside-the-Beltway Washington RINOs or will stay true to the cause and the grassroots activists who are the heart and soul of the movement.

People don't recognize, Carender said, just "how plugged in the conservative base is to Mississippi…If you're a man of integrity, you don't associate with Henry Barbour as far as we're concerned."

Perry has associated with Barbour since at least 2012, when Barbour served on his ill-fated but memorable presidential campaign. (Haley Barbour, for his part, supported Newt Gingrich.)

Publicly, Perry may have shrugged at last month's indictment—but that doesn't mean he hasn't been taking Lone Star State-size measures to ensure it doesn't sink him for good.

As part of his legal team, Perry has hired the Harvard-educated Mark Fabiani, best known for his ties to the Democratic Party. From 1994 through 1996, Fabiani worked as special counsel to President Bill Clinton. He then served as Al Gore's communications director during his 2000 presidential campaign. Fabiani has worked for the Democratic former San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom as well.

Perry also has hired Steve Schmidt, a Republican strategist and former consultant to John McCain in 2008. Schmidt has long enraged Tea Party conservatives with his candor about members of his own party. Schmidt has called McCain's VP pick, Sarah Palin, "someone [who] was nominated to the vice presidency who was manifestly unprepared to take the oath of office should it become necessary and as it has become necessary many times in American history." Asked whether Palin would have a future in politics, Schmidt once remarked: "I hope not…And the reason I say that is because if you look at it, over the last four years, all of the deficiencies in knowledge, all of the deficiencies in preparedness, she's done not one thing to rectify them, to correct them."

Then Schmidt described Palin's unflattering qualities, which could, unfortunately for Perry, double as descriptions for most members of the Tea Party: "She has become a person who, I think, is filled with grievance,

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filled with anger, who has a divisive message for the national stage…"

Conservative radio host Mark Levin wondered of Schmidt, "Why would Perry hire this conservative attacker and Palin hater?"

Schmidt made those comments on MSNBC, where he is employed as a political analyst. Shaftan said of Perry hiring the strategist: "If they have Steve Schmidt working for them, why are they telling people? That I don't understand."

Perry has been basking in the glory of the conservative credibility his fight with Texas Democrats has lent him—so much so that his mugshot features a prominent smirk, one you can wear on a T-shirt being sold by his PAC for just $25. Some Republicans made that same image their Facebook profile pictures in a show of support, in the way some do for gay marriage, or to end violence against children. But you're only as good as the company you keep, according to some members of the far right who have in the past proved themselves to be loud enough to get their way.

Conservative HQ columnist Richard Viguerie wrote of Perry's team: "When you hire a consultant, you hire his reputation, strategy, and tactics. We doubt that Governor Perry plans to win the Republican presidential nomination by race-baiting, recruiting Democrats to vote in Republican primary elections, and trashing as 'poisonous' conservatives such as Rush Limbaugh…"

Hillyer agreed: "A very important law of politics and government, as emphasized again and again by conservative movement leader Morton Blackwell, is that personnel is policy. If somebody wants to get a sense of how a political leader might govern, it certainly is important to see who he hires."

Rick Perry's second chance to make a first impression // MSNBC // Steve Benen - June 4, 2015

There was actually a point at which Rick Perry was a serious contender for the Republican presidential nomination. It was August 2011.
At the time, party activists and officials realized that Mitt Romney was well on his way towards dispatching weak rivals, but there were widespread fears that he would struggle in a national race. The then-Texas governor rode in on a white horse to rescue his party and very quickly took the lead.
Perry's support eroded quite quickly. Most remember his "oops" moment from November 2011, but the truth remains that the Texas Republican's campaign was already faltering. His first day as a candidate was a disaster, and the weeks that followed were no better. The more voters saw of him, the more Perry's support evaporated.
Four years later, Perry believes he's ready to be a far better candidate the second time around. MSNBC's Kasie Hunt reported today:
Now Perry is set to announce a second – and this time, long-shot – bid for president. He'll do so on Thursday from his home state of Texas, where he'll stand in front of an enormous airplane emblazoned with "Perry for President." Joining him is Marcus Luttrell, the Navy SEAL made famous in the movie "Lone Survivor," and by the widow of Chris Kyle, the focus of the film "American Sniper." It's all aimed at highlighting Perry's military experience – he served in the Air Force – at a time when foreign policy is at the forefront of the campaign.
Perry will also focus on his economic record as Texas governor; he says he created 1.8 million new jobs during his tenure. They're themes he's also been emphasizing on the campaign trail in recent months, especially in New Hampshire, where veterans are a key voting bloc.

Whereas Perry entered the 2012 race as a savior candidate, the Texan enters this year as an afterthought. Despite being well known to Republicans, Perry's national support is hovering below 3%, which may be enough to qualify for debate participation – though it'll be close. Perry's not even especially popular in Texas, where's he's running a distant fifth in a state he led for over a decade.
There's also the matter of the felony charges pending against him.
As Rachel noted on the show last night, Perry will become the first presidential contender to launch a campaign while under criminal indictment on corruption charge. Last summer, as regular readers no doubt recall, Perry was charged with two felony counts – the former governor faces the potential of jail time – which generally doesn't help presidential candidates get ahead in a crowded field.
There's also Perry's challenge overcoming his often bizarre ideological radicalism. ThinkProgress pulled together several examples of "completely bonkers things" Perry believes about constitutional law – the list didn't even include his flirtation with secession – and the Democratic National Committee followed up with a similar list of its own, noting Perry's opposition to the federal minimum wage and Social Security, among other things.
But even if we put aside the pending criminal charges, the weak support, and the radical governing vision, Perry's biggest problem may be the perception that he's just not a serious person. When Kasie Hunt asked the Texas Republican late last year, "Are you smart enough to be president of the United States?" the obvious answer should have been something along the lines of, "Of course I'm smart enough."
Instead, Perry replied, "Running for the presidency's not an IQ test."
It's safe to say the Texas Republican faces long odds of success.

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GRAHAM

Graham: 'Don't vote for me' if you're 'worn out by war' // The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 4, 2014

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) told Americans on Thursday not to vote for him in the 2016 presidential election if they are worn out by war.

The 2016 GOP presidential candidate appeared on Fox News's "Fox & Friends," where co-host Steve Doocy questioned his past war hawk rhetoric.

"It's a tough message," he told Graham. "A lot of people are just worn out by war."
"Well, don't vote for me," the Republican senator responded. "Don't vote for me, because I'm telling you what's coming: Barack Obama's policies leading from behind are going to allow another 9/11."

"[ISIS] is large, rich and entrenched," he added, referring to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. "If I'm president they will be poor, small and on the run."

Graham also said that U.S. ground forces were necessary for defeating ISIS before they could reach targets on American soil.

"I'm trying to tell the American people and the Republican primary voter — the only way I know to defend this country is to send some of us back to Iraq and eventually to Syria to dig these guys out of the ground, destroy the Caliphate, kill as many of them as you can, hold territory and help people over there help themselves," he said.

Graham further tied President Obama's counterterrorism strategy to Hillary Clinton, his former secretary of State and the Democratic presidential front-runner.

"I think it's the lack of confidence in her ability to distinguish herself from Barack Obama," he said when asked about Clinton's lack of media availability on the campaign trail.

"Her biggest nightmare is for someone to ask her, 'Hey, do you think the war on terror is going well? Do you agree with Barack Obama's foreign policy?'" he said. "'If you don't, tell us why.' "

Graham added that Clinton's perceived secrecy would likely cost her voters next year.

"Well, it's easier to talk to the North Korean guy than it is her," he quipped, comparing Clinton to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. "At the end of the day, when 57 percent of people don't trust you, you've got a problem,"

Graham officially launched his 2016 presidential campaign on Monday from his hometown of Central, S.C.

He has already made a muscular foreign policy a key theme of his bid. "I want to be president to defeat the enemies trying to kill us, not just penalize them or criticize them or contain them, but defeat them," he said on Monday.

Can Lindsey Graham Win His Home State? // Real Clear Politics // Caitlin Huey-Burns & Rebecca Berg – June 4, 2015

South Carolina has been good to Lindsey Graham.

The U.S. senator from the small town of Central has never lost an election in his home state over a two-decade political career. Last year, he was elected to a third term in the upper chamber after winning a six-way Republican primary with 57 percent of the vote.

This week, Graham became the ninth GOP aspirant to officially join the 2016 presidential race, and the Palmetto State's first-in-the-South primary will play an especially significant role in winnowing the most crowded field in memory.

But given the expansive roster of candidates, a competitive financial race, and two early states to get through first, there's a real chance Graham won't make it all the way home.

State strategists acknowledge their senior senator's political savvy and experience, and believe his foreign policy credentials will play a key role in the larger Republican debate about international affairs. But as Graham stands now in the polls, he won't likely make it onto the first debate stage in August.

Graham has been talking about a presidential run for a few months, but is polling third in his home state—nearly six percentage points behind Jeb Bush and Scott Walker, according to the Real Clear Politics average. And he

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barely registers in the first two voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire, where he is campaigning this week.

“Given the way things are going, I’d be surprised if we get here in [February] and he was still alive as a candidate,” says David Woodard, a political science professor at Clemson and a former political consultant. “He's not a popular ‘favorite son’ in South Carolina and the idea he could be limping along and South Carolina can crown him is just not backed up.”

A recent Winthrop University poll found that while Graham has a 58.2 percent approval rating as a senator, 55 percent of survey respondents would not even consider voting for him as a presidential contender.

Even though seemingly every GOP politician is seeking the White House this cycle, Graham’s presidential campaign has sparked conspiracy theories. Is he in the race just as a foil to Rand Paul’s libertarian philosophy on foreign affairs? Is he eyeing a Cabinet post in 2017? Is he planning to make it through the first two primaries only to then throw his support behind a rival ahead of his home state contest?

Graham has insisted he can win South Carolina’s primary, telling Fox News in April, “If I didn’t think I could win South Carolina, I wouldn’t be talking to you. If I’m on the ballot, I’ll win South Carolina.”

This week, the Graham campaign signaled it is working to shore up support on his home turf, announcing a 100-person state finance committee.

“This list is a ‘Who’s Who’ in the South Carolina business and professional community,” said Graham’s Finance Committee chairman, David Wilkins. “Bringing this group together is a remarkable statement about how much these top leaders respect and support Lindsey Graham and the unique qualifications he brings to this presidential race.”

Graham has also been meeting individually with members of South Carolina’s congressional delegation, and has asked them to stay neutral if they are not supporting his bid for president, according to an aide for one of the members.

So far, the delegation has indeed kept quiet about Graham. Rep. Mark Sanford attended a South Carolina rally for Rand Paul earlier this year, although the Charleston-area congressman did not endorse the Kentucky senator. And conspicuously absent from Graham’s announcement Monday in Central was that district’s representative, Jeff Duncan, who recently hosted a Faith and Freedom forum, a cattle call attended by most of the presidential contenders.

Gov. Nikki Haley is remaining noncommittal for now as several candidates come through her state, but her eventual endorsement is highly coveted. And despite having a hometown pol on the ballot in 2016, Haley has said she would prefer that a governor get the GOP nomination.

“Even Senator Graham admits he’s running for president of the United States and not president of South Carolina,” says Matt Moore, the state GOP chairman. “Our voters here are savvy in terms of presidential politics. While he may have a little bit of home-field advantage, it won't be a deciding factor. He has to compete.”

Still, strategists say Graham’s connections are valuable in the state—as evidenced by the way in which he suavely cleared substantial challengers from his Senate primary in 2014—and can help him at least in the short term.

His candidacy has frozen some of the establishment wing of the party in South Carolina, including loyal donors, major business owners, and some older elected officials who do not necessarily believe he can win but have enough respect for Graham that they will not support other candidates for as long as he is in the race.

“People who support him now anticipate he will get out and they intend to be for someone else when it’s all said and done,” says one state Republican operative working for a rival super PAC. “There may have been a time way back in the day when primaries were smaller or more controlled that a favorite son could get in there and mess things up, but that’s not case anymore.”

If Graham does poorly in Iowa and New Hampshire, he will have a difficult time competing in his home state against one or two candidates who will have gained momentum from their performances in either state (or both).

“Graham's going to have his most loyal supporters, but the overwhelming majority of the state is still up for grabs,” said another state Republican operative. “The question would be whether, if Graham doesn't see this through to the end, he has the sway to take his block and send it toward a single candidate."

Some prominent Republicans who might have supported Bush have already stepped up to support Graham, such as Wilkins, who chaired George W. Bush’s South Carolina campaign in 2004 and was later appointed ambassador to Canada. Wilkins attended Graham’s announcement in Central on Monday.

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But Marco Rubio is also seriously competing in the state. His campaign manager, Terry Sullivan, is a veteran South Carolina operative. In addition, the Florida senator's team is stocked with state operatives, and has cultivated significant business community support, according to a National Journal report on Rubio's emerging clasp on the state.

Walker, the son of a preacher, has been appealing to the state's Christian base in recent campaign stops. Rick Santorum, who announced his bid last week, also plans to compete in the state. He has made several stops there in recent months, and his son attends The Citadel. Rick Perry, who dropped out of the running before the South Carolina primary in 2012, has been visiting the state as well.

South Carolina, with roughly 600,000 primary voters, has picked the eventual Republican nominee almost every cycle since 1980, with Newt Gingrich's 2012 win being an exception. With so many candidates running this year, the Palmetto State could play a crucial role as the first deep-red state to weigh in on the primary field, and could help set the tone heading into Super Tuesday on March 1, where voters in a significant number of Southern states will cast ballots.

"If you can't win here, you probably can't win nationally," says Moore. "This [state] is a test of organization and message, and it's as important as ever."

An Adelson Backs Lindsey Graham for President // The National Journal // Adam Wollner – June 4, 2015

Sheldon Adelson, the Las Vegas casino magnate and highly sought-after Republican mega-donor, still isn't sure which Republican presidential candidate he will back for the nomination in 2016. But Adelson's younger, lesser-known brother has lent his support to Sen. Lindsey Graham's long-shot White House bid.

Graham named Lenny Adelson, along with 38 others, to his long-shot campaign's national finance committee on Thursday.

Lenny Adelson typically keeps a much lower political profile than his brother. While Sheldon Adelson and his wife Miriam gave nearly $100 million in disclosed contributions to conservative outside groups during the past two election cycles, the only disclosed federal donations Lenny Adelson made during that time frame were a pair of $2,600 contributions to two House candidates—one Republican and one Democrat—in his home state of Massachusetts, according to records maintained by the Center for Responsive Politics.

Sheldon Adelson's net worth currently stands at $29 billion, but little is publicly known about his brother's finances. A press release issued by the Graham campaign didn't specify Lenny Adelson's current occupation, and a 2014 Federal Election Commission filing listed "Adelson Graphics" as his employer.

Lenny Adelson does not tend to get involved with his brother's business affairs. But he did originally introduce Sheldon Adelson to Hong Kong businessman Richard Suen, who is now suing him. Suen claims Sheldon Adelson owes him more than $300 million for helping his company, Las Vegas Sands Corp., secure a license to operate a casino in Macau in 2002. The trial is still ongoing.

Lenny Adelson, as well as a spokesman for Sheldon Adelson, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Just about every GOP presidential hopeful has aggressively courted the elder Adelson, who bankrolled a super PAC during the 2012 primary campaign that kept Newt Gingrich afloat. But he hasn't committed to backing anyone just yet. Adelson did, however, co-chair a fundraiser for an exploratory committee Graham set up in March.

Aside from Adelson, Graham's list of national finance committee members features a few other notable names. Jeff Immelt, the chairman and CEO of General Electric, and Ronald Perelman, the CEO of MacAndrews & Forbes, Inc., are among the committee's co-chairs.

"We are thrilled to have such strong support from these individuals who believe that Senator Graham is the candidate best equipped to address the issues facing our nation," said Graham spokeswoman Brittany Bramell.

RUBIO

What happened when Marco Rubio spoke at a Bush awards dinner // WaPo // Sean Sullivan – June 4, 2015

As Republican donors sipped their wine and munched on their salads in a hotel ballroom here Thursday evening, a clip of Marco Rubio launching his campaign on the promise that "yesterday is over" played on the television

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screens around the room.

Then, the screens quickly cut to a message welcoming everyone to the Prescott Bush awards dinner, named for the late grandfather of Jeb Bush, Rubio's likely presidential rival and a man seen by many as an implicit target of Rubio's generation-centric rhetoric on the campaign trail.

In his 25-minute speech at the fundraising dinner for the state GOP named after the former Connecticut senator and Bush family icon, Rubio never once mentioned the Bush name. But the elephant in the room was not lost on the crowd.

"It is interesting because it's Jeb Bush's grandfather and now it's a guy running against him who also happens to be from Florida," said Jay Sheehy of Stratford.

Rubio had ventured into the heart of a state where the Bush family has deep roots. Still, the crowd was mostly welcoming, applauding at several points in his speech.

As he does often on the campaign trail, Rubio started by mentioning his parents, who came to the United States from Cuba. He called for a muscular national security strategy, slammed President Obama's signature health-care law and took a swipe at the Clintons for making millions from paid speeches, among other things.

Like former Florida governor Bush, whose father and brother were president, former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton is also seen as a target of Rubio's "new generation" argument.

"The time has come for a new generation of leaders to guide us in our transition from the past we are so proud of to the exciting future that awaits our country," Rubio said.

He also cited John F. Kennedy's famous line from his inauguration speech: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

"The truth is that for far too long, leaders in both parties have asked for your vote on the promise of what our government can do for you," said Rubio. "But I'm asking for your vote on the promise of what together we can do for America."

The Prescott Bush dinner is state GOP's largest annual event. Jeb Bush keynoted the dinner in 2014. Tickets for this year's event ranged from $199 to $5,000.

As the donors gathered inside the hotel ballroom to hear Rubio speak, about three dozen demonstrators lined up outside to protest the Florida senator's position on immigration.

"Up up with liberation, down down with deportation!" they chanted about 45 minutes before the dinner as a uniformed officer looked on and black cars pulled up to the hotel. Some held up signs labeling Rubio the "anti-immigrant."

Rubio pushed a sweeping immigration reform bill that included a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in 2013 before backing away from it. He's faced criticism from both conservative and liberal activists on immigration. Rubio now favors a piecemeal approach to reform that prioritizes border security and enforcing current laws.

Rubio will campaign in Idaho on Friday. On Saturday, he will make his second appearance in Iowa since announcing his campaign in April.

Carol Way of Fairfield, Conn., said she has been impressed by both Bush and Rubio. But Rubio has to prove himself to her, she said, citing an infamous moment from his 2013 State of the Union response.

"I was one of the ones that watched the water bottle thing," she said.

Rubio: Hillary, Dems will struggle to convince Americans they're about the future // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 4, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Democrats are going to struggle to convince Americans they're part of a movement about the future, as he continues to fine-tune his pitch for a "new generation of leadership" in the country.

"I believe Hillary Clinton and her whole party, for the most part, is going to struggle to convince Americans that they are a movement about the future," Mr. Rubio, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate, said Thursday on Fox News' "Outnumbered" program.

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Asked if he thought Mrs. Clinton, 67, is too old to be president, Mr. Rubio, 44, said it doesn't have anything to do with a person's age, but rather "the age of their ideas."

"So we have all these people out there today struggling to get ahead — the answer cannot be 'we're going to raise the minimum wage by a couple bucks,'" he said. "Ten dollars and 10 cents doesn't solve the problem for someone.

"We need to figure out how can we help people that are making nine dollars an hour to make 30 dollars an hour?" he continued. "And the only way that's going to happen is if you have an economy that produces that $30-an-hour job and that person has the skills that that job requires. And the answer to both of those questions today is no."

In a videotaped message earlier in the week to an economic forum hosted by Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Mr. Rubio had criticized "outdated leaders" and said the time has come for a "new generation of leaders."

Other 40-somethings who are either running for president or are seriously considering runs on the Republican side include Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, 44, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, 47, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, 43.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who is running, is 52, as is New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is laying the groundwork for a possible bid.

One of Mr. Rubio's top GOP rivals could be former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, 62, who spoke in person at the forum and said he didn't think the comments were directed at him.

"It's kind of hard to imagine that my good friend Marco would be critical of his good friend Jeb," Mr. Bush told reporters with a smile, according to the New York Times.

Mr. Rubio, for his part, also offered praise for the GOP field, which grew larger Thursday with the addition of former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

"I always tell people as a Republican, I'm glad that we have so many good candidates. The Democrats are struggling to come up with one," Mr. Rubio said. "So I think it's great that we have so many good candidates — I believe this field is going to produce the next president, potentially the next vice president, maybe a future president, and cabinet officers. And we're going to have a vibrant, spirited primary where that ... competition is going to drive excellence and ultimately give us a stronger nominee."

"These are quality people that are going to be well-financed and have a good message — we agree on a lot of issues; we have some differences. We'll talk about those. But I think from a competitive process like this, you get a better nominee — someone who's been tested, someone who's had to spend time working with people to fine-tune both their ideas and their delivery and I think competition drives excellence, so it's a good thing," he said.

Marco Rubio just made another confusing comment about his Middle East policy // Business Insider // Hunter Walker – June 4, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) offered a somewhat confusing explanation of his Iraq policy in an appearance on Fox News' "Outnumbered" on Thursday.

Rubio seemed to express support for US troops being present in Iraq, but he maintained this did not represent the controversial "nation-building" philosophy that led to a protracted American military presence in that country following the US invasion in 2003.

However, while insisting he doesn't advocate "nation-building," Rubio seemed to define his policy as exactly that.

"It's not nation-building. We are assisting them in building their nation," Rubio said of his vision for Iraq.

Watch a video of Rubio's remark below.

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPrHm_zyWzw
The exchange began when a host asked Rubio whether he agrees with other Republican presidential candidates who have criticized the extended presence of US military troops in that country.

He began by explaining that America "can't build a democracy" in Iraq, but could help the country with practical matters like infrastructure that might help them "govern" long term. The host responded by saying he seemed to be expressing support for "nation-building."

This query provoked Rubio's claim that he's not calling for "nation-building" in Iraq and is instead talking about "assisting them in building their nation."

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His campaign did not immediately respond to an email from Business Insider asking them to clarify how that is any different from "nation-building."

After making his seemingly contradictory statement about "nation-building," the senator went on to explain why he believes the US has a "vested interest" in helping Iraqis govern their country.

"The alternative to not doing that is the chaos we have now," he said.

He argued that President Barack Obama's administration supported former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who has been criticized for trying to consolidate power in the country among his fellow Shias while leaving out Sunni Muslims. Rubio said this behavior by al-Maliki facilitated the rise of the jihadist group Islamic State (also known as ISIS) in Iraq.

"What happened in Iraq under this administration is they rallied around Maliki. Maliki was a Shia leader who used his power to go after Sunnis," Rubio explained. "That created the environment that was conducive for ISIS to come back in and cause all these problems."

The US-led war in that country proved extremely unpopular and questions about the government's handling of Iraq have come up on the campaign trail for both the Republicans and Democrats who are aiming to win the White House in 2016. These questions have been fueled by the fact ISIS gained a foothold in Iraq following US troop withdrawal. Last year, the US military launched operations aimed at wiping the group out.

Rubio's comments on "nation-building" are the third instance where he has seemingly stumbled while discussing Iraq. As CNN has noted, Rubio, who has made foreign policy expertise a cornerstone of his campaign, has been "vague" about whether he'd support committing ground troops to fight ISIS. And last month, in an appearance at the Council on Foreign Relations, Rubio said he would not have supported the decision to invade Iraq, which was an apparent reversal from multiple prior comments he made in support of the war.

KASICH

The 2016 campaign's new straight shooter: John Kasich // WaPo // Amber Phillips – June 4, 2015

John Kasich is quickly becoming the most quotable candidate in the 2016 field.

The two-term Ohio governor told the Washington Post's Dan Balz and Robert Costa that he'll consider jumping into the race at the end of this month (and allies think he'll run). This would be his second time running for president; he entered the 2000 GOP primary, then quickly bowed out because his campaign didn't go anywhere.

“I didn’t get scared out, I got destroyed out,” he told Balz recently. “I had no money and no oxygen."

See what we mean? Balz, who has interviewed Kasich several times in recent years, describes his conversation style this way:

Kasich spews out current initiatives and ideas for new ones at a rapid pace, often shifting from one thought to another mid-sentence.

Here are more of Kasich's straight-shooter quotes. (For the record, The Fix urges all politicians to be this blunt.)

On whether he's going to gain traction this time around:

"Either I got it, or I don't." -- At a May 1, 2015 Christian Science Monitor breakfast

On the all-important first nominating state of Iowa:

“I haven’t been to Iowa." -- Washington Post interview, May 27, 2015

Actually, Kasich has a lot to say on Iowa -- all of it entertaining.

On whether he'd run for 2016, in a September 2014 editorial board meeting with Ohio's Youngstown Vindicator:

"Honestly, I just don’t see it. I tried it once. You come with me. You can go with me out to Iowa. You wouldn’t believe it. You’d never go to Iowa again."

Oops. More on Iowa, in an October 2014 interview with Dan Balz:

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"I blew this one," he said of the Vindicator comment. "I like the people of Iowa. ... I never liked the system they had where you had to pay to park your RV in a parking lot. I wasn't here to insult the people of Iowa.

(This is a reference to the Iowa straw poll, where prime real estate will cost your campaign.)

That wasn't the only time Kasich's blunt rhetoric has gotten him into trouble. In 2011, he had to apologize to a Columbus traffic cop who gave him a ticket. Kasich called him "an idiot."

And earlier this year Kentucky lawmakers demanded an apology from Kasich when he held a joint press conference with Democratic Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and bashed state lawmakers there for not wanting to toll a cross-border bridge between the two states.

Kasich, as quoted inthe Cincinnati Business Courier:

"At the end of the day, he (Beshear) can't force a group of legislators who want to put their heads in the sand to go forward and do something that needs to be done. He needs help from all of you," Kasich told business leaders in the room.

From the podium, Kasich randomly shouted out to "Tommy" a couple of times – North American Properties president Tom Williams.

Kasich is a bit of an odd duck in the Republican Party. As governor of Ohio, he expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act and promoted federal social programs to help low-income residents. He also expressed resignation after voters rebuked his move to rein in the collective bargaining rights of unions.

In an interview with Robert Costa in February, Kasich acknowledged his uniqueness:

"It's pretty hard to peg me."

More on the issues. Kasich is officially for marriage "between a man and a woman," but said he'll uphold as president whatever the Supreme Court decides.

"I have a number of friends who are gay. I like them," he said at the May 1 Christian Science Monitor breakfast.

At the same breakfast, Kasich on the question of the moment for GOP candidates of -- whether he'd attend a friend's or relative's gay wedding:

"I don't usually go to weddings of people that I don't know, okay? I don't go to 'em. But if somebody that I like is getting married in the traditional sense or in the non-traditional sense, I'm not hung up about it. I'll be celebrating with them."

More on how his views don't quite align with Republican Party:

"I've always said the party is my vehicle and not my master," he told Balz and Costa this May.

In the same interview, Kasich said if he runs, it won't be away from his record:

" If people are bored by it, well, they'll have to put up with it while I give them the résumé. They need to know."

But in November 2011, when Ohio voters overwhelmingly voted to repeal a law he supported to limit collective bargaining rights, Kasich was humble about his loss:

"If you don't win and the people speak ... you have to pay attention to what they're saying."

Kasich also thinks young people don't focus enough on politics. (He's probably right.)

"Instead of young people talking about Justin Bieber or how bad the Grammys were, maybe we could get people talking about Washington, Madison and Monroe, and have a renewal of American history," he told Costa in February.

Kasich launches some pretty blunt attacks at his GOP competitors. He's focused his criticism so far on the frontrunner, Jeb Bush, who most analysts see him competing against for establishment-minded voters.

On Bush's nonprofit and super PAC, "Right to Rise":

"I don't know anything about [Bush's theme]. I really don't. I've never listened to him. What's "Right to Rise"? Getting up in the morning?" he said in May.

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And as to why he's campaigning in New Hampshire this week:

Kasich is also plain-spoken when it comes to foreign policy. The former congressman probably is best described as a hawk who has called for sending troops to fight the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Kasich, on the Hugh Hewitt radio show in April, on peace in the Middle East:

"People who think that there is a solution are naïve."

On Obama's much-maligned nuclear deal with Iran, at the Christian Science Monitor breakfast:

Obama is "so in love" with the idea. It's like, Kasich said, "You're so hungry to get that car you'll pay anything for it."

Kasich doesn't take himself too seriously, though. His philosophy on life on the Hugh Hewitt show:

"You know what? Everybody needs to take a deep breath and have a little fun once in a while, huh?"

We couldn't agree more, Mr. Kasich.

Kasich makes favorable impression on the influential in New Hampshire // The Columbus Dispatch // Darrell Rowland – June 4, 2015

Renee Plummer wanted to pin down exactly what time Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his entourage were coming to her condo Thursday evening for a private dinner.

She was ordering fried clams and filet mignon for the 18 or so guests, so she needed a firm commitment.

But it's Plummer's commitment Kasich and other Republican presidential hopefuls are seeking. While Kasich didn't quite win that Thursday, he did get glowing praise from a woman regarded as highly influential in New Hampshire politics.

Earlier in the day Kasich was the ninth possible presidential candidate that she hosted for a luncheon with nearly 50 business leaders in a conference room near her office next to the airport. And in this Plummer Primary he did what he must do time and time again in coming months if he is to become a serious presidential candidate: Win converts.

"I knew this was going to happen," Plummer said after the lunch. "People who were walking out (after Kasich's 52-minute talk) who thought they were with somebody else said 'I love this guy.'

"They stopped me. It was like, 'All right, you know what? He's like my No. 1.' They thought they were all set before they saw him."

And Plummer wasn't the least bit surprised.

"I said, 'Told you.' He's real. He's a real person. He's smart. ... I've been telling everybody, wait until you hear this guy speak."

The business roundtable was Kasich's only public event Thursday, but he also campaigned behind the scenes aside from the dinner with Renee and Danny Plummer's place. Just before Plummer's luncheon, for instance, he gave an interview to National Public Radio.

But perhaps the most important get-together of the day came with former New Hampshire Gov. John H. Sununu, patriarch of the state's leading GOP family. Kasich's campaign committee already is backed by his son, former U.S. Sen. John H. Sununu, which Danny Plummer said is very notable.

Kasich was accompanied by Franklin County Republican Chairman Doug Preisse as well as his campaign committee's top two leaders in New Hampshire: consultant Bruce Berke and state director Paul Collins, who worked for both Sununus.

Renee Plummer — who also praised the performance of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former executive Carly Fiorina at her roundtables — said she appreciates the fact that Kasich talks about working with Democrats rather than attacking them.

The Ohio governor raised eyebrows during a question-and-answer period following his roundtable speech by

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saying that any GOP presidential hopeful who thinks the party can topple Hillary Clinton by emphasizing the Republicans' familiar message about her questionable dealings is dead wrong.

"We are not going to beat Hillary Clinton on the basis of Benghazi and emails and the Clinton Foundation," Kasich said.

"You know how you win? You better have a bigger vision as to how Americans feel that America's going to be better for them. And how they're going to play a role in it. And how the American Dream is not dead."

While bashing Clinton and President Barack Obama may win applause from GOP partisans, "That's hitting it in the cheap seats. That's not what's going to change this country."

It was merely the latest deviation from the party line for Kasich, seeking to make an impact in a presidential race where he is little known.

Thursday morning, Hotline dubbed him the "Most Interesting Man in the Field" and moved him up to No. 7 with an "up" arrow in its new GOP presidential power rankings.

Thursday afternoon, a much-watched Washington Post blog called him "the 2016 campaign's new straight shooter."

Kasich declined to criticize specific candidates in the GOP field, praising former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who entered the race Thursday.

However, he did refer to the underwhelming performance of Bush to explain his serious consideration of running.

"I just thought that Jeb was going to suck all the air from the room. It hasn't happened. No hit on you Jeb!" Kasich told the business crowd.

And he took a jab at GOP ideologues in the race.

"If you think that somebody can get elected president, and go down to Washington and change that city without understanding how it works, it will not happen. It will not happen," Kasich said. "It cannot be done with some strict ideology and without understanding how you get other people in the other political party to support your efforts."

The governor said his effort is hitting internal organizational and fundraising goals, and "we'r e getting closer and closer to making the final conclusion" on whether he will officially launch his campaign. He could be the final major entrant into the contest.

But in a line he repeats often, Kasich said he would be as content spending time on his back porch with his family as he would running for president.

"I'm playing for a bigger game than that, which is really my eternal salvation, (which) is what matters to me. I think I've got it."

OTHER

GOP hopefuls fight for post-launch poll bounce // The Hill // Jonathan Easley – June 4, 2015

Republican presidential candidates entering one of the most crowded primary races in recent history are hoping to get a big bounce from their campaign launches.

Each of the nine candidates in the race so far has fought to win attention from social and traditional media when jumping into the race — but not everyone has been successful.

Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) jumped to the top of the pack after his announcement, while Sen. Rand Paul's (Ky.) approval ratings stayed relatively stable after his.
Some big names — former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — have yet to enter the race.

And for others, it is too early to tell. Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.) joined the fight this week, while former Sen. Rick Santorum (Pa.) and former New York Gov. George Pataki got in the GOP race last week.

Here is a look at how each Republican presidential candidate has fared in the wake of their announcements.

Marco Rubio

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Rubio has had the best bounce from his campaign launch.

As recently as March 31, Rubio was buried in the polls, sitting in seventh place with only 5 percent support, according to the RealClearPolitics (RCP) average.

After announcing his candidacy on April 13, he saw his numbers double, and the lift has yet to fade. He now tops the GOP field with 14 percent, according to the latest CNN/ORC poll released on Tuesday.

Rubio was already rising before his campaign launch in Miami, as influential conservative pundits lauded him as a next-generation candidate with unmatched rhetorical skills. He had already risen to 7.3 percent, according to the RCP average, the day of his announcement.

Since then, he's underlined his status as a top-tier contender.

Ben Carson

Carson had seen his support erode in the weeks leading up to his announcement; he arrived in his hometown of Detroit on May 4 taking only 5 percent. That placed him eighth.

But the media attention surrounding his campaign launch has helped his polling numbers. He stands at 9.5 percent — good for fourth place — according to the latest RCP average.

A Fox News poll released in mid-May showed Carson tied for first with Bush.

Carson's launch energized his base; his supporters are flooding his campaign with small-dollar donations and helping him to build a substantial election fund.

Although he trails Rubio, he might be the Republican candidate with the best chance of locking up the conservative vote in the primary.

Ted Cruz

Cruz also enjoyed a sizable boost in polls after his announcement on March 23.

Unfortunately for the Tea Party senator from Texas, his numbers haven't remained elevated like Rubio's and Carson's have.

According to the RCP average, Cruz sat at 4.6 percent on the day of his announcement, burying him in eighth place. Less than one month later, Cruz peaked at 11.3 percent — trailing only Walker and Bush.

Cruz got a jump on the GOP field, becoming the first presidential contender to enter the race with a direct appeal to evangelical conservatives at Liberty University, the nation's largest Christian college.

Cruz had a full two weeks to himself as the GOP's lone candidate, and his aggression was rewarded by a tremendous lift in the polls.

Cruz's early announcement helped him draw in conservative backers. His support among those who identify as "very conservative" shot up from 11 percent in March to 33 percent in April, according to a survey from Public Policy Polling.

But as other candidates have entered the race, particularly Carson and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Cruz has seen his polling bump fade.

He's currently at 8.2 percent, according to the RCP average, and has fallen back into seventh place.

Mike Huckabee

Huckabee's presidential announcement helped him put an end to what had been a prolonged slide in the polls.

In early March, when the polls are largely driven by name ID, Huckabee was near the top of the field with 13.3 percent, according to RealClearPolitics. On May 5, when Huckabee launched his campaign from his hometown of Hope, Ark., he had slid into sixth place with 7.5 percent.

Huckabee has seen a modest uptick in since. He is currently in fifth place with 9.3 percent.

That's not as much of an uptick as some candidates received, perhaps because Huckabee entered an already

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crowded race.

Rand Paul

Paul got almost no bump from his campaign launch.

The Kentucky Republican became the second presidential candidate to enter the GOP race on April 7, hitting the launch button in a well-received event in Louisville, Ky.

At the time, Paul was polling in the middle of the pack, taking 8.7 percent and sitting in fifth place, per RCP. After the launch, he ticked up to the 9.5 percent range, and fourth place in the polls.

The lack of a bounce might be because of his messy launch, which was overcome by a high-profile dust-up with NBC "Today" show host Savannah Guthrie the day after his announcement. Video of Paul chastising and talking over Guthrie went viral, and he spent the rest of the week having to explain himself.

The libertarian will look for a second wind after campaigning heavily on his Patriot Act talkathon.

Carly Fiorina

Fiorina was the first candidate not to launch with a major event, opting instead to announce on ABC's "Good Morning America" on May 4.

She hails from a deep blue state and lacks a clearly defined base of support, never having won political office. At the time, she barely registered in the national polls.

Still, Fiorina has earned rave reviews on the campaign trail for her fiery speeches and aggressive attacks against Republicans' likely opponent in the general election, Hillary Clinton.

But nothing has changed for Fiorina in the polls. She consistently pulls only 1 percent, despite benefitting from outsized media coverage in places like the Drudge Report.

Poll: Which Republican Presidential Candidate Should Democrats Fear Most? // National Journal // Sara Mimms – June 5, 2015

'Jeb can better battle Hillary for the center and exploit her pandering to the Warren faction.'

Q: Which Republican presidential candidate should Democrats fear most?

Jeb Bush: 37%
Marco Rubio: 29%
Scott Walker: 5%
John Kasich: 13%
Rand Paul: 4%
Mike Huckabee: 2%
Ben Carson: 0%
Chris Christie: 0%
Ted Cruz: 0%
Carly Fiorina: 0%

Jeb Bush

"He's the one who can unify his party at the end of the day and win swing voters in November 2016."

"If he can get through the primaries, he has the most crossover appeal to moderates and undecideds. He would also make great inroads with Hispanic voters."

"He'll have the deep-pocket Republican establishment behind him. Rubio a close second."

Marco Rubio

"He's young, handsome, has charisma. Thank God he is not nearly as good a candidate as Obama was."

"Rubio is likable, dynamic, and has a great story to tell, and he tells it well. He can connect. His earnest, youthful contrast to [Hillary Clinton] is worrisome."

"Broadest appeal and most different from Hillary. Represents [the] fresh/new."

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Scott Walker

"Probably the best politician in the group. Also the least likely to be a good president if he wins."

"Danger is Scott Walker could bore the electorate to victory."

Q: Which Republican presidential candidate should Democrats fear most?

REPUBLICANS (56 VOTES)

Marco Rubio: 43%
Jeb Bush: 21%
John Kasich: 12%
Scott Walker: 9%
Chris Christie: 7%
Ben Carson: 2%
Ted Cruz: 2%
Carly Fiorina: 2%
Rand Paul: 2%
Mike Huckabee: 0%

Marco Rubio

"He represents a significant turning of the page for the GOP and has the potential to appeal to Hispanics and millennials in ways the others can't."

"A powerful combination of personal story and great ability to inspire. It's up to his campaign to see how far he can go."

"He is a natural campaigner that will fare well with the independents."

Jeb Bush

"Will keep GOP base, while getting more Latino votes than his brother."

"Jeb can better battle Hillary for the center and exploit her pandering to the Warren faction."

John Kasich

"Experienced, centered, Ohio, with little baggage. Perfect matchup with Clinton."

Scott Walker

"Midwest governor who turned blue state red, beat public-sector unions three times at polls, and made Wisconsin a right-to-work state. That's a tough hombre."

Chris Christie

"If he runs and survives the primary, his tell-it-like-it-is persona will be perfected, and he rivals Bill Clinton in terms of charisma. Hillary can't compete."

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

The number of Fortune 500 companies led by women is at an all-time high: 5 percent // WaPo // Ana Swanson – June 4, 2015

Female leaders in the Fortune 500 had another record year.

This year's Fortune 500 list "ties the record (set last year) for highest number of female CEOs with 24, including Mary Barra (General Motors), Meg Whitman (Hewlett-Packard), Ginny Rometty (IBM) and more." So reads the press release about the new list of America's 500 largest companies by revenue, which was published this

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morning.

But there's a less charitable way to look at this new. The number of female CEOs of America's most influential companies is stuck at a 5 percent, as it was the year before. While women make up 45 percent of the labor force of the S&P 500, few are climbing to the very top.

Catalyst, http://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-sp-500-companies
That said, there has been progress. In 1998, just one woman led a Fortune 500 company. By 2009, the figure had risen to 15, but then it fell to 12 in 2011 before doubling to 24 in 2014.

Among American companies overall, the percentage of female CEOs is slightly higher: about 15 percent, according to Catalyst, a nonprofit focused on women in the workplace. The percentage of women on U.S. corporate boards has been stuck at around 17 percent for almost a decade.

There are various arguments for bringing more women into the highest levels of corporate power. Some say it's a moral issue, while others stress that more diverse viewpoints bring better governance.

But the most persuasive argument may be the simplest one. When you draw from a smaller pool of people, you miss out on a lot of talent. Women are 50.8 percent of the population. Would you rather select your executive team from a pool of 100 people, or from 49?

Bringing more women into the workforce has already added a lot to the American economy. Consultancy McKinsey calculates that the additional productive power of women entering the workforce between 1970 to today accounts for about a quarter of the size of the U.S. economy.

Most Americans back legal status for undocum ented immigrants // Politico // Nick Gass – June 4, 2015

More than seven in 10 Americans say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay in the United States legally, as long as they meet certain requirements, according to a new Pew Research Center survey released Thursday.

A majority — 72 percent — say that immigrants should be allowed to legally remain in the country, including 80 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents and 56 percent of Republicans.

Of those 72 percent, 42 percent say they should be allowed to apply for citizenship, while 26 percent would allow for permanent residency. Just 27 percent responded that they should not be allowed to stay.

A majority of Republicans support allowing undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S., but 58 percent see giving them a path to legal status as a reward for doing something that is against the law. Only 23 percent of Democrats and 33 percent of independents surveyed feel that way.

And Republicans and leaners aren't happy with the way their party is dealing with the issue. Just 34 percent say the GOP is doing a good job, with 59 percent in disagreement. By contrast, 51 percent of Democrats think their party is doing well on the issue, with 34 percent dissatisfied.

Additionally, 63 percent of Republicans surveyed said immigrants are a burden on the country, compared to 27 percent who called them a strength.

Overall, 51 percent said immigrants strengthen the country, compared to 41 percent who said they do not.

As far as legal immigration goes, a plurality of 39 percent said it should stay at current levels, while 31 percent say it should be decreased and 24 percent want more.

According to Pew, the share of Americans favoring less legal immigration has not declined in the last two years, though it has gone down in the past decade.
Just 37 percent approve of President Barack Obama's handling of immigration, while 65 percent disapprove.

The poll was conducted May 12-18 among 2,002 adults nationwide via landlines and cellphones, carrying an overall margin of error of 2.5 percentage points. Among 506 Republicans, the margin of error is plus or minus 5 percentage points; among 636 Democrats, it is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points; among 758 independents, it is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Senate Dems ready to blockade all spending bills // Politico // Rachel Bade & John Bresnahan – June 4, 2015

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is plotting to block GOP spending bills — an attempt to force Republicans to

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the negotiating table and hasten a deal to raise strict spending caps.

At a closed-door Democratic leadership meeting Tuesday night, Reid (D-Nev.) vowed that his caucus wouldn't allow a single appropriations bill to get a floor vote, sources familiar with the meeting say. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), one of Reid's top lieutenants, told their House counterparts that they're asking colleagues to filibuster and prevent Republicans from even calling up the spending measures.

"We will not vote to proceed to the Defense appropriations bill or any appropriations bills until Republicans have sat down at the table and figured out with us how we're going to properly fund the Defense Department ... and our families' domestic needs," Schumer said Thursday at a news conference disclosing the strategy.

Republicans in both chambers are working on spending bills that give the Pentagon more money, skirting 2011 spending caps by tucking the money into a war fund.

But President Barack Obama and the Democrats want dollar-for-dollar funding boosts for domestic priorities like education and transportation programs, too — and they're betting that gumming up the appropriations process will force the GOP to make a deal.
The plan, if executed correctly, would deliver a huge blow to the Senate's fledgling Republican majority, barring it from completing one of its top legislative priorities.

The GOP has prioritized a return to "regular order" — where all 12 appropriations bills are individually scrutinized and passed on the floor — as a way to demonstrate Republicans can govern effectively with control of both chambers. They want to avoid funding the government with a series of stop-gap continuing resolutions and last-minute legislating.

And while many Republicans are also interested in raising the spending caps eventually — though not until much, much later in the year — they'd hoped to clear GOP appropriations bills first, which would have given them bragging rights, at the very least.
Obama has promised to veto their appropriations measures, but the latest Democratic strategy means those bills wouldn't even make it to his desk.

"Every day that goes by without an agreement to replace sequestration in a responsible way is a day that makes it tougher," said Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), calling GOP insistence on moving their own spending bills a "waste of time." She and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) took a full two months to hammer out the first agreement to lift the caps in 2013, she said, a pact that many lawmakers hope can be recreated this year. "It's getting us, every day, closer to a meltdown."

Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) said some kind of Democratic stand is necessary to "reinforce the president's veto threat and ... compel a negotiation over the future of the budget."
Republicans will no doubt call Democrats obstructionists, accusing them of flirting with a government shutdown.

But Democrats are already playing defense, suggesting at a Thursday news conference that refusing to move to a deal immediately would hurt military families and veterans. They argue the ball is in the GOP's court.

"[T]he onus will be on Republicans to come to the table," a senior Democratic aide said.
Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. is pursued by the media as he departs a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 2, 2015, where officials and families of 9-11 victims called for the 28 classified pages of the 9-11 report to be declassified. Paul has been voicing his dissent in the Senate against a House bill backed by the president that would end the National Security Agency's collection of American calling records while preserving other surveillance authorities.

Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois told POLITICO that he and leadership had not whipped the count yet to ensure the entire party was on board, and when asked whether it would be easy to do so, Durbin responded with a terse, "No — nothing's easy."

But Democratic leaders already have a number of key Senate Democrats lined up, including former Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, who still leads the panel for the left.

"I want to put the chairman on notice: The president will veto bills at this allocation, and Democrats will vote against motions to proceed to these bills on the Senate floor," the Maryland Democrat warned at a recent spending mark-up. "We need a sequel to Murray-Ryan, and we need it sooner rather than later "

Senate Armed Services ranking member Jack Reed stood with leadership at the Thursday news conference, suggesting the defense-minded Rhode Island Democrat also backs the strategy. And Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, another Democrat with a keen eye for military needs, says she's in.

"I certainly am inclined to vote against [the motion] to proceed to appropriations that's going to damage our

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military permanently by not dealing with the base budget needs," she said. "The appropriations bill is really where the fight will come."

Across the Rotunda, House Democrats under Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi are also playing offense. Though chamber rules don't allow them to muck up the process like the Senate can, the California Democrat also promised at Tuesday night's meeting that Democrats would continue to oppose House appropriations bills in large swaths to ensure Republicans cannot claim they have a veto-proof majority.

She also suggested that Democrats need to push for revenue increases to offset a portion of the cost associated with raising spending caps.

"What we have done is come together with a unified message of the folly of this budget's austerity," said House Democratic appropriator David Price (D-N.C.). "At some point there's going to be some sort of budget agreement … so what's it going to take to precipitate that action?"

House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers, when asked whether such a strategy would quicken work toward a deal, shrugged.

"I don't know," said the Kentucky Republican, who's been calling for a deal to raise the caps for a few months now. "We're going to continue with what we're doing. We're working at a record pace, and we'll just have to see."

Fracking Has Had No 'Widespread' Impact on Drinking Water, EPA Finds // WSJ // Russell Gold & Amy Harder – June 4, 2015

A decade into an energy boom led by hydraulic fracturing, the Environmental Protection Agency has concluded there is no evidence the practice has had a "widespread, systemic impact on drinking water."

The report is the federal government's most comprehensive examination of the issue of fracking and drinking water, and it bolsters the position staked out by the energy industry and its supporters: that fracking can be carried out safely and doesn't need to pose a threat to water.

While there have been some cases involving spills and leaking wells, the spread of fracking didn't cause extensive damage to groundwater resources, the EPA found. The four-year study noted that there were certain "potential vulnerabilities" to water supplies that needed to be addressed, including ensuring wells are well built and wastewater is disposed of properly.

"EPA's draft study will give state regulators, tribes and local communities and industry around the country a critical resource to identify how best to protect public health and their drinking water resources," said Thomas Burke, deputy assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Research and Development.

While the report doesn't recommend any specific action, it could reinvigorate a debate over the role of fracking in the nation's energy landscape at a time when environmentalists have increasingly called to ban the practice outright, a step that two states with gas resources—New York and Maryland—have recently taken.

Fracking remains controversial in some communities as critics of the practice have recently moved to highlight other concerns with the practice, including air emissions, community health impacts and the proliferation of earthquakes that some studies have tied to injecting fracking wastewater.

Fracking involves shooting millions of gallons of water, laced with chemicals, into dense rock formations to create fractures and allow oil and natural gas to flow out.

Several years ago, as fracking spread across the U.S., there were widespread fears that fracking would lead to contaminated drinking water. Many of these fears were stoked by the 2010 documentary Gasland. One of the most notable scenes showed a landowners lighting his faucet on fire.

In Congress recently, the political debate over fracking has subsided. Almost all Republicans endorse fracking, and many Democratic lawmakers have increasingly been supportive as well, in large part because it has brought economic growth to their districts.

The growing skepticism of fracking by the Democratic Party's environmental base has done little to move Democrats toward that position. The EPA's report, whose findings echo that of many Democrats on Capitol Hill and in the Obama administration, will reinforce much of the conventional wisdom on Capitol Hill about the drilling practice.

Barnard College will now accept transgender women // CNN // Emily Jane Fox – June 4, 2015

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Barnard College announced Thursday that it will admit transgender women, a move that follows a number of women's colleges who have expanded their policies on gender identity over the last several months.

Barnard, an all women's college in New York affiliated with Columbia University, said its board voted to consider admissions for applicants who "consistently live and identify as women, regardless of the gender assigned to them at birth." This will go into effect for those applying in the fall of 2016.

The policy does not apply to transgender men, who were born female and identified as male when they applied, though the college said it will continue to support and enroll those who transition to males after they have already been admitted.

Before now, Barnard did not have an official policy on transgender students or applicants.

The decision was made after a year-long discussion on campus, consisting of five town halls and a virtual forum that collected more than 900 responses.
From the conversations and feedback, a statement from the college said two things were made clear: "There was no question that Barnard must reaffirm its mission as a college for women. And there was little debate that trans women should be eligible for admission to Barnard."

Barnard's announcement comes as a spate of women's colleges across the country have reached similar decisions, amidst a national dialogue about transgender issues. Last fall, Mount Holyoke College announced it would admit "any qualified student who is female or identifies as a women." This means that it admits those who were born female and identify as female, those who were born male and identify as female, and, in a step further than Barnard, those who were born female and identify as male. The school also clarifies that it admits those who were born female and don't identify as either a man or woman.

In February, Bryn Mawr College adopted a policy that is much like Barnard's new policy, admitting those who were born male but identify as female at the time of application. Wellesley College came to a similar decision in March, as did Smith College in May.

As Supreme Court Obamacare case looms, Republicans split on response // Reuters // Susan Cornwell & Caroline Humer – June 4, 2015

U.S. Republicans face a potential political backlash from voters if the Supreme Court rules soon against President Barack Obama's healthcare law, and are split over what to do about it, with some calling on the Obama administration for help.

But the White House, perhaps sensing a chance to blame Republicans for trouble, is showing no outward signs of crafting a contingency plan in case of an adverse outcome in King v. Burwell, expected to be ruled on by the end of this month.

The outcome could mean millions of Americans, many of them Republicans, would lose their Obamacare health insurance coverage. One of them might be Rosel Ettress, of Chicago.

A daycare center manager and mother of three, Ettress could lose $250 a month in tax subsidies that help her afford the premiums for her insurance under 2010's Affordable Care Act.

She said in a telephone interview that this would be a blow and she urged Republicans and Democrats in Congress to act.

"I would like for Congress to come up with a way to fix this where everyone could still get the subsidies and still save a little money in the process," she said.

King v. Burwell is the result of a lawsuit brought by anti-Obamacare libertarian activists. Ordinarily, Republicans might be expected to cheer for a ruling damaging to Obamacare, which the party has opposed since its passage.

But there are many Republicans among the 6.4 million low- and middle-income Americans who get Obamacare premium subsidies in 34 states. If those Americans lost their coverage as a result of the case, who would they blame at the polls in 2016?

REPUBLICANS DIVIDED

Republicans in Congress have been working on post-King v. Burwell plans for months, but still can not decide what to do. Some favor extending the Obamacare subsidies long enough to protect people like Ettress for a time and prevent them from possibly seeking revenge on the party.

In another approach, the Republican Study Committee, a group of some 170 House of Representatives

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conservatives, on Thursday proposed a model for a longer-term replacement for Obamacare.

But the group's chairman, Representative Bill Flores, said it would not offer an interim plan for the immediate aftermath of King v. Burwell, in part because members can not agree on whether to temporarily extend the Obamacare subsidies.

"I will not vote to extend the subsidies unless the president is willing to sit down with us and do the things to reduce the overall cost of the premiums," said Representative Austin Scott, a member of the committee, at a news conference.

In the Senate, there was rising Republican anxiety about what might need to be done in the wake of King v. Burwell.

Twenty-one of 24 Republicans who are running for re-election to the Senate next year are from states on the federal exchange, Healthcare.gov, which King v. Burwell specifically targets and from which the court could make the subsidies disappear.

"Millions have grown accustomed to those subsidies and we're gonna have to replace them" if the court nixes them, Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona told Reuters earlier this week.

One of the senators running for re-election in 2016, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, has 31 co-sponsors including McCain for his bill to extend the Obamacare subsidies through August 2017.

Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming, a Senate Republican leader, this week said Obama should step in. "The president made the mess. He doesn't seem to be a willing partner to work with in finding solutions to the mess he's made," Barrasso said.

White House officials said they have no Plan B if the Court rules against the administration.

"If the Supreme Court were to throw the health care system in this country into utter chaos, there would be no easy solutions for solving that problem," spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters at a briefing on Wednesday.

INTERNATIONAL

House could be forced to debate war against ISIL // Politico // Bryan Bender – June 4, 2015

Rep. Jim McGovern, calling Congress "the poster child for cowardice," is taking advantage of an obscure provision to force the House to debate the 10-month-old war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The Massachusetts Democrat took to the House floor Thursday to introduce a bipartisan resolution under the provisions of the War Powers Resolution, which would require a full debate within 15 days on whether U.S. troops should withdraw from Iraq and Syria.

He cited the Congress' failure to authorize the U.S.-led air campaign against the militant group, along with some 3,000 military advisers to help train Iraqi troops.

"Frankly speaking, this is unacceptable," McGovern said, saying that if the Congress "doesn't have the stomach" to authorize the war it should vote to bring U.S. forces home.

His resolution is co-sponsored by Reps. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Barbara Lee (D-Calif.).

"This House appears to have no problem sending our uniformed men and women into harm's way. It appears to have no problem spending billions of dollars for the arms, equipment and airpower to carry out these wars. But it just can't bring itself to step up to the plate and take responsibility for these wars," McGovern said in prepared remarks. "Congress is the poster child for cowardice."

"Just yesterday Gen. John Allen, the U.S. envoy for the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL, said that this fight may take 'a generation or more,'" McGovern went on. "If we are going to invest a generation or more of our blood and our treasure in this war, then shouldn't Congress at least debate whether or not to authorize it?"

"Every single hour the taxpayers of the United States are paying $3.42 million for military actions against the Islamic State. $3.42 million every hour," he declared.

The War Powers Resolution requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action. It also requires the troops be brought home after 90 days without without an authorization of the use of military force or a declaration of war — a requirement that has largely been ignored over the decades

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since it was adopted after the Vietnam War.

An aide described the procedure McGovern is relying on to force such a debate this way:

“The way it works, the clock would start tomorrow and there would then be 15 calendar days for the House Foreign Affairs Committee to act. If they fail to act, the resolution can then be brought up for a vote once it has ‘ripened’ the week of June 22, specifically on the first day of session that week, June 23.”

At the urging of members of both parties, President Barack Obama sent Congress a proposed authorization for the use of military force in February, but due to deep disagreements in both parties neither the House nor Senate has taken action.

Jones, who represents Fort Bragg, cited in his floor remarks Thursday Congress’ war making authority in the Constitution.

“The House has a responsibility to the men and women in uniform and the American people,” he said.

China suspected in massive breach of federal personnel data // AP // Ken Dilanian and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar – June 4, 2015

China-based hackers are suspected of breaking into the computer networks of the U.S. government personnel office and stealing identifying information of at least 4 million federal workers, American officials said Thursday.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that data from the Office of Personnel Management and the Interior Department had been compromised.

"The FBI is conducting an investigation to identify how and why this occurred," the statement said.

The hackers were believed to be based in China, said Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican.

Collins, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said the breach was "yet another indication of a foreign power probing successfully and focusing on what appears to be data that would identify people with security clearances."

A U.S. official, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to publicly discuss the data breach, said it could potentially affect every federal agency. One key question is whether intelligence agency employee information was stolen. Former government employees are affected as well.

"This is an attack against the nation," said Ken Ammon, chief strategy officer of Xceedium, who said the attack fit the pattern of those carried out by nation states for the purpose of espionage. The information stolen could be used to impersonate or blackmail federal employees with access to sensitive information, he said.

The Office of Personnel Management is the human resources department for the federal government, and it conducts background checks for security clearances. The OPM conducts more than 90 percent of federal background investigations, according to its website.

The agency said it is offering credit monitoring and identity theft insurance for 18 months to individuals potentially affected. The National Treasury Employees Union, which represents workers in 31 federal agencies, said it is encouraging members to sign up for the monitoring as soon as possible.

In November, a former DHS contractor disclosed another cyberbreach that compromised the private files of more than 25,000 DHS workers and thousands of other federal employees.

Cyber-security experts also noted that the OPM was targeted a year ago in a cyber-attack that was suspected of originating in China. In that case, authorities reported no personal information was stolen.

One expert said it's possible that hackers could use information from government personnel files for financial gain. In a recent case disclosed by the IRS, hackers appear to have obtained tax return information by posing as taxpayers, using personal information gleaned from previous commercial breaches, said Rick Holland, an information security analyst at Forrester Research.

"Given what OPM does around security clearances, and the level of detail they acquire when doing these investigations, both on the subjects of the investigations and their contacts and references, it would be a vast amount of information," Holland added.

DHS said its intrusion detection system, known as EINSTEIN, which screens federal Internet traffic to identify potential cyber threats, identified the hack of OPM's systems and the Interior Department's data center, which is

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shared by other federal agencies.

It was unclear why the EINSTEIN system didn't detect the breach until after so many records had been copied and removed.

"DHS is continuing to monitor federal networks for any suspicious activity and is working aggressively with the affected agencies to conduct investigative analysis to assess the extent of this alleged intrusion," the statement said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House intelligence committee, called the hack "shocking, because Americans may expect that federal computer networks are maintained with state of the art defenses."

Ammon said federal agencies are rushing to install two-factor authentication with smart cards, a system designed to make it harder for intruders to access networks. But implementing that technology takes time.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., said the government must overhaul its cybersecurity defenses. "Our response to these attacks can no longer simply be notifying people after their personal information has been stolen," he said. "We must start to prevent these breaches in the first place."

Obama to meet Iraqi prime minister at G7 **// The Hill // Jordan Fabian – June 4, 2015**

President Obama will meet with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi at this weekend's Group of Seven (G7) summit in Germany amid tensions over the administration's strategy in fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

It will be Obama and Abadi's first face-to-face meeting since the city of Ramadi fell to ISIS militants last month, a major blow for the international coalition's campaign against the group.
The two leaders will discuss "the situation on the ground and our efforts to support the Iraqi security forces," deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters Thursday.

The White House has publicly expressed confidence in Abadi's leadership, but there have been signs of a strained relationship since ISIS took control of the Sunni stronghold of Ramadi.

Abadi called for greater international support for Iraqi ground forces during a meeting of coalition partners in Paris this week.

"This is a failure on the part of the world," Abadi told reporters. "There is a lot of talk of support for Iraq. There is very little on the ground."

ISIS has also made recent gains in Syria, taking the ancient city of Palmyra and advancing on Aleppo.

Rhodes said there are no plans to announce any shift in strategy. He expressed confidence in the existing plan to fight the group, which includes a new offensive in Anbar Province, where Ramadi is located.

There are approximately 3,000 U.S. troops training and equipping Iraqi forces, but they do not serve in combat roles.

In addition, the government has sent 2,000 anti-tank missiles to Iraq to help combat ISIS's use of car bombs placed inside armored vehicles. The administration has also pledged to speed up other weapons shipments.

Last month, Iraqi officials were angered when Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Iraqi troops who were routed in Ramadi showed "no will to fight." That prompted Vice President Biden to smooth over tensions and pledge support for the Iraqi forces in a phone call with Abadi.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Let Transgender Troops Serve Openly **// NYT // The Editorial Board - June 4, 2015**

Staff Sgt. Loeri Harrison could receive the paperwork any day now, forms certifying that after an exemplary eight-year Army career, she is no longer fit for duty and must leave Fort Bragg because she is transgender.

Early this year, Senior Airman Logan Ireland feared he might face a similar fate when he disclosed to his commanders during a recent deployment in Afghanistan that he transitioned from female to male. Yet, his supervisors have been supportive, allowing him to wear male uniforms and adhere to male grooming standards even though Air Force records continue to label him as female.

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It can go either way in the military these days. While transgender civilians in the federal work force enjoy robust legal protections from discrimination, those in the armed forces may be discharged at any moment. The Pentagon, shamefully, has yet to rescind anachronistic personnel guidelines that prohibit openly transgender people from joining in the military, labeling their condition a “paraphilia,” or perversion.

The policy has forced thousands to serve in silence, repressing an essential part of their identity. The Williams Institute at the U.C.L.A. School of Law, which researches gender issues, estimates there are about 15,500 transgender troops serving in uniform.

Those who take steps to transition while in uniform must carefully compartmentalize their lives as they test the shifting boundaries of tolerance within an institution that still allows discrimination on the basis of gender identity. While some service members have come out in recent years to commanders willing to bend or disregard rules, scores have been expelled.

The absence of common-sense leadership on this issue by Pentagon leaders has forced commanders on the ground to develop a patchwork of unofficial rules. Those have created a tremendously uneven landscape in which some service members are treated with respect and assured career advancement, while others are subject to scorn, if not dismissal.

A recent graduate at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., who is in the early stages of transitioning from male to female, is agonizing about the months ahead. When she reports for flight school in Pensacola, Fla., in the fall, and undergoes a medical exam, the officer may be forced to explain why she has been on hormone replacement therapy for more than a year.

“If they let me serve as myself, I will give 30-plus years,” said the 22-year-old Navy officer, who asked to be identified only as Alex, wihch is part of her name. “I will sign up for the rest of my life. I love the military. I love my peers. I love the whole structure of the military.”

The rules that prohibit transgender people from entering miltary service were introduced in the early 1980s, an era during which few people lived openly and those who did were widely stigmatized. The Pentagon’s transgender ban went largely unchallenged, even as the medical community’s understanding of gender identity evolved considerably over the years.

In the 1990s, when Congress passed the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law allowing gay and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they remained closeted, there was no mention of transgender troops. The unspoken consensuswas that they did not belong in the force.

During the months leading to the repeal of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law in 2011, gay activists refrained from publicly talking about the transgender ban, which was never codified in law. Some feared that advocating for transgender rights would cause Congress to enact a ban on transgender service. After “don’t ask, don’t tell” was rescinded, transgender service members felt slighted. Like gay troops had done a few years earlier, some began to mobilize covertly, initially largely online, to make the case that they, too, deserved to serve openly and proudly.

Sergeant Harrison, a satellite communications expert who joined the Army in 2007, contacted Sparta, an advocacy group for gay and transgender troops, after returning in 2012 from her second deployment to Afghanistan. At the time, her marriage was crumbling, and she was finding it increasingly hard to suppress the desire to live as a woman.

She was among the active duty service members who traveled to Houston in January 2014 for a Sparta strategy meeting attended by representatives of prominent advocacy groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Center for Transgender Equality and the Palm Center. It was a galvanizing moment for those who had been too afraid of taking steps to transition.

Senior Airman Ireland met an Army nurse, Cpl. Laila Villanueva, to whom he is now engaged. The two legally changed their names last year and began coming out gradually. The underground support community started expanding.

“Meeting all those people, seeing what they were doing, how they were balancing the military life with themselves, gave me an impetus to do more than just talk to a therapist,” said Sergeant Harrison, who legally changed her name this year.

Soon after the Houston meeting, Sergeant Harrison told her battalion physician during a regular checkup that she intended to start hormone replacement therapy soon. The doctor urged her to notify her commander. “That was a scary moment, basically going up to someone and saying, ‘Here is my career. You can flush it if you want, but this is what I need to do to be sane,’ ” she said.

Much to her surprise, her commander was supportive. As long as she adhered nominally to male grooming

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standards during the day, he said, the unit would overlook everything else that was happening in her life. She used strong gel to slick her hair back during the work day, asked close colleagues, as a personal favor, to use female pronouns, and began using a female restroom near her office that was infrequently used.

Late last year, after a stressful period at work, Sergeant Harrison went to the behavioral health center at Fort Bragg to talk to a therapist, where she broke down in tears. A physician who reviewed her file during that visit filled out a form setting in motion her expulsion from the Army.

Two former secretaries of defense, Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel, were urged to review the military's ban on transgender troops and the type of policies needed to allow them to serve openly. Neither made it a priority.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter should take on what they refused to do. The current policies leave transgender troops vulnerable to discrimination that the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission describe as a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Medical and military experts who have studied the policies have concluded that there is no rationale for disqualifying transgender troops from serving on medical grounds.

On the ground, commanders and military doctors who have reached the same conclusions have resorted to makeshift, imperfect solutions. Some doctors prescribe hormones for transgender patients without clearly documenting the reason on their medical files. In rare cases, policies on personal grooming and uniform standards are waived.

Lt. Cmdr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, a Navy Reserve doctor who returned recently from a deployment to Afghanistan, has treated several transgender service members. He said the type of medical care most of them need is fairly basic and should not preclude them from being deployed.

"They do just fine and are able to serve appropriately," he said. "I've seen folks deploy with all sorts of complex medical conditions that are frankly more limiting." Yet, some commanders have prohibited troops from taking hormones to transition.

Military officials from several of America's closest allies have been pragmatic and enlightened about this issue for years. Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany and Israel are among the nations that allow transgender people to serve openly. The Israeli military has begun educating commanders and rank-and-file troops about gender identity to ensure that the handful of service members who transition each year are treated with respect.

"It's not that hard," Brig. Gen. Rachel Tevet-Weisel, a senior Israeli military leader who played a significant role in fostering an open environment for transgender troops. "The issue is you have to have very good education for the young soldiers coming each year."

Commander Ehrenfeld and Senior Airman Ireland were among the troops who met with Mr. Carter during his visit to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in February, a few days after being sworn in. The doctor asked Mr. Carter what he thought about transgender troops serving in austere environments, a reference to the argument some officials at the Pentagon have made to justify the ban.

Mr. Carter replied that he hadn't studied the issue closely, but he added that the military should be working to attract the most qualified people. "That's the important criteria," he said. "Are they going to be excellent service members?"

They already are. While some, like Senior Airman Ireland, are thriving, others, including Sergeant Harrison, fear that their careers could unravel at any moment. That is an inexcusable way to treat Americans who want to serve their country.

Alex, the recent Naval Academy graduate, decided during her junior year that she would transition publicly in the near future. The only alternative, she felt, was suicide. "I'm going to stop fighting it, and I'm going to do something about it to save my life," she said she decided then.

She is scheduled to report for flight school in October. That gives Mr. Carter ample time to ensure that her career gets off the ground smoothly, and that transgender troops will no longer have to suffer in silence.

Listen to Rand Paul // WaPo // Fareed Zakaria – June 4, 2015

It turns out that Republicans in Washington are united on one issue: their hatred of Rand Paul. John McCain says that he is "the worst possible candidate . . . on the most important issue." Marco Rubio opines that "he has no idea what he's talking about." Lindsey Graham concludes that it would be "devastating" for the party to nominate him. Conservative commentators are even more vicious and ad hominem. The obsession with Paul is striking. In a Post op-ed last summer, then-Texas Gov. Rick Perry mentioned Paul 10 times. I cannot recall an instance in recent decades when so much vitriol has been directed against a leading political figure by his own party.

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The attacks are almost entirely focused on Paul's foreign policy, which is routinely characterized as dangerous and isolationist. In fact, the real problem appears to be that Paul is trying to force Republicans and many Democrats to defend what has become a lazy, smug consensus in favor of an ever-expanding national security state.

I have read Paul's proposals and speeches on foreign policy. There are some bloopers, odd comments and rhetorical broadsides, but for the most part his views are intellectually serious and well within a tradition of what he (correctly) calls conservative realism. They are also politically courageous. Paul has taken positions and cited authorities that are deeply unpopular with his own party. Yes, of course, he craves publicity and engages in stunts. What politician doesn't? But what makes his opponents most uncomfortable is the substance, not the style.

Take the most recent example: his opposition to the blanket extension of the Patriot Act, which has resulted in some modest restraint on the vast expansion of government powers since 9/11. (The new checks and balances are close to ones recommended by a panel put together by the Obama administration.) In defending his position, Paul notes— correctly — that we would not even know of the existence of this system of metadata collection if not for Edward Snowden's revelations, that the FBI has been unable to cite a single terrorist plot disrupted by it and that the special courts in place have few checks and little transparency. He cites, glowingly, the 1979 dissenting opinion regarding the dangers of government collection of phone records by Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan, the Supreme Court's two most prominent liberals of the past half-century.

Or consider Paul's views on lifting the embargo on Cuba, on which he writes: "The supporters of the embargo . . . fall strangely silent when asked how trade with Cuba is so different than trade with Russia or China or Vietnam." This is not a path to primary voters' hearts in Florida.

He has raised uncomfortable questions that no other politician dares raise about Anwar al-Awlaki, an al-Qaeda leader who was killed in a car on a road in Yemen by a U.S. drone strike. Paul has pointed out that since Awlaki was a U.S. citizen, this action creates an extraordinary legal precedent — that the president of the United States can execute a U.S. citizen without trial. He cites approvingly the American Civil Liberties Union, which, he writes, has pointed out that "in modern history, a presidential order to kill an American citizen away from a battlefield is unprecedented."

In the Middle East, Paul has called for caution before the next military intervention, suggesting that it is worth learning some lessons from the past decade. U.S. military interventions, he has argued, have destabilized countries and led to perverse consequences. "As secular dictators fell in Libya, Egypt, Iraq, and now Syria, radical jihadists exploited the vacuum," he has noted.

In Afghanistan, he said, President Obama added 50,000 troops to the U.S. force and spent an additional $120 billion on the effort with little effect. Afghanistan today is by some measures as dangerous as ever — after 14 years of continuous U.S. military intervention and $1 trillion spent, by one estimate. Surely this is worth pondering?

I don't agree with Rand Paul on many things, including foreign policy. I think some of his positions on civil rights are historically blind, cruel and dangerous. But in the arena of national security, he has time and again raised important, inconvenient questions, only to have them ruled out of order and to be told that he is a crank, far outside the mainstream. In fact, it would be useful and important for Republicans — and Democrats — to stop the name-calling and actually discuss and debate his ideas.

Jeb Bush vs. Rick Perry **// WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 4, 2015**

Former Texas governor Rick Perry will officially announce his run for the presidency in less than two hours. Jeb Bush will announce his run on June 15. In comparing the two, Bush's challenges become clear.

Jeb Bush was not a combatant during most of the Obama presidency. Perry was famous for suing the federal government, challenging the president to enforce the border and railing against federal overreach. Some Republicans who have engaged in political combat have the sense that Bush was not there in the trenches.

Bush is knowledgeable and impressive; Perry is emotional, enthusiastic and engaged. The latter attributes may be more helpful in a campaign.

Perry and Bush have similar views on immigration (secure the border, fix legal immigration and then deal with the 12 million here illegally). Perry, however, gains credibility with the right wing because he took on the White House and deployed National Guard troops to secure the border. Bush will need to show that he is emphatic about border security. Bush, however, is not the most generous when it comes to illegal immigration. While Bush flirted with the idea, both Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) are foursquare in favor of an earned path to citizenship.

Both candidates were accomplished conservative governors, but given the passage of time, Bush's record of

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accomplishment is not well known to most voters. He will need to show what he accomplished and why he more than every other candidate can deliver conservative results. By contrast, most Republican primary voters are well aware that Perry's job creation record during the recession was by far the best of any governor.

Expectations for Bush are high, so when he leads the pack but with less than 15 percent support he is in "trouble"; Perry enjoys low expectations and the ability to surprise voters. In the debates, Bush is likely to be attacked; Perry is not expected to be a target for many candidates.

Bush does not seem to relish skewering Hillary Clinton, and there are real concerns that he won't be aggressive enough to deliver fatal blows. Perry (like Carly Fiorina) seems downright giddy when it comes to attacking the Chappaqua millionairess. If Bush wants to convince Republican primary voters that he can beat Clinton, he needs to show some fire, beginning now.

Bush is not only a "Bush," but he is perceived as someone whose background and life experience set him apart from regular Americans. Perry can play up his origins as a poor boy from Paint Creek, Tex. Bush has to become "Jeb" and not just another Bush. That requires that he show enough about his own life so he does not become a caricature like Mitt Romney.

Both Bush (62) and Rick Perry (65) are younger than Clinton (67), but they are not of the "next generation" of new leaders that some Republicans want. Both Republicans will need to show energy, vigor, technological sophistication and recast the GOP's image if they are to paint Clinton as past her sell date.

Both Bush and Perry have a newer rival whom they need to get past to solidify their support. Bush faces a younger, more dynamic reformer in Rubio. Perry will need to displace the younger conservative governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin. In both cases, one suspects that Bush and Perry will argue that the newcomers just are not ready or that their rhetoric does not always match their results.

Bush will have tons of money, but it makes a real difference if the race becomes a long slough. However, what we have seen is that there is more than enough money to go around and at least in the early states it is time on the ground and emotional connectivity more than ad dollars that are decisive.

In sum, Bush — like Perry — would come into the presidency with a record of accomplishment and with leadership skills that Clinton entirely lacks. But the trick for each is convincing the primary voters he is the best candidate to retake the White House.

What Hillary Clinton's Campaign Is Getting Right // Esquire // Charles Pierce – June 4, 2015

Perhaps it's been overlooked by the inside baseball press corps but, so far, Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign has hit all the right buttons about what's really going on in the country. Specifically, the rigging of our politics to suit the needs of the money power, the slide toward oligarchy that has not been arrested for any length of time since Ronald Reagan started the snowball down the mountain with his first budget in 1981. She has come out in favor of a constitutional amendment to reverse the Citizens United decision and its progeny–a longshot proposition at best, but the only real solution at law to the legalized influence-peddling that the decision produced. (Read the decision again. It's damned near bulletproof.) And, Thursday, in a speech she's planning to take on the second arm of the pincer attack on popular democracy–John Roberts's declaration of the Day Of Jubilee.

The voting rights speech at the historically-black college Texas Southern University will be one of the first policy speeches of Clinton's newly launched campaign and will mark one of the first times a 2016 presidential candidate has spoken out about voting restrictions which have swept the country since the high courtstruck down Section 4 of the VRA in its Shelby County ruling in 2013. According to her campaign staff, the speech will include a call for a new standard of no fewer than 20 days of early in-person voting in every state, including weekend and evening voting. In 2014, 20 million American voters cast their ballot early but currently,one thirdof states offer no early voting.
HRC also is planning to call for Congress–I know, I know, but elect some damn Democratic candidates and see–to restore those parts of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court fed to the woodchipper. In addition, she is not just talking the talk on this one. Her campaign has gone to court in several important swing states to challenge the new voter-suppression laws that have become all the rage since the Day Of Jubilee was declared.

While Clinton speaks out against restrictive voting measures which studies have shown disproportionately keep African Americans and younger voters from the polls, her campaign lawyer, Marc Elias, has started bringing legal actions against restrictive laws in a number of key swing states. Last month, he and others filed a suit against Ohio alleging the state's restrictive voting laws were designed to suppress the votes of groups that typically vote for Democrats, including students, African Americans and Latinos. And last week, he hit Wisconsin with another suit claiming laws that have curtailed early voting and other restrictive changes put in place by Republican lawmakers hurt minority voters and other groups.

Make no mistake. This is a fight worth making and a debate worth having. The Republican party considers its

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efforts to restrict the franchise an unalloyed triumph. It helped get Greg Abbott elected governor of Texas. Scott Walker never shuts up about the grotesque law that he and his pet legislature enacted in Wisconsin, the state that gave us so many of the mechanisms by which the money power first was struck from our elections. And, in where-the-fck else, Kansas, Governor Sam Brownback may allow his secretary of state, Kris Kobach, the man behind the Papers, Please theory of immigration law, to prosecute "voter fraud" cases that state prosecutors had declared non-starters. Voter suppression is a litmus test on the political Right now, and it is a central pillar of Republican politics general, and it has been ever since Karl Rove used it as the casus belli in his purge of U.S. Attorneys nine years ago. It is a long game they've been playing.

As hard as it may be for the likes of Chris Cillizza to understand, there is considerable merit in taking on important issues that do not necessarily poll as well as "Eeek! Moosssslims!" does. The corruption of our politics by the money power, and the new mechanisms enacted to safeguard it, is the fundamental issue of our time because, unless it is reversed, and soon, all of the other issues won't matter because no real solutions will emerge from the one place where they are supposed to emerge. Ms. Rodham Clinton seems to get this. Good on her for bringing it up.

Hillary Clinton gets it on voting rights, Republican contenders don't // CNN // Donna Brazile – June 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton is speaking Thursday in Texas about the importance of protecting and expanding the constitutional right to vote for all citizens of the United States. Clinton will also call for a new national standard of "no fewer than 20 days of early in-person voting, including weekend and evening voting."

It has been 50 years since the historic march led by John Lewis, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights activists from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, protesting voting restrictions used against African-Americans who wanted to exercise their right to vote.

It was only a few months later, on August 6, 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act to end all barriers to political participation for racial and ethnic minorities, once and for all.

While a great deal of progress has been made over the years, today, we face new challenges to those who are eligible to vote, and some of the leading culprits of erecting barriers are running for president.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that Republicans are imposing new restrictions on the right to vote -- restrictions that disproportionally affect African-Americans, Latinos, working Americans, seniors and America's youth -- the very groups the Voting Rights Act was formed to protect.

It is because of these restrictions that we must continue to march for the right of all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote. We march because the right to have one's voice heard in this country is embodied in our Constitution, and in the spirit of our democracy.

That's the fundamental difference between Democrats and the current GOP presidential field. As Democrats, we believe in the right of every eligible citizen to vote and have that vote counted; we are fighting to expand and protect the right to vote, while Republicans are doing just the opposite.

Many of the Republican presidential hopefuls would make it more difficult for people to cast their ballots because they believe that is their party's best path to victory, to have a smaller electorate with fewer minority voters.

While a small number of Republicans have worked to restore protections to voting rights struck down by the Supreme Court, too many of them support laws that prevent people who disagree with them from participating in the electoral process.

Jeb Bush has a long history of opposing basic voting rights, calling for more stringent voter ID laws and signing into law legislation that restricted the hours and locations for early voting. And let's not forget when the Jeb Bush administration purged 12,000 eligible voters from the Florida voter rolls ahead of the 2000 presidential election, and attempted a similar voter purge ahead of the 2004 election.

Republican hopeful, Sen. Marco Rubio also supported voter ID laws. While on the campaign trail for Mitt Romney, Rubio stated his support for these laws, saying "What's the big deal? What is the big deal?" Well according to the Brennan Center for Justice, the "big deal" is that more than 11% of eligible voters lack government-issued identification.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry also signed legislation to make Texas voter ID laws stricter. Even though Texans were already required to bring an ID with them to the polls, the new law would have required them to bring a photo ID. The Department of Justice blocked the law, stating that it violated the Voting Rights Act and disproportionately affected Hispanic voters.

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Sen. Ted Cruz, son of a Cuban immigrant, introduced federal legislation that would have required voters to present "proof of citizenship" before casting their ballots in elections for federal office. This measure would have amended the National Voter Registration Act.

Sen. Rand Paul claims he is the single GOP candidate qualified to broaden his party's appeal to constituencies they normally ignore. But when asked about the need to strengthen the Voting Rights Act, Paul suggested it wasn't necessary because "we have an African-American president."

Ohio Gov. John Kasich signed into law a piece of legislation that slashed early voting and ended same-day registration in the state. The Cleveland Plain Dealer's editorial board even said the legislation was "a breathtaking bid to suppress voting despite constitutional guarantees of voting rights."

And then there's Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who has arguably the worst record among the GOP's potential candidates in terms of voting rights. In 2010, Walker enacted one of the most restrictive voter ID laws in the country that also cut the early voting period from 30 to 12 days, eliminated weekend and evening voting, and required proof of residence when registering to vote, along with many other strict provisions.

To no one's surprise, lawsuits were filed in recent weeks maintaining that Ohio and Wisconsin laws violated the Voting Rights Act. In Ohio, the lawsuit claimed that "hundreds of thousands of Ohioans will find it substantially more difficult to exercise" their right to vote.

In Wisconsin, the lawsuit was specifically filed against the voting laws passed under the Walker administration, claiming that the measures targeted "African-American, Latino, young, and/or Democratic voters in Wisconsin in particular."

Clearly, these guys just don't get it.

It's time the GOP presidential candidates get behind one of their party's own elected officials, Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, and others who want to fulfill the promise of the Constitution and protect everyone's right to vote.

Listen, at the end of the day, the right to vote is sacred in this country, especially for the people who have fought so hard over the years to have their voices heard. When Republican lawmakers play politics and take that away, they silence the voices of so many across the country. I'm glad Clinton is speaking out on this issue and, who knows, we might get a chance to hear from others before the end of the summer.

Hillary Clinton's Bold Plan for Voting Rights // The Nation // Ari Berman – June 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton was a senior in high school when she watched on a black-and-white television as President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

Fifty years later, the VRA—the country's most important civil rights law—has been gutted by the Supreme Court and voting rights are under attack across the country. From 2011 to 2015, 395 new voting restrictions have been introduced in forty-nine states, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, and twenty-one states have adopted new laws making it harder to vote, 14 of which will be in effect for the first presidential cycle in 2016.

Clinton sounded the alarm about the widespread push to roll back voting rights during a high-profile speech in Texas today and offered innovative solutions to fix our broken political system.

"What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other," Clinton said. She criticized the GOP contenders for president for "systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of Americans from voting" by peddling a "phantom epidemic of voter fraud."

She offered three major policy ideas for expanding voting rights:

1. Automatically register voters

Up to a third of Americans are not registered to vote. Clinton proposed fixing that problem by automatically registering every American when they turn eighteen unless they opt out. Universal, automatic voter registration—recently adopted by states like Oregon—would add 50 million Americans to the voting rolls. "I think this would have a profound impact on our elections and our democracy," Clinton said.

2. Expand early voting

14 states have no form of early voting before Election Day and many others have limited days and hours. Clinton proposed a minimum of 20 days of early voting nationwide, with expanded hours on nights and weekends. "Early, in-person voting will reduce those long lines and give more citizens the chance to participate, especially those who

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have work or family obligations that make it difficult to get to the polls on Election Day," she said.

Unfortunately, many states continue to move in the opposite direction. Republicans have killed bills to expand early voting in fifteen states so far this year, according to Carolyn Fiddler of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

3. Restore the Voting Rights Act

Nine of fifteen states that previously had to submit their voting changes with the federal government before the Supreme Court gutted the VRA have passed new voting restrictions since 2010. The Supreme Court's decision has had a devastating impact in states like Texas, whose strict voter ID law was previously blocked under the VRA but is now in effect, leading to many longtime voters being turned away from the polls.

"We need a Supreme Court who cares more about the right to vote of a person than the right to buy an election of a corporation," Clinton said. Efforts to restore the VRA have gone nowhere in Congress, even after 100 lawmakers traveled to Selma to observe the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

These policy proposals would make it easier for millions of Americans to cast a ballot and participate in the political process. Clinton's speech signaled that voting rights will be a major issue in the 2016 race. Lawyers affiliated with her campaign have already filed suit against restrictive voting laws in Ohio and Wisconsin and have hinted that more lawsuits are to come.

It's unfortunate that voting rights has become such a partisan issue. For many years both Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly supported the VRA. Only recently, particularly after the election of Barack Obama, has the issue become so politicized, with GOP lawmakers passing new laws curtailing access to the ballot.

Many in the media will no doubt report that Hillary's policy proposals are intended to boost her campaign and core Democratic constituencies. Regardless of the motive, expanding voting rights is good for everybody. There's no equivalence between policies that make it easier to vote and policies that make it harder to vote.

Alexandria Phillips
Press Assistant | Communications
Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
"Philippe Reines" <pir@hrcoffice.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jacob Sullivan" <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Heather?? Samuelson" <hsamuelson@cdmillsGroup.com>
Date: 3/23/2015 12:06:18 PM
Subject: NYT Follow-Up

See below.

We have gotten only 2 inquiries today (the below doesn't really count but flagging since it went to David).

PIR, Jen, and I spoke and the consensus is to get the facts out there without going nuclear at this point (doesn't mean we can't do more later). We're gave a friendly (Hunter Walker at Business Insider) our statement in full so that it's out there and we'll see what else he asks for. Some talking points are going out to surrogates now.

Will keep everyone posted, but so far all quiet on the western front.

From: <Kendall>, David Kendall <DKendall@wc.com >
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 at 1:07 PM
To: NSM <nmerrill.hrco@gmail.com >
Subject: FW: quick question on sec. Clinton's emails, and subpoena..

Over to you, Nick—I'm not responding.

From: Billy House (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:bhouse5@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Kendall, David
Subject: quick question on sec. Clinton's emails, and subpoena..

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said yesterday, Sunday:

"We're not interested in her private emails. We're not even interested in her emails regarding Russia and the reset or Syria and Assad and the chemical weapons, only those pertaining to Benghazi."

Q: With the Benghazi committee's subpoena coming due on Friday for a response on the request for the secretary's private emails on Libya and the 2012 terrorist attacks -- has there been a decision on whether to comply? Either partly, completely, or not at all?

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From:	"The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	7/9/2015 12:12:46 AM
Subject:	The Daily 202: Does Brad Pitt have a better chance of appearing in the first GOP debate than Lindsey Graham?

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State Rep. Cezar McKnight (D), right, hugs an unidentified man after the South Carolina House approved a bill removing the Confederate flag from the Capitol grounds in Columbia around 1 a.m. this morning. (AP Photo/ John Bazemore)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Fox News is diminishing the power of the early states in the presidential nominating process. The cable channel will use an unspecified mix of *national* polls to decide which ten Republicans appear in the first debate next month. The drama over who is going to make the cut disturbs a bipartisan mix of leaders from Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina because it validates deeper fears that they will not play the same gatekeeping role as they have in the past. They argue that, in 2016, it will be harder than ever for underfunded longshots, like Jimmy Carter in 1976 or Rick Santorum in 2012, to emerge by outhustling everyone else and impressing grassroots activists.

"Nationalizing the primary by limiting the field based on national poll results turns the debates into a popularity contest based mostly on name ID, and is especially questionable when tenths of a point separate candidates near the cutoff," James Sununu, a New Hampshire activist who hails from one of the state's most prominent families, told The Daily 202 last night. He helped organize a group of 50 GOP heavyweights in the state to sign a letter pushing Fox (unsuccessfully) to change its criteria. "Voters in [the early] states have a well-earned reputation for vetting and testing presidential contenders, and voters nationally should have the same opportunity to be exposed to all these candidates."

In South Carolina, more than 130 Republicans – led by Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster – signed onto a separate letter warning direly that Fox is threatening the relevance of their First in the South primary. "Excluding candidates based on national polling at this point in the race rewards name recognition for those candidates who are celebrities, candidates who have run previously or candidates who have lots of money to purchase early national advertising," they said.

Candidates who look unlikely to make the first debate, on Aug. 6 in Cleveland, are embracing these concerns with gusto, partly to expand their appeal in these states. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) is pushing an online petition this week calling for debate "equality." "If the cable news channels or political elite have their way, the media will have a louder voice in our nominating contest than actual Republican voters," Graham warned in a note to supporters. "**Under the current debate rules supported by the RNC, Brad Pitt would have a better shot of being on the debate stage than real candidates for president** … If you care about the Iowa Caucuses, New Hampshire primary, or contests in other early states, this is the beginning of the end."

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Brad Pitt in January (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

— These concerns about "celebrities" have been accentuated because it looks very likely that Donald Trump will make the first debate, even while sitting Republican governors like Chris Christie, John Kasich and Bobby Jindal risk being excluded.

- **Speaking of Trump, he continues to dominate the online conversation.** According to Zignal Labs, 48 percent of all the conversation about 2016 – across social media and the media – was about The Donald last week. He had more than 1.9 million total mentions on social, traditional and broadcast media from June 30 to July 6. By comparison, the candidate who received the next highest number of mentions, Hillary Clinton, had 448,000. On Twitter, Trump was mentioned about five times as often as Clinton. On TV and online media, the gap was more like two-to-one. Of course, not all press is good press. Trump mentions were more than twice as likely to be negative than positive, according to a Zignal algorithm that tracks sentiment. This is even more pronounced in Spanish-language media. Univision and Telemundo are intensively covering all things Trump.

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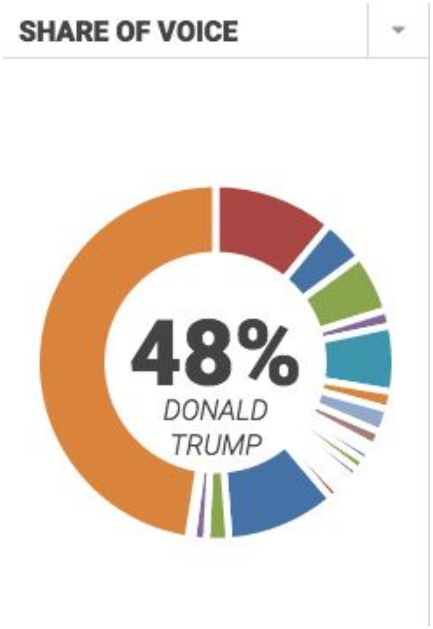

- Republican leaders, initially slow to condemn Trump, are increasingly alarmed that he will damage the whole party's brand: **RNC Chairman Reince Priebus spent 45 minutes on the phone with Trump yesterday asking him to "TONE IT DOWN."** My colleagues Karen Tumulty, Philip Rucker and Robert Costa report that Priebus was "cordial." Some establishment leaders wish he was a little less so. But there's reason that Reince and others are treading carefully. A North Carolina poll released yesterday afternoon by the Democratic firm Public Policy Polling put Trump in first place in the state, leading Jeb Bush 16 percent to 12 percent. He was viewed favorably by 55 percent of GOP voters in the survey and unfavorably by 32 percent. In what could be an opposition research dump provided by a rival, BuzzFeed published a story noting that Trump told CNN's Larry King in 1999 that he supported universal health care and is "quite liberal" on the issue.
- **Meanwhile, Trump doubled down on his comments during several interviews.** "If I get the nomination, I'll win the Latino vote," Trump told NBC. "The Latinos will have jobs that they don't have right now." He's heading to campaign in Arizona and Nevada on Saturday. In the heavily Hispanic states, he plans to discuss immigration. But the brouhaha continues to take a toll on his business: Spanish-born chef José Andrés backed out of a deal to open the flagship restaurant in Trump's forthcoming Washington hotel.
- **National Democrats want to make Trump the face of the national GOP.** The DNC posted a web video this morning, called "The Retrumplican Party," that highlights comments other GOP candidates have made echoing Trump. It's in the same vein as Hillary Clinton's comments in Iowa on Tuesday. Although, the Clinton Foundation yesterday said it will hold onto the six-figure donation Trump gave before he became a candidate. A California state senator, meanwhile, introduced a resolution condemning Trump and calling on the state to divest from Trump-affiliated businesses.

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Workers leave the site of the future Trump International Hotel, which is at the Old Post Office Pavilion (Photo by Matt McClain/ The Washington Post)

— **Sneak peek: Bobby Jindal will attack the GOP establishment for not wanting to talk more about abortion.** In a keynote tonight at the National Right to Life Convention in New Orleans, the Louisiana governor will blast the "spineless" Republican "smart guys" in Washington who see cultural issues as a "distraction." From excerpts shared by the campaign: "There are some Republicans running for president who would like to sneak into this convention, whisper about being pro-life, and then sneak away hoping the press won't report on it … We will not be silenced or quiet. If they don't want to hear me talk about these issues, they better buy some ear muffs, because I will not be silenced."

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— The South Carolina House approved the removal of the Confederate flag from Capitol grounds. It will likely come down Friday. The vote was 94-20, but it followed more than 12 hours of debate over amendments. "A two-thirds majority vote in the House was needed for final passage, a requirement of the 2000 law that took the flag off the State House dome and put it next to the Confederate Soldier Monument on the north side of the Capitol," The State newspaper reports. "The House did not change the Senate bill (which passed Tuesday) after spending much of the day considering amendments from Republicans who insisted on finding another way to honor the Confederate dead if the controversial banner was removed from the State House grounds. More than 25 amendments were voted down or

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rejected before they came for a vote."

Republican State Rep. Jenny Horne (pictured below) choked up and started shouting during a floor speech over amendments that would have delayed removing the flag: "I cannot believe that we do not have the heart in this body to do something meaningful such as take a symbol of hate off these grounds on Friday. We are telling the people of Charleston, 'We don't care about you.'" This helped bring an end to the debate.

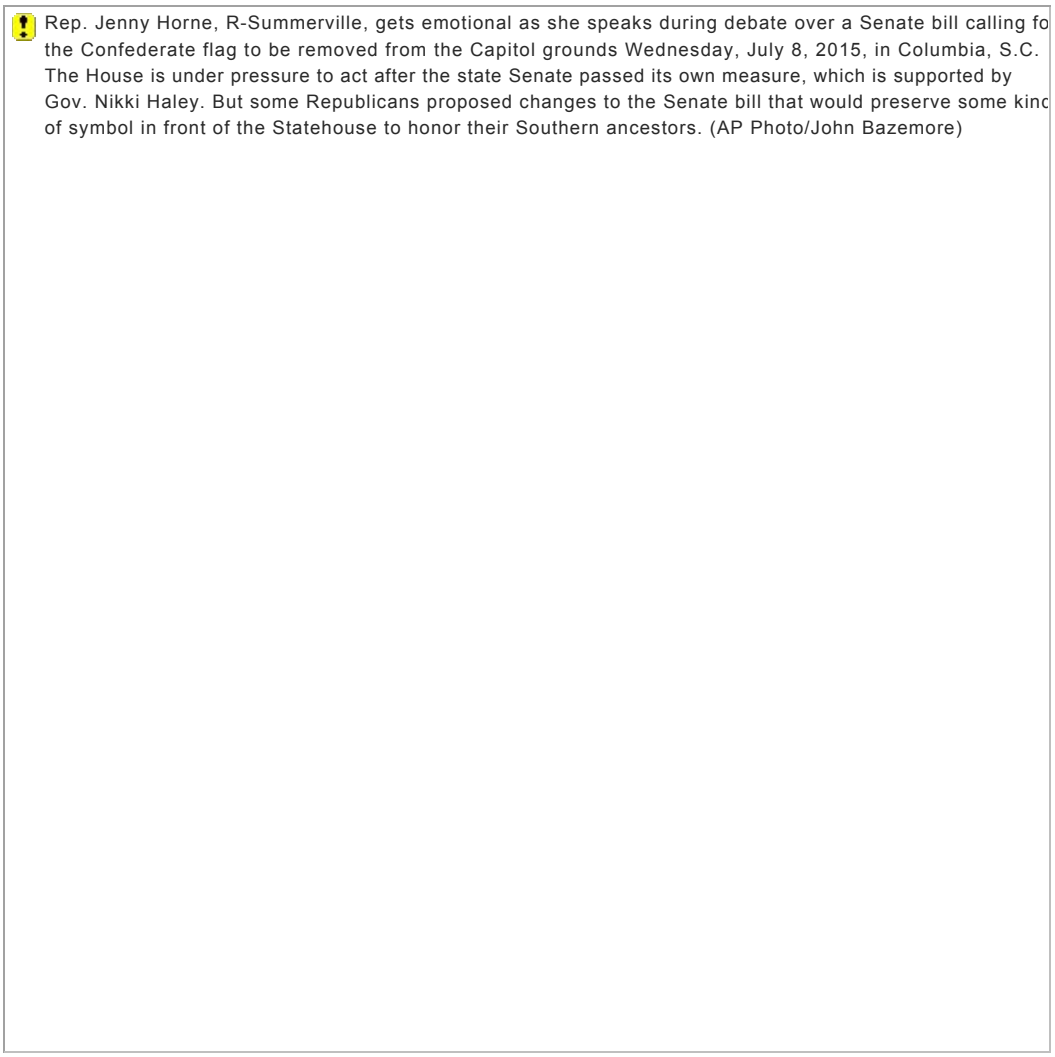
Rep. Jenny Horne, R-Summerville, gets emotional as she speaks during debate over a Senate bill calling fo the Confederate flag to be removed from the Capitol grounds Wednesday, July 8, 2015, in Columbia, S.C. The House is under pressure to act after the state Senate passed its own measure, which is supported by Gov. Nikki Haley. But some Republicans proposed changes to the Senate bill that would preserve some kinc of symbol in front of the Statehouse to honor their Southern ancestors. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)

— Talks between the U.S. and Iran are continuing despite several tense moments, including a spat in which the Iranian foreign minister told a U.S. official: "Never threaten an Iranian," my colleagues Carol Morello and Karen DeYoung report from Vienna. The deadline for a deal is now Friday. The biggest sticking point remains Iran's desire for an agreement to lift a U.N. embargo on conventional arms sales to Tehran.

GET SMART FAST:

1. The mayor of Baltimore fired the police chief over the department's response to the riots.
2. "The Obama administration is drafting rules to require that railroads install video cameras inside locomotive cabs to record the actions of engineers," the AP reports. "The

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Federal Railroad Administration also says that other steps aimed at reducing human error are in the works. The cameras have been opposed by labor unions." This grew out of the Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia in May: the engineer says he doesn't remember what happened, and there was not a camera.

3. Seventh-day Adventists voted that women should *not* be ordained as ministers.
4. A far-reaching school voucher plan that would have allowed low-income students to use federal tax dollars to pay private school tuition narrowly failed in the Senate yesterday, as a handful of GOP members broke ranks with Sen. **Lamar Alexander** (R-Tenn.)
5. A super PAC supporting **Marco Rubio**'s presidential candidacy said it has raised more than $16 million since early April, meaning that pro-Rubio outside groups have raised nearly $32 million. In Iowa yesterday, Rubio strenuously rejected comparisons of himself to **Barack Obama**.
6. A 527 supporting **John Kasich** launched a half-million-dollar ad buy in New Hampshire yesterday to promote the Ohio governor ahead of his announcement. Fred Davis produced the minute-long ad .
7. The Republican Governors Association has gone up with its first TV ad in the off-year Kentucky governor's race, linking Democratic nominee **Jack Conway** to President Obama. The spot is reminiscent of almost every ad the GOP ran in red state Senate races last year.
8. The Republican Party of Virginia is selling "**Hillary Clinton** Press Lassos" to capitalize on the media wrangling episode in New Hampshire over the weekend.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Rep. **Alan Grayson** (D-Fla.) plans to announce today that he's running for the Senate seat being given up by Marco Rubio, a significant setback for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee because it sets up an expensive and potentially divisive primary battle with their preferred candidate, Patrick Murphy.
2. The DSCC has been talking to Pennsylvania Gov. **Tom Wolf**'s chief of staff, **Katie McGinty**, about getting into the Senate race because they retain doubts about whether ex-Rep. **Joe Sestak** is the best candidate to challenge Republican Sen. **Pat Toomey**. (AP, via Philadelphia Inquirer)
3. **Martin O'Malley** is rolling out a plan to limit taxpayer exposure from Too Big to Fail banks today. (We got an early look at the white paper the ex-Maryland governor will roll out on Wall Street reform.)
4. Rep. **Chris Van Hollen**, the Democrat running for **Barbara Mikulski**'s Senate seat, raised $1.5 million in the second quarter. The other leading Democrat, Rep. **Donna Edwards**, only brought in $590,000.
5. Speaker **John Boehner** has raised $28 million for House Republicans so far this year (Politico)
6. **Caroline Kennedy,** the U.S. ambassador to Japan, played a key role in getting former Toyota executive **Julie Hamp** out of jail yesterday, USA Today reports. The American, who resigned last week as the automaker's global communications chief, was arrested

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over prescription drug possession.

7. "**Bill Cosby** was quietly dumped by CAA, which represented him since 2012, and he is now without talent representation in Hollywood," Deadline reports. A sexual assault awareness group, meanwhile, called on **President Obama** to rescind the Presidential Medal of Freedom that Cosby received from George W. Bush.
8. ESPN announced it will discontinue **Keith Olbermann**'s show, which airs on ESPN2, when his contract ends on July 31. The network reportedly wanted him to limit his commentary, including criticism of the NFL over its handling of the Ray Rice domestic violence scandal.
9. Former Italian Prime Minister **Silvio Berlusconi** was found guilty of bribing a senator in 2006 as part of a ploy to bring down the opposition government, the BBC reports. "A Naples court sentenced Berlusconi to three years in jail and banned him from holding public office for five years. The four-time prime minister denied the charges. He will not have to serve his sentence because a statute of limitations comes into effect later this year, before any appeal can be held."
10. Actor **Tom Selleck** stands accused by California authorities of sending a truck to steal water from a hydrant and deliver it to his 60-acre ranch. A local water district filed an injunction and wants to fine him more than $20,000 – part of efforts to deal with the drought.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— **"Even as Congress moves to strip his power, Arne Duncan holds his ground," by Lyndsey Layton:** "Duncan faces a political backlash that threatens to undercut his power and erase some of his most influential work. The bipartisan warmth he enjoyed on Capitol Hill has yielded to critics from the left and the right, including an odd alliance between tea party conservatives and the teachers unions. This week, both houses of Congress began debating legislation that would seriously dial back the education secretary's legal authority."

— **"A rejuvenated China? Stock market crash punches a hole in Xi's dream," by Simon Denyer and Steven Mufson:** "Invisible and fast-paced, mutinous market forces have defied the party-led government's efforts to arrest the month-long slide in Chinese stock markets. If this continues, the slump in stock prices could slow the economy and undermine faith in the party's leadership and power, experts on China and economics say… How the stock market collapse has been handled so far and how it is handled in the coming days goes to the heart of reform in an economy that is a strange mixture of robust private enterprise and a legacy of central planning."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

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Kerry Washington tweeted a photo from the set of the upcoming HBO film “Confirmation,” in which she’ll play Anita Hill:

My view on my final day (as an actor) on #Confirmation. (kerrywashington)

Tweets of the day:

David Byrne of Talking Heads was spotted on Capitol Hill:

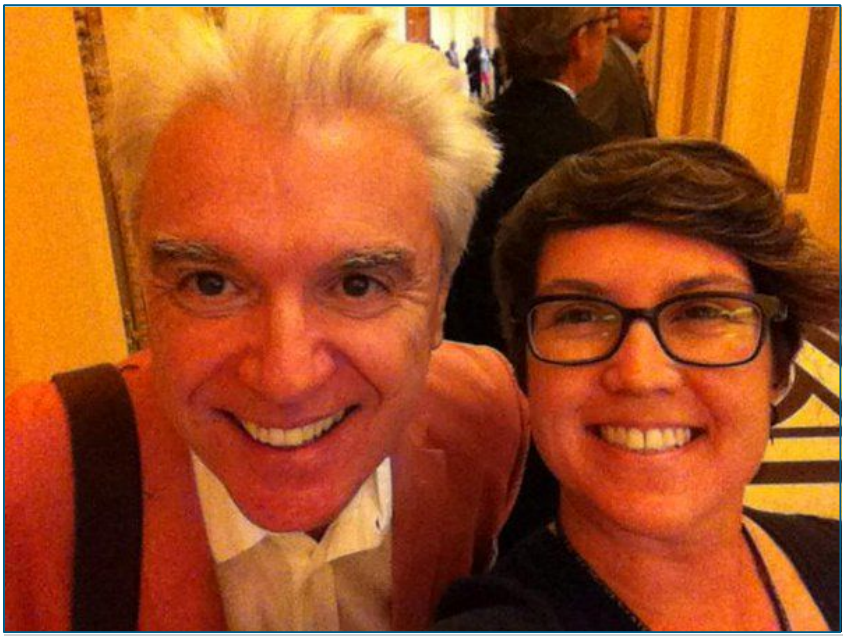

Selfie with David Byrne of Talking Heads, who’s at the Capitol for some reason. What! (@jbendery)

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He wasn't burning it down, but #DavidByrne was in the House today to discuss creative works (@RepJudyChu)

Former Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) celebrated his 89th birthday (and a Tigers win):

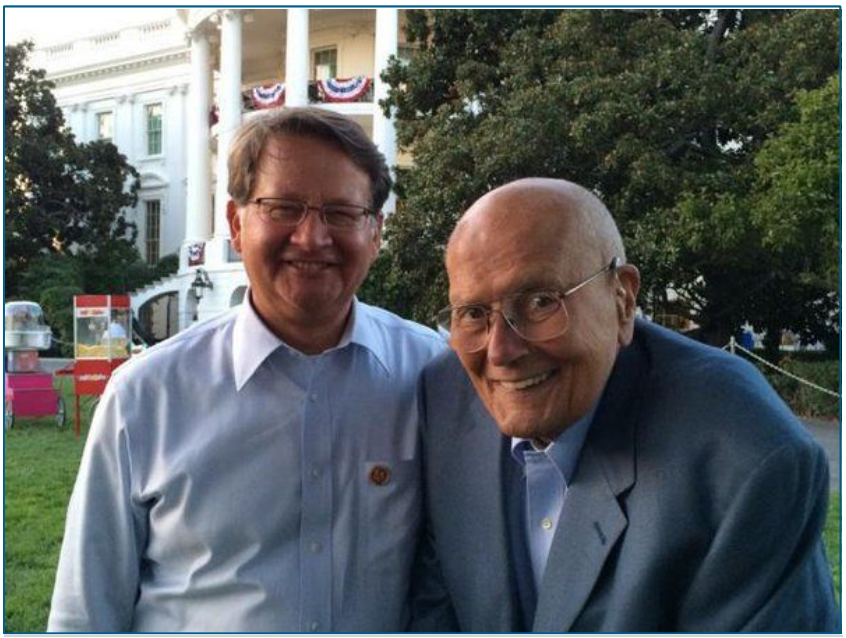

Happy birthday to one of Michigan's finest – former Congressman / current Twitter master @JohnDingell. (@SenGaryPeters)

> Have my birthday party soon, but the @tigers are up a run, late in a close one. Even at 89, life throws you some seriously tough decisions.
>
> — John Dingell (@JohnDingell) July 8, 2015

> Tigers win. Birthday can now continue as planned.
>
> — John Dingell (@JohnDingell) July 8, 2015

And D.C. faced yet another dramatic summer storm:

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Another line headed towards downtown
(@Joe_Fillingham; retweeted by @capitalweather)

Nice new "fountain" at Reston Metro! (@burtonwc ;
retweeted by @capitalweather)

Though the bad weather did not last long:

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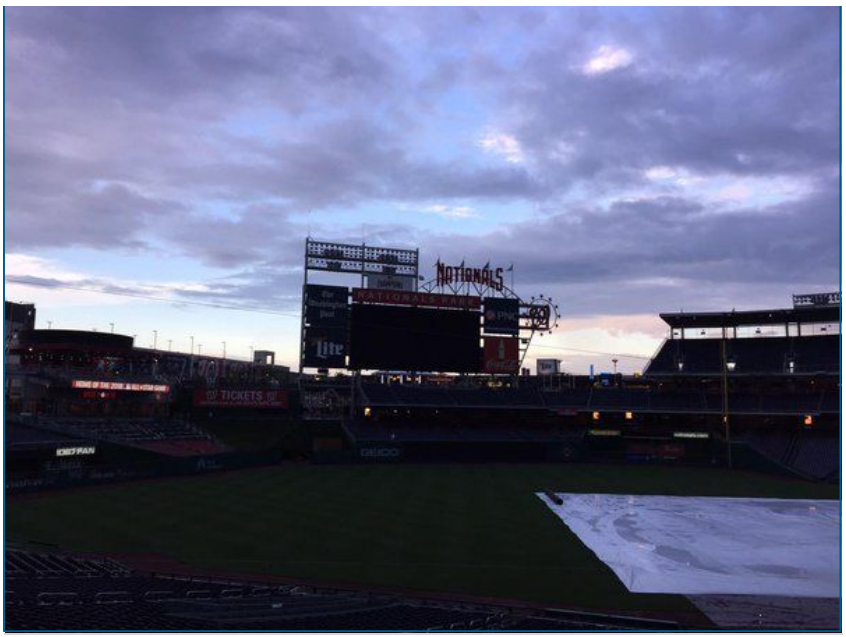

So one hour after the @Nationals cancelled tonight's game this is the weather at Nats Park. Seriously Nats? (@brianjameswalsh)

Instagrams of the day:

Marco Rubio made a Bill and Ted joke to criticize Hillary Clinton:

The race for the future will never be won by going backward. (marcorubiofla)

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Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) announced that he and his wife Lauren are expecting a daughter:

We're expecting our first child in late December – a baby girl!
(repkennedy)

And Rep. Janice Hahn (D-Calif.) met with Martin Luther King III, 54 years after their fathers met:

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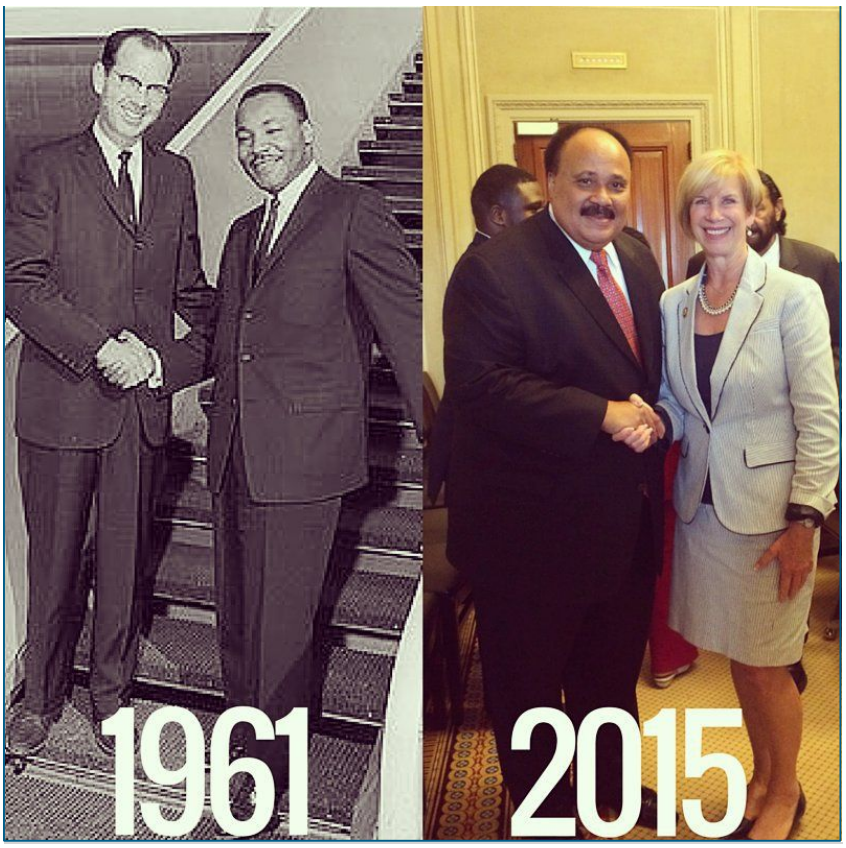

From generation to generation (repjanicehahn)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— **New York Times, "Medicare plans to pay doctors for counseling on end of life," by Pam Belluck:** "The proposal would settle a debate that raged before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, when Sarah Palin labeled a similar plan as tantamount to setting up "death panels" that could cut off care for the sick. The new plan is expected to be approved and to take effect in January, although it will be open to public comment for 60 days."

— **Los Angeles Times, "It's Official: Latinos now outnumber whites in California," by Javier Panza:** "The new tally, released in late June, shows that as of July 1, 2014, about 14.99 million Latinos live in California, edging out the 14.92 million whites in the state…California is now the first large state and the third overall — after Hawaii and New Mexico — without a white plurality, according to state officials."

— **Wall Street Journal, "NYSE Trading Glitch Reflects Persistent Problems with Financial IT," by Steven Norton:** "The precise nature of the problem was unclear. The root cause was determined to be a configuration issue, the NYSE said in prepared statement, without further elaboration…NYSE said the problem started in a software update it installed [Tuesday] night, Peter Costa, a floor trader and president of Empire Executions, told the Journal. 'They told us they did some software updates overnight and tested it without problems, but this morning something happened.'"

— **New York Times, "A political lifer, Scott Walker has long been his own strategist," by Jonathan Martin:** "As Mr. Walker, 47, prepares for his formal entry into the

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presidential contest, he has brought on a campaign manager, a pollster and a group of press aides. But he has not hired a strategist — because it might be needlessly duplicative: Those who know him well say that Mr. Walker has always been his own."

— Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "$72.7B heads to Scott Walker," by Jason Stein and Patrick Marley: "The state Assembly sent the two-year $72.7 billion state budget to Gov. Scott Walker early Thursday, giving him just enough time to sign it before his presidential campaign announcement on Monday. The budget passed 52-46, with 11 Republicans joining all Democrats in opposing the budget.

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— PowerPost, "Republicans again propose blocking Obama's immigration orders," by Kelsey Snell: "The House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday released a draft Homeland Security funding bill that includes language that would prevent the Obama administration from enforcing executive actions on immigration he issued in November 2014 until a court decides if the orders are legal."

— PowerPost, "Senate could take up the highway bill next week," by Kelsey Snell: Mitch McConnell "did not offer any details on what the highway bill might look like, he did tamp down expectations that a six-year bill will be considered soon and dismissed the idea of using a gas tax increase or revenues from tax reform to help offset the cost of the $50 billion a year program."

— National Journal, "On Iran deal, Schumer is the man in the middle," by Alex Rogers: "On Iran, Chuck Schumer feels the pressure more than most. Balancing a large Jewish constituency pulling him in every direction, his own hawkish beliefs, the burdens of being the next Senate Democratic leader, and a White House intent on striking a historic accord, the senator from New York has kept unusually quiet. But it's clear that should a deal on Iran's nuclear program be reached, Schumer's support or opposition will be a key factor in whether the Democratic Party can speak with a united voice on a major foreign policy issue."

— Politico, "Hillary Clinton v. Trey Gowdy," by Rachael Bade: "The war of words between Hillary Clinton and Trey Gowdy over her email practices is seriously heating up. Clinton allies and House Benghazi investigators are clashing over the 2016 presidential candidate's prime-time defense of her email practices, including claims to CNN she did nothing wrong — and had 'no obligation' to hand over any correspondence … Hours after the interview aired, Gowdy blasted Clinton's claims that she was not required to turn over her communications."

— The Hill, "Oversight Republicans subpoena Kerry for Keystone documents," by Devin Henry: "House Republicans have subpoenaed Secretary of State John Kerry for documents related to the Obama administration's review of the Keystone XL pipeline. 'Congress has a right to review these documents,' Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), the

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chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Wednesday … Committee Republicans have twice asked the State Department to provide it with all 'reports, recommendations, letters and comments" related to their review of the pipeline.'"

HOT ON THE LEFT

Redskins dealt major defeat in battle over mascot. From Talking Points Memo: "A Virginia judge ordered Wednesday that the Washington Redskins' trademark registrations be cancelled – the biggest legal defeat the team has suffered in its two-decade battle over its name. The ruling ends a legal saga that began when the team filed a lawsuit to contest the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to end the team's trademark registration, including the red-faced mascot viewed as racially offensive to Native Americans."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Bakers who refused to make lesbian wedding cake told to pay $135K by Monday or else. From Fox News : "Two Christian bakers who refused to bake a cake for a lesbian wedding have been ordered to pay $135,000 in damages by July 13 or else the state of Oregon could place a lien on their home. Aaron and Melissa Klein, the owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa, were punished by the state's Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) … The Kleins, who are devout evangelical Christians, argued that baking the cake would be a violation of their religious beliefs."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: John Kasich will attend a luncheon at the Williamson Chamber of Commerce in Franklin, Tenn. Martin O'Malley will meet local Democrats at a breakfast in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. Marco Rubio will attend a coffee and deliver remarks at the Scott County Republican Office in Davenport, Iowa. Jeb Bush has a fundraiser in Kennebunkport, Maine. Bobby Jindal will speak at the National Right to Life Convention in New Orleans, La.

–On the Hill: The House will convene at 10 a.m. while the Senate resumes work on an education bill at 9:30 a.m. Senate Armed Services Committee will consider the nomination of General Joseph F. Dunford to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The House Foreign Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on the implications of a nuclear agreement with Iran.

–At the White House: President Obama will meet with Attorney General Loretta Lynch at 3:15 p.m. Vice President Biden will travel to New York City to deliver remarks at an event held by Freedom to Marry at 7 p.m. Press Secretary Josh Earnest will brief the media at 12:30

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p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "They are pushing this through Twitter. So it's no longer the case that someone who is troubled needs to go find this propaganda and this motivation. It buzzes in their pocket. There is a device — almost a devil on their shoulder — all day long, saying: 'Kill. Kill. Kill. Kill.'" – FBI director James Comey, begging for law enforcement to get more access to encrypted technology as a way to stop radicalization, during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— It will feel hotter than 100 degrees today, with a good chance of thunderstorms in the evening: "Clouds diminish steadily as the sun rises allowing the heat to build," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "A southwest breeze is likely to enhance the heating and with loads of humidity. Highs push into the low-mid 90s which is likely to push the heat index past 100 in much of the region. Clouds bubble up quickly in the afternoon but thunderstorms could hold off until evening, allowing many commuters a safe get away with rain chances set at 40%. The storms could be strong enough to produce very heavy rain and localized damaging wind gusts, so be on the lookout."

— The Nationals game against the Reds was postponed because of last night's thunderstorms.

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

In case you missed it, pop star Ariana Grande is in hot water after declaring that she "hates Americans" and "hates America," a controversy that apparently led her to cancel a performance scheduled for an MLB All-Star Game concert. (She claims she canceled because of emergency wisdom teeth surgery.) Grande made the comments, apparently related to U.S. obesity rates, in a doughnut shop. Here's the security camera footage:

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(TMZ)

If you prefer, here's the Vine version.

Grande apologized yesterday for her choice of words:

(@BuzzFeedNews)

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From:	"Embassy of India, Washington DC" <info2@indiagov.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	8/14/2014 12:04:57 AM
Subject:	U.S. is India's Biggest Arms Supplier Past 3 Years | Embassy bulletin on Key Policy Decisions and High-Impact News

To read online, Click here!

Welcome to the latest bulletin of key policy decisions and high-impact news from India, presented by the Embassy of India, in Washington D.C.

High Impact News

Modi to U.S. Defense Secy.: Let Us Jointly Develop Arms

Prime Minister Modi told visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that India would like to work with U.S. defense firms on a joint development and co-production model as part of Delhi's efforts to achieve self-reliance and reduce arms imports.

READ MORE

U.S. is India's Biggest Arms Supplier Past 3 Years

Over the past three years, the U.S. has overtaken Russia as the largest supplier of weapon systems to India. During that period, India has spent $13.6 billion on foreign-produced weapons, with $5.3 billion going to U.S. firms and $4.1 billion going to Russia, Defense Minister Arun Jaitley said.

India's June Factory Output Seen Rising for 3rd Straight Month

Industrial production in India likely expanded for a third consecutive month in June driven mainly by solid growth in infrastructure output, according to a poll of economists. Factory output in June likely rose 5.4 percent from a year earlier, faster than the 4.7 percent growth in May. "India's core sector growth touched 7.3 percent year-on-year in June supported by a significant pick-up in electricity, cement and coal production," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

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Modi To Lay Foundation for $652 Million Special Economic Zone at Port

Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation stone for a $652 million multi-product special economic zone at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai, on August 16. The proposed industrial infrastructure is 684 acres with a total public and private investment of $652 million, and has the potential of generating 150,000 direct and indirect jobs, an official statement said.

Commerce Minister: Govt. Readying Blueprint for Manufacturing Revival

The Modi Government is preparing a blueprint to revive the manufacturing sector, including a new framework for making special economic zones more attractive to investors by easing various restrictions, said Minister of State for Commerce, Corporate Affairs and Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.

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Key Policy Decisions

Govt. OKs 14 Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Totaling $249 Million

The Government has approved 14 proposals for foreign direct investment in projects totaling $249 million. The projects include share allotment, expansion of equity participation and capital transfer.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Govt. Considers Amendments to Minimum Wages Act

The Government is considering a proposal to amend the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 in order to include workers in certain occupations not covered under the Act.

READ MORE

Automatic Clearance for Coal Linkage for New Power Plants

Minister of State for Power, Coal and Renewable Energy, Piyush Goyal said that new power plants will be given automatic clearance for coal linkage and will be allowed to enhance capacity by up to 50%. "Replacing old plants will also help in protecting the environment besides increasing efficiency," he said, adding that the additional capacity will improve India's power generation.

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Finance Ministry Proposes Instrument for Rural Development

The finance ministry has proposed a Special Purpose Vehicle(SPV) in each State to ensure effective rollout of the ambitious Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission rural development project, aimed at building integrated infrastructure projects in India's rural areas through public-private partnerships.

READ MORE

Reserve Bank of India Keeps Key Rates Unchanged, Cuts Liquidity Ratio by 50 Basis Points

Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan kept interest rates unchanged for the third time in a row as expected, making it abundantly clear that his intent is to stay the course and slay the inflation demon once and for all, declaring that he has Prime Minister Modi's backing in his efforts to tame prices.

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From: "GMF Europe Program" <EuropeProgram@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/31/2015 1:41:17 AM
Subject: New GMF Policy Paper on Reviewing the EU's Approach to its Eastern Neighborhood

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Reviewing the EU's Approach to its Eastern Neighborhood

Barely a decade after its launch, the European Neighbourhood Policy is in tatters. Rather than its stated ambition to surround itself with a "ring of friends," realities in the EU's neighborhood resemble a veritable ring of fire, with regional challenges and pressures on Europe greater than ever before. In clear acknowledgement of the serious challenges presented by the European neighborhood, and the inadequacy of its own policy, the EU recently initiated a review process, conducted jointly by the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

"Reviewing the European Neighbourhood Policy: Eastern Perspectives" provides recommendations for a revised policy for Europe's East. As co-editors **Alina Inayeh** and **Joerg Forbrig** argue, such an approach must have European values at its core, with an unambiguous and adamant projection of the EU's normative model. The security needs of individual countries and the region as such need stronger emphasis. Serious and direct EU engagement is needed to solve existing frozen conflicts, and to address political, economic, and societal vulnerabilities of individual countries. Further differentiation is needed, with added instruments that are tailored to individual neighbors instead of hitherto generalized formats.

Alina Inayeh and Joerg Forbrig, eds. "Reviewing the European Neighbourhood Policy: Eastern Perspectives." ***GMF Europe Policy Paper*** **4/2015. July 29, 2015.**

Recent Publications in the *GMF Europe Policy Paper* Series

Joerg Forbrig. "What's Ahead for Russia and the West? Four Scenarios." *GMF Europe Policy Paper* 3/2015. June 22, 2015.

Guillaume Xavier-Bender. "France's Unexpected Role on the Way to a Reasonable and Balanced TTIP." *GMF Europe Policy Paper* 2/2015. June 16, 2015.

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GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/1/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: New GMF Congressional Affairs Leadership | European Crises | Upcoming Brexit Vote

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GMF's World Wire

March 2, 2016

Reta Jo Lewis Named to Lead GMF Congressional Affairs

GMF is pleased to announce that Reta Jo Lewis was named the new director of congressional affairs on February 29. Lewis has over 25 years' experience in governmental relations and had been a senior resident fellow with GMF's Transatlantic Leadership Initiatives since January 2015.

LEARN MORE

The Multiple Crises of Europe

Ahead of an event today Transatlantic Academy Executive Director Stephen Szabo and Former German Ambassador and Academy Fellow Klaus Scharioth discuss the challenges facing Europe.

LISTEN HERE

Russia's Military: On the Rise?

Margarete Klein
Russia's operations in Ukraine and Syria clearly demonstrate that its armed forces are able to fulfill an increased set of functions even with limited means.

READ MORE

Tweet of the Week

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@d_jaishankar :
Star Wars reference at #GMFSEAsia , regarding the rise of China. "It's not the Phantom Menace; it's The Empire Strikes Back."

RETWEET

Brexit Vote Approaches

GMF Senior Fellow Sir Michael Leigh joins Julie Rose on *Top of Mind* from BYURadio to discuss the upcoming Brexit vote and what it means for the long-term viability of the EU.

LISTEN HERE

Counting Down to the NATO Warsaw Summit

On February 24, GMF hosted Ambassadors Douglas Lute, Jacek Najder, and Adam Thomson to review key topics and identify priorities for the upcoming NATO Summit.

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From:	Creamer2@aol.com
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com CAN@list.americansunitedforchange.org
Date:	9/30/2010 1:52:05 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-10-2-10 Rally Gives Progressives a Chance to Stand Up

10-2-10 Rally Gives Progressives a Chance to Stand Up Straight

This Saturday, a broad coalition of progressive organizations will hold a massive One *Nation Working Together* rally – actually kind of a revival – aimed at allowing Progressives to emerge from a defensive crouch, stand up straight and mobilize our forces to do battle in the decisive mid-term elections.

Due to a navigational error, the U.S. 4th Infantry Division landed on the wrong inlet on Utah Beach in Normandy on D-Day in 1944. For hours they were disoriented and pinned down by German defenders. Then the only general to accompany the amphibious assault, General Ted Roosevelt (son of President Teddy Roosevelt), personally rallied his troops from the beach, over the seawall and established a beachhead that was critical to the successful invasion of France that ultimately ended World War II.

Saturday's rally is aimed at energizing thousands of latter-day General Ted Roosevelt's who can fan out across America and do the same for the progressive forces that can be successful on November 2nd if – together – we stand up straight, take the offensive and refuse to be pinned down by constant attacks from the right.

The President's speech to 27,000 in Madison, WI last Monday night fired up all present. It was a great start. But this weekend's rally-organizers plan to communicate one central message to the thousands of activists that will gather in Washington Saturday: the President and other Democratic political leaders are not the only ones responsible for rallying our forces. **We are *all* the Generals who will rally our troops off this beach**. It's up to us to take the leadership to prevent the Big Business, Wall Street-dominated, Tea-Party-Republicans from reclaiming right wing domination of American politics.

For forty years the right was on the offensive in America. At least when Bill Clinton was President, Democrats had a team on the field, but in so many respects the right wing offensive continued until their crushing defeat in November 2008.

For the last 18 months, the progressive forces have once again been on the offense. But the entrenched corporate interests didn't roll over and play dead. They fought tooth and nail – they lied, they bit, they poked eyes – they did everything in their power to stop change.

Progressives won a lot in the last 18 months. We stopped the Great Recession caused by the Republican's policies from turning into the Great Depression. Over the intense opposition of the insurance companies, after 60 years of trying, we passed health care reform that will finally make health care a right in America – and begins to hold those big private insurance companies accountable. We passed landmark legislation to rein in the recklessness of the big Wall Street banks that collapsed the economy and cost eight million Americans their jobs. We created a consumer agency headed by Elizabeth Warren – a true progressive champion for the middle class.

Along the way Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Act to ensure women get equal pay for equal work. It expanded the State Children's Health Insurance Program. It completely reorganized the Student Loan Program to end wasteful bank subsidies and guarantee that every kid can get financing for his or her higher education. It passed a budget that massively changed the spending priorities of the Federal government.

We did all of this in the face of constant, unrelenting fire from corporate interests.

But as any Progressive can tell you, there is so much left to do. **We can't stop now**. We can't let the furious, intense opposition from Wall Street, the insurance companies, big oil and the far right fringe discourage or dispirit us. We can't allow them to successfully take over one or both Houses of Congress. That would bring any opportunity for serious progressive change to a screeching halt.

We have to get off the beach and get back on the offense.

Sometimes the day to day back and forth of politics can cause us to forget what's really at stake – and the massive gulf between Progressive and Right Wing values – the difference between our vision of society and the vision of the other side.

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We have to remember the fundamental difference between the right's belief in unbridled pursuit of individual interest and our commitment to the common good; selfishness versus commitment to others; division versus unity; fear versus hope; that we're all in this together, not "all in this alone."

For the first few years after my wife, Jan, and I were married in 1980, her Great Aunt lived with us during the week. Jan and I both worked, so Aunt Sylv looked after the house and was very involved in raising Jan's two kids and my daughter.

Sylvia Lazar was a warm, wonderful woman who by that time was in her 70s. She'd come to the United States as a teenager from the Ukraine, and still spoke with a thick accent.

Silvia had grown up in a Ukrainian *schtetle* — a small peasant town where the family purchased water each day from a salesman who carried two buckets from the river on a yoke over his neck. Oxen and horses were the principal means used to transport goods and people. Life in her *schtetle* was very much as it had been for hundreds of years.

Her family moved to the United States by way of Canada in the early part of the last century to escape anti-Semitism and find a better life.

By the time she died in the mid-1980s, the world around her had been completely transformed. In the place of oxen, she had flown on jet planes, lived in air-conditioned homes with running water and indoor plumbing. She lived to see the development of antibiotics that changed forever the treatment of infectious disease. She watched a television as men landed on the moon.

Worldwide, life expectancy had skyrocketed. The standard of living in the developed world had exploded.

But Sylv had also lived through two great world wars that had killed tens of millions. She had seen six million of her fellow European Jews systematically slaughtered in the Holocaust. She'd seen pictures of the explosion of the atomic bomb and lived through an accelerating arms race and cold war between America and the USSR that included her old homeland.

She watched with all Americans as the world approached the edge of the nuclear precipice during the Cuban missile crisis. And she had cheered on her niece Jan, who become active in fighting the growing environmental crisis brought on by exploding human economic activity.

Over the tiny span of one lifetime, Sylvia Lazar had been witness to the qualitative transformation of society its culture and technology. She had seen both the breathtaking possibilities and the horrific dangers unleashed by the accelerating march of technology and human history.

Whenever I think how hard it is to make social change, I think about Aunt Sylv.

In the thick of political battle, it's often difficult to see the qualitative change. But all you need to do is back up a little distance from the everyday struggle to see how quickly our world has been, and is being, transformed before our eyes.

Only 155 years ago, America was ending its great Civil War. Human slavery was abolished in America a mere eight generations ago.

That century-and-a-half represents .002% of the seven million years of human evolutionary development. It represents only 1% of the 13,000 years since humans made the critical evolutionary advance — agriculture.

Politics is fundamentally the means through which human societies make choices about their futures.

Radical conservatives like to argue that the world is a dangerous place – that the tough, hard-nosed, survival-of-the-fittest, individualist values are necessary to protect our survival. They claim that only by standing up fiercely for our own individual self-interests will we be successful at defending America and the values of "Western civilization." They claim that radical conservative values are tough, and that progressive values are soft.

But progressive values are the farthest thing from "pie-in-the-sky," "soft," "unrealistic," "head-in-the-clouds" precepts for action. In fact, right wing values are mainly rationales for allowing the rich to become richer and the powerful more powerful. In fact, progressive values allow us the best opportunity to survive and succeed in the future world that is simultaneously bristling with unprecedented danger, and beckoning with undreamt-of opportunity for our children and future

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generations – if we go there together.

Time for us all to remember that there is a lot more at stake this fall than who gets to wield the big gavel in the House of Representatives.

For everyone who was inspired and energized by the 2008 campaign, who believed that they were making history: you were right. We took a lot of ground, but the war is far from over. Now it is time to saddle up and report for duty once again.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the recent book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/11/2008 4:08:26 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/11/08

Main Topics: New Obama Embrace Ad, Olympic coverage, Edwards Scandal, Russia/Georgia Conflict, Evangelical Voters

Summary: In regards to McCain's recent celebrity ads, Obama released a new response ad called "Embrace". Huckabee discussed McCain's relationship with evangelical voters, and Tucker Bounds spoke about Obama's new ad. McCain and Obama released statements on the Russia/Georgia conflict.
The Olympic games dominated morning network coverage. A brief interview with the President in Beijing last night repeatedly aired, where he voiced his discontent with the Georgian conflict. The John Edwards scandal continued to be a highlight, as he will now not be present at the Democratic Convention. The Georgian military in South Ossetia has completely withdrawn from the area amidst attacks by Russian forces. A U.S. air strike in Afghanistan has left eight hostages and 25 Taliban militia dead. Al Qaeda's deputy chief released a new tape accusing Musharraf of working for America's interests. Iraq demanded a set timetable of withdrawal of troops.

Highlights:
1. Obama Releases New Embrace Ad
a. FNC: Fox and Friends Discusses New Obama "Embrace Ad" and the "Same Old Politics" Message
b. FNC: McCain's Celebrity Ad Versus Obama's Embrace Ad
c. FNC: Tucker Bounds Talks McCain's Reform Ability and Maverick Status in Face of New Ads
2. FNC: Huckabee On McCain's Relationship With Evangelical Voters
3. Rick Davis' Interview From Last Night on Fox Sunday Reports
a. FNC: Rick Davis Interview, Part I: Tries To Answer, If McCain Thinks This Country Is Worse Off That It Was Four Year Ago, Then Who Exactly Is Responsible?
b. FNC: Rick Davis Interview, Part II: Answers Questions on DHL and Lobbyist Connections
c. FNC: Rick Davis Interview, Part III: Comments on McCain's Plan For Lost DHL Jobs

Highlights No Clips:
1) CBS – JOHN MCCAIN: [Official Response to Russia/Georgia South Ossetia Conflict]: "Continued Russian behavior… indicates that Russia is moving further and further from the principles and values and ideals of the G-8."

Clips:
Highlight #1
Fox and Friends Discusses New Obama "Embrace Ad" and the "Same Old Politics" Message (FNC 08/11/08 7:11am)
STEVE DOOCY: Remember, a couple of weeks ago John McCain came out with that brand new ad, it was called "Celebrity", where it showed Barack Obama along with Britney Spears and Paris Hilton and talking about how he, Barack Obama, the biggest celebrity in the world. Well, the Obama campaign now firing back. They parodied, Mr. McCain in the new ad called "Embrace", which has been embargoed until right now. Here it is in its entirety.

["Embrace" ad shown]

[…]

GRETCH CARLSON: My first impression is, actually, that's a really upbeat ad for John McCain! I mean, he looks like he has a whole lot of energy and he's meeting with all these different people. That's just my guy, initial reaction. Also, I think the timing is a little off, because this should have come out immediately after the celebrity ad. This is a little delayed.

BRIAN KILMEADE: **It's two things. They want to show him with President Bush, that's what they feel is going to be successful, all the experts come on and say if I was running against John McCain I would put him with President Bush.** But the other thing is, that's inaccurate, is that it was Barack Obama who voted for the President's energy plan which included tax breaks for the oil companies. It was John McCain that said that this was a party for the oil companies, therefore I'm not going to vote for it, which got Republicans very mad at John McCain.

DOOCY: I also think it's funny that, where it says "John McCain taking the low road", this is an attack ad from Barack Obama. Hello? And Gretchen I'm exactly with you in that it shows John McCain, **you know they've been**

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very effective the Barack Obama people, have you noticed that every time they have done an ad in the past they talk about "same old tired politics" they're trying to brand in our heads that he is old, and tired, and stuff like that. […]

KILMEADE: But Barack Obama is right, **John McCain is the darling of the late night shows. He's a darling of the talk shows, he's probably the number one person that every Republican wants by their side to raise money up until this presidential race. So there, Barack Obama is right, I don't know if he got that message across here.**

McCain's Celebrity Ad Versus Obama's Embrace Ad (FNC 08/11/08 7:26am)
[…]

JAMAL SIMMONS: John McCain may have a lot of energy, but it looks like where he's headed with the country though, is in a pretty bad place. And Americans seem to have recognized that. You look to the polls, as you just showed, it looks like John McCain can't really get above 42, 43 percent in any of these polls, and he's one of the people that Americans have known now for ten years. I mean from his 2000 campaign, he's a pretty popular guy. **The problem is the John McCain of 2000 wouldn't go anywhere near voting for the John McCain of 2008, cause he's sort of sold out all of his positions that he took back in 2000.**

[…]

STEVE DOOCY: I'm talking about your candidate, how McCain was effective in tying Paris Hilton to Barack Obama, and Britney Spears.

SIMMONS: Yeah, I don't think it was very effective. **I think that in fact, if it was effective at all, it was effective at erasing the maverick label from John McCain because one thing, I think, republican voters chose John McCain because they thought they were getting an adult who was going to talk about the real issues that we have, the real problems with gas prices, war in Iraq, and the economy. People have lost 51,000 jobs in the last month, and instead they've got John McCain talking about Paris Hilton. And frankly, it just wasn't very serious.**

DOOCY: In that same ad, you mentioned gas prices, John McCain is for offshore drilling, Barack Obama is not. And that is part of the real message of that ad, Paris Hilton/Britney Spears ad.

SIMMONS: **Well you know, we've come to find out that John McCain is sort of in the pocket of the oil company. He's gotten about two million dollars in oil contributions.** The democrats have an Exxon/ McCain website that we've just put up. And I think people realize that, you know, we do want to get gas prices down and Barack Obama has a pretty good plan to do it. He wants to make sure the oil companies go after oil and the leases they already have. They have millions of acres they could be going after oil in right now, and if the part of the deal to get a comprehensive strategy long term to get rid of oil is to have offshore drilling, then Obama's open to talking about the offshore drilling. He just doesn't think it's going to be that effective. But let's go ahead and do it, he's not going to stand in the way of getting a real comprehensive deal just because he doesn't agree with one of the republican ideas.

[…]

SIMMONS: […] John McCain's plan is to tax American healthcare benefits from their employers for the first time in history, so if you take a look at where Barack Obama is and where John McCain is and I think people have really realized that Barack Obama is the one they like.

Tucker Bounds Talks McCain's Reform Ability and Maverick Status in Face of New Ads (FNC 08/11/08 7:34am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: How do you feel about the ad that was just sent at your man, Senator John McCain? You've must have seen it, moments ago. […]

TUCKER BOUNDS: It's quirky. It doesn't fit. It's a response to our ad about Barack Obama's celebrity and I think that the reason why our ad was able to be effective is because Barack Obama was over in Germany, talking to throngs of fonding Germans and they're fans, they're not voters. He's shown an inability to close down some of those primary states despite having these enormous rallies during his primary. **And the difference is John McCain has a record of being able to reform government, it's been since 2004 that he actually took**

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on the Abranoff scandal, inside Washington he's been beating down doors and changing the way business is done here. And so, it's an ad, it's quirky, it's a response. But I don't think it really fits John McCain, his record, or who he is.

STEVE DOOCY: […] He said that celebrity ad was not effective, but we've seen some of the pollsters say that in talking to voters, potential voters over the last week or two, it was effective, your ad in tying Barack Obama to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton and stuff like that. But when you're watching this new ad, if you were watching with the sound down it would look like John McCain goes to a lot of fun places.

BOUNDS: Yeah, well, he goes to talk directly to voters, he's an energetic guy, I think that came through even in a negative attack ad […]. It really is hard to dampen down John McCain's energy, I think that came through in their ad, but ultimately it just doesn't fit the candidate. I mean, this is the same John McCain that was riding around the back of the bus talking to anyone he could talk to to try to win the New Hampshire primary, he had no money, he was traveling around with just a couple people, and it doesn't really have any sort of basis in the historical relevance of this race or of the candidate.

[…]

BOUNDS: We don't have to, I don't think, delve into the Mark Penn playbook, that was a different campaign for a different candidate. **We have the luxury of having a proven public servant, who has a history of working for change in this country, and reforming Washington. We're going to run on that.**

Highlight #2
Huckabee On McCain's Relationship With Evangelical Voters (FNC 08/11/08 7:49am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: Is Senator John McCain making some progress in the evangelical vote?

MIKE HUCKABEE: I think he's making some, I think there's ground yet to be made. I would also, maybe include the term "values voters" rather than evangelicals, because the larger interest here is not just evangelicals, it includes Catholics, it includes people who may not be necessarily religious but are very pro-life. And I think that one of the mistakes that some people make is to assume that being pro-life means that you're anti-abortion. The real focus is not what we're against, it's more about what we're for. And it's the idea that people have intrinsic worth and value and that there's a sense of respect for the dignity of every person. And that's what's driving a lot of passions right now. Obama is reaching out to this group, and he's doing it with the view, I don't think he believes he's going to get the endorsement, but I think he wants to maybe tamp down the enthusiasm of opposition. And he's done a lot to reach out to that group.

[…]

GRETCHEN CARLSON: At the same time […] some are fearing the left principles of Barack Obama and so some of the center and some of the right coalescing now behind John McCain. You remember, of course, you remember more than anyone, that a lot of those people did not like John McCain. What's happening there.

HUCKABEE: […] He also does not have the same adherence to the idea of traditional marriage one man, one woman as John McCain does. And the scariest thing for many of the value voters comes down to the appointment of judges which could have a huge impact, not just for the next four to eight years but for the next 50 years. **That's what is driving many conservatives to say look, McCain may not have been our first choice but he is the best choice we have got.**
[…]

Highlight #3
Rick Davis Interview, Part I: Tries To Answer, If McCain Thinks This Country Is Worse Off That It Was Four Year Ago, Then Who Exactly Is Responsible? (FNC, 08/10/08 6:06pm)
[…]

WALLACE: But again, when you have a nonpartisan group saying that, in fact, for the exact group that you're talking about, people making $37,000, $40,000 a year, that Obama would cut their taxes more than McCain...

DAVIS: Then Obama should put that in an ad. We're going to talk about the things Obama has said and done in the United States Senate and on the campaign trail, and that includes his vote to increase taxes on people making $42,000 a year.

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WALLACE: You think that people should be held accountable...

DAVIS: Absolutely.

WALLACE: ... for what their votes are in the Senate.

DAVIS: Look, politics isn't bean bag, Chris. And if he has a record, it's a very short one, because he has very little experience as a legislator. But we ought to look at the experience he has, and he is a tax increaser.

WALLACE: All right. We're going to — I'm asking you that because we're going to come back on McCain votes as well. Let's take a look at another McCain ad. Here it is.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: Does Senator McCain really believe that, that this country is worse off than we were four years ago?

DAVIS: Sure. All along the trail, John McCain campaigns around real people. He goes to town halls and he hears what they have to say to him. You don't have to be in very many town halls, Chris, to understand that people are pinched by the increase in gas prices. They're losing jobs because of some downturn in manufacturing. And the economy as a whole has been very hard on the American family. That's what John McCain's referring to. He doesn't have to go very far every day to find those kinds of examples.

WALLACE: Given that, I want you to respond to this clip from an Obama ad. Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: In fact, Mr. Davis, Senator McCain is understating it. Last year, he voted to support Bush legislation 95 percent of the time. Given that, if the country's worse off, isn't both the president and John McCain — aren't they both responsible?

DAVIS: Well, look. If you want to talk about history, then you can make all the cases you want to make...

WALLACE: But you're talking about history. You talk about the last four years.

DAVIS: Exactly. And what I'm talking about, though, right now is what the future holds and who's got a plan to cut taxes and get the economy moving again, because growth is the only way we're going to improve people's situation, whether it's in a family or small businesses. And so John McCain's got a plan for growth. **Let me remind you, too, there's been never a bigger maverick in this town than John McCain. I mean, we talk about how many times you voted for Bush or against Bush. But you've been in this town a long time. Who was the biggest irritant to this administration for the last 10 years or last eight years? John McCain. He sided with Democrats when he thought they were doing the right thing for the country, and sided with the Republicans when he thought they were doing the right thing for the country. So you can say all you want about the record, but who is the one proven commodity in this town who's willing to put his country first and take strong positions, sometimes against the current administration or his own party, in order to do what's right?**

WALLACE: But I've got to come back at...

DAVIS: And that's been McCain.

WALLACE: But I've got to come back at you. If you say the country is worse off than it was four years ago, clearly the president has got to bear some of the responsibility. And by his own record, by his own admission, John McCain voted with the president last year 95 percent of the time.

DAVIS: Sure. But I mean, how many of these things actually had anything to do with the current economic conditions or where we are in other places? Look, trade's a good example. John McCain's voted with George Bush for trade many times in the past and will support trade in the future. Democrats have opposed that. What's better for the economy, trade or no trade? It's very simple. It doesn't

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mean everything George Bush has done in the economy has been bad. But look, everybody — it's a pox on everyone's houses. Why do you think the public has a low approval rating of the current administration and Congress? Because they figured out that no one person is responsible for what we're doing. They're all at fault. And you have the one guy who's been screaming about spending by Congress and trying to get George Bush to veto some of these measures. Who's the one guy who stood up in the middle of that crowd and said we've got to fix this problem? John McCain.

Rick Davis Interview, Part II: Answers Questions on DHL and Lobbyist Connections (FNC 08/10/08 6:15pm)
WALLACE: […] why is John McCain inviting the vice president to the convention?

DAVIS: Because I think John McCain believes that the only way we're going to change the culture of this town, the only way we're actually going to ever start getting anything done, is if we stop putting our own self-interests ahead. **You know, if he wanted to make a point and, you know, strike out at this administration, it would have been very easy to do that. But he is not that kind of candidate. He's the kind of man who says, "Look, we've got to get everybody on board in order to get progress made in this country. I'm not going to, you know, take retaliation or retribution against anybody, whether they're Democrats or Republicans."** If we are going to move forward, this culture has to change. The only guy who's been able to do that in this town for the last eight years is John McCain. Barack Obama has never sided against his party's interest on any important issue. He's never joined with Republicans across the aisle like John McCain has with Democrats. We have an ad out that shows a lot of Democrats, leaders in Congress, saying great things about John McCain. Of course, that was before there was a political campaign. **You'll never find John McCain changing his stripes just because of an election.**

[…]

WALLACE: Is there any chance that Senator McCain will pledge to serve only one term as president and that there will be no politics in the White House?

DAVIS: Well, first of all, if you know John McCain, you know there's not going to be much politics in the White House anyway. I mean, he doesn't grade any of his decisions either as a senator or in the future as president on what the political dynamic is. You look at his history, whether it's campaign finance reform, or opposing this administration on detainee abuse and things like that, he does what he thinks is right for the country, and he's going to do that throughout his career no matter what office he holds.

[…]

WALLACE: You're not ruling it out.

DAVIS: I'm not talking about it at all.

WALLACE: Finally, the Obama camp, I don't have to tell you, is pounding you for your work as a lobbyist. In 2003, you lobbied Congress, and Senator McCain in his job as chairman of the Commerce Committee helped you to allow the German-owned DHL buy Airborne Express. You made from this German-owned company about $600,000 in lobbying fees. The Democrats are making a big deal of the fact that DHL is now talking about taking 8,000 jobs out of the state of Ohio. Are you and Senator McCain going to do anything to try to prevent that?

DAVIS: Well, first of all, let me correct you. Senator McCain did not help me do anything. I represented Airborne, which was the incumbent in that location in Ohio, and they wanted to be bought by DHL. And there were people in Congress who didn't want to have that happen. John McCain has always believed that foreign investment in this sector is fine, and unless there was something that was inappropriate about the deal it should go forward.

WALLACE: Well, that's how he helped you, is to agree that...

DAVIS: Well, but he didn't help me. He helped the people in Ohio, because those jobs were probably going to be lost if they didn't get taken over because of the competitive nature of this business.

WALLACE: But now DHL is talking about taking...

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DAVIS: I haven't represented DHL or any of their entities since 2005 when I completely got out of the lobbying business. So what you have here — and frankly, a typical situation by the Obama campaign, to try and change the topic. John McCain has only the most, you know, kind things to say about the people there. He just came from a town hall with the people affected there. Barack Obama won't go there and hold a town hall, especially not now, because one of the women who voiced her concerns about this transaction is now a star in the Obama radio ad that's up in that area, and she's asked them to take it down because he is portraying her as against John McCain,. and she's not. In fact, she's had some very nice things about — to say lately about the fact that John McCain came to town, listened to those people, talked to them about the need to be able to find, you know, a way to keep as many jobs there as you can. But most importantly, she's asked them to take that radio ad down, and they refused to do it.

Rick Davis Interview, Part III: Comments on McCain's Plan For Lost DHL Jobs (FNC 08/10/08 6:20pm)
WALLACE: Directly, can you, will you, or Senator McCain, try to do anything to get DHL not to take those 8,000 jobs away?

DAVIS: Oh, sure. Senator McCain in the town hall with the people affected most by this told them that he would do what he could do, look into the transaction. By the way, this is a different transaction than had occurred almost four years ago. So it has nothing to do with any of the things he'd ever done before. And he didn't really have the level of detail he need and he's going to look into it.
[…]

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From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: mlippert@barackobama.com
dmcdonough@barackobama.com
djsberg@gmail.com
tblinken@barackobama.com
john.podesta@gmail.com
john.podesta@ptt.gov
Date: 11/7/2008 8:29:13 AM
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

yes, we envisioned that as part of ongoing operations. Would you separate it out?

Come to think of it, we should also ask for AFRICOM brief.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark Lippert <mlippert@barackobama.com>
To: Ricesusane@aol.com; Denis McDonough <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>; djsberg@gmail.com; Antony (Tony) Blinken <tblinken@barackobama.com>; john.podesta@gmail.com; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri, 7 Nov 2008 3:19 pm
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Just skimming - I'd throw CTJF-HOA brief into the mix for DOD.

From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: Denis McDonough; Mark Lippert; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri Nov 07 14:17:07 2008
Subject: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Below is the list of briefings Jim and I propose we request of the IC and others for senior transition national security staff over the coming weeks.

A subset of these TBD could subsequently be requested for POTUS-E and VPOTUS-E. We leave it to others to decide if it is desirable and appropriate for POTUS-E to request any or all of these in his meeting with Bush on Monday).

We welcome your thoughts.

IC

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity and CI
IRDPA briefs

NSC

Policy briefings on:

Iraq
Iran

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Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
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Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
Syria
Lebanon
Egypt
Saudi Arabia
Darfur
Zimbabwe
DRC
Weak States strategy

OMB

Budget briefing

DOD

Ongoing Operations
Iraq
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Nuclear safety and security
Readiness

Homeland Security

Infrastructure security
Border security
Disease/pandemic preparedness
First respone/disaster preparedness
Crisis Response plans/processes and continuity in government

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From: "Halifax International Security Forum" <info@halifaxtheforum.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/30/2015 12:19:03 PM
Subject: Halifax International Security Forum Releases 2015 Topical Agenda

HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FORUM RELEASES 2015 TOPICAL AGENDA

Annual Global Meeting to Focus on Threats to Democracy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2015

Washington, DC—Halifax International Security Forum today released the draft Topical Agenda for this year's Forum to be held November 20-22 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The mix of on-the-record plenary sessions and smaller, off-the-record sessions covers a wide range of security issues affecting individuals and families on every continent.

Since 2009, beginning with the first Halifax International Security Forum, the subjects covered at the November gathering have more often than not proven to be prescient in terms of issues the international security community would be focused on the following year. In November 2013, for example, the plenary "Free Radicals With Return Tickets" addressed publicly the critical issue of Western youth joining radical terrorist organizations in increasing numbers prior to this becoming a major story followed by international media. Similarly, in November 2014, the Forum's panel "(Re-)Visit Cuba" forecast to keen observers the thawing of relations between Cuba and the United States.

This year will be no different. "All year long, we consult closely with democratic governments around the world to identify the real and complicated threats to a modern world," said Peter Van Praagh, President of Halifax International Security Forum. "Once identified, we create the agenda for necessary conversations that lead to concrete cooperation and results."

While the titles of the panels are meant to provoke reaction, the issues they address are both timely and serious.

The Halifax International Security Forum Agenda Working Group meets through the summer months to complete the agenda. To ensure that the agenda is exactly relevant to all of its participants from around the world, the final version of the Halifax Agenda will be released just prior to the Forum.

Halifax International Security Forum brings together individuals who are on the ground facing consequential local threats, writers who challenge and influence the world's thinking on security, and military and political decision-makers who make the tough choices.

Halifax International Security Forum is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, DC.

2015 DRAFT TOPICAL AGENDA

Plenary Sessions (On-the-Record)

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- Cooperate, Contain, or Conquer? Prioritizing Strategy 70 Years On
- Breaking Rules: Discipline or Disorder in the Global Playground
- Breaking Tradition: Modern Muslims Advance
- Broken China: Handle with Care
- The American Fix: Best Dosage for Optimal Results
- Responsibility to Welcome: Yours. Mine. Ours.
- Hi-Tech, Bio-Tech: Unleashing Known Unknowns
- Financing Terror: Selling Drugs, Abusing Women, Making Money

Small Group Sessions (Off-the-Record)

- Arctic Rivalries
- From Athens to Brussels: Europe on the Line
- Being Israel
- Betting on the African Union
- Cheap Energy, Pricey Consequences
- China's Bottom Line: A Dim Sum
- Climate: Warming Up for Paris
- Come Together? The Case for a United Korea
- The Cuban Thaw and the Future of Latin American Democracy
- (Cyber) Rulers of the World
- Eurasian Futures: The Sino-Russian Axis
- Inclusive Security: Winning With Women
- From India to Japan: The Importance of Democratic Asia
- Making Peace: Lessons from Colombia
- Mullahs with Moolah: The World After the Iran Deal
- The Next Wave of Attack: Terror on the Trains
- Nigeria's Next Steps
- Post-American Stress Disorder: From Afghanistan to ISIS
- Putin Rules by Putin's Rules
- Qui est Charlie? Europe's Integration Problem
- Ruling the Waves: China Whets Its Dream
- Terror Plots, Meet Covert Ops
- Turkey's Tough Neighborhood
- Ukraine's Tug of War
- Unhelpful Help: The Saudi Model
- What's New with Nukes

- 30 -

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From:	"Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	9/29/2008 5:04:25 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MMR: Palin's qualifications, McCain's debate performance, McCain's role in economic rescue plan

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: Mitt Romney: Palin is no foreign policy expert
   MITT ROMNEY: "Look, she wasn't selected by John McCain because she's an expert in foreign policy."
2. MSNBC: McCain looked like an angry grandpa, Scarborough says
   JOE SCARBOROUGH: "He looks like the angry grandfather that you don't want to talk to at Thanksgiving."
3. NBC: Bush pushes rescue plan as bipartisan and 'extraordinary'
4. CBS: Conservatives doubt Palin's qualifications
   JEFF GLOR: "[…] even some conservatives are concerned, including syndicated columnist, Kathleen Parker who said Palin is "clearly out of her league," and called for the Alaska governor to leave the race."
5. NBC: Romney defends Palin's qualifications
   MITT ROMNEY: "[T]here's nothing like being able to create low expectations and that's certainly being done for her."
6. ABC: McCain camp works to keep expectations for Palin low
   DAVID WRIGHT: "Her advisors are trying to lower expectations, but even among some conservatives, expectations couldn't be any lower."
7. FNC: Nancy Pfotenhauer decries nature of questions Palin receives.
   NANCY PFOTENHAUER: "I think it was a series of trapdoor questions."
8. MSNBC: McCain gives billions in tax breaks to oil companies, Bill Adair verifies
   BILL ADAIR: "McCain's tax plan would cut corporate taxes from 35 to 25% and, if you calculate how much oil companies would get—works out to be about $4 billion."
9. FNC: Graham admits his pork is part of the problem and changes the subject when asked about Palin's Russian expertise.
   LINDSEY GRAHAM: "I have been part of the problem. My earmarks have been authorized, number one. They're out there for you to look at. And I'm part of the problem."

Local Highlights:

10. WTTE – FOX – OH – BETH DOLINGER: "I think it'll be interesting. Sometimes you can get a different perspective when you're looking at someone face-to-face than from television because there's interesting, non-verbal, instead a person will…you'll see that you may not see," on why she's so excited to see Sarah Palin

Clips:

Highlight #1

Mitt Romney on Sarah Palin: Not an Expert (MSNBC 09/29/08 7:28am)

MITT ROMNEY: […] **holding Sarah Palin to just three interviews and microscopically, you know, focusing on each interview, I think has been a mistake. I think they'd be a lot wiser to let Sarah Palin be Sarh Palin. Let her talk to the media. Let her talk to people.**

Look, she wasn't selected by John McCain because she's an expert in foreign policy. John McCain's the expert in foreign policy. **She was selected because she's a maverick. She's a person who identifies with people in homes across America** […].

Highlight #2

Scarborough Characterizes McCain's Debate Performance as an Angry Grandpa (MSNBC 09/29/08 6:07am)

JOE SCARBOROUGH: The reflects in a very visual way, for those of us who are visual, **what a bad week it has been for John McCain**. [...] He looked angry. He looked straight ahead. He looked old. **He looked like a grumpy grandfather. [...] He looks like the angry grandfather that you don't want to talk to at Thanksgiving.**

Highlight #3

Bush Promotes Rescue Plan (NBC 09/29/08 7:33am)

GEORGE W BUSH: Yesterday, leaders here in Washington reached an extraordinary agreement to deal with an extraordinary problem in our economy. Working closely with my administration, congressional leaders from both parties produced the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act -- a bold bill that will help keep the crisis in our financial system from spreading throughout our economy.

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Highlight #4
Palin's Credibility Doubtful to Some Conservatives (CBS 09/29/08 7:08am)
MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ: [T]he question a lot of Americans are asking this morning, including some prominent republicans is whether Sarah Palin is ready. […]

JEFF GLOR: […] Sarah Palin has mostly been kept away from reporters, but the interviews she has done are raising eyebrows.

SARAH PALIN: It is from Alaska that we send those out to make sure that an eye is being kept on this very powerful nation, Russia because they are right there.

GLOR: The most recent, with Katie Couric, provoked widespread criticism from liberals on the web and a lampooning on Saturday Night Live.

[SNL "lifeline" segment]

GLOR: But **even some conservatives are concerned, including syndicated columnist, Kathleen Parker who said Palin is "clearly out of her league," and called for the Alaska governor to leave the race.**

ALEX BURNS: […] I think there's a larger number of people who privately express kind of muted criticism and concern.

GLOR: McCain himself was asked about the chatter on Sunday.

JOHN MCCAIN: I'm so excited about the reaction that Sarah Palin has gotten across this country; huge turnouts, enthusiasm, excitement. She knows how to communicate directly with people. They respond in a way that I've seldom seen.

[…]

LARRY SABATO: […] **If you're running for president or vice president you shouldn't have a choice. Your obligation is to run the gauntlet of the press corps**. Can they be mean and nasty? You bet they can. It's part of the price of running for national office […] I think the McCain campaign has made a mistake with Palin in keeping her so bottled up […]. **She's become […] an object of ridicule, in part because of that Katie Couric interview, which was a real turning point in her campaign**.

Highlight #5
Romney Defends Palin, Says She's a Maverick (NBC 09/29/08 7:10am)
ANDREA MITCHELL: In their first debate Friday night, McCain was the aggressor.

JOHN MCCAIN: I honestly don't believe that Senator Obama has the knowledge or experience and has made the wrong judgments in a number of areas.

[...]

MITCHELL: Palin is still drawing big crowds, but the reviews have been withering for her interview with Katie Couric, only her third since nominated.

[...]

MITCHELL: Palin's critics now include some conservative commentators. On the National Review Online website, columnist, Kathleen Parker called on Palin to drop out, writing, "Quick study or not, she doesn't know enough about economics and foreign policy to make Americans comfortable with a President Palin should conditions warrant her promotion," and New York Times columnist, David Brooks with Chris Matthews:

DAVID BROOKS: [I]s she ready to be vice president? Based on what we've seen with the Katie Couric interview? It's embarrassing. It's painful to watch those things. You want to turn them off.

[...]

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MITT ROMNEY: [...] I think John McCain chose a person who, like him, is a maverick, a reformer, she's a governor with the experience of executive nature and you know, she's not a lifelong politician, she's not the master of words that Joe Biden is and, as a result, she's going to come across like an ordinary citizen but a person of great capacity and that's what John McCain wanted.

MATT LAUER: Ed Rollins [...] said that basically they put [Palin] in storage [...] and it broke her confidence. [...]

ROMNEY: **[T]here's nothing like being able to create low expectations** and that's certainly being done for her.

LAUER: [...] Sarah Palin has done three [interviews]. Is this a case where maybe practice will make her more perfect?

ROMNEY: [...] let her get out there and be herself and people will say, 'You know what? I like what I see [...].'

LAUER: [...] Did John McCain play a significant role in shaping the [rescue] bill as it stands?

ROMNEY: Oh, absolutely [...].

Highlight #6
Even Fox Commentators Question Palin's Ability (ABC 09/29/08 7:09am)
ROBIN ROBERTS: […] On Thursday, the one and only vice presidential debate between Senator Joe Biden and Governor Sarah Palin who went jogging yesterday in the Philadelphia area. That will take place in St. Louis. […]

DAVID WRGHT: […] Sarah Palin has a relatively light schedule over the next couple of days as she prepares for that big debate, that video that you just rolled there of her jogging through the streets of Philadelphia, looking a bit like Rocky Balboa. **Her advisors are trying to lower expectations, but even among some conservatives, expectations couldn't be any lower.** [….] Sarah Palin has been trying hard to prove herself. Hob-knobbing with world leaders at the UN; sitting down with influential anchormen and women.

KATIE COURIC: You've sighted Alaska's proximity to Russia as part of your foreign policy experience. What did you mean by that?

SARAH PALIN: That Alaska has a very narrow maritime border between a foreign country, Russia, and on our other side the land boundary that we have with Canada.

COURIC: Explain to me why that enhance your foreign policy credentials.

PALIN: Well, it certainly does, because our next-door neighbors are in foreign countries. They're in the state that I am the executive of.

WRIGHT: Judging from Saturday Night Live, the comedians have their doubts. […] Some foreigners we've met have their doubts too. […] **This weekend even Fox News raised questions:**

BRIT HUME: Coming up on the grapevine, are some Republicans turning on Sarah Palin?

WRIGHT: Highlighting conservative critics of Palin

ROD DREHER: It's going to be very, very hard to erase the impression that she's given in her network TV interviews; that she is in way, way over her head, and she is not ready for Prime Time.

WRIGHT: At an Irish pub in Philly Friday night, the crowd watching debate with her was friendly, but outside, not so much. John McCain told George Stephanopolous, he's not concerned.

JOHN MCCAIN: […] They can complain all they want to; I'll rely on the American people. The American people respond to her in a way that's been wonderful. But how will Palin fair with her ninety-minute debate with Joe Biden?

KEVIN MADDEN: Sarah Palin has to get through this debate by avoiding a really big mistake, by looking unready to assume the office.

WRIGHT: Palin's advisors tell us they're not worried one bit. They are reportedly bringing in the heavy hitters to give her a few last-minute coaching tips. They know that she needs to address the question of experience, and

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they tell us she's looking forward to doing it.

ROBERTS: […] Give us the bottom line on what's happening right now with Sarah Palin.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULUS: **She's become a problem for Senator McCain, there's no question about it**. If you look at the polling numbers over the last few weeks- and listen, when she was first picked, it was a huge boost for John McCain, no question about it. But look at her favorability numbers, they've gone down, from 58% on September 7th to 52% on September 22nd. Even more important, **the question of qualifications, the number of people who say she's not qualified to be vice president is going up.** 49% say she's not qualified for Sarah Palin, compared to only 21% for Joe Biden. Those are the polling numbers.

But you've got to add into that the reaction among conservatives, as David Wright just reported, **there's a lot of second thoughts now out in the conservative community, about Sarah Palin, and the buzz- the buzz on Sarah Palin has gone all bad. When you become a punch line in politics, it is one of the worst things that can happen. And that is what is happening to Sarah Palin now; she has got to address it in the debate on Thursday night.** […]Picking up on what Kevin Madden said in David Wright's piece; number one, for Sarah Palin, she cannot make a mistake. A major mistake, particularly on foreign policy, would be absolutely fatal to her candidacy.

But even beyond that, she has to avoid some of what you've seen in some of those interviews; those deer in the headlights moments, where it seems like she doesn't know what to say. I think one thing she can do to get around that, and I would expect this on Thursday; watch for her to be aggressive against Barack Obama; to call him out as liberal so that Joe Biden in that debate will have to answer for Obama. […]

Highlight #7
Nancy Pfotenhauer Criticizes Nature of Questions Aimed at Palin (FNC 09/29/08 8:39am)
NANCY PFOTENHAUER: [...] [in regards to McCain on the Hill] The wheels were off the car, and he came in very quietly behind the scenes and worked almost nonstop to pull those parties together and did not force his own proposal down peoples' throats [...]

[in regards to Palin's upcoming debate] I think we're working the governor to focus her on what she's likely to run into at the this debate. **Obviously you can have the series of gotcha questions** [...]My guess is they're going to go very heavily on foreign policy, where I would prefer - normally in vice presidential debates you see a more even-handed approach, particularly with the challenges that we're facing with the nation's economies. So I would hope the questions would be more even-handed [...] I think the moderator will have questions to answer themselves if they do go so heavily on foreign policy. [...] If it's a battle of wits we like our questions, and we think she'll do a fine job. [...]

[in regards to the Palin/Couric interview] I think **it was a series of trapdoor questions**. [...]

Highlight #8
Debate Fact Check: McCain Gives Billions in Tax Cuts to Mega Corporations (MSNBC 09/29/08 9:33am)
TAMRON HALL: Here's what Barack Obama said about McCain's tax plan.

BARACK OBAMA: Under your tax plan […] oil companies would get an additional $4 billion in tax breaks. […]

HALL: […] is that true or false?

BILL ADAIR: That one got a 'true' on the truth-o-meter. Indeed, **McCain's tax plan would cut corporate taxes from 35 to 25% and, if you calculate how much oil companies would get—works out to be about $4 billion.** So true on our truth-o-meter.

Highlight #9
Graham Admits He's Part of the Pork Problem, Changes the Subject on Russia (FNC 09/28/08 6:00pm)
LINDSEY GRAHAM: I think it was decisive in regards to the House being involved. John was challenged about four days ago by Harry Reid to say, "If you don't support this proposal," the original Paulson proposal that was being tweaked, "there'll be no Democratic votes for it." **If John McCain doesn't vote for it, the Democrats won't.**

[...]

MIKE WALLACE: But let me ask you a question about that, Senator Graham. **If earmarks are so bad, why did**

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you ask for 71 projects totaling $305 million in the last fiscal year?

GRAHAM: I have been part of the problem. My earmarks have been authorized, number one. They're out there for you to look at. And I'm part of the problem.

I'd like to be part of the solution, because the good part of earmarks has been overwhelmed by the bad part. Let's just start over. Let's start over, because the $3 million to DNA -- to bear studies in Montana, the $250 million bridge in Alaska for 50 people, is drowning out some of the good things I've done and John's done.

[...]

WALLACE: Senator Graham, what the heck was she talking about?

GRAHAM: Trying to show that she lives near one of the biggest threats we have in the world, Russia, run by Putin, who John said, "When I looked in his eyes, I saw KGB."

But the truth is Joe has said some things about FDR being on T.V. He's right. These are human beings. She'll get better. She's very talented at what she's been asked to do in the past. She's been a really good governor.

--
Jacob Roberts
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org
Date: 11/2/2014 7:44:02 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday November 2, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday November 2, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Politico: "When Hillary Clinton attacks"

"In more than a dozen appearances for Democrats in races around the country, Clinton has not just been talking up her candidate with anodyne stump speeches. She's been going after the Republican, in pointed ways."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary Clinton lifts Grimes in final push"

"Both Hillary and Bill Clinton have been fixtures on the campaign trail this year, as Hillary mulls a widely expected 2016 bid for the White House."

The Hill: "Dems turn to Clintons, not Obama"

"Democrats are turning to Bill and Hillary Clinton — and not President Obama — to save their majority in the Senate."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton and Mitch McConnell: It's complicated"

"The fierce fight to win Kentucky's Senate seat carries with it some lingering intrigue: the complicated relationship between a potential future president and a potential future majority leader."

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Richmond Register: "Hillary focuses on economic issues in Lexington speech for Grimes"

"Hillary Clinton urged Kentucky voters to wade through the flood of negative ads and to choose 'a fresh start' by sending Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes to Washington and ending Mitch McConnell's 30-year run there."

BuzzFeed: "Hillary Clinton's Choice For Kentucky: 'Old' Or 'New'?"

"In three weeks on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton has hit 16 states to campaign and fundraise for Democrats facing elections on Tuesday. But here in Kentucky, Clinton has held more campaign rallies for one candidate, Alison Lundergan Grimes, than any other single Democrat on the ballot this month."

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton on the Stump for New Hampshire Women"

"The former secretary of State won New Hampshire in 2008, and when she arrives here on Sunday to campaign for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Gov. Maggie Hassan, she'll be in a good position to remind voters that she would need them again if she runs in 2016."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton reaches back to Katrina to tout Mary Landrieu"

"To Hillary Clinton, U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu is the fighter for Louisiana who 'refused to let Washington turn its back' on the state in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina almost 10 years ago."

Reuters: "Courting liberals, Clinton takes tougher line on big business"

"Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country."

Associated Press: "Women are the target on campaign's final weekend"

"Women were the focus in Kentucky on Saturday as Hillary Rodham Clinton, appearing with Grimes, endorsed a higher minimum wage and equal pay for women in remarks to more than 1,000 people at Northern Kentucky University."

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Washington Post: "Republicans appear set to take control of Senate, but hope remains for Democrats"

"Republicans are on the cusp of taking control of the Senate in Tuesday's elections, with Democrats now dependent on their ability to navigate an increasingly narrow path to maintain their majority by the slimmest of margins, according to strategists, politicians and a Washington Post analysis of the contested campaigns."

Washington Post: "Top Democratic strategists acknowledge 'challenging' environment as Tuesday looms"

"Prominent Democratic strategists are growing increasingly nervous that the national political environment is not only bad for their side but moving in the wrong direction in the final days before the election, a trend that could cost their party not only control of the Senate but also double-digit House losses."

NBC News: Meet the Press: "Which 2016 Presidential Potential Had the Best 2014?"

"As for the Democratic side, the panel agreed that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has some more work to do."

CNN: "Polls give GOP momentum going into midterms"

"Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz said on ABC's 'This Week' that her party's candidates will benefit from get-out-the-vote efforts targeting people who supported Obama in 2008 and 2012, but didn't vote in the 2010 midterm elections. 'We have a ground game that I know [RNC chairman] Reince [Priebus] would take ours over theirs any day of the week,' she said. She also pointed to Democratic surrogates -- including former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden -- and said they trounce GOP surrogates like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Paul and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz."

Bloomberg: "Clinton Allies Resist Calls to Jump Early Into 2016 Race"

"Veteran Hillary Clinton advisers say she shouldn't accelerate her early 2015 timetable for announcing whether she'll run for president, despite calls from prominent backers of President Barack Obama for her to enter the race soon after Tuesday's congressional elections."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Paul: 'People are ready for new leadership'"

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"Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Sunday that American voters might be tiring of the sort of leadership provided by President Obama and Hillary Clinton."

Boston Herald: "Hillary to be among those paying respects"

"Fellow lawmakers, family, friends and constituents of beloved former Mayor Thomas M. Menino will gather in Boston to pay their respects today and for a procession tomorrow that honors the mark he left on the city during his five-term tenure. Among the dignitaries will be former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who plans to pay her respects to the Menino family today at Faneuil Hall, Menino's press secretary Dot Joyce confirmed yesterday."

Articles:

Politico: "When Hillary Clinton attacks"

By Maggie Haberman

November 2, 2014, 6:59 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton's immersion into campaign politics this fall has come with a surprising twist: She's talking carefully but wielding a big stick.

In more than a dozen appearances for Democrats in races around the country, Clinton has not just been talking up her candidate with anodyne stump speeches. She's been going after the Republican, in pointed ways.

She never mentions the opponent by name, avoiding looking like she's taking gratuitous shots. But Clinton has tailored her stump speeches to incorporate each Democrat's specific message against his or her rival, a use of her megaphone that risks making her look more partisan but that's earning her goodwill and chits.

The most overt example came last week when Clinton campaigned for Bruce Braley in Iowa. She didn't just pump up the Senate hopeful's resume in her stump speech – she took a harsh jab at his rival, Republican Joni Ernst, for not sitting down with the Des Moines Register's editorial board.

"They have to be willing to answer the tough questions, which Bruce has been willing to do and his opponent has not," she said in Iowa. "It really seems like it should be disqualifying in Iowa of all states to avoid answering questions."

It was a message that Braley's campaign had been trying for days to get traction on, stoking questions about

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whether Ernst can be trusted and whether she will talk to people who aren't her supporters.

Clinton "forcefully highlighted Ernst's big problem," said Braley strategist Jeff Link, doing something that was "very important for Braley in the final days of this campaign."

A few days earlier, Clinton campaigned for Mike Michaud, the Democratic candidate for governor in Maine. At a gymnasium rally in Scarborough, she asked people not to waste their votes in a campaign in which an independent candidate, Eliot Cutler, is siphoning support.

"You've got three people running, right?" Clinton said to the crowd. "Whoever gets the most votes wins — you've just gotta make sure Mike [gets] the most votes."

She repeatedly implored attendees to get everyone they knew to the polls, adding, "This is no time to be throwing away a vote."

It's the message that message came as Democrats had been trying to minimize Cutler's impact on the race. Maine is one of the few states President Barack Obama has traveled to in an election year in which candidates in tight races have avoided him.

In Louisiana on Saturday, she hit Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu's main opponent, Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy, over the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac — a topic that still resonates loudly in the state.

"From what I've heard, Mary's opponent didn't really lift a finger after Isaac," Clinton said without naming Cassidy but bolstering a Landrieu message.

And when she traveled a bit north of her Chappaqua home to appear with former Clinton White House staffer Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, she rapped his opponent, Nan Hayworth, as someone who will "turn the clock back" on women's health.

Maloney's "opponent," she said, is someone who "has publicly stated she would defund Planned Parenthood," Clinton said. She "supports the Hobby Lobby decision."

Clinton made clear out of the gate when she started campaigning for candidates this fall that she was going to make the contrasts. At a "Women for Wolf" rally for Democrat Tom Wolf in Philadelphia, she invoked incumbent Republican Gov. Tom Corbett's support for a vaginal ultrasound bill in cases of abortion and his comparison of gay marriage to incest.

Democrats say it's allowed their candidates to break through some of the noise surrounding races in which the airwaves are cluttered with outside groups' attack ads.

"Her events have not only generated enthusiasm for our candidates and motivated our people to get out the vote, but she has made the case to undecided voters about what's at stake and why these Republican candidates are so wrong on issues they care about," said Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee spokesman Matt Canter.

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Clinton has done her most extensive fall campaign work trying to bolster Senate Democrats, many of whom were her colleagues when she served as a senator from New York. She's gotten engaged in most of the highly competitive races, making two trips for three events to Kentucky, where she has stumped for Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes.

Clinton delivered her shots at incumbent Rep. Mitch McConnell surgically. But she made her toughest comparison against him on the issue of Obamacare, which he has said he wants to repeal outright.

"Either you think [Kentucky's existing health care exchange is good] for hard-working families, for children or you want to pull out health care reform root and branch," Clinton said.

"If you're going to break through, you have to do more than just platitudes," said Democratic strategist Steve Elmendorf of why Clinton can deliver a message with strong impact. "It's not like she's making cheap shots – there are very legitimate distinctions to be made here."

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee spokesman Josh Schwerin agreed.

"There are few people in either party who can deliver a persuasive and motivating message to both base and swing voters," he said. "Hillary Clinton is one of those people."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary Clinton lifts Grimes in final push"

By Bernie Becker

November 1, 2014, 4:12 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton returned to the stump in Kentucky on Saturday, making a final push for Alison Lundergan Grimes's campaign to unseat Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The former secretary of State is holding a pair of events on Saturday with Grimes, appearing in the state's suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio and in Lexington.

In Highland Heights, Ky., Clinton again employed a populist message that has become increasingly popular for Democrats this campaign season, saying Grimes would fight for an increase in the minimum wage and pay equity for women.

"This is not just a contest between a permanent Washington fixture and a fresh face," Clinton said. "It's a contest between old thinking and new thinking."

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Both Hillary and Bill Clinton have been fixtures on the campaign trail this year, as Hillary mulls a widely expected 2016 bid for the White House. But the Clintons might be exerting the most energy to elect Grimes, Kentucky's secretary of State.

Grimes's father and the Clintons are long-time friends, and Bill Clinton joked this week about filling out tax forms in Kentucky.

But even with the Clintons's efforts, McConnell is still favored to beat Grimes on Tuesday. If McConnell wins and the GOP captures six seats, the Kentucky Republican would be in line to become the new Senate majority leader.

The Hill: "Dems turn to Clintons, not Obama"

By Amie Parnes

November 1, 2014, 12:28 p.m. EDT

Democrats are turning to Bill and Hillary Clinton — and not President Obama — to save their majority in the Senate.

The Clintons have crisscrossed the country in recent weeks for Democratic candidates, and will each appear in key states this weekend where races could decide which party controls the upper chamber.

While Obama has been mostly sidelined — he'll appear at a Michigan rally on Saturday where Democrats believe a Senate seat is safely in hand — the Clintons are traveling to red states where the president is not welcome.

On Saturday, Hillary Clinton will appear alongside Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.). She'll then travel to Kentucky to appear alongside Senate candidate Allison Lundergan Grimes, who is running against Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY.)

Former Secretary of State Clinton will travel the next day to New Hampshire to appear at a get out the vote rally for Gov. Maggie Hassan and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen.

Meanwhile, Bill Clinton, his approval ratings still sky high, will stump in North Carolina for Sen. Kay Hagan (D) before heading back to his home state of Arkansas for one final rally for Sen. Mark Pryor (D).

Obama has been stuck mostly campaigning for Democratic governors around the country.

With his approval ratings in the low 40s, most Democratic House and Senate candidates have wanted him to stay

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away. In Kentucky, Grimes even refused to say whether she voted for Obama.

The flurry of visits by the Clintons comes with some responsibility.

If Democrats do poorly on Election Day, Republicans will seek to put the blame on them.

But Democrats and many pundits believe that will be a hard argument to make — in large part because of Obama.

“The loss will be attributed primarily to Obama not the Clintons,” said Cal Jillson, a professor at Southern Methodist University.

“It’s a tall order to expect from a former president and secretary of state. I think there are candidates that are happy to have her and happy to have Bill at their sides. But it’s more that the party sees them as having a profile more acceptable to the electorate as Obama’s current profile,” he said.

Steve Elmendorf, a top Washington lobbyist who served as deputy campaign manager on Sen. John Kerry’s presidential campaign, said while both Clintons were extremely popular on the campaign trail, this election isn’t about either of them.

“Surrogates are valuable to raise money, get you some press, turn out the base, but are they ultimately what each of these races is about? No,” he said. “These races are so baked one way or the other. I don’t think any surrogate should be given credit or blame.”

Republicans, of course, don’t see it that way. They’re looking particularly at Hillary Clinton’s surrogacy this cycle to determine what the early stages of her potential candidacy could look like.

Kirsten Kukowski, a spokesperson for the Republican National Committee, pointed as proof to a campaign event earlier this week when Clinton stumped for Anthony Brown, who is running for governor in Maryland.

Kukowski called the event “lackluster” and “sparsely attended,” and said it spoke of Clinton’s effectiveness more than anything.

“She’s already been ineffective in places she tried to help for 2014 and prior to this, she and Bill have already had a dismal track record,” she said. “Apparently, Maryland isn’t so ready for the Democrat ticket in 2014 or Hillary.”

Clinton allies say they expect that talking point from their Republican counterparts. But they say they are confident that the Clintons did more to help Democratic candidates than any other surrogate around.

And they’re happy to point out that the Clintons are more helpful than the Obamas to most Democrats this year.

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“There’s no one else who can do what they do, not even the sitting president and first lady” said one longtime Clinton ally. “It’s a function of their history, public service and their networks and no one else comes close. “

Richmond Register: “Hillary focuses on economic issues in Lexington speech for Grimes”

By Ronnie Ellis

November 1, 2014, 9:39 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton urged Kentucky voters to wade through the flood of negative ads and to choose “a fresh start” by sending Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes to Washington and ending Mitch McConnell’s 30-year run there.

The former secretary of state, first lady and current favorite for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination made two campaign stops for Grimes on Saturday, one at Northern Kentucky University and a second before an overflow crowd of 1,200 at Transylvania University in Lexington.

Grimes has been locked in what was previously regarded as a tight race with McConnell. But it may be slipping out of reach in the final days as multiple polls have shown McConnell with leads ranging from three to seven points. Both campaigns are urging voters to go to the polls Tuesday, saying turnout by their supporters could determine the winner.

Clinton was making her second trip to Kentucky on behalf of Grimes. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, has campaigned for Grimes on three trips to the state, the last on Thursday when he stopped in Louisville and Ashland.

As polls have continued to swing in McConnell’s direction, recent Grimes rallies seemed to lose some of the enthusiasm of earlier ones. But that wasn’t the case here Saturday.

“My goodness,” exclaimed Clinton as she walked on stage to wild cheering. “There is enough energy in this auditorium to light Lexington for a month.”

But that, of course, is part of the effort to get supporters to the polls. Every speaker who preceded Clinton – Auditor Adam Edelen, former governor Martha Layne Collins, Gov. Steve Beshea, and Grimes – waved a card supporters were asked to sign to work on Tuesday. By the time Clinton raised hers, the crowd was laughing about it.

Clinton focused most of her 23-minute speech on the economic themes Grimes pushes in her campaign: raising the minimum wage; voting for equal pay for equal work by women; and a jobs plan Grimes has campaigned on, attempting to contrast what she said is Grimes' concern for the average Kentuckian with McConnell’s focus on wealthy donors and Washington power.

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She said increasing the minimum wage will not cost jobs, reminding the crowd her husband raised the minimum wage during a period of significant job creation and low unemployment.

BuzzFeed: "Hillary Clinton's Choice For Kentucky: 'Old' Or 'New'?"

By Ruby Cramer

November 2, 2014, 12:03 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Stumping for Grimes, Clinton's pitch to voters is a "referendum on the future." Clinton, who has been in national politics almost as long as McConnell's been in office, looks ahead to a "fresh start" in Washington.

LEXINGTON, Ky. — In three weeks on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton has hit 16 states to campaign and fundraise for Democrats facing elections on Tuesday.

But here in Kentucky, Clinton has held more campaign rallies for one candidate, Alison Lundergan Grimes, than any other single Democrat on the ballot this month.

Clinton returned to the state on Saturday to cast Grimes — the 35-year-old secretary of state running against a U.S. senator whose tenure on Capitol Hill is almost as long — as an emblem of "new thinking" and a coming "fresh start" in Washington.

Polls don't show Grimes winning on election day against Mitch McConnell, the Senate Minority Leader running for a sixth term. But she has made his long tenure in Washington the crux of her campaign, while framing herself as the face of a new generation in politics, fed up with the last. (Her speeches focus relentlessly on McConnell, and her merchandise features slogans like "Ditch Mitch" and "I Challenge Mitch.")

Clinton singled out that quality on Saturday in two speeches, both held on college campuses. The "entire country is watching" the Grimes-McConnell race, Clinton said, because of the way her new voice would shift the politics in D.C.

"Maybe more than any other place in these midterm elections, the voters of Kentucky have the chance not just to send a message, but to alter the course of politics and government," Clinton said at her first event of the day, a rally inside a large and dimly lit arena in Highland Heights, a town near the Ohio border.

Clinton's pair of speeches had a pronounced forward-looking quality that hung in part on the generation dynamics at play between Grimes and McConnell, who is 72.

She did not name McConnell directly in her remarks at the first rally or the second, which was held at Transylvania University in Lexington. But Clinton repeatedly depicted her former Senate colleague as a "permanent Washington fixture."

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“Are you ready for a fresh start with a fresh voice and a fresh leader?” Clinton asked.

Speaking after Grimes at both rallies, she argued there is a “need to change course” and called upon attendees to “vote for the future.” The Grimes-McConnell race, Clinton said, is “not just a contest between a permanent Washington fixture and a fresh face — it’s a contest between old thinking and new thinking.”

“It is a referendum on the future,” Clinton said at both rallies.

Clinton herself has been involved in national politics — on her husband’s campaigns; in the White House and the U.S. Senate; as a candidate for president; and as the last secretary of state — for nearly as long as McConnell has been in office.

But on the campaign trail this month, Clinton has developed a speech that is aspirational and focused on the future, describing Democrats she stumps for as change-making. In Pennsylvania, at a rally for Tom Wolf, the businessman running for governor, she called on his campaign slogan, “A Fresh Start,” in her speech.

And last week, at an event with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in New York’s Hudson Valley, Clinton said the young congressman was “part of a new political mission to make our government work again for the people of the country we love.”

If she runs for president, Clinton will face the challenge of leading that “new political mission,” offering a distinct path forward from the Obama administration, and convincing voters she is closer to a Grimes “fresh face” than a McConnell “fixture.”

Clinton spent much of her speeches on Saturday decrying parts of the political system. She described Washington as a place where people use money to “muddy the waters” and “drown” out voters, and where troubling “patterns” develop among public officials. Some, Clinton said, “don’t seem to care as much or work as hard to give everyone the same chance that Alison had and made the most of.”

“We cannot in our country continue to reward the dividers,” said Clinton. “We need to reward the uniters — the people who care about everybody.”

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Hillary Clinton and Mitch McConnell: It’s complicated”

By Paul Kane

November 2, 2014, 8:00 a.m. EST

The fierce fight to win Kentucky's Senate seat carries with it some lingering intrigue: the complicated relationship

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between a potential future president and a potential future majority leader.

In one corner, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is running his campaign squarely against President Obama -- whose favorability remains below 30 percent here -- instead of his youthful, energetic challenger, Kentucky secretary of state Alison Lundergan Grimes (D). In the other corner is the Grimes campaign, which has practically ignored Obama's existence -- as a stand-in for the actual nominee used the Clinton family as the de facto challenger to McConnell.

That dynamic reached a crescendoSaturday afternoon inside a packed theater on Transylvania University's campus here, when former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton delivered a 22-minute rallying cry for the 35-year-old challenger -- the seventh time she or former president Bill Clinton have appeared in Kentucky for Grimes.

Clinton accused Republicans of running a campaign of "fear," suggesting McConnell's campaign had been endlessly negative in an attempt to smear the challenger. McConnell aides "just hope that enough of it sticks," she said.

But not once did she ever mention the Senate minority leader by name.

"If Alison's opponent wanted to run against the president, he had the chance in 2012," Clinton said, to cheers from more than 1,200 Democrats packed inside the event.

It was a delicate bit of diplomacy for Clinton, honed both in her four years at Foggy Bottom and her eight years serving alongside McConnell in the Senate. Local observers say that former president Bill Clinton has no hesitation in invoking McConnell by name -- but Hillary Clinton seems to avoid it.

It's likely, at least in part, senatorial courtesy -- but also it could help smooth relations between the two should Hillary Clinton run for, and win, the presidency in 2016. Polls show McConnell with a small-but-steady lead, and Republicans are very close to securing the six seats necessary to win the Senate majority in Tuesday's elections.

That would make McConnell the majority leader, a post he might still hold if and when Clinton is sworn in as president in January 2017. The Republicans will face a difficult electoral map for the Senate in 2016, so GOP strategists are hoping for a big sweep that will provide a cushion for seats they could lose two years from now and maintain the majority.

For his part, McConnell denies that he holds any grudge against the Clintons for their overt stumping for Grimes.

"I don’t think it’s personal, it’s just business. This is the Clintons' business., to go around the country. The president’s so unpopular that the only person they can send out that everybody’s heard of is President Clinton," he said Friday after a stop in Lexington, adding again: “It’s not personal.”

Still, he declined to say whether any grudges would linger if he had to negotiate with a President Hillary Clinton. “I’m hoping that doesn’t happen and we don’t have to figure out," he said.

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In 2010, McConnell hosted Hillary Clinton at the institute he built at his alma mater, University of Louisville, for a lecture that followed his tradition of bringing in a bipartisan collection of speakers, including Vice President Biden and the late Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). At that event, still serving as secretary of state, Clinton praised McConnell's work on foreign policy, which The Hill newspaper noted last month in this lengthy quote from her 2010 speech:

"I was fortunate to find common cause and work with him on a number of foreign policy issues: human rights in Burma; legislation to support small businesses and micro-credit lending in Kosovo; promoting women and civil society leaders in Afghanistan; strengthening the rule of law in parts of the Islamic world. ... And I've appreciated working with him in my new capacity upon becoming secretary of State."

The Clintons are longtime friends with Jerry Lundergan, the father of the candidate and a former state party chairman who helped deliver the Bluegrass State twice for Bill Clinton. Grimes frequently labels herself a "Clinton Democrat," and over a memorable stretch a few weeks back she refused to acknowledge whether she had even voted for Obama.

That connection is the main factor driving their support for Grimes, it seems. But there's a chance that the Clinton-McConnell relationship could prove to be a longtime determinant of national policy.

"Tuesday is your chance to reject the guardians of gridlock," Hillary Clinton said Saturday, drawing the activists to their feet.

If voters don't take her advice, and McConnell wins, the "guardian of gridlock" could play a key role in shaping the success or failure of the next Clinton administration.

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton on the Stump for New Hampshire Women"

By Emily Schultheis

November 2, 2014

[Subtitle:] The expected presidential contender visits a state that likes to elect female candidates.

New Hampshire likes women. And Hillary Clinton likes New Hampshire.

The former secretary of State won New Hampshire in 2008, and when she arrives here on Sunday to campaign for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Gov. Maggie Hassan, she'll be in a good position to remind voters that she would need them again if she runs in 2016.

New Hampshire is the only state with an all-female delegation. There's Hassan, the Democratic governor; two U.S. Senators, Shaheen and Republican Kelly Ayotte; and two U.S. House members, Democrats Carol Shea-

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Porter and Ann McLane Kuster. (The state's current House speaker and Supreme Court chief justice are women as well.)

Four of those women are on the ballot this fall, some of them locked in tight races, a fact that's brought Clinton out. But the sheer number of female incumbents on the ballot here, and the number who have won in years past, are a reminder of the state's track record of electing women from both parties—something the state's female pols say is a result of both the grassroots nature of New Hampshire politics and an uncommonly high number of opportunities to run for office.

"When that moment happened where there was the first all-female delegation, it wasn't surprising to us that it was New Hampshire," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics. "There's such a tradition of women's leadership … there's a kind of comfort level with electing women and seeing them on the ballot."

The state's record of electing women to state legislative positions goes back decades—though it's worth noting that even New Hampshire didn't send a woman to Congress until Shea-Porter was sworn in in 2007. The state made history when it became the first one with a majority-female chamber of its state legislature: back in 2009 and 2010, 13 of the 24-member state Senate were women.

According to data from Rutgers, the state legislature has been at least a quarter female since the university began collecting data in 1975, a figure far higher than most other states at the time. And Shaheen, who's now facing reelection for a second term in the Senate, is the first woman in U.S. history to serve as both governor and senator for a state.

These data points are all the more striking when they're put up against the rest of the country. Just 23 of 50 states have elected women as governors, and there are still four states—Iowa, Vermont, Mississippi, and Delaware—that have never sent a woman to Congress. Even in the more politically progressive Northeast, neighboring states have had a tough time getting women into top jobs: Rhode Island and Massachusetts could elect their first female governors on Tuesday, with State Treasurer Gina Raimondo and Attorney General Martha Coakley, respectively.

New Hampshire's record is due in large part to an unusually large legislature: the House of Representatives alone has 400 members, which means about one state rep per 3,300 people.

"We're what I call an all-hands-on-deck state: we include people and welcome them if they want to participate and contribute," Hassan told National Journal after a campaign press conference in Concord. "That spirit really means that women who get involved in their communities have an opportunity to participate and are respected in their own right."

The state House is what people in New Hampshire call a true citizen legislature: elected members make just $200 per term (or $100 per year), and their work there isn't considered a full-time job. That part-time nature of the role is something that helps make the process more inclusive for women.

Still, that doesn't mean there aren't still significant barriers and challenges. Speaking at a training session at the state Republican convention in Hooksett, Ayotte told the crowd about the two questions she got on the 2010 campaign trail that men never did: what would happen to her children and whether she'd be "tough enough" for Washington.

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"I thought to myself … 'What do you mean am I going to be tough enough? Listen, I was a murder prosecutor!'" she said. "I put some of the toughest criminals in the history of our state behind bars personally. How much tougher do you want me to be?"

And Shaheen, who ran unsuccessfully for her current job in 2002 (she won six years later), said the focus on national security issues that year hindered female candidates across the country.

"In 2002, when national security was a big issue, I think that affected women running ... I ran for the Senate in 2002 and lost that race," she said. While 2014 is certainly different than 2002, the late-stage focus on national security in this year's midterm elections is playing a big role in Shaheen's reelection bid.

Hassan, however, said the growing pains women face when running for office are improved every time another woman gets elected and serves.

"Every time women have worked to broaden their role in society they come up with some challenges," she told National Journal. "The more women who run and the more women who hold office, the more those barriers will fade."

If that's true, and New Hampshire's record of supporting female candidates holds, no one stands to benefit more than Clinton in 2016.

"New Hampshire has always been seen as a bellwether state for the country so hopefully this just means a mandate for women's leadership is sweeping the nation," said Jess McIntosh of the pro-Democratic women's group EMILY's List. "New Hampshire is very much ready to vote for a woman president, whether that's Hillary Clinton or somebody else who takes the plunge."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton reaches back to Katrina to tout Mary Landrieu"

By Dan Merica

November 1, 2014, 11:34 p.m. EDT

To Hillary Clinton, U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu is the fighter for Louisiana who "refused to let Washington turn its back" on the state in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina almost 10 years ago.

Clinton reached back to the months and years after the 2005 hurricane killed more than 1,500 people in Louisiana to praise Landrieu on Saturday at a New Orleans rally for the endangered three-term senator.

"She was relentless," Clinton said, noting that she and Landrieu were in the Senate at the time. "You learn a lot about a person and a leader in a moment like that. And I saw Mary in action, no cameras, no attention, just focused like a laser to take care of her people."

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Clinton continued: "She never gave up. If you know anything about Mary Landrieu, you know that is an ingrained characteristic, she doesn't shy away from a fight."

Landrieu is in a different kind of fight this year -- a fight to keep her Senate seat against a stout challenge from Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy. Every national poll since the start of September has shown Cassidy besting the incumbent.

Clinton did her part on Saturday to knock Cassidy but never actually referred to him by name.

"From what I have heard, Mary's opponent didn't really lift a finger after Isaac," Clinton said, using a familiar Landrieu campaign attack that cites a 2012 no-vote against legislation that included disaster relief money for the state after Hurricane Isaac rocked the state.

Clinton also subtly hit George W. Bush's presidency for fumbling the response to Katrina, blaming the former president for a "paralyzed" response to the tragedy.

For her part, Landrieu portrayed herself as the right choice for Louisiana because her support for oil and gas, women and seniors.

She also didn't run away from her 18-years in the Senate, despite polls that show a deep-seeded resentment of Congress and an anti-incumbent mood throughout the country.

"I have now worked with three presidents, four majority leaders and six governors," Landrieu said within the first few minutes of her speech. "And I know how to get work done for you, no matter what the line up in Washington is and no matter how gridlocked it might be."

Landrieu, however, finds herself behind in her fourth race.

Cassidy has sought to tie Landrieu to President Barack Obama, who in much of Louisiana is markedly unpopular. In nearly every ad, Cassidy mention that "Landrieu supports Barack Obama 97 percent of the time."

The attacks have worked and some polls show the Democratic senator might be past the point of Clinton's saving.

Landrieu advisers and spokesmen on Saturday told reporters to disregard most of the polling and instead pointed to early voting totals as proof that momentum is swinging their way.

In particular, Matthew Lehner, a senior adviser to Landrieu, pointed to the fact that 33% of early ballots totals have come from black voters, a strong demographic for the Democrat.

"Sen. Landrieu has had tight races in all of her races," said Fabien Levy, the campaign's spokesman. "If need be, we will be ready [for a runoff]. But we are ready to win this on election night."

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Reuters: "Courting liberals, Clinton takes tougher line on big business"

By Gabriel Debenedetti

November 2, 2014, 8:14 a.m. EST

Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country.

Many Democratic strategists see the sharper rhetoric as an effort to win over liberal critics, such as supporters of Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren. It comes days before Tuesday's midterm elections and as Clinton ramps up her political activity ahead of a probable White House bid.

"Al has pushed for more and better oversight of the big banks and risky financial activity," Clinton said in support of Senator Al Franken in Minnesota in late October.

"There's a lot of unfinished business to make sure we don't end up once again with big banks taking big risks and leaving taxpayers holding the bag," she said, in the starkest example yet of her populist turn.

This is a change of tone for the former New York senator, who faced criticism for her Wall Street ties as recently as September, after appearing with Goldman Sachs chief executive Lloyd Blankfein.

Allies and analysts see it as an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism that Clinton may need in order to broaden her appeal in a potential 2016 Democratic primary contest.

"What she's trying to do, really, is find her message. This is something that she struggled with in 2008 (while losing the Democratic nomination battle to Barack Obama), and she really didn't have to do it as secretary of state," said Brookings Institution campaign expert John Hudak.

"She's trying to thread the needle, to say to progressives, 'I'm your candidate,' but also say to Iowa Democrats, 'I'm your candidate, too.'"

Clinton, who was secretary of state from 2009-2013, has not declared her candidacy, although supporters have built a national campaign structure to await a presumed run. She says she will decide whether or not to run early next year and for now she is campaigning for others, largely in states where Obama is unpopular. Sunday's New Hampshire swing comes after Saturday stops in Louisiana and Kentucky.

But supporters of Warren, who says she does not plan to run for the White House, are still wary of Clinton, who ran as a centrist in 2008. Clinton leads Warren 60 to 17 percent in an October Reuters/Ipsos poll of Democrats

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in Iowa, which holds the first contest of the presidential nominating race.

Warren, a former Harvard Law School professor who spearheaded the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau after the 2008 financial crisis, has gained solid backing from liberals in the party for her steady criticism of Wall Street and big banks.

Clinton campaigned with Warren in October for Massachusetts governor candidate Martha Coakley, praising the bank regulation advocate for "giv(ing) it to those who deserve to get it." That despite the fact that she is personally close with some high-profile bankers who know her from her time representing them in the Senate, and from her experience as first lady during Bill Clinton's years as president.

In Minnesota, Clinton expanded on her economic priorities, saying that before the financial crisis "a lot of us were calling for regulating derivatives and other complex financial products, closing the carried-interest loophole, getting control of skyrocketing CEO pay."

It was a line that raised eyebrows given the deregulatory policies of Bill Clinton's administration. But progressive activists, who have criticized Hillary Clinton's practice of giving highly-paid speeches to groups including financial firms, welcome such statements.

"It's baby steps in the right direction after $200,000 speeches at Goldman Sachs," said Adam Green of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

There are pitfalls to the appeals to liberals. Critics pounced after Clinton told voters in Boston last month not to "let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs."

Clinton later explained that she meant to criticize the idea that the economy grows because of corporate tax breaks, but Republicans across the country, including a pair of potential Republican 2016 opponents - Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush - have since used the line against her.

Associated Press: “Women are the target on campaign's final weekend”

By Steve Peoples

November 1, 2014, 8:17 p.m. EDT

Their grip on the Senate majority slipping, anxious Democrats aggressively courted female voters Saturday on the final weekend of a midterm campaign that will decide the balance of power in Congress and statehouses during President Barack Obama's final years in office.

At the same time, some Republicans offered a softer tone as party leaders began to outline plans for a GOP-controlled Congress even with polls suggesting more than a half dozen Senate contests are deadlocked.

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"We want to engage members from both parties in the legislative process, to get our democracy working again the way it was designed," said Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who would ascend to majority leader if he holds his seat and his party gains six more.

Without getting specific, McConnell predicted that Republicans would "be able to work with the president to ensure solid, pro-middle-class ideas are signed into law."

Plagued by poor poll numbers, Obama has avoided the most competitive elections, but he used his last radio and Internet address before Tuesday's election to seek support from women, who are expected to play a pivotal role in races from New Hampshire to Iowa.

"When women succeed, America succeeds," the president said. "And we should be choosing policies that benefit women — because that benefits all of us."

Obama made a similar pitch Saturday night in Detroit while appearing at a rally for the Democratic candidates for the Senate, Gary Peters, and for governor, Mark Schauer. The rare Senate candidate who's asked Obama to campaign with him, Peters also has a comfortable lead in polls.

Republicans "don't have an agenda for the middle class. They don't have an agenda for Detroit. They don't have an agenda for Michigan," Obama said. "The good news is that Mark and Gary have a different vision, a vision rooted in the conviction that in America prosperity does not trickle down from the top, it comes up from folks who are working every single day."

The election three days away will decide control of the Senate, the House and 36 governors' seats.

Republicans appear certain of at least three new seats in the Senate — in West Virginia, Montana and South Dakota. There are nine other competitive races, including six for seats in Democratic hands.

The head of the Democratic National Committee, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, said she was optimistic despite polls showing her party struggling just to maintain the status quo.

"Democrats will hold the Senate," she said Saturday.

Her GOP counterpart, Reince Priebus, was campaigning with Gov. Scott Walker, R-Wis., and pointed to increasing signs that Republicans will have a good election night.

"I'm feeling pretty confident about where we are across the country," he said in an interview, citing Democrats' shrinking advantage with women in key races.

"I don't think they ought to be bragging," Priebus said, asserting that "even Mitch McConnell" was outperforming Democratic challenger Alison Lundergan Grimes among female voters.

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Women were the focus in Kentucky on Saturday as Hillary Rodham Clinton, appearing with Grimes, endorsed a higher minimum wage and equal pay for women in remarks to more than 1,000 people at Northern Kentucky University.

"It's not, as Alison rightly said, only a woman's issue," said Clinton, a possible 2016 presidential candidate. "It's a family issue. It's a fairness issue."

In New Hampshire, Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen is trying to win a second term and facing a strong challenge from former Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass.

Shaheen planned to campaign with EMILY's List president Stephanie Schriock, whose organization is spending millions to elect Democratic women.

"There isn't a race is this country where the women vote isn't critical," Schriock said. She acknowledged that Democrats' traditional advantage with women would shrink considerably because women typically vote in smaller numbers in midterm elections.

Public research polls suggest that women have moved in the GOP's direction since September.

In last month's Associated Press-GfK poll, 47 percent of likely female voters said they favored a Democratic-controlled Congress while 40 percent wanted the Republicans to take over. In a poll released last week, the two parties were about even among women — 44 percent prefer the Republicans, 42 percent the Democrats.

Speaking on a conference call with volunteers, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., described Iowa Rep. Bruce Braley's Republican Senate opponent, Joni Ernst, as "a woman who is afraid to come and tell people how she feels."

"If we win Iowa, we're going to be just fine," Reid said. "Iowa is critical."

Women's votes have shifted sharply between presidential years and midterm elections. In 2012, women broke for Obama by an 11-point margin, according to exit polls. In 2010, when few candidates raised social issues as a major campaign theme, female voters split evenly between Democratic and Republican House candidates.

Democrats have put women's health and reproductive rights at the center of Senate campaigns in Alaska, Iowa, North Carolina and especially Colorado.

Half the ads aired by Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., and those who are backing his re-election have criticized GOP Rep. Cory Gardner on women's health issues.

Some ads have claimed that Gardner wants to ban certain kinds of birth control. Gardner has tried to nullify the attack by proposing that birth control pills be available over the counter, instead of requiring a prescription.

In other developments:

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POPULAR COACH ENTERS POLITICAL SCRUM

An endorsement for Republican Sen. Pat Roberts by popular Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder has turned into a political pileup.

Asked on camera whom he was voting for in the Senate race, the coach of the 11th-ranked Wildcats responded, "My good friend Pat Roberts, of course." That clip ended up in a political ad aired by the Roberts campaign, which brought a rebuke of sorts from Kansas State President Kirk Schulz, who reminded school employees not to endorse political candidates.

Schulz instructed staff to contact the Roberts campaign to take down the ad, according to an email given to The Associated Press and other news outlets. The Roberts campaign said it hasn't been contacted by the university.

In the email, Schulz described Snyder as "unaware it was going to be used in such a fashion" and that he was "apologetic for the resulting issues."

University officials in Schulz's office did not immediately reply to messages left by the AP.

Asked about the flap, independent candidate Greg Orman told the AP, "That's just once again another demonstration of how the Roberts campaign is willing to distort the record and ultimately use people as they have with coach Snyder."

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KASICH, CHRISTIE AND THE LEAST FORTUNATE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's re-election effort got a boost from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie during a rally in Columbus. Christie, a potential GOP presidential contender, said one of the most special things about Kasich is that "the least fortunate in Ohio are not forgotten. Those folks who are facing challenges in their lives, not ignored by government, not looked past by government, but a hand extended to help them up so they have a chance to reclaim their lives." Kasich, like Christie, decided to expand the Medicaid coverage to low-income residents under the federal health care overhaul. Numerous other Republican governors have resisted such an expansion.

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BIDEN THE GRANDMOTHER

In Colorado, Jill Biden joined Udall for a bus tour of four Denver suburbs, trying to rally Democratic activists whose well-regarded ground game is seen as the only hope for the incumbent. The race has hinged on women's

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issues. "I'm here as a mother and a grandmother and a woman," Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, told dozens of volunteers in Longmont. "Women of my generation — and I see a couple of you here — you know how hard we had to fight to get here today," Biden continued and added, "We cannot go back and fight those battles that we had to fight so long ago."

Washington Post: "Republicans appear set to take control of Senate, but hope remains for Democrats"

By Dan Balz

November 1, 2014, 7:55 p.m. EDT

Republicans are on the cusp of taking control of the Senate in Tuesday's elections, with Democrats now dependent on their ability to navigate an increasingly narrow path to maintain their majority by the slimmest of margins, according to strategists, politicians and a Washington Post analysis of the contested campaigns.

In a campaign year marked by unending negativity and voter disgust toward Washington, strategists in both camps agree that Republicans are almost certain to pick up five of the six seats they need to regain control. They have many opportunities to grab an additional seat and, if things break decisively in their direction, could easily claim the majority. Democrats' hopes of holding on largely depend on whether they can take one or two seats currently in Republican hands.

Nevertheless, there is a good chance the final result won't be known on election night. Runoff elections are expected in Louisiana and possibly in Georgia, which would mean that those races would not be resolved for weeks. If the race in Alaska is tight, it could take days to count all of the ballots from remote villages. And if independent Greg Orman wins in Kansas, it remains to be seen whether he would caucus with the Democrats or the Republicans.

Gubernatorial races are, if anything, more dramatic and less predictable than those for the Senate. Rarely have as many gubernatorial races been as close in the final days as they are this year, with several Republican and Democratic incumbents in danger of losing. The House campaigns, however, hold little suspense, with Republicans expected to gain between eight and 15 seats.

Post reporters deployed in a dozen states through Election Day described voters as weary and often disgusted with the tone of many campaigns and the money spent on the negative ads that have been running for months — but still engaged in the final outcome.

"I hate to turn on the TV," said Don Batt, 62, attending a GOP event in Iowa. "It's burning me out." In Louisiana, the scene of some nasty politics over the years, 91-year-old Leah Chase, who holds court in the kitchen of Dooky Chase's in the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans, said, "I've never seen it this way before, this negative, darling. This has gone past the limit."

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Republican voters expressed deep dissatisfaction with President Obama, which appeared to be the party's most important motivating factor. "Eighteen trillion dollars in debt is enough," said Chad Bettes, 40, who lives in the Kansas City suburbs. "And Obama and [Senate Majority Leader Harry] Reid just keep putting our country further in debt."

Democrats sought to make a distinction between their assessments of Obama and their views on their state's senators. "I'm disappointed in the president, to tell the truth, said Tom Moriarty, 78, of Claremont, N.H. "But I like Jeanne. She's done a lot for the state," he said of Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D).

Across the most contested states, Democrats and Republicans spent the weekend attempting to rally their supporters and deploying thousands of volunteer canvassers to make sure the loyalists cast ballots and to persuade the few undecided voters left after months of television ads, debates, direct-mail appeals and face-to-face prodding.

Obama, the focal point for Republican criticism, was on the campaign trail but avoiding states with the most contested Senate races. Instead, he spent Saturday in Michigan, scene of a competitive race for governor and a Senate contest that appears to be firmly in Democratic hands. First lady Michelle Obama, who has been more welcome than her husband in many states, was in Illinois on Saturday.

Other Democratic surrogates swept through the competitive Senate states in droves. Former president Bill Clinton spent Friday in Georgia, surrounded by an earlier generation of civil rights leaders, and was making appearances Saturday in Iowa.

Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is also looking ahead to a prospective 2016 presidential campaign, campaigned in Kentucky and Louisiana on Saturday and is scheduled for appearances in New Hampshire on Sunday.

On Friday, a busload of Republican luminaries descended on Kansas, the unexpected scene of close races for governor and Senate. The group included New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, chairman of the Republican Governors Association; former Mississippi governor Haley Barbour; and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.) was scheduled for a rally this weekend in Alaska, where there are tight races for Senate and governor as well. Mitt Romney, the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee and one of the party's most requested surrogates this fall, plans to attend a rally there Monday.

The Senate

From the beginning of this election cycle, conditions have favored Republicans. Democrats are defending more seats, and many of the contested races are in states Obama lost. The president's approval rating, which has sunk to the low 40s, has not helped.

Republicans also avoided the main problem that plagued them in 2010 and 2012, which was nominating first-time candidates who turned out to be poorly prepared for general elections. Not a single tea party challenger defeated a Republican incumbent in Senate primaries this year.

But countering those factors were other realities, starting with negative perceptions of the Republican Party and congressional Republicans. Additionally, to win control of the Senate, Republicans must defeat a series of

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incumbents, never the easiest task.

“Nobody on our side of the aisle is comfortable,” said a Republican strategist who spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk candidly. “Everybody’s optimistic, but I don’t think anybody’s comfortable.” Another GOP strategist, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for the same reason, said: “I feel pretty good. I feel skeptical about feeling good.”

As Election Day approaches, the math is daunting for the Democrats. Republicans are favored to gain Senate seats in West Virginia, South Dakota and Montana, where no Democratic incumbent is running, and Arkansas, where Sen. Mark Pryor (D) has fought hard but appears to be at significant risk.

In Louisiana, Sen. Mary Landrieu (D) is expected to lead the first round of voting Tuesday, with the Republican vote split between two candidates. But she will be an underdog against the likely Republican challenger, Rep. Bill Cassidy, in a runoff.

That would give the GOP a net gain of five seats. Then there are five other Democratic-held seats that are more competitive. In four of the races, incumbent Democrats are trying to hold off GOP challenges: Mark Begich in Alaska, Kay Hagan in North Carolina, Mark Udall in Colorado and Shaheen in New Hampshire.

Of those four, Shaheen, in a campaign against former Massachusetts senator Scott Brown (R), is seen as the most likely victor.

In Alaska, Begich’s hopes of defeating Dan Sullivan (R) now appear to depend on an elaborate get-out-the-vote operation that could be the most costly, on a per-capita basis, of any Senate campaign in history.

In North Carolina, Hagan held a narrow lead for months in her race against state House Speaker Thom Tillis (R) but has seen the margin slip as Election Day has neared. Still, Democrats were cautiously optimistic Saturday that she could win.

The races in Iowa and Colorado have been two of the closest in the country and have been seen as the contests that ultimately could determine control of the Senate. As of late Saturday, both appeared to be moving away from the Democrats.

In Iowa, Republicans got a big morale boost late Saturday when the Des Moines Register reported that its last Iowa Poll gave Republican Joni Ernst a 51-44 percent lead over Rep. Bruce Braley (D). Democrats had seen the race as dead even in late private polling and have counted on a history of superior get-out-the-vote operations in Iowa to carry the day. But with Obama unpopular even in the state that launched him in 2008, Republicans believe they can carry the day and the new survey will put Democrats to the ultimate test.

In Colorado, Udall has run into a skilled challenger in Rep. Cory Gardner (R), and his success will depend on how well he can mobilize unmarried women and Hispanics. But a Democrat reported Saturday afternoon that Udall faces serious motivational problems in getting his voters out. Democratic turnout is higher than in 2010 but Republicans are turning out in even higher numbers.

If those were the only races in play this weekend, Republicans would be highly confident about winning at least one or more to claim the majority. But Republican-held seats in Georgia and Kansas are at risk of going to the Democrats.

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In Georgia, Michelle Nunn (D), the daughter of former senator Sam Nunn, is pitted against businessman David Perdue (R). Nunn and the Democrats have scored effectively with attacks on Perdue for outsourcing American jobs, and Perdue has struggled to change the subject.

Because of a Libertarian candidate on the ballot, neither Nunn nor Perdue may win the necessary 50 percent of the vote Tuesday, forcing a runoff that would be held Jan. 6 , after the new Congress has convened.

In Kansas, Sen. Pat Roberts (R) has run a weak campaign, hobbled by questions about his residency and whether he has been sufficiently attentive to his state. His Democratic opponent bowed out, leaving Roberts in a head-to-head contest against Greg Orman (I).

Adding a further twist, Orman has declined to say whether he would caucus with Democrats or Republicans, but the GOP has attacked him as an Obama supporter in the hope of persuading Republicans to stick with Roberts.

In Kentucky, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R) is now the favorite to hold off a strong challenge from Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes. Victory would put him in position to become Senate majority leader if his party is successful overall Tuesday.

The governors

The Cook Political Report lists 14 states with gubernatorial races rated as tossups. Ten of those tossups involve sitting governors — seven Republicans and three Democrats. In addition, the Cook Report lists one GOP-held state, Pennsylvania, as likely to fall to the Democrats.

The Rothenberg Political Report lists 11 tossups (although tilting several in one direction or another) and puts Pennsylvania in the Democrats' column.

Geoffrey Skelley, associate editor of Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball report at the University of Virginia, put it this way in a posting Thursday: "Can we be brutally frank? The governors' races are really tough to call this year."

There is no clear pattern in these races, as voters in red, blue and purple states appear unhappy with the results their governors have produced.

Republican incumbents in some or a great deal of trouble this weekend include Sean Parnell (Alaska), Rick Scott (Fla.), Nathan Deal (Ga.), Sam Brownback (Kan.), Paul LePage (Maine), Rick Snyder (Mich.), Tom Corbett (Pa.) and Scott Walker (Wis.).

Democratic incumbents in competitive races include Dan Malloy (Conn.) and Pat Quinn (Ill.). Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper was in more trouble earlier this fall, but Democrats say he appears the most likely of the three to win, and Republicans don't disagree.

Democrats also have tough races for open seats in Arkansas, Massachusetts, Maryland and Rhode Island. Of those races, Arkansas is the most likely to fall to the Republicans, followed by Massachusetts. In Hawaii,

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Democrats dumped incumbent Gov. Neil Abercrombie in the primary, but Republicans will have to fight hard to claim that seat.

The voters

On Friday afternoon , Andrea Morrise of Fayetteville, Ark., was taking photos of her 8-year-old daughter, who was dressed up for Halloween as Miss Arkansas, complete with sash. Her daughter has seen so many political ads that she can recite them from memory. Into the cul-de-sac where the family lives came Senate candidate Tom Cotton (R), meeting and greeting. “I can’t get away from him,” Morrise said, laughing.

Not everyone is laughing about the campaign or the ads that have been running in states such as Arkansas at unprecedented levels. In Louisiana, almost 64,000 ads have been aired, at a cost of $24.1 million to the campaigns and outside groups. That is enough to fill three weeks of air time, according to the Center for Public Integrity. During one week in September, not a single positive ad was aired in the Louisiana Senate race.

“It bothers me how much bashing there has been,” said Gerald Simmons, eating a “Dawn of the Dead” burger at Zombie Burger in Ames, Iowa. “There already is a state of negativity. People talking smack on TV is not helping.”

But these sentiments are not universal. In Kentucky, where the McConnell-Grimes race has featured nonstop attacks for months, some voters say it goes with the territory.

“I think you have to send your message if you’re going to win, and we need Mitch to send that message right now because Grimes is a fierce competitor,” said Rodney Saner, 54, of Lexington. He added, “This is an important time for our nation, and you have to share the message if you want to make change.”

At Republican rallies, the president was the main target. “I’m just so tired of the Obama agenda,” said Bre Keaton, 34, a Kansas voter. “I want the Republicans back. . . . We’ve got to take it back.”

Ron Goodbub, 66, of Duluth, Ga., said Republican enthusiasm is “through the roof” largely because of anti-Obama sentiment. “I don’t care who you are, if you’re a Democrat, all people see is Barack Obama,” he said.

But Goodbub said he hopes that, if they take control of the Senate, Republicans have a bolder agenda than they have offered voters this fall. “If all they’re talking about is repealing the medical-device tax — really?” he said. “That’s what we’ve been knocking on doors for? That’s why we’re putting out campaign signs at 10 o’clock at night?”

Lynn Moore, a 39-year-old respiratory therapist who lives in New Orleans, offered her view of the stakes. Speaking of Landrieu, Moore said: “She has to win. We need Democratic representation with all the issues. The Democrats represent our voices, our vision. We don’t need another detrimental Republican.”

Democratic voters stood up for the president and, despite the odds, predicted success. “The Democrats are going to turn out like they usually don’t in midterms,” predicted Tim Gardner, 58, a retired nurse from Richmond, Ky., who attended a Saturday rally for Grimes.

But the final days continued to test the endurance of voters waiting for the election to end. On Friday in

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Colorado, Udall exclaimed to an audience in Buena Vista, “I’m having so much fun I want this to continue forever.”

A voice boomed out from the crowd: “Really?”

Washington Post: “Top Democratic strategists acknowledge ‘challenging’ environment as Tuesday looms”

By Chris Cillizza

November 2, 2014, 11:10 a.m. EDT

Prominent Democratic strategists are growing increasingly nervous that the national political environment is not only bad for their side but moving in the wrong direction in the final days before the election, a trend that could cost their party not only control of the Senate but also double-digit House losses.

“The environment has settled, and it’s bad,” said one senior Democratic Party operative closely monitoring the party’s prospects. The source added that Democratic candidates’ numbers among independents and seniors — two critical voting blocs — have begun to erode. “They are just not as friendly to us as they once were,” the operative said.

Those trends are borne out in several key Senate races — most notably the contest for the open seat in Iowa. State Sen. Joni Ernst (R) is leading Rep. Bruce Braley (D) by 12 points among independents in a Des Moines Register poll released Saturday night . She holds a seven-point edge among all voters.

In conversations this past week with more than a dozen Democratic strategists deeply involved in this campaign — a few who were willing to speak on the record — there was widespread pessimism about the party’s chances Tuesday:

“Challenging,” acknowledged Ali Lapp, executive director of the House Majority PAC, a super PAC spending millions on ads to promote House Democrats, referring to the national dynamic

“It’s a very challenging environment,” agreed Penny Lee, a Democratic lobbyist and longtime political aide to former Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell.

“Unsettled,” offered Democratic pollster Fred Yang.

“The trends are not good,” said Steve Rosenthal, the veteran Democratic and labor strategist.

There were lots (and lots) of reasons given for the difficulties Democrats are facing: The Senate map. The

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historic trends of second-term, midterm elections — a.k.a. the “six-year itch.” Voter apathy. But the one factor that virtually every person I talked to cited as the biggest reason for the party’s predicament was President Obama.

“This off-year election has become almost entirely a referendum on the president,” said one Democratic consultant involved in many closely fought congressional races. “It’s not just anger at [the Affordable Care Act]. He has become, rightly or wrongly, the symbol of dysfunction in Washington. That has led to a demoralized Democratic base, energized Republicans. And those in the middle have an easy way of venting their frustration, and that is to punish the president’s party.”

Said another Democratic strategist knee-deep in the 2014 midterms, “It is not all Obama, but a lot of it is.” People are “very upset with government,” said the strategist, who, like others interviewed, spoke on the condition of anonymity to be candid. “And people think Democrats are in charge, so they are taking it out on Democrats more than Republicans.”

Asked for a single word to describe why this election was looking increasingly bleak for Democrats, another party consultant offered this: “Obama.”

Polling bears out Obama’s negative effect on his party’s chances this fall. In a trio of NBC/Marist University polls released Sunday, on the three key Senate races, the president’s approval rating was at 32 percent in Kentucky, 39 percent in Louisiana and 41 percent in Georgia. And, even in states Obama won in 2012, his numbers are anemic. He struggles to break out of the low 40s in Colorado, and in Iowa, be barely crests 40 percent in the Real Clear Politics polling average.

Erik Smith, a veteran Democratic operative, pushed back on the “it’s all Obama’s fault” narrative, however.

“President Obama isn’t the cause of this bad environment, but how candidates have chosen to handle his lower approval ratings has often compounded their problems,” Smith said. “While candidates may want to distance themselves from the incumbent president in their advertising and public statements, the president’s base is still strong and committed to him, and as a result that mixed message dampens their enthusiasm for the candidate. In the end, these Democratic candidates fail to win new support and lose traditional support at the same time by trying to play it too politically.”

It’s also worth noting that although there was significant pessimism among the people we talked to, roughly half of them held out hope that Democrats could still snatch victory from the jaws of defeat — noting, rightly, that races all over the country remain very close despite the eroding environment.

“Given the hand that 2014 dealt us, it’s pretty impressive that so many races are still close enough to win on turnout,” said Greg Speed, president of America Votes, a Democratic-aligned group.

Added Bill Burton, a veteran of the Obama White House: “I think it’s amazing that we’re still even talking about states like Georgia and Kansas in an environment that is this bad.”

True enough. And the unsettled nature of the electorate could well mean that we are in for a few more twists and turns before Tuesday. “It’s time to stop trying to read the tea leaves,” said Rosenthal, summing up the chaos.

Of course, with the last ads shipped and the last polls conducted, there’s not much to do but try to read the tea

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leaves. And from what Democrats are seeing, it doesn't look good. At all.

NBC News: Meet the Press: "Which 2016 Presidential Potential Had the Best 2014?"

By Shawna Thomas

November 2, 2014

The 2014 election isn't over yet, but 2016 loomed over the campaign trail as presidential potentials made their way across the country in the role of surrogates. So who played that role the best in the last few months?

Michael Steele, the former Chairman of the Republican National Committee told Chuck Todd on NBC's "Meet the Press" that in terms of 2014, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (R) has had the best year. "He's got the organization on the ground right now. He's in all 50 states. He's got young folks gravitating towards him. He's got African-Americans taking a pause and looking at him." NBC Political Analyst Joe Scarborough agreed that Paul is talented and that he's going to run a better campaign than his father but, "He's not going to win because Main Street Republicans win and you've got two choices that we talked about here, Jeb or Chris Christie."

And he had a different take on who has had the best 2014. "Without a doubt, Mitt Romney, Mitt was right on Russia. Mitt was right on Iraq," said the MSNBC host.

As for the Democratic side, the panel agreed that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has some more work to do. "I don't know how you lose a book tour. That's a hard thing to lose, but she's got plenty of time to regroup," said NBC's Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent Andrea Mitchell. Former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs concurred. "I don't think she's had a particularly good run with the book. I wouldn't have done as many interviews as she did. I think they hastened the process of Republican attacks."

CNN: "Polls give GOP momentum going into midterms"

By Eric Bradner

November 2, 2014, 12:59 p.m. EST

Republicans woke up Sunday to a wave of new polls that showed their Senate candidates surging ahead in key states -- including one in Iowa that looked particularly grim for Democrats -- giving the GOP a jolt of enthusiasm going into the 2014 campaign cycle's final hours.

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Two days from the midterm election, Washington's political class was buzzing around news that Iowa GOP Senate hopeful Joni Ernst was 7 percentage points up in a Des Moines Register poll, and Republican candidates and surrogates popped up on the Sunday news shows, gleeful about their prospects.

"I think the wind is at our back," Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said on CNN's "State of the Union." He added that Republicans will "in all likelihood" win control of the Senate and added: "I think people are ready for new leadership."

Fueling the Republicans' optimism was a Register poll that showed Ernst leading Democrat Bruce Braley, 51% to 44% -- prompting pollster J. Ann Selzer to tell the newspaper that "this race looks like it's decided."

Hours before the poll's release, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid spelled out what a loss in the Hawkeye State would mean for Democrats.

"Iowa is critical. There's no other way to say it," Reid said Saturday in a conference call with the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

"Joni Ernst would mean — coming to the United States Senate — that Mitch McConnell would be leader of the United States Senate, who agrees with her on everything," he said, according to Politico.

And it wasn't just Iowa that had good news for Republicans. A new set of NBC News/Marist polls unveiled Sunday morning gave Republicans boosts in three key Senate races -- including McConnell's in Kentucky, as well as Georgia, where Democrats had hoped to pickup a seat, and Louisiana, where Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu is in a tough race for her political career.

Those incumbent Senate Democrats have spent the fall trying to distance themselves from President Barack Obama, whose floundering state-level approval ratings have been a drag for his party down the ticket as Republicans tie their opponents to the commander-in-chief every chance they get.

"This is really the last chance for America to pass judgment on the Obama administration and its policies," former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney said on "Fox News Sunday."

Democrats swung back on the Sunday shows as well to make the case that their early voting numbers suggest they'll hold onto some of those seats.

Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz said on ABC's "This Week" that her party's candidates will benefit from get-out-the-vote efforts targeting people who supported Obama in 2008 and 2012, but didn't vote in the 2010 midterm elections.

"We have a ground game that I know [RNC chairman] Reince [Priebus] would take ours over theirs any day of the week," she said.

She also pointed to Democratic surrogates -- including former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden -- and said they trounce GOP surrogates like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Paul and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

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But Priebus shot back that "our ground game is whipping their ground game."

"Look, if Americans who want change vote on Tuesday, the Democrats are going to have a terrible night. We're going to have a great night," he said. "And it's because Barack Obama's policies and Debbie Wasserman Schultz's policies and Harry Reid's policies are on the ballot."

The GOP needs to pick up six seats to win a Senate majority, and with several other victories all but guaranteed, losses in swing states like Iowa could seal Democrats' fate.

Senate Republican leader McConnell is ahead of Democratic challenger Alison Lundergan Grimes, 50% to 41%, according to an NBC News/Marist survey released Sunday. Democrats had hoped the contest would be among their few chances to pick off a GOP-held seat or at least divert resources from other key Senate races.

Another of those targets is Georgia, but the Republican nominee there, David Perdue, has jumped to a 48% to 44% lead over Democrat Michelle Nunn, the NBC News/Marist survey found.

That lead might not be enough to clench that race. To win in Georgia, candidates must earn more than 50% of the vote -- and if neither Perdue nor Nunn are able to reach that mark, they'd face each other again in a run-off election in January.

In Louisiana, Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu is in trouble, too. The NBC News/Marist poll found her at 44% support, but in the state's "jungle primary" she's facing two Republicans -- Rep. Bill Cassidy and tea party candidate Rob Maness. If Landrieu falls short of 50%, she'd face just one of those Republicans in a December run-off -- and without conservatives' votes being split, she'd be the underdog.

The latest survey from the left-leaning Public Policy Polling this weekend also put McConnell ahead, at 50% to 42% for Grimes. PPP also gave Republican challenger Tom Cotton a hefty 49% to 41% lead in Arkansas over Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor.

The GOP is all but certain to win seats now held by retiring Democrats in Montana, South Dakota and West Virginia. They're also favored in Alaska, Arkansas and Louisiana -- states consistently won by Republican presidential candidates.

Wins in swing state targets like Iowa, Colorado, North Carolina and New Hampshire would offer a huge boost to Republicans' chances -- and would insulate the party from potential losses in Georgia and Kansas, where independent challenger Greg Orman hasn't said who he'd caucus with and therefore can't be considered a reliable supporter of either party.

Top Democrats, trying to narrow the gap, hit the trail Sunday, including Bill Clinton, who planned four stops in Arkansas -- where Pryor is endangered and long-time Clinton foil Asa Hutchinson is expected to win the governor's race.

Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, was in New Hampshire, where Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Gov. Maggie Hassan are both facing stiff challenges in their re-election bids. She'll also attend the funeral for long-time Boston mayor Tom Menino.

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Obama, who's stayed away from most Senate races this year with the rare exception of a Saturday visit to Michigan on behalf of Democratic candidate Gary Peters, is in Connecticut Sunday to campaign for Gov. Dannel Malloy.

Republicans are flocking to Kansas, where Orman is threatening to unseat Republican Sen. Pat Roberts. The party's 1996 presidential nominee, Bob Dole, and former Sen. Rick Santorum are campaigning for Roberts on Sunday.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a likely 2016 White House contender, is swinging through South Carolina, Illinois, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Another potential presidential candidate, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, is with Republican Dan Sullivan in Alaska, trying to help the Republican knock off first-term Democratic Sen. Mark Begich.

The Florida governor's race -- one of the nation's tightest -- is also getting the attention of big names in both parties. Biden is campaigning for the Democratic candidate, Charlie Crist, while former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is making stops with Republican Gov. Rick Scott.

Bloomberg: "Clinton Allies Resist Calls to Jump Early Into 2016 Race"

By Jonathan Allen

November 2, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EST

Veteran Hillary Clinton advisers say she shouldn't accelerate her early 2015 timetable for announcing whether she'll run for president, despite calls from prominent backers of President Barack Obama for her to enter the race soon after Tuesday's congressional elections.

In interviews and e-mail exchanges, six political operatives closely aligned with Clinton offered up overlapping lists of reasons why they don't expect her to jump in this year.

She's more popular when she's not directly engaged in electoral politics, she's better off waiting for things to settle out after what's expected to be an ugly election night for Democrats, and she benefits from staying out of the fray while Republican hopefuls start to tear each other apart. Moreover, they note, Clinton said at an event in Mexico City in September she'll decide "probably after" Jan. 1, 2015 .

"Can't we get through the holidays first?" asked Paul Begala, the strategist who helped Bill Clinton win the presidency in 1992 and is a consultant for the Clinton-backing super-PAC Priorities USA. "Do we really need to deny her her first Christmas with her first granddaughter? Really?"

Clinton will spend November and December focused on philanthropy, policy matters and baby Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky, said one Clinton adviser who like most of the others spoke on the condition of anonymity because

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Clinton is not discussing her plans publicly. A Clinton spokesman declined to comment but pointed to her past statement about timing.

Clinton, Obama

The mostly behind-the-scenes fight revolves around the question of what's best for the party now and for trying to keep the White House in 2016. But it breaks down mostly along an old fault line: Clinton versus Obama.

In September, David Plouffe, the architect of Barack Obama's 2008 primary victory over Clinton, advised her in a private session that she should make her run official sooner rather than later, and mega-donor Steve Mostyn said "if Hillary is going to run, it would be best to do it quickly post-election," according to recent reports in Politico. The New York Times also reported last month that Clinton is getting pressure to rally the party right after the midterms by jumping into the presidential race.

Mostyn and his wife Amber gave $3 million to the super-PAC Priorities USA to help re-elect Obama in 2012, and they were backers of John Edwards in 2008 before Steve Mostyn began donating to Obama that year. They are now max-out donors -- the super-PAC limits contributions to $25,000 -- for the super-PAC Ready for Hillary, which has solicited support from contributors previously associated with Obama, as well as longtime Clinton contributors.

Denying Obvious

If it's not Clinton, other Democrats will have to start assembling their campaigns in earnest soon. And, if it is her, Plouffe said, according to Politico, it would be in her interests to stop denying the obvious. The campaign he ran against her in 2008 operated on the premise that voters didn't trust her, a view that could persist if Clinton is perceived to be pretending not to run while she appears to be doing just that.

Brian Wolff, a former executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee who is a longtime supporter of both Clintons, said the former Secretary of State would do well to keep her own counsel, rather than listen to what Obama's strategists want.

"Those people advised him well in winning the presidency, but clearly haven't been consistent on advising him well since," Wolff said of Plouffe and other Obama strategists. "Hillary doesn't need their advice. She's got a great team around her."

Plouffe didn't respond to a request for comment.

Donor Conference

The juxtaposition of Clinton's plans with those who want her to announce sooner rather than later will be in sharp relief in Manhattan on November 21.

Ready for Hillary is convening a donor conference that day at the Sheraton Times Square, where the Clinton Global Initiative holds its annual summits. Clinton will hopscotch across Manhattan but she'll avoid the conference, according to two people familiar with her schedule.

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Instead, she'll start her day in lower Manhattan at the Conrad Hotel, where she is slated to preside over a meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, a public-private partnership initiated by longtime aide Kris Balderston when he worked for Clinton at the State Department. In the evening, Clinton will make her way to Columbus Circle for the New York Historical Society's History Makers gala, where she will be honored.

Campaign Finance

Even if she were a candidate now, campaign finance law would allow her to appear at the donor conference -- so long as she didn't directly solicit money.

Clinton has tried to avoid even the appearance of coordination with the three super-PACs already supporting her potential candidacy. While many of Clinton's closest fundraisers and advisers have been engaged with Ready for Hillary, her November 21 schedule speaks to her desire to let that operation continue to build without her official blessing while she prioritizes apolitical engagements.

One Democratic strategist with ties to the Clintons said she should let the situation settle down after the midterms rather than associating herself with losses that will otherwise be blamed on Obama. Besides, Clinton's fundraising and stump speeches for candidates destined to lose -- as well as those who will win -- are sure to buy her plenty of goodwill within Democratic circles.

War Chests

The adviser familiar with Clinton's planning said she will have to signal her intentions shortly after the new year but should keep a relatively small campaign operation and let the outside groups work on building their war chests, defending her and collecting the names of supporters in the early part of 2015. If she can stand back as Republicans begin jockeying for 2016, she'll benefit, this adviser said, adding that the challenge for Clinton will be to energize her support base without getting overexposed in 2015.

That has been a danger of her recent barnstorming for Democratic candidates, which, along with a bumpy book tour this summer, has hampered her national approval ratings. She can no longer expect that Americans will view her outside the context of electoral politics, say some Democrats on both sides of the question of when she should announce.

"She has been on the stump, which is going to knock down the apolitical luster she gained as Secretary of State and drag her poll numbers back to Earth," Begala said. "I suspect she thinks that's worth it to help all those good Democrats."

Another adviser, who worked with Clinton at State, said he thinks she'll wait as long as possible before making an announcement, provided that she plans to run. Those who are advising her otherwise, he said, are pursuing their own agendas.

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Paul: 'People are ready for new leadership'"

By Bernie Becker

November 2, 2014, 9:27 a.m. EST

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Sunday that American voters might be tiring of the sort of leadership provided by President Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Paul, appearing on CNN's "State of the Union," said he was disappointed that both the president and the former secretary of State had spent recent weeks attacking businesses on the campaign trail. Democrats have employed an economic populist message calling for a higher minimum wage and other policies.

"I think there's a fundamental philosophical debate," Paul said. "I think people are ready for new leadership."

Both Paul and Clinton are expected to run for president in 2016, though Paul told CNN that he hadn't made a final decision.

"I won't deny that it would help me, if I do decide to run for president, to have traveled to 32 states and to be part of helping the Republican team," Paul said.

The Kentucky Republican added that he expected the GOP to win the Senate majority on Tuesday, but that Republicans' inability to put away incumbents in red states merely underscored the close political divisions in the country.

Looking forward to 2016, Paul expanded on his comments that the GOP needs to change its brand so that historically Democratic voters like minorities or young people will give Republican policies to battle poverty a chance.

"Our brand is so broken that we can't even break through that wall that's out there," Paul said.

"Evolve, adapt or die. I think the party has to change," he added.

He also brushed aside the idea that he might have to distance himself from his father, former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Tex.). "It's never in my mind a contrast with my father," the younger Paul said.

Boston Herald: "Hillary to be among those paying respects"

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By Lindsay Kalter

November 2, 2014

Fellow lawmakers, family, friends and constituents of beloved former Mayor Thomas M. Menino will gather in Boston to pay their respects today and for a procession tomorrow that honors the mark he left on the city during his five-term tenure.

Among the dignitaries will be former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who plans to pay her respects to the Menino family today at Faneuil Hall, Menino's press secretary Dot Joyce confirmed yesterday.

This morning, Mayor Martin J. Walsh will lead elected officials from City Hall to Faneuil Hall to open the wake for the city's longest-serving mayor, who will lie in state. Among those joining Walsh will be mayors from across Massachusetts, the city's city councilors, state reps and senators and members of the congressional delegation.

The public is invited to pay respects beginning at 10 a.m.

As he lies in state, Menino will be watched over by an honor guard of former staff members, including his police commissioners, school superintendents and Cabinet chiefs. Overnight, in a symbolic touch, members of the mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services will stand guard.

"While others were finished working for the day, Mayor Menino's ONS staff responded to fires in the middle of the night, delivered toys to children through the holiday season, and attended to the nitty gritty of neighborhood life that was so important to the Mayor," a release noted.

A public Mass for Menino will be held at 11:30 a.m. today at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

Tomorrow, a procession — dubbed by loyal staffers Menino's "last ride home" — will stop at 10 places of significance to the former mayor as it carries him from Faneuil Hall to Most Precious Blood Church in Hyde Park for a private funeral Mass.

Those who attend the services and procession will brave temperatures in the 40s, and potentially the season's first snow shower today. Parking restrictions will be in effect, and visitors are urged to take public transportation.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

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· November 2 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton pays respects to Mayor Thomas Menino (Boston Herald)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: jbenenson@bsgco.com
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 2/6/2015 10:18:21 AM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
Attachments: Rothschild Econ Doc for Chozick.pdf

I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com " <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "john@algpolling.com " <john@algpolling.com >, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com " <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> Agree
>
> On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
> > I think this piece turned out well.
> >
> > But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
> >
> > > One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.
> >
> > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > **Grunwald Communications**
> > **202 973-9400**
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
> > To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
> > Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
> > Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
> > Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
> >
> > http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

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Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder, a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch, a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

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Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com>, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com>, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

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Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that

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>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Greg Rosalsky" <GRosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/20/2008 3:08:13 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/20/08

Main Topics: *McCanada* and Free Trade, McCain's Flip Flop on Domestic Oil Drilling, Immigration

Summary of Shift: Scott McClellan testified on Capital Hill today. He denied Bush knew about the White House effort to out Valerie Plame but could not say the same about Dick Cheney. John McCain was in Canada today pushing free trade. Barack Obama hit McCain for his 180 on offshore drilling. Obama released a new logo and is expected to have a joint event with Hillary Clinton next week. Michael Bloomberg defended Obama in front of a Jewish audience in Florida. Moveon.org is dropping its 527 operation at Obama's request. Obama aides said he raised $22 million in May. A Newsweek poll shows Obama up by 15 points nationally.

Highlights:
1) McCain touts free trade in Canada
a. CNN's Dana Bash covers McCain's "unusual" trip to Canada, Dobbs criticizes McCain's "pandering to business special interest groups"
b. Pat Buchanan: McCain's stance on NAFTA may cost him the election
c. Dobbs calls McCain "Mr. Free Trade", blasts Carly Fiorina on outsourcing
2) *McFlip-Flop* on domestic oil drilling
a. Fox News' Carl Cameron says McCain has been "inconsistent" on offshore drilling
b. Senator Hutchison defends McCain's offshore drilling plan, confirms McCain has inklings to flip flop on ANWR drilling too
3) McCain and immigration
a. Obama camp accuses McCain of flip-flopping on immigration
b. Dobbs criticizes McCain's "late night meeting" with Latino leaders on immigration reform
4) Jill Zuckman: Chuck Hagel's statement that he would "think about" accepting a VP invitation from Obama is an example of disunity among Republicans
5) "CBS Evening News": There is no such thing as clean coal

Clips:

Highlight #1
CNN's Dana Bash Covers McCain's "Unusual" Trip to Canada, Dobbs Blasts McCain's "Pandering to Business Special Interest Groups" (CNN 06/20/08 7:00pm)
LOU DOBBS: Senator McCain, pandering to business special interest groups, with his unqualified support for NAFTA. But the Senator didn't deliver his pro-Free Trade pitch in this country, where millions of jobs have been lost as a result of those agreements, instead he went to Canada to talk to their business elites [...]

BASH: John McCain's visit here to Canada was quite unusual. It was a campaign trip where the candidate insisted it wasn't about politics.
[...]
[Dana Bash asking McCain a question]
BASH: Correct me if I am wrong, this is a trip that was put together and executed by your presidential campaign not your Senate office, so how is it not political?

MCCAIN: Because we didn't feel it was appropriate for the taxpayers, while I am the nominee of my party, to pay for a trip that would have accrued to the cost of the taxpayers.
[...]
BASH: Now, McCain often points to his extensive experience traveling around the world as a Senator, it's one of the reasons he thinks voters should elect him. He said today he is going to continue traveling abroad during the presidential campaign, but if his trip Canada was any example it's a pretty tough task for a candidate to travel anywhere during the heat of the campaingn and insist it's not about politics.

Pat Buchanan: McCain's Stance on NAFTA May Cost Him the Election (MSNBC 06/20/08 06:15pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: McCain was in Canada today talking up our relations with our northerly neighbor. […] After his

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appearance McCain released this pretty harsh statement:

[Visual of Quote]

"For Months, Barack Obama said that he would 'make sure that we renegotiate' NAFTA, demanding unilateral changes and threatened to unilaterally withdraw if he did not get his way. Barack Obama knew better. America has not had a protectionist president since Herbert Hoover, but Barack Obama held his position anyway to further his cynical political purposes in the primary campaign. Now he claims: 'I'm not a big believer in doing things unilaterally.' Barack Obama should know words matter – especially in a campaign based on rhetoric rather than a record of accomplishment."

MADDOW: […] Who's vote is McCain going after with the pro-NAFTA argument?

JOAN WALSH: […] I'm not sure this helps McCain either. I think that McCain is the one who's really looking like the flip flopper especially with this crazy flip flop on offshore oil drilling.

[…]

PAT BUCHANAN: I don't know what McCain is doing! For Heaven's sake. It's a 50 to 40 issue negative nationally. You take Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania they think NAFTA is a four-letter word. And he's going up to Canada praising the trade deal when we've lost 3 and a half manufacturing jobs under Bush alone. If I were Obama I would hammer him on this. Frankly he's putting at risk his election with this nonsense.

[…]

Dobbs Calls McCain "Mr. Free Trade", Blasts Carly Fiorina on Outsourcing (CNN 06/20/08 7:10pm)
LOU DOBBS: Well Senator McCain is certainly working to earn the title "Mr. Free Trade." In addition to his enthusiastic support for NAFTA the Senator is also voted for all sorts of trade deals. Voting for trade deals with Oman, Singapore, Chile, Vietnam, Central American nations, and African nations. And just in case there's any doubt, back in December Senator McCain said he would seek deals with more countries, saying, "I'm the biggest free-marketer and free-trader you will ever see." Senator McCain's position on free trade and it's impact on working people in this country and our middle class shouldn't be much of a surprise when we consider just who's giving the Senator economic advice. None other than Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of HP. She presided over the thousands of layoffs at HP and was ultimately fired herself. But not before she recieved a $21 million dollar severance package and more than a half million dollars in mortgage assistance. And it was Carly Fiorina who defended outsourcing of American middle class jobs to cheap overseas labor markets by saying, "There is no job that is America's god-given right anymore."

Highlight #2
Fox News' Carl Cameron Says McCain Has Been "Inconsistent" on Offshore Drilling (FNC 06/20/08 6:00pm)
JIM ANGLE: They say what goes around comes around. And today the two presidential candidates proved how fast that can happen. Slamming each other for basically the same thing, changing positions on economic issues [...]

CARL CAMERON: Dueling economic events. Barack Obama with Democratic Governors in Chicago ramped up his opposition to John McCain's proposed expansion of offshore oil drilling while John McCain in Canada met with business leaders, intensified his attacks on Obama as an isolationist, threatening to pull out of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

JOHN MCCAIN: Demanding unilateral changes and threatening to abrogate an agreement that has increased trade and prosperity is nothing more than retreating behind protectionist walls. [...]

CAMERON: Both candidates portray themselves as honest genuine politicians. But the truth is McCain has been inconsistent on offshore drilling and Obama's been inconsistent on trade. Perhaps a better way to put it is that they are both true politicians therefore apt to shift their positions.

Senator Hutchison Defends McCain's Offshore Drilling Plan, Confirms McCain Has Inklings to Flip Flop on ANWR Drilling Too (FNC 06/20/08 5:00pm)
MEGYN KELLY: Senator Hutchison Barack Obama recently, or just said today, that John McCain's plan for offshore drilling, something that many Americans seem to favor according to the polls, "makes no sense at all." Because he says "it wouldn't give us any appreciable savings until 2030." So what do you say about that?

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KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON: Well, what makes no sense at all is that we twiddle our thumbs while people are paying higher and higher gasoline prices, higher prices for food in the food stores, that's what doesn't make sense. In fact, I think it would have an immediate impact in this respect, we know that the futures, speculators, are driving prices up because it's very clear that Congress is doing nothing to produce more energy and therefore bigger supply for the greater demand. And so prices are going to keep going up. So the speculators are making prices go up when the fundamentals aren't there.

KELLY: Ok, there's a little bit of disagreement on that speculation issue because some people say no, speculators are in fact keeping the cost down. But I want to really get your reaction to the how much savings people would feel in the short term if we were to do offshore drilling. If we were to begin it right away.

HUTCHISON: What I'm trying to say is that I think the speculators would see that prices are going to start going down over the next five or six years because it will take a little while to be drilling but if we have the speculators out of the market, it will bring prices down very quickly. And that is the good news about John McCain's proposal. That we're going to have production, the states will be able to get royalties from it, it is an incentive for the states to do it. He is also proposing more nuclear power, which would bring down the cost of electricity. All of these proposals that he's making are going to produce more energy. The problem with the Democrats is they don't have any new energy in their plans.

KELLY: Ok, let me ask you about ANWR. It's something that John McCain has long opposed for an awful long time but now he seems to be opening the door, indicating he just might change his position on that. Some of his critics say he may just be pandering to the voters. What do you say to that?

HUTCHISON: Well, I think, when you start looking at where ANWR is and where the part that you would drill is, it's a very small section, it's a grassy tundra, 70 degrees below zero, and the people who have been advertisin g against it just haven't been there. John McCain has been there. He has said that he wouldn't do it. But I think he's beginning to see that if we have an overall goal in our country of energy independence for America, which means national security and economic security for our country in the next 10 or 15 years, that we're gonna have to do some things environmentally safe, protecting our environment, but nevertheless producing more while we are getting the other kinds of renewables and types of energy that we know will be in the future. But are not in abundance now.

Highlight #3

Obama Camp Accuses McCain of Flip-Flopping on Immigration (CNN 06/18/08 4:35pm)

WOLF BLITZER: Barack Obama […] electing to declined the federal funds for the general election has prompted charges of flip-flopping. […] Obama's camp says John McCain has contradictions of his own. […] The McCain campaign basically says there are two Barack Obamas on these various issues, bill.

BILL SCHNEIDER: Well […]the Obama campaign says back at you. They say there are two McCains on the issue of illegal immigration. On Wednesday night, John McCain held a private meeting with more than 150 Chicago-area Hispanic leaders. According to the Associated Press, several people who were at the meeting said McCain assured them he would push for comprehensive immigration reform if he's elected president. In 2007, McCain's sponsorship of comprehensive immigration reform angered conservatives and very nearly derailed his presidential campaign. At a republican debate in January, McCain was asked whether he would still vote for his original measure.

[clip of McCain]

JOHN MCCAIN: no, i would not. Because we know what the situation is today. People want the borders secured first.

SCHNEIDER: McCain's critics were reassured.

[video clip of Mike Antonovich]

SCHNIEDER: after the chicago meeting, the Obama campaign's communications director charged McCain with trying to have it both ways.

[audio clip and text from Robert Gibbs]

SCHNEIDER: right now, McCain is getting just over a third of the Hispanic vote nationwide. Last time Bush got about 40%. McCain's got to keep conservatives happy while making sure his Hispanic support doesn't collapse. How is he going to do it? His campaign says he will be addressing several major Hispanic groups in the next month.

SCHNEIDER: We asked the McCain campaign for a […] They [Tucker Bounds] said, "Despite the wildly misinformed

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opinions of Barack Obama's spokesman, John McCain fundamentally believes that we need to secure our border, and then move forward to address the need for immigration reform in a respectful and compassionate manner that recognizes we are all God's children. That's his position yesterday, today, and every other day, before all the groups he meets with."

Dobbs Criticizes McCain's "Late Night Meeting" with Latino Leaders on Immigration Reform (CNN 06/20/08 7:20pm)
LOU DOBBS: Senator McCain is trying to have it both ways on the issue of illegal immigration as well. He's doing it by pandering of course to ethnocentric interest groups. He assured in Chicago Hispanic leaders at a late night meeting that he would help push through legislation giving immigration reform a top priority, giving Amnesty to millions of illegal aliens [...]

Highlight #4
Chuck Hagel's Statement that He Would "Think About" Accepting a VP Invitation from Obama is an Example of Disunity Among Republicans (MSNBC 06/20/08 05:57pm)
DAVID SCHUSTER: An associated press interview this afternoon with Republican Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska. […] He was asked about if he was offered to be Barack Obama's running mate, and he said if it would occur I'd have to think about it. You'd have to consider it. It's the only thing you could do. Why wouldn't you?

JILL ZUCKMAN: That is so devastating. It's just so devastating. He was one of Senator McCain's closest friends in the Senate. They are both Vietnam veterans, they're both highly decorated. The war has just split them apart. And you can see how estranged they are by the fact that he would say something like this. And on top of that Senator Hagel's wife has made a contribution to Senator Obama's presidential campaign. It looks like the whole Hagel family might be moving in the Obama direction. I think its kind of a sad thing to see that friendship broken apart.

[…]

MICHELLE BERNARD: The more important story about Chuck Hagel is really what we see happening in the Republican Party. We've been talking about this for several months. There is disunity in the Republican Party. We've heard so many people say that the party as a whole will come and everyone will rally around John McCain, but we still don't see that happening. And John McCain has a lot of work to do, not only within his base but also outside his base. And I think Chuck Hagel's statement today really exemplifies just how much work he has to do within the Republican Party. If he wants to win all the states that George Bush won in 2004, Chuck Hagel's statement today made it even more difficult for him. He's got a lot of work ahead of him to do.

[…]

Highlight #5
"CBS Evening News": There is No Such Thing as Clean Coal (CBS 06/20/08 06:50pm)
WYATT ANDREWS: Coal is by far the dirtiest way America makes electric energy but you wouldn't know that from this ad campaign funded by industry. A campaign promising a future of clean coal. And its not just industry, the Presidential candidates are also pushing clean coal.

[…]

MCCAIN: "We can have clean coal technology."

[…]

JAMES HANSON: there is no such thing as clean coal today.

ANDREWS: James Hanson, NASA's expert on global warming says all coal plants, even Tampa Electric, still emit millions of tons of carbon dioxide, the most threatening greenhouse gas.

HANSON: There's no coal plant that captures the carbon dioxide and that's the main long-term pollutant.

ANDREWS: […] America's efforts to sequester carbon have stalled. The department of energy planned to fund a plant […] but pulled its funding when the price became to high. […] Florida's governor Charlie Crist even helped pull the plug on two clean coal plants because he says without a carbon solution quit clean coal.

CHARLIE CRIST: Until that time comes we want to develop more solar more nuclear more wind.

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ANDREWS: […] Until the federal government funds the research on carbon dioxide, America's dependence on coal is in long-term trouble. […]

--
Gregory E. Rosalsky
Progressive Media USA
202-609-7691 (office)
707-484-3796 (cell)
GRosalsky@progressivemediausa.org
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/23/2015 7:10:21 AM
Subject: First Amendment Implications of Journalist's Five-Year Sentence

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213.489.1971

The Chilling First Amendment Implications of Journalist Barrett Brown's Five-Year Sentence

Candice Bernd, Truthout: Concluding a case which has lasted more than two years, and which has frightening implications for journalists and researchers of all stripes, a federal judge in Dallas sentenced journalist and transparency activist Barrett Brown to 63 months in prison on Thursday.

Read the Article

The New "Oppressed Peoples' Movement": Can the Tide of Resistance Continue?

James Kilgore, Truthout: What are some of the possibilities and tensions in the mass uprisings and new social movements that have

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

US House Passes Stringent Abortion Restrictions
Read the Article at Salon

Joni Ernst's Family Received Nearly $500,000 in Farm Subsidies
Read the Article at Raw Story

Obama Says Treating Drug Use as a Criminal Problem Is "Counterproductive"
Read the Article at The Huffington Post

Advocates Call for State Investigation Into Shooting of Black Man in Traffic Stop
Read the Article at The Guardian

US Militarization and the "War on Terror" Create a Tinderbox

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appeared in the wake of the murder of Michael Brown?
Read the Article

Sundarbans Oil Spill: An Urgent Wake-Up Call for the Bangladeshi Government

Iara Lee, Truthout: The catastrophic oil spill in Sundarbans tidal mangrove forest has mobilized activists to work even harder to prevent construction of a planned coal plant nearby.
Read the Article

Is Reinvestment a Good Strategy for the Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement?

Carlos Davidson and Cynthia Kaufman, Truthout: Fossil fuel divestment is emerging as a powerful strategy in the fight against climate change. It is crucial that activists focus on the political impact of divestment, and not get distracted by the economics.
Read the Article

Sen. Bernie Sanders | Roads and Bridges Need $1 Trillion. It Is Time to Rebuild the US

Bernie Sanders, Campaign for America's Future: "For many years we have underfunded the maintenance of our nation's physical infrastructure. That has to change. It is time to rebuild America. I will soon be introducing legislation for a $1 trillion investment, over five years, to modernize our country's physical infrastructure."
Read the Article

Dissing DuVernay and the Lessons of *Selma*

Sikivu Hutchinson, The Feminist Wire: The lessons of Selma itself are relevant to DuVernay's "omission" from the Academy Awards nomination for Best Director. True to Frederick Douglass' assertion that "power concedes nothing without demand," the snub of DuVernay is criminal, but of course, not unprecedented.
Read the Article

The 2015 State of the Union Address: A Major Omission

David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation: In President Obama's 2015 State of the Union Address, the only mention of nuclear weapons was in relation to the agreement the Obama administration is seeking to negotiate with Iran.
Read the Article

Do the United States' Hungry Children Matter?

Mariana Chilton, Moyers & Company: This is supposed to be the year when the US ends its child hunger crisis. That was the promise then-president-elect Obama made during his first campaign. At that time some 12.4 million children lived in homes that self-reported as food insecure. Today there are 15.8 million such children.
Read the Article

The 1% Are Bad for Your Health - It's Time to Tax Them More

Kate Pickett, The Conversation: The evidence that large income differences have damaging health and social consequences is very strong, and in many countries inequality is increasing. Narrowing the gap is vital to improve our health and well-being.
Read the Article

"American Propagander": Six Ways Paul Reickhoff's *American Sniper* Column Deeply Bothers This US Veteran

of Violence

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Anti-Muslim Incidents Soar in France

Read the Article at The Local France

King Dies, New Tyrannical Leader for Saudi Arabia

Read the Article at USA TODAY

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Emily Yates, Emily Yates Does Everything: "When I first laid eyes on the guest column Paul Rieckhoff wrote about *American Sniper*, I thought I'd read the byline wrong. This has to have been written by the Department of Defense, I thought."

Read the Article

Richard D. Wolff | Economic Update: Spinning Out of Control

Richard D. Wolff, Truthout: This episode provides updates on Obama's State of the Union speech, the European Central Bank pumping up the money supply to stimulate Europe, forgiving Greece's debts and housing extremes in the US. We also respond to questions on global wealth inequality and Switzerland's currency maneuvers. Finally, we interview Dr. Harriet Fraad on the US economy's disastrous impact on children.

Listen to the Audio Segment

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From: "Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/18/2012 10:58:51 AM
Subject: RE: Clinton Foundation Letter

Will do - I just left a message for Helen Clark's chief of staff. Hard to know if they'll tip off Ira but I'll try to do it delicately. Sincerely, Ami

-----Original Message-----
From: Bruce Lindsey
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 2:28 PM
To: Amitabh Desai; john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC
Subject: Re: Clinton Foundation Letter

I agree with your unhappiness, but not your approach. I think you should talk with someone at UNDP and try to find out how much they have committed and if it is a grant or matching funds, what the scope of the project is, what the deliverables are, etc. Or you can wait and try to get those details from Darien.

The problem is that President Clinton apparently told Ira he supported this in concept. With Ira, if you give him an inch he will take a mile.

Bruce

----- Original Message -----
From: Amitabh Desai
To: Bruce Lindsey; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC
Sent: Wed Apr 18 12:47:19 2012
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

In reading the attached letter from the Barbados PM, I'm a bit inclined to recommend WJC writing back and delicately saying something like: this is an issue of shared importance and I'd like to be helpful but am not sure yet exactly what a project could or should look like (and how much it would cost and over what timeline, with what specific deliverables) and I therefore would welcome input from you (the PM) and other leaders in the region before this is discussed publicly, and I'd like you to speak with my staff (listing us and not Ira).

And/or we can call the UN Secretary General's folks and say their UNDP/energy folks should deal with us and not Ira.

The above seems like a nuclear option but at this point unless we do something, it seems like Ira is going to proceed on something that we don't really have a handle on, and it could be good, but on the other hand - and given precedence with CHAI and CCI - it could spend (a lot of) money without us knowing specifically what WJC and the world will get in terms of results (on a timeline) and/or us being able to control how WJC's name / legacy are being impacted / used in relation to this project.

Maybe I am being petty but just wanted to raise this option with you, and I'm happy to proceed as you wish. Tackling islands is something we all believe in but it's hard to know what Ira's plan is and hard to trust it since we seem to learn of things after the fact, as evidenced by us learning of this "launch" via the email below today. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ira Magaziner
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:29 AM
To: Terry Krinvic
Cc: Amitabh Desai
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

Terry:

Attached is a letter that will come to President Clinton from the Prime Minister of Barbados inviting him to speak

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on May 8 at a high level conference of energy Ministers from all of the Island nations in the world. The conference is being sponsored by UNDP and we will be participating. I will be there.

UNDP is providing funds to the Clinton Foundation for our work on clean energy and we will be launching our work at this conference.

Obviously, if President Clinton can speak, that would be great. If he cannot attend but could provide a video, that would also be very helpful.

I am sorry for the short notice, but the conference has come together rather quickly.

Thanks

Ira

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 11/19/2015 7:04:49 AM
Subject: Re: Remarks on ISIS

I'm glad you're bumping that up a bit. You cover regional responsibility, but this is a big flash point for voters.

From: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 8:14 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >, Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: Remarks on ISIS

We can throw some more shade at the Arabs, though. Dan and I have an idea.

From:speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com [mailto:speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com] **On Behalf Of** Joel Benenson
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 8:00 AM
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >; Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: Remarks on ISIS

I thought there is a fair amount in the fist of her three action points focused on what other countries have to do. And there is a sound bite on it in that section as well

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 19, 2015, at 1:42 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> I am clearly not a ISIS policy guy so take my comments with a grain of salt but what I thought was missing from a layman's perspective was a strong call for Middle Eastern countries to join the fight with an immediate commitment of money and ground troops (all I saw was Jordan mentioned). We have "work with our Arab partners" but I think this speech should lay out a list of countries that should be supplying troops, planes, equipment, training, intelligence and money. Call them out and call them out big. That is where the American people are. They are frustrated that this is a Middle Eastern problem being fought by America and Europe. We spent $500 million training Syrian rebels and got nothing and we defended Iraq for a decade and trained their army to see them all defect. Re-asserting the need for just training and the Suni's to rejoin the fight is not enough. She needs to outline exactly who in the Middle East should be on the battlefield with us. That is missing. She needs to call them out.
>
> The speech mentions new "no fly zones" in Syria. How does that square with Russia's current bombing campaign? Shouldn't she call out the Russians for making the situation worse? They would make her appear strong. Take on Putin here. There is language about "ending Assad's rule" which seems to defy political reality. Why go there? It is not going to happen in the algebra of defeating ISIS so why don't we stick to the task at hand.
>
> On Syrian refugees, is it enough to call just for vigilant screening? Shouldn't we call for a thorough review of how we screen to make sure the procedures are actually up to snuff? I think both the CIA/FBI heads have testified and acknowledged that our screening may not deter terrorists. And I don't think the american people feel like the screening process is adequate.
>
> All in all I worry that if we don't really call out specifically by name the Middle Eastern countries that need to join the fight in a significant way that there will not seem like much new here. This seems ore like a review of the diagnosis, a stroll down memory lane and a call for more bombing and intelligence gathering.
>
> **John Anzalone**
> *Partner*
> Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> (o) 334.387.3121

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Website | Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

From: <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com > on behalf of Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 2:53 AM
To: Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >, Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Remarks on ISIS

I wanted to be sure everyone got this latest draft of our ISIS speech. I think HRC will make edits in the morning, but this is where we stand now. Please let me know by 9am if you have any major concerns.
Thanks
Dan

This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this email or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/15/2015 12:40:19 PM
Subject: WSJ: Clinton Foundation to Keep Foreign Donors

Clinton Foundation to Keep Foreign Donors

ByJames V. Grimaldi

April 15, 2015 7:29 p.m. ET

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-foundation-to-keep-foreign-donors-1429140593

The board of the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation has decided to continue accepting donations from foreign governments, primarily from six countries, even though Hillary Clinton is running for president, a summary of the new policy to be released Thursday shows.

The rules would permit donations from Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the U.K.—countries that support or have supported Clinton Foundation programs on health, poverty and climate change, according to the summary.

That means other nations would be prohibited from making large donations to the foundation. But those governments would be allowed to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative, a subsidiary of the foundation where companies, nonprofit groups and government officials work on solutions to global problems.

Ministers from any government would be allowed to attend meetings and appear on panels at the group's meetings and their governments would be allowed to pay attendance fees of $20,000.

The new policy, which was designed to address growing concern that the donations would present a conflict of interest for a Hillary Clinton presidency, all but ensures that Mrs. Clinton's links to the charity will be a feature of the emerging presidential campaign.

The campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Last month, when asked about foreign contributions, Mrs. Clinton said she was "very proud of the work the foundation does" and noted that there are "hundreds of thousands of people who support the work of the foundation."

The limits are meant to strike a balance between protecting existing programs while shielding the foundation and Mrs. Clinton from charges that foreign governments are buying influence through their donations, a person familiar with the foundation's deliberations said. The foundation will begin to release donor names quarterly starting in July. Previously the names were released annually.

"By implementing this new, even stronger and more transparent policy, the Clinton Foundation is reinforcing its commitment to accountability while protecting programs that are improving the lives of millions of people around the world," said Craig Minassian, spokesman for the Clinton Foundation.

As a direct result of the restrictions, officials will stop holding events around the world, beyond an event planned for Morocco in early May, which was considered too close to cancel. That event, the

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Clinton Global Initiative Middle East & Africa conference in Marrakesh, has been funded in part by a $1 million gift from a Moroccan-government owned phosphate-export company, OCP. A Clinton Global Initiative-Mediterranean meeting focused on the economy and scheduled for June in Athens is being canceled.

The six countries on the approved donor list are less controversial and politically sensitive than some who gave in 2014, such as Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Still, even the allowed countries would pose issues for a Hillary Clinton administration. Canada's Foreign Department has made Clinton Foundation donations and is also leading the charge to win approval for the Keystone XL pipeline. Germany and the U.K. are two of the five countries, including the U.S., that drafted an antinuclear accord with Iran. The U.S. and Germany also differ on how best to respond to Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

The foundation plan will likely renew the foreign-gift controversy just as Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign launched this week. Earlier this year, Mrs. Clinton came under fire from both Democrats and Republicans when The Wall Street Journal reported that foreign donations to the foundation had resumed last year after a virtual halt when she served as secretary of state from 2009-13.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said the new policy comes weeks after the Clinton Health Access Initiative, a charity affiliated with the Clinton Foundation, didn't disclose millions of dollars in donations from countries including Australia, Canada, Ireland, Norway and the U.K. "The Clinton Foundation receiving foreign government funding as Hillary Clinton campaigns to be president should set off alarm bells," Mr. Priebus said. "The fact that the Clinton Foundation previously failed to disclose foreign government donations should cast even greater doubt on any new policy."

The new rules for the Clinton Health Access Initiative, an affiliated but separate charity, were expected to be somewhat less restrictive than the new Clinton Foundation rules, and hadn't been completed on Wednesday. Officials said the missing disclosure was an oversight.

Ethics experts had recommended the foundation forego all foreign donations. Robert Walker, the former nonpartisan chief counsel and staff director of the Senate and House ethics committees, said the foundation likely will need to go further than its current plan.

"The only effective step would be for the foundation to cease accepting donations from foreign governments," Mr. Walker said. "It is inevitable that the foundation will, sooner rather than later, decide to forego accepting donations from foreign governments, except for those pledges already on approved multiyear cycles."

Under the new rules, approved countries would be allowed to renew multiyear pledges, or make additional contributions to new programs, an official said. Such funding would support economic development or climate-focused work of the Clinton Climate Initiative, the Clinton Development Initiative, which focuses on Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania, and the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership.

One example is a $12 million, three-year contract the Australian Department of Environment has with the Clinton Climate Initiative to create a system to monitor emissions in Kenya. The Australian

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pledge began in 2013 and continues until next year.

The Obama administration in 2009 wanted to avoid conflicts of interest with former President Bill Clinton raising money from foreign governments that also would be working with Mrs. Clinton as secretary of state. At the time, the Clinton Foundation agreed to stop raising new money from foreign governments, with a few exceptions for multiyear pledges for health and other initiatives.

Under the agreement with the Obama transition office, the Clinton Foundation agreed to separate the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative and to begin disclosing all donors to the foundation. The two groups won't be divided under the new policy.

The terms also spelled out that Mr. Clinton wouldn't solicit funds for CGI and wouldn't send letters seeking contributions from potential CGI sponsors. Pledges and donations from foreign governments and government-owned companies were to be presented to the State Department for review by an ethics officer.

Documents released publicly so far under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch show that the ethics officer wasn't asked to approve any new foreign donations beyond continuing pledges. The State ethics reviews are still being released.

Write to James V. Grimaldi at james.grimaldi@wsj.com

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Peter Brodnitz" <pbrodnitz@bsgco.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jeff Liszt" <jeff@algpolling.com>
Date: 2/5/2015 1:20:32 PM
Subject: Re: Bush Detroit Econ speech

Agree – the test will be when he gets to offering solutions. That's where he will probably be on weaker ground.

From: Mandy Grunwald <GrunCom@aol.com >
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 2:36 PM
To: Jeff Liszt <jeff@algpolling.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, Peter Brodnitz <pbrodnitz@bsgco.com >, "Robby Mook (robbymook2015@gmail.com)" <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Anson Kaye <anson.kaye@gmmb.com >, John Rimel <john.rimel@gmmb.com >
Subject: Re: Bush Detroit Econ speech

Very little in this speech that HRC wouldn't say....

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Feb 5, 2015, at 2:33 PM, Jeff Liszt <jeff@algpolling.com > wrote:

> It's a scary new wrapping paper for trickle down. Very much in synch with what we're hearing in groups.
>
> Then again maybe not so new:
>
> "We will extend the promise of prosperity to every forgotten corner of this country. To every man and woman, a chance to succeed. To every child, a chance to learn. To every family, a chance to live with dignity and hope." --GWB
>
> _____
> Jeffrey LISZT
> Anzalone Liszt Grove
> 928 Broadway #405
> New York, NY 10010
> www.algpolling.com
> +1 (646) 368 1947
> Skype: jbliszt
> Twitter: @anzaloneliszt @psephologist

From: Margolis, Jim [Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; Jeff Liszt; Peter Brodnitz; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Dan Schwerin; Nick Merrill; Huma Abedin; Cheryl Mills; Philippe Reines
Cc: Anson Kaye; John Rimel; Jim Margolis
Subject: Bush Detroit Econ speech

If you haven't read Jeb's Detroit speech, take a look.
He's in a fertile zone, GOP primary electorate notwithstanding.

For those of you who've had to put up with my interest exploring 'opportunity' framing, he has some of the elements here.

Here's the full text of Jeb Bush's "right to rise" speech in Detroit

Updated by Vox Staff on February 5, 2015, 9:20 a.m. ET

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Bill Pugliano/Getty Images
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Thank you. I am delighted to be here. You are part of a great story - the revival of a city that means so much to all Americans. In these past few years, when confronted with grave challenges, you have seized the opportunity to reform the city you love.

And you have begun to repair the damage done by decades of mismanagement and empty promises.

I want to congratulate Governor Rick Snyder for his leadership. I want to acknowledge Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, and Attorney General Bill Schuette. And Mayor Mike Duggan for his determination to serve the city of his birth.

I want to recognize as well the hard work of Kevyn Orr, who I am proud to say is a son of Florida.

And finally, I want to recognize all those who were involved in making difficult and often painful decisions. Your work is not complete. But your efforts have captured the attention of our nation. Because across the U.S., we are asking ourselves the same questions:

How do we recapture the prosperity and opportunity that once defined cities like Detroit?

How do we restore America's faith in the moral promise of our great nation that any child born today can reach further than their parents?

This is an urgent issue: Far too many Americans live on the edge of economic ruin.And many more feel like they're struck in place, working longer and harder, even as they're losing ground.

Tens of millions of Americans no longer see a clear path to rise above their challenges. Something is holding them back. Not a lack of ambition. Not a lack of hope. Not because they are lazy or see themselves as victims.

Something else. Something is an artificial weight on their shoulders.

Today and in the coming weeks, I will address this critical issue.

And I will offer a new vision. A plan of action that is different than what we have been hearing in

Washington D.C. It is a vision rooted in conservative principles and tethered to our shared belief in opportunity and the unknown possibilities of a nation given the freedom to act, to create, to dream and to rise.

We see that belief every day in action.

In oil and gas fields once given up for dry we are now assuring America's energy security. In hospitals, we are extending life and beating back once untreatable diseases. In charter schools, we are connecting students to their potential. In labs and hacker spaces, invention comes from every corner of society and the world still comes to America to learn how to create and innovate.

People know this country can be more than it is today. And that each one of us can, and must, be a part of it.

But they know this as well: We have a lot of work to do.

Today, Americans across the country are frustrated. They see only a small portion of the population riding the economy's up escalator... It's true enough that we've seen some recent and welcome good news on the economy.

But it's very little, and it's come very late.

Six years after the recession ended, median incomes are down, households are, on average, poorer ... and millions of people have given up looking for a job altogether. Roughly two out of three American households live paycheck to paycheck. Any unexpected expense can push them into financial ruin. We have a record number of Americans on food stamps and living in poverty.

The recovery has been everywhere but in the family paychecks. The American Dream has become a mirage for far too many. So the central question we face here in Detroit and across America is this: Can we restore that dream -- that moral promise -- that each generation can do better?

If we can't answer that question, no tax, no new welfare program, will save our system or our way of life. Because America's moral promise isn't broken when someone is wealthy. It's broken when achieving success is far beyond our imagination.

America is a place where, as Lincoln dreamed, any person may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year...and the next, work for himself... and finally, to hire men to work for him!

America, though discouraged, has not given up on the dream of Lincoln.

The dream of Lincoln is alive at 5 a.m. at a bus depot in a distant suburb or in an inner city as workers get to jobs in hotels and restaurants and hospitals. The dream is alive in the breath of a construction worker running cable under a city street in the bitter night air.

The dream is alive in the college student driving an Uber car part-time to graduate debt-free.

Lincoln's dream is alive every day nand at every moment when people choose to buy a home, start a business, enroll in school, save for the future. They know such commitments aren't easy and don't pay off right away. But they're worth doing. If Americans are working harder than ever earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong - or they should step aside.

Let's ask how we got to this point. Let's start in Detroit.

Because in a sense, the troubles Detroit faces are an echo of the troubles facing Washington, D.C.

Decades of big government policies, petty politics, impossible-to-meet pension promises, chronic mismanagement and broken services — combined with a massive loss of jobs and competitiveness in the auto industry — drove tens of thousands of people from this city and this region.

For example: Detroit under the previous administration was so proud of shutting down businesses that hadn't paid their licenses and fees, they bragged about it in press releases. The city threatened nearly 900 businesses with closure and followed through on nearly 400 businesses, shutting them down.

Many of these were small businesses run out of homes and alley-facing garages, run by people who just wanted to take that first step up the economic ladder.

One of those business owners, Derek Little, had a simple way to describe his frustration: I'm running a legit business... They could be doing something better.

And while the city was shutting down people who were trying to build a business ...it couldn't even do its job correctly: The city was losing money writing parking tickets.

Of course, on Amtrak they lose money on the snack car. They literally have a captive audience.

But government inefficiency isn't just irritating. It's instructive. If the government can't collect parking fines, or sell snacks on a train, why would government know how to enable every citizen to move up in life?

That's why I launched the Right to Rise PAC. So that someone would speak for people who don't want to wait for the government to deliver prosperity. They want to earn it themselves. Government isn't the only issue here. There is far more at work. But in a sense, fixing government policy is the easiest problem to solve. And it's the one most responsive to the demands of voters.

So, I am getting involved in politics again, because that's where the work has to begin. The opportunity gap is the defining issue of our time.

More Americans are stuck at their income levels than ever before. It's very hard for people to go from the bottom rungs of the economy to the top. Or even to the middle.

This should alarm you. It alarmed me. The problem starts when we fear the one thing that can help unlock the economic status quo: The freedom to compete and work as a team to build great things.

Competition is messy. But it's essential. We've all seen the battles: The taxicab companies fight against web-enabled car services. The restaurants fight against the food trucks. The brick-and-mortar retailers fight against the Internet companies.

I'm not here to take sides. And I don't think government should either. Because when government protects one business against another, or tilts the field of competition, there is a clear loser: Anyone who wants to create something as a team. Anyone who wants to innovate and shake things up. Anyone who wants more choices and better service. And we know that in the end, standing against competition and dynamism is a losing battle.

In 1955, 60 years ago, the Fortune 500 list first appeared. Of the companies on that list, fully 88% don't even exist today or have fallen away. Today's Fortune 500 will be replaced by new companies that are just starting today.

This is hard for some people to accept. Because entrenched interests do not like giving up what they have. That's why they fear small competitors who have nothing to lose. You know the stories: The president of Michigan Savings Bank imparted some wisdom to the young lawyer for a small start-up company: The horse, the bank president said,'is here to stay, but the automobile is only a fad.'

The small start-up that lawyer represented... was the Ford Motor Company.We can laugh about it now because Ford and the other innovators of Detroit had the economic freedom to compete and to prove the doubters wrong.

Our nation has always valued such economic freedom because in economic freedom, each citizen has the power to propel themselves forward and upward.

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This really isn't understood in Washington D.C. And you can see why: It's a company town.

And the company is government. It's all they know.

For several years now, they have been recklessly degrading the value of work, the incentive to work, and the rewards of work.

We have seen them cut the definition of a full-time job from 40 to 30 hours, slashing the ability of paycheck earners to make ends meet. We have seen them create welfare programs and tax rules that punish people with lost benefits and higher taxes for moving up those first few rungs of the economic ladder.

Instead of a safety net to cushion our occasional falls, they have built a spider web that traps people in perpetual dependence. We have seen them waive the rules that helped so many people escape welfare.

The progressive and liberal mindset believes that to every problem there is a Washington D.C. solution. But that instinct doesn't solve any problem, other than the problem of how to keep

Washington's regional economy well-lubricated.

And the cost is enormous!

Let's say you're a hard-working middle-class family. You work hard. You pay your mortgage on time. As President Obama likes to say: You play by the rules.

But for President Obama, one of the rules is this: He reserves the right to change the rules.

Just last month, he thought it was a good idea to tax 529 college savings plans. Remember: 529s were created to be tax-free ways to save for college. Millions of people started them for their kids and grandkids. So it's no surprise people hated the president's idea. And he dropped it. But it was an instructive lesson in the liberal and progressive mindset. Saving for college is the responsible thing to do. But instead of embracing 529s, the liberals moved to tax them.

It's frustrating. But it shows you how they think.

And if you want to know how they act, ask Sharon DeLay. Sharon founded a recruiting company in Westerville, Ohio. Here's what she said: It's as if the politicians and regulators in Washington want me to fail - and spend all their time thinking up new ways to ensure that I do ...You either want me to be the engine of the economy or you don't!

Here's a message for Sharon and millions like her: There's a better way.Let'sine this path first by the core principles of a Right to Rise society because once we do that, the policies, the laws and the way forward will be much clearer.

Let's start with the first principle: When it comes to ensuring opportunity and a chance at success, the most important factor isn't government. It's a committed family.

Social scientists across the ideological spectrum agree on this: If you want to predict whether someone will graduate from school, go to college and move forward in life, just find out one thing: Were they raised in a loving household by two parents? If you didn't, you can overcome it, but it's very hard. If you did, you have a built-in advantage in life.

The evidence is overwhelming. Every child has a greater chance at opportunity when they are raised by loving, caring and supportive parents and a committed family. That isn't the work of government. But it's critical that governmental leaders recognize that and support it.

A second principle: Growth above all. A growing economy, whether here in Detroit or throughout this country is the difference between poverty and prosperity for millions. If you want to close the opportunity gap, grow the economy. This is a principle that concentrates the mind.

If a law or a rule doesn't contribute to growth, why do it? If a law subtracts from growth, why are we discussing it? And for what it's worth, I don't think the US should settle for anything less than 4% growth a year — which is about twice our current average. At that rate, the middle class will thrive again.

And in the coming months, I intend to detail how we can get there, with a mix of smart policies and reforms to tap our resources and capacity to innovate, whether in energy, manufacturing, health care or technology.

Third: The right to rise depends on a government that makes it easier to work than not work.

That means fewer laws restricting the labor market and reducing the penalties that come with moving up from the lowest rungs of the ladder.

Fourth: To address the income gap, let's close the opportunity gap, and that starts with doing everything we can to give every child, from every neighborhood, a great education. This won't happen overnight — trust me, I know. But I also know it works. And it takes every tool we have.

Accountability for teachers and school administrators, assessment of student learning, high standards, and choices. These key elements of school reform work and we have the results to prove it.

Finally, let's embrace reform everywhere, especially in our government. Let's start with the simple principle of who holds the power. I say give Washington less and give states and local governments more.

We make multi-billion dollar infrastructure decisions based on a labor law written in 1921. President Obama proposes making rules on the Internet using laws written in the 1930s. We regulate global airlines using laws written for railroads. Our immigration laws were written a half-century ago.

Governmental policy seems frozen, incapable and fearful of change. It is in the way. And we deserve better than this.

If we don't transform ourselves to meet new challenges and seize new opportunities, we know what happens next. Look around this city. In its history there is a warning to all of us.

A century ago, Detroit was America's great innovation hub. The Silicon Valley of its age.

It was bigger than Chicago. It was the nation's wealthiest city in 1960.

Detroit put the world on wheels and created the jobs that lifted millions of Americans into the middle class.

This city was the arsenal of Democracy and delivered the arms needed to defend freedom across two oceans.

Detroit promised prosperity and it delivered.

Sons of sharecroppers coming up from the South, farmhands from the Upper Midwest, immigrants who spoke Polish, Yiddish, Greek and Arabic.

Their children settled. They prospered. And some of their grandchildren are in this room today.

And now, you are rebuilding this city. I know you will be that great city again. Because Americans by nature work and strive to succeed.

It is already happening.

In the Madison Building, not far from here, new companies are rising. One of them, iRule, is led by two young men, one born in Russia, the other in Israel. They left secure jobs as automotive engineers to start their business in 2009. At the very bottom of the recession. Here's what one of them, Itai ben Gal said: 'We know Detroit has its baggage, but we believe we're part of the solution.'

Three years later, they have 21 employees, including Itai's father, who is the CFO.

And this activity is happening downtown, in an area once ignored.

Another Detroit entrepreneur grew up in the suburbs. He rarely came downtown as a child. But today, he works here. He lives here. This is what he said: 'We see the city for what it can be... not for what it was.'

That's how we should see everything. Not just Detroit.But in all of America.

I know some in the media think conservatives don't care about the cities.

But they are wrong. We believe that every American and in every community has a right to pursue happiness. They have a right to rise.

So I say: Let's go where our ideas can matter most. Where the failures of liberal government are most obvious. Let's deliver real conservative success.

And you know what will happen?

We'll create a whole lot of new conservatives.

I know, because I've lived it.

I come from Miami, another city that faced the same struggles as Detroit.

In my city, the schools were failing, opportunity was scarce and for too many, simply being born in the wrong neighborhood meant the American Dream was cruelly out of reach.

I joined with my friend, Willard Fair, a courageous leader in the civil rights movement.

We decided that the right to rise, was also a civil right. So we went to work to change education in Florida.

While there's much more to do, we saw lives changed and hope restored.

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You can do it, here in Detroit. We can do it, across America.

Because this morning, 320 million Americans got up ... and they are on 320 million different paths of life.

It's our goal to see them succeed.

And it's our responsibility to do everything possible to help them.

Because by their success, they will not only build prosperity for themselves. They will renew the promise of this nation when everyone, has the right to rise.

Those are the stakes. That's why we're here. Please join me in this great cause.

Thank you and may God bless you, and may God bless America.

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From: john.podesta@gmail.com
To: "Denis Mcdonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
"James B. Steinberg" <djsberg@gmail.com>
"Mark Lippert" <mlippert@barackobama.com>
Date: 10/23/2008 10:50:56 AM
Subject: Re: Dennis Ross

Do you know content? If inconsistent with BO positions we should ask for a different byline. He has plenty of other things he can put behind his name. If it sounds like what you would say if asked, let it go.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: "Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2008 08:39:00 -0500
To: James B. Steinberg<djsberg@gmail.com>; John Podesta<john.podesta@gmail.com>; Mark Lippert<mlippert@barackobama.com>
Subject: Dennis Ross

Fellas –

Dennis was asked to write an article about transition for Sunday's Outlook, and he did it. He says that he argues that this transition cannot be "business as usual" and there cannot be a lull in efforts to stop Iran's nuclear program.

He is identified in the byline as someone who gives advice to BO.

I would have preferred Dennis not write this or at least not be publicly identified as one of our advisers, but we are where we are. If you all have serious heartburn, please let me know and I will go back at Dennis.

Thanks,
DM

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 4:17:36 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 5/1

Great- will wait to send these until the reaction to Mosby announcement subsides. Twitter is on fire with the story right now.

On Fri, May 1, 2015 at 11:11 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Ok
>
> On May 1, 2015 7:25 AM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> *Note: my new goal is to send a second round of Tweets in the PM to respond to campaign developments throughout the day.*
>
> **TWEETS 5/1**
>
> New study: ice-loss in Antarctica increased 6 bil tons/year each year from 2003 to 2014. Cap melting faster than ever. tp://bit.ly/1JegM3y (140)
>
> If you can't keep track of Schweizer's fabrications, distortions in "Clinton Cash" @MediaMatters can help: http://bit.ly/1GCbj3A (137)
>
> **RETWEETS 5/1**
>
> *Suggestion from KLC:*
>
>
>
>
> --
> Milia Fisher
> Special Assistant to the Chair
> Hillary for America
> mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
> o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 7/8/2008 7:49:55 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/08/08

Main Topics: Maliki's Proposal for Troop Withdrawal, McCain on Immigration, Economy, Iran, Earmarks

Summary of Shift: It was a busy day for McCain today, as there was a major push by both McCain and his surrogates talking about his economic and immigration policies. In his interviews McCain addressed such issues as his plan to balance the budget by 2013, the Nogales earmarks, social security changes, offshore drilling, the gas tax holiday, the war in Iraq, Maliki's proposal for troop withdrawal, Clinton's POW remarks, his staff shakeups, Israel's offensive against Iran, Iran's nuclear weapon ambitions, immigration, and border security. Other McCain coverage focused around Clinton's comments on his POW status and how POW's can go insane and get angry sometimes, McCain's poor speaking skills and teleprompter use, and his campaign disarray over the staff shakeups. Non-McCain headlines focused on the California wildfires, Alex Rodriguez's and Cristy Brinkley's divorces, Bush's G8 Summit visit, and summer travel pains.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: McCain Talks Recession, Maliki's Request for Troop Withdrawal, War with Iran, Economy, and Balancing the Budget
2. CNN: Testy exchange between McCain and Roberts regarding a Balance Budget and Nogales Earmark
3. FNC: McCain Downplays Staff Shake Up, Attacks Obama on Taxes, Iraq
4. MSNBC: McCain Campaign Shake-up Disarray Examined
5. MSNBC: McCain's Poor Teleprompter Use and Speaking Ability Criticized
6. MSNBC: McCain's Changing Positions on Immigration and Border Security Scrutinized
7. CNN: Yellin Describes McCain's Replacement of the Maverick Brand with that of a GWB Republican
8. FNC: VFF Chairman defends "issue advocacy ads," effects of 527's are pondered
9. Local DC-4-NBC: Local News Highlights McCain's Economic Plans as Same As Bush
10. NBC: The Today Show Discusses McCain's Economic Plan Differences From Obama
11. ABC: 5 minute Fluff Story on Cindy McCain's Life (No Clip)

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Talks Recession, Maliki's Request for Troop Withdrawal, War with Iran, Economy, and Balancing the Budget
(MSNBC, 07/08/08, 8:37am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Let's bring it right now to republican presumptive nominee Senator John McCain. Senator, thanks for being with us. […] I must say that we saw your town hall meeting yesterday and there is a woman in the crowd there that sounded a good bit, like my mother. Let's take a listen.

[Video of lady ranting about taxes]

SCARBOROUGH: Senator, how much did you pay her?

JOHN MCCAIN: Did you see the crowd reaction to her? […] But she's right. Americans don't want their taxes increased. They want their taxes kept low and they want us to stop the out of control spending. They want an energy policy that works and I hope that Mr. Pickens, will examine my energy policy because what was just said was basically what I've been saying as well. And the town hall meetings are the best part of the campaigning and I love every minute of them.

SCARBOROUGH: You know, yesterday, you have this lady talking to you, sounded a lot like a libertarian. Speaking of libertarians, Bob Barr is jumping in the race now. Some polls are showing that he's taking 5, 6, 7 percentage points away from you in states. What would you say to Bob Barr about splitting the conservative/libertarian vote?

MCCAIN: Well, welcome, I look forward to his campaign.

SCARBOROUGH: I don't know if I'd say welcome, he's taking points from you.

MCCAIN: Come on in the race, it's fine. I'm confident that at the end of the day that the republicans and democrats and independence and libertarians and vegetarians will vote for me. I got a lot of work to do. I'm the underdog and we are going to go across the country doing the kind of things you watched yesterday. And I'm confident we are going to win. But I have

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no illusions about the size of the challenge we face, and that's why I'm working so hard.

SCARBOROUGH: Senator, CNN had a poll come out yesterday asking Americans whether they thought we were in a recession or not. 75% of Americans said that we were. 25% said we were not. Do you believe that America is in a recession right now?

MCCAIN: I would imagine that technically there is some question amongst economists about that but the fact is Americans are hurting, they are hurting badly. You know because I've seen you talk about it, Joe and Pat and Andrea, that 80 some percent of the American people think the country is on the wrong rack. Approval ratings of congress, I saw one poll, 12 percent, the lowest in 40 years they've been taking these polls. And meanwhile, what's the answer? Go out on Fourth of July recess without passing a housing bill. I mean, look, Americans are fed up, and I understand it. **And, so, if we are technically in a recession or not, I would imagine that we are**, but the major thing is Americans are hurting and Americans don't like it and they think the country is in the wrong direction.

ANDREA MITCHELL: Senator, yesterday you presented your economic plan and in your written plan, you proposed balancing the budget by 2013, the end of your first term and in you also talk about privatizing social security, making another run at that. In your actual speech, you didn't mention balancing the budget. **Critics have said you didn't propose any way to balance the budget to get from here to there.**

MCCAIN: Oh, I sure do, Andrea, I propose a very strong restraint of spending. We are going to keep taxes low. We are going to create jobs all over America through green technology and nuclear power plants, and clean coal technology.

MITCHELL: **And you think you can really balance the budget by 2013?**

MCCAIN: Of course we can. I believe in America. I believe in entrepreneurship. I believe in innovation. I believe in keeping taxes low. I believe in investment, and I believe in America and I know we can do it. But we have to restrain spending. Look, it's not taxes, it's spending. Spending got completely out of control. We increased the size of government by some 40 percent. I fought against that tooth and nail. Earmarking and pork barrel spending became an epidemic, and it bred corruption. So of course we can. Of course we can. America's best days are ahead of us, not behind us.

PAT BUCHANAN: Senator, Admiral Mullins, the chairman of the joint chiefs came back from Israel saying a third front in the middle east, in other words, a war with Iran would be extremely stressful for U.S. forces. And the American class carrier has moved out of the gulf. However, the Israelis have clearly planned, they had a simulated run, 100 planes flying towards Greece. **What is your position with regard to Israel unilaterally striking the nuclear plants in Iran because they seem far more concerned that the Iranian's are closer to a nuclear weapon than we do?**

MCCAIN: Well, Israeli's are concerned. We are concerned. Our European friends are concerned. Sarkozy has been, President Sarkozy of France has been very outspoken on this as long, along with others. We need to impose the most rigorous sanctions on Iran and try to improve their behavior. I don't know, I keep reading and hearing in the public media of these different situations or contingencies. Look, I know that the Israelis are facing a nation that says they are dedicated to quote, wiping them off of map. I understand that they could view that as a serious threat. I believe we could modify Iranian behavior. I believe we can put the breaks on their obvious movement towards acquisition of nuclear weapons, which would destabilize the entire Middle East. Wouldn't just affect Israel, it would effect the entire Middle East. **But I also have to tell you that all of us, all of us American's are committed to never seeing a second holocaust.**

BUCHANAN: Senator, let me follow up. What is your attitude about, and **suppose the Israelis say look, we can't wait, we have got to strike. That would of course start a war in which the United States might have to end. What should the United States say to the Israelis? You have a yellow light to go ahead? You have a green light. Or don't do this because this will start a third war, which we are not prepared to fight. What would you say to the Israelis?**

MCCAIN: I can't deal in those kinds of hypotheticals. I don't know what the Israeli plans are, I don't know what the situation is as far as what they plan on doing. I can assure the Israelis and the world that we will join together and impose the most stringent sanctions that we possibly can on Iran. **And to do everything we can to dissuade them from the path that they are embarked on.** So I can't, I can't answer to you hypotheticals that I have no details of nor heard anything about to tell you the truth.

SCARBOROUGH: come on, senator, we hear that all the time. We deal with hypotheticals. I'm joking. Andrea has a question though about the stories that are on the newspaper today.

MITCHELL: Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki raising the idea for the first time ever of an American withdrawal, a

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timetable for withdrawal as part of his new agreement that is being negotiated to extend the U.S. commitment once the U.N. mandate ends. What about the Iraqi's now talking about the very kind of set time for withdrawal that you have suggested in this political campaign is not a good idea?

MCCAIN: the Iraqi's have made it very clear, including the meetings I had with the president and foreign minister of Iraq that it is based on conditions on ground. That's what I've always said. I've always said we will come home with honor and with victory and not through a set timetable. The same media outlets by the way were saying two weeks ago that Maliki said there would be no status of forces agreement. Look, he is a politician. He is a leader of a country that is finally coming together. The fact is that we and the Iraqis will deal in what is in the national security interests of both countries. And there is though no reason to assume that the Iraqis aren't going to act in what they perceive is their national interest. I believe we will enact in ours and I believe we will come home. We will withdraw. But the fragile, the victory that we have achieved so far is fragile and has to be dictated by events and the situation on the ground. Al-Qaeda's is back on their heels, they're not defeated.

SCARBOROUGH: You know Senator, before we go, the "New York Times" talking about Barack Obama's plan. He is going to be a rock star in Denver. 75,000 people. Willie and I think you should put us in charge of how you combat this. We were thinking maybe you'd dress in an Elvis uniform. You got one of those rocket-propelled backpacks; you have to do something dramatic to counteract this, right?

MCCAIN: well, I think, maybe, you remember it was the fall, Ali, I've forgotten the fight that, Evander Holyfield. No Evander Holyfield, where the guy, yeah, Tyson/Holyfield where the guy parachuted in. and hit the ring ropes. I just thought of that, maybe I could do that only not hit the ropes, just land and do that. Listen, I'm sure that senator Obama will give a great speech. He's a great, he's very eloquent and he's motivated many, many millions of people. I respect him and admire him. There are just stark differences and I think the American people will make a judgment at the end of the day on who is best to keep America prosperous and safe. And I think I can prevail there.

SCARBOROUGH: Willie, sounds like we may be out of a job before it started. Good idea while it lasted.

Highlight #2

Testy exchange between McCain and Roberts regarding a Balance Budget and Nogales Earmark (CNN 07/08/08 8:11am)

JOHN ROBERTS: **Senator McCain says he wants to balance the budget by the year 2013. With President Bush's tax cuts and McCain's proposed cuts is a balanced budget even possible?** Senator McCain is here now to answer those questions...

ROBERTS: So I checked with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities a non-partisan organization yesterday. They project **that by extending the President's tax cuts which you want to do, and adding in the tax cuts you are proposing the deficit for the year 2013 would be somewhere around 439 to 445 billion dollars**. So I think it is a fair question to ask how would you get that number down to zero?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, first **I suggest you check in with other organizations** but the fact is that there is a whole lot of economist including Nobel laureates that agree with my plan we are going to restrain spending we are going to have the economy grow again, increase revenues**. Its not the problem, the problem is that spending got completely out of control we grew government by some 40 percent since the great society the spending got out of control. We restrain spending, we keep peoples taxes low we create jobs**. 700,000 jobs by building new nuclear power plants. 20,000 new jobs by coal gasification so that we have clean coal technologies. New automotive technologies, and we will balance the budget. The same outfit said that we could never balance the budget in the past, we certainly have. It is spending that is out of control, my friend.

ROBERTS: **Actually, I also checked with the congressional budget office**

MCCAIN: **Oh good**

ROBERTS: **and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities numbers were more conservative,** they were lower then the CBO's numbers, CBO's numbers are higher. but the number

MCCAIN: Again, again they are static numbers. Not saying that revenues will increase with a strong economy and with low taxes. That is the difference. I respectfully disagree.

ROBERTS: **Senator you can't get over the fact that extending the Bush tax cuts you want to do and adding in your tax cuts do take the deficit number, well actually you go from a 70 billion dollar surplus to 445 billion dollar deficit**

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so it is those tax cuts.

JOHN MCCAIN: **You can't seem to get over the fact that it is spending that is out of control and you restrain spending and also you can't get over the fact that historically when you raise peoples taxes guess what revenues go down**. Every time we have cut capitol gains taxes there has been an increase in revenues. So I am glad to have this discussion with you and obviously you disagree but the facts are that when you keep taxes low when you restrain spending as we did in 1982 when Ronald Reagan came to office then the economy grows. **We have created 46 million new jobs since 1982 because of lower taxes but the spending got out of control and that obviously caused the deficit which then caused us to have to borrow money from China etc etc etc. And that's our problem that we have today is spending and not keeping taxes low and stimulating the economy.**

ROBERTS: Senator, with respect I am not disagreeing with you I am just laying out some facts that some organizations, some analytical organizations have put out there. And the amount of money that you need to save

MCCAIN: Actually what you are laying out is a very different opinion I have a large number of economist who agree with my point of view and I hope you will consult with them as well. I am sure you will John.

ROBERTS: **Its just that I think some voters are legitimately asking the questions that the amount of money that you need to save to get down to zero is the total amount of the non-security discretionary budget now that the federal government operates on**.

MCCAIN: **Actually what I am hearing from voters right now is that they are worried about keeping their jobs, they want to keep their taxes low, they are worried about health care. They are worried about staying in their home. And they want us to figure, that is what I am hearing from voters all over America** as I do town hall meetings everywhere. That is what I am hearing from them and that is what I am going to address. And we can do it through growing our economy and creating new jobs.

ROBERTS: Senator, I am sure you are also hearing from them about social security. Because you say that part of this plan if you are going to balance the budget is to reform social security**. You have talked about the idea of private accounts as President Bush tried to get through and couldn't. What else would you do to reform social security?**

MCCAIN: I would sit down with Democrats and Republicans the way Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neal did in 1983. And they said, Okay, we have everything on the table here lets come to an agreement. The approval rating of congress right now is 12 percent last time I saw. I know how to work across the aisle I have done it with democrats and I have done it for many many years and we will sit down across the table with the backing of the American people.

ROBERTS: But do you have any ideas of what you can do?

MCCAIN: **On the privatization of accounts, which you have just mentioned, I would like to respond to that. I want young workers to be able to, if they chose, to take part of their own money, which is their taxes and put it into an account which has their name on it. Now, that is a voluntary thing for younger people, would not effect any present day retirees or the system as necessary.** So lets describe it for what it is. They pay their taxes and right now their taxes are going to pay the retirement of present day retirees. That is why it is broken that is why we can fix it. We can do it together Republicans and Democrats alike.

ROBERTS: Senator, **on this issue of earmarks that you talk about frequently you reiterated yesterday that you have never taken an earmark**.

MCCAIN: No, No

ROBERTS**: I wonder, could you clarify something back in 1992 you were trying to get 5 million dollars for a wastewater treatment plant in Nogales. And you tried to get it through Congress, they wouldn't put it through Congress, so you sent a letter to then President George H. W. Bush and you said quote "I would like to request that EPA either reprogram 5 million dollars out of existing funds or earmark the amount from an appropriate account, to meet the wastewater treatment needs at the Nogales plant. Was that an earmark?**

MCCAIN: **Of course not, it was a request to have it put in the Presidents Budget and that is a very legitimate request so that the administration will ask for it. The definition of an earmark is a program that is put and money for it money put in in an unauthorized fashion in the middle of the night, so no it is not that and it is not the same.**

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ROBERTS: All right, well Senator thanks for clearing that up for us. Appreciate it.

MCCAIN: Thanks, John. I am glad to clear it up for you. And it is good to talk to you again John, I enjoy our conversations.

ROBERTS: Good to talk to you Senator, we will see you again soon.

Highlight #3
McCain Downplays Staff Shake Up, Attacks Obama on Taxes, Iraq (FNC 07/07/08 8:25am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: I'm going to get to that in a moment, but I want to talk about one of the headlines of the day with regard to something Bill Clinton said while he was in Aspen. Here's what he said, Senator. He said If you know anybody who was a P.O.W. for any length of time, you will see you go along for months or maybe even years, and then something will happen and it will trigger all those bad dreams and it will come back.

JOHN MCCAIN: I don't know where he gets his expertise. Look, that's, I don't know how to respond to that except to say some of the greatest moments of my life, I had the great honor of serving in the company of heroes and observing a thousand acts of courage and compassion and love, and those that I know best and love most are those that I had the honor of being led by and served with who inspired me to do things I never would have been capable of.

CARLSON: Does it appear that this is a strategy by the Barack Obama campaign? Last week it was Wesley Clark, and there were others before that as well. This week it's Bill Clinton. They seem to be attacking your strongest point.

MCCAIN: Well, they can -- whatever they want to do is fine. I think what Americans care about today is keeping their jobs, better life, educating their kids, staying in their homes. Americans are hurting right now. We're talking about the economy this week, and we're going to create jobs, keep taxes low, and Senator Obama wants to raise taxes, I want to keep them low. That's really what the American people are worried about, and that's what we're talking about at the town hall meetings across the country.

STEVE DOOCY: We had Steve Forbes on just about an hour ago, and I know

MCCAIN: He was great.

DOOCY: And he's one of your guys in your presidential posse. Anyway, he said that, quote, Obama's tax plan will destroy America because he's pretty sure he's going to raise taxes on almost everybody, and Steve Forbes quoted resolution where he would have jacked up the tax rate on people earning as little as $32,000 a year.

MCCAIN: Well, he voted for a budget resolution twice, I think, that Senator Obama did, that would have raised people's taxes everywhere, and right now he wants to raise the social security tax, capital gains tax, the tax on the, quote, wealthy. By the way, that's you guys. Watch out. And so it's a fundamental difference that Senator Obama and I have, and you come that with protectionism, his opposition to free trade, then I think you have a very potent mixture there, and we're going to be drawing out those differences throughout the campaign.

CARLSON: Senator, in the last week you've had a campaign staff shake-up, so to speak. You know have Steve Schmidt in charge. Getting back to the anger question for a moment, I think some Republicans have said that they actually would like to see some of your anger come out. Is that a plan with your campaign shake-up?

MCCAIN: Well, first of all, Rick Davis is still our campaign manager. Steve has taken on some more responsibilities. Our thanks to the fact that we've succeeded, we've had to grow our campaign and grow it dramatically, and everybody is taking on more and more responsibilities. Rick Davis is still the guy in charge, and, you know, these are the same people, by the way, that said that our campaign was dead several times, but that kind of minutia isn't that important. But your second question was --

CARLSON: Some people are wondering whether this shake-up will help you start attacking Barack Obama.

MCCAIN: I respect and admire senator Obama. There's significant differences between us. Do I get angry when we have members of congress put in $200 million to a bridge to an island in Alaska with 50 people? Sure, I do. The American people are angry. When we see spending that's completely out of control, sure. When we see corruption that former members of congress are now in federal prison, of course. When I investigated Abrommof, sure. I'm outlining a plan to improve the economy, create jobs, and keep their taxes low.

DOOCY: Before you go, senator, on the fourth of July the "New York Times" had an editorial where they took to task

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Barack Obama who's had a bunch of flip-flops recently regarding FISA, regarding also campaign finance, public financing, stuff like that, guns. We had one of their campaign guys on yesterday, and I asked him about the flip-flops, and he said we haven't flip-flopped. We've been consistent all along. Wouldn't you call them flip-flops?

MCCAIN: I think there's definitely been shifts in position and one of them is Iraq and I will be, wait and see what Sen. Obama has to say, after he returns after meeting for the first time, seeking a sit down briefing from Gen Petraeus and visiting in over 900 days . . .

[. . .]

Highlight #4
McCain Campaign Shake-up Disarray Examined (MSNBC, 07/08/08, 7:14am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Hey Willy, there's also a New York Times story out talking about problems with McCain?

WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, we're just reading this on the inside page A14 of the New York Times. John McCain campaign internal politics heat up again amid rivalries. There was talk, we talked about it yesterday about maybe bring Mike Murphy in and what that does. Sort of the anti-Rove faction of the McCain faction. We heard about this in Hillary Clinton's campaign, I'm not sure if it's a new story that campaigns are fighting internally, is it?

PAT BUCHANAN: This late? I mean, he had a problem last year, remember, when they burned through 22 million and he was flying coach everywhere by himself? And now you have a huge new battle between Schmidt and the Rove guys, and Crystal says Murphy's going to be coming in. **This isn't good that they don't have this thing locked down.**

SCARBOROUGH: **Mike Murphy might be coming in. Mike Murphy and Rick Davis hate each other. Schmidt who's brought in from the Rove contingency, who the McCain old-timers don't trust.**

BUCHANAN: And there's Rove in the background.

SCARBOROUGH: There's Rove in the background whispering in his ear and we are in July.

BUCHANAN: They better get it together.

SCARBOROUGH: This is a little late.

BUCHANAN: I mean how is he only four points behind? It's like a team that's made ten errors but they're only behind one run.

SCARBOROUGH: And again, like you say, you know how that story usually ends. **That team that plays poorly and is still around at halftime usually wins. And if McCain gets that moment that he had in the town hall meetings, he just goes around with it, his numbers jump 15 percentage points.**

BUCHANAN: Get off my back!

Highlight #5
McCain's Poor Teleprompter Use and Speaking Ability Criticized (MSNBC, 07/08/08, 7:51am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: […] **Of course, the article you wrote was about John McCain's struggles with a teleprompter and in this visual age that actually is a serious concern right?**

MARK LEIBOVITCH: One would think. I think Senator McCain has actually been studying a lot of speeches that you gave on the floor of Congress recently to improve. But no, John McCain is not known for being a set speech or a set piece speaker, as they say. And he's working on it but he's not going to become Barack Obama overnight.

SCARBOROUGH: So he ain't going to be speaking in front of 70,000 people in St. Paul anytime soon?

LEIBOVITCH: I don't think they've rented out the Metro dome yet, for the acceptance speech.

SCARBOROUGH: So what does the McCain campaign do? What are you hearing they're planning to do to offset Barack Obama's advantage? Cause Barack Obama actually struggled sometimes in debates, but give him some time in front of a teleprompter in front of a big crowd, and he's Bono.

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LEIBOVITCH: Well, clearly. I think the strategy is to not even try to out Obama. I think on the contrary, the idea is to become kind of an anti-Barack candidate, Which is someone who is at home in, and McCain is very much at home in more intimate settings, such as the set of Morning Joe. Lat night comedy couches, town meeting, the back of a campaign bus. In a sense the effort is going to be to try to shrink the stage, and to try to put McCain ins comfortable settings, and actually try to emphasize a more substantial approach to the political discourse, instead of a more rock star approach. Which is clearly what Obama is very good at, and clearly what they're going to be able to achieve in Denver in that Vesco field.

ANDREA MITCHELL: […] Why do you think Obama has not accepted McCain's proposal for the town meetings? Wouldn't Obama be a good foil for McCain? Wouldn't that be a good form for him? Or not?

LIEBOVITCH: I think clearly they recognize that this is an effort by McCain to try to play to his strengths, I mean, I think if it were up to McCain and his people they would do one every week. I think clearly, this is akin to the candidate that is ahead, or the candidate that is behind trying to get the candidate who is ahead to try to debate more. I think the more they are seen together in a conversational setting, it's going to be more of a benefit for McCain. So, again, Hillary Clinton was trying to get Obama to agree to more debates when she was behind towards the end of the democratic race. And I think that this is somewhat related to that.

PAT BUCHANAN: Mark, let me ask you about McCain's acceptance speech. When you do an acceptance speech like that at a convention, you go to text and you work with it for days and days and days, you've got it down to where you almost got it memorized. And then you're frankly in a trailer, and you practice the thing. It seems to me that either McCain's going to have to do that and really work with it, or he's virtually going to have to do it with a stand up microphone. **Isn't his problem, what I'm getting at, the fact that he's unfamiliar with his fresh material that's given to him. He looks at it once, they put it on the prompter, and he doesn't do well at all with it, but he'll be much more familiar, that is with his convention speech.**

LIEBOVITCH: Right, I think though that you know, McCain has in the past risen to the moment and given some really well received speeches. I think in 96 at the Republican convention he gave what a lot of people said, was one of the better speeches in that whole week. He gave a speech in 2004 when President Bush was re-nominated when that actually got some very good reviews also. So McCain has proven that if he works long enough on a speech and he becomes familiar with the words he can really rise to the occasion. I think though, what the campaign might consider, and actually has been considering, is maybe a more inventive format and turning the convention hall into kind of a town hall experience. I don't think, this is just ideas that they're kicking around. But clearly, he could give the best speech of his life and he's not going to be Barack Obama, he's not going to be Ronald Reagan, he's not going to be John F. Kennedy. So McCain himself says they're going to try to be innovative but I think at the end of the day they're going to say, listen, this is someone who understands the issues, who's a good listener, who's a good communicator, in a one-on-one setting. And a speech is just a speech, and imply by saying that Senator Obama is maybe more of an orator than a leader.

Highlight #6

McCain's Changing Positions on Immigration and Border Security Scrutinized (MSNBC, 07/08/08, 9:46am)

CONTESSA BREWER: Not too long ago John McCain was at the for-front of the illegal immigration issue, helping craft a bill that would have given millions a path to citizenship. But it died in the Senate, and today McCain finds himself having to refine his message; putting security at the top of his priority list.

MCCAIN: Every nation has the requirement to secure our borders. So we've got to have the assurance that our borders are secure. And that can be done through walls in urban areas, virtual fences, UAV's, cameras sensors, etc. We can do that. We can do that. It's expensive but we can do that.

BREWER: Doug Holtz-Eakin is a policy advisor for the McCain campaign. Doug good to see you today. McCain went on to criticize Congress for being deadlocked over this issue. So why does he think any new proposal would have a better chance of getting through than the old one did?

DOUG HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, the Senator has a long history of reaching across the aisle to solve big problems for Americans. He's recognized for years that we have multiple problems, that are border security issues and employer verification, temporary worker program. What to do with the 12 million undocumented workers. He led the effort to have a single bill, comprehensive immigration reform. Unfortunately it failed and he has now taken the lessons of that effort and he is going to go forward, trying to first secure the border and then move to the rest of the agenda that remains unfinished.

BREWER: A Gallup poll taken among Hispanic voters shows McCain losing to Barack Obama by 30 points. How does McCain with all of his work on illegal immigration, his path to citizenship, his plan for a guest worker program, why isn't he doing better among potential Latino voters?

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HOLTZ-EAKIN: **Well, this is a very sad state of affairs. At the same time senator McCain was literally risking his political future watching this campaign suffer tremendous financial problems and decline in popularity, senator Obama was supporting poison pill amendments to that bill that ultimately contributed to the failure to deal with this very important issue.**

BREWER: Explain what you mean by that?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Four times, senator Obama voted for an amendment which was known to be a deal killer at a time when we needed democrats and republicans to get together and solve an issue that every American knows has to be addressed. That deal failed and senator Obama is now walking around asserting he has always been there for comprehensive immigration reform, touting his credentials, but at the crucial moment he was not there to reach across the aisle. Senator McCain was and he felt the political fall out of that. I believe Hispanic voters, like every voter will learn the record when they learn the record, they see the man, his commitment to action on behalf of all Americans and he will get their vote.

BREWER: Well, why would senator McCain then decide, after losing the battle over immigration reform, why would he go back and say okay, I learned my lesson, let me put border security at the top of the list? Why would he think that that would now woo some of these Latino voters who are currently supporting Barack Obama?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, border security was always on the list. Let us remember that the bill that failed in the senate had border security, it had a trigger, it had a comprehensive list of reforms. Senator McCain's commitment to dealing with all those important issues has never changed. All he has said is that different strategy. He is committed to solving problems**. He is not in this for his own political gain or his personal political future. He is in this to solve the problem that face Americans, including Latinos and Hispanics.**

BREWER: Doug, have you heard anything else from Barack Obama's campaign about whether senator Obama will join senator McCain in these town hall meetings that McCain's asking for?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, the American people would love to see Senator McCain and Senator Obama stand side by side and talk about the real issues. Sadly senator Obama has not taken up this opportunity.

BREWER: So you haven't heard anything back from Obama's campaign?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: No, we have not.

Highlight #7
Yellin Describes McCain's Replacement of the Maverick Brand with that of a GWB Republican (CNN 07/07/08 10:15pm)
ANDERSON COOPER: Behind the scenes their are strategy shifts. Today the McCain camp launching or relaunching an effort to re-energize their campaign and shore up its organization.

[...]

JESSICA YELLIN: [McCain] working to reconnect with voters and recapture the magic that made him a political superstar. At first blush the transformation may be hard to detect

YELLIN: okay so the difference might be subtle**. It [the campaign] appointed a Bush veteran to run McCain's daily operations**, then it named Rudy Guilianni's campaign manager as political director.

[...]

YELLIN: ... A new backdrop doesn't give a candidate new mojo and this political observer sees deeper problems.

STUART ROTHENBERG: **He started to compromise his own brand in this year when the republican brand is so damaged having a nominee like McCain with a maverick reputation is absolutely crucial. To the extent that he loses that reputation, is seen as a cookie cutter Republican, just a George Bush Republican, then his campaign is in trouble and his party is in trouble.**

YELLIN: McCain was the anti-Republican
Republican. The guy who broke with party orthodoxy. Opposing Bush's tax cuts, opposing off-shore drilling, and bucking the party line on immigration reform. **Now he is mouthing standard Republican talking points on all these issues. One**

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reason why Barrack Obama is branding him the next George Bush.

[...]

COOPER: Jessica if Stuart Rothenberg in your story was right, that **McCain appears as just another Republican. That he is somehow selling his brand. How did that happen? What went wrong?**

YELLIN: ... You're right it posses risk for McCain **because it threatens to water down that Maverick brand**. The thing that is important to remember is McCain's personal history. **Here is a guy who was defeated in 2000 in a bitter contest with George Bush but four years later he made nice with Bush and with the party establishment and that helped him become the nominee this year.**

Highlight #8
VFF Chairman defends "issue advocacy ads," effects of 527's are pondered (FNC 07/08/08 08:11am)
ANDREW NAPOLITANO: Vets for Freedom is launching a 4 month multi million dollar campaign which includes this ad. The message is aimed at countering the anti-war message of MoveOn.org will this presidential election turn into a brutal battle of warring political ads?

PETE HEGSETH (Chairman of VFF): They are issue ads talking about progress in Iraq. We don't think Americans have heard enough about the great things that are happening. They are veterans looking into the camera talking about how we need t finish the job that we started n matter who is president. This issue, progress in Iraq is much larger then any presidential campaign or any political party it is about winning a war that we are involved in and that is what the ads are about.

DAVID MARK: ... John McCain's greatest calling card is his military service his time as a POW in Vietnam. Barack Obama has found that there is a lot of blow back when you try and criticize military service.

NAPOLITANO: **Are the ads themselves, hear me out, a little inconsistent with what Senator McCain wants, he wrote McCain-Feingold he really tried to keep the influence of money out of politics** limit the amount of money candidates can raise, limit the amount of money candidates can spend. But you guys are totally outside of that loop. You can raise what you want and spend what you want.

HEGSETH: That's right, because **we are an issue advocacy organization that is out there. We are not talking about electing any president. We are talking about an issue, a war that needs to be won. And as a veterans group I think we should have the ability to use our free speech** and talk about what we fought so hard for, and that is what those ads are all about.

NAPOLITANO: David, is this the opening salvo of the 527's, that is, as you know, the section of the IRS code that allows people like Pete and his group that don't mention the name of a candidate to raise as much money as they want and spend as much money as they want. In other words will the other side start something to counter what Pete's people are doing?

MARK: **Yeah, I think we are going to see a big escalation in the next three and a half months or so leading up to the election. We saw it in 2004 with the swift boat vets for truth democrats at MoveOn.org, George Soros group we are going to see it a lot over the next three and a half months.**

Highlight #9
Local News Highlights McCain's Economic Plans as Same As Bush (DC-4-NBC, 07/08/08, 6:11am)
BRIAN MOOAR: […] Both presidential candidates had planned to kick off a week of head to head campaigning with a message focusing on the ailing economy. But plane problems grounded a big Barack Obama event in North Carolina. […] 500 miles short of his destination, Obama spoke to the press.

BARACK OBAMA: Senator McCain said earlier this year, that America had made and I quote, " great progressive economically over the past 8 years. He believes we're on the right track."

MOOAR: **Again, Obama accused John McCain of running for a third Bush term**. McCain says he wants to balance the budget and right the scales on gas prices. He proposed 35 new nuclear plants, and more oil drilling on U.S. shores.

JOHN MCCAIN: Increasing our own supply will send a message to the market and result in lower prices for oil and gas.

MOOAR: McCain was in Denver where Obama plans to accept the nomination in August. […] And both of the candidates

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will be here in the Nation's capitol today both of them speaking before the same Latino group just a couple of hours apart and courting a critical vote in this fall's election. […]"

Highlight #10
The Today Show Discusses McCain's Economic Plan Differences From Obama (NBC, 07/08/08, 7:17am)
ANDREA MITCHELL: […] Their biggest differences over taxes.

JOHN MCCAIN: If you believe that you should pay more taxes I'm the wrong candidate for you. Senator Obama is your man.

MITCHELL: McCain would lower the corporate tax rate, repeal the alternative minimum tax, and make the Bush tax cuts permanent. Although he used to oppose them. In contrast, Obama would raise corporate tax rates, give rebates to lower and middle income workers and the elderly, but let the Bush tax cuts expire for those making more than $250,000 a year. Experts say both would bust the budget.

FRED BERGSTEN: Both candidates, essentially, have irresponsible tax plans because they would both put in place big tax cuts, that would raise the budget deficit even more and make the problems worse over the long run.

MITCHELL: The two also disagree on trade. McCain supports trade deals like NAFTA. Obama now says he'd reopen NAFTA to negotiate tougher labor rules. Experts call that unlikely. Another major difference, the budget deficit. Obama supports paying for new programs before increasing the deficit. McCain promises to balance the budget by 2013 even though economists say that is beyond reach. And McCain proposes a summertime gas tax holiday, something Obama criticizes as a gimmick. McCain and Obama once thought that their biggest debate would be over Iraq, but now they face voters much more worried over how to fight a recession then the war.

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Subject:	FW: UABA applauds the US House of Representatives for passage of H. Res. 758 supporting Ukraine

Press Release: December 5, 2014

UABA applauds the US House of Representatives for passage of H. Res. 758 supporting Ukraine

On December 4, 2014, the United States House of Representatives, by an overwhelming vote of 411 – 10, passed H.Res.758 - *"Strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination*."

The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) applauds with great appreciation the House of Representatives for its strong expression of support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in their struggle to attain Western values and democracy. The text of the resolution clearly shows that the House is fully aware of the extremely dangerous significance of the Kremlin's actions against Ukraine, and its impact on international rule of law and order. It recognizes that the Kremlin has not adhered to any of its internationally made pledges regarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, thus undermining the bedrock upon which European peace is built in the aftermath of World War II. Rather, Russia has intentionally trampled upon Ukraine's political and economic sovereignty and its territorial integrity for quite some time in full view of the world.

The UABA notes, however, that H. Res. 758 only expresses the sense of the House of Representatives and does not have the force of law. As such, we strongly urge that both houses of the United States Congress take under immediate consideration and in a swift and expeditious manner, pass Senate Bill S. 2828 and House Bill H.R. 5782. These bills will provide, among other things, defensive military assistance to Ukraine and would grant Ukraine Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) Status and are in the United States' national security interests. The implementation of such legislation into law will help Ukraine repel Putin's aggression and prevent his imperialistic ambitions from spilling over into the Baltic States and the rest of Europe.

The United States and Europe are at a historically crucial crossroad. America must take strong and decisive action to reaffirm its world leadership position and **help Ukraine defend itself now**! If Western governments continue on the existing path of only scolding Putin verbally and attempting to isolate him economically, then they will condemn our children and grandchildren to a probable conflagration on the European continent that will be as great or even greater than the horrors of World War II [recall Putin's recent verbal flexing of his nuclear muscle] .....and from which America will have no escape.

For further information, please contact
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"Veronica Pollack" <veronica@daschlegroup.com>
"Vikram Singh" <vsingh@americanprogress.org>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
Date: 1/27/2015 4:26:27 AM
Subject: Brian Katulis' report on Egypt

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Brian's latest report on Egypt.

https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/report/2015/01/23/105168/new-anchors-for-u-s-egypt-relations/

New Anchors for U.S.-Egypt Relations

Looking to the Future and Learning from the Past 4 Years After Egypt's Revolution

By Brian Katulis & Mokhtar Awad | Friday, January 23, 2015
New Anchors for U.S.-Egypt Relations

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In the past year, the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, or ISIS, and the nuclear negotiations with Iran have dominated U.S. policy toward the Middle East. But Egypt, as the most populous Arab country, remains a central test in the broader battle to achieve stability and progress in the region. Four years after the start of the Arab uprisings, Egypt continues to face many of the same challenges that sparked the initial protests.

The United States and Egypt should try to work together to build a set of new anchors for progress and stability at this turbulent time of transition in the Middle East. 2015 offers potential opportunities, but it will require Egypt and the United States to learn some lessons from the past four years and to look to the future. The two countries need to move beyond the old way of doing business—a heavy focus on conventional military cooperation—and look to a future where the bilateral relationship includes expanded economic cooperation and a new, more constructive diplomatic and political dialogue.

Doing so will be difficult for the United States absent a major course correction by the new Egyptian government on its political transition. Efforts to enhance cooperation between the two countries will likely remain limited, and relations are likely to be strained as long as Egypt continues down its current path of restrictions on basic freedoms and political pluralism. Given the uncertainty of the moment, the United States should prepare for a wide range of possible scenarios emerging in Egypt in the next year. But it should make a determined effort to work with Egypt to build new anchors for the relationship over the next four years.

Egypt remains in the midst of unfinished political and economic transitions. Multiple waves of protests, leadership changes, and crackdowns have traumatized Egyptians. The overall political climate in Egypt is a complicated mix of anxiety, tension, exhaustion, and hope that the country will achieve more progress in the next four years than it did in the past four.

If Egypt can build a foothold of stability and achieve economic and political progress, it has the potential to offer immense resources to the cause of regional and global stability. But the only way for Egypt to achieve long-term, sustainable security is by updating its security and economic sectors and ushering in a competitive political environment where basic liberties are protected.

In the past year-and-a-half, many Egyptians' overriding focus has been security—both basic law and order and economic stability. Ongoing violence in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Libya's fragmentation to the west, and Syria's ongoing bloody civil war are seen as vivid examples to avoid. The rise of ISIS and the growth of extremist groups across the region have had an enormous impact on threat perceptions inside Egypt. Next to security, Egypt's daunting economic troubles are a top priority; there is a dire need to produce economic growth and create jobs.

While President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi appears to enjoy broad political support from an exhausted population, important segments of Egyptian society have grave concerns about constraints on basic freedoms and the closure of political space. How Sisi governs and handles his country's momentous challenges will redefine what Egypt stands for as a country and its role in the region. Since the start of the 21st century, Egypt has seen its regional influence wane, held back by the sheer weight of its internal challenges and mismanagement of national assets.

The past four years have taken a serious toll on U.S.-Egypt ties. The Egyptian view of the United States is perhaps the worst it has been in recent history. Many Egyptians think the United States backed the Muslim Brotherhood, or MB, when it was in power, and others believe the United States helped support former President Mohamed Morsi's removal to stamp out Islamists. There are widespread conspiracy theories that embrace the notion that the United States wants to undermine and weaken Egypt.

In the United States, top policymakers increasingly speak of Egypt as a problem to be managed, their attention focused on avoiding the worst-case outcomes of state collapse. Today, the United States looks less to Egypt and more to countries such as Jordan and the United Arab Emirates for regional security cooperation efforts such as the anti-ISIS coalition. Moreover, the central strategic rationale for U.S.-Egyptian ties for the past 35 years—the role of the United States as guarantor of peace between Egypt and Israel—seems to have been undercut. Israeli and Egyptian leaders now tout that their bilateral relations are stronger with each other than with the United States, sending the message that Egypt upholds the peace treaty with Israel out of national self-interest, not because of U.S. assistance.

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At the government level, Egypt's current leaders say that they are confused by U.S. policy, which continues to hold back delivery of some weapons systems because of America's concerns about Egypt's political transition and human rights record. The Egyptian government argues that its actions against the MB and other Islamist groups are part of Egypt's fight against the same terrorists the U.S.-led coalition against ISIS is fighting.

The continued rift between Egypt and the United States has motivated Sisi to seek to diversify Egypt's foreign support. Egypt remains in dire need of external assistance. It has received more financial support from Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC, countries in the past year than it received from the United States over the past decade—at least $20 billion from Gulf partners in the past year-and-a-half compared with the less than $1.5 billion per year from the United States, or nearly $15 billion in the past decade. Sisi has traveled to parts of Africa and to Europe, Russia, and China during his first seven months in office in an effort to boost support and strengthen ties.

Yet Egypt and the United States continue to share common, long-term interests in stability and economic prosperity. To build new anchors for the relationship, Washington and Cairo should use the upcoming strategic dialogue planned for this year to foster more constructive conversations and to look to build a new framework for bilateral relations by 2020. The countries should seek to develop forward-looking joint approaches on three fronts:

1. Security: comprehensive security-sector modernization to meet new threats. The evolving threat from militant terrorist groups challenging state sovereignty requires Egypt to update its overall security approach. Acknowledging that current U.S.-Egypt security cooperation was built in a different era, the two countries should use the proposed strategic dialogue to outline a program for security cooperation tailored to meet today's threats. In these future strategic dialogues, the United States should offer the prospect of delivering security assistance currently being held back, as well as the restart of joint military exercises contingent upon opening a dialogue on substantial reforms to Egypt's security institutions.

2. Countering violent extremism: an open dialogue about pluralism and political reform. Egypt's government has justified restrictions on basic freedoms and closing off political space in its anti-terrorism battle, but guaranteeing these basic liberties is needed to ensure political stability and the ultimate political defeat of extremists. Egypt needs a more sustainable political environment to implement massive economic reforms, and it requires an environment that allows political actors to mature and a new spectrum of voices to emerge that denies space for extremist ideologies to thrive. The limited efforts of the Obama administration to influence Egypt's political trajectory by holding back some types of assistance have not succeeded. But these issues are important to discuss, as sensitive as they are. The United States and Egypt should seek to expand people-to-people contact, educational exchanges, and more honest discussions on the need for pluralism, countering extremism, and political reform due to these issues' impact on Egypt's overall stability and the health of the bilateral relationship.

3. Economy: organized international and multilateral support for Egypt's economic reform. Egypt and the United States should work together and in closer collaboration with regional powers in the Gulf to reform Egypt's economy to spark inclusive growth and to create jobs, breaking the cycle of foreign-aid dependency and crony capitalism of the past decades. The United States has already gradually begun to reduce its economic assistance to Egypt, and as it continues this shift, it should look to other avenues, including the private sector, to help strengthen economic ties with Egypt.

This report is based on the Center for American Progress' ongoing analysis of regional trends and a trip to Egypt in late October 2014 that included interviews with more than three dozen Egyptian government officials, politicians, economists, businessmen, religious leaders, civil society activists, journalists, and independent analysts.

Brian Katulis is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Mokhtar Awad is a Research Associate with the National Security and International Policy team at the Center.

Sent using OWA for iPad

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 2/7/2015 6:23:05 PM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/us/politics/economic-plan-is-a-quandary-for-hillary-clintons-campaign.html?_r=0&referrer=

Economic Plan Is a Quandary for Hillary Clinton's Campaign

With advice from more than 200 policy experts, Hillary Rodham Clinton is trying to answer what has emerged as a central question of her early presidential campaign strategy: how to address the anger about income inequality without overly vilifying the wealthy.

Mrs. Clinton has not had to wade into domestic policy since before she became secretary of state in 2009, and she has spent the past few months engaged in policy discussions with economists on the left and closer to the Democratic Party's center who are grappling with the discontent set off by the gap between rich and poor. Sorting through the often divergent advice to develop an economic plan could affect the timing and planning of the official announcement of her campaign.

Although people close to Mrs. Clinton say she has not yet settled on a specific platform, she is expected to embrace several principles. They include standard Democratic initiatives like raising the minimum wage, investing in infrastructure, closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting taxes for the middle class. Other ideas are newer, such as providing incentives to corporations to increase profit-sharing with employees and changing labor laws to give workers more collective bargaining power.

Behind many of these proposals is a philosophy, endorsed by Mrs. Clinton's closest economic advisers and often referred to as inclusive capitalism, that contends that a majority of Americans do not want to punish the rich; they just want to feel that they, too, have a chance to succeed. It also calls for corporations to put less emphasis on short-term profits that increase shareholder value and to invest more in employees, the environment and communities.

Whether Mrs. Clinton's approach will be enough to satisfy the unease over growing economic disparity is unclear. In a Gallup poll conducted last month, 67 percent of Americans said they were dissatisfied with the way income and wealth are distributed in the United States. In the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, Mrs. Clinton's economic message — summed up by a frequent refrain, "If you work hard, you play by the rules, you ought to be able to get ahead" — resonated with white, working-class voters, who overwhelmingly supported her over Barack Obama.

But in the years since, Mrs. Clinton has come under criticism for delivering speeches to Wall Street banks at more than $200,000 each, roughly four times the median annual household income in the United States, and for comments she made about her family's financial situation, including a lament about being "dead broke" after leaving the White House. And she must convince a middle class that feels frustrated and left behind that she understands its struggles, even as she relies heavily on the financial industry and corporate interests to fund her candidacy.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, said she had "a record of bringing people together to solve big problems, while also putting a real premium on accountability."

Asked whether creating an economic message could affect the timeline for her presidential campaign, Mr. Merrill said, "There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake: If she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges."

Mrs. Clinton's economic plan would be more populist and reliant on the government than the centrist approach of trade agreements, welfare reform and deficit reduction associated with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

"It's not enough to address upward mobility without addressing inequality," said Lawrence H. Summers, a Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration who is among those talking with Mrs. Clinton. "The challenge, though, is to address inequality without embracing a politics of envy."

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The debate is extending beyond the Democratic Party as Republicans wade into the issues. “If Americans are working harder than ever, earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what’s wrong,” former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida said in a speech in Detroit last week as he laid the groundwork for his potential 2016 candidacy.

Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state when some major economic debates took hold on Capitol Hill, and as a result, her economic views are still not broadly known. Her approach to poverty was forged in the 1970s, when she went door to door while working for the Children’s Defense Fund, leaving her a committed advocate for early childhood education, equal pay for women and paid leave.

But later experiences complicated her worldview. Many of the advocates who knew Mrs. Clinton as a champion for the poor and working-class women felt betrayed in 1996 when, as first lady, she supported Mr. Clinton’s overhaul of the welfare system, which gave states more power to remove people from welfare rolls and pledged to cut federal spending on assistance for the poor by nearly $55 billion over six years. She was more skeptical about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Mr. Clinton signed into law in 1993 and which has also been accused of hurting American workers.

After being elected in New York to the United States Senate in 2000, Mrs. Clinton had another constituency to represent: Wall Street. In 2001, she supported bankruptcy legislation that some Democrats — most notably Elizabeth Warren, now senator from Massachusetts — argued hurt working families and single mothers, and they accused her of doing the bidding of the financial industry. Mrs. Clinton has said she worked to improve the bill.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Mrs. Clinton angered some of her Wall Street donors when she came out early in support of the regulation of derivatives and other complicated financial products and called for eliminating the “carried interest” loophole that allowed some financiers to avoid paying millions in income taxes. She also said that as president, she would create a cabinet-level position to fight poverty.

When the housing market collapsed, Mrs. Clinton, who had returned to the Senate full time after Mr. Obama defeated her, proposed legislation similar to a New Deal-era program that would allow the government to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. She voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which led to the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the multibillion-dollar bailout for automakers .

Last month, Mrs. Clinton reiterated her support for the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law. “Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong,” she wrote on Twitter.

As she dives back into domestic policy, Mrs. Clinton faces an economy in which, even amid steady job growth , weekly earnings for low- and middle-income workers have remained virtually unchanged for 15 years.

“Where has the money gone?” asked Robert B. Reich, a secretary of labor during the Clinton administration. “That is the topic that is embarrassing for people to talk about, particularly in Washington, because even mentioning it creates the potential charge of class warfare.”

Mr. Reich, who recently sent Mrs. Clinton a five-page memo laying out his ideas, said candidates in both parties needed to abandon the politically safe discussion of upward mobility for the poor and middle class that dominated the 1990s, and instead take on the stickier issue of income distribution.

“Upward mobility, equal opportunity — those are safe phrases and safe aspirations,” he said in an interview. “I don’t want to minimize their importance, but they obscure the real issue.”

Mr. Reich is one of some 200 economists and academics who have offered Mrs. Clinton ideas and guidance as she settles on an economic doctrine. Several of Mr. Clinton’s former advisers, including Alan S. Blinder, Robert E. Rubin and Mr. Summers, maintain influence. But Mrs. Clinton has cast a wide net that also includes Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics who has written extensively about inequality; Alan B. Krueger, a professor at Princeton and co-author of “Inequality in America ”; and Peter R. Orszag, a former director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Obama. Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist who focuses on retirement issues, is also playing a prominent role.

Last month in Washington, a 17-person commission convened by the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank with close ties to Mrs. Clinton, presented a 166-page report on “inclusive prosperity,” which is among the numerous economic blueprints Mrs. Clinton has reviewed. For some, the solutions proposed by the committee, of which Mr. Summers was co-chairman, did not go far enough.

Dean Baker, an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, has pushed the idea of a government fee on the sale or purchase of certain financial assets, which he believes could hold Wall Street accountable while funding social services. “Clinton people didn’t want to go near it,” Mr. Baker said.

Mrs. Clinton has not commented on the financial transaction tax or on profit-sharing.

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She has expressed support for many of the proposals Mr. Obama laid out in his State of the Union address last month, signaling that they could help shape her agenda. In a post on Twitter, she said the speech had "pointed way to an economy that works for all. Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class."

Mrs. Clinton frequently talks about the economic success of the Clinton administration, under which median family income, adjusted for inflation, increased to $56,080 in 1999 from $48,884 in 1993, compared with a decline to $51,017 in 2012 from $55,987 in 2000, according to census data. But she has acknowledged that a globalized economy calls for new ideas, and many are urging her to go beyond her comfort zone and address the deeper frustrations of those who have not shared in that economy's benefits.

"Long-term answers about education and skills that help change mobility don't get at the current frustrations and aggravations," said Austan D. Goolsbee, an economic adviser to Mr. Obama and a professor at the University of Chicago.

"People want to answer the question, 'Are we going to be O.K.?' " Mr. Goolsbee said. "And then the natural question is, 'Whose fault was that, and let's go find those people.' "

On Feb 6, 2015, at 12:30 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:

Well – We need someone to get our "friends" on the phone and tell them this doesn't help;

From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Robby Mook
Cc: Mandy Grunwald; cheryl.mills@gmail.com; john.podesta@gmail.com; jake.sullivan@gmail.com; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; cmills@cdmillsgroup.com; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com; kristinakschake@gmail.com
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com>, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com>, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>, "john@algpolling.com" <john@algpolling.com>, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com" <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com> wrote:

> Agree
>
> On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com> wrote:
>
> > I think this piece turned out well.
> >
> > But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.

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> One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas
Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.
One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.
She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.
As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.
Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.
In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.
Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.
Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.
The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.
"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.
Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.
The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.
Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.
Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer

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was a “tour” of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia’s incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.
Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a “strategic” view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.
Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.
More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.
A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton’s campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.
“She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics” said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. “Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote.”

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that “average” come out. So here’s what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won’t run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. ”

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

When we tested deck is stacked against “average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top” vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it’s how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.

Joel

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From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>

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>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 5/22/2015 8:58:28 AM
Subject: Re: Israel and Iran: Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem (JPPI)

Thanks Stu - Corey will find a time that works.

On May 22, 2015, at 8:37 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Jake,
Thanks. With my hat-on as Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Holocaust Issues, I am co-chair of the European Shoah Legacy Institute conference in Prague Tuesday and Wednesday and then have a speech in Vienna for a deceased Austrian diplomat with whom I negotiated the 2001 Washington Agreement. I return to DC on Thursday afternoon and will be in the office by 4 pm. I am also available Friday. If you want to talk on this coming Monday, Memorial Day, I am open until my flight leaves for Prague around 5 pm.
Best wishes,
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 12:57 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com) <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonemail.com) <huma@clintonemail.com >; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com) <John.Podesta@gmail.com >; Corey Ciorciari <cciorciari@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Israel and Iran: Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem (JPPI)

Stu - there is much to discuss in here. Let's try to touch base early next week?

On May 21, 2015, at 5:34 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

I thought it might be useful for the campaign to give you a quick summary of some of the points that were made at the JPPI conference we had on Monday and Tuesday of this week at Glen Cove, New York. Dennis Ross and I co-chair JPPI, which is based in Jerusalem, and was created by the Jewish Agency of Israel ten years ago to be a think tank for strategic issues facing Israel, the Diaspora, and USG-Israel relations. We have a group of fellows, like retired General Michael Herzog (brother of the opposition leader), Avi Gil and others. At the conference, we had Natan Sharansky, who heads the Jewish Agency; leading Jewish organizational leaders (e.g. heads of major UJA Federations around the country); leading rabbis (e.g. Norman Kurtz in Chicago, and Eric Yoffie); academics from Harvard to UCLA; a Member of the Canadian Parliament and former Cabinet Minister (Irwin Cotler)l Middle East experts like David Makovsky, Martin Indyk, and, of course, Dennis Ross, as well as Henry Kissinger and Eric Schmidt of Google, who talked about high tech in Israel. Moreover, Malcolm Honlein, the president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (who I put together with Hillary through you and Huma), was there for the whole two day conference. and spoke on several occasions. We had a signficant number of Israelis there, as well.

1. ISRAEL

(1) The new Netanyahu government has very little flexibility on the peace process, given its right-wing tilt.

(2) While solid majorities of the Israeli public (over 60%) continue to support the two state solution, only a minority believe it is feasible, given Palestinian intransigence.

(3) A number of people, including, interestingly, Malcolm Honlein, felt the Prime Minister should now accept the last Kerry offer as a basis for resuming negotiations. Evidently, the last version given to Bibi did not contain language on Jerusalem (which he cannot accept), while the last version given to Abbas contained the language (but they still rejected it).

(4) There was a clear consensus that the BDS/anti-delegitimization movement against Israel was growing in Europe, and was an increasing threat.

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(5) There was a grave concern that the Obama Administration, once the Iran nuclear negotiations are out of the way, will support some form of the French proposal for a new UN Resolution to supplant UN Resolution 242, endorsing the two-state solution, with 1967 borders, and with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and a Palestinian state. Several people felt that given the impasse in the peace process, Israel's argument that this should be left to negotiations, had a hollow ring to it. If this is going to happen, then it should be framed in ways that force the Palestinians to make tough choices, like ending claims to the "right of return". But the safest political position is to oppose what will be seen as an effort to "impose" a solution both sides will reject.

(6) There was a feeling on the part of some that Gaza was likely to blow-up again, a combination of Hamas rearming and rebuilding their tunnels, and the impact of the embargo, which has not been loosened.

(7) Israel needed to be more creative to take advantage of the open window for cooperating with the Sunni states (Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Egypt, Jordan) against their common enemy, Iran.

(8) Most troubling was the pervasive feeling that the US has withdrawn from a leadership position in the Middle East, leaving our allies in the Arab world, and Israel, to fend for themselves. The level of vitriol against the President was striking, to such a degree that one participant urged that he was being unfairly demonized.

2. ANTI-SEMITISM/ANTI-ZIONISM

(1) There was genuine belief that there is a substantial rise in anti-Semitism in Europe (a topic I addressed at some length). This is most evident in France (where 7000 French Jews left in 2014 for Israel, with almost double that amount expected this year); Belgium; parts of Sweden (Malmo); the Netherlands; Greece; Hungary; Ukraine; but even in the UK. Roger Cukierman, the long-time head of the CRIF, French Jewry's central organization, cited several examples of the growth of anti-Semitism during my negotiations with the French government for payments for people deported on the French railway during World War II, as Secretary Kerry's Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues. Thus, in 2001, when his first term began, 90% of school-age French Jews attended public schools; now only 30% do so, because of the intimidation in schools. It is dangerous to wear a kipot (head-covering) on the Metro. Argentine Jews are also increasingly fearful, in part because of their government's close relations with Iran, which is widely seen as having planned and funded the Hezbollah attacks in the 1990s against the Jewish community center (AMIA), and the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

(2) Modern-day anti-Semitism is a product of a combination of factors:

(a) Neo-Nazi/right wing parties, which have long had an anti-Semitic strain, like Le Pen's National Front in France.
(b) Left-wing parties/academics, who oppose Israel's settlement policy and occupation and import their opposition on Jews, who are seen (wrongly) as surrogates for Israel.
(c) Angry, disaffected, unintegrated Muslim young people, who identify with the Palestinians as the underdogs and address their anger for their plight and that of the Palestinians at Jews in their countries.

(3) French Prime Minister Valls estimates there are some 3000 European-born Muslims fighting in Syria and Iraq, 1000 from France, who come back to Europe, armed and trained jihadists. This was precisely the profile of the suspect in the Brussels Jewish Museum attack last year.

(4) The growth in anti-Semitism, and anti-Zionism is not limited to Europe. There is a greater security fear among Jews in both the U.S., Europe, and key Latin American countries. It was reported that 14 AEPi fraternity houses on American campuses were subject to some form of desecration. Several people said that "American campuses were our Europe".

(5) Malcolm Honlein placed special emphasis on the rise of anti-Semitism in his remarks. He said that the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations was catalyzing efforts to create a Global Forum to deal with this phenomenon, to track it, exchange information about it, and develop new ways to combat it. He said that Israel had a role to play, as well.

3. DIVISIONS WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER ISRAEL POLICY.

(1) There are increasingly sharp left-right divisions (J Street vs. AIPAC) within the American Jewish community over Israel. Remarkably, rabbis are reluctant to discuss Israel in their sermons for fear of alienating one faction or another.

(2) There was now a big debate over which groups can march in the annual New York City Israeli Independence Day parade, which take more liberal positions (e.g., New Israel Fund, J Street). It was generally felt best to have a "big tent" so the Democratic Party left-leaning people were not excluded.

(3) The kind of robust debate that occurs in Israel over Israeli policy, is blunted here by attacks against those who

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oppose the current government's policies in the West Bank.

(4) There was a clearly established (Pew and Gallup polls) drop in support for Israel among self-identified Democrats (now under 50%, with over 80% for Republicans). This could feed into making Israel a partisan issue (one of the problems with Bibi's speech to Congress) for the first time in its history, a dangerous situation.

4. IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS AND BEYOND

(1) This was the most emotional issue. Most of the participants who spoke on the topic (Sharansky, Kissinger, Honlein, Makovsky, Ross) were deeply skeptical of the Iranian nuclear negotiations. Clearly, Honlein and AIPAC will mount a major effort to block the agreement. There was a real foreboding (one participant called it a "panic") that the American Jewish community was going to be involved in a confrontation with the Administration, that the Republicans would use to try to drive a further wedge with Jewish voters over Israel-related issues.

(2) At the same time, there was a recognition (e.g. Kissinger) that the President would be able to overcome a veto override fight, although just barely.

(3) It was important to reassure Israel and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States that any nuclear deal with Iran did not presage broader cooperation with Iran on regional issues. (Kissinger agreed, but felt it was inevitable over time, because Iran is a real country, with a long history)

(3) Several speakers (e.g. Ross) suggested that Israel should now begin to talk with the White House about ways to repair the damage to the relationship over the nuclear talks (if there is an agreement). Indeed, the President proposed to Bibi, in his call after the formation of the government, just that, but was rebuffed, seeing any cooperation as signaling he was giving up the fight against the deal.

(4) The options for a post-agreement reassurance included:

(a) Reassurance that the agreement would not lead to a new U.S.-Iranian alliance in the region, at the expense of our traditional alliances.
(b) Sophisticated military weapons to defend themselves against a resurgent Iran.
(c) Defense treaties, that an attack by Iran would be considered an attack against the U.S. (But this was fraught with difficulty; would it be all forms of attack or only a nuclear attack)
(d) Development of a common agenda with Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States. This has not been initiated.

(5) The "snap-back" of sanctions was felt to be impractical. What would constitute a violation? Who would make the determination? Which sanctions would be re-imposed (US, EU, UN)?

(6) There needed to be a clear declaration after the 10/15 year period of the agreement, that a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable, and the U.S. would every means to stop it. Likewise, the U.S. could not afford to disengage from the region, and had to lead the coalition against Iran.

(7) There was almost no one who subscribed to the Administration's hope that over the 10/15 year period of the agreement, the Iranian regime would moderate. Far from it, the end of sanctions and the massive amount of money that would flow to Iran would strengthen the regime, provide more funds to support terrorist groups, and embolden them in the region.

I hope this is helpful in shaping Hillary's positions on these difficult issues. But more broadly, she needs to understand the great angst in the Jewish community over the cascade of challenges I have described. The empathy and appreciation she can demonstrate, would itself be important and reassuring.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/16/2015 8:37:20 AM
Subject: Fwd: Action Required: Urge Members of Congress to Oppose a Bad Deal

---

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Mbronfein** <mbronfein@gmail.com >
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2015
Subject: Fwd: Action Required: Urge Members of Congress to Oppose a Bad Deal
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "AIPAC Political Department " <grassroots@aipac.org >
Date: July 16, 2015 at 11:58:28 AM EDT
To: mbronfein@gmail.com
Subject: Action Required: Urge Members of Congress to Oppose a Bad Deal
Reply-To: "AIPAC" <membership@aipac.org >

Click here to view the web version.

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Call
(202) 225-3121
to reach Senate and House members through the Capitol switchboard

E-mail
your members of Congress

Find
your members of Congress

Info/Questions
grassroots@aipac.org

Background Information

After more than 20 months of negotiations, the United States and its negotiating partners announced a nuclear agreement with Iran. Throughout the negotiations, AIPAC outlined five critical criteria for a good deal. Unfortunately, the proposed agreement is fundamentally flawed in each of these vital areas.

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 established a procedure for congressional review of any nuclear agreement with Iran. Congress must now oppose this deal, which would leave Iran as a nuclear threshold state, thereby jeopardizing U.S. interests and posing an existential threat to Israel and other American allies.

Please call or email your members of Congress today and urge them to oppose this deal.

Phone Script

"I am calling to urge the senator/representative to oppose the Iran nuclear deal because it will not block Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Talking Points

- I have consistently supported diplomatic efforts to peacefully prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. I appreciate the hard work of the administration to reach a deal.
- Unfortunately, the proposed deal will let Iran become a threshold nuclear weapons state and will not guarantee international inspectors access to suspicious sites in Iran.
- Congress and the president have repeatedly said, **"No deal is better than a bad deal**." **This is a bad deal**.
- Congress must oppose this agreement, and urge the administration to negotiate a better deal that will truly prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

Share this:

AIPAC

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/25/2015 5:00:28 AM
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: Simplified Talkers for Surrogates re NYT

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2015, at 11:52 AM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Couple of changes on my end and then good. Saw a typo in "arrangement"
>
> - Would say author "works at an organization that has received Koch funding"
> - would just say arrangement instead of "unusual" arrangement.
>
> 1. The Times ignores the essential fact that Hillary Clinton was not at all involved in the State
>
> Department's review of the sale to the Russians, AS STATED BY THE FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO SERVED AS THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THIS PROCESS AT THE TIME.
>
> 4. The Times overlooks the fact that the State Department was just one of nine agencies involved in the
>
> U.S. government's review of the sale of Uranium One. IN ADDITION, THE DEAL WAS APPROVED BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.
>
> On Sat, Apr 25, 2015 at 11:25 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>> Good!
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> On Apr 25, 2015, at 10:56 AM, Adrienne Elrod <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>>
>>> Jen/Kristina/Tony -
>>>
>>> Can y'all give these a quick once over? Some of our surrogates/friends and fam who are not going on tv but just want the top lines on how to defend on this topic have asked for a super simplified version of talkers. Fallon has signed off. Thanks!
>>>
>>> Adrienne K. Elrod
>>> Spokesperson
>>> Hillary For America
>>> **www.hillaryclinton.com**
>>> @adrienneelrod
>>>
>>> <04.23.15 Simplified Talkers Re NYT Foundation Story.docx>
>>
>> --
>> You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
>> To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
>> To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
>> For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

--

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To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 4:32:57 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 5/1

Great will send out now.

On Fri, May 1, 2015 at 11:23 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Ok to go.

On May 1, 2015 8:15 AM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

BREAKING: "The state attorney of Baltimore, in a unexpected announcement, said Friday that she had probable cause to file homicide, manslaughter and misconduct charges against the police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, who died after sustaining a spinal cord injury while in police custody.

In a news conference Friday, the state attorney, Marilyn J. Mosby, said that the death of Mr. Gray had been ruled a homicide and the police had been negligent in his death.

“We have probable cause to file criminal charges,” Ms. Mosby said. As Ms. Mosby spoke outside the War Memorial here, dozens of police officers dressed in riot gear stood nearby."- NYT

Her statement has been met with an outpouring of support on Twitter. Including:

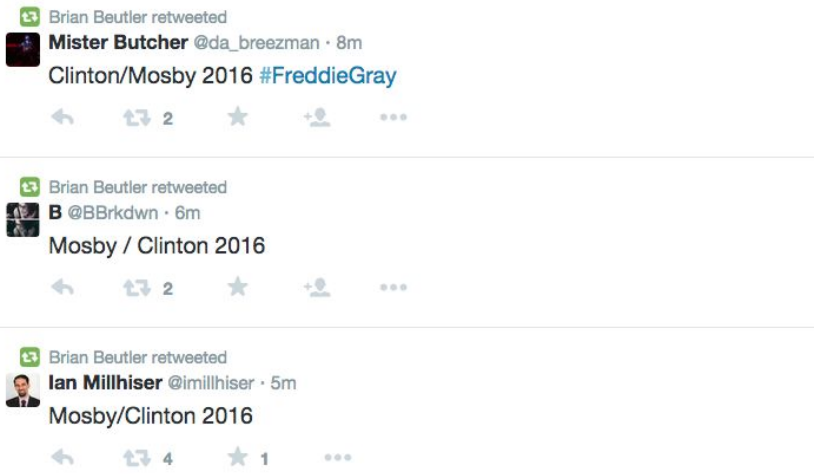

TWEET:

Commend efforts of @MarilynMosbyEsq to seek justice for Freddie Gray and for the youth of Baltimore.

Note: "justice for the youth of Baltimore" echoes a line from her press statement. Could wait until HRC makes a statement if you're worried about getting out ahead of her.

On Fri, May 1, 2015 at 10:25 AM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Note: my new goal is to send a second round of Tweets in the PM to respond to campaign developments throughout the day.

TWEETS 5/1

New study: ice-loss in Antarctica increased 6 bil tons/year each year from 2003 to 2014. Cap melting faster than ever. tp://bit.ly/1JegM3y (140)

If you can't keep track of Schweizer's fabrications, distortions in "Clinton Cash" @MediaMatters can help: http://bit.ly/1GCbj3A (137)

RETWEETS 5/1

Suggestion from KLC:

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US Dept of Interior @Interior · 22h

Check out the Share the Experience photo contest winner: Polar bears at Arctic #WildlifeRefuge by Gregory Teller

193 226 View more photos and videos

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
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--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 4/29/2008 1:10:28 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 4/29

8 Election Daily News Clips
April 29th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

10am McCain: Health Care Speech in Tampa, FL
- Tracking scheduled for this event
12pm McCain: Luncheon in Tampa, FL

2:50pm BUSH: Remarks to National Volunteer Week from the White House

6pm McCain: Finance Event in Fort Myers, FL

News Clips:

MCCAIN HEALTH CARE NEWS

McCain Launches New TV Ad on Health Care (The Page 4/29/08)
60-second spot airing in Iowa gets specific on his approach — including his support for a refundable tax credit for insurance, community health centers and walk-in clinics.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/04/29/mccain-launches-new-tv-ad-on-health-care/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6l61-zIXOE

McCain would 'put families in charge' of health care (USA TODAY 4/29/08)
By David Jackson
John McCain spent much of last week emphasizing how he's a different kind of Republican. This week, he focuses on his plans for health care, which are more aligned with President Bush and other Republicans.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-04-28-McCain_N.htm

McCain's Health Insurance Plan Would Not Cover Child Featured At Campaign Event (ThinkProgress 4/28/08)
By Adam Jentleson
Today at a campaign event, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) toured Miami Children's Hospital and met with some of the facility's young patients. As The New York Times reported, McCain heard the story of Jake, a 9 year-old child with a cleft palate. Cleft palates can be fixed with a simple operation, but as Jake's father told McCain today, his family has been struggling to get their insurance company to cover the post-operation therapy Jake needs.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/04/28/mccain-jake/
See also: http://thinkprogress.org/2008/04/28/mccain-children-hospital/

McCain moves to middle on health care (Politico 4/29/08)
By Mike Allen and Jonathan Martin
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is proposing a greater federal commitment to people without health insurance on Tuesday, suggesting that states set up non-profit risk pools to help Americans who are denied coverage or can't afford it.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0408/9940.html

McCain rejects 'big government' takeover of health care (CNN 4/28/08)
Democrats say McCain offering continuation of Bush's health care policies
Presumptive GOP nominee says rejects "big government" solution
McCain wants to put "families" in charge of their own health care
Arizona Republican challenges doctors, insurers to lower costs
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/04/28/mccain/?iref=hpmostpop

McCain sees greater choice as U.S. health-care fix (Reuters 4/29/08)
By John Whitesides
Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Tuesday will propose more choices in health-care coverage for Americans to foster competition, drive down costs and reduce reliance on employer-based insurance.

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http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2841474420080429

McCain Listens to Health Care Stories (NY Times blog 4/28/08)
By Michael Cooper
When Senator John McCain toured Miami Children's Hospital here on Monday and met and listened to some of its young patients and their parents, one of the topics they brought up raised questions about how his health care plan would work.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/04/28/mccain-listens-to-health-care-stories/

Health Care on McCain Horizon (Washington Post blog 4/28/08)
By Michael D. Shear
In Sen. John McCain's perfect health care world, individuals would each seek the ideal health insurance policy in a competitive marketplace that would drive down premiums even as prevention and healthier living reduces the cost of care.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/04/28/health_care_on_mccain_horizon.html

McCain Hears Plea on Health Insurance (WSJ blog 4/28/08)
By Laura Meckler
Sen. John McCain kicked off a week of health care events at Miami Children's Hospital, where he heard several families talk about how they confronted medical challenges. In general, the stories had little direct relationship to the political debate under way over how to expand coverage to more Americans and reduce the cost of care. But one family, perhaps unintentionally, stepped into one of the hot policy topics.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/04/28/mccain-hears-plea-on-health-insurance/?mod=modValue

Dissecting McCain's Medicaid Trust Fund (ABC 4/28/08)
By TEDDY DAVIS and TALAL AL-KHATIB
As John McCain prepares to flesh out his health-reform policies during a Tuesday speech in Tampa, Fla., Democrats see pre-existing conditions as his Achilles' heel.... Holtz-Eakin Reveals Health Care Plan to ABC News...
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/TheNote/story?id=3105455&page=1

E. Edwards v. McCain on Health Care (MSNBC 4/28/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
The Center for American progress held a conference call responding to McCain's health-care roundtable this morning and the impending rollout of his health-care proposal tomorrow. On the call, Elizabeth Edwards responded to the public back-and-forth between her and McCain on whether McCain's plan would cover people like them -- cancer survivors -- and whether McCain's Naval health-care coverage has put him out of touch with the trials of the open healthcare market.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/04/28/952742.aspx
See also: http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/04/28/politics/fromtheroad/entry4051160.shtml

MCCAIN NEWS

The Militarist (American Prospect 4/28/08)
By Matthew Yglesias
Presumptive Republican nominee John McCain may protest that he hates war, but no American leader has promoted it more avidly. McCain is not only the most hawkish neocon on the horizon; he genuinely sees war as America's most ennobling enterprise.
http://prospect.org/cs/articles?article=the_militarist

McCain says Americans most willing to sacrifice (AP 4/28/08)
By TED ANTHONY
You look at the man today — immaculately tailored suit, ramrod-straight posture, confidently articulating complex beliefs in a swanky Midwestern hotel — and it's almost impossible to fathom who he was between 1967 and 1973....McCain doesn't want to be defined by his wartime experiences alone. But when the Arizona senator talks the talk of service and sacrifice, it's never less than crystal clear that, for five torturous years, he walked the walk.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gxBfRO_F2zn8FytaN8v1sndZw1agD90B0QDO0

Ala. mayor apologizes for cut-rate rent deal for McCain (Seattle Times 4/28/08)
The mayor apologized Monday for giving John McCain a cut-rate rental deal on a city building and said he would ask the senator's Republican presidential campaign to pay the full amount.
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/politics/2004379363_apmccaincheaprent.html

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Barbour touts moderate McCain (Washington Times 4/29/08)
By Ralph Z. Hallow
Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour yesterday said that he is too conservative to be John McCain's running mate but that the Arizona senator's maverick reputation will help him in an election in which moderates and independents will be more important than in recent years.
http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080429/NATION/129393134/1001

McCains Keeps All Assets In Cindy's Name (Except One Checking Account) (Huffington Post 4/28/08)
John McCain has repeatedly argued that his wife's financial holdings are separate from his political life, and should remains so for the privacy of her and her children. However, as Slate pointed out this weekend, McCain has no problems keeping nearly everything the couple does own in her name:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/04/28/mccains-keeps-all-assets_n_99003.html

McCain Camp Is Neocon Redux: It's Official (Huffington Post 4/28/08)
By Jacob Heilbrunn
Speaking Monday at a fascinating on-the-record session on U.S.-Russia relations at the Nixon Center, former Reagan administration official Robert McFarlane declared that McCain's first year as president would be "neocon redux."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacob-heilbrunn/mccain-camp-is-neocon-red_b_99046.html

Its Candidates Otherwise Engaged, Democratic Party Goes After McCain (NY Times 4/29/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG
With no end in sight to the nominating contest between Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama, the Democratic Party has begun its first sustained advertising campaign against Senator John McCain, introducing a new commercial this week criticizing his recent comments that he could envision a United States presence in Iraq for 100 years.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/29/us/politics/29ads.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

RNC Chairman Calls on Networks to Not Air Innacurate DNC Ad (The Page 4/28/08)
Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Robert M. "Mike" Duncan today called on cable news networks to not air or to pull the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) inaccurate and malicious advertisement titled "100" off the air.
http://thepage.time.com/rnc-release-on-dnc-anti-mccain-ad/

McCain: Obama and Wright do not share views (CNN 4/28/08)
Despite his newfound willingness to make political hay out of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, John McCain insisted three separate times on Monday he does not believe Barack Obama shares Wright's "extremist views."
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/04/28/mccain-obama-and-wright-do-not-share-views/

McCain refuses to play "referee" on Wright flare ups (FOX 4/28/08)
by Mosheh Oinounou
Sen. McCain said Monday that he refuses to play "referee" as state and local Republicans continue to use the Jeremiah Wright issue in their races across the country.
http://embeds.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/04/28/mccain-refuses-to-play-referee-on-wright-flare-ups/

McCain's Oscillation About Wright (Atlantic Online 4/28/08)
By Marc Ambinder
It's worth pointing out that the qualitative difference between the North Carolina Republican Party advertisement and what John McCain has said about Rev. Jeremiah Wright is fairly tiny. Ostensibly, it's because Obama told Chris Wallace that Wright is a legitimate issue. But why would McCain change his position about the legitimacy of the Rev. Wright association based on something Obama said? From an ethical standpoint, injecting Wright into the campaign is legitimate or it isn't. It shouldn't matter what Obama believes.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/04/mccain_and_wright.php

From the Left, Clinton Scolds McCain Over Republican Ads on Wright (CBS 4/28/08)
By Fernando Suarez
At a press conference in this small town outside of Greensboro, Hillary Clinton said John McCain has not done enough to stop state party officials from running television ads targeting Barack Obama's relationship with controversial pastor Jeremiah Wright.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/04/28/politics/fromtheroad/entry4050165.shtml?CMP=OTC-RSSFeed&source=RSS&attr=FromTheRoad_4050165

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McCain Plans Major NY Fundraiser (NY Times blog 4/28/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Sen. John McCain will hold his first really big fundraiser next week in New York City, a gala event hosted by New York Jets owner Woody Johnson and attended by some of the biggest names in New York finance and industry. The joint fundraiser with the Republican
National Committee is expected to raise about $4 million.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/04/28/mccain_plans_major_ny_fundrais.html

McCain accused of accepting improper donations from Rothschilds (UK Guardian 4/29/08)
By Daniel Nasaw
A US campaign watchdog has accused presumptive Republican president nominee John McCain of violating election laws by accepting campaign contributions from two prominent Londoners.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/apr/29/johnmccain.uselections2008

With the FEC Inactive, the Complaints Fly (Washington Post blog 4/28/08)
By Matthew Mosk
If the Federal Election Commission weren't paralyzed, its members would be pretty busy today. First came the complaint filed this morning by the group Judicial Watch, alleging that the use of London's Spencer House for a fundraising luncheon by Sen. John McCain was in-kind donation to the campaign by foreign nationals, in violation of federal campaign finance laws.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/04/28/with_the_fec_inactive_the_comp.html

House Republicans say Clinton more of a threat to McCain (AP 4/28/08)
House Republicans would rather the Democrats nominate Barack Obama for president because they believe Hillary Rodham Clinton would be more of a threat to John McCain among moderate voters, said Rep. Tom Cole, the GOP's campaign chief.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iNxTApa2sQRu0Xx99P3jt2bEXw7gD90B1QJ00

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's School Choice Opportunity (WSJ 4/29/08)
By WILLIAM MCGURN; Page A11
...There's a good opening here for John McCain. As a senator, he has been a forceful voice for giving lower-income moms and dads the same options for their children that wealthier parents already enjoy. What if he took this campaign into the heart of our cities – and gave a little straight talk about the scandal that their public-school systems represent in this great land of opportunity?
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120942961057851329.html?mod=todays_columnists

A Pastor at Center Stage (Washington Post 4/29/08)
By George F. Will; A17
Because John McCain and other legislators worry that they are easily corrupted, there are legal limits to the monetary contributions that anyone can make to political candidates. There are, however, no limits to the rhetorical contributions that the Rev. Jeremiah Wright can make to McCain's campaign.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/28/AR2008042802100.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush hopes to kickstart peace talks during Mideast trip (AP 4/28/08)
Bush to visit Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt in May
The president is pushing for a peace deal before leaving office
Bush will meet with Israeli prime minister and Palestinian president
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/04/28/bush.mideast.ap/index.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

AP Poll: Clinton leads McCain by 9 points (AP 4/28/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Hillary Rodham Clinton now leads John McCain by 9 points in a head-to-head presidential matchup, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll that bolsters her argument that she is more electable than Democratic rival Barack Obama. Obama and Republican McCain are running about even.
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/wireStory?id=4739626

GOP fears Pelosi power grab on Iraq (Politico 4/28/08)
By: Martin Kady II
Republicans are howling over what appears to be Nancy Pelosi's plan to bypass the House Appropriations

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Committee on the upcoming Iraq war supplemental, complaining that the move will be the beginning of the end of the usual appropriations process and will further consolidate power in the hands of a speaker who already has a lot of it. ... Staffers say Pelosi's office is considering taking $178 billion war funding bill straight to the House floor.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0408/9938.html

GOP plans half-million hit on Obama, Dems (Politico 4/28/08)
By: Josh Kraushaar
After weeks of controversies, Republicans now are ready to place a $500,000 bet that Obama will be a heavy burden on down-ballot Democrats.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0408/9933.html

Obama Adds to Distance From Pastor and Opinions (NY Times 4/29/08)
By JEFF ZELENY
If it was not clear before Monday, Senator Barack Obama said, it should be clear now: His presidential campaign has no control over what the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., his former pastor, says or what he does.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/29/us/politics/29wright.html?hp

As Clinton Seeks Gas Tax Break for Summer, Obama Says No (Washington Post 4/29/08)
By JOHN M. BRODER
As angry truckers encircled the Capitol in a horn-blaring caravan and consumers across the country agonized over $60 fill-ups, the issue of high fuel prices flared on the campaign trail on Monday, sharply dividing the two Democratic candidates.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/29/us/politics/29campaign.html?_r=1&hp=&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1209456664-YPkGn4gPvJKOuthDminBLg

4 US soldiers killed; militants shell Green Zone (AP 4/28/08)
By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Bombardments by suspected militants killed four U.S. soldiers Monday as troops tried to push Shiite fighters farther from the U.S.-protected Green Zone and out of range of their rockets and mortars. At least 44 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq in April, making it the deadliest month for U.S. forces since September.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gkx-3oYeFwuWKCusr2jrojs98w8wD90B3BCG0

Is an Iranian general the most powerful man in Iraq? (McClatchy 4/29/08)
Hannah Allam, Jonathan S. Landay and Warren P. Strobel
One of the most powerful men in Iraq isn't an Iraqi government official, a militia leader, a senior cleric or a top U.S. military commander or diplomat, He's an Iranian general, and at times he's more influential than all of them.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/227/story/35146.html

Marines launch operation in Afghanistan's Taliban territory (AP 4/29/08)
By JASON STRAZIUSO
U.S. Marines in helicopters and Humvees flooded into a Taliban-held town in southern Afghanistan's most violent province early Tuesday, the first major American operation in the region in years.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jnypM0Yl4qSc3-IpcxPYSOj9t4KAD90B8QC89

U.N.'s Envoy To Afghanistan Sees Threats To Progress (Washington Post 4/29/08)
By Karen DeYoung; A14

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Sara L. DuBois
Progressive Media USA
Sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Antonino La Rosa Presidente La Rosa Foundation" <presidente@larosa-foundation.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	9/6/2015 9:01:50 AM
Subject:	I: Request financial support energy cooperation UE/USA.
Attachments:	Letter President Council of Ministers in Italy MATTEO RENZI.pdf Presentation Larber International Limited - english version -.pdf La Rosa Foundation and RFK Foundation.pdf JFK-RFK Save the Date_.pdf

Da: Antonino La Rosa Presidente La Rosa Foundation [mailto:presidente@larosa-foundation.com]
Inviato: sabato 5 settembre 2015 15:25
A: 'federica.mogherini@ec.europa.eu'
Cc: 'The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov'
Oggetto: Request financial support energy cooperation UE/USA.
Priorità: Alta

Vice President Federica MOGHERINI Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
p.c.
Dr. Ernest Moniz Secretary of Energy USA

****

Dear Federica ,

I am Antonio La Rosa a President La Rosa Foundation (see attached doc. 1) and CEO of the Company in start up Larber International Limited, with subsidiary in Italy (see attached doc. 2).

I express satisfaction with the mandate given by the European Commission.

Russia's Gazprom has bolstered its industrial presence in the heart of Europe with two major gas deals that were announced on Friday despite ongoing tensions with Moscow over the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Gazprom abandoned its South Stream pipeline project, designed to deliver gas from Russia to Europe via the Black Sea and Bulgaria, last year under EU pressure. The EU has instead encouraged the development of alternative supplies from the Caspian Sea and the United States.

New liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from the United States should also be in full swing by then and likely landing on Europe's shores in significant volumes, a development which could challenge Russia's energy dominance.
Investment banks (Bank of America Merrill Lynch, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and other) must help us also in the interest of our gas suppliers in the United States of America.

We ask for your help for Investment Banks support business operations aimed at cooperation between our Company Larber International Limited and the Companies authorized by the Department of Energy of the United States to export LNG in Europe.

LA ROSA FOUNDATION and Larber International Limited works to strengthen cooperation with the USA.

With the diplomatic mission of the United States of America in Italy, we have remembered Robert and John Kennedy (see attachments doc. 3-4).

We are eager to initiate a fruitful cooperation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely ,

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Antonino La Rosa

M. +39 393 9154197

presidente@larosa-foundation.com

Presidente La Rosa Foundation

Registered Office

Via Tre Monti n°15 – Complesso La Noria Corpo B – 98057 Milazzo(Me)

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pec: larosa-foundation@pec.it

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Matt Ortega" <mortega@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/29/2015 12:06:23 PM
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash in Politico Blast

Great job by Carter, Vas and Tyson getting this called false.

a review of then-Sen. Clinton's statements and votes while the Indian nuclear deal was under debate shows that two key facts in Schweizer's argument on the topic are false, as Clinton actually publicly stated her support for the deal in 2006 and in fact voted against a "killer amendment" that the book reports she supported.

On Wed, Apr 29, 2015 at 7:04 PM, Matt Ortega <mortega@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

> **ANOTHER SNEAK PEEK INSIDE 'CLINTON CASH': HILLARY CLINTON** changed her position on a 2008 nuclear agreement between the United States and India after Indian business and government interests flooded various Clinton enterprises with cash, a highly-anticipated new book alleges in a chapter obtained by POLITICO.
>
> The book - "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Help Make Bill and Hillary Rich" - has become a major point of contention as Clinton kicks off her 2016 bid for the White House and her team has aggressively fought to both discredit its conservative author, Peter Schweizer, and to debunk its claims before publication.
>
> The newly obtained chapter, titled, "Indian Nukes: How to Win a Medal by Changing Hillary's Mind," details a series of donations and overtures from Indians who supported the nuclear deal to the Clintons, and points to one case of an Indian-American Clinton donor - who in April 2014 pleaded guilty in an illegal contribution scheme for Clinton's 2008 run - receiving an award from the Indian government for his work in securing the agreement.
>
> Schweizer said this week on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that the episode showed "a pattern of behavior...the proof is, you look at a series of actions in which money flows to the Clintons, either through speaking fees or Clinton Foundation donors. **HILLARY CLINTON** takes a course of action that benefits those donors, in many cases, I think, outlined in the book, she is reversing course on policy prescriptions as it relates to India."
>
> While Clinton's India stance evolved over the years, a review of then-Sen. Clinton's statements and votes while the Indian nuclear deal was under debate shows that two key facts in Schweizer's argument on the topic are false, as Clinton actually publicly stated her support for the deal in 2006 and in fact voted against a "killer amendment" that the book reports she supported.
>
> Asked about the allegations by POLITICO, Clinton campaign spokesman Josh Schwerin said "Clinton Cash is attempting to rewrite history to fit a pre-determined partisan narrative. It only takes a quick look at Hillary's actual voting record and statements to see that this conspiracy theory doesn't even come close to passing the smell test." *Full story to post tonight on POLITICO.*
>
> --
> You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
> To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
> To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 3:20:17 PM
Subject: RE: Today's Post story on HRC

What did you think of her point

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2015 3:39 PM
To: Tony Podesta
Subject: Fwd: Today's Post story on HRC

Know her?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, "politics as usual' is immediately heard as "politics as usual in Clinton-world."

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she

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represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words 'politics as usual' it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. "

Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women's movement in the United States as women's organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

" *I Want to Hold Your Hand*" and " *I Saw Her Standing There"* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson's War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon's 'silent majority,' -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women's rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention

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in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

“The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which “brings us together in a peaceful loving state.”

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking’s insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/7/2008 6:50:04 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Lima, OH 08/07/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Lee, on the ground in Lima, OH. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Asked if he would again vote for Iraq War, McCain says Saddam would've been using $ from $120/barrel oil to acquire WMDs so world's better off w/o him
- Local pol introducing McCain compares Obama to Mark Dann, OH AG caught in sex-scandal
- Calls Obama "confused," Says "I know he hasn't been in the Senate that long, but even in the real world voting for something means you support it, and voting against something means you oppose it. "
- Brings up Obama's 'inflate your tires' suggestion is "not an energy plan--that's a public service announcement"
- Says he "do[es] not recognize" increasing demand from other countries when assessing benefits of offshore drilling
- Says we ought to reduce our commitment in Sadr City, Iraqis ought to pay more
- Says we have to "focus" our military/V.A. care to 'those unique aspects to veterans care'
- Says 'I don't know much about speculation'

Lima, OH: McCain Town Hall 08/07/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- 300-400 people, mostly white - venue at capacity
- Tracker didn't see any protesters
- Steve Schmidt in the audience; also Mike DeWine; Mark Salter lurking behind the curtains
- Seats marked "reserved" flanking podium where McCain to speak - people were personally escorted to those seats by staffers
- Pre-event fanfare: cheerleaders and boyscouts; Pledge of Allegiance
- **Local pol (presumably Keith Cheney, Allen County GOP chair) speaking at beginning of event compares to Mark Dann, OH AG caught in sex-scandal**
- Cong. Jim Jordan gives introductory remarks
- Adm. Tom Lynch introduces Cindy McCain
    - 'What is not obvious is that she's a loving, caring, woman of depth'
    - Mentions Jimmy's in Iran--correction: Iraq; mentions Jack in Marine
    - Brings up story of Bridget's adoption
- Cindy introduces John McCain
    - In Rwanda, I witnessed a woman who had survived the genocide - she reminded me something about my husband: putting your country first.
    - My husband embodies what is good and decent and great about USA, and that is hope.
- Audience gives prolonged standing ovation for McCain
- McCain intro before prepared remarks
    - TY Cindy, TY all for being here. thanks Meghan and Andy McCain and his wife, Lucy, for being here
    - You remember Tom's bro who played football here; TY Jim Jordan; TY Mike and Fran DeWine for all the work you do for families in USA; Mike Krites (candidate for AG)
    - I'm the underdog in this race, ok? And we may be up late b/c commentators will say we're waiting for returns from OH. I'm asking for your support.
    - BTW I wish Obama were here w/ me today. I've asked him to come w/ me to town hall meetings, b/c they're the most beautiful thing about democracy.
    - I'll try to make my remarks brief, but 'Remember, I'm a Senator'
    - To the vets - TY, you are the most patriotic people in America. It's obvious we have

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FULL PREPARED REMARKS
I want to speak briefly about the issues at stake in this election, and about the choice that we face.

I have been called a maverick. Sometimes it is meant as a compliment and sometimes it is meant as a criticism. But what it really means is I understand who I work for. I don't work for a party. I don't work for a president. I don't work for a special interest. I don't work for myself. I work for you and for the country we love.

I spoke up against the administration for their mistakes in Iraq. I fought for the surge strategy that is going to bring our troops home with victory. I spoke up against my party for out of control spending. I spoke up against the administration and Congress … and Senator Obama, when they gave us an energy bill with more give-aways to big oil and no real solution to our energy problems.

Now, I want to take a minute here on this issue, because **I think Senator Obama is a little confused.** Yesterday he accused me of having President Bush's policies on energy. That's odd, because he voted for the President's energy bill and I voted against it. I voted against it because it had 2.8 billion dollars in corporate welfare to oil companies that are already making record profits. Senator Obama voted for that bill and its big oil giveaways. **I know he hasn't been in the Senate that long, but even in the real world voting for something means you support it, and voting against something means you oppose it.**

Just like on the energy bill, I have argued for reform and change in Washington for years, and it hasn't always made me friends with the politicians and pundits. But I don't answer to them; I answer to you. You will always know exactly where I stand and you will always know, no matter what, I will always do what I believe is right for our country.

For his part, Senator Obama is an impressive orator. I applaud his talent and success. All Americans should be proud of his accomplishment. … But Washington is full of talented talkers. And unfortunately, on issues big and small, what Senator Obama says and what he does are often two different things.

Senator Obama says he's going to change Washington. But his plan to raise your taxes and spend more of your money is not my idea of a solution to what troubles Washington. In fact, it sounds a lot like the problem. In the few years he's been in the Senate, he has requested nearly a billion dollars in pork barrel spending. That's a million dollars for every day he's been in office. We need to end this out of control spending in Washington, and when I am president it will stop.

Senator Obama says he will only raise taxes on the rich. But in the Senate, he voted for tax hikes that would have impacted those making just **$42,000** per year. He has proposed tax increases on income taxes, capital gains taxes, dividend taxes, Social Security taxes – pretty much anything that you can tax, he wants to tax more. We have the second highest business tax rate in the world, and Barack Obama thinks the way to keep jobs here at home is to make it higher. Raising taxes in a bad economy is about the worst thing you could do because it will kill even more jobs and send more jobs overseas. What we need are policies that create jobs. What we need today is an Economic Surge to keep jobs here at home and create new ones. We need to reduce the tax burden on businesses that choose to make their home in the U.S. We need to open new markets to U.S. products. We need to reduce the cost of healthcare. And we need to end the out of control spending in Washington that is putting our debt on the backs of our children.

Senator Obama says he wants energy independence, but he is opposed to new drilling at home; he is opposed to nuclear power. He has said the high cost of gasoline doesn't bother him; only that it rose too quickly. He actually thinks that raising taxes on oil is going to bring down the price at the pump. **He is claiming that putting air in your tires is the equivalent of new offshore drilling… That's not an energy plan; that's a public service announcement.** We all agree we need to aggressively develop advanced alternative energies like wind, solar, tidal and biofuels. But we also need to develop more existing energies like safe nuclear power and clean coal. And we need to stop sending $700 billion a year to countries that don't like us very much, start drilling for more oil at home, and bring down the cost of gasoline that is killing our economy. If we are going to finally solve this problem, we need an "all of the above" approach.

On Iraq, Barack Obama says he wants peace, but even today he opposes the surge strategy that succeeded in Iraq and will succeed in Afghanistan. His policy of unconditional withdrawal – regardless of the facts on the ground – could result in renewed violence and a third Iraq war. I am going to end this war, but when I bring our troops home, they will come home with victory, leaving Iraq secured as a democratic ally in the Arab heartland.

Behind all the words, Senator Obama's agenda can be summarized as this: Government is too big,

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and he wants to grow it. Taxes are too high, and he wants to raise them. Congress spends too much, and he proposes more. We need more energy, and he's against producing it. We're finally winning in Iraq, and he wants to forfeit.

The bottom line is that Senator Obama's words, for all their eloquence and passion, don't mean all that much. And that's the problem with Washington. It is not just the Bush Administration, and it's not just the Democratic Congress. It's that everyone in Washington says whatever it takes to get elected or to score the political point of the day. If Senator Obama doesn't have the strength to speak openly and directly about how he will address the serious challenges confronting America, how will he be strong enough to really change Washington? We don't need another politician in Washington who puts self-interest and political expediency ahead of problem solving. We need to start putting our country first, and come together to keep American families safe and help them realize their dreams for a better life.

Question & Answer

- 1Q) Why don't you respond more aggressively to not only Obama's questions but also media's when they accuse you of flip-flopping when you're really changing your mind having listened to your constituents, e.g. immigration and fuel economy? You don't respond aggressively enough.
    - JM: Tehre's a careful balance between responding to attacks that were started a long time ago by outlets like **MoveOn** and left-wing agenda - and setting a positive agenda for the future of this country. There are a huge host of issues that we need to address. On offshore drilling, a few years ago, there were people who didn't care about offshore drilling, let alone support it. And then gas went over $4/gallon and we have to consider all our options. And BTW, I met with a group of **"independent petroleum executives"** and they said within months we could start to see results, and within - and that's from people in the business, that's not just my opinion. So we should start now. And I want you all to be proud of me.

- 2Q) **"First of all, we think in Lima, OH, you're a celebrity."** Given the advantages of hindsight on Iraq war, how would you vote on issue of going to war in Iraq and why?
    - JM: **First, what do you think Saddam would be doing with oil at $120/barrel. I'll tell you -he'd be acquiring and using WMDs**, like he'd done 2x before. There was the oil-for-food scandal, our planes were being shot at, ceasefires were breaking down, and he was a brutal dictator. There's no doubt in my mind- he told his interrogators he was committed to using WMDs,. I think we're going to see a stable but flawed democracy--BTW, right now, I'm not sure we should criticize other govts--an ally in the region, a break on Iranian influence. Let me remind you - I said initial victory would be easy and it was, and then I went over there and saw we were had the wrong strategy and said we were doomed to failure. Adn now the sruge is working.
    - JM: If he were still in power, the world would be far worse off, esp w/ all the money he'd be making off of oil and he'd have his commitment to using WMDs. that's my answer.

- 3Q) What are your feelings on status of education and what you would do to change it?
    - JM - makes questioner introduce her baby
    - JM: Cindy was a teacher of special ed before I took her out of a very good line of work. Education is a civil rights issue of the 21st century. Now all chidlren have equal opportunity to enter school, but what are we doing if we let them enter a failing school? We need choice and competition: charter schools; those who want home-schooling or school vouchers, they should do it. Look at NYC and NOLA. I also want to put bad teachers into another line of work and find it for them. Cindy and I made a choice w/ our children and decided to send our kids to a private school - Obamas also made a choice - I want every American to have the choice we had. And penalizing failing schools. And finally, NCLB has to be fixed adn we need to reauthorize it but I don't think it should be scrapped.

- 4Q) **Do you recognize the small likelihood of reducing the price at the pump while demands increase from Brazil, India, China, etc?** Do you recongnize that when considering how much we'll actually be saving w/ offshore drilling?
    - JM: **I do not recognize that.** In France they have increased their energy production through nuclear - if they can do it, so can we. If I accepted your premise, then I'd have to reject my fundamental belief that Americans are capable of rising above any challenge. Using all the options. Nuclear is safe -we can do it. And hybrid cars, e.g. GM's Volt - and that can create thousands of job, incl. in OH. When we

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eliminate our dependence on foreign oil, we don't care what the Saudis charge b/c we will be independent.

- 5Q) Is there any reason we can't use the oil across the pond when we fight for them?
    - JM: Let me broaden - Iraqis ought to pay more - we have to reduce our commitment and do it soon. I'd start in Sadr City, which has only recently come udner govt control.

- 6Q) Does your pro-amnesty position mean you support a North American Union / Superhighway?
    - JM: No I'm against it. It will never happen when I'm POTUS.
    - FOLLOWUP: A quote from you in Washington Times 5/29/03 where you said amnesty has to be part of any solution.
    - JM: No North American Union will take place while i'm POTUS.
    - JM: Our borders are broken, we have to secure our borders first. We also have to have comprehensive immigration reform. We failed 2x b/c American ppl didn't believe us. Then we have to have a temp worker program (work here for 2 years with tamper-proof biometric documetns and anyone who employs someone w/o these docs will be prosecuted). I know we can do this - it's a fed responsibility. We have to address the 12M people here illegally - in a human and compassionate fashion. And I'm a federalist but I will not let this issue pass.
    - One other point- illegal immigrants aren't the only problem - the Mexican govt is in a titanic struggle w/ drug cartels on are borders adn the drugs are coming over and killing our people. so we have to secure our borders.

- 7Q) My son served 2 terms in Iraq - he has some problems now. The VA system is making things difficult. What will you do to expedite him getting help?
    - JM: I don't have stats to back this up but this part of USA has probably supplied more people to help fight than any other part b/c this is the Heartland. We can't let another Walter Reed happen.
    - We have an increase in PTSD - we know that, this is a terribly tough war. Adn we have the ability to treat more ppl in the field than before. **We have to focus our military medical care and our V.A. care to "those unique aspects of veterans care".** For routine needs, you should have a plastic card and get care at doctor of your choice.

- I was the individual in Portsmouth that handed you a coin and I wanted to tell you that we--every vet in every city--we're all behind you. We need a person like you to run it.

- 8Q) What are you going to do to stop ppl from losing good-paying jobs, esp ppl who work in auto plants?
    - JM: I went to MI and said the old auto jobs aren't coming back - the new auto jobs are coming back. The Volt, hybrids, flex fuels. I will give Americans tax credit for buying these. I just went to CA and met w/ ppl who'd built electronic car - but it was $100K. The next time it'll be $60k. Remember how big cell phones were when they first came out? Adn now they're practically giving them away. Some straight talk - Detroit's in trouble. But there's the Volt and there's what Chrysler and Ford are trying to do. And I'll do what I can to help them.

- 9Q) A lot of politicians w/ a lot of supposed solutions. But they've failed to tell us HOW we're going to do it, esp Obama. What will your Admin specifically do in order to utilize these new tactics?
    - JM: Only 1 way, and that's the American people. Demand. We sit down GOP and Dem and force them to give us an energy policy that works. And we have to have a Cong that will allow a vote, and stay in town, stay at your desk. Adn I'll give them the credit. And it's got to be all of the above - it can just be one energy option. And we voted for an energy bill that frankly was a disgraceful failure. I voted against the energy bill, b/c it was the wrong thing to do for the American ppl, it was the right thing for special interests. There's only 1 way we've ever overcome things in USA and that's reaching across the aisle. And I can't promise you overnight success - it took 30 years to get here.

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- 10Q) Are you for a 3rd layer of fences (re: immigration)?
    - JM: I'm for fences: physical, virtual. In populated areas, you need real fences. In rural areas, you can use vehicle barriers etc. I don't think it's as effective to build a wall all the way across. In less populated areas, I think we have to use high-technology more.

- 11Q) [little girl] Can I get a picture of you smiling?
    - JM: thank you [awkward] Now can I ask you to introduce this group of beautiful young people?
    - A: Lima cheerleaders.

- 12Q) How do we get the liberal press to decide to listen to us?
    - JM: It is what it is. I'm confident we can do enough communication with the American ppl that we can directly communicate with them and they with me.

- [woman says she's on McCain's Small Business Committee, thanks mccain for being great for small businesses]

- 13Q) How many jobs do you think offshore drilling will create and how good for the economy will it be?
    - JM: I want to repeat,when you increase supply, the price goes down. And **I don't know much about speculation,** but one of the major reasons the price has gone up so much is that India and China's demands have gone off. So there's no doubt that when we drill off our shores, the price will go down. So jobs will be created and be good for our economy - especially since they're high-paying jobs [hard to hear]. And taxes will go down, which will also help.

- 14Q) When are you going to announce your VP?
    - JM: VP is very very important. At the beginning VP has 2 duties: tiebreaking vote in Senate and to inquire daily as to the health of the Pres, and that'll probably be an important possiblity.
- 15Q) I am a single-issue voter: pro-life. So you have my vote. But I have a lot of friends who are concerned about your stance on stem-cell research, destructive embryonic research,
    - JM: Stem-cell research is an agonizing issue b/c cures for diseases are possible. I'm confident that skin-cell research is reaching a point that will make stem-cell research academic. I believe the noblest words ever written are 'all men are created equal... pursuit of happiness' and I believe that applies to the unborn and to all unborn children acorss the world. I know what it's right to be deprived of some of your rights, and I'm proud of joining ppl like DeWine and Jim Jordan to change the debate so we are protecting more of the rights of the unborn. And i will not change my views, and my record is very clear on advocacy of rights of the unborn. And I say that with all due respect to ppl who hold opposing views on the matter.
    - JM: And that brings me to judges: 2-3 SCOTUS nominations will likely come up. Alito and Roberts are 2 of the finest - I voted for them, not b/c I agreed w/ their ideology but b/c they were qualified. Obama opposed them on ideological grounds. If we voted based on ideological grounds, we'd never get anyone passed. I will make sure they're strict-constructionists.
- JM: I'm asking for your vote and active participation. We will disagree from time to time on specific issues adn that's healthy and good. But I will always always always put my country first. I have done that since I was in prison and was offered a chance to leave before my comrades. [Everett Alvarez story] These are tough times for America. I am prepared to lead.

--
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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/24/2015 7:04:12 AM
Subject: ASP Newsletter

November 24, 2015

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Top Stories

Alleviating the Resource Curse: The Opportunity Presented by Section 1504 of Dodd-Frank

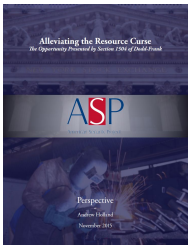

ASP recently released a perspective paper written by Senior Fellow Andrew Holland. In it, he discusses the phenomenon where developing countries ironically end up worse off after experiences a resource boom. Holland argues that the best way to combat this involves a collaborate effort with the government, companies, and civil society to increase transparency. By doing so, the rewards of resources can be efficiently and fairly shared.

Click here for more.

TPP: Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability

On Thursday, November 19th American Security Project hosted "TPP: Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability." The conversation included Ambassador Carl Worker, Charge d'Affaires at the New Zealand Embassy; BGen. Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret), CEO of American Security Project; Minister Kanji Yamanouchi is Minister for Economic Affairs, Embassy of Japan; and Dr.

ASP in the News

BGen. Cheney Featured in National Defense Magazine
Yasmin Tadjdeh, National Defense

ASP's Christine Todd Whitman Writes Op-ed in The Wall Street Journal About Nuclear Energy
Christine Todd Whitman

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Rob Shapiro, CEO of Sonecon.

Click here for more.

Lt. General Norman Seip, USAF (Ret.) Joins ASP Board of Directors

On November 17th, American Security Project's Board of Directors unanimously confirmed Lieutenant General Norman "Norm" Seip, USAF (Ret.) as its newest member. Lt. General Seip has been an active member of ASP's Consensus for American Security and regular participant on the National Security and Climate Change Tour in recent years.

Click here for more.

Upcoming Events

Climate Change: Risks for National Security

Today, the U.S. Navy is preparing for an open Arctic, the Marines are deploying in response to historic typhoons, and the Army is preparing its bases to use less energy than they produce. Climate change is already a major consideration for US military planners. Meanwhile, American politicians continue to ignore the issue.

Join us for a discussion as ASP highlights stops from our two year national tour and the steps being taken by the US military and other agencies to prepare for the impacts of climate change to national security.

Friday, December 11, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

1100 New York Avenue, NW - 7th floor - West Tower
Washington, D.C

Click here to RSVP

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

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Paris Terrorist Attacks Aftermath: The EU Mutual Defense Clause

Steffen Westerburger

Last weekend France – for the second time this year – was hit by a series of coordinated terrorist attacks on its capital. The iconic city of love once again found itself at the main stage of international terrorism. President Francois Hollande addressed a joint session of both houses of parliament in Versailles on Monday, November 16th. He did not mince words: 'France is at war'. An unexpected move followed, the French President announced that his country for the first time in history intended to invoke article 42.7 of the EU Lisbon Treaty – the EU Common Defense and Security Policy. This move gives us an interesting insight into France's foreign policy strategy.

Climate Change, Paris, the rise of ISIS, and What "Causes" Terrorism

Andrew Holland

Over the past few days, there have been a number of discussion in the press around the country and around the world on the links between climate change and terrorism. Let us be clear – no act of terror is due to climate change, but climate change has helped to create the conditions from which terrorist groups can plot and plan.

The Relationship Between Climate Change and Terrorism: Reigniting the Debate

Anil Powers

E&E published an article about the relationship between climate change and terrorism. In it, E&E reporter Jean Chemnick discussed the "rekindling of an old feud" regarding the dangers of climate change, renewed partisan pushback, and policy strategies.

Want America to Remain Exceptional? Try Leading on Climate Change

American Security Project

It is time to realize that even if you believe that climate change is only *possible*, we have a responsibility as the greatest country in the world to do something about it. Not just because we are one of the largest causes of this risk, and not just because we have the resources to do something about it, and not just because climate change could really harm the United States and our personal interests.

GMOs Play a key Role in Climate and national Security

Ricky Gandhi

Climate change has had notable impacts on our environment and national security, serving as a "threat multiplier," according to the Department of Defense. The argument goes that climate change can exacerbate existing conflict by making already-scarce resources ever scarcer, such as land and water.

Nuclear Security

Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran with Ambassador Thomas Pickering

Sam Hickey

On Monday November 2, 2015, Ambassador Thomas Pickering visited American University to address Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran. Ambassador Pickering has served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, Nigeria, Jordan and El Salvador. He has also served as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs and as Special Assistant to Secretaries of State William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger

American Competitiveness

As it Faces a Commodity Slump, Africa Needs a People-Centered Economy

John Bugnacki

After a decade of unprecedented growth, African economies appear to be in trouble. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now forecasting an expansion of only 3.75% for the region during this year, down from 0.5% during 2014, and the economy of the southern African state of Zambia is among the worst affected.

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Public Diplomacy

What Constitutes Credibility in U.S. Public Diplomacy
Matthew Wallin
As discussion ensues over how to combat ISIS online or counter Russian propaganda, it's worth taking a look at the elements that lend to credible messaging. The importance of credibility cannot be underestimated, as it provides the initial basis by which members of a target audience decide to listen to one's message in the first place.

Fusion Energy

The Weekly Fusion: A Look at Current Advancements in Fusion Energy
Ricky Gandhi
The future of fusion energy is constantly being unfolded in front of our eyes, as every week there is some breakthrough in new technologies and designs in the nuclear fusion sector of energy. Since there is such a wealth of information, I have gathered and consolidated a list of articles geared toward the advancement of making fusion energy a reality, from within the past week.

National Security Strategy

Unlocking the Secrets of Cyber Hazards
SIGNAL Magazine
Security products are like crack to security professionals - they just cannot get enough. These products appear to be the panacea practitioners are seeking, but often are not what they seem. They do not always solve problems, and they leave security experts continually looking for yet more new products, solutions, and techniques for managing cyber risk. This raises the question: Why do enterprises and government organizations find protecting themselves from cyber crime so difficult?

Developing an Effective Anti-ISIS Strategy
Matthew Wallin
The recent terror attacks in Paris have created renewed demand to develop a real strategy for defeating ISIS. From Beirut to the Metrojet over the Sinai, these attacks show spillover from the Syrian Civil War that threatens the livelihood of people far beyond Syria's borders.

About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

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"Brian Fallon" <brianefallon@gmail.com>
"Christina?? Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
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"Tony Carrk" <tony.carrk@gmail.com>
Date: 7/21/2015 1:18:56 PM
Subject: Re: Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran - full spending

First wave of AIPAC spending, against the deal

From: <Demastrie>, Jesse Demastrie <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com >
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 4:17 PM
To: Andrew Bleeker <bleeker@bpimedia.com >, Brian Fallon <brianefallon@gmail.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >, David Binder <David@db-research.com >, Jesse Demastrie <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com >, Elan Kriegel <ekriegel@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Jason Rosenbaum <jrosenbaum@hillaryclinton.com >, Jen Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, "Jesse Ferguson (HRC)" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Daniel Jester <Daniel.Jester@gmmb.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Anson Kaye <Anson.Kaye@gmmb.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Jason Lenar <AJ.Lenar@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >, Matt Dover <mdover@hillaryclinton.com >, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Michael Halle <mhalle@hillaryclinton.com >, Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com >, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, "Oren Shur (HRC)" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >, "Oxhorn, Liz" <Liz.Oxhorn@gmmb.com >, Greg Pinelo <Greg.Pinelo@gmmb.com >, John Rimel <John.Rimel@gmmb.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com >, Tony Carrk <tony.carrk@gmail.com >
Subject: Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran - full spending

See spending and spot link for Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran below.

Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran (against Iran nuclear deal)
7/17 – 7/27
NOTE: All spending is **7/17 – 7/23**, *except cable in New York, which is* 7/21-27
Total $5,492,000
Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rifQLpX_vtk

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Atlanta, ~155 GRPs, $79K – cable only

Washington DC, ~855 GRPs, $446K

Phoenix, ~660 GRPs, $186K

Los Angeles, ~460 GRPs, $570K
San Diego, ~660 GRPs, $143K
Fresno, ~410 GRPs, $35K

Hartford, ~745 GRPs, $128K

Denver, ~500 GRPs, $158K

Tampa, ~460 GRPs, $162K
Miami, ~365 GRPs, $206K
West Palm Beach, ~690 GRPs, $96K
Tallahassee, ~385 GRPs, $27K
Panama City, ~710 GRPs, $23K

Honolulu, ~440 GRPs, $46K

Chicago, ~420 GRPs, $233K

Indianapolis, ~790 GRPs, $111K

Boston, ~530 GRPs, $277K

Baltimore, ~950 GRPs, $168K

Detroit, ~825 GRPs, $229K

Omaha, ~635 GRPs, $67K

New York, ~360 GRPs, $485K – broadcast only
New York, ~45 GRPs, $60K – cable only *(note different flight: 7/21 – 7/27)*

Las Vegas, ~540 GRPs, $133K

Portland, OR, ~540 GRPs, $99K

Philadelphia, ~525 GRPs, $258K
Pittsburgh, ~580 GRPs, $92K

Providence, ~380 GRPs, $60K

Dallas, ~465 GRPs, $252K
Houston, ~480 GRPs, $235K
San Antonio, ~480 GRPs, $101K
Laredo, ~725 GRPs, $29K

Richmond, ~470 GRPs, $41K

Seattle, ~980 GRPs, $203K

Charleston-Huntington, WV, ~630 GRPs, $56K

Jesse Demastrie Vice President, Associate Media Director
202.338.8700 |office
202.813.4983 |direct

+**gmmb**cause the effect

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From:	"Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
Date:	4/21/2015 3:24:39 PM
Subject:	Memo from Brian Fallon
Attachments:	Memo - Book Update.pdf

Attached is a memo from Brian Fallon, our National Press Secretary, to update friends and allies like you on what we have already learned about the book Clinton Cash.

Yours,
Jesse

Jesse F. Ferguson
Deputy National Press Secretary and Senior Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@JesseFFerguson
Gchat: Jfferg

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"John Graham" <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com>
To:	"John Graham" <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com>
Date:	11/11/2015 10:18:47 AM
Subject:	FW: Maria Bartiromo booed citing Hillary Clinton's résum é - Business Insider/2016 presidential debate/ Republic ans/ Hillary wins!

subject: Maria Bartiromo booed citing Hillary Clinton's résumé - Business Insider

http://www.businessinsider.com/maria-bartiromo-debate-hillary-clinton-resume-fox-business-2015-11

2016 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE: MARCO RUBIO VS. HILLARY CLINTON
Marco Rubio was most impressive in the first Republican Presidential debate of substance. With all due respect, Fox Business was professional . On the Rubio front , his quick response to an informative Rand Paul observation on U.S. involvement within the Middle East, etc. as a matter of Military Budget Waste, says it all. You cannot be an isolationist with homeland security /ISIS targeting ours and our allies very existence. Where does this resonate? Woman voters ,who dominate Presidential electorates from either party. The safety of their family overrules even the economy if they believe the threat to the security of their children is real. In terms of the brutality of ISIS , both parties better pay attention to ISIS . Mothers get it. Russia/Egypt gets it. Hillary gets it .Marco gets it . Who has the better understanding ? The resume? Hillary Clinton.. Welcome to the 2016 Presidential Elections. Fasten your seat belts!

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From: "Hannah Richert" <Hannah@presidentclinton.com>
To: zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org
blindsey@clintonfoundation.org
sstreett@clintonfoundation.org
"Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com>
Date: 2/9/2013 5:09:59 AM
Subject: Re: Biweekly Report for WJC

Will do

From: Zayneb Shaikley [mailto:zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 07:06 AM
To: Hannah Richert; Bruce Lindsey <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>; Stephanie Streett <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>; Tina Flournoy
Cc: Laura Graham (CF); Valerie Alexander; Scott Curran <scurran@clintonfoundation.org>; Ami Desai; Dennis Cheng <dcheng@clintonfoundation.org>; Bari Lurie <blurie@clintonfoundation.org>; Angel Urena; Jon Davidson; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Ali Rubin contact <ali@chelseaoffice.com>; Brittany Doyle Contact <brittany@chelseaoffice.com>
Subject: RE: Biweekly Report for WJC

Hannah,
Can you please use the attached/below updated biweekly instead of the one I sent yesterday? It now contains input from CGI.
Thank you!
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 9, 2013

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance conducted a satellite media tour with Billy Blanks and Tara Stiles to showcase the Fit for a Healthier Generation campaign aimed at making kids more active in schools. The tour reached more than 20 million people across the country.

24 Hour Fitness and Cigna have signed on to the Alliance's Healthcare Initiative and will offer their employees and employer groups, respectively, extended visits to primary care practitioners and covered visits to registered dietitians.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

CHMI will meet with the PGA Tour later this week to finalize details on launching the CHMI community program in the Greater Jacksonville area.

CHMI met with Commissioner Kelly's team last week to discuss the details of the event on prescription drug abuse and further collaboration. Due to scheduling constraints, the event will take place in the spring on an NYC campus. Meanwhile, CHMI will be working with the NYPD to convene NYC college and university presidents to discuss ways in which these campuses can educate their students on the dangers of prescription drugs and the mixing of these drugs with other substances.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

CEO met with Kevin Langley, the former Global Chairman of the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO), to discuss possible partnership opportunities between EO and CEO. The Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) is a global business network of over 8,000 business owners in 122 chapters and 35 countries. Conversation centered upon the possibility of leveraging EO's New York and New Orleans chapters to create a small business event geared towards providing much needed advice and support to small business owners who were still in the midst of dealing with the damages brought on by Hurricane Sandy. Kevin was able to give valuable advice and emotional support to EO member and former EMP mentee Victor Chan, a small business owner whose business survived Hurricane Katrina. Kevin counseled Victor on how best to keep his South Street Seaport area restaurant business alive amidst a host of financing and real estate issues that have threatened to put him out of business. CEO will be continuing exploratory conversations with EO around how EO New Orleans entrepreneurs could be leveraged in a similar manner to support NYC area small business owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

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MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

The trees project is being reviewed by a large purchaser of carbon credits in Scandinavia for a potential major purchase commitment (up to 40,000 tons per year). COTAP, the carbon credits broker in the US that is aiming to be the Kiva of carbon credits, has made over $3,700 in sales of Trees of Hope credits to individual buyers in the few months since signing a marketing agreement with CDI. Bank accounts have been established for Trees of Hope farmers who will be receiving their first payments from carbon sales.

CDI is working on finalizing the long-term lease agreement for the commercial farms. Discussions have begun with John McAslan on developing a master site plan for the commercial farms to help guide renovation and construction of needed infrastructure after leases are in place.

Rwanda

CDI has approached some technical schools and universities to recruit their best students for factory jobs at Mount Meru Soyco Ltd. They will conduct interviews in February and those selected will be sent to a factory in Arusha for a three-month training in March. The Soyco factory is preparing to begin buying raw materials from farmers.

Regarding the AGRA project, all crops are maturing on the field and the team hopes to begin the harvest and mobilize more farmers for the coming season by the end of this month. The CDI team has begun doing field days in the three Districts of the project area—Kayonza District, Kirehe District and Gatsibo District.

CDI has also been supporting the rehabilitation of the ISAR (Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du *Rwanda) microbiology lab* to be able to produce more inoculums. The lab has bought new equipment with CDI's support.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Peru

CGSGI's cataract surgery program has reached 49, 646 surgeries. The 50,000 cataracts surgery goal is expected to be met by the end of February.

CGSGI is finalizing an MOU with the Peru's Ministry of Tourism to begin capacity building necessary to link small suppliers in Cusco, Peru with that region's hospitality and restaurant sector. The project is expected to launch in March.

Colombia

The Acceso Fund has agreed to capitalize a new Supply Chain Impact Enterprise in Cartagena, Colombia with USD $2.1 million. This enterprise is expected to begin operations in April and will procure agricultural products and seafood from local suppliers for resale to the hospitality, restaurant and supermarket markets along Colombia's caribbean coast. The business will provide distribution, warehousing, processing and logistics for the suppliers reducing the costs to both suppliers and buyers and creating opportunities for low income suppliers in the region to broaden their market opportunity and substantially increase their incomes. This is the second new enterprise capitalized by Acceso in Cartagena. The first, a hospitality labor training center, will start its first class in March.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

CGI currently has 127 paying members registered for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Of the total number of registrants, 106 are renewals, 61 fewer than last year at this time, and 21 are new, 9 more than last year at this time. CGI will contact each prior member who has not yet renewed over the next couple of weeks.

The United Postcode Lotteries has renewed its sponsorship for the 2013 Annual Meeting and increased from last year's amount of €300,000 euro to €400,000 euro.

CGI University

January 30 was the final application deadline for CGI U. A record number of applications was received from 3976 students, representing 136 countries and all 50 states.

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32 colleges have formally joined the newly-created CGI University Network, committing a total of $357,000 in travel stipends and seed funding for student commitment-makers from their respective campuses.
Sponsorship of CGI U currently stands at $950,000.

Commitments

The Energy & Ecosystems Track has split into two distinct tracks: the Energy Track and the Environmental Stewardship Track.

Upcoming Convenings

Eighteen mayors have officially agreed to participate in the **Infrastructure Finance for Cities Task Force**, co-led by CGI and the US Conference of Mayors. They represent the cities of Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Louisville, Los Angeles, Mesa, New Orleans, Oakland, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Redmond, and San Francisco. The Task Force will begin work this month and culminate at CGI America in June.

Additional convenings in February include:

- **Best Practices in Employee Engagement** (2/8/2013)
- **Impact Investing: State of the Market** (2/11/2013)
- **Arts & Development in Post-Conflict Communities: Why the Arts Matter for Resilient Societies** (2/19/2013)
- **CGI Winter Meeting** (2/20/2013)
- **Integrating Women-Owned Businesses in Supply Chains: A Commitment Workshop** (2/21/2013)
- **Haiti Action Network** (2/27/2013)

Zayneb K. Shaikley
Associate Counsel & Initiative Liaison | William J. Clinton Foundation
77 Water Street, New York, NY 10005
Direct: 917.720.0295 | Mobile: 646.873.0244
zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org | www.clintonfoundation.org

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From: Zayneb Shaikley
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 11:22 PM
To: Hannah Richert - PC; Bruce Lindsey; Stephanie Streett; 'Tina Flournoy'
Cc: Laura Graham; Valerie Alexander; Scott Curran; Amitabh Desai; Dennis Cheng; Bari Lurie; Angel Urena - PC; Jon Davidson - President Clinton; 'John Podesta'; Ali Rubin contact; Brittany Doyle Contact
Subject: Biweekly Report for WJC

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest biweekly report.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 8, 2013

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Zayneb K. Shaikley
Associate Counsel & Initiative Liaison | William J. Clinton Foundation
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zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org | www.clintonfoundation.org

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From: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
To: ha16@hillaryclinton.com
john.podesta@gmail.com
cheryl.mills@gmail.com
craig@minassianmedia.com
mpally@clintonfoundation.org
Date: 4/19/2015 1:09:27 PM
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

All,

As you are all aware, Jo Becker from the NYT's investigative unit is one of several reporters at work on stories based on material provided by the publisher of the upcoming Clinton Cash book. Jo's story is scheduled to run in as soon as one week.

Separately, this afternoon, Amy Chozick from the NYT called us to indicate she had obtained a copy of the book on her own and intends to file a separate story tomorrow. Her story will not unpack all of the book's claims -- she will leave that to Jo. Instead, she will do a more process-y story about the book's existence, the fact that the publisher has approached multiple media outlets in advance of the book's publication to spoon-feed them some of the book's research, and also remark on the fact that Rand Paul continues to drop hints about the book's contents such that it appears they may be some coordination with individual Republican campaigns.

We think this story, though it was not originated by us, could end up being somewhat helpful in casting the book's author as having a conservative agenda. Moreover, we think Amy is suspicious of the arrangements that the book's publisher has reached with the various media outlets (including her own paper). In fact, Jo Becker is apparently trying to get this story killed because she thinks it will undermine her investigative piece later this month. But so far it is running in tomorrow's paper.

Amy is seeking a response from us on what our approach is to the looming publication of the book and the apparently well coordinated rollout. We have drafted the below response, and wanted you all to see it and provide feedback before we sent it off. Please note, however, that in order to get the statement into the story, we probably need to provide it by about 8:30 tonight. So apologies for the tight turnaround, but here it is:

> "We always expected that while Hillary Clinton was focused on how to help everyday Americans get ahead, the Republicans would focus their efforts on attacks rather than ideas. It appears that this book is being used to aid this coordinated attack strategy, twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories. It will not be the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about the Clintons' record, and we know it will not be the last."

Thank you,
Brian

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 8:56:24 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
Get a number.

On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

_____

We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

- investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

- protecting families from pollution

- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

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To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Louis Seidman" <seidman@law.georgetown.edu>
To:	"Abdulaziz Altuwaijri" <aaa244@law.georgetown.edu> "Abdulwahab Sadeq" <aas78@law.georgetown.edu> "Ada Siqueira" <as3591@law.georgetown.edu> "Agustin Ignacio Barroilhet\(fwd\)" <ab2897@georgetown.edu> "Alexandra Phelan" <alexandra.phelan@gmail.com> "amanda Shandor" <amanda.shanor@gmail.com> "Amy?? Uelmen" <aju2@law.georgetown.edu> "Anna Offit \(fwd\)" <annaoffit@gmail.com> "Daniel A Hougendobler" <dah93@law.georgetown.edu> derek.webb@law.stanford.edu "Dina B. Mishra" <dina.b.mishra@gmail.com> "Edit Frenyo" <ef246@law.georgetown.edu> "Faculty?? Support" <facultysupport@law.georgetown.edu> "Han-hsi Liu\(fwd\)" <hl580@georgetown.edu> "Hisham Alsabt\(fwd\)" <ha374@georgetown.edu> "Ian M?? Kysel\(fwd\)" <imk6@georgetown.edu> IBhatty@ussc.gov "Ido Kilovaty\(fwd\)" <ik292@georgetown.edu> "Itamar J. Mann-Kanowitz \(fwd\)" <itamar.mann@gmail.com> "Jamillah Williams" <jamillah.williams@law.georgetown.edu> jofarin@hotmail.com "John M Bentil" <jmb386@law.georgetown.edu> "Jonathan?? Keim \(fwd\)" <jonathan.keim@gmail.com> "Julia Cadaval Martins" <jc2403@law.georgetown.edu> "Julia Tomassetti" <julia.tomassetti@gmail.com> "Justin S Murray \(fwd\)" <jumurray@gmail.com> "L Caplan" <lcaplan3@gmail.com> "Laura Alexander" <Alexander.Laura@gmail.com> "Law Center Staff" <LawCenterStaff@law.georgetown.edu> "Law Faculty and Visitors" <LawFacultyandVisitors@law.georgetown.edu> "Law Library All" <LawLibraryAll@law.georgetown.edu> "Lorenzo G Di Silvio\(fwd\)" <disilvio@gmail.com> mahony.christopher@gmail.com Maxtell@Princeton.edu milton@toledojunior.com.br molly.beth.wilder@gmail.com Munshis <munshisherally@gmail.com> "Nancy?? Cantalupo" <cantalun@law.georgetown.edu> nasredeen.abdulbari@post.harvard.edu oso@georgetown.edu Patrick.Glen@usdoj.gov "Rabia S. Belt" <rsb81@law.georgetown.edu> "Ramzan Alnoaimi" <ra357@law.georgetown.edu> richizquierdo <richizquierdo@gmail.com> "Ruthanne M Deutsch" <rmd8@law.georgetown.edu> "Samantha Godwin" <sgodwin3@googlemail.com> "Shana Tabak" <shanatabak@gmail.com> "Sooz Shin" <soozshin@gmail.com> ss735@georgetown.edu Sshmuely <sshmuely@MIT.EDU> tpschmidt@gmail.com Zachary.kaufman@aya.yale.edu
Date:	7/1/2015 8:20:26 AM
Subject:	Next Week's Summer Workshops
Attachments:	History Thought.docx Koplow manuscript for July 9.docx

On Tuesday, July 7, Norman Birnbaum will talk to us about “History Thought, History Imagined, History Experienced, History

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Ignored: Notes Toward An Essay." On Thursday, July 9, David Koplow's topic will be "You're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat: Alternatives to the U.N. Security Council For Enforcing Nuclear Disarmament and Human Rights." Materials for both workshops are attached to this email. They will also be available on the Georgetown Law Website and, in hard copy, at Faculty Support. We meet in McDonough 492 at noon. Cookies and drinks will be served.

Mike Seidman

Louis Michael Seidman
Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Constitutional Law
Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-662-9102

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 4/24/2015 11:11:44 AM
Subject: Re: Initial Economic Questions for Republicans

Great list. We're building on it.

On Apr 24, 2015, at 3:04 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Of course I meant Paul Ryan.
>
> It's just so confusing with 19 of them. It's like a football team that has its offense and defense on the field at the same time.
>
> **From:** Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2015 2:52 PM
> **To:** jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; David@db-research.com
> **Cc:** john.podesta@gmail.com ; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; re47@hillaryclinton.com ; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
> **Subject:** Initial Economic Questions for Republicans
>
> On economic issues, I know Jake and his team will come up with a good list, but there are already two proposals on the table that I think we should try to get all GOPers to weigh in on:
> --Rubio's tax plan that includes dropping the top rate for those making over $400k from 39.6 to 35.
> --Rand Paul's 17% flat tax.
> Also, it would be great to get:
> --Dodd/Frank -- repeal? CFPB repeal?
> --repeal of carried interest tax break
> --repeal of oil company tax breaks
> We already have the Senators' votes on Elizabeth Warren's student loan refinancing bills. We might get the other candidates too.
> We might also get reaction to paid leave.
>
> thx
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> To: David Binder <David@db-research.com >
> Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> Sent: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 9:43 pm
> Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24
>
> Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder < David@db-research.com > wrote:
>
> > One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:
> >
> > Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.

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From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
To: John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Date:** April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
> **To:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24**
>
> **Stories for tomorrow:**
>
> - Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
> - New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
> - ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
> - Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
> - WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
> - Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
> - Bloomberg- Laureate
> - NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed
>
> **Story Lines:**
>
> 1. Nervous Dems
> 2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
> 3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/6/2008 1:24:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/6

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 6th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10am McCain: Finance Reception in Coral Gables, FL

11:20am BUSH: Meeting with the People's Republic of China Earthquake Relief Efforts in Washington, D.C.

11:40am McCain: Finance Luncheon in Miami, FL

1:30pm CHENEY: Remarks at a reception for Congressional Candidate Pete Olson and the 2008 Texas State Victory Fund in Houston

1:50pm BUSH: Ceremonial swearing-in for the HUD Secretary in Washington, D.C.

2:15pm McCain: Boat Tar in Everglades Safari Park, Miami, FL

3pm McCain: Media availability in the Everglades Safari Park in Miami, Florida

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Sets Sights on the Democrats Who Voted for Clinton (Washington Post 6/6/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Jon Cohen; A04
Republican Sen. John McCain envisions a November victory built in part around attracting a large number of the millions of voters who turned away from Sen. Barack Obama's promise of change during the historic Democratic primary campaign.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/05/AR2008060503513.html?hpid=topnews

Ousted Executive Provides a Feminine Face to the McCain Campaign (NYT 6/6/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Three years ago, Carleton S. Fiorina was the celebrity C.E.O. who was spectacularly fired by the Hewlett-Packard board. She produced a best-selling memoir, "Tough Choices," but for the most part spent the years after her ouster in relative self-imposed exile from public life.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/06/us/politics/06fiorina.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Adviser Says McCain Backs Bush Wiretaps (NYT 6/6/08)
By CHARLIE SAVAGE
A top adviser to Senator John McCain says Mr. McCain believes that President Bush's program of wiretapping without warrants was lawful, a position that appears to bring him into closer alignment with the sweeping theories of executive authority pushed by the Bush administration legal team.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/06/us/politics/06mccain.html?adxnnl=1&ref=politics&adxnnlx=1212753626-dtPHe6kS2PT8TI6W6zgH+A

$21.5 Million Is a Record for McCain (NYT 6/6/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
Senator John McCain's presidential campaign raised at least $21.5 million in May — its best fund-raising month yet — in a sign that its effort to draw donations in tandem with the Republican National Committee is yielding dividends.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/06/us/politics/06donate.html

McCain bumbles the delivery (Politico 6/6/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By: Jonathan Martin
As Democrats buzzed this week about their new de facto nominee, his historic candidacy and the unlikely political demise of Hillary Rodham Clinton, Republican circles were humming with another topic. The topic: Is there a way John McCain can win the presidency without giving another speech?
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10880.html

John McCain visits Orlando - says he is 'committed' to saving Everglades (Orlando Sentinel 6/6/08)
By Jim Stratton
Two days after his opponent locked up the Democratic nomination, Republican John McCain came to Orlando to raise more money and show the importance he places on winning Florida.
http://www.orlandosentinel.com/community/news/lakebuenavista/orl-mmcain0608jun06,0,1925050.story

McCain opposed Everglades funding (Miami Herald 6/5/08)
BY BETH REINHARD
John McCain will venture into the Everglades for the first time as a presidential candidate Friday, an obligatory rite of passage for politicians shoring up their environmental credentials in a crucial state. But the Arizona senator opposed spending $2 billion on restoring the national park, siding with President Bush against Florida's political establishment -- including top Republican supporters Gov. Charlie Crist and Sen. Mel Martinez.
http://www.miamiherald.com/political-currents/story/558556.html

McCain to speak about environment as he visits Everglades (South Florida Sun-Sentinel 6/5/08)
By Anthony Man
Using the Everglades as a backdrop, Republican presidential candidate John McCain plans to continue his effort to position himself as an independent thinker different from President Bush.
http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/sfl-flbglades0605sbjun05,0,6114790,print.story

All politics local, Florida edition (Politico blog 6/5/08)
By Ben Smith
Florida Democratic Party puts out a video attacking McCain for opposing the "Cat Fund," as we'll all learn to call it soon — the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. He's explained his opposition as a matter of federalism.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/All_politics_local_Florida_edition.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orjwA3l1y4o
Link to Obama response: http://thepage.time.com/obama-camp-release-on-mccains-opposition-to-national-catastrophic-insurance-fund /

McCain theme: reform, prosperity, peace (MSNBC blog 6/5/08)
By Kelly O'Donnell
At an event that took place about an hour ago, McCain shrugged off the teleprompter that so often makes his remarks appear stilted. The copy displayed on the prompter slid up and down as its operator apparently tried guess where the senator was going. I am told the presumptive GOP nominee "decided not to give the speech." Instead, he was ad-libbing remarks that might otherwise appear prepared and scripted. He also debuted what may be the elusive theme for his candidacy: "Reform, prosperity, and peace."
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/05/1117397.aspx

McCain defends position on Florida measures (AP 6/5/08)
By LIBBY QUAID
Republican John McCain faced tough questions Thursday about why he opposed a measure to restore the Everglades that had broad support from Florida officials, including Republican Gov. Charlie Crist and GOP Sen. Mel Martinez....In Florida, McCain defends opposition to Everglades, hurricane insurance plans
http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/2008/06/mccain_defends_position_on_flo.php

McCain Wants a Man on Mars (Washington Post blog 6/5/08)
By Robert Barnes
Sen. John McCain told Florida newspaper editors today that he thought it would be exciting to send a man to Mars. He did not specify whether that man should be Sen. Barack Obama.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/05/mccain_wants_a_man_on_mars.html

McCain Says President Should Talk More About Iraq (CBS blog 6/5/08)
By John Bentley
While campaigning and raising money in the swing state of Florida today, John McCain told the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors & Press Association that whoever becomes president needs to do a better job of keeping the American public informed about the Iraq war. "If I were president, I'd be holding a briefing once a week about Iraq," he said. "Even if it was only carried on C-SPAN."

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http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/06/05/politics/fromtheroad/entry4157747.shtml

McCain snubs President Bush's fundraising dinner (The Hill 6/5/08)
By Jackie Kucinich
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) will not attend President Bush's fundraising dinner for congressional candidates in another indication that the GOP nominee is distancing himself from the man he wants to replace.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/mccain-snubs-president-bushs-fundraising-dinner-2008-06-05.html

McCain To Snub Bush's Fundraising Dinner (Huffington Post 6/5/08)
On the same day that a CBS News poll found that 64 percent of Americans think Sen. John McCain is the same or even more conservative than President Bush, news has leaked that McCain will be "snubbing" Bush at an upcoming fundraiser. ... But a look at McCain's public schedule finds that the presumptive GOP nominee has no other public events scheduled for the day of the Bush event.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/05/mccain-to-snub-bushs-fund_n_105570.html

McCain Predicts 'Very Close Race' Against Obama, Casts Self as Underdog (ABC 6/5/08)
By ED O'KEEFE
John McCain thinks he's the underdog in the race for the White House against Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee. ...GOP Contender Acknowledges Obama-Clinton Ticket Would Be 'Formidable'
http://abcnews.go.com/WN/Politics/story?id=5005254&page=1
Link to video: http://abcnews.go.com/WN/Politics/story?id=5005254&page=1
Link to transcript: http://abcnews.go.com/WN/Politics/story?id=5005401&page=1

Soft on Iran (FactCheck.org 6/5/08)
John McCain is attacking Barack Obama's opposition to the Kyl-Lieberman amendment, which (among other things) called for labeling Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization. McCain claims that Obama's opposition means that he also opposed calling the IRGC terrorists. We find otherwise.
http://www.factcheck.org/elections-2008/soft_on_iran.html

Senate Intelligence Report Undermines McCain's Claims That 'Every Assessment' Justified War In Iraq (ThinkProgress 6/5/08)
mccaincheney.jpgLast week, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) sought to excuse his constant and vociferous cheerleading for the Iraq war in 2002 and 2003 by claiming that "every intelligence agency in the world" believed that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/05/intell-report-false-pretenses/

Parsing the Veepstakes (The Page 6/5/08)
By Mark Halperin
...The big surprise has been the bond developing between McCain and onetime rival Mitt Romney.
http://thepage.time.com/parsing-the-veepstakes/

McCain forgets his own votes (Washington Post "Fact Checker" blog 6/5/08)
...The Democrats jumped on John McCain on Wednesday when he claimed that he had supported "every investigation" into the Bush administration's fumbled response to Hurricane Katrina. The presumptive Republican nominee twice voted against a Democratic proposal to set up an independent 9/11-style commission to investigate the causes of the tragedy, opting instead for a congressional investigation.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2008/06/mccain_forgets_his_own_votes.html

HALPERIN'S TAKE: What John McCain Underestimates (The Page 6/5/08)
By Mark Halperin
1. The astonishing enthusiasm that Obama inspires in his supporters — and how much it contrasts with the respect, but not passion, McCain enjoys from his own backers. (And the size of Obama's crowds…)
http://thepage.time.com/halperin%E2%80%99s-take-what-john-mccain-underestimates/

Obama, McCain work to expand battlefield (AP 6/5/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Democrat Barack Obama hopes Virginia, a former GOP stronghold with a legacy of slavery and segregation, is fertile ground as he seeks to crack the Republican bastion of the South and become the first black president.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jr_Ww-hsebhQ64M2aI0pqxpZ0UpwD9140VS01

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Iraq and the Election (WSJ 6/6/08)

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This spring, the Iraqi army routed insurgents in three of their most important urban strongholds. These gains follow the success of the surge in crushing al Qaeda in the Sunni triangle, meaning that we are at last on the verge of winning in Iraq and securing a strategic victory in the Middle East. Question: Is this emerging victory – achieved at a cost of more than 4,000 American lives – something we are prepared to abandon after November?
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121270725304950289.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

It's So Much Nicer on K Street (NYT 6/6/08)
The more the presidential candidates promise to rein in the rich Washington culture of influence-peddling, the more voters need a reality check.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/06/opinion/06fri2.html?ref=opinion

The Truth About the War (NYT 6/6/08)
....It has taken five years to finally come to a reckoning over how much the Bush administration knowingly twisted and hyped intelligence to justify that invasion. On Thursday — after years of Republican stonewalling — a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee gave us as good a set of answers as we're likely to get.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/06/opinion/06fri1.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

BUSH NEWS

Bush Inflated Threat From Iraq's Banned Weapons, Report Says (Washington Post 6/6/08)
By Joby Warrick and Walter Pincus; A03
President Bush and top administration officials repeatedly exaggerated what they knew about Iraq's weapons and its ties to terrorist groups as the White House pressed its case for war against Iraq, the Senate intelligence committee said yesterday in a long-awaited report.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/05/AR2008060501523.html?hpid=moreheadlines

At Peace Institute Groundbreaking, War Dominates the Proceedings (Washington Post 6/6/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A07
President Bush, whose administration has been dominated by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the global battle against terrorism, helped break ground yesterday on a $185 million facility for the U.S. Institute of Peace -- a government-funded think tank with the mission of preventing conflict and helping promote postwar stability operations.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/05/AR2008060502545.html

Revealed: Secret plan to keep Iraq under US control (UK's The Independent 6/5/08)
By Patrick Cockburn
Bush wants 50 military bases, control of Iraqi airspace and legal immunity for all American soldiers and contractors
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/revealed-secret-plan-to-keep-iraq-under-us-control-840512.html

Limbaugh: Bush donors say he'll strike Iran before term ends. (ThinkProgress 6/5/08)
Today on his radio show, Rush Limbaugh boasted about his insider access and told a caller that important Bush donors had assured him the President would attack Iran soon:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/05/limbaugh-bush-donors-say-hell-strike-iran-before-term-ends/
Link to audio and transcript of Limbaugh show: http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_060508/content/01125115.guest.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

New numbers are expected to show slower job growth (AP 6/6/08)
The Labor Department is releasing the latest employment report this morning and economists are expecting the unemployment rate to rise. So far this year, payrolls have contracted every month.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jsanM66tszKz1zFq0LOG4XvWS7zAD914IC600

Did Iranian agents dupe Pentagon officials? (McClatchy 6/6/08)
By John Walcott
Defense Department counterintelligence investigators suspected that Iranian exiles who provided dubious intelligence on Iraq and Iran to a small group of Pentagon officials might have "been used as agents of a foreign intelligence service ... to reach into and influence the highest levels of the U.S. government," a Senate Intelligence Committee report said Thursday.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/40080.html

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Air Force officials ousted over nuclear gaffes (CNN 6/5/08)
* "Leadership has drifted" regarding nuclear weapons, Defense secretary says
* Resignations come after report criticizing bomber flight, mistaken device shipment
* Report criticizes U.S. Air Force's reactions to incidents
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/05/pentagon.firings/index.html

US attorney general revising FBI probe guidelines (Reuters 6/5/08)
By James Vicini
Attorney General Michael Mukasey said Thursday that he is working to revise the guidelines for FBI investigations as the bureau seeks to transform itself into an intelligence-gathering agency that seeks to prevent terrorist attacks.
http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/2008/06/us_attorney_general_revising_f.php

Iraq May Request Extension For U.S. (Washington Post 6/6/08)
By Karen DeYoung; A15
The Iraqi government may request an extension of the United Nations security mandate authorizing a U.S. military presence, due to expire in December, amid growing domestic criticism of new bilateral arrangements now being negotiated with the Bush administration, according to senior Iraqi officials.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/05/AR2008060503687.html

9/11 Architect Tells Court He Hopes for Martyrdom (Washington Post 6/6/08)
By Josh White; A01
Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, appeared publicly Thursday for the first time since his capture five years ago and calmly told a U.S. military court that he hopes for a death sentence that will allow him to die "a martyr."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/05/AR2008060500305.html

United Arab Emirates to be first Gulf state to appoint ambassador to Iraq (McClatchy 6/5/08)
By Leila Fadel
The United Arab Emirates will be the first Gulf Arab nation to open an embassy in Iraq since the war and subsequent American occupation began five years ago, its foreign minister announced Thursday.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/40057.html

DNC bans lobbyist money (AP 6/6/08)
Obama keeps Howard Dean as chair, brings in new strategists
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24989468/

Clinton Says V.P. Is Obama's Choice (NYT blog 6/5/08)
By Adam Nagourney
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today disavowed a campaign by some of her supporters to pressure Senator Barack Obama into choosing her as a running-mate, saying they were acting on their own and the decision on who to pick was "Senator Obama's and his alone."
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/05/clinton-disavows-reports-that-she-wants-to-be-vp/
Link to Clinton statement: http://thepage.time.com/clinton-camp-response-to-vp-inquiries/

Obama, Clinton Hold Secret Meeting (CBS 6/5/08)
Former Rivals Meet To Discuss Party Unity, Says Spokesman
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/05/politics/main4158471.shtml

Polls show Obama-McCain race tight as campaign begins (CNN 6/5/08)
* New York congressional delegation endorses Barack Obama
* Obama tells Virginia crowd DNC will no longer accept money from lobbyists
* John McCain hopes for honorable campaign, he says in Florida speech
* Poll of polls shows the two presumptive nominees just 2 percentage points apart
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/05/campaign.wrap/index.html

RIGHT WING WATCH

Obama among targets of robo calls in Illinois (AP 6/5/08)
A conservative advocacy group plans an onslaught of automated telephone calls targeting Barack Obama and a handful of other senators demanding they oppose a bipartisan climate change bill.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jX38k-ipAmBN6dC25J6n9i1VpYhgD9147L3G0

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director, Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Tikkun Staff" <magazine@tikkun.org>
To:	Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date:	7/24/2015 4:53:46 AM
Subject:	Tikkun Daily Digest: Iranian Nuclear Deal, Remembering Gaza, The Truth about Junipero Serra, The Confederate Flag, and more!

Tikkun DAILY (te•kün) To mend, repair, and transform the world.

Click on the links below to join the lively discussions taking place this week on the Tikkun Daily Blog! Unlike the carefully edited print magazine and web magazine site, Tikkun Daily is a spontaneous, open forum to which volunteer bloggers directly post their ideas and readers post their comments. You'll find a provocative variety of views here, *including some with which Tikkun editors heartily disagree,* so please remember that any given post is presented solely by its author and does not represent *Tikkun*'s editorial stance. To sign up for a daily email digest with links to the day's posts, click here :

Uri Avnery and Jeffrey Sachs on the Iranian Nuclear Deal

Jul 23, 2015 10:06 pm | Rabbi Michael Lerner

Read pieces by Uri Avnery and Jeffrey Sachs on the Iranian Nuclear Deal, with an introduction by Rabbi Michael Lerner. "Iran will have a nuclear weapon that will keep Israel or the US from attacking it--a sad prospect, but probably the likely outcome whether or not there was a nuclear deal with Iran. Unless..."

comments | read more

Rabbi Michael Lerner: Remember Gaza One Year Later

Jul 08, 2015 06:45 pm | Rabbi Michael Lerner

Let us acknowledge the one-year anniversary of Israel's attacks on Gaza by revisiting some of Rabbi Michael Lerner's words, both those acknowledging the grief inspired by this (and all) conflict as well as those that inspire hope to heal the pain in our world.

comments | read more

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Warren Blumenfeld: KKK Posing as Victim of "Cultural Genocide"

Jul 09, 2015 01:00 pm | Warren Blumenfeld

Let's be clear here: the Confederate battle flag no more represents white Southern culture anymore than the swastika flag represents Gentile German culture. What these flags do have in common, though, is that they both symbolize Christian white supremacy, terrorism, treason, separation,

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exclusion, enslavement, murder, and in the United States, yes, cross burnings.

comments | read more

David Harris-Gershon: An open letter to black America from a white, Jewish man of privilege

Jul 22, 2015 03:31 pm | David Harris-Gershon

Dear black Americans, I'm a white, Jewish man from Pittsburgh who, over the last year, has watched videos of Eric Garner being murdered, read about Tamir Rice being murdered, and shuddered over Ferguson after Mike Brown was murdered. On television and online, I've been confronted with disturbing images of black bodies being destroyed. And I'm telling you, I can't bear it any longer. I can't bear to learn any more details about Sandra Bland. I'm sick to my stomach, losing sleep, feeling unsteady. Yet you keep showing me images, telling me stories. And I have to look away.

comments | read more

Ibrahim Sundiata: The Confederate Flag: Heritage or Hate

Jul 20, 2015 01:56 pm | Ibrahim Sundiata

The Charleston Massacre unleashed a torrent of questions about the true nature of "The Lost Cause." Across the country we are coming to acknowledge the "Stars and Bars" as not only a symbol of the slavocracy, but also one of continuing opposition to social progress.

comments | read more

Ralph L. Cates: The Best Source of Energy from Sunlight: Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)

Jul 07, 2015 04:15 pm | Ralph L. Cates

The world needs Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) systems now. They are the most-efficient, utility-scale, renewable-energy-producing technologies known. The U.S. and countries throughout the world must seize this opportunity.

comments | read more

Deborah Meinke: A Plea for Clergy to Affirm Climate Science and Join Together in Action

Jul 22, 2015 03:46 pm | Deborah Meinke

The Clergy Climate Letter provides one way for people of faith to rally around common moral and religious values centered on earth stewardship and care for creation.

comments | read more

Dr. Mark Stoll: What Religion Tells Us About the Place of Wilderness in American Environmentalism

Jul 23, 2015 03:00 pm | Dr. Mark Stoll

We think of parks as a sensible response to urbanization and industrialization and of conservation as a logical solution to destruction of resources. Yet why were Congregationalists so interested in these issues? How did their religious values shape these movements?

comments | read more

Kathy Kelly: Pushing Up

Jul 21, 2015 03:00 pm | Kathy Kelly

"Low carbon" and "no carbon" energy and energy efficiency should be paid for by abolishing war. Lawrence is right to insist that the U.S. should view problems and conflicts created by climate change as "opportunities to work together with other nations to mitigate and adapt to its effects." But the madness of conquest must end before any such coordinated work will be possible.

comments | read more

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Wendy Elisheva Somerson: Sweet Blossoms out the Crater: A Review of Bodymap by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

Jul 20, 2015 03:59 pm | Wendy Elisheva Somerson

With all the celebrations of gay same-ness after the Supreme Court's recent decision to legalize gay marriage, I am grateful for Leah Laskhmi Piepzna-Samarasinha's filthy gorgeous poems, which remind us how queer desires still have the power to fuck shit up. The poems in her collection Bodymap demonstrate how queer desire.

comments | read more

Miki Kashtan: The Noncontroversial Essence: Bringing People Together

Jul 10, 2015 07:24 pm | Miki Kashtan

I explained to them that this - the finding of agreements on principles in the midst of disagreements on positions - was what we would do on the day we came together... This agreement at the heart of disagreement is based on identifying what I call the "noncontroversial essence."

comments | read more

Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox: The Emerging Truth about Junipero Serra and the California Missions

Jul 10, 2015 05:00 pm | Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox

In this book Father Junipero Serra, called by some the "Father of California," is exposed in damning detail as the father of a system, the mission system, that systematically destroyed the culture of the indigenous peoples of California, who had lived at peace with the earth and more or less at peace with themselves over millennia until the Spanish arrived.There are those who say, "Don't judge an eighteenth-century person by twenty-first century standards." Well, when that person is being proposed by the pope himself as a saint and therefore a model for twenty-first century people to emulate, why wouldn't we have the right and indeed responsibility to judge?

comments | read more

Oona Taper: Darío Mekler Illustrates the Absurdities of Modern Life

Jul 08, 2015 02:24 pm | Oona Taper

Working with oils, watercolors, and acrylics, Argentinian artist Darío Mekler creates bold, colorful paintings that address the complexities of modern life. He skillfully uses fantasy and humor to illustrate human nature, painting monsters, angels, and absurd robots alongside images drawn from everyday experiences. Mekler has been creating for as long as he can remember.

comments | read more

Valerie Elverton-Dixon: The Cost of Cowardice (part two)

Jul 22, 2015 10:59 pm | Valerie Elverton-Dixon

When it comes to passing gun regulations, the United States Congress is a group of cowards. Congress-members of both parties use the second amendment as a fig-leaf to cover their cowardice while they dance to the tune of the National Rifle Association.

comments | read more

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From:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date:	9/14/2014 2:16:24 PM
Subject:	FW: UABA Press Release: AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE: Is Ukraine "Waiting for Godot"?
Attachments:	14-09-14 AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE Is Ukraine Waiting for Godot.pdf

Ukrainian American Bar Association

Press Release: September 14, 2014
PDF copy attached

AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE: Is Ukraine "*Waiting for Godot*"?

On September 18, 2014, the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, will address a joint session of the United States Congress. No doubt he will strongly applaud the latest round of sanctions that were imposed on Russia by the United States and the European Union on September 12, 2014 in response to Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. But he will also likely repeat his prior requests for immediate military aid from the United States and its Western partners so that Ukraine can defend itself from further Russian aggression. It will not be a request for "boots on the ground" but for military weapons and supplies for Ukraine's armed forces. The US and the West have made it crystal clear that their military participation in Ukraine's defense is not an option despite the fact that in 1994, Ukraine voluntarily surrendered its entire nuclear arsenal – the 3rd largest in the world – in return for guarantees in the Budapest Memorandum [pledged by Russia, the US and the UK] of Ukraine's economic and political sovereignty and the integrity of its borders.

Most of the civilized countries of the world have condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine as an affront to international rule of law and as a violation of the numerous international treaties and agreements that require civilized countries to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. These linchpin agreements - such as the UN Charter and the Helsinki Accords - maintained peace and stability on the Eurasian continent for over 70 years. Regrettably, it is now patently obvious that Russia's actions clearly evidence that it will not abide by any promises that it has made or will make in any future treaty or other international agreement.

Numerous concerned voices in the American political, academic and mass media arena have urgently called for America and the EU to give immediate military aid to Ukraine. All of these voices recognize that despite the increased economic sanctions, the Kremlin obstinately continues its military buildup within Ukraine and continues to violate the cease-fire agreement reached in Minsk earlier this month. It now arrogantly and openly continues its military actions against defensive Ukrainian forces inside the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, in spite of the stronger economic sanctions imposed on September 12 by the US and EU. Currently, additional convoys of "humanitarian" trucks openly unload lethal weapons inside Ukrainian territory and Russian military forces in and outside of Ukrainian borders are bombarding Ukrainian defensive military positions within Ukraine. So much for Russia and its surrogate pro-Russian terrorists abiding by a cease-fire agreement! Putin has doubled down on his bellicose pronouncements and has vehemently restated his resolve to return Russia to the previous borders of the former USSR and even to expand the Kremlin's hegemony over the eastern parts of the European Union. He has now publicly declared the United States, NATO, and the European Union to be enemies of Russia and announced an escalated buildup of his military arsenal. Putin has also made not so veiled threats of using his nuclear military capabilities in his quest. Needless to say, the conquest of Ukraine is the Kremlin's first necessary step in achieving its imperialistic goals.

The United States [together with the UK], as a signatory to the Budapest Memorandum, has a joint and several obligation to Ukraine to protect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Had Ukraine not willingly relinquished its nuclear weapons in 1994, the present balance of power between Ukraine and Russia would have been substantially different and would have most likely deterred Russia's illegal invasion and "annexation" of Crimea and the blatant invasion of Eastern Ukraine . Since Ukraine kept its part of the bargain under the Budapest Memorandum, it is now time for the United States to make good on its word to guarantee Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It is obvious that the present economic sanctions in and of themselves are woefully deficient and will not stop Russia's unlawful aggression against Ukraine. Had Ukraine received American and Western military aid earlier in a timely fashion, Ukraine would have been in a better military posture to repel the pro-Russian terrorists and seal its border from further Russian incursion. Prior to September 5, 2014, Ukrainian military forces were in a strategic position to defeat the pro-Russian terrorists in Ukraine. On that day, NATO leaders were debating what sanctions to impose upon Russia. In response to the verbal threats of NATO leaders - which the Kremlin perceived as a shallow non-consequential scolding - that same day Moscow ordered its troops into Ukraine with superior weaponry and fire power to substantially push back the Ukrainian military from its gains painfully attained with the life and blood of many a brave Ukrainian soldier.

The question is: will Ukraine need to wait endlessly and hopelessly for American and EU military aid to arrive in the same exhausting and fruitless manner as the two characters in Samuel Beckett's absurdist play "*Waiting for Godot*" who wait incessantly in fervent hope for a person named Godot to appear but who never arrives?

The United States Congress has before it two bills: H.R. 5241 "Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act" which prohibits the United States to recognize the *de jure* or *de facto* annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. H.R.5190, the Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014, provides military assistance to Ukraine and to designate Ukraine as a Major non-NATO Ally (MNNA). The Ukrainian American Bar Association strongly urges the United States Congress to expeditiously pass - on a fast-track basis - this legislation so as to signal to the world that the United States abides by its word in international agreements that it signs and will

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help Ukraine defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty as the *quid pro quo* for surrendering its nuclear arsenal. Failure to do so in a timely and expeditious manner will only reaffirm Vladimir Putin's strongly held belief that the United States is only a paper tiger – all words and no teeth.

If the United States does not keep its word regarding sovereignty and security guarantees relating to nuclear non-proliferation agreements, why should any other country such as Iran, Pakistan, India, Israel or North Korea have any faith in America's representations or promises in future nuclear disarmament negotiations and accords. Any tardiness or inaction by the United States Congress in rendering timely military aid to Ukraine will also condemn Ukraine to an endless and hopeless waiting for American assistance -- as the characters in "*Waiting for Godot*"-- only to have its sovereign territory painfully eroded by Russian aggression, with extensive casualties to its population, with millions of people displaced, and many a young Ukrainian soldier killed by a stronger and brutal aggressor nation whose only goal is imperial territorial expansion. If Ukraine falls, then the horrific conflagration of war will spill over into the eastern part of the European Union and will necessitate American "boots on the ground". All this may be avoided if the United States Congress acts now and fulfills its obligation and duty to give timely military assistance to Ukraine.

For further information, please contact
Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq.
Communications Director of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA)
Tel: 201-507-4500; Email; myroslaw@smorodsky.com ; Website; www.smorodsky.com

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 6:50:49 AM
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Given this morning's am shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>
> Thanks.
> Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or morning news...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
> To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
> Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/17/2008 10:40:14 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Sierra Club Responds to Sen. McCain s Energy Speech

elaboration on yesterday's statement...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 17, 2008
Contact: Josh Dorner, 202.679.7570 (m)
David Willett, 202.491.6919 (m)

Sierra Club Responds to Sen. McCain's Energy Speech
Speech to Follow, Expand on Failed Bush Energy Policies

Washington, D.C.—Senator John McCain is slated to give a major policy address on energy issues later today in front of an audience of oil industry executives in Houston.

Yesterday Senator McCain called for lifting a nearly three decade old federal moratorium on drilling off of our coasts. "There are areas off our coasts that should be open to exploration and exploitation, and I hope we can take the first step by lifting the moratoria," said Senator McCain.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602148.html

Yesterday's Sierra Club response to Senator McCain's announcement can be found here.
http://sierraclub.org/pressroom/releases/pr2008-06-16.asp

Statement of Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

"Instead of siding with the hardworking American families being exploited by an energy industry awash in record profits, Senator McCain supports allowing Big Oil to begin the wholesale "exploitation" of our coasts. Rather than offering consumers real relief from skyrocketing energy prices, Senator McCain's plan would merely pad Big Oil's bottom line while putting thousands of miles of pristine beaches and coastline at risk.

"While he refuses to support the incentives for renewable energy needed to make the clean energy future a reality, Senator McCain wants more of the same reckless and outdated energy policies that President Bush and his allies in Congress have pushed for the past seven years: more 'traditional coal,' more oil, and more nuclear power. These disastrous policies have enriched special interests while devastating both our economy and our environment.

"If Senator McCain is really interested in breaking our addiction to oil, putting America back to work, and tackling global warming, we urge him to reconsider his support for the failed policies of the past. It's time for Senator McCain to support the common sense plan put forth by the Senate leadership, the Consumer-First Energy Act. This plan would make sure the oil industry is paying its fair share, crack down on speculators, put our economy back on the path to prosperity, help end our dangerous dependence on fossil fuels, and fight global warming. We urge Senator McCain to choose wind farms, not more windfalls for Big Oil. "

Selected Excerpts from Senator McCain's Houston Energy Speech

Sen. McCain: "The next president must be willing to break with the energy

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policies not just of the current Administration, but the administrations that preceded it, and lead a great national campaign to achieve energy security for America."
Reality: Senator McCain's plan for more drilling, more coal, and more nuclear power is identical to the energy policies put forth by President Bush and his allies in Congress for the past seven years.

Sen. McCain: "Over time, we must shift our entire energy economy toward a sustainable mix of new and cleaner power sources. This will include some we use already, such as wind, solar, biofuels, and other sources yet to be invented"
Reality: Senator McCain has consistently voted against requiring utilities to produce a certain percentage of our electricity from renewable sources like wind, solar, and biomass. He also refuses to support key incentives for clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. McCain has missed two Senate votes in the past several months when such initiatives failed to pass by a single vote (12/13/03, Vote 425; 02/06/08, Vote 8). Senator McCain continues to support billions in new and existing subsidies for nuclear power plants.

Sen. McCain: "Investigation is underway to root out this kind of reckless wagering, unrelated to any kind of productive commerce, because it can distort the market, drive prices beyond rational limits, and put the investments and pensions of millions of Americans at risk. Where we find such abuses, they need to be swiftly punished. And to make sure it never happens again, we must reform the laws and regulations governing the oil futures market, so that they are just as clear and effective as the rules applied to stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments. In all of these markets, reform must assure transparency, prevent abuse, and protect the public interest."
Reality: Senator McCain has refused to support to the Consumer-First Energy Act of 2008 (S.3044), which would crack down on speculators and price gouging.

Sen. McCain: "As for offshore drilling, it's safe enough these days that not even Hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cause significant spillage from the battered rigs off the coasts of New Orleans and Houston."
Reality: According the Coast Guard, more than 7.1 million gallons of crude oil were spilled in at least nine major incidents and 35 smaller incidents as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina alone.
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/comrel/factfile/factcards/hurricane_katrina.htm

Sen. McCain: "At the very least, one might assume, America had surely been building new refineries to achieve a more efficient delivery of gasoline to market, and thereby to lower the prices paid by the American people – especially in the summer season. But the policymakers in Washington haven't got around to that, either. There's so much regulation of the industry that the last American refinery was built when Jerry Ford was president."
Reality: The oil industry has expanded older refineries, but in generally has purposely allowed refining capacity to languish in order to constrain supply. In Senate testimony before the Congress (November, 2005), the Chief Executive Officer of Shell stated, "We are not aware of any environmental regulations that have prevented us from expanding refinery capacity or siting a new refinery." In addition, Conoco's CEO testified, "At this time, we are not aware of any projects that have been directly prevented as a result of any specific Federal or State regulation."
Finally, BP's CEO concluded "it does not believe that any Federal or state environmental regulations have 'prevented us' from expanding refinery capacity or siting a new refinery." The Bush Administration's own EPA also concluded in 2002 that permitting requirements had "not significantly impeded investment in new power plants or refineries." (EPA, New Source Review: Report to the President (June 13, 2002))

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Sen. McCain: “Nuclear power is among the surest ways to gain a clean, abundant, and stable energy supply, as other nations understand.”
Reality: While opposing subsidies for renewable energy and energy efficiency, Senator McCain supports billions in new and existing subsidies for nuclear power. Nuclear power is a dirty, dangerous, and costly distraction from the policies we really need to build the clean energy future and fight global warming. Costs for new nuclear power plants are skyrocketing, with Florida Power and Light recently estimating in a regulatory filing that a two-reactor expansion at its Turkey Point facility could cost as much as $24 billion.
http://energycentral.fileburst.com/EnergyBizOnline/2008-3-may-jun/Financial_Front_Prices.pdf

Sen. McCain: A gas tax holiday is “the most direct and obvious way to give Americans a break at the gas station.”
Reality: Most economists agree that a gas tax holiday would do absolutely nothing to lower prices at the pump. More than 200 leading economists, including 4 Nobel Prize winners, have denounced Senator McCain’s and similar plans. The Sierra Club believes it would do little else but offer Big Oil another 18 cents per gallon in profits at the pump.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aTzCmqCNyLho&refer=home

All quotes are from excerpts of the text of McCain’s remarks as prepared for delivery at 5 p.m. to energy industry executives in Houston.

# # #

David Willett
National Press Secretary
Sierra Club
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(202) 491-6919 (m)
david.willett@sierraclub.orgwww.sierraclub.org
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Marissa Astor" <mastor@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 2:23:02 PM
Subject: Moving Monday's 8 am Call to Tuesday

We are moving tomorrow's 8 am call to Tuesday morning. We are set for tomorrow's plan in NH so it would be more beneficial to receive feedback on Tuesday after our first day of the trip. Marissa will send out an updated calendar invite.

Also, flagging for you that the NY Times published the first story on Clinton Cash just now. We are asking that it be updated with a quote from us. Jo Becker's longer investigative piece on the foundation and State Department ties is set to be published next Sunday. Amy's story helps us somewhat by putting the book and allegations into a political frame. Jen, Brian and I are working on this - will have updates soon.

Book Questions Clinton Donations

By AMY CHOZICK APRIL 19, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/us/politics/book-questions-clinton-donations.html?_r=0

The book does not hit shelves until May 5, but already the Republican Rand Paul has called its findings “big news” that will “shock people” and make voters “question” the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

“Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich,” by Peter Schweizer — a 186-page investigation of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities — is proving the most anticipated and feared book of a presidential cycle still in its infancy.

The book, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, asserts that foreign entities who made payments to the Clinton Foundation and to Mr. Clinton through high speaking fees received favors from Mrs. Clinton’s State Department in return.

“We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds,” Mr. Schweizer writes.

His examples include a free-trade agreement in Colombia that benefited a major foundation donor’s natural resource investments in the South American nation, development projects in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

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In the long lead up to Mrs. Clinton's campaign announcement, aides proved adept in swatting down critical books as conservative propaganda, including Edward Klein's "Blood Feud," about tensions between the Clintons and the Obamas, and Daniel Halper's "Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine."

But "Clinton Cash" is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations are expected to pursue the story lines found in the book.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been briefed about the book's findings, which have already made their way into several of the Republican presidential candidates' campaigns.

Conservative "super PACs " plan to seize on "Clinton Cash," and a pro-Democrat super PAC has already assembled a dossier on Mr. Schweizer, a speechwriting consultant to former President George W. Bush and a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institute, to make the case that he has a bias against Mrs. Clinton.

And the newly assembled Clinton campaign team is planning a full-court press to diminish the book as yet another conservative hit job.

Mr. Schweizer and a spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corporation and is publishing the book, declined to comment.

The timing is problematic for Mrs. Clinton as she begins a campaign to position herself as a "champion for everyday Americans."

From 2001 to 2012, the Clintons' income was at least $136.5 million, Mr. Schweizer writes, using a figure previously reported in The Washington Post. "During Hillary's years of public service, the Clintons have conducted or facilitated hundreds of large transactions" with foreign governments, he writes. "Some of these transactions have put millions in their own pockets."

Continue reading the main story

The Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for accepting foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state. Last week, the foundation revised its policy to allow donations from countries like Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Britain but prohibit giving by other nations in the Middle East.

Mr. Schweizer's book will be released the same day former President Bill Clinton and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will host the Clinton Global Initiative gathering with donors in Morocco, the culmination of a foundation trip to several African nations. (A chapter in the book is titled "Warlord Economics: The Clintons do Africa.")

There is a robust market for books critical of the Clintons. The thinly sourced "Blood Feud," by Mr. Klein, at one point overtook Mrs. Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices" on the best-seller list.

But whether Mr. Schweizer's book can deliver the same sales is not clear.

Mr. Schweizer writes mainly in the voice of a neutral journalist and meticulously documents his

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sources, including tax records and government documents, while leaving little doubt about his view of the Clintons.

His reporting largely focuses on payments made to Mr. Clinton for speeches, which increased while his wife served as secretary of state, writing that "of the 13 Clinton speeches that fetched $500,000 or more, only two occurred during the years his wife was not secretary of state."

In 2011, Mr. Clinton made $13.3 million in speaking fees for 54 speeches, the majority of which were made overseas, the author writes. Among the connections he tries to draw is a $750,000 speaking fee to Mr. Clinton by the Swedish telecom company Ericsson and a State Department list of new sanctions on Iran that did not include telecom.

Mr. Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute, is the author of the 2013 book "Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets," and "Throw Them All Out" about elected officials receiving insider stock tips.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 2:19:13 PM
Subject: Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

looks great to me!

On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.

Thanks.
Ian

OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS

Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.

- **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.

- **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.

- **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.

If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:

Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.

- Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
- Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
- Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
- Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the

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> world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]
>
> **Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.**
>
> - Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]
>
> --
> **Ian Sams** | Rapid Response Associate
> Hillary for America
> (423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
> Gchat: icsams

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Dumas, Clay A. EOP" <Clay_A_Dumas@who.eop.gov>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP" <Anita_Breckenridge@who.eop.gov>
"Blakemore, Emily D. EOP" <Emily_D_Blakemore@who.eop.gov>
Date: 5/7/2015 2:24:39 PM
Subject: RE: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

Thanks John. Will work with Emily to make sure Anita sees and whether anything can be done.

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2015 5:20 PM
To: Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP
Cc: Dumas, Clay A. EOP
Subject: Fwd: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu <mailto:vergun@alumni.stanford.edu> >
Date: Thu, May 7, 2015 at 3:28 PM
Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
To: John Podesta <podesta@law.georgetown.edu <mailto:podesta@law.georgetown.edu> >

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: >https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com<
Isaac: >https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com<

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters, Pam Vergun

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Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu <mailto:vergun@alumni.stanford.edu>
3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642 <tel:503-645-6642>

Mo: 503-332-7633 <tel:503-332-7633>

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
>https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beavert
>on-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power<
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: >https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com<
Isaac: >https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com<

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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/14/2015 3:59:31 AM
Subject:	Summarized Clips (7.14.15)
Attachments:	Daily Clips (7.14.15).docx

Daily Clips

July 14, 2015

Clinton Calls for 'Growth and Fairness Economy,' Vows Wall Street Crackdown

WaPo/Philip Rucker

- "In her most sweeping policy address to date, Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday presented her vision for a 'growth and fairness economy' built on rising incomes for middle-class workers and vowed an aggressive crackdown on Wall Street."

In Economic Address, Hillary Clinton Calls Out 'Gig' Economy

CNBC/Kate Rogers

- "[HRC] focused on ways to lift American workers and called out the sharing economy as a potential factor in dampened wage growth. The sharing economy – bolstered by high-flying start-ups including Uber, Airbnb, and Lyft – allows individuals to share products and services like offering homes and apartments for rent, or driving passengers to destinations."
- "Others argue the 'gig' economy offers workers an incredible amount of flexibility."

Hillary Clinton to Disclose Names of Top Fundraisers

WSJ/Byron Tau

- "Hillary Clinton will disclose the names of her top fundraisers, becoming the first presidential candidate in the 2016 race to pledge to do so."

O'Malley Connects Sanders' Surge to Trump's

CNN/Dan Merica

- "After speaking at the National Council of La Raza in Kansas City, O'Malley told reporters that Sanders' recent surge is because 'this is the summer of anger and discontent,' casting the liberal senator as more of a flash in the pan."
- O'Malley portrayed that Donald Trump is Sanders' equivalent in the GOP field: "I think you see that anger and disconnect being expressed in the Republican Party by Donald Trump."

Moving Past Vermont, Sanders Tries to Woo Minority Voters

AP/David Lieb, Lisa Lerer

- Bernie Sanders plans to spend more time attracting minority voters as he travels to Phoenix, Houston, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference meeting in Louisiana later this month.

Jeb Bush Blasts Back at Hillary Clinton

Des Moines Register/Jennifer Jacobs, Jason Noble

- "In two speeches in Iowa, Bush blasted back at Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, who during a major economic policy speech in New York earlier Monday ridiculed Bush for saying last week in New Hampshire that 'people need to work longer hours' because the drop in workforce participation has meant trouble for the economy."
- Jeb said to an audience in Ames: "Hillary Clinton has attacked me in the last few days. Which, by the way, for the record: Bring it on."

Jeb Bush Would End Fuel Rule That Aids Iowa Ethanol Industry

Sioux City Journal/Bret Hayworth

- "Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush on Monday again asserted a position that could give him trouble with some Iowa voters, as he

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supports an end to a federal rule that helps the ethanol industry."

- "Asked about his position on the Renewable Fuel Standard during his first Sioux City campaign stop since becoming a candidate in Just, Bush said, 'We need to phase that out over the long haul.'"

Jeb Bush to Keynote Hispanic Convention

Real Clear Politics/Andrew Deskderio

- The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce announced Monday that Jeb Bush is set to keynote its annual convention in Houston in September.

Rubio Reports Raising $12 Million, Stands Third in Overall GOP Money Chase

WaPo/Sean Sullivan

- "Marco Rubio raised $12 million for his presidential campaign through the end of last month, bringing the total hauled in by the Florida senator and his allied outside groups to about $44 million, and putting him in third place so far in the overall GOP money chase behind Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz."

Rand Paul Proposes Legislation That Will Crack Down on 'Sanctuary' Cities

Fox News

- Rand Paul has introduced the Protecting American Citizens Together Act (PACT Act), which would crack down on 'sanctuary' cities by requiring law enforcement to detain or transfer an illegal immigrants if requested to do so by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Ted Cruz at Secret Koch-Backed Fracking Lobby Group Meeting

HuffPo/Nick Surgey

- "Senator Ted Cruz, raising cash for a 2016 presidential bid, was to meet privately Monday in Denver, Colaroda, with executives from major oil and gas corporations, all members of the pro-fracking lobby group Western Energy Alliance."

Christie Slips Again in Latest Republican Poll

Politico/Ryan Hutchins

- Chris Christie's standing in the GOP field has slipped from 4% in June to 2% in July. Republican voters have also viewed the New Jersey governor less favorably since he declared his candidacy, with his favorability rating dropping from 26% to 25%.

Rick Santorum: Scott Walker's Wife Could Make Him Soft on Gay Marriage

Politico/Adam B. Lerner

- "Rick Santorum took a swipe at Scott Walker on Monday, suggesting that because Walker's wife is not outspoken against same-sex marriage, the Wisconsin governor would make a weak Republican candidate on the issue."

Donald Trump Isn't a Joke To Republican Voters Anymore

HuffPo/Ariel Edwards-Levy

- A new HuffPo/YouGov poll indicates that Republicans have changed their minds on Donald Trump. The findings show that 59% of Republican voters say they like Trump's personality, and 74% say they agree with his political positions.

As Scott Walker Enters 2016 Fray, He Feuds With Both Parties At Home

- **WaPo/Jenna Johnson** Gov. Walker's declaration of his candidacy comes as a partisan budget battle rages in Madison, with conservatives angry at his $250 million push to pay for the Milwaukee Bucks' new arena.

Republicans Hail Uber in Bid for Tech Cred

Politico/Tony Romm

- "Republican White House hopefuls looking to boost their tech cred are racing to hitch a ride on Uber – while Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is keeping a cautious distance."

Eric Garner Case Is Settled by New York City for $5.9 Million

NYT/J. David Goodman

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- New York reached a settlement with the family of Eric Garner, agreeing to $5.9 million.

Pentagon Moves to Allow Transgender People to Serve Openly in the Military

NYT/Matthew Rosenberg

- "The Pentagon is moving to allow transgender people to serve openly in the military by early next year and end an 'outdated' regulation that harms the armed forces."

VA Says It May Shut Down Hospitals to Close $2.5B Budget Gap (AP)

- "The Department of Veterans Affairs may have to shut down some hospitals next month if Congress does not address a $2.5 billion shortfall for the current budget year."

Iran, World Powers Prepare to Sign Off on Nuclear Accord

WSJ/Jay Solomon, Laurence Norman, Carol Lee

- "The top diplomats from Iran, the US, and other world powers planned to sign off on a nuclear accord Tuesday and announce the deal, officials from both sides said, after struggling to resolve a late standoff over when and how to lift a United Nations arms embargo."

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From: "Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/29/2015 4:06:36 AM
Subject: Question

If the campaign has a full list of Trump's verbally abusive insults of women with specific examples of specific insults against specific women, if they email details to me I would a nuclear column including a call on leading GOP women to aggressively disown him and a call on major media to aggressively report the facts in defense of women, and stop giving Trump immunity from acceptable standards of journalism coverage and presidential politics.

I would independently verify the details through my own fact checking from public sources and not mention the campaign.

Trump is an abusive sexist Joe McCarthy ready for an Edward R. Murrow and I am ready to go further than any mainstream columnist but would need to be rock solid with facts.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/25/2015 7:03:34 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday January 25, 2015 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday January 25, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

Real Clear Politics: "Iowa Democrats Waiting For Hillary"

"Hanson said he supports Hillary Clinton because of her experience advocating and fighting for ordinary middle-class Americans: 'My father has worked in a factory for nearly 40 years, and my mom is a schoolteacher. These are the hardworking people that make America work.'"

Des Moines Register: "Fiorina goes after Clinton over Benghazi"

"Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina pitted herself against likely Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton at Saturday'sIowa Freedom Summit, sparking some of the event's most boisterous applause."

Time: "Here's Why Carly Fiorina Thinks She Can Best Criticize Hillary Clinton"

"Fiorina begins as a relative unknown, and trails far in the polls. In a speech to the Iowa Freedom Summit, a conservative cattle call hosted by Rep. Steve King, Fiorina offered a preview of her anti-Clinton message, which she believes she, as the only other woman in the race, is best equipped to offer."

Bloomberg: "Sarah Palin Says 'Yes We Can' Beat Hillary"

"Sarah Palin, standing before a packed room of Republicans in Iowa, cast herself Saturday as the judge of who's a real conservative and who can beat Hillary Clinton in 2016."

Boston Herald opinion: Adriana Cohen: "Sarah Palin is the perfect foil to take on Hillary Clinton"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"Sarah Palin says she's seriously considering a 2016 presidential run. Why not?"

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Scott Walker Makes His Case to Iowa Conservatives"

"Unlike other speakers here, who offered red-meat applause lines blasting President Barack Obama or presumed 2016 Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, Mr. Walker focused on his own biography."

Articles:

Real Clear Politics: "Iowa Democrats Waiting For Hillary"

By Salena Zito

January 25, 2015

A brisk 18-minute walk down Locust Street to Woodland Avenue in Des Moines separated Tom Henderson this weekend from close to every size, shape, color and gender of Republican weighing a run for their party's 2016 presidential nomination.

The Iowa Freedom Summit, held Saturday, was a testing ground for GOP hopefuls to impress voters, a little more than a year ahead of the Iowa caucuses scheduled for Feb. 1, 2016.

Henderson is the Democrat chairman of Polk County, one of the most populous counties in Iowa and where one-fifth of the state's Democrats will caucus on that day. He does not have anything on his event calendar for Democrats that is equivalent to the big GOP cattle-call held down the street — and, for now, he is OK with that.

"This year has been quiet, more like a typical presidential year rather than the one we saw in 2007 when Barack Obama first came to the state," Henderson said, recalling the regular visits by then-candidate Obama or one of his surrogates or staff members, who all spent a great deal of time team-building. "That doesn't mean there aren't people on the ground now for candidates, it just hasn't percolated up yet."

The Iowa Democratic Party is in a moment of self-reflection, explained Iowa State political scientist Steffen Schmidt.

"The establishment is in a blue funk after the catastrophic performance in the 2014 elections," he said, referring to state Democrats losing a U.S. Senate seat that many considered a sure thing, as well as a U.S. House seat and the governorship. "All of this has contributed to a sense of both malaise and panic."

Despite the absence of campaign offices and event announcements for a cluster of potential candidates that, eight years ago, had nine very different Democrats stumping the Hawkeye State to win voters' hearts, plenty of excitement is building for next year's caucuses, Henderson and others insist.

Polk County has a big impact in elections, and 25-year-old Blake Hanson is literally at the epicenter of that excitement and impact.

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The Des Moines law student, who grew up in the town of Sergeant Bluff, is the state treasurer of the Ready for Hillary campaign. He helped to organize the first RFH event in Iowa last January, coordinated RFH's political contributions to Iowa Democrats in the midterm elections, and advises the RFH Iowa group that is organizing in all 99 of the state's counties.

That type of person-to-person grassroots organizing is the key to success in a caucus.

Hanson said he supports Hillary Clinton because of her experience advocating and fighting for ordinary middle-class Americans: “My father has worked in a factory for nearly 40 years, and my mom is a schoolteacher. These are the hardworking people that make America work.”

Linda Nelson, chairwoman of the Pottawattamie County Democrats and former state teachers union president, said she, too, is comfortable with the pace of the race. A former Obama supporter, she said former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia and Martin O'Malley, who just stepped down as Maryland's governor, visited the county during the midterm elections; the Run Warren Run folks — supporters of U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts — will meet with her shortly.

“But when Hillary announces, everything will change around here,” she said.

That announcement conceivably might not come until summer — which means Clinton's strategy appears to be to make this into a short campaign.

And, in many ways, that makes sense: The slower and longer her non-campaign campaign can go on, without her out there, is probably a good thing.

There is a scrutiny and a sense of voter fatigue that happen to all presidential candidates; holding back until the very end to announce can limit those, along with the number of stumbles that inevitably occur (and which today's social media promptly make appear to be as significant as the collapse of the free world).

For someone with the name Clinton — or Bush — to stay in the news but out of the fray may be the best advantage, if fundraising and campaign-building are done without officially being done.

This does not mean Clinton does not do a full-throated campaign.

She does, but she just does it on a shorter calendar.

Des Moines Register: “Fiorina goes after Clinton over Benghazi”

By Josh Hafner

January 24, 2015, 11:11 p.m. CST

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina pitted herself against likely Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton at Saturday's Iowa Freedom Summit, sparking some of the event's most boisterous applause.

With a calm tone and polished delivery, Fiorina introduced herself to Iowans as a business-savvy outsider, the kind capable of creating real change in government.

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"Like Hillary Clinton, I too have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe," Fiorina said. "But unlike her, I've actually accomplished something."

That line prompted applause, hoots and hollers.

Fiorina also touted her international business experience to help position herself as one familiar with America's allies and enemies.

"And unlike Hillary Clinton, I know what difference it makes that our American ambassador and three other brave Americans were killed in a deliberate terrorist attack," she said, alluding to the 2012 attack at the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya. The line brought a standing ovation from attendees, halting her mid-speech.

Still unknown to many Iowans, Fiorina touted pro-life credentials by slamming liberals in her former home state of California.

"Liberals believe that flies are worth protecting, but the life of an unborn child is not," Fiorina said.

HINTS ON A PRESIDENTIAL BID: Fiorina described America's founding fathers envisioning a country governed not by professional politicians but leaders emerging from agriculture or, like herself, business.

"To accomplish fundamental reform, it will take an understanding of the technology that is driving this century," the former tech company CEO said.

AUDIENCE REACTION: The crowd's applause indicated praise for Fiorina's business background and glee for her head-on remarks regarding Clinton.

Time: "Here's Why Carly Fiorina Thinks She Can Best Criticize Hillary Clinton"

By Zeke J. Miller

January 24, 2015, 4:12 p.m. EST

Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina is gearing up to announce a White House bid this year, positioning herself as the Republican party's chief critic of likely Democratic nominee former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Fiorina begins as a relative unknown, and trails far in the polls. In a speech to the Iowa Freedom Summit, a conservative cattle call hosted by Rep. Steve King, Fiorina offered a preview of her anti-Clinton message, which she believes she, as the only other woman in the race, is best equipped to offer.

"Like Hillary Clinton, I too have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe," she said. "But unlike her, I have actually accomplished something. Mrs. Clinton, flying is an activity not an accomplishment."

The full Clinton excerpt is below:

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"We must understand our role in the world – which is to lead – and the nature of our allies and especially, our adversaries. Like Hillary Clinton, I too have travelled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe. But unlike her, I have actually accomplished something. Mrs. Clinton, flying is not an accomplishment, it's an activity. I have met Vladimir Putin and know that it will take more to halt his ambitions than a gimmicky red 'Reset' button. Having done business in over 80 countries and having served as the Chairman of the External Advisory Board at the CIA for several eyars, I know that China and Russia are state-sponsors of cyberwarfare and have a strategy to steal our intellectual property. I know Bibi Netanyahu and know that when he warns us that Iran is a danger to this nation as well as to his own, that we must listen. And unlike Hillary Clinton I know what difference it makes that our American Ambassador and three other brave Americans were killed in a deliberate terrorist attack on the anniversary of 9-11 in Libya. And apparently unlike Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, I know that the response of our nation must be more forceful that the arrest of a single individual a year later."

A Republican strategist told TIME last year that Fiorina could be a potent weapon for the GOP in the coming cycle. "The most effective way to criticize a woman is to have another woman do it."

Bloomberg: "Sarah Palin Says 'Yes We Can' Beat Hillary"

By Terrence Dopp

January 24, 2015, 6:37 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Despite expressing interest earlier, she won't say whether she will run for president.

DES MOINES, Iowa—Sarah Palin, standing before a packed room of Republicans in Iowa, cast herself Saturday as the judge of who's a real conservative and who can beat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"Things must change for our government," Palin said. "Look at it—it isn't too big to fail; it's too big to succeed. So we can afford no retreads or nothing will change."

"We're not in a mood to give politicians a pass just because they happen to have a certain party initial next to their name," she said.

Palin, the unsuccessful 2008 vice presidential candidate and former Republican governor of Alaska, told about 1,200 people attending the Iowa Freedom Summit that the nominating process should serve as a competition, not a coronation. She never mentioned by name either Mitt Romney or Jeb Bush, two popular moderate Republicans who are skipping the summit, though she did go after Clinton, considered the Democratic frontrunner.

Despite suggesting interest in the race on Friday, Palin never said whether she was in the race, and did not name a candidate who she thinks can win.

Her prognostication on whether the GOP can defeat Clinton in a general election? With a vibrant, fresh candidate her party stands a good shot, she said. "To borrow a phrase, yes we can," she said.

Palin started a 30-minute speech addressing her latest rounds of controversy: defending both the film American Sniper and its protagonist, Chris Kyle. She also addressed the controversy that erupted recently over a picture of her youngest son, Trig, standing on top of the family's pet Labrador, saying that the pet had been trained in Iowa.

She recalled an event she recently attended in Las Vegas thrown by Kyle's widow. One veteran in the crowd held up a sign with an expletive for documentarian Michael Moore, who criticized the film. "I had my thumb up. It wasn't another finger," she said. "We were all thinking that."

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Boston Herald opinion: Adriana Cohen: "Sarah Palin is the perfect foil to take on Hillary Clinton"

By Adriana Cohen

January 25, 2015

Sarah Palin says she's seriously considering a 2016 presidential run.

Why not? The GOP needs women on the ticket for many reasons, not least because it steals the Democratic Party's thunder. They want to be the "first" at breaking cultural barriers and glass ceilings. With Hillary Clinton expected to be their front-runner in 2016, they'll use her gender as a tactic to gin up support from their base — especially female voters.

I can already see Emily's List pushing out emails nationwide saying, "Let's make history by electing the first female president of the United States."

It's imperative Republicans put forward their own female leaders for the presidential ticket to counter that Democratic message.

Yes, Sarah Palin was bludgeoned in the 2008 race by the Democratic machine, which tried to discredit her unfairly and turn her into a cartoon figure. But Americans — especially Republicans — understand the game. There's a double standard in gender politics.

If you're a female leader on the Democratic ticket, you're a "hero" regardless of how many times you put your foot in your mouth, embarrass yourself or worse.

We haven't forgotten Hillary Clinton saying that we should empathize with our enemies or that businesses and corporations don't really create jobs. Both absurd statements that should disqualify any candidate — male or female — from any race, never mind the top slot.

But if you're a female conservative? Watch out! Liberals will pounce and do everything they can to marginalize a conservative woman who runs for office no matter how educated, or talented, or accomplished she is. Liberals only "tolerate" others if they agree with them and follow their agenda.

Skeptics will say Sarah Palin doesn't have a chance in the GOP race because she's too polarizing. But what about Hillary Clinton and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren? They're polarizing too, with supporters and haters in equal measure.

The reality is Sarah Palin draws huge crowds at speaking engagements, has millions of social media followers and just as many supporters across the nation.

Hilary Clinton has been giving speeches to half-filled rooms.

If Sarah Palin chooses to throw her proverbial hat in the ring for 2016, there's no doubt she'd make the race exciting and bring a welcome woman's point of view to the GOP field.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Scott Walker Makes His Case to Iowa Conservatives"

By Reid J. Epstein

January 24, 2015, 3:26 p.m. EST

DES MOINES, Iowa – Scott Walker offered this case to Iowa Republicans for his presidential prospects: He is new on the national scene, he has already enacted conservative reforms, and he plans to compete for their affection over the coming year.

The Wisconsin governor, making his first in-person introduction to conservative activists at Saturday's Iowa Freedom Summit here, offered a lengthy review of his fights with labor unions, during which he said he could "feel the power of your prayers." There was also a reminder that Mr. Walker spent his grammar school years in Plainfield, Iowa.

The crowd of about 1,000 people ate it up, offering Mr. Walker the most sustained applause thus far of the day-long event. Mr. Walker reciprocated, suggesting strongly in his big finish that he intended to run for president.

"I'm pleased to be here in Iowa today, I'm going to come back many more times in the future," Mr. Walker said to raucous applause at the ornate Hoyt Sherman Place theater here. "I'm hoping to work together with you to help us provide that kind of leadership that is new and fresh and bold and aggressive. It's been proven that common sense conservative reform from outside of Washington, D.C., can work. With your help, I have no doubt, we can move this country forward, we can have our own American revival."

The Wisconsin governor, pacing the stage without a suit jacket and with his sleeves rolled up to his elbows, was perhaps the day's most anticipated speaker. He mentioned none of his presumed opponents by name, but in his 20-minute speech he foreshadowed how he would draw a contrast between himself and a field of more established figures.

Mr. Walker noted that the state of Wisconsin is "the only one in the country with a fully funded retirement system," in a line separating him from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who sought to cut pledged payments to his state's pension system.

Wisconsin's property taxes are lower now than four years ago, he said. "How many governors can say that?" he said.

Mr. Walker told a familiar story about clipping coupons at the Kohl's department store, distinguishing himself from millionaire 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

And in a barb separating himself from Mr. Bush, vilified among conservative activists as a leading proponent of Common Core educational standards, Mr. Walker touted changes to Wisconsin's education system that, he said, aimed to restore control to local school boards.

Unlike other speakers here, who offered red-meat applause lines blasting President Barack Obama or presumed 2016 Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, Mr. Walker focused on his own biography. He said not a word about immigration, nor did he address presidential executive actions that drew ire from others here.

Instead he painted himself as someone with a record fighting all manner of enemies, especially Democrats. He spoke in detail about threats to him and his family during Wisconsin's labor fight, his faith, and, in a line that drew laughter and applause, his glee in watching liberal pundits on MSNBC on nights when he won re-election.

And Mr. Walker made sure the crowd left with the impression that he had prevailed in a tough political environment.

In Wisconsin, he said, "people like the direction they're headed. Maybe that's why I won the race for governor three times in the last four years. Three times, mind you, in a state that hasn't gone Republican for president since I was in high school more than 30 years ago, how about that?"

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/10/2014 7:44:12 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday December 10, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday December 10, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: We need "a President who will focus on the next 100 years, not one who hopes to turn the clock back" @GovHowardDean : http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/howard-dean-ready-for-hillary-113444.html#.VIhHGWTF-IK … [12/10/14, 11:32 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@GovHowardDean : "If I have the opportunity, I will cast my vote for @HillaryClinton for President." http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/howard-dean-ready-for-hillary-113444.html#.VIhHGWTF-IK … [12/10/14, 9:11 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton would be the President who America needs, @GovHowardDean writes in @politico : http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/howard-dean-ready-for-hillary-113444.html#.VIhHGWTF-IK … [12/10/14, 8:46 a.m. EST]

Headlines:

Talking Points Memo: "Howard Dean Endorses Hillary While Group He Founded Pushes For Warren"

"Correct The Record, the American Bridge-affiliated group that is supporting a Hillary 2016 candidacy, blasted

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out the Dean endorsement in an email to reporters."

ABC News: "Support for Elizabeth Warren Over Hillary Clinton Reveals Progressive Family Feud"

"Democracy for America's support shows a schism within the group. They released a statement after MoveOn's vote reiterating they would help their fellow liberals in the draft Warren effort, but Howard Dean — who started the group — wrote an op-ed today stressing his support for Hillary Clinton."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Dean, in break from group he founded, backs Clinton for president"

"Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean endorsed Hillary Clinton for president on Wednesday, giving her the support of a liberal firebrand at a time when some liberals are skeptical."

The Week blog: Speed Reads: "Howard Dean endorses Hillary Clinton for president: 'We need a mature, seasoned' leader"

"In a Politico op-ed, Dean cited three major reasons for his support. Clinton, he wrote, understands the 'institutional requirements' of the Supreme Court and would appoint worthy judges; she has a sterling record at the State Department; and she would address income inequality."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: Chris Cillizza: "Howard Dean makes the liberal's case for Hillary Clinton. It's only ok."

"The thrust of Dean's piece is that Democrats badly need another Democratic president because of rightward movement of the Supreme Court in recent years."

The Blaze: "Howard Dean Throws His Support Behind Hillary Clinton"

"Hillary Clinton hasn't said whether she's running in 2016, but she has an early backer in former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean."

Bloomberg column: Al Hunt: "Young Voters Don't Care How Old Hillary Is"

"Hillary Clinton, if she decides to run for president, would be among the oldest contenders for the office. Nonetheless, she has strong appeal among younger Americans."

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Ready for Warren to Clinton supporters: 'It's about to get real'”

“In a fundraising email sent to supporters, the progressive group that is urging Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run for president touted their recent endorsement from liberal heavyweight MoveOn.org.”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: Aaron Blake: “Hillary Clinton is the ultimate Washington insider. That’s not necessarily a bad thing.”

“When it comes to someone like Clinton, though, it's hard to argue that her being a Washington insider -- or even another Clinton, for that matter -- is a massive problem for her. In fact, this poll suggests it just might help.”

NBC News: “Who Do the Wealthy Want for President? Hillary”

“Millionaires are sharply divided on their choice for the next president, according to the second CNBC Millionaire Survey released Wednesday. Yet if a vote were held now, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would be the overall favorite.”

Washington Post: “Just how daunting is the money chase for 2016?”

“For Hillary Rodham Clinton, should she run for president in 2016, money will not be an issue.”

Wall Street Journal: “Security Gaps Detailed at American Posts”

“State Department investigators discovered numerous security deficiencies in global hot spots when reviewing U.S. diplomatic facilities in 2012 and 2013, suggesting problems were more widespread than previously known.”

Blue Nation Review opinion: Allida Black: “Today is Human Rights Day–Here’s What You Can Do”

“Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated her life to promoting this vision. Hillary Clinton dedicates her life to implementing it.”

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Business Insider opinion: Business Insider EIC Henry Blodget: "I Know It Sounds Crazy, But I Don't Think Hillary Clinton Will Be The Next US President"

"No disrespect to Mrs. Clinton, but I think this consensus is wrong."

Articles:

Talking Points Memo: "Howard Dean Endorses Hillary While Group He Founded Pushes For Warren"

By Dylan Scott

December 10, 2014, 12:47 p.m. EDT

The day after the grassroots group he founded announced it would help draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) for a 2016 presidential run, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean endorsed Hillary Clinton if she chooses to seek the White House.

"Hillary Clinton is by far the most qualified person in the United States to serve as President. If she runs, I will support her," Dean wrote in an op-ed for Politico magazine titled "I'm Ready for Hillary."

Dean's Clinton endorsement arrived almost simultaneously with Democracy for America's announcement that it would support efforts to convince Warren to run, pending its members' approval. Dean remains an active strategic adviser for the group, which he founded in 2004 ahead of his own presidential campaign.

Dean and DFA knew what the other planned to do before either went public, according to a DFA spokesperson, and the group said there are no concerns about sending conflicting messages. A recent internal DFA poll found that its members favored Warren over Clinton by nearly 20 points.

"Gov. Dean founded DFA in the hopes that it would be the strong, people-powered force in the progressive movement it is today," DFA communications director Neil Sroka told TPM in an email on Wednesday.

"When we both saw the results of our 2016 Presidential Pulse Poll, we both knew that might lead us to where we are today," he continued. "So, sure, some beltway folks might be confused, but we're confident our members won't be and, honestly, that's all that really matters."

Meanwhile, Correct The Record, the American Bridge-affiliated group that is supporting a Hillary 2016 candidacy, blasted out the Dean endorsement in an email to reporters.

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ABC News: “Support for Elizabeth Warren Over Hillary Clinton Reveals Progressive Family Feud”

By Shushannah Walshe

December 10, 2014, 1:06 p.m. EST

Sen. Elizabeth Warren may be saying no to 2016, but that is not stopping her supporters and it’s revealing a possible family feud in progressive politics.

Members of the liberal group MoveOn have voted to draft the Massachusetts senator with 81.3 percent of those who voted casting the ballot in support of a draft effort. MoveOn — joined by Democracy or America — said it will launch their “Run Warren Run” draft effort, which includes spending $1 million in the first phase of the launch and setting up offices in Iowa and New Hampshire as well as assembling a "national volunteer army" on behalf of Warren. They are planning on holding their first event in Iowa next week.

Democracy for America’s support shows a schism within the group. They released a statement after MoveOn’s vote reiterating they would help their fellow liberals in the draft Warren effort, but Howard Dean — who started the group — wrote an op-ed today stressing his support for Hillary Clinton. Neither Clinton nor Warren have said they are running for the Democratic presidential nomination. Warren has repeatedly said she’s not running and Clinton has said she’s still deciding.

"Hillary Clinton is by far the most qualified person in the United States to serve as president. If she runs, I will support her,” Dean, a former Vermont governor and presidential candidate, wrote in Politico. “We need a mature, seasoned, thoughtful leader at a time when maturity and thoughtfulness are increasingly rare commodities in Washington, D.C. If I have the opportunity, I will cast my vote for Hillary Clinton for president.”

Dean founded DFA and according to the group still serves in a strategic advisory role. He originally left the DFA to lead the Democratic National Committee in 2005 and then Dean’s brother Jim took over DFA and still serves as chairman of the group.

Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America, said in a statement they “respect” Dean’s “early support” and believe Clinton “would make a fantastic president and, should she win the nomination, DFA members will work non-stop to help her make history by becoming our nation's first woman president.” But they are still endorsing Warren.

Chamberlain cited their supporters backing of Warren in a recent member survey and added, “We've said from the very beginning of our discussions of 2016 that one of DFA's top priorities will be ensuring that the battle for the Democratic nomination is a contest, not a coronation. Our members clearly agree with that priority…and aren't ready to follow the governor's lead in making an early endorsement of Clinton."

Chamberlain said later today they will ask members to ratify their decision to join the draft Warren effort.

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“Senator Warren's record of standing up to Wall Street and the big banks in the fight against income inequality is inspiring Americans and progressive activists nationwide,” Chamberlain said.

MoveOn’s executive director of political action said in a statement after their vote that their members have “spoken clearly” and beginning today they are “throwing our full weight behind this Run Warren Run campaign to show Senator Warren she has the support of millions of Americans across the country.”

It’s their first presidential draft campaign in their 16 year history and said their “team-based organizing strategy” is “inspired” by President Obama's successful "grassroots campaigns." They’ve already launched a “Run Warren Run” website and video portraying Warren as a fighter for the middle class.

When MoveOn announced their vote Tuesday and DFA expressed support for the effort, Warren’s press secretary Lacey Rose said, "As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president." Warren has said the same repeatedly herself, but she’s always been careful to phrase it in the present tense.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Dean, in break from group he founded, backs Clinton for president”

By Peter Sullivan

December 10, 2014, 10:02 a.m. EST

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean endorsed Hillary Clinton for president on Wednesday, giving her the support of a liberal firebrand at a time when some liberals are skeptical.

"Hillary Clinton is by far the most qualified person in the United States to serve as President," Dean wrote in an op-ed in Politico Magazine. "If she runs, I will support her."

Dean, who caught fire among the liberal base in the 2004 presidential campaign before ultimately losing the nomination to John Kerry, gives Clinton support at a time when liberal groups are organinizing to urge Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to challenge Clinton from the left.

Those liberal groups include Democracy for America, which was founded by Dean himself. On Tuesday, DFA announced that it was asking its members to vote to join the "Draft Warren" movement begun by another liberal group, MoveOn.org.

"Washington consultants can spout off a dozen reasons why Elizabeth Warren shouldn't run, but none of that beltway blather means a thing next to this one, simple truth: The Democratic Party and our country desperately need Warren's voice in the 2016 presidential debate," DFA Executive Director Charles Chamberlain said in a statement announcing the Draft Warren move.

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Neil Sroka, a spokesman for DFA, wrote on Twitter that Dean's op-ed was placed last week, before DFA's decision to join the Draft Warren effort.

In supporting Clinton, Dean cited Supreme Court appointments, the need for experience on national security matters, and income inequality.

"Hillary Clinton will not shrink from this challenge," he writes. "In the coming months, I expect her to lay out her plans to attack income inequality and help rebuild the middle class. She knows how to sell a broad range of Americans on these policies, and has shown how to stand up against extremist economic policies."

Income inequality is the main issue spurring liberal groups to look for an alternative to Clinton. Dean acknowledges: "I am sure I will have disagreements with her as she focuses on getting Americans back to work and rebuilding an America that works for all of us."

However, he writes, "We need a mature, seasoned, thoughtful leader at a time when maturity and thoughtfulness are increasingly rare commodities in Washington, D.C."

Dean said in August that he is a "huge Hillary Clinton fan."

That was a shift from June 2013, when he told CNN that he was considering a run of his own, and said of Clinton, "She is not going to have a pass," Dean said. "There will be other people who will run."

The Week blog: Speed Reads: “Howard Dean endorses Hillary Clinton for president: 'We need a mature, seasoned' leader”

By Jon Terbush

December 10, 2014, 9:03 a.m. EST

Calling her "by far the most qualified person" for the job, former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said Wednesday he was throwing his support behind Hillary Clinton in 2016.

In a Politico op-ed, Dean cited three major reasons for his support. Clinton, he wrote, understands the "institutional requirements" of the Supreme Court and would appoint worthy judges; she has a sterling record at the State Department; and she would address income inequality.

"We need a mature, seasoned, thoughtful leader at a time when maturity and thoughtfulness are increasingly rare commodities in Washington, D.C.," he wrote.

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Washington Post blog: The Fix: Chris Cillizza: “Howard Dean makes the liberal’s case for Hillary Clinton. It’s only ok.”

By Chris Cillizza

December 10, 2014, 9:36 a.m. EST

Liberals aren't in love with the idea of anointing Hillary Clinton as the Democratic nominee for president in 2016. And now they are doing something about it -- launching an active (and well financed) effort to draft Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the presidential race this week.

All of which makes the timing of former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's Politico op-ed Wednesday morning formally endorsing Clinton's not-yet-announced presidential campaign very, very interesting. Dean became a hero to the left during his 2004 race for the Democratic presidential nomination, a bid largely premised on his staunch opposition to the war in Iraq. Over the intervening decade, Dean has remained an anti-establishment, speak-truth-to-power type and remains influential among a certain segment of liberal activists.

Dean's op-ed, then, is rightly read as a sort of "liberal's case for Hillary Clinton" and a way of pushing back against the rising Warren tide. (Remember that Dean has been in favor of Clinton's presidential campaign for a while now. "If she is president, which I hope she is, I think she is going to be a terrific president," he told CNN back in July.)

The thrust of Dean's piece is that Democrats badly need another Democratic president because of rightward movement of the Supreme Court in recent years. Writes Dean:

“America needs a thoughtful President who will appoint judges and justices who will stand up for the Constitution and the law instead of catering to the dictates of those who fund the right-wing Federalist Society. I am confident that Hillary Clinton will provide that leadership.”

That's a stone-cold winner argument to liberals who believe the Roberts Court has drastically overreached in its decisions -- "this Court has repeatedly made decisions that have harmed our country for the sake of extending a political and ideological agenda," according to Dean -- especially on matters of campaign finance and voting rights.

With Ruth Bader Ginsburg (age 81) and Stephen Breyer (76) -- both appointees of Bill Clinton -- aging, there is considerable awareness (and concern) in liberal circles about how a Republican president could remake the Court for a lifetime if elected in 2016. Dean is playing to those fears, making the argument that Clinton, as a Democrat, is better than any Republican president when it comes to picking the next members of the Supreme Court.

Dean makes a similar argument when it comes to the pet issue of Warren (and the left): income inequality. Again, Dean: "In the coming months, I expect [Clinton] to lay out her plans to attack income inequality and help rebuild the middle class. She knows how to sell a broad range of Americans on these policies, and has shown how to stand up against extremist economic policies." What Dean stays entirely away from is talking about Clinton's ties to Wall Street, a major point of contention in the eyes of liberals.

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What Dean argues broadly in the op-ed is that Clinton is the best choice among the candidates who are a) running and b) can win. It's a see-the-forest-through-the-tree argument; no, Clinton isn't the candidate liberals would dream up in a political laboratory but she is a heck of a lot better than the Republican alternatives out there. "I value and respect her enough that whatever differences may exist will be minimal compared to the tasks we really need to do for the good of restoring our country," writes Dean.

It remains to be seen whether the she's-not-perfect-but-she's-pretty good case for Clinton will be enough to convince liberals to stop actively looking for someone who fits their beliefs better. (It may not matter how convincing Dean is if Warren, who has said she isn't running and signed a letter urging Clinton to run, doesn't change her mind.) No matter what, however, that Dean felt the need to reiterate his support for Clinton and make the case for why other liberals should (or at least could) be for her is a telling indication of the nervousness among allies of the former Secretary of State about the possibility of a liberal uprising complicating her coronation for the nomination.

The Blaze: “Howard Dean Throws His Support Behind Hillary Clinton”

By Fred Lucas

December 10, 2014, 9:45 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton hasn’t said whether she’s running in 2016, but she has an early backer in former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

“Hillary Clinton is by far the most qualified person in the United States to serve as president. If she runs, I will support her,” the former Democratic National Committee chairman wrote in an op-ed for Politico.

A Clinton presidential campaign is expected to face contention from the progressive wing of the Democratic party; Dean ran as an anti-establishment Democrat in the 2004 presidential race.

“I am sure I will have disagreements with her as she focuses on getting Americans back to work and rebuilding an America that works for all of us,” Dean wrote. “I value and respect her enough that whatever differences may exist will be minimal compared to the tasks we really need to do for the good of restoring our country. We need a mature, seasoned, thoughtful leader at a time when maturity and thoughtfulness are increasingly rare commodities in Washington, D.C.”

Dean was the frontrunner for a time in a crowded Democratic primary field in the lead-up to the 2004 election because of his opposition to the war in Iraq. After a disappointing showing in the Iowa caucus, he infamously bellowed the “Dean scream” that haunted the rest of his ill-fated campaign.

Dean has long been a key figure among the more progressive Democrats, many of whom have expressed support for a bid by Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, or Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders.

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Dean said it's important that Clinton be elected in order to fill future Supreme Court vacancies.

"One of the most important reasons I am supporting her is because Secretary Clinton understands the institutional requirements of the Supreme Court," Dean wrote. "More than 73 percent of Americans think the Supreme Court is no longer a fair arbitrator and is influenced by political considerations. I am one of those 73 percent. This court has repeatedly made decisions that have harmed our country for the sake of extending a political and ideological agenda that is far outside the mainstream of American traditions — on issues like campaign finance, voting rights, the rights of women and religious freedom.

"America needs a thoughtful president who will appoint judges and justices who will stand up for the Constitution and the law instead of catering to the dictates of those who fund the right-wing Federalist Society," Dean continued. "I am confident that Hillary Clinton will provide that leadership."

Bloomberg column: Al Hunt: "Young Voters Don't Care How Old Hillary Is"

By Albert R. Hunt

December 10, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton, if she decides to run for president, would be among the oldest contenders for the office. Nonetheless, she has strong appeal among younger Americans.

The former secretary of state, who will be 69 on Election Day 2016, beats five of her most prominent possible Republican rivals among voters 18-to-29, in some cases by as much as a 2-to-1 margin, according to a new Bloomberg Politics poll. Senator Rand Paul runs strongest against her among these voters, though he still loses by a 3-to-2 margin.

Younger people, perhaps not surprisingly, say the most important quality for a presidential candidate is a vision for the future. On this question, Clinton routs her Republican rivals among younger Americans. They prefer her to Mitt Romney, for example, by 56 percent to 36 percent.

Romney is seven months older than Clinton. The other possible Republican candidates -- Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz -- are five to more than 20 years younger.

Age hasn't emerged as a significant impediment to winning the youth vote in presidential contests.

"There is little reason to believe that younger people prefer young candidates," says Peter Levine, a professor at Tufts University's Center on Civic Learning and Engagement.

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Young voters have been more dependably Democratic in recent elections. In the last presidential race, Barack Obama won 60 percent of 18-to-29 year-olds, according to Election Day exit polls.

Republicans did slightly better in the November midterm congressional contests, when they lost the youth vote 54 percent to 43 percent.

Some caveats: At this early stage of the presidential election cycle, younger Americans tend to be a little less informed and potentially more prone to switching allegiances. And turnout is uncertain: voters under 30 comprised 19 percent of the electorate in the last presidential race. In November, they accounted for just 13 percent. In this year's exit polls, Hillary Clinton didn't do as well as she does in the Bloomberg politics survey.

Still, her standing with 18-to-29 year olds is impressive. She is viewed favorably by this cohort by better than a 3-to-2 margin, considerably better than her standing among people 30 or older.

Similarly, her greatest advantage in head-to-head matchups and on the vision issue is with those under 30. On a vision for the future, the Republican who comes closest is Paul, a libertarian who has appealed to younger voters on privacy and other issues. He still ranks 15 points behind Clinton.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Ready for Warren to Clinton supporters: 'It's about to get real'”

By Kevin Cirilli

December 10, 2014, 1:08 p.m. EST

Ready For Warren has a message to Hillary Clinton about 2016: "It's about to get real."

In a fundraising email sent to supporters, the progressive group that is urging Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run for president touted their recent endorsement from liberal heavyweight MoveOn.org.

"MoveOn joining the draft Warren movement is a game changer for 2016," said Erika Sagrans, Ready For Warren campaign manager. "We’re seeing a groundswell of momentum as more and more Americans see that Elizabeth Warren is a fearless progressive champion who can take on Wall Street and win for working families. And that’s exactly what she’ll do as president."

Warren has insisted that she's not running for president, but the recent news that MoveOn.org — as well as Democracy For America — would be backing the freshman senator has liberals hoping she'll change her mind.

Former Secretary of State Clinton has dominated early polling, but many liberals are concerned that Clinton is too centrist and too close to Wall Street.

The New York Times reported Sunday that MoveOn.org will invest $1 million into Ready For Warren, which

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Warren's own attorneys denounced in August, saying they had nothing to do with its creation.

MoveOn.org will also provide volunteers out of their millions of members as the kick-off to the 2016 presidential cycle is just months away.

"With MoveOn on board, things will only get bigger from here. They're making a major investment — including staff and resources, as well as the might of their millions of members," Ready For Warren officials wrote in a fundraising email. "All of this is more proof of what we already knew: This is Elizabeth Warren's moment. As a friend of mine said to me yesterday: 'It's about to get real.'"

Washington Post blog: The Fix: Aaron Blake: "Hillary Clinton is the ultimate Washington insider. That's not necessarily a bad thing."

By Aaron Blake

December 10, 2014, 11:38 a.m. EST

If there's one thing we learned in the last few elections, it's that people hate Washington. And being associated with Washington is a huge political liability.

Right? Well, maybe not.

Witness this data from Bloomberg's latest poll. The poll asked people about several aspects of Hillary Clinton's resume, and whether they thought each was a plus or a minus.

[DATA]

Almost all of these statements are some variation on Clinton being a D.C. insider. And Clinton gets positive marks on each of them. She even gets positive marks for "She has close ties to Wall Street," which is a statement that could just as easily appear in an attack ad against Hillary Clinton.

Clinton's best marks, in fact, are on the only statement actually mentioning Washington: "She has lived in Washington and worked in the federal government"; 78 percent say that's an advantage, versus just 20 percent who said it's a disadvantage. And despite President Obama's approval rating being around 40 percent, about six in 10 Americans say Clinton's work in the Obama Administration is a good thing for her.

Clinton's overall favorable rating in the poll, we would point out, is 52 percent. In other words, plenty of people who otherwise don't really like her think her lengthy career in government and insider status is a feather in her cap rather than a liability.

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Those numbers call into question whether it's really a bad thing to be a "Washington insider." We suspect it is a bad thing when the candidates aren't very well-known. In that case, voting for the non-Washington candidate is the easiest way to show your contempt for Congress. When it's businessman David Perdue versus Congressman Jack Kingston in the Georgia GOP Senate runoff, that "congressman" label probably isn't helpful to people who don't really know Kingston. (We have made this argument before in regards whether the Republican Party would actually nominate a confirmed tea partier for president. We were dubious.)

When it comes to someone like Clinton, though, it's hard to argue that her being a Washington insider -- or even another Clinton, for that matter -- is a massive problem for her.

In fact, this poll suggests it just might help.

NBC News: "Who Do the Wealthy Want for President? Hillary"

By Robert Frank

December 10, 2014, 11:51 a.m. EST

Millionaires are sharply divided on their choice for the next president, according to the second CNBC Millionaire Survey released Wednesday. Yet if a vote were held now, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would be the overall favorite.

The survey polled 500 people with investable assets of $1 million or more, which represents the top 8 percent of American households. According to the survey—a poll evenly split between Democrats, Republicans and Independents—Hillary Clinton is the top choice for 31 percent of millionaires, including 23 percent of Independent millionaires and 5 percent of Republican millionaires. Respondents got to choose among nine potential candidates in the survey: Clinton; Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.); Vice President Joe Biden; Governor Chris Christie (R-N.J.); Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas); Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.); former Governor Jeb Bush (R-Fla.); Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Governor Scott Walker (R-Wis.). Clinton gets the support of 38 percent of women millionaires and 27 percent of male millionaires. Among male millionaires of both parties, Hillary is the top choice, with 27 percent. Jeb Bush comes in second among millionaires, with 18 percent. But among Republican millionaires, the former Republican Florida governor is far and away the top choice, with 36 percent support.

Washington Post: "Just how daunting is the money chase for 2016?"

By Dan Balz

December 10, 2014, 9:29 a.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Elections should be about voters — their issues, their worries, their questions. Instead, elections increasingly have become about donors — courting them, corralling them and depending on them.

For Hillary Rodham Clinton, should she run for president in 2016, money will not be an issue. For the large and unsettled field of Republicans, it is — at least for now — almost everything. For the next year, raising the money needed to go the distance in a competitive nomination contest and beyond will be among the highest of priorities.

By the time of the 2016 election, the two major party nominees will have raised more than $1 billion. But securing the nomination, just to get to the general election, will require raising in excess of $100 million.

Spencer Zwick, who ran Mitt Romney's strong fundraising operation in 2012, said, "It's just as hard to raise $100 million for the primary as it will be to raise $1 billion for the general. . . . In the primary, every contribution you get, you are asking for it. You're working a lot harder for those dollars."

My colleagues Matea Gold and Tom Hamburger reported that, by some estimates, the leading candidate or candidates for the nomination will need to raise as much as $75 million to make it past the first round of primaries and caucuses early next year. Some back-of-the-envelope math shows what awaits the field.

Assume for now that everyone opened for business on Jan. 1, and therefore would have about 425 days to raise money through the end of February 2016. To hit $75 million would mean raising about $176,000 a day, every day, for the entire period.

Assume again that the contribution limit for individuals will be about $2,700 for the 2016 cycle. That equates to finding 65 maxed-out donors on each of those 425 days (or alternatively, sparking a prairie fire among small donors on the Internet).

It becomes more daunting, however, when you look at prospective timetables for getting into the race. Few candidates appear to be in a rush to form committees that would allow fundraising to begin. Many are talking about announcing late in the first quarter or perhaps at some point in the second quarter, although the timing of establishing a fundraising committee and formal candidacy announcement could be different.

Romney did not set up his presidential committee until the second quarter of 2011, and by the end of January 2012 had raised about $60 million in individual contributions, according to Federal Election Commission reports. If a candidate set a target of raising $60 million by the end of February 2016, starting on the first day of the second quarter or 2015, that would mean having to raise about $179,000 a day, or 66 maxed-out donors every day.

There are alternative ways of trying to survive and prosper. Rick Santorum, a former senator from Pennsylvania, burrowed into Iowa in 2011, living off the land, as it were. In all of 2011, he raised just $2 million. Yet, when the count was eventually completed, he ended up winning the Iowa caucuses, defeating Romney by the narrowest of margins.

Spurred by his success in Iowa, Santorum raised $4 million in January 2012. But it wasn't until he won three contests in a single day in February 2012 that his fundraising caught fire. As Romney's leading challenger, he raised $9 million in February and then $5 million in March. By the time he ended his campaign in the late spring, he had raised a total of just $22 million.

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Romney eventually would raise about $112 million in individual contributions through May 2012, at which point the nomination was locked up. His nearest competitor, in terms of money raised, was then-Rep. Ron Paul (Tex.), with $39 million. Paul had significant success raising grass-roots money, which could become the model for his son, Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), should he run in 2016. Former House speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.), with $23 million, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, with $19 million, completed the top five in money raised.

Another way to look at it is Romney vs. the field. For the nomination contest, Romney's challengers raised $137 million to his $112 million. In 2011 alone, Romney raised $55 million. His competitors raised a combined $95 million. The total pot of money contributed to Republican candidates in those 12 months was $148 million.

There's nothing to suggest that there will substantially more available for the candidates between now and when the primaries and caucuses begin in 2016. Even if there were a 10 to 15 percent increase, that's not a lot when divided among the number of candidates who are thinking about running.

If it takes $75 million to come out of the first round of contests as the leader and the total pot is only $150 million to $175 million by then, there will be a few haves and more have-nots. Others who are not favored by the donor class of the Republican Party or are not capable of building a grassroots donor army could be at a significant disadvantage.

Some candidates will do well with the big-money crowd, although history suggests that one of them will do significantly better than the others. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, should he run, could be that candidate, or perhaps New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, although the Securities and Exchange Commission's pay-to-play rule would limit his Wall Street contributions. Perry was an effective fundraiser during his brief candidacy, but could have trouble maintaining his Texas donor base once he's out of office. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has one of the biggest lists of donors — big and small — of any Republican.

All this points to increased reliance by all those thinking of running on the alternative way to finance presidential campaigns, which is through the creation of candidate-centric super PACs, which are allowed to take contributions of unlimited size. Finding a financial angel or two who will bankroll a super PAC could be just as important as building a donor network to underwrite a candidacy.

The 2012 campaign was the first in which candidate-specific super PACs played a big role. Romney had the biggest by far, but Gingrich and Santorum were aided significantly by the existence of their own super PACs, funded in large part by individual donors (Sheldon Adelson for Gingrich; Foster Friese for Santorum).

Center for Public Integrity's reports on those super PACs tell an interesting story. Gingrich's super PAC, Winning Our Future, raised about $23 millionand spent about $17 million on independent expenditure ads — $13 million on ads advocating for Gingrich and $4 million attacking Romney. Santorum's super PAC, the Red, White & Blue Fund, raised about $8.5 million and spent $7.5 million on independent expenditure ads, almost all of it on ads advocating for the former senator.

Meanwhile, Romney's super PAC, Restore Our Future, spent $19 million on attacking Gingrich when he posed a threat to the former Massachusetts governor, and then, when Santorum became the leading challenger, spent $21 million on attacking the former senator. Put another way, Romney's super PAC (not counting what Romney's campaign did) spent almost as much money attacking Santorum as Santorum raised for his entire campaign.

Major donors will get a lot of attention in the coming months, more than is warranted. The scramble for money will

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start to stratify and possibly winnow the field long before voters get a chance to weigh in. That's hardly an ideal system.

Wall Street Journal: "Security Gaps Detailed at American Posts"

By James V. Grimaldi and Peter Nicholas

December 9, 2014, 10:25 p.m. EST

State Department investigators discovered numerous security deficiencies in global hot spots when reviewing U.S. diplomatic facilities in 2012 and 2013, suggesting problems were more widespread than previously known.

Inspections of five newly opened compounds in 2012 found failings that included deviations from security standards, along with design, construction and maintenance flaws.

Such problems "could be exploited to compromise the safety of post personnel and property," said a review that was part of seven audits conducted by the office of State Department Inspector General Steve Linick.

The review, which hadn't been made public before, was undertaken from April to October 2012, toward the end of Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. It provides the best snapshot of security when the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, was attacked in September 2012, leading to the deaths of four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya.

Congressional panels investigating the Benghazi attacks concluded that State Department officials didn't beef up security despite requests from diplomats in Libya. The reviews suggest such problems went well beyond Benghazi.

Security lapses at U.S. embassies are a point of vulnerability for Mrs. Clinton should she run for president. GOP lawmakers and activists have sought to tie her explicitly to security failures.

"The inspector general's findings reveal that on Secretary Clinton's watch, security lapses were widely prevalent in the most dangerous posts in the world, not just isolated to the failures that precipitated the attack in Benghazi," said Tim Miller, executive director of America Rising, a group that opposes a potential Clinton candidacy. The group's open-records requests led to unsealing of parts of the previously classified reports.

Mrs. Clinton's spokesman referred questions to the State Department.

Mrs. Clinton, who stepped down as secretary of state in 2013, has described Benghazi as the biggest regret of her four-year tenure and has said she accepts broad responsibility for the tragedy. She has also said security decisions were made by people with more expertise and that her critics are exploiting the issue for political gain.

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“Of course, there are a lot of reasons why, despite all of the hearings, all of the information that’s been provided, some choose not to be satisfied and choose to continue to move forward,” she said in May during a public appearance.

The location of the facilities, all deemed at high risk of terrorism, mob action or political unrest, are blacked out in the report the inspector general’s office released. Many of the deficiencies were fixed by ambassadors and consuls general after the review started, the report said.

“Posts have concentric and overlapping security measures,” said a State Department spokesman. “So when the [Office of Inspector General] finds deficiencies, it is not fair to extrapolate that the post is insecure.”

Mr. Linick was set to testify Wednesday at a hearing by the House Select Committee on Benghazi. Of 77 security recommendations he has made since Benghazi, just five remain unresolved, according to a tally by the office.

In a separate 2013 Inspector General audit, which also hadn’t been previously reported, investigators said the U.S. Embassy and consulates in Pakistan had inadequate emergency plans in the event of a terrorist attack or political unrest, including deficient firefighting capabilities.

Many of those security breaches in Pakistan were fixed after the internal review was under way. A State Department spokesman said new firefighting equipment has been ordered.

During the Pakistan inspection, investigators found sensitive documents improperly secured, and in one instance, materials stamped “sensitive” stacked on a floor because of a shortage of filing cabinets. These problems are similar to ones found during related inspections in Libya and Afghanistan.

In one of the reports, investigators found fault with how U.S. Marines were deployed to provide additional security. Of 154 overseas posts that had Marines in 2012, 110 had medium or low threat ratings. It isn’t clear why Marines were posted to less-threatening facilities because the documentation was “deficient,” the report said.

The State Department committed an estimated $90 million to send Marines to six lower-threat posts, while some high-threat posts remain without a Marine detachment, the report said.

Blue Nation Review opinion: Allida Black: “Today is Human Rights Day–Here’s What You Can Do”

By Allida Black

December 10, 2014

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Today is International Human Rights Day, which marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. Crafted in the shadow of the horrors of the Holocaust and World War II, the Declaration gave the world the vision it needed to stand up to fear and the blueprint it craved to build a safer and more just world.

It is a bold document, based on a single premise – that the "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." Eleanor Roosevelt, who led the drafting and adoption of the Declaration, understood that we are all members of the human family, and that for governments to prosper and wars to cease, we must treat each other with the same respect and candor that we treat our own families. She knew this would not be easy or popular and that she would be accused of championing ideals that could never be achieved. But she persisted; knowing that without ideals, politics and policy are merely power games without a soul.

She urged America and the world to recognize that human rights "begin in small places, close to home…the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination." And that "unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere." But she also knew that rights come with responsibilities. For rights to exist here and around the world, we must recognize, implement, and defend them. As she often argued: "Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated her life to promoting this vision. Hillary Clinton dedicates her life to implementing it. It is not simple work. "Our challenge," Hillary wrote in "Hard Choices," "is to be clear eyed about the world as it is while never losing sight of the world as we want it to be."

From the White House to the halls of the Senate and the State Department, Hillary strove to make these ideals a vibrant part of American domestic and foreign policy. Sometimes she did it with bold pronouncements on the world stage as she did in Beijing when she declared that "women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights."

Sometimes she did it by creating departments like the Global Office of Women's Issues or elevating the State Department's human rights office. Other times she did it in hundreds of quiet meetings with human rights activists and dozens of town hall meetings she held in communities from Argentina to Pakistan to South Korea. These conversations were not easy. Some leaders feared for their lives, others for their families, and others challenged Hillary to do more than she could possibly do. But she did not shy away from them. Indeed, she sought them out – even when she could do no more than lend the power of her position and her stature to their defense.

But three examples stand out.

In 2011, Ugandan thugs killed David Kato, a gay rights activist, and the Ugandan minister of ethics and integrity announced that "homosexuals can forget about human rights." Rather than just mourn David and issue a formal rebuke, Hillary decided to confront, head on, the targeting of LGBT people sweeping Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Iran, and Russia.

She decided to return to Geneva, home of the United Nations Human Rights Council and thousands of global diplomats, on International Human Rights Day. Before an overflow audience, in remarks streamed live around the world, she confronted this outrageous behavior. LGBT people are part of the world's family. "Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."

In 2012, in the middle of our nation's most intense economic negotiations with China, Hillary had an unexpected,

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stark choice to make. One of China's most famous dissidents, the blind Chinese human rights activist Chen Guangcheng, had made a daring midnight escape from the guards surrounding his home, to seek sanctuary in the U.S. Mission. He did not know if he wanted to leave China and he had broken his foot during his flight. He called the Beijing Mission, which then called Hillary in the middle of the night. Hillary had worked hard to develop candid and productive relationships with the Chinese ministers so she knew how the Chinese would react and the damage the news of Chen's escape could do to the summit. But she wanted to help Chen. She instructed embassy staff to find him, bring him in, and give him medical care. The Chinese were shocked, but Hillary kept them at the table, the summit continued, and Chen enrolled in a New York law school. His family came with him.

At home, America reels from the tragic deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. A bitterly divided nation once again questions whether justice is possible and whether different races can pierce the divides that separate and stereotype them. As protests erupted across the nation, Hillary challenged us not to lose sight of our common humanity. "I know that a lot of hearts are breaking, and we are asking ourselves, 'Aren't these our sons? Aren't these our brothers?' The most important thing each of us can do is to try even harder to see the world through our neighbors' eyes. To imagine what it is like to walk in their shoes, to share their pain and their hopes and their dreams. These tragedies did not happen in some far-away place. They didn't happen to some other people. These are our streets, our children, our fellow Americans, and our grief. We are all in this together, we can all do better."

We can do better. That's what human rights mean.

Eleanor Roosevelt believed it and Hillary knows it. It is hard, tiring work. It takes the courage to dream, the political skills necessary to implement the dream, and a heart fierce enough to continue the struggle. On this day, let us recommit. Let us hear Hillary's call. We must "never rest on [our] laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place. That's our unfinished business."

Business Insider opinion: Business Insider EIC Henry Blodget: "I Know It Sounds Crazy, But I Don't Think Hillary Clinton Will Be The Next US President"

By Henry Blodget

December 10, 2014

For the past couple of years, it has been viewed as almost a fait accompli that Hillary Clinton will be the next US president.

All the polls show her drubbing all known opponents. All the pundits seem to regard her as a shoo-in. Even Clinton's fundraisers seem to regard their biggest challenge as persuading donors that she does not have a lock on the election, thus emphasizing the need for these donors to give.

No disrespect to Mrs. Clinton, but I think this consensus is wrong.

I do not say this as a political expert. I am not a political expert. I am just an American. For fun, though, I just bet a political expert, former Editor in Chief of Slate Jacob Weisberg, that Clinton won't win. Jacob took the bet

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instantly and says he is looking forward to my buying him lunch in early November 2016.

To be clear:

Hillary Clinton is supremely well-qualified to be President. She has strong experience, she's smart and capable, and she would probably do a great job. She is widely and deservedly respected and admired. She also has deep connections and an immense and talented political machine, one that has been gearing up for her campaign for years.

But despite this, unless the Republicans shoot themselves in the foot and nominate a champion of the extreme right, I don't think she'll get the job.

Why not?

Four reasons, none of which are insurmountable, two of which are politically incorrect:

1) Age

2) Gender

3) Track record, baggage, and wonkiness

4) Relative lack of charmingness and likeability

A few words on each:

Age. If Hillary Clinton is elected President in 2016, she will be the one of the oldest President Elects ever. Only Ronald Reagan was older. According to this chart from Wikipedia, the average age of incoming Presidents is 54. Hillary Clinton would be 69. Ronald Reagan was also 69. And by the end of his second term, he was viewed as very old. (I'm not saying age should be a factor. I'm just saying it likely will be.)

Gender. Someday, happily, a woman will be President of the United States. Also happily, I think the country is finally ready to elect a woman as President. But across business and politics, it's still harder for women to get to the top. I think that cracking this final glass ceiling will likely take a very strong candidate. I don't think Hillary Clinton will be strong enough in 2016. (Again, I'm not saying gender should be a factor. I'm saying it likely will be.)

Track record, baggage, and wonkiness. History has shown that experience and wonkiness are not necessarily assets in American Presidential elections. On the contrary, they are often liabilities. Al Gore had tremendous experience. It worked against him in the election, as did his voting record and wonkiness. (Americans chose the candidate who had no Federal voting record -- and, thus, nothing to shoot at -- the candidate they would rather get a beer with, President Bush.) Similarly, the candidate who eventually trumped Hillary Clinton in the 2008 primaries, President Barack Obama, also had limited experience. But he was more charming and better at connecting with voters than Clinton was (see below). Lastly, a Clinton candidacy will be seen as "more of the

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same," and given President Obama's approval ratings, that may not be a good thing.

Relative lack of inherent charmingness and likeability. Hillary Clinton has radically improved her public speaking prowess and campaigning ability over the years, and millions of Americans are crazy about her. But she still struggles to forge an emotional connection with average voters. This natural magnetism was her husband's greatest strength, and it propelled him to two election victories despite other flaws. As talented and sharp as she is, Hillary Clinton does not share this strength, and it leaves her exposed to more charismatic candidates.

I like and admire Hillary Clinton. I would be happy to consider voting for her (as yet, I'm "undecided.") I just don't think she'll win the 2016 election unless the Republicans shoot themselves in the foot.

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"Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
"Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/30/2015 5:29:15 AM
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW - Sanders Tar Sands

Adding Adrienne and some from political in case we decide this is worth reaching out to Shaheen.

From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 6:46 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Ron Klain' <ron.klain@revolution.com >; 'Karen Dunn' <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com >; 'Robby Mook' <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >; Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
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Subject: FOR REVIEW - Sanders Tar Sands

Friends,

h/t to Tyson – here is more information on the tar sands hit I mentioned in my email yesterday. It is not as cut and dried since Sanders did sign a letter looking into this, but he is not outspoken on this issue at all despite Vermont environmentalists asking him to be. This may be something we want to talk to Jeanne Shaheen about since she has been more outspoken and more recently. Below is the summary and attached is the doc.

Bernie Sanders has long bragged that he opposed the Keystone Pipeline for years, calling it an "easy" decision to make. But he has been conspicuously more restrained when it comes to a pipeline between Quebec and Maine, crossing Vermont and New Hampshire.

In 2008, the oil company Enbridge filed plans to reverse the flow of the Portland to Montreal pipeline, so it could carry oil from Canada to Maine for export. This pipeline is connected to a much longer pipeline in Western Canada, the source of much tar sand oil.

In 2013, Enbridge renewed plans to reverse the flow of just the Canadian pipeline, in order to bring heavy crude from Alberta to Quebec refineries. American environmentalists became concerned this was the first step of a plan to eventually reverse the Portland to Montreal pipeline to bring tar sand oil across the border for export from Maine. 18 members of Congress, including Sanders, signed a letter to Secretary of State Kerry calling for a presidential permit and an environmental review before that could occur.

However, Sanders has not spoken about the pipeline since then. In 2014, the Canadian government gave initial approval to reverse an Enbridge pipeline to bring tar sands oil from Alberta to Quebec. The Maine and New Hampshire Congressional delegations wrote to Secretary Kerry again in concern. But even though Vermont environmental groups called out Sanders and members of their delegations by name, it does not appear they issued a statement or criticized the Canadian decision.

In October 2015, the Canadian government gave final approval to the plan to reverse the pipeline, with no outcry from Sanders. Although Enbridge claims it has no plan to transport heavy crude across the border, his restraint on this issue compared to Keystone is notable considering the Enbridge plan could affect his home state of Vermont.

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From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 7:59 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Ron Klain' <ron.klain@revolution.com >; 'Karen Dunn' <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com >; 'Robby Mook' <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Zachary Petkanas' <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
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Subject: PLS REVIEW: Sanders Hits

Hi everyone,

I wanted to us all on a single thread since this document could serve multiple purposes. Attached are some hits that could either be written or deployed during the next debate on Sanders. Note: these do not include the college and $20 trillion cost of his plans since Policy is working on them. Below is a quick summary of the hits that are in the document. It might be having a call soon to discuss if people think it's worth it.

Per HRC's request, we are doing a deeper dive on Sanders's agriculture record to see if there is anything that could be problematic to Iowa.

(As always, huge credit to the team for their help building these out.)

> Also: Tyson has been working on building out Sanders's muted response to possible tar sand oil traveling through a pipeline that goes through Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He found one letter he signed calling for an environmental study, something Shaheen did as well. So, while he could point to that, his outrage over potential tar sands in this pipeline is nowhere near his opposition to the Keystone Pipeline. We can send around more details once it's done, but wanted to put that on the radar.

SUMMARY

Labor/Pay to Play/Sugar - Sanders, often thought of as a champion of labor unions, accepted support from a company while it was involved in a bitter labor dispute—locking out union employees for nearly 22 months. In July 2012, he accepted $10,000 in contributions from American Crystal Sugar, while the workers had been locked out for nearly a year due to failed labor negotiations. The workers' union widely opposed the company's contract proposal because it could have doubled their out-of-pocket health care costs. At the same time American Crystal Sugar was proposing to cut back on workers' health benefits, it spent more than $2 million in lobbying money and campaign contributions to politicians like Sanders in order to preserve its favorable sugar commodity program. Sanders voted to protect the sugar program.

Crime Bill –Bernie Sanders's Presidential Campaign claimed it was researching statements made by Hillary Clinton in support of the 1994 crime bill in order to attack her in the Democratic Primary. But Sanders voted in support of the bill in 1994, and repeatedly spoke in support of it. Then Rep. Sanders criticized opposition to the bill and hoped President Clinton would be able to pass it. Furthermore, in his 2006 campaign for Senate, Sanders' campaign strongly highlighted Sanders support for the 1994 crime bill. His campaign boasted of the billions Sanders had provided to law enforcement since being elected, and used his support of the 1994 crime bill to prove Sanders was "tough on crime."

Guns - Sen. Sanders's progressive bona fides are called into question with his record on reducing gun violence. When he successfully ran for the House in 1990, he got the tacit endorsement of the NRA after pledging not to support the Brady Bill, which included waiting periods to receive weapons. Once in the House, he kept his word, voting against the legislation five times. Although he voted against the bill, he voted for an amendment that created the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allows people to purchase a weapon after three days even if their background check is incomplete. Later, Sanders, despite wanting to hold essentially every corporation accountable for something (such as fast food companies accountable for obesity), voted to protect gun manufacturers from legal liability. He also voted to strip millions from gun research, something the NRA has wanted to prevent officials from learning about gun violence. (NOTE: This doesn't include the guns from Vermont to New York)

LGBT (Marriage & Civil Unions) - Sen. Sanders is attacking Secretary Clinton, claiming she has been inconsistent and late to supporting marriage equality. But Sanders is rewriting history on his own record. In 2000, Sanders was reluctant to take a clear stand on civil unions and marriage equality, and did not speak out forcefully on the issue. Sanders called for an end to the divisiveness of the opposition, saying there were "a dozen other issues out there that are as important or more important as that issue." While other Vermont politicians were moving forward the cause, Sanders remained relatively quiet. Moreover, his oft-touted opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act omits Sanders's reasoning: he thought DOMA injected the federal government into a states issue.

Repealing Obamacare & Replacing it with State-Run Single Payer - Sen. Sanders has long advocated for a single payer, Medicare-for-all health plan that is administered by the states. His plan would repeal the Affordable Care Act, as well as Medicare, TRICARE, Medicaid, and SCHIP. His proposal would cost roughly $15 trillion. Vermont tried to implement a single payer plan but scrapped it because it would cost too much.

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Wall Street (Commodities Futures Modernization Act) - Sen. Sanders repeatedly touts his opposition to the repeal of Glass-Steagall. What he fails to mention is that he voted for the legislation that included the Commodities Futures Modernization Act, signed into law by President Clinton. The Act exempted regulation of credit default swaps and derivatives. Sanders himself blamed the CFMA for Lehman's bankruptcy. Sanders's spokesperson said he voted for the bill because it was part of a larger bill that would have shut down the government had it not passed.

Ethanol - Sanders has voted to end ethanol subsidies. He hedged his answer on the Renewable Fuel Standard including ethanol earlier in 2015, but has subsequently come out in support.

Export-Import Bank - Sanders is a long critic of the Export-Import bank, calling it corporate welfare. However, roughly 3,000 small businesses rely on loans from the bank.

Nuclear Energy - Sanders voted for a waste removal compact that moved radioactive waste from Maine and Vermont to a dump site near a tiny community in Sierra Blanca, Texas. Sanders said the compact was "good environmental policy" and said he was "in strong support of the bill." Critics of the deal said that the site was not only environmentally unsound, but also near a small community that was low income and largely Hispanic. The compact was opposed by LULAC and the NAACP, and a local opponent to the deal called it "environmental racism."

NOTE: President Clinton signed the bill in 1997.

Immigration - Sanders's record on immigration is mixed. While he voted for the 2013 comprehensive bill, he opposed the McCain-Kennedy comprehensive bill. Sanders's objection was over guest worker program which he said drove down wages for American workers. As recent as this summer, Sanders used similar language about low-skill (and even high-skill) immigrants drive down wages for American citizens. Immigration advocates criticized him for those comments.

Sanders Not Straight on His Tax Plan - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much he is going to raise taxes and who is going to pay for them. When confronted on details of his tax plan, he simply says "it's coming." When he is asked what the highest rate would be, he demurs.

Sanders Not Straight on His Spending - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much his plans will cost and how he will pay for them. When asked for specifics, he demurs. When other estimates show trillions in new spending, he simply rejects them without offering his own estimate.

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 6/20/2015 3:01:26 AM
Subject: Invitation: A New Foreign Policy for America

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Special Event

Wilson Center

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In an era of new and emerging global threats, Senator Chris Murphy believes there is an urgent need to refocus the traditional debate between isolationism and military interventionism. Join us as Senator Murphy outlines the eight principles for a new foreign policy vision that seeks to maintain U.S. global leadership but looks beyond our traditional military toolkit for engaging the world.

In discussion with the Wilson Center's Aaron David Miller, he will set these principles in the context of current international crises, from nuclear negotiations with Iran, to the rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, to Russian aggression in Eastern Europe.

Keynote

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
U.S. Senator and member, U.S Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Moderator

Aaron David Miller
Vice President, New Initiatives and Distinguished Scholar, Wilson Center

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Monday, June 22, 2015
12:00-1:00 pm

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

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Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/17/2014 7:53:19 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday October 17, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday October 17, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC fought to address global hunger & food security #WFD2014 #HRC365 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hillary-clinton/attacking-hunger-at-its-r_b_214351.html …[10/16/14, 4:01 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Bloomberg: "Hate-Watching Hillary"

"Clinton has her own machinery focused on rebutting the attacks. Correct the Record, a project of the super-PAC American Bridge, is officially charged with defending all Democratic candidates against Republican attacks, but they've largely focused on Clinton, said spokeswoman Adrienne Elrod. On Monday, as Republicans attacked Clinton for her speaking fees at UNLV, Correct the Record responded with comments from graduates praising her."

CNN: "Why is this 10-year old so excited to meet Hillary Clinton?"

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"Now, as Panetta echoes Clinton's recent criticisms of the president's foreign policy, some wonder whether she might be grateful for him again — and what he's hoping to get out of his bridge-burning."

The Atlantic: "Leon Panetta and Hillary Clinton: It's Complicated"

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"The alarming assessment of this former Princeton dean echoes that of another top Obama official, former CIA and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who last week said Americans should be prepared for a '30-year' war with the terrorist ISIS. Both Slaughter and Panetta have criticized the White House for failing to intervene in Syria—the birthplace of ISIS—nearly three years ago."

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Articles:

Bloomberg: "Hate-Watching Hillary"

By Lisa Lerer

October 17, 2014, 6:48 a.m. EDT

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[Subtitle:] Inside the Republican machine scrutinizing Clinton's every word.

Hillary Clinton is drawing large, cheering crowds at virtually every stop as she campaigns for Democrats in the midterm elections. Back in Washington, another audience is equally engrossed, though much less enraptured, by her every word.

While Clinton rallied voters Wednesday night in Kentucky, Republicans in the capital monitored her appearance on a livestream broadcast. Inside the Louisville convention center, a GOP campaign tracker recorded video of Clinton hand-in-hand with Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes in front of a backdrop of red, white, and blue lights. When the event was over, the watchers were ready.

"Hillary didn't mention Mitch once. Odd strategy in GOP state," tweeted Tim Miller after Clinton'sWednesday appearance with Grimes, who is trying to unseat Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Miller is the executive director of America Rising PAC, a Republican research group stockpiling ammunition to use against Clinton and her allies during the 2014 election and, he hopes, the 2016 presidential.

Though the former secretary of State is months away from announcing whether she'll make a second bid for the White House, a whole industry is already defining her image. At least 10 groups list defeating Clinton as their primary mission, according to a review of Federal Election Commission filings, and Democrats say they're preparing for as much as $500 million in spending on attack ads during the 2016 election aimed at her. Her allies have created their own organization to push back, an effort run by longtime supporters but technically unaffiliated with Clinton.

In event after event, Republicans record Clinton's statements, scrutinize them for any gaffes, and bank footage. The stream of midterm jabs hint at the onslaught that could come later. Republicans see these individual strikes as building blocks for a larger message that generally falls along three major themes: Clinton is too rich, too disconnected, and too much like Obama.

"The more Americans have seen Hillary Clinton over the past year, they less they've liked her," said Kirsten Kukowski, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, referencing polling that shows Clinton's approval rating falling over the past few months. "Clinton has only reinforced how out of touch she is and how many vulnerabilities she still has in the run up to 2016."

Both the attackers and defenders are political canaries, testing early messages to see what sticks. It's not an easy task: Clinton has been a fixture of American political life for more than two decades. Most voters already have strong opinions about her tenure as first lady and senator, never mind her husband's. Her decision to formally re-enter the political fray on behalf of Democratic congressional candidates, though, is creating fresh material and opportunities to define her after her popular stint at the State Department.

"It's an opportunity to gather ammunition," Miller said. "The more that she is out on the campaign trail owning the record of the Democratic Senate majority and the Obama administration over the last six years, the more we'll be able to use in 2016."

Clinton's midterm schedule is part of her gradual transition from diplomat to private citizen to candidate after a six-year absence from campaigning. The appearances give her a chance to try out campaign themes, even audition potential speech lines.

Last week in Pennsylvania, she delivered her most partisan remarks since leaving the State Department, praising the Democratic Party, “which stands for families, stands for working people, stands for fairness and justice.” On Monday in Colorado, she stopped at a coffee shop and cracked a joke about pot, touching on a controversial issue that's certain to be asked of presidential candidates next year. Still on her schedule are stops in Michigan, Rhode Island, and a number of other states.

In Kentucky, she presented herself as an advocate for working families, offering a strident defense of the health care plan, raising the minimum wage, and equal pay for women. “I believe with all my heart no one who works hard every day should have to end up still living in poverty,” she said. “Not in this state, not in this country.”

Since leaving Obama's Cabinet, she's made more than 100 appearances, and her adversaries have watched every one they could. In event after event, Republicans record Clinton's statements, scrutinize them for any gaffes, and bank footage.

And they're not targeting their responses solely to conservatives.

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A speech last month by Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, at last month's annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative prompted the RNC to blast out video of Blankfein joking about his long relationship with the Clintons, a message more likely to resonate with liberals worried about Clinton's ties to Wall Street. In August, Republicans condemned her for skipping Netroots Nation, an annual gathering of Democratic activists, to go on a book tour.

“Never miss an opportunity, right now, to frame her accurately and hold her accountable with voters who are going to be active all the way to 2016,” said Kevin Madden, a Republican strategist who worked on Mitt Romney's presidential campaigns. “We're no longer in a 24-hour news cycle, we're in a 24-second news cycle.”

So far this week, Republicans have attacked Clinton for the $225,000 speaking fee she was paid to address an annual dinner hosted by University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation, a non-profit that raises money for the school. (Clinton has said she donated the fee to her family's foundation.) They circulated images of the private plane Clinton and her husband took to a campaign event in Iowa, after Bloomberg Politics reported that state Democrats paid $50,000 for the couple's transportation. They jumped on comments by Grimes, who has refused to say if she voted for Obama, with a chart that showed similarities between Clinton and Obama's views. And the RNC got media attention for a political comment on the 404 error page of their website: “What do Hillary Clinton and this link have in common? They're both 'dead broke.'”

The majority of the assault has been left to America Rising, an opposition research firm formed after the 2012 campaign by former Romney campaign staffers. On their website, they post images and videos of their barbs in hopes of taking them viral. To reporters, they shoot a regular torrent of Clinton criticism into in-boxes.

Still, Clinton remains popular - recent polling shows her approval rating lower than her State Department days but still positive - making her a tougher target on the campaign trail. Even McConnell avoided attacking her this week, pivoting quickly to Obama, a much easier mark with an approval ratings at 40 percent.

“We're good friends. She's doing what candidates for president do,” McConnell said of his former Senate colleague in an interview with NBC News. He added: “One thing I think is noteworthy: Alison Grimes doesn't have any trouble announcing she voted for Hillary Clinton, even though, apparently, she doesn't want to say she voted for Barack Obama.”

Clinton has her own machinery focused on rebutting the attacks. Correct the Record, a project of the super-PAC American Bridge, is officially charged with defending all Democratic candidates against Republican attacks, but they've largely focused on Clinton, said spokeswoman Adrienne Elrod. On Monday, as Republicans attacked Clinton for her speaking fees at UNLV, Correct the Record responded with comments from graduates praising her.

“The truth of the matter is she's the only one who's really getting attacked,” said Elrod, an Arkansas native and long-time Clinton backer. “They're trying to throw the kitchen sink at her.”

It's a feeling shared by Clinton supporters. After her Kentucky speech, the crowd poured out of the convention hall, passing vendors selling “First Dude” and “Hillary 2016” buttons. The activists were fired up for the November election, but perhaps even more excited for the one after that. “I'm a Hillary girl,” said Missy Harris, a 49-year-old letter carrier in Louisville. “And she's going to need a lot of support.”

Lynn McCrary, a retired speech pathologist, said the attacks only motivate Clinton backers. “The Republicans are just trying to pull any old thing out on here,” she said, as she walked out toting a sign that read “Shatter the Glass. Break the Ceiling.”

“They are fearful of Hillary because they know she wields a lot of power.”

CNN: “Why is this 10-year old so excited to meet Hillary Clinton?”

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By Dan Merica

October 17, 2014, 12:59 p.m. EDT

Macy Friday can't remember what she was thinking when -- mouth agape, eyes bugged -- she shook hands with Hillary Clinton in Denver this week. It all happened so fast, she says.

What she does remember is the national response to the photo of her reacting with pure, unadulterated excitement to meeting the former secretary of state.

Media outlets pounced on the story. The Washington Post captured the reaction perfectly, writing that Macy had a "look on her face that has never been witnessed by anyone who is not a dad chaperoning a minivan full of teenagers at a One Direction concert."

But why was Macy so excited? What does she like about Hillary Clinton? And who else would she react that way to meeting?

CNN spoke with Macy Friday over the phone Thursday. Here is our conversation:

CNN: How did you get to meet Hillary Clinton?

Macy: I went to Union Station unsuspecting that she would come. I had seen her in the elections and I have heard a lot about her. I was just like, 'Wow.' I was excited because, I thought, she was saying hi to a lot of people. I didn't think she was going to say hi to me. They went into a coffee shop and we were like, 'Oh no, they are going to leave.' And then, she came out and she is like, 'Hey you.' And I didn't know who she is talking to. And then I realized it was me and I went up and I turned back at my family. (long pause) I had never met anybody famous before. (long pause) I turned back at my family and I, like, I, you know, made the face.

CNN: What did you think about all the attention your photo received?

Macy: Well, I love it. Because, well, it is not just because... I think Hillary Clinton is a a really good role model for girls of all ages and it [the reason she liked the attention] isn't just because it got a lot of cool places. I am just happy because people know that a younger girl still looks up to somebody like that.

CNN: What is it about Secretary Clinton that you look up to?

Macy: I like her because, like, she is running for president and a lot of people think that girls shouldn't be president because they are not as smart or they shouldn't have the same rights. And she is just a good role model for girls because, you know, she is just sort of, like, to everybody, 'Girls can be awesome, too.'

[Editor's note: Clinton herself has said she has yet to make a decision on whether she will run for president.]

CNN: You are 10. When you were born, Hillary Clinton had been well known for 20 years. How much did you know about her when you met earlier this week?

Macy: I didn't know, too, too, too much. I knew that she was the first lady for a while. And her husband is Bill Clinton. And her daughter Chelsea just had a baby. And her niece's name is Macy. And that is my name. And when I first went up to her, I said, 'Macy,' and she said that is one of her favorite names.

CNN: Who are some other famous people you would be as excited to see as you were with Secretary Clinton?

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Macy: Oh gosh, well, Selena Gomez, Katy Perry, probably Michelle Obama and Barack Obama. Hmmm... Taylor Swift. Did I already say Taylor Swift? Probably One Direction.

CNN: A local anchor in your hometown joked that you would be the first women president. Would you ever want to do that?

Macy: Maybe! It is a really hard job. I think, I think, maybe.

CNN: Do you think you could do it?

Macy: Yeah!

CNN: If Hillary Clinton runs for president, what would your advice be to her?

Macy: I would say that even if you are different or you are a different gender, it doesn't matter what you look like. I don't know, like, if you wear glasses. Everybody can be awesome.

CNN: If you could vote in 2016, would you vote for Secretary Clinton?

Macy: Yes, totally.

CNN: Thanks Macy...

Macy: Thank you. And one more thing: Make sure if Finn [her 12-year old brother] does give you the permission to use the photo, give him photo cred!

(CNN did use the selfie that Finn took of his family and Clinton. And, yes, he did get the photo cred. Also, some question and answers were edited for clarity.)

New York Times: First Draft: "Turning 10, Clinton Presidential Library Celebrates Itself"

By Amy Chozick

October 17, 2014, 9:30 a.m. EDT

They grow up so fast. The William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Ark., turns 10 next month. To celebrate, it has a 10-day party planned that includes screenings of the documentaries "The War Room" and "The Hunting of the President," a "Party Like It's 1999" concert and a "Handbags for Hillary" exhibit.

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The celebration will begin with a kickoff reception on Nov. 9, but the city expects to be invaded by Friends of Bill on Nov. 14, when Bill and Hillary Clinton are expected to join a picnic at a tent set up on the center's grounds.

The Capital Hotel has been reserved for Clinton friends, many of whom lived in Little Rock to work on Mr. Clinton's 1992 and 1996 campaigns.

On Saturday, Nov. 15, Mrs. Clinton has an event related to her "No Ceilings" effort at the Clinton Foundation. A Sunday brunch will address the impact the presidential center has had on Little Rock. Hosts will include Bruce R. Lindsey and Stephanie S. Streett, former Clinton White House aides and Arkansans who now oversee the library. The Clintons are also expected to stop by a local food bank.

Arkansans often say the Clinton library, a sleek, box-shaped building off the highway, looks like a giant mobile home perched on the side of the Arkansas River. The library, with its archival images of the Clinton-Gore campaigns and glossy retelling of Mr. Clinton's presidency, has attracted visitors and brought more than $2.5 billion in economic development to the area.

Associated Press, via WBKO: "Bill Clinton to Campaign for Grimes on Tuesday"

[No Writer Mentioned]

October 17, 2014, 10:37 a.m. EDT

Bill Clinton will campaign with Democratic Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes in western Kentuckyon Tuesday.

This will be Clinton's third trip to the Bluegrass State to stump for Grimes. In August he spoke at a Lexington fundraiser and a campaign rally in Hazard, the latter providing footage for a statewide TV ad.

Clinton's visit comes after Hillary Clinton told thousands of people in Louisville on Wednesday to send Grimes to Washington to improve Kentucky's health care reforms under the Affordable Care Act and to raise the minimum wage.

Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell will hold a three-day bus tour through Kentucky's coal country beginningMonday. He has criticized Grimes for appearing with the Clintons, noting their support for Democratic President Barack Obama and his energy policies.

Grimes has said she disagrees with Obama on coal.

MSNBC: "Making Clinton's argument for her"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

October 17, 2014, 8:08 a.m. EDT

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Hillary Clinton and former CIA director Leon Panetta go back a long way.

She was the first person the then-congressman met when he walked into the Arkansas Governor's mansion in 1992, shortly after her husband had won the presidency. "Hillary was warm and welcoming. She extended a hand and spoke briskly. 'I'm glad you're here,'" she told him, according to his new memoir, "Worthy Fights."

Now, as Panetta echoes Clinton's recent criticisms of the president's foreign policy, some wonder whether she might be grateful for him again — and what he's hoping to get out of his bridge-burning.

The pointed critique of Obama in "Worthy Fights" — Panetta wrote that the president too often "relies on the logic of a law professor rather than the passion of a leader" — generated headlines. In interviews on his book tour, Obama's former defense secretary portrays the current president as dithering and reactive.

At a book discussion Tuesday night in Washington, Panetta all but endorsed Clinton. "She's smart, she's experienced, and she's tough. What the hell else do you want?" he said. Would he support her if she ran for president again, as he did in the 2008 Democratic primary over Obama? "Sure. Absolutely."

And there's plenty more praise for Clinton in the pages of his memoir.

Some progressives, including The Nation magazine and msnbc's Rachel Maddow, have noted that Panetta now works for a consulting firm co-founded by some Clinton State Department alumni, including longtime spokesperson Philippe Reines. The suggestion is that the Clinton and Panetta camps worked together around the book.

Asked for comment, Reines forwarded a request to a spokesperson for the firm, Beacon Global Strategies. The spokesperson Michael McKeon warned even before a question was put to him that "some questions hatched by conspiracy theorists are too silly to merit a serious reply."

Asked to debunk the idea that the Clinton and Panetta camps collaborated on the book, McKeon replied: "[E]ncouraging conspiratorial types by advancing silly question doesn't solve anything. Have a good day."

A followup email wasn't returned.

A spokesperson for Panetta's publisher was no more forthcoming, demurring on an interview request. "Secretary Panetta wrote this book for the readers and Penguin Press is thrilled with their reaction," the spokesperson said.

Vice President Joe Biden called Panetta's criticisms of Obama "inappropriate," saying Panetta and other former administration officials who write memoirs should at least wait until the president they served is out of office.

Bill Burton, a former White House spokesperson and early Obama campaign aide, suggested that Panetta's view of events is embellished. "The timing is unfortunate. The version of history is revisionist," he told msnbc. "But at the end of the day, there are more pressing issues than some book a former administration official is trying to sell."

Panetta has responded to the criticism by saying that he's essentially dishing out tough love. He says he wants Obama to succeed and that that will only happen if the president learns from past mistakes. "I don't think you put history on hold," he told one interviewer.

Other observers wonder if he has his eye on the next potential occupant of the White House. As The New York Times' Mark Landler pointed out, Panetta's book leaves out or downplays some known disagreements he had with Clinton.

It's not hard to see how Panetta's criticisms of Obama could help Clinton, who will need to dodge Republican accusations that she's merely the third term of an unpopular president. They're similar to ones Clinton herself made in an explosive Atlantic interview earlier this year, when she

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knocked the president's "don't do stupid stuff" mantra and called his decision to not arm Syrian rebels earlier a "failure."

On issues where Clinton splits from the president, Panetta takes her side. And in other places where Clinton is vulnerable, like the Benghazi attack, he downplays her responsibility.

"It's like he's working from a checklist and just going down and hitting each box he needs to, to back up Hillary," said one former State Department staffer who worked under Clinton and asked to remain anonymous so as not to imperil job prospects in a potential Clinton administration.

Clinton, who faces perils if she distances herself too aggressively from the president, later backed off her criticism in the Atlantic interview.

Obama's unpopularity is such a conundrum for Clinton allies that some privately joke about urging Joe Biden to run in 2016 so that the vice president assumes the "third term" mantle from Clinton.

Why would Panetta help Clinton? At 76, Panetta seems eager to return to the farm in California that he often flew back to on weekends. It's hard to imagine what job he would want in Washington that he hasn't already had.

There are, however, part-time presidential commissions, like the president's Intelligence Advisory Board. And he could join the top echelon of elder statesmen like Brent Scowcroft and Zbigniew Brzezinski, both of whom have served on the board and seem have endless opportunities to speak or write or consult.

Besides, he's hardly alone among Democrats — or Americans for that matter — in turning his back on Obama. Former President Jimmy Carter has also chided Obama on similar grounds as Clinton.

And Panetta has known Clinton for over 20 years, writing in his book that she's one of the "few people in politics whose acumen I more admired."

Why wouldn't he want to do everything he could to help make her president — for his party, for his country, and for himself?

The Atlantic: "Leon Panetta and Hillary Clinton: It's Complicated"

By Peter Beinart

October 17, 2014, 11:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Reporters have focused on how the former defense secretary's memoir praises her and criticizes the president. The book itself tells a different story.

I'm thinking of teaching my journalism students about Leon Panetta's book tour—as a case study in how to game the press.

Since Worthy Fights came out a couple of weeks ago, the headlines have been largely consistent: Hillary Clinton is terrific; Barack Obama, not so much. Panetta launched this meme with a couple of choice sentences in the book itself. Hillary, he wrote, "was a luminous representative for the United States in every foreign capital, as well as a smart, forceful advocate in meetings of the president's top advisers." Obama, by contrast, "relies on the logic of a law professor rather than the passion of a leader."

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Since then, the former defense secretary has repeatedly stoked the fire by telling interviewers things like: “These last two years, I think he [Obama] kind of lost his way.” “Barack Obama does not like that process of engaging in politics, and I think that hurts his presidency.” And, most recently, Hillary Clinton “is somebody that I’ve seen who’s dedicated to this country. She’s smart, she’s experienced, and she’s tough. What the hell else do you want?” in a president.

It all makes for a pretty tidy narrative, unless you actually read the book. That’s because Worthy Fights itself offers little specific evidence of Clinton’s smarts, toughness, or luminosity as secretary of state. Panetta notes that they agreed about (1) sending more troops to Afghanistan in 2009, (2) launching the raid to kill Osama bin Laden, (3) not swapping Guantanamo Bay prisoners for Bowe Bergdahl, and (4) arming Syria’s rebels.

Decision No. 2 looks good in retrospect. Decision No. 1 doesn’t, given what a mess Afghanistan remains. Decisions Nos. 3 and 4 remain arguable, at least to me. Either way, Panetta’s brief acknowledgment that on certain issues he and Clinton agreed—without virtually any details about the way she argued her case inside the administration, the way she swayed foreign leaders and publics to America’s side or the way she viewed the world—hardly substantiates the over-the-top adjectives he showers on her.

When it comes to Clinton’s time as first lady, the incongruity grows even greater. As Panetta notes gingerly in Worthy Fights, he and Hillary disagreed on the two most important economic questions of Bill Clinton’s first term: whether to prioritize reducing the budget deficit or stimulating the economy, and how hard to push for health-care reform.

As budget director and then White House chief of staff, Panetta was among the Clinton administration’s staunchest deficit hawks. Hillary, by contrast, “picked at our economic program, asking why there wasn’t more room for health care reform and other initiatives” that Panetta considered too costly. Once Clinton’s first budget passed, Panetta “thought we should move welfare first” while “Hillary demanded that we … not relegate health care to the back burner again.” Throughout the health-care fight, Panetta acknowledges, he and the first lady “were on opposite sides” and “she vented her frustration about me.” For his part, Panetta calls the “health care team” that Hillary led “painfully naïve about politics.”

Panetta’s description of his tangles with Clinton over domestic policy in the White House years are actually more detailed than his description of their agreements on foreign policy in the Obama years. What’s more, the historical verdict is far clearer. It is now Beltway conventional wisdom that the Clinton administration’s decision to emphasize deficit reduction in its initial budget helped pave the way for the economic boom of the late 1990s and restored the Democratic Party’s reputation for fiscal responsibility. It’s also conventional wisdom that the administration’s decision to push for health-care reform rather than welfare reform in 1994 undermined Bill Clinton’s centrist reputation and helped enable the Gingrich takeover of Congress that fall.

Given that Hillary Clinton’s role in the push for health-care reform remains the most significant domestic-policy episode of her career, one might have thought it would inform Panetta’s judgment of her. But he never factors it into his overall assessment of Hillary’s presidential fitness—either in the book or the book tour. And as a result, the press has ignored Panetta’s description of the episode almost entirely.

You can’t blame Panetta too much for this. Like most former administration officials, he’s trying to both vindicate his own actions and stay on the right side of powerful people (which means Hillary, the prospective president, more than Obama, the soon-to-be-former one).

Under normal circumstances, it would be a tricky balance. But it’s a lot easier when so many in the media feel entitled to sum up a book they haven’t actually read it.

Fortune: “Anne-Marie Slaughter on Obama's failure to recognize ISIS extremism”

By Nina Easton

October 17, 2014, 11:40 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s ex-policy director predicts a 10 to 15 year “brutal conflict” in the Middle East combining both

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religious war and territorial claims.

I spoke with Anne-Marie Slaughter, Hillary Clinton's former policy director who now heads the New America Foundation, at last week's Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit, where she warned that the spread of ISIS, combined with civil war in Syria, is setting off the equivalent of the 17th century Thirty Years War, "which decimated one-third of Europe's population."

The alarming assessment of this former Princeton dean echoes that of another top Obama official, former CIA and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who last week said Americans should be prepared for a "30-year" war with the terrorist ISIS. Both Slaughter and Panetta have criticized the White House for failing to intervene in Syria—the birthplace of ISIS—nearly three years ago.

"This White House refused to recognize both the spreading and fueling of extremism," she told me. "It was evident that unless we intervened it was just going to spread. But the White House did not want to get involved in another Middle East war so we effectively limited our assistance to humanitarian aid on the side."

Slaughter says the U.S. should continue attacks on ISIS from the air, rather than deploying troops on the ground. "ISIL [also known as ISIS] wants images of U.S. troops again knocking down villages. That's how they recruit—[calling] the United States the great enemy against Islam."

In the complicated web of that widening conflict, she also called on the Obama administration to defang Syrian strongman Bashar al-Assad—an ISIS enemy—by using the U.S. military to destroy his air force. "The Syrian government has massacred 200,000 people," she said. "I wouldn't go to war with him but [say to him] we are going to bomb your air force to stop you from dropping barrel bombs on your people."

Slaughter also offered advice on dealing with another autocrat—Russian President Vladmir Putin. The U.S., she said, should isolate him by appealing directly to the Russian people, who –under the spell of an effective propaganda campaign — have rallied behind Putin and his aggressions in Ukraine.

"You really have to react more positively to the Russian people, using the media, [finding] ways of saying, 'Look this is not Russia against the West. You've got a leader that is leading you to economic disruption and poverty for a long time to come.'"

Hollywood Reporter: "Hillary Clinton Flying Monkey Signs Hung Throughout Brentwood Ahead of Upcoming Fundraiser"

By Tina Daunt

October 17, 2014, 8:47 a.m. PST

[Subtitle:] The conservatives' answer to Shepard Fairey is also working on a fake website designed to mock Clinton and the Democratic Party

Guerrilla street artist SABO, who made headlines with his Gwyneth Paltrow "Obama Drone" poster, has struck again -- this time ahead of Hillary Clinton's upcoming Democratic fundraiser at Tavern restaurant in Brentwood, Calif.

The Los Angeles artist early Friday hung signs depicting Wizard of Oz flying monkeys holding "Hillary 2016" signs from traffic lights and pasted them on utility boxes near the San Vicente Boulevard restaurant.

Although, as SABO told The Hollywood Reporter on Friday, one poster near a Whole Foods had been "violently" torn down.

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"All these leftists, I'm tired of their s—," SABO said via email.

The Louisiana native, who moved to Los Angeles in 1987 to attend the prestigious Art Center of Design in Pasadena, has become the conservatives' answer to liberal artists like Shepard Fairey — but much meaner.

His caricature of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi twerking, which helped launch the conservative website Breitbart California, triggered demands for an apology from a cross section of angry Democrats. And when Texas lawmaker Wendy Davis came to L.A. to raise money last year, SABO lampooned her as "Abortion Barbie."

In addition to the flying monkey posters, SABO has been busy working on a fake Tavern website, which brutally ridicules Clinton and the Democratic Party. He also has an entire section of his website, Unsavory Agents, dedicated to the former Secretary of State, who will be in Los Angeles on Oct. 20 for the Democratic senatorial fundraiser hosted by Jeffrey Katzenberg, Steven Spielberg, Alan Horn and other top industry execs at Tavern.

"It sickens me to see just about every California Republican I run across pull out the white flag in surrender to the coming coronation of Hillary Clinton," SABO wrote on his website. "They've all but given up with out a hint of a fight. Let this image be a reminder to them that our lady in waiting is not invincible. Obama came out of nowhere and knocked her off her perch without so much as trying."

In a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter, SABO said Hollywood and politics have become a focal point of his guerrilla art, particularly with his "Drone" campaign, which also features Samuel L. Jackson, Alec Baldwin and Jon Stewart.

"I think the drone campaign encapsulates how I feel about Hollywood," he says. "You know, it's kind of like a double or triple entendre in that, I mean, if you listen to one of these celebrities go on, they're like, droning on and on and on about how they love Obama or the left or the Democrats, or they drone on about how much Republicans suck, and in a way, much the way an unmanned aircraft flies through the air, these people fly through the airwaves."

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From: "Jorge A. Vilches" <jorgevilches@fibertel.com.ar>
To: ol53@cornell.edu
rfeinberg@ucsd.edu
podesta@georgetown.edu
bkotschwar@georgetown.edu
albright@georgetown.edu
Date: 10/8/2014 6:02:05 AM
Subject: Fw: " No Vulture Left Behind "

October 7, 2014

no vulture left behind

Argentina's griesamess Made in USA

by JORGE VILCHES*

http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/10/07/no-vulture-left-behind/

"America's Best Political Newsletter." *Out of Bounds* Magazine
counterpunch
Tells the Facts, Names the Names

Judge Griesa,

Your rulings are **non-performing** as neither Argentina's legitimate restructured bondholders nor the Cayman Islands vulture funds have received a single cent, and possibly never will if you remain in office.
Your judgments are also **non-compliant** as you have uniquely and ackwardly twisted an entire body of previously solid and functional jurisprudence to fit your purpose, to the extreme of illegally withholding hundreds of millions of dollars which belong to their rightfull owners while sophomorically declaring a sovereign nation-state in "contempt of court".
Furthermore, all of your decisions are absolutely **un-compliable** as literally no-one would ever receive a single cent if they were followed (vulture funds be advised...)

"We're Now In The Soup"

Talking about money, "***gold is money, the rest is credit***" were J.P.Morgan's famous words.
As per official court records, yours will surely be "***we are now in the soup***"(sic).
But it's definetly your soup we are in Sir... a very gooey, distasteful legal-financial "gringo gumbo" of your own cooking indeed Your Honor.

Prof. Dr. Anna Gelpern --undisputed Princeton scholar and unequivocal top-tier authority on this specific subject matter-- has left on record in no uncertain terms that
" ***The world of sovereign debt is (now) deeply dysfunctional***" ...courtesy of Your Honor.

Judge Griesa, you have overplayed your Wall Street-centric hand while in the process deeply messed up the sovereign debt market to the tune of $ 55 Trillion dollars (3.5 times US GDP)

Made in USA

Actually, your Griesamess so far has

(a) thwarted the world's largest ever and most successfull sovereign debt re-structuring process in history.
(b) negatively and unnecessarily tinkered with the fate of millions upon millions of people, way beyond Argentina's (according to the IMF)
(c) produced zero positive outcomes (no creditor received a cent, and possibly never will) thus setting a perfect example of what every judiciary anywhere should not never ever do.
(d) left the Euro's huge sovereign debt with an un-manageable precedent that will necessarily bite back.
(e) literally shoved Argentina under the bus while trying hard to push the sovereign debt market out of the US dollar sphere of influence.
(f) biasly favored highly suspicious Cayman Island US political campaign heavyweight contributors (also known as Vulture Funds for a reason) who never ever lent out a single cent to anyone.

Nouriel Roubini (no introduction required) has left on record that your un-believable judgments
"...***risk destroying the current international regime for the orderly restructuring of sovereign debts***..."(sic)

By the way Your Honor: China, Russia, and Iran are most grateful for all of your hard, un-sollicited work in their favor.
For example, for the first time ever, now a foreign country (China) is going to establish a base in Argentine territory, the very first one in the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.
Are you happy Sir ?
Does the White House fully grasp the impact of your pedantry ?

The perfect debt storm

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Joseph Stiglitz --no introduction required either-- quote:
" (your decisions) ***threaten to upend global sovereign debt markets, harm developing nations, and challenge New Yorks position as a global financial capital..."***

Thanks to your unique 'legal' gibberish Your Honor, the sheer facts today are that

(1) Restructured bond holders still left unpaid as your financial hostages (collateral damage ?) by merrily blocking Argentina's traditionally prompt payments as if you had any right to do so.
(2) Argentina is unnecessarily having to struggle with international financial markets after having already paid back USD $ 195+ billion of its sovereign debt service since its 2001 default.
(3) CDS non-collection: why isn't ISDA happy yet ? CDS is supposed to be insurance against default, isn't it ? What's missing then ?
(4) Bank of New York Mellon has been dismissed from Argentina and sued (not thanked a bit for their dis-service)
(5) Citibank probably running the same fate as BoNYM (life and US judiciary can be simultaneously silly and tough, can't they ?)
(6) Ditto J.P.Morgan, which together with Citi both have been authorized twice by Your Honor for a "one-off, one-time only" payment (go figure...)

Your pound of flesh

92.4% of creditors reached agreement with Argentina, for a reason (common sense)
Yet you insist in that even 99.99% of acceptance wouldn't be enough because 100% is the minimum required, right ?
So, according to your griesamess entropic logic, a 0.01% creditor can torpedo the whole process... meaning that restructuring of sovereign bad loans is impossible (albeit badly needed)

Judge Griesa, it's obvious that vulture funds couldn't possibly collect anything (let alone the 1600% profit they pretend) if 92.4% of creditors didn't get haircutted.
In other words, once that 92.4 % of creditors are strongly haircutted only then do the vultures come around (under your protection) and at their expense collect their lion's share, right ?

So let's be crystal clear on this: the larger and the more widely accepted the haircut by the restructured bondholders then the more and better the vultures can collect as their prey recovers faster and healthier, thus leaving more funds available for THEM thanks to the financing thus rendered by the restructured bond holders.

Instead, Argentina time and again has offered the vulture fund friends a 300% profit on their investment by paying them exactly the same as restructured bondholders (92.4% of creditors)
But vulture funds are way more ambitious than that...

The vulture 'business model'

VFs buy fully repudiated bonds after a sovereign debtor has already defaulted (a.k.a. in 'state of bankruptcy' where no valid transaction takes place) then sit tight waiting for every other creditor to help out the defaulted country by accepting a steep haircut. Later, taking advantage of the refreshed payment capacity of their recovering prey (thanks to everybody else's haircut) they pounce in with YOUR support harassing their victim while claiming to collect 100% plus plus plus. And just in case that US justice isn't able to support their business goals as you have, they buy CDSs (Credit Default Swaps) as insurance...

So, rogue creditors need rogue courts, but when they do find them (as in this case) they make a good team don't they ?
"Champerty" made all this flagrantly illegal, but you don't seem to care much about it, do you ?

Real vulture birds are needed by nature because they recycle dead carcasses, a good thing.
Vulture funds are terribly harmful to the world economy because they prey upon deeply hurt (yet recoverable) economies... only if they weren't supported by rogue courts.

Still, one practical problem-person for this 'vulture medley' is the 800 lb. gorilla watching the scene from a high limb while munching away his morning bananas: ***debts that can't be paid, won't be.***
Let alone if such payment of debt corresponds, for good reason, to utterly un-enforceable contracts such as sovereign debt bonds which, by definition and as the whole wide legal world knows perfectly well (except you) is strictly **voluntary.** This is not an opinion, it's lack of internationally accepted law, and it's also history Sir.

The US Dept. of Justice made it clear to you by stating in their Amicus Curiae brief
... sovereign debt restructuring will become substantially more difficult, if not impossible, if holdout creditors are allowed to use novel interpretations of boilerplate bond provisions (pari passu clauses) to interfere with the performance of a restructuring plan accepted by most creditors..."

If this "soup" of yours were the glory that your long-postponed retirement had envisioned, chances are judge Griesa that history will not (and should not) be benevolent with you.
It will be daunting and hardly elegant to find a way out of the hole you have dug up for yourself and for the rest of the world.
Unless...

No vulture left behind

Now, thanks to your muddled-headed rulings Sir

(7) The $ 55 Trillion sovereign debt market has been left fully befuddled in the midst of your very personal legal-financial 'gringo gumbo' limbo mess.
(8) Vulture funds miss their money Sir and, the way things are going, they may also end up hating you as the possibility of collecting what they had expected (1600% profits) is getting farther and farther away.
(9) Ironically, your New York City should decline as legal venue for global debt as already warned by the Treasury and State Dept. in their 'Amicus Curiae" brief which you have thoroughly and repeatedly read out loud

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(10) The US shamefully converted into "clearing house" for vulture funds full discovery (precise information) of Argentinas seizable assets worldwide so that they dont waste time, money and energy finding that out.
(11) SCOTUS and the US Court of Appeals left in shameful disgrace by tacitly upholding your judgments by ignoring the case and supporting full "discovery" as stated above.
(12) The US Attorney General and the US Solicitor General have been proved to be blatantly non-compliant by not applying "comity" powers to stop you dead on your tracks.

Is yet there any bigger fish to fry all by yourself Sir ?

The 'Griesamess Doctrine'

Let's go through a dozen of additional consequences as back-drop

(13) The UN Human Rights Council, the world's highest intergovernmental human-rights body, by a 33 to 5 vote has condemned and will investigate vulture fund activities (**which you approve of and foster**)
(14) The UN General Assembly by a 124 to 11 vote has approved the preparation of a convention to avoid vulture funds activities (**which you approve of and foster**)
(15) The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) has proposed new terms for sovereign debt bonds in order to reduce the risk of being disrupted by vulture funds (**which you approve of and foster**)
(16) The Organization of American States (OAS) has voted overwhelmingly in favor (29-1-1) of Argentina against your Cayman Islands vulture funds friends ((**which you approve of and foster**)
(17) Your parochial judgments should provoke "***reciprocal adverse treatment of the United States in foreign courts***"(sic) as per US Supreme Court Chief Justice Dr. Antonin Scalia.
(18) Your pedantic rulings have prompted the United Nations Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Finances to design an efficient and fair system for the restructuring of sovereign debt.
(19) No one involved in your Griesamess "soup' can follow your line of thought Sir, including TBTF trustees banks, governments, the IMF, Euroclear, ICMA, bondholders, the UN, ISDA... not one Your Honor.

There's also (20) your hardly-credible Special Master Dan Pollack (also friend of yours maybe ?) who has surely enjoyed your ride so far to the tune of $ 250,000 per month for setting forth a most negative US foreign and financial policy.
This "**Griesamess Doctrine**" of yours (for lack of a better term) includes the flamboyant and certainly unique idea (21) of a NYCity court imposing **'contempt sanctions'** on a sovereign... a rightfully aggrieved sovereign nation state which had most successfully remedied its 2001 default until you came around with unmitigated support for highly suspicious Cayman Islands vulture funds.

To top it all off, your have (22) ruled that Argentina's payments to legitimate restructured bondholders are "illegal" (?!) and (23) recently declared a law of the sovereign Republic of Argentina to also be "illegal"... while (24) you are constantly confusing bonds subject to Argentine law, with other bonds subject to English law or Japanese law....

Prof. Dr. Anna Gelpern, again "...***Up to half the debt could be in or out depending on how these questions are resolved... it's scary.***
It's impossible to make this stuff up...

Civics 101

No matter what, sovereign nation states cannot sign away their rights, same as individuals, remember ?
So, does 'nation state' and its corresponding (by definition) **unwaiverable** sovereign decision-making powers and **unsurrendable** jurisdictional immunities mean anything to you Sir ?

Let's try Latin (maybe it works this time around) : ***'par in parem imperium non habet'***
Simpler, yet possibly more convincing, as per US Supreme Court Chief Justice Dr. Antonin Scalia, you are setting forth "...***a substantial invasion of sovereignty***"(sic)
Got it now Your Honor ?

By the way, claimants to a sovereign nation-state's resources include not only formal creditors.
The precedence principle in this case mandates priority to pensioners, for example.
Are you aware of that Sir ?

Down to Earth

No Sir, this is not a run-of-the-mill Chapter 11 bankruptcy.
On the one hand you have an ultra-suspicious type of "plaintiff", namely Cayman Island US political campaign heavyweight contributors, a.k.a. Vulture Funds.
On the other hand you have a sovereign nation-state, namely the Republic of Argentina, however 'recalcitrant'(sic) you may have deemed it to be.

The term "**sovereign Republic of Argentina**" has been mentioned in your court records dozens and dozens of times, if not hundreds.
The etymology of the term "Republic" origins in Latin thru 'res-publica' meaning "**public** thing, matter or affair"
The subject matter at hand is Argentina's collective **public** debt affecting 42 million people and their offspring.
It doesn't get any more "**public**" than that, Sir.
So Your Honor, this subject matter is within the scope of public law **NOT** private law.

"Sovereign" means "***supreme independent authority not subject to any other power or state***"
"What Leviathan giveth, Leviathan taketh away" remember ?
Surely you get the picture by now, don't you Sir ?
It's not called "sovereign debt" for nothing.

No Your Honor, your parochial Contract Law is not applicable because this is not a family restaurant bankruptcy in the Upper East

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Side.

Dr. Griesa plays chicken

Georgetown U. Prof. Dr. Adam J. Levitin has been thorough and precise describing the worldwide implications of your judgments.
His must-read Wall Street Journal piece describing "the Mother of Collective Action battles" can be found at http://www.creditslips.org/creditslips/2014/07/whose-fault-is-the-argentina-debacle.html

The political and policy impact of your tortuous, harmful legal acrobatics is what Dr. Levitin calls "... ***a high-stakes game of chicken with a sovereign state... that U.S. courts cannot and should not win***..."

True enough, Executive Branch "comity" powers should have cut your rogue performance down to size.
But you were curiously yielded right of way for your legal nonsense possibly because the White House has been too busy fighting one of its multiple (7) Nobel Peace Prize wars, some of which have been lost already while the few remaining ones are defeats-in-progress.

Be it as it may, the final outcome for all intents and purposes has been a shameful milestone of biased judicial partiality through which debt-relief is being forced to turn into unsustainable debt-pain.

Even current New York Federal Reserve Vice-President Thomas Baxter got his fair share of the Griesamess entropy by raising serious concern regarding the impact of your rulings upon the flow velocity of the $2.6 Trillion payments system. Besides your self-evident bias, this dilettante judiciary experiment of yours has led to literally NOWHERE

Dr. Levitin adds :
"***The U.S. monopoly on violence ends at the border; at that point, it becomes a matter of foreign relations and not an issue for the judicial branch.***"
"Argentinas intransigence may have angered the courts, but abstention would have been the right approach"

Abbott & Costello
Who's on first ?

Not a single party directly or indirectly involved in your Griesamess "soup' can follow your line of thought Sir.
Not Argentina, not TBTF trustee banks, not the restructured bondholders, not Euroclear, not ISDA, not ICMA, not UNCTAD, not the IMF, not the US Treasury Dept., not the Fed, not the United Nations... eventually, not even your vulture funds !
What are all these stakeholders supposed to do, keep waiting till you retire, or are impeached, or pass away (whichever comes first) ?
Has anything constructive or positive been left for future sovereign debt-restructuring processes or you also plan on the whole wide world not having any ever again ?
There are $ 55 Trillion of sovereign debt dollars waiting out there Sir, ready to take your gringo gumbo limbo as 'legal' precedent.

Judge Griesa, you have managed to engender a lose-lose, all-and-sundry lose monster, which will also eat you up Sir.

What's on second ?

You have flipped the 'pari passu' equitable treatment criterion on its head by now '***compelling***'(sic) the Argentine State to pay vulture funds FAR FAR FAR MORE and FAR FAR FAR BETTER than restructured bondholders to the tune of 1600%. If your absurd rulings were complied with, vulture funds would be paid EVERYTHING plus plus in a lump sum right NOW (principal, 12-year accrued interests with country risk PREMIUM of 10-15% p.a., punitive charges + astronomical legal fees) in the event that ANY interests at all are paid to the restructured (haircutted) bond holders on their discounted debt, which has always been promptly serviced by Argentina to the tune of $ 195+ billion since its 2001 most-successfully managed default.

The above is exactly OPPOSITE to "equitable" and fully ignores the fact that the sovereign nation-state Republic of Argentina couldn't possibly avoid DEFAULT (as in Chapter 9 insolvency, think Detroit... you follow ?). Let's now recall your own opinion (on official court record) regarding 'pari passu' on June 15, 2004: " ...(such possibility)... ***seems to me a very odd interpretation of the 'pari passu' clause***"
What or who made you change your mind Sir ?

The US Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 4) foresees bankruptcy for a reason Your Honor.
For any country other than the US (which can print dollars at will, something that's changing fast, beware) until its HUGE bad loans are restructured, as per Economics 101 all that's left is deflation Sir.
Hyperinflation of its currency is another choice...which immediately also leads to deflation, the dreaded status where everybody loses, let alone creditors.

Judge Griesa, you are either unbelievably ignorant, inept and mis-informed, and/or vested interests overwhelm your decisions.
Have you ever taken into account the required **DEFAULT RISK** that **super PREMIUM** interest rates (10 - 15 % p.a.) necessarily meant for the original creditors that lent money to Argentina ?
They knew that allright THEN, why don't YOU now ?

The market stakeholders knew perfectly well that the probability of default was embedded in the interest rate.
And if banks convinced little old widows otherwise, then go after the banks, not Argentina.

Resign, just resign

Sir, you may feel good trying to play super-hardball as a farewell grand finale to your prolongued career since President "Tricky Dick" Nixon ushered you into office, but you are way above your league.
So it's high time for you to just accept your Griesamess, do no further harm, and simply resign.

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Thus, the whole wide world will finally welcome a decision of yours.
And may the Lord forgive your sins.
At the very least, Pope Francis surely will.
He is Argentine.

Jorge Vilches
Former op-ed columnist for The Wall Street Journal - New York
jorgevilches@fibertel.com.ar

Se certificó que el correo no contiene virus.
Comprobada por AVG - www.avg.es
Versión: 2014.0.4765 / Base de datos de virus: 4037/8341 - Fecha de la versión: 10/07/2014

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/26/2015 9:33:39 PM
Subject: Re: Letter

I agree. The question is whether this will be in the agreement, since it is outside the 10 year window.
Stu

----- Original Message -----
From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 02:22 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: Letter

I read that to mean that it not acquire 25 kgs of HEU, which surely is the White House position!

> On Jun 26, 2015, at 5:51 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Jake,
>
> Right after the paragraph #5, is the paragraph to which I referred. It says, in part, "Most importantly, it is vital for the United States to affirm that it is US policy to prevent Iran from producing sufficient fissile material fron a nuclear weapon-or otherwise acquiring or building one-both during the agreement and after it expires."
>
> This should a point Hillary could take-up.
>
> I hope this is helpful. Best wishes,
>
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
> Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 01:07 PM
> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.
>
>
>
>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>
>> Dear Jake,
>>
>> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>>
>> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>>
>> Best wishes,
>>
>> Stu

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From: "Mollie Culver, Garcetti for Mayor 2013" <info@ericgarcetti.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/17/2012 6:47:47 PM
Subject: He Made Us Proud

Eric Garcetti FOR MAYOR 2013

Friend:

This past Saturday, Eric made us all proud at the first televised Mayoral debate. Click here to watch a clip!

As Mayor, Eric will aim high and deliver big – and that's what he did at the debate. In fact, the only journalist to score the debate declared that Eric had the edge over the competition!

While others focused on attacks, Eric was the only candidate to offer a specific agenda -- a plan to create 20,000 green jobs in solar installation, energy efficiency, green manufacturing and water conservation, and a commitment to make DWP both coal-free and nuclear-free. Click here for more information.

The debate was organized by the L.A. League of Conservation Voters, giving Eric a chance to share his unmatched environmental record. Eric authored the nation's largest green building ordinance, legislation making L.A. the nation's largest city with a solar feed in tariff, L.A's solar zoning ordinance to accelerate solar installation, and the nation's largest local clean water initiative, which directs $500 million to clean and protect our ocean, beaches, wetlands, lakes, rivers and water system.

The difference in this race is Eric didn't just vote for these groundbreaking policies. He wrote them. Click here to read more about Eric's environmental leadership.

Eric's big night at the debate capped another incredible week for our campaign. Eric won an important endorsement from the Teamsters, followed by the endorsement of progressive champion and former Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg. And as always, Eric spent the week criss-crossing L.A., meeting voters in Boyle Heights, Westchester, Mar Vista, Van Nuys, Northridge, North Hollywood, and Downtown. Check out our photo album from this weekend's activities here.

While others are winding down for the holidays, our campaign is

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focused on the hard work that must be done before the new year. The next fundraising deadline is December 31, and it represents a critical milestone for our campaign.

Please click here to keep our momentum going into 2013 by donating today. The time to act is now -- there are just 78 days before the March 5th primary.

Please donate $25, $50, or $100 now to help us finish the year strong!

Thank you for all of your support and hard work. We couldn't do it without you.

Mollie Culver
Campaign Manager
Garcetti for Mayor 2013

PS. Be sure to sign up for a volunteer shift to make calls and knock on doors at our campaign headquarters.

Eric Garcetti- Los Angeles Mayor 2013
United States

Paid for by Garcetti for Mayor 2013
FPPC ID# 1341339
22647 Ventura Blvd. #301 Los Angeles, CA 91364
Additional Information is available at ethics.lacity.org
This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com . Unsubscribe . | Created with NationBuilder .

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/5/2015 6:40:33 AM
Subject: Flagging message from Carl Page

John-

Manny flagged the below message from Carl Page, Larry Page's brother, who will be at the clean tech roundtable today. Copying Trevor in case you want to talk it through before the event.

Trevor will be there to meet you 15 minutes in advance of the roundtable. His cell is 917-755-5446 .

Thanks!

Milia Fisher
(858) 395-1741

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Emanuel Yekutiel <eyekutiel@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Date:** August 5, 2015 at 1:30:39 PM PDT
> **To:** Josh Becker <becker.josh@gmail.com >, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, Michael Smith <msmith@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject: Fwd: Hillary Clinton Climate Video for Today**
>
> For the clean tech roundtable. Carl Page (Larry Page's brother) just sent me this in response to my reminder email. Can you please also make sure John sees this so he is prepared for Carl's presence tonight?
>
> Thanks!
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Carl Page** <carlpage@gmail.com >
> Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 1:26 PM
> Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton Climate Video for Today
> To: Emanuel Yekutiel <eyekutiel@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> Thanks! Looking forward to it.
>
> A few big errors in the film that could be improved.
> (I work with ecoAmerica.org and take climate messaging very seriously though I don't speak for them.)
>
> First is you fail to mention the #1 reason for why companies like Facebook and Google and Apple use so many renewables. **Energy that always gets cheaper.**
>
> You say "provide a million solar panels" without saying why, except the self-sacrifice austerity, saving the grandkids argument which is weak. The right argument is pro-prosperity!
>
> The correct reason conservative businesses, and Americas people should buy solar and wind, is because:
>
> **These solar and wind systems provide cheap energy whose price will never go up. Once the loans are paid off, which doesn't take very long, they provide free prosperity.**
>
> The price of gas and oil go up and down depending on the marketing strategies of big oil companies and their staunch lobbyists known since Teapot Dome as the Grand Oil Party. **Exxon promises its shareholders that the price of gas will go up!**
>
> Oil barons have been known to raise the price of oil just so they can blame the President for it.
>
> Americans don't need to be chained to the volatile price of gas. Fossil fuels aren't just dirty, they are

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expensive. Beyond the price at the pump, they cost lives, when our military is called on to defend foreign oil owners who don't always share our values, to secure reserves that we don't really need.

#2 big missing element is, as W would say... "Fool me once-- you can't ever fool me again".
Carl Pope's latest post is RIGHT ON TARGET.

The Coal companies are junk bonds. They are going Bankrupt, not because of the EPA, but because we don't need their dirty expensive electricity anymore.

Big Oil still gets top dollar for their stock, because few people understand what a house of cards they have built. Let's stop before we get fooled again.

The atmosphere doesn't have room for much more carbon pollution. We cannot burn more than 1/4th of the remaining oil, we would die trying.

Big oil pretends that the stranded assets of underground oil have value on their balance sheets, and sell stock to gullible public on that basis.

Nothing disappears faster than a counterfeit currency, discovered.
After years of **lax Republican regulation,** the banks fake mortgage backed securities were exposed and collapsed. In order to prevent the complete collapse of the economy, the taxpayers had to rescue the economy. Another example of how Republicans privatize profit and socialize risk.

Today **Republican corporate welfare** sends huge subsidies and tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry. This makes alternatives such as renewables and nuclear power look more expensive than they should. The attempt it is not working.

The only reason Republicans have so much power is because they have dinosaur friends. America's people can take power back from the oil barons and build a prosperous economy.

When energy gets cheaper, we get more jobs. But we also get cheaper products, and cheaper transportation. Oil is very expensive energy, compared to what is right around the corner with today's technology.

The Whale oil industry didn't die when we ran out of whales. It got replaced by rock oil. Next the Rock oil industry will die when it fails to prevent renewable and nuclear energy from replacing it with cheaper healthier alternatives.

(arl

Carl Page
Anthropocene Institute
M: 415 830 3527

Reality is not determined by consensus, no matter what journalists, politicians and lawyers think.

On Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 12:43 PM, Emanuel Yekutiel <eyekutiel@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Hi everyone,
>
> We're looking forward to seeing you at 5 PM today for the Clean Tech Roundtable will John Podesta at 66 Acacia Drive in Atherton. Please do park farther down on Acacia Dr. as the spots right around the house will be blocked off. My cell is 415-203-7122 if you need anything.
>
> We'd like to show you all our most recent campaign video on climate change, but, in the event that we can't show it at the house, I have pasted it below!

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZwguLJVxsM&feature=youtu.be

Thanks again,

--
Manny Yekutiel
Hillary for America
415-203-7122

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Manny Yekutiel
Hillary for America
415-203-7122

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/9/2008 1:09:32 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/9

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 9th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

5:30pm McCain: Finance Reception in Washington, DC

6:30pm McCain: Finance Reception in McLean, VA

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Extends His Outreach, but Evangelicals Are Still Wary (NYT 6/9/08)
By MICHAEL LUO
...Mr. McCain's outreach to evangelicals has been a quiet courting, reflecting a balancing act: his election hopes rely on drawing in the political middle and Democrats who might be turned off should he woo the religious right too heavily by, for instance, highlighting his anti-abortion position more on the campaign trail.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/09/us/politics/09mccain.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

In Crowd Size, Obama Has the Edge (WSJ 6/9/08)
By LAURA MECKLER; Page A5
...The disparity in crowd size between the two candidates is striking, as are the candidates' oratorical abilities when they speak before those large gatherings. But does it even matter? Experts and political consultants say that in some respects, it does, though the crowd size isn't nearly as important as it might seem.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121296861597155771.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

John McCain's Ohio disconnect (LA Times 6/9/08)
By Peter Wallsten
Republican Party machinery in the state helped get President Bush into office, but it's not firing yet on McCain's behalf.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-ohio9-2008jun09,0,1838453.story

Obama Would Win Big -- in Europe (WSJ 6/9/08)
By John D. McKinnon, John W. Miller and Marc Champion
While the race between Barack Obama and Republican rival John McCain remains close among U.S. voters, Europeans have given their hearts to the likely Democratic nominee.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121295864168055409.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Old Partisan Gulf Is Back, Broad and Looming Large (NYT 6/9/08)
By JOHN HARWOOD
Strange as it sounds, the first five months of the 2008 campaign lacked the most powerful force in contemporary politics: partisanship fueled by ideology.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/09/us/politics/09caucus.html?scp=1&sq=&st=nyt

McCain: To Russia, without love (Salon 6/9/08)
By Mark Benjamin
John McCain and his national security advisor both want to get tough with Russia -- but one of them got paid to say so. Does McCain have another lobbyist problem? ...the sound of sabers rattling is music to the ears of Randy Scheunemann, the McCain campaign's senior foreign policy and national security advisor. ...until very recently he was paid to support that stance.
http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2008/06/09/mccain/

McCain and Obama: The odd candidates (Politico 6/9/08)

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By: Carrie Budoff Brown and Jonathan Martin
To understand the stylistic gulf between Barack Obama and John McCain, first consider their cultural references.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10926.html

McCain FEC complaints filed, TV ad runs (Baltimore Sun blog 6/9/08)
by Jill Zuckman
Campaign Money Watch, a non-profit watchdog group, files a complaint today with the Federal Election Commission asking it to investigate two possible violations of campaign finance law by Sen. John McCain's campaign.
http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/mccain_fec_complaints_filed_tv.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8OXXZCn9QI

McCain, Obama Overlap on Environment, Immigration, Guantanamo (Bloomberg 6/9/08)
By Kristin Jensen
The next president plans to issue new policies to address global warming, overhaul immigration laws, advocate more government transparency and close the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=aH8EMkkeMCtw&refer=politics

Senator Graham: McCain's Policies Would "Absolutely" Be An Extension Of Bush's (Huffington Post 6/8/08)
Senator John McCain has aggressively tried to distance himself from Bush in an effort to avoid being tagged by Democrats as running for Bush's third term. However,
... McCain's chief surrogate, Senator Lindsey Graham, did not adhere to that message during his appearance o n ABC's This Week, with George Stephanopoulos.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/08/senator-graham-mccains-po_n_105916.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKm87MV_u_4

McCain, Obama reject NYC offer on town hall (AP 6/8/08)
By SARA KUGLER
John McCain and Barack Obama rejected an offer Sunday from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and ABC News to host the first proposed presidential town hall because they do not want it limited to one television network.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/08/AR2008060800575.html

How to Beat a Rock Star: 'Substance.' (Newsweek 6/16/08 Issue)
By Holly Bailey and Jon Meacham
John McCain spoke with NEWSWEEK... about the general election, Barack Obama, Iraq, prewar intelligence and the press. Edited excerpts:
http://www.newsweek.com/id/140470

The unhappy warrior (Politico 6/808)
By: Jonathan Martin
Openly frustrated by what they see as an ongoing double standard in the press's treatment of his campaign, Sen. John McCain and his aides have been aggressively denouncing unfavorable stories as "smear jobs" and "scurrilous attacks," while the candidate himself has launched a series of stinging attacks on Sen. Barack Obama.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10919.html

In Energy Policy, McCain, Obama Differ on Role of Government (WSJ 6/8/08)
By Stephen Power
Arizona Republican John McCain and Illinois Democrat Barack Obama say a lot of the same things about energy and environmental policy: Both want to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil and fight global warming. Both want binding caps on greenhouse-gas emissions. Both see a stepped-up role for nuclear power.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121296676181055711.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Iraq, Not Economy, Frames the Presidential Debate (Washington Post 6/8/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr.; A11
With the country confronting a rising jobless rate, soaring gas prices and a shaky stock market, voters say their biggest concern is the economy. But it is the debate over Iraq that could define the contest between Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/07/AR2008060702124.html

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Each Party Is Set to Hunt The Other's Usual Ground (Washington Post 6/8/08)
By Dan Balz; A01
The 2008 general election will pit the best-organized nomination campaign in the history of modern Democratic politics against the battle-tested machinery of the Republican Party, with both Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) determined to shake up an electoral map that has been virtually static over the past two elections.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/07/AR2008060702222.html?hpid=topnews

A study in contrasts (Chicago Tribune 6/8/08)
By Mark Silva
In their age, experience, race, faith in the power of government and views of a complex world, Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain offer American voters one of the sharpest contrasts in candidates for the presidency in modern times, at least on a par with the Johnson-Goldwater and Reagan-Mondale elections.
www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-obama-mccain-differencejun08,0,3350838.story

Long, busy summer lies ahead of McCain and Obama (AP 6/8/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON
Long summer lies ahead of Barack Obama, John McCain, with votes to chase, conventions to hold
http://www.newsweek.com/id/140624

Race issue may prove tricky for McCain campaign (Newsday 6/8/08)
BY TOM BRUNE
Now that Barack Obama has clinched the Democratic nomination, Republican John McCain faces the unprecedented, and tricky, task of building a campaign against the first black presidential candidate of a major party in a general election campaign.
newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/sunday/news/ny-bzheard085717463jun08,0,6497110.story

Ohio suburbs key for McCain (Cincinnati Enquirer 6/8/08)
BY HOWARD WILKINSON
...It is no accident that on the night John McCain wrapped up the GOP presidential nomination, he placed a call to a gathering at the Butler County Republican Party headquarters. He needs those people to be his new best friends.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008806080342

McCain Breaks With Bush On Critical Matter Of Golfing During The Endless And Pointless Wars They Both Love So Much (Huffington Post 6/8/08)
By Jason Linkins
John McCain has made it clear that he wants voters to think of him as a Straight Talky McMaverick who's never been shy to stand apart from the failed policies of President Bush. Unfortunately, McCain has always struggled to come up with examples where the difference between the two men can be discerned. So far we have 1) was slightly more into the terrible idea known as the "Surge," and 2) is a little bit more environmentalish in that he likes the environment and is sorry that he's got no real effective ideas to help the environment
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/08/mccain-breaks-with-bush-o_n_105918.html

McCain Anti-War Ad Coming to Colorado (KRDO Colorado 6/8/08)
By SCOTT HARRISON
It mentions the military tradition in his family, and his own experience as a Vietnam prisoner of war. However, a new anti-war political ad from Republican presidential candidate John McCain focuses on opposing the war in Iraq.
http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8448508

The wife U.S. Republican John McCain callously left behind (UK's The Daily Mail 6/8/08)
By Sharon Churcher
...McCain likes to illustrate his moral fibre by referring to his five years as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam. And to demonstrate his commitment to family values, the 71-year-old former US Navy pilot pays warm tribute to his beautiful blonde wife, Cindy, with whom he has four children. But there is another Mrs McCain who casts a ghostly shadow over the Senator's presidential campaign.
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1024927/The-wife-John-McCain-callously-left-behind.html

Tom DeLay's wife plans to vote against McCain (Washington Times 6/8/08)
By Stephen Dinan
Tom DeLay will vote for John McCain but the former House Republican leader said his wife, Christine, is planning to vote for Libertarian presidential nominee Bob Barr.

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http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/08/tom-delays-wife-plans-vote-against-mccain/

MCCAIN TO OPEN UP FUNDRAISERS TO PRESS (MSNBC 6/7/08)
By Kelly O'Donnell
...McCain advisors expect to have a new policy on fundraiser coverage as early as next week. The campaign expects to include a print pool with no still or video coverage inside fundraisers where McCain appears and makes remarks.

McCain Adviser: McCain's Tax Plan 'Will Bring The Budget To Balance By The End Of His First Term' (ThinkProgress 6/7/08)
Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) rhetoric on the budget has become increasingly muddled in recent months. McCain has gone from pushing a balanced budget by 2012, to a balanced budget by 2017, to a "who cares" approach. A brief timeline:...
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/07/holtz-eakin-deficit/

Obama assails McCain over Everglades vote (LA Times 6/7/08)
By Terry McDermott
The Arizona senator defends his opposition to a 2007 restoration bill, saying it was larded with pork-barrel projects. The sharp exchange may signal a contentious general-election season ahead.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign7-2008jun07,0,1967339.story

Clinton Bloc Becomes the Prize for Election Day (NYT 6/7/08)
By JODI KANTOR
Now that a would-be first female president is ending her quest for the White House, the race is more about women than ever before.

McCain camp notes a word missing from Hillary exit speech (Politico blog 6/7/08)
By Jonathan Martin
...the McCain folks have been on-message in trying to pick off the disaffected Clinton supporters that undeniably do exist (and I saw more than a few in the National Building Musuem today...). Clinton didn't hurt this cause by not mentioning McCain a single time in her speech today.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/
McCain_camp_notes_a_word_missing_from_Hillary_exit_speech__.html

McCain camp: Lean mode will win (Politico 6/7/08)
By: Mike Allen
Advisers to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) told reporters Friday that Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) will get a sharp bounce in the polls that could last most of the summer, but they said Republicans have built a muscular campaign that can prevail in a brutal political environment.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10908.html

McCain deploying staff, expanding advertising (AP 6/7/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
With his Democratic foe now certain, Republican John McCain is deploying dozens of staffers into battleground states, boasting of improved fundraising and expanding his advertising into some of the most competitive terrain of the general election.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080607/D9152K080.html
Link to PowerPoint of McCain strategy briefing: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tiDACmM4eM

No Clones and No Crazies (NEWSWEEK 6/7/08)
Howard Fineman
What John McCain is looking for in a vice president candidate.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/140549/output/print

Talk of War and Family Highlights McCain's Kickoff Commercial (NYT 6/7/08)
By JULIE BOSMAN
...If Mr. McCain has developed a reputation as a warmonger, with his strong support of the Iraq war and his campaign-trail jokes about bombing Iran..., this advertisement is an effort to smooth over that perception. It also puts the best possible spin on his support for the unpopular Iraq war... Drawing on the McCain family's history of military service sends the message that Mr. McCain is rich in experience and strong on national security, two areas that have formed the core of his argument against Senator Barack Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/07/us/politics/07adbox.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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Link to video of ad ("Safe"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1OUxBvlLr0
See WSJ "McCain Stresses 'Safe' Theme In Ad Campaign": http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121279048063753137.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Abortion-Rights Advocates Take Aim at McCain (WSJ blog 6/6/08)
By Amy Schatz
Abortion rights activists are using Saturday's anniversary of a milestone in the pro-choice movement to focus a little fire on one of Republican presidential candidate John McCain's potential weak spots.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/06/06/abortion-rights-advocates-take-aim-at-mccain/

McCain Says It's Unclear Whether Bush Wiretapping Was Legal (NYT blog 6/6/08)
By Michael Cooper
Senator John McCain, whose campaign has sent conflicting signals about whether he believes President Bush acted within his rights in ordering wiretapping without warrants, said Friday in Florida that it was "ambiguous" whether the program was legal.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/06/mccain-says-its-unclear-whether-bush-wiretapping-was-legal/#more-5323

McCain Economic Adviser Derides Bush (Washington Post blog 6/6/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Republican Sen. John McCain's top domestic policy adviser derided President Bush's knowledge of the economy, saying in an interview published today that Bush knows nothing about the economy except taxes.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/06/mccain_economic_adviser_deride.html#more

A Well-Connected Campaign Firm Resurfaces (Washington Post blog 6/6/08)
By Matthew Mosk
When Republican Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign hit the financial skids last summer, he reported that he owed one of his largest vendors $1,079,000. The debt was owed to a computer company, called 3eDC. The firm has close ties to McCain campaign manager Rick Davis and his lobbying partner Paul Manafort.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/06/a_well-connected_campaign_firm.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

A Campaign We Can Believe In? (NYT 6/9/08)
By William Kristol
Republicans I've talked to are alarmed that the McCain campaign doesn't seem up to the task of electing John McCain.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/0a6/09/opinion/09kristol.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

McCain's Evangelical Problem (Washington Post 6/9/08)
By Robert D. Novak; A17
Shortcomings by John McCain's campaign in the art of politics are alienating two organizations of Christian conservatives. James Dobson's Focus on the Family is estranged following the failure of Dobson and McCain to talk out their differences. Evangelicals who follow the Rev. John Hagee resent McCain's disavowal of him.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/08/AR2008060801689.html

Stop Raising Cash (Washington Post 6/9/08)
Mr. Obama and Mr. McCain should use the federal financing system for the fall campaign -- and reform it afterward.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/08/AR2008060801677.html

Obama and McCain, the same? (LA Times 6/8/08)
Not quite. But here are their surprising policy overlaps.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-obamacain8-2008jun08,0,3502370.story

One Historic Night, Two Americas (NYT 6/8/08)
By FRANK RICH
Barack Obama's resolutely cheerful embrace of the future is a wildly different vision of America than John McCain's promise of vigilant conservation of the past.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/08/opinion/08rich.html

Iraq helped Barack topple Hill, but could hurt him vs. Mac (Boston Herald 6/8/08)
By Bill O'Reilly

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Cutting through all the fog, there are two primary reasons behind Barack Obama's stunning victory over the Clinton machine: authenticity and the war in Iraq....Now Obama has achieved the nomination, but his winning primary strategy on Iraq could come back to haunt him in the general election, when the far left becomes rather insignificant. Already John McCain is painting Obama as a terror appeaser who would snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in Iraq.
http://news.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/2008_06_08_Iraq_helped_Barack_topple_Hill__but_____/srvc=home&position=recent

EDITORIAL: Lobbyists and Washington politicians (Washington Times 6/7/08)
He insists he will curtail the influence of lobbyists and return government "to the people." His anti-lobbyist statements have aroused among the loudest cheers at his phenomenal rallies. He has declared: "I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am president." Mr. Obama's anti-lobbyist stance strikes a chord among Americans.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/07/editorial-lobbyists-and-washington-politicians/

BUSH NEWS

Citing History, Bush Suggests His Policies Will One Day Be Vindicated (Washington Post 6/9/08)
By Dan Eggen; A03
Meet George W. Bush, time traveler. ...President Bush leaps forward as well, envisioning a distant future in which Iraq is a tranquil democracy, Palestinians live peaceably alongside Israelis and terrorism is a tactic of the past.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/08/AR2008060802255.html

Tough Words From This Cheney on U.S. Mideast Policy (Washington Post 6/9/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A15
Looks as though another former Bush administration official is off the reservation. But don't expect the kind of fierce counterattack the White House and its friends waged recently against former press secretary Scott McClellan after the release of his tell-all book.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/08/AR2008060801820.html

Bush: Obama choice a 'powerful moment' (Baltimore Sun blog 6/8/08)
by Mark Silva
Bush calls the Democrats' choice of Barack Obama 'good for our democracy.'
http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/bush_obama_choice_a_powerful_m.html

First Lady Laura Bush Arrives In Afghanistan (ABC blog 6/8/08)
By Jonathan Karl Reports
Urging the world to "stand more strongly with Afghanistan," First Lady Laura Bush visited remote Bamiyan province, where the Taliban regime prompted international outrage by destroying two giant Buddhist statues in 2001.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/06/first-lady-laur.html

Europeans View America As A 'Force For Evil' Under Bush (ThinkProgress 6/6/08)
Last April, President Bush traveled to Europe to attend his final NATO summit. While there, he openly advocated that the alliance incorporate former Soviet republics Ukraine and George as full NATO members in an effort to "lay down a marker" for his "freedom agenda" legacy. However, NATO rebuffed, a "remarkable rejection of American policy in an alliance normally dominated by Washington."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/06/european-bush/

Bush Considers New Economic Stimulus (CBS/ AP 6/6/08)
President Bush is considering new measures to help stimulate the battered economy, the White House said Friday as unemployment and oil prices soared and Wall Street sank.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/06/national/main4161478.shtml

OTHER TOP NEWS

Voters Rank Economy As Election's No. 1 Issue (WSJ 6/8/08)
By Susan Davis
With drivers paying an average of $4 a gallon for gas for the first time and the U.S. posting a fifth straight month of job declines, the economy is at the forefront of the presidential race. The issue provides one of the starkest contrasts between Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama,
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121296650917055695.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

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Gas price record reaches $4 a gallon (CNNMoney 6/8/08)
By Mark M. Meinero and Ben Rooney
AAA's daily survey tops the milestone for the first time after a 1.7-cent rise. Lundberg survey nears $4 as well.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/08/news/economy/gas_prices/?postversion=2008060809

Opening shot in the battle over crime (LA Times 6/8/08)
By Richard B. Schmitt, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
On a website he calls ExposeObama.com, Floyd G. Brown, the producer of the Willie Horton ad..., is preparing an encore. ...Though in this presidential race crime has taken a back seat to the war in Iraq and the economy, some Republicans think Obama is vulnerable on the issue -- and they hope to inject it into the campaign.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-crime8-2008jun08,0,3386050.story

Gay Anglican U.S. bishop enters into civil union (Reuters 6/8/08)
By Jason Szep
The openly gay U.S. Episcopal bishop at the center of the Anglican church's global battle over homosexuality, has entered into a civil union with his longtime partner at a private ceremony.
http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSN0840650920080608

The Long Road to a Clinton Exit (NYT 6/8/08)
By PETER BAKER and JIM RUTENBERG
By the time the campaign tracked down the small-city Indiana mayor, Bill Clinton was in a lather. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton had lost the North Carolina primary that evening and was eager to offset it with a win in Indiana. But a vote-counting delay in one county threatened to rob her of a prime-time victory speech.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/08/us/politics/08recon.html?ref=politics

Ending Her Bid, Clinton Backs Obama (NYT 6/7/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY and JEFF ZELENY
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton formally threw her support behind Senator Barack Obama on Saturday, clearing the way for Mr. Obama to head into the general election with a plan to challenge Senator John McCain in typically Republican states.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/07/us/politics/07cnd-campaign.html?hp
Link to transcript: http://thepage.time.com/full-transcript-of-clintons-concession-speech/
Link to video: http://youtube.com/watch?v=CtAeJoi1y0M
Link to Obama response: http://thepage.time.com/obama-statement-on-clintons-endorsement/

Al Franken Wins Endorsement for Senate (AP 6/7/08)
By PATRICK CONDON and BRIAN BAKST
Franken wins Senate endorsement in Minnesota, overcoming - for now - uproar over past jokes
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=5021429

Huckabee Helps Choking NC Candidate With Heimlich (AP 6/7/08)
Former Republican presidential candidate Huckabee uses Heimlich to save choking man
http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=5022407

POLLS

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll (Rasmussen 6/8/08)
Obama 48%
McCain 40%
http://rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_presidential_election/daily_presidential_tracking_poll

Poll finds electorate split between Obama, McCain (CNN 6/6/08)
* Barack Obama leads John McCain 49 percent to 46 percent among registered voters
* Poll: more than one in five voters say they may change their minds before November
* Ralph Nader and Bob Barr are both vying for independent voters
* Without Sen. Clinton, 60 percent of her Democratic supporters would vote for Obama
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/06/poll.mccain.obama/index.html

Gallup Daily: Obama 46%, McCain 45% (Gallup 6/6/08)
Obama 46%
McCain 45%
http://www.gallup.com/poll/107737/Gallup-Daily-Obama-46-McCain-45.aspx

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OTHER

Test your John McCain IQ (Chicago Tribune 6/8/08)
How well do you know the Republican candidate for president?
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/politics/chi-mccain-quiz,0,4099240,post.triviaquiz

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director, Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Adam Jentleson" <Ajentleson@americanprogress.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	5/27/2008 6:12:58 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] FW: PRESS CALL TODAY: NATIONAL SECURITY EXPERTS RESPOND TO SENATOR MCCAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

FYI

Center for American Progress Action Fund

For Immediate Release
May 27, 2008

Contact
Allison Price, 202.481.8190
aprice@americanprogressaction.org

PRESS CALL TODAY: NATIONAL SECURITY EXPERTS RESPOND TO SENATOR MCCAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

WASHINGTON, D.C. – TODAY, Tuesday May 27, at 2:00 PM EDT the Center for American Progress Action Fund will host a conference call with the Director of CAPAF's Sustainable Security Program, Reuben Brigety, nuclear non-proliferation expert Joseph Cirincione with the Ploughshares Fund and the President of the National Security Network Rand Beers.

WHAT: PRESS CALL – McCain Foreign Policy

WHEN: TODAY, Tuesday, May 27 2008 at 2:00PM EDT

WHERE: By telephone 866.682.6100, ID: McCain Foreign Policy

WHO: Reuben Brigety, Director, Sustainable Security Program at the Center for American Progress Action Fund

Joseph Cirincione, President, Ploughshares Fund

Rand Beers, President, National Security Netw ork

Please email Allison Price if you are planning on attending the call -aprice@americanprogressaction.org

About the Center for American Progress Action Fund

The Center for American Progress Action Fund transforms progressive ideas into policy through rapid response communications, legislative action, grassroots organizing and advocacy, and partnerships with other progressive leaders throughout the country and the world. The Action Fund is also the home of the Progress Report and ThinkProgress.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/13/2016 1:25:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: Ethnic Outreach Summary | March. 9 - 12

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jared Mueller <jmueller@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: March 13, 2016 at 12:35:51 AM EST
To: Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >, Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >, Elizabeth Renda <erenda@hillaryclinton.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, Sally Marx <smarx@hillaryclinton.com >, Brynne Craig <bcraig@hillaryclinton.com >, Kari Thurman <kthurman@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Ethnic Outreach Summary | March. 9 - 12

All,

Below is an end-of-week ethnic outreach update with the latest since Wednesday, for communities we have prioritized going into the 3/15 states. Please let me know if you have any questions -- and huge credit to Laura, Kari (among others) for their work on many of these communities:

###

Bosnian Americans

- Earned media: St. Louis endorsement event with Bosnian leaders covered on *KMOV* evening news (**video**)

- *Bosnian Americans for Hillary* call with Ambassador Chris Hill, Laura Rosenberger, and Bosnian American HFA-OH Field Organizer Maja Tosic locked for Monday, 3/14 (RSVP **link here**)
- Together with Digital, refining post from Maja T. on her family's escape from Bosnia and her work as a HFA organizer in NH, NV and OH
- Worked with Team HFA-MO on printed materials for endorsement of St. Louis Bosnian leaders, including those invited to meet with HRC in December
- Clay Pell coordinating with Bosnian activists on ongoing earned media opportunities in constituency outlets

  - Note: as appropriate, we have been amplifying our relevant Bosnian outreach efforts with Albanian American Democrats

Greek Americans

- Earned Media (under development): *Greek News* plans to write a column about Hillary's policy on Greece following call; Policy working to connect the reporter with Julie Smith or another Europe policy expert
- *Greek Americans for Hillary* call with Governor Dukakis, John Podesta, and Amb. Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis attracted ~100 RSVPs and ~70 attendees
- Amb. Kounalakis working on a draft accomplishments one-pager for Policy Team's review

Irish Americans

- Earned media: HRC's Youngstown visit to an Irish pub with Congressman Ryan covered by press corps (**video**)
- *Irish Americans for Hillary* call with Jake Sullivan locked for Monday, 3/14 (RSVP **link here**)
- Jake Sullivan post for *The Feed* on HRC's Northern Irish record in works; digital working on finalizing, Sunday for Monday
- *Irish Americans for Hillary* phone bank in NE Ohio amplified online by local and national Irish Am Dems (tweets **here** and **here**)

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Muslim Americans (multiple nationalities)

- Worked with Team HFA-Florida to support logistics/provide *Muslims for Hillary* talking points for a pre-FL conference call with Floridian Muslim leaders

Polish Americans

- Earned media: Journalist, cultivated through conference and individual follow up calls, covers WJC visit on front page of Chicago's *Polish News* (permanent **link**)
- Continuing to work with national Polish Dems leaders (led by Maureen Pikarski) on amplifying this week's outreach efforts and identifying leaders for March and April states

Ukrainian Americans

- Earned media: HRC's statement on Nadiya Savchenko earned Cyrillic and English language coverage in Ukrainian outlets, and amplification online (tweet)
- Worked with Ukrainian American activists in D.C., at Ukrainian religious organizations, and elsewhere to promote her statement
    - A DNC staffer later saw our BCC email blast to community leaders forwarded back to her on the "major Ukrainian listservs, including one that includes all the main Ukrainian press outlets."

On Wed, Mar 9, 2016 at 8:30 AM, Jared Mueller <jmueller@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Wanted to send across a few update bullets on this outreach this morning:

- Last night we locked Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis to join tomorrow's Greek Americans for Hillary call, where she will introduce John (who will introduce Governor Dukakis). She is working to push the invite out to her networks and is happy to intro John

- Kari and I are working with Team Ohio to organize an Irish American phone bank in Greater Cleveland this week - which we'll amplify once it's held
- On the Polish outreach side, the DNC's ethnic outreach team and its Polish American vice chair were very happy about JDP's Pulaski Day tweets and were working to amplify it with Polish Dems nationwide
- Given the focus on St. Louis within March 15th media markets, we're reconnecting with Bosnian leaders in Missouri today to see about organizing a Bosnian Americans for Hillary phone bank and other earned media in the run-up to their primary
- We're also evaluating options for additional Irish Americans for Hillary outreach, building on the well-received Irish fact sheet, including a brief meeting with Irish-Am leaders and a blog post from Jake or another FP validator to personalize her work in Northern Ireland

Will share additional updates as programming and products are locked in over the course of the week. Thank you!

On Sun, Mar 6, 2016 at 9:02 PM, Jared Mueller <jmueller@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Below is a summary of our ethnic outreach efforts over the past week. In particular it's been great to see the reception of the Irish fact sheet the campaign published yesterday, which we've pushed Irish American Democrats to promote — typical tweet **here** .

Priorities for next week include locking in a Greek-American call with Governor Dukakis, an Italian-American call with Congresswoman DeLauro, continuing our Irish outreach efforts in the run-up to St. Patrick's Day, and building our network of identified ethnic leaders in March and double-battleground states. Huge thanks to Laura for her (and her foreign policy team's) very generous support of this work!

######

Ethnic Outreach Summary: February 29th - March 6th

CONFERENCE CALLS COMPLETED

- **Albanian Americans for Hillary call** with Ambassador Chris Hill and Albanian- American leaders (including the publisher of America's largest Albanian periodical)
-

Polish Americans for Hillary call with Ambassador Chris Hill and Polish-American leaders, including elected officials, Polish-language media personalities, and Polish-American alumni of the Clinton Administration from

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Illinois and Michigan

- Syrian Americans for Hillary call with Laura Rosenberger and national Syrian American community leaders and donors

DIGITAL AND POLICY OUTREACH

- **Casimir Pulaski Day tweet** queued up for @johnpodesta for Monday, March 7th
- **Irish Americans for Hillary** collateral developed by Teams Digital and Policy
  - Digital generated an *Irish Americans for Hillary* share graphic
  - Policy has created a fact sheet for Irish Americans, which has been publicly released and picked up by *IrishCentral* and Irish activists on Twitter (**link**)

EARNED MEDIA

- **Coverage for Polish Americans for Hillary call on Chicago Polish Radio**
  - Andrew Mikolajczyk of *Radio Chicago* attended the call in order to report it on his radio program
- ***IrishCentral* covered the release of the campaign's Irish affairs fact sheet (link)**
- **Pre-Massachusetts Primary Surrogate Appearances** from Clay Pell on
  - *Grecian Echoes*, the largest Greek American radio program on the East Coast (based in Newton, Massachusetts)
  - Portuguese-American radio stations in Massachusetts

INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH

- **Meeting** to discuss Michigan ethnic outreach (and other topics) with Rep. Sandy Levin
- **Outreach calls** by Clay Pell and Jared Mueller to
  - American Muslim leaders in D.C. and Virginia
  - Croatian American community leaders in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania
  - French-Canadian American leaders in Maine
  - Irish American leaders in D.C., Massachusetts, New York,
  - Italian American leaders in D.C. and Maryland
  - Polish American leaders in Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Michigan
- **Outreach calls and emails** by Terry Lierman to Irish American and American Muslim supporters of Governor Martin O'Malley's presidential candidacy

PLANNING

- **Laura** connected with Ambassador McFaul on the Obama 2008 campaign's general election ethnic outreach strategy; we have the '08 strategy documents and will use those as a model for the 2016 general, building on the foundation of our primary outreach
- **Jared** working on conference calls for the week ahead: Charlie is reaching out to Dukakis for his availability for a Greek Americans call, and Erin and Maura are putting asks out to Tom DiNapoli and Rosa DeLauro for an Italian Americans call

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/26/2015 12:35:10 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.26.15
Attachments:	6.26.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 26, 2015

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS

All three networks reported on the Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act. Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz have all claimed that they would repeal ACA if elected to office. ABC and NBC reported that Univision has decided to take the Miss USA Pageant off the air after Donald Trump's derogatory comments about Mexican immigrants. Trump claims Univision apologized to him yesterday morning, but Univision has called his comments insulting to immigrants. Trump has threatened to sue them for dropping the pageant from their lineup.

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State Department says 15 e-mails missing from pages Hillary Clinton provided // WaPo // Karen DeYoung – June 25, 2015..... 7

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Deidre Walsh (6/25/15, 10:29 am) - Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions says he plans to introduce a bill to repeal & replace Obamacare next week -- the first of MANY coming..... 8

Generation Forward (6/25/15, 3:33 pm) - #TBT when @BernieSanders caved under pressure from the NRA and didn't support the Brady Bill http://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/whos-afraid-of-the-nra-vermonts-congressmen-thats-who/Content?oid=2435066 8

David Chalina (6/25/15, 5:01 pm) - CNN/WMUR/New Hampshire GOP primary poll #'s: Bush 16%, Trump 11%, Paul 9%, Walker 8%, Fiorina 6%, Rubio 6%, Carson 5%, Christie 5%..... 9

Dan Merica (6/25/15, 4:10 pm) - Clinton campaign, via @Ann_OLeary, fundraising off how Bush, Huckabee and Rubio responded to the SCOTUS decision..... 9

Phil Elliott (6/25/15, 2:19 pm) - Pro-Rubio super PAC up with first 60-second ad. Topic: a nuke deal with Iran. Includes cameo for PM Netanyahu: https://youtu.be/mqqZfDpFofg..... 9

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

State Dept. Gets Libya Emails That Hillary Clinton Didn't Hand Over **// NYT // Michael Schmidt – June 25, 2015**

The State Department said on Thursday that 15 emails sent or received by Hillary Rodham Clinton were missing from records that she has turned over, raising new questions about whether she deleted work-related emails from the private account she used exclusively while in office.

The disclosure appeared to open the door for Republicans on Capitol Hill to get more deeply involved in the issue. Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, who is running for president, said he planned to send a series of questions to the State Department about the missing emails and about why it allowed her to use the personal account.

Republicans said that the State Department's statement was likely to increase pressure on the House speaker, John A. Boehner of Ohio, to subpoena the server in Mrs. Clinton's home that housed the account.

Hillary Rodham Clinton in New Hampshire on Monday. Sidney Blumenthal, a close confidant of Mrs. Clinton, turned over emails about Libya to a House committee.Sidney Blumenthal, Hillary Clinton's Confidant, Turns Over Memos on LibyaJUNE 15, 2015

Mrs. Clinton has said that she gave the State Department about 50,000 pages of emails that she deemed to be related to her work as secretary of state and deleted roughly the same number. She said the messages she deleted were personal, relating to topics like yoga, family vacations and her mother's funeral.

Her longtime confidant and adviser Sidney Blumenthal, responding two weeks ago to a subpoena from the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, gave it dozens of emails he had exchanged with Mrs. Clinton when she was in office. Mr. Blumenthal did not work at the State Department at the time, but he routinely provided her with intelligence memos about Libya, some with dubious information, which Mrs. Clinton circulated to her deputies.

State Department officials then crosschecked the emails from Mr. Blumenthal with the ones Mrs. Clinton had handed over and discovered that she had not provided nine of them and portions of six others.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, who is running for president, said that she had given the State Department "over 55,000 pages of materials," including "all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

The chairman of the House committee, Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, said that many of the emails that Mrs. Clinton had not handed over showed that "she was soliciting and regularly corresponding with Sidney Blumenthal, who was passing unvetted intelligence information about Libya from a source with a financial interest in the country."

"It just so happens these emails directly contradict her public statement that the messages from Blumenthal were unsolicited," he said. Mr. Blumenthal identified the source of his information as Tyler Drumheller, a former high-ranking C.I.A. official, according to a person with knowledge of his testimony to the Benghazi panel. Mr. Drumheller was part of a group that sought to do business in Libya.

Supporters of Mrs. Clinton have argued that the committee's mission has crept far beyond its original scope: to investigate the Benghazi attacks, which killed four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. Republican committee members have said that they are within their right to look into her email use because the resolution that created the panel directed them to examine how the administration complied with previous inquiries into the attacks. Mrs. Clinton's emails relating to the attacks were not handed over to any of the panels conducting those inquiries.

Other panels in Congress may consider investigating the matter. Mr. Graham, who oversees a Senate subcommittee with sway over the State Department's budget, said that the department "seems to have a system that is not working very well" in regards to its production of documents to Congress.

"I'm going to ask them whether they think Mrs. Clinton has handed over everything she should and what they are going to do about it," he said. "And if

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they give me runaround responses, we'll drag them up on Capitol Hill and make them answer these questions in public."

While the State Department acknowledged that it did not have several of Mrs. Clinton's emails, it also told the Benghazi committee that it had not turned over other messages of hers. The department said that it had not done so because the contents of those messages fell outside the requests made by the committee.

"The State Department is working diligently to review and publish the 55,000 pages of emails we received from former Secretary Clinton," it said in a statement.

That statement is unlikely to satisfy the committee, which believes it has been clear in its requests. Members of the panel have contended that the State Department has withheld documents to protect Mrs. Clinton and grind the investigation to a halt. State Department officials have said that one of the reasons it has taken so long to produce documents is that the department's record-keeping system is cumbersome. They have also said that the committee has not been specific enough in its requests.

State Department says 15 e-mails missing from pages Hillary Clinton provided // WaPo // Karen DeYoung – June 25, 2015

The State Department said Thursday that it could not locate "all or part" of 15 e-mails provided last week to the House Select Committee on Benghazi by Sidney Blumenthal from his exchanges with then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The committee chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), who has raised repeated questions about whether Clinton covered up her activities related to the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, called the State Department disclosure "significant and troubling."

It was the first indication that some 55,000 pages of e-mails from a private server Clinton used while in office were not a complete record of her work-related correspondence, and the latest turn in what has become a contentious political battle pitting committee Republicans against Clinton and committee Democrats, who have charged Gowdy with trying to undermine her presidential campaign.

When the existence of the private server was revealed, Clinton said she had discarded "personal" e-mails and gave the rest to the State Department. The department then culled about 300 e-mails related to Benghazi in response to a committee subpoena. Many were from Blumenthal, a former Clinton White House aide and a close friend, who forwarded what he said were inside intelligence reports from sources with access to the Libyan government between 2011 and 2013. The documents, which were publicly released last month, shed no new light on the Benghazi attack.

The committee then subpoenaed Blumenthal, who appeared for a closed-door deposition last week. He also supplied the committee with additional Libya-related e-mails that Gowdy said at the time might not have been among those culled by the State Department.

In response to a committee query, Gowdy said in a statement Thursday, "the State Department has informed the Select Committee that Secretary Clinton has failed to turn over all her Benghazi and Libya related records. This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record.

"This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work," he said, and "conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record."

An official at State, speaking on the condition of anonymity under ground rules imposed by the department, said there were "a limited number of instances — 15 — in which we could not locate all or part of the content of a document from [Blumenthal's] production within the tens of thousands of e-mails she gave us. … The substance of those 15 e-mails is not relevant to the 2012 attacks in Benghazi."

At the same time, the official said, some of the documents Clinton had already turned over "do not appear" in Blumenthal's "production to the committee."

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Deidre Walsh (6/25/15, 10:29 am) - Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions says he plans to introduce a bill to repeal & replace Obamacare next week -- the first of MANY coming

Generation Forward (6/25/15, 3:33 pm) - #TBT when @BernieSanders caved under pressure from the NRA and didn't support the Brady Bill http://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/whos-afraid-of-the-nra-vermonts-congressmen-thats-who/Content?oid=2435066 …

David Chalina (6/25/15, 5:01 pm) - CNN/WMUR/New Hampshire GOP primary poll #'s: Bush 16% , Trump 11%, Paul 9% , Walker 8%, Fiorina 6%, Rubio 6%, Carson 5%, Christie 5%

Dan Merica (6/25/15, 4:10 pm) - Clinton campaign, via @Ann_OLeary, fundraising off how Bush, Huckabee and Rubio responded to the SCOTUS decision.

Phil Elliott (6/25/15, 2:19 pm) - Pro-Rubio super PAC up with first 60-second ad. Topic: a nuke deal with Iran. Includes cameo for PM Netanyahu: https://youtu.be/mqqZfDpFofg

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton's 'All Lives Matter' Remark Stirs Backlash // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 25, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton is facing backlash for saying that "all lives matter" in an African-American church in Missouri on Tuesday, offending some who feel that she is missing the point of the "black lives matter" mantra.

Mrs. Clinton's remarks at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Mo. — only a few miles north of Ferguson, where a black teenager was shot by a white police officer last August — came during a broader discussion of civil rights in America.

She was talking about how a disproportionate number of young people of color are out of school and out of work and, explaining that everyone needs a "chance and a champion," she recalled how her mother was abandoned as a teenager and went on to work as a maid.

"What kept you going?" Mrs. Clinton remembered asking her mother. "Her answer was very simple. Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter."

The remark caused a stir on social media, with some African-Americans on Twitter suggesting that Mrs. Clinton had lost their votes.

The Rev. Renita Lamkin, who was in the audience at the event, told NPR that Mrs. Clinton's comment did not go unnoticed.

"That blew a lot of support that she may have been able to engender here," she said.

The phrase "black lives matter" has become a rallying cry in the last year for demonstrators amid a spate of episodes around the country, including the 18-year-old Michael Brown's death in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, where white police officers have been accused of using excessive force against black suspects.

Judith Butler, a professor at University of California, Berkeley, summed up the frustration with the use of "all lives matter" in The Times in January.

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"When some people rejoin with 'All Lives Matter' they misunderstand the problem, but not because their message is untrue," she wrote. "It is true that all lives matter, but it is equally true that not all lives are understood to matter which is precisely why it is most important to name the lives that have not mattered, and are struggling to matter in the way they deserve."

Mrs. Clinton has not been opposed to using the phrase in the past, declaring that "yes, black lives matter" at a gala in New York last year.

The controversy comes as Mrs. Clinton has sought to address racial issues in a more direct manner than she was able to in 2007, when she was running against someone who would go on to become the first black president.

Donna Brazile, a Democratic strategist who is black, defended Mrs. Clinton and said that her remarks on Tuesday should be taken in the context that she was discussing her mother.

New Hampshire Poll Shows Bernie Sanders in Dead Heat With Hillary Clinton // NYT // Katharine Seelye – June 25, 2015

The next time Hillary Rodham Clinton visits New Hampshire, she need not look over her shoulder to find Bernie Sanders; the Vermont Senator is running right alongside her in a statistical dead heat for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, according to a CNN/WMUR poll released on Thursday.

The poll shows Mrs. Clinton drawing 43 percent of likely Democratic primary voters compared to 35 percent for Mr. Sanders, but with a margin of sampling error of plus or minus five percentage points, the race is a statistical tie.

While Mrs. Clinton has been enormously popular in New Hampshire, her favorable ratings have dropped almost 20 points since February, while Mr. Sanders's have been climbing. And his negatives are lower than hers. So their net favorability ratings (favorable minus unfavorable) are now equal, at 55 percent.

In her favor, however, is that most voters appear to view Mrs. Clinton as by far the stronger leader, and as having the personal characteristics that are most presidential. She also trounces Mr. Sanders on her perceived ability to handle important issues, with more voters saying she is best able to handle the economy, terrorism, trade and health care.

Working against her is the hefty 28 percent who view her as the "least honest."

Working to Mr. Sanders's advantage: Most voters believe he "best represents Democrats like yourself" and "cares the most about people like you." The one issue that voters said he was better able to handle than Mrs. Clinton was dealing with "big banks and corporations."

The poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire, interviewed 1,010 voters from June 18 to 24. The margin of sampling error for the entire poll was plus or minus three percentage points, but for the 360 likely Democratic primary voters who were interviewed, it was plus or minus five percentage points.

A Suffolk University poll last week also found Mr. Sanders making headway against Mrs. Clinton, trailing her by 10 percentage points, just outside that poll's margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points.

If Hillary wins, would she have to give up this former first lady perk? // WaPo // Al Kamen – June 25, 2015

There will doubtless be all manner of novel situations to deal with if Hillary Clinton becomes the first woman to occupy the Oval Office.

One question will be whether The Kennedy Center will have its first male honorary chair on the center's board of trustees. The six current honorary chairs are, by tradition, the current and former first ladies: Michelle Obama, Laura Bush, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan and

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Rosalynn Carter.

So would Bill Clinton, as First Gent, become a member of the board?

Center spokesman Michael Solomon, in response to our inquiry, e-mailed: “We have had a long tradition at the Kennedy Center of inviting each First Spouse to be an Honorary Chair of the Kennedy Center and we are honored by their participation. We do not expect to alter that tradition at any time in the future.”

But then would this mean another first? A husband and wife team on the board at the same time?

Eventually, but not immediately, one former Obama White House lawyer told us. It would seem Hillary Clinton would probably have to give up her chair at the center while she was president. It could be a conflict of interest and the general principle is that the Commander-in-Chief doesn’t take on side government tasks.

On the other hand, if Jeb! wins, then first lady Columba Bush would be asked to be an honorary chair, which would mean that, for the first time, three people from the same family would be honorary chairs.

It’s only an honorary thing with no real responsibility. But you’re guaranteed good seats.

State Department Says Hillary Clinton’s Email Disclosure Was Incomplete **// WSJ // Byron Tau – June 25, 2015**

The State Department said Thursday that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton didn’t turn over at least 15 emails that appear to be work-related from her personal server, contradicting her claims that all relevant emails were in the hands of the federal government.

The emails in question were uncovered as part of a subpoena from a congressional committee to Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime Clinton confidant and former White House aide in Bill Clinton’s administration.

At least 15 emails given by Mr. Blumenthal to the committee—which is investigating the 2012 Benghazi, Libya, attack—don’t match any in the archive of more than 30,000 emails turned over by Mrs. Clinton to the State Department late last year, the department said.

Four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, were killed in the assault on a U.S. diplomatic facility in Libya.

A State Department official said there were “a limited number of instances”—15—“in which we could not locate all or part of the content of a document from his production within the tens of thousands of emails she gave us.”

“Those instances are described in a letter the department sent today to the Committee,” the official said.

The missing emails contradict Mrs. Clinton’s claims that all work-related emails from her personal server are in the hands of the government, as required by federal record-keeping laws.

Mrs. Clinton chose to use her personal email account for government business during her four years as secretary of state, an arrangement that was legal, though discouraged, during her tenure.

Emails Show Clinton Was Warned Over Security in Benghazi Ahead of Attack (May 22)

At a March news conference, Mrs. Clinton said her team had conducted a thorough search of her email server, turning over all work-related correspondence after the department requested it.

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"I responded right away and provided all my emails that could possibly be work-related," she said, adding that she deleted remaining personal emails from the server.

On Thursday, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton said: "She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

Referring to the emails Mr. Blumenthal provided to the committee, the spokesman said: "We do not recognize many of those materials and cannot speak to their origin."

The State Department has made public more than 800 emails related to the 2012 Benghazi attack and plans to make others public in the coming months, as ordered by a federal judge.

Republicans on the Select Committee on Benghazi, which has been probing both the 2012 attacks, as well as Mrs. Clinton's email arrangement, said the missing emails raised questions about the thoroughness of her disclosures. Democrats have painted the committee's work as tainted by partisanship, contending the panel has strayed far from its investigation into the attack.

"This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work. This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record," said Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the GOP-led panel.

"This Benghazi select committee has become the committee to investigate Hillary Clinton. Period," Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, said last week.

Clinton Didn't Turn Over All Work E-Mail to State Department // Bloomberg // Billy House – June 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton didn't turn over to the U.S. State Department all the work-related e-mail from her personal account relating to Libya and Benghazi, as she had previously said she had.

Nine e-mails and parts of six others couldn't be found among documents Clinton provided in response to a request from the State Department, the agency said in a letter to the Select House Committee investigating the 2012 terror attacks in Benghazi.

U.S. Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, chairman of the panel, said Clinton's selection of e-mails to provide to the State Department resulted in an incomplete public record. Clinton, now the leading Democratic presidential candidate, exclusively used a private e-mail account while serving as secretary of state.

"The revelation ... is significant and troubling."

U.S. Representative Trey Gowdy

"The revelation these messages were not originally produced to the State Department by Clinton is significant and troubling," he said.

Clinton's use of a private e-mail address and home server has become a focus of the House committee's probe of the Obama administration's handling of attacks on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi and a nearby Central Intelligence Agency outpost that killed four Americans. It's also become a distraction for Clinton as she campaigns for president.

Document Production

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Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton's campaign, said "she has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department."

In December, Clinton turned over about 30,000 e-mails to the department. About 850 pages that the State Department deemed Benghazi-related were turned over to the House committee in February.

The New York Times reported earlier that the State Department said Clinton hadn't handed over several Libya-related e-mails.

The 15 missing or incomplete e-mails aren't related to the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, according to a statement from the State Department. The latest date on any of them is two weeks before the attacks, according to the statement.

All of the e-mails are exchanges between Clinton and Sidney Blumenthal, a long-time Clinton confidant, and are work-related, according to the State Department. The existence of the e-mails came to light after Blumenthal, who was subpoenaed to appear before the House panel investigating Benghazi, turned over copies of communications with Clinton to the committee.

Libya Memos

Lawmakers complained about e-mails that they said either weren't provided by Clinton to the State Department or by the department to the panel in response to its request.

Merrill said Clinton turned over "all e-mails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

Blumenthal, though not employed at the State Department at the time, providing Clinton with memos about Libya.

Topics among the nine e-mails produced by Blumenthal that were missing entirely from those turned over by Clinton included the death of Muammar Qaddafi's son, the suspicious death in Austria of a former Libyan prime minister and defector from Qaddafi's regime, and dissatisfaction among Libyan rebels in 2011 with the amount of tactical and air support they were receiving against Qaddafi forces.

State Department says it can't locate 15 Hillary Clinton emails **// Fox News – June 26, 2015**

The State Department said Thursday that it cannot locate 15 work-related emails from Hillary Clinton's private server released this week by the select committee probing the 2012 Benghazi attacks, a revelation that the head of the committee described as "significant and troubling."

The emails consist of more in a series of intelligence reports passed to her by longtime political confidant Sidney Blumenthal, officials told The Associated Press.

At the least, the existence of the emails turned over by Blumenthal but not by Clinton directly contradicts Clinton's news conference in March in which she claimed that all work emails from her personal server were turned over to the State Department.

The revelation will also raise further questions about the presidential hopeful's use of a personal email account and server when she served as secretary of state, as well as the decision to wipe the server.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi, called the revelations "significant and troubling."

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server—especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third party arbiter," Gowdy said.

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When asked for comment by Fox News, a Clinton official said "not only did she turn over all emails that she had from Blumenthal, she actually turned over more than a dozen emails that were not included in what he handed over to the House committee. We do not have a record of other correspondence between her and Mr. Blumenthal beyond that which was turned over to the State Department."

"In terms of the documents provided by Mr. Blumenthal to the House committee, we do not recognize many of those materials and cannot speak to their origin," the official said.

Clinton's use of the non-governmental email while in office was not publicly disclosed until earlier this year, after the committee sought her correspondence related to the Benghazi attack. She says the single account for personal and professional purposes was a matter of convenience, and says all her work emails were included in the 55,000 pages of documents she later handed over to the State Department. Clinton claims that emails of a personal nature were destroyed.

The State Department informed the Select Benghazi Committee on Thursday that they are no longer certain that's the case, officials told The Associated Press.

The emails missing from the State Department's records include missives from Blumenthal in which he sends media accounts about the killing of one of Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's sons, various reports on internal politics among Libya's rebels and news of the assassination of a former Qaddafi minister in Vienna.

Gowdy told Fox News' Megyn Kelly last week that Blumenthal was merely forwarding information from someone who may have had business interests in Libya.

Gowdy said that Blumenthal has never been to Libya, is not an expert on the country and therefore "has no idea" as to the validity of the information he was sending to Clinton.

"Not only was [Blumenthal] providing unvetted, uncorroborated, unsubstantiated intelligence to our top diplomat, he was just simply forwarding on intelligence that somebody by the name of Tyler Drumheller was sending him," Gowdy said.

Clinton's responses to Blumenthal's emails are brief. In one from March 2012, she passes on an adviser's skepticism regarding one of Blumenthal's reports about political intrigue in post-Qaddafi Libya, saying: "This strains credulity based on what I know. Any other info about it?"

And after a long August 2012 note from Blumenthal about Libya's new interim President Mohamed Yousef el-Magariaf, Clinton writes: "Another keeper -- thanks and please keep `em coming." Four days later, she responds to a follow-up reports about el-Magariaf, saying: "Fascinating. I had a very good call w him."

Gowdy said Thursday that the emails show Clinton "was soliciting and regularly corresponding with Sidney Blumenthal -- who was passing unvetted intelligence information about Libya from a source with a financial interest in the country. It just so happens these emails directly contradict her public statement that the messages from Blumenthal were unsolicited."

State Dept.: 15 emails missing from Clinton cache // AP // Bradley Klapper & Matthew Lee – June 25, 2015

The State Department cannot find in its records all or part of 15 work-related emails from Hillary Rodham Clinton's private server that were released this week by a House panel investigating the 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, officials said Thursday.

The emails all predate the Sept. 11 assault on the U.S. diplomatic facility and include scant words written by Clinton herself, the officials said. They consist of more in a series of would-be intelligence reports passed to her by longtime political confidant Sidney Blumenthal, the officials said.

Nevertheless, the fact that the State Department says it can't find them among emails she provided surely will raise new questions about Clinton's use of a personal email account and server while secretary of state and whether she has provided the agency all of her work-related correspondence, as she claims.

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Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi, released a statement Thursday saying, "This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server — especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third-party arbiter."

When asked about the discrepancy, Nick Merrill, a Clinton campaign spokesman, said, "She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

Clinton is running for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Clinton's use of the non-governmental email while in office was not publicly disclosed until earlier this year, after the committee sought her correspondence related to the Benghazi attack. She says the single account for personal and professional purposes was a matter of convenience, and says all her work emails were included in the 55,000 pages of documents she later handed over to the State Department. Emails of a personal nature were destroyed, she says.

The State Department informed the Select Benghazi Committee on Thursday that they are no longer certain that's the case, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter. The officials said Julia Frifield, the assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, confirmed that nine emails and parts of six others that the committee made public Monday couldn't be located in the department's records.

As for 46 other, previously unreleased Libya-related Blumenthal emails published by the committee, officials said all are in the department's records. They weren't handed over to congressional investigators because they had no relevance to events in Benghazi and did not correspond to the committee's request, the officials said. The officials added that they are willing to provide emails outside the committee's initial request, but warned that doing so would require more time.

The emails missing from the State Department's records include missives from Blumenthal in which he sends media accounts about the killing of one of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's sons, various reports on internal politics among Libya's rebels and news of the assassination of a former Gadhafi minister in Vienna. The last email was sent Aug. 28, 2012, two weeks before the Benghazi attack, and none focus particularly on the eastern Libyan city.

Clinton's responses are brief. In one from August 2011, she tells Blumenthal she will be in Paris the next day to meet rebel leaders and says she had "to resort to new iPad" because she didn't have electricity or Blackberry coverage after Hurricane Irene.

In another from March 2012, she passes on an adviser's skepticism regarding one of Blumenthal's reports about political intrigue in post-Gadhafi Libya, saying: "This strain credulity based on what I know. Any other info about it?"

And after a long August 2012 note from Blumenthal about Libya's new interim President Mohamed Yousef el-Magariaf, Clinton writes: "Another keeper — thanks and please keep 'em coming." Four days later, she responds to a follow-up reports about el-Magariaf, saying: "Fascinating. I had a very good call w him."

Clinton's critics are likely to focus less on the substance of the emails than on the fact that they weren't shared with the State Department.

Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, has pressed for an explanation of why Blumenthal gave the committee emails not previously shared by the State Department. The suggestion has been that either the department or Clinton was hiding something.

Gowdy said Thursday that the emails show Clinton "was soliciting and regularly corresponding with Sidney Blumenthal — who was passing unvetted intelligence information about Libya from a source with a financial interest in the country. It just so happens these emails directly contradict her public statement that the messages from Blumenthal were unsolicited."

Clinton aides say her submission to the department included all emails from Blumenthal and a dozen more exchanges that weren't in the records he provided the House committee. They said some from Blumenthal's record, which was provided as a Microsoft Word document, couldn't be confirmed as having been sent as emails.

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State Department officials also questioned the provenance of some exchanges because they weren't formatted as emails.

State Dept.: Hillary Clinton didn't turn over all Libya emails // Politico // Rachel Bade – June 25, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton withheld from the State Department several emails related to Libya, the State Department confirmed Thursday night — calling into question her insistence that she has handed over her complete public record.

The 2016 Democratic front-runner did not hand over 15 exchanges with longtime Clinton ally Sidney Blumenthal on the security situation in the Middle Eastern nation. The existence of the new correspondence only came to light days ago after Republicans subpoenaed the former Clinton White House adviser's records and he turned them over.

Clinton has said she cooperated with the House Benghazi Committee investigation by handing over all work-related communications, which she stored on her own personal server against official record-keeping rules.

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server — especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third-party arbiter," Benghazi panel Chairman Trey Gowdy said in a statement.

The South Carolina Republican said the implications go "far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work."

"This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record," he continued.

Clinton has come under fire for circumventing government rules instead of using an official State Department email address, with critics accusing her of hiding behind a shroud of secrecy. Clinton, for her part, turned over more than 30,000 work emails to state as part of its document production to the Benghazi committee. The rest, she said, were personal in nature — about Chelsea's wedding or yoga, she said.

Then, her team wiped her server clean, they say.

Barred from working at the State Department by the Obama administration, Blumenthal was being paid $10,000 a month by the philanthropic Clinton Foundation at the time. He was also advising friends working on a new business venture in Libya — and one of those business partners is said to have been the author of the intelligence memos Blumenthal passed along to Clinton.

Blumenthal told the committee the emails were unsolicited, but Republicans say a number of the emails Clinton did not turn over suggests they were, including responses where she encouraged her old friend to continue writing.

"These new messages in many instances were Clinton's responses, which clearly show she was soliciting and regularly corresponding with Sidney Blumenthal — who was passing unvetted intelligence information about Libya from a source with a financial interest in the country," the panel statement continues. "It just so happens these emails directly contradict her public statement that the messages from Blumenthal were unsolicited."

Democrats on the panel, however, have challenged that assertion and questioned Gowdy's definition of "unsolicited," arguing that simply a response to an email does not constitute solicitation.

State, meanwhile, says it is working quickly to produce all the emails it does have.

"We have confirmed that the emails Secretary Clinton provided the Department include almost all of the material in Mr. Blumenthal's production," a state official said in a statement. "The State Department is working diligently to review and publish the 55,000 pages of emails we received from former

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Secretary Clinton, according to FOIA standards so they are available to the general public and the media. All of the materials that she provided will be reviewed as part of this effort."

Why the Clinton-Bush rivalry is really a food fight // Politico // Kate Bennett – June 25, 2015

For Capricia Marshall, the accidental death of former White House chef Walter Scheib—whose body was found in New Mexico earlier this week—brought back memories of a master cook whose culinary passion was also, in an odd way, intensely political.

In fact, the mostly untold back story to Scheib's amazing career at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is one of a Clinton-Bush family rivalry that played out in the kitchen as much on the campaign trail.

"I'll never forget when Walter arrived for his interview, to cook for Hillary for the first time," recalls Marshall, who as White House social secretary worked in tandem with Scheib to create countless menus, events and "special occasion" meals. "He had a vision, and it was amazingly in the same vein as hers. They went on and on about the great products in this country, the farms, the fisheries—they just gelled."

Marshall says it was Mrs. Clinton who wanted the new chef to usher in her plan of how the first couple would entertain; Hillary wished to showcase the best of what America had to offer, the robust and diverse products from each state. "Walter and I worked very, very closely to achieve that goal," says Marshall, who, at 32, was the youngest White House social secretary on record when she took on the post in 1997.

But things went very differently after George W. Bush was elected. The new president was partial to Velveeta sandwiches and more, er, traditional food, particularly the sort of parochial tastes one might find at a Texas roadstop. "I found myself thinking with profound nostalgia of Mrs. Clinton and her passion for inclusion, her interest in learning about and trying new foods, and her desire to show off her nation's best to visitors foreign and domestic," Scheib later wrote in his 2007 memoir, White House Chef.

Scheib was summarily replaced in late 2004 by Laura Bush. (After his death this week, Laura Bush released a statement saying, "Walter was an astounding talent.")

According to Marshall, the Maryland-raised Scheib was constantly trying to come up with creative ideas during the Clinton years, even pushing Hillary Clinton into new concepts of culinary outreach. "One of my favorite Walter stories was when we had a big event coming up, the 50th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; it would be the quintessential American event, the eyes of the world would be on us, and we really had to think hard about what to serve," Marshall said in a phone interview. For the event, Scheib suggested bison—not exactly a household meat, but one that was certainly American. "Hillary was like, 'What!? Bison?' It just sounded so unusual, for a minute I thought, uh-oh, this is a gamble he might not want to take." But Scheib convinced the first lady with a tasting. "It was phenomenal, of course. We went with it."

Schieb also gave cooking lessons to a high-school age, Chelsea Clinton. "Chelsea was interested in different types of food, and different types of cooking. He completely understood that this house wasn't only a venue for official events, press conferences and briefings, but it was also a home." Marshall remained close with Scheib after she departed the White House.

Marshall called upon the chef when she launched the Diplomatic Culinary Initiative and the American Chef Corps during her tenure as chief of protocol at the State Department from 2009 to 2013. As she says, "A huge part of that came from my discussions with Walter."

Marshall was shocked to learn he died while hiking. "I loved it when he would bring us into the kitchen and say, "Try this! Try this!" It's really such a sad thing to one day have a friend just not be here anymore."

And for the Clintons, it meant the loss not only of a friend, but a political ally who managed to be simpatico with a stove. The family said in a statement: "Walter used his immense talents not only to represent the very best of American cuisine to visiting leaders, but to make a difference in people's lives across the country."

Billionaire GOP donor deletes 'lesbian' joke about Hillary Clinton // Politico // Annie Karni – June 25, 2015

Hedge-fund billionaire Daniel Loeb — one of the biggest and most feared investors on Wall Street and a vocal backer of same-sex marriage — posted a joke speculating about Hillary Clinton's sexuality on his personal Facebook page.

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“Dear Abby,” he posted May 9. “My husband is a liar and a cheat. He has cheated on me from the beginning, and when I confront him, he denies everything. What’s worse, everyone knows that he cheats on me. It is so humiliating. Also, since he lost his job 14 years ago, he hasn’t even look for a new one. All he does all day is smoke cigars, cruise around and shoot the bull with his buddies, while I have to work to pay the bills. Since our daughter went away to college he doesn’t even pretend to like me, and even hints that I may be a lesbian. What should I do? Signed Clueless.”

“Dear Clueless,” the post continues, “Grow up and dump him. Good grief woman! You don’t need him anymore! You’re running for President of the United States. Act like one.”

The anti-Clinton diatribe wasn’t Loeb’s own joke or words — it appeared to be a right-wing meme that has been circulating online since Clinton’s first run. The same faux “Dear Abby” column was also posted on the Facebook page of actor Kevin Sorbo, best known for his role as Hercules in the TV series “Hercules: The Legendary Journeys.”

The resurfacing of the old attack on the Clintons this cycle — on the page of a prominent billionaire — indicates how ugly attacks could get if Hillary Clinton gets into the uncharted territory of a general election.

Loeb, who bundled money for Barack Obama in 2008 before turning on him and backing former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in 2012, has shown interest in a few of the GOP candidates this cycle.

Before Chris Christie became embroiled in the Bridgegate scandal, Loeb had publicly touted the New Jersey governor’s leadership style and urged him to run for president. But he’s been silent on Christie since, and has yet to commit publicly to any 2016 candidate.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, meanwhile, has been courting Loeb for his recently launched campaign. And last year, Bush headlined a benefit gala chaired by Loeb to raise money for Success Academy Charter Schools.

Loeb promptly deleted the Dear Abby post after POLITICO contacted his office about it.

“This widely circulated, old meme ended up on my Facebook page inadvertently and as soon as I was informed of it, I took it down,” Loeb said in a statement. “ As a longstanding public supporter of gay and women’s rights, it does not represent my views.”

The Clinton campaign declined to comment for this report.

State Department calls Clinton's email records incomplete // Reuters // Lesley Wroughton – June 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton did not hand over at least 15 emails from her time as secretary of state, the U.S. State Department said on Thursday, undercutting her claim that the 30,000 work emails she provided from her personal server were a complete record.

The department learned the email record was apparently incomplete after Sidney Blumenthal, an old friend and informal adviser to Clinton, provided several previously undisclosed emails to U.S. lawmakers investigating the deadly 2012 attack on diplomatic staff in Benghazi, Libya.

The 15 emails were either missing from the records Clinton provided or included only in partial form. The department said they were not relevant to the attacks on Benghazi although copies posted online showed that they discussed the turmoil in Libya more generally.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in an email on Thursday that the Democratic presidential candidate had given the department "all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal."

He said he could not explain the origins of the additional correspondence Blumenthal provided in response to the lawmakers' subpoena.

Clinton, the favorite to become her party's nominee for the 2016 presidential election, has weathered criticism that she side-stepped record-keeping and transparency rules by using only a private email account for her work. The private address was connected to a server in her home.

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The arrangement was made public in March, more than two years after she stepped down as the top U.S. diplomat. Clinton said she used the private email account for the sake of convenience and broke no rules.

Recent polls show more than half of all voters say she is not trustworthy, in part because of her email habits, although this has not put a deep dent in her popularity among Democrats.

Trey Gowdy, the Republican congressman in charge of the select committee investigating the Benghazi attack, said Clinton's incomplete email record "raises serious questions".

"This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work," Gowdy said in a statement. "This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record."

In March, Clinton said in an impromptu news conference at the United Nations headquarters that she gave the State Department all emails she sent and received that "could possibly be work-related".

She said the 30,490 emails she handed over in December after the State Department asked for her records included all that referred to Libya or Benghazi, as well as all work-related correspondence from what her office described as "long-time friends".

She said that once those copies were made, all her emails, including another 30,000 or so that were deemed personal, were deleted from the server.

Clinton spokesman Merrill declined to respond when asked whether some emails might have been deleted at an earlier date, before the State Department made its request.

Report: Clinton Libya emails surface // USA Today // Michael Winter – June 25, 2015

The State Department has received 15 Libya-related emails that Hillary Clinton did not hand over from the personal computer server she used while secretary of state, officials told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The emails were between Clinton and her longtime adviser Sidney Blumenthal. He surrendered them after being subpoenaed by the House committee investigating the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks by Islamists on two U.S. diplomatic compounds in Benghazi. Ambassador Christopher Stevens was among four Americans who died.

The panel released the emails this week.

All of the emails pre-date the attacks. Citing unnamed officials, AP describes them as "more in a series of would-be intelligence reports" sent by Blumenthal, with "scant words written by Clinton herself."

Clinton has said she turned over about 30,000 work-related emails from her time in office. An equal number she deleted were "private" or "personal" and pertained to her daughter Chelsea's wedding, her mother's funeral, family vacations and yoga.

Clinton said she used one account for work and personal business out of convenience.

"She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal," said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton's presidential campaign.

The Gender Subplot // National Journal // Charlie Cook – June 26, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

One of the biggest questions in next year's presidential election will be what role gender will play in the voting and outcome, particularly if former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wins the nomination. Over the past six presidential elections, Democrats have swept the female vote, by 8 points in 1992, by 16 points in 1996, by 11 points in 2000, by just 3 points in 2004, by 13 points in 2008, and by 11 points in 2012. Meanwhile, Republicans have carried the male vote four times: in 1996 (by 1 point), in 2000 and 2004 (both by 11 points), and in 2012 (by 7 points). Democrats came out ahead among men in 1992 (by 3 points) and 2008 (by 1 point). So while Republicans do have a problem with women voters, Democrats have one with men.

In looking at the women's vote, however, race is a major factor that cannot be ignored. Among white women, Democrats broke even in 1992 and won by 5 points in 1996—but Republicans have swept this group in the past four elections, by just 1 point in 2000, but by 11 points in 2004, 7 points in 2008, and 14 points in 2012. Democrats obviously hope that Clinton will be able to reverse this trend, but even if she can, by how much?

Given that Clinton is unlikely to be able to match President Obama's turnout and support levels among minority and young voters, how can she make up for that? If there is a sphere in which she could conceivably outperform Obama, it is likely to be among women—arguably those who do not also fall into either the "minority" or "young" categories, as Obama did especially well with both minority and young women.

In the new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll conducted June 14 through 18, which surveyed 1,000 adults, the gender gap in attitudes toward Clinton is striking. When asked whether they had a "positive," "neutral," or "negative" view of Clinton, women gave her a net positive score of +18 points (52 percent positive, 34 percent negative), while men gave her a net negative score of -13 points (48 percent negative, 35 percent positive)—a 31-point spread. Among white women, Clinton had a net positive score of 1 point (44 percent positive, 43 percent negative), while among white men, she was at -22 points (53 percent negative, 31 percent positive), a 23-point gender gap.

The NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, conducted by Democratic pollster Fred Yang and Republican pollster Bill McInturff, did find an interesting distinction between white women who are college-educated and those who are not. Clinton had a 13-point net positive rating among white women who have attended college (51 percent positive, 38 percent negative) but an 8-point net negative rating among white women who haven't (47 percent negative, 39 percent positive). Apparently consistent with this finding, Clinton also had a net positive rating of 15 points among suburban women (51 percent positive, 36 percent negative), although this cross-tab included suburban women of all races, ages, and levels of educational attainment. (Once you slice the data too finely, the margin of error goes through the roof unless you are combining multiple surveys.)

In Clinton's recent campaign-kickoff speech, she made a clear play for the women's vote, attempting to maximize her strength there while not exacerbating her considerable problem with men—a delicate balance. Should she win the nomination, it is unlikely that she will double down on her strength with (most) women by choosing a female running mate. It will be interesting to see, however, whether the eventual Republican presidential nominee—assuming that it is not former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, the only woman running on the GOP side—opts to fill out the top of the ticket with someone like Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire or New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, a Hispanic woman who isn't in Congress and isn't of Washington.

Republicans are obviously acutely aware of their problem with women voters. Witness Sen. Cory Gardner's effort to blunt the Democrats' narrative about a Republican "war on women" by pushing to make more contraception methods available over the counter. The strategy worked exceedingly well for him, getting him out of the corner he was in for having once supported Colorado's controversial "personhood" amendment. Less certain is how aware Democrats are of their problem with men voters, specifically white men.

There are plenty of subplots in the unfolding presidential election, but the gender fight is among the most interesting of them—and one that will be critical to the outcome.

State Department: 'Limited' Number of Hillary Clinton Emails Are Missing // National Journal // Ben Geman – June 25, 2015

All or parts of 15 emails that Hillary Clinton confidante Sidney Blumenthal gave to a House committee cannot be located among the thousands of pages of emails that Clinton turned over to the State Department, the agency said Thursday night.

The State Department downplayed the discrepancy, but it's likely to intensify GOP questions and criticism about Clinton's claim that she provided State with all the work-related emails kept on her private server late last year.

"We have confirmed that the emails Secretary Clinton provided the Department include almost all of the material in Mr. Blumenthal's production. There are, however, a limited number of instances—15—in which we could not locate all or part of the content of a document from his production within the tens of thousands of emails she gave us," a department official said on condition of anonymity.

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The official said, "The substance of those 15 emails is not relevant to the 2012 attacks in Benghazi."

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the GOP chairman of the committee, pounced on the revelation, stating that Clinton's unusual use of a private email account and server "has resulted in an incomplete public record."

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server—especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third party arbiter," Gowdy said in a statement Thursday.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton's presidential campaign, defended the completeness of her disclosure. "She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal," Merrill said

Blumenthal, a longtime Clinton family ally who has consulted for pro-Hillary Clinton advocacy groups, sent her a suite of memos on Libyan intelligence issues in 2011 and 2012, when Clinton was secretary of State.

Blumenthal told the panel that the memos, which Clinton circulated to top aides, were written by a former high-level CIA officer.

The memos showed Blumenthal keeping Clinton abreast of his work to parry GOP attacks. In one case, an Oct. 1, 2012 email from Blumenthal to Clinton, with the subject line "H: Romney's last gambit. Got done and published. Sid.," passed along a piece in Salon about then-presidential candidate Mitt Romney's plans to go after President Obama over the Benghazi attack.

Another message passed along links to several Media Matters blog posts and noted, "Got all this done. Complete refutation on Libya smear. Philippe can circulate this links"—likely a reference to Clinton aide Philippe Reines.

According to State, the nine emails with Clinton that Blumenthal provided but State could not locate include a March 21, 2011 message with press clips about the death of one of Muammar el-Qaddafi's sons, a late August 2011 memo titled "Inside NTC latest," which is a reference to the National Transitional Council that countered the Libyan leader, and others.

“Excellent!"Rick, Executive Director for PolicySign up form for the newsletter

Portions of six others are missing, State said.While Blumenthal provided documents that State cannot locate, the department official also noted that there are "instances where the Department has produced portions of Secretary Clinton's correspondence with Mr. Blumenthal that did not appear in his production to the Committee."

In addition to the revelation about the Blumenthal emails State could not locate, Gowdy said State "also turned over a new set of Clinton emails that were responsive to previous committee requests regarding Libya and Benghazi, but for some reason were not previously given to the committee under subpoena."

Hillary Clinton to Anti-Obamacare Republicans: 'Move On' **// National Journal // Eric Garcia – June 25, 2015**

Hillary Clinton, while saying the Affordable Care Act isn't "perfect," is embracing the law at the outset of her presidential campaign, following Thursday's Supreme Court decision upholding a key piece of Obamacare.

The Supreme Court rejected the plaintiff's arguments in King v. Burwell, upholding subsidies in every state, regardless of whether its exchange was federally or state-run.

"I applaud the Supreme Court's decision to affirm what the authors of the Affordable Care Act clearly intended and wrote into law: that health insurance should be affordable and available in every state across the country," Clinton said in a statement.

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Clinton also argued that it's time for Republicans, who have voted to repeal or dismantle the law more than 50 times, to "move on."

"Now that the Supreme Court has once again re-affirmed the ACA as the law of the land, it's time for the Republican attacks to end," Clinton said.

While acknowledging unspecified imperfections in the law, Clinton highlighted several of its more popular components, like health insurance companies no longer being able to discriminate against people for preexisting conditions.

Clinton also pointed to her own push for health care reform, which included an ill-fated attempt during her husband's administration, adding "I'm not going to stop now." Despite the Affordable Care Act still drawing divided public support, Clinton shows no signs of walking away.

Whether she wanted it or not, though, Clinton is going to be put on the defense regarding Obamacare during her presidential campaign. That was on clear display Thursday, with Republican presidential contender Jeb Bush choosing not to go after the Supreme Court (Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the majority opinion, was appointed by his brother), but to focus on Clinton and President Obama.

"This is the direct result of President Obama," Bush said in an email to supporters. "He deliberately forced ObamaCare on the American people in a partisan and toxic way."

Bush said Clinton would be "more of the same" when it came to health care, adding that there needed to be a conservative president who would "repeal and replace Obamacare with a conservative solution."

He also used the occasion to fundraise, saying the only way to prevent four more years of the same policies was "to make the most generous contribution you can afford right now to stop her."

Hillary Clinton won't have to fight Obama's battles on health care // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – June 25, 2015

If Hillary Clinton takes the oath of office on January 20, 2017, she'll inherit a health care reform law that will be already seven years old and likely deeply entrenched, thanks in part to Thursday's Supreme Court ruling upholding the subsidy system for state-based exchanges.

Health care has been one of the defining issues of Clinton's long career in public life, capped by an ambitious but ultimately doomed effort to create a universal health care system under her husband's administration in 1993. By securing the future of the Affordable Care Act, the court's ruling could allow Clinton to complete one of the biggest unfinished goals of her career by building on the law that bears her one-time rival's name.

"This morning, the Supreme Court sided with common sense and America's families, and confirmed again that the Affordable Care Act is the law of land – and it's here to stay," Clinton said in an email to supporters. "The next president will either protect and expand health care for every American, or undo the progress we've made."

Clinton has already telegraphed that she'd work hard to overhaul the mental health and addiction treatment systems, vowing to make the heroin and pharmaceutical epidemic "a big part" of her campaign. And she'll likely be forced to confront a host of other health care issues, like rising health care costs.

Politically, the ruling preserves the status quo. While Republicans will keep talking about repealing Obamacare as long as it motivates their base, most probably know it's now practically infeasible. And the GOP remains deeply divided on how to replace the law, making it unlikely the party will unite behind an alternative.

Clinton will likely not feel much pressure to endorse major changes to the law. While only eight percent of Americans think the Affordable Care Act is working well, according to a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, most say the want the law preserved and improved rather than nixed. Among Democrats, whom Clinton will need to win over in the primary election and turnout in the general election, more than three-quarters think the law is working.

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Obamacare didn't sink Obama in 2012 and will likely be even less of an issue in 2016, when repealing it would mean actively taking away healthcare from millions of Americans.

In his remarks in the Rose Garden Thursday, Obama said it was time to switch from defense to offense on health care. After five years of relentless attacks, three elections, a mismanaged roll out, and two legal challenges that went all the way to the Supreme Court, the existence of the law is finally secure.

"The Affordable Care Act is here to stay," he said. "There will be parts of the law that will still need to be improved. And if we can stop refighting old political battles that keep us gridlocked, then we could actually make the law work even better for everybody."

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that in its waning days, the Obama administration will focus on implementing the law to maximize its impact. That will include pushing more governors to expand Medicaid and create their own exchanges.

But improvements on top of the existing statute will likely have to wait until the next presidency.

When asked Obama, Clinton has often spoken of her potential presidency as finishing some of the big projects Obama started, noting that his administration had to prioritize saving the country from the Great Recession.

"I think the president has done an extraordinary job in dealing with a terrible set of issues he inherited," Clinton said in a response to question from msnbc on the economy in New Hampshire last week. "There's a lot more work still be done, but boy am I glad where we are now than where we were."

During the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, it was Clinton who pushed the other candidates to come up with comprehensive health reform plans. And hers included the controversial mandate for individuals to hold health care, which Barack Obama slammed then before ultimately making it a cornerstone of his own health law.

Now, she might finally have the chance to not only defend a national health law that strives for universal health access, but to expand it.

And thanks to the Supreme Court, she won't have to fight Obama's battles on Obamacare.

Hillary Clinton's big diss to Bill de Blasio **// Page Six // Ian Mohr – June 25, 2015**

Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett brought down the house at a Hillary Clinton fundraiser at the Plaza Hotel on Wednesday night. But Democratic insiders were also buzzing over who wasn't in the high-powered house — Bill de Blasio.

Spies told Page Six Bennett and Gaga played a "tour de force" one-hour set of solo numbers and duets at the $1,000 and $2,700-a-ticket affair.

"They worked really hard. It was stunning," said a source. After singing, "Gaga talked about why she's voting for Hillary and then said she'd 'leave the honors to Tony' to introduce Clinton," who sat with Gaga's mom and Bennett's wife.

Clinton gave an "informal speech." But witnesses said the biggest moment of the night was a symbolic kiss-off by Clinton to de Blasio when Public Advocate Letitia James — who's first in line of succession to the mayor — was given the "most coveted speaking spot of the evening," introducing the singers.

One source said, "It was profoundly significant to all the top donors and political activists. Everyone in the room got it — it was an elevation of [James] over de Blasio, at his expense." The mayor has famously refused to endorse Hillary, although he managed her 2000 Senate campaign.

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"It was telling," said the source. "It was a major opportunity for James to present herself and a real breakthrough moment. It was a statement that city Democrats couldn't care less what de Blasio's saying. They're not looking to de Blasio to tell them what to do."

Guests included Tribeca Film's Jane Rosenthal, Richard and Lisa Perry , Mort and Linda Janklow, Robert Zimmerman, Alan and Susan Patricof, and Charles Myers.

Another insider said: "There's a tremendous amount of resentment in Hillary's camp that de Blasio hasn't endorsed her." Some even theorized that de Blasio's secretly hoping to run for president himself if Hillary's campaign implodes.

But another insider laughed off the idea as "fantasy baseball on acid. He does want to be a national figure. But how does he mobilize the country if he can't mobilize city Democrats?"

Sid Blumenthal's Israel Michegas // The Daily Beast // James Kirchick – June 26, 2015

The notorious Clinton operative pushes pro-Israel Libyan in his emails to Hillary, but sells his son's anti-Israel book in public.

It's a shame that Hillary Clinton wasn't able to convince the Obama White House to let Sidney Blumenthal serve under her at the State Department. Blumenthal, the liberal journalist-turned-Clinton family consigliere, earned himself quite the reputation during the bruising 2008 Democratic primary, when his main job seemed to be sending out mass emails chock full of links to lurid stories about Barack Obama culled from the very "vast right-wing conspiracy" that he had combatted his entire adult life.

According to Politico, for his efforts, Blumenthal earned the moniker "Sulfur-Breathing Spawn of Hell" from Obama campaign staffers. That Clinton ever thought she had a chance of putting Blumenthal on the State Department payroll says something about her chutzpah.

If only those embittered Obama staffers had let bygones be bygones and harnessed the acumen of the inveterate emailer, they might have been able to strike a major blow for Middle East peace.

Buried in the pages of once-confidential missives that Blumenthal sent to Clinton during her tenure at the State Department, since subpoenaed by a congressional committee investigating the 2011 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, was a claim that the then-interim President of Libya, Mohammed Yussef el-Magariaf, wanted to "seek a discreet relationship with Israel." According to a "sensitive source," Blumenthal wrote, "political realities in Libya at present will dictate that this relationship be handled in a low key manner, but the new President of Libya shares many common friends and associates with the leaders of Israel and intends to take advantage of this situation to improve the lot of the Libyan people."

It's entirely possible that this information was overly optimistic, if not entirely false. Forwarding the email onto an aide, Clinton expressed skepticism, prefacing her remark that the news was "encouraging" with "if true." When Seymour Hersh, himself a man known for an overactive imagination, questions the validity of your information (as he did Blumenthal's claims, made in another email to Clinton, that Hersh was preparing to interview an ousted Muammar Qadaffi hiding in Chad), it's a discouraging sign.

But what's most revealing about Blumenthal's giddy hopes for a potential Libyan-Israeli rapprochement is how much it differs from other sentiments he had expressed about the Jewish state. For it wasn't so long ago that Sidney Blumenthal was hawking the vitriolic anti-Israel book published by his son, Max, and attacking those who had criticized it.

In the course of a short career, the younger Blumenthal gradually exiled himself from respectable journalistic outlets, and so several years ago decided to reinvent himself as Israel's most outspoken and extreme Jewish antagonist, at one point writing for a Beirut-based newspaper aligned with the Assad regime in Syria, before deciding that the blood-drenched regime in Damascus was no longer to his liking. His 2013 book Goliath is so venomous in its denunciations of Israel, and so strident in its defense of terrorism against it, that Eric Alterman, himself a harsh critic of Israel and a columnist for the far-left Nation magazine, concluded that it "could have been published by the Hamas Book-of-the-Month Club (if it existed) without a single word change once it's translated into Arabic."

"[W]hat's most revealing about Blumenthal's giddy hopes for a potential Libyan-Israeli rapprochement is how much it differs from other sentiments he had expressed about the Jewish state."

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The book is replete with comparisons of Israeli Jews to Nazis, and calls for the ethnic cleansing of Jews from the Middle East. The book's last chapter, "Exodus," a riff on Jewish biblical history and the Leon Uris tome of the same name, envisions the reverse Exodus of the Jews out of their homeland. Asked at a 2013 event about what he believes should happen to Israel's Jews, Blumenthal fils responded, "There should be a choice placed to the settler-colonial population" (that is, the Jewish population): "Become indigenized…you have to be part of the Arab world." Those who don't? "The maintenance and engineering of a non-indigenous demographic majority is non-negotiable." In other words, leave or suffer.

When Max's book came under attack from Alterman, Sidney did what he does best: he launched what Buzzfeed described as "an online campaign" against the Nation columnist. According to Alterman, "I worried that by telling the truth about his son's book, I would soon hear of nasty e-mails about me sent by Sid to our mutual friends and professional acquaintances. Call it 'bizarre,' if you will, but sadly, that's just what happened."

It's one thing to love your son, and another entirely to endorse his controversial work (Sidney hosted a book party for Max) and attack those who criticize it. By doing so, Blumenthal the elder identified himself as a sponsor of his son's calumnies.

Not that everyone hated Goliath. Frazier Glenn Cross, the 73-year-old white supremacist who murdered three people at Kansas Jewish Community Center and retirement home last year, was one of Blumenthal's biggest devotees. "Jew journalist Max Blumenthal exposes and explains this attempt by a foreign government Israel, to buy the presidential election for the neo-con, war-mongering republican establishment," Cross wrote on a Ron Paul fan site in 2012, referencing an interview Blumenthal gave on the Russian government-funded RT network. A survey of a white supremacist web forum run by Cross found over 300 references to Blumenthal and his work, with posters lauding his exposes of nefarious Jewish influence.

Last year, Max earned himself the distinction of being barred from the German Bundestag after he chased the leader of the country's Left Party into a toilet, demanding to know why the parliamentarian had put the kibosh on a talk Blumenthal was scheduled to give at the invitation of two Left Party members. Scheduled to speak on the day after the anniversary of Kristallnacht, outraged party members initiated a petition criticizing their colleagues' hosting Blumenthal, which they said amounted to "stoking obsessive hate and demonization of Israel with an anti-Semitic argument pattern and trivialization of the Holocaust."

The Clintons value loyalty about all else, and it's hard to imagine Sidney Blumenthal doing anything that would make Hillary consider him a liability. But Blumenthal's freelance diplomacy raises an intriguing question: who is the real Sidney Blumenthal? The one promoting Israel's interest in the broader Middle East by trumpeting a Libyan politician eager to make peace with the Jewish state? Or the one who promotes his son's work portraying Israel as a uniformly ghastly, racist country and American Jews as its disloyal double agents?

Google says Hillary Clinton will be the next president // CNET // Chris Matyszczyk – June 25, 2015

Google, be blessed.

You have given me almost two more years of my life that I never thought I'd have. You have saved me from endless hours and days of purgatorial pain. You have offered me closure, even before the doomed affair had truly begun.

My apologies. I'm not wrecked on Retsina. I'm merely reading reports that Google's very fine search engine has already indicated that Hillary Clinton will be the next president of the United States.

Of course, there's a touch of hyperbole here. But I suspect there might be one or two political partisans who will be experiencing intensely hyperbolic reactions when they hear of it.

You see, Google search has responded to the question: "Who will be the next president?" with a card that answered: Hillary Clinton.

I know, I know. You were still holding out for either Ted Nugent or the Hulk Hoganesque intellect of Donald Trump.

Instead, as the Next Web reported, two formulations of the same question both throw up results that suggest that in 2016, the revolution will be Clintonized.

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Nerds will surely rush to explain that Google's search engine reacts to optimized results, and these two happened to be results that appear to be -- but aren't -- definitive answers. One, after all, is from renowned independently-minded performer Glen Beck.

There is no suggestion that Google's engineers are machinating to offer a coronation before the 18-month ululation.

I suspect, though, that a few conspiracy theorists will be ready to offer concerns about Google's alleged dark arts.

One imagines that a sizable proportion of Google's youthful staff might lean more to port than starboard. However, let me toss in one exalted conspiracy theory, merely for the amusement of those who cannot get enough of them .

Wouldn't it be delicious if this was a ploy by Bernie Sanders supporters to combat the notion that the Clinton nomination is a foregone conclusion?

Fifteen Libya Emails Missing From Clinton Cache **// Sky News US Team – June 26, 2015**

The US State Department has said it cannot find 15 emails from Hillary Clinton's private server that were released by a House of Representatives panel investigating the 2012 attack in Benghazi.

The emails, which all pre-date the 11 September attack on the US diplomatic compound, contain intelligence reports passed to Mrs Clinton by her long-time adviser Sidney Blumenthal, officials have said.

Several previously undisclosed emails were handed over to the State Department by Mr Blumenthal, which revealed it did not have a complete record from Mrs Clinton's time in office as Secretary of State.

File photo of Stevens, then U.S. ambassador to Libya, in meeting of delegation of African Union with Transitional Council, in Benghazi

US ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in 2012

The 15 emails were either missing from the records she provided, or included only in partial form.

They include a media account about the killing of one of Moammar Gaddafi's sons, reports on internal politics among Libyan rebels and news of the assassination of a former Gaddafi minister in Vienna.

Play video "Hillary Clinton 'Sensitive' Emails"

Video: Hillary Clinton 'Sensitive' Emails

The last one was sent 28 August, 2012 - two weeks before the Benghazi attack.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs Clinton, said the Democratic presidential candidate had given the department "all emails in her possession from Mr Blumenthal".

He said he could not explain where the origin of the additional correspondence Mr Blumenthal had provided in response to a subpoena.

Mrs Clinton - the front-runner for the Democratic nomination for the 2016 presidential election - has faced strong criticism that she flouted record-keeping and transparency rules by using a private email account for her work.

The private address was connected to a server in her home.

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Mrs Clinton has insisted she used the private account for convenience and has broken no rules. The account was revealed in March, more than two years after she stepped down as the top US diplomat.

Trey Gowdy, the Republican congressman who heads the select committee investigating the Benghazi attack, said the incomplete email record "raises serious questions".

He said: "This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work.

"This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record."

In March, Mrs Clinton said that she had given the State Department all the emails she sent and received that "could possibly be work-related".

She said the 30,490 emails she handed over in December included all those that referred to Libya or Benghazi, along side work-related correspondence from "long-time friends".

She said that after those emails were copies, all her correspondence - including another 30,000 that were deemed personal - were deleted from the server.

It comes after an Islamic-State militant thought to have been involved in the attack in Benghazi was reportedly killed in a drone strike in Iraq last week.

Four Americans, including US ambassador Chris Stevens, were killed during the attack on the US outpost in Benghazi on 11 September 2012.

Clinton Lawyer, Soros Back Anti-Voter ID Lawsuits // Washington Free Beacon // Joe Schoffstall - June 26, 2015

George Soros and Clinton lawyer Marc Elias engaging in multi-state effort to overturn ID laws.

Hillary Clinton's top campaign lawyer is behind a multi-state push challenging voter identification laws implemented in recent years, efforts that are expected to reach numerous other states ahead of the 2016 elections.

Marc Elias, a top campaign lawyer for Hillary Clinton and a partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm Perkins Coie, has filed lawsuits in three states thus far. The nationwide campaign is being fueled with money from the liberal billionaire George Soros.

Elias first began exploring the possible challenges back in January 2014. Soros then became involved, vowing to throw his weight behind the effort in collaboration with Elias.

"We hope to see these unfair laws, which often disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society, repealed," Soros told the New York Times.

"It is disingenuous to suggest that these laws are meant to protect against voter fraud, which is nearly nonexistent," Soros political adviser Michael Vachon added. "Clearly they are meant to give Republicans a political advantage on Election Day."

Soros has pledged $5 million to propel the campaign. Elias did not return a request for comment concerning his dealings with Soros or the total number of lawsuits they plan on bringing forward. A request for comment from George Soros's press office was also not returned by press time.

Democrats ramped up their efforts last month to challenge voter ID laws implemented by Republican legislatures and governors, claiming that the laws

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disenfranchise minority voters.

The first in the series of lawsuits was filed in Ohio on May 8. Three weeks later, on June 1, a second suit was filed in Wisconsin. On June 11, a third lawsuit was filed in Virginia. Further suits are expected to follow in other states.

Elias is working independently on behalf of his firm, Perkins Coie, though the Clinton camp supports the effort. Perkins Coie has pulled in more than $40 million from Democratic clients since 2000.

The suits came as Hillary Clinton made comments about voting in a number of public speeches.

During a speech in Houston on June 4 at historically black Texas Southern University, Hillary Clinton called for a universal, automatic voter registration for 18-year-olds along with early voting up to 20 days before an election.

“I call on Republicans at all levels of government with all manner of ambition to stop fear-mongering about a phantom epidemic of election fraud and start explaining why they’re so scared of letting citizens have their say,” Clinton said during the speech.

True the Vote, a right-leaning vote-monitoring organization, sees the campaign as a political stunt to rile up apathetic voters who may not have the same excitement for Clinton as they did for Obama.

“Mrs. Clinton’s decision to shuffle voting reforms to the top of her policy platform has now been viewed as a purely political move to rally the potentially apathetic Obama coalition prior to 2016,” True the Vote said in a statement.

“The political calculus is simple: the potential benefits of victory outweigh the lasting efficacy of debates over real election reform. It is a very rare thing to see election experts on both the left and right agree that Clinton-sanctioned demagoguery and litigation are not based in objective facts and promising any success in the courts.”

While Soros and other Voter ID opponents say the laws disenfranchise minority voters, one state showed the opposite outcome: minority turnout in Georgia skyrocketed after the law went into effect.

According to a review conducted by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, turnout among African Americans and Hispanics drastically increased from 2006 to 2010.

“Georgia first adopted a voter ID law in 2005 and won court approval to implement it in 2007. The law has now been in place for two major statewide general elections: 2008, when the presidential race was on the ballot, and 2010, when voters selected a new governor,” AJC writes. “Prior to the new law, voters had been able to present one of 17 forms of identification, including a utility bill.”

“Elections data reviewed by the AJC show that participation among black voters rose by 44 percent from 2006—before the law was implemented—to 2010. For Hispanics, the increase for the same period was 67 percent. Turnout among whites rose 12 percent.”

Karma Chameleon in Chief // Washington Free Beacon // Matthew Continetti - June 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton is a woman without conviction, a woman who doesn’t know. She was first lady of a southern state, she sat on the board of directors of Wal-Mart from 1986 to 1992—but is there any record of her voicing opposition to Wal-Mart’s labor practices, of her opposing the sale of the Confederate battle flag? Until recently, has there been any moment in the decades following her appointment to that board, in the many years in which she has been egregiously prominent in public life, when she led on, was prominently identified with, the issue of the flag or racial matters in general?

They say Obama’s audacious. What’s truly remarkable, though, is his potential successor’s blatant contempt for the politics of principle and conviction—her unique ability to adopt, quickly and seamlessly, the most expedient position at any moment, to flaunt her temporary stance with the righteousness and self-regard of a longtime committed activist.

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Her husband campaigned in the ’90s as a tough-on-crime neoliberal who would lock up criminals, even put them to death, who challenged the racism of Sister Souljah, promised to “mend” affirmative action, worked hard to recover the Democratic position in white working class precincts. Hillary was his active partner. Nor did she denounce her husband’s policies when she ran for Senate in 2000 and 2006 and for president in 2008, when the chances of her nomination rested on her ability to win “beer track” white and Hispanic Democrats.

It is only today, when the Democratic Party of Barack Obama has veered left, written off the white working class, and been seized by a practically religious enthusiasm for cultural reformation and purgation, that Clinton has called for an “end to the era of mass incarceration,” said America has “to face hard truths about race and justice,” and launched a campaign, in the words of the New York Times, “focused more on mobilizing supporters in the Great Lakes states and in parts of the West and South than on persuading undecided voters.”

What we have, on issue after issue, is a presidential frontrunner uninterested in leadership, who holds an ambivalent attitude toward notions of political courage and intellectual independence, who is devoted exclusively and mechanically to the capture of high office. She has latched on to the president’s ad hoc and failing Iraq policies because her party’s base supports them; gone from opposing same-sex marriage as recently as a few years ago to marching at the vanguard of America’s latest Cultural Revolution and saying that “deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs, and structural biases have to be changed”; pledged to “go further” than Barack Obama’s constitutionally dubious executive amnesty despite being silent when her husband signed tough immigration bills in the ’90s, and despite having voted for an amendment that helped kill a pro-immigration bill in 2007; waffled on a trade agreement that she backed while secretary of state; somehow avoided committing to an intelligible and consistent position on the Keystone Pipeline despite taking money from the anti-Keystone billionaire Tom Steyer. Is there any doubt that this supposed pro-Israel Democrat will back whatever nuclear agreement President Obama is able to reach with Iran, no matter how much he capitulates to the ayatollah’s demands?

Hillary Clinton’s approach to politics is cynical, uninspiring, robotic. She’s a chef who follows the recipe without exception, who’s too afraid of failure to challenge the authority of either her superiors or her customers. She’ll be a president suitable for the age of intelligent machines. Like a Terminator she is fixated on her mission—though the Terminator has more personality, greater charm. There’s an assumption behind all her latest moves, a programming code that determines the automaton’s behavior: that the country’s demographics and culture have changed to such an extent that a winning campaign needn’t do more than identify and mobilize core supporters by assuming the various poses most likely to drive them to the polls. There’s the chance the code could be garbage.

Clinton isn’t the first politician who’s inconsistent—far from it. What she and her husband have pioneered is a mode of inconsistency, an entire lifestyle of ideological flexibility the goal of which isn’t public-minded but wholly self-interested. “The only way a man can remain consistent amid changing circumstances is to change with them while preserving the same dominating purpose,” Churchill wrote in “Consistency in Politics” (1932). But the dominating purpose Churchill had in mind was a public one: the common good. And the pursuit of the common good often requires the statesman to disagree with public opinion—to challenge his base, or indeed the majority.

Earlier this year Bill Clinton identified the dominant purpose behind his family’s inconsistency: “I gotta pay our bills.” Blessed with loquacity, smarts, and personal charisma, the man from Hope, Ark., used political office as a means to acquire fame and fortune. Unable to go into business, or perhaps uninterested, convinced that his good and the public good are synonymous, he derived riches from his political talent: lucrative friendships, generous supporters, speaking audiences ready to pay.

The maintenance of what Mickey Kaus calls the “Clinton mode of production” requires at least one member of the family to hold office, so that powerful and wealthy people might obtain a frisson of access and influence through financial gift-giving. What the Clintons understand is that the easiest way to hold office, and thereby keep up the mansions and private jets and villas and beach vacations, is to flatter and cater to the ever-changing morality and self-conception of the liberal ruling caste, to understand what troubles their guilty consciences, to put yourself forward as the representative of their fluctuating and malleable concerns.

Such an approach requires a canny operator able to obscure changes in policy behind a smooth veneer of likability and guile—and if we have learned anything so far in this campaign it is that Hillary Clinton is not such an operator. She is clumsy, stilted, tentative, suspicious, rehearsed, monotonous. She might satisfy, but does she inspire? Do any of the voters nodding their heads at her latest declaration of the conventional wisdom consider themselves “Hillary Clinton Democrats”? What does she stand for besides her own ambition?

It would take someone like Bill Clinton to overcome another obstacle: The differences between the primary electorate and the general one. The social issues on which the left is proclaiming victory may become insignificant next year when voters compare them to a moribund economy and a collapsing international order. The combination of an uninspiring and untrustworthy candidate and a political environment hostile to the incumbent party might overwhelm Hillary Clinton’s meager skills. Like Boy George, Hillary doesn’t quite know how to finesse the contradiction between her past and her present, between what she’s selling and what the general electorate might want. Voters are fickle, after all. They come and go.

Moroccan Government Lobbyists Ready for Hillary // Free Beacon // Lachlan Markay – June 25, 2015

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Lobbyists representing an arm of the Moroccan government have donated thousands of dollars to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and a super PAC supporting it, public records show.

The firm, Nurnberger & Associates, reported that its employees donated $1,500 to Clinton's campaign last month in a Monday filing with the Department of Justice disclosing its work on behalf of the Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP).

The firm reported another $5,000 in contributions last year to Ready for Hillary, a now-defunct pro-Clinton super PAC. Ralph Nurnberger, the firm's principal, served on the group's national finance council.

The previously unreported donations suggest additional ties between Clinton and the Moroccan government, which has donated millions to the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation and received favorable treatment from the State Department while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary.

The MACP is a nonprofit owned by the Moroccan government. "Chief among the Center's objectives is to assist the Kingdom of Morocco in its efforts to obtain American support to construct a stable, progressive, democratic, and economically dynamic region in North Africa," according to its website.

To that end, it secured a lobbying contract with Nurnberger in 2009 by way of another firm, the Amani Group (since renamed GrayLoeffler). That firm's founder and partner, the former Democratic congressman William Gray, co-chaired Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign.

Nurnberger submitted a registration statement to the Justice Department, pursuant to the Foreign Agent Registration Act, just eight days after Clinton was sworn in as secretary of state in 2009.

In the years that followed, it reported lobbying State Department officials on MACP's behalf. In 2011, the firm met three times with Lorraine Hariton, a former Clinton campaign finance committee member tapped by the secretary as the department's special representative for commercial and business affairs.

The last meeting took place on Oct. 18, 2011. Days later, State announced that Hariton would "lead a delegation of American entrepreneurs, early-stage investors, non-governmental organization representatives" on a trip to Morocco and two other North African nations.

Clinton and the Moroccan government have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship, as reported by Politico's Ken Vogel last month. A state-owned mining company last month paid more than $1 million to host the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in Marrakesh.

Vogel reported that the meeting faced criticism from the Sahrawi people of the Western Sahara, who accused the Clintons of buddying up with a regime that they say represses advocates for independence from Morocco.

"Hillary Clinton sold her soul when they accepted that money," one former employee of the Moroccan mining company told Vogel.

The MACP has also faced criticism for what the critics describe as "smear tactics" designed to discredit political forces advocating Western Saharan independence.

"If you are looking only for the totally biased and slanted Moroccan royalist line on the Western Sahara, this group I guess works well enough," wrote Charles Liebling,

chairman of the group United States Citizens for Western Sahara, in a 2012 blog post.

"If, however, accuracy, truthfulness, international law, and balanced analysis are concerns, I suggest you go elsewhere," he said.

Neither MACP nor Nurnberger returned requests for comment.

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On September 5, 1995, Hillary Clinton gave a speech at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, where she declared, “It is no longer acceptable to discuss women’s rights as separate from human rights.”

As Clinton moves forward in her presidential campaign, women’s rights and gender topics have remained at the forefront of her platform.

She has broken her campaign into four “fights,” one of which is tackling social issues affecting the strength of American families.

These issues include the wage gap between genders, paid leave and addressing human rights within the LGBT community.

In her 1995 speech at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Clinton stated, “We need to understand there is no one formula for how women should lead our lives. That is why we must respect the choices that each woman makes for herself and her family.”

This statement rings true even in today’s feminist movement, a word or concept that has seemingly constructed an air around itself as being “untouchable,” “dismissive” or “irritating.”

While there are many women’s rights issues occurring all over the globe, such as abuse, trafficking and being denied a right to education, there is still a good amount of women’s rights issues in our own nation that cry for attention as well.

The United States of America is one of seven countries that have not ratified The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which is considered the international bill of rights for women.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), there about 293,000 victims of rape and sexual assault every year. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), over 10 million women and men are physically abused by an intimate partner, with highest percentage of victims being women between the ages of 18 to 24.

In terms of Clinton’s bold statement about respecting the choices a woman makes for herself, access to abortions for women in the United States is shrinking, due to increased restrictions.

Some of these restrictions include late-abortion bans, long waiting periods, clinic regulations and bans on insurance coverage.

Taking away a woman’s right to a legal abortion forces her to turn to more clandestine means, thus jeopardizing health and safety.

These are just a few examples of women’s rights issues within the boundaries of America.

Clinton’s platform for strengthening America’s families includes addressing the wage gap between men and women. A woman, on average, makes $0.78 to every dollar earned by a man. Black women make $0.64 to every dollar and Latinas make $0.56 to every dollar.

For many families, these few cents lost per dollar really add up, creating difficulty in being able to provide and save.

Even outside of the family, single working women should be able to take home the same amount a man has made, not less because of her anatomy.

Anatomy is not synonymous with skill or worth.

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In order to deal with the wage gap, Clinton aims to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which, according to Congress, “amends the portion of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) known as the Equal Pay Act to revise remedies for, enforcement of, and exceptions to prohibitions against sex discrimination in the payment of wages.”

She also is proposing a raise in minimum wage and the introduction of paid leave so Americans will not have to sacrifice their income because of a newborn child, taking care of a sick family member or being sick themselves.

Human rights within the LGBT community is also being addressed by Clinton’s platform.

She aims to help give LGBT Americans and their families the rights to “live, learn, marry and work free from discrimination.”

In her famous 1995 speech in Beijing, she stated, “Women’s rights are human rights,” and has extended this assertion to include the LGBT community, in her recently-released video, featuring many married LGBT couples.

The video ends with a moving statement that “being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights. And human rights are gay rights.”

Clinton plans to combat discrimination against the LGBT community and has a record of being heavily involved in the international movement to end this discrimination around the globe.

She produced a daring and equally heroic statement in her 2011 address in Geneva, when it came to international human rights, saying, “It is violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because of their sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to cultural norms about how men and women should look or behave.”

It is no doubt there are many social issues at the forefront of the next presidential race, with women’s and gender issues being main topics.

When we search “feminism in the United States,” or “women’s rights in the United States,” we are met with links to historical movements such as those ranging from about 1848 to 1970.

However, the fight is long from being a part of history.

The movement toward gender equality in the United States and around the globe is a slow fight that will continue to take more time.

Hillary Clinton’s platform is indicative of the progress we have already achieved, and how much further we have to go.

American schools are 'more segregated than they were in the 1960s,' says Hillary Clinton // Politifact // Linda Qiu – June 25, 2015

Speaking at a black church near Ferguson, Mo., Hillary Clinton applauded efforts to remove Confederate flags before challenging America to own up to its racist past and confront "hard truths" about bigotry in the present.

The shooting in Charleston, S.C., was no isolated incident, but an extreme manifestation of institutionalized racism, she said.

"The truth is equality, opportunity, civil rights in America are still far from where they need to be," Clinton said on June 23. "Our schools are still segregated, in fact, more segregated than they were in the 1960s."

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The Supreme Court declared segregation "inherently unequal" and unconstitutional in its landmark 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision. Sixty years later, have we really regressed and resegregated?

It’s important to note that modern school segregation is not the same as the government-sanctioned social system that the Supreme Court struck down in 1954. Segregation today refers to the level of isolation of minority students, which can be measured in a variety of ways. Clinton's comment omits a lot of nuance.

Not quite Jim Crow

The Clinton campaign pointed us to a passage in a 2014 study by UCLA Graduate School of Education’s Civil Rights Project that tracked the amount of southern black students attending white schools in the South. By that yardstick, schools are slightly less integrated now than they were in 1968. That’s the year the Supreme Court mandated the enforcement of desegregation in Green vs. County School Board and diverse classrooms really started to become reality.

Clinton, however, bookended the 1960s as the point of comparison and her claim doesn’t hold true for the better part of the decade. Jim Crow laws were still in place until the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and despite the Brown decision, most black students in the South still didn’t attend white schools,"the kind of schools that provided strong potential opportunities for diverse learning experiences," according to the study. In 1967, one in 100 black students went to a white school. In 1960, it was one in 1,000.

"It’s true that segregation for blacks is worse today than it was in 1968, but it’s certainly not worse than 1964 and before," said Gary Orfield, a UCLA professor of education and lead author of the study Clinton cited.

Even if we take 1968 to represent the 1960s, Clinton’s claim has issues if we look at different ways of measuring segregation. The UCLA report also considers how many black students are isolated in overwhelmingly black schools. Across the United States, fewer black students attend these schools now than they did in 1968 (four in 10 versus six in 10), signalling a decline in segregation.

A separate study by Charles Clotfelter, a professor of public policy and economics at Duke University, measured the potential for black and white students to interact. According to that data, segregation has been declining since the 1970s, albeit at a slower rate in the past decade.

Rainbows here, black and white there

Clinton’s blanket statement also leaves out regional and demographic nuances in the UCLA study.

According to that data, the South is now the least racially divided region in the United States when it comes to school segregation, and no state in Dixie is among the top five most segregated by any yardstick. For example, a third of black students are isolated in black schools in the South, compared to half of black students in the Northeast and 40 percent on average. How did the South surpass the rest of the nation in diversity? It’s a mixture of the judicial mandates in the 1960s and modern geography.

"The South is really the only place where we seriously enforced desegregation," said Orfield, the lead author of the UCLA study.

"Large school jurisdictions," added Clotfelter, the Duke professor. "That means that it's not possible to slice up into such small bits, like a metropolitan area where the districts dramatically differ."

In contrast, the densely populated cities of the Northeast and West are becoming more and more segregated. On the Pacific coast, Clinton’s claim is on the money: Latino students are now more isolated than black students and "more segregated than they’ve ever been," according to Orfield.

"Latinos have increased more than five times over in the number of students since the 1960s," he said. "Demographics is the largest factor (in their segregation) but there’s a lot of history as well. There was never was much of a desegregation effort for Latinos."

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Two steps forward, one step back

Clinton does have a strong point that American schools have relapsed into monochrome. Classrooms were the most diverse from the 1970s through the early 1990s. At peak integration, four out of 10 black southern students attended a white school, while less than a third of all black students attended black schools.

"We've lost a lot of the progress we gained, no doubt about that," Clotfelter said.

Experts say the backslide was the consequence of a series of judicial decisions, beginning with Milliken vs. Bradley in 1974, a relatively unheard of but seminal case in the desegregation saga. Criticized by some as "one of the worst Supreme Court decisions" ever, Milliken dealt with Detroit's plan to integrate students by busing them from the intercity to the suburbs. The court ruled that such a plan was unconstitutional, arguing that black students had the right to attend integrated schools within their own school district, but were not protected from de facto segregation.

"That decision … said the racial disparities across districts would remain outside the reach of policymakers," Clotfelter wrote in piece exploring the impact of Milliken. "The maximum amount of interracial contact one could strive for, then, would be limited by the two remaining factors: balkanization of jurisdictions and household choices about where to live."

Court-mandated desegregation was dealt its own deadly blow by three rulings from the Supreme Court between 1991 and 1995. According to the court, integration was only a temporary federal policy and after the historical imbalance was righted, school districts should reclaim local control and were released from desegregation orders.

Since then, school segregation has been intrinsically tied to the racial gaps in housing and income, leading to the re-emergence of the color line. Economic segregation, which disproportionately affects black and Latino students, is increasing, pointed out Orfield. He noted that in California, Asian and white students are 10 times more likely to go to a high-quality school than Latinos and therefore dramatically more likely to attend college.

"We've lost something very vital," he said. "Inequality is very related to the double segregation of low-income racial minorities and (their) isolation from the middle class, from the best teachers, the best curriculum. That has become very profound."

Our ruling

Hillary Clinton said, "In America today, our schools are more segregated than they were in the 1960s."

Overall, experts say and the data shows that the United States has taken two steps forward and one step back, but hasn't quite reverted to pre-Civil Rights levels of segregation. Clinton would have been more accurate setting her time frame a little later. But she has a strong point that the country has fallen back from the high levels of diversity that existed from the 1970s to the early 1990s. On the whole, we rate her statement Mostly True.

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Court-mandated desegregation was dealt its own deadly blow by three rulings from the Supreme Court between 1991 and 1995. According to the court, integration was only a temporary federal policy and after the historical imbalance was righted, school districts should reclaim local control and were released from desegregation orders.

Since then, school segregation has been intrinsically tied to the racial gaps in housing and income, leading to the re-emergence of the color line. Economic segregation, which disproportionately affects black and Latino students, is increasing, pointed out Orfield. He noted that in California, Asian and white students are 10 times more likely to go to a high-quality school than Latinos and therefore dramatically more likely to attend college.

"We've lost something very vital," he said. "Inequality is very related to the double segregation of low-income racial minorities and (their) isolation from the middle class, from the best teachers, the best curriculum. That has become very profound."

Our ruling

Hillary Clinton said, "In America today, our schools are more segregated than they were in the 1960s."

Overall, experts say and the data shows that the United States has taken two steps forward and one step back, but hasn't quite reverted to pre-Civil Rights levels of segregation. Clinton would have been more accurate setting her time frame a little later. But she has a strong point that the country has fallen back from the high levels of diversity that existed from the 1970s to the early 1990s. On the whole, we rate her statement Mostly True.

Benghazi panel says Hillary Clinton didn't turn over all Libya emails, despite her claims // The Washington Times // Stephen Dinan - June 25, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton didn't turn over all of her work-related emails to the department despite her claims to have done so, the Benghazi investigative committee charged Thursday in a statement raising new questions about the Democratic presidential candidate's email practices.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, South Carolina Republican and the Benghazi panel chairman, said the State Department informed his panel that it did not have in its possession some emails related to Benghazi and Libya that Mrs. Clinton had exchanged with longtime confidant Sidney Blumenthal, and which he turned over to the committee.

If true, it suggests that Mrs. Clinton either did not perform a full search, intentionally shielded some messages, or had some other hiccup when she claimed to have belatedly complied with federal law and turned back to the department some 30,000 messages from her time as secretary.

The Associated Press said there were 15 messages that the State Department said it couldn't find in its own records that Mrs. Clinton provided.

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server — especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third-party arbiter," Mr. Gowdy said.

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Mrs. Clinton set up her own email server at one of her homes, in New York, and used an account she issued herself, rather than an account on State Department servers, to conduct business during her four years in office.

She said the arrangement was done out of convenience.

Federal law requires that officials ensure their emails, which are considered potential government records, be stored on official servers for archival purposes. Mrs. Clinton did not comply with that requirement until nearly two years after she left office, and only after the Benghazi investigative panel discovered her unique email arrangement.

At a dramatic press conference and in follow-up communications from her attorney, she said she had gone through all of her messages and decided which of the more than 60,000 from that period were personal and which were related to government business.

She said she found 30,000 that she deemed official and turned them over to the State Department in paper form. She said another 32,000 were private and she expunged them, then wiped her server clean.

A court has ordered the department to make all of the official messages public, and the department had already turned over several hundred related to Benghazi and Libya more generally, so the committee could complete its probe into the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2012, which killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

However, Mr. Gowdy said, the emails Mr. Blumenthal exchanged with Mrs. Clinton during her time in office were business-related but weren't part of the set that the State Department sent.

He demanded that the department say whether it had withheld the emails, or whether Mrs. Clinton never turned them over in the first place.

The messages Mr. Blumenthal produced also contradict Mrs. Clinton's claim that his advice was "unsolicited."

"This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work. This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record," Mr. Gowdy said.

The messages in question don't go to the heart of the Benghazi attack, Democrats said.

Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday night, nor did a spokesman for Rep. Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the Benghazi committee.

A Clinton campaign spokesman told The Associated Press that they believe she fulfilled her obligations.

"She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal," spokesman Nick Merrill told the wire service.

They also questioned whether some of the messages Mr. Blumenthal turned over were really emails, saying they appeared to be formatted as other types of documents.

Bill Maher: Hillary plays 'hide-and seek' while Putin allows tough marathon interviews // The Washington Times // Douglas Earnst – June 25, 2015

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Comedian Bill Maher used Russian President Vladimir Putin's press schedule to mock former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's "hide-and-seek" press strategy.

The HBO "Real Time" host said on his official website Wednesday that Mr. Putin recently gave a marathon interview with an Italian paper.

"Maybe it helps to be a sociopath, but the guy regularly does three-hour-plus press conferences in front of a hostile press — contrast that with Hillary Clinton's game of hide-and seek," Mr. Maher said.

The sentiment of the comedian's blog post echoes The New York Times' Amy Chozick, who announced a series in May that would address Mrs. Clinton's avoidance of the press.

"Since she declared her candidacy on April 12, Hillary Rodham Clinton has answered just seven questions from reporters. This is the first installment of a regular First Draft feature in which The Times will publish questions we would have asked Mrs. Clinton had we had the opportunity," the paper reported May 6.

Mr. Maher told Maureen Dowd for her May 30 op-ed "Hooray for Hillarywood?" that he will vote for Mrs. Clinton, but he will not donate $1 million to her campaign as he did for President Obama.

State Dept: Clinton did not turn over some emails // CNN // Elise Labott – June 25, 2015

The State Department has not been able to find emails from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private server in its archives, State Department officials said Thursday.

The officials said the State Department is missing all or part of 15 emails from longtime confidant Sidney Blumenthal released this week by a House panel investigating the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya. Blumenthal provided the Select Committee on Benghazi with the emails.

"She has turned over 55,000 pages of materials to the State Department, including all emails in her possession from Mr. Blumenthal," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill on Thursday.

Officials said the exchanges with Blumenthal were not among the 55,000 pages of emails Clinton handed over to the State Department, even though Clinton insisted she gave her former agency all of her work-related correspondence from private account during her time at State.

"We have confirmed that the emails Secretary Clinton provided the department include almost all of the material in Mr. Blumenthal's production," one of the officials said. "There here are, however, a limited number of instances 15 in which we could not locate all or part of the content of a document from his production within the tens of thousands of emails she gave us."

But the official added, "The substance of those 15 emails is not relevant to the 2012 attacks in Benghazi."

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the committee, has petitioned Clinton and her former aides to reveal what they know about the attack at an American diplomatic compound that killed four Americans. Gowdy's recent attention has turned to any emails between Clinton and Blumenthal.

Gowdy's committee has located emails between the pair and has asked the State Department to turn over their copies of the correspondence, which it said it did Thursday in a letter to the committee.

"This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton's self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server -- especially before it could be analyzed by an independent, neutral third party arbiter," Gowdy said in a statement on Thursday. "This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work. This conclusively shows her email arrangement with herself, which was then vetted

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by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record."

A Clinton aide says they do not recognize many of the materials Blumenthal turned over to the committee and cannot speak to their origin.

They do not, the aide said, have a record of other correspondence between her and Mr. Blumenthal beyond that which they turned over to the State Department.

The aide also said that Clinton turned over all emails from Blumenthal, including more than a dozen emails that were not included in what he handed over to the House committee.

The missing emails are likely to fuel Republican charges that Clinton is hiding emails from her private server. The committee believes almost half of Clinton's public record on the attacks can be uncovered by looking at her emails with Blumenthal.

Gowdy's committee released 179 pages of emails on Monday. The emails that Blumenthal produced in response to the committee's request numbered about 120 pages.

Clinton has said that the emails she received were "unsolicited," but the committee believes the new emails show that not to be the case.

Blumenthal met behind closed doors last week with the committee for nearly nine hours about amid revelations he sent Clinton more than two dozen memos that read like intelligence reports. The emails have drawn Republican scrutiny because Blumenthal sent them while advising businesses interests in Libya and working with the Clinton Foundation, although Blumenthal said his work for the Clinton Foundation had "nothing whatsoever to do with my emails to my friend."

Democrats complained that the committee has drifted from its mission of investigating the attacks in Benghazi and has become an inquest into Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

FNC's 'Special Report': Schweizer's Clinton Cash Scandals Cause Hillary to Drop in Polls // Breitbart News – June 25, 2015

On Fox News Channel's "Special Report" on Wednesday, White House correspondent Ed Henry broke down a Fox News poll showing Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton sliding in the polls after a series of scandals were revealed in Peter Schweizer's book "Clinton Cash."

Henry pointed to the latest Fox News poll showing her underwater in terms honesty and trustyworthiness.

"Amid the drip, drip of revelations about her family's foundation, Hillary Clinton's image continues to take a hit," Henry explained. "A new Fox poll found when asked if she's honest and trustworthy — 45 percent say yes, 52 percent say so. Republican pollsters believe she's missing a key ingredient that allowed former President Bill Clinton to survive one scandal after another.

Henry continued by going into detail about one controversy in particular involving the Russian government and its efforts to bolster its position in the international uranium market.

"Controversies like the sale of uranium to the Russian government during her time as secretary of state may not have helped," he said. "In an interview with WMUR in New Hampshire, Clinton denied that a $500,000 speaking fee to her husband by a Kremlin bank and millions in contributions to the Clinton Foundation were tied to Russian President Vladimir Putin, getting a corner on the uranium market."

"The former secretary telling WMUR quote, 'I was not personally involved because that wasn't something the secretary of state did,'" Henry said. "'Clinton Cash' author, Peter Schweizer scoffed declaring in an op-ed quote, 'The transfer of 20 percent of U.S. uranium, the stuff used to build nuclear weapons to Vladimir Putin did not rise to the level of secretary of state Hillary Clinton's time and attention?'"

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Bernie Sanders closes on Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire Democrats poll // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – June 25, 2015

Bernie Sanders is catching up to Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire.

A CNN/WMUR poll released on Thursday had the independent Vermont senator just eight points behind the former secretary of state in the Granite State's Democratic primary.

The poll has Sanders receiving the support of 35% of likely Democratic voters while Clinton is at 43%. Vice-president Joe Biden, who has not indicated that he will mount a presidential bid, is at 8% and the former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley is at 2%.

The poll has Clinton with a far slimmer lead than she possessed at this time eight years ago. In June 2007 a CNN/WMUR poll gave Clinton a 36%-22% lead over Barack Obama in New Hampshire. Obama won the Democratic nomination.

Sanders has been drawing massive crowds on the campaign trail. Most recently, when he and Clinton appeared with two days of each other in Des Moines, Iowa, the Vermonter drew a significantly bigger crowd. This was despite the fact that Sanders has repeatedly held public events in Iowa while it was Clinton's first public rally in the Hawkeye State since announcing her candidacy.

Clinton's weakness in New Hampshire is a significant red flag for her campaign. New Hampshire has long been a stronghold for both Hillary and Bill Clinton. A strong performance in the state's primary made Bill Clinton "the Comeback Kid" in 1992 and a surprise win in the 2008 primary kept Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign alive after her loss in Iowa.

Sanders is scheduled to hold six events across New Hampshire this weekend. In contrast, while several members of Congress are appearing on Clinton's behalf in the Granite State.

Hillary wraps up New York fundraising swing with private shopping trip to ultra-expensive Bergdorf Goodman one day after boasting about her plans to help 'poor people, people of color, and the elderly' // The Daily Mail – June 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton's rhetoric may skew toward supporting the downtrodden, but her shopping tastes are strictly LIfestyles of the Rich and Famous.

The Democratic presidential front-runner was phoographed Wednesday morning in wind-swept New York City emerging from the ultra-high-end Bergdorf Goodman department store and getting into her armored black 'Scooby' van with chief of staff Huma Abedin and a contingent of Secret Service agents.

'Bergdorf's,' as New Yorkers with gobs of disposable income call it, is Manhattan's ground zero for expensive brands like Gucci, Valentino, Prada and Louboutin, whose signature red-soled shoes can go for $1,000 or more per pair.

Hillary is also known to get her roots touched up or her hair cut by renowned - and pricey - stylist John Barrett at his salon on the 9th floor at Bergdorf's. But with the wind whipping her hair around, it's hard to say if she stopped by for a $600, yes, $600 cut and blow dry.

The landmark store is also renowned for its personal-shopper service, which pairs the wealthy with valet service to help choose, try and tailor outfits.

Clinton spoke Tuesday at a black church a stone's throw from race-riot-scarred Ferguson, Missouri, boasting of her pledge to combat 'systematic efforts to disempower and disenfranchise young people, poor people, people of color, and the elderly.'

She then jetted to New York City on a private plane waiting at the St. Louis airport.

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Bergdorf Goodman shoppers who are in the know don't come and go through the main entrance on posh Fifth Avenue, but via a less public door around the corner on West 58th Street.

That's where Clinton and her entourage emerged on Wednesday.

Bergdorf's privileged customers who work with personal shoppers also typically don't walk out with armloads of bags, but can opt for delivery service after garments are tailored for a perfect fit.

The former secretary of state was in Manhattan for a one-night-only fundraiser at the legendary Plaza Hotel, where Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett were both on the program.

An invitation to the event described it as an 'intimate performance in support of Hillary for America.'

The fundraiser, where the minimum buy-in was $1,000 – or $2,700 for a VIP seat – is part of a mad scramble to collect as much campaign case as possible before the end of the month, when the fundraising quarter ends and prying eyes can see Federal Election Commission reports showing how successful she's been.

Guests on Wednesday night could sign up as 'event hosts' if they brought a total of $50,000 in campaign contributions. That magic number opened the door to a private receptioin with Clinton and an after-party with Bennett and Gaga.

Clinton visited Bergdorf's last year in February, fueling speculation that a trip to stock up on pantsuits was a sign that she planned to run for the White House.

The store, which is known for guarding its high-end clientele's secrets, did not respond to a request for comment.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill also did not respond.

Hillary will be in Northern Virginia on Friday to speak at an annual Democratic Party dinner commemorating Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, whose history as prominent slave-owners has come under fire this week.

Hillary Clinton's lead over N.H. Democrats dwindling, poll finds // CNN // Jennifer Agiesta – June 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton's sizable lead among Democrats in New Hampshire has been trimmed to single digits as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders makes a strong push in a state that narrowly broke Clinton's way in 2008 to keep her campaign alive.

According to a new CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary poll, Clinton holds an 8-point edge over Sanders, with 43% behind Clinton and 35% backing Sanders. Vice President Joe Biden clocks in at 8%, with 2% or less supporting Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb and Lincoln Chafee.

The poll marks a significant tightening of the contest since the May Granite State Poll, which included Elizabeth Warren on its list of candidates. In that poll, Clinton stood at 51%, with Warren at 20% and Sanders at 13%.

Several shifts in the poll seem to explain much of Sanders' gain. Looking at the demographic breakdown in primary preferences, men, younger voters and liberals appear to have moved broadly toward Sanders in the last month. Among men, 52% backed Clinton in the May survey, that fell to 32% in the new poll, while 47% now support Sanders. Likewise, among liberals, a 51% to 16% Clinton advantage is now a 48% to 41% Sanders edge. And among voters under age 50, Clinton has fallen from majority support to a near even split in the new poll, 37% back Clinton while 39% favor Sanders.

And likely Democratic primary voters are now more apt to see Sanders as the candidate who "best represents the values of Democrats like yourself."

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Sanders trounces Clinton, with 41% of Democratic primary voters saying Sanders does, to 30% who chose Clinton. In the May poll, 38% said Clinton was tops on this question, with 22% choosing Warren and just 13% picking Sanders.

Sanders has also gained dramatically in favorability ratings among Democrats since May. In the new poll, 66% say they have a favorable view of the Vermont senator, while just 11% hold an unfavorable view. In May, 45% had a favorable view and 11% held an unfavorable one.

And the Vermont Senator also holds a big edge over Clinton as the most empathetic candidate in the field; 45% say he's the one who cares the most about people like you, compared with 24% who pick Clinton on that score.

Clinton's advantages are apparent in voters' preferences on the issues, however. She is more trusted to handle two of the top domestic issues in the race: The economy (37%, compared with 28% who prefer Sanders' approach) and health care (43% Clinton to 27% Sanders).

And the former secretary of state's advantages are larger on matters of foreign affairs. She holds a wide lead as the more trusted candidate to handle both international trade policy (55% say they trust Clinton compared with Sanders' 14%; Biden is at 11% on that one) and terrorism (45% Clinton to 12% Biden and 11% Sanders).

But when it comes to dealing with "big banks and corporations," things are much tighter: 36% trust Sanders compared to 31% who favor Clinton.

More see Clinton as presidential than Sanders, with 38% saying she has the personal characteristics and qualities a president should have, compared with 27% who think Sanders is best representative of those qualities. Further, 56% of Democratic voters say she is the strongest leader in the field. On that question, just 13% say Sanders has the edge.

Still, 28% describe Clinton as the "least honest" candidate in the field. No other candidate is named by more than 5% of likely Democratic primary voters.

Clinton's favorability ratings remain strong and have generally held steady: 74% have a positive impression, 19% a negative one, about the same as in May.

O'Malley makes a small gain here, with his favorable rating climbing from 10% in May to 16% now. The former Maryland governor remains largely unknown, however, with 72% unable to offer an opinion.

One interesting contrast between the two parties in New Hampshire: while 75% of Republicans say they're still trying to make up their minds about who to support, that figure stands at 54% among Democrats, suggesting Democratic support is solidifying more quickly than Republican support.

The CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary Poll was conducted by telephone by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from June 18-24 among 1,010 adult residents of New Hampshire. Of those, 360 said they plan to vote in the Democratic presidential primary. Results among likely Democratic primary voters have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5.2 percentage points.

In Hillary Clinton's journey, a history of Jewish kinship **// J Weekly // Ron Kampeas – June 25, 2015**

From the man who married her grandmother to the man who married her daughter, from working a room full of bar mitzvah guests on behalf of her husband's political career to headlining major pro-Israel events during her own, Hillary Rodham Clinton's journey has been suffused with Jewish connections.

That's been a natural consequence of her East Coast education, her trajectory in the party favored by a substantial majority of Jewish Americans, and her embrace of the Jewish narrative of triumphing over adversity and bigotry, longtime friends of the 2016 presidential candidate say.

Sara Ehrman, whose friendship with the Democratic front-runner dates back more than four decades, noted that the Clintons, upon arriving in Arkansas in the mid-1970s, quickly established ties with leaders of the state's tiny Jewish community.

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“They were a smart, educated young couple … who had come down to this wonderful little city,” said Ehrman, now 96, referring to Little Rock. “The Jews gravitated to them. Among her best and most fervent supporters were Jews.”

The Clintons would attend seders at the homes of Jewish friends during their Little Rock years, and in 1988 Bill Clinton as governor co-officiated with Rabbi Zeke Palnick of Arkansas’ capital city at the Jewish wedding of Richard and Sheila Bronfman.

The Clintons are “both very spiritual and they tend to like to experience different cultures around them,” said Sheila Bronfman, who traveled the country to campaign for Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996, and for Hillary Clinton in 2008.

In her first autobiography, “Living History,” Hillary Clinton recalls being 10 years old and noticing numbers tattooed on the arm of an acquaintance of her father’s. Hugh Rodham explained that Nazis had tattooed Jews, whom they murdered en masse.

“I knew that my grandmother Della’s [second] husband, Max Rosenberg, was Jewish, and I was horrified that someone like him could have been murdered just because of his religion,” Clinton wrote in 2003.

By the time Bill Clinton was running for president in 1992, the youthful governor and his wife had become favorites among Jewish Democrats. Ehrman described a presidential campaign headquarters buzzing with Jewish activists. “The Jews loved the Clintons so much, they were coming from around the country,” she said. “If they couldn’t come, they would send food. The whole staff would end up in the Jewish room because there were bagels from New York, Danish pastries, Goldenberg’s peanut chews.” (The “Jewish room” she describes refers to the area where Jewish activists would congregate.)

The Jewish sensibility permeated the Clinton White House, where the first couple inaugurated what is now an annual Hanukkah party in 1993, in part because of the abundance of Jewish staffers: there was communications chief Ann Lewis; senior adviser Rahm Emanuel; Jack Lew, special assistant to President Clinton who would go on to become Treasury secretary under President Barack Obama; and Ron Klain, now Obama’s Ebola czar.

Hillary Clinton’s eight years in the Senate representing New York strengthened the couple’s ties to national Jewish groups. Her pro-Israel advocacy included exposing incitement in Palestinian media and helping to win full membership for Magen David Adom in the International Committee of the Red Cross. She blamed the Palestinians, and not the Israelis, for the collapse of the 2000 Camp David peace talks and the subsequent second intifada.

After winning the Senate seat in 2000, Clinton repeatedly secured the Tuesday-morning slot at national conferences for AIPAC and the Jewish Federations of North America, among others — a slot reserved for the most respected pro-Israel figure in Congress. Clinton chose the annual AIPAC conference in 2008 to concede the primaries to Obama.

For her 2016 bid, Clinton has lined up pro-Israel funding powerhouses who helped fuel her 2008 bid, including entertainment mogul Haim Saban, and has added some of Obama’s most prominent Jewish bundlers, notably movie executive Jeffrey Katzenberg. Lewis, the former White House communications chief, leads her Jewish outreach.

There were other alliances, less noticeable back in the 1990s, that would be personally consequential.

The 1992 election swept 51 Jewish lawmakers into Congress, the largest class ever. Among them was Rep. Marjorie Margolies, the Democrat from Pennsylvania who served a single term before being ousted in the Republican takeover of the House in ’94. Her opponents raised the issue of Margolies’ tie-breaking vote in 1993 passing Bill Clinton’s unpopular tax bill.

The Clintons, known for their loyalty to those who fall on their sword for them, campaigned for Margolies in her unsuccessful 2014 congressional bid. Margolies’ son, Marc Mezvinsky, met the Clintons’ daughter, Chelsea, when they were children at a political retreat, and fell in love when they met again at Stanford University. Co-officiating at their wedding was Rabbi James Ponet, the head rabbi at Yale.

After meetying up again with Hillary Clinton at a recent memorial for philanthropist Edgar Bronfman, Ponet said Clinton spoke with sensitivity about Bronfman’s efforts to make Swiss banks accountable for Holocaust-era Jewish assets. “There’s a sense of foundational connection to the Jewish people,” he said of her, “and a sense of the responsibility to the Jewish people in the world.”

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Hillary Clinton is not honest and trustworthy, voters say, but is still the Dem frontrunner // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 25, 2015

A majority of voters say former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is not honest and trustworthy and that her claim to be a fighter for the middle class is just a campaign slogan, but she is still retaining a tight lock on the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination contest and leads all but one of her Republican rivals.

Fifty-two percent of voters said Mrs. Clinton is not honest and trustworthy while 45 percent said she is, a new Fox News poll said.

Forty-four percent said Mrs. Clinton really would be a fighter for the middle class if elected president, while 51 percent said it was just a campaign slogan.

Still, she was the choice of 61 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in the poll, followed by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont at 15 percent and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. at 11 percent.

She also led a number of potential Republican rivals in head-to-head match-ups, though she was tied with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at 43 percent and she led Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida by 1 point, 45 percent to 44 percent.

She led businessman Donald Trump by 17 points, 51 percent to 34 percent, and held 6-point leads against Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas (48 percent to 42 percent), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (47 percent to 41 percent) and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina (45 percent to 39 percent).

She also led retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson by 5 points, 46 percent to 41 percent, and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky by 4 points, 46 percent to 42 percent.

Some Republicans have been working to strike a generational contrast with Mrs. Clinton, with Mr. Rubio calling her a “leader from yesterday” in his April announcement speech.

But seven in 10 voters said they would see a Clinton presidency more as her first term, compared to 21 percent who said they would see it more as bringing back her husband, former President Bill Clinton, for another term.

Fifty-four percent also said they would see her presidency more as a fresh start for her, compared to 38 percent who said they would see it more as a continuation of the policies of President Obama.

The survey of 1,005 registered voters was taken June 21-23 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, with a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points for the Democratic subgroup.

Hillary Clinton's Newest Consultant Was A Major Keystone Lobbyist // HuffPo // Sam Stein – June 25, 2015

The newest hire for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign is a longtime strategist who played a key role in her 2008 primary defeat while working for then-Sen. Barack Obama.

He’s also a Washington lobbyist who lobbied the State Department -- led, at the time, by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton -- on behalf of the company seeking to build the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Clinton's new consultant, Jeff Berman, has followed, in many respects, a well-worn path for those in Washington D.C. He spent a large chunk of his career in the public sector before a stint on K Street, and now he's back again. When Clinton hired Berman for his current role, it was seen as something of a coup, because he's known as a master of the mechanics of the primary process. Buzzfeed, which broke the news of Berman's hiring on Wednesday, described him as “a bit of a living legend in the small world that can speak fluently" about the strategic minutiae involved in winning an election.

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Certainly anyone who was paying attention during the 2008 election knows what a better grasp the Obama campaign had on the process than the Clinton camp -- which was due in large part to Berman's expertise.

But his hiring doesn't come baggage-free. After Berman left the Obama campaign, he joined the firm Bryan Cave, where he lobbied on behalf of several big-name clients. The most controversial of those clients was TransCanada, the multibillion-dollar company seeking a permit to complete the Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport Alberta's oil sands to refineries in Texas.

According to public records, Berman lobbied for TransCanada from the second quarter of 2009 through the second quarter of 2011. Several other officials from Bryan Cave joined him on the account. For that work, the firm was paid $980,000.

According to the filings, Berman and others lobbied to help obtain "approval for Keystone Pipeline path through Missouri tracts" and later to "monitor climate change legislation and [push for a] presidential permit process for TransCanada Keystone Pipeline." (Other lobbying objectives were listed, but they largely mirrored these two).

Berman lobbied the House, the Senate and multiple federal agencies. In the second and fourth quarters of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, the State Department was among the agencies that he lobbied. Clinton was running the department at the time.

Now, well into the seventh year of the Obama administration, Keystone remains in political limbo. The administration has not yet issued a decision, though agency comments on the pipeline were due in February.

Environmentalists have deep concerns about the pipeline because it would carry a type of oil that produces higher greenhouse emissions than conventional crude oil, and because of the threat of spills in America's heartland. TransCanada has said it intends to move the oil one way or another, and that it's safer to do it through a pipeline than, say, by rail. The official State Department assessment basically makes the same argument -- that the oil will be burned with or without KXL.

There is also concern about Clinton's position on the matter. Because the pipeline would cross an international border, the State Department is charged with deciding whether it would be in the national interest to grant a permit to the project. While secretary of state in 2010, Clinton said the department was "inclined" to sign off on the pipeline. On the campaign trail, however, Clinton has declined to comment on Keystone one way or the other. And since then, there have been accusations that she's been the object of influence peddling. Two Canadian banks "tightly connected" to promoting the pipeline have paid her $1.6 million for just eight speeches.

A Clinton campaign aide told The Huffington Post that Berman's job will be to work on strategy, helping to count delegates as the team charts out the primary, and that he will not be playing a policy adviser role.

Hillary Clinton Has Hired a Former Keystone Pipeline Lobbyist // The New Republic // Rebecca Leber – June 21, 2015

Hillary Clinton has hired a former lobbyist for the company behind the Keystone XL pipeline, further upsetting environmentalists who have long been wary of her commitment to fighting climate change.

BuzzFeed's Ben Smith reported on Wednesday that the Clinton campaign has hired Jeffrey Berman as a campaign consultant. Berman, who began working for the campaign earlier this month, once lobbied on behalf of TransCanada, the company that hopes to build a pipeline carrying tar sands oil from Canada to the southern coast of the U.S.

R.L. Miller of Climate Hawks Vote said Berman's hiring "is a disappointment—especially as Martin O'Malley is taking flight based on the best climate plan I've seen from a candidate, and Bernie Sanders continues to soar."

"For us it's a signal that she continues to be willing to work with oil and gas interests and take money from folks who are commited to have a pathway to fossil fuels," said Ben Schreiber, Friends of the Earth's climate and energy program director.

In 2008, political operatives described Berman as an "unsung hero" of Obama's upset win over Clinton, due to a strategy that won Obama more delegates

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in key primaries when Clinton was still ahead in the popular vote. After Obama's win, Berman joined the lobbying firm Bryan Cave LLC, which retained TransCanada as a client until 2013.

Federal disclosures show that TransCanada paid Bryan Cave $120,000 to lobby the State Department—to "monitor climate change legislation and presidential permit process for TransCanada Keystone Pipeline," per the disclosure form—while Clinton was secretary. Berman is listed as the lobbyist on this issue.

In 2010, Clinton said she was "inclined" to approve a permit for the pipeline. She's refused to take a position ever since. "I have steadily made clear that I'm not going to express an opinion" she said in January, which also happened to be the same week the Senate considered a bill to fast-track the six-year-long delay to a permit. Clinton's extended network has other connections to TransCanada, like her 2008 national deputy campaign manager Paul Elliot, now an in-house lobbyist for TransCanada. And the Wall Street Journal reported in February that between Clinton's tenure at the State Department and campaign for president, the Clinton Foundation received millions of dollars in donations from ExxonMobil and nearly half a million dollars from Canada's Foreign Affairs, Trade and Management agency, which supports the pipeline.

Even though Clinton has made early promises to take an aggressive stand on climate change, ennvironmental groups remain wary. Friends of the Earth has requested public records from the State Department on Bryan Cave's lobbying during Clinton's tenure. Still, the bulk of the environmental campaign community is reluctant to criticize the likely Democratic nominee outright. It's unclear whether these donations and distant connections ever represented a conflict of interest for Clinton, and Democratic donor and climate activist Tom Steyer continues to hold fundraisers for Clinton regardless of the criticism.

Clinton's opponents still sense an opportunity to outdo the frontrunner on climate change. Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley received positive reviews from Steyer and other activists last week for proposing that the U.S. adopt 100 percent clean energy by 2050. And Vermont's Bernie Sanders already is a favorite among green activists for championing climate legislation in the Senate.

What does Clinton need to do to convince environmentalists she's on their side? Her critics argue she needs to come out with an aggressive and detailed plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the next 35 years.

"Hiring as a high-ranking campaign official someone who spent years on TransCanada's payroll lobbying for Keystone is a big step in precisely the wrong direction," a spokesperson for 350 Action said. "We need bold ideas and leadership from our candidates—like a plan to decarbonize the United States by 2050, not a campaign that says nice things about renewable energy while letting Big Oil's lobbyists and cronies drive the bus."

"The best thing Clinton could do for her campaign to bolster her climate credentials," said Climate Hawks Vote's Miller, "is an honest and lengthy interview on the subject of Keystone XL, in which she describes all the steps taken at the State Department that appeared to nudge it forward while maintaining a semblance of neutrality, and the reason she's now deciding to say no to one of the dirtiest and notorious projects of the decade."

Hillary celebrates ruling: 'Yes!' **// The Hill // David McCabe – June 25, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Thursday celebrated the Supreme Court's decision to uphold subsidies crucial to ObamaCare.

She followed up the tweet with a message imploring her followers to add "your name if you agree: Affordable health care is a basic human right," accompanied by a link to her campaign website. The tweet included a photo of her hugging President Obama in the White House Situation Room after the law passed Congress in 2010.

The court decided in a 6-3 ruling Thursday to uphold the subsidies to 6.4 million people across roughly 34 states. Many on the left feared the the challenge, if it were successful, could take down the president's signature healthcare law.

The ruling is likely to roil the Republican side of the presidential election as well, as conservative candidates look to stake out their opposition to the healthcare law.

Clinton later released a statement urging Republicans to end their attacks on the law.

"Now that the Supreme Court has once again re-affirmed the ACA as the law of the land, it's time for the Republican attacks to end," Clinton said in a

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statement. "It's time to move on."

Election 2016: 'Chelsea's Mom' Is Hillary Clinton's Fan Love Song // International Business Times // Ginger Gibson – June 25, 2015

The 2016 election has its first fan song. Hillary Clinton is the recipient of a love song, of sorts, from the New York City-based group Well-Strung. It's a reworking of the 2003 hit "Stacy's Mom."

In the original Fountains of Wayne song, the singers lusted after their classmate's mother. The Well-Strung version instead sings a song of praise for "Chelsea's Mom" -- a reference to Clinton's daughter -- and features the members dancing around a life-size cutout of of the candidate. Well-Strung is an all-male string quartet that covers pop music and includes vocals.

The group's manager, Mark Cortale, explained Well-Strung is always trying to stay contemporary. "Since this election is so important and relevant, Well-Strung wanted to put their own spin on a classic pop song to show their support of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 race," he told International Business Times. "The guys recorded this song as an unabashed love letter to Hillary, with no expectations or agenda. That said, they would certainly love the opportunity to perform for her."

The video features images of Clinton tossing her hair and smiling at the camera. "Chelsea's mom has got it going on, she's all we want and we've waited for so long, from sea to shining sea, she'll fight for liberty," the lyrics say. "She's sexy and she's strong, I'm going to vote for Chelsea's mom. Chelsea's mom has got it going on."

One verse even jabs at Republicans. "Why should we put up with zealots like Ted Cruz," the group sings. "Anyone but Clinton will give us the blues. We get a lot of drama from the GOP. And sure we loved Obama, but your mom's the one for me."

It seems the campaign had nothing to do with making the video. The group does display a considerable amount of stickers feature the H logo designed by the campaign and several "Vote for Hillary" signs.

Having fans pen a song that can go viral is one of those unplanned occurrences that a campaign can only hope for. In 2012, Republican Rick Santorum became the beneficiary of a viral fan song called "Game On." His campaign then showered attention on the two young Oklahoma women who recorded it. In 2008, Barack Obama was the beneficiary when a young woman known as "Obama Girl" released a song called "Crush on Obama" that went viral.

Hillary Clinton Wears Epic '90s Outfit in TBT Pic Congratulating Supreme Court's Obamacare Decision // E! // Brett Malec – June 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton is trading in her signature pantsuit style in her last throwback Thursday pic!

The 67-year-old presidential hopeful took to Instagram today to congratulate the Supreme Court's decision to uphold Obamacare with an epic flashback photo of from the '90s.

"I had cared about this issue for a long time, well before Bill and I got into politics, and I believed that access to quality affordable health care was a right American citizens should be guaranteed."–Hillary on her decades-long fight for affordable health care in America #tbt," the pic is captioned. The snapshot shows Hillary meeting with a young boy who appears to be in physical therapy for issues walking. Hillary cheers him on as the boy flashes a smile.

In addition to her do-gooder work when it comes to healthcare, we couldn't help but notice Hillary's epic '90s dress. It's outfits like these that make TBT pics so funny and nostalgic.

Earlier this month, the politico shared a moving video clip that looks back at her early years in politics in honor of flashback Friday.

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"What is a fighter? To me a fighter is someone who won't give up," a voice said as photos of younger Clinton flash across the screen. The politico is shown at work and meeting with different people throughout her impressive career.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

Here's what climate hawk Martin O'Malley would do as president **// Grist // Ben Adler – June 25, 2015**

Say what you will about Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and current Democratic presidential candidate, but the man is a wonk. He may lack for narrative, but he will give you plenty of commonsense solutions. And he has a demonstrated commitment to combatting climate change.

So perhaps it should come as no surprise that despite his lagging far behind Hillary Clinton and even lefty Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) in the polls, he is the first candidate to produce anything resembling a detailed climate policy. It's only a work in progress, and it isn't even available yet on the campaign website. But O'Malley's team shared with Grist a white paper outlining some significant climate change policy proposals. Collectively, they would go further than President Obama has — or than Hillary Clinton has called for thus far.

O'Malley's plans go on for two full pages. The first lists things he would do through executive authority. Here are some of the highlights, in the white paper's own words:

Direct the Environmental Protection Agency to take aggressive action to limit greenhouse gases, expanding rules to other large sources of emissions beyond power plants.

Direct the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt a zero-tolerance policy for methane leaks from current oil and gas production.

Reject projects like Keystone XL that exacerbate climate change and extend our reliance on fossil fuels.

Deny new permits for drilling in Alaska, Antarctica, and off our coasts.

Increase royalties and emissions fees for fossil fuel companies currently drilling on federal lands.

And here are some of the most important policies that O'Malley says he would fight for in Congress:

Set a national, cross-sector Renewable Electricity Standard so our nation is powered by 100% clean energy by 2050.

Fight for federal legislation for a cap on carbon emissions from all sources, with proceeds from permits returned to lower-and middle-class families and invested in job transition assistance and the Clean Energy Corps.

Set a national goal of doubling our energy productivity within 15 years.

End all subsidies for fossil fuels, while extending production and investment tax credits for renewable energy for the long term.

Some of these goals overlap with Obama's and Clinton's. Obama's EPA has already proposed carbon emissions regulations for power plants, and it can't

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propose opening new avenues until those rules are in place, which won't happen until after Obama leaves office. But it's worth noting that O'Malley explicitly promises to expand carbon regulation to other major sources. O'Malley is presumably referring to other stationary sources of greenhouse gases such as industrial and agricultural activity, which respectively account for 21 and 9 percent of U.S. emissions. EPA has already raised fuel efficiency standards, and therefore reduced emissions, for mobile sources such as cars and trucks. Transportation is responsible for 27 percent of U.S. emissions and electricity generation represents 31 percent. In other words, there is potentially as much to be gained from going after industry and agriculture as power plants.

When Clinton addressed the League of Conservation Voters last year, she said, regarding the Clean Power Rule, "The unprecedented action that President Obama has taken must be protected at all cost." That's hugely important, because congressional Republicans are certain to keep attacking it. But promising to also tackle other major sources is even better.

On methane leaks, a growing source of greenhouse gas emissions thanks to the fracking boom, O'Malley promises to go considerably farther than Obama. In January, the Obama administration laid out a plan to reduce methane leakage, but climate hawks were underwhelmed. As I explained at the time, the Obama administration intends only to regulate new and modified wells, even though existing wells will continue to operate and leak. According to an Environmental Defense Fund study, wells in operation since 2011 will account for up to 90 percent of methane emissions from oil and gas in 2018. O'Malley's promise to regulate methane leaks from current wells would address that.

Another key difference between O'Malley and Obama is that O'Malley doesn't subscribe to Obama's "all of the above" energy policy. While Obama tries to boost domestic production of oil and gas along with renewables, O'Malley is focused solely on the latter. So O'Malley promises to reject the Keystone XL pipeline, which Obama hasn't taken a stance on yet, and to block other proposals to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure. O'Malley also would reject proposals to drill off American coasts, whereas Obama plans to open areas of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans to oil and gas leasing.

On all of these issues, it's impossible to know where exactly Hillary Clinton stands in relation to Obama and O'Malley. As Obama's secretary of state, Clinton could not publicly contradict Obama's policies. Like Obama, she hasn't taken a stance on Keystone. As a senator, Clinton supported offshore drilling, and as secretary of state she promoted fracking abroad.

One point of agreement among the Democrats that is long overdue: O'Malley and Clinton both say they would charge more for fossil fuel leases on federal land, something the Obama administration is finally just beginning to work on.

O'Malley's plans to call for various actions from Congress are less important, since he is unlikely to get them passed. Republican control of the House of Representatives is unlikely to change before 2023 because of partisan gerrymandering.

But a lot can change in politics in just a few years. In 2008, Republican presidential nominee John McCain proposed cap-and-trade legislation. A year later he wouldn't support the exact same sort of bill. Maybe Republicans will come around to saving the planet.

If they do, O'Malley's proposals would look a lot like Obama's: setting a carbon cap and selling permits and investing in renewables and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies. O'Malley would set even more ambitious goals than Obama. The president came into office aiming for 10 percent renewable sources of electricity by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025. Right now, we're at 13 percent. O'Malley wants 100 percent renewable electricity by 2050, and doubling our energy productivity by 2030. (Energy productivity measures the dollars of economic output produced from a given amount of energy consumption. It overlaps significantly with energy efficiency, but is a different way of measuring progress.)

In the months ahead, according to his campaign, O'Malley will emphasize the importance of climate change and release further, more detailed proposals.

Last Thursday, when Pope Francis issued his encyclical calling for action to address climate change, O'Malley, a Catholic, published an op-ed in USA Today proposing to eliminate fossil fuel energy by 2050. A few paragraphs in particular stand out:

Clean energy represents the biggest business and job creation opportunity we've seen in a hundred years. And reliance on local, renewable energy sources means a more secure nation and a more stable world.

Given the grave threat that climate change poses to human life on our planet, we have not only a business imperative but a moral obligation to future generations to act immediately and aggressively.

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This is why protecting the United States from the devastating impact of climate change — while capitalizing on the job creation opportunity of clean energy — is at the center of my campaign for president.

Like Sanders, who is a prominent climate hawk, O'Malley is promising to treat climate change — an issue that is often marginalized even by pro-environment candidates — as the hugely important challenge that it is. And O'Malley, like Sanders, is unafraid to set himself apart from Obama and the centrist, corporatist wing of his party that embraces fossil fuel development. "We cannot meet the climate challenge with an all-of-the-above energy strategy, or by drilling off our coasts, or by building pipelines that bring oil from tar sands in Canada," O'Malley writes in USA Today. "Instead, we must be intentional and committed to one over-arching goal as a people: a full, complete transition to renewable energy — and an end to our reliance on fossil fuels." Environmental leaders such as NextGen Climate founder Tom Steyer and Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune praised O'Malley's op-ed for its boldness.

When Sanders issues climate change policy proposals, they will surely be strong — although it remains to be seen whether he will match O'Malley in committing to clamping down on fossil fuel production. But the really big question looming over the Democratic primary is whether Clinton will offer ambitious new proposals like O'Malley's — or just more of the same half-measures as Obama.

SANDERS

A pro-O'Malley super PAC goes after Sanders on guns // WaPo // John Wagner – June 25, 2015

A super PAC supporting Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley is attacking Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) for his record on guns in new Web ads targeting Iowa voters.

The ads by the Generation Forward PAC assert that "Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns" and highlight several votes the senator has taken over the years, including one in 1993 against the landmark Brady Bill, which mandated federal background checks on firearms purchasers.

Sanders, who has emerged as the chief Democratic challenger to Hillary Rodham Clinton, represents a state where hunting is a way of life and anyone can carry a concealed weapon without a permit. His record on gun control is mixed and also includes a 2005 vote to shield manufacturers from lawsuits brought by victims of gun violence.

Though O'Malley is barred by law from coordinating with the super PAC, the 15-second ads suggest that his supporters think he can make some headway against Sanders on the issue in the wake of last week's church massacre in Charleston, S.C. A separate ad purchased by the PAC highlights O'Malley's record as governor of Maryland, including a 2013 law that banned 45 types of assault rifles and required new fingerprinting requirements for handgun purchases.

In recent days, as he's been asked about his record on guns, Sanders has pointed out that he has a D- grade from the National Rifle Association and has supported a ban on assault weapons and background checks in the past.

At a news conference on another issue on Capitol Hill on Thursday, Sanders declined to directly address the ad, but said that "if you look at my record, you will find that we do have a strong record" on guns.

In an interview, Jeff Weaver, Sanders's campaign manager, said: "If Martin O'Malley wants to engage in negative campaigning before he introduces himself to the country, that's up to him."

Weaver said that Sanders is open to a discussion about guns, but he said "that discussion has to entail how we bridge the gap between rural and urban areas. Guns mean different things to different parts of the country."

Ron Boehmer, a spokesman for the pro-O'Malley PAC, said the size of the ad buy is in the "five digits" and would be disclosed later Thursday.

A pair of new polls released by Bloomberg Politics shows Sanders as the strongest challenger to Clinton in both Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two nominating states. In Iowa, Clinton draws the support of 50 percent of likely caucus-goers, while Sanders draws 24 percent. O'Malley is at 2 percent. In

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New Hampshire, Clinton attracts the support of 56 percent of likely primary voters, compared to 24 percent for Sanders and 2 percent for O'Malley.

Claire McCaskill, a major Clinton ally, unloads on Bernie Sanders // Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 25, 2015

Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) unloaded on her Senate colleague Bernie Sanders on Thursday, saying the Vermont independent is far too liberal to make it to the White House.

"I think that the media is giving Bernie a pass right now," McCaskill said in an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." "I very rarely read in any coverage of Bernie that he's a socialist. I think everybody wants a fight and I think they are not really giving the same scrutiny to Bernie Sanders that they're giving to, certainly, Hillary Clinton and the other candidates."

McCaskill endorsed Clinton's 2016 bid almost exactly two years ago, in June 2013, making her one of the former secretary of state's earliest major Democratic backers. In the 2008 cycle, she endorsed then-Sen. Barack Obama over Clinton.

But this time, she's all in for Hillary.

"So she's going to win this, and as soon as I think they begin treating [Sanders] like a serious candidate instead of, 'Oh my gosh, it's so great we've got a fight in the Democratic Party', I think it'll be very clear," McCaskill said.

"Any other candidate that had the numbers that Hillary Clinton had right now would be talked about as absolutely untouchable," she said. "I think Bernie is too liberal to gather enough votes in this country to become president, and I think Hillary Clinton is going to become a fantastic president."

same day that a pair of new polls showed Sanders gaining momentum in Iowa and New Hampshire. Both those polls, from Bloomberg Politics, found Clinton with a substantial lead.

Meanwhile, the super PAC aligned with former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, another candidate running in the Democratic primary, released an ad Thursday, attacking Sanders on gun control.

"Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns," the voice-over said.

Sanders said McCaskill's comments were a first for him.

"This is the first time I've had a colleague attack me," Sanders said in an interview with New Hampshire's WADR radio station later on Thursday. "You'll have to ask Senator McCaskill why."

Bernie Sanders Calls For 65% Top Estate Tax Rate // Forbes // Ashley Ebeling – June 25, 2015

U.S. Presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) called today for lowering the amount individuals can shield from the federal estate tax, and hiking estate tax rates across the board, as he introduced the Responsible Estate Tax Act. "This is a piece of legislation that addresses what I consider to be the most significant moral issue of our time," he said at a press conference in Washington, D.C., citing growing economic inequality.

"Inequality is a crisis that threatens our country," echoed Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), who is sponsoring a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

Sen. Sanders' supporters listening in on Periscope tweeted: "We are the 99%." "Got to get this guy elected!" A few skeptics chimed in too: "Well, it's their money..why can't they keep it?" "I understand the Walmart family, but if I die with $2 million, am I taxed twice?"

The guy worth $2 million doesn't have to worry. The Sanders bill, a rewrite of a bill he introduced in 2010—the year the estate tax lapsed under the Bush tax cuts — would exempt the first $3.5 million on an individual's estate from estate tax. (A married couple could shelter $7 million.) That's a huge drop

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from current law, a “permanent” $5 million exemption, indexed for inflation, brokered effective Jan. 1, 2011. For 2015, the individual exemption is $5.43 million ($10.86 million for a married couple). Still just 3 out of every 1,000 people who die would be subject to estate tax under the Sanders bill, compared to 2 out of 1,000 now. The higher the exemption, the more people don’t pay estate tax.

For those who owe estate taxes, the tax rate is a flat 40% under current law. Under Sen. Sanders’ legislation, the tax rate would be 45% for estates valued between $3.5 million and $10 million. The rate on estates worth more than $10 million and below $50 million would be 50%, and the rate on estates worth more than $50 million would be 55%. An additional surtax of another 10%–for a 65% rate—would be assessed on billionaires.

The legislation also would close estate tax loopholes used by the rich, ending tax breaks for dynasty trusts, GRATs, and “sharply” limiting the annual exclusion from the gift tax—now set at $14,000 (you can now give $14,000 to as many individuals as you want each year without worrying about federal estate or gift tax)–down to $10,000, further limited if given in trust.

Estate tax foes beat Sen. Sanders with a bill to repeal the estate tax earlier this year. In April, the House of Representatives voted to kill the federal estate tax 240-179, with 7 Democrats joining. Anti-death tax advocates say it sets the stage for possible repeal in 2017. The repeal bill, H.R. 1105, was introduced by Kevin Brady (R-TX). Sen. John Thune (R-SD) sponsored a companion bill, S. 860.

Meanwhile Republican Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) became the first declared Presidential candidate of the 2016 election season to sign the Family Business Coalition’s Death Tax Repeal Pledge: “I Hereby Pledge to Support Repeal of the Federal Estate Tax.”

Note, there are still 19 states plus the District of Columbia that impose their own state versions of death taxes (estate and/or inheritance taxes). Vermont is one; it has an exemption of $2.75 million per person and has a top 16% tax rate.

“So few have so much, so many have so little; there’s disenchantment,” Sen. Sanders said. “People want change.”

For first time, O'Malley-linked group goes after Sanders // CNN // Dan Merica – June 25, 2015

A pro-Martin O'Malley super PAC knocked Bernie Sanders over guns in a short video posted on Thursday, the first time a group associated with the former Maryland governor attacked his foremost progressive opponent in the bid to emerge as Hillary Clinton's main competition.

The ad by Generation Forward PAC, titled "Time for a Debate," may be tacit acknowledgment by the O'Malley camp that the former Maryland governor's poll numbers are stagnating while the senator's are rising.

After noting that Sanders voted against the Brady Bill and voted to give gun manufacturers protections against lawsuits, the ad bluntly says, "Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns."

At a press conference on Capitol Hill Thursday, Sanders declined to directly address the ad, stating instead that "if you look at my record, you will find that we do have a strong record" on guns.

The latest chapter in the gun control debate was sparked after a white man walked into a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina, last week and killed nine African-Americans in a racially-motivated attack.

In the eyes of gun control activists, Sanders has a mixed and moderate background on the issue, something that contrasts with his more liberal persona. For much of his career, Sanders has followed the lead of his Vermont constituents -- who mostly back gun rights for hunters -- by keeping a generally states' rights view of gun laws.

But Sanders has voted to tighten gun laws in the past. He approved the 1994 assault weapons ban, and after the shootings in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012, Sanders backed Obama's failed push for more background checks and another assault weapons ban.

Last week, Sanders took a cautious approach when CNN questioned him about his position on gun laws, stating that he thinks "we need to have a

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conversation about" laws, but that rural and urban America need to understand how each other feel before laws move forward.

After a follow-up question, Sanders shied away from the debate. "I will talk about guns at some length, but not right now," he said, a comment that contrasted with his usual blunt, brash and proudly liberal persona.

Unlike Sanders, O'Malley has consistently backed tighter gun control laws. His team regularly claims that he passed the "most comprehensive gun control law in the country" in 2013, a law that banned new assault weapons, lowered magazine capacity, required fingerprints for firearm purchase and increased regulations on gun dealers.

After the shooting in Charleston, O'Malley told his supporters via email that he was "pissed" about the nation's unwillingness to pass gun control.

Recent polling has shown O'Malley is falling behind while Sanders is surging. Both declared their presidential bids earlier this year, running to be the liberal alternative to Clinton, the race's frontrunner.

A Fox News poll out Wednesday found that O'Malley gets 1% of national Democratic support, compared to Sanders who enjoyed 15%. Clinton is way out in front, however, with 61% support.

O'Malley is equally behind in early states, according to a Bloomberg Politics poll. The former Maryland governor has 2% support, according to the poll, in both Iowa and New Hampshire. Sanders has 24% in both early voting states.

Pro-Martin O'Malley Super PAC Targets Bernie Sanders // TIME // Sam Frizell – June 25, 2015

A super PAC supporting Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley released a video Thursday attacking liberal rival Bernie Sanders' gun control record, marking the first critical advertisement of the 2016 primary for the Democratic nomination.

In the 15-second ad released on YouTube Thursday morning, the pro-O'Malley super PAC Generation Forward points to Sanders' 1993 vote against the Brady Bill, which required background checks for gun purchases and his later vote to protect gun manufacturers from victim lawsuits.

The ad also points out that the National Rifle Association paid for ads attacking a Sanders opponent in a 1990 congressional race.

"Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns," intones a voice in the ad.

It's a small, yet significant move in the Democratic primary race. Until now, none of the candidates or their proxies have put forward ads attacking their Democratic competitors' records. O'Malley has implicitly criticized Clinton, but generally refrained from direct attacks.

After the ad was posted on YouTube, Sanders tweeted a response from his personal account.

A spokesperson for O'Malley's campaign said the former governor was not aware of the ad before it was released and that he doesn't currently fundraise for Generation Forward.

O'Malley's super PAC is a scrappy operation without the fundraising firepower of the pro-Hillary Clinton Priorities USA or Jeb Bush's Right to Rise operations. The governor's long shot chance in winning the primary and his anti-Wall Street rhetoric don't help attract donors, and many donors that do contribute to his nascent campaign will do so directly, not to outside groups.

Damian O'Doherty, who runs Generation Forward, recognizes as much.

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"We have to do the things that the Ewoks taught us in Return of the Jedi," said O'Doherty, referring to the furry, technologically backward animal species that helps defeat the powerful Galactic Empire in the third Star Wars movie. "If I think I'm running some slick TV effort—no way."

Instead, O'Doherty says the strategy is to run a ground-based grassroots operation in the early states and targeting voters through digital efforts. Generation Forward is hiring staff and has already rented out office space in Des Moines. "It's knocking on doors," he said. "It's old-time and online."

Part of the strategy involves testing ad models on voters in Iowa to test messaging, and finding areas in which O'Malley differs from Clinton and Sanders.

"We're going to constantly encourage debate, and that's what this ad is intended to do," said O'Doherty about his group's ad criticizing Sanders' gun positions.

Sanders—a staunchly left progressive who supports single-payer healthcare and sweeping tax reforms—has a moderate record on gun rights. While he supports basic gun control including an assault weapons ban and background checks, he has expressed skepticism about the effects of gun control.

"Obviously, we need strong sensible gun control, and I will support it," Sanders said in an interview with NPR. "But some people think it's going to solve all of our problems, and it's not."

O'Malley, by contrast, enacted as Maryland governor some of the toughest gun laws in the country, banning high-capacity magazines and assault rifles and tightening background checks.

MARTIN O'MALLEY AD HITS NOT HILLARY CLINTON — BUT BERNIE SANDERS? // First Look // Lee Fang – June 25, 2015

Let's say you're running underdog Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley's Super PAC. What's the first order of business?

Could it be: Convincing voters he has a shot? Trying to chip away at the Hillary Clinton colossus?

Well, in the mixed-up world of presidential politics, where it's sometimes not entirely clear whether candidates are running for president or jockeying for the vice presidential nod, O'Malley's Super PAC on Thursday released an ad slamming not Hillary Clinton — but fellow underdog Bernie Sanders.

The ad, released by O'Malley's Super PAC, Generation Forward, is one of the first ads released on behalf of O'Malley's campaign. It labels Sanders "no progressive when it comes to guns." The commercial flashes headlines from online news articles calling Sanders a "gun nut." In a message about the anti-Sanders ad, the pro-O'Malley PAC explained on Facebook, "You can't claim to soak the fat boys and exempt the profiteers in the gun industry."

As the Boston Globe recently reported, Sanders "has amassed a mixed record" on gun issues, voting against the landmark Brady gun control bill but voting in support of a ban on assault weapons in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook school shooting. As the Globe noted, activists have found that Sanders has shown little interest in gun-related legislation.

Watch the commercial here.

The O'Malley attack on Bernie appeared online only shortly after Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., a close ally of the Hillary Clinton campaign, appeared on MSNBC this morning to bash Sanders. "I very rarely read in any coverage of Bernie that he's a socialist," McCaskill said on MSNBC.

The Generation Forward Super PAC is led by two O'Malley supporters, Damian O'Doherty and Ron Boehmer. Federal Communications Commission records reveal that Generation Forward contracts with Fortune Media, a Democratic ad-buying firm that has previously worked on behalf of Emily's List.

During the 2008 presidential election, O'Malley co-chaired the business-friendly Democratic Leadership Council, authoring an opinion column with Harold Ford to persuade his party not to drift too far to the left. He also served as a surrogate for Hillary Clinton's campaign against Barack Obama for

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the Democratic nomination.

Though he kicked off his campaign with a pledge to take on Wall Street, the Maryland politician rarely embraced economic populism during his time as mayor of Baltimore or as governor.

The ad today left observers perplexed about what O'Malley is really trying to accomplish.

Josh Kraushaar, politics editor at National Journal, noted that the new ad today shows that O'Malley is "hitting Bernie Sanders more than Hillary Clinton."

Bernie Sanders Gains on Hillary Clinton in Bloomberg Early-State Polling // Bloomberg News // John McCormick – June 25, 2015

Bernie Sanders is gaining on Hillary Clinton in Iowa and New Hampshire, with an appeal as an issue-oriented protest vehicle potentially capable of slowing any coronation of the popular front-runner.

In simultaneous surveys, the U.S. senator from Vermont received nearly a quarter of support from likely Democratic caucus and primary voters in the states that host the first presidential nomination balloting early next year, cutting sharply into Clinton's still-huge lead.

The polls suggest substantive and symbolic support for the socialist, as well as a craving among some Democrats for a Clinton rival to rise.

"I want to try to get him along as far as I can," said Democratic poll participant John Murphy, 74, a retired railroad worker in West Des Moines, Iowa. "He's going to bring up some issues that she may not want to talk about."

The surveys were commissioned to test sources of strength for Sanders, who has seen audiences at his campaign events swell in recent weeks. The polls were conducted June 19-22 by West Des Moines-based Selzer & Co. in Iowa and Washington-area Purple Strategies in New Hampshire, the latter done in cooperation with Saint Anselm College. The margin of error on the full samples—401 in Iowa, 400 in New Hampshire—is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

In Iowa, Clinton leads Sanders 50 percent to 24 percent, and in New Hampshire, 56 percent to 24 percent. That's a six- to eight-point increase in his support since those states were polled by Bloomberg Politics and partners in May.

With nearly identical support in Iowa and New Hampshire, the polls suggest Sanders' rise isn't just because he enjoys New England neighbor-state status. In both states, he gets higher marks than Clinton on authenticity and willingness to take on Wall Street and financial elites.

Along the campaign trail, Sanders appears to be changing some minds: His unfavorable rating in Iowa is just 4 percent, down 8 percentage points since May. At the same time, 57 percent now view him positively, up 10 points from the last poll.

"You can make the case that a certain amount of Bernie Sanders's support is a protest vote, but there's more to it than that," said J. Ann Selzer, president of Selzer & Co. "People like him. They like what he stands for. They like showing up at his events and hearing him say things they believe in."

Clinton's support has dropped by 7 points in Iowa and 6 points in New Hampshire. Among likely Democratic voters, she's viewed favorably by 88 percent in Iowa and 86 percent in New Hampshire. That's up two points since May in Iowa and unchanged in New Hampshire, and comparable to the popularity of her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Yet Sanders' team points to mounting evidence that the white-haired, sometimes seemingly grumpy senator could offer voters an appealing alternative to Clinton, a former U.S. secretary of state, senator, and first lady viewed as the overwhelming Democratic nomination front-runner.

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“It's tremendous progress that he is making with voters in the first two states,” Tad Devine, Sanders' chief political strategist, said of the poll findings. “It's something we felt on the ground.”

While Sanders is indeed enjoying something of a mini-surge in the two states, the polls show he's almost certain to hit a ceiling eventually, said Purple Strategies' Doug Usher.

“Clinton remains enormously well-known and well-liked in New Hampshire, a state she won before,” Usher said. “She benefits from a gender gap in a primary that will be disproportionately female, and even Sanders’ voters admit Clinton is likely the nominee. As long as Democrats like both candidates simultaneously, Sanders will have an uphill climb.”

The New Hampshire survey shows the race not as close there as a poll released last week by Suffolk University , which had Clinton at 41 percent and Sanders at 31 percent. Unlike the Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm poll, the Suffolk survey didn’t start with a database of registered voters, instead relying more on the self-reported likelihood of voting in the primary. It also included Vice President Joe Biden, while this one didn’t.

Clinton swamps Sanders on who can beat the Republican nominee in the general election, foreign-policy experience, and knowing how to get things done in Washington. The two find roughly equal support among likely Democratic voters on who will fight for average people and who will care for people like themselves. Depending on the state, Sanders has a 7- to 18-point edge on taking on Wall Street and a 12- to 17-point advantage on authenticity.

“His priorities are right and he’s not going to just crumble under the status quo,” said Anne Welch, 59, a caregiver who lives in Penacook, New Hampshire. “He won’t compromise.”

Welch, who once lived in Vermont and met Sanders, said she supported Clinton in 2008. “I kind of feel like I’m betraying my gender,” she said.

Clinton's team has worked to dampen expectations, noting that it's rare for a Democratic candidate who isn't an incumbent president to win more than 50 percent in Iowa's caucuses. The goal is to try to avoid having her seen as a wounded front-runner should she fail to dominate the first contest. In 2008, she finished third in Iowa and her aura of inevitability was badly damaged by an insurgent Barack Obama.

That sense of inevitability is strong again in Iowa and New Hampshire, with four-fifths of likely Democratic voters in both states saying they think Clinton is destined to be the nominee. Even among supporters of Sanders, 69 percent of those in Iowa say she'll be the party's eventual nominee. Clinton’s own Iowa supporters are even more confident, with 93 percent saying she'll be the standard-bearer. Her campaign declined to comment on these polls.

Among independents likely to participate in the Iowa caucuses—about a fifth of the probable electorate—Sanders leads Clinton, 35 percent to 29 percent. In May, she led with that group by 19 points. (The margin of error is higher in subgroups like these.)

Women in Iowa are much more likely to back Clinton than men are, 59 percent to 39 percent. Among women, she leads Sanders 59 percent to 19 percent, while it’s much narrower advantage among men, 39 percent to 30 percent.

While some Democrats and independents are welcoming Sanders to the race with their support, it doesn't mean they're rejecting Clinton.

Almost nine in 10 who are supporting Sanders in New Hampshire, and 83 percent in Iowa, say they're backing him because of what he stands for. Just 13 percent in Iowa and 9 percent in New Hampshire say their decision is because they don't want Clinton to get the nomination, or because they want to send her a message.

Matthew Cook, 27, who just completed a physics degree and lives in Waterloo, Iowa, said Sanders has been “a really consistent politician, which is hard to find.” He plans to vote for Sanders if for no reason other than to push Clinton on the issues he cares most about, including gay marriage, climate change, and fair trade.

“She needs to come out and firmly state where her opinions are,” he said. “There can’t be any ambiguity.”

Bernie Sanders Responds to Claire McCaskill Attack: This Is a First // Bloomberg News // Arit John – June 25, 2015

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Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders on Thursday responded to criticism from his Senate colleague, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, that he is too liberal to credibly challenge Hillary Clinton.

“To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that a colleague has attacked me,” said Sanders, a Vermont socialist who joined the presidential race about two months ago, in an interview with Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin and John Heilemann. “You'll have to ask Senator McCaskill why.”

McCaskill, who supported President Obama during the 2008 election, was quick to back Clinton this cycle, and said on MSNBC's Morning Joe Thursday that Sanders “is too liberal to gather enough votes in this country to become president.” Her comments came on the heels of Bloomberg Politics polling in Iowa and New Hampshire that showed Sanders gaining ground on Clinton, though the former secretary of state still holds a formidable lead.

“To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that a colleague has attacked me.”

Senator Bernie Sanders

“Do I believe, in opposition to Senator McCaskill, that we need trade policies that are fair to the American worker, and not just benefit CEOs and large corporations?” Sanders said. “I plead guilty.”

Sanders said he “absolutely” believes in a single-payer health care system and opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

McCaskill said the media has given Sanders a pass, especially when it comes to pointing out his political leanings.

“I find it surprising that she says that the media doesn't refer to me as a socialist,” Sanders said. “There's no article that I've seen that doesn't refer to me as a democratic socialist. I am.”

Sanders often laments negative advertising and character attacks in modern politics. A super-PAC supporting another Democratic presidential candidate, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, unveiled Web advertising in Iowa on Thursday going after Sanders on gun issues. The candidate tweeted Thursday afternoon:

Sanders In 1985: Sandinista Leader “Impressive,” Castro “Totally Transformed” Cuba **// Buzzfeed // Megan Apper – June 25, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders, the socialist from Vermont who is now challenging Hillary Clinton for the 2016 Democratic nomination, praised the Castro regime and Nicaragua’s Sandinista government upon returning from a trip to South America in 1985.

In an interview that aired on Channel 17/Town Meeting Television, Sanders called Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, “an impressive guy,” and said that while Fidel Castro wasn’t “perfect,” Americans shouldn’t forget that “just because Ronald Reagan dislikes these people, doesn’t mean that people in their own nations feel the same way.”

According to his book, Outsider in the House, Sanders traveled to Nicaragua on the invitation of the Sandinista government, to witness the celebration of the “Seventh Anniversary of the Revolution.” By his own account, he was the “highest ranking American official present” at the event.

Upon his return, Sanders said that he was “impressed” with the “intelligence and sincerity” of Sandinista leaders, arguing that they were not the “political hacks” some had portrayed them to be.

“You do not fight, and lose your family, and get tortured, to go to jail for years to be a hack,” said Sanders, adding that the Sandinistas had “very deep convictions.”

Sanders also said he was “impressed” by Father d’Escoto — at the time, Nicaragua’s Minister of Foreign Affairs — who he described as “very gentle” and

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a “loving man.”

Acknowledging that his favorable assessment of the Sandinistas could lead to his being “attacked by every editorial writer in the free press for being a ‘dumb dupe,’” Sanders countered that such a reaction was due in part to the fact that the Reagan White House had “trained and well paid people who are professional manipulators of the media,” and who possessed a “sophistication” that Ortega and the Sandinistas lacked.

The Sandinistas, Sanders explained, had to “improve their ability to communicate with the average American.”

Sanders also commented on Fidel Castro, pointing to the lack of resistance to Castro as proof that Americans would be “very, very mistaken” to expect a popular uprising against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

“In 1959 […] everybody was totally convinced that Castro was the worst guy in the world and all of the Cuban people were going to rise up in rebellion against Fidel Castro,” said Sanders. “They forgot that he educated their kids, gave their kids healthcare, totally transformed the society.”

“So they expected this tremendous uprising in Cuba,” Sanders continued, but “it never came. And if they are expecting a tremendous uprising in Nicaragua, they are very, very, very mistaken.”

Sanders insisted that he did not mean to suggest “that Fidel Castro and Cuba are perfect; they certainly are not.”

But “just because Ronald Reagan dislikes these people,” he argued, “doesn’t mean that people in their own nations feel the same way.”

in the coming days, the former secretary of state is not scheduled to appear.

Sanders: My Views Resonating With Women as Campaign Keeps Rising // Bloomberg News // Alexa Papadopoulos – June 25, 2015

“I think people who think we have reached our ceiling are making a mistake,” Sen. Bernie Sanders says in interview to air on Bloomberg Television’s “With All Due Respect.”

Sanders says his proposals aimed at women, working families will boost his bid, increasing competitiveness with Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton

“We are about to unveil a childcare proposal for universal Pre-K, which I think will make working families all around the country extremely excited”

Sanders, an independent from Vt. seeking the Democratic nomination, says plan includes paid vacation time, paid sick live.

Sanders says views on taxes, boosting public infrastructure spending, raising minimum wage, equal pay for women, making public college tuition free also will resonate with voters

Says wants to be a part of a “political revolution” to make changes in Washington with millions of American at his side.

This new anti–Bernie Sanders video shows Martin O'Malley is getting desperate // VOX // Andrew Prokap – June 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton remains in a dominant position in the Democratic presidential primary, but it's looking increasingly like Bernie Sanders is emerging as her main challenger — which means that Martin O'Malley isn't. Indeed, the former Maryland governor is barely topping 1 percent of the vote in national and early state polls.

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As a result, the people behind the main pro-O'Malley Super PAC , Generation Forward, seem to be getting restless — so they've released a new web video attacking Sanders's record on guns, along with one praising O'Malley's.

But just hours later, Sanders gave what looked like an indirect response to the new video, on Twitter:

It's a rather remarkable testament to Sanders's success so far that what may be the first explicit attack video of the Democratic contest targets him — it makes it even clearer that Sanders has emerged as the clear second-place contender (though he's still well behind Hillary Clinton).

It is accurate that Sanders is pretty far from being a staunch liberal on the gun issue — likely reflecting the views of his rural Vermont constituents. However, in 2013, Sanders voted for the Democrats' post-Newtown gun control bill, which didn't become law, but would have expanded background checks and restored the assault weapons ban. He said then that there was "a growing consensus" that "we have got to do as much as we can to end the cold-blooded mass murders of innocent people."

Overall, though, the bigger problem for O'Malley is that activists on the left are excited about Sanders's candidacy in a way they just aren't about his own. And it doesn't seem likely that attack ads will solve that problem for him.

Bernie Sanders joins push for DC statehood // The Hill // Tim Devaney – June 25, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and a group of more than a dozen senators are calling for Washington, D.C., to become the 51st state in the nation.

In their proposal, the federal government would still maintain control over portions of the nation’s capital that surround the White House, Congress, Supreme Court and National Mall.

The rest of the nation’s capital would be renamed New Columbia and given full representation in Congress under the legislation introduced by Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.).

Sen. Sanders (I-Vt.), one of 16 co-sponsors of the New Columbia Admission Act, said it is "morally wrong" to block District residents from federal representation.

“Washington D.C. is currently home to more people than the state of Vermont, yet its residents lack voting representation in Congress," Sanders told The Hill in a statement. "I think it is morally wrong for American citizens who pay federal taxes, fight in our wars, and live in our country to be denied the basic right to full congressional representation.”

The sentiment was echoed by Carper.

“The District of Columbia is not just a collection of government offices, monuments and museums,” Carper said in a statement. "It is home to more than 600,000 people who build lives, families, and careers here. These Americans serve in our military, die defending our country, serve on our juries, and pay federal taxes. Yet, despite their civic contributions, they are not afforded a vote in either chamber of Congress."

UNDECLARED

WEBB

Jim Webb Criticized for Comments on Confederate Flag // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 25, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Former Senator Jim Webb, the Democrat from Virginia, has struggled to generate much excitement over his potential presidential campaign, but on Wednesday he managed to attract some attention with some curious comments about the Confederate battle flag.

In a statement on Facebook, Mr. Webb said that any discussion of the flag needed to be tempered with respect for the "complicated history of the Civil War."

He went on to explain that while the flag had been used as a symbol of racism in recent decades, that was not always the case.

"We should also remember that honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War, including slave holders in the Union Army from states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and that many nonslave holders fought for the South," Mr. Webb wrote.

The Confederate flag has been denounced by Democrats and Republicans alike in the last week since the killing of nine churchgoers in Charleston, S.C. Mr. Webb's sentiment was rebutted by even his most loyal backers on Wednesday.

"As one of your most enthusiastic supporters, I have to disagree with you on this issue," David Dickerson wrote in a comment on Mr. Webb's post. "As a fellow Southerner, I prefer to take Robert E. Lee's path and disassociate from that flag and what it stands for."

Others, such as Jordan Genso, expressed disappointment.

"I don't need to agree with you on every issue in order to support you, but this should be low-hanging fruit for you to be on the right side of," Mr. Genso wrote. "And there's no reason not to state that the Confederate battle flag represents a quasi-nation whose short existence was spent trying to fight for an immoral cause."

Mr. Webb has a history of defending the confederacy. In a 1990 speech at the Confederate Memorial in Arlington, Va., he said, "I am not here to apologize for why they fought, although modern historians might contemplate that there truly were different perceptions in the North and South about those reasons, and that most Southern soldiers viewed the driving issue to be sovereignty rather than slavery."

In 2008, Politico reported that Mr. Webb's book "Born Fighting" seemed to sympathize with the Confederate cause, potentially giving pause to then Senator Barack Obama as he was vetting potential running mates. In Mr. Webb's book, Born Fighting, he wrote about acquiring a Confederate headstone through the Veterans Administration for a great-great-grandfather.

A Vietnam War veteran who has been considered a potential presidential candidate over the years, Mr. Webb announced last year that he was forming a presidential exploratory committee. This year, he said the Democratic Party could do a better job appealing to white working-class voters.

On Wednesday, Mr. Webb recalled that the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery was meant to recognize the character of soldiers who fought on both sides of the Civil War.

"This is a time for us to come together," he said, "and to recognize once more that our complex multicultural society is founded on the principle of mutual respect."

Bernie Sanders Attacked For Not Being Liberal Enough // The Weekly Standard // Michael Warren – June 25, 2015

Vermont senator Bernie Sanders is being attacked in a new ad for not being liberal enough on guns.

"Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns," says a voiceover in the 15-second spot, which criticizes the socialist senator's votes against two gun-control bills. The ad also notes the National Rifle Association's support for Sanders. Watch the video below:

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The sponsor of the ad is Generation Forward, a super PAC supporting former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley. O'Malley is challenging Sanders for the Democratic nomination for president.

Sanders has been closing the gap with the leading Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton, in polls of voters in the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire. O'Malley, meanwhile, has been stuck in the single digits in most polls.

OTHER

Terry McAuliffe's other job // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – June 26, 2015

The Virginia governor doesn't have any official responsibilities for Hillary Clinton's campaign. But he's carving out a significant behind-the-scenes role.

Terry McAuliffe tells political associates that he's focused on his day job as Virginia governor, so he won't have any formal responsibilities in his friend Hillary's campaign.

But the Clinton loyalist, fundraiser and 2008 campaign chairman is already shaping a significant role for himself — and it will be front and center Friday evening when he introduces Hillary Clinton at the Virginia Democrats' fundraising event in Fairfax.

It's the most public sign yet that McAuliffe, a former Democratic National Committee chairman and a consummate political animal, just can't keep his fingers away from the flame. Despite the daily demands of running the state he was elected to lead in 2013, he's emerging as Hillary's informal liaison to governors and the party's biggest donors, while also keeping a finger on the pulse of the camp's central operations in Brooklyn.

It's a different vantage point than he's accustomed to. As Clinton pursues the White House for a second time, McAuliffe is in the cosseted confines of Virginia's governor's mansion, obliged to watch the action unfold from Richmond, far from the New York and Washington nerve centers where he operated in 2008.

McAuliffe insists to friends that the best thing he can do for the Clinton campaign is build Virginia's state Democratic infrastructure ahead of its 2015 state senate elections, thereby strengthening Democrats' position in a state that Barack Obama won twice. But, according to people close to him and the Clinton fundraising operation, he's also likely to start calling donors on behalf of the pro-Clinton super PAC and has taken on the role of reaching out to other Democratic governors to lock down their political cooperation.

"He's going to be all-in, it's just a question of how public-facing it's going to be," explained one Clinton '08 alum who worked closely with McAuliffe.

As the 2008 Clinton campaign's top official, McAuliffe played a highly visible role that frequently involved putting a positive spin on an operation that had no shortage of internal troubles. His allies in both Richmond and Brooklyn — more than half a dozen of his former staffers, including campaign manager Robby Mook, now work for Clinton — are relieved that he won't cut such a high-profile this time, and has no plan to show up on Sunday shows every week. They recognize that McAuliffe is a less-than-ideal spokesman for Clinton at the moment, in part because he can't afford the perception that his attention is wandering from his responsibilities as governor but also because his ebullient money-chasing and insider credentials could prove problematic for her.

In public, McAuliffe is all-Virginia-all-the-time — including when he represented the pro-Clinton perspective at April's South Carolina Democratic Party convention and on Meet The Press that month — but he remains in close contact with the now-Brooklyn-based Mook, who manages Clinton's operation.

The posture is the result of a long consideration of McAuliffe's role before the campaign began as he weighed how to maximize his political usefulness. He is a close friend of both Clintons — he guaranteed the mortgage on their first post-White House home and chaired presidential campaigns for both of them.

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The conclusion was that Hillary would need strong and well-oiled Democratic machinery in Virginia come November 2016, and that it made little sense to divert his attention from Richmond with state senate races and a redistricting battle looming — especially with swirling rumors in Virginia that McAuliffe has said he'd like to be Treasury secretary in a Clinton administration after leaving his current office.

"He's focused on his day job. He's focused on governing," said Mo Elleithee, a veteran of national and Virginia Democratic politics who worked on Clinton's 2008 campaign and who now directs Georgetown's Institute of Politics and Public Service. "He's made it pretty clear that he's a supporter of hers, but that he's focused on his day job."

McAuliffe's gubernatorial office didn't respond to multiple requests for comment for this story.

The governor's attempt to build a more durable political infrastructure in Virginia — where Democrats in 2015 have a coordinated campaign committee for the first time ever in a year without a statewide election — is a response to longstanding worries of both Bill and Hillary Clinton that crucial swing states have weak Democratic infrastructures.

Before deciding to run again, Hillary asked about the state of Democratic leadership in Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania and since she's been a candidate Mook has been on a swing-state tour: he met with operatives in Cleveland earlier this month, and he is due to raise money in Florida next week.

In Virginia, where state parties are known for being exceptionally dependent on sitting governors, a tight alliance with Richmond has proven useful to presidential candidates, including both George W. Bush, who was friendly with Jim Gilmore in 2000, and Obama, who was close with Tim Kaine in 2008.

"It's a huge difference having an incumbent governor, because your state party organization is stronger, it's better funded," explained former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a close Clinton ally. "It makes a huge difference."

McAuliffe has also looked beyond his own borders and reached out to Democratic governors in pivotal states to discuss how to utilize their own political infrastructures — among them, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. Hillary Clinton has told campaign donors and fundraisers that she is closely monitoring state-level leadership in a handful of toss-up states, according to two of them.

McAuliffe is also likely to jump back into the world of presidential fundraising before long. Alums of Bill and Hillary Clinton's three presidential campaigns recall McAuliffe making hundreds of donor calls when he was formally employed by them — and in some cases, jumping on multiple flights to reach as many as five cities in a single day to rake in campaign cash. While no one expects the governor to reprise this role in 2016, he will likely hand his own donor list to the Clinton camp and be called in to woo a handful of billionaires, according to multiple people briefed on the campaign and PAC fundraising strategies.

"My guess is they'll give Terry 20-to-25 calls for Priorities, to the big hitters he has a relationship with," explained Rendell. "He'll be asked, like I've been asked, to help out with $2,700 or $5,400 campaigns. But you can't expect a sitting governor to sit around making too many phone calls."

Still, a handful of Clinton fundraisers told POLITICO they doubted McAuliffe could restrain himself from jumping into the campaign money game wholeheartedly when he finds the time.

"He was just a machine [in 2008]," said a former Hillary aide. "To the extent that this job enables him time-wise to do it, he'll do whatever he can. There's no doubt he'll be super-duper intensely invested in this. … I have no doubt he's going to be raising a shit-ton of money for them."

"On the fundraising side, you'll see the [expletive] crazy machine he was," the former aide said.

The topic of his affection for the Clintons — and their affection for him — is never far from any Macker discussion, even if he is concentrating on this fall's Virginia's state senate races.

"He occupies his own territory. He is a Clinton. He's like Chelsea," said a close family ally. "He doesn't need a title or a place in the campaign."

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Rendell explains Hillary Clinton's Friday visit to Virginia this way.

"They are extremely loyal people who are loyal to people who are loyal to them. I'm not sure Hillary gets much out of the [Virginia fundraiser] except maybe a little help for next fall," he said. "She's doing this as a favor to Terry."

Democratic civil war ends, for now, as House approves final trade measures // WaPo // Paul Kane – June 25, 2015

The sweeping bipartisan House vote Thursday to approve the final pieces of President Obama's trade agenda ended, for now, a feud that left Democratic leaders shaken and fearful of long-term damage should the dispute reignite.

The divide pitted Democrats who supported Obama's trade policies against those backed by labor unions and liberal activists whose tactics included politically threatening the president's allies. But the debate also exposed a key difference between the Democratic presidential front-runner, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and her rivals, particularly Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who repeatedly criticized the former secretary of state's reluctance to take a strong position on a trade deal that she once predicted would be the "gold standard" for such pacts.

The family fight began two months ago when Obama and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), considered a rising star among liberal activists, fired salvos at each other. It continued this week as members of the Congressional Black Caucus questioned Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's tone ahead of Thursday's key vote on the measure, which passed on a 286-to-138 roll call that masked the tension in the Democratic caucus.

Party leaders are now just happy to try to regroup and find another issue to focus on.

"Oh, relieved. You know, we hate to see our ranks split, particularly on a very emotional issue, where our own people are split and so are those who support us," said Sen. Richard J. Durbin (Ill.), the No. 2 Democratic leader, who rebuffed pleas from Obama for support. "So the quicker we can move to something where we're back together again, the better."

Beyond those deep concerns in the trade fight was the fear that the party still has not pivoted toward an economic agenda that appeals to middle-class voters after last fall's rout in the midterm elections.

"Our party needs a better agenda than trying to kill trade deals. Even if we had succeeded, it's no substitute for an agenda," said Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.), a liberal who opposed the trade legislation. "Let's oppose fast track, but let's not pretend that's an agenda."

Some Democrats stressed that on a wide array of economic issues, including the minimum wage as well as a revamped tax code in which the wealthy pay more, there is unity. Even so, Sen. Ron Wyden (Ore.), the ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee who helped negotiate the trade package, said the past two months laid bare the chasm over Obama's push to win a 12-nation trade deal across the Pacific Ocean.

"The trade issue is, for many Democrats, the most difficult economic issue," Wyden said.

The matter is likely to return to Congress later this year or early next year, if Obama is able to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the pending trade deal that represents about 40 percent of the global economy. The legislation approved this week sets the framework for how Congress would handle TPP, giving timelines for the House and the Senate and requiring simple up-or-down votes without amendments.

"It's not over. It's not over," said Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (Conn.), who led the Democratic rebellion that temporarily froze Obama's agenda. "So we fight on."

After five years of watching Republicans wage their internecine battles with tea party activists, Democrats said they devolved into their own version of that dispute this spring. Liberals and labor unions allege that trade deals have disproportionately benefited corporations at the expense of domestic workers, while Obama said it was a progressive trade deal that would allow the United States to set the rules for commerce in a pivotal part of the world.

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The pitched battle included personal attacks that were reminiscent of Republican fights, right down to outside groups threatening primary challenges to Democrats if they didn't oppose Obama.

"What we watched on this effort was an arrogance. We were shut out. Quite frankly, disrespectful, of members and their input," DeLauro said of Obama and his advisers. At a news conference DeLauro arranged outside the Capitol in early June, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) said Obama shared "the same values but not the same lifestyle" as House Democrats because he lived "in a cloister" where only chief executives got to visit.

In early May, Obama and Warren set the tone. He repeatedly singled out the senator's critique of the trade bills, at one point calling her "a politician like everybody else." She returned fire by accusing him of trying to "grease the skids" on a "secret" trade deal that benefited only corporations.

After a few unsteady moments in May, the Senate finally secured 62 votes — 48 Republicans and 14 Democrats — and sent the bill to the House, where Pelosi (D-Calif.) was visibly uncomfortable in trying to navigate the fight between Obama and some of her closest friends in the House.

Two weeks ago, after Obama made a plea for their support in the Capitol, a raucous group of House Democrats led cheers to take down that day's vote by opposing funding for a worker program that they otherwise support. Pelosi joined the revolt at the last minute, as the trade initiative stalled because both portions needed to win a majority in separate votes for the entire package to advance.

In the ensuing days, Clinton was dragged into the debate while campaigning in Iowa. She sounded as though she was supporting Pelosi, but on the actual vote at hand, she declined to take a position, and Sanders pounced.

How did Clinton comport herself? "Not well," said Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), a fierce opponent of trade. Kaptur attended a Monday meeting of northern Ohio party activists. "I was never asked about her once," she said of Clinton. "You know who people asked me about? Bernie Sanders."

By last week, Obama was working closely with Republican leaders to pass the bills separately.

The final act was Thursday's House vote on the revamped package that included the worker training funds and the popular African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which promotes African trade.

At a Wednesday morning meeting of House Democrats, Pelosi's position again was unclear to lawmakers, according to five Democrats in attendance. At one point, she suggested that members might vote yes because AGOA was critical to the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC).

Reps. Charles B. Rangel and Gregory W. Meeks, both New York Democrats and senior CBC members, challenged Pelosi, telling her that it was an issue that all Democrats should support.

"It was sounding as though we should only pass [the worker program] because it was connected to AGOA and out of deference to the CBC," Meeks said.

After the meeting, Pelosi said she would support the plan, ending any suspense over the final votes of the two-month war among Democrats on trade.

At her weekly news conference, she acknowledged that it would be good to focus on some other issues but warned that once Obama brings the Pacific trade deal to Congress, the fight will resume.

"We welcome that opportunity with lowered heat to go forward with it," she said, "but with increased intensity and scrutiny and bright light shining on what is in this TPP."

Democratic Field Champions Health Care as Human Right // Real Clear Politics // Andrew Desiderio – June 25, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Democratic presidential candidates praised Thursday's Supreme Court ruling preserving a key provision of the Affordable Care Act, which they say vindicates President Obama's signature legislative achievement. The White House hopefuls also made clear a political goal if elected president in 2016 – providing universal coverage – and how they would sell it to Americans – by portraying it as a human right.

In King v. Burwell, the second major legal challenge to the law, the justices ruled 6-3 to authorize tax subsidies intended to help low-income and middle-class Americans afford health insurance, regardless of whether their coverage is obtained through a state exchange or a federal one. Conservative justices John Roberts – who wrote the majority opinion – and Anthony Kennedy joined with the liberals on the bench in upholding the subsidies.

"Yes!" Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton tweeted after the ruling was handed down. "SCOTUS affirms what we know is true in our hearts & under the law: Health insurance should be affordable & available to all."

Clinton's reaction was emblematic of a larger political goal for Democrats: to expand health care coverage to every American. In anticipation of another monumental Supreme Court ruling expected soon on gay marriage, Clinton's campaign released a video in which she describes same-sex marriage as a human right. Clinton and her fellow Democrats sounded a familiar tune Thursday, arguing that health care also qualifies as a human right.

While acknowledging the law is not perfect, the former secretary of state and architect of the failed "HillaryCare" initiative during her husband's presidency attacked congressional Republicans for their efforts to undo the Affordable Care Act. She repeated commonly cited accolades for the law, including the ability to stay on one's parents' insurance plans until age 26, and the guarantee that coverage can't be denied to those with pre-existing conditions.

"Republicans should stop trying to tear down the law and start working across party lines to build on these successes," Clinton said in a statement.

Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor who lags far behind Clinton in national polls, reacted with a similar message promoting universal health care. "Now that this ideological attempt to stop #ACA failed, we must redouble our efforts to bring health care to every person in this nation," he tweeted.

"With the national goal of universal coverage now affirmed, we must reduce costs by improving wellness," O'Malley continued in a statement. "Innovations for better coordinated care, personalized medicine, and the alignment of profit incentives to promote wellness make all of this possible."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the self-proclaimed democratic socialist, said the court acted within its power to guarantee health care subsidies to Americans regardless of where they live. "It would have been an outrage to throw 6.4 million people off health insurance," he said in a statement.

Sanders called health care a "right of citizenship," adding that his overall goal is to establish a "Medicare-for-all, single-payer system."

Lincoln Chafee, the former Rhode Island governor who has largely been running a single-issue campaign based on the Iraq War, lauded the court's ruling and touted his state's ACA rollout as "one of the nation's best."

Chafee, a former Republican, did not call for universal coverage or depict health care as a human right, instead saying, "More insurance means more healthy Americans."

Speaking in the White House Rose Garden after the ruling was handed down, a relieved but unsurprised President Obama echoed Clinton, O'Malley, and Sanders, proclaiming, "The Affordable Care Act is here to stay."

If a Democrat is elected to succeed Obama, it might simply be a foundation for more reforms.

GOP

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DECLARED

BUSH

Jeb swipes at Obama over Iran deal // Politico // Adam Lerner – June 25, 2015

Jeb Bush renewed his attack on President Barack Obama's negotiations with Iran Thursday, citing a recent letter from five former White House advisers cautioning against the emerging deal.

"Even former top Obama officials think emerging deal will 'not prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapons capability'," the former Florida governor tweeted Thursday, including a link to a New York Times article about the letter.

On Wednesday, 18 foreign policy experts published a letter on the website of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy saying "most of us would have preferred a stronger agreement," since the emerging deal "will not prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapons capability."

The letter outlined five additions to the agreement that would be necessary "to maximize [the deal's] potential," including additional inspection powers, slowed sanctions relief and harsher limits on advanced centrifuges.

Also included were recommendations for further measures the U.S. can take in the region to bolster the security of our allies and prevent Iranian hegemony.

Former CIA Director David Petraeus, former Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), former Obama adviser Dennis Ross, and former State Department arms proliferation expert Robert Einhorn, in addition to a number of Bush administration alums, all signed the letter. Gary Samore, a former top adviser to Obama on nuclear issues, was also a signatory.

The deadline for a final agreement is set for June 30, though an outline of the emerging agreement was released by the State Department at the beginning of April. The deadline could also slip.

Jeb Bush cast as 'villain' in GOP fight for recognition // CNN // Ashley Killough – June 25, 2015

Bobby Jindal took some veiled swipes at his Republican presidential rivals Wednesday night, but in a rare move for an announcement speech, the Louisiana governor singled out one opponent by name: Jeb Bush.

"You've heard Jeb Bush say we need to be willing to lose the primary in order to win the general election. We're going to help him do that," he said, referring to a statement Bush made last year.

"Let me translate that political speak into plain English," Jindal continued. "What Jeb Bush is saying is that we need to hide our conservative ideas, but the truth is if we go down that road again, we will lose again."

Jindal's jab adds to the list of punches thrown at Bush from Republican candidates in recent weeks, a trend that's growing in intensity and frequency as the GOP field becomes more crowded.

As someone who's consistently stayed in the top tier of national polls, Bush is a natural target for lower-tier candidates in need of more publicity and name recognition, Republican strategists say. For Jindal, the strategy worked and generated a lot of headlines.

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"When you're a candidate out the gate and not that many people know you and you're trying to craft a narrative of your campaign, you need a hero -- which is the candidate -- and a villain, which in this case was Bush," said Republican strategist Ford O'Connell.

Bush hasn't always been a villain for Jindal, though. In Jindal's first term nearly eight years ago, the governor started a monthly speaker series for his Cabinet secretaries and staff and invited Bush to be the first guest speaker, The Associated Press reported.

But the two have been on a collision course ever since Jindal became one of the most vocal governors against Common Core, despite first supporting it, while Bush has been a strong advocate of the standards.

Others have also piled onto the former Florida governor recently. Like Jindal, Donald Trump named Bush in his kickoff last week, attacking the former governor repeatedly, as well as other candidates by name. He later regretted being hard on Bush, only to attack him again a few days later.

A pro-Rand Paul super PAC released a web video earlier this week of a faux-infomercial selling "Bailout Bush" dolls, a satire on Bush expressing support for the 2009 financial services bailout and on his ties to Wall Street. (Bush in 2012 said the the bailout "right thing to do" in the short term but did not approve of what he called "massive" regulations that ensued.)

Matt Mackowiak, another GOP strategist, argued that attacking someone who's considered to be the overall frontrunner is a well-worn strategy, and he expects to see Bush continue to take more hits in the coming months as the contest becomes more competitive.

"Any shot you take, you always swing up, you never swing down," Mackowiak said.

Along with boosting a candidate's own publicity, attacking someone like Bush also lends credibility to those who want to be perceived as anti-establishment insurgents willing to buck the party line.

"If you want to be an outsider or be an underdog, the Bushes are as establishment as you can get," Mackowiak argued.

Other candidates have long been delivering more subtle blows. Ohio Gov. John Kasich essentially argued earlier this month that he may run for president because Bush is underperforming. "Frankly, I thought that Jeb was going to just suck all the air out of the room and it just hasn't happened," he said, though stressed that he was just being "honest" and wasn't trying to attack Bush.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker regularly notes that he didn't come from "fame or fortune," while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio earlier this month blasted "outdated leaders," a reference that was designed to draw a contrast with older, more established candidates like Hillary Clinton or Bush.

In his announcement speech, Bush seemed to acknowledge concerns that he's often viewed as a frontrunner simply because of his connections and tried to set the scene for a competitive primary season.

"Not a one of us deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family, or family narrative," he said. "It's nobody's turn. It's everybody's test, and it's wide open -- exactly as a contest for president should be."

Allie Brandenburger, a spokeswoman for Bush, said people around the country are now getting to know the governor and his record, arguing that "the more they know, the more they want to see his leadership in the White House."

Bush has largely resisted responding to the attacks directly, trying to maintain his stated goal of being a "joyful" candidate instead. But he also knows he has to prove to voters that he has enough fire in the belly.

"You got to pop 'em," he said last month in New Hampshire, slamming his fist into his hand. He was responding to a question from a voter who asked Bush to explain how he'll defend himself in the brutal process of a presidential campaign. "You got to push back, and then get back to the message that matters."

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Florida Voter Purge Fiasco May Complicate Jeb Bush's Appeal To Minorities // HuffPo // Scott Conroy – June 25, 2015

Something was noticeably different about the crowd packed inside a gymnasium at Miami Dade College's Kendall campus last week to welcome Jeb Bush into the ranks of the announced 2016 Republican presidential candidates.

In a vivid departure from the nearly all-white audiences that typically turn out to greet GOP White House contenders, Bush's racially and ethnically diverse supporters mirrored the demographics of this multicultural city.

The scene was meant to emphasize a core Bush strength, if not send a message to fellow Republicans, that an inclusive and aspirational brand of politics offers the GOP an opportunity to re-engage with minority voters, including African-Americans, who long ago abandoned the party of Lincoln en masse.

Even some Democratic operatives acknowledge privately that Bush -- a fluent Spanish speaker with a Mexican-born wife -- has a biography and demeanor that could chip away at the coalition that twice propelled Barack Obama to the White House.

Bush's critics in Florida, however, scoff.

As the 2016 campaign heats up, an episode from his tenure as Florida governor reveals why Bush's image as a "uniter, not a divider," as his older brother used to put it, may not stand up. The state's deeply flawed purge of felons from its voting rolls in advance of the 2000 presidential election remains a scar that still has not healed for many in the state.

"I'll never the forget people that came up to me and said, 'You let them steal our votes,'" Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.), who became state's first African-American elected to Congress since Reconstruction when she won her seat in 1992, told The Huffington Post. "So many people were just wiped off the rolls -- people who'd been voting for years and years. You had the obligation to prove that you weren't a felon."

The felon purge wrongfully denied thousands of legitimate voters the ability to participate in a presidential election pitting Republican George W. Bush against Democrat Al Gore. Ultimately, a few hundred Florida ballots would determine the presidency, and with it, the nation's path for the next eight years and, really, well beyond.

Though it received little notice outside of Florida in the election's immediate aftermath, as hanging chads and butterfly ballots took center stage during the recount, the purge remains for many the most egregious example of voter disenfranchisement that took place during the 2000 presidential election, which was ultimately decided by a Supreme Court ruling.

"The purge was right out of one of these playbooks in how you diminish minority turnout -- there was absolutely no justification for it," said Dan Gelber, a former Democratic state legislator and a longtime Bush nemesis. "It was almost a purposeful crashing of a car. They knew it was irresponsible and about something incredibly important, and they went forward knowing that the only mistakes were going to benefit them."

Florida has banned convicted felons from participating in elections since 1868. But it wasn't until 1998 -- the year before Bush took office -- that state legislators passed a law intended to clean up the voter rolls after a Miami mayoral election was overturned amid widespread cases of absentee ballot fraud.

The secretary of state's office subsequently awarded Database Technologies Inc., or DBT, a $4 million contract to carry out the effort to ensure that felons, deceased voters, and non-residents would be blocked from participating in the 2000 election.

It would not be an easy task.

Since Florida did not track its voters by Social Security number, the company was instructed to engage in a subjective process that attempted to match felon names and dates of birth with voter records, allowing for " near matches" that were close, but not exact.

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After Jeb Bush took office in 1999, this process continued. In the months leading up to the 2000 presidential election, local election supervisors began receiving lists from state officials of people DBT had identified as convicted felons and thus needed to be eliminated from the voting rolls.

It became immediately clear that the effort was generating a slew of false positives. Voters in good standing, who happened to share names with convicted felons, but had never been in trouble with the law, were being taken off the voting rolls.

But election officials in Tallahassee -- led by Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who would later gain infamy over her controversial handling of the election recount -- declined to make the process more transparent and uniform.

Charges that the purge was politically motivated grew louder when it was revealed that the man responsible for determining the parameters for voter removal was Emmett “Bucky” Mitchell IV -- a Division of Election attorney who went on to become general counsel for the Florida Republican Party.

In early 1999, DBT product manager Marlene Thorogood warned Mitchell of false positives generated by the guidelines that he had set. But in an email Mitchell sent in March of that year, he instructed Thorogood not to concern herself with wrongly eliminating non-felons from the voter rolls. It was better to purge too many people than too few, in Mitchell’s estimation.

"Obviously, we want to capture more names that possibly aren't matches and let the [county elections] supervisors make a final determination rather than exclude certain matches altogether," Mitchell wrote.

This decree from Tallahassee having been made clear, county-level election officials began receiving lists of voters they were told to remove from their rolls in the months leading up to an Election Day that would prove to be among the most memorable in American history. The local officials’ responses to this instruction varied. Some tossed out the lists altogether. Others used their discretion to try to correct them. Some used the lists with full knowledge that they were defective.

Many county officials decided to mail certified letters notifying people on the lists that the Department of Law Enforcement had identified them as felons and that they would need to provide evidence to challenge that conclusion or face permanent removal from the voter rolls. In short, voters who had been swept up in the net had to prove their innocence.

Some Floridians who learned that they had been wrongfully removed from the voting rolls attempted to bring the matter directly to the governor.

In a message sent on Aug. 28, 2000, to jeb@myflorida.com -- one of the governor's official email addresses -- a man named Gene Gay noted that he had recently received a letter indicating that he had lost his right to vote.

“I have search all weekend for a site to access that type of records with no success,” Gay wrote. “Where do U go online to get that sort of information without paying these scalpers prices … This is a lot of stuff, for a person whom knows, he has NOT been convicted of any felony. This is very important to me please respond asap.”

In another email to an official gubernatorial account (flagov@myflorida.com), sent on the Wednesday before Election Day, a man named John Browne expressed intense frustration to Bush in a 760-word note about a brother, who Browne said had stolen his identity repeatedly over the previous decade. This traumatic experience, Browne explained, had led to an erroneous determination from Martin County that he was a convicted felon.

Browne wrote:

“I have spent an enormous amount of time dealing with the local county Sheriff’s offices, the State Attorney’s Office, the Social Security Administration, private attorneys and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Not one person to date has told me what I can do to protect myself or how to file charges against this person or anyone else using my personal information ... Mr. Bush, I have a family to provide for and I have worked very hard to get to where I am today. This continued abuse of my records is seriously impacting on my ability to continue a normal and productive life. I also think the fact that I am being denied the right to vote is a violation of my civil rights. I would hope that you take this situation very seriously and offer some measure of relief.”

It's unclear whether Bush read either email. As governor, he primarily used the email address Jeb@Jeb.org, but also had access to several other state email

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accounts, including the two in question. A campaign aide told The Huffington Post that these accounts were primarily used by the governor's Office of Citizen Services and that Bush himself did not see most of the incoming messages sent there, unless they were forwarded to his Jeb.org account.

(Coincidentally, on the same day that Gene Gay sent his email to Bush, likely 2016 rival Scott Walker -- then a Wisconsin state legislator -- sent Bush a request via jeb@myflorida.com for information on a new Florida law that prohibited possession of vehicle airbags that lacked identification stickers.)

Estimates vary on just how many non-felons in Florida were wrongly denied the right to vote on Election Day, but the total was at least 1,100, according to a 2001 Palm Beach Post analysis, and may have been much higher.

Following the election recount, in which he officially recused himself, Jeb Bush sought to distance himself from the botched purge, arguing that as governor, he was not charged with administering the election.

A post-election investigation by the U.S. Commission On Civil Rights, however, in which Bush was subpoenaed, was dubious about this reasoning, noting that the actions Bush took immediately after the 2000 election demonstrated that he did, in fact, have the ability to act on voting-related matters.

"Florida's governor insisted that he had no specific role in election operations and pointed to his secretary of state as the responsible official," the commission wrote in its report. "After the election, however, the governor exercised leadership and responsibility in electoral matters in the commendable action of appointing a task force to make recommendations to fix the problems that occurred."

The report found a "strong basis" for determining that violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act had occurred during the election in Florida. While it did not find that "the highest officials of the state conspired to disenfranchise voters," the report singled out Bush and Harris, saying their "overall lack of leadership in protecting voting rights was largely responsible for the broad array of problems in Florida during the 2000 election."

"The state's highest officials responsible for ensuring efficiency, uniformity, and fairness in the election failed to fulfill their responsibilities and were subsequently unwilling to take responsibility," the report said.

African-Americans were nearly 10 times more likely than white voters to have their ballots discounted in Florida, the report found, and it singled out for criticism the felon voter purge's "sloppy and irresponsible" implementation.

"The governor, the secretary of state, or the director of the Division of Elections should have provided clear instructions to their subordinates on list maintenance strategies that would protect eligible voters from being erroneously purged from the voter registration rolls," the report said.

Aides to Jeb Bush at the time criticized the report by the Commission On Civil Rights, controlled by a Democratic majority, as "biased" and "sloppy" in its own right -- charges that did nothing to quell widespread outrage, particularly among African-Americans, in Florida.

But any lingering bad feelings about Bush were not apparent at his presidential campaign announcement last week, when R.B. Holmes, Jr. -- an African-American minister from Tallahassee -- delivered impassioned praise of the former governor in introducing him on stage.

In an interview with The Huffington Post, Holmes noted that he appreciated Bush's efforts to appoint more African-Americans to judgeships in Florida when he was governor.

"Jeb Bush is a very compassionate person," Holmes said. "I respect his core values. I respect that he married a minority, and he did that back in the day. Think of how unpopular that was for a Bush of his status to go to Mexico and find a bride."

Holmes is far from the only African-American in Florida who retains positive feelings toward Bush.

After famously saying during his failed 1994 gubernatorial run that he would do "probably nothing" to help blacks, Bush changed his tone dramatically when it came to engaging in matters of race and identity during his 1998 campaign. That year, he ended up earning the support of 61 percent of Hispanics and 14 percent of African-Americans -- impressive numbers for a Republican.

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Even though he didn't do as well with either group during his successful 2002 re-election bid, Bush's reputation as a bridge-builder who actively concerned himself with lifting up minority communities -- boosted, in part, by his high-profile push for expanded educational opportunities -- remains a central tenet of his political identity.

Mac Stipanovich, a Florida Republican lobbyist who advised Harris throughout the 2000 recount, was blunt in arguing that Bush had not erred in failing to provide any oversight of the botched felon purge.

"Any time you attempt to pare the voting rolls in Florida, regardless of what the reason is, you are anti-democratic with a small-D and probably racist," Stipanovich said by way of discounting those accusations.

But criticism of how Bush and members of his administration handled the purge became even louder four years later, when he and other Florida officials failed to correct the problems that arose during the previous presidential election year and, in fact, may have made it worse.

The 2004 iteration of the felon voter purge -- this time carried out by the Department of Elections itself -- ended with a whimper when a peculiar (some would say "fishy") anomaly was discovered the summer before Bush's brother stood for re-election.

That year's list of 48,000 felons who were to be purged from the voting rolls contained more than 22,000 African-Americans' names, but just 61 Hispanics. (In Florida, Hispanic communities tend to be more Republican-leaning than they are nationally.)

Bush administration officials denied there was any partisan motivation in the discrepancy, calling it "unintentional." But as Democrats scoffed and public pressure mounted, Florida officials ended up scrapping the list entirely.

Some 15 years later, Jeb Bush, now running his own presidential campaign, has treated the Florida voting purge as a foreign object -- an episode that had little if nothing to do with him.

Asked during a press conference during a campaign swing through Iowa last week whether he believes that African-Americans were disproportionately affected by those efforts, he waffled a bit before rephrasing the question in his own manner.

"I don't think so," he said. "I don't think there was any -- no, if you're going to say, 'Did the Florida Department of Law Enforcement target African-Americans?' No."

Meanwhile, Florida remains one of just three states where all convicted felons automatically lose their voting rights and must petition the governor and a clemency board in an arduous process in order to try to get them restored.

In 2007, Gov. Charlie Crist, then a Republican, initiated a change in the clemency policy, which made it so that most convicted felons in Florida would automatically have their voting rights restored after the state ensured that they had paid restitution to victims.

Those new guidelines were then rolled back by Gov. Rick Scott (R) shortly after he took office in 2011.

According to a 2012 study by The Sentencing Project, a nonprofit group advocating for judicial sentencing reform, Florida continues to have the highest rate of African-American disenfranchisement in the country with 23 percent of the adult African-American population in the state barred from voting.

"I think that the purge system brought a real apartheid type of politics that was going on in Florida," said former Democratic state Rep. Tony Hill. "Look at the people who were purged -- they were African-American. They just discounted our votes without any recourse."

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June 25, 2015

A new poll shows former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush sitting atop the 2016 GOP presidential field, with businessman and reality television show host Donald Trump jumping to second place in the wake of his recent campaign kick-off.

Mr. Bush was the choice of 15 percent of likely Republican primary voters in the Fox News poll, followed by Mr. Trump at 11 percent and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 10 percent.

Mr. Bush had been at 12 percent in a Fox poll released in early June, and Mr. Trump had been at 4 percent. The survey was taken June 21-23 — soon after both men officially announced their candidacies.

Still, nearly two-thirds of GOP primary voters said they think of Mr. Trump, the host of NBC's "The Celebrity Apprentice," as a side show, compared to 29 percent who said they consider him a serious candidate. Among all registered voters, 77 percent said they think he's a side show and 18 percent said they think he's a serious candidate.

He took to social media Wednesday evening to tout the results, tweeting: "Just out, the new nationwide @FoxNews poll has me alone in 2nd place, closely behind Jeb Bush-but Bush will NEVER Make America Great Again!"

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker were at 9 percent apiece, with Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida at 8 percent and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee at 6 percent.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas was at 4 percent and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania were at 3 percent apiece.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry were at 2 percent apiece. Mr. Jindal announced his candidacy Wednesday.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and former New York Gov. George Pataki were at 1 percent apiece.

Of the names included, Mr. Walker, Mr. Christie, and Mr. Kasich have yet to officially announce 2016 bids.

Mr. Bush was also the top second choice, at 11 percent, followed by Mr. Rubio and Mr. Huckabee at 10 percent apiece.

The survey of 1,005 registered voters has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, with a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points for the subgroup of Republican primary voters.

Jeb Bush did not appoint a guardian for a rape victim's fetus, but he fought for one **// Politifact // Joshua Gillin – June 25, 2015**

A political group has highlighted a controversial fight over fetal rights that former Gov. Jeb Bush mounted years ago, but it went too far in its description of what the current presidential candidate did.

Ultraviolet, a women's rights group, posted an image on Facebook on June 15, 2015, with the title "5 things you should know about Jeb Bush." The first item read, "Appointed a guardian for the fetus of a rape survivor."

We checked into all five of the claims listed on the image and found this one was not accurate. (Read our story on the rest here.)

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In May 2003, a severely mentally handicapped woman identified only as J.D.S. had been raped in a group home at 22 and was six months pregnant. J.D.S., who was abandoned at birth and raised in foster care, suffered from severe mental retardation, cerebral palsy and autism, with the mental capacity of a 4- or 5-year-old.

But Bush actually didn't appoint a guardian, because he didn't have that power. What he did was order state lawyers to ask the Orange County Circuit Court in Orlando to appoint a representative for the fetus.

Though Bush opposes abortion, he said the court case was not about that. "This is a question of protecting an innocent life," Bush told the Miami Herald. "And it will be the policy of our government in the case of a woman who is incapacitated or cannot make decisions for her child, that there should be a guardian."

The Florida Department of Children and Families had already asked the court to appoint a guardian once the baby was born. No parties involved had suggested aborting the fetus.

But Judge Lawrence Kirkwood did not consider the guardian request, saying he had to follow state statute. Appointing a guardian for the fetus would be "a clear error," he wrote.

"A trial judge must follow the law as written," Kirkwood said. "Many had expected this court to blaze new territory and write new law for the facts beyond the Florida statute."

The issue moved forward, even after a healthy girl known as Baby S was born in August 2003. Kirkwood appointed her a guardian at birth. In January 2004, a three-judge panel in a Daytona appeals court ruled against Bush in a 2-1 decision.

Kirkwood had adhered to a 1989 state Supreme Court ruling that said appointing a representative for an unborn fetus would be "clearly improper." A fetus was not a person under state law, and was therefore without the same rights as a person. Judge Emerson Thompson noted in the majority opinion that fetal rights were not mentioned anywhere in state statutes about guardianship.

Bush continued to hold his position after the appeal ruling in Daytona.

"I do think that a child that could be brought to term, as this child was, in the case where a mother has little or no capabilities in representing the child's interest, a legal guardian should be appointed," he said.

Our ruling

Ultraviolet said Bush "appointed a guardian for the fetus of a rape survivor."

Bush asked a judge in 2003 to name someone to act in the interests of the fetus of a mentally disabled woman raped in a group home. But the judge did not, because state law does not give a fetus the same protections as a person. An appeals court upheld the judge's compliance with a 1989 Florida Supreme Court ruling.

To be clear, Bush did not appoint anyone as a representative for the fetus, but he did want one. We rate the statement Mostly False.

Is the poverty rate worse now than it was in the 1970's? **// Politifact // Joshua Gillin – June 25, 2015**

As the 2016 presidential hopefuls travel the country, they are undoubtedly on a mission to play up their strengths and, for the Republicans, say why they are a better choice than Democrats, who have held the White House for the last two terms.

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Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush (R) was recently in North Carolina talking to reporters at the state GOP headquarters. While discussing the death of Freddie Gray, the Baltimore man who died after being arrested, Bush pointed out that the national conversation needs to focus on poverty and what can be done to eliminate it. Bush said this about poverty in the United States:

"There are more poor people today as a percentage of our population than the 1970s."

Our partners at PolitiFact Florida took a look at Bush's claim to see if he had his facts correct. PolitiFact reporter Joshua Gillin says that Bush's claim rates MOSTLY TRUE on the Truth-O-Meter. Gillin said that Bush's wording of his statement is key to the claim.

"We went back and looked at the statistics for the Federal Poverty Level," said Gillin. "In 2013, the last year we have full numbers, the poverty rate was about 14.5 percent of the population, while the rate in the 1970's topped out around 12.5 percent, and remember, we're talking about these percentages as a percentage of the population, which is the language that former Gov. Bush used in his statement."

Gillin notes that another calculation closes that gap between now and then. "If you include government-assisted programs in the mix, the number for the Supplemental Poverty Measure from the 1970's actually creeps up a bit, and that difference between then and now disappears," said Gillin. "However, that's not generally the percentage that is used, and social scientists and experts we talked to said that they usually stick with the straight Federal Poverty Level when comparing different years."

Gillin said that because Bush used the phrase "percentage of our population," his claim is pretty accurate, leading to a MOSTLY TRUE rating from PolitiFact's Truth-O-Meter.

Jeb Bush did say women should 'find a husband' to get off welfare -- in 1994 **// Politifact // Joshua Gillin – June 25, 2015**

A women's rights group took presidential candidate Jeb Bush to task in a social media post, dredging up a 21-year-old quote that makes him sound behind the times.

In a June 15, 2015, Facebook post, political group Ultraviolet listed "5 things you should know about Jeb Bush." The fourth item: "Said low-income women should 'get their life together and find a husband.' "

We looked at all five items in a separate story (which you can read here) and found a few inaccuracies.

In this case, Bush did say it -- way back in 1994, during his failed first run for governor.

During that campaign, Bush pushed for two-year limits on receiving benefits from a federal welfare program known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), which ended in 1996.

"If people are mentally and physically able to work, they should be able to do so within a two-year period," he said. "They should be able to get their life together and find a husband, find a job, find other alternatives in terms of private charity or a combination of all three. That is the first step, to redefine the role of government. It will be hard. There will be lots of screaming and hollering."

Bush's GOP primary opponents seized on this widely reported quote -- particularly former Florida Attorney General James Smith, who used part of the quote in an attack ad. Bush called the ad unfair, and said Smith took "a fragment of a quote from me on welfare reform totally out of context in an attempt to portray me as a sexist who is insensitive to women."

The Orlando Sentinel quoted Bush as saying marriage "is one of many options, and if people are honest about the welfare system we have today, how you get on welfare is not having a husband in the house."

CNN reported that Bush added, "Let's be honest here. Men are not on welfare, that's the point. That's the point -- men are not on AFDC."

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A state official noted that a small percentage of men did get benefits from the program, as did some families with both men and women as heads of the household. Bush lost the 1994 gubernatorial election in a close race with Democratic incumbent Lawton Chiles.

Bush's past statements about shaming single mothers have been in the news quite a bit during this campaign after media outlets began highlighting comments from his 1995 book Profiles in Character.

"One of the reasons more young women are giving birth out of wedlock and more young men are walking away from their paternal obligations is that there is no longer a stigma attached to this behavior, no reason to feel shame," Bush wrote.

"Many of these young women and young men look around and see their friends engaged in the same irresponsible conduct. Their parents and neighbors have become ineffective at attaching some sense of ridicule to this behavior. There was a time when neighbors and communities would frown on out-of-wedlock births and when public condemnation was enough of a stimulus for one to be careful."

The same Ultraviolet Facebook image also referenced the so-called "Scarlet Letter" law that passed while Bush was in office. That 2001 bill included a provision that required unwed mothers who didn't know who fathered their child to publish weekly notices describing dates, places and partners with which the women had had sex prior to putting the child up for adoption. Bush let it pass without his signature, but it was ruled unconstitutional two years later and repealed.

Bush told an attendee at an Iowa event on June 17, 2015, his real goal had been to focus on the responsibility those absent men bore.

"I'm not in favor of shaming women. What I'm in favor of is shaming men who abandon their children," Bush said. "Women who bring up children by themselves do it heroically, they do it against all odds. Men who don't feel responsible for being part of their child's life create real strains on that family."

Our ruling

Ultraviolet claimed Bush "said low-income women should 'get their life together and find a husband.' "

He did say that, back in 1994 during his first gubernatorial run, when the quote also was used against him by opponents. He was talking about putting a limit on a particular welfare program and doubled down on the concept that women would not be on welfare if they were married.

The meme omits context and that the comments are more than 20 years old. But Bush did say that. So we rate the statement Mostly True.

Political group makes five points about Jeb Bush's record **// Politifact // Josh Gillin – June 25, 2015**

A Facebook meme from a political group made so many simultaneous assertions about former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, we couldn't put them all on the Truth-O-Meter.

That doesn't mean we can't still examine the quintet of claims, however.

Ultraviolet, which describes itself as a community "mobilized to fight sexism and expand women's rights," posted an image labeled "5 things you should know about Jeb Bush" to its Facebook page on June 15, 2015. A few days later, the group added a link to information backing up its claims.

PolitiFact Florida wanted to review this information for ourselves. We found that some were largely factual, but at least two had significant inaccuracies. (One was wrong on Facebook, but has been corrected on the group's website.)

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Let’s take Ultraviolet’s talking points one by one:

1. Appointed a guardian for the fetus of a rape survivor: In May 2003, Bush ordered state lawyers to ask the Orange County Circuit Court in Orlando to appoint a representative for the fetus of a mentally handicapped woman in state care. The 22-year-old woman, who was severely developmentally disabled, had been raped while living in a group home and was six months pregnant.

Bush did not actually appoint a guardian, but wanted a judge in the case to consider it. No party in the case had suggested aborting the fetus. We rated this statement Mostly False in a separate Truth-O-Meter fact-check.

The judge did not consider the issue, but left the woman in state care. The Florida Department of Children and Families had already asked the court to appoint a guardian once the baby was born, which happened in August 2003.

The request sparked controversy about whether a fetus deserved representation in the womb, something the state Supreme Court ruled "clearly improper" in 1989. The issue went before an appeals court. In January 2004, the three-judge panel ruled against Bush in a 2-1 decision, finding that a fetus was not a person under Florida law and appointing a guardian would be improper.

2. Signed into law a bill requiring single moms to publish their sexual history: First of all, we will note that at some point after June 15, Ultraviolet changed the wording of this statement on its website, restating that Bush said he "refused to veto a bill" that required this. That is more accurate, but the original is still circulating on Facebook with the original wording, and it is partly wrong.

This item refers to a bill often known as the "Scarlet Letter" law, which started as a 2001 reworking of Florida’s adoption regulations. The Legislature that year passed a bill that required single mothers who didn’t know who was the father of their child publish a newspaper notice prior to putting the child up for adoption.

The notice had to run once a week for a month, and had to list a detailed description of all the possible fathers, plus dates and cities where a sexual encounter resulting in conception may have taken place. This was originally designed to alert the child’s potential father the child was up for adoption, but amounted to forcing the mother to publish her sexual history in her hometown newspaper multiple times.

The bill passed the House and Senate by a wide margin. Bush objected to several parts of the bill in a letter to Secretary of State Katherine Harris -- the bill’s own sponsor, Sen. Skip Campbell, D-Tamarac, lamented the final bill -- but instead of using his veto power to kill the legislation, Bush let the bill pass without signing it.

He said he had expected legislators to fix the notice requirement’s wording (Campbell had told him as much, he said). But a court did that for him in 2003 when it ruled the law unconstitutional for being an invasion of privacy. Bush signed the law’s repeal that year.

3. Hired a staffer who publicly called women "sluts": On Feb. 9, 2015, Bush’s Right To Rise PAC announced they had hired Hipster.com co-founder Ethan Czahor as its new chief technology officer. But the Internet found dozens of years-old tweets from his Twitter account disparaging women and homosexuals. Offending tweets were being deleted from the account, but not before Buzzfeed shared them, including several that did refer to women as "sluts." Czahor resigned on Feb. 10.

4. Said low-income women should "get their life together and find a husband": Ultraviolet attributed this quote to a 2003 Washington Post profile of Bush, but CNN put the comment in context earlier this month.

During his first gubernatorial run in 1994, Bush pushed for limits on a federal welfare program known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, which ended in 1996.

"If people are mentally and physically able to work, they should be able to do so within a two-year period," he said. "They should be able to get their life together and find a husband, find a job, find other alternatives in terms of private charity or a combination of all three."

Bush defended those comments by saying that same year, saying, "How you get on welfare is by not having a husband in the house -- let's be honest here.

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Men are not on welfare, that's the point. That's the point -- men are not on AFDC."

A state official had refuted that, by the way, noting that a small percentage of men did get get benefits from the program, as did some families with both men and women as heads of the household. We rated Ultraviolet's statement Mostly True in a separate fact-check.

5. Used taxpayer money to promote anti-abortion groups: The group pointed to a Salon story that highlighted Bush signed into law a 1999 bill allowing the state to be the first in the country to sell "Choose Life" specialty license plates. These plates allowed Floridians to pay a fee to help fund so-called crisis pregnancy centers. Bush's Democratic predecessor Lawton Chiles had vetoed the plates a year earlier.

The centers provide pregnant women with services but do not mention abortion as an option, steering clients to paths to put their unwanted children up for adoption. The centers, usually run by religious organizations, have been criticized by abortion rights groups for giving out false information about reproductive health care and abortions.

In 2005, Bush proposed spending millions on a pregnancy counseling hotline that steered women to these crisis pregnancy centers, which were opposed to abortion. After a $4 million launch, the hotline continued to get $2 million budgeted per year for these services for the rest of Bush's tenure.

Jeb Bush Shakes Money Tree in Manhattan Two More Times // The Observer // Ken Kurson – June 25, 2015

Jeb Bush has been Hoovering up campaign cash in the Northeast, surprising some with the strength of his appeal in what should be considered Chris Christie's neighborhood. Yesterday the money train continued, making two New York City stops.

The first was a breakfast at the Sheraton, hosted by a who's who of Republican money bigs. Event co-chairs included Mel Immergut, the super lawyer who is the former Chairman of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy; Bob Foresman, who was Jeb's partner at Barclay's and is now CEO of the firm's Russia operation; hedge fund manager John Paulson, who CDS'ed his way to a $4 billion profit betting that the housing market would crash in 2007; and John Catsimatides, the supermarket and oil well mogul who ran unsuccessfully for the GOP nomination for mayor of New York City in 2013.

Also notable were the strong showing of New Jersey co-chairs and attendees, worth mentioning given the long Christie shadow. Woody Johnson, the Jets owner who is one of the national chairs of Jeb's campaign and Joe Kyrillos, the close friend of Gov. Christie who surprised many by supporting Mr. Bush were among the co-chairs. Gail Gordon, a prominent NJ GOP fundraiser who had been on Christie's finance committee, also attended, as did Ira Perlmuter of Triple Five, the private equity fund that owns the Mall of America and other colossuses.

In addition to the Jersey strength, Mr. Bush flexed real muscle among prominent Jewish donors, including George Klein, the developer and former president of the Republican Jewish Coalition and Jay Lefkowitz, the brainy Kirkland and Ellis lawyer who also had the easy-peasy job of being President Bush's Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea.

There were even some two-fers—Jews from New Jersey. South Jersey lawyer Hersh Kozlov was there, as was former Cliff Sobel, who squawked like crazy when the Observer identified him as Bush supporter in an earlier story. He's apparently still hoping to thread the needle; he'd clearly like to back the brother of the man who made him ambassador to The Netherlands and then to Brazil without angering his home-state governor too egregiously. To that end, Mr. Sobel declined to appear on the invitation itself—his son Scott Sobel was listed—but the Observer has confirmed that Cliff did indeed attend.

After the well-publicized Sheraton event with dozens of co-chairs, Mr. Bush headed to an equally impressive although quieter—and thus far unreported—event. Mr. Bush's cousin, George Herbert Walker IV, is the chairman and CEO of Neuberger Berman, the largest private, investment management firm. Mr. Walker hosted Jeb for lunch yesterday, again flexing the kind of reach that has made Mr. Bush the clear finance frontrunner among the large GOP field, if not necessarily the political frontrunner.

According to Ms. Gordon and others to whom the Observer spoke, the Sheraton was packed. "I was a co-chair, which means the buy-in was $27,000 by the end of the month," explained Ms. Gordon, referring to the requirement to find 10 "max out donations" of $2700 each. "It was a vigorous, well-attended event and the enthusiasm was so strong we're parlaying it into two more events." Ms. Gordon is referring to a pair of July 23 fundraisers in New Jersey itself, the very existence of which is a shock, given the totality with which Mr. Christie shut down Jersey support for all contenders in 2012 until he decided to endorse Mitt Romney and brought all 21 county chairmen with him.

The July fundraising twilight-doubleheader begins in Monmouth County, where Mr. Kyrillos and Larry Bathgate, a power lawyer who served as the

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Republican National Committee's finance chairman, are establishing a large committee. According to an email obtained by the Observer, anyone "joining us as an Event Co-Chair with a pledge to raise $10,000″ can be listed on the invitation. According to one source close to the event, expectations are high—"1-2 million is not out of the question—for the event, which will take place at the tony Navesink Country Club, right in the heart of popular State Senator Kyrillos' district.

Larry Wieseneck, a former partner of Jeb Bush at Barclay's, is co-hosting one of two New Jersey fundraisers for Jeb on July 23. Here he's pictured with his wife Gayle in a promo for the posh Newark Academy in Livingston, where Chris Christie is expected to announce his own run for the presidency on Tuesday.

Larry Wieseneck, a former partner of Jeb Bush at Barclay's, is co-hosting one of two New Jersey fundraisers for Jeb on July 23. Here he's pictured with his wife Gayle in a promo for the posh Newark Academy in Livingston, where Chris Christie is expected to announce his own run for the presidency on Tuesday.

Determining which New Jersey Republicans would break ranks with the powerful home state governor has become a parlor game in the Garden State. The Observer was the first to report many of the GOP names supporting Jeb listed in this February story, and also detailed surprising support for Scott Walker. On Monday, the Star-Ledger revealed that Marco Rubio would be coming to Colts Neck in August for a fundraiser at the home of Juan and Marta Gutierrez, Cuban exiles who supported President Bush. The Observer is now the first to reveal that the second event on July 23rd will be hosted by Bill Cohen and Larry Wieseneck in Mr. Cohen's Short Hills home.

While it's long been known that Mr. Bathgate, Ms. Gordon, Mr. Kozlov and Mr. Kyrillos would be supporting Jeb Bush, the names Cohen and Wieseneck are new to Jersey politicos, a further sign of Jeb's ability not just to win over experienced fundraisers but to cultivate new ones. Both men were colleagues of Jeb's at Barclays, where Mr. Cohen is the vice chairman of investment banking and Mr. Wieseneck, who lives in West Orange, used to be the head of structuring. A search of public records (which are imperfect, especially with a relatively common name like Cohen) revealed no federal donations from Short Hills and Larry Wieseneck, who lives in West Orange, was also not previously on any political radar; he gave to no federal candidates in 2014, though he did reliably contribute a couple hundred bucks a month to Barclay's PAC and gave $3500 to Romney and $1000 to Scott Brown in 2012.

With Chris Christie expected to announce his candidacy on Tuesday, there is every chance that the brawler-in-chief will re-exert the discipline that saw him leading a state party that spoke with one voice in 2012. But so far Jeb Bush has proven—and Marco Rubio and Scott Walker are adding their voices—that New York and New Jersey are wide open for political business.

For-Profit Charter Operator In Jeb Bush Video Has A Checkered Past // Buzzfeed // Molly Hensley-Clancy – June 25, 2015

In Jeb Bush's first set of campaign videos, including one released yesterday, there is no place more prominently featured than the classroom. Oft-repeated reels of footage show Bush, known as Florida's "education governor," speaking to rooms full of hand-waving elementary students, leaning over a girl's shoulder as she works on the computer, and sitting down for a discussion with smiling boys in ties.

Many of those students wear the uniforms of Mater Academy of International Studies; others are students at Somerset Academy South Miami, where Jeb Bush's campaign was seen filming earlier this month, according to Politico. Almost all of the classrooms have something in common: they are at schools operated by Academica, the state's largest for-profit charter school management company.

Academica, which has almost 100 schools in Florida and well over $150 million in annual revenue, has a checkered past. Along with an ongoing federal probe into its real estate dealings, past investigations have looked at allegedly corrupt connections with lawmakers. Last year, controversy erupted over its opening of an unaccredited college funded by one of its charter schools.

Of his time as governor of Florida, Bush told Fox News in the wake of his presidential campaign announcement that "what I'm most proud of is reforming our education system."

As suggested by Bush's latest ads, Academica and its high-performing charter schools, which consistently receive high grades from the state, are perhaps the best examples of that legacy at work. The company owes much of its growth in Florida to Bush's policies during his governorship. Bush spurred charter schools to flourish in the state, including those operated by for-profit companies, which found a way to circumvent a 1996 law that forbids the practice. To get around the law, companies set up nonprofit boards to run the schools, which then contract out virtually all of the work to for-profit operators. Bush has been a supporter of for-profit operators. In emails, he suggested that his successor, Rick Scott, sell the massive state-run Florida Virtual School to a for-profit operator, where it could make "more [money]in the private sector."

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As governor, Bush visited Academica schools several times, his emails show, including a trip to a campus of a Mater Academy school in 2006. His son, Jeb Bush Jr., was elected to serve as the chair of the nonprofit board another Academica school group, Somerset Academy, though he later withdrew his name.

A spokeswoman for Bush said the former governor "is a longtime advocate for providing more choices for parents and students … Thanks in part to the strongest choice programs in the nation, Florida is one of the only states closing the achievement gap in America today."

A Miami Herald investigation in 2011 found Academica was embroiled in a complex and controversial real estate scheme. Its founder and president, Fernando Zulueta, owns a wide swath of real estate companies — firms that also lease tax-exempt space to many of Academica's schools, acting as their landlords. Academica schools pay tens of thousands of dollars in rent, sometimes over 20% of their revenue, well above the area average, to Zulueta-connected real estate holdings, the Herald found, deals that are meted out by nonprofit governing boards with close ties to Academica.

In 2003, for example, Mater Academy, whose logos dot the polo shirts of students in Bush's campaign ad, signed a $5.8 million construction contract to a company whose contractor also served on the school's board. And Mater Academy High leased its land from a company owned in part by Zulueta's brother, the Herald reported.

Similar real estate setups have landed other charter companies in serious federal trouble. One other major operator, Imagine Schools, was ordered to pay $1 million in January for a "self-dealing" real estate scheme.

Mater Academy was the focus of a federal investigation last year, the Herald reported. Academica's founder and his family, a preliminary report found, had ties that constituted "a potential conflict of interest" to the companies that Mater Academy leased its space from, and to an architect that designed their buildings.

A new controversy arose last year, when the company opened Doral Academy, a junior college within one of its schools in suburban Miami. The school is funded with taxpayer dollars intended for the state's K-12 system. The school is entirely unaccredited, meaning its credits do not transfer to any other schools, which prompted skepticism from officials and outside observers. The college is helmed by Anitere Flores, a state senator and former education adviser to Bush.

Flores has also been involved in education-related legislative efforts in Florida — and was the sponsor of a bill to create virtual charter schools in the state, The Herald reported; when it passed, Academica applied to open 19 such schools.

Other Florida legislators with close ties to Academica, and to Bush, have also been behind legislation that works in favor of the company. State representative Erik Fresen, who is married to an Academica executive who also happens to be the CEO's sister, relaxed zoning restrictions that stood in the way of Academica's expansion.

Working with the company can be lucrative. Miami-Dade prosecutors investigated another former representative, Ralph Arza, after he backed a slew of pro-charter bills while serving as a consultant on the payroll of Academica. He was paid $230,000 for his services, via a company set up in his wife's name. He was later cleared. The Tampa Bay Times said Arza, a Republican, "worked with Bush on many of his education initiatives."

The Jeb Bush campaign and Academica did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Pro-Jeb Bush Super PAC runs first online ad in New Hampshire, Iowa // Miami Herald // Patricia Mazzei – June 25, 2015

Right to Rise, the deep-pocketed Super PAC former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush raised money for before formally declaring his 2016 Republican presidential candidacy, has its first online ad on the New Hampshire and Iowa airwaves.

The 30-second spot is also targeting voters in Iowa, according to NH1. It features a montage of clips from his campaign announcement last week at Miami Dade College.

Jeb Bush Leads New Hampshire GOP Poll; Donald Trump in 2nd Place // Latinos Post - June 26, 2015

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The race for the GOP nomination has drastically changed in recent weeks. While former Florida Governor Jed Bush is still at the top of the ladder, businessman Donald Trump has leapfrogged into second place.

According to Fox News, Bush tops the GOP contenders with 15 percent of the Republican primary voters. Trump, however, now has around 11 percent of the primary voters which is more than double of what he had when he first declared that he would run for president.

However, Trump does have bad news coming his way as only about 29 percent of the Republican primary voters take him seriously. While a whopping 64 percent think he is a side show and does not belong in politics at all. Among all voters, almost 80 percent think that Trump is a side show.

Both candidates have just recently started their campaigns for candidacy, Bush on June 15 and Trump on June 16. So these numbers could be inflated as it is normal to see poll numbers to be larger at first. According to Politico.com, 37 percent of New Hampshire voters had a favorable view on Trump, while 49 percent had a negative view on the businessman. Astonishingly there was a 6 percent of voters who did not even know who Trump was.

Meanwhile, Jed Bush mainly tested favorably with 58 percent of the voters having a favorable view on the former Florida senator while only 28 percent viewed him negatively.

Other GOP contenders include: Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (9 percent), Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (8 percent) and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (6 percent), Texas Sen. Ted Cruz receives 4 percent, and businesswoman Carly Fiorina and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum get 3 percent apiece.

On the other side, former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton remains the top contender for the Democratic party's candidate for president in 2016. Clinton currently holds 61 percent of the Democratic primary voters, her closest rival is Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders who hold about 15 percent.

The biggest reason for such support for Clinton has been shown to be that 44 percent of all voters think that Clinton would fight hard for the middle class, although 51 percent think that is just a campaign slogan.

The polls also show that Clinton and Trump share similar traits. Unfortunately, they are not all that positive traits as 54 percent of voters think Trump is dishonest while 51 percent think the same for Clinton. This could be stemming from Trump's business deals during the late 1980's and early 90's and from Clinton's recent email debacle.

RUBIO

In N.H., Marco Rubio Is Pressed on Trade and Immigration **// NYT // Jeremy Peters – June 25, 2015**

Senator Marco Rubio defended his conservative credentials on two issues that are roiling the right – immigration and trade – as he returned to the campaign trail on Thursday.

The Florida Republican, who had taken a breather from campaigning as he crisscrossed the country on a fund-raising tour, had not taken questions from the public since casting a decisive vote on Tuesday that allowed President Obama’s trade bill to advance in the Senate.

Some conservatives, who objected to giving Mr. Obama enhanced negotiating powers to complete a major Pacific trade accord and derided the legislation as “Obamatrade,” blamed Mr. Rubio for providing a crucial 60th vote that assured the legislation could move forward. Others accused Mr. Rubio of not even reading the bill.

In a town-hall-style meeting here on Thursday, Mr. Rubio was asked to explain himself.

“There’s been some controversy on whether or not you actually read the bill,” one woman pressed him. “Why did you vote for it?”

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"First of all," he said, "I did read the bill. Second of all, it's not Obamatrade. It's called free trade." To further underscore his point, he invoked a conservative hero: "We voted on fast-track authority, which Ronald Reagan was for."

Whether Mr. Rubio was convincing or not was unclear. The crowd of about 200, which applauded politely on and off during the hour-long event, was not particularly enthusiastic.

He was also asked to clarify his position on overhauling immigration, an issue that still dogs him with many on the right, two years after he dropped his support for a comprehensive Senate bill that would have provided undocumented immigrants with the opportunity to become citizens.

Mr. Rubio was unequivocal. He said he no longer supported one sweeping, omnibus bill, adding, "Anyone who insists on doing it all at once is basically out of touch with reality."

Instead, Congress must first pass a law that provides for greater border security, then prove that illegal immigration is under control. Otherwise, he said, "the votes aren't there — the public won't support it."

Many in the crowd did not seem too familiar with Mr. Rubio, 44, who announced his campaign for president in April and quickly shot to the top of many polls. Several of the questioners seemed interested in testing his conservatism.

Mr. Rubio spoke less than two hours after the Supreme Court upheld a key provision of the Affordable Care Act that allows for the federal health care exchange to provide coverage in states that have not set up their own exchanges. The decision, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., an appointee of President George W. Bush, angered many conservatives.

One man in the crowd asked, "What are you going to do differently from the past two Republican presidents, who gave us Souter and Roberts?" (David Souter, a former justice appointed by the first President Bush, often voted with the court's liberal wing.)

Mr. Rubio responded that he would appoint "people that will actually interpret and apply the Constitution, not expand and redefine it." He added that his understanding of the Constitution was fixed. "The Constitution is not a living and breathing document," he said, noting that the next president could appoint as many as three Supreme Court judges.

Marco Rubio is playing to win The Sheldon Adelson Primary // WaPo // James Hohmann & Elise Viebeck – June 25, 2015

Marco Rubio is playing to win The Sheldon Adelson Primary. The Florida senator, who has relentlessly sought the billionaire casino mogul's backing for 2016, co-sponsored a bill yesterday afternoon to ban online gaming. It is not only Adelson's top legislative priority, it could significantly boost his company's bottom line. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), another presidential hopeful who has assiduously courted Adelson over their shared hawkishness on foreign policy, is the lead Republican author on the legislation for a second year in a row.

An intense courtship: This is just the latest in an aggressive string of moves by Rubio to win over one of the GOP's biggest donors. The two men dined together at Charlie Palmer steak house, adjacent to the Capitol, in March. That was one of at least half a dozen private meetings, which we know about, since the Florida senator took office. Politico reported in April that Rubio calls Adelson every fortnight to provide detailed updated about the campaign. Meanwhile, the newspaper Adelson owns in Israel has trumpeted Rubio on its front page so much so that Israelis joke about it.

Electability matters to Adelson: After spending at least $92 million on the 2012 elections, a good chunk of it for Newt Gingrich, GOP insiders say that Adelson wants to get behind someone who can actually win. That was reportedly a factor in his souring on Ted Cruz. He likes Graham (hosting a fundraiser for him earlier this year and donating to his reelection campaign last year), but he's seemingly more attracted to Rubio's story as the son of Cuban immigrants. He's reportedly told friends that Rubio is the future of the Republican Party. Adelson has telegraphed that he will hold off until at least September to get behind anyone, and he could also invest in multiple contenders. This posture will encourage others to keep kissing his ring.

Marco again risks upsetting conservatives, but Adelson's money would more than make up for any blowback: Rubio's move puts him at odds with movement conservatives (i.e. federalists) who believe that, under the Constitution, states should have the right to decide for themselves whether to legalize online gaming, and that the federal government should not be in the business of boosting one business interest (brick-and-mortar casinos) over another, more innovative one. (This would be akin to Rubio siding with the traditional taxi industry against Uber, the opposite of the approach he's taken.) The senator, for his part, has previously said online gaming hurts people already struggling economically, messaging that sounds like it is meant

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to resonate with social conservatives.

House Republicans quietly tucked language into an appropriations bill to protect dark money. The House Appropriations Committee approved a spending bill last week that included little-noticed provisions to hobble executive branch efforts that would mandate more campaign finance disclosures by federal contractors. The restrictions are in a 157-page financial services funding bill. The spending bill would also prohibit the IRS from moving ahead with a rule defining political activity for nonprofits and prohibit the SEC from creating a rule requiring public companies to disclose their political spending.

It is not clear when or if there will be a floor vote on the spending measure but campaign finance reform advocates said they hope an executive order will be in place before the legislation is considered by the full House and Senate, which like other appropriations bills, may not occur until late this year. White House spokesman Eric Schultz declined Wednesday evening to discuss plans for future executive orders, but he criticized the House committee action while confirming ongoing White House concern over "dark money" contributions to politically active non-profit organizations.

Appropriations bills have carried language protecting contractors against executive branch disclosure requirements since 2011, when a draft of an Obama executive order on the topic leaked publicly. The Brennan Center at NYU tallies hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions collected by committee members from firms doing business with the federal government. Read more trenchant analysis from Tom Hamburger here.

Rubio plans early-state ad blitz // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – June 25, 2015

Marco Rubio is the first 2016 presidential candidate to book significant TV advertising time in early presidential voting states, reserving at least $4.3 million in airtime so far.

On Thursday afternoon, Rubio's campaign began the process of placing buys on TV stations in media markets in the four states slated to vote next February: Iowa, South Carolina, New Hampshire, and Nevada.

The ad flights are set to begin on Nov. 24 in Iowa, and stretch on until late February in South Carolina and Nevada, according to media tracking information.

Ted Cruz was the first candidate on the airwaves this year, but the Texas senator only purchased a small amount of airtime over a limited period.

Reserving the time at a relatively early point in the campaign will ultimately save money for the campaign, his aides believe, since it enables Rubio to acquire ad time at lower rates than competitors who book later. The Florida senator is amassing a sizable war chest but is still likely to trail former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in fundraising, putting a premium on running a cost-efficient campaign.

A Rubio aide, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy, said the purchase was only initial and would be expanded later on.

Rubio's TV campaign will be overseen by Todd Harris, a longtime political aide who has experience in Iowa politics. In 2014, he advised Iowa Republican Joni Ernst on her successful Senate bid. In that campaign, Ernst similarly purchased TV advertising time at an early juncture in the political season.

A Canadian idea Rubio likes // Politico // Danny Vinik – June 25, 2015

A lot of politicians say they hate regulations, but how do you actually start cutting them down?

Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) is pushing an idea called a "regulatory budget," a novel approach that would put a dollar cap on the cumulative economic costs that agencies can impose through regulations. It's in his presidential platform, and in the last Congress he introduced a bill that garnered 12 cosponsors, all Republicans.

The regulatory budget is a sweeping solution to what many Americans worry is an overbearing regulatory regime. The idea dates back to Senator Lloyd Bentsen, who first proposed it in 1978, and had drifted out of sight until Rubio revived it.

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Now it has an unlikely base of support that Rubio may or may not be excited about: the Canadian government.

On Tuesday, the Senate Budget Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee pulled together a group of experts to examine the idea of a regulatory budget, and the star witness was basically Canada. Two years ago, Stephen Harper's conservative government implemented a so-called "One for One" policy, requiring Canadian regulators to remove at least one regulation for each new regulation it imposes. In addition, the administrative costs of the new regulation must be offset by the administrative costs of the removed ones. This spring, the House of Commons passed the policy into law.

The Canadians are claiming success: Tony Clement, a senior member of Harper's cabinet who first introduced the bill in January 2014, told the legislators it was saving business's money. "We saw hard evidence that the rule was reducing the administrative burden on businesses," he said in his opening statement. "As of May 20 of this year, in fact, the rule has saved $32 million in administrative burden."

The "One for One" law is a slight variation on the idea of a true regulatory budget. Under a more complete scheme like the one Rubio proposed, agencies have a certain "budget" of administrative costs to "spend" on regulations. Once an agency has used up its budget, it can only implement a new regulation by eliminating old regulations with equal costs. The idea is to force agencies to prioritize which regulations they value most.

There's a good reason why Canada didn't opt for a traditional regulatory budget: Implementing it would have been nearly impossible. Susan Dudley, the former director of both the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under former President George W. Bush, testified at the hearing that calculating the total costs of all existing regulations would be nearly impossible. "And the resulting numbers are probably not very reliable," she said.

The "One of One" policy is not without appeal. It effectively forces government agencies to review past regulations and eliminate ones that are duplicative or unnecessary. Too often, agencies are hesitant to do that themselves.

But the regulatory budget has a shortcoming: it disregards the benefits of regulation altogether, focusing only on costs. A federal agency, for instance, could have to decide between which of two regulations to impose, both of which have net positive benefits for the country. The "budget" ignores that side of the ledger.

The challenge of reckoning gains is already vexing analysts within the government. Many government agencies already require a cost-benefit analysis before new regulations can take effect, and performing those analyses turns out to be exceedingly difficult, since it's impossible to perfectly account for all the costs and benefits from a regulation – or even know when those costs and benefits might come to pass. Regulations can have steep immediate costs, like power plant rules to reduce carbon emissions, and then a long, hard-to-measure benefit, like cleaner air and less damage due to climate change.

"One of the things that we don't look at is any kind of a timeline between the upfront costs for the business and the long-term benefits for society," Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), the chair of the Senate Budget Committee, told me.

"What we run into is the same problem as a 50 percent off department sale," he said. "There's no way to spend the 50 percent that you save. That's how most of these benefits are. They're savings that can't actually be credited to any particular account. Consequently, they can be pretty nebulous."

It's a fair point. And it suggests that the correct response to sketchy cost-benefit analysis isn't to implement a "regulatory budget" – it's to get better at cost-benefit analysis. And in the case of Enzi's point, you can also figure out ways to offset the costs of regulations with a policy to help businesses hit hard in the short term.

Regulators will never perfect cost-benefit analysis, of course. As Dudley emphasized to lawmakers, there are simply too many unknowns to make accurate estimates. In addition, those estimates inherently involve value judgments, on which Democrats and Republicans will often disagree. Better cost-benefit analysis could help rulemakers with a lot of their problems, but it's highly unlikely to solve that one.

Marco Rubio discusses health care, veterans in NH visit // WMUR 9 // Jennifer Crompton – June 25, 2015

Florida senator and Republican presidential hopeful Marco Rubio sharply criticized the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold key provisions of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and said the high court's decisions on health care and gay marriage should not mark the final word on either issue.

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The court ruled 6-3 in favor of a key piece of the health law that allows millions of Americans to receive tax subsidies, regardless of where they live, to help pay for insurance premiums. Rubio said he disagrees with the judges while campaigning Thursday in New Hampshire, home of the first presidential primary contest.

"What we have now are activist judges," Rubio said. "(We have), it appears, as many as six people on the Supreme Court who think it's their job to try to fix Obamacare."

He said he'll continue to push for a "consumer-centric" approach that allows people to buy health insurance from companies in any state.

The court also will issue a ruling on whether states can ban same-sex marriage and whether states in which it is currently illegal must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Rubio said he thinks state legislatures and voters, not the courts, should decide whether to legalize gay marriage.

He pointed to his home state, where voters chose at the ballot box in 2008 to constitutionally define marriage as between a man and a woman.

"Courts should not be allowed to overturn that," he said. "Other states may reach a different conclusion, and they have a right to do that even if I disagree with them."

Rubio's campaign swing through New Hampshire featured two town hall-style events and a speech at an event focused on ending the Export-Import Bank. Most of his remarks centered on familiar themes, including his background as the son of Cuban immigrants and an emphasis on the need for a more muscular foreign policy.

Rubio, a first-term senator, is among about a dozen Republicans seeking the party's presidential nomination.

Firs t on CNN: Rubio slams Obamacare ruling // CNN // Dana Bash – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio slammed the Supreme Court's decision on Thursday to uphold Obamacare subsidies.

The Supreme Court held that the law authorized federal tax credits for eligible Americans living not only in states with their own exchanges but in the 34 states with federal exchanges, a major win for the Obama administration.

"I disagree with the court's ruling and believe they have once again erred in trying to correct the mistakes made by President Obama and Congress in forcing Obamacare on the American people," Rubio told CNN.

"Despite the court's decision, Obamacare is still a bad law that is having a negative impact on our country and on millions of Americans," Rubio continued. "I remain committed to repealing this bad law and replacing it with my consumer-centered plan that puts patients and families back in control of their health care decisions. We need Consumer Care, not Obamacare."

Thursday's 6-3 ruling is the second time in three years that the court has ruled to uphold Obamacare, Obama's signature domestic achievement.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for himself, Justice Anthony Kennedy and the four liberal justices. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissent, joined by Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

"Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them," Roberts wrote in the majority opinion. "If at all possible, we must interpret the Act in a way that is consistent with the former, and avoids the latter."

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In a dissent, Scalia said "we should start calling this law SCOTUScare," referring to the two times the Court has saved the law.

The ruling staved off a major political showdown and what would have been a mad scramble in some states to set up their own healthcare exchanges to keep millions from losing healthcare coverage.

Challengers to the law argued that the federal government should not be allowed to continue doling out subsidies to individuals living in states without their own healthcare exchanges and a ruling in their favor would have cut off subsidies to 6.4 million Americans, absent a congressional fix or state action.

Marco Rubio defends courting Koch Brothers in New Hampshire // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 25, 2015

Marco Rubio courted New Hampshire voters allied with two powerful organizations at the center of the Koch Brothers' sprawling political network during campaign events on Thursday.

Charles and David Koch, whose donor network has become the most powerful outside player in Republican politics, have pledged to direct about $900 million to help Republicans in 2016. And while the brothers themselves have said they are unlikely to make a single endorsement in the Republican field, many of their donors are. And Rubio, the 44-year-old senator from Florida, has had both public and private auditions in front of their well-heeled crowds.

Rubio spoke before the Concerned Veterans for America, a Koch-funded group aimed at reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Americans for Prosperity, the brothers' flagship organization with an aggressive ground game and paid media operations in key states. As political nonprofit groups, neither is required to disclose their donors.

Rubio, defending his events on Thursday, insisted that big donors wouldn't rule in a Rubio White House.

"People buy into my agenda, I don't buy into theirs," Rubio told reporters in Exeter after appearing at the Concerned Veterans for America event. "My stands are not influenced by my contributors, I hope my stands influences my contributors."

Rubio is expected to be one of the Republican field's top fundraisers, though all are expected to trail Jeb Bush.

As Rubio barnstormed the Granite State, a political nonprofit group set up to support him -- the Conservative Solutions Project -- unveiled a first-week $1 million advertising campaign highlighting Rubio's leadership on Iran.

"Tell your senators to join Marco Rubio. Vote against Obama's deal and stop Iran from getting the bomb," the advertisement said.

Later in the day, Rubio spoke to the New Hampshire chapter of Americans for Prosperity about the Export-Import bank, which the Koch groups fiercely oppose. The bank, which uses federal money to incentivize U.S. companies to manufacture products in the U.S., is up for a re-authorization vote before Congress at the end of the month.

But outside of the Koch events, voters seemed to have a different view of the groups' sway. At a town hall in Salem, a voter asked what he would do to stop corrupting influence of money in politics.

"When I run for office, I tell people what I stand for," Rubio said. "And when you hear what I stand for, if you want to support me and donate to our campaign -- assuming you're not a really, really bad person or something like that -- we accept that."

Marco Rubio Campaign Buys 'Several Million' Dollars' Worth Of Airtime For Ads in Early Primary States // ABC News // Jonathan Karl – June 25, 2015

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Get ready for it. The 2016 ad wars are coming soon to a television near you.

ABC News has learned Marco Rubio's presidential campaign has pre-booked "several million" dollars worth of air time for advertisements in early primary and caucus states, becoming the first major ad buy of the 2016 presidential cycle.

A Rubio source tells ABC News the campaign has reserved air time in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada — all critical early states in the Republican nominating contest.

The ads won't start running for some time, but Rubio, Florida's Republican senator, has locked in the time at lower rates by buying now.

Marco Rubio, Jeb Bus h vow to continue fighting Obamacare after Supreme Court ruling // Palm Beach Post // George Bennett – June 25, 2015

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and former Gov. Jeb Bush, both Republican candidates for president, said they'll continue to fight the Affordable Care Act after today's Supreme Court decision upholding federal subsidies in states that don't set up health insurance exchanges.

"I remain committed to repealing this bad law and replacing it with my consumer-centered plan that puts patients and families back in control of their health care decisions," Rubio said soon after the court's 6-3 decision was released.

Similarly, Bush said, "this decision is not the end of the fight against Obamacare."

Here are their full statements:

Rubio: "I disagree with the Court's ruling and believe they have once again erred in trying to correct the mistakes made by President Obama and Congress in forcing Obamacare on the American people.

"Despite the Court's decision, Obamacare is still a bad law that is having a negative impact on our country and on millions of Americans. I remain committed to repealing this bad law and replacing it with my consumer-centered plan that puts patients and families back in control of their health care decisions. We need Consumer Care, not Obamacare."

Bush: "I am disappointed by today's Supreme Court ruling in the King v. Burwell case. But this decision is not the end of the fight against Obamacare.

"This fatally-flawed law imposes job-killing mandates, causes spending in Washington to skyrocket by $1.7 trillion, raises taxes by $1 trillion and drives up health care costs. Instead of fixing our health care system, it made the problems worse.

"As President of the United States, I would make fixing our broken health care system one of my top priorities. I will work with Congress to repeal and replace this flawed law with conservative reforms that empower consumers with more choices and control over their health care decisions.

"Here is what I believe: We need to put patients in charge of their own decisions and health care reform should actually lower costs. Entrepreneurs should be freed to lower costs and improve access to care – just like American ingenuity does in other sectors of the economy.

"Americans deserve leadership that can actually fix our broken health care system, and they are certainly not getting it now from Washington, DC."

Marco Rubio gives Obama an 'F' on VA issues // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 25, 2015

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Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida on Thursday gave President Obama a failing grade on issues related to the embattled Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It's an F — I mean, because the system's gotten worse, not better," Mr. Rubio said at a Concerned Veterans for America town hall in New Hampshire, drawing applause. "We've replaced the secretary, we've had press conferences … and you've poured more money into it, and the results — the wait times have gotten longer in some places."

Mr. Rubio, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate, said he thinks when it comes to such issues, "it's either an 'A' or an 'F.' "

"It can't be a 'C' or a 'D' — I mean, it's either an 'A' or an 'F,' " he said.

Mr. Rubio said it's not a "funding issue" or a "want to" issue, "it is the fact that the model itself may no longer work in a 21st century that is dramatically different from what the world looked like 80 to a 100 years ago in terms of access to private providers and centers of excellence that want to take care of veterans and are open for business that can see you right away and produce a result that's good or better."

"Again, the key is it is up to the veteran to choose," he said. "They may be very happy at the VA that they have, they may be very pleased with the services they're being offered and that should be available to them as well. But putting the veteran in charge - [you] don't do that, you're going to continue to have a failing grade no matter who the president is."

Rubio Gives Veterans Cool Grenade Stress Balls at New Hampshire Town Hall // Slate // Jeremy Stahl – June 25, 2015

Concerned Veterans for America hosted a Marco Rubio town hall in New Hampshire on Thursday morning, and the door giveaways at the event were pretty cool:

The "Veterans and Military Town Hall" in Exeter was Rubio's first campaign stop on a day of events throughout New Hampshire that will presumably include less interesting giveaways.

Distributing stress balls to veterans is apparently not unusual for Veterans Affairs facilities and veterans support groups. The green foam grenade "stress balls" have also been used as marketing tools for for-profit college recruiters.

The Concerned Veterans for America grenade stress balls have also apparently been a popular item for them in the past. This online help guide for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder encourages soldiers experiencing flashbacks to play with a stress ball. It seems unlikely that we'll see much cooler presidential campaign schwag this cycle, although "Rand on a Stick" seems pretty fun.

Rubio: My luxury yacht 'is cleverly disguised as a fishing boat' // The Hill // Ben Kamisar – June 25, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) needled recent reports about his "luxury speedboat," joking Thursday that the vessel lacked the amenities of a lavish yacht, such as a bathroom.

"Well the thing about the boat is, too, it is a luxury speedboat, but it is cleverly disguised as a fishing boat," the presidential candidate said during an event in New Hampshire hosted by the CEO of the Concerned Veterans for America, according to CNN.

"But the best answer I got is someone who emailed me or texted me and said, 'Any boat where you have to go to the bathroom off the side of the boat is not a luxury speedboat.'"

A New York Times story from earlier this month detailed the "financial struggles" of the Florida Republican, which included an $80,000 "luxury

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speedboat," the liquidation of a $68,000 retirement account despite heavy penalties and taxes, taking a loss on a house in Tallahassee and a "strikingly low savings rate."

The campaign later sent Politico the make and model of the craft, which is a family fishing boat that lacks the trappings of luxury.

The story came on the heels of another Times report that highlighted traffic tickets incurred by Rubio in his wife, leading conservatives and Rubio's campaign to call foul.

"The attack from The Times is just the latest in their continued hits against Marco and his family," Alex Conant, Rubio's communications director, told reporters at the time.

"First The New York Times attacked Marco over traffic tickets, and now they think he doesn't have enough money. Of course if he was worth millions, The Times would then attack him for being too rich, like they did to Mitt Romney."

PAUL

Rand Paul slams Obamacare ruling, Warren says too late // The Boston Herald // Joe Dwinell, Zuri Berry, & Chris Cassidy – June 25, 2015

As the president was declaring Obamacare "is here to stay" and Elizabeth Warren knocked the GOP for fighting it, Rand Paul said it's still broken and must be fixed.

The Kentucky U.S. Senator and ophthalmologist slammed the Supreme Court's 6-3 decision today backing health care subsidies — both federal and state subsidies — giving President Obama a big win for his landmark 2010 statute.

"This was our best chance to try to get rid of either Obamacare or some of the worst parts of Obamacare," Paul said today on Boston Herald Radio's "Morning Meeting" show.

"If you don't care about choosing your doctor and don't care about choosing your insurance company ... if you don't believe in personal choice ... or competition. No. Health care is not any less expensive," he said when asked if he agrees with the president that Obamacare is working. "If you pay for your health care, your premiums are still pretty high."

But it didn't take long for Democrats to fire back at the GOP.

"The GOP can keep trying to deny millions access to health care, but our experience in MA shows health reform works — & now it's here to stay," Warren said in a Tweet.

"SCOTUS affirmed what we've known all along: the ACA was passed to provide all Americans access to more affordable, comprehensive insurance," she added in another tweet.

Paul spoke as the president and Vice President Joe Biden addressed the court decision outside the White House.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, stumping in New Hampshire today, took aim at the justices.

"It appears there's at least six people on the Supreme Court who think it's their job to fix Obamacare," he said. "We need Supreme Court justices ... that apply the law, not redefine the law in the way they want."

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House Speaker John Boehner said Republicans will “continue our efforts to repeal the law and replace it with patient-centered solutions that meet the needs of seniors, small business owners, and middle-class families.”

At the court, Chief Justice John Roberts again voted with his liberal colleagues in support of the law. Roberts also was the key vote to uphold it in 2012. Justice Anthony Kennedy, a dissenter in 2012, was part of the majority on Thursday.

“Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them,” Roberts declared in the majority opinion.

Limiting the subsidies only to individuals in states with their own exchanges could well push insurance markets in the other states “into a death spiral,” Roberts wrote.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in a dissent he summarized from the bench, strongly disagreed. “We should start calling this law SCOTUScare,” he said, using an acronym for the Supreme Court and suggesting his colleagues’ ownership by virtue of their twice stepping in to save the law from what he considered worthy challenges.

Rand Paul Said to Take on the IRS, Again // Bloomberg News // Richard Rubin – June 25, 2015

Last week, Rand Paul said he wanted to blow up the tax code. Next week, he could be suing the tax man.

The Kentucky senator is expected to be one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department, challenging the government's rules on how Americans abroad are taxed and what foreign banks have to disclose about U.S. citizens who are their customers. Being on the wrong side of the IRS is, of course, a great place for a Republican presidential contender to be.

The focus of the lawsuit is the 2010 Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act—FATCA to the initiated—which has made it much harder for Americans to have foreign bank accounts hidden from the IRS. It's also been a logistical nightmare for the millions of Americans who live outside the country and are still required to file U.S. taxes. The law has also prompted some foreign banks to refuse U.S. customers rather than deal with the hassles.

“The president can only rely upon his authority and he has no authority in the Constitution for this.”

The Washington Times first reported Paul's involvement in the suit on Thursday. Solomon Yue, vice chairman of Republicans Overseas, and James Bopp, the lead lawyer on the suit, both said Paul will be one of the plaintiffs, which will be filed in federal court in southern Ohio. Sergio Gor, a Paul spokesman, wouldn't confirm the Kentucky senator's involvement.

Paul's portion of the suit will question the administration's ability to negotiate agreements with other countries for sharing tax data without going through the formal treaty process that requires Senate approval. To implement FATCA, the Treasury Department has signed cross-border agreements that are easier for governments and banks to use than the strict rules in the law itself.

“The president can only rely upon his authority and he has no authority in the Constitution for this,” Bopp said in an interview on Thursday.

Labeling those intergovernmental agreements as treaties would let Paul block them—something he's not shy about doing. He's already halting a deal with Switzerland that was signed in 2009, and Treasury Department officials have complained that other countries have become less willing to negotiate tax treaties with the U.S. because they have little confidence that the Senate will ever ratify them.

Bopp, a longtime conservative activist, said the other plaintiffs are Americans who live abroad and they'll be challenging other portions of FATCA and related bank-disclosure requirements. It could be a tough case. Courts—remember the Supreme Court's Obamacare ruling in 2012—are typically very deferential to the government's authority to tax. Bopp said the problem is the requirement to disclose confidential information without a warrant.

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“We don't think this has to do with taxes,” Bopp said. “This has to do with disclosing private, personal information. The existence of a bank account in a foreign country has nothing to do with what taxes are imposed.”

VAT Chance: Rand Paul, Ben Cardin Push to Change Tax Code // Bloomberg News // Richard Rubin – June 25, 2015

Ben Cardin and Rand Paul don't have much in common.

The Maryland Democrat is a reliable vote for President Barack Obama's agenda. The Kentucky Republican, who is seeking his party's 2016 presidential nomination, is anything but.

Yet both have come to the same conclusion on tax policy: The answer, they say, is a VAT.

“We don't want people to confuse this with a European-style VAT.”

Yes, a value-added tax, the money machine that fuels governments in Europe and gets proponents booted out of office around the world. The U.S. is the only major industrialized nation without a VAT, and that's exactly the way most lawmakers like it.

Campaign pledge

Paul made the VAT a centerpiece of the tax plan his presidential campaign released last week. That makes him the latest convert to a cause Cardin has been pushing for years.

Back in 2010, Cardin was on the losing side of an 85-13 Senate vote that declared the VAT "a massive tax increase that will cripple families on fixed income." Just four of the other 12 who voted with Cardin are still in office, though that had more to do with age than the VAT.

The VAT starts with a very broad base—consumption—and imposes taxes at each stage of production. Each business pays based on what it sells minus what it buys, and the burden gets baked into wages and prices. Those features mean VATs can raise a ton of money—and they impose a heavier burden on the poor, who consume a greater share of their income than the rich do.

Cardin has been persistent, proposing the most thoroughly thought-out VAT plan and advocating it despite little chance of success. Paul is a new convert.

Cardin says he welcomes the new addition to the VAT chat—even though he knows they won't agree at all on the details.

"You talk to conservative Republicans and as long as your tape's not on, they'll say yes," Cardin said in an interview this week. "They will. I mean, I've talked to them. And if you talk to progressive Democrats, they'll say yes."

Cardin's plan and Paul's campaign proposal are going nowhere fast. A member of the Senate minority plus one of a gaggle of presidential candidates don't quite add up to the clout to transform the tax system.

VAT? What VAT?

In a sign of the idea's political toxicity, neither uses the VAT label. Cardin goes with "progressive consumption tax." Paul prefers "business-activity tax."

So at this point, there's no need for a deep dive on border adjustability and the credit-invoice system. But there's an important lesson here about the appeal of the VAT as a simple, efficient way to raise revenue.

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"If you take a look, any objective—and I mean objective—analysis of our tax code on competitiveness, you will come to the conclusion that the only way you can reform our tax code is to bring in consumption tax revenues at the national level and reduce the income tax revenues at the national level," Cardin said.

Cardin and Paul were each well aware of a leading argument against a VAT—its regressive nature—and their plans propose remedies. However, the way each senator uses the VAT shows just how far apart the parties are on taxes.

For Paul, the 14.5 percent VAT is a way to cut other taxes.

He would eliminate the corporate income tax, the payroll tax, the estate tax, the gift tax and all tariffs. The result would cut $3 trillion over 10 years from federal revenues, according to the Tax Foundation, and Paul's plan to balance the budget would only work if his tax plan sparks economic growth and he can persuade Congress to cut spending drastically.

The payroll tax repeal and rules that would prevent families of four making $50,000 from paying any income taxes are Paul's attempts to address regressivity. He wants to cut the top individual tax rate to 14.5 percent, so high-income households would pay a lot less, too.

To borrow a phrase from the health-care debate, Paul's plan is to repeal and replace.

"We don't want people to confuse this with a European-style VAT," said Stephen Moore of the Heritage Foundation, who helped design Paul's plan. "It's not an add-on. It's a complete and entire replacement."

Cardin's approach

Cardin takes the opposite approach. He starts from the reality that the the U.S. is a low-tax country with relatively high marginal tax rates. His working theory is that we just have too few taxes. If you spread the burden across multiple tax bases, you can keep rates lower and reduce the economic distortions that each tax causes.

So Cardin uses the revenue from his 10 percent VAT to reduce—but not eliminate—other taxes. The corporate income tax rate would hit 17 percent, down from 35. The top income tax rate would be 28 percent, down from 39.6.

To deal with the money machine fears, Cardin includes what he calls a circuit-breaker—automatic rebates if VAT revenues exceed 10 percent of the economy.

To address regressivity, Cardin takes Paul's $50,000 figure and doubles it, so no married couple making under $100,000 would pay income taxes. Plus, he would offer rebates based on family size.

So Cardin and Paul are close. On everything except the details.

Don't tear up your 1040s just yet.

Rand Paul and AAPS Want to Bring You Liberty.... From Safe Healthcare // HuffPo // Dr. Jason Johnson – June 25, 2015

Rand Paul has been a lot of things over the last 5 years: a Senator, a Tea Party scion, and now a candidate for the Republican nomination for president.

But throughout all of these things Paul, has always fallen back to his years as an Opthamologist and highlighting the training the dedication, even the

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volunteer service he's done have all been a part of his political message making. But what if Paul wanted to bring his same level of libertarian politics to doctors? What if his same brand of no government, no-oversight-free-market-politics made its way into your day to day healthcare needs? Apparently, Paul has been privately pushing for that all along under the guise of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS).

The name sounds innocuous enough. But the AAPS has a radical political agenda that would likely gut even the most basic protections Americans hold dear in the realm of healthcare. The group has published numerous troubling articles drawing a connection between vaccinations and autism, abortions and breast cancer, and even connecting the rise in American leprosy cases to illegal immigration. While these are all fringe beliefs based on nothing more than junk science, they actually don't constitute the most dangerous policy goals of the organization. Recently, they've set their sights on medical certification boards.

For those who may be unclear on the role of medical certification boards, these are the organizations that set the standards for certification that all doctors have to be a specialist in that area of medicine. When a doctor says they're Board Certified, it's because they've gone through this process.

"The medical recertification industry is a monopoly whose net keeps widening" and "opponents of MOC [Maintenance of Certification] urge physicians to 'stand up to the tyranny' of the American Board of Medical Specialties and the MOC requirements of the specialty boards. 'I call it 'civil disobedience' and regard myself as part of an incipient mass-noncompliance movement," says Dr. Weiss, who has decided not to recertify.

AAPS has decided that the idea of doctors having to periodically retrain and update their skills in the medical profession is a horrible imposition of government authority and, thus, must be stopped. They argue that unlike cops, or teachers or even truck drivers, doctors should somehow be exempt from maintaining their skill set. The consequences of this change in legislation would be disastrous -- and not just for patients, but for doctors themselves.

The vast majority of Americans don't see a medical provider every year, and when they do, it is likely for emergencies, because their children are sick, or they visit their local pharmacist. If doctors are left to their own whim to determine when and how they update and certify their skills, changes in medication, surgery procedures and patient care will likely be missed or just outright ignored. Not because doctors are lazy or unprofessional, but because re-certification takes time, money and study.

Most doctors feel equipped to handle whatever comes into their offices. However, certification doesn't just affect patients, it protects doctors as well. Proof of certification and updated medical knowledge inoculates doctors against lawsuits and challenges about their competence. If an urologist is sued for malpractice two weeks after being re-certified they have a much stronger defense than if the last time they proved their ability was medical school in the 90's.

Senator Rand Paul was a part of the AAPS until 2010 when he was elected to the Senate, like most politicians he chose to quietly separate himself from organizations that might harm his future political goals (like the Palin's and the Alaska Independence Party). But it doesn't mean he still doesn't share these beliefs and, in fact, given Paul's recent statements about autism and vaccination there is every reason to believe that he is still an ideological member of the AAPS even if he's no longer officially carrying water for them.

Rand Paul may be many things -- a crusader, a protector of privacy and a conservative, but one thing he certainly isn't is informed on the value of and importance of oversight in American healthcare. Medical review boards are a necessity for a safe and transparent healthcare system in the United States. The AAPS and organizations like it, are attempting to scuttle the ways in which the consumer is protected in favor of empowering doctors who, regardless of intentions, are still capable to of making life threatening mistakes. Libertarian politics may work great if you're running for president, but it doesn't take an eye doctor to see it won't work well for the healthcare needs of Americans.

Rand Paul's Courtship With Evangelicals: Will It Be Enough to Win the GOP Primary // The Christian Post // Shane Vander Hart – June 25, 2015

In 2012 57 percent of Iowa's Republican caucus-goers identified themselves as evangelical or born-again Christians. Needless to say a candidate who wants to do well in the upcoming Iowa Caucuses in February will have to court evangelicals. It's simple math.

U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has a greater ability to reach evangelicals than his father former Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) did in 2012, and he is reaching out.

In March at a small prayer breakfast with pastors in Washington, DC Paul said that America needs a spiritual revival.

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"The First Amendment says keep government out of religion. It doesn't say keep religion out of government," Paul told the group of 50 pastors. "We're the most disconnected city on the planet from the people so don't have a lot of faith in what's going on up here."

"We need a revival in the country. We need another Great Awakening with tent revivals of thousands of people saying reform or see what's going to happen if we don't reform," he added.

At the same meeting he told the pastors that our nation's financial woes stem from the country's spiritual brokenness. "It's a spiritual problem as much as it is any other problem. All the other problems kind of stem from a brokenness that is out there," Paul stated.

Paul has also said that government can't fix the moral crisis our country is facing during that same meeting. "Don't always look to Washington to solve anything," Paul said. "In fact, the moral crisis we have in our country, there is a role for us trying to figure out things like marriage, there's also a moral crisis that allows people to think that there would be some sort of other marriage. And so, really there's a role outside and inside government but the exhortation to sort of change people's thoughts has to come through the countryside, from outside of Washington."

In response to the Charleston shooting Paul told the audience assembled for the Faith & Freedom Coalition event in Washington, DC said there is a sickness in the country that can't be solved by more laws.

"What kind of person goes into church and shoots nine people? There's a sickness in our country. There's something terribly wrong. But it isn't going to be fixed by your government. It's people straying away, it's people not understanding where salvation comes from. I think if we understand that, we'll have better expectations of what to expect from government," Paul asserted.

Yet he has to do a balancing act between evangelical's social conservatism on one hand, and libertarians on the other. His campaign's focus has been to discuss privacy and personal liberty matters where there could be some overlap between the groups, as well as, with younger voters.

The issue of marriage, especially in light of the Supreme Court's decision to be released at any time could strain that coalition. Libertarians, by and large, do not want government interference in marriage. Paul is on the record saying that he would prefer it be left to the states, and that he doesn't want to register his marriage with the government.

Evangelical social conservatives on the other hand see the Supreme Court's decision should they rule in favor of same-sex marriage as expected as federal interference with state laws and constitutional amendments, and yet another example of a runaway judiciary. They're looking for answers and Paul has been silent.

Paul has spoken out on the topic of religious liberty however. Last week at the Faith & Freedom Coalition, but he didn't just talk about what was going on domestically. "There is a war on Christianity, not just from liberal elites here at home, but worldwide. And your government, or more correctly, you, the taxpayer, are funding it," Paul said. "You are being taxed to send money to countries that are not only intolerant of Christians but openly hostile. Christians are imprisoned and threatened with death for their beliefs."

Recently, however, Paul was criticized for his initial silence on the controversy over Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act which the Indiana Legislature and Governor Mike Pence later gutted after pressure from the corporate world.

He later defended the law in an interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News. "I think what's amazing to me is that it's (RFRA) necessary. This was the debate when our founding started. Our Founding Fathers didn't even want a Bill of Rights. They thought it would be so understood that you had the right to express your religious liberty that no one would ever question it, and some thought that if you listed a bill of rights that some would believe that is all of your rights. I think our Founders would be aghast that anyone would think that they could tell you to do something, to perform a ceremony or be part of a ceremony, that's against your religious beliefs. That being said, though, I think the law ought to be neutral, and I don't think we ought to treat people unfairly," he stated.

"I don't think you can have coercion in a free society very well. I mean, they–seem to be antagonistic. So, I would think that we ought to try freedom in most of these things. And then, also, people ought to understand that people's opinions change through persuasion…so, if people want to convince people that other forms of marriage are fine, they need to do it through persuasion," Paul added.

Some evangelicals have expressed concerns about his commitment to Israel and his non-interventionist foreign policy as it relates to fighting terrorism.

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Paul recently changed course on Israel visiting the country for the 1st time in 2013. He recently submitted the Stand with Israel Act that would have defunded the Palestinian Authority. While Paul has criticized military action in Iraq and Afghanistan he also advocated for the United States to declare war on ISIS.

Also there are questions why Paul has avoided certain venues. He skipped Congressman Steve King's Freedom Summit in January that had over 1000 grassroots activists present. He did speak at the Iowa Faith & Freedom event in April, but is skipping The FAMiLY Leadership Summit for the second year in a row. His campaign told Caffeinated Thoughts that there was a scheduling conflict on July 18, but did not elaborate on what he is opting to do on that Saturday.

His absence from what promises to be the largest gathering of evangelicals in the state, especially in light of the Iowa Straw Poll's cancellation, is mind-boggling to some political observers.

"In my opinion this ends any remote chances he still had to make any inroads to the evangelical vote in Iowa, which is going to be about two-thirds of the electorate next February. Apparently his plan is to see if 7-10% wins next year. I don't understand that strategy," nationally syndicated talk show host Steve Deace said on his Facebook page.

Not all disagree with his approach. Mark Doland, who is minister at Park Avenue Church of Christ in Oskaloosa, IA, has been a vocal supporter of Paul's and recently said that if Paul won 10 to 15% of the evangelical vote Paul would be doing well, especially in light of his efforts to expand the Republican base among younger voters and minorities.

In an op/ed published on Monday by The Des Moines Register Doland also said that he used to buy into all of the cliches and that if a candidate expressed support for life and marriage he could be won over easily. Not anymore, Doland states he's looking for more substance.

He was impressed with Paul's call to reform the criminal justice system.

"Rand Paul is committed to reforming our broken criminal justice system. We are feeling the shock waves through our culture because it wasn't addressed sooner. I strongly believe that the punishment should fit the crime.

When I was 13 years old I met my biological father for the first time. I developed a relationship and bonded with him. It was something I had dreamed about. Two years later, my father was arrested for conspiracy charges on drug trafficking. As a young man in an impressionable stage, it caused a crisis in my life. My dream was annihilated.

My father was sentenced to 13 years in prison. While I do not dispute that my father committed a crime and should have been incarcerated, I don't believe that the penalty for his crime was appropriate. My little brother has followed that path and I believe that it has been directly related to the fatherlessness he experienced as a teenager.

Upon completion of his sentence I am happy to report that my father has reformed and is now a Christian. Rand Paul understands the unintended consequences of this type of justice system and is committed to reforming it."

Doland also said he also appreciated how Paul has gone on the offense with the life issue.

The courtship continues, albeit, it is not a traditional one Iowa evangelicals are used to seeing from candidates. Paul has the ability to draw some evangelicals provided he can maintain the delicate balance he has with the libertarians in the party.

Rand Paul: The Supreme Court 'Missed An Opportunity Here' **// The Daily Caller // Al Weaver – June 25, 2015**

Soon after the Supreme Court upheld Obamacare subsidies Thursday morning, Sen. Rand Paul said that the Supreme Court "missed an opportunity here" to change the law.

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The 2016 candidate also lamented to CNN's Wolf Biltzer that the decision takes "leverage" away from the GOP's efforts to repeal or fix the law in any way.

RAND PAUL: As a physician, the Supreme Court missed an opportunity here. Obamacare is making all insurance more expensive. I think we made a mistake. If they would have ruled and adhered to the literal nature of the law, maybe Congress would have had a chance to take up Obamacare again and try to make it less bad or fix the parts of it that are causing so many problems in our society. I really think Obamacare is making all insurance more expensive and taking away choice. So I am disappointed that we've missed an opportunity here.

WOLF BLITZER: But for all practical purposes, senator, at least for now, any changes, significant changes, in Obamacare, changes you as a physician, as a Republican, as a senator, as a presidential candidate would like — those changes are going away at least for now until — if there is a Republican president that could change, but at least for now you're resigned to the fact Obamacare stays as is.

PAUL: I would still like to reform it and change it and give patients back more choices on whether they can choose which doctor or which insurance plan, legalize competition and legalize inexpensive insurance again, but it makes it hard because we don't have the leverage. If we had the leverage where the president had to revisit this because part of it had been struck down, then we would have the leverage to force the president to revisit it. We have majorities and so we can bring it up and we can pass legislation, but getting the president to actually do something about it and actually have the leverage to get him to perhaps sign something that would change Obamacare, I think we've lost that leverage.

BLITZER: But just to wrap this up, senator, even if you do — the Republican majorities in the House and Senate pass legislation, the president presumably will veto that legislation and you don't have two-thirds majorities to override a presidential veto, right?

PAUL: I agree, and that's why, without this court case, I think we've lost the leverage to actually have the president negotiate with us.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz Speaks to the Right, Shuns Party Leaders // WSJ // Janet Hook – June 25, 2015

At a time when many other Republicans are trying to expand their party's appeal, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas is aggressively building his 2016 presidential campaign with a different approach: Making an undiluted pitch to his party's most conservative, anti-establishment wing.

Just within the last week, Mr. Cruz abruptly dropped his support for a trade bill bitterly opposed by many conservatives; launched fresh attacks on his own party's establishment leaders; and declined to take sides in the South Carolina Confederate flag debate even after other GOP candidates joined the call for it to be taken down from the Statehouse grounds.

No one ever expected Mr. Cruz to tack to the center in his bid for the 2016 GOP nomination. But as he looks for solid footing in the crowded field, he is doubling down on positions that fire up his base on the right and sometimes rankle other Republicans.

That is just fine by him. In a speech at the Heritage Foundation Wednesday, he took it as a badge of honor that he has fought as much with his own party leaders as with Democrats, attacking the bipartisan "Washington cartel" of lobbyists, lawmakers and powerbrokers.

"You can say a lot of things about me but 'beloved by my colleagues in Washington' is not one of them," he said.

He infuriated many Republicans this week when he flipped positions on trade legislation that he, as a vocal advocate for free trade, had supported in the past.

His earlier vote for the trade bill — "fast track" legislation to expedite international trade agreements — had put him at odds with many tea-party activists, talk-radio hosts and other conservatives who said it gave too much power to President Barack Obama.

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Some critics saw his reversal this week as an act of political opportunism to make amends with conservative supporters. He called it a response to changing circumstances: He believed that party leaders, in rounding up votes for the trade bill, cut a deal to keep alive the Export Import Bank, a bete noire for conservatives. That charge was denied by GOP leaders.

In the debate over the Confederate flag in South Carolina after the Charleston church massacre, Mr. Cruz was almost alone among the major presidential candidates in not endorsing South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley‘s call for taking the flag down from the state Capitol grounds.

Like many Republican presidential candidates, Mr. Cruz initially reacted to the controversy cautiously, deferring to people in the state to decide. Over the weekend, he said he understood “both sides” of the debate but “I think that’s a question for South Carolina.”

After Ms. Haley and a bipartisan group of state leaders Monday called for legislation to remove the flag, other major GOP candidates — including Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Scott Walker and Rand Paul — chimed in to endorse that decision.

But Mr. Cruz has still not picked a side. To join in the take-it-down chorus, he would have to cross some of his most important political supporters in South Carolina. Two of his three campaign co-chairs are state legislators who are leading opponents of removing the flag — state Sen. Lee Bright and state Rep. Bill Chumley.

Campaign spokesman Rick Tyler said Mr. Cruz believed that with the issue still before the state legislature, it remained one for the state to decide for itself. “South Carolina doesn’t need outsiders chiming in and dictating their outcome,” he said.

That puts Mr. Cruz in a familiar place: At odds with Republican Party leaders.

One of the prominent “outsiders” chiming in on the debate is Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus, who has been trying to expand the GOP’s support among minority voters in the wake of its 2012 presidential loss.

Mr. Priebus appeared on the stage with Ms. Haley as she called for the flag’s removal, and released a statement in support: “While some say it represents different things to different people, there is no denying that it also represents serious divisions that must be mended in our society.”

Ted Cruz Calls Supreme Court Justices 'Robed Houdinis' Over Obamacare Decision // The National Journal // Marina Koren – June 25, 2015

President Obama's signature health care law saw a big victory on Thursday. And the lawmaker who shut down the government over it is outraged.

Ted Cruz gave an impassioned speech on the Senate floor Thursday afternoon, a few hours after the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to uphold the Affordable Care Act's subsidies nationwide. The senator from Texas, who is also running for president, called the decision "judicial activism, plain and simple."

"Today, these robed Houdinis have transmogrified a federal exchange into an exchange, quote, 'established by the State,' " he said. "This is lawless. As Justice [Antonin] Scalia rightfully put it, without objection, words no longer have meaning."

Cruz was referring to the challenge in King v. Burwell of a provision of the Affordable Care Act that calls for health care subsidies to come from "an exchange established by the State." Opponents of the law said that this language meant that subsidies cannot be made available to people who live in states that rely on the federal government to run their exchanges (there are 34 of them). Roberts wrote that this reading was too narrow, and said that section of the law could refer to both individual state exchanges and government-run exchanges.

Scalia wrote a blistering dissent, saying that "words no longer have meaning" if the majority considers the word "state" to also mean "federal government." Like Cruz, Scalia accused his fellow justices of siding with the president for reasons outside of the Constitution.

"Politics intervened," Cruz said. "For nakedly political reasons, the Supreme Court willfully ignored the words that Congress wrote and instead read into the law their preferred policy outcome. These judges have joined with President Obama in harming millions of Americans. Unelected judges have once

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again become legislators, and bad ones at that."

Nearly two years ago, just before the launch of Healthcare.gov, Cruz convinced party leaders to tie funding legislation to a bill that would defund Obamacare. The resulting legislative fight led to the first government shutdown in 17 years. Cruz solidified his role as one of the most vocally anti-Obamacare Republicans on the Hill, and is now vying for the White House as the most anti-Obamacare presidential candidate. On Thursday, Cruz looked ahead to 2016, saying the election "will be a national referendum on repealing Obamacare."

"I remain fully committed to repealing every single word of Obamacare," Cruz said. "And mark my words, following the election in 2016, the referendum that we will have in 2017, this chamber will return and we will repeal every word of Obamacare."

For the GOP, Thursday's decision is bittersweet. The ruling saves congressional Republicans and Republican governors from having to scramble for a plan to immediately protect the 6 million people who would have lost their coverage had the Court ruled the other way. But the long-term GOP plan to gut Obamacare depended on a judicial win, one that Republicans thought would force the president to cave on some parts of his law, like the individual mandate, which the Court upheld in 2012.

Now, some Republicans are eyeing a legislative maneuver known as budget reconciliation, which would allow the Senate to skip the 60-vote threshold required to complete action on a bill, keeping the minority party—in this case, Democrats—from blocking it. House Speaker John Boehner would not say Thursday whether leaders will use reconciliation. But even if lawmakers set the process in motion, they face a steep uphill climb, with Obama's veto waiting for them at the top.

While the next legislative steps in the battle against Obamacare remain unclear, Republicans running for president know what to do: promise the fight isn't over. "I think you're going to see virtually every candidate from Jeb Bush all the way to John Kasich calling for repeal and replacement, absolutely," predicted GOP Rep. Matt Salmon of Arizona after the ruling came down.

That includes Cruz, who has the advantage of bringing his campaign to the Senate floor.

Ted Cruz on Obamacare Subsidies Decision: "Supreme Court's Judicial Activism Violating Their Oaths Of Office" // Real Clear Politics // Ian Schwartz – June 25, 2015

SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TX): You, the teenage immigrant washing dishes are paying illegal taxes right now today, because of President Obama's deception, because of the IRS's lawlessness and because of the Supreme Court's judicial activism violating their oaths of office.

I remain fully committed to repealing every single word of Obamacare. And mark my words, following the election in 2016, the referendum that we will have, in 2017 this chamber will return and we will repeal every word of Obamacare. We'll bring back economic growth. We'll bring back opportunity. And then we'll pass commonsense health care reform that makes health insurance personal and portable and affordable, that keeps government from getting between us and our doctors.

We will recognize that this horrible experiment has failed. And when millions of Americans lose their jobs, are forced into part-time work, lose their health care, lose their doctors, when millions of Americans see their premiums skyrocket, it's incumbent on members of this body, it's incumbent on the federal government to fix the wreckage they caused, to fix the wreckage that the Supreme Court has now embraced lawlessly.

Ted Cruz, angered by Obamacare ruling, tells 'rogue justices' to resign and run for Congress // The Washington Times // Seth McLaughlin – June 25, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz delivered a full-throated critique Thursday of the Supreme Court, saying that it is clear that the "rogue justices" that ruled in favor of Obamacare subsidies are "lawless" political foot soldiers that have joined forces with the Obama administration.

Speaking on the Senate floor, the Texas Republican and 2016 GOP presidential candidate said that if the "justices want to become legislators, I invite them to resign and run for office."

The remarks came shortly after the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the Obama administration is lawfully doling out Obamacare's subsidies in dozens of states despite contested language in the law that sparked a legal battle with major politi*cal and economic ramifications.*

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“The Supreme Court willfully ignored the words that Congress wrote, and instead read into the law their preferred policy outcome,” Mr. Cruz said. “These judges have joined with President Obama in *harming millions of Americans.”*

He continued, “Those justices are not behaving as umpires calling balls and strikes. They have joined a team, and it is a team that is hurting *Americans across this country.”*

Mr. Cruz said the 2016 election will be a referendum on Obamacare, which he said is hurting millions of Americans.

Ted Cruz is bashing John Roberts after years of praising him // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – June 25, 2015

Presidential candidate and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) apparently used to have a very different opinion about Chief Justice John Roberts than he expressed on Thursday.

According to a 2005 Sun-Sentinel report, Cruz once praised Roberts as "one of the best constitutional minds in the country."

Cruz reportedly made that comment while explaining why, as a domestic policy adviser for George W. Bush's 2000 presidential campaign, he brought Roberts to Florida to assist with his team's legal battle over the controversial post-election recount.

And as the Texas Tribune reported three years ago, when Bush nominated Roberts to the Supreme Court in 2005, Cruz "was an outspoken advocate for his confirmation, calling him 'brilliant' and a 'lawyer's lawyer.'"

"As an individual, John Roberts is undoubtedly a principled conservative, as is the president who appointed him," Cruz wrote at the time in the National Review. "But, as a jurist, Judge Roberts's approach will be that of his entire career: carefully, faithfully applying the Constitution and legal precedent."

Cruz, now running a fiercely conservative campaign for president, seemed to have a much different take on Roberts on Thursday when the Supreme Court issued its second major ruling protecting the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare

In a passionate statement, Cruz tore into the court's "robed Houdinis" who "transmogrified" the law to defend President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law. Roberts wrote both of the rulings Cruz criticized.

"Today's decision in King v. Burwell is judicial activism, plain and simple. For the second time in just a few years, a handful of unelected judges has rewritten the text of Obamacare in order to impose this failed law on millions of Americans," the senator said.

Cruz's lengthy statement argued that the Supreme Court justices clearly screwed up and that they would have ruled against the Affordable Care Act if politics had not intervened. Cruz once clerked for then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist and, as Texas' solicitor general, argued a number of cases before the Supreme Court.

"For nakedly political reasons, the Supreme Court willfully ignored the words that Congress wrote, and instead read into the law their preferred policy outcome. These judges have joined with President Obama in harming millions of Americans," he continued. "Unelected judges have once again become legislators, and bad ones at that. They are lawless, and they hide their prevarication in legalese. Our government was designed to be one of laws, not of men, and this transparent distortion is disgraceful."

Cruz's campaign did not respond to requests for comment from Business Insider on Thursday asking about the 2005 Sun-Sentinel report and whether his opinion of Roberts has changed.

If his opinion about Roberts has indeed shifted, Cruz wouldn't be the only one. Roberts was nominated for his position by Bush, a Republican, and many

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conservatives criticized him for siding with the court's liberal wing in the Obamacare ruling.

Similarly, as a senator, President Obama criticized and voted against Roberts' confirmation in 2005. Obama likely has a very different opinion of the chief justice today.

GRAHAM

Graham Blas ts Hillary's 'Sleazy' Associates, State Department Management // Free Beacon // Alana Goodman – June 25, 2015

South Carolina senator and presidential candidate Lindsey Graham slammed Hillary Clinton's management of the State Department on Wednesday, saying that other Americans could be sent to jail for running organizations in a similar fashion.

"I don't know how in the world she can avoid being held accountable for the way she ran the State Department," said Graham, during a meeting with Washington Free Beacon reporters on Wednesday morning. "The sleazy nature of these relationships, and her AWOL when it came to taking care of the people under her charge—being AWOL regarding Benghazi."

Graham said he had concerns about Clinton's continued relationship with long-time confidante Sidney Blumenthal, who passed on faulty intelligence from his private intelligence network to the Secretary of State.

"I have zero respect for the man," said Graham, noting that Blumenthal was accused of spreading false rumors to discredit Monica Lewinsky in the 1990s. "There's a reason the State Department wouldn't hire him. For her to continue to associate with this guy says a lot about her."

Graham said he also found it troubling that Clinton's chief of staff Cheryl Mills was simultaneously serving on the board of New York University's UAE-funded Abu Dhabi campus, earning $198,000 as NYU's general counsel and working for Clinton at the State Department. The Free Beacon first reported on Mills' overlapping positions on Wednesday.

"What kind of vetting system do you have over there?" said Graham. "Somebody had to sign off on this. Either [Clinton's] okay with this, or completely in the dark."

The Republican candidate also blasted Clinton for her use of a private email server, saying that if she had been in the Bush administration there would be much more serious consequences.

"If Dick Cheney had done any of this. If Dick Cheney had set up a server in his house," said Graham. "If Dick Cheney's lawyers had gone through the process and said 'No, we cleansed the thing, trust us, we did it right,' there'd be all hell to pay."

The senator said Clinton's handling of the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi was the biggest black mark on her State Department record.

He criticized the former secretary of state for failing to address security concerns at the Benghazi compound in the months leading up to the attack, despite requests from staff and the late Ambassador Chris Stevens.

"What do you have to do as an ambassador in her State Department to get help? Do you have to take an ad out in the Washington Post?" said Graham. "They did everything they could do to request additional help, and every request, for the most part, was denied."

"I think she's carrying more bags than anybody should be able to carry for President of the United States," he added.

In addition to Clinton, Graham said he also thought fellow Republican senator and presidential candidate Rand Paul would have significant baggage on national security issues going into the race.

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He said Paul's recent filibuster to protest NSA surveillance hurt his standing with senate colleagues, and described it as an "unseemly" fundraising ploy.

"The worst thing that can happen to you in the Senate is people think you don't know what you're doing," said Graham. "Rand, I think, exhibited a detachment from the reality that exists in terms of the [national security] threats."

"People thought he did it for political reasons," Graham added. "He's out there on the floor doing a filibuster and raising money. And I think that was unseemly. I think he tremendously hurt himself in terms of being seen as a colleague who is serious and knowledgeable."

Lindsey Graham Criticizes Hillary Clinton on Equal Pay // Free Beacon // Joe Schoffstall – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) criticized Hillary Clinton's support for equal pay laws as little more than a handout to the trial lawyer lobby.

Despite having a history of paying the female staffers in her Senate office far less than their male counterparts, Clinton has claimed to be in favor of laws that would mandate equal pay between the sexes.

Graham said in an interview Wednesday that her stated proposal would never work and is purely politics. He also questioned how many people would want the federal government to set salaries throughout the nation.

"Equal pay is about creating lawsuit opportunities, it's not about equality. It's about creating more opportunities for a company to be sued—it is a talking point. It is a concept and it is a shallow concept. It is designed to make people aggrieved with no solution at hand other than more lawsuits," Graham said.

The senator questioned whether such efforts are the proper role of the federal government.

"Is it the government's job to set salaries for people in this country? I would say the construct she's proposing would never work; it's all politics," Graham said. "How many Americans want the federal government to inventory salaries throughout the country. There are already laws on the books where you could sue somebody if you are being paid less because of your gender."

Clinton is "toying" with people by giving them hope when there is none, Graham said.

"The worst thing about this is you're creating—you're giving people hope—when there is none, you're toying with people. Those who feel like, 'I should be paid more,' well the federal government is not going to come in there and give you more money but there is a process for you to sue if you feel you're being aggrieved as an individual. Her solution is just to increase more lawsuits. When she talks about equal play and you flush it out, she's toying with people."

The Washington Free Beacon previously reported that Clinton's current equal pay rhetoric doesn't quite match up to the history of what she paid employees while in the Senate.

While Clinton was a senator, she paid females in her office just 72 cents for each dollar paid to men.

"During those years, the median annual salary for a woman working in Clinton's office was $15,708.38 less than the median salary for a man," the Free Beacon found in its analysis of data compiled from official Senate expenditure reports.

How Lindsey Graham Would Defeat the Islamic State // Free Beacon // Daniel Wiser – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.) laid out a detailed plan for defeating the Islamic State terrorist group in an interview Wednesday with the Washington Free Beacon, offering a frank assessment of the necessity for more U.S. troops and a two-front strategy for Iraq and

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Syria.

Concerns continue to be raised about the current U.S. strategy for defeating the Islamic State (IS), which now reportedly controls more than half of Syria and seized the Iraqi city of Ramadi last month. Despite U.S. airstrikes and the presence of about 3,500 troops to train and advise Iraqi forces, the Obama administration's plan to "degrade and destroy" IS does not appear to have slowed the group's momentum.

Graham, one of the leading GOP voices on foreign policy and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said "Gen. Obama and [Vice President Joe] Biden have been very lousy generals" in the fight against IS. He added that the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 only emboldened neighboring Iran, which has expanded its influence in Iraq by backing Shiite militias.

"Nothing you see today was unpredictable," he said. "It was the natural, logical consequence of a poor decision by the president."

Graham said he agrees with retired Gen. Jack Keane, one of the architects of the surge strategy in the Iraq War, on the need to deploy about 10,000 U.S. troops to Iraq. This would include aviation battalions and special operations forces that could call in airstrikes and better assist Iraqi forces on the front lines. The raid last month by U.S. commandos that killed a senior IS official in Syria should be replicated, he said.

"If I were president we'd be doing that every night in Syria and Iraq," he said. "They would never get a minute's sleep."

More U.S. advisers on the ground would also expedite the training of Iraqi forces and Sunni Muslim tribal fighters from the western Anbar province, who remain distrustful of the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad and its ties to Iran, he said.

Frederick Kagan, director of the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute, articulated a similar strategy in congressional testimony on Wednesday. About 20,000 U.S. troops would be required to help call in airstrikes, embed with Iraqi units to improve their effectiveness, conduct raids on IS leaders, and obtain better intelligence, Kagan said.

In a February poll conducted by CNN, 57 percent of Americans said they did not approve of Obama's efforts to defeat IS. However, a slim majority of respondents said they still opposed sending ground troops back to the Middle East.

As president, Graham said he would tell Americans, "if we don't deal with the threats over there, they're coming here."

"I've never seen so many terrorist organizations with so many safe havens, so much money, so many men, equipment, and material to hit the homeland as I do today," he said.

IS has also demonstrated an ability to expand its so-called caliphate and global influence, making inroads in Afghanistan, Libya, and Yemen, and inspiring attacks in Paris and Texas.

"This is not a regional conflict," he said. "This is a worldwide struggle of good versus evil, religious Nazis against the rest of us."

Turning to Syria, he said the chaotic civil war there "makes Iraq look like a cakewalk." The Pentagon is attempting to train and equip more moderate Syrian rebels to battle IS, but fewer than 200 fighters have begun the program so far due to vetting issues and the difficulty of exiting the country's war zone. Graham said the train-and-equip plan would "have to be 150 years old before this thing has any chance of working," noting that IS could have as many as 40,000 fighters in Syria, its original base of operations.

"There are more foreign fighters coming into [IS] ranks than we're training Free Syrian rebels," he said.

The U.S.-trained rebels also do not have explicit approval to target Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, a situation that Graham said has undermined regional support for the effort and must change. He said he would assemble a regional force composed of troops from Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia to topple Assad and eradicate IS and other terrorist groups in Syria. Yet he added that "big Arab armies haven't really fought much," meaning that more U.S. commandos will be required to give them a logistical edge and act as forward air controllers to improve the accuracy of airstrikes.

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Once IS has been decimated from Iraq and Syria, U.S. allies must hold the territory and begin a process of reconciliation between Sunnis and Shiites, he said. A political settlement could begin to heal a post-Assad Syria, while neutralizing the influence of Iran in Iraq would create more stability in that country and the region. Graham added that he "would walk away" from the current nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran and ramp up pressure on Tehran with additional sanctions.

Americans must be prepared for the long-term challenge in the region of rooting out IS and rolling back Iran's influence, he said, dismissing quick solutions such as the partition of Iraq and Syria.

"This mess has got many tentacles to it," he said. "As you pull up the caliphate by its roots, you've got to explain to the American people—this is going to be a long struggle to hold this ground, rebuild Syria and Iraq."

SANTORUM

Santorum returns focus to culture wars in Iowa speech // The Des Moines Register // William Petroski - June 25, 2015

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, who has struggled for recognition in a crowded Republican presidential field, focused heavily on his role as a culture warrior here Thursday night and received enthusiastic support.

Santorum carried 11 states — including the Iowa caucuses — with a low-budget, grassroots campaign in 2012 that appealed strongly to Christian conservatives. He began the 2016 election cycle talking about helping blue-collar workers, but he spent much of his campaign speech here making clear his opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion and the need to bolster two-parent American families.

Santorum said he was disappointed with Thursday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that favored the implementation of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. He added he is now concerned the high court will soon follow with a decision endorsing same-sex marriage.

But if the court sides in support of gay marriage, Santorum made it clear he won't consider the battle over. He warned such a court decision could have profound effects on the nation's churches and religious schools and hospitals, resulting in their loss of tax-exempt status if they don't comply.

"You will find out what candidates are made out of," Santorum said. "The key is, 'Are they willing to fight?' "

He told a packed crowd of Iowa and Nebraska residents — including some Catholic priests, religious sisters and seminarians — that Americans who value their faith are battling "a religion of the secular left."

"It is based on power and sheer will. It will be tough to stand against it, but we must," said Santorum, who was repeatedly interrupted with applause and received a standing ovation afterward.

Santorum touted his credentials as a former Senate member who was willing to fight abortion even when his Republican colleagues were reluctant to broach the subject. He said he has been debating Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for a long time, noting that he wrote 2005 book "It Takes a Family" in response to the former First Lady's 1996 book, "It Takes a Village."

He accused President Barack Obama of dividing Americans racially and on being more interested in "class warfare" than helping people rise in society. But he added that Republicans need a presidential candidate who sounds more like a neighbor to American voters than their boss.

He suggested that as president, he could use the White House as a bully pulpit in support of two-parent American families who favor work and education, saying it would help young people succeed economically, regardless of the color of their skin.

State Rep. Walt Rogers, R-Cedar Falls, Santorum's Iowa campaign chairman, said Thursday night the former senator is close to having a full state campaign staff and should make a strong effort in the 2016 Iowa caucuses. Most Iowa Republicans "are still kicking the tires" on prospective presidential candidates, he said, adding he believes "solid conservatives will line up with Rick Santorum."

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AT THE EVENT

SETTING: Belle Terre, a vineyard and reception hall, in rolling green fields outside Glenwood in southwest Iowa.

CROWD: About 250 people who packed the facility.

REACTION: He received enthusiastic applause throughout his speech and a standing ovation when he finished.

WHAT'S NEXT: This was the first day of a two-day campaign trip to Iowa, but Santorum's plans earlier on Thursday to visit Atlantic, Elk Horn and Kimballton were canceled because weather interfered with his flight plans. Santorum concludes his Iowa visit with a faith and freedom roundtable discussion at 9:30 a.m. Friday at St. Anne's Catholic Parish in Logan.

Rick Santorum: "European Socialist" Obama Believes In Revolutionary Model That Led To Reign Of Terror // Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum said in May 2014 that calling President Barack Obama a "European Socialist" means he "believes in the model of the French Revolution," which "led to the Reign of Terror."

The former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania offered a comparative history of the American and French revolutions while being interviewed by radio host Hugh Hewitt at an event sponsored by the Reagan Foundation.

Where the American Revolution was "about 'paternity': God-given rights," Santorum said, the French Revolution was predicated on "'fraternity': brotherhood, people giving rights." This, Santorum further argued, helps explain why the latter insurrection "led to the Reign of Terror" and why contemporary Europe is "a dying culture."

"And it was explicitly a secular revolution," he said. "Anti-clerical, secular revolution that said that the government is in charge. It led to the Reign of Terror, the execution, the guillotine, Bonaparte. And now Europe, which is a descendant of the French Revolution, is a godless, secular continent, as the European Union is. And it's a dying culture."

Santorum contrasted this outcome with that of the American Revolution, which, he said, "spawned this hopeful, optimistic country because we believe in the dignity of every human life and the human potential. And society was ordered to maximize that. And America flourished and changed the world."

Santorum was discussing how, today, there is "a group of people in America who believe that that moment has passed" and that "in fact Europe has the better ideas," when he transitioned into his critique of Obama.

"You say, 'Well, Barack Obama's a European socialist,'" Santorum said. "Understand what that means. He believes in the model of the French Revolution, he believes in a secular, government-run society. Freedom is top-down, not bottom-up."

HUCKABEE

Huckabee calls court's health-care ruling an 'act of judicial tyranny' // WaPo // Philip Rucker – June 25, 2015

Mike Huckabee, a former Arkansas governor and current Republican presidential candidate, called the Supreme Court's decision Thursday to protect the Affordable Care Act "an out-of-control act of judicial tyranny."

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"Our Founding Fathers didn't create a 'do-over' provision in our Constitution that allows unelected Supreme Court justices the power to circumvent Congress and rewrite bad laws," Huckabee said in a statement provided to The Washington Post.

"The Supreme Court cannot legislate from the bench, ignore the Constitution, and pass a multi-trillion dollar 'fix' to ObamaCare simply because Congress misread what the states would actually do," his statement continued. "The architects and authors of ObamaCare were intentional in the way they wrote the law. The courts have no constitutional authority to rescue Congress from creating bad law. The solution is for Congress to admit they screwed up, repeal the 'nightmare of Obamacare,' and let states road-test real health care reforms."

Huckabee, who is campaigning throughout rural south-central Iowa all day Thursday, pulled over at a gas station to review the court's King v. Burwell ruling.

Huckabee said in his statement that the Affordable Care Act has been a "Washington disaster" that's resulted in families "getting punched in the gut with outrageous insurance premiums and infuriating hospital bills."

"As President, I will protect Medicare, repeal ObamaCare, and pass real reform that will actually lower costs, while focusing on cures and prevention rather than intervention," Huckabee said. "The status quo is unfair, unaffordable, unsustainable and completely un-American."

Mike Huckabee: 'Donor Class' Pushed Senate Republicans To Approve Obama's Fast-Track Trade Authority // HuffPo // Samantha-Jo Roth – June 25, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) on Thursday criticized Senate Republicans for voting to approve fast-track trade authority for President Barack Obama, blaming the influence of the "donor class."

“I expect better of the people that we send" to Congress, Huckabee, a 2016 presidential candidate, said during a campaign stop in Corydon, Iowa. "I understand the donor class has pushed them and pushed them to vote for this bill.”

The Senate on Wednesday cleared a bill to give Obama fast-track approval of international trade deals. Fast-track authority would allow the president to submit trade agreements to Congress for an accelerated vote without amendments.

"74 percent of Republicans in America thought it was a bad idea, and most of the Republicans that voted for it, admitted they haven’t read that bill either,” Huckabee told Iowans at a pizzeria.

Huckabee, who traveled to 37 states last year to campaign for Senate Republicans, said it’s time to take a stand against power, money and influence.

“We went out and helped Republicans win in the last election cycle, we sent them to Congress to curtail the executive overreach of this president on issues like immigration and Obamacare,” Huckabee said. “What did our Republicans do this week -- they gave this president more power.”

Huckabee said if he's elected president, he wouldn't seek fast-track authority, pointing out recent trade agreements that have led to the loss of U.S. jobs.

“We have allowed our trade partners to manipulate their currency to dump products into our market place,” he said. “The result is some of your friends, neighbors and family members who have lost jobs in this country, have lost it because we didn’t enforce the trade bills we have, yet we are going to enter into a new one.”

Four Republican Presidential candidates serving in the U.S. Senate participated in the fast-track vote. Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas) voted against giving the president fast-track authority, while Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) approved it.

Mike Huckabee: The Supreme Court just issued 'an out-of-control act of judicial tyranny' // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – June 25, 2015

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Republican presidential candidate and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee slammed the Supreme Court on Thursday after it delivered a huge victory for the White House by saving a crucial component of Obamacare in a 6-to-3 vote.

In a fierce statement, Huckabee said the decision was "an out-of-control act of judicial tyranny."

The US' highest court ruled that President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law could provide subsidies to millions of people who were insured through federal exchanges. The dissenting justices argued that the language of the Affordable Care Act indicated that only people insured through state-based exchanges should be eligible for the subsidies.

Huckabee clearly agreed with the dissent.

"Our Founding Fathers didn't create a 'do-over' provision in our Constitution that allows unelected, Supreme Court justices the power to circumvent Congress and rewrite bad laws," his statement continued. "The Supreme Court cannot legislate from the bench, ignore the Constitution, and pass a multitrillion-dollar 'fix' to Obamacare simply because Congress misread what the states would actually do."

He added: "The architects and authors of Obamacare were intentional in the way they wrote the law. The courts have no constitutional authority to rescue Congress from creating bad law."

Huckabee has long been critical of what he describes as the Supreme Court's overreaching its legal authority. When discussing the court potentially ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, for example, he has argued "the court cannot change what God has created."

Mike Huckabee: Get government out of veterans' health care business // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 25, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee wants the U.S. to get out of the business of veterans' health and medical care.

The Veterans Health Administration, the part of the embattled Department of Veterans Affairs handling medical care, should be "put out of its misery and most importantly, put it out of the government's" reach, Mr. Huckabee said Wednesday at a stop in Osceola, Iowa, the Des Moines Register reported.

Veterans should instead be given a health care card that provides them with medical services at whatever facility or provider they go to, said Mr. Huckabee, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate and winner of the 2008 caucuses in Iowa.

"You say 'that might be expensive.' It might be," he said. "If we have to take down every monument in Washington, D.C., cut them up in pieces and sell them as souvenirs to pay for it, so be it."

CARSON

Ben Carson: The Supreme Court Overstepped on Obamacare // TIME // Dr. Ben Carson – June 25, 2015

The Supreme Court decided Thursday to uphold the Affordable Care Act. I, like millions of Americans, am alarmed with the court's new power to fill in the blanks and connect the dots on the laws Congress enacts. It seems that a new Justice John Roberts era of "never mind what the law says, we know what it means" has begun. But as a brain surgeon, I was taught not to waste critical time. So I will not.

The Affordable Care Act was the product of an inept process from the start. Twisted legislative maneuvering compounded by a running clock gave us this mess. No Republican voted for this nightmare. Some Democrats didn't bother to even read it, prompting then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to famously

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warn, “We have to pass the bill to find out what’s in it.”

What’s in it is the problem, and the implementation has been just as shameful. More than $2 billion was spent on a website that didn’t work, and networks of community organizers combed neighborhoods to sign up people, many of whom thought they had been offered something for free. Now we have hospital emergency rooms filled with new policyholders who were never told that up to $5,000 of the first costs are on them.

In the third quarter of 2008, when President George W. Bush was leaving office, 14.4% of the adult population of this country was uninsured. Today, with the full implementation of Obamacare, that number has dropped to 11.9%. To accomplish these results, many of us have been forced to find new doctors, and many Americans are paying considerably more.

A drop in the uninsured adult population of 2.5% is rather paltry when you measure it against the more than $2 billion spent to implement the program and the 10-year Congressional Budget Office estimation of more $1 trillion more. Doing the math will only lead to heartburn, and as a doctor, I don’t recommend it.

Instead of wasting our time and energy resenting the power grab of the court, the GOP presidential candidates should all agree to re-double our efforts to rid our country of this poorly drafted, ineptly implemented, massively costly and shamefully enacted piece of government intervention into our lives.

I spent my life as a caregiver to young children. The number of fights I have had with insurance companies is only surpassed by the amount of money I paid in malpractice premiums. I am no defender of the “good ole days.”

I believe we need to replace Obamacare with a system that empowers consumers with knowledge and choice to drive down costs. The more power we put in the hands of consumers, the lower the costs will fall. If consumers were picking up the costs for $20 bandages at the Emergency Room, how long would it be before the prices were the same as the bandages at Walgreens. If a patient knew he or she could get the same test at CVS for 90% less than it cost at the hospital, then CVS would need bigger parking lots. More government is always a poor excuse for a solution. Consumer empowerment with health saving accounts coupled with catastrophic coverage is the way to drive costs down.

The GOP nominees this cycle must have a plan to repeal and replace, the determination to articulate that plan, and the fortitude and willingness to work with Congress to actually cause change.

Carson says GOP must offer ‘really appealing’ ObamaCare alternative; Congressman King reacts to ruling // Radio Iowa // O. Kay Henderson – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said this morning he’s “deeply disappointed” in the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision that “ObamaCare” subsidies are legal. But Carson is urging ObamaCare opponents not to “waste time and energy mourning” the decision, but instead “redouble” the effort to get congress to repeal the law.

“We have to come out with something that is really appealing,” Carson told reporters in Sioux Center. “…That’s going to require some legislative changes, which means we’ve got to get brave people in there in leadership positions.”

Carson said it’s important to “get rid of things” in ObamaCare that are “killing the economy” and that means ending the “employer mandate” which requires businesses with 50 or more full-time employees to provide health insurance or pay a fine.

“It used to be as your company was growing, you were really happy. You got 40 and then you got 50 and then you got 100 employees. That doesn’t happen anymore. Now you get to 40 and you start backing off,” Carson said. “That antithetical to growth in our society.”

Carson made his comments after speaking to a big crowd this morning at the Fruited Plain Cafe in Sioux Center.

Iowa Congressman Steve King, a leading critic of ObamaCare, issued a video statement late this morning on the ruling.

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"This is a frustrating day when you're in the business of writing laws and watching the Supreme Court amend them at their will," King said, "by using their own judgment on what public policy should be in the United States."

King said when it comes to the Affordable Care Act, the court has decided to "make it up" as it goes along.

"And they have ruled, essentially, that the law doesn't mean what it says," King said.

This decision on "ObamaCare" was the first of two big rulings expected from the court before it recesses for the summer.

"I'm really concerned about what can happen with the decision on marriage," King said. "They'll likely conclude that the Constitution doesn't mean what it says either."

Senator Chuck Grassley, the senior member of Iowa's congressional delegation, issued a written statement late this morning. Grassley said he respect the court, but Grassley said ObamaCare "remains a terrible law" and he is "committed to repealing and replacing it with effective reforms driven by the marketplace, not the heavy hand of government."

Congressman Dave Loebsack, the only Democrat in Iowa's congressional delegation, called today's decision "a big relief for the thousands of Iowa families who would have faced large, unforeseen, out of pocket increases in their health care costs." Loebsakc said in his written statement that it's time to "move forward and work to strengthen this law, not continue to try and dismantle it."

Congressman David Young of Van Meter, one of Iowa's two rookie Republicans in the U.S. House, issued a statement this afternoon saying there are "real problems with the Affordable Care Act" and it "needs to be repealed and replaced with a common sense patient-centered solution."

Senator Joni Ernst was the first member of Iowa's congressional delegation to react today. Read her statement here, along with analysis from a University of Iowa law professor. Freshman Congressman Rod Blum, a Republican from Dubuque, has not released a statement on today's ruling.

Two other GOP presidential candidates are campaigning in the state today. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee called the ruling "an act of judicial tyranny" and he says congress should "admit they screwed up" and repeal the law. Rick Santorum will be in Glenwood this evening. The former Pennsylvania senator calls the ruling a "reminder" that in order to get rid of ObamaCare, the nation must elect a "conservative president."

Ben Carson In 2014: Communists Have "Infiltrated Our Society" **// Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – June 25, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson said in an interview last year that Communists are "in our society" and are "organized" in their effort to "bring America down."

The retired neurosurgeon was talking to Baltimore News Radio's Bryan Nehman in May of 2014 about social divisions in the US, when he started explaining his understanding of "neo-Marxist" literature and how it reflected contemporary American society.

He recommended that people read Saul Alinksy's Rules for Radicals to "put a lot of stuff that you're seeing going on into perspective," noting that the book was "dedicated to Lucifer, the original radical who gained his own kingdom."

"This is what we're up against," he said.

"Go back and read what the neo-Marxists said about America and about our incredible strength and how it would be necessary to bring America down to do two essential things," the retired neurosurgeon said. "We have to destroy the American family—basically change the concept of what the family is. And the other thing they said is you've got to kick to the curb their Judeo-Christian beliefs because it provides way too much strength. The only thing that's amazing is how quickly that's occurring. There's a book called the Naked Communist by Cleon Skousen, the same guy who wrote the Five Thousand Year Leap, published in 1958. I encourage people to go and read that book."

The host asked Carson, "Who are the communists that are doing that? I mean, the Soviet Union is no longer there." Carson responded that, "They're in our society," but that people should read about it themselves because he didn't want to "feed into what people say is paranoia."

"They're in our society," he said. "They infiltrated our society. And rather than, you know, feed into what people say is paranoia, I tell people, 'Go read

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this stuff yourselves.'"

"They are extremely well organized," he argued. "And when you start reading these things that were written 50 and 60 years ago you will recognize them immediately as things that are going on today. Vladimir Lenin, it was kind of funny, the way he put it, 'There are a lot of people, they will not recognize what we're doing. They'll play right into our hands.' And he calls them 'useful idiots.'"

TRUMP

Univision Severs Ties With Donald Trump and Beauty Pageants // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 25, 2015

Donald J. Trump's business empire was dealt its first casualty Thursday as a result of his decision to run for president.

Univision said that it was ending its relationship with the Trump Organization, that it will not air the Miss USA pageant on its network next month, and that it is severing ties with the Miss Universe Organization. Mr. Trump is a part owner of the Miss Universe Organization, the umbrella group for both the United States and world beauty pageants.

Univision said the decision was because of Mr. Trump's recent remarks about Mexican immigrants. During his presidential announcement last week, Mr. Trump proposed building a wall along the border to keep criminals and "rapists" from sneaking into the United States.

"At Univision, we see firsthand the work ethic, love for family, strong religious values and the important role Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans have had and will continue to have in building the future of our country," the company said in a statement.

Mr. Trump said in a statement that Univision was breaking a contract because of pressure from the Mexican government. He also vowed not to be silenced on the subject, arguing that the United States was being damaged by costly trade deals with Mexico and an influx of illegal immigrants who are taking American jobs.

"I have great respect for Mexico and love the Mexican people, but my loyalty is to the United States and making our country great again," Mr. Trump said.

In a subsequent interview with Politico, Mr. Trump suggested that former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida would have apologized for angering the Mexican government with such blunt remarks.

"Anyone else would be subservient to that," Mr. Trump said. "Bush would say, I'm sorry, keep ripping us off."

The jab at Mr. Bush comes as a poll this week showed Mr. Trump trailing him by a small margin in New Hampshire, the first primary state.

Are Donald Trump's poll numbers too good to be true? // Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 25, 2015

Real estate tycoon Donald Trump has been gleefully calling attention to a Suffolk University poll showing him in second place among the large 2016 Republican primary field, and whispers of a Trump surge are making the rounds.

It might be wise to take a deep breath.

The poll, released Tuesday, showed former Florida Governor Jeb Bush in the lead in New Hampshire, with 14 percent, followed by Trump with 11 percent. The Trump victory dance, or tweet, quickly followed: "The highly respected Suffolk University poll just announced that I am alone in 2nd place in New Hampshire, with Jeb Bust (Bush) in first."

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It's true that Trump did indeed take second place in that poll. But it's also true that nationally Trump's polling has been on the decline, and that his favorability numbers aren't hot in New Hampshire. The poll also comes far in advance of the New Hampshire GOP primary, to be held early in 2016.

Pollsters and GOP consultants in the state chalked up Trump's bump to a mixture of his recent candidacy announcement and the high name recognition that comes from his notoriously flamboyant personality, not to mention his reality-show fame.

"Everybody should calm down," Andy Smith, the director of the University of New Hampshire's Survey Center, said. "What you're seeing is real in the sense that people who are paying any attention to this in the last week or so have seen Donald Trump on TV. That doesn't mean they're going to vote for him."

Right now, the early polls don't reflect how many hands have been shaken by a candidate or how much money has been spent on advertising or how many staffers are on the ground there.

"When you're asking people about who they're going to vote for in the New Hampshire primary, what you're asking is, 'All right, it's months from the primary now: Who have you seen in the newspaper lately?' And that would be Donald Trump," Smith added.

A deeper look at the Suffolk poll results also cast doubt that this really is some kind of Trump surge. On favorability, the poll found Trump underwater among New Hampshire Republican primary voters, with 37 percent saying they had a favorable view of him, while 49 percent have an unfavorable view. A much smaller 13 percent said they were undecided on him, and just 6 percent said they hadn't heard of him.

By comparison, the Suffolk poll found that 58 percent said they had a favorable view of Bush, while 26 percent said they held an unfavorable view of him. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who came in third in the poll, also had better favorability numbers than Trump — 53 percent said they had a favorable view of him, while 16 percent said they had an unfavorable view.

"I think there's more bad news for him than good news," New Hampshire Republican operative Tom Rath said, pointing to Trump's favorability numbers. "I'm not saying the poll is invalid or that it's faulty as a poll. The timing of it is dubious in that it's right at the moment of the maximum publicity announcement and that there was a lot of media coverage of it, and so there's probably a lot of oomph."

The favorability number might actually show Trump's ceiling, Patrick Murray, the director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, said. In May, the RealClearPolitics average of national polls on the GOP field put Trump at 4.5 percent. But as of late June, Trump is at 3.2 percent.

"At the end of the day, it's quite possible that Donald Trump will get 11 percent in New Hampshire, but that might be his cap," Murray said.

The other big tell, former New Hampshire Republican Party chairman Fergus Cullen said, is that there's no visible grass-roots movement for Trump in the state.

"Do I think it's a substantive measure of his real support? No way. But do I think it recognizes that he has some name recognition that other candidates don't have?" Cullen said of the poll. "What I have observed of coverage of those events is that they seem to be made-for-TV events where there's no authentic interactions with the candidate and voters."

Cullen stressed that this isn't a matter of the Suffolk poll's accuracy, just name recognition.

"If the Suffolk poll had included David Ortiz too, Ortiz might have been first or second," Cullen said.

Donald Trump Leads All But Bush in New Hampshire // TIME // Phillip Elliott – June 25, 2015

Apparently, Donald Trump for President is a thing in New Hampshire.

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A second public poll released this week shows the real estate mogul-turned-reality show star ahead of all other Republican presidential hopefuls except former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Earlier this week, when a Suffolk University poll showed Trump in the No. 2 spot in New Hampshire, some dismissed it as a fluke. Then on Thursday, a CNN and New Hampshire's WMUR-TV showed the same. It is part of a one-two win for Trump this week, yet it also comes as Trump's former business partners are moving away from the tough-talking bully and his incendiary comments about China, Mexico and immigrants.

While Trump is nipping at Bush's heels, the polling also shows potential problems, including that few voters believe he has a chance at the White House. Trump is a recent addition to the race and none of his rivals have yet to treat him like a viable candidate. A trove of negative research is at the ready for his foes, Republicans and Democrats alike, to use against him. His record in business is certain to be a liability, much the way former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney spent most of his 2012 campaign on the defense against charges his work in private equity hurt workers and communities.

And as Trump's advisers were touting the new polls, they were also going to battle with Univision, Trump's broadcast partner for the Miss Universe and Miss USA pageants. Trump's lawyers said they were preparing to sue Univision for breaking its $13.5 million contract with the Miss Universe Organization, which Trump co-owns.

When Trump began his White House bid on Wednesday with a rambling speech, he said Mexicans coming to the U.S. were rapists and criminal. ("Some, I assume, are good people," he added as an aside, as though that fixed everything.) Trump also said he would build a great, great wall on the U.S.-Mexican border. He later blamed the media for distorting his words.

Univision, a Spanish-language channel popular with Latinos, said it would not be broadcasting the Miss USA pageant on July 12. No matter, Trump said with typical bravado. He was still a star.

Voters in New Hampshire, at least for the moment, seem to share that view of the brash and blunt New Yorker. Jobs and the economy remain the top focus for New Hampshire Republicans, and Trump leads when voters asked who they best trust to address that subject. He also leads all others when voters were asked which candidate is least likely to act like a politician and who could handle international trade policy. He spent much of his kick-off speech railing against China, a key U.S. trading partner.

He also leads in another field: the candidate the most New Hampshire voters say they most definitely would not vote for. A full 23% of those surveyed said Trump is a non-starter. Trump is in negative territory when voters were asked their general opinion of him: 48% of New Hampshire voters see him unfavorably, while 38% look at him favorably.

At the same time, only 7% of those surveyed see Trump as having the best chance among Republicans to win the general election in November 2016. The clear frontrunner on that question is Bush: 37% see him as the best shot for the GOP to return to the White House for the first time since another Bush moved out. Jeb Bush's brother, George W. Bush, ended his Presidency on Jan. 20, 2009.

The CNN/ WMUR New Hampshire Primary Poll was conducted between June 18 and June 24. The poll, considered one of the most reliable in New Hampshire, interviewed 402 like Republican primary voters and carries a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points. That could mean the number of New Hampshire voters who say they wouldn't support Trump could be as high as 28%.

Donald Trump says 'hypocrite' Neil Young asked him for money // FOX News – June 25, 2015

Donald Trump is saying Neil Young is a hypocrite for complaining about his presidential campaign's use of Young's song "Rockin' in the Free World," while at the same time hitting The Donald up for cash.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that Young recently came to his office seeking funds for his high-end audio player Pono.

Trump even provided a photo to prove it.

"A picture of me with this candidate was also circulated in conjunction with this announcement [for president] but It was a photograph taken during a

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meeting when I was trying to raise funds for Pono, my online high resolution music service," he explained.

Young blasted the Republican candidate following his announcement, claiming Trump didn't have permission to use his tune.

"Donald Trump was not authorized to use 'Rockin' In The Free World' in his presidential candidacy announcement," Young's team said in a statement. "Neil Young, a Canadian citizen, is a supporter of Bernie Sanders for President of the United States of America."

However, when FOX411 reached Trump's campaign manager for comment, he sang a very different tune.

"Through a licensing agreement with ASCAP, Mr. Trump's campaign paid for and obtained the legal right to use Neil Young's recording of 'Rockin' In The Free World,'" Trump's Campaign Manager Corey Lewandowski told us. "Nevertheless, there are plenty of other songs to choose from. Despite Neil's differing political views, Mr. Trump likes him very much."

It's not the first time -- or even the first time this year -- a candidate has been chastised by a musician for use of a tune. When Marco Rubio played the electronic hit "Something New" at a rally, the duo behind the song spoke out almost immediately, declaring Rubio hadn't obtained permission to use the song and they "don't want to be affiliated with a particular party during the upcoming presidential race."

Plus, there can be a big cost associated with using a hit song to promote a campaign.

John McCain said in 2008, though he was a huge ABBA fan, he gave up on using one of their tunes at his campaign events.

"It's more difficult to play 'Let's Take A Chance On Me' than I thought," McCain said at the time, according to Reuters. "It gets expensive in a big hurry, and if you're not careful, you can alienate some Swedes."

UNDECLARED

WALKER

Scott Walker to announce 2016 intentions next month // CBS News // Stephanie Condon – June 25, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker will make his presidential intentions known the week of July 13, he said on Fox News Thursday night.

In a crowded field of more than a dozen Republican candidates, Walker's standing in the 2016 polls is relatively decent, so far. In a recent Fox pollof likely Republican voters, Walker tied for fourth place. A recent NBC/ Wall Street Journal pollput him in second place.

The two-term governor has gained a reputation as a staunch conservative after successfully taking on unions in his state and pushing an often polarizing conservative agenda. Walker told Fox's Greta Van Susteren that he would bring that same moxie to Washington, should he decide to run.

Thursday's Supreme Court decision upholding a key portion of Obamacare makes the 2016 race all the more important, he said, promising to replace the health care law with conservative reforms.

"We don't just need to to talk about it, we need someone who can fight and win," he said.

Corruption Charges Against Walker Are Baseless, Supporters Say // The Daily Beast // Peter Fricke – June 25, 2015

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Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is being accused of mismanagement and corruption related to an economic development agency he helped create, but defenders say the charges are bogus.

Shortly after taking office in 2011, Walker spearheaded the creation of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to replace the state's Department of Commerce. The WEDC provides incentives for businesses to relocate to or expand operations in Wisconsin, and Walker has made the semi-public agency a centerpiece of his efforts to create 250,000 new jobs.

Since then, however, only about 147,000 jobs have been created, and reports from the state's Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) have revealed insufficient oversight of certain notable deals, according to The Daily Beast.

A May 2013 LAB report, for example, found that WEDC had disbursed $124.4 million without conducting formal staff reviews between 2011 and 2013. Although staff reviews were not required at the time, it apparently prevented the agency from noticing problems with the applications of some business that later proved unable to live up to the promises they had made when requesting the aid.

Defenders of Walker and the WEDC counter that such criticisms are a stretch, considering they are based on findings from more than two years ago, and say the agency has made massive improvements in response to past failings.

Laurel Patrick, a spokeswoman for the governor's office, told The Daily Beast WEDC's loan delinquency rate had fallen from 2.7 percent to just 0.2 percent during the intervening years, and the agency now requires staff reviews for every award it hands out.

"The improvements did not go unnoticed," Patrick said. "In April 2014, WEDC received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, the highest form of recognition in governmental financial reporting."

She also asserted that, "All companies that receive awards from WEDC are contractually required to meet certain objectives, which typically include job creation, job retention and/or capital investment." When those targets are not met, she added, the state can impose penalties such as clawbacks or denial of tax credit claims.

Not everyone is appeased by that explanation, however, particularly after the Wisconsin State Journal reported on a $500,000 loan awarded to Building Committee Inc. (BCI), a construction company whose owner had donated $10,000 to Walker's gubernatorial campaign. The company eventually filed for bankruptcy, defaulting on the loan without having created any jobs.

Describing the BCI deal as "Walker's pet project," the liberal news outlet PoliticsUSA says the incident is indicative of the "corruption and cronyism" of Walker's administration.

The article claims that as chairman of the WEDC at the time, Walker had sole oversight of the $124 million awarded by the agency without staff review between 2011 and 2013, and used that discretion to "[hand] out … Wisconsin taxpayers' money to his corporate donors."

Walker's supporters dismiss the corruption charge as absurd, pointing out that campaign contributions do not disqualify a company from receiving state benefits and denying that politics has any influence on the decision to award subsidies to a particular company.

"Political contributions are in no way tied to awards provided by the WEDC," Patrick told TheDCNF. "Decisions related to investments or awards are contractually required to meet certain objectives and are made according to metrics approved by WEDC's bipartisan Board of Directors."

Any attempt to impute otherwise, she added, "is clearly political gamesmanship by legislative Democrats and others more interested in playing politics than on helping improve economic development in Wisconsin."

Patrick also explained that, "WEDC initially approved the BCI project because it was expected to result in the creation of 155 new jobs and nearly $4 million in capital investment," and said the agency took immediate action once it became aware of BCI's perilous financial condition, imposing a 12 percent penalty interest rate and initiating legal action against the company.

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Scott Walker says Barack Obama told Coast Guard global warming is top threat to military and world // Politifact // Tom Kertscher – June 25, 2015

As he pursues a bid for the White House in 2016, Gov. Scott Walker has made it a point to call for more action against "radical Islamic terrorism."

He did so again while speaking June 20, 2015, in Washington, D.C., at a conference of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, a group led by conservative political strategist Ralph Reed.

Toward the end of his remarks, Walker turned to national security -- or what he prefers to call "safety." He criticized President Barack Obama and Obama's former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner for president. And then he made a claim about Obama, national security and global warming.

"You know, I think about how mixed up this Obama-Clinton doctrine is when it comes to foreign policy," Walker said. "We've got a president who, earlier this year -- at the graduation ceremony for the Coast Guard Academy -- stood up and actually told the graduates that the number one threat to the military and the world today is global warming.

"Well, I've got a message for you, Mr. President: The number one threat to the military, the number one threat to America, the number one threat to the world, is radical Islamic terrorism and it's about time we do something about it."

Extended applause followed. But Walker made a far-reaching claim.

Did Obama tell graduates from a branch of the military that global warming is the number one threat to the military and the world?

What was said

Walker's claim pertains to the commencement speech the president gave May 20, 2015, at the academy, which is located in New London, Conn.

The official text shows Obama devoted the bulk of his speech to climate change (he used that term, not global warming), describing it as a serious threat to America's national security and to global security.

He did not go so far as to call it the top threat to the military or the world.

Here's a key portion of what Obama said:

And this brings me to the challenge I want to focus on today -- one where our Coast Guardsmen are already on the front lines, and that, perhaps more than any other, will shape your entire careers -- and that's the urgent need to combat and adapt to climate change. As a nation, we face many challenges, including the grave threat of terrorism. And as Americans, we will always do everything in our power to protect our country. Yet even as we meet threats like terrorism, we cannot, and we must not, ignore a peril that can affect generations ….

Here at the Academy, climate change -- understanding the science and the consequences -- is part of the curriculum, and rightly so, because it will affect everything that you do in your careers ….As America's Maritime Guardian, you've pledged to remain always ready -- Semper Paratus -- ready for all threats. And climate change is one of those most severe threats.

And this is not just a problem for countries on the coasts, or for certain regions of the world. Climate change will impact every country on the planet. No nation is immune. So I'm here today to say that climate change constitutes a serious threat to global security, an immediate risk to our national security. And make no mistake, it will impact how our military defends our country. And so we need to act -- and we need to act now.

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So, Walker suggests Obama puts climate change ahead of terrorism as a threat, but in his speech, the president notes that the U.S. needs to confront both.

We also checked five news accounts of the speech -- from the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press, TIME and Fox News. They all emphasized that Obama described climate change as a threat or serious threat to national security.

Other speeches

Prior to the Coast Guard speech, Obama -- in a general context -- suggested climate change is the world's number one threat.

For instance, in his State of the Union speech in January 2015, Obama said: "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change." And in April 2015, a few days before Earth Day, he said: "Today, there's no greater threat to our planet than climate change."

So, after having identified climate change as perhaps the world's greatest threat overall, Obama did devote a speech, given to members of the military, to the threat climate change poses to national and global security. But he didn't go as far as Walker claims.

Our rating

Walker said Obama told the Coast Guard Academy "that the number one threat to the military and the world today is global warming."

Obama on various occasions, and in a general context, has said there is no greater threat to the world than climate change. But in the speech Walker cited, the president told Coast Guard graduates that climate change was a serious threat, not the number one threat to the military or the world.

For a statement that contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression, we give Walker a Mostly False.

Scott Walker's Jobs Program Didn't Work // The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – June 25, 2015

Scott Walker, Wisconsin's conservative governor, is reputed to be one of the most divisive politicians in America. But in one complicated situation, he's brought people together: Wisconsinites of every political stripe agree that his cumbersomely named Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, or WEDC, is a big mess.

Here's the thing, though: WEDC has a complex history, and its short saga is a helpful example of the challenges governors face when looking to distill their records for non-wonky national audiences.

First, some quick background. In 2011, newly elected Governor Walker replaced the Wisconsin Department of Commerce with a public-private partnership called (you guessed it!) the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, or WEDC. Walker had won the gubernatorial race a few months prior by campaigning on a promise to create 250,000 jobs in the state over the course of his first term. WEDC (commonly pronounced "weed-ick") was supposed to help the state reach that goal and to trim some of the bureaucratic fat that existed in the commerce department.

But Wisconsin only got about 147,000 of those 250,000 promised jobs. And WEDC had serious growing pains, to say the least. A May 2013 audit from the Legislative Audit Bureau had troublesome findings, including that between 2011 and 2013, WEDC gave out $124.4 million in awards without formal staff reviews.

WEDC didn't mandate staff reviews at the time, and the awards were all approved by the agency's bipartisan board. Still, some of those awards went to companies that didn't exactly handle them responsibly. For example, the Wisconsin State Journal reported that Building Committee Inc. got a $500,000 loan after falsely saying it hadn't been sued for five years. It later defaulted on that loan and dissolved. And, as it turned out, the company's owner had given $10,000 to Walker's first gubernatorial campaign.

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These charges of corporate welfare-mongering could be particularly politically troublesome for Walker, given that the Koch Brothers have made opposition to cronyism a key requirement for any candidates they consider supporting.

“According to WEDC, the 27 awards were tied to the creation of 6,165 jobs, but so far only 2,106 have materialized,” the State Journal said. “Many of the awards are tax credits contingent on certain job-creation goals being met.” (The biggest beneficiary of those awards was none other than Walker’s beloved Kohl’s Department Stores, which got a $62.5 million tax credit.)

Critics argue that WEDC over-promised and under-delivered, and they emphasize that some of the companies that benefited from those awards (like Building Committee Inc.) are, as the Chicago Tribune reported, affiliated with or owned by Walker donors.

So Democrats are crying foul. State Representataive Pete Barca, who is a member of WEDC’s board, called on the Department of Justice to investigate the agency because “they have the ability to probe more deeply into whether or not criminal activity went on.” (The DOJ’s press office told The Daily Beast that they don’t confirm or deny the existence of investigations.)

Democratic State Senator Dave Hansen went even further, calling for the agency—which he said is an “unmitigated disaster”—to be shut down. And on June 24, Barca and his fellow Democratic member of the board, State Senator Julie Lassa, said WEDC’s secretary and CEO Reed Hall should resign.

Walker’s defenders, meanwhile, say that WEDC’s critics don’t have much to go on. Dale Knapp, of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, said he didn’t think it was unusual that so many companies affiliated with Walker donors benefited from WEDC awards.

“These kind of companies often give to both parties, but they tend to support whoever’s in power,” he told the Beast. “The Republicans are completely in power right now, so it’s not surprising that you would see those kinds of numbers.”

Meanwhile, Mark Maley, WEDC’s public information manager, said that campaign contributions don’t impact award disbursement.

“Regarding the recipients of WEDC awards, there is no way to make this any clearer: Political affiliation and campaign contributions absolutely play no role in determining which companies receive awards from WEDC,” he told the Beast.

And it’s important to remember that the biggest problems Democrats highlight happened between 2011 and 2013. Laurel Patrick, a spokeswoman for the governor, noted that WEDC responded to bad report cards by making dozens of policy changes, including replacing outdated software, hiring a vice president of credit and risk, and implementing employee ethics policies (among a host of other changes). Maley said that since the implementation of these changes, WEDC has given out more than 760 awards, all of which were first reviewed by staff.

And Walker’s team argues that these changes paid off. Patrick noted via email that WEDC’s loan delinquency rate dropped dramatically between 2013 and 2014, from 2.7 percent to 0.2 percent.

“The improvements did not go unnoticed,” Patrick continued. “In April 2014, WEDC received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, the highest form of recognition in governmental financial reporting.”

But another audit last month unearthed yet more room for improvement. In response, Walker called for WEDC to stop loaning cash to businesses, and instead to bankroll tax incentives with those funds. And Patrick emailed that additional changes are on the way.

But, regardless of what reforms are made, WEDC also has its fair share of conservative critics who object to the agency’s very existence. “[I] suspect Gov. Walker is starting to realize just how big a liability WEDC could be on the presidential campaign trail and is attempting to tie up loose ends ahead of his announcement this summer,” wrote Collin Roth of Right Wisconsin, a conservative website, in response to Walker’s latest round of changes to the agency.

“[P]hilosophically, if we believe in free markets and limited government, how important is a state agency that essentially tries to create jobs?” he added.

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And Brett Healy, the president of the right-leaning MacIver Institute (which typically defends Walker's policy moves), shared Roth's opposition to government entities giving monetary incentives to individual businesses.

"The simple truth is that government should not play a role in direct economic development," he told the Beast. "Corporate welfare is still welfare."

"Any time the government gets involved in this type of corporate welfare—picking winners and losers—all kinds of problems seem to crop up," he continued. "Government should instead get out of the way and let the free market function the way it is intended."

These charges of corporate welfare-mongering could be particularly politically troublesome for Walker, given that the Koch Brothers have made opposition to cronyism a key requirement for any candidates they consider supporting.

So Walker hasn't gotten much cover from conservatives on the WEDC question. And, naturally, his progressive foes have been even more pointed in their criticism.

"The bottom line is that Scott Walker said when he came into office, this is my blueprint for making good on my promise to create 250,000 jobs," said Scot Ross, who helms the progressive group One Wisconsin Now. "And there were a lot of voices out there at the time—mostly on the Democratic or liberal side—saying, this is going to be transparent, and it's just going to be a slush fund for Walker's donors. Not only has been that, but it hasn't created jobs either."

"It's an ATM machine if you're a Walker donor," he added.

Walker and his team have stood firmly behind WEDC. This month, the governor traveled to Canada with WEDC officials to pitch industry leaders on doing more business with Wisconsin. Maley, the agency's spokesman, provided The Daily Beast with a list of its current initiatives, including a $300,000 grant for veteran-owned tech startups; $200,000 each to the African-American, Hmong, Native American, and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce; and community grants of up to $1 million to revitalize abandoned industrial sites. And, most importantly, Walker's team argues that WEDC is a major improvement over the state's now-defunct Department of Commerce.

But WEDC still might be the trickiest thing for Walker to explain on the campaign trail. Walker discusses "big, bold reforms" whenever he talks with Republican primary voters, but incremental changes—like the kind that WEDC has brought about—are tougher to sell and easier to get in trouble over, especially when your ideological allies object to them.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie to Announce Decision on 2016 Campaign **// NYT // Nick Corasaniti – June 25, 2015**

Gov. Chris Christie will announce Tuesday in Livingston, N.J., whether he will run for president in 2016, a source close to his campaign confirmed.

Mr. Christie has been traveling the country under the banner of his political organization, Leadership Matters for America, delivering policy heavy speeches on entitlement reform and education, along with holding town hall meetings as part of a "Tell It Like It Is" tour.

Mr. Christie will make his announcement at Livingston High School, his alma mater.

A spokesman for the New Jersey governor declined to comment.

Once considered a Republican front-runner, Mr. Christie has since seen his national standing decline, as he has struggled to overcome the George Washington Bridge scandal and low approval ratings in his home state.

The news of his announcement was first reported by WNYC.

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Chris Christie to announce 2016 bid as early as next week // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – June 25, 2015

Chris Christie is in the final stages of preparing his 2016 presidential bid, with a formal announcement possible as soon as next week, according to several sources familiar with the discussions.

The New Jersey governor's planning has intensified in recent days. On Monday, his campaign-in-waiting announced that he'd hired two additional staffers in New Hampshire, a state seen as critical to his White House hopes. Earlier this month, Maria Comella, a longtime Christie aide, departed the governor's official office to take a senior position at his political action committee.

A Christie spokeswoman, Samantha Smith, declined to comment. The governor's aides have previously said that he isn't likely to launch his presidential campaign until the New Jersey legislature finalizes the state budget — expected to be around the end of June.

The announcement will mark the latest chapter in a tumultuous political career. After defeating a Democratic incumbent in 2009, Christie established himself as the GOP's foremost rising star — a swaggering, tell-it-like-it-is pol who seemed to be the antidote for a party that was struggling to win over voters in blue states. In the years since, however, Christie's national prospects have been damaged — especially by the revelations that his top aides concocted a plan to close lanes on the George Washington Bridge in an act of political retribution against a local mayor who refused to endorse the governor's 2013 reelection bid.

Christie's once-stratospheric poll numbers — both nationally and in his home state — have since plummeted. A Fairleigh Dickinson University poll released on Tuesday showed Christie with just a 30 percent approval rating in New Jersey, while a Suffolk University poll showed him winning the support of only 5 percent of likely voters in New Hampshire.

But Christie's aides insist there's room for him in the 2016 field. With former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush struggling to distance himself from the rest of the pack, they say, the lane for an establishment candidate remains open. Aides to Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who is also contemplating a run, have put forward a similar argument for his potential candidacy.

The hope, Christie's team says, is that his authentic political brand will shine through, both on the debate stage — Republicans are preparing to hold their first primary debate in August — and in New Hampshire. The state has a history of breaking for moderate, independent-minded Republican candidates, and Christie has been a frequent visitor there. Those familiar with his early planning for a 2016 bid say he's prepared to make it the cornerstone of his electoral strategy.

In anticipation of his announcement, Christie has been hopscotching the country in recent weeks, attending Republican cattle calls in Oklahoma City, Utah and Washington, D.C., where he delivered fiery speeches castigating a Republican rival, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, over national security.

"If you want to know how little [senators] know, watch what Rand Paul's done the last two weeks," Christie told Republican donors at a conference in Deer Valley, Utah, hosted by Mitt Romney, referring to Paul's opposition to the PATRIOT Act. "Because, I will tell you, he's made America weaker and more vulnerable, and he's done it for his own personal and political gain, and he's done it to raise money."

Christie has also delivered speeches in early primary states in which he's detailed his policy proposals on issues like entitlements, taxes and electronic surveillance.

In addition to building a campaign apparatus, Christie has also hired for a super PAC, America Leads, that will be supporting his candidacy. The group recently announced that it had brought on Gene Ulm, a veteran Republican pollster, and Mike Leavitt, a mail consultant.

While Christie won't be nearly as heavily funded as Bush — whose super PAC is believed to have brought in around $100 million so far — the New Jersey governor has a team of donors that includes Home Depot CEO Ken Langone and hedge fund manager Stanley Druckenmiller. Both are expected to write big checks. ("I am going to work my ass off to make sure that Chris Christie never needs money," Langone told POLITICO in January.)

Earlier this month, Christie dropped another hint that he was nearing a run. While campaigning in New Hampshire, the governor said that his family — one of the last major hurdles to his entering the race — was on board.

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"This is about me now," he said.

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal's identity causes a Twitter storm in India // WaPo // Rama Lakshmi – June 25, 2015

A day after Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal announced that he will run for U.S. president in 2016, the way he chooses to identify himself has become the subject of a trending hashtag in India.

It's called #bobbyjindalissowhite.

Jindal's meteoric rise in the Republican Party as a conservative of color has won him many supporters in the United States. But here in India, Jindal is seen "as a man who has spent a lifetime distancing himself from his Indian roots."

"I'm sick and tired of people dividing Americans," Jindal said on Wednesday. "And I am done with all this talk about hyphenated Americans. We are not Indian-Americans, Irish-Americans, African-Americans, rich Americans or poor Americans. We are all Americans."

His remarks fueled a firestorm of jokes on Twitter that he is trying to pass as white despite his Indian roots. Here's just a sample:

Indians on social media mock Bobby Jindal candidacy // LA Times // Shashank Bengali – June 25, 2015

As a rising power, India is obsessed with its image in the world, so the announcement of the first U.S. presidential candidate with Indian roots figured to create a stir.

It probably wasn't the kind Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal wanted.

Indians on Thursday roundly mocked Jindal's campaign kickoff announcement, particularly for the 44-year-old Republican's line that he was "tanned, rested and ready" to run. It was widely seen as an attempt to play down his skin color to appeal to conservative voters, and fit with what Jindal's critics say is a longstanding effort to disassociate himself from his Indian heritage.

The Twitter hashtag #BobbyJindalIsSoWhite trended in India for several hours.

Some of India's leading newspapers ran front-page mentions of Jindal's announcement, although the coverage was less than effusive. Lalit K. Jha, longtime Washington correspondent for the Press Trust of India, wrote in a news report that Jindal's announcement "has failed to generate much enthusiasm among the Indian-Americans because of his recent statements in which he sought to distance himself from being an Indian-American."

Jindal was born in Louisiana in 1971 to Indian immigrants from the northern state of Punjab. As a child he changed his birth name, Piyush, to Bobby after the character from "The Brady Bunch." Raised by devout Hindus, he converted to Catholicism as a teenager and says his faith inspires his conservative principles, including a staunch opposition to same-sex marriage.

Jindal invoked his parents at the start of his kickoff speech Wednesday but used the word India only once: in his oft-repeated accusation that Democrats were dividing the country along ethnic, gender and class lines."We are not Indian Americans, Irish Americans, African Americans, rich Americans or poor Americans," he said. "We are all Americans."

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Jindal enters the Republican presidential race near the bottom of the pack and has failed to inspire much support from U.S. voters of Indian origin, most of whom lean Democratic.

"Bobby has never supported a single Indian issue, he refused to join the India Caucus when he was a congressman [on] Capitol Hill and is conspicuously absent from any event with a visiting Indian leader," Shashi Tharoor, an Indian politician and author, wrote in a recent book, "India Shastra."

"It is as if he wants to forget he is Indian, and would like voters to forget it too."

Jindal is an object of fascination for a rising Indian middle class that assiduously tracks their country's stature in the world. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi led scores of countries in marking the first International Day of Yoga last weekend, many Indians beamed with pride.

But they are less charitable when it comes to Indians abroad who are seen to betray their heritage. Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, has received less than favorable press coverage for the perception that he has targeted Wall Street executives with South Asian roots, such as Sri Lankan-born hedge fund billionaire Raj Rajaratnam, for prosecution of financial crimes.

Young Indians flooded social media sites with sarcastic comments when Jindal unveiled his official governor's portrait earlier this year because his skin looked shockingly white. A photo his office tweeted this week of his family playing Monopoly inspired mockery because his young children had their shoes on inside the house, a cultural no-no here.

Mihir Sharma, a columnist for the Business Standard newspaper, accused Indian Americans of a "tendency to turn viciously on those they see as less Indian." But even he balanced his words with a critique of the candidate.

"Typical: smug Indians trying to shame Bobby Jindal for his choices on identity, and not his awful politics," Sharma tweeted.

Bobby Jindal's fateful choice **// WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 25, 2015**

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, barely registering in the polls, announced his presidential run on Wednesday. The once wonky conservative is now clinging to the Duck Dynasty star Willie Robertson in hopes of convincing the right-wing base he is one of them. It seems there is not a far-right position or slogan he does not embrace. How times change.

The Post reports:

Just eight years ago, Jindal's future looked far brighter than it does now.

The former Rhodes Scholar and McKinsey consultant was elected governor at age 36, the first Indian American ever to govern a state. "The question is not whether he'll be president," Republican strategist Steve Schmidt said in 2008, "but when he'll be president."

Jindal seemed to offer a new vision of what a Republican could be: an Ivy League-educated son of immigrants, who had a relentless focus on making government run faster, smarter and cleaner.

"We've laughed at our politicians and the ones that have gone to jail and made the funny jokes," Jindal said in 2007, after he was elected governor on the second try. "But it's not funny anymore."

But, as Jindal pondered higher office, he seemed to fall into a strange and vicious negative-feedback loop.

Like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), Jindal felt the pull of the far right and became determined not to be passed by any more conservative contender. The problems for Jindal now are two-fold. First, his state has budget issues — he slashed taxes and now has a severe revenue shortfall — and his own

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popularity is in the low 30's. Second, by going far right all he did was enter a crowded field of equally right-wing promoters. He thereby lost whatever advantages he would have had running as a conservative, reforming governor. He's going to have to share the part of the base that thrills to extreme anti-gay marriage rhetoric, wallows in anti-Washington invective and falls prey to anti-immigration reform hysteria with a long list of contenders including Cruz, Dr. Ben Carson, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, Donald Trump and Rick Santorum. His dilemma is now the same as that of each of these players: How does he distinguish himself and get more than a few percentage points?

Imagine if instead, Jindal had not, for example, flip-flopped on Common Core or tried to slash the state budget or turned up the volume on his opposition to gay marriage. Imagine if he had run as the ideal reformer — a congressman, a policy wonk, and a governor — but more conservative than Bush or Ohio Gov. John Kasich, brandishing healthcare expertise and a compelling immigrant story. He might then be competing not with small fry candidates but with more serious contenders like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. Former Texas governor Rick Perry — a friend of Jindal, who endorsed Perry in 2012 — seems to have figured out that one can be a conservative governor, but also reasonable and appealing to a wider audience. (Then again Perry has his remarkable record in Texas, while Jindal is floundering back home.)

The one candidate watching with delight as Trump, Jindal, Cruz, Carson, Huckabee and Santorum scrounge for votes is Jeb Bush. Each new entry grabs at least temporarily some support from the previous entrants and from Walker and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) It's Bush's ideal scenario — he claims the centrists and everyone else scrambles for the fringe. More mainstream candidates like Walker and Rubio have to fight for oxygen while rivals like Kasich or New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (in 11th place in the last Fox News national poll) may not get into the top 10 for the first debate in August. It is not Bush, but Walker and Rubio who would love to get Trump, Jindal, Cruz, et. al, out of the race so they can consolidate support.

Jindal suffers from awkward over-eagerness as he tries to out-conservative the conservatives, reminding me of Mitt Romney in 2008 — the moderate Massachusetts governor reborn as a social conservative, anti-immigration reform firebrand. The danger for Jindal, as it was for Romney, is that a lack of authenticity, now compounds his challenge.

The lesson here for the candidates trying to keep pace with Bush (i.e. Rubio and Walker) is to stay out of the scrum of candidates in single digits. Instead they need to compete as not-Bush alternatives with an eye to the wider GOP primary electorate. If they try endearing themselves to the same audience Jindal and Trump seek on issues like gay marriage, the Confederate flag, trade, tax policy or other issues they will find themselves dragged down into the "also running" category. If they are constantly looking over their shoulder, afraid to dismay talk radio hosts, they will take themselves out of contention as consensus candidates. Unfortunately for Jindal, he already made that choice and as a result is unlikely to do well.

Jindal's Facebook showing matches his lagging poll numbers // McClatchy // David Lightman – June 25, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's showing on Facebook was about the same as his showing in most polls. Unspectacular.

In the 24 hour period between 12:01 a.m. ET June 24 and 12:01 a.m. ET today 25, 316,000 people generated 542,000 interactions, which include likes, posts, comments and shares. Jindal announced his candidacy first in a tweet Wednesday afternoon and later at a Louisiana rally.

The conservative governor, who's making a big pitch for the evangelical vote, didn't come close to what businessman Donald Trump sparked earlier this month. Trump's announcement generated 3.4 million "unique people" and 6.4 million interactions. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, also generated numbers in the millions.

Here are some other Republican announcement showings:

Jeb Bush

493,000 unique people

849,000 interactions

Rick Perry

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422,000 unique people

763,000 interactions

Lindsey Graham

84,000 unique people

142,000 interactions

George Pataki

59,000 unique people

81,000 interactions

Rick Santorum

169,000 unique people

266,000 interactions

Mike Huckabee

458,000 unique people

814,000 interactions

Carly Fiorina

304,000 unique people

515,000 interactions

Ben Carson

847,000 unique people

1.5 million interactions

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Marco Rubio

695,000 unique people

1.3 million interactions

Rand Paul

865,000 unique people

1.9 million interactions

Bobby Jindal presidential bid sparks Twitter mockery // BBC – June 25, 2015

Mr Jindal launched his campaign with a call for a uniform US identity, saying he disliked Americans being identified by origin, ethnicity or wealth.

The hashtag #BobbyJindalisSoWhite began trending on Twitter after the launch.

The tweets poked fun at Mr Jindal's speech and alleged attempts to distance himself from his Indian heritage.

"We are not Indian-Americans, African-Americans, Irish-Americans, rich Americans, or poor Americans. We are all Americans," he told supporters.

Also a subject of ridicule was the fact that Mr Jindal railed against allowing "people to immigrate to this country so that they can use our freedoms to undermine our freedoms".

He added it was incumbent on migrants entering the United States to be "ready and willing to embrace our values, learn English, and roll up your sleeves and get to work".

The presidential hopeful had begun his speech with the words: "Forty-four years ago, a young couple who had never been on an airplane before left their home on the other side of the world to come to a place called America."

Indians online were not amused by his remarks.

The original hashtag #bobbyjindalissowhite was started by Indian-American comedian Hari Kondabolu, with a series of tweets. Following the success of the tag he said it was the most "satisfying thing" he had ever done.

Others chimed in, like Aasif Mandvi from the Daily Show.

The hashtag was also picked up in India, where it was among the country's top trends for much of the day.

Gopinath Gopalam, a healthcare professional from Baton Rouge, travelled to New Orleans to watch Bobby Jindal make his presidential announcement on Wednesday. Although Gopalam hails from India, he says the governor's Indian ancestry is of little importance to him. What matters, he says, is what his success says about the US.

"It's an open economy, open community," he says. "Anybody can come here and have the skill and ability they can rise to the top."

The focus on Mr Jindal's ethnicity in recent media coverage has angered many conservatives. In particular, they point to a Washington Post article that

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featured a quote from a Louisiana University professor who said "there's not much Indian left in Bobby Jindal".

"For years, liberals have attacked Governor Jindal for not being brown or Indian enough for their liking," Mr Jindal's office said in a statement. "Governor Jindal is proud of his heritage. He believes we need to stop fixating on race and hyphenated Americans."

Mr Jindal, who was born Piyush, told CBS news that he changed his name to Bobby after a character in US sitcom The Brady Bunch.

He also converted to Catholicism from Hinduism while he was at school.

A report in the Washington Post said many Indian-Americans who were among his first supporters are now disillusioned with what they see as efforts by Mr Jindal to distance himself from his roots.

"So what if he's Republican? So what if he's Christian? I don't care about those things, But you can't forget about your heritage. You can't forget about your roots," one of his first donors Suresh C. Gupta was quoted as saying.

KASICH

John Kasich Appeals to Iowa as He Ponders White House Bid **// NYT // Trip Gabriel – June 25, 2015**

“Does anybody remember me?’’ John Kasich asked Iowans on his first visit to the state since an inglorious presidential bid in 1999, when he barely made an impression before dropping out.

Throughout Wednesday, as he hopscotched through events, Mr. Kasich, the two-term Ohio governor, sought to disarm skeptics of his late-to-the-party exploration of a second White House run.

“I was giant television star. Do you remember that?’’ he asked a roomful of under-40 professionals from the Bull Moose Club. There were many blank looks. “I was only at Fox News for 10 years,’’ he said, breaking into a grin.

In an interview with The Des Moines Register that ran Wednesday morning, Mr. Kasich even tutored Iowans on how to say his name. “It rhymes with basic,” he said.

But with blunt talk about his policy departures from conservative orthodoxy, Mr. Kasich appeared to make new friends in Iowa.

“I was taken aback by how straight a shooter he was,’’ said Tyler De Hahn, chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party, who heard him at the Bull Moose luncheon. “He’s kind of like a Christie lite.’’

A moment earlier, Mr. Kasich had been pushed about why Ohio was not a right-to-work state. “Because we don’t have a reason to be one,’’ he said.

Like all candidates who come to Iowa, Mr. Kasich, 63, recounted well-rehearsed chapters of his biography and trumpeted his successes:

* Working with President Clinton while a member of the House to craft “the first balanced budget since man walked on the moon.’’

* His decade in the private sector. “I just loved it,’’ he said, skipping over the role his employer, Lehman Brothers, played in contributing to the financial crisis.

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* His election as Ohio governor “at exactly the right time,” in 2010, when “things couldn’t have been much worse.’’

“I took a lot of the lessons I had learned in Washington to Ohio,’’ Mr. Kasic said, a line no other Republican candidate is likely to utter this cycle.

Mr. Kasich, who said he was still weighing whether to enter the race, is barely registering in Iowa polls. His formidable hurdles in the state include a lack of time visiting it, and a list of center-right policies he has supported that conservative caucusgoers are likely to reject, from expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to voting for an assault weapons ban while in Congress.

“The hurdle he’d have to get over is the strong religious right,’’ said James Gilson, a retired stockbroker who heard Mr. Kasich address the Greater Des Moines Partnership, a business and civic group.

But balancing out those negatives is the potential appeal of the straight-shooting, even gnarly, Kasich persona. Despite the state’s reputation for Iowa Nice, its voters welcome a candidate who can cut through the political catchphrases.

“He tells it like it is, and I think that’s going to be huge,” said Mike McInerney, the Bull Moose president. “Iowans really respect that.’’

OTHER

OP nightmare: Big Labor courts George Soros, Tom Steyer // Politico // Kenneth P. Vogel and Brian Mahoney – June 26, 2016

Big labor, which once relied almost exclusively on member dues to fund its political activity, is now hoping to raise huge checks for its 2016 efforts from billionaires like George Soros and Tom Steyer, according to confidential documents.

The documents, obtained by POLITICO from a source outside the labor movement, show labor leaders have invested considerable time and union cash to secure preferential treatment from the preeminent club of major liberal funders, the Democracy Alliance, or DA. They also offer a rare glimpse into labor’s efforts to identify rich donors who could pump money into union-linked non-profits that can legally accept unlimited donations and do not have to disclose their contributors.

One briefing document shows that a leading labor non-profit called Working America — which works to organize non-union workers to seek higher pay and better working conditions, and to elect sympathetic candidates — is focusing on donors it considers “true progressives (who) care about labor.” It offers detailed profiles with information seemingly intended to cultivate wealthy donors. Ian Simmons, the silent funding partner of the small-dollar juggernaut ActBlue, is described as “an up and comer at the DA,” while healthcare software pioneer Paul Egerman, an Elizabeth Warren confidant, is listed as “important in Democratic Party fundraising circles.”

And there are signs that Working America is trying to reach donors whose animating issues haven’t always figured prominently into labor’s playbook, like climate change. Steyer, a San Francisco hedge fund billionaire who in 2014 donated $67 million to a super PAC pressing for climate change action, is described as “an advocate of promoting economic development” who is engaged in “ongoing discussions with AFL-CIO and Working America about possible points of agreement and collaboration.”

Steyer’s political adviser Chris Lehane declined to say whether Steyer or his foundation has donated to Working America or the AFL-CIO. “Tom is working closely with our allies, including labor, to build a coalition that will talk to voters about the three justices – economic justice, climate justice and educational justice,” Lehane said.

Labor’s increasing forays into big-money politics come at a pivotal time for unions and the Democratic Party.

The longtime traditional allies appeared to be closely synched heading into 2016 until a simmering feud boiled over this week. Congressional Democrats sided with Republicans to pass trade legislation bitterly opposed by labor but backed by President Barack Obama and promoted by Hillary Clinton when she was secretary of state. Unions and their allies are promising to turn up the heat on Democrats who don’t take labor’s side on trade. Yet unions are

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relying on Democrats to help beat back well-funded conservative attacks on bargaining power, and many Democratic candidates, including presidential favorite Clinton, are embracing labor's causes, such as raising the minimum wage and requiring paid sick leave.

In interviews, labor leaders confirmed that they hope to expand the reach — and revenues — of outfits outside traditional unions, which have seen their ranks and budgets slashed by Republican efforts to limit organizing rights. Labor unions have enthusiastically embraced super PACs, which focus on election spending and were an outgrowth of the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision. So-called "alt-labor" groups like Working America, which seek to organize non-unionized employees, such as fast-food workers, have been billed as the the labor movement's future.

In April, four labor-linked non-profits won coveted spots among the Democracy Alliance's portfolio of 34 groups recommended for funding. Insiders expect that to translate into serious 2016 cash for the labor groups added to the portfolio — Working America, the Working Families Party/ Organization, the Economic Policy Institute and the National Employment Law Project.

The DA's member donors ("partners," in club parlance) must donate anywhere from $200,000 to $1 million to endorsed groups. And the club's members intend to steer a total of $100 million or more to recommended groups during the 2016 election.

The list of DA partners now includes six prominent unions, with four (the American Federation of Teachers, the Communications Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union and the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union) joining in the last two years, according to a list and other club documents obtained by POLITICO.

The partnerships require the unions to pay annual dues of $60,000. But they give the unions' leaders access to the deep-pocketed donors and foundations who constitute the majority of the partners at the DA, which is a kind of nerve center and bank for the progressive movement, serving a similar — if less well-financed — role as the Koch brothers' conservative funding network.

The finances of Working America illustrate labor's efforts to diversify its funding.

The group was started in 2003 by the AFL-CIO, which originally provided 93 percent of its funding.

But by 2013 – the most recent year for which records were available – the AFL-CIO and other unions contributed only 40 percent of the $25 million raised by Working America and Working America Education Fund. The two arms are registered under sections of the tax code — 501(c)5 and 501(c)3, respectively — that do not require them to disclose their donors. But a significant portion of their budgets now comes from members who pay small voluntary dues, and deep-pocketed liberal foundations and donors who write five- and six-figure checks.

Labor non-profits like Working America in recent years have seen their fundraising spike, with non-union sources playing a major role, according to a POLITICO analysis of filings with the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service using data aggregated by the conservative Center for Union Facts. The analysis found that 18 leading labor non-profits (including Working America and the three others added to the DA portfolio this year) raised $52 million in 2013 — 15 percent more than in 2012, despite the presidential election that year — with 13 percent of the haul coming from liberal foundations (which are required to disclose their grants in their tax filings).

"There's a huge upsurge in this type of activity," said Larry Cohen, the outgoing president of the Communications Workers of America, who sits on Working America's board and helped start a handful of labor non-profits that have received funding from the CWA and have delivered presentations to Democracy Alliance donors.

Democracy Alliance president Gara LaMarche said unions are becoming more involved in the DA partly because "they recognize that the groups they have backed need to have a broader base of support. Any healthy organization shouldn't be dependent on one main source of revenue."

Since assuming the club's leadership last year, LaMarche has worked to build bridges between labor and rich liberals who sometimes hold sharply different views on trade pacts and school reform – even the role of unions in public life.

"One of the good things about bringing labor and capital together in the DA is that they can have discussions about the issues on which they have been at loggerheads," he said. He noted that the group last year for the first time elected a labor leader, National Education Association executive director John Stocks, as board chairman.

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The emerging synergy is both ironic and worrisome to conservatives who track liberal money, to whom there are no greater threats than “Big Labor” and the Democracy Alliance.

“They’re constantly complaining about the horrors of our campaign finance system and yet this is a savvy way for them to make use of all the available political finance avenues to fight their battles,” said Scott Walter, executive vice president Capital Research Center, which studies liberal funding networks.

For its part, Working America says it’s more focused on courting moderate working-class members than liberal billionaire donors.

“We were delighted to be put among the groups within the Democracy Alliance and have some support, but it’s just not mostly who we are,” said the group’s executive director Karen Nussbaum.

Working America has demonstrated an ability to effect legislative and campaign fights in recent years, from city halls to Capitol Hill. It helped temporarily derail Obama’s trade deal and played a major role in lifting its preferred candidate to victory in Philadelphia’s Democratic mayoral primary. Plus, it was a leading player in pushing through minimum wage increases in more than 15 states.

It’s planning an aggressive door-to-door campaign ahead of 2016, said Nussbaum, who declined to discuss funding sources for the effort. She said Working America sees Democracy Alliance primarily as a place to forge collaborations with like-minded groups, not as a funding source.

Yet the donor profiles produced for her group suggest the efforts to build collaborations and high-dollar fundraising relationships are not mutually exclusive.

The profiles — like those prepared by development staffs across Washington ahead of prospecting meetings — include donors’ contribution histories, pet causes, hometowns, spouses’ names, etc.

Investor Sandor Straus and his wife Faye Straus are described as “genuine progressives (who) have given $10k to (Working America) through the DA for past two years” – donations that previously have not been disclosed. They did not respond to requests for comment.

At the DA’s spring meeting in April in San Francisco, they co-hosted a panel to discuss “how aligned donor, labor, and foundation investments” in regional secret-money non-profits were “making progressive wins possible at the state and local levels,” according to an agenda obtained by POLITICO.

Likewise, the Working America briefing describes Ken Zimmerman, a top official for Open Society Foundations, the philanthropic network founded by the billionaire investor Soros, as “central to meeting with the AFL-CIO about possible collaborations.” An Open Society spokeswoman said Zimmerman “has no formal relationship or involvement with the AFL-CIO,” but added that foundation officials “meet with people all the time to talk about areas of overlapping interest.”

Indeed, a pair of foundations in Open Society’s network have donated more than $10 million to various alt-labor groups since 2001, with $600,000 going to an arm of Working America in 2012, according to foundation tax filings.

Sources familiar with Soros’s relationship with Working America say he donated $150,000 from his own pocket to the group in 2006 and $400,000 in 2008, when it organized a massive canvassing campaign supporting Obama and other Democrats.

But Steve Early, a former CWA official and the author of Save our Unions called labor’s courtship of foundation donors “troubling” at times because “these philanthropic institutions are not fundamentally on the same side as any real working class movement.” He said alt-labor groups “need to develop a dues paying membership base” to become permanent sustainable organizations.

GOP insiders expect no harm from Confederate flag controversy **// Politico // Kyle Cheney – June 26, 2015**

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Republican insiders overwhelmingly say the GOP presidential candidates gave an adequate – or even strong — response on the issue of the Confederate flag this week, after its presence over the South Carolina state capitol became a symbol of America's racial divide in the aftermath of last week's shootings in Charleston.

That's the assessment of this week's POLITICO Caucus, our weekly bipartisan survey of the top operatives, activists and political hands in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Despite a week's worth of unfavorable headlines over the issue, the GOP insiders said the 2016 field struck the right notes after South Carolina GOP Gov. Nikki Haley and 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney called for removing the flag from the capitol grounds.

"Governor Romney opened the gate last weekend for Republicans to do the right thing on the flag, and to their credit, the majority of the candidates followed his lead," said one New Hampshire Republican. "The Republicans like to talk a lot about expanding the party and reaching out to minority communities. This week, we took action on those words."

Sixty-one percent of the Republican insiders surveyed called the collective message on the flag "adequate," and another 21 percent called it "strong." Democratic insiders had an opposite view: roughly two-thirds rated the GOP candidate responses as "weak" or "disastrous."

"What a bunch of babies," said a New Hampshire Democrat. "They couldn't do the right thing until Haley gave them cover."

Beneath the Republican insiders' overall assessment, however, was some pointed criticism toward the uneven and belated responses of some of the individual candidates before they ultimately called for the flag's removal.

"Finally they all got in line," said another New Hampshire Republican. "Trying to work into their response a weak state rights argument completely missed the point."

Less clear was which candidate handled the matter best. Some suggested Bush's decision to highlight his own effort as governor to remove the Confederate flag from Tallahassee's capitol portrayed him as a man of action. Others noted that Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, came across as the most statesmanlike. One common thread: the moment was a missed opportunity for Sen. Rand Paul, who's staked his campaign on a push to mobilize young and minority voters he says have been left behind by Republicans.

"Rand Paul continues to be one or two beats off the mark," said one Iowa GOP insider. "He's building an outreach, big tent brand and would have helped himself with an immediate, unequivocal call to banish the Confederate symbol once and for all." Other Republicans fingered New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is expected to announce his candidacy next week, as the most significant flop.

"Mr. Tell-It-Like-It-Is was a ghost," said one New Hampshire GOPer.

Here are three other takeaways from this week's POLITICO Caucus:

Bernie Sanders is gaining traction

It's just an iota, a speck, a lonely molecule of hope for Clinton's progressive critics — but a handful of Iowa and New Hampshire Democratic insiders say Bernie Sanders could compete with, and perhaps even defeat, overwhelming frontrunner Hillary Clinton if the vote in their states were held today.

"Bernie Sanders is picking up steam and he has met with key groups throughout Iowa in the last 30 days," noted one Iowa Democratic insider, who said Sanders is leading. "He is scheduled to be in town for most of next week, traveling to both northwest and southwest Iowa which are the most conservative areas of the state He looks serious and his campaign staff is targeting the most difficult areas of Iowa first. That is good strategy."

While the majority believes Clinton would still win, there's a palpable sense of a momentum swing in Bernie's direction.

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“Bernie is getting hot, and though the Clinton support seems broad, I wonder what would actually happen if someone said you vote next Tuesday,” offered a New Hampshire Democrat.

Chris Christie still has a shot in New Hampshire

Christie was left for dead after the Bridgegate scandal seemed to torpedo his presidential prospects, but he’s begun a slow climb back to viability. Though he’s still considered a longshot, two-thirds of New Hampshire insiders agree that he’s got a chance to win their state – a prospect that would vault him back into the top tier.

“Chris Christie has made New Hampshire his Waterloo and he will commit as many resources as possible here as he can,” said one New Hampshire Republican. “While the likelihood of a Christie win in the Granite State is still small, by flooding the zone, similar to John McCain in 2000 and 2008, Christie has an opportunity.”

Another put it more bluntly: “Live in NH or die.”

But even those who see signs of life for Christie in New Hampshire question whether Christie missed his moment.

“After being MIA for months, he’s been doing everything he’s meant to do since April in NH and he’s doing very well on the stump,” said one Republican. “But he still has zero - zero - publicly committed supporters. Time for some early TV ads? Not sure he’ll even end up filing for the primary come November.”

Iowa is a different story: few insiders think he has a prayer of winning. Two-thirds of Iowa respondents say his path there ends in a cliff. Iowa Republicans largely see him as too late and too moderate to compete in the Hawkeye State.

“He is so disliked I don’t know how he’s got a path to the nomination unless there’s a simultaneous implosion of Walker, Bush, Rubio and Kasich,” said one Iowa Republican. “The Establishment wing has more than enough choices. The Christie Casserole in the Republican buffet line will go untouched.”

Moving past gay marriage

With the possibility of a Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, a majority of Republican insiders say their presidential nominee should recognize the court decision, reiterate their support for traditional marriage, and say it’s time to move on.

“In New Hampshire the vast majority of Republican voters are [past]this issue, so it’s time for the party to get [past] it too,” said one New Hampshire Republican. “Candidates need to pivot to a more positive policy agenda: strengthening the many versions of the American family.”

“Gay marriage is already the law of the land in New Hampshire. It’s been on the books for several years, and the sky hasn’t fallen,” said another Granite State Republican. “If the Court rules in favor, Republicans should see it as an opportunity to clear the decks of an issue that they’re on the wrong side of in terms of public opinion and re-focus on better issues.”

An Iowa Republican said much the same: “Republicans need to moderate on this issue because public opinion is changing rapidly on this issue in favor of gay marriage.”

About a quarter of Republican respondents argued that Republicans can pivot from the ruling to a fight about religious liberty — a theme that several candidates struck at a cattle call last week hosted by the Faith & Freedom Coalition.

“The marriage debate is over. Religious liberty actually still has broad support in this country, unlike a federal marriage amendment,” argued one Iowa Republican.

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"The logical extension of a SCOTUS decision upholding [same-sex marriage] will be for the proponents … to begin to FORCE churches to perform the marriages," argued another Iowa Republican. "[A]dvocates will never be satisfied until every church has to perform their weddings and every vendor has to serve their cakes."

Republicans Cite Health Care Ruling in Pushing Candidacies // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidates were quick to pivot off the Supreme Court's ruling to uphold Affordable Care Act subsidies, arguing that the decision shows the need to replace President Obama with a member of their party.

Former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas said that it should not be left to the Supreme Court to "save us from Obamacare."

"We need leadership in the White House that recognizes the folly of having to pass a bill to know what's in it," Mr. Perry said. "We need leadership that understands a heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all policy does nothing to help health outcomes for Americans."

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said the court erred in trying to correct Mr. Obama's mistakes. The decision was another reason that he should be elected president, Mr. Rubio said.

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin said the decision should be more motivation for Congress to overturn the law.

"Today's Supreme Court ruling upholding the administration's implementation of Obamacare means Republicans in the House and Senate must redouble their efforts to repeal and replace this destructive and costly law," he said.

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky said he was the man to lead the overturn of the law.

"This decision turns both the rule of law and common sense on its head," Mr. Paul said in a statement. " As president, I would make it my mission to repeal it, and propose real solutions for our health care system."

Former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida said that if he becomes president, he will make fixing the health system through the private sector a top priority.

"We need to put patients in charge of their own decisions, and health care reform should actually lower costs," Mr. Bush said. "Entrepreneurs should be freed to lower costs and improve access to care – just like American ingenuity does in other sectors of the economy. "

The Republican National Committee decided to focus its statement not on Mr. Obama, but on Hillary Rodham Clinton and the 2016 election.

"Today's ruling makes it clear that if we want to fix our broken health care system, then we will need to elect a Republican president with proven ideas and real solutions that will help American families," said Chairman Reince Priebus. "Hillary Clinton supports big government mandates and expanding the government's reach into our health care system, maneuvers that have made our health care system worse off."

The statement made no direct reference to Mr. Obama.

GOP lawmakers: Time to move on from Obamacare repeal // Politico // Manu Raju & Burgess Everett – June 25, 2015

Republicans have tried to kill the health care law twice at the Supreme Court, only to be rebuffed. They've held more than 50 repeal votes, virtually all of which have died in the Senate. They tried to defund the law through the spending process, but the government shut down instead.

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As Republicans process Thursday's sharp rebuke at the hands of the Supreme Court, they're struggling with what to do next — beset by internal divisions and procedural roadblocks that severely limit their options.

The reaction to the ruling ranged from defiance to resignation.

Many, like Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.), concede the law is here to stay until at least 2017, when they hope a GOP president will finally kill it. But conservatives like Texas Sen. Ted Cruz insist Congress should use "every single tool at our disposal" now to stop the law, including holding spending bills hostage to force President Barack Obama to acquiesce.

Bad idea, say other GOP lawmakers. "We've tried that before, and it didn't work very well," said Cruz's fellow Texan, Sen. John Cornyn.

Still others, such as Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.), say it's time to focus on fixing aspects of the existing law, rather than continuing a fruitless repeal effort.

"No, no," responds Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.). "It needs to be repealed and replaced."

The dissension has left some GOP lawmakers resigned and ready to move on.

"We're going to have to go back to the drawing board, figure out if there is an alternative at this point," Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) said Thursday. "Perhaps it's time to move on from this particular topic."

The latest round of soul-searching came in the immediate aftermath of Thursday's decision in King v. Burwell. In a 6-3 ruling, the high court upheld subsidies for 6.4 million people who receive health care coverage through the federal exchange. Had the Obama administration lost the case, Republicans planned to use the ruling as leverage to push through a range of legislative options to further erode key elements of the sweeping law.

With the law intact and the president's veto pen in the way of any conservative attempts to weaken Obamacare, the GOP has few viable alternatives. They could try to use annual spending bills again to try to gut elements of the law, but that would risk a government shutdown. And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has disavowed a strategy that could lead to a repeat of the 2013 closure, by virtually all accounts a debacle for the party.

The most obvious vehicle to gut all or part of the law now is through the so-called budget reconciliation process. But budget rules are likely to prevent Republicans from doing a full-scale repeal through reconciliation legislation, given that they are required to include policy provisions that will decrease the deficit, rather than increase it.

"There are very strict rules," warned Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), a senior member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Even though reconciliation bills cannot be filibustered and can pass with just 51 votes in the GOP-led Senate, Obama could still veto any measure that emerges from Congress.

Adding to the complication is a growing debate internally within the GOP over whether to use reconciliation to attack Obamacare. Some Republicans say they should channel their energy instead on hard-to-pass legislation — like changes to entitlements or tax laws — that Obama may ultimately agree to sign.

Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), an ally of Speaker John Boehner's, said the party should focus on reforms "you might be able to talk the president into," such as changing how Medicare benefits and Social Security cost-of-living adjustments are doled out.

"To me it doesn't make much of it point," Cole said of using reconciliation to repeal the law.

But Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.) responded: "I think we've got to use it for Obamacare. We've just got to do it."

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On Thursday, senior Republicans said the House and Senate will still hold repeal votes, even if they're essentially for show. "In some ways, this just gets us back to our old game plan," Cornyn said of the court ruling.

Some Republicans argue more repeal votes will keep the issue front-and-center in the 2016 congressional and presidential elections, making next November a referendum on the law.

"It means that the most significant domestic issue in 2016, at every House race, in every Senate race and for president will be centered around whether or not the country wants to keep Obamacare," said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who is seeking his party's nomination for the White House.

And if Hillary Clinton wins, Graham said: "It means that Obamacare becomes Hillarycare."

"At the end of the day, there is not going to be any complete repeal of the law until there is a new administration," Aderholt said. "But we can't sit back as a party who stood against it, and pretend that it is what it is and we aren't going to do anything."

Republicans will have a very hard time changing the law even if they sweep the 2016 elections. The Senate will likely be narrowly divided, and the vast majority of the Affordable Care Act will already be in place and relied upon by tens of millions of people.

Only a handful of provisions would still be waiting to take effect in 2017, such as the so-called Cadillac tax on high-cost insurance plans, which faces some bipartisan opposition, and the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a controversial panel tasked with reducing Medicare spending growth. So far, health costs haven't risen at a rate that would trigger the board to act.

Beginning in 2017, states will be able to get a waiver to essentially opt out of some of the ACA's structural rules — and some Republicans see the waivers as a chance to escape some of the most onerous aspects of the law. But states will receive a waiver only if they agree to cover the same number of people and to the same extent that Obamacare would have, meaning it would be difficult to venture too far outside the confines of the ACA.

Ohio Rep. Steve Stivers said fellow GOP lawmakers should continue to press their case to keep the issue at the top tier in 2016. But he said Republicans should work now with Democrats on reforms that can win support from both parties.

"What I hope we'll do is stay focused on the big bipartisan issues like repealing the medical device tax right now," Stivers said.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who is up for reelection in 2016 but could be vulnerable in a primary, said in an interview that she believes the priority should be to make piecemeal fixes to the law such as tweaking the 40-hour workweek requirement and boosting competition across state lines.

"We can go ahead and we can vote once again to repeal it, and I will vote to repeal it," Murkowski said. "But I'm also very pragmatic that this repeal is not going to go anywhere with this president."

But Cruz, who is running for president, railed against unnamed GOP colleagues whom he contended are "quietly celebrating" that the law was upheld. In an interview after making a speech on the Senate floor railing against the law, he pointedly refused to rule out using spending bills to try to defund the law again — a tactic that led to the government shutdown two years ago.

Cruz also lashed out at the Supreme Court, including Chief Justice John Roberts.

"I am disappointed in every justice who today violated their judicial oath of office and rewrote the law in a way that is contrary to the constitutional separation of powers," Cruz said.

The Supreme Court Just Did Republicans a Big Favor // The New Yorker // John Cassidy – June 25, 2015

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In public, at least, the reaction among Republicans to the decision the Supreme Court issued on Thursday to let the Affordable Care Act subsidies stand was uniform and predictable: outrage. “#ObamaCare ruling is judicial tyranny,” Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, commented on Twitter. Not to be outdone, Ted Cruz, one of Huckabee’s rivals in the upcoming G.O.P. primary, tweeted, “Any candidate not willing to make 2016 a referendum on Repealing Obamacare should step aside.”

The language from the three leading Republican candidates was a bit more measured, but their basic sentiments were pretty much the same. “This decision is not the end of the fight against Obamacare,” Jeb Bush wrote in a statement on his campaign Web site. “As President of the United States … I will work with Congress to repeal and replace this flawed law with conservative reforms that empower consumers with more choices and control over their health care decisions.”

“I disagree with the Court’s ruling and believe they have once again erred in trying to correct the mistakes made by President Obama,” Bush’s fellow Floridian, Senator Marco Rubio, said on Twitter, adding, in two more tweets, “I remain committed to repealing this bad law and replacing it… with my consumer-centered plan that puts patients and families back in control of their health care decisions.”

Governor Scott Walker, of Wisconsin, tweeted: “Today’s #SCOTUScare ruling means Republicans must redouble their efforts to repeal and replace this destructive & costly law.”

Elsewhere, Republicans tore into Chief Justice John Roberts, who voted with the six-to-three majority and wrote the opinion justifying the court’s decision. Some of his critics suggested that he could no longer be termed a conservative. ”I don’t know that you can label the guy in any way, shape or form right now,” Matt Salmon, a Republican congressman from Arizona, said, according to the Wall Street Journal. Senator Cruz and Indiana Governor Mike Pence both said that Roberts and his colleagues had committed the heinous crime of “judicial activism.” (My colleagues Amy Davidson and Jeffrey Toobin have more on the particulars of the decision.)

But despite all this rhetoric, I’d be willing to wager that many Republican strategists were privately relieved at the court’s ruling. The Burwell v. King lawsuit provided a rallying point for conservative Republicans, but had it prevailed in the high court it would have blown up in the faces of the Party’s elected representatives. Not only would they have been held responsible for wrecking the federal health-care marketplace and making health insurance unaffordable for millions of Americans, they would have had to say what precisely they intended to put in its place. Despite the claims of Bush, Rubio, and others, this is a task that the Party wasn’t prepared to take on.

To be sure, over the past few months, various Republicans have put forward various suggestions for replacing all or parts of Obamacare. But these plans are all over the place. Some would maintain the generous federal subsidies as they are now; others would cut them. Some would leave the state exchanges alone; others would dismantle them. At least one proposal would jettison the requirement that insurers cover people with preëxisting conditions. And practically all of them would end the individual mandate, which would skew the risk pool toward sick people and drive up premiums. In a recent article in which she described how each of the plans would work, Vox’s Sarah Kliff wrote, “The result would likely be a world that looks much more like America before Obamacare—where fewer people are enrolled in coverage and are paying higher premiums.”

Going into an election year, that is hardly something that the G.O.P.’s 2016 candidates would want to advertise. Now that the Supreme Court has ruled against the plaintiffs in King v. Burwell, Republicans can go back to what they do best: railing against the evils of Obamacare and promising to repeal it, without committing to much in the way of specifics about its putative replacement.

To their credit, some commentators pointed out some of this before Thursday’s judgment came down. The New Republic’s Brian Beutler wrote that a court ruling in favor of the King v. Burwell plaintiffs would be “an administrative and political nightmare” for a newly elected Republican President. At Talking Points Memo, Josh Marshall wrote a post headlined “Did Republicans Swallow Their Own Grenade?” Greg Sargent, of the Washington Post, published figures showing the numbers of people in key swing states who stood to lose their health coverage if the Supreme Court voted to gut the federal exchanges. “In Florida we’re talking about 1.3 million people,” Sargent wrote. “In North Carolina it’s over 450,000; and in Virginia it’s nearly 300,000—suggesting the political stakes are high indeed.”

The people running G.O.P. Presidential campaigns were surely aware of these figures, and the dangers they implied. But such is the level of opposition to the Affordable Care Act among Republican activists that it made no sense for any of the candidates to do anything but toe the party line. Even Bush and Carly Fiorina, who are supposedly positioning themselves as moderates, went along with it—and they continue to do so. “It is outrageous that the Supreme Court once again rewrote ObamaCare to save this deeply flawed law,” Fiorina wrote on Facebook on Thursday, before adding the obligatory, “We need to repeal ObamaCare.”

During the upcoming G.O.P. debates, we will hear much more of this kind of rhetoric, although how much it will help the Party in the general election is unclear. Taken together, the opinion polls suggest that a plurality of Americans still oppose the Affordable Care Act. But there is some suggestion that opinion is shifting. This year, the numbers favoring Obamacare have been creeping upward, and in the most recent CBS News/New York Times poll, forty-seven per cent of respondents said that they approved of the reform, compared to forty-four per cent who opposed it.

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It seems unlikely that Obamacare will decide the 2016 election, but it will continue to provide Republicans with something to rail against. For that, and more, the G.O.P. has John Roberts and Anthony Kennedy to thank. The two justices, both of them Republican-appointed, just saved the Party from itself.

Republicans to fight Obamacare through election campaign despite ruling // Reuters // Susan Cornwell – June 25, 2015

Republicans will keep attacking Obamacare in the U.S. Congress and on the presidential election campaign trail to energize right-wing voters and raise money, but analysts said there was little chance of the healthcare law being rolled back before 2017 now that the Supreme Court has again validated it.

On Thursday, the high court upheld a central part of the Affordable Care Act, as it is formally known. It was the second time the court confirmed the legality of President Barack Obama's biggest domestic achievement.

That greatly reduces the chances of any substantive legislative or legal challenge to the law by Republicans until a new president takes office in January 2017 after Democrat Obama leaves office.

By then, the law will have been on the books for seven years and millions of Americans will have a stake in it, making it even more difficult to dismantle.

"It is entrenched. There certainly will be no legislation (signed into law) that will change anything for the next year and a half," said Joseph Antos, an expert in health policy at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

View galleryRepublican presidential candidate Senator Marco Rubio …

Republican presidential candidate Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) addresses a legislative luncheon held a …

"This administration is done with health policy. Everybody's done," Antos said.

Obamacare survived a major legal test when the Supreme Court upheld tax subsidies at the heart of the law that help millions of Americans afford premiums they pay for health insurance.

Enacted in 2010, the law was meant to provide health insurance coverage for millions of Americans who neither had insurance through an employer nor could afford an individual plan. Republicans opposed the law from the start, calling it unnecessary government interference and "socialized medicine."

More than 10 million people now have insurance purchased through state and federal marketplaces set up under the law. About 8.7 million of them get subsidies, the government says.

Following Thursday's 6-3 court ruling, Republicans quickly vowed to make the 2016 election campaign a referendum on Obamacare, expressing disappointment with the court's decision.

Democrats cheered it, however. On the presidential campaign trail, Democratic Party front runner Hillary Clinton expressed delight via Twitter. "Yes! SCOTUS affirms what we know is true in our hearts & under the law: Health insurance should be affordable & available to all," she said.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner said, "We will continue our efforts to repeal the law and replace it."

But it was unclear what Republicans could do to make good on that pledge. Republican lawmakers had worked on action plans for a high court ruling against the subsidies, but there seemed to be no clear Republican strategy for the ruling that was handed down, a resounding victory for Obama.

The Republican party is divided, said Robert Blendon, a health policy and politics analyst at Harvard University.

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One wing "wants to go back to 2009" before Obamacare existed. Others have proposed alternatives. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, for instance, is urging the approval of tax credits to help people buy insurance.

Some Republicans "feel they dodged a bullet" with the court's decision, which means they won't have to anger their base by preserving the subsidies, even temporarily, said John Ullyot, a Republican strategist and former longtime Senate aide.

Most of the dozen or so Republican candidates running for their party's nomination vowed to repeal Obamacare if elected.

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush's campaign issued a fundraising appeal for "emergency" contributions to ensure the law is rolled back. "I will work with Congress to repeal and replace this flawed law," Bush said in a statement.

Senator Marco Rubio, another Republican contender, said: “I remain committed to repealing this bad law."

Brookings Institution analyst Stuart Butler said the law may be modified, but it is now hard to imagine it being totally repealed, even after a new president takes office in 2017.

"The longer it is on the books the harder it will be to dislodge," he said. "Not harder - impossible."

After Charleston shootings, poll highlights race dilemma for Republicans // Reuters // John Whitesides – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential contenders face a dilemma when talking about racial issues after last week's racially motivated murders at a South Carolina church, as a new poll shows many Republican primary voters are less likely to see the topic as important.

While more than three-quarters of Americans believe race relations must be addressed in the United States, a smaller majority of only about 65 percent of likely Republican primary voters agree, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found. (Graphic: link.reuters.com/dun94w)

One-third of likely Republican primary voters see race relations as unimportant to some degree, compared to only 9 percent of likely Democratic voters who feel that way.

"There is a tension Republicans are trying to navigate, and they are really stuck between a rock and a hard place," said Ipsos pollster Chris Jackson.

"You have the majority of the public on one side, but the people who are actually going to vote for them in the primaries are less interested in this particular issue and may have different takes or alternate priorities altogether," he said.

The poll, carried out after the murder by a white gunman of nine black members of a Bible study group at a Charleston church, also found Democrats were more trusted to deal with race relations by more than a 2-to-1 margin.

The findings illustrate the Republican Party's challenge in trying to expand its appeal among minorities - crucial if the party is to win the presidency - and could help explain the largely muted response to the Charleston shootings by the party's 2016 presidential contenders.

Around a dozen hopefuls, who must court the white, conservative voters who dominate the party's primaries, largely steered clear of calls to action or policy prescriptions after the shootings, focusing instead on messages of condolence.

Several Republican presidential contenders and other party leaders did join South Carolina state officials earlier this week in calling for removal of the

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Confederate battle flag from in front of the State House, seat of the legislature, labeling it an act of healing and unity.

Republican National Committee spokesman Orlando Watson noted that call was led by Indian-American Governor Nikki Haley and a prominent black Republican, U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina.

"Republican leaders have stepped up and are working hard to address all voter concerns, including those involving race," he said.

After losing the 2012 presidential election, Republicans had vowed to expand their appeal beyond their shrinking base of white males and reach out to court new supporters among blacks, Hispanics, Asians and the young.

But blacks have for decades been the most loyal Democratic voting bloc, a trend only reinforced by the election of President Barack Obama, the first black in the White House.

When Obama won re-election in 2012, Mitt Romney received 6 percent of the black vote. No Republican presidential contender has won more than 12 percent of black votes since President Gerald Ford's 15 percent in 1976.

The poll found Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton was considered the presidential contender who was best suited to handle the issue of race relations, with 17 percent of all adults and 32 percent of blacks viewing her that way.

The top-ranked Republican was retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, the only black Republican in the race. He was seen as best suited by 7 percent of all adults and 6 percent of blacks. Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush was next, with 6 percent of all adults and 1 percent of blacks viewing him as best suited.

Carson and Bush are among 13 candidates who have formally jumped into the race for the Republican presidential nomination in the November 2016 election.

Some respondents to the poll said the issue of race relations simply took a backseat to more heavily debated topics such as unemployment, crime, education and trade.

"I don't know if it's really an election issue, it's a people issue. Our political leaders can't change it," said Alex Jackson, a white Republican who is a student at West Georgia College in Carrolton, Georgia. She rated race relations as "somewhat unimportant."

Mary Wickham, a white Republican in Naperville, Illinois, who also said race relations were "somewhat unimportant", said she did not see it as an issue in her diverse community and she was much more interested in a candidate's views on immigration.

"It's just not a problem here," she said of racial issues. "We pray together, we stay together."

The online poll of 1,402 Americans was taken between June 18 and 22, and has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percent for all Americans and 6.4 percent for Republican primary voters.

GOP presidential hopefuls in Colorado for conservative summit - and a marijuana policy grade // The Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – June 25, 2015

Here's another one of those bodacious weekend events, and this begins Friday: The Western Conservative Summit, staged in Denver by Colorado Christian University. "There's a rebirth going on in America. Be part of it. After decades of slipping to the left, citizen patriots have re-engaged in the public arena, and our political discourse has been enriched by their voices," the organizers advise the 4,000 incoming delegates.

The two-day event has also drawn seven presidential hopefuls and a spate of heavyweights ranging from radio host Hugh Hewitt and Family Research

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Council president Tony Perkins to CNBC anchor Larry Kudlow, security maven Frank Gaffney and Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress. A “Rally on the Right” is also planned. Find it all here: WesternConservativeSummit.com

Along with all the serious policy talk and presidential posturing, the GOP hopefuls have something else to consider. Or maybe not. The Marijuana Policy Project, a research group, will release a report card on the 2016 presidential hopefuls, detailing their positions on marijuana policy. The group has organized a press conference only blocks from the summit to reveal their ratings.

“Candidate grades are based on actions they have taken and statements they have made that indicate their levels of support for ending marijuana prohibition, allowing legal access to medical marijuana, and defending states’ rights to adopt their own marijuana policies without interference from the federal government,” says Mason Tvert, the organization’s spokesman, who adds that a mammoth report card will be hoisted aloft for all the public to see.

GOP lawmaker: Blumenthal Benghazi deposition should be released // The Hill // Martin Matishak – June 25, 2015

A Republican member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi says the panel should make public the deposition of Hillary Clinton adviser and confidant Sidney Blumenthal.

“I think it needs to be released,” Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.) told The Hill on Thursday.

He also argued that Democratic demands for the release are “an excuse” for the panel’s seven Republicans to do so.

If Westmoreland joined with Democrats on the special panel to vote for the deposition’s release, they’d be within one vote of forcing the matter.

Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) has resisted publishing the deposition, arguing that the select committee hasn’t released a transcript of any of its previous interviews.

Democrats contend that the panel has already released nearly 60 emails to and from Clinton that Blumenthal himself turned over earlier this month.

They also believe the transcript will show the questions centered around political matters and not the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including the ambassador.

Westmoreland said that Gowdy is concerned that if the transcript is published, “it would discourage, maybe, some other people from coming in voluntarily,” such as longtime Clinton aide Huma Abedin.

“But this is the only person we had to subpoena to come in,” Westmoreland noted.

Blumenthal appeared before the committee last week.

THE LID: Glass Half Full for GOP After Obamacare Decision // NBC News // Carrie Dann & Andrew Rafferty – June 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidates have released a barrage of statements slamming the Supreme Court over today's decision to uphold Obamacare subsidies. But we have a sneaky suspicion that the court's decision isn't all bad news for GOP candidates with their eyes on the White House. For one, it allows them to keep up the drumbeat for a full repeal of the law, which will energize the base (In the latest NBC/WSJ poll, a majority of GOP primary voters - 55 percent - said that the law should be "totally eliminated," and an additional 36 percent said it needs a "major overhaul.") And they can make a big-picture argument that a Republican-held White House really is the only way to ensure the end of Obamacare, which remains relatively unpopular with independents, too. (A combined 56 percent of indies say that the law should be gutted or dramatically changed, and just eight percent of ALL Americans say they think it's working well as it is.)

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The other advantage is they can continue to lambast the law without the immediate need to craft a legislative replacement, or at least figure out what to do about 6.4 million Americans who would have been effectively kicked off their health insurance plans. The candidates who are talking about repealing and replacing Obamacare are going to be under pressure to present a tangible alternative. But at least now they can avoid getting hit with ads featuring Americans who can no longer afford care after losing their subsidies.

Supreme Court Lets GOP Candidates Off the Hook on Obamacare // The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – June 25, 2015

Jeb Bush didn't waste any time not fundraising off the King v. Burwell decision.

The former Florida governor, who is currently polling at the top of the Republican pack, blasted out a statement to reporters that landed in The Daily Beast's inbox at 11:26 a.m. And a fundraising email to supporters pegged to the decision came our way five minutes earlier.

"Friend, you know in your heart that we cannot afford four more years of the same policies, which will be the case under a Clinton White House," the fundraising email read. "But the only way to prevent that is to make the most generous contribution you can afford right now to stop her. [that last sentence hyperlinked to a donation page]."

In his official press statement, Bush said the loss in court doesn't mean the GOP will stop pushing for repeal. He didn't add any specifics about what he would do as president, beyond saying that he would push for "conservative reforms that empower consumers with more choices and control over their health care decisions."

Republican presidential candidates like Bush must have a lot of feelings about Obama's big win at the Supreme Court today. On the one hand, they're univocally opposed to the Affordable Care Act, and they seem to share a deep disappointment that SCOTUS ruled to keep it unchanged.

On the other hand, though, this really gets them out of the hot seat. Proposing policy fixes for the millions of people who received government subsidies to offset the costs of health insurance they bought through the federal exchange would have been, from a political standpoint, extraordinarily dicey.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry promptly blasted out a statement decrying the justices' move and calling for new leadership in the White House (hint hint!).

"While I disagree with the ruling, it was never up to the Supreme Court to save us from Obamacare," he said in the statement. "We need leadership in the White House that recognizes the folly of having to pass a bill to know what's in it."

Senator Ted Cruz, meanwhile, compared the justices to the 20th century's most celebrated illusionist.

"Today, these robed Houdinis transmogrified a 'federal exchange' into an exchange 'established by the State,'" he wrote.

"These judges have joined with President Obama in harming millions of Americans," he continued. "Unelected judges have once again become legislators, and bad ones at that. They are lawless, and they hide their prevarication in legalese. Our government was designed to be one of laws, not of men, and this transparent distortion is disgraceful."

Proposing policy fixes for the millions of people who received government subsidies to offset the costs of health insurance they bought through the federal exchange would have been, from a political standpoint, extraordinarily dicey.

And Scott Walker, the Republican governor of Wisconsin who's expected to announce a presidential bid next month, immediately looked to Republicans in Congress for answers.

"Today's Supreme Court ruling upholding the administration's implementation of ObamaCare means Republicans in the House and Senate must redouble their efforts to repeal and replace this destructive and costly law," he said in a statement.

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"Now, instead of just finger-pointing from the president for why his law is failing, we need real leadership in Washington, and Congress needs to repeal and replace ObamaCare," he continued.

And Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal also came out swinging.

"Republicans must outline a clear and coherent vision for health care to win the trust of the American people to repeal Obamacare," he said. "And right now, I am the only candidate to put forward a comprehensive plan."

Philip Klein at the Washington Examiner summarized Jindal's healthcare plan as an approach that would "wipe out Obamacare completely, return tax and spending levels to where they would have been if the law had never passed, and build a free market alternative from scratch."

And former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina took to Facebook to call the court's decision "outrageous."

"We need to do the one thing we've never tried in our healthcare system—real competition," she continued.

"And competition doesn't mean eliminating care for those with preexisting conditions," she added. "States should administer high-risk pools for those who have real needs. We've seen this in action—New Hampshire was able to administer high-risk pools effectively before Obamacare."

Fiorina's response is about as detailed as the Republicans got. The Burwell decision has taken them off the hook. And if others follow Bush's lead, it might get them a windfall.

GOP chairman: Only way to fix healthcare is to elect Republicans // The Hill // Ben Kamisar – June 25, 2015

The Supreme Court's decision to uphold ObamaCare shows that the only way to fix the healthcare system is to elect Republicans, the party's national chairman wrote Thursday.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus joins scores of GOP lawmakers bashing the court's opinion with an op-ed published hours after the ruling.

"The Supreme Court's decision today doesn't change the facts: Obamacare was so poorly written, so sloppily created, that all these years later it is still creating confusion and frustration for Americans," he writes.

"The country is ready for a new direction, and today's ruling makes it clear that if we want to fix our broken health-care system, we will need to elect Republican leaders with proven ideas and real solutions that will help American families."

Priebus laments the costs of the healthcare law, attributing it to "slow job growth, rising insurance premiums and even shuttered small businesses.

He also bashes President Obama for promising that everyone would be able to keep their plans and doctors and pushes back at the assertion that the GOP doesn't have its own health care plan.

"Democrats continue to suggest that Republicans don't have other plans. That's because they want people to think there's no choice but to put up with Obamacare," he writes.

"There are Republican alternatives, proposed by members of both the House and the Senate. All Republican plans are better than what Democrats, President Obama, and Hillary Clinton have forced on us — and would continue to force on the country. All are better than the mess we're in."

His rival, Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Fla.), critiqued similar arguments in comments Thursday on CNN's "Wolf."

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“This is a case of sour grapes and a case where Republicans are entitled to their opinions but not their own facts,” she said.

“The facts are that healthcare insurance rates are increasing at their slowest rate in 50 years. We have 16 million people who have health insurance coverage who didn’t have it before.”

Priebus's piece adds that the party is in agreement on providing access to those with preexisting conditions, keeping young adults on their parents’ plans until they turn 26, a patient-centered approach instead of a government-centered approach, insurance competition across state lines and lawsuit reforms.

GOP Field Renews "Repeal Obamacare" Battle Cry // Real Clear Politics // Caitlin Huey-Burns – June 25, 2015

The U.S. Supreme Court moved Thursday to uphold a law that Republicans, particularly those running for president, intensely dislike.

But the court’s decision to leave the Affordable Care Act intact may have a silver lining for the GOP field: It allows them to renew a once potent rallying cry -- anti-Obamacare rhetoric -- that had become somewhat dormant on the campaign trail as the justices mulled whether subsidies for health coverage purchased on the federal insurance exchange were lawful.

Almost immediately after Thursday’s 6-3 ruling, Republican White House hopefuls lined up behind a revamped cause: to repeal and replace the law entirely.

“This decision is not the end of the fight against Obamacare,” former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said. “As president of the United States … I will work with Congress to repeal and replace this flawed law with conservative reforms that empower consumers with more choices and control over their health care decisions.”

In announcing his candidacy last week in Miami, Bush notably left off the “repeal” mantra from his speech. And several candidates running for president had been markedly quiet about the ACA ahead of the court’s ruling, tending to mention it only as one in a litany of complaints about what they consider big-government overreach.

As the subsidies for 6.4 million Americans hung in the balance, Republicans were faced with a politically sticky challenge of wanting the court to unravel the law while also worrying about how to address the needs of millions of Americans who would lose their coverage. Republicans were divided on how best to proceed if the court struck down this integral part of the law, with some wanting to temporarily extend the subsidies while others preferred holding to principle and letting them expire.

The matter would have been particularly challenging for candidates in swing states with high numbers of voters receiving the federal aid. Florida, for example, the home state of Bush and fellow candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, has the largest contingent of people (1.3 million) getting subsidies. (Florida is one of 34 states that uses the federal exchange instead of a state-run marketplace.)

Now, Republicans can privately breathe a sigh of relief about avoiding a divisive and politically complicated scenario on the policy and constituent-relations front.

“I think that in some ways this actually could help our presidential candidate because there won’t be the folks out there without subsidies screaming out,” Arizona Republican Rep. Matt Salmon told RCP. “I think that most Americans that have really been hurt [by Obamacare changes] over the last couple years will be the loudest voices now and I’m not sure that won’t help our candidate.”

Rubio, who was hosting a veterans event in New Hampshire when the ruling came down, said he was committed to repealing the law and replacing it with his own proposal of a “consumer-centered” plan that he says would give patients and families more control over their health care decisions, something for which most of the GOP contenders have advocated.

While Republicans will push more loudly on the campaign trail for gutting the law, the replacement part could become tricky. There are various proposals

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from members of Congress and outlines suggested by presidential candidates. But the party is not united around an alternative plan. Still, the Oval Office aspirants will argue that a replacement can only come with a Republican in the White House.

"Today's decision only reinforces why we need a president who will bring about real reform that repeals Obamacare and replaces it with a plan that expands consumer choice, increases coverage, delivers better value for the dollar, and gives states more control, without stifling job creation," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, a GOP presidential contender who voted against the law in 2010.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is expected to announce his candidacy next month, echoed those sentiments, and added that the ruling "means Republicans in the House and Senate must redouble their efforts to repeal and replace this destructive and costly law."

Most of the Republican candidates released similar statements.

Ohio's John Kasich, one of the few Republican governors to accept the expansion of Medicaid coverage in his state offered under the Affordable Care Act, called for replacing Obamacare with a more market-driven solution administered by the states. "We will continue to pursue innovative ways for Ohio to best meet the unique needs of our residents, in line with our priorities, and reduce the negative consequences of this flawed law," the governor's spokesman, Rob Nichols, said.

Though the Supreme Court removed doubts about pieces of the law, enabling Republicans to run fully against it -- as occurred in 2012 and during the 2010 and 2014 midterms – the GOP may find the issue to be less of a driving issue for voters. Recent polls show a slight majority of Americans oppose the law.

Democrats, on the other hand, are poised to run by fully embracing it—literally. After Thursday's court decision, Hillary Clinton tweeted a picture of her and President Obama embracing. Democrats will likely frame Republicans as working to take away insurance from people who now have it under the health care act.

Republicans, however, wasted no time in focusing on the general election opposition. "Hillary Clinton supports big government mandates and expanding the government's reach into our healthcare system, maneuvers that have made our healthcare system worse off," said Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus.

Republican Presidential Candidates Blast Supreme Court Ruling // The Daily Caller // Alex Pappas – June 25, 2015

The Republicans running for president in 2016 expressed disappointment — and in one case accused the high court of "judicial tyranny" — after the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld federal subsidies under President Obama's health care law.

"Today's King v. Burwell decision, which protects and expands Obamacare, is an out-of-control act of judicial tyranny," said former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. "Our founding fathers didn't create a 'do-over' provision in our Constitution that allows unelected, Supreme Court justices the power to circumvent Congress and rewrite bad laws."

"This decision turns both the rule of law and common sense on its head," Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said. "Obamacare raises taxes, harms patients and doctors, and is the wrong fix for America's health care system."

"It is outrageous that the Supreme Court once again rewrote ObamaCare to save this deeply flawed law despite the plain text and in the face of overwhelming evidence that the law is not working for the majority of Americans," said former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina.

"I disagree with the court's ruling and believe they have once again erred in trying to correct the mistakes made by President Obama and Congress in forcing Obamacare on the American people," said Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

"I am disappointed by today's Supreme Court ruling in the King v. Burwell case," former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said. "But this decision is not the end of the fight against Obamacare."

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“While I disagree with the ruling, it was never up to the Supreme Court to save us from Obamacare,” former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said. “We need leadership in the White House that recognizes the folly of having to pass a bill to know what’s in it.”

“Now that the Supreme Court has ruled, the debate will grow,” Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said. “Conservatives must be fearless in demanding that our leaders in Washington repeal and replace Obamacare with a plan that will lower health care costs and restore freedom.”

“Today’s Supreme Court ruling upholding the administration’s implementation of Obamacare means Republicans in the House and Senate must redouble their efforts to repeal and replace this destructive and costly law,” Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who’s exploring a run, said Thursday.

Conservatives Unleash Fury at One-Time Hero John Roberts // Bloomberg News // Sahil Kapur – June 25, 2015

After the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to reject an existential challenge to Obamacare on Thursday, conservatives took direct aim at the author of the decision: their one-time hero Chief Justice John Roberts.

Their sentiments were channeled by several Republican presidential candidates, who lashed out at the Roberts Court for its purportedly activist pro-Obamacare ruling.

“Roberts told everybody he was just going to be an umpire and call strikes and balls, but now as justice he’s got two results-oriented decisions that go far beyond that role,” said Club For Growth President David McIntosh, suggesting his group will seek to avoid future nominations like Roberts. “What the Club does, in picking candidates, is look at their record, and look at not just what they have stood for on economic issues but what they’ll do in the future. What the Club will want candidates to ask their potential nominees is: Will they be faithful to the Constitution?”

"Today the Supreme Court allowed itself to be intimidated."

Michael F. Cannon of the libertarian Cato Institute

Shortly after the decision, Competitive Enterprise Institute general counsel Sam Kazman told reporters that Roberts’s rationale seemed to abandon the logic of “what words mean” in favor of executive power.

“We were very surprised by his reasoning in the NFIB case [in 2012 about Obamacare's individual mandate], and we’re even more surprised by his reasoning here,” said Kazman, who largely coordinated the plaintiffs’ case. “Frankly, since the entire purpose of the Constitution was to impose restrictions on government, we see his ruling as a weakening of that.”

Elsewhere on the right, Roberts’s decision was being interpreted as a failure of Republicans to properly vet nominees–or worse. Phil Kerpen, whose group American Commitment had popularized videos of Obama administration consultant Jonathan Gruber appearing to make the plaintiffs’ case in King, directed followers to a 2005 column that decried Roberts as a “political” appointee who would not rely strictly on the Constitution. The author of that column, Ben Shapiro, took a sort of Twitter victory lap.

“Republicans should be asked: knowing then what you know now, would you have voted to confirm Chief Justice John Roberts?” Shapiro wrote.

Conservatives had plenty of help from their presidential contenders, who didn't explicitly name Roberts but launched a series of arrows at his ruling and his court.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, a former lawyer who has argued cases before the Supreme Court, came out swinging against the ruling as "judicial activism, plain and simple," and swiped the majority as "robed Houdinis" who made a "nakedly political" move.

"These judges have joined with President Obama in harming millions of Americans," he said. "Unelected judges have once again become legislators, and bad ones at that. They are lawless, and they hide their prevarication in legalese. Our government was designed to be one of laws, not of men, and this transparent distortion is disgraceful."

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Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee was no less fired up.

"Today's King v. Burwell decision, which protects and expands Obamacare, is an out-of-control act of judicial tyranny," he said. "Our Founding Fathers didn't create a 'do-over' provision in our Constitution that allows unelected, Supreme Court justices the power to circumvent Congress and rewrite bad laws."

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, a likely candidate, adopted the attack with a string of tweets quoting Justice Antonin Scalia's dissent that the law should now be called "SCOTUScare." Senator Marco Rubio subtly accused the justices of taking policy in their own hands, saying they "erred in trying to correct the mistakes made by President Obama and Congress in forcing ObamaCare on the American people." Other Republican candidates took aim at Obamacare but not the Supreme Court.

A blog post by Michael F. Cannon of the libertarian Cato Institute, an architect of the King v. Burwell lawsuit, blared "Supreme Court Validates Obama's Power Grab."

"Today the Supreme Court allowed itself to be intimidated," he wrote, warning that the ruling "establishes a precedent that could let any president modify, amend, or suspend any enacted law at his or her whim."

The anger at Roberts spanned generations, uniting all manner of conservatives in a distrust at the Republican establishment. David Limbaugh, the author and brother of radio host Limbaugh, asked why Republicans "end up with so many Trojan Horse Supreme Court appointments." Sean Davis, a senior editor at the conservative web site The Federalist wrote bitterly that "every fancy conservative legal foundation said Roberts was the most amazing nomination ever."

On the more conspiracy-minded end of the spectrum, libertarian author Wayne Root wondered in the website The Blaze: "Has Supreme Court Justice John Roberts been blackmailed or intimidated? I would put nothing by the Obama administration that lives and rules by the Chicago thug playbook."

Republicans Go On Obamacare Offensive: 'A Reckless Law' // The Weekly Standard // Daniel Halper – June 25, 2015

In anticipation of the Supreme Court's forthcoming ruling on the Obamacare case, the Republican National Committee is going on the offensive. In a new 66-second web video, which is set to be released later today, Republicans are blaiming the law on Democrats who "pushed through Obamacare." Not a single Republican voted for Obamacare's passage.

Watch here:

The ad features some of the loudest (and most unpopular) voices on Obamacare.

"You know, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever," Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber is quoted as saying in the ad.

"We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what's in it," Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker of the House, says in the ad.

"Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage," Gruber is heard saying.

Then news reports are played describing that the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare, is not working as intended and that it isn't affordable as promised.

An on screen graphic says that Obamacare is "hurting the American people."

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Finally, the ad ends with Hillary Clinton, who advocated Hillarycare in the 1990s and who is seeking the Democratic nomination.

"Obama & the Democrats rush to pass Obamacare," reads the finaly on screen graphic. "Americans are paying the price. Help us stop Hillary. StopHillary.gop."

The web ad is titled, "A Reckless Law."

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Obamacare ruling: Six takeaways for 2016 // Politico // Glenn Thrush & Kyle Cheney – June 25, 2015

Today was the rarest of days in American political history — the legacies of both a sitting president and a Supreme Court chief justice were defined in an instant.

While the jockeying swarm of 2016 aspirants aren't posing for posterity, they are angling for power — and the court's 6-to-3 decision upholding Obamacare subsidies alters their calculations. It's nothing compared to the unpinned hand grenade that would have been chucked into the field if the Affordable Care Act had been toppled as many analysts (and Republicans) conjectured, but it's forcing a rethinking nevertheless.

President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton hailed the decision as an unalloyed and historic victory, even if one cynical Democrat interviewed by POLITICO thought a loss would have galvanized Clinton's sleepy base like "nothing else could have."

The ruling's real political import lies on the Republican side, which is united in opposition to Obamacare but deeply divided on how to get rid of it — and even over the tone to use when saying nasty things about it.

The consensus: It was a constitutional abomination and an electoral godsend. "The 'repeal Obamacare' idea was good politically, but in practice, to peel back that whole program, was more complicated and less realistic," said Jason Roe, a California-based Republican consultant. "I don't think there is any [Republican] who can point to something and say, 'this is the consensus replacement,' and that was part of our struggle. What's next? Republicans don't need to answer that now."

"In general, I'd say this was decent day for the Republican Party," said a top staffer for a Republican 2016 candidate. "It's cleared off the table… And we don't have to spend the next 18 months trying to create a replacement for all the people who would lose coverage."

With the case off the table, here are six takeaways on the decision and its impact on a very rattled 2016 GOP field:

1. The pitchforks are coming for you, Jeb and Marco

Rage-against-the-machine anger has fueled the Republican resurgence since 2010 – actually since CNBC's Rick Santelli coined the "Tea Party" moniker during a rant against a proposed mortgage bailout in February 2009. Six-plus years later, the tension between the party's conservative base and more moderate/establishment/big-money candidates remains a serious issue, which explains why the second-tier candidates wasted little time in adopting the language of grievance demanded by the party's base.

With the ultimate fate of the health care law seemingly decided for good, there are really only two moves left for a GOP field seeking to derive political capital from Obamacare: move on, with a promise to repeal it later, or point fingers and demand Republican traitors get the tar-and-feather treatment.

The top tier candidates as defined by establishment support and cash — namely Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio –were more muted in their responses than lower-down-the-pole candidates like Mike Huckabee and Ben Carson, who has likened Obamacare to slavery.

Bush's statement was bloodless, trust me-I'm-angry boilerplate: "I am disappointed by today's Supreme Court ruling in the King v. Burwell case. But this

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decision is not the end of the fight against Obamacare." Bush also vowed to go the repeal-and-replace route, even though he hasn't backed a specific plan.

Marco Rubio, who also favors repeal and replacement, touted his "consumer-centered plan that puts patients and families back in control of their health care decisions," employing the measured language of a man with one eye on a general election audience.

Contrast that with Huckabee's fight-to-the-gates-of-hell rhetoric. A press release/fundraising pitch blasted minutes after the decision came down featured the following subject line "Breaking: Judicial tyranny & Obamacare!"

Carson likened to the decision to a death. "Those of us who pledge to repeal ?#Obamacare must redouble our efforts and not waste time and energy mourning today's ?#SCOTUS ruling," the surgeon-turned-politician tweeted.

These factions are about to collide on a debate stage. If there was any doubt of that, it was dispelled by Ted Cruz's post-decision salvo pointed at many in his own party. "[C]rocodile tears are flooding our nation's capital today over the Supreme Court's decision to illegally rewrite Obamacare, which has been a disaster since its inception. But one day of faux outrage from the Washington Cartel won't fool the millions of courageous conservatives across our country," he wrote in a fundraising email. "They know the Republican leadership in Washington is quietly celebrating the Court's decision. If they believe this issue is now settled so they don't have to address it, they are sorely mistaken."

Then, this: "Every GOP candidate for the Republican nomination should know that this decision makes the 2016 election a referendum on the full repeal of Obamacare."

2. It's Ted Cruz's moment – not

The tea party favorite – who has repeatedly crossed from Senate to House to whip up the anti-ACA faithful against leadership foot-draggers – had his most memorable (and donation-inducing) moments battling Obamacare, including orchestrating the government shutdown strategy that earned him bipartisan scorn but near-deification among conservatives. This could've been the Texas senator's Supreme-Court endorsed moment of triumph, and he could have rightly taken credit for creating many of the arguments that led to the undoing of a law he views as an abomination.

Had the law been toppled, as Cruz and many other GOP candidates anticipated, he would have had a crowning moment of political product differentiation from the 2016 field – he had already said that he would block efforts by fellow conservatives to extend Obamacare subsidies temporarily to deal with the post-Obamacare shock. "I think the best legislative option is to allow states to opt out," Cruz said. "I am cautiously optimistic that the Supreme Court will conclude in King vs. Burwell that the Obama IRS … acted lawlessly."

That didn't happen – robbing Cruz of a chance for another big look-at-me moment in the Capitol and keeping him, for the moment, pinned to the 4 percent national showing he managed in the most recent FOX News poll.

3. Start calling it "Hillarycare," please

Hillary Clinton bashed Barack Obama during the 2008 campaign for refusing to put the individual mandate in his somewhat half-baked campaign health-care proposal. As it turned out, Obama flipped quickly once he took power, and the Hillary-backed mandate was the basis for the King v. Burwell challenge – vindicated by the Roberts Court today.

Clinton has been very complimentary toward her one-time rival but she also wants America to know that the idea was, um, hers. In a five-graph statement applauding the decision Clinton didn't once use the words "Obama" or "Obamacare" – and she concluded with it a not-so-subtle reminder that she was crusading on health care when the president was still an unknown community organizer in Chicago. "I've fought for the promise of quality, affordable health care for every American for decades. And I'm not going to stop now. Anyone seeking to lead our country should stand up and support this decision."

4. Scott Walker is a happy man

That low whoosh is the sound of Wisconsin's Republican governor – and the third member of the presumptive top tier – breathing easier. Walker had jammed 90,000 constituents onto the federal exchange as part of a contorted health care overhaul – meant in part to snub Obamacare's Medicaid expansion. But if the court had ruled against the White House, those 90,000 people – plus another 70,000 who also signed up — might've been left uninsured. Walker was preparing to blame the White House for the crisis, but more than any other GOP governor, he hung his own reform effort on the success of the federal program.

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But Walker's not the only governor wiping sweat off his brow. Chris Christie vetoed efforts by lawmakers in New Jersey to establish a state-based exchange, forcing his constituents to sign up for the federal version. That left more than 170,000 residents at the mercy of the court, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Bobby Jindal never even sniffed in the direction of a state exchange, and another 137,000 residents there could've been in trouble. In Ohio, Gov. John Kasich – often painted as a friend of Obamacare because of his crusade to implement Medicaid expansion – refused to build a state exchange, leaving 160,000 residents on the hook.

Earlier in the week, Walker took to the CNN op-ed page to pre-spin the ruling, declaring that the onus fell on the White House and Congress to quell any crisis created by the court. Post-ruling, he returned to a more comfortable flavor: vanilla. "Today's Supreme Court ruling upholding the administration's implementation of ObamaCare means Republicans in the House and Senate must redouble their efforts to repeal and replace this destructive and costly law," he said.

5. Ca-ching

Cue the pleas for credit card numbers and contact information. Faster than John Roberts' gavel could come down, campaigns stuffed their supporters' in-boxes and Twitter feeds with frantic appeals. Huckabee asked for $10 – or $50 – to help him "lead this fight as President to repeal Obamacare." EMILY's List, a Democratic powerhouse, asked for $3 to "help elect a president who will appoint thoughtful Supreme Court justices and a Senate who will confirm them." And on Twitter, Hillary Clinton asked for supporters to enter their email addresses if they "stand with Hillary for health care."

6. Benedict Roberts

Once hailed by Republicans as the youthful leader of a new conservative jurisprudential era, Roberts is being vilified after penning the two decisions that preserved the signature Democratic policy accomplishment of the last four decades. Cruz, didn't call him out by name, but it's only a matter of time. "For the second time in just a few years, a handful of unelected judges has rewritten the text of Obamacare in order to impose this failed law on millions of Americans," Cruz wrote. "The first time, the Court ignored federal law and magically transformed a statutory 'penalty' into a 'tax.' Today, these robed Houdinis transmogrified a 'federal exchange' into an exchange 'established by the State.'"

GOP, Democrats seek campaign cash from Obamacare ruling // USA Today // Fredreka Schouten – June 25, 2015

Republicans and Democrats alike quickly sought to raise political donations off the Supreme Court's decision Thursday to uphold a key component of President Obama's health-care law.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who says he will repeal the law if elected, asked supporters for an "emergency contribution of $50, $25 or $10″ to ensure that Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton won't be elected.

Bush, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, said Obama "forced" the law on the public "in a partisan and toxic way" and "Hillary Clinton will be more of the same."

America Rising, a group dedicated to digging up unflattering information on Clinton and other Democrats, picked up the theme in its plea for cash. "We need to make sure Hillary Clinton — the mother of Obamacare — does NOT become president," the group said in a reference to Clinton's unsuccessful health-care initiative as first lady.

The Senate Majority Fund, a group working for a Democratic takeover of the U.S. Senate, asked supporters to "give every dollar you can spare this second" to prevent Republicans from controlling both the Senate and White House in 2017 and repealing the law.

In an email sent out early Thursday afternoon, Clinton celebrated the high-court victory, but didn't ask for cash — at least not yet. Instead, her missive sought to collect the email addresses of people who agree with her that "access to health care is a basic human right."

Tuesday marks the first major fundraising deadline for most 2016 presidential candidates.

Campaign swag and "Made in America" in the 2016 election // CBS News // Jenna Sakwa – June 25, 2015

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The selling of presidential campaign swag is a fundamental part of nearly every major political campaign. It helps bring in money, build donor databases, and swag also makes a statement about the candidate.

One question some campaigns wrestle with is whether every piece of merchandise sold with their names writ large needs to be stamped "Made in America." For many, the answer is, in essence, not necessarily.

Republican candidate Rand Paul is currently selling a shirt on his website that declares "Defeat the Washington Machine, Unleash The American Dream."

Its label reads "Made in Guatemala."

"All of our products are either made in America, or printed in America," a spokesman for the Paul campaign said. "The [campaign] store was built and is run in the heartland of America. Unfortunately, not all products sold in the US are American made, but we are continually looking for products to offer that are."

Bella + Canvas, the company who manufactures the t-shirt says it does, in fact, have a "Made in the USA" collection as part of its full line. However, the shirt sold on Paul's website is not part of it.

Candidates on both sides of the aisle are pledging American-made products this cycle. Democrat Hillary Clinton's store advertises that her campaign's items are both American-made and union-made.

And spokespeople for the campaigns of Republicans Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio tell CBS News all of their merchandise is made in the USA.

In 2012 both Mitt Romney and President Obama's presidential campaigns sold exclusively made-in-America swag.

Romney's former digital director Zac Moffatt, who oversaw the campaign's e-commerce store, explained that sourcing all of a campaign's products in the U.S. can present some challenges.

"You would be surprised how hard that can be," Moffatt said. "We were often running out of inventory."

Meaghan Burdick, who was in charge of marketing and merchandising for Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, said American-made goods can also be more expensive, but the campaign products set the tone.

"You're running for President of the United States, so I think it should be made in the U.S.," Burdick said of the products she ordered. "We felt extremely strongly about it. We tried to have everything union-made, so it was made in the U.S. and union printed."

Many of the Republicans running are more flexible than Democrats on the origins of their candidate bobble-heads or bumper stickers. They largely support trade initiatives, as their congressional votes on trade suggest (Democrats are divided), and they say that the wares on their websites reflect this attitude.

"We live in a global society," explains Sean Spicer, communications director for Republican National Committee. "We are a party that welcomes and believes in free trade."

So, it depends on the message candidates want to send. The lengths to which campaigns will go to ensure every product is made in America, Spicer says, are the decisions of each individual candidate.

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TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Obamacare Ruling May Have Just Killed State-Based Exchanges // NYT // Margot Sanger-Katz – June 25, 2015

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that health insurance consumers can receive federal subsidies regardless of their state's role in running their insurance market, fewer states may stay in the game.

When the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, most people expected that each state would want to run its own health insurance marketplace. That never really happened, as many states opted to let the federal system, HealthCare.gov, do the work for them. Many of those states that did try running their own marketplaces are starting to think twice.

Now, with the Supreme Court ensuring that every state's consumers will have equal access to federal subsidies, it is becoming clear that more of those states will revert to a federal system for enrolling people in health insurance.

"There may be a little bit of buyers' remorse going on in some state capitals right now," said Sabrina Corlette, the director of the Center on Health Insurance Reforms at Georgetown University. She said states underestimated the difficulty and expense of building and maintaining state marketplaces. Now, she said, many officials are asking: "What did we get ourselves into?"

As the law envisioned, state exchanges would provide an opportunity for state insurance regulators to oversee their markets, a role they have long performed. The state exchange system would also allow a greater degree of policy flexibility and control, so state officials could customize the marketplaces for local conditions. What few people grasped was the technical and logistical challenge of building a complex website and customer service operation from scratch.

"Certainly, one of the lessons learned was that it is much more difficult than was expected," said Joel Ario, who ran the office in the Department of Health and Human Services devoted to building the exchanges after the law passed. He is now a managing director at Manatt Health Solutions, a consulting firm that is assisting several states.

In the first year of operation, three state exchanges — Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon — had technology failures so profound that they handed the bulk of their operations to the federal government. Other states managed to rebound from a troublesome first year by rebuilding their systems, but only with substantial effort and expense. Both Massachusetts and Maryland essentially started from scratch in 2015.

As my colleague Abby Goodnough reported this month, state struggles continue. The Hawaii exchange is collapsing, while Vermont's looks shaky. Even some exchanges that have performed relatively well — including Washington and Minnesota — are experiencing substantial information technology problems. And the expense of managing an exchange is also climbing in many places as federal start-up funding diminishes. The Washington Post reported in May that nearly half of the states are suffering from financial difficulties.

"There is no new money now to build new infrastructure, and there are no grants available to fix these systems if they're struggling," said Heather Howard, the director of the State Health Reform Assistance Network at Princeton University, which was set up to advise states on exchange building. "So the only path forward may be to use HealthCare.gov."

Lawrence Miller, chief of health care reform in Vermont, who reports to the governor, said his state was still working hard to try to repair its exchange architecture — and he hopes he succeeds. But he said he also took some solace in the court's decision.

Ms. Howard says the future for many states may be something along the lines of the New Mexico system. That state performs some of the functions envisioned for a state exchange, including selecting the health plans that will be sold on the state's marketplace, and collecting fees from insurers. But it uses the federal government's HealthCare.gov infrastructure to determine people's eligibility for insurance and sign them up for health plans.

The National Association of State Health Policy, an organization closely watched by state officials, recently published a paper describing how states can transition to the New Mexico model. People working closely with state governments say they expect the template to become increasingly popular.

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If the court had ruled for the health law's challengers, we would have seen more states adopting the state-based model to preserve subsidies for their residents. Now that the government has won, movement is likely to be in the other direction.

Supreme Court's Obamacare ruling benefits way more people in red counties than blue // WaPo // Philip Bump – June 25, 2015

Whether or not Republican politicians consider Thursday's Supreme Court ruling a negative for them is open to interpretation. The 2016 candidates have railed against it in press releases, but deep down inside, it's hard to believe that they wanted to deal with the fallout of the nuclear detonation that a ruling against Obamacare would have been. They still have their political cudgel, and they don't have to clean up a mess. Win-win.

And for Republican voters, the win is even clearer.

The government releases regular updates on how many people are enrolled in the federal exchange. The Supreme Court decision only dealt with those enrollees, as you probably know; at issue was whether or not the government subsidies for people in the federal exchanges would be continued. Without those subsidies, costs for mandatory health insurance would have spiked. And, according to our analysis of government data, it would have affected a lot more people in Republican counties than Democratic ones.

Here's the distribution of enrollees by county. (This is Enroll America's aggregation of ZIP code-level data provided by the government.) The darker the color, the more enrollees. (Counties in gray didn't have data.)

(Note the heavy enrollment in Jeb Bush's and Marco Rubio's back yard.)

As you'd expect, the numbers are much bigger near cities. But notice that several large states are missing, including California and New York. They've got their own exchanges, and so they're not on the federal exchange. The states that are reliant on the federal exchange are often more Republican -- which is why they're in the exchange. They chose not to set up their own exchanges in large part because it was viewed as enabling the law as a whole.

On a county-by-county basis, you can see that a lot of people in counties that backed Barack Obama or Mitt Romney in 2012 would have been affected.

But when you tally the number of those enrolled through the federal exchange in each county, according to the Enroll America data, with how those counties voted, the difference is staggering.

About 1.8 million people in federal exchanges live in counties that voted for Obama. About 4.5 million live in counties that voted for Mitt Romney.

Not all of these people would have seen big spikes in what they have to pay for insurance if the decision had gone the other way. But nearly nine-in-10 nationally receive some subsidy, meaning millions would have been negatively affected.

And just because a county leans Republican doesn't mean its Obamacare beneficiaries lean Republican -- but it seems much more likely that they do.

Overall, the effects of Obamacare have been pretty widely distributed. Enroll America also has estimates of the change in the number of uninsured between 2013 and 2014. Compare that to the 2012 election results, below.

It's not just Democrats or Democratic areas that have seen a benefit from the law. Which gives prominent Republican politicians another reason to feel relieved. A lot of their voters might have been very angry if the Supreme Court's decision went the other way.

Supreme Court Rules That Disparate Impact Claims Are Allowed Under Fair Housing Act // Buzzfeed // Chris Geidner – June 25, 2015

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The Supreme Court Thursday ruled that claims of "disparate impact" can be brought under the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

The 5-4 closely divided decision — authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, joined by the four more liberal justices — was a victory for civil rights advocates, who have been long concerned about how the high court would resolve the issue.

In January, the justices heard arguments in the case — which was brought back in 2008 by the Inclusive Communities Project against the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

The question that ultimately reached the Supreme Court is a relatively simple one: Whether "disparate impact" claims are able to be brought under the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

"Disparate impact" claims address policies that are not discriminatory on their face but have a "disparate impact" on a particular race, and civil rights advocates have said they are a key tool in addressing housing discrimination.

While the FHA makes no specific mention of whether such claims are covered by the law, every court of appeals to decide the issue and the federal government — through the Department of Housing and Urban Development — agree that such claims are permitted under the act.

"Congress' use of the phrase 'otherwise make unavailable' [in the FHA] refers to the consequences of an action rather than the actor's intent," Kennedy wrote for the court on Thursday. "This results-oriented language counsels in favor of recognizing disparate-impact liability."

The "disparate impact" question is one the court has been trying to review for several years now. Twice previously the justices have accepted a case to address the issue only to have it settle out of court before the justices could rule.

INTERNATIONAL

Putin Breaks Silence With Call to Obama **// NYT // Peter Baker – June 25, 2015**

WASHINGTON — President Obama spoke with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Thursday in their first direct contact in four months as the United States and Russia try to manage their conflict over Ukraine while still working together on other issues like Syria and Iran's nuclear program.

Mr. Putin initiated the call, the first between the estranged leaders since February, the White House said. He brought up the war against the Islamic State in Syria and the two leaders agreed to have Secretary of State John Kerry meet with Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov to discuss how to counter the spread of radicalism in the Middle East. They also discussed the Iran talks in advance of next week's deadline for an agreement.

But American officials said that Mr. Obama focused on the continuing separatist war in Ukraine fomented by support from Moscow and pushed Mr. Putin to abide by a shaky diplomatic agreement known as the Minsk accord. Violence has flared in recent weeks even as Russia failed to drive a wedge among the members of the European Union who agreed to renew economic sanctions on Russia for another six months.

"President Obama reiterated the need for Russia to fulfill its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including the removal of all Russian troops and equipment from Ukrainian territory," the White House said.

The Kremlin said Mr. Putin agreed to have his deputy foreign minister, Grigory Karasin, talk with Victoria J. Nuland, an assistant secretary of state, about the fulfillment of the Minsk accord.

Mr. Putin's decision to call Mr. Obama and focus on Syria and Iran may reflect a desire to assert his continuing importance on the world stage despite Russia's isolation and failure to break the Western consensus on sanctions.

The United States and Russia have been at odds over Syria. Moscow supports the government of President Bashar al-Assad, and Mr. Obama has called for

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his resignation. American officials hope Mr. Putin may see the rise of the Islamic State as enough of a threat to now be willing to apply pressure on Mr. Assad, but they also suspected his renewed interest in the issue may be a way of distracting from Ukraine.

ISIS Attacks Two Towns in Northern Syria // NYT // Ben Hubbard – June 25, 2015

The militants of the Islamic State carried out two new offensives in northern Syria on Thursday, entering a provincial capital and detonating large bombs in the border town of Kobani, where intensive airstrikes by a United States-led coalition helped Kurdish forces rout the jihadists last year.

In southern Syria, rebel groups began a new campaign to push government forces from the city of Dara'a.

The new attacks by the Islamic State came more than a week after its fighters lost the town of Tal Abyad, on the Turkish border, to Kurdish militias and Arab rebels in what was seen as a strategic setback for the group. In striking back, the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, appeared to be trying to counter losses in one place with attacks on other sites it considers vulnerable, a tactic it has employed before.

Kurdish activists inside Kobani said Islamic State fighters disguised in the uniforms of Kurdish militiamen had sneaked into the town at dawn, when few people were awake. Then a large truck bomb exploded at the town's border crossing with Turkey, setting off clashes between the Islamic State militants and local Kurdish forces.

"They entered the neighborhoods and started killing civilians on their way," said Baran Mesko, a Kurdish activist in Kobani. In a telephone interview, he said about 100 Islamic State fighters disguised as locals had taken up positions in Kobani, a small, strategic frontier town near the Syrian border with Turkey.

At least one more bombing followed, reportedly a suicide attack by a jihadist on a motorcycle, and Islamic State fighters were said to be blowing themselves up with explosive vests and killing civilians.

Kobani, known as Ain al-Arab in Arabic, gained prominence in the fight against the Islamic State last year, when Kurdish fighters fought for months to keep the group out, eventually succeeding in January with the help of intensive airstrikes by the United States-led coalition that has been bombing the militants in Iraq and Syria.

The black flag of the Islamic State, left, flew over Tal Abyad, Syria, on Tuesday. After Kurdish and rebel fighters took over the town later Tuesday, they hoisted a Kurdish militia flag.ISIS Loses Control of Crucial Syrian Border TownJUNE 16, 2015

President Obama on Wednesday at West Point, where he laid out his foreign policy plan for his final two and a half years in office.Obama's Evolution on ISISJUNE 9, 2015

By Thursday evening the Islamic State militants were holed up in a school that had been converted into a hospital and were holding a number of Kurdish families hostage, Mr. Mesko said.

Salih Muslim, another Kurdish activist in Kobani, said the fighting continued late Thursday, and that Islamic State snipers were preventing crews from removing bodies lying in the streets.

The death toll from the fighting was unclear. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict from Britain through contacts on the ground, said that 22 Islamic State fighters had been killed in addition to 35 civilians and Kurdish fighters. Activists reported higher numbers of casualties, but said they could not get a more accurate count because of the continuing fighting.

The Syrian state news agency, SANA, also reported the clashes, saying five people were killed by the initial truck bomb.

That battle highlighted Turkey's complicated relationship with the war just over its border: the Turkish Army did not intervene against the Islamic State nor did its soldiers join the international coalition against them. While Turkish leaders have condemned the Islamic State, they have also made it clear that they consider any Kurdish advance near their border a potential threat to national security.

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The Kurdish militias fighting in Syria are linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or P.K.K., which fought a deadly insurgency against the Turkish state.

Syrian Kurds from Kobani waited Thursday at a border fence to cross into Turkey. Islamic State militants have launched new attacks against Kurdish fighters and government forces. Credit Murad Sezer/Reuters

The distrust is mutual, and some Kurdish activists said Thursday that at least one bomber had entered the town from Turkey, a charge Turkish officials denied.

Speaking to reporters in Ankara on Thursday, a spokesman for the Turkish foreign ministry, Tanju Bilgic, called those claims "baseless lies."

Mr. Bilgic said that 63 people who had been wounded were brought across the border from Syria for treatment in Turkey after the explosions and that two died in the hospital.

Farther east, Islamic State fighters seized southern parts of the city of Hasaka, the regional capital of the oil-rich province of the same name. Control of the city had been split between Kurdish forces and the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but activists said government forces had withdrawn to the city center.

The Islamic State advance sent civilians streaming out of the area, according to photos and videos posted online.

The news agency SANA also reported the Islamic State incursion in Hasaka, accusing militants of using human shields in fierce clashes with government forces.

In southern Syria, a coalition of rebel fighters began a new offensive to push government forces from the city of Dara'a, widely regarded as the birthplace of the uprising against Mr. Assad that began in 2011 and later devolved into the civil war. The Syrian Observatory reported that more than 18 rebel fighters and at least 20 government soldiers were killed.

The Islamic State has only a small presence in southern Syria and most of the groups involved in the fighting there are nationalists seeking to oust Mr. Assad. Some have received financial and military support from the West through Jordan. Fighters from the Nusra Front, the Syrian affiliate of Al Qaeda, were also involved.

Palestinians press International Criminal Court to charge Israel **// WaPo // William Booth – June 25, 2015**

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry presented documents on Thursday to the International Criminal Court in The Hague asserting that Israel should be investigated for war crimes in last summer's fighting in the Gaza Strip and for continued construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The presentation of files to the ICC, written in broad outline with no specific charges against named individuals, is another step in what the Palestinians describe as their new strategy of "internationalizing" the conflict with Israel by seeking ways to embarrass, isolate and pressure it to withdraw from occupied territories and allow them to form a sovereign state.

The Palestinians stress that they are not "referring" cases for prosecution but "supplying information" to the ICC prosecutor for her to make up her own mind about how to proceed.

If the Palestinians were seen as referring cases against Israel, that could trigger congressional ire — and real consequences. Congress could withhold $400 million that the United States annually provides for aid projects in the West Bank.

Israel has also warned the Palestinians that they will pay a price for taking their case to the ICC. After the Palestinian Authority signed documents to join the court, Israel withheld transfers of customs tax money for three months, forcing the authority to pay reduced salaries to civil employees.

The Palestinian Authority officially joined the court in April, although Israel and the Obama administration argue that "Palestine" is not a state and so

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cannot accede to the court's founding document, the Rome Statute. Palestine is a "non-member observer state" in the United Nations.

The ICC's top prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda of Gambia, launched a preliminary examination into possible crimes committed in last year's Gaza war and other actions in the West Bank. If she deems the alleged crimes "grave" and decides the court has proper jurisdiction, she can go before judges at a pretrial tribunal and ask the court for permission to begin a full-fledged investigation, a much more serious matter.

The Palestinian documents submitted on Thursday were not made public, although Palestinian diplomat Ammar Hijazi discussed the contents with reporters. Hijazi said the documents seek to describe Israel's "settlement regime" in the West Bank — how the government, through laws, land seizures, funding and military orders, aids and abets Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and why the Palestinians think this is a violation of international law.

Israel argues that the West Bank is not occupied but disputed territory and that its settlements are legal. The Obama administration describes the settlements as "illegitimate" and not helpful to the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

The other half of the Palestinian submission to the ICC focuses on the war in Gaza and describes how Israeli rules of engagement and intense artillery and tank fire led to civilian deaths.

"It presents a grim picture," Hijazi said.The Palestinian presentation of documents follows the release this week of a report commissioned by the U.N. Human Rights Council that found evidence that both the Israeli military and armed Palestinian factions such as Hamas, the Islamist militant movement that controls the Gaza Strip, may have committed war crimes in last year's fighting.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and government ministers have strenuously denied that Israel committed violations of international law in the Gaza war. The prime minister called the U.N. report "flawed and biased" and urged the world to ignore it.

Israel released its own report this month defending its military as cautious and moral. It blamed Hamas for civilian deaths because the group employed "human shields" and cached weapons and fired rockets near hospitals, mosques, schools and churches.

Netanyahu has vowed that he will never allow Israeli soldiers to "be dragged" before the ICC. But the ICC does not concern itself with low-level troops; instead it seeks to indict the highest authority in the chain of command. If Israel were ever prosecuted by the court, the defendant would not a conscript but a top Israeli commander or Netanyahu himself.

Some Palestinians relish this idea. "Our aim is to establish war crimes in order that an investigation by the chief prosecutor's office is carried out and to remove immunity from Israel and its leaders, achieve justice, apply human rights conventions, protect Palestinians and hold criminals accountable for their crimes," Mustafa Barghouthi, head of the Palestine National Initiative, told reporters Wednesday in Ramallah.

The ICC has never handled a case as politically explosive and legally complex as the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Those previously indicted by the court have been African warlords and leaders. Nor does the ICC move with speed. Some of its preliminary examinations have dragged on for years.

"We are not going to the ICC seeking revenge," chief Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat said, but to hold Israel "accountable."

Responding to Israeli complaints that going to the ICC will not bring the Palestinians any closer to a state, Erekat said, "Those who are wary of courts should stop committing crimes."Erekat suggested that going to the ICC also served to remind his constituents that the Palestinian leadership is doing something. "It is asking our people, 'don't despair, don't go toward violence.' "

The ICC prosecutor in her preliminary examination is not limiting herself to Israeli actions in Gaza and the West Bank but is looking at "all parties," including Hamas and its militia, as well as other armed factions, and presumably the Palestinian Authority itself, which formed a "united government" with Hamas.The recent U.N. report suggested that Hamas and the other militants may have committed war crimes with their rocket fire aimed at Israeli civilian centers and their curbside extrajudicial killings of alleged "collaborators."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

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A Bush vs. a Clinton? **// WSJ // Daniel Henninger – June 25, 2015**

The one story many mumble that they don't want to hear again is the tale of two dynasties—another Bush versus another Clinton. But when opinion polls ask about the dynastic matchup, the answer most people give is it doesn't matter to them if the choice is Jeb versus Hillary. In short, get over it and maybe even, bring it on.

Only a legally actionable revelation about the Clinton Foundation could stop Mrs. Clinton, and with no chance of that from a Justice Department preoccupied with indicting Democrats like Sen. Robert Menendez for talking to Medicare bureaucrats, she is her party's nominee.

Jeb Bush's path to the nomination is less automatic. Unlike Hillary, he has competitors of substance bunched behind him, such as Marco Rubio and Scott Walker. But for all the carping about political rust, Gov. Bush retains the top spot in virtually every new poll. This week's Wall Street Journal/NBC Poll puts Mrs. Clinton's lead over Jeb at eight points, which would probably translate into a dead heat by October 2016.

I'm not promoting a Bush-Clinton race (yet), but dynasties reflect a nation's politics. "Bush" and "Clinton" stand for more than just Jeb or Hillary.

One thing they stand for is the baby boomers' last shot at occupying the U.S. presidency. They're done. The generation born to parents who fought World War II has given us Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and may produce one more president. After that, the country's presidential politics transfers to the generation of a Rubio or a Walker.

To balance the reality of her own baby-boomer status, Hillary's running mate may be 40-year-old Julián Castro, the former mayor of San Antonio and current HUD secretary, or 46-year-old New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker. That many voters have never heard of Julián Castro testifies to the smothering power of the gerrymandered gerontocracy that rules Democratic politics. Hillary Clinton is the Democratic candidate for about the same reason Edward II followed Edward I as England's king: She, none dare dispute, is next in line.

One reason public offices now seem to become family heirlooms—the Cuomos, the Pauls, the Romneys—is children and spouses witness the lives of officials making political decisions in ways not available to the rest of us. And so why, beyond neurotic ambition, one should want to be president of the United States, with voters believing the stakes so high in 2016, is a question Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton should be able to answer better than most. Each has been privy to two presidencies. (The fastidious will say it's 1.25 for Hillary; only one person has been "close" to the Obama presidency.)

Conventional wisdom among Republicans holds that Jeb shouldn't get bogged down talking about his brother's and father's presidencies. But he should indeed talk about them. Resistance to "another Bush," an authentic and reasonable American instinct, could suppress voter turnout at the margins. Weak turnout hurt Mitt Romney.

Mr. Bush has a chance to tell a skeptical country that he understands the responsibilities of an American president because he knows how his father and brother succeeded—or stumbled. There is much to admire in both those presidencies, but if an honest appraisal requires criticism of them, so be it. "Own man" has to mean more than a promise.

For Hillary, answering why America needs another Clinton is, well, trickier—if indeed she or her campaign think it is a subject worth bothering with at all. But Mrs. Clinton has now spent 12 years close to a presidency. Surely she has views on what reason there is for holding that office, beyond one's name.

It's a good question how many voters remember what a complicated thing the Clinton presidency was. At the heart of Bill Clinton's problems then were abuses of the presidential office on matters having nothing to do with the Lewinsky mess. How Hillary Clinton has sorted through all that and any recent lessons of the Clinton dynasty is a reflection that will have to await future histories. Indeed the operational theory behind the Clinton stonewall seems to be: Survive the moment and let history figure it out.

Dynasties fall, however, when they fail to see the political ground shifting beneath them. For both Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush, it has shifted.

Hillary is running for president, rather than retiring after eight years as president, because in 2008 the Democratic left defeated the Clinton machine, got Barack Obama elected president and captured the party's policies. Now a Clinton is running as a woman of the left, and the bonfire this week over her

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violative statement, “all lives matter,” suggests she hasn’t arrived yet in the land of solidarity.

Jeb somehow got through the trial-by-ordeal of his official presidential announcement without reigniting right-wing mobs calling for his political head. One wonders how far he’d go if he said that the phrase “Common Core” is to academic standards what the Edsel was to cars.

A 17th-century political pundit described “vaulting ambition, which o’erleaps itself.” If it’s Jeb versus Hillary, only one of them will overleap to dynastic oblivion.

Hillary Clinton has to attack Bernie Sanders // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 25, 2015

Bloomberg reports: “Bernie Sanders is gaining on Hillary Clinton in Iowa and New Hampshire, with an appeal as an issue-oriented protest vehicle potentially capable of slowing any coronation of the popular front-runner. In simultaneous surveys, the U.S. senator from Vermont received nearly a quarter of support from likely Democratic caucus and primary voters in the states that host the first presidential nomination balloting early next year, cutting sharply into Clinton’s still-huge lead.” In Iowa, she leads 50 percent to 24 percent and in New Hampshire she has a 56 percent to 24 percent lead.

On one level, she is in no danger of losing either contest at this point. On another, it is remarkable that the “inevitable” nominee is under 60 percent in both places. Clinton might not know how to charm voters or how to thrill them with innovative policy, but she knows how to attack. Hence:

Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) unloaded on her Senate colleague Bernie Sanders on Thursday, saying the Vermont independent is far too liberal to make it to the White House.

“I think that the media is giving Bernie a pass right now,” McCaskill said in an interview on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” “I very rarely read in any coverage of Bernie that he’s a socialist. I think everybody wants a fight and I think they are not really giving the same scrutiny to Bernie Sanders that they’re giving to, certainly, Hillary Clinton and the other candidates.”

It’s not clear how much sympathy that will drum up for Sanders, but he can now claim she’s threatened by him. His shtick as the underdog candidate works well if his opponent is hiding from the media and sending out surrogates to trash him. In fact, he might invite her to sit next to him on one of the Sunday morning shows so we can hear her complaints about him directly. Well, that is not happening anytime soon.

The danger here for Clinton is three-fold.

First, Sanders might start hitting her hard for her cronyism (The Huffington Post points out: “The newest hire for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign is a longtime strategist who played a key role in her 2008 primary defeat while working for then-Sen. Barack Obama. He’s also a Washington lobbyist who lobbied the State Department — led, at the time, by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — on behalf of the company seeking to build the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.”) That means going after the conflicts of interest, the speeches for hedge funds, the anti-woman regimes who donated to her foundation and more.

There is also the matter of her cronies. Sid Blumenthal found a back door into the State Department while getting paid by the “charitable” foundation. Hillaryland regulars Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin remained on the government payroll while working outside government (in the case of Mills, her status was not previously disclosed). The operating rules in Clinton’s orbit seem to be: Let the rules be damned, ignore conflicts and take the money and run. Not exactly the model of public service we expect.

It’s not clear he wants to go whole hog, but it might be the only way to roust Democrats from their slumber.

Second, carrying around the empty chair and excoriating her for refusal to engage and enunciate her views is another possible Sanders tactic. Clinton, to the extent she has views, surely does not want to reveal any controversial ones that would make either her nomination or general election candidacy more problematic. The progress Sanders has made in the polls bashing her for taking no definitive stance on trade may encourage him to keep at it.

Third, how much higher can Sanders go before a bigger name (Vice President Joe Biden? Michael Bloomberg?) decides to get into the race? That might

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come after a primary or two, or it could come this summer. Watching Clinton dodge and weave, leaving the president out to dry on trade must be infuriating to a guy like Biden who has spent seven years loyally serving the president, and in fact goading him into more liberal positions (e.g., gay marriage).

Clinton remains the prohibitive favorite, but to the extent Bernie Sanders of all people can inflict real damage or draw bigger fish into the pond, he remains a danger to Hillaryland. In any event, many of the potential attacks on her — greed, being out of touch, ethical lapses — will be fodder for the GOP in the general election. No wonder she is attacking him.

It's Official -- Bernie Sanders Has Overtaken Hillary Clinton In the Hearts and Minds of Democrats // HuffPo // H.A. Goodman – June 25, 2015

According to PBS, Bernie Sanders is "gaining against Clinton in early polls." Salon's Bill Curry believes "Hillary Clinton is going lose," primarily because millions of voters longing for a truly progressive candidate will nominate Sanders. POLITICO explained recently that Early-state polls hint at a Bernie Sanders surge, a headline that was unthinkable only several months earlier. Yahoo's Meredith Shiner calls Sanders a "progressive social media star and pragmatic legislator" and states that "Sanders also has a much more substantial legislative history" than any GOP challenger. In Iowa, 1,100 people packed a gym to hear Bernie Sanders speak in May.

In contrast, Team Hillary had an intimate business roundtable discussion with five "ordinary" Iowans. The only problem was that according to The Washington Post, "All five were selected to attend her events." In fact, Clinton's "staged roundtables" were attended by a total of 13 Iowans, picked by either the campaign or the host.

Therefore, a paradigm shift has taken place. Many Iowans drove 50 miles to hear Sanders speak in Des Moines, primarily because Bernie Sanders has surpassed Clinton as the ideal choice for Democratic nominee. Regarding electability, Sanders has also surpassed Clinton as the realistic choice for Democratic nominee in the minds of many voters, because as one Salon piece illustrates, Hillary "just doesn't get it."

When it comes to everything from immigration to climate change and economic issues (most Americans side with Democrats, according to Pew research and other data) some writers believe that Democrats "can nominate a ham sandwich and win the presidency." Although once thought of as an impossibility, a closer look at the electoral map shows why Bernie Sanders could realistically defeat any GOP challenger. If voters around the country still care about middle class economics, the federal budget, trade and other hot button issues in 2016, Sanders has a legitimate chance to win. Also, since Sanders isn't tied to Obama fatigue like Hillary Clinton, it's quite possible the Vermont Senator re-energizes an America that just recently decided the Confederate flag doesn't represent its value system.

According to a POLITICO piece titled The 2016 Results We Can Already Predict, "Assuming the lean, likely, and safe Democratic states remain loyal to the party, the nominee need only win 23 of the 85 toss-up electoral votes." Therefore, there's no need to jettison cherished values for the sake of pragmatism; those days are over. Senator Bernie Sanders, known in Washington and throughout the nation as an advocate for middle class Americans, veterans, the environment, and other cherished causes can win crucial electoral votes just as easily as Hillary Clinton.

Finally, we're all asking a question that we've been too frightened to ask, for fear of seeming unrealistic:"Why Not Bernie?"

Not long ago, many Democrats emphasized realism over progressive values. Sure, Hillary voted for Iraq and has close ties to Wall Street, but she'll raise $2.5 billion, so doesn't this represent our best chance to beat the GOP? This mindset, however, ignored the fact that the Associated Press, Vice News, and others are suing the State Department for access to tens of thousands of Clinton's emails. A Bloomberg piece titled Hillary Clinton Monthly E-Mail Releases Must Begin in June Court Rules highlights the reality of eventual email disclosures:

The U.S. must begin to make public 30,000 e-mails belonging to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on a monthly basis beginning June 30, a federal judge ruled Wednesday amid competing proposals over their disclosure...

The State Department proposed releasing as many documents as possible at 60-day intervals, ending by Jan. 15. Attorneys for Vice News reporter Jason Leopold, who sued to gain access to the e-mails, proposed releases every two weeks.

Leopold's case is one of several seeking access to all or part of Clinton's State Department e-mail through the federal Freedom of Information Act.

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Not long ago, winning meant voting for Hillary, even though someone like Bernie Sanders represented a candidate who spoke to the value system of citizens throughout the country. In reality, though, even billions of dollars in campaign funding won't help if a controversial email is uncovered before Election Day, or debated endlessly like other Clinton scandals.

As for why Bernie Sanders is finally being given the attention he deserves, the Vermont Senator is intimately involved with issues that affect the lives of everyday Americans. While Clinton supporters reference their candidate's experience, many people aren't aware of the various Congressional Committees that Sanders is involved with on a daily basis:

Environment and Public Works

The United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is responsible for dealing with matters related to the environment and infrastructure.

Energy and Natural Resources

The United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has jurisdiction over matters related to energy and nuclear waste policy, territorial policy, native Hawaiian matters, and public lands.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) generally considers matters relating to these issues.

Budget

The United States Senate Committee on Budget... is responsible for drafting Congress's annual budget plan and monitoring action on the budget for the Federal Government. The committee has jurisdiction over the Congressional Budget Office.

Veterans' Affairs

The United States Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs considers matters relating to the compensation of veterans, life insurance issued on account of service in the Armed Forces, national cemeteries, pensions of all wars, readjustment of servicemen to civil life, and veterans' hospitals and medical care.

Joint Economic Committee

This joint committee of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives focuses on promoting maximum employment, production, and purchasing power.

While Hillary voted for Iraq, Sanders knows how the repercussions of this decision continue to affect veterans and their families. As for jobs, the federal budget, healthcare, energy, and the environment, Sanders has far more experience than Clinton, Bush, or any other candidate in 2016.

Finally, perhaps the biggest reason Sanders is surging is because he's a genuine person with real beliefs, while others become chameleons when votes and public image are at stake. It's important to note that Hillary Clinton just recently "evolved" on gay marriage and in 2004, Clinton's speech (forward to 0:22 on the Slate video or read the transcript of her passionate defense of marriage between only a man and woman) highlighted her views on the "sacred bond" of marriage:

Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY): "I believe marriage is...a sacred bond between a man and a woman....a fundamental bedrock principle that it exists between a man and woman, going back into the midst of history, as one of the founding, foundational institutions of history and humanity and

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civilization. And that it's primary principle role during those milennia has been the raising and socializing of children for the society into which they are to become adults."

According to The Atlantic, Clinton's stance remained unchanged for years, and "she also opposed gay marriage as recently as 2013, long after a majority of Americans already held a more gay-friendly position."

In terms of identity, Hillary Clinton might be a liberal according to fivethirtyeight.com , yet their analysis gives her a free pass on war, gay marriage, and other issues liberals had championed before they were popular. Adhering to polls is fine, but the words "poll driven," not "progressive," come to mind for someone with this type of persona. If one's views on war and foreign policy are enough for The New York Times to publish an article titled Are neocons getting ready to ally with Hillary Clinton?, then Bernie Sanders becomes an even better candidate for people opposed to never-ending American counterinsurgency wars. Clinton might say she was duped by faulty intelligence, but Bernie Sanders had enough intelligence and wisdom to vote against the Iraq war back in 2003.

In contrast to Clinton, Sanders has supported the issue of gay marriage since 2000, vehemently opposed the Iraq War, opposes TPP, wants student loan debt reforms, fights for veterans, and isn't afraid to blast "too big to fail" Wall Street firms. As for him being an "avowed Socialist," George Bush's $700 billion bailout of banks was textbook socialism, so Sanders will be able to shrug off the label after one or two televised debates. Bernie Sanders represents a new era in American politics; one where values trump Citizens United cash or cold pragmatism. America needs a human being like Sanders, now more than ever before.

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 4:00:26 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

User Actions
Following

Marco RubioVerified account @ marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/31/2008 7:39:01 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Racine, WI 07/31/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Racine, WI. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Asked where he stands now Viagra vs. birth control question, McCain says it's up to the person who purchases the health care coverage
- Denies that he's flip-flopped on 'no mudslinging,' says he's proud of the ad and that 'we're talking about substance and not style... campaigns are tough.'
- Says government had to intervene for Fannie and Freddie but we shouldn't let them lobby again
- Defends a bill that let Peabody Mines displace Navajos to toxic land (leaving many dead)
- Repeats condemnation of Bush Administration and Congress that everyone in Washington says what they need to et elected
- Repeats attacks against Obama's meaningless words,

Racine, WI: McCain Town Hall 07/31/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- About 850-900 people, mostly white and middle-aged (near-capacity, including balcony)
    - Crowd was exuberant, lots of standing ovations for McCain
- About 20 protesters outside event, including Stamporee (McSame stamp), SEIU protesters, 1 Sierra Club sign [tracker footage available]
- Before event, 2 video screens show McCain commercial and images of middle America
- Huge banner reads "Wisconsin Welcomes John & Cindy McCain"
- WWII Vets placed in the front row
- Local mayor introduces Cindy: she's a teacher; she'll say her biggest accomplishment is raising her 4 children; she heads a company; praises her humanitarian work
- Cindy introduces McCain
    - Rwandan women probably endured the most in the genocide wrought on that country; they are the strongest people I have ever met - they have decided that they are going to put the past behind them and put their country first - very similar to my husband- he put everything behind him and put our country first; he embodies hope, courage, generosity, spirit and heart

Speech Highlights

- Now you know why after years in AZ, they said why isn't she the candidate
- brief personal story - 17 years ago Cindy in Bangladesh in Mother Teresa's orphanage - and now we have an (adopted) 17-year-old daughter Bridget and she has enriched our lives
- TY Debra Bartoshevitz (former Dem - perhaps your reward will be in Heaven rather than here on earth)
- **We can give teleprompter speeches, soundbites; but the important thing is to give Town hall mtgs** and interact with people together. ICYMI I invited Obama to hold these meetings with me and he hasn't. and ICYMI yesterday he invited me to a duel. I wonder what weapons he had in mind...
- I'm always honored to have the vets - at my hundreds and hundreds of town hall meetings - esp by our Greatest Generation
- questions, comments and occasional insult
- I've been called a maverick, someone who marches to own drum - sometimes compliment, sometimes insult - I understand who I work for, not anyone else but you and the country we love
- I spoke up against administration for surge in Iraq- --- BTW it's very likely that we'll have the lowest casualties in the month of July in any month since the war began - every life is precious, but it's apparent the surge is succeeding --- I'll say again, I'd much rather lose a political campaign than lose a war
- I spoke up against my party and fought against out-of-control spending and corruption in DC today
- I spoke up against Administration and Congress who gave us another Energy Bill

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- Politicians, pundits and pollsters warn me that these positions would cost me the Presidency, but I don't answer to them, I answer to you. I will always always do what's right for my country.
- We need to change the way we do almost everything: disaster response, education, ATC, etc. -- all of these were before the rise of the global economy and the end of the Cold War. and to do this we'll need the strength to change Washington.
- Obama is an impressive speaker and we should all applaud his accomplishments. My problem is that on issues big and small, what he says is different from what he does. And he deosn't seem to understand that his proposed solutions will make the problems worst. He says he wants to change Washington, but his solution is to make govt bigger, which we've tried and failed at for years. He's requested equivalent of $1M/ day for every day he's been in office. I have never asked for nor received a single earmark. I will veto every that comes across my desk.
- Obama says he will only favor the rich, but he's favored tax hikes that would affect those making just $32k. Also raise taxes on capital gains, etc, basically any tax he can raise ,he will.
- **I am opposed to raising taxes, including SS taxes.** And that's a debate we should have openly and in good faith. I hope I can convince OBama not to raise taxes in this bad economy. It's the worse thing you can do. Im going to keep current tax rates low and cut others not bc/c I want to make the rich richer but b/c it keeps jobs here and creates new ones.
- He says he wants energy independence, but he opposes offshore drilling and nuclear power. My friends we have to begin offshore drilling now! He says that the high cost of gas doesn't bother him, only that it rose too quickly. **Yesterday he proposed we put air in our tires to save on gas. Let's do that, but do you think that's enough to break our dependence on MidEast oil? I want to include all sources of energy in the solution.** Yay for clean coal, yay for nuclear... We can't keep spending $700B, incl. some to terrorists... We got to the moon in a shorter time than predicted. We can do it and those who say we can't, I say you don't know America the way I know America.
- OBama says he wants peace but even today he refuses to acknowledge the success of the surge. Mullen agrees with me that it would be dangerous to bring the troops out now. Obama's plans could have led to a 3rd IRaq War **.** Our soldiers will leave Iraq.
- Obama's words for all their eloquence and passion, don't mean very much. Bush Admin, Cong, everyone in Washington says what they have to do to get elected. We don't need another politician who puts self-importance and expediency above the country's interests.
- Whenever I faced a choice between my country's interests and mine or party's interests, I always chose my country's. I will always put my country first. etc.
- We're going to start making this govt work for you and not for the ambitions of the powerful.

Question & Answer

- 1Q) I saw the poll results in WI - we got a big problem. I think you can solve it by turning to Green Bay Packers.
    - JM: I did stand 5th from the bottom of my class at the Naval Academy but I'm not so dumb as to jump into that controversy. Except that Bret Favre has provided USA with some of its greatest memories.

- 2Q) [not a question] I just wanted to say to my friends that I just talked to the POTUS.
    - JM: You're what this campaign is all about. I'm not going to hand off to you broken Medicare, SS systems and debt. I'm going to go to DC and get the hard things done.

- 3Q) **Do you believe the prophecies of the Bible are inevitable? Will they affect your policy decisions?**
    - JM: It's very clear our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian values, I have no doubt whatsoever. And I do beleive we are a special nation in many, many respects, incl. that all of us are created equal... inalienable rights. We haven't always stood by that but we've moved forward one step at a time, not just within our own country, but we've shed blood across the globe for others' freedom as well. I believe that my faith has been important to me in my life, sustained me in times of need.
- FOLLOWUP: Will you address the specific questions?
    - [crowd cheers]
    - JM: I believe we are the captains of our faith. I believe USA determines its destiny in the world.

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- [crowd yells, 'Sit down!' McCain: 'It'll be ok]

- 4Q) What do you plan to do specifically to not only lower the gas prices, but to reduce CO2 emissions, and could you describe your cap-and-trade policy, and do you believe in carbon tax?
  - JM: I do not believe in a carbon tax - it hurts the poorest most. 1 of the most terrible things of this energy crisis is it hurts the poorest. ICYMI, Congress is gridlocked and theyre not going to do anything about it. I do believe greenhouse gases are affecting the climate of the Earth. We can debate that, but there's no better way to make it thru energy crisis/dependence on foreign oil and reducing the costs is green technology. I saw GM's the Volt - I want every American to have the opportunity to buy one of these new generation of automobile. I want to give them up to $5k to buy these.
  - On cap and trade - we did it w/ prob of cap-and-trade. Many conservatives think it'll hurt the economy, but I disagree - they will reduce the costs of a gallon a gas! reduce our dependence on foreign oil! create American jobs! I want to build 45 nuclear plants by 2030 and that would create 700k jobs.

- 5Q) You said in a WSJ you would use Title I and Title II. **Would you release more money so that every state could have more opportunities for Christian choice schools?**
  - JM: I support all choice. Choice in all schools, faith-based and others. I think the civil rights issue of this generation is Education for every American. Poor not getting it. NYC and NOLA exemptions. Choice and competition. We need charter schools, vouchers, home-schooling if need be. Obama opposes charter schools, opposes vouchers - called it nonsense the other day, I believe. It's not per se that charter schools are so much better, but that they provide competition that makes all schools better. I want every American to have opportunities that we had in sending kids to school.

- 6Q) An honor ot meet the greatest hope USA has right now. How will the recent resignation of Olmert affect your policy toward Israel and MidEast
  - JM: It will not. All of us regret when there are signs of scandal - and I don't know much about it. Israel is a functioning democracy, and where there are signs of strife, they take action. Other nations, corruption festers.

- JM: Can we pause for a minute for a 60-second commercial brought to you by ONE campaign? [Lady summarizes ONE's work.] JM: You're all about serving a cause greater than your self-interest.

- 7Q) I want to commend you for your service to our country. Earlier, **in April, you had condemned mudslinging. But recently, esp with Obama's trip abroad and then yesterday with the Britney Spears ad. What do you say to people who feel you've flip-flopped on this?**
  - **JM: there are differences between us. But what we're talking about is substance and not style. Campaigns are tough.** He said he wanted a "duel" over taxes. **All I can say is we're proud of that commercial. We need to base this campaign on what we can do for Americans and make our country safe and prosperous.**

- 8Q) Obama terrifies me, we can't let him get away with a single thing.
  - JM: I respect and admire Obama - we have stark differences: taxes (raise vs. keep low), HC (by govt vs. by familiy), choice in education (you vs. teachers' unions).
  - Also, **the other day I said Obama was wrong, and I still can't see how anyone could say the surge didn't work and go to Iraq and still say that.**

- 9Q) [old lady] How's your mom? I love her.

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- France story - she bought a car

- 10Q) What are you going to do about the high costs of tuition?
  - JM: First, a break on the inflationary aspects associated with education in America. In that way, it's similar to HC. We also need to encourage young Americans to serve their countyr in a variety of ways. We should incentivize them, esp with educational benefits. TFA, Peace Corps, etc. Third, make student loans more available w/ priority for math, science, engineering, etc. so we can help our economy continue - on as generous of terms as possible. So those who go into great specialties like medicine, arent' burdened with debt. My 1st priority is to reform educaiton and 2nd is ot make it affordable to all Americans.

- 11Q) [little girl] How are you going to combat poverty in our economic recession?
  - JM: First, get spending under control. We're promising all these programs but we have no way to pay for them. e.g. Medicare Prescription Drug act - is it a good idea ot pay for mine? (2) Keep taxes low (3) Focus attn on energy independence b/c the price of gas impacts lowest-income Americans (4) offer affordable HC to every American by giving those decisions to American families and not govt. Americans are hurting. GOP and Dem need to sit down together.

- 12Q) We're taking money from our business to get workers training so they can find better jobs. How will you help with worker training to help them find independence?
  - JM: Yesterday I was at a local Caterpillar dealership and they had a partnership with the community college for training workers. I want to go to community colleges and take the $ that's not working with our current displaced worker programs and say design and implement a program that works. I'd be glad to supplement the income of older workers while they're getting retrained. I am committed to going to our educaitonal systems, esp. community colleges, adn get these programs working.

- 13Q) I'm about to enter workworld, I'm worried about H.C. **A few weeks ago, you were asked about Viagra vs. birth control. Now you've had some time to think of it; what's your position?**
  - **JM: That it's up to the person who purchases it.** And we will make healthcare more affordable.

- 14Q) Do we continue to let govt interfere in bailout of mortgage crisis or do we let Econ 101 play out and let market figure it out?
  - JM: **I believe b/c of the nature of the problem, we had to help Fannie and Freddie out. But we need to make sure it never happens again, that they can't lobby again.**

- 15Q) Would you present a tax alternative, e.g. Flat Tax or Alt Tax?
  - JM: Americans are sick and tired, no one understands the tax system. We know true tax reform won't go thru Congress, particularly now. WE should give Americans a choice: (a) stick with current system or (b) a system where you can easily go online and figure out your own taxes. It's an inexcusable system that no one understands.

- [yelling]

- JM: That microphone is brought to you all by the DNC.

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- 16Q) I'm not an Obama backer, in fact **I don't trust many politicians because govt has been run by lobbyists - the people aren't in control.** I'm of Native American descent. **A bill that you co-sponsored years ago re Peabody Mines causing Navajos to be put in an area that caused many to die. Do you have any remorse?**
    - JM: Thank you for your candor, but that's not the appropriate description. There was a long-standing dispute between Navajo and Hopee, and we worked to try to settle this centuries-old land dispute. I'm proud of my advocacy and work on behalf of Native Americans. I'm honored by their service to this nation and I revere Navajo code-talkers.

- JM: And on DC, Cong approval at 9%. I assure you that the 1 priority that I ahve is to put my country first. A long time ago I had the opportunity to go home from prison camp. But it was a violation of our code of conduct adn there was a Mex-American friend of mine that had been there before me. I chose country. We may disagree- that's what THs are all about. I have learned more today from you than you have from me. **If you want an uplifting experience, greet these young ppl who have just come back from Iraq and Afgh- they are the bravest America has ever seen.**

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/16/2008 4:28:55 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 6/16/08

Main Topic: McCain courts the female vote

Summary of Shift: In the face of statewide flooding, Iowa continues to face misery until Monday when waters are predicted to begin recession. This news item took up the overwhelming majority of airtime this morning. Meanwhile McCain coverage remained largely at headline level with brief re-caps of his recent Iraq attack on Obama and current campaign travel plans.

Highlights:
1) McCain's attempts to win over the female vote look like a difficult task
2) Jerry Dell Femina says that, 'At 71 [McCain] is a one-term president, I'm pretty sure' on *Fox and Friends* segment on 'Power of the Veep' [no clip]
3) On *Fox and Friends* host runs down the basics on McCain's attempts to court Hillary supporters [no clip]
4) Ambassador John Bolton gets on *America's Newsroom* to detail possible rogue nuclear threats [no clip]
5) Local Texas news states that McCain cancels an event in an attempt to distance the campaign from controversial remarks Clayton Williams made 18 years ago [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Has a Tough Road Ahead to Woo Women Voters (MSNBC 06/16/08 9:52am)
MONICA NOVOTNY: Could the race between John McCain and Barack Obama ultimately turn on where Hillary Clinton loyalists throw their support. McCain is aggressively targeting those very voters . . .

[. . .]

NOVOTNY: Former Hewlett-Packard CEO, Carly Fiorina has emerged essentially as McCain's chief messenger for women. She will be actively campaigning in several battleground states talking to female voters. Do you believe there will be Democratic women, Clinton supporters who will be receptive to Carly and thus McCain?

LAURA SCHWARZ: Well I think they'll be very receptive to Carly Fiorina, she's an incredible woman . . . she has great respect in the community and I think she's a terrific asset for John McCain but I think it's an overestimation of this angry woman electorate for Hillary Clinton. Now there's no doubt that white women are very important and I say that because George Bush won because of them in 2000 and 2004. Women make up about 54% of the electorate but since Hillary pulled out of the race, Barack Obama has their support by 61% to 19and as we've seen in the last two weeks he went up from 5 points a head among women to 13 to 19 points ahead you know, with women . . . there's not a choice between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton anymore it's between Barack Obama and John McCain. Two very different records, two very different choices going into the general.

NOVOTNY: Let's look at where John McCain stands on some key issues. He wants to overturn Roe V. Wade. He skipped a vote on a bill that would make it easier for women to sue for equal pay. Voted against requiring health care plans to cover birth control. Voted to terminate the Federal Family Planning Program that provides breast cancer screenings. How is he planning to sell himself to women on these issues that are so important?

RON THOMAS: . . .what you see with female voters in particular is that they are not single issue voters. If you look at the top three issues that women say are important to them, they are the economy, the war in Iraq and healthcare. And all three of those issues Sen. McCain is very, very strong on. So I think the key for Sen. McCain is to focus on these three issues, to build that thread and build that bridge and listen, I'm a wholistic candidate, I'm just not a one single issue candidate and when he does his stump speeches to incorporate women into these speeches, into his appearances. To draw them more into actually his position and those top three issues are what Sen. McCain is very, very strong on.

NOVOTNY: . . . the Obama camp is not conceding these voters to McCain . . . will this line up all on the issues?

SCHWARZ: I don't think that any of us are single issue voters but I think that there is a high credence to women's privacy, women's right to decide what to do with their own body . . . **having a zero percent rating on women's**

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issues is not going to be good for John McCain . . .

NOVOTNY: The McCain camp has canceled this fundraiser, originally to be hosted by Clayton Williams. Williams in the past had made very insensitive remarks about the crime of rape. Is this a story that will resonate with women? Will they hear this and be concerned that this is someone that McCain has associated with . . . ?

THOMAS: I don't think this is going to be a big issue. I think the big issue here is what women are saying about Sen. Clinton bowing out of the race. Here are Hillary Clinton voters that were saying they would never vote for Obama. . .

--
Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst
PMUSA
(c) 208.420.3470
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
john.podesta@gmail.com
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 5:48:23 PM
Subject: RE: Earned Media Update

Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?
Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?

From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com; Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Earned Media Update

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.
2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The

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Wall Street Journal reports today: “When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio’s spokeswoman said they had been deleted.” (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , “Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival.” [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , “But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever.” [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/8/2015 11:53:00 AM
Subject: Daily Media Report 6.8.15

National:

-- Report on Bernie Sanders' performance against HRC; panel with John Nichols and Bob Shrum; Nichols said the Democratic race was starting to get interesting; Nichols noted the Wisconsin straw poll that showed Bernie Sanders in second place;Shrum said Sanders was going to surprise people in Iowa, said odds-on favorite was still HRC. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 6.8.15

-- Report on HRC's voting rights speech; used footage of HRC naming GOP governors during her voting rights speech; used footage of Perry, Walker, Christie, and Kasich pushing back against HRC's voting rights speech; reported that Marc Elias is pushing lawsuits in states with suppressive voting efforts; interviewed Rev. William Barber; shifted into a larger conversation about voting rights. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 6.8.15

-- Report on HRC's announcement on Saturday; Halperin noted this would be HRC's second announcement after the first one was surrounded by questions about HRC's emails; Halperin noted this announcement was also surrounded by bad news – Reich's comments about WJC's paid speeches, HRC's declining favorability numbers, Bernie Sanders almost beating HRC in the Wisconsin straw poll, questions about The Clinton Foundation, and the Special Select Committee on Benghazi; Halperin asked Heilemann whether he was going to take the tram or the subway to HRC's announcement; Heilemann said HRC has headwinds, said HRC had an opportunity to make policy pronouncements that would be popular with most of the Democratic Party as well as the country; Halperin said the best days of HRC's campaign had been when HRC gave policy points; Halperin said HRC was in a stronger position than the Republicans realized. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 6.8.15

-- Report on HRC's phone call to the Fight for 15; interviewed Steve Murphy; Murphy said he agreed with HRC; Murphy said business is not hurting and should share the profits; Cavuto asked about the unions, wondered why some unions wanted to be excluded from the $15 minimum wage; Murphy said he didn't agree with unions opting out. Fox News' Your World With Neil Cavuto , 6.8.15

-- Report on Bernie Sanders' second place finish in a Wisconsin straw poll; panel with Eugene Robinson, Kasie Hunt, and Gillian Tett; Robinson compared Sanders' finish in the straw poll to Ron Paul's performance in GOP straw polls – noted that Ron Paul was never the nominee; Hunt said HRC needs to find the unmotivated voters and motivate them; Tett said people were being turned off by the CGI stories. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner, 6.8.15

-- Interviewed John Mack; Mack said HRC was one of the best senators New York had ever had; Mack said he thought all of HRC's economic rhetoric was designed to win; Mack said HRC was the most impressive senator he had worked with; Mack said he would support HRC in the 2016 election; Mack said HRC would be more engaged than BHO. Fox Business Network's Cavuto: Coast to Coast , 6.8.15

-- Report that HRC was hosting a rally on Saturday, said that HRC would host series of domestic policy speeches; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry reported that $100,000 from a personal foundation run by the Clintons was donated to a charity run by executives of The New York Times; Henry noted the NYT endorsed HRC in 2008; Henry mentioned the Wisconsin straw poll that showed Bernie Sanders in second place; compared Fiorina and HRC; noted Fiorina released a detailed account of her finances. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen

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Carlson, 6.8.15

-- Discussion about Bernie Sanders coming in second in the Wisconsin straw poll; panel with Gloria Borger and Jeff Zeleny; Borger said there was resonance for Sanders among the base of the Democratic Party, noted HRC is moving more to the left of herself every day; Zeleny said Sanders was very unlikely to be the nominee, said people who voted for Sanders in the straw poll wanted to let HRC know they were there; Zeleny said it was still unclear where HRC was going to land on the economy.CNN's Wolf , 6.8.15

-- Report on The Clinton Foundation's donation to a New York Times group; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said the money came from the Clinton's family giving – not from The Clinton Foundation; Henry said the money went to a NYT charity overseen by NYT executives; Henry noted the NYT endorsed HRC in 2008; Henry reported that Robert Reich said HRC and WJC needed to be more transparent; Henry noted the Democratic pushback that George W. Bush has been giving paid speeches as well; reported Carly Fiorina posted her financial disclosure reports to the FEC; compared and contrasted HRC and Fiorina's financial disclosure. Fox News' Happening Now, 6.8.15

-- Interviewed Molly Ball; Andrea Mitchell said HRC's rollout would be on Saturday; reported there was a lot of concern among Democrats who did not know what the strategy was; Ball said the rally was like the Russian reset; Ball said she'd heard a lot of grumbling in Clintonworld that the listening-tour stage went on too long; Ball said Democrats are hoping HRC makes a forceful argument for her candidacy. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 6.8.15

-- Discussion about HRC launching her campaign on Saturday; reported HRC planned about a dozen domestic policy speeches on issues like college affordability, equal pay for women, and cracking down on Wall Street; reported HRC planned to use BHO's strategy to win instead of WJC's strategy; discussion about HRC not addressing foreign policy; shifted into talk about Robert Reich's comment that WJC should stop giving paid speeches; guest Andy Levy said the Clintons have always gotten away with stuff before, said there was no incentive for the Clintons to change. Fox News' Outnumbered , 6.8.15

-- Report on HRC's first campaign rally on Saturday; shifted into larger discussion about how the media is covering HRC's scandals based on the Politico piece Scandals Only Make the Clintons Stronger; panel with Alan Colmes and Tammy Bruce;Colmes said you can't call everything a scandal and hope something sticks, said HRC is putting out substantive policy positions that the press should be covering; Bruce said Republicans are moving within a margin of error of HRC; showed footage from Marco Rubio's announcement speech where Rubio called HRC a leader from yesterday. Fox News' Happening Now , 6.8.15

-- Report on Chris Christie's statement on CBS's Face the Nation about HRC's early voting speech; panel with Katie Pavlich and Mary Anne Marsh; Pavlich said HRC was targeting black voter turnout, said HRC was hurting for votes; Marsh said voter fraud was an urban myth; conversation shifted to HRC's endorsement of the Fight for $15; Pavlich said HRC would change her position given the winds; Marsh noted even Walmart had raised the minimum wage. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 6.8.15

-- Report on a CNN poll about same-sex marriage; panel with Ron Christie and Marc Lamont Hill; Christie noted WJC signed DOMA, said HRC has been largely silent about what she thinks; Hill said HRC was very clear on thinking DOMA was wrong, said asking HRC about WJC's actions because he was her husband was wrong but was okay with asking because he was a former POTUS; shifted into conversation about Joni Ernst's commentary about HRC from CNN's State of the Union on Sunday; Christie said electing a POTUS isn't about a person's gender or race; mentioned the Politico story about 60 percent of HRC's donors being women; Hill said people are ready to have a female POTUS, said he did not think we should elect a POTUS based on gender or race; Hill said he was not an HRC cheerleader but that her work speaks to the interests of women; Hill noted HRC also went after Ernst during the primary. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Carol Costello , 6.8.15

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-- Reported that HRC planned about a dozen speeches and announcements in next few months on social and economic policy; reported HRC's aides said topics will include the cost of college, women's pay equity, and Wall Street regulation; reported HRC phoned into the second annual Convention for the Fight for 15; read HRC's quote about wanting to be their champion; noted HRC was hosting the first major rally of her campaign on Saturday; Mika said HRC was speaking her language, said HRC should talk like that at her rally; Willie Geist said HRC said she supports the $15 minimum wage; Mika said she liked that; Halperin clarified the earlier statement that HRC said she supported raising the minimum wage and the efforts of the Fight for 15, noted HRC did not come out for a $15 minimum wage; segment on Frank Bruni's column "Hillary the Tormenter"; Halperin noted Democrats were annoyed with the Clintons for the speeches, the Foundation, and the emails; Julie Pace said HRC can approach her campaign how she's doing it, noted Republicans were trying to hit HRC to show they were most capable of taking her down. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 6.8.15

-- Roundtable with Cindi Leive and Mimi Walters; Mika asked Cindi Leive about whether women's magazines were in the tank for HRC; Leive said that was a misconception, noted Glamour also covered Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Elise Stefanik.MSNBC's Morning Joe , 6.8.15

-- Brief report on Joni Ernst's comment about HRC and women's issues; noted HRC hit Ernst during the 2014 GOP primary.MSNBC's First Look , 6.8.15

-- Brief report that HRC was planning about a dozen speeches and announcements in the coming months; reported HRC's aides said topics would include women's pay and Wall Street regulation; noted HRC phoned into the second annual convention for a Fight for 15; read HRC's quote that she wanted to be their champion. MSNBC's Way Too Early , 6.8.15

States:

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and her campaign shift: HRC's shift into policy mode. Reporters question whether it will be an overarching idea or quick shots at policy. Reporters claim that the people want an overarching idea that explains her policy. WCSC-CHS (CBS)'s *CBS This Morning* , Charleston (SC) , 6.8.15

--Report on HRC and her campaign launch: Clinton aimed attacks at some GOP governors, specifically Rick Perry. Rick Perry rebuttals by claiming that the sanctity of the vote is incredibly important. WACH-COL (FOX)'s *WACH Fox Good Day* , Columbia (SC). 6.8.15

--Report on HRC's campaign shift: HRC's shift into policy mode. Reporters question whether it will be an overarching idea or quick shots at policy. Reporters claim that the people want an overarching idea that explains her policy. WLTX-COL (CBS)'s *CBS This Morning* , Columbia (SC) . 6.8.15

Iowa:

--Report on HRC and her lessened significance as a woman: Senator Ernst claims that HRC does not necessarily care about women's issues. She claims that Iowans will not fall for HRC being just a woman. KCAU (ABC)'s *Good Morning America* , Sioux City (IA) . 6.8.15

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New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC's campaign shift: HRC's shift into policy mode. Reporters question whether it will be an overarching idea or quick shots at policy. Reporters claim that the people want an overarching idea that explains her policy. WBZ-BOS (CBS)'s *CBS This Morning*, Boston (MA). 6.8.15

Nevada:

-- No HRC coverage today.

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Bernie Sanders and education costs: Author, Lee Siegel, claims that Sanders stands apart from other 2016 candidates because of his desire to tax certain financial transactions when it comes to education costs for students. CNBC's *Squawk Box*, 6.8.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders and debates: Reporters claim that it is possible that Sanders will beat HRC in debates. Reporters claim that HRC is out of shape in the political realm, and she will have a tough time facing Sanders. Reporters claim that he is firm, he has a set agenda, and he is mobilizing a large group of people. CNBC's *Squawk Box*, 6.8.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders in New Hampshire: Reporters claim that Sanders told New Hampshire that he will win that state. MSNBC's *First Look*, 6.8.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders taking HRC supporters: Reporters claim that Sanders has had very large crowds, attracting many of HRC's supporters. Reporters claim that HRC is in trouble in her own base due to Bernie Sanders. They claim that he is the reason that Sanders is the reason that HRC is not getting money for her Super PAC and having difficulty getting people to her events. Fox News' *MediaBuzz*, 6.8.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders on tax rates: Reporters claim that he would raise tax rates not seen since the 1950s. Reporters speak about the impact of such a move. Reporters claim that it would push America back and it just creates a wealth redistribution that does not work. Reporters claim that this is the reason that America does not see economic growth. *Fox Business Network's Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo*, 6.8.15

--Report on Bernie Sanders drawing in a strong second after Wisconsin Democratic Party Straw Poll: Bernie Sanders finishes with 41% during the Wisconsin Poll. HRC won with 49%. Reporters say that he is rising, but he still does not have a shot at being the Democratic nominee. HRC should worry that a part of her support is shifting to Sanders' side. Reporters say that this recent poll could cause HRC to shift her issue areas more to the left. CNN's *Wolf*, 6.8.15

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Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM's failures as Governor of Maryland: Reporters claim that MOM cannot run on the idea of taxing the rich. Reporters claim that this taxation policy will result in his defeat. Fox Business *Network's Varney & Company*, 6.8.15

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From: "Capricia Marshall" <capriciamarshall@gmail.com>
To: "Capricia Penavic Marshall" <capriciamarshall@gmail.com>
Date: 5/25/2014 2:23:55 PM
Subject: With thanks…

Awoke a few moments ago on a plane, crossing the globe to a beautiful place and in a blink, I am on the other side... Of 50! Bam!

In an instant my backside dropped another centimeter, my eyesight blurred, and many other "are you kidding me!" horrors occurred.

In lieu of moaning and groaning thru this moment in life, I have chosen to **Raise the Bar**!

So, I begin my new journey by
raising a glass and toasting
YOU, my friend!

Thank you for listening as I blah, blah on about some seemingly, meaningless point (like people not listening to speakers at events - my latest annoyance - but so important); for persevering thru my strident opinions (kids and drugs, argh!); for understanding that this Gemini is well intentioned wh
en
she pushes the limits (napkin folds are imperative for proper table presentation; and first impressions really matter!)
;
and for enduring my techno talents or lack thereof (you have no idea how long it took me to write this email on a darn
iPhone - give me back my blackberry!)

I especially want to express my gratitude to three phenomenal women today:

First and definitively foremost - my AMAZING mother
who
gave me
this precious
life and
so much
love!
S
imply said, she gave me all, supported me
fully
, and loved me unconditionally.

From sitting through ballet, violin & drama recitals to living with us and helping raise our son, she always encouraged me to be me.
Like her mother, my Nonny, s
he offers life's advice straight and honest (her recent commentary on a cover shot "hmm…hair color, odd and your expression, not really you, but I guess ok")

.

I
so
love you mom
.

Ann Jordan - She became a part of my life when I first arrived to our *Nation's Capital*, offering me tremendous guidance on how to navigate the waters of this political town. She opened her home to
me and
my famil
y

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. I so adore her. Thank you (and Vernon) for the support and love.

And, my mentor - the Secretary! If you are lucky, a person enters your life, sees in you a glimmer of possibility and dramatically changes your
future
trajectory. Then,
they
consistently guide you to strive
for the best
you
can be
, providing innumerable opportunities. I can never completely express my gratitude to you for encouraging me and for fulfilling so many dreams! Thank you!

And to several special men, (
H
old on a bit more
, it has been awhile since this former Chief gave a toast!
) you are the light of my life. Dad, you introduced me to the cultures of others around the world, creating in me a passion
that led
to
an exciting career

. My baby brother, Frank, you are always so supportive during good and hard times. Rob, the love of my life, who has a "heart" so huge, patience so long, and loves judgment free - Happy Anniversary Darling! Cole, my one great blessing
who everyday surprises me with his kindness, curiosity and humor
.

As a special birthday request, I ask you to please keep in your thoughts and prayers an extraordinary woman, Rayda Nadal, who worked in the front office of Protocol. She made each day
feel like
a burst of sunshine and has served her country with honor as a Foreign Service officer. She is hospitalized after sustaining injuries in her Moscow apartment. We await her healthy return.

M
any know, I love celebrating birthdays...especially my own!
(
Do not fret Lee - I am not changing my mind!
)

But on THIS wonderful day

- THIS
f
abulous year - I want to celebrate YOU! Because without you - this dramatic, often nutty gal - could not be who she is today!

Here's
to **Raising the Bar**!

With love and gratitude -
Capricia

* This message is not intended to be face booked, tweeted, instagrammed or whatever else - just enjoyed - or deleted.

**For all of you editors – please ignore the awful grammar and horrific punctuation – it sounds better when spoken.

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This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/17/2014 7:59:54 AM
Subject:	10.17.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	FINAL 10.17.14 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both below and attached. Have a good one! Enjoy the weather!

10.17.14 Weekend Package

1. **Harkin Steak Fry Travel Expenses TPs**
2. **ICYMI: CTR Response to MSNBC re: Travel Expenses**
3. **11 Things to Know About Hillary**

TALKING POINTS: HARKIN STEAK FRY TRAVEL EXPENSES

BACKGROUND: *The right wing launched another desperate attack, this time about the Clintons' travel expenses to the Harkin Steak Fry in Iowa last month. They forgot to mention that this year's event was a huge success, reportedly netting $100,000 and with the most attendees since the last time Hillary Clinton was there.*

TALKING POINTS:

Hillary and Bill Clinton attended the 37th Harkin Steak Fry to honor retiring 5-term Senator Tom Harkin and celebrate his legacy.

This year's event was enormously successful – reportedly netting $100,000 – due to the Clintons' attendance.

In fact, the 2014 Steak Fry had 6,200 people – the most attendees since the last time Hillary Clinton appeared in 2007.

The Harkin Steak Fry raises money for Democratic candidates running in Iowa – including Representative Bruce Braley, who is running for Harkin's seat in the Senate against tea party-backed Joni Ernst – to help move the state, and our country, in the right direction.

Hillary and Bill Clinton are appearing across the country at events for Democratic candidates to energize the party and help get Democrats elected this November.

Republicans are only launching these baseless attacks on the Clintons to divert attention from their abuse of taxpayer funds for excessive travel.

- After all, Republican Governor and potential GOP presidential candidate, Chris Christie, has frequently used state police helicopters for his own personal travel, including the time he used a state police helicopter to get to a baseball game.

- Marco Rubio, another potential Republican presidential contender, charged non-work travel expenses on the state party's credit

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card and double-billed taxpayers and the state party for multiple plane tickets.

ICYMI: CTR Response to MSNBC re: Travel Expenses

"The Harkin Streak Fry reportedly netted $100,000 and was enormously successful due to the Clintons' attendance. This right-wing attack is ironic coming from the Party where one potential presidential candidate used a state police helicopter to get to a baseball game while another double-billed taxpayers and the state party for multiple plane tickets," said Correct the Record's Adrienne Elrod, referring to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio .

ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes , it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy, "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia ,Panama and South Korea) and 15

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Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/6/2015 3:01:07 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.6.15
Attachments:	6.06.2015 H4A Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 6, 2015

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton, Voting Rights and the 2016 Election // NYT // Editorial Board – June 5, 2015

A basic fact often gets lost in the propaganda that swirls around voting laws in this country: between one-quarter and one-third of all eligible voters — more than 50 million Americans — are not registered.

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That alarming statistic is the backdrop to efforts by Republicans in recent years to pass state laws that restrict ballot access, a recent Democratic campaign to push back against those laws, and a bold set of proposals that Hillary Rodham Clinton laid out Thursday afternoon in a speech at Texas Southern University, a historically black college in Houston.

In addition to pushing needed and long-overdue reforms, the speech highlighted the yawning gulf on voting rights between Mrs. Clinton and the Republican candidates for the White House, many of whom have been cynically committed to making voting harder for the most vulnerable citizens. “What part of democracy are they afraid of?” Mrs. Clinton asked.

Most significantly, Mrs. Clinton called for universal and automatic voter registration, which would register every American citizen at 18. This would be a transformative step toward modernizing the nation’s archaic, error-filled approach to registering voters.

No state currently has such inclusive registration, although Oregon came closest in March when it passed a law automatically registering eligible citizens with a driver’s license — instantly adding 300,000 voters to the rolls. Since then, 14 states have considered similar proposals to put the burden of registration on the government, where it belongs, and not on individuals.

Mrs. Clinton also called for at least 20 days of early voting nationwide, including evenings and weekends. This is a proven way of reducing long lines on Election Day and making voting possible for people whose work or other commitments prevent them from getting to the polls during regular business hours. More than one-third of all votes in the 2012 election were cast early — and yet 14 states still do not offer it, and crucial swing states like Ohio and Florida have actually cut it back.

Finally, Mrs. Clinton pushed to repeal punitive state laws that ban people with criminal records from voting, sometimes for life — a population that approaches six million nationwide.

These are hardly new issues for the country, and the Republican Party as it now is constituted in Congress is not going to enact the laws to expand voter registration. Still, it is very encouraging to see Mrs. Clinton championing this central democratic principle so early in the campaign. President Obama said very little on voting rights until deep into his second term, even after the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in 2013, freeing up Republican-dominated state governments to enact dozens of new voting restrictions that previously would have been blocked by federal law.

Voter ID laws have been a particular favorite, even though their backers know full well that impersonation fraud is essentially nonexistent. In her speech Mrs. Clinton rebuked Republican presidential contenders who have signed such laws — including Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Rick Perry, former governor of Texas. She called on Republicans “at all levels of government, with all manner of ambition, to stop fear-mongering about a phantom epidemic of election fraud.”

Making voting easier for all eligible voters should be the epitome of a nonpartisan issue. Unfortunately, stopping people from voting has become a key part of the modern Republican playbook.

The 2016 election will be about many important issues, from income inequality to immigration to health care to education, but at its core it will be a test of two ideas of what it means to be a democracy. One is currently embodied by what Mrs. Clinton called “a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other.”

The other, as Mrs. Clinton put it, is that, “We should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote.”

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Is Hillary Clinton becoming the candidate of big ideas? **// WaPo // Paul Waldman – June 5 2015**

Hillary Clinton has long been known as a cautious politician who leaned more toward methodical plodding than grand gestures. She launched her 2000 campaign for the Senate with a purposely low-key "listening tour." As a senator, she cultivated a reputation as a workhorse who eschewed high-profile media appearances for the mundane work of writing legislation. Throughout, she staked out a place as a familiar kind of Democrat — a little more liberal on social issues, a little more conservative on foreign policy and national security — but nobody's idea of an ideologically transformative figure.

But now that she's making her second run for the White House, is Hillary Clinton becoming the Candidate of Big Ideas?

It's starting to look that way. When yesterday she proposed national automatic voter registration — registering all Americans to vote when they turn 18 unless they opt out — it surprised everyone. While universal registration isn't an idea no one had thought of before, Clinton took a Democratic priority (expanding voting rights and boosting turnout) and advanced it with an ambitious, national plan that went beyond what most prominent Democrats had advocated before.

We saw something similar on immigration, where Clinton didn't just support the Obama administration's position on immigration but went beyond it,proposing that the parents of "DREAMers" be allowed to stay in the country legally. She also called for an end to the "era of mass incarceration," an era her husband had no small part in creating. She has signaled an intention to go bold in the area of campaign finance, floating the idea of a Constitutional amendment to get so-called "dark money" out of politics (though she has not gone so far as to make formal proposal).

This kind of thing is surprising coming from Clinton, given that she's the likely nominee of the incumbent party. Usually, a candidate in that position will propose a program that sounds like, "Let's continue what we've been doing, but a little better." Generally it's the opposition party, which has had eight years to contemplate everything they dislike about current government policy, that's more prone to come up with dramatic ideas for change. Not only that, the candidate pushing Big Ideas is often one struggling in the polls who is looking for a way to distinguish himself from the pack. You might expect some dramatic policy proposals from some of the lower-tiered Republican candidates.

Clinton, on the other hand, could easily ride to the Democratic nomination without putting out a single policy paper. But for now she's taking a very different course. As a media strategy, it's very effective: the less-than-threatening nature of her primary opposition gives her the freedom to put out big ideas and get attention for them; after a temporary drought of campaign activity, she can get plenty of coverage for a speech that includes a significant policy proposal.

To be sure, we shouldn't exaggerate the extent to which the Clinton campaign is focused on big ideas. We're only talking about a few so far, and there are other topics like the Trans-Pacific Partnership on which she's been vague. Part of the explanation for Clinton's previous cautious approach lies in the failure of Bill Clinton's health care overhaul, which she ran during the early days of his presidency — and which would have been a much more radical change than the Affordable Care Act. Supposedly, the lesson she learned from that experience was that people fear change, and when you propose something too sweeping it's difficult to succeed and easy to get burned.

But it's starting to look as if Clinton has decided that being the candidate of big ideas might be a pretty good plan. Particularly when the ideas themselves are likely to be popular.

Hillary Clinton to Las Vegas Latino community: You can count on me **// Politico // Adam Lerner – June 5, 2015**

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Hillary Clinton published an op-ed Friday in a small Las Vegas-based Spanish-language newspaper about immigration, reassuring the Spanish-speaking Hispanic community in Nevada that they "can count on [her]."

Beginning with the stories of three young immigrants she met in North Las Vegas, one who started a business, one who wants to become a doctor, and one who wants to go to law school, Hillary articulated her support for comprehensive immigration reform and attacked unnamed Republican candidates for their stances.

"As a mother, grandmother, and American, I don't know how a person can meet these young people that have contributed so much to their communities and represent so much potential for the future, and think of threatening them and their families with deportation," Clinton wrote. "And still that is precisely what almost every Republican candidate would do."

The article goes on to boast of Clinton's senate record on immigration and to express support for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants as well as deferred action for the families of so-called dreamers.

"Don't deceive yourselves: when they speak of 'legal status,' it's a code for 'second class status'," Clinton wrote of Republican immigration proposals that do not provide a pathway to citizenship.

Though the former secretary of state doesn't speak Spanish, the article begins by saying that it was written by Hillary R. Clinton and translated by her campaign team. "It's the first article of its type written by the ex-secretary of state," the preamble reads.

"I will continue fighting for immigration reform," Clinton said in the headline.

The article was published Friday in El Mundo Las Vegas, a local Spanish-language paper that has not yet posted it online. According to the paper's Twitter, it has existed in the area for 35 years and reported on Hillary Clinton's visit to Rancho High School in Las Vegas on May 5.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Elise Gould (6/5/2015, 10:20 am) - Jobs moving in the right direction, but the recovery is far from over (see colorful chart, thanks to @alyssalynn7)

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HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton accuses GOP rivals of making it difficult to vote // AP – June 5, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton accused potential Republican presidential rivals such as Jeb Bush of Florida and Scott Walker of Wisconsin on Thursday of trying to make it more difficult for millions of Americans to vote, laying down an early marker on voting rights in her Democratic presidential campaign.

Clinton, in one of her most partisan speeches as a presidential candidate, directly criticized Walker, Bush and two other Republican presidential hopefuls, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

She described those current or former governors as members of a GOP vanguard that has made it more difficult for students to vote, cut the numbers of days set aside for early voting and demanded voter ID provisions.

"Today Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting," Clinton said at historically black Texas Southern University. "What part of democracy are they afraid of? I believe every citizen has the right to vote and I believe we should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote."

The issue is closely watched by black voters, who supported President Barack Obama by sweeping margins in 2008 and 2012 and will be an important constituency for Clinton to mobilize in next year's election. She received an award named after Barbara Jordan, the late Texas congresswoman and civil rights leader, and the event came a little more than a week before Clinton is scheduled to deliver a major speech in New York that aides are billing as a formal campaign kickoff.

Directly challenging Republicans by name, which Clinton has largely avoided, she plunged into a partisan debate over voting rights that has roiled statehouses across the country. Democrats contend restricting voter access and registration purposely aims to suppress turnout among minority and low-income voters. Republicans say the voting changes are crucial to guard against voter fraud.

Under Walker, for example, Wisconsin requires proof of residency except for overseas and military voters. The state shortened the early voting period and increased residency requirements.

In a statement, Walker responded to the criticism leveled by the Democratic candidate: "Hillary Clinton's rejection of efforts to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat not only defies logic, but the will of the majority of Americans. Once again, Hillary Clinton's extreme views are far outside the mainstream."

Clinton said that in New Jersey, Christie had vetoed a bill to extend early voting. She said as Florida's governor, Bush had conducted a "deeply flawed" purge of eligible voters, by having the names of people who were mistakenly thought to be felons removed from voting rolls.

Perry, who announced his presidential campaign earlier Thursday, approved laws in Texas that discriminated against minority voters, Clinton said.

Republicans, Clinton said, should "stop fear-mongering about a phantom epidemic of election fraud and start explaining why they're so scared of letting citizens have their say."

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Clinton said the US should take dramatic steps to expand the right to vote, with universal, automatic voter registration for young people, and a new national standard of no fewer than 20 days of early, in-person voting, including weekend and evening voting.

In the home state of President Lyndon Johnson, architect of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Clinton said the Supreme Court ruling had "eviscerated" the law, making it more likely that minority voters, the elderly and others would face consequences.

Democrats have signaled plans for a large-scale legal fight against new voter ID laws and efforts to curtail voting access. Party attorneys recently filed legal challenges to voting changes made by GOP lawmakers in the presidential battleground states of Ohio and Wisconsin.

One of the attorneys involved in the lawsuits is Marc Elias, a top elections lawyer for Democrats who is also serving as the Clinton campaign's general counsel. The campaign is not officially involved in the lawsuits.

Why Voting Rights Reforms Aren't a Silver Bullet for Hillary Clinton // WSJ // Linda Killian – June 6, 2015

In her speech Thursday on voting rights, Hillary Clinton suggested automatically registering all citizens to vote when they turn 18 as well as expanding early voting and online registration. Measures by Republican-controlled state legislatures to tighten voter ID laws and limit early and weekend voting hurt minority, poor, and young voters the most, she said.

As many have noted, the support of those groups is seen as crucial for Mrs. Clinton to win the White House. But the struggle between Republicans and Democrats over voting administration isn't at the core of what's causing voters to disengage from the political process. There are benefits to making it easier for people to register, but it would take a lot more to energize potential voters who have been sitting out.

A recent New York Times-CBS News poll found that Democrats, Republicans, and independents say, by overwhelming margins, that the wealthy have more influence on elections than most Americans. Eighty-four percent said they believe money has too much influence on political campaigns, and 85% said this country's system for funding campaigns needs fundamental changes or to be completely rebuilt.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents favored limiting the amount individuals can contribute to political campaigns. About the same share (78%) said that spending by outside groups should be limited.

Fifty-four percent said they do not believe that money given to campaigns equals free speech, as the Supreme Court ruled in the 2010 Citizens United case that cleared the way for unlimited political spending.

Who Isn't Running for President -- and Why It Matters

Another Look at That IMF Paper on Debt--and What It Means for the U.S.

The pervasive belief that money controls the political system and the outcome of decisions by lawmakers is almost certainly linked to widespread sentiments, reported by the Times, that the U.S. economic system in inherently unfair.

Republicans and Democrats believe that income inequality is a problem and that the power and voices of the wealthy are drowning out those of most other Americans and that, as a result, government policies skew toward helping the rich get richer at the expense of most Americans.

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These feelings that the political and economic systems are rigged and that our political leaders aren't paying attention to the concerns of most Americans are at the heart of why voter turnout last year was the lowest in a mid-term election since 1942.

These are issues that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (D.) has made a focal point of his campaign–and they are unlikely to go away.

News accounts of the millions of dollars that Mrs. Clinton and her husband have earned giving speeches and about the access to the Clintons accorded to wealthy donors to their foundation reinforce the idea that Mrs. Clinton is part of a ruling elite that is out of touch with the problems of most Americans. This is the biggest challenge for her campaign.

Reforms to voting laws are important. But no matter how much easier it is for people to vote, if they don't think their vote matters voter participation won't increase.

Democrats fret over recent Hillary Clinton polling // Politico //Katie Glueck – June 5, 2015

Early-state Democrats are evenly divided over whether Hillary Clinton's campaign should be worried about recent polls showing her highest unfavorability ratings in years.

Exactly 50 percent say there's cause for concern while the other 50 percent saw no reason for alarm.

That's the assessment of this week's survey of the POLITICO Caucus — a bipartisan group of influential activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Twenty-plus Republicans beating her up, Elizabeth Warren talking about the working man issues that terrify her, a couple of candidates like Bernie [Sanders] and Martin [O'Malley] to fill in her policy blanks and a media that feels stiffed by her lack of access, so all we can focus on is emails and the notorious Clinton Foundation and newly acquired wealth that suggests, at a minimum, the appearance of impropriety," one Granite State Democrat said, offering an explanation for her sinking favorability. "Frankly if Hillary could step back at look at herself she would rate herself unfavorably as well."

That remark comes during a week in which two major national polls delivered troubling results, including a CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday that showed Clinton with her highest unfavorability ratings of the past 14 years. A separate poll released Tuesday by The Washington Post and ABC News found that Clinton's favorability was just 45 percent — her lowest in that survey since April 2008, when she was in the middle of a nomination battle with Barack Obama.

Caucus participants largely chalked those numbers up to a spate of unflattering stories about donations made to the Clinton Foundation, as well as scrutiny of Clinton's email practices when she was at the State Department. Some blamed the media — the "drumbeat" of negative headlines was a common explanation for her slide in popularity.

But others argued that she should engage more with the press about those subjects.

"She is not proactively addressing the issues of concern to Americans," said an Iowa Democrat who, like everyone in the POLITICO Caucus, was granted anonymity in order to speak freely. "Her refusal to take questions is taking a toll. These polls indicate that she needs to take a more proactive role. Not that she needs to be completely responsive to the media, but she can't ignore them."

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“Emails, Clinton Foundation, etc,” one New Hampshire Democrat responded. “She is taking the initial barrage from the punditocracy trying to frame the narrative of the race — which is largely about process and character, not very much about issues — and because she is not taking the bait she’s in a little bit of a roper-doper strategy right now. I think she needs to go on offense.”

But many Democrats also attributed falling poll numbers to the fact that she is now a partisan candidate for political office, rather than secretary of state, and noted that she still outpaces the Republican candidates in polls. And several who responded that the Clinton campaign should be concerned by those surveys said the information should be used only to make minor adjustments.

“Any candidate facing waves of partisan attacks for weeks on end sees the impact in their numbers, but the list of folks capable of sustaining this kind of a barrage and still looking this good is very small,” said a Granite Stater.

Another New Hampshire Democrat, who believes the Clinton campaign should be concerned about the polls, explained, “Hillary Clinton generates extremely strong passions, both positive and negative. She needs to be completely candid and transparent about the [Clinton] Foundation’s dealings and accomplishments and cannot engage in either spin or obfuscation. As long as she is straight, truthful and credible, she will be fine.”

Despite the rising negative ratings and polling suggesting high numbers of voters question her trustworthiness, three-quarters of early-state Democrats say Clinton is generating sufficient excitement about her presidential bid — especially among women.

“Regular people, particularly women of all age groups are beyond excited about this candidacy,” a New Hampshire Democrat said.

“Sufficient is the right choice of words,” said another New Hampshire Democrat. “Hillary is, and remains, solid in the eyes of Democrats.”

Some respondents, however, wondered whether there’s enough energy and enthusiasm for the long haul.

“There is almost “forced” excitement from establishment types trying to sell the Clinton brand as the perfect standard bearer for rank and file Democrats,” said one New Hampshire Democrat. “In New Hampshire, there does not appear to be a barrage of new Clinton supporters; rather, just the usual Clinton supporters.”

An Iowa Democrat cautioned, “Sufficient to win a primary yes, a general election right now — we aren’t there.”

On the Republican side, unsurprisingly, 94 percent of insiders said her campaign should be concerned by the polls, and 91 percent said they’re not seeing much enthusiasm about her candidacy. Several insiders likened Clinton to former Sen. Bob Dole, who won the 1996 GOP nomination but lost to Bill Clinton.

“Hillary Clinton is this cycle’s version of Bob Dole. It’s her turn but holy sh**!” one Granite State Republican said.

De Blasio ally to hold Clinton fundraiser **// Politico // Annie Karni – June 5, 2015**

One of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s most loyal and fiercest supporters is throwing a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton.

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Clinton will attend a fundraiser on June 29 in Manhattan hosted by public relations executive Ken Sunshine and his wife, Nancy Hollander. The couple is co-hosting the event with Janet and Marvin Rosen, the former finance chairman for the Democratic National Committee who in 1996 was at the center of a fundraising controversy for helping to arrange sleepovers in the Lincoln Bedroom for wealthy Bill Clinton donors.

Story Continued Below

Sunshine has also been a longtime friend of the Clintons, but his strongest political tie is to de Blasio, who worked under him when he served as chief of staff to former Mayor David Dinkins. The two have remained close ever since.

De Blasio served as Clinton's campaign manager when she ran for Senate, but so far has publicly refused to endorse her, instead using the 2016 election to position himself as a national leader on progressive issues. That has made some longtime supporters of both politicians, like Sunshine, feel awkwardly caught in the middle.

Sunshine, whose firm is Sunshine Sachs, hosted the first fundraiser de Blasio ever held, when he was running for a seat on the New York City Council after managing Clinton's Senate campaign. During the 2013 mayoral race, many of de Blasio's fundraising committee meetings were held in Sunshine's conference room, and as Mayor, de Blasio has on occasion continued to use Sunshine's office when he needs meeting space away from City Hall.

"I love Bill, and if I'm not the first, I'll be among the first to contribute to his reelection campaign," Sunshine said. "That doesn't meant I'm not going to be an early supporter and fundraiser for another friend, whose name happens to be Hillary Clinton. I assume Bill will eventually endorse her, but a lot of his friends like me are going to do it before him."

The Sunshine and Rosen fundraiser could end up being a star-studded affair. Some of Sunshine's longtime clients include Barbra Streisand, Jennifer Lopez, Ben Affleck, Jon Bon Jovi and Leonardo DiCaprio.

House Sets Date for Grilling of Hillary Clinton Aide // Bloomberg // Billy House – June 5, 2015

Sidney Blumenthal to answer questions behind closed doors

Long-time Hillary Clinton adviser Sidney Blumenthal is set to be interviewed on June 16 by the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

The House Select Committee on Benghazi, in announcing Blumenthal's appearance Friday, said his deposition will be conducted in a closed session without media coverage. The move is part of the panel's investigation of the Sept. 11, 2012 attacks on two U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya, that led to the death of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Blumenthal has become a focus of the House Select Committee on Benghazi since revelations he had been sending Clinton what she called "unsolicited" memos about Libya, where he was trying to arrange business deal, while she was secretary of state. Those memos included early suggestions that terrorists were responsible for Benghazi attacks. Blumenthal did not work for the State Department but from 2009 to 2013 was employed full-time by the Clinton Foundation, founded by Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton. After 2013, Blumenthal became a consultant.

His correspondence with the former secretary of state, who is now running for president, became public as a result

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of a batch of emails turned over to the committee after revelations that Clinton had been using a private email address and home server to conduct business while she worked for the government.

Congressional Republicans have been trying for more than two years to show that Clinton failed to bolster security before the Benghazi attack and should share blame for the administration's initial, erroneous account that the attacks were not related to terrorism. The Benghazi panel's chairman, Republican Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, has said he plans to issue a final report next year, just months before the presidential election.

Democrats have accused the House Republicans of stringing out its investigation of the Benghazi attacks to undercut Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Hillary Clinton's Grand Strategy to Beat the GOP: Take Bold Positions Early and Often // The New Republic / / Brian Beutler – June 5, 2015

or the better part of 20 years now, Bill Clinton's presidency has been almost synonymous with a hazy political concept called triangulation. Since his advisers made the term famous, it has been used to describe everything from standard-issue compromise to the willingness to confront reactionary elements in one's own party (thinkSister Souljah) to the appropriation of another party's ideas. The latter is as close to a proper definition as there is.

One big concern bedeviling progressives is that Hillary Clinton's candidacy will mark the return of triangulation—the preemptive ceding of ideological turf, at a time when, thanks to partisan polarization, such concessions amount to outright victories for the Republican Party. But the early days of Hillary Clinton's candidacy suggest these fears are overblown—that she is engaged in an entirely different kind of political positioning, one that carries the promise of significant progressive victories or at least of clarifying the terms of key policy debates dividing the parties.

The nature of the strategy involves staking out a variety of progressive issue positions that enjoy broad support, but it's not as straightforward as simply identifying the public sentiment and riding it to victory. The key is to embrace these ideas in a way that makes standard Republican counterspin completely unresponsive, and thus airs out the substantive core of their agenda: Rather than vie for conservative support by inching rightward, Clinton is instead reorienting liberal ideas in a way that makes the Republican agenda come into greater focus.

Most recently, Clinton has endorsed an aggressive position in support of expanded voting rights. "We have a responsibility to say clearly and directly what's really going on in our country," she said in her latest campaign speech Thursday, "because what is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other."

This is standard Democratic boilerplate, but in service of something new. Most Democrats have been engaged for some time now in rearguard actions to protect voters from disenfranchisement efforts, and promote a remedy to the damage the Supreme Court did to the Voting Rights Act. These are important efforts, but easily countered. It isn't unpopular to argue that voters should have to show ID, for instance, and it's easy to gloss over the complex nature of the Voting Rights Act in ways that obscure the real goal of these policies, which is to systemically reduce turnout among disproportionately Democratic constituencies—the poor, the young, and ethnic minorities.

Clinton's plan, by contrast, demands clarity from her opponents. She has proposed that every American, except those who opt out, be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18, and that every state offer at least 20 days' worth of early voting. Republicans can't easily oppose this—and oppose it they must—without being explicit about the fact that they want to keep the voting rolls as trim as possible.

Most Democrats likewise support President Barack Obama's administrative efforts to liberalize immigration

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enforcement, and want to create a citizenship track for unauthorized immigrants. Republicans oppose both aims, but have been able to muddle that fact using vague procedural language. Generally speaking, it's not the liberalization of immigration law they oppose, but the unilateral nature of Obama's actions. They oppose amnesty, but keep the door to a nebulous "legal status" ajar. Both positions are malleable enough to allow the Republican presidential nominee to tack dramatically left in the general election, and gloss over the hostility the GOP has shown to immigrants since promising to liberalize after Obama's reelection.

For over a year, Democrats humored the GOP's wordplay in order to preserve the possibility of striking a legislative compromise that includes something Republicans could call "legal status." Now that the immigration reform process has collapsed, Clinton has dispensed with the niceties. In promising to preserve Obama's immigration policies, she called out "legal status" as a ruse. "When [Republicans] talk about legal status," she said, '"that is code for second-class status." She has taken the standard Democratic position and weaponized it. Republicans can't pretend there's no daylight between their views and Democrats' views, because Clinton has defined the Republican position for them, by contrast.

Because this kind of obscurantism pervades the GOP's substantive agenda—tax policy, social insurance reforms, workplace regulation—Clinton should be able to deploy the tactic across a wide array of issues. Seizing the first-mover advantage is one of the undiscussed upsides of Clinton's dominance in the Democratic primary field. It doesn't guarantee her victory over a Republican opponent, but it will assure that the debate between the two of them occurs mostly above board.

Hillary Clinton Hits the GOP on Voter Suppression **// Slate // Jamelle Bouie – June 5, 2015**

On Thursday, Hillary Clinton received the Barbara Jordan Public-Private Leadership Award at the historically black Texas Southern University in Houston. A former member of the House of Representatives, Jordan was the first black congresswoman elected from the South, the first black American to represent Texas in Congress, and a fierce advocate for the Voting Rights Act, fighting to extend its protections to minorities.

It's on that latter point that Clinton, speaking in acceptance of the award, made her remarks. "Forty years after Barbara Jordan fought to extend the Voting Rights Act, its heart has been ripped out," she said. "What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other." She continued: "Since the Supreme Court eviscerated a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, many of the states that previously faced special scrutiny because of a history of racial discrimination have proposed and passed new laws that make it harder than ever to vote."

She's not exaggerating. Republicans pitch their voter identification and "ballot integrity" laws as efforts to protect the voting process. But even a quick glance shows them as transparent efforts at voter suppression.

In North Carolina, for example, Republicans drastically reduced early voting, ended same-day voter registration, repealed a mandate for high school voter-registration drives, eliminated flexibility in early-voting hours, reinstated felon disenfranchisement measures, authorized vigilante poll observers, and imposed an ID requirement that excluded municipal government IDs, photo IDs issued by public assistant agencies, and student IDs. At the time, the state itself estimated that as many as 318,000 voters would lack identification to vote on Election Day. Despite this, Gov. Pat McCrory described the measures as "common sense" designed to "ensure the integrity" of the ballot box and "provide greater equality in access to voting to North Carolinians," which would be accurate, if words were meaningless.

On voting rights, Clinton is calm, comfortable with the details, and eager to argue her vision.

Likewise, in Wisconsin, Republicans passed a strict voter-identification law that also slashed early-voting hours, a twin move that would—noted one federal judge—"deter or prevent a substantial number of the 300,000–plus registered voters who lack ID from voting" and would disproportionately harm minority voters. And beyond laws, there are the shenanigans of local officials who implement voting rules with little oversight. "Many of the worst

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offenses against the right to vote happen below the radar," explained Clinton, "like when authorities shift poll locations and election dates, or scrap language assistance for non-English speaking citizens. Without the pre-clearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, no one outside the local community is likely to ever hear about these abuses, let alone have a chance to challenge them and end them."

Overall, 21 states have put voting restrictions in place since the 2010 elections, including swing states like Florida, New Hampshire, and Virginia. Next year, in 14 of these states, those laws will be in effect for the first time. And tellingly, the prevalence of those laws has a lot to do with the demographics of the state. "Of the 11 states with the highest African American turnout in 2008, 7 have new restrictions," notes the Brennan Center for Justice. "Of the 12 states with the largest Hispanic population growth between 2000 and 2010, 9 passed laws making it harder to vote."

Clinton didn't shy away from that connection. "It is a cruel irony, but no coincidence, that millennials—the most diverse, tolerant, and inclusive generation in American history—are now facing exclusion," she said, in reference to restrictions on student voting. Likewise, she explained, "Minority voters are more likely than white voters to wait in long lines at polling places. They are also far more likely to vote in polling places with insufficient numbers of voting machines … This kind of disparity doesn't happen by accident."

To solve these problems and make an affirmative push for voting equality, Clinton wants to take two ambitious steps. First, she wants universal and automatic voter registration, with an opt-out for voters who don't want to register. This wouldn't be difficult. As the Center for Voting and Democracy notes, a combination of federal standards and broader registration rules would quickly increase total registration. More importantly, it solves the problems we saw in the 2014 election cycle, when mass registration efforts ran into partisan opposition from state officials. Facilitated by federal, state, and local officials, universal registration would go miles toward improving civic engagement.

For the second step—actual voting—Clinton wants new federal guidelines for early voting, and national opportunities for weekend and evening voting. The goal, again, is to make it as easy as possible to join the process and participate. Indeed, by just announcing her support for these measures, Clinton helps reformers in states where change is possible.

These are good ideas on the merits. They're also great politics. Voting is one of the few issues where the partisan and ideological differences are easy to understand. Democrats want to expand access to the ballot, Republicans want to restrict it. It's an excellent issue for activism—look at the high number of voters who went to the polls in 2012 in defiance of voter-suppression measures—and a sturdy cudgel against your political opponents, who will have to take a stand and risk a mistake or worse.

Voter registration is a weird hurdle that serves no purpose. It's annoying, it takes time, and it might lead to some legitimate voters being unable to vote. What's the benefit? More to that point, Clinton attacked Gov. Scott Walker, Rick Perry, and Jeb Bush by name—blasting each for their voter ID laws—and asked Republicans to "stop fear-mongering" about a "phantom epidemic of election fraud." Condemning Republican voter suppression, Clinton said, "It is just wrong … to try to prevent, undermine, and inhibit Americans' right to vote. And at a time when so many Americans have lost trust in our political system, it's the opposite of what we should be doing in our country."

Invested in voter suppression—Walker touts his ID bill to GOP audiences—Republicans will push back, attacking Clinton's plan for its size and wide federal role. But it's clear she's ready for the fight. With this issue, she's in her element: Calm, comfortable with details, and eager to argue her vision. This, in a sense, was the real beginning of the Clinton campaign, and it was effective.

Clintons to attend Beau Biden's funeral **// The Hill // Ben Kamisar – June 5, 2015**

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton will attend the Saturday

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funeral mass for Vice President Biden's son, Beau Biden, an aide confirmed to The Hill.

Hillary Clinton and Biden are old friends, having served together in the Senate and briefly battled for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008.

The two often rode Amtrak together during Clinton's Senate tenure, and Biden sometimes ended his phone calls to Clinton by saying "I love you, darling," according to a New York Times profile from 2013.

She briefly addressed Beau's death in a tweet last Saturday night, hours after he succumbed to brain cancer.

"My heart is broken for the family of Beau Biden—a wonderful man who served his country with devotion and lived his life with courage," she said.

President Obama will also attend and give a eulogy for Beau. White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters Obama has spent part of Friday working on the eulogy and that he had a "personal relationship" with Beau.

"The president is feeling, in a very personal way, this loss," Earnest told reporters Friday.

"While he is and his family are of course saddened by Beau's death, I know he's also looking forward to spending some time tomorrow celebrating Beau's life — that he was a remarkable individual, a remarkable public servant — and talking in a personal way about his character, about the way that he felt about his family, about the way he felt about his country."

The former Delaware attorney general is survived by his wife, Hallie, and his children, Natalie and Hunter.

Hillary Clinton Wants To Make It Easy For You To Vote **// Refinery 29 // Meredith Clark – June 5, 2015**

Hillary Clinton laid out the boldest policy plan of her campaign so far — to expand and protect voting rights — and attacked a number of Republicans, by name, for their opposition to it. In a major speech at Texas Southern University on Thursday, Clinton unveiled her ambitious vision, based on a simple idea: Everyone should vote.

"Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting," Clinton said. "What part of democracy are they afraid of?"

Many states controlled by Republican legislatures have passed restrictions on voting rights since 2010, and young and minority voters — who tend to vote for Democrats — have been disproportionately affected by these new laws. Now that courts have upheld the new regulations, this will be the first presidential election where millions of voters will face stringent new ID requirements, registration requirements, and drastically fewer opportunities to vote early.

Clinton called on Congress to pass legislation that revitalizes the Voting Rights Act, and to implement recommendations from a bipartisan presidential commission to make voting more accessible, recommendations that include expanding absentee and early voting, making registration easier, and reducing wait times.

She also voiced her support for creating a standard for early voting — advocating for an early-voting period of at least 20 days, with times that include evenings and weekends — as well as for automatic registration for all citizens when they turn 18.

Clinton singled out North and South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Florida, and New Jersey for their voting cuts. In

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Texas, a gun permit is an acceptable form of ID at the polls, but student IDs are not. And Hillary's potential campaign rival Scott Walker has slashed weekend and evening voting hours in Wisconsin, and out-of-state students at Wisconsin universities now have to get Wisconsin ID cards in order to be eligible to vote there.

"We have a responsibility to say clearly and directly what's really going on in our country — because what is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other," Clinton said.

While universal registration for 18-year-olds is a bold proposal, Clinton didn't specify how she would achieve it. There are different ways to make it happen, but she'll have to win before any of her proposals stand a chance.

President Obama won both his elections thanks to heavy turnout from young voters, minority voters, and first-time voters from every demographic in the country. With so many hurdles in place for those same people to get to the polls next year, the 2016 election could end up being decided by a much older, whiter, and richer subset of the country.

Another Controversy Over Hillary Clinton's Time at the State Department // The Blaze // Fred Lucas – June 5, 2015

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton did nothing to stop the sale of a Michigan battery company to a Chinese firm, despite making complaints about it on the campaign trail last month, the Detroit Free Press reported.

A123 Systems was sold to Wanxiang in early 2013. During a campaign stop in New Hampshire last month, Clinton raised concerns about the sale during a town hall meeting.

"That does concern me, because a lot of foreign companies, particularly Chinese companies ... are looking to buy American companies," said Clinton, the leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus told the Free Press that Clinton was just paying "lip service," since the State Department had a "role in signing off on these sales."

"She is not being honest with the American people about her record in this critical area of national security and economic policy," Priebus said.

The RNC filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the State Department asking for all records on the A123 Systems sale to Wanxiang Group.

Wanxiang, the Chinese company, bought A123 for $257 million after A123 went bankrupt when its biggest customer Fisker, an electric car company, had financial troubles. In January 2013, the government approved the sale.

Clinton's campaign told the newspaper she didn't play any role in the review of the sale and referred questions to the State Department. The campaign said that Clinton "wants us to be the clean energy superpower for the 21st century, and that means out-competing countries like China so we can keep those jobs and companies here."

The Free Press reported that a review was never taken, and that when such reviews occur, about half of the sales do not take place, according to the Congressional Research Service. Several members of Michigan's congressional

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delegation asked for a review.

Hillary Clinton's Top Twitter Fan // The National Journal // Emily Schultheis – June 5, 2015

Every time Hillary Clinton tweets, a maelstrom of replies greets her across the Twitterverse. Some commenters answer excitedly with "Hillary for president!" or "you go girl!" Many implore her to visit their states or to follow them back on Twitter. And there's no shortage of vitriol, of course: People call her a liar; they insist she's corrupt; they dismiss her as part of the 1 percent. There are tweets about Benghazi; others ask what she's hiding in her deleted emails; still more bring up foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation.

But the first response to many of Clinton's tweets, her campaign has noticed with amusement, comes from a user with more than 3,600 followers who goes by the Twitter handle "Monique's Mother." The reply to a tweet about Clinton holding "fireside chats" in Mason City, Iowa? "YESSS! SLAY THAT FIRESIDE, QUEEN OF POP!" To one welcoming two new staffers to the Clinton team, Monique's Mother had this to say: "YASSSS QUEENS! Like a Destiny's Child reunion! Queen of pop!" A photo of the Hillary "H" logo a campaign volunteer made out of berries garnered this response: "SLAY US WITH THOSE BERRIES!!! YASSSSS! QUEEN OF POP."

"I can only hope he replies to @Beyonce with PRESIDENT! and a praise hands emoji," says Ian Sams, a Clinton spokesman. "It's only fair."

The mind behind "Monique's Mother" (a reference to the movie The First Wives Club) is Nick Walsh, a 30-year-old social-media manager at an entertainment marketing firm in Los Angeles. His other pastimes include selling mounted Beanie Baby heads and clocks made of old Hardy Boys hardcovers on Etsy. When I talk to him over FaceTime, the New Jersey native tells me that his online pop-star treatment of Clinton is an ironic hobby—something he does because he "likes the absurdity" of treating Clinton the way many online fans treat mega-stars such as Beyoncé or Taylor Swift. He's also a real-life fan of Clinton's, he tells me, and has been since before her 2008 campaign. It's less about the specifics of her record than about what he calls "the female aspect": "I would love to have a female president," he says. "I think that's awesome."

The impetus for Walsh's Twitter campaign was finding out that Clinton, in her own way, really did have something in common with those pop stars: She won a Grammy in 1997 for the audio version of her book It Takes a Village. Walsh tweeted about the Grammy in early May, complete with a photo of Clinton accepting the award, and said he was surprised by the positive response he got.

Since then, Walsh has gone all in on his new hobby, and, despite his distaste for politics more generally, Clinton is now a regular part of his day. He has his phone set to get notifications each time she tweets, and, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Pacific time, he'll try to reply. He does it when he wakes up in the morning, when he's sitting in a meeting at work, when he's going about his day. (When he's busy, he keeps it to a quick, standard "QUEEN OF POP"; if he has more time on his hands, he'll get more creative, and perhaps even dip into the stock of Clinton photos and gifs he has amassed.) His primary motive seems to be getting noticed—by Clinton's Twitter haters, by her campaign, and by others on the social-media site. "I want them to look forward to my tweets," he says of Clinton's team. "I want them to be like, 'The "Queen of Pop" guy is tweeting again.'" When I ask how long he'll keep it up, he replies: "Until I win a meet and greet with her."

Walsh is hardly the first to find Clinton a figure ripe for ironic idolization (and Internet fun). Most famously, in 2012, the Tumblr blog Texts From Hillary used a now-iconic photo of Clinton wearing sunglasses while gazing down at her Blackberry to create a character who gives stone-cold replies to various celebrities and politicians. And that Hillary—rather than the one in the headband—left an imprint on a new generation of American voters. "Texts From Hillary was a turning point in that it kind of gave people a different way of looking at her," says Laura Olin, who ran social-media strategy for President Obama's 2012 campaign and now works with other Obama alums at the firm Precision Strategies.

That image is one Clinton has been eager to embrace. When she joined Twitter back in 2013, she made the Texts From Hillary photo her avatar. And since she declared her presidential candidacy in April, her campaign has

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sometimes struck a playfully self-referential tone that's a notable departure from the tenor of 2008: In announcing its online store last week, for example, Clinton's campaign included what it called an "Everyday Pantsuit Tee"—an allusion to Clinton's oft-mocked signature style.

Indeed, you could argue that Walsh's stunt works precisely because it contains a bit of truth: To some extent, the idea of Hillary Clinton—like the idea of, say, Oprah Winfrey—has taken on a life of its own. The Clintons have been in the public eye for so long that, beyond being a person and a politician, "Hillary Clinton" is also a persona, a character with cultural meaning. Or, as Walsh puts it, the Clintons "are almost like America's royal family—aside from the Kardashians."

Longtime Clinton Insider Says Hillary Hasn't Given 'Convincing Explanation' For Email, Donation Scandals
// The Daily Caller // Chuck Ross – June 5, 2015

The former Clinton White House secretary of labor Robert Reich is throwing Hillary under the scooby bus.

Reich says that Hillary Clinton needs to be more transparent and that she has more yet to explain concerning her use of a private email account as secretary of state and the millions of dollars she and Bill have been paid for speeches.

"She hasn't yet given a convincing explanation for why she used a private email account when she was secretary of state, and why she and her husband have made so many speeches for hundreds of thousands of dollars a pop from special interests that presumably want something in return," the former Clinton confidant told ABC News.

"In other words, she needs to be more open and transparent about everything."

Reich, who now teaches at Berkeley, also appeared to back away from his past support of Clinton, whose Democratic challengers include former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"I've known Hillary Clinton since she was 19, and have a great deal of confidence in her," said Reich, a staunch progressive. "At the same time, I agree with Bernie Sanders on much of what he says."

"As chairman of Common Cause, a nonpartisan national citizen's group dedicated to getting big money out of politics, I don't feel free to endorse either one of them."

Reich has not let his position at Common Cause deter him from endorsing Clinton in the past, however. He was chairman of the organization's national board when he said he would back her in 2013. He joined the organization in 2010.

Commentary: Hillary Clinton's Bold Move on Voting Rights **// BET // Keith Boykin – June 5, 2015**

Krystal Watson grew up in Louisiana but left after high school to attend Wiley College, a historically Black college in Marshall, Texas. There she registered to vote and signed up to help other people vote as well. But when Krystal showed up at her local polling place with a Wiley College ID, she was turned away.

That's because Texas governor Rick Perry signed a law in 2011 that allows polling places to accept a concealed weapon permit for voter identification but does not accept student IDs. It's pretty clear who the Republican-controlled Texas state government wants to vote. In state after state, GOP legislatures and governors have been

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passing new and restrictive voting laws ever since President Obama came into office to make it harder for people of color, poor people and young people to vote.

That's the message that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton took to Texas Southern University on Thursday. In a speech to 2,000 people at the historically Black college in Houston, Clinton told Watson's story and proposed dramatic steps to make it easier for people like Krystal to vote.

Clinton's boldest proposal is a plan for universal, automatic voter registration for every citizen in every state in the union. "Everyone, every young man or young woman, should be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 — unless they actively choose to opt out," she said.

That makes a lot of sense. The United States is one of only a few democratic nations that place the entire burden of registering to vote on individual citizens, according to a study from the Brennan Center for Justice. That helps explain why 93 percent of eligible voters are registered to vote in Canada, for example, while only 68 percent of Americans are registered.

"Making voting easier for all eligible voters should be the epitome of a nonpartisan issue," the New York Times wrote Friday. "Unfortunately, stopping people from voting has become a key part of the modern Republican playbook," they concluded.

From Texas to Wisconsin, and all parts in between, Republicans are racing to beat the clock on voting rights. They know that America's changing demographics make it harder for Republicans to win elections when young people and people of color turn up at the polls. So rather than crafting policies to appeal to these voters, Republicans have created laws to block them from voting.

Wisconsin governor Scott Walker, a likely Republican presidential candidate, recently signed a bill to limit the number of early voting days and prohibit it altogether on weekends.

Similarly in New Jersey, governor Chris Christie, another GOP presidential hopeful, vetoed a bill that would have allowed early voting in his state.

In Florida, after helping his brother win the disputed 2000 presidential election, governor Jeb Bush created a list of 48,000 Florida residents to be purged from the voting rolls. Nearly half of those purged were African-American, but only 61 people were Hispanic, in a state where Hispanics make up a significant part of the population and often vote Republican.

Even in mostly Democratic Maryland, the state's new Republican governor, Larry Hogan, vetoed a bill last month that would have restored voting rights to 40,000 former felons who had completed their sentences.

As Hillary Clinton said on Thursday, "Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting. What part of democracy are they afraid of?"

Answer: They're afraid of Black people, young people and progressive Latinos voting in large numbers. Nearly 90 percent of Mitt Romney voters in 2012 were white, a troubling number considering the share of white voters in presidential elections is steadily declining.

That's why Republicans are passing these new laws. It's not about voter fraud. The Bush administration conducted a five-year study and found virtually no evidence of voter fraud. Subsequent studies and bookshave confirmed

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these results. It's about rigging elections.

This is America. We can't go around lecturing the world about democracy if we don't practice it here at home. We have little credibility to push for electoral reform in Africa, Latin America or the Middle East when we've made it so difficult to vote in the U.S. that 50 million of our own citizens aren't even registered.

Maybe it's a self-serving political move that Hillary Clinton is calling for 20 days of early voting nationwide and asking Congress to pass legislation to fix the damage to the Voting Rights Act done by the Supreme Court in 2013. She's also calling for online voter registration and establishing the principle that no one should ever have to wait more than 30 minutes to vote.

But Clinton's interest in these issues is not new. She co-sponsored the Count Every Vote Act, a bill in 2005 that the New York Times called "the gold standard of election reform." That bill would have made election day a federal holiday and restored voting rights to ex-felons.

Whatever the motivation for Clinton's latest proposal, she's right on the mark. Voting is the bedrock of democracy. African-Americans died for the right to vote.

Hillary Clinton Calls the Republican Bluff on Voting Rights // NY Mag // Jonathan Chait – June 5, 2015

Yesterday, Hillary Clinton endorsed automatic voter registration for all 18-year-olds. Expanding access to voting rights is a civil-rights issue that can be justified entirely in good-government terms. At the same time, it is also a completely partisan issue. The Republican Party is in favor of making voting more inconvenient in the correct belief that winnowing the electorate operates to its partisan advantage.

The Republican Party prefers to frame its stance on voting rights as a deep concern for preventing voter fraud. The most common response to this is to point out that voter impersonation is vanishingly rare — since 2000, 31 instances of it have been found, out of a billion ballots cast. But the true nature of its concern reveals itself most clearly when the party's mania for suppression can be detached from its professed concern for preventing voter fraud and examined in naked isolation.

In theory, there are a number of ways one might make voting more convenient without enabling fraud. One of them is to expand early voting. A bipartisan commission, co-chaired by Democratic campaign lawyer Robert Bauer and Republican campaign lawyer Ben Ginsburg studied voting extensively and issued a 2014 report that, among other recommendations, endorsed more early voting. The authors, who engaged in months of public hearings and consultations with officials, found that voters are willing to tolerate waits to vote if they can pick a convenient day. "What does emerge from evidence about the experience of voters is that their tolerance for wait times is considerably higher with early voting," the report found, "Having chosen the day and time for voting that is convenient for them, early voters are described as being in a more 'celebratory' frame of mind than under the often rushed circumstances they face on Election Day when they must vote at a specific location on a specific day." This makes perfect sense — if you can pick a day when you're not too busy, you can stand a longer wait than having to queue up on a day you don't pick when you might not have time to spare.

The official Republican response rejected the endorsement of early voting. Letting people vote early, the Republicans reply, "diminishes the importance of Election Day." While the bipartisan commission found that Americans enjoy the freedom to pick a convenient time to vote, the Republican Party declared that this is not the case — "Most Americans continue to prefer to vote alongside their neighbors and fellow citizens at the polls on Election Day so reform needs to start there." This is a bit like saying most Americans prefer vanilla, therefore chocolate should not be allowed. If people prefer to vote on Election Day, they can.

Now, perhaps the Republicans are simply moved by a sentimental attachment to Election Day, and they don't

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want it to get less special-feeling by giving people the choice to exercise their rights at a more convenient time. In that case, there is also a solution that meets the party's concern: make Election Day a national holiday. Clinton has endorsed that idea, too, and it's a long-standing liberal standby. But Republicans also oppose making Election Day a national holiday. As the conservative pundit John Fund has explained, making elections a national holiday might lead to people skipping work the preceding Monday. Also, Fund argued, "There's no doubt that many people in our increasingly mobile and hectic society want voting to be as easy and convenient as buying fast food. But too much of anything can be bad — just ask someone who has gorged on drive-thru burgers and fries." So since convenient fast food can be bad for you, convenient voting must be bad, too.

Automatic voter registration, which anybody could choose to opt out of, is another idea that would reduce bureaucratic impediments to voting without enabling fraud. It will be fascinating to watch the party generate arguments against this. The current official party response amounts to simple ad hominum criticism of Clinton (Republican spokesman: "Her exploitation of this issue only underscores why voters find her dishonest and untrustworthy," etc.).

In the meantime, conservatives bothering to express their knee-jerk hostility have fallen back on actual conviction, which is that voting should be restricted to a better class of people. An additional registration requirement, writes National Review's Daniel Foster, "improves democratic hygiene because the people who can't be bothered to register (as opposed to those who refuse to vote as a means of protest) are, except in unusual cases, civic idiots." People who don't have the flexibility to take extra time away from work to jump through whatever bureaucratic hurdles the Republicans throw in their path, or the familiarity with local agencies to navigate them smoothly, are too shiftless and ignorant to be trusted with the franchise.

And so Clinton's embrace of voting rights may not have any plausible near-term prospects for enactment. But it serves to demonstrate to the party's core constituents something elemental, and true: At the current moment, there is only one party that respects their rights as citizens.

Hillary Clinton's Campaign Goes Even Gayer **// OUT Magazine // James McDonald – June 5, 2015**

From the get-go, Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign has worked to frame her as the candidate for LGBT Americans. From the inclusion of gay couples in early campaign videos, to changing her logo in support of the Supreme Court oral arguments for marriage equality, and tweeting her hopes for a 'historic' Pride month, she's certainly living up to that image. Now, she's making it easy for LGBTs to show their support for her in return, with a collection of Pride merchandise. Yaaas, Hillary!

Hillary goes ugly early with racism claims **// Fox News // Chris Stirewalt – June 5, 2015**

If Hillary Clinton is concerned enough about her candidacy to already be making accusation of racism against her potential Republican rivals, this is going to be a long election cycle for her and for the rest of the country.

Down in Texas for a campaign event aimed at restoring her relationship with black Democrats who rejected her 2008 candidacy, Clinton said that laws requiring voters to show identification at polls were part of "a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other." Note the language here. It's not a misguided effort with an unfortunate result, it is a deliberate effort to prevent minorities from voting. That's not just racist, that's evil.

Clinton even made it personal, saying potential general election foes Jeb Bush, Scott Walker and Rick Perry were "deliberately trying to stop" minority voters from participating. It's language that might even give voter-ID opponent President Obama some pause, but Clinton tore into her topic with evident relish. In this candidacy, Clinton has seemed at times uncertain and usually vague. When it came to racially charged, partisan attacks, however, she was imbued with a new vitality and was nothing if not direct. In an ironic turn, Clinton accused Republicans of "fear-mongering about a phantom epidemic" as she intoned against urgent dangers to civil rights.

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Why would a politician go so bananas over policies that are supported by something like seven out of 10 Americans? The standard media take on Clinton's overheated rhetoric is that she is still determined to avoid her 2008 fate by pandering to, one by one, each of the parts of the Democratic coalition. It's been rolling out at the rate of about one group and one policy reversal or expansion a week. And that is surely the biggest part of this.

But when a candidate, especially a person of pallor such as Clinton, is out making over-the-top charges of racism at this point in an election cycle it certainly does not suggest a confident candidate or campaign. While Republicans might take heart that the woman who remains ahead in hypothetical matchups against anyone in their field is throwing haymakers 17 months before Election Day, they also ought to remember what else this gambit says about Clinton: She will do whatever it takes to win.

House Benghazi committee calls Clinton friend to testify **// McClatchy // Anita Kumar – June 5, 2015**

The House committee investigating the fatal attacks in Benghazi, Libya in 2012 announced Friday it will interview Sidney Blumenthal, a friend and sometime adviser to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The June 16 session will be held behind closed doors.

The committee grew interested in Blumenthal after it received thousands of pages of documents from the State Department that showed he and she traded emails on the security in Libya before and after the Sept. 11, 2012 attacks.

Blumenthal, an adviser to former President Bill Clinton, was employed by the Clinton Foundation when he wrote the emails.

"He sent me unsolicited emails which I passed on in some instances and I say that that's just part of the give and take," Clinton told reporters recently at a campaign event in Cedar Falls, Iowa. "I have many, many old friends and I always think that it's important when you get into politics to have friends you had before you were in politics and to understand what's on their minds," Clinton said Tuesday. "And he's been a friend of mine for a long time."

Sale of Michigan company to China may haunt Clinton **// Detroit Free Press // Todd Spangler – June 5, 2015**

Despite expressing her concerns on the campaign trail now, national Republican party officials are questioning why Hillary Rodham Clinton did not intervene in the controversial 2013 sale of high-tech battery plants in Michigan to a Chinese firm when she was secretary of state and could have done so.

At a campaign stop in New Hampshire last month, Clinton, the leading Democratic candidate for president, decried the sale of A123 Systems — built with millions in government aid — along with those of other new energy firms, to Chinese investors, calling them "unfortunate" and a "serious" problem for high-tech industries in the U.S.

"That does concern me, because a lot of foreign companies, particularly Chinese companies ... are looking to buy American companies," she said in response to an entrepreneur who mentioned A123's sale while commenting that venture capital for new energy technology has largely fled overseas.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, in a statement to the Free Press, called Clinton's remarks "lip service" considering that as the former secretary of state, her department had a "role in signing off on these sales," including A123's to Wanxiang in early 2013.

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"She is not being honest with the American people about her record in this critical area of national security and economic policy," Priebus said, suggesting it may not be the last time the bankruptcy sale of A123 and its facilities in Livonia and Romulus come up in the GOP's campaign against her.

Clinton's campaign said she had no role in the review of the sale and referred questions to the State Department, saying only that she "wants us to be the clean energy superpower for the 21st Century, and that means out-competing countries like China so we can keep those jobs and companies here."

Review not taken

It does appear, however, that if Clinton had security concerns about Wanxiang gaining A123's technology, she and the agency she led could have moved to investigate it, which, at least according to congressional researchers, typically leads to about half of all transactions being abandoned.

Several members of Congress, including both of Michigan's U.S. Democratic senators and a bipartisan group of congressmen, urged such a review; as did the Strategic Materials Advisory Council, a group that noted that though Wanxiang had excluded A123's defense contracts from its purchase, it was still obtaining "91 patents for sensitive military and space battery technology."

Only the president can officially block such transactions on national security grounds. But the State Department holds a seat on the nine-member Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. — CFIUS — which reviews sales of American assets to foreign investors for any impact on national security.

Hillary Clinton: Give immigrants path to citizenship

A State Department spokeswoman confirmed Thursday that the agency is represented on CFIUS by an undersecretary — not the secretary — and its cases seldom if ever reach the secretary's office.

But agency procedures reviewed by the Free Press and published in the Federal Register also indicate that the "Secretary ... may at any time" fill that role, if he or she so chooses.

The campaign did not respond to a question as to why Clinton didn't play a role in the deliberations, despite her noting as a presidential candidate in 2008, CFIUS's role in "ensuring that technologies ... critical to U.S. national security are not sold off and outsourced to foreign governments."

In 2008, Clinton was critical of the Bush administration for not blocking foreign investors from moving jobs from a former General Motors-subsidiary in Indiana, which made magnets for bombs, to China, saying "not only did the jobs go to China but so did ... the technological know-how."

The back-and-forth is the latest chapter in the continuing political fallout from massive government investments in new energy technologies in Michigan and across the nation beginning around 2009 that promised thousands of jobs but which, in many instances, failed to materialize.

It also continues a line of attack against Clinton by her critics regarding her level of involvement — or lack thereof — in foreign purchases of American assets.

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In "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," Peter Schweizer wrote she had "veto power" over the sale of uranium assets to Russia, though that claim — that she could have stopped it alone — has been debunked.

In her remarks at a Hampton, N.H., brewery on May 22, Clinton clearly was referring to economic competition, not national security concerns, in discussing the sale of A123 and other American businesses. CFIUS does not get involved in cases only related to economic considerations.

State Dept. releases hundreds of Clinton Benghazi e-mails

But any of CFIUS's member agencies — Treasury, Defense, Homeland Security and the others — can request a deeper review to determine if there are national security implications. A 2014 report by the Congressional Research Service found nearly half of those investigated "were terminated ... because the firms decided to withdraw from the transactions rather than face a negative determination."

If Clinton, who resigned as secretary in 2013, wanted to raise concerns about the national security implications of the sale, there was plenty of support for her to do so: In their letter to then-Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, who served as CFIUS's chair, members of Michigan's delegation said the sale "might constitute a potential threat" to security since the company's "core" lithium-ion battery technology was being transferred.

They also suggested the sale might not be appropriate given that A123, which was based in Massachusetts, had received $133 million in stimulus funds and was granted more than $125 million in state tax incentives and credits to build advanced lithium-ion batteries for its clients. Other members of Congress raised concerns with CFIUS as well.

Expansion in Michigan

A123 went bankrupt after its biggest customer, electric car maker Fisker, fell on hard times. After a battle for control between Johnson Controls and Wanxiang, the Chinese company won the bidding, paying $257 million. In January 2013, CFIUS approved A123's sale without comment.

Treasury, CFIUS's lead agency, declined to comment on the case, citing confidentiality requirements.

Despite the confidentiality rule, the Republican National Committee has filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the State Department asking for "any and all records ... that mention, reference or relate to the sale of A123 Systems to Wanxiang Group."

Under CFIUS's regulations, parties to a sale typically file notice with the committee, which then has 30 days to "identify and address" any national security concerns. If it chooses, the committee may initiate a subsequent 45-day investigation or refer the sale to the president's office for a decision.

It is rare for foreign transaction to be blocked, but it does happen: President Barack Obama blocked a sale to Chinese investors in September 2012 of four Oregon wind farm companies located near a site where the military tests aircraft and unmanned drones.

Meanwhile, the Free Press reported earlier this week that Wanxiang and A123 plan to invest more than $200

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million to add capacity in Livonia and Romulus, as well as at plants in China, 21/2 years after exiting bankruptcy.

The company, having largely switched over to smaller batteries for hybrid vehicle systems, continues to employ several hundred workers in Michigan.

Having trouble keeping track? Here's the complete look at who's officially running for president in 2016.

On Hillary Clinton's income inequality plan, de Blasio pauses -- and GOPers pounce // NY Daily News // Celeste Katz – June 5, 2015

When it comes to how Hillary Clinton will address income inequality as a presidential hopeful, Mayor de Blasio says he's (still) all ears.

In a radio interview Friday, de Blasio seemed comfortable continuing to reserve judgment on the former Secretary of State's plans for closing the gap between rich and poor.

"People recognize that wealth is getting concentrated in very few hands, and political power is increasingly getting concentrated in the hands of the wealthy and it's unacceptable," de Blasio -- who's tried to stake a claim as a national progressive voice on the issue -- told WNYC radio host Brian Lehrer during a live exchange.

"I've been very impressed so far by some of the things that Secretary Clinton has said on areas like immigration reform, criminal justice reform. Very promising concepts," said de Blasio, a top campaign official in Clinton's 2000 Senate run.

De Blasio has raised some eyebrows with his unwilllingness to issue a full-tilt endorsement of Clinton, who's considered overwhelmingly likely to win the 2016 Democratic nomination.

By comparison, during an appearance in Washington last month, de Blasio hailed Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) as a "powerful voice" on income inequality and called her leadership "extraordinary."

Speaking to Lehrer Friday, he said he felt progressive taxation and "ways that we can raise wages and benefits for people all over the country" were musts for any substantial blueprint.

"These are the kinds of things that have to happen to change the country," de Blasio said, "and I look forward to hearing [Clinton's] vision of how she'll address these issues."

While de Blasio offered effusive praise for Clinton's speech this week on attacking voter disenfranchisement -- "I think it was an inspired proposal; I give her a lot of credit" -- in the selfsame radio interview, Republicans have widely retorted that her comments were divisive and purely partisan.

A Clinton spokesman declined comment, but the America Rising PAC, which plugs itself as dedicated to "exposing the truth about Democrats" through tracking and research, had no such reservations.

“Based on his recent words and actions, Bill de Blasio seems as unimpressed with Hillary Clinton’s campaign as everyone else in America. It doesn’t seem like he’s in any hurry to lend his former boss a hand, which is highly

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ironic given their long and close history," said PAC spokesman Jeff Bechdel.

"While Clinton struggles to connect with so-called 'everyday Americans' because of her ongoing scandals, vast wealth, and insulated campaign, de Blasio is standing idly by as Clinton watches her poll numbers continue to plummet," Bechdel said.

Alluding to Clinton's upcoming June 13 kickoff, he added, "No wonder her campaign has decided they need to officially hit the 'reset' button at Roosevelt Island – less than two months in, they haven't even convinced their close allies that Hillary Clinton should be president."

Clinton calls for universal, automatic voter registration; GOP not happy // Daily Kos // Kerry Eleveld – June 5, 2015

Hillary Clinton did more than just call for 20 days of early voting Thursday in her address to Texas Southern University, a historically black college in Houston. She threw down.

"Today Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting," Clinton said during a speech at Texas Southern University. "What part of democracy are they afraid of?"

That was one of the best lines of the speech, second only to this one:

"We need a Supreme Court that cares more about protecting the right to vote of a person than the right to buy an election of a corporation."

In short, Clinton called for a sweeping expansion of voting access for every citizen. Along with adding 20 days of early, in-person voting, she called on Congress to "restore the full protections" that the Supreme Court ripped from the Voting Rights Act. She called for "expanding early, absentee, and mail voting; providing online voter registration; establishing the principle that no one should ever have to wait more than 30 minutes to cast your vote."

And she called for universal, automatic voter registration.

Everyone, every young man or young woman, in every state in the union should be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18—unless they actively choose to opt out. But I believe this would have a profound impact on our elections and our democracy. Between a quarter and a third of all eligible Americans remain unregistered and therefore unable to vote.

None of this made Republicans happy.

The Republican National Committee accused Clinton of being "misleading and divisive," and noted that her home state of New York does not provide early voting. "Her exploitation of this issue only underscores why voters find her dishonest and untrustworthy," RNC spokesman Orlando Watson said in a statement.

Testy, testy.

Meet the 30-year-old woman running Hillary Clinton's field operations // Fortune // Nina Easton – June 5, 2015

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With many of the power players from Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential run sitting this one out, the big question is: Who's in?

What follows is the latest installment of a Fortune series looking at the the most influential women on Clinton's 2016 team. When this series wraps, we'll turn our attention to the most powerful women on the GOP side of the race.

Brynne Craig, 30, Deputy National Political Director

By the time Brynne Craig started her career, the Rolodex was as much of a relic as those pink "while you were out" message slips. But if Craig, 30, did have an old-style Rolodex sitting on her desk, it would be fat—bulging with names of Democratic foot soldiers all over the country, from phone bank volunteers to precinct captains.

Craig does field operations. She's done that job for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in 2008, for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee—charged with electing House members—in 2012, and for victorious Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe in 2013. She also picked up some useful organizing skills working for Democratic nominee Barack Obama after Clinton dropped out in 2008, but the former First Lady is clearly her first political love.

Craig's adoration of Hillary Clinton dates back to her Arizona childhood, when her music-industry father was rooting for Bill Clinton's 1992 victory, voraciously reading newspapers and sharing his opinions with his 8-year-old daughter. "That was the first time I was really aware of politics," she recalls. "We would talk a lot about [the campaign]." Her Republican mother, however, had different ideas: "George [H.W.] Bush was her guy."

Craig liked Bill Clinton, but she really liked his wife. "When I was little, I thought if Hillary ever ran for President I wanted to work for her," she recalls. That moment finally came in 2007, after she graduated from Smith College and joined her campaign in Nevada. It turned to be a high-wire act: With Obama's win in Iowa, and Clinton's dramatic comeback in New Hampshire, the early Nevada caucus—considered a bellwether for western states—was billed as a tie-breaker.

Like Iowa, Nevada runs a caucus rather than a primary, and in 2008 this in-person process was a strange new system to state voters, unlike in Iowa. So a lot of what Craig did was education–Caucus-101 meetings and simulations of caucus days. She oversaw 43 precincts. On election day, Clinton was the top-vote getter (though a complicated process gave Obama more delegates)—making Nevada the only caucus state to fall into her 2008 column during that grueling primary battle.

After Clinton conceded and dropped out, Craig was off to the swing state of Ohio for the general election, where Obama would beat GOP nominee John McCain—and show off an awe-inspiring grass roots operation. "We built a neighborhood team model all across Ohio, voters talking to their neighbors and friends, block by block," Craig recalls. "The lady who was the cashier in the grocery store was the one knocking on your door."

Craig took away from that experience a lesson that holds true even in an age of social media and online communication. "We used to say people will come to a campaign because they believe in the candidates," says Craig. "But the reason they stay is the relationships we have. I still talk to my precinct captains. Social media engages people, but you have to take that second step of going off line and continuing the relationship."

That will come in handy in her current job as part of the "Mook Mafia" –named for her mentor, Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook—where she will need to secure endorsements from local and state officials and keep the campaign's relations with grass-roots groups warm and fuzzy, even when times get tough.

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Hillary Clinton rakes in $200K in Greenwich // CT Post // Neil Vigdor – June 5, 2015

Hillary Clinton covered the waterfront Friday in Greenwich -- not just rhetorically.

Heavy on domestic and foreign policy talking points -- some aligning her with President Barack Obama (the Affordable Care Act) and others distancing her (the Middle East) -- Clinton huddled with an elite network of contributors to her presidential campaign at the bygone yachting retreat of Boss Tweed.

The 13-mile trip from Chappaqua, N.Y., paid handsome dividends for Democratic contender, who netted $200,000 for her White House bid from about 85 supporters that included the Empire State Building's controlling partner and a retired hedge fund manager as the event host, Hearst Connecticut Media has learned. The reception, held at the $29.7 million Roman villa of Malcolm and Carolyn Wiener, was closed to the media.

Clinton then added to her haul in New Haven, returning to the city where she met Bill Clinton as Yale Law students. Her visit came less than 24 hours after U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a potential rival for the Oval Office, raked in $50,000 in Stamford and bashed Clinton over foreign money raised by her family foundation.

"Presidential races are all bruising, and this one will probably involve more spending than any in history, unfortunately," said U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who went to school with the Clintons at Yale.

Clinton's campaign declined to comment her fundraising trip to Connecticut.

Blumenthal, who was in attendance at both the Greenwich and New Haven fundraisers, said Clinton is tough enough to withstand all that will be thrown at her.

"If you looked at her resume without knowing her name, and saw someone who has been a U.S. senator, secretary of state and a close adviser and confidante to at least two presidents and now brings the unique perspectives and life experience of a woman at a historic turning point for our country, that is a powerfully impressive candidate," Blumenthal said. "That persona, plus her dedication to the country and her grasp of the issues will be important to her winning."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

O'Malley's efforts on immigration reflect complex political realities // WaPo // John Wagner & Arelis Hernandez – June 5, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley stepped up his efforts to court Latino voters this week, appearing before a Hispanic business group and on Spanish-language television.

The former Maryland governor pledged to tackle comprehensive immigration reform during his first 100 days if he makes it to the White House, and he touted his record in Annapolis, which includes signing legislation that allows undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses and in-state college tuition rates.

While those and other measures have drawn applause from national immigrant rights advocates — with some

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declaring O'Malley's record the strongest in the Democratic field — Maryland lawmakers present a more nuanced view.

Latino legislators and other advocates credit O'Malley with providing help at key junctures but add that on some issues, he wasn't doing the heavy lifting. And at some points, particularly during the long, thorny debate over driver's licenses, O'Malley was at odds with the advocates.

As he has positioned himself to run in a Democratic field dominated by Hillary Rodham Clinton, O'Malley has made frequent mention of his record on immigration. He often recounts a battle last summer with the White House, when he denounced the administration's efforts to return migrant children to their home countries after they illegally crossed the border from Central America. And O'Malley has emphasized his decision to limit Maryland's cooperation with federal officials on deportations from a state-run jail.

Del. Ana Sol Gutierrez (D-Montgomery), a native of El Salvador and the first Latina elected to state office in Maryland, was not always pleased with O'Malley on immigration issues. But on balance, she said, "he really has shown leadership."

Others are less charitable, among them former delegate Luiz R.S. Simmons, another Democrat from Montgomery. O'Malley, Simmons said, "has a tendency to jump on the caboose of the train as it's pulling out of the station and put on a conductor's hat and walk to the front."

Haley Morris, an O'Malley spokeswoman, said the candidate has "one of the most progressive track records in the country on issues facing new Americans," noting that Maryland housed more refugee children per capita than other states during the border crisis.

As a 2006 gubernatorial candidate, O'Malley did not focus heavily on immigration. But he supported making driver's licenses available to undocumented immigrants, a position for which his GOP opponent attacked him in television ads, and for granting in-state tuition rates to college students.

A version of the latter legislation, known as the Dream Act, had been vetoed by O'Malley's Republican predecessor in 2003.

O'Malley signaled support for the legislation when it was proposed again in 2007, his first year in office. But the bill stalled in the Democratic-led legislature amid concerns over whether it would reduce slots available for students with legal status.

Although O'Malley made clear that he would sign the bill, he did not make it part of his legislative package, a level of priority that he later gave to bills legalizing same-sex marriage and repealing the death penalty.

Advocates tried again in 2011, bringing waves of "Dreamers" to Annapolis to testify and lobby lawmakers. State Sen. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Montgomery) said it was widely known that O'Malley wanted the bill to succeed, which helped secure votes. The measure passed, and Maryland joined nearly a dozen states with similar measures.

Conservative activists petitioned to have the law put to a voter referendum. During the campaign that ensued, O'Malley provided fundraising and other political support. Voters approved the measure by a wide margin, 59 percent to 41 percent. O'Malley "spoke out on the bill and threw down for the campaign," said Kim Propeack, director of CASA in Action, the political arm of the immigrant advocacy group.

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The path to Maryland's current policy on driver's licenses had far more twists. When O'Malley took office, Maryland was among just five states where someone could get a license without having to prove they were in this country legally. Critics charged that the program was open to fraud and that it drew illegal immigrants to Maryland. Moreover, the federal government was clamping down on driver's licenses after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

In 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act, which sought to curb state-issued driver's licenses for those in the country illegally. States were given several years to implement the law, and the exact rules and how they would be enforced changed on multiple occasions, O'Malley aides said.

O'Malley, concerned about threats by the federal government not to allow anyone with a Maryland driver's license to board an airplane, announced in 2009 that he would support a halt in issuing full-fledged licenses to undocumented immigrants. Lawmakers passed a bill that discontinued new licenses but allowed those who already had licenses to keep a restricted version of them through 2015. The licenses could not be used as identification to enter federal buildings or board airplanes.

Gutierrez and others argued that Maryland should leave its earlier policy in place, in effect daring the federal government — with Democrat Barack Obama in the White House — to enforce the law.

But other Democrats, including O'Malley, were loath to take the risk. "The collective wisdom at the time was we shouldn't roll the dice on it," said Brian E. Frosh, then a state senator chairing the Judicial Proceedings Committee and now Maryland's attorney general.

Four years later, advocates made a renewed push to overhaul the law, and lawmakers approved a bill to issue licenses — with restrictions — to new applicants and renew existing ones beyond 2015. O'Malley signed the bill.

The political climate had changed considerably by then, several lawmakers said, making them more comfortable with the new approach. It seemed clear that the Obama administration wasn't going to impose punitive measures, and passage of the Dream Act in Maryland in 2011 showed public support for helping immigrants.

Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk (D-Prince George's) said it took some persuasion to get O'Malley to support the 2013 bill.

"We showed him the numbers, arguing that immigrants are driving to work and taking kids to school and that it was better for them to have insurance and drive legally than to drive without one," she said.

Gutierrez credited O'Malley with being "helpful the second time around."

Since then, O'Malley has spoken out more forcefully on immigration, and he has held up his record as evidence of his commitment to issues of importance to the fastest-growing demographic group in the country.

"One of the greatest indicators of a person's future actions will be how they acted in the past when they had the power," O'Malley told the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday.

SANDERS

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Sanders wants privacy panel in defense bill **// The Hill // Jordain Carney – June 5, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) wants to create a panel to investigate the impact of modern technology on privacy as part of an annual defense bill.

Sanders, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has filed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to establish a "commission on privacy rights in the digital age."

The panel would study how the government, as well as private companies, collect data on Americans and how the data is used, and make recommendations on any changes needed to protect privacy.

"Innovations in technology have led to the exponential expansion of data collection by both the public and private sectors," according to the amendment.

Sanders voted against the USA Freedom Act, which reforms the National Security Agency's collection of bulk phone metadata.

He suggested at the time the legislation doesn't go far enough to protect Americans' privacy.

“Technology has significantly outpaced public policy," he said in a statement earlier this week. "There is a huge amount of information being collected on our individual lives ranging from where we go to the books we buy and the magazines we read. We need to have a discussion about that.”

The two-year panel, which would have subpoena power, would also investigate how data collection has changed and any implications on areas including surveillance and hiring practices.

Hawking shirts, buttons, Sanders opens shop **// Burlington Free Press // Adam Silverman – June 5, 2015**

The "For Sale" sign is out at the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign.

An online merchandise store opened this week, offering a range of products from T-shirts and coffee mugs to bulk packs of yard signs.

"Made and printed in the USA," boasts the product description on each of the two shirts for sale — one light blue, the other white.

"Union-printed in the USA. Car safe! Outdoor durable for 3-5 years," reads the description on the bumper stickers.

Sanders, Vermont's independent U.S. senator who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, joins a narrow slice of the already packed 2016 presidential field by jumping into merchandising. Only six of the 14 declared candidates on the Democratic and Republican sides are hawking buttons and hats through official online outlets as of Thursday afternoon.

There are plenty of unofficial vendors on the Web and at campaign events. When Sanders held his kickoff last week at Burlington's Waterfront Park, one man drove from Florida to sell buttons to the crowd of 5,000 to 6,000

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supporters. Another came from Montpelier with a rack of hand-screened T-shirts.

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton has a comprehensive official online shop, where supporters can select from 32 products, starting at $5. There are traditional items such as shirts and stickers, along with a number of unique offerings that include a onesie for those who haven't quite reached voting age, and a throw pillow for $55 that proclaims, "A woman's place is in the White House."

A section of merchandise is geared toward "Pride" and features shirts, stickers and buttons in rainbow colors.

Like Sanders' site, Clinton's also proclaims a made-in-America and union pedigree for much of the merchandise.

On the Republican side, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., might have the most extensive and elaborate online store of all. His site sells dozens of items across a host of categories — "fun stuff," "car decor" and "Hillary" sections join the more traditional categories of apparel and signs. Among the highlights from the ophthalmologist's campaign: an autographed eye chart for a $500 campaign contribution, and a signed copy of the Constitution for a cool $1,000.

Paul also offers some novelties including an "NSA Spy Cam Blocker" — a $15 cover for webcams on laptop computers — and "Hillary's Hard Drive," a computer drive for $99.95 that represents a swipe at the former secretary of state's use of a private email server to conduct government business.

Supporters of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee can browse 27 offerings, while Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has 23 items in his online store. Rick Perry, the former Texas governor, just jumped into the race Thursday and promptly unveiled a bare-bones shop with four products.

As with the Democrats, the Republican stores also promote Made in the USA — but there's hardly a mention of the word "union."

The candidates without stores are Democrats Lincoln Chafee and Martin O'Malley, and Republicans Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, George Pataki, Marco Rubio and Rick Santorum.

Back at the virtual Sanders storefront, shoppers can choose from 18 items. The least expensive is $5, which can score a button, a bumper sticker or a rally sign. T-shirts go for $15 to $21. The scale tops out at $225, which gets buyers a pack of 25 white or blue "Bernie 2016" yard signs.

A Sanders campaign spokesman did not respond to an email this week asking about the store.

How Bernie Sanders Will Change Your Mind About The Label 'Socialist' // The Elite Daily // Lani Seelinger – June 5, 2015

Bernie Sanders is a democratic socialist. Before your mind goes straight to Stalin's Gulag and Iron Curtains, though, let's talk about what that means.

In a number of different outlets, Bernie Sanders has come upon the suggestion — which in many other cases would be more of an accusation — that he is a democratic socialist. Instead of renaming his views, dancing around the subject or flat out denying it, he embraces it.

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It is, quite frankly, refreshing.

Before we get to him, though, let's talk about the idea itself. Thanks to the Cold War, Socialism has been a dirty word in American politics for about 70 years now, and Sanders will be fighting an uphill battle to try to change that.

In Sweden, though, the state just proposed extending paid paternity leave to three months. In the Czech Republic, parents can take up to three years of paid parental leave.

In many European countries, both health care and education all the way up through graduate degrees are entirely free.

In Finland, every family receives a special "baby box" for the birth of each child, equipped with everything a parent could need for those first few months — condoms included.

If they already had a child and don't need the box, they can opt instead for financial compensation to the tune of 140 euro. Seriously.

I could go on, but you probably get the idea. Democratic socialism, which these countries' governments all practice to some extent, isn't what we've gotten to know from Soviet spy movies.

It isn't a nanny state that tries to police your every move. It isn't even an arrangement in which the country's citizens have no personal responsibility, as so many Republican candidates have claimed over the years.

It's about support. It's about equality. The idea behind the Finnish baby box is that every child should have an equal starting point, but it doesn't stop there.

The Nordic countries, which includes Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland, are at the top of scores of desirable measures.

Why wouldn't we want that for our own country? Why wouldn't we want to do away with nasty things like student loan payments, short (and not always paid) maternity leave time and a lack of helpful boxes for our newborn children?

Bernie Sanders is here to tell us we could have all those things for our country and much more… Except for the baby box — as far as I know, he hasn't said anything about that yet.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about all of this is, well, that he's serious.

Just when the Democrats were settling into the idea that Hillary is who they'd be supporting for better or worse, just when they accepted that Elizabeth Warren will not — and I repeat, NOT — be running for president, in steps an old white guy with the same fire that Warren has and the same drive to change American politics as we know them.

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Or, as Daenerys Targaryen would say, Bernie Sanders wants to break the wheel.

It's a shame he doesn't have any dragons to back his cause. Instead, he has the examples of successful countries that have put his policies into action, to great success.

On "Late Night with Seth Meyers," he outlined his views more specifically, particularly about why "socialism" isn't a dirty word to him.

Using one example, he explained,

In most countries, health care is a right of all people. I don't see that as a problem.

And the thing is, his form of democratic socialism isn't actually extreme, even in America. In fact, it aligns directly with a lot more of the country than many people seem to have noticed.

His view that the increasing wealth gap is a huge problem in America is one that 63 percent of Americans share. A majority of Americans, like Sanders, believe money in politics is hurting the system.

Sizeable majorities believe higher education is too expensive and that student loan debt is a big issue. Sixty-nine percent of people believe global warming is happening at least partly because of human activity.

He's got a lot going for him: passion, early support and ideas for policies most of the country supports (even if some of those people would normally vote Republican). For all the Democrats who would have supported Warren's fire over Clinton's centrism, this is the guy.

His challenge will be fighting with the buzzwords — in other words, changing the public's view on the word "socialist." Is it possible? Yes, definitely. Will it be difficult? Even more so.

We may not have seen this coming, but it's about time we took note. Bernie's in it to win it.

CHAFEE

Lincoln Chafee May Be Hillary's Biggest Problem **// The Atlantic // Peter Beinart – June 4, 2015**

In a field of Democratic presidential long shots, former Rhode Island senator and governor Lincoln Chafee, who announced his candidacy on Wednesday, may be the longest shot of all. As an authentic, uncompromising progressive, Bernie Sanders is poised to grab the bulk of those Elizabeth Warren enthusiasts who can't reconcile themselves to Hillary Clinton. As the handsome, articulate, two-term governor of a mid-size state, Martin O'Malley at least looks like a plausible contender one day. Chafee, by contrast, in the words of Quinnipiac University's Monica Bauer, "has the charisma of Walter Mondale wrapped in the political instincts of a small town city councilman, which he once was, and perhaps would have remained, if he hadn't been the son of a famous political dynasty. He is George W. Bush with more intelligence but far less political talent." And like Bush, Chafee was, until very recently, a Republican.

But Chafee could prove Hillary's most intriguing challenger. It's not because he'll garner enough support to give her a scare. If anyone does that, it will likely be Sanders, who according to the New York Times is already

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"gain[ing] momentum in Iowa." What makes Chafee's candidacy intriguing is that he's attacking Hillary on the issue on which she may be most vulnerable: her vote to authorize war with Iraq.

"I don't think anybody should be president of the United States that made that mistake," Chafee told The Washington Post in April. "It's a huge mistake, and we live with broad, broad ramifications today—of instability not only in the Middle East but far beyond and the loss of American credibility."

A version of this attack helped Barack Obama topple Hillary in 2008. That's not likely to happen again, since Democrats care far less about Iraq this time.

But Republicans do. While foreign policy has been largely absent from the Democratic presidential campaign thus far, it's been central to the Republican debate. And this reflects a divide in the country as a whole. A May Wall Street Journal/NBC poll found that "national security/terrorism," which was the top concern of only eight percent of likely GOP primary voters three years ago, now ranks first, at 27 percent. Among likely Democratic primary voters, by contrast, it's less than half that.

Iraq sits near the center of that concern. Every Republican presidential candidate except Rand Paul is telling the same story: By 2008, as a result of George W. Bush's surge, America had won the Iraq War. But then Barack Obama snatched defeat from the jaws of victory by recklessly withdrawing US troops. Since then, the Middle East has descended into the depths of hell, and become a petri dish breeding ISIS barbarians eager to strike the United States.

The best answer to this line of attack is the one Hillary can't give: that America should never have invaded Iraq in the first place. After all, it wouldn't have been necessary to stitch the Iraqi state back together between 2006 and 2008, at a vast cost in money and blood, had the United States not shattered it in the first place. But Hillary can't give that answer because she voted to authorize the war.

That's what makes Chafee's attack intriguing. He was the only Republican senator who voted against authorizing war. Now, as a Democratic candidate for president, he will talk about the collapse of Iraq and the rise of ISIS in a way she can't. And the way Hillary responds to him will preview her response to the Republicans next fall.

Finding a good answer won't be easy. On domestic issues like gay marriage, mass incarceration, immigration, and campaign finance, Hillary has shifted left in the primary, confident that she's keeping pace not only with Democratic primary voters but with the country as a whole. But on foreign policy, the public isn't moving left; it's moving right. And Hillary cannot as easily adapt her views to match that shift because until two years ago, she was secretary of state.

Hillary's greatest challenges may not be policy-based at all. They'll likely stem from questions about her honesty, and the sense that she represents not the future but the past. But if there's one policy question that could prove dangerous, it's Iraq. On that subject, Lincoln Chafee is the canary in the coal mine. If Hillary can't find an effective answer to his attacks, it may be a sign of trouble ahead.

WEBB

Former U.S. Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) has a seven-point plan to save American foreign policy. **// The National Interest Evan Gottesman – June 5, 2015**

"Our country is in need of a clearly articulated foreign policy statement," Webb boldly declared to an audience at George Mason University.

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Senator Webb, who also served as Secretary of the Navy and Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Reagan administration, characterized current U.S. foreign policy as reactive and unstructured. Given this state of affairs, Webb intimated his own platform aimed at grounding America's approach to the world in seven key principles.

1. The United States should be able to identify its national security objectives and value systems.

"I like to see myself as a realist," Webb told audience members, contrasting himself with those "who see war at every corner." Senator Webb affirmed his opposition to foreign interventions that did not serve any discernable national interest or worse, undermined America's global position.

"I was one of the first people to warn of the strategic blunder of going into Iraq," Webb recalled. Indeed, he penned an op-ed in The Washington Post in September 2002 in which he asked readers, "Is there an absolutely vital national interest that should lead us from containment to unilateral war and long-term occupation of Iraq?"

Throughout the years, Senator Webb has maintained a consistent position on foreign interventions. The Obama administration justified the 2011 War in Libya in humanitarian terms via the responsibility to protect, a pretext Webb criticized as "vague."

2. The United States should be able to develop partnerships with trustworthy actors.

Senator Webb posited three criteria when considering aligning with a foreign nation: the country's stability, whether it engages in aggressive expansionism, and how its government treats the citizenry.

Despite listing human rights as an area of interest in fostering overseas partnerships, Webb challenged inconsistent approaches to democracy overseas, citing American engagement with China as a standard. When he returned from a trip to Myanmar, a reporter questioned how he could visit an authoritarian state in good conscience. Webb pushed back: "When was the last time China had an election?"

The senator also recalled a hearing just prior to the Libya intervention. Then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta charged, "Any government that kills its own people in nonviolent protests does not deserve to be in power." Webb challenged Panetta: "What is your comment on the Tiananmen Square incident?"

3. The United States should honor treaty obligations.

Here, Senator Webb stressed that Japan and the Philippines, two nations tied to American defense pacts, should be a "preeminent concern."

Senator Webb articulated his view that China's behavior in East and Southeast Asia warrants a robust American presence in the region. He noted the area's uniquely precarious position, describing it as "the only place where the interests of China, Russia, and Japan intersect." Here, Webb believes the United States can be a stabilizing influence while supporting a friendly Tokyo.

Senator Webb is particularly alarmed over China's aspirations in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims in nearly its entirety. "It is vitally in our national interest to communicate strongly with China when it takes expansionist moves in the South China Sea." The dispute in the area could draw the Philippines, a treaty-ally, and other states like Taiwan and Vietnam into conflict with China.

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4. The United States should support its non-treaty allies.

Not all American allies are bound to Washington by formal agreements. Senator Webb affirmed that these non-treaty partners should receive attention too, particularly in the Middle East, a region that hosts many U.S. aligned governments few of whom have formal defense arrangements with the United States.

5. The United States should maintain its superiority in strategic systems.

The United States maintains a qualitative technological edge over a range of potential adversaries. This is visible in weapons systems, nuclear capacity, and space capabilities. Senator Webb affirmed that these technological advantages should not be traded away, even for economic reasons.

6. The United States should preserve and recognize the right of national self-defense.

Senator Webb closely linked this point to issues of terrorism. The United States should be able to strike back against such attacks. This view, Senator Webb explained, is consistent with the United Nations Charter, particularly Article 51, which reads: “Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations.”

7. Congress must step up and restore its relationship with the executive branch.

Senator Webb identified a shift in war-making power from the Congress to the presidency. He drew on Libya and Iraq as examples of executive military maneuvers that bypassed legislative approval. In both cases, Webb felt that no vital national interest was at stake.

Webb was similarly critical of President Bush’s unilateral negotiations with Iraq. Bush arranged a long-term strategic relationship with Baghdad that Congress never sanctioned. By contrast, the Iraqi parliament voted to approve agreements with Washington.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the substance of Senator Webb’s foreign policy platform, his positions are undeniably clear and well defined. As Webb explores a 2016 presidential bid, the seven points he articulated on Thursday could form the basis of a wider debate among the candidates on the future of America’s international role.

OTHER

Bankroller of Democratic Voting Rights Cases? George Soros **// NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 5, 2015**

The billionaire philanthropist George Soros, whose first major involvement in politics was with a large-scale voter mobilization effort in the 2004 presidential race, is funding a Democratic legal fight against restrictive voting laws.

Mr. Soros became involved last year when Marc Elias, one of the top Democratic lawyers specializing in voter protection issues, began exploring a series of federal suits in advance of the 2016 election, according to Mr. Soros’s political adviser, Michael Vachon.

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Their goal is to try to influence voting rules in states where Republican governors and Republican-led legislatures have enacted new election laws since 2010, and to be ready to intervene when additional measures may be passed over the next 17 months.

Mr. Soros is prepared to spend $5 million or more on the effort, Mr. Vachon said. Two suits that he is supporting were filed in Ohio and in Wisconsin last month, and he is also funding a case Mr. Elias is involved with in North Carolina.

Mr. Vachon described the Democratic legal effort as an attempt to push back at Republicans who he said were "using the legislative process" for partisan purposes.

"It is disingenuous to suggest that these laws are meant to protect against voter fraud, which is nearly nonexistent," he said. "Clearly they are meant to give Republicans a political advantage on Election Day."

Mr. Elias's clients include four major Democratic party committees as well as Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign.

"Clearly, fighting the Republican efforts to limit who can vote and when they can vote will benefit Democrats, and it will benefit whomever runs for president," Mr. Vachon said. "But it also primarily benefits democracy with a small 'd.'"

In 2004, Mr. Soros invested millions of dollars into efforts to unseat President George W. Bush, including through a voter mobilization drive called America Coming Together.

He has not yet taken up the question of whether he will give money to the "super PAC" supporting Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Vachon said. But the legal actions filed by Mr. Elias are in keeping with the type of advocacy that Mr. Soros has favored: the nexus of policy, politics and movement-building.

Republicans have argued that the new laws are much-needed protections against election fraud and that the new round of lawsuits is little more than a publicity-seeking exercise intended to mobilize Democratic voters.

But Democrats say the new laws disproportionately affect the poorest voters, minorities and young people. A Government Accountability Office study last October found that states with more stringent voter identification laws had a larger decline in voter turnout than states that did not have such new restrictions.

Mr. Vachon said he was approached by Mr. Elias in January 2014 about supporting a voting rights lawsuit in North Carolina, where student identification cards are not considered acceptable forms of photo ID. The restrictions in North Carolina ended a program in which teenagers filled out a form and were then registered automatically to vote on their 18th birthday. Joining with the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense Fund, the Justice Department and the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. Elias argued that the law was onerous for younger voters in violation of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18 from 21.

The North Carolina case is still pending. But Mr. Elias and Mr. Vachon have discussed filing others in some of the 21 states that have added voting restrictions since the 2010 Republican electoral wave, if those states seek to tighten voting access any further.

"I expect there will be more," Mr. Vachon said.

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The voting conversation has shifted. That's good news for Dems. **//MSNBC // Zachary Roth – June 5, 2015**

Over the last year or so, the conversation on voting in America has been shifting. Now, Hillary Clinton's major speech in Texas Thursday has massively accelerated that movement.

By laying out a sweeping and positive vision for voting, Clinton smartly turned the debate away from the restrictive Republican-backed laws like voter ID that have made headlines in recent years, and toward the kind of expansive ideas that could usher millions of new voters into the process—chief among them, automatically registering everyone when they turn 18. That will lend crucial momentum to state-level proposals to increase access, which already have been gathering steam of late. And politically, it will force Republicans to explain why they oppose common-sense efforts to make voting easier.

Democrats are already recognizing that they can take advantage of the broadening conversation to put Republicans in a deeply uncomfortable spot.

Conservatives are noticing the shift, too. "[V]oter ID is yesterday's battleground," wrote Christian Adams, a former Justice Department lawyer and a leading supporter of restrictive voting policies, with a hint of trepidation. "Sure, there are still court cases and bills, but the Left has moved on to bigger and better things."

But finally playing offense on voting isn't just smart politics—though it certainly is that. It also has the potential to transform the electorate.

The hot-button controversies over strict Republican voting laws have obscured a crucial reality: Far more Americans are kept from voting by what might be called softer barriers that have been in place so long that they generate less attention: an antiquated registration system that, among other problems, requires voters to re-register each time they move, leaving around 50 million people unregistered; poorly maintained voter rolls that cause confusion on Election Day; hours-long lines that drive some would-be voters away in frustration and are worst in minority neighborhoods.

President Obama's bipartisan panel on voting, convened in response to the massive lines in Florida in 2012, helped put these issues—as well as the importance of early voting to reduce lines on Election Day—on the agenda. And the record low turnout in last fall's midterms has helped focus the conversation on how to get more voters to the polls. President Obama even mused recently about mandatory voting, which he called "transformative."

Since the start of the year, 464 bills to enhance voting access—many of them modernizing the registration system—have been introduced in state legislatures, according to a tally by the Brennan Center for Democracy. Oregon recently passed a law to establish automatic voter registration, which could create as many as 800,000 new registered voters in that state alone. And other states, including California, are considering following suit.

Clinton's aggressive plan will push those efforts forward. Expect to see more universal voter registration measures introduced in states across the country.

Of course, polls show ID is popular, so it's no surprise that Clinton and her allies would want to focus elsewhere. And to be sure, she offered a full-throated condemnation of the wave of voting restrictions the GOP has imposed in state after state. But in calling out four of her potential 2016 rivals by name, it was noticeable that she focused not on voter ID but more broadly on their support for policies that restrict, rather than expand, the electorate, and that target particular groups.

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Clinton said Rick Perry had “signed a law that a federal court said was actually written with the purpose of discriminating against minority voters,” without noting that it was Texas’s strict ID law. And she slammed Scott Walker for cutting back early voting and signing “legislation that would make it harder for college students to vote,”—again without noting that she was referring to voter ID.

In response, Perry sought to turn the focus back to the more familiar terrain of voter ID. “I think it makes sense to have a photo ID to be able to vote,” the former Texas governor said on Fox News Friday. “When I got on the airline to come up here yesterday, I had to show my photo ID.”

And Walker fell back on an oft-used GOP talking point on the issue, asking why Clinton doesn’t support policies “to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat,” and calling her “far outside the mainstream.” (Asked which expansive voting policies Clinton doesn’t support, a spokeswoman for Walker’s PAC, Our American Revival, didn’t respond.)

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, answering Clinton’s criticism of his state’s early voting cuts, noted that New York, the state Clinton represented in the Senate, doesn’t offer any early voting at all, and accused her of “demagoguery.”

But those responses could be hard to sustain once more states move forward with expansive legislation and the conversation gets more specific. Ultimately, Republicans will need to explain why they don’t favor policies to bring more people into the political process. And answering honestly might not be an option.

Things are looking up for President Obama **// VOX // Jonathan Allen – June 5, 2015**

President Obama's standing with the American public is improving as he nears the final 18 months of his presidency, and a combination of solid economic numbers, finding common ground with Republicans, and a diminished need to serve as the partisan leader of Democrats should augur well for the stretch run.

The economy added 280,000 jobs in May, the largest spike this year, and unemployment remained stable at 5.5 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday. Jason Furman, the chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, pointed to the increase of 262,000 private sector jobs in May, and 12.6 million over the past 63 months, as an indication of the health of the economy.

Bureau of Labor Statistics via the White House Council of Economic Advisers

This graph shows how the economy went from hemorrhaging jobs during the financial crisis to adding them consistently over the past five-plus years.

Obama still isn't getting as much credit for the improvement of the economy as he might, but his numbers have been better this year than they were last year. In late May, a CBS/New York Times poll of 1,022 adults found that 45 percent of Americans approved of the way he was handling the economy and 49 percent disapproved. The approval number was between 45 percent and 49 percent in four surveys taken this year by the two news organizations or CBS alone. Last year, his numbers ranged from 38 percent to 43 percent in CBS and CBS/New York Times polls.

"The President has been clear that he believes there is a strong case for us to make, looking at the economic data, about the significant progress that our economy has made since the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression," White House spokesperson Jennifer Friedman said in an email to Vox. "That said, the president believes there is more work that needs to be done to strengthen our economy and further expand economic opportunity for middle-class families."

Not surprisingly, the trends in Obama's overall approval ratings have improved as Americans' views of his handling of the economy have risen because jobs and the economy typically rank as the issues most important to

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them. Obama's approval numbers have risen and stabilized this year, compared with 2014, as the Gallup daily tracking polls show.

But Alec Tyson, a senior researcher at the Pew Research Center, said that while a growing economy can improve Americans' view of the president, lingering worries about their own outlooks can limit that effect.

"It's hard for people to rate the president overwhelmingly favorably when they're facing daily struggles," he said.

No one expects Obama and his Republican adversaries in Congress to start clinking champagne glasses in the East Room anytime soon. But it's harder for Republican leaders to whack him consistently when they find themselves on the same side on headline-grabbing issues. And they've been working with Obama a lot more in the early months of what the White House calls the "fourth quarter" of his presidency.

Speaker John Boehner pushed White House–backed revisions to the Patriot Act through the House last month, with 196 of the 338 overall votes for the bill (58 percent) coming from Republicans. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was critical of Obama and the bill — arguing it watered down essential national security protections — but shepherded it through a bumpy ride to enactment all the same. Of the 67 senators who voted for it, 23 were Republicans.

Obama's biggest legislative push this year is on trade, an issue that unites Republicans and divides Democrats. It's got Paul Ryan, the 2012 Republican vice presidential nominee, praising the president.

"I think the president on this particular issue is right, and therefore I think this is good for our country, good for the people I represent," Ryan, a House member from Wisconsin, told CNN's Dana Bash in an interview that aired Friday.

Two tracks

Obama seems to have found the formula he likes for policymaking: work with lawmakers when he can and go around them when he can't. Executive actions on climate change, immigration, Cuba policy, and the like have shown Democrats that he's willing to flex his muscle on behalf of their priorities. Indeed, there's no shortage of Democratic constituencies lining up for help with executive action right now.

But the early legislative agenda, including a "fix" on Medicare reimbursement rates for doctors, trade deals, and the revision and extension of Patriot Act provisions, has lent itself to bipartisanship. There's little doubt that will break down at some point: Democratic leaders are promising to block all Republican spending bills over the GOP's effort to backfill Obama Pentagon cuts with emergency war-funding money.

But for now, Obama's still looking to complement his use of executive power with legislative action.

"He will continue to use each and every tool he has to pursue an aggressive agenda to deliver for working families across the country, both by taking action on his own and by working with Congress in a bipartisan fashion when possible," Friedman said.

Tony Fratto, a Treasury and White House official in President George W. Bush's administration, said working across the aisle could help Obama with the public.

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"I see the president's approval ratings as mostly a function of the economic environment. As the economy improves and is seen as durable, his approval ratings will be bolstered," said Fratto, whose firm, Hamilton Place Strategies, is advocating for fast-track authority for the president. "A win on trade, which is generally popular, can be seen as a bipartisan win, and that would give a boost. Incidentally, a bipartisan win on trade would boost perceptions of Congress, too."

The triangulation machine

Beyond the allure of bipartisanship, trade has given Obama an opportunity to distance himself a bit from his party's base.

It's been the centerpiece of an increasingly vitriolic war between Obama and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren. Warren's status as a heroine of the left naturally makes Obama look more centrist when he fights her, and that may be helpful for him going forward.

Their first big row was over Antonio Weiss, the Obama treasury undersecretary nominee initially blocked by Warren. She wasn't pleased when Obama did an end-run around her by giving him a political appointment that didn't require Senate confirmation. Then came her criticism of Obama's trade agenda, to which he fired back last month by saying she is "absolutely wrong" on the merits. And just this week, Warren wrote a harsh letter to Obama's Securities and Exchange Commission chief, Mary Jo White, accusing her of leaving a trail of "broken promises" in not being a tougher Wall Street overseer.

If Obama were looking for a way to show he's not beholden to his party's base, he could hardly find a better one than fighting with Warren.

Handing over the reins

Obama is fond of reminding people that he's not running for president again. It's not a completely liberating epiphany — the desire to protect and nurture his legacy is reason enough not to just follow every whim.

But it's an important observation in this way: As the 2016 presidential race heats up, Obama will become more of a supporting actor for his party and less its leader. That role will fall to the Democratic nominee for president.

That should free him from some of the overtly partisan work he's done in past election cycles — particularly from raising money for himself and hitting the stump as a candidate while he's running the country.

He should benefit from that, too.

Pataki, Chafee, and O'Malley: No Chance In Hell **// Town Hall // Matt Vespa – June 5, 2015**

What do Martin O'Malley, George Pataki, and Lincoln Chafee have in common? They don't have a chance in hell in winning their party's nomination for president. On the Democratic side, given that Hillary's favorables have taken a plunge, it's no surprise that Chafee and O'Malley decided to follow Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in challenging Clinton (via WaPo):

A once-sleepy Democratic presidential primary contest is fast coming alive as Hillary Rodham Clinton's poll

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numbers fall and a diverse array of long-shot opponents step forward to challenge her.

The recent developments mark a dramatic evolution in the 2016 sweepstakes, which until now has been shaped by the large assortment of hopefuls on the Republican side, where there is no front-runner.

The latest Democrat to enter the race is Lincoln Chafee, a onetime Republican and former Rhode Island governor and senator, who launched his campaign Wednesday in Northern Virginia. Though his candidacy is quixotic, Chafee's sharp attacks on Clinton's hawkish foreign policy record — and in particular her 2002 vote to authorize the war in Iraq — could nonetheless complicate her march to the nomination.

Chafee joins an underfunded and jumbled field of Clinton rivals who see the favorite's coziness with Wall Street and political longevity as weaknesses and who think she is vulnerable to a grass-roots contender who better captures the party's liberal soul.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a fiery populist who identifies as a socialist, has been attracting some of the largest crowds of any candidate from either party as he summons supporters to join his "political revolution."

Truth be told, it's probably going to remain sleepy. Clinton has the money, the organization, the endorsements, and the polling advantage–to the point where she could just ignore her opponents and deprive them of oxygen, especially when it comes to debates.

With Pataki, well, he would have a chance at winning … if he were running to replace Richard Nixon (via FiveThirtyEight):

Ideologically, he's an old-school Republican (i.e., liberal) running in a modern GOP (i.e., very conservative). He is more moderate than any recent Republican nominee and is the most moderate candidate in the 2016 Republican field, according to our aggregated ideological scores. Pataki is, among other things, in favor of abortion rights and gay marriage. He's somewhat of an environmentalist.

(Barely) to the left of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, whose candidacy is all but dead, is not the place you want to be given that a plurality of Republicans believe Christie is not conservative enough.

Pataki's ideological score looks more like Richard Nixon's, and Pataki would probably have had better luck running to replace Nixon rather than President Obama.

According to the General Social Survey, 57 percent of Republicans identified as moderate or liberal in 1974. Since then, that figure has steadily declined to 43 percent in 1994 (when Pataki won the governorship of New York) to only 35 percent in 2014. That's large enough to be part of a winning coalition in a primary, but not enough to win.

But the wonks at Nate Silver's data crunching site aren't just hitting Pataki; they had noted that Chafee's anti-war angle is stale, and that Maryland voters really don't like O'Malley.

On Chafee, they're kind of brutal on his prospects:

The problem for Chafee is that this is 2015, not 2007. Back then, the Iraq War was at the forefront of the public's mind. An April 2007 Gallup survey found that 21 percent of Democrats said the Iraq War was the country's most

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important problem,1 and an additional 13 percent said the “fear of war.” This gave then-Sen. Barack Obama, who spoke out against the Iraq War from the start, a wide opening in his run against Clinton. Among those voters who said the Iraq War was most important, Obama beat Clinton. Clinton beat Obama on the two other major issues (the economy and health care).

Today, few Democratic voters are thinking about Iraq.

In March 2015, just 3 percent of Democrats said the Iraq War was the most important problem in Gallup’s poll. Only 1 percent said the most important problem was the “fear of war.”

Chafee is polling at 1 percent or less nationally and in Iowa and New Hampshire, and there is absolutely no reason to think he will ever be competitive in the Democratic primary.

He also had what’s being called a disaster of a campaign rollout.

As for O’Malley, Clinton sucks the oxygen out his home state numbers, but Bernie Sanders is doing a lot better in Vermont, meaning that while he also doesn’t have a chance in hell of winning the 2016 nomination–he could mount a decent challenge to Clinton. After all, there are enough far lefties in the Democratic base to mount such a campaign; they just don’t have enough voters to win an insurgent campaign yet:

The people who know him best don’t like him. O’Malley is starting way down in the polls, and he’s not well known. And we have evidence that more O’Malley exposure doesn’t equal more O’Malley support. He earned just 3 percent (compared to Clinton’s 63 percent) in a poll of Democratic voters in Maryland conducted in October by The Washington Post and the University of Maryland.

If this strikes you as a surprisingly low percentage for a two-term Maryland governor and former mayor of the state’s most populous city, it should. It speaks to the fact that O’Malley was unpopular enough in deep-blue Maryland that by the end of his second term, Republican Larry Hogan came out of nowhere to defeat O’Malley’s lieutenant governor in the 2014 governor’s race.

Eventual nominees (excluding incumbent presidents) in the modern primary era have always led in early polling in their home states, even when they polled poorly nationally.

O’Malley’s main competitor for second place in the Democratic primary, Bernie Sanders, got 36 percent of the vote and even led Clinton in an October 2014 Castleton Polling Institute survey of Vermonters. That points to a base of support that should allow Sanders to do fairly decently in the primary, even if he has little chance of winning.

There is one silver lining for Pataki, or candidates with his vein of politics; the conservative base of the GOP is shrinking. Only 42 percent of Republicans describe themselves as economically and socially conservative. It’s at its lowest level since Gallup began gauging the party’s base in 2005. Nevertheless, they’re still the largest group representing the Republican Party. The second largest group at 24 percent regard themselves as moderate or liberal on social and economic issues. So, theoretically, there may be some wiggle room for a Pataki candidacy, or one with a similar flavor in the future, but moderates shouldn’t be hoping for any success.

With Pataki, besides his name recognition problem (Pataki left New York’s governor’s mansion in 2006), and the fact that he will probably have zero grassroots support–he’s pro-choice. The Republican base may have seen its conservative cohorts shrink in size, but there’s probably never going to be a presidential candidate from the right that will support abortion rights … ever. As Jonathan Bernstein at Bloomberg wrote, Gary Johnson, Arlen Specter, Pete Wilson, and Rudy Giuliani have all tried to win the GOP nomination with that position and failed.

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Moreover, there's the well-known factor that the 2016 field is already diverse, stacked with solid conservatives (certainly better than 2012) for Republican voters to choose from, instead of wasting their time on a Rockefeller brand name that's been damaged since the Goldwater campaign in 1964.

With the Democrats, I would have to say they should hope that Vice President Biden enters the race. It provides the only avenue for them to attack Clinton effectively on a national stage on live television. Biden will probably poll low in the polls, but you really can't deny debating the VP. And with candidates with similar strength in the polls, there's no good argument for the networks to deny them a spot. After all, the motley crew that is the 2016 Democratic primary isn't as large.

This could all be pipe dreams though. I mean, even on a debate stage, they probably still don't have a chance in hell since no one will abandon Hillary. She isn't talking to the media, but even then; bank on pretty much everyone willing to follow her into the pits of Tartarus, despite the fact that her possible ethical and legal baggage would disqualify anyone running for president.

For Democrats, it's settled. For Republicans, the primary wars are revving up–and Pataki will probably fall mid-way through the first round.

In two minds **// The Economist – June 5, 2015**

A CURIOUS mixture of cockiness and angst grips Democrats as they contemplate the next presidential election season, which—dreadful to relate—is now under way. For their party is at once in a strikingly strong position, and has not looked so weak in years.

Start with the party's strengths. Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, senator and first lady, announced that the first big rally of her campaign for the presidential nomination would take place on June 13th, on an island off Manhattan. The event is certain to be packed out. Mrs Clinton is not just very famous; she enjoys poll leads over every Republican thought to be running for the White House (a pack that looks like growing to 16 contenders).

Democrats now also know that Mrs Clinton will face a contest for the Democratic presidential nomination, allowing her to hone her campaign skills and messages. On May 30th Martin O'Malley (above), a telegenic, guitar-playing former governor of Maryland, launched a challenge to her. He spoke at a sun-dappled event overlooking Baltimore harbour, flanked by artfully chosen representatives of fast-growing voter blocs that twice helped Barack Obama to win the White House, including Hispanics, urbanites and young women. Mr O'Malley was introduced by a young, gay Afro-Latino student without legal immigration status, who thanked him for supporting migrant rights and gay marriage in the state.

Nor are fans of economic populism forgotten. Activists have reluctantly concluded that their heroine, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, is not running, suspending their "Run Warren Run" campaign. But they are rallying to Senator Bernie Sanders, a snowy-haired tribune of the left who began his campaign in earnest on May 26th, and who has been wowing meetings in Iowa.

On paper, then, the party is well-placed to mobilise different elements of the Obama coalition. The so-far-declared Democratic candidates sound in near-lockstep on big progressive causes. All support gay marriage and the right to abortion. They believe that government must tackle climate change, and want millions of migrants currently in America without legal papers to be allowed to stay and eventually enjoy a path to citizenship.

On one day every four years, when the presidency is at stake, the voter blocs of that Obama coalition pose a daunting challenge to Republicans. Whit Ayres, a pollster advising Senator Marco Rubio, a Floridian Republican

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running for president, summed up the problem in a recent book: “2016 and Beyond: How Republicans Can Elect a President in the New America”. Demographic groups that form the core of Republican support—older whites, blue-collar whites, married people and rural residents—are declining as a share of the electorate, Mr Ayres notes. In 2012 Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, picked up 59% of white votes. But he won just 17% of non-white votes. In 2016 America will be still less white, so that even if Republicans match Mr Romney’s performance among whites, they will need 30% of non-white votes to take the White House—a feat the party did not achieve in 2012, 2008 or even in 2004, when George W. Bush, trading on his popularity in Texas, enjoyed the backing of Hispanics in his re-election.

Yet Democrats have serious weaknesses, too. Put bluntly, Mrs Clinton is their only serious candidate for the presidency. The crowd at Mr O’Malley’s launch was neither large nor confident that Maryland’s ex-governor has any chance of overtaking Mrs Clinton. Indeed, many in attendance did not want Mrs Clinton stopped, instead expressing hopes that Mr O’Malley’s entry into the race might simply tug the front-runner a bit to the left. Mr O’Malley drew most applause when he cited claims that big bank bosses would be happy to see Mrs Clinton or Jeb Bush, the former Republican governor of Florida (and a son and brother to presidents) win the White House. “Well, I’ve got news for the bullies of Wall Street,” Mr O’Malley declared. “The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families.” The cheers were mostly venting: a CNN poll on June 2nd showed 60% of Democrats backing Mrs Clinton for the presidential nomination. Her nearest rival, Vice-President Joe Biden, was on 14%, though (especially since the death on May 30th of his son Beau) he shows no signs of running. Mr O’Malley was on 1%.

The CNN poll gives Mr Sanders 10% of the Democratic vote. But activists at Sanders rallies are indulging in a holiday from political reality when they cheer his calls for state-run universal health care, free tuition at public universities and taxpayer-funded elections. That might be a fine platform in France. It is unserious in America (as is the proposal of Lincoln Chafee, a former Republican senator and independent governor of Rhode Island, who launched a Democratic presidential bid on June 3rd, to switch America to the metric system).

Mrs Clinton’s dominance worries even supporters, who know they have few options if she stumbles, or is overtaken by scandals related to her family’s charitable foundation or her use of a private e-mail server as secretary of state, to name just two possibilities. Weeks of news reports probing the finances of Mrs Clinton and her husband, Bill, have already left a mark. Two new polls show sharp falls in the number of Americans who trust her.

In part, Mrs Clinton’s stature explains the Democrats’ lack of a deep bench of swing-state governors or senators with eyes on the presidency. But in part their thin bench reflects a broader weakness in recent non-presidential elections. The reasons are complex. The Obama coalition includes many sporadic voters who skip state and local contests. Lots of Democratic votes are packed inefficiently into super-safe urban districts (many with gerrymandered boundaries). The results are simply brutal. In Washington Republicans enjoy their largest majority in the House of Representatives since 1946, while the elections of 2014 were a bloodbath for Democratic senators in conservative states. Republicans control 69 of 99 state legislature chambers, and 31 of 50 governors’ mansions.

If Democrats are united by their strengths, and on how to woo the Obama coalition, they disagree about how to tackle their weaknesses and win back Middle America. Mr O’Malley and Mr Sanders propose a sharp left turn. Mrs Clinton, by contrast, has been cagey about her views on the policies that divide Democrats. She is right to be cautious. Many numbers favour her party; but many do not.

Iowans Always Complain The Caucuses Are Getting Less Important. This Time They Have a Point. **// Slate / / Josh Voorhees – June 5, 2015**

here’s handwringing in the heartland. Iowa’s political and chattering classes—and, to a lesser extent, its actual voters—are fretting that their first-in-the-nation nominating contest has lost its luster. Dave Price, the political director for NBC’s affiliate in Des Moines, is the latest to give voice to the angst, writing in this week’s Politico Magazine cover story that there’s a “palpable anxiety in political circles—and even rumblings that Iowa’s king-making days might be over, or at least that the national media, and the rest of the country, will pay less heed this cycle.”

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Iowa politicos—like their colleagues in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada—are a particularly nervous breed. They know better than anyone that their early-nominating status translates directly into political chits and campaign cash for themselves and their state party, and that every minute and dollar a presidential candidate spends elsewhere is one that they aren't spending in the Hawkeye State. Still, their fears don't need be altruistic to be accurate.

For Iowans craving the type of caucus clashes that keep candidates and the political press corps camped out in their state for months, there really is reason to worry. Hillary Clinton's continued polling dominance suggests the Democratic frontrunner will probably be able to keep playing things safe in Iowa, as well as everywhere else. Likewise, GOP establishment favorites like Jeb Bush may decide against slugging it out with more conservative candidates in a nominating contest that is dominated by values voters and tea partiers. As the first-in-the-nation nominating contest, Iowa will still matter, but not as much as it did in decades past.

Such campaign cycle-specific headaches, though, are nothing new in Iowa, particularly among Republicans. "Politically speaking, this state is in something of an existential crisis," the Washington Post declared at this point in the last presidential cycle, when it appeared as though Mitt Romney had forgotten where Iowa was on the map. Four years before that, the Hawkeye State's harrumphing was directed at eventual GOP nominee John McCain and his decision to focus the lion's share of his resources elsewhere, an Iowa-ignoring strategy he had deployed with even greater force in the 2000 cycle.

Iowa's real reasons to worry, though, go well beyond 2016. Two long-term game-changers loom large on the horizon. The first is the decision by the Republican and Democratic parties to rein in the number of primary debates. By allowing network execs to use national polls to decide who makes it onto the debate stage and who doesn't, the national parties have effectively created a series of mini-national primaries that will winnow the field long before Iowans have a chance to. The second is the continued rise of super PACs and their dark-money brethren, which have the ability to keep otherwise doomed campaigns afloat far longer than they have any right to be. In primaries past, a poor performance in Iowa or one of the other early-nominating contests would make it mighty difficult for a candidate to raise the type of small-dollar donations he needed to soldier on. That's no longer the case now that a single deep-pocketed patron can cut a seven- or eight-figure check. Iowa, then, might not have the chance to weed out the presidential pretenders in the field, nor the power to force any contenders from the race.

Iowans, though, have little reason to complain. They might be watching their political influence wane, but they and their fellow early-nominating states are still showered with a disproportionate amount of attention and campaign cash. Clinton may be playing hard to get, but Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders have already made more than two dozen visits apiece. Meanwhile, the state still has enough of a Republican draw that Rand Paul—Rand Paul!—felt it necessary to find something to love about its government-subsidized ethanol industry. There is no divine right of kingmakers that will preserve the Iowa Caucus forever, but as long as it remains the first contest on the calendar, it will always get to hold court.

GOP

BUSH

Jeb readies for upcoming road trips **// Politico // Eli Stokols – June 5, 2015**

Jeb Bush's coy game of pretending there's still doubt as to whether or not he'll run for president is ending with a bang — two weeks of aggressive travel and campaigning.

After releasing a new website Thursday morning signaling a June 15 campaign launch, Bush will spend his final week as an unofficial candidate meeting with European leaders in Germany, Poland and Estonia in a trip designed to bolster his foreign policy credentials and give greater definition to his argument that the U.S. should be doing more to help its allies.

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The expected announcement would make Bush the 10th declared candidate in the Republican primary.

From Miami, Bush will depart for what's being billed as the "Jeb Announcement Tour." He'll spend the week cycling through the early voting states: Tuesday in Derry, New Hampshire; Wednesday in Pella, Iowa; and Thursday in Charleston, South Carolina.

Bush's oldest son, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, will hold an event Saturday in Henderson, Nevada; while Jeb Bush will not be there, he'll make his first official campaign stop in the Silver State on June 27. The last time Bush visited Nevada, in mid-May, he accidentally stated during an interview with a local TV station that he's running for president — before correcting himself.

While national polls show Bush near the top of the deep GOP primary field, polls in the early states show that he has work to do, especially in Iowa, where he's only made two trips so far this year and currently polls in seventh place.

Memo to Jeb Bush: Avoid foreign quagmires **// CNN // Stephen Collinson – June 5, 2015**

Jeb Bush is Europe bound. High on the travel agenda: steering clear of the pesky foreign quagmires that have engulfed his GOP brethren on recent trips abroad.

The former Florida governor will visit Germany and also tour Estonia and Poland -- two former Soviet states that offer an easy platform for criticism of the Obama administration's policy towards Russian President Vladimir Putin.

It should be an easy mission for an accomplished politician -- a quick flit across the pond to bolster foreign policy credentials ahead of a likely presidential campaign.

But Bush should choose his words with care if he is to avoid extending a dubious streak that has seen Republican candidates tumble into controversy overseas.

Mitt Romney, the 2012 presidential nominee, endured a disastrous trip to Europe three years ago and committed a huge gaffe by questioning Britain's readiness to host the London Olympic Games on the eve of their taking place.

Romney tried to roll back his criticism but was openly mocked in front of a huge crowd by London Mayor Boris Johnson in unflattering video footage that was beamed back to the United States.

Romney also went to Poland and suffered the indignity of reporters yelling at him to answer for his missteps -- before a top campaign aide was caught on camera telling the press pack to "kiss my a**."

Romney's disastrous sojourn earned him the unwelcome headline "Mitt the Twit" in the merciless British tabloid press.

This election cycle has not been kind to potential presidential candidates who venture across the Atlantic either.

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Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal also managed to irk Johnson when he claimed in January that some areas of Europe, including parts of Britain, had become Muslim "no-go zones."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, meanwhile, found out earlier this year that answering questions abroad about boiling political issues back home can also get you into trouble.

Christie said that parents should have a "measure of choice" about whether to vaccinate their kids, drawing charges that he was equivocating to appease evangelical conservatives.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker made his own trip to London this year and dodged a question on whether he believed in evolution -- and managed to steer clear of deeper distractions by avoiding questions on pretty much everything else.

Perhaps wisely, Bush is avoiding London, where journalists like nothing more than tripping up visiting American presidential candidates.

Had he braved the wrath of the British media, Bush would likely have faced unwelcome questions about his brother, former president George W. Bush, and the Iraq war, both of which remain deeply unpopular in the U.K.

His visit to Germany will recall then-Sen. Barack Obama's trip to Europe during the 2008 presidential campaign, which saw him deliver a soaring speech before a crowd of hundreds of thousands euphoric Germans in downtown Berlin.

But even Obama, who was wildly popular in Europe, didn't escape controversy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was apparently annoyed at his campaign's request for him to speak before the iconic Brandenburg Gate, where President Ronald Reagan once cried, "Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Obama did not get that privilege until his second term, in 2013, by which time he was much less popular in Europe and, as a consequence, drew a much smaller crowd.

Jeb Bush's struggle with conservatives **// MSNBC // Chuck Todd & Mark Murray – June 5, 2015**

Jeb is struggling with conservatives more than Romney did at this same point four years ago: Our colleague Dante Chinni notes in the Wall Street Journal that Jeb's standing with conservatives is WORSE than Mitt Romney's in the 2012 cycle. Consider:

Jeb's fav/unfav with conservatives: 33%-28% (April 2015 NBC/WSJ poll)

Romney's fav/unfav with conservatives: 40%-14% (June 2011 NBC/WSJ poll)

Jeb's poll position with conservatives: 3rd (April 2015 NBC/WSJ poll)

Romney's poll position with conservatives: 1st (June 2011 NBC/WSJ poll)

Jeb Bush Facing Crucial Two-Week Stretch **// Bloomberg News // Michael Bender – June 5, 2015**

When Jeb Bush returns next week from Estonia, the tiny, technologically advanced country that shares a border

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with Russia, he'll have about 48 hours to shake off the jet lag before a June 15 rally in Miami, where he formally announces his decision to enter the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

That will be the midpoint of a crucial two weeks in which Bush will first try to establish his foreign policy credentials, and then introduce himself to voters. The week before his campaign launch, the former Florida governor travels to Germany, Poland and Estonia; the week after, he will be stumping in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

In case there's any doubt what Bush will be announcing later this month, his spokeswoman Kristy Campbell offered this Thursday: "Governor Bush is thankful for the support and encouragement he's received from so many Americans, and is excited to announce his decision."

"The Bush kids have had a chance to have a front-row seat in history."

Bush's "decision" will come just two days after Hillary Clinton holds her much-ballyhooed first campaign rally in New York City. But if there were any concerns about sharing the spotlight with the other political dynasty in the race—or about the quick transition from Europe to a campaign announcement at Miami Dade College's Theodore Gibson Health Center (a complex that includes a 3,200-seat gymnasium)—they may have been overridden by other scheduling issues.

The fact is, Bush has waited so long to make it official that he's running into a bit of a calendar crunch: The last week of June is expected to bring highly anticipated U.S. Supreme Court rulings on Obamacare and gay marriage, both decisions that have the potential to dominate the political news cycle and force candidates off message as they respond. Then comes the long Independence Day holiday weekend and the start of family vacation season. And then, the first Republican presidential debate in Cleveland on August 6. To have any chance of getting a ticket to be on stage, a candidate has to be officially in the race.

Before Bush becomes the 11th major Republican candidate in the race, he'll have a chance to polish his foreign-policy résumé with a week in Berlin, Warsaw and Tallinn, Estonia. It's the kind of opportunity that some of his potential Republican rivals haven't been able to seize, especially the governors among them.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has curiously claimed that President Reagan's firing of air-traffic controllers who went on strike in 1981 was the most important foreign policy event of the past five decades (and wrongly said the move influenced U.S.-Russian relations).

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie refused to answer questions about foreign policy issues while traveling to England in February. Asked by a Washington Post reporter during the trip about the terrorist threat from Islamic State, Christie said, "Is there something you don't understand about 'no questions'?"

Foreign policy prompted Bush's one major gaffe in the seven months since he served notice in December that he was serious about running for president.

In an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly on May 9, Bush said he'd have authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq even knowing the intelligence was faulty. Bush struggled for the next week to give a clear answer, finally saying on May 14 that he "would not have engaged" in Iraq, knowing what he knows now.

"That's one that shook a lot of people," a Bush fundraiser who requested anonymity to speak about private conversations told Bloomberg. "That's a question you know was coming. It should have been a slam dunk and gone, and it didn't happen that way. But even the most professional of these guys stumble from time to time."

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Bush has also incorrectly claimed that the Islamic state didn't exist when his brother, George W. Bush, was president, and that al-Qaeda had been wiped out.

But expectations for Bush should be high.

A fluent Spanish speaker who lived in Venezuela before entering politics, Bush led trade and advocacy missions to at least 18 countries as governor, including Peru and Israel, as well as a six-day trip in 2005 that included stops in Dusseldorf and Munich, two of Germany's largest cities.

As a former senior advisor to London-based Barclays PLC, Bush says he traveled overseas 89 times to 29 countries in the eight years after leaving office. Last year, Bush started an investment fund with backing from a Chinese conglomerate. He has said he had been traveling about four times a year to China, where his father, George H.W. Bush, served as U.S. ambassador before being elected the nation's 41st president.

"The Bush kids have had a chance to have a front-row seat in history," Bush said at a Republican National Committee rally during his father's 1992 re-election bid. "We've seen the tumbling of the Berlin Wall, the hammer and the sickle going down from the Kremlin on Christmas Day just a few years ago. We've seen so many incredible things happen."

In Berlin, Bush will participate in a question-and-answer session during an economic conference on June 9, where he'll have a prime speaking slot sandwiched between Google Inc. Chairman Eric Schmidt, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel supports the nuclear negotiations with Iran that Bush opposes, but Bush's father remains very popular in the country because of the role he took promoting German reunification while he was in the White House. Outside the former president's library in College Station, Texas is a statue of horses leaping over pieces from the Berlin Wall, a Cold War relic that came down during his term in the White House. Germany unveiled its own monument in Berlin in 2010, known as the "Fathers of German Unity," that includes bronze busts of Bush, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

That legacy may help Bush counter the one left by his brother. The nation's 43rd president remains generally disliked in Europe because of his aggressive foreign policy and unpopular war in Iraq, said Alexander Privitera, a senior fellow at at the Johns Hopkins American Institute for Contemporary German Studies.

While Europeans are "going to be looking for signs of whether he's similar to his brother," Privitera predicted that "there won't be thousands protesting against Jeb Bush. A lot of people will associate him with memories that are overcharged with emotions."

In Poland, Bush will participate in a roundtable with the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, a pro-democracy, free-market group, and meet with senior members of the Polish government about efforts to support Ukraine.

In Estonia, where the Internet phone service Skype was born and where residents can vote and pay their taxes online, Bush will participate in a roundtable discussion about transatlantic security with the International Center for Defense and Security, a group focused on cyber attacks, social cohesion and energy policy in the Baltic-Nordic region. Bush will also tour NATO's Cyber Defence Center of Excellence, and meet Estonians from the e-Estonia Showroom, a briefing center that highlights the country's digital successes.

Bush called Estonia "this really cool, tiny country" during a speech in Florida on Wednesday. He held up the Baltic

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nation, population 1.3 million, as an example of a relatively simple tax code.

"You can fill out your tax return in Estonia online in five minutes," Bush said. "That should be a worthy aspiration for a great nation."

RUBIO

Rubios on the Road Have Drawn Unwanted Attention **// NYT // Alan Rappeport & Steve Eder – June 5, 2015**

Senator Marco Rubio has been in a hurry to get to the top, rising from state legislator to United States senator in the span of a decade and now running for president at age 44.

But politics is not the only area where Mr. Rubio, a Republican from Florida, has an affinity for the fast track. He and his wife, Jeanette, have also shown a tendency to be in a rush on the road.

According to a search of the Miami-Dade and Duval County court dockets, the Rubios have been cited for numerous infractions over the years for incidents that included speeding, driving through red lights and careless driving. A review of records dating back to 1997 shows that the couple had a combined 17 citations: Mr. Rubio with four and his wife with 13. On four separate occasions they agreed to attend remedial driving school after a violation.

Mr. Rubio's troubles behind the wheel predate his days in politics. In 1997, when he was cited for careless driving by a Florida Highway Patrol officer, he was fined and took voluntary driving classes. A dozen years later, in 2009, he was ticketed for speeding on a highway in Duval County and found himself back in driver improvement school.

Things got more complicated in 2011 when Mr. Rubio was alerted to the fact that his license was facing suspension after a traffic camera caught him failing to stop at a red light in his beige Buick. His lawyer, Alex Hanna, paid a $16 fee to delay the suspension and eventually it was dismissed.

County records show Senator Marco Rubio and his wife, Jeanette, have been cited for numerous driving incidents over the years.

"Senator Rubio's license has always been in good standing," Mr. Hanna said in a statement provided by Mr. Rubio's campaign. "This matter was resolved by the court system and at no point was the license suspended by the D.M.V."

That was not the last time Mr. Rubio was ticketed. In 2012 he was caught failing to obey a stop sign, but the infraction was dismissed.

Ms. Rubio's driving record is even messier.

According to the records, her driver's license faced suspension on three occasions, including after a 2009 episode where she was driving a white Cadillac at 58 miles per hour on a road in West Miami with a speed limit of 35 m.p.h. She paid a $302 fine and agreed to attend a four-hour course at a local traffic school.

However, Ms. Rubio, who also took a four-hour basic driver improvement course after a careless driving incident in 2000, failed to complete the class and had to pay another $34 penalty.

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The lessons apparently did not stick. A year later, in 2010, she was stopped for driving 23 m.p.h. in a school zone where the speed limit was 15 m.p.h. She was fined $185.

It is not clear how the numerous infractions have affected the Rubios' car insurance policy or premiums. On at least one occasion, Ms. Rubio was cited for lacking documentation that her car was insured.

The Rubios have spent more than $1,000 paying traffic penalties over the years, but after Mr. Rubio was elected to the Senate in 2010 they took a different approach to handling their tickets.

Mr. Rubio hired Mr. Hanna, a Miami-based lawyer and donor, whose website sales pitch says, "Have you received a traffic ticket? Don't pay it." With Mr. Hanna's help, Mr. Rubio's last two citations were dismissed and seven of Ms. Rubio's last eight were cleared.

Mr. Rubio's campaign had no comment on the traffic violations or whether Ms. Rubio's license was ever actually suspended.

And not all accidents become police matters. Earlier this year, Ms. Rubio, a former cheerleader for the Miami Dolphins, sideswiped a Porsche Panamera while driving her husband's Ford F-150 truck to a donor event at the Delano Hotel in Miami Beach. According to the Miami Herald, the police declined to take a report on the incident because it was a "minor" fender bender.

If Mr. Rubio is fortunate to make it as far as the White House, there will be many perks that come with the job. Chief among them, however, might be having a driver.

Marco Rubio's Iraq quagmire deepens: This is what a foreign policy wonk looks like? // Salon // Simon Maloy – June 5, 2015

For someone who is running for the White House based on his supposedly sterling foreign policy credentials, Marco Rubio seems to have trouble forming coherent thoughts when it comes to Iraq. A few weeks ago, Rubio offered up a thoroughly nonsensical answer to whether he'd have supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq, explaining that he would have done it, but also that he wouldn't have done it, but also that the invasion was totally worth it. And just yesterday on Fox News, he served up this beautiful nugget of incoherence on what he'd like to see happen in Iraq (courtesy of Business Insider):

Here's the transcript:

RUBIO: The most immediate responsibility we have is to help them build a functional government that can actually meet the needs of their people in the short and the long term. And then ultimately, from that we would hope it would spring—

FOX NEWS HOST: That sounds like nation-building.

RUBIO: Well, it's not nation-building. We are assisting them in building their nation. We have a vested interest in doing that.

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The nice part about this is that you don't have to go through the trouble of refuting it – Rubio did that himself. He wants the U.S. to help build a functional government in Iraq, but it's not nation-building, it's just helping them build a nation. That's not his Iraq strategy, it's just the strategy he's formulated for Iraq. It's brilliant.

Rubio is a straight-up neocon, but usually he is a bit slippier when it comes to endorsing George W. Bush's foreign policy without actually copping to its many, many failures. What he said on Fox News yesterday doesn't make sense on any level, but it does undermine his foreign policy vision. By calling for a renewed commitment to nation-building (or whatever he wants to call it) he's acknowledging that the many lives, years, and billions of dollars we devoted to our last nation-building effort didn't work. But President Rubio will do it better this time because he's not nation-building, he's "assisting them in building their nation," or whatever.

So that was bad, but Rubio wasn't quite done stomping all over his own foreign policy views. Like most Republicans, Rubio believes that we had actually "won" the war in Iraq by the time Bush left office, but then Barack Obama came in and withdrew all the troops and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. He tried making that argument yesterday on Fox News and said something dumb:

RUBIO: What happened in Iraq under this administration is they rallied around Maliki. Maliki was the Shia leader who used his power to go after Sunnis. And that created the environment that was conducive for ISIS to come back in and create all these problems.

It was actually the Bush administration that first "rallied around" Nouri al-Maliki as prime minister of Iraq and propped him up as the country spiraled out of control. The troop "surge" that Rubio and his allies are so enamored of was implemented so that Maliki would have political space to promote reconciliation between warring factions within the Iraqi government. Maliki squandered that opportunity and instead used it to consolidate his own power and crack down on his rivals.

In the Rubio worldview, however, the fault for Maliki's abuses lies solely with Obama. He argues that Obama should have left behind a small residual force of U.S. troops (that the Iraqi government refused to accommodate) to intimidate Maliki into not being the corrupt, petty despot that he was. That doesn't make a whole lot of sense, given that Maliki wouldn't be brought to heel even when U.S. troop presence in his country was at its height and he was under intense diplomatic pressure from the Bush White House.

But that's the heart of the Rubio foreign policy position: the neocon dream of nation-building works, just so long as you don't call it nation-building and completely disregard all the very recent evidence of it not working.

Ted Cruz Labels Walker, Rubio And Jeb As 'Moderate' **// The Daily Caller // Alex Pappas – June 5, 2015**

Ted Cruz, describing political strategy in a recent newspaper interview, labeled Republican presidential frontrunners Scott Walker, Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush as "moderates" in the primary contest.

Speaking to the Raleigh News & Observer ahead of a weekend visit to North Carolina, Cruz said: "I think Walker and Rubio will become the chief moderate rivals for Jeb Bush in that bracket."

Walker of Wisconsin and Rubio and Bush of Florida would all contest the characterization that they aren't conservative. That's the bracket the Texas senator says he best represents.

"I think my natural bracket is the conservative/Tea Party bracket which is about 25 percent of the typical Republican primary," Cruz said.

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Cruz also told the paper that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and South Carolina Sen. Lindsay Graham also fit into the “moderate” bracket.

Same-sex marriage advocates pose 'real and present danger' to Christianity, Sen. Marco Rubio warns //
Christian Today // Marvie Basilan – June 5, 2015

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has denounced supporters of same sex-marriage, saying they pose a "real and present danger" to Christianity.

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network last week, Rubio said gay marriage advocates are bound to attack the tenets of the Christian faith to justify their cause.

"Today we've reached the point in our society where if you do not support same-sex marriage you are labeled a homophobe and a hater," said Rubio, a Republican Party candidate for president in the 2016 election.

"After they [same-sex marriage supporters] are done going after individuals, the next step is to argue that the teachings of mainstream Christianity, the catechism of the Catholic Church, is hate speech. That's a real and present danger," Rubio said.

Rubio contended that his Catholic faith is the one driving his policy positions on social issues, including gay marriage. He said he and his family once dabbled in Mormonism and the Baptist church but later felt the call to revert back to Catholicism.

Rubio's view on same-sex marriage appeared to be tied to his views on traditional families.

"The family is the original cell of society," Rubio said. "It is the first and most important government. It is the first church. The family is the singular most important institution in society. It existed before government. It existed before laws."

In a separate interview last month, Rubio said same-sex marriage has "no federal constitutional right." Nevertheless, he said he would be present at a gay wedding of someone dear to him.

Much earlier, Rubio said during a CNN interview that if the Supreme Court grants same-sex marriage in all states, "that would be the law of the land that we would have to follow until it's somehow reversed."

Since then, Rubio appeared to have sided more firmly with those opposed to same-sex marriage.

Though his move may bring him closer to the evangelicals of Iowa and South Carolina, some political pundits said his apparent change of heart could have little effect on his candidacy as it came at a time when the Republicans appeared to be losing hope in winning the battle over gay marriage as more states in the US are joining the bandwagon to legalise same-sex marriages.

Nevertheless, Rubio said he is ready to oppose same-sex marriage not only in the United States but worldwide. "If America doesn't lead, what happens? Well, what happens is chaos," he said.

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Regardless of his views on gay marriage and other issues, Rubio said he is leaving everything to God and the American people in choosing the next president of the United States.

PAUL

Rand Paul: "We Shouldn't Do Things to Prevent People from Voting" // Bloomberg News // David Wiegel – June 5, 2015

On Thursday, at a speech in Texas, Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton made her first sustained attacks on her potential Republican opponents. She wanted to make voter registration basically automatic, to extend 20 days of early voting in all 50 states, and for Republicans to "stop fear-mongering about a phantom epidemic of election fraud." Among others, she singled out Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush for, respectively, making registration harder and overseeing a flawed purge of voter rolls.

On Friday, some of Clinton's targets swatted her right back. "I don't want to expand [registration] and increase the opportunities for fraud," New Jersey Governor Chris Christie told CBS News during his latest New Hampshire trip. "Maybe that's what Mrs. Clinton wants to do."

Yet hours later, also in New Hampshire, a Republican presidential candidate who rarely passes up a chance to scorch Hillary Clinton took a softer tone on her voting rights pitch.

In a scrum with reporters after opening the first New Hampshire campaign office of any 2016 GOP candidate, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul said he had not seen Clinton's speech, but noted that he had "tried to make it more inclusive so more people can vote." Paul, who has co-sponsored legislation that would lower the bar for ex-felons who want to vote, recounted how he'd testified to restore some Kentuckians' rights. "I've actually lobbied for allowing people to get their right to vote back."

Asked specifically about Clinton's early voting and automatic registration ideas, Paul did not push back. Rather, he suggested that the states need to lead the way.

"I'm not against early voting," Paul told Bloomberg. "I grew up in Texas, where we have early voting, and we're a dominant Republican state -- so I don't think it necessarily favors one party over the other. Each state should decide that. The Constitution and the history of the legal cases has been pretty clear that each state gets to determine the time and manner of the elections. I wouldn't have the federal government interfere and tell any state how to do it. The Fourteenth Amendment, I think, allows the government to get involved if there is a racial bias. I am fine with the federal government intervening in those cases."

Automatic registration, said Paul, was "sort of [up to] time and manner" of the states, as well. "I think each state has their own registration -- and I think Oregon just mails it to you, which I think is a bad idea," said Paul. "You ought to confirm who you are. I'm not against there being a little bit of effort, but we shouldn't make it hard. We shouldn't do things to prevent people from voting, but we shouldn't do things that encourage lapses in the system that allow people who aren't legitimate voters."

Paul had been tripped up by this topic before. In 2014, he suggested that a Republican push for voter ID requirements was "offending" some non-white voters. He has not used that language since. In April, he told an interviewer that "motor voter" laws were problematic because they might let non-citizens get ID cards, usable at the polls. "People tell me that once you get a driver's license you can vote," he said. "That's a problem. The federal government is funding some of this motor voter stuff, so we're looking at ways that we could actually restrict federal funds and say you don't get it unless you're doing the cross tabs on this data."

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Pressed by NH1 reporter Paul Steinhauser at his Manchester campaign headquarters opening, Paul refused to say whether his party was making voting more difficult. "I don't know," he said. "All I know is what I'm trying to do, and I think it's a good idea for the Republicans to be a party that is for the vote, that is for allowing people to vote."

WALKER

Is Gov. Scott Walker putting the University of Wisconsin system in jeopardy? // WaPo // Valerie Strauss – June 5, 2015

Are Gov. Scott Walker and the Wisconsin legislature on their way to doing serious harm to the respected University of Wisconsin system?

Let's review.

Walker, who is expected to soon announce his candidacy for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, has laid out a series of proposals for the system over the next two years, including budget cuts as well as changes to tenure and the governance structure. He calls the package of changes "the Act 10 of higher education," a reference to a 2011 law that, among other things, slashed the power of public employee unions, cut the take-home pay for many public workers and eliminated tenure for teachers.

The governor proposed slashing $300 million over the next two years from the University of Wisconsin system, which is comprised of 13 four-year universities and 13 two-year campuses. A legislative committee went along with his idea to cut higher education funding, but only by $250 million — not much of a reprieve. It is worth noting that Wisconsin is already spending less on higher education than all of its Midwestern neighbors and, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, is one of only six states that have approved or are considering reducing higher education funding for the next fiscal year.

Walker had also sought to create a new "quasi-governmental" body that would run the university system rather than have it under direct state control, but lawmakers nixed that. They are, however, supporting his proposed changes to tenure and the long-successful University of Wisconsin shared governance structure that critics say could turn the system into a pariah in academia.

Specifically, the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee has approved a bill that would move tenure from state statute into the purview of the governing Board of Regents. University administration would be able to fire or lay off faculty or academic staff not only for financial emergencies and just cause, as it now the case, but also "when such an action is deemed necessary due to a budget or program decision regarding program discontinuance, curtailment, modification, or redirection." Not only would it be much easier to lay off faculty but administrators would also have control over decisions involving academic programs and curricula that are now accorded to faculty.

While members of the governing Board of Regents have said publicly that they would still "uphold tenure," faculty say that the law would take precedence over any board policy. On Thursday night, a board panel voted to go along with the proposed tenure change, and it is likely to be approved by the full legislature in June, the Journal Sentinel reported.

The newspaper quoted Tony Evers, a regent and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, saying that if the legislature approves the broad language in the proposed change, "Tenure will be gone as we know it and I think it's a step backward for our relationship with faculty members." Just like for K-12 teachers.

A statement Tuesday issued by the Public Representation Organization of the University of Wisconsin Faculty Senate said:

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"If such language is passed by the full Wisconsin legislature, it will cripple the UW's ability to attract and retain quality employees, devalue the educational credentials of future UW graduates, and create new financial challenges for the UW System."

The University of Wisconsin system has long enjoyed shared governance among faculty, students and administrators, a dynamic that these changes would shatter. The New York Times wrote in this story:

Yet in academic circles nationwide, there was concern this week that the proposed changes in Wisconsin could bolster the forces pushing universities to operate more like businesses, eliminating departments or courses that do not attract many students or much research money.

"Increasingly, the excuse of financial difficulty has been used as a reason to overpower the faculty, with a lot of people in administration saying we need to be flexible," said Henry Reichman, vice president of the American Association of University Professors. "If you just took the Wisconsin language on eliminating tenure, and moved it from the statute into board policy, you could argue that there would be no problem. But the shared governance change seems to undermine the whole structure."

This Journal Sentinel story on the controversy quoted Rudy Fichtenbaum, president of the American Association of University Professors, as saying that many politicians don't understand tenure:

"Tenure is about protecting academic freedom, not a guaranteed job for life. Protecting academic freedom is important to protecting the public interest. ... Without academic freedom, the university will be there to serve the interests of whichever political party is in power. The regents are appointed by the governor, and they determine priorities."

Earlier in the year Walker created a related controversy when he submitted a budget proposal that included language that would have changed the century-old mission of the University of Wisconsin system — known as the "Wisconsin Idea" and embedded in the state code — by removing words that commanded the university to "search for truth" and "improve the human condition" and replacing them with "meet the state's workforce needs." Walker was recently sued by a nonprofit watchdog group alleging that he is refusing to make public documents relating to the mission change effort.

The fierce debate over Republican plans for higher education in Wisconsin dovetail with changes in K-12 education that the state superintendent said will decimate public schools by refusing to spend more money on public education for the first time in more than 20 years while giving millions of dollars more to expand a private voucher program, slashing higher education funding, and weakening licensing rules for teachers.

Walker would sign budget with no borrowing for roads **// AP // Scott Bauer – June 5, 2015**

Gov. Scott Walker, who steadfastly opposes raising taxes or fees to pay for roads, would sign a state budget that includes no borrowing for highways and other transportation needs in Wisconsin, resulting in significant delays to ongoing and planned projects, his spokeswoman said Friday.

While that is not his preferred option, Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said if the Legislature decides to remove $1.3 billion in borrowing the governor proposed, Walker would sign it.

That's a "pretty stark concept," said Rep. John Nygren, co-chairman of the Legislature's budget-writing committee.

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Assembly Speaker Robin Vos first publicly voiced the possibility of doing away with the borrowing on Wednesday, saying that would be an option since Walker refuses to consider raising the gas tax or vehicle registration fees. Vos offered the idea to Walker in a private meeting that day, which was also attended by Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald.

"When Speaker Vos floated the idea of the Legislature removing all bonding for transportation from the state budget, it was communicated that this would have a devastating impact on the transportation fund and transportation projects across the state as a ripple effect," Patrick said in an email.

Without the $1.3 billion, every road project would likely be affected: from megaprojects like the Zoo Interchange in Milwaukee, the Interstate 39/90 expansion from Madison south to Illinois, the I-94 expansion from Milwaukee south to Illinois, as well as other state highway work, bridge repairs and freight rail maintenance, according to information provided by Walker's office.

Nygren, a Republican from Marinette and co-chairman of the Joint Finance Committee, said he doesn't want to delay roads projects because that will only put greater pressure on lawmakers in two years to figure out a way to deal with the pent-up demand.

Nygren and other Republicans have talked about reducing the level of borrowing by between $300 million and $800 million.

Republican lawmakers and Walker are at an impasse, and the budget remains stalled over it. Nygren described negotiations on transportation funding as "a little bit of a stare off at this time."

Another outstanding issue is whether to repeal of the state's prevailing wage law - which sets salaries for workers on public works jobs - or just scale it back. And a financing deal to pay for a new Milwaukee Bucks arena reached with Walker, Milwaukee officials, Republican legislative leaders and team owners was just released Thursday.

Both the prevailing wage and arena issue could be decided outside of the budget, but transportation funding must be included in the two-year spending plan.

Regarding the Bucks deal, Nygren and other Republicans have said they want to give the public, and lawmakers who must approve it, time to understand it before rushing to a vote.

"There's no real big sense of urgency to get this to Joint Finance," Nygren said.

The Joint Finance Committee originally planned to complete its work last Friday, but the Republican-controlled panel did not meet this week and it has no meetings scheduled for next week.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker fires up NC GOP **//The News & Observer //Taylor Knopf – June 5, 2015**

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker kicked off the North Carolina GOP state convention Friday night in a packed Raleigh Convention Center ballroom.

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Walker spent most of the day in Raleigh, speaking to a Civitas Institute donor crowd, doing TV media interviews at the state legislative building and celebrating National Doughnut Day with Lt. Gov. Dan Forest at Raleigh's downtown Krispy Kreme.

During his speech at the convention, Walker gave his pitch for why he would be a good candidate for president.

The governor said that of the large number of great Republican candidates there are two groups: fighters and winners.

The fighters he defined as those in the U.S. Senate who fight hard but have yet to win anything. The winners he defined as current and former governors, who are good at winning elections but have not consistently fought the big fights.

"If we were to get into this race, it would be because I think there is a yearning in America for someone who can fight and win for hardworking taxpayers," Walker said.

"We have fought the good fight and won those fights, not just at the ballot box three times in four years in a blue state, but more importantly we have won every single one of those fights we engaged in."

Walker has not formally declared his candidacy but said he would announce his intentions after Wisconsin passes its state budget.

Walker hit on his usual three-point vision for the future of the United States – growth, reform and safety – while sharing some of his accomplishments as governor of the Badger State.

Economic growth occurs when government steps aside and empowers the people, Walker said.

"People like Hilary Clinton think the way you grow the economy is by growing Washington," he said. "The rest of us in reality need to tell Washington that true growth happens in cities and towns and villages all across this great country. People create jobs, not the government."

Since Walker took office, he said unemployment went from 9.2 percent in 2010 to 4.6 percent this spring.

He said reform should be measured by how many people are no longer dependent on the government. And safety is how Walker refers to issues of national security.

"National security is something you read about in the newspaper, safety is something you feel," he said.

Walker said that the biggest safety threat is radical Islamic terrorists and that it is only a matter of time before there is another attack on American soil. The nation needs a leader who has the courage to take the fight to the enemy before it comes here, he said, receiving standing applause from the 600-plus members of the dinner crowd.

With front-row seats, Alex Kehayes, a commissioner on the Chowan County Board, said he favors Walker because of "his record to get a lot done with massive opposition."

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"It's early in an open race, but the fact that someone shows up, looks me in the face and talks to me goes a long way," Kehayes said, showing a picture of himself with Walker from earlier.

Ed Higgins, from New Hanover County, said he hopes Walker becomes the Republican nominee.

"Governorships better prepare individuals for the hard decisions presidents make, unlike being a senator," Higgins said. "He stands up to unions and takes the hard fight to them, but at the same time he carries the favor of his constituents, as shown when he was re-elected after they recalled him."

An expected 1,800 to 2,000 Republicans from around the state traveled to the capital to hear the N.C. GOP's speakers.

Saturday will feature U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, and a few Tar Heel speakers including Gov. Pat McCrory, Forest, House Speaker Tim Moore, Sen. Thom Tillis and Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry.

The convention will wrap up Sunday morning with a prayer breakfast and Dr. Ben Carson.

Carson and Cruz are officially running for president in 2016, and Walker is widely expected to run as well. Recent media reports suggest Trump may enter the crowded field for the GOP nomination.

The N.C. GOP will also elect new state-level leadership, which occurs every odd year. The party will vote in a new state chairman who will represent the state at the Republican National Convention.

At the state convention, candidates are nominated and voted on by county delegates, which will take place after the 2 p.m. speakers Saturday. The three candidates who ran campaigns for state chairman are Craig Collins, AJ Daoud and Hasan Harnett.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz Wonders About Jeb Bush's Viability **// NYT // Maggie Haberman & Kitty Bennett – June 5, 2015**

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas has said he will not take shots at his Republican rivals for the presidency, but on Thursday he questioned descriptions of Jeb Bush as a "front-runner" and wondered whether Mr. Bush could win an early state in the nominating contests.

Mr. Cruz, who declared his 2016 presidential candidacy in March, made the comments in an interview with the Fox News host Neil Cavuto. Mr. Cavuto asked if Mr. Cruz had to win one of the first three states — Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — to be viable.

"If you look historically since World War II, no one has ever won the nomination without winning at least one of those first three," said Mr. Cruz, who was a policy adviser on George W. Bush's first presidential campaign in 2000.

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“That has certainly been history. You know, I think it’s an interesting challenge for a number of other of these candidates.”

He continued: “The media describes, for example, Jeb Bush, frequently, as the front-runner. It becomes an interesting question when you ask, which of those states does he win?”

Mr. Cruz added that he would compete “vigorously” in all of those states. He did not directly answer a question about whether he would compete in Florida, home to both Mr. Bush and another contender, Senator Marco Rubio. But he said he was competing nationwide.

The remarks about Mr. Bush come as he is on the cusp of becoming a formal candidate, after months of a sometimes-difficult exploratory phase. Mr. Cruz has raised large sums for the “super PAC” supporting him, but he has been standing in place in most of the polls.

Ted Cruz's problems with Latinos run deeper than his policy positions // Reuters – June 5, 2015

n a less diverse Republican presidential field, Ted Cruz, the make-good son of a Cuban immigrant, would be viewed more for what he is — a candidate with a legitimate shot at making U.S. history as the nation’s first Latino president in 2016.

Instead, the senator from Texas finds himself in a strange position as he sees himself eclipsed both by Senator Marco Rubio, also a Cuban-American, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, a fluent Spanish-speaker married to a Mexican-American, as early favorites among Hispanic Republicans who could play an increasingly influential role in the nomination process.

To Latinos, Cruz often feels more like an afterthought. And while that’s largely attributed to his hard-right stance on immigration reform, prominent Hispanic conservatives offered insight as to why his problems with Latinos run deeper. Rubio, they said, has embraced his ethnic identity in a way that Cruz, who speaks little Spanish, has not or will not.

“At times, Senator Cruz finds it difficult to identify or engage with his Latino heritage,” said the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, a key conservative group that Bush addressed in April.

"He does not elevate or magnify his Latino voice in the same way Marco Rubio does."

Said Javier Palomarez, the CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, an organization of Hispanic business leaders. "Rubio speaks the language. Both are sons of immigrants, but one has held onto the culture and language.”

A SHIFTING ELECTORATE

Hispanic voters could matter in this year’s Republican presidential race like never before. Nevada, with a one-quarter Latino population, holds the third Republican primary on the calendar, with contests in Colorado and Texas not far behind.

Because no clear front-runner has yet to emerge, the nominating process could stretch longer than usual and involve more states, meaning that the traditional early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina, which

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largely have white Republican electorates, will hold less sway.

More than that, it's critically important for the party to attract Hispanic voters, something it failed to do in 2012, when Mitt Romney garnered a meager 27 percent of the vote in the general election.

Rubio's pollster, Whit Ayres, estimates the party will need to garner at least 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2016 to win, as the share of America's white electorate declines.

That's one reason Cruz's campaign insists it is not ceding any ground in the effort win over Latinos.

"Hispanic outreach is going to be very important to him," said Catherine Frazier, Cruz's spokeswoman.

Cruz, in fact, has released Spanish-language ads and has a Spanish-language website. He has said his message will be built around "faith, family, patriotism, and hard work."

His campaign told Reuters that it has hired one staffer dedicated to Hispanic outreach and will be using Cruz's Cuban father, Rafael, as a surrogate to speak to Hispanic faith groups.

CULTURAL CRITIQUE

Cruz isn't the first minority candidate to face questions from his community about his cultural bona fides. In 2007, at just this stage of the race, Barack Obama's campaign endured a bevy of stories centered on the question of whether the Hawaii-born son of a Kenyan father and white American mother was "black enough" to be the first African-American president.

Obama ultimately transcended those doubts and drove black voter turnout to record levels. Cruz may face a tougher road in garnering Hispanic support, not only because of the presence of Rubio and Bush in the field, but because of his arms-length approach to his cultural identity.

While Rubio stayed in Miami immersed in the Spanish-speaking Cuban exile community, Cruz, born in Canada, settled in Houston with his father and mother of Irish-Italian descent, Eleanor, and quickly was assimilated into American culture.

Rafael Cruz strongly believed his family should speak English. Cruz, whose first name is also Rafael, went by Ted, and attended evangelical schools. "I'm Cuban, Irish and Italian, and yet somehow I ended up Southern Baptist," Cruz has joked.

Unlike Rubio, who has made his Cuban-American heritage a centerpiece of his campaign, Cruz seems more comfortable presenting himself instead as a blunt-talking Texan — down to the cowboy boots he wears with his suits — than as a self-identified Hispanic.

"When people in Texas think of Ted Cruz, they don't immediately think Hispanic," said Hector de Leon, a lawyer in Austin, Texas active in Republican politics. "When people in Texas think of Hispanic, they think south of the border, not someone with a Cuban father, an Anglo mother, who was born in Canada."

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Despite the Spanish-language ads by Cruz's campaign, Hispanic activists say his inability to directly speak to the estimated 35 million U.S. Hispanics who speak primarily Spanish is a major disadvantage in this race.

“Jeb Bush and Rubio — they can be on Univision one minute and CNN the next,” said Daniel Garza, executive director of the conservative LIBRE Initiative in Miami.

Cruz’s campaign rejects the idea he is limited by language in connecting to Latino voters. “Many first and second-generation Hispanics grew up in similar households,” Frazier said.

Mexican Illegal Immigrant Holding CellJohn Moore/Getty ImagesUndocumented immigrants wait in a holding cell at a U.S. Border Patrol processing center for people detained near the U.S.-Mexico border on September 8, 2014 in McAllen, Texas. The sign, written by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), reads 'Keep Calm and Wash Your Hands.'

IMMIGRATION WORRIES

Garza, like many Hispanic conservatives who spoke to Reuters, was quick to praise Cruz’s intellect, but it was clear that Rubio or Bush was their first choice. And, to be sure, the major reasons are political, not cultural. Cruz’s stance on immigration is viewed by many Hispanics across the political spectrum as unduly harsh and inflexible.

“You get the sense that there is very little room for persuading Ted Cruz on anything,” Garza said. “There is some room where Ted could soften up a little and you get the sense that he won’t.”

Cruz was an ardent opponent of the 2013 immigration bill co-sponsored by Rubio. And although Rubio, under pressure from conservatives, eventually turned against the bill as well, he appears to be getting credit from Latinos for trying to push toward a solution to the nation’s immigration crisis.

As part of his outreach effort, Cruz addressed the U.S. Hispanic Chamber in April, arguing that the Republican Party is the natural home for voters who value entrepreneurship, family, and self-reliance.

But that approach belies polls that show a majority of Hispanic voters favoring a path to legal status for illegal immigrants, support for Obama’s signature healthcare plan, and government social programs. That means that whoever the Republican nominee is, be it Cruz, Rubio, Bush, or someone else, they will face an uphill battle in convincing Hispanics to defect from the Democrats, who enjoy a large monopoly on their vote.

The chamber’s Palomarez gives Cruz credit for coming before his group. But he adds, “I think he’s got a long way to go to convince people that he understands the Hispanic experience and that he understands the Hispanic voter.”

Ted Cruz: Campaign and super PAC have raised more than $40 million // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 5, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said this week there is now more than $40 million raised between his presidential campaign and a group of super PACs supporting his candidacy.

Mr. Cruz, who became the first major Republican candidate to jump into the 2016 presidential race back in March, said candidates will need both grassroots support and money to win the nomination.

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“I think for anyone to be a serious candidate, he or she is going to need to raise at least $50 million between now and South Carolina, and I think there are only a handful of candidates who have a prayer of doing so,” he said on Fox News’ “Your World with Neil Cavuto.” “Right now, between our campaign and the super PAC, we’ve raised over $40 million, we have shattered records.”

He said in the first week of the campaign, the campaign itself raised $4.3 million with more than 50,000 contributions from all 50 states and said that the collection of super PACs supporting him have already raised more than $37 million.

Mr. Cruz predicted former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has set a June 15 date for an announcement on his 2016 plans, is going to “shatter” fund-raising records and raise “way north” of $100 million.

“Among the donors, he is Mick Jagger and the Beatles roiled into one,” Mr. Cruz said. “But you got to get actual, real [live] primary votes, and in my experience, grassroots plus money will beat a whole lot more money just about every day of the week.”

“When you get beyond Jeb Bush, there are only a couple other candidates who I think have the potential to raise the funds it’s [going to] take to run a nationwide campaign — not a Hail Mary in one or two states — but a nationwide campaign,” Mr. Cruz said. “That’s what we’re doing, and that combination of grassroots plus donor support, small dollar, large dollar, the business community, all coming together fed up with the corruption in Washington and wanting to get back to basic free market principles and our constitutional liberties.”

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie: Hillary Clinton is clueless on voter fraud **// CBS News // Jake Miller – June 5, 2015**

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie doesn't think much of Hillary Clinton's recent proposals to expand access to the ballot box.

Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, accused Republicans in a speech on Thursday of trying to depress turnout among voting blocs that typically side with Democrats by passing restrictive voter identification laws and other measures. She singled out Christie for vetoing a bill that would have expanded early voting hours in his state.

"She doesn't know what she's talking about," Christie told CBS News' "Face the Nation" in an interview that will air on Sunday. "In New Jersey, we have early voting that are available to people...I don't want to expand it and increase the opportunities for fraud. And maybe that's what Mrs. Clinton wants to do. I don't know. But the fact is that the folks in New Jersey have plenty of an opportunity to vote."

Christie then pivoted to take a dig at Clinton for limiting her interactions with the media. "Maybe, you know, if she took some questions some places and learned some things, maybe she wouldn't make such ridiculous statements," he said.

Clinton has argued that the "voter fraud" Republicans claim they're trying to prevent simply doesn't happen - that Republicans are proposing solutions in search of a problem.

"She's never been to New Jersey, I guess," Christie said in the interview, which will air in full on Sunday.

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In her speech, Clinton said the recent push for voting restrictions is part of a "sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other." She called for automatic voter registration and at least 20 days of in-person early voting time in states across the country.

Clinton declared her 2016 candidacy in April. Christie has said he'll make a final decision on a bid by the end of June.

Gov. Christie attacks Hillary Clinton on voter registration // The Record // Salvador Rizzo – June 5, 2015

Governor Christie went on the attack against Hillary Clinton on Friday, saying the Democratic presidential candidate is calling for an expansion of voter registration because “she just wants an opportunity to commit greater acts of voter fraud.”

Christie was responding to comments Clinton made Thursday in a speech in Houston. A Republican likely to announce a presidential run this month, Christie began the day greeting breakfast patrons at a New Hampshire diner and spoke briefly with reporters afterward, saying he “was not worried about her opinion.”

Former Secretary of State Clinton called for same-day voter registration across the country and said Republican governors including Christie were on “a crusade against voting rights,” blocking minorities from being able to vote. She mentioned that the New Jersey governor had vetoed a bill to allow early voting 15 days before an election at designated polling places, and also criticized GOP officials in Florida, Texas and Wisconsin.

“Secretary Clinton doesn't know the first thing about voting rights in New Jersey or in the other states that she attacked,” Christie said. “My sense is that she just wants an opportunity to commit greater acts of voter fraud around the country.”

Christie will be in Franklin, N.H., later on Friday for a roundtable discussion about drug rehabilitiation with local officials. It is his seventh trip to New Hampshire this year. Christie told reporters he plans to announce whether he's running for president this month.

Chris Christie rips Rand Paul, critics of Patriot Act // The Boston Herald // Chris Cassidy – June 5, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie ripped Sen. Rand Paul and other Patriot Act critics last night as self-serving, opportunistic grandstanders during a town hall here last night.

“What you’re being told about these programs is flat out wrong, and they’re being told to you because the folks that are telling you have an agenda to promote themselves politically,” said Christie, who’s considering entering the crowded GOP presidential field. “If they had any experience, like I do, they’d know, we’re not violating anyone’s civil liberties.”

Christie has frequently touted himself as the only potential candidate who has used the Patriot Act to prosecute and convict terrorists when he was U.S. attorney of New Jersey.

“They’d make you believe there are people every day listening to your conversation between you and your mother. Unless your mother is a terrorist, I don’t care,” Christie said. He argued that Congress made America

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“weaker and more vulnerable” by passing the USA Freedom Act and ending the government’s bulk collection of data.

After the town hall, Derry Republicans presented Christie with a commemorative plastic potato, in honor of the town’s claim to be the first place in North America the starchy crop was planted.

Christie attempted to sign it but dropped it instead.

“I can’t believe after all those questions, I fumbled the potato,” said Christie.

Here on a two-day trip, Christie also spoke at a fundraiser for Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas. Today, he will greet patrons at the Corner View Restaurant in Concord followed by a roundtable at a recovery center in Franklin.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former Maryland Gov. Bob Ehrlich are all due in New Hampshire today. Paul will continue with events all weekend, while Democratic contender Bernie Sanders will hold a town meeting Saturday, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry — who just launched his campaign yesterday — will attend a series of cookouts on Sunday.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush announced yesterday he will make “an announcement” — likely a campaign launch — on June 15 in Miami. He will then set out on the “Jeb Bush Announcement Tour” with New Hampshire as his first stop the next day.

PERRY

Rick Perry promises to ‘do something’ about student debt. But what did he do in Texas? // WaPo // Danielle Douglas-Gabriel

In announcing his bid for president Thursday, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry made a play for the millions of Americans contending with the high cost of college.

"I know you face rising health care costs, rising child care costs, skyrocketing tuition costs, and mounting student loan debt. I hear you, and I am going to do something about it," Perry told a crowd of supporters Thursday.

Perry's record on this subject as governor was mixed. He called on colleges to set tuition caps, and broadened access to higher education for undocumented immigrants. But some education officials in Texas say Perry's policies did more to add to the burden of student debt than relieve it.

As governor of the Lone Star state for 14 years, Perry supported hundreds of millions of dollars in spending cuts for public universities. To offset lower funding from the state, colleges in Texas raised tuition, leading more students to borrow to cover expenses.

"His overall record on accessibility to higher education was poor," said Clay Robison, a spokesman for the Texas State Teachers Association, which fought Perry's cuts to education budgets. "And primarily poor because of the cuts in funding and financial aid."

When Perry became governor in 2000, Texas provided about $7,791 per college student, below the national

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average of $8,717 but largely in line with many other states, according to data from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.

Three years later, state appropriations started to slip in Texas, just as college enrollment crept up. Rather than set aside more money for the universities, Perry opted to deregulate college tuition, taking away the legislature's power to set prices and giving it to the schools. The average cost of tuition and fees at Texas public universities increased by 90 percent within a decade of that decision, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

While other states slashed higher education budgets during the 2008 economic recession, Texas, buoyed by a strong energy sector, made marginal increases in student spending. That ended around 2011 as years of tax cuts caught up with state and led to an $18 billion deficit.

Although the state had $6 billion in reserves to help plug that shortfall, Perry left the money untouched and imposed across the board cuts. He signed off on $1.2 billion in cuts to higher education in the 2012 budget.

Still, the governor did call on universities to lock in tuition at a flat rate for four years and cap the cost of degrees at $10,000. Perry spokesman Travis Considine pointed out that 13 schools adopted the pricing cap.

"Governor Perry led the charge in making higher education more accessible and affordable for more Texans," Considine said, in an e-mail. "During Gov. Perry's leadership, enrollment in Texas colleges and universities increased by 50 percent, with Hispanic enrollment increasing by 118 percent."

Perry took a lot of heat from his party when he backed a law allowing undocumented college students in Texas to pay in-state tuition. The law still stands and has been credited with an increase in enrollment.

While Robison of the teachers association applauds Perry for taking a stand on the issue, he said it does not negate the fact that under Perry, college in Texas has become less affordable.

"Many of those Hispanic students who have enrolled in school are first-generation college students, who are heavily dependent on student aid. The cuts have really hurt their prospects," he said.

Over the course of Perry's tenure, state higher education spending per student fell 11 percent, which is less than the national average drop of 24 percent during that time. Texas upped its spending by $350 per student before Perry left office, but critics say it was too late to reverse the pricing trends.

Nearly two-thirds of Texas students in 2013 were borrowing to pay for school and graduating with an average $25,244 in debt, a little below the national average but much higher than the prior generation, according to data from the Institute for College Access & Success.

It has become politically advantageous for presidential hopefuls to at least acknowledge the burden that $1.3 trillion in student debt has placed on millions of Americans.

Republican contenders, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, have framed the issue as a barrier to economic mobility. And Democratic candidates Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley are advocating for debt-free public college, a plan party front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton has yet to weigh in on.

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There are 40 million people with education debt in this country. Almost two-thirds of student loans are held by people younger than 39, while Americans age 40 to 59 hold another 30 percent, according to the New York Federal Reserve. That's a pretty significant part of the electorate.

Rick Perry Borrows Elizabeth Warren's Message, but Does It Fit? // Bloomberg News // David Weigel – June 5, 2015

Toward the middle of former Texas Governor Rick Perry's presidential announcement speech, a listener could be forgiven for thinking the TelePrompTer had been switched out. All of a sudden, Perry was speaking the language of populist critics of Wall Street, people like Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

"The American people see a rigged game, where insiders get rich, and the middle class pays the tab," said Perry. "There is something wrong when the Dow is near record highs, and businesses on Main Street can't even get a loan. Since when did capitalism involve the elimination of risk for the biggest banks while regulations strangle our community banks? Capitalism is not corporatism. It is not a guarantee of reward without risk. It is not about Wall Street at the expense of Main Street."

Just seconds later, Perry had moved on to the need for tax cuts–"we have the highest corporate tax rate in the western world"and the big guy/little guy paradigm was shunted aside. Yet it was not new. Perry had been grasping for a message like this since leaving the governor's office. In an April 6 speech at the Citadel, in South Carolina, Perry said cryptically that "we need to reduce taxes and regulations, and bring prosperity to Main Street and not just Wall Street."

"When corporate leaders make bad mistakes, they need to be held accountable."

How far was he going to go? On Morning Joe Friday, co-host Mika Brzezinski tried to figure out Perry's message by starting with its political risk. (The green rooms of cable news are overflowing with wealthy people who will predict doom for anyone criticizing finance.)

"You're not saying anything right now that is, you know, going to insult anybody that you need politically?" asked Brzezinski.

"You're talking about, like Wall Street?" Perry asked. "I think–I don't think–I hope I don't insult anybody. I hope what I say is, here's what needs to change. If Wall Street–I don't believe there's anybody too big to fail. I think we made a huge mistake when we passed too big to fail. I said that with GM publicly back in–whenever that was like in 2009, when they were trying to get their deal through and I said I'm not for that. And GM's got a manufacturing facility in Texas. But use the bankruptcy laws. When corporate leaders make bad mistakes, they need to be held accountable, whether they're on Wall Street or whether they're on Main Street."

Co-host Joe Scarborough gave that an approving "yeah." Yet Perry had criticized TARP -- what he appeared to be referring to as "too big to fail" -- before. And before, it had been pointed out that as co-chairman of the National Governors Association, Perry called on "Congress to leave partisanship at the door and pass an economic recovery package." Since then, he has insisted that this was not an endorsement of the bill before Congress, but a statement of support for doing something-or-other in a tough time.

Since 2009, jujitsu-ing the TARP vote to portray Democrats as the party that does Wall Street's bidding has been a reliable Republican tactic. In the Tea Party wave of 2010, it helped tremendously that voters often confused the 2009 stimulus package with the 2008 TARP bill, thinking of them as one monstrous giveaway that did not benefit them personally. In 2015, Warren and Sanders et al argue that the largest banks should be broken up. Perry won't or can't go that far, so he ends up stuck in 2009.

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With one difference. Elsewhere in the launch speech, Perry made a short reference to reports that community banks were reeling under the regulations of the 2010 financial reform bill. "For small businesses on Main Street struggling to just get by, smothered by regulations, targeted by Dodd-Frank: I hear you, you're not forgotten," said Perry. "Your time is coming." Not unlike Hillary Clinton, Perry was trying to speak the language of populism without saying anything that would convince a Wall Street donor that he was truly under threat.

Rick Perry hits back at Hillary Clinton over voter ID // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 5, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Friday hit back at former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who criticized Mr. Perry and several other of her potential 2016 GOP rivals on Thursday over the issue of voting rights.

"I think it makes sense to have a photo ID to be able to vote," Mr. Perry, who announced Thursday he is running for president in 2016, said on "Fox and Friends." "When I got on the airline to come up here yesterday I had to show my photo ID."

In a speech at Texas Southern University, Mrs. Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential front-runner, had called Mr. Perry out by name on the issue, as well as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

"Here in Texas, former Governor Rick Perry signed a law that a federal court said was actually written with the purpose of discriminating against minority voters," she said. "He applauded when the Voting Rights Act was gutted and said the law's protections were outdated and unnecessary."

Mr. Perry contended that Mrs. Clinton was taking on the people of the state of Texas with her remarks.

Asked if he's discriminatory, Mr. Perry said: "No, not at all."

"And actually, the people of the state of Texas is who she's taking on, because that was a law that was passed by the people of the state of Texas," he said.

Mrs. Clinton went into his home state and "dissed every person who supports having identification to either get on an airplane or to vote," he said.

Mr. Perry also said any insinuation that he doesn't want minorities to vote is untrue.

"As a matter of fact, when you look across the state of Texas and you see what [we've] done in that state to really empower minorities — as a matter of fact, the highest high school graduation rate for African-Americans in America is in the state of Texas," he said. "The highest Hispanic graduation rate is in Texas. Those are empowerments ... and they want to be protected when they get on an airplane as well."

Perry Kickoff Generates Buzz, But Not in Key States // Real Clear Politics // Matthew Disler – June 5, 2015

During this period, 422,000 people generated 763,000 interactions, a term Facebook defines as likes, posts,

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comments, or shares. These numbers represent a substantial rise in interest for Perry; over the previous 90 days, an average of only 32,000 unique Facebook users have discussed the Texas governor each day.

However, compared to other candidates, traffic for the former Texas governor is only in the middle of the pack (based on post-kickoff numbers). On the low end, in the day after their respective announcements, George Pataki drew 81,000 interactions from 59,000 unique users; Rick Santorum received 266,000 interactions from 169,000 unique users; and Carly Fiorina recorded 515,000 interactions from 304,000 unique users. Similarly to Perry, 458,000 people generated 814,000 interactions for Mike Huckabee.

However, Perry created less social media buzz than Ben Carson, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, and even Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, who each enjoyed more than 1 million interactions in the 24 hours after they formally declared their candidacy. Ted Cruz had 5.5 million interactions, and Hillary Clinton had 10.1 million.

The Facebook data also indicate that Perry may encounter some difficulty in early primary states, none of which were in the top five regarding interactions about the governor. Rather, the states with the most discussion of his candidacy were his home state, three bordering states (Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas), and Washington, D.C. (which Facebook includes as a state in its measurements). Perry, like most other candidates, will likely need to perform well in the early-voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina if he hopes to stay in the race and ultimately secure the nomination.

In his announcement speech, the Texan sought to highlight his economic and foreign policy goals, and social media users appear to have picked up on those priorities. Perry stated that he would freeze Obama-era regulations and lower corporate taxes to increase job creation, adding that in Texas, “we were the engine of growth because we had a simple formula: control taxes and spending, implement smart regulations, invest in an educated workforce, and stop frivolous lawsuits.” He also said he would pursue a more aggressive strategy against Iran and ISIS and declared that the president’s decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq was a mistake. In accordance with these emphases, the top two themes regarding Rick Perry mentioned by Facebook users in the past week were foreign policy and the state of the economy.

The social media trends underscore the uphill battle Perry faces, as already evidenced by his poor showing in national polls: Not only did several of his opponents generate more interest when they announced, his national image still smarts from the gaffes that ended his 2012 campaign. His support among Republican primary voters currently stands at 2.7 percent in the RealClearPolitics average, placing him below most of his opponents but narrowly qualifying him – at this time – for the first GOP presidential debate on Aug. 6, which is only open to the top 10 candidates.

Welcome Back, Rick Perry: Will 2016 Be Different Than 2012? **// Forbes // Neil Assur – June 5, 2015**

About four years ago, when Rick Perry initially declared himself a nominee for the United States presidency, he immediately vaulted onto the scene as a Republican front runner. Polls reflected Mr. Perry’s popularity: his favorability numbers surpassed that of his chief competitor, Mitt Romney, and by late August, Mr. Perry had taken a decisive lead in “vote share” (the share of the vote each candidate can expect to gain). This rapid success was to prove equally ephemeral, however. Within months, Mr. Perry’s vote share numbers had declined precipitously, and, by the time of the Iowa caucus, Mr. Perry was all but dead. He finished fifth in Iowa and last in New Hampshire before dropping out of the race entirely.

Although that chapter may have closed, apparently the story is not yet over.

Yesterday, Rick Perry officially declared himself, once again, a candidate for president. Although the move is not shocking, it nonetheless begets the question: can Mr. Perry actually win this time around?

The consensus across the media seems to be one of skepticism. After all, the Perry campaign’s complete obliteration in 2012 was nothing short of historic: no other candidate has ever lost a lead the size of Mr. Perry’s in

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so short a period of time. Many, understandably so, have focused on Mr. Perry's poor debate performance and gaffe-riddled campaign as the basis of this collapse. Indeed, a highlight reel of Mr. Perry's campaign would be littered with cringe-worthy material, starting with a nonsensical, rambling criticism of Mitt Romney in a debate(Mr. Romney's response: "Nice Try") and ending with perhaps the most disliked YouTube video of all time in which Mr. Perry compared homosexuals serving in the military with children celebrating Christmas. Of course, in between would be the most famous, and perhaps most representative moment of Rick Perry's campaign summed up in one word: Oops.

Clearly, if Mr. Perry hopes to achieve any form of success in this campaign, he will have to be more savvy with the way he handles debates and public appearances. However, obscured by Mr. Perry's solecisms is a more deep-seated, pressing issue: are Mr. Perry's views compatible with America? Little attention has been paid to the fact that, last time around, Mr. Perry alienated voters with his beliefs as well as his blunders. By the end of his campaign, only 7% of voters identified Mr. Perry's views as most similar to their own. When Mr. Perry proclaimed Social Security a "Ponzi Scheme," almost three times as many people believed that view would hurt his chances of being elected president rather than help it. Among social issues, such as religion and abortion, Mr. Perry scored even worse: a woefully low 6% of voters thought Mr. Perry would do a good job reflecting their social views. By comparison, Mitt Romney, who many claimed lost the presidential election because of his stance on social issues, scored more than three times better.

What does this mean for the Rick Perry of 2016?

The good news is, voters can be fickle. As it stands right now, Mr. Perry trails only Chris Christie, Mike Huckabee, and Jeb Bush in awareness among Republicans, and has cause for optimism with a relatively solid 0.73 Favorability-Awareness ratio. Mr. Perry, unlike his 2012 campaign, has also had a lot of time to prepare himself for this race. Finally, Mr, Perry has assembled an impressive staff, including Forbes opinion editor Avik Roy, that should prepare him for a deep run.

That said, Mr. Perry does face a significant challenge in re-inventing himself. If he is to appeal to mainstream American voters, he must do more than avoid the gaffes: he must tone down his religious zeal and focus more on issues, such as health care, jobs, and entitlements, which moderate-conservative voters seem to care about. Although this will not be easy–especially given his very conservative, religious background–it is likely the only way Mr. Perry can reverse his fortunes from 2012.

GRAHAM

Ronald Perelman Puts Financial Clout Behind Lindsey Graham **// NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 5, 2015**

When Hillary Rodham Clinton left the State Department in 2013, one of the earliest meetings she held was with an old friend, Ronald O. Perelman, the cosmetics billionaire and a major political donor.

Yet Mr. Perelman has emerged on the national finance committee list rolled out by Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina senator seeking the Republican nomination for president.

Mr. Perelman, a frequent boldface name in gossip columns and philanthropy, was also a major supporter of Senator John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee in 2008. Mr. McCain and Mr. Graham are close allies.

"Lindsey Graham understands America's leadership role in promoting an enduring peace on the global landscape," Mr. Perelman said in a statement released by the senator's campaign. "With conflicts raging in the Middle East and around the world that threaten the security of America and our allies, we need leaders with strategic purpose and moral clarity to confront these crises."

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Mr. Perelman's backing gives some noteworthy validity to the long-shot campaign of Mr. Graham, a party establishment figure who is also a foreign policy hawk.

Jeffrey R. Immelt, the chairman and chief executive of General Electric, is also listed as a co-chairman of the Graham finance committee.

Mr. Perelman has given to Mr. Graham in the past. But other potential candidates have been courting him over the last year. In August 2014, Mr. Perelman hosted Mr. McCain and Chris Christie, the governor of New Jersey and a likely presidential candidate himself, at his home in Wainscott, N.Y., in the Hamptons.

A person briefed on Mr. Perelman's decision, who requested anonymity to speak about private discussions, said that Mr. Perelman wasn't simply donating to Mr. Graham out of friendship.

He wants to "ensure a robust discussion on critical foreign policy issues," the person said, referring to negotiations with Iran on its nuclear energy program and to the United States' relationship with Israel.

Lindsey Graham Offers Straight Talk With a Southern Twang // TIME // Phillip Elliott – June 5, 2015

Sen. Lindsey Graham was a frequent travel buddy on John McCain's Straight Talk Express. The South Carolina Republican hopped on and off buses, jumped into motorcades and was among the 2008 GOP nominee's most trusted advisers on his plane. He was such a frequent voice inside the McCain inner-circle, he was endearingly lumped in with Sen. Joe Lieberman as one of the Three Amigos.

As his own his White House hopeful now, it should come as no surprise that Graham sounds a bit like his pal McCain. The hawkish retired Air Force officer is cracking jokes, taking all unscripted questions from anyone who shows up and is challenging even his own party's orthodoxy. The 59-year-old Republican is polling in single digits and is running as though he's perfectly fine there, as long as he can run a campaign as his own man. He is trying to build support in the early-nominating states even though the first debate's cast will be chosen by national polls. As one Republican who is not working for a White House bid brands it: "Straight Talk. With a Southern Twang."

Graham launched his campaign this week with a pitch to Republican voters that promises a strong military, defense of social safety nets and unflinching honesty. He is sharing the story about raising his teenaged sister after both parents died. He is running his campaign as a referendum on President Barack Obama's tenure as the leader of the U.S. military. "They deserve a Commander in Chief better than they have today," Graham said Friday as he met with GOP activists in West Des Moines, Iowa.

But he has challenges far steeper than McCain. For one, no one knows Graham outside the cable networks' booking departments. He is competing for the nomination against candidates who have run before, such as Rick Santorum and Mike Huckabee, or have dynastic help, such as Jeb Bush and Rand Paul. He struggled to attract national attention and he lacks a national fundraising machine. "Help me pay for it," Graham joked after an audience watched a promotional video. And, like McCain, he backed overhauls to the nation's immigration system that drew a backlash from conservatives in his party, earning him the name "Lindsey Grahamnesty," as he relates, chuckling.

On a personal level, there are also similarities. The same flashes of impatience break through, such as Friday when Iowa Gun Owners challenged him on his procedural vote on background checks and pressed him on a donation to his political machine from gun control advocate Mike Bloomberg. His acerbic one-liners mirror McCain, who repeatedly said in 2008 that he looked into Russian President Vladimir Putin's eyes and saw his former spy agency's acronym: KGB. Graham tweaks that line: "I've been telling Putin 'you're a thug' and he's never let me

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down." And he has unflinching faith in the military's ability to crush the United States' enemies: "I am going to unleash the American military and I am going to kick their ass."

Graham is betting his campaign can tap into the same constituencies that powered McCain to the nomination in 2008. He is campaigning with veterans groups this weekend and announced military advisers to a packed room in Iowa on Friday. He is hoping seniors turn out for him, based on promises to defend Social Security for older Americans. And he is casting himself as an everyman, the first in his family to graduate from college and the son of small business owners. "Please understand who you are voting for," Graham says.

Graham is even looking at McCain's pals, turning to McCain's new configuration of the Three Amigos. When Lieberman retired, McCain and Graham swapped him for Kelly Ayotte, a first-term Senator from New Hampshire. She, Graham is telling audiences, would be his Attorney General.

Why Lindsey Graham matters **// The Economist – June 6, 2015**

THE really inspiring thing about Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who on June 1st announced a bid for the Republican presidential nomination, is "his message that the whole world is going down the tubes". That was the slightly bleak endorsement offered by Stephen Young, a retired business-owner looking on when the senator launched his campaign in Central, the blink-and-you-miss-it country town where he grew up.

Mr Graham's ability to project gloom about American weakness in a nasty world resonates with a lot of folks, Mr Young and his wife Linda explained. More important, the couple hopes that the senator's hawkish foreign-policy views rub off on Republican rivals, because they do not actually believe that their hero can win his party's nomination. "We're with him all the way," Mr Young beamed, before adding: "It may be a very short run."

There was a lot of that sort of double-edged praise in Central. Mr Graham offered rhetorical red meat to fans gathered in front of the tiny former pool hall and bar where his parents brought him up. He thundered that "radical Islam is running wild". He charged both President Barack Obama and some Republicans with wanting to disengage from the world, rather than heeding Ronald Reagan's doctrine of "peace through strength". His audience, full of snowy-haired pensioners and flag-clutching military veterans, cheered. Yet an unscientific straw poll found just one person who believed that the senator could win the Republican primary in South Carolina, let alone his party's nomination. A broad consensus was that Mr Graham was a fine man doomed by his habit of working with Democrats on issues such as immigration.

Many in Central placed themselves to the right of the senator on the subject of the 11m people thought to be in the country without legal papers. Since being elected to the Senate in 2002, Mr Graham has backed several immigration bills that would bring such migrants from the shadows and offer a path to citizenship. He was accused of proposing a "Grahamnesty" for illegal immigrants, and more than once hardliners mounted primary challenges for his seat. Each time Mr Graham survived, beating back Tea Party types who call him an establishment sell-out and libertarians who think him a war hawk (his best friend in the Senate is another interventionist, John McCain).

On a national level Mr Graham barely registers in early presidential polling. Yet fans at the Graham launch were only half-right when they call him a long shot for the White House, whose distinctive role will involve speaking out on foreign policy. He is a long shot. But the Republican field is full of security hawks quoting Reagan. Though it might seem paradoxical, Mr Graham's really distinctive contribution could involve teaching more timid rivals how to advance sensible views on immigration, without being driven from office by the far right.

Mr Graham's survival in South Carolina offers several lessons. The first is that even deeply conservative places are not monolithic. South Carolina peach-farmers, for instance, are both powerful and desperate for migrant labour, because their delicate fruit cannot be picked by machine (and locals dislike the work). In recent years some evangelical Christian pastors have joined business leaders in publicly backing immigration reform, citing biblical injunctions to welcome strangers and preserve families. Most voters in South Carolina hate the idea of rewarding law-breakers. But most also know that 11m people cannot be rounded up and deported without turning

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the country into a “concentration camp”, says Dale Sutton, a Southern Baptist pastor who has spoken out for reform. Thus they know that some sort of compromise is unavoidable.

A second lesson is that Mr Graham has never run from his beliefs, being certain that voters hate hypocrisy more than a difference of opinion. That makes him both braver and cannier than such rivals as Jeb Bush, a former governor of Florida who is also expected to run for the presidency. In 2012 Mr Bush supported a pathway to citizenship for undocumented migrants, then in 2013 called the granting of citizenship an undeserved “reward” for bad conduct. More recently Mr Bush has started saying that migrants need a path to some kind of legal status, “not necessarily” involving the status of citizen. Mr Graham shuns such flip-flopping. Without any chance of citizenship, millions would be left living out their lives as “the hired help”, he told USA Today in May. “That’s not who we are.”

Bolder and blunter

Mr Graham is more outspoken than another rival for the presidential nomination, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who was a Senate ally on immigration until he faced a conservative backlash. Now Mr Rubio says that voters cannot tolerate even a “conversation” about legalisation until they believe the border is impregnable. Mr Graham calls Mr Rubio’s “enforcement-first” stance impractical. Comprehensive immigration reform cannot be done by one party alone, he has told interviewers: and Republicans will struggle to win the White House if they continue to sound hostile to Hispanic voters. Yet in Mr Graham’s (persuasive) analysis, congressional Democrats will never give Republicans what they want on border security without knowing what is on offer for those 11m migrants in limbo.

Mr Graham’s bluntness points to a final lesson. For a vocal minority of Republicans, his candour about immigration disqualifies him. But most voters weigh politicians in the round. Because they know the senator has very conservative views on foreign policy, gun rights, abortion and more, most Republicans in South Carolina forgive him when they disagree. That is probably not enough to sustain Mr Graham outside his home state, where he is more vulnerable to attacks based on sound-bites. But if he emboldens Mr Bush or Mr Rubio to face down the anti-immigrant hard right, he may yet do his party historic service.

Iowans question Graham's gun rights history **// The Des Moines Register // Linh Ta – June 5, 2015**

At U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's first town hall meeting since announcing his run for president, Graham assured the audience he was in favor of gun rights, after Aaron Dorr, director of Iowa Gun Owners questioned his past votes.

"Check me out. Check my rating with the NRA. Come to my house. I will show you my AR-15," Graham said.

At the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines Friday, Graham was questioned about his vote approving Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch in April 2015 and confirming Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan in August 2010. He was also questioned about confirming Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in 2009, as well as a $250,000 contribution from Michael Bloomberg in 2014, who has long been an advocate for gun control.

"We have grave concern about his history of supporting and sponsoring gun control legislation," Dorr said. "He knows how to take a question and spin it. None of what he says changes what he did."

Graham said he has a history of supporting gun rights, including a vote to continue allowing assault rifles and no magazine limits following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown in 2012.

"If you think we can get all the people we want and we can't get any of their's, you're making a mistake," Graham said. "If you want a conservative judge, you better elect a conservative president."

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Graham also touched on his military background. Graham served active duty in the United States Air Force between 1982 and '88, and he said his experience makes him the best-suited Republican in the field to serve as commander-in-chief. He said the United States needs to invest more into its military and into combat groups like the Islamic State.

"You may be tired of fighting radical Islam," Graham said. "They are not tired of fighting you."

Graham also introduced the members of his veterans coalition for his campaign, including Lt. General Ron Dardis, Aviation Command Sgt. Major Chris Fox, Brigadier General J. Daniel McGowan, Brigadier General Steve Bogle, Col. Ron Randazzo and Lt. Col. Mike Olson. Bob Holliday, chairman of the board for the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum in Johnston, is also on the committee.

Presidential candidate compares Hillary to Kim Jong Un // NY Post // Marisa Schultz – June 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton found herself compared Thursday to North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, a despot who has never had to worry about an election result.

Republican South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham made the comparison during a Fox News Channel appearance, where he criticized Clinton for running a campaign where she routinely shuns questions from the press.

“Well, it’s easier to talk to the North Korean guy than it is to her,” Graham said.

“At the end of the day, when 57 percent of people don’t trust you, you’ve got a problem.”

Clinton faces 10 official Republican challengers — and counting — who have wasted no time going after the Democratic front-runner.

She hit back in Houston Thursday afternoon in a fiery speech calling for automatic universal voter registration at age 18, a 20-day window for early voting and restoration of Voting Rights Act protections to make it easier to vote.

The former secretary of state also criticized Republican competitors for their “crusade against voting rights,” citing several by name, but not Graham.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee: Hack exposes Obama’s weakness on China // The Hill // Cory Bennett – June 5, 2015

The pilfering of 4 million federal workers' personal data highlights President Obama’s inability to defend America from overseas powers, Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee said Friday.

"What will it take for the White House to do its job?” asked the former governor of Arkansas. “What will it take for the Obama administration to wake up and defend America?”

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Huckabee made his remarks the day after the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) revealed it had suffered a massive data breach, at least the second at the agency over the last year.

U.S. officials have said they suspect China is involved, seeking information for a broad cyber espionage campaign targeting high-ranking officials.

Huckabee thinks Obama's inability to stand up to China has allowed the Asian power to assault the U.S. at will online. China is also widely believed to steal commercial secrets from U.S. businesses.

"Enough is enough," Huckabee said. "China cheats, rips off American products, abuses its people, taunts our allies, and now they're crawling through our federal government stealing sensitive personal information from millions of people."

Huckabee has also criticized Obama for seeking trade agreements with China, arguing that "we have surrendered to the Chinese market."

"The lack of common sense in this White House is beyond breathtaking," he said Friday. "As president, I will stop Chinese cheating, hold China accountable, and never, ever apologize for protecting Americans."

Duggars' Endorsements Go Missing From Mike Huckabee's Website // ABC News // Ben Gittleson – June 5, 2015

Endorsements of Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee by members of the Duggar family disappeared from the former Arkansas governor's campaign website this week just prior to Josh Duggar's parents' revealing details of his sexual misconduct. But the Huckabee campaign said they were always meant to come down.

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar's photographs and words of endorsement had appeared prominently on the homepage of Mike Huckabee's campaign website since the beginning of his run for president last month. The couple, who along with their 19 children starred in TLC's reality show "19 Kids and Counting," have defended themselves amid harsh criticism over allegations their eldest son, Josh Duggar, 27, molested five underage girls when he was a teenager.

Their photos had been at the top of seven that appeared on the right side of Huckabee's homepage under the label, "I Like MIKE."

"America needs Governor Huckabee for president!" Jim Bob Duggar was quoted as saying.

"Governor Huckabee is a man of faith who is very wise, and will help get our nation back on track," read Michelle Duggar's endorsement.

A campaign spokesperson told ABC News that the website's developers "always intended for the graphics to rotate out at the first of each month." The photos appeared on the site as recently as Monday, June 1, according to an archived version of the page on the Internet Archive.

"The old ones were routed out on June 1," the spokesperson said. "That has always been the plan."

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The endorsement's disappearance was first reported by Talking Points Memo.

When allegations of Josh Duggar's behavior first surfaced last month, Huckabee issued a statement expressing his full-throated support of the family, saying, "Good people make mistakes and do regrettable and even disgusting things."

The Duggars endorsed Huckabee's first presidential run in 2008, and Rick Santorum's in 2012.

But as more details have emerged, TLC pulled the Duggars' popular show, and Santorum, one of Huckabee's opponents for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, said he was "sickened" by the allegations.

During an interview with Fox News this week, Jim Bob Duggar said Josh Duggar had fondled four of his sisters and a babysitter.

Huckabee's campaign did not respond to questions today from ABC News about whether his view of the Duggar family had changed following this week's revelations, if he still accepted their endorsement, and if they would appear at his future campaign events.

When asked on Wednesday by ABC affiliate KATV whether the Duggars would join him on the trail, Huckabee said, "I don't know. It will be up to them. Ask them, I don't know."

KASICH

John Kasich blasts Clinton on voting 'demagoguery': 'Come on, Hillary, you know better than that' // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 5, 2015

Ohio Gov. John Kasich on Friday took former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to task for comments she made Thursday on voting rights, and also blasted legal action against his state's voting laws her campaign lawyer has joined.

"Today, Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting," Mrs. Clinton, the frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, said Thursday at Texas Southern University.

"First of all, I think it's demagoguery, and secondly, if she wants to sue somebody, let her sue New York," Mr. Kasich, who is weighing a run for president in 2016, said on Fox News. "In Ohio, we got like 27 days of early voting, OK? Twenty-seven days, a couple hundred hours, and in New York, the only early voting — there is none. The only voting that occurs is on election day — what is she talking about?"

Mrs. Clinton's campaign lawyer, Marc Elias, is part of lawsuits against voting laws in Ohio and Wisconsin. The Clinton camp itself is not a party two them, though aides have said her team supports them, according to The New York Times.

"I like Hillary, but I got to tell you, the idea that we're going to divide Americans and we're going to use demagoguery, I don't like it," Mr. Kasich said. "Now I haven't said a word about Hillary, but to come into the state of Ohio and say we're repressing the vote when New York has only election day and we have 27 days ... come on, that's just silliness, you know? I'm disappointed in her, frankly."

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Mr. Kasich said he likes Mrs. Clinton personally but obviously is not supporting her for president — and went on to addressed her directly.

"Don't be comin' in and saying we are deliberately trying to keep people from voting when her own state has less opportunity for voting than my state, and she's [going to] sue my state?" he said. "I mean, come on — that's just silly … come on, Hillary, you know better than that."

In her speech on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton called out by name former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush on the issue.

Mr. Perry hit back on Friday, and Mr. Walker's team released a statement from the governor late Thursday: "Hillary Clinton's rejection of efforts to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat not only defies logic, but the will of the majority of Americans. Once again, Hillary Clinton's extreme views are far outside the mainstream."

Kasich Sees Presidential Pathway After Jeb Bush Doesn't Dominate // Bloomberg News // Mark Niquette – June 5, 2015

Jeb Bush has failed to lock in front-runner status for the Republican presidential nomination, opening a door for other candidates, Ohio Governor John Kasich said.

That includes him.

"I really thought that Jeb would blow it out, and he hasn't," Kasich said Friday during a luncheon at a Concord, New Hampshire, law office. "I look around and I say, 'OK, I've got more experience than anybody, I've got a record, so why shouldn't I get out there?'"

Kasich, 63, a two-term governor and former congressman who also was a managing director for Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and a Fox television host, said he is getting "closer and closer" to making a decision about running. While he's optimistic about his efforts to raise money and to build an organization for 2016, he hasn't made a final decision, he said.

"Is there anything jumping out right now that says, 'No'? No, nothing yet," Kasich said in an interview.

During stops in New Hampshire on Thursday and Friday, Kasich, who also briefly ran for president in 1999, said he never imagined he would consider another run. He thought Bush, a former Florida governor expected to announce his presidential plans June 15, would 'just suck all of the air out of the room," and that hasn't happened.

"This isn't a criticism of Jeb; it's just, I look at the facts," Kasich said in the interview. "I may be the only one who says this, but look at everybody else's actions -- they think it's wide open."

Breakout Performance

That's true in New Hampshire, which holds the nation's first primary and where Kasich would need a strong performance if he ran.

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Typically, a candidate must finish in the top three in New Hampshire to have momentum heading into other contests, said Steve Duprey, a national Republican committeeman from the state and who was a senior adviser to Senator John McCain's 2008 presidential bid.

With no clear front-runner, there could be five or six candidates bunched at the top, he said.

Compared with other governors expected to run, Kasich has a record that would appeal to the state's fiscally conservative voters and independents if he puts in the time to court them, Duprey said.

"This is going to be one of those primaries where it's one of those battles fought living room to living room and coffee shop to coffee shop," Duprey said. "This will be the most hard-fought, grassroots primary that I've ever seen."

Kasich has created a so-called 527 organization, New Day For America, and a website to raise money for travel and other costs as he explores a bid. The officers include former U.S. Senator John Sununu of New Hampshire.

Sour Grapes

The Ohio governor has so far spent most of his time in New Hampshire and South Carolina, though he has scheduled his first Iowa trip June 24 after being frustrated by the caucus system there in the past.

"The system was odd to me, and maybe a little of that was sour grapes, but they've changed the system," he said.

Kasich said no front-runner has emerged because voters are trying to determine who can win and has "real experience."

"It's really interesting for a Republican Party and exciting for the Republican Party to kind of take its time," Kasich said. "Normally, we play 'Whose turn is it next,' and I don't think that's what's happening."

CARSON

Ben Carson's Speaking Career Turned Lucrative Fast, Filing Shows **// NYT // Trip Gabriel – June 5, 2015**

A speech at the National Prayer Breakfast in 2013 that started rumblings about a Ben Carson presidential campaign also began a lucrative speaking career.

Mr. Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, earned $4.1 million from 141 speeches from early 2014 to last month, according to a personal financial disclosure he filed on Thursday afternoon with the Federal Election Commission.

Mr. Carson planned to continue accepting speaking fees after he announced he was running on May 4, which risked putting him afoul of campaign finance laws.

He said on Sunday he would give four more speeches, booked before he entered the Republican primary race.

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"When people have gone through a lot of trouble getting sponsors and selling tables, you don't just walk," Mr. Carson said on ABC's "This Week."

Mr. Carson's total reported income, along with his wife, Candy, was from $8.9 million to $27 million in the 16 months preceding his announcement, according to the disclosure.

Beside speeches, he reported income from $1.1 million to $6 million from book royalties, and from $2 million to $10 million from serving on the boards of two corporations, Kellogg and Costco. He has since resigned those seats. He was also paid from $100,000 to $1 million by the Fox News Network.

Mr. Carson, who in a Quinnipiac poll last week was in a five-way tie for first place for the Republican nomination, has captured voters' attention with conservative views and a personal story of climbing from poverty to the heights of the medical field.

After criticizing President Obama at the 2013 Prayer Breakfast, while the president sat nearby, Mr. Carson retired from Johns Hopkins and took advantage of the flood of speaking offers.

He joined the Washington Speakers Bureau, where his fees ranged from $16,500 to address Dayspring Christian Academy in Lancaster County, Pa., to $44,500 for a speech at the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M.

Another prolific speaker, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who typically earned about $200,000 a speech, far more than Mr. Carson, delivered her last paid address on March 19, a month before announcing her candidacy.

Ben Carson's campaign faces turmoil after staff exits and super PAC chaos // WaPo // Robert Costa & Philip Rucker – June 5, 2015

The presidential bid of Ben Carson, a tea party star who has catapulted into the top tier of Republican contenders, has been rocked by turmoil with the departures of four senior campaign officials and widespread disarray among his allied super PACs.

Carson's associates described a political network in tumult in interviews Friday, saying the retired neurosurgeon's campaign chairman, national finance chairman, deputy campaign manager and general counsel have all resigned since Carson formally launched his bid last month in Detroit. They have not been replaced, campaign officials said.

The moves gutted the core of Carson's apparatus and left the 63-year-old first-time candidate with only a handful of experienced aides at his side as he navigates the fluid, crowded and high-stakes contest for the Republican nomination.

Carson is a hot commodity on the right-wing speaking circuit and has fast become a leading candidate, winning straw votes at conservative gatherings and rising in public polls.

But his campaign has been marked by signs of dysfunction and amateurism, alarming friends and supporters who privately worry that Carson's sprawling circle of associates and boosters is fumbling his opportunity. And, they argue, the candidate has been nonchalant about the unrest.

"Every campaign goes through growing pains as it puts together a leadership team that has to work together and live together through the trying times of a presidential election," said Larry Levy, an attorney who has worked with Carson.

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Two independent super PACs designed to help Carson are instead competing directly with Carson's campaign for donations and volunteers, while campaign chairman Terry Giles resigned last month with the intention of forming a third super PAC.

Giles said he intends to try to convince the other two super PACs, called Run Ben Run and One Nation, to cease operations so that all outside efforts would be coordinated through the new group. But with Carson's brand a galvanizing force on the right, there are potentially millions of dollars to be raised off his name and the other super PACs are said to be reluctant to shutter.

"They are going after the same small donors and we've simply got to figure this out or else we are going up against each other the whole time," Giles said. "I'm planning to sit down with them and explain that."

Before the exodus, Carson's operation was mostly controlled by Giles and conservative commentator Armstrong Williams, who for decades has been Carson's business manager, gatekeeper and friend. Giles' exit to the super PAC side, where he will be prohibited from directly coordinating with Carson or his campaign, leaves Williams as the candidate's chief confidant

"Things happen, man," Williams said of the changes. "That's the way life works. You start out with one idea, hoping it all works out, and then you get a better understanding of what needs to happen. Remember, we're not a necessarily a group of political people."

The overlapping super PACs have confused Carson supporters about where to give money. Doug Watts, a Carson campaign spokesman, described Run Ben Run as a rogue operation: "We spend a great deal of time explaining to our supporters, 'They're them, we're us.'"

Watts insisted that "there's no dissatisfaction" with the group's activities and he credited it with helping Carson win a Republican straw poll last month in Oklahoma City after Carson spoke to the Southern Republican Leadership Conference.

"We had Dr. Carson and two staff people," Watts said. "We did not spend a dime on the straw poll. But Run Ben Run, unbeknownst to us, made organizational activity there."

Still, Watts said the "unofficially sanctioned" super PAC is One Nation and that Carson invites supporters to "make their excess contributions there."

Initially, Giles planned on joining One Nation, but Watts said he "abandoned that plan prior to his resignation and talked about the anticipation of a new organization."

Watts said that Carson gave Giles his blessing to leave the campaign, noting that Giles sat in the front row at Carson's May 3 announcement event in Detroit and that the candidate publicly acknowledged his service as chairman.

Federal election laws require a 120-day cooling off period between someone's departure from an official campaign and involvement in any super PAC activities.

Leaving with Giles last month were deputy campaign manager Stephen Rubino, a longtime Giles associate, as well

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as national finance chairman Jeff Reeter and general counsel Kathy Freberg.

Rubino, a part-time lawyer and farmer, longed to return to his farm, Watts said. “He said to me many times personally, ‘I’m not sure I’m cut out for this in Washington, D.C.,’” he said. As for Freberg, he said she grew tired of the political game. “She’s now in Africa on a safari,” Watts said.

Giles said that Carson believes a lightly-staffed campaign would suffice through this summer and fall. “The Carson campaign, that’s now mostly about ballot access, communications, social media, and getting Dr. Carson around the country,” he said. “That’s about it. It’s all part of the plan.”

But Kellyanne Conway, a GOP pollster who is friendly with Carson’s inner circle, said Carson would need “a strong, in-house campaign team. You can’t off-load everything to a super PAC or onto the shoulders of grassroots supporters and live off the land. Those are the fundamentals.”

Giles and Rubino have not been replaced, Watts said, because “it seemed superfluous.” Asked whether there were other lawyers still advising the Carson operation in her absence, he said, “Give me a break. Yeah, there are campaign attorneys coming out of my ears.”

Barry Bennett, a former strategist for Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), will continue to serve as Carson’s campaign manager, largely taking up the duties once delegated to Giles and Rubino. Ed Brookover, a longtime GOP hand, runs the policy shop.

Williams portrayed Carson as a candidate who is still learning the nuances of politics. He said Carson is studying up on policy issues and is uninterested in campaign mechanics.

On the road, Carson receives hearty receptions, but his associates said he is most content after public events to retreat to a pool table, where he touts the hand-eye coordination that made him a renowned surgeon. He also likes to do brain teasers or play golf.

Carson occasionally drops by his Alexandria campaign headquarters, but his main interaction with staff comes just once a week, at 10 a.m. on Sundays, when he participates in a conference call to go over his schedule for the coming week.

“Dr. Carson doesn’t get involved in the minutia of things,” Williams said. “You have to understand his personality. He’s informed, but this whole process is new to him, and he’s relying on the judgment of others.”

JINDAL

Jindal Slams GOP-Led Congress For Waving ‘White Flag Of Surrender’ On Amnesty, Broken Promises // The Daily Caller // Al Weaver – June 5, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal took the GOP-controlled Congress to task Friday for their first five months in power, blasting them for their actions on President Barack Obama’s executive action on immigration and Obamacare.

In an interview with conservative radio host Laura Ingraham, Jindal slammed GOP leadership in both chambers for waving the “white flag of surrender” on amnesty, adding that the Congressional GOP is “setting ourselves up for defeat again” by not offering up an alternative to Obamacare.

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Jindal made the comments on the heels of news that he will be announcing his 2016 intentions on June 24.

“Here’s my concern and skepticism about just getting any Republican in there,” Jindal said when asked if Jeb Bush could make big changes if elected in 2016. “Look at what happened when we took the Senate back. I remember these great, soaring campaign promises last year, it wasn’t that long ago.”

“‘Give us the Senate and we’ll repeal Obamacare. Give us the Senate we’ll stop illegal amnesty. Give us the Senate, we’ll reduce government spending and balance the budget,'” Jindal said imitating those promises. “You know, look what’s happened: White flag of surrender on amnesty. They passed a toothless bill on this Iran bill — actually makes it worse not better in terms of Congressional oversight.

“When you look at Obamacare, they’ve not even passed, they’ve not even shown the American people how they would repeal and replace it, and I’m worried,” Jindal said. “I think the Supreme Court’s going to rule the way that it should. That these states — there there should not be mandates on these states that have a federal exchange, but what I worry about is Republicans in Congress are setting ourselves up for defeat again going out there again with a plan to repeal Obamacare and replace it, and they’re going to put themselves in a corner. That’s why you already hear Republicans saying ‘well, maybe we need to put a band-aid or a patch on it.”

Jindal went on to liken the outset of the 114th Congress to when the GOP controlled the legislative branch during President George W. Bush’s tenure in office.

“At the same time period, when we had a Republican president, a Republican Congress. Thats when we got No Child Left Behind. That’s when we got Part D in Medicare without Medicare reform, without premium support,” Jindal said. “It is absolutely right to criticize President Obama for $18 trillion of debt, but it didn’t just start under President Obama. I think, in part, we have Republicans in D.C. who have just become part of the problem. They want to go along to get along. Boy, I think that’s why we need conservatives.”

Bobby Jindal Keeps Heat on '16 Hopefuls - Lincoln Chafee This Time // Newsweek // Melissa Clyne - June 5, 2015

Though admonished last month by the Louisiana Inspector General’s Office about using his office to launch attacks on presidential candidates, Gov. Bobby Jindal chided former Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln Chafee on Thursday for advocating that America convert to the metric system, The Times-Picayune reports.

"Typical Democrat — wants to make America more European," Jindal spokesman Mike Reed told a reporter who asked about Jindal’s thoughts on Chafee’s support for the metric system. "Gov. Jindal would rather make the world more American."

Chafee, whose political affiliation has evolved from Republican to independent to Democrat, announced this week that he was running for president.

His announcement included the championing of the metric system as a "bold embrace of internationalism" that would "help our economy," according to Politico.

Jindal, who will announce June 24 whether he plans to seek the Republican nomination for the White House, has been an outspoken critic of the field of candidates.

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Last month, he fired off a series of attacks on Twitter against Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a declared GOP presidential candidate who had pointed his finger at Republican hawks for being behind the rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) jihad group.

"ISIS exists and grew stronger because of the hawks in our party who gave arms indiscriminately," Paul said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"They created these people. ISIS is all over Libya because these same hawks in my party loved — they loved Hillary Clinton's war in Libya. They just wanted more of it."

Jindal took Paul to task, posting on Twitter:

In another, Jindal tweeted:

According to a May 29 article in the Times-Picayune, the state Inspector General's office issued its report after receiving complaints alleging that Jindal's criticisms of Paul had violated the state constitution.

"The Governor's office could have easily avoided such questions by issuing the statement through means that did not involve the use of public funds or employees," the Inspector General's office wrote.

Jindal told the newspaper that he spoke out against Paul's comments because "national security matters are important to people of Louisiana, and I thought it was important for me to share my views on keeping our country safe from the threat of radical terrorists — Islamic terrorists."

OTHER

Republican Candidates Assail Hillary Clinton on Voting Rights **// NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 5, 2015**

In a speech Thursday, Mrs. Clinton said that some in the Republican field were "deliberately trying to stop" young people and minorities from exercising their right to vote.

On Friday, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey seemed to relish the fight.

"Secretary Clinton doesn't know the first thing about voting rights in New Jersey or in the other states that she attacked," Mr. Christie said, according toThe Record newspaper of New Jersey. "My sense is that she just wants an opportunity to commit greater acts of voter fraud around the country."

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin said in a statement: "Hillary Clinton's rejection of efforts to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat not only defies logic, but the will of the majority of Americans. Once again, Hillary Clinton's extreme views are far outside the mainstream."

His response represented one of the few times that any of the many Republican candidates in the 2016 field have described Mrs. Clinton's views as so far left as to be outside mainstream politics. For Mrs. Clinton it is familiar territory: "Liberal" was a tag that was often affixed to her as a criticism in the 1990s and when she ran for the United States Senate from New York in 2000.

Rick Perry, the former Texas governor who was also named by Mrs. Clinton, went on Fox News and suggested that being able to vote was no different than needing travel documents.

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“She just went into my home state and dissed every person who supports having an identification to either get on an airplane or vote,” Mr. Perry said on Friday.

A spokesman for Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, did not respond to an email request for comment.

Mrs. Clinton’s no-holds-barred speech on voting rights, calling for automatic registration and sweeping changes to early voting nationally, was a rare time she has invoked her potential rivals, especially by name.

But, just as when she said she would go even further than President Obama has on executive changes to the immigration system, Mrs. Clinton could be putting Republicans in a politically delicate position, since their responses on both issues are unlikely to please Hispanic, African-American and younger voters.

GOP says Clinton dividing Americans over voting rights **// AP // Ken Thomas – June 5, 2015**

Republicans struck back Friday against Hillary Rodham Clinton's suggestions that they have attempted to disenfranchise voters systematically. They accused the Democratic presidential front-runner of running a divisive campaign and favoring lax controls on voting.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a potential GOP presidential candidate, said in Concord, New Hampshire, that Clinton didn't know "the first thing about voting rights in New Jersey," and simply wanted to have an opportunity to "commit greater acts of voter fraud" around the nation.

Another potential Republican rival, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, told Fox News that Clinton was "dividing America" and overlooking the fact that Ohio has 28 days of early voting while her home state of New York doesn't have any. Ohio had 35 days of early voting until he signed a law last year lopping off a week.

"What is she talking about?" Kasich asked. "Don't be running around the country dividing America."

Clinton said Thursday in Houston that a group of current and former Republican governors pursuing the White House has "systematically and deliberately" tried to prevent millions of Americans from voting. Clinton said the changes were aimed at making it more difficult for minority and low-income voters to cast a ballot and outlined steps to expand access to early voting and allow universal, automatic voter registration for young people.

It was the first time as a presidential candidate that Clinton singled out her potential Republican rivals by name, criticizing voting policies of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Christie.

Clinton cited Christie for vetoing a bill in New Jersey to extend early voting. She said Bush had conducted a "deeply flawed" purge of eligible voters in Florida by having the names of people who were mistakenly thought to be felons removed from voting rolls.

And she accused Walker of cutting early voting, making it harder for college students to vote, while she said Perry approved laws in Texas that discriminated against minority voters.

Democratic attorneys recently filed legal challenges to voting changes in the presidential battleground states of Ohio and Wisconsin. One of the attorneys involved in the lawsuits is Marc Elias, who is also serving as the Clinton

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campaign's general counsel. Clinton's campaign is not officially involved in the lawsuits.

Walker, whose state has passed voter ID laws, said in a statement late Thursday that Clinton's "rejection of efforts to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat not only defies logic, but the will of the majority of Americans."

Christie vetoed legislation in 2013 that would have allowed in-person early voting at polling places and he's criticized same-day registration. New Jersey does have a mail-in early-voting system.

Democrats contend that Republicans overstate the incidence of fraudulent voting to justify steps that depress turnout from minority and other hard-to-reach voters, many of whom would support Democratic candidates.

Republicans say Democrats overlook fraud because they want those votes.

Clinton will deliver what her team considers her first major speech next week, in New York, opening a new stage of her campaign. Clinton intends to paint the large Republican field as monolithic on policy in coming months.

Her team bills the New York speech as a campaign kickoff, although she launched her candidacy in April.

Going Negative **// US News // Kenneth Walsh – June 5, 2015**

The negative phase of the 2016 presidential race has begun. And with the first debates approaching, the contest is likely to turn even more harsh and sharp-edged as the candidates of each major party try to undermine each other and stand out on their own.

On the Republican side, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida is drawing increasing contrasts between himself and both of his dynastic rivals, Republican Jeb Bush and Democrat Hillary Clinton. "No one is entitled to the presidency, and no candidate has the right to skip the process of laying out a vision simply because he or she has the deepest connections in Washington or the most money in big-dollar donations," Rubio, an announced candidate, wrote recently on his campaign web site. "In this country, what your last name is, what life you were born into, and how much money you have does not determine who you can be, where you can go or what opportunities you can enjoy."

In response, Bush says he is a pragmatic conservative with a strong record of accomplishment as former governor of Florida. Clinton also points to her record of achievement as former first lady, ex-U.S. senator from New York and former secretary of state.

And Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is becoming a political piñata, regularly battered by his opponents, because he has criticized a central tenet of GOP orthodoxy – that the United States must be more interventionist abroad and willing to intervene militarily in other countries. Among Paul's critics is Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, who is considering a Republican presidential run and says Paul is weak on national defense. In fact, Jindal has hurled against Paul one of the worst epithets available within the GOP – that Paul is like Democratic President Barack Obama as an ambitious first-term senator seeking the White House but lacking the requisite toughness and understanding of America's adversaries to be an effective commander in chief.

This criticism of Paul is echoed by newly announced GOP candidate Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of the Senate's leading hawks. In fact, Graham and Paul are immersed in a feud over U.S. foreign policy. "Those who believe we can disengage from the world at large and stay safe by leading from behind, vote for someone else – I am not your man," Graham said during his announcement speech this week in a pointed reference to Paul. "Those who believe the best way to defend ourselves is to lead the world, to make history rather than be overwhelmed by it, I ask for your support."

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And former Gov. George Pataki of New York, another announced candidate, blasted Paul for forcing the temporary expiration of some government surveillance programs under the Patriot Act. Pataki said Paul engineered the expiration to impress libertarians and was "simply putting Americans at risk for political reasons."

Paul's response is that his critics are on the wrong side of history and are advocating discredited policies of the past.

On the Democratic side, former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland is needling Clinton and Bush, sounding a theme similar to Rubio's. At the official announcement of his candidacy this week, O'Malley tried to stake out the left wing of his party, arguing that he is more progressive than Clinton, the front runner. O'Malley said he would be more confrontational with Wall Street. "Recently the CEO of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton," O'Malley said. "I bet he would!" He told a rally: "Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street. The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth, by you, between two royal families. It is a sacred trust to be earned from the American people and exercised on behalf of the people of these United States."

O'Malley is adopting some of the rhetoric used by his mentor, former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., in Hart's future-vs.-past bid for the Democratic nomination in 1984. The Colorado senator nearly upset front runner and former Vice President Walter Mondale, and O'Malley says voters are eager for another insurgency today. O'Malley told the Washington Post, "I think in our own party there is a desire for a new generation of leadership that's more connected to the values of our country and where we're headed."

O'Malley advisers also say he is more of a purist on liberal issues than Clinton is. The former governor supported same-sex marriage and comprehensive immigration reform earlier and more aggressively than Clinton did, and he demonstrated an ability to get things done as governor by signing into law bills allowing same-sex marriage and increasing the minimum wage.

Also criticizing Clinton has been Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a socialist who is seeking the Democratic nomination. Sanders says the wealth accumulated by Hillary Clinton and her husband Bill Clinton makes it more difficult for her to understand the problems of everyday Americans. "That type of wealth has the potential to isolate you from the reality of the world," Sanders told CNBC.

Both O'Malley and Sanders complain that Clinton has stayed mum on controversial legislation to give Obama fast-track authority to facilitate passage of a huge trade agreement with nations in the Asia-Pacific region. And O'Malley and Sanders say Clinton also should take a position on the trade deal itself, which both of them oppose.

The first Republican presidential debate is scheduled for early August and is sponsored by Fox News. This encounter will give the candidates a high-visibility forum to hammer each other even more. The Democrats will probably hold their first debate in August or September, with the same likelihood of internecine warfare.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

U.S. Economy Added 280,000 Jobs in May; Unemployment Rate 5.5% **// NYT // Patricia Cohen –June 5, 2015**

Employers added 280,000 jobs in May, the Labor Department reported on Friday, blunting worries about the American economy’s momentum after a stretch of lackluster growth earlier this year.

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The official unemployment rate ticked up to 5.5 percent, while hourly wages rose 0.3 percent for private sector workers last month.

Although the report provides just a snapshot of the economy and is subject to revision, analysts are looking at this freshest set of figures to help pierce the confusion over whether the economy's contraction of 0.7 percent during the first quarter of 2015 was a blip, partly a casualty of the harsh winter, or evidence of a more fundamental slowdown.

Part of the reason for the mixed assessments is that the recovery from the recession, now reaching its sixth anniversary, has been uneven, lifting the fortunes of some Americans while others languish. As a survey in October on families' financial well-being by the Federal Reserve showed when it was released recently, nearly two-thirds of respondents said they were either "doing O.K." or "living comfortably," with the rest reporting they were "just getting by" or struggling.

"It's a tale of two economies, the economy of the unskilled, and the economy of the semiskilled and the skilled," said Robert A. Funk, chairman and chief executive of Express Employment Professionals, a staffing agency based in Oklahoma City that operates in 49 states.

There is pent-up demand for those with skills, like machinists, engineers and information and technology workers, he said, but those without that edge are continuing to have a tough time.

"We're out here on Main Street, not Wall Street," said Mr. Funk, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. "We get a feel of medium and small companies and their attitudes. They are reticent to hire because they are not sure which way the economy is going to go."

For those looking for progress, this week brought evidence of modest, if plodding improvements.

A roundup of reports compiled from each of the Federal Reserve's 12 district banks suggested that the overall economy expanded over the previous two months. The survey, known as the Beige Book, found: "Employment levels were up slightly over the reporting period, with some reports of layoffs. Wages rose slightly."

The trade balance also improved in April. The deficit, though still sizable at $40.9 billion, shrank from $50.6 billion in the previous month.

The number of people applying for unemployment insurance also dropped last week, the 13th week in a row that new claims have been below 300,000. Although the four-week moving average edged up slightly to 275,000, it is still near a 15-year low.

Despite low gasoline prices, which leave more money in people's wallets, consumers have remained guarded, choosing to bank their savings rather than spend them. The one exception seems to have been car sales. American automakers sold more than 1.6 million vehicles in May, or 17.8 million on a seasonally adjusted annualized basis. That is the largest single-month total in nearly 10 years.

Wall Street was paying particular attention to the report on Friday because of its potential impact on the Fed's decision about when to raise interest rates above their near-zero levels. This week, James B. Bullard, president of the St. Louis Fed, said that while he expected the economy to improve enough to justify a rate increase this year, the frail first quarter has made everyone doubly cautious.

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"We should be and are appropriately talking about how to normalize monetary policy," Mr. Bullard said. "On the other hand, you've got near-term concerns — the first-quarter negative G.D.P. number and maybe some consumption numbers, including retail sales — that look weaker than we had anticipated. I think that will all be transient, and it will turn out that we'll have stronger data later in the year, and that will enable us to get going on the normalization process."

On Thursday, the International Monetary Fund asked the Fed to hold off raising rates until the first half of 2016 because of disappointing growth and a lack of inflation.

Most Americans are increasingly optimistic about their economic future, according to the Fed's survey on economic well-being. Still, daily financial challenges manifest themselves in small ways and large. Nearly half of those surveyed, for example, said they lacked the resources to cover an unexpected emergency that cost $400. Nearly one-third said they had skipped some form of medical care because they could not afford it.

And many would increase their incomes if they could: More than one-third of all workers and 49 percent of part-timers said they would prefer to work more hours at their current wage.

Wage stagnation also remains a blot on the recovery's record. "Even a slight increase in year-over-year wage growth would be new and something different," helping to lure back people who had abandoned the work force, said Tara M. Sinclair, an associate professor of economics at George Washington University and an economist at Indeed.com.

Pressure Rises for Higher Taxes **// NYT // John Harwood – June 5, 2015**

The Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley wants to raise capital gains taxes. His rival Bernie Sanders seeks to tax stock trades and increase personal income tax rates.

Indeed, Mr. Sanders's plan harks back to the Eisenhower-era top rate of over 90 percent — more than twice today's level. Asked whether that rate is obviously too high, Mr. Sanders responded simply, "No."

Their stances partly reflect attempts to outflank Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Democratic race for the presidential nomination. Mrs. Clinton herself is considering a friendly think tank's advice to raise taxes on inherited wealth and close loopholes to collect more from affluent Americans.

But they also reflect a broader shift in tax politics that is rippling through the Republican world, too. Pressure to raise taxes, at least on the wealthy, is rising.

Several developments are fueling that pressure. The Tea Party push to slash spending has lost steam and generated a backlash. Defense hawks want more money for the Pentagon, while other Republicans seek additional cash for highway projects. The largest potential targets for further cuts, Social Security and Medicare for the elderly, are hardly politically inviting.

At the same time, Republicans' growing emphasis on reducing debt and deficits has curbed the appeal of supply-side tax cuts. So has the decline in the top income tax rate to 39.6 percent, from the 70 percent level when Ronald Reagan won the presidency on a tax-cutting platform.

Moreover, both parties, at least rhetorically, have embraced the need for Washington to address stagnant middle-class wages and rising income inequality. Enacting significant remedies — whether through new middle-class tax

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benefits or spending programs — requires cash Washington doesn't have.

"All those things point in the direction of revenues," said Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Democrat of Rhode Island.

Mr. Whitehouse is a co-sponsor of "Fair Share" tax legislation that would collect an additional $70 billion from wealthy taxpayers by closing loopholes. He also backs a new tax on carbon emissions, though his motivation is environmental rather than budgetary; he would return tax proceeds to businesses through lower corporate rates and to individuals through tax rebates and other benefits.

Recent history suggests the carbon tax faces a steep uphill fight, even as climate change assumes a larger role on the political stage. Nor is there much prospect of massive increases in marginal tax rates, though Thomas Piketty, the French economist whose recent book accelerated the income inequality debate, argues that top rates could reach 80 percent without harming the economy.

Yet Mrs. Clinton has not ruled out an increase in the 39.6 percent rate that her husband and President Obama both signed into law.

A recent economic report from the Center for American Progress, the think tank founded by her campaign chairman, John D. Podesta, lays out other options, like increasing "effective" tax rates by curbing tax shelters for the affluent.

Antipathy toward taxes remains a core tenet of Republican economic policy.

When Republican Senate candidates in last year's midterm elections shied away from tax-cutting proposals, the conservative lobbyist Grover Norquist explained that they would revive the issue as "tax reform" after winning full control of Congress.

But there's no sign of serious movement on the issue.

Marco Rubio, a Republican presidential candidate, has cast deficit concerns aside by advocating tax cuts for average families and high earners alike — including the elimination of capital gains and estate taxes. But he has not yet attempted to enact his plan.

Another Republican candidate, Lindsey Graham, says his party needs to back higher taxes as part of a budget deal with Democrats. A third, Jeb Bush, promises a tax reform plan but has drawn attention to the issue in a different way.

Mr. Norquist has long goaded Republican politicians, including Mr. Bush's older brother George W. Bush, to formally "pledge" opposition to all tax increases. Jeb Bush refuses to sign the pledge.

Senate Rejects Extending Veterans Benefits To Married Gay Couples And Their Kids // HuffPo // Jennifer Bendery – June 4, 2015

The Senate quietly rejected legislation Thursday that would have extended certain veterans' benefits to married same-sex couples and their children who live in states where their marriage isn't recognized.

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During debate on the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) proposed amending the federal statute that prevents the Department of Veterans Affairs from granting comprehensive benefits to same-sex couples in states that don't recognize a same-sex marriage that was legally performed in a different state.

Her amendment failed 53-42, seven votes shy of the 60 votes needed to pass. None of the Senate Republicans running for president voted for it. Sens. Rand Paul (Ky.) and Ted Cruz (Texas) opposed it, while Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.) did not vote.

Shaheen called it "tremendously disappointing" that the Senate would deny benefits to people who put their lives on the line for their country.

"Veterans served their country bravely, and yet some are deprived of the very rights they risked their lives to protect," she said in an email. "The impact of this discrimination is real. Monthly benefits are less; spouses and children are not eligible for medical care at the VA; and families are not eligible for the same death benefits."

Because of restrictions in federal law, veterans in same-sex marriages who live in states that don't honor their marriage receive smaller monthly disability payments and aren't eligible to qualify for a VA home loan with their spouse. In some cases, these veterans' spouses and kids are also ineligible for VA medical care.

It's not the first time the Senate has voted to change this law. Shaheen introduced the same amendment in March, during debate on the budget, and the amendment passed 57-43. Only 51 votes were required to attach amendments to that bill. But the budget resolution is non-binding, meaning those votes were about making a statement on an issue rather than affecting law.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a major decision later this month on whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. If they rule yes, then all states will be required to offer marriage licenses to gay couples and all states will have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Was Warned of System Open to Cyberattacks // NYT // David e. Sanger, Julie Hirschfeld Davis & Nicole Perlroth – June 5, 2015

The inspector general at the Office of Personnel Management, which keeps the records and security clearance information for millions of current and retired federal employees, issued a report in November that essentially described the agency's computer security system as a Chinese hacker's dream.

But by the time the report was published, Chinese hackers had already cleaned out tens of thousands of files on sensitive security clearances, and were preparing for a much broader attack that ultimately obtained detailed personal information on at least four million current and former government employees. Even today, the agency is struggling to patch numerous vulnerabilities.

A number of administration officials on Friday painted a picture of a government office struggling to catch up, with the Chinese ahead of them at every step.

The agency did not possess an inventory of all the computer servers and devices with access to its networks, and did not require anyone gaining access to information from the outside to use the kind of basic authentication techniques that most Americans use for online banking. It did not regularly scan for vulnerabilities in the system,

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and found that 11 of the 47 computer systems that were supposed to be certified as safe for use last year were not "operating with a valid authorization."

Workers outside the Office of Personnel Management. Its computer system was hit by attackers. Credit James Lawler Duggan/Reuters

The problems were so severe for two systems that hosted the databases used by the Federal Investigative Service, which is responsible for the background investigations for officials and contractors who are issued security clearances, that the inspector general argued for temporarily shutting them down because the security flaws "could potentially have national security implications."

Hackers in China apparently figured that out months before the report was published. Last summer a breach was detected that appeared aimed directly at the security clearance records — information that could help a determined hacker gain access to email or other accounts belonging to those entrusted with the nation's secrets.

While upgrades were underway, a much broader attack occurred, apparently starting in December. Before it was detected, personal information on at least four million people was apparently downloaded by a patient, well-equipped adversary — and the number is likely to grow.

As one senior former government official who once handled cyberissues for the administration, who would not speak on the record because it could endanger the person's role on key advisory committees, said on Friday, "The mystery here is not how they got cleaned out by the Chinese. The mystery is what took the Chinese so long."

Researchers and government officials have determined that the Chinese group that attacked the office was probably the same one that seized millions of records held by the health care firms Anthem and Primera. Based on the forensics, experts believe the attackers were not part of the People's Liberation Army, whose Third Department oversees much of the military's cyberintelligence gathering. Rather they believe the group is privately contracted, though the exact affiliation with the Chinese government is not known.

For the Obama administration, which came to office holding East Room events on cybersecurity and pressing Congress, for years, to pass legislation that would allow the private sector to share information with the government, what has happened at the Office of Personnel Management can only be described as a case study in bureaucratic lethargy and poor security practices.

In the most egregious case cited by the inspector general, outsiders entering the system were not subjected to "multifactor authentication" — the systems that, for example, require a code that is sent to a cellphone to be entered before giving access to a user. Asked about that in an interview, Donna Seymour, the chief information officer at the Office of Personnel Management, said that installing such gear in the government's "antiquated environment" was difficult and very time consuming, and that her agency had to perform "triage" to determine how to close the worst vulnerabilities.

The agency now plans to install two-step authentication across its network, Ms. Seymour said. A longtime data security official, she also defended the decision to ignore the inspector general's advice to shut down two systems that contain the security clearance information. Ms. Seymour said that the investigators were using an outdated assessment of the security measures — and that the agency was in the process of getting tighter controls when the intrusion happened. Another senior official said that with the agency under pressure to clear a huge backlog of security clearances, halting the process was "a nonstarter" with Congress.

During the installation of new security scanning software, officials said, they found evidence of the broad downloading of millions of files.

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But administration officials said a lack of management focus on the problems contributed to the slow response — combined with a lack of focus on protecting systems that are not part of the national security infrastructure but that contain large amounts of data. And a number of administration officials in interviews on Friday painted a picture of Chinese adversaries who appear to be building huge databases of information on American citizens, useful for intelligence gathering and other purposes.

"They didn't go to sell the data, which is what criminal groups usually do," said James Lewis, an expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's biographic databases that really give an intelligence benefit — and that get into an opponent's skin." Such databases indicate where a government official was posted, and security clearance information would list their foreign contacts — useful if there was an effort to track down Chinese citizens in contact with Americans.

The chronology of attacks against American targets matches China's stated economic and strategic objectives, members of Congress were told in briefings held by the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies. "I'm angry and frustrated that we are at a place where this kind of attack can be successful," said Rep. Jim Langevin, a Rhode Island Democrat who sits on both a subcommittee on cyberissues and the Armed Services Committee. The attackers, he said, "could have been inside the systems for weeks or months." In fact, investigators believe they were there for at least three months, before being detected in April.

Government officials in the United States have been tracking several such privately contracted Chinese groups since 2008 and believe they operate at the behest of the state. One, based out of Guangzhou in southern China, has been tied to thousands of attacks on victims in the United States, Britain, Canada, Europe, Russia and Africa that develop missile, satellite, space and nuclear propulsion technology.

At the White House, officials were struggling to explain on Friday how the breach could have happened after warnings from the inspector general and others. Michael Daniel, the White House's top cyberofficial, declined to speak on the record about the attack, and Lisa Monaco, who has been handling cyberissues as one of Mr. Obama's top national security officials, declined to be interviewed.

"The threat that we face is ever-evolving," said Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary. "We understand that there is this persistent risk out there. We take this very seriously."

Mr. Earnest said Mr. Obama's efforts to push legislation would bolster the nation's data.

"We need the United States Congress to come out of the Dark Ages and actually join us here in the 21st century to make sure that we have the kinds of defenses that are necessary to protect a modern computer system," he said.

U.S. Airstrikes Whack One Thousand Islamic State Fighters a Month, Air Force General Says // Foreign Policy // Paul MCleary – June 5, 2015

The top U.S. air commander in the Middle East said Friday that the American-led coalition bombing Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria are "removing over 1,000 enemy fighters a month from the battlefield" — adding yet another voice to the string of military and civilian leaders who have put a body count on a war where body counts aren't supposed to matter.

"The number is significant, but it's also only a single indicator," Lt. Gen. John Hesterman told reporters by phone from his headquarters in Qatar.

The number of dead extremists isn't as important as reforming Iraqi governance or strangling the finances of the Islamic State, he said, falling more closely in line with the White House. "But we're taking the enemy off the

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battlefield at a great rate, and you can count on that," Hesterman said.

Critics say one of the biggest failures of Washington's war plan is the refusal to put U.S. forward air controllers on the ground with Iraqi troops to more effectively call in airstrikes on Islamic State positions. Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham and John McCain have made a cottage industry out of calling for the deployment of joint terminal attack controllers — or JTACs — to Iraq, and some retired military officials have also grumbled about the lack of eyes on the ground.

JTACs are operating in air command centers spread throughout Iraq, Hesterman said, where they watch live feeds piped back from drones and fighter jets circling enemy positions instead of embedding with Iraqi troops.

Speaking to CNN on Friday, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh said while JTACs are most important in urban fights where more precise airstrikes are essential to avoid civilian casualties, persistent aerial surveillance coverage is effective in the more open areas of Iraq and Syria.

Hesterman also downplayed reports of an air strike near the city of Kirkuk on Wednesday that flattened a jihadi car bomb-making factory. He said U.S. aircraft dropped a "fairly small weapon" on the building, located in an industrial area, which triggered a secondary explosion from the bomb-making material stored inside. While that second explosion essentially flattened the entire industrial area — and the boom was heard dozens of miles away — so far there is no evidence of civilian casualties, Hesterman said.

Initial reports said dozens of civilians were killed and injured. And a U.S. Central Command spokesperson on Thursday told FP it had received reports of civilian casualties near the site and was prepared to investigate if they could be confirmed.

The overall bombing campaign shows few signs of letting up anytime soon. After 10 months and $2.6 billion spent by Washington, Islamic State forces continue their ground war against Iraqi troops and Shiite militias in a bloody struggle around the edges of Anbar province, which the jihadis own almost completely.

Hesterman and other U.S. officials insist the daily airstrikes are key to buying the Iraqi Army time to regain footing after a string of humiliating defeats in Mosul, Fallujah, and Ramadi. The strikes also create space for the estimated 3,000 U.S. troops on the ground to retrain demoralized Iraqi Army units they originally trained just a few years ago.

But even a former fighter pilot like Hesterman admitted that "air power doesn't hold and govern territory — Iraq will have to do that" with troops on the ground.

"Some competent ground forces are going to have to go peel" the jihadis out of the towns and villages in which they're hiding, he said.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Jeb Bush and the campaign money fountain **// CNN // Errol Louis – June 5, 2015**

Just as reformers have often warned and long feared, money has swamped the American political system, placing a critical amount of the 2016 presidential campaign in the hands of private interests, outside of regulation and largely beyond accountability. More than a year away from the 2016 election, it seems clear the new cash-driven strategies are bad for democracy.

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The sums involved are staggering -- we'll look at some of the numbers in a minute -- but to understand the profound transformation of politics we're watching, consider the recent maneuvering of Republican ex-Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, who appears hell-bent on maximizing the amount of political money in his corner.

For months, Bush has been holding political fundraisers, delivering speeches and hiring advisers, but also coyly denying he's made a decision about whether to seek the White House in 2016. In one case, he slipped up and acknowledged the ruse: "I'm running for president in 2016, and the focus is gonna be about how we — if I run — how do you create high, sustained economic growth, where more people have a chance at earned success?" he said on NBC.

Note the way Bush immediately tried to clean up the gaffe -- "if I run" -- as if anybody seriously doubts that this son and brother of two presidents plans to make his own bid for the White House. The verbal contortions -- and the entire structure of Bush's nascent campaign -- are built around the new rules that allow candidates to raise unlimited funds for so-called super PACs, political action committees that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money supporting and attacking candidates without disclosing who's behind the activity.

So we've seen Bush crisscrossing the country raising money for a super PAC called Right to Rise that's believed to have raised $100 million that will likely get spent helping likely candidate Bush and attacking his enemies. Bush isn't alone: Virtually every serious Republican candidate for office, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Rand Paul, ex-Sen. Rick Santorum and Dr. Ben Carson is affiliated with one super PAC or another.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton has called for strong campaign finance limits, by constitutional amendment if necessary -- but then gave in to reality and is expected to connect with Priorities USA, a super PAC created by supporters of President Obama.

There's a catch to these potentially bottomless money fountains. By law, they can't coordinate with campaigns after a candidate has officially declared he or she is running. There's also a convoluted restriction on what an official candidate can do for his or her super PAC: Candidates can meet with donors, but not ask for more than $5,000. Such pitches can be made to the donors, but not in the candidate's presence.

The first problem with this system is that it encourages, and even rewards, a kind of dishonesty by candidates. "What we're seeing is effectively a farce being played out here, where each of these candidates — in every sense of the word — is avoiding the longstanding requirements of federal election law," is how Trevor Potter, who served as a high-ranking official in the two presidential campaigns of Sen. John McCain, put it to National Journal. "It's very much a wink and a nod, we all know this, this is a game."

The game was created by a string of Supreme Court rulings that unraveled legal restrictions on political donors. Since the most important of these decisions, the 2007 ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, money has gushed into American politics.

In 2008, the year after Citizens United, more than $300 million from PACs and individual contributions was spent on the race for president. Four years later, that number more than tripled to over $1 billion and some predict spending for 2016 could edge toward $10 billion. The overwhelming majority of these new dollars will be from super PACs.

The flood of money and wink-and-nod rules have led, predictably, to corruption. Some of it is old-fashioned and obvious: Earlier this year, the U.S. Justice Department announced its first criminal conviction of a political consultant for violating the rule requiring separation of PACs and official campaign activity. Tyler Harber, who was working for a congressional campaign in Virginia, created a super PAC, then directly coordinated its activities with the campaign. Harber also spent over $300,000 in PAC money with a printing firm that kicked a fat

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percentage back to him personally, and lied about the whole matter when the FBI came knocking.

Harber, set to be sentenced this month, may be the first of many campaign operatives to abuse the money flood the Supreme Court set off. There's also a broader corruption taking place. The spectacle of candidates lining up to kiss the ring of Las Vegas billionaire Sheldon Adelson at an event earlier this year is being repeated by the Koch brothers, industrialists with a deep, vested interest in limiting taxes and regulation on their empire. The Kochs and some of their big-donor allies reportedly plan to spend $889 million on the 2016 election.

In the Citizens United decision, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that "the appearance of influence or access, furthermore, will not cause the electorate to lose faith in our democracy."

Every indication suggests Kennedy's prediction has turned out to be dead wrong. Last fall, even as more money than ever poured into the political system, America saw the lowest voter turnout level in 72 years, and 84% of Americans say money has too much influence over politics, according to a recent CBS News-New York Times poll. And 85% say the campaign finance system needs a complete overhaul.

Voters know, even if the Supreme Court doesn't, that we need to contain, control or scrap the current PAC-driven system. What should be a time for national debate about the pressing issues facing the country is turning into a kind of cattle auction. America deserves better.

Clinton goes bold on voting rights **// MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 5, 2015**

Before Hillary Clinton's speech on voting rights yesterday, the political world already had some sense that she intended to endorse a pretty progressive vision. The Democratic campaign told reporters in advance, for example, that Clinton would back a 20-day early-voting window for every state in the nation.

But as Rachel noted on the show last night, the Democratic frontrunner ended up going much further than expected. That's true on policy grounds, where Clinton endorsed a plan for universal registration …

"So today I am calling for universal, automatic voter registration. Everyone, every young man or young woman, in every state in the union should be automatically registered to vote when they turn eighteen – unless they actively choose to opt-out."

… and it's true on political grounds, where Clinton blasted Republicans, by name, for their ugly national voter-suppression campaign.

"Here in Texas, former Governor Rick Perry signed a law that a federal court said was actually written with the purpose of discriminating against minority voters. He applauded when the Voting Rights Act was gutted, and said the lost protections were 'outdated and unnecessary.'

"But Governor Perry is hardly alone in his crusade against voting rights. In Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker cut back early voting and signed legislation that would make it harder for college students to vote. In New Jersey, Governor Christie vetoed legislation to extend early voting. And in Florida, when Jeb Bush was governor, state authorities conducted a deeply flawed purge of voters before the presidential election in 2000. […]

"What part of democracy are they afraid of?"

You could almost hear voting-rights advocates nationwide applauding in unison. Automatic, universal registration, for example, is seen as one of the most consequential of all possible reforms – and voting-rights opponents on the right have yet to come up with an argument against it.

But stepping back and looking at this in the broader context, it's worth appreciating just how often Clinton has exceeded expectations lately.

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In Houston yesterday, voting supporters expected Clinton to deliver encouraging remarks, but she went much further, throwing her support behind a bold national agenda.

In Las Vegas last month, immigration-reform proponents expected Clinton to express support for reform, but she went beyond their expectations and endorsed a far more ambitious approach.

As we talked about at the time, the fear among many on the left was that Clinton, without any real pressure from a primary challenger, would aim for the center and effectively run a general-election campaign for a year and a half. No one would pull the former Secretary of State to the left, so she simply wouldn't bother.

But as her candidacy takes shape, note how consistently she's positioned herself as a progressive champion of late. Clinton delighted much of the left, for example, with her remarks on criminal-justice reform in April The Democratic base was equally pleased to hear about Clinton's 50-state strategy, her willingness to buck Wall Street, and her consideration of a constitutional amendment on campaign financing.

And now Clinton has done it again on voting rights.

Some critics on the left will likely note, with cause, that she's adopted a far more progressive vision than the one she used to espouse. There's some truth to that, though where she is arguably matters more than where she was. President Obama has helped shift the national debate to the left a bit on many of these key issues; the Democratic coalition has become more unified around a progressive agenda; much of the American mainstream is far more likely to embrace the left's proposals than it was eight years ago; and Clinton has clearly evolved on these issues, ending up right where most of her party – and much of her country – want her to be.

Hillary Sides With Democracy **// Bloomberg News // Jonathan Bernstein – June 5, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's call for universal automatic voter registration is a major positive development in the voting wars. She puts the national Democratic Party squarely behind Oregon's recent innovative registration law.

As Cass Sunstein says at View, Americans don't need to register with the government to be entitled to other rights; voting shouldn't be any different.

It's pretty simple: If we want everyone to participate, then voting should be easy. Voter registration in the U.S. is a real, and unnecessary, hurdle. That's no coincidence: Registration was originally set up around the turn of the previous century in part by those concerned that the wrong kinds of people (mostly recent immigrants from southern and eastern Europe) would vote.

There are plenty of ideas to make voting easier, but removing registration as a hurdle is the big one, on both a practical and theoretical level.

As a practical matter, political scientists have repeatedly found that making registration easy will increase turnout. Indeed, the evidence when it comes to some voting reforms (early and absentee voting, making Election Day a holiday) is mixed. Some political scientists find "substitution" effects -- in many cases, early voting just allows people who would vote anyway to do so at more convenient times, but it doesn't encourage new voters to participate (for a review of the evidence, see this new paper). But automatic or simpler registration works.

To me, however, the strongest arguments are based on democratic theory. Democracy, a system of government in which people rule themselves, is extremely difficult even with the best intentions. A core problem is that people have different resources -- money, of course, but also skills that are politically valuable, time available for political action, and even interest in government. Universal suffrage is a partial remedy, but that only works if voting is easily and equally accessible.

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That's why registration is so corrosive. Even if it's not much of a barrier, those who are deterred are almost certainly the same people who lose out in a system that cannot (and in my view should not) help but reward those with more resources. Voting itself should be easy for the same reasons, but registration holds a special status as the entryway to politics.

Granted, there is a partisan component to voting as an issue. Democrats favor easier voting because they think it will help them, which is why Republicans oppose it. The evidence is that evencompulsory voting wouldn't make much of a difference (see Jamelle Bouie and Greg Sargent for the politics of automatic registration as an election issue).

Is fraud a concern? I don't think so. Yes, people could find ways to beat an automatic system, but they can find ways to beat the current system, too. Fraud is an unfortunate but unavoidable byproduct. If we want a bigger military, we're going to get more procurement fraud; if we want to make it easy to vote, some may try to abuse that.

To me, it's simple. Policies that make it easy to vote are good for democracy; policies that make it hard aren't. I'll support anything, even selective measures, that make it easier to vote. After all, if both parties reduce voting barriers for their supporters, eventually we'll get to the right place. Universal automatic registration has the virtue of not being selective. It's the right reform, and kudos to Clinton for moving her once-indifferent party in that direction.

Why Hillary Clinton Must Back a LGBT Full Civil Rights Law for Her Own Sake // HuffPo // Michelangelo Signorile – June 5, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), running for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, wants to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include gay and transgender people, assuring a federal law that would ban discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and all spheres of American life, with no broad religious exemption. In 1996, he was one of only 67 House members to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which President Bill Clinton signed into law.

Sanders' fellow Democratic presidential contender and former Maryland governor, Martin O'Malley, was at the vanguard of gubernatorial leadership on marriage equality, one of the few governors to spearhead and sign a marriage equality bill into law in 2012, and then fervently campaign in a statewide referendum to ratify it.

Lincoln Chafee, the former U.S. senator and Rhode Island governor, who has now announced a run for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, supported marriage equality as far back as 2004 -- when he was a Republican! -- and similarly pushed and signed a marriage bill into law in his state in 2013. Chafee also said this week that the Pentagon's ban on open transgender military service should be lifted.

And what are we hearing from Hillary Clinton nowadays? Well, she finally said in her own words that marriage for gays and lesbians is a constitutional right -- just two months back -- having previously left that to a campaign spokesperson, while just last year she was still saying it was a state issue, in line with what many Republican candidates say now. And she issued a vague LGBT Pride Month proclamation that said that the work toward equality "is far from finished" without offering any specifics -- like amending the Civil Rights Act, or fully lifting the ban on trans service or creating a whole new civil rights law for LGBT people that does both and more.

It's true that Hillary Clinton, as secretary of state, gave an important, groundbreaking speech in Geneva in 2011, pronouncing that LGBT rights are human rights, taking on brutal anti-LGBT regimes abroad. But that was then, and while we all deeply care about our brothers and sisters overseas, there is so much that needs to be done in the U.S. for LGBT people that an American presidential candidate could promise right now.

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And at a time when Clinton's Democratic rivals are exploiting a dip in her approval numbers, Clinton should be going on the offensive as the candidate fighting for full equality during a civil rights movement of our time. That would not only energize progressives in the party, it would speak to younger voters, including independents, who she'll surely need. And it's in stark contrast to just about every GOP candidate, most of whom have supported discriminatory "religious freedom" laws and surely do not back anti-discrimination legislation for LGBT people.

It's baffling that Clinton hasn't done this, considering the full force with which she's taken on the issue of immigration, promising to sign executive orders more far-reaching than even the controversial ones President Obama has signed, and the way she took on the voting rights issue yesterday, calling for 20 days of early voting nationwide.

It's likely true that Clinton's slowness on LGBT rights in the past was because, as secretary of state, she couldn't get ahead of the president, who had to be pushed himself on the issue. But even long after President Obama decided not to defend DOMA in court and came out for marriage equality, and after she left the administration, Clinton was still late to the game on marriage.

More than that, Hillary Clinton, rightly or wrongly, carries the baggage of her husband, Bill, who signed both "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and DOMA into law. She has to be twice as good on LGBT rights as everyone else just to counter that past, as unfair as that may seem. Instead, she has been defensive of Bill Clinton on the issue rather than distancing herself. While Hillary, like Bill, came to oppose DOMA and called on the Supreme Court to overturn it, for example, she, like Bill, has defended the signing of the bill into law in 1996, spinning out a narrative about how it was believed DOMA would satisfy the anti-gay crowd and blunt a possible constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

As I've pointed out before, this is false, as there was no talk of a constitutional amendment that early on. Certainly I don't expect Hillary Clinton to say, as I have, that DOMA was a stain on Bill Clinton's presidency. But surely she can be more forceful in being out front on LGBT rights now. And, again, that's doubly true if she wants to stand out from her opponents.

It's likely that Clinton's campaign is taking advice from Beltway gay operatives. That's a mistake because many were wrong the last time around as well, only to see LGBT energy and support shift to Obama, because he spoke more forcefully on the issues. She needs a difference course this time. She could begin by giving a speech putting her full support behind a comprehensive federal LGBT civil rights bill, like the one that Sen. Merkley (D-Ore.) is set to introduce that would ban discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations, including in the 29 states that have no statewide protections without broad religious exemptions. She could explain how she's going to fight for it in a Republican-dominated Congress that will surely beat such a bill back for years to come. Or she can call for amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act as Sen. Sanders has, and a go a few steps better, calling for lifting the ban on transgender service, pushing for passage of anti-bullying legislation and getting a law passed that end "ex-gay" therapy.

Most of all, Clinton has got to get away from empty platitudes. Things have moved at light speed, and we're way beyond the time when having a gay couple or two in your campaign video is enough, or where a vague Pride proclamation with no teeth suffices. We should be hearing concrete details from Hillary Clinton on how she is going to be a forceful champion of LGBT rights, both for the sake of equality and for the sake her own campaign.

Republicans' revisionist history on Iraq // The Hill // Diana Ohlbaum – June 5, 2015

In the wake of former Gov. Jeb Bush's (R-Fla.) bungled responses to predictable questions about Iraq, Republican strategists are rolling out a specious new argument: In essence, that all was well in Iraq at the end of the George W. Bush administration, and President Obama messed it up. Charles Krauthammer calls it "the abandonment of 2011," blaming the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria's (ISIS) recent advances on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq at the end of 2011.

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This argument flies so completely in the face of history and logic that it rivals the way Vice President Cheney intentionally misled Congress and the American public with false, exaggerated and unsubstantiated claims that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. Those misrepresentations led us into a war that 75 percent of the American public now says was not worth fighting. The hawks' new line is designed to get us back into it.

Let's start by remembering that the 2007 surge was intended as a temporary build-up to buy time, not as a prelude to permanent occupation. It was President George W. Bush who signed the security agreement with Iraq that set a date of Dec. 31, 2011 for all U.S. forces to withdraw from the country. And despite the U.S. success in holding up its side of the bargain — reducing levels of violence in order to create space for political progress — the Iraqi government remained unwilling or unable to do its part.

Second, we must acknowledge our own role in giving rise to ISIS. Almost all of its higher-ups were members of Hussein's security forces, disbanded under the de-Baathification policy of the Bush administration. Set loose in society with arms, training and grievances, but no jobs or income, these sacked officers formed the core of the Iraqi insurgency. And it was in U.S.-run detention camps that terrorist leaders like Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of ISIS, did their best recruiting.

Third, it is clear that leaving U.S. troops in for longer, or returning them now, would not essentially change the fundamentals of the conflict. ISIS and other extremist forces are expanding, not for lack of powerful enemies, but because those enemies are themselves so abhorrent. The repressive, violent and corrupt regimes in Syria and Iran are the chief antagonists and targets of ISIS. By inserting ourselves into this fight, we unavoidably strengthen the very regimes we find so repugnant and so threatening to U.S. interests in the region.

Strengthening Iran was, in fact, our principal achievement by invading Iraq in the first place. Before considering another ill-advised move in the region, we ought to consider the secondary and tertiary impacts of the application of military power. For instance, even if we had the ability to crush ISIS in Iraq and Syria, which is doubtful, it might only have the effect of splintering and scattering extremists across the globe, making a coordinated effort against them far more complicated.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey said in his testimony before Congress last fall, "there is no military solution" to ISIS; they "will only be defeated or destroyed once they are rejected by the population in which they hide." It may be difficult for us to understand why, as Defense Secretary Ashton Carter admitted, the Iraqi army lacks the will to fight, but if $26 billion and nearly a decade of effort didn't work, then it's time to step back and reexamine our assumptions.

The fact that the Iraqi army isn't standing up to ISIS doesn't mean that the United States can or should do the job for them. In fact, precisely the opposite: All we can reasonably do is help the Iraqis build a state worth fighting for.

Hillary Clinton's call for easier voting is self-serving, but so what? // LA Times // Michael Mcgough – June 5, 2015

Was Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton’s call this week for radically more convenient voting self-serving? Yes, in two ways.

If you believe that it should be easier to vote, the fact that Democrats would benefit is irrelevant.

If Clinton’s proposals for expanded early voting, automatic voter registration for 18-year-olds and a return to preclearance were adopted, she and other Democrats likely would be the beneficiaries. But so what? If you believe that it should be easier to vote, the fact that Democrats would benefit is irrelevant. The challenge for Republicans

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is to try harder to court the young and minority voters who are disproportionately discouraged from voting by current election laws.

Clinton's speech was self-serving in another, subtler way. By accusing Republicans of "systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting," Clinton arguably guaranteed that Republicans would react in an equally partisan way -- as they promptly did.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie suggested that Clinton "wants an opportunity to commit greater acts of voter fraud around the country." Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry suggested that, in criticizing his state's requirement that voters show photo IDs, Clinton "dissed every person who supports having an identification to either get on an airplane or vote."

Portraying access to the ballot box as a partisan issue arguably undermines the effort to win bipartisan support for the measures Clinton proposed. It also could lead some independent voters to shrug cynically over what seems to be a battle between vested interests, not a matter of principle.

But enactment of the reforms Clinton endorsed is unlikely in the near future, either in the Republican-controlled Congress or in states where the GOP holds sway. By picking a fight with Republicans, Clinton probably galvanized Democratic voters, including the "people of color, poor people and young people" she accused the Republicans of disenfranchising. Changes in the law can come later.

Alexandria Phillips
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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/28/2015 12:23:03 AM
Subject: News Update - August 28, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, August 28

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Obama's Sanctions Chief to Defend Iran Accord in Israel**
- **UN Envoy: US will be Isolated if Iran Deal Rejected**
- **PA Continues Large-Scale Arrests of Hamas Members**
- **UN to Decide September 15 on Whether to Raise Palestinian Flag at HQ**
- **Palestinians Set Date for First Congress in Two Decades**
- **15% of West Bank Settlers are American, New Research Finds**
- **Public Security Minister Fires Back at His Critics**
- **Council of Torah Allows Litzman to Become Health Minister**

Commentary:

- **Politico: "Congress, Don't Isolate America Again Over Iran"**
  - By Samantha Power
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  - By Smadar Perry

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New York Times

Obama's Sanctions Chief to Defend Iran Deal in Israel

President Obama's sanctions chief will arrive in Israel on Friday to defend the nuclear containment deal with Iran and try to reassure a government and public deeply opposed to the accord that the United States is still prepared to inflict severe financial penalties on Tehran for its sponsorship of terrorism and support for military proxies. The Obama aide, Adam J. Szubin, the top Treasury Department official who helped negotiate the accord between Iran and six world powers, will meet with Israeli government officials and foreign policy experts to make his case during a three-day trip, administration officials announced on Thursday. It is part of Mr. Obama's full-throated effort to build support for the agreement, which faces a vote of disapproval in Congress within weeks.

Times of Israel

UN Envoy: US will be Isolated if Iran Deal Rejected

The United States will be isolated on the world stage and its influence diminished if Congress rejects the Iran nuclear deal, the US ambassador to the United Nations has warned. In an editorial published by Politico, Samantha Power argued that a "no" vote from Congress would make it more difficult for the United States to drum up support for sanctions and partner with like-minded countries to confront crises. "If the United States rejects this deal, we would instantly isolate ourselves from countries that spent nearly two years working with American negotiators to hammer out its toughest provisions," Power wrote in a piece posted late Wednesday.

Ha'aretz

PA Continues Large-Scale Arrests of Hamas Members

At least 25 Palestinians identified with Hamas were arrested last week by security forces of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. This brings the total number of Hamas members or supporters held in Palestinian jails to 70. Seven were arrested late Tuesday night and five over the following two days. The arrests were made in Hebron, Nablus, Bir Zeit and Jenin. The Palestinian authority rejects claims that these are political detentions, saying that they are based on suspicions of possession of illegal weapons or of funds intended for illegal purposes. A Hamas source told Haaretz that ridiculous charges were filed against a few people (such as belonging to a cult), but that "some of those arrested were considering actions against the occupation."

Jerusalem Post

UN to Decide on Whether to Raise Pal. Flag at HQ

A draft resolution was presented to the United Nations on Thursday to request that the Palestinian flag be raised the next time world leaders convene at UN headquarters, according to AFP. The resolution was presented in advance of the annual 193-nation UN General Assembly set for September 25. It originally included a request for the Vatican flag to fly as well, but was removed at the Vatican's insistence. A vote on the resolution, sponsored by 21 countries, will take place September 15. Among the co-sponsors are Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria and Jordan.

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Palestinians Set Date for First Congress in 2 Decades

Palestinian leaders have set September 15-16 as the dates for their first congress in nearly 20 years after President Mahmoud Abbas announced his resignation as head of a top executive body. The meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), a congress representing those in the Palestinian territories and the diaspora, is to be held in Ramallah in the West Bank. "It has been decided to ask the Palestine National Council to convene for a session on the upcoming 15th and 16th of September in Ramallah," senior Palestinian official Azzam al-Ahmad told AFP. "The council's agenda includes electing a new executive committee for the (Palestine Liberation Organization)."Ahmad said the congress would also discuss the stalemate in peace talks with Israel, among other issues.

Ha'aretz

New Research: 15% of WB Settlers are American

Roughly 60,000 American Jews live in West Bank settlements, where they account for 15 percent of the settler population, according to figures revealed Thursday by an Oxford University scholar and expert on this population. "This provides hard evidence that this constituency is strikingly over-represented, both within the settler population itself and within the total population of Jewish American immigrants in Israel," said Sara Yael Hirschhorn, the author of the upcoming book "City on a Hilltop: Jewish-American Settlers in the Occupied Territories Since 1967," scheduled for release by Harvard University Press in 2016. The number of American immigrants living in Israel, including their children, has been estimated at about 170,000.

Ma'ariv

Public Security Minister Fires Back at His Critics

Yesterday Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan attacked the former police commissioners and commanders who protested his choice of Brig. Gen. (res.) Gal Hirsch as incoming commissioner of the Israel Police. "They want to continue to have access," said Erdan. "When there were significant events in the police in the past two years, like the wave of resignations by commanders who were forced to leave because of all kinds of problems, there were no such emergency meetings." In a conversation with Ma'ariv, the minister said, "Let's remember that the police reached the point of crisis after many years in which commissioners were appointed from within. Their claim doesn't stand up. The result wasn't optimal when the commissioners were appointed. There are self-interested parties who oppose this appointment."

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Jerusalem Post

Council of Torah Allows Litzman to Become Minister

United Torah Judaism's Deputy Health Minister Ya'acov Litzman accepted the position of health minister offered to him by Prime Minister Netanyahu on Thursday after the ultra-Orthodox party's Council of Torah Sages decided to permit the move. UTJ traditionally has not allowed any of its MKs to be officials, in order that it not be seen as party to or responsible for government decisions the party believes run counter to Jewish law. But the rabbis permitted Litzman to join the cabinet after the High Court of Justice ruled that there cannot be any "deputy ministers with the status of a minister," which was how Litzman was described.

Politico – August 27, 2015

Congress, Don't Isolate America Again Over Iran

By Samantha Power

While many members of Congress have declared their positions on the Iran nuclear deal, a significant number remain undecided. I and my colleagues in the administration have spoken to many of those still digging into its details, poring over the annexes and asking specific questions—questions like how long traces of uranium would be detectable after a hidden site was "cleaned up" (answer: many lifetimes over) or what the "snap back" of sanctions at the United Nations would mean for businesses that had already signed new contracts in Iran (answer: they would have to phase out their contracts or face penalties for violating sanctions). They are asking these questions in an effort to determine what is best for our national security.

Yet while our discussions delve deep into the details of the deal itself, far less time is focused on how this deal would affect America's foreign policy heft on issues far beyond Iran's nuclear program. Serving as the United States ambassador to the United Nations, where we hold one of five permanent seats of the UN Security Council and are one of 193 member states, I spend virtually every day interacting with foreign diplomats—diplomats who are tracking the debate in Congress like they tracked the World Cup soccer pairings last year. And from this vantage point, I believe that rejecting this deal would significantly weaken our ability to achieve our broader foreign policy goals—most of which in 2015 require us to mobilize broad international coalitions.

First, if the United States rejects this deal, we would instantly isolate ourselves from the countries that spent nearly two years working with American negotiators to hammer out its toughest provisions. Those partners believe that this is a sound deal—with a rigorous set of inspection measures that would allow us to know if Iran is not playing by the rules. And those countries have been very clear that they are not prepared to walk away from this deal to try to secure different terms. So if we walk away, there is no diplomatic door number two. No do over. No rewrite of the deal on the table. We would go from a situation in which Iran is isolated to one in which the United States is isolated. That would not be ideal under any circumstances, but it would be particularly damaging in a context in which Iran continues to

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pose a profound threat to international peace and security, against which global unity and pressure will be critical.

Second, well beyond the consequences vis-a-vis Iran itself, rejecting this deal would likely undermine our ability to use sanctions in other circumstances. At the UN I routinely encounter countries that do not want to impose sanctions or even to enforce those already on the books. The hard-line sanctions skeptics have their own self-interested reasons for opposing sanctions, but they ground their opposition in claims that America uses sanctions to inflict punishment for punishment's sake. In response, I tell foreign diplomats that sanctions are not an end in themselves, but a means of marrying coercive measures with diplomacy to try to change behavior—whether that behavior threatens international security or inflicts widespread human suffering. And I tell those diplomats that when diplomatic paths seem to emerge, America will pursue them, and we will ease the pressure if the grounds for imposing sanctions are addressed.

In the case of Iran, the United States persuaded other countries to apply pressure for a purpose—in order to secure significant, long-term constraints that would cut off all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon. If we move the goalpost now—arguing, for example, that there should not be sanctions relief until Iran stops supporting terrorist proxies or until it permanently gives up nuclear enrichment for peaceful purposes—we would give detractors a powerful tool to try to obstruct our future efforts on issues unrelated to Iran. Our efforts to reach this deal have affirmed the view of the United States as a tough but principled leader; rejecting it would be read in many quarters as a superpower intent on inflicting pain for its own sake.

So the next time we try to rally countries to join us in imposing asset freezes or travel bans on military leaders whose soldiers commit atrocities—as we succeeded in doing in July for six commanders in South Sudan—we may find it harder to marshal international support. And the next time we try to persuade the UN Security Council to ratchet up sanctions on North Korea following a nuclear weapons test or other provocative actions, we may find other countries less willing to impose stronger measures. Meanwhile, as we try to convince warlords and rogue states targeted by other sanctions regimes to change their ways, they may assume—not without reason—that we will keep punitive measures in place regardless of how they act.

Finally, walking away from this deal may well make it harder for us to rally multilateral coalitions necessary to confront other grave threats—whether those threats come from a regime armed with a nuclear weapon, a deadly virus, or a group of foreign terrorist fighters. These threats do not respect borders and pose a risk to all nations, yet too many countries sit back and expect the United States to shoulder a disproportionate share of the collective security burden. We must get other countries to do their part, but getting them to do so depends a lot on how the United States is perceived in the world.

The Iran nuclear deal has been championed by the president of the United States, every one of America's European friends and countless other countries around the world. If Congress rejects the deal, we will project globally an America that is internally divided, unreliable and dismissive of the views of those with whom we built Iran's sanctions architecture in the first place. Although it is hard to

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measure the precise impact of these perceptions, I and other American diplomats around the world draw every day on our nation's soft power, which greatly enhances our ability to mobilize other countries to our side. While that soft power is built in many ways, two of its most important sources are the belief among other countries' leaders and publics that we share similar values, and that America delivers on its commitments. Of course, there is no substitute for the essential deterrent and coercive effects rooted in the hard power of America's unmatched military arsenal. But we should not underestimate the political capital we will lose—political capital that we draw upon for influence—if we walk away from this deal.

Senators and representatives are right to deliberate carefully over whether America's national security interests are better served by accepting or rejecting this deal. Putting the deal under the microscope is a crucial part of that process. But so is taking a step back and weighing the cost that rejecting the deal would have on our ability to lead the world in confronting Iran and other 21st century threats. Viewed from that perspective, the price of our lonely walk away looks very high indeed.

Samantha Power is U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Ynet News – August 26, 2015

Abbas is Flexing his Muscles

The Palestinian leader suddenly views Iran as a 'sister' country. He decided that if Hamas is working with Iran, so will he, and if the Gaza rulers are getting aid from the Islamic Republic, the PA president wants in too.

By Smadar Perry

All of a sudden, Iran is a "neighbor" and "sister" to the Palestinian Authority president. It's unclear what possessed Abbas to take advantage of a group of journalists from Poland, with whom he met two days ago in Ramallah to announce that he was going to visit the "sister" in Tehran "soon".

All of this is quite strange, because Abbas could not provide a date for his visit, and it turns out that Tehran was also surprised to learn he was coming. So far, they have neither confirmed nor denied the visit.

What is certain is that amid reports of a deal being in the works between Israel and Hamas, Abbas decided to flex his muscles. If Hamas is working with Iran, so will he. If Hamas is getting aid from Iran, Abbas wants some too. Hamas is in conflict with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and Abbas will be too if he really does go to Tehran, especially with the Saudis.

No one is taking his resignation seriously. Not in Israel, not in the Arab world, not in Washington and especially not in Ramallah. It appears that he is more interested in appearing defiant, as if to say: "Hold me back, I'm ready to break the rules."

Hanan Ashrawi, one of the nine other officials to resign from the PLO Executive Committee, said what everyone else was thinking: The institutions of the PLO need some new blood. But Abbas, lest we forget, will remain the "Ra'ees" (head leader). He has no intention of letting go of the presidency.

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We became accustomed to him even before Arafat's death, to his extreme moods and capricious decisions. An Israeli who meets him in person will encounter a nice elderly neighbor. He in no way encourages terrorism; and he knows Israeli society and its leaders pretty well. But in his old age, he is pretty sick of being stuck in the same place.

Even if Netanyahu calls on him to return to the negotiating table, he will expect nothing would come out of it, and worry that it would weaken his position on the Palestinian street. He also suspects that there's a deal brewing behind closed doors that would come at his expense. No one is talking about the "historic" reconciliation between the PLO and Hamas anymore.

One thing's for sure - Khaled Mashal's insistence to report on "progress" in talks with Israel was aimed at Abbas: To slam the one who is sitting comfortably in Ramallah and looking for a plane ticket to Tehran.

In the midst of all of this, Abbas has also managed to declare war on Mohammed Dahlan, kick Prime Minister Salam Fayyad out, and fire Yasser Abed Rabbo. If he was truly resigning or seeking to hold an election for the Palestinian Authority, he would not have spent that time cleaning house.
Abbas is 80 years old, smokes like a chimney, doesn't really exercise and doesn't keep his diet as well as Shimon Peres does. The day after Abbas can become a reality at any given moment.

I see him as a kind of tragic figure that reflects Palestinian sadness and frustration. He doesn't have Arafat's charisma, and was even robbed of a Nobel Peace Prize despite his intense involvement in the secret talks that led to the Oslo Accords.

Now he is bringing his faithful friend Saeb Erekat into his inner political circle, but at the same time he continues to keep score, and views his closest confidants in black and white, either good or treacherous, without anything in between. Younger politicians can't even get their foot in the door.

A Ra'ees in the Arab world, any Ra'ees, does not retire voluntarily. Either nature takes its course, or the masses in the squares kick him out. No one is going to protest against him in the West Bank, but there's no need to envy Abbas.
If he does decide to give up and quit, as he has been threatening to do, he will face a witch hunt over all of the affairs his senior position has so far protected him from. So he stays.

He knows the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is unsolvable: Jerusalem will not be divided and no one is going to agree on borders. And, in any case, Iran and ISIS have stolen the spotlight from him long ago.

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S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
jbenenson@bsgco.com
john.podesta@gmail.com
kschake@hillaryclinton.com
re47@hillaryclinton.com
ha16@hillaryclinton.com
jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
jake.sullivan@gmail.com
bfallon@hillaryclinton.com
john@algpolling.com
David@db-research.com
Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com
tgoff@hillaryclinton.com
oshur@hillaryclinton.com
tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 5/4/2015 4:01:25 AM
Subject: Re: Immigration remarks

I like this.

I am concerned that it is pretty long and that HRC will want to read it and therefore be looking down the whole time. What is the set up going to be?

Also, one small thing. This line is the exact language President Obama has used. We should switch to something else:

"We're talking about parents lying awake at night afraid of a knock on the door. "

thx

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>; David Binder <David@db-research.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Mon, May 4, 2015 10:52 am
Subject: Immigration remarks

Here's a revised topper for tomorrow that spells out a bit more of what we're talking about in terms of the sympathetic cases. Also takes Joel's point about punching up the "can't wait" up top.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 11:57 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> In advance of this discussion, here's a draft of her Las Vegas topper. It's a little long so I'm going to try to tighten it up, but this attempts to lay out the contrast on path to citizenship and move the ball forward with the parents of dreamers.
>
> On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> > Agree with Jake and John
> > We're not running against King.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On May 3, 2015, at 7:28 PM, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> >
> > I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.
> >
> > On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan < jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.

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On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan < jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
To: Kristina Schake < kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Robby Mook < re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin < ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri < jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon < bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >; David Binder < David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor < mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff < tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur < oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk < tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:

- Immigration plan
- Clinton Cash update

Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call

Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays
Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.

--
Kristina Schake
Hillary for America

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From: Creamer2@aol.com
To: CAN@list.americansunitedforchange.org
bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
virtualwar-room@googlegroups.com
Date: 1/13/2011 1:07:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Do Americans Have the Right to Bear WMD?

Do Americans Have the Right to Bear Weapons of Mass Destruction?

The massacre and assassination attempt in Tucson have reignited the ongoing battle over what limitations should be placed on our rights to bear arms.

Let's assume for a moment – though there are many Constitutional scholars who disagree -- that the majority of the Supreme Court is correct in its view that the Constitution does in fact confer on Americans a right to bear arms that is similar in scope to our right to free speech and assembly. What does it actually mean, that we have a right to bear arms?

The Second Amendment reads: *A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*

What exactly are "arms"? Do Americans have the right to bear atom bombs? How about biological or chemical weapons?

For the vast majority of Americans, the proposition that we have the right to bear our own nuclear, biological or chemical weapons is preposterous. But what about stinger missiles that can down commercial aircraft – or bazookas? They are all arms.

Strict constructionists of the Constitution would want to look back at original intent. So let's think for a moment what the framers of the Constitution meant by "arms."

At the time the Constitution was written in the late 18th century, "arms" included weapons that had a fairly limited degree of destructive power. To Thomas Jefferson or Alexander Hamilton, the term "arms" referred to clubs, swords, single shot cannons, single shot muskets and pistols. Weapons that allowed people to rapidly fire many bullets had not been invented. There were no assault rifles, machine guns or semi-automatics. While there were a few double barreled rifles as early as the seventeenth century, the double barreled rifle would not be perfected until the late 1800's. Samuel Colt would not invent the revolver – the six-shooter – until 1836.

To the framers, the term "arms" referred mainly to single shot muskets and pistols.

But beyond the question of what the Constitution means by the "right to bear arms," we must also remember that no right is absolute. Each person's rights are constrained by the extent to which they impinge on another person's rights.

If you live by yourself on an island, you have an absolute right to do whatever you want. There's no one else around with whom your rights can conflict. But as soon as you join a society of other people, an individual's personal rights are limited by the degree to which they affect the rights of others. Legislative bodies and courts were set up precisely to adjudicate the conflicts between these rights.

There is general agreement that the right to free speech does not give individuals the right to falsely cry "fire" in a crowded theater, because that conflicts with everyone else's right to avoid being killed or injured by the ensuing panic.

The right to free speech doesn't allow individuals to lie under oath to a court, because that would conflict with the rights of others to a fair trial.

Like any other right, the right to bear arms is limited by the rights of other Americans not to be killed or injured. So – given the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Second Amendment – the question is not whether Americans have the right to bear arms, but rather how that right should be limited because it conflicts with other rights.

I believe the answer to that question is clear. The mounting volume of gun deaths and injuries, the easy access that criminals and terrorists have to what amounts to weapons of mass destruction, require substantial limitations on the ability of individuals to use, carry and obtain guns. That need is enhanced by the technological advances that have been made in weapons technology in the years since 1789.

Our laws currently ban guns made of plastic, because they cannot be identified by metal detectors.

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There are very few Americans who would support repealing our current laws banning guns on commercial aircraft.

For many years we have banned personal possession of large caliber machine guns – including those that could bring down airplanes.

In 1994, Congress and the President passed a bi-partisan assault weapons ban that outlawed private possession or sale of specific types of fully and semi-automatic weapons whose principle uses are to kill people in war, or by police forces. That bill also banned the possession and sale of high-volume magazines of the sort that allowed the Jared Lee Loughner, the accused Tucson killer, to fire thirty-one shots in rapid succession before stopping to reload. That bill sunset in 2004, and the Republican Congress and Bush Administration refused to extend its provisions.

Had it still been in effect it would have been likely that Loughner – who bought the magazines legally– would have had to reload after firing off only 10 rounds, which was the maximum magazine capacity under the assault weapons ban. Since nineteen people were killed or injured, that would have preventing the death or injury of at least another nine human beings.

When the ban expired, assault weapons once again began to flood our streets – and – according to the Mexican government – have played a major role in the drug violence that has torn apart the border region. Regardless of the increasing gun carnage, many Republicans are pushing to expand the right to carry weapons of all sorts. They oppose reinstituting the assault weapons ban and even want to allow people to carry guns into schools, churches, restaurants and bars.

Arizona recently eliminated the requirement that individuals get permits to carry concealed weapons.

Their argument is that if more people carried guns, there would be people around with weapons to stop other people who would use their guns against their fellow citizens. It's the "quick draw" argument. I'm not sure many people would go for that argument in a plane, or a crowed restaurant, or in a bar where most of the customers have thrown back a few drinks – particularly if the whole crowd were carrying Glocks with the ability to squeeze off 31 rounds each in a matter of seconds. Frankly, it's ridiculous.

Let's see how many of the Republicans in Congress who want to allow everyone to pack assault weapons feel about eliminating the ban on weapons in the Capitol. Why not just let any old American (or other visitor) wander the halls with Uzi's while we're at it?

You hear, "guns don't kill people, people kill people." Sure. But if Loughner had a knife or a club instead of a semi-automatic Glock with extended magazine, lots of people would be alive today.

We all agree that someone like Loughner – or any other citizen -- should not be permitted to possess a nuclear weapon or some other weapon of mass destruction. Why should he be permitted to carry semi-automatic Glock with extended magazine? It is also a weapon of mass destruction. Its only purpose is to kill or injure large numbers of people. It can't kill hundreds of thousands, but we know empirically that within a few seconds it can kill and injure nineteen.

The argument that our society would be safer if we had even more guns – and especially high-powered guns – is simply absurd. Hopefully the shock of the appalling massacre in Tucson will prompt us to snap out of our NRA-induced stupor and pass restrictions on weapons that effectively balance the right to bear arms with our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/29/2015 4:36:54 PM
Subject: Re: FW: HRC Iran statement

Ok
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 06:23 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: dkurtzphelan@gmail.com <dkurtzphelan@gmail.com>; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com) <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com) <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: FW: HRC Iran statement

Thanks Stu. I need to grapple with some of these edits, which go beyond where I might suggest she go at this point. Others are very well taken. Let me give it another crack and come back to you.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 6:14 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Dear Dan and Jake,
>
> Here is a cleaner version. Something happened with the one I just sent that left gaps in the sentences.
>
> Stu
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Eizenstat, Stuart
> **Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 6:09 PM
> **To:** 'Daniel Kurtz-Phelan'
> **Cc:** Jake Sullivan; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
> **Subject:** RE: HRC Iran statement
>
> Dear Dan and Jake,
>
> I am sorry for the delay, but I only landed this morning from Israel via JFK. Please see my comments below. Of course, we do not know the details at this time.
>
> Stu
>
> > **From:** Daniel Kurtz-Phelan [mailto:dkurtzphelan@gmail.com]
> > **Sent:** Sunday, June 28, 2015 8:52 PM
> > **To:** Eizenstat, Stuart
> > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan
> > **Subject:** HRC Iran statement
> >
> > Dear Stu,
> >
> > Jake asked that I share with you the current draft of HRC's statement on the Iran deal. It's pasted below. Some of this could of course change depending on the details of a final agreement, but it would be great to have your feedback at this stage,

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Many thanks,

Dan

**

I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for securing a nuclear agreement that offers the strongest chance to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, our Arab partners, and the region safer and more secure than if there were no agreement.

At the same time, there are aspects of the agreement that are a cause for concern, and a basis for special diligence. has not been required to answer questions about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD), including allowing the IAEA to inspect sites, interview key scientists and officials, and review documents that would shed light on their past and current PMD activities. In addition, clarity is required on what limits are imposed during the term of the agreement and thereafter to preclude Iran's work on advanced centrifuges. It is also critical that sanctions relief must come only when Iran has demonstrates to the satisfaction of the IAEA that they have complied with their obligations. Sanctions for terrorism and other non-nuclear sanctions must remain in place. I I want to make sure as President that any violation of the agreement by Iran would trigger a reimposition of sanctions, without an Iranian veto over the findings, and in ways that assure the US can act if we feel there is a violation. Most important is monitoring and verification. The IAEA inspectors must have timely and effective access to all sites in Iran, including military sites. It is unclear if this is the case.

Despite these concerns, it is critical in assessing this agreement to ask what alternatives exist. We already have in place the most effective, broad-based sanctions ever imposed on a country in peacetime. While they have brought Iran to the negotiating table, they have not stopped the continued expansion of their nuclear program. It is difficult to see what other sanctions would lead to greater Iranian concessions. Without an agreement, there would be no two-thirds reduction in their number of centrifuges; no dismantlement of their plutonium plant at Arak; no 24/IAEA inspections; no dilution of their 20% enriched uranium. Their capacity to "break-out: would be far more likely without this agreement, than with it. We also have to consider it we could maintain the partnership with the European Union, which has made the sanctions most effective.

Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions and ineffective saber rattling. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms – especially in Moscow and Beijing – to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history against Tehran. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy, halted the progress of its nuclear program (NB. BE CAREFUL THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGES AND AMOUNT OF ENRICHED URANIUM SINCE OBAMA TOOK OFFICE), and forced its leaders to the table to negotiate a deal that puts a nuclear weapon out of reach.

As President, I will use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. The response to any violation will be clear, immediate, and devastating -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, the use of force. The message to Iran must be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; we will never allow you permit you to produce sufficient fissile material or otherwise acquire it, sufficient for a nuclear weapons; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that limits its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. The funds it will receive with sanctions relief will provide billions of dollars more for Iran to use to support terrorism. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to aggressively oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held by the Iranian government, and strengthen cooperation with our allies and partners. This agreement under my Administration will not see this agreement as the beginning of an American-Iranian partnership. Our allies in the Middle East deserve to have this assurance, and they will have it if I am elected President.

Israel should be confident that now and in a Hillary Clinton Administration, the United States will always defend its security and ensure its military edge in the region. Our two countries have to be on the same page when it comes to the threat posed by Iran, so I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our crucial alliance. I will provide Israel with all the military means it requires to defend itself against an Iranian threat, and support its actions to defend itself. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

Ultimately, this agreement is the best way to protect our country and our allies. To walk away from a deal that will stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, or to bomb Iran as long an agreement offers an alternative, [as some Republican candidates for President suggest,] would be both dangerous and shortsighted – fracturing our global coalition, raising the risk of regional war, and ultimately bringing Iran closer to a nuclear weapon.

So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of effective diplomacy and strong

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American leadership.

**

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/27/2014 6:44:12 AM
Subject: Thanksgiving Day and the Powerful Play

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Thanksgiving Day and the Powerful Play

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: We live in a world of shrinking margins, of narrowing visions, a world ruled and ruined by fools. This is the fact of our time, and no one is going to fix it today. Tomorrow, perhaps, but in the meantime, hold close what you hold most dear, and give thanks for the chance of that holding.

Read the Article

Thanksgiving and the Socialist Imaginary

Ben Agger, Truthout: Canadians can access socialist imaginary through the Canadian New Democratic Party; with a Democratic Party that has no vision of utopia, US Americans access socialist imaginary through Thanksgiving. Holidays bear utopia as the negation of present suffering, a political resource at a time when mainstream Democrats cannot out-right the right.

Read the Article

Show Up on Thanksgiving or Get Fired

Jim Hightower, OtherWords: Most Americans will get a much-deserved break from work on Thanksgiving Day. But millions of others won't. Wal-Mart, Target, Macy's, Radio Shack, and other retailers are requiring their low-paid workers to put in a shift.

Read the Article

Privateers Make a Water Grab

Ellen Dannin, Portside: Facing increasing opposition abroad over the past several decades, global water privatizers have begun to see US cities as expansion markets.

Read the Article

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Mexican Activist Who Fed Train-Hopping Immigrants is Slain

Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

Mass Imprisonment and Public Health

Read the Article at The New York Times

Video Shows Cleveland Officer Shooting 12-Year-Old Tamir Rice Within Seconds

Read the Article at The Washington Post

Lawmakers Urge Calm, Offer Few

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Ferguson Thanksgiving: A Former Slave Proposed the Holiday 55 Years Before Lincoln. Why His Version Matters Today

Jedediah Purdy, YES! Magazine: For some, racial inequality and fear are raw realities every day, and anything inspiring in American history rings false and remote. For others, the call to reflect on injustice feels like a personal accusation. But we are caught in this history together.

Read the Article

#Not1More Means Not One More

Carlos Garcia, Puente Movement: Our organizing is based in the idea that when you organize from below, defending the most vulnerable, you lift everyone else up with you. When the most stigmatized have their humanity recognized, everyone else's expands as well.

Read the Article

How ACA Fuels Corporatization of American Health Care

Dr. Philip Caper, Bangor Daily News: Patients are losing confidence in their doctors, while doctors are losing confidence in our ability to do the right thing for our patients. These trends are collateral damage caused by our increasingly corporatized, commodified and commercialized US health care "industry."

Read the Article

"Coercive Diplomacy" and the Failure of the Nuclear Negotiations

Gareth Porter, Middle East Eye: The US posture in talks with Iran has reflected the perspective of a dominant power accustomed to employing coercive power.

Read the Article

Policy Prescriptions in Wake of Ferguson

Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

A New Business Strategy: Treating Employees Well

Read the Article at The Atlantic

Thomas Piketty Is Right: Income Inequality Is Holding Us Back

Read the Article at Salon

California Case Could Be a Pivotal Moment in Ending the War on Marijuana

Read the Article at MintPress News

The Second Term That Movements Build

Kate Arnoff, Waging Nonviolence: The work grassroots organizers have been doing to put pressure on the White House since well before the 2008 election is paying off.

Read the Article

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From:	"John M Deutch" <jmd@MIT.EDU>
To:	"John Podesta" <John_D_Podesta@who.eop.gov> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/18/2014 7:10:43 AM
Subject:	Memorandum on Nuclear Power outlook
Attachments:	JMD-RKL Nuclear Memo (rev)[1].pdf

Any interest?

John, August 13, 2014

I attach a four page memo that my colleague and friend Richard Lester have prepared about the outlook for nuclear power in the U.S.

I did this because of your telling me that you were concerned about this question and would welcome some outside view.

We shall be interested in your reaction. And if you request it, we will prepare a more complete paper.

Still at the cape. We expect 19 guests in the next 21 days. Mostly Phil and Marne collecting nice people. Nevertheless Pat and I may go to a motel.

I am set up to meet with Caroline Atkinson who, by all accounts, is quite excellent.

John

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/21/2015 3:23:44 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.21.15
Attachments:	6.21.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 21, 201

TODAY'S KEY STORIES..... 5

Hillary Clinton Calls America's Struggle With Racism Far From Over // NYT // Nicholas Fandos – June 20, 2015 5

In San Francisco, Hillary Clinton challenges nation on racism: 'Race remains a deep fault line in America' // WaPo // David Nakamura – June 20, 2015..... 7

Clinton seizes the center on race and guns in wake of GOP's silence // VOX // Jonathan Allen – June 20, 2015 8

SOCIAL MEDIA..... 10

Chris Bollwage (6/20/15, 12:52 pm) - Secretary Clinton is delivering a very powerful speech on racism in America and the need for common sense gun control laws in our country..... 10

Peter Nicholas (6/20/15, 12:53 pm) - Hillary Clinton quotes FDR's "bold and persistent experimentation" line. HRC has been channeling FDR in her presidential campaign..... 10

Niels Lesniewski (6/20/15, 12:55 pm) - Sobering speech from @HillaryClinton as the Conference of Mayors "It's not just the kooks and Klansmen" but the assumptions..... 10

Daniel Hernandez Jr. (6/20/15, 5:27 pm) - As a survivor of gun violence I was happy to see @HillaryClinton address the US Conference of Mayors on guns. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5Xv8oYydnI ... 10

Faiz (6/20/15, 1:01 pm) - That was one of the more compelling Hillary Clinton speeches I've seen in a while..... 10

Lynn Sweet (6/20/15, 1:08 pm) - The speech @HillaryClinton just made at the #USCM2015 about race is the most important so far in her campaign. #CharlestonShooting..... 11

Jen Covino (6/20/15, 1:09 pm) - Well, @HillaryClinton just left us all emotional, speechless, teary-eyed, contemplative, determined, hopeful for the future #USCM2015..... 11

Mitt Romney (6/20/15, 11:09 am) - Take down the #ConfederateFlag at the SC Capitol. To many, it is a symbol of racial hatred. Remove it now to honor #Charleston victims..... 11

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Calls America's Struggle With Racism Far From Over // NYT // Nicholas Fandos – June 20, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered on Saturday her boldest remarks yet on race and gun violence, topics that have quickly become some of the most prominent and divisive in the presidential campaign, particularly after Wednesday's mass shooting in Charleston, S.C.

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“It’s tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today’s America bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists,” Mrs. Clinton said in a speech in San Francisco. “But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America’s long struggle with race is far from finished.”

Invoking President Obama at times, Mrs. Clinton called for a “common sense” approach to gun laws, pledging to take swift action if elected. She did not, however, make clear how she would navigate the divide in Congress that has undercut Mr. Obama’s own efforts to pass gun laws.

Mrs. Clinton’s strongly worded stance on the issue could help her make a contrast with Senator Bernie Sanders, who has been drawing large crowds in early voting states, where recent polls show him narrowing the gap with Mrs. Clinton. Mr. Sanders, a socialist from Vermont also seeking the Democratic nomination, has a decidedly mixed record on gun control, which may pose problems for his campaign as it seeks to bill itself as a more liberal alternative to Mrs. Clinton.

Saturday was not the first time that Mrs. Clinton’s Democratic campaign, still in its infancy, had found itself having to address race and racism in the wake of violence. Her first major campaign speech, at Columbia University in April, coincided with widespread unrest in Baltimore after the death of a black man, Freddie Gray, who had been injured in police custody. Mrs. Clinton used that occasion to advocate an overhaul of the criminal justice system, saying it was “time for honesty about race and justice in America.”

She echoed that sentiment on Saturday at the annual meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors, pressing for a candid national conversation on what she called a “difficult topic.”

Race, Mrs. Clinton said, remains “a deep fault line in America,” despite the election of Mr. Obama, the country’s first black president. She also cited several statistics that suggest widespread inequality between black and white Americans.

“Our problem is not all kooks and Klansmen. It’s also the cruel joke that goes unchallenged. It’s the offhand comment about not wanting those people in the neighborhood,” Mrs. Clinton said. “Let’s be honest, for a lot of well meaning, open-minded white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear.”

Mrs. Clinton, who attended a fund-raiser Wednesday in Charleston just blocks from where the shooting took place later that night, also called Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina on Saturday to offer her support to him and his constituents, Mr. Graham said. Race and gun violence quickly reasserted themselves as topics of conversation on the campaign trail after Wednesday’s deadly shooting, which took the lives of nine people gathered for Bible study at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. Both Republicans and Democrats have scrambled to pay respects to the victims, but also to take a stance that may attract voters.

Mitt Romney, the Republican Party’s 2012 presidential nominee, took to Twitter on Saturday to press South Carolina to remove the Confederate flag flying near its state capitol.

On the Democratic side, Martin O’Malley spoke out for gun control on Friday, sending a strongly worded email to supporters calling for a federal assault weapons ban, stricter background checks and measures to tamp down straw-buying. In 2013, when he was governor of Maryland, Mr. O’Malley signed similar measures into law, making his state one of the most tightly controlled in the country.

Mrs. Clinton and her Democratic challengers will need to persuade minority voters, an important Democratic constituency that put its vote behind Mr. Obama in 2008, to support them in large numbers to win in 2016.

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In San Francisco, Hillary Clinton challenges nation on racism: 'Race remains a deep fault line in America' / **/ WaPo // David Nakamura – June 20, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday forcefully challenged the nation to confront persistent racism in the wake of the mass shooting in Charleston, S.C., declaring that "race remains a deep fault line in America."

"Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," Clinton told the U.S. Conference of Mayors at its annual convention here. "I know this is a difficult topic to talk about. I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we do not like to say out loud or discus with our children. But we have to."

Clinton's appearance here came three days after nine people were shot to death at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Dylann Roof, 21, has been charged with murder in the case.

Although Clinton had called for stronger gun curbs during an appearance in Las Vegas on Thursday, her remarks in San Francisco marked a far more forceful foray into race relations, which have been strained in several cities amid a series of racially charged protests over the deaths of African Americans at the hands of police officers.

Obama addressed the mayors on Friday, and he also spoke about the Charleston shootings, while calling for stricter gun laws. The president has anguished over Congress's failure to approve his 2013 for tighter controls, including more background checks and limits to ammunition magazines, in the wake of the massacre of more than two dozen students in Newton, Conn., in Dec. 2012.

Clinton vowed to complete what Obama was unable to in Congress. "The president is right: The politics of this issue have been poisoned, but we can't give up," she said. "The stakes are too high; the costs are too dear. I will not be afraid to keep fighting for common sense reform and with you achieve that for all who have been lost because of senseless gun violence."

Obama has spoken more pointedly about race in his second term. Clinton's foray into the nation's legacy of racism came as she has sought to inspire early enthusiasm among the liberal base of the Democratic Party, staking out progressive positions on immigration, gay marriage and trade. Clinton advisers are hoping to recreate much of Obama's coalition of black, Hispanic and female voters to help push her candidacy in a 2016 battle against a Republican nominee.

The issue of gun control could become an issue in the 2016 campaign, and so could race relations, and Clinton made clear she would not shy away from talking about it. She said the problem of racism was not limited to "kooks and Klansmen," but also was perpetrated by the off-hand joke, by whites not wanting to live near blacks and by those affluent whites who are fearful of young black men.

"Let's be honest," she said.

Clinton also praised the families of the Charleston victims, including those who told Roof that they would forgive him, when he appeared in his first court proceedings.

"Their act of mercy is more stunning than his act of cruelty," she said. Wrapping up, she added that "what we need more of in this country is love and kindness."

Clinton's visit to this city was the last stop on a week-long national tour after her official campaign launch last

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weekend in New York.

She raised money Friday at a pair of fundraisers in Los Angeles, including one at the home of actor Tobey Maguire.

Obama also raised money for fellow Democrats in the 2016 election cycle during his California trip, attending two events in Los Angeles and two more in San Francisco. The president was scheduled to travel to Palm Springs on Saturday to play golf before returning to Washington on Sunday.

Clinton seizes the center on race and guns in wake of GOP's silence **// VOX // Jonathan Allen – June 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's not seen as honest and trustworthy by most voters. But on Saturday the Democratic presidential front-runner spoke truths about race and gun violence in America that her Republican rivals have refused to utter after a shooter killed nine worshipers at the historic Emanuel AME church in Charleston, S.C., this week.

If Clinton is to win the presidency, part of the reason will be Republicans' unwillingness to seriously confront realities that threaten the stability and strength of American society, from race and gun violence to income inequality and climate change.

It's hard to come up with solutions if you refuse to identify the problems. Clinton didn't advance the ball much on the former Saturday, but she delivered on the latter — putting tremendous distance between herself and field full of Republican gun-and-race deniers. One would think the GOP would have learned this lesson from the 1990s: If you give a Clinton the obvious middle ground, she'll take it.

Here's part of what she said on race.

"Bodies are once again being carried out of a black church. Once again racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence. Now its tempting, it is tempting, to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident. To believe that in today's America bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists. But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

And this is part of what she said on guns, a line that drew a long round of applause from those in attendance at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco.

"I know that gun ownership is part of the fabric of a lot of law-abiding communities, but I also know that we can have common-sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

Clinton called the failure to implement universal background checks and restrictions on gun sales to domestic abusers, the mentally ill and people on terrorist watch lists "a rebuke to this nation we love and care about." And she called racial tension the "deeper challenge we face."

Clinton's data points

The former Secretary of State cited a litany of statistics documenting important racial disparities in American life:

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Black applicants are nearly three times as likely to be turned down for a mortgage as whites

Black children are 500 percent more likely than their white counterparts to die from asthma

Black men are more likely to be stopped and searched, prosecuted for crimes and sentenced to longer prison stints than white men

Schools are more segregated now than they were in the 1960s

And, of course, the median wealth for white families is over $140,000, while the median wealth for black families is about $11,000.

"More than half a century after Dr. King marched and Rosa Parks sat and John Lewis bled," she said, "how can any of these things be true?"

Compare what Clinton is saying in the wake of the Charleston massacre to what Republican candidates for the presidency have said when asked about racism and the availability of guns as factors in the horrific murders Dylann Roof is accused of committing.

"I don't know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes"

His spokesman, Tim Miller, later said that "of course" Bush thinks racism was a factor in the killings.

Incongruously, Rand Paul made it an issue of failure to understand religious teachings and the size and scope of government.

"What kind of person goes into church and shoots nine people? There's a sickness in our country, there's something terribly wrong, but it isn't going to be fixed by your government. It's people straying away, it's people not understanding where salvation comes from. And I think that if we understand that, we'll understand and have better expectations of what we get from our government."

And Chris Christie, who hasn't yet declared a run for the presidency but is still considered a possible contender, said "laws can't change this."

So, in the wake of Charleston, who is honest and trustworthy? It can't be these guys.

In her remarks Saturday, Clinton said it's not just "kooks and Klansmen" who are responsible for racial division in America.

The person who lets the racist joke go unchallenged or feels a twinge of fear at the "sight of a young black man in a hoodie" is also responsible for perpetuating racial tensions, she said.

Maybe, just maybe, the presidential candidates who dare not speak of racism for fear of alienating voters who

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harbor deep bigotry bear some responsibility, too.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Chris Bollwage (6/20/15, 12:52 pm) - Secretary Clinton is delivering a very powerful speech on racism in America and the need for common sense gun control laws in our country

Peter Nicholas (6/20/15, 12:53 pm) - Hillary Clinton quotes FDR's "bold and persistent experimentation" line. HRC has been channeling FDR in her presidential campaign.

Niels Lesniewski (6/20/15, 12:55 pm) - Sobering speech from @HillaryClinton as the Conference of Mayors "It's not just the kooks and Klansmen" but the assumptions.

Daniel Hernandez Jr. (6/20/15, 5:27 pm) - As a survivor of gun violence I was happy to see @HillaryClinton address the US Conference of Mayors on guns. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5Xv80YydnI ...

Faiz (6/20/15, 1:01 pm) - That was one of the more compelling Hillary Clinton speeches I've seen in a while.

Lynn Sweet (6/20/15, 1:08 pm) - The speech @HillaryClinton just made at the #USCM2015 about race is the most important so far in her campaign. #CharlestonShooting

Jen Covino (6/20/15, 1:09 pm) - Well, @HillaryClinton just left us all emotional, speechless, teary-eyed, contemplative, determined, hopeful for the future #USCM2015

Mitt Romney (6/20/15, 11:09 am) - Take down the #ConfederateFlag at the SC Capitol. To many, it is a symbol of racial hatred. Remove it now to honor #Charleston victims.

Marc Caputo (6/20/15, 6:09 pm) - Rubio won't say if SC rebel flag should be moved because it's a state issue, will " do the right thing," backs Jeb removing from FL Capitol

Craig Gilbert (6/20/15, 8:47 pm) - in gaggle after DC speech Walker repeatedly defers on Confed flag issue in SC, saying debate should wait 'til after dead are buried/mourned

Dan Merica (6/20/15, 10:47 pm) - Team Sanders says 4,500 ppl attended their CO rally tonight. And Sanders came out to "Rockin' In The Free World" w Neil Young's approval.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Bush and Clinton are true policy wonks. Can they make a virtue of that? // WaPo // Dan Balz – June 20, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush laid out ambitious agendas in their announcement speeches over the past eight days. If they are as good as their word, the coming months of the presidential campaign could be remembered for something unusual: a summer of substance.

Though of different parties and different philosophies, Clinton and Bush certainly share one thing in common:

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They are unabashed policy wonks. At Clinton headquarters, policy meetings with the candidate are blocked out in hours, not minutes. Bush, asked the other day to explain how he would achieve one of his big goals, responded, “How much time you got?”

The two candidates obviously have specific vulnerabilities unrelated to questions about their policy agendas. For Clinton it is the questions about honesty, trustworthiness and personal accessibility. For Bush, it is the resistance to his candidacy that comes with his family name and with perceptions that his conservatism is too squishy for some in his party. But both candidates say they are determined to make their campaigns about ideas and the policies to back them up.

Their mutual interest in the details of policy comes from their long experience in the public realm. Clinton has been grappling with domestic policy problems ever since she joined the Children’s Defense Fund as a young lawyer. Bush long has been known as the more policy-oriented brother in the family business of elective politics, a reputation he earned before, during and after his time as governor of Florida.

But if the two are steeped in policy, they have left themselves sizable challenges as presidential candidates. Clinton’s is to flesh out her pledge to make income inequality — the gap between the wealthiest and the rest of society — the central issue of her candidacy. Bush’s is to demonstrate that he has something fresh to back up his goal of returning the U.S. economy to sustainable 4 percent annual growth rates.

The speech Clinton delivered at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on New York’s Roosevelt Island on June 13 offered sweeping rhetoric about the state of an economy that she said should work for all and not just the most privileged.

In tone, it was at least mildly populist. That was evidence of her conclusion that the Democratic Party’s most important constituencies are looking for something closer to the European Social Democrat views of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) than the New Democrat ideas that helped elect her husband, Bill Clinton, to the presidency a quarter-century ago.

As she drilled down, however, the speech became a more familiar Clintonesque approach to domestic and economic policy: a long string of policy programs or ambitions, many of them proposed before. They represent a general continuation of the approach followed by President Obama rather than any dramatic break with mainstream, conventional orthodoxy of her party.

The list of ideas included raising the minimum wage; offering paid family leave for new parents and more flexible work schedules; giving small businesses and others tax breaks to encourage long-term investment rather than short-term profit; encouraging development of alternative energy sources and discouraging the use of fossil fuels; creating an infrastructure bank for matters including highways and broadband; providing universal preschool and more access to high-quality child care; making college more affordable; giving adults incentives for lifelong learning; offering illegal immigrants a path to citizenship.

By this reckoning, Clinton is not a believer in a big-bang approach to the problems she outlined. Instead, she favors smaller steps and an array of programs, reminiscent of the State of the Union addresses during her husband’s administration.

She said in her launch speech that growth and fairness were two goals of her economic policy, though she neither established targets for growth nor signaled the degree to which a third Clinton administration would pursue policies of redistribution.

Her speech did not broach raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans, a notable omission from a Democratic candidate trying to strike a populist tone. Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said in a message that she will

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deliver a fuller speech later this year calling for revising the tax code and "ensuring the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share."

In contrast, Bush established an ambitious and difficult-to-achieve growth target in his speech. "There is not a reason in the world why we cannot grow at a rate of 4 percent a year," he said.

Not a reason, except that no recent president has managed to hit that target other than for occasional quarters. Not Ronald Reagan during his Morning in America years. Not Bill Clinton during a time when the economy created more jobs than the 19 million that Bush said his policies would deliver. Not his father, George H.W. Bush, nor his brother George W. Bush, nor President Obama — each of whom governed during times of economic downturns.

Bush's "how much time you got" came in response to a question about whether he has new policies to reach sustainable 4 percent growth. He cited actions, including paring away regulations that he said began building up before Obama took office, reforming a tax code that has not been reformed since 1986, pushing for more development of traditional energy resources, tackling "fiscal structural problems" and reforming immigration "to rebuild the demographic pyramid" in the country. He also mentioned education and training to produce a more skilled workforce.

That is an agenda for perhaps two terms. Bush was asked how quickly he could get all this done. "All this stuff?" he responded. "I'm thinking about how I'm going to do in the Iowa caucuses right now."

He added: "But politics should be as much about aspirational goals and about backing it up with substance and then explaining how you have the leadership skills to make it so than just about how bad things are and how bad the other guy is. And that's what this is."

That leaves Bush with much left to do. He has to flesh out his aspirational goals with credible and achievable initiatives. He also needs to explain how he would square his advocacy for taking care of those most in need in the context of the Republican congressional budget blueprint of House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) that would squeeze domestic spending.

But Clinton's task isn't much easier. She must try to satisfy the progressive wing of her party that is hungering for harder-edged policies to match the rhetoric of populist anger, which if the subject of trade is any evidence, she is reluctant to do. She also must balance advocacy of an agenda that calls for considerable government activism with public skepticism about government's ability to deliver.

Past campaigns have seen other candidates with an unabashed interest in and knowledge of public policy, but rarely have there been two so obviously steeped in the details as Bush and Clinton. That presages what could be a compelling debate, even at long distance for the time being. But only if both step up to the challenge they've set out for themselves.

Hillary Clinton Calls for Tighter Gun Control After Charleston Church Shooting // WSJ // Peter Nicholas – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton called for "common-sense" gun control measures and said the fatal shooting of nine people at an African-American church was not an "isolated" tragedy, but a chilling reminder of enduring racism and "bigotry" in the U.S.

In a speech Saturday at a conference of U.S. mayors, Mrs. Clinton, spoke extensively about the murders and praised the victims' families, who in court proceedings said they forgave the white suspect, 21-year-old Dylann

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Roof.

“In its way, their act of mercy was as stunning as his act of cruelty,” she said.

The frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, Mrs. Clinton used the speech to highlight discrimination faced by black Americans. “Race remains a deep fault line in America,” she said.

Mrs. Clinton said schools remains segregated, black Americans receive longer prison terms than whites for the same crimes, and black children are five times more likely to die from asthma than white children.

“It is tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident,” Mrs. Clinton said, referring to the shootings Wednesday night.

People are mistaken to conclude that “bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists.” she added.

Authorities have charged Mr. Roof with nine counts of murder. They say he shot and killed the victims during a Bible study class at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

During the shooting spree, he said, “you are raping our women and taking over the country,” according to witness accounts.

Many of the presidential candidates have spoken out on the shootings but have been less willing to cast it as an example of broader racial injustice.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, one of the leading Republican presidential candidates, spoke to a conference sponsored by the Faith and Freedom Coalition on Friday and did not initially address race. “I don’t know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes,” Mr. Bush said.

Later in the day, at a fundraising event, he framed the issue in different terms. “It just breaks my heart that someone, a racist, would do what he did,” Mr. Bush said.

In her speech, Mrs. Clinton aligned herself with President Barack Obama, who at a fundraising event Friday said the country must make it tougher for people to buy guns and then “act on this hatred.”

Mrs. Clinton laid out several steps toward offering the public greater protections while safeguarding the constitutional right to own firearms.

She called for universal background checks for gun buyers and voiced disbelief that the nation can’t keep guns “out of the hands of domestic abusers or people suffering from mental illnesses …”

“The president is right,” Mrs. Clinton said. “The politics on this issue have been poisoned. But we can’t give up. The stakes are too high, the costs are too dear.”

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Hillary Clinton decries 'institutional racism' after Charleston shooting // AP – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Saturday called for “commonsense” gun control legislation and decried “institutional racism”, days after a shooting in a historic South Carolina church killed nine of its black members.

Clinton, who was speaking at the US Conference of Mayors in San Francisco after a west coast fundraising swing, said Congress should pass legislation keeping guns from criminals and mentally ill people while “respecting responsible gun owners”.

She said: “The politics on this issue have been poisoned but we can’t give up.”

In 2013, in the aftermath of a shooting in which 20 children and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut, Congress rejected legislation that would have expanded background checks on firearm sales.

Clinton also addressed what she called a “long struggle with race”, saying the US “can’t hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America”.

Clinton calls for ‘common-sense’ gun control: ‘We can’t give up’ // AP // Lisa Lerer – June 20, 2015

Issuing an emotional plea following the South Carolina church shooting, Hillary Rodham Clinton called for “common-sense” gun reforms and a national reckoning with the persistent problem of “institutional racism.”

Three days after nine black church members were gunned down in Charleston, Clinton said the country must take steps to keep guns from criminals and the mentally ill.

Regulations, she said, can be passed while still respecting the Second Amendment and “respecting responsible gun owners.”

“The politics on this issue have been poisoned, but we can’t give up,” she told the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco on Saturday. “The stakes are too high. The costs are too dear.”

In 2013 Congress rejected legislation that would have expanded background checks on firearm sales and banned some semi-automatic weapons.

President Obama has blamed the continued national political inaction on the issue on the influence of the National Rifle Association.

While Clinton did not propose any specific legislation in her address, she’s previously supported limits on gun sales and extending the assault weapons ban.

On Friday, former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, who’s challenging Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination, called for an assault weapons ban, stricter background checks and tougher requirements to buy a gun.

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"I'm pissed," he wrote in an email to supporters. "It's time we called this what it is: a national crisis."

Clinton's remarks also marked a forceful entry into the heated topic of race relations, an issue that's become a major theme of her campaign. Clinton called race a "deep fault line" in America, noting that "millions of people of color still experience racism in their everyday lives."

The problem of racism was not limited to "kooks and klansman," she said, but included the off-hand, off-color joke; whites scared of young black men and not speaking up against poverty and discrimination.

In previous appearances, Clinton has taken up a number of issues that are important to African-Americans, calling for changes to the criminal justice system, voting laws and assistance for minority small business owners. Her campaign is trying to motivate the coalition of minority, young and liberal voters that twice elected Obama to the White House.

"We can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America," she said. "We have to name them and then own them and then change them."

Clinton's address to the country's mayors was her last stop on a cross-country tour, largely of early voting states, after formally launching her campaign a week ago in New York City. She spent Friday raising money at three fundraisers in Los Angeles, including one hosted by actor Tobey Maguire.

Hillary Clinton calls for 'common sense' gun reforms in wake of Charleston shooting // Politico // Annie Karni – June 20, 2015

With tears welling in her eyes, Hillary Clinton on Saturday delivered an emotional call to action after the Charleston church shooting, first vowing to fight for "common sense" gun reforms, then shifting to an assessment of racism in America.

"Race remains a deep fault line in America," Clinton said, speaking in front of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Fransisco. "Millions of people of color still experience racism in their everyday lives."

The massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, forced Clinton off of her stump speech as she sought to confront some of the country's most intractable problems a week after her first big campaign speech on Roosevelt Island.

Clinton's voice swelled with emotion as she described the testimony of the families of the nine shooting victims, who offered forgiveness to the alleged gunman Dylann Roof on Friday at a bond hearing.

"On Friday, one by one, grieving parents and siblings stood up in court and looked at that young man who had taken so much from them, and said, 'I forgive you,'" Clinton said. "Their act of mercy was more stunning than his act of cruelty."

She said one of her first reactions was to ask, "how it could be possible that we, as a nation, still allow guns to fall into the hands of people whose hearts are filled with hate."

Acknowledging that gun ownership is part of the fabric of many law-abiding communities in the country, Clinton said firmly that the country "can have common sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable, while respecting responsible gun owners."

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She said she agreed with President Barack Obama that the issue of gun ownership has been politically poisoned.

“It makes no sense that we couldn’t come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, or people suffering from mental illnesses, even people on the terrorist watch list,” she said. “That doesn’t make sense and it is a rebuke to this nation we love and care about.”

But Clinton said the deeper challenge the country faces is racism. “Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America’s long struggle with race is far from finished,” she said.

“So many of us hoped that by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history,” she said, adding that millions of Americans are held back by racism every day.

Black people are three times as likely to be denied a mortgage, she said, and the median wealth of a black family in 2013 was $11,000, compared to $134,000 for whites. She said black children were 500 percent more likely to die of asthma than white kids.

“More than half a century after Dr. King marched, and Rosa Parks sat and John Lewis bled, after the civil rights act and the voting rights act and so much else, how can any of these things be true?” she asked. “But they are.”

She said racism was pervasive in our society beyond the “kooks and clansmen,” noting that well-meaning, open-minded white people still feel a “twinge of fear” at the sight of a young black man in a hoodie. “We can’t hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America,” she said.

“I known it’s not usual for someone running for president to say what we need more of in this country is love and kindness,” she said, “but that’s exactly what we need more of.”

In Charleston's wake, Clinton speaks forcefully on guns, race **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 20, 2015**

An emotional Hillary Clinton on Saturday called for more gun control in the wake of the deadly Charleston, South Carolina church shooting that left nine dead earlier this week.

"This generation will not be shackled by fear and hate," she said to applause at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco.

"We can have common sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting owners," said Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner for the 2016 presidential nomination. "The stakes are too high, the costs are too dear, and I am not and will not be afraid to keep fighting for common sense reforms and along with you, achieve those on behalf of all who have been lost because of this senseless gun violence in this country."

Clinton also said race remains "a deep fault line in America."

"Bodies are once again being carried out of black churches. Once again, racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence," Clinton said. "Now it is tempting, it is tempting, to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident. To

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believe that in today's America, bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists. But despite out best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

Clinton has made addressing race issues a staple of her campaign since she announced her candidacy in April.

Weeks after she formally announced her campaign, Clinton called for mandatory body cameras on police and the end of the "era of mass incarceration." Clinton told an audience in New York that it was time for the United States to come to terms with "unmistakable and undeniable" racial patterns in policing.

"As a citizen, a human being, my heart breaks for these young men and their families," Clinton said, listing a number of incidents in the last year that have seen black men killed at the hands of law enforcement. "We have to come to terms with some hard truths about race and justice in America."

When the former first lady traveled to South Carolina -- an early voting state -- for the first time, she focused her trip on minority women small business owners.

And earlier this week in an interview in Las Vegas, Clinton called for "a candid national conversation about race and about discrimination, prejudice, hatred" in the wake of the Charleston shooting.

Clinton's aides argue that her outspokenness on race and crime follow her history as someone who stands up for the oppressed. But the policy positions also have political benefits and help the Democratic frontrunner keep together the diverse coalition of voters that helped President Barack Obama win the White House.

African-American voters flocked to Obama during the 2008 nomination fight. The 2008 fight for South Carolina took a racial turn, too, and damaged Clinton with some in the community.

But 2016 is not 2008. Obama won't be on the ballot and some of the President's most vocal African-American supporters from 2008, like South Carolina's Edith Childs, have already joined Clinton's nascent campaign.

"There is a time and a season for everything. That was his time," Childs said during Clinton's first trip to South Carolina.

Childs became famous for coining the chant "fired up, ready to go," a phrase that followed Obama from South Carolina in 2007 all the way to the White House. Childs appeared next to Obama -- and against Clinton -- a number of times during the 2008 primary fight. Now, though, she is ready for Hillary.

"She is a woman and she can handle the job," Childs said. "And she knows what we need especially as a woman because a lot of times men forget what we need. With her being a woman, she knows exactly what we need."

Clinton calls for new gun control laws, outflanking Sanders **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – June 20, 2015**

In the wake of the Charleston, South Carolina massacre at a historically black church this week, Hillary Clinton vowed Saturday to fight for new gun control laws despite the overwhelming opposition. She also said America must address lingering racism exposed by the shooting.

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By leaning into gun control, Clinton found a place where is squarely to left of Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has energized liberal crowds across the country and gained steam in recent polls as her top rival for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In a speech to the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, Clinton said it “make no sense” that Congress has failed to pass simple gun control laws, like universal background checks. She vowed to keep fighting and promised to achieve reform if elected president.

“The politics of this issue have been poisoned,” she acknowledged. “But we can’t give up. The stakes are too high.”

Sanders hails from Vermont, a rural state that lacks virtually any gun regulations and he seems uncomfortable discussing the issue. At an event in Las Vegas, Nevada Friday, he was asked twice about guns, but declined to promise specific new gun control laws and said he didn’t want to get into the issue at the moment.

An attendee at a town hall meeting asked about his stance on gun control. He explained that people in rural and urban areas view guns differently. “This is an issue that must be dealt with,” he said, without getting into details.

Reporters followed up by asking Sanders about the issue afterwards. “I think we need to have as serious conversation about that,” he said. Pressed again, he added: “I will talk about guns at some length, but not right now.”

Sanders voted against the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993, arguing that waiting period for handguns could be better dealt with on the state level. And he was boosted in his 1988 run for Congress when the NRA attacked his opponent. In 2005, he voted for a controversial bill pushed by the firearms industry. Slate recently labeled Sanders a “gun nut” in a headline.

His defenders note that Sanders voted for the Assault Weapon Ban and has an “F” rating from the NRA. And they argue that he is doing his job by representing the interest of Vermonters, where gun laws are lax, hunting is common, and violent crime is very low.

Nonetheless, Saunders’ record leaves enough room for Clinton – who has a long history of supporting gun control – to outflank her liberal challenger on his left. And with her visibility, Clinton can single-handedly ensure that guns become a major issue of the Democratic presidential primary, if she so chooses.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, who is also running for the nomination, sought to do the same Friday. He blasted out a strongly worded letter to supporters calling for strict new gun control laws.

“I’m pissed that after working hard in the state of Maryland to pass real gun control – laws that banned high-magazine weapons, increased licensing standards, and required fingerprinting for handgun purchasers – Congress continues to drop the ball,” he wrote.

Meanwhile on Saturday in San Francisco, Clinton spoke passionately about the need to address racial inequities that persist to this day.

“It is tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident,” she said Saturday of the Charleston shooting. But she dismissed that notion, saying the crimes of confessed shooter Dylann Roof must be placed in the larger context of racism in America. “Once against racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence,” she said.

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But while Roof and his compatriots get the most attention, “our problem is not all kooks and Klansman,” she continued, saying racism persists deep and often unnoticed into otherwise upstanding communities.

“We can’t hide from any of these hard truths of race,” she continued. “We have name them, then own them, then change them.”

But she said she had hope that “this generation will not be shackled by fear and hate.”

Hillary Rodham Clinton makes strong plea for gun control // USA Today // Jon Swartz – June 20, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton made a stirring plea for "common sense" gun control Saturday.

"The passing of days has not dulled the pain or shock of this crime," Clinton said, in her most extensive comments yet on the tragedy Wednesday that left nine dead in Charleston, S.C.

"As a mother, grandmother and fellow human being, my heart is bursting for the victims, a wounded community and a wounded church," she said in a passionate 30-minute address to American mayors gathered here.

"It makes no sense that bipartisan legislation fails in Congress despite overwhelming public support," Clinton said. "The politics on this position have been poisoned. I will not be afraid to fight for common-sense reforms ... because of this senseless gun violence."

"How is it possible that we as a nation allow guns to fall into the hands of people whose hearts are filled with hate?" she said, voice rising. "We can have common sense gun reforms that keep them out of the hands of criminals and the mentally unstable while not penalizing responsible gun owners," Clinton said to sustained applause. (Half of the audience of about 1,000 stood.)

The shooting spree at the predominately black church in Charleston, the latest in a string of disturbing incidents in America over the past few years, underscores an intolerant nation deeply in need of healing and understanding, she said.

"Race remains a deep fault line in America," Clinton said, pointing to ongoing discrimination, disparity in pay, illegal housing and other social chasms.

Citing former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young in the audience, Clinton said America needs to emulate that city's slogan when he was mayor — a city too busy to hate.

"What we need more of in this country is love and kindness," a resolute Clinton said.

She spoke to civic leaders gathered for the U.S. Conference of Mayors here this weekend.

Tech is a hot topic at the conference, which kicked off Friday with pointed remarks from President Obama on the shooting rampage in Charleston.

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If Congress passed what Obama called "common sense" gun safety, the assembled mayors might have had to attend fewer funerals, Obama said.

It was Obama's 20th visit to San Francisco, where tech is the dominant industry in the region and a major source for fundraising. The president successfully tapped into it twice as a presidential candidate, and Clinton is expected to do the same in her 2016 bid.

A key piece of her presidential bid is to help "build an economy for tomorrow," Clinton said Saturday.

Ride-hailing service Uber is sponsoring the conference, where Cities 3.0 is a major theme. A tour of Uber's downtown San Francisco headquarters is scheduled Monday.

Executives from Airbnb and Salesforce.com are also scheduled to appear at the four-day summit.

First on CNN: Hillary Clinton calls Lindsey Graham in wake of Charleston shooting // CNN // Dana Bash – June 20, 2015

South Carolina Republican Senator Lindsey Graham picked up the phone Saturday afternoon to hear a familiar voice on the other end: that of Hillary Clinton.

The Democratic presidential candidate told the Republican presidential candidate that she was reaching out to extend her condolences on the tragedy in his home state.

"She said she was calling to see how I was doing, and wanted to let me know that she was thinking about me and about everyone in South Carolina," Graham told CNN, recounting the telephone conversation.

He said he was "pleasantly surprised" to get the call -- mostly because he knows how busy she is.

"I know firsthand how hard it is to run for president," Graham said.

Although Graham, like other GOP presidential candidates, regularly blasts Clinton on the campaign trail, the two actually had a good relationship while serving with one another in the Senate.

They traveled together as members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and even co-authored legislation to give military reservists health benefits.

"She is a nice person," Graham said.

"I told her that the call meant a lot to me, and would mean a lot to the people of South Carolina. It is a tough weekend for all of us," he added.

Hillary Clinton Calls For 'Common Sense' Gun Reforms In Wake Of Charleston Shooting // HuffPo // Igor

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Bobic – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged to fight for "common sense" reforms to the nation's gun laws in the wake of a tragic shooting at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina, and urged Americans to engage in a broader conversation about race in order to build a more inclusive society.

Addressing the 83rd annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco on Saturday, Clinton promised to do what President Barack Obama has so far been unable to do -- pass legislation to curb gun violence.

"We can have common sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting responsible gun owners," she said. "The stakes are too high, the costs are too dear, and I am not and will not be afraid to keep fighting for common sense reforms, and along with you, achieve those on behalf of all who have been lost because of this senseless gun violence in this country."

Noting the nation's struggle with race was "far from finished," Clinton issued an impassioned plea for all Americans to come together in order to create a more tolerant and empathetic society.

"I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we don't like to say out loud or discuss with our children. But we have to. That's the only way we can possibly move forward together. Race remains a deep fault line in America. Millions of people of color still experience racism in their everyday lives," she said.

Clinton cited statistics showing vast disparities between white and black families in the U.S., including differences in arrests and sentencing guidelines -- reforms for which she has called for in the past.

"Our problem is not all kooks and Klansmen, it's also the cruel joke that goes unchallenged," she added. "It's the offhand comment about not wanting 'those' people in the neighborhood. Let's be honest, for a lot of well-meaning, open-minded white people, the sign of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear."

The former secretary of state pointed to the woman credited with helping authorities apprehend the suspected shooter in North Carolina as an example of how all Americans must do their part in helping build a more inclusive society.

"I know it's not usual for someone running for president to say what we need more of in this country is love and kindness," she said. "But that's exactly what we need more of. We need to be not only too busy to hate, but too caring, too loving to ignore, to walk way, to give up."

She also praised the relatives of the victims of the shooting, calling "their act of mercy ... more stunning than his act of cruelty."

A racist manifesto that appears to be from the alleged shooter, entitled "The Last Rhodesian," emerged earlier Saturday, detailing why the writer, identified as Dylann Roof, chose to open fire in Charleston. It contains a passage in which the writer cites the death of Trayvon Martin, a black teenager in Florida who was killed by George Zimmerman, as a turning point in his life that led him to research "black on White crime." It also includes several photographs that appear to be of Roof, including one in which he waves a Confederate flag.

Roof is charged with nine counts of homicide and possession of a firearm during commission of a violent crime.

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Hillary Clinton Calls for 'Common Sense' Gun Control After Charleston Shooting // ABC News // Erin Dooley – June 20, 2015

n the wake of the massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton today vowed to keep fighting for common sense gun control and delivered a blistering indictment of racism in America.

Speaking at the Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, Clinton said “bodies are once again being carried out of a black church,” referring to the nine people killed inside Emanuel AME Church on Wednesday. The suspect in the shooting, Dylann Roof, has been charged with nine counts of murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime.

“How it could be possible that we as a nation still allow guns to fall into the hands of people whose hearts are filled with hate?” Clinton said, noting that “massacre after massacre” makes the urgency of passing gun control legislation clear.

As a former resident of Arkansas, Clinton explained, she understands that gun ownership is a cultural mainstay. But she said America needs to find a way to keep guns out of the hands of those that would do their neighbors harm.

“It makes no sense that bipartisan legislation to require universal background checks would fail in Congress despite overwhelming bipartisan support,” she said. “It makes no sense that we couldn’t come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, or people suffering from mental illnesses, even people on the terrorist watch list. That doesn’t make sense, and it is a rebuke to this nation we love and care about.”

Earlier this week, President Obama said the politics of Washington "foreclose" some gun control legislation. But at the mayor’s conference Friday, he said he was “not resigned” on the issue.

“The president is right -- the politics on this issue have been poison,” Clinton said. “But we can’t give up. The stakes are too high, the costs are too dear, and I am not and will not be afraid to keep fighting.”

But firearms aren't the most pressing problem, said Clinton. A friend of Roof, 21, had said he wanted to start a race war and that he supported segregation.

“It is tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today’s America, bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists,” Clinton said.

But electing a black president didn't eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system, education and the economy, Clinton said.

“More than half a century after Dr. King marched and Rosa Parks sat and John Lewis bled, after the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, how can any of these things be true?” she asked.

“America’s long struggle with race is far from finished,” she said. “Our problem is not all kooks and Klansman. It’s the joke that goes unchallenged; it’s the offhand comment about not wanting 'those people' in the neighborhood.”

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The former secretary of state lauded the families of the Charleston victims, who Friday offered Roof their forgiveness.

“In its way, their act of mercy was more stunning than his act of cruelty,” Clinton said.

She also recognized Debbie Dills, who spotted Roof and called police, vowing, “she didn’t remain silent -- well neither can we.”

Hillary Clinton Calls for Gun Reforms in Speech to U.S. Mayors // Bloomberg News // Alison Vekshin – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton called for an end to gun violence and said the country’s long struggle with race is far from finished after a mass shooting at a South Carolina church this week left nine people dead.

Clinton, 67, didn’t offer specific solutions beyond pledging to fight “for common-sense reforms” and bemoaning gridlock in Congress over legislation to require universal background checks for people buying guns.

“It makes no sense that we couldn’t come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers or people suffering from mental illnesses, even people on the terrorist watchlist,” Clinton, a Democratic presidential candidate, said Saturday at a U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in San Francisco. “That doesn’t make sense and it is a rebuke to this nation that we love and care about.”

“America’s long struggle with race is far from finished.”

Clinton’s speech was one of her first major addresses after the national tragedy and as she makes her case for the White House. The former senator, secretary of state and first lady echoed President Barack Obama’s remarks at the mayors’ event on Friday in which he said mass shootings were becoming too commonplace and called for curtailing easy access to firearms.

“We can have common-sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting responsible gun owners,” Clinton said to a standing ovation.

Wednesday night’s rampage by a lone gunman at Charleston’s Emanuel AME Church is the latest in a string of such tragedies, including the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, and the movie-theater massacre in Aurora, Colorado, in 2012.

Racism Pervasive

Clinton told the mayors the incident illustrates that racism is still pervasive in the U.S., noting that blacks are more likely than whites to be denied a mortgage and black men are more likely to be stopped and searched by police.

“It’s tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today’s America bigotry is largely behind us,” Clinton said. “But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America’s long struggle with race is far from finished.”

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Clinton, who in April announced her bid to become the nation's first female president, is running on a message of championing everday Americans, including tackling income inequality, supporting gay rights and helping immigrants become citizens. She gave her first stump speech June 13 on New York's Roosevelt Island, outlining a populist agenda aimed at girding the middle class.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti were among the 277 U.S. mayors registered to attend the four-day annual conference where Martin O'Malley, a Democratic presidential candidate and former Maryland governor, is scheduled to speak Sunday.

"Mayors around the country are pretty tired of dealing with the inability of Congress and state legislatures to be more aggressive and constrain gun possession in a country where gun access is ubiquitous," Sam Liccardo, mayor of San Jose, California, said after Clinton's speech.

Clinton didn't offer details on gun-control legislation she'd push for if elected, Liccardo said.

"We recognize this wasn't a policy speech," Liccardo said. "I don't think any of us were waiting for specifics. On the other hand, I'm hopeful there will be some leadership on the federal level for real change because it hasn't been there."

Hillary Clinton Talks About Racism And Gun Reform Following Charleston Mass Shooting // International Business Times // Michelle FlorCruz – June 20, 2015

An impassioned Hillary Clinton spoke at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, making a call for stricter gun control and challenging racism following the mass shooting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, earlier this week. Nine people were shot and killed in a racially motivated attack at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," the presidential candidate told the U.S. Conference of Mayors at its annual convention. "Bodies are once again being carried out of a black church. Once again, racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence."

Clinton continued on to say that racism is an enduring pattern in America and that the events that took place in Charleston should not be accepted as an isolated incident. "Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished." Clinton also called race issues "a deep fault line in America."

She also discussed gun control reform, saying that gun violence -- much like racial injustice -- is not an isolated event. Clinton urged for politicians to find a way to introduce gun reforms that could prevent future violence.

"I know that gun ownership is part of the fabric of a lot of law-abiding communities, but I also know that we can have common-sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners."

The issue of gun control has become polarizing among politicians, making it difficult for new legislation -- such as universal background checks -- to be adopted, despite being supported by most gun owners. "It makes no sense that we wouldn't come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers or people suffering from mental illnesses, even people on the terrorist watch list," Clinton said. "That doesn't make sense, and it is a rebuke to this nation we love and care about."

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Clinton's words on gun control were met with a long applause.

Hillary Clinton: 'America's long struggle with race is far from finished' **// LA Times // Cathleen Decker – June 20, 2015**

an evocative and emotional address, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday urged the nation to come to grips with the "deep fault line" of race in the U.S., blaming it and easy access to guns for the slayings of nine worshipers at an historic black church in Charleston, S.C., days ago.

"It's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America, bigotry is largely behind us, that institutional racism no longer exists. But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," Clinton told hundreds of the nation's mayors gathered in San Francisco for their annual meeting.

Tackling an issue that has split the 2016 presidential candidates in the wake of the horrific violence at Emanuel AME Church, Clinton ticked off a litany of circumstances in which black children and families are hobbled by lack of money, illness and thwarted opportunity.

"A half-century after Dr. King marched and Rosa Parks sat and John Lewis bled and the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and so much else," she said, "... how can any of these things be true? But they are."

She called on everyday Americans to play their role, beginning in conversations with family members, to help the nation move past what she called "a history we desperately want to leave behind."

"Our problem is not all kooks and Klansmen," Clinton said. "It's also the cold joke that goes unchallenged; it's the offhand comment about not wanting 'those people' in the neighborhood. Let's be honest -- for a lot of well-meaning, open-minded white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear."

The Charleston shootings, coming in a season of candidate announcements, has thrust the issue of race and violence against African Americans into the presidential campaign and exposed a rift between the political parties.

Let's be honest -- for a lot of well-meaning, open-minded white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear - Hillary Rodham Clinton

Republican candidates have largely cast the shootings as an assault against faithful churchgoers, rather than delving into its racial implications. They have also brushed aside new calls for gun controls and any discussion of South Carolina's practice of flying the Confederate flag on the Capitol grounds.

The flag has spawned controversy in numerous campaigns, with Republican politicians generally defending it as a historic relic important to many of the area's residents. (An exception was 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who tweeted Saturday that "to many, it is a symbol of racial hatred. Remove it now to honor Charleston victims.")

Clinton and other Democrats, including President Obama, have cited the Charleston killings as evidence that stricter gun laws are needed. She reiterated that plea on Saturday, to a standing ovation from the assembled -- and bipartisan -- group of mayors.

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"I know that gun ownership is part of the fabric of a lot of law-abiding communities," she said. "But I also know that we can have common-sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable, while respecting responsible gun owners."

It makes no sense, Clinton said, that a measure to require background checks failed in Congress despite support from a vast majority of Americans.

"It makes no sense that we wouldn't come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, or people suffering from mental illnesses, even people on the terrorist watch list," she added. "That doesn't make sense, and it is a rebuke to this nation we love and care about."

Clinton said she would work to "make this debate less polarized" — a hope that belies the vitriolic nature of the nation's past feuds over gun measures. She asked the mayors to work with her to win passage of background checks and other unspecified gun measures "on behalf of all who have been lost because of this senseless gun violence in our country."

Clinton's discussion of the lasting impact of race in American life rested, she said, on growing up during the civil rights movement and living in one of its flash points, Arkansas, during her husband's governorship.

In 1957, black students attempting to integrate Little Rock's Central High School were blocked by white residents and National Guard troops ordered in by the state's governor, Orville Faubus. President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalized the guardsmen, who were then ordered to protect the students, and, as in other areas of the South, race relations remained fraught.

In broaching an unusual conversation for a national politician even in the era of Obama, Clinton insisted that sympathy for victims of crime or discrimination was not enough.

Too rarely, she said, do incidents like the Charleston shootings "spur us to action or prompt us to question our own assumptions and privilege."

"We can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America," she added. "We have to name them and own them and then change them."

Hillary Clinton After Charleston Shooting: Race Remains 'Deep Fault Line' **// NBC News – June 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton on Saturday echoed President Barack Obama's call for "common sense" gun reform to help prevent another mass shooting after the deadly rampage on a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

"It makes no sense that bipartisan legislation for universal background checks would fail despite overwhelming public support," Clinton, a Democratic presidential candidate, said at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco.

She said that as a former resident of Arkansas and representative of New York she understands that "gun ownership is part of the fabric of a lot of communities."

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"But I also know that we can have common sense gun reforms," she said.

But in America, Clinton added, the challenge is that "race remains a deep fault line." Police say the shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday that left nine dead was a hate crime and a white supremacist website appears to belong to the 21-year-old arrested gunman, Dylann Roof.

"It's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this into an isolated incident," but "our problem is not all kooks and Klansmen," Clinton said. "It's the jokes that go unchallenged. It's the off-hand comment about not wanting 'that kind of person' in the neighborhood."

Clinton, who was campaigning in South Carolina a day before the church massacre, said the country can learn plenty from the way those affected by the shooting responded with mercy.

"On Friday, one by one, grieving parents and siblings stood up in court and looked at the young man who had taken so much from them and said 'I forgive you'," Clinton said. "Their act of mercy was more stunning than his act of cruelty."

In a departure from politics to advocate for something that cannot be voted on or approved, Clinton also commended those who were at the Bible study and hosted the accused shooter in their church.

"During their last hours, nine people of faith welcomed a stranger in prayer and fellowship," Clinton said. "That's humanity at its best, that's also America at its best."

Hillary Clinton calls for "common-sense gun reforms" after Charleston // CBS News // Reena Flores – June 20, 2015

After a tragic church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina left nine people dead on Wednesday, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is promising to fight for what she calls "common-sense gun reforms."

"You can't watch massacre after massacre and not come to the conclusion that, as President Obama said, we must tackle this challenge with urgency and conviction," Clinton told a crowd at the U.S. Conference of Mayors on Saturday. "But I also know that we can have common-sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting responsible gun owners."

The former New York senator also expressed disbelief at the legislative push for universal background checks for gun and high-ammunition magazine sales -- a 2013 measure that failed in Congress despite its national momentum after the shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school.

"It makes no sense that bipartisan legislation to require universal background checks would fail in Congress despite overwhelming public support," Clinton said. "It makes no sense that we couldn't come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers or people suffering from mental illnesses, even people on the terrorist watch list."

Addressing the same mayors' conference a day earlier, President Obama said he would refuse "to act as if this is the new normal, or to pretend that it's simply sufficient to grieve and that any mention of us doing something to stop it is somehow politicizing the problem."

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In a nod to the president's strong response, Clinton added that the politics on the issue have indeed "been poisoned," but that the "stakes are too high, the costs are too dear" to give up on tougher gun legislation.

The presidential hopeful, who made campaign stops in South Carolina on the day of the shooting, had previously called on the country to face "hard truths about race, violence, guns, and division." While her stance on stricter gun regulation now aligns closely with that of President Obama's in the wake of the Charleston shooting, during the 2008 Democratic primary race against the then-Illinois senator, Clinton positioned herself to the right. In a televised primary debate that year, the Democratic candidate backpedaled from a proposal for a national gun registry she had made in 2000.

And in what may have been the strongest comments yet from Clinton on the issue of race in America, the presidential contender called on the country to confront systemic racism as the "deeper challenge we face."

"It is tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident," she said. "To believe that in today's America, bigotry is largely behind us. that institutionalized racism no longer exists. But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

Hillary Clinton Calls for "Common Sense" Gun Control, Decries "Institutional Racism" // Slate Daniel Politi – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton spoke forcefully about race and violence on Saturday in a speech in which the presidential contender tried to address some of the most difficult issues facing the country after the mass shooting in Charleston, S.C. Clinton called for "common sense" gun reform to help prevent another mass shooting. "It makes no sense that bipartisan legislation for universal background checks would fail despite overwhelming public support," Clinton said at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco.

"I lived in Arkansas and I represented upstate New York. I know that gun ownership is part of the fabric of a lot of law abiding communities," Clinton said, according to CNN. "I also know that we can have common sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable while respecting responsible gun owners."

The presidential hopeful spoke extensively about the mass shooting and praised the families who allegedly said they forgave the 21-year-old suspect, Dylann Roof. "In its way, their act of mercy was as stunning as his act of cruelty," she said.

The mass shooting in South Carolina though is not just about availability of guns, Clinton said as she called on the country to confront the racism that persists across society. "It's tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists," she said.

"Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished," Clinton said, according to the Washington Post. "I know this is a difficult topic to talk about. I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we do not like to say out loud or discus with our children. But we have to."

Although several presidential contenders have spoken out on the mass shooting they "have been less willing to cast it as an example of broader racial injustice," notes the Wall Street Journal.

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Clinton's words do not just help her differentiate herself from the Republican candidates but can also help her gain an upper hand on Bernie Sanders. "Mr. Sanders, a socialist from Vermont also seeking the Democratic nomination, has a decidedly mixed record on gun control, which may pose problems for his campaign as it seeks to bill itself as a more liberal alternative to Mrs. Clinton," notes the New York Times.

Watch Hillary Clinton address Charleston shooting and 'America's long struggle with race' **// Fusion // John Walker – June 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton used her speaking engagement at a mayoral conference in San Francisco on Saturday to address the recent shooting at an historic black church in Charleston, S.C.

"Once again, racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence," the presidential candidate said at the Hilton-hosted 83rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors. "America's long struggle with race is far from over."

Clinton discussed various forms of institutionalized racism in the U.S., from housing discrimination to the disparity in median wealth between black and white Americans. She went on to address less overt types of bias that goes beyond "kooks and Klansmen," like "cruel jokes," "off-hand comments," and similar microaggressions.

The Democratic hopeful also tied the massacre—which took the lives of nine congregants of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, including state Sen. Clementa C. Pinckney, on Jun. 17—to another systemic issue facing the nation: gun violence.

"You can't watch massacre after massacre and not come to the conclusion that, as President Obama said, we must tackle this challenge with urgency and conviction," she told the nearly 300 American mayors in attendance. "I am not and will not be afraid to keep fighting for commonsense reforms."

Dylann Roof, the 21-year-old white supremacist who confessed to the shooting, was apprehended by law enforcement on Thursday. His trial began with a bail hearing on Friday.

Flashback: As Governor, Bill Clinton Honored Confederacy On Arkansas Flag **// Daily Caller // Derek Hunter – June 20, 2015**

As the fight to remove the Confederate flag from the state House grounds in South Carolina heats up, politicians are weighing in on the debate.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham defended displaying the flag, while former presidential candidate Mitt Romney called for its removal. Carly Fiorina called it a "symbol of racial hatred," but stopped short of saying it should be removed. Sen. Ted Cruz said South Carolinians should decide what their state does. President Barack Obama's spokesman said the flag belongs in a museum.

But while former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has weighed in on the gun control aspect of the national discussion, the leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination has remained silent on the flag controversy.

In 1987, when her husband was governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton signed Act 116 that stated "The blue star above the word "ARKANSAS" is to commemorate the Confederate States of America."

When the Confederate flag issue arose in the 2000 election, Matt Drudge reported that then-President Bill

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Clinton's spokesman Joe Lockhart was asked about the issue. Lockhart told reporters, "I've just never heard any discussion or any objections that the president has raised.

In 2000, Drudge reported Vice President and Democratic nominee Al Gore as accusing then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush of refusing to take a stand on the Confederate flag issue, which then was flying over the capital dome in South Carolina.

Drudge wrote:

The Gore campaign over the weekend repeatedly refused to comment on the vice president's silence when it comes to the flag flying over the Arkansas State House!

"The vice president will not be commenting on the Arkansas flag," a campaign rep told the DRUDGE REPORT.

The debate of the Confederate flag resurfaced after the terrorist attack on the Emanuel AME Church that saw nine people slaughtered because of the color of their skin.

Hillary Clinton: 'America's Long Struggle With Race Is Far From Finished' **// Crooks and Liars // Karoli – June 20, 2015**

Today Hillary Clinton delivered a powerful call for Americans to stand up and really work at the race issues that bedevil this country.

Speaking to the US Conference of Mayors, Clinton was blunt, and her remarks were not limited to evil acts of white supremacists.

But today, I stand before you because I know and you know there is a deeper challenge we face.

I had the great privilege of representing America around the world. I was so proud to share our example, our diversity, our openness, our devotion to human rights and freedom. These qualities have drawn generations of immigrants to our shores, and they inspire people still. I have seen it with my own eyes.

And yet, bodies are once again being carried out of a black church.

Once again, racist rhetoric has metastasized into racist violence.

Now, it's tempting, it is tempting to dismiss a tragedy like this as an isolated incident, to believe that in today's America, bigotry is largely behind us, that institutionalized racism no longer exists.

But despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished.

I know this is a difficult topic to talk about. I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history.

I know there are truths we don't like to say out loud or discuss with our children. But we have to. That's the only way we can possibly move forward together.

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Race remains a deep fault line in America. Millions of people of color still experience racism in their everyday lives.

Here are some facts.

In America today, blacks are nearly three times as likely as whites to be denied a mortgage.

In 2013, the median -- the median wealth of black families was around $11,000. For white families, it was more than $134,000.

Nearly half of all black families have lived in poor neighborhoods for at least two generations, compared to just 7 percent of white families.

African American men are far more likely to be stopped and searched by police, charged with crimes, and sentenced to longer prison terms than white men, 10 percent longer for the same crimes in the federal system.

In America today, our schools are more segregated than they were in the 1960s.

How can any of that be true? How can it be true that black children are 500 percent more likely to die from asthma than white kids? Five hundred percent!

More than a half century after Dr. King marched and Rosa Parks sat and John Lewis bled, after the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and so much else, how can any of these things be true? But they are.

And our problem is not all kooks and Klansman. It's also in the cruel joke that goes unchallenged. It's in the off-hand comments about not wanting "those people" in the neighborhood.

Let's be honest: For a lot of well-meaning, open-minded white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear. And news reports about poverty and crime and discrimination evoke sympathy, even empathy, but too rarely do they spur us to action or prompt us to question our own assumptions and privilege.

We can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America. We have to name them and own them and then change them.

You may have heard about a woman in North Carolina named Debbie Dills. She's the one who spotted Dylann Roof's car on the highway. She could have gone on about her business. She could have looked to her own safety. But that's not what she did. She called the police and then she followed that car for more than 30 miles.

As Congressman Jim Clyburn said the other day, "There may be a lot of Dylann Roofs in the world, but there are a lot of Debbie Dills too. She didn't remain silent." (Applause.)

Well, neither can we. We all have a role to play in building a more tolerant, inclusive society, what I once called "a

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village," where there is a place for everyone.

You know, we Americans may differ and bicker and stumble and fall, but we are at our best when we pick each other up, when we have each other's back.

Like any family, our American family is strongest when we cherish what we have in common, and fight back against those who would drive us apart.

I'm certain that we'll hear the usual flurry of clucking from the right wing media complex about how she's politicizing what happened in Charleston, and how we don't dare politicize these terrible tragedies because good Lord, people, those bodies aren't even buried in the ground yet!

That's just the right wing's way of encouraging collective attention deficits on the cancer rapidly multiplying in today's day and age. Ignore it. Whether you support Hillary Clinton or not, she has a long record of believing what she said right here, reaching all the way back to her days as Arkansas' First Lady. For that reason alone, 2016 or not, what she says should carry some weight.

Hillary Clinton on Charleston: 'We Can't Hide' From Truth of White Privilege // Mediaite // Andrew Husband – June 20, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton addressed the 83rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco on Saturday morning. Among other things, she addressed Wednesday night's shooting at the historic Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and the renewed discussion of gun control and the second amendment.

Reflecting on her time in Arkansas, Clinton noted:

"I know that gun ownership is part of the fabric of a lot of law abiding communities, but I also know that we can have common sense gun reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable, while respecting responsible gun owners."

She expresses her hope that those participating in the debates past, present and future can "make this debate less polarized, less inflamed by ideology and more informed by evidence."

However, it's later in the address that Clinton explicitly discusses the racial nature of the Charleston shooting and the larger context it invokes:

"For a lot of well-meaning, open-minded white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear. And news reports about poverty and crime and discrimination evoke sympathy, even empathy, but too rarely do they spur us to action or prompt us to question our own assumptions and privilege. We can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America. We have to name them, and own them, and then change them."

In One Quote, Hillary Clinton Just Took a Bold Stance on Race in America // Mic // Tom McKay – June 20, 2015

Over the past few days, the nation has been shocked, bereaved and outraged by the terrorist attack on Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, during which alleged white supremacist Dylann Storm Roof killed nine African-American congregants.

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While prominent politicians were obviously quick to condemn the murder, not all of them have been so quick to acknowledge the role racism played in the massacre. But on Saturday, while speaking to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Hillary Clinton challenged the United States to go beyond condemning individuals like Roof and stand up against racism in all the pernicious ways it goes unchallenged across the country.

"After the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and so much else, how can any of these things be true? But they are. And our problem is not all kooks and Klansmen, it's also the cruel joke that goes unchallenged," Clinton said, according to NBC News. "It's the offhand comment about not wanting 'that kind of person' in the neighborhood."

Clinton criticized the mentality of other national leaders who have sought to downplay the vicious racism that fueled the terrorist attack, announcing that Americans "can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America."

During the rest of the speech, Clinton thoroughly highlighted the challenges facing people of color across the country, from mortgage discrimination to systematic racism among police forces. Though she endorsed tougher gun laws, the focus was on race.

Why it's important: Clinton wants the American people to understand that it's not enough to pretend that racism doesn't exist in the United States, a notion as ridiculous as some Russian politicians' insistence that there are no gays in Russia. Instead, she made the case that the struggle is far from over by pointing to an immediate event in our recent collective memory as an example of the damage racism still causes.

But she didn't stop there. By tying racism to the everyday conversations and attitudes many Americans have, Clinton attacked the kind of implicit racism that runs rampant in polite society and asked well-meaning individuals to challenge it wherever it props up. She also made it clear that solving racism will require people across America to actually change their attitudes towards race — particularly white people, who despite boldly proclaiming themselves non-racist in increasing numbers, continue to hold screwed up opinions about people of color.

She called out what racism is: Roof didn't emerge from a vacuum. He grew up in a culture that tolerated racism instead of fighting to root it out. Clinton has broken the tepid moratorium on calling out America's stagnation on civil rights, which has troubled the country in many, more mundane ways than singular and disturbing terrorist attacks.

Racism is when black people get herded out of their own communities. Racism is when black men in poor communities experience permanent economic recession. Racism is when powerful politicians say explicitly racist things and then just shrug it off like they never opened their mouths. Racism is when white folks insist that merely saying "I'm not racist" is a "get out of jail free" card. Racism is the separation of the lived experience of people of color from the political discourse that determines how they will be treated by the rest of society.

If Americans don't want to be racist, then they can take Clinton's challenge and step forward to defend the principle that all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of the color of their skin. Or they can shrug and hesitate, and say "this was a terrible tragedy, but..." and let whatever privileged position of their own choosing fill in the rest of the blank.

Clinton calls for gun reforms in wake of Charleston shooting **// The Hill // Kevin Cirilli – June 20, 2015**

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton called for new restrictions on firearms in wake of the shooting in the shooting at a predominantly black church in Charleston, S.C., earlier this week.

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Clinton also called for a national conversation about race relations, saying institutionalized racism still exists in prepared remarks in San Francisco at a national mayoral conference.

"How is it that we as a nation still allow guns to fall into the hands of people whose hearts are filled with hate?" she asked. "You can't watch massacre after massacre and not come to the conclusion that as President Obama said, we must tackle this challenge with urgency and conviction."

"I am not and will not be afraid to keep fighting for common-sense reforms and, along with you, achieve those on behalf of all who have been lost because of this senseless gun violence in our country," she said.

She said that "once again, bodies are being carried out of a black church," adding that while "it is tempting to dismiss [this tragedy] as an isolated incident ... America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

Earlier this week, authorities arrested Dylann Roof, 21, in connection with the killing of nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a predominantly black church.

"Faith has always seen this community through and I know it will again. Just as earlier generations threw off the chains of slavery and then segregation and Jim Crow — this generation will not be shackled by fear and hate," Clinton said.

Clinton alluded to a gun-reform proposal put forth by Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) that failed to become law after an elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn.

"It makes no sense that bipartisan legislation to require universal background checks would fail in Congress despite overwhelming public support," she said. "It makes no sense that we couldn't come together to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers or people suffering from mental illness, even people on the terror watch list."

"That doesn't make sense and it is a rebuke to this nation we love and care about," she said.

On the topic of race, she said Americans need to ask themselves uncomfortable questions, saying that "the sight of young black man in a hoodie still evokes a twinge of fear" for many white people.

Racism, she said, still exists subtly in "the cruel joke that goes unchallenged. It's the offhand comment about not wanting 'those' people in the neighborhood."

"We can't hide from any of these hard truths about race and justice in America," she said. "We have to name them and own them and then change them."

Hillary Clinton vows to keep fighting for common sense gun control // The Financial Times // Megan Murphy – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton vowed to keep fighting for “common sense” gun control reforms if elected president, denouncing the persistent stain of racism in America days after a 21-year-old white gunman killed nine black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mrs Clinton, speaking at a US conference of mayors in San Francisco, referred to race as a “deep faultline” that continued to divide America. And she refused to shy away from America’s decades-old battle over gun control, where efforts to pass legislation restricting ownership and certain types of deadly weapons have repeatedly stalled even after the kind of tragedies seen in Charleston.

“The politics of this issue have been poisoned, but we can’t give up,” Mrs Clinton said. “The stakes are too high, the costs are too dear, and I am not and will not be afraid to keep fighting for common sense reforms and along with you, achieve those on behalf of all who have been lost because of this senseless gun violence in this country.”

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The comments, Mrs Clinton's most expansive yet on race and gun control, will probably move both issues toward the heart of the 2016 presidential campaign.

While the former secretary of state has repeatedly talked about race during the early months of her campaign, including the disparate incarceration rates between black and white men and the need for reforms to the criminal justice system, resistance to gun control has long been a sacred cow among the Republican party.

Speaking at a "Faith and Freedom" coalition event in Washington this week, several leading GOP candidates affirmed their support for the right to bear arms under the second amendment hours after the South Carolina shootings.

"If I am president of the United States, we will appoint justices and we will have an attorney-general who will protect our second amendment rights," said Marco Rubio, the Florida senator who is one of the early frontrunners for the nomination.

Dylann Roof, 21, has been arrested and charged with nine counts of murder after being caught in North Carolina a day after the killings, in what US authorities are investigating as a hate crime.

Mrs Clinton on Saturday acknowledged that discussing race openly remained difficult in the US. Even for Barack Obama, the nation's first black president, it has been difficult to move forward on an issue that continues to divide Americans amid deep mistrust, particularly between the black community and law enforcement in urban centres.

"I know this is a difficult topic to talk about. I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history, " Mrs Clinton said. I know there are truths we do not like to say out loud or discus with our children. But we have to."

Here's why one of Hillary Clinton's big ideas is a smart move for 2016 // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – June 20, 2015

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton is making a big deal about an issue of rising importance within her party: voting rights.

And new poll released by Public Policy Polling on Friday shows that her focus on the issue may prove politically popular in 2016 among more than just Democrats.

Automatic voter registration, something Clinton proposed earlier this month, enjoys relatively strong support, with 48% approving and 38% disapproving, according to the PPP poll.

In one of the first major speeches of her campaign earlier this month in Texas, Clinton railed against voter suppression and laid out a broad set of initiatives that would expand access to voting.

The former Secretary of State called for allowing early voting weeks before an election, automatic voter registration for 18-year-olds, and a strengthened Voting Rights Act, which was gutted by a Supreme Court decision two years ago.

Automatic enrollment is also popular among moderate voters, 57% of whom said they back the initiative. And it's

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a favorable concept among voters that Clinton is hoping to court in the primary and general elections. Black (73%) and young voters (58%) overwhelming support it. And according to PPP, women opposed restrictions on voting at much lower rates than men — only 35% of women oppose, compared to 42% of men.

It's unlikely that the concept will prove to be one that drives voters to the polls like economic or foreign policy initiatives, but the PPP poll suggests it's a smart issue for Clinton to latch onto for support from her base and from certain broader portions of the electorate.

But any progress made on the issue would likely come when the next president inhabits the White House. Congressional Republicans have declined to take up voting reform issues, including the fix to the Voting Rights Act that Clinton is pushing.

Clinton's advocacy may not be helping, at least right now. Automatic voter registration is also becoming increasingly partisan. As The Huffington Post notes, since March, the percentage of Republicans who support automatic voter registration has dropped from 53% to around 38%.

Election 2016: Beating Hillary Clinton Top Conservative Voter Priority // IB Times // Ginger Gibson – June 20, 2015

Conservative voters, regularly chided by the establishment for putting ideology above electability, are starting to come around to the importance of picking primary candidates who are best equipped to win a general election. But that doesn't mean they're jumping on board with Jeb Bush yet, even though he is considered in many establishment circles to be the most formidable candidate to topple Hillary Clinton.

This weekend, many of the nation's conservative voters convened at the sprawling Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington to watch as a parade of Republican candidates took turns making their pitch as to why they should be the next president and brandishing their religious credentials. It was the Faith & Freedom Coalition's "Road to Majority" conference, and 14 confirmed or likely Republican candidates showed up to make their appeal. The only ones missing were Donald Trump and Mike Huckabee.

"Electability is very important, absolutely," said Jerry Jenkins, 72, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Jenkins is leaning toward Ben Carson, but he realizes that the neurosurgeon is going to face struggles and may not have enough political experience to win. When it came to electability, Jenkins pointed to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie who he called “a guy who is the most impressive.”

It’s counter to the conventional wisdom that Bush is being painted as the most electable. “Jeb, I was disappointed,” Jenkins said. “Can he get the nomination? He might be able to pull off the nomination, but I think Hillary [Clinton] can beat him.”

The question of electability versus ideology has become pervasive through the GOP. Washington insiders have taken to procrastinating just what the electorate is going to be inclined to favor. The arguments tend to go one of of two ways. Some Republican voters see Clinton as so easily defeatable that any of the more than 15 likely candidates could topple her. They believe the best course of action is to nominate the most conservative candidate and ensure the White House doesn't get too moderate. This camp points to the defeats of John McCain and Mitt Romney -- two candidates closer to the center -- as evidence that a moderate can't win.

The opposing side believes that Clinton could easily defeat several of the Republican candidates. They believe that nominating a very conservative candidate -- particularly on social issues and immigration -- would give Democrats a bevy of possible attacks and weaken their chances. They point to tea party darlings like Christine O'Donnell and Sharron Angle as evidence that someone that far right -- even in favorable conditions -- can't get elected.

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Many of the voters who convened for the Faith & Freedom event did seem to think that any candidate in their field could beat Clinton. But they're still growing cautious about how Republicans should be approaching the election.

The warning signs are starting to go up. Katie Packer Gage, who was deputy campaign manager for Romney in 2012, penned a piece this week warning candidates against repeating the former nominees' mistake of trying to move to the right during the primary on immigration. "What we found is that GOP nominees chasing the relatively small group of anti-immigration primary voters — and giving opponents ammunition to portray them as anti-immigration — risk alienating 24 percent more voters in a general election than they attract," she wrote.

Kathy Dwan, of Saginaw, Michigan, wants her party to stop talking about social issues. The self-described "far right" and "extreme" conservative said she sees among her friends those who don't vote for Republicans because of social issues but would vote for the GOP if they dropped them.

"I really wish they would all stop talking about the social issues," Dwan said. "To be honest, I think they should stay out of politics. I know I'm here at Faith & Freedom, and everybody is pro-life -- which I am -- but I think the government should stay out of the social issues...we should just talk about the health of our country fiscally and rule of law. We have to get back to some basics."

Dwan -- who is leaning toward Rand Paul because she likes his message of personal liberty -- thinks the whole field can beat Clinton. But she isn't sure who is in the best position to take on Clinton. "The jury is out on who might be the best because we're just starting," Dwan said.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz appeared to receive the warmest reception from crowds at the event, at least in the first couple of days before Scott Walker had a chance to woo the crowd. And Cruz is trying to court the evangelical vote, a path that candidates have previously taken to victory in the early primary state of Iowa. But political observers warn that Iowa -- and evangelical voters around the country -- are beginning to worry more about picking winners instead of picking those who are like-minded.

Some evidence that conservatives are looking beyond a strict set of ideological parameters could be the reception received from candidates who most dismiss as too moderate to ever win the far-right voters.

Brian Frey, 34, also of Saginaw, Michigan, walked away from the event impressed with a couple of candidates he had never seen speak before, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich -- who has yet to announce his campaign -- and former New York Gov. George Pataki. "I was kind of blown away by Pataki," Frey said. "He is very electable."

Kasich, Washington insiders will tell you, will never make inroads with conservatives because he expanded Medicaid in his state as part of the Affordable Care Act. Pataki, who was a three-term governor of New York, came under fire for naming a moderate Republican to challenge Chuck Schumer in the 2004 Senate race. And in the last 11 years, the political ecosystem has only made it harder for Republicans to overcome such criticism.

But most surprising was the warm reception New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie received. Conservatives began scoffing at the brash-talking governor after his much-derided embrace of President Barack Obama on a tarmac in New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy. While the criticism lacked much substance -- Christie has been a consistent critic of the president -- the imagery created headaches for the governor.

But Linda Cleaver of Chester County, Pennsylvania, said after hearing Christie speak Friday at the conference, he moved up her favorites list. Cleaver, who said she's "one step to the left of radical" conservative and is a tea party member, said she was pleased to hear Christie talk about taking on entitlement programs.

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"He would never have been my choice," Cleaver said. "[But] I like somebody who just speaks and doesn't pull any punches. They tell you the truth whether they think you can handle it or not."

And what about Bush? "I will never vote for him," Cleaver said. "Unlike other people, I did like George [W.] Bush, but he has the party message. Religiously, he's good, apparently. But he has some positions that may change in time, but I think he's just the party and that needs to change."

CNN Panel Discusses Troubling Polling Numbers for Clinton 'This wasn't her best week' **// Free Beacon // Washington Free Beacon Staff - June 21, 2015**

CNN's Inside Politics panel discussed polling showing Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton underwater on honesty and trustworthiness in key battleground states Sunday.

A Quinnipiac poll revealed majorities of voters in Florida (51 percent), Ohio (53 percent) and Pennsylvania (54 percent) do not find she has those qualities.

"This wasn't her best week," host John King said.

Self-described socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.) also finished just 10 points behind Clinton, 41-31, in a poll of likely New Hampshire voters, something else that could alarm her campaign.

Associated Press reporter Lisa Lerer said Clinton had played it "extremely safe" on issues important to the left flank of the Democratic Party, and she's "stayed silent" on controversial intra-party topics like trade and NSA surveillance.

Clinton confidant cuts ties with the formidable family **// NYPost // Isabel Vincent and Melissa Klein - June 21, 2015**

Just weeks before Hillary Clinton kicked off her campaign for president on Roosevelt Island, a Clinton family loyalist quietly parted ways with the powerful clan.

Doug Band, a man once so close to President Bill Clinton that he was considered a surrogate son, left the Clinton Foundation, where he had various board appointments, The Post has learned.

Band declined to comment, except to confirm he resigned his position last month. The departure marks the end of a complicated relationship between Band's controversial consultant corporation, Teneo, and the Clintons.

And while the Clinton Foundation has been under fire for allegedly trading millions of dollars in donations for access to Bill and Hillary Clinton when she was secretary of state, Teneo's role is less well-known.

But Teneo played a part in what author Daniel Halper in his 2014 book "Clinton Inc.," described as a vast money-making machine.

"I think Teneo is not just emblematic of how Clinton Inc. works, it shows the political and financial mess that this whole thing has created," Halper told The Post.

In a preview of the Clinton Foundation scandals that have dogged Hillary Clinton this year, The New Republic

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noted the suspicious nature of Band's work in a 2013 article.

"There's an undertow of transactionalism in the glittering annual dinners, the fixation on celebrity and a certain contingent of donors whose charitable contributions and business interests occupy an uncomfortable proximity. More than anyone else except [Bill] Clinton himself, Band is responsible for creating this culture. And not only did he create it, he has thrived in it."

Get Rich Quick

Now headquartered on the 45th floor of the Citigroup Center in Manhattan, and with offices around the world, Teneo — Latin for "to guide" — started more modestly in 2009 by business consultant Paul Keary.

Band and Declan Kelly, who had been US economic envoy to Northern Ireland in Hillary Clinton's State Department, joined the firm in 2011, turning it into a global powerhouse.

Modal TriggerBand is a 42-year-old Florida native who started his career at 22 as an intern in the Clinton White House. He earned a law degree, worked his way up at the White House, eventually becoming indispensable to the president as his aide or "body man." Band was constantly by the president's side, carrying bags and keeping Clinton on schedule.

When Clinton left office in 2001, Band reportedly turned down a job at Goldman Sachs and stuck with the former president as his personal assistant.

Band became the gatekeeper for those wanting access to Clinton. The two were so close that Band was at Clinton's bedside when he had heart bypass surgery in 2004.

It was Band who, in 2005, came up with the idea for the Clinton Global Initiative, a yearly meeting of business bigwigs and heads of state in Manhattan.

Band was paid by Clinton and, once the Global Initiative was up and running, he drew a salary of $110,000 to head the group. But he was also paid an undisclosed extra amount of money by Clinton benefactor Ron Burkle, who sent checks to SGRD, Band's Florida-based LLC, The Wall Street Journal reported. It was an attempt to keep Band on board with Clinton and not flee to a more lucrative position, the newspaper reported.

Band got rich quickly. By 2003, he bought a $2.1 million condo at the Metropolitan Tower on West 57th Street. He sold it in 2008 for $4.1 million and moved to the tony Essex House on Central Park South, where he still lives in a sprawling apartment.

Band married investment banker Lily Rafii in 2007. Clinton attended the wedding in a Paris chateau even though Band had asked him not to come. "Not only did he come, he made this incredible speech," Band told a Florida newspaper in 2009.

Band traveled the world with Clinton, even accompanying him to North Korea in 2009 to secure the release of two journalists.

Band, in his bio on the Teneo website, says he was "part of the negotiation team that handled all aspects of Hillary Clinton's becoming secretary of state."

Clinton told The Washington Post in 2008, "I'm amazed he still works for me because he could make a lot more money somewhere else."

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‘Promise of Access’

In 2011, Band did branch out on his own, joining the fledgling Teneo and recruiting Bill Clinton to be a member of the advisory board. Clients paid staggering monthly retainers — up to $250,000 — to Band’s company. They were reportedly encouraged to give to the Clinton Foundation and, in turn, foundation donors were encouraged to use the services of Teneo.

“The idea for Teneo was to have Fortune 400 companies pay large monthly stipends in exchange for access to Band, Clinton and their massive international network. The group would ‘consult’ with the companies, offer strategic advice and help them overcome issues in various countries across the globe,” Halper wrote in “Clinton Inc.”

But a former Teneo employee told Halper that what the clients really got was nothing, other than an “implicit promise of access to Clinton.”

In addition to Clinton, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, former US Sen. George Mitchell and Ed Rollins, Ronald Reagan’s campaign manager, all came on board at Teneo.

Clinton was the key to Teneo’s success. “The two needed the president,” a source told Halper. “It was he who they were selling to their corporate clients. Or, more precisely, it was their proximity to power — President Clinton, and his wife, who was then secretary of state — and their own Rolodexes, which were a natural extension of the work they had done over the years for the Clintons.”

Clients included Bank of America, Dow Chemical, UBS Wealth Management and Coca-Cola.

In exchange, Bill Clinton was given a contract with Teneo worth $3.5 million, Halper said. It is unclear, however, how much Clinton was actually paid.

The Chelsea Problem

Chelsea Clinton and her husband, Marc Mezvinsky, also wanted to muscle in on the action and asked for an equity stake in the company, Halper reported. But Band refused, seeing too much of a potential conflict in doing business with the daughter of the secretary of state. There may have been some “sibling” rivalry between Band and Chelsea Clinton.

In 2008, Band told restaurant owner Nino Selimaj to take down Chelsea’s photo from the wall of Osso Buco saying the former first daughter was not a public figure, according to New York magazine.

In the end, Bill Clinton’s tenure at Teneo was short-lived.

The Post reported in December 2011 that Teneo had been advising MF Global, the doomed international brokerage firm headed by former New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine. The firm paid Teneo an eye-popping $125,000 a month as it was imploding and losing millions for its investors.

Although Clinton’s office insisted the former president was not profiting from the MF Global arrangement, Hillary Clinton was said to be furious over the controversy. By February 2012, Clinton stepped down from Teneo.

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Shortly before he severed ties with the company, Clinton reportedly started to resent how Band and his partner Declan Kelly threw his name around to inflate Teneo's importance.

In one reported instance, Kelly seemed to take public credit for getting Clinton invited to speak at an economic forum in Dublin. But the former president had actually been invited by the Irish prime minister and was said to explode in anger at the suggestion that Teneo had somehow brokered his participation at the event.

But the connection to the Clintons continued. In June 2012, Hillary Clinton's senior aide Huma Abedin began working as a part-time consultant to Teneo during her final months at the State Department.

Abedin, the wife of disgraced former Congressman Anthony Weiner, was designated a "special government employee," which allowed her to both work for the State Department and to hold outside gigs. She also consulted for the Clinton Foundation and for Hillary Clinton.

Once the arrangement became known, there was criticism that there was overlap between a private firm and the inner workings of the State Department.

A source close to the negotiations told The Post that the deal came about as a way to help Abedin financially after her husband resigned in the wake of a sexting scandal in June 2011.

"The truth is people felt sorry for Huma," the source said. Asked if Abedin provided any inside intelligence about the State Department for Teneo, the source denied it. "People watch too much 'House of Cards.' "

After Huma's arrangement with Teneo came to light, Sen. Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, asked the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of the special government employee exception.

New Business

While it's not clear whether Band or Teneo will play a part in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, the company has continued to wield influence on a global scale without Bill Clinton on the board.

Its website says its executives are involved in everything from sorting out issues around the Greek financial meltdown to working to leverage economic opportunities in Africa. It recently opened offices in the Far East and Brazil.

Tax filings show that Band was last paid by the Clinton Foundation in 2012, when he got $53,000. He remained linked to a European arm of the Clinton Foundation until stepping down last month.

A source told The Post that it became increasingly difficult for Clinton loyalists like Band to work with the Foundation after Chelsea Clinton was brought on board. "She wanted to be famous and rich and have a place to go," said the source, adding that Chelsea was too inexperienced for the job. "It just didn't make any sense."

Democrats veer left then blast everyone else for being 'right wing' **// NYPost // By Kyle Smith - June 21, 2015**

Hillary Clinton knows she has more baggage than Newark Airport. She doesn't care, because she is counting on

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two strong forces to carry her to victory: Demographics and the leftward turn in American culture.

She and the other Democrats suffer from cultural hubris, though. Their social justice wings always threaten to take them a little too close to the sun.

Even if all enemies are vanquished, the progressive wars can never be won. The Democrats will always find new hostile territory to invade, always creating a New Frontier.

Two weeks ago I wrote about a massive, silent cultural revolution in American attitudes: Since just the middle of the last decade, there has been a huge increase in support for gay marriage, legalized marijuana and single parenthood.

These changes favor Democrats, as does increasing ethnic diversity. Mitt Romney won the same percentage of white Americans on election day of 2012 as Ronald Reagan did in 1980. Reagan became president in a landslide. Romney was seen pumping his own gas the following week.

Yet as the parade veers left, the Democrats must always race out to be in front of it. This week's Gallup poll says that a record high 47% of Democratic voters identify as both socially liberal and economically liberal or moderate. That's up 8 points since the 2008 election of President Obama and 17 points since 2001.

Just as yesterday's luxuries become today's necessities, Democrats are continuously redefining what it means to be Democrats.

They celebrate their many gay-marriage victories, with a final, 50-state resolution due soon, perhaps any day now. But that won't be the end of the issue. As recently as early 2012, even Obama opposed gay marriage. Within 15 minutes after he publicly reversed course, liberals were routinely comparing gay-marriage opponents to racists, and 30 seconds after that liberal judges started forcing evangelical bakeries out of business for declining to participate in gay weddings.

Just this spring, Obama's own solicitor general let slip that "it is certainly going to be an issue" whether universities that decline to back gay marriage will be able to retain their tax exemptions.

If such exemptions are henceforth made conditional on offering hearty support for same-sex unions, by what logic would churches that oppose homosexuality be able to retain their tax-exempt status?

We've already seen that the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom couldn't save a Christian bakery.

Could Catholic priests be forced to marry Adam and Steve? "Not a chance," declared Slate's Emily Bazelon in a sneering column that said this was a mere "scare tactic." Political sci-fi. You might as well fear an invasion of zombies.

That was 2¹/ years ago. Two months ago, gay New York Times columnist Frank Bruni pushed the goalposts down the field. He wrote approvingly of Mitchell Gold, a gay philanthropist and founder of the activist group Faith in America, which is dedicated to stamping out what it calls "religion-based bigotry." Gold says churches must "take homosexuality off the sin list."

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Last year an essay by The Atlantic's Ta-Nehisi Coates touting reparations payments for black Americans was warmly received by the left-wing intelligentsia. Yet in a YouGov poll, only 6% of white voters agreed that blacks deserve cash payments, while 59% of black voters think so.

How much longer will Democrats be able to forestall talking about an issue that receives strong support from their base? It's not hard to picture Bernie Sanders clobbering Clinton with the idea in a debate.

And, by the way, Sanders's self-identification as a "socialist" no longer marks him as extreme, at least to Democrats. Forty-three percent of Democrats say they approve of socialism, the same percentage who like capitalism. The public, to say the least, does not agree: By a margin of two to one, they preferred capitalism to socialism in a May YouGov poll.

Obama supports a federal minimum wage of $10.10 an hour. Hillary Clinton has moved far to the left of that, seemingly endorsing a $15-an-hour wage floor in a call to fast-food workers this month. On free trade, which is backed by Obama, was a core policy of her husband's administration and which she herself has supported many times in the past, Clinton is suddenly silent.

In order to lock down Latino support, Clinton has staked out a position to the left of Obama's extreme position on immigration, and less than 48 hours after arsonists in Baltimore burned down an innocent CVS store, she said "it is time to end the era of mass incarceration," marking herself as perhaps the first president ever to run overtly as a friend of the criminal class.

The media often remind us that Democrats and Republicans used to forge bipartisan policy solutions, scolding Republicans for supposedly moving right.

But if the center is becoming a lonely place in American politics, Democrats are walking away from it much more rapidly than Republicans are.

Will Obama's coalition readily accept Clinton? **// Las Vegas Sun // Clarence Page – June 20, 2015**

His campaign is a long shot, but I'm happy to see Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders putting forth a good impersonation of a serious challenge to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Like a near-sighted javelin thrower, the self-described democratic socialist may not score many points, but he'll keep the crowd alert.

The former first lady, senator and secretary of state needs someone to keep her alert. Her avoidance of reporters and any other unscripted public moments sometimes makes her appear to be asleep at the wheel.

Her slow reaction to widespread suspicions about her private, unsecured email server, for example, seemed odd compared with her husband's rapid-response campaign team in 1992. And why encourage an image of aloofness and entitlement at a time when voters are expecting candor and transparency?

One wonders: Is she relying on her potential Republican opponents, whose numbers seem to grow by the day, to trip over themselves so much that she can quietly waltz her way to her party's nomination? That's not a totally bad bet, considering how the mere mention of Clinton's name was driving right-wingers bananas years before anyone had reason to mention "Obama derangement disorder."

At least no one has demanded to see her birth certificate, but just wait.

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Yet, as much as her campaign seems to be leaning on celebrity style more than substance, her initial speeches offer hints of a long-term goal: She aims to rally the same coalition of voters who twice elected President Barack Obama.

You can hear it, for example, in her pronouncements on voting rights, immigration, the incarceration explosion and equal pay for women.

At Texas Southern University in Houston, she issued a major appeal for every American to be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 unless they choose not to be. She called for a nationwide standard of at least 20 days of early voting. She called on Congress to strengthen the Voting Rights Act, which a 2013 Supreme Court ruling weakened. She also attacked restrictive voter-identification card laws imposed by Republican lawmakers in some states for discouraging lawful voters from voting.

Republican governors from two of those states, New Jersey's Chris Christie and Texas' Rick Perry, sharply denied her accusation, even though Perry did sign a controversial requirement that Texans show photo identification before voting.

But those responses were politely restrained compared with those of conservative critics who accused Clinton of "race-baiting" and "playing the race card."

"She needs black voter turnout in 2016 in order to win," townhall.com editor Katie Pavlich said on anchor Gregg Jarrett's Fox News program. "And the way that she's going to do that is by perpetuating this bogus, race-baiting narrative that somehow voter-ID laws disenfranchise minority voters."

Actually, that narrative is not so bogus. A report released last fall by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, on voter-ID laws in Kansas and Tennessee found a dip in 2012 election turnout of about 2 percent points in Kansas and between 2.2 and 3.2 percent in Tennessee. As the Demoratic lawmakers who called for the probe suspected, the GAO found the declines to be greater among younger and black voters.

That's not a huge percentage, but it's certainly big enough to have a significant impact in close elections. Yet, the perception of minority voter suppression is believed to have contributed to a surge in the nationwide black turnout rate in 2012 that, for the first time, exceeded the white turnout rate.

A big looming question: How much have black voters gotten over hard feelings left over from Clinton's long-running primary battle against Obama in 2008? A lot of people have long memories, especially in politics.

Another question: Are Obama's core supporters so disenchanted over what he was unable to accomplish against his strong Republican opposition that they won't bother to vote this time?

That's always possible. But here, too, Clinton has hope. She undoubtedly hopes her political adversaries overreact harshly enough to remind her base that things always could be worse. A lot worse.

Hillary Clinton's shameful charge to a children's charity // NY Post – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton says, "Success isn't measured by how much the wealthiest Americans have, but by how many children climb out of poverty." So why did she charge an exorbitant speaking fee to a charity that helps poor kids?

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Fine, she sent the cash to another "nonprofit" — the family's $2 billion foundation. But Condi Rice, another ex-secretary of state, gave her own (much lower) fee from the same outfit — the Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach, Calif. — back to the charity.

Politico reports that Clinton charged $200,000 to speak at the club's annual fund-raiser last year, the most the group ever paid a speaker. As a result, the club — which provides after-school programs to underprivileged children — netted only $106,000 from the event, its lowest take in 25 years.

Rice spoke at its 2009 fund-raiser, charged $60,000 and immediately donated it back. That event yielded nearly $258,000.

The difference — $150,000 — is a big deal for a charity with a budget of under $3 million a year.

Hillary's better half charged the charity $150,000 for a 2007 speech. And, Politico notes, that "was reported as personal income — not a donation to the Clinton Foundation."

Oh, and the woman who says she "has spent my life fighting for children, families and our country" gave her speech and left "without visiting any of the club's facilities to meet the children who benefit from its services," Politico reports.

Yep, the Clintons just love the little people.

John Bolton: No Hillary Clinton or Rand Paul for President // The Blaze // Fred Lucas – June 20, 2015

Former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton has not decided who he will support for president, but he knows who he won't.

Bolton, who served in the position under President George W. Bush, said he will work to ensure that neither former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton nor Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul come to occupy the Oval Office.

"National security needs to be at the center of debate," Bolton told TheBlaze. "For the last six-and-a-half years there has been inadequate debate on the threats we face."

He will be pushing his super PAC and a separate organization, Foundation for American Security and Freedom, to make national security a more paramount issue.

"Hillary Clinton does not have sound judgment," Bolton told TheBlaze. "She is an ideological twin to President Obama. The majority of Republican candidates for presidential candidates are in the right direction. I want to see them elaborate on their good judgment."

As for Paul, Bolton said he understands the Republican senator's appeal to conservatives on domestic issues, but argued his opposition to the Patriot Act and unwillingness to take action abroad could put the United States in a precarious situation.

"His views are contrary to the conservative and tea party movement," Bolton said. "There is a lot of support for him on domestic issue, but would lead us down the wrong path on national security."

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Bolton considered a presidential run in 2016 himself but opted against it. His political action committee contributed to 87 House and Senate candidates in the 2014 election cycle. He said he hasn't decided if his organizations would endorse a candidate in the Republican primary or wait until the general election.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

SANDERS

Sanders banters on HBO with Bill Maher, praises pope and seeks support of younger voters // WaPo // John Wagner – June 20, 2015

ernie Sanders, the surging 73-year-old contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, talked up his appeal to younger voters and his appreciation of Pope Francis during an appearance Friday night on HBO's edgy "Real Time with Bill Maher."

Maher welcomed Sanders to the live broadcast by informing him "you're a rock star now," a reference to Sanders's swelling crowds on the campaign trail and his rising poll numbers.

Maher noted that Hillary Rodham Clinton remains well ahead with women voters, telling Sanders that "some women you will just never get."

"I don't mean personally -- although that too," Maher told a beaming Sanders. "Because there's a lot of enthusiasm for the first woman candidate."

But Maher said Sanders is doing well with men, particularly older men, and said that he sees a lot of potential for Sanders to do well with younger voters -- a point on which Sanders agreed.

"We are being very aggressive in reaching out to young people," the senator said, noting his large following on Facebook. "What we want to do is have the idealism of the kids."

Sanders cited climate change as an example -- kids want to lead the world in fighting it, he said -- and praised the leader of the Catholic faith for issuing his encyclical this week on the subject.

"This pope, dare I say, has been a miracle for humanity," said Sanders, who was born to Jewish parents and describes himself as a democratic socialist. "He makes me very conservative on economic issues, and that he spoke out on climate change in as forceful a manner as he did is just extraordinary."

Sanders predicted that the pope's input would have "a profound impact all over this world."

The show was broadcast from Los Angeles. On Saturday, Sanders is scheduled to hold an event in Denver, where

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campaign officials said they already have received about 7,000 RSVPs. If they all show up, it would be perhaps the largest rally any candidate in either party has staged thus far in the 2016 campaign cycle.

Defying conventions, Bernie Sanders emerges as a challenger for Hillary Clinton // AP // Ken Thomas – June 20, 2015

Bernie Sanders likes to call it "practicing democracy."

He doesn't take the stage to a blaring soundtrack. He doesn't have a teleprompter or a phalanx of Secret Service agents surrounding him. But when his Brooklyn accent booms out at a campaign stop in rural Iowa, heads nod along in approval.

"What I'm doing in this campaign is trying to tell the people the truth — but a truth which is not heard a whole lot in Washington or discussed a lot in the media," Sanders said recently at a picnic in Iowa's Warren County, south of Des Moines.

"So let me lay it out on the table for you," he said. "You're living in a country today which has more wealth and income inequality than any major industrialized nation on earth."

In a race for the Democratic presidential nomination with Hillary Rodham Clinton, the blunt talk about the economy and the gap between the rich and poor is working for Sanders.

The independent senator from Vermont is an unconventional messenger at a time when many politicians test-drive what they want to say in polls and with focus groups.

Sanders is drawing sizable crowds in the early voting states. He's also gaining against Clinton in very early polls, particularly in New Hampshire, a factor that impresses the political class even though opinion surveys at this point are limited in predicting who will win.

Clinton remains the race's overwhelming favorite, but there's no question that the 73-year-old self-described democratic socialist, whose disheveled white hair might remind some of Doc Brown from "Back to the Future," isn't just a novelty.

"This is a unique individual," said Iowa Democratic state Rep. Scott Ourth, who introduced Sanders last weekend at the picnic in Indianola. "This guy has only one standard. If it's right for people, he's going to fight for it. If it's bad for people, he's going to take a stand against it."

Drawing unexpectedly large crowds, the campaign has moved a town meeting planned in Las Vegas on Friday into a more spacious venue. About 5,000 people are expected at a rally Saturday at the University of Denver.

"The challenge for us, really, is that at this point the crowds are way ahead of us," said Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver.

Sanders is running with a relentless focus on policy. He rarely talks about his family, other than mentioning his four children and 7 grandchildren when explaining the importance of confronting climate change. In Minneapolis he was joined on stage by his wife, Jane, and noted they had just celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary.

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He's promoting a massive government-led jobs program to fix roads and bridges. He wants a $15-an-hour minimum wage, and higher taxes on the wealthy and Wall Street. He advocates for a single-payer health care system, an expansion of Social Security benefits and debt-free college.

He's combative, too.

Sanders often points to some European and Scandinavian countries that provide subsidized or free education, universal health care and generous family leave policies as models for the U.S.

While speaking to graduate students recently, Sanders asked a student from Finland whether his country is "crazy" to pay for his education. Then he grilled the students about U.S. policy on paid sick leave for new parents.

"C'mon guys, you're in graduate school!" he barked. "What are you teaching these guys? Do you know anything?"

One woman yelled, "None," meaning no national policy on such leave. Nodding, Sanders instructed the students that people in Finland get paid leave after they have children.

"Ahhh. Now I want to get everybody very nervous," Sanders said sarcastically. "This is called European socialism! Terrible, horrible, right? Because none of you want to be able to go to college and graduate school tuition-free.

"None of you, when you have kids, want the opportunity to bond with your kids. Terrible! European socialism!"

His speeches often reflect such a black-and-white view of the world. He rarely mentions that tax rates in such countries are far higher than in the U.S.

It's a style that couldn't be more different than Clinton's.

Hours before the first major rally of her campaign, Clinton released a Spotify playlist of songs, featuring music by Katy Perry, Kelly Clarkson and Sara Bareilles. One of her campaign Twitter feeds showed a green silhouette of her head wearing trendy headphones.

Clinton has been traveling with Secret Service agents since her husband's presidency in the 1990s.

Sanders shows up at rallies and events with a small contingent of aides. In Indianola, he carried a folded piece of paper scrawled with notes while he spoke.

Other presidential candidates in Iowa and New Hampshire will linger long after their speeches, trying to shake every hand and make a personal connection with a potential voter. Sanders doesn't make a lot of small talk. After receiving a standing ovation in Indianola, he was stopped repeatedly for photos and handshakes — which he obliged — but he kept moving.

"Very quickly, very quickly," he said to one man requesting a photograph.

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For all of that, the woman he's challenging is perhaps the most dominant front-runner within the party in a generation.

"Clinton is going to be a safer bet," said John MacBride, a 24-year-old Sanders supporter who drove from Kansas City to see him speak. "A lot of my peers think she's a safer bet. But they like what he says better."

Bernie Sanders' battle to get on the New Hampshire ballot **// Politico // Jonathan Topaz – June 20, 2015**

Bernie Sanders has vowed to win the New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary. As of right now, though, the Vermont independent isn't entirely assured that he'll qualify for the ballot.

Unlike early nominating states such as Iowa and South Carolina — where the process for getting on the ballot will be very simple for the Vermont independent — it has the potential to get a bit dicey in the Granite State (see below for the process).

At a town hall Friday in Nevada, a supporter said some of her friends were still concerned Sanders would be running as a third-party candidate in the mold of Ralph Nader — whom his campaign has explicitly cited as a model they wanted to avoid. "I am running for the Democratic nomination!" Sanders said loudly into the mic, drawing raucous cheers from the crowd.

It's a complication for Sanders, who for a long time mulled a third-party presidential bid as an independent. Unlike former Gov. Howard Dean, who was the last Vermonter to run for president in 2004, Sanders has never called himself a Democrat, has declined the Democratic Senate nomination in Vermont and remains an independent in Congress, where he has served as an independent since 1990. (He's the longest-serving independent in congressional history.)

Sanders does have many factors in his favor, and remains a virtual lock to get on the New Hampshire ballot: The Democratic National Committee has welcomed him into the Democratic race without qualification. Sanders has caucused with the Democrats for the past 25 years and has held top committee positions within the party — he's now Senate Budget Committee ranking member and served as Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman when the Democrats were in the majority. In Vermont, he's voted in Democratic presidential primaries.

He also has the unqualified support of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, which would be allowed to make its case to a bipartisan commission in the event of a challenge. "The New Hampshire Democratic Party considers Bernie Sanders a Democratic candidate for President and we will work to satisfy any requirements to make sure he's on the ballot in February," said state party chairman Ray Buckley.

People in New Hampshire also note that it would be a political nightmare for the state to ban Sanders — who is receiving more than 30 percent support from New Hampshire Democratic voters according to two polls this week — from the ballot. "It would cause all sorts of negative feedback if Sanders was banned for the ballot, no matter if there technically was a legal case or not," said University of New Hampshire political science professor Dante Scala.

Sanders has said several times that he will win in New Hampshire, and his campaign doesn't seem unduly concerned about getting on the ballot.

Said spokesman Michael Briggs: "We don't think it's going to be an issue."

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The process:

The Sanders campaign will file a declaration of candidacy — which will declare his registration with the Democratic Party in the state — to the New Hampshire Secretary of State's office, which is tasked with certifying his candidacy. New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner has not committed to putting Sanders on the ballot, previously citing that Sanders isn't yet a registered Democrat.

Vermont doesn't have voter registration by party, meaning that Sanders can't be a registered Democrat in the state even if he wanted to.

Even if Gardner certifies his candidacy, which is not a foregone conclusion, Sanders can face another challenge. If an individual with standing contests his candidacy, the bipartisan New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission will hear an official challenge.

"Usually we've been pretty liberal about letting people challenge," said Brad Cook, the commission chairman, when asked how the committee determines what New Hampshire residents have standing.

"Frankly, with the number of people running and the contentiousness of the primary, I wouldn't be surprised if we couldn't find a Democrat to challenge it," said Cook, who added that many Republicans in the state would also likely have standing to challenge his candidacy.

If the commission took up a challenge, Cook, a Republican appointed to his position by Democrats, would assess Sanders' candidacy with two Democrats and two Republicans.

Maher tells Bernie Sanders: Your campaign must be working 'You've got Hillary talking like Elizabeth Warren' // Raw Story // Tom Boggioni – June 20, 2015

Friday night Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) got the rock star treatment from Real Time host Bill Maher who praised the darkhorse candidate's campaign for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, telling the fiercely liberal senator that his run from the left has forced consensus favorite Hillary Clinton to start "talking like Elizabeth Warren."

Walking onto the stage to chants of "Ber-nie, Ber-nie" the Vermont independent sat down and explained that his campaign was about something other than normal politics, stating, "It's a very radical idea: we're going to tell the truth."

"The truth is that, for forty years, the middle class of this country has been disappearing. And there has been a huge transfer of billions of dollars of working families to the top one-tenth of one percent." Sanders said. "And what the people of this country are saying is, 'Enough is enough, our government, our country, belongs to all of us, not just a few billionaires.'"

"So let's dig down a little deeper into the campaign," Maher replied. "I mean you are closing the gap on Hillary, but obviously she's still way ahead with women. You do very well with men and the older — older men, especially. Now some women you will just never get…I don't mean you personally."

Maher went on to advise the candidate that "You could do well with younger voters. They liked Ron Paul. He was not a young-un, but he had that same authenticity thing going," before jokingly asking Sanders "Are you on Tinder?"

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Sander explained that his campaign has “A very active social media effort.”

“In the Senate, we have more people on our Facebook page, than any other member of the United States Senate,” he said, before adding, “Look, what we want to do is tap the idealism of the kids. And what the kids are saying, for example, is that this country should lead the world in transferring our energy system and dealing with climate change. And that solution we’re going to talk about a whole lot.”

Leaving Brooklyn, Bernie Sanders Found Home In Vermont // NPR // Tamara Keith – June 20, 2015

How did a city kid, who grew up in a 3 1/2-room apartment in Brooklyn, N.Y., end up the mayor of Burlington, Vt., and later one of the state's two senators? For Bernie Sanders, it began with a subway ride into Manhattan with his brother.

"We stopped near the Radio City Music Hall and at that point the state of Vermont had a storefront there, advertising Vermont land," says Sanders. "It was for tourists."

Sanders, 73, the independent senator turned Democratic presidential candidate, has called Vermont home for almost all of his entire adult life. It started when he was around 13 years old, a fascination with the Green Mountain State born in glossy real estate guides.

"We picked up the brochures," Sanders says. "We read them and we saw farms were for sale."

And then after college, in the mid-1960s, Sanders, his then-wife and his brother pooled some inheritance money and bought a small piece of the dream.

"We had never been to Vermont in our lives; we just drove up," Sanders says. "We bought 85 acres for $2,500. How's that? But it was woodland."

From Gadfly To Mayor

Before long, Sanders had moved to Vermont full time. He did a series of odd jobs, and got active in politics as a member of the Liberty Union Party, which defines itself as a nonviolent socialist party. That's when he met his very good friend Huck Gutman, a poetry professor at the University of Vermont.

"A couple of my students said, you know, there's a guy you should meet. He sounds like you. And I don't think they meant that we both sounded like we came from New York," says Gutman — who does in fact sound like a New Yorker, though less so than Sanders. "It meant that we both sounded progressive. So I remember meeting with Bernie and talking about politics, and we've been friends ever since."

Sanders ran for senator twice and governor once, but, Gutman says, "It was a third party of the sort that doesn't gain much traction in the United States — anti-big business, anti-war."

Sanders never garnered more than 5 percent of the vote as a member of the Liberty Union Party. He never changed his politics, but he did switch his party registration to independent and set his sights a little lower. His 10-vote victory over a Democratic incumbent in the 1981 race to be mayor of Burlington is now part of the legend of

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Bernie Sanders.

With that win, he went from gadfly to elected official — with all that entailed.

Another part of the legend: the snowplows. His wife, Jane Sanders, remembers many a snowy night when Mayor Sanders obsessively monitored the progress of the city's snowplows.

"Before the end of the night he would be out on the trucks, on the snowplows with them, to make sure things were going well," she says. "He takes his responsibilities extremely seriously."

A Little League Through Force Of Will

In the Senate recently, that meant teaming up with Arizona Republican John McCain to pass significant changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Or, back when he was mayor and Jane was the head of the city's youth agency, insisting that the economically depressed Old North End neighborhood get its own children's baseball league.

"He told me, 'We're going to start an Old North End Little League,' and everybody said, 'Oh, it can't be done, they just can't sustain it — we've tried,' " says Jane. "And he said, 'No, we're going to do it, just — here, do a poster, and put it out, and we'll have everybody meet.' "

That first Saturday, she said, 90 kids showed up, along with Bernie and two city attorneys, who served as coaches. "We got them uniforms. And we still run into people who say, 'I was on your team.' "

Now, there weren't actually enough children for age-appropriate teams, but that didn't stop them: Kids ages 6 to 16 were all on the same team. Jane says the teenagers were simply told to take it easy on the little guys.

"So it became the most compassionate and supportive place to be," she says.

The league still exists today.

Supportive and compassionate: That pretty much sums up Burlington — a city of 40,000 that Bernie Sanders led for eight years.

Just Don't Call It The 'People's Republic Of Burlington'

The weekly Burlington farmers market is a central meeting point that started shortly before Sanders became mayor. There are people doing yoga on the grass and parents pushing their kids in strollers.

Walking around, you could get the impression that this is an ideal place to pick up overpriced organic arugula, at the heart of the 'People's Republic of Burlington' — but the people at the market say that stereotype is not quite right.

"So much of it is seeing people bump into their friends and chitchat all day long," says David Zuckerman. "And

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that's part of what Burlington is: You go anywhere in Burlington — or frankly anywhere in Vermont — and you're going to bump into somebody that either you know or knows someone you know."

Zuckerman is an organic vegetable farmer, pig farmer and chicken farmer, and a state senator. Yes, he sells arugula, but this farmers market — and Burlington — is really about people. About community, he says.

'He Needs His Fix Of Vermont'

On a recent Saturday Bernie Sanders sat outside an ice cream stand that sells a maple soft-serve called a maple creemee. (I can report it is delicious.) The restaurant has ample outdoor seating and a pretty amazing view of Lake Champlain.

At first, it seemed like the interview might not work, as people constantly tried to say hi to their senator or catch his eye. People walking by shot cellphone pictures.

Sanders told a story about a trip he took back to New York 10 or 15 years ago. It just didn't feel like home, he says.

"I was walking in Manhattan, and I saw people and I'd say hello, and people had this look like I was threatening them," said Sanders. "Here, when you walk down the street, you nod to people and say hello. In the rural areas it's not uncommon for two cars going in a different direction to stop. People chat."

His friends say that, for Bernie Sanders, the hardest part of running for president may be spending so much time away from Burlington. Gutman says that until his friend started running for president, he came home to Vermont regularly.

"I don't mean to suggest he's a junkie, but I think he needs his fix of Vermont," says Gutman. "I think he needs to get his feet on the ground in this state and in this city to feel at home with himself, and I think that is a great thing. He's grounded here."

Jane says Sanders came back from a recent campaign swing in Iowa, where the landscape couldn't be more different, and he told her: "You're going to like the people there — they're very much like Vermonters."

Bernie Sanders Wows Hollywood Progressives at Two L.A. Fundraisers // The Hollywood Reporter // Tina Daunt – June 20, 2015

With the dust still settling after Barack Obama's and Hillary Clinton's glitzy fundraising trips to Hollywood this week, Clinton's first official Democratic rival — Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders — slipped quietly into town Saturday for a pair of low-key events that didn't raise seven-figure sums, but did warm the hearts of two overflowing crowds of Hollywood progressives.

Sanders' supporters might be called the entertainment industry's irreconcilables — the left flank of the Hollywood Dems' most progressive faction, with activists deeply disappointed in Obama, who they supported, and unwilling to sign on to a Clinton presidential campaign. In the former Secretary of State, they see another moderate waiting to happen.

Early Saturday morning, they filled the already blazing frontyard of actress Mimi Kennedy's Van Nuys home and — at midday — the living room of long-time activists Betty and Stanley Sheinbaum's sprawling Brentwood Park

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mansion to hear the program of a candidate they see as everything Hillary is not.

“I’m here with my wife and my friends because we believe Bernie is providing us with the opportunity to have a voice and a role in the Democratic process at a time when progressives are on the rise,” said former California state Senator Tom Hayden, who introduced Sanders at the Van Nuys event.

“Bernie has launched a very critical campaign in several states,” Haden said. “He’s actually doing well in the early polls. He has an opportunity to change the conversation in the country. He has an opportunity to be an effective debater (against Clinton) in the primaries. He has an opportunity to attract Libertarians and Republicans, as well as Democrats and Socialists. It always was a motley crew — the progressive coalition.”

With Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren definitely out of the race, Sanders — a self-described Democratic socialist — is the candidate who checks all the progressive boxes, earning him a devoted Los Angeles following. About 300 people turned out for Sanders’ two events on Saturday. Attendees included Days of Our Lives actress Deidre Hall, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas producer Richard Foos, Sister Act producer Cindy Gilmore Asner, filmmaker James H. Stern and actress/producer Sheila Emery.

In Van Nuys, Sanders told that crowd that the best part of running for president is being able to talk about the issues the other candidates are avoiding.

“Our campaign is catching fire,” he said. “It’s for one simple reason: We are telling the truth. And I think that’s what the American people want to hear. The truth may not be necessarily pleasant, but we can’t go forward unless we have the courage to take a hard look at where we are today. And where we are today is not in a good place.”

Income inequality and working conditions are one of his major concerns, and he recently put his views to one interviewer like this: “What we have seen is that while the average person is working longer hours for lower wages, we have seen a huge increase in income and wealth inequality, which is now reaching obscene levels. This is a rigged economy, which works for the rich and the powerful, and is not working for ordinary Americans. You know, this country just does not belong to a handful of billionaires.”

Since declaring his candidacy last month, Sanders has pointedly rejected the usual stump speech ambiguities. His style seems to declare that when you’re clearly on the attack, you don’t need room to maneuver. He has declared himself against free-trade agreements and the Keystone XL pipeline. He wants higher taxes on corporations and investors’ capital gains to finance universal healthcare and free college educations for all qualifying students. He has introduced legislation to require paid leave and vacation time for every American worker.

He wants more regulation of Wall Street and the big banks and a rollback of the Citizens United decision that ushered in the era of Super PAC’s. “I don’t believe that the men and women who defended American democracy fought to create a situation where billionaires own the political process,” he said. Sanders, in fact refuses to accept Super PAC contributions and several millions his campaign has taken in so far came from donors whose average check was $43.

“Look, we knew from day one that we don’t have any Super PACs, and I don’t have too many billionaires putting a lot of money into the campaign,” Sanders told supporters gathered in the Sheinbaums' living room. Promoting laughter, he added: “In fact, we have no billionaires.”

But he said that he believes he’ll have enough money to run a strong campaign. In fact, Sanders has declared himself “stunned” by the crowds his campaign stops have drawn. On Saturday, the Kennedy and Sheinbaum events were no exception.

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Betty and Stanley Sheinbaum are as close as the progressive Westside comes to a first couple. (She's Jack Warner's daughter, and he's a former economics professor turned anti-Vietnam War and civil liberties activist.) Their light-filled Brentwood Park living room has hosted generations of liberal Democratic politicians and progressive foreign leaders. Some of Bill Clinton's first introductions to Hollywood occurred there.

Daniel Ellsberg's defense in the Pentagon Papers case was planned there and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California founded around the fireplace before which Sanders spoke on Saturday.

"In this country, when we stand together there are extraordinary things we can do," Sanders told the overflowing crowd. "We can provide health care to all of our people. We can create decent paying jobs for all of our people. We can lead the world in terms of combating climate change. We can end racism and sexism and homophobia in the United States. We can end the disgrace of having the highest rate of childhood poverty. All of that is possible. This is not a poor country. This is a rich country. So work with me please in bringing about this political revolution."

Amid rousing applause he added: "Let's stand together and let's do what needs to be done to make this country the greatest country in the world."

Following his Brentwood Park appearance, Sanders was off to Denver to address a huge gathering of supporters eager to drink from the cup of unadulterated progressive conviction.

OTHER

Obama, Clinton mining state's gold, not voters **// LA Times // Cathleen Decker - June 21, 2015**

Last week proved anew just how convincingly California has become the place where politicians go to rich people's homes to talk about the lives of less-fortunate people they rarely meet.

President Obama crossed into Southern California airspace on Thursday and promptly took part in two events with donors, one at the home of producer Chuck Lorre and the second hosted by entertainer Tyler Perry. Later he had dinner with Hollywood moguls Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg.

"Just dinner with friends," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said.

On Friday, after an interview for a comedian's podcast in Highland Park, Obama spoke in San Francisco at the annual meeting of the nation's mayors, then hitfundraisers on Nob Hill and at the Golden Gate Bridge-view home of Tom Steyer, the hedge-fund billionaire who spent $74 million to become the nation's most generous individual political donor in 2014. Then it was off to Palm Springs, where Obama had plenty of time for a couple of rounds of golf before Sunday's departure.

Hillary Rodham Clinton surfaced in Southern California on Friday, holding three fundraisers in wealthy environs during which she "continued talking about her commitment to being a champion for everyday Americans," her campaign said.

She spoke to the mayors in San Francisco on Saturday, then raised money elsewhere in the city. Clinton's speech to the mayors, an emotional discussion of the lasting stain of racism, was the first non-fundraising event in California of her two-month-old campaign.

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For Democrats, the absence of a connection with the non-wealthy in California prompts a certain unease, since it cuts against the party's desired image and policy priorities. But it also represents a giant political victory, one whose major participants include Clinton and her husband, President Clinton, and Obama.

When a state is completely in the bag for either political party, there's no need — indeed, it arguably would be wasteful — to spend the resources it takes to mount an effort to persuade voters. And with more than a little help from Republicans, Democrats have commanded the state completely for two decades.

As last week reminded, California now serves the single purpose of providing the financial heft to be used in the states that matter.

"California's just different. It's a money machine now, more than anything else," said Tom Epstein, a former Clinton administration political hand and now a vice president at Blue Shield of California, based in San Francisco. Epstein's experience dates to the days it wasn't.

Little more than a generation ago, California's urban centers, suburban sprawl and rural towns were regular battlegrounds for presidential candidates. In 1988, Republican nominee George H.W. Bush held two campaign events in Southern California the Sunday before election day, a time set aside for big targets. A few days earlier, Democratic nominee Michael S. Dukakis had chartered a train to choo-choo up the Central Valley, where he spoke in Hanford, Fresno and Stockton.

Bush won — but when he ran for reelection four years later, Bill Clinton used California to paint himself as the candidate who best represented the future. Voters cranky about the recession-battered present sided with him.

Clinton's 13-point victory here was striking, and easy. His last California visit came weeks before the election, with an exclamation-point foray into the then-Republican stronghold Orange County.

Epstein became the administration's California point person, charged with keeping Clinton in good favor here as he looked to repeat his victory in 1996.

California "was a very high priority," Epstein said. "Virtually every trip he did he had a little reception for his supporters and tried to keep them fired up and engaged.... The president really enjoyed California as we all know, enjoyed hanging out with the Hollywood types and engaged pretty well with Northern California. It was a top political priority in a way it just isn't any more."

The attention dovetailed with Republican campaigns against illegal immigration that enraged the state's growing Latino population, whose retribution cinched Clinton's second victory and four subsequent Democratic presidential wins here. President Obama lost the 2008 primary to Hillary Clinton but won swamping victories here in the last two general elections.

Nothing, at this early moment, appears to stand in the way of Hillary Clinton winning a resounding primary victory in June, followed by the seventh-straight general election win for a Democrat in the state. Every California poll shows her as the front-runner.

Hillary Clinton could use the state's cutting-edge image as Bill Clinton did, embracing the tech wonders of Northern California — where the state's center of political gravity has shifted — to portray herself as completely in tune with the economic needs of the future. That is one of her main planks, but there will be a temptation to put forward that argument — and all others — in states that matter.

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For his part, Obama has lavished attention on California's fundraising salons — the Bay Area visit was the 20th of his presidency, most of them involving money. To the mayors on Friday, he noted the presence of Gov. Jerry Brown and Rep. Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, briefly praising Brown's moves on climate change and lauding the House Democratic leader despite their recent break over a trade treaty.

Apart from that, there was no talk about the state in which he stood. The mayors, to be sure, came from all over, so parochialism might have had limited benefits. But it seemed symbolic nonetheless that Obama said almost nothing at all about California before he left to collect more of its money.

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Can Jeb Bush Win the Christian Right? **// WSJ // Dante Chinni – June 20, 2015**

Here's a challenge for Jeb Bush: Evangelical Christians like him – but they don't seem eager to vote for him. That's one reason Mr. Bush hasn't met expectations that he'd break away from the GOP pack. Here's a look at how he fares currently, in three charts.

* * *

1. Jeb's Evangelical Strength, Weakness

Some 55% of white evangelicals hold a favorable view of Mr. Bush—a larger share than for any other GOP candidate tested by the Pew Research Center. For Mr. Bush, that's the good news.

* * *

2. Mike Huckabee Out Front

But those same voters favor other GOP candidates over Mr. Bush. He trails Mike Huckabee significantly among evangelicals as their top choice for president.

* * *

3. Evangelical Voters Early Influence

One reason for this may be that while Mr. Bush is seen favorably by many evangelicals, he also leads his rivals in the share who hold a negative view of him. That suggests that many evangelical voters are off the table for Mr. Bush, at least for now.

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And that's significant, because evangelical voters have a big presence in states that fall early on the nomination calendar. Mr. Bush doesn't need to dominate among evangelicals, since he appeals to a wide set of GOP voters. But he does need a solid share of evangelical votes to build a winning coalition.

Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio's backyard battle royal // Politico // Marco Caputo – June 20, 2015

Jeb Bush built the Miami-Dade Republican Party. And now Marco Rubio wants to take possession.

Just five days after Bush made his campaign for president official, Rubio will be the headliner Saturday at the local GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner fundraiser. It's indicative of the awkward predicament South Florida's two White House hopefuls find themselves in, and one of the complications of having two Miami Republicans running simultaneously for the nation's highest office.

Known simply as "Jeb" and "Marco," the men are longtime allies, friends and neighbors who live a five-minute drive from each other in bordering cities. Now the Miami-Dade GOP, built into a powerhouse by Bush in the 1980s, isn't big enough for the two of them.

The family feud between these two titans of the Republican Party has loomed for months, during which GOP insiders from Miami to Tallahassee have dealt with it like many a conflicted family: with denial. Then it became indisputable Monday when Bush officially announced his bid — and his surrogates threw a few not-so-subtle jabs at Rubio for his lack of accomplishments and executive experience.

In one of the most politically dynamic counties in the most politically dynamic state, many Republicans say it will only get worse.

"There's a lot of passion, and this could almost literally come to blows," said David Custin, an independent and longtime Miami-Dade political consultant who's often hired to work on some of the roughest campaigns.

"If someone says the wrong thing in Nevada or something, there could be a brawl at the Ball & Chain bar in Little Havana. If someone starts shoving somebody in Illinois, fists could fly at The Pub in Coral Gables," Custin said. "A lot of us, a lot of my Republican clients, don't know what to do. They don't want to pick a side. But they might have to."

The contest between the two is particularly vexing to many here because Bush and Rubio are party icons in Miami-Dade and across the state. Most Republicans who run for office — especially in a primary — covet the endorsement of both. They're featured in candidate mailers, ads, robocalls, fundraisers and rallies. Their respective endorsements are believed to move poll numbers.

Perhaps the most-conflicted Republican of all is Nelson Diaz, the county party chairman who secured Rubio's commitment to appear at the fundraiser a year ago — before it was clear that the first-term senator would run for president. Diaz used to work as Rubio's legislative aide. But he's also a lobbyist for Southern Strategy Group, established by Paul Bradshaw – the husband of Bush's top adviser, Sally Bradshaw.

"The Republican Party of Miami is and will remain neutral until we have a nominee, at which point we will go all out to ensure there is a Republican in the White House in 2016," Diaz said, acknowledging a measure of frustration that he has to bat down false rumors that he's trying to give Rubio an edge.

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There are benefits, though, to being home to two serious candidates for the presidency: Diaz on Friday triumphantly announced that the Lincoln Day Dinner was sold out, and that the local GOP hasn't had this many attendees in more than 25 years.

The tensions and rumblings surrounding the question of who backs whom have ratcheted up as the polling margin between the two men has shrunk. The two are virtually deadlocked in Florida – a state that Republicans likely must win in order to carry the White House. Bush nominally leads Rubio among Florida Republicans, 20 percent to 18 percent — an inside-the-error margin — according to Quinnipiac University's latest survey. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker comes in a distant third (out of 16 potential candidates) with 9 percent support.

The trend has been in Rubio's favor. The two percentage point margin between the two represents a net shift of 10 points toward Rubio and away from Bush since March, when the former governor led the U.S. senator 24-12 percent in a Quinnipiac poll.

Nationally, it's a similar story. According to Real Clear Politics' national polling average of the race, Bush is essentially tied with Rubio. The margin between the two is less than a percentage point, with Walker in between. At its height at the beginning of the year, Bush's lead over Rubio was 17 percent to 5 percent. Bush's advantage started to dissipate about the same time Rubio announced for president in April.

The venue for Rubio's campaign announcement – the Freedom Tower, nicknamed "The Ellis Island of the South" — was a testament to the history of Miami, particularly for Cuban exiles and immigrants. Many had their immigration status processed at the iconic Mediterranean-style building after they fled to the United States in the wake of Fidel Castro's 1959 coup.

Bush's Monday announcement also took place within the county borders, but at a gymnasium lacking that symbolism. His team held a larger, more traditional and well-organized campaign announcement that showcased more surrogates and videos explaining his biography – a tacit admission that Bush, who last ran for office in 2002, knows he needs to start from scratch in introducing himself to voters. Where Rubio spoke only a line of Spanish in his address, Bush spoke more Spanish and emphasized Latino culture.

It's a practice he learned here in Miami-Dade, where campaigning in Spanish — with a salsa-attuned-ear to Latin culture — is a must. Unlike any other county in the United States, registered Republicans in Miami-Dade are overwhelmingly Hispanic – almost 73 percent – and nearly all Cuban-American. There are more Republicans here (it's the most-populous county in the state, with 1.3 million voters) than anywhere else in Florida. And they vote at some of the highest rates in the state.

The nearly 360,000 registered Republicans are outnumbered 42 percent to 28 percent by registered Democrats but GOP politicians control the county's power structure, holding more seats on the county commission and the state's legislative and congressional delegations. As a result, GOP politics, and therefore countywide politics, are often covered more in Spanish TV and radio than in English here.

A majority of the county's top elected officials – the three Cuban-American members of Congress, top Republican state legislators – are with Bush, an established figure since 1980. The race, though, could be far closer among rank-and-file voters, said Armando Ibarra, who's not siding with anyone and is the director of club growth for Miami-Dade's young Republicans.

"People are conflicted. Jeb has ties that stretch back 30 years in this community, and that's tough to match. But Marco is in a good spot. What I hear from some people is that they were jittery about Jeb for a while," Ibarra said. "It's going to be hard for a lot of Cuban-Americans in the end to resist the temptation to vote for Marco, a son of this community. There's a saying with Cubans, 'la juventud impone' – it means something like, 'the youth gets ahead,' that what the older generation is doing is for the younger. A lot of older people like the idea that a kid who was riding bikes in the neighborhood could be president."

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But Sasha Tirador, an independent political consultant who often handles Spanish-language Republican campaigns, said she has heard older Cuban-Americans grouse that Rubio didn't wait his turn.

"The sense among many of them is that Marco betrayed his mentor," Tirador said. She said that Bush's record of accomplishments might be more attractive to Republican voters here, even Cuban-Americans, who don't necessarily view Bush as an Anglo.

"Jeb Bush is more than an honorary Cuban. He's an honorary Hispanic," she said.

More than any other single figure in the county, Bush is responsible for making the GOP what it is in Miami — and, perhaps, the state. And those efforts helped pave the way for Rubio's rise.

The bilingual Bush moved to Miami in 1980 when he was 27 years old (Rubio was 9) to work on his father's campaign for president and then vice president on the ticket of Ronald Reagan, whose campaign team identified Cuban-Americans as ripe for plucking because of their cultural conservatism, vehement anti-communism and still-fresh memories of John F. Kennedy's botched Bay of Pigs invasion.

Ahead of Reagan's 1984 re-election campaign, Jeb became chair of the county party. He became known as a relentless recruiter who reveled in his work — he described converting Democrats as "missionary work."

The results: 4,000 Democrats switched their party registration that year, with Bush hand-delivering half of that total to the elections office in a single day. On one notable occasion, immediately after a 1984 naturalization ceremony in the Orange Bowl, nearly 10,000 Hispanics registered Republican. In all, voter rolls grew 20 percent that year, an increase disproportionately due to Hispanics, 74 percent of whom registered Republican. Bush's efforts helped reduced the Democrats' 3-1 registration edge over Republicans to 2-1 by Election Day, The Miami Herald reported.

A decade later, Bush ran for his first statewide elected office against incumbent Gov. Lawton Chiles and narrowly lost. He continued building the local GOP but also began to direct his efforts at the state level as well. He won in 1998, becoming the first Republican since Reconstruction to govern with a majority-Republican Legislature. In his 2002 re-election, Jeb throttled his opponent as Republicans seized the Governor's mansion, Florida Legislature and Cabinet. In both of his wins, Bush carried Miami-Dade, which remained disproportionately loaded with Democratic voters.

Along the way, Rubio entered Bush's orbit. A child of the Reagan years, Rubio came of age during the Bush-led Republican ascendancy in Florida. He interned for Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and, in 1996, was recruited by Bush's future state GOP chairman, Al Cardenas, to run Miami get-out-the-vote efforts for Bob Dole's doomed presidential campaign. Two years later, he won a city commission seat in the middle-class suburb of West Miami, which borders the tonier Coral Gables where Bush lives today. In 1999, less than a year after Bush assumed office, Rubio won a tough special election for a state House seat.

A loyal Bush-agenda voter, Rubio scaled the rungs of power in the state House and quickly began running for a future post as Florida House speaker. Bush's machine helped, but Rubio did much of it on his own as well.

Rubio started his two-year term as speaker in 2007, the same year Bush left office due to term limits, and became the standard bearer for his legacy. He hired Bush's old staffers and policy wonks and resisted the agenda of then-GOP Gov. Charlie Crist, who was viewed by conservatives with suspicion. When the two clashed in the 2010 Senate race, Bush and his network helped keep Rubio alive until he picked up momentum and defeated Crist.

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Rubio showed his gratitude by lavishing praise on Bush in his “American Son” autobiography. A year after that, in 2013, Republicans started to turn on both of them for supporting a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Rubio tried to make amends with conservatives and backed away from the immigration bill he helped draft. But Bush didn’t change much and, unlike Rubio, stuck by his support for the Common Core educational standards.

It caused a strain with the local party: the Republican Executive Committee voted in September 2013 to oppose Common Core, a slap at the self-styled “education governor.”

“Is loyalty to its lead promoters – Jeb Bush and the rest of the Republican leadership — so cemented that we will be whipped into one mindset and put party over principal?” activist Pam Evans asked Republicans before the vote.

Even as two favorite sons ascend to the national stage, the Republican brand in Miami-Dade is diminishing. Local voters have drifted leftward in the last two presidential elections: President Obama won the county in 2012 by a stunning margin of 208,459 votes, enabling him to squeak past Mitt Romney in Florida. Registered Democrats now outnumber Republicans by 188,119; for the first time last year, voters of no major party affiliation – typically called independents — now outnumber registered Republicans.

As if those trends weren’t worrisome enough for Bush and Rubio, younger Cuban-Americans are less likely to register or vote Republican like their parents or grandparents — the GOP is the last choice for non-Cuban Hispanics lately when they register to vote.

Jeb Bush's Standing Improves Among Republicans **// NBC News // Mark Murray – June 21, 2015**

Jeb Bush's standing among Republican primary voters continues to improve, Marco Rubio remains popular with the party and two-thirds of GOP voters say they couldn't support Donald Trump.

Those are the findings from a brand-new NBC News/Wall Street Journal, which was conducted June 14-18 — during the build-up and coverage of Bush's and Trump's official presidential announcements.

According to the poll, 75 percent of Republicans say they could see themselves supporting Bush, the former Florida governor, for president, versus 22 percent who couldn't (+53 points). That's up from his 70 percent-27 percent score in April (+43), and 49 percent-42 percent score in March (+7).

Rubio, the Florida senator, has the highest margin of support among Republicans, with 74 percent who could see themselves backing him and 15 percent who couldn't (+59) - unchanged from April's poll.

Meanwhile, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is expected to announce his presidential bid next month, has plenty of upside with GOP voters: 57 percent could see themselves supporting him, versus 19 percent who couldn't (+38), but there's another 21 percent who say they don't know his name.

The most unpopular GOP presidential candidate in the poll? Donald Trump, who announced his White House bid last Tuesday (but who still has yet to file his "statement of candidacy" with the Federal Election Commission). Just 32 percent of Republican primary voters say they could see themselves supporting him, compared with a whopping 66 percent who couldn't (-34).

Below are the scores on this question for the full GOP field:

- Marco Rubio: 74 percent-15 percent (+59)
- Jeb Bush: 75 percent-22 percent (+53)

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- Scott Walker: 57 percent-19 percent (+38)
- Mike Huckabee: 65 percent-32 percent (+33)
- Ben Carson: 50 percent-21 percent (+29)
- Rick Perry: 53 percent-31 percent (+22)
- Ted Cruz: 51 percent-31 percent (+20)
- Rick Santorum: 49 percent-40 percent (+9)
- Bobby Jindal: 36 percent-28 percent (+8)
- Rand Paul: 49 percent-45 percent (+4)
- Carly Fiorina: 31 percent-29 percent (+2)
- John Kasich: 25 percent-30 percent (-5)
- Chris Christie: 36 percent-55 percent (-19)
- Lindsey Graham: 27 percent-49 percent (-22)
- George Pataki: 13 percent-44 percent (-31)
- Donald Trump 32 percent-66 percent (-34)

The margin of error on this question in the NBC/WSJ poll is plus-minus 6.4 percentage points. The full poll - which will include the horserace numbers for the Democratic and Republican fields, as well as general-election numbers - will be released on Monday night at 6:30 pm ET.

Jeb Bush faces key test on immigration **// Albequerque Journal // Andres Oppenheimer – June 20, 2015**

Jeb Bush, who speaks fluent Spanish and has a Mexican-born wife, is the Republican hopeful who would do best among Hispanic voters in the 2016 presidential elections. But his party – and he himself – have veered so far to the right on immigration and social issues that even he will have a big Latino problem.

Most pollsters agree Republicans will need between 40 percent and 44 percent of the Hispanic vote to win in 2016, more than they received in recent elections. The most recent Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, lost the 2012 election to a large extent because he only got 27 percent of the Latino vote.

There is little question that Jeb would be the best equipped to win Latino votes among the current Republican hopefuls. He is the only one who speaks Spanish at home, has lived in Mexico and Venezuela, majored in Latin American studies at the University of Texas, and has had close Cuban-American ties since he moved to Miami in 1980.

It was no coincidence during his presidential announcement on Monday the crowd chanted “Viva Jeb!” Congresswoman Ileana Ross Lehtinen, R-Miami, said: “Jeb is Cuban. He’s Nicaraguan. He’s Venezuelan.”

While fellow Republican hopefuls Sens. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Ted Cruz, R-Texas, have Cuban parents and Rubio also speaks fluent Spanish, they don’t have a Mexican wife and Mexican-American children who can campaign with them in Spanish, nor Bush’s personal history of having lived in Latin America.

Despite all of this, Bush would face an uphill battle to get more than 40 percent of the Latino vote and win the 2016 elections. Democrats and pro-immigration groups are already stressing that Bush is running for what they call “the deportation party” and say that he is already retrenching from his previous moderation on immigration issues.

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Among their main lines of attack:

First, Bush is voicing strong opposition to Obama's executive action on immigration, which would freeze the deportations of up to 5 million undocumented immigrants. That will put Bush at odds with millions of Hispanic voters who have relatives and friends who would benefit from Obama's measure, critics say.

Second, Bush has adopted the conservative Republicans' mantra that "we have to secure the border" before implementing immigration reform. Critics say that new measures to "secure the border" would not only be a waste of money at a time when illegal immigration from Mexico is at a historic low, but also is a Republican excuse for not doing anything about undocumented immigrants now in the country.

Third, Bush has stepped back from his previous support for eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants who regularize their status, writing in a 2013 book that he supports a legal path to permanent status, but not to citizenship, critics say. In fact, Bush has gone back and forth on this, but remains the most pro-immigrant among the major Republican hopefuls.

Fourth, Bush supports many conservative stands, such as opposition to Obamacare and raising the minimum wage, which most Hispanics support.

Matt Barreto and Gary Segura, of Latino Decisions, a Hispanic market polling firm, wrote earlier this week that these and other stands are likely to cause Bush to lose the Latino vote.

"Latino voters have proven more than willing to reject even actual Latinos as candidates when their policy positions are in contrast to the community preferences," they wrote.

My opinion: The key test for Bush's presidential bid will be whether he can withstand the temptation to shift further to the right on immigration during the primaries, where he will need to court anti-immigration voters in northern states and where he will be attacked by his fellow Republican hopefuls for his support for comprehensive immigration reform.

If Bush can win the nomination by keeping a pro-immigration profile and convincing fellow Republicans that – whether they like his immigration stance or not – he's their best hope to win the White House, he'll have a chance in 2016.

If, as many of us suspect, he shifts to the right on immigration because he thinks that it will be the only way to win the primaries, as Romney did in 2012, he's doomed to lose the Hispanic vote, and the 2016 election.

Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush Say Confederate Flag Should be Removed **// Slate // Daniel Politi – June 20, 2015**

Those calling for the removal of the Confederate flag that is flying above the grounds of South Carolina's state Capitol received support from two Republicans on Saturday. Mitt Romney was by far the most forceful. The 2012 Republican presidential nominee did not mince words, taking to Twitter to write: "Take down the #ConfederateFlag at the SC Capitol. To many, it is a symbol of racial hatred. Remove it now to honor #Charleston victims."

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush wasn't as direct but his words left little room for interpretation. In a post on Facebook, Bush said that his position "is clear" on what should be done with the flag. "In Florida, we acted, moving

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the flag from the state grounds to a museum where it belonged," Bush said. "This is obviously a very sensitive time in South Carolina and our prayers are with the families, the AME church community and the entire state. Following a period of mourning, there will rightly be a discussion among leaders in the state about how South Carolina should move forward and I'm confident they will do the right thing." Bush's words appeared to closely echo President Obama's views on the issue. “The president has said before he believes the Confederate flag belongs in a museum, and that is still his position,” spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday.

Other Republican contenders got close to the line but fell short of saying the flag should be removed outright. Carly Fiorina, for example, said she agrees the flag is a “symbol of racial hatred” but her “personal opinion is not what’s relevant here,” according to the Associated Press. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, meanwhile, told the Washington Post that South Carolina is the one that has to decide what to do about the flag. “I think that’s a question for South Carolina, and the last thing they need is people from outside the state coming in and dictating how they should resolve that issue,” Cruz said.

Although Romney’s strong statement was surprising considering how Republican leaders have appeared reluctant to discuss the role of race in the church shooting in South Carolina, the New York Times points out that the former governor has been speaking up against the flag for years. “That flag shouldn’t be flown,” Romney said in 2008. “That’s not a flag I recognize.”

Confederate flag fell in Florida under Gov. Jeb Bush **// Tampa Bay Times // Alex Leary – June 20, 2015**

Take down the #ConfederateFlag at the SC Capitol. To many, it is a symbol of racial hatred. Remove it now to honor #Charleston victims. – Mitt Romney

We've asked the Bush campaign if he agrees with Romney. It would seem so. Florida removed the flag under Bush. (Bush began yesterday not addressing the racial motivation behind the shooting in Charleston but then pointedly called the shooter a "racist."

"My position on how to address the Confederate flag is clear," Bush said in a statement provided to the Tampa Bay Times. "In Florida we acted, moving the flag from the state grounds to a museum where it belonged. This is obviously a very sensitive time in South Carolina and our prayers are with the families, the AME church community and the entire state. Following a period of mourning there will rightly be a discussion among leaders in the state about how South Carolina should move forward, and I'm confident they will do the right thing."

From the St. Petersburg Times, Feb. 10, 2001:

The Confederate flag was removed this month from the Florida state Capitol, with little notice and none of the uproar that accompanied its departure in other Southern states.

The "Stainless Banner," which features the Confederate battle flag design in the top left corner of a field of white, was retired Feb. 2. It had flown since 1978 outside the Capitol's west entrance.

Gov. Jeb Bush and Secretary of State Katherine Harris -- Republicans who angered thousands of black Floridians during the controversial presidential election -- simply decided it was time for the flag to go.

"Regardless of our views about the symbolism of the . . . flags -- and people of goodwill can disagree on the subject -- the governor believes that most Floridians would agree that the symbols of Florida's past should not be displayed in a manner that may divide Floridians today," Bush spokeswoman Katie Baur said in a written statement.

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Flags commemorating the French, Spanish and British governments that once ruled the state and flew beside the Confederate flag also were removed. All four will be housed at the Florida Museum of History a few blocks from the Capitol.

"The governor is confident that a new historical display at the museum will better reflect the context and history of Florida's historical flags as we begin a new century," Baur's statement read.

RUBIO

In Miami, Rubio downplays competition with Bush: 'It's politics. It's not personal.' **// WaPo // Sean Sullivan – June 20, 2015**

Jeb Bush launched his presidential campaign here in his hometown on Monday. On Saturday, his Republican rival and mentee Marco Rubio took a turn under the local spotlight. His message: Nothing personal.

Hours before he was scheduled to address a major Republican Party fundraiser here in the city where both he and Bush have deep political roots, Rubio, a Republican senator, sought to downplay his emerging competition against the former governor.

"It's politics. It's not personal," Rubio told reporters, later adding: "I'm not running against Jeb Bush. I'm running for president."

And when he gave his speech, Rubio emphasized that he is not looking for nasty fight, complementing the field of GOP hopefuls.

"I am not running against any of my fellow Republicans," he said.

Bush mentored Rubio as he rose through the Florida political ranks. The competition between the two has put Republicans here in their stomping grounds in an awkward position.

"A lot of Republicans are kind of torn," said Miami-Dade County GOP Chairman Nelson Diaz, a former Rubio aide who is staying neutral in the primary. He said the decision to invite Rubio to speak at the Lincoln Day Dinner was not a slight against Bush; Rubio was asked 14 months ago.

Fielding questions from reporters on a variety of subjects ahead of his speech, Rubio said it is up to the people of South Carolina, not "outsiders," to decide whether to remove the Confederate flag from the state Capitol grounds, declining to echo Mitt Romney's call to remove it.

"This is an issue that they should debate and work through and not have a bunch of outsiders going in and telling them what to do," he told reporters.

Rubio said he supports the 2001 decision in Florida, by then-governor and now-rival Jeb Bush, to move the flag from the capitol to a museum.

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But as a state House member in 2001, Rubio was one of the sponsors of a measure to prohibit the "relocation, removal, disturbance, or alteration of a monument, memorial, plaque, marker, or historic flag commemorating or memorializing specified wars and military engagements," including the Civil War, "permanently displayed on public property of the state or any of its political subdivisions."

Rubio spokesman Alex Conant told the Huffington Post that Rubio, "along with four other Cuban-Americans, two African-Americans, and a Jewish Democrat co-sponsored this legislation" to protect "war monuments."

In his most expansive remarks on the deadly mass shooting at a black church in Charleston that has sparked a national debate over the flag, Rubio said the white man charged with the killings "carried out an act motivated by racial hatred."

"It's an atrocity. It's a horrifying instance," said Rubio. He said the suspect "is full of hate in his heart."

Asked about Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, Rubio, a Roman Catholic who has questioned how much humans have contributed to climate change, sounded a respectful note, but he did not endorse the pontiff's blaming of human activity for climate change.

"I have no problem with what the pope did," said Rubio. "He has a moral authority, and as a moral authority, is reminding us of our obligation to be good caretakers of the planet."

Rubio continued: "I am a political leader. And my job as a policy maker is to act in the common good. And I do believe it's in the common good to protect our environment. But I also believe it's in the common good to protect our economy."

Outside the dinner Rubio supporters tried to drown out a handful of immigration protesters critical of the senator:

In his speech, Rubio also made light of report about his purchase of an $80,000 boat, saying it is "cleverly disguised as a family fishing boat."

Jeb Bush vs. Marco Rubio: Can the friendly tone last? **// CS Monitor // Linda Feldman – June 20, 2015**

Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, both top GOP prospects for president, often describe one another as “friend” or even “good friend.” And they seem to mean it.

They are so close they’re practically family, like uncle and nephew, people who know them have said. It is a relationship born of their days in Florida politics, Mr. Bush as governor, Senator Rubio as a state representative. They still live just a few miles apart, Bush in Coral Gables and Rubio in West Miami.

Now they are out to vanquish one another. For the moment, top-tier candidates like Bush and Rubio – and those with a shot at making the top tier – are working on channeling their inner Ronald Reagan or even their inner Barack Obama. Both presidents won election twice with positive, hopeful messages.

That isn’t necessarily a bad thing, political analysts say. Campaigns are all about making contrasts – in candidates’ styles, temperaments, records, skill sets, and ideas. Voters need information on which to make a decision.

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Sometimes, the information that emerges can be unflattering, but if it's accurate, then it's fair game.

While unfair attacks or outright lies are another matter, a number of factors – from the sheer size of the presidential field to the rise of outside political groups – suggest that such attacks will remain a part of the campaign playbook this election. Indeed, Bush's own father in many ways proved the power of the negative campaign, and so long as it remains effective, politicians will use it.

"In politics, especially on this level, you have friendships, but just like in business, when it's time for business, it's time for business. When it's time for politics, it's time for politics," says Matthew Corrigan, political scientist and author of the book "Conservative Hurricane: How Jeb Bush Remade Florida."

Bush and Rubio "are both going to run very tough campaigns, and they're going to have to," says Mr. Corrigan, who teaches at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Clearly, Bush and Rubio have much at stake in the messages that come out of both their campaigns and the outside groups that support them – groups over which the candidates have no control, in theory, as they are barred from coordinating with the campaigns by law. Bush has pledged to campaign "joyfully" and with a message of optimism. Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, has gone far – and fast – by campaigning as a happy warrior and a man of the future who embodies the American dream.

Still, they are taking shots at each other, if ever-so-gently. Bush regularly touts his executive experience as a governor by comparing the senators in the 2016 race – no names mentioned – to a certain former senator now occupying the White House.

"As our whole nation has learned since 2008, executive experience is another term for preparation and there is no substitute for that," Bush said in his announcement speech Monday.

When Rubio announced in April, he made a comment that was interpreted as a swipe at Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who had announced the day before. But it could just as easily have been a jab at Bush, the son and brother of former presidents. "Yesterday is over, and we're never going back," Rubio said.

This is all pretty tame stuff. But it's early, and history suggests that as the stakes mount, the tone becomes more combative. It was Bush's father, the genteel George H.W. Bush, who brought in the aggressive operative Lee Atwater to run his 1988 presidential campaign. Mr. Atwater was most famous for using Willie Horton, a convicted murderer who had raped a woman while on furlough, against Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis. Atwater famously said he would make Mr. Horton "[Governor] Dukakis's running mate," after an outside group made an ad highlighting Horton.

Jeb's brother, George W. Bush, also benefited from the aggressive actions of an outside group, Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, during his successful reelection campaign for president in 2004. The Swift Boaters effectively attacked Democratic nominee John Kerry's military service during the Vietnam War. John McCain, the Arizona senator and former prisoner of war, condemned the attacks, but the Bush campaign did not.

In both cases, it was not the Bushes themselves who were making the negative assertions. It was operatives, or advertisements, or outside groups. That's the lesson Jeb learned when he ran for governor of Florida the first time, unsuccessfully, in 1994.

"Bush was the one making the tough statements, and of course he got hit for it and lost," says Corrigan at the University of North Florida. "He learned from that model, it's not the candidate that should be making the big haymakers, usually. You've got a whole operation to do that."

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Indeed, part of the purpose of the political machinery around candidates is to allow the candidates themselves to remain positive while still attacking through back doors. Even as Bush and Rubio take the rhetorical high ground, their surrogates – people deputized to speak for the candidates – will not feel the need to be so high-minded.

“Do I think you will see campaign surrogates attacking the other candidates? Yes,” says Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. “Will they try to do it off the record? Yes. Will they be planting opposition research with the press? Yes. Because that’s how politics works these days. If they didn’t do that, they would not be a competitive campaign, unfortunately.”

For other, lower-tier candidates, the size of the Republican field could spur desperate moves. Then there's billionaire Donald Trump, who plays a different kind of political game. He went after Rubio and Bush by name in his 40-minute stemwinder of a campaign announcement Tuesday, slamming both for their answers to questions on the Iraq War.

Mr. Trump doesn’t mince words – and he wins some support for his brash style, possibly enough to qualify for the first debate on Aug. 6. Though he has virtually no chance of winning the GOP nomination, with three-quarters of Republican voters ruling him out, the tactic of attack will likely become an integral part of the campaign.

“I don’t expect it from candidates who are ahead in the polls,” Ms. Jamieson says. “You expect it from those trying to get into the debates by attacking the front-runners. As they become more desperate for news coverage, to get their polling numbers up, their rhetoric becomes harsher and less factual.”

“I don’t expect it from candidates who are ahead in the polls,” Ms. Jamieson says. “You expect it from those trying to get into the debates by attacking the front-runners. As they become more desperate for news coverage, to get their polling numbers up, their rhetoric becomes harsher and less factual.”

At Miami-Dade GOP, a homecoming for Marco Rubio // The Miami Herald // Patricia Mazzei – June 20, 2015

It was homecoming for Marco Rubio at the Miami-Dade Republican Party on Saturday night, and he relished the chance to kid around with the people who know him best.

“Marco! Marco!” the sold-out crowd cheered as he took the stage.

“My son was saying ‘Polo,’” Rubio joked.

The Florida senator and 2016 presidential candidate headlined the local GOP’s annual Lincoln Day fund-raiser. They booked him a year ago, long before he launched his candidacy. The choice proved prescient: The party sold more tickets than it had since 1989, Chairman Nelson Diaz said.

With the loyalties of Miami Republicans split between Rubio and that other local candidate, no one on stage uttered the words “Jeb Bush.”

Bush, who kicked off his campaign Monday at Miami Dade College, was alluded to several times. But this night was Rubio’s.

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“I am not running against any of my fellow Republicans,” Rubio insisted, addressing the news media. “I know they want us to fight. I know they want us to argue. It makes for better articles.”

He directly poked fun at a New York Times story that detailed Rubio’s finances — a story he then used as a campaign fund-raising pitch.

“We’ve even been able to make enough to buy a luxury speedboat,” Rubio said, “though I admit it’s cleverly disguised as a family fishing boat.” The crowd roared.

He declared himself “proud” to be from a state with four presidential candidates — also Ben Carson and Mike Huckabee — and “from a city with more presidential candidates per capita than any city in America.”

Seated in the ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton Miami Airport & Convention Center were longtime Rubio friends he praised by name, including “political godmother” Rebeca Sosa, a county commissioner, and David Rivera, a former congressman. Rubio’s wife, Jeanette, and their four children were also in attendance — a rare occurrence, he pointed out, considering how much time he’s spent on the road since declaring his candidacy in April.

He recounted his first campaign, for West Miami City Commission in 1998, as the time he “really met my community face to face.” He’d have 18 cups of Cuban coffee a day, he said, and get so jittery that “my hands were shaking.”

Rubio didn’t deviate much from his stump speech, portions of which are familiar to many Miami-Dade Republicans who have been listening to him for years. As a result, his remarks weren’t especially rabble-rousing. He received much applause for opposing the Affordable Care Act — “We will repeal and replace Obamacare before it repeals and replaces American jobs” — and got in a few indirect jabs at Bush, including over educational standards — “We still improved our schools without Common Core,” he said of his time in the statehouse.

And he concluded by tugging at the immigrant heartstrings of the heavily Cuban-American audience by mentioning his father, who worked as a bartender.

“The journey from behind that bar to behind this microphone — journey is the essence of the American Dream,” he said. “In America, that’s not just my story. That’s our story. In Miami, that is our story.”

The crowd ate it up.

Marco Rubio: 'No problem' with Catholic Church on climate change but economy more important // The Miami Herald // Patricia Mezzai – June 20, 2015

Marco Rubio, a Roman Catholic, said Saturday he has "no problem" with Pope Francis' encyclical urging action on climate change -- but added he won't support policies that could help the environment but "hurt our economy."

"I have no problem with what the pope did," Rubio told reporters in Miami before speaking to the Miami-Dade County Republican Party. "He is a moral authority and as a moral authority is reminding us of our obligation to be good caretakers to the planet. I'm a political leader. And my job as a policymaker is to act in the common good. And I do believe it's in the common good to protect our environment, but I also believe it's in the common good to protect our economy."

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Though scientists are in broad agreement that climate change is man-made, Rubio continued to question that premise. He said his focus is on tackling the consequences rather than what caused it.

"I don' think there is a scientific consensus on what percent, how sensitive, climate is to human activity," he said. "But the broader question as a policy maker is not whether I believe humans have contributed 10 percent, 50 percent or 99 percent. The fundamental question I have as a policymaker must be what can we do about it and what impact will it have on the rest of our country and the rest of our lives. And what I am not going to support are measures that will hurt our economy and put people out of work and increase the cost of living."

He began answering the question by poking at Democrats who have trumpeted the pope's position on the environment but not social issues.

"I find it ironic that a lot of the same liberals who are touting the encyclical on climate change ignore multiple pronouncements of this pope on the definition of marriage and on the sanctity of life," Rubio said.

Marco Rubio to name Adam Hasner, Tom Rooney Florida campaign chairs // The Miami Herald // Patricia Mezzai – June 20, 2015

Marco Rubio on Saturday will name two longtime supporters as co-chairmen of his 2016 presidential campaign in Florida.

U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney of Okeechobee and former Florida House Majority Leader Adam Hasner of Delray Beach will be in charge of building a grass-roots donor and activist network for Rubio.

The Republican senator will announce the appointments at the Miami-Dade County GOP's Lincoln Day dinner Saturday night.

Rooney briefly flirted with running for Rubio's U.S. Senate seat but decided against it in April. He is one of only a few members of Florida's Republican members of Congress who have endorsed Rubio for president. The majority have backed hometown rival Jeb Bush.

Hasner was the GOP leader under Rubio's House speakership from 2007-08. Rubio's team has already named statewide chairs or co-chairs in the four key early primary and caucus states: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush focus on home-state Republicans // Sun Sentinel // Anthony Man – June 20, 2015

Neither Marco Rubio nor Jeb Bush is willing to cede an inch of Florida territory to the other.

Speaking just five days after Bush's presidential announcement, Rubio showed Saturday night with a speech to a hometown crowd why Florida's presidential primary may be a close contest — and critical in deciding who wins the Republican presidential nomination.

Rubio told almost 750 party faithful at the Miami-Dade Republican Party's Lincoln Day dinner that he had "no intention of running for president with the desire of tearing anyone down," then took a couple of jabs at Bush.

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When he was speaker of the Florida House, Rubio said, "we still improved our schools without Common Core." Bush supports the Common Core educational standards, an attempt to improve the way schools teach and test critical subjects that is vehemently opposed by many in the conservative wing of the party.

Before the dinner and during his speech, Rubio, 44, also repeated his pitch for the future, which serves as a contrast with Bush, 62. "This is an election about the future, not the past. And I think we need to be led by leaders in this country who understand the 21st Century and have an agenda for it."

In his kickoff in Miami on Monday, a short drive from Rubio's speech Saturday night, Bush presented himself as a leader whose background as a governor shows he can produce results. "There's no passing off responsibility when you're a governor, no blending into the legislative crowd or filing an amendment and calling that success."

On Saturday, Rubio promised to ensure America remains strong and powerful, suggesting a difference with President Barack Obama. "We're not just going to hold press conferences where we talk tough."

Rubio punctuated his 36-minute speech with frequent humor, often aimed at himself. He noted Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera's frequent swigs of water during his speech. It was lunging for a bottle of water on nationwide TV early in his term that earned Rubio lots of negative attention.

He observed that Miami has more presidential candidates per capita than any other. He reproached some of the shoppers at the Kmart where his mother worked. "Thanks for making a mess in the aisles. She had to clean it up."

And he poked at a recent New York Times investigation into his finances, with the newspaper reporting he bought a speedboat, something his campaign has said isn't true. Rubio joked that his family was successful enough that "we've even been able to buy a luxury speedboat," he said. "It is cleverly disguised as a family fishing boat."

Judging from the applause, the crowd liked what it heard, something Nelson Diaz, chairman of the Miami-Dade Republican Party, said is easy to understand. "Marco's a hometown boy. He's running for president. And he's a superstar," he said.

But Rubio can't take the region for granted.

West Miami is home to Rubio, the state's junior U.S. senator, and Coral Gables is home to Bush, the state's former governor.

Miami-Dade County, home to the largest pool of Republican voters in Florida, likely will play a critical role in determining which man wins the state's March 15 primary, which could turn it into ground zero at a critical stage of the competition for the Republican presidential nomination.

The Sunshine State primary comes after the pivotal early states — Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada — begin winnowing the field and two weeks after a flurry of other states' primaries on March 1.

Florida is an early mega-state primary, and a rule change for next year makes it a winner-take-all contest instead of awarding nominating convention delegates based on each candidate's share of the vote.

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So a win or loss for one of the favorite sons could prove decisive — giving a jolt of momentum to the winner and major blow to the loser.

With such high stakes, the contest for Florida is highly competitive between the two.

"I think it's going to be very competitive," said Mike Rump, president of the Republican Business Network in northwest Broward, who attended the dinner. "Jeb might win Florida, but they've both won statewide elections. Marco might beat him."

A Quinnipiac University Poll released Thursday showed the two men are effectively tied, with 20 percent for Bush and 18 percent for Rubio, with no other candidate coming close.

When Republicans' first and second choices are combined, Rubio is 3 percentage points ahead of Bush.

As the race has tightened in recent months — Bush was ahead by 17 percentage points in February and 12 points in April — opportunities to rally Republican activists are more important than routine stops on the rubber-chicken circuit.

After his Monday kickoff that drew 3,000 people to Miami-Dade College's Kendall's campus, Bush was back in the state for a speech Friday at the Hillsborough County Republican Party's Lincoln Day dinner in Tampa.

Bush announced that his Florida campaign would be headquartered in Tampa — not in his South Florida home base — signaling the importance of the Interstate 4 corridor that runs through the central part of the state.

On Saturday, Rubio announced that his Florida campaign will be headed by former Florida House Majority Leader, R-Boca Raton, and U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Okeechobee.

He declined to offer any expectations for Florida's primary. "That's a long way off. There are a lot of votes before that. And I can tell you if you don't do well in some of those early states, you won't be involved in the Florida primary."

Senate race

Also present was Rubio pal and Florida Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera.

Lopez-Cantera is widely expected to enter the race for the Republican nomination to succeed Rubio, who isn't running for a second term because he's running for president.

Lopez-Cantera teased the audience about his intentions. He said he wouldn't run if he couldn't still be a good husband and father — and revealed that his wife is urging him to run. He also took swipes at U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, who is seeking the Democratic Senate nomination, and U.S. Rep. Alan Grayson, expected to run for Senate.

He revealed that he'd announce his decision on July 15.

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Senator Rubio falls silent on immigration, his signature subject // The Boston Globe // Matt Viser – June 20, 2015

Over the first six months of 2013, freshman Senator Marco Rubio shot to national prominence as he took the lead on one of the nation's most divisive issues, with all the political promise and peril that goes with such a move.

He joined a bipartisan group of senators pushing a law to crack down on illegal immigration while blazing a path for some of the 11 million illegal immigrants already here to achieve legal status.

In that cause, Rubio relentlessly pursued the spotlight. He granted at least 50 interviews on television and radio, many with conservative hosts who adamantly disagreed with his plan and considered him a traitor for working with Democrats. On one Sunday alone, he appeared on seven television shows.

"In my heart and in my mind, I know we must solve this problem once and for all," he said, just before the Senate bill passed. "Or it will only get worse and it will only get harder to solve."

But then, almost as soon as he and his allies finished pushing the bill through the Senate, Rubio walked away from the issue in what, even for Washington, represented a stunning about-face. Hopes for an immigration overhaul soon fizzled in the House, where the conservative critics vowed to block any bill offering what they consider "amnesty."

Now, as Rubio runs for president in the Republican primary, he has almost completely purged his signature issue of two years ago from his political vocabulary.

During 2013, he mentioned "immigration" or "immigrant" 135 times on the Senate floor. But over the last two years, he's only uttered those words two times, according to a Globe review of the Congressional Record. Over those first six months of 2013, his office sent out nearly 150 press releases on immigration. Since then, he has issued just three press releases on the subject.

'Young Mr. Rubio is figuring out the hard facts of politics in America.'

The story of Rubio's shift not only reveals an especially bald political calculation, but also reflects broader Republican ambivalence on an issue that continues to bedevil the party. His Cuban-American heritage, his family story, and his leadership on immigration made Rubio one of the GOP's most promising political figures to appeal to a growing and influential Hispanic demographic that is increasingly key to the national electoral success.

But now that he seeks the favor of conservative primary voters, Rubio has transformed his calling-card issue into something else — a question mark in his presidential resume.

From Miami, a rising star

Rubio was born 44 years ago in Miami, and his parents' story is a key component of his own. His father was a bartender, his mother a maid — both immigrants from Cuba who fled political and economic hardships in 1956 and became naturalized US citizens nearly two decades later.

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A politician who rose to speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Rubio was elected to the Senate with Tea Party backing. He had a bilingual background. In many ways, he was the ideal political leader to help craft an ambitious immigration plan. And Republicans desperately needed one.

Party leaders who dissected the carcass of Mitt Romney's failed 2012 presidential bid determined that Romney bungled the issue of immigration, particularly when he declared in a debate that undocumented immigrants should engage in "self-deportation."

He won only 27 percent of the Hispanic vote in the general election campaign against President Obama.

It was in this climate that Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, the number-two leader in the Democratic majority, approached Rubio in the Senate gym in December 2012 and implored him to join an emerging bipartisan effort to craft a comprehensive immigration overhaul.

"I went to him and said, 'I think you should be part of this. But you have to understand that path to citizenship is part of the deal,' " Durbin recounted in an interview.

Many conservatives oppose the idea of granting citizenship to those in the country illegally, considering it amnesty. Democrats have resisted the conservative demand that beefed-up border security take priority, but were willing to make a trade.

According to Durbin, Rubio accepted the political risks: "He said, 'I'm prepared to go forward.' And he did."

With Rubio in, the lead backers of the bill became known as the "Gang of Eight" — four Democrats and four Republicans.

Rubio, in a show of his seriousness, expanded his staff, bringing in an immigration expert to help craft legislation. He spoke before groups of white evangelical pastors, quoting Scripture as a justification for the bill, inspiring them with his life story.

The way he spoke of his status as a son of immigrants resonated then, and still does.

"He is connecting the immigrant experience with the American Dream and the larger American story. He does so personally, in a way that connects well," said Russell Moore, head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. "When he talks about his Cuban immigrant father working as a bartender — it takes a lot of rhetorical skill to get Southern Baptists to tear up at a bartender. But he's able to do it."

Senator Marco Rubio (left front) was among the lawmakers on hand in 2013 when Senator John McCain (center) outlined legislation proposed by the bipartisan "Gang of Eight" that would have given illegal immigrants a path to citizenship.

In a dozen interviews with those involved in crafting the Senate plan — including most members of the Gang of Eight — there is universal agreement that Rubio's intellect and charisma were crucial in both convincing skeptical Republicans and blunting the barrage of criticism.

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“I’ve often said he was more important than the rest of the Republicans combined,” said Senator Jeff Flake, an Arizona Republican and one of the other members of the group.

Representative Luis Gutierrez, an Illinois Democrat who has worked for years on immigration reform, recalled walking out of an hourlong meeting with Rubio and his staff, early in the push for the Senate plan, feeling as though they were about to accomplish something historic.

“I couldn’t have walked away from that meeting happier,” Gutierrez said. “I said to him, ‘We’re going to get this done. We’re absolutely going to get this done.’ ”

The Senate bill would have provided a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants, and would also have enhanced border security, adding 20,000 Border Patrol agents and 700 miles of fencing along the southern US border. Under the terms of the bill, the security measures would be completed before any undocumented immigrants achieved legal status.

“During that period, he was engaged in using political capital for the right purpose, from my perspective. And being bipartisan in that engagement. And being willing to argue his case in the most difficult circles,” said Senator Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat. “But maybe there’s a reality to how far their party can go.”

Rubio appeared to have moments of doubt that the bill struck the right balance. In public comments, he would express worry over whether border security measures were going far enough.

Other negotiators detected a rift within Rubio’s staff. His policy team was eagerly trying to reach compromise, while his political team seemed to try to derail it.

Rubio would sometimes seem to distance himself, but never for long.

“He always came back,” said one Democratic staffer. “It was kind of like Lassie.”

Rubio’s ambivalence was understandable given the beating he was taking on conservative talk radio.

Glenn Beck called him a “piece of garbage.” Laura Ingraham panned his plan and said Rubio would “rue the day he became the Gang of Eight’s poodle.” Senator David Vitter, a Republican from Louisiana, called his colleague “just amazingly naive” and “nuts.”

“The reaction was pretty harsh,” said Brent Bozell, a prominent conservative activist and founder of the Media Research Center, a conservative media watchdog organization. “It was rather surprising. I was hearing it all over the country.”

After the legislation passed, it was touted as a historic vote. The Gang of Eight had accomplished something few thought they would and, in a valedictory moment, walked off the Senate floor together and into one of the most ornate hallways in the Capitol, prepared to address reporters.

But one of the eight was missing. Rubio, who did vote for the bill, didn’t show.

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“It’s hard to explain. He clearly had a change of heart on the issue,” Durbin said. “It’s an extremely controversial position for him. And as he started entertaining the thought of running [for president], I think his visibility on immigration reform diminished. And his interest in our compromise changed.”

Rubio declined requests for an interview. His spokesman declined to comment for this story.

Tempered expectations

A month after it passed, when advocates were hoping to keep pressure on the House to consider the Senate compromise bill, Rubio told Fox News the legislation he helped author wasn’t perfect and he downplayed its importance.

“Look, it’s not the most important issue facing America,” he said. For example, he said, repealing Obama’s health care plan was a higher priority.

In October 2013, he sometimes spoke as as though he and other Republicans had never been part of the bipartisan push that won Senate passage of the bill.

“The House [isn’t] just going to take up and pass whatever the Democrats in the Senate are demanding,” he said on CNN.

Rubio has also directly contradicted some of his previous statements. In June 2013, responding to constituent concerns, Rubio said one of the reasons immigration is so challenging is that all of the issues — border security and pathway to citizenship — have to be handled together.

“It is all interwoven. It’s all related to each other. It’s literally impossible to do one part without doing the other,” he said.

Four months later, he stated virtually the opposite.

“When you try to do something big in Washington, it ends up running into headwinds,” he said on CNN. “Now that’s the direction the Senate went … but I continue to believe that a series of sequential, individual bills is the best way, the ideal way, to reform our immigration system.”

Immigration advocates trying to keep up the momentum for reform were deflated by Rubio’s change in tone.

The Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, the president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, was wowed by Rubio’s early leadership. The conviction with which he spoke about the issue could sway an entire room. Rodriguez misses that voice.

“He was Joshua leading the people into the Promised Land of immigration,” he said. “Then, right when we were on the Jordan River, he pivoted. He looked back to the desert. All of the sudden he pivoted; he took his foot out of the water.”

Now immigration is an uncomfortable conversation for Rubio, said Rodriguez, “a de facto don’t ask, don’t tell.”

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“The decibel level is lower. That passion is no longer there. … When you hear him speak now you see his eyes move down a bit, his voice fluctuates a tad,” he said. “It’s not the same convicted Marco Rubio that led the charge back in 2013.

“I believe he hasn’t changed at all in terms of his convictions, but he has changed in his political calculations he believes necessary to win the Republican nomination,” Rodriguez said.

“Are we sacrificing conviction and truth at the altar of political expediency? That’s the question that has to be asked.”

A group of immigrants from Honduras and El Salvador who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally were stopped in Texas.

A lesson learned

Earlier this year, Rubio drove to suburban Washington and appeared before the Conservative Political Action Conference, the largest annual gathering of conservative activists.

He told them he had been wrong to pursue comprehensive immigration before first securing the border.

The lesson he’s learned from it all, he said, is that comprehensive immigration reform “just really has no realistic chance of passing.”

Outside observers doubt Rubio will make immigration a major focus of his presidential campaign.

Why fall on your sword for immigration when it can’t pass in the House, where conservatives hold even greater sway than in the Senate?

“Young Mr. Rubio is figuring out the hard facts of politics in America,” said Javier Palomarez, president of the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. “Could he have done more? Possibly. But the criticism that he’s changed tacks simply to run for president is overly simplistic. This change in tactic is due to congressional gridlock more than political ambition.”

Palomarez believes Rubio’s shifts on the issue show political savvy. After all, the passionate conservative opposition to Rubio has dissipated as his rhetoric has shifted, giving him better standing in the GOP primary electorate.

And immigration advocates like Palomarez still view Rubio as an ally, someone who could achieve greater gains on the issue from the White House.

“I look at him and say he’s evolving on issues that are important and realizing the landscape he’s working with and the Congress we’ve got,” Palomarez said. “It illustrates a savvy businessman who says, ‘To get from point A to point B, I have to adapt.’”

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As Marco Rubio speaks to the Miami-Dade GOP tonight, a look at his Truth-O-Meter record // The Miami Herald // Amy Sherman – June 20, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio, who speaks to the Miami-Dade Republican Party Saturday night, has kept PolitiFact Florida's Truth-O-Meter busy since 2009 when he ran for U.S. Senate.

One of our earliest fact-checks examined his claim that "Fifty-seven" of Rubio's 100 ideas "ultimately became law" in Florida related to his tenure as House Speaker. We rate that claim Half True.

We have fact-checked Rubio 93 times on a variety of claims including about climate change, Common Core, Cuba, the federal health care law, foreign affairs, guns, poverty, space and technology.

Out of Rubio's 93 ratings, he has received 17 percent True, 24 percent Mostly True, 20 percent Half True, 23 percent Mostly False, 14 percent False and 2 percent Pants on Fire. We also gave him a Half Flip for his position on whether the Iraq war was a mistake.

(And here is the Truth-O-Meter for his fellow Miami-Dade resident/presidential primary opponent Jeb Bush.)

Here is a look at a few of our recent fact-checks related to Rubio:

Bulk metadata collection: "There is not a single documented case of abuse of this program," Rubio said. There are plenty of documented cases of misuse of the metadata collection program. It just depends whether that misuse is what you or Rubio have in mind when you think of abuse. We found no example of intentional misuse of the program. Keep reading here.

Immigration: "We have a legal immigration system in America that accepts 1 million people a year, legally," Rubio said. "No other country in the world even comes close to that." The United States accepted just under 1 million people in 2013, the most recent numbers available. As a percentage of population, though, the United States ranked 19th out of 24 countries in 2013. Still, Rubio is correct that the overall figure puts the United States ahead of other countries. Keep reading here.

Restoring felons' rights: A Facebook meme says Marco Rubio said that "felons should not have their voting rights restored" but that "convicted felons should be allowed to own guns after they have done their time." The meme was posted by a site that describes itself as satirical, and we found no evidence that Rubio actually said the words attributed to him. While Rubio has spoken critically in the past about felons regaining voting rights, he does not appear to have taken a stance on the restoration of felons' gun rights. Keep reading here.

PAUL

Hedge fund manager Mark Spitznagel to advise Rand Paul // CNBC // Lawrence Delvinge – June 20, 2015

Mark Spitznagel, the libertarian hedge fund manager, has a new part-time job: senior economic advisor to Rand Paul's campaign for president.

Spitznagel is the founder and chief investment officer of Universa Investments, a fund that specializes in

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protecting investors against sharp market drops, sometimes referred to as Black Swan events. The firm manages about $6 billion in assets, a sizable figure for the hedge fund industry.

"I am very grateful to have Mark Spitznagel serve as senior economic advisor to my campaign," Paul, now a U.S. senator from Kentucky, said in a statement.

"As I travel across the country, the top concern of the American people is our failing economy. I believe we can revitalize our economy by encouraging opportunity and entrepreneurship with lower taxes, a balanced budget, less Federal Reserve interventionism, and limited government spending," the candidate said.

"I look forward to working alongside Mark to solve our nation's economic problem and to restore the American Dream," he added.

Paul, one of the leading contenders for the Republican party nomination, was elected in the Tea Party wave of 2010. Much like his iconic father Ron Paul, Paul has become a libertarian standard-bearer.

Read MorePresidential candidate Rand Paul plans to 'blow up' tax code

Spitznagel is also the author of an investing book, "The Dao of Capital" and runs Idyll Farms, an organic goat farm in northern Michigan.

Universa moved its headquarters from Santa Monica, California, to Coconut Grove, Florida last March because of what Spitznagel called a "more hospitable business and tax environment."

"Rand Paul is the only candidate that really understands the destructive ramifications of current economic policy driven in large part by a reckless Federal Reserve. I lookforward to working with him on his ideas and message to change that policy," Spitznagel said in a statement about his new role.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz: It's up to South Carolina to decide on Confederate flag // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 20, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz says whether or not South Carolina removes the Confederate flag from a state house memorial is an issue for the state to decide and that he sees "both sides" of the debate.

In an interview with The Washington Post on Saturday, Cruz (R-Tex.) said that he understands why people equate the flag with both racial oppression and historical traditions.

"I understand the passions that this debate evokes on both sides," the GOP presidential hopeful said. "Both those who see a history of racial oppression and a history of slavery, which is the original sin of our nation, and we fought a bloody civil war to expunge that sin."

He added: "But I also understand those who want to remember the sacrifices of their ancestors and the traditions of their states, not the racial oppression, but the historical traditions, and I think often this issue is used as a wedge to try to divide people."

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Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, said Saturday that the flag should be taken down.

Cruz noted that he is from Texas and the state is “fond of the Texas flag” because it was an independent nation for nine years, and people’s emotions run deep on the issue. He said it is up to South Carolina to decide what to do with the Confederate flag.

“I think that’s a question for South Carolina, and the last thing they need is people from outside the state coming in and dictating how they should resolve that issue,” Cruz said.

Cruz has repeatedly said he is “horrified” by the shooting deaths of nine people at a historic African-American church in Charleston, S.C., and has offered prayers for the families of the victims.

“One of the incredible things yesterday was to see the families of those who were murdered calling for forgiveness of the murderer,” Cruz said Saturday. “I have to admit, if it were my family, I don’t know that I could demonstrate that degree of forgiveness.”

Cruz said he agrees with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s assertion that the accused gunman should be subject to the death penalty. Dylann Roof, 21, has been charged with murder in the case.

In an event at an indoor shooting range and firearms training facility here, Cruz again vociferously defended the Second Amendment and said Democrats are using the Charleston shootings to try to roll back gun rights.

Cruz on Saturday said again that Democrats and Obama “cynically” used the 2012 school shootings in Newtown, Conn., to try to take away gun rights and that he fought to block that gun control legislation.

Cruz said that the Obama administration only prosecuted a fraction of the people who tried to purchase a firearm after failing a background check, and that its prosecution rates of gun felons dropped.

“In my view that’s totally unacceptable. If you have a violent felon, if you have a fugitive who is illegally trying to buy guns, we should come down on them like a ton of bricks,” he said. “If there are murders and rapists and they’re coming in trying to get guns, we ought to go and stop them.”

Cruz again laid out a laundry list of ways that he has protected the Second Amendment, including writing a pro-Second Amendment amicus brief on behalf of 31 states that he submitted to the Supreme Court when he was Texas solicitor general. The Supreme Court overturned the District of Columbia's ban on handguns in the case, District of Columbia v. Heller.

After taking questions and shaking hands, Cruz took to the shooting range, firing off rounds on a semiautomatic .223-caliber Smith and Wesson M&P15.

Ted Cruz Cracks Jokes On Gun Control Days After Charleston Shooting // HuffPo // Samantha-Jo Roth – June 20, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) dropped a few gun control jokes during his latest swing through Iowa, days after the shooting deaths of nine people in a Charleston, South Carolina, church.

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"You know the great thing about the state of Iowa is, I'm pretty sure you all define gun control the same way we do in Texas -- hitting what you aim at," Cruz said at a town hall meeting Friday in Red Oak.

Before a crowd of nearly 70 people, Cruz recalled a recent excursion to a gun range in New Hampshire that had fully automatic machine guns.

"My wife, Heidi, who is a petite, 5'2 California blonde, she was standing at the tripod unloading the full machine gun with a pink baseball cap that said 'armed and fabulous,'" he said.

This is the second ill-timed joke the Republican presidential hopeful has made this month. Cruz made a joke about Joe Biden just days after the vice president's son died from brain cancer.

Cruz did not mention the mass shooting during the town hall meeting Friday, but when prompted by reporters later said Democrats were using the event as an excuse to take away Second Amendment rights.

"It's sad to see the Democrats take a horrific crime and try to use it as an excuse, not to go after people with serious mental illness or people who are repeat felons or criminals, but instead try to use it as an excuse to take away Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens," he told a group of reporters.

"I'll tell you, it's reminiscent of Rahm Emanuel who said you can never let a good crisis go to waste," Cruz said, referring to the Chicago mayor and former White House Chief of Staff.

Asked why it has been difficult for some Republicans to acknowledge the racial aspect of the incident, Cruz said he didn't accept the premise of the question.

"It appears to be racially driven from what it was reported this strange man said, and a racial hate crime is horrific, any hate crime is horrific," he said. "I don't think we should be using this tragedy to try and divide people and to try and seek partisan advantage. I think we should be praying for those who lost loved ones in this horrific murder."

At an event at an indoor shooting range in Johnston Saturday, Cruz again called for defending the Second Amendment.

"There's a famous saying, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition," he said."There is a reason why the Second Amendment is right after the First."

Following his remarks, Cruz headed to the shooting range, where he fired off rounds on a semiautomatic .223-caliber Smith and Wesson M&P15.

U.S. should come together after Charleston, Cruz says // The Des Moines Register // Matthew Patane – June 20, 2015

The death penalty was made to punish crimes like the recent shooting that killed nine people in a historic black church in Charleston, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz said Saturday at a shooting range in Johnston.

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"Gov. Nikki Haley in South Carolina said this individual who committed the heinous murder in South Carolina should be subject to the death penalty. I got to say the death penalty was designed for people who commit horrid crimes like this," Cruz told reporters.

At multiple Iowa stops this weekend, The Republican presidential candidate has said Obama and Democrats are trying to politicize the shooting instead of using them to bring people together.

"It's a shame that there are some in politics that want to use this to divide us. I think that's wrong," he said.

"Now is the time for mourning and for healing," Obama said. "But let's be clear: At some point, we as a country will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries. It doesn't happen in other places with this kind of frequency. And it is in our power to do something about it."

When asked what restrictions he would place on gun ownership, Cruz said lawmakers should focus on stopping criminals, not law-abiding citizens, from buying guns.

"If you have a violent felon, if you have a fugitive who is illegally trying to buy guns, we should come down on them like a ton of bricks," Cruz said. "I want to know if there are murderers and rapists trying to buy guns. We should stop them."

Cruz also said the shooting does not open the door to crack down on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Upholding the Second Amendment, he said, is "altogether different and unconnected from a horrific murder committed by a sick and deranged individual."

The Republican presidential candidate spoke before a "Celebrate the 2nd Amendment" event hosted by State Rep. Ralph Watts. Cruz's visit to the event was scheduled about a week before the South Carolina shooting.

After speaking, Cruz took time to shoot a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 rifle.

Cruz has focused his campaign around the idea of abiding by the Constitution. That includes maintaining religious liberty and the Second Amendment, he has said at multiple Iowa stops.

"In Texas, there is a right answer on the Second Amendment: I support the Second Amendment. Unless you are clinically insane, that's the right answer. Heck, even Democrats say they support the Second Amendment in Texas," Cruz said during stops in Johnston and Denison this weekend.

SETTING: A "Celebrate the 2nd Amendment" event held at CrossRoads Shooting Sports, an indoor shooting range in Johnston. State Rep. Ralph Watts, R-Adel, hosted the event. Donations were collected f*or the Iowa Firearms Coalition.*

CROWD: Between 20 and 30 people filtered in to hear Cruz, Watts and Congressman David Young, speak. That's not counting customers who visit*ed CrossRoads Saturday morning*.

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REACTION: Cruz received some applause and garnered laughs for many of the same lines he's given during past town halls. Those include jokes about Hilary Clinton and the Obama administration, and calls to repeal Obamacare, Common Core and abolish the IRS.

For Ted Cruz, The Hard Part Comes Next **// NPR // Jessica Taylor – June 20, 2015**

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz blew away another gathering of religious conservative leaders this week, preaching about threats to religious freedom to a receptive and hungry crowd.

"I will never, ever, ever shy away from standing up and defending the religious liberty of every American," the GOP White House hopeful thundered at the Faith and Freedom Coalition's "Road to Majority" conference in Washington.

"Religious liberty has never been more threatened in America than right now today," Cruz added.

Cruz hit all the right notes and could easily be declared the winner of the three-day conference, which wraps up Saturday. But despite the good receptions at events like these, Cruz's work on stage is not translating to the campaign trail. He not only lags behind in early state polls, but also in organization. And despite being the first major presidential candidate to declare this cycle, early state activists are baffled by how little they say they have seen Cruz.

"I've always thought that Ted Cruz was kind of the perfect caucus candidate," said Craig Robinson, who runs "The Iowa Republican" website and is a former political director for the state party. "But what we haven't seen is a real commitment to the state."

Speaking their language

There's a reason Ted Cruz does well in front of these crowds. He roams the stage with the gusto of a televangelist. He does not work from a podium, and he strikes just the right tone.

At the Road to Majority confab, he slammed other Republicans for backing down on Indiana's controversial religious freedom law, warned against a potential same-sex marriage decision from the Supreme Court and bashed the Obama administration for not standing up more forcefully to the threat of Islamic extremism.

He boosted his own bona fides, too, telling the audience how he had successfully argued cases before the Supreme Court on "religious liberty," such as protecting a Ten Commandments display at the Texas Capitol.

And with the cadence of a preacher, Cruz seamlessly and empathetically weaved in the tragic Charleston, S.C., shooting that had occurred the night before that left nine dead at a historically black church.

Cruz led the audience of hundreds — they could have been congregants — in a moment of silence.

"Christians across our nation, across our world — believers across the world are lifting up the congregants at Emanuel AME," Cruz said.

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Other GOP rivals touched on many of the same issues, but none with perhaps the same zeal or with the same visceral reaction from the audience.

The faithful ate it up.

"I like the fact that he fights even his own party for the right issue and the right cause," said John Redell, who was attending from Wilmington, Del. "That's the kind of strength we're going to need for a president: someone who can say no — even to his friends — to do what's right for the nation."

Jessica Burnett, a student at Georgia State University: "Ted Cruz was full of energy. He spoke a lot about the issues. He really got the crowd riled up a lot, and you can tell how serious he is about this and how much he cares about America."

The importance of retail politics

It's perhaps no surprise Cruz is able to channel a preacher. His father is an ordained minister, and he went to high school in Houston on the campus of a megachurch.

The former Ivy League debate champion has always loved performance art. He has moved between stages his whole life — from high-school musicals to the high-pressure collegiate debate circuit to the floor of the U.S. Senate. The challenge, though, for Cruz is coming down from the stage.

A majority of Republican caucus-goers and primary voters in Iowa and South Carolina are white, evangelical or born-again Christians. In 2012, 57 percent of GOP voters in the Iowa caucuses described themselves that way, while 65 percent of the GOP primary electorate in South Carolina said so, according to entrance and exit polls.

The candidate who can unify them has a time-tested path to victory in those states and, with it, a springboard to the front of the presidential pack. But winning over those voters requires hand-to-hand, grip-and-grin campaigning — retail politics.

It's what former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum did in Iowa in 2008 and 2012, respectively. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who built a career on this kind of campaigning, has already hit hard key sections of the state with deep pockets of religious voters.

The building blocks, the enthusiasm, are there for Cruz, but so far, observers in early states say, he has not shown the willingness to do the kind of required on-the-ground work — to the extent it's needed to win.

Craig Robinson, the former Iowa GOP political operative, noted Cruz's thin staff in the first caucus state compared to other candidates. What's more, Cruz, who is in Iowa this weekend, has held just 23 events in the state over a total of 16 days, according to the Des Moines Register's candidate tracker. That ranks seventh among Republican candidates and isn't in the top 10 overall.

By contrast, Santorum has already held 62 events over 29 days; Rick Perry 61 over 30 days; Rand Paul 41 over 16 days; and Mike Huckabee 37 events over 20 days. Even Carly Fiorina and Bobby Jindal, who is set to declare Wednesday, have done more events.

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"I still think Cruz has some work to do in terms of his retail campaigning in Iowa," Robinson said, "but I think he has it within himself to do it."

The battle for the evangelical vote

Some of those who have topped him in sojourns to the state are also competing for the same crucial evangelical voters, and were also well-received at the conference this week.

Santorum reminded the audience of his long track record fighting for conservative issues, while others were just talk.

"You know me, I'm probably best known for issues of faith and freedom. In some cases, I'm only known for that," he laughed.

Jindal also spoke at length about the threats to religious liberty the day after Cruz, and was also well received by the crowd. Talking of his own conversion to the Christianity from Hinduism, he bemoaned how he felt it was no longer acceptable to stand up for unpopular opinions central to much of the evangelical faith, such as opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage.

"I'm tired of the hypocrisy of the left," Jindal said. "They say they tolerate diversity, and they do, unless you disagree with them. ... The United States of America did not create religious liberty. Religious liberty created the United States of America," he added to applause.

Ben Carson, another favorite of the crowd, Iowa conservatives and Tea Party supporters, spoke of how his faith helped him in his career as a world-renowned neurosurgeon. He said he saw the healing power of prayer and attributed his surgical skill to God after a child he didn't expect to recover went on to do so.

"I thought I was doing everything," Carson said. "I realized after that, that it wasn't me, it was God. I just said, 'Lord, you be the neurosurgeon, and I'll be your hands.' "

Carson, who rose to political fame in 2013 after giving a blistering broadside of Obamacare as the president sat feet away, had another critique for the president's administration.

"I know that President Obama says we're not a Judeo-Christian nation," Carson said, "but he doesn't get to decide. We decide."

While Cruz may have blown away many in the crowd the first day, others were left impressed by many others, underlining the difficult choice Iowa and South Carolina evangelical voters will have next year.

"I'm hoping, because we have such a large field, that as the field narrows down, the candidates are seeing what the American people really are looking for," said Terri Wical of Atlanta. "You know, getting back to our roots, getting back to character and all that. They don't want someone moderate. They don't want something that's going to accommodate everybody ... They want somebody that's going to stand on a firm foundation."

Cruz: 'Liberal fascism' took away Gortz Haus livelihood // The Des Moines Register // Matthew Patane – June 20, 2015

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Democrats' stance on gay marriage ruined the livelihood of the owners of Gortz Haus Gallery, Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz said Saturday.

"Today, the modern Democratic party has decided their devotion to mandatory gay marriage in all 50 states is so unforgiving that there is no longer room for defending religious liberty," Cruz told a group in Johnston.

Gortz Haus owners Dick and Betty Odgaard faced litigation after declining to host a same-sex marriage at the Grimes gift shop, which used to house a Lutheran church. The Mennonite couple said it would have gone against their religious beliefs.

"It was inconsistent with their faith to host a gay wedding, so they declined," Cruz said. "They found themselves enmeshed in legal proceedings and persecution. Finally, they had to write a check for $5,000 and to promise to never again host another wedding."

The Odgaards announced earlier this year that they will stop holding weddings at their Grimes' gift shop to end the litigation.

"So, the Odgaards livelihood has been taken away by this liberal fascism, this extreme view that if you hold a biblical teaching of marriage that is the union of one man and one women that the modern Democratic Party will persecute you and try to drive you out of civilized society," Cruz said.

Cruz said he will visit the Odgaards later Saturday. Cruz came back to Iowa Friday for two town halls in western Iowa and made a stop Saturday for a "Celebrate the 2nd Amendment" event.

Speaking during an event in Johnston, Cruz reiterated his position that religious liberty in the U.S. is under fire. The Texas U.S. senator has made the issue a cornerstone of his campaign as he seeks his party's presidential nomination.

Ted Cruz Introduces Bill to Drain Amnesty Slush Fund Subsidized by Legal Immigrants // Breitbart News // Katie McHugh – June 20, 2015

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced legislation on Wednesday that would forbid the Obama administration from using fees paid by legal immigrants to fund Obama's executive amnesty for illegal aliens.

The Immigration Slush Fund Elimination Act would stop the executive branch from using fees collected from legal immigrants who obeyed U.S. immigration law to pay for the ongoing illegal alien naturalization surge. Thanks to the million or so legal aliens flocking to America every year, that's a lot of cash. Cruz notes that USCIS Chief Financial Officer Joseph Moore can lay claim to nearly $1 billion in application fees. Cruz's bill would return the pursestrings back into Congress's hands — and perhaps most importantly, stop the White House from ramping up legal immigration and issuing more and more fees in order to grant more illegal aliens amnesty.

Legal immigrants can wait up to ten years to become legalized and pay thousands of dollars in fees. Once Obama enacted his DACA executive amnesty order in 2012, wait times for legal immigrants tripled.

"America has always been a land of refuge and opportunity for those seeking freedom, and we should champion legal immigration," Cruz said in a statement. "Ronald Reagan referred to legal immigrants, immigrants like my

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father, as Americans by choice. The federal government should not be in the business of looting the wallets of those who followed the law and came here legally to fund the President's illegal and unconstitutional amnesty. This bill will cut off DHS's credit card and put Congress back in charge of funding the agencies responsible for immigration."

In typical Obama fashion, amnesty is funded by a wealth transfer from the law-abiding to the law-breaking. A Mexican man who applies for U.S. citizenship and goes through the normal process subsidizes his Mexican neighbor who darted across the border, maybe threw a few rocks at border patrol, and lives in a sanctuary city while waiting for amnesty.

Both are legalized; Mexican man number one is poorer than his illegal cousin thanks to the fees he paid, and both of them work for lowered wages while voting for more government spending. It's a win-win for Democrats and big business.

PERRY

Perry condemns Charleston church shooting after 'accident' flub **// CNN // Danielle Diaz – June 20, 2015**

Rick Perry condemned the Charleston church shooting Saturday as "an absolute heinous hate crime," one day after a spokesman said the Republican presidential candidate misspoke when he called the massacre an "accident."

"I think we all come here today with heavy hearts for those individuals in Charleston -- those Charleston Christians -- who were gunned down in an absolute heinous hate crime inside of their place of worship," the former Texas governor said at the Faith and Freedom Coalition "Road to Majority" Conference in Washington Saturday morning. "That deranged individual didn't just take lives of black Americans -- he gunned down nine children of God.

"There is something more basic to our humanity than the color of our skin, our ethnic heritage, our nationality. It's that we're all made in the image of a loving God," Perry continued. "And we cannot let hatred and violence break the ties that bind us together."

After his speech at the conference, Perry told reporters that a discussion on gun control is a good thing.

"I think it is healthy for us as a nation to have conversations and defend our positions whatever they may be," he responded. "I do have an issue that the knee-jerk from the left is always, 'We're going to take people's guns away from them,' when in fact there may be a host of contributing factors here."

Perry's comments on Saturday follow an interview he did with the conservative NewsmaxTV Friday, in which he referred to the massacre as an "accident." A spokesman for the former Texas governor quickly clarified by saying Perry meant to say "incident."

In the interview, Perry, a staunch opponent of gun laws, was asked about whether President Barack Obama was too quick to blame guns after the Charleston shooting.

"Any time there is an accident like this, the President is clear," Perry said in response. "He doesn't like for Americans to have guns, and so he uses every opportunity, this being another one, to basically go parrot that message."

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Despite addressing his comments and speaking openly about the shooting Saturday, many people were still outraged over his "accident" line and took to social media to criticize his comments.

Perry, who served as governor of Texas for 15 years, has an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association and has his own concealed handgun license, even though he can't carry guns after he was indicted last August on counts alleging coercion of a public servant and abuse of his official capacity.

When he was governor, he signed several bills to loosen gun control laws in the United States, including a bill that allows people to store guns in their cars and another that reduced the price to renew a concealed handgun license for veterans to $25.

Rick Perry warns Jeb Bush ' Has to be Careful' about criticizing Texas // Breitbart News // Sarah Rumpf – June 20, 2015

Breitbart News caught up with former Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX) as he took a swing through Texas in his second week back on the campaign trail since launching his presidential campaign in Addison, Texas on June 4th.

In an exclusive interview with Breitbart News, Perry shared his perspective on how this campaign differs from his 2012 attempt, why he believes that his record stacks up favorably against any of his competitors, what he believes will be a major challenge for former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-FL), his thoughts on the abuses at the VA, and a special memory he shared about time he spent with Breitbart News founder, the late Andrew Breitbart.

We met Perry at a Starbucks in San Antonio, the latest stop in a busy campaign schedule that had him in at least six cities spread across Texas in half as many days. Perry, who just wrapped up fourteen years as Texas' Governor this past January, is a well-recognized figure in his home state and was warmly greeted by many of the Starbucks patrons, including a little girl who shyly asked Perry to sign her autograph book.

The Governor drew a little heart in the girl's book and wrote "Study Hard!" before signing his name. His act was as sweet as the skinny mocha frappuccino (with whip cream!) that Perry had ordered. Perry cracked a joke about the sugary drink — "Isn't that a beautiful thing? That's calories, is what that is" — and pointed out that he likes to start the day with regular dark roast coffee.

Perry smiled in recognition and pulled out his cell phone to show me the background image. It was a target sheet from a shooting range, from a day he had gone shooting with Andrew.

"He had never shot a pistol before," said Perry, "and as a matter of fact, he did pretty well, you can see," pointing to the tight grouping. Perry's autograph on the target sheet reads, "To Andrew — Shoot Straight! Vote Conservative... Rick Perry." Andrew had taken the original back with him to the Breitbart offices in Los Angeles, and Perry had saved this photo.

"He was a good man," added Perry, smiling at the memory.

The conversation turned to the campaign, just launched two weeks ago to the day as we talked that Thursday. Perry's 2012 campaign was a roller coaster ride, shooting to the top of the polls when he first entered the race, but then plummeting back down after a series of debate missteps.

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To his credit, Perry has been very forthcoming in acknowledging what went wrong in 2012, saying very frankly that he had not had adequate time to prepare on the broader list of issues and his recovery from back surgery a few months before entering the race had been longer and tougher than anticipated.

Not only is he completely healthy, Perry wants people to know, he has undertaken serious study over the past few years, and also no longer has to divide his attention between the campaign and being the Governor of Texas.

“It’s a very different time,” said Perry, explaining that the “biggest difference” was that he was “healthy and prepared” this time. “Both of those were challenges in 2011.”

“You have to take the time to go get the briefings, to go acquire the knowledge,” he explained. “That’s what I didn’t do in 2011 but what I have done for the last three and a half years,” describing trips he had taken to meet with policy experts at the Hoover Institute, Manhattan Institute, Heritage Foundation, Hay Initiative, and other conservative think tanks. “The preparation side of it is very important.”

I was actually at both of Perry’s presidential launches, in August 2011 in Charleston, South Carolina, and in Addison, Texas on June 4th. Both featured Perry confidently touting his record in Texas as his best resume line to qualify him for the White House, but there are a number of key differences this time around.

In 2012, Perry’s message was heavily focused on the Texas economic miracle, and rightfully so. During Perry’s tenure as Governor, the Lone Star State added more jobs than all the other states put together, one-third of all jobs created in the U.S. since 2000. These numbers are even more impressive considering that this happened during the Great Recession and its aftermath.

Jeb Bush “has to be careful” about criticizing Texas

This campaign has seen Perry move beyond just touting Texas’ impressive numbers, readily contrasting his record with any of his competitors, with former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-FL) in particular.

Perry noted that Bush was bragging that he had created more jobs in Florida during his time as Governor than were created in Texas. While Perry said that he respected Bush’s record — “job creation is what a governor’s supposed to be about” — but added that it was important for Americans to remember that it was “blue skies and smooth sailing” for Bush, who benefited from the surging prices during housing bubble, which burst after he was out of office.

“What happened in those states when the Great Recession occurred, the worst recession America’s had since the Great Depression?” asked Perry. “In fact, there’s only one state [that didn’t suffer]…we outperformed, nobody else is even close!”

“Jeb has to be careful about his criticism of bypassing Texas,” added Perry, “because the bulk of that, his brother was the Governor, and his brother’s probably not going to take very kindly to him saying ‘we kicked Texas’ butt,’ but, you know, I’ll let him work that out with his brother.”

Jim Tankersley at the Washington Post agreed with Perry’s assessment:

A significant amount of Florida’s economic and job growth in the Bush era was driven by a massive run-up in housing prices — which peaked in Bush’s last year in office, then plunged the state into a worse recession than the nation as a whole.

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When you account for the role of housing, Bush's economic record looks a lot more mixed. Almost all of the gains he talks up today, including three-fifths of the job creation, were wiped out in the four years after he left office, once the bubble burst.

The housing bubble, of course, was not the fault of Bush or any one governor, but if Bush cannot be blamed for losses caused by the bubble, it is equally problematic to grant him credit for its gains, as blogger Ace of Spades pointed out.

Matthew Yglesias at Vox — certainly no staunch conservative or Perry apologist — wrote an article recently with a compelling summary of Perry's economic record, calling it "far and away the best and most coherent story of any candidate in the field about why his record in office should make you think he could deliver the kind of prosperity the voters crave."

Yglesias' article included the chart shown below, comparing in-state job growth with the national average rate during the tenure of several governors. "You can see that Perry's time in office largely corresponded with a not-so-hot spell of job creation for the United States of America," writes Yglesias, "but that he nonetheless has the strongest record of in-state job creation of anyone in the sample."

With his new campaign, Perry is still happily bragging about all the new jobs in Texas — "we're the most successful state in the nation" — but he is also making the effort to articulate the policies enacted during his tenure that encouraged economic development, as well as connecting that economic growth to improvements in the lives of ordinary Texans.

"We went in and really did some things that created a great positive effect on our economy," said Perry. "Passed the most sweeping tort reform in the world, we reduced spending by ten billion dollars rather than raising taxes…It was a very concerted effort to send a message that you can risk your capital and have a chance to have a return on your investment."

The results of this tort reform, according to Perry, were that over 35,000 more physicians were licensed to practice in Texas than had been a decade earlier. "That's a huge number, and the access to health care exploded. I'm a big believer that the way you judge if you're successful on the health care front is not how many people you force to buy insurance, but how many people have access to better health care, and we've done that in Texas."

Perry also rattled off several reforms to the public education system, to "make our schools more accountable," including incentive pay for good teachers, expanding charter schools, implementing testing that made it easier to intervene earlier if they were struggling.

These efforts paid off, taking Texas from "in the middle of the pack," ranked 27th in the U.S. in 2003 for high school graduation rates, to second in 2013. "That is a powerful, powerful story."

Texas didn't just improve overall graduation rates, but was ranked number one for both African-American and Hispanic graduation rates, statistics of which Perry is very proud. "You've got to remember, Texas is a very diverse state. We're the largest majority-minority state that's seen progress in their public schools…there's not a more powerful message to a family that we care about you, and we're taking care of your kids, than to graduate them from high school" and make sure they have a future," said Perry.

Failure to care for veterans "pisses me off," says Perry

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Texas' job creation is also sharing the spotlight in Perry's campaign with national security and foreign policy issues, and caring for America's veterans, an issue near and dear to Perry's heart. Other than extreme longshot Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)47%

, Perry is the only Republican candidate with military experience, having flown C-130 tactical aircraft as an Air Force Captain during the 1970s in Europe and the Middle East.

"This veterans' issue is one that we've been dealing with for five or six years, so it's not new to us, but it became a national issue a year and a half ago," he said. Taking care of veterans' needs "is a really important public policy issue that needs to be addressed," said Perry, who added that he had been working with these issues for a long time, "both in a personal way and in a professional way."

The "personal way" Perry mentioned included helping former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, who had appeared at his campaign launch along with his twin brother and fellow SEAL, Morgan. Luttrell, the author of the book Lone Survivor about his experiences surviving an ambush in Afghanistan, was befriended by Perry and his wife Anita after he returned to Texas after his combat service.

Suffering from PTSD and physical injuries sustained in combat, plus challenges readjusting to civilian life, Luttrell showed up unannounced on the doorstep of the Governor's Mansion one day in 2007. He had met Perry before and the Governor had told him to let him know if they could ever help him. The Perrys invited Luttrell to move into the Governor's Mansion while they worked to help him find doctors to treat his injuries, including a spinal surgeon, as well as providing him with a safe, home-like environment where his heart and mind could recover.

Perry described his frustrations dealing with "this very archaic and broken system" to get Luttrell the medical care and support he needed. "I had to literally intervene to the height of the Secretary of the Navy," he said.

"There's ten thousand kids like Marcus who didn't have a Governor, and that pisses me off," said Perry, noting that it should not require the Governor of Texas to make that kind of phone call in order for a veteran to get help.

"As the Governor, we were putting teams that were going into the VA here in Texas, to help alleviate the red tape. All these veterans will tell you that the VA was just slow, and bureaucratically archaic, it was a corrosive process for them. They can't get the benefits they need, or have to wait months to get their benefits."

"That is just not acceptable."

Perry noted that the Obama administration had the opportunity to address these problems, but no real progress could be seen. "I'm still very unhappy with how this has been addressed, we're a year plus [after] they changed Secretaries [of the VA], they got all this money from the federal government, and I'm not sure anything has changed."

"No one gives you a manual" to learn executive experience

Perry has called this campaign the "show me, don't tell me election," and has sought to emphasize that his record shows that he is the best prepared among the ever-growing field of candidates for the job of President.

"Executive experience is really important," said Perry. "You can't get executive experience but by one avenue, from my perspective…you can read all the books you want on how to deal with catastrophic events, but until you go through it and you live through it and you manage it, it's just words on paper."

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“No one gives you a manual on how to deal with the space shuttle disintegrating over your state,” he continued. “No one gives you a manual on how to deal with hurricanes — Katrina, Rita, Ike — and the list goes on. Nobody can tell you how to deal with a crisis on your border, where you have literally tens of thousands of people show up, trying to penetrate through your border and the federal government’s not assisting you. Or how to deal with Ebola.”

“All of those things are executive experience that is invaluable.” However, Perry noted, “governors generally don’t deal in the arena of monetary policy, domestic policy, or foreign affairs,” or at least most governors don’t. The situation is a bit different when you’re Governor of Texas, “the twelfth largest economy in the world,” he explained, mentioning the 1200 mile border with Mexico, and trips he had been able to take, not just to visit important trading partners in Europe and Asia, but also combat zones like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Read Part I of Breitbart News’ exclusive interview with Gov. Perry, in which he discusses how his lack of trust in President Obama made him unable to support the “Obamatrade” bills, despite his belief in free trade.

Stay tuned for Part III, in which Perry talks about why Texas is the model for criminal justice reform, the vital role his wife Anita will play in the campaign, why would veto the funding for the Public Integrity Unit under troubled Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg all over again, and the message he hopes voters hear as he makes a second attempt to earn their support to elect him President.

Rick Perry calls South Carolina church shooting an 'accident' **// AOL News – June 20, 2015**

Former Texas governor Rick Perry went into damage control mode on Friday after calling the mass killing in South Carolina an "accident."

"Any time there is an accident like this the president is clear."

His comment came during a NewsmaxTV interview in which he was asked about President Obama's reaction to the shooting that killed nine people.

After the interview, in which Perry also refers to the shooting as a hate crime, a representative classified it as a simple slip saying Perry meant to say "incident" rather than "accident."

But, of course, the Internet didn't let it slide.

On Twitter, @michaelianblack said, "Rick Perry describing the Charleston shooting as an 'accident' is about as plausible as Rick Perry becoming president."

And @HaroldItz scolded the presidential candidate, saying, "No, Rick Perry, an accident is what your dog does on the rug. Or what you do when you speak."

@kidrauhlangels added, "Someone please take Rick Perry home and put him to bed, he's clearly drunk."

But Perry making a few flubs is nothing new.

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Back in 2011 during a Republican debate, he completely blanked trying to remember the third government agency that he would eliminate if elected president.

"The third agency of government I would do away with. Education...uh...the uh... Commerce...And let's see. I can't. The third one I can't. Oops."

Rick Perry: Dylann Roof 'Gunned Down 9 Children of God' **// Mediaite // Andrew Husband – June 20, 2015**

Less than a day after former Texas Gov. Rick Perry accidentally referred to the Charleston church shooting as, erm, an "accident," the 2016 GOP presidential candidate addressed the terrible events on Saturday morning.

Perry was speaking at the Faith and Freedom Coalition's "Road to Majority" conference in Washington, D.C., and much of what he said concerned his condolences to the victims' families and his heartbreak at the loss of these "nine children of God":

"I think we all come here today with heavy hearts for those individuals in Charleston — those Charleston Christians — who were gunned down in an absolute heinous hate crime inside of their place of worship."

Much of Perry's remarks focused less on the event's racial implications, as he chose to highlight the anti-religious nature of the crime:

"There is something more basic to our humanity than the color of our skin, our ethnic heritage, our nationality. It's that we're all made in the image of a loving God, and we cannot let hatred and violence break the ties that bind us together."

Rather tellingly, the 2016 GOP hopeful referred to shooting suspect Dylann Roof as a "deranged individual" who "didn't just take lives of black Americans," but specifically "gunned down nine children of God."

Perry later told reporters that he thought a renewed national discussion about gun control would be "healthy." However, he cautioned against "the knee-jerk from the left" that demands all guns be banned and taken away from responsible gun owners.

GRAHAM

Sen. Lindsey Graham: there's 'No doubt' that Charleston church massacre was racially motivated **// McClatchy // William Douglas – June 20, 2015**

Days after several Republican presidential candidates downplayed or sidestepped the issue of race in the shooting deaths of nine people inside an historic African-American church in Charleston, S.C., Sen. Lindsey Graham acknowledged that race was the primary factor in the killings.

"There can be no doubt that the shooting on Wednesday night was racially motivated and signals to all of us that the scars of our history are still with us today," Graham, R-S.C., said in a statement Saturday. "Throughout our country, we still have much to do in the name of equality. I want to talk about those issues on the campaign trail."

He added: "I'm from South Carolina. My state, like our nation, has a difficult history of race relations. We have tried to address it through compromise and working together. There is no doubt we have made great progress, but Charleston reminds us there is still much to do."

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Graham's remarks about the massacre at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church came after several Republican White House hopefuls struggled to deal with race and the shootings during appearances Thursday and Friday at the Faith and Freedom Coalition's conference in Washington.

The nine shooting victims were African-American. The alleged gunman, 21-year-old Dylann Roof, reportedly went on racist rants. Saturday, state and federal law enforcement officials were examining a recently-discovered hate-filled website to determine whether it belonged to Roof.

Republican presidential hopefuls at the Washington conference expressed their outrage and condolences over the shootings but largely steered clear of what role race may have played in the attack.

For example, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., didn't mention the shootings during his speech. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told conference attendees that he didn't know what was in the mind or heart "of the man who committed those atrocious crimes."

"I do know what was in the heart of the victims," he added. "They were meeting in brotherhood and sisterhood in that church."

However, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, the only African-American presidential candidate, spoke bluntly about the racial element in the shootings, telling the crowd that "If we don't pay close attention to the hatred and division going on in our nation, this is a harbinger of what we can expect."

Lindsey Graham gets to the heart of it **// The Baltimore Sun // John McIntrye – June 20, 2015**

A difficulty in discussing the Confederate battle flag—whether it should be honored or discarded—is that not everyone can agree on basic facts.

Yesterday, writing in the Washington Examiner, Philip Klein presented a cogent conservative argument against continuing to display the flag, in which he stated a fundamental fact: "The Confederacy was formed to preserve and expand the brutal institution of slavery, and then its proponents subsequently tried to disguise their motivations in lofty language about states' rights."

He quoted from the "cornerstone" speech of Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens and cited the formal secession documents of Texas, Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi, all of which emphatically and explicitly said that the Confederate states were seceding to preserve white supremacy over blacks, whom they branded an inferior race.

And, of course, it became in the 1950s and 1960s an emblem of resistance to the civil rights movement, the banner of segregation.

Commenters, predictably, refused to address the historical facts and instead resorted to ad hominem abuse of Mr. Klein.

But rather than tread that ground again, I prefer to look at an illuminating comment by Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina during an interview yesterday. Concerning public display of the Confederate battle flag, he said, "If at the end of the day, it is time for the people of South Carolina to reconsider that decision, it would be fine with

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me, but this is part of who we are." [Emphasis added]

Though he does not seem to be aware of it in the interview, Senator Graham has touched on a central question: Who are the we?

In fact, it is the central question. Are African-Americans Southerners as much as white Southerners are? That was the question that some thought was decided by the events of 1861-1865 and by the ratification of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution. But laws establishing segregation, along with lynchings and other violence against blacks, insisted that African-Americans are not part of us.

So Senator Graham might well consider this: Are black people, born and raised in the South, for whom the Confederate battle flag is a perpetual reminder that they were treated as an inferior class of human beings, as much Southerners as white people, born and raised in the South, who see that flag as a proud symbol of their identity while ignoring the ugliness that is inextricably attached to it?

Short version: Do you want that flag to say who we are?

SANTORUM

Rick Santorum and Bobby Jindal Talk Faith and Freedom **// KMBZ – June 20, 2015**

At Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to the Majority event Saturday, ABC News asked two Republican presidential players to share their thoughts on some related hot-button political issues in the news.

Here's what former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum -- who is running for president in 2016 -- and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal -- who is considering running -- had to say about Democrats talking gun control in the wake of the tragic Charleston church shooting, flying the confederate flag, and the Supreme Court's decision on gay marriage.

ABC News: What do you think when you hear Democrats talking about gun control right now?

Santorum: "I think that's politicizing a very tragic event that has serious repercussions about who we are as a country I mean the idea that there would be this kind of racial crime in America purely hate-filled evil crime driven by race is is enough to focus on. To try to piggyback that onto something else I think is really disrespectful."

ABC News: You are against gay marriage. Would you support a Supreme Court decision legalizing it?

Santorum: "As I've said repeatedly I'll wait and see what the Supreme Court is going to decide, but I don't change my opinion . If the Supreme Court decides something is right or something is wrong -- that's the great thing about our Republic, is that civil institutions make decisions whether they're laws or whether they're executive orders or whether they're Supreme Court decisions and you, as a free person in this country, can go out and still advocate for what you believe in."

ABC News: What's your reaction when you see the politicians talking about gun control in the wake of a massacre like this?

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Jindal: "Look the President's remarks within the first 24 hours are still within the first 48 hours - I think it's shameful to score cheap political points. He's the commander-in-chief. He should be uniting us he needs to be bringing us together it's a time for healing if you want a great contrast look at Gov. Nikki Haley -- her tremendous leadership during this crisis this is a time to come together as one country in prayer and start the healing process."

ABC News: Should the confederate flag still flying in South Carolina or anywhere else in the United States?

Jindal: We'll let the states decide that, but again, just like the gun issue -- let's have that debate at the right time. And right now we should all be in mourning. I think flags should be at half-mast across our states across our country. Now's a time for mourning. Now's the time to tell our kids it really doesn't matter, we're all brothers and sisters ... I happen to be a Christian, and those are brothers and sisters of mine in my faith. Whether you're Christian or not -- whatever you wish -- those were our brothers and sisters, it doesn't matter if in South Carolina, it doesn't matter [if you are] Black or White, young or old -- those were our brothers and sisters killed in that church."

HUCKABEE

Fox host and Huckabee attack Obama over gun control comments — then call for more civility and less rhetoric // Raw Story // Tom Boggioni – June 20, 2015

Repeating an often heard suggestion following every mass shooting in the United States, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee complained that President Barack Obama was "grandstanding" when he called for more gun control after the Charleston church shooting, saying instead more guns is the solution.

With Fox News host Todd Starnes calling the president's comments "despicable," Huckabee joined in to attack the president before pointing out that it was a shame no one attending the prayer meeting was packing a gun.

"Well it was disappointing to hear the president within virtually minutes of the news breaking, or certainly hours, for him to come to the podium and immediately say, 'Alright, this is a great opportunity for me to grandstand and jump up on the stump and talk about gun control.'" Huckabee said.

Saying that no gun control proposal could have stopped the shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston or at the Sandy Hook Elementary school, Huckabee lamented the fact that no one at the prayer meeting was carrying a gun.

"The one thing that would have at least ameliorated the horrible situation in Charleston would have been that if somebody in that prayer meeting had a conceal carry or there had been either an off duty policeman or an on duty policemen, somebody with the legal authority to carry a firearm and could have stopped the shooter," Huckabee said. "

Huckabee added, "I go back to was has often been said, and it sounds crass, but frankly the best way to stop a bad person with a gun is to have a good person with a weapon that is equal or superior to the one he's using."

Fox's Starnes, notorious for his false reporting of supposed persecution of Christians in American society, then called for civility instead of rhetoric by our nation's leaders.

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CARSON

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson speaks in Birmingham // Alabama News // Adam Ganucheau – June 20, 2015

More than 6,500 attendees of a men's Christian conference packed the Legacy Arena early Saturday morning to hear Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson speak.

Carson, who formally launched his campaign in May, was a keynote speaker at the Gridiron Men's Conference, a Christian conference held at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex.

"Let me make it clear to you and the press," radio evangelist Phil Waldrep, the conference's sponsor, said before introducing Carson to the stage. "This is not a political rally. (Carson is) here because he wants to speak into your life and encourage every man in this place to leave this building to make a difference."

While Carson did integrate his faith into the 49-minute address, the speech at times resembled a political speech rather than a Christian testimony, rousing applause from the audience after riffs about combatting some of America's problems.

He touched on a few of his platforms and expressed his political ideas on subjects like the government's role in distributing welfare, the importance of positively influencing youth at an early age, protecting freedom of expression and the status of the education system in America.

"Education is the great divide in our country," Carson said. "It doesn't matter what your ethnic or economic background is, if you get a good education you will succeed. That is something we must begin to emphasize again."

Carson, who is a retired Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon, is one of many candidates vying for the Republican nomination for the 2016 presidential election. He has edged his Republican counterparts in multiple straw polls and has been a very popular candidate among those who affiliate with the tea party.

Earlier this month, four of Carson's senior campaign officials quit, drawing speculation to the campaign's health.

But in Birmingham Saturday, he focused on his ideas and his faith. He quoted multiple passages from the book of Proverbs during the speech and said multiple times that his success came from his faith in God.

"I think that God gives everybody special gifts and talents," Carson said of knowing when he knew he wanted to become a surgeon.

Carson was just one of the conference's six speakers, including New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who spoke Friday night. Attendees of the conference are in Birmingham from 15 different states.

TRUMP

Donoald Trump's resume backs his run for president // NY Post // Jonathan Trugman – June 20, 2015

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So Donald Trump — New York's charismatic multibillionaire businessman — has thrown his hat into the 2016 presidential ring.

While many question his presence in the race, 2016 may be the year in which America is in desperate need of a suave, successful businessperson like Trump — or former HP CEO Carly Fiorina — to solve what ails our economy.

Unlike most politicians, these two have plenty of experience building things, hiring people — and sometimes firing people — and both have extensive résumés and are not just spouting rhetoric.

There's no doubt that most Americans are hurting right now. The economy is much weaker than advertised and not expected to get stronger anytime soon — the Federal Reserve on Wednesday downgraded its growth forecast for this year to 1.9 percent.

If that forecast comes to fruition, it will mean seven years in a row of below-3 percent GDP growth. No president has ever had that distinction.

So the next president could use a track record of building and developing growth, since the measures by the Fed of keeping rates at zero and making $4 trillion worth of QE bond buys have done nothing for growth.

If a businessperson were to get the keys to the White House, here's what he or she would need to do.

The single most important issue is jobs, and Trump is well aware of it. Getting the job market back on its feet will not be easy, but Trump has built a global business that employs thousands of people — from contractors, plumbers and electricians to investment bankers, lawyers and accountants — whom he pays quite well. So he actually knows what it takes.

The Donald could very well live up to his claim, which was vintage Trump: "I will be the greatest jobs president that God has ever created."

While the unemployment rate is misleadingly low — folks taking two or three part-time jobs at a time skew the stats — the more accurate and encompassing labor-force participation rate remains near the all-time low of 62 percent.

That is because millions of Americans have left the labor force and have given up looking for a job.

Unfortunately, the attitude and the algebra today is, if you can't make more than the government assistance pays, then why bother going back to work?

For those fortunate who have steady work, there have been no wage gains to speak of for the last decade. Nothing says "failing economy" like working for 10 years and not seeing your buying power increase.

Both Trump and Fiorina are pragmatists, which doesn't bode well for a political career, but that quality could be refreshing. Their opponents will have a hard time trying to fit them into a box on the political grid.

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By working to free up capital in corporations and motivating companies to bring work back to the US, they will back up their words.

Also, look for Trump to forge large bipartisan infrastructure deals to rebuild America's dilapidated highways, bridges and tunnels and to bring America into the 21st century technologically. After all, it can't be denied that Trump knows plenty about construction.

That the Beltway Brigade never addressed this issue is mind-boggling. You can't drive two miles without dodging potholes, losing a filling or blowing a tire.

This is a huge opportunity, and it will put people back to work, on projects that are actually necessary — unlike the "shovel-ready" infrastructure programs in the $850 billion stimulus plan President Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid put together.

Our candidates have become more and more like a bunch of mannequins and actors reading from TelePrompTers than CEOs of a $15 trillion economy. Only a few people in the race have legitimate bodies of work and accomplishments that enable us to see how they have actually performed when in charge.

Trump and Fiorina are two that can be called all-business.

Cher trashes Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign // MSNBC // Adam Howard – June 20, 2015

Pop icon Cher definitely does not back Donald Trump's run for the presidency.

Although the real estate mogul's 2016 campaign launch this week was widely ridiculed across the media landscape, the "Believe" singer's social media reaction garnered some of the most attention.

In addition to saying she would relocate to the planet Jupiter if Trump was ever elected, the 69-year-old called him a "loudmouthed bigot" and an "obnoxious a–hole," in a series of tweets.

"Donald Trump can't come up with a hairstyle that looks human, how can he come up with a plan to defeat ISIS," Cher said incredulously on Twitter. "Donald Trump's ego is so inflated, he might as well be the Hindenburg," she added in another tweet.

The outspoken, Oscar-winning performer said choosing between GOP contender Sen. Ted Cruz and Trump was "like saying 'would you rather have a Migraine or Throw Up.'" And ultimately that: "Donald Trump's Punishment, Is being DONALD TRUMP."

Cher has been a longtime supporter of liberal causes and politicians. But in recent years, she has expressed dissatisfaction with President Obama, even calling into C-Span to voice her displeasure with his foreign policy.

Trump has yet to respond to Cher's remarks, but he has a long history of lashing out at his high-profile critics on social media and in various other forms. In the past he's engaged in public feuds with Rosie O'Donnell, Jerry Seinfeld, Bill Maher and countless others.

Most recently, he's aimed his ire at conservative pundit George Will, calling him "boring," "often wrong" and "a total dope!"

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UNDECLARED

WALKER

Leading in polls, Scott Walker waits **// The Hill // Niall Stanage – June 20, 2015**

Scott Walker edged closer to a White House bid this week, but his official entry into the race is still not expected until mid-July.

The Wisconsin governor's slow-moving campaign launch could cause him to lose altitude, some observers say, since other top-tier candidates such as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) are already in.

"The biggest risk is that, with every week, donors start to make decisions about who they want to invest in," said Julian Zelizer, a professor of public affairs at Princeton University.

"The voters who are paying attention now are shaping their perceptions of who's good and who's bad, and they are not really thinking about him as much as the others," Zelizer added.

When it comes to donors, however, Walker's Thursday announcement of a new "testing the waters" committee might help. The new committee has more leeway than an official campaign under election-finance regulations, and its formation crystallizes the sense that Walker is indeed moving toward a presidential run.

He is widely expected to join the race on July 13 in his native Wisconsin, the state where he has been governor since 2011. He won a recall battle in 2012 and reelection in 2014.

An appeal from his new committee to donors suggests that they should aim to raise $27,000 by July 12. The maximum individual contribution is $2,700, so the total would be equivalent to eliciting the biggest possible donation from 10 people.

Some GOP strategists believe that Walker is being wily in holding off from a full declaration of candidacy for as long as he possibly can. Super-PACs are playing an increasingly important role in campaigns, they note, but coordination between an official candidate and a super-PAC is prohibited.

Republican consultant Ed Rollins drew a comparison between Walker and Bush, who helped start a super-PAC that is headed by operative Mike Murphy.

"You can't talk to [the super-PAC] and you can't coordinate, so now Jeb can't talk to Mike Murphy again," he said. "Walker has a super-PAC and once you declare, you have to play by those rules."

Walker's super-PAC is called "Unintimidated," after the title of a book the governor published in 2013. Two former top aides, Keith Gilkes and Stephan Thompson, founded it.

More broadly, Walker supporters could issue a simple rebuttal to suggestions that he is putting an official declaration off for too long: It hasn't harmed him so far.

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Walker is performing very well in opinion polls, especially in Iowa. In three of the four most recent polls among Republicans in the Hawkeye State, he led his nearest rival by either seven or eight percentage points. The other survey also showed him leading, but by a more modest margin of four points.

In New Hampshire, where Walker's socially conservative outlook is less of an asset, he is nonetheless running a close second to Bush in the RealClearPolitics polling average. The equivalent national polling average shows the two in a de facto dead-heat.

Walker has made such strides while neither seeking nor attracting as much national media attention as Bush, Rubio or even candidates whose poll numbers are lower, such as Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.). Walker's participation in Sen. Joni Ernst's (R-Iowa) barbecue-and-motorcycle-riding "roast and ride" event two weeks ago — he rode his own Harley-Davidson — was one of his relatively rare high-profile events of late.

Some Republicans believe that Walker's skills are being underestimated by a news media that don't recognize his blue-collar appeal.

"What Walker brings … is the white working-class voter," GOP strategist Ford O'Connell said. "He has the ability to speak to them in a way that they gravitate toward. When he talks about shopping at Kohl's, a lot of people in the media roll their eyes. But that resonates so well with voters."

O'Connell also argued that more time away from the spotlight could assist Walker, in terms of letting him bone up on issues that he is less familiar with — notably foreign policy.

He drew criticism earlier this year when he suggested that his fight against public unions in Wisconsin was relevant experience for the struggle against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Others note that, for all of Walker's impressive poll ratings, the race is only in its earliest stage, and the Wisconsin governor has not yet had to face serious attacks from rivals.

"My question is, how does Scott Walker hold up when the campaigning begins, once a [hostile] super-PAC tries to define him?" said Craig Robinson, a former political director of the Iowa Republican Party. "I'm curious to see how he withstands that."

Others note another drawback to the Wisconsin governor's slow rollout: It could provide a window of opportunity for even more potential rivals to join a crowded field.

"The more Scott Walker waits, the more that opens the door to other governors," said Zelizer. "Somebody like [Ohio Gov.] John Kasich is getting more interested."

Kasich, he added, was exactly the kind of candidate who could "squeeze Walker's chances."

Scott Walker Pledges to Fight for Republican Ideals // Politics PA // Nick Field – June 20, 2015

One of the leading Republican candidates for the presidency visited Philadelphia today.

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Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker gave the keynote address at the National Republican Leadership Conference.

Walker isn't officially in the race yet, but he did lay out a fundraising goal nicknamed "The Road to 270" (270 is the number of electoral votes it takes to win the White House). Therefore, it's safe to say he's in. Supporters expect him to announce on July 13th.

A new national PPP poll released Tuesday showed Walker as the GOP front-runner. On an anecdotal note, I heard two separate attendees state that they would support any candidate but Jeb Bush.

In fact, the PA GOP conducted a straw poll through the three-day weekend of perspective 2016 GOP candidates. Walker won with 25.3% of the vote followed by Chris Christie (11.3%), Marco Rubio (11%), Rick Santorum (9.6%) and Jeb Bush (9.6%).

The Governor was introduced by fellow conservative (and foe of organized labor) State Sen. Scott Wagner. His biggest applause line came when he praised Gov. Walker's ability to pass voter ID and "right-to-work" laws.

The guest of honor started off with a prayer for the victims in Charleston and a round of applause for military members.

Despite the presence of a podium, the future candidate chose to take the microphone and roam the stage as he spoke. A smart move that made it easier to connect with a crowd that constitutes men and women he'll need to be successful in his quest.

He further endeared himself to the audience when he said that as a runner, he loved being able to replicate the famous Rocky run up the Art Museum steps.

At another point, he mentioned that his Great-great grandfather emigrated to Philadelphia and worked as a blacksmith.

He even finished with a story about visiting Independence Hall.

Referring to the attempt to remove him in a June 2012 recall, he thanked all the GOP faithful who aided his retention effort.

"I appreciate the help for when we faced that recall election," Walker stated before transitioning to the future.

"We've formed a testing the process committee, which is the next big step in deciding whether you're going to run for President."

The passionate conservative then laid out his pitch as to why he is uniquely equipped to be victorious.

"To win the center, you don't always have to run to the center, you have to lead," Walker asserted.

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The Wisconsin native believes this mantra can play anywhere but can be especially beneficial in the Rust Belt.

“I believe the next President is going to come from the industrial part of this country and Pennsylvania will play a big part of that.”

Walker also dipped into what will surely be the accomplishments section of his future stump-speech, contending (as all Governors that run for President do) that what worked in their state can work for the country.

“If we could do that in a blue state. If those reforms can happen in a state as blue as Wisconsin, they can happen anywhere.”

Gov. Walker went on to outline the core of his speech with three distinct points: “Growth, Reform and Safety”.

Apparently, the Wisconsinan feels the nation’s leading Democrats are too focused on Washington.

“They think you grow the economy by growing Washington,” Walker said of Democrats like President Obama and Secretary Clinton.

Concerning reform, he said that Democrats measure the success of government by how many people depend on it, while Republicans measure it by how many people are no longer dependent on government.

For a man with no international experience, Walker was very passionate on national security issues.

He explained that he chose to identify national security as “safety” because overseas atrocities like beheadings had affected him so personally.

Walker also unequivocally came out against any nuclear deal with Iran.

“That is a country we should not be doing business with,” he asserted.

The biggest standing ovation of the day, in fact, came when Walker criticized the President for identifying climate change as the largest national security threat instead of radical Islamist terrorists.

“Our enemy is like a virus,” he said. “I’d rather take the fight to them rather than wait for them to take the fight to us.”

He finished but pledging to reminding the audience that he had fought the good fights and won the good fights and that the American people “want someone who is not only going to fight but win.”

It was an impressive performance that reached the crowd of Republican die-hards in the Sheraton ballroom and may be able to extend far beyond there.

Still, the spectre of the biggest fight of Walker’s life hung over the event.

Through some playlist oversight, the most unlikely tune emerged from the loudspeakers just minutes before Walker took the stage.

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Walker wows social conservatives with attacks on Obama, puts GOP rivals on notice // The Washington Times // Madison Gesiotto – June 20, 2015

ust weeks away from possibly joining the 2016 race, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker thrilled a crowd of social conservatives Saturday night with a withering attack on President Obama's record while putting his potential GOP rivals on notice that he plans to run on his record as a get-it-done governor.

Mr. Walker sought to convince the Faith and Freedom Coalition's 2015 Road to the Majority Conference he may be the best choice for president, repeatedly citing his record of success in Wisconsin that includes a balanced budget, concessions from unions and pro-faith policies.

Seeking to differentiate himself from some of his potential rivals who serve in Congress or have been out of office for some time, Mr. Walker said he was a unique combination of fighter and election and policy victor,

"We fight the good fight and win those fights over and over and over again," he said.

Mr. Walker also mocked the president on national security, citing Mr. Obama's recent speech in which he said climate change was the biggest threat facing America.

"I've got a message for you, Mr. President. The number one threat to the military, the number one threat to America, the number one threat to the world is radical Islam. It's time we do something about it," he said to roaring cheers.

Mr. Walker mixed in barbs with folksy Midwest humor, drawing laughter with a tale about his trips to his favorite department store and even poking fun at fellow Wisconsin Republican Rep. Paul Ryan.

Reminiscing about their earlier years of flipping burgers at McDonalds, Mr, Walker told the crowd, that "the only difference is, his manager actually told him he has to flip hamburgers in the back because he didn't have the interpersonal skills to work the cash register."

Although Mr. Walker hasn't officially declared his candidacy for 2016, he has been "testing the waters" and is expected to make an official announcement in mid-July.

Scott Walker denounces Charleston slayings, sidesteps flag debate // Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel // Craig Gilbert – June 20, 2015

Speaking to a gathering of religious conservatives here Saturday night, Gov. Scott Walker spoke for several minutes about the shooting in Charleston, S.C., calling it a "racist" and "evil" act and asking for a moment of prayer for the "nine brothers and sisters in Christ who were taken on Wednesday."

But in talking to reporters afterward, Walker steered cleared of the debate over the Confederate flag in South Carolina that is playing out in the aftermath of the shootings.

Walker said he didn't think it was appropriate to debate that issue until the family members of victims have had a chance to bury and mourn the dead.

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The GOP's 2012 nominee, Mitt Romney, said on Twitter Saturday that South Carolina should remove the Confederate flag flying above its state Capitol grounds, calling it a "symbol of racial hatred" to many. Several of Walker's potential GOP rivals have also commented on the issue in the wake of the shootings.

"I think they're going to have a good healthy debate and should have that debate in South Carolina amongst officials at the state level," Walker told reporters after his dinner speech at the "Road to Majority" conference.

"I just think before I or anyone else weighs in on anything to do with policy, whether it's this or any other policy decisions, we should honor the dead and the families by allowing them to bury their loved ones. And then you could perfectly ask me that question at some point in the next week or two when that's done."

Walker also deferred when asked by a reporter if he viewed the Confederate flag as a symbol of racism.

Walker was among numerous GOP presidential hopefuls who appeared at the four-day conference organized by the Faith and Freedom Coalition.

An evangelical Christian, the son of a preacher and a leading figure in the party's 2016 field, Walker was introduced as a politician with a strong record opposing abortion and someone whose "faith informs his beliefs and his actions."

A banquet crowd of several hundred gave him a very enthusiastic reception.

Addressing the Charleston shooting at the outset of his speech, Walker said what happened there is not just about that city, but "it's really about all of us and trying to find a way to bring this country together instead of ways to pull us apart."

The governor pointed to the expressions of forgiveness coming from family members of victims, saying, "They showed us, they showed their community, they showed their state, they showed their country, they showed the world what it means to be a Christian."

Talking to reporters a short time later, Walker said the shootings were an act of "racism" and "pure evil" and "all of us regardless of party or background need to denounce not only the act itself but the beliefs" behind it.

More broadly, he said, "I think there is a very real concern that needs to be addressed in America about race relations. And I think we need to do more, I think as Americans as a whole, we need to do more to talk about how to unite people in this country."

CHRISTIE

Jeb Bush And Chris Christie Spout Anti-Women Rhetoric At Conservative Conference // Think Progress // Kira Lerner – June 20, 2015

“It was right here in this room that we celebrated the burial of the Equal Rights Amendment,” conservative Phyllis Schlafly, who led the fight against the constitutional amendment in the 1970s, told a cheering crowd in Washington, D.C. on Friday. “We were able to celebrate a tremendous victory against all the powers that be, and of all the things we taught people by defeating the Equal Rights Amendment, it was that conservatives can win.”

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Since successfully defeating the ERA in 1982 — a constitutional amendment that she argued would hurt traditional gender roles — Schlafly has continued her anti-feminism, anti-women's choice messaging. She has remained in the spotlight by making incendiary remarks, like that women should be paid less than men so they can find husbands. And at the conservative conference co-hosted by the Faith & Freedom Coalition and Concerned Women for America this week, her anti-choice rhetoric was echoed by many of the Republican candidates vying for the presidency in 2016.

Many of the candidates who spoke discussed their faith and their traditional family values to justify their anti-choice, anti-equality platforms. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who declared his candidacy earlier this week, listed off his anti-choice credentials, including the fact that he signed into law a partial-birth abortion ban and pushed through a constitutional amendment requiring that parents be given notice when their minor daughters seek an abortion.

"When I became governor, I was shocked by the total lack of regulation of abortion clinics," he said. "Parents had no legal role in their minor daughter's abortion decisions so we put regulations on abortion clinics. And we narrowed the number of them, but we made sure there was reasonable health and safety standards to protect women."

Studies have shown that abortions are actually extremely safe and that major complications rarely occur. Nonetheless, conservatives have fought for tighter restrictions on abortions by framing the issue around the safety of the procedure. Bush also lent his support as governor to "crisis pregnancy centers," right-wing organizations often posing as women's health clinics with an explicit anti-choice agenda that use misleading information and deceptive tactics to try to dissuade women from choosing an abortion.

"At my urging, the state of Florida was the first to sustain funding, $2 million a year, to go to crisis pregnancy centers to provide counseling and therapy — state money going to crisis pregnancy centers to give moms other choices."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is likely to announce his campaign within the month, also drew loud applause from the conservative audience when he discussed his cuts to Planned Parenthood funding.

"When [the Democratic legislature] sends me Planned Parenthood funding year after year after year and I am the first governor to veto Planned Parenthood funding out of the budget, there is no room for compromise there," he said.

In 2010, Christie eliminated all family planning funding in New Jersey, cutting off $7.5 million that used to support 58 clinics. The action has had drastic effects on the state and its ability to meet the need for family planning services ever since — nine health centers have been forced to close and impoverished residents have suffered. Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg (D) has accused the governor, who was pro-choice until he said he heard his daughter's heartbeat on an ultrasound, of trying to drag New Jersey back to the 1950s to pander to the social conservatives who might support a 2016 presidential run.

Christie to attend memorial for Charlest on murder victims at St. Matt hew A.M.E. church in Orange // NJ News – June 20, 2015

Gov. Chris Christie will attend a memorial prayer service for the victims of the Charleston, S.C. mass shooting Sunday evening at St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church in Orange.

Nine African-American parishioners were shot to death and a tenth wounded Wednesday at the Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston. Dylann Roof, 21, has since been charged with their murders.

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On Saturday, media reports noted that Roof had apparently created a website, www.thelastrhodesian.com , filled with white supremacist codewords and rants along with photos of him posing with what appears to be a .45-caliber Glock handgun – the same make and model firearm used in the church killings and the same as the one found in his car when he was arrested Thursday, according to police reports.

On Friday, President Obama called for a closer look at U.S. gun laws, noting that "every country has violent, hateful or mentally unstable people. What's different is that not every country is awash with easily accessible guns."

The President added that he refused to act as if "any mention of doing something to stop it is somehow politicizing the problem."

On Thursday evening, Christie, who had been attending a 2016 exploratory event in New Hampshire, side-stepped the question of whether the racially-motivated South Carolina church killings highlighted a need for reform of the nation's gun laws.

"We don't even really know what the facts are here," Christie told CNN in an interview, calling the murders "a depraved act" and adding that only once "all the facts" are in could policy decisions be made.

KASICH

Obamacare looms over Kasich's presidential bid // Politico // Rachana Pradhan And Kyle Cheney – June 20, 2015

The Republicans running for president have practically made careers out of skewering Obamacare — so when Ohio Gov. John Kasich makes his expected entry into the race, he's likely to have a giant Obamacare target on his back.

Kasich says he is no fan of the president's health care law. But he fought his own party to implement one of its core components and is now gearing up to face GOP primary voters who want to rip the health law to shreds. His decision two years ago to embrace Obamacare's expansion of Medicaid to provide health coverage to low-income adults — a move that offered bipartisan cover to the White House during a tumultuous period — is likely to dog him in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Kasich made both a moral and economic case for covering the poor with mostly federal dollars. Many in his party disagree.

"We were deeply disappointed at Gov. Kasich's actions on the Medicaid expansion battle in Ohio," said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative think tank supported by the Koch Brothers. "Obamacare is a core issue at this point for so many Americans who will most likely be participating in primaries and caucuses. The question of expanding Medicaid is arguably the most important state-level aspect of Obamacare that's in play."

Strategists and political experts say the Medicaid issue alone isn't fatal to a Kasich candidacy, but it certainly doesn't help at a time when more than a dozen Republican candidates are groping to capture voters' attention.

"When you have so many candidates to choose from, you could be for a governor with a good record that didn't

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do that," said New Hampshire Republican strategist David Carney. "There are 12 or 15 flavors. If you love maple walnut ice cream but there's just too much maple, you go for something else."

Other governors with 2016 aspirations have rejected Obamacare's Medicaid expansion, including Wisconsin's Scott Walker, Louisiana's Bobby Jindal, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry. And the Republican senators running for president — Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Lindsey Graham — have all voted for repeal of Obamacare. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who may still join the race, enacted Medicaid expansion in a state where he faced intense pressure to do so from a solidly Democratic Legislature.

Kasich, on the other hand, undertook an extraordinary maneuver to bypass his Republican Legislature to expand Medicaid to hundreds of thousands of people. In the fall of 2013, he lobbied an obscure state board to unilaterally increase the state's Medicaid spending levels to accommodate the Obamacare program. Republicans howled and conservatives briefly targeted Kasich in a 2014 primary, but the furor died down.

His maneuver is unlikely to go unnoticed, however, in presidential politics. Kasich is fighting for the same center-right corner of the Republican base as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who in 2013 actively lobbied lawmakers in his home state to reject Medicaid expansion even though the state's current Republican governor, Rick Scott, supported it at the time. He'd enter the race as a long shot — he barely registers in early polls outside of Ohio — but he's hopeful that early stumbles by Bush will give him an opening to win support in early voting states likes New Hampshire.

Critics of the expansion, which provides coverage to low-income individuals who make up to roughly $16,000 a year, say its costs will ultimately fall on the states, crowding out other priorities like education and public safety. Though Obamacare fully funds the cost of Medicaid expansion through 2016, states will gradually assume up to 10 percent of the cost.

In many states, including Ohio, Medicaid enrollment has vastly exceeded original projections, setting off alarm bells among conservatives who say the states and the federal government won't be able to afford it. Nearly 540,000 Ohioans have been covered through the expansion already.

Kasich allies point out that the governor won a resounding reelection bid last year with 64 percent of the vote and scared off his one brief primary opponent, despite his association with the Affordable Care Act. They argue that his earnest commitment to the program is actually refreshing to voters, who crave his straight talk and willingness to take unpopular stances.

"What they see is someone who is willing to do what he thinks is right from a policy perspective and put politics to the side," said spokesman Chris Schrimpf, who noted that nearly a dozen Republican governors have embraced the Medicaid expansion since Kasich did.

Kasich, however, was one of the few who supported a traditional Medicaid expansion, without the right-leaning policy elements that made the program more palatable to Republicans in other states, from Iowa to Arkansas to Indiana. His imminent candidacy comes as New Hampshire — where Kasich has been particularly aggressive — is in the midst of an intense partisan battle over the future of its own Medicaid expansion.

Kasich argues that he's only bringing back funding that Ohio sends to the federal government, and that the Medicaid expansion has led to savings elsewhere for the state. And one of Kasich's favorite defenses is that expanding Medicaid puts him in good company with the last Republican to expand Medicaid — Ronald Reagan. He's also irked Republicans by justifying his decision as a moral and religious imperative.

"Now, when you die and get to the meeting with St. Peter, he's probably not going to ask you much about what you did about keeping government small. But he is going to ask you what you did for the poor," he told reporters in Ohio in 2013.

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That strategy works well in his home state and for independents, but it's not likely to be a big winner among GOP primary voters, said Robert Blendon, a professor of health policy and political analysis at the Harvard School of Public Health.

"You just have to move onto other issues," he said.

Kasich has long argued that the Medicaid expansion established by Obamacare is different than Obamacare itself. He has joined the chorus of calls for repealing the entire law while contending that it's unconnected to Medicaid.

But that unusual semantic argument elicits scoffs from conservatives, too. The right has special hatred for Obamacare, but it also has separate qualms about Medicaid, arguing that the entitlement program has outgrown its original purpose of caring for low-income parents and people with disabilities.

Nearly all of the 21 states that haven't expanded Medicaid since the Supreme Court made it an optional program in 2012 are led by Republican governors. Just this year, fights over expanding the program have roiled state politics in Alaska, Florida, Montana, Tennessee and Wyoming.

Though experts say a single issue isn't likely to sink Kasich, it could diminish his appeal among the conservatives who animate Republican presidential politics.

"It's not compassionate to take a failing program and expand it by dumping millions of Americans in it," Phillips said. "For Gov. Kasich and others who have supported expanding this program, it's going to be a difficult explanation."

OTHER

Mitt Romney Calls for Removal of Confederate Flag at South Carolina Capitol // NYT // Michael Barbaro – June 20, 2015

Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's nominee for president in 2012, demanded that South Carolina remove the Confederate flag flying above the grounds of its state Capitol on Saturday, calling it a "symbol of racial hatred."

His unambiguous statement will immediately intensify pressure on Republicans seeking the White House in 2016 to confront the thorny issue, which has long divided the state and bedeviled national candidates campaigning in it.

So far, none of the party's 2016 presidential candidates has gone as far as Mr. Romney in demanding that the flag come down.

Mr. Romney's words are striking because many Republican leaders, including those now running for president, have seemed reluctant to discuss the role of race — and racism — in the killing of nine parishioners at a Charleston, S.C., church. And they stand out because Mr. Romney himself, as a candidate, struggled to connect with black voters in 2012, later blaming his loss in part on "gifts" that he said President Obama had given to minority voters.

On Saturday, Mr. Romney took to Twitter to issue a firm message about the flag and race.

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With that, Mr. Romney became the most prominent Republican to make that demand since the Charleston shooting.

The issue is not entirely new for Mr. Romney. He spoke out against flying the Confederate flag as far back as 2008, when he first ran for president. “That flag shouldn’t be flown,” he said at the time. “That’s not a flag I recognize.”

2016 GOP contenders face major political dilemma in Obamacare ruling // WaPo // Katie Zezima & Lena Sun – June 20, 2015

Around the corner from Sen. Marco Rubio’s house and a few miles from former Florida governor Jeb Bush’s, an insurance agency at a strip mall advertises the Affordable Care Act.

Banners with a logo reminiscent of the one President Obama used during his campaign hang on the exterior of the Eli Insurance Agency. An ad above a window display touting trips to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic says in Spanish that Obamacare could be available for $0 a month. “Obamacare $0 mensual,” it reads. “Centro de aplicaciones aqui” — Application center here!

Those signs may not last much longer. Depending on how the Supreme Court rules in King v. Burwell this month, they might disappear — replaced by a major political dilemma for Eli Insurance’s presidential-contender neighbors.

The pressing problem for the 2016 Republican field falls into the “dog catches car” category: It’s one thing to call for the Affordable Care Act to be repealed or to promise an Oval Office signing ceremony for its repeal. It’s another to endorse pulling insurance subsidies used by more than 6 million people in 34 states, including at least 1.3 million Florida residents.

A ruling that subsidies provided to consumers to help them purchase health insurance are not legal could spark chaos in the insurance marketplace and help shape the electoral landscape in several key swing states. Beyond those voters directly affected, many more could see their premiums increase if the law unravels, driving up the number of uninsured.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), a Republican presidential candidate, speaks Thursday during the Road to Majority 2015 convention at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington. (Andrew Harnik/Associated Press)

The administration has said it has no Plan B if the court rules against it. The sitting governors and senators in the GOP presidential field would be among those who need to implement an emergency fix that helps people remain insured. The rest of the candidates would be called upon to offer policy alternatives. All of them would need to balance demands that they support an emergency restoration of benefits with the demands of a conservative base that wants to seize any opportunity to gut Obama’s signature domestic policy achievement.

“The politics of this for Republicans are extremely tricky and treacherous, and most Republicans privately would like to see the Supreme Court take a pass on this one,” said John Ullyot, a Republican strategist.

As the decision date in the case edges closer, debate within the GOP has been split between those who see a political opportunity and those who see a looming disaster. Republicans have been furiously meeting on Capitol Hill this week to hammer out proposals as a court ruling looms.

The 2016 contenders currently in Congress will be the ones “in the crucible,” he said — they will have to take votes or make proposals “that might not be as politically pure as needed during a Republican primary.”

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On the other side of the spectrum, the Democratic presidential contenders lie in wait. “Hillary Clinton can immediately pivot not to defending the ACA,” said Republican strategist Rich Galen, but “can immediately begin saying, ‘The Republicans won’t fix this; I will’ — and I think that’s a big, big bow that the Republicans shouldn’t hand to her.”

Most of the major plans congressional Republicans and conservative think tanks have proposed to address a hypothetical loss of subsidies would offer some temporary relief — but only in exchange for a repeal of the requirement that most Americans have insurance, the linchpin of the law.

“Republicans need to unify around a specific set of constructive, longer-term solutions and then turn the 2016 presidential election into a referendum on two competing visions of health care,” Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), who proposed one of the plans, wrote in the Wall Street Journal in February.

Although most states are considering their options, even talking about them publicly before the decision is risky.

“The Republican governors have very little reason to put themselves at political risk if they don’t have to,” said Caroline Pearson, a vice president at Avalere Health, a consulting firm.

Florida, home to Rubio and Bush, and Texas — home state of presidential candidates Rick Perry, the state’s former governor, and GOP Sen. Ted Cruz — have the largest numbers of people at risk.

Gracita Beausejour, 62, of Miramar, Fla., said she receives more than $400 a month in subsidies and pays $30 monthly for her premium. She said she lost her job at a hospital four years ago and has not been able to find work since; she receives $590 a month in Social Security.

If she loses her subsidy as a result of the court ruling, “I’m going back to having no insurance again,” she said. Referring to Republican lawmakers in Congress, she said: “People who are higher don’t care for lower people.”

The ruling would land hard in a string of general election battlegrounds, leaving next year’s GOP nominee potentially facing hundreds of thousands of voters who lost subsidies in each of these states: North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana. If the subsidies do disappear, premiums in those states are projected to more than double, at a minimum.

Cruz, who has said that his campaign is a “referendum on repealing Obamacare,” signed a brief from members of Congress supporting the challengers in the court case.

“The goal is to provide an off-ramp for our people to escape this law without losing their insurance, and all conservatives in Congress should work together toward this goal,” Rubio wrote in a Fox News op-ed in March. He called for a refundable tax credit people could use to purchase health insurance, reforming insurance regulations and putting Medicare and Medicaid on “fiscally sustainable” paths.

Cruz has a health care policy team that is gaming out possible outcomes at the Supreme Court, according to an adviser.

“I don’t think the answer is to extend the Obamacare subsidies,” Cruz said after an event in Red Oak, Iowa.

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If the court rules against the government, Congress should step in and say, “This isn’t working, let’s repeal it and start over,” he said. “And at a minimum, in the wake of King v. Burwell, I believe Congress should allow states to opt out.”

The Texas Republican has said that health care reform should include being able to purchase across state lines, expanding health savings accounts and unlinking insurance from employment.

In Wisconsin, where 166,142 people are receiving subsidies, premiums could jump 252 percent, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation analysis. Gov. Scott Walker (R) has said the solution needs to come from Congress, not the states. In Ohio, where 161,011 people would lose their subsidies, Gov. John Kasich (R) said the state would “have to figure something out” and has not ruled out creating a state exchange.

Bush mentioned the Affordable Care Act during his announcement speech only in the context of a court case where an order of nuns challenged the law because of a mandate that requires employers to offer insurance plans that cover contraceptives; he did not mention repealing it.

Nowhere would a ruling against the law affect more people than in his home state of Florida, where premiums could skyrocket by an average of 359 percent, according to the Kaiser analysis. An Avalere analysis found that Florida residents would have to pay on average $3,500 more a year for their premiums.

Brian Ballard, a Republican lobbyist in Tallahassee, noted that Rubio and Bush have been steadfast in their opposition to the Affordable Care Act, something that will help them with the conservative base.

“In a Republican primary I would argue that being anywhere around supportive of Obamacare would be toxic to a candidate,” Ballard said. But he acknowledged that there would be consequences.

“We’re going to have whatever backlash there is from those people receiving the entitlement. There’s no doubt that’s going to be there,” he said. “That’s going to be built into the framework of the election.”

“The solution is not to take away the Obamacare,” said Maylin Portell, who works at the insurance agency, where photos of Cuba and a wooden carving of the island hang on bright orange and yellow walls. Portell said the agency has helped more than 300 people of all ages sign up for coverage. There have been glitches, such as paperwork that needs to be reprocessed. But it would be financially devastating if consumers lost the subsidies, she said.

How Mitt Romney’s opposition to Confederate flag just put the GOP’s current presidential candidates on the spot // WaPo // Ed O’Keefe – June 20, 2015

Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nominee, strongly condemned the flying of the Confederate flag on the grounds of the South Carolina state capitol on Saturday, putting pressure on current GOP candidates to weigh in on a controversial subject in the "First in the South" primary state.

Romney's comments repeating his longtime position came in the wake of a shooting that left nine people dead Wednesday night at a historic black church in Charleston, S.C. On Saturday, authorities were working to determine whether the man accused of killing the nine African Americans attending a church Bible study was the author of a racist manifesto targeting blacks, Jews and Hispanics that was found on a Web site as part of an ongoing investigation.

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In the wake of the shootings, critics have denounced South Carolina leaders for failing to lower to half staff a Confederate flag flying on State Capitol grounds -- and for its placement near the Capitol at all. The flag has flown atop or next to the Capitol in Columbia, S.C., since 1962.

In a compromise worked out after national pressure in 2000 -- when it became an issue during presidential primary season in the key early-voting state -- the flag was removed from atop the Capitol dome in 2000 and now flies at a Civil War memorial next to the Capitol.

On Saturday, Romney took to Twitter to call the flag "a symbol of racial hatred" and said it should be removed as a tribute to the victims of the shooting.

Romney first weighed in on the flag as a Republican presidential candidate in 2007, when he said "That's not a flag I recognize."

"That flag, frankly, is divisive, and it shouldn't be shown," he said during a debate sponsored by CNN.

The comments sparked outrage among some South Carolina conservatives, a key voting bloc in the Palmetto State. In protest, a group called the Americans for the Preservation of American Culture ran several radio ads attacking Romney for not supporting the state's heritage.

Ultimately, Romney placed fourth in the South Carolina primary. He restated his opposition to the flag in 2012, when he won the GOP nomination.

While Romney took a pass on running for president yet again in 2016, he remains a widely influential figure in the Republican Party. He hosted a summit for some of his former top donors two weeks ago that was attended by several presidential candidates or their representatives.

His comments Saturday came amid the struggle by several of those candidates in recent days to articulate whether or not the flag should remain in place -- and whether the motives of the church shooter were racist.

On Saturday, former Florida governor Jeb Bush said in a statement, "My position on how to address the Confederate flag is clear. In Florida we acted, moving the flag from the state grounds to a museum where it belonged."

In 2001, Bush ordered the removal of the Confederate flag from the Florida State Capitol, where it had flown since 1978.

But Bush's statement didn't explicitly call on South Carolina to do the same: "This is obviously a very sensitive time in South Carolina and our prayers are with the families, the AME church community and the entire state. Following a period of mourning there will rightly be a discussion among leaders in the state about how South Carolina should move forward, and I'm confident they will do the right thing."

Late Friday, Bush told a Tampa Republican fundraiser that "It breaks my heart that somebody, a racist, would do the things he did" in Charleston.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), in an interview with The Washington Post, said Saturday that decisions about the flag are

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for South Carolina to decide, but that he understands "both sides" of the debate.

“Both those who see a history of racial oppression and a history of slavery, which is the original sin of our nation, and we fought a bloody civil war to expunge that sin," he said.

But, he added: "I also understand those who want to remember the sacrifices of their ancestors and the traditions of their states, not the racial oppression, but the historical traditions and I think often this issue is used as a wedge to try to divide people."

On Saturday, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is poised to launch a GOP presidential campaign, began a speech in Philadelphia by asking for a moment of silence in memory "of those nine lives" killed in Charleston. As he watched media coverage from South Carolina, he said he was stuck by how many "family and friends were already talking about forgiveness."

But Walker left his speech at the Northeast Republican Leadership Conference without taking questions from reporters, and a spokeswoman wouldn't say whether the governor had a position on the Confederate flag.

Carly Fiorina, the former corporate executive also running for president, didn't mention the shooting during a 20-minute speech Saturday at a Faith and Freedom Coalition conference in Washington. Asked about Romney's comments after her speech, she told reporters "personally I agree with him but I believe it's up to the people of South Carolina."

Spokespeople for Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.) didn't return requests for comment on the subject on Saturday.

On Friday, former Texas governor Rick Perry referred to the shooting as an "accident" -- with campaign aides quickly saying that he meant "incident." His slip of the tongue in an interview sparked a social media backlash and immediately invited comparisons to his so-called "oops" moment during a 2011 debate, when he couldn't remember the three federal agencies he wanted to eliminate as president.

Perry said during the interview with Newsmax that he would be open to taking down the flag in South Carolina, saying "maybe there's a good conversation that needs to be had."

But Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), who is also a GOP presidential candidate, dismissed questions about removing the flag when asked on Friday, telling CNN that "We're not going to give this a guy an excuse about a book he might have read or a movie he watched or a song he listened to or a symbol out anywhere. It's him ... not the flag."

Why Republicans were quick to cite religion — but not racism — on Charleston // WaPo // Jannell Ross – June 20, 2015

In the days since America absorbed the fact that a man entered a historic African American church and shot and killed nine of those in attendance, politicians have lined up to express their sympathies and/or dismay. But one likely motivation was initially, conspicuously absent from some Republicans' comments.

Racism.

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First, some facts: As reported by nearly every major paper and television news outfit Thursday, witnesses -- meaning people in the room in which the gunman sat with the bible-study group for almost an hour before opening fire -- say the suspect, Dylann Roof, 21, did not operate in silence. During an intermission in the carnage, Roof reportedly explained his actions in some almost boilerplate, American racist terms:

“I have to do it," he reportedly said, according to an account the morning after the tragedy. "You rape our women and you’re taking over our country. And you have to go.”

If, for some reason, you rank among those unfamiliar with the provenance of those ideas, consider finding an American history course to audit, immediately.

Moving on.

Also on Thursday, several outlets reported on a picture of Roof wearing a jacket with the flags of apartheid-era South Africa and Rhodesia -- another flag with clear and unmistakable racist connotations. By midnight, the Associated Press was reporting on a friend who said Roof was prone to racist rants. Friday morning, CNN had Roof's friend on video saying that Roof told him that he hoped to do something that would incite a "race war." And Saturday a manifesto, possibly written by Roof, was found posted at "The Last Rhodesian." It offered a mash-up of nearly every racist, anti-Semitic, white supremacist and "white-pride" idea available for mass consumption in the past century.

Finally, the gunman on Wednesday walked into the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. He did not go to any of the city's many open-air public venues in which a young, white man might not have stood out from the crowd. He did not enter one of the many other churches in Charleston in which Southerners of all races find such comfort and kinship that asking, "And where do you worship?" is often preceded only by a solicitation of a new acquaintance’s name.

With some of this information clear or widely reported, GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum on Thursday morning described the attack as a "crime of hate" and an assault on "religious liberty." By Friday, he added that he did think it was racist.

Also Thursday morning, Fox News's Steve Doocy posited that perhaps the massacre wasn't racially motivated at all but was instead about killing Christians.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R), like Santorum, emphasized the religious aspect of it all. On Thursday afternoon, he suggested it would be hard to know what the gunman was thinking. "Law enforcement will figure out what his so-called motivations were," Jindal said. "We shouldn’t try to pretend we’ll understand his mind. I’d love to tell you there's some predictable line between a and b."

And on Friday, former Florida Jeb Bush seemed to struggle with just how to characterize it all. "I don't know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes," Bush said at a Faith & Freedom Coalition conference. Bush's spokesman clarified the governor's position a short time later on Twitter, saying that "of course" Bush believed the attack was racially motivated.

But while all of the above were quick to talk about the massacre in terms of an assault on religion and/or perhaps-unknowable motivations, they did not so quickly allow for the most obvious and increasingly apparent reason: racism. Instead, they expressed doubt, stumbled or struggled their way awkwardly around the idea. At this point, some have clarified their position or publicly changed course to say that it was indeed racism.

So, what's going on here? Why did it take as long as it did? A few theories:

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1. They were operating out of an over-abundance of caution. We are talking about politicians, after all, and nobody wants to jump to conclusions that prove to be wrong -- especially on such a sensitive topic. Even President Obama didn't invoke the r-word -- at least directly -- in his remarks Thursday. Of course, Obama rarely uses that specific word. Instead, he referred to racism by citing "a dark part of our history" and said, "This is not the first time that black churches have been attacked, and we know the hatred across races and faiths pose a particular threat to our democracy and our ideals."

2. They know that their party is often pegged as the white party. And it is overwhelmingly white. Maybe they feared that any acknowledgement of racism -- no matter how explicit or slight -- would open some sort of invisible floodgate sending a lot of water the party's way. And since the party has aligned itself with policies such as Voter ID and bans on Affirmative Action in higher education admissions, there's a chance that whatever emerges from a more earnest discussion about racism would eventually be troublesome for their party. (And sure enough, we have now begun a full-scale discussion about how Republicans feel about the Confederate flag -- an issue that has regularly beguiled GOP candidates.)

3. Perhaps they saw the Charleston shooting as an opportunity to begin a debate about religious liberty -- an issue much more in their party's wheelhouse. If a mass shooting at an African American church is about ready access to guns, Republicans are on the defensive. If it's a moment in which talk turns to how Christians face ongoing danger -- something many Republicans believe and have persistently argued -- it's an opportunity to talk about something that appeals to many Republicans (Christianity). Jindal, in particular, has regularly talked about a "silent war" on religious liberty.

4. Maybe what we are hearing is an odd attempt to connect to the actual humanity and vulnerability of African Americans, even those murdered in a church while praying. Perhaps avoiding the r-word amounts to a kind of twisted mercy; if the black human beings who died were first and foremost Christians, perhaps this elevates them to a status beyond the race into which they were born and for which they were murdered.

As we noted, some of these Republicans have now started clearly talking about this in the racial terms that cannot be avoided. But, in this case, the facts were pretty clear from the outset.

That the gunman hates Christians has never been substantiated; that he hates black people became clear almost immediately.

Confederat e flag sets off debate in GOP 2016 class // AP // Steve Peoples – June 20, 2015

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney called for the immediate removal of the Confederate battle flag from outside the South Carolina Statehouse, scrambling the 2016 Republican presidential contenders into staking a position on a contentious cultural issue.

Some still steered clear from the sensitive debate, even after the shooting deaths of nine people in a historic African-American church in Charleston further exposed the raw emotions about the flying the flag.

Many see the Confederate flag as "a symbol of racial hatred," the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee tweeted on Saturday. "Remove it now to honor #Charleston victims."

Romney joins President Barack Obama and civil rights leaders in calling for the flag to come down as the nation grapples with Wednesday's murders. The man charged with the crimes, Dylann Storm Roof, held the Confederate flag in a photograph on a website and displayed the flags of defeated white-supremacist governments in Africa on his Facebook page.

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So far, most of the Republican Party's leading 2016 presidential contenders have been silent on flying the Stars and Bars.

South Carolina was the last state to fly the Confederate battle flag from its Capitol dome. A compromise in 2000 moved the flag to a 30-foot flagpole elsewhere on Statehouse grounds, where it has been flying at full staff.

The debate holds political risks for Republicans eager to win over South Carolina conservatives who support the display of the battle flag on public grounds. The state will host the nation's third presidential primary contest in February, a critical step in the 2016 race.

Former technology executive Carly Fiorina said Saturday she agrees the flag is a "symbol of racial hatred" yet declined to call for its removal, saying her "personal opinion is not what's relevant here."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said the last thing the people of South Carolina need is "people from outside of the state coming in and dictating how they should resolve it," Cruz said in a statement provided to The Associated Press.

He said he understands both sides of the debate — including those who see the flag as a symbol of "racial oppression and a history of slavery" and "those who want to remember the sacrifices of their ancestors and the traditions of their states — not the racial oppression, but the historical traditions."

A spokesman for Jeb Bush had no immediate comment on Saturday, although Bush ordered the Confederate flag removed from over the Florida Statehouse in his first term as governor.

Both Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Ohio Gov. John Kasich ignored questions about the flag posed by reporters over the last 24 hours. Spokesmen for most of the other Republican presidential contenders also either ignored such questions or formally declined to comment. They include Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, businessman Donald Trump and Sens. Rand Paul and Marco Rubio.

Democrats have been more willing to offer their opinions.

A White House spokesman said Friday that Obama continues to believe the flag belongs in a museum. Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton has yet to address the issue this week, but in 2007 called for the flag's removal, in part because the nation should unite under one banner while at war.

Romney: Take down the Confederate flag; 2016 GOP field: Leave it to South Carolina // Politico // Marc Caputo and Ali Breland – June 20, 2015

Mitt Romney showed his enduring influence on the Republican presidential field on Saturday when he weighed in on the national debate over the Confederate battle flag, calling bluntly for South Carolina to remove it from the state capitol in the wake of the shootings in Charleston.

“Take down the #ConfederateFlag at the SC Capitol,” the 2012 Republican nominee tweeted. “To many, it is a symbol of racial hatred. Remove it now to honor #Charleston victims.”

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It was hours before the GOP's 2016 contenders followed with statements of their own, illustrating their reluctance to wade into a conversation that could put them at odds with the base of a party with deep roots in the South and a complicated racial legacy.

Jeb Bush was the first candidate to issue a statement, noting that as governor of Florida, "we acted, moving the flag from the state grounds to a museum where it belonged." But even Bush declined to demand that South Carolina remove the controversial flag, which alleged Charleston shooter Dylann Roof was shown brandishing in photos that emerged Saturday on a website reportedly linked to him.

"This is obviously a very sensitive time in South Carolina and our prayers are with the families, the AME church community and the entire state," Bush wrote in a Facebook post. "Following a period of mourning, there will rightly be a discussion among leaders in the state about how South Carolina should move forward and I'm confident they will do the right thing."

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio approvingly pointed to Bush's decision, in 2001, to quietly move Florida's confederate flag from the state Capitol to a museum. Like Bush, Rubio said today's decision is in South Carolina's hands.

"In Florida it's not up to our — it was moved to a museum. I support that decision," Rubio said. "And I think ultimately the people of South Carolina will make the right decision for South Carolina. And I believe in their capacity to make that decision." Asked if moving the flag was an example of the "right decision," Rubio wouldn't say.

However, Rubio didn't mention that he signed on to what became a failed bill in the 2001 Florida Legislature that would have prevented the further removal of Confederate and other war memorabilia by executive action. The bill was drafted in opposition to Bush's unilateral removal of the Confederate flag at Florida's Capitol.

Rubio's comments to reporters, somewhat ironically, came during the Miami-Dade Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner, named after the president who crushed the South's rebellion, which began when South Carolinians attacked Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor.

Other Republican contenders were likewise cautious, to varying degrees.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said in a statement, "The placement of a Confederate flag on the Capitol grounds is a state issue and I fully expect the leaders of South Carolina to debate this but the conversation should wait until after the families have had a chance to bury and mourn their loved ones."

Rand Paul declined to comment.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said, "This is up to the people of South Carolina to decide, but if I were a citizen of South Carolina I'd be for taking it down."

Carly Fiorina was the only other Republican to agree with Romney, but she, too the state should make the decision. Sen. Ted Cruz told the Washington Post that South Carolina should make the decision, though he understood both sides of the debate.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, also a GOP candidate for president, told CNN: "It works here. That's what the statehouse agreed to do. You could probably visit other places in the country near some symbol that doesn't quite strike you right …We're not going to give this a guy an excuse about a book he might have read or a movie he

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watched or a song he listened to or a symbol out anywhere. It's him ... not the flag."

Democrat Hillary Clinton called for the flag's removal from South Carolina's statehouse grounds years ago, but critics have pointed out that she and her husband were silent about Confederate Flag Day and other rebel reminders in Arkansas when Bill Clinton was governor there. In an emotional speech Saturday, Clinton called for renewed efforts pass gun-control laws and decried America's enduring racial divides.

"So many of us hoped that by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history," she said.

President Barack Obama later Saturday tweeted "Good point, Mitt," linking to Romney's 8 a.m. tweet.

The debate over the Confederate flag came as Roof's purported manifesto was uncovered Saturday.

The nearly 2,500-word document lays out the alleged shooter's motivation and leaves little question that he harbored deep racial resentment toward African Americans and saw himself as a defender of white supremacy. It was published, on a website called the Last Rhodesian, along with dozens of pictures of Roof appearing with various Confederate monuments and symbols, including the flag.

For some conservatives, the issue of South Carolina's rebel flag has become an unwelcome distraction. Writing in Hot Air, Ed Morrisey noted that the issue puts GOP candidates in a theoretically tough position of either pandering to fans of the flag or writing off South Carolina in the primaries. "It puts Republicans at a stark disadvantage, all over a flag which stood for rebellion and disunity, whose purpose ended 150 years ago — and the attachment to it should have ended at the same time."

Morrisey's solution: Make South Carolina decide between keeping the rebel flag on state house grounds or keeping its early-state status in the primaries, where the flag issue becomes of outsized importance.

"If South Carolina wants to keep flying this flag at its capitol, that's their decision," Morrisey wrote. "But if that's their decision, then Republicans should push South Carolina to the end of the primary season and end this quadrennial embarrassment for Republicans in most other parts of the country. Enough is enough."

GOP Presidential Candidates: The More the Scarier // Real Clear Politics // Jonathan Riehl & David B. Frisk – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton apparently doesn't scare the Republican Party, since a candidate roster of unprecedented size is amassing in search of the party's presidential nomination. But the very size of that overcrowded field is diminishing GOP chances of retaking the White House in 2016.

For centrist voters, the chaotic array of candidates will reinforce an impression that except for criticizing the incumbent president, the GOP lacks focus. Meanwhile the Democrats will, perhaps fitfully, draw toward their center of gravity. The challenge Clinton faces in maximizing unity and enthusiasm before her coronation as nominee is not trivial, as Bernie Sanders' unexpected strength in the recent Wisconsin Democratic convention straw poll reveals. But Clinton's intra-party difficulties look trivial compared with those a ridiculously crowded field presents to the GOP.

This is all the truer because base Republican voters are juggling a complicated set of criteria that makes it hard for them to settle on what "best nominee" actually means. With no clear leader, the conservative ship of state is truly adrift – notwithstanding any half-hearted protestations about the embarrassment of riches.

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An important factor in lengthening the candidate roster and also making a quick winnowing unlikely is a long decline in political discipline among conservatives, who for many decades have dominated the Republican electorate. One notable result of this indiscipline is trouble judging who is most worth backing in a presidential race – the proliferation of fuzzy thinking about who is most likely to win a general election, remain true to conservative principles, and deliver for conservatives as president. This situation results from at least two causes. One is conservatives' and libertarians' ambivalent attitude toward power and therefore toward practical, as distinct from merely expressive, politics. The other is their long record of frustration with presidential power and federal authority.

Despite their substantial success within the GOP, some of these voters have felt increasingly alienated from a political system that has produced such limited policy victories for them in the half century since conservatives flouted the party's moderate establishment to nominate the unabashedly ideological Barry Goldwater. In addition, the famous “Buckley Rule” from that era, accurately attributed to the founding editor of National Review — that the party should nominate the rightmost viable candidate — has been widely preached but little fulfilled.

What William F. Buckley Jr. meant was that the party should focus on someone who would clearly advance the conservative cause even if he didn't win. Even by that modest standard, it would be hard to choose from among the current crop of contenders on the Republican right. How has Ted Cruz, for example, demonstrated any ability to nudge large swaths of voters in his direction, even in a losing cause? As for winning a national election while advancing conservatism’s broader agenda, Ronald Reagan may be the only nominee who ever pulled off that trick. In that sense Reagan succeeded where Goldwater did not. But in the 2016 field, the Republicans don’t appear to have a Reagan or a Goldwater. They do have a Bush, but that’s part of the problem, not the solution.

To cite one result of the dysfunctional criteria many conservatives now apply to nomination contests: Organizers of the early debates will probably feel compelled to include Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson even if their poll numbers are statistically nonexistent — lest conservatives accuse them of favoring insiders. Symbolic politics are too much at work. Conservatism and its postwar legacy of intellectual seriousness are in real peril.

The crowded debate stages will prevent any one or two candidates from making a strong enough impression to actually begin shaping the Republican field. Worse, the teeming cast will allow far too little time for viewers to learn much about candidates or issues — a problem not just for democratic citizenship, but for the GOP's morale and sense of identity as well. The overcrowding will also tend to dangerously delay the emergence of strong motivation for any particular candidate among volunteers and donors, even if they have early inclinations toward one or another. (Each candidate of any prominence will have some deeply, durably committed backers. But not, we think, a very significant number.) The existence and likely continuance of a plethora of campaigns will also multiply occasions for resentment among the supporters of various candidates, or types of candidates, as the looming battle is joined. And finally, all of this proceduralism will waste even more Republican money in the primary phase than would be the case anyway.

Furthermore, even if conservatives did promptly zero in on the questions that actually matter most to their cause, this candidate field would be hard to judge. A thumbnail sketch of the higher-profile Republican hopefuls' key assets and liabilities suggests the trouble that primary voters will have in deciding who is most electable and politically trustworthy — and therefore ending, reasonably soon, what promises to be a dangerously long primary season for the GOP.

Jeb Bush would insure the GOP against the risks of relative inexperience, can be expected to show strong command of many issues, and wouldn't offend centrist independents. But his name and the dynastic factor are backward-looking minuses — and he isn’t likely to win the hearts of social conservatives or immigration restrictionists, two constituencies that exert significant pressure on the nominating process, or the many Republicans who distrust the politics of compromise and incrementalism.

Ben Carson breaks the party's supposedly damaging “white male” image — and does so as an outspoken conservative. His combination of geniality, superior achievement in a profession far more popular than the corporate world, and fearless denunciation of the left could be formidable, but he’s never held or run for office,

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and is given to the kind of impolitic gaffes that invariably bedevil political amateurs.

Ted Cruz has a strong aura of self-promotion, and something rings hollow in his rhetoric, (and his thin Senate record) especially if he is standing next to someone like fellow freshman Sen. Rand Paul. But he can motivate conservatives, and with his public speaking skills might be able to get others to listen.

Carly Fiorina is the Hillary Clinton antidote, at least as far as gender demographics are concerned, but her resume stands in stark contrast to the Democrats' frontrunner. Clinton is a former first lady, U.S. senator, and secretary of state—though not without critics of her role as the nation's top diplomat. Fiorina is a corporate CEO with a mixed record of success and a failed Senate candidate.

Mike Huckabee has, like Jeb Bush, "run" a state. Uniquely among the candidates, he also has experience dealing with the Clinton machine back home in Arkansas. More than most in the field, he understands the economic plight of working and middle-class Americans. And his commitment to social conservatism is genuine and appreciated by the GOP base, but may have limited appeal. Those traits might make him a more formidable primary season candidate than his current poll numbers suggest, but his social conservatism could render him unelectable in November 2016.

Rand Paul capitalizes credibly on the anti-Washington mood —giving the impression of an honest, committed, independent thinker who would rather be right than president. But his tendency toward isolationism — even if he pref ers it to be called non-interventionism — is simply not in sync with most Republicans' foreign policy views.

Marco Rubio, the third of the GOP's troika of freshmen senators, is a fresh face, projects inclusiveness and optimism, and is especially quick and articulate. Like Cruz, he is Hispanic and speaks evocatively of the immigrant experience. But many conservatives also want a candidate who can speak convincingly of the great danger they believe the country is in — and who is comfortable "going negative." He may not be able to.

Scott Walker has an impressive gubernatorial and electoral record, beating back the twin bogeymen of public-employee unions and MSNBC (in the person of Ed Schultz) for good measure. But does he have the charisma the role demands? His network of think tank leaders, opinion leaders, and donors is impressive to insiders, but does he come across as presidential? Will his lack of gravitas give voters pause?

Why Can't Republicans Admit Dylann Roof Was Racist? **// NY Mag // Jonathan Chait – June 20, 2015**

The mysteriousness of Dylann Roof's motivations for allegedly murdering a room full of African-Americans, rated on a scale of 1 through 10, is zero. Roof has been described by people who knew him as obsessed with racial hatred, has been photographed with racist symbolism, told his victims he planned to murder them because of their race, and even let one live specifically so that she could let the world know the reason for his crime. It is entirely possible that some form of mental illness or adverse life event caused Roof to embrace violent racism, but there is zero doubt that racism directly motivated his actions.

Bizarrely, a number of conservative figures have treated Roof's motives as unknowable. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley wrote, "we do know that we'll never understand what motivates anyone to enter one of our places of worship and take the life of another." The Wall Street Journal editorializes today, "What causes young men such as Dylann Roof to erupt in homicidal rage, whatever their motivation, is a problem that defies explanation beyond the reality that evil still stalks humanity."

Jeb Bush, appearing at the Faith & Freedom Coalition Conference, said, "I don't know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes." When pressed for a follow-up by the Huffington Post, Bush continued to equivocate:

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"It was a horrific act and I don't know what the background of it is, but it was an act of hatred," Bush said.

Asked again whether the shooting was because of race, Bush added, "I don't know. Looks like to me it was, but we'll find out all the information. It's clear it was an act of raw hatred, for sure. Nine people lost their lives, and they were African-American. You can judge what it is."

What's genuinely mysterious is not just why conservatives believe such nonsense but why they feel obliged to say it. After all, the Republican Party may be in general denial about the persistence of racism as a continuing force in American life, and openly racist whites may be a part of their constituency (just as they have long been part of the Democratic Party's constituency).

In 2000, George W. Bush gave a speech at Bob Jones University, which banned interracial dating. But Bush was competing in a Republican primary in South Carolina and really needed the votes of whites who opposed interracial dating. Neither Jeb Bush nor other Republicans need the votes of racist murderers to win an election. It would be very easy to identify a confessed white-supremacist murderer without doing violence to the overall conservative worldview. It is not like admitting the persistence of racial discrimination by police or employers or school administrators or courts, all of which put pressure on conservative policies. Just say there are still a small number of racist murderers in America!

Roof's actions are a completely sensible expression of his twisted worldview. It's the failure to admit it that's senseless.

Religion and politics: GOP hopefuls' new insight on faith // AP // Steve Peoples – June 20, 2015

Republican presidential contenders railed against abortion rights on Saturday as they courted religious conservatives, promising Christian values would guide their personal decisions and public policies should they win the presidency.

"My faith has guided me for my entire life, and I don't suspect that's going to change," former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said after ticking off a list of abortion restrictions enacted while he led Texas. "No candidate's done more to protect unborn life."

Perry was among nearly a dozen presidential hopefuls in Washington this week for one of the nation's premier gatherings of Christian activists.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called his Catholic faith "an organizing part of my architecture." Ohio Gov. John Kasich said religion gives him more empathy toward the poor. And Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas cited his Christian values in lashing out at the Supreme Court.

The Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual conference began the day after nine African-Americans were shot to death inside a historic South Carolina church, offering a grim backdrop to the three-day meeting designed to give religious activists a closer look at the large class of GOP candidates and others considering bids.

Beyond decrying the shootings in South Carolina, presidential prospects offered religious conservatives an intimate look at the role of faith in their public lives.

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Speaking on Friday, Bush noted that he converted to Catholicism after marrying his Mexican-born wife. The religion, he said, has been "an organizing part of my architecture, if you will, as a person and certainly as an elected official."

He highlighted his work to institute new abortion restrictions during his administration, which included strict parental notification laws and a ban on "partial-birth" abortion. He also cited his fight for the life of Terry Schiavo, a Florida woman kept in a vegetative state for 15 years on life support. While her husband wanted her feeding tubes removed, Bush ordered the tubes reinserted only to be overruled by a federal court.

"I insisted that we build a culture of life," Bush said of his eight years as Florida governor.

Asserting that "people of sincere faith make better leaders," former technology executive Carly Fiorina criticized Democrats for being weak on social issues. "I do not think progressives share our belief in gifts and the dignity of each and every human life," she said.

Kasich, who is expected to launch a presidential bid in the coming weeks, said his Catholic background pushed him to run for governor.

"I got a calling, folks," he said Friday in a speech referring to Bible verses from memory more than once.

"What my faith does for me, I hope, is gives me strength, it allows me to have patience, it helps me to love my enemies, it helps me to care more about other people," Kasich told reporters after leaving the stage.

The Republican Party's evangelical wing wields great influence in the selection of the GOP's presidential nominee, particularly in Iowa and many of the southern states scheduled to host primary contests early in the voting calendar — South Carolina prominent among them.

Exit polls taken during the 2014 midterm elections found that 4 in 10 Republican voters were white evangelical Christians, and nearly half attended religious services weekly. Among Democrats, a third attend services weekly, while 11 percent are white born-again Christians.

While this week's conference drew almost the entire Republican presidential field, some contenders will do better with Christian conservatives than others.

Both Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Perry have hosted daylong prayer events in their states. Cruz had a strong religious upbringing. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum is a devoted social conservative. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is also a Baptist minister.

Conference organizers were largely pleased with the Republicans' focus on faith, although some said talk is cheap. A real test, they suggested, would come after the Supreme Court weighs in on gay marriage. The court may strike down state laws that ban the practice.

"We'll see who's offering political sound bites and who shows up when the going gets tough," said Timothy Head, executive director of the Faith and Freedom Coalition.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

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TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Wait Lists Grow as Many More Veterans Seek Care and Funding Falls Far Short // NYT // Richard Oppel – June 20, 2015

One year after outrage about long waiting lists for health care shook the Department of Veterans Affairs, the agency is facing a new crisis: The number of veterans on waiting lists of one month or more is now 50 percent higher than it was during the height of last year's problems, department officials say. The department is also facing a nearly $3 billion budget shortfall, which could affect care for many veterans.

The agency is considering furloughs, hiring freezes and other significant moves to reduce the gap. A proposal to address a shortage of funds for one drug — a new, more effective but more costly hepatitis C treatment — by possibly rationing new treatments among veterans and excluding certain patients who have advanced terminal diseases or suffer from a "persistent vegetative state or advanced dementia" is stirring bitter debate inside the department.

The Veterans Affairs medical center in Phoenix, where 1,700 patients were not placed on the official waiting list for doctors' appointments, a report by the agency's inspector general found.Severe Report Finds V.A. Hid Waiting Lists at HospitalsMAY 28, 2014

Agency officials expect to petition Congress this week to allow them to shift money into programs running short of cash. But that may place them at odds with Republican lawmakers who object to removing funds from a new program intended to allow certain veterans on waiting lists and in rural areas to choose taxpayer-paid care from private doctors outside the department's health system.

"Something has to give," the department's deputy secretary, Sloan D. Gibson, said in an interview. "We can't leave this as the status quo. We are not meeting the needs of veterans, and veterans are signaling that to us by coming in for additional care, and we can't deliver it as timely as we want to."

Since the waiting-list scandal broke last year, the department has broadly expanded access to care. Its doctors and nurses have handled 2.7 million more appointments than in any previous year, while authorizing 900,000 additional patients to see outside physicians. In all, agency officials say, they have increased capacity by more than seven million patient visits per year — double what they originally thought they needed to fix shortcomings.

But what was not foreseen, department leaders say, was just how much physician workloads and demand from veterans would continue to soar — by one-fifth, in fact, at some major veterans hospitals over just the past year.

According to internal department budget documents obtained by The New York Times, physician workloads — as measured by an internal metric known as "relative value units" — grew by 21 percent at hospitals and clinics in the region that includes Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina; by 20 percent in the Southern California and southern Nevada regions; and by 18 percent in North Carolina and Virginia. And by the same measure, physician care purchased for patients treated outside the department grew by 50 percent in the region encompassing Pennsylvania and by 36 percent in the region that includes Michigan and Indiana.

Those data include multiple appointments by individual patients and reflect the fact that patients typically now schedule more appointments than they did in the past. But even measured by the number of individuals being

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treated, the figures are soaring in many places: From 2012 to 2014, for example, the number of patients receiving treatment grew by 18 percent at the Las Vegas medical center; by 16 percent in Hampton, Va.; and by 13 percent in Fayetteville, N.C., and Portland, Ore.

Mr. Gibson said in the interview that officials had been stunned by the number of new patients seeking treatment even as the V.A. had increased its capacity. He said he was frustrated that the agency was running short of funds. “We have been pushing to accelerate access to care for veterans, but where we now find ourselves is that if we don’t do something different we’re going to be $2.7 billion short,” he said.

He said he planned to tell Congress this week that the agency needed to be able to shift funds around to avoid a crisis this fiscal year. That includes using funds from a new program that was a priority for congressional Republicans called the “Choice Card,” which allows certain veterans to obtain taxpayer-funded care from private doctors. That money would be used to pay for hepatitis C treatments and other care from outside doctors.

In future years, Mr. Gibson said, more money will also be needed. He said he intended to tell lawmakers, “Veterans are going to respond with increased demand, so get your checkbooks out.”

The largest driver of costs has been programs designed to send patients to outside doctors, either because of delays seeing V.A. clinicians or because patients need treatments outside the system. Other major factors include the demand for new prosthetic limbs and for the new hepatitis C treatment.

The “daily obligation rate in medical services” inside the Veterans Health Administration — the part of the department that handles medical care — is $166 million, or 9.2 percent higher than last fiscal year, according to a presentation last week for senior department leaders. Costs for drugs and medications have risen by nearly 17 percent, with much of the increase because of the new hepatitis C treatment, according to the document. An agency memo from last month stated that the need for the new hepatitis C treatment “has greatly outpaced V.A.’s ability to internally provide all aspects of this care.”

The crisis may come to a head when Mr. Gibson testifies on Thursday on Capitol Hill, where Republicans have already criticized what they see as foot-dragging by the department on starting the Choice Card program. One congressional official briefed on the budget problems also said the agency had been slow to recognize how much demand and costs would soar for hepatitis C treatments. The budding crisis may reopen a partisan debate about veterans’ health care that has paralleled a larger philosophical debate about the size of government.

Last year’s waiting-list crisis led to complaints that the department was divided by an acrimonious and retaliatory culture, where whistle-blowers were punished and constructive criticism was stifled. But many experts say the principal problems were a shortage of doctors and nurses in the system, the nation’s largest integrated health care organization, and a lack of office space for patient care — while demand rose sharply from aging Vietnam War veterans and service members from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The department’s inspector general eventually concluded that “the systemic underreporting of wait times resulted from many causes, to include the lack of available staff and appointments, increased patient demand for services, and an antiquated scheduling system.”

Dylann Roof Photos and a Manifesto Are Posted on Website **// NYT // Frances Robles – June 20, 2015**

Dylann Roof spat on and burned the American flag, but waved the Confederate.

He posed for pictures wearing a No. 88 T-shirt, had 88 Facebook friends and wrote that number — white supremacist code for “Heil Hitler”— in the South Carolina sand.

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A website discovered Saturday appears to offer the first serious look at Mr. Roof's thinking, including how the case of Trayvon Martin, the black Florida teenager shot to death in 2012 by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, triggered his racist rage. The site shows a stash of 60 photographs, many of them of Mr. Roof at Confederate heritage sites or slavery museums, and includes a nearly 2,500-word manifesto in which the author criticized blacks as being inferior while lamenting the cowardice of white flight.

"I have no choice," it reads. "I am not in the position to, alone, go into the ghetto and fight. I chose Charleston because it is most historic city in my state, and at one time had the highest ratio of blacks to Whites in the country. We have no skinheads, no real KKK, no one doing anything but talking on the internet. Well someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me."

The website was first registered on Feb. 9 in the name of Dylann Roof, the 21-year-old man charged with entering the historically black Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston on Wednesday night, attending a prayer meeting for an hour and then murdering nine parishioners. The day after the site was registered, the registration information was intentionally masked.

It is not clear whether the manifesto was written by Mr. Roof or if he had control of it. Nor is it clear whether he took the pictures with a timer, or if someone else took them. In a joint statement Saturday night, the Charleston Police Department and the F.B.I. said they were aware of the website and were "taking steps to verify the authenticity of these postings."

If it is genuine, as his friends seem to think, the tourist sites he visited, the pictures that were posted and the hate-filled words on the site offered a chilling glimpse into the interests of an unemployed former landscaper said to have a fixation on race.

The racial makeup of Charleston shifted drastically over the last three decades. In 1980, blacks made up nearly half of the city's population. Today the city is two-thirds white. The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church is located in a predominantly white area of the city's downtown peninsula.

"This whole racist thing came into him within the past five years," said Caleb Brown, a childhood friend of Mr. Roof's who is half black. "He was never really popular; he accepted that. He wasn't like: 'When I grow up I am going to show all these kids.' He accepted who he was, and who he was changed, obviously."

Mr. Roof has been charged with nine counts of murder in the killings. Victims included the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, who was both the church pastor and a state senator.

Mr. Roof's friends say that he only spoke of his murderous plans once — when he recently warned that he planned to do something crazy with the gun he had purchased with the money he got from his parents for his 21st birthday. But they say his sense of racial grievance began with the Trayvon Martin case.

The website, the lastrhodesian.com , which was not working by Saturday afternoon, featured a photo of a bloodied dead white man on the floor. The picture appears to be an image from "Romper Stomper," an Australian movie about neo-Nazis. The domain name is a reference to the white minority of what is now Zimbabwe, where whites fought blacks for 15 years and enlisted white supremacists as mercenaries.

The site was first discovered by a blogger who goes by the pen name Emma Quangel, who paid $49 for a reverse domain search that turned up the site.

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According to web server logs, the manifesto was last modified at 4:44 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, the day of the Charleston shootings, and the essay notes, “at the time of writing I am in a great hurry.”

In the manifesto, Mr. Roof writes: “The event that truly awakened me was the Trayvon Martin case. I kept hearing and seeing his name, and eventually I decided to look him up. I read the Wikipedia article and right away I was unable to understand what the big deal was. It was obvious that Zimmerman was in the right. But more importantly this prompted me to type in the words ‘black on White crime’ into Google, and I have never been the same since that day.”

The manifesto also says he learned from the website of the far-right Council of Conservative Citizens. The council is an off-shoot of a 1950s era-organization that fought school desegregation. A message on its website says the group is “deeply saddened by the Charleston killing spree.”

A friend of Mr. Roof’s, Jacob Meek, 15, said the references to the Trayvon Martin case made it clear that Mr. Roof had written the essay. “That’s his website,” he said. “He wrote it, and I just can tell.”

Watchdog groups that track right-wing extremism say the manifesto reflects the language found in white supremacist forums online and dovetails with what has been said about Mr. Roof thus far — that he had self-radicalized, and that he did not belong to a particular hate group. “It’s clear that he was extremely receptive to those ideas,” said Mark Pitcavage, the director of the Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism. “At the same time, he does not have a sophisticated knowledge of white supremacy.”

The icon for the browser tab on Mr. Roof’s website is an Othala rune, an ancient symbol appropriated by the Nazis that remains common among neo-Nazi groups.

Mr. Roof was the latest in what watchdog groups say is a growing group of lone-wolf extremists. According to a study released in February by the Southern Poverty Law Center, about 70 percent of the 60 recent domestic terrorism attacks reviewed were conducted by people acting alone.

The writings on Mr. Roof’s website show a fixation with black-on-white crime, which is common on white supremacy sites, said Heidi Beirich, the director of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Intelligence Project.

“They demonize blacks to position themselves as victims, and offer that as proof of why they need their own state,” she said.

In one photograph posted on the website, Mr. Roof is shown posing with wax figures of slaves. In others, he posed with a handgun that appears to be a .45-caliber Glock. He had a .45-caliber Glock in his car when he was arrested Thursday, the police said.

The website’s links contain several passages of long racist rants, in which he said Hispanics are enemies, and “Negroes” have lower I.Q.s and low impulse control. The manifesto praises segregation and says the author’s reading of “hundreds” of slave narratives indicates that almost all slaves gave positive accounts of their lives. The manifesto uses defamatory terms for blacks, whom he accused of being “stupid and violent” with “the capacity to be very slick.” It laments white flight, and suggested that the whites should instead stay behind in cities and fight.

Criticisms are also levied at Jews, but Asians are praised for being racists and potential allies. Mr. Brown said his friend’s transformation appeared to have occurred after he left Columbia, S.C., for nearby Lexington. Records show he switched schools in 2007. “He wasn’t putting on Facebook ‘I hate black people. I am going to shoot up a church,’ ” Mr. Brown said.

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Anthem Raises Offer for Cigna to $47.5 Billion // WSJ // Jonathan D. Rockoff, Dana Cimilluca, Dana Mattioli And Liz Hoffman – June 20, 2015

Anthem Inc. boosted its takeover offer for Cigna Corp. and is going public with the bid after the two sides failed to reach agreement, the latest move in a frenzy of attempted mergers among health insurers.

Anthem in a statement said it has offered $184 a share for Cigna. That equates to about $47.5 billion for all the company's stock that was recently outstanding. Anthem is making the cash-and-stock offer public in an effort to put pressure on Cigna through its shareholders, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Cigna had no comment Saturday afternoon.

Anthem's pursuit of Cigna comes as Cigna and others are eyeing Humana Inc., which has put itself up for sale. Aetna Inc. in the last few days made a takeover proposal to Humana. It isn't clear how much Aetna indicated it would pay.

UnitedHealth Group Inc., meanwhile, recently made a takeover approach to Aetna.

It isn't clear what, if any, Aetna's response was.

The five big managed-care companies are jockeying for deals that will enable them to get more efficient and better respond to changes in the health care landscape in the U.S. brought on by the Affordable Care Act and other developments.

Analysts says it is likely regulators will only allow one or two such combinations.

Anthem, which is based in Indianapolis and until last year was known as WellPoint, made a number of bids for Cigna privately in June, according to a letter Anthem Chief Executive Joseph Swedish sent to Cigna's board Saturday. The letter was released by Anthem. Among other things, it details disagreement the two sides have over the role Cigna CEO David Cordani would play in a combined company. He wants to be CEO, if not immediately then after a period of time, which Anthem refuses to guarantee.

Anthem's bid consists of about 31% of its own shares and the rest in cash. About 76% of the combined company would be owned by Anthem shareholders, while Cigna investors would own the rest, according to the latest proposal.

Cigna is seeking a nearly 50-50 split of directors on a combined company's board, Anthem said. Cigna also pushed for an offer price split evenly between cash and stock, according to Anthem.

Anthem, which said it has been in negotiations with Cigna since Aug. 2014, bemoaned what it called its rival's refusal to "reasonably negotiate." It said the governance demands Cigna is making are excessive, given the rich premium Anthem says it is offering.

"We were stunned that the Cigna board continues to insist on a guaranteed CEO position for Mr. Cordani over

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choosing to allow its stockholders to realize the significant premium being offered," the Anthem letter reads.

Anthem said it submitted four bids in June, the most recent, of $184 a share, on Thursday.

Shares of Cigna, which is based in Bloomfield, Conn., closed Friday at $155.30, giving the company a market value of $40 billion.

A combination would create a big player in the commercial health-insurance business, with strong positions among individual, small-business and big-employer clients. It would vault Anthem, the nation's second-largest health insurer, closer to UnitedHealth in size. Cigna's revenue last year totaled $34.9 billion, while Anthem's was $73.9 billion. UnitedHealth had revenue of $130.5 billion, including its health-services arm, Optum, while Aetna's was $58 billion and Humana's was $48.5 billion.

Anthem is a huge player in the individual and small-group markets in the 14 states where it holds the rights to be the Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurer. It also has a strong role among national employers. Cigna, meantime, focuses closely on self-insured commercial business and has a significant and growing position overseas.

A merged company would have a bigger presence in the fast-growing Medicare Advantage market, an area where both companies have lagged behind competitors. Together, Anthem and Cigna would have more than a million Medicare members. Anthem also has a major presence in Medicaid.

An attempt to seal an Anthem-Cigna merger could be complicated by Anthem's role as a Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurer, however.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans hold geographic rights to use the Blue brand only in a particular area, and they also agree to certain limits on their non-Blue business. It is unclear how Anthem would manage the legacy Cigna business in states where another insurer is the local Blue. In its letter, Anthem said it was "confident in its ability to obtain regulatory approvals" and this "includes matters related to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association."

Humana has held sale talks with companies including Cigna and Aetna, people familiar with the matter have said. Humana, based in Louisville, Ky., gets the bulk of its revenue from its business administering the private version of the federal Medicare program.

The company is seen as a prize because of its powerful Medicare franchise, which is growing rapidly as baby boomers age into eligibility and opt for these plans, known as Medicare Advantage.

Aetna has been viewed by some industry analysts as the most likely acquirer of Humana, and executives at Aetna have spoken publicly about their interest in acquisitions.

INTERNATIONAL

Attack Gave Chinese Hackers Privileged Access to U.S. Systems // NYT // David E. Sanger , Nicole Perlroth And Michael D. Shear – June 20, 2015

For more than five years, American intelligence agencies followed several groups of Chinese hackers who were

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systematically draining information from defense contractors, energy firms and electronics makers, their targets shifting to fit Beijing's latest economic priorities.

But last summer, officials lost the trail as some of the hackers changed focus again, burrowing deep into United States government computer systems that contain vast troves of personnel data, according to American officials briefed on a federal investigation into the attack and private security experts.

Undetected for nearly a year, the Chinese intruders executed a sophisticated attack that gave them "administrator privileges" into the computer networks at the Office of Personnel Management, mimicking the credentials of people who run the agency's systems, two senior administration officials said. The hackers began siphoning out a rush of data after constructing what amounted to an electronic pipeline that led back to China, investigators told Congress last week in classified briefings.

Much of the personnel data had been stored in the lightly protected systems of the Department of the Interior, because it had cheap, available space for digital data storage. The hackers' ultimate target: the one million or so federal employees and contractors who have filled out a form known as SF-86, which is stored in a different computer bank and details personal, financial and medical histories for anyone seeking a security clearance.

"This was classic espionage, just on a scale we've never seen before from a traditional adversary," one senior administration official said. "And it's not a satisfactory answer to say, 'We found it and stopped it,' when we should have seen it coming years ago."

The administration is urgently working to determine what other agencies are storing similarly sensitive information with weak protections. Officials would not identify their top concerns, but an audit issued early last year, before the Chinese attacks, harshly criticized lax security at the Internal Revenue Service, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Energy Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission — and the Department of Homeland Security, which has responsibility for securing the nation's critical networks.

At the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which regulates nuclear facilities, information about crucial components was left on unsecured network drives, and the agency lost track of laptops with critical data.

Computers at the I.R.S. allowed employees to use weak passwords like "password." One report detailed 7,329 "potential vulnerabilities" because software patches had not been installed. Auditors at the Department of Education, which stores information from millions of student loan applicants, were able to connect "rogue" computers and hardware to the network without being noticed. And at the Securities and Exchange Commission, part of the network had no firewall or intrusion protection for months.

"We are not where we need to be in terms of federal cybersecurity," said Lisa Monaco, President Obama's homeland security adviser. At an Aspen Institute conference in Washington on Tuesday, she blamed out-of-date "legacy systems" that have not been updated for a modern, networked world where remote access is routine. The systems are not continuously monitored to know who is online, and what kind of data they are shipping out.

In congressional testimony and in interviews, officials investigating the breach at the personnel office have struggled to explain why the defenses were so poor for so long. Last week, the office's director, Katherine Archuleta, stumbled through a two-hour congressional hearing. She was unable to say why the agency did not follow through on inspector general reports, dating back to 2010, that found severe security lapses and recommended shutting down systems with security clearance data.

When she failed to explain why much of the information in the system was not encrypted — something that is standard today on iPhones, for example — Representative Stephen F. Lynch, a Massachusetts Democrat who usually supports Mr. Obama's initiatives, snapped at her. "I wish that you were as strenuous and hardworking at

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keeping information out of the hands of hackers," he said, "as you are keeping information out of the hands of Congress and federal employees."

Her performance in classified briefings also frustrated several lawmakers. "I don't get the sense at all they understand the problem," said Representative Jim Langevin, a Rhode Island Democrat, who called for Ms. Archuleta's resignation. "They seem like deer in the headlights."

Josh Earnest, the White House spokesman, said on Wednesday that Mr. Obama remained confident that Ms. Archuleta "is the right person for the job." Ms. Archuleta, who took office in November 2013, did not respond to a request for an interview.

But even some White House aides say a lack of focus by managers contributed to the security problems. It was not until early last year, as computer attacks began on United States Investigations Services, a private contractor that conducts security clearance interviews for the personnel office, that serious efforts to develop a strategic plan to seal up the agency's many vulnerabilities started.

The attacks on the contractor "should have been a huge red flag," said one senior military official who has reviewed the evidence of China's involvement. "But it didn't set off the alarms it should have."

Federal and private investigators piecing together the attacks now say they believe the same groups responsible for the attacks on the personnel office and the contractor had previously intruded on computer networks at health insurance companies, notably Anthem Inc. and Premera Blue Cross.

What those attacks had in common was the theft of millions of pieces of valuable personal data — including Social Security numbers — that have never shown up on black markets, where such information can fetch a high price. That could be an indicator of state sponsorship, according to James A. Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

But federal investigators, who like other officials would not speak on the record about a continuing inquiry, said the exact affiliation between the hackers and the Chinese government was not fully understood. Their tools and techniques, though, were easily identifiable to intelligence analysts and the security researchers who have been analyzing the breaches at the insurers and the Office of Personnel Management. Federal officials believe several groups were involved, though some security experts only detected one.

"Since mid-2014, we have observed a threat group target valuable 'personally identifiable information' from multiple organizations in the health care insurance and travel industries," said Mike Oppenheim, the manager of threat intelligence at FireEye, a cybersecurity company. "We believe this group is behind the O.P.M. breach and have tracked this group's activities since early 2013."

But he argued that "unlike other actors operating from China who conduct industrial espionage, take intellectual property or steal defense technology, this group has primarily targeted information that would enable it to build a database of Americans, with a likely focus on diplomats, intelligence operatives and those with business in China."

While Mr. Obama publicly named North Korea as the country that attacked Sony Pictures Entertainment last year, he and his aides have described the Chinese hackers in the government records case only to members of Congress in classified hearings. Blaming the Chinese in public could affect cooperation on limiting the Iranian nuclear program and tensions with China's Asian neighbors. But the subject is bound to come up this week when senior Chinese officials meet in Washington for an annual strategic and economic dialogue.

Though their targets have changed over time, the hackers' digital fingerprints stayed much the same. That allowed

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analysts at the National Security Agency and the F.B.I. to periodically catch glimpses of their movements as they breached an ever more diverse array of computer networks.

Yet there is no indication that the personnel office realized that it had become a Chinese target for almost a year. Donna K. Seymour, the chief information officer, said the agency put together last year "a very progressive, proactive plan that allowed us to see the adversarial activity," and argued that "had we not been on that path, we may never have seen anything" this spring. She cautioned, "There is no one security tool that is a panacea."

A congressional report issued in February 2014 by the Republican staff of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, concluded that multiple federal agencies with responsibility for critical infrastructure and holding vast amounts of information "continue to leave themselves vulnerable, often by failing to take the most basic steps towards securing their systems and information."

The report reserves its harshest criticism for the repeated failures of agency officials to take steps — some of them very basic — that would help thwart cyberattacks.

Computers at the Department of Homeland Security, which is charged with protecting the nation's public infrastructure, contained hundreds of vulnerabilities as recently as 2010, according to authors of the report. They said computer security failures remained across agencies even though the government has spent "at least $65 billion" since 2006 on protective measures.

At the personnel office, a set of new intrusion tools used on the system set off an alarm in March, Ms. Seymour said. The F.B.I. and the United States Computer Emergency Response Team, which works on network intrusions, found evidence that the hackers had obtained the credentials used by people who run the computer systems. Ms. Seymour would say only that the hackers got "privileged user access." The administration is still trying to determine how many of the SF-86 national security forms — which include information that could be useful for anyone seeking to identify or recruit an American intelligence agent, nuclear weapons engineer or vulnerable diplomat — had been stolen.

"They are casting a very wide net," John Hultquist, a senior manager of cyberespionage threat intelligence at iSight Partners, said of the hackers targeting of Americans' personal data. "We're in a new space here and we don't entirely know what they're trying to do with it."

Greece Considers Last-Ditch Proposals to Avoid Collision With Bailout Creditors // WSJ // Marcus Walker & Nektaria Stamouli – June 20, 2015

Greece's government is considering new fiscal proposals to avoid a collision with its creditors on Monday, in what could be a last-ditch effort to avert capital controls and a debt default, according to two Athens officials.

Government members are putting together a plan they hope would achieve budget targets that bailout creditors want, while relying more on eliminating tax breaks and less on pension cuts than the lenders' own proposal, the officials said.

The Greek cabinet is due to discuss the proposal on Sunday morning. It isn't clear whether the cabinet under Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras will endorse the plan, which was being prepared on the weekend by Deputy Prime Minister Yannis Dragasakis and others who are considered among the more pragmatic members of the leftist Syriza-led government.

Greece is under heavy pressure to convince its creditors it can hit ambitious fiscal targets ahead of scheduled meetings on Monday of eurozone finance ministers and, later in the day, of eurozone heads of government.

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European leaders have said Monday's high-level meetings won't reach any agreements unless Greece first presents convincing policy measures to inspectors from the International Monetary Fund, the European Union Commission and the European Central Bank, which oversee Greece's bailout program.

Finding measures to reach the fiscal targets creditors want has become crucial for unlocking fresh bailout financing for Greece, without which the country would have to default on its debts in coming weeks, including on loan repayments to the IMF on June 30 and on bonds held by the European Central Bank in July and August.

Failure to agree on Monday could quickly lead to capital controls in Greece, European officials said. The officials said a majority of members on the ECB's governing council is increasingly impatient with what it sees as Mr. Tsipras's stonewalling and anti-creditor rhetoric at a time when deposits are fleeing from Greek banks at a rate of around €1 billion a day. Greece's central bank, which is a member of the ECB, is having to cover that deposit flight.

A summit failure on Monday could well prompt the ECB's governing council to curb the provision of central-bank liquidity to Greek banks as early as this coming week, the officials said. Such a move would force Greece to impose capital controls that limit bank withdrawals, money transfers abroad and other financial transactions, likely plunging Greece's economy deeper into recession.

The new Greek proposals include elimination of many tax breaks, including scrapping exemptions on taxes on income from labor and capital, as well as levies on fuel, retail sales and other items. The extra revenues that this move could achieve, some officials hope, would allow shallower cuts in government pension spending, which could make the overall package less politically painful for the Athens.

Under one version of the proposal, pension spending would be lowered by 0.5% of gross domestic product a year, compared with 1% of GDP under a proposed package of policy measures put forward by the IMF, the EU Commission and ECB in early June. That policy package was compiled after a summit of key European leaders in Berlin on June 2, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel and others decided to present Mr. Tsipras with the outlines of their final offer.

The Greek premier was told he could only change measures in that proposed package if he offers alternative measures that achieve the same fiscal effect. Mr. Tsipras has repeatedly denounced measures demanded by the creditors.

Meanwhile, his government's proposed alternative measures up to now have been dismissed by lenders as falling a long way short of what is needed to put Greece's public finances on a sustainable footing. In particular, the IMF, with German backing, has insisted that major cuts in pension spending are unavoidable.

A cull of tax exemptions that Greece's cabinet will consider on Sunday would not only allow for smaller pension cuts, supporters of the idea hope, but would also allow Greece to avoid imposing a hefty increase in value-added tax on electricity—another measure the IMF and EU have proposed but which is politically hard to sell for Syriza.

It wasn't clear late on Saturday whether Mr. Tsipras had thrown his support behind the proposal from the pragmatic members of his government. Mr. Tsipras, in recent weeks, has shown defiance toward Greece's main creditors—other eurozone governments and the IMF,—rejecting their demands and insisting creditors, not Athens, produce more-acceptable proposals.

Some members of Syriza and of the cabinet, including Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, have continued to press Mr. Tsipras to stand firm. The hard-line camp in Athens argues that creditors, led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, will offer Greece a more-lenient deal at the last minute rather than countenance a Greek debt default and

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exit from the eurozone.

Eliminating all tax exemptions in Greece's complicated tax code could raise around €3 billion a year in extra revenue, the Bank of Greece estimated in its recent annual report.

Greek governments of all political persuasions have so far shied away from scrapping tax exemptions en masse for fear of angering various interest groups that benefit from the breaks, ranging from farmers to hoteliers on Greek islands. Mr. Tsipras's left-wing Syriza party has also shunned this option so far.

Nor was it clear late Saturday whether the latest Greek proposals, if endorsed by the cabinet, would convince officials from the IMF, EU Commission and ECB. Those three institutions have complained for weeks that Athens hasn't put forward sufficiently concrete or comprehensive policy overhauls.

In the past, those institutions have signaled to Greece that they were open to scrapping tax exemptions, but they have also warned that Greece's economy is already heavily taxed and that spending cuts, including to pensions, are also unavoidable.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Trade Winds Blow Ill for Hillary **// NYT // Maureen Dowd - June 20, 2015**

WASHINGTON — IT'S hard being Elizabeth Warren.

Especially when you're not Elizabeth Warren.

Hillary Clinton had an awkward collision last week juggling her past role as President Obama's secretary of state, her current role as Democratic front-runner and her coveted future role as president.

As secretary of state, she helped Obama push the Trans-Pacific Partnership that is at the center of the current trade fight. In Australia in 2012, she was effusive, saying that the trade pact "sets the gold standard in trade agreements to open free, transparent, fair trade, the kind of environment that has the rule of law and a level playing field. And when negotiated, this agreement will cover 40 percent of the world's total trade and build in strong protections for workers and the environment."

Now Hillary says she is unsure about the pact and would likely oppose giving President Obama the special authority to negotiate trade deals for an up-or-down vote in Congress. As a future president, of course, she would want the same authority to negotiate trade deals that Obama is seeking in the messy Capitol Hill donnybrook.

But as a candidate pressured by progressives like Warren and Bernie Sanders and by labor unions, she turned to Jell-O, shimmying around an issue she had once owned and offering an unpleasant reminder of why "Clintonian" became a synonym for skirting the truth.

It depends on what your definition of trade is — and trade-off.

Hillary has vowed to be more straightforward this time about running as a woman, her position on immigration

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and her relations with the press (which are still imperious). The heartbreaking mass shooting in a black church in Charleston, S.C., Hillary said, should force the country to face up to “hard truths” about race, violence and guns.

But even after all her seasoning as a senator and secretary of state, even after all her enthusiastic suasion on the president’s trade bill, she can’t face up to hard truths on trade.

And we have to play this silly game with her, as she dances and ducks, undermining President Obama by siding with Nancy Pelosi after Pelosi filleted the trade deal on the House floor.

“The president should listen to and work with his allies in Congress, starting with Nancy Pelosi,” Hillary said in Iowa last weekend, torpedoing White House efforts to lure Democrats back on board.

In an interview with the Nevada journalist Jon Ralston on Thursday, Hillary slid around her previous support of the Pacific trade pact and said that if she were still in the Senate, she would “probably” vote no on the trade promotion authority bill.

Obama loyalists were quick to note the irony that Hillary did not help Obama, even though he is working to combat the deep Democratic resistance spawned by the North American Free Trade Agreement that President Bill Clinton signed.

The White House is certainly irritated with Hillary. Perhaps it will spur Obama to wonder why he pulled the rug out from under poor old Joe, his own vice president, to lay out the red carpet for his former rival.

As David Axelrod told The Times’s Michael Shear and Amy Chozick: “The fact is, she was there when this thing was launched and she was extolling it when she left. She’s in an obvious vise, between the work that she endorsed and was part of and the exigencies of a campaign. Obviously, her comments plainly weren’t helpful to moving this forward.”

CNN reported that Hillary had enthusiastically promoted the trade pact 45 times as secretary of state.

Aside from the fact that Hillary should be able to take a deep breath and stick with something she’s already argued for, it plays into voters’ doubts about her trustworthiness.

If you want to be president and you shape your principles to suit the shifting winds — as Hillary did when she voted to authorize W.’s Iraq invasion — then how can people on either side of an issue trust you?

Since she hasn’t sparked much passion herself yet, she may be frightened by the passionate acolytes of Warren and Sanders — whose uncombed authenticity is buoying him in New Hampshire.

And, given her own unseemly money grabs, she may not be willing to push back on primal forces swirling around the trade issue about unbridled corporatism in an era of stagnant wages.

But the greater danger for her is in looking disingenuous.

At the end of the day, leaders have to sometimes step up on some issues that are not 80 percent issues. Unfortunately for her, Hillary is not as artful a dodger as her husband.

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Trade is a sticky wicket for her. But the path to the presidency is full of sticky wickets. And being president is full of sticky wickets. So you have to try to say what's true and what you actually believe, not just what's tactical.

Surprisingly, I received a fund-raising letter recently. Hillary Rodham Clinton was in large letters on the upper lefthand side of the envelope and above my address was the typed message: "Maureen, this is our moment . . . are you with me?"

Not at the moment.

Jeb Bush Has Hit a New Low // HuffPo // Lev Raphael – June 20, 2015

In case you missed it, the race-hatred massacre in Charleston has left Jeb Bush clueless. He's not sure if race is actually a factor in this horrific episode of domestic terrorism.

Every major news outlet in the country -- well, maybe not Fox? -- reported that a survivor recounted the killer "had said that African-Americans have 'raped our [white] women, and you are taking over the country."

Could it be any clearer that this is a hate crime directed at African-Americans in a historically important Black church? But when asked point blank if the crime was motivated by race, Jeb said, "I don't know." Despite the mountain of evidence that's already there, he doesn't know.

There's a hell of a lot Bush doesn't know. Back in February at a Chicago Council on Global Affairs luncheon he was asked about NATO's stance in the Baltic region. He said, "I don't know what the effect has been, because, you know, it's really kind of hard to be out on the road, and I'm just a gladiator these days, so I don't follow every little detail."

Asked about failed states in the Middle East, he came out with this gem: "I don't have a solution. I mean, I -- I -- I've read articles, you know, about whether the 1915 kind of breakout of the Middle East and how that no longer is a viable deal."

He admitted he was no foreign policy expert, in a bizarre way: "Look, the more I get into this stuff, there are some things [where] you just go, you know, 'Holy schnikes.' "

He's clearly not ready for prime time and is a lousy decision maker, too. Why did he show off his ignorance of foreign affairs at that foreign affairs luncheon? Unless he thought his Bush name absolved him of having to do research or prepare with consultants. Which means he's got as scary a sense of entitlement as his brother did.

But he continues to display his ignorance (or vacillation or unpreparedness) pretty much everywhere he goes. And this Bush is supposed to be the smarter brother. Well, I guess the bar is pretty low in that family.

Clinton calls Graham to offer condolences after Charleston shooting // The Hill // Kyle Balluck – June 21, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.), a GOP presidential candidate, on Saturday afternoon to offer condolences in the wake of the church massacre in his home state, CNN

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is reporting.

"She said she was calling to see how I was doing, and wanted to let me know that she was thinking about me and about everyone in South Carolina," Graham told CNN.

Graham said he was “pleasantly surprised” to get the call, according to the cable network.

"She is a nice person," Graham told CNN.

"I told her that the call meant a lot to me, and would mean a lot to the people of South Carolina," he added.

Clinton on Saturday called for new restrictions on firearms after nine people were killed last week Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a predominantly black church in Charleston, S.C.

"How is it that we as a nation still allow guns to fall into the hands of people whose hearts are filled with hate?" she asked in San Francisco. "You can't watch massacre after massacre and not come to the conclusion that as President Obama said, we must tackle this challenge with urgency and conviction."

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/8/2008 6:40:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain/Palin Rally in Lee's Summit, MO 09/08/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with Lee, on the ground in Lee's Summit, MO. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights
[Palin highlights]

- Palin says Obama said he's for change, but in iraq, change has happened and that's a great thing for America--but he can't admit it
- Palin: as mayor, I reminded ppl that govt is not always the answer, sometimes it's the problem
- Says she broke the lobbyist/special interests monopoly surrounding Big Oil that controlled the state (as gov)
- Palin cut $0.5B in wasteful spending, cut property taxes and taxes on sm. business- today AK budget has a surplus
- Palin 'surprised' Obama would bring up earmarks, since he's requested $1b in 3 yrs-- We'll end practice once and for all.

[McCain highlights]

- Swipes at Obama for saying defense spending is example of bucking his party; McCain says that's not bucking his party, that's telling them what they want to hear
- McCain says Obama was wrong about iraq, iran, and about russia-- he's wrong for america and Gov. Palin is right for america!
- McCain ribs Obama for voting present 130 times, incl. MoveOn ad
    - Promises: i'll vote against those "who will endanger our country" every time

Lee's Summit, MO: McCain/Palin Rally 09/08/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- About 50-60 demonstrators outside after event
    - about 1/2 signs are same as Bush; attacking McCain/Palin economic plans (Bush + lipstick = Palin; McCain-Palin Economics = Bush3)
    - Vets for Obama; pro-Obama
-
- 3000 ppl in audience (basically at capacity)
    - let in only 2300 ppl to leave room for press and staffers
    - Over 60 ppl placed behind podium for human backdrop (half men, half women; all white except 1 black person perfectly behind the podium)
    - large "Country First" hanging sign behind the stage
- heavy press presence
- Pre-event remarks
    - Sen. Kit Bond, Rep. Kenny Hulsholf (running for gov) and AG candidate
        - Bond says Dem ticket is "avowed socialist," 1st and 3rd most liberal in Senate
    - A former HRC supporter/small-business owner, who says she supports McCain and Palin now
    - McCain's MO Faith Chair gave some remarks
    - Soldier in the Reserves (spoke about McCain's courage/POW ordeal)

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- Before event, chanting "Sarah! Sarah!"
- After event, mccain gives thumbs up, waves, and both candidates walk off stage (palin seeming to relish more in applause, hand-shaking)

Speech Highlights

Palin speaks

- TY-- you've got it all in this area, and a great sports town too. **and your first NHL game soon- i think im looking at a whole new set of hockey moms here**
- so glad to be here- standing next to the next POTUS
- and say hello to my husband, Todd
- MO is going to be a battleground state
- we're going to take our case for reform to every party of every background or no party at all - and with your help, we'll take it to DC
- McCain has been through tough fights, served america in good times and bad
- he's the only man who's got what it takes to lead our country
- about a yr ago, the war in Iraq looking bad- defeat would've left millions to a violent fate and us with a left secure nation - some in DC said there was no hope in war, and no hope fro candidate who said he'd rather lose an election than see his country lose a war -- but the pollsters and pundits forgot the determination, resolve and sheer guts of McCain (feistier delivery than previous)
- you all understand there's a time for politics vs. leadership, to campaign vs. put country first. JM wore country's uniform for 22 yrs and refused to break faith with the troops who have now brought victory within sight-- as mother of 1 of those troops, thats exactly the man as i want for commander in chief
- **for his part, our opponent in an interview still cant admit. even yesterday said he's for change, but in iraq, change has happened and that's a great thing for America, Sen!**
- in politics, there are some who use change to promote their careers vs. those like mccian who use their careers to promote change. this is a moment when principles and political independence mean more than the party line. he doesnt run with the washington herd - send the
- **mccain has called the 2 of us a 'team of mavericks' -- as mayor, i reminded ppl that govt is not always the answer, in fact too often its the problem**
    - i put govt back on side of the ppl. i eliminated taxes on personal property, i eliminated taxes that were hurting sm businesses; i cut property taxes every yr i was in office - these reforms worked, and we took off
- as governor, i took the same fight to the states - **we broke the monopoly that controlled the state, and that was special interests and lobbyists surrounding big oil**
- promised then passed ethics reform
- as mayor and gov, i tried to lead by example. as mayor, i took a voluntary paycut (husband not thrilled), cut the personal chef, put the state's checkbook online for all to see (bureaucrats not thrilleD),
- **today budget under control-- we have a surplus-- i cut 1/2 billion in wasteful spending -- now that we have surplus, i gave it back to hardworking alaskans to spend themselves, and in htese tough times i want to bring tax relief to you**
- i championed earmark reform to stop congress, told the congress thanks but no thx on bridge to nowhere
- **just the other day, opponent brought up earmarks- i was surprised he wanted to go there- in 3 yrs, he's requested $1b in earmarks, $1M/ working day**
- i'm ready to help mccain end practice once and for all
- **i oversaw pipeline that will help us get off foreign oil once and for all**
- drill now
- (drill baby drill! sarah! sarah!)
- as a matter of natl security and for prosperity, we need american energy produced by american workers
- our opponents going on about how they always fight for you- since mccain wont say this on his behalf, ill say it: there's only 1 man in this election who has ever really fought for you. (audience roars) he is the only great man in this race and the only ready to serve as 44th potus- so glad to intro my runningmate, my friend, sen. john mccain

McCain speaks

- TY missouri! we must win this state and we will to win presidency - im so encouraged by your enthusiasm
- im happy to be introd by gov. palin today but i cant wait to intro her to dc
- an advanced warning to Washington crowd: change is coming! (repeats 3x)
- as sarah mentioned, ive been called a maverick- now we have a team of mavericks- and we understand who we work for: not a party, a speical interest, not ourselves-- we'll work for you and **we're going to**

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drain the swamp in DC and take on special interests

- we fought corruption- i fought bigspenders in both parties
- an interesting fact: Gov. Palin vetoed 1/2 billion in earmark spending and Obama asked for almost $1B in earmark spending
- i will veto every porkbarrel earmark spending bill that comes across my desk-- we'll stop it!
- we'll stop it b/c it breeds corruption and we wont stand for it anyomre- we need a govt that stands for you not themselves. we'll take them on and defeat them. USA knows its time for change, right change
- Gov. Palin took on her own party and ran against an incumbent governor, ive taken on ppl in my party. Obama has never taken on anyone in his party. Americans want someone who will stand up for them, and that's what well do
- Gov. Palin mentioned $40B to bring natural gas to lower 48. and someone who's almost as popular as Gov. Palin, and that's Todd Palin, who snowmobiled across AK, a commerical fisherman, proud member of Steelworkers Unions, great man, great father-- we'll bring those values back to nation's capital
- Americans arent like Obama said they only cherish 2nd Am and religion b/c they dont like the economic conditions-- they do it b/c they love America, like in MO ("USA! USA!")
- we must stop spending $700B/yr to countries that dont like us very much. and we need wind, tide, solar, natural gas. Also, nuclear pwr, and also we need to drill offshore and drill now! (Drill baby drill!)
- and can i mention- nuclear power is safe, it's clean. other nations store or reprocess nuclear fuel and we can do that. it's got to be part of our plan.
- im always honored when i come to these gatherings, and see these ppl, old and young, with the hats on. can i ask them to stand so we can thank you for your service. TY for your honorable service
    - some of our navy vets will tell you they've sailed navy ships around the world and we've never had an accident
    - obama doesnt want nuclear or offshore drilling
    - we can build hydrogen-powered cars, and flex fuels, etc
    - we can create millions of jobs and get our economy going again and we will
- straight talk ("Straight talk! Straight talk!") : these are tough times- (McCain: "that sounded rehearsed") you're worried about jobs, struggling to put food on table, stay in home. we're looking at restructuring mortgage firms but we cant have govt bailout of Wall st
- ill keep taxes low vs. increase, open mkts vs. close-- Obama has the most liberal record in Senate. Create jobs vs. eliminate; health care choice vs. govt-run. we have to cut business taxes to keep businesses here. We have to double credit to $7500 for every dependent child. we have to help middle-income americans find and keep jobs and we can
- **this weekend, obama was asked for ex. of when he bucked his party, and he said defense spending. he said now he wants to increase, but during primary, he told a liberal advocacy grp that he wants to cut it and slow development of future combat systems (boos)-- we've found out in recent times**
- **that's not bucking his party, that's telling them what they want to hear**
    - you might not always agree with me, but youll always know where i stand
- **obama was wrong about iraq, iran, and about russia-- he's wrong for america and Gov. Palin is right for america!** (sarah! sarah!)
- the strategy has succeeded in iraq, we are winning, troops will come home in honor and victory not defeat like if obama had had his way
- there was a lot at stake when i said id rather lose a campaign than lose the war
- when Senate was debating Iraq, MoveOn ran an ad: Petraeus or Betray-Us-- can you believe something as disgraceful as that? -- in Senate, one of my GOP colleagues proposed resolution-- OBama refused to vote-- 130 times he voted present-**-i'll vote against those who want to harm this nation every time**
- every once in a while, you have an experience that puts everything in perspective-- a yr ago last aug in Wolfboro, NH -- [Matthew Stanley story-- mom of KIA gives mccain bracelet, promise son didnt die in vain] -- we will win in iraq so those brave soldiers' sacrifice will not be in vain
- i want to be potus b/c i believe i can inspire a generation to serve a cause greater than self (john mccain! john mccain!)
- we may disagree from time to time, but i will always put my country first
- we need to win here-- we need you to spend the next 57 days GOTV, ill be counting on you. Sarah--Gov. Palin will be counting on you! we can win this election. and our best days are ahead of us!

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Garett Reppenhagen, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/15/2015 8:59:11 AM
Subject: Iran Deal: from my perspective as an Iraq veteran

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

Read my story and contribute $3 to VoteVets to elevate the voices of veterans like me who support a diplomacy-first approach with Iran.

John -

The last time the U.S. Military was called on in the name of stopping Weapons of Mass Destruction, I was stationed in the Diyala Province in Iraq as a Sniper in the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division.

I participated in combat missions while the infrastructure of the country was destroyed, sectarian violence divided communities, millions were displaced from their homes, countless Iraqis were killed and injured, and our fellow service members were caught in the middle.

After helping to secure the scene of a HEMTT Tactical Truck that was destroyed by a roadside bomb in Iraq, and watching two female soldiers medivaced knowing they would likely not survive their injuries, I started to wonder what could have prevented the conflict I found myself deployed to.

Aside from the many American troops killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the burden of war continues to impact our veterans. Substance abuse, traumatic brain injuries, incarceration, homelessness, and suicide are just some of the issues veterans face coming home from war. Although these sacrifices are high, our military members take pride in risking their lives for our homes, families, and country.

That is why we need to ensure we do everything we can to prevent future war unless it is absolutely necessary. Our country needs to exhaust all diplomatic efforts before the possibility of military action is warranted. We owe it to the men and women that choose to serve this country.

The deal our State Department, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, has negotiated with Iran is the best diplomatic effort we can agree upon. It has great potential to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and prevent the future deployment of our Armed Forces.

VoteVets is elevating the voices of veterans like me who support this deal - contribute $3 to help ensure we are heard before Congress votes in September.

Before we see more of my brothers and sisters in uniform medivaced away from the combat zone let's support diplomacy and support the Iran Deal.

We have a very unique and important voice in this debate.

Thank for helping to ensure that it's heard.

Garett Reppenhagen
Iraq War Veteran
VoteVets

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Karl Frisch, Media Matters" <kfrisch@mediamatters.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/13/2008 10:41:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] ALERT: Anti-Obama Author Jerome Corsi on Larry King Tonight!

Tonight on *Larry King Live*…
The Obama Nation's Jerome Corsi VS *Media Matters'* Paul Waldman

Just an FYI for those following anti-Obama book author Jerome Corsi's appearances to promote *The Obama Nation*.

He will be appearing on *Larry King Live Tonight* opposite *Media Matters'* own Paul Waldman.

If you feel moved to pick up the phone and call in to challenge Corsi on the problems with his past and his book I'm sure that could prove useful.

Tune in tonight for the phone number which is usually shown on screen and read on-air by King. Remember that you may want to present yourself as a Corsi fan to get on the air if too many well-informed Corsi critics call in.

Larry King Live tonight 9pm ET, 6pm PT

You can arm yourself with the facts on Jerome Corsi and his book with the following talking points/research:

Top Line Message/Talking Points

On Corsi and *The Obama Nation*

- Jerome Corsi's book, as Media Matters has documented, is riddled with smears, distortions, and wild accusations against Sen. Barack Obama.
- The fact that anyone in the media would consider hosting this man without grilling him on the serious errors he passes off as legitimate criticism is recklessly irresponsible.
- This is the same man who helped launch the equally distortion-filled Swift Boat attacks against John Kerry in 2004 – attacks that many in the media, in retrospect, have said they should have done a better job of exposing.
- That the media is once again giving Corsi air-time to promote his bogus accusations is a serious problem.

On the Swift Boating of Obama

- Corsi's latest tome is eerily reminiscent of the baseless Swift Boat attacks he helped lead in 2004 against Kerry.
- What started with *Unfit for Command*, an error riddled screed co-authored by Corsi, lead to media coverage, tens of millions of dollars in television ads that distorted Kerry's war record and still more media coverage.
- Its time for the media to nip this in the bud and do what many now admit they should have done four years ago – expose Corsi for who he is

On the Right-Wing Noise Machine

- Conservative authors like Corsi have an echo chamber of right-wing talk radio programs, print publications and cable news broadcasts to rely on when it comes to promoting their work – however disingenuous.
- They are no long confined to the likes of Rush Limbaugh, *The Washington Times* and Fox News to sell their books.
- Willingly or not, mainstream media outlets the American people rely for important news have become cogs in the right-wing echo chamber.
- For forty years conservatives have been working the refs with mythical allegations of liberal media bias resulting in a press corps that bends over backwards lest they be tarred with the same tired complaints.
- So, instead of balance and accuracy what we all too often end up with is a structural advantage for conservatives in the media.

Other Background on Jerome Corsi

- A frequent poster on the right-wing website FreeRepublic.com in the past, *Media Matters* exposed the bigoted nature of many of his postings in 2004 including:

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    - **Corsi on Islam:** “a worthless, dangerous Satanic religion”
    - **Corsi on Catholicism:** “Boy buggering in both Islam and Catholicism is okay with the Pope as long as it isn't reported by the liberal press”
    - **Corsi on Muslims:** “RAGHEADS are Boy-Bumpers as clearly as they are Women-Haters -- it all goes together”
    - **Corsi on “John F*ing Commie Kerry”:** “After he married TerRAHsa, didn't John Kerry begin practicing Judiasm? He also has paternal grandparents that were Jewish. What religion is John Kerry?”
    - **Corsi on Senator “FAT HOG” Clinton:** “Anybody ask why HELLary couldn't keep BJ Bill satisfied? Not lesbo or anything, is she?”
- In January 2005, Corsi told the Boston Herald that he planned to run for Kerry's Senate seat in 2008 as a Republican or Independent. In May 2005, while on C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Corsi said his wife had “vetoed” this plan.
- In 2006, Corsi stated “Howard Phillips of the Constitution Party asked me to consider seriously running for president in 2008 and I am doing so.”

Background *Simon & Schuster* Imprint *Threshold Editions*, Corsi’s Publisher

- *Threshold Editions* is a conservative imprint of *Simon & Schuster* run by editor-in-chief Mary Matalin, a former advisor to many powerful establishment conservatives including most notably Vice President Dick Cheney.
- *Threshold Editions* has published works by Mary Cheney, Karl Rove, John Bolton and Glen Beck.
    - It has been reported that Mary Cheney was paid an advance in the “million-dollar range” for her book.
    - It has also been reported that Rove will be receiving $1.5 million for his forthcoming book published by *Threshold*.
    - *Threshold* published Beck’s last book and has reportedly signed him to a $3 million two book deal.

Summary of *Media Matters* Research Corsi’s *The Obama Nation*

In the preface of his recently released book, Corsi writes: “My intent in writing this book, as was the case in coauthoring *Unfit for Command*, is to fully document all arguments and contentions I make, extensively footnoting all references, so readers can determine for themselves the truth and validity of the factual claims.” Indeed, Corsi's comparison of the two books seems quite apt: Just as *Unfit for Command* contains false and baseless attacks on Sen. Kerry's military service, a *Media Matters* review finds that *Obama Nation* similarly contains numerous falsehoods about Sen. Obama on wide range of issues:

- **Obama's position on abortion:** On Fox News' *Hannity's America*, Jerome Corsi falsely claimed of Obama's time in the Illinois state legislature: “Even if a child was born, he said the woman still had the right to kill the child in an abortion.” Similarly, on Fox News' *Hannity & Colmes*, Corsi falsely claimed that “[a]fter a child's born, Obama ... in the [Illinois] state Senate, wanted the child killed if the mother desired an abortion.” And on ABC Radio Network's *The Sean Hannity Show*, Corsi claimed that Obama “support[ed] even late term, induced abortions where the baby lives. Obama's on record as let's kill the baby if that's what the mother wants.” In making the false assertion about Obama's position -- Obama has of course never supported giving people the right to kill their children -- Corsi was also misrepresenting the legislation to which he was referring, a bill amending the Illinois Abortion Law of 1975. Opponents of the bill said the legislation was unnecessary as the Illinois criminal code unequivocally prohibits killing children, and said that it posed a threat to abortion rights.
- **Global Poverty & Nuclear Weapons:** Global Poverty Act of 2007 “would commit the U.S. to spending 0.7 percent of Gross Domestic Product on foreign aid,” and basely describes Obama's views on nuclear weapons as an “antiwar, antimilitary posture that places him even further left than Senator George McGovern.”
- **The divorce of Obama’s mother and father:** Corsi baselessly suggests that Obama's father may have divorced his mother “following the prescripts of Islamic sharia law.” Corsi's sole source for this statement is a blogger who made the claim in a March 20 post, which featured the false headline, “BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA WAS MUSLIM FOR 31 YEARS” and misstated Obama's mother's name. The blogger Corsi cited, “Majalah Bulanan Kumunitas Indonesia Di Edmonton,” provided no substantiation for the claim that “the senior Obama divorced Dunham according to Sharia law.”
- **The dedication of *Dreams of My Father*:** Corsi falsely claims that Obama did not dedicate *Dreams from My Father* to his mother or his grandparents. In fact he did.
- **The birth of Obama's half-sister:** Corsi falsely claims that Obama does not mention the birth of his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, during the chapter in *Dreams* in which he discusses his time living in Indonesia. She is in fact mentioned.
- **Obama’s “childhood friend” Zulfin Adi:** Corsi writes that in a March 16, 2007, Los Angeles Times article, “The newspaper quoted Zulfan Adi, who described himself as one of Obama's closest childhood friends” during his time in Indonesia. In fact, as Media Matters has noted, key aspects of the March 16 *Los Angeles Times* article were later challenged by the Chicago Tribune, which reported that Adi said he “was not certain” about his statements regarding Obama's childhood and that he “only knew Obama for a few months.”

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- **Drug use:** Corsi falsely claims that Obama "has yet to answer questions" concerning whether "he stopped using marijuana and cocaine completely in college, or whether his drug use extended into his law school days or beyond." In fact, Obama wrote in Dreams that he "stopped getting high" shortly after moving to New York City to attend Columbia University as an undergraduate.
- **Obama and City College of New York:** Corsi falsely claims that Obama "does not mention in his autobiography" that after graduating from Columbia, he "was working as a community organizer out of the Harlem campus of the City College of New York." Again, Obama discusses this work in *Dreams*.
- **Rezko and the Obamas' house:** Discussing the house Barack and Michelle Obama bought in 2005, Corsi falsely cites a February 1 Salon.com article for the claim that convicted Chicago businessman Antoin Rezko "found the house for Obama. Salon.com reported that Donna Schwan of Metro Pro Realty, the real estate agent who listed the property, recalled the deal starting when Rezko expressed interest in the listing" [Page 165]. In fact, in the Salon.com article Corsi cites, Edward McClelland reported: "Asked who approached her about the house, Schwan told Salon, 'I honestly don't remember. Tony Rezko lived across the street, so he'd been interested in the lot.' " In an interview with the staff of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Obama asserted that it was his wife who found the house.
- **NewsMax, Obama, and Trinity Church:** Corsi falsely claims that "NewsMax's Ronald Kessler reported that Obama had been in Trinity United Church of Christ on July 22 [2007], when Kessler was present," during which Obama's then-pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, gave a sermon in which he "blamed the 'white arrogance' of America's Caucasian majority for the world's suffering, especially the oppression of blacks." In fact, Kessler did not report that he had been at Trinity United on that date. Kessler's March 16 Newsmax report cited an August 9, 2007, Newsmax.com article by "freelance reporter" Jim Davis and stated: "On July 22nd [2007] he [Davis] sat next to Barack Obama as Barack Obama heard some of these same statements from that very preacher [Wright] and was nodding along." While Corsi he did not note that, as reported by several media outlets, Obama was in Miami on July 22, 2007, speaking at the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) annual convention.
- **Capital Gains:** Corsi writes that in a September 19, 2007, blog post, U.S. News & World Report money and politics blogger James Pethokoukis "pointed to the result of most Democratic plans to increase corporate taxes: the government ends up collecting less capital gains tax revenue, not more." However, as Media Matters has documented, numerous economists have challenged the assertion that cuts in the capital gains tax raise revenue in the long term. Additionally, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation estimated in June 2006 that the 2006 extension of the 2003 cuts on capital gains taxes would result in decreased revenues of $20 billion over 10 years.
- **Size of the military:** Corsi falsely claims that Obama "has pledged to reduce the size of the military." Similarly, Corsi writes that "Obama will undoubtedly campaign in the general election saying he wants to maintain a strong military, just as he will say he is fully committed to the survival of Israel. Obama's problem is that neither position may be credible in the face of video clips that show him saying he wants to reduce the military, cut nuclear weapons, and pull out of Iraq" In fact, during the Democratic primary, Obama repeatedly asserted that he would "increase our ground forces by 65,000 soldiers and 27,000 Marines."
- **Obama and Afghanistan:** Discussing Obama's "antiwar ... foreign policy," Corsi conflates Iraq and Afghanistan to falsely suggest that Obama supports "de-escalat[ing]" troops from Afghanistan. But Obama's January 2007 bill -- the Iraq War De-escalation Act of 2007 -- establishes a timetable for the withdrawal of most troops from Iraq, and calls for "appropriate units of the Armed Forces" to be redeployed to Afghanistan and elsewhere in the region, as well as "elsewhere, to meet urgent United States security needs."

-K

Karl Frisch
Communications Director

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http://www.mediamatters.org

Media Matters for America is a progressive research and information center dedicated to monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the media.

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From: "Michael Huttner | ProgressNowAction" <michael@progressnowaction.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/22/2008 5:48:13 AM
Subject: How we keep the momentum going

"So months and months ago, ProgressNow and its state affiliate started building grassroots networks, laying the groundwork for a Democratic campaign. Republicans don't have any counterpart to this, so far that is."

-- Peter Overby, NPR News, 10/30/2008

Dear Board, Investors and Progressive Partners,

The Obama campaign showed the world how to combine online activism with old-style community organizing.

Now it's up to progressives to put these tactics--and the millions of people who implemented them--to work at the local level, where activism has its most powerful and sustained impact.

We need to show what Obama's tactics can accomplish if they're deployed not to promote a candidate but on behalf of progressive values and issues.

As the only national organization with a focus on applying online organizing to local progressive campaigns, ProgressNow is in a unique position to capture and re-direct the passion of Obama's supporters and to show the world what progressives can get done using a mix of online and offline organizing. **Below are updates from each of our states and their initial plans for the year ahead. Or click the following link for a multi-media overview of our success across the country, and support our efforts:**

http://progressnow.org/network

We must act now. If we do not engage Obama supporters immediately, many will lose interest. The lesson from 2004 is that you must keep people vested. That we don't have a candidate horse-race or a looming election day makes issue-based advocacy all-the-more important.

We know the success of ProgressNow and netroots activism spawned by our members has caught the attention of the right-wing who have fallen behind in its use. And we know the right-wing is looking to modernize their tactics so they can attain similar success as our state partner organizations.

But in ProgressNow states we also know that we have built a network of year-round activists who grow, engage and set a progressive table for candidates in future years through new technologies.

When would be good time to follow up with you to discuss?

Until then all the best for a safe holiday and a happy, healthy New Year.

Michael
303-931-4547 cell

Here are updates and success stories in each of our states:

In the immediate aftermath of the passage of Prop 8 in California, the Courage Campaign launched a robust campaign to repeal Prop 8, joined by MoveOn.org, CREDO Mobile and Join the Impact. To date, over 300,000 people have signed our "Repeal Prop 8" pledge, increasing our total list size to nearly 400,000. In the last two weeks, we have hired three organizers to empower the marriage equality movement that has emerged in California since November 4. Right now, we are developing a training program to deploy these activists in a field campaign to restore marriage equality to California.

In 2009, the Courage Campaign will build a campaign to gather 1 million signatures to the "Repeal Prop 8" pledge, laying the foundation for an unpaid signature gathering campaign to place a new initiative on the ballot to restore marriage equality to California. The Courage Campaign is also working on implementing various planks of what we call "CPR for California" - a comprehensive group of reforms designed to fix California's dysfunctional government. At the top of the CPR agenda is the campaign to repeal the "2/3rds requirement" to pass a budget in the California state legislature - a rule that allows right-wing extremist Republicans to hold the state budget hostage year after year.

Time magazine reported in its post election coverage described how Senator-elect Mark Udall beat Bob Schaffer by exposing his record as "Big Oil Bob". Ironically, Udall never went after Schaffer as "Big Oil Bob". But we did. We started this narrative, through online videos, www.bigoilbob.com, and internet organizing throughout Colorado over a year before the elections. By exposing Schaffer's record and personalizing it to voters in each community we were able to develop a narrative that he never escaped. Just as exciting is our online and earned media efforts, working our progressive partners at Defenders of Wildlife, in holding Rep. Marilyn Musgrave accountable which ultimately help lead to her defeat and the victory of Congresswoman-elect Betsy Markey. Finally, out online ballot guide was a huge success as it was downloaded by over 35,000 thousand people. In addition we provided the ballot guide via text messaging for cellphone users, many of whom were young voters ages 18-24.

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Our priorities for the year ahead are to help our progressive partners organizations online and with earned media to advocate for progressive legislation at the state and federal level. We are building off of Obamas's momentum by developing a model "Progress Team" program to keep Obama's "neighborhood teams" engaged, community by community, so we don't lose the energy of volunteers statewide. We are especially focused on getting members more engaged as our testing how shown that the more we can focus on populist pocket book issues and the less political our action appear the more new members engage. For a copy of our draft plan for the year ahead please email michael@progressnowaction.org We would love to discuss and get your feeback.

Progress Florida helped win Florida for President Elect Obama with an earned media and internet organizing strategy targeting independent voters. A highlight of the earned media strategy was the successful placement of a series of op-eds published in four of the state's largest papers. The series of op-eds included one by a war veteran taking McCain's voting record on veteran's issue to task, one by a nuclear security expert exposing McCain's flawed policies on nuclear power and for the Pièce de résistance - an op-ed authored by McCain's Florida cousin published in the Sunday St. Petersburg Times (Florida largest circulation paper.)

McCain's cousin's op-ed told a compelling story about how even members of McCain's own family could not recognize the McCain of old, and was reportedly one of the most e-mailed articles in St. Petersburg Times opinion page history. Progress Florida then worked with John McCain's Florida cousin to distribute a similar piece via the internet to tens of thousands of Floridians, in particular "fence sitters" the week before the election.

Progress Florida has identified three programmatic priorities for the first half of 2009 and beyond. First, work closely with our progressive allies to pass good laws and defeat bad ones during the upcoming Florida Legislative session. Expected hot issues include class size and education funding, election protection, and tax reform. Second, we plan to work closely with the HCAN coalition to pass meaningful health care reform this session of Congress. And finally, the work begins now on the 2010 elections. From the open U.S. Senate seat up for grabs to the effort pass a Constitutional amendment for redistricting reform (Fair Districts Florida,) success in 2010 will largely depend on laying the groundwork in 2009.

Progress Michigan had three major successes at the close of 2008. First we ran a robust anti-McCain effort that resulted in major national stories surrounding the GOP efforts to use foreclosure lists to suppress voter participation. Second, we played a major role in passing a Stem Cell ballot proposal by elevating its earned and new media efforts. Third Progress Michigan coordinated press work for major collaborative Health Care and Energy campaigns in the state involving over 50 organizations.

With redistricting looming in 2010, the next two years are critical. Progress Michigan is positioning itself as the progressive communication hub around populist issues that will help us control the issue environment in 2009 - 2010. Without control of the issue environment, progressives risk loosing all they gained this past year through redistricting. Progress Michigan will also expand its role in collaborative communications around Energy, Health Care and Election Reform.

Alliance for a Better Minnesota was in dozens of news stories and blog postings in November after it filed letters with the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics and the Minneapolis office of the FBI asking both entities to investigate claims made in lawsuits filed that Senator Norm Coleman (R) was the recipient of money funneled by a rich businessman and friend through fake contracts.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty (R) was national co-chair of John McCain's presidential team and viewed by many as the future of the Republican party. Most observers expect him to run in 2010 for a third term before moving into the national spotlight again as a presidential candidate. Alliance for a Better Minnesota and its partners at the America Votes table are already planning for the best way to stop his rise into power, and keep Minnesota progressive for the future.

Sometimes what your enemies say about you speaks the most truth. In the days after the election in November, conservative Republicans were reeling as progressives in New Hampshire won all major Federal races including President, US Senate and both congressional; maintained majorities in all state offices - including becoming the first legislative body in the country with a female majority! - and beat back municipal tax caps in all towns save one, undermining the conservative get-out-the-vote tool in critical electoral areas. As conservatives in the state tried to understand the shift, the state's leading conservative blog highlighted the new progressive model that made victory possible: a model that focuses on state-based infrastructure, invests in capacity, builds outside the Democratic Party to empower issue-based advocacy, and cares more about results than credit. "We see parts of this here in NH," the blog wrote, " - one only has to look at Granite State Progress headed by Zandra Rice-Hawkins ...". This was not the only reference to GSP in the days following November 4th. In less than 5 months, Granite State Progress launched and played its role so well that it is being discussed as a model by NH conservatives. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, this ranks as Granite State Progress' crowning achievement of the year - oh, that and all of those progressive election results!

The successes in November only increase the urgency to set progressive policy that works for real people. Health care reform, clean energy policy and protecting the right of workers to form unions will be among Granite State Progress' strongest federal priorities in 2009. At the state level, Granite State Progress is helping cull a progressive communications strategy to tackle the upcoming State House session that will need to address solving the state's multi-million dollar deficit without endangering community priorities, improving the state retirement system, and adequately funding education in the state. And locally, we're already hard at work again, helping lead opposition to disastrous tax cap gimmicks that would reduce police and fire emergency response, and do real damage to our public schools.

Granite State Progress will also be launching two ongoing, aggressive campaigns to help improve public support for progressive policies. One, we'll be leading an effort to challenge conservative propaganda in our local media, thru research, persistence and - at times - campaign actions. Two, we'll start laying the groundwork now to expose the real record of Sen. Judd Gregg, with an aggressive media campaign that will run for nearly two years and involve multiple issue-based campaign partners.

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New Mexico's biggest success was featuring real people, talking about real issues, on clearlynewmexico.com. We interviewed teachers, housing advocates, young people on the street and others on issues like the economy and health care. We then provided these names to other blogs and mainstream reporters and will continue to do so, building a bank of trustworthy surrogates to put out into the media.

ClearlyNewMexico.com has 3 big items for 2009. First, we are going to launch the "Pundit Project" to train 10 new pundits each year to enter New Mexico's thin pundit world. These 10 recruits will become the next generation of mainstream opinion columnists, talk show hosts and radio guests. Second, we are launching "ClearlyTV," which will be based loosely on the Veracifier on Talking Points Memo. We will air short, 2-4 minute news briefs several times a week through ClearlyTV. And third, we are ramping up our investigative research and journalism program to research and produce our own hard-hitting stories in New Mexico.

In two short years, Ohio has moved from red to purple to blue. As Ohio's premier communications Hub, ProgressOhio partnered with US Action in over 700,000 mail contacts with blue collar Ohio men; knocked on over 13,000 young voter doors with the League of Young Voters; provided public relations and online support to over 260 progressive groups; sent over 500,000 GOTV emails to registered Ohio voters; ranked in the top 2 among all Ohio political blogs (including newspapers); and reached over 7.8 million pages of progressive material read online.

ProgressOhio is focused for 2009 on continued list growth; increasing membership involvement offline; renewing the Progressive Legislative agenda with a new progressive Ohio House majority; and pushing for Health Care reform and economic assistance at the national level.

Keystone Progress opened its doors in August of 2008 and hit the ground running. KP was the driving force in the national stories around the racism and vitriol at McCain and Palin rallies. Our videos of McCain/Palin supporters were used by major network and cable news organizations around the country and around the world, exposing the racism at the core of much of the base of support for the GOP. Our videos also got incredible online exposure, being seen by over 2.5 million viewers. KPalso organized rallies at more than a dozen McCain/Palin events in Pennsylvania. Over 5,000 people came to those events, which generated dozens of local news stories in Pennsylvania.

Keystone Progress plans to expand its organizing in 2009 so that it is a known and respected organization across Pennsylvania. We currently have around 35,000 people on our email base. We hope to expand that to 100,000 in the coming year by organizing local committees in 40 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. These local committees will be ad hoc grassroots organizations made up of our local activists and leaders in other local progressive organizations such as labor unions locals, and local chapters of our statewide partners. We will also build our statewide issue advisory committee into a functioning body to guide our issue-based organizing.

Fuse Washington executed an extensive earned media campaign that broke and continued the story of the Republican candidate for governor's involvement in a fundraising scandal. Our campaign generated more than 550 stories, including over 300 TV news clips; 5 front page, above the fold stories; more than 175 articles and extensive radio and blog coverage.

Fuse also produced the Progressive Voters Guide, compiling the endorsements of and distributed by 18 of Washington's leading progressive political organizations. The Guide covered 190 races, providing one-stop shopping for a highly informed recommendation about the entire ballot. The Guide was distributed to more than 200,000 voters.

In 2009, Fuse will continue to strengthen its organizing and communications capacity while focusing on strategic advocacy campaigns targeting critical progressive issues before the legislature and the voters. Our top priority issues for the Legislative session will be managing the budget crisis, adopting global warming reforms, and campaign finance reforms aimed at preventing business trade associations from skimming workers compensation funds to finance political campaigns. In the fall we will be active in important local races, and expect several high profile ballot measures (including a vote on new revenue sources aimed at helping mitigate the budget crisis).
Our organizing priorities include working to help keep the new activists created by the Obama campaign engaged in politics, and to develop stronger offline performance and volunteer leadership in our activist base.

Our communications priorities - in addition to executing effective communications plans for our priority campaigns -- include developing a clearer and more defined brand for Fuse, expanding our use of new media tools, and developing a broader and richer range of services for the people on our list.

One Wisconsin Now helped lead a collective research and innovative earned media strategy which included staving off efforts by the Republican Attorney General and John McCain campaign cochair to disenfranchise as many as 1 million legal voters. In WI, Obama won by 422,000 votes, a vulnerable congressiona freshman won reelection a conservative district and Democrats took control of the full control of the state legislature and hold that and the governor's office for the first time in a generation.

OWN is focusing on judicial ethics, the state budget and growing communication capacity in progressive non-profits. In addition to proving coalition partners with news, information and talking points during the state budget process, OWN's c3 partner will be spearheading a comprensive Communciations Capacity Building Project, including extensive communication and on-line analysis and personalized training to ensure progressive groups can effectively communicate with membersm donors, the media and the public. While this. Will be an expensive project, the CCBP will be provided to groups for free. In just one year, OWN grew its online member list by 1,000 percent and is launching the Wisconsin Research Project - a first of its kind instate, continuous progressive research program for use with issue polling and earned and paid issue advocacy.

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john.podesta@gmail.com

To unsubscribe, go to:
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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/1/2015 6:43:51 AM
Subject:	Heads up for call with HRC

While on the phone on a different topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video makes sense.

Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found in our interest to do so.

Just wanted to update folks.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 9/16/2008 4:36:53 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 09/16/08

Main Topics: Unqualified to be CEO, fundamentals are strong, troopergate, McCain's homes

Summary of Shift: Carly Fiorina's declaration that neither of the candidates for whom she is spokeswoman are qualified for CEO positions was a major subject of roundtables and political coverage tonight. Two pundits on MSNBC's *Hardball* suggested she would be 'under the bus' as soon as the end of the night. McCain's suggestion that a commission, in lieu of specific action, would be necessary for the economic meltdown received some degree of mockery and scrutiny, as did Holtz-Eakin's suggestion that McCain is, in some way, responsible for the PDA or Blackberry.

Workers continue to clean up after Ike. FDA bans several generic drugs. A chemical, BPA found in plastic bottles and elsewhere has been linked to severe health problems.

Highlights:

1) The McCain camp surrogates and the economy
   a. FNC: Fiorina attempts to explain herself
   b. MSNBC: Romney is 'not quite sure' what Fiorina means, explains the fundamentals
   c. MSNBC: Obama wants to redistribute wealth, McCain wants to create jobs, Pfotenhauer alleges
   d. FNC: Pfotenhauer delineates specifics on the McCain economic plan
   e. FNC: Giuliani and the 9/11 commission for the economy
   f. CNN: Romney stays vague on McCain's economic plan
   g. FNC: Romney suggests we ignore the source of the problem and instead focus on bi-partisan solutions
2) McCain-Palin honesty under question
   a. CNN: O'Callaghan defends Palin on troopergate
   b. CNN: How honest are McCain's ads?
3) Liberals paint McCain as out of touch
   a. FNC: Activists defend demonstrators outside one of McCain's homes
   b. CNN: Begala criticizes McCain's fundamentals claim

No Clips:

1) MSNBC – TODD HARRIS: "If you killed every single earmark, every single year it would take 100 years to retire the debt."
2) MSNBC – PAUL BEGALA: "The more that Carly Fiorina is out there, the better the democrats do because she's an idiot. She took Hewlett-Packard's stock price down […] something like 60%, fired 18,000 people, she said, 'I only regret I hadn't fired more people faster,' she sold computers to the Iranian regime, the terrorists in Iran and she says that even McCain or Barack or Biden or Palin are unqualified to do her job? She was unqualified to do her job! She's a disaster for the republicans. […] idiot's the wrong word, Tucker. She's an incompetent.'

Clips

Highlight #1
Fiorina Explains Herself (FNC 09/16/08 3:30pm)
SHEP SMITH: Can you confirm the Palin meeting at the UN with heads of state?

CARLY FIORINA: No I cannot. I don't have anything to announce and I am not aware of what her particular schedule is.

SMITH: Well the Wall St. Journal's reporting it and if we get more on it we'll let our viewers know. Did make sense that you would know that, but you're more of an economic person and these are heady economic times.

FIORINA: Yes they are.

SMITH: On the table night right now, the collapse of AIG, the largest insurer of all the world, that house on a lot of loans and house on a lot of insurance agencies and insurance policies for Americans, it could collapse Wall St, according to many in the know. […] Would you advise Senator McCain to support a government bridge loan to support AIG or would you advise against such a thing?

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FIORINA: Well he's been clear this morning that he does not support taxpayer money used to bail out AIG. I think its clear there's a lot of discussion going on on Wall St. right now to try to find the right set of loans to help AIG and we'll have to see how that turns out.

SMITH: I think they'd argue that a bailout is one thing and a bridge loan is another. It seems to be a bridge loan that seems to be on the table, a short-term loan of about $75 billion dollars. Would you advise for or against that?

FIORINA: Well I think a bridge loan is certainly important. What's not clear is whether that ought to be government and tax payer money. You know there are a lot of Wall St. firms that depend very much on their relationships with AIG.

SMITH: But that private money is off the table now we're told and its up to the government or nothing. Would you advise that the government do it or nobody do it.

FIORINA: Well I'm not sure private money is off the table. You know if you listen to a lot of these Wall St. organizations, they don't talk about the failure of AIG would be so terrible for the markets, if they believe its so terrible, they ought to put some money up to prevent it from happening.

SMITH: And if they do not is it up to the government to do it?

FIORINA: You know what, I think we need to see how this plays out for a little bit before I start making pronouncements on television. What I think John McCain's been very clear about is that this whole situation demonstrates the requirement, the absolute requirement for reform of regulation, for more transparency on Wall St, for the ultimate reform of Fannie and Freddie, and that's what he's going to be focused on when he becomes President of the United States.

SMITH: You were with Andrea Mitchell on NBC a little earlier and you said Barack Obama […].

FIORINA: […] Look different experiences prepare you for different jobs. Sarah Palin and John McCain are uniquely experienced to be the President and Vice President of the United States, Barack Obama is the least qualified candidate running today in terms of his executive experience, in terms of his time in public office, so I think the Obama campaign would do very well to stop hurling the experience argument around because their candidate for President has less than anyone else running for office right now on these two tickets. […] I'm sure that John McCain and Sarah Palin, who are very fast learners, could gain enough business experience quickly to run a major corporation. But that's not the point. The point is it's a fallacy to compare a corporation to the country. This is after all America, where our leaders make a number of incredibly important decisions but are not focused on the profitability of products and are not focused on a balance sheet, they are totally different responsibilities.

Romney Answers to CEO Qualification and Fundamentals (MSNBC 09/15/08 5:02pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Governor, people vote their pocketbooks, why should they vote republican this year?

MITT ROMNEY: Well, **I don't think they're going to vote republican or democrat**. I think they're going to vote McCain or Obama and these guys have their own views about how to strengthen the economy. The economy is the number one issue.

Barack Obama is going to have to back off of his pledge to start spending more money on service projects and health care and raising taxes that would kill the economy. John McCain is right to get the tax rate down. He's right to it try to stimulate growth of our economic sector; he's also right to drill for more oil, use nuclear power so we send less money outside of the economy. McCain is right on the economy, Barack Obama is wrong.

MATTHEWS: Is he right when he says 'the fundamentals of our economy are strong' and what do you mean by that when you hear that?

ROMNEY: What he's referring to, of course, is the underlying productivity of the American work force, the innovative spirit of perk. Those tinges are of course the envy of the world. Right now our economy is in real trouble, and a lot of people are really suffering. John McCain is very concerned about foreclosures and, of course, the fact that a lot of people's 401ks lost a lot of value today. fort noolt, an uptick today. John McCain wants to make sure we stop the bleeding in investment accounts and in homes and turn this economy around, biltd more jobs and see the kind of growth that people in this country expect.

MATTHEWS: But, if you look at the word "fundamentals," I'm looking at the jobless rate at 6.1, it was 4.2 five

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years ago. It's going up this season, this cycle. You've got 400,000 people in foreclosure. You look at housing sector, the jobs sector. Where is it healthy? Where is the fundamentals good in this economy? What part of the economy is doing well?

ROMNEY: Well, right now the economy is really suffering. That's what John McCain indicated. He's pointing out that the long-term prospects for our economy can be more positive if we build on pt productivity, the innovative spirit and the capacity of the American worker.

MATTHEWS: Sure, but that's not a meaningful statement. You can always say that about the American people. You can always say our workers are the best in the world. The problem is, you can say the people at Lehman Brothers are the best in the world. The problem is we have a financial crisis on our hands. Do you have confidence of in this administration, the republican administration, right now in power to fix this problem?

ROMNEY: Well, right now **let's make sure we talk about fixing problems on a bipartisan basis**. I think people in America are tired of the finger pointing and assessing blame. I look at this financial crisis. I see the fed made mistakes. I see the administration did, congress did, the market did. a lot of people did. **Let's stop worrying about republican or democrat**.

Let's fix it and the administration is doing its very best to shore up enterprises that, if they failed, could have a systemic effect but say, hey, we'll let the bubble bursting play out in other places where we don't want to step in and help shareholders out and John McCain has a plan, frankly, to get this economy going again by holding down taxes, by trading with other nations and by stopping this insane use of so much foreign oil.

MATTHEWS: […] Let me ask you about Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard. She said none of the candidates for president or vice president are capable of being a CEO of any major American company. […] Did she just step if a puddle? I mean, what did she mean by that?

The government of the United States is 1.the 8 million workers. you have to run war policy, fiscal policy being you have appoint the supreme court, oversee all the cabinet agencies of the federal government, all the agencies independent and other under your report. how can she say being CEO of the United States is not up to the level of running a business? What does she mean?

ROMNEY: You know I'm not quite sure to tell you the truth. Having been a governor and the CEO of a state, I know it's real tough to run a state effectively, and I know it's tough to also be a CEO. Both are very tough jobs, and I believe that John McCain, with 25 years of experience in the senate, and Sarah Palin actually having run a city and a state have the experience it takes to run the government and they have the experience it takes to run a company. I'd be happy to hire them.

Pfotenhauer Slams Obama, Praises McCain (MSNBC 09/16/08 6:45pm)
DAVID GREGORY: Let me start with something you heard earlier on the program from former treasury secretary, Larry Summers who said rather pointedly that John McCain is a Johnny-come-lately when it comes to understanding some of the real problems both in the economy and specifically what's been happening on Wall Street.

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well, I just fundamentally disagree with Larry Summers—not the first time, probably not the last time but definitely disagree with him and whether you talk about the Freddie and Fannie mess, whether you talk about basic anti-corruption and whether you talk about pursuing what the free market needs, and what we need right now to bring jobs and economic growth, **John McCain has been out there. That's why his economic plan is designed to be a job creation plan, not a redistribution approach**, which is more Obama's and unfortunately, that's a job killer.

So it's a bad path for the economy to follow. So I think Senator McCain has been a leader on these issues and he's got the record to prove it.

GREGORY: There are obviously, problems about—questions about the policy of deregulation is the current, what is behind the financial crisis right now [sic]. Here's what *The New York Times* wrote about McCain's record of Wall Street Regulation. […] Can you cite an example where, since the sub prime lending came on the scene, that John McCain actually advocated specific regulation on the invest many banks?

PFOTENHAUER: […] I don't know if they've applied that same lens to Senator Obama. We obviously frequently disagree with *The New York Times*, but Senator McCain has very consistently called for strong, consistent, stable regulation and not the patchwork quilt that we've got and that's just the problem, as you're aware, David. There's this—I can name, at least, five off the top of my head. There are probably seven different government

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agencies that are supposed to have oversight and actually there's overlapping in some areas and gaps in others and that's just the problem.

GREGORY: But you say you disagree *The New York Times*. Are there specific areas where Senator McCain has taken issue with that patchwork of regulation on this particular issue, regulating investment banks and how overleveraged they were with some of these sub prime products and lending products.

PFOTENHAUER: Well, I can't go back mentally right now through every speech he's ever given, but, for example, I can remember once in 2002 where he talked about problems like this and he laid out a whole protocol. It was actually a very—it showed a tremendous foresight where he said, 'Look. We've got to have careful regulation balance. We don't want bureaucracy but careful regulation,' but he specifically pointed out the potential problems and the pit falls that we were facing, particularly with corporate abuse and the fact that, without oversight, these things occur and that oversight is an important part of making sure the consumers are protected.

GREGORY: […] Should there be specific capital requirements for the investment banks like there are for commercial institutions?

PFOTENHAUER: I think that's a natural place to start. There is a whole list of them. […] obviously, you've got the problem that really nobody has been minding the store on investment banks and there just has to be certain basic things that make sense, put in place. Then needs to be consistency. So that similar financial instruments, […] institutions, things that perform virtually the same role, should be treated the same from a regulatory perspective and all of that should be very transparent and there should be increased accountable.

GREGORY: Let me switch gears and talk about Governor Sarah Palin. There are now numerous conservative columnists who are making the argument that she is simply not prepared to be vice president, to be a heartbeat away from the presidency. Today conservative columnist, David Brooks of the *Times* argues that experience matters, and that Sarah Palin may not have it. […] Does she have the required preparedness for office?

PFOTENHAUER: I think without question. In fact, as I've said before, Governor Palin—the bottom of our ticket is more experienced, has more executive ability, and has a better record of reform than the top of the democratic ticket. So any type of comparison like that—Sarah Palin is more qualified than Barack Obama. which is why I think, it's a huge mistake for their campaign to push the experience line because the American people, when they look at the accomplishments of Sarah Palin, compared to the tissue paper thin resume of Barack Obama […].

GREGORY: Beyond the rhetoric, Nancy […] her views and her record, her record of preparedness, her views of the government, view of the world, those have not been tested on the campaign trail, as has Senator Obama's. That's a true statement.

PFOTENHAUER: Oh my goodness. Senator Obama's basically, all we've got is a bunch of speeches with senator Obama and, David you know that. He's been in the senate for what? like three years. He's been running for president for two.

I'm sorry. Running for president doesn't make you qualified for being president. The guy has never shown a willingness to buck his party leadership. His list of achievements, his bipartisan achievements are voice votes and things that passed 96-2. He never took on the entrenched interests and his own party in order to get the right thing done. Senator McCain's done that and so has Governor Palin.

Pfotenhauer Touts McCain's Economic Aptitude (FNC 09/16/08 5:23pm)
HEATHER NAUERT: What would Senator McCain do to turn the economy around?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well, first of all, he's going to lower taxes on capital formation, which is job creation. Every time you hear that you should think about job creation. He's going to keep our taxes low, and he's also going to offer middle class tax relief. So he's going to lower the burden of government if you will, and he's going to decrease and limit the tax payer funded party that's been going on here in DC for so many years. So he's going to keep taxes low, spending low, open-forcefully open exports markets so that we have places to sell our goods. 95% of our customers live outside our borders. So it's a recipe for success and it's been proven to be so when we tried it in the 80's or the 90's or even its been tried in other countries like Ireland or New Zealand about ten years ago. So this is the way you get prosperity, this is the way you create jobs, and that's what John McCain's going to do.

NAUERT: Okay one thing Senator McCain talked about today is naming a commission, put together a

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commission to figure out how we got to this place in the first place. And the Obama camp is saying that's just passing the buck, that's what Washington does.

[…]

PFOTENHAUER: I find it ironic that Obama's talking about passing the buck. This is a guy who voted present over 130 times in the Illinois State Senate because he didn't want to take a stand on controversial issues and has done virtually nothing that involved ever challenging his own leadership here in Washington. What Senator McCain recognized is that the only way we're going to get real change here is if we have a bipartisan independent group look at what's gone on and make those recommendations to Congress in a thumbs up, thumbs down situation. That's what its going to take.

And Barack Obama I noticed was criticizing the 9-11 commission today when it wasn't his idea. He certainly approved of the 9-11 commission in the past and almost in the same breath, within the same speech, he called for an advisory group. So I thought that was pretty ironic- especially since there's what you called for already exists, the President has an advisory group. It's called the Working Group and it has the CFTC, the SEC, the Fed, Treasury, and private advisers. So that, what he called for, his solutions, already exists and didn't prevent the crisis from occurring.

NAUERT: How would simplifying mortgages work? John McCain has talked about that, explain that.

PFOTENHAUER: Well first of all your earlier question was absolutely on the money if you will, in that one of the problems that happened here is that instru-loans developed. There were loan products developed that dissociated risk from return, so you had people being offered zero interest loans, no money down. It just totally divorced the people taking out the loans from the lending risk and that's a real problem that should not happen and Senator McCain called that one months ago. In fact, years ago when he asked for Freddie and Fannie in 2003 and 2005.

Giuliani and McCain's 9/11 Commission for the Economy (FNC 09/16/08 7:15pm)
RUDY GIULIANI: The reality is we have a – the strongest economy in the world – there are a lot of problems with it.

SHEP SMITH: He said yesterday the economy's in crisis.

GIULIANI: And it is in crisis. But you can - we've got a world problem that we have to deal with and we have significant problems in our economy. I think the best way to describe our economy, you have to have a single word answer rather than fundamentally strong or whatever, is we have a resilient economy. But, having said that, I mean this is still the world's leading economy, under a lot of stress, with a lot of problems. Seems to me you attack it in a positive way, not a negative way. You don't run it down, which is what I think Senator McCain was trying to convey. I also think today he put out a far more specific approach to what do about the economy than Senator Biden did. All Senator Biden did was spend the entire day attacking him.

SMITH: You prosecuted Michael Milken back in the day. Would it be your advise that there's somebody to prosecute here and now?

GIULIANI: I can't say that. I think the idea of a commission is a very good idea though.

SMITH: But calling it a 9/11 commission seemed to get away with him this morning.

GIULIANI: Well I think the Obama campaign has descended into criticize everything that John McCain says. Even if you said it yourself. Senator Obama was in favor a commission to work out his health care plan, to work on the Democratic primary; he's recommended commissions for very big issues, very small issues. All of the sudden Senator McCain recommends a commission, which makes a lot of sense, I mean one of the things Senator said I said myself today, which is a lot of these transactions were transactions people didn't really understand. We've got to get to the bottom of what happened in order to fix it. That includes to find out whether people are criminally responsible for this. There may be there may not be. It should be done in a deliberate way.

Romney Defends McCain's Economic Credentials; Says McCain Has Plan But Won't State It (CNN 09/16/08)
MITT ROMNEY: Yeah it's a bubble's bust, and they always bust, and the housing market got way too overheated with very low interest rates and then mortgages handed out like they were candy and housing prices got up and up and up and speculators moved in and that's finally now readjusting and it's doing so with a lot of pain for a lot of people. […] There's so much blame that could be assessed, you could say Wall St. made mistakes, the S&P they oversea, the rating agencies made mistakes, Congress made mistakes.

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They have oversight committees that look at these various areas and also on the administration […] the question is what's the right thing to strengthen the economy – John McCain has the answer, Barack Obama doesn't. […] Well of course we're going to have to study the regulatory structure on Wall St. to make sure these kinds of bubbles are identified before they become a crisis proportion and that's going to take study. But the immediate action that has to be taken is to keep taxes down to allowed our trade with other nations to continue and to get ourselves off our dependence on foreign oil by drilling for more oil, using nuclear and also using coal, and on those issues, Barack Obama's going to have to reverse course. He can't raise taxes now. He can't add more spending programs. He can't cut off trade. And he just can't say we're not going to be able to use nuclear and offshore drilling. […] Look I campaigned with-against John McCain on the issue of the economy and with regards to the fundamentals of America's economy, what he's referring to is the innovative capacity of America, the ability of our American workers, and the productivity levels in this country. **Those fundamental elements**. But John McCain has been saying for a long time the economy's in real trouble […]

Romney Discourages Blame Game; Let Capitalism 'Work its Magic' Instead (FNC 09/16/08 4:20pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: Governor, what do you make of this rhetoric? It's pretty tough on almost all capitalists, it sounds like.

MITT ROMNEY: […] I think, at a time like this, people are really concerned about what will happen to the future of our economic system and a lot of people pointing in different directions […]. There was blame in congress. There was blame in the administration. Look, there's blame at the fed. There is blame at the rating agencies. There's blame for the investors.

Nobody could escape blame in a setting like this, but you know we can stop the discussion about who's to blame and talk about how we're going to make things better and, in this case, I think it's time for Barack Obama to say he's gonna put a hold on any proposals for massive new programs and he's also gonna put a hold on the idea of raising taxes. Raising taxes and increasing federal spending right now is exactly the wrong way to go. He has got to say no to the tax hike. A tax hike right now would be devastating.

CAVUTO: Governor, do you worry, though—I know it's campaign season; I know it's rhetoric and I know it's populist-sounding and maybe someone has figured, in a focus group, that's the way to resonate with voters, but there has been more bashing [of] the fat cats, more bashing of the corporations, more bashing of profits—this is on the part of the republican team. I am just wondering what is going on, here.

ROMNEY: Well, the free enterprise system in capitalism is one of the things that propelled our economy to be the powerhouse that it is globally despite the enormous troubles it's going through right now and **our long-term outlook can be positive but certainly we're going to rely on the entrepreneurship of the American people, the risk-taking and capitalism, to work its magic** and to employ people and to make things the way we would like it to be for kids and grandkids. I know it's tempting to point fingers, but I would rather point in a direction we would like to go and get this economy going again, like—

CAVUTO: At least you are pointing in a direction and not just an arbitrary finger in the air, but let me ask you, governor: Wall Street was up today on a day the Federal Reserve kinda said 'No' to a lot of stock-traders' demands for a rate cut. 48 hours after the treasury said no to a bailout of Lehman Brothers we're getting sort of twin acts of tough love on the part of Uncle Sam. What do you make of that?

ROMNEY: Well, I think what's happening is the Federal Reserve and the Treasury; they're making a careful assessment of what kind of systemic action might occur or consequences might occur based on the failure of a company like Lehman and where they see massive consequences they're going to step in and try to protect the American public with shareholder support or, excuse me, with taxpayer support, but where they see limited consequence or limited systemic effect they are probably not going to step in and that's—that kind of measured approach I think is being well received by people who are making an informed assessment of the—

CAVUTO: Yeah, but you know what I wonder, governor, why they didn't do this before, if they were so afraid about appearing to have a ring around their nose and being led by the markets and not ticking 'em off, and you know this from your Bank Capital days, obviously when you came in to fix up a company and some of the medicine might be tough […], but they would look favorably if it turned out okay […] is the message now that—maybe that is the message, that tough love ultimately earns you more tough respect than easy money.

ROMNEY: Well, if people are acting out of the interest of the economy and the American people, I think you're gonna find that Wall Street generally recognizes and appreciates that, but, if you see instead people bailing companies out to try and help shareholders, they're gonna find that negative—even if they are in the marketplace 'cause they they want to make sure that the people leading our country economically are doing

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what is right for the economy, long-term.

Highlight #2

O'Callaghan Vouches for Palin's Honesty (CNN 09/16/08 3:15pm)

RICK SANCHEZ: Welcome back. I'm Rick Sanchez here in the World Headquarters of CNN. "Newsweek" investigator Michael Isikoff just broke down for us the probe in Alaska, which he's been looking into, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin's dismissal of a state public safety commissioner for reasons having to do with her ex-brother-in-law. So say some of the investigators in this case, has not been proven. Now we are going to get on a McCain/Palin's take on this. Campaign spokesman Ed O'Callaghan is joining us from Anchorage, Alaska. Hey, Ed, thanks so much for being with us. We certainly appreciate it.

ED O'CALLAGHAN: All right.

SANCHEZ: Let me read to you something that is coming to us right now. This is from somebody on our Facebook that we put out. We asked them to start a discussion on this, as we are doing the newscast. This one says that -- it's from Curtis Ross (ph). He says: "Look, I really feel like she should not be allowed not to cooperate and not be harassed about this. It just does not need -- help her too much in the whole truth-telling thing." So, basically, here you have somebody saying, if an American doesn't want to cooperate, they don't have to. Is that your take?

O'CALLAGHAN: No. Governor Palin very much wants to cooperate. She wants to cooperate with an investigation, however, that is fair and impartial, and not directed by Obama supporters here in Anchorage. And that place for that inquiry to happen is before the personnel board. There is a personnel board inquiry that was initiated in August. And, under Alaska law, personnel board is the appropriate forum to inquire about any allegations of ethical breaches. And so there is an investigation pending there. It is an impartial, independent investigation. And Governor Palin is very much interested in allowing that investigation to go forward and cooperating with fully with it. She wants to be an open book in that investigation, so that there is a serious search for the truth as to what happened with the replacement of Commissioner Monegan. That is really the question here.

SANCHEZ: Let me ask you...

O'CALLAGHAN: So, the question is -- yes, sir, Rick.

SANCHEZ: I just have to ask you a question, because you just raised a very important point. You said that it is the Obama camp that is actually directing this. What proof do you have that the Obama camp is in any way directing this? What contact has there been between the Obama camp and the folks in Alaska who are directing this investigation? Please share it with us.

O'CALLAGHAN: Well, yes, Rick. Thank you. In the legislative council investigation, that investigation is actually being run by, as was revealed in a committee hearing on Friday, two senators that are well-known Obama supporters here. In fact, they are pictured on the Obama Web site as campaign spokes -- not spokesmen, but campaign supporters of Obama. That is Senator Elton and Senator French. That's the investigative council that is going on. Those were the gentlemen that chose the special investigator, Steven Branchflower. There are a number of conflicts between Steven Branchflower and Senator Elton. And all of that has led to a partisan inquiry that has already had a prejudgment as to the conclusion. The public statements of these gentlemen have said that the Republicans could expect an October surprise at the end of this inquiry. That implicates the national election. And, once that happens, this is no longer an independent inquiry, which is what was originally allowed, but a partisan affair with a predetermined judgment. The appropriate method to do here is to bring it to the personnel board, impartial. There is an investigator already appointed. There's a filing made yesterday which shows through e-mails from the governor's own office that what really is at the bottom of this affair is Commissioner Monegan's budgetary disputes during a time he was the commissioner of public safety here in Alaska. He challenged the governor at every turn. And the governor exercised her executive authority to replace him with someone who she thought would be more in line with her budgetary priorities.

SANCHEZ: What would be the harm in just going ahead? If she really does have absolutely nothing to hide in an investigation, what would be the harm in going ahead and answering their questions? Even if they are people who don't like her, but like Obama, as you stated is the case with Senators Elton and Senator French, how could they possibly harm her if there is no -- if there is nothing that has been done wrong?

O'CALLAGHAN: The concern is that they -- Senator French has already stated publicly that they have already reached their conclusion. And their conclusion is that it will not be good for the governor, is what he said. So, the concern there is that they have already reached their conclusion. Here, we have a personnel board inquiry that is going on. No judgments have been made. They have maintained the integrity of the investigation, which, as a former prosecutors, I can say, is the most important thing that an independent investigator wants to do, is to

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maintain the integrity of the investigation. Through the public statements of Senator French and what was revealed at the hearing on Friday, which was that Senator French was actually directing which witnesses the investigator, Branchflower, was going to try to interview, that shows that it is no longer an independent investigation, that is a partisan affair that is being directed by Democrats that are on record as being ardent supporters of Obama.

O'CALLAGHAN: That is not the appropriate forum. I'm sorry. There is a little bit of feedback out here in lovely Anchorage.

SANCHEZ: I know it is always difficult when we do these satellite transmissions, so I will try and just ask the question and then hear you out on it. Do you have any information that would lead any reasonable people to believe that there is direct contact between either Barack Obama, himself, or Barack Obama's campaign and Senators Elton and French?

O'CALLAGHAN: Well, actually, CNN reported several weeks ago that the Obama campaign contacted a gentleman that is the head of the police union here. That is important, because that gentleman, John Cyr, also represents Commissioner Monegan in a personnel board filing that he made against the governor, implicitly recognizing that the personnel board is the appropriate jurisdiction for this inquiry. I don't mean to get too technical...

O'CALLAGHAN: ... on you, but that is what they have done.

SANCHEZ: Yes, but that's not the senator's, though, right?

SANCHEZ: But you mentioned French and Elton. Is there anything that ties Obama's people to French and Elton, though, since you said they're the ones...

SANCHEZ: Go ahead.

O'CALLAGHAN: Go ahead, Rick. John Cyr, as CNN reported, was contacted by the Obama campaign. And John Cyr is associated with Senator French, because they have shared some budgetary priorities together. I would say, actually, a good question would be to ask Senator Elton whether -- and Senator French whether the Obama campaign has contacted them.

SANCHEZ: I guarantee you that we will do just that after this conversation.

Let me ask you a question. Can you say for -- can you explain to us, if this thing were resolved and let's say that they got an independent prosecutor in this case, and you felt that they were more fair, would she then likely cooperate with this investigation?

O'CALLAGHAN: Governor Palin has said that she will cooperate with a fair, just investigation. That is in the personnel board. They, in fact, made filings before the personnel board yesterday indicating her full intent to cooperate. She wants to cooperate with an investigation that going to have a search for the truth here, because we know she is an open book here, and, at the end of the day, what a fair and impartial investigator will find, Rick, is that the governor did nothing wrong here.

SANCHEZ: But are Elton and French the fly in the ointment here for you? Is that what you are saying, get rid of them, and you cooperate with the investigation? Are you saying that?

O'CALLAGHAN: We are cooperating with the investigation that has the appropriate jurisdiction, the personnel board.

SANCHEZ: OK.

O'CALLAGHAN: We certainly agree that Elton and French are no longer impartial and are not interested in conducting a fair and impartial investigation.

SANCHEZ: So, just one more time, for the record, as it stands right now, and as this investigation stands, Sarah Palin is likely not to cooperate? Is that correct?

O'CALLAGHAN: Sarah Palin is 100 percent going to cooperate with the personnel board inquiry that is the appropriate jurisdiction and where this inquiry should lie.

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SANCHEZ: But not the legislative inquiry?

O'CALLAGHAN: Well, we have to see how that transpires. The legislative inquiry, they have certain moves that they can make, too, I believe. And what we want to do is make sure it is fair and impartial. We have had absolutely no indication over the last several weeks that this is going to be a fair and impartial inquiry in the legislative council.

SANCHEZ: But, one more time, as it stands right now, she will not cooperate with the legislative inquiry? Is that correct?

O'CALLAGHAN: If the legislative inquiry asks Governor Palin of certain things, I am sure that Governor Palin's attorney would consider those requests. However, the personnel board is the appropriate inquiry. And Governor Palin is an open book with respect to that fair and impartial hearing.

Do the McCain Camp's Recent Claims Pass the Honesty Test? (CNN 09/16/08 2:45pm)
RICK SANCHEZ: OK. We look into this and we asked, what is Joe Biden actually talking about? What is he complaining about? Here is CNN's Randi Kaye now taking a look at that.

RANDI KAYE: Call it what you will, mistruths, half-truths, stretching the truth, telling the truth. Whatever it is, it has Democrats and Republicans questioning what is going on inside of the McCain campaign. Their opponents have gone so far as to say that John McCain and Sarah Palin are lying their way into the White House, claims that the campaign brushes off.

TUCKER BOUNDS: I think that those who say that John McCain and Governor Palin are lying about anything in this campaign need to pay closer attention to our advertisements and the record of the candidate that we are running against.

KAYE: Make no mistake, the Obama campaign has also been accused of mistruths along the way, like telling voters that McCain wanted to spend 100 years in Iraq. McCain actually said troops should stay in noncombat roles for as long as it takes, not that he wanted 100 years of war.

NARRATOR: He is running the sleaziest ads ever, truly vile, dishonest sneers...

KAYE: McCain stands by his ads, he told the ladies from "The View."

JOY BEHAR: We know that those two ads are untrue. They are lies. And yet you, at the end of it, say I approve these messages. Do you really approve them?

KAYE: Did Obama want to teach sex education to kindergartners? Not really. The program in question was intended to teach kids how to avoid sexual predators, says the non-partisan group, factcheck.org .

VIVECA NOVAK: What he wanted to do was increase the range of some sex form of education, K-12. But the kind of thing he was interested in having kids at a young age learn about was inappropriate sexual advances that might be made against them.

KAYE: The campaign's response?

BOUNDS: Our ads are based on honesty and truth and a true reflection of Barack Obama's record.

KAYE: But what about Sarah Palin? On the campaign trail she keeps hammering home one point, I told Congress, thanks, but no thanks to that infamous Bridge to Nowhere. But that's not true. Congress had already killed the project.

NOVAL: She never said no thanks, Congress.

KAYE (on camera): Opposing the bridge plays into a bigger theme of the McCain campaign, that Sarah Palin is the perfect crusader to help McCain rid Washington of its addiction earmarks and wasteful pork barrel spending.

KAYE: The truth -- Governor Palin has cut Alaska's earmark requests in half. But this year alone, the state asked for $197 million.

NOVAK: She says that she vetoed a lot of legislation that would have called for earmarks. But that doesn't get rid of the fact that she actually did ask for earmarks for the state of Alaska.

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KAYE: On energy policy, Palin said Alaska provides 20 percent of the energy produced in the U.S. Is that true? No. The U.S. Energy Information Administration says it's 3.35 percent.

NOVAK: It's a big deal because Sarah Palin and John McCain have been claiming that Palin is an expert on energy in the United States, because Alaska has a good bit of oil. But the figures she's citing are simply wrong.

KAYE: And what about Palin's international credentials? The extent of her travels abroad?

BOUNDS: The Alaska National Guard has confirmed, just like we had confirmed at the campaign, that she has traveled abroad. She went to Kuwait, she entered Iraq. She underwent and presided over a ceremony. So here we are trying to bat down something that was completely true, 100 percent accurate.

KAYE: Apparently not. We checked with the Army National Guard and they told us that they are 100 percent sure Palin never made it past the Iraq/Kuwait checkpoint, that she never entered Iraq. And her trip to Ireland, originally billed by the campaign as visit to a foreign country, campaign spokeswoman Maria Comella says, it was a refueling stop. Some Republicans are uneasy. Bush White House strategist Karl Rove on Fox News Sunday, criticized both the McCain and Obama campaigns.

KARL ROVE,: McCain has gone in some of his ads, similarly gone one step too far and sort of attributing to Obama, things that are, you know, beyond the 100 percent truth test. Both campaigns ought to be careful about that.

KAYE: Still, political expert Larry Sabato, says mistruths can work well with the party base, which is conditioned to believe the campaign.

LARRY SABATO: A smear campaign can succeed. If it's completely outrageous and it's completely contrary to the facts, then probably the truth will catch up with it before the end of the campaign. But if the unfairnesses or the mischaracterizations are subtle enough, then the campaign will probably succeed.

KAYE: Randi Kaye, CNN, Anchorage, Alaska.

Highlight #3
Liberals Defend Protesters at One of McCain's Many Properties (FNC 09/16/08 4:25pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: These people today protesting outside McCain's condo in northern Virginia. They're asking McCain to take folks in who are losing their homes to foreclosure. McCain's place is a few miles from the district. Tons of other politicians and a lot of Democrats live nearby as well, so why pick on McCain? Let's ask two of those demonstrators. Chris Chaith and Christy Huntaman are with Change2Win (Change to win) Um, jump all here but Chris to you first, why McCain's place?

CHRISTY HUNTAMAN: To be honest, it just made sense. He's got extra homes. We have people who have none.

CAVUTO: A lot of folks seem to have extra homes, in fact, big homes. So I just want to know and just to get a sense, Chris Chaif, why this one? Why not Biden, I mean he has a compound down in Delaware, couple of homes on the compound – I think we have that – why didn't you go down there?

CHRIS CHAIF: Well I think because Joe Biden has a record that stands strong with America's working families and the middle class, and he has a record that he's proven that he's standing with us. I think for John McCain, we wanted to make this issue personal and very real and very direct.

CAVUTO: So John McCain's done nothing in his past that's for working folks?

CHAIF: Well let's just look at this record, 26 years he's voted against the minimum wage 19 times, today he defined the soundness of the American economy around his support for American workers, where was he over those 26 years voting against the minimum wage? […] Look I think at the end of the day we have a candidate running for President who in March blamed homeowners for the foreclosure crisis, then claimed he was for deregulation, now he's saying that he believes we need to have a commission to look into the problem.

CAVUTO: Christy, do you think there is some culpability on Barack Obama's part too, that he envisioned an aggressive lending policy to reach out to minorities and those who couldn't qualify and shouldn't qualify for loans, getting loans backfire. And that he had a hand in that? […] Whatever happened to personal responsibility?

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CHRISTY HUNTAMAN: You know I can speak for where I'm from in Ohio, I can tell you that people got into these mortgages with the best intentions. They wanted the American dream And what they got was very different, they got screwed. Gas prices went up, everything else went up, and so when everything went up… […]

Begala Attacks McCain on Fundamentals of Economy Issue (CNN 09/16/08 5:00pm)
PAUL BEGAL: A lot of Democrats have their panties in a wad, we're all nervous, they need to stop whining and start fighting – the way that Obama and Biden are doing. And I have to say, the key to this has been John McCain and I want to publicly thank him. Senator McCain, thank you again for being so clueless on the economy. I'm trying to think of a bigger Presidential gaffe – Carville and I were just talking on the phone – than John McCain, in the midst of an economic melt down, saying the economy is fundamentally strong.

No, John McCain is fundamentally wrong. And this is the biggest gift he could have given Barack Obama. Obama to his credit is pouncing on it. […] And you know what McCain said today – I hope the viewers at home are sitting down – he called for a commission. Whew! There's change. A blue ribbon panel? Maybe a task force, ooh maybe a study? How clueless can you get? […]

In point of fact, Barack Obama's proposed tax cuts for 95% of Americans and small businesses he placed that to generate economic growth. But this is not what McCain says – when he wants to look at for example Terry talks about deregulation, one of the reasons we're in this mess is that Phil Gramm, a banking lobbyist who used to be a Senator, who's very close to Barack- John McCain put a loophole in the law that deregulated these Wall St. instruments that have caused so much of the problem. […] But if you want change, not commissions, chump change, then you gotta be for Obama, he's the only hope for change, he's put out quite a specific program.

--
Jacob Roberts
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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/27/2015 8:53:44 AM
Subject: News Update - November 27

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, November 27

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Ministers Hold Marathon Meetings on Possibility of PA Collapse**
- **Ya'alon: I Don't Know When the Terror Will Stop**
- **Netanyahu: No Plans to Arm PA Security Forces**
- **Six Soldiers Hurt in Car-Ramming During West Bank Protest**
- **IDF Chief of Staff Flies Secretly to Brussels to Meet US General**
- **Israel to Establish Formal Presence in Abu Dhabi**
- **IAF Official: Israel Won't Down Russian Warplane in Its Airspace**
- **Israel Holds First Successful Operational Test for Barak 8 Missile**

Commentary:

- **Ma'ariv: "Resistance Movement"**
  - By Ben Caspit, Columnist, Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse
- **Al-Monitor: "Why Kerry Should Have Skipped His Stop in Israel"**
  - By Akiva Eldar, Israel Pulse Columnist, Al-Monitor

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Ha'aretz

Ministers Hold Marathon Meetings on Possibility of PA Collapse

The diplomatic-security cabinet held marathon discussions over the last two days about the possibility that the Palestinian Authority will collapse and how Israel would deal with such a development, according to three sources who either attended the meetings or were briefed on them. Several ministers argued that the PA's collapse could serve Israel's interests, so Israel shouldn't try to prevent it.
See also, "Cabinet Said to Hold Anguished Debate If PA Collapses" (Times of Israel)

Arutz Sheva

Ya'alon: I Don't Know When the Terror Will Stop

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon (Likud) spoke on Friday morning and said he can't anticipate when the Arab terror wave plaguing Israel will end. "We have a wave of terror that will accompany us in the coming days and apparently in the coming weeks, and we don't know if it will end soon or when," said Ya'alon of the terror wave, which has already left 22 Israelis murdered and hundreds others wounded in two months.
See also, "Israel Plans Security Fence Between Hebron and Kiryat Gat Due to Spike in Terror" (Algemeiner)

Arutz Sheva

Netanyahu: No Plans to Arm PA Security Forces

Israel is not planning to approve arms for the Palestinian Authority's (PA) security forces or any other "gesture" to the PA, including the release of terrorists, sources close to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told *Arutz Sheva* on Wednesday evening. The clarification came following reports that the IDF had issued a recommendation to the political echelon that the PA security forces be given armored vehicles, weapons and ammunition so as to let them enter terror hotbeds that they are more familiar with than the IDF.

Times of Israel

Six Soldiers Hurt in Car-Ramming During West Bank Protest

Six IDF soldiers were wounded in a second car-ramming attack Friday in the West Bank. The attack took place during an altercation between IDF forces and Palestinian demonstrators at the entrance to the village of Beit Ummar in the southern West Bank, north of Hebron. While soldiers held back the demonstrators to protect Route 60, the main north-south road that passes nearby, they were caught by surprise by a Palestinian vehicle that raced toward them and slammed into them. Four of the wounded were lightly hurt with wounds to their extremities. One was moderately hurt. A sixth was lightly hurt and refused to be evacuated to hospital. Two of the wounded were officers.
See also, "Six IDF Soldiers Wounded Near Hebron in Second Vehicular Attack of the Day" (Jerusalem Post)

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Times of Israel

IDF Chief of Staff Flies Secretly to Brussels to Meet US General

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot flew secretly to Brussels this week for talks on the Continent's security situation, according to a security source. Eisenkot met with America's top general in Europe, Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, to discuss the current situation in the Middle East, the source said. Detailed information on what was discussed in Eisenkot's meetings has been withheld. However, as Breedlove functions as both the head of America's military presence in Europe, as well as the head of NATO, it is safe to assume that both the ongoing threats of terror in Europe and the conflicts in the Middle East, including the developing Russia-Turkey feud, were discussed.

Jerusalem Post

Israel to Establish Formal Presence in Abu Dhabi

The Foreign Ministry confirmed a *Ha'aretz* report Friday that Israel will in the coming weeks open an office in Abu Dhabi accredited to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). According to the report, also confirmed by the ministry, Foreign Ministry Director-General Dore Gold was in the United Arab Emirates capital this week taking part in IRENA's biannual meeting and also discussing the opening of the Israeli mission. While in the past Israel has had trade delegations in Qatar, Oman, Morocco and Tunisia, this would be the first time Israel would have any formal presence in the UAE.
See also, "Israel to Open Representative Office in Abu Dhabi" (Reuters)

Jerusalem Post

IAF Official: Israel Won't Down Russian Warplane In Its Airspace

Israel will not take action against Russian fighter jets that encroach into its air space, a senior air force official said on Thursday. The issue of Russian sorties in Syria was magnified in recent days after Turkey downed a Su-24 fighter jet that it claims entered its air space near the border. According to Israeli military officials, such a scenario is not in danger of repeating itself in the skies over the Golan Heights. "The Russian military is a new, key player which we are not ignoring," a senior military official told reporters on Thursday. "There is a clear boundary here, and they are busy with their matters, and we are busy with ours."
See also, "Senior Official: Israel's Air Force Can Topple a Country" (Arutz Sheva)

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Ynet News

Israel Holds First Successful Test for Barak 8 Missile

Israel held the first operational test for the Barak 8 missile defense system on Thursday afternoon, successfully destroying an enemy target. The system is to serve as protection against sophisticated missiles held by Hezbollah, like the Russian-built Yakhont (P-800 Oniks) - an advanced cruise missile system that Russia sold Syria. Such missiles, the defense establishment believes, can paralyze Israel's coast by targeting not only Israeli ships, but also its natural gas fields. The Barak 8 system can be deployed on at sea or on land and was designed to destroy threats from the air such as drones, fighter jets, missiles, and rockets, including in the event of multiple simultaneous launches.

See also, "Israel Tests Surface-to-Air Missile Amid Fears of Hezbollah Arms" (Newsweek)

Ma'ariv – November 26, 2015

Resistance Movement

By Ben Caspit

In the past few weeks, a powerful collision has been taking place behind the scenes of our political-security-diplomatic theater between two conflicting worldviews. Two opposing forces are vying for leadership. The old, traditional, pragmatic and non-inflammatory force against the new, reactionary, feisty and battle-hungry force. This is a complex and volatile story, with significant political, social and security aspects. It reflects the radicalization process that is taking place in the world, the region, Israeli society, and consequently, on the political map as well. We can also see it as a reflection of the general fulmination that is washing over all of us. The balance of power still leans towards the old world, but the new forces are fresh, kicking and threatening. This battle has not been decided.

The levelheaded and responsible approach is embodied most accurately by Defense Minister Moshe (Bugi) Yaalon. He receives halfhearted and erratic backing from Prime Minister Netanyahu. The third and surprising minister who stands with the two of them like a brick wall is Shas Chairman Aryeh Deri. Anyone who remembers how Deri helped Yitzhak Shamir rein in the eagerness of then-defense minister Moshe Arens, deputy chief of staff Ehud Barak and IAF commander Avihu Ben-Nun to bomb Iraq in the first Gulf War against the American urging, is not surprised. Twenty five years have passed, and Deri has not changed.

This Bibi-Bugi-Deri triumvirate is on the same side of the fence as the security establishment, and especially the IDF. On the other side, the rebels stand defiantly: They are the security cabinet ministers of the Jewish Home, Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked, Minister Gilad Erdan and other security cabinet ministers from the Likud such as Zeev Elkin. They wink to their activists, wink to their registered members and wink to the hardline right wing Likud grassroots, for whom life is simple: We have to hit the Arabs with full force, and then everything will be fine.

There was a hint of this battle in the past few weeks. This week it came to light, following a briefing to military affairs correspondents

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from OC Central Command Maj. Gen. Roni Numa. OC Central Command Numa, the sovereign in the territories, spoke candidly and from the heart. Between the lines, it was possible to discern the outline of the differences of opinion between the opposing worldviews. It was also possible to get a sense of the heavy pressure being brought to bear on the IDF by political figures, pressure that is currently being fended off bodily by top army and security officials.

The IDF refers to the current wave of terrorism as a "limited uprising" and realizes that dealing forcibly with despairing young people will not provide a solution. The army believes that [Israel] should act in the opposite manner: it should increase the number of work permits, not apply a heavy hand to the population, and try not to add the massive majority of the Palestinian public to the extremist minority that has declared a rebellion.

Anyone who remembers the second Intifada can see that the IDF is currently learning its lessons. In 2001 it was revealed in this column, for the first time, that the IDF fired over 1 million bullets in October 2000 in order to eradicate the violence that broke out after Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount. These million bullets had the opposite effect. The Palestinians were routed by the trained army, and then they attacked our cities and neighborhoods in a great mass of suicide bombers.

It seems to me that Defense Minister Yaalon knows this story best, because he was the deputy chief of staff when the second Intifada broke out. Before that, he was OC Central Command and prepared the IDF for the Intifada. The IDF was never as prepared as it was then, in 2000. The first months of the Intifada ended in a resounding Israeli knockout. The problem was that instead of the Palestinians calming down and backing down, they became even more extreme and crazy, until Israel was forced to retake the West Bank and clean out terrorism from one house to the next. This took years and cost a great many fatalities on both sides.

Now, mainly in light of the fact that the current uprising is not yet a popular uprising and has not swept the great majority of the Palestinian public, the army believes that [Israel] should be cautious, handle the situation with a sensitive hand, reward quiet areas, not push the civilians into the arms of terror, carefully safeguard the security cooperation with the PA security services, hold a large stick in one hand and an equally large carrot in the other.

IDF officials are emphatically opposed to the measures proposed by the right wing branch of the political echelon, such as expelling families, mass arrests, imposing wholesale closures and blockades and collective punishment. The IDF's position is a result of a careful study of the current events, in-depth research and experience that has accumulated in the field. To cool, not to heat, IDF officials say. Pour cold water, not gasoline. To be bad to the bad guys, and good to the good guys. That is the whole story.

<u>The knock-out blow gang</u>

The other side is also not a bunch of suckers. The right wing camp, led by Bennett, Shaked, Erdan, Elkin and others, is not certain that the IDF's security doctrine is delivering the goods. Their claim is not without merit.

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The "pilot" they are talking about is what happened in East Jerusalem. Since the city is not under the control of the IDF, but rather handled by the police, a firm hand and a strong arm were applied there. This is the approach led by Erdan, with the precise implementation of Cmdr. Bentzi Sao, who will go down in history as the almost sole survivor of the generation of police commanders who dissipated into the offices of the Police Internal Investigations Department within two years. These ministers say that the firm hand that was employed in East Jerusalem achieved its goal. The fact is that the Temple Mount became calm and the city is gradually calming.

The police went in with full force, say the members of this camp, it restricted the population's actions, it set up dozens of roadblocks, it employed Ruger fire, it carried out arrests on a vast scale, it exacted a high tangible price, and the situation on the ground became calm. This, as far as the right wing camp is concerned, is empirical proof.

We can add to this the outlawing of the northern chapter of the Islamic Movement, an historic event in which a police intelligence assessment overrode a GSS recommendation, under the leadership of Gilad Erdan. The jury is still out on this initiative. It's too soon to tell.

Conversely, some people say that signs of unbalance are evident in the right wing branch of the Israeli leadership. That the security cabinet has lost its brakes. That a group of young, borderline infantile ministers sits there, who are behaving childishly and seeking a "knock-out blow." There is no knock-out blow in this story, say the people leading the pragmatic approach. That would be playing with fire. Force has its limitations. There is no reason to get into a second Operation Defensive Shield, there is no one to attack in such an operation, because the results of the first Operation Defensive Shield are still in effect. The IDF controls the entire territory and does what it wants in any casbah at any given moment.

Mistake, reply the opponents, if the IDF employs in Judea and Samaria the same scale of incursions into villages, arrests, restrictions on movement and firm action that was employed in East Jerusalem, there will be results. The policy of containment and weakness must end. There is a boss on the ground, and he has to go crazy. This wave of terrorism is evolving from stones and firecrackers to knives, from there to vehicle ramming attacks, and from there to shooting, and who knows where else. It has to be stopped with full force now, before it grows. Sometimes a disproportionate response can lead to immediate results. Like a fire in an oil well. Only an explosion will put it out.

This battle also includes secondary debates within the security establishment. For example, the GSS's approach versus the IDF's approach. Yoram Cohen versus Gadi Eisenkot. There is no personal rivalry between them, incidentally. On the contrary. The working relations are good and the professional esteem is mutual. But the worldviews are completely opposed. The GSS is opposed, automatically, traditionally, in a Pavlovian response, to all recommendations for relief measures presented by the army. The GSS care about not having a terror attack tomorrow morning, period. They have no overall picture, they have no broader front. The IDF looks at the overall situation, at the broader front, not only at tomorrow morning but also at the day after, next week, in two years' time.

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The GSS tries to hem in the [relief] measures while the IDF, with the powerful backing of Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai, tries to be more expansive. The political echelon has its hand on the tap. At the moment, Netanyahu, Deri and Yaalon still set the tone, in the sane and lenient direction. One or two severe terror attacks, and that too shall pass.

Ben Caspit is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse as well as a senior columnist and political analyst for Israeli newspapers.

Al-Monitor – November 26, 2015

Why Kerry Should Have Skipped His Stop in Israel

By Akiva Eldar

If the Nov. 24 visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry to Jerusalem is to be judged by its contribution to advancing a diplomatic deal between Israel and the Palestinians, then Israeli news editors were right to push this non-event to the tail end of the news broadcasts and the back pages of the papers. The stories about the young women who were allegedly sexually harassed by Knesset member Yinon Magal (HaBayit HaYehudi) are far more newsworthy and interesting than another meaningless signature by Kerry on the attendance sheet at the prime minister's office.

The affair is a reminder that even in the religious HaBayit HaYehudi party — the standard bearer of "family values" — there are those who neglect to obey the seventh commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Even the scandal de jour involving Oren Hazan , the contemptible Knesset member (Likud) who, metaphorically, runs red lights and doesn't even stop to let a wheelchair pass, is more relevant to Israel's citizens and the residents of the occupied territories. Hazan's sleazy, victorious smiles are a reminder of the flimsy foundations propping up the Israeli government.

But Kerry's visit should not be judged by its usefulness to the diplomatic process, and not even by its contribution to preventing further deterioration of Israeli-Palestinian ties . The importance of this visit lies in the additional proof it provides of the impotence of the world's strongest power. This visit belongs in the lengthy annals of US initiatives that intensified the sense of despair and hopelessness among the Israeli and Palestinian peace camps regarding the diplomatic option. In the words of Brig. Gen. Guy Goldstein, deputy coordinator of Israeli Government Activities in the Territories, "Absent combined diplomatic steps by Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA], the current clash will not end."

Speaking on Oct. 28 at a conference at Netanya Academic College, the senior military officer added, "We are sitting on top of a kind of powder keg. Unless significant change occurs, mostly or entirely in the diplomatic arena, we will probably keep experiencing what we're experiencing today." His comments, the likes of which are being made behind closed doors by many defense officials, can be summed up in these words: Every piece of evidence pointing to the lack of significant change, such as another futile visit by an American

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secretary of state, pumps additional fuel to the fire burning under the powder keg.

Briefing reporters in Abu Dhabi on the eve of his stop in Israel, Kerry said, "We have ideas for how things could advance. But this street violence doesn't provide any leader with the framework within which they could look their people in the eye and say, 'There's a reason we're sitting down and talking.'" It is hard to overstate the importance of this sentence, spoken by the most important diplomat in the world. The US secretary of state replaced the message that peace is the right answer to violence, with words to the effect that violence delays peace. In fact, he supported the approach presented by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the following day at the start of their meeting, according to whom "there can be no peace when we have an onslaught of terror — not here or not anywhere else in the world."

Kerry, for his part, stressed that "there's no justification for Palestinian terror attacks against Israelis." Indeed, there's no justification for the murder of parents in front of their children, or for stabbing people walking down the street in towns such as Kiryat Gat. But Kerry "forgot" to say that there's no justification for the continuing occupation and for denying basic human rights to millions of Palestinians. He thus buttressed Netanyahu's argument that there's no difference between a 13-year-old Palestinian who stabbed a Jew in the settlement of Givat Ze'ev and a terrorist who fired indiscriminately at those sitting in a Paris cafe. All of them, Netanyahu told Kerry, are victims of "that same assault by militant Islamists and forces of terror."

There was good reason for Netanyahu to greet Kerry with the words, "You are a friend in our common efforts to restore stability, security and peace." The "stability" to which Netanyahu referred is acceptance of the status quo in the relationship between occupier and occupied. The "security" is the supply of additional state-of-the-art fighter jets to Israel. And there's no point wasting time talking about joint "peace" efforts. The prime minister is actually trying to put together a package deal that would include US recognition of areas dubbed "settlement blocs" and agreement to construction in those areas. In return, Israel would grant building permits to Palestinians in West Bank Area C, which is under Israeli civil and security control, and additional "goodwill gestures" to strengthen the standing of the PA.

It almost goes without saying that there was no way the United States would sign off on such a deal. One can assume that Netanyahu himself assessed that the United States would not provide a stamp of approval to what it considers an uncontrollable criminal enterprise. The prime minister surely did not believe that Israel would throw the Palestinians a few bones and US President Barack Obama would become the first president to change the fundamental US policy on the settlements, in force since June 1967. And, in fact, Deputy State Department spokesman Mark Toner made it abundantly clear in a Nov. 24 briefing that the answer to Netanyahu's demand was "a big no." The spokesman took the opportunity to remind Israelis that Democratic and Republican administrations alike view the construction in the settlements and Israeli attempts to create facts on the ground as moves undermining the two-state solution.

It seems that even if Obama were to come to Israel to lay the cornerstone for a new neighborhood in one of the settlements of the

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Etzion settlement bloc, this deal would not have been consummated. Netanyahu informed Kerry that any measures supporting the PA would depend on a drastic reduction of violence and incitement by the PA. But even if he were to truly understand the connection between Palestinian violence and Palestinian despair, it is highly doubtful that Netanyahu would succeed in making any sort of gesture toward the PA.

Even a mere decision to temporarily freeze construction in illegal outposts would dump him into political oblivion. His political survival depends on Hazan's whims and Magal's voting mood, not to mention his rival on the right, HaBayit HaYehudi party leader Naftali Bennett. "Bibi [Netanyahu] spoke abroad about a unilateral move," Bennett boasted to party activists, "and he retracted his remarks only because I put a bullet between his eyes." Afterward, the minister tasked with the education of the children of Israel explained that of course, these violent words were just a metaphor.

As long as Obama is not prepared to treat Netanyahu with the same determination and decisiveness as Bennett in order to make him overcome his recalcitrance on taking serious diplomatic steps, he would do well to leave Kerry home.

Akiva Eldar is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse. He was formerly a senior columnist and editorial writer for Haaretz and also served as the Hebrew daily's US bureau chief and diplomatic correspondent. His most recent book (with Idith Zertal), Lords of the Land, on the Jewish settlements, was on the best-seller list inIsrael and has been translated into English, French, German and Arabic.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
For comments, please contact us at info@centerpeace.org .
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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
Date: 4/2/2015 11:48:55 AM
Subject: Re: Iran statement

Give me 10 or so to confirm one thing.

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:44 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:

> Looks great. If folks are good, let's get out.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:14 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
>
> > + Brian
> >
> > **From:** Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
> > **Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:11 PM
> > **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
> > **Cc:** Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
> > **Subject:** Iran statement
> >
> > HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?
> >
> > The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It is also vital that our efforts to deny Iran a nuclear weapon be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From:	"Samantha McClain" <smcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/24/2015 2:21:11 AM
Subject:	April 24 Morning Show roundup
Attachments:	042415 Morning Shows.docx

Document attached. Thanks, team research!

Fox and Friends: Peter Doocey: HRC spoke and condemned GOP on immigration, LGBT rights, and social security. Chelsea Clinton defends foundation. Speaker Boehner threatened to subpoena Hillary Clinton for Benghazi emails. Fox news polls show only 45% of Americans trust her. Rubio on top of a Fox news polls. They talk up Rubio a bit. **Bret Baier special tonight on The Tangled Clinton web.**

CNN: Errol Louis called speaking fees from companies with business at State Dept “as clear of a conflict of interest as you get possibly imagine.” John King reports on Clinton Cash NYT story about Russia and uranium. Panel agrees that Clintons need to provide more answers beyond just saying this is a partisan attack. Clip of Romney saying that "it looks like bribery." Everything we are talking about goes into the "trust" argument against HRC. Ted Cruz had to clarify his position on gay marriage, and missed the vote on Loretta Lynch.

MSNBC: Brzezinski mentioned all headlines stemming from Clinton Cash stories, including uranium, speech income, Iran. Panel discusses Clinton Cash allegations, Halperin discuss Fallon’s Medium post. **Schweizer will be on Morning Joe next Tuesday.** Mitchell reports on failure to disclose all donations, Uranium one deal. Axelrod speaks said although there is “smoke” there is “no evidence” HRC made decisions influenced by money. Chuck Todd called WJC’s post-presidency behavior “sloppy.” Mike would love to hear from HRC on drones. Rubio leads GOP pack.

NBC Today Show: HRC "faces growing conflict of interest claims." Sunlight Foundation: "There's no smoking gun. There's no evidence she changed policy based on donations to the Foundation." Clinton Foundation has not revealed all donations, despite agreement with Obama administration. **Schweizer will be on Today Show Monday morning.**

CBS This Morning: Clinton cash segment mentions Giustra and Nigeria; quotes from Fallon memo

ABC Good Morning America: No political coverage

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: robbymook@gmail.com
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/10/2014 6:40:23 AM
Subject: Fwd: Correct The Record Saturday May 10, 2014 Roundup

I flagged for Tina and Cheryl as well but it's a little troubling that Goldman Sachs was selected for the foundation event

Begin forwarded message:

From: Burns Strider <burns.strider@americanbridge.org >
Date: May 10, 2014 at 1:13:35 PM EDT
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org >
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday May 10, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday May 10, 2014 Roundup:

Tweets:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: Couldn't be prouder of @ChelseaClinton today. Congrats on your doctorate. pic.twitter.com/M4RBFqUej [5/10/14, 9:42 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Biden takes shot at Clintons in SC"

"Biden, a potential 2016 candidate, said the unraveling of middle-class financial security began in 'the later years of the Clinton administration,' not under George W. Bush."

AP: "Chelsea Clinton to Receive Doctorate from Oxford"

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"Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton are in Oxford, England, this weekend to attend the graduation ceremonies of their daughter, Chelsea."

New York Times: "Clintons to Meet With Foundation's Big Donors Next Month"

"The most generous donors to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation will convene on June 6 at the Goldman Sachs headquarters in Lower Manhattan for a daylong event to discuss the family's philanthropy with the Clintons themselves."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton's no good, very bad week"

"Clinton allies like Media Matters founder David Brock have slammed Republicans for resurrecting the ghosts of the past to do the potential candidate harm now. It's a perspective a number of Clinton backers have offered."

Talking Points Memo: "Rand Paul: Benghazi Has 'Precluded' Hillary From Being President"

"Correct The Record, the pro-Hillary rapid response group, offered a response to Paul's comments."

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Besieged Beverly Hills Hotel taps former Clinton aide for damage control"

"The Beverly Hills Hotel, besieged by celebrity protests and City Council action over its owners' decision to institute new laws against women and homosexuals in Brunei, has tapped a former Clinton aide to run damage control, POLITICO has learned."

Bloomberg News: "2016 White House Battle Opens With Early Jockeying"

"President Barack Obama is openly joking about Hillary Clinton succeeding him, House Republicans are agitating over Benghazi and Monica Lewinsky's back. In other words, 2016 is on."

Slate blog: The XX Factor: "Hundreds of Nigerian Girls Are Missing. Fox News Blames Hillary Clinton."

"Is it true that Hillary Clinton, in the thrall of Islamist bullies, refused to designate an obvious terrorist organization for what it was, thereby stopping the U.S. from stomping them out of existence? No."

AP: "New Benghazi Probe Inspires Partisan Animosity"

"Pelosi said Democrats have heard from the families of two of the men killed, who asked, 'Don't take us down this path again.'"

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CNN: "Rand Paul criticizes the Clintons, urges GOP to engage minorities"

"Sen. Rand Paul sharply criticized Hillary Clinton for her handling of Benghazi, which he argued should disqualify her to serve as U.S. president, in remarks Friday to members of the Republican National Committee."

Articles:

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Biden takes shot at Clintons in SC"

By Cameron Joseph

May 10, 2014, 10:03 a.m. EDT

Vice President Joe Biden gave a closed-door speech Friday to South Carolina Democrats that included a shot at the Clintons.

Biden, a potential 2016 candidate, said the unraveling of middle-class financial security began in "the later years of the Clinton administration," not under George W. Bush.

One attendee told CNN he gave an "Elizabeth Warren-type speech" blasting income inequality.

Biden has been moving to the left as he prepares for a possible primary against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, though many Democrats don't think he'd run against her.

Multiple sources described the 30 minute speech as "populist" and high-energy, according to CNN. He did not, however, mention his own presidential ambitions.

"He said we have some of the most productive workers in the world, but corporations are more concerned about their stockholders than they are about their employees," one attendee said. "He talked about how the fruits of labor go to stockholders, rather than to the people who are producing it. That the people making the money in this country are the corporations."

Another attendee described it as "a stem-winding, almost revival-type speech."

In recent months, the vice president has focused on revving up the liberal base on issues of income inequality. He delivered a lengthy attack on Rep. Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) budget at George Washington University in late April.

But his rare rebuke of the Clintons' economic policies, which some liberals view as too friendly to Wall Street, indicates how he'd possibly approach a 2016 campaign if he and Clinton square off in a primary.

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AP: "Chelsea Clinton to Receive Doctorate from Oxford"

By Ken Thomas

May 9, 2014, 6:23 p.m. EDT

Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton are in Oxford, England, this weekend to attend the graduation ceremonies of their daughter, Chelsea.

Chelsea Clinton will receive her doctorate degree in international relations on Saturday from the prestigious British university. Her father was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford from 1968 to 1970.

The graduation ceremony comes as her mother is considering a potential 2016 presidential campaign.

The 34-year-old Clinton is reaching a number of milestones this year. In addition to her doctorate, Clinton and her husband, Marc Mezvinsky, are expecting their first child in the fall. And she has taken a more public role at her family's Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, where she serves as vice chairwoman.

If her mother runs for president, the younger Clinton could be an asset in connecting with younger voters and members of her generation.

A longtime advocate for public health, Clinton has played an active role in developing policies at the foundation to address childhood obesity, HIV and AIDS, and childhood diarrhea around the globe.

During an appearance at the annual South by Southwest festival in March, Clinton noted that more than 750,000 children die around the world every year because of severe dehydration due to diarrhea, an issue her family's foundation hopes to address.

"We have to do whatever we can to ensure that no child dies of diarrhea," she said.

Clinton's dissertation examines international global governance structures with a focus on global health. At the foundation, she has worked closely with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the Clinton Health Matters Initiative.

The younger Clinton, a special correspondent for NBC News, is a graduate of Stanford University and holds master's degrees from Oxford and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

During an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" in April, the former president noted that once his daughter receives her doctorate, she will have four degrees.

"She'll have as many as her parents do — combined," Bill Clinton said. "When she was younger, the way all kids are, she thought she knew more than I did about everything. But alas, in my dotage, it turned out to be true!"

New York Times: "Clintons to Meet With Foundation's Big Donors Next Month"

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By Amy Chozick

May 9, 2014

The most generous donors to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation will convene on June 6 at the Goldman Sachs headquarters in Lower Manhattan for a daylong event to discuss the family's philanthropy with the Clintons themselves.

The event, which is held annually, will include a morning talk and lunch with the Clintons and their daughter, who as vice chairwoman of the foundation her father started has taken on a leadership role. Later, Mr. Clinton and his daughter will join donors for dinner at Birreria, the chef Mario Batali's rooftop restaurant in the Flatiron district of Manhattan.

"Our annual briefing assembles the foundation's program leadership and major supporters to reflect on our progress and to consider strategies and priorities for the year ahead," Dennis Cheng, the Clinton Foundation's chief development officer, wrote in an email to donors.

Ms. Clinton and her parents have held fund-raisers throughout the country in the past year to build up the foundation's endowment. In addition to the scheduled events, Ms. Clinton and her husband, Marc Mezvinsky, are expected to join her father in a high-stakes poker game to raise money for the family's philanthropic organization, whose wide-ranging work includes projects in America's inner cities as well as in African villages.

The typically low-key donor briefing is likely to attract more attention this year as Mrs. Clinton contemplates a run for president in 2016. Many of the foundation's major supporters are also the Clintons' most devoted political donors. Mr. Cheng, who is overseeing the event, served as a finance director for Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008.

Steve Bing, a Hollywood producer; the media mogul Haim Saban; and the hedge fund billionaire Marc Lasry have given generously to the Clintons' political campaigns and their philanthropic causes. The foundation also receives millions of dollars in support from overseas donors who are barred from contributing to United States political campaigns, including Frank Giustra, a Canadian businessman, and Victor Pinchuk, a Ukrainian steel magnate.

The Clinton Foundation has used the Goldman Sachs auditorium for the event before, but the location underscores that Mrs. Clinton is undeterred by criticism from the progressive wing of the Democratic Party that she is too close to the financial industry.

In his new book, "Stress Test: Reflections on Financial Crises," Timothy F. Geithner, the former Treasury secretary, describes a conversation with Mr. Clinton about how Mr. Geithner could improve his standing with economic populists.

"You could take Lloyd Blankfein into a dark alley," Mr. Clinton said, referring to the chief executive of Goldman Sachs, "and slit his throat, and it would satisfy them for about two days. Then the blood lust would rise again."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton's no good, very bad week"

By Maggie Haberman

May 10, 2014, 7:04 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton isn't a candidate for president, at least not yet. But this week felt like she was very much in the 2016 grind.

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One day, she was weighing in on gun control, Obamacare and social inequality. The next she was taking heat over Benghazi and facing questions about whether as Secretary of State she went too easy on the group behind the kidnap of Nigerian girls.

Then there was Monica Lewinsky, reviving the scandals of 1998.

It was arguably the roughest week Clinton has had since she left the State Department early last year, highlighting the tensions between the past and the future that will inevitably come to a head if she runs.

Lynne Cheney, the wife of the former vice president, picked up the Lewinsky story quickly, telling Fox News host Bill O'Reilly: "I really wonder if this isn't an effort on the Clintons' part to get that story out of the way." It was a sentiment some other hosts on the network echoed.

Lewinsky resurfaced with a Vanity Fair essay she penned about her difficult last decade, detailing her inability to find a job and her feelings about what she insisted was a "consensual" relationship with former President Bill Clinton. She faulted Hillary Clinton for engaging in a "blame-the-woman" mentality by dubbing her a "narcissistic loony toon" to the former first lady's late confidant, Diane Blair.

Clinton and her aides have not commented on the essay, which resulted in a flood of news coverage of a scandal that took place in 1998, providing who didn't live through it with a crash course. Clinton supporters approached the topic gingerly in private conversations, and wouldn't go near it for the record.

For Republicans who've been invoking the Lewinsky scandal as a character question about the Clintons ahead of the presidential race, the essay was a welcome development. For the Clintons, it most certainly wasn't. There's nothing new to say about the Lewinsky scandal itself; the newness for Clinton's critics is in trying to tether it to her presidential aspirations.

As pictures of Lewinsky posing for Vanity Fair went viral, Republicans were busy ramping up a select committee to investigate Benghazi. The House panel, created in an almost straight party-line vote, ensures the controversy surrounding the 2012 attack will continue as Clinton's new book about her tenure as Secretary of State hits book stores next month.

The issue generates heat among the Republican base, although it's not clear that the general public is engaged on it. House Democrats have been split over whether they should participate in an exercise that their leadership has already dismissed as a partisan farce. But they're also worried about giving Republicans running room if they stay away.

Clinton officials say there's been no formal interaction with House Democrats about what their strategy should be; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has appeared to be adamant about having some of her members have sway over the panel's scope of activities.

The head of the committee has not said whether he will try to subpoena Clinton. Democrats expect blowback on Republicans for what they say is a gross overreach, and anticipate their base rallying around Clinton. But for Clinton, occupying the familiar space of partisan icon is at odds with the post-partisan message she's been projecting in her recent speeches.

Clinton addressed the Benghazi committee briefly at an event in New York City on Wednesday, sounding somewhat dismissive as she said she felt everything had been answered from her end already.

"That's their choice and I do not believe there is any reason for it to continue in this way, but they get to call the shots in Congress," Clinton said of Republicans who called for the hearing.

As if all that weren't enough, Clinton found herself on the receiving end of questions about the kidnap of 300 Nigerian girls. The Daily Beast reported that Clinton's State Department declined entreaties from congressional Republicans and others to label Boko Haram, the group responsible for the kidnappings, a terrorist organization. Secretary of State John Kerry gave the group that designation last year.

Outside of Benghazi, which has dominated discussion of Clinton's State Department tenure, the Boko Haram issue is the first prominent

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example of her record being scrutinized in the heightened political atmosphere that now surrounds her.

During Clinton's time at State, "The FBI, the CIA, and the Justice Department really wanted Boko Haram designated, they wanted the authorities that would provide to go after them, and they voiced that repeatedly to elected officials," the Beast quoted a former senior U.S. official familiar with the discussion as saying.

Republicans have widely circulated the original Daily Beast story. The actual details of why the Clinton-run Department declined to affix the group with terrorist status are complicated – her former Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, was reportedly concerned about elevating the group among extremist outfits, and potentially giving the Nigerian government latitude to go after them in an inhumane way.

But those explanations won't end up being spliced into a 30-second political ad. And the story gives Republicans another chance to stoke doubts about her leadership at State.

It's the question of Lewinsky that remains the most personally painful and politically unclear for Clinton. Potential GOP presidential hopeful Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has been openly critical of Bill Clinton over the scandal, at a moment when Republicans are trying to counteract the Democrats' edge with female voters.

Clinton allies like Media Matters founder David Brock have slammed Republicans for resurrecting the ghosts of the past to do the potential candidate harm now. It's a perspective a number of Clinton backers have offered.

Next week, Hillary Clinton will rejoin the political force next week in earnest by hosting a fundraiser for her son-in-law's mother, Marjorie Margolies, a Pennsylvania congressional candidate.

But as she takes clear steps toward her political future, the echoes of the old days are making the most noise right now.

Talking Points Memo: "Rand Paul: Benghazi Has 'Precluded' Hillary From Being President"

By Dylan Scott

May 9, 2014, 3:37 p.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) took another shot at Hillary Clinton over Benghazi on Friday, saying she had "precluded herself" from being President because of how she handled the attack and its aftermath.

Paul made the remarks at the Republican National Committee's spring meeting in Memphis, Tenn.

"The thing is, this is about judgment," Paul said. "And we're talking about, should we as a country have a commander-in-chief who didn't provide adequate security in Libya, didn't send reinforcements and then gave us nothing but spin?"

"My opinion is that Hillary Clinton has precluded herself from ever being considered for that position," he concluded to loud cheers from the crowd.

Paul has already said the House select committee on Benghazi should "absolutely" subpoena Clinton.

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Correct The Record, the pro-Hillary rapid response group, offered a response to Paul's comments.

“Rand Paul should be ashamed of playing partisan politics with this tragedy. Secretary Clinton took immediate action to prevent this from happening again,” Adrienne Watson, its deputy communications director, said in a statement to TPM. "This is no secret; it’s public record. Is Rand Paul so focused on partisan gamesmanship he’s lost sight of the facts, or is he willfully playing politics with a tragedy?"

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: “Besieged Beverly Hills Hotel taps former Clinton aide for damage control”

By Dylan Byers

May 9, 2014, 9:44 p.m. EDT

The Beverly Hills Hotel, besieged by celebrity protests and City Council action over its owners’ decision to institute new laws against women and homosexuals in Brunei, has tapped a former Clinton aide to run damage control, POLITICO has learned.

Mark Fabiani, who became infamous for his aggressive, rapid-response strategy during the Clinton administration, was hired this week to oversee crisis management. His business partner Chris Lehane, another former Clinton aide, is not involved with the project.

Both Fabiani and Lehane declined to comment.

The Beverly Hills Hotel has been the target of high-profile protests by members of its celebrity clientele ever since its owner, the Sultan of Brunei, imposed regulations based on Islamic law penalizing homosexuality and adultery. Punishment for such acts can be as severe as death by stoning.

Celebrities such as Jay Leno and Ellen DeGeneres have called for a boycott of the high-end hotel. Earlier this week, the Beverly Hills City Council approved a resolution urging the sultan to give up ownership of the hotel.

Fabiani and Lehane were once dubbed the “masters of disaster” for their aggressive approach to press relations during the Clinton administration. They are also credited with drafting the “right-wing conspiracy” memo that then-First Lady Hillary Clinton referenced in a 1998 interview.

Fabiani and Lehane launched the California-based crisis management firm Fabiani & Lehane in the early 2000s after working on Al Gore’s failed presidential bid. Fabiani also has his own LLC, through which he is representing the Beverly Hills Hotel.

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From: "Adam Jentleson \(CAPAF\)" <ajentleson@americanprogressaction.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/8/2008 3:47:43 AM
Subject: [big campaign] How Would McCain Mediate A Russia-Georgia Conflict?

How Would McCain Mediate A Russia-Georgia Conflict?

Russia's invasion of Georgia today raises some questions about how a McCain administration might deal with a crisis like this.

McCain's main foreign policy adviser and spokesperson, Randy Scheunemann , is a former registered lobbyist for the Republic of Georgia. Back in April, in an interview with Radio Free Europe, Scheunemann took a strongly pro-Georgia anti-Russia line, insisting that the United States should move forward with missile defense in Poland and the Czech Republic, as well as supporting the NATO membership of Ukraine and Georgia, regardless of the negative consequences that these policies would likely have for U.S.-Russia relations.

Given McCain's provocative statements regarding Russia, it's clear that he shares Scheunemann's hardline views on the subject. As we wrote last month, this has troubling implications for the prospect of Russia's essential cooperation in dealing with the Iranian nuclear program. But is also raises the question of how a McCain administration — staffed by committed Georgian partisans like Randy Scheunemann — could conceivably be seen as an honest broker for dealing with the growing crisis between Russia and Georgia?

http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/08/how-would-mccain-mediate/

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Heather Boushey?? \(hboushey@equitablegrowth.org\)" <hboushey@equitablegrowth.org>
"Daetz,?? Steve" <sdaetz@sandlerfoundation.org>
Date: 1/4/2016 11:44:41 AM
Subject: FW: Parking the Big Money by Cass R. Sunstein (NY Review of Books - Jan 14, 2016 issue)

This is a review of a book by Gabriel Zucman (with a foreword by Thomas Piketty) by Cass Sunstein. The title of the book is " The Hidden Wealth of Nations: The Scourge of Tax Havens"

Parking the Big Money

Cass R. Sunstein

In some circles, "redistribution" of wealth has become a dirty word, and recent efforts to make the tax system more progressive have run into serious political resistance, above all from Republicans. But whatever your political party, you are unlikely to approve of the illegal use of tax havens. As it turns out, a lot of wealthy people in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere have been hiding money in foreign countries—above all, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and the Virgin Islands. As a result, they have been able to avoid paying taxes in their home countries. Until recently, however, officials have not known the magnitude of that problem.

But people are paying increasing attention to it. A vivid new documentary, *The Price We Pay*, connects tax havens, inequality, and insufficient regulation of financial transactions. The film makes a provocative argument that a new economic elite—wealthy managers and holders of capital—is now able to operate on a global scale, outside the constraints of any legal framework. In a particularly chilling moment, it shows one of the beneficiaries of the system cheerfully announcing on camera: "I don't feel any remorse about not paying taxes. I think it's a marvelous way in life."

Gabriel Zucman, who teaches at the University of California at Berkeley, has two goals in his new book, *The Hidden Wealth of Nations*: to specify the costs of tax havens, and to figure out how to reduce those costs. While much of his analysis is technical, he writes with moral passion, even outrage; he sees tax havens as a "scourge." His figures are arresting. About 8 percent of the world's wealth, or $7.6 trillion, is held in tax havens. In 2015, Switzerland alone held $2.3 trillion in foreign wealth. As a result of fraud from unreported foreign accounts, governments around the world lose about $200 billion in tax revenue each year. Most of this amount comes from the evasion of taxes on investment income, but a significant chunk comes from fraud on inheritances. In the United States, the annual tax loss is $35 billion; in Europe, it is $78 billion. In African nations, it is $14 billion.

The fractions of wealth held abroad are highly variable. In Europe, it is about 10 percent. In African and Latin countries, it is much higher—between 20 percent and 30 percent. In Russia, it is a whopping 52 percent. It follows that while tax havens hit wealthy nations hardest in absolute terms, they can have especially destructive effects on poorer or developing countries, because such a high percentage of their money is offshore. Zucman does not explain why this is so, but it is possible to speculate that one reason is rampant corruption within both the public and private sectors. The extraordinarily high figure for Russia might be best understood as involving money corruptly acquired or invested, which suggests an important point: all uses of tax havens are not the same. Sometimes government officials are the ones who are evading taxes, and they do not want to stop that evasion.

In the aftermath of the financial crisis, you might expect that there would be an international crackdown on the use of tax havens, and as we shall see, international attention is indeed growing. But the numbers demonstrate that no crackdown has occurred. In Luxembourg, offshore wealth actually increased from 2008 to 2012 (by 20 percent). In Switzerland, the increase has been comparable; foreign holdings are now close to an all-time high. Disturbingly, the new wealth is coming mostly from developing countries, which poses a serious problem in light of the severe strains on their limited budgets.

Zucman is the first economist to produce specific numbers of this kind, and to do so, he had to undertake some creative

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detective work. In order to identify hidden wealth, he focuses on "anomalies"—situations in which international balance sheets show, in aggregate, more liabilities than assets. To see the importance of that inquiry, Zucman asks readers to imagine that a citizen of the United Kingdom holds an American security—say, stock in Google—in a bank account in Switzerland. In the United States, statisticians estimating US wealth overall will record a liability, because a foreigner owns US equities. But in Switzerland, statisticians will see nothing, and for a good reason: Google stock held in Switzerland by a UK resident will be, for Switzerland, neither an asset nor a liability. In the UK too, nothing will be registered, but for a bad reason: the UK has no way of knowing that one of its citizens owns Google stock in Switzerland. From this example, we can see the anomaly: on the global level, liabilities will be recorded as exceeding assets.

Zucman puts it this way: "as far back as statistics go, there is a 'hole'; if we look at the world balance sheet, more financial assets are recorded as liabilities than as assets, as if planet Earth were in part held by Mars." For the purpose of producing an accounting of hidden wealth, that is actually helpful, because "money doesn't evaporate randomly into the ether, but instead follows a precise pattern of tax evasion." In 2015, for example, the nations of the world reported $2 trillion as mutual fund holdings in Luxembourg; this is the total of recorded liabilities. But Luxembourg's own statisticians calculated that worldwide, $3.5 trillion in mutual fund holdings were kept in Luxembourg; that is the total of recorded assets. What happened to the missing $1.5 trillion? In global statistics, that amount had no owners. For Zucman's purposes, the anomaly is a revealing one: the amount by which assets exceed liabilities is a measure of wealth hidden in offshore accounts.

Zucman acknowledges that his measure is only an estimate. He must rely heavily on just two nations, Switzerland and Luxembourg, since both provide useful statistics about assets and liabilities; most tax havens do not do so. To make up for the missing information, he enlists some indirect measures. The technical issues need not concern us here. What matters is that Zucman convincingly argues that his accounting is at least pretty close, and that the grand total has to be in the general vicinity of $7.6 trillion.

How might this problem be solved? Zucman points to several recent efforts. An illuminating failure comes from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which instituted, in 2009, what it saw as a promising "on-demand" system for exchanging relevant information about the nationality and holdings of investors. Under that system, any nation may request information about investors from foreign banks, but only if it can establish a well-founded suspicion that fraud has occurred. The problem is that in order to have a well-founded suspicion of fraud, nations need to have relevant information in the first place. Often they don't. Even though the 2009 reform has been widely praised, it seems to have had little or no effect, and Zucman denounces it as a "masquerade." Recall that since 2009, the use of tax havens has increased significantly.

Zucman is also unimpressed by the Savings Tax Directive, adopted with considerable fanfare by the European Union in 2005. That directive imposes a simple requirement. When, for example, citizens of the UK earn interest on French accounts, the French government must automatically inform tax officials in the UK. That sounds like a solution, but it runs into three problems. First, it excludes dividends altogether. Second, it has been successfully avoided by the creation of shell corporations and trusts, which make it hard to know who, exactly, owns what. Third, nations are not treated equally; for example, Luxembourg and Austria are not required to send information automatically.

Zucman much prefers the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), which was signed into law by President Obama in 2010. Under FATCA, all foreign banks are required to identify any American citizens among their clients and to disclose to the Internal Revenue Service the amount of their holdings and any dividends and interest paid on them. What Zucman emphasizes, and especially admires, is the automatic nature of the act's requirements. The IRS need not name names or show grounds for suspicion. Every year, foreign banks are required to comply. If they fail to do so, they face a severe sanction, in the form of a 30 percent withholding tax on gross income (including dividends and interest) from US sources. In Zucman's account, the sanction appears to be working; foreign banks are meeting their obligations, and some initially skeptical nations (including China) are even praising the new law.

With this precedent in mind, Zucman unveils his principal proposal: an automatic, fully global register, so that every government in the world can know where money is kept, and who is trying to escape national taxes. Under his proposal, the register would record "who owns all the financial securities in circulation, stocks, bonds, and shares of mutual funds throughout the world." If rich people in the United States or Germany are depositing their money into Swiss banks, the

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Swiss authorities would have to inform American and German officials of the deposits. Zucman emphasizes that all this should be done automatically, so as to make special inquiries or evidence of suspicion unnecessary.

With the register, tax authorities could tell, essentially immediately, if their citizens are using tax havens. Zucman notes that a global register of this kind could have other benefits, helping to combat the financing of terrorism, bribery, and money laundering; public and private corruption might be added to this list. He notes too (and here he will immediately lose some readers) that such a register could facilitate the imposition of a global wealth tax, of the sort proposed, very controversially, by Thomas Piketty.

To avoid the charge of utopianism, Zucman emphasizes that there is a clear international movement in the direction he favors. With respect to the approach taken in FATCA, some nations are already considering emulating the United States, and importantly, Luxembourg, Singapore, and Switzerland have said that they would agree to automatic sharing of bank information. But he acknowledges some serious obstacles to the current reform efforts. The first is that, with the exception of the United States, nations are not threatening to impose penalties. That is a major problem, because a polite "please" will not do the job, especially since foreign banks have so much to gain from continuing business as usual.

The second obstacle is financial opacity. Many offshore accounts remain hidden through trusts and shell corporations, which makes it difficult for anyone to link those accounts with their real owners, even when information is formally exchanged. Zucman emphasizes the need to promote financial "transparency" (a principal term for him) and to ensure verification. To this end, he calls for serious economic sanctions against tax havens (as in the US approach), potentially including customs tariffs against nations that help "defrauders evade their home countries' laws."

Zucman has a final concern: tax avoidance by multinational corporations. As he is aware, this is a quite different problem from tax evasion, because it is typically done without violating a national law. Under US law, for example, American companies have significant discretion to locate their operations where they please, and also to shift their profits to nations with lower tax rates. Even if this is lawful, Zucman thinks that it is a problem. As a result of tax avoidance, US firms are able to save $130 billion annually, contributing to a decline in the effective corporate tax rate from 30 percent in the late 1990s to about 20 percent today.

In response, he wants "a radical reform of corporate taxation." He favors a kind of tax on global profits, one that starts with the worldwide profits of firms, and then apportions them to each country. If, for example, a multinational company earns $900 billion in global profits in 2016, a formula would be used to allocate that amount among the various nations in which it does business. Each nation would be free to apply its ordinary tax rate to the profits allocated by that formula. Zucman notes that in the United States, corporate taxes within states already operate a bit like this, with national profit calculations followed by an apportionment formula.

On this particular issue, Zucman's approach seems naive; many tax specialists believe that the apportionment system works very poorly in the United States, and any kind of international formula would produce serious challenges of accounting (let alone politics). Nonetheless, Zucman has produced an important book, above all because of his effort to calculate the magnitude of the world's hidden wealth. As he acknowledges, his estimates depend on a degree of guesswork, not least because of the absence of reliable worldwide statistics. Even so, he has used the most rigorous methods to date, and he makes a convincing argument that the global figure is unlikely to be much lower than his $7.6 trillion estimate. It might well be higher.

The result is a substantial loss of revenue worldwide, with unfortunate consequences for both public services and deficits. According to Zucman, the United States is losing $35 billion in annual taxes, and some estimates say that the real loss is as high as $100 billion.* If so, and if those who successfully evade taxes are mostly the wealthiest people, there is a serious problem. By way of comparison, the entire annual budget of the Department of State is in the vicinity of $50 billion.

At the same time, Zucman's proposed solution raises an assortment of questions. Should nations really want a global institution to keep a register of everyone's ownership of stocks, bonds, shares of mutual funds, and other financial securities? Might there be a risk to personal privacy? To be sure, Zucman does not want everyone's holdings to be visible on the Internet. A global institution could be required to maintain privacy. But many people would undoubtedly fear that it would not respect that requirement, and that people with nefarious purposes might be able to get access to it.

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And who, exactly, would serve as that global institution? Zucman suggests the International Monetary Fund, which is probably the most natural candidate. The IMFhas a great deal of credibility in many circles, but hardly in all. Should the IMF be given full access to people's financial holdings?

These questions might well have answers. With respect to privacy, domestic banks are already required to make reports to the IRS, and the privacy concerns do not seem severe; perhaps the risks could be controlled at the global level as well. Nonetheless, an international effort to negotiate a global register might not be feasible. A less provocative suggestion, in the spirit of Zucman's proposal, would be that other nations should move on their own toward adoption of the approach embodied in FATCA—by which banks must identify their clients and report their holdings—complete with stiff penalties for noncompliance.

In Europe, which is losing a lot of tax revenue, that approach could prove especially helpful. True, some developing countries might lack the leverage to enforce requirements of this kind, and because of domestic corruption, some nations would be reluctant to impose those requirements. To these problems, the best solution might be an international treaty to uncover hidden wealth, through which participants generalize the requirements of FATCA. That approach might have significant advantages over the global register that Zucman favors.

But there are counterarguments here as well. Zucman largely praises FATCA, but in the United States, the law has turned out to be highly controversial, and some people are loudly calling for its repeal or modification. One reason is expense. Foreign financial institutions are not at all happy with the considerable administrative burdens that it imposes. Another reason involves unintended adverse consequences. Because FATCA increases the costs of having American investors, it gives some foreign banks an incentive not to allow Americans to invest at all (or to charge them higher fees). The law is also a blunt instrument. A lot of law-abiding Americans, living abroad, use foreign financial institutions, and they do not need FATCA to ensure that they obey the law. The same is true of many Americans who choose, for one or another reason, to invest abroad.

But if we keep the size of Zucman's estimates in mind, these concerns need not be taken as decisive. If the effect of FATCA is to produce major reductions in tax evasion, and to ensure that people pay what they owe, then it might well be worthwhile to incur the costs. Of course foreign banks do not like the law, not only because compliance can be burdensome, but also because it makes it much harder to provide tax havens. That is not exactly an argument against FATCA.

A strong virtue of Zucman's book is that it puts a bright spotlight on an area in which significant reforms might appeal to people who otherwise disagree on a great deal. You might believe that the tax system should be made more progressive, or you might believe that it should be made less so. But whatever you think, you are unlikely to support a situation in which trillions of dollars are hardly taxed at all.

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/3/2015 11:26:23 AM
Subject: Normalization becomes the new normal

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April 3, 2015

Dear Friends,

We promise to say this in 450 words or less. It is, after all, a holiday. And for many, the prospect of a nuclear agreement with Iran is closer to the top of mind than Cuba.

But can't we just start this weekend by considering -- and celebrating -- what's happened these last seven days?

Cuban and U.S. diplomats sat at the same table for unprecedented framework talks on human rights . U.S. policymakers dropped hints that Cuba would soon be dropped from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. AirBnB started offering U.S. travelers the ability to make on-line reservations in Cuba. A new poll showed majority support among Cuban Americans for President Obama's new policies. And American University released a fascinating series of papers: Implications of Normalization .

On December 16th, 2014, any one of these developments could have been sufficient to lead the news and instill us with a healthy measure of optimism.

Back then (by which we mean just 109 days ago) there were two constants in U.S.-Cuba policy: the United States had an unbreakable commitment to facilitating regime change on the island by isolating Cuba's government and immiserating the Cuban people; and that policy, because it was owned by powerful Cuban American hardliners, would never be changed.

In that era of decades-long hostility, every hopeful moment that unexpectedly arose also evanesced quickly. It seemed inevitable that events would force one or both governments to regress to the mean.

Since December 17th, a new narrative -- one that values normalcy over hostility -- has taken hold.

We're not saying everything is better. The embargo remains in place. The U.S. still seems unable to wash the regime change mentality completely out of our system. Cuba's government continues to seek and exert control (50% Internet usage by 2020 ? Really?); although loyalists dissent publicly from those holding onto their "siege mentality ." Of course, both capitals still hold divergent views on human rights and foreign policy and express them unreservedly.

Yet, something fundamental is changing. The sharp disagreements that drove us apart for decades are now being mediated in a process that is designed to narrow and resolve our differences.

Today, Americans are engaged by the possibility they soon could use their MasterCard while staying in an Airbnb in Havana, or that further changes in public opinion will

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encourage U.S. policy makers to abolish all remaining limits on travel and lift the embargo once and for all.

Ultimately, we think these changes will build on one another and, perhaps faster than we imagine, normalization will be the new normal for U.S.-Cuba relations.

With that, we wish a happy weekend and happy holiday to you all.

This week in Cuba news...

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Recommended Reading
- Cuban baseball, standing on second, waits for a sign , Nick Miroff, The Washington Post
- Inside Fidel Castro's hometown: What next for Cuba? , Georgia Birch, The Telegraph
- 12 Young Cubans Reveal What They Really Think of the US , Travis Mannon, Policymic
- On Cuban isle once home to Americans, a look back and ahead , Milexsy Duran, The Associated Press
- The Cuban Money Crisis , Patrick Symmes, Bloomberg
- 10 Things You Didn't Know You Could Import From Cuba , J. Scott Maberry, The National Law Review

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Airbnb expands to Cuba

Airbnb, the online bed and breakfast rental service, began listing accommodations in Cuba on Thursday, Bloomberg reports.

By offering U.S. travelers the option of booking overnight stays in Cuba online, this announcement by Airbnb is one of the biggest commercial developments since the Obama Administration initiated sweeping changes in U.S. policy toward the island in January of this year.

Travelers using Airbnb to search for accommodations in Cuba will find approximately 1,000 listings across the island, with 40% of those properties in Havana, the AP reports.

Cubans have been renting out private homes, or *casas particulares*, to tourists for over two decades, but the rentals are operated on a cash-only basis, and Cuba's limited Internet connectivity has made making reservations difficult for many American tourists.

Airbnb sent company members to Cuba to encourage owners of *casas particulares* to use the online service. But, since so few Cubans -- only about 5% -- have access to the global Internet, the company worked with Florida-based VaCuba, an organization that is authorized to send cash remittances to Cubans, to make the Internet payments possible.

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According to a company press release , the arrangement makes Cuban hosts "eligible for Airbnb's Host Guarantee program, which reimburses up to $1 million USD for property damage. Airbnb will also expand its photography program to Cuba, currently through a beta program that utilizes the work of local photographers in Cuba's independent entrepreneur community, to capture images of hosts' unique spaces."

Airbnb, which has evolved into a $20 billion global company since its 2008 origins as a San Francisco startup, joins Netflix and MasterCard as some of the first Internet-based companies to expand to Cuba. Netflix and MasterCard unblocked Cuba in February in moves that are, for the moment, largely symbolic, since very few Cubans have fast enough connections to stream video, and no banks have permitted MasterCard carriers to access their accounts from the island.

The number of tourists visiting Cuba has been steadily rising in recent years. Many of hotels are already fully booked for most of this year, highlighting Cuba's need to expand its hospitality infrastructure. But, hotels can take years to build, and Cuba still lacks the means to update most of its dilapidated state-run facilities.

Airbnb's move clears those hurdles, since no construction or real estate acquisition is necessary for the company to operate. "The idea here is to support growth in travel that isn't disruptive, that actually celebrates and preserves Cuba as a distinct destination," said Airbnb co-founder Nathan Blecharczyk.

"We believe that Cuba could become one of Airbnb's biggest markets in Latin America," added Airbnb regional director Kay Kuehne. "We are actually plugging into an existing culture of micro-enterprise in Cuba. The hosts in Cuba have been doing for decades what we just started doing seven years ago."

The company's expansion could also be a positive development for diplomacy. Dan Restrepo, a former adviser to President Obama on Latin America, said the expansion "creates connectivity between peoples in a way that is outside the reach of government on both sides."

Despite the challenges, *casas particulares* have been successful in attracting hard currency in Cuba's struggling socialist economy. Many owners have re-invested their earnings in the remodeling of their homes, which in turn has attracted more customers. "You're starting to see places that can compete with three- and four-star hotels," says Collin Laverty, director of Cuba Educational Travel.

Before President Obama announced in December of 2014 that the U.S. would significantly ease trade and travel restrictions on Cuba, Airbnb, like other U.S. service providers that operate online, was forced to block Cuban access to their websites. After many restrictions were officially lifted in January, Airbnb executives worked with U.S. officials to approve the company's plan to operate on the island.

Under the new regulations put in place by the Obama Administration, U.S. travelers can visit Cuba as long as they fall into one of twelve categories of approved travel, including family visits, professional research, people-to-people exchange, journalistic activity, and humanitarian work.

This week, a U.S. official said Cuba's government has committed to reaching 50% Internet penetration on the island by 2020, raising the possibility of a rapid growth in online companies looking to do business in the country.

Secretary Pritzker confident in future of U.S. businesses in Cuba

At a conference in Tampa, Florida titled "Tampa at the Forefront of Historic Change," U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker expressed optimism for the future of the U.S.-Cuba trade relationship, the Tampa Tribune reports.

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"What we do know from other countries who have gone through this transformation is that over time there will be more opportunities," Pritzker told Tribune reporters after the forum. "The early and first often have an advantage, and that may mean you have to invest your time."

First formal talks on human rights held in Washington

Cuban and U.S. diplomats met in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday to establish a framework for future discussions on human rights, Reuters reports. The Cuban delegation was headed by Pedro Luis Pedroso, a deputy director in Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the U.S. team was led by Tom Malinowski, the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Democracy.

The plan to meet was first disclosed in Havana last week by Mr. Pedroso, who told Granma that the "dialogue on human rights... demonstrates Cuba's readiness to address any issue despite our differences."

A State Department official told Reuters, "This preliminary meeting reflects our continued focus on human rights and democratic principles in Cuba."

President Obama has kept Cuba's human rights record a priority for U.S. policy since he announced the decision to reestablish diplomatic relations last year. In January, as a part of the larger agreement to improve relations with the U.S., Cuba released 53 political prisoners.

"There's still many short-term, arbitrary detentions taking place. Cuba is in the process of an electoral reform but we don't see any indication that they will allow a multi-partisan democracy to occur," said Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson at the Cuba Opportunity Summit hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. "People can't exercise freedom of expression or association. Cuba thinks that it's meddling on our part but we believe those are international obligations."

Assistant Secretary Jacobson added, "You have to engage even with people you don't agree with if you want to get to a point where you can bring about change."

In an interview with ABC News, Josefina Vidal, Cuba's chief negotiator said, "We know that this is the way the United States government presents its policy toward Cuba, but what we believe is that we can respect each other's differences and at the same time work together on issues of common interest as neighbors."

U.S. Official: completion of terror list review could happen soon

Stefan Selig, the Assistant Secretary of International Commerce, told an audience at the Cuba Opportunity Summit held this week in New York that Cuba's removal from the list of state sponsors of terrorism "could occur in the near future," the Miami Herald reports.

Last December, President Obama said he was instructing Secretary of State John Kerry to review Cuba's designation as a terrorism sponsor. In the months following President Obama's announcement, Cuban officials have stressed that getting their country off the U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism is a priority.

Three rounds of negotiations to restore diplomatic ties and re-open embassies have been held so far, and President Obama declared his goal of restoring ties before the Summit of the Americas meeting convenes next week in Panama. Cuba will attend the Summit for the first time after decades of exclusion at the behest of the United States.

Financial institutions that do business with countries that are designated by the U.S. as sponsors of terror risk hefty fines from the U.S. Department of Treasury. Cuba's removal

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from the list will make it easier for Cuba to engage in international transactions, and may even enable Cuban diplomats in the U.S. who have been without banking services for over a year to conduct normal consular services.

U.S. officials have asserted that they are working to complete the review as quickly as possible. But, Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters that a decision on Cuba's status is "being pursued separately" from the current negotiations.

Cuba was first placed on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list in 1982 during the Reagan administration for reasons that have been increasingly difficult for the U.S. to justify. The State Department's 2013 report said "there was no indication that the Cuban government provided weapons or paramilitary training to terrorist groups."

New poll shows majority of Cuban Americans supports normalization

A public opinion poll released this week by Bendixen & Amandi International shows that 51% of Cuban Americans support President Obama's move to normalize relations with Cuba, while 40% oppose the new policies. This shows a strengthening of support for reform compared to a similar poll of 400 Cuban American adults conducted last year following President Obama's announcement, which found 44% of Cuban Americans supported the move and 48% disagreeing.

Another poll conducted this week by Reuters/Ipsos shows that only 5.5% of Americans think Cuba is an "imminent threat" to the United States. Out of Republicans surveyed, only 13% labeled Cuba an "imminent threat," compared to 35% of Republicans who placed President Obama in that category.

These are just the latest in a series of public opinion surveys that have shown remarkable support for normalizing relations with Cuba and lifting the embargo.

- A Beyond the Beltway poll released in March showed that 64% of Americans favor lifting sanctions against Cuba, and 72% want to see expanded travel and trade with the island.
- A February Gallup poll showed that 59% of Americans favor ending the embargo.
- A February FAU poll shows that 79% of Hispanics in the U.S. support re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba.
- An AP poll in February found that 60% of Americans want the U.S. to lift the embargo.
- A January Wall Street Journal poll showed that 60% of Americans approve of President Obama's December 2014 announcement that the U.S. and Cuba would re-establish diplomatic ties.
- A Washington Post-ABC poll in December showed 68% support for ending the embargo.
- A poll conducted by CBS in December found 54% approval for re-establishing diplomatic relations with the island.

Senator Menendez,indicted on 14 federal counts, steps aside on Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Robert Menendez has voluntarily relinquished his position as the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after being charged in a fourteen-count indictment for alleged violations including bribery and the denial of "honest services" to his nearly 9 million New Jersey constituents.

According to USA Today , Menendez will be replaced by U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (MD) as he battles the corruption charges brought by U.S. Justice Department prosecutors. Menendez has been a "vocal critic of the White House on its handling of Iran and Cuba," The Baltimore Sun reported .

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Contrasting the Senators' approaches on Cuba, the National Journal writes: "Unlike Menendez, Cardin has pushed for Congress to ratify and expand upon Obama's moves to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba."

In wake of the indictment, the New York Times and the Newark Star-Ledger editorial boards called on Menendez to resign his Senate seat. The Newark paper said, "The state needs a respected senator who is focused on his job, not a tarnished defendant who spends his days fending off credible charges of corruption and raising money for his legal defense."

Menendez, however, promised his supporters in a video released this week, "I will never give up."

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Cuba announces over 300 requests for Mariel investment

Cuba's government announced this week that is has received over 300 formal requests to invest in the Mariel special economic zone, Prensa Latina reports.

Legislation approving the construction of the Mariel Special Economic Zone was authorized by President Raúl Castro in September 2013 . Brazil's development bank BNDES financed $682 million of the almost $1 billion being spent on the project.

The deep-water port, built by Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht and managed by Singapore's PSA International, is designed to process post-Panamax ships, and the port's four crane cables can load and unload cargo faster than any port in the region, according to Cuba Standard .

Cuba hopes that the port and special development zone will turn into a hub for regional trade, and in doing so attract much-needed hard currency investments. Cuba Standard reports that tens of thousands of containers from Europe and Asia already pass through the port on a weekly basis.

So far, only three companies have publicly announced that they will be carrying out projects in the Mariel zone, including a German orthopedics manufacturer, a Vietnamese trade and investment conglomerate, and a Mexican meat packing company .

Ebola workers return from West Africa

The last of the over 250 Cuban medical workers who joined international efforts to contain the Ebola epidemic that killed over 10,000 people in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea have returned home, Granma reports.

Cuba was one of the first countries to respond to the WHO's call for increased medical personnel in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. The island nation's contribution has been the largest to date, an effort that has drawn praise from international figures like Secretary Kerry and WHO Director-Genera Margaret Chan .

IN CUBA

Cuba shoots for 50% Internet penetration in five years

A U.S. State Department official told reporters Monday that Cuba's government hopes to extend Internet access to 50% of Cuban households and to reach 60% mobile phone access by 2020, Reuters reports. "I believe they are extremely eager to do so," the official said.

Only 5% of Cubans have unfettered access to the Internet. Approximately 20% of Cuba's

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population uses the state-run intranet that can only access Cuban websites.

As ABC reports, many Cubans spend hours waiting outside state-run cyber cafés just to check email or log onto Facebook. Using the Internet on the island can cost as much as $5 per hour -- a cost few can afford in a country where the average monthly salary is $20.

"They are falling behind, and that's denying their people access to knowledge and to the opportunity to grow as an economy and as a people, and they're aware of that," the State Department official commented. "As long as the Cubans create an environment that's attractive to investment... and attractive to the delivery of services, I believe those services will reach the island."

In December, U.S. President Barack Obama announced sweeping changes in U.S. policy toward Cuba, significantly easing restrictions on exports of telecommunications products and services.

Last week , a delegation of U.S. diplomats led by Daniel Sepulveda, the U.S. State Department's international communications coordinator, traveled to Cuba for talks on improving Cuba's telecommunications infrastructure.

First gluten-free bakery established in Havana

A gluten-free bakery, the first in Cuba, will open its doors in the coming weeks exclusively for the use of Cubans with Celiac disease, a genetic disorder that prevents some people from being able to eat gluten, the Cuban News Agency reports.

Luis Carlos Góngora, the director of Cuba's Provincial Food Industry enterprise, said the bakery will be the first of many that will gradually be introduced across the country for use by Cuba's Celiac patients.

Recommended Reading

Cuban baseball, standing on second, waits for a sign , Nick Miroff, The Washington Post

"Just as the country's economy is somewhere between old Soviet orthodoxy and a slow-opening hybrid, Cuba's baseball guardians say they are adapting to global market forces while trying to preserve their pastime as a source of socialist glory. It's not at all clear how that is going to work."

Inside Fidel Castro's hometown: What next for Cuba? , Georgia Birch, The Telegraph

Birch interviews the citizens of Birán, Cuba, Fidel Castro's hometown. "Fidel was a rebel at the time rebellion was necessary," says Muriel Ramirez, who has spent her entire life living next to the farmhouse where Fidel was born. Now, she says, "we need someone to sort out our economy."

12 Young Cubans Reveal What They Really Think of the US , Travis Mannon, Policymic

Arian, a professional dancer from Santa Clara, says, "I think that the changes are great for Cuba and the U.S. Both will benefit, but only up to a certain point. I don't think either of us should change our thinking or our politics just because of this simple [economic] change. I think we can reach an arrangement where we can make our economy better while maintaining our thinking and our political views."

On Cuban isle once home to Americans, a look back and ahead , Milexsy Duran, The Associated Press

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As the United States and Cuba work to normalize relations, the dispute over American property confiscated after the 1959 must eventually be addressed. "Contentious issues over lost land, homes and businesses will have to be resolved before the transition is complete," Duran writes.

The Cuban Money Crisis , Patrick Symmes, Bloomberg

Cuba's government introduced the Cuban Convertible Peso, pegged to the dollar and initially reserved only for tourists, in 1994 to attract hard currency in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, the dual currency system is a drag on the economy and a driver of growing inequality on the island. Returning to a single currency is one of the primary targets of President Raúl Castro's economic reforms.

10 Things You Didn't Know You Could Import From Cuba , J. Scott Maberry, The National Law Review

"One aspect of the dramatic shift in U.S. policy toward Cuba that has not been widely reported is a relaxation of the old rule prohibiting imports of most Cuban goods and services," Maberry writes. Now, Americans can import Cuban jewelry, base metal articles, perfume, and an array of professional services.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/9/2008 7:00:23 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/09/08

Main Topics: Mitt Romney Praises McCain, Iranian Missile Test

Summary of Shift: Mitt Romney took up most of the morning's news coverage with interviews on several networks discussing McCain's plan for the economy and avoiding any VP questions. Responses to Iran's missile test also received extensive coverage. Obama appeared on several networks to discuss Iran and refute flip flopping charges. Non-McCain coverage focused on the California wildfires, an attack on the US consulate in Turkey, Alex Rodriguez's and Christy Brinkley's divorces, Bush's G8 Summit visit, and another man attempted to climb the New York Times building.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: McCain jokes about killing Iranians with cigarette exports
2. Mitt Romney saturates news coverage with his praise for McCain
a) CNN: Romney Can't Explain how McCain will balance the budget by 2013
b) FNC: Romney praises McCain on energy and being a Maverick on Hannity and Colmes
c) FNC: Mitt Romney discusses McCain's economic plan on Fox and Friends
d) MSNBC: Romney talks Iran foreign policy and McCain's national security strengths
3. MSNBC: McCain political implications of Iran's missile test discussed
4. Comedy Central: The Daily Show mocks Bush/McCain's addiction to oil

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Jokes About Killing Iranians With Cigarette Exports (MSNBC, 07/09/08, 8:17am)
REPORTER: We've learned that the exports to Iran increased by ten fold during the Bush administration. The biggest export was cigarettes. Giving that the, yeah, that the supposedly […]

McCain: Maybe that's a way of killing them.

[McCain and reporters laugh]

McCain: I meant that as a joke.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: **Ok, he jokes a lot about killing Iranians, I'm sorry!**

ANDREA MITCHELL: That's before the missile tests, let's just point that out.

CHUCK TODD: But you know what's funny, in all this re-tooling of McCain that we've read about over the last couple of weeks, apparently one of the things that they want to have him stop doing are these jokes!

SCARBOROUGH: **About killing Iranians! Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran!**

TODD: But I think this is what people like about John McCain.

WILLY GEIST: It is!

TODD: I mean, I'm sorry […]

SCARBOROUGH: Not killing Iranians, but […]

TODD: No! But when he does things like that it's sort of like that's what makes him real and that's what makes people that disagree with him say, ah you know what, the guy seems like any guy you'd want to have around the dinner table or the bar stool.

Highlight #2

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Romney Can't Explain how McCain will Balance the Budget by 2013 (CNN 07/09/08 07:55AM)
KIRAN CHETRY: […] If there's evidence that dipping into our reserve would provide immediate relief is that something Senator McCain would support?

MITT ROMNEY: […] If we 're going to see long term energy prices brought down were going to have to have more supply and more supply here in this country. That is why John McCain is focused on saying lets have additional drilling, lets have new nuclear plants so we can have less expensive electricity to power our plug in cars, and lets also use coal and natural gas more aggressively. […]

CHETRY:[…] We talked to T. Boone Pickens earlier this morning, who talked about his plan to reduce our dependence and it involves spending billions of dollars on wind energy and being able to then harness natural gas to power our cars. Is that something that seems like a working solution, something that a McCain administration would pursue?

ROMNEY: **What you're going to find in the McCain administration is an aggressive desire and willingness to support new technologies that help America become energy independent. […]**

CHETRY: John McCain says he can balance the budget by 2013 and one way he says he's going to do it is by reigning in spending. You still have him though promising to extend the president's current tax cuts, adding tax cuts of his own. And he needs to find hundreds of billions of dollars. How will he be able to do that by simply reigning in spending?

ROMNEY: I think the key thing the American people want to see right now is who's going to help them deal with some very tough economic situations at home, with gasoline prices through the roof and some of them upside down in their home mortgages. And John McCain has a plan to do exactly that. […] Oil prices down, […] taxes down for middle-income families, and that's by eliminating the alternative minimum tax […] and double the personal deduction. And finally he's got a plan to create more jobs […]

CHETRY: What would he be able to cut? What would he cut though?

ROMNEY: […] cut out the earmarks, the waste, the fraud, the abuse. […]

CHETRY: Right, but let me ask you this. **Earmarks make up about 2% of the overall budget so that's not going to be enough.** And when it comes to entitlement programs like Medicare, you have more seniors getting older and more people that are going to be needing to rely on Medicare, so how does he make that happen by 2013?

ROMNEY: By reforming the system to make sure that we are providing for the needs of those who need it but we are not spending excessively. For instance in the area of Social Security. **The President proposed certain personal accounts, that would have helped. […] Medicaid is a place were enormous savings are potentially there. So the idea that somehow we are going to have to take more and more and more out of people's pockets to pay for federal programs is something John McCain rejects.**

CHETRY:[…] I**s your campaign digging a hole by saying that by 2013 the budget can be balanced. Politico has a story today that says many of the economist that signed on and said they support McCain's plan, still don't think that he can balance the budget by 2013.**

ROMNEY: […] **Senator McCain believes that by the end of his first term we'll have wound down our major contributions to our efforts in Iraq, that will save a lot of money, we'll have reformed many of our entitlement programs, cut out waste, fraud and abuse. And if we also see a strong growing economy, those things can combine to balance the budget. But I must admit, I think most people want some help balancing their own budget right away.**
[…]

Romney Praises McCain on Energy and Being a Maverick on Hannity and Colmes (FNC 07/08/08 09:05pm)
[…]
HANNITY: I have publicly said I think you'd be the best choice.

COLMES: You'd like the job though right? You wouldn't say no?

MITT ROMNEY: […] I think its one of the least interesting parts of the campaign at this point. I think the most interesting thing that's going on relates to Barack Obama and his aggressive shift on policy positions in breathtaking speed. As regard to the VP sweepstakes, I think its all speculation that I'm going to avoid.

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COLMES: It's very interesting because during the campaign now you and McCain said a lot of things about each other, which were not always particularly complimentary including what you just said about Barack Obama, that he changed his position on ethanol and go down the list. How do you square that with your now in support of John McCain?

ROMNEY: […] He is a person of great capability that has been tested and proven, that I respect enormously. **There are places we disagreed on certain issues; I wouldn't have been running if we agreed on every issue.** But the American people spoke and they chose John McCain to be our nominee. **And on the major issues of the day, he is consistent, he is right; I agree with him, He has charted the right course for America**. And right now with the number one issue on people's minds the economy, he's got the right prescription to make our economy stronger.

COLMES: You once referred to him, as outside the mainstream of Republican thought, do you still believe that?

ROMNEY: […] what's characterized John McCain over the years is that he is not someone who has marched in lock step with the party. Some would even say that he was hard on the President. I remember him saying that Don Rumsfeld was the worst Secretary of Defense in the history of the United States of America. That's pretty tough on your own administration or your party's administration. And it's that very, if you will, Maverick outspoken nature that's making it so hard for Barack Obama to try to characterize John McCain as being a continuation of George Bush. Everybody that has watched the last eight years knows that is far from the truth.

COLMES: […] You once referred to his program to limit carbon emissions as something that would raise gasoline prices $0.50 a gallon. Is that one of the areas where you and he disagree on the trade and cap issue?

ROMNEY: What I would do on a trade and cap program is make sure what's done is done on a global basis and not just on a US only basis. […] The real heart of energy is what we are going to do about our natural resources, are we going to drill for more oil, John McCain says yes […] Nuclear power plants, John McCain says absolutely [….] John McCain will get us energy independent. […]

HANNITY: […] Barack Obama basically saying that it's embarrassing that American's can't speak French when they go to Europe.

[Clip of Obama]

ROMNEY: […] our concerns about our education system is less about speaking French and more about whether we can keep up with the world in Math and Computer Science and other Sciences. […]

HANNITY: […] Don't you think a lot of Americans are going to find this arrogant?

ROMNEY: […] I think Barack Obama looks towards Europe for a lot of his inspiration. **As he thinks about his tax plan, raising taxes in this country is exactly the sort of thing that happened in Europe, putting in place a governmental healthcare system, that's what Europe has done. The European course is not the right course for America. I think John McCain is going to make sure that America stays America.**

Mitt Romney Discusses McCain's Economic Plan on Fox and Friends (CNN 07/09/08 08:51am)
STEVE DOOCY: John McCain said something about that the Economy is not his strong suit. […] Are you confident he knows enough to run the country.

MITT ROMNEY: […] He's laid out a plan to get our economy going again, and it includes at the top of the list finally becoming energy independent. Something that of course Barack Obama, because his need to adhere to the desires of the extreme environmentalist in his party, he just cant do.

ANDREW NAPOLITANO: […] John McCain has said that by 2013, by the end of his first term, he will balance the budget, keep both Bush in place, make them permanent, and double the standard deduction of $3,500 for parents with children. How can he possibly do all that?

ROMNEY: […] by cutting unnecessary spending, also reforming entitlements to make sure we don't have growth way out of line with our ability to pay, and of course we have to see a fast growing economy again, and that is something that Senator McCain is counting on by the end of his first term, that we'll have the economic growth that combined with reigning in federal spending well be able to balance the budget.

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GRETCHEN CARLSON: Governor you have to admit that you do know the economy. […] Maybe he needs someone like you. […].
[…]

Romney Talks Iran Foreign Policy and McCain's National Security Strengths (MSNBC, 07/09/08, 8:23am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: This morning, Iran of course fired that, uh, long range missiles in a test that many people believe was provocative. Certainly in Israel and the United States. **Do you think that John McCain is better equipped to handle a crisis like this than Barack Obama?**

MITT ROMNEY: **No question about that. I think the American people recognize that and it's not just with regards to foreign affairs, with regards to our economy and keeping America strong and providing good jobs for Americans. John McCain has the experience of a leader**. And Barack Obama is a wonderful and charming person, but he's never been a leader. Wasn't a leader in the state senate. Hasn't been a leader in the federal senate, hasn't pushed through a major piece ever legislation. He is untested and unproven when it comes to leadership. John McCain if you agree with him or disagree with him, you do know the man is a leader.

SCARBOROUGH: Well, Barack Obama would say for all of John McCain's experience not only in war but in peace, not only in the house but also in the senate, this is a guy who is a guy who supported a disastrous war in Iraq while Barack Obama opposed it.

ROMNEY: […] but John McCain, you know where he is. John McCain says look, we are going to protect this country and without question, based upon what we knew at the time we had that information, we took action, which frankly most senators agreed we ought to take. And that was to go after Iraq and go after Afghanistan.

ANDREA MITCHELL: […] if this were a McCain Romney administration and Iran fired these missiles, what would the McCain Romney team do?

ROMNEY: Well, I'm afraid I'm not going to pick up any speculation with regards to my involvement with senator McCain's ticket. I'm happy to support it but I'm not anticipating being part of it. With regards to response to Iran, you respond as well with, in my view, tightening the economic sanctions that we have been arguing for that great Britain and the rest of Europe is lining up behind as well. You tighten sanctions on Iran as long as they continue to take belligerent action and particularly as they pursue their nuclear capacity for weapons building.

MITCHELL: But Russia and china have been vetoing sanctions. I mean there have been economic sanctions that have impacted Iran. But the really tough action against Iran, for years now, Condi rice has failed to get a deal because of vetoes from Russia and china.

ROMNEY: Oh you are absolutely right. And so the action that America has it take is to continue to use every source of leverage we have to put tighter and tighter sanctions on Iran. To take those actions unilaterally that we can take, as well as actions from our friends throughout the world, particularly, our European friends. It would be nice if we could get U.N. sanctions as well. But as you point out that is going to be tough with Russia and china. **But without question, short of taking military action, which we do not want to take at this stage, the only way we can put real pressure on Iran is by having the kind of economic sanctions that will make the people of Iran and the leadership say enough.**

SCARBOROUGH: governor but that hasn't worked, obviously, over the past seven years to stop them developing nuclear weapons. George w. bush, dick Cheney, this administration has said Iran will not be allowed to get nuclear weapons. Suggesting if sanctions don't work then they'll have to take military action. Do you believe that the United States of America should take military action if that is the last and only option to keep nuclear weapons away from Ahmadinejad and Iran?

ROMNEY: **Of course you always leave military options on the table.** You never tell someone like Iran that is developing nuclear technology potentially for the purpose of weaponry that we are going to take military action off the table. It is on the table but you pursue every other possible avenue. And that's what we're doing.

SCARBOROUGH: And when those avenues are closed off, do you go militarily to stop them.

ROMNEY: **When I say you leave it on the table, I mean it's on the table. You show very clearly your willingness to potentially take military action**. And I'm not going to suggest you take that off the table nor am I going to announce exactly what kind ever action that might be. But we have a wide array of options, which include the military.

PAT BUCHANAN: […] you used the phrase at this stage, military action is really not in the cards. That we're going down

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this diplomatic road. In that the united states believes that Iran could not acquire the enriched uranium at weapons grade to test it on a missile, for any number of years, are you not sort of saying that we are, we ought to rule out military action at least for the next five or six months to the end of the Bush-Cheney presidency? And if we are going to take a look at that option, that is far, far down the road?

ROMNEY: I don't think that's an option which is going to be picked up in the immediate future, Pat, I think it's far more likely to be considered down the road. But I must admit that the reliability of our intelligence sources in the Middle East is somewhat in question. **I thought the national intelligence estimate comments were overstated in terms of confidence that a weapon is not being created in Iran.** So, we obviously have to deal with the information we have. And clearly, the movement in Europe towards tightening sanctions is a positive development. I would like to see those sanctions applied and see if we can't put the kind of pressure on Iran to get them to pull back.

MCCAIN: Governor, you said you don't anticipate being on John McCain's ticket, do you know something we don't know? Did he call you up and say hey, buddy, you are not on my short list any more.

ROMNEY: You know we have never had a conversation with regards to the vice presidency. Between our staffs, or directly between myself and Senator McCain. It's a decision he's going to make all by himself.

Highlight #3
McCain Political Implications of Iran's Missile Test Discussed (MSNBC, 07/09/08, 10:09am)
CRAIG CRAWFORD: **Yeah, it strikes me that this missile test is as much of a test of the presidential candidates as it is of Iran's missiles**. And what happens here, it is no longer a hypothetical. And so now, I think the media and the public should press these presidential candidates for real specifics.
[…]

CRAWFORD: **You know one problem for McCain, Monica, is if the administration takes some specific action and McCain is just "me too", just parrots that, says yeah that's great. Then that just further complicates the problem McCain has with appearing to be Bush three.**

MONICA CHETNEY: Christina, how does this stay in the news cycle? Might this have been a bigger deal if we were talking about mid-October end of October for these test firings? Or is this something, will the conversation shift back to Iraq and Afghanistan now?

CHRISTINA BELLANTONI: It's possible. I think foreign policy, we've seen a lot more conversations about the economy than we have about foreign policy lately, so this could bring it back to that. But it also, **I mean, we were talking about Charlie Black's comments a few weeks ago about how a terrorist attack might help Senator McCain as a candidate**. And this is an issue, that allowing them both to talk about foreign policy, they each believe that they have strengths with this among voters. And if it does stay into the fall then they can both kind of stress their main issues. And for Senator Obama that's judgment and for Senator McCain he's going to say he's more experienced and tougher on these issues.

Highlight #4
The Daily Show Mocks Bush/McCain's Addiction to Oil (Comedy Central, 07/08/09, 11:15pm)
JOHN STEWART: John, the president's got a plan to wean us from our addiction from oil by drilling for more oil.

JOHN HODGMAN: Yes, john, it's typical addictive behavior. In the light of day, a vow to pursue alternative energy sources. Then at night, when the demons come, you find yourself outside naked in the garden trying to squeeze shale into your carburetor.

STEWART: You seem to understand this subject quite well, John.

HODGMAN: Well, I feel very strongly about this, Jon. I see what addiction does to people everyday in my private addiction treatment clinic and my t.v. show "Quit It! With John Hodgman."

STEWART: it's a very cute title.

HODGMAN: […] But I digress. My point is, before an addict can recover, he's got to hit rock bottom, and in this case rock bottom, as it is for many people, means the coast of Florida.

STEWART: Oil companies, though, why do we have the drill off the coast of Florida or in Anwar? Oil companies already own leases to millions of acres of unexplored territory deep in the Gulf of Mexico. Why not just explore out there?

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HODGMAN: Deep water crude? That's schwag, john. Stems and seeds. Do you want that skunk fossil when there's ten billion barrels of the good stuff within swimming distance? And by barrels, John, I mean it's just sitting there already in barrels. It's got spigots and everything.

John: I'm not sure even that would really help, john. Listen to John McCain talk about offshore drilling.

[McCain clip shown from May 28th]

HODGMAN: Okay. But when was that, John?

STEWART: That was in May.

HODGMAN: And what month is it now?

STEWART: June.

[McCain clip shown from June 16th]

HODGMAN: You see, John? An addict will say anything he has to in order to get is fix.

STEWART: So McCain is addicted to oil as well?

HODGMAN: No, John, he's not addicted to oil, he's addicted to wanting to be president. He's suffered from it for years. […]

STEWART: John, what's the solution here to this addiction?

HODGMAN: Well, in many ways both President Bush and John McCain are on their way to recovery already. They both recognize they have no control over their addiction and they have submitted to a higher power, named Exxon.

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From: "Graham Allison" <grahamallison@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/5/2015 3:29:13 PM
Subject: The Iran Deal: Path to a Bomb or Window to a Target?

Colleagues & Friends,

The deluge of commentary and analysis on the Iran deal has rightly focused on the adequacy of constraints on Iran. (As I wrote yesterday in *The Atlantic* , "the agreement imposes the most intrusive verification and inspection regime ever negotiated.") But the public debate has so far overlooked a similarly crucial question: Whose weapons and activities does the agreement not constrain? Ours and those of our allies.

In a piece published today in *The Boston Globe*, I highlight the analysis of Amos Yadlin , the former chief of Israeli Military Intelligence. He assesses that, if Iran adheres to an agreement for a decade and then decides to race for a bomb, a military attack to prevent them reaching the goal line would not only be feasible, but easier than attacking today. Indeed, the agreement would reduce the number of Iranian targets, and give us ten years to learn more about them.

As always, I welcome your feedback, and I also recommend the Belfer Center's latest publication – "The Iran Nuclear Deal: A Definitive Guide " – prepared by our team of experts, including Democrats, Republicans, independents, and internationals.

Graham Allison
Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 5/21/2015 3:46:01 PM
Subject: Re: Israel and Iran: Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem (JPPI)

Extremely helpful. Thanks.

On May 21, 2015 5:34 PM, "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

I thought it might be useful for the campaign to give you a quick summary of some of the points that were made at the JPPI conference we had on Monday and Tuesday of this week at Glen Cove, New York. Dennis Ross and I co-chair JPPI, which is based in Jerusalem, and was created by the Jewish Agency of Israel ten years ago to be a think tank for strategic issues facing Israel, the Diaspora, and USG-Israel relations. We have a group of fellows, like retired General Michael Herzog (brother of the opposition leader), Avi Gil and others. At the conference, we had Natan Sharansky, who heads the Jewish Agency; leading Jewish organizational leaders (e.g. heads of major UJA Federations around the country); leading rabbis (e.g. Norman Kurtz in Chicago, and Eric Yoffie); academics from Harvard to UCLA; a Member of the Canadian Parliament and former Cabinet Minister (Irwin Cotler)l Middle East experts like David Makovsky, Martin Indyk, and, of course, Dennis Ross, as well as Henry Kissinger and Eric Schmidt of Google, who talked about high tech in Israel. Moreover, Malcolm Honlein, the president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (who I put together with Hillary through you and Huma), was there for the whole two day conference. and spoke on several occasions. We had a signficant number of Israelis there, as well.

1. ISRAEL

(1) The new Netanyahu government has very little flexibility on the peace process, given its right-wing tilt.

(2) While solid majorities of the Israeli public (over 60%) continue to support the two state solution, only a minority believe it is feasible, given Palestinian intransigence.

(3) A number of people, including, interestingly, Malcolm Honlein, felt the Prime Minister should now accept the last Kerry offer as a basis for resuming negotiations. Evidently, the last version given to Bibi did not contain language on Jerusalem (which he cannot accept), while the last version given to Abbas contained the language (but they still rejected it).

(4) There was a clear consensus that the BDS/anti-delegitimization movement against Israel was growing in Europe, and was an increasing threat.

(5) There was a grave concern that the Obama Administration, once the Iran nuclear negotiations are out of the way, will support some form of the French proposal for a new UN Resolution to supplant UN Resolution 242, endorsing the two-state solution, with 1967 borders, and with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and a Palestinian state. Several people felt that given the impasse in the peace process, Israel's argument that this should be left to negotiations, had a hollow ring to it. If this is going to happen, then it should be framed in ways that force the Palestinians to make tough choices, like ending claims to the "right of return". But the safest political position is to oppose what will be seen as an effort to "impose" a solution both sides will reject.

(6) There was a feeling on the part of some that Gaza was likely to blow-up again, a combination of Hamas rearming and rebuilding their tunnels, and the impact of the embargo, which has not been loosened.

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(7) Israel needed to be more creative to take advantage of the open window for cooperating with the Sunni states (Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Egypt, Jordan) against their common enemy, Iran.

(8) Most troubling was the pervasive feeling that the US has withdrawn from a leadership position in the Middle East, leaving our allies in the Arab world, and Israel, to fend for themselves. The level of vitriol against the President was striking, to such a degree that one participant urged that he was being unfairly demonized.

2. ANTI-SEMITISM/ANTI-ZIONISM

(1) There was genuine belief that there is a substantial rise in anti-Semitism in Europe (a topic I addressed at some length). This is most evident in France (where 7000 French Jews left in 2014 for Israel, with almost double that amount expected this year); Belgium; parts of Sweden (Malmo); the Netherlands; Greece; Hungary; Ukraine; but even in the UK. Roger Cukierman, the long-time head of the CRIF, French Jewry's central organization, cited several examples of the growth of anti-Semitism during my negotiations with the French government for payments for people deported on the French railway during World War II, as Secretary Kerry's Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues. Thus, in 2001, when his first term began, 90% of school-age French Jews attended public schools; now only 30% do so, because of the intimidation in schools. It is dangerous to wear a kipot (head-covering) on the Metro. Argentine Jews are also increasingly fearful, in part because of their government's close relations with Iran, which is widely seen as having planned and funded the Hezbollah attacks in the 1990s against the Jewish community center (AMIA), and the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

(2) Modern-day anti-Semitism is a product of a combination of factors:

(a) Neo-Nazi/right wing parties, which have long had an anti-Semitic strain, like Le Pen's National Front in France.

(b) Left-wing parties/academics, who oppose Israel's settlement policy and occupation and import their opposition on Jews, who are seen (wrongly) as surrogates for Israel.

(c) Angry, disaffected, unintegrated Muslim young people, who identify with the Palestinians as the underdogs and address their anger for their plight and that of the Palestinians at Jews in their countries.

(3) French Prime Minister Valls estimates there are some 3000 European-born Muslims fighting in Syria and Iraq, 1000 from France, who come back to Europe, armed and trained jihadists. This was precisely the profile of the suspect in the Brussels Jewish Museum attack last year.

(4) The growth in anti-Semitism, and anti-Zionism is not limited to Europe. There is a greater security fear among Jews in both the U.S., Europe, and key Latin American countries. It was reported that 14 AEPi fraternity houses on American campuses were subject to some form of desecration. Several people said that "American campuses were our Europe".

(5) Malcolm Honlein placed special emphasis on the rise of anti-Semitism in his remarks. He said that the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations was catalyzing efforts to create a Global Forum to deal with this phenomenon, to track it, exchange information about it, and develop new ways to combat it. He said that Israel had a role to play, as well.

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3. DIVISIONS WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER ISRAEL POLICY.

(1) There are increasingly sharp left-right divisions (J Street vs. AIPAC) within the American Jewish community over Israel. Remarkably, rabbis are reluctant to discuss Israel in their sermons for fear of alienating one faction or another.

(2) There was now a big debate over which groups can march in the annual New York City Israeli Independence Day parade, which take more liberal positions (e.g., New Israel Fund, J Street). It was generally felt best to have a “big tent” so the Democratic Party left-leaning people were not excluded.

(3) The kind of robust debate that occurs in Israel over Israeli policy, is blunted here by attacks against those who oppose the current government’s policies in the West Bank.

(4) There was a clearly established (Pew and Gallup polls) drop in support for Israel among self-identified Democrats (now under 50%, with over 80% for Republicans). This could feed into making Israel a partisan issue (one of the problems with Bibi’s speech to Congress) for the first time in its history, a dangerous situation.

4. IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS AND BEYOND

(1) This was the most emotional issue. Most of the participants who spoke on the topic (Sharansky, Kissinger, Honlein, Makovsky, Ross) were deeply skeptical of the Iranian nuclear negotiations. Clearly, Honlein and AIPAC will mount a major effort to block the agreement. There was a real foreboding (one participant called it a “panic”) that the American Jewish community was going to be involved in a confrontation with the Administration, that the Republicans would use to try to drive a further wedge with Jewish voters over Israel-related issues.

(2) At the same time, there was a recognition (e.g. Kissinger) that the President would be able to overcome a veto override fight, although just barely.

(3) It was important to reassure Israel and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States that any nuclear deal with Iran did not presage broader cooperation with Iran on regional issues. (Kissinger agreed, but felt it was inevitable over time, because Iran is a real country, with a long history)

(3) Several speakers (e.g. Ross) suggested that Israel should now begin to talk with the White House about ways to repair the damage to the relationship over the nuclear talks (if there is an agreement). Indeed, the President proposed to Bibi, in his call after the formation of the government, just that, but was rebuffed, seeing any cooperation as signaling he was giving up the fight against the deal.

(4) The options for a post-agreement reassurance included:

(a) Reassurance that the agreement would not lead to a new U.S.-Iranian alliance in the region, at the expense of our traditional alliances.

(b) Sophisticated military weapons to defend themselves against a resurgent Iran.

(c) Defense treaties, that an attack by Iran would be considered an attack against the U.S. (But this was

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fraught with difficulty; would it be all forms of attack or only a nuclear attack)

(d) Development of a common agenda with Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States. This has not been initiated.

(5) The “snap-back” of sanctions was felt to be impractical. What would constitute a violation? Who would make the determination? Which sanctions would be re-imposed (US, EU, UN)?

(6) There needed to be a clear declaration after the 10/15 year period of the agreement, that a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable, and the U.S. would every means to stop it. Likewise, the U.S. could not afford to disengage from the region, and had to lead the coalition against Iran.

(7) There was almost no one who subscribed to the Administration’s hope that over the 10/15 year period of the agreement, the Iranian regime would moderate. Far from it, the end of sanctions and the massive amount of money that would flow to Iran would strengthen the regime, provide more funds to support terrorist groups, and embolden them in the region.

I hope this is helpful in shaping Hillary’s positions on these difficult issues. But more broadly, she needs to understand the great angst in the Jewish community over the cascade of challenges I have described. The empathy and appreciation she can demonstrate, would itself be important and reassuring.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From:	"Joshua McNeil" <joshua_mcneil@lcv.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	10/7/2008 3:51:33 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] Be Careful What You Wish For - LCV Looks at the Record, John McCain Falls Deeper Down the Oil Well and Barack Obama Puts Energy First

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2008
Contact: joshua_mcneil@lcv.org; 202.454.5473

Be Careful What You Wish For

LCV Looks at the Record, John McCain Falls Deeper Down the Oil Well and Barack Obama Puts Energy First

Washington, DC – Today, the League of Conservation Voters, which works to turn environmental values into national priorities, applauded Tom Brokaw and NBC News for including a direct question about global warming in this evening's debate. Such questions have been few and far between, but tonight's responses from the two candidates proved that our next President's answer to that question will fundamentally shape the future of the country.

Senator Obama listed a new energy future for America as his #1 priority and outlined an ambitious plan to create jobs, ensure national security and protect the planet with meaningful investments in clean energy. While in one breath Senator McCain called for an All Of The Above energy plan, in his next breath, he only spoke about more oil drilling and more nuclear power – the same energy proposals that the Bush Administration has championed for the last eight years.

"As we listened to their energy proposals tonight, Senator McCain unwisely urged us to look at his record," LCV President Gene Karpinski said. "So we did. While Senator Obama has consistently supported clean renewable energy, energy efficiency, and efforts to reduce global warming pollution, Senator McCain failed to vote in favor of clean energy and measures to reduce global warming at least twelve times. It's no wonder that McCain's plans for the future fail to live up to either his rhetoric or to our country's needs."

2007
McCain was absent when the Senate voted to table an amendment that would have allowed conventional and polluting sources of energy, such as coal-fired power plants and nuclear power, to qualify for credits under the national renewable electricity standard. YES is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call #211, H. R. 6, 6/14/07]

McCain was absent when the Senate failed to override the filibuster against the renewableelectricity standard and again when the Senate failed by one vote to repeal billions of dollars in subsidies to big oil in order to fund clean energy. YES is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call #416, H.R. 6, 12/7/07 and Roll Call #425, H.R. 6, 12/13/07]

McCain was absent when the Senate voted on an amendment that would have eliminated public health and environmental permitting procedures for new or expanded oil refineries, coal-to-liquid refineries and ethanol or bio-diesel plants and would have replaced all state and federal approvals with a single "consolidated" permit, set arbitrary deadlines for approving permits, barred state courts from reviewing permitting decisions, and limited challenges brought in federal court. NO is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call #210, H.R. 6, 6/13/07]

2005
McCain voted no on an amendment that would have raised the CAFE standard for cars, SUVs, and minivans to 40 miles per gallon by 2015, saving 3.1 million barrels of oil a day by 2020—as much oil as the U.S. currently imports from the Persian Gulf and could extract from the Arctic Refuge and the California outer continental shelf, combined—and would have annually kept more than 500 million tons of carbon dioxide out of the air. YES is the pro-environment vote. [Senate Roll Call #157, H.R.6 amendment 902, 6/23/05]

McCain voted no on an amendment that would require electric utilities to produce 10% of their electricity from clean, renewable sources by 2020. YES is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call #141, H.R. 6, 6/16/05]

2003
McCain voted no on an amendment to raise the CAFÉ standard for cars and light trucks to 490 mpg by 2015. YES is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call 309, S. 14, 7/29/03]

2002
McCain voted yes on an amendment that would replace a 10% renewable energy standard with a provision for utilities to offer electricity from renewable sources only to the extent available. NO is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call #55, S. 517, 3/21/02]

McCain voted no on an amendment to raise the renewable energy standard from 10% to 20%, a level that the Department of Energy believes is both affordable and feasible. YES is the pro-environment vote. [Roll Call #50, S. 517, 3/14/02]

1999
McCain was absent when the Senate voted on a resolution expressing that the freeze on CAFÉ standards should end. YES is the pro-environment vote. [9/15/99]

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McCain voted yes to block an amendment that would add $62 million to the Energy Department's solar and renewable energy programs. NO is the pro-environment vote. [Energy and Water appropriations, 6/16/99]

1994
McCain voted yes on a motion to table an amendment that would have added $33 million to renewable programs and decreased spending for nuclear weapons. NO is the pro-environment vote. [H.R. 4506, 6/30/94]

1991
McCain voted yes on an amendment to give states money for using more fuel; states investing is mass transit, car polling, HOV lanes, and programs to control congestion, energy consumption, and pollution would have their allocation of transportation funds decreased. NO is the pro-environment vote. [S.1204, 6/18/91]

###

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From: "Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/10/2015 10:57:35 AM
Subject: Experiential Learning at Harvard [VIDEO]

New documentary from Harvard's Belfer Center

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

At the Belfer Center's Middle East Initiative (MEI), we're engaged in deepening the connection between Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) and the peoples and institutions of the region. One of the ways we do so is through experiential, on-site learning, which offers students the opportunity to travel to the Middle East and examine some of the region's most pressing public policy challenges. Experiential learning builds a bridge between the Kennedy School and the region, and between theory and practice. It also increases ownership over one's own learning, allows for the rapid transformation of previously-held conventions, and we hope acts as a conduit for enhanced exchange.

We are pleased to share with you a short documentary about the January 2015 experiential field study course in Jordan, led by Professor Claude Bruderlein, Strategic Advisor to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This year's course, "Assessing Rehabilitation Needs of the Syrian Refugee Population in Jordan: Critical Review of the Regional and International Response" examined the synergies between public health, emergency humanitarian assistance,

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refugee and displacement issues, urban conflict, human rights, and other relevant domains of interest as they relate to the inflow of Syrian refugees in Jordan. For three weeks, students explored this case as a means to further professional dialogue, to build exchanges with practitioners in the region, and to shed light on the challenges of engaging in key dilemmas in the context of humanitarian action.

We hope you enjoy the documentary, and encourage you to learn more about MEI and how it is connecting HKS and the region on our website .

Warmly,
The Middle East Initiative
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Harvard Kennedy School

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Other Videos on the Middle East:

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To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/23/2015 10:43:09 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Tuesday is the new Thursday

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theSkimm

Skimm for November 24th

Skimm'd while making Adele Dubsmashes

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is not something that is easy to explain" – An email from a Canadian university staffer, giving some insight into the reasoning behind canceling a class. Some felt that the controversial class celebrated cultural oppression. The class was beginner's yoga.

SKIMM THIS

LOCKDOWN

THE STORY

There's been lots of Netflix marathoning and nail biting for citizens in Brussels this week. The city's been on lockdown for days.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The city has been shutdown for days while police have carried out multiple raids to hunt down one of the suspects in the Paris attacks. Police are also trying to break up a terrorist cell in Brussels that they say poses an "imminent threat." Several people have been arrested in anti-terror raids over the past few days, and four have been charged with terrorism. Meanwhile, soldiers are patrolling mostly empty streets, while normal life has basically been put on pause.

ANYTHING ELSE?

This morning, Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Turkish-Syrian border. Turkey says that's because the jet violated its airspace and ignored multiple warnings. Russia says the plane never left Syria's airspace. Problem. Footage seems to show the jet's pilots parachuting out before the crash, but it's unclear where they are now. This plane went down near an area where Syrian President Assad – backed up by Russian airstrikes – has been fighting a rebel group that's friendly with Turkey. TBD on how this might affect relations between Turkey and its NATO buddies, and Russia.

theSKIMM

In the wake of the Paris attacks, ISIS has continued to show its strength stretches beyond its Mideast borders. With the defacto capital of the European Union pretty much shut down, yesterday the US State Dept. issued a worldwide travel alert for US citizens for the first time in a year.

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU GET PUT IN CHARGE OF A BIG PROJECT AT WORK...

'm the captain now. Yesterday, Argentina got a new president. Mauricio Macri, the mayor of Buenos Aires, beat his opponent in a very close runoff race. Macri's election is a big deal because Argentina's been ruled by the same leftist party for years, and Macri's from the opposition party. The leftist party loved to spend heavily on social programs. But Argentina's economy hasn't been looking too hot, which is why people said 'let's change.' Literally, Macri's party is called the "Let's Change" coalition. During his campaign, he promised to roll back government spending, get rid of poverty, and appoint an economic cabinet – something the country's never had before. This election also has Wall Street's ears perking up. Some US hedge funds are waiting to be repaid for all those times when Argentina defaulted on debt it owed them. Macri says he's ready to negotiate. After winning the election, he asked the people of Argentina to "have some patience." And then read over his to-do list and started hyperventilating.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR GRANDMA FINALLY UNDERSTANDS SNAPCHAT...

Progress. Yesterday, scientists in California said they're one step closer to getting rid of malaria . NBD. The scientists have been genetically modifying mosquitos so that it's impossible for the bugs to spread malaria to humans. Malaria kills hundreds of thousands of people every year, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. These Franken-mosquitos are still in the lab. But the aim is to release them into the wild so they can get it on with other mosquitos and pass on their anti-malaria genes. Apparently even eliminating malaria can be controversial. Critics say this could have "unpredictable ecological consequences." To which everyone else said "I see your ecological consequences, and raise you a Chris Pratt and 'Jurassic World.'"

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU THINK YOUR TEAM IS OUT OF THE PLAYOFFS...

t's not over till it's over. Just ask Jon Snow .

THING TO KNOW

The See Food diet: A trendy new diet. Here's how it works: you see food. You eat it. Try it out at the Thanksgiving table this week.

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SKIMM 50

Thanks so these Skimm'bassadors for sharing like it's hot

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Sharing is caring. As in Skimm A made chocolate chip cookies and Skimm B thought she was going to share them. She didn't. Make the day better by sharing theSkimm here.

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From: "Matt Ortega" <mortega@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 2:59:33 AM
Subject: Re: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Full 10 minute segment including Cecilia Vega report leading into the interview:
http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=025012a3-282d-406b-8de7-8981c14ee547

On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

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SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal**," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is

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afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

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And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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To: jpodesta@americanprogress.org
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/22/2013 10:01:25 AM
Subject: John Podesta, can you please help us get this to Senator Harkin

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From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: bdarling@cdrnys.org, andrew_imparato@help.senate.gov
Sent: 4/22/2013 1:57:18 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Saving Independent Living As We Know It from the DOL Rules

Dear Bruce, can you please advise me on how to disabuse Senator Harkin's office that this is in any way the position of Consumer Directed IHSS Consumers in California. As you know so well, we had our own advocates meeting with Donna Aguilar of the Office of Management budget to let her know about how destructive the negative unintended consequences of the DOL rules deal well rules would be here in California and the widespread misery that would be created on the day it would be enacted. I will attach -mails during below of our communications to Donna Aguilar of OMB beneath your e-mail, so that Andrew Imperato might convey our true sentiments to the Senator.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

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http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

"**Nothing About Us Without Us!**" (**Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis**") is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members the group(s) affected by that policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability based or other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

In a message dated 4/20/2013 5:04:29 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, bdarling@cdrnys.org writes:

> Nancy,
>
> Harkin's office facilitated a meeting with ADAPT, SEIU and AFSCME yesterday. SEIU spoke at length how "their California members in consumer direction" WANTED this change to the companionship exemption! We pushed back, but CA folks may want to correct that impression.
>
> Bruce

Thank you Ms. Echols. Would you be so kind as to forward the background materials, Emails strings on content , OpEd and panel information I sent you to Ms. Aguilar. Thank you. -- Nancy Becker Kennedy

In a message dated 4/5/2013 7:17:22 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Mabel_E._Echols@omb.eop.gov writes:

> Good Morning Nancy,
>
> The person who chaired your call is Brenda Aguilar.

From: Nancybk@aol.com [mailto:Nancybk@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 9:36 PM
To: Echols, Mabel E.
Subject: May I know the name of the woman we met with today, thursday

thank you.-- nancy

In a message dated 4/4/2013 2:51:11 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Nancybk@aol.com writes:

>
>
> **Deborah Miles**, IHSS Consumer, Board Member of the Personal Assistance Services Council Of Los Angeles County, Member of the PASC Managed-Care Committee, IHSS Consumer Union/CD-R Californians for Disability Rights 661 - 264 9228

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Nancy Becker Kennedy, IHSS Consumer, Member of the Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles County, Chair of the PASC Managed-Care Committee, IHSS Consumers Union/CD-R, ADAPT, 323 221 2757

Arnold Arbizzo, IHSS Consumer, Member of the IHSS Consumers Union/CD-R 562 929 6923

Bonnie Hagy, IHSS Consumer, Vice President of the Polio Survivors Association 626-359-8628

Ellyn Kearney, IHSS Consumer, Pastoral Counselor, IHSS Consumer Union/CD-R
626-399-8775, 626 793 - 8775 home

Tony Anderson Executive Director The Arc California and Director of the Collaboration for The Arc UCPin California, tony@thearcca.org

Donna Calame Executive Director of the San Francisco Public Authority (cannot attend, out of country -- will make her comments in writing when she returns.)

> From: Nancybk@aol.com
> To: oped@nytimes.com
> Sent: 3/31/2013 12:14:19 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
> Subj: Revised Oped Unintended Consequences: Collateral Damage of the Homecare Rules

Dear Editor;

In your editorial, "Homecare Rules in the Homestretch," you fail to understand the reality of living on government funded Medicaid and the Russian Roulette pistol aimed at the heads of the Seniors, People with Disabilities and our Home Care Workers who depend on it, every year when budgets are cut. Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS (In Home Supportive Services) are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 160 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 159 hours of IHSS a month.

I know of a proud union member, a mother over 60, who has multiple disabilities of her own and takes care of her adult son with athetoid cerebral palsy who will see her household income of about $2520 a month in California drop to $1431, as her hours are cut from 280 hours a month to 160 hours. She doesn't have the stamina to supplement her income with more jobs and she has trouble finding other caregivers because her son cannot be understood very well by others. The union has taken over $40 a month from her for check each month to lobby for what will cut her income by a pretty big fraction. **70% of the caregivers in California are family members whose households stay intact with IHSS. A cut in hours can threaten their ability to stay in their homes**. Seniors and People with Disabilities with Live in Caregivers will be uprooted as well. Jerry Brown just got done settling a lawsuit trying to cut the IHSS program in California by 20% and settled for cutting it by about 8 percent. Do you really think he's going to take time and a half for over 50,000 providers? His representative on an Olmsted conference said they wouldn't.

When I was in the Young Socialist Alliance in college, before I had my accident, I believed in theories in a vacuum. Then I became disabled and saw how these things work out on a real-life level. In California, we have the most highly advanced In-Home Supportive Services program, and the reason it was so good is that the disabled person received money to find somebody and all of that money went directly to the caregiver. The attendant got all the bang for the buck. And while ADAPT American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today was fighting to get In Home Care, this wonderful program to all the states, they came up with things like "Money Follows the Person" and "Community First Choice Option" where that money continued to go to the disabled person to pay directly to their caregiver with no middleman.

But suddenly all kinds of profiteering is going on as big bad corporations and yes even sometimes big bad unions behaviors are immerging as monied interests smell a beautiful dollar to be made in the graying of the baby boomers. On a good day the union is our greatest blessing on a bad day they are our greatest curse. The only way to come up with a reasonable solution that takes everyone's welfare into account is to sit down and work it out. I think what's been most frightening to me in all of this is the ease with which able-bodied regard People with Disabilities as invisible. The SEIU would not even sit down at the table with People with Disabilities to work out a compromise. Would this happen to a person of color? Are we the last population to be seen as a fraction of a person -- or a person who is really there at all?

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People have been making industries of people with disabilities for decades, in the nursing home industry, the charity industry, and now the medical industrial complex and the unions too on a bad day. People from ADAPT clawed our ways out of nursing homes that were profiteering off of us and now we have to fight against the nursing agency industry, managed care corporations, and even at times a union that is so out of touch with its rank and file providers needs that it would create three crappy jobs from one not so good one in order to collect two or three union dues on a one house. It is the people disabilities and rank-and-file providers, who are in a symbiotic relationship, huddled together to keep industries and unions from objectifying us and moving us around like "furniture" in their business plans. You can choose to be naïve and come up with lovely little fairy lands in your own mind, but make no mistake, your naïveté will be paid for by the rank-and-file workers whose pay will be cut badly and people with disabilities who will go back to nursing homes.

The ADAPT-NCIL compromise would simply eliminate the exemption for third party employers, treating Medicaid consumers in consumer directed programs (including public authorities, fiscal intermediaries and agencies with choice) the same as private employers so they can still use the existing exemption. According to the DOL analysis, this change - alone - would eliminate the companionship exemption for 70% of home care workers. It covers all of the "bad players" and concerns raised in the DOL analysis that exist in traditional home care while minimizing the negative impact on people with disabilities and preventing the unexpected consequences such changes would have on real live people in Medicaid funded programs.

Where were our points of view in this newspaper? In the DOL discussions? Why include us? It's only our bodies, our civil rights, our freedom from living lives akin to political prisoners in iinstitutions! If anyone had any respect for people with disabilities we would have included us in the discussion.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Appointed Member Since Its Inception

Los Angeles County Public Authority Board PASC

that oversees the In Home Care of over

200,000 Seniors and People with Disabilities

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From: "Donna Calame" <donna@sfihsspa.org >
Date: March 3, 2013, 10:33:48 AM PST
To: <letters@nytimes.com >
Subject: Home Care Rules in the Home Stretch

What this NY Times editorial fails to acknowledge is that California has had the most generous home care program for poor people in the United States for several decades - In-Home Supportive Services. Today, IHSS pays about 380,000 home care workers - 72 percent of whom are family members - to serve about 440,000 people. Throughout that time, the workers have been paid minimum wage. The issue in California is how the OVERTIME regs will affect both IHSS consumers and workers. Neither your analysis nor that of the DOL has considered that as drafted these regs will significantly damage this consumer-directed program. Yes. The state of California AND many IHSS consumers and workers oppose these regs on monetary grounds. Because they point toward both service reductions and less income for households where family workers provide the assistance. We are not part of the home care AGENCY industry world. But none of you have truly understood the uniqueness of IHSS and the unnecessary damage these regs will perpetrate.

Donna Calame

Executive Director

San Francisco IHSS Public Authority

832 Folsom St., 9th floor

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San Francisco, CA 94107

Direct line: 415.593.8111

www.sfihsspa.org

The call-in number is: 202-395-6392; code 3862485.

Dear Ms. Echols, please forgive me for the informality of sending you this e-mail string, but I think it will give you some background on some of the concerns those of us who are and advocate for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in California: The IHSS Consumers Union, The San Francisco Public Authority, Members of the Managed-Care Committee of the Los Angeles County Public Authority and the Arc of California, the largest membership association for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families would very much like to speak with you. We have serious concerns regarding the unintended negative consequences that could occur for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in the state of California if the Department of Labor rules regarding the Companionship Exemption are applied to publicly funded Medicaid programs.

Thank you for your dedication in serving our country.

Sincerely

Nancy Becker Kennedy

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http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

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In a message dated 3/25/2013 2:20:20 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, tony@thearcca.org writes:

Thanks we agree. I'll incorporate into our notices. Tony

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 25, 2013, at 2:16 PM, "Nancybk@aol.com " <Nancybk@aol.com > wrote:

Click here: The Center for Disability Rights - Free Our People

From: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
To: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
Sent: 3/23/2013 5:58:27 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Disability Community vs DOL

From California:

Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 160 hours of IHSS a month.

In California where 70% of caregivers are family providers, IHSS makes it possible for families to stay intact when they have a senior family member or a family members with a disability, who needs in-home care. These families could see their household income drop dramatically. Significantly disabled people with over 160 hours could lose loyal live-in and live out caregivers they've had for decades, because their work hours will be cut below the money they need to live. Or people with severe disabilities may not be able to get providers to help them when one of the providers needs to leave, because the remaining providers will be in danger working overtime. The unintended consequences of this unbalanced approach to the way private and public in-home supportive services are paid could lead to widespread misery in publicly funded In-Home Supportive Services.

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Senior and Disability Rights Advocates were not included in discussions where these Department of Labor rules were developed. Now, the National Council on Disability is trying to explain this to those who can make a difference. Their letter is printed below. The NCIL/ADAPT compromise could be a win-win solution for everyone, where privately funded agencies would have different rules than in publicly funded Medicaid In-Home Supportive Services in states where finite revenues determine what can be paid. "Our compromise creates a win-win solution, covers 70% of attendants and allows us all to be at the table for further discussion," says Bruce Darling of CDR ADAPT.

Below see the Letter from the National Council on Disability about these possible negative unintended consequences. http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/ The Disability and Senior communities and the rank-and-file IHSS providers in New York and California do not seem to of been fully informed or permitted to give input about the impact of this law as written. If after reading this letter, you feel the Office of Management and Budget should delay changing these rules until they consult with Disability And Senior Communities and make sure it won't cut the number of hours providers are permitted to work in publicly funded programs, then sign the petition at the link above or make your comments here at Capitol Hill's Congress blog http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/286539-act-now-on-fair-wages-for-home-care-aides and *DIRECT letters to letters@nytimes.com*

As more sign-on letters are developed for the Office of Management and Budget OMB, we will give you other opportunities to voice your opinions, but time is running short before these proposed laws will become what we try to live with. United in win-win solutions for Home Care Workers and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities!

http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

> "The disability community is deeply concerned that the proposed changes will have a negative impact on people with disabilities, consumer direction and our attendants. Medicaid rates are not going to increase so attendant hours will be capped. DOL - in its own analysis - identified that instutionalization was an outcome of these rules. Are you aware of our concerns? Do you really think Medicaid rates are going to increase to coveer the cost of time-and-a-half? Appreciate your insights as to how this would - practically - move forward. -- Bruce Darling ADAPT"
>
> Check outwww.DOLoffMYbody.org to get a feel for how these proposed rules impact people with disabilities.

Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

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From Michael Condon – STOP THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

My name is Michael Condon I'm a disabled Veteran, paralyzed from the neck down for the last 40 years. I live in San Diego, CA, in a home I rent,and I am assisted by a caregiver paid for by In-Home Supported Services (IHSS). IHSS employs nearly 400,000 caregivers across the State. Almost 50% of these caregivers currently work more than 40 hrs/week. In addition, 70% of the IHSS caregivers in this program care for family members, many of whom require protective supervision (24 /7 care).

The State has neither the funds nor the inclination to pay overtime. This will put me, and hundreds of thousands like me, at risk of institutionalization. Because our caregivers will be limited to a 40 work week, I will be forced to have multiple caregivers while there are already not enough to meet the current need. Please do not institute the DOL regs. requiring overtime. The disabled, elderly and blind on ...this program would love to have their caregivers receive time and a half, but that will not happen. What will happen (unintended consequences) instead, the caregivers hours will be cut driving many deeper into poverty. The caregiver loses, the senior/disabled loses and the Unions almost double their membership dues.

Sincerely.

Michael Condon

This is why a 40 hour work week mandate is bad. It will be financially devastating to 46% of IHSS IP's (190,000 workers)in CA alone.

IF YOU CAREABOUT OUR ABILITY TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY AND OUR CAREGIVERS NOT TO GET THEIR HOURS CUT IN HALF, SHOW US THE MONEY!

Click here: Petition | United States Department of Labor: Don't remove the "companion exemption" to the FLSA until money is th

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Petitioning Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis

This petition will be delivered to:

United States Department of Labor
Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis
Senior Policy Advisor, White House Domestic Policy Council
Portia Wu
Acting Director, Office of Management & Budget
Jeffrey Zients
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, White House
Nancy-Ann DeParle
US Department of Labor
Laura McClintock

United States Department of Labor: Don't remove the

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"companion exemption" to the FLSA until money is there.

1.
2. Petition by

   Philip Bennett

   Bklyn., NY

News

- **Home care workers and people we assist may be saved!**

by Philip Bennett
Petition Organizer
I ask all who signed my petition to please call the White House (202-456-1414) & ask for the Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB is currently reviewing the FLSA change & is set to release it April 1st. We need to tell OMB to reject it & thereby save home care workers & the people we assist. Comments can be made to OMB through OIRA.
The name of the regulation is FLSA Domestic Service Regs (29CFR 552
and the ID at OMB is RIN# 1235-AA05
Unfortunately that phone number is not released to the public so we must call the White House switch board. For more information call me, Philip Bennett: 718-339-0404
And please share my petition with as many people as possible. I love my job & I want to afford to keep doing it & I don't want to see more people forced into nursing homes. Thank you!

Please forward to Brenda Aguilar. Thank you.

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/23/2015 1:06:03 PM
Subject: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA

http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

Statement of Frank Giustra

POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2015 BY FRANK GIUSTRA
CATEGORY FRANK GIUSTRA ,

A book that has not yet been published has caused the New York Times to publish a wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article about the Clinton Foundation and my role in contributing money to it. There is not one shred of evidence to back up the Times' conclusions. **This is not about me, but rather an attempt to tear down Secretary Clinton and her presidential campaign.** If this is what passes for investigative journalism in the United States, it is very sad.
The facts do not comport with the story in the New York Times. The reporter, Jo Becker, wrote a similar piece in 2008, which was eventually debunked by Forbes. http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/12/giustra-clinton-kazakhstan-pf-ii-in_rl_0912croesus_inl.html
I began working on financing the purchase of mining stakes from a private Kazakh company in early 2005. The purchase was concluded in late 2005.
In late 2005, I went to Kazakhstan to finish the negotiations of the sale. Bill Clinton flew to Almaty a few days after I arrived in the country on another person's plane, not on my plane, as the Times reported. Bill Clinton had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company.
I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company. I would note that those were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the Secretary of State. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the Secretary of State.
Other media outlets have insinuated that I influenced the decision by the U.S. to sign a free trade agreement with Colombia. At one point, I was an investor in Pacific Rubiales, a Colombian energy company. I sold my shares in Pacific Rubiales several years before the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which, I will note, was approved by several U.S. agencies and the White House. To theorize that I had anything to do with that is sheer conjecture.
I hope that the U.S. media can start to focus on the real challenges of the world and U.S. society. Focus on poverty, homelessness, infrastructure, health care, education, or fractious world politics. You are a great country. Don't ruin it by letting those with political agendas take over your newspapers and your airwaves.
I am extremely proud of the work that we have done at the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership. Thousands of people, all over the world, have been helped by this initiative. I plan to continue that work long after the harsh glare of this week's media stories has faded.

4 Votes

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Sent from my iPad

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Lorella Praeli" <lpraeli@hillaryclinton.com> "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/20/2015 11:58:41 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 7.20.15

National:

-- Mika Bzrezinski says HRC claims the Republicans did not condemn Donald Trump quickly enough. Shows clip of HRC saying Trump's hair gets more attention than hers but there is nothing funny about the insults he's spewing. Shows clip of HRC calling the attack on John McCain shameful.Katty Kay says HRC is right on this one to call out the Republican field and the sad thing was that it took an attack on McCain to say that they felt that way. Joe Scarborough says that HRC attacking Donald Trump isn't going to hurt Trump, it's more things like veteran's organizations criticizing him that will hurt him. Mika says the good thing for HRC is that she can say great things about John McCain which means she can go to Washington and work with John McCain. Morning Joe. 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC criticizing Donald Trump.mp4

-- Host says this is a very crucial time for banks because you have political candidates like HRC who want to regulate banks further than Dodd Frank,which has already stripped banks of their ability to make the kind of money that they've made in the past. Morgan Ortagus says the person who wins the presidency and has control in the senate is going to be very important on this issue in 2016. Host says she finds it amazing that HRC gets so much money from Wall Street yet is talking about imposing more regulations on Wall Street. Mornings with Maria Bartiromo. 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Panel discusses HRC Wall Street policy.mp4

-- Coverage of 2016 candidates defending John McCain against Donald Trump's attack. Includes HRC calling the attack "shameful." Morning Express with Robin Meade . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Candidates renounce Trump's McCain Comments.mp4

-- Chris Cuomo suggests that Bernie Sanders is tapping into his party in the way Donald Trump is with certain sects of the Republican Party. Jeff Zeleny weighs in saying Sanders is winning the enthusiasm primary. Zeleny says some Bernie supporters are looking to him because they want an alternative to HRC. Shows clips of interviews with women saying, "I wish her well, but she's not my candidate," and "I think she's tied to Wall Street," and "I think she's too tied in with Washington." Zeleny says HRC's campaign is not very concerned about HRC. Zeleny says HRC is still the clear front runner. New Day . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders,Commentary,National,Commentary on Bernie's campaign.mp4

-- Report that HRC wants to raise capital gains taxes on some investments. Cheryl Castone says the preview of HRC's speech on the topic that she will give later this week is highlighted in The Wall Street Journal. Mornings with Maria Bartiromo. 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Report on HRC's capital gains tax raise plan.mp4

-- Report that HRC wants to raise capital gains tax. Varney reports that if you make a good living, you will pay more of your profit. Katherine Timpf says a lot of people on the left will say this doesn't go far enough. Timpf says she will be the nominee and it will be very hard to beat her since there's not a clear GOP candidate right now. Varney & Company . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Coverage of HRC's capital gains tax plan.mp4

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- Coverage of O'Malley and Sanders being heckled at NetRoots Nation event. Host says HRC decided not to go to this event. Jane Timm says HRC got booed the last time she went and doesn't want to end up in a situation like this. Says not going made HRC look a lot better than her opponents.The Rundown with Jose Diaz-Balart. 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Coverage of HRC's absence from NetRoots.mp4

-- Varney says HRC is going to announce later this week that she wants to raise capital gains taxes. Steve Moore joins to comment and says Bernie Sanders is pushing HRC to the left and he doesn't think HRC believes in the statements she is making. Says in her economic agenda speech, HRC emphasized wanting to get companies to re-invest in America. Says higher taxes on capital gains and dividends is not the way to accomplish that goal.Varney & Company . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Steve Moore on HRC capital gains tax.mp4

-- Guy Benson asks how much longer conservatives will take Trump seriously although he used to be a democrat and gave money to HRC. Says HRC did rip Trump as everyone else did too. Varney says HRC is running on a platform of raising taxes. Suggests that Trump is distracting from what HRC is really saying. Says HRC is not talking to the press anyway and is running a sort of joy-less campaign. Says HRC is deathly afraid of a challenge from the left because of what happened to her in 2008 and is going all the way to the left and repudiating her own husband who was one of the most popular presidents in modern history because she thinks that's what she has to do to win. Varney & Company . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC's campaign.mp4

-- Commentary on the large crowds Bernie Sanders is drawing. Says HRC does not have many vulnerables in the Democratic race. Says Sanders is trying to lead his party in the left direction and that is working. News Nation. 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on Bernie's role in 2016.mp4

-- Report that HRC's campaign forbade young supporters from talking to press in Iowa this weekend. Says this happened just a few weeks after HRC's campaign herded reporters at a 4th of July parade. Host says this makes sense because your biggest concern on a campaign is staying on message and this wouldn't be so big of an issue if HRC or people from her campaign were talking to the press. Says reporters need to write HRC stories but they can't because there is no information. Panelist asks if HRC making young people sign nondisclosure agreements. Says she can't even control her staff since John Podesta was overheard on the phone at a grocery store. Says HRC is scared of unscripted moments because she knows she's not good in those moments. Says it's smart politically but looks bad because of HRC's history with the press. Host says the longer she stays away from the media, the crazier they get. Outnumbered . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC and the media.mp4

-- Report that HRC wants to raise capital gains tax. Says HRC wants to court Bernie's base but also wants to say to the bankers that they should hear her out because she's just trying to get by to get the nomination. Cavuto: Coast to Coast. 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Report of HRC capital gains tax raise.mp4

-- Report of HRC to announce her plan to raise capital gains tax. Says last week she rolled out her plan for profit sharing. Reporter gives a short history of the capital gains tax. Says HRC is trying to have a gradation between investments held for a year and those held over a year and longer. Says there will be more of a debate when HRC lays out more of the numbers. Power Lunch . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC to raise capital gains taxes.mp4

-- Bill Kristol comments on Donald Trump and says he no longer thinks he would be a better president than HRC but doesn't think Trump is hurting the party. Shows clip of HRC saying there is nothing funny about the hate HRC is spewing to immigrants and their families or the insults he has directed towards John McCain. Shows clip of HRC calling it shameful and saying it can be hard to tell the difference between Trump's policies and other Republicans. Patti Solis Doyle says HRC has had a good week because she's been able to paint the other Democrats with a broad brush. Bill Kristol said this isn't going to work. The Lead with Jake Tapper . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Solis Doyle and Bill Kriston on Donald Trump.mp4

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-- Report of HRC speaking in Little Rock this weekend serving up red meat to a friendly audience instead of attending the NetRoots conference. Shows video of HRC saying trickledown economics don't work. Mike Emanuel reports that young HRC supporters have been instructed not to talk to reporters, suggesting the campaign is once again being controlling. Special Report with Bret Baier . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC's weekend campaigning.mp4

-- Coverage of Democratic candidates being heckled at NetRoots conference. Guest says the group of protestors is incredibly extreme and HRC did not show up at the event. Says there are people who are upset by racial tensions in the country that she is trying to reach, but this extreme group of protestors is not one that HRC can placate. Your World with Neil Cavuto . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC skips NetRoots conference.mp4

-- Discussion of the Uber debate. Host says Mayor de Blasio is trying to regulate Uber and this is not just a local issues. Says candidates such as Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush sang Uber's praises last week while HRC criticized companies like Uber in her economic speech. Mark Halperin says Uber and the sharing economy are going to be a wedge issue in this election. Halperin says it's up to HRC to say what she wants to do on this issue because this is a case where a lot of people in this country don't want government involved. Puts HRC in a bind because she gets a lot of money and support from the tech industry and wants to be a candidate of the future, but still needs to cater to her union base. With All Due Respect . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush;Marco Rubio,Commentary,National,Sharing economy in 2016 race.mp4

-- Commentary on the NetRoots conference. Caroline Heldman says HRC made the right decision by not attending because these are not her people and if what happened is not any indication, thank goodness she didn't go, because none of the Democrat candidates have a good answer for black lives matter. Says HRC and O'Malley have both said all lives matter, which diminished the goal of the movement. Host says these people will be supporting HRC and some people interviewed said they were supporting HRC and were disappointed that she was not there. Heldman says if Bernie isn't liberal enough for them, HRC definitely is not. Says there were probably a smattering of HRC supporters there. The Ed Show . 2015 07 20,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders;Martin O'Malley,Commentary,National,Commentary on NetRoots conference.mp4

Spanish:

-- Repeats of clips on Pitbull calling out Donald Trump at the Premios Juventud and saying "Marco Rubio… Jeb Bush… Hillary Clinton, ponte las pilas."

-- Repeats of *Al Punto* interview with O'Malley and Pitbull's comments on Trump

-- Report on Republicans publicly criticizing Trump for his comments on McCain and some calling for him to exit the race. Strong reactions from both Republicans and Democrats against his comments. Trump has said that he will not apologize. Showed a clip of Trump saying at the Family Leadership Summit, "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I don't like people who were captured." Immediately the "principal voices" in the party spoke out against him. Shows a picture of Jeb Bush and a clip of Marco Rubio on *State of the Union* saying, "It's not just absurd, it's offensive. It's ridiculous" along with saying that Trump couldn't be President or Commander in Chief. Says that HRC also spoke out against Trump and shows a clip of her at the Arkansas dinner saying "It's shameful" and saying that McCain is a war hero. Says that Jeb Bush also criticized Trump and shows the tweet from his campaign saying, "Enough with the slanderous attacks. Senator McCain and all our veterans--particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration." Rick Perry said that he was "very offended" and that Trump owes all veterans, and John McCain in particularly, an apology. In an interview with ABC, Trump said he would not apologize; he said "no, not at all," and that the attacks were coming from other candidates that are low in the polls. Reporter says that "in only a month, Trump has become a serious problem for Republican candidates. With his insults of Mexicans, the magnate has gotten unexpected support from the Republican base and risen in polls to situate himself between the three frontrunners in the race (in many states, on par with Jeb Bush and Scott Walker)." Noticias Univision . 2015 07 20 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Donald

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Trump Marco Rubio Clips, National, Noticias Univision Backlash Trump on McCain

-- Report on poll of Miami Hispanic voters. Report on Bendixen and Amandi International poll (conducted in English and Spanish) of 600 registered voters in Miami-Dade county for the *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald*. When asked about their preferred candidate in the March primary for the presidential if the election were today, 35% of Republicans would vote for Jeb Bush (the highest percentage of all the candidates) and 77% would vote for HRC. The reporter said that the poll is "partial" and there remains more than a year until the election. Noticiero Telemundo (in Miami). 2015 07 19 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo Miami Poll Results

-- Report on Pitbull's comments on Donald Trump at the Premios Juventud [had been reported on Univision earlier, and Telemundo reported on Friday July 17]. Pitbull "increased the streak of criticism to the controversial comments on immigrants" that Donald Trump made. Clip of him saying "Marco Rubio, ponte las pilas. Jeb Bush, ponte las pilas. Hillary Clinton, ponte las pilas… Trump, be careful with El Chapo." Pitbull joins a number of artists that have criticized Trump for his comments during their concerts, including Romeo Santos and Mana. The Trump campaign had no comment on Pitbull's statements. In many Mexican neighborhoods, his comments are the topic of conversation for many. Political expert says that Trump won't win the presidency but that the publicity he's received has given him some benefits, especially since some conservatives support Trump for saying what they think but were afraid to say for fear of being called racist. The Huffington Post also announced that it will write about Trump's campaign under its Entertainment section, not its Politics section. Noticiero Telemundo. 2015 07 17 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo Trump Controversy Pitbull

-- Report on the official re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba and Marco Rubio's opposition. Showed a clip of Rubio speaking on *State of the Union* and saying, "I'm not sure what the difference will be between what we had and what we have now except that it is a certain type of recognition. It sends a message to dissidents and everyone around the world that the U.S. accepts Cuba's form of government as legitimate. I do not. I believe that the Cuban people deserves what the entire Western Hemisphere has: democracy." Buenos Dias DC (Univision). 2015 07 20 Marco Rubio Clips, National, Buenos Dias DC Marco Rubio Cuba Comments

-- Report on Marco Rubio fundraising. Says that Rubio received over $821,000 in donations for his Senate reelection campaign, according to FEC reports. He's received $8.9 million for his presidential campaign and $3.2 million for his Senate race. As of now, Rubio has more money than his rivals in the primary Ted Cruz (with $8.5 million) and Jeb Bush (with $8.4 million). Al Rojo Vivo (Telemundo). 2015 07 17 Marco Rubio Clips, National, Al Rojo Vivo (Telemundo) Rubio Fundraising

States:

Iowa:

--Report on HRC interview in Iowa: Jerry Gallagher interviewed HRC over the weekend and asked her if she would go as far as her top challenger to make college more affordable. Gallagher claims that Sanders wants to make college tuition for public schools free. HRC claimed that she would roll out her education plan within the next few weeks. Gallagher claims that she did not specify a specific policy plan. KWWL-IOW(NBC)'s Today, Iowa City (IA). 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC interview with Gallagher in Iowa.mp4

--Report on HRC, Trump, and GOP Candidates: HRC claimed that it was shameful to see how long it took GOP candidates and other Republicans to stand up against Trump's controversial remarks. WHBF-DAV(CBS)'s Local 4 News this Morning at 6 am , Davenport (IA). 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Trump comments.mp4

--Report on HRC comments and House Party in Davenport, Iowa: HRC spoke about foreign policy and voiced her

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support on the nuclear deal with Iran. HRC claimed that she supported President Obama. HRC claimed that the deal must be carefully monitored and that she plans on doing just that. KCAU(ABC)'s ABC9 News This Morning at 6, Sioux City (IA). 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Iran Obama.mp4

--Report on HRC plan for biofuel research and the future of ethanol: In an interview with Gallagher, HRC claimed that she supports the White House's decision on the development of EPA programs. KWWL-IOW(NBC)'s Today in Iowa at 6, Iowa City (IA). 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC EPA.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC comments on Trump and McCain: HRC claimed that GOP's delayed criticism of Trump was shameful. WFXB(FOX)'s Fox Morning News, Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC shameful.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC in Massachusetts: HRC has raised over more than $2 million from residents in Massachusetts. HRC leads all candidates in money raised so far in the state. WFXT-BOS(FOX)'s FOX 25 Morning News, Boston (MA). 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC money Massachusetts.mp4

Nevada:

-- No HRC mentions.

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Sanders and civil rights: Sanders claims that he has spent most of his political life fighting for Civil Rights. Sanders will be interviewed about Trump's comments on a national interview, according to Jennifer Griffin. WACH-COL(FOX)'s WACH Fox Good Day, Columbia (SC). 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders; Donald Trump, Clips, National, Trump Sanders.mp4

--Report on Sanders campaigning: Sanders has been campaigning in particularly Republican states. Sanders takes a stance on getting big money out of politics in his campaign speeches. WSAV-SAV(NBC)'s WSAV News 3 Coastal Sunrise at 6, Savannah (GA). 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders campaigning.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders in Dallas: Sanders made an effort to campaign in typically Republican states, and he commented on getting big money out of politics. Sanders discussed making college education affordable and making income inequality disappear. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s WTOC News at Daybreak 5:30 am , Savannah (GA). 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders politics big money.mp4

--Report on Sanders and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration: Sanders and O'Malley were interrupted during a democratic forum. Sanders claimed that he had spent 60 years of his life fighting for civil rights and that black lives matter. WFXT-BOS(FOX)'s FOX 25 News at 10, Boston (MA). 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders; Martin

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O'Malley, Clips, National, Sanders immigration.mp4

--Report on Sanders in Phoenix: Sanders had his biggest rally in Phoenix with more than 11,00 0 people. Sanders commented on income inequality and money in politics. WBIN's NH1 News Weekend, Boston (MA). 2015.07.19., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders politics big money.mp4

--Report on MOM and Sanders on Black lives: Reporters claim that during a democratic forum, MOM and Sanders were put on the spot in regards to the issue of black lives matter. Reporters claim that Sanders tried to shift the issue back to economic policies, but that the crowd would not let him. Reporters claimed that Sanders is not appealing to the crowd that wishes to speak about other issues. MOM put black lives and white lives in the same thought. Reporters claimed that he will have difficulty getting this vote because his statement raised controversy at the forum. MSNBC's The Rundown with Jose Diaz-Balart. 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders; Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM Sanders black lives matter.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and his campaign: Jeff Zeleny interviewed Sanders who claimed that people often underestimate him. Sanders spoke about income inequality and big money. Zeleny claimed that Sanders is already shifting the way the race will work by appealing to a wide array of voters. Many voters have claimed that HRC is now their second choice. CNN's New Day . 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders shifting race.mp4

--Report on McCain commenting on Sanders: McCain claimed that he is very happy to see that Sanders is sparking debate and keeping things interesting. McCain claimed that Sabnders is making things interesting within the Democratic Party. McCain claims that Sanders is an honest man. McCain claims that Sanders is a very dedicated individual. MSNBC's Morning Joe . 2015.07.20., John McCain; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders McCain.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders drawing crowds: Reporters claimed that HRC cannot take Sanders lightly; she has to take him seriously. Sanders does not appeal to as diverse of a voter demographic as HRC, but he still poses a threat. Reporters claimed that Sanders comes off as being authentic and real.MSNBC's Morning Joe. 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders diverse demographic.mp4

--Report on Sanders and Obama donors: Reporters claimed that Sanders is drawing in many of Obama's contributors and donors. These are more Obama donors than HRC is drawing. More than 24,000 Obama donors have contributed to Sanders' campaign. Sanders has raised $15.2 million so far. MSNBC's Way Too Early. 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders donors Obama.mp4

--Report on Sanders and HRC: Reporters commented on how Sanders is going to push HRC more to the left asking her to comment on issues such as income inequality, big banks, and money in politics. Reporters claim that Sanders is not the Democratic Party, and despite his recent gains, he will not win the Democratic nomination. Fox News' Fox Report Sunday . 2015.07.20., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders challenging HRC.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration: Sanders and O'Malley were interrupted during a democratic forum. Sanders claimed that he has spent 60 years of his life fighting for civil rights and that black lives, white lives, and all lives matter. WFXT-BOS(FOX)'s FOX 25 News at 10, Boston (MA). 2015.07.20., Bernie Sanders; Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, Sanders immigration.mp4

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--Report on MOM apologizing for “White Lives Matter” line: MOM apologized for appearing insensitive towards the passion and commitment toward racial issues in the United States. Reporters claimed that MOM did the right thing by apologizing. CNN’s New Day . 2015.07.20., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM apology.mp4

--Repoprt on MOM apologizing for racial comments: MOM claimed that he did not intend for his comments to be taken negatively. CNN’s Newsroom with Fredricka Whitfield . 2015.07.20., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM Racial comments.mp4

--Report on MOM and and Black lives matter: Melissa Harris-Perry claimed that MOM made a mistake through his comments. She claimed that his statement was not communicated effectively with the racial advocates present at the forum. Rinku Sen claimed that politicians cannot use generalized statements to appeal to racial issues. Sen states that there is a “tone deafness” present within politicians dealing with these racial issues. MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry. 2015.07.20., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM race.mp4

--Report on MOM and his comment about Black Lives Matter: Reporters claimed that MOM has been removed from a movement that is happening. Reporters claimed that this issue is a minority issue, not a generalized one. Reporters claimed that it does not seem as if MOM wanted to make a difference with the African American demographic after his comments. CNN’s New Day Sunday . 2015.07.20., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM comments.mp4

--Report on MOM and his comments on all lives matter: Sam Stein claimed that MOM’s comments would not hurt him because MOM does not have enough support in the first place. Stein claimed that his apology helped to make him more appealing to many activists. MSNBC’s Now with Alex Wagner . 2015.07.20., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM Sam Stein.mp4

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From: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
To: "Jesse F. Ferguson" <jfferg@gmail.com>
Date: 4/11/2015 2:15:39 AM
Subject: News Clips - April 11, 2015
Attachments: National H4A Clips 20150411.docx

H4A News Clips
[April 11, 2015]

On Friday evening, President Obama and President Raúl Castro of Cuba shook hands at a summit in Panama, marking the first full-fledged meeting between presidents of the United States and Cuba in more than a half-century. *The New York Times* and other outlets reports on what sources have told them about Hillary Clinton's expected presidential announcement. The records released on Thursday by the National Archives at the Clinton Library highlight how Hillary Clinton's staff took a progressive stand on a number of gay-rights issues.

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Today's Key Stories

Handshake for Obama and Raúl Castro of Cuba [Julie Hirschfeld Davis & Randal C. Archibold, NYT, April 10, 2015]

President Obama and President Raúl Castro of Cuba shook hands here on Friday night, and American officials said they would hold discussions on Saturday during a gathering of regional leaders, in the first full-fledged meeting between presidents of the United States and Cuba in more than a half-century

PANAMA CITY, Panama — President Obama and President Raúl Castro of Cuba shook hands here on Friday night, and American officials said they would hold discussions on Saturday during a gathering of regional leaders, in the first full-fledged meeting between presidents of the United States and Cuba in more than a half-century.

The expected encounter was not on Mr. Obama's official schedule, but it held deep significance for the regional meeting, as the president's move to ease tensions with Cuba has overshadowed the official agenda.

Mr. Obama is nearing a decision on removing Cuba's three-decade-old designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, citing progress in the effort to re-establish diplomatic ties after half a century of hostilities.

He spoke by telephone with Mr. Castro before the gathering, and on Thursday, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Bruno Rodríguez, the Cuban foreign minister — the highest-level session between the governments in more than 50 years — to lay the groundwork for the advancing reconciliation. The much-anticipated handshake on Friday night came as leaders gathered for a welcome dinner, where Mr. Obama and Mr. Castro were seated at the same table, separated by two other people.

Before the official start of the summit meeting, Mr. Obama spoke at a civil society forum. "As we move toward the process of normalization, we'll have our differences government-to-government with Cuba on many issues, just as we differ at times with other nations within the Americas," he said. "There's nothing wrong with that, but I'm here to say that when we do speak out, we're going to do so because the United States of America does believe, and will always stand for, a certain set of universal values."

The president rushed through a packed schedule on Friday as the summit meeting got underway, beginning his day with a tour of the Panama Canal.

At a forum with business executives Mr. Obama promoted a $1 billion investment package he has proposed for Central America in an effort to address the causes of the surge of immigrants across America's southern border last summer. "The more we see our economies as mutually dependent rather than a zero-sum game, I think the more successful all of us will be," he said.

Mr. Obama made it clear that he still had human rights concerns and was determined to discuss them openly. He held a lengthy meeting with civil society leaders from 12 other countries, including two from Cuba, after a speech at the forum in which he referred to the American civil rights and gay rights movements and to people who opposed apartheid in South Africa and Communism in the Soviet Union.

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"Civil society is the conscience of our countries," he said.

Cuba is attending the Summit of the Americas for the first time since the meeting's inception in 1994. As senior Cuban and American officials spoke, people representing pro- and anti-Cuban government groups clashed for the third straight day on the sidelines, drawing a contrast with the diplomatic warming.

Hours before Mr. Obama arrived to address the civil society forum at a hotel here, members of groups sent by the Cuban government tried to block access to dissidents, calling them mercenaries who did not speak for Cuba.

At one point, amid angry chanting by the various groups, one of Cuba's best-known government opponents, Guillermo Farinas, was jostled and manhandled as he tried to pass through a crowd of pro-Castro demonstrators.

"These aren't really dissidents, they aren't really interested in democracy and human rights," Patricia Flechilla, a Cuban student and delegate at the summit meeting, told reporters, going on to repeat a familiar complaint from the Cuban government that opponents are paid and propped up by foreign governments, namely the United States.

The fracas interrupted the work of the forum, made up of nongovernmental groups from across the hemisphere, to produce a statement directed at the region's leaders.

Later, before Mr. Obama arrived, scores of people waving Cuban flags and chanting "Long Live Fidel, Long Live Raúl" gathered outside the hotel.

Santiago Canton, executive director of RFK Partners for Human Rights at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, said the presence of Cuba at the summit meeting would inevitably lead to discord that only highlighted the lack of democracy and human rights on the island. "People were sent by the Cuban government to disrupt everything going on, and they are doing that well," he said after observing the clash. "Human rights and democracy are weak points on the Cuban side."

Representatives of the Cuban delegation said they would withdraw from the civil society forum rather than "share space with mercenaries."

Hillary Clinton to Announce 2016 Run for President on Sunday [Amy Chozick and Maggie Haberman, NYT, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton's campaign launch is expected to take a slow path forward, starting with a visit to Iowa on Sunday.
The prolonged prologue to Hillary Rodham Clinton's second run for the White House will reach its suspenseless conclusion on Sunday: The former secretary of state, senator and first lady is to announce that she will indeed seek the Democratic nomination for president.
Mrs. Clinton is expected to begin her campaign with a video message on social media, followed by a visit to important early-primary states next week, said two people briefed on her plans.
But for all the attention paid to how Mrs. Clinton would reveal her 2016 candidacy, little has been said about her reasons for mounting another presidential bid. Her campaign rollout is expected to provide voters, particularly users of Twitter, Facebook and other social media, a succinct rationale that she is best positioned to address an American electorate that has seen virtually stagnant wages for middle-income earners over the last 15 years.
A fresh epilogue to Mrs. Clinton's 2014 memoir, "Hard Choices," posted on The Huffington Post Friday morning, signaled a number of elements of what is very likely to be a familiar feature of her campaign message: evoking her new status as a grandmother to talk about creating opportunities for all Americans.
"I'm more convinced than ever that our future in the 21st century depends on our ability to ensure that a child born in the hills of Appalachia or the Mississippi Delta or the Rio Grande Valley grows up with the same shot at success that Charlotte will," Mrs. Clinton wrote, referring to her new granddaughter.
Mrs. Clinton will begin testing that and other themes in earnest beginning on Sunday and stretching through next week when she travels to Iowa and later this month to New Hampshire for a series of small-scale events where she can field questions and address the concerns of the voters her campaign calls "everyday Americans," people made aware of her plans said.
In the early months of the Democratic primary contest, Mrs. Clinton's campaign hopes to capture some of the magic of her successful 2000 run for the Senate in New York, when she worked to show some of the common touch that had helped catapult her husband to the White House. Her governing principle in the 2000 campaign was demonstrating that she would work hard to earn every vote.
Mrs. Clinton's team is also planning a slow expansion of its staff over the course of the year, deliberately avoiding the appearance of a battleship heading into the fight, as her organization seemed on her entry into the 2008 Democratic

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campaign. Back then, Mrs. Clinton arrived at some events in Iowa on a chartered aircraft called the "Hill-A-Copter" that made her campaign seem presumptuous.

But even as Mrs. Clinton attempts to set aside her celebrity and offer herself as a fighter for ordinary voters, her finance team and the outside groups supporting her candidacy have started collecting checks in what is expected to be a $2.5 billion effort, dwarfing the vast majority of her would-be rivals in both parties.

The Clinton campaign's fund-raising staff and other aides have already started working out of a new headquarters in Brooklyn, with almost the entire team working there on Friday.

Mrs. Clinton has fielded advice from more than 200 policy experts in formulating her economic agenda and still has not settled on the details. Rather than deliver a robust policy speech immediately, she intends to ease into presenting her ideas for alleviating the growing gap between rich and poor and for increasing wages, said several people involved in her plans. The slow pace will allow her to continue to generate news coverage as Republican presidential hopefuls engage in heated debates in their crowded primary field.

But the essence of Mrs. Clinton's message has become clearer and was reiterated in the new epilogue of her memoir on Friday. "You shouldn't have to be the granddaughter of a president or a secretary of state to receive excellent health care, education, enrichment, and all the support and advantages that will one day lead to a good job and a successful life," she wrote.

Many factors played into the timing of Mrs. Clinton's announcement. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, whom Mrs. Clinton's advisers are watching closely as a potential opponent, staked a claim on Monday as his announcement date. Mrs. Clinton's announcement on Sunday will certainly draw attention from Mr. Rubio's entry into the race and could well eclipse it.

Some in her campaign are betting that Democrats will applaud the show of force against a Republican. (Others involved insisted the date was selected before Mr. Rubio scheduled his event, but said that the juxtaposition was an added bonus.)

Mrs. Clinton's advisers are holding a conference call for her entire staff on Saturday afternoon, according to two people briefed about it. For all the planning that went into Sunday's event, her team has been working feverishly in recent days, another sign of how the campaign's infrastructure has been slow to take shape.

In Bill Clinton White House, Hillary Clinton's staff helped push on gay rights [Josh Gerstein, POLITICO, April 10, 2015]

The records released by the National Archives at the Clinton Library here Thursday demonstrate that Hillary Clinton's staff took a progressive stand on other gay-rights issues and helped push to torpedo anti-gay-rights legislation.

LITTLE ROCK —Newly-disclosed documents show President Bill Clinton's White House engulfed in a political firestorm over gay marriage in the mid-1990s, but they offer no indication that Hillary Clinton pushed her husband to abandon his opposition to such unions or to veto the Defense of Marriage Act, which he signed two months before his re-election in 1996.

The records released by the National Archives at the Clinton Library here Thursday demonstrate that Hillary Clinton's staff took a progressive stand on other gay-rights issues and helped push to torpedo anti-gay-rights legislation.

Story Continued Below

The saga of the Clinton White House's handling of the Defense of Marriage Act, which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court two years ago, remains a bitter one for some gay activists. But the more than 5,000 White House documents made public for the first time Thursday offer what could be a political silver lining for Hillary Clinton as she prepares to announce her second presidential bid.

The files show several of her staffers lobbied actively on behalf of the gay community during her husband Bill's White House tenure, while presidential aides debated how to position him on key issues given his personal opposition to same-sex unions.

In an August 2000 memo, domestic policy aide Ann O'Leary — a liaison between Hillary Clinton's office and President Bill Clinton's policy staff — pushed for government-wide vetting of an executive order to ban federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. Writing to Clinton Domestic Policy Adviser Bruce Reed, O'Leary said such a directive could be modeled on a 1941 order by President Franklin Roosevelt that banned racial discrimination by contractors.

An order forbidding contractors from discriminating against gays and lesbians was eventually issued by the White House, but not until last year — some two presidencies later. "Many of you have worked for a long time to see this day coming," President Barack Obama said when he signed the order.

Other memos made public this week at the Clinton Library show aides to Hillary Clinton worked to defeat an effort

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spearheaded by Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.) to prevent unmarried couples from adopting children in Washington, D.C. The measure passed the House in 1998, but was later dropped from an appropriations bill. In 1999, it was narrowly defeated in a floor vote.

The files underscore how dramatically the politics of same-sex marriage have changed over two decades. Most national-level Democratic politicians now fully embrace gay marriage rights, and the Supreme Court is set to hear a case later this month that could guarantee recognition of same-sex marriages nationwide.

But back in 1996, Bill Clinton's aides wrestled at length over the issue before he signed DOMA, the law banning gay couples from receiving federal benefits and declaring that states did not have to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

The records show the legislation caused political heartburn for the Clinton White House, which was caught between the president's stated opposition to same-sex marriage and a desire to keep his gay and lesbian supporters enthusiastic about his unfolding re-election campaign.

While there appears to have been little discussion of Clinton vetoing the DOMA bill in 1996, some White House aides urged a softer line against gay marriage and a full embrace of civil unions.

However, in April of that year, Clinton personally approved talking points framing same-sex marriage as a threat to traditional marriage.

"The institutions of traditional marriage and family face tremendous pressures in today's society," says a memo from White House Counsel Jack Quinn bearing Clinton's trademark left-handed check mark on the "AGREE" line. "We must do everything we can to support and strengthen these institutions."

The talking points — sent to the Oval Office for clearance in response to a request from a gay magazine, The Advocate — note that Clinton "has previously said that he does not personally support same-sex marriages."

The memo strikes a neutral tone towards discussions about civil unions, supporting the idea of non-discrimination while again suggesting such efforts could undermine male-female marriages or offend religious beliefs.

"The challenge in addressing these issues is to remain sensitive to the traditional values of our communities while preserving the fundamental right to live free from unjustified discrimination," the position paper said.

One memo released Thursday shows that two White House aides who served as liaisons to the gay and lesbian community, Director of Presidential Personnel Marsha Scott and domestic policy aide Richard Socarides, urged Clinton to publicly oppose the GOP bill.

"We have been extremely successful in rebuilding our relationships to our friends in the gay and lesbian communities despite the fiasco of gays in the military, the disjointed handling of the Colorado case [at the Supreme Court over an anti-gay-rights measure], and the President's stated personal opposition to gay marriage," Scott and Socarides wrote in a May 1996 memo addressed to Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes. "Our support for this bill would be taken by many in the gay communities as an expression by the President of deep ceded [sic] bias against gay people."

They urged that Clinton reaffirm his "strong personal opposition to same-sex marriage…but oppose this bill as an intrusion on what for over 200 years has been the prerogative of state legislatures."

It's unclear if such proposals ever reached Clinton. Other top aides, including Scott, eventually argued to Clinton that he could not oppose DOMA without appearing to renege on his opposition to same-sex marriage.

"Given your stated and longstanding opposition to gay marriage, we believe there would not be a substantive basis for you not to sign the proposed legislation if it were to be adopted by Congress," White House Counsel Jack Quinn, Communications Adviser George Stephanopoulous and Scott sent to Clinton in May 1996.

The records indicate Clinton saw that memo, but they do not show explicit action. However, another set of talking points approved by Clinton that month take a fairly hard line against any federal recognition for same-sex marriage.

"The President has long opposed gay marriage based on his belief that the institution of marriage should be reserved for unions between one man and one woman," says a statement bearing Clinton's check mark and a "THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN" stamp. The points go on to say that Clinton strongly opposes "unfair discrimination….but he does not believe that the

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federal government should promote gay marriages [and] does not believe it is appropriate for federal resources to be devoted to providing spousal benefits to partners in gay and lesbian relationships."

When the White House signaled that Clinton would sign the bill, many gay and lesbian advocates were furious, viewing the move as pre-election pandering. "This is being seen as a clear and calculated signal from the White House that we are abandoning the gay and lesbian constituencies," Scott wrote in an email to White House political aide Eric Fanning.

The documents also show that senior presidential aides made a series of confusing and contradictory statements about gay marriage as the issue intensified in late 1995 and early 1996, with brewing legal fights and a Republican plan to press for passage of DOMA.

"The president doesn't think that same-sex marriage should be outlawed," Deputy Press Secretary Ginny Terzano said in December 1995. The quote featured in a Newsweek article grabbed the attention of Socarides, who circulated it among White House staffers.

Some in the White House also flagged comments by Scott, who told a gay audience in early 1996 that the administration was looking "for ways to ensure that those of you in loving, long-term and committed relationships can enjoy all the same benefits that [heterosexual couples] are entitled to under the law."

"Came up at 7:30 meeting this morning," Deputy White House Counsel Kathleen Wallman wrote, sending a Washington Times article about Scott's comments to White House Counsel Jack Quinn and another lawyer in the office, Steve Neuwirth. "Not really our message."

For her part, Scott sent a memo to Vice President Al Gore criticizing White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry for linking Clinton's DOMA opposition to his view that "this is a time when we need to do things to strengthen the American family."

"This…is not the President's position," she wrote.

As public support for gay marriage has evolved , Clinton has cast his signing of DOMA as a kind of defensive measure taken in the face of overwhelming opposition to same-sex marriage in Congress and the likelihood of an override or even a constitutional amendment if he vetoed the legislation. However, among gay activists, the episode has long contributed to an ambivalence about Clinton, who took historic steps as president on behalf of the gay community but sometimes seemed to be triangulating on the issue.

Clinton critics note that despite his claim that he reluctantly signed DOMA, his re-election campaign advertised that fall on Christian radio stations in 15 states touting his approval.

More recently, both Clintons have grown more receptive to same-sex marriage and have gradually turned around on DOMA as well.

After saying in 2000 as a Senate candidate from New York that she would have voted for DOMA, Hillary Clinton said in 2007 she favored repealing part of the law that blocked federal benefits.

Bill Clinton also distanced himself from DOMA, before repudiating it altogether in 2013 and urging the Supreme Court to overturn the legislation, which said had become

a vehicle for discrimination. Three months after Clinton's reversal, the high court ruled the law unconstitutional in a 5-4 vote.

The newly-public library records also show one young woman's brief and successful drive to overturn a Clinton White House policy of not sending presidential greetings — or any acknowledgement at all — to invites from couples holding commitment ceremonies.

"I've learned that when an invitation comes in from a same-sex couple the volunteers put it in a question box which staff go through….No greeting is sent, nor is the couple responded to in any way," White House Deputy Director for Presidential Inquiries Kelley Van Auken wrote in a September 1999 email to more senior staffers. "I think a greeting should be sent. I understand that it is not my beliefs that should determine what type of cards are sent, as they come from the President, but I think sending a card would fit in with this administration's policies. He did sign the DOMA, and therefore we would not be able to send the wedding greeting."

Van Auken went on to argue that sending some good wishes would not be a substantive policy change. "They are not asking

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for a card congratulating them on their 'legal marriage ceremony.' Perhaps I'm playing with semantics, but I don't think some sort of recognition of this is too much to ask for," she added, urging that such couples be sent what volunteers referred to as a Special Day card.

The issue was eventually escalated to an openly gay aide to Clinton, Staff Secretary Sean Maloney (now a Congressman from New York), who was "very much in favor" of the change. Within less than a month, couples began receiving cards that read: "Hillary and I are delighted to join your family and friends in sending congratulations as you celebrate this special occasion. Best wishes for much continued happiness. — Bill Clinton."

Van Auken was just 22 at the time and later became an aide to Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.). Van Auken died last year at the age of 37, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

National Coverage – HRC AND DEMS

National Stories

Hillary Clinton to announce 2016 bid Sunday with video [Brianna Keilar & Jeff Zeleny, CNN, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton will launch her presidential campaign Sunday with a video on social media announcing her candidacy, followed immediately by campaign travel to build on the announcement, according to a source close to Clinton's campaign in waiting.

Hillary Clinton will launch her presidential campaign Sunday with a video on social media announcing her candidacy, followed immediately by travel to build on the announcement, according to a source close to Clinton's campaign in waiting.

Her first stop will likely be to the early caucus state of Iowa, according to the source.

Observers see the likely visit to Iowa as a show of humility by Clinton, who came in third in the 2008 caucuses and who, so far, has dominated the likely Democratic field for 2016.

Clinton has already filmed her campaign video, a person close to the campaign said, which outlines the central themes of her second bid for the White House. The message is intended to send a signal to Democrats that she intends to aggressively fight for the party's presidential nomination.

The decision will sweep aside more than a year of speculation about her political aspirations and allow her to start making her case to voters. Advisers say she knows that Democratic activists are not interested in a coronation and she intends to campaign as though she has a tough primary challenge.

Central to Clinton's second presidential run will be reintroducing the former first lady -- on her own terms -- to the American people. Democrats close to Clinton have started to call her the most unknown famous person in the world. Their argument is that people know of Clinton -- she has near 100% name recognition in most polls -- but they don't know her story.

Clinton is expected to trade big rallies for a series of smaller events with voters, as she seeks to reintroduce herself to voters. Her supporters have urged Clinton to take the time to meet voters one-on-one and build their trust.

"The views about women candidates and how they should conduct themselves has really changed since 2008," said Bonnie Campbell, the co-chair of Clinton's 2008 campaign in Iowa. "First and foremost people vote for candidates that they like, people who connect with them emotionally. I think that helps with everybody but certainly it helps with women and the men who love them. It just makes her a more complete person."

Clinton's presidential campaign has long been a foregone conclusion, and speculation that she would take another shot at the White House has followed the former first lady since she left the State Department in early 2013.

For much of the last two years, Clinton has crisscrossed the country delivering paid speeches, selling her new memoir and stumping for Democrats during the 2014 midterm elections.

In the coming weeks and months, the Clinton campaign will look to hone in on that story, using themes such as Clinton's Midwestern upbringing, her mother's perseverance in the face of neglectful parents and Clinton's own time raising a daughter to cast the presidential hopeful in a more favorable, softer light than she was seen during her 2008 presidential run.

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Campbell said she saw voters in Iowa light up when they connected with Clinton in coffee shops and in their homes, but those events were few and far between compared to large rallies and speeches. She said Clinton's empathetic side was not seen nearly enough during her 2008 campaign.

"Somehow, that did not come through in Iowa," Campbell said.

But her efforts to introduce herself come as Clinton is fighting fresh questions about her trust and honesty. The controversy about using a private email server while Secretary of State has already caused some political damage, her aides concede, which is one of the reasons she is jumping into the race to start campaigning on her own terms.

March found Clinton at the center of her own controversy over her exclusive use of private -- rather than official -- email during her time running the State Department. The controversy, again seized on by Republican critics, escalated, and Clinton took to a quickly organized press conference at the United Nations to respond to controversy.

Hillary Clinton skeptics fear 'an unstoppable train' [Gabriel DeBendetti, POLITICIO, April 10, 2015]

Concerns mount that Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign will be no different than her '08 campaign.
It's gotten to this point: Even the Democratic Party's Hillary skeptics are resigned to her being the party's nominee.
"I don't see a path for anyone not named Clinton," declared former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, who served as United Nations ambassador under Bill Clinton before running against Hillary in 2008.
"You know I don't get along with her," he noted, by way of explanation. "I'm not a Ready for Hillary person. I'm trying to be honest with you."

Added Bob Shrum, the veteran liberal strategist whose list of presidential candidates (Al Gore, John Kerry) does not include anyone named Clinton: "Assuming she remains healthy and runs the kind of campaign she will run, I don't see anyone beating her."

Their conclusions are based on a range of factors, from Clinton's standing in the polls to her formidable fundraising potential. But there's another one: None of her potential challengers appear to have the will and/or the ability to beat her.

Still, as Clinton prepares to announce her campaign on Sunday, there's a pervasive feeling among unaligned Democrats and Clinton loyalists alike that at least one of the possible challengers will take the plunge and creep up to 20 or 25 percent in the polls — enough to give her a scare. It's still a waiting game, though, because there's no such consensus on a few critical questions.

Namely: who, when and how.

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, former Virginia senator Jim Webb, and Vermont senator Bernie Sanders — the trio who have shown the greatest interest in mounting a challenge to Clinton — face a steep path, Democratic operatives say, while the two most famous names mentioned as potential challengers — Vice President Joe Biden and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren — seem increasingly far from running.

Lincoln Chafee, the former Rhode Island senator and governor, emerged in the last few days to stake a possible claim to be the Clinton alternative, raising Warren-like concerns about Clinton's closeness to Wall Street. But he's a maverick whose shift from Republican to independent to Democrat is unlikely to excite the progressive base.

Nonetheless, the array of party operatives, Clinton allies, and former Democratic presidential candidates who spoke with POLITICO described a path for any of the would-be challengers similar to the ones O'Malley and Chafee are trying to blaze: Distinguish themselves from Clinton on a series of policy points, mostly by running to her left — and then, simply due to the structure of the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucus, one of them would likely approach a 30 percent showing. But nearly every figure also cautioned that, given Clinton's lead in polls and in organizing throughout the country, the path forward for any other candidate would be treacherous.

Nonetheless, the situation on the ground does not mirror 2007, when Clinton was overtaken by a rush of support and money that flowed to the upstart Barack Obama. By mid-April 2007, both Clinton and Barack Obama were both polling in the 20-to-40 percent range nationally.

"It would take a formidable, inspirational candidate" to seriously challenge Clinton now, says Richardson, who himself was at around 3 percent in April 2007, and who added that O'Malley has emailed him to talk about foreign policy. "I think while

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O'Malley is developing as a good candidate, I don't see the mix for a dramatic alternative there."

That's largely because Richardson's 3 percent in 2007 is roughly three times higher than O'Malley's 1 percent in the RealClearPolitics national polling average through March of this year. That leaves him alongside Webb's 1 percent and behind Sanders's 4 percent. Clinton's 60 is trailed by Biden's and Warren's 12 percent, despite the former's lack of political organization and the latter's repeated insistence that she will not run. The numbers are similar in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two states to vote in the primary contest.

Nonetheless, Clinton aides point to O'Malley as the most viable alternative candidate, believing he will eventually pick up support from many of the liberal activists currently urging Warren to run. The silver lining in his low name recognition is that he has an opportunity to introduce himself to the American people on his own terms.

Warren, meanwhile, repeatedly insists she will not throw her hat in the ring despite an organized campaign put together by progressive groups intended to draft the bank antagonist.

And even though the vice president has run for president twice before — including against Clinton and Obama in 2008 — he has no political operation to speak of. Biden's supporters insist that he would need little preparation to jump in due to his existing networks and the goodwill generated by his trips to Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina earlier this year. But he shows no signs of seriously considering a run.

The biggest opportunity for a Clinton alternative would likely come in Iowa, the site of her 2008 undoing, because the caucus system there is friendly enough to protest candidates that someone else, or a group of others, will almost certainly garner at least one-quarter of the vote. Even Iowa's sitting senator, Tom Harkin, won just 76 percent when he ran in 1992, despite the fact that none of his rival candidates, including Bill Clinton, bothered to contest the caucuses.

But even a relatively promising showing in Iowa could be a one-off if it doesn't generate momentum for a challenger heading into New Hampshire. And, for Clinton, "it's kind of a luxury in a campaign when you're worried about only getting 75 percent of the vote," notes Shrum.

One person who disagrees with the idea that challenging Clinton is a hopeless task is former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart, who vaulted from single digits in the polls to mount a serious challenge against the far better-known and better-funded Walter Mondale in 1984.

"I also discount the polls a great deal," says Hart, who is personally close with O'Malley and a past email correspondent with Webb. "At this moment, and for a time period, they are name recognition functions and less matters of preference."

O'Malley, for one, has been trying to boost his name recognition as he preps for a likely run.

He and Webb are expected to appear at South Carolina's Clyburn Fish Fry on April 24 — an annual event hosted by Rep. Jim Clyburn that frequently draws presidential hopefuls to the early voting state — and the state party's convention the next day. Clinton is not currently scheduled to appear, but may do so after formally announcing her candidacy.

It's a reflection of a long-established pattern: O'Malley has been by far the most aggressive candidate in terms of early state organizing, while Webb has been slow to schedule events and Clinton has let others represent her. Sanders, meanwhile, has appeared in early states but also spent considerable time elsewhere — most recently a political trip with stops in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Austin, and Chicago. The groups supporting a Warren candidacy have also been organizing voters in the early states, but absent a candidate, they have largely focused on shifting the overall conversation to the left.

The four likeliest contenders — O'Malley, Webb, Sanders, and Chafee — occupy vastly different lanes within the party, in terms of ideology, experience, and preparation for 2016.

O'Malley saw his 2016 chances flicker when his expected successor lost his 2014 run for governor, in what was seen by some as a referendum on the outgoing governor. He says he will decide whether to run for president sometime this spring. But he has already pulled together a team of operatives that includes Bill Hyers, the campaign manager for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

This year, he has already stopped by at least four events in each of Iowa and New Hampshire, and one in South Carolina. He also recently hired a new press secretary with New Hampshire experience.

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Meanwhile Webb, a one-term senator and former Secretary of the Navy under Republican President Ronald Reagan, has been more deliberate. After announcing his exploratory committee in November, Webb has largely kept out of the public eye. But he recently traveled to Iowa and has hired a state campaign director.

Sanders, a self-described socialist who often rails against billionaires and appears frequently on television, initially suggested he would decide whether to run in March. But he told POLITICO that month that he would likely push off a decision because of his work as the ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee. His spokesman now says he will make a decision "sooner rather than later."

Chafee has been the most eager to take on Clinton, though his bid would be regarded as an even longer shot after he declined to seek re-election for governor in 2014 when it became clear he would face a tough Democratic primary.

Indeed, none of these candidates will have the benefit of anything approaching the widespread Clinton network, which was largely represented by the independent political action committee Ready For Hillary that signed up nearly 4 million voters over the last two-plus years.

In the face of such organizing, the non-Clinton candidates seemed so daunted that none of them seized the moment in March when Clinton was revealed to have used a private email system as secretary of state.

Former candidates and advisers say the best approach would be to chip away at Clinton on a few policies — like Wall Street regulation — as a way to start to gain traction.

"If the policies [Clinton] comes out with are all-inclusive, then a primary is not necessary," said Reverend Al Sharpton, who ran in 2004. But "if they're just running and there's no policy debate, it's just a vanity exercise."

O'Malley has said the presidency should not be "passed between two families" — a reference to the Clintons and the Bushes — and has begun tailoring his rhetoric on Wall Street policy to Clinton's left, though he has not attacked her by name.

Webb is taking a different tack, suggesting he is, in the words Rania Batrice, his Iowa state director, an outsider who is well-positioned to take on the Democratic Party's most famous name.

"It's safe to say that Iowans and the rest of the country are tired of the 'same ol', same ol" rhetoric when it comes to today's political atmosphere," she wrote. "They're ready for someone different, someone who will put people ahead of politics. That is Jim Webb."

But neither Webb nor Sanders can realistically claim that they are fresh faces. At 69 and 73, respectively, each is older than the 67-year-old Clinton. And while O'Malley is largely a new face on the national scene, Clinton's team can point to a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll showing that over 60 percent of Democrats favor "experience" to "a new direction" in a presidential candidate.

"A lot of this [talk of alternatives] is that journalism abhors a presidential primary vacuum, so a lot of it is hothouse stories. They're not real stories," said Shrum. "If you ask me, in all honesty, do I see a path? No."

Or, in the words of Richardson: "It's very likely going to be an unstoppable train."

Clinton studying up on upward mobility with Harvard economist [Annie Linsky, The Boston Globe, pril 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with Harvard professor Raj Chetty as she formulates her economic policy.

Harvard professor Raj Chetty flew from Boston to New York City about two months ago to give a private tutorial on his research into social mobility. The student: Hillary Clinton.

In a conference room at her Manhattan personal office, he clicked through a set of slides including a map of the United States that shows how poor children are more likely to get ahead in some parts of the country than in others. The meeting, which included members of Clinton's staff, lasted two hours.

Clinton absorbed the lesson well.

At a panel discussion at the Center for American Progress in Washington last month, she cited Chetty by name and echoed his work: "Why do some communities, frankly, have more ladders for opportunity than others?" Clinton asked.

With Hillary Clinton expected to launch her presidential campaign on Sunday, Democratic donors and strategists agree that her message will have to address the yawning gap between the rich and lower classes in America. How she will navigate this issue, and what the broader theme of her campaign will be, has been one of the pressing questions of her precampaign period.

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Chetty's emphasis on upward mobility offers a less divisive way to address middle class economic issues than the rhetoric of income inequality that progressives in the Democratic Party like Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and her followers are pushing. It's also more palatable to large corporations and wealthy donors who have funded her previous campaigns.

The other key topic Clinton is expected to quickly embrace — women's issues — appears to be less fraught.

Clinton "leaned in" on that topic at an Emily's List gala in Washington, according to one of staff member at the organization. She delighted the room when ticked off a list issues the group cares about: Access to paid sick days, paid medical and family leave, affordable child care and more flexible work schedules.

"It's an outrage that so many women are still paid less than men for the same work," Clinton said. "These aren't just problems for women. They're problems for families and for our entire economy."

Clinton's expected to make her first trip to Iowa next week. Emily's List activists are hoping that the trip — which will be heavily covered by the national media — will coincide with Equal Pay Day on Tuesday, and bring more attention to the gap in salaries between men and women.

And many are noting that Clinton is already embracing the historic nature of her White House bid more than she did in 2008. She's taken series shots at Senate Republicans for stalling the nomination of Loretta Lynch for attorney general via her Twitter feed. And she used Twitter for a playful back-and-forth with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, where both women touted their Wellesley College educations.

Albright wrote: "Statistics show that @Wellesley alums make great Secretaries — right?"

Clinton replied: "There must be something in the water @Wellesley. #YouGoGirl"

Over the past few weeks Clinton has hired staff for her campaign and found office space in Brooklyn for campaign headquarters. A Clinton spokesman, didn't respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile, Clinton's precampaign has been winding down: The Ready for Hillary super-PAC, formed to convince the former First Lady to run, spent the week hosting a fire sale on merchandise with prices dropping each day. On Sunday all items were 40 percent off. On Tuesday glassware was 50 percent off. On Wednesday fleece products were 60 percent off. On Friday all T-shirts were on sale for $10.

The same activists buying up the "merch'' are also ready to hear her start making her case. And polls show that Americans continue to see the economy as the most important issue facing the country.

The research Chetty and his team have done shows that children who grow up in parts of the country with less segregation, less income inequality, stronger schools, more social capital, and stable families are more likely to improve their social standing as adults. He and his colleagues are preparing to release policy prescriptions in coming months.

Clinton was "really interested in issues of social mobility and the American dream" during their meeting Chetty said. "She really engaged with the data," Chetty recalled.

He also spoke at last year's Clinton Global Initiative meeting, where he mentioned his signature eye-popping statistic: "Chances of achieving the 'American Dream' are almost two times higher in Canada than the United States," he said, showing slide with data to back up the claim.

Other researchers on his project said that people from different political backgrounds tend to seize on different parts of the work. "When you look at the data it is a political Rorschach test," said Nathaniel Hendren, an assistant professor at Harvard.

Indeed, on Monday Chetty said he plans to talk with Republican Jeb Bush, who is also mulling a White House run. He's also sat down with Warren in her Cambridge home and spoken with President Obama.

Thinkers in the left wing of the party are skeptical of what Chetty's findings will mean when injected into a presidential campaign.

"Social mobility is a good thing, but it is not the right question," said Damon Silvers, the Director of Policy and Special Counsel for the AFL-CIO. "The right question is what happens to the majority of us who work hard and don't make it to the top of the pyramid?"

Clinton has sent some soothing signals to the progressive wing of the party. She has consulted with Joseph Stiglitz in recent months, a Nobel prize winning economist who recently wrote a book entitled "The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future."

During the Aspen Ideas Festival last year, Clinton was asked about income inequality and seemed to fuse the ideas from thinkers on both wings of the party. Her answer of noted the importance of bolstering the middle class with the notion of helping children move up the social ladder.

"We've always been very proud of the fact that we have an upwardly mobile expanding middle class society," Clinton said. "We've had this American Dream embedded in our DNA."

Hillary Clinton begins her entry into the 2016 presidential race [Anne Gearan & Philip Rucker, WaPo, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Rodham Clinton's long-anticipated entry into the 2016 presidential race took shape Friday, with Democrats saying she will announce her candidacy on Sunday and begin a series of deliberately small discussions with voters next week.

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Hillary Rodham Clinton's long-anticipated entry into the 2016 presidential race took shape Friday, with Democrats saying she will announce her candidacy on Sunday and begin a series of deliberately small discussions with voters next week.

The low-key rollout — no big rallies or lengthy speeches — will end months of speculation surrounding the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination. Clinton intends to begin her second White House bid via social media, probably Twitter, and include a video that introduces her economic-centered campaign message before jetting to Iowa next week for public appearances, according to three Democrats with knowledge of her plans.

Behind the scenes, meanwhile, Clinton's fundraising machine is coming to life. Her top bundlers are plotting aggressive outreach to thousands of Democratic donors over the weekend and into next week to urge them to send checks and make donations online as soon as the Clinton campaign's Web site goes live.

The strategists and allies spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the forthcoming announcement. Spokesmen for Clinton's now-robust campaign-in-waiting declined to comment Friday.

Clinton's go-slow, go-small start is the opposite of how many Republicans have entered or plan to enter the race. Instead of a splashy launch event, Clinton's plan is a calculated understatement. She is scheduling a series of small roundtables and other give-and-take sessions with voters, first in Iowa and later in New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada — the states holding the first presidential primaries and caucuses early next year.

The idea is to showcase Clinton's abilities as a problem-solver and crusader for the rights of those struggling to climb into or stay in the middle class. The intimate events with voters are also designed to help the former secretary of state connect with ordinary Americans and listen to their concerns, supporters said.

Jay Jacobs, a former New York Democratic Party chairman and longtime Clinton friend, said he thinks the events will present Clinton "as she is known by people who are close to her: as a very warm, genuine, thoughtful, certainly intelligent, regular person."

"There's been so much that we've seen that seems to create an image, by the press and by others, those who are looking to derail her, but now the voters are going to hear from Hillary," Jacobs said.

Clinton's human-scale approach is modeled on the listening tour she conducted across New York state at the start of her successful 2000 Senate race. She came to that campaign as a sitting first lady and political celebrity with no roots in New York, but her efforts to seek out New Yorkers' opinions — in diners as well as people's living rooms and kitchens — surprised many voters and some critics.

"It became a two-way conversation that impressed voters not by just what she said, but by how intently she listened," Jacobs said. "I think that's Hillary. That's something that has worked before and it'll work again."

David Axelrod, who helped lead the insurgent 2008 Barack Obama campaign that eclipsed Hillary Clinton's first presidential run, welcomed the new approach.

For 30 years, Hillary Clinton has been a fixture on the national stage. Now, as she takes another shot at becoming the first female president, she's hoping to battle any Clinton fatigue by touting her unique experience. (AP)

"Humility is the order of the day," Axelrod said. "Last time, they launched as a big juggernaut cloaked in the veil of inevitability and at 20,000 feet. There was a tremendous backlash to that. It is imperative for her to go out, to meet people where they live, to make her case, to deliver a message, to listen to what they have to say and to ask for their votes."

Axelrod added that Clinton must also articulate a message about economic mobility during her launch that's "compelling and authentic," rooted in her personal biography. "She needs to project what the cause is that she's fighting for here and give people a sense of where they fit into that vision," he said.

One open question for Clinton allies is what role her husband, former president Bill Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea, will play in the campaign. Both have made splashy media appearances in the past week, with Chelsea on the cover of Elle and Bill on the cover of Town & Country. The former president told the magazine that he plans to be merely a "backstage adviser" to his wife, at least in the early stages of the campaign.

Widely considered by Democrats to be Obama's heir apparent, Clinton has hired several of the president's top campaign strategists to work on her 2016 bid.

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In polls, Clinton is the dominant Democratic candidate, and in general election matchups she is at least slightly ahead of all likely Republican challengers.

The potential to become America's first female president is a lodestar for Clinton's campaign, and the soon-to-be candidate has strongly suggested that she will stress her path-breaking role.

Clinton resisted pressure from some Democrats to begin her campaign earlier this year, using the past several months to hone her message and assemble an extensive operation to run a campaign and raise money. She has recruited dozens of staffers who have been volunteering their time before the launch; her team signed a lease last week on office space in Brooklyn to serve as her national campaign headquarters.

Clinton's Sunday announcement would come one day before the expected campaign launch of Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida), who is planning a major speech to supporters Monday afternoon at Miami's Freedom Tower. On Friday, Rubio released a YouTube video, called "A New American Century," previewing his announcement.

With Clinton's launch, Republicans are revving up their attack machine. The Republican National Committee announced an online ad Friday to highlight past scandals, including her use of private e-mail at the State Department.

"From the East Wing to the State Department, Hillary Clinton has left a trail of secrecy, scandal and failed liberal policies that no image consultant can erase," RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement. "Voters want to elect someone they can trust and Hillary's record proves that she cannot be trusted. We must 'Stop Hillary.' "

Like the small-scale rollout in Iowa living rooms, Clinton and her advisers are also modulating their fundraising early on to avoid appearing presumptuous and keep the campaign focused on a grass-roots effort. Clinton allies have been tamping down expectations for a massive influx of campaign cash, but her fundraisers anticipate a rush of major donors trying to get checks in the door on Day One.

"All the horses are in the gate just waiting for those gates to open," said John Morgan, a Clinton fundraiser in Florida. "There's really nothing to do until the gate opens. But the gate could open Sunday and it could be the flood gate. The only issue they'll have is how fast can they raise the money, because the money is pent up."

Clinton will raise only primary-season money at first, with a cap of $2,700 a donor. That is partly to avoid the appearance that Clinton is taking the nomination for granted. The focus on Internet appeals will free up Clinton to spend time on the trail talking to voters, rather than wooing wealthy donors at glitzy, high-priced fundraisers.

"I don't think the first thing out of the gate she should be doing is a bunch of big fundraising events," said one senior party strategist who requested anonymity to speak candidly.

The approach is a notable contrast to former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who has spent the better part of four months crisscrossing the country holding closed-door finance events for his Right to Rise political action committee and super PAC with tickets costing as much as $100,000 each.

"I think she'll be in Iowa eating corn on the cob instead of clinking champagne flutes with donors," Morgan said. "She can do this much quicker, much more efficiently because she's not fighting for donors. Rubio, Bush, that whole crowd is in mortal combat for dollars. She's not. That's her advantage."

The campaign is not expected to give titles to top bundlers or announce a list of finance committee chairs or members at the outset, according to Democrats with knowledge of the Clinton strategy.

One priority is creating an extensive small-donor network similar to the Obama campaign's much-admired list from his 2008 and 2012 campaigns, and Clinton advisers see her announcement period as a ripe opportunity.

"We're not going to take it slow," said one Clinton fundraiser who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the campaign's internal plans. "The announcement is a good time to raise money, and we'll have everyone out there asking people to support her candidacy."

The campaign will be able to build on the efforts of Ready for Hillary, an outside group started in 2013 to lay the groundwork for Clinton's run that has held more than 1,000 grass-roots events in all 50 states. The group amassed a donor pool of more than 135,000 people, the vast majority of whom gave contributions of $100 or less, according to PAC officials.

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Ready for Hillary will not be able to coordinate with Clinton once she announces, but it could share its list of supporters with her campaign through a list swap, campaign finance lawyers said.

The group may not even have to take that step, however. Once Clinton declares her candidacy, the super PAC can simply direct its supporters to her Web site, allowing her campaign to quickly build a small donor list.

Once she's officially in, Ready for Hillary plans to post online the names of hundreds of donors who have given or raised more than $5,000, according to a person familiar with the plans. That list — which includes at least 222 donors who gave $25,000 — would be valuable not just for Clinton's campaign but for Priorities USA, the high-dollar super PAC planning to finance a pro-Clinton television advertising campaign and facing pressure to kick-start its fundraising.

Ahead of the campaign launch, Clinton released a new epilogue Friday for "Hard Choices," her State Department memoir coming out this month in paperback. In it, she ruminates about a "memory quilt" she received as a gift after her granddaughter Charlotte's birth last September.

"I wondered for a moment what a quilt of my own life would look like," Clinton wrote. "There was so much more to do. So many more panels waiting to be filled in. I folded up the quilt and got back to work."

Matea Gold and Dan Balz contributed to this report.

Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign to Make a Low-Key Start [Peter Nicholas & Laura Meckler, WSJ, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton will launch her second campaign for the White House on Sunday with much less fanfare than the standard 2016 rollout: She'll post a video online, followed by small events with voters spaced out slowly over coming weeks.

Hillary Clinton will launch her second campaign for the White House on Sunday with much less fanfare than the standard 2016 rollout: She'll post a video online, followed by small events with voters spaced out slowly over coming weeks.

The strategy stands in contrast to Republican contenders, who have kicked off their campaigns with splashy events and cheering crowds. The lower-key approach also differs from Mrs. Clinton's 2008 presidential effort, when she often traveled with a large staff and Secret Service entourage that kept her at a distance from voters.

Mrs. Clinton, given her long presence on the national stage and current lack of serious competition, finds herself in the odd position of appearing like an incumbent, which brings both benefits and drawbacks. While she doesn't need to prove she can draw a crowd, Mrs. Clinton needs to show herself working hard for the nomination, her advisers say, to avoid giving the impression it is hers for the taking.

Central to the task is laying out the rationale for her campaign, which some supporters say has been absent amid Mrs. Clinton's two-year pondering about a run.

"I think No. 1 is to articulate what she'd like to do if she were president and where she wants to take the country," said Jeff Link, a Democratic consultant in Des Moines, Iowa. "We haven't heard that."

The answer her campaign is set to offer: Mrs. Clinton is a fighter for the middle class and a results-driven pragmatist who can make Washington work again.

In the days following her announcement, Mrs. Clinton will likely hold a handful of events followed by short bursts of travel through April. Behind the scenes, her campaign team will settle into its new headquarters in New York City, and a significant fundraising operation will gear up to begin raising more than $1 billion.

She will be accompanied by fewer aides than in 2008, in hopes of seeming more disarming and approachable, her team says.

"She needs to be a good retail politician, and go around the state and engage in meetings with voters that maybe 20 to 40 people," said Tom Henderson, chairman of the Polk County Democratic Party, in Iowa's largest county. "That's where all the activists come. Once you start to get the activists on your side, then they will reach out to their neighbors."

Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, made a similar point in an interview with Town & Country magazine.

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"I think it's important, and Hillary does too, that she go out there as if she's never run for anything before and establish her connection with the voters," Mr. Clinton said.

Mrs. Clinton towers over her potential rivals in polling in a way that has little precedent in recent presidential elections. On Friday, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is considering running against her for the nomination, suggested that her dominance may be overstated.

"There is an inevitable front-runner who remains inevitable right up until he or she is no longer inevitable," he told MSNBC.

Mrs. Clinton will make her formal launch already under fire from both the political right and left.

Republicans, presuming she is the likely general-election nominee, are attacking her on a daily basis for her decision to use a personal email account for public business as secretary of state and her family foundation's acceptance of donations from foreign countries.

"Voters want to elect someone they can trust and Hillary's record proves that she cannot be trusted," Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, said in a statement Friday.

The RNC released an online ad with voices raising questions about her record, as a woman meant to be Mrs. Clinton walks away from the camera toward a stage. It ends with the message: "Stop Hillary."

The RNC said it was spending more than $100,000 in online advertising including promoting the Web ad.

Some liberal Democrats worry that she isn't populist enough in her policy outlook, especially when it comes to the economy and Wall Street, and is too willing to make compromises. Some have launched a movement to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) into the race, despite her repeated statements that she won't run.

Advisers say Mrs. Clinton's core argument will be her support for the middle class and that she is a pragmatist who can make Washington work again. It is a case she has made in roundabout fashion in paid speeches, interviews and other appearances. In coming weeks, she will make it in town-hall meetings, diners and living rooms in states that hold early nomination contests, including Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

During her 2008 run, Mrs. Clinton's campaign saw her chief challenge as projecting strength, so voters would feel comfortable electing a woman as commander-in-chief at a time when the U.S. was engaged in two wars. Now, after four years as secretary of state, she has those credentials, advisers say, and the goal is to show a softer side.

In a new epilogue being published with the paperback release of her most recent book, "Hard Choices," Mrs. Clinton writes of the joys of becoming a grandmother. She segues from her personal experience to her policy agenda—something advisers say she will do frequently.

"You shouldn't have to be the granddaughter of a President or a Secretary of State to receive excellent health care, education, enrichment, and all the support and advantages that will one day lead to a good job and a successful life," she wrote in an excerpt published in the Huffington Post.

Mrs. Clinton is expected to frame the economic debate around the idea of "responsible capitalism," said one adviser. "You can support business, but business needs to be responsible in how they make money and what they need to give back to society," is how the adviser put it.

She will also draw distinctions with Mr. Obama, emphasizing how she would give high priority to forging close ties to Capitol Hill, something many say Mr. Obama failed to do. In one speech last year, she seemed to offer a veiled criticism of the president.

"I mean, some people can paint a beautiful vision," she said at a CNN event. "And, thankfully, we can all learn from that. But then, can you, with the tenacity, the persistence, the getting-knocked down, getting-back-up resilience, can you lead us there?

Can Hillary Clinton run an intimate campaign? [Alex Seitz-Wald, MSNBC, April 10, 2015]

Alex Seitz-Wald explores how Hillary Clinton can run a campaign that maximizes intimate contact with voters.

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After a long wait, Hillary Clinton will finally makes her second presidential bid official Sunday with a social media “soft launch,” followed by a trip to Iowa to meet with voters, sources tell msnbc.

Unlike her 2008 bid, when Clinton sometimes came off as imperious, aides to the all-but-declared presidential candidate say this time she will focus on smaller, intimate events that will allow her to spend quality time with voters and connect with them in casual settings.

But how does the biggest political celebrity in the world go small? How does someone who travels with a large coterie of reporters, aides, and Secret Service do intimate? It’s a challenge the nascent Clinton campaign acknowledges they don’t yet have a perfect solution for, and likely never will.

“It’s really hard,” said former Obama White House communications director Anita Dunn. “You have to balance the needs of the press corps and their wish to be in every event, with trying keep the event from feeling as though a small number of people are performing a staged play for the benefit to the press corps.”

“Candidates love this part,” Dunn continued. “You want to make sure the press can cover the campaigning without becoming the campaign.”

Aides want to showcase Clinton’s warmth and sense of humor, which can be lost in larger events, and bring the high-flying former secretary of state down to the earth. But they acknowledge it won’t be easy and will likely frustrate the press at times.

Every candidate has to deal with this problem at some point if they’re lucky and make it to the big leagues, but Clinton is in the unique position of starting from day one with a footprint closer to that of an incumbent president running for reelection than an upstart primary candidate.

How do Clinton's 2016 and 2008 campaigns compare?

She’s already under Secret Service protection, thanks to her time as first lady, and has had a dedicated traveling press corps for more than a year.

Ryan Williams, a Republican strategist who was Mitt Romney’s press secretary in 2012, thinks Clinton’s team is dreaming.“It’s utterly impossible,” he said. “My guess is Hillary Clinton’s intimate campaign will be nothing more than a staged photo opportunity designed to look like something that it’s not. You’re at a stage where it should be open access to voters, spontaneous interaction with voters, and that’s just going to be very hard for her.”

When Clinton returned to Iowa last year for the first time since she lost the state’s critical caucus in 2008, more than 200 reporters showed up from as far away as Sweden and Japan.

She and her husband pulled up in an eight-car motorcade of armored SUVs, and a metal barricade separated her from voters as she worked a ropeline with federal agents looming on either side of her.

When Romney got Secret Service protection after winning the Republican nomination in 2012, “it was night and day,” Williams said, explaining the agents make everything more complicated and want to preserve a buffer between the candidate and the public.

Clinton’s campaign-in-waiting has worked with the Secret Service to try to pare down the agency’s footprint around Clinton as much as possible, and give the candidate room for spontaneous interactions with voters. They’ll also have to push back on local law enforcement, who often seek to add a second, more visible layer of protection around candidates.

But Robert Gibbs, the former White House press secretary who traveled with Obama extensively during the primary, said Clinton’s team is smart to focus on small events. “There’s no doubt that the logistics are hugely challenging for these things,” he said. “But the pictures are really great, and those stories are the kind that candidates tell for the rest of the campaign.”

And Gibbs said Clinton handled this well in New Hampshire, when a flurry of town hall events helped her come from behind to beat Obama.

Iowa native Tommy Vietor, another former Obama aide who helped Clinton with her book tour last year, said the issue will sort itself out over time.

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He predicted a huge crush of press coverage for Clinton's initial foray on the campaign trail that will die down quickly. "If she spends time in Iowa, her events will be competing with Rand Paul and Ted Cruz going for the jugular, and that will make for sexier copy, and she'll have a chance to have a slightly more relaxed conversation with voters," he said.

And campaigns have long known that the further they venture from Des Moines, the fewer reporters who will be willing to make the trek. "It's totally doable," he said.

Still, no one disputes that reporters will end up frustrated at times. Some events may be closed to the press, others may have limited access, and many may have access to only a select "pool" of reporters who represent each type of outlet on behalf of their colleagues.

To offset perceptions that's cutting off the press, Clinton may regularly take questions from reporters after events where some were denied access. Or she could prioritize local media and give a few minutes to the local TV affiliate or newspaper, like Obama did during the primary.

The format of the events could further inflame relations between Clinton and the press, which she acknowledged are "complicated," but pooling coverage may be the only way to satisfy all sides. After all, Clinton wants reporters to cover her small events as much as they want to cover them. If a touching connection is made with an Iowa voter and there's no reporter around to Tweet it, does it make a sound?

The awkwardness of huge media attention combined with small spaces was on display last month when Jeb Bush visited the house of a former state Republican Party chairman in New Hampshire. Aides removed the furniture from the living room and reporters piled in.

C-SPAN broadcast live from the kitchen, showing a room packed wall-to-wall with reporters watching a handful of voters chat.

Hillary Clinton's 2016 Campaign Kickoff Will Look a Lot Like Her 2000 Senate Run [Emily Schultheis, National Journal, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton's 2016 launch will mimic a number of features of her successful 2000 Senate run.

April 10, 2015 Hillary Clinton's 2008 primary loss looms large at every step of her 2016 campaign, but the Democratic frontrunner's team is looking farther back for lessons from the past, namely to the summer of 1999. That was when Clinton—then the first lady and still living in the White House—embarked on a "listening tour" across the state of New York ahead of the official launch of her 2000 Senate campaign.

Now, as she prepares to officially start her campaign Sunday, Clinton's plans are strikingly similar. Out are the mega-rallies. Instead, the candidate is planning a series of smaller, less-scripted events that allow her to interact one-on-one with voters. And on both her 1999 listening tour and her 2016 kickoff, the goal is the same: build the candidate's credentials as one that connects with voters, knows the issues they care about and makes it clear she isn't taking anything for granted.

"In 1999, it was an introduction to voters, it was an introduction to her as a candidate," said Lee Miringoff, a veteran pollster at Marist College in New York. "That's why it worked for her, because it sort of took on the issue directly that she wasn't from New York and therefore was going to have to do some listening."

Karen Finney, an aide to Clinton at the time and a staffer for her emerging 2016 campaign, said the former secretary of State is "very good at making the people who she's talking with very comfortable and at ease." In thinking about the current campaign, Finney added that Clinton herself will play a big role in how comfortable and connected voters feel at events like these.

That will be critical for Clinton to right the problems that sundered her 2008 effort. Then, as now, she was the frontrunner bolstered by a massive campaign funding apparatus and a legion of political connections. But she didn't build the personal connection with Democratic voters that then-candidate Obama rode to victory.

Among the biggest questions about the up-close-and-personal approach is whether Clinton will be to create events that actually feel intimate, given the political and media circus that already track her every move. Some say that true one-on-one interaction for her is near impossible. "It's a tremendous challenge to be an average person when 200 people follow you everywhere," said veteran New York Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf.

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Ann Lewis, a longtime Clinton adviser who was involved in the 2000 Senate effort, said that with increased national attention to presidential politics, they've become more "ceremonial"—making it hard for voters to see the actual human being behind the celebrities presidential hopefuls become. "It gets harder, obviously with the size of the press corps and the size of the attention," she said. "My guess is there will be a certain tension in there between what the campaign hopes to achieve, and just the reality of how much attention it is likely to get."

In 1999, Clinton kicked off her listening tour at the Pindars Corners, New York, farm of retiring Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whom she was running to replace. According to The Washington Post at the time, protesters stood outside with signs like "Hillary Listen: Go Home!" or "A New Yorker for New York."

The carpetbagger issue was one she addressed directly that day. "It's a fair question," she told reporters there. "I have some work to do to demonstrate that what I'm for is as important if not more important than where I'm from."

After the farm, her tour took her outside of New York City and its suburbs, which make up the Democratic core of the state, and into all of the state's 62 counties—including significant time in the traditionally Republican upstate. And mainly, the 1999 tour was about proving that she could handle New York issues and had a genuine interest in the state and its people. The events varied: Some were small meet-and-greets at a diner or a farm; others involved a speech to a bigger group, aides from the 2000 campaign said, with Clinton shaking hands and meeting voters on the rope line afterward.

In her 2003 memoir Living History, Clinton described it as "getting a nonstop crash course in New York and its issues," adding that it took time before voters stopped viewing her as "a curiosity" and started having "real conversations about the issues that mattered to them."

It wasn't immediate: the initial listening tour events weren't quite as small as the ones that later became a big part of her campaigning style. And even then, Clinton's star power meant she traveled with a large press corps in tow—the New York press corps can be large and unruly, and the level of interest in a First Lady running for office brought national reporters along for the ride too. Events near New York City tended to succumb more to the political circus, former aides said; ones far upstate were often far smaller and felt more intimate. ("What a lot of us really enjoyed about going upstate is that you could do those kinds of events," Finney said.)

At events, Clinton would listen, nodding her head and taking notes in the notebooks she carried with her to events—her way of showing she was really paying attention, aides say. "She would come back to the campaign office with notebooks full of notes," Lewis said, adding that "you could watch in her early years in the Senate" as ideas she'd written down in the notebooks made their way into policy proposals. (Her body language didn't go unnoticed by the press: "Now Playing In Our Area: Nodding Hill," said one Newsday headline out of the tour, in a play on the 1999 movie "Notting Hill.")

Though she had a few slip-ups along the way, Clinton generally received high marks for the tour—and on the whole, it did what it set out to do. "Something like that can achieve the goal even if she flubs a line here and there, because the notion, by its title, it suggests that you're reaching out and taking in," Miringoff said.

Hillary Clinton, First Lady, on Gay Marriage: A Case Study In Opacity [Sasha Issenberg, Bloomberg, April 10, 2015]

A trove of papers released yesterday at the Clinton library shows that, even before homebrew e-mail servers were an option, Hillary Clinton's operation had mastered low-tech workarounds to avoid leaving a paper trail of her real-time views on controversial subjects.

LITTLE ROCK — A trove of papers released yesterday at the Clinton library shows that, even before homebrew e-mail servers were an option, Hillary Clinton's operation had mastered low-tech workarounds to avoid leaving a paper trail of her real-time views on controversial subjects.

Even though the First Lady maintained her own correspondence office, in at least once instance, her staffers punted an inquiry about her views on a timely controversial issue then dividing Democrats to her husband's staff.

"We have received a few letters on the subject of same-sex marriage," Alice J. Pushkar of the first lady's staff wrote to Kyle M. Baker, on her husband's side of the White House, on September 18, 1996. "I think that it would be more appropriate for a response to come from the President on this than the First Lady. Would it be possible to get a First Lady version of the P-323?"

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"What DOMA did is at least allow the states to act."

Later that day, Baker's office generated a form letter, which is among the hundreds of thousands of previously unreleased papers made public. "Thank you for contacting Hillary regarding marriages of couples of the same gender. She has asked me to respond on her behalf," read the letter approved for Bill Clinton's auto-pen signature. "In 1992, I stated my opposition to same-gender marriage, and recently, when the issue was raised in Congress, I said that if a bill consistent with my previously stated position reached my desk, I would sign it."

A little more than 24 hours after that letter was prepared, Clinton did sign the Defense of Marriage Act, ignominiously doing so past midnight in an empty White House without any cameras present. In a contemporaneous signing statement, a belated effort to placate liberal supporters he knew abhorred the bill, Clinton expressed worry that it could serve to "provide an excuse for discrimination."

Hillary Clinton appeared to get through the election season without having to commit to a position of her own. In an interview earlier that year with the San Francisco Examiner's Carla Marinucci, she had said that her "preference is that we do all we can to strengthen traditional marriages" but did not share her view of same-sex unions. Promoting her book It Takes a Village, Clinton told Marinucci that "children are better off if they have a mother and a father," but also that "there are people who are able to fulfill the functions of child rearing who don't fit into the traditional pattern."

As a Senate candidate, Clinton couldn't maintain the ambiguity. In January 2000, she said she would have voted for the Defense of Marriage Act and, despite supporting some rights for same-sex couples, she did not believe that they should be entitled to marry. "Marriage has got historic, religious and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman," she said then.

In 2013, after she left the State Department, Clinton said she had changed her position and now favored recognition of gay marriages. But even last year, fifteen months after her husband conceded in a Washington Post op-ed that he had come around to the view that the Defense of Marriage Act had always been unconstitutional, Hillary appeared to be still defending the bill, at least on practical grounds.

"What DOMA did is at least allow the states to act," she told NPR's Terry Gross in an interview that turned contentious when Clinton was asked to trace her change of opinion on the gay marriage. "It wasn't going yet to be recognized by the federal government, but at the state level there was the opportunity. And my husband, you know, was the first to say that, you know, the political circumstances, the threats that were trying to be alleviated by the passage of DOMA thankfully were no longer so preeminent and we could keep moving forward, and that's what we're doing."

Hillary Clinton threatens to steal Marco Rubio's thunder [Daniel Lippman, POLITICO, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton's campaign launch could steal some of the media coverage of Marco Rubio's own campaign announcement.

Marco Rubio's parade is in danger of getting rained on. His advisers had closely monitored Hillary Clinton's possible announcement date to ensure that the Florida senator could own the news cycle for his own launch.

Looks like their forecasts were off.

For their part, the Rubio camp and independent GOP strategists are saying they are not worried about bad timing, and believe it could even help him by creating a split-screen effect in which Rubio is paired up with Clinton instead of the whole Republican field.With Clinton expected to kick off her presidential campaign on Sunday with a social media announcement, the Florida senator could see his own launch event in Miami on Monday evening overshadowed by the Hillary media coverage.

"To the extent that Hillary's entrance is going to increase interest in the 2016 race, we welcome that," said Rubio spokesman Alex Conant.

"I have no concerns," he added. "Not a single reporter has said that they're not coming because Hillary Clinton is going to announce a web video."

He said that Rubio's message that the American dream is being threatened is independent of who else is in the race and the timing of their announcements. To keep Rubio in the spotlight, they've scheduled several network interviews over the course

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of the week, and Fox News' Sean Hannity plans to interview Rubio on Monday night after his speech.

"We really like the contrast the American people are going to see over Sunday and Monday," Conant said.

GOP strategist Ben Porritt said the timing may not be ideal for Rubio, but that his camp shouldn't be overly worried. He said Rubio and Clinton clearly have different audiences.

"If you had to go back in time, and you're Sen. Rubio, you would love to have the whole day to yourself, but you can't," Porritt said.

And media attention is far from the only metric that determines the success of a kick-off. Money is critical too, Porritt said, and Rubio's announcement should lead to a "huge boom in fundraising" in the 48 to 72 hours after his speech.

GOP operative Ana Navarro tweeted on Friday that "Anybody who thinks a Hillary video on Sun will overshadow a Marco speech on Mon, has either never seen a Hillary video or a Marco speech…"

Republican strategist Doug Heye said there was "enough oxygen for both announcements to get a lot of coverage" and Clinton can be the "best foil" that a Republican like Rubio could have.

But Heye said Rubio would be wise to tweak his speech with fresh barbs against Clinton, using her own words from the day before against her.

Hillary Clinton Is the Perfect Age to Be President [Dr. Julie Holland, TIME, April 3, 2015]

At 67, Dr. Julie Holland argues that Hillary Clinton is the perfect age to be President.

At 67, Hillary Clinton is now a "woman of a certain age." So much emphasis and worry are put on physical aging in women that the emotional maturity and freedom that can come at this time are given short shrift. That robs everyone of a great natural resource. For women of a certain age, it is our time to lead. The new standard for aging women should be about vitality, strength and assertiveness.

One of the largest demographics in America is women in their 40s to 60s, and by 2020 there will be nearly 60 million peri- and post-menopausal women living in the U.S. Because women's average life expectancy is currently 81 years, we're easily spending a third of our lives postmenopausal. That is a great opportunity for growth and change.

Estrogen is a stress hormone that helps a woman be resilient during her fertile years. Its levels rise and fall to help her meet her biological demands, which are often about giving to others: attracting a mate, bearing children and nurturing a family. When estrogen levels drop after menopause, the cyclical forces that dominated the first half of our lives have been replaced with something more consistent. Our lives revolve less around others and become more about finally taking our turn.The long phase of perimenopause is marked by seismic spikes and troughs of estrogen levels, which can last for more than a decade in many women. But afterward, there is a hormonal ebbing that creates a moment of great possibility. As a psychiatrist, I will tell you the most interesting thing about menopause is what happens after. A woman emerging from the transition of perimenopause blossoms. It is a time for redefining and refining what it is she wants to accomplish in her third act. And it happens to be excellent timing for the job Clinton is likely to seek. Biologically speaking, postmenopausal women are ideal candidates for leadership. They are primed to handle stress well, and there is, of course, no more stressful job than the presidency.

In my new book, Moody Bitches, I look at how women are taught from an early age that moodiness is a problem to be fixed. That is simply wrongheaded. Women's moods are our body's intelligent feedback system. If we learn to manage them properly, they are a great resource and a tremendous source of power. They show us when we are primed for certain challenges and opportunities.

And the postmenopausal emergence, if you will, coincides with the point at which most women will have a fair amount of experience under their belts. (Perhaps they've already served as a U.S. Senator and Secretary of State, for instance.) This is

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often the right time to make a push, to take more of a leadership position, enter a new arena or strike out on one's own. My mother was a great role model in her perimenopause, taking her symptoms in stride and referring to her hot flashes as "power surges." She got another degree and switched careers; that appealed to me as a teenage girl. Now I see this rise in power as a way to channel new energy and even new anger. It's a chance to make changes that should've been made decades ago. This may also be the time when children — adolescents in particular — are ready to take on more responsibility, so perhaps there is a benefit for everyone in changing that family dynamic.

"I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience," said a 73-year-old Ronald Reagan of 56-year-old Walter Mondale. Hillary would begin her presidency at exactly the same age Reagan did, but her life expectancy would be longer than that of any other President in recent times. And she would have all the experience and self-assurance of a postmenopausal woman, ready to take her rightful place at the table — or in the Oval Office.

Julie Holland, M.D., is a psychopharmacologist and psychiatrist, and the best-selling author of Weekends at Bellevue: Nine Years on the Night Shift at the Psych ER and Moody Bitches: The Truth About the Drugs You're Taking, the Sleep You're Missing, the Sex You're Not Having, and What's Really Making You Crazy, out this month

Hillary to Launch Campaign This Weekend With 'Insane' Fundraising Push [David Freedlander, The Daily Beast, April 10, 2015]

In a few days, Clinton will at last announce the obvious—she's running for president. And she'll use her first week as a candidate to raise "an insane amount of money," an insider says.

In a few days, Clinton will at last announce the obvious—she's running for president. And she'll use her first week as a candidate to raise "an insane amount of money," an insider says.

After the announcement comes the deluge.

Hillary Clinton is expected to announce her presidential campaign this weekend, most likely on Sunday, sources in the Clinton operation tell The Daily Beast.

After that, the nascent campaign will embark on a fundraising push that the Clinton camp says will dwarf anything seen in the history of presidential politics.

"They are going to raise in one week what some Republican presidential candidates are going to raise the entire cycle," said one Clinton aide.

On Saturday afternoon, Ready for Hillary, the super PAC that has been a Clinton campaign-in-waiting in the years since Clinton left the State Department, will host what is likely a final fundraising push at SouthwestNY, a sleek Tex-Mex restaurant steps from the rebuilt World Trade Center.

From then on, Ready for Hillary will encourage its 3.6 million supporters to give to Clinton's real campaign while the super PAC quietly dissolves.

Ready for Hillary has raised close to $15 million from nearly 150,000 donors, and Clintonistas believe that those same donors alone could give as much as 10 times that amount to a Clinton campaign.

They are expected to be joined in this fundraising by Clinton allies like EMILY's List, the organization dedicated to electing pro-choice women to office that is viewed as central to Clinton's 2016 chances.

Regardless of when she announces, the plan, one Clinton insider told The Daily Beast, was to do a massive fundraising push through her website and with allied organizations to raise "an insane amount of money" right out of the starting gate.

A Clinton spokesman did not return a request for comment.

"They are going to raise in one week what some Republican presidential candidates are going to raise the entire cycle."

Clinton is likely to announce her run for president on Twitter, linking the announcement through a variety of social media platforms.

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Clinton has been unusually active on Twitter in recent weeks to generate an audience for her expected announcement.

Since the last week of March, she has tweeted twice: in support of the Affordable Care Act and against an Indiana law that some say would discriminate against gays. She has also weighed in on the shooting of an unarmed black man in South Carolina—"Praying for #WalterScott's family. Heartbreaking & too familiar. We can do better—rebuild trust, reform justice system and respect all lives."; paid tribute to retiring Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid; and come out against "payday lenders."

After Clinton announces her candidacy, she will likely jet off to the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire early next week. While most presidential campaigns strategize over how to get media attention, Clinton operatives are trying to figure out how to wrangle a ballooning press corps that for weeks has competed over such small-bore issues as which empty Brooklyn loft space will house her campaign headquarters and looked for meaning in every Clinton facial expression and utterance since 2012.

Bill and Hillary Clinton have always been prodigious Democratic fundraisers, but they will enter the 2016 election cycle as newcomers to the post-Citizens Unitedworld of campaign finance. Super PACs associated with Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), for example, have raised $31 million since he announced his campaign last week. And former Florida governor Jeb Bush has embarked on a "shock and awe" fundraising blitz to overwhelm his Republican rivals.

Hillary Clinton intends to upstage them all.

A contest, or a coronation? [The Economist, April 10th, 2015]

Hillary Clinton will have to overcome her past in order to compete effectively in 2016.

FOR five seconds Hillary Clinton's voice cracked and her eyes grew damp. It was in January 2008 in a coffee shop in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. A sympathetic voter had just asked her how she coped with the hardships of running for president. "How do you do it?" asked Marianne Pernold Young, a local portrait photographer, mentioning that Mrs Clinton's hair always looked perfectly coiffed. "How do you keep upbeat and so wonderful?"

Pundits rushed to analyse the moment. Mrs Clinton was exhausted, they intoned. The former First-Lady-turned-senator knew that her younger rival, Barack Obama, was walking away with a race for the Democratic nomination that had once seemed hers to lose.

As the media juggernaut gathered speed, the strange intensity of America's relationship with Mrs Clinton was laid bare. Supporters hailed the fleeting display of emotion as proof of their heroine's humanity, often hidden by her discipline and caution on the campaign trail. Opponents recalled Edmund Muskie, a Democrat whose presidential bid was derailed in 1972 when he teared up in the face of harsh press attacks, and wondered if the 2008 primary was now over. Back inside the Café Espresso, suspicious journalists surrounded Mrs Pernold Young. Betraying the toxic state of Mrs Clinton's relations with the press pack, many asked if she was a planted campaign stooge.

The candidate herself cornered a press aide and fretted that voters might think her weak, and not ready to be commander-in-chief. Mr Obama took a different view. Watching footage of his rival as he trundled across New Hampshire in a campaign bus, he thought it a worryingly touching moment. "I don't like this. I actually think this could really help her," David Axelrod, the political guru at Mr Obama's side, later recalled muttering.

Seven years on, as America waits to see how Mrs Clinton will conduct a second bid for her party's presidential nomination, that flash of vulnerability is still cited in New Hampshire, the state that next January will host the first primary elections (and the second vote, after the Iowa caucuses) of the 2016 presidential cycle. This time it inspires a consensus: Mrs Clinton needs more such moments.

New Hampshire voters expect to meet candidates in diners and veterans' halls, and to hear them speak in a neighbour's sitting-room. They have a record of dethroning front-runners who take the state for granted. Mrs Pernold Young still lives in Portsmouth, and jokes that "The woman who made Hillary Clinton cry" will be carved on her tombstone. Over breakfast at the Café Espresso, she says she will back Mrs Clinton this time round, after supporting Mr Obama in the 2008 primary. Appalled by the "quagmire" in Washington, and disappointed by how long it took Mr Obama to learn the ways of government, she likes the idea of electing a worldly insider like Mrs Clinton, sighing: "I don't want another trainee." But she does not want a coronation either. She notes that some friends roll their eyes at another Clinton presidency, especially as no serious Democratic rival has yet emerged. "I'd like to see Hillary be challenged," she says.

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Such views are widespread, and have been heard within the Clinton camp. Two close advisers, Robby Mook and Marlon Marshall, visited New Hampshire and Iowa just before Easter, meeting local Democratic power-brokers. One of these was James Demers, a strategist and lobbyist who was one of Mr Obama's first big backers in New Hampshire. The message from Mrs Clinton's inner circle was that the former secretary of state will run as though she faces a bitterly contested primary, Mr Demers says. She will use the race to explain to America why she wants the presidency, while building the sort of campaign machinery that propelled Mr Obama to the White House in 2008. Whether her primary involves one, two or ten candidates, Mrs Clinton "knows that she has to earn every vote".

As one of the most famous people in the world, constantly watched by the Secret Service, it will be hard for Mrs Clinton to campaign in the traditional New Hampshire way, says Terry Shumaker, a lawyer who co-chaired both of Bill Clinton's campaigns in the state. But he thinks she must try, using the "intimacy" of the state to communicate with the whole country. He describes his old friend as an economic centrist, who sees government as a positive force but believes that business is the engine of the economy. In 2016 she can add domestic and global experience to the mix. "There is a huge hunger for Washington to work again," he says. And with Islamic State fanatics on the prowl, voters have a "visceral" need to feel safe.

Not all Democrats are convinced. Martha Fuller Clark, a state senator and big Obama backer in 2008, notes that New Hampshire Democrats are not "100% for Hillary". She herself remains uncommitted, noting that a potential rival, the former governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, has been active in the state. In her telling, New Hampshire Democrats want a candidate who will fight against inequality and for the middle class. They worry about climate change, and are unhappy that so much outside money is flowing into their state, notably since the Supreme Court eased the rules on political spending. They want to hear from Mrs Clinton how to "move from a plutocracy back to a democracy", says Mrs Fuller Clark.

Sisters are doin' it for themselves

That echoes complaints from other Democrats, such as Gary Hart, a former presidential contender, who recently said it should "frighten every American" that the Clinton machine reportedly intends to raise $1 billion. Once the real campaigning starts, the former secretary of state needs a strategy to engage and excite the broader electorate, especially the young, Mrs Fuller Clark adds: not least because she thinks that female politicians are judged more harshly than men, which makes it hard to be accessible. "Women really want to do a good job, something that constrains them from engaging more freely with voters."

After years worrying about the Middle East and Russia, Mrs Clinton will be grilled about health care, or the lack of full-day kindergartens in half the towns in New Hampshire, predicts Colin Van Ostern, a member of the state's Executive Council. He thinks this will do Candidate Clinton much good: "What Hillary Clinton needs is exactly what New Hampshire demands."

The challenges of a fresh Clinton candidacy were summed up by Bill Clinton, the man with the potential to be the campaign's greatest asset and worst liability. No living ex-president enjoys higher approval ratings, as Americans forget the scandals of the 1990s and remember the economic growth, balanced budgets and bipartisan reforms of the welfare system that were achieved on Mr Clinton's watch. Yet in 2008 an ill-disciplined Mr Clinton caused chaos in his wife's campaign.

The former president recently told Town & Country magazine that he was not sure he was any good at campaigning any more because "I'm not mad at anybody," citing the mellowing effects of being a grandfather. Despite that disclaimer, Mr Clinton could not resist analysing his wife's putative campaign in some detail, noting that it is hard for any party to hold the White House for longer than two terms, and arguing that should his wife run, she should "go out there as if she's never run for anything before and establish her connection with the voters."

The problem is that the Clintons have run for many things before. Mrs Clinton first entered the governor's mansion in Arkansas in 1979, and has been in the public eye ever since. This makes connecting with ordinary folk a challenge. In a speech last year to a convention of car dealers, she confided that: "The last time I actually drove a car myself was 1996." The fact that she typically received six-figure sums for such speeches does not help either.

Republicans may be expected to paint her as part liberal-elitist, and part big-government statist. Playing on lingering public disapproval of the Obamacare health reforms, Republicans may try to revive memories of Mrs Clinton's failed attempts at expanding health coverage during her husband's presidency.

Republicans will also try to use her record as secretary of state from 2009-13 against her. It is common to hear them talk of a world made more dangerous by a naive, feckless "Obama-Clinton foreign policy". Mrs Clinton is blamed on the right for her role in offering Russia a "reset" in relations, for clashing with the Israeli government of Binyamin Netanyahu, and for generally squandering her time as America's top envoy. Of her boast of having travelled to 112 countries, one putative

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Republican challenger, Carly Fiorina, a former boss of Hewlett-Packard, scoffs that: “Flying is an activity, not an accomplishment.”

Without a scrap of evidence, many conservatives remain convinced that Mrs Clinton chose out of political calculation not to protect an American mission in Benghazi, leading to the deaths of America’s ambassador to Libya and three aides, then sought to cover up her blunders. Such suspicions have not been allayed by the recent revelation that Mrs Clinton used a private server throughout her time at the State Department, preserving for the archives only the e-mails that she deemed relevant and deleting the rest. And she will face queries about donations from foreign governments, some less than democratic, to the Clinton Foundation, a family charity that also serves to keep her in the public eye.

The Democratic grassroots have their own gripes with the Clintons. They have not forgotten that Mrs Clinton voted for George W. Bush’s Iraq war as a senator. It took her until March 2013 to come out for gay marriage. But mostly the left of the party worries that the Clintons are too soft on capitalism. They recall Mr Clinton’s presidency as a time when the rules on Wall Street banks were loosened, in their view setting the scene for the later financial crash. It remains an article of faith among trade unions that the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by Mr Clinton with Mexico and Canada sucked jobs out of the American heartland.

Standin’ on their own two feet

Though no credible Democratic challenger has emerged, many Democrats see (or want to see) a vacuum to Mrs Clinton’s left. Mr O’Malley, who as governor of Maryland was hardly a socialist banner-waver, now sides with groups who insist that America can afford to increase federal benefits for the old, breaking with years of broad consensus that Social Security is doomed to insolvency unless benefits are eventually curtailed and taxes raised.

Lots of leftists still long for Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to make a populist bid for the presidency, demanding tougher regulation of Wall Street, fewer free-trade deals and more redistribution to the middle class. Mrs Warren says she is not running, but the clamour continues. It is in part an attempt to put pressure on Mrs Clinton to tack to the left.

Some critics worry that Mrs Clinton is too old (she would be 69 in January 2017, making her the second-oldest newly elected president, eight months younger than Ronald Reagan). Others fret about her health (she suffered a blood clot on her brain in 2012). She cannot do much about either charge.

She could deal with a different concern—that no one knows what she really believes—but she is in no hurry. Candidates usually take sharply ideological positions during primaries, to woo the die-hard activists who vote in them, before tacking back to the centre as the general election nears. However, if Mrs Clinton faces no real primary challenger, she may not need to do this. Instead, she will need to woo enough Democrats to build a sense of excitement and grassroots involvement, without alienating swing voters. And if she cannot achieve the same stellar levels of support among black and young voters that Mr Obama did, she will need to fill the gap some other way.

She has made her pitch to women clear. She stresses her desire to help more of them into the workforce. She solemnly declares that women should receive equal pay for the same work as men (a position with which no one disagrees). In the past she has campaigned to make it easier for women to sue over alleged discrimination.

A big test involves white voters without a college education, who make up about a third of the electorate, but have drifted from the Democrats since Bill Clinton’s day. Mr Obama only won 36% of their votes in 2012, and might have done still worse if he had not successfully painted his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, as their worst nightmare of a boss.

Should Mrs Clinton win the general election, she will also need to be ready on Day One to deal with Republicans. There is virtually no chance that Democrats will win the House of Representatives in 2016, and even if they retake the Senate they will not have a filibuster-proof majority.

Expect Mrs Clinton to run to Mr Obama’s right on foreign policy. In interviews since leaving the State Department she has said that she urged him to take a muscular approach to Russia. She has chided Europeans for failing to stand up to Vladimir Putin (she wants them to send arms to Ukraine, for example), while crediting the reset with achieving at least one arms-control agreement and securing Russian help in talks to curb Iran’s nuclear ambitions. She has called the latest draft deal with Iran, brokered by America and other world powers, an “important step”, whatever that means. Last year she signalled that she would be more comfortable with stricter curbs on Iran’s nuclear programme. In a rare overt criticism of Mr Obama, she said in 2014 that the failure to help non-Islamist Syrian rebels fight against Bashar Assad had left a “big vacuum” for Islamic State and other jihadists to fill.

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Mrs Clinton has come close to echoing Republican grumbles that Mr Obama is too apologetic about American power. She says that her country cannot solve all problems, “but there’s not a problem that we face that can be solved without the United States.” While ruling out a return to the hubris of the George W. Bush years, she hints that the time has come for America to re-engage with the world.

In domestic forums Mrs Clinton is fluent in the language of the modern business-friendly centre-left. She is keen on public infrastructure, universal education for the youngest children, lowering the cost of college and experimenting with German-style wage-subsidies for the working poor. She likes to see church groups working alongside strong trade unions and community organisations, and uses “evidence-based” as high praise for any policy. In 2008 she sometimes sounded like a deficit hawk, with slogans like: “We’ve got to stop spending money we don’t have.” In 2008 she also called for a “time out” on new trade deals, though as secretary of state she backed new pacts. During primary debates she called herself “committed to making sure Social Security is solvent” and said that the best route to reform lay through bipartisan compromise.

And ringin’ on their own bells

Yet even policy experts invited to private sessions with Mrs Clinton in recent months are not sure where she stands. One centrist policy adviser says that, after being quizzed by her about paths to restoring middle-class prosperity, he thinks (and certainly hopes) that she will say that it is a false choice to argue that fairness and economic growth must be in opposition to each other.

Such centrists would like to hear her thank Mr Obama for saving the economy from disaster after the financial crash in 2008 and praise him for expanding health care. Then she could change the subject, turning the country’s attention to the task of building an economy for the 21st century, harnessing growth to boost middle-class wages. If it sounds to voters more like a third term of Bill Clinton than four more years of Mr Obama, that would suit many Hillary-backers just fine.

Hillary Clinton Can't Coast on Her Belief in Climate Science [Rebecca Leber, TNR, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton will be the only legitimate contender for the White House—declared or presumptive—who embraces the scientific reality of climate change.

This weekend, Hillary Clinton reportedly will announce her candidacy for president. In doing so, she will be the only legitimate contender for the White House—declared or presumptive—who embraces the scientific reality of climate change.

Clinton could coast through the primary with an environmental platform that rests entirely on this fact, and remain vague on her plans for climate action. But she would be blowing a tremendous opportunity.

Environmentalists aren't sure where Clinton stands these days, though she did work to boost her climate credentials in two high-profile speeches months before the official launch of her campaign. At September's National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas, Clinton called climate change “the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world.” And two months later, in a speech to the League of Conservation Voters, she said, "The science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say, sea levels are rising, ice caps are melting, storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc."

But those speeches only signal that she's not, say, Ted Cruz. Little is known about her specific policies on the environment. She’s never tweeted about climate change, and she’s steered clear of debates over the Keystone XL pipeline. "You won't get me to talk about Keystone because I have steadily made clear that I'm not going to express an opinion," Clinton said in Canada the same week the Senate debated a Keystone bill. So far, the most promising sign that her campaign will be aggressive on the environment is her hiring former White House senior adviser John Podesta, who led the Obama administration's recent strategy on climate.

Friends of the Earth President Erich Pica hopes Clinton uses her high profile to elevate the climate debate in America, much like President Barack Obama has.

“I think the real difficulty is whether or not it’s a proactive debate where Clinton is proactively pushing her vision and what it means for the United States and globe if she will be responding in a defensive manner to Obama’s climate plan,” Pica said. “She should model what the president is doing right now. He has the bully pulpit of the presidency and he is trying to steer proactively the climate debate."

Some environmentalists worry she will dodge difficult policy issue, including methane emissions from fracking, leasing

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public lands to energy companies, and offshore drilling.

“The question isn’t whether or not Hillary Clinton’s talking points are better than those of Ted Cruz, or if she’ll say nice things about renewable energy," 350 Action spokesperson Karthik Ganapathy said. "Rising above climate denial isn’t the bar here; the real question is how her policies stack up against the science, and whether or not they’ll actually keep fossil fuels in the ground to avert the worst impacts of global warming."

Realistically, Clinton will get support from national green groups regardless of what she does. She'll support clean energy and Obama's major climate policies. That's good enough for most supporters.

A few groups, like Friends of the Earth and 350.org , have called out the Clinton Foundation's ties to the oil and gas industry and criticized her past comments about Keystone. In 2010, Clinton hinted she was “inclined” to approve the Keystone pipeline when she was secretary of state. She also aggressively promoted natural gas as “the cleanest fossil fuel available” and hired a former oil industry representative to push the fossil fuel abroad. Environmentalists want to see Clinton temper her support for fracking by acknowledging its problems—that it leaks greenhouse gas emissions, causes minor earthquakes, and contaminates groundwater.

Taking specific stances on environmental issues carries its own risk, but there might be a bigger payoff. After all, Clinton will have to energize the Democratic base in order to win her general-election campaign. “Presidential candidates who propose to aggressively invest in clean energy jobs and reduce climate pollution would enhance their appeal to young and Latino voters, as well as other groups," LCV Senior Vice President for Campaigns Dan Weiss said. It could even help in swing states. "Iowa farmers, for instance, strongly support investments in wind energy. Small business owners in southern Florida would benefit from such policies that reduce the potential of floods from sea level rise," he said.

For too long, Democratic candidates have been content to mock Republican climate-deniers while proudly proclaiming their belief in the science of climate change. In 2016, that will no longer suffice. Obama's recent controversial executive actions ensure that climate change will be an election issue. If an international deal to cut emissions is successful by the end of 2015, then the ensuing debate could dominate the early primaries in 2016. Clinton will have to answer questions about where she stands. She shouldn't wait until then to give us her answer.

Review: ‘Clinton the Musical’ Proves Unimpeachably Amusing [Laura Collins-Hughes, NYT, April 10, 2015]

‘Clinton the Musical’ portrays Hillary Clinton well and is an entertaining show for all.

First came the gnashing of teeth over Hillary Clinton’s private email account, and her soon-to-be announced presidential campaign. Then, with a TED talk, Monica Lewinsky signaled her return to the spotlight. Now a show called “Clinton the Musical” has opened Off Broadway.

A person could be forgiven for wanting to hide under the bed until the 1990s stopped making a comeback.

But cowering would be a mistake. Far better to crawl out from behind that dust ruffle, head over to New World Stages and let “Clinton the Musical” quell your fears.

Smartly silly, hilariously impudent and sneakily compassionate, it is nearly guaranteed to leave you humming a bouncy, exuberant tune called “Monica’s Song” — the lyrics are unprintable — and thinking far more fondly of the eight scandal-plagued years this country spent with a president from a place called Hope. In this frothily satirical political history — which has a book by the Australian brothers Paul and Michael Hodge, and music and lyrics by Paul Hodge — No. 42 is actually two presidents: the urbane, silver-haired WJ Clinton (Tom Galantich) and the louche, rutting Billy Clinton (Duke Lafoon).

“In my whole life I have only ever loved two men,” Hillary (Kerry Butler) says. “And they happen to be the same man.”

So the famous Bill-and-Hillary package deal the country got in the 1992 election is a three-for-one bargain here, with WJ, Billy and brainy, resilient Hillary tussling for dominance in a White House designed by Beowulf Boritt, where the portraits on the walls show past presidents and their amours.

Chief among the enemies waiting to pounce is the deliciously sex-crazed special prosecutor Kenneth Starr (Kevin Zak), who gets his chance when Billy takes up with Monica (Veronica J. Kuehn). The prosecutor and Linda Tripp (Judy Gold), Monica’s predatory confidante, are the show’s only real villains. Newt Gingrich(John Treacy Egan) is more of a buffoon.

Reworked and largely recast since its run last July at the New York Musical Theater Festival, “Clinton” is now directed and

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choreographed by Dan Knechtges, and its tone is affectionately lampooning. Chelsea Clinton is mentioned by name only once, not cruelly. An occasional appearance by Socks the cat is enough to remind us that a family, not just a presidency, was at stake amid the Lewinsky scandal.

And Hillary? She tells us at the start that this is the story of her first presidency, and she comes off awfully well. In a flattering blue pantsuit by David C. Woolard, with hair designed by Tom Watson that looks consistently great, Ms. Butler makes a peppy, very funny Hillary whose ambitions are huge but whose capability is never in question.

The show's poster art notwithstanding, "Clinton" doesn't pit Hillary and Monica against each other. It's sympathetic to both of them, painting Monica as naïve and terribly young. That lack of meanspiritedness is crucial to its success.

"Clinton the Musical" isn't the sort of show that the real-life subjects are likely to find entertaining, but for the rest of us, it's 95 minutes of healthy catharsis.

Bloomberg Politics Poll: Democrats and Independents Don't Want a Hillary Coronation [John McCormick, Bloomberg Politics, April 10, 2015]

If Hillary Clinton is to become her party's 2016 presidential nominee, independents and even Democrats overwhelmingly want to see her earn the title, according to a Bloomberg Politics national poll that also shows increasing headwinds for her candidacy.

If Hillary Clinton is to become her party's 2016 presidential nominee, independents and even Democrats overwhelmingly want to see her earn the title, according to a Bloomberg Politics national poll that also shows increasing headwinds for her candidacy.

As Clinton prepared to formally announce her candidacy on Sunday, nearly three-quarters of Democrats and independents in the survey said it would be a good thing for the Democratic Party if she were to face a "serious" challenger for the nomination. Democrats and independents hold the same view, with 72 percent of both groups saying her party would be best served by a robust primary.

That presents a potential opening for other Democrats considering bids, including former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and possibly Vice President Joe Biden.

"She's not a naive person. She knows the law and has been in government and knows records retention issues."

Leave Little

Facing a serious challenge "would prepare her for debates and things like that against the Republican nominee," said poll respondent Marc Witte, 66, a Democrat and clinical counselor from Poland, Ohio. Yet Witte, who supports Clinton, isn't quite sure he wants Clinton to face an overly combative challenger. "That could be a bad thing," he said.

The poll, taken April 6-8, also indicates that Clinton will confront continued skepticism about whether she has been truthful in saying that she's turned over all e-mails relevant to her time as secretary of state. Fifty-three percent of Americans say they think she purposely withheld or deleted some relevant e-mails from a private account and home server she used while in office. Just 29 percent of respondents said they thought she was being truthful.

Even 26 percent of Democrats believe she has purposefully withheld e-mails or deleted them. That number jumps to 60 percent for independents and 81 percent for Republicans.

Clinton's office said March 10 she gave 30,490 work-related e-mails to the State Department, which is reviewing them for public release. An additional 32,830 e-mails, which Clinton said involved personal matters such as wedding planning or yoga routines, were deleted.

"She's not a naive person," said poll respondent Leake Little, 54, a Democrat who works as a services consultant from San Francisco. "She knows the law and has been in government and knows records retention issues."

Little said the e-mail controversy is the top issue concerning him about Clinton's candidacy, in part because it's the most recent. "It raises a huge character issue for me. It goes to whether I can literally trust her," said Little, a services consultant from San Francisco. "Her actions just don't add up."

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The e-mail controversy may be one of the factors depressing Clinton's overall standing. Just 48 percent view her favorably, down four points since December and marking the first time her standing has fallen below 50 percent in Bloomberg polls dating to September 2009. Her high was 70 percent in December, 2012.

More than a quarter of those who view her favorably also say she hasn't been truthful about her e-mails.

And the percentage of Democrats who say they will definitely vote for her if she is the Democratic nominee has dropped a full 10 points, to 42 percent from 52 percent in a Bloomberg poll in June, 2013. Just 18 percent of poll respondents say they definitely will vote for her for president, compared to 23 percent two years ago.

One thing is clear: The historic possibility of a woman becoming president isn't a major influence on attitudes. The vast majority of poll respondents–83 percent–say they wouldn't be more or less inclined to vote for Clinton because she would be the first female president.

"Clinton's strong performance in 2008 seems to have addressed any question of whether a woman could be a capable president. It's a non-issue now," said J. Ann Selzer, president of West Des Moines-based Selzer & Co., which conducted the poll. "At the end of the nomination fight, it was clear she had paved the way for other women with her '18 million cracks' in the glass ceiling. It turns out she may have paved the way for herself."

Women and liberals are more likely than others to say they'd be more inclined to vote for Clinton because of her gender. Seventeen percent of women say the idea of electing the first female president makes them more inclined to vote for Clinton, more than double the percentage of men who say that. Among those who consider themselves liberals, a quarter said Clinton's gender makes them more likely to back her.

"I just think it is time," said Jennifer LaDuca, 43, a full-time human resources management student and part-time thrift shop worker from Ahwahnee, Calif. "I would vote for almost any woman candidate over a male, as long as they weren't too out of line with my political thinking."

LaDuca, who considers herself a Democrat, said she's leaning toward supporting Clinton if she runs. She said her grandmother, who passed away in 2011 at the age of 98, voted for Clinton in the 2008 primary. "I would have loved for her to see Hillary Clinton get elected in her lifetime," she said.

As is typical for Clinton, more women view her favorably than men, 54 percent to 42 percent. Still, her standing with women has dropped 9 points from two years ago.

Her ratings have suffered among independent women, with 44 percent viewing her favorably and 48 percent unfavorably. That's a profound drop since June 2013, when that group viewed her favorably by almost a 2-1 ratio, 60 percent to 33 percent. Clinton's standing among Democrats remains strong at 82 percent, although that number has dropped six points since June 2013.

Like her husband, former President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton posts stronger numbers among younger Americans, who may not as well remember the controversies of the Clinton White House. Among those 34 or younger, 52 percent view her positively, compared to 46 percent of those 55 and older. Four in 10 independents view her favorably.

Among Democrats, 42 percent said they would definitely vote for her in a general election, down 10 points since June 2013. For Democratic women, the number isn't much higher, 46 percent. That's down 8 points since June 2013.

Bill Clinton's standing in the poll has dropped only slightly, with 60 percent viewing him favorably compared to 64 percent in a September 2012 Bloomberg poll. That's well above his wife's number. Properly harnessed–and kept on message–he could prove to be a significant asset on the campaign trail.

The poll, which included interviews with 1,008 adults, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points on the full sample.

What losing in 2008 taught Hillary about how to win in 2016 [Jonathan Allen, Vox, April 10, 2015]

When Hillary Clinton launches her campaign Sunday, she'll do something no other plausible presidential candidate – including Clinton herself – has done before: she'll run like a woman.

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When Hillary Clinton launches her campaign Sunday, she'll do something no other plausible presidential candidate – including Clinton herself – has done before: she'll run like a woman.

If she plays it right, it will be a feature, not a bug, of Hillary for President (2016 remix). The feminine motif will be fully integrated into her persona, her rhetoric, and her platform, according to interviews with a half-dozen sources close to Clinton.

That's a hell of a pivot from her 2008 campaign, when she all but refused to acknowledge what some of her advisers failingly insisted was intrinsic to her story. The new approach also owes to a shift in political atmospherics that favors attention to lower- and middle-class economic concerns, such as early-childhood education and paid time off, that motivate women voters, as well as many of their husbands, fathers, and sons.

"The culture has changed on these issues," said Neera Tanden, the president of the Center for American Progress and a former Clinton policy aide. "Hillary has not changed on these issues."

There's an obvious gap, a window of opportunity, separating women's participation in elections and their power in government. Women made up 53 percent of the electorate in the 2012 presidential election, and yet only 104 of the 535 full voting seats in the House and Senate are held by women. The historic dominance of men in elective office, from the presidency to Congress and the statehouses, has led to a chronic tilt away from the perspectives and priorities of women.

Clinton's strategy weaves together the immutably unique and historic aspect of her candidacy — her gender — with a domestic and foreign policy worldview that emphasizes the ways in which the full participation of women in society leads to greater stability and economic growth. In a similar vein, the cultural shift that Tanden points to can be seen in the Republican field's quick adoption of President Barack Obama's rhetoric – if not his policy choices – on economic inequality.

Ann O'Leary, a former Clinton adviser who has worked with her on the Clinton Foundation's early childhood education program over the past couple of years, says that pattern will repeat itself on family issues of particular importance to women that have become hot topics for men, too.

"Any candidate, whether it's Hillary Clinton or someone on the other side of the aisle, is going to have to take positions on these issues, because there's more demand for it," she says.

Clinton's transformation begins

Clinton's shift began with her concession speech in June 2008: She agreed to talk about herself and her place in the women's movement only after intense pressure from a set of her advisers who had lost out during the campaign. Ultimately, she spoke of the "18 million cracks" her supporters had put in the glass ceiling of the White House with their votes. She echoed Sojourner Truth's famous "Ain't I a woman" speech in weaving together the hopes of women and African Americans that day, and used Harriet Tubman to accomplish the same rhetorical union in her Democratic National Convention speech that same year.

At the State Department, Clinton created the post of ambassador for global women's issues, directed American diplomats to push their foreign counterparts on the rights of women and girls, and established programs such as the "Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves" a partnership of governments, businesses and nonprofits that is designed to protect women from the deadly fumes of open-fire cooking.

Now she has concluded that running as a woman — and emphasizing issues that bolster the security of women and their families — is a strength that melds her political and policy identities and addresses some of her biggest problems as a candidate.

Still, it's a strategy that even allies acknowledge comes with the risk that Clinton could turn off voters by overplaying the gender card.

"You don't want to get so pigeonholed," one veteran Clinton adviser said. "I don't think she wants to run as the woman candidate just for women."

It's about you and me, not just me

Clinton's at her best when she's the champion of a cause — particularly an underdog constituency — that is larger than herself. The clearest examples come from her equation of women's rights and gay rights with human rights.

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But she's been knocked, and fairly, for too often making her political story about herself, like when she kicked off her last campaign by declaring, "I'm in, and I'm in to win." This time, she's determined to connect herself with others first as an advocate and then as a presidential aspirant.

"She needs to explain to people why she wants to do this that is not about her," the veteran adviser said.

That's why she'll start with a listening tour. That's nothing new: Clinton conducted listening tours on proposed changes to Medicare when she was first lady and before her 2000 Senate campaign in New York. When she launched her first presidential campaign in 2007, she did "more talking than listening," the Associated Press observed.

Now she wants to show that her platform is, at least in part, a reaction to public demand. That is, don't expect thick policy briefs to appear online anytime soon.

"She's very much going to be in listening mode before she starts rolling out policies," said O'Leary, the former Clinton aide who worked with her on early-childhood education.

Will the real Hillary Clinton please stand up?

After years of high-profile battles — with Republicans, the press, and even members of her own party — Clinton retreated into a defensive posture in public. That was evident during her book tour and at an uncomfortable press conference after it was revealed that she prevented the State Department from having access to her email.

A byproduct of that defensiveness, bordering at times on paranoia, has been that she has struggled to come off as genuine in the eyes of her detractors and even some of her loyal allies.

Again, running as a woman begins to address that deficiency as a candidate. There's no storyline in Clinton's career that is as consistent as her efforts to advance the causes of women and girls.

From her early work at the Children's Defense Fund through her roles as first lady of Arkansas, first lady of the United States, secretary of state, and philanthropist, Clinton's rhetoric and areas of policy focus — from expanding health insurance to securing human rights for women — have been inextricably tied to a desire to strengthen women's standing in society.

Republicans know both parts of that: that she's been consistent on women's rights, and that she is perceived as less than honest. That's why they made hayof donations to the Clinton Foundation from countries with bad records on women's rights and why Rand Paul, who launched his candidacy on Tuesday, told Politico, "There's a lot of stuff there that is, I think, going to shake the confidence of Americans in her ability to lead in an honest fashion."

The shift: is it about us?

Last but not least, the electorate has shown signs that it's more inclined to support both women candidates and an issue set that Clinton has pushed in the past and that will be emphasized more in this campaign.

Clinton will promote those issues as essential to strengthening families, particularly in the lower and middle economic strata. While some of the specifics may have to wait, they're likely to include moving toward equal pay for women, expanding paid leave for parents, increasing the minimum wage, cutting the costs of childcare, cutting taxes for the middle class, and providing access to pre-kindergarten education across the country.

Clinton will frame the basket of kitchen-table issues as strengthening the economic standing of families, even as many of the policy goals would disproportionately benefit women — and appeal to women voters. That could force Republican candidates into difficult choices about whether to support small-government orthodoxy in the face of increasing demand for policies that help families balance work and home life.

The Republican governors of Indiana, Texas, and New Mexico highlighted their own efforts to boost early-childhood education in their state-of-the-state addresses this year. Yet Indiana Gov. Mike Pence turned down federal funding to expand his state's more targeted plan last year, explaining in an Indianapolis Star op-ed, "I believe Indiana must develop our own pre-K program without federal intrusion."

Ultimately, Clinton and her advisers believe they've found a way to marry the narrative of the nation's cultural shift toward women with her personal story.

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"Gender will be certainly more of an issue this time than last time, in part because there's going to be a strong effort to talk about who she really is," one longtime Clinton hand said, adding, "The trailblazing doesn't end with her inauguration."

Clinton team courts progressive economists [Alex Seitz-Wald, MSNBC, April 10, 2015]

Clinton's team has been making a concerted effort to reach out to progressives economists and activists, and last week joined a meeting on inequality organized by economist Joseph Stiglitz and the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank, msnbc has learned.

Clinton's team has been making a concerted effort to reach out to progressives economists and activists, and last week joined a meeting on inequality organized by economist Joseph Stiglitz and the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank, msnbc has learned.

The Washington, D.C., meeting included officials from the labor unions SEIU and AFL-CIO, congressional staffers, representatives from advocacy groups like Color of Change, American Women, and the Black Civic Engagement Fund, and others, including former Clinton pollster Stan Greenberg.

The aim was "creating an agenda to combat inequality that goes further than anything we've seen so far and rewrites the rules of how our economy and markets are structured," Roosevelt Institute spokesperson Marcus Mrowka told msnbc.

After the meeting, Stiglitz held a private dinner with three Clinton aides at the restaurant Poste. Clinton was represented by Jake Sullivan, a top State Department aide who is likely to join her campaign's policy team, speechwriter Dan Schwerin, and Anne O'Leary, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress who also works on a Clinton Foundation-related initiative. Roosevelt President and CEO Felicia Wong was also in attendance.

Dan Geldon, an adviser to Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, whom some liberals are pushing to run against Clinton, attended the larger meeting, but did not attend the dinner.

Stiglitz is influential among progressives, who view him as one of the Democratic Party's counterweights to the influence of former Bill Clinton Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. Clinton herself has earned criticism from some on the left for ties to Wall Street and fears she would follow in Rubin's footsteps.

In an essay distributed to attendees, Stiglitz called for an alternative analytical framework to economic growth and equality, which have often been assumed to be in competition with each other. "The increase in inequality and the decrease in equality of opportunity have reached the point where minor fixes — such as modest increases in the minimum wage and continuing to strive to improve education and educational opportunity — will not suffice. A far more comprehensive approach to the problem is required, entailing redistribution and doing what one can to improve the market distribution of income and to prevent the unfair transmission of advantage across generations," he wrote.

Clinton is expected to put inequality at the center of her campaign's economic message, but to address is in a less confrontational manner than Warren. A recent 160-page white paper from the Center for American Progress on "Inclusive Prosperity" gives a hint about her agenda.

Mrowka said the meeting was constructive and that Clinton aides were receptive.

GOP: Clinton announcement won't blunt Benghazi probe [Lauren French, POLITICO, April 10, 2015]

House Republicans investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi and Hillary Clinton's email practices as secretary of state said in interviews that her official entry into the presidential race won't have any bearing on their probes.

House Republicans investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi and Hillary Clinton's email practices as secretary of state said in interviews that her official entry into the presidential race won't have any bearing on their probes.

But the political stakes of the Clinton congressional investigations are about to skyrocket. Both parties will be watching the committee's work intently for ammo to use against Clinton or to call foul on the GOP for attempting to smear a presidential contender.

"Secretary Clinton's decision to seek the presidency of the United States does not and will not impact the work of the committee," said Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi. "The Committee needs

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to and expects to talk with Secretary Clinton twice, as ensuring the committee has all relevant material is a condition precedent to asking specifically about Libya and Benghazi."

But Democrats would like nothing more than an ongoing spectacle of congressional Republicans looking like they're tripping over themselves to go after Clinton. Avoiding such an atmosphere amid the heightened attention will be a major political challenge for Gowdy, a former U.S. attorney tapped to head the Benghazi panel and the initial investigation into Clinton's email use.

Democrats are already accusing the South Carolina Republican of "slow-walking" his investigation to coincide with Clinton's presidential bid.

"You knew from day one that she would appear before the committee [so it's] interesting that they need to hear from her now that it's the start of the 2016 election season," said Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.). "I knew that the select committee was not going to be about the facts and the evidence. My sneaking suspicions was that it was going to be an excuse to go after Secretary Clinton."

The former secretary of state has always been a central figure in the House GOP's investigation of the militants who attacked a U.S. outpost in Benghazi. But Clinton's formal jump into the presidential race will magnify every Republican move on this front. Clinton's campaign kickoff comes just as Gowdy — who has also been informally tapped to head up the House's initial investigation of her email use — is asking Clinton to make her first appearance before the panel. She has been asked to testify before May 1. Gowdy said Friday the committee is still working with Clinton to schedule the hearings.

Ohio Republican Rep. Jim Jordan, another member of the Benghazi panel, said Gowdy is determined not to allow the committee to become a 2016 battlefield.

"Our job has everything to do with the truth and nothing to do with who may or may not be the next president of the United States," said Jordan. "That's our charge, that's our mission and that's solely what we're about. How that impacts the presidential, that's not even the focus of the committee."

Republicans on the committee said the reason Clinton is being asked testify in such close proximity to her campaign announcement is because the State Department took so long to produce documents. The committee has been given access to thousands of pages of emails and evidence but is asking for more.

"This, quote, perception that some may have could have been avoided if the State Department would have given us the documents a year ago," Jordan said. "If we would of had the documents or if the State Department or Secretary Clinton would have told us months and months and months ago that she had a separate account…this could have all been avoided."

The committee became aware that Clinton used a private email late last summer but only discovered the extent to which Clinton kept her emails from the State Department on a private server in March.

Both sides say their general tactics won't change with Clinton about to be an official presidential candidate; her campaign launch is expected this weekend. Republicans are still expecting the former secretary of state to appear at least twice before the panel. Gowdy invited Clinton to testify in a closed-hearing on her use of a private email and server and another public hearing on the Obama administration's response to the Benghazi attacks.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the Benghazi Committee, said he would continue to criticize Gowdy's tactics, including holding interviews privately issuing subpoenas without consent.

"It's been a select committee on Hillary Clinton and it will continue to be that. They ought to do what I've said many times, allow her to come into a public forum, a hearing, and let her testify," the Maryland Democrat said.

Cummings added that Clinton indicated to the committee she would be willing to answer questions on her email use and the Benghazi incident during a public hearing. Clinton reportedly told Cummings last year she was prepared to testify as early as December — before her email use was made public - on the Obama administration's response to Libya.

Gowdy has said he offered Clinton the private hearing on her emails to avoid the appearance of politicizing the committee and has repeatedly stressed that the committee is concerned only with correspondence related to Benghazi.

"Our Committee has no interest in any emails related to the Secretary's personal, private matters nor is our Committee seeking documents unrelated to Libya and Benghazi during the relevant time periods," Gowdy said last week. "The

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Committee is, however, committed to reviewing and considering every document related to the work the House of Representatives charged us with doing."

But Sanchez said Democrats' hands are largely tied because of the committee's broad mandate from Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio.)

"There is not a lot we can do because…the select committee pretty much has a blank check. There is unilateral power to subpoena so there is not a lot we Democrats can do," she said.

Still, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said Democrats will still be watching closely to debunk what they see as myths about Benghazi and step in if Republicans try to turn the committee into a campaign tool.

"She's been their target all along. In that sense, nothing has changed [because of her likely announcement] about the degree that they've turned the select committee into an arm of the NRCC," he said.

President Obama's Quiet Case for Hillary Clinton in 2016 [Devin Dwyer, ABC News, April 11, 2015]

President Obama has praised Hillary Clinton in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election.

In her final days as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton said goodbye to President Obama over a lunch of fish tacos in the dining room off the Oval Office. As a parting gift, she gave her former rival 20 pages of recommendations for what to do in his second term.

"Tearing up, I hugged the president and told him again how much our work and friendship meant to me," Clinton writes of Obama in the new epilogue of her book "Hard Choices." "And that I'd be on call if he ever needed me."

As the 2016 presidential campaign kicks into gear, Obama needs Clinton more than ever before – a message he's made increasingly clear over the past two years, without having to pick up the phone.

Obama has heaped more effusive praise on his former secretary of state than just about any other high-profile Democrat, including his own vice president, Joe Biden, who has also aspired to the nation's top office.

Obama has declared Clinton "a world figure" and an "extraordinary talent." He said in a joint interview with "60 Minutes" that she was "one of the most important advisers" he's had, and a "strong friend."

"If she's her wonderful self, I'm sure she is going to do great" in the campaign, Obama said in an interview this week.

The accolades and encouragement are a far cry from the lukewarm "likable enough" description Obama affixed to Clinton during a 2007 primary debate. White House officials told ABC News that the president "thinks very highly" of Clinton as a candidate and that she has a "strong case to make" to become his successor.

To be sure, President Obama remains coy about an explicit primary endorsement and, officials say, will likely keep a low profile in the early stages of the campaign. He told CBS News in an April 2014 interview that Biden would also be a strong candidate as "one of the finest vice presidents in history."

"I don't necessarily want to jam them up," Obama said of his potential involvement with the candidates in the early Democratic field.

'Clinton the Musical' Looks Back, Just in Time for 2016

Still, as Clinton formally launches her second presidential bid this weekend as the dominant Democratic front-runner, Obama is quietly banking on her to be the defender of his legacy.

He's cited her discipline, stamina, thoughtfulness and "ability to project" their shared values as factors that make her "extraordinary" in his eyes.

On Twitter, Clinton has given an unabashed embrace of her former boss's policies, defending Obamacare and his immigration executive action. She's also defended the administration's sweeping reforms of the financial system and the president's economic blueprint outlined in his State of the Union.

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Ties to the Obama White House already run deep. The Clinton campaign apparatus is stuffed with former top Obama administration policy makers and strategists, including former White House communications director Jennifer Palmieri, former Obama senior counselor John Podesta, and former Michelle Obama aide Kristina Schake.

Administration officials deny any planned direct coordination between the Obama White House and the Clinton campaign on messaging or legislative agenda, but do not rule it out.

“I’m confident that there will be a lot of agreement between the priorities that she articulates and the kinds of priorities this president has been fighting for the last six years,” said spokesman Josh Earnest late last month.

Rand Paul Predicts Hillary Clinton Revelations Will 'Shock People'
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Obama, Clinton Remain Allies

On a personal level, Obama and Clinton have maintained in close touch, holding occasional in-person meetings and regularly exchanging email messages,officials say. They last met together in the Oval Office in late March when they discussed their families, current events and politics, aides said.

“Are there going to be differences? Yeah. Deep differences? Of course,” Clinton told “60 Minutes” in the 2013 joint interview. How those play out on the stump will be a difficult balancing act. Obama and his policies remain highly popular among Democratic voters, but much more contentious among independents and Republicans.

Forty-seven percent of Americans approve of President Obama’s work in office, according to the latest ABC News/ Washington Post poll. The same number disapprove.

For now, the soon-to-be-candidate Clinton is signaling that her focus will be on the overlap in interests and priorities with Obama – revealing less daylight than many pundits had initially expected.

Will we see President Obama and Hillary Clinton exchange another bear hug on stage? Maybe not soon – but don’t rule it out.

“As it relates to the president’s intentions to wade into a Democratic primary, that’s not something that he often does,” Earnest said. “But we’ll see. A long way until the Democratic convention.”

NRA convention becomes Hillary Clinton roast [John McCormick, Bloomberg Politics, April 10, 2015]

Prospective 2016 Republican presidential candidates and the leaders of the National Rifle Association focused more on Hillary Clinton than President Barack Obama on Friday as they criticized their gun-control views and other policies.

NASHVILLE—Prospective 2016 Republican presidential candidates and the leaders of the National Rifle Association focused more on Hillary Clinton than President Barack Obama on Friday as they criticized their gun-control views and other policies.

"We're onto her. She's been coming after us for decades," NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre told the group's annual convention. "Hillary Clinton hasn't met a gun control bill she couldn't support."

In a sprawling ballroom at the Music City Center convention center, LaPierre took members of the nation's largest and most powerful gun organization on a stroll down memory lane of Clinton controversies, saying the former secretary of state, senator and first lady "has more 'gates' than a south Texas cattle ranch."

"Hillary Clinton has more 'gates' than a south Texas cattle ranch."

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre

Clinton is poised to announce her second bid for the presidency as early as this weekend.

"We will stand and we will fight with everything we're got and in 2016, by God, we will elect our next great president of the United States of America and it will not be Hillary Rodham Clinton," LaPierre said.

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Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, who announced his candidacy last month, made a reference to a cannon involved with the Texas Revolution in the 1830s, as he noted Clinton's pending entry into the race.

"This weekend, Hillary Clinton is announcing for president," he said. "Well, I'll tell you, if Hillary Clinton is going to join with Barack Obama and the gun-grabbers that come after our guns, then what I say is come and take it."

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush called the Second Amendment "the original Homeland Security Act," as he pitched his record on guns.

“I’ve been in the trenches with you. And when I was governor, we were passing laws and creating protections for gun-owners that set the bar for other states to follow," he said. “I will match my record against anyone else’s when it comes to the support and defense of the Second Amendment."

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida kept his criticism directed at Obama. "Strong defenses, both on the national and the personal level, are means of preventing violence, not of promoting it," he said. "Weakness, on the other hand, is the friend of danger and weakness is the enemy of peace. President Obama has been a weak president. The only thing President Obama has strengthened over the last six years has been his own, unlawful power."

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker criticized Obama's unsuccessful efforts to tighten gun regulations. "Mr. President, last time I checked, the Second Amendment is part of the Constitution," he said. "You don't get to pick and choose which part of the Constitution you like and which part you don't."

Walker said his support for the NRA and less restrictive gun laws isn't just because his state has a strong hunting heritage. "When we signed into law concealed carry, it was about freedom," he said.

Photographer: Daniel Acker/Bloomberg

Bobby Jindal, governor of Louisiana, arrives at the podium.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, looking out onto the audience at the start of his remarks, made a Clinton reference as well. "I think all of us are what Hillary Clinton once called the 'vast right wing conspiracy,'" he joked.

Jindal called the NRA the "most effective civil rights organization" in the U.S. "It is our duty to not only exercise our freedoms, but to defend the freedoms of all Americans," he said.

Former Texas Governor Rick Perry, who is known for jogging with a firearm, told the gathering that he had "hung out the 'open for business' sign for gun manufactures." The best defense against crime is an "armed citizenry," he said.

Ben Carson, a neurosurgeon-turned-conservative-activist, sought to assure NRA members about a 2013 statement he made about semi-automatic weapons. "I've learned how to express myself better," he said. "I am extremely pro-Second Amendment."

Despite what he has seen on the streets and in emergency rooms, Carson said he remains solidly pro-gun. "I spent many a night operating on people with gunshot wounds to their heads," he said. "It is not nearly as horrible as having a population that is defenseless against a group of tyrants who have arms."

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee ended his speech with a "God bless the NRA," after arguing that guns are central to the nation's self-defense. "We will not disarm and America will never fall," he said. "It will not fall because we will not let it."

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina kept his focus on Obama, as he said that virtually all of the Republicans likely to run for president are supportive of gun rights. "The next time you vote for president, make sure they've at least run a lemonade stand, they're proud of their country in terms of being exceptional and they know somebody who owns a gun," he said.

In total, almost a dozen prospective Republican candidates spoke Friday afternoon, near the start of a three-day convention that organizers say will draw about 70,000. Absent were New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, who weren't invited.

Christie, who once criticized the NRA after the group featured Obama's children in a video, received a marginal grade (C)

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from them before of his successful 2013 re-election.

Paul, who opposes gun control legislation and has been an outspoken on the Second Amendment, is in the midst of a four-state tour following his Tuesday presidential campaign announcement.

With the exception of Christie, nearly all of the prospective Republican candidates are opposed to new limits on the purchase or use of guns. Their NRA ratings range from A-plus to an A-minus.

The Hillary Clinton steamroller rumbles to life [Harry Enten, FiveThirtyEight, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton boasts a historic lead in the 2016 Democratic primary.

Let's do something a little unusual. Instead of going through all the reasons that Hillary Clinton is so likely to win the Democratic nomination (and she is) and then tucking a caveat-laden paragraph at the bottom of this article, let's start with one big caveat:

Presidential elections aren't baseball. They take place just once every four years, so we don't have thousands of at-bats to analyze. Clinton, who will reportedly officially announce her campaign Sunday, could lose the primary. Perhaps there's some scandal we're unaware of. Perhaps she'll have to drop out because of some health issue. Maybe Martin O'Malley will straight-up beat her; stranger things have … well, OK, maybe not.

Clinton's primary campaign is by far the most dominant for a non-incumbent president since nominations began to be determined by caucuses and primaries in 1972. The best predictors we have all say Clinton is going to be the Democrats' 2016 presidential nominee.1

Endorsements

Clinton has pretty much already won the endorsement primary, the all-important pre-voting race to lock up party establishment support.2 Last time she ran for president, Clinton lost the endorsement primary. By this point in the 2008 campaign, she had only one senator endorse her publicly. According to a CNNcount in February, Clinton has already secured endorsements from 27 of 46 Democratic senators. That's a ton of support so early in the campaign.

Clinton's strength is unique. Most years, the campaign is barely underway in early April. And in the years in which endorsements come quickly, elected officials usually wait at least until a candidate formally declares.

But here's the more amazing thing about those 27 endorsements: That total would still be impressive even if no one else were to endorse Clinton. Only George W. Bush's 2000 machine picked up more senator endorsements (33), and it took him the entire primary campaign. He didn't reach 27 until November 1999. The only other two campaigns to come close to 27 were Bob Dole's in 1996 and Al Gore's in 2000; each picked up 26. Like Bush, Dole and Gore rolled over the competition.

Just as important as the number of endorsements is where they are coming from on the ideological spectrum. Clinton is earning endorsements from the left, center and right of the Democratic caucus. In this kernel density function of endorsers plotted against their congressional voting record, we see that the senators who have endorsed Clinton look ideologically very similar to those who haven't (more negative scores are more liberal):

Unlike in 2008, Clinton has her left flank well-covered. She has the endorsement of liberal stalwarts such as Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Elizabeth Warren. Clinton also has the endorsement of moderate senators such as Joe Manchin and Claire McCaskill.

Polling

Clinton also has the most dominant poll numbers of any candidate at this point in the election cycle in the modern era. Early primary polling is not the be-all and end-all, but candidates who are polling very well across the board early tend to win their nominations. In an average of polls taken since the beginning of the year, Clinton is above 50 percent in Iowa, New Hampshire and nationally. No other non-incumbent in the modern era has done that in the first half of the year before the primaries began.

It's only in Iowa where Clinton doesn't have an outright claim to the strongest polling average in recent history. But she's still in a strong position at 62 percent — about where Gore was in early 1999. Gore went on to win Iowa with 63 percent of the vote and every single primary after that. Dole was the only candidate besides Clinton and Gore to hit at least 40 percent in

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early Iowa, New Hampshire and national polling. He won 44 states and easily took the 1996 GOP nomination.

Clinton is in a far stronger position than she was last time around. Back in 2008, she was trailing in early Iowa polls. She earned only a third of the vote in early New Hampshire polls and was below 40 percent nationally.

Nor are there any real holes in her support. According to YouGov pollingconducted in March, 68 percent of Democrats believe she is “about right” ideologically.3 Only 12 percent of Democrats would not consider voting for her, according to a February CBS News survey. In the latest Marist College survey, she earns more than 60 percent among liberal,4 moderate and conservative Democratic primary voters.

Clinton’s early polling tells the same story as the endorsements: Democrats don’t seem open to other options. It’s not a situation likely to tempt a formidable Democrat to jump into the race. Which brings us to the third point …

The (lack of) competition

Clinton looks like she’ll have perhaps four competitors for the nomination: O’Malley, Lincoln Chafee, Bernie Sanders and Jim Webb. Sanders is the only one who currently holds elected office. Only O’Malley has ever been elected as a Democrat to any office for more than one term.

Chafee, who is from Rhode Island, has never won a Democratic primary for any office. He served in the U.S. Senate as a Republican and was an independent governor. The only time he could have won a Democratic primary (for governor), he bowed out because he faced a bruising campaign. He frequently had an approval rating of around 30 percent in blue Rhode Island.

O’Malley’s turn as governor of deep-blue Maryland went so far south that a Republican succeeded him, which is a fate that didn’t even befall Chafee. As I’ve written previously, O’Malley’s ideological record and donor base do not suggest that he can successfully challenge Clinton from the left.

Although Sanders caucuses with Democrats in the Senate, he’s a self-described socialist. If he ends up running, he’ll win some plaudits on the left, but that’s about it.

Webb, like Chafee, is a former Republican with little history with the Democratic Party. That might be forgivable if he were actually a mainstream Democrat, but he was the fourth-most-conservative Democratic senator during his final term in Congress.

When you look at the board, there is no Barack Obama waiting in the wings. Warren has endorsed Clinton and has given every indication that she is not going to run.

At this point, Clinton’s path to the nomination looks easier than anything we’ve seen before.

O’Malley aiming for late May announcement on ‘colossal undertaking’ [John Wagner, WaPo, April 10, 2015]

With the announcement of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s 2016 presidential bid close at hand, Martin O’Malley says it could be late May before he shares his decision about moving forward.

DES MOINES, Iowa -- With the announcement of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s 2016 presidential bid close at hand, one of her potential Democratic rivals, former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley, says it could be late May before he shares his decision about moving forward.

O’Malley said in an interview Thursday night that there are “fewer and fewer” factors left for him to weigh and that he continues to hear from fellow Democrats that “our country’s looking for new leadership.” But O’Malley said he remains engaged in conversations with friends and family about what would be “a colossal undertaking.”

“You have to allow the time to give your friends the ability to tell you whether they think you’re crazy or whether they’re on board," O'Malley said. "You have to give your family the ability to tell you that as well. And that requires an amount of time and patience.”

[More bad news for Hillary Clinton’s fiercest rival]

O’Malley, who is barely registering in early polls but has been warmly received by Democratic audiences, spoke following an

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event Thursday night where close to 150 people packed into an Irish bar in the Beaverdale neighborhood here. After delivering a speech laced with populist themes, O'Malley, who has a side career as a musician, picked up a borrowed acoustic guitar and played a folk song, as he has in several other recent appearances in early nominating states.

[In Iowa, O'Malley sounds a lot like a Democrat liberals love: Warren]

Asked in the interview if Clinton's entrance into the race will affect his thinking, O'Malley said: "Not any longer."

"My sense, having traveled around the country now over the course of the last year, is that Americans … feel that their politics has been very badly damaged, that the rules have been unfairly manipulated in ways that threaten the future of our American Dream and of a growing American middle class," he said. "And people in our party, I think, are looking for new leadership that will break with the failed policies of our past and create a new and better day for our country. That's my sense."

Running for the presidency, he added, is "a colossal undertaking, and you have to be equipped to climb the mountain and not fight the mountain. You have to be prepared to climb it, and that takes a lot of work. That takes a lot planning, and that takes a lot of thought."

The former governor is in the midst of a two-day swing through Iowa that also included appearances Thursday before the House and Senate Democratic caucuses of the state legislature and at a fundraiser in Indianola for state Rep. Scott Ourth.

On Friday, O'Malley is booked to appear here at a Polk County Democrats awards dinner, along with another potential Democratic presidential candidate, former senator James Webb of Virginia.

During remarks at Ourth's fundraiser, held at a local winery, O'Malley referenced his work in Iowa during the 1984 presidential cycle for the campaign of "a little-known, 1 percent candidate named Gary Hart."

Hart faced a formidable front-runner that year in former vice president Walter Mondale. After beating expectations in Iowa, Hart went on to upset Mondale in New Hampshire and became his chief rival for the Democratic nomination, eventually falling short.

"I know how seriously you take your responsibility," O'Malley told the Democratic activists in the room. "I know that you have the ability to actually change the course of history."

In Iowa, Martin O'Malley lays out vision for Democratic Party [Ari Melber, MSNBC, April 10, 2015]

Martin O'Malley says if he runs for president, he will try to pull the Democratic Party back to its populist roots.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley says if he runs for president, he will try to pull the Democratic Party back to its populist roots.

"You know what it's about? It's really about calling our party back to its true self," he said in a wide-ranging MSNBC interview airing Friday. "Our politics has been greatly impacted, for the worse, by big money and the concentration of big money."

O'Malley, in Iowa this week for meetings and a local Democratic Party event, took a break to talk about his potential 2016 challenge to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Smokey Row Coffee, a bustling coffee shop on the West side of Des Moines. Clinton is expected to begin her presidential campaign as early as this weekend.

Widely known as number-crunching technocrat, O'Malley sounds pretty blunt when criticizing what he calls Wall Street's growing dominance of campaigns and government – including some members of the Obama administration.

"For 30 years we've followed this trickle-down theory of economics that said, 'Concentrate wealth at the very top, remove regulation and keep wages low so we can be competitive – whatever the hell that means," O'Malley says.

"What it led to was the first time since the Second World War where wages have actually declined, rather than going up – where almost all of the new income earned in this recovery has gone to the top 1%," he says, invoking the famous phrase from the Occupy Wall Street protests.

"It doesn't have to be this way," he continues, arguing, "these things are not effects that blew in on a gulf stream or on a

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polar vortex – these are the products of the policy choices we made over these 30 years."

O'Malley says the system is rigged "in many ways" – a concern pressed by the "Elizabeth Warren wing" of the Democratic Party – and contends middle class priorities should be "at the center of our economic theory."

Asked whether President Obama has appointed the wrong people to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Justice Department, O'Malley responds, "Yes, I would say that." He laments that no bank executives went to jail for "wrongdoing" in the financial crisis.

"I think that the S.E.C. has been pretty feckless," he says, "when it comes to reigning in reckless behavior on Wall Street."

O'Malley has clearly honed his campaign lines on this theme.

While his op-eds are peppered with references to the S.E.C.'s civil liability standards and the Depression-era Glass-Steagall bank regulation, he has more relatable examples at the ready in Iowa.

"There are more repercussions for a person being a chronic speeding violator in our country," he argues, "than there is for a big bank being a chronic violator of S.E.C. rules!" O'Malley posts similar lines and videos on his social media accounts. He also tries to channel the anger against Wall Street into an argument for a stronger federal government.

"We can't expect Wall Street to police itself – that's why we have a federal government," he declares.

O'Malley freely admits most Iowans he meets haven't heard of him, but he believes they are receptive to his economic focus – and they aren't all ready for Hillary.

Many Iowans want to literally "meet every candidate" before they decide, he says, and they don't accept "the inevitability or the punditry or whatever the polls happen to say."

O'Malley should know. He got started in politics working on Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign in Iowa, and he believes history shows there's really no such thing as inevitable candidates.

"There is an 'inevitable' front-runner who remains 'inevitable' right up until he or she's no longer inevitable," he says. "And the person that emerges as the alternative is the person that usually no one in America had heard of before – until that person got into a van and went county to county to county."

O'Malley is careful not to criticize Hillary Clinton by name, but her presence clearly looms over his possible candidacy.

Her perceived dominance in the Democratic Party constrains the momentum of any potential challenger. From O'Malley to Vice President Joe Biden, the would-be alternatives are treated by politicos and reporters as little more than the negative space in Clinton's painting, and yet it's the very prospect of anointing a nominee that seems to animate O'Malley's rationale for running.

On the stump and in our interview, he talks about the need for a real race, an "alternative" choice and a "contest of ideas" – paeans to the democratic process that can be read as Clinton code words.

Asked about the dynasties that could compete in the presidential race, O'Malley says the presidency shouldn't be a "hereditary right."

He has hit that theme before, telling George Stephanopoulos last month that the White House shouldn't simply "pass back and forth between two families." The line speaks to Bush and Clinton fatigue, but isn't exactly a substantive disqualification for higher office. (Former Sen. Lincoln Chaffee, by contrast, said this week that Clinton should not be president because of her vote for the Iraq War.)

O'Malley looks like a politician out of central casting – piercing green eyes, close cropped hair, crisp suit – he was even part of the basis for the ambitious mayor in "The Wire," which dramatized the drug trade and extreme poverty O'Malley confronted as the mayor of Baltimore. Yet his conventional appearance belies some pretty liberal politics – voters may find activist tendencies under that Brooks Brothers suit.

"I've actually done the things on a state-wide basis," he argues, that national Democrats "only talk about doing." And he ticks off a battery of liberal reforms like a proud father.

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“We made it easier for people to vote not harder. We passed marriage equality. We made it easier for new American immigrants to get driver’s licenses so they can travel to and from work, and take care of their families.”

“We made it easier for people to vote not harder,” he says. “We passed marriage equality. We made it easier for new American immigrants to get driver’s licenses so they can travel to and from work, and take care of their families. We raised the minimum wage. We passed a living wage. We made bigger investments in improving the education of our children and made our schools No. 1. We made bigger investments in infrastructure, water, wastewater, cyber and the rest – and created a better rate of job creation than our neighbors north or south of us.”

He continues, “So look, these are the things that actually make our economy grow and make our middle class stronger. And it is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce named our state No. 1 in innovation and entrepreneurship three years in a row. It is why we maintain the highest median income of any state in the nation over these last eight years. So these are the differentiators. People want leaders who have the ability to get things done.”

If that weren’t wonky enough, O’Malley is also eager to explain his numerical approach to governing, the idea that “the things that get measured get done.”

He established statistical measuring programs – Citi-State and Comp-Stat – to focus law enforcement and government services. Some dubbed it “Moneyball” for government.

Reflecting on that approach, O’Malley says any organization can use metrics, accountability and technology to improve results, including the federal government.

He rattles off tools that would make most people’s eyes glaze over – “performance management” and “graphical information technologies” – insisting these dry concepts helped stop drug dealers from murdering children. “We achieved the biggest reductions in crime of any major city in America,” he says.

The statistics themselves have been in some dispute in Maryland, but even conservative estimates showed robberies and aggravated assaults down over 30%, while successful homicide investigations rose from 54% to 80%.

Unlike many traditional urban crackdowns, however, O’Malley took on violent crime while advancing criminal justice reforms, including repealing the death penalty and harsh marijuana laws.

The federal death penalty is back in the news after a jury convicted Dzhokar Tsarnaev in the Boston Marathon bombing case this week, and O’Malley says he remains opposed to capital punishment even in cases of domestic terrorism.

“I’m opposed to the death penalty; I don’t believe that it works,” he says. “In the case of this individual, I probably think killing’s too good for him – he should rot in prison for the harm that he’s done to so many people and children.”

O’Malley also argues the U.S. is also in the wrong camp on this issue internationally.

“The countries on this globe that are responsible for the greatest numbers of public executions are places like Yemen, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, communist China,” he says. “I don’t believe our country belongs on that list.”

That’s an unusual position for an aspiring national Democrat. Ever since Michael Dukakis was pilloried for being “soft on crime” and opposing the death penalty, the party’s presidential nominees have supported it. (Clinton and Obama firmly backed it, while Kerry revised his opposition in 2004 to support capital punishment for terrorists.)

O’Malley’s critiques of the criminal justice system also provide common ground with at least one Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Rand Paul. At his presidential campaign launch this week, Paul said the U.S. should repeal “any law that disproportionately incarcerates people of color.”

O’Malley says he agrees with Paul’s statement – and as a chief executive he tried to change the “different standards of justice” for crimes occurring “in poor neighborhoods, neighborhoods of color” or “wealthier neighborhoods.”

O’Malley has also faced criticism, however, for using the kind of aggressive policing that led to the arrest of one out of every six Baltimore residents in a single year. The NAACP and American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit alleging police harassment on his watch, but he counters that Baltimore faced an emergency, and he still built a multiracial mandate for policing.

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"In our city, when I was elected mayor, [we] had sadly allowed ourselves to become the most violent and addicted city in America," O'Malley says. "I was elected on a campaign that promised that we would recover all of our neighborhoods from the 24/7 drug dealer occupation and appallingly high homicide rates. And so that's what we set out to do. And in re-election – I was re-elected with 88% of the vote.

"All along the course of that – we had to keep a precious consensus together to save lives," he continues. "And there is no issue more difficult to bring people together around over racial divides than the issue of law enforcement. But we managed to do it. We made our police force more diverse. We reduced, during my time in office, police-involved shootings. We also reduced violent crime, and the city is moving in a much better direction."

It's the kind of thoughtful, evidence-based answer that could appeal to Democratic voters concerned about racial divides and policing in America today – if there is room and time for that debate.

O'Malley's greatest political vulnerability, however, may be the belief that voters will analyze their choices the way he does – methodically, rigorously, even dispassionately. Yet without a larger disruption in the Democratic primary, it's not clear whether that debate will begin this year.

National Blogs

Hillary Clinton Team Holds Off-The-Record Journalist Meeting Ahead Of 2016 Announcement [Michael Calderone, HuffPost, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton's campaign team held an off-the-record dinner Thursday night in Washington, D.C., for roughly two dozen journalists and staff members at John Podesta's house. The team will also hold a private event for journalists Friday evening.

NEW YORK -- Hillary Clinton's campaign team held an off-the-record dinner Thursday night in Washington, D.C., for roughly two dozen journalists and staff members at John Podesta's house, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The dinner signals that the Clinton team is trying to engage with top reporters in the days before the former secretary of state's expected announcement of a 2016 presidential run. It also suggests the new campaign team is looking to change course from the toxic relationship with the press that plagued the 2008 race.

Podesta, the campaign chairman and a seasoned cook, made a pasta with walnut sauce for the dinner guests, which included reporters from The New York Times, The Washington Post, Politico, The Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press and several major TV networks.

A Huffington Post reporter attended the dinner, but did not discuss it with this reporter.

The guests also enjoyed a shrimp appetizer, homemade cookies, and a selection of wine and beer -- including, appropriately, Brooklyn Lager.

Several key Clinton staffers, including Campaign Manager Robby Mook, Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri and top aide Huma Abedin, also attended.

A Clinton spokesman declined to comment on the gathering.

Clinton has long had a fraught relationship with the media, going back to scandals and controversies during her husband's presidency in the 1990s. But in recent months, Clinton sources have promised that the 2016 campaign would be different.

She took questions from the press for about 15 minutes last month following revelations that she exclusively used a private email account for government business throughout her four years as secretary of state, but hasn't since given an interview.

During a journalism awards ceremony late last month, Clinton suggested she wanted a fresh start with the Fourth Estate.

"I am all about new beginnings," Clinton said. "A new grandchild, a new email account. Why not a new relationship with the press? So here it goes. No more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. But first of all, before I go any further. If you look under your chairs, you'll find a simple nondisclosure agreement."

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Hillary Clinton team woos reporters [Dylan Byers, POLITICO, April 10, 2015]

On Thursday night, Hillary Clinton's chief of staff John Podesta held a private dinner at his Washington home with campaign reporters.

On Thursday night, Hillary Clinton's chief of staff John Podesta held a private dinner at his Washington home with campaign reporters, part of a larger Clinton-team effort to build a rapport with the men and women who will spend the next 18 months covering Clinton's bid for the White House, POLITICO has learned.

That effort is seen as a necessity for a candidate who, in the early months of 2015, has had no safe harbor in the media. To date, The New York Times alone has published more than 40 articles related to Clinton's use of a private email account while secretary of state, and many other news outlets, including POLITICO, have come forward with revelations of their own. Meanwhile, right-wing media outlets criticize her daily and left-wing outlets are unabashed in their desire for a more liberal alternative.

Just last month, Clinton herself acknowledged that her relationship with the media was "complicated," but said she wanted to build "a better relationship." Without a formal campaign in place, however, she has been forced to assume a defensive posture. Now, with the launch of her campaign just around the corner, political strategists say the candidate and her team are set to wrest control of the narrative and go on offense.

"Politics, especially political reporters, abhor a vacuum, so media outlets are going to hunt and peck for stories that create the dynamic of the campaign being a yet-unannounced HRC presidential vs. the august members of the Fourth Estate," Chris Lehane, the Democratic communications strategist and Clinton White House alum, told POLITICO. "Once the campaign is off and running like Usain Bolt, based on the big idea she offers as her rationale, it will develop specific reporters and outlets that take a franchise interest."

The current state of Clinton-press relations reflects "the natural lay of things. She's not a candidate, there's not an affirmative message yet, and there's not yet an apparatus fully capable of combatting [these stories]," said Nick Merrill, a Clinton spokesperson. Merrill confirmed that the Clinton team had media outreach plans in the works, but said he was not in a position to discuss them.

Being able to go on the offensive is especially important for a candidate like Clinton, who has few sympathizers in the media. Supporters have long grumbled that the Times and its mainstream brethren are especially tough on Clinton — the newspaper's executive editor Dean Baquet calls the coverage "aggressive and fair" — but the past six weeks have only increased their fears. Meanwhile, right-wing media outlets have been using the new revelations to relentlessly attack her, while left-wing publications have been busy pushing their own populist alternatives.

The trifecta of right-wing attacks, left-wing angst and mainstream scrutiny has already made for a far rockier campaign rollout than Clinton likely anticipated. Though a mid-March CNN/ORC poll had her beating every potential Republican challenger by double digits, a new Quinnipiac University poll released this week shows that her support has been "wilting" in the key battleground states of Colorado, Iowa and Virginia. In each state, a majority of those surveyed said that Clinton's private email use was either "very important" or "somewhat important" to their vote in 2016, and well more than a third of voters in each state said the issue made them less likely to vote for Clinton.

While the formal launch of a campaign will allow Clinton to take some control into her own hands, the absence of a viable primary challenger could pose its own problems, strategists said. With no real competitor, the media will be all the more eager to assume an antagonistic role.

"In the absence of a primary opponent, the press may feel obliged to fill that role, giving her the scrutiny and vetting normally provided by an opponent," Paul Begala, the political consultant and chief strategist for Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign, said. "If so, there is not much Hillary can do about it, nor should she try."

Of the three sectors of American political media, it is the mainstream that has emerged as Clinton's greatest obstacle. The fact that the hardest-hitting Clinton coverage has come from the Times, The Washington Post, POLITICO and other mainstream sources — rather than, say, The Weekly Standard or Washington Free Beacon — has revived concerns among her staff about Clinton's poor relations with mainstream reporters.

"We have been aggressive and fair," Baquet, the Times executive editor, said of his newspaper's coverage of Clinton. "I'd say that's been the same for coverage of all the candidates. Some of the Republicans have gone so far as to say they don't

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read us. If everyone thinks you're tough, you're doing something right."

In the past few weeks, Gawker and ProPublica have opened a new vein of Clinton coverage. On March 27, the two sites reported that longtime Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal supplied intelligence to then-Secretary Clinton "gathered by a secret network that included a former CIA clandestine service officer." Days later, Gawker reported that Blumenthal and another Clinton official had secretly lobbied Clinton "on behalf of a billionaire in the former Soviet state of Georgia who was seeking closer ties with Putin's Russia — seemingly in violation of a federal law designed to prevent foreign powers from covertly wielding influence within the United States."

Critical coverage in outlets like the Times and ProPublica is far more dangerous to Clinton's campaign than that of partisan outlets, strategists say, because the scrutiny is driven by reporting, rather than ideological analysis (there are exceptions with Gawker, which can be quite opinionated). Weeks of Fox News roundtables about Benghazi conspiracy theories don't pack nearly the punch that a groundbreaking report from the Times can.

Merrill, the Clinton spokesperson, said he didn't have a problem with the Times' aggressive approach to the email scandal, especially since they broke the story. He was less forgiving of the Gawker-ProPublica report: "ProPublica, to be honest, I think my response to somebody who asked me that was just, 'Seriously?'" (ProPublica editor-in-chief Stephen Engelberg did not respond to a request for comment regarding Merrill's criticism.)

The drumbeat of investigations from the Times and other mainstream outlets might be more tolerable if Clinton had more allies on the left. Unfortunately for her, liberal pundits like Rachel Maddow and Chris Hayes, and progressive publications like The Nation and The New Republic have seem more interested in floating alternatives like Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders.

Late last year, The Nation made it its stated mission to find a populist challenger. Katrina vanden Heuvel, the magazine's editor, told POLITICO that Clinton "would be better served if she has competition." In Harper's, Doug Henwood slammed Clinton as a hawkish centrist, a charge that has been echoed directly or indirectly across the liberal blogosphere and even on MSNBC.

"The Elizabeth Warren piece of it does make it tough for her with Chris Hayes and Rachel Maddow and those guys," said Bill Burton, the Democratic strategist and former Obama deputy press secretary. "It is a challenge."

Then there are the right-wing publications, which attack Democrats as a matter of course. To date, however, right-wing attacks on Clinton have been relatively muted, in part because several conservative sites are focused on the Republican primary. Behind the scenes, however, Republican groups are building a massive opposition effort, much of which will be leaked to conservative and mainstream outlets over the course of the next 18 months.

Clinton may never be able to quell the right, but by launching her campaign, she can at least make progress on the left and the mainstream, the strategists said.

"[The] campaign will convert some of the current entities by (a) being on the offensive and creating the conflict that drives coverage on its own terms; (b) filling the cup so that reporters can provide their daily quota of inches, clicks, tweets and retweets; and (c) demonstrate [the] capacity of the candidate where she can look like a giant towering over the sea of leprechauns across the aisle," Lehane explained.

"In this day and age," he added, "the ability to develop a national online network will provide a bulwark of support and be available to serve as both a sword to push out her candidacy and a shield to deflect the incoming."

Of course, not everyone is so bullish.

"You do get the sense that it's coming at her from all sides," said one Democratic strategist who asked not to be quoted by name. "You do wonder if at some point she's taking so much water that it all falls apart."

Library documents show revisions on Hillary Clinton's image, identity [Rebecca Ballhaus, WSJ Washington Wire, April 10, 2015]

While the Clintons were in the White House, Hillary Clinton's advisers worked hard to strike a balance between portraying the first lady as a mother and wife and as a political figure in her own right.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—While the Clintons were in the White House, Hillary Clinton's advisers worked hard to strike a balance between portraying the first lady as a mother and wife and as a political figure in her own right.

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As such, a 1997 Q&A with Mrs. Clinton for a Scottish newspaper, the Press and Journal, came under plenty of scrutiny.

Edits to Mrs. Clinton's answers reflect her staffers' efforts to show the first lady's admiration of Bill Clinton as a president but also as a husband. In one draft, a reference to Mr. Clinton as "my President" is changed to "my husband." In the same draft, a section in which Mrs. Clinton described the president as "optimistic" and "determined" received a key addition: "On a more personal level, I think he is a great father and husband."

The drafts were found in a folder containing the records of Michael O'Mary, who was a speechwriter in the first lady's office. The documents were part of a trove of paper records released this week by the William J. Clinton Library. Unlike releases made last year, these files weren't released in electronic form.

The author or authors of the edits aren't clearly identified, and the exact sequence of the drafts isn't clear.

One section on how the Clintons met received particular scrutiny. Copies of several drafts show repeated changes to the story, which appeared to waffle between a variation of these two narratives:

"I met my husband at Yale Law School. We met at the library, where, after I caught him looking at me, I introduced myself to him. Later, he joined me in a long line to register for classes, and we talked and talked. Before we knew it, we had walked all the way to the university art museum, where Bill showed me some of his favorite sculptures."

And:

"I met my husband at Yale Law School. We met at the library where I introduced myself to him. Later, he joined me in a long line to register for classes, and we talked for an hour. When we got to the front of the line, the registrar said, 'Bill, what are you doing here? You already registered?'"

Staffers also struggled with how to answer the question, "What is your greatest ambition?" What appears to be an early draft answered: "To be a responsible and loving mother and wife and to instill values in my daughter that will serve her well as she grows up and has to navigate through a complicated world." Scribbled underneath was another line geared more toward portraying Mrs. Clinton as a political figure: "Second, to live up to the American ideal of citizenship."

Similarly, the answer to "How would you best like to be remembered?" was expanded to portray Mrs. Clinton not just as a supporter of her husband but as a champion of human rights. One draft showed this answer: "For using this rare opportunity to support my President and his vision of where to take our country on the eve of a new century." In what appears to have been a later draft, this was added: "I also hope to use the platform I have to speak out for people on the margins of society, especially women and children, who too often don't have a voice in the political, social, economic and civil life of their countries."

Among the questions Mrs. Clinton and her staff declined to answer: "What is the first thing you would do if all your numbers came up in the Lottery?" and "What is the most embarrassing situation you have found yourself in?"

The edits reflect the tension for Mrs. Clinton's staff in representing a first lady who was markedly different than her predecessors. Mrs. Clinton is a graduate of Yale Law School and became the first female law partner of a law firm in Arkansas after graduating. She became a U.S. senator after leaving the White House and is expected to announce her own presidential campaign as soon as this weekend. Her immediate predecessor, Barbara Bush, by contrast, dropped out of college and didn't have a professional career before becoming second and then first lady.

Previous documents released by the Clinton Library have demonstrated the struggle her staffers faced in improving Mrs. Clinton's image. In 1995, a memo detailed her advisers' suggestions—including Mrs. Clinton appearing as a guest on the TV show "Home Improvement"—for how to make the first lady appear "likeable." In a 1999 memo, as Mrs. Clinton was preparing her Senate campaign, a memo advised her: "It's important that people see more sides of you, and they often see you only in very stern situations."

The impossibility of Hillary Clinton 'going small' [Chris Cillizza, WaPo The Fix, April 10, 2015]

Hillary Clinton's campaign cannot feasibly take a "go small" approach.

The Hillary Clinton for president campaign is coming. For real, this time.

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How do I know? Because since late Thursday afternoon when Business Insider reported that Clinton would make an announcement over the weekend, the political world has been ablaze with attempts to nail down the second that this event-we-have-known-was-coming-for-the better-part-of-the-last-year was actually going to happen. The Guardian reported later Thursday that the announcement would come via Twitter Sunday at noon -- followed by a trip to Iowa. Then, early this morning, CNN confirmed that the announcement was coming Sunday, potentially with a video published on social media. Then the Post confirmed it. And NBC. And everyone else.

The feeding frenzy was officially on.

The furor created by the exact date and time Clinton would announce her candidacy speaks to the total and complete impossibility of Clinton carrying off a "going small" strategy that she and her team seem set on pursuing. Wrote Dan Balz and Anne Gearan in the Post:

The approach — described by Democratic strategists and advisers familiar with her plans — is intended to address some of the key shortcomings of Clinton's 2008 run for the White House, when she often came off as flat and overly scripted before large crowds. The go-slow, go-small strategy, these advisers say, plays to her strengths, allowing her to meet voters in intimate settings where her humor, humility and policy expertise can show through.

Look, I absolutely get the logic behind the strategy. Clinton ran as "Hillary Clinton" in 2008, to her detriment. Her campaign seemed to believe that voters in places like Iowa and New Hampshire would vote for her simply because of her political celebrity. They believed that Clinton didn't need to do the grip and grin sort of campaigning that other candidates did because she was a beloved member of the first family of Democratic politics.

Unsurprisingly to everyone but those in the Clinton campaign, it didn't work. Clinton came off as aloof and entitled -- two very bad character traits for someone running for president. People had no sense of how or why she wanted the job or how hard she was willing to work to get it. (Sidebar: One of the reasons her tearing-up moment in New Hampshire in 2008 was so powerful was because it drove home for many voters that she did actually care deeply about the race.)

Because all campaigns are in ways large and small reactions to the campaigns that came before them, you can understand why the "go small" approach makes sense to the Clintons this time around.

And yet, it's almost certainly an impossibility for Clinton and her campaign to truly go small -- for reasons almost entirely out of her control. Clinton is the biggest non-incumbent frontunner to be a party's presidential nominee in the modern era of politics. She is one of the most famous politicians in the country if not the world. She is part of one of the most famous families in the country if not the world.

"Going small" is as hard for Clinton to do as it would be for Taylor Swift. Let's say, for example, that T-Swift just wanted to play a few intimate gigs for her most loyal fans with no publicity. No matter what she did to keep it small, word would leak out that Taylor Swift was playing at some hole in the wall club in fill-in-the-blank town. A mob scene -- fans, media, assorted gawkers -- would immediately assemble. Intimacy gone.

The same goes for Clinton. Because of who she is and where she stands in the presidential race, she will be followed around by an ever-present local, national and international media horde. Wherever she goes, there will be crowds who just want to see her -- take a picture of her, shoot a Vine of her, tweet about her, SnapChat about her. No matter how small Clinton tries to make the campaign, it will always be big -- because of who she is.

That is not to say that Clinton can't more effectively show voters than she did in 2008 that she is running to help them, that her campaign is centered on what they want rather than what she thinks they want. Clinton will do everything she can to make that the central message of this race and, because of that focus, she'll likely do a better job of conveying that message than she did seven years ago.

But, the idea of Clinton going small is a fallacy. It cannot be done.

David Axelrod compli-sults Hillary Clinton [Aaron Blake, WaPo, April 10, 2015]

David Axelrod took to Twitter to give his take on the low-key campaign rollout that has been reported ahead of Sec. Clinton's announcement.

OK, we're guessing that David Axelrod was trying to be nice to Hillary Clinton with this tweet.

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@davidaxelrod: Learning the lessons of 2008: HRC rollout plans stress humility. No Clinton Inc., the "inevitable" juggernaut that left voters behind.

Another reading would be that the former top Obama adviser is doing a little seven-year-old victory dance celebrating Team Obama's against-all-odds victory in the 2008 primary and ribbing Clinton for running a poorly conceived campaign. It's classic compli-sult behavior.

But how against-all-odds was it really? We've dealt with this question before, and our conclusion was that the Obama-ites and others suffer from a little bit of revisionist history when it comes to just how "inevitable" Clinton was back then.

To wit, our own Philip Bump posted this:

...her lead in 2016 is substantially larger than what she enjoyed eight years ago. By way of example. Here's how the polling looked in the Democratic primary in New Hampshire in 2008, via Real Clear Politics.

Clinton led, often by a wide margin. Her largest lead was just over 21 points. (The numbers above are the Real Clear Polling average, incidentally, not raw poll numbers.)

Iowa was much closer. In fact, Clinton often trailed other candidates, including former North Carolina senator John Edwards.

Her largest lead in Iowa was 7.2 points.

Now compare that to 2016 polling -- which is still early, but a poll taken today is only about 50 days before the start of the polls above.

Hillary Clinton was the front-runner in 2008, ahead of Edwards and Obama, until she wasn't. Clinton is the front-runner for 2016, as well, ahead of a healthy dose of empty space and then Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth "No, Really, I'm Not Running" Warren (D-Mass.). It's a whole different race.

However, that can change.

For all talk about how Clinton was SO inevitable in 2008, we had a hard time finding people who actually said this back then -- much less Team Clinton itself.

From my post:

Going back to 2006 and 2007, we could find very little evidence of anybody publicly calling Clinton the "inevitable" nominee. Here's what we found when we searched in LexisNexis for "Hillary Clinton" and "inevitable":

The Boston Globe's Joan Vennochi, in March 2005: "So, case closed? No other Democrats need apply? That is ridiculous."

Michael Reagan, in December 2006: "The common wisdom holds that it is all but inevitable that Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic presidential nominee in 2008, and that she'll be a formidable if not unbeatable candidate."

Fox News's Brian Wilson, in February 2007: "There was a piece, I forget where, saying that Republicans think that the nomination of Hillary is inevitable. I don't think they believe that."

TNR's Jonathan Chait, in February 2007: "But is Clinton really the front-runner for the nomination? Only if you look about one inch deep. So before we cancel the primaries, it's worth exploring how this wisdom came into circulation."

So basically there were maybe a few examples of people suggesting she might be inevitable, and slightly more people ascribing that view to unnamed other people (who might or might not have existed or been willing to speak on the record).

And then came the New York Times's Adam Nagourney, in April 2007:

"For Senator Clinton, Democrat of New York, the situation is not so seemingly dire, but any hope she had of Democrats embracing her candidacy as inevitable has been dashed by the rise of Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, the continued strength of John Edwards of North Carolina, and obvious discomfort in some Democratic quarters of putting another Clinton

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in the White House."

That's right, as of April 2007, just two months after Obama launched his campaign, whatever inevitability bubble existed had pretty much burst. What would follow was a whole bunch of hand-wringing about how some of those people had declared the primary over way too early.

All despite the fact that there is very little evidence that those people were anything amounting to a chorus.

So to whatever extent the inevitability idea existed, it was gone by, well, right about this point in the race.

Now, it's fair to suggest that perhaps Team Clinton was a little too big for its britches early in the 2008 campaign. But that's generally what campaigns try to do at this point, through fundraising and other things.

And we're sure that's what it looked like from Axelrod's viewpoint. Whatever the case, it's pretty clear he's still hanging on to it.

Bloomberg falls for fake Nancy Reagan report [Hadas Gold, POLITICO, April 10, 2015]

Bloomberg Politics published a report about Nancy Reagan based off fake news site NationalReport.net

Bloomberg Politics published a report about Nancy Reagan based off of fake news site NationalReport.net

The piece, headlined "Nancy Reagan gives her endorsement to... Hillary Clinton," quoted a supposed "Drudge Report" saying that the former first lady told the History Channel series "First Ladies In Their Own Words" that it's time for a female president.

The problem is: Reagan never said such a thing in the series. The report seems to have come from NationalReport.net, a spoof news site that has tricked many a politician and news organization in the past. The piece was then posted to a website called DrudgeReport.com.co , which doesn't seem to be connected to the actual Drudge Report.

The piece, which was published just before 5 p.m. on Friday, was deleted within minutes.

We've reached out to a Bloomberg spokesperson for comment and will update here accordingly.

National Coverage - GOP

National Stories

Jeb Bush's Emails: Why Are So Many Key Episodes MIA? [Pema Levy & Sam Brodey, Mother Jones, April 10, 2015]

Bush's own published email archives reveal little about key episodes that occurred during his governorship.

When the New York Times revealed that Hillary Clinton used a private email address as secretary of state, GOP presidential candidate-in-waiting Jeb Bush pounced. "Transparency matters," he tweeted, linking to the archive of his own emails that he had made public a month earlier.

But Bush is hardly in a position to take potshots at Clinton over her emails. Like Clinton, he conducted government business using a personal email account (two of them, actually). He released only a portion of his correspondence from his time as governor of Florida. And it took Bush more than seven years to hand over his self-selected emails, as required under a Florida public records law.

Moreover, Bush's email archive, which includes more than 250,000 messages, has produced no piercing insights or major news stories about his gubernatorial stint. There are an immense number of emails from constituents weighing in on the issues of the day. But when it comes to the major issues of his governorship, there are—curiously—very few, if any, emails between Bush and his aides. This email archive is not easy to search. It is comprised of 248 separate files and is hardly user-friendly. But employing the most obvious search terms for key episodes that occurred during his governorship, as well as combing messages covering certain time periods, we mounted an extensive review of this gigantic collection of correspondence and looked for emails about the most important moments of Bush's eight years leading the Sunshine State.

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This search yielded little correspondence revealing Bush's actions and decisions regarding pivotal events. It turns out that what's most notable about Bush's email trove is what's not in it.

THE 2000 ELECTIONS

When the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore came down to Florida, Jeb Bush and Secretary of State Katherine Harris found themselves at the center of the political universe. Bush's email archive contains reams of messages that poured in from constituents during the controversial recount process, but there are barely any notes between Bush and his aides.

The day after the election—which ultimately took 36 days, several Florida court rulings, and a final intervention by the US Supreme Court to resolve—Bush officially recused himself from the election certification process. But an investigation by theLos Angeles Times found that Jeb Bush's office and top aides were in contact with his brother's legal team and other top members of George W. Bush's staff during the recount. Jeb officially handed the state's 25 electoral votes to his brother on November 26, while court battles over the recount were still underway, andindicated he would sign legislation to preempt the courts and give the election to his brother. But if Bush and his top aides were discussing these important decisions or communicating with George W. Bush's team, it does not show up in Jeb's email archive. The archive does include Jeb Bush's responses to a few constituents. When one emailed to ask Bush to certify the election, he responded: "I am doing what i can within the laws of our state."

ELIÁN GONZÁLEZ

On Thanksgiving Day 1999, five-year-old Elián González was rescued off the coast of Florida after fleeing Cuba in a small boat with his mother and other refugees. Elián's mother had drowned during the trip, setting off a months-long international custody battle between the child's relatives in Miami and his father in Cuba. In emails to constituents throughout the saga, Bush supported allowing state courts to adjudicate the issue; he opposed the Clinton administration's decision not to grant Elián asylum and denounced the federal raid in April 2000 that removed Elián from the custody of his Miami relatives. Yet internal deliberations about this high-profile matter between Bush and his staff are scarce in the email archive.

One email thread does show Bush looking for a way to intervene after the commissioner of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service announced that Elián should be returned to his father. On January 6, 2000, he forwarded a constituent email to his general counsel, Carol Licko, asking, "Carol, I think we should ask that ATTY General Reno overturn the INS decision and allow a custody proceeding take place in state court. We should do this manana. what do you think?" And that's about it for Bush emails on this dramatic subject.

Several media outlets have scoured Bush's email archive for clues about his actions during this episode. Beside his back-and-forths with constituents, they've turned up almost nothing.

VOTER PURGE, PART I

When Bush became governor in January 1999, the state was working on a project to purge felons from its voter rolls. Before Bush took office, the state had hired a company named Database Technologies Inc. (DBT) to cross-check criminal records against the state's 8.6 million registered voters. The list of about 100,000 supposed felons that DBT generated was deeply flawed; it included thousands of misdemeanor offenders and Floridians with no criminal records. It disproportionately singled out minorities, particularly African Americans.

At the urging of Florida officials after Bush took office in January 1999, DBT conducted an overly broad search for potential felons. "[W]e want to capture more names that possibly aren't matches and let [county election] supervisors make a final determination rather than exclude certain matches altogether," a lawyer at the Florida Division of Elections told the DBT project manager in March 1999, according to a 2001 investigation by the Los Angeles Times. The Times concluded that the flawed list could have affected the outcome of the 2000 election—which came down to just 537 votes—by disenfranchising more black voters, who largely vote Democratic.

A search of key terms, relevant officials names, and variations of key phrases such as "felon list" came up largely empty, except for news articles that were circulated around about the scandal.

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VOTER PURGE, PART II

In May 2004, another presidential election year, Jeb Bush's administration once again sought to purge its voter rolls of convicted felons. Owing to the previous controversy with DBT, the state Legislature decided that the Department of Elections should create its own list. Once again, the process was flawed. When the list became public in July 2004, a major error became readily apparent: Of the 48,000 people on the new purge list, 22,000 were African Americans but only 61 were Hispanic. African Americans vote heavily Democratic while Hispanics, at that time in Florida, largely voted Republican. This prompted speculation that Jeb Bush's administration was at best incompetent and at worst, playing politics with its purge list. Facing widespread criticism, it agreed not to use the list.

The Bush email archive holds little material on this major controversy, and we found no messages discussing how to deal with the issue or discover what went wrong. Only a few emails stood out on the voter purge issue. On August 19, 2003, Bush received an email from a county elections supervisor, Kay Clem, on voter purge efforts. "Talked to [Secretary of State] Glenda Hood about purging voter rolls today. She said she had just returned from a meeting with you and your staff," Clem wrote. A few hours later, Bush forwarded Clem's email to his chief of staff and Hood, writing, "we need to discuss." As the scandal was swirling in July of 2004, Bush noted to the CEO of Accenture, the outside consulting firm that developed the formula used for the purge, "we have issues regarding the felons voting list work that you company have done." There's not much else.

TERRI SCHIAVO

In 2003, Bush confronted one of the most contentious battles of his governorship: whether to allow Terri Schiavo to die after 13 years in a persistent vegetative state. Her husband, Michael, was fighting to take her off life support, while her parents were battling to keep her alive. Following a court order in September 2003, Schiavo's feeding tube was removed. Bush and the Republican Legislature in Florida responded by quickly enacting what was called "Terri's Law," which allowed the governor to overrule the courts with an executive order to reinsert her feeding tube. The Florida Supreme Court unanimously ruled Terri's Law unconstitutional in September 2004. Schiavo died on March 31, 2005, after all the legal options pursued by her parents, Bush, and Republicans in Washington and Florida had run out. An autopsy later confirmed that Schiavo had been completely brain dead with no chance of rehabilitation.

Bush's email archive contains thousands of Schiavo-related messages from people around the country, but this collection reveals little about Bush's decision making as a key player in one of the culture wars' biggest battles. There are a few emails of note, however. When Bush officially entered the legal battle in the fall of 2003, his administration hired attorney Ken Connor as the outside counsel on the case. The archive shows nothing about the decision to hire Connor, but Bush's aides did circulate "Ken Connor talking points" and his biography for Bush to use in media interviews. There are also emails from Bush's legal team throughout the years-long saga providing updates on the case.

After the Florida Supreme Court ruled against Terri's Law, the emails do show Bush and his aides looking for other legal avenues. On October 21, 2004, Bush forwarded to his general counsel an email from a constituent, who pleaded for Bush to take action. "We cannot open a criminal investigation? Are we sure that the statute of limitations applies?" Bush asked. No, his top lawyer replied: "for anything that happened to cause her current condition, S/L [statute of limitations] ran a long time ago." The general counsel also noted that even accusations of recent abuse against Michael Schiavo weren't enough to warrant state intervention in the case: "am looking into criminal penalties for abuse or exploitation as a vulnerable adult (within past 5 years or so), but law requires that it be referred to local law enforcement and local state attorney, neither of which have shown a disposition to do anything. have not found anything yet that bumps up to state law enforcement level, but still looking but we can't yet be out there announcing anything."

Despite this advice, Bush did use accusations of abuse to launch an unsuccessful, last-ditch effort to keep Terri Schiavo alive. The Schiavo case raised a host of vexing legal, policy, and political questions over nearly two years of Bush's term. But the email trail is rather thin.

MANATEES

The gentle manatee—the cuddly, blubbery sea cow—is beloved in Florida, where the creatures lull and graze in warm, shallow waterways. For decades, both Florida and the federal government listed manatees as endangered species. Jeb Bush, who has called the manatee his favorite mammal, pledged to protect the species when he took office. But manatees, often struck by boaters in Florida, continued to die by watercraft. Floridians were sharply divided over whether Bush was doing too much or not enough to help the manatees.

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To avoid what the New York Times said could become a campaign issue, the governor in 2001 requested that the US Fish and Wildlife Service delay federal mandates for manatee protection and hand the issue to the state. The agency agreed, a move that raised eyebrows in Florida among those who felt the governor's brother was doing him a political favor. A federal judge ultimately overturned the decision.

Bush's archive show manatees were a popular topic among constituents. But it contains no email exchanges between Bush and advisers on the question of federal involvement to protect manatees.

CYNTHIA HENDERSON

When he took office in January 1999, Bush appointed Cynthia Henderson—a Florida attorney and former Playboy bunny—to oversee the state agency in charge of business regulation. By December of that year, she faced investigations by the state's chief inspector general and state Ethics Commission for a host of allegations, including giving plum government jobs to friends. She was also accused of attending the Kentucky Derby on the dime of a restaurant business she regulated. The allegations against this appointee became a major headache for Bush.

In September 2000, Bush finally removed Henderson from her post, transferring her to the state's Department of Management Services; he denied that the ethics charges had anything to do with the shakeup.

Bush's email archive includes no correspondence between Bush and his aides regarding the politically explosive allegations levied against Henderson. But Bush did respond to constituents who were concerned with Henderson's alleged behavior. "If i felt that Cynthia was unethical or incompetent, I would ask her to leave. I don't believe that it is the case," he wrote to one constituent.

Jeb Bush backed background checks at gun shows [Benjy Sarlin, MSNBC, April 10, 2015]

Jeb Bush has previously supported instituting background checks.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee – After months defending his conservative bona fides on immigration and education, the National Rifle Association's annual meeting must have come as a relief to Republican Jeb Bush. He has plenty to brag about to Second Amendment groups: He earned an A+ rating from the NRA as Florida governor and signed the "stand your ground" law that gained national attention after the Trayvon Martin shooting.

"I've been in the trenches with you and when I was governor, we were passing laws and creating protections for gun owners that set the bar for other states to follow," Bush said in his speech on Friday. "I will match my record against anyone else's when it comes to the support and defense of the Second Amendment."

But on one issue that has since become a top cause for gun control advocates (and the enemy of groups like the NRA), Bush's policy choices may be out of step: background checks for gun purchases.

In 1998, then-candidate Bush backed a Florida law instituting background checks for firearms bought at gun shows, a type of purchase that is not covered under federal law. The issue was part of a broader fight with Democratic opponent Buddy MacKay, who backed a constitutional amendment to allow individual counties to institute their own background check and waiting period laws. MacKay ran ads at the time arguing Bush "sides with the gun lobby and opposes criminal background checks," perThe Miami Herald, a charge Bush rebutted to the local press by pointing to his support for a statewide law.

"A simple rule would simply say that anybody that buys a gun at a gun show should get an instant background check," Bush said in a debate. "And so you would take out the criminals."

MacKay lost, but the amendment authorizing counties to expand background checks passed via referendum in the same election with 72% of the vote.

At the time, background checks for private sales were less controversial in the GOP – even NRA leader Wayne LaPierre testified that he could support them in 1999.

Background checks became a partisan lightning rod after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut took the lives of 20 children and six adults, and President Obama urged Congress to pass a federal law closing the gun show loophole. LaPierre and the NRA lobbied hard against the proposal along with Senators Ted Cruz, Rand Paul

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and Marco Rubio – all likely 2016 candidates. The gun control measure ultimately failed.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee told msnbc as he shopped for a birthday gun for his wife at the NRA exhibition hall that he opposes the expanded background checks as well.

RELATED: Jeb Bush: All about that base

"I just have a real fear any time the government wants to get involved in the process of knowing who I am and why I have a firearm," he said. "There's too much history that gives me pause."

A spokeswoman for Bush, Kristy Campbell, did not directly answer a question on whether Bush still supports background checks at gun shows, but attested to his overall gun rights record.

"[As] demonstrated by his A+ rating from the NRA, Governor Bush's strong record on protecting and supporting second amendment rights is clear," Campbell told msnbc in an e-mail.

As LaPierre's past support for closing the gun show loophole indicates, Bush's position is a case of the political ground moving beneath his feet since he left office in early 2007, rather than a lurch to the left. But this is a phenomenon that could be a recurring issue for a presidential hopeful whose political rise, unlike almost every one of his expected rivals, took place entirely in the pre-Obama era of the party.

In South Florida, Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio are forcing locals to pick sides [Ed O'Keefe, WaPo, April 10, 2015]

With both Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio mounting presidential bids, Florida natives are forced to pick sides.

MIAMI — Marco Rubio was raised in West Miami and still lives just a few blocks south of "Calle Ocho," the famed boulevard where Cuban Americans often gather to protest the Castro brothers. The Florida senator's parents immigrated here from Cuba in the 1950s — a familiar history for many locals. His presidential bid will be announced Monday at the iconic Freedom Tower, which long served as an immigrant reception center.

About 12 minutes east is Coral Gables, where Jeb Bush lives. He came to South Florida in the 1980s to launch a real estate business and move his Mexican-born wife closer to her mother and sister. The couple raised three children, and Bush used his leadership of the local Republican Party to launch a political career that resulted in two terms as governor.

Never before in modern political history have two presidential candidates claimed the same hometown at the same time. But now Miami — better known for its beaches, its sports teams and as a hub of Latin American commerce and culture — is poised to become a major center of national Republican presidential politics.

Geographically and otherwise, Rubio and Bush represent different parts of Miami. The senator is a product of the city's powerful and tight-knit Cuban American community, which Rubio supporters believe will get behind his bid. Bush, the transplant, has moved a few times across the city, but now lives in a traditional upper-class enclave.

The rise of Bush and Rubio, whose political careers are inextricably linked, is a testament to the growing importance of Florida in presidential elections. Their bilingual and bicultural backgrounds will bring an urban feel to a race packed with rivals from rural states. Local Republicans say that both have what the GOP needs to win the White House.

"We're in a presidential love triangle," said Jessica Fernandez, president of the Miami Young Republicans. "Who doesn't want to be in a presidential love triangle?"

Some here are backing Bush out of personal allegiance to him or his family. They see Bush, 62, as a seasoned manager and like that he embraced his wife's Latino heritage. Others identify with Rubio's life story and admire how the 43-year-old senator has risen through the ranks so quickly.

"A South Florida Republican is in large part a Republican that's really significantly influenced in one way or another by the Bush experience," said Jorge Arrizurieta, a longtime Bush friend and donor. "To those who've been active Republicans, they've been inevitably exposed in one way or another to a Bush campaign of some sort."

The coming decision "marks a coming of age for South Florida — not only the politics, but the culture, the Pan-Americanism, the melting pot of sorts," said Armando Ibarra, another member of the Miami Young Republicans. "I like both

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of the candidates; Jeb was a great governor, Marco Rubio was a great senator. Personally, I just really believe in the transformational qualities of a Marco Rubio candidacy."

There is the possibility of a real Bush-vs.-Rubio battle in Florida next year. If both men run for president and perform well in early primary states, they would face off in Florida's winner-take-all primary in mid-March. They might be joined by other potential candidates who also live in the state. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee has a home near Destin in the state's Panhandle, and Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon and conservative activist, lives in West Palm Beach. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) might also enjoy support here because of his Cuban American heritage.

But the focus is on Bush and Rubio. Anticipating a brawl, the Tampa Bay Times has already dubbed its 2016 coverage "Jebio" — a combination of "Jeb" and "Rubio." Early polling gives Bush an edge over Rubio in a primary.

"It's a massive decision that I can't even begin to think about," said Nelson Diaz, chairman of the Miami-Dade County Republican Party, a position once held by Bush. "I can't imagine how difficult a decision it would be for some people."

Diaz met Rubio in 1996, when the future senator was running Bob Dole's presidential campaign in South Florida. At the time, some other guy named Rubio was running for local office. So as a joke, Diaz took the man's pink "Rubio" sign, cut it in half, took a "Bob Dole for President" sign, cut it in half and taped them together: The new sign read "Rubio for President." Sadly, he didn't keep it.

Jorge Luis Lopez, a Miami-area lobbyist, was one of the 200 Floridians who traveled with Bush to New Hampshire in 2000 to hand out oranges and campaign for his brother, George W. Bush. But Lopez is closer in age to Rubio and appreciates that the senator is drawing new, younger people into the process.

"The bulk of the people we're talking to, they're a different group," he said. "They're aware of politics, but not engaged, and this is an interesting opportunity for them to get engaged."

[In drive to be 45th president, Jeb Bush faces legacies of 43rd and 41st.]

As he prepares for his announcement, Rubio has been selling a chance to win tickets to his campaign kickoff for $3.05 — a tribute to Miami's 305 area code. At the start, Rubio is expected to divide his campaign operations between South Florida and Washington, where most of his top aides and their families reside, aides said.

Later this month, Jeb Bush will host his top fundraisers at a two-day conclave at the swanky 1 Hotel in South Beach. Once Bush announces, he's expected to open a campaign headquarters here. Top aides, including campaign manager-in-waiting David Kochel, are relocating to Miami in anticipation of a run.

In West Miami, Rubio's house is at the end of a cul-de-sac, where his large, gray Ford pickup truck sits in the driveway. He briefly put the home up for sale last year for nearly $696,000.

Rubio is a frequent customer at the CVS pharmacy a few blocks away, where signs in each aisle are printed in English and Spanish. "He comes all the time — weekends, during the week, with the kids, the wife," a shift manager said recently.

The pharmacy is on Calle Ocho (or "SW 8th St." on street signs) amid locally owned print shops, medical clinics and tax accountants whose signs urge customers to "Preparé los taxes aquí." When his top aides are in town, they like eating at La Palma Cafeteria, one of several family-owned Cuban restaurants in the neighborhood.

Much of Rubio's free time is absorbed by a devotion to football and the Miami Dolphins. He's been a devout fan since the age of 6, when he started developing an encyclopedic understanding of the game. Colleagues gifted him two years of Dolphins season tickets when he left the Florida House in 2008. He still attends games with his children.

[From 2011: Marco Rubio's compelling family story embellishes facts]

Bush's home is on a tree-lined street, just a few blocks from buildings housing the regional offices of HBO, Bacardi and Del Monte produce. Bush and his wife, Columba, are fans of a nearby restaurant, Talavera, which serves meals inspired by Mexican street markets and some of Mexico City's top restaurants.

Until recently, Bush shared an office with his son, Jeb Bush Jr., at the luxurious Biltmore Hotel, where they based their investment company. The father and son often play golf together on the hotel's course on Sunday mornings.

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He drives a Ford Fusion hybrid and recently told a crowd in Iowa last month that he shops at a Publix supermarket near his home for “Iowa beef.” During a recent visit to the store, workers behind the deli counter conversed with customers in English and Spanish. In the back aisle, meat and poultry are labeled in both languages — but there is no sign that the beef comes from Iowa.

A few blocks away is the Church of the Little Flower, one of the region’s oldest Catholic parishes. The Bushes are members.

On Sundays, Bush “is like clockwork, he comes in about five minutes beforehand, he gets his seat in a certain spot in our church and does what everybody else does,” said the pastor, the Rev. Michael W. Davis.

Rubio also has ties to the church. It was where he married his wife, Jeanette, in 1998. The couple and their four young children regularly attend Christ Fellowship, a local evangelical church. But they attend services at Little Flower around the holidays, Davis said.

Ninoska Pérez Castellón, a talk-show host on the local “Radio Mambi,” remembers meeting Bush in the 1980s when she used to lead marches protesting the Castro regime. Despite not being Cuban or originally from Miami, “he really felt like these were his people,” she said.

Rubio has been a frequent guest on Pérez’s weekday show, and she said her audience feels a personal bond with him.

“One time he came by and was late,” she recalled. “He showed up and said, ‘I’m sorry I’m late, but you know how it is. The kids . . . and the washing machine broke.” Within minutes, “we had 22 calls from people who repair washers calling, saying that they wanted to repair his washer,” she said.

Secret Money Group Tied to Marco Rubio Super PAC Has Been Researching Presidential Primary Voters [Scott Bland, National Journal, April 10, 2015]

A secret-money group linked to Marco Rubio's new super PAC has existed for over a year, during which time it commissioned extensive research on early-state primary voters.

April 10, 2015 A secret-money group linked to Marco Rubio's new super PAC has existed for over a year, during which time it commissioned extensive research on early-state primary voters.

The nonprofit—whose existence has never been revealed and whose name matches the recently announced pro-Rubio super PAC—commissioned a minutely detailed, 270-page political research book on early-state primary voters last year, and the report was prepared by a firm on Rubio's own political payroll.

The research contains a trove of information on voter demographics and policy positions in states that, at the time of its publication, were expected to host the first five nominating contests of the 2016 Republican presidential primaries: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada, and Florida.

Political data this detailed is often expensive to produce, and closely guarded. But nonprofits and other outside groups are not allowed to coordinate with campaigns, and by posting the research publicly, the group has made its findings available free of charge to Rubio or anyone else who might want to use it.

The report was prepared for a nonprofit, called Conservative Solutions Project Inc., which was incorporated in Delaware in January 2014, according to state records. Just this week, Rubio allies publicized a super PAC that will support Rubio for president next year. It is called Conservative Solutions PAC. While the super PAC will have to disclose its donors and expenses regularly, nonprofits do not have to disclose donors.

"Absolutely, the two groups are related," Conservative Solutions PAC spokesman Jeff Sadosky told National Journal Friday. "But they are separate and distinct entities. One is focused on supporting Marco Rubio's potential presidential campaign, and one is focused on issue education."

Sadosky said the nonprofit was established by Warren Tompkins, who is also heading the super PAC, as well as fellow Republican operatives Joel McElhannon and Pat Shortridge. The research was published publicly, Sadosky said, to "make sure everyone's advocating and communicating, as effectively as possible, the conservative ideals Conservative Solutions Project wants to push forward."

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According to the report cover, the research book was drafted by 0ptimus Consulting, a Republican data analytics firm that started working for Rubio's leadership PAC in 2013. Rubio's PAC paid 0ptimus $200,000 in 2013 and 2014 for data and analytics consulting, according to federal campaign finance disclosures. The report was published in December 2014 and is available on Conservative Solutions Project's website. It is also on the 0ptimus website, where a description says it was produced "in conjunction with the Conservative Solutions PAC," though the report itself is branded with the nonprofit's name.

Elements of the book seem tailor-made to aid a Rubio presidential campaign in particular (if, as expected, he announces Monday that he will run for the 2016 Republican nomination). In addition to exhaustive breakdowns of voter attributes and historical data in the five states, the research includes detailed findings about voters' views on issues like immigration reform—which Rubio championed in the Senate in 2013—as well a muscular, Rubio-style foreign policy.

The report goes into particular detail on how voters in Iowa, the first caucus state, view immigration reform. Rubio's sponsorship of bipartisan immigration reform legislation in the Senate two years ago damaged his standing with some conservatives. The research showed Iowans overall, but not Iowa Republicans, supporting immigration reform.

In Florida, the research found that Republican primary voters were supportive of the idea "the future success or failure of the party" depended on performance with Hispanic voters—an argument echoed by Rubio advisers like pollster Whit Ayres, who recently argued that Rubio could be "transformational" in expanding the GOP's appeal. The report showed Republican primary voters accepted the premise at about the same rate as the general population.

Forming nonprofit outside groups, which don't have to disclose donations, is a growing trend in presidential politics. The nonprofits, which often have similar names to affiliated super PACs, cannot spend all their money on political purposes, but they can work hand-in-hand with super PACs and other outside groups on things from policy research to airing their own "issue ads" on TV. Last month, the Washington Post reported an ally of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush established a nonprofit, Right to Rise Policy Solutions, to back a potential Bush campaign—along with Bush's Right to Rise PAC and Right to Rise Super PAC.

"The reality is there are now ways to fund activity that's very helpful to candidates and do so on a secret basis so no one knows who's funding it, no one knows it's happening until much later, and types of money can be used that could not otherwise be used in an election," said Campaign Legal Center President Trevor Potter, a former chair of the Federal Election Commission and Republican election attorney.

Alex Conant, a spokesman for Rubio, and Scott Tranter, a partner with 0ptimus, did not respond to questions about the nonprofit and its links to Rubio's political operation.

"In sum, the three sections of this report provide unique data, original insights, and wide-ranging analysis of the American electorate that should provide a valuable educational resource of interest to many," the report's introduction reads.

The only known donor to Conservative Solutions Project is a political group: Super PAC for America, an organization once led by Michael Reagan and Dick Morris that raised and spent millions of dollars in the 2010 and 2012 elections but spent down its remaining money last year. The super PAC's campaign finance reports include a $10,000 donation to Conservative Solutions Project in June 2014.

In late 2014, commenters on online forums made note of robocalls from a Las Vegas-based number asking respondents to complete a survey for "Conservative Solutions Project." A Nevada politics blogger wrote that in addition to the policy question, the call also asked for opinions about potential presidential candidates, including Rubio. The Conservative Solutions Project report does not include any findings about individual politicians.

Hedge-Fund Magnate Robert Mercer Emerges as a Generous Backer of Cruz [Eric Lichtblau & Alexandra Stevenson, NYT, April 10, 2015]

Hedge-fund titan Robert Mercer has emerged as a top donor and supporter of Ted Cruz.

WASHINGTON — The two men share a passion for unbridled markets, concerns about the Internal Revenue Service and a skeptical view of climate change.

Now the two — Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, and Robert Mercer, a Wall Street hedge-fund magnate — share another bond that could link them through November 2016: Both want to see Mr. Cruz elected president.

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Mr. Mercer, a reclusive Long Islander who started at I.B.M. and made his fortune using computer patterns to outsmart the stock market, emerged this week as a key early bankroller of Mr. Cruz's surprisingly fast campaign start. He is believed to be the main donor behind a network of four "super PACs" supporting Mr. Cruz that reported raising $31 million just a few weeks into his campaign.

The emergence of rich and relatively low-profile donors like Mr. Mercer could single-handedly jump-start a presidential campaign, said Trevor Potter, a campaign finance lawyer who served as a Republican member of the Federal Election Commission.

"It just takes a random billionaire to change a race and maybe change the country," Mr. Potter said. "That's what's so radically different now."

Mr. Mercer does not have the name recognition of fellow Republican financiers like the Koch brothers or Sheldon Adelson, but he has spent more than $15 million since 2012 in support of conservative political campaigns and causes, donating to a number of candidates who had never even met him. Both moderate Republican candidates and Democrats in states like Iowa, New York and Oregon have found themselves in the cross hairs of expensive attack ads that he financed.

Mr. Mercer "is a very low-profile guy, but he's becoming a bigger and bigger player," said Bradley A. Smith, a campaign finance expert who was a Republican appointee on the Federal Election Commission. Mr. Mercer's financial support for Mr. Cruz "sends the message to other donors that Cruz is a serious guy," Mr. Smith said, "and that brings in other donors."

Rep. Peter DeFazio, Democrat of Oregon, remembers with some bitterness Mr. Mercer's opposition to his re-election campaign in 2014 when he spent about $650,000 on attack ads and other efforts in support of a conservative challenger.

"I don't think the guy had ever even been to Oregon," Mr. DeFazio said. He said he believed Mr. Mercer targeted him in part because of legislation Mr. DeFazio sponsored that threatened higher taxes for hedge funds like Mr. Mercer's fund, Renaissance Technologies.

"He's a patron for ultra-right-wing causes," Mr. DeFazio said, "and in a Republican presidential race, being an ultra-right-wing millionaire from Wall Street isn't going to hurt you."

He is also an example of how wealthy donors have been empowered by the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in the landmark Citizens United case, which paved the way for super PACs. Unlike candidates, super PACs can accept unlimited amounts of money from individuals and corporations to support a candidate so long as they do not officially "coordinate" with the campaign. Many moneyed Wall Street veterans enjoy playing the political game, hosting fund-raisers and speaking publicly about the horse they are backing. Mr. Mercer is not one of them. A computer scientist by training, he is more at ease crunching numbers than pressing the flesh. Mr. Mercer declined to comment.

He prefers to stay quiet about most things. After receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Association for Computational Linguistics at an event last year, Mr. Mercer told the audience he was daunted by the prospect of speaking there for an hour, "which, by the way, is more than I typically talk in a month so it's quite a challenge."

Intensely private, he has been described as "an icy cold poker player" whose boss once jokingly called him "an automaton," according to a description in "More Money Than God," a book about the hedge fund industry by Sebastian Mallaby.

Before joining Renaissance Technologies, Mr. Mercer, 68, worked at I.B.M.'s research center, where he specialized in computerized translation of languages.

While little of his private life has been made public, some details have emerged in recent court cases. In 2013, a group of former workers at his house sued him for not paying overtime. They also accused him of deducting money from their semi-annual bonuses as a form of punishment for, among other things, failing to replace shampoos, close doors and change razor blades. "The matter has been resolved amicably," Troy L. Kessler, a lawyer for the employees, said.

In 2009, Mr. Mercer sued RailDreams, a toy train manufacturer, and its president, Richard Taylor, for overcharging him $2 million for a contract to build and install a model train and railway set at his home.

Mr. Mercer has said nothing publicly about his financial backing for Mr. Cruz's campaign or how he came to support him. But his daughter, Rebekah Mercer, who started a bakery in Manhattan called Ruby et Violette, has been more vocal. This week she held a fund-raiser for Mr. Cruz at her Manhattan apartment.

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When James H. Simons, the billionaire founder of the Renaissance hedge fund, hired Mr. Mercer in 1993, the company was more university campus than Wall Street firm. Mr. Simons, a mathematician and former code-breaker for the National Security Agency, brought in astronomers and physicists to analyze reams of data, using computer programs to search for patterns that could be used to inform trading decisions. Mr. Simons has been a major political backer of Democrats, donating $8.3 million in 2014.

The hedge fund's strategy has been tremendously successful. The firm's flagship Medallion fund, which manages money only for employees today, has earned average annual returns of 35 percent for two decades. Over all, the firm manages $25 billion, much of it employees' money.

Renaissance was also able to increase returns by borrowing large sums of money, but the practice eventually caught the attention of Washington and government agencies. Last year the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations accused Renaissance of using complex financial structures that allowed it to underestimate how much it owed the Internal Revenue Service by $6 billion.

Taxpayers "had to shoulder the tax burden these hedge funds shrugged off with the aid of the banks," Senator Carl Levin of Michigan said at a hearing last summer.

The I.R.S. has been investigating Renaissance for at least six years. A spokesman for the firm said its tax practices were legal and appropriate.

Mr. Cruz's campaign did not respond to a request for comment about Mr. Mercer's support for his candidacy or his hedge fund's $6 billion tax issue.

But the candidate, like his new Wall Street backer, has his own concerns about the I.R.S., which might have gotten Mr. Mercer's attention. Last month, he called for the agency to be abolished altogether.

As Scott Walker addresses NRA, concealed carry shifts surface [Matthew DeFour, Wisconsin State Journal, April 10, 2015]

Gov. Scott Walker was for permitting concealed carry of handguns before he was against it -- until he was for it again.

Gov. Scott Walker was for permitting concealed carry of handguns before he was against it -- until he was for it again.

Walker's shifting position on the law he championed, but also voted against in 2002 as he ran for Milwaukee County executive, surfaced Friday as he was set to address a National Rifle Association convention in Nashville.

The likely 2016 presidential contender has come under fire for shifting his position on various issues, including immigration, right-to-work, abortion, ethanol subsidies and the Common Core education standards.

"Add concealed carry to the list of issues Walker has changed his position on just to benefit himself," said Jason Pitt, a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee. "If we've learned anything from Scott Walker over the past few months it's that his constant pandering on issues has defined him as one of the least trustworthy candidates among the 2016 GOP field."

A spokeswoman for Walker's political nonprofit did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In 1999, Walker cosponsored a concealed carry law as a member of the state Assembly. But in 2002, he voted against a similar bill that passed the Assembly. It died in the Democrat-controlled Senate. Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle, who was elected that same year, vetoed subsequent iterations of the bill.

Walker signed the law in 2011 after it won bipartisan support in the Republican-controlled Assembly and Senate.

His support for concealed carry has been a constant theme in his speeches to Republican activists across the country, starting at the Iowa Freedom Summit in late January.

At the Conservative Political Action Conference he told NRA News Network that he supports eliminating a 48-hour waiting period for handgun purchases.

"We've been the leader when it comes to freedom over the last four years," Walker told NRA News in highlighting the

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concealed carry law.

Walker is scheduled to speak at about 1:30 p.m. CDT. Also on the program are nine other potential presidential candidates, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who is running for president, and Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, a Democrat who has been building a national profile in conservative circles as a stalwart second amendment supporter.

Liberal group One Wisconsin Now highlighted Walker's stands on concealed carry Friday.

"At that time he thought that concealed carry did not play well in Milwaukee County, so he voted against it for that short-term gain," Scot Ross, OWN's executive director, said of Walker's earlier opposition.

The Best Reason to Take Rand Paul Seriously Has Nothing to Do With His Politics [Jim Rutenberg, NYT Magazine, April 10, 2015]

It's the boring details of the organization that Paul is building that provide the best reason to take him seriously. If Paul's views are unusually idealistic, the ground game that his team is planning is pure realpolitik. His staff is focused on the delegate math and party rules that could determine the next Republican nominee — a game-theory style of presidential politics at which the Paul team is particularly adept.

Although Rand Paul — who declared his bid for the presidency on Tuesday — has spent several years now inching toward the Republican mainstream, there is still a tendency among the political classes to view him as a sideshow candidate. The crankiness of his announcement-week interviews certainly suggests that he's still getting a handle on retail politics. And though his policy views — calls for more rational sentencing guidelines, a less intrusive national-security apparatus and a restrained foreign policy — give him potential appeal with young, minority and libertarian-leaning voters, they also make him an outlier in the field of declared or likely Republican contenders.

Paul's (relative) unorthodoxy makes him that rare candidate whose policy views draw gobs of media attention: He's teaming up with Democrats to scale back mandatory-minimum drug sentencing and likens the war on drugs to Jim Crow? (The same Rand Paul who once said he opposed parts of the Civil Rights Act?) He's in the same party as Senator John McCain, and yet he opposed arming the Syrian rebels?

But in fact, it's the boring details of the organization that Paul is building that provide the best reason to take him seriously. If Paul's views are unusually idealistic, the ground game that his team is planning is pure realpolitik. His staff is focused on the delegate math and party rules that could determine the next Republican nominee — a game-theory style of presidential politics at which the Paul team is particularly adept.

The process by which presidential candidates are nominated is, at its most basic level, a race toward a magic number of party delegates — in the Republican Party's case, 1,235 required to win — amassed state by state and, in some cases, congressional district by congressional district. Getting them depends not only on the speechifying, door-to-door vote-hunting and million-dollar ad buys we associate with campaigning, but also on a bewildering array of procedural minutia: obscure national bylaws that overlay a mind-bending patchwork of local rules that can vary drastically from state to state, some of which award delegates not based on votes received in primary elections but on back-room wrangling at local party conventions and meetings that take place weeks or even months after votes are cast.

You would think that mastering these arcana would be a priority for campaigns, given their importance. But even the best-funded, most-inevitable-seeming candidates mess them up all the time — and long-shot candidacies have been made, or at least sustained, by getting them right. Barack Obama's Democratic primary victory in 2008 came in large part because his strategists understood the way delegates were being doled out state by state — even to the losing candidate, based on his or her share of the vote — better than Hillary Rodham Clinton's team did.

In 2012, Rick Santorum employed a novel strategy of focusing his resources only on states where he stood to gain the most delegates. He left other states uncontested and later tried to steal delegates from Mitt Romney in states where delegates were awarded at the state and local conventions and caucuses. It wasn't enough to take him to the general election, but it propelled a remarkable run as the primaries' pre-eminent spoiler — he kept Romney fighting for the nomination until April — by a candidate whom few took seriously at first.

Santorum is expected to make another run in 2016 — but unfortunately for him, two of the main strategists who worked for him in 2012 are now working for Paul. One of them, Mike Biundo, was Santorum's campaign manager and co-piloted his cross-country hopscotching strategy. The other strategist, Paul's national political director, John Yob, was part of Santorum's later-stage delegate-hunting efforts. (Santorum's chief strategist, John Brabender, told me this week that if

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Santorum runs, he will be just fine without Biundo and Yob and will build a "more sophisticated" operation than the one he had four years ago). With Santorum, Biundo and Yob learned the rules and the ins and outs of the electoral map in a way few others had. Only one campaign knew them still better: Ron Paul's.

The elder Paul's team first showed that it knew its way around the primary rules in 2008, when it took McCain's campaign by surprise by showing up in force at state conventions to push the election of Paul-friendly convention delegates long after McCain thought he had vanquished all of his Republican rivals. "We weren't ready for the intensity and organization they put together," Ryan Price, a McCain national deputy political director who helped run his delegate strategy that year, told me.

The McCain team — on which Yob served as a political director — was able to keep the damage from Paul's efforts to a minimum. Mitt Romney had less luck in 2012, when the Paulites used the knowledge they had gained from 2008 to win a plurality of delegates in several states long after their primaries and caucuses — none of which Paul actually won — were over. "They were very sophisticated about the chess match," says Katie Packer Gage, Romney's 2012 deputy campaign manager. "They definitely caused a lot of headaches." As I wrote last month, Paul's success prompted party leaders to enact new rules to discourage candidates from repeating his insurrection, which Rand Paul's team is scrutinizing now in hopes of figuring out how to work around them.

Ron Paul, of course, never came close to winning the nomination. But if his son can mount a bigger, more credible campaign than that of his father, as he is expected to do, he could use the same apparatus and approach to expertly navigate the rules and cause more than just headaches. "If they can bring all of that with them, then it would be very, very beneficial," Gage told me. But she added a caveat: "I just wouldn't make the assumption that his team is going to have it just because his dad's team had it."

The family legacy is mixed for Rand Paul. His team does have several veterans of the Ron Paul campaigns, starting with the candidate himself; Ron Paul's Iowa vice chairman, A. J. Spiker; and Ron Paul's former campaign manager — and grandson-in-law — Jesse Benton (though Benton is heading to a Paul-supporting "super PAC" and, once that happens, will have to cease direct contact with the official campaign under federal elections law). But as Paul seeks to build a broader base than his father had, he is alienating some of the hard-core, grass-roots Ron Paul loyalists — the same people who were so galvanized by his father's candidacy that they mastered the minutiae of their state party rules and infiltrated local Republican committees on his behalf.

And all of the Paul team's savvy at counting delegates and working state rules will only take him so far if another candidate — a Jeb Bush, say, or a Scott Walker — builds early momentum and wins a series of primaries out of the gate. A truly inevitable candidate does not need to worry about the small stuff or try to game the rules. Great victories bring great caches of delegates.

But in a close-fought, state-by-state contest between two or more competitive candidates, the campaign that best understands the intricacies of delegate allotment will have a real edge — and at this point, that campaign is almost certainly Paul's. Like Obama in 2008, Paul is a first-term senator who, aware of his underdog status, is spending the campaign's early days planning for all the scenarios it can envision.

When I asked Yob — a second-generation Michigan Republican who knows better than to show any kinship with Obama — about the parallels, he laughed off the question. "We are simultaneously building early-state organizations that are the strongest in the field while also preparing for the possibility of a nominating process that extends to the caucuses and state conventions, where convention delegates will ultimately be selected," he told me. "It is safe to say, I like our chances in caucus systems and conventions across the country."

Correction: April 10, 2015

An earlier version of this article misidentified the position Ryan Price held when he worked on John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. He was the national deputy political director, not deputy campaign manager.

National Blogs

Jeb Bush hires two new foreign policy advisers [Ed O'Keefe, WaPo, April 10, 2015]

Bush has tapped Robert S. Karem and John Noonan to join his growing policy shop, according to aides familiar with the hires.

As Jeb Bush inches closer to running for president, he's hired two new advisers to help develop his foreign policy agenda.

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Bush has tapped Robert S. Karem and John Noonan to join his growing policy shop, according to aides familiar with the hires.

Most recently, Karem was a top policy adviser to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.). He also worked for former vice president Dick Cheney as a researcher on his memoir and as a member of his national security staff.

Noonan is leaving his role as spokesman for the House Armed Services Committee, and once advised Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign on defense policy.

Aides said that Karem and Noonan are expected to help Bush track world affairs on a daily basis and work with him on his foreign policy agenda. They'll work alongside Justin Muzinich, who will serve as Bush's policy chief should he launch a formal campaign, as expected. Muzinich is a former New York-based investment firm manager.

One of the most sensitive tasks Karem and Noonan are expected to tackle is facilitating conversations with Bush's 21-member advisory team of veteran GOP foreign policy experts.

The team, which he unveiled in February, reflects a broad cross-section of GOP thinking, including two former secretaries of state, George Shultz and James Baker; two former CIA directors, Porter Goss and Michael Hayden; former attorney general Michael Mukasey and Paul Wolfowitz, a former deputy defense secretary and lead architect of the Iraq war.

There are no current plans for the group to ever formally meet in person with Bush -- such a gathering might be too awkward given the members' intensely differing views. And given his early fundraising prowess, his standing in early public opinion polls and his family history, it's no surprise that jockeying to advise Bush has been intense, according to some people familiar with the process.

The Wall Street Journal reported this week that an early casualty of the jockeying was Elbridge Colby, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security, who was being considered as one of Bush's foreign policy aides.

But Colby said in an e-mail to The Post that he was never formally offered the job.

Bush aides strongly disputed the reports of infighting and said that Bush welcomes the group's differing views on the world, and that he's been interacting with the experts frequently via e-mail as he develops a broader understanding of foreign affairs.

How Rand Paul Can Get Better at Interviews [Alan Rappeport, NYT First Draft, April 10, 2015]

Sen. Rand Paul has given several interviews recently over which his temperament has been called into question.

Senator Rand Paul’s penchant for prickly interviews has ruffled feathers during his first week as a presidential candidate, leaving some wondering if this is a deliberate strategy or just a hot temper.

After a contentious back and forth with NBC’s Savannah Guthrie this week, and the “shush” of a female CNBC anchor in February, Mr. Paul said on Thursday that he is an “equal opportunity” curmudgeon when it comes to losing his patience with the media.

Seeming to prove that point, Mr. Paul walked away during an interview on Friday with a male reporter from The Guardian when pressed for specifics on the issue of criminal justice.

As Mr. Paul is likely to do many more interviews as he seeks the Republican nomination, First Draft checked in with a media coach to see how the Kentucky senator can improve.

“The advice I would give to him is to always remember the interview is not with the reporter,” said Brad Phillips, president of Phillips Media Relations. “The reporter is the conduit to the audience you want to reach out to.”

Mr. Phillips said candidates and politicians can be successful with an aggressive approach toward the media until it begins to erode their likability. Taking a “happy warrior” approach, smiling more and giving off a warmer vibe, Mr. Phillips said, would behoove Mr. Paul as voters start to pay more attention.

“If somebody who gives the perception as being peevish were to get the nomination, the historical trend makes clear that

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person would be running at a disadvantage," he said.

Trying to cool perceptions about Mr. Paul's temper, his team said on Friday that they did not turn off the lights on his interview with The Guardian. And to prove that Mr. Paul has nothing against female journalists, his aides made sure to say he was rushing to do an interview with Dana Bash of CNN.

Ted Cruz: 'Jihad' Was Waged Against Religious Freedom Bills [Daniel Strauss, TPM, April 10, 2015]

Sen. Ted Cruz argued that opponents of a pair of controversial religious freedom laws had been waging a jihad against those proposals.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) argued that opponents of a pair of controversial religious freedom laws had been waging a jihad against those proposals.

"We look at the jihad that is being waged right now in Indiana and Arkansas going after people of faith who respect the biblical teaching that marriage is the union of one man and one woman," Cruz said during a panel moderated by conservative radio host Steve Deace on Thursday. "We need to bring people together to the religious liberty values that built this country."

Cruz's comments come after Indiana Gov. Mike Pence (R) was forced to clarify a controversial religious freedom law aimed at allowing businesses to refuse to serve same-sex individuals based on religious objections. Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchison (R), sent similar legislation back to his state's legislature in response to national criticism as well.

Cruz, and most of the likely 2016 Republican presidential candidates, have expressed strong support for both laws. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) recently threw his support behind similar legislation that in certain ways is broader than the Indiana or Arkansas bills.

Cruz added that "it wasn't long ago when this was an area of bipartisan agreement."

Marco Rubio Assails Obama but Not Clinton at N.R.A. Forum [Nick Corasaniti, NYT First Draft, April 10, 2015]

Marco Rubio did not mention Hillary Clinton in his speech at the NRA convention.

N.R.A. Rating: A

Guns owned: One

Bull's-Eye: Mr. Rubio criticized President Obama for what he saw as a lackluster response to the attacks on Charlie Hebdo in Paris. "Mr. President, if condemning that puts us on a high horse, I suggest we saddle up," Mr. Rubio said, as the crowd rose to its feet.

Misfire: The crowd gave a hesitant response to Mr. Rubio's mention of legislation he introduced that would keep local officials in Washington from enacting gun laws, which has not received much attention.

"Cold Dead Hands" Moment: None, really.

Other Ammo: Mr. Rubio criticized Mr. Obama for his response to the Paris attacks, the president's "line in the sand" comments on Syria and what he perceived to be a "weak" American foreign policy.

Cross Hairs: He focused entirely on Mr. Obama and did not mention Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Pump Action: Mr. Rubio drew laughter for jokes about Mr. Obama's golf game and his State of the Union water bottle moment.

Big National News

National Stories

White House: Iran deal requires phased sanctions removal [Jim Kuhnhenn, WaPo, April 10, 2015]
President Obama's Foreign Policy advisor, Ben Rhodes, has pushed back on the notion that demands for the immediate

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suspension of sanctions has imperiled the potential deal.

PANAMA CITY — The White House pushed back Friday against declarations from Iran's leaders that any nuclear deal must include an immediate lifting of sanctions, indicating President Barack Obama will walk away from negotiations unless sanctions are removed over time.

Obama foreign policy adviser Ben Rhodes portrayed the tough stance by Supreme Leader Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani as a reflection of internal pressures from Iran hardliners and said the development doesn't mean a final agreement is unattainable. But Rhodes pointed out the framework agreement that Iran and the six powers reached last week to curb Tehran's nuclear activities allows for sanctions to be removed over time, not at once.

"It's very clear and understood that sanctions relief will be phased," Rhodes told reporters traveling with Obama in Panama for the Summit of the Americas. "The fact of the matter is, we have framework. The president has said if the details don't bear out, we won't have a deal."

In his first comments on the framework, Khamenei told a gathering of religious poets on Thursday that he "is neither for nor against" it. But he said the punitive "sanctions should be lifted completely, on the very day of the deal." He said because the agreement was only the framework and not the accord itself, "nothing has been done yet."

The deadline for a final deal is June 30.

Rouhani, a relative moderate, sent the same message during a ceremony Thursday marking Iran's nuclear technology day, which celebrates the country's atomic achievements.

"We will not sign any agreement unless all economic sanctions are totally lifted on the first day of the implementation of the deal," Rouhani said.

Rhodes said Khamenei and Rouhani had to deal with internal politics, but that their statements should not be taken as a test of what the final deal will look like.

"They have their own hardliners who are skeptical of this deal," Rhodes said. "The test of whether or not that framework can be memorialized is not a comment on any given day by an Iranian leader, the test will be if by the end of June we have a document."

The framework says sanctions put in place over Iran's nuclear program will be suspended once international monitors verify that Tehran is abiding by the limitations spelled out in the agreement. Rhodes said the International Atomic Energy Agency will have to inspect military sites.

An essential part of the deal, he said, is "having the IAEA ability to inspect suspicious sites, no matter where they are."

The West has long feared Iran's nuclear program could allow it to build an atomic bomb and that Tehran has used uranium enrichment — the key point of contention in the negotiations — to pursue nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charge, saying its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, such as power generation and cancer treatment.

New Sea Drilling Rule Planned, 5 Years After BP Oil Spill [Coral Davenport, NYT, April 10, 2015]

The Obama administration is planning to impose a major new regulation on offshore oil and gas drilling to try to prevent the kind of explosions that caused the catastrophic BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, administration officials said Friday.

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is planning to impose a major new regulation on offshore oil and gas drilling to try to prevent the kind of explosions that caused the catastrophic BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, administration officials said Friday.

The announcement of the Interior Department regulation, which could be made as soon as Monday, is timed to coincide with the five-year anniversary of the disaster, which killed 11 men and sent millions of barrels of oil spewing into the gulf. The regulation is being introduced as the Obama administration is taking steps to open up vast new areas of federal waters off the southeast Atlantic Coast to drilling, a decision that has infuriated environmentalists.

The rule is expected to tighten safety requirements on blowout preventers, the industry-standard devices that are the last line of protection to stop explosions in undersea oil and gas wells. The explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on April 20, 2010, was caused in part when the buckling of a section of drill pipe led to the malfunction of a supposedly fail-safe blowout preventer on a BP well called Macondo.

It will be the third and biggest new drilling-equipment regulation put forth by the Obama administration in response to the disaster. In 2010, the Interior Department announced new regulations on drilling well casings, and in 2012, it announced new regulations on the cementing of wells.

The latest regulation, a result of several years of study, will be imposed on all future offshore drilling equipment and will be used by the administration to make the case that it can prevent a BP-like disaster as oil exploration expands in the Atlantic. The Interior Department is also reviewing a proposal from Royal Dutch Shell to drill in the Arctic's Chukchi Sea, off the coast of Alaska.

"We're coming on five years, and we've been working tirelessly in the regulation division since it happened," said Allyson

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Anderson, associate director of strategic engagement in the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. "We've doubled down on building a culture of safety,"

But environmentalists remained highly skeptical.

"Making sure the design, operation and maintenance of the blowout preventer is the best it can possibly be is imperative, no question," said Bob Deans, a spokesman for the Natural Resources Defense Council and co-author of the book "In Deep Water," an investigation of the cause of the spill. "Industry and government have taken measures over the past five years to reduce some of the risk in what is an inherently dangerous operation at sea. That's a far cry from saying it's safe. And the last thing we need is to expose Atlantic or Arctic waters to a BP-style blowout."

Environmentalists also noted that a panel appointed by President Obama to investigate the spill concluded that the chief cause of the disaster, which left the Gulf Coast soaked in black tar, was not the blowout preventer but a broad systemic failure of oversight by the companies involved in drilling the well and the government regulators assigned to police them.

Five years after the spill, the number of accidents and injuries per oil-producing well has increased, according to Interior Department statistics. Between 2009 and 2014, the overall number of oil- and gas-producing wells dropped about 20 percent, and accidents and incidents associated with drilling in the Gulf of Mexico dropped 14 percent. But during that period, accidents and injuries per producing well increased by about 7 percent.

A report last year by the Chemical Safety Board concluded that the blowout preventer's blind shear ram, an emergency hydraulic device with two cutting blades, punctured the pipe and sent oil and gas gushing to the surface. The study found that the drill pipe had buckled under the tremendous pressure of the oil and gas rising from the well from the initial blowout.

That report warned that another disastrous offshore oil well blowout could happen despite regulatory improvements in the four years since the BP well explosion.

"The new regulation is important," said William K. Reilly, a co-chairman of the presidential panel that investigated the spill, and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under the first President George Bush. "The signal from the department that it is attending to each of the systems is more important. The blowout preventer is the last-ditch preventer. It was activated too late in Macondo. If you get to the point where it's all you've got, it better be good. But the system process we identified — attention to management, process design, adherence to the system — those are really vital long before you ever get to the point where you have an emergency."

Mr. Reilly blamed Congress for some of the continued systemic problems, saying that lawmakers should have appropriated funds to increase programs for safety training and inspection.

Administration officials say that since the spill, the Interior Department has initiated the most aggressive and comprehensive offshore oil and gas regulation and oversight in history. The agency has nearly doubled the number of safety inspectors in the Gulf of Mexico, from 55 at the time of the spill to 92 today. After the accident, the Interior Department was restructured, separating the agency charged with overseeing safety from the one charged with overseeing the collection of revenue.

The agency has also put in place a requirement that any company performing deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico must have access to containment dome technology — essentially, a dome that can be put over an exploded well to contain gushing oil. At least two ports in the Gulf of Mexico now store containment domes that can be used in emergencies.

While the oil industry typically opposes regulations, it has followed some of the recommendations made by the presidential panel. The big oil companies created and funded the Center for Offshore Safety, an institute intended to promote and disseminate best practices in drilling.

"The industry's overall safety record was strong before Macondo, and the co-chairs of President Obama's national spill commission were absolutely right when they said that offshore drilling is now even safer," said Jack N. Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, which lobbies for the oil industry. "We will continue to build on these achievements because our goal is zero accidents and zero spills."

General Electric to sell bulk of its finance unit [Andrew Ross Sorkin & Michael J. de la Merced, NYT Dealbook, April 10, 2015]

General Electric plans to sell off most of its finance arm within two years, redefining the multinational conglomerate as it

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seeks to complete a transformation begun amid the tumult of the financial crisis.

General Electric plans to sell off most of its finance arm within two years, redefining the multinational conglomerate as it seeks to complete a transformation begun amid the tumult of the financial crisis.

In addition to the huge planned sales of assets outlined by the company on Friday, General Electric will take other major steps, including bringing back about $36 billion in cash that currently resides overseas.

Rapidly shrinking the finance arm, GE Capital — once the most powerful driver of the company's earnings until it rocked the parent company after the fall of Lehman Brothers in 2008 — will erase one of the most prominent legacies of G.E.'s former chief executive, Jack Welch.

But it could also release the company from one of its biggest burdens: strict regulatory requirements that come with GE Capital's being regarded as a financial institution that is too big to fail.

General Electric's plan is that by 2018, its core industrial businesses — ranging from jet turbines to heavy energy equipment to sophisticated medical devices — will account for more than 90 percent of its earnings, up from 58 percent last year.

To Jeffrey R. Immelt, the company's chairman and chief executive, corporate legacy has not deterred him from a plan to shrink a huge and sometimes unwieldy collection of businesses. The conglomerate has already sold divisions like its small appliances unit that became too small to affect its sales, which stood at $148 billion last year.

"We're not sentimentalists," he said in an interview.

The conglomerate's ambitious plan will begin with the sale of most of GE Capital's real estate assets for $23 billion to the Blackstone Group and Wells Fargo, as well as other buyers.

All that will remain by the end of the sales process are any financing businesses closely tied to the conglomerate's core industrial businesses. G.E. estimates that those remaining assets will be valued at about $90 billion, a fraction of the $363 billion of GE Capital assets held as of year-end.

Friday's announcement represents the final stage of what Mr. Immelt has called a "simplification" campaign aimed at making one of the country's biggest corporations smaller and safer.

The plan will come with a substantial initial cost, with the company planning to take an accounting hit of $16 billion in its first fiscal quarter this year, most of which will be a noncash charge.

Moreover, the company will also pay about $6 billion in taxes on earnings it brings back from overseas.

Many American corporations continue to hold significant sums of money overseas — Apple for example, holds roughly $158 billion in foreign subsidiaries — in hopes of a change to the United States tax laws.

But G.E., which has been criticized in the past for its tax avoidance strategies, said it had chosen to move quickly.

"We decided not to wait for tax reform," said Keith S. Sherin, the chairman and chief executive of GE Capital.

The severe downsizing of the finance unit is a sea change for General Electric. For much of its 123-year history, the company had a finance division, though the business traditionally served as a support for its parent's manufacturing arms. Under Mr. Welch, however, GE Capital swelled in size, scope and willingness to take on risk, becoming one of the most prominent lenders in the country.

Yet that immenseness badly wounded General Electric in the wake of Lehman's demise, when the market upheaval left the conglomerate hard-pressed to borrow debt for its day-to-day operations.

Since the financial crisis, the conglomerate has taken steps to shrink its finance operation, selling off smaller pieces over the years. In one of its most notable moves, it spun off its private label credit card arm — now known as Synchrony Financial — in a $2.9 billion initial public offering last year.

Still, Mr. Immelt said, the company focused on moving carefully, its board careful "not to burn stuff out" at fire sale prices.

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But the success of Synchrony — its stock has risen 30 percent since it began trading — helped prod Mr. Immelt and his team, including advisers at JPMorgan Chase and Centerview Partners, to consider moving more quickly.

At the same time, Mr. Immelt said in the interview, G.E.'s mainstay industrial operations were performing well.

Now is a "perfect time to be a seller," he said. Moreover, he added of potential asset buyers, "people are lining up at the starting line."

First up came a potential sale of GE Capital's real estate assets. As G.E.'s management team and advisers weighed potential partners, one name quickly came to mind: Blackstone and its huge real estate arm.

"We thought there was only one buyer who can do this: Jon Gray at Blackstone," Mr. Sherin of GE Capital said. "We told him, 'If you can hit this bid on an exclusive basis, it's yours.' "

Despite not putting the real estate assets up for a competitive auction, which may have fetched a higher price, Mr. Sherin declared himself happy with the result. Moving this way assured G.E. of both a speedy and certain transaction.

"Both parties think they got a fair price," he said.

General Electric said it would remain an acquirer of businesses as well, though its deals will be aimed at bolstering industrial operations. Last year, it paid $13.5 billion for the energy operations of the French industrial company Alstom.

Selling the bulk of GE Capital could bring significant benefits for G.E. shareholders, by the company's reckoning. It estimates that it could return more than $90 billion to investors by 2018, through special dividends, stock buybacks and other financial moves. About $35 billion of that alone will come from the GE Capital asset sales.

Perhaps one of the most notable potential consequences of the drastic move is that G.E. will be able to shed its designation as a "systemically important financial institution." Such status comes with high requirements to keep capital on hand, potentially limiting its financial returns.

So significant is the label that MetLife, the big insurer, has sued regulators to try to remove the designation.

"We're probably the most heavily regulated company in the world," Mr. Immelt said. But he added, "Regulation doesn't scare us."

The conglomerate has already begun discussions with government regulators, though is hoping to formally apply for the removal of the so-called Sifi designation by next year.

Tackling America's Police Abuse Epidemic [Michael Hirsh, Politico, April 10, 2015]

Outrage continues over the shooting of Walter Scott and the larger implications the incident has on the status of racial and criminal justice.

It was so automatic—so chillingly casual. That was the most frightening thing, say some criminal-justice experts, about Michael Slager's actions in North Charleston, S.C., last week. It's all there on the videotape: The victim, Walter Scott, starts to run, slowly. Without a pause, Officer Slager raises his gun and begins to fire at Scott's back. One shot. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. Slager pauses briefly, then squeezes off the eighth shot. Scott crumples to the ground. Slager radios: "Shots fired and the subject is down. He took my Taser." Then Slager walks deliberately over to the mortally wounded man lying on his face, cuffs Scott's hands behind him but does not administer any aid. Equally casually, Slager drops what appears to be his Taser next to Scott's body.

The North Charleston video, which was replayed constantly on TV and video this week, put sharp new pressure on the federal government to increase its scrutiny of what many experts believe is endemic police abuse across the country, especially in black communities—an unseen decades-old abuse that is only now being rendered visible by a new generation of citizen-documentarians, average people equipped with cell-phone cameras.

"The secret is out now. We've pulled back the curtain," says Bowling Green University Professor Philip Stinson, author of Police Integrity Lost: A Study of Law Enforcement Officers Arrested, a recent survey that found that, apparently thanks to decades of inbred collaboration between local police departments, prosecutors and court systems—all of which tend to benefit mutually from arrest fees, ticket fines and so forth—almost no police are ever convicted of wrongly killing anyone or

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other abuses. By canvassing news databases, Stinson found only 59 arrests of on-duty police on charges of aggravated assault with a gun recorded in the entire country in the seven years from 2005 to 2011. Just 13 of those resulted in convictions.

“What’s so striking is the casualness of it,” says David Harris, a criminal law professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a leading authority on racial profiling, of the North Charleston incident. “For the officer it’s literally a walk in the park. It’s ‘Of course I’m gonna shoot him.’ He doesn’t pause, he doesn’t make any hesitation. What it says to me is that in the culture of that police department this is no problem. And everybody knows that without that video, that officer would be out driving around in a patrol car right now. The ongoing assumption, without that piece of film, would be ‘He threatened me and I had to defend myself.’”

The cases seem to keep multiplying: Ferguson, Staten Island, Cleveland, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, and more. Vanita Gupta, acting head of the Justice Department’s civil rights division, told POLITICO on Thursday that the DOJ does not yet plan an investigation into whether there is a pattern of police violence or abuse in North Charleston—as it did in Ferguson—but she says a “perfect storm” of incidents and outrage has made the relationship between law enforcement and communities “front and center in the country in the way they haven’t been until recent times.”

Despite more than doubling the number of its investigations into police departments over the past five fiscal years—to more than 20 nationwide now—the Department of Justice has failed to keep up with these police abuses and address them as a national problem, critics say. Typically summoned only in sporadic cases surrounded by public furor—like the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson—almost every DOJ probe has found a systemic problem of police and court abuse of minority communities, says Alec Karakatsanis, co-founder of Equal Justice Under Law, a nonprofit civil rights law firm.

But, he asks, what about the rest of the cities in the United States? “Where has the DOJ been in uncovering this? Where have the lawyers been? Where has the legal profession been? Under Obama, the DOJ has spent $80 million per year prosecuting medical marijuana cases, and not very much on crime by police.”

Indeed, out of the DOJ’s nearly $26 billion budget, the Civil Rights Division was allotted just $147 million in fiscal 2015; and of that, just $12.2 million was allotted to staff working on “effective and democratically accountable policing.” The Office on Violence against Women got $414 million. Drug enforcement got $2 billion. The prison system received $6.9 billion.

Only last month President Obama was in Selma, Ala., praising racial progress since the Bloody Sunday marches to Montgomery. But Sam Brooke of the Southern Poverty Law Center says that his organization found problems analogous to Ferguson’s in nearby Montgomery, where police set up harassing traffic stops in black neighborhoods. Such programs, he suggests, helped Montgomery consistently report municipal traffic ticket revenues three to four times that of other cities in Alabama.

Gupta, who worked on a number of police abuse cases as an attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union before taking over as acting head of the DOJ’s civil rights division six months ago, says it’s simply not true that the Justice Department has been out of step. “The number of investigations into police departments under this attorney general is vastly higher than what it has been in previous years,” she explains. “I think he has done more for criminal justice reform in recent years than I could have possibly hoped for … from really reinvigorating the civil rights division to the Smart on Crime initiative, his leadership has been quite transformative.”

Much of that work, she says, predates Ferguson.

Of its 20 investigations, the Justice Department has entered into 15 agreements with law enforcement agencies, including nine consent decrees, to correct abuses. Cities as varied as New Orleans, Seattle, Detroit and Albuquerque, as well as smaller municipalities like East Haven, Connecticut, and Warren, Ohio, have all agreed to consent decrees to address glaring police abuses. And under a new program started in 2011, its Office of Community Oriented Policing Services has offered technical assistance to bring police departments closer to their communities in towns and cities as far afield as Spokane, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Baltimore, Fayetteville, N.C., and Salinas, Calif., says the Justice Department’s Mary Brandenberger.

Still, among the Justice Department’s critics today is Gupta’s former boss, ACLU executive director Anthony Romero, who says that despite the promises made early on by an African-American president and his African-American attorney general, far too little has changed. “The Department of Justice of Eric Holder came later to criminal justice reform than I would have liked,” Romero says. And even when it did, announcing the Clemency Project in January 2014, it’s moved very slowly in reviewing files of federal prisoners—hardly more than 20 have been released. “We’re all kind of scratching our heads saying what’s taking them so long,” says Romero. On the contrary, the Justice Department has actually stood against early release of prisoners who have been found serving longer sentences than are warranted in other cases, he adds.

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Others say Justice Department is doing the best it can with a problem that is still fundamentally a local and state issue. “They cannot be everywhere at once, and the DOJ comes in only if there is a pattern of practice or constitutional violation,” says the University of Pittsburgh’s Harris. “Given what they have in resources I think they do a spectacular job of finding the cases that matter the most.”

The systemic police abuse and violence, driven largely by a lack of accountability, often comes in the form of draconian policies of arrests and summons in minority communities, which are used as hapless cash cows for the police and justice system. It may have been no accident that Walter Scott was initially stopped by Officer Slager for an alleged broken brake light on his car, or that after the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., a federal investigation found that blacks there were being arrested, ticketed and fined into poverty.

According to a 2012 class-action lawsuit filed in Alabama, one private probation company used by 110 cities is used to extract revenue cost-free to the city—often from the poor who can’t afford good legal defense. Then, when they can’t pay, they’re charged huge fees. Danny Evans, the attorney who filed the lawsuit, says, “What happened in Ferguson is the blueprint for what’s going on in Alabama, and you have the same problem in Georgia, Florida and other states. These cities think they can turn their courts into revenue generators.”

A Justice Department probe into police abuses in Newark, N.J. found that 93 percent of all police stops of citizens were unjustified, says Karakatsanis. “If that’s correct, that’s 80,000 crimes. All of those stops are assaults committed by police.”

Police abuse is a problem that’s often politically complicated for the Justice Department to highlight, Karakatsanis says, because of its inherent conflict of interest in working with state and local law enforcement. As he says, “To view DOJ as a beacon of accountability is not correct. They depend on these cops to make arrests. All these local cops are part of DOJ-led federal task forces.”

Reliable data on police abuse is almost impossible to come by, and here too the federal government has failed to step up. In response to public outrage after the 1991 Rodney King beating, Congress passed a 1994 law that mandated an annual report on police violence. At the Justice Department’s request, the International Association of Police Chiefs (IAPC) conducted a pilot study. But according to John Firman, director of development of the IAPC, after a year the Justice Department shut it down after only 600 out of about 18,000 police departments in the country reported back. The law had no means of forcing cooperation, Firman added.

A Department of Justice spokesperson said that to comply with the 1994 law, the NIJ and Bureau of Justice Statistics later developed something called the Police Public Contact Survey, which is “designed to understand the nature and characteristics of citizen contacts with the police.” But that does nothing to ascertain when police use force incorrectly, says Stinson, who adds that he developed his own national database on police arrests and convictions using Google News’ search engine.

Now all of Washington may soon be forced to awaken to the issue, says the ACLU’s Romero. “We’ve never seen a moment of criminal justice like this,” he says. “We’ve been working on criminal justice for decades. The Miranda decision was our case. Police brutality was always a part of our experience. Now each of these incidents is a moment: Trayvon Martin. Michael Brown, South Carolina. The whole country just stops.”

The “Black Lives Matter” protests that swept the nation last fall and winter underscored the resonance of these issues in many communities. And, in Washington, D.C., a new left-right coalition is already emerging over skyrocketing financial and social costs of swelling prison and jail systems.

As Romero says, “I think it’s a moment where mainstream America is finally reckoning with the carnage of our criminal justice policy.”

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From:	"Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	8/12/2008 10:52:19 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Tracking Clip of the Day: McCain brushes off 3 Mi Island and Chernobyl, says "we've never had a serious accident" on a nuclear sub

Enjoy!

JOHN MCCAIN: I want to say a word about nuclear to you. And **I'm very familiar with Three Mile Island, and I'm very familiar with Chernobyl. But I'm also familiar, as I hope you are too, that we've been sailing Navy ships around the world for 60 years with nuclear power plants on them, and we've never had an accident. We've never had a serious accident!** So we need to store spent nuclear fuel, and we need to reprocess.

[...] You know, you pick up the paper and you listen to these various pundits and all that, and they says we can't solve the nuclear problem, we can't reprocess, we can't store it; we can't develop a electric car that'll take someone 200 miles or 100 miles before you have to plug it in. We can't. Everybody's saying we can't. That's not America! America's a country that has met and overcome every challenge we have ever faced, and we can do this one. We have the ability, innovation and the technology that we will become independent of foreign oil. (Town Hall; York, PA 08/12/08)
To view: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNjaSnCdeqc
To download: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/r5fjb6gdkz

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 5/20/2008 6:55:32 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain's Cuban Independence Day Remarks in Miami, FL

Hello Big Campaign,

Just off the phone with our tracker Jacob who made it into today's event. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS: McCain attacks Obama on his policy toward Cuba, McCain attacks Obama and Clinton on free trade with Columbia; McCain answers questions about Guantanamo, Haiti, Iran, the Economy; in response to a question about Chavez, McCain says "I think that that doesn't mean that we go around invading countries, it doesn't mean we use force of arms."

Miami, FL: McCain's Cuban Independence Day Remarks

Background Details:
- For an event that was billed as public with no RSVP information, our tracker was surprised to find that at first only those with tickets were gaining entry into the event. Eventually, those without tickets were allowed in (as was our tracker). After some asking around, our tracker learned that tickets were previously handed out to local Republican groups and those with tickets were given priority seating.
- Charlie Black was there -- behind the risers, out of site of camera shots
- Meghan McCain was in attendance
- McCain was introduced in Spanish by a gentleman who was held prisoner and tortured under Castro's regime
- Press outlets included Good Magazine (which is based in New York); French outlet, France 24 was there; the usual national networks and traveling press; lots of local affiliates -- especially Latina TV and newspapers; Miami Herald also present
- Audience was approximately 3-400 in size. Most in the audience were Hispanic/Latino.
- McCain was frequently confused trying to locate questioners in the audience during the Q and A period
- McCain used three giant telemprompters

Speech Highlights:
Full Remarks: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/c6208dbe-e868-4917-b4e6-f56c363d20c7.htm

Attack on Obama:
"Just a few years ago, Senator Obama had a very clear view on Cuba. When asked in a questionnaire about his policy toward Cuba, he answered: "I believe that normalization of relations with Cuba would help the oppressed and poverty-stricken Cuban people while setting the stage for a more democratic government once Castro inevitably leaves the scene." Now Senator Obama has shifted positions and says he only favors easing the embargo, not lifting it. He also wants to sit down unconditionally for a presidential meeting with Raul Castro. These steps would send the worst possible signal to Cuba's dictators – there is no need to undertake fundamental reforms, they can simply wait for a unilateral change in US policy. I believe we should give hope to the Cuban people, not to the Castro regime. My administration will press the Cuban regime to release all political prisoners unconditionally, to legalize all political parties, labor unions, and free media, and to schedule internationally monitored elections. The embargo must stay in place until these basic elements of democratic society are met."

Attack on Obama and Clinton:
"We have made progress toward this vision by expanding the benefits of free commerce, through NAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and our free trade agreements with Peru and Chile. But the progress has stalled; our longstanding bipartisan commitment to hemispheric prosperity is crumbling. We see this most vividly in Barack Obama's and Hillary Clinton's opposition to the free trade agreement with Colombia. The failure of the Congress to take up and approve this agreement is a reminder why 80 percent of Americans think we are on the wrong track. Congress can find time to pass a pork-filled farm bill, but it cannot stir itself to support a key ally and further American prosperity."

NOTE: CNN reports that Obama will be giving a speech in response to McCain's attacks at 4pm EST today.

Question and Answer:
1) Q: Thanks MCCAIN for talking about Colombia and Uribe. Gives gift.
MCCAIN: Restates support of Colombia free trade agreement. Shouldn't turn down your best friend. They're helping us beat our enemies. Promises we will enact free trade agreement.

2) Q: On prosecution of Cuban officials, would that include Raul and Fidel Castro for their persecution of Cuban lawyers?
MCCAIN: Yes. But I would also have the AG investigate the plane that was shot down.

3) Q: Letter from a freedom fighter like you that needs to be helped. Please read it.
MCCAIN: I will read it absolutely immediately.

4) Q: We ask the Communist Cuban government for freedom. But there are 6 young people that because they hijacked a plane for liberty are in jail. Why are these young people in jail. We need your help for freedom.
MCCAIN: Thank you. I will learn more about it.

5) Q: As a POW – and we have several POWs here – what are we going to do for the freedoms and right to justice for prisoners in Guantamo? (BOOS)
MCCAIN: We have to move them to Leaventown. Some of these people are the most evil people you've

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ever encountered. But at the same time, there need to be procedures. I think they can be given trials, not the same trials American citizens receive. E.g. Nuremburg trials. Some people may be determined to get real trials. We haven't made enough progress.

6) Q: What are you going to do to stop the communist governments from supporting terrorists?
MCCAIN: Get closer to countries who are our allies, e.g. Chile, Mexico and other Central American countries. Pay a lot of attention, treat them as equals.
- Free trade agreements / exchange of goods. Stop letting sugar come into our country at outrageous costs. Sugar-base ethanol can be imported from Brazil without tariffs. Hemispheric trade agreements. I don't believe in subsidies.
- Mexican economy, e.g. is still controlled by oligarchs. They'd be better off if they brought in more competition. We've got to have better economic conditions in those countries so people can live and work and get educated there.
- They are our friends. President should travel and have meetings with these countries. Emphasizes: those that are our friends, not those that are inimical to our values.

7) Q: Haiti could be a strong ally to US. Your thoughts on strengthening Haiti?
MCCAIN: I am by naturally optimistic about every country in the world. And I am optimistic about bettering conditions. But it's a tragic story. We've sent US troops in, OAS troops in, supplies in, we've held elections. Good nations of good will have tried to relieve the pressing problems. We've not been successful and there are thousands sitting in garbage dumps trying to find something to eat. I have faith in current govt of Haiti, but I've had faith in past governors and been disappointed. We need to keep the pressure on.
- MCCAIN defers to Mario and ?
- Other surrogate – the Haitian community here is one of the most hard-working and has been a great asset to US.
- MCCAIN: Haitians are industrious, hard-working, love their families and obviously deserve a lot better.

8) Q: couldn't hear question ... but McCain began talking about Iran
- Angry McCain: "Hold on! Hold on!"
- MCCAIN: It's dangerous to sit down and talk to our enemies. I won't do it. Obama will. There are times in the past where we've done it and there've been very serious consequences.

9) Q: The economy is bad. What are you going to do about it?
MCCAIN: First of all, we have to ensure people can stay in their own homes. That means they can go and get FHA 30-year loan. When sold years later, 1/3 go to owner, 1/3 to bank and 1/3 to lender. Obviously we don't want to reward the speculators, but we do have an obligation to help homeowners.
- We have to become independent of foreign oil. There are people who believe we can't. I'm sure there were people who believed we couldn't put a man on the moon or invent the internet. The technology and innovation are there. Nuclear power must be part of any solution. Right now there's about $500b / year when you buy gasoline, some of which goes into hands of terrorists. We can do it! We can't keep borrowing money from China. We've got to balance our budget; stop wasteful pork-barrel spending. I promise I will put us on the road to independence from foreign oil.

10) Q: In our Presidential agenda, what priority will political liberation of Cuba have, and human rights?
MCCAIN: Quotes Declaration of Independence – says right to life liberty and pursuit of happiness "by the way also applies to protection of human life" – we've gone to all corners of the world and shed blood and treasure usually in the pursuit of others' freedom. We should try all means necessary first, but military needs to be an option. Freeing political prisoners is important; so, too, is addressing human trafficking. Let me also add internet child porn – it's poisoning our families. Child Pornographers get online and legitimize each other. So we need to use our technological skills to track down and put in jail these most evil people.
- Said this doesn't mean we're going to go around invading other countries to make them more democratic -- we just apply pressure on them; extreme amounts of pressure

11) Q: In Peru, we have a problem with terrorism in connection with cocaine. What will you do to stop that?
MCCAIN: I'm aware that the problem is legitimate and that there is a disparity between the rich and the poor that exacerbates the problems. I think the present Peruvian government are working to address the problems – they have a lot of challenges, but things are getting better. We're building a good relationship from the US. The current Peruvian President is a good guy. The last one also seemed sincere, but didn't get as much done as liked. Would you agree? …

CONFUSED MCCAIN – can't find the questioner.

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12) Q: Bridge of Young Cuban Professionals. What is going to happen to our property in Cuba?
- [Surrogate whispers in McCain's ear]
- MCCAIN: I believe that should be addressed by a freely elected government and legislation in Cuba.

13) Q: Says he wants Chavez out of Venezuela now rather than waiting 50 years like for Castro in Cuba. Thoughts?

MCCAIN: Gives long answer than ends ...
"The United States must always function on the principle that we believe that everyone has the rights have that we have guaranteed ourselves. And yes they don't sometimes. But that does not mean that we should abandon our struggles to see that all human beings are God's children and have certain rights that they were born with. And **I think that that doesn't mean that we go around invading countries**, **it doesn't mean we use force of arms**. It means, though, that we put as much pressure as we can where we can to improve the lot of human beings throughout the world, and that's in that country, too."

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
Date: 7/22/2008 3:25:43 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Clips: July 22, 2008

I also have the callon energy tomorrow which I will miss. Maybe Dan can do.

On Tue, Jul 22, 2008 at 5:04 PM, Peter Ogden <pogden@americanprogress.org > wrote:

Today's clips.

From: John Neurohr
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:01 AM
To: Clips
Subject: Clips: July 22, 2008

Center for American Progress

Date	Headline	Text	Outlet	Contact
Center for American Progress				
07/21/2008	Yglesias Moves Again	Text	CQ Politics	
Matthew Yglesias to join CAP as new blogger				
Center for American Progress Action Fund				
07/21/2008	NV National Clean 07 21	Text	Associated Press (AP)	
John Podesta to speak at The National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Obama Campaign: Response to the latest McCain attack ad	Text	Wispolitics	
CAPAF report: "The McCain Plan to Cut Oil Company Taxes by Nearly $4 Billion,"				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Macro World Investor	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
Center for American Progress Action Fund; Economics				

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07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at ...	Text	MarketWatch.com	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Atlanta Business Chronicle	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Courier Serving the Greater Cincinnati Area	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Journal Phoenix, The	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee, The	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Columbus Business First	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/22/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Digital50	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Earthtimes.org	Center for

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Nashville Business Journal	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Portland Business Journal	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	San Antonio Business Journal	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/ 2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	San Francisco Business Times	

John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

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John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

Domestic

07/21/2008	CITY'S POOR LOOK DIFFERENT THROUGH NEW ASSESSMENT	Text	City Limits	

Mark Greenberg on expanding poverty measures

07/21/2008	Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation	Text	Washington Post	

Rick Weiss' "Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation: Young Industry Needs Rules and Limits for Examining Individuals' DNA"

07/21/2008	Toledo Public Schools Academy Principal to Speak at Conference	Text	RedOrbit	Meghan Gilbert, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio

Cynthia Brown at Education Event 'From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold: Schools Expanding Learning time'

Economics

07/21/2008	Are you dipping into your retirement funds?	Text	Desert Sun, The	The Associated

Christian Weller on report, "Borrowing from Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/22/2008	McCain's head games on taxes	Text	Politico - Washington,DC,USA	

Robert Gordon and James Kvaal report, "Bush-McCain-Norquist Tax Agenda"

07/22/2008	Resist urge to raid retirement funds early	Text	Lawrence Journal-World	Michelle Singletary

CAP report on loans from 401(k) retirement plans

07/22/2008	Tapping retirement money too early can be costly	Text	New Haven Register	Tim Paradis

CAP report on loans from 401(k) retirement plans

07/21/2008	Workers Break Retirement Piggy Bank in Tight Times	Text	SmartPros	

CAP report on loans from 401 (k) retirement plans

Energy

07/21/2008	Read 'Cost of Freedom' recap	Text	FOXnews.com	

Dan Weiss on offshore drilling

ENOUGH

07/21/2008	Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]	Text	AllAfrica.com	

ENOUGH on ICC indictment of al-Bashir as a step towards peace

07/21/2008	Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	Released : Monday, July 21, 2008 12:30 PM

ENOUGH on ICC indictment of al-Bashir as a step towards peace

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07/21/2008	Sudan Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace	Text	AllAfrica.com	Washington, DC

Enough argues that pressure on Sudan's leader could be a step towards peace

07/22/2008	The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]	Text	AllAfrica.com

John Norris on justice in Zimbabwe

07/22/2008	The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]	Text	Calibre MacroWorld

John Norris on justice in Zimbabwe

Fellows

07/22/2008	At the Border, Your Laptop Is Wide-Open	Text	Connecticut Law Tribune

Peter Swire testifies on laptop search and data seizure

07/22/2008	Elizabeth Edwards To Be Keynote Speaker For Central Ohio Higher ...	Text	PRWeb

Elizabeth Edwards to be keynote speaker at Central Ohio HIgher Education Institute

National Security

07/22/2008	Bin Laden driver on trial at Guantanamo	Text	Russia Today

Ken Gude on Salim Hamdan Guantanamo trial

07/22/2008	How the next president can improve Homeland Security	Text

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	3/14/2015 10:09:21 AM
Subject:	3.14.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150314 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
March 14, 2015

HRC

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Emails Clinton Said Were Kept Could Be Lost (The New York Times)
By Michael S. Schmidt and Julie Hirschfeld Davis
March 14, 2015
The New York Times

WASHINGTON -- As Hillary Rodham Clinton this week defended her use of a personal email account to conduct State Department business, she emphasized that because she was corresponding frequently with other department officials on their government accounts, the messages were preserved on government servers.

But the State Department disclosed on Friday that until last month it had no way of routinely preserving senior officials' emails. Instead, the department relied on individual employees to decide if certain emails should be considered public records, and if so, to move them onto a special record-keeping sever, or print them out and manually file them for preservation.

This patchwork system, reflecting a broader confusion and slowness throughout the government as federal agencies struggle to catch up with the digital age, raises the possibility that some emails from Mrs. Clinton to other State Department officials may have been lost altogether.

In a briefing with reporters on Friday, Jen Psaki, a spokeswoman for the State Department, acknowledged that the system in place under Mrs. Clinton was ''imperfect,'' and said the department was still trying to establish a comprehensive document retention program.

In February, the State Department began using a system that automatically keeps the emails of the department's highest ranking officials -- like the deputy secretary of state, and under and assistant secretaries. Secretary of State John Kerry's emails have been automatically retained since around the time he took office in 2013.

Regulations issued by the National Archives in October 2009 said that agencies where employees were free to use private email systems ''must ensure that federal records sent or received on such systems are preserved in the appropriate agency record-keeping system.''

In a news conference she held on Tuesday, and backup documents that her staff circulated the same day, Mrs. Clinton argued that she had complied with those record-keeping rules.

''It was my practice to communicate with State Department and other government officials on their dot-gov accounts so those emails would be automatically saved in the State Department system to meet record-keeping requirements, and that, indeed, is what happened,'' Mrs. Clinton said at the news conference. She said she had used the personal account for convenience because she did not want to carry two cellphones.

The State Department disclosure is likely to bring intense scrutiny to the process that Mrs. Clinton and her lawyers used in deciding late last year which of the roughly 60,000 emails from her personal account should be considered work-related and turned over to the State Department. That is because the State Department servers -- given the system that was in place -- appear to lack comprehensive backup records of the former secretary of state's correspondence with other officials.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton did not return an email, call or text seeking comment.

An Obama administration directive in 2012 mandates that agencies must devise a system for retaining and preserving email records electronically by the end of 2016, but many agencies' current practice is to save emails by printing them out and storing them in files.

The Department of Health and Human Services began automatically archiving and saving the emails of all senior officials and political appointees only in December, said Kevin Griffis, a spokesman for the department.

There is also no consistent system throughout the federal agencies for determining which emails should be saved. The White House has strict requirements dating back two decades that no emails be discarded, but federal agencies are in charge of setting their own policies for determining which emails constitute government records worthy of preservation and which ones may be deleted.

''It really is chaos across the government in terms of what agencies do, what individuals do, and people understand that they can decide what they save and what they don't,'' said Patrice McDermott, the director of the transparency watchdog group OpenTheGovernment.org. ''If you leave it up to the agency, some are going to behave properly and take it seriously, and some are going to see it as carte blanche to whitewash the record.''

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What is clear is that email poses a unique problem for government agencies, which are required under the law to preserve anything that relates to official business. ‘‘It doesn’t matter on what medium or in what form it occurs,’’ said Gary M. Stern, the general counsel for the National Archives and Records Administration, the agency in charge of preserving federal documents.

But, he said, ‘‘There’s such a challenge with email, because everyone gets a couple of hundred a day and nobody has the time to go through and say, ‘Is this a record, or is it not?’ ‘‘

President Obama signed legislation late last year requiring government officials who use personal email addresses for official business to bring those records into the government within 20 days. Before that, the National Archives and Records Administration simply required those messages at some point to be provided to the government.

The vagueness of federal guidelines have caused agencies, cabinet members and other senior officials to forge their own policies and practices, sometimes getting them into trouble.

Lisa P. Jackson, Mr. Obama’s first Environmental Protection Agency administrator used ‘‘Richard Windsor’’ -- a combination of her dog’s name and a New Jersey town -- for her electronic alias. Republicans on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee charge that she had created the alias to ‘‘hide’’ her actions, part of what they described in a September 2013 report as a pattern of ‘‘obfuscation’’ and a ‘‘culture of secrecy and evasion.’’

Ms. Jackson said the alias was a matter of convenience and practicality, arguing that she had complied with requirements that any message relating to E.P.A. business would be captured on the agency’s system.

‘‘You’ll find this with any cabinet head,’’ Tom Reynolds, an E.P.A. spokesman, said of generic government email addresses. ‘‘You just can’t use those because you’d just get inundated with emails. It’s not pragmatic.’’

The White House adopted its strict email rules during the Clinton administration after a federal court determined that White House emails -- until then considered the same as disposable sheets on a phone-message pad -- should be treated as government records.

As part of a settlement in that case, a little-known staff secretary to President Bill Clinton drafted a memo laying out the new policy: Emails had to be preserved and external networks should not be used because those messages would not be retained.

The aide’s name was John D. Podesta. ‘‘Podesta helped push the White House essentially into the digital age and created electronic archiving,’’ said Thomas S. Blanton, of the National Security Archive.

In January, Mr. Podesta left his post as a senior counselor to Mr. Obama. His anticipated new job: chairman of Mrs. Clinton’s expected presidential campaign.

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Hillary Seems Tired, Not Hungry (The Wall Street Journal)
By Peggy Noonan
March 14, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

Maybe we're not stuck in Scandal Land.

For a while I've assumed Hillary Clinton would run for her party's nomination and be a formidable candidate in the general election. After Tuesday's news conference I'm not so sure.

Did she seem to you a happy, hungry warrior? She couldn't make eye contact with her questioners, and when she did she couldn't sustain it. She looked at the ceiling and down at notes, trying, it seemed, to stick to or remember scripted arguments. She was shaky. She couldn't fake good cheer and confidence. It is seven years since she ran for office. You could see it.

Her claims -- she stayed off the State Department email system for "convenience," she thought "it would be easier to carry just one device," her server "contains personal communications from my husband and me" -- were so transparent, so quickly disprovable. Minutes later journalists were posting earlier statements in which she said she carries two devices, and The Wall Street Journal's report saying Bill has sent only two emails in his life.

This wasn't high-class spin. These were not respectable dodges. They didn't make you grudgingly tip your hat at a gift for duplicity. I could almost feel an army of oppo people of both parties saying, "You can do better than that, Hillary!"

This wasn't the work of a national, high-grade political-response team, it was the thrown-together mess of someone who knew she was guilty of self-serving actions, who didn't herself believe what she was saying, who didn't think the press would swallow it, and who didn't appear to care.

She didn't look hungry for the battle, she looked tired of the battle.

Everyone knows what the scandal is. She didn't want a paper trail of her decisions and actions as secretary of state. She didn't want to be questioned about them, ever. So she didn't join the government's paper-trail system, in this case the State Department's official email system, which retains and archives records. She built her own private system and got to keep complete control of everything she'd done or written. She no doubt assumed no one outside would ask and no one inside would insist -- she's Hillary, don't mess with her.

She knew the story might blow but maybe it wouldn't, worth the chance considering the payoff: secrecy. If what she did became public she'd deal with it then. When this week she was forced to, she stonewalled: "The server will remain private."

Is it outrageous? Of course. Those are U.S. government documents she concealed and destroyed. The press is not covering for her and hard questions are being asked because everyone knows what the story is. It speaks of who she is and how she will govern. Everyone knows it.

She knows it too.

At the news conference she seemed like a 20th-century figure in a 21st-century world. Her critics complain it's the 1990s returning but it isn't, it's only the dark side of the '90s without the era's peace and prosperity.

Mrs. Clinton is said to be preparing to announce her candidacy for the presidency in three to four weeks. But did that look like the news conference of a candidate about to announce? It lacked any air of confidence or certitude. For a year the press has been writing about the burgeoning Clinton Shadow Campaign. Where's the real one?

Defenses of Mrs. Clinton were ad hoc, improvised, flat-footed. It all looks disorderly, as if no one's in charge, no one has drawn clear lines of responsibility or authority. We hear about loyalists, intimates, allies, pals, hangers-on, Friends of Hill. People buzz around her like bees on random paths to the queen.

In 2008 Barack Obama had impressive, disciplined people around him -- David Axelrod, Robert Gibbs, David Plouffe. I remember thinking at the time that they were something unusual in politics: normal. Hillary has people like David Brock, a right-wing hit man who became a left-wing hit man. Who's he supposed to do outreach to, the other weirdos?

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Is this thing really happening? Is the much-vaunted campaign coming together?

After the news conference I thought what I never expected to think: Maybe she doesn't really want this. Maybe that's what this incompetence is meant to be signaling.

Here I will speculate, but imagine being Hillary Clinton right now:

Her mother, the rock of her life, died in 2011. In the past years she's had health issues. She's tired, having worked at the highest levels of American life the past 25 years. She's in the middle of a scandal and, being Hillary, knows that others might pop along the way.

Add this: Maybe she thought her ideological hunger, which was real, would sustain her throughout her life, and it hasn't.

Maybe what happened to her, in part, is the homes of her Manhattan mega-donors. She's been in the grand townhouses and Park Avenue apartments since 1992. She'd go in and be met and she saw what they had. Beauty. Ease. Fine art of a particular, modern sort, the kind that is ugly, that reminds its owners that just because they're rich doesn't mean they don't understand that life is hard, painful, incoherent. It is protective, cautionary, abstract and costs $20 million a picture.

But what lives they have! Grace and comfort and they don't have to worry about the press, they don't have to feel on the run, they don't have to press the flesh with nobodies.

She'd like those things! But she went into "public service" and had to live on some bum-squat-Egypt Southern governor's salary.

She wanted what they have. They're her friends, no more talented than she. But they went to Wall Street and are oozing in dough. She stayed in the lane she was in. And she figures she missed out on the prosperity her husband presided over.

She has her causes -- women's rights, income inequality. But she can advance them in other ways.

Maybe she isn't really hungry enough for the presidency anymore. And maybe she doesn't have illusions anymore. She's funded by Wall Street. Her opponent will be funded by Wall Street.

Maybe she's of two minds about what she wants. But it's not really hunger that's propelling her now, its Newton's law of inertia: Objects in motion tend to stay in motion.

Maybe she thinks about another line of work, a surprising fourth act. She likes to be served, be admired, be taken care of by staff. But you can get those things without being president. If you are wealthy, and she is now -- and maybe that was the purpose of all those six-figure speeches -- you can get those things easily.

Maybe she doesn't, really, want to run. Maybe she's not sure she can. Or maybe she'll go for it: It's what she's been going toward all her life.

Maybe Democrats who saw that news conference will sense an opening and jump in. There's the myth of the empty bench, but it won't be empty if she leaves it. That's another law of physics: Nature abhors a vacuum.

We all talk so much about the presidency and who's got the best chance. Maybe it's not Hillary. Maybe that's over and no one knows, even her.

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Will Hillary Clinton Follow Democrats on Capital Gains? (The New York Times)
By Josh Barro
March 14, 2015
The New York Times

As my colleague David Leonhardt notes, one of the big policy questions for Hillary Clinton is how eager she is to tax the rich. But this isn't just a question of the top rate on wages. If she runs for president, it will be very interesting to see whether Mrs. Clinton takes a position substantially to Barack Obama's right on capital gains taxes, as she did in 2008.

In a debate in April of that year, Mrs. Clinton said she would not raise the capital gains rate above 20 percent "if I raised it at all." At the time, the top rate was 15 percent, as a result of the Bush tax cuts. Ms. Clinton's position was in line with the economic policies of Bill Clinton's administration, which called for much higher tax rates on wage income than capital income for high earners. In 1997, Mr. Clinton signed a law that cut the top capital gains tax rate from 28 percent to 20; in 1993, he had raised the top tax rate on ordinary income from 31 percent to 39.6 percent, and imposed a Medicare tax on high earners that effectively pushed their top tax rates above 40.

Mr. Obama ran in 2008 as an advocate of a large capital gains tax increase. In a 2007 speech, he said he would "adjust the top dividends and capital gains rate to something closer to — but no greater than — the rates Ronald Reagan set in 1986." The rate set in 1986 was 28 percent, so this position left the door open to a near-doubling of the top capital gains tax rate.

President Obama has delivered on that promise: The Affordable Care Act created an additional 3.8 percent tax on capital gains for high earners, and the so-called fiscal cliff deal of 2013 added another 5 points to the rate, so the top tax rate on capital gains has gone from 15 percent in 2008 to 23.8 percent today, higher than the red line Mrs. Clinton set. In his most recent budget, Mr. Obama proposed to further increase the rate to 28 percent.

Economists tend to advocate lower taxes on capital on the grounds that investors are more likely to be driven away by high taxes than workers are, and because much capital income is subjected to corporate income tax before the capital gains tax is applied.

But the shift among Democrats toward supporting higher taxes on capital isn't surprising, given the party's increased skepticism of Wall Street and the focus on inequality. While high taxes on the salaries of high earners can increase collections from law firm partners and senior business executives (and collect a lot of revenue in the process), the wealthiest Americans tend to draw their income from investments. So tax policies that aim at the extreme top of the income distribution will have to focus on capital.

Jared Bernstein, a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities who formerly served as Vice President Joe Biden's top economic adviser, attributed the shift among Democrats to increased frustration with income shifting: labor income being recharacterized as capital income in order to take advantage of tax preferences.

"The only tax rule of thumb I'm 100 percent certain of is if your tax code provides preferential treatment to any kind of income, that's the kind of income a lot of rich people will all the sudden have a lot more of," he said in an email.

Since Marco Rubio has endorsed a plan that would cut capital gains taxes to zero, the 2016 campaign may offer a very sharp divide on the question of how investment should be taxed and how progressive the tax code should be, especially if Mrs. Clinton follows Mr. Obama's lead on the issue. A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton declined to comment about whether her views had changed since 2008.

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Hillarynomics: Big Policy Questions for Clinton (The New York Times)
By David Leonhardt
March 14, 2015
The New York Times

Barring an unexpected economic boom over the next year and a half, the 2016 Democratic nominee for president will probably not base her campaign around being President Obama's heir.

The economic picture remains too muddled and the country too polarized. A candidate who can claim to fix Washington will be in a better position than one who tries to explain or defend the last eight years.

Hillary Clinton — still the overwhelming favorite to be that nominee, in spite of the recent mess over her use of a private email account while she was secretary of state — will especially need to find ways to project freshness. And pundits will no doubt scour her remarks and campaign proposals looking for such differences.

So it's worth acknowledging something now: Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama have far more similarities than differences, especially on economic matters.

They both consider the stagnant incomes of recent decades to be a defining national issue. They both want to address the stagnation through a combination of government programs and middle-class tax cuts. They both see climate change as a serious threat. They both think workers have too little power and corporations too much.

They both are to the political left of every single Republican in Congress. They are also to the right of many liberals — friendlier to markets and global trade, more comfortable with incremental change.

Yet for all their similarities, Hillarynomics (the phrase "Clintonomics" is already taken) and Obamanomics will not be identical.

In the coming months, Mrs. Clinton is likely to begin releasing her economic policy proposals. They will no doubt be devised to address the fact that, as she has said, "it feels harder and harder to get ahead."

Along the way, she will need to deal with some thorny policy questions that don't have obvious answers for a Democrat. My goal here is to lay out the biggest of those questions. Mrs. Clinton's answers to them will begin to define Hillarynomics.

Taxing the rich. For two decades, Democrats have been largely united on taxes. Bill Clinton raised the top marginal tax rate (which now applies to couples making more than $450,000) to 39.6 percent. Mr. Obama spent years fighting — and ultimately succeeding — to raise it back to that level, from a 35 percent rate.

But now the issue gets trickier for Democrats.

Total federal taxes on top earners are already near the top of their narrow range over the last 35 years. But pretax inequality has soared during that time. And federal tax rates are still much lower than they were in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

Have the politics of inequality changed to the point that Mrs. Clinton will propose a top marginal rate above 40 percent? Or will she instead propose more subtle tax increases, such as reducing tax breaks, as Mr. Obama recently has?

Either way, she seems likely to push for middle- and low-income tax cuts. As a result, she will need either to propose further tax increases on high earners — or to acknowledge that her plan would increase the budget deficit.

Bargaining power. Top Democrats spent much of the 1990s moving to the right on economics. They have spent the last decade inching back to the left. The move isn't really about the personal views of Mr. Obama and the Clintons. Instead, it's a reaction to the great wage slowdown of the last 15 years, which has left the party looking for more aggressive ways to address inequality.

Take the party's stance toward labor unions. Democrats who previously were wary of aligning too closely with unions are now searching for ways to strengthen workers' bargaining power. The Commission on Inclusive Prosperity, a group with close ties to Mrs. Clinton, recently made "expanding worker voice" one of its centerpiece recommendations. "If you made it less easy for employers to fire union organizers, you would meaningfully

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impact the amount of collective bargaining," Lawrence Summers, the former Treasury secretary, said.

Although labor leaders support many of Mr. Obama's decisions, they also hope that the next Democratic nominee will go further — on enacting overtime-pay rules, on using the bully pulpit to criticize corporations and on appointing labor-friendly advisers. "We have learned through bitter experience that it really matters who makes up a president's economic team," said Damon Silvers, a top A.F.L.-C.I.O. official.

Schools and tests. Mr. Obama and his education secretary, Arne Duncan, have pursued a decidedly centrist course, pushing states to demand more accountability from schools. The approach can claim significant successes, including a rising high school graduation rate.

Yet many students, parents and teachers have also grown frustrated by the amount of standardized testing. Some of this frustration stems from the fact that accountability isn't fun. Many school officials would rather be left alone to judge their own performance. Other aspects of the frustration, though, are more substantive.

A central challenge for the post-Obama Education Department will be finding a way to make accountability more popular. The obvious answer probably involves fewer, better tests — but creating such tests isn't easy. The next president will have some big decisions to make.

Medical costs. The sharp slowdown in the growth rate of health spending — which has reduced the federal deficit — has been one of the happiest economic surprises of the Obama years. It stems in part from efforts within medicine that predated his presidency and in part from the 2010 health care bill. But the battle to reduce wasteful medical spending is still in its very early stages.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the secretary of health and human services, has set a goal that at least 50 percent of Medicare payments be based on quality, not quantity, of care by 2018 — which is two years into the next administration.

Right now, many outcome-based payment systems are voluntary. To get to 50 percent, notes Peter Orszag, the former Obama budget director, Washington will probably need to force more hospitals and doctors into such systems. And because accountability isn't fun, many are sure to squawk about it.

If you want to judge how serious Mrs. Clinton is about the long-term budget deficit, keep an eye on the signals she sends about health costs. Nothing affects the deficit more than health spending.

Style. This list obviously is not an exhaustive one. Ultimately, though, the biggest differences between Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama may revolve around style.

In the 2008 campaign, she criticized him for his naïveté about the potential for major bipartisan compromises. "We've got to be really clear that this is a struggle, and this is just not a moment where everybody will see the world the way it should be seen and come together to solve these problems," she told me then. "There are powerful forces at work in our society."

Mr. Obama has since moved toward Mrs. Clinton's view, more willing simply to defy Republicans when compromise isn't an option. But many Democrats continue to believe that if the party holds the White House in 2016, it will be better served by a harder-edged approach to leadership and negotiation. (And many Obama advisers roll their eyes at such criticism as vague wishful thinking.)

Whatever the truth, Mrs. Clinton's view about these questions now matters more than anyone else's in the Democratic Party. The most influential critic of a president is the one who succeeds him, and she still seems to be the only Democrat with a good chance to do so.

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Hillary Clinton's fear of the trail (Politico)
By Glenn Thrush
March 13, 2014
Politico

This was the week when Hillary Clinton's highest aspiration, being president, collided with her deepest fear — actually running for president.

It's not that Clinton craves a coronation, people close to her say, it's just that she wants to forestall her leap into the sulfurous political lava as long as possible. The chaotic indignity of Tuesday's press conference on her use of a private email server as Secretary of State did nothing to change that opinion, or convince her to push up the campaign start date.

The firestorm over the emails – and earlier stories about the solicitation of foreign donations at the Clinton family charitable foundation have rattled the expanding crew of new operatives signing up for 2016 who haven't experienced the maelstrom of a Clinton presidential campaign before. But the only two opinions that really count come from Hillary and Bill Clinton, and – despite the carping of Democrats inside and outside their own circle — they harbor few regrets about the way things have gone down so far.

"Eighteen months ago who would imagined Hillary Clinton would have zero competition in the primaries? That's pretty good, right?" said one longtime Clinton insider, reflecting the prevailing view in the no-rush camp, which includes the Clintons and their longtime consigliore Cheryl Mills.

"Everybody has an incentive to start this campaign – the staff, the consultants who are working for nothing and want to get paid, you guys in the media – everybody except Hillary Clinton," the person added. "The goal here is to make this the shortest campaign possible. The emails thing didn't change that."

The danger, of course, is that the 20th Century political victors are ignoring 21st Century political reality and inviting the American body politic play by their idiosyncratic set of rules — as they did by deciding to use Bill Clinton's private server as a conduit for Hillary Clinton's government correspondence. Moreover, as the press conference proved, it's put her in the familiar — and bizarre — position of entering the 2016 campaign as both the strongest non-incumbent ever to seek the office and a wounded, vulnerable frontrunner.

"She'll get past these sort of little dust-ups, but we really have to start having a conversation," says Iowa Democratic operative Tavis Hall, expressing the growing anxiousness of battleground Democrats eager for Clinton to hoist a flag to rally around.

The response to the emails controversy was hampered by the lack of a campaign team — and the candidate's reluctance to share details of her personal email server with the people who could defend her; Clinton's people were rebuffed by surrogates who refused to appear on TV because they weren't given details about the system, according to two potential surrogates interviewed by POLITICO. Moreover, it took eight days for Clinton to reluctantly agree to appear before the media — and only then at the urging of her young campaign manager Robbie Mook and eminence-grise campaign chairman John Podesta.

"It's clear they lack an apparatus. She's a candidate without a campaign." Robert Gibbs, a former White House press secretary under President Obama told The Washington Post. And former Obama strategist David Axelrod told MSNBC he thought the campaign's sluggish response on the emails story was the result of a "lack of answers from the Clinton campaign, or the nascent campaign."

Last September, another Obama stalwart, 2008 campaign manager David Plouffe, was summoned to Clinton's home in Washington for a consultation with the would-be candidate. His advice? Start assembling a campaign apparatus as quickly as possible, set them to work immediately — and more, importantly, settle on a robust rationale for the campaign not based merely on her celebrity or gender.

She's mostly ignored that advice — and details about her personnel moves have proven far more plentiful than details about her policy plans, or her rationale for seeking the job, apart from vague references to her experience and a new willingness to emphasize her role as a gender trailblazer.

Yet, in some respects, Clinton has showed a willingness to change her basic approach as a candidate. Late last year, she enlisted another Obama mainstay, pollster Joel Benenson, to oversee a sprawling polling operation, supervise messaging and hire a communications team. Benenson's philosophy in assembling the team was to

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avoid the hard-edged, confrontational approach of the Clinton 2008 war room — and he enlisted current White House Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri, a veteran Democrat operative with deep relationships in the media, to head the team. “She’s hiring people who believe in engaging reporters, not beating the shit out of them,” said one person close to Clinton.

But campaigns invariably reflect the attitude of the candidate, and Clinton — scarred deeply by the Whitewater and Lewinsky battles of the 1990s — still thinks of the press corps as hostile adversaries who often carry the water of GOP opposition researchers. “Look, she hates you. Period. That’s never going to change,” a 2008 Clinton veteran told me when I asked if her attitude towards the media had evolved.

All of this has fostered a deep reluctance to formally jump into the 2016 fray, even as the political and journalistic bullets have started whizzing past. As recently as December, people close to her say, Clinton was still seriously considering not running in 2016 — at least that what she was telling friends. And she didn’t start reading the pile of campaign memos aides and would-be staffers had compiled for her until Christmas, when she started telling people she would probably take the plunge, according to several aides I spoke to.

She approached the press conference with a sense of even-tempered resignation, they told POLITICO, with little of the finger-pointing from staff, or the cold silences on conference calls that characterized her reactions to bad news in 2008. Mostly, she was ticked off that the email story overshadowed the release of a report, partly funded by the Clinton foundation, on the educational and economic progress of woman around the world (Tellingly, she was particularly annoyed that The New York Times, a paper she believes she has battled for decades, didn’t write about the “No Ceilings” report more extensively).

Yet for close observers of Clinton, Tuesday’s performance offered the glimmer of a new more conciliatory approach, and a little more ease in the campaign klieg lights.

“Looking back, it would’ve been better for me to use two separate phones and two email accounts,” she told reporters with a sheepish smile. “I thought using one device would be simpler, and obviously, it hasn’t worked out that way.”

Several people close to Clinton pointed out that those remarks — widely criticized for garbling the technical details in question — represented a change from her behavior in 2008, when Clinton was almost universally unwilling to admit fault for fear of being labeled indecisive (In the last campaign, it took her months, for instance, to concede that she had not actually flown into a live-fire zone during a trip to the Balkans in the 1990s).

But this week Clinton agreed, without complaint, when advisers suggested she concede that she made a mistake in using her private email account. To one veteran of Hillaryland, it was part of a welcome trend of humanizing contrition: Last summer she issued a semi-apology last summer for suggesting she was “dead broke” upon leaving the White House in 2000.

“Maybe things will be different this time when she finally gets in,” the person said. “Or maybe not.”

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Hillary Clinton staffs up in New Hampshire (The Washington Post)

By Anne Gearan

March 13, 2015

Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton has lined up three Democratic staffers credited with helping New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen (D) win re-election last fall to lead the emerging Clinton campaign operation in that state, Democratic officials said.

Clinton is expected to formally announce her presidential campaign next month, but top staff are already unofficially on the job in at least two states with early primaries, as well as in New York City where Clinton plans to house her campaign headquarters.

In New Hampshire, which has the nation's second nominating contest, Democrats familiar with the hires said Clinton has selected Mike Vlacich, who ran Shaheen's 2014 reelection, to be the state director. Harrell Kirstein, who was Shaheen's 2014 communications director, will reprise that role for Clinton, and Shaheen political director Kari Thurman will be a senior political aide in New Hampshire, the Democrats said.

Democrats who confirmed the hires asked not to be identified because Clinton has not yet announced her candidacy.

The three New Hampshire hires were first reported Friday by the Associated Press, the Boston Globe and WMUR.

Shaheen's victory was a bright spot in an otherwise bleak midterm year for Democrats. The race was closer than expected, with Brown taking 51 percent of the vote to former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown's 48 percent.

Shaheen is close to Clinton and the two are longtime political allies. The governor expected to play a big role in Clinton's New Hampshire campaign. Clinton campaigned for Shaheen, including a rally the weekend before the election that marked Clinton's final stump appearance for the cycle.

In Iowa, which holds the first contest of 2016, Clinton's campaign is expected to be headed by Matt Paul, a political adviser to former Gov. Tom Vilsack. Brenda Cole, a seasoned Iowa campaign aide, will also play a senior role, CNN reported Friday.

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Clinton Takes Campaign Step With New Hampshire Hiring (The New York Times)

March 13, 2015

New York Times

CONCORD, N.H. — In a direct step toward a run for the presidency, Hillary Rodham Clinton is hiring political staff to guide her Democratic primary efforts in the early voting state of New Hampshire.

The team-in-waiting is made up of senior operatives in Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's successful re-election bid in 2014, when she survived a Republican wave that knocked out many other Democrats. Mike Vlacich, Shaheen's campaign manager, will serve as Clinton's state director, said a New Hampshire Democrat with knowledge of the move. The Democrat spoke on condition of anonymity because people will not be officially hired until Clinton announces a campaign.

Clinton is expected to announce her 2016 White House bid in the next few weeks, a race that presents few primary rivals at this point, in contrast to the crowded Republican contest.

The former secretary of state has been trying to dig out from a controversy over her use of a private email account and server after acknowledging days ago that she should have avoided relying exclusively on personal email while at the State Department. Word of her hirings in New Hampshire came as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, expected to be a leading contender for the Republican nomination, is in the state on his first visit in years.

In addition to Vlacich, Clinton is turning to Kari Thurman, Shaheen's political director, and Harrell Kirstein, Shaheen's campaign communications director, to serve in the same functions for her, the source said. Shaheen on Friday wished the three of them well "in their next venture," praised their service to her and described Vlacich as "a dedicated public servant and a brilliant political strategist."

Clinton won the 2008 New Hampshire primary and many prominent Democrats in the state are already backing her assumed campaign. Democrats recently told The Associated Press that she has begun retaining staff in the early voting states of Iowa and South Carolina as well.

Clinton returned to New Hampshire last fall for the first time since 2008, campaigning for Shaheen and Gov. Maggie Hassan before the 2014 midterm election. She and her husband, Bill, have maintained friendships and political alliances in New Hampshire that date to the early 1990s.

Vlacich emerged from the 2014 election as one of the most successful Democratic operatives in the country, helping Shaheen beat back a challenge from Republican Scott Brown, a former senator from Massachusetts, when Democrats lost competitive races across the country. Vlacich's wife, Liz Purdy, is also a Clinton confidante, serving as a top adviser to Clinton's 2008 bid in the state.

"Mike is the kind of person who can just pull activists together," said Peter Burling, a former Democratic National Committeeman from New Hampshire. "I think that's going to be an essential part of this next campaign, getting Democrats to come out and participate."

Robby Mook, Clinton's likely campaign manager, also has ties to Shaheen, serving as her 2008 campaign chief.

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In Iowa, Clinton’s campaign is expected to be run by Matt Paul, a longtime adviser to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a former Iowa governor. South Carolina Democrats have told AP that Clinton will again hire Democratic consulting firm Sunrise Communications, owned by Darrell Jackson, a state senator and pastor.

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Clinton Said to be Close to Choosing Brooklyn for Campaign Headquarters (The New York Times)

By Maggie Haberman

March 13, 2015

New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton's aides are close to locking in space for a campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, people familiar with the decision confirmed.

Mrs. Clinton's aides are looking at the Metro Tech complex in Brooklyn Heights, two people with knowledge of the plans said. Other options, including one in the Long Island City section of Queens, fell through.

Mrs. Clinton's team initially looked at space in White Plains, nearer to her home in Chappaqua. They then moved their focus to New York City, in part because the commute for many of her top advisers to Westchester County seemed prohibitive. Options in Manhattan were considered, but ultimately they chose Brooklyn. The selection was first reported by CNN.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton did not immediately respond to an email.

Brooklyn is where the city's progressive mayor, Bill de Blasio, used to work as a city councilman, and his administration tried to bring the 2016 Democratic National Convention to the borough (losing out to Philadelphia). But Brooklyn has also become almost as expensive to find affordable housing as Manhattan, something many potential staff members are surely worried about.

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Hillary Clinton set on Brooklyn HQ, eyes April launch (CNN)

By Dan Merica and Jeff Zeleny

March 13, 2015

CNN

Washington (CNN)As Hillary Clinton's expected April presidential launch nears, her already sizable campaign apparatus is moving into place and getting close to signing a lease for office space in Brooklyn.

Clinton and her team have recently coalesced around the New York borough, according to multiple sources, and are nearing a deal for office space at the MetroTech complex in Brooklyn Heights.

A lease has not been signed yet, according to a source with knowledge, but very serious negations are ongoing and the Clinton team settled on Brooklyn after eying other locations around New York City. She ran her 2008 presidential campaign from Virginia, just across the Potomac river from Washington.

The Clinton team is still preparing for an April announcement, several top Democratic aides, donors and supporters say, although the precise date still remains up for discussion. Dozens of campaign staffers, who have been sworn to secrecy after being notified that they were being hired, have been told to report to New York by late March.

Clinton has been conducting personal interviews with several potential advisers at her home in Chappaqua, while her top aides have been assembling a communications, fundraising, political and social media team.

Clinton supporters see a number of benefits in Brooklyn, including ease of attracting talent to the New York area and the fact that it's known for ethnic and socio-economic diversity.

On the downside, some Clinton supporters have expressed concern with being closely associated with New York City, and in particular Wall Street, which is only two subway stops away.

The campaign headquarters also creates a logistical challenge for staffers in a city of high rents. The campaign is asking supporters in New York if anyone who can open their doors and take in young workers.

The email controversy that has engulfed the Clinton operation for nearly two weeks did not accelerate the timing of her presidential announcement, several top Democrats said, but it did underscore the need for a full-scale campaign apparatus to deal with the incoming criticism.

"I think folks are realizing now more than ever that they need to announce earlier rather than later," a source with knowledge told CNN. "The whole argument that she is left undefended without an official apparatus around her just became magnified 100 times over with this email issue."

The scale and scope of the campaign will ultimately reach into the hundreds, but aides said it would grow gradually.

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A larger grassroots operation is planned for Iowa, site of the first-in-the nation caucuses, where campaign workers will train over the next several months before being dispatched to battleground states. New Hampshire, home of the first Democratic primary, will also be used as a training ground for field and political staffers.

While Clinton isn't expecting an aggressive Democratic primary contest, advisers said they realized they have little time to waste and are approaching the race as though they already have a dozen challengers -- namely the prospective Republican candidates who are trying to distinguish themselves by forcefully criticizing Clinton.

Because of that undisputed frontrunner status, though, Clinton and her team have had their pick of top talent around the country without having to fight with other campaigns.

In New Hampshire, the nascent presidential campaign plans to hire three advisers to Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's reelection bid in 2014 to lead Clinton's New Hampshire operation, according to Granite State Democrats.

Mike Vlacich, a longtime New Hampshire operative, will be Clinton's state director, Kari Thurman, the Shaheen campaign's political director, will fill the same role for Clinton, and Harrell Kirstein, the Shaheen campaign's communications director, will run Clinton's communications shop.

The all-but-announced campaign has also tapped Iowa leadership.

Matt Paul, a longtime adviser to former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, will lead the Clinton's Hawkeye operation. Paul, who currently serves as a top adviser to Vilask at the department of Agriculture, is returning to Iowa for the job and is expected to place in place by the end of the month, according to Democrats in the state.

Joining Paul in Iowa will be Brenda Cole, a longtime Iowa operative, and Lily Adams, currently the deputy communications director at the Democratic National Committee, according to Democrats in the state. Adams will runs Clinton's communications shop in the Hawkeye State and Cole will be her political director.

As CNN reported on Thursday, Clinton has started to line up a press operation, too, an effort that became a priority when the former secretary of state was seemingly left undefended during a recent controversy over her exclusive use of a private email system.

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Jeb Bush, a Clinton Critic, Took Time Releasing His Own Emails (The New York Times)
By Michael Barbaro
March 14, 2015
The New York Times

Jeb Bush has rebuked Hillary Rodham Clinton for her use of a private email account as secretary of state, holding up his own conduct as an example of transparency in government.

But it took Mr. Bush seven years after leaving office to fully comply with a Florida public records statute requiring him to turn over emails he sent and received as governor, according to records released Friday.

Mr. Bush delivered the latest batch of 25,000 emails in May 2014, seven and a half years after leaving the Statehouse and just as he started to contemplate a potential run for the White House, according to a newly disclosed letter written by his lawyer.

A Florida statute governing the preservation of public records requires elected officials, including the governor, to turn over records pertaining to official business “at the expiration of his or her term of office.”

“If they’ve been adding to it, it’s a technical violation of the law,” said Barbara A. Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group in Florida that advocates access to government information.

She added, “The law clearly says you’re supposed to turn everything over at the end of your term in office.”

Aides to Mr. Bush, an avid user of email, said they had provided many of his messages to his successor’s office as they were being reviewed for inclusion in the state archives, a process that dragged on for years because of the large volume.

“At the conclusion of Gov. Bush’s time in office, aides worked with the Executive Office of the Governor to continue to fulfill public records requests, as well as provide a full set of his official emails to the state for historical and archival purposes,” Kristy Campbell, a spokeswoman for Mr. Bush, said in a written statement.

Mr. Bush on Friday offered no detailed explanation for the seven-year delay in completing the search for his emails. Mr. Bush used a private email address, jeb@jeb.org, throughout his eight-year term as governor and encouraged constituents to write to him.

After it was revealed that Mrs. Clinton had relied exclusively on a private email account during her time as secretary of state, raising questions about her compliance with public records rules, Mr. Bush’s aides gleefully pointed to their handling of electronic correspondence as a model.

Mr. Bush, they recalled, had publicly advertised his personal email address and had promptly released tens of thousands of the emails to the public on a website.

“Transparency matters,” Mr. Bush wrote in a message on Twitter. Mrs. Clinton’s “emails should be released.”

The newly disclosed documents, made available after a request from The New York Times on Friday afternoon, suggest that Mr. Bush delivered his emails to state archives in several waves starting in 2007. New batches arrived in 2009, 2010 and 2011 as Mr. Bush and his aides reviewed whether they were subject to disclosure.

But in 2014, they discovered a new set of 25,000 emails, which represents about 9 percent of the 280,000 emails that he has turned over to the state from his private account. Until then, public records requests seeking emails to or from Mr. Bush would not have captured those messages, Ms. Petersen said.

In a letter explaining the delay, a lawyer for Mr. Bush, Raquel A. Rodriguez, wrote that the new messages were discovered when “we recently reviewed Gov. Bush’s records and came across some additional email messages that may be public records.” The letter did not elaborate on where or how the messages were found.

Ms. Petersen said she gave Mr. Bush credit for turning over emails as he found them but said the yearslong delay was curious.

“I can see how it might take six months or so, a year maybe to locate all these records,” she said. “But we are talking, what now, seven years?”

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Jeb Bush: I'm No Hillary Clinton When it Comes to Email (ABC News)
By Meghan Keneally
March 14, 2015
ABC News

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush dedicated his return to New Hampshire after a 15-year-long absence to defining himself outside of his family's shadow and distancing himself from any similarities to another likely presidential candidate with legacy ties: Hillary Clinton.

Speaking after a business roundtable with the Nashua Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Bush said that his use of a private email server was "totally different" than that of the former Secretary of State, adding that he had been "totally transparent" about his communication habits.

While Clinton said this week that she used a private account out of "convenience" and later went through a "thorough process" to deliver her work-related messages to the State Department, Bush said he regularly complied with Freedom of Information Act requests during his tenure as governor and later posted a trove of thousands of emails online.

"I had a Blackberry. It was part of my official portrait for crying out loud," he said Friday. "There was nothing to hide."

"We complied with the law and … long before Mrs. Clinton's issues came up, we made them public for you to see, so it's totally different," he said.

Though Bush, who left the governor's mansion in 2007, maintained that his office has been dedicated to being "totally transparent" for years, a trove of his emails from his term were only handed over last summer, according to American Bridge, a liberal super PAC.

American Bridge released a report Saturday saying the Florida Department of State confirmed that an undisclosed amount of emails concerning "policy discussion" from 2002 to 2003 were not sent to the Florida State Archives until June of last year. That would give him, like Clinton, years where he had access to his personal email server but the government did not.

Though Bush declined to comment on what the scandal may mean for Clinton, he said he wasn't surprised that her team would suggest that his actions were similar to hers.

"That's standard operating procedure for them," he said of the allegations.

Later Friday, after Bush left his first public event in Hudson and stopped at a closed-door fundraiser, the former governor attended a house party hosted by former New Hampshire GOP Chairman Fergus Cullen, where he was happier to talk about his connections to some other former White House residents.

After working his way through the jammed dining and living rooms of the Cullens, Bush talked about how his family members have defined him for many years, saying how he's long-been known as "George's boy, or Barbara's boy, or George's brother."

That wasn't a problem for some in the hundred-strong crowd, including Brad Ludington, an endodontist who said that he had been waiting more than a decade to shake Bush's hand.

"The last two people I shook the hands of became president," Ludington said of Bush's father and brother.

Ludington said he was excited to hear the former governor speak, and though he liked the other Bush politicians, they were "totally different people."

Bush is one of a handful of likely 2016 presidential candidates to sweep the Granite State this week. Former Texas governor Rick Perry met voters at a series of smaller events in VFW halls upstate Friday, while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker will headline a training session for volunteers and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has several events scheduled for Sunday.

While Perry found support in New Hampshire during the 2012 primaries, some state activists appear to be making an effort to change the tenor of the upcoming primary politicking. On Friday night, Cullen introduced

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Bush by taking a swipe at the earlier field, saying they “didn’t have enough serious, credible candidates” in 2012.

“Governor Bush would be a one-person antidote to that problem,” Cullen said.

Bush repeatedly shied away from the conclusion that he is formally running for president. When asked about how he would address the spread of ISIS, Bush said that he would only answer the question as a third-person hypothetical because he is only “considering the possibility of running.”

But that’s enough for supporters. Before the potential candidate even started addressing the group at the house party, Ludington felt that he had done his part to get another Bush in the White House.

“I gave him my lucky handshake,” he said.

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Hillary Clinton's secret mess; The e-mail saga is a reminder that the Clintons rarely play by the same rules as everyone else. (The Washington Post)
By Kathleen Parker
March 14, 2015
The Washington Post

On March 2, the story broke that Hillary Clinton had possibly violated e-mail regulations while secretary of state.

You could almost hear the collective gasp in Washington: Oh, no, here we go again.

But the next evening, Clinton was feted at the Emily's List 30th-anniversary gala dinner as though nothing had happened. Only the trumpets were missing from what felt like her coronation as the Democratic presidential nominee and, possibly, the next president of the United States.

Fast-forward a dozen days and Clinton's position in the presidential sweepstakes seems less assured, her inevitability not so inevitable.

The most perplexing question isn't about the e-mails themselves but why she put everything at risk over such a small detail, declining to segregate her personal and business e-mail.

There can only be one answer, and it isn't "convenience," as Clinton claims. Think of another word that begins with the letter "C": control.

Clinton claims she opted for the convenience of one cellphone and a personal server — rather than use a government-issued phone for business and another device for personal matters. Too much stuff to lug around?

So the whole question of her conduct as secretary of state boils down to a few ounces of electronic equipment. Hate to say it, but only a woman could come up with such an excuse. It's all about the purse.

Plainly, Clinton didn't want anyone snooping around her virtual file cabinet. Who does? But this isn't the point. When you are secretary of state and are mulling a run for president, you steer clear of anything and anyone remotely questionable. No one should know this better.

Questions that merit serious consideration include whether the Clinton server was secure. Clinton insists that it was because her New York home, where the server lives, is protected by the Secret Service. Given the optional sobriety of agents these days, this is less than reassuring. Then, too, hacking doesn't require on-site handling.

Here's the real muddle for Clinton. Whether her server suffered no breaches — and whether there's nothing in those 32,000 deleted personal e-mails — matters little. In politics, you're guilty as perceived. It looks bad.

Most likely this error (rather than crime) is a function of remoteness more than dishonesty. The Clintons have been around so long, they are the essence of bubble life. Removed from the hubbub of ordinary existence — escorted, driven, valeted, catered to, styled, fluffed and obeyed — being Clinton means never having to hear the word "no." It must be easy to forget that you have to live by the same rules as everyone else.

This is a concept the Clintons have never fully accepted. One can understand, given their extended public life — and the hyper-scrutiny under which they live — that they might seek to erect high walls around their private lives. Fame and celebrity breed not just insularity but also paranoia.

Maybe there's nothing of interest in those personal e-mails, but how would we know? Team Clinton handpicked the "personals" and now they're deleted, thus creating the impression that she is hiding something. The Clintons always seem to be hiding something. Not so much holding their cards close to the chest as kicking the body back behind the dust ruffle.

Even though investigations into every "gate" associated with them in the past — Travelgate, Filegate, Troopergate, you-name-it-gate — failed to produce much more than a blue dress, there seemed to be something not quite right. And now there's this. Not illegal per se but not quite right.

Clinton says she figured that, because all her communications to State Department staff went to the dot-gov server, they automatically would have gone into storage as required. True, but what about the rest? What's in those deleted e-mails? Don't we imagine that personal and business often overlap in the Clinton Rolodex?

Adding to the suspicion is that the 55,000 pages of e-mails that Clinton did turn over to the State Department

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surfaced only after the House select committee investigating Benghazi requested her correspondence about the attack. Would she have turned them over anyway?

Maybe. Still and again, it doesn't look good. And the entire mess serves as a reminder of a movie we've seen before — and it wasn't so great the first time. Whether this episode proves fatal remains to be seen, but we won't hear the end of it until every note of condolence, yoga date and wedding plan is known to someone other than Hillary.

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Public's right to know lost in email; State Dept. fails to practice the transparency it preaches (Boston Herald)
By Rachelle Cohen
March 13, 2015
Boston Herald

Each year the U.S. State Department hosts thousands of public officials from around the world under its International Visitor Leadership Program. It is one of the better things our government does, bringing the best and the brightest from distant lands — public officials, judges, journalists — and giving them a taste of how we operate here.

I know this because several times a year I get to host such groups at the Herald where the topic du jour is usually transparency — government transparency — everything from the cameras and Tweets from inside the Aaron Hernandez trial to the lengthy and detailed "Statement of Financial Interests" filed by every high-ranking state and local official, to the public payrolls we put up on our website. The latter is always a crowd pleaser — especially if we can look up the salary of some state official who might be in the room at the time.

For government officials from the Ukraine, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, or journalists from Latin America or the Middle East this is eye-opening stuff — scary too, but they are universally quick to realize that transparency is at the heart of preventing the kind of corruption that eats away at public trust.

Many of their countries are right at that critical juncture — knowing where they need to be, but measuring progress in inches.

Now make no mistake, I always include a segment on how less than perfect we as a nation are, and how journalists are constantly fighting to push the envelope to keep government honest and open.

So what the hell do I tell them now? How do I explain Hillary Rodham Clinton and her private email server and her deletion of more than half of the emails she sent or received during her four years as secretary of state?

And there is the delicious irony of the State Department — which brings all of these smart up-and-coming officials here to worship at the American altar of transparency — now finding itself being sued by The Associated Press to force the release of Clinton's government emails.

The AP announced this week it was filing the suit after years of filing fruitless requests under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act — including at least one request that dates back five years and others pending since the summer of 2013.

The FOIA requests sought Clinton's emails regarding the Osama bin Laden raid and National Security Agency surveillance practices and correspondence between Clinton and top aides who might be expected to be part of a future presidential campaign, such as Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills.

"State's failure to ensure that Secretary Clinton's government emails were retained and preserved by the agency, and its failure to timely seek out and search those emails in response to AP's requests, indicate at the very least that State has not engaged in the diligent, good-faith search that FOIA requires," the AP suit says.

And even as Clinton herself was trying to tap dance around the possible destruction of government documents (in the all-too-likely event that some of those 30,000 "private" emails weren't about Chelsea's wedding or yoga routines at all), the inspector general for the department released his own well-timed report this week.

In fact the IG found that of more than a billion emails sent in 2011, State Department employees created only 61,156 official "record emails" that would be preserved in the system. In 2013 that figure was down to 41,749.

"Some employees do not create record emails because they do not want to make the email available in searches or fear that this availability would inhibit debate about pending decisions," the IG wrote.

Really? Who would have guessed?

So if Hillary Clinton set the standard, the rest of the crew at State was all too eager to follow her lead.

Guess it's true what they say about the fish rotting from the head the down.

Rachelle Cohen is editor of the editorial pages.

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Hillary Clinton's Questionable Process for Sorting Work Emails (The Atlantic)

By Conor Friedersdorf

March 13, 2015

The Atlantic

Hillary Clinton asked the public to trust her during a recent press conference at the United Nations, when she stated that she has already complied with transparency laws by turning over all public records she generated as Secretary of State.

She had no business making that claim. A Time magazine report about the process used to identify public records in her possession shows that she cannot possibly know if she is in compliance with the law. And juxtaposing her process with the words used in her press conference shows her core claim to be misleading.

Unless she can disprove the story, her credibility can only suffer from the comparison.

* * *

To understand the impression Hillary Clinton created at her press conference, before additional facts were available, it is best to begin with her words. What follows are the parts of the event where she characterized the emails she has turned over.

She began:

... after I left office, the State Department asked former secretaries of state for our assistance in providing copies of work-related emails from our personal accounts. I responded right away and provided all my emails that could possibly be work-related, which totalled roughly 55,000 printed pages, even though I knew that the State Department already had the vast majority of them. We went through a thorough process to identify all of my work-related emails and deliver them to the State Department.

A reporter at the press conference followed up, asking, "Can you explain how you decided which of the personal e-mails to get rid of, how you got rid of them and when? And how you'll respond to questions about you being the arbiter of what you release?"

Her reply:

In going through the e-mails, there were over 60,000 in total, sent and received. About half were work-related and went to the State Department and about half were personal that were not in any way related to my work. I had no reason to save them, but that was my decision because the federal guidelines are clear and the State Department request was clear. For any government employee, it is that government employee's responsibility to determine what's personal and what's work-related. I am very confident of the process that we conducted and the e-mails that were produced.

Later still, she added, "I have absolute confidence that everything that could be in any way connected to work is now in the possession of the State Department."

And she said this:

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... my direction to conduct the thorough investigation was to err on the side of providing anything that could be possibly viewed as work related. That doesn't mean they will be by the State Department once the State Department goes through them, but out of an abundance of caution and care, you know, we wanted to send that message unequivocally. That is the responsibility of the individual and I have fulfilled that responsibility, and I have no doubt that we have done exactly what we should have done. When the search was conducted, we were asking that any email be identified and preserved that could potentially be federal records, and that's exactly what we did ... I trust the American people to make their decisions about political and public matters. And I feel that I've taken unprecedented steps to provide these work-related emails.

To review, she asserted 1) a thorough investigation that included "going through" roughly 60,000 emails; 2) a standard of erring on the side of disclosing "anything" that could "possibly" be viewed as work related; 3) a "thorough" process robust enough to warrant "absolute confidence" in its results; 4) a process to turn over emails that could plausibly be characterized as "unprecedented."

Nearly everyone listening to these assurances came away with the impression that a person or team of people went through those 60,000+ emails and sorted them into two categories: work or personal. On The Daily Show, Jon Stewart mocked the notion that sorting through tens of thousands of emails was more "convenient" than maintaining both work and personal email accounts. Most criticism of the approach focused on the fact that Hillary Clinton confidantes, rather than neutral arbiters, were making the judgment calls about these 60,000+ emails.

But it turns out that no one was "going through" each email to sort work from personal correspondence or to error on the side of disclosure when the line was blurry.

According to David Von Drehle of Time, the process used was actually as follows:

She commissioned a review of the 62,320 messages in her account only after the department—spurred by the congressional investigation—asked her to do so.

And this review did not involve opening and reading each email; instead, Clinton's lawyers created a list of names and keywords related to her work and searched for those. Slightly more than half the total cache—31,830 emails—did not contain any of the search terms, according to Clinton's staff, so they were deemed to be "private, personal records."

The idea that such a process could produce "absolute confidence" that all public records were identified is as curious as the notion that Bill Clinton never inhaled.

Here is a made up email to illustrate the point:

To: Bill Clinton

From: Hillary Clinton

Subject: Ugh

Assume you saw the latest. This could blow up in our faces if we don't get out in front of it ... and frankly, the WH isn't helping matters much. I'm tempted to reverse course but wonder if it would affect your latest ask. What does SB think?

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A keyword search would not flag messages where (for example) official business is rendered in pronouns, “White House” is rendered as an abbreviation, and “Sidney Blumenthal” is rendered in shorthand. Or consider an email that concerns Benghazi, but that was typed on a smart phone in a moment of distraction, causing an unintententional misspelling: “Benhgazi.” A keyword search would miss that email. The process described would label it a “private, personal record.”

As for creating a list of names, that would doubtless flag a lot of relevant work emails, but no busy professional remembers the name of every person who emails them for work over a multi-year period encompassing tens of thousands of messages.

And those problems apply even if we assume that Team Clinton made an earnest effort to use search terms that would flag all relevant emails, while it could be the case that they knew what they hoped to hide and crafted the search accordingly. Had the technology existed in an earlier era Richard Nixon’s attorneys presumably wouldn’t have included “Watergate” or “burglary” in the search terms.

This revelation ought to harm Hillary Clinton insofar as it shows her earlier statements to be misleading. It also suggests what question she ought to be asked next: What list of names and key words were included in the email-archive search? It’s easy to imagine search terms that would suggest an earnest effort at identification, the shortcomings of the method notwithstanding, and equally easy to imagine search terms so self-evidently inadequate or with such glaring omissions that, like the private server itself, they suggest that official business was being hidden.

Even if Hillary Clinton’s server was wiped clean and her email archive is unrecoverable, she can further reveal the specific details of her inadequate process.

Will she?

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Judge Orders State Dept. to Release Records From Clinton Trips (The New York Times)
By Amy Chozick
March 13, 2015
The New York Times

A federal judge on Friday ruled on behalf of Citizens United, a conservative advocacy group, in its lawsuit against the State Department for documents related to Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure there.

Judge Gladys Kessler of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ordered the State Department to produce passenger manifests from 47 overseas trips that Mrs. Clinton made as secretary of state. Citizens United requested the manifests last July through a Freedom of Information Act Request.

The State Department, the judge wrote, must release the first batch of records by April 3, with more being released every two weeks; all the documents must be given to the group no later than Aug. 1.

The group requested the flight manifests to examine whether Clinton Foundation donors had accompanied Mrs. Clinton on State Department trips.

"Clearly, the State Department is not getting the benefit of the doubt from judges anymore," David N. Bossie, president of Citizens United. said Friday.

A State Department spokeswomen did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Citizens United has made 18 FOIA requests for information, none of which have not been fulfilled. The group said it planned to file a lawsuit next week that would seek to gain access to documents that show any existing correspondence between senior State Department officials and donors to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

Requests for public records requests have been complicated or made impossible because of Mrs. Clinton's exclusive use of a private email address while she was at the State Department. The Associated Press filed a lawsuit this week against the State Department to force the release of outstanding documents requested through FOIA.

Citizens United has a history of litigation involving projects designed to portray Mrs. Clinton in a negative light. A lawsuit the group brought against the Federal Election Commission over its 2008 anti-Clinton documentary, "Hillary: The Movie," reached the Supreme Court and led to a 2010 decision that overhauled campaign finance rules.

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Is Hillary Clinton Vulnerable? (The Wall Street Journal)
By James Taranto
March 13, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

More details are emerging about Hillary Clinton's private email server, and they don't look good from either a transparency or security standpoint. Time reports on how she determined which emails to print out for the State Department:

For more than a year after she left office in 2013, she did not transfer work-related email from her private account to the State Department. She commissioned a review of the 62,320 messages in her account only after the department—spurred by the congressional investigation—asked her to do so. And this review did not involve opening and reading each email; instead, [Mrs.] Clinton's lawyers created a list of names and keywords related to her work and searched for those. Slightly more than half the total cache—31,830 emails—did not contain any of the search terms, according to Clinton's staff, so they were deemed to be "private, personal records."

In Tuesday's press conference Mrs. Clinton claimed to have undertaken "a thorough process to identify all of my work-related emails" and to have "provided [printouts of] all my emails that could possibly be work-related." If Time's account is accurate, the process was not thorough, and the claim that the printouts included all work-related emails is almost certainly untrue. The search terms the lawyers employed were narrow enough to exclude more than half (51.1%) of all the emails on the server. Are we supposed to believe the terms were also broad enough to include every single email that involved official business?

Moreover, if Time's account of the lawyers' method is comprehensive, then they made no effort to shield from disclosure those personal emails that happened to include the selected keywords. Given Mrs. Clinton's penchant for privacy, does that seem likely? One wonders if perhaps there was a second set of search terms flagging emails to be withheld—and, since she said she "chose not to keep" them, destroyed.

"Hillary Clinton Is More Vulnerable in 2016 Than You Think" read a New York Times headline early this week. The article was an analysis of her approval and disapproval ratings in opinion surveys, but her use of a private server to conduct sensitive official business raises the prospect of another kind of vulnerability—questions even Vox.com raised after the press conference in a piece titled "Clinton Says She Had No Email Security Breaches. But She Doesn't Know That."

At the press conference, the former secretary laughably claimed that the server was secure because "it was on property guarded by the Secret Service." Maybe she's been watching "House of Cards," whose second season has a hacking subplot that involves obtaining physical access to a server farm. But of course that's not how hackers typically operate in the real virtual world.

In a Sunday article for GeekWire.com, Christopher Budd, a specialist in both computer security and public relations, argues that Mrs. Clinton's use of a private server while secretary of state may "represent one of the most serious breaches in data handling that we've ever heard of." He lists three reasons:

1. The Secretary of State is a very "high value target" from the standpoint of nation-state threat actors. The President, Secretary of Defense and the head of the CIA would also qualify in this top tier. These individuals handle the most important, most sensitive, most dangerous and therefore most interesting information to foreign intelligence.

2. Nation-state threat actors represent the top of the food chain in terms of adversaries in information security. Nation-states can bring the most talent and resources to bear in this arena. For all the worry about cybercriminals and terrorists, everyone in information security looks at nation-state threat actors as the most advanced and sophisticated threat to defend against.

3. Take #1 and #2 together and you have a situation where the very high value targets are threatened by the most advanced and sophisticated offensive information security capabilities out there. Put another way, the best of the best are gunning for those people to get their information.

The third point is critical: if the best of the best are after your information, you need the best of your best protecting it. And there is simply no way that a "homebrew" server is EVER going to have the security and resources appropriate to defend it adequately.

Since Budd wrote, experts and reporters have fleshed out some of these concerns. The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that according to Venafi, an Internet security company, "the Clinton server was encrypting

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data it sent and received as of March 29, 2009." But "during the first two months of her tenure . . . it doesn't appear that Mrs. Clinton's email had such protections."

In a Wednesday blog post, Venafi's vice president for security strategy and threat intelligence, Kevin Bocek, explains what this means: "During the first 3 months of Secretary Clinton's term in office, web browser, smartphone, and tablet communications would not have been encrypted. Attackers could have eavesdropped on communications. As well, the server would not have been uniquely identified as being clintonemail.com and therefore could have been spoofed—allowing attackers to more easily trick an unsuspecting user of the site to hand over their [sic] username and password or other sensitive information."

Even the belated security measures might not have been enough, Bocek explains:

Obtaining the cryptographic key and digital certificate for clintonemail.com would be an important step for attackers seeking to compromise Secretary of State Clinton or others [who] might access the server. With them, bad guys could masquerade as the legitimate site or decrypt what was thought to be private communications. As a standalone Microsoft Windows Server, the site is very vulnerable. In 2013, over 800 trojans were known to steal keys and certificates—and that number has swelled since then. The use of digital certificates on clintonemail.com provides users with the confidence that they are connecting to the real site and communications cannot be inspected. But when on government networks, anyone accessing the site and depending on the certificate needs to be highly suspicious. The site has received tremendous attention and its contents and certificate are likely targets for compromise and misuse.

Fox's James Rosen reports that "a determined band of hackers, IT bloggers, and systems analysts have trained their specialized talents and state-of-the-art software on clintonemail.com . . . and uncovered serious lapses in security, according to data shared with Fox News":

Perhaps most concerning, private analysts determined that clintonemail.com has been running an older model of Microsoft Internet Information Services, or IIS—specifically version 7.5, which has been documented to leave users exposed on multiple fronts. The website CVEDetails.com, which bills itself as "the ultimate security vulnerability datasource," is awash with descriptions of serious security vulnerabilities associated with version 7.5, including "memory corruption," "password disclosure vulnerability," and the enabling of "remote attackers to execute arbitrary code or cause a denial of service."

The cyberlab technician who discovered the Clintons' use of version 7.5 marveled at "the vulnerabilities the Clintons are ignoring" in an email to Fox News. "This is a big deal and just the thing real-world hackers look for in a target and will exploit to the max," the source said.

"Several of these vulnerabilities have been known since 2010 and yet HRC is running official State comms through it."

Mrs. Clinton insisted during her press conference that "I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email." Even if true, there are three reasons that is not reassuring.

First, as the Journal notes in a Wednesday editorial, "emails between a Secretary of State and others in government don't have to be classified to be valuable to foreign hackers." Second, as the Journal points out in a Thursday editorial, "Mrs. Clinton didn't say she never received classified information via email."

Third, as former federal prosecutor Andrew McCarthy argues at National Review Online, it depends on what the meaning of "material" is:

In the government, classified documents are maintained on separate, super-highly secured systems. Yes, if security gets lax or you have a determined Ed Snowden type with sufficient expertise, the protections can be defeated. But in general, Mrs. Clinton would not have been able to access classified documents even from a .gov account, much less from her private account—she'd need to use the classified system. In fact, many government officials with security clearances read "hard copies" of classified documents in facilities designed for that purpose rather than accessing them on computers.

That said, there are two pertinent caveats. First, since we're dealing with Clintonian parsing here, we must consider the distinction between classified documents and classified information—the latter being what is laid out in the former. It is not enough for a government official with a top-secret clearance to refrain from storing classified documents on private e-mail; the official is also forbidden to discuss the information contained in those documents.

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The fact that Mrs. Clinton says she did not store classified documents on her private server, which is very likely true, does not discount the distinct possibility that she discussed classified matters in private e-mails. We would not be able to judge that absent reviewing the e-mails. If any of the 31,830 withheld e-mails from the private, non-secure system—involving America's top diplomat who was in constant discussions with other important diplomats, top military and national-security officials, her trusted advisers, and even the president of the United States—touched on classified matters, that could land Mrs. Clinton in very hot legal water. It would be a powerful incentive to hit the "delete" key.

A frequent complaint from journalists and other advocates of government transparency is that agencies dealing with national security classify far too much material. "I would assume that more than 50 percent of what the secretary of state dealt with was classified," a "former senior State Department official who served before the Obama administration" tells the New York Times. "Was every single email of the secretary of state completely unclassified? Maybe, but it's hard to imagine." (The official requested and was granted anonymity "because he did not want to seem ungracious to Mrs. Clinton.")

In light of all this, it's fair to say Mrs. Clinton's press conference raised more questions than it answered. About the only thing we know for sure is that she is determined "the server will remain private."

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How Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama Became Media Control Freaks (Daily Beast)
By Lloyd Grove
March 13, 2015
Daily Beast

mbattled former secretary of state Hillary Clinton can console herself with the knowledge that she's not alone.

The presumptive presidential candidate and email deleter—whose apparent reluctance to release public records and documents prompted the Associated Press to sue the State Department this week—is by no means unique in her wish to starve the insatiable media, or at least restrict ravenous reporters to a bland diet of happy news.

It has been the desire of politicians and government agencies through history to manipulate the Fourth Estate into publishing their press releases and ignoring their missteps and scandals. Technological advances, meanwhile, have cut both ways, allowing not only instantaneous public distribution of official government spin but also massive leaks of political and national security secrets, digitally downloaded from cyberspace.

"The basic narrative [of the latest Clinton controversy] is consistent with what we have seen from the Pentagon Papers through Watergate to the fundamental tension between the media and the political establishment," said Frank Sesno, director of George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs and former Washington bureau chief of CNN.

"It centers on secrecy and any suggestion of a cover-up. And what technology has changed is there is more demand for more information, more rapidly and more transparently shared. So that creates a collision course between the media and, in this case, Hillary Clinton."

President Barack Obama's minions, obsessed with preventing unauthorized disclosures, have turned this understandable impulse into an overpowering imperative, say journalism advocates who deal with them daily.

"These folks are control freaks," said longtime media lawyer Lucy Dalglish, dean of the University of Maryland's Phillip Merrill College of Journalism and former executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "To a certain degree, I can understand when it comes to sensitive information that can just be put on a thumb drive and flown to Russia. That's scary, and they do need those controls. But that doesn't mean you have to control all access."

Dalglish was among the First Amendment advocates who attended a quarrelsome high-level meeting in November 2013 between President Obama's communications staff, led by then-White House Press Secretary Jay Carney and White House Counsel Kathryn Ruemmler, and aggrieved and angry representatives of the White House press corps.

"The topic of that particular meeting at the White House was, 'You're not allowing independent photography; you only allow [Obama's personal photographer] Pete Souza to take pictures. This is insane!'" Dalglish recalled.

"And they started going into their song and dance. 'We're the most transparent White House in history!' 'We post things on Facebook!' 'You don't want us to have Facebook. You don't want us to have Twitter and Instagram. Isn't that hypocritical?'"

Dalglish continued: "Our response was 'Hold it! Time out! You guys can blog. You guys can tweet. You guys can post photos. Good for you! Go do it. God bless. But it's not the same thing as journalism. A series of photos you posted from Pete Souza are not the same as photos shot by independent professionals. And the fact that you don't recognize that is troubling.' Carney didn't seem to understand."

Amazed that Carney, a former Time magazine Washington bureau chief, would argue that White House-approved and edited photos were just as valid journalistically as those taken for independent news organizations—"Don't get me started," Dalglish said—she could barely believe her ears.

Carney remembers the encounter somewhat differently. "I've never said, and do not believe, that official photos are journalistically equivalent to photos take by independent photo journalists," he emailed The Daily Beast. "What I did say, and believe, is that official photos have value, and that it's a good thing to give the public access to them."

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The former White House press secretary acknowledged, however, that technology has inevitably placed the administration's PR juggernaut in direct competition with news outlets.

"There were issues of access, which was something we could address and improve," he emailed. "And there were issues of distribution, which were more difficult. Back in the 1980s, say, the official White House photographers took photos, decided which ones to distribute, developed them and then physically handed them out in the press room. The wires, the papers and the networks got to decide which, if any, the public would get to see."

Carney continued: "The Internet has changed that. The early part of the process is the same now as it was then, but now the images are digitized and distribution is direct. The White House can simply post official photos online. More people get to see them, and see them sooner. I think that's a good thing. But it doesn't replace independent photography, and neither I nor anyone I worked with believed that it should or could."

Photography aside, however, Dalglish listed a series of new limits demonstrating that the Obama administration's relationship with the media is even more restrictive—arguably paranoid—than that of George W. Bush, hardly known as a press-friendly president.

"For instance, journalists can't talk without pre-approval to any of the scientists at a scientific agency, whether it be NASA, the National Institutes of Health or the National Weather Service," she said. "They're cracking down on their experts, not allowing their actual scientists to speak to reporters. They make you go through 'information specialists' who translate the scientists for you. I'm sorry, but that's insulting, unnecessary, and exhibits the mindset of a terrified control freak."

In another instance, Dalglish said members of the intelligence community are required to file reports on even their most casual encounters with University of Maryland professor Dana Priest, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former Washington Post reporter who specializes in national security issues.

"Every time they see her they have to report it," Dalglish said. "She was telling me that there was a meeting of the crew team of her daughter's school, and there was a parent, the father of another kid, who works for one of the intelligence agencies. And he just came up to her and said, 'Just so you know, every time I see you, I have to report that I saw you. I'm not trying to be rude, but they're watching.' " Priest didn't respond to email and voicemail messages from The Daily Beast.

Still, law professor Geoffrey Stone of the University of Chicago—who has studied the institutional tensions between the media and government secret-keepers—defended the intelligence community's legitimate interests in holding the press at arm's length.

Citing the massive and potentially harmful disclosures of classified material—by Chelsea Manning to Wikileaks and by Edward Snowden to The Guardian and other outlets—Stone said there's little doubt that the resulting news stories damaged national security.

"The people in the intelligence community see the media as self-interested and superficial, reckless with information and a genuine danger to the nation, who do not understand what they're doing, and, frankly, don't care," said Stone, who interviewed both spies and reporters as a member of the President's Review Group on NSA Surveillance.

"The journalists tend to see the people in the intelligence community as being much more interested in protecting themselves from criticism than they are in allowing the public to be informed on matters on which the public should be informed. The truth is, they're both right."

The Associated Press's lawsuit to obtain emails, calendars, phone logs and other material from Hillary Clinton's four years at the State Department is the latest battleground of these opposing attitudes.

The central clearing house of U.S. diplomacy—which takes an average of 450 days to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request, according to a 2012 inspector general's report—is by far the worst performer of any government agency. Even the CIA is seven times faster in responding, and the Treasury Department is even quicker—30 times faster than State.

AP General Counsel Karen Kaiser filed the current lawsuit on behalf of the non-profit wire service—which represents 1,700 member news outlets—after one of the AP's Clinton-related FOIAs languished for five years at the State Department without a response.

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She said it's possible that after negotiations with the Justice Department's civil division there could be arguments before a federal judge, and some of the requested documents could be forthcoming within a few months.

At which point, Hillary Clinton—likely to be in smack-dab in the middle of her campaign for the Democratic nomination—will either be facing a pesky new scandal or a collective media yawn.

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Here's what a real Democratic presidential primary might look like (The Washington Post)

By Greg Sargent

March 13, 2015

Washington Post

The other day, I noted that it might be time to start hoping for a real Democratic presidential primary. Not solely because Hillary Clinton's handling of the email mess shows she might benefit from being challenged, but also because there are real differences among Democrats that would benefit from an airing.

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, who has been talking about challenging Hillary Clinton from the left, has given an interview to Salon's Joan Walsh that provides a preliminary glimpse into what such an intra-Dem debate might look like.

O'Malley seems to throw his lot in with what is widely being called the "Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party." The divide on economic policy between the Warren-ites and the more moderate Democrats tends to be exaggerated — there's probably more consensus on these matters among Democrats than there has been in many years — but there are real differences, and they matter.

For instance, O'Malley comes out for expanding Social Security (Obama has flirted with cutting it), arguing: "Right now we're facing a looming retirement crisis in our country. People who used to have personal savings, or pensions, don't have them. More and more people are going to be relying solely on Social Security." Some high profile Democrats, such as Warren, have endorsed this idea, which would be funded by lifting the cap so higher earners pay more into the system, while re-indexing for inflation to boost benefits. This goal is shared by some Dem constituencies, such as organized labor and activist groups. To my knowledge Clinton has not said whether she favors this.

O'Malley also declares his support for reinstating Glass-Steagall, i.e., separations between commercial and investment banks. This goal has also been championed by Warren, on the grounds that it could minimize the risks to the financial system posed by Wall Street "high stakes gambling." O'Malley mocks fellow Democrats for "supporting Dodd Frank lite," suggesting that they are mostly doing so because "we have monied interests tying Congress in knots," an apparent effort to speak to Democratic voters who believe their party is too beholden to Wall Street.

The original Glass-Steagall, of course, was repealed under a president also named Clinton, which is one of the reasons many claim Hillary Clinton is "too cozy with Wall Street." I'm a bit skeptical of that claim, but there are plainly differences among core Democratic constituencies over how far to go in regulating Wall Street, and a debate on this topic would be helpful and clarifying for Democratic voters.

O'Malley also brings up a topic we rarely hear about these days: Raising the income threshold for workers to qualify for overtime pay. The Obama administration will soon announce a rules change raising the threshold, and some liberal economists expect him to set it lower than he might. This is not a small matter: Going big on overtime pay might be the single most dramatic thing a Democratic president might do unilaterally to help the middle class — and if a Dem is elected in 2016, he or she will face a GOP House. O'Malley also talks about the need to boost the collective bargaining power of workers, which would be key to any serious effort to combat inequality. Clinton, too, is reportedly thinking along these lines, but still, debate on these topics would be great for the Democratic audience.

Then there's the possible nuclear deal with Iran, a topic on which Clinton has been vague, and the argument over the proper parameters of the conflict with ISIS, a topic on which Obama and many Democrats disagree.

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Yes, there is a lot of consensus among Democrats on the broad economic strokes: Higher taxes on capital gains and inherited wealth to fund middle class tax relief. More investments in infrastructure and education, particularly subsidized community college. Universal child care and early education; national family leave and sick leave policies designed to enhance workplace flexibility. A minimum wage hike. But there are remaining disagreements among core Dem constituencies and among party actors.

Can anyone force a real primary? Should anyone try? There has been a lot of snickering about how O'Malley can't possibly mount a serious challenge to Clinton, and for all I know, that may be right. But as Jonathan Bernstein has explained, even if Clinton's nomination appears close to inevitable, there really are a number of serious Democrats out there, and even the effort to compel a contested primary might help the party:

It's good for the party to have competition, because it gives party actors leverage over the candidates, and therefore helps force the nominee, if elected, to be loyal to the party as president.

In other words, the debate itself is a worthy goal, even if it might have little chance of changing the outcome.

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Hillary Clinton isn't running unopposed. She's just crushing the competition. (Vox)

By Ezra Klein

March 13, 2015

Vox

Jonathan Bernstein and Reihan Salam have written two smart articles on the Democratic presidential primary — or lack thereof — that are best read in tandem. Bernstein's article is meant to explain why it looks like Democrats don't have a bench even though they do, and Salam's article is meant to show who's sitting on it.

Bernstein's argument is related to the "invisible primary" theory of presidential elections. Hillary Clinton, he says, "has earned the support of the bulk of Democratic party actors, and gained the acquiescence of other Democrats who aren't as enthusiastic about her." The result is that the Democratic Party's "perfectly viable other candidates either dropped out or never seriously considered the race."

Perhaps a slightly clearer way to put it is this: in the invisible primary, when the contest is as much a draft as it is a campaign, Clinton is "opposed" by essentially every Democrat fit for the presidency. If the party's powerbrokers didn't want to support Clinton and instead really wanted Sen. Michael Bennet to run, or Gov. Andrew Cuomo to lead the field, they would be working toward that outcome. Instead, they're lining up behind Clinton. In this telling, Clinton isn't winning by default. She's winning by winning. The absence of competition is the product of Clinton's strong, successful campaign to win over Democratic Party elites.

Hillary's strength is evident in public polling, too. Gallup has a useful favorability-familiarity index, the upshot of which is that Clinton is both better known than anyone else in the race and viewed more favorably than almost anyone else in the race (Ben Carson is viewed very favorably too, but as he becomes better known among Democrats, my guess is that his negatives will rise quickly):

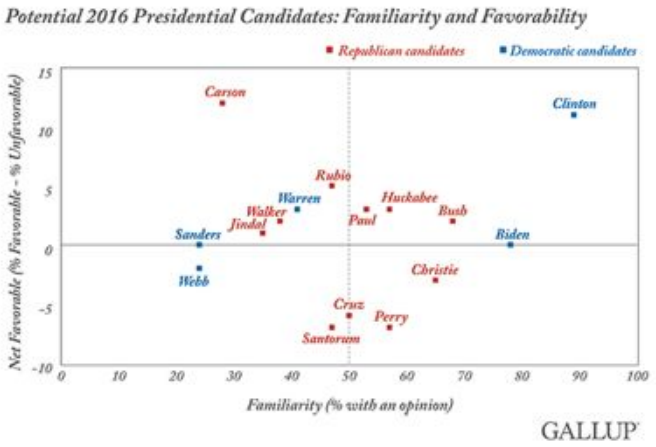

This is the context for Hillary's dominance on the Democratic side: she's in a much stronger position not just than any Democrat going into 2016, but also than any Republican. These are early polls and the numbers can and will change, but look where Clinton is compared to Jeb Bush or Scott Walker. That's a big deal to Democrats, and a big reason they're supporting her rather than looking for an alternative.

The Democratic bench

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Salam offers a “wish list of Democratic presidential contenders.” His list excludes possible candidates like ex-Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley or ex-Virginia Senator Jim Webb. Rather, it includes plausible candidates who seem to have no interest in becoming actual candidates.

“Any contest for the Democratic presidential nomination needs an earnest, nerdy liberal technocrat who appeals to the intelligentsia,” writes Salam, and he nominates Sen. Ron Wyden, a favorite of wonks (and civil libertarians) everywhere:

His steadfast opposition to dragnet surveillance has won him many friends among civil libertarians, and that’s no small thing in a Democratic primary, particularly in dovish, independent-minded states like New Hampshire. A Pew survey from January found that 31 percent of Democrats hold an unfavorable view of the National Security Agency, which is not a bad little foundation for a Wyden campaign. Moreover, Wyden has proposed a universal health care plan more ambitious than Obamacare, and he’s championed the idea of allowing states like Vermont and Oregon to build their own single-payer health systems.

Salam goes on to push Sen. Sherrod Brown as a liberal champion, ex-Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick for his ability to speak to the post-Ferguson moment in the post-Obama Democratic Party, ex-New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as the grave centrist, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar as a Midwest problem-solver.

The point isn’t that any of these candidates will run. The point is that they could run, and they would be, in theory, at least as credible as a Scott Walker or a Jeb Bush. They may not seem like presidential contenders now, but as Bernstein writes, “the way those solid politicians become Serious Presidential Candidates and not just random governors and senators — I’m talking here about folks such as Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, John Kasich and Bobby Jindal — is to start running, and visibly enough so the press notices. “

Which is all to say that Bernstein is right: the Democratic Party has a bench. It’s just that Clinton is running so strongly in the invisible primary that no one on it thinks it’s worth getting in the game.

The question for the Democratic Party is whether Clinton is going to be as strong in the visible primary — and the visible election — as she is in the invisible one. The skills necessary to win over Democratic Party elites may not be the skills necessary to win the election — and if Hillary doesn’t face serious opposition in the visible primary, Democrats may not find that out until too late.

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Poll Shows Younger Americans Tuning Out Clinton Story (The Wall Street Journal)

By Dante Chinni

March 13, 2015

Wall Street Journal

As Washington gauges the political fallout of the Hillary Clinton email story, the impact among the electorate may hinge one crucial aspect: the age of the voters in question.

A poll from the Pew Research Center shows a sharp partisan divide over interest in the story, but if you look at the numbers by partisan leaning and age, much of that partisan divide disappears.

This chart shows the percentage of people who say they are following the Clinton story closely.

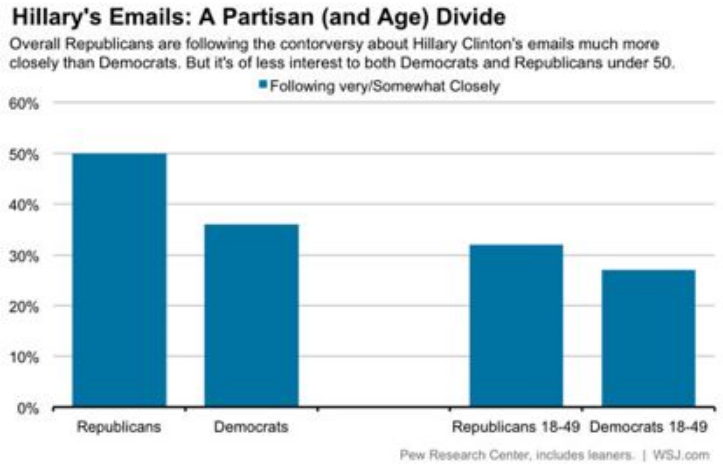

Among Republicans overall (including "leaners"), 50% saying they are following very closely or somewhat closely the story about how Mrs. Clinton used a private account to conduct official business when she was secretary of State. For Democrats the overall figure is 36%. That's a 14-point gap. (Note: the poll was conducted before Mrs. Clinton's press conference Tuesday.)

But if you look at Democrats and Republicans younger than 50, the data look very different. The numbers are much lower, and closer together. Among those younger Democrats, only 27% say they are following closely. Among Republicans it is only 32%.

The partisan divide nearly disappears when you look at the percentage of those younger Democrats and Republicans who say they aren't following the story "closely at all." Among Democrats, that number is 55%. Among Republicans, it is a nearly identical 53%.

Is this just how young people feel about the news in general? That is, are 18- to 49-year-olds just less interested in the news?

That's part of it. The numbers for following all news events are lower for that age group. But the numbers are weakest for the email story – slightly more people uninterested in it than in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to

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Congress.

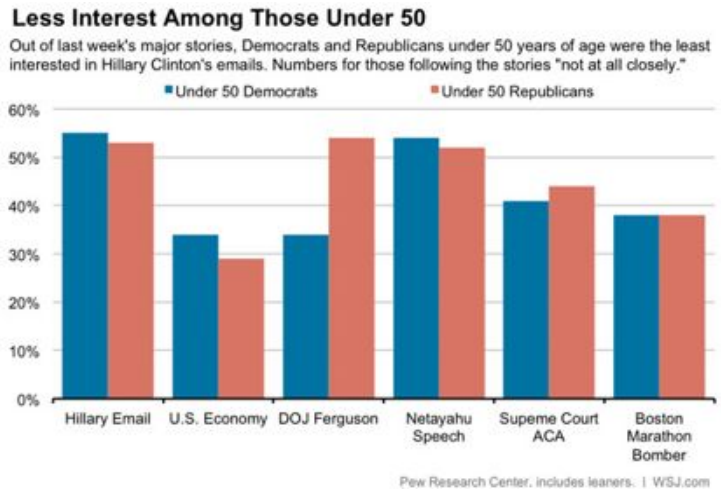

There are several possible ways younger people see the story different than older people. Younger people, particularly those under 35, may see Mrs. Clinton and the Clinton name in general differently. Their awareness of Mrs. Clinton as a politician came while she was a popular senator and secretary of state, not during her time as first lady.

Also, Mrs. Clinton’s explanation that she used one email account (and one device) for convenience may resonate with some younger people — or strike others as unsatisfying. In any case, Americans who have grown up with social trails that live forever, as well as with self-destructing messages on services like Snapchat, may continue to see the Clinton email story differently.

The Pew poll surveyed 1,000 adults from March 5 to March 8.

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Top State Dept. officials' work emails not automatically archived before February (Politico)

By Josh Gerstein

March 13, 2015

Politico

Hillary Clinton's explanation for her use of a personal email account while she served as secretary of state suffered another blow Friday as the State Department disclosed that the email accounts of senior department officials were not automatically archived until last month.

Clinton said at a news conference Tuesday that she believed the vast majority of work-related emails she sent or received from her private account were "preserved" because she was in correspondence with other officials using ".gov" accounts.

However, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters Friday that archiving of the work email boxes of senior State Department officials besides the secretary did not begin until "February of this year." She previously said Secretary of State John Kerry uses an official account and his emails have been archived since soon after he succeeded Clinton.

Psaki said the automatic archiving began last month for "dozens" of top officials — such as the deputy secretary, under secretaries and assistant secretaries. "Our goal is to apply this to all employee mailboxes by the end of 2016," she said.

A Clinton spokesman had no comment on the department's disclosure.

Psaki also revealed that the department had "recently" requested copies of work-related emails some current and former State officials had sent or received on private accounts. She said she believed the letter requesting such records was sent earlier this week and was related to investigations underway on Capitol Hill.

"There have obviously been requests from Congress for certain information," Psaki said. She did not immediately have details on how widely the department's request for current and former officials was distributed.

Clinton sent copies of 55,000 pages of emails to the State Department in December in response to a letter sent in October to her and three other former secretaries seeking copies of work-related records held in private accounts.

Psaki declined to answer reporters' repeated questions about whether the department was satisfied with Clinton's explanation for her use of a private email account as secretary.

Later in the briefing, however, Psaki suggested that there was confusion among some State Department employees about what was and was not being automatically saved.

"I assume some assumed that was happening at the time as well," Psaki said. "We're updating it because it's an imperfect system."

Speaking without reference to Clinton, Psaki said the duty was on individual employees to save records that met standards for permanent archiving. "Clearly, individuals — any top officials — would also be expected to preserve their documents," she said.

Psaki said the move last month to begin archiving senior officials' emails was not triggered by concerns about Clinton's email practices. "They have long been planning to do this. It's just something that it took some time to put in place," she said.

Despite the State Department's practice of not archiving top officials' emails until recently, some of the emails were saved when employees printed them and put them in permanent files, saved them in electronic folders, or — in a specific agency system — marked them as permanent records.

"Obviously, this [automatic archiving] is a more efficient way — a way that will require less human effort….We

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have quite a bit going on here at the State Department," Psaki said. "There were ways to preserve [emails] and employees and individuals were expected to do that prior to this new process."

Psaki also noted that it might not be accurate to say that all the unarchived email messages were gone, because it was possible some might be retrievable.

"I wouldn't state it's 'lost to history' because there are technical means of gaining access to past information," Psaki said. "I'm not an expert on the technical capabilities."

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Why the email controversy probably hasn't dented Hillary Clinton's public image (The Washington Post)

By Paul Waldman

March 13, 2015

Washington Post

The first polls taken since the news of Hillary Clinton's email controversy broke are beginning to trickle in, and they aren't likely to make Republicans particularly happy. According to the Pew Research Center, only 17 percent of people said they were following the story closely (though that included 34 percent of Republicans). Starved as we are for campaign news, we in Washington may have found it riveting, but voters weren't nearly so interested.

And it doesn't seem to have affected how they think of her: A new Gallup poll, taken between last Monday and Wednesday (the story broke last Monday), shows Clinton's approval rating at 50 percent, with 39 percent disapproving, not too different from what it was before. That +11 net positive is higher than any of the Republican candidates with the exception of Ben Carson (who comes in at 20-8 approval, for a net of +12).

The fact that she's so much better known than any of her potential Republican opponents highlights the difficulty of the task they face. When a candidate is new and unfamiliar, a negative story like this one can comprise a large part of what people know about them. For instance, what the average voter knows about Scott Walker is that he fights with unions (if they know even that). If we find out that he's running a dog-fighting ring, he'd become the guy who fights with unions and runs a dog-fighting ring; the latter would loom very large in his public image. But even a real scandal about Hillary Clinton would be one of a hundred things voters know and think about her.

That isn't to say that opinions of Clinton can't change, because they've changed before. Over the last twenty years, her favorability ratings have waxed and waned according to how much she was perceived as a partisan political figure. It was high during her quieter times as First Lady, dipped when she ran for Senate, rose when she was quietly doing legislative work, dipped again when she ran for president, rose when she was Secretary of State, and has now settled back in what we might think of as the partisan zone of around 50 percent. The vast majority of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents view her favorably, while the vast majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents don't. Any change will come only at the margins.

Right now, both Clinton and her detractors are probably thinking there's something unfair about this email story. Clinton probably thinks it's been overblown, just like so many fake scandals she's suffered through before, while her opponents probably think the public isn't taking it as seriously as they should. There are ways in which they may both have a point.

Consider that when the story broke, many in the media justified the blanket coverage it received on the basis that it "plays into a narrative" — in other words, before they could determine whether it had any merit, they would run with it because it dovetailed with stories of the past.

But in fact, there's another narrative at work. It's a narrative in which she or her husband get accused of something, it gets a lot of coverage, Republicans express outrage, and then in the end it turns out to be somewhere between unimportant and completely meaningless, both substantively and politically. The public is quite familiar with that narrative, too.

Does that mean she'll get off relatively easy for things that would torpedo a different politician's candidacy? It could. But right or wrong, there will be an awfully high bar to clear before a controversy has a real impact on

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what the voters think of her.

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Poll: the only presidential contender more popular than Hillary Clinton is Ben Carson (Vox)

By Andrew Prokop

March 13, 2015

Vox

As the 2016 presidential hopefuls move closer to officially announcing, a new Gallup poll explores 16 top contenders' favorability ratings. Hillary Clinton is near the front of the pack, with net favorability of +11 — topped only by Dr. Ben Carson, who gets +12.

The major difference between Clinton and Carson, as you can see in this chart, is that Clinton is extremely well known — 89 percent of the public says they know enough to have an opinion on her. Carson, however, is one of the least-known candidates, with only 28 percent. The other candidates fall in the middle. Theoretically, this means the other candidates have more room to grow, since views on Clinton are set.

But often, potential candidates who aren't well known to the public start out with very few people disliking them. What's striking about this chart is that so few of the less well-known candidates this year start off with strongly positive net favorability.

For comparison, in a 2007 CBS poll taken as candidates were preparing to officially announce, Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Barack Obama, and John Edwards all had net favorability exceeding +13, as you can see below.

This time around, no Republican except Carson scores even close to there, and the others fall into two groups. One batch starts off with slightly positive net favorability — this is Marco Rubio, Mike Huckabee, Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Scott Walker, and Bobby Jindal. Candidates in the other group — Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum, and Rick Perry — start off with more Americans disliking them than liking them, a tough hurdle to surmount.

Potential rivals to Clinton get little good news here. Even Elizabeth Warren starts out with a meager +3 net favorability, well behind Obama's +18 rating in 2007. The others — Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and Jim Webb — don't manage positive ratings at all.

It is worth noting that only part of Gallup's poll was conducted after the Clinton email story broke, so it's at least possible that a newer poll would find her ratings have sunk. But a Pew poll found that only 17 of respondents said they were following the email story very closely — and those were overwhelmingly Republicans and conservatives, who already dislike Clinton.

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You Won't Be Surprised To Hear That Hillary Clinton's Emails Are More Divisive Than Ever (Huffington Post)

By Ariel Edwards Levy

March 13, 2015

Huffington Post

After a week of stories about Hillary Clinton's use of email during her time as secretary of state, the controversy is more polarizing than ever. A new poll shows that Republicans are increasingly convinced of the issue's importance and Democrats are increasingly sure that the media is overhyping things, while independents remain somewhere in between.

In the aftermath of Clinton's press conference Tuesday, during which she fielded a number of questions about her use of a personal email account, attention to the story has continued to grow, a new HuffPost/YouGov poll finds. Sixty-five percent of Americans now say they're following the story at least somewhat closely, up from 53 percent in a survey last week. The percent of Americans who call the issue at least somewhat serious has also ticked up, from 47 percent to 54 percent.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the gulf between Republicans' and Democrats' views of the situation has grown as well.

In the earlier poll, Republicans were 27 points more likely than Democrats to consider the email issue "very serious." That partisan gap now stands at 52 points, with members of the two parties moving in opposite directions.

Democrats, many of whom were convinced during the 2008 campaign that the media was biased against Clinton, are becoming more likely to view the controversy over the emails as overhyped. Seventy-one percent now say the media is making too big a deal out of the story, up 9 points from last week. A majority of Republicans, by contrast, continue to think the story isn't getting enough attention. Independents, who were closely divided last week in their opinions about the media response, are now more 8 points more likely to say the media is overhyping the controversy than to say it's being under-reported.

That doesn't mean independents aren't at all concerned. Thirty-four percent of political independents now say Clinton's use of a personal account is very serious, up 8 points since last week. But those independents are also the least likely to be paying much attention, with 57 percent saying they're following the email story at least somewhat closely, compared to 78 percent of Republicans and 68 percent of Democrats.

There's not yet much data to indicate whether the saga has affected Clinton's ratings, but the numbers that are available suggest it may have taken a small toll. In the latest HuffPost/YouGov poll, the former secretary of state is just underwater, with 44 percent rating her positively and 45 percent negatively. That's near the bottom of where's she's stood since the 2014 midterm elections, according to a series of YouGov/Economist polls using the same question and methodology. Those polls have found Clinton's favorable rating ranging between 43 percent and 52 percent.

The HuffPost/YouGov poll consisted of 1,000 completed interviews conducted March 11-13 among U.S. adults using a sample selected from YouGov's opt-in online panel to match the demographics and other characteristics of the adult U.S. population.

The Huffington Post has teamed up with YouGov to conduct daily opinion polls. You can learn more about this project and take part in YouGov's nationally representative opinion polling. Data from all HuffPost/YouGov polls can be found here.

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More details on the poll's methodology are available here.

Most surveys report a margin of error that represents some, but not all, potential survey errors. YouGov's reports include a model-based margin of error, which rests on a specific set of statistical assumptions about the selected sample, rather than the standard methodology for random probability sampling. If these assumptions are wrong, the model-based margin of error may also be inaccurate.

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Jerry Brown says challenging Hillary Clinton is like challenging Jerry Brown (The Washington Post)

By Phillip Rucker

March 13, 2015

The Washington Post

On paper, Jerry Brown looks like he could give Hillary Rodham Clinton a scare. He's a governor with a compelling record of fixing California's budget and reviving the biggest state's economy. He's admired by liberals for his work to combat climate change and address immigration laws. And he caught the presidential bug long ago, running for the White House three times.

So why is Brown not stepping forward to challenge Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016?

"Running against Hillary is like running against Jerry Brown in California," Brown, 76, said in an interview Friday at The Washington Post. "In the Democratic Party, it's not going to happen. You reach a certain point of party loyalty and it's very powerful."

In a wide-ranging interview with Post reporters, Brown said Clinton enjoys "the power of incumbency" as President Obama's former secretary of state and heir apparent. A primary challenge to her, he said, "doesn't look like a fruitful use of my time."

"I would say she's extremely formidable and it doesn't appear that there's anything that would block her path," Brown added.

Brown disagreed with some leading Democrats who believe a strong primary challenge would actually benefit Clinton by helping her get into fighting strength before she faces the eventual Republican nominee in the general election.

"Primary oppositions are not helpful," Brown said, recalling his own 2010 race for governor when former eBay chief executive Meg Whitman was wounded after veering right in her rhetoric and positions to fend off a primary challenge from Steve Poizner.

"Some people think that strengthens the process or helps the candidate go through his or her paces," Brown said. But, he said, "the truth is it's not helpful. The real competition has to start right away with a Republican-Democratic difference. There's plenty there to create conflict and debate and do whatever you have to do to get ready for the November election. You can do that facing off against the Republican opponents, of which there's so many, and there's so many stupid things they're saying. That's a far better place than cutting nuanced differences with some Democratic insurgent."

That Brown is advocating an unobstructed glide path for Clinton to the Democratic nomination might come as a surprise given his own history. In 1992, Brown was Bill Clinton's most persistent and pesky Democratic primary opponent and for months refused to endorse him.

Asked in Friday's interview about the state of his relationship with the Clintons, Brown said very little. "It's all been written about," he said. An aide reminded Brown that he had met with Bill and Hillary several times over the past few years.

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“We come from different parts of the country,” Brown said. “I think I occupy a unique part of the party, and I don’t find too many people in the same place....It’s a very small part of the party, unfortunately.”

Brown is in his second stint as California governor, after serving between 1975 and 1983, and has also been state attorney general and mayor of Oakland. He said he has more of a “western sensibility,” especially on environmental issues.

When asked about the recent controversy over Hillary Clinton’s use of a private e-mail account as secretary of state, Brown said he is not convinced the issue is a passing storm, as many other Democrats contend.

“I don’t know that,” Brown said. “With these things, what makes a difference, you often don’t know until it unfolds because nothing is just what it is. It’s always in part of a larger context. Things unfold and things happen.”

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Jerry Brown: Leave Hillary Clinton alone (Politico)

By Edward-Isaac Dovere

March 13, 2015

Politico

Jerry Brown ran against Bill Clinton in the 1992 Democratic primaries. Now he doesn't think anyone should run against Hillary Clinton when she seeks the nomination next year.

"I can't think of anything I'd rather have less if I were running for president than to have a competitor in the primary," the California governor said, speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday afternoon following a series of meetings with staff about climate change.

Brown said he didn't see the need for an internal party fight. What he wants, he said, is Clinton knocking the GOP field on immigration reform, Obamacare, climate change and other differences.

"The primaries get into all the little nuances and small differences of candidates of the same party," Brown said. "What Hillary needs is a good debate drawing the distinctions between where she stands and where all these Republicans, these wannabes running around."

He took particular aim at the lawsuit from many Republican governors and attorneys general challenging President Barack Obama's immigration executive actions, calling their position "at best troglodyte, and at worst, un-Christian."

All the more reason, Brown said, to focus on the fight with the other party, and not within his own.

"There's some big differences, and they're more with the Republicans. So let's have the debate and let's see where America wants to be," Brown said. "I don't think running some couple of Democrats would illuminate the process."

Brown didn't meet with Obama, who was in Los Angeles on Friday, or with Vice President Joe Biden, who's vacationing in the Virgin Islands.

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8 Must-Know Stats About Women's Rights Around The World From Hillary Clinton's "No Ceilings" Report (Bustle)
By Kristen Sollee
March 13, 2015
Bustle

Although Hillary Clinton's email account has been making headlines, her foundation's "No Ceilings" report on the status of women's rights around the world is in dire need of the spotlight. Twenty years ago at the United Nations' 4th World Conference On Women in Beijing, First Lady Clinton famously said, "If there is one message that echoes from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all." This simple yet radical statement bears repeating (and repeating), and so the Clinton Foundation along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation compiled The Full Participation Report to flesh out all the ways women's rights have changed since the former Secretary of State's 1995 pronouncement.

The weighty report is packed with statistics on the health, occupation, education and safety of women around the world, from America to Zimbabwe to Pakistan and Brazil. Although it includes a dizzying array of facts and charts, the entire compendium is worth reading, if only to get a sense of how far women have come over the past twenty years — and how very far we still need to go.

These are 8 vital facts of many that you should know about global women's rights today.

1. Rates of Death During Childbirth Have Decreased
Let's start with some good news: according to the report, the rate of women who die in childbirth has gone down by 40 percent in 76 countries and by almost 60 percent in South Asia from 1995 to 2013. This rate is directly linked to education, as the more education a woman has, the less likely she or her child is to die during childbirth.

2. The Wage Gap Ranges From 10-40%
In high-income countries, men make around 15 percent more than women do. The wage gap is as low as 6 percent in Belgium and as high as 37 percent in South Korea. The gap tends to increase during a woman's childbearing and childrearing years, which the report calls a "motherhood penalty."

3. 1 In 3 Women Experience Sexual or Physical Violence
And you thought the campus rape statistics in the United States were horrifying. Of these 1 in 3 women who experience sexual and physical violence, a majority of them suffer at the hands of their partner.

4. Spousal Abuse Is Still Considered Acceptable
Cultural attitudes greatly shape how men and women view spousal abuse. According to data collected in the report, more than half the men in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iraq, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe believe beating their wives is sometimes acceptable. In addition, a recent U.N. study of 10,000 men in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Papua New Guinea felt it was their right to have sex regardless of whether a woman provides consent.

5. More Women Are Enrolled In College and Universities Than Men
Women have made major gains around the world in tertiary education since 1995. In regions across Europe, North America, and Latin America, women are lapping men in college enrollment — but not necessarily in all majors. The STEM fields remain a problem, and in 2010, women in the U.S. earned approximately 18 percent of computer science bachelor degrees, down from a high of 37 percent in 1984.

6. 2/3 of Illiterate People In The World Are Women
As women have made gains in education, their literacy rates have also risen globally, reaching a high of 80 percent in 2012. However, of those that remain illiterate in the world, 2/3 are women.

7. Women Are Majorly Underrepresented in STEM Fields
It's no secret that women are majorly underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math, and there is still an uphill battle ahead. The report suggests that "gender stereotypes, cultural barriers, and poor-quality education have contributed to low participation rates for women in STEM In 2010."

8. Women Are Living Longer Than Ever
As The Full Participation Report emphasizes, there are many challenges facing women around the world— but longevity isn't one of them. Since 1995, a woman's life expectancy has risen from 69 years to 73 years in 2012.

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Even in developing nations, there has been a 14 percent increase in life expectancy across the board.

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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Lily Adams" <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/17/2015 4:03:38 PM
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Webb said he wouldn't have voted for war in Iraq, wouldn't have authorized the intervention in Libya and will not support Iran having any possibility of getting a nuclear weapon.

He didn't name us, and the first two things are not inaccurate, so I don't think it's worth putting anything out, but just flagging.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: HRC did great

Interesting that Bernie is making a big play on AA and Latino issues -- and getting good reaction,

Huge applause on Citizens United.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:40 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
> wrote:
>
> Oh my mistake. He seems hoarse.
>
>
> ---------
> Lily Adams
> cell: (202) 368-4013
>
>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:39 PM, Christina Reynolds
>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>
>> I think he meant Bernie shouting at the crowd. It feels awkward on TV.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lily Adams [mailto:ladams@hillaryclinton.com]
>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:38 PM
>> To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Christina
>> Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook
>> <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan

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>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>
>> It's from one corner of the room where his tables are
>>
>>
>> ---------
>> Lily Adams
>> cell: (202) 368-4013
>>
>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:36 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>> How is the shouting in the room?
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:32 PM
>>> To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony
>>> Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>
>>> Bernie is up.
>>>
>>> It's really like listening to Robby.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Christina Reynolds
>>>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Worth noting:
>>>> @Lis_Smith
>>>> BIG THEME of @MartinOMalley's speech tonight: Actions, not Words.
>>>> As progressives, we need someone who can get. things. done.
>>>>
>>>> -----Original Message-----
>>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:16 PM
>>>> To: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com;
>>>> Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>>

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>>>> Not yet. O'Malley is speaking now.
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>
>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:14 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>>> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Fantastic. Any incoming from the others?
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:13 PM, Jennifer Palmieri
>>>>>> <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Passionate, great response in the room.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 9/24/2007 1:23:14 AM
Subject: Clips: Mon 9/24

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Monday, September 24th, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

New York Post: http://www.nypost.com/frontback

Albany Times Union: http://www.timesunion.com/news/frontpage/

HRC Articles/Mentions

Hitting All The Sunday Talk Shows, Clinton Says A Lot But Reveals Little *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/23/AR2007092301099_pf.html

Clinton Makes The Sunday Talk-Show Rounds *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-clinton24sep24,1,3133446.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Clinton Backs Public Campaign Funding *USAT*
http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20070924/a_clinton24.art.htm

Clinton Talks Health Care On Sunday Shows *Newsday*
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Column: **Politics In Black And White By Paul Krugman** *NYT*
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U.S. Focus On Ahmadinejad Puzzles Iranians *NYT*
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Iranian Leader: Tehran Has No Need For Nuclear Bomb *WP*
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Detention Offers View Of Shadowy World In Pakistan *NYT*
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Veteran Lawmaker Chosen As Japan's Prime Minister *NYT*
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NYT Editorial: **Cleaning Up China**
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WP Editorial: **Progress On Trade?**
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Op-ed: **A Trade Deal On The Ropes By Stuart E. Eizenstat And Hugo Paemen** *WP*
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Op-ed: **Iran's German Enablers By Yossi Klein Halevi** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119058569590236686.html

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From: "Fahad Gilani" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/25/2012 7:31:50 AM
Subject: FW: you up for this?

John --

Did you see the General's email yesterday? Sunday is the biggest deadline we will face yet. We can't afford to fall behind - please help us before the deadline. Our new ad is up on the air and it is hurting Hurt and his corporate campaign, exposing their ties to dangerous uranium mining. But we can't afford to fall behind we are still $19,543 away from our Sunday deadline.

Click here to contribute before it is too late!

Thanks,

Fahad Gilani
Douglass for Congress

---------- Forwarded message ----------
To: John Podesta
From: John Douglass
Subject: up to it?

John --

Sunday is the last quarterly deadline we have to meet before Election Day. As of today, we are $25,243 short of our goal. But I am determined to show our opponent that we won't let his corporate cronies and Super PAC's buy another election.

Goal Thermomete

Are you up for this? Click here to help us match Hurt's corporate money with people power.

Your support means so much to me and so many fellow Virginians. We have already come so far -- 10 offices up and running, our ads have hit the airwaves and we're on track to do more than 400 events. But to keep it up, I need you do more for us by Sunday's deadline.

Today is the day you can show the power of our grassroots movement -- act now by donating right away.

I'm not just asking you to dig deep to pay for another ad or score another political point. I'm asking you to help send me to Congress to fight for you -- not another tax break for billionaires, but an agenda that helps Virginia families get a fair chance at a better future.

With your support, this could be our best quarter yet.

--John

P.S. A new house majority is in our sights, but there's no time to lose. Your contribution is critical, click here to contribute today.

Paid for by John Douglass for Congress

This email was sent to: john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, you can update your information here. We believe that emails are a vital way for the campaign to stay in direct contact with supporters. Click **here** if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages.

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From: Hudson <events@hudson.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/21/2016 5:00:03 AM
Subject: Upcoming Events: China's Economic Strategy, Geopolitics of Shale, and more

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From:	"Elliott Light" <elight65@gmail.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	12/27/2015 5:54:22 AM
Subject:	Climate Change and Molten Salt Reactors
Attachments:	MSRs - Why we need them.pdf

Mr. Podesta:

I'm sure you receive lots of emails so I will get to my reason for writing.

I'm concerned that in the discussion over global warming we have avoided any reference to nuclear energy as a way to curb carbon emissions. I understand that the current generation of high pressure reactors are difficult to like and politically radioactive. But we are failing to pursue an American technology developed at Oak Ridge in the late 1960's that promises to provide efficient (97%) energy that is virtually impossible to weaponize. This technology is the molten salt reactor.

I have no stake in the nuclear industry. I'm a retired patent attorney with a profound interest in protecting the planet. I'm just frustrated that the politics of energy are driving policy away from a solution that deserves at least to be considered before being dismissed.

I have attached a simple article on the slim hope that you will receive this and take a moment to read it. The article doesn't do the subject justice but it may whet your appetite for more.

Regards,

Elliott Light
Naples, FL
240-888-6874

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From: "ERIC GARCETTI" <info@ericgarcetti.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/7/2013 5:27:18 PM
Subject: Blown Away

Eric Garcetti FOR MAYOR 2013

Friends,

Big news from this weekend!
I was blown away by the turnout of volunteers that came to our neighborhood walk on Saturday. Our office was packed with Angelenos from all corners of the city ready to knock on doors and make calls. This is how I know we'll win this campaign -- by talking to people in every neighborhood, from every background, and letting them know that Los Angeles can still be a great city.

This is only the beginning. Sign up for a volunteer shift today.

Also, the LA League of Conservation Voters has endorsed my campaign for LA Mayor! I want to thank LALCV for endorsing my agenda to make LA a national leader on environmental protection and innovation -- creating 20,000 solar installation, energy efficiency, green manufacturing and water conservation jobs and making the LADWP both coal and nuclear free.

Read more about their endorsement here .

Will you join LA's environmental leaders in supporting my campaign? Click here to add your name to our endorsement list, and forward this email to your friends.

Finally, the Latino Democratic Club of the San Fernando Valley announced they have endorsed my campaign as well. I'm proud to have earned the endorsement of the Latino Democrats of the San Fernando Valley. I grew up in the Valley and I'm excited to see the Latino community in the Valley supporting me.

Click here to learn more about their endorsement.

I'm so grateful for all your support. All your work is making a big

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difference in this election. Thank you.

- Eric

http://www.ericgarcetti.com/

Eric Garcetti- Los Angeles Mayor 2013
United States

Paid for by Garcetti for Mayor 2013
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Additional Information is available at ethics.lacity.org
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From:	"Pete Ogden" <progden@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	11/29/2014 7:07:16 AM
Subject:	global tech initiative
Attachments:	CCS RD&D proposal.pdf

Hi John -- Good seeing you the other day, and hope you had a good Thanksgiving.

I asked John Deutch if he had any thoughts about what a global technology initiative might look like, and he sent the attached note for you to take a look at. He makes the case that the focus should be on CCS, and told me that nuclear he thought too expensive and solar was progressing on its own. If you are interested in him thinking about what exactly the shape of an initiative might be, he'll want to hear from you directly.

Let me know if there's anyone else you think that I should solicit ideas on this from at at this stage.

--Pete

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From: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 8:28:14 AM
Subject: FYI -- Medium post by Brian rebutting NYT

This is live and getting good pickup on Twitter, etc.

https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

@BrianEFallon on Medium: 'Clinton Cash' & NYT Fail to Prove Any Connection Between Hillary Clinton & Russian Purchase of Uranium Assets

Relying largely on research from the conservative author of *Clinton Cash*, today's *New York Times* alleges that donations to the Clinton Foundation coincided with the U.S. government's 2010 approval of the sale of a company known as Uranium One to the Russian government. Without presenting any direct evidence in support of the claim, the *Times* story—like the book on which it is based—wrongly suggests that Hillary Clinton's State Department pushed for the sale's approval to reward donors who had a financial interest in the deal. Ironically, buried within the story is original reporting that debunks the allegation that then-Secretary Clinton played any role in the review of the sale.

The *Times'* own public editor has taken issue with the paper's arrangement with the author of *Clinton Cash*, saying, "The *Times* should have been much more clear with readers about the nature of this arrangement" and "I still don't like the way it looked." It certainly doesn't look any better that the lead *Times* reporter appeared in a taped interview for a Fox News documentary attacking the Clintons on this matter prior to receiving our responses to her questions.

The facts drawn from the *Times'* own reporting undermine the innuendo in the *Times* story about Hillary Clinton's role in this matter.

1. **The essential fact is that Hillary Clinton was not involved in the State Department's review of the sale to the Russians.** While it is true that the

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State Department sits on the multi-agency, inter-governmental panel that reviews deals like this one, Hillary Clinton herself did not participate in the review or direct the Department to take any position on the sale of Uranium One. This is consistent with past practice; historically, matters pertaining to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (C.F.I.U.S.) do not rise to the Secretary's level. Rather, it is the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs who serves as the State Department's principal representative to C.F.I.U.S. The individual who held that post in 2010 was Jose Fernandez, and he has personally attested that then-Secretary Clinton never interfered with him, saying "Mrs. Clinton never intervened with me on any C.F.I.U.S. matter."

2. **The main Clinton Foundation donor that the *Times* suggests stood to gain from the sale of Uranium One to the Russians had actually sold his stake in the company three years earlier**. In its article, the Times focuses on Frank Giustra, a Canadian businessman and known philanthropist whose donations to the Clinton Foundation date back to 2005. It is true that Mr. Giustra was the owner of a predecessor firm to Uranium One, the company whose sale was being reviewed by C.F.I.U.S. But by the time of Uranium One's proposed sale in 2010, Mr. Giustra no longer held a position with the company. In fact, as he told the *Times*, he had liquidated his stake in Uranium One entirely back in 2007 and thus had no reason to have sought any favor from Clinton's State Department.

3. **A second Clinton Foundation donor referenced in the *Times* has specifically said he never spoke to her about the deal.** In addition to Mr. Giustra himself, the *Times* points to a second Clinton Foundation donor and longtime business associate of Mr. Giustra by the name of Ian Telfer. It is true that, unlike Mr. Giustra, Telfer—as the acting head of Uranium One in 2010—had a financial interest in the company's sale to the Russians. It is also true that he had previously donated to the Clinton-Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative. But in a statement to the Times, Telfer told the paper he made the donations based on his wish to personally support Mr. Giustra in his charitable work, not based on any relationship to the Clintons. And most importantly, he told the *Times* that he never spoke to either President Clinton or then-Secretary Clinton about his company, Uranium One.

4. **The *Times* fails to accurately describe the process, ignoring the fact**

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that the State Department was just one of nine agencies involved in the U.S. government's review of the sale of Uranium One. In addition to the fact that Hillary Clinton herself did not have a role in the State Department's review of the deal, the Department itself was just one player—and not even a major one—in the C.F.I.U.S. process. It is the Treasury Department that serves as the lead agency in all C.F.I.U.S. matters, and seven other U.S. agencies besides State—including the Departments of Justice, Energy and Commerce—sit on the panel. To the extent a deal like the sale of Uranium One could be said to raise any national security concerns, both the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security also sit on the panel, and would have been party to the overall approval. Moreover, the 2010 sale of Uranium One was approved by more than just C.F.I.U.S. It was also green-lighted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Utah Department of Radiation and the Canadian government. In addition, the Union of Concerned Scientists affirmed that the deal did not raise national security concerns.

5. **The *Times* ignores that U.S. regulators accepted a subsequent sale of the remaining stake in Uranium One to Russia after Clinton left the State Department.** The 2010 sale at issue in the *Times* story involved the Russians purchasing a 51 percent stake in Uranium One. But nearly three years later, the company announced that the Russians would be increasing their ownership to 100 percent. The company notified U.S. regulators of this in late January 2013, giving those bodies the opportunity to subject the new transaction to a review. Both the NRC and C.F.I.U.S. declined to do so, which was tantamount to green-lighting the deal. Notably this acceptance of the Russians' complete takeover of Uranium One came after Secretary Clinton exited the State Department.

--
Ian Sams | Rapid Response
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
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From: politicalUnit@abcnews.go.com <politicalUnit@abcnewsnow.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/2/2015 12:12:29 AM
Subject: The Note - The Politics of Mass Shootings

abc NEWS

The Note: The Politics of Mass Shootings

October, 02, 2015 10:02 AM
By MICHAEL FALCONE

NOTABLES

--PRESIDENT OBAMA LAMENTS MASS SHOOTINGS BECOMING 'ROUTINE': A grim-faced and emotional President Obama spoke out Thursday after the massacre at an Oregon college -- lamenting that mass killings have become "routine" in the United States and blasting those who oppose tougher gun laws. "I hope and pray that I don't have to come out again in my tenure as president to offer my condolences to families under these circumstances. But based on my experience as president, I can't guarantee that," Obama said in the White House briefing room, **ABC's ALI WEINBERG** reports. "Someone will comment and say, 'Obama politicized this issue.' Well, this is something we should politicize," he said. "It is relevant to our common life together, to the body politic." Rather than shying away from the political dimension to mass shootings, the president leaned in to it, saying that Thursday's events were direct products of political decisions -- those made by lawmakers and by those who elect them. "We collectively are answerable to those families, who lose their loved ones because of our inaction," he said. http://abcn.ws/1OKpgoZ

--HILLARY CLINTON APPEARS TO SUPPORT A NO-FLY ZONE IN SYRIA: In what would be a break from the White House, Hillary Clinton appears to be backing a no-fly zone over Syria. In the interview with Boston's NBC affiliate yesterday, she said the following when asked about Syria: "I personally would be advocating now for a no-fly zone and humanitarian corridors to try to stop the carnage on the ground and from the air, to try to provide some way to take stock of what's happening, to try to stem the flow of refugees."

--SO DOES JOHN KASICH : Republican presidential candidate John Kasich will this morning call for the United States and its allies in the Middle East and Western Europe to designate no-fly zones in parts of Syria, Kasich campaign spokesman Scott Milburn told **ABC's BEN GITTLESON**. The Ohio governor will tie his pronouncement to Russia's recent military activity in Syria and his worry about potential further escalation, according to a statement provide to Reuters whose accuracy was confirmed by Milburn. Reuters first reported the news. **Read more:** http://reut.rs/1iQEdYU

--ANALYSIS -- ABC's RICK KLEIN : Which is more surprising -- that Bernie Sanders is within financial striking distance of Hillary Clinton, or that he's within polling striking distance without spending any of that cash on ads? What's clear is that one avenue for Clinton to beat Sanders -- for Sanders to beat himself by running out of cash after the first round of early states -- is now closed. Sanders has his war chest, and an ability to replenish it via small-dollar donors that the Clinton apparatus can't match. What's becoming clear is that any strategy that depends on outside money to boost a candidate is basing that strategy on hope, not history. If anything, this election cycle has shown the limits of Super PACs -- think Rick Perry and Scott Walker. The Clinton campaign has weapons left to deploy, including, of course, Bill Clinton. But the point is that it's increasingly likely those weapons will have to come out during the primary season.

THIS WEEK on "THIS WEEK": GOP presidential candidates, **Donald Trump** and New Jersey Gov. **Chris Christie**, come to "This Week," Sunday. Plus, the powerhouse roundtable debates the week in politics with Rep. **Keith Ellison**, D-Minn; Rep. **Tom Cole**, R-Okla.; Fox News anchor **Greta Van Susteren**; and **Matt Bai**, national political columnist for Yahoo News. See the whole political picture,

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Sunday on "This Week."

WILL HE OR WON'T HE? BIDEN STILL HAS ABOUT ONE MORE MONTH TO MAKE UP HIS MIND. Vice President Joe Biden is still deciding whether to jump into the 2016 presidential race -- but how much longer can he go before he's forced to make the leap? The "maybe" candidate is benefiting from the speculation in the media for now, but filing deadlines to get on early primary ballots that could force the vice president's hand are already right around the corner. The first deadline for Democratic candidates -- and perhaps the absolute moment of truth for Joe Biden -- is just five weeks away: a Nov. 6 deadline to get on the Alabama ballot. The problem snowballs from there. **ABC'S MADISON JAROS** and **RYAN STRUYK** have more. http://abcn.ws/1j3xCvc

TODAY ON THE TRAIL with ABC'S SHUSHANNAH WALSHE: Hillary Clinton will be in Florida--another critical state--this afternoon speaking at a "grassroots event" in Davie in South Florida. And just off her backing a no-fly zone over Syria yesterday, she will also do an interview with Telemundo in Miami. **Ben Carson** and **Marco Rubio** are both in **Iowa**. Carson has three events today all in or around Des Moines. **Carly Fiorina** and **Jeb Bush** are in **South Carolina.** This afternoon Bush attends the Conservative Leadership project Forum in Greenville. **Ted Cruz** and **John Kasich** are in **New Hampshire**, both with jam packed days. Cruz holds a press conference in Nashua this morning and this afternoon will attend the Deerfield Fair with his wife. This evening he attends a house party in Salem. Bill Clinton is on the stump today attending the Democrats Annual Jefferson Jackson Dinner Celebration this evening in Charleston.

THE BUZZ

with ABC's PAOLA CHAVEZ and VERONICA STRACQUALURSI

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OFFER SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF OREGON SHOOTING. In the wake of a mass shooting yesterday at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, a number of presidential candidates took to social media to offer their thoughts and prayers to the victims and their loved ones. Jeb Bush was the first to take to Twitter to respond and following her event in Boston, Massachusetts on Thursday, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton said it was "beyond my comprehension that we are seeing these mass murders happen again and again and again." **ABC's VERONICA STRACQUALURSI** has more. http://abcn.ws/1FJ6s6M

HOW TED CRUZ, RAND PAUL FRIENDSHIP IS TURNING NASTY. It was May 2012 and Sen. Rand Paul took the stage at a tea party rally in Texas, telling the crowd he wanted to introduce them to a "gentleman" and a "friend" who he joked might be "too smart to be in the U.S. Senate," but who would take seriously the oath to defend the Constitution. Back then, Paul offered gushing endorsement of a Texan named Ted Cruz who was in the midst of a tough Senate race. "I want to introduce at this point in time hopefully the next senator from Texas," Paul told the audience. Cruz shook Paul's hand, declaring "God Bless Rand Paul." **ABC's JESSICA HOPPER** has more on how their once-supportive relationship appears to be turning into a fierce rivalry. http://abcn.ws/1JGW4au

WHY BEN CARSON KEEPS TALKING ABOUT HITLER. Ben Carson has been talking about Hitler a lot lately on the campaign trail. Yes, Hitler. **ABC's KATHERINE FAULDERS** reports, the retired neurosurgeon and GOP front-runner is attempting to send a clear message to his supporters: Nazi Germany can happen in America. Carson's campaign acknowledges the political perils associated with speaking of Nazi Germany and Hitler, and concedes that Carson should probably find a better example to make the same point. ;http://abcn.ws/1FLqblW

AL GORE WON'T GIVE OUTRIGHT 'NO' TO PRESIDENTIAL BID. Is Al Gore running in 2016? According to **ABC's ALANA ABRAMSON**, he's been asked repeatedly --and often gives the same answer --but it is never a straight up "no." "I am a recovering politician. The longer I go without a relapse the less likely one becomes," the former Vice President and 2000 Presidential candidate told the Atlantic's James Fallows at the Washington Ideas Forum. Gore admitted that he had overused this answer, but said, "I'm gonna give it anyway." http://abcn.ws/1KU3iK7

HAPPENING TODAY: "MARCO RUBIO STEPS UP RHETORICAL ATTACKS ON VLADIMIR PUTIN," by the Wall Street Journal's PATRICK O'CONNOR. "Florida Sen. **Marco Rubio**, a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, plans Friday to step up his rhetorical

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attacks on Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Florida senator will use a foreign-policy forum in this first-in-the-nation caucus state to outline a series of steps he would take as president to isolate Mr. Putin and his inner circle in the escalating standoff between the two Cold War foes. Mr. Rubio will call for new sanctions against top Russian officials and companies, including oil and gas giant Gazprom. He will promise to provide arms and intelligence to Ukraine. And he will vow to work with European allies to exclude Russia from an exchange that allows banks to transfer money across borders."

WHAT WE'RE READING

"CAN DONALD TRUMP SEAL THE DEAL WITH EVANGELICALS?" by The Christian Broadcasting Network's DAVID BRODY: ";Donald Trump has proven the political world wrong. Not only has his iconic name and 'GOP frontrunner' appeared in the same sentence, they've stayed together. And his support is attracting evangelicals too, or as he likes to say, 'I'm leading with the evangelicals big league!' It's true. Poll after poll shows Trump ahead among 'self-identified' evangelicals. ... However, with proven evangelical-type candidates already out there like Carson, Cruz and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Trump has some work to do." http://bit.ly/1PSldUN

WHO'S TWEETING?

@JHoganGidley: "I refuse to walk my grandkids through the charred remains of a once great country," says @GovMikeHuckabee : http://bit.ly/1FIo1ki ;

@KFaulders: .@RealBenCarson lists schools from best to worst: Homeschool is best, then private school, then charter schools followed by public schools.

@ryanstruyk: ABC/Post today in 2011: Romney 25, Cain 17, Perry 17, Gingrich 9. Quinnipiac last week: Trump 25, Carson 17, Fiorina 12, Bush 10, Fiorina 9

@LindseyGrahamSC: Watch my exchange w/ @WhoopiGoldberg about using the education of young women to combat radical Islam http://www.lindseygraham.com/2015/09/30/graham-makes-second-appearance-on-abcs-the-view/ ;...

@RebeccaJarvis: Where the #Jobs Are: Healthcare +34k, Business +31k, Retail +24k, Food Service +21k, Information +12K

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From: "Andres Moreno" <dctrooper@gmail.com>
To: "Andres - DC" <dctrooper@gmail.com>
Date: 12/5/2007 2:16:44 AM
Subject: '08 Election Daily News Clips - 12/05

'08 Election Daily News Clips

December 5th, 2007

Candidate Tracking:

8:15am Thompson: Meet and Greet in Pickens, SC
- Tracking Scheduled
10:30am Thompson: Meet and Greet in Anderson, SC
- Tracking Scheduled
12:30pm Thompson: Meet and Greet in Anderson, SC
- Tracking Scheduled
3:30pm Romney: Fundraiser in New Orlans, LA

5pm Romney: Fund-raiser in New Orleans, LA

5:30pm Thompson: Meet and Greet in Lexington, SC
- Tracking Scheduled
7:30pm Romney: Event in Houston, TX
- Tracking Scheduled

News Clips:

Giuliani:

Hillary, Rudy May Know Life After Death (Real Clear Politics, 12/5/07)
It now seems possible, and some would say probable, that both front-runners for their party nominations will be wiped out in the early caucuses and primaries. It may well be that neither Hillary Clinton nor Rudy Giuliani win anything before the Florida primary on Jan. 29.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/12/hillary_rudy_may_know_life_aft.html

Giuliani No Longer Heads Consultant (AP, 12/4/07)
Republican presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani has stepped down as head of his consulting firm, Giuliani Partners, after months of refusing to disclose the firm's clients or the role he played.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jj8Aed7dLKKa-l_ deDwVpCnZTXcQD8TAS59O0

Giuliani Steps Back From Firm (NY Times, 12/4/07)
Will Rudolph W. Giuliani's decision to pull back from the direct management of his consulting and law firms insulate him from questions about the firms' activities? His presidential campaign has repeatedly faced questions about the firms' work for its clients.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/giuliani-steps-back-from-firm/

Giuliani's stock dropping (Boston Globe, 12/4/07)
Enduring the worst week of his presidential campaign, Rudy Giuliani's stock is beginning to plummet in national polls, none more than the Rasmussen Reports daily tracking survey, which today reported that Giuliani has dropped from clear-cut national leader to a tie with surging Mike Huckabee.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2007/12/giulianis_stock.html

Romney:

Romney Faces New Questions on Illegal Workers at Landscaping Firm (NY Times, 12/5/07)
Mitt Romney, who has relentlessly wielded the issue of illegal immigration against his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination in the past few months, is facing an embarrassing new revelation that the landscaping company at his home in Massachusetts was found for a second time to be employing illegal immigrants.
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/05/us/politics/05romney.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

Poll Shows Romney with Wide Lead in New Hampshire (Washington Post, 12/5/07)
Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney holds a wide lead over his Republican rivals in New Hampshire, where he is seen as the strongest leader and most electable presidential candidate in the field, but the GOP race there remains unsettled a month before the nation's first primary, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2007/12/05/ST2007120500052.html

Mitt Romney Is No Jack Kennedy (NY Times Op-ed, 12/5/07)

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Inevitably, Mitt Romney's long-awaited speech on faith and religious freedom tomorrow at the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M will be compared to John F. Kennedy's 1960 speech to Protestant ministers in Houston, just 90 miles away. Also like Kennedy, Mr. Romney realizes — and polls demonstrate — that a sizable number of voters (again, mostly Southern white Protestants) oppose him because of his religion.
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/05/opinion/05woodward.html

Authenticity is Romney's biggest hurdle, poll suggests (LA Times, 12/5/07)
With a massive marketing effort, Mitt Romney has tried to introduce himself as a family man with a solid marriage, five wholesome sons and the moral values desired by the Republican Party's most conservative voters.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-romney5dec05,1,1754675.story?coll=la-politics-campaign

Silent on religion, Romney sticks to budget (Concord Monitor, 12/5/07)
***Tracker video available for this event
Two days before a long-awaited speech on religion, politics and his Mormon faith, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney spent a low-key lunchtime yesterday at Concord's Cat 'n' Fiddle restaurant touting his call to cut taxes and spending.
http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071205/FRONTPAGE/712050304

Romney to walk fine line in Mormon speech (Reuters, 12/4/07)
From baptism of the dead to a ban on coffee, Mormonism's doctrines are alien to many Americans and that is unlikely to change when Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney gives a long-awaited speech on his faith this week, religious scholars say.
http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN0453249420071205

Romney used ad group behind Huckabee (AP, 12/4/07)
The political ad company that Republican Mitt Romney's presidential campaign says is violating the law with phone calls in support of rival Mike Huckabee is the same firm Romney employed in August to place calls on his behalf before the Iowa straw poll.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PRO_HUCKABEE_GROUP?SITE=MABED&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Former Mass. Governor Backs Romney (AP, 12/4/07)
WINDHAM, N.H. (AP) — Republican Mitt Romney sought to deflect Rudy Giuliani's criticism of his economic record Tuesday with a two-fer — a former Massachusetts governor now living in New York.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ht8AHZLQSv4fbYdGXck9kmOOPiQD8TAR0381

Poll: Romney, Huckabee even in Iowa (AP, 12/4/07)
Huckabee has rocketed into contention on the strength of his support from the state's white evangelicals, who comprise 38 percent of its Republicans. He leads Romney among evangelicals by nearly two-to-one - the same margin by which Romney leads him with everyone else.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/POLL_2008_IOWA?SITE=MAQUI&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Romney: Religion address won't be 'a JFK speech' (CNN, 12/4/07
Mitt Romney is brushing off comparisons between his upcoming speech about religion and John F. Kennedy's famous 1960 address, but the White House hopeful says the subject is an important one in the campaign.
http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/12/04/romney.speech/index.html

Thompson:

Thompson and Social Security (Washington Times, 12/5/07)
With the caucuses and primaries fast approaching, presidential candidates are beginning to focus on policy. Former Sen. Fred Thompson spoke recently on Social Security reform. And he should be commended for offering a solution — but not for the solution he offered.
http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071205/COMMENTARY/112050024

Poll: GOP Presidential Race Tied in SC (AP, 12/4/07)
The Jan. 19 South Carolina contest stands as a three-way tie - and one or more other candidates could be in contention, too. It is the best of the three important early voting states for Thompson, who has a modest lead among men and less-educated Republicans.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/POLL_2008_SOUTH_CAROLINA?SITE=VACUL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Huckabee:

In Iowa, They Like Mike (Washington Post, 12/5/07)
With evangelicals expected to comprise four in 10 Republican caucusgoers, voters such as Williams hold the key to a Huckabee victory -- and they could deliver it. In the latest Post-ABC News poll of likely GOP caucusgoers, the former Arkansas governor led Romney 44 percent to 22 percent among evangelical Protestants.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/04/AR2007120401668.html

Huckabee bristles at creationism query (AP, 12/5/07)
***Tracker video available for this event
Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, a Southern Baptist preacher who has surged in Iowa with evangelical Christian support, bristled Tuesday when asked if creationism should be taught in public schools. Huckabee - who raised his hand at a debate last May when asked which candidates disbelieved the theory of evolution - asked this time why there is such a fascination with his beliefs.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HUCKABEE_RELIGION?SITE=ORROS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Documents Expose Huckabee's Role in Serial Rapist's Release (Huffington Post 12/04/07)
As governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee aggressively pushed for the early release of a convicted rapist despite being warned by numerous women that the convict had sexually assaulted them or their family members, and would likely strike again. The convict went on to rape and murder at least one other woman.

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2007/12/04/documents-expose-huckabee_n_75362.html

Huckabee inches toward Giuliani, poll shows (LA Times, 12/4/07)
Mike Huckabee, the ascendant Republican presidential candidate in Iowa, is enjoying a surge of support across the country -- and Rudolph W. Giuliani seems to be paying the biggest price, a new Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll has found.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na poll5dec05,1,33691.story?coll=la-headlines-nation

Huckabee: Built for both the pulpit and politics (CNN, 12/4/07)
When you sit down with Mike Huckabee and his inner circle, as I did the other day, you know at once that his is a tough, savvy crew – fast becoming as potent in the pews of the evangelical churches as George W. Bush's was in 2000 and 2004. Having vaulted to the lead in Iowa, Huckabee now is aiming for his next big score: an endorsement from Dr. James Dobson, the king of Christian radio.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22101888/

Huckabee: Restore U.S. ties around world (Des Moines Register, 12/4/07)
***Tracker video available for this event
Newton, Ia. – Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said at a campaign stop today that America has to work to re-establish relationships with other countries. Huckabee, the new front-runner in Iowa seeking the Republican nomination for president, said if he were to be elected president, there would be a "real sense of cooperation."
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071204/NEWS/71204025

Huckabee denounces supporters' push-polling in Iowa (CNN, 12/4/07)
Mike Huckabee boasts about running an above-the-mud campaign that does not smear his GOP rivals, but a group founded by some of his supporters appears to be doing just that.
http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/12/04/huckabee.push.polling/index.html

Huckabee's optimism belies challenges (AP, 12/4/07)
Mike Huckabee, who has surged from the back of the Republican presidential pack to challenge longtime leader Mitt Romney in Iowa, is campaigning with a spring in his step and an ear-to-ear grin. His optimistic air, however, belies a thicket of hurdles in Iowa and beyond.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HUCKABEE_IOWA?SITE=MABED&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain:

McCain says intelligence report shows need for improvements (AP, 12/5/07)
Republican John McCain says the latest intelligence reports on Iran and its alleged quest for nuclear weapons raises questions about America's intelligence program.
http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=7452562&nav=menu216_3

McCain Turns a Weakness Into a Strength With First Younger and Then Older Voters (Wall Street Journal, 12/5/07)
The technology seemed to baffle Arizona Sen. John McCain during his appearance at an MTV-MySpace-sponsored meeting with New Hampshire students, but it gave him a new laugh line among the generally older voters who show up at the diners and town halls where he does most of his campaigning.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119682265215314007.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

McCain explains what he would have done (NH Union Leader, 12/4/07)
Were John McCain President over the last seven years, Donald Rumsfeld wouldn't have had the President's ear, federal spending wouldn't have mushroomed, and China would be shamed for not doing enough to stop genocide, the Arizona senator said last night.
http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=caucus

McCain's MTV Moment (NY Times, 12/4/07)
The room was done up MTV style: flashy graphics, loud colors and the kind of soft lighting more befitting a late-night lounge than a policy forum… But when Senator John McCain appeared at the third presidential forum hosted by MTV and MYspace, foreign policy dominated the hour-long session…There was a condemnation of the Bush Administration's failure to address the issue of climate change and promise to make it a top priority.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/mccains-mtv-moment/?hp

General Election News:

Poll: GOP Race in Early States Unsettled (AP, 12/4/07)
In-depth polling by The Associated Press and the nonpartisan Pew Research Center shows that in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, no one is a shoo-in.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iVr3cBdbqri65toeoy9WNwsMkFVwD8TAS3000

New Tancredo ad links illegal immigrants, gang violence (Des Moines Register, 12/4/07)
The latest television ad from U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo's presidential campaign draws a link between illegal immigration and Central and South American gang violence that has come to the United States.
http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071204/NEWS/71204031

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/11/2015 8:04:52 AM
Subject: Human Rights Campaign Under Fire in LGBT Community

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Human Rights Campaign Under Fire in LGBT Community

Toshio Meronek, Truthout: Queer groups call foul on the largest LGBT nonprofit, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), for glorifying corporations the groups consider to be downright dirty.

Read the Article

No One Is Safe From Backlash When Criticizing the Police, Even the Police

Crystal Shepeard, Care2: National protests have helped highlight a long known issue with law enforcement in the US. But if elected officials, the media and even the chief of police risk being attacked for criticizing the police, then who is really safe?

Read the Article

Reexamining the "Comfort Women" Issue: An Interview With Yoshimi Yoshiaki

Satoko Oka Norimatsu and Translated by Yuki Miyamoto, The Asia-Pacific Journal: Professor Yoshimi discusses how to move forward in addressing the Japanese Imperial Army's involvement in the "comfort women," while critiquing false reports and misinformation primarily from right-wing media.

Read the Interview

In Praise of Buffer States

Robin Edward Poulton, Truthout: We need buffer states to avoid direct confrontation between regional powers. They keep armies apart and allow important regional countries to trade in peace.

Read the Article

Black Wealth Matters

Chuck Collins, OtherWords: Dramatic shifts in racial wealth disparities can't be explained simply in terms of the latest recession. For generations, white households have enjoyed far greater access to wealth and security than their black counterparts.

Read the Article

Is a Clinton Revival Timed-Out?

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

White House Announces Anti-Violence Summit as World Leaders March in France

Read the Article at Bloomberg

Eric Holder Says the US and Its Allies Must Improve Terrorism Intelligence Sharing

Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

Two Code Pink Anti-Torture Protesters Arrested at Dick Cheney's House

Read the Article at Reuters

Icy Cold and Cuts in

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Beverly Bandler, Consortium News: There may not be a big demand for 1990s nostalgia, but the 2016 presidential race could offer one more contest involving a Clinton and a Bush. Yet, some Democrats fear Hillary Clinton could ultimately fail because she lacks a vision for addressing today's problems.
Read the Article

Police Corruption Exposed

Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report: If New Yorkers don't feel afraid in the absence of police due to the NYPD's protest, perhaps we can begin asking serious questions about why - and indeed if - we need the police force that we have.
Read the Article

Pride and Professionalism Shape the Lives of Gay and Lesbian Teachers

Dr. Catherine Connell, Girl w/ Pen: Changes in the norms of teaching professionalism and gay pride are necessary to enable sexual justice in schools, for both teachers and students alike.
Read the Article

Rebuilding the Obama-Putin Trust

Ray McGovern, Consortium News: Heading into the last quarter of his presidency, Barack Obama must decide whether he will let the neocons keep pulling his strings or finally break loose and pursue a realistic foreign policy seeking practical solutions to world problems, including the crisis with Russia over Ukraine.
Read the Article

This week in SpeakOut:

James Marc Leas submitted a brief on behalf of the Palestine Subcommittee of the National Lawyers Guild to the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict, arguing that Israel's self-defense claims were deeply disingenuous and that Israel provoked the conflict and committed war crimes; **Joshua Tartakovsky** offers a firsthand account with original photos of the resurgence of facism in Ukraine; **Dr. James J. Zogby** examines how the closing weeks of 2014 spelled disaster for US leadership and the rule of law; **Yusef Bunchy Shakur** reflects on how he came to be a leader in resistance and restoration in Detroit; **Nozomi Hayase** pens an ode to the courage of whistleblowers; **Ramzy Baroud** argues that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's political subsistence largely depends on Israel's acquiescence and US backing; in two posts, **Kelly Hayes** describes the importance of mutual aid for the houseless and protecting one another in harsh weather, and looks back at some moments in Chicago activism in 2014 that moved her, changed her, or burned themselves into her memory; **Benjamin Dancer** argues that because of our collective vulnerability when it comes to the power grid, we have an opportunity to bring the left and the right together to create a more secure future with decentralized renewable energy; **Kevin Zeese** says it's time to stop the NYPD coup and create the police-community relationship we want to see; **Jerry Elmer** recounts the history of the "Golden Rule's" civilly disobedient voyage and its relevance in view of projected sea-level rise; **Karl Mayer and Kathy Kelly** reflect on the challenge the Islamic State really poses to US foreign policy; **Robert Bruce Ware and Kim Richardson** speculate on the way the Senate Committee's torture report has disappeared from the news; and more.
Read the Articles

Services Create a Dangerous Perfect Storm for Homeless People
Read the Article at Common Dreams

Montana Officer Shoots and Kills Two Unarmed Men; No Charges in Either Case
Read the Article at Daily Kos

Only in Kentucky: Jailers Without Jails
Read the Article at the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting

Why Is the Financial Industry So Afraid of Joseph Stiglitz?
Read the Article at Salon

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 11:35:09 AM
Subject: Re: Afternoon ROUNDUP: Tweet, Calls, Travel & Meetings Tomorrow

Amanda's assistant Nick thinks that Amanda may have already reached out to Hochbrueckner this afternoon, although I'm still waiting for a response back from her to confirm.

On Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 4:37 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Sounds good- will do.
>
> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2015 4:37 PM
> **To:** Milia Fisher
> **Cc:** Eryn Sepp; Eryn Sepp
> **Subject:** Re: Afternoon ROUNDUP: Tweet, Calls, Travel & Meetings Tomorrow
>
> Why don't you call him and say i'll reach out tomorrow.
>
> On Apr 23, 2015 4:27 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Sounds good- will shoot it over to her and her assistant.
> >
> > On Apr 23, 2015, at 4:24 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Get Amanda to return Hochbruchner call.
> > >
> > > On Apr 23, 2015 4:15 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > **TWEET: Fallon on Medium**
> > > >
> > > > **Comms asked us to Tweet out Brian Fallon's piece:**
> > > >
> > > > Read: @brianefallon's rebuttal. Why 'Clinton Cash' & NYT Fail to connect the dots in uranium story. On @Medium. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0
> > > >
> > > > **3 Missed Calls/Call Requests:**
> > > >
> > > > **Former NY Rep George Hochbrueckner**
> > > > Cell: 516-456-3629
> > > > Notes: 2nd attempt -- Wants to speak with you about the campaign.
> > > >
> > > > **C.H. Tung**
> > > > Notes: Would like a call tomorrow night at 9 pm. Tung will call your cell. Let me and Eryn know if that timing works.
> > > >
> > > > **Glenn Ivey**
> > > > Cell: 301-537-1451

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Notes: Following up on conversation at the Daschle Reunion a few weeks ago. Running for Congress--wants to know if you'll sponsor an upcoming DC event (or just be on the invitation). Date not set, will be up to Daschle. Pete Rouse has already agreed to help. Daschle already contributed.

Travel for Tomorrow:
Best option if you want to head back to DC after de Blasio meeting looks like 3:05 pm regional arriving in DC at 6:25 pm -- $169. There are no trains leaving between 2:00 and 3:00, unfortunately.
Let me know if you'd like us to go ahead and book or I can send other options.

Meetings:

TOMORROW:
Comms/Research/Policy:
There is a Comms/Research/Policy meeting tomorrow 10:00-12:00pm. Robby and Kristina convening with senior staff from all three teams. Robby (via Marissa) says he's happy to have you for as much or as little of the meeting as you would like. Agenda to follow.

MONDAY:
Climate Policy Meeting:
Policy team requested a meeting to discuss climate policy (either Dan or Jake will join--Dan made the ask). Eryn and I are trying to see if it's possible to fit in Monday morning in DC at Perkins Coie or elsewhere. Will keep you posted. (Note: Heitkamp meeting still pending and will take precedence over this)

--

Milia Fisher

Special Assistant to the Chair

Hillary for America

mfisher@hillaryclinton.com

o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/21/2014 10:38:50 AM
Subject: Why the People of Ferguson Can't Trust the Cops

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Or call in your donation:
213.489.1971

Apocalypse of the "Happy Meal": The Cathedral of Cholesterol

Brian Moench, Truthout: All meat, especially beef, has much higher levels of pesticides and industrial chemicals than any plant food. The chemicals given to commercially raised livestock and added to their meat are a toxic stew; most grains fed to livestock are GMOs and they're soaked in pesticides.

Read the Article

"Government's Arsenal to Destroy Revolutionaries": Political Imprisonment Persists

Maya Schenwar, Truthout: Through recounting the incarceration of activists fighting for black liberation, Native American sovereignty, Puerto Rican independence, economic justice, the abolition of nuclear weapons and more, Dan Berger, author of

BuzzFlash

LA Police Officer Threatens, "If You Don't Want to Get Hurt, Don't Challenge Me," in LA Times Op-Ed

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: An LAPD officer publicly writes that if people don't do what a cop demands, they are responsible for any brutal treatment that they receive.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Ku Klux Klan Holding Fundraiser for Cop Who Shot and Killed Michael Brown

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

How the Left Is Revitalizing Itself

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The Struggle Within, illustrates how imprisonment serves as a political tool deployed by the state to maintain the status quo.

Read the Review

Henry Giroux: Liberty and Justice for All?

Piya Chattopadhyay, TVO: Henry A. Giroux says the United States' embrace of a surveillance state and culture of violence have replaced the values of freedom, liberty and justice, putting American democracy in jeopardy.

Watch the Interviews

The Abolitionist Echoes of Ferguson: White Privilege as Moral Duty

Michelle Corbin, Truthout: What are the responsibilities of those enjoying white privilege in a white supremacist society? The abolitionists offer inspiration in the fight against racism and structural injustice.

Read the Article

Why the People of Ferguson Can't Trust the Cops

Mike Ludwig, Truthout: Several African-American men share with Truthout their stories of abuse at the hands of police, and after 12 days of continuous demonstrations against the shooting of an unarmed teen, Michael Brown, it appears that the community is in it for the long haul.

Read the Article

The Same Hashish They Give Out

Bradford Betz, Truthout: Sen. Dianne Feinstein, chairperson of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has accused CIA director John Brennan of domestic spying. It's time for the Obama administration to hold Brennan and the CIA accountable for the Senate allegations and more.

Read the Article

The "Holder Doctrine": Bank "Settlements" With No Prosecutions

Yves Smith, Naked Capitalism: Occasionally a pundit steps up to remind the public of the farce that passes for bank enforcement. The New York Times columnist William Cohan focuses on the deep internalization by Holder and the DOJ generally of the "protect the banks" mentality, which he calls the "Holder Doctrine."

Read the Article

Read the Article at The Nation

If You Think the Water Crisis Can't Get Worse, Wait Until the Aquifers Are Drained

Read the Article at National Geographic

Behind Obama's "Chaotic" Foreign Policy

Read the Article at Consortium News

As Pentagon Hints at More US Troops to Iraq, Voices Warn Against Further Military Intervention

Read the Article at Common Dreams

Thirteen Republican Climate Deniers Who Want to Be President

Read the Article at Grist

World Leaders "Failing to Help" Ebola Outbreak in Africa

Read the Article at The Guardian

Police Continue to Violate Press Freedom in Ferguson

Jessica Desvarieux, The Real News Network: Truthout's Mike Ludwig reports on the suppression of the press in Ferguson: "If we are not allowed access to these points of conflict where protesters are interacting with police and people are getting arrested, it's very difficult for us to hold [the police] accountable for any abuses they might perpetrate."

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

It's Time for the Bill O'Reilly to Get Real About White Privilege

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: In a society like ours, where white privilege infects every single relationship, every single institution and every single decision we make, the shooting of an unarmed young black

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man by a white police officer doesn't "just happen." It's time for white Americans to get real about white privilege.

Read the Article

Laura Flanders | How the Largest Worker-Owned Co-op in the US Lifts People Out of Poverty

Laura Flanders, YES! Magazine: Cooperative Home Care Associates has 2,300 workers who enjoy good wages, regular hours and family health insurance. With an investment of $1.2 million into the cooperative sector, New York City is hoping to build on the group's success.

Read the Article

Why Washington's War on Terror Failed: The Underrated Saudi Connection

Patrick Cockburn, TomDispatch: The "war on terror" has failed because the United States did not target the jihadi movement as a whole and, above all, was not aimed at Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the two countries that fostered jihadism as a creed and a movement.

Read the Excerpt

No Rights That a White Man Is Bound to Respect: The Occupation and Ethnic Cleansing of Africa-America

Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo and Kevin Berends, Black Agenda Report: The illusion that African Americans are integrated into US society is only sustained during periods of détente. When the citizenry rebels against repression and racism, the state exercises the full range of its fine-adjusting tools, including tanks, armored vehicles and assassination teams armed with precision weaponry.

Read the Article

Economic Update: From Ferguson to the Retirement Crisis

Richard D. Wolff, Economic Update / Truthout: This episode covers inequality and growth and the economic lessons from Ferguson. We also interview Professor James Russell on the retirement crisis in the United States. Plus, we respond to listeners' queries about how the government subsidizes Walmart with food stamps and the economics of advertising.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 9/8/2008 8:08:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 09/08/08

Main Topics: Rick Davis, Nancy Pfotenhauer, Tucker Bounds Push the McCain-Palin Reform/Change Ticket, McCain Surges in Polls, Bob Woodward's Book

Summary of Shift:

Top political coverage today stemmed from new polls out that reveal a surge of enthusiasm for the McCain-Palin ticket, that has put Obama behind by four points, but within the margin of error. While McCain may be ahead nationally in the polls, in the key battleground states and in the Electoral College, Obama appears to have the edge and be closer to the 270 votes needed. Surrogates, Rick Davis, Nancy Pfotenhauer, and Tucker Bounds made the rounds heavily pushing the McCain-Palin ticket as the campaign of reform and change. A investigative piece on Sarah Palin's circle of friends reveals that even those closest to her may not vote for her due to her socially conservative record. Lastly, Bob Woodward has a new book out that portrays Bush acting alone in pursuing the surge and lying to the American people on the necessity of listening to the commanders on the ground.

Hurricane Ivan causes mandatory evacuation of the Florida Keys. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have officially been bailed out and taken over by the government, resulting in upward markets in the US and abroad. American missiles continue to target Taliban militants inside Pakistan. OPEC considers cutting oil production due to claims of too much supply.

Highlights:

1. Rick Davis Interviews
   a. FNC: Rick Davis Discusses Sarah Palin, Her Reform Credentials, Her Ties to Lobbyists and earmarks, and Her Media Exposure
   b. FNC: Rick Davis Discusses His Comments on Obama's Muslim and Radical Connections
   c. FNC: Rick Davis Discusses How McCain Will Bring Change and How He Is Different Than Bush
   d. MSNBC: Rick Davis Answers Questions on Palin's Earmarks, Obama's Radical Connections, and Talks Strategy
2. MSNBC: Nancy Pfotenhauer Attempts to Define McCain as the Agent of Change, and How He is No Bush
3. FNC: Tucker Bounds Talks About McCain's Enthusiastic, Reform Ticket, Sarah Palin's Media Access, and Stolen INVESCO Field Flags
4. NBC: Bob Woodward on Bush's Failings in Iraq
5. FNC: New McCain/Palin Ad Analyzed on Fox and Friends
6. FNC: Conservative Blogger Attempts to Identify Fact v. Fiction on Sarah Palin Rumors
7. MSNBC: Chuck Todd Breaks Down the Battleground States and Possible Breakdowns of Election Map
8. ABC: Only Three of Sarah Palin's Four Friends on Panel Pledge to Vote for Her

Highlights, No Clips:

9. MSNBC - JENNIFER PALMIERI: "When they say change, he's offering the same economic policies of George Bush, higher, bigger tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations. When he says change, it doesn't mean change when you vote with George Bush 90 percent of the time. Remember, when you have a campaign that's run by lobbyists […] What the McCain campaign strategy really is to ask voters to suspend disbelief and believe that this man who votes with Bush, is of the same party, has been in Washington for 25 years, is going to bring about change. I think in the end that's not going to work."

Clips:

Headline #1

Rick Davis Discusses Sarah Palin, Her Reform Credentials, Her Ties to Lobbyists and earmarks, and Her Media Exposure (FNC 09/07/08 6:20pm)

CHRIS MATTHEWS: As a matter of personal privilege I'm going to give you the opportunity to respond to David Axelrod who said for all the talk about wait until we come and shake up this lobbyists and the campaign team of McCain is filled with lobbyists, in your case former lobbyists and how do you respond.

RICK DAVIS: I think that it's just more of the same from David Axelrod and they have been running on ghosts of the past all along and I think it just shows they don't really have anything to talk about. If they want to run against Rick Davis or our campaign staff, let them, I think it is hilarious and is a wonderful distraction from the real issues we are trying to debate. It's a classic example of a campaign without anything else to say, so they pick on staff.

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MATTHEWS: Let's turn to the choice of Sarah Palin as the running mate. What does she add to the ticket? Does she bring new states into play? How will use her.

DAVIS: I think she's exactly what we need to really focus the public's attention on the fact the brand of John McCain, the maverick, the independent, the guy who has been railing against corruption, and ethics abuses in Washington and who wants to reform government, and she reinforces that and it is a wonderful thing for our campaign to be able to get this kind of attention on our ticket coming out of the convention and we've had wonderful events and fantastic rallies and people are excited about this ticket. And this is a ticket that will govern Washington.

MATTHEWS: But aren't you vastly exaggerating her record as a reformer? Take a look. As mayor of Wasilla she hired a Washington lobbyist and got $27 million in earmarks and in her less than two years as governor, Alaska has asked for $589 million in pork-barrel projects. Her record as a reform, particularly on the issue of earmarks, is far from clean.

DAVIS: Well, let's be clear about this. When she was mayor of Wasilla, there were already people in place who were getting those grants from the federal government and small towns do a lot of that kind of activity.

MATTHEWS: She did hire a lobbyist.

DAVIS: The projects you talk about. These were not projects that she tried to get. These were projects the republican establishment in Alaska who she campaigned against and beat many times over were the ones picking up those grants and she vetoed more bills and cut back on more pork barrel spending in the state legislature than any other previous governor. She converted that legislator into reform because she passed ethics reforms and corruption reforms. She railed against the establishment, in Alaska and was able to accomplish great things, passing a significant energy bill that allowed them to create a natural gas pipeline and these are all things that a true reformer is able to accomplish and **so, I don't disagree with the fact that there were pork-barrel projects coming to Alaska but not from her. Within the state legislature she beat back those efforts.**

MATTHEWS: First of all, as governor, Alaska, during her one-and-a-half, two years as governor, Alaska continued to get more federal money for park barrel projects per capita than any state in the country. […] And she supported the bridge to nowhere and it was only after the federal government dropped it out and killed it, the congress killed, that she then opposed it and in fact still got the money for the approach, the ramp to the bridge to nowhere.

DAVIS: Congress didn't beat back the bridge to nowhere. That funding was in the grant and she said I'm not spending that money and what they did, they took a $500 million bridge and she turned it into a 2 million dollar ferry and that's what she did on her own without help from anybody else.

MATTHEWS: Actually it was congress that killed the money for the bridge to nowhere. Governor Palin has given some very good speeches this week and everybody, republican or democrat, would say that she was very effective at the republican convention. She's not answered a single question from the national media. When will she agree to an interview?

DAVIS: She'll agree to an interview when we think it's time and when she feels comfortable doing it. […] It's not like there is no information about Sarah Palin, the governor, the mother, the agent for change. And there is plenty out there. I don't think our campaign is the campaign that has not given immense amount of access to the press, that is the Obama campaign.

MATTHEWS: Why is she scared to answer questions?

DAVIS: She's not scared to answer questions. But you know what? We run or campaign, not the news media and we'll do things on our timetable and honestly, this last week was not an exemplary moment for the news media. So why do we want to throw her into a cycle of piranhas called the news media who have nothing better to ask questions about than her personal life and children and I think our attitude would be, let it pass.

MATTHEWS: I think there are legitimate questions that, and it doesn't have to be a huge news conference and I'm not telling you ho to run your campaign, legitimate questions, is she or is she not ready to be commander-in-chief, if last week didn't work, why not this week?

DAVIS: Sarah Palin will have the opportunity to speak to the American people. She just gave a speech, to 40

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million Americans in her convention. She's in the process of, you know, getting to know people out on the campaign trail and she will do interviews. But she'll do them on the terms and conditions of which the campaign decides that it is ready to do it. And Chris all due respect, **I mean, the information the news media has been putting out on Sarah Palin is not objective journalism and until the point in time we feel like the news media will treat her with a level of respect and deference, I think it would be fool hardy to put her into that environment.**

MATTHEWS: […] My point is there are legitimate questions to ask, whether fox or anybody else, about is she ready to be president, what does she know about foreign policy?

DAVIS: Absolutely, no question about that and she will be available to the news media, when and if we decide that that is going to be the case.

MATTHWEWS: So you are not willing at this point to say when?

DAVIS: No.

Rick Davis Discusses His Comments on Obama's Muslim and Radical Connections (FNC 09/07/08 6:30pm)
MATTHEWS: Let's get back to your comment last week, I discussed with David Axelrod and up on the screen, the election is not about issues. This election is about a composite view of what people take away from these candidates. […] Do you want to focus on personalities or a composite view of the candidates, not issues because of the fact, for instance we have 6.1% unemployment, the highest in five years?

DAVIS: No, Chris and what you didn't show on the screen was the next sentence, which is, the composite view is made up of people's values. It is made up of their opinions and made up of their judgment and their principles and so, then I let -- then the next sentence says and of course, issues will play an important role in people's final decision. So I respect the fact that the Obama campaign has some kind of a -- you know, obsession about rick Davis and I have been the focus of their advertising and now, their candidate seems to be wanting to attack me more than anybody else. That's fine, the water is warm and I'm happy to go toe-to-toe but to insinuate yesterday on the stump **somehow those comments implied that I was going to, you know, indicate that he was going to have these Muslim connections or that he had these radical relationships, is absolutely out of control.**

MATTHEWS: Wait, the Muslim thing may not be fair, your campaign has talked about the fact that he had a relationship with William Ayers.

DAVIS: But did the quote indicate that.

MATTHEWS: Well, the radical connections, that is what William Ayres is.

DAVIS: Where in the quote is radical connections?

MATTHEWS: You just quoted what Obama said on the trail.

DAVIS: Absolutely, yesterday, against my quote, he said this what is they are saying, by saying that it's about personalities. I didn't even say personalities, he is not correct in the way he's quoting me and he tries to use that to try and scare me and **he says they'll tell you we'll try to scare people and they'll tell you that, you know, I have Muslim connections. Well, this is the same construct he's done before. He's trying to play victim and I don't think it is very flattering on his part.**

Rick Davis Discusses How McCain Will Bring Change and How He Is Different Than Bush (FNC 09/07/08 6:40pm)
MATTHEWS: Okay, McCain keeps talk about change is coming. **But in all the big bread and butter issues, taxes, social security, energy, trade, health care, there really are not big differences between John McCain and George Bush.**

DAVIS**: Oh, I think change is coming. I mean, look at George bush couldn't get anything done on social security.** I mean, I think that is a fundamental difference between john McCain and George bush in the sense that I think john McCain's approach to social security, getting democrats to come over to the white house and sit down and get a deal so we can take it off the table, so that not only the people who are currently getting social

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security, can feel like they are safe and secure, but, all those people in the pipeline to receive it in the future know what their benefits will be and what it will cost.

MATTHEWS: Wait, let's take social security as an example. In fact, McCain's social security plan is almost identical to George w. Bush's, he's talking about some reform of the system, plus private accounts and you will never get private accounts through a democratic congress.

DAVIS: The difference is the approach and George Bush said, take it or lift, here's the way we do it, private accounts first and the balance of the social security system has to be fixed in the process. John McCain says exactly the opposite, and says, give me the leadership of congress, republicans or democrats, I don't care. Come over to the white house and sit down and let's find out a way to take off the table and once we satisfy the American public that we fixed the social security system, well into the future, then let's sit down and look at Medicare and Medicaid. because those are the things that are sapping our federal budget. **So, what is the difference? And I think is an important difference, and it is changed politically, is john McCain has a history of getting things done, in congress, by sitting down with people who are part of the solution, not part of the problem. He'll sit down with democrats, independence, republicans, alike and say, we have got to change the system. He has a long history of doing that and nobody passed more bipartisan reforms in congress than john McCain. And he'll do it as president.**

MATTHEWS: So you are willing to concede his starting out point is very similar to George w. Bush's, on all of these bread and butter issues, but the difference is the approach and how he deals with Congress?

DAVIS: I think there are lots of differences in some of the bread and butter issues. I think our approach on taxes and trade, even though as a republican, are very similar to George Bush, we have different proposals today. I mean, look, most importantly we have different proposals than Barack Obama, who has this somehow believes that raising taxes will cure an ailing economy, I mean, you know, economics 101 tells don't raise taxes into a recession and john McCain said over and over and we have to get more money into the pockets of the American public.

MATTHEWS: I want to you to talk strategy over the next 58 days and lets put up Karl Rove's electoral map, which shows Obama leads in states with 260 electoral votes, again 270 needed to win the presidency. Obviously it is still fluid but doesn't Obama have many more ways to get to 270 when you look at the map, than you do?

DAVIS: No, I think maps are maps and polls are polls and we are not worried and if we worried about polls we would have given up a year ago. What is amazing about that map, in my opinion, is Colorado. The democrats just spent tens of millions, maybe $100 million, in Colorado with their convention, and they dominated the news media for weeks at a time and John McCain just went into Colorado and had a huge rally incredibly enthusiastic support and even though the democrats have spent tens of millions of dollars in a state that is a clear targeted state, they weren't able to move it into their column.

MATTHEWS: […] If you had to frame in one or two sentences the choice that you want voters to have on their minds on election day, what would it be?

DAVIS: Well, I think it was really exemplified in the conventions. Our convention focused on putting the country first and John McCain has always put his country first, throughout his career. And willing to sacrifice his own political interests for the country at large. The Obama convention, it was all me first and Barack Obama is putting himself ahead of the democratic party and ahead of the country's interests and ahead of his party's interests and that is a history in a way he's conducted himself in his public life that I think is a clear difference between the two candidates.

Rick Davis Answers Questions on Palin's Earmarks, Obama's Radical Connections, and Talks Strategy
(MSNBC 09/08/08 8:26am)
MIKA BRZENISKI: Did you hear David Axelrod on our show about 30 minutes ago?

RICK DAVIS: no, no, I didn't hear David.

BRZENISKI: He was pointing out governor Palin's record seems to contradict her image that's being painted there in the campaign as a change agent. Saying that as mayor of Wasilla, she hired a Washington lobbyist, that perhaps she asked for over $500 million in pork barrel projects during her 1 ½ years as governor, and so on and so on. Does her record back up the label, change agent?

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DAVIS: **I didn't hear David but I listened to your clip from Barack Obama railing about earmarks. I had to stop myself from laughing before I got on. Here is a guy who personally asked for over $1 billion worth of earmarks, including some that went directly to the hospital where his wife works. And he's talking about how somehow that we're casting a different light on this issue. That's the most hypocritical thing I ever heard in my life.**

BRZENISKI: The one thing I'm seeing between these campaigns, now they have each other on the experience issue and feel like they can go after each other on the experience. Barack Obama versus Palin's. Being a Washington insider, Joe Biden versus John McCain. Now the word "change" being switched about. Are we going to see a difference between these campaigns or is the point here to muddy the waters?

DAVIS: I think that the Obama campaign is clearly on the defense, especially as regards to their only real theme in their campaign, which is change. The problem is they look anything but change. They spent the entire month on the attack. They've not had a single positive message to put out there. Then when they have the best opportunity there is to show whether they are willing to really change anything, Barack Obama, in what is singularly the most important decision he had to possibly make as a candidate for president, picks Joe Biden, which is probably the least change that you could possibly have in the selection of a vice presidential candidate. **Then they complain viciously because John McCain actually reaches out to a real reformer, someone who has actually shaken up the old boy network, someone who campaigned against the ethnics and corruption abuses in politics, and all of a sudden, who looks more like change than Barack Obama? John McCain.**

ANDREA MITCHELL: Let me ask you about the choice of Palin, which clearly seems to be giving the republican ticket a good bounce. You've come out of the convention and she is getting a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. **Getting back to what Mika suggested, she did hire a lobbyist, she did go after earmarks for her town of Wasilla. So how do you square that circle?**

DAVIS: Look, when she was the mayor of a small town in Alaska, there was a practice that existed before she ever got there to use as many national and federal grants as they could to fund that town. And like many other towns around the country, it's the only way they can compete for funding. So I think that's exactly what it appears to be. It was a practice that while she was mayor they did away with and did not replicate when she was governor. I think it was the kind of thing that is a good lessons learned. I think the experience we ought to be pointing to is she cast away those kinds of actions later on in her career. In fact, when you look at her governances as governor of the state of Alaska, she cut pork out of the budget significantly. Wielded the veto pen line item more than any other governor in Alaskan history. The track record you ought to be looking at, instead of following up on these points the Obama people make. It's interesting. **They complain initially being the mayor of a small town in Wasilla, Alaska didn't give her enough experience to be able to have a seat on this ticket. When they found out that people rejected that notion as being ridiculous since it was on par with the kind of experience that the top of their ticket Barack Obama had, now they are trying to undermine her experiences as a mayor. I just think, look what's their message? Do they have anything they are actually going to do for the country or spend the next couple of months running down our candidates?**

PAT BUCHANAN: You are quoted saying this election is not about issues. This election is about a composite view of what people take away from these candidates. Is it basically the strategy of the campaign to say, look, we've got John McCain, the war hero, the old warrior, the man who's been there fighting and a real reformer and a maverick? And we've got this enormously exciting personality. And take a look at our two candidates as persons and their two candidates and ask, which of the two are equipped to lead the country? Which of the two do you want to lead the country, rather than focusing on the Bush-Cheney record?

DAVIS: The first thing is, it's amazing to me that Barack Obama would spend his time attacking Rick Davis. I was jumping for joy the day I saw that happen. But at least get the quote right. The quote is, and "the Washington post" is the one who had this, it says not only that the election is about the composite view people take away from these candidates. Then I say in the same sentence their values, their character, their opinions and their principles, all that go into the great rinse cycle of politics, obviously in the same sentence, issues have a big bearing on that. If Barack Obama is going to start quoting Rick Davis, I suggest he get the quote right. He said it was issues and not issues, but personality. I don't see personality in that at all. **The other thing that just is amazing to me, is he then said that quote had something to do with me saying somehow that meant I was going to try to scare people or somehow Barack Obama's got Muslim connections or that he hangs around with radicals.** I've got to tell you, I've been around this track in politics a long time but that is a leap of faith that requires a lot of introspection. What is he trying to do there? I don't understand the tactic he takes. Obviously, issues play an important role. But I don't think voters are solely issue voters. Pat, if you believe

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they don't take into consideration the values of the candidate, the character of the candidate, the candidate's opinions and principles, and then I would be shocked to think otherwise.

MITCHELL: Rick, were you just putting the Muslim thing up there? Were you just tossing that up there?

DAVIS: No, what Barack Obama said when he attacked me on this quote, he said that it -- direct quote, they say this isn't about issues it's about personalities. What they are really saying is that we are going to try to scare people about Barack. He goes on to say, "So we're going to say maybe he's got Muslim connections or we are going to say he hangs around with radicals. He is not patriotic." that is a Barack Obama quote about my quote. That is a leap of faith, in my book.

BRZENISKI: What do you think you are really doing here?

DAVIS: I think they just realized that these hollow themes that they tried to put out about change and about hope -- look, they are good themes if they are backed up with real substance. **What John McCain is doing is going around talking about ways to fix the economy, ways to fix the energy situation. He's actually put out specific proposals on doing that. And he's connecting with the American public. What they are realizing is the hollow promises aren't cutting it. Now all of a sudden they are looking at being behind and they are scared and attacking. That's the only option they have left in their mind.**

Headline #2
Nancy Pfotenhauer Attempts to Define McCain as the Agent of Change, and How He is No Bush (MSNBC 09/08/08 9:53am)
TAMRON HALL: […] how is the McCain campaign defining change?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: **Well, it's really who will reform Washington, DC? Who will take on then entrenched special interests and challenge them and drain the swamp, if you will. And there's only one ticket out that will do that and that has a record of being willing to buck their own party when necessary and that's john McCain and Sarah Palin.** They have both done it. John McCain here in our nation's capitol and as he said, he has the scars to prove it. And Sarah Palin in a state where then entrenched powers were just about as dug in as you can imagine and that woman took them on and she racked up a pretty high score of wins.

HALL: Senator Joe Biden said yesterday in Montana that McCain and Palin may change the feel of politics but he has not heard a single thing on issues that affect every day people's lives. Healthcare, and jobs, what change to McCain and Palin bring on those topics?

PFOTENHUAER: I think they're just manufacturing their own feedback, if you will. I actually heard I think it was Gibbons claim there wasn't any discussion of policy at the convention when we were getting criticism for senator McCain's speech being so rife with policy. Let's take it issue by issue. Let's talk about protecting the taxpayers. **You've got john McCain who's never asked for an earmark in his political career.** You've got Barack Obama, in the three short years he's been here, request almost a billion dollars, including a million for his wife's employer, and 3.4 million for Biden's son's lobbying firm. You have corruption. John McCain taking on even the Abramoff scandal. The 9/11 commission.

HALL: Specifically Joe Biden said health care and jobs. What can you say with that?

PFOTENHAUER: Let's talk healthcare. Senator McCain's health care plan, $5,000 tax credit for families. $2,500 tax credit for individuals so that if you do not have a job, if your employer doesn't offer you health insurance, you have an option to do it. We're going to introduce competition across state lines that doesn't exist right now to lower health care costs. We're going to get millions and millions who were uninsured on the ranks of the insured as well as improving care and efficiency. From the standpoint of jobs, Senator McCain is going to keep taxes low and he's going to lower federal spending and increase export markets open to trade. **That is the recipe for prosperity whether you try it here or abroad. Barack Obama is going to raise taxes, he's going to increase spending, and he's rattling sabers about undoing trade agreements with our largest trading partners.**

HALL: […] Nancy, there is no question, the Obama campaign is trying to tie McCain directly to the past eight years of republican policy. What can you tell our viewers who were listening closely to what you're saying about how John McCain administration would be different or do think differently.

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PFOTENHAUER: First of all you got Barack Obama who has the most liberal voting record in the US Senate. So the only change he's going to bring is higher spending, more government intervention and lower job creation. But to get to your point, Senator McCain has got an energy plan very different from the White House's energy plan. That's why he voted against the last energy bill that Barack Obama voted for. He's got a tax plan that's different from the current approach and that it lowers what is the second highest largest corporate rate or business rate in the world. That's why we're losing jobs overseas. Senator Obama wants to keep us with that burden on our backs.

HALL: What about the Obama campaign saying that he voted with bush 90%of the time? How do you refute that?

PFOTENHAUER: He voted with the democratic congress that has got a lower approval rating, over 90% of the time, more than Senator McCain. The question is, when you needed to challenge the status quo, who did it? That's john McCain. Barack Obama has never bucked his own party to put the country first and do anything difficult. He's got like three meager things to list. One, the nuclear issue was a voice vote. The other, an ethics reform, 96-0, because he carried his party leadership water and watered it down. He has no record. He voted present 130 times in the Illinois state legislature because he wouldn't take on a tough issue. That's not change. That's politics as usual.

Headline #3
Tucker Bounds Talks About McCain's Enthusiastic, Reform Ticket, Sarah Palin's Media Access, and Stolen INVESCO Field Flags (FNC 09/07/08 1:30pm)
BRIAN WILSON: A couple of minutes ago, new information coming in indicates there may well be voter next couple of days you may see the revelation of a major McCain-Palin bounce. Is this what you are picking up in your internal polling?

TUCKER BOUNDS: We are seeing a little bit of a surge in enthusiasm, to be entirely honest. I expect there will be a certain bounce in the polls. I think that is attributed to voters are starting to zero in on the two candidates and they recognizing that **John McCain with governor Palin on the ticket, is a ticket about reform, with records of reform, and about making change, where as Barack Obama's ticket represents a lot of rhetoric and talk about change without a track record of actually doing so.** Voters are dialing in now that we are out of the conventions and into the final stretch of the general election, voters are getting to take notice of the actual records of the candidates.

WILSON: But if this is right you could well be outside the margin of error leading Barack Obama for the first time in this campaign, that has got to be exciting for you.

BOUNDS: Well, it's exciting, but we're cautiously optimistic. It's a terrible election climate for republicans. We understand that**, but we also understand we are running with a different type of republican. John McCain has shown time and time again that he is willing to buck his own party to make change, to make reforms. He has a record of actually doing it. This is going to be a change election, people want a new chapter in the white house and they want someone that has prove than they can do it, work in a bipartisan way and get rid of the rancor in Washington. That's the record John McCain has.**

WILSON: Sarah Palin, a lot of questions about when you are going to put her out and let people actually ask her questions.

BOUNDS: Certainly, there are going to get questions. There has been clamoring in the media. […] We are looking forward to having some interviews and she will talk with the media, absolutely. It is a lot of speculation and the chattering clash in Washington, but at the end of the day whether she is talking to reporters or directly to voters, her record is of reforming government, making change. She has a great civic story. She is an incredible candidate and we are excited to have her on the ticket. I think all Americans and the media will be excited to see what they find.

WILSON: Colorado Springs yesterday, the McCain campaign and some supporters passed out flags that you say were rescued from INVESCO after the democratic national convention. The democrats say they weren't rescued, those McCain people stole our flags. Which is it, tucker?

BOUNDS: We are under the understanding there is a vendor at INVESCO Field that found the flags in garbage backs in and around dumpsters and brought them to the McCain campaign. We pledged to rescue them, to put them to good use. […] We will move those to memorial services and appropriate uses. What you are seeing out

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of the democratic national convention was a little bit of crisis control. They may have made a mistake and probably recognized it but we enjoyed using the flags and respecting them as appropriate.

Headline #4
Bob Woodward on Bush's Failings in Iraq (NBC 09/08/08 8:52am)
MATT LAUER: […] This is a harsh look at an administration and the president who you say, "was rarely the voice of realism on the Iraq War and too often failed to lead." […] **when you say he wasn't the voice of realism, did he mislead intentionally or was he himself given bad information, that he then moved on to the American people?**

BOB WOODWARD: Over the six-month period, before he announced the surge, he knew it was not working, and he would go out and say we are winning. there are meetings. […] In July '06, when they're looking at the strategy in detail, he turns it over to his national security adviser, Steve Hadley, who quizzes the Iraq commander and then Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld.

LAUER: So early in the summer of 2006, when he comes out and says "we are winning the war," yet, you write about a conversation where Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice says that the way don Rumsfeld was running the defense department, they were giving the president "fables" about Iraq.**

WOODWARD: That's right. the information is -- they're optimistic, they hope to withdraw, they have that strategy of let's train the Iraqis, and then they realize it's not working, and the level of violence was just staggering in that country.

LAUER: The surge in 2007 in January, it was very controversial within the administration. There's some people who said bad idea. Let's not send 30,000 additional troops there. And there were military leaders who said, Mr. president, reluctantly, we could give you two brigades, and the president decided in the end to send five brigades. I had mixed feelings when I read this. **First of all, President Bush often said to the American people, I'm going to make decisions on troop strength based on what I hear from my commanders on the ground. Are you telling me he ignored the advice of those commanders?**

WOODWARD: He overruled them. As he saw it, it was the only alternative. And they told him -- I mean, the joint chiefs, the top military people, the head of the Army kept saying, you don't have enough time, you don't have force to do this. And of course, he was right, and the solution was to extend the tours in Iraq for the troops to 15 months.

LAUER: […] when you say in that first quote […] "all too often failed to lead," well, this is an example of leadership, though, in some strange way, isn't it? Some advisers are saying don't go with the surge. Military people are saying two brigades, not five. and he said, no, I'm going to go all in on this. I'm doubling down -- I think you even quoted, something you put in the book. That is leadership, like it or not, isn't it?

WOODWARD: […] for instance, when I interviewed him, he just said, Hadley, his national security adviser, drove this. He said, you know, when I asked, did you give them a deadline? People are dying. And he said, no, I don't think I did. This is nothing you hurry.

LAUER: You talk about this surge and its success, […] and you say one of the reasons might not be troop strength on the ground. It might be breakthrough in techniques in covert tactics that are being used to seek out and kill insurgent leaders. […] Are these game-changing tactics?

WOODWARD: Yeah, I think they are. In a statement Friday, the white house for the first time said they're newly developed techniques and operations that contributed to the drop in violence.

LAUER: Are they applicable elsewhere outside of Iraq in the overall War on Terror?

WOODWARD: Yeah, I believe so. I mean, this is -- remember World War II they had the Manhattan project for the a-bomb, and all of a sudden, the a-bomb was used in Japan twice and the war was over. They have developed some breakthrough techniques, which can't be talked about, because to talk about them is to alert the other side. You used the right word, they're game-changers.

LAUER: […] You write the following "as I complete the fourth book on President Bush and his wars, I keep returning to key questions. Most important, how did Bush perform as commander in chief? Has the president set up and enforced a decision-making system worthy of the sacrifices he's asked of others, particularly the men

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and women of the U.S. military and their families?" […]

WOODWARD: It's a sacred duty being commander in chief. We're going to elect a new one in a couple of months. When we are at war, what's your expectation of the Commander in Chief? That he's on duty all the time, working day and night to fix it. there was a six-month period here when the president of the united states knew it was not working, knew it was failing, and there was this slow process, no hurry. President not at some of the key meetings at the same time, he decided to do something that indeed helped and has worked, but there are other factors in all of this. […]

Headline #5
New McCain/Palin Ad Analyzed on Fox and Friends (FNC 09/08/08 8:16am)
STEVE DOOCY: Very effective ad?

KT MCFARLAN: Absolutely. You know, the choice of Palin is what ha really changed this whole race because it lets McCain be McCain. **John McCain gets up in the morning looking for enemies to slay, bad guy, corrupt guys, pork barrel spenders, and she just doubles him up. And that's what this ad is all about.**

KIRSTEN POWERS: It's obviously a very powerful ad because it's where the mood of the country is right now. It's that they want change, that's why Obama's been so popular, and they want things to be different, they want people who are going to come in and up end things in Washington. So, I think that they're going right at that message.

DAN: I do think it's an effective ad, but to quote Sarah Palin's line, instead of lipstick and a pit bull, this is lipstick on a pig. The McCain campaign has saddled with the Bush administration. […] It has nothing to do with Sarah Palin, it has to do with the Bush administration. **The best thing the McCain campaign can do is change the subject from the fact that they're basically embraced the Bush administration right down the line on economic policy, on tax policy, and all they can do is hope that people aren't paying attention. And this ad is designed to kind of change the subject.**

[…]

ANTHONY HOLM: This is a situation of legitimate reformers who have a history of reforming within their own party, which is why the bowling moms in the Mid-West are cluing in and coming here. These people, you can look at their history and say wow, they've done reform. We need, we have dysfunctional government at all levels, unlike Obama and Biden who have talked about change but haven't actually instituted it. This is legitimate reformers.

[…]

POWERS: She's definitely connecting with a lot of people and I think as a woman, regardless of who you support, I think she's someone to be proud of. She's someone who is balancing a family, she has a husband who's helping at home with the kids, she's very successful, and she's incredible. She's an incredible speaker, I don't agree with her politics necessarily, **but I think that she's somebody that a lot of women can identify with.**

MCFADDEN: […] It cuts beyond party lines, this is a women thing where you're a woman before you're a candidate, before you're a democrat, before you're a republican, and she really has tapped into a vain of most working women and mothers.

Headline #6
Conservative Blogger Attempts to Identify Fact v. Fiction on Sarah Palin Rumors (FNC 09/08/08 9:20am)
BILL HEMMER: What have you found there Charlie?

CHARLIE MARTIN: **So far, I have got about 71 of them. 71 rumors or pieces of rumors about Sarah Palin. And of those 71 are rumors, almost all of them turn out to either be simply scurrilous or to be things that have been sort of taken out of context.** Some of them, of course, are true. Her daughter is pregnant. She is the governor of Alaska, not the lieutenant governor, not the mayor of Wasilla still. And a lot of them have been really outrageous. Andrew Sullivan was pushing the one about her new son, trig, being actually her daughter's son. And there was no evidence for that. But there was some fuss about it.

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HEMMER: This is your own version of the stop the smears campaign which was initiated by the Obama team about six months ago. This is what you're doing for Sarah Palin now.

MARTIN: That's effectively it, and I have been accumulating every rumor I've got to try to track them down.

HEMMER: Is it personal, is it directed at her family, or is it directed on the issues surrounding Governor Palin?

MARTIN: The rumors are pretty uniformly personal. Although a few of them do have issue components. For instance, there is talk about what has been the controversy in Wasilla about the sports center. Yes, indeed, she did push through a sports center that has caused Wasilla to have a bunch of long-term debt, something like $15 million. But, as I said on my site, how did you buy your house? It is not the sort of thing buy by saving up for it, and cities have trouble saving up anyway.

HEMMER: What kind of reaction are you getting? Hearing it from both sides?

MARTIN: I am hearing it from both sides. I'm getting less reaction from the left than I expected, although I suspect that might change now. And a lot of reaction from a lot of the right hand side that has been very favorable. In fact, I was picked up by several of the biggest blogs, Weekly Standard, National Review, as being the go-to guy for the list. They have led me to new rumors and to more information refuting rumors.

Headline #7

Chuck Todd Breaks Down the Battleground States and Possible Breakdowns of Election Map (MSNBC 09/08/08 9:25am)

CHUCK TODD: […] A new battleground map, where the states are, which ones are leaning Obama, which ones are leaning McCain, and what does the toss-ups look like. […] Here's what it looks like today, September 8th. Here are the big changes, Missouri, we move from toss up to lean McCain. This is Governor Palin and Governor Palin alone that moves Missouri back into the Republican column. Wisconsin, another state that for some reason Obama can't quite put away, moving from lean Obama back to toss-up. But here's some good news for Obama, Pennsylvania, a state that we have yet to see a poll in months showing McCain ahead, the pick of Joe Biden probably solidified southeast Pennsylvania, and that's why we've moved it into lean Obama. That gives our grand total, 228 for Obama, 200 for McCain, 110 electoral votes in the battleground. So the battleground shrinking ever so slightly. One footnote, we almost moved North Carolina to toss up. Not there yet, because again, we've yet to see a poll showing Obama ahead in that state.

TAMRON HALL: You got to look at how the Electoral College votes could shape out.

TODD: Well, it's interesting. […] Nevada, that's a state that might, right now, have McCain slightly ahead by a point or two. Wisconsin, yes we've moved it from lean Obama to toss-up, but again he's probably got a two or three point lead. Florida, a state that's with McCain. New Hampshire and Ohio are pure toss-ups right now. Colorado, pure toss-up. New Mexico, that might be the state we move next from toss-up into lean Obama. Michigan, […] that one probably still slightly leaning democrat. So that puts four states pure toss-ups, 46. So here would be our numbers if this were a week before the election, 260 for Obama, 232 for McCain. Well, why are these numbers important? Well, let's take a look. Obviously, Obama needs 10. Well, what happens if he only gets 9. Here's your nightmare scenario. 9 for Obama and the other three go to McCain, and this is where we get our electoral tie. […] It does show that every electoral vote then matters. New Hampshire's four becomes as important as Ohio's twenty because that would be what puts Obama over that 270 mark.

Headline #8

Only Three of Sarah Palin's Four Friends on Panel Pledge to Vote for Her (ABC 09/08/08 7:31am)

PATTI RICKER - Okay. Can I just—I just need to clarify something. I support Sarah as a friend, and I can't necessarily say who that I'm going to vote for [sic]. I haven't made up my mind yet.

I don't know what's going to happen, but I—you know, I am pro-choice and I don't agree with everything Sarah says either, but, again, I haven't said—I haven't committed to voting for anybody. I haven't decided yet.

SANDY HOEST: I have never voted republican for presidential and this may be the first time I vote republican for the presidential. I'm real excited to see the debates and make up my mind, but I haven't—I'm not committed. I don't know. Haven't decided.

[…]

AMY HANSEN: I know I have a really big mouth, but my vote is very personal and it's between me and the voting

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booth so I'm keeping my mouth shut on that one, but I love Sarah to pieces.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/11/2008 1:51:02 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/11

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 11th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9am McCain: Statement to the press on the Russia-Georgia conflict in Erie, Pennsylvania

10am McCain: Tour in Erie, Pennsylvania
- Tracking scheduled for this event

6:15pm BUSH: Arrives back at the White House after their trip to the Olympics

TBA McCain: Tour Stop with fmr. Gov. Ridge. in Harrisburg,PA

News Clips:

MCCANN GEORGIA/RUSSIA NEWS

McCain Adviser Was Lobbyist for Georgia (WSJ 8/11/08)
By MARY JACOBY
John McCain's top foreign-policy adviser, Randy Scheunemann, is a leading expert on U.S.-allied Georgia -- and was a paid lobbyist for the former Soviet republic until March, in the run-up to what has become a major battle between Georgia and Russia. ...But given the rapid escalation of the fighting, and the fact that Georgia is being viewed as a victim of its neighbor's aggression, Mr. Scheunemann's ties to the small nation and its pro-Western Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili may look less like a weakness and more like a strength in the first foreign-policy crisis of the general election campaign.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121842762192729075.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Georgia Conflict Tests Candidates on Foreign Policy (WSJ 8/11/08)
By LAURA MECKLER
The violence between Russia and Georgia quickly thrust foreign policy into the U.S. presidential election, with John McCain standing to benefit and Barack Obama facing a more perilous situation.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121842467970229029.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox
Link to McCain Statement on Russia Escalation in Georgia: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-on-russia-escalation-in-georgia/
Link to Obama statement: http://thepage.time.com/obama-statement-on-escalation-of-violence-in-georgia/

McCain, Obama both speak with Georgian president (CNN blog 8/10/08)
John McCain and Barack Obama both spoke to Georgia's president Saturday and continued to call for an end to Russia's bombing of the former Soviet republic. Both candidates pressed for recognition of Georgia's sovereignty pushed for diplomacy in the conflict.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/10/mccain-obama-both-speak-with-georgian-president/

McCain's Eastern front (Politico 8/10/08)
By Ben Smith
Russia and Georgia stayed at the top of the news today, and the McCain campaign is touting its man's "prescience" — he's never trusted Putin or the Russians, and he, and Randy Scheunemann, were talking like they knew Thursday night's conflict would be a pretext for a wider Russian invasion before virtually any other world leader would say that publicly. (The 1999 video above, in which McCain talks about Russia and Georgia, offers a glimpse of his enduring view.) It's a good moment for McCain, and one his supporter, Bobby Jindal, jumped on on This Week this morning:
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/McCains_Eastern_front.html
See Politico blog's "McCain prescient on Russia?": http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCain_prescient_on_Russia.html

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McCain Camp: Obama "Bizarrely In Sync With Moscow" (Huffington Post 8/10/08)
Last week, Barack Obama's campaign flagged a potential conflict of interest in John McCain's response to the conflict between Russia and Georgia: McCain adviser Randy Scheunemann lobbied on Georgia's behalf from 2004 to 2006. McCain has fired back
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/10/mccain-camp-obama-bizarre_n_118013.html

Georgia crisis triggers war of words on White House trail (AFP 8/10/08)
by Jitendra Joshi
Prominent supporters of White House runners John McCain and Barack Obama clashed Sunday over the crisis in Georgia as a McCain adviser came under fire for his links to the government in Tbilisi.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080810/ts_alt_afp/usvotegeorgiarussiaunrest

Candidates' Reactions to Georgia Conflict Offer Hints at Style on Foreign Affairs (NYT 8/9/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER and MICHAEL FALCONE
When Russian troops rolled into South Ossetia on Friday, Senator John McCain's response was immediate and tough. Russia had crossed "an internationally recognized border into the sovereign territory of Georgia" and should "unconditionally cease its military operations and withdraw all forces," said Mr. McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, in a statement delivered at an airport. Senator Barack Obama, his Democratic rival, trod more carefully, a characteristic of his approach to foreign affairs.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/us/politics/10react.html

MCCAIN NEWS

Between a maverick and a hard place (LA Times 8/11/08)
By Nicholas Riccardi and Maeve Reston
McCain defends his outsider image after having embraced GOP dogma for the primary.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-maverick11-2008aug11,0,299016.story
See WSJ's "Political Perceptions: McCain, Really a Maverick?": http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/08/11/political-perceptions-mccain-really-a-maverick/

Lost in the irony of McCain's Moses ad (Boston Globe 8/11/08)
By James Carroll
'WE THINK it's got a lot of humor in it," John McCain said about his campaign ad that mocks Barack Obama as Moses. "We're having fun," he added, "and enjoying it." Presumably, the fun resided in the advertisement's portrait of the Democrat before worshipful crowds, a dishonest use of Obama's own self-mockery, and a clip of Charlton Heston parting the Red Sea. When explaining himself, though, McCain did not seem to be having fun. Called upon to defend the ad, there was a snide, unhappy edge to his now familiar smile, which combines a sinister inauthenticity with nervous insecurity. McCain's grimace is to smiling what his ad is to humor.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/11/lost_in_the_irony_of_mccains_moses_ad?mode=PF

McCain, Obama target trade's impact (Washington Times 8/11/08)
David M. Dickson
Foreign trade has played a key role in defining the economic policies of the presidential contenders, and the issue's perceived impact on jobs and wages could be the determining factor in the election's outcome.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/11/trade-war/

Obama campaign retaliates for McCain celebrity ads (CNN blog 8/11/08)
By Paul Steinhauser
The battle over who's a celebrity continues. Barack Obama's campaign fired back today, releasing a campaign commercial that suggests Republican presumptive presidential nominee John McCain is a celebrity.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/11/obama-campaign-retaliates-for-mccain-celebrity-ads/
Link to video of Obama ad ("Embrace"): http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid1386357098/bctid1721792723

AFL-CIO hits McCain on DHL deal (Politico blog 8/11/08)
By Ben Smith
Driving home Obama's attacks on McCain's involvement in the sale of an Ohio DHL plant, the AFL-CIO is sending the above mailer to what a union official described as 100,000 "union swing voters" in Ohio -- that is, Reagan Democrats.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/AFLCIO_hits_McCain_on_DHL_deal.html?showall

McCain arrives (Erie Times-News 8/11/08)

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BY JOHN GUERRIERO
...The food was the same, but it wasn't your typical Sunday night dinner at Smugglers' Wharf. Sen. John McCain, the presumptive GOP nominee for president, dined at the Erie waterfront restaurant with former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, Ridge's wife, Michele, and the Ridges' daughter, Lesley, 22.
http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080811/NEWS02/808110399
Link to video of local family meeting McCain: http://www.goerie.com/video/0810mccain
See CNN blog's "McCain, Ridge meet for dinner in Pennsylvania": http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/11/mccain-ridge-meet-for-dinner-in-pennsylvania/

In Loose Style, McCain Leads a Camp Divided (NYT 8/10/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY and JIM RUTENBERG
Senator John McCain has been the overseer of a kingdom with unclear lines of command that keeps aides on edge.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/us/politics/10mccain.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all&oref=slogin
See NYT blog's "The Sunday Word: McCain as Manager": http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/the-sunday-word-mccain-as-manager/

Local journalists' take on the presidential campaign (LA Times 8/10/08)
By JAMES RAINEY
Sure, some fawn over McCain and Obama. But their coverage also is less cynical than their national counterparts' and focuses on issues closer to home.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-onthemedia10-2008aug10,0,6358267.story?track=rss

For a Week, McCain Has the Trail to Himself (NYT 8/11/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
As Senator Barack Obama headed off for a vacation in Hawaii last week, Senator John McCain was left in the continental United States with the Iowa State Fair to himself. Mr. McCain's campaign promised to take full advantage this week of Mr. Obama's absence — for starters, Mr. McCain was scathing about his rival in his weekend radio address — but up close and personal, Mr. McCain sounded as though he would not mind some August beach time himself.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/11/us/politics/11mccain.html?pagewanted=print

Race Is In Holding Pattern For Now (Washington Post 8/10/08)
By Dan Balz; A06
The opening round of the general-election campaign between Barack Obama and John McCain has produced memorable images, negative ads, snarling e-mails and pointed exchanges over war, the economy and energy. What it has not done is begin to resolve questions among voters that both candidates must address to win in November.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/09/AR2008080900801_pf.html

Home state racial issues test McCain (Boston Globe 8/10/08)
By Sasha Issenberg
Black community recalls senator as aloof ... When McCain, who made public efforts to ensure that Latinos were represented on his congressional staff, was asked at a 1986 forum at Phoenix's Southminster Presbyterian Church why he had failed to do the same with blacks, he responded that he had yet to identify an African-American qualified for the job, according to two attendees. (McCain's campaign did not deny this account.)
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/10/home_state_racial_issues_test_mccain/#

McCain's attacks on rival fall flat with vets group (Las Vegas Sun 8/10/08)
By J. Patrick Coolican, Michael Mishak
Sen. John McCain, speaking to disabled veterans Saturday in Las Vegas, attacked his Democratic opponent, Sen. Barack Obama, for his foreign policy record, while also proposing a program that would allow veterans to acquire health care at private hospitals and not just through the Veterans Affairs Department. The veterans, at ... their national convention, gave him a tepid reception
http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/aug/10/mccains-attacks-rival-fall-flat-vets-group/
See VetVoice's "Disabled Vets Shun McCain in Las Vegas": http://www.vetvoice.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=1743

McCain holds off backing 'Gang of 10' energy plan (The Hill 8/10/08)
By Manu Raju
Republican Sen. John McCain is not ready to embrace a bipartisan energy plan that could complicate his presidential campaign if Democrats advance the bill weeks before the November elections. The bill is being drafted by some of his closest allies, including Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), and offers a compromise on the roiling issue of offshore drilling.

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http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/mccain-holds-off-backing-gang-of-10-energy-plan-2008-08-10.html

Energy Wars Continue (The Page 8/10/08)
RNC Deputy Chair Donatelli discusses the GOP's plans to contrast McCain's energy plan with Obama's this week in afternoon media call. Says McCain has a "balanced" energy plan, the party is going to continue to emphasize his positions from all fronts.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/10/energy-wars-continue/#

Top McCain aide won't commit to single-term pledge (AFP 8/10/08)
John McCain's White House campaign manager refused to be pinned down Sunday on whether the 71-year-old Republican might commit to serve only one term as president if he is elected in November.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080810/ts_alt_afp/usvotemccain
Link to video: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/10/mccain-camp-manager-he-co_n_118011.html
See Politico blog's "Davis on POTUS and VPOTUS": http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/Davis_on_POTUS_and_VPOTUS.html

McCain To Hold Fundraiser With Abramoff Business Partner Ralph Reed (Huffington Post / Atlanta Journal-Constitution 8/10/08)
If you read this space, you knew this was coming. But even now that the odd-couple alliance between Ralph Reed and John McCain is complete, you still can't believe that it's true. On Thursday afternoon, Republicans around Georgia received an invitation from Reed, who will serve as a host of a "special event" for McCain at the downtown Marriot Marquis on Aug. 18.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/10/mccain-to-hold-fundraiser_n_118072.html

New Spots from McCain and Obama (Washington Post blog 8/10/08)
By Ed O'Keefe
Three ads in one week from John McCain: one positive, and two negative. Both attack/contrast spots further cement a label Republicans have quickly pinned to Barack Obama: celebrity...The Democrats have released a new message called "Hands" that is part of the campaign's $5 million NBC Universal Olympics ad buy.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/channel-08/2008/08/new_spots_from_mccain_and_obam.html?hpid=topnews
Link to video of McCain ad ("Painful"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWXqpHEsrxc
Link to video of Obama ad (Hands"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tz7m2JhVOdY
Link to Obama camp's video fact-check of McCain ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGIqGaWZOo0

McCain's Mixed Message (Atlantic Online 8/10/08)
by Andrew Sullivan
A good question: "How can someone being portrayed as "the biggest celebrity in the world" also be painted as radical and out of the mainstream? Either Obama is like Britney Spears and Paris Hilton: a fluffy, substanceless, mass-consumed but empty celebrity-for-celebrity's sake, or he is an unfamiliar and dangerous other with a hidden anti-American agenda."
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/mccains-mixed-m.html

"Words Alone" (Atlantic Online 8/10/08)
by Andrew Sullivan
McCain almost directly copies from the Clinton campaign's attacks on Obama from this spring. The full radio address:
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/words-alone.html

McCain, Obama Plan For a More Confident China (WSJ 8/9/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES and JONATHAN KAUFMAN; Page A4
A wave of Chinese nationalism is ensuring that whoever is elected president of the U.S. will face an ever more assertive and self-confident China. In response, both the McCain and Obama campaigns are offering up China policies that combine a desire for continued engagement with tougher talk on trade and some human-rights issues.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB121824283947426235.html

McCain faults Obama on war in Iraq (AP 8/9/08)
Republican John McCain on Saturday issued a scathing critique of Barack Obama's judgment and readiness to be commander in chief, telling a veterans' group his Democratic rival had tried to "legislate failure" in Iraq and placed his own ambition ahead of military success there.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-09-McCain-war_N.htm?csp=34

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McCain mocks Obama oratory (Politico 8/9/08)
By: Mike Allen
John McCain is mocking the oratorical gifts of Barack Obama, recommending that he "should consider someone with a knack for brevity and directness, to balance the ticket."
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=A736703B-18FE-70B2-A80E022A9BFB1847

McCain to national press: You've got 38 minutes (Politico 8/9/08)
By Michael Calderone
There's no question that John McCain has made a major change in his media strategy. The candidate who once spent hours cracking jokes with reporters now significantly limits access for the national press corps. The presumptive Republican nominee spent a total of 38 minutes talking to print, television, magazine and radio reporters from national publications over the past week, according to the count on my recorder.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/michaelcalderone/0808/McCain_to_national_press_Youve_got_38_minutes.html

Vacation? McCain Still Attacks on Iraq (ABC 8/9/08)
By JOHN HENDREN
Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama stepped off the campaign trail and into the Hawaiian surf this weekend, joking, "I'm going to go body surfing at an undisclosed location" -- but there was no holiday from the relentless attacks of his GOP rival, John McCain. The Republican today intensified his assault, saying with victory in sight, the hard-won gains of Iraq would be lost under his Democratic rival.
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5550681&page=1

Rest, Relaxation and Veeps (NYT blog 8/9/08)
By Elisabeth Bumiller
Senator John McCain often starts his campaign days at the civilized hour of 9 a.m., and now we know why: He needs his rest.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/09/rest-relaxation-and-veeps/#more-5847

For McCain, There's Never a Down Moment (Washington Post blog 8/9/08)
By Michael D. Shear
As his rival headed to Hawaii for some R&R, John McCain admitted Friday that the rigors of the modern presidential campaign can be difficult to endure.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/09/for_mccain_theres_never_a_down.html#more

Growing diversity in swing counties favors Obama (AP 8/9/08)
Minority Americans have been flocking to the nation's "swing counties," hotly contested areas that could play a crucial role in this year's election. That's got to be good news for Barack Obama, bidding to become the first black president.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-10-swing-counties_N.htm

On adultery, Edwards cites McCain (Politico blog 8/8/08)
By Ben Smith
The full version of Bob Woodruff's interview with John Edwards just aired on ABC, figuring Edwards alternately penitent, defensive, and dismissive of the tabloid reports that unearthed his affair. He also, in explaining his view that his dalliance could remain private, cited Republican John McCain's reported affair at the end of his first marriage almost three decades ago.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/On_adultery_Edwards_cites_McCain.html
See Americablog's "Cindy McCain knows John McCain would never have an affair. Really. (Not counting the affair Cindy had when John was married)": http://www.americablog.com/2008/08/cindy-mccain-knows-john-mccain-would.html
See HuffPo's "Catching the Wrong John: Why Are the Media Talking about John Edwards' Infidelity If They Aren't Going to Talk about John McCain's?": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/drew-westen/catching-the-wrong-john-w_b_118064.html

Commerce secretary Gutierrez stumps for McCain in Hillsboro (The Oregonian 8/8/08)
by Harry Esteve
Electing the leader of the free world is like choosing the CEO of a big corporation -- you have to know one thing, says U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. ... And that's what separates Republican Sen. John McCain from Democratic Sen. Barack Obama in the presidential race, Gutierrez said Friday as he made a brief campaign stop for McCain at a small electronics manufacturing plant.
http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/08/commerce_secretary_gutierrez_s.html

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Obama as Incumbent (Washington Post 8/11/08)
By E. J. Dionne Jr.; A15
The core strategy of John McCain's campaign is to turn Barack Obama into the incumbent, the man who is too familiar yet still mysterious.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/10/AR2008081001867.html

A Moment For Fiscal Courage (Washington Post 8/11/08)
By Sebastian Mallaby; A15
One year ago, it seemed reasonable to hope that the mortgage crisis would be contained. Since then, just about everything that could go wrong has gone wrong. The crisis has spread through the financial system and is metastasizing into a global slowdown. It cries out for a bolder government response than we have seen so far. So here is a test for candidates McCain and Obama: Which of you would provide it?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/10/AR2008081001868_pf.html

An August Paris? (Washington Times 8/11/08)
Thanks to Paris Hilton for showing us just how silly and ridiculous this election was becoming and trying to get it back on track. Unfortunately, all the attention she brought with her response to John McCain's "celebrity" ads criticizing Barack Obama has convinced the McCain campaign that this election will be won by the candidate who gets the most YouTube hits. McCain strategists were giddy that they beat Mr. Obama on Internet page views of his YouTube channel the past few weeks, as, Stephen Dinan reported in our Thursday editions: "I think we knew it would draw some attention. I don't think we knew it would be as big a hit on YouTube," said McCain spokesman Brian Rogers.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/11/an-august-paris/

A big surprise on gas (LA Times 8/11/08)
By Indur M. Goklany and Jerry Taylor
You may not believe it, but fuel is more affordable than it was during the early '60s.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goklany11-2008aug11,0,1107249.story?track=rss

The War in Georgia Is a War for the West (WSJ 8/11/08)
By MIKHEIL SAAKASHVILI; Page A15
As I write, Russia is waging war on my country. On Friday, hundreds of Russian tanks crossed into Georgian territory, and Russian air force jets bombed Georgian airports, bases, ports and public markets. Many are dead, many more wounded. This invasion, which echoes Afghanistan in 1979 and the Prague Spring of 1968, threatens to undermine the stability of the international security system.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121841306186328421.html

To Listen Is Taxing (Washington Post 8/10/08)
BARACK OBAMA and John McCain have important differences on tax policy. These are fair game for campaign ads, and no one expects 30-second spots to be suffused with nuance. But Mr. McCain's latest attack on the Obama tax plan crosses the line from reasonable argument to unacceptably misleading.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/09/AR2008080901588.html

Rivals in Search of Trust (Washington Post 8/10/08)
By David S. Broder; B07
In the time they served together in the United States Senate, John McCain and Barack Obama developed neither a friendship nor an intense dislike. They entered this campaign as relative strangers, and now -- as the sniping builds to a steady staccato -- each of them has acquired a strong sense of grievance about the other.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/08/AR2008080802916.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

A Familiar Tax Tune, but It's Not Mine (NYT 8/10/08)
By BEN STEIN
The unhappy fact is that we now need to raise taxes on upper-income Americans since cutting taxes has not generated enough growth to raise government revenues.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/business/10every.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1218394624-R5N5i8MLKYG0HQJ1x2IkDQ

Baleful Bundlers (NYT 8/10/08)
John McCain and Barack Obama have both pledged that, if elected president, fixing the campaign finance

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system will be an early order of business. A good place to start would be reining in "bundlers" — the front men who collect piles of smaller checks that grease the campaign machinery and, potentially, the special interests of the hunter-gatherers themselves. Bundlers have become increasingly important to both candidates and, in Mr. McCain's case, a source of nervousness.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/11/opinion/11mon2.html

The charisma gap (NY Daily News 8/10/08)
By Michael Goodwin
Forget the issues of race, all the money and maybe even the economy and Iraq. The 2008 campaign might well come down to a single question: Can Barack Obama take a punch? We're about to find out, because John McCain's team seems to have concluded that the GOP nominee can win only by beating up on Obama. ...Not that he has much choice.
http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2008/08/10/2008-08-10_the_charisma_gap.html

Energy Fictions (NYT 8/9/08)
A nation that uses one-quarter of the world's oil while possessing less than 3 percent of its reserves cannot drill its way to happiness at the pump.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/opinion/10sun1.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush: Violence in Georgia unacceptable (AP 8/11/08)
President Bush has sharply criticized Moscow's harsh military crackdown in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, saying the violence is unacceptable and Russia's response is disproportion
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-11-bush-georgia_N.htm?csp=34

Bush Stresses Religion in China (WSJ 8/11/08)
By GORDON FAIRCLOUGH
U.S. President George W. Bush stood on the steps of a Christian church in the heart of the Chinese capital Sunday morning and, surrounded by a children's choir, urged the Communist government to allow more religious freedom.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121840309241927993.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy
Link to transcript: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/08/20080810.html

Bush 41 In China: Kinda Like Old Times (Washington Post 8/11/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; C01
Former president George H.W. Bush doesn't give a lot of interviews these days, and for one simple reason: He doesn't want to have to start talking about his son, the president. ... But near the end of a 25-minute interview Saturday, largely devoted to his long association with China, the former president relents a little. The conversation is turning to the subject of personal diplomacy -- a hallmark of his career in public service ... It's also something the father sees a bit of in his son.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/10/AR2008081002548_pf.html

Cornyn: Iraq's Massive $79 Billion Surplus Is A Success Of Bush's Policies (ThinkProgress 8/10/08)
Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers are upset over a new Government Accountability Office report showing that the "soaring price of oil will leave the Iraqi government with a cumulative budget surplus of as much as $79 billion by year's end." Since 2003, U.S. taxpayers have spent $42 billion for the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq. In contrast, the Iraqi government has allocated $28 billion for similar improvements, but has spent less than $4 billion.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/10/cornyn-levin-iraq/

Bush Declared 422 Major Disasters (NYT 8/10/08)
By AUSTIN BOGUES
During his seven and a half years in office, President Bush has declared 422 major disasters — severe storms, tornadoes, wildfires and floods — or more than one a week. That is 11 percent more than President Bill Clinton's disaster declarations and 130 percent more than President Ronald Reagan during their full two terms in office.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/washington/10disasters.html?pagewanted=print

U.S. intelligence agencies tapped Benazir Bhutto's phone. (Think Progress 8/10/08)
In his new book "The Way of the World," Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Ron Suskind reveals that Vice President Cheney repeatedly backed Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf over former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in December. According to Suskind, the State Department strongly backed Bhutto's return to Pakistan, but Cheney opposed it, considering her "complicated and unpredictable." Bhutto regretted that

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Cheney refused to pressure Musharraf to "behave," and instead kept pressing her to reconcile with him. U.S. intelligence agencies also reportedly intercepted Bhutto's phone calls "for months," including a call made to her son.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/10/us-intelligence-agencies-tapped-benazir-bhuttos-phones/

President Bush Not So Good With American Flags (Huffington Post 8/10/08)
So, apparently, even after seven years, President George W. Bush still hasn't learned how to correctly display the American flag. Glorious. We still have to pay him a salary, out of our stimulus packages, apparently.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/10/president-bush-not-so-goo_n_118037.html

What Bush Got Right (NEWSWEEK 8/9/08)
By Fareed Zakaria
For the next president, simply reversing this administration's policies is not the answer.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/151731

OTHER TOP NEWS

Russians Push Past Separatist Area to Assault Central Georgia (NYT 8/12/08)
By ANNE BARNARD, ANDREW E. KRAMER and C. J. CHIVERS
Russia expanded its attacks on Georgia on Sunday, moving tanks and troops through the separatist enclave of South Ossetia and advancing toward the city of Gori in central Georgia, in its first direct assault on a Georgian city with ground forces during three days of heavy fighting, Georgian officials said.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/world/europe/12georgia.html?hp=&pagewanted=print
See WaPo's "Medvedev: Operations in Georgia Almost Complete": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/11/AR2008081100482.html?hpid=topnews

Putin Assails US on Georgia Conflict (AP 8/11/08)
By /MISHA DZHINDZHIKHASHVILI
Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is criticizing the United States for airlifting Georgian troops from Iraq.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1831352,00.html

Al-Qaeda shifting focus, general says (USA TODAY 8/11/08)
By Jim Michaels
Al-Qaeda has permanently lost its foothold in large parts of Iraq and has begun to shift its focus to Afghanistan and Pakistan, top U.S. and Iraqi officials say.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-10-foreign-fighters_N.htm?csp=34

More troops serve on combat tours (USA TODAY 8/11/08)
By Tom Vanden Brook
The Pentagon has pushed an increasing percentage of its troops to combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past two years, seeking to spread the burden on forces strained by multiple deployments, records show.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2008-08-10-deployments_N.htm?csp=34

Money as a Weapon (Washington Post 8/11/08)
By Dana Hedgpeth and Sarah Cohen; A01
A modest program to put cash in Iraqis' hands stretches its mandate with big projects. ... In the five-year struggle to finish the war in Iraq, military leaders and their troops have said a particular weapon is among the most effective in their arsenal: American cash.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/10/AR2008081002512.html

Iraq Private Sector Falters; Rolls of Government Soar (NYT 8/10/08)
By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON
Hampered by years of violence, a decimated infrastructure, a lack of foreign investors and a flood of imports that undercut local businesses, Iraq's private sector, particularly its small non-oil economy, has so far failed to flourish as its American patrons had hoped. In its absence, the Iraqi government has been sustaining the economy the way it always has: by putting citizens on its payroll. Since 2005, according to federal budgets, the number of government employees has nearly doubled, to 2.3 million from 1.2 million.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/11/world/middleeast/11baghdad.html?pagewanted=print

Economists Expect 2008's Second Half To Be Worse Than First (WSJ 8/11/08)
By Kelly Evans
The U.S. economy, facing a consumer-spending slowdown and a weakening global economy, is poised for an unpleasant finish to 2008. The pattern of growth that is emerging this year -- a mediocre first half followed by a

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weaker second half -- is the reverse of what most forecasts showed at the beginning of the year.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121840429062728035.html

Iraq demands 'clear timeline' for US withdrawal (AP 8/10/08)
By ROBERT H. REID
Iraq's foreign minister insisted Sunday that any security deal with the United States must contain a "very clear timeline" for the departure of U.S. troops. A suicide bomber struck north of Baghdad, killing at least five people including an American soldier.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gkx-3oYeFwuWKCusr2jrojs98w8wD92FHS0G0

No immunity for security contractors in Iraq (Think Progress 8/10/08)
One of the most contentious issues surrounding a long-term U.S.-Iraq security agreement is whether private security contractors should receive blanket legal immunity from Iraqi laws. However, buried today in a Washington Post article, reporter Karen DeYoung reveals that negotiators have agreed that security contractors "would be subject to Iraqi law," a setback for the Bush administration. Negotiators are still working out the dates for a U.S. withdrawal from Iraq.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/10/no-immunity-for-security-contractors-in-iraq/

China to overtake US as largest manufacturer (Financial Times 8/10/08)
By Peter Marsh
China is set to overtake the US next year as the world's largest producer of manufactured goods, four years earlier than expected, as a result of the rapidly weakening US economy.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2aa7a12e-6709-11dd-808f-0000779fd18c.html?nclick_check=1

Gas prices drop: 24 days and counting (CNNMoney.com 8/10/08)
The national average price for a gallon of gas slips to $3.818. Only 10 states are above $4 a gallon, AAA finds. Prices slide 15 cents in past two weeks, Lundberg Survey finds.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/08/10/news/economy/gas_prices/index.htm?postversion=2008081015

Paulson: Bush right on Wall Street 'hangover' quip (AP 8/10/08)
Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says there's a lot of truth to President George Bush's comment that Wall Street "got drunk and now it's got a hangover," and it will aid understanding of the current economic climate.
http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/2008-08-10-paulson-economy_N.htm?csp=34
See Bloomberg's "Paulson Says No Plan Is Afoot to Rescue Mortgage Agencies": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/11/business/economy/11paulson.html

Sec. of Housing: We are in the middle of the housing crisis (CNN 8/10/08)
By Kristi Keck
Steve Preston, the secretary of Housing and Urban Development, said Sunday that the country is "pushing through the middle" of the housing crisis. There is a surplus of homes on the market, but not enough customers, he said.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/10/sec-of-housing-we-are-in-the-middle-of-the-housing-crisis/

Iraq, China Set To Revive $1.2 Billion Oil Deal (AP 8/10/08)
SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Iraq and China are set to revive a $1.2 billion oil deal that was canceled after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the Iraq's oil ministry said Sunday. An initial agreement with China is expected to be signed at the end of August to develop the billion-barrel Ahdab oil field south of Baghdad, the ministry said in a statement.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/10/iraq-chin-set-to-revive-1_n_117982.html

At least 100 reported killed in Pakistan tribal region (AP 8/10/08)
Pakistani forces bombed dozens of houses in a tribal region near the Afghan border Sunday, officials and witnesses said, amid reports that days of clashes have killed at least 100 insurgents and nine paramilitary troops. Details have been scarce about the military offensive in Bajur, an insurgent stronghold considered a possible hiding place for al-Qaeda leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-10-pakistan_N.htm?csp=34

GOP convention officials discover deficit just in time (LA Times 8/10/08)
Republican Party officials have developed a well-deserved reputation for planning evermore extravagant national conventions, each built on the party's ability to secure abundant cash. But just six weeks before the convention, where Arizona Sen. John McCain is to accept his party's nomination, executives found they were about $10 million short of what they needed for a celebration they had already scaled back.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-gop10-2008aug10,0,2329323.story

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Gates endorses big expansion of Afghan army (AP 8/9/08)
U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has endorsed a new five-year, $17 billion plan to increase the size of the Afghan army by about 50,000 troops. The move follows a proposal from the Afghanistan government, and the price tag includes the costs for routine Afghan Army combat operations and upgrading the air corps, beginning in 2010, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said Friday.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-08-08-gates-afhanistan_N.htm?csp=34

RNC aims at Obama's elite education (Politico 8/9/08)
By Ryan Grim
Even as Barack Obama takes eight days off from the campaign trail to vacation in Hawaii, where he lived for much of his youth, the Republican National Committee is again attempting to paint the Democrat as an out-of-touch elitist, this time in a mock "Barack Obama's Hawaii Travel Guide" tweaking the Democrat for having attended an elite prep school there.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12414.html

Edwards ex-mistress rules out paternity test (AP 8/9/08)
The ex-mistress of former presidential candidate John Edwards says she will not participate in DNA testing to establish the paternity of her daughter.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080809/D92F23U00.html

POLLS

Strong Energy Measures Wanted (Washington Post 8/10/08)
By Jon Cohen and Paul Kane; A08
A new national poll shows broad public support for government action in the face of $4-a-gallon gas and other energy concerns, giving Republicans a rare opening to go on the offensive against congressional Democrats and Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.). Nearly two-thirds of Americans now put a priority on "finding new sources of energy" over improving conservation -- a significant shift since 2001 -- and majorities support all of the five potential federal initiatives tested in a new ABC News poll.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/09/AR2008080901556_pf.html

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
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202-609-7681 (office)
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From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/16/2008 3:28:52 PM
Subject: Re: next steps

Thanks much
------Original Message------
From: John Podesta
Sender:
To: Ricesusane@aol.com
Cc: James B. Steinberg
Sent: Oct 16, 2008 6:10 PM
Subject: Re: next steps

Susan,
I think we should not alter your format. Fine to go ahead and complete
in that fashion. I t would be useful to have Jim's overview follow
more closely the template we sent. At least it ought to cover the
topics included in the template. Sorry for the delay.
John

On Thu, Oct 16, 2008 at 11:26 AM, <Ricesusane@aol.com> wrote:
> Hi John,
>
> We look forward to your guidance on format for our papers.
>
> many thanks,
>
> Susan
>
>
> _____
> New MapQuest Local shows what's happening at your destination. Dining,
> Movies, Events, News & more. Try it out!
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: "James B. Steinberg" <djsberg@gmail.com>
> To: "Ricesusane@aol.com" <ricesusane@aol.com>, "Gayle Smith"
> <gaylesmithgayle@gmail.com>, "Mona Sutphen"
> <MSutphen@Stonebridge-International.com>
> Date: Thu, 16 Oct 2008 10:21:57 -0500
> Subject: next steps
> I have comments on all the memos from the last round .But I"ve been holding
> back on talking to the writers until we know where we are on format. Do we
> think we're going to hear from John soon? Should I send the comments out to
> the writers but have them hold off until we know on format, or just get
> another round of memos done. On most, my comments are relatively minor but
> on a few (especially the ones that were commissioned later -- China, Russia,
> DRPK -- they are more substantial
>
> for the call, on saturday, my only window is between 1-3:30 my time (2-4:30
> east coast) Sunday I can do anytime except early morning and after 5
>

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

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From: "David Miller" <dmiller@campaignmoney.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/17/2008 6:29:43 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Big Donors and Lobbyists Sculpt McCain Energy Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

CONTACT
David Miller, Communications Manager
(202) 448-6154

Big Donors and Lobbyists Sculpt McCain Energy Policy

Washington, DC – Campaign Money Watch, a campaign finance watchdog group, criticized Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) energy policy, including a reversal of his earlier stance on off-shore oil drilling, as too tied to his big money donors and lobbyists.

"John McCain's big money donors and lobbyist friends have struck again," said David Donnelly, director of Campaign Money Watch. "McCain's reversal on off-shore drilling is a blatant pitch for donations at today's Houston fundraising events."

McCain's speech on energy policy, which he is scheduled to deliver today in Houston, comes on the same day that Campaign Money Watch is releasing a report on McCain's connections to the energy sector, including the oil, gas and nuclear power industries. The report can be viewed at http://www.campaignmoney.org/mccainenergy.

Analyzing data from the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, Campaign Money Watch found that McCain has raised more than $2.1 million from the energy and natural resources sector since 1989, nearly half of which came from the oil and gas industries. His dependence on money from energy companies has soared during the 2008 campaign, with the oil and gas, electric and other energy industries giving far more to McCain this year alone than they did between 1989 and 2006.

The report also found that many energy lobbyists occupy top positions in McCain's campaign, including top strategist Charlie Black, congressional liaison John Green, national finance director Susan Nelson and deputy campaign manager Christian Ferry.

Campaign Money Watch is a project of the nonpartisan Public Campaign Action Fund. The organization works to hold candidates who are against reform accountable for where they get their political donations.

--
David Miller
Communications/Web Manager
Public Campaign Action Fund/Campaign Money Watch
1828 L St. NW #250
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 448-6154

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From: "Jeremy Funk" <funk@americansunitedforchange.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
iraqcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/8/2008 9:09:45 AM
Subject: [big campaign] NYT: 'Time for Iraq to Pay the Bill'

AMERICANSUNITED FOR CHANGE

www.americansunitedforchange.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Jeremy Funk, 202.470.5878**
DATE: August 8th, 2008

In Case You Missed It – From Today's *New York Times* Editorial: 'Time for Iraq to Pay the Bill':

> Federal analysts reported Tuesday that the oil market has produced a bonanza for Iraq, which has the third-largest reserves in the world. The report, by the Government Accountability Office, said that from 2005 to the end of this year, Iraq is expected to have earned at least $156 billion in oil revenues and amassed a budget surplus that could go as high as $79 billion. Roughly $29 billion of that surplus is piling up in Iraqi banks as well as in a fund at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that was supposed to be used for Iraqi development....[B]etween 2005 and 2007, when all that oil revenue was piling up, only $3.9 billion of Iraq's budget went to reconstruction. An even tinier amount went to maintaining United States and Iraqi-financed projects like roads, bridges, buildings, water and electrical installations.

John McCain Was Wrong About Being "Greeted as Liberators" in Iraq

McCain Said "The Iraqi People Will Greet Us As Liberators." While appearing on *NBC's The Today Show*, McCain said, "But I believe, Katie, that the Iraqi people will **greet us as liberators**. I believe that they will have an opportunity over time, and it will be difficult, to realize the same hopes and dreams and aspirations that every person in the world has and deserves the opportunity to live in a free and open society." [NBC, "The Today Show," 3/20/03; emphasis added]

He Was Wrong About WMD

McCain: Hussein Continues To Acquire, Amass And Improve On His Arsenal of Weapons of Mass Destruction. During a floor debate on the floor of the senate, McCain said, "Saddam Hussein continues to acquire, amass, and improve on his arsenal of **weapons of mass destruction**. He continues to attempt to acquire a nuclear weapon. These are all well-known facts. So if you believe that Saddam Hussein....is not going to abandon his request for his weapons, then the longer we wait, the more dangerous he becomes." [Asheville Citizen-Times, 10/13/02; emphasis added]

He Was Wrong About "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq

McCain Said Capture Of Saddam Hussein Was A "Mission Accomplished." During an interview on ABC News "This Week" McCain was asked about the capture of Saddam Hussein and the effect on US Forces. McCain said, "Their morale could not be higher. This is a **mission accomplished**. They know how much influence Saddam Hussein had on the Iraqi people, how much more difficult it made to get their cooperation. Every member of the military and civilian over there are rejoicing today. It was interesting to see Ambassador Bremer's emotion. It was well- deserved." [ABC, "This Week," 12/14/03; emphasis added]

And Now John McCain Was Wrong About the Iraqi Government Using Its Huge Oil Revenues for Reconstruction

McCain Said Iraqi Oil Reserves Would Cover The Cost of War. During an interview with National Journal, McCain said, "Everybody now is talking of post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. I look on it with optimism and hope. As far as the cost is concerned, Iraqis have vast oil reserves and they, I'm sure, would shoulder the cost of the transition." [National Journal, 2/15/03]

McCain: "Post-Saddam Hussein Iraq Is Going To Be Paid For By The Iraqis." During an appearance on Fox's "Hannity & Colmes," McCain said, "But post-Saddam Hussein Iraq going to be paid for by the Iraqis. They have billions of dollars of income. They have vast oil reserves. And I think they will pay for it." [Fox News, "Hannity & Colmes," 2/21/03]

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The Iraqi Government Wants Us to Leave – So Do the American People…

…Yet, After Eating Crow Time and Again on Iraq, John McCain's Judgment Tells Him to Keep Spending $12 Billion a Month There Keeping U.S. Troops in the Crosshairs of Iraqi Civil Conflicts for '100 Years' or More – to Keep Short Changing So Many Priorities Here at Home -- to Keep Making Us Less Safe By Stretching Out Military to the Breaking Point in Iraq While Keeping the Eye Off the Ball in Afghanistan

"Can I say, right now, we need judgment. We need judgment. We live in a very, very dangerous and challenging world." – John McCain, 1/28/08

So true, Senator…so true.

Jeremy J. Funk
Communications Director, Americans United for Change
Office: 202.470.5878
Mobile: 605.366.3654
funk@americansunitedforchange.org
www.americansunitedforchange.org

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From: "Doug Band" <doug@presidentclinton.com>
To: MillsCD@state.gov
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/6/2009 8:35:14 AM
Subject: Fw: North Korea

----- Original Message -----
From: Amanpour, Christiane <Christiane.Amanpour@turner.com>
To: dband@clintonfoundation.org <dband@clintonfoundation.org>
Sent: Thu Aug 06 14:11:13 2009
Subject: North Korea

Hi Doug,

You may have received a voice mail from me on your cell phone, but I wanted to send congratulations to President Clinton on securing the release of the two American journalists. I would also like to ask whether it would be possible to help move ahead my request to interview Kim Jong Il. I know you accompanied the President on this fascinating trip. Getting a first hand look and feel for Kim Jong Il is incredibly valuable. I myself have been to Pyongyang with the NY Philharmonic last year, and later in June '08 as one of a very small group of journalists invited to witness and report the destruction of the Yongbyon cooling tower. During my trip I was the only journalist to hold an exclusive meeting with Kim Gae Gwan, the chief nuclear negotiator who welcomed President Clinton upon his arrival.

I pressed my case for an interview then and am obviously keen to keep doing so.

I have a new program that launches September 21st, nightly in Prime Time on CNN International and weekly on CNNUSA. If it were on air now I would have tried my best for President Clinton of course, and I extend a standing invitation for him to appear on my program. If there are any leads with the North Korean leadership you could help me pursue, I would be most grateful.

Jamie sends his best as do I

Christiane

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From: "Eleni Kounalakis" <kounalakiset@gmail.com>
To: "Rosenberger Laura" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 3/10/2016 3:38:48 AM
Subject: Today's Greek Community Call

Laura -

We had a terrific call today with John Podesta and Governor Dukakis and the Greek American community. Some participants are asking for a position paper/memo on where Secretary stands on some key issues.

I've been leading the EU/Russia sub-group effort on the migration crisis, so I have a good idea of how you are formatting the framing memos. This would be a little different, but would you let me take a crack at a 1 pager on issues important to the community, that they can use with their networks?

We would also like to let call participants know that something is coming, if that works for you.

Thanks and hope to hear back soon. Eleni

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street #9
San Francisco, CA 94115
KounalakisET@gmail.com

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/27/2008 3:20:37 AM
Subject: [big campaign] VP CHOICES OFFER MORE OF THE SAME FAILED BUSH-MCCAIN POLICIES

VP CHOICES OFFER MORE OF THE SAME FAILED BUSH-MCCAIN POLICIES

No matter who John McCain picks as his Vice Presidential running mate they will offer more of the same failed Bush policies of the last eight years. Across all issues from health care to the economy to the war in Iraq, McCain's VP choices offer the same failed policies as Bush.

John Thune

Thune, Like McCain, Backed Bush's Iraq Policy

Thune on Iraq:

"I Think We Do Need To Stay The Course." [CBS, "Face the Nation," 12/26/04, emphasis added]

Mitt Romney

"I wouldn't presume to present a plan different than that of the president."
--Mitt Romney [Fox News, 9/19/06]

Like Bush, Romney Vowed To Veto Health Care For Children

"I'd veto it out of my belief that we should have every citizen insured. I put forward a plan in my state that gets every citizen insured….The right pathway to get everybody insured is to help people get private insurance. The SCHIP pathway is simply the wrong way." [Kansas City Star, 10/01/07]

Rob Portman

"I have a loyalty and allegiance to making [The Bush Administration] successful. I have a real commitment to that."
-- Rob Portman [The Cincinnati Enquirer, 3/18/05]

Portman Supported Bush An Average Of 94 Percent Per Year. During the four years he served in the House of Representatives during Bush's presidency, Portman almost always voted with the president. On average, he supported Bush 94.25 percent of the time during a given year. [CQ Voting Studies, accessed 7/29/08]

Portman, Like Bush and McCain, Wants To Privatize Social Security

Portman on His Vote to Privatize Social Security:

- "What We're Talking About Is Letting Individuals Save A Little Bit Of Their Hard Earned Money For Themselves." [Fox News, "The O'Reilly Factor," 6/18/01]

Portman, Like McCain, Repeated The Bush Administration's False Justifications For War.

Portman Claimed Iraq Was "Seeking Yellow Cake, Seeking Enriched Uranium For A Nuclear Weapons Program." [MSNBC, "Hardball," 7/24/03]

- Bush: "Saddam Hussein Recently Sought Significant Quantities Of Uranium From Africa." [2003 State of the Union, 1/28/03]
- The White House Retracted Uranium Claims More Than Two Weeks Before Portman Repeated Them. [Associated Press, 7/8/03]

Tim Pawlenty

Toeing The (Bush) Republican Line In Iraq

Pawlenty: "Saddam Hussein Himself Was A Weapon Of Mass Destruction." [Star Tribune, 2/14/04]
Pawlenty Said "It's Important That We Stay The Course." [CNN International, 2/13/04]
Pawlenty Said The Wars In Iraq And Afghanistan "Will Be Reflected Positively In History." [MSNBC, "Hardball," 7/14/04]

Eric Cantor

Cantor Supports Bush An Average Of 93 Percent Per Year. Portman almost always votes with the president. On average, he supported Bush 93.4 percent of the time during a given year. [CQ Voting Studies, accessed 7/29/08]

Cantor: NAFTA Has Helped America Create "Over 25 Million Jobs." [National Review, 3/11/08]

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 8:06:14 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Nuclear Plant Tour in Newport, MI 08/05/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Lee, on the ground in Newport, MI. Unfortunately, he was not allowed into the event, nor could we find a streaming video feed. He was, however, able to grab footage of protesters outside the event. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- About 40 protesters outside event, mostly labor, including signs / demonstrations against Big Oil and against dangers of nuclear [tracker footage available]
- McCain repeats challenge to Obama/call for Congress back into session to vote on drilling [no tracking footage available]
- McCain repeats pledge to 'all of the above' approach to energy [no tracking footage available]

Newport, MI: McCain Tour and Remarks 08/05/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

- Very tight security. The only people tracker saw allowed inside were a few GOP state senators, pool reporter, people on McCain's bus
- Over 40 protesters (25 union, 1-2 from MI Dem party, 3-4 enviros) vs. approx. 4 pro mccain people outside in the hours leading up the event
    - Big Exxon check for $2mil to McCain
    - many pro-obama signs
    - Oil protesters: ("McCain- Just Another Oil Addict"; "Bush & McCain <3 Big Oil")
    - McSame protesters:
        - "John McCain 100% Recycled Bush";
        - **Demonstration acting out past and future dangers of Fermi nuclear power plants**
- Some union workers who came who were pro-nuclear (construction of plants employs union workers) but anti-McCain b/c McSame labor policies
- As crowd grew, policemen showed up - initially they asked protesters to move out of sight, but they reached compromise instead

LINK TO EXCERPTS OF REMARKS: http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-from-mccains-remarks-at-the-michigan-nuclear-power-plant/
(NOTE: if this event follows yesterday's pattern, the networks may air the pool feed later this evening, so keep an eye out in tonight's Media Monitoring report)

Excerpts from McCain's Remarks at the Michigan Nuclear Power Plant [no tracker footage available]
Solving our national energy crisis requires an "all of the above" approach. That will require aggressive development of alternative energies like wind, solar, tidal and bio-fuels. It also requires expanding traditional sources of energy like off shore drilling, clean coal, and nuclear power like the power produced at this plant here in Michigan.

Senator Obama has said that expanding our nuclear power plants "doesn't make sense for America." He also says no to nuclear storage and reprocessing. I couldn't disagree more. I have proposed a plan to build additional nuclear plants. That means new jobs, and that means new energy. If we want to enable the technologies of tomorrow like plug-in electric cars, we need electricity to plug into.

Now, nuclear power alone is not enough. Drilling alone is not enough. We need to do all this and more. That is why I am calling for an "all of the above" approach. I am also calling on Congress to come back into session to deal with this pressing energy challenge. I am prepared to take time off the campaign trail and I hope Senator Obama is too.

It is time for America to get serious about energy independence. Our nation is sending $700 billion overseas

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every year to countries that don't like us very much. When I'm president that's going to stop. We're going to achieve energy independence, and we're going to do it by using every resource at our disposal to get the job done.

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From:	"Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To:	iraqcampaign@googlegroups.com bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/2/2008 2:00:34 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Americans are pyaing at the pump for the failed foreign policies of the Bush Administration

FYI. For those who haven't seen it. Here is our new piece linking the war and saber rattling on Iran to higher oil prices.

HTTP://WWW.NSNETWORK.ORG/NODE/894

National Security Network

AMERICANS ARE PAYING AT THE PUMP FOR THE FAILED FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The War in Iraq and Saber-Rattling toward Iran is Hurting Americans at the Pump

As Americans take to the road this Fourth of July they are once again in for sticker shock at the pump. Fuel costs have skyrocketed from $20 per barrel in 2002 to $80 last summer to approximately $140 today.

Respected industry experts have long drawn the connection between global instability, failed Bush Administration foreign policies, and the price of oil – which they call the "security premium." The instability of oil-producing regions around the world and Al Qaeda threats against oil installations across the Middle East already build a significant security premium into oil prices. The invasion of Iraq, with its destruction of petroleum infrastructure, hundreds of uncontained attacks on production and transit facilities, and slowness to return production to pre-war levels has added a significant additional expense. So too has saber-rattling against Iran, which experts say has affected the price of oil dramatically – by as much as $11 in one day.

Some experts estimate this premium to be as much as $30-40 for every barrel of oil sold. And while American consumers and businesses suffer, who benefits? The very countries our foreign policy is supposed to contain in the first place – Iran, Russia and others. In the short term, overheated rhetoric and penny-wise, barrel-foolish policies will make a painful summer even worse for Americans. In the long term, reducing our dependence on oil is the best way to get out from under the burden of the security premium – and increase our security at the same time.

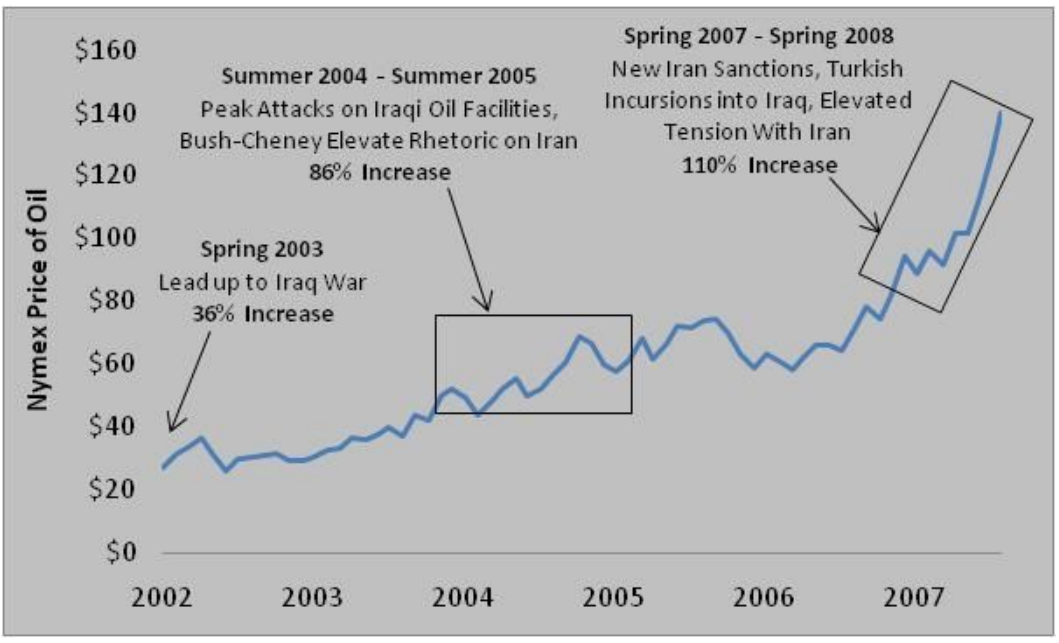

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AMERICANS PAY AT THE PUMP FOR GLOBAL INSTABILITY

Rising oil prices and the world's insecurity are linked. A majority of the world's oil is produced in parts of the world wracked with instability. John Kilduff, energy analyst at MF Global, outlined: **"**The unrest in the Niger Delta [is] knocking off millions of barrels of crude oil every day. We see President Putin threatening at times to use oil as a weapon. So we're seeing speculators and hedgers bid up the price because of the uncertainty of future supplies, in particular." According to oil expert and Chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates**,** Daniel Yergin, these national security concerns have built "'an almost-permanent security premium' into the price of oil." [NY Times, 5/11/08 . NewsHour, 10/26/07]

Rising tensions in the world's oil producing hotspots contribute to an oil "security premium," increasing prices by as much as 30 percent. Senator Joseph Biden defined the security premium in concrete terms, warning that the "more tensions rise, the higher the security premium goes, because people betting on the long term price of oil anticipate supply disruptions." In October 2007, when oil reached $90 a barrel, David Hobbs, vice-president of Cambridge Research Associates (CERA), noted security premium estimates of "$30 or $40" per barrel. [Senator Joseph Biden, 12/06/07 . Houston Chronicle, 10/28/07]

BUSH ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY HAS RAISED TENSIONS ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST, IMPERILING THE WORLD'S ENERGY SUPPLY

The Bush Administration's decision to invade Iraq and its failure to manage the security situation has hurt our energy security. Since the invasion, there have been 469 attacks on Iraqi oil pipelines, facilities, and personnel, and production has stagnated at prewar levels. The invasion of Iraq also increased the threat of terrorism by creating a training, recruiting and fundraising magnet for Islamic terrorists in the heart of the world's most vital energy producing region. A CSIS report suggested that the invasion of Iraq heightened Saudi fears of a terrorist attack, evidenced by the 50 percent increase in security expenditures from 2003 to 2004. In addition, there have been frequent terrorist attacks on oil installations in the Middle East. These often spur mini-spikes in oil prices, increasing fears of vulnerability and driving-up the security premium. [Institute for Global Security, 3/27/08 . NY Times, 5/11/08 . Senate Joint Economic Committee, 11/11/07 . CSIS, 11/30/04 . Reuters, 5/31/08 . Yemen Observer, 4/05/08 . Fox News, 9/15/06 . BBC, 2/24/06]
Ceaseless confrontation with Iran has raised costly speculation about a future oil shock. John Kilduff observed: "Well, I think at this point, the problem we have… is statements from the President and the Vice President, almost on a daily basis lately, really raising the rhetoric, raising the temperature on the situation. And, of course, President Ahmadinejad in Iran does not shrink from these verbal battles anyway. And this is the mother of all supply fears, the mother of all supply threats. Not only the Iranian oil, but the Strait of Hormuz, where 25 percent of the world's oil flows, that's 100 percent Western-friendly, could easily be blocked by the Iranians. So, I mean, yes, there could be an overreaction right now, but we in the oil markets have to call them as we see them and take what we get in terms of rhetoric and worry." [NewsHour, 10/26/07]

Recent rumors of confrontation with Iran caused an $11 spike in oil prices in one day. Israeli Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz recently asserted that an Israeli strike on Iran was unavoidable causing an $11 spike in oil prices. "'It's one word that did this,' said Guy Gleichmann, president of United Strategic Investors Group…'rumors of war with Iran,' Mr. Gleichmann said, have often led to a spike of several dollars in the price of oil. The issue had died down for a while, he said, but 'this is like Jason coming back from the dead.'" The security premium is funneled into Ahmadinejad's coffers, allowing him to address some of his country's economic problems and build up his political power. [Jerusalem Post, 6/10/08]

As U.S. forces were diverted to Iraq, Al Qaeda was able to reconstitute in Pakistan and is calling for Islamic terrorist movements to wreak havoc against oil installations. The 2007 National Intelligence Estimate found that Al Qaeda had reconstituted along the Afghan-Pakistan border, and the GAO recently found that the United States lacked a coherent policy to address this threat. Operating with impunity, senior Al Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri has publicly declared that oil revenues went to the "enemies of Islam," and Osama Bin Laden has approved of attacks on what he called, "the provision line and the feeding to the artery of the life of the crusader's nation." [The Guardian, 9/09/07 . NIE, 07/07. GAO, 4/17/08 . Washington Post, 9/27/04]

REMOVING THE STRANGLEHOLD OF RISING OIL PRICES REQUIRES BETTER ENERGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICIES

In the short-term we must stop the reckless saber rattling towards Iran, reduce our short-sighted focus on Iraq, and implement an effective counterterrorism strategy. The current policy only undermines our diplomatic and security position, while directly benefiting – through increasing oil prices – the very countries our foreign policy is supposed to contain. As John Kilduff explained, "the problem we have…is statements from the president and the vice president, almost on a daily basis lately, really raising the rhetoric, raising the temperature on the situation." [NewsHour, 10/26/07]

In the long run we must reduce dependence on foreign oil and natural gas in the world's most volatile regions. A diverse energy policy is a smart national security policy: Oil-rich countries, particularly those ruled by unstable and corrupt regimes, should have less influence over us. A better energy policy starts at home, with a goal of producing at least 25 percent of our nation's transportation fuels from low-carbon alternative fuels, including electricity, by 2025, and investing in

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new technology to make this happen. The U.S. must also work with its friends and allies to strengthen and diversify the networks of pipelines, transmission lines, and terminals that transport oil and gas, as well as develop a strong international emergency response system to limit price spikes caused by violence or other disruptions. [Report of the National Security Task Force on Energy, 7/06]

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From: "Gary Ritterstein, John Douglass for Congress" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/12/2012 4:10:11 AM
Subject: Limbaugh Wannabee Attacks

JOHN DOUGLASS
HELP VIRGINIA FAMILIES

John --

We are so grateful for all the Veterans and voters of both parties here in our district who rallied behind us when Congressman Hurt's radio host bashed General Douglass's service with nasty epithets like "empty uniform," “dupe” and “chickenhawk”. Hurt – a regular guest of Rob Schilling – whines about “gutter politics" when it comes to his uranium mining ties, but lacks the moral courage to condemn these swift-boat attacks.

So we urgently need your strong support to show Hurt and his right-wing media allies that enough is enough.

Even after groups like VetPAC and VoteVets called upon the host to apologize, Hurt still seems willing to condone his radio host's repeated smears on John Douglass, Tom Perriello, Tim Kaine and others by returning to the show. VetPAC said "It's disgusting that Robert Hurt, a sitting Congressman and regular guest of The Schilling Show, would remain silent.”

Hurt, and his allies who call General Douglass a "coward," should tell it to President Reagan and President Clinton who called on General Douglass to lead our nation's military at the highest levels. Having narrowly escaped several attempts on his life during his 35-years of service, General Douglass has shown that he is a true patriot who loves our country too much not to take action.

So it's only a matter of time before they are at it again, unless we stick up for all our Veterans across the country. Please contribute right away.

Thanks for standing up for John Douglass - together, we will help him win in November.

On to victory,

Gary Ritterstein
Campaign Manager
John Douglass for Congress

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/31/2014 2:09:30 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday July 31, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday July 31, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill opinion: Lanny Davis: "Lanny Davis: Americans want a dealmaker, not an ideologue"

"Here are the facts concerning Clinton's positions on the issues."

Politico: "Books test market for Hillary Clinton hostility"

"Leading the charge against the titles is David Brock, who once made his living attacking the Clintons and Democrats as a conservative writer but is now their chief public defender through the group he founded, Media Matters."

Toledo Blade (O.H.): "Clinton remains Ohio voters' choice for U.S. leader"

"Hillary Clinton remains Ohioans' choice for the next president even as their opinion of the current Democratic occupant of the White House remains near an all-time low, according to the latest Quinnipiac Poll released today."

National Journal: "Should Democratic Candidates Care About Hillary Clinton's 2016 Timeline?"

"Trying to divine the strategy for Clinton's announcement is like graphing a Punnett square with two variables. The first variable: Will she or won't she run? The second: Will she announce her decision early on, or take her sweet time?"

The Wire: "The NeverEnding Book Tour: 52 Days of Hillary Clinton... And Counting"

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"Let's take a look back at where Hillary, and her book, have been in the last 52 days."

The Hill: "Obama pivots to economic legacy"

"Those close to the White House say Obama's success on the economy could help Hillary Clinton should she run in the 2016 election. And Clinton allies agree."

Time: "Joe Lieberman: Obama Administration 'Has Gone Off The Track' On Israel"

"He [Sen. Lieberman] said he believes former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would keep the Democratic Party engaged in the world."

The Week: "Why Mitt Romney is perfectly poised for a comeback in 2016"

[Subtitle:] "Nobody has ever rooted for that scrappy Romney kid to overcome the odds. Until, maybe, now."

Articles:

The Hill opinion: Lanny Davis: "Lanny Davis: Americans want a dealmaker, not an ideologue"

By Lanny Davis

July 30, 2014, 7:11 p.m. EDT

When it comes to judging someone's political ideology, many people and pundits end up arguing about labels and characterizations rather than the facts and the objective record. For example, I recall recently reading about someone who attended a Ready for Hillary meeting in Iowa who declared his concern about Hillary Clinton being a "corporatist." A few recent articles refer to Clinton as a "centrist" or not a genuine "populist," words meaning different things to different people.

Fortunately, polling data show that most people make their judgments based on facts, not labels.

So here are the facts concerning Clinton's positions on the issues.

On economic issues during her eight years in the Senate and to the present, Clinton consistently supported increasing the minimum wage (and still does). She opposed former President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy, favored tax cuts for the middle class and tax credits for student loans. She consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires. She supported the establishment of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, praising Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to this day for her leadership on this issue.

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On social issues, as everyone knows, Clinton led the fight as first lady for the passage of a national health insurance system and was — and is — a steadfast supporter of President Obama's most important achievement as president: the Affordable Care Act.

She consistently supported programs helping the middle class, regulating and preserving the environment, and creating opportunities for the poor and minorities. She has been in favor of comprehensive immigration reform, including the Dream Act.

She has always supported affirmative action, privacy rights, human rights, civil rights and civil liberties.

One of the great causes of her life is concern about children and education. Like Warren and many other Democrats, she is committed to substantial assistance to public schools and relief to students on their student loans.

In short, she believes in an active federal government regulating excesses of the private market for the public interest and public good — the classic definition of Democratic Party liberalism, from Andrew Jackson to Franklin Roosevelt to Bill Clinton. She also believes that the country needs a healthy and vibrant private sector that is the engine of job creation and lifting the poor and the middle class.

On cultural issues, the former secretary of State supports choice, gay rights, gay marriage, gun control and strict safeguards to protect the separation of church and state.

On income inequality, Clinton has expressed great concern. "This is not an issue that's going to go away. In fact, it will only get worse unless we address it now," she said recently.

"We've got to do a better job of getting our economy growing and producing results and renewing the American Dream so Americans feel ... that the economy and the political system is not stacked against them, because that will erode the trust that is at the basis of our democracy."

Polls prove that most self-described liberal Democrats judge Clinton on the actual facts of her record, not on someone's labels. In the most recent national polls, 72 percent of liberal Democrats say they would support Clinton for president in 2016 if she were to run. Only 5 percent of Democrats and 6 percent of liberals think she is "too conservative."

It is true that Clinton, despite her liberal voting record in the Senate, was perceived by many Republicans as someone you could work with to get things done — exactly as the liberal icon, former Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), was seen. That may bother the furthest wing of the Democratic base, who prefer confrontation and ideological wars to compromise and real solutions to help people most in need. These are likely the 6 percent of liberals who think Clinton is "too conservative."

But fortunately, most Democrats and most Americans prefer fact-driven, bipartisan solutions rather than confrontation and ideological wars. I believe Clinton currently shows such strong support as a future president not only among Democrats but among all Americans.

But there is plenty of time to go. If Hillary Clinton runs for president — and she has said she has not made that decision yet — she will run hard and work hard to earn the support of the all voters: red, blue and purple.

Politico: "Books test market for Hillary Clinton hostility"

By Maggie Haberman

July 31, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EDT

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It's the summer of anti-Clinton books.

There may be no clearer sign of Hillary Clinton's political reemergence than the flurry of new books critical of her — two in the past month alone, with another pair coming soon. It's all testing the depth of a market for anti-Clinton fare that had gone mostly dormant — and triggering a fierce campaign by her defenders to shame the mainstream media not to write about the books, lest they lend them legitimacy.

Sales so far are mixed. A widely disparaged book by former New York Times Magazine Editor Ed Klein, "Blood Feud," has done well, even knocking Clinton's own biography from the top spot on the Times' best-seller list over the past month. But a second book published last week by Weekly Standard writer Daniel Halper, "Clinton Inc.," has sold just under 3,500 copies, according to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks book sales for the publishing industry.

Leading the charge against the titles is David Brock, who once made his living attacking the Clintons and Democrats as a conservative writer but is now their chief public defender through the group he founded, Media Matters. Brock has found himself doing battle with his onetime editor, veteran conservative Publisher Adam Bellow (son of Saul Bellow), who edited "Clinton Inc."

"Conservatives don't buy books the way other people do," Brock said in an interview. "I think they buy them as political statements or to see their own prejudices and fantasies in black and white … [Hillary Clinton] called it a cottage industry on 'The Daily Show' and that's right, it's a business."

It's not clear how broad the interest is these days for any book about Clinton, pro- or anti-. Her own book about her time at the State Department, which came out in June, has sold just under 250,000 copies, including e-book estimates. That's a solid figure in a depleted publishing industry but far from the juggernaut her backers hoped for. Klein's book, meanwhile, has sold just over 100,000 copies so far, also accounting for e-book estimates.

After those two, the market may drop off.

"Clinton Inc.," which looks at the Clintons from the impeachment crisis in the late 1990s through today, hit the stands to underwhelming figures (though in a sign of the strength of the book industry and the summer slowdown, it's still set to land at No. 10 on the Times best-seller list, according to his publisher.) The book, along with an upcoming one by Secret Service chronicler Ronald Kessler, includes rumors about infidelity by Bill Clinton. The Halper book also focuses on Chelsea Clinton's rise within her family's foundation.

Klein's book, "Blood Feud," claims to lay out the messy relationship between Barack and Michelle Obama and Bill and Hillary Clinton, replete with quotes from alleged conversations between the first families. Conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh has been among those who have questioned the material, saying he found some of the book's dialogue "odd in the sense that I don't know people who speak this way."

Clinton's team, and Media Matters, have moved to lump all three books — plus a fourth one, by WND writer Aaron Klein, about the Benghazi attacks, due in September — in the same bucket. Media Matters has taken specific issue with key pieces of Halper's book, including the author's reporting on speculation that Hillary Clinton's health scare in December 2012 was a stroke, not a concussion.

"With Klein, Halper and [author Ronald] Kessler, we now have a Hat Trick of despicable actors concocting trashy nonsense for a quick buck, at the expense of anything even remotely resembling the truth," a joint statement from spokesmen for Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton read. "It's an insult to readers [and] authors, and should be reserved for the fiction bin, if not the trash."

In a squeeze on mainstream media, the Clintons added of the authors: "Their behavior should neither be allowed nor enabled, and legitimate media outlets who know with every fiber of their being that this is complete crap should know not to get down in the gutter with them and spread their lies. But if anyone isn't sure, let's strap all three to a polygraph machine on live TV and let the needle tell the truth."

The attacks on anti-Hillary books is part of Clinton lore. In 1999, Gail Sheehy's "Hillary Choice" was lambasted by Clinton loyalists as a piece of overreaching psychobabble. In the years since, Clinton allies have frequently deployed a similar effort to undercut unauthorized books about the former first lady, stoking doubt about their credibility by finding, and amplifying, inaccuracies in them. In the current go-around, most of the coverage of the books has been in conservative media outlets.

The last surge in the anti-Clinton book market was around 2005. That was when Ed Klein, through Penguin Books, published "The Truth about

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Hillary." Brock and other Clinton allies savaged the book, and Penguin. It went on to be a commercial success, but the credibility gap was established. HarperCollins, which published "Clinton Inc.," dropped plans to publish Ed Klein's latest Clinton book earlier this year, amid concerns about his reporting.

Other books that were printed soon after failed to take off.

Marji Ross, the president of Regnery — the conservative publishing house that picked up Ed Klein's latest book — acknowledged there have been "a number of anti-Hillary books that haven't worked in the years since [she left the White House], and we just felt that the time was right."

As for allegations of a lack of truthfulness and a plethora of quotes that sound suspect in Klein's work, she insisted, "No one's ever been able to point to something specific that he had in one of his books that is untrue."

Ross said the release date for "Blood Feud" was moved up, the thinking being that "anyone who wasn't a fan of hers would be hungering for some kind of news from the other side" after her own book tour.

Brock, who gained fame in 1993 for writing a book about Anita Hill that was edited by Bellow, has witnessed the rise and fall of anti-Clinton books up close. His own, which was initially supposed to be a critical book that ended up as a positive look at Hillary Clinton, was also edited by Bellow.

"When I started reading ["Clinton Inc."], I started noticing what I thought were Adam Bellow touches," Brock said.

"He wants his books to be seen as serious and well-researched and he works really hard to give them that patina, and that means sanding down the rough edges to fool mainstream reviewers," Brock added, explaining that that formula maximized sales of his own book on Hill.

In the case of "Clinton Inc.," though, Brock said the "red meat" got "overcooked by Adam, and then nobody wants it."

Bellow, who declined to be interviewed, wrote in an email that the Halper book is off to "a very good start. We have a tremendous media lineup in place and expect the book to continue to sell well through the summer and into the fall."

As for the criticism from Brock, Bellow added: "I don't plan on getting into a pissing match with David. However, since he has cast me as some kind of evil conservative publishing wizard I would just like to note that I also published his Hillary book and that I backed him up completely when he turned in a positive portrait instead of the hit job he originally pitched.

"We would have been within our rights to cancel the book but I made sure that it got published and that his full advance was paid," Bellow added. "And I never even got invited to his beach house in Rehoboth!"

Halper, who wrote a first-person account for POLITICO Magazine in which he claimed to have been hounded by Clinton allies during the reporting of his book, said his book is a reported work that also takes on some of Hillary Clinton's critics.

"I try my best to be fair to all sides," said Halper, whose book had a well-timed title, at a moment when people are examining the Clintons' wealth. "The Clintons have been criticized by a number of people over the years, from both the right and the left. Some of it is rightfully so and some of it is overboard."

Kessler, noting he has broken several stories involving the Secret Service, also took issue with the notion that his book isn't a serious work of journalism.

"The fact is that my book is entirely nonpartisan and presents startling revelations about both Republicans — including some of the saints of the GOP — and Democrats, as well as about Secret Service laxness and corner cutting that threaten the life of the president," said Kessler, whose book is expected to have a chapter on Hillary and a prologue related to Bill Clinton. He added that the book, which comes out next week, includes positive passages about Barack and Michelle Obama. "Not exactly a political hatchet job!"

Regardless of criticism, one publishing source predicted that Kessler's book would sell, since he has a following based on past books. And Aaron Klein's book would appeal to a different audience, the publishing source said, a subset of readers deeply interested in the Benghazi attacks and convinced of an administration coverup.

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Roger Stone, the former Richard Nixon operative and proud political dirty-trickster, predicted that the current market for anti-Clinton books will prove robust.

“The one segment of the book market this is thriving is conservatives,” Stone said. “They read. The tabloids also show there is also an insatiable public interest in any gossip about the Clintons.” And “it will only get bigger if she runs.”

Toledo Blade (O.H.): “Clinton remains Ohio voters' choice for U.S. leader”

By Jim Provance

July 31, 2014

COLUMBUS — Hillary Clinton remains Ohioans' choice for the next president even as their opinion of the current Democratic occupant of the White House remains near an all-time low, according to the latest Quinnipiac Poll released today.

Ms. Clinton — the former first lady, U.S. senator, and secretary of state — would defeat all Republican comers in hypothetical 2016 match-ups, including one with Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

If that election were held today, 47 percent of registered Ohio voters say they'd vote for Clinton compared to 40 percent who say they'd prefer the GOP governor currently seeking re-election to his current job.

A Quinnipiac Poll released Wednesday showed Governor Kasich with a 12-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, to keep his current job.

The best GOP performer against Ms. Clinton is U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky, who would get 42 percent of the vote to Ms. Clinton's 46 percent. That's within the poll's margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 percentage points.

In no scenario does she score higher than 50 percent. She does, however, have a 52 percent favorability rating among Ohio's registered voters.

"Obviously there is a long way to go until 2016, but at this point the political problems the president is encountering are not rubbing off on her,” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll.

Thirty-six percent of those questioned approve of the job performance of President Barack Obama, less than two years after the Buckeye State helped to keep him in the White House. Fifty-nine percent disapprove, slightly above the record low of 34 percent-to-61 percent last November, the lowest ever recorded by Quinnipiac in the nine states where the Connecticut-based university poll regularly questions voters.

“Only three in 10 men or independent voters approve of his job performance, a far cry from almost two years ago where he won the nation’s most important swing state, and the Democratic approval rating in the low 70s is anemic, at best." Mr. Brown said.

The poll has Ms. Clinton defeating former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush 48 percent to 27 percent and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie 46 percent to 37 percent.

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At one point, Mr. Christie had been one of Ms. Clinton's strongest competitors for the Buckeye vote, but he has fallen in their opinion since the bridge scandal early this year. He is now underwater with 34 percent having a favorable opinion of him compared to 36 percent who do not.

Ms. Clinton's numbers are strongest among women, although Mr. Paul is the only Republican who currently beats her in Ohio among independents.

The university questioned 1,366 registered voters between July 24 and 28.

National Journal: "Should Democratic Candidates Care About Hillary Clinton's 2016 Timeline?"

By Emma Roller

July 30, 2014

[Subtitle:] Long-lasting question marks around a possible Clinton presidential run could leave Democrats unprepared for 2016.

Writing about the choice in front of Hillary Clinton—a hard choice, if you will—is like an advanced course in hypotheticals.

Trying to divine the strategy for Clinton's announcement is like graphing a Punnett square with two variables. The first variable: Will she or won't she run? The second: Will she announce her decision early on, or take her sweet time?

Either way, Clinton's decision is sure to delight some Democratic politicians and stymie others. If she announces her candidacy too early, that opens the floodgates to conservative attacks. Diametrically, if she announces late in the game that she is not going to run, other Democrats who were waiting on her go-ahead may find it's too late to build up their own campaigns.

It's unlikely that Clinton will announce early either way, which leaves us with two options. Option one: She announces late that she is running, thus confirming the idea everyone has been taking for granted for at least the past six months, and sinking every other Democrat's hopes of running a competitive campaign. Option two: Clinton announces in early 2015 that no, she's not running—thus rendering the months of think pieces totally useless, and opening up the nomination to someone you're likely not thinking too much about.

If Clinton decides not to run, it could be an enormous boon to one of her fellow Democrats in particular. According to Steve McMahon, a presidential campaign veteran and the cofounder of the political consulting firm Purple Strategies, Clinton's un-candidacy would all but open the door for Democratic Nominee Joe Biden, and the vice president wouldn't hurt for lack of setup time.

"It's hers to lose if she wants it, but she may not want it," McMahon said. "If she doesn't run, then there will be a big field, but the longer it takes for the field to materialize, the weaker everybody in it—except Joe Biden—will be."

This theory, of course, discounts the fact that while there is a fledgling "Run, Liz, Run" movement there's no "Ready for Joe" movement yet. A recent CNN poll found that 67 percent of likely Democratic voters would vote for Clinton, with Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Biden each trailing her by at least 50 points. Warren received 10 percent to Biden's 8 percent.

But what a Biden candidacy lacks in grassroots enthusiasm would be more than made up for with a well-oiled campaign apparatus.

"There's no barrier for him," McMahon said. "He's vice president, he's run before, he would inherit the bulk of the Obama campaign machinery and people, and he would be running 60 miles an hour while everybody else was putting on their track shoes."

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One Democratic consultant noted that the 2016 cycle is odd because of the lack of Democratic candidates who are at least openly flirting with running at this stage.

"It's very strange that in 2014, you don't see any of that," the consultant, who asked to be quoted anonymously because of work with potential candidates, said. "And I think it's because many national Democrats are afraid that it will look like they are positioning themselves against Clinton."

The general attitude of the Democratic Party leaves Clinton in an enviable position.

"I think it's in her best interest to wait," the consultant said. "That doesn't mean it's in the best interest of the Democratic Party."

Steve McMahon agrees. "Given the level of organization that's popped up around her, she certainly isn't harmed by waiting," he said. "If I were Hillary Clinton, I would be in absolutely no hurry to decide or announce what I'm doing. If I were somebody else who wants to run for president, I would be desperate to get an answer from her as quickly as possible."

That desperation has left Democrats (and political reporters) looking for any tell-tale dog whistles from Clinton—traveling to Iowa or New Hampshire, for instance. But Clinton has been wary not to send any signals.

Meanwhile, other national Democrats have used their star power in local races. Warren recently headlined a New Hampshire fundraiser for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has campaigned for candidates in New Hampshire and Iowa.

But Warren's campaign work and her rising star in the party—despite her oft-repeated denial that she is running for president—are nothing compared with Clinton's reputation among the well-heeled Democratic donor base. As one New York donor recently told the Daily Beast, "If Elizabeth called me up and said, 'I am thinking of running for president,' I would say, 'Elizabeth, are you out of your [expletive] mind?' "

Michael McCurry, a former press secretary to Bill Clinton, said the pressure for Clinton to announce her run could be ratcheted up, depending on the outcome of the midterm elections.

"If Democrats lose the Senate in November, then every Democrat will believe that a Democratic president is all that stands between a GOP Congress and reversing some of the progress made in the last generation or so," McCurry said in an email. "Because if she is NOT running, then someone needs time and opportunity to build to her level of national support and name recognition."

Joe Trippi, a veteran of Democratic presidential campaigns, says other Democrats who want to run shouldn't hold their breath waiting for Clinton.

"There are plenty of people like Martin O'Malley who are out there, going to Iowa, going to New Hampshire, putting the fundraising structure in place if they decide to go," Trippi told National Journal. "And if somebody isn't doing that because they think Hillary Clinton's running ... then they deserve to lose."

Clinton has said she would make her announcement (and delete the "TBD" line from her Twitter bio) in "early 2015." But what does history say about when candidates are likely to get into the race?

The New Hampshire primary—the first presidential primary in the country—is often used as a benchmark for when candidates should throw their hat into the ring. Before 1972, no presidential nominees declared their candidacy until roughly six months, or 200 days, before the New Hampshire primary. But since 1996, each party's presidential nominee has announced his candidacy earlier, ahead of that six-month mark. In 2008, both John McCain and Barack Obama announced their candidacies more than 300 days ahead of the New Hampshire primary.

Some perspective: We are still more than 500 days out from the New Hampshire primary, which will take place on Jan. 26, 2016. So, going by the 300-day benchmark, Clinton has until roughly April 2015 to announce her decision—at least. That could mean eight more excruciating months for pundits and waffling Democratic candidates alike.

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But Clinton could just as easily wait longer to announce her decision and draw out the suspense. And why not? She has every reason to take her time announcing a decision, and hold off the inevitable oppo-avalanche.

"I don't think there are really any real political consequences to her for waiting," Trippi said. "In fact, I think it's to her advantage to wait as long as she wants."

The Wire: "The NeverEnding Book Tour: 52 Days of Hillary Clinton... And Counting"

By David Ludwig

July 30, 2014, 3:58 p.m. EDT

During her four-year tenure as head of the State Department, Hillary Clinton traveled 956,733 miles and visited 112 countries, the most ever by a U.S. Secretary of State. Leaving aside the fact that anyone who served before the airplane didn't have much of a fighting chance, that's still a pretty impressive schedule to keep, and it's one that Hillary looks like she's trying to replicate on her current book tour.

For the last 52 days HRC has been the lone competitor in her own Tour de France, peddling from book stores, to universities, to interviews, to book stores in England: Stage 1: Dianne Sawyer; Stage 2: A Costco in Virginia; Stage 3: Okay you get the idea.

But unlike the actual Tour de France, this one doesn't seem to have an end date. No, the Tour de Hillary, which started on June 10, is showing no signs of stopping, leaving many of us asking if the eventual sprint to the finish line could include a motorcade traveling down Pennsylvania Avenue during the 2016 Inaugural Parade.

Let's take a look back at where Hillary, and her book, have been in the last 52 days.

Monday, June 9: Hillary gets off to a rocky start, telling ABC's Dianne Sawyer that the former First Family were "dead broke" after leaving the White House in 2000.

Tuesday, June 10: Hillary sits down with Robin Roberts on Good Morning America, then does a book signing at Barnes and Nobles in Union Square in New York City.

Wednesday, June 11: Hillary travels to her hometown of Chicago for an interview with Mayor and longtime Clinton supporter Rahm Emanuel at the Harris Theater.

Thursday, June 12: Hillary has a tense exchange over gay marriage with NPR's Terry Gross, the same day as her interview on BBC's of Newsnight aired in England.

Friday, June 13: Hillary did a book signing at a Philadelphia library at 11:30am, then traveled south to D.C. for a "conversation" at George Washington University at 6pm.

Saturday, June 14: While signing copies of her book, Hillary casually ran into her BFF Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at a Costco in Arlington, Virginia.

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Sunday, June 15: Hillary looked at pictures from her Wellesley College graduation on CBS Sunday Morning with Jane Pauley. "Yes. Boy, I had long, long hair," she said.

Monday, June 16: Hillary traveled north, first to Toronto, Canada in the afternoon and then to the Harvard Book Store in Cambridge, Massachusetts that evening.

Tuesday, June 17: Back in Washington D.C., Hillary briefly stops her motorcade to greet an intern from the Republican Campaign Committee who is dressed as a giant squirrel wearing a tee shirt reading "another Clinton in the White House is nuts." She then continued on to a CNN town hall with Christiane Amanpour, wrapping things up with a Fox News interview with Bret Baier and Greta Van Susteren.

Wednesday, June 18: Hillary flew to Edmonton in Alberta, Canada to tell more Canadians about her book. Speaking on both a literal and figurative level, Hillary told the packed house "No two countries are closer than we are."

Thursday, June 19: Hillary met Glee Star Chris Colfer at a signing in Los Angeles.

Friday, June 20: Another day in L.A., another celebrity's book to sign. This time it was music superstar Katy Perry who offered to write Hillary a campaign song.

The same day Hillary headed to Austin, Texas where she did another signing at the store BookPeople followed by a speech at the Long Center where she talked about nights spent at the music venue The Armadillo in 1972, The Texas Tribune reported.

Saturday, June 21: An interview with Hillary was published in The Guardian. "I wish I had some stock in a scrunchie company," she told Ed Pilkington.

Sunday, June 22: Hillary went west to Kansas City, Montana for a speech at The Midland Theater where a ticket came with an autographed copy of Hard Choices.

Monday, June 23: Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver, Colorado hosted Hillary for a book signing. She made no public trips to Colorado's recreational marijuana stores.

Wednesday, June 25: Hillary hit up Warwicks in La Jolla, California for a signing, also appearing on the PBS NewsHour in an interview with Gwen Ifill that night.

Thursday, June 26: In San Francisco, Hillary got a visit from former Mayor Willie Brown at her Hard Choices signing before doing an event at the Orpheum Theater.

Friday, June 27: Hillary spent the morning in Little Rock, Arkansas, then traveled to Dayton, Ohio — Swing state. Cough — for another book signing later that afternoon.

Sunday, June 29: Hillary traveled to the town of Chappaqua, New York where she has owned a house since mounting her successful campaign for Senate in 1999.

Monday, June 30: Hillary sat down with Aspen Institute CEO Walter Isaacson for a conversation at the Aspen Ideas Festival, which was broadcast live on Facebook.

Thursday, July 3: Starting the European portion of her tour, Hillary traveled across the pond, visiting Europe's largest bookstore, Waterstones Piccadilly in London.

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Friday, July 4: In London, HRC stopped by the set of ITV's This Morning, drawing criticism from Red Alert Politics for "[betraying] the American holiday of July 4."

Saturday, July 5: The BBC aired an interview with Hillary on Woman's Hour.

Sunday, July 6: At The Schiller Theater in Berlin, Hillary praised German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her style (they both love pant suits) and leadership. "I say in the book I think she is the greatest leader in Europe..." she told the crowd.

Tuesday, July 8: On a rainy day in Paris, French President Francois Hollande welcomed Hillary (and her book) to the Elysee Palace with a smile and an umbrella.

Tuesday, July 15: Hillary joked with comedian Jon Stewart on The Daily Show.

Thursday, July 17: With enough copies of Hard Choices for over a thousand attendees, Hillary signed her book at Bookends in Rigewood, New Jersey.

Friday, July 18: Hillary's interview on The Charlie Rose Show aired on PBS.

Saturday, July 19: Off to another signing. This time in Madison, Connecticut.

Sunday, July 20: Governor Mark Dayton joined Hillary at a signing in St. Paul Minnesota. "I would have waited a week," Hillary enthusiast Shar Anderson told Fox 9 News . "I would have waited out in the sun. I would have waited for anything."

Thursday, July 24: Hillary talked about her book with The New York Time's John Harwood in an interview that aired on NPR's "On Point with Tom Ashbrook."

Saturday, July 26: Hillary greeted fans at Sam's Club in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

Sunday, July 27: Fareed Zakaria's interview with Hillary aired on his GPS on CNN.

Tuesday, July 29: The traveling book saleswoman was back in New York yesterday, this time for an event upstate at a bookstore in the town of Saratoga Springs.

And there's more to come... Yes, just yesterday the website for Hard Choices added three more scheduled appearances, including one on Martha's Vineyard August 13, four days into President Obama's two-week vacation on the Massachusetts island.

Could Hillary's neverending book tour have have a Presidential visit in its future?

The Hill: "Obama pivots to economic legacy"

By Amie Parnes and Peter Schroeder

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July 31, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

President Obama is tying his legacy to a growing economy, seizing on the administration's successes in boosting the nation during financial woes.

Bolstered by a string of positive economic reports, the administration hopes it can increase Democrats' chances of holding the Senate this fall by highlighting Obama's stewardship of the economy.

More broadly, the White House hopes to ride the wave of an economic recovery to improve Obama's approval numbers over the final two years of his presidency, setting up a possible Democratic successor at the White House.

"It's the best possible legacy item," said one former senior administration official. "The elections in 2008 and 2012 were all about the economy and if the nation could bounce back after such terrible times. And look, it shows that, not only did we bounce back, but things are going to an even better place, one where a potential predecessor could build a foundation."

On Wednesday, the Commerce Department said the economy grew at a 4 percent annual rate in the second quarter. The report also included revised figures for 2013 that showed much stronger growth at the end of last year.

In the final three months of 2013, the economy expanded at a 3.5 percent rate, up from the previous estimate of 2.6 percent. And in the third quarter, growth was revised to 4.5 percent from 4.1 percent.

Hours after the report was released, Obama adopted a confident and fiery tone while making remarks on the economy.

For much of his speech in Kansas City, Mo., he ticked off the nation's economic successes. Since he took over at the helm, millions of new jobs have been added, he said.

"Manufacturing is back," he said. And "our energy, our technology, our auto industries, they're all booming."

Time and again, he recalled where the nation stood at the height of the financial crisis when he entered the Oval Office at the beginning of 2009.

"The crisis that hit near the end of my campaign back in 2008, it would end up costing millions of Americans their jobs, their homes, their sense of security," Obama told the packed crowd at a theater in the Show Me State. "But we have fought back. We have got back on our feet. We have dusted ourselves off."

The economy has added more than 200,000 jobs per month for the past five months ahead of the release of a new jobs report on Friday, helping to lower the unemployment rate to 6.1 percent. Economists expect that Friday's report will also be over 200,000 jobs.

"None of this is an accident," Obama said on Wednesday. "It's thanks to the decisions we made early on. And now America has recovered faster and come farther than just about any other advanced country on earth."

Republicans argue the country is experiencing the slowest economic recovery since a recession on record, and they say Obama's White House is to blame.

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas), chairman of Congress's Joint Economic Committee, doubled over with laughter when asked about the president's legacy on the economy.

"Seriously?!" he said.

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The GOP has pointed to ObamaCare and the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul, arguing regulations from those laws have led to economic uncertainties that have slowed the growth of business.

Republicans regularly hammer the Senate for not taking up jobs bills passed by the lower chamber.

Brady acknowledged that the president was handed a very rough situation when he took power, but said Obama has had more than enough time to put together a recovery that should be far more robust at this point.

“The truth is, the weakest economic recovery in President Obama’s lifetime is his own,” he said. “We’re wildly applauding a C-minus economic performance.”

But White House aides say Obama will tout the economy as a legacy item in the coming months.

“The president will continue to spend time traveling across the country talking to the American people about his domestic priority: expanding economic opportunity for the middle class,” one White House official said on Wednesday.

“We’ve made important progress over the last several years,” the official continued, before adding, “but the president believes there is more we can do.”

Those close to the White House say Obama’s success on the economy could help Hillary Clinton should she run in the 2016 election. And Clinton allies agree.

“I think she will highlight the successful economic initiatives the president has put in place,” one source close to Clintonworld said. “But if she runs, she will run on her own record and will tout her own policy proposals to keep our economy on track and moving forward.”

In his speech on Wednesday, a flip Obama had some fun with House Republicans, alluding to the fact that there could be a Democratic president in office after he leaves in 2017.

“I know they’re not that happy that I’m president, but that’s OK,” he said. “Come on, I’ve only got a couple of years left. Come on, let’s get some work done. Then you can be mad at the next president.”

Time: “Joe Lieberman: Obama Administration ‘Has Gone Off The Track’ On Israel”

By Zeke J. Miller

July 30, 2014

[Subtitle:] The former Democratic Vice Presidential nominee-turned-independent also says he is watching the rise of Rand Paul "with concern."

After 24 years representing Connecticut in the Senate, Joe Lieberman left Washington in Jan. 2013 as a man without a party—a Democrat-turned-independent-turned-GOP-endorser.

Speaking to TIME 18 months later, Lieberman is content with his decision to quit the Senate, but still has doubts about Washington’s handling of

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domestic issues and global crises. “I do feel that the Obama administration has gone off the track in the efforts to broker a ceasefire,” he says, saying that the reported terms of a U.S.-offered agreement would have left Hamas stronger from its ongoing conflict with Israel.

The former Democratic vice presidential nominee said he takes issue with the growing “neo-isolationism” within the Democratic and Republican parties, saying he’s watched the rise of Sen. Rand Paul “with concern.” “The world suffers and the American people suffer eventually both in terms of our security and our prosperity—and ultimately our freedom—if we’re not engaged in problems elsewhere,” he says.

Lieberman said he has yet to make a decision about who to endorse in 2016, after drawing fire from Democrats for his outspoken support for Sen. John McCain over then-Sen. Barack Obama in 2008. But he said he believes former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would keep the Democratic Party engaged in the world.

Lieberman was recently named the inaugural Joseph Lieberman Chair in Public Policy and Public Service at Yeshiva University where he will deliver lectures and teach in the upcoming academic year. Lieberman says he hopes to convince young people to pursue public service despite the gridlock in Washington.

The following conversation has been lightly condensed and edited:

Looking at the dysfunction in Washington today, are you glad you left Congress? How do you plan on encouraging young people to go into public service in this political climate?

I didn’t leave because of the partisanship and the lack of getting anything done, but it made it a lot easier to leave. I will tell you that my last two years was the least productive of my 24 for me and for the Congress really. And I watch it needless to say from here with a sense of, oh, disappointment, frustration, and in some sense embarrassment because I still feel an identity with the institution. And I know how important it is that it gets some problems solved.

Notwithstanding all of that, or maybe in some sense because of all the dysfunction in the federal government and government generally, but the federal government particularly, people like me have to try to convince students that it’s worth getting involved and that they can still make a difference and maybe together with others of like mind and heart they can actually change things for the better. I look back on my years in public service with a lot of gratitude for the various things that I was able to do. Part of my message to the students at YU is going to be I never got, honestly, anything significant done without the support of people in the Republican Party. In other words, I never felt that I could do it alone as a Democrat, and obviously in my last term as an independent I needed support of people in both parties. It’s all about a willingness to put—as formalistic as it sounds—to put the interests of country ahead of the interests of party or ideology.

How do you view the turmoil in the world today and the American response, particularly to the conflict in Gaza?

These events have occurred of their own momentum. They have a life of their own. On the other hand, I’m afraid that the U.S. has sent a message that we’re going to be less engaged in the world than we have been at other times in our history and I’m afraid that encourages some others to try to take advantage of us and our allies. It’s not just President Obama and the U.S. government, I think in many ways it’s the Europeans as well. And I’m afraid that may have encouraged Putin to seize the moment and seize Crimea. So the world suffers and the American people suffer eventually both in terms of our security and our prosperity—and ultimately our freedom—if we’re not engaged in problems elsewhere. So that’s a general statement.

I think in the Hamas-Israel conflict, which is just one of a broader series of conflicts going on in the middle east, the administration has been strong in supporting Israel’s right to defend itself against the Hamas missile attacks and the Hamas terrorist attacks. But lately, I do feel that the Obama administration has gone off the track in the efforts to broker a ceasefire, as much as everybody would like to see the violence stop. Because I think those efforts, if they had been pushed any harder—it seems like they have fallen by the wayside now—would have really allowed Hamas to emerge from this much stronger than they went into it and they began this. Israel is our ally and Israel is a democracy and Israel is governed by the rule of law. Hamas is a terrorist organization that is a declared enemy of the U.S. as well as Israel. And the last proposal made by Secretary Kerry, who I greatly admire and like, but nonetheless if the proposal was as it was reported, it really would have strengthened Hamas and weakened Israel. And in some sense coincidentally strengthened Qatar, Turkey, and Iran who are backing Hamas and weakened our other allies in the Arab world like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE and the Palestinian Authority who don’t want to see Hamas strengthened. So I think it was a mistake and I’m glad it seems to have fallen by the wayside and I hope the Secretary tries again but with another plan.

Looking ahead to the 2016 election, what do you make of the field. Many Democrats are coalescing around former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, do you think you will as well?

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I don't know yet. It's good to be out of active politics and watching it. I've known Secretary Clinton for a long time. We met briefly, though I got to know President Clinton much better, when they were both at Yale Law School. And I've known them well. So I have a lot of respect for Hillary Clinton and some of the things that I've worried about in both the Obama administration and the drift of the Democratic party which is away from American international leadership, I hope and believe would not be true with Hillary Clinton as the candidate, and if she's elected, as the president. But it's much too early for me, anyway, to decide what or whether or if anybody cares I will do in this campaign. The more fascinating part of the campaign, of course, will be the Republican presidential primaries.

What do you make of the rise of Sen. Rand Paul and the Republican Party's isolationist wing.

I've watched it with concern, because honestly, as a pro-defense Democrat, there's a way in which I relied for some period of time on the Republicans—and some Democrats, but not other Democrats—to support strong defense, muscular foreign policy, etc. Now there is a certain attrition happening on the Republican side, mostly among the so-called libertarians and to a certain extent among tea party people who are so focused on reducing taxes that they seem more willing than Republicans have in recent years to cut back on support of America's defense. There is—I don't think any of us have found the right word for it, so I opt for neo-isolationism. There is a kind neo-isolationism, certainly a retrenchment from internationalism going on in both parties and to me it's troubling. It's troubling for the future of the country.

How did this appointment come about? What are you hoping to accomplish?

It ended up with an unexpected result. Richard Joel, the president of YU, reached out to me last year about wanting to do something in my name at YU in public policy. For the obvious reason, I suppose, that I am both Orthodox Jewish and was involved in public service. I was touched and honored by that. Because I hoped and still do that it's going to be a permanent, endowed chair, but then they surprised me toward the end of the process asking me to be the first occupant of the chair, which I'll do for a while as long as it's working for me and the students, but i'm exciting about it. It's very much part time. I'm going to give three public lectures in the fall semester in various schools of the university, probably starting with one Yeshiva College, one at Stern [College for Women], and then one at Cardozo [Law School]. And then in the second semester I will teach an undergraduate course in public policy, public service. So I'm looking forward to it. I actually taught this last semester at Columbia law School and I'm going to repeat that course this fall and I enjoyed it immensely, more than I expected actually. It was just very rewarding to try to convey what I experienced and learned to the next generation of students, some of whom, hopefully, will consider public service.

I've taught college courses way back to the late 70s and early 80s at Yale. So those were residential college seminars and I enjoyed that too. But I must say that I'm at a different stage of my life. I finished my time in elected office, I look back at it with great gratitude that I had the opportunities I did. There is no question I was influenced by people who were in once sense or another teachers of mine. So I view this as an opportunity both to try to inform students today about public policy, but also to hopefully attract some of them into public service.

The Week: "Why Mitt Romney is perfectly poised for a comeback in 2016"

By Matt K. Lewis

July 31, 2014, 6:18 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Nobody has ever rooted for that scrappy Romney kid to overcome the odds. Until, maybe, now.

Perhaps it says something about us that our most interesting presidential candidates swear they won't run for president. This is true of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and it's increasingly true of Mitt Romney.

As regular readers of this column know, I've never been much of a Romney booster. I've also expressed skepticism about the notion he would run again. But let's not let 'a foolish consistency' cloud our judgment. There is reason to believe that a third try wouldn't be an absurd venture.

First, in the intervening years since 2012 — and on a range of issues, not the least of which is Russia — Romney has been proven right. And

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second — perhaps more importantly — one of the reasons so many observers viscerally disliked Romney was the cloying "goody-goody" quality that this fortunate son seemed to ooze. But do you know what the cure for that is? Losing.

That's right, Mitt Romney the scrappy underdog — the loser who's out to redeem himself — is a more attractive Mitt.

You know the term, "lovable loser?" He should embrace it.

There's a reason why Rocky gets knocked out by "Clubber" Lang early on in Rocky III. The rest of the movie is about the comeback. This journey involves Rocky shedding the trappings of fame and wealth — and getting real.

Romney would similarly have to get real. No more phoniness. No more telling us what he thinks we want to hear. He would have to be utterly authentic, and he would have to show that losing caused him to encounter pain and reflection. (The good news is that the Netflix film, Mitt, already helped show this side of Romney.)

Could Romney III be like Rocky III? Maybe, if the narrative is true and convincing.

There's a reason the "comeback" trope resonates with us (aside from Rocky, it's a prevalent theme in almost every boxing movie, ranging from The Fighter to Cinderella Man). These tropes are timeless precisely because they tap into something that we intuitively understand about nobility, courage, and humility.

People like comebacks. We can identify with the guy or gal who is struggling to redeem themselves (and nobody has ever identified with Mitt Romney before).

Ironically, Romney is almost tailor made to benefit from having lost before. What might be a devastating blow to most political figures — a blight on their resume — actually transforms Romney into a more compelling candidate. Having struggled and stumbled is, for Romney, at least, a feature, not a bug. The same could be said for Hillary Clinton, who only became a compelling candidate in 2008 when she lost her frontrunner status.

People who were hated the first time around — when their lives seemed charmed — can, by facing adversity and overcoming the odds, transform into sympathetic figures — heroes, even — that we actually root for (think Robert Downey, Jr.). Nobody has ever rooted for that scrappy Romney kid to overcome the odds. Until, maybe, now.

Someone who knows a thing or two about comebacks is Pat Buchanan. In fact, his new book is called The Greatest Comeback; How Richard Nixon Rose from Defeat to Create the New Majority.

During a recent discussion, I asked Buchanan about the prospects of Mitt Romney taking a page from the Nixon playbook. After all, George Romney figures prominently into the Nixon comeback story. "First, I admire that Romney is thinking of this," Buchanan told me during a recent podcast discussion, "and he ought to follow what's in his heart."

Buchanan, whose sister was a Romney advisor, believes that Romney should take a page from the Nixon handbook. Having lost to Kennedy in 1960, and then having lost the 1962 gubernatorial election in California, Nixon was assumed politically dead. But he was revived by working hard for other candidates — he worked hard for conservative Barry Goldwater in 1964, and backed liberal Republican Nelson Rockefeller's candidacy in New York — just to name two of the many GOPers he hit the hustings for between 1962 and 1968.

"If I were Romney, there's no doubt I would do it," Buchanan (who thrice ran for president, himself) continued, adding: "But I'm not him."

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 6 – Huntington, NY: Sec. Clinton signs books at Book Revue (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/16/2012 5:34:13 AM
Subject: Re: Howard Buffett

Thanks, Ami. This is great news. I'm obviously ready to help from CDI side on Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania. An August visit to Malawi would be after harvest and before planting, so early May or November would give him more farming to see. The impact on people is year round, so the powerful human story can be told first person any month he comes.

We will have a generic version of expansion business plan we've done for Salida ready next week and I can work with others to build it into a comprehensive presentation on WJCF work and collaboration opportunities if that would be a near term step.
Glad to talk further whenever it suits other than 6 hour time difference.
Walker

From: Amitabh Desai
To: Bruce Lindsey; Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Robert Harrison; Ed Hughes; Walker Morris; Dennis Cheng
Sent: Fri Mar 16 11:34:34 2012
Subject: Howard Buffett

Had a good call today with Howard Buffett. Like WJC, he talked about strengthening agriculture (sustainably) in developing countries in Africa, Latin/Central America, and beyond; and also in reconfiguring US food aid to enable more local purchasing of food aid rather than shipping US farm produce overseas. [Besides running his farm, he runs farms in South Africa and Central America and is currently a UN WFP Ambassador and advocate for their Purchase for Progress initiative.] He was surprised to learn there are so many shared interests. We discussed a few areas of possible future collaboration, all of which effectively are either “talking” or “doing,” on which I’d welcome your feedback:

DOING

- COUNTRY VISIT. We discussed WJC’s agriculture work in Rwanda/Malawi/Peru/Colombia and he is intrigued. He said he’s visiting South Africa (where he runs a 9,000 acre farm) in August and would like to visit Malawi/Rwanda to see CF projects. We can help facilitate his visit. I didn’t mention WJC’s Africa trip but should we consider a joint-visit whenever WJC goes? [He liked the Neno wheat example of working ourselves out of a job.]

- CDI. Funding for scaling-up commercial farms in Malawi/Tanzania. I explained our interest in growing the program, he said he’d like to work together given a lot of shared interests, and that he’ll be able to make a decision after seeing our work first-hand. Whenever he visits Malawi, we should be prepared with a specific ask.

- CARLOS SLIM. He said he has been in discussions with Marco about doing joint agriculture work in Mexico and he asked if we’d be open to discussing it and to WJC being involved as the convener. I said we work with Slim as well and that we’d be happy to discuss it together.

TALKING

- He is writing a book and would like to profile WJC’s agriculture work (we discussed Malawi). I said we’d be happy to discuss it further and provide him with more information about the projects.

- CGI. He’s going to try to come to CGI in September. He said it’s right around corn harvest so he doesn’t like being away from his farm but he will try to come for one day.

- He asked if there any appetite to do joint advocacy on agriculture issues – most notably US food aid. I tried to bring it back to CGI as an opportunity for him to share his message there under the umbrella of CGI. It would be good to give him information on any agriculture-related programming or action networks being contemplated for September, for him to weigh-in on.

Hope this helps, and I’d welcome your feedback. Thanks, Ami

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"Tamara?? Wittes \(twittes@brookings.edu\)" <twittes@brookings.edu>
"Tara Sonenshine" <tsonenshine@earthlink.net>
"Theodore Waddelow" <twaddelow@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Tim Roemer" <tjroemer@gmail.com>
"Tom?? Daschle" <tom.daschle@dlapiper.com>
"Tom Donilon" <tdonilon@gmail.com>
"Tom?? Downey" <tdowney@dmggroup.com>
"Tommy Ross" <tommy_ross@reid.senate.gov>
"Toni Verstandig" <tonigverstandig@gmail.com>
"Tony Blinken" <ablinken@aol.com>
"Veronica Pollack" <Veronica.Pollock@dlapiper.com>
"Vikram Singh" <vsingh@americanprogress.org>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
Date: 7/17/2014 6:34:26 PM

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Subject: Colin Kahl piece on Iran:

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/07/17/irans_highly_enriched_bargaining_chip_john_kerry_javad_zarif_nuclear

Foreign Policy

ARGUMENT

Iran's Highly Enriched Bargaining Chip

Why the United States can't budge on allowing Iran to build more centrifuges.

BY COLIN KAHL

JULY 16, 2014

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IRAN

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

MIDDLE EAST

As talks over Iran's disputed nuclear program enter the home stretch, Tehran has placed a major obstacle in the way of a diplomatic solution: insistence on an industrial-scale uranium enrichment program. On July 15 in Vienna, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif acknowledged that significant gaps remained between the parties. It now seems almost certain that negotiations will have to be extended for several weeks or months beyond the original July 20 deadline to conclude a comprehensive agreement. But putting extra time on the clock won't make much difference unless Iran is willing to make real concessions on the enrichment issue.

On July 7, in a major speech in Tehran, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the ultimate "decider" on the nuclear issue, declared that Iran has an "absolute need" of 190,000 "separative work units" (SWUs) for its nuclear program. This highly technical term represents a measure of the productive capacity of Iranian centrifuges, the cylindrical machines used to enrich uranium to fuel nuclear reactors -- or, potentially, nuclear bombs. Iran currently operates around 10,000 first-generation "IR-1" centrifuges, has installed another 8,000 IR-1s, and has installed but is not yet operating 1,000 more advanced "IR-2m" models. When the efficiency of these machines is calculated, Khamenei's stated goal for Iran's program would represent a ten- to twentyfold increase in Iran's current enrichment capacity.

A program that large could theoretically provide an indigenous supply of fuel for nuclear power plants, Tehran's stated intention. But it could also allow Iran to rapidly "break out," racing to produce bomb-grade uranium so quickly that the international community couldn't stop it.

For the United States and the five other world powers (Britain, China, France, and Russia, plus Germany) known collectively as the P5+1, Iran's apparent bottom line is a showstopper. Until Iran restores international confidence in its nuclear intentions, the P5+1

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justifiably sees an industrial-sized enrichment capacity as incompatible with the goal of ongoing talks to ensure Iran's program remains solely for peaceful purposes. For that reason, U.S. President Barack Obama's administration and its negotiating partners are demanding at least a two-thirds reduction in Iran's current enrichment capacity. Even Russia and China, the P5+1 members traditionally most sympathetic to Iran, have told Iranian negotiators that their position on enrichment capacity is untenable.

Given the Grand Canyon-sized chasm between these competing demands, it's no wonder that nuclear diplomacy is teetering on the brink of failure.

Given the Grand Canyon-sized chasm between these competing demands, it's no wonder that nuclear diplomacy is teetering on the brink of failure. Despite days of intense negotiations in Vienna, Kerry and Zarif were unable to bridge this divide. Unless a workable compromise on enrichment can be found soon, the talks will likely fall into the abyss and the prospect of reaching a peaceful solution to the decades-old nuclear crisis will fade.

There are only three possible explanations for Iran's expansive enrichment demands. They range from unconvincing to deeply troubling.

The first possible explanation is that Iran truly believes that it needs such a large productive capacity for its civilian nuclear program. Under theinterim nuclear accord struck between Iran and the P5+1 last November, the parties acknowledged that any final agreement would "involve a mutually defined enrichment program with mutually agreed parameters consistent with [Iran's] practical needs." Iran needs enriched uranium to fuel the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR), which produces medical isotopes, and potentially its Arak research reactor. But Iran already has sufficient enriched uranium for the TRR, and the P5+1's proposal to allow Iran to operate a few thousand IR-1 centrifuges, or their equivalent in more advanced machines, is pegged to meet the needs for the Arak reactor if it is modified to run on low-enriched fuel.

But Iran does not define its practical needs solely in terms of research reactors. Echoing Khamenei's remarks, Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, recently asserted that Iran needs 190,000 SWUs of uranium enrichment capacity "to produce the required annual fuel for the Bushehr plant," the country's lone nuclear power plant. And if Iran commissions additional nuclear power plants, as intended in the decades ahead, Salehi said, "we will need more SWU [capacity]."

These rationalizations for industrial-scale enrichment are difficult to sustain. In the case of the Russian-built Bushehr plant, Moscow is committed to providing fuel for the reactor through 2021 -- and is willing to renew the supply contract for life. Iran claims , however, that a history of repeated supply disruptions -- dating back to its experience with the multinational Eurodif enrichment consortium in the 1970s -- means it cannot rely on foreigners. But Russia has consistently delivered fuel for Bushehr, and outside experts have pointed out that keeping a rolling stock of several years' worth of foreign-supplied fuel inside Iran, under strict safeguards, could easily address concerns about future disruption. Moreover, even if Iran wanted to produce the necessary fuel assemblies for Bushehr, it lacks both the intellectual property and the technical expertise to do so.

Iran's case is somewhat stronger for future power plants. But this requirement remains purely hypothetical and, in any event, will not materialize for at least a decade -- that is, most likely after the expiration of a time-limited final nuclear deal. If, at that point, Iran cannot secure cheap, reliable fuel from abroad, it will be able to expand its domestic fuel-production capacity. But future contingencies are not a convincing justification for doing so now.

A second possible explanation for Iran's enrichment stance is national pride. The country's nuclear program has cost at least $100 billion in lost oil revenue and foreign investment, and the regime has invested a tremendous amount of domestic legitimacy in defending it in the face of international pressure. The nuclear program has become a potent symbol of Iran's technological prowess -- an underappreciated motivation in a country that sees itself as one of the world's great scientific nations -- and the regime's revolutionary "resistance" to the West.

Indeed, it was the pragmatic recognition that a diplomatic deal was impossible unless Iran was given a face-saving way out that rightly led the Obama administration to acquiesce to a limited Iranian enrichment program last year -- a significant and politically risky concession to a long-standing Iranian demand. Now the onus is on Iran to make the next move. In an interview with the *New York Times* on July 14, Zarif suggested that Iran may be willing to forgo further expansion of its program for a few years, perhaps suggesting some emerging flexibility. But simply freezing Iran's enrichment capacity in place is not sufficient to allay international concerns -- the program will have to be meaningfully rolled back.

Doing so may require the Iranian regime to swallow a bit of its pride. If Tehran is open to compromise, however, there remain creative ways to frame necessary concessions as consistent with Iran's stated interests and asserted nuclear rights.

One is the use of time. Khamenei's declaration last week on the "absolute need" of 190,000 SWUs for Iran's program included an important caveat: "Perhaps this is not a need this year or in two years or five years." It is conceivable, therefore, that Iran could agree to scale back its program -- limiting both the number of IR-1 centrifuges and its stockpile of low-enriched uranium -- to meet its very modest near-term needs for research reactors. Then, it could grow the program again after a lengthy period of confidence-building (probably a decade or so), when fuel requirements for new nuclear plants actually materialize. A final nuclear agreement could specify these arrangements based on a fixed period of time or on a set of clear conditions related to the availability of foreign supplies of fuel -- or some combination of both . Either way, nothing in the agreement's terms would invalidate Iran's stated requirement to eventually be self-sufficient in the nuclear realm.

Another possible face-saving solution would showcase Iran's technological advances -- playing into the regime's narrative that its nuclear advances are proof of the country's scientific prowess. Iran could "voluntarily choose to retire" all of its "inefficient and

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obsolete" IR-1 machines, replacing them in the short term with a much smaller number of more efficient second-generation IR-2M centrifuges. A final nuclear deal could also allow Iran to continue pursuing research and development on more-advanced centrifuges, under strict safeguards and with the obligation not to install or operate them for the period of the agreement. Assuming that the number of installed and operating IR-2Ms was relatively small, and research and development was appropriately regulated, this could potentially lower Iran's current enrichment capacity for the period of the agreement -- addressing the P5+1's concerns -- while still allowing the regime to claim that it won international recognition of the nation's scientific achievements. Then, after the expiration of the agreement, Iran could deploy its new technology to meet emergent domestic needs.

So if Iran's goals are indeed to pursue an exclusively peaceful civilian nuclear program, there are ways out of the current impasse. But, of course, there is a third explanation for Tehran's insistence on a large-scale enrichment program: It wants a civilian cover story for the pursuit of nuclear weapons, or at least the capability to rapidly produce them.

Iran's leaders assert they desire no such thing. In 2005, Khamenei issued a binding fatwa -- or religious edict -- against the development, stockpiling, and use of nuclear weapons. And just this past weekend on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Zarif said, "I will commit to everything and anything that would provide credible assurances for the international community that Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons, because we are not. We don't see any benefit in Iran developing a nuclear weapon."

But, after years of repeated violations of its safeguards obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran's demand for industrial-scale enrichment makes it hard to take these pledges at face value. With tens of thousands of operating centrifuges, Iran could reduce its theoretical breakout time to produce weapons-grade uranium from a few months, where it currently stands, to a few weeks -- so fast that it might be impossible to detect or prevent. Iran largely dismisses breakout concerns, and a number of outside analysts have recently challenged the utility of the concept. But even critics of using breakout capacity as a measure of a "good deal" tend to concede that leaving Iran only a few weeks away from bomb-grade material is a risky proposition.

Equally troubling is that the same infrastructure that could enable a rapid dash to weapons-grade uranium at known enrichment sites could also facilitate a nuclear "sneak-out" at secret ones. A limited enrichment program can be effectively monitored. But the larger Iran's accepted enrichment infrastructure, the easier it would be for Iran to divert small amounts of enriched material or sensitive technology to covert sites. Transparency and rigorous international inspections of Iranian nuclear facilities -- which Iran appears more willing to accept -- can mitigate, but not eliminate, this risk if Iran is allowed to maintain tens of thousands of centrifuges.

In short, unless Iran agrees to rein in its enrichment program, it will be impossible for the country to reassure the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program. And that means it will be impossible to get a deal that resolves the nuclear crisis. Even if talks are extended beyond the looming July 20 deadline, the moment for thin rationalizations and excessive revolutionary pride has passed. If Iran's leaders mean what they say about their nuclear intentions, now is the time to prove it.

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/6/2016 10:06:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: BREAKING NEWS: Obama plugs State of the Union address in video trailer

JDP needs to tweet Denis asap!

McDonough finishes with a plug for his new Twitter account, @Denis44, also inaugurated on Wednesday. His first tweet: "New Year's Resolution: Join Twitter And just in time for @POTUS' final State of the Union," with a link to the Obama video.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **POLITICO** <email@politicoemail.com >
Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 5:02 PM
Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Obama plugs State of the Union address in video trailer
To: slatham@hillaryclinton.com

President Barack Obama plugs his own State of the Union address in a video trailer the White House is releasing Wednesday afternoon as part of an effort to set expectations for the president's speech next Tuesday, which unlike previous addresses won't include a new legislative agenda.

Going into his final year as president, Obama plans to focus more on the big themes that have defined his presidency and eschew a laundry list of policy proposals His explanation: he's got bigger things in mind than Congress, according to details shared with POLITICO.

"What I want to focus on in this State of the Union," Obama says in the video the White House will release late Wednesday, is "not just the remarkable progress we've made, not just what I want to get done in the year ahead, but what we all need to do together in the years to come: The big things that will guarantee an even stronger, better, more prosperous America for our kids. That's what's on my mind."

Standing in front of his desk in the Oval Office, Obama offers a broad preview of what he'll say: where things were when he came in, and how much progress he's led since.

Not mentioned: the Republican majorities in the House and Senate who would have stopped any legislative agenda from moving - especially in an election year- with the possible exceptions of the Trans Pacific Partnership and criminal justice reform.

In an email that will also be distributed on Wednesday, Obama chief-of-staff Denis McDonough echoes Obama's more-optimistic-than-ever theme and lists some of what's likely to be on Obama's brag list: December's budget agreement, the Iran nuclear deal, increased domestic oil production together with new environmental regulations, a peak in high school graduation rates and health insurance coverage, a drop in unemployment, crime and incarceration rates.

"What we have left to do is bigger than any one policy initiative or new bill in Congress. This is about who we are, where we're headed, and what kind of country we want to be," McDonough writes.

McDonough finishes with a plug for his new Twitter account, @Denis44, also inaugurated on Wednesday. His first tweet: "New Year's Resolution: Join Twitter And just in time for @POTUS' final State of the Union," with a link to the Obama video.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/barack-obama-state-of-the-union-address-video-217422

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: "Peter Emerson" <peter.emerson@me.com>
Date: 11/28/2014 11:34:12 AM
Subject: Re: Help

Done, brother. Happy Thanksgiving!

Burns on AirPad

On Nov 28, 2014, at 9:59 AM, Peter Emerson <peter.emerson@me.com > wrote:

> Burns and Allison
>
> Hope you all are having a wonderful Thanksgiving
>
> I need your help.
>
> This email address is only for my friends and family. So rather than unsubscribe or ask you to remove me entirely from the daily or near daily updates from correct the record, I ask you to send them to the following email address, which I use for my political and policy interests. This way I'll be able to read them on a daily basis.
>
> Peteremerson@gmail.com
>
> Thank you in advance.
>
> Best wishes.
>
> Peter
>
> Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse mispelled words; and grammatical errors.
>
> On Nov 26, 2014, at 12:36 PM, Burns Strider <burns.strider@americanbridge.org > wrote:
>
> **<CTRlogo.png>**
> **Correct The Record Wednesday November 26, 2014 Roundup:**
>
> **Tweets:**
>
> Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton launched the Climate & Clean Air Coalition w/ 37 nations working to reduce emissions #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/stemming-the-tide-of-climate-change/ … [11/25/14, 8:01 p.m. EST]
>
> ---
>
> **Headlines:**

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Times-Picayune: "Hillary Clinton hosting New York fundraiser for Mary Landrieu"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is hosting a New York City fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., on Monday."

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Treads Lightly On Policy Issues As She Eyes 2016"

"Clinton is expected to make her political intentions known in the coming weeks, likely in early 2015. Her speeches are closely watched for signs of how she might offer a rationale for her candidacy."

CNN: "Is the Clinton magic gone in Arkansas?"

"This state launched the Clinton brand two decades ago and handed Hillary Clinton one of the biggest victories of her 2008 primary battle against Barack Obama."

Washington Post blog: "Clinton has a clear lead among Democrats — but would face stiff competition from Romney, Christie"

"The new Quinnipiac survey has Clinton with support from a whopping 57 percent of Democrats, followed at a distant second by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, at 13 percent. Vice President Joe Biden trails with 9 percent, while no other candidate breaks the 4 percent threshold."

New York Times opinion: "Who Will Save the Democratic Party From Itself?"

"Not everyone agrees that Hillary Clinton's selection as the Democratic nominee is unstoppable. The first to challenge her is Jim Webb, a one-term former senator from Virginia. Here is the case for the Democratic Party renegade."

New York Observer: "Hillary Clinton's Deafening Silence On Ferguson"

"Meanwhile, few aspirants hoping to succeed President Obama had much to say about Ferguson."

Times-Picayune: "Hillary Clinton hosting New York fundraiser for Mary Landrieu"

By Bruce Alpert

November 25, 2014, 5:55 p.m. EST

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Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is hosting a New York City fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., on Monday.

Landrieu, trailing in recent polls to Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy for the Dec. 6 runoff, continues to face an avalanche of negative ads from conservative advocacy groups, such as Karl Rove's American Crossroads. But the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, apparently confident of Cassidy's victory, has canceled planned TV ads in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette, according to Politico.

Clinton, who campaigned at a New Orleans rally for Landrieu before just before the Nov. 4 primary, is hosting the Landrieu fundraiser at the home of long-time Clinton supporters Sarah and Victory Kovner. Tickets range from $1,000 to $12,600, with proceeds going to Landrieu's Senate campaign, the Louisiana Democratic Party and Landrieu's political action committee. Clinton, the former First Lady and New York senator, is the current frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Meanwhile, outside groups reported new allocations Tuesday to fund efforts aimed at defeating Landrieu.

Ending Spending Inc. reported in a filing Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission reported that it spent $187,000 for "direct contact" with Louisiana voters in opposition to Landrieu. The group was created by Joe Ricketts, founder of TD Ameritrade. Tea Party Patriots reported a $7,000 allocation for e-marketing efforts against Landrieu and $2,031 for automated calls and script writing on behalf of Cassidy.

Vote 2 Reduce Debt, another conservative group, is spending $1,600 on internet ads and phone banks in support of Cassidy, according to an FEC filing Tuesday.

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Treads Lightly On Policy Issues As She Eyes 2016"

By Ken Thomas

November 26, 2014, 9:33 a.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton offered praise for President Barack Obama's executive actions to stave off deportation for millions of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. But the Democrats' favored presidential hopeful has been less forthcoming on other issues in these early days of the 2016 contest.

Clinton is not, so far, a candidate, and she's limiting her commentary about the daily news cycle confronting Obama — a strategy that could keep down chatter about where she and the unpopular president agree and where they diverge.

The former secretary of state, senator and first lady is not talking about the Keystone XL pipeline, rejected by one vote in the final weeks of the Democrat-led Senate. She has yet to speak publicly about a sweeping climate change agreement between the U.S. and China, an extension of talks over Iran's nuclear program or the Senate's move to block a bill to end bulk collection of Americans' phone records by the National Security Agency.

When Obama announced his moves to prevent the deportations for nearly 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, Clinton quickly embraced the decision on Twitter. The president, she wrote, was "taking action on immigration in the face of inaction" in Congress. In doing so, she signaled that as a candidate, she would run against the Republican-led House and Senate that convenes next year. Clinton also drew a distinction from her would-be GOP opponents who have spoken of immigration reform in large part as a border security problem.

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On other weighty policy matters, however, Clinton is mum.

"You've got to make choices if you're not a candidate," said Lanny Davis, a White House special counsel during the Clinton administration who attended law school with Bill and Hillary Clinton. "She is not a candidate for president. When she becomes a candidate, she has to start answering questions."

Nick Merrill, a Clinton spokesman, declined to comment.

Clinton is expected to make her political intentions known in the coming weeks, likely in early 2015. Her speeches are closely watched for signs of how she might offer a rationale for her candidacy.

Clinton campaigned for Democratic candidates during the fall, often pointing to pocketbook issues like equal pay for women, raising the minimum wage and expanded family leave policies. "A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families," she said at an October rally.

Since then, Clinton has taken a more circumspect posture in public events, appearing at charity events and voicing support for issues related to her work at the Clinton Foundation. That approach allows her to stay above the political fray in the aftermath of Democrats' poor showing during the midterm elections.

Clinton has stayed close to Obama on immigration, releasing a statement that noted that previous presidents of both parties had taken similar steps.

The following night, in an interview at a New York Historical Society event, Clinton reiterated the need for Congress to act on a comprehensive immigration bill. She also put the issue in the context of families, saying the decision probably affected wait staff who were serving the dinner.

"There is probably no more pressing issue at this time than to fix this immigration system," said Alex Padilla, California's secretary of state-elect. "As a leader, it was right for her to speak up. A lot of people wanted to know what she thought."

Other policy issues carry more political risk.

Clinton has avoided weighing in on the Keystone XL pipeline, saying it wouldn't be appropriate for her since the environmental review by the State Department happened during her watch. The issue is tricky for Democrats because labor unions have supported the plan but environmentalists adamantly oppose it.

Clinton has called climate change the nation's "most consequential" issue but has yet to weigh in on the agreement Obama reached with China to set new targets for cutting emissions. The deal was negotiated by John Podesta, a Clinton White House chief of staff who is expected to play a prominent role in a Clinton presidential campaign.

Both issues could receive attention from Clinton on Monday, when she is scheduled to address the League of Conservation Voters in New York.

On NSA surveillance, Clinton has talked broadly about the need to balance the need for security without infringing upon Americans' privacy amid a debate over the government's collection of data. But she has kept a low profile on the issue.

Republicans contend Clinton is being overly political in the lead-up to a presidential campaign.

"Everything Hillary does is for political purposes," said Republican National Committee spokeswoman Kirsten Kukowski, "which includes taking positions for political expediency and not answering tough questions for political reasons."

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CNN: "Is the Clinton magic gone in Arkansas?"

By Dan Merica

November 26, 2014, 9:34 a.m. EST

This state launched the Clinton brand two decades ago and handed Hillary Clinton one of the biggest victories of her 2008 primary battle against Barack Obama.

But as she considers another bid for the White House in 2016, Arkansas isn't so friendly.

In the final weeks of the 2014 election, top Democrats in Arkansas told Hillary Clinton and her associates that she wasn't welcome to stump for the party's candidates in the state, according to a knowledgeable source. While there were some in Arkansas who wanted her to come, the "stay away" contingent won the argument and Hillary Clinton was left to raise money for Sen. Mark Pryor from New York.

Bill Clinton made up for the absence, making 13 stops in the state during campaign season imploring voters to not make the election a repudiation of President Barack Obama.

Still, Democrats across Arkansas lost big. The governor's mansion flipped red, along with Pryor's Senate seat. The state's four-member House delegation is solidly Republican.

The rout was part of a broader repudiation of Democrats across the South this election cycle. But the results in Arkansas were particularly tough for the Clintons and raise questions about whether the state most associated with the couple is no longer welcome territory ahead of Hillary Clinton's potential 2016 race.

"The coattails were short," outgoing Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe told CNN. "It is a fact."

Changes in Arkansas

Bill Clinton handily won Arkansas during both of his presidential elections. But the politics of the South changed during his time in office as many states were increasingly dominated by Republicans.

Arkansas was a genuine battleground state during the 2000 election, when Al Gore and George W. Bush both campaigned here and spent money on television ads. Seeking to distance himself from Bill Clinton after his impeachment, Gore didn't campaign with the former President and lost Arkansas to Bush by 5 points.

By 2008, Arkansas was seen as so unfriendly to Democrats that Obama wrote the state off -- even as he won other southern states like North Carolina and Virginia that Republicans carried for decades.

Before the 2014 election, Hillary Clinton's supporters -- many at the grassroots level in Arkansas -- would quietly talk about the former first lady's chances of competing and winning Arkansas in 2016. They touted her standing with white women and working class voters.

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But after Election Day, those optimistic Democrats are harder to find.

"Limited," said Vincent Insalaco, the chair of the Arkansas Democratic Party, when asked about Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the state. "It is limited here in Arkansas."

"I think she could run a strong race here, but I think the electorate has changed," said Clarke Tucker, a newly elected Democratic state representative. "The state has changed."

Hillary Clinton moved to Arkansas in 1974, joining her soon-to-be husband, Bill, who was already a rising political star in the state. The couple would go on to dominate the state's politics for the better part of two decades and left a long list of confidants -- known as FOBs or Friends of Bill -- in key Democratic positions across the state.

But times have changed. Republican power bases in northwest Arkansas have grown, religious conservatives are a powerful voting bloc and the state's Latino population has yet to become a force at the ballot box.

"Arkansas is a real demographic nightmare for Democrats," said Andrew Dowdle, the vice chair of political science at the University of Arkansas. "It is a complete reversal of fortunes."

All of this complicates the idea that Hillary Clinton could win Arkansas in 2016. During the 2008 primary, Hillary Clinton dominated Obama, winning 70% of the state, her largest victory during that year's primary fight. That was the only time she has been on the ballot in the state, however, and was a contest with just Democratic voters.

The 2014 exit polls in Arkansas weren't positive for Hillary Clinton, either. Thirty-nine percent of voters said she would make a good president, according to the exit polls. Fifty-six percent said she would not.

Those same exit polls found that former GOP Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who is also considering a 2016 run, is seen as a better presidential option in the state than Hillary Clinton. Fifty percent of voters in Arkansas said he would be a good president, compared to 46% who said he wouldn't.

With the former first lady eyeing another run at the presidency in 2016, Democrats and Arkansas experts said that while she would easily win the Democratic primary, she would struggle mightily to overcome what has become a changed state.

Democrat's silver lining: Obama is gone in 2016

Democrats in Arkansas blame Obama -- not the Clintons -- for their losses.

One reason Beebe, the outgoing governor, sees things getting better for Democrats in 2016 and beyond is because "Obama will be gone."

"I think it is all Obama," Beebe said. "I don't think there is any question that most folks feel like it was a repudiation of the president and the president's policies. But I think it is cyclical and the reason I say that is if you look at the history."

"Democrats are looking at what can she do different from Barack Obama," said Dowdle. "If you are a Democratic party activist, you would end up hoping she would win white women. ... That idea that a woman candidate could end up running and making the gap grow is not going to happen."

Exit polls show that Beebe is partly right: Nearly 70% of voters in Arkansas said they disapprove of Obama. Only 30% said they

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were satisfied with him.

For Inalasco, 2016 -- and a Hillary Clinton run - is a moment to rebuild.

"I would hope that she would carry Arkansas," he said, rejecting the idea that Democrats are done in the state. "But if she runs it is so, so positive for us on the local level, here, for what we can do with her popularity."

As for whether the Clinton magic is gone in Arkansas, Inalasco deferred his answer for two years.

"I guess," he said, "we will see what happens in 2016, won't we?"

Washington Post blog: "Clinton has a clear lead among Democrats — but would face stiff competition from Romney, Christie"

By Jose DelReal

November 26, 2014, 8:26 a.m. EST

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues to lead the 2016 Democratic presidential field — it's not even close — but another Clinton administration is far from a sure thing, even if the election were held today: A new poll out Wednesday shows that even as the clear Democratic favorite, she would face stiff competition from several would-be GOP candidates.

The new Quinnipiac survey has Clinton with support from a whopping 57 percent of Democrats, followed at a distant second by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, at 13 percent. Vice President Joe Biden trails with 9 percent, while no other candidate breaks the 4 percent threshold.

Clinton has yet to announce whether she will run but is widely expected to enter the race. The vice president has publicly flirted with the idea of running, while Warren has so far dismissed the possibility of a 2016 candidacy.

The field is far less clear on the GOP side, where former presidential candidate Mitt Romney remains the favorite with 19 percent support. The 2012 Republican presidential nominee has publicly said that he is not interested in mounting a third presidential bid. The poll has former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush following Romney among GOP voters with 11 percent support.

When Romney is taken out of the equation, Bush leads with 14 percent support, is followed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 11 percent. Both Bush and Christie have said publicly that they are considering throwing their hats in the ring, but have not formally entered the race.

Despite Clinton's enormous lead among potential rivals in the Democratic primary, the survey indicates she would struggle against several GOP candidates. Romney has 45 percent to Clinton's 44 percent, if the election were held today. And Clinton would have 43 percent to Christie's 42 percent.

She is a clearer favorite when matched against other GOP candidates, with a 46 percent to 41 percent edge over Bush, and a 46 percent to 42 percent advantage over Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan. And Clinton trounces Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, 48 percent to 37 percent.

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The telephone survey of 1,623 registered voters was conducted by cell phone and landline between Nov. 18 and Nov. 23. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

New York Times opinion: "Who Will Save the Democratic Party From Itself?"

By Thomas B. Edsall

November 25, 2014

Not everyone agrees that Hillary Clinton's selection as the Democratic nominee is unstoppable. The first to challenge her is Jim Webb, a one-term former senator from Virginia.

Here is the case for the Democratic Party renegade.

When Webb, who served as secretary of the Navy under Ronald Reagan, announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee on Nov. 19, he sought to capitalize on Democratic discontent. Taking a swipe at both Wall Street and Clinton's potential bid for the nomination, Webb declared:

"Our Constitution established a government not to protect the dominance of an aristocratic elite, but under the principle that there should be no permanent aristocracy, that every single American should have equal protection under the law, and a fair opportunity to achieve at the very highest levels."

Webb suggested that he could bring working class whites back into the Democratic fold and restore the biracial Democratic coalition:

"We have drifted to the fringes of allowing the very inequalities that our Constitution was supposed to prevent. Walk into some of our inner cities if you dare, and see the stagnation, poverty, crime and lack of opportunity that still affects so many African-Americans. Or travel to the Appalachian Mountains, where my own ancestors settled and whose cultural values I still share, and view the poorest counties in America – who happen to be more than 90 percent white, and who live in the reality that "if you're poor and white you're out of sight.""

The Democratic Party used to be the place where people like these could come not for a handout but for an honest handshake, good full-time jobs, quality education, health care they can afford, and the vital, overriding belief that we're all in this together and the system is not rigged.

Webb's exploration of a presidential bid is based on the premise that he can tap into a crucial but alienated segment of the electorate.

This bloc includes voters convinced that Wall Street owns both parties, voters tired of politicians submitting to partisan orthodoxy and voters seeking to replace "identity group" politics with a restored middle- and working-class agenda.

Webb's election history – his victory in Virginia is the only race that he has run – suggests that he will have difficulty achieving his goals. Before we turn to examine the forces that will make his candidacy a difficult one, let's take a look at some positives.

Webb is a decorated veteran – he served from 1968 to 1972 in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, and was awarded the Navy Cross – as well as a pointed critic of military intervention in Iraq, Libya and Syria. Opposition to the war in Iraq was a centerpiece of his 2006 Senate campaign.

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Webb is a prolific author of both novels and nonfiction. His books are dominated by themes of war and fighting from “Fields of Fire” to “Born Fighting” to “A Time to Fight.” Webb notes with pride on his website his heritage as the descendant of “between 250,000 and 400,000 Scots-Irish” who migrated to America in the eighteenth century, traveling in groups of families and bringing with them not only long experience as rebels and outcasts but also unparalleled skills as frontiersmen and guerrilla fighters. Their cultural identity reflected acute individualism, dislike of aristocracy and a military tradition, and, over time, the Scots-Irish defined the attitudes and values of the military, of working class America, and even of the peculiarly populist form of American democracy itself.

Webb is one answer to the weaknesses of today’s center-left, the so-called “upstairs-downstairs” coalition described by Joel Kotkin, presidential fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University. Kotkin argues in his recently published book, “The New Class Conflict,” that the Democratic Party has been taken over by what he calls “gentry liberals,” an elite that has undermined the historic purpose of the Democratic Party.

Kotkin contends that “The great raison d'être for left-wing politics – advocating for the middle- and working classes – has been refocused to attend more closely to the policy imperatives and interests of small, highly affluent classes, as well as the powerful public sector.”

I asked Kotkin what he thought of the themes Webb intends to raise, and he wrote back “I think he’s onto something.”

The Democrats, Kotkin believes, need “someone — Sherrod Brown, Webb, Jon Tester, somebody! — who speaks to the issues of upward mobility and incomes.” Both Senator Brown and Senator Tester have staked out populist positions in support of their working-class constituents in Ohio and Montana.

Most Democratic politicians and strategists, according to Kotkin, “just have no feel at all — as Harry Truman and Bill Clinton did, for example — for the aspirations of the middle class. This is why they are losing them, and deservedly so.”

Morris Fiorina, a political scientist at Stanford, is similarly critical of the “upscale capture” of the Democratic Party. In an email, he wrote that in the aftermath of the financial collapse of 2008, “the country is desperate for economic relief, but as time goes on it becomes clear that the administration’s economic policy is to take care of the financial sector, where hundreds of people are clearly guilty of fraud in any layman’s view. The result is building disappointment, resentment, and rage in the public, which results in the 2010 debacle.”

“Today,” Fiorina writes, “We have a situation where voters can choose between a party that openly admits to being a lap dog of Wall Street and a party that by its actions clearly is a lap dog but denies it. At least vote for the honest one.”

Asked about Webb, Fiorina replied, “the emotional side of me loves him.” But, Fiorina cautioned, “the rational side is worried about how he would actually behave if he were president.”

Further to the left side of the political spectrum, Krystal Marie Ball, co-host of the MSNBC show The Cycle, waxed poetic on the air about the former Virginia senator on Nov. 22, telling viewers that Webb was “such a contrast from Hillary Clinton.”

"Clinton," Ball said, “is polished and produced and perfectly calibrated. He is not. He is rough. He is authentic. He cares about issues. He speaks plainly. He doesn’t try to oversmile, for example, he just is exactly who he is. And there’s something very compelling about that, and it is a stark contrast from the very carefully packaged and branded Clinton image.”

Al Hunt, a Bloomberg columnist, warned that Webb “could be Hillary Clinton’s worst nightmare,” noting that Webb seems an improbable candidate. He has taken illiberal positions, was President Ronald Reagan’s Navy secretary, has few relationships within the Democratic Party, and has no serious fund-raising network. What he does possess is a long-held and forceful opposition to U.S. interventions in Iraq and Libya, and potentially Syria, as well as solid anti-Wall Street credentials. In Democratic primaries, these may be Clinton’s greatest impediments to rallying a hard-core activist base.

To gauge Webb’s prospects, I looked at the exit poll data for the 2006 Virginia Senate race, when he unseated George Allen, the favored Republican. I then compared Webb’s performance among key constituencies to the performance of all House Democrats

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running nationwide in the same year.

The results of this comparison do not support the portrayal of Webb as a candidate equipped to win over key white constituencies.

Take, for example, the ballots cast by white men. Webb lost among these voters by a 24-point margin, 38-62. Exit poll data on all House races in 2006 shows that Democratic House candidates lost white men by a smaller 9-point margin, 44-53. White women voted for Allen over Webb by 53-47; while House Democratic candidates split the votes of white women, 49-50.

Similarly, self-identified conservatives chose Allen over Webb by a 76-point margin, 12-88, while House Democratic candidates lost this segment of the electorate by a substantial but smaller margin, 58 points (20-78). Webb did not do any better with white evangelical and born-again Protestants, losing these voters by a larger margin than did House Democratic candidates.

To further check the validity of these comparisons, I looked at 2006 exit polls in two other close Democratic Senate contests, in Montana, where Tester beat Conrad Burns by less than 3,000 votes, 198,302 to 195,455, and Claire McCaskill in Missouri, who beat the incumbent Republican Jim Talent, 50-47.

Tester and McCaskill both performed better among white men and women, conservatives and white born-again and evangelical Protestants, than Webb did.

Let's forget Webb for a moment and take the question a step further. What are the prospects of winning the presidential nomination for a candidate who challenges current Democratic Party strategic orthodoxy? This strategy calls for identity group, rather than class-based, mobilization, on the assumption that turning out single women, the young, and racial and ethnic minorities is more effective than an uphill struggle to revive support in the recalcitrant white middle and working class.

As much as such a shift to a class-based strategy might result in economic policies more beneficial to less affluent Democratic constituencies, and therefore to more votes in the long haul, so far there has been insufficient intraparty pressure to force a change in strategic orientation.

It is not lost on Democratic strategists that President Obama won twice deploying a group-based rather than a class-based strategy. Even if the next Democratic nominee does not inspire the high minority turnout levels of 2008 and 2012, the 2016 electorate will be less Republican than it was in 2012. Every four years, the heavily Republican white share of voters drops by a little over 2 percent, and the disproportionately Democratic minority share grows by the same amount.

There are, however, fundamental problems with the current Democratic strategy, not least of which is that it is a strategy for winning presidential elections but not necessarily for exerting real political control.

The current approach depends on a Republican Party that refuses to adjust to the transforming composition of the electorate. The 2014 elections demonstrated, however, that the Republican Party and its candidates are not immune to feedback and will change if they have to in order to win.

Insofar as the Republican Party tempers its retrograde stance on social-sexual and moral-racial issues, Democratic campaigns stressing alleged threats from conservatives — the threat to freedom and privacy posed by the Christian right; the threat to Hispanic family unity posed by anti-immigrant activists; the threat to programs serving the poor posed by deficit hawks — will run out of gas.

That moment may be closer than expected. An Oct. 15 Washington Post/ABC poll found that the public held the Democratic Party "in worse regard than at any point in the past 30 years." An Oct. 24 Pew Research Center survey found, in turn, that the public favored Republicans over Democrats on such key issues as handling the economy, the budget deficit, immigration and terrorism.

Democrats, according to Pew, retained an advantage on less tangible qualities such as empathy, honesty and a willingness to compromise.

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As attractive as those characteristics are, they are not top priorities for voters. Both Pew and Gallup have found that, except in times of crisis – for example, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks — voters' top priorities consistently include bread-and-butter issues, jobs and the economy.

In September 2006, just before Democrats regained control of the House and Senate, the party held a 30-point advantage, 58-28, on the question, "which party is better able to handle the economy," according to Gallup. Going into the 2014 elections, Gallup found there had been a huge swing on this question, with Republicans now ahead 48-43.

If those numbers do not change significantly before Nov. 8, 2016, it won't matter whether the nominee seeks to strengthen a biracial coalition by broadening white support or by increasing turnout among the party's identity group constituencies. The Democrats' lack of credibility on economic issues will hobble, if not extinguish, the party's prospects. Unless the Democrats develop a coherent, comprehensive strategy for the have-nots, it won't matter whether the party's nominee is Clinton, Webb or anyone else.

New York Observer: "Hillary Clinton's Deafening Silence On Ferguson"

By Lincoln Mitchell

November 26, 2014, 10:15 a.m.

"The frustrations that we've seen," said President Obama in a statement yesterday about recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, "are not just about a particular incident. They have deep roots in many communities of color who have a sense that our laws are not always being enforced uniformly or fairly. That may not be true everywhere, and it's certainly not true for the vast majority of law enforcement officials, but that's an impression that folks have and it's not just made up. It's rooted in realities that have existed in this country for a long time." The comments demonstrate the President's keen understanding of the environment that has contributed to the demonstrations and frustration felt in Ferguson and elsewhere in the U.S. following a grand jury's decision not to indict Darren Wilson. "Next week," the President continued, "we'll bring together state and local officials, and law enforcement, and community leaders and faith leaders to start identifying very specific steps that we can take to make sure that law enforcement is fair and is being applied equally to every person in this country." That sentence should provide great succor to those who want to see few if any changes to the system that produced Darren Wilson and subsequent demonstrations.

Meanwhile, few aspirants hoping to succeed President Obama had much to say about Ferguson.

Most of the Republicans seeking their party's nomination for the presidency in 2016 said little or nothing about the grand jury decision and the events that followed. This was wise and reflected a strategic environment in which Republicans no longer compete for African American votes. By saying anything at all, Republican candidates such as Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio or Bobby Jindal would only risk making a verbal gaffe that would hurt them with the white moderates they need to win in a general election. Somewhat predictably, the most visible Republican presidential candidate in the hours since the grand jury decision has been Rand Paul. Mr. Paul indicated that there is a need for reforms in the criminal justice system and that issues related to drug use and poverty should be addressed as well.

The voice most glaringly absent in recent days has been that of Hillary Clinton. Ms. Clinton the front-running non-candidate for the Democratic nomination for President has, in recent months, not been shy about offering opinions about Ukraine, Isis or President Obama's various foreign policy foibles, but for some reason has not had very much to say about the grand jury's decision or the demonstrations that followed that decision. This is a reflection of Ms. Clinton's generally cautious political style, but also raises questions about Ms. Clinton and the Democratic Party itself.

African Americans are a huge part of the Democratic Party base. It is extraordinary that the party's second most visible leader does not see it necessary or helpful to speak out during a moment that is so important to so many African Americans. There are lots of things that can go wrong for a politician when she speaks out at during times like these, but taking risks defines leadership.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton hosts fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu (Times-Picayune)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Steven N. White" <hit-reply@linkedin.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/6/2016 3:39:37 PM
Subject: Proposed "Loose Canon on Deck" Political Ad v. Donald Trump

Hello Mr. Podesta,

As a lifelong Democrat who has majored in political science and practiced law for many years, I take great interest in the 2016 Presidential Campaign. Of mutual concern to all of us is the egotistic and fear mongering "sound bites" spewed by Donald Trump on many serious policy issues. His overly simplistic, and often unconstitutional, solutions and have profound negative social and national security consequences.

Many of us react, when hearing his views on issues such as Muslim immigration and undocumented aliens, with the thought that he is a dangerous "loose canon." This suggests a potential political ad with the theme of Trump being the "loose canon on deck." While we all find negative political ads to be distasteful at best, it is evident that the Hillary for President Campaign will need to apply "back-pressure" to what is sure be a string of highly negative personal attacks from the Trump Campaign.

A well-conceived and professional produced 30 second "loose canon on deck" ad can have a similar impact to the classic Goldwater little girl/nuclear explosion and Willie Horton ads that have been cited by political scientists as having been seminal in reinforcing public opinion.

The reference to a "loose canon on deck" conjures the image of a tall man-o-war sailing ship of the line. This "ship of state" scene would cut between several highly provocative Trump statements and the cannon breaking free and rolling around the deck; getting ever closer to the "powder magazine" with each statement.

Finally, the canon crashes into the "powder magazine" causing an explosion with a small mushroom cloud (not uncommon in any large explosion), with a fade to a caption or voice-over such as:

"The ship of state needs a steady experienced hand; not a loose canon. Elect Hillary Clinton for President."

I hope you find this suggested of interest.

Regards,

Steve White
941-870-4722

Reply | Not interested

View Steven N.'s LinkedIn profile

This email was intended for John Podesta (Chair of Hillary for America). Learn why we included this.

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact LinkedIn Customer Service .

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 7/16/2015 12:28:14 PM
Subject: Re: Iran

I am still studying the details, but based on the briefings I received and a review of the documents, I support the agreement because it can help us prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this agreement can make the United States, Israel, and our Arab partners safer.

"In light of the international community's long history and experience with Iranian behavior, the highest priority must be given to effective enforcement of the agreement. Signing is just the beginning. As President, I would use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. At the outset, we must see the verified roll back of the Iranian nuclear program required by the agreement. We can never permit Iran to evade its obligations or to place any suspicious site off limits to inspectors. And the response to any cheating must be immediate and decisive - starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, our military options.

"The message to Iran should be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement - never.

"Today's agreement is the culmination of a sustained strategy of pressure and engagement executed over many years. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. I know from experience what it took to build a global effort to get this done; I know what it will take to rally our partners to enforce it.

"Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with a nuclear agreement, Iran poses a real challenge to the United States and our partners and a grave threat to our ally Israel. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating the conflict in Syria. It is developing missiles that can strike every country in the Middle East. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to broadly confront and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held in Iranian prisons, and strengthen security cooperation with our allies and partners. Sanctions for terrorism, and other non-nuclear sanctions, must remain a key part of our strategy and must be vigorously enforced.

"Israel has to be confident that the United States will always ensure its Qualitative Military Edge in the region and its capacity to defend itself by itself. As President, I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our alliance. We must also deepen our security relationship with our Arab partners threatened by Iran. This includes our continued presence and providing needed capabilities. Iran should have no doubt about our support for the security of our partners.

"I know that there are people of good faith who oppose this deal - people I respect. They raise concerns that have to be taken seriously. They are right to call for extreme vigilance. I am as familiar with Iranian behavior and the need to confront it as anyone. I support this agreement because I believe it is the most effective path of all the alternatives available to the U.S. and our partners to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

"So we should applaud President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and Secretary Moniz for getting this done, and proceed with wisdom and strength in enforcing this deal to the fullest and in meeting the broader Iranian challenge."

On Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 5:57 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

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Jake,

I am sorry, but I do not see it. Can you share it?

Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
Subject: Re: Iran

Stu -- have you read her statement?

On Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 10:34 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

It is clear the campaign and Hillary want to be seen as simply praising the Iran deal without any of the qualifications and assurances to our allies we have discussed for weeks. You had even strengthened the language I proposed on using all means to stop an Iranian nuclear weapon during or after the expiration of the term of the Agreement. Is this now all by the boards? I am very concerned about her loss of Jewish and moderate support, without the kind of statement I assumed would be forthcoming.

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "John Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu>
Date: 12/1/2014 5:57:41 AM
Subject: Re: global tech initiative

Can you send Eryn some times that might work when you are together.

On Nov 30, 2014 5:01 PM, "John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu > wrote:
John,

I am happy to talk about this and I do have ideas about how an international CCS initiative should be/might be organized. It would be different that the pattern of bilateral until now. Let me know when you are free; Pete and I will be at the SEAB meeting at NREL in Denver on Tuesday and Wednesday.

John

> On Nov 30, 2014, at 2:38 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> The three of us should talk. China project is supposed to involve international partners.
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
>> On Nov 30, 2014, at 1:19 PM, Pete <progden@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Yeah, Deutch didn't have any answers off the top of his head about how to operationalize something bigger but said that if you wanted him to spend time trying to work something like that up he'd want to talk to you directly first.
>>
>> Let me know if you do want to do that -- I am going to see him Thur -- or if there's someone else you'd like me to approach. Arun Majumdar?
>>
>> --Pete
>>
>>
>> On Nov 30, 2014, at 11:33 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Not sure what to do with this beyond ccs demo announced in Beijing.
>>
>> JP
>> --Sent from my iPad--
>> john.podesta@gmail.com
>> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>>
>>> On Nov 29, 2014, at 2:07 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Hi John -- Good seeing you the other day, and hope you had a good Thanksgiving.
>>>
>>> I asked John Deutch if he had any thoughts about what a global technology initiative might look like, and he sent the attached note for you to take a look at. He makes the case that the focus should be on CCS, and told me that nuclear he thought too expensive and solar was progressing on its own. If you are interested in him thinking about what exactly the shape of an initiative might be, he'll want to hear from you directly.
>>>
>>> Let me know if there's anyone else you think that I should solicit ideas on this from at at this stage.
>>>
>>>
>>> --Pete
>>> <CCS RD&D proposal.pdf>

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From: "Edson Brolin" <ebrolin@me.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/8/2014 1:42:58 AM
Subject: Nuclear Power - the elephant in the climate change room

Dear Dr. Podesta,

I am one of the millions receiving e-mails from the White House and recently received one from you on climate change. After reading the President's plan I was disappointed (but not surprised) by how politically correct it was. "The future is renewable energy," was the message. No mention of nuclear power, which is the only feasible, clean substitute for the base-load electricity generation currently provided by fossil fuels. Even in his second term, even when some argue that the future of mankind is at stake, the President (and his science advisor) hang onto the fiction that renewable energy is the primary substitute for carbon-based fuels. I have been responsible for the design and construction of coal-fired power plants and nuclear power plants (military and civilian), was a DAS at the Energy Department and Deputy Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, and have 10 KWp of photovoltaic panels on my property, i.e., I have some knowledge of the technology and the science.

Replacing all of our fossil-fired power plants would require building 400-500 nuclear plants (8 per state, on average). That would give us a nuclear power plant "density" about 1/2 that of France today. What we need is a Manhattan-project-style building program for carbon-free power plants (nuclear and renewable), not more political correctness, from our leaders.

Bottom line - the Administration is not serious about reducing carbon pollution.

EC Brolin
ebrolin@me.com
516-524-8653
99 Cooks Lane, Water Mill, NY 11976

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/7/2016 8:28:04 AM
Subject: News Update - January 7

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, January 7

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Abbas to Bibi: Only Replacement of PA is a Palestinian State**
- **Tel Aviv Terrorist Believed to Have Fled to Territories**
- **Erdan: 90% of Illegal Weapons in Northern Israel from IDF**
- **New Mossad Head Says Iran Remains Israel's Key Threat**
- **Israel Busts Hamas Cell That Planned Kidnappings, Murder**
- **Gunmen Fire at Tour Bus Carrying Two Israeli Tourists in Egypt**
- **Palestinian Authority Sides with Saudis in Iran Spat**
- **Egypt Asks Israel to Keep Turkey Away from Gaza**

Commentary:

- **Ha'aretz: "Bigger Budgets Won't Buy Israel's Arabs Equality"**
  - By David Rosenberg, Economics Editor, Ha'aretz
- **Times of Israel: "We're Literally the Border Between ISIS and Free World"**
  - Interview with Naftali Bennett By David Horovitz, Times of Israel

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Ha'aretz

Abbas to Bibi: Only Replacement of PA is a Palestinian State

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejected Wednesday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's concerns of a possible collapse of the Palestinian Authority, saying there was no plan in place for a break down of the interim self-governing body, which he said could only be replaced by a Palestinian state. "The PA will remain and any replacement must be a [Palestinian] state," Abbas said, adding that the PA "was one of the Palestinian people's achievements. They won't give up on it and no one should even dream of its collapse."
See also, "Abbas Says PA Not Nearing Collapse, Despite Rumors" (BICOM)

Yedioth Ahronoth

Tel Aviv Terrorist Believed to Have Fled to Territories

The security establishment hopes that they are closing in on Nashat Milhem, the murderer from the Hasimta pub: after six days of an unprecedented manhunt throughout Israel, the assessment is consolidating among the police and the GSS that Milhem has fled to the territories. His family in the village of Ara is also certain that he is no longer in the country. "The family believes, mainly Nashat's father, that his son is in the territories—and not inside the Green Line," said the family's lawyer attorney Nahmi Feinblatt.
See also, "Tel Aviv Shooter Thought to Be Hiding in West Bank" (BICOM)

Ma'ariv

Erdan: 90% of Illegal Weapons in Northern Israel from IDF

Missiles, grenades, rifles, explosives materiel and demolition blocks—these are just some of the illegal arsenal common in the Arab sector. This was stated yesterday at a rowdy meeting of the Interior Committee discussing the phenomenon of illegal weapons in the sector against the backdrop of the Dizengoff Street attack. Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan revealed at the meeting, "90% of the illegal weapons in northern Israel come from the IDF." An IDF official provided the committee with data on weapon thefts from the IDF in 2015 that 67 firearms were stolen from IDF bases. This surprised the committee as other reports held that number of illegal weapons much higher.
See also, "500,000 Illegal Guns in the Arab Sector, and Nobody Cares" (Arutz Sheva)

BICOM

New Mossad Head Says Iran Remains Israel's Key Threat

Yossi Cohen, the new head of Israel's Mossad Intelligence agency, yesterday outlined the challenges facing the country as he assumes his role, highlighting the threat posed by Iran. At a ceremony to mark the start of his term in office, Cohen said, "The key challenge is the Iranian threat," saying that July's long-term nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 powers (UK, US, France, Russia, China and Germany) had increased the danger. He commented, "Despite the nuclear deal — I think because of it — the threat has significantly increased."
See also, "New Mossad Chief: Iran Still Significant Threat" (Arutz Sheva)

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Times of Israel

Israel Busts Hamas Cell That Planned Kidnappings, Murder

Hamas terror cell that planned to kidnap and kill Israeli citizens was discovered by Israeli law enforcement in December, the Shin Bet security service announced on Thursday. The group, whose members were from Jerusalem and Hebron, had planned to use the corpses of their victim or victims in order to negotiate the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, similar to the motive behind abduction and killing of the three Israeli teenage boys in June 2014 .
See also, "Israel Busts Hamas Terror Cell Planning Abduction and Murder" (Jerusalem Post)

Jerusalem Post

Gunmen Fire at Tour Bus Carrying Two Israeli Tourists in Egypt

Gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on tourists, among them two Israelis, as they boarded a bus in Cairo on Thursday but there were no casualties, security sources said. The attack took place at a hotel in the Egyptian capital on a road leading to the pyramids. One gunmen was arrested at the scene and security forces surrounded the other attacker in another part of Cairo, said the sources. Israel's Foreign Ministry is currently investigating the report.
See also, "Israeli Tourists Targeted in Cairo Attack, None Hurt" (Times of Israel)

Times of Israel

Palestinian Authority Sides with Saudis in Iran Spat

The Palestinian Authority is standing behind Saudi Arabia in the current political row with Iran, Ramallah's envoy to the desert kingdom told a leading Arab daily. In an interview Wednesday with the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Palestinian ambassador Basem Al-Agha said that his government's position has been clear from the outset, and that when it came to Saudi sovereignty and security, it stood firmly on the side of Riyadh. "The Iranian government doesn't support the Palestinian Authority, which is at the forefront of confronting the Israeli enemy," he said. Al-Agha went on to say that "the Palestinians have suffered from Iran's actions and strange behaviors, which aim to undermine the legitimate Palestinian powers and to create 'conglomerates' against these legitimate powers."

Ha'aretz

Egypt Asks Israel to Keep Turkey Away from Gaza

Egypt has approached Israel asking for clarifications regarding recent progress in its reconciliatory talks with Turkey. Senior officials in Jerusalem told Ha'aretz that Egypt expressed its reservations regarding granting Turkey a role in the Gaza Strip, and asked whether Israel had committed to any easing of restrictions in the closure imposed on Gaza. These officials, who asked to remain anonymous due to the delicate diplomatic nature of the issue, stated that what caused the Egyptian government's displeasure was Israeli media reports from a few weeks ago, according to which a breakthrough had been reached in reconciliation talks with Turkey, as well as reports in the Turkish media that Israel had agreed to take significant steps in easing the maritime siege on Gaza.

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Ha'aretz – January 7, 2015

Bigger Budgets Won't Buy Israel's Arabs Equality

Startup Nation is doomed unless Israeli Arabs become better integrated, which isn't a function of government spending, but of Jewish Israelis changing their attitude.

By David Rosenberg, Economics Editor, Ha'aretz

The one thing we know for certain about last Friday's Tel Aviv shooting attack is that three people were killed, two of them Jews at a bar and one of them an Israeli Arab taxi driver. The presumed killer is Nashat Melhem, an Israeli Arab, but the police haven't caught him and don't know what motivated him to kill.

But it was enough for the media to routinely refer to him as a "terrorist" – and therefore an enemy of the state – because he was an Arab who had killed Jews, ignoring the fact that one of his victims was a fellow Arab). The prime minister used the tragedy of the shooting to make it an issue of Jewish-Arab relations, with a stern warning about Arab lawlessness and religious extremism. Days later, panicked Israeli passengers refused to let an airplane take off from Greece until two Israeli Arabs were taken off.

Apparently all it takes is one incident to arouse latent fears in many Jewish Israelis (including, it seems, Netanyahu) that Israeli Arabs are a threat that must be dealt with rather than fellow citizens. We ignore them most of the time but when they do make a brief visit to our conscious, it's usually as members of the Knesset making outrageous statements or young men running off to join Islamic State, setting off the same hysteria that followed last week's shootings.

But there are much bigger and more important things happening that tell a different and truer story. More and more Israeli Arabs are doing civilian national service and count for more than a quarter of the total, and polls routinely show they are content to be citizens of Israel. As the Paris attack showed, Europe has a much bigger problem with Muslim violence and alienation than Israel does within its borders. But the exceptions, and the media coverage they elicit, end up becoming the conventionally accepted rule.

Relative freedom for a people apart

Neglect and fear have created an unusual situation for Israeli Arabs, giving them the kind of cultural autonomy that would never pass muster in the West. They are educated in their own schools in their own language, they are subject to Muslim (or Christian) religious law on personal status issues and they live for the most part in their own self-governing towns. There are no bans on minarets as there are in Switzerland or the veil as in the case in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Arabic is an official language and appears on road signs and product labels. Muslim Arabs aren't drafted into the army.

It's been a tacit agreement that satisfied everybody. Arabs could preserve the culture, religion and values, and the Jews could go ahead and build their Jewish state without having to be too concerned about making its institutions and ideologies relevant or

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accessible to a large minority of its citizens, or even have much daily contact with them.

But – European multiculturalists take note – this autonomy has made Israeli Arabs a population apart, cut off from the mainstream and the opportunities it brings.

Arabs are less likely than Jews to hold a job, and Arab women are the least likely of all. The poverty rate for Arabs is nearly four times as high as it is for Jews. Arabs perform worse than Jews on standardized school exams, and far fewer finish high school ready to go on to higher education. Arab towns get much less money for infrastructure and services, they have less land available for expanding and are not served well by public transportation.

Discrimination plays a role in this, but it is also a function of separation. If your mother tongue is Arabic, it's much harder to compete in a Hebrew-speaking environment. If you don't serve in the army, you don't share in a key experience of Israeli life, make friends and connections, or learn skills.

When he isn't baiting Arabs, there is a pragmatic side of Bibi that understands that it can't continue like this.

Netanyahu may or may not be concerned about justice or equality, but he does understand that Israel will be in trouble economically if more isn't done to raise educational standards for Israeli Arabs, bring more of them into the workforce and provide them with better-paying, i.e., more productive, jobs. According to a projection by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the non-Haredi Jewish portion of Israel's population will shrink to 50% by 2059, from 68% today. The two growing segments of the population – Haredim, whose share will more than double to 26.6% and Arabs whose share reach 23.1% – are both less educated and less productive than the core Jewish population.

Unless Israel does something to narrow the gaps, we risk dropping out of the ranks of the world's developed economies. Startup Nation, which requires a highly educated and motivated workforce, will be history.

That's why the cabinet last week approved a plan to spend 15 billion shekels ($3.8 billion) over the next five years on a wide-ranging program to shore up Arab communities with extra budgets for things like roads and public transportation, better housing, daycare subsidies, helping build industrial zones and education. Nearly everything in in plan is geared toward making Israel's Arabs better prepared for the job market – and not just as construction workers or cleaners.

But even if the plan is carried out – and past government's record on initiatives like this has not been very good – it does nothing to change attitudes. In fact, even as Bibi gave his backing to the proposal, he couldn't help worrying about the political fallout from the right. His official statement on the plan didn't use the word "Arab," instead calling the beneficiaries "minorities," and devoted more words to their needing to be law-abiding citizens than Israel's need to close socio-economic gaps.

The message is we're giving you money but nothing else. We still don't trust you.

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You can build roads and industrial parks and improve educational standards, but if a young Arab engineering graduate doesn't get the job because he doesn't "fit in" or because another Arab murdered someone the week before somewhere, it will be all for naught. The buck doesn't stop with the budget. It stops with attitudes.

Times of Israel – January 7, 2016

Bennett: We're Literally the Border Between ISIS and Free World

Interview with Naftali Bennett By David Horovitz

Education Minister Naftali Bennett's athletic response to the Dizengoff attack made for quite a contrast with that of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who issued a bitter denunciation of lawlessness, disloyalty and incitement against Israel within Arab-Israeli society. In our interview, Bennett was strikingly upbeat about Israeli Arabs. "Israeli-Arab society is in a very positive trend," he said, calling Friday's attack "an anomaly" and stressing that the Israeli-Arab "mainstream wants to be part of Israeli society." In a conversation that covered Palestinian terrorism but began with Jewish terrorism, he was also strikingly critical of the radical fringe of Jewish extremists from whose ranks the alleged Duma murderer sprang.

Horovitz: The Duma murder case is immensely troubling. And watching film of that "hate wedding ," you see that this is not just a handful of people with that kind of mindset. How troubled are you by a) the killing and b) the wider phenomenon of an extremist fringe?

Bennett: First of all, I am troubled. But I do want to say, it is a fringe. It is. The actual ring is in the single figures, the people around it are in the tens, and I would say the sympathizers would be in the hundreds, but only hundreds. The more I learn about them, the more I see it's troubled youth, that in other circumstances, if they were in the city or something, they might have done drugs or something like that. They were hijacked by this very radical ideology. We now have to act in two directions. Obviously, whoever is involved in this murder, whether directly or indirectly, (there must be) full criminal (legal) action against them, which is happening. As you know, I backed providing the (security) services with special authority in interrogation.

We also have to act on the education side to get to these kids (in the wider circles). And again, it's not a big number, but the impact of their actions is huge. We have to pull them out of the grip of these people and get them back into society.

Horovitz: Where does the ideology come from? I'd like to believe that very few are capable of murder. But seeing the empathy for the notion, that this was something to celebrate, seeing dozens of people at that wedding, and then hearing from people that they've been to other weddings which, well, weren't quite so bad, but they were singing that song and waving knives…

Bennett: I'm not so familiar. Apparently the song is a song from the Bible. You can take anything and turn it into a terrible thing. For this fringe group, the murder is only a means. Their end is to dismantle Israel. That's their goal. In fact, you can see it in what they write. They are looking for the most sensitive issues, you know, the Arab-Jewish

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issue. They use the terminology: put the oil barrels there and blow them up. So, their very goal is to bring the world (down) upon us. It's the antithesis of the religious Zionist ideology which sees the state as something almost sacred. These people want to dismantle the state because they think the state of Israel is not legitimate. As I say, it's very, very rare.

There's a couple of rabbis at the very fringe that were involved in earlier stages. These people don't have rabbis. They don't have any leaders. No rabbi is extreme enough for them.

Horovitz: The rabbis planted the seeds?

Bennett: First, this term, "the rabbis," infers many, but one or two were a stage in the process of radicalization.

Horovitz: Should the authorities not be looking at them?

Bennett: I believe we are also looking at them. They were not involved in any murder, so it's a complicated situation, but we're looking at them. As (far as) we know right now, they no longer influence anyone. These kids are like a satellite that left orbit.

Horovitz: Netanyahu was quoted recently as saying we'll always have to live by the sword. I don't want always to have to live by the sword. As long as we have to, so be it. But I'd like to change that, if at all possible.

Bennett: I'm the last person who wants to live by the sword. I'm saying it as someone who participated in every military conflict as a soldier, as platoon commander, as a company commander. I served in the First Intifada, the Second Intifada, southern Lebanon in the 90s, Operation Defensive Shield (in the West Bank in 2002) and the Second Lebanon War. There's nothing worse than fighting in battle and losing your best friend, which happened to me in the Second Lebanon War. No one desires war.

(But look at) the reality of the Middle East, and this has nothing to do with Israel: Look at our borders. We've got Hezbollah on the Lebanese border. We have Jabhat al-Nusra on the Syrian border. We have Islamic State in Sinai. We have Hamas in Gaza. None of these players could care less about a peace deal or a certain piece of land. They have a grand vision, a very clear one, which can be boiled down to two words — an Islamic state. An Islamic caliphate. They're going to continue as long as they can. So the reality is that we need to live by the sword. I prefer living by the sword than not living. The reality, though, is that if we are overwhelmingly strong, if we are overwhelmingly powerful in our economy, in our morals, and in our willingness to use power, our power to defend ourselves, we'll see less loss of life. If we waver, we will face unprecedented battles and conflicts.

I'm very optimistic about Israel, notwithstanding the threats on our borders. We've always had difficult borders. When I look at the mega trends in Israel: We've talked about Arab society. We can talk about the haredim, who are gradually joining society. Not as fast as I'd want it, but they are joining. Look at high-tech. This year, new investments in start-ups in Israel are equivalent to almost all of Europe combined. That's unbelievable. What we're doing in water technology, in medicine, in cyber-security.

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Horovitz: The death toll in Gaza last summer, Israel is being destroyed, image-wise over that. Even now, with a hundred plus Palestinians dead in the latest terror wave, Israel is being battered over that, even though most of those who have been killed were in the act of trying to kill us.

Bennett: Look, the ancient and new sport is to apply the same tools that were applied to individual Jews to the Jewish state. You place any state in our shoes, in perhaps the toughest location on earth, with an amazing tower of democracy, with the way we treat our minorities, the way we conduct ourselves, the vibrancy of this House over here, the Knesset, I'm so proud to be Israeli… you put any other country in our situation: no one would act as morally as we are.

It's very easy to sit somewhere thousands of miles away from here and second guess us. But we're fighting the battle of the free world. We're literally the border between Islamic State and the free world. Quite literally. The Golan Heights, that's where radical Islam meets the free world. The Lebanese border is where Hezbollah and Iran meets the free world. Physically. And it's tough. And if we weren't here, you'd see it all flow to the West. So we're the front bastion of the free world. That's how we should be presenting it. We're being treated unfairly. It's nothing new. It's thousands of years old.

David Horovitz is a founding editor of the Times of Israel. Visit TimesofIsrael.com for the full interview.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
For comments, please contact us at info@centerpeace.org .
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com>
Date: 1/17/2016 3:18:44 AM
Subject: Re: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Adding Corey

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 17, 2016, at 10:13 AM, Karen Dunn <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com > wrote:

> Need to know how many people get guns through Charleston loophole broken down by timeframe. The last thing he said he would look at something it took a very long time.
>
> On Jan 17, 2016, at 10:06 AM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** Nick Baer <nbaer@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** January 17, 2016 at 9:47:53 AM EST
> > **To:** HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders**
> >
> > **NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders**
> >
> > Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=95f60a8d-a842-40b1-bcea-b1a96e194209
> >
> > Rough Transcript
> >
> > **CHUCK TODD:** let me start with one of the issues that's likely to come up tonight at the debate, that's the issue of gun safety. last night in what the clinton campaign is referring to as a debate-eve conversion you came out in favor of essentially repealing immunity for gun manufacturers when it comes to being held liable for gun deaths. that's a switch of your positions. what brought you to this conclusion?
> >
> > **BERNIE SANDERS:** well, not really. you know, i understand that secretary clinton and her campaign understand that, you know, they're losing ground. we've started this campaign off 359% in the poll at 3% in the polls, we're closing in in iowa and we're ahead in new hampshire. so i sense in the next few weeks you'll see more --
> >
> > **CHUCK TODD:** but you did change your position on this.
> >
> > **BERNIE SANDERS:** what i said several months ago, having a d-minus voting record from the nra, voting to ban assault weapons in 1988, yeah, that was a piece of legislation i wanted to relook at. but what that legislation had is a prohibition on armor-piercing bullets, it had language for a child lock safety for our kids, important provision. there were things i do not like and i was willing to rethink. we have rethought it. there's a bill apparently being introduced, i like that bill, it makes good changes and we will be supportive of it.
> >
> > **CHUCK TODD:** another thing that will come up on the issue of gun safety is the issue of a waiting period. the clinton campaign is hitting you on not being supportive of something longer like a five day or seven day window and the reason this is being brought up is if dylann roof, the man who killed those nine folks in charleston last year, if there had been a longer waiting period he might have been prevented from buying a gun.
> >
> > **BERNIE SANDERS:** look, what we saw in charleston is a tragedy of unspeakable dimensions. i did some pray a guy did

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prayer with people then takes out a gun and shoots nine people. i believe very strongly in instant background checks. i think we have to expand it and make sure 100% that we keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have that, people with criminal backgrounds, people who are mentally unstable. that has been my view from day one. but you know, chuck, i think the reason the clinton campaign is getting defense sieve they see that we have the momentum. they see the issues we are talking about, a disappearing middle-class and new income and going to the top 1%, a corrupt campaign finance system where people like secretary clinton can raise millions of dollars through super pacs, those are the issues they don't want to discuss so tonight we're going to be discussing a lot of issues and the main issues is why the rich get richer, almost everybody else gets poorer and the fact that we have got to stand up to the billionaire class and change those dynamics.

CHUCK TODD: so you're in in favor of a longer background check? a five, seven-day background check?

BERNIE SANDERS: we are willing to look at anything that makes sense, that keeps guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. but i'm not going to be defensive on that issue. i lost an election in 1988, probably lost an election because i had the courage back then to say assault weapons should not be sold in america.

CHUCK TODD: let me ask you quickly about the iran deal. is iran still an enemy of the united states given what's going on? the improved diplomatic relations?

BERNIE SANDERS: it's funny. if you think back to 2007 during the campaign in which secretary clinton ran against barack obama she was critical of him, a question was asked to obama and said "would you sit down and talk to the iranians?" and he said "yeah, i would." point bag in you talk to your adversaries, you don't run away from that. secretary clinton i think called him naive. turns out that obama was right so clearly we have many, many issues and many concerns with iran but clearly also we want to improve our relationship with this very powerful country. i think the agreement to make certain iran does not get a nuclear weapon was a huge step forward. the fact we have the prisoner release was a good important step forward. so i hope we can continue to go forward to improve relations with iran.

CHUCK TODD: senator sanders, i'll leave it there. we'll look forward to seeing you, secretary clinton and martin o'malley on stage on nbc thank you, sir. it's going to be a humdinger of a debate. you heard senator sanders there mentioned hillary clinton in almost every single answer.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Graham Allison" <grahamallison@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/4/2015 5:03:28 AM
Subject: The Iran Nuclear Deal: A Definitive Guide

Colleagues & Friends,

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is one of the most critical – and consequential – documents that many members of Congress will ever review.

Does it really block Iran's pathway to nuclear weapons? Does it help the United States better detect and deter future illegal Iranian nuclear activity? What are its strengths and weaknesses?

To help all of us with a stake in this debate answer these and related questions, the Belfer Center's team of Iran, nuclear, and arms control experts have worked together to publish "The Iran Nuclear Deal: A Definitive Guide."

Definitive Guide Here

Our booklet systematically assesses the agreement, offering balanced summaries and analysis of all its major provisions. This is neither a partisan nor a consensus document. Reflecting the range of its authors – Republicans, Democrats, independents, and internationals who have served at the highest government, military, and policy posts – "The Iran Nuclear Deal" articulates both the pros and cons of the key issues in the agreement.

We hope you find this guide valuable. I welcome your feedback.

Graham Allison
Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
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From: "Gary Hart" <Gary.Hart@ucdenver.edu>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/11/2008 3:32:39 AM
Subject: FW: Checking in

John

Given all on your plate, and what I can imagine is a huge volume of incoming, I've been reluctant to add to it. But, please forward this to whomever is handling homeland security transition. Kevin McAleenan had a senior staff position at DHS for several years and knows the current vulnerabilities of the Department. He is preparing a short paper on do's and don'ts and I will forward it to whomever you suggest. But this note gives an idea of what he has to offer. He is not seeking to come back to the government.
I've been sending worthy candidates to Federico. Let me know if I can help further.
All best.

Gary

-----Original Message-----
From: Kevin McAleenan [mailto:kevinmcaleenan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 9:08 PM
To: Gary Hart
Subject: Re: Checking in

Thank you very much Sir. I have set aside time to work on the paper tomorrow, and will try to send it by tomorrow night or Wednesday. The premise is that there are a number of key issues that the incoming Administration will need to be prepared to address in the initial weeks and months of taking over the Department that are not widely understood--as few senior Democrats have spent time working in the new Department of Homeland Security, and its numerous agencies and complex headquarters' structure are not transparent. For example, with three "new" agencies represented by the creation of Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Citizenship and Immigration Services merging people and functions from multiple departments, and the establishment of the Transportation Security Administration all occurring since the last Democratic Administration, there are a number of difficult cultural, policy, and operational issues to be addressed. Additionally, with new incident management mechanisms, including Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, the National Response Plan, and the NIMS, the new DHS team will need to be prepared to manage responses to new threat information, natural or man-made disasters, a pandemic, and potentially even a terrorist attack.

Further, there are a number of key programs with high profile policy and operational issues that will present opportunities, but also major pitfalls, in the early weeks and months of the new Administration. The paper will discuss the major programs involved in air traveler risk assessment currently being implemented, including Secure Flight, pre-departure APIS, the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, and U.S. VISIT exit. Each face significant implementation challenges or policy concerns, including media, private sector, and Congressional scrutiny or opposition. Other areas, such as the SBInet program, which is intended to provide next generation technology to secure the border between Ports of Entry, and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office's Radiation Portal Monitoring program, have been harshly criticized and are at crossroads. These and several other programs will need to be understood and addressed early on. I have had the opportunity to be involved in many of these areas from my experience as Executive Director of CBP's Office of Antiterrorism, and then, operationally, as Port Director at LAX for CBP. I would welcome the opportunity to transfer this knowledge to the incoming team and help them hit the ground running. I will send the paper on as soon as possible, and hopefully it will prove useful to you and the team charged with getting a handle on these concerns in the next 70 days or so.

Thanks and best regards,

Kevin

----- Original Message ----
From: Gary Hart <Gary.Hart@ucdenver.edu>
To: Kevin McAleenan <kevinmcaleenan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 2:43:21 PM

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Subject: RE: Checking in

Kevin

I've sent your kind offer of help on to the appropriate officials and hope they will be in touch to follow up. In the meantime, if you have time to do the paper, please send it along.
Thanks and all best.

GH

-----Original Message-----
From: Kevin McAleenan [mailto:kevinmcaleenan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2008 11:55 AM
To: Gary Hart
Subject: Checking in

Senator Hart,

Just thought I would check in with you Sir. What an exciting new time in American politics! Than you again for putting Steve Flynn in contact with me. We had a great breakfast last week and I'm hoping to be able to work with him as he determines his role in the transition. I trust that the President-Elect's team will be seeking your sage counsel as well.

If you do get called upon, and you need someone, or are aware that the transition team needs someone who has worked at senior levels of the Department of Homeland Security to help provide ground truth on a number of issues, I would be happy to do that. My concern is that, as no senior Democrat has managed in the upper levels of the Department, there are a number of pitfalls on management issues, culture, key programs and policies, that are not transparent. I'm currently working on a paper on these points that I will forward to you.

In the meantime, best regards, and let me know if I can be of any service to you or your contacts; I have attached my CV. I'm not looking for a job in the Administration and have secured a commitment from my firm to give me the time necessary to support transition efforts if I should be called upon. Take care,

Kevin

Kevin McAleenan

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From:	"Milton Regan" <regan@law.georgetown.edu>
To:	"Law Faculty and Visitors" <LawFacultyandVisitors@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	11/19/2015 7:52:06 AM
Subject:	December 4 Conference
Attachments:	Econ Inequality Conference Final.docx

Dear Colleagues,

As a recent article in the *Scientific American* notes, "The average American believes that the richest fifth own 59% of the wealth and that the bottom 40% own 9%. The reality is strikingly different. The top 20% of US households own more than 84% of the wealth, and the bottom 40% combine for a paltry 0.3%. The Walton family [of WalMart], for example, has more wealth than 42% of American families combined . As the journalist Chrystia Freeland put it, 'Americans actually live in Russia, although they think they live in Sweden.'" Or, as comedian George Carlin put it many years ago, "The reason they call it the American Dream is because you have to be asleep to believe it."

What will it take to wake up? We will be taking a modest step in that direction by hosting a day-long Friday, December 4 conference on *Economic Inequality: Causes, Consequences, and Responses.* It will feature a distinguished group of thinkers who will be discussing the multiple dimensions of inequality on both a domestic and global level. I'm attaching a schedule for the day.

Our attention has of course been riveted in the past week on the horrific events in Paris, and we are all understandably anxious about the threat of terrorism. At the same time, economic inequality is a profound challenge to our sense of a common life. As one column put it, "The challenge America faces is not simply a matter of equity. The bloated incarceration rates and rock-bottom life expectancy, the unraveling families and the stagnant college graduation rates amount to an existential threat to the nation's future."

I hope that you can join us on Friday, December 4 on the twelfth floor of Gewirz for a wide-ranging discussion of this urgent issue. Please RSVP here, so that we can plan accordingly and you can indicate your lunch preference: http://goo.gl/forms/ufxX1D977H

Thanks,
Mitt

Mitt Regan
McDevitt Professor of Jurisprudence
Co-Director, Center for the Study of the Legal Profession
Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-662-9414

Distinguished Chair in Ethics, 2015-2016
Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership
U.S. Naval Academy

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/23/2008 3:26:16 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Ormond Beach, FL 10/23/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain says Obama would have the troops come home in defeat -- someone yells "Un-American!"
- Says w/ 13 days to go in election, Obama has changed his tax plan again. Obama will say anything to get elected - now if youre unemployed, his tax plan wont help you; while his tax incr. will hurt you.
- Says yesterday obama tried to explain away biden's comments by saying sometimes his RM engages in "rhetorical flourishes" -- really? thats another way of saying he sometimes gives some straight talk
- Repeats, on Biden crisis comments, i know how close to nuclear war we came - i have been tested, obama hasnt -- it shows in his responses to challenges abroad (e.g. meeting w/ some world's worst dictator, incl. castro bros)
    - again mixes up obama and biden: says "sen obama" told campaign donors that they'd need to stand w/ them
    - are you ready to trust america's natl security to an untested leader in a time of war? 2 wars we're in
- McCain promises we'll share revenues w/ crist and any state who wants it (on offshore drilling)
- Intro speaker, Patty the small business leader, says Most small business owners earn over Obama's "magical" $250k limit

Ormond Beach, FL: McCain Rally 10/23/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Crist - we're ahead in FL, we'll be ahead in america
- Patty Turbine, the small business leader - represent the women that own 41% of small businesses in America
    - yelling
    - difficult times. Fuel costs. Utilities. Taxes. Every dollar I need two in sales to break even.
    - **most small business owners own over obama's magical $250k limit [someone yells "spread the wealth!"]**
    - small business needs fuel indep. and no new taxes
    - a vote for McCain/Palin is vote for survival of small business machine
- Tom Crowe, owner of Allstar Building Materials; event host
    - no new news that we've all been affected by Wall St greed this past yr;we face threat of terrorism anywhere, anytime; no new news that war is unpopular but need to be won
    - I have closed a store, laid off 150 employees. hardest thing is i had to let go of my own kids
    - americans are a bootstrap ppl
    - Mccain is the only candidate to do this. Principle integrity, knows from experience. Next president of the US, john mccain.
- In attendance: Sen. Mel Martinez

Speech Highlights

TY Tim Curtis of Hooligan. Richard, who is Joe The Florist. TY gov. crist, sen. mel martinez - the American dream. and the brains of the outfit, my wife, cindy.

Just came back from ohio, introduced Palin. Cant wait to introduce her to DC. Drain swamp, clean up the mess.

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So proud. Reform family. Very proud and know you are too.

Honored to be back, spent part of navy career.

Straight talk, we need to win and bring real change to Washington. We need your vote, 12 days. Lots of words and after months of campaign trail eloquence, told the plumber "speard the wealth around". Redistributing the wealth, not growing the economy. Obama is more interested in controlling your piece of the pie than growing the pie. joe the plumber, or joe here, joes all over here. We shouldn't be taxing small business more. We need to be helping them expand, create jobs.

The small business owners, raise your hands. Thank you and god bless you. Same dream as joe the plumber. Obama wants to spread it around. Fewer jobs result. **Obama is concerned that his plan is seen as welfare. He changed his tax plan after American learned the truth about it. He'll say anything to get elected. Unemployed, he wont help you at all.** More concerned about using taxes to spread wealth than creating jobs, growing economy.

Worst possible time, especially for small business. small businesss would tax, provide 16 million jobs. He'd kill jobs. I'm not gonna let that happen. Mccain palin tax cut is for real. Cut cap gains tax, business tax. Keep jobs in America. Joe and small business owners, America didn't become the greatest by giving money t o gov. we spread opportunity.

Next president wont have time to get used to office. Lots of challenges. Ill bring troops home in honor and victory ,not in defeat. Obama woud have them come home in defeat **[someone yells "un-american!"]**

Biden crisis. **We don't want a president that invites crisis. Obama tried to explain this away saying it was a "rhetorical flourish" - really? really? what he means is it was straight talk. Biden accidently delivered some straight talk to America**.

Biden referred to jack Kennedy. I had a little experience with that and I was ready to go. I know how close we came to nuclear war. I have been tested, he has not.

Obama told camp donors . apparent. We know he wont have the right response. We've seen the wrong response over and over. Against surge. Sit down unconditional with dictators, including castro brothers. He's wrong on all. Ready to trust security to untested.

we cant spend next 4 yrs as we have the last 8, waiting for our luck change. We have to act, new direction and we have to fight for it. I've been fighting for this country since 17 and have scar to prove it. I'll fight to shake up Washington. I'm not afraid of the fight, im ready for it. Not gonna spend 750 billion to bailout. Sub prime crisis. Make sure we take care f these people. Will protect the value of your home. Buy mortgages, stay in home. Realize the American dream, buy up these mortgages, keep people in their homes. Why isn't the sec of treasury doing this? Retirees. Hold line on taxes to make America competitive.

Raising taxes makes economy worse. Obama wants to raise taxes in bad economy, I will never do that. Explosion of gov spending has put us into debt to countries that don't like us. I wont spend more of your money, Obama will and he want without taxing or debt. Government will live on budget like you. Ill freeze government spending on all but most important programs. Ill veto every single pork barrel and you'll know their names. 1 million a day in pork for Obama. You need jobs.

I wont make it harder to sell ur goods oversees. Make sure trade is free and fair. Obama wants to raise taxes. Last time – depression. History lessons and I wont make the same mistake Obama seeks to repeat. If – when I'm elected [on his own here] president we're gonna stop sending oil money abroad.
I acknowledge Obamas eloquence. Consider off shore drilling. We'll drill now and share revenue with the people of florida. You deserve it. Bring down the cost of oil. Invest in all alternative. Manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel. Create millions of new jobs.

Straight talk – FL is battleground state, gotta win. 12 days. America needs a fighter, who puts all cards on table. I have fought most of life. Sidelines. I know you're worried. America is great but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

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I am an American and I choose to fight.
Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

TY and god bless you and god bless the united states of America. I need your help. Thank you and god bless…

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 3:46:22 AM
Subject: Re: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

It was beautiful to watch

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2015, at 10:37 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> This is amazing. A pleasure to read.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Apr 26, 2015, at 10:31 AM, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > great work everyone. this interview is perfect. he lands nothing and everything is refuted (mostly based on our work)
> >
> > On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > # 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer
> >
> > Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET
> >
> > **This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.**
> >
> > **http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true**
> >
> > GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.
> >
> > Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.
> >
> > You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.
> >
> > So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?
> >
> > PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?
> >
> > And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.
> >
> > There are dozens of examples of that occurring.
> >
> > Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.
> >
> > STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..
> >
> > SCHWEIZER: Correct.
> >
> > STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?
> >
> > SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them

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campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal** ," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not

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disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

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SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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From:	"Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	2/21/2015 2:17:42 PM
Subject:	All the things
Attachments:	February Scheduling Memo 0221.docx

On your desk:
- Updated Call Log

- This memo attached and below (whichever is easiest to read--spacing below is probably weird because it looks better on hard copy). As you can tell, there's still a few things that I might be able to land tomorrow on Tues, Thurs, or Fri.

Memo Organization:

1. **Day-by Day: Sun - Sat**
2. **Post-Transition Meeting Requests**

No attachments unless specified

In approximate order of date requested (some are very flexible)

POST-TRANSITION TO DO:

- OGE 278 (DUE MARCH 12)

- Figure out what's going on with State / Post-2015

- @johnpodesta & Facebook social media strategy

- United Mileage Plus for Ethiopia Return

- Eryn: Fix NYT & WAPO on iPad

- Farther Out: POTUS Departure Photo (need Mae travel dates)

FYI: Gym waiver will be activated by Tuesday morning.

To confirm, contact Ashley Marvel: amarvel@americanprogress.org

HELPFUL CONTACTS FOR THE WEEK:

CAP:

Neera's asst: Maggie Polacheck: mpolachek@americanprogress.org ; 202-741-6303

If Tech isn't working: tech@americanprogress.org (or ask Maggie to put in a request for you)

HR Questions: Debbie Fine, Ashley Marvel, or HR Specialist Mercedes Sparenberg @ x8181

Equitable Growth:

Heather's asst: Enjoli (pronounced AHN-joe-lee) Timmons: etimmons@equitablegrowth.org ; x3693

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HRC/Robby:

HRC Body Woman: Marisa McAuliffe: Cell: 813-480-9370; mmcauliffe.hrco@gmail.com

Robby's Asst: Marissa Astor: Cell: 301-613-3675; marissa.astor@icloud.com

Cheryl's Asst: Joanne Laszczych: Cell: 646-448-8315; jlaszczych@cdmillsgroup.com

Each appointment listed below has a point of contact in case you have to move anything or need confirmation that all is staying the same.

Sunday Feb 22

Personal:

None

HRC:

12 pm: Standing Call – (Moved from normal 8 am time) (1-530-881-1000 // 742374#)

Point of Contact: Cheryl's Asst: Joanne Laszczych: Cell: 646-448-8315; jlaszczych@cdmillsgroup.com

Monday Feb 23: Eryn totally out of comms starting around 6 pm

Personal:

7:45 am: Breakfast with John Anzalone @ Sofitel
Anzalone Contact: john@ALGpolling.com; 334-387-3121; Asst: Mona@algpolling.com

10:15 am: Coffee with Guy Cecil @ Starbucks at 14th & K (right side of 14th, just north of Hamilton Hotel) Contact: ghcecil@gmail.com

2-3 pm: Molly McUsic @ Wyss Foundation, 1601 Connecticut Ave NW, 8th Floor

Molly Contact: (202) 232-4418 x12 or asst x10 (Theo); Molly Cell: (202) 669-8528

Equitable Growth:

11:30 am: Meeting with Elisabeth Jacobs:
Loc: WCEG (1st Floor -- Elisabeth's Office) Contact: ejacobs@equitablegrowth.org

CAP:

12:30 pm: Meeting with Neera in her office (one hour blocked, though should only need 30 mins. After meeting with Neera, please leave for WyssFound no later than 1:40 pm)

HRC:

None tracking

GULC:

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Prep Time: 3-5:15 pm
Paper Topics: 5:15 – 6:15 pm
Class Time: 6:15 – 7:45 pm (Phil Barnett)

Tuesday Feb 24

CAP:

C3 Board Call: 10 am – 12 pm (1-888-387-8686 // Code: 659-627-5745#, or meet in Neera's)

Board Contact if you have questions: Debbie Fine, or you can ask Maggie anything (Neera's asst)

Personal:

2 pm: Call with Dave Chen (YOU will call him at 503-706-3504)
Dave Contact: chen@eq-cap.com ; 503-706-3504; Asst: Beth: smith@eq-cap.com

HRC:

None Tracking

Equitable Growth:

None

Wednesday Feb 25

Personal:

1:30 – 2:30 pm: Exit Appt with Dan Baumstark
Contact: physiodc@gmail.com ; (202) 223-8500

4:30 – 5 pm: Future of Nuclear Call w/Deese & Deutch (Dial-in: 202-456-1325 // Code: 947-1648)

Deese Contact: Daniel_Hornung@omb.eop.gov

Deutch Contact: jmd@mit.edu

Equitable Growth:

3-4 pm: Meeting with Heather Boushey (only need 30 mins but blocked 1 hr just in case)
Loc: Heather's office on 1st floor
Heather Contact: hboushey@equitablegrowth.org
Heather's asst: Enjoli (pronounced AHN-joe-lee): etimmons@equitablegrowth.org ; x3693

HRC:

5-6 pm: Weekly Earned Media Call (Dial-In Number: (712) 775-7031 // Passcode: 348-729-735)

Call Contact: Robby's asst Marissa Astor: marissa.astor@icloud.com // 301-613-3675

CAP:

None

Other:

6:30pm: Raj Shah Farewell
Loc: Long View Gallery, 9th st NW between M & N -- 1234 9th St NW

Thursday Feb 26

CAP:

9:45 am: Vikram Singh
Loc: Vikram's Office, 11th Floor

Vikram Contact: vsingh@americanprogress.org ; Asst: Ken: ksofer@americanprogress.org x6397

Personal:

10:30 – 11:30 am: Susan Sandler & Andy Wong of Southern Elections Fund, CCC
Location: Your office
Susan Contact: ses@sandlerfoundation.org ; (415) 420-1338

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HRC:

3 pm: Dan Schwerin & Jake Sullivan (last physical appt of the day so you are not crunched for time with them)

Loc: Perkins Coie, 700 13th Street (Marissa is setting up the room—Likely "Richmond" on 6th fl)

Contact: Robby's asst Marissa Astor: marissa.astor@icloud.com // 301-613-3675

TIME PENDING: Runway/Launch Call on Thursday
Contact: Robby's asst Marissa Astor: marissa.astor@icloud.com // 301-613-3675

Equitable Growth:

None

Friday Feb 27

Personal:

10 – 11 am: Phil Barnett w/Phil Schiliro & Greg Dotson
Loc: CAP -- 10th Floor Green Room Conference Room
Greg email: gdotson@americanprogress.org

2 pm: Call with Rhea Suh to discuss Mar 11: You will call her on her cell at (415) 999-8256
Contact: rsuh@nrdc.org ; Rhea's Asst Willa: wbugnon@nrdc.org ; 212-727-4465

HRC:

None tracking

CAP:

None

Equitable Growth:

None

Saturday Feb 28: Eryn returns (back in comms around 1 pm; back in DC 8 pm)

Personal:

Mattie Bekink: 10 am @ Brandywine

HRC:

None tracking

CAP:

None

Equitable Growth:

None

Other Unscheduled for Feb 23 - 28

Personal:

Mike Berman (Eryn reached out re: Tues, Thurs, or Fri; advised him to email you if she can't land a time before leaving)
Mike's Contacts: mberman@dubersteingroup.com ; Home: (202) 342-9553

Harold Ickes (Eryn reached out re: Tues, Thurs, or Fri; advised him to email you if she can't land a time before leaving. Harold's Contacts: hickes@ickesenright.com ; Cell: (202) 997-1893)

Follow Up Call with **Scott Nathan** (Eryn has not reached out—please do so at scott.nathan@gmail.com)

Follow Up Call with **Chris Kirchhoff** on Winnefeld Memo:
Chris is out of the country will not be back in comms until Mon 2/23.

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He can be reached at Cell: 202-321-4883; office: 202-456-9293; Christopher_M_Kirchhoff@nsc.eop.gov

HRC:

Dinner follow-up meeting with **Lee Saunders** (Eryn reached out re: Tues, Thurs, or Fri; advised him to email you if she can't land a time before leaving)

Saunders Contact: lsaunders@afscme.org ; Asst Renee: RBarnes@afscme.org ; (202) 429-1266

CAP:

Meeting with **Pete Ogden** (Eryn reached out—he's at pogden@americanprogress.org)

Next Week Preview: Feb 23 – 28

Personal:

Mon Mar 2, 8 am: Breakfast with Jim Cicconi @ Sofitel
Tues Mar 3, 11 am: Tech CEOs @ Hay Adams (Bruce Melman)

HRC:

Weds Mar 4: Weekly Earned Media Call
Thurs Mar 5: NYC—
- 10-11 am: Gender Research w/Sheryl Sandberg
- 11 am – 2 pm: Main Meeting

CAP:

None

Equitable Growth:

None

OTHER MARCH UPCOMING:

- GULC Spring Break: No class March 9th

- San Fran Trip with Heather: Mon Mar 9 – Tues Mar 10

- Accepted Invitation: NRDC Board Keynote from Rhea Suh
  Weds Mar 11, Dinner timeframe Santa Monica, CA

- Run with Stephanie Tatar (Not set—she is visiting March 10 – 14; stephanietatar@gmail.com)

- Mike Boots' LCV Farewell Party – March 13th TBD

POST TRANSITION CATCH-UP LIST:

Alphabetical Order, for those who did not specify dates

- Madeleine Albright
- Nancy Bowen (nhbowen@gmail.com)
- Mayor Alvin Brown (wants to catch up before election in March. Will travel to DC)
- Put off: Tim Drake (Former GULC '14 student: t.w.drakex@gmail.com)
- Stan Greenberg
- Susan Kleinberg

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- Gara LaMarche
- Dan Lubetzky (KIND healthy snacks, via Erskine; asst: Avery Feldman AFeldman@kindsnacks.com)
- Charles Harned – WHO / NEC Knox Intern (during March)

- **CAP Catch up requests:**
    - Tony Carrk
    - Michael Werz & Christine Parthemore – Food Security War Game briefing in February

HRC RELATED:

- **Dennis Mehiel** (via Manatos)

- **Ruth Goldway** (via Mary's Book Club)
  Cell: 202-251-4167; Gmail: ruthgoldway@gmail.com

- **R. Scott Pastrick** (Would like to be helpful with HRC)

- **Glen Fukushima**

TRANSITION / ORGANIZATION REQUESTS:

- **Moniz** – SEAB (Still need to turn down?

- **NEW: Dave Chen**—likely asking you to rejoin board of EQ CAP

PERSONAL/MEDICAL:

-Exit Appt. with **Dan Baumstark** (Scheduled for Weds Feb 25 at 1:30 pm)

-Pending: **Dr. Stearn** for March (Not yet scheduled)

-Next **Dr. Iadarola** Visit: Thurs 4/16 at 9 am

DATE SPECIFIC:

NEW: TBD: Dr. Funabashi in DC

Dr Funabashi via Jake Sullivan – More information to follow via email

(Note from Eryn: Literally, I just got looped into an email chain that mentioned he's coming to town, but nothing

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more)

Accepted: Invitation: Daschle Staff Reunion

Thurs Mar 19, 6-10 pm

Guarisco Art Gallery (next to the Ritz Carlton entrance)

1150 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC

Accepted: White House Correspondents' Dinner

When: Sat April 25

Accepted Invitation: WSJ Laura Meckler & Jerry Seib

Unofficial Invitation: Democracy Alliance 10th Anniversary Conference

Via: Gara LaMarche (glamarche@democracyalliance.org)

When: Apr 12 – 15

Where: San Francisco

Conflicts: Cherry Blossom 10 Miler Apr 12

NEW: Unofficial Invitation via Tony Podesta: Carnegie Endowment Event

When: Apr 13 – 14

Where: Washington DC

Conflicts: DA, potentially, but nothing hard yet

Topic: US/India strategic relationship

Keynote, Fireside, or Panel

Formal letter to come, if you're interested – Tony says David Kisnet would help with your speech if you want.

Invitation: EQ-Cap Investors Forum

Via: Dave Chen

When: Tues June 23

Where: San Francisco

Style: Panel with TBD on topic of climate & carbon.

DATE UNSPECIFIC:

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Annual White House Fellows talk with Judge Leon

POC: Jenn Paolino

POST-TRANSITION MEDIA:

NEW: Connie Bruck (New Yorker)
Profile on Sen. Feinstein Deadline: Mid-March
Gist: "The piece is one of those endless, 10,000-word New Yorker profiles. So I'm interested in any experiences with Senator Feinstein that John has had, going back to his Clinton years and, of course, his last year with President Obama. He could speak on the record or on background, as he prefers."

Awaiting their next outreach
Mara Liasson (re: HRC)
Julie Pace

CAP FLAGS/FYIS/SCHEDULING REQUESTS:

- **NEW: Amb Hans Dahlgren**

Dates: March 12 - 14

Topic: His visit is partly connected to the planned visit of Prime Minister Lofven later in March.

- **Ashraf Ghani** Visit to Washington **March 2nd/3rd**:

Pending: Melanne Verveer Answer – Note: She will reply to your gmail

- **NEW: CAP Women's Empowerment Event (via Molly Elgin-Cossart)**
Panel Request (either as introer or as panelist)
Aiming to host an event at CAP that connects post-2015 with the Beijing +20 celebrations, with a focus on the areas that were left out of the MDGs, especially economic empowerment and freedom from violence/ peace and security.
Date: Thursday March 5th, most likely in the morning

- **China Trip March 29th – April 3rd**: **They may ask you to join.** According to Vikram's team: "We've conducted a series of videocalls and the joint dialogue with CUSEF this year is U.S. – China vis-a-vis Middle East, some interesting conversations happening – Energy consumption/oil markets; joint collaboration on Egypt and Extremism in the Middle East; New Silk Road initiatives, etc."

Current Manifest: Neera, Tom Donilon (need to reconfirm, but on board), Brian Katulis, Rudy, Vikram, Dorothy Dwoskin from Microsoft, Melanie Hart
Calendar Conflicts: None yet – if you go, Eryn should cancel Dr. Iadarola Option 1 (Thurs Apr 2)

- **CAP Food Security War Game Nov 5-8** (Two weeks before COP Paris)

Via Michael Werz in your gmail

- **Global Infrastructure Initiative**

Nov 18-20

San Francisco

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They’ve only sent a save the date but would like you to be a panelist.

Conference Theme: Explore the disruptive new delivery models resulting from innovation and technology in infrastructure

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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:18:21 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

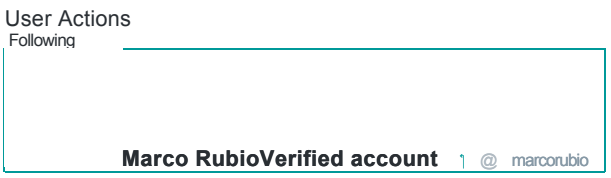

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

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Image removed by sender. Embedded image permalink

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 10:59:14 AM
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

I am not a fan of this either – was just offering a way to do it.

I actually think the less we're looking back and the quicker get focused on what's a head the stronger the whole speech will be.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 1:58 PM
To: Dan Schwerin
Cc: Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Robby Mook; Jennifer Palmieri; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I defer if others think this buys us good will with Sanders people, but email jokes in Iowa usually end up badly and don't we want to move on?

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
I think Podesta has some concerns about referencing emails, even like this

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 12:17 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
That works too Joel.
I think her using it shows strength
Not worried about credit for Bernie

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:59 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:

I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.

Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.

If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.

Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"

From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

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On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
Thinking.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Cc: Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Not ninnies.

We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

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Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before

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George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

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I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this email or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/7/2016 1:32:46 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Marco Rubio, once sunny, turns dark to try matching the GOP mood

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The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

Marco Rubio, once sunny, turns dark to try matching the GOP mood

Marco Rubio speaks at a town hall at Fisher Community Center in Marshalltown, Iowa, yesterday. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa—If you read the transcript of Marco Rubio's town hall meeting here yesterday, you could be forgiven for thinking the speaker was Ted Cruz.

Commentators often put the Florida senator in the so-called establishment lane, pitting him against Jeb Bush, Chris Christie and John Kasich. But on the trail this week, **he sounds nothing like an establishment candidate.**

Asked for his "current thinking on immigration" by a woman in an overflowing community center an hour outside of Des Moines, **Rubio freely acknowledged a shift.** He warned that ISIS is recruiting doctors and students to sneak into the United States. "This is no longer the issue it used to be," he said. "ISIS understands out immigration system and is deliberately manipulating it to get killers in…and we cannot allow that to happen."

Asked about Common Core, Rubio began his answer by declaring: "First of all, I don't even think we need a federal Department of Education." The answer that followed largely involved promising to cut off federal funding for sanctuary cities and his opposition to amnesty. (He ignored a reporter's question about whether he still supports a pathway to citizenship afterward.)

— The 44-year-old's stump speech has been undeniably influenced by the populist anger that Donald Trump has tapped into. "We are going to be a great country again," Rubio said as he closed the town hall. "America's going to be greater than it's ever been, *if* you give me the chance to be your president."

— He has de-emphasized the optimistic language about "a new American century" that was the hallmark of 2015. The Post's Rubio beat reporter, Sean Sullivan, also observes that "his criticism of Obama and Clinton is more piercing, the elbows he is throwing at his GOP opponents are sharper and his warnings about the national security risks of siding with them over him are more dire and more frequent."

— Rubio is also stepping up outreach to social conservatives. He's going up this weekend with a new commercial in Iowa that says his Christian faith shapes every decision he makes. "Our goal is eternity, the ability to live alongside our Creator for all time, to accept

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the free gift of salvation offered to us by Jesus Christ," he says to camera. "The struggle on a daily basis as a Christian is to remind ourselves of this. The purpose of our life is to cooperate with God's plan. To those who much have been given, much is expected. And we will be asked to account for that. Were your treasures stored up on earth or in heaven?" (Watch here.)

— The Floridian is making inroads with Bush voters in Iowa, who think he would post up better against Hillary Clinton in a general election. Doug Butler, 55, who works at a local manufacturer, planned to caucus for Bush until he came to see Rubio. "Jeb certainly knows the issues … but I'm ready for the next generation," he said afterward. "My biggest reason for shifting support is he can communicate. I don't know what it is about the Bushes. That little hesitancy they have when they talk is just disorienting."

— Rubio promised to spend a lot more time in Iowa over the final weeks, but he's still not staking his hopes on any one of the first four states. One of the big knocks on Rubio over the past year, especially in the Hawkeye State, has been how little time he spends engaging with voters. That's changing in the final weeks, as he steps up his public schedule. "A lot of people are just starting to pay attention," said state Sen. Jack Whitver, the chair of Rubio's Iowa campaign. "After New Year's is when a lot of people go from the dating stage to the marrying stage."

Rubio's aides were trying to get him to wrap up the town hall here so that he could get on to a meeting with the editorial board of the Des Moines Register. Rubio wanted to stay a little longer. "I'm fired up now," he said. "The coffee is kicking in!"

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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John McCain rings his bell as he volunteers with Salvation Army at a local mall in Phoenix on Dec. 21. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

— John McCain questioned Ted Cruz's eligibility to be president. The Arizona senator, who has long clashed with Cruz in the Senate, said in an Arizona TV interview that "it's worth looking into" whether Cruz is a natural born citizen, a requirement to be president. When asked how Cruz could run for president if he was born in Canada, McCain answered, "I

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do not know the answer to that." McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone in 1936, and the Senate unanimously passed a resolution declaring him a natural born citizen when he ran for president in 2008, Katie Zezima notes. "McCain said Wednesday the issue is different because the Canal Zone was a territory and U.S. Military base and there was precedent set when Barry Goldwater, who was born in Arizona when it was a territory, ran for president. 'That's different than being born on foreign soil,' he said. 'I think there is a question,' he said of Cruz. 'I am not a constitutional scholar on that but I think it's worth looking into. I don't think it's illegitimate to look into it.'" *This is happens when your Senate colleagues, especially the Republicans, hate you.*

There was a spate of anti-Cruz birtherism across the Republican spectrum yesterday:

- **Ann Coulter** said it is "absolutely false" that Cruz is a natural-born citizen.
- **Rand Paul** brought up the issue at an event, noting that Cruz is eligible to be prime minister of Canada.
- **Trump** called on Cruz to go to court and ask for a declaratory judgment to clear up the matter.

Ted Cruz holds a media availability at the Clay County Event Center in Spencer, Iowa. (Reuters/Mark Kauzlarich)

Cruz defended his eligibility in Iowa. Speaking to reporters before an event in Rock Rapids yesterday, Cruz said that his birth in Canada to a Cuban father and American mother

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did not change the fact that he was a natural born citizen. “It’s settled law,” Cruz said. “The child of a U.S. citizen, born abroad, is a U.S. citizen. People will continue to make hay of it as a political matter, but as a legal matter it’s quite straightforward. It’s occurred many times in history.” He even invoked McCain. (David Weigel)

Hillary Clinton, Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders stand on stage with Harry Reid during a party event last night in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

— Hillary Clinton made pointed overtures to Bernie Sanders supporters in Nevada at a dinner that drew 2,200 Democrats. “It was the Sanders boosters who were loudest, maybe because … they were eager to be heard in a state where Sanders is fighting for relevance,” Abby Phillip and John Wagner report from a much-anticipated cattle call in Las Vegas. “Clinton comes into this contest with significant advantages. She won the state in 2008 and has the edge to win it a second time on Feb. 20. Still, the former secretary of state also faces an energized opposition — many of them younger voters and caucuses who she will need if she is the nominee.”

- **Clinton told Sanders supporters that she, too, is on their side, but is more prepared than other Democrats running to do the job.** “I need you,” she told the room. “You can also count on me to stand my ground especially when it comes to those powerful interests that are holding back American families. If Republicans weren’t worried why are hedge fund billionaires already running ads against me?”

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- **“Sanders used his remarks to try to make the case that he could energize more voters in the fall, citing the large turnouts he’s had at his campaign rallies, particularly among younger voters.** ‘That result will not happen with establishment politics and establishment economics,’ he said. ‘We will not succeed unless we galvanize the American people.’”
- **As Clinton spoke, the crowd remained divided.** “Sanders supporters shuffled their seats, others raised their signs and at times grumbled vocally,” Abby and John relay. “At one point, campaign organizers walked through the aisles gesturing with a finger to the mouth that supporters should express their disagreement with Clinton silently.”

Jeb Bush in New Hampshire (Reuters/Brian Snyder)

— Jeb Bush told The Post that the GOP primary in New Hampshire is now a five-way race for second-place behind Trump. “Trump’s the front-runner and there’s a jump ball for second,” he said in an interview with Ed O’Keefe . Asked whom he would consider in that five-way race, Bush said himself, Christie, Cruz, Kasich and Rubio. **Bush then honed in on Christie and his fiscal record. “**New Jersey’s credit ratings has been downgraded nine times during Christie’s tenure due to shortfalls with the state’s pension system.” Bush noted he took Florida from a double-A to triple-A bond rating. “Our pension was never raided to pay for the current obligations,” Bush said in a clear knock at the Christie.

—It could be another red day on the markets. Chinese stocks tumbled 7 percent, and regulators halted trading for the second time this week. (Simon Denyer)

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— **Iran accused Saudi Arabia of delivering an airstrike on the Iranian Embassy in Yemen's war-battered capital,** a claim that could not be immediately verified but reflected the deepening tensions between the regional powers. "The Associated Press reported there was no visible damage at the embassy compound in Sanaa, which is held by rebel fighters who have faced more than nine months of airstrikes from a Saudi-led military coalition," per Hugh Naylor and Brian Murphy. "Iran gave no immediate details on its claim, which was carried by state-run media."

GET SMART FAST:

1. **House Republicans** sent a bill repealing the **Affordable Care Act** to the White House for President Obama's veto. (Mike DeBonis)
2. **Alabama's** Supreme Court chief justice ordered county clerks to stop offering same-sex marriage licenses. (Sandhya Somashekhar)
3. The **Texas** trooper who arrested **Sandra Bland** — who later died in custody — was indicted for perjury and fired from the force. (Mark Berman)
4. At a community meeting in **Burns, Ore,,** last night, dozens of local residents said they support the anti-**BLM** views held by the armed protesters at the nearby federal wildlife refuge BUT called on them to end their standoff. (The Oregonian)
5. **TransCanada**, the company behind the proposed **Keystone XL pipeline**, sued the U.S. government for rejecting the project, arguing that President Obama overreached his constitutional authority. The company will file a second lawsuit seeking $15 billion in damages. (AP)
6. Los Angeles prosecutors declined to charge **Bill Cosby** with sexual assault for two incidents that allegedly occurred in 1965 and 2008. (AP)
7. The **FBI** will collects data on **animal abuse** charges for the first time this year. (Colby Itkowitz)
8. The **Pentagon** announced two **Guantanamo Bay** inmates were sent to **Ghana**, part of the White House push to reduce the prison's population before Obama leaves office. (Missy Ryan and Adam Goldman)
9. **Police** shot and killed 986 people in the United States in 2015. (Steven Rich and Sandhya Somashekhar)
10. **California** declared a state of emergency after a gas leak caused thousands of residents to be evacuated from their homes in **Los Angeles**. (Los Angeles Times)
11. **Chipotle**, reporting that December sales dropped 30 percent year-over-year, revealed it was served with a grand jury subpoena connected to an **FDA** investigation into last year's Norovirus outbreak in California. (Roberto A. Ferdman)
12. **Iowa** hotel rooms are going for as much as $9o0 a night during the week of the Iowa

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caucuses. (Des Moines Register)

13. Ten women filed a lawsuit against **Bill Gothard**, who was a major force in **the conservative Christian homeschooling movement**, charging him and other ministry leaders with sexual abuse, harassment and cover-up. Reached by phone, he denied the allegations. (Sarah Pulliam Bailey)
14. A judge ruled the police officer awaiting retrial for the death of **Freddie Gray** must testify in the trial of the officer who drove the police van used to transport Gray. (Lynh Bui)
15. **Florida Atlantic University** fired a professor who wrote on Facebook that the **Sandy Hook** massacre was a hoax designed to pass gun-control legislation and who allegedly harassed one of the victim's families by demanding evidence of the boy's existence. (Susan Svrluga)
16. Saturday's **Powerball** drawing will be the biggest in U.S. history with an estimated $675 million jackpot after no one won last night's drawing. (ABC News)
17. The **Labour Party** crack-up continues in London. Opposition leader **Jeremy Corbyn** moved the shadow defense minister to another post after she opposed him on nuclear weapons and fired two other members of his top team who criticized him.(AP)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **Joe Biden** said this of running for president: ""I regret it every day. But it was the right decision for my family and me." (NBC Connecticu t)
2. **Ben Carson's** ex-campaign manager **Barry Bennett**, who resigned just last week, said **Trump** will be the Republican nominee "unless something cataclysmic happens." (CNN)
3. **Trump's** campaign issued 20,000 tickets to a Vermont rally at a venue which has only 1,400 seats. (WCVB)
4. **Gary Johnson**, who served two terms as **New Mexico's** governor, will run for president again as a libertarian. He received 1.3 million votes in 2012. (David Weigel)
5. **Ken Griffey Jr.** and **Mike Piazza** were elected to the **Baseball Hall of Fame**. (Barry Svrluga)
6. **Hillary Clinton** has set a fundraising goal of $50 million for the first quarter, her bundlers were told on a finance call yesterday. (CNN)
7. But **Sanders** is outspending **Clinton** on TV ads this week, $900,000 to $750,000. (NBC News)
8. **Marco Rubio**'s rally in Dallas last night was interrupted by a man yelling that he is "owned by Jews." The Florida senator has rarely been heckled. (Sean Sullivan)

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9. **Rubio** and **Rand** will attend the State of the Union, but **Cruz** will skip it to be on the campaign trail.
10. With the Supreme Court expected to decide this Friday whether to review **Bob McDonnell's** convictions, **George F. Will** devotes his column to urging the justices to do so. (Read here.)
11. Sen. **Rob Portman** (R-Ohio) raised $2.1 million in the fourth quarter, meaning he raised $9.8 million in 2015 and has $12 million cash on hand. His Democratic challenger, **Ted Strickland**, hasn't reported his numbers yet.
12. **Congressional Black Caucus** chairman **G.K. Butterfield** (D-N.C.) endorsed **Hillary**. (The Grio)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

Hillary Clinton tours the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas yesterday. (Photo by Melina Mara/ The Washington Post)

— "Report: Clinton-led State Department gave 'inaccurate' answer on email use, " by Carol Leonnig and Rosalind S. Helderman: "Two years before the public learned of Hillary Clinton's private server, the State Department gave an 'inaccurate and incomplete' response about her email use when it told an outside group that it had no documents about Clinton's email accounts beyond her government address, according to a report from the State Department's inspector general to be released Thursday. The State Department made its statement in response to a 2012 records request from the independent watchdog group

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Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. The response came even though Clinton's chief of staff, who knew about the secretary's private account, was aware of the inquiry … In addition, the IG review found that agency staff had not searched Clinton's office for emails. … His office is preparing an additional report that could touch even more directly on Clinton's conduct — examining the use of personal email and its effect on the department's compliance with its duty to preserve records."

–"For Hillary Clinton, old news or new troubles? " by Karen Tumulty and Frances Stead Sellers: "The ghosts of the 1990s have returned to confront Hillary Clinton, released from the vault by Donald Trump and revved up by a 21st-century version of the scandal machine that almost destroyed her husband's presidency. This is a moment that her campaign has long expected. What remains to be seen is whether a reminder of allegations of sexual impropriety against Bill Clinton — which were deemed to have varying levels of credibility when they were first aired — can gain new traction in a different context. The fresher case being made is that Hillary Clinton has been, at a minimum, hypocritical about her husband's treatment of women, and possibly even complicit in discrediting his accusers. And it is being pressed at a time when there is a new sensitivity toward victims of unwanted sexual contact, and when one of the biggest news stories is the prosecution of once-beloved comedian Bill Cosby."

"Juanita Broaddrick had accused Bill Clinton of raping her in 1978, when she was working on his Arkansas gubernatorial campaign. … Broaddrick, now a Trump supporter, tweeted Wednesday: 'I was 35 years old when Bill Clinton, Ark. Attorney General raped me and Hillary tried to silence me. I am now 73. . . .it never goes away.' In an interview, she said she had watched Bill Clinton's first solo campaign appearance on his wife's behalf on television Monday. 'He looked so beaten, and he looked like everything in his past was catching up to him. He looked so downtrodden. It made my heart sing,' Broaddrick said."

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North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (Undated photo released by North Korea's news agency, distributed by Reuters)

— "Few options on the table to pressure Pyongyang " after nuclear test, by Karen DeYoung and Anna Fifield: "Any additional pressure on North Korea — already the most severely sanctioned country in the world — would have to involve major action by China, its largest trading partner and supplier of much of its foreign aid. … But Beijing has been reluctant to risk action that could seriously destabilize North Korea, sending hordes across its border, perhaps leaving nuclear weapons unsecured, and ceding a strategic bulwark against the powerful U.S., Japanese and South Korean military alliance in the northern Pacific. … Attempts to impose further restraints on North Korea's nuclear supply line are viewed as likely to have only modest, if any, effect. The country received most of what it needed from abroad to develop nuclear weapons years ago, and its program is now mostly indigenous. … One avenue for further economic pressure would be to sanction Chinese banks that do business with North Korea, although there is widespread reluctance to take measures against major Chinese institutions that are pillars of the international financial system."

- The Obama administration and nuclear experts are increasingly confident that **it was not actually a hydrogen bomb.**
- **A1 analysis — "North Korea got less attention as Obama focused on Iran nuke deal," by David Nakamura:** The administration "pursued a decidedly less-clear strategy on containing North Korea, a rogue state that already possesses an atomic weapon."

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- **Overnight, South Korea announced it will resume cross-border propaganda broadcasts that Pyongyang considers an act of war.** "Seoul also began talks with Washington that could see the arrival of nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft and submarines to the Korean Peninsula," the AP reports . "The South stopped earlier broadcasts after it agreed with Pyongyang in late August on a package of measures aimed at easing animosities."
- **Hillary Clinton** called for more sanctions and said Kim Jong Un tried to "blackmail" the world with the test. (Abby Phillip)

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

–Pictures of the day:

Hillary Clinton wished her SNL doppleganger, Kate McKinnon, a happy birthday:

(@hillaryclinton)

While SNL celebrated Hillary and Sarah Palin in this video:

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(@nbcsnl)

Meanwhile, Hillary posted this, saying: “Strong sweater game.”

(@hillaryclinton)

The Donald posted this short clip of a packed house in New Hampshire, saying “I love you, I

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love Tom Brady":

(@realdonaldtrump)

Rand Paul aides tweeted a photo of him and Jerry Seinfeld (remember Paul's "Festivus" tweet stream ?):

(@sergiogor)

"At the end of the day, the best part of this campaign is getting to share it with the people that

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you love," Carson posted.

(@realbencarson)

Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.), running for Senate, says he is "proud to have participated in Central Florida's first same sex marriage one year ago today":

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(@repalangrayson)

Mike Huckabee sent out a fundraising plea that promised three targets (Common Core, Obamcare, and the tax code) for a $25 donation:

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(@mikehuckabee)

–Tweets of the day:

Obama lauded the comeback in U.S. car sales:

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(@thewhitehouse)

A New York Times correspondent mocked Carly Fiorina's bid to link Trump to Kim Kardashian:

(@jbarro)

Jeb gave this little guy a turtle and a life lesson:

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(@killoughcnn)

The Capital Weather Gang gives us a sense of weather perspective:

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(@capitalweather)

Ex-Rep. **Tom Latham** (R-Iowa) announced he was diagnosed with lymphoma :

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(@tomlatham)

And these two lovebirds celebrated their anniversary:

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(@INJO)

–Instagrams of the day:

Arkansas Rep. Tim Crawford's (R-Ark.) 1st district contains the duck capital of the world (Stuttgart, in case you were wondering). He showed off his collection of duck calls:

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(@reprickcrawford)

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) welcomed her new granddaughter, Rose Barbara:

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(@sencapito)

And Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.) congratulated “Stand and Deliver” teacher Jaime Escalante for making it on a postage stamp:

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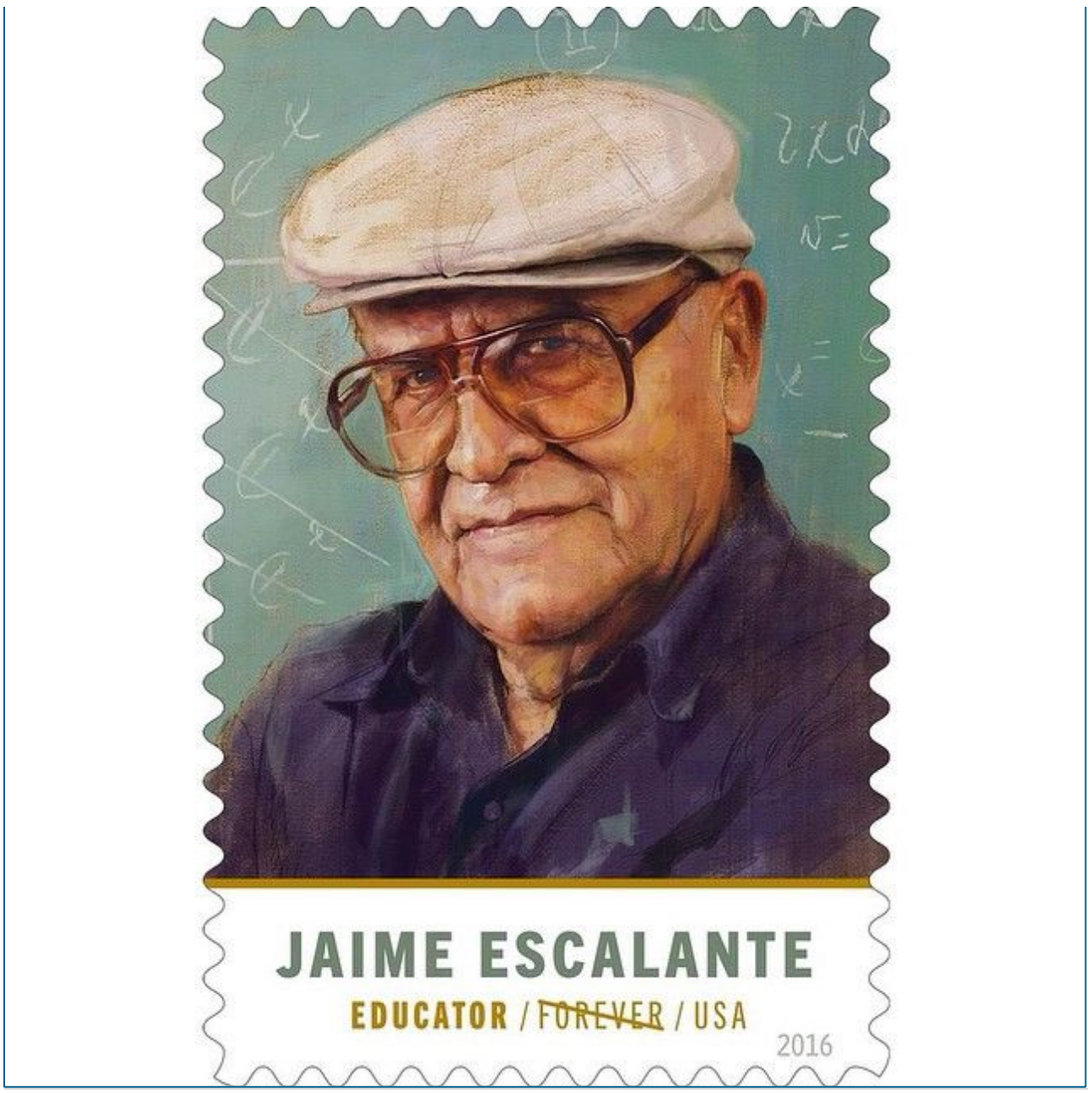

(@reproyballallard)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Pentagon will extend military honors to drone operators far from battles," by Michael S. Schmidt: "The Defense Department on Thursday is scheduled to announce that it has created a designation to recognize service members who had a direct effect on combat operations even though they were operating remotely, Pentagon officials said. Drone pilots are likely to receive many of the awards, but they may also be given to operators who launch cyberattacks. … Current and former military officials had been deeply divided about whether to recognize the drone pilots. An initial Pentagon plan in 2013 to honor them with a 'Distinguished Warfare Medal' was criticized by some veterans' groups, which feared that the award would rank higher than combat medals like the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. The Veterans of Foreign Wars sent a letter to Mr. Obama expressing its objections to the proposed medal. Some veterans have derided such

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recognition as a 'geek cross.' Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the planned medal during his final days at the Pentagon in 2013. But the proposal was scuttled by his successor, Chuck Hagel, amid the fury from the veterans' groups."

— Politico, "Rubio ditches thrift and flies private jets almost exclusively, " by Shane Goldmacher: "After spending most of 2015 bragging about his thriftiness when it came to flying commercial and coach, Marco Rubio quietly has been using a private jet almost exclusively for his campaign travel for nearly two months and plans to continue to do so through the primaries. The jet-setting represents a dramatic about-face for the Rubio campaign. As recently as September, Rubio campaign manager Terry Sullivan bragged that 'Marco flies 95 percent commercial, always coach.' … Rubio has traveled overwhelmingly by chartered jet since the Republican debate held in Milwaukee in mid-November. Now, Rubio is spending an estimated tens of thousands of dollars every day to keep a Cessna Citation Excel plane by his side. The jet can comfortably sit a half-dozen passengers, with room for a couple more to squeeze on. … Without a single early-voting state to bank on, Rubio faces an imperative to cover long interstate distances quickly, perhaps more than any other candidate."

–Fast Company, "How the Hillary Clinton campaign built a staff as diverse as America," by Alyson Krueger: Nathaniel Koloc is the campaign's director of talent acquisition and development, a role the writer believes is unprecedented in the campaign world, which usually hires friends of friends and by word-of-mouth. It transformed the Clinton campaign's roster: "Each department boasts steals from impressive firms including IBM, General Assembly, Etsy, Yelp, Google, Gawker, Facebook, Kiva, and DreamWorks. The digital team has talent from the *New York Times* and the analytics team from New York University's formidable think tank on housing policy. The number of people from within politics is striking—for being so low. Less than half of the analytics team and almost none of the tech team ever held a campaign position … The campaign's diversity extends far beyond career history. Over 50% of the campaign is female. Of the campaign's more than 500 staffers nationwide, more than one-third are people of color; nearly 40% of Hillary for America's senior staff are people of color."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce endorsed the Trans-Pacific Partnership. From David Nakamura: "The backing from the nation's largest business coalition is a boost to the administration's efforts to rally the private sector behind the deal, which represents the largest regional trade pact in U.S. history. The Chamber joins the National Association of Manufacturing and the Business Roundtable in issuing formal endorsements this week."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

A New Hampshire gun store owner gave Donald Trump an AR-15 rifle, but the Secret Service had to first inspect it. From the Washington Examiner: "Black Ops Arms owner Mark Limoges said, 'A Secret Service agent came to the store, took the gun. We removed the bolt out of it. They took possession of the weapon and then presented it to us before we went into the room to present it to Mr. Trump.'"

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Bill Clinton heads to Iowa for the first time this election cycle to campaign solo for Hillary in Des Moines and Dubuque. Ted Cruz continues his Iowa bus tour, making stops in Pocahontas, Humboldt, Webster City, and Goldfield. Marco Rubio, in New Hampshire, attends a house party at 10 a.m. in Bedford followed by a town hall in Nashua. Jeb Bush makes stops in Londonderry, Greenland and Peterborough. Carly Fiorina will speak to the New Hampshire State of Representatives in Concord at 1 p.m., followed by a town hall in Concord in the evening. Ben Carson is in Iowa, making appearances in Cedar Rapids, Anamosa and Bettendorf. John Kasich holds a town hall in Hudson, N.H., at 6:30 p.m. Rand Paul hosts meet and greets in Council Bluffs and Carroll, followed by a town hall in Boone. He finishes his night by hosting a birthday party in Des Moines. Rick Santorum makes an appearance at a house party in Urbandale. Martin O'Malley will speak at a leadership tour stop in Des Moines at 7:30 p.m.

- **Mike Huckabee will finish the Full Grassley today, visiting all 99 counties since announcing in May.** He also visited all 99 counties during his 2008 campaign, when he won the caucuses. The former Arkansas governor has planned 150 events in

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January. Today alone will bring him to Sigourney, Oskaloosa, Albia, Centerville, Chariton, and Urbandale.

- Trump will sit down with Chuck Todd for "Meet the Press" this Sunday.

–On the Hill: The House considers two resolutions. The Senate is in recess.

–At the White House: President Obama will participate in a town hall on gun violence hosted by CNN's Anderson Cooper at George Mason University. Vice President Biden will attend afternoon meetings at the White House before heading to Wilmington, Delaware, where he'll spend the night.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Donald Trump has America's pulse," Gov. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) writes in a USA Today op-ed. "I know Donald Trump personally, and while I currently have no plans to endorse a candidate before Florida's March presidential primary, there is no doubt that Donald is a man who speaks and tweets his mind freely. But I don't think his ability to give the most interesting interviews or speeches is the only thing that has him leading in the polls. I think he is capturing the frustration of many Americans after seven years of President Obama's very intentional government takeover of the U.S. economy."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

–A little warmer today: "Clouds are likely to come in waves from the Atlantic as an offshore storm passes well to the east," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts . "A few sprinkles are quite likely to creep to the coast but should die out quickly keeping the metro area dry. Winds from the east are barely noticeable. Highs are mainly low-to-mid 40s but could reach upper 4os in spots seeing less persistent cloud cover."

–Three African American pastors who support Trump filed a federal lawsuit against Virginia over the state GOP's requirement that primary voters sign a statement confirming they are Republicans. They allege that it will discourage minorities and the poor from casting ballots. (Jenna Portnoy)

–An **ABC7** news truck was broken into while the television crew was attending a press conference held by the D.C. mayor and police chief on their plan to combat a spike in robberies. (WJLA)

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— Kyrie Irving led the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 121-115 win over the Wizards. (Jorge Castillo)

— The Capitals signed two-time Stanley Cup winning center Mike Richards to a one-year-deal. (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

— **Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) says he may still run for Senate.** "I have it circled — believe me," Cummings said in an interview with Baltimore's WYPR, referring to the Feb. 3 deadline to file nomination papers in the Democratic primary. Laughing, he added, "My wife reminds me every day." Rachel Weiner notes that, "Even a very late-moving Cummings candidacy would shake up a race that at the moment features two candidates from the D.C. suburbs. Polls have consistently shown that Cummings would lead in a race against Reps. Donna Edwards and Chris Van Hollen."

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Obama previews his last State of the Union address:

(@thewhitehouse)

Watch Katie Couric ask Speaker Paul Ryan if Donald Trump is good for the GOP:

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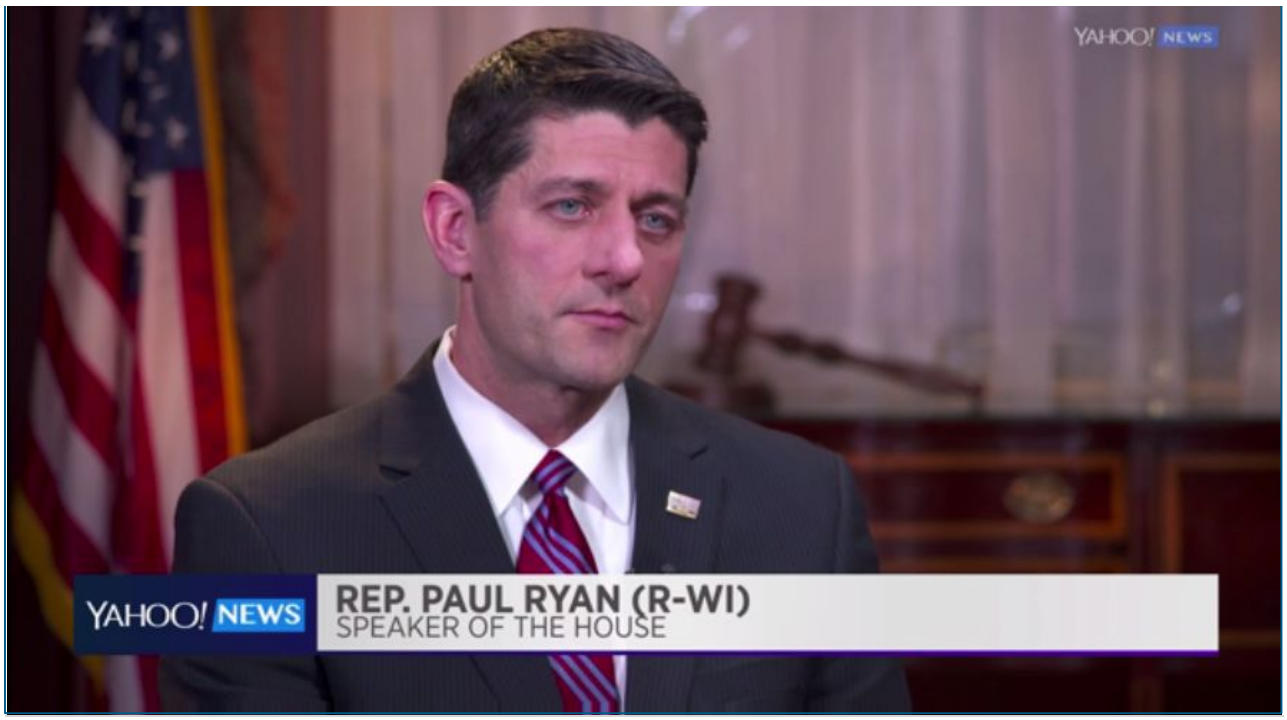

(@yahoonews)

See Bernie Sanders on the Larry Wilmore show:

(@comedycentral)

Watch this fun Drake and Obama mashup promoting the Detroit Pistons' Andre Hammond to the NBA all star team:

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(@funnyordie)

And today in cute animal stories, check out this purple-dyed kitten who was rescued:

(@thewashingtonpost)

And this unusual friendship in Russia between an Amur tiger and a goat he was supposed to eat who are now BFFs. The full story is here .

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(@cupidandtimur)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/25/2014 1:17:12 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday July 25, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday July 25, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

YourHoustonNews.com opinion: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee: "We can save lives and change history"

"While Hillary Clinton has been engaged in this issue since the 1990s, she played a key role at the State Department in bringing modern-day slavery to the forefront of United States' foreign and domestic policy."

Washington Examiner: Clinton, Clinton, Clinton! Read all about Hillary

But Clinton's allies insist that they aren't losing sleep over the new books. If they're looking to sully Clinton's reputation, said Adrienne Elrod, communications director at Correct The Record, a pro-Clinton group, "the right-wing's tactics are ineffective and are not working."

"The anti-Clinton literature industry has been pushing lies and profiting off the Clinton's for well over two decades," Elrod said, "yet Bill and Hillary Clinton remain two of the most popular, admired individuals throughout the world."

New York Times blog: The Caucus: "10 Questions for Hillary Rodham Clinton"

"She [Sec. Clinton] spoke Thursday with The Times's John Harwood on the National Public Radio program "On Point" about America's current foreign policy crises, potential presidential rivals and her relationship with the press."

Politico Magazine: "Did Hillary's Book Tour Work?"

"Hillary Clinton's book tour is winding down, so it's time to assess what the Hard Choices rollout means for what just about everyone in American politics assumes is her coming presidential bid."

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The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clinton would back changing border law"

"Hillary Clinton said Thursday that she was open to changing a 2008 trafficking law to help the administration deal with an influx of child migrants crossing the border illegally."

Fast Company: "Most Americans Think the U.S. Would Be Better Governed If More Women Were In Charge"

"A new poll from Gallup shows that 63% of Americans say the country would be better governed with more female political leaders, which is up slightly from 57% in past polls in 1995 and 2000."

U.S. News & World Report blog: Washington Whispers: "Another Pro-Hillary PAC Tries to Make Clinton Cool"

"Williams, a 22-year-old from Alabama, who now lives across the Potomac from Washington in Alexandria, Virginia, is a founder of Hillary 2016 PAC, yet another outside group supporting a potential Clinton 2016 presidential run."

CNN: "Why liberals don't trust Hillary Clinton"

"Activists point to Clinton's voting record in the Senate, where she voted to authorize the Iraq war and increase domestic surveillance. They say that and decisions her husband made while president, like the Defense of Marriage Act and the authorization of the North American Free Trade Agreement, give her little street cred among liberals and populists."

Politico: "Deval Patrick: I'm not 'pals' with Hillary Clinton"

"Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who raised eyebrows earlier this year by questioning the sense of 'inevitability' around Hillary Clinton's potential presidential candidacy, emphasized Thursday that he's worried Clinton's inner circle will perpetuate an 'off-putting' feeling of 'entitlement' surrounding her possible White House bid."

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton: You're lucky 'Hard Choices' isn't longer"

"But, Clinton revealed Thursday, her book could have been even longer. Much longer."

Articles:

YourHoustonNews.com opinion: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee: "We can save lives and change history"

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By Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

July 24, 2014 3:10 pm

As a Senior Member on both the Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees and the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I have worked diligently on human trafficking issues and seen its devastating impact in the city of Houston, which is known as the epicenter of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where men, women, and children are forced into servitude. Some victims are trafficked for sex; some are trafficked for domestic labor. All are held against their will.

It's hard for many in the United States to fully comprehend that this goes on within our borders and on our streets. But it does, and it breaks my heart.

Did you know that there are more individuals enslaved today than at the height of the transatlantic slave trade?

Even more surprising, human trafficking doesn't just occur in illegal or underground operations. Victims of this horrible practice can also be found working in private homes, hotels, nail salons, restaurants, and bars.

In Secretary Clinton's new book "Hard Choices," she so adeptly reminds us, "The crime of human trafficking is not limited to Cambodia or Southeast Asia. Nearly 30 million people around the world are in modern-day slavery of one form or another, trapped in prostitution or laboring in fields or factories or on fishing boats." She continues, "The United States is not immune."

While Hillary Clinton has been engaged in this issue since the 1990s, she played a key role at the State Department in bringing modern-day slavery to the forefront of United States' foreign and domestic policy.

As Sec. Clinton herself wrote in 2009, "The United States funds 140 anti-trafficking programs in nearly 70 countries, as well as 42 domestic task forces that bring state and local authorities together with nongovernmental organizations to combat trafficking. But there is so much more to do."

Having the privilege to serve on the two jurisdictional committees, I am thankful for the steps Hillary Clinton took while Secretary of State. Presently and looking forward, I want to work with more leaders who will draw attention to this horrific practice and take action to eradicate it by working with members of the faith community, law enforcement officials, and community leaders. We must rescue victims, strengthen our justice system, and bring criminals to justice.

Let's all take Secretary Clinton's lead, for, as she said, "this is a moment for people to ask themselves not just what government can do to end modern slavery, but what can I do, what can we do together." We can save lives. We can change history.

Sheila Jackson Lee is the representative for the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

Washington Examiner: Clinton, Clinton, Clinton! Read all about Hillary

By Rebecca Berg
July 25, 2014, 6:00 am

It's the summer of Hillary Clinton -- but not exactly on her terms.

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Clinton had planned a triumphant return to the political arena with the campaign-style rollout of her new memoir, Hard Choices. The book's first printing of 1 million copies showed that her publisher expected a good return on its $14 million advance, especially since Clinton's book tour would receive the kind of blanket coverage accorded a prospective presidential candidate.

But sales of the book have been disappointing, with only about 200,000 hard copies having sold so far. And while Clinton has received extensive media attention, much of it has focused on her missteps, notably her assertion that she and her husband Bill were “dead broke” when they left the White House in January 2001.

Still, Clinton has become the most valuable name in the publishing industry this summer, although only in part because of her own memoir. She and former President Clinton have also inspired three other heavily promoted books, all by right-leaning authors: Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. The Obamas by Ed Klein; Clinton, Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine by Daniel Halper; and The First Family Detail: Secret Service Agents Reveal the Hidden Lives of Presidents by Ronald Kessler, parts of which have been leaked ahead of its Aug. 5 release.

Klein’s Blood Feud, in spite of its many dubious claims and some outright fact errors, surpassed Clinton’s memoir recently to become the No. 1 New York Times bestselling nonfiction work. Even after it fell a few spots this week, it still outsold Hard Choices.

"I've been amazed at what a cottage industry it is,” Clinton said of books about her. She made her observation during a recent appearance on “The Daily Show” with Jon Stewart.

“Another book?” Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill marveled to the New York Post when asked about Kessler’s work.

Merrill and other Clinton allies are navigating familiar territory. In the summer of 2007, Clinton faced the publication of three major books about her alone or in combination with her husband: A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton by Carl Bernstein, Her Way: The Hopes and Ambitions of Hillary Rodham Clinton by Jeff Gerth and Don Van Natta Jr. and For Love of Politics: Inside the Clinton White House by Sally Bedell Smith.

In 2007, Clinton's team tried to dismiss the books and their revelations as nothing new. "Is it possible to be quoted yawning?" her spokesperson Philippe Reines said at the time. But all three books became bestsellers.

This time, Clinton’s allies are working to discredit Halper’s and Kessler’s books in a more aggressive fashion, as they have with Klein’s, dismissing their authors as “despicable” and agenda-driven.

“With Klein, Halper and Kessler, we now have a Hat Trick of despicable actors concocting trashy nonsense,” Merrill charged in an interview with theWashington Examiner. “Their behavior should neither be allowed nor enabled, and legitimate media outlets who know with every fiber of their beings that it is completely made up should not get down in the gutter with them.”

Halper speculated in a recent Politico Magazine column that other counter-offensives have been launched behind the scenes, including a leak of his book in its entirety to hundreds of journalists. (Clinton's office, for its part, has denied any involvement.)

“Why might they leak the book early?” Halper wrote. “The best explanation is so that the book’s contents could come out well before publication and the Clintons can then rely on another standard mode of operation — denouncing any unfavorable allegations as ‘old news.’ ”

But Clinton’s allies insist that they aren’t losing sleep over the new books. If they’re looking to sully Clinton’s reputation, said Adrienne Elrod, communications director at Correct The Record, a pro-Clinton group, “the right-wing’s tactics are ineffective and are not working."

"The anti-Clinton literature industry has been pushing lies and profiting off the Clinton’s for well over two decades,” Elrod said, “yet Bill and Hillary Clinton remain two of the most popular, admired individuals throughout the world.”

New York Times blog: The Caucus: “10 Questions for Hillary Rodham Clinton”

By John Harwood

July 24, 2014, 4:26 p.m. EDT

As she ponders a second bid for the presidency in 2016, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton continues a string of media appearance promoting her foreign policy memoir, “Hard Choices.” She spoke Thursday with The Times’s John Harwood on the National Public Radio program “On Point” about America’s current foreign policy crises, potential presidential rivals and her relationship with the press.

What follows is a condensed, edited transcript of their conversation.

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Q.

I'd like to start with simply the range of problems facing us in the world: Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Gaza. I'm well aware of the propensity for an out-party to look at events like that and say the party in the White House is to blame for all of it. The party in the White House says, "Well, we can't control events in the world." But how much responsibility should the Obama administration accept, and should you accept, having run foreign policy for four years, for the chaos that we see right now?

A.

Well, John, that's why I wrote this book, "Hard Choices." One of the main points I make in the book is that we are living in a much more complex, fast moving world for many reasons. Obviously the end of the bipolar world with the collapse of the Soviet Union, which I think we're still trying to adjust to and manage, the increase in nonstate actors, terrorist groups first and foremost, but also other players, for good and for bad. The rise of technology, which has been overall a real positive, but which has empowered all kinds of people and groups.

It doesn't do us much good to point fingers at each other. What we should be trying to do is re-establish a bipartisan consensus on foreign policy that requires America to demonstrate leadership, to be deeply involved in trying to do what we can to manage these crises. I negotiated the last cease-fire in Gaza November 2012. It lasted until this month. I fully support Secretary Kerry's efforts to try to end the violence once again. But look at what happened in just two years. You had Hamas getting access to much more technologically sophisticated missiles, to launch at Israel. You had the very serious problem of the tunnels. You had a change in leadership in Egypt that we certainly had nothing to do with, the overthrow of the Muslim Brotherhood president, Morsi. So you constantly have to be evaluating, where can we make a difference? But the one big lesson that I hope Americans are taking from this is when we back off, or step away, that doesn't bode well for either managing or resolving a lot of these disputes.

Q.

For Americans who are looking and saying, "Well, do we want the party that's controlling foreign policy now, or do we want to make a different choice when we move forward in elections," are you saying to them, "These problems are not to any degree our fault or my fault?"

A.

Well, I'm saying that every administration, every party in the White House, has the responsibility during the time it's there to do the best we can, to lead and manage the many problems we face, and I think we did in the first term.

If you look at what we accomplished, number one, restoring American leadership and reputation after inheriting two wars, Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib and a collapsed economic system, I think that President Obama's leadership and those of us who were his partners did a great deal to move us forward in the right direction. The pivot to Asia was necessary because many of our Asian friends and partners thought the United States had basically walked away from being a presence in the Pacific. I brought about three face-to-face meetings between Netanyahu and Abbas in an effort to continue to push for a two-state solution. The United States can help facilitate, but not dictate to other people what they should be doing for their own self-interest.

But we never stopped working, and I think it's not just the headlines, John, it's what I call the trend lines. Not only re-establish our reputation and our leadership, but beginning to do more to try to improve conditions around the world that affect women and girls. That's not just a nice thing to do, that's very integrated into our foreign policy objective, because where women are treated fairly and equally you're likely to see more stability, more democracy, less insecurity and terrorism. I think there was an enormous amount accomplished in four years.

Q.

Let's talk about Russia for a second. There is a line of criticism that the president's reset didn't work, that he was played by Vladimir Putin. You point out in your book, of course, that when George W. Bush with a doctrine of preventive war was president, Russia seized parts of Georgia. You say in the book that America can't solve everything, but nothing can be solved without America; we're the indispensable nation. If neither approach — the Bush administration's or the Obama administration's — worked with Putin, what exactly are we indispensable for?

A.

Well, I would take issue with the way you characterize that, because what I think I demonstrate in the book is that the reset worked. It was an effort to try to obtain Russian cooperation on some key objectives while Medvedev was president. Of course Putin still pulled the strings but he gave Medvedev a certain amount of independence to negotiate, number one, a new arms control treaty, which was absolutely necessary. We brought Russia around to understanding why we thought there needed to be international sanctions against Iran.

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I'll never forget the meeting that we had, the president and I and just one other person on our side and Medvedev and two on his side, where we told him that we had evidence, conclusive evidence, about Iran building an underground facility. And the Russians were shocked because they thought they knew what was going on in Iran. So we brought them to the table, at the Security Council, we got those tough sanctions, and we were eventually able to get to the negotiations that are going on now with the hope that something real can come out of them. We got support from the Russians to go across Russia, to resupply our troops in Afghanistan. The reset was a device to try to refocus attention on the transactional efforts that we needed to get done with the Russians.

Now, when Putin announced in the fall of 2011 that he was coming back, I had no illusions. I wrote two memos to the president pointing out that we were going to have to change our thinking and approach. We'd gotten all we could get from the reset. The reset succeeded, but we had to make adjustments, given the fact that Putin was going to resume both the real position of presidency and begin, I thought and argued, to be more aggressive in his foreign policy.

Q.

Let me go back to Gaza for a second. Are you pleased that the F.A.A. reversed its decision after complaints from Mike Bloomberg and Prime Minister Netanyahu and allowed U.S. flights back into Tel Aviv even though many European countries have not?

A.

Well, a number of Europeans have reversed their policy as well. Look, I think it needs to be based on the best understanding of the circumstances and I think that the F.A.A. received additional information about steps that Israel has taken. From my understanding, with the reversal here and then the reversal in a number of European nations, they were basically sending a message out to passengers that we're going to keep a close watch on this and you'll have to be aware of potential changes in plans as we go forward.

Q.

I'm a Methodist, as you are. You say in your book that you were inspired to go into public service by the Methodist faith — do as much good as you can for as long as you can. The United Methodist Church yesterday signed a letter with other religious organizations saying the underlying cause of the resumption of violence after repeated cease-fires is what they call the "legal, structural, physical violence inherent in Israel's siege of Gaza and the West Bank." Do they have a point? Are they right?

A.

Well I'm very proud to be a Methodist too, John, and very grateful for my lifetime involvement in the church. Of course they have a point. There are always arguments that can be made that have merit to them. But I think that particular analysis right now misses what I believe to be the central reason why this conflict has once again flared up, and that is the desire by Hamas to assert itself since it feels it's got its back to the wall. It doesn't really have very many friends left in the region — thrown out of Damascus by Assad, basically losing their relationship in Cairo.

I think they're doing it both out of a calculation that they can engender more sympathy and support for their cause, but also to put Israel on the back heel. And I have no doubt it was a deliberate provocation. Now, I do think if we can get to another cease-fire — which I think is going to be difficult because Hamas wants to hold out for all kinds of substantive negotiations, which will be very difficult to negotiate and agree upon in the kind of time pressure that a cease-fire requires — then issues like greater access to Gaza or food and another materials can certainly be taken into account. But I think in this particular case, I think the responsibility falls on Hamas. I think they knew exactly what they were doing, which was to try to put Israel in this position and try to engender some sympathy because they don't really have support very much anymore.

Q.

Another thing you say in the book when you're describing your role as secretary of state: It includes the policy element, but it also involves being the C.E.O. of the big, vast State Department apparatus. Every four years when people run for president, governors say, "You ought to elect a governor because we've run things, we know how to manage." Are part of the problems we're now seeing in the Obama administration, both in foreign policy and domestically, a function of the fact that their leading figures, President Obama, Joe Biden, you as secretary of state, were legislators who came out of the Senate and not people who had run things before?

A.

Oh, you don't expect me to agree with that, do you? Look, I think it depends on the individual. I had serious disagreements with George Bush and he was a two-term governor.

Q.

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But is there a management deficit in this administration?

A.

I think there is a political deficit in Washington because of gridlock and opposition to the president that started the first day he went into office. And I find that so regrettable. I don't want to sound naive or Pollyanna-ish about it, but I think we've got two big crises in our country.

One of them is the economic crisis, which we all know has just dramatically increased inequality and stagnated middle-class incomes and outcomes. But we also have a political crisis. Our democracy is not working and I do not see how we're going to resolve a lot of our issues. If you look at the reforms our president has put forward time and time again that would make the government more manageable, move it into the 21st century, they're just met by a solid wall of resistance.

Q.

A couple of things before we run out of time. Paul Ryan's out with a plan today proposing that states be allowed to take all of the programs for those in need in one revenue stream as a way of finding better ways to make them work. Is that a good idea?

A.

No, not in the current atmosphere. It is not a good idea. All one has to look at is that nearly half the states refuse to expand Medicaid to realize why it's a bad idea. If states won't even take what are very generous terms from the federal government to give working people and poor people access to health care, how can we turn over all of the resources that are meant to assist those in need?

Q.

Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida, is out with an op-ed calling for comprehensive immigration reform as you do, but saying that the law his brother signed, which passed when you were in the Senate in 2008, ought to be changed to make it easier to send those other than the "deserving few" back to their home countries in Central America. Should that law be changed?

A.

I think it should be looked at as part of an overall package. We have two categories of people that are represented by these poor children that have come across our border. We have migrants, children who are leaving for a variety of reasons — economic, they want to reunite with family members. And we have refugees, people who have reason to be threatened, people who have bad probabilities if they return home as to what might happen to them.

So we do need more resources very quickly deployed, which is what the president and the Democrats have asked for. We need some flexibility within the laws. Our laws right now are not particularly well-suited for making the kind of determinations that are required, and that we should, as Americans, want to see happen.

Q.

Last question. It's about you and the press. Jill Abramson, my long-time boss and friend, said recently "Hillary Clinton has terribly unrealistic expectations for journalists." And my question for you is, have you been so scalded by your past interactions that it makes it difficult for you to communicate in the way that you would need to as a presidential candidate or otherwise?

A.

I don't think so. I think maybe one of the points Jill was making is that I do sometimes expect more than perhaps I should. I'll have to work on my expectations. But I had an excellent relationship with the State Department press that followed me for four years and I enjoyed working with them. Whatever I do in the future, I look forward to having the same kind of opportunities.

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[No Writer Mentioned]

July 24, 2014

[Subtitle:] Top Democratic and Republican strategists weigh in.

Hillary Clinton's book tour is winding down, so it's time to assess what the Hard Choices rollout means for what just about everyone in American politics assumes is her coming presidential bid.

Thus far, the former secretary of state has made a few blunders—her comment about being "dead broke" after leaving the White House, for instance, tied her in knots for days—and invited fresh scrutiny toward her very well compensated speeches (since leaving Foggy Bottom, she's pulled down an estimated $12 million). Her book itself, though lauded by some, has also been panned by critics as a cautious, colorless account of her time as secretary of state. If Hillary Clinton is headed for a coronation, the chattering class hasn't gotten the invitation.

So we asked a panel of top strategists and analysts in both parties: What, if anything, does Clinton's 2014 book tour teach us about 2016? From Karen Hughes to Newt Gingrich, Joel Benenson to Anita Dunn, here's what they told us.

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Karen Hughes

Republican strategist and former George W. Bush adviser

The 2014 book tour made me think a 2016 Hillary Clinton presidential race would feel like a replay of the Bob Dole campaign, only two decades later. She seemed defensive and cautious, with not much new to say. Her husband had inspired us with the "bridge to the 21st century," but it seemed as if she was stuck on the wrong side of it. And her "dead broke" comment was revealing because it shows she still feels put upon despite the many advantages she has.

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Anne-Marie Slaughter

President of the New America Foundation and former State Department official

Having taught a course that featured secretary of state memoirs from Acheson to Albright (paired with some international relations theory for ballast), I can attest that it is a rather specialized genre. Secretary Clinton followed in the footsteps of Albright's Madame Secretary, which was the first such memoir to mix the high politics of foreign policy brinkmanship with personal anecdotes (how and when she got her hair done) that would make the business of the State Department more accessible and enjoyable for lay readers. Clinton similarly combines some genuinely new ideas about how to conduct foreign policy in a world of digital communication and mass politics with personal stories about other world leaders (Aung San Suu Kyi, Angela Merkel) and her own life (preparing for Chelsea's wedding). From my perspective, the chief lesson of the 2014 tour for 2016 is that it is very hard to write a book about being secretary of state for a press audience that is primarily interested in whether you will be president.

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Mark McKinnon

Former media adviser to George W. Bush and co-cofounder of No Labels

The one thing that is absolute about Hillary Clinton is that when it comes to the press, she's damned if she does, and she's damned if she doesn't.

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Before the book tour she was being criticized for being too cloistered, and not opening herself up in public and not being available to the press. Now she's being criticized for being too spontaneous, too off the leash and too exposed.

At the end of the day, I think it hardly matters. I think just given the physics, there was a real need for her to get out of the bubble. She did. Took a few hits. But she also relieved a lot of pressure that had been building to be more public, answered a bunch of questions and still looks like the Ferrari of the field.

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Joel Benenson

Democratic pollster

I don't believe that a single voter will care at all about Secretary Clinton's book tour or the media coverage of it. Elections—especially presidential elections—are about big things that are going on in people's lives at that time. and should Hillary Clinton decide to run, her success, like any other candidate, will hinge solely on how strongly she makes that connection.

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Newt Gingrich

Former speaker of the House and presidential candidate

Hillary Clinton's book tour was a grim reminder of what happened during the 2008 presidential campaign. She is very smart and very hard-working. She would have been a very powerful senator if she had stayed. She seems to find it very hard to find the rhythm of public media at a national level. Her performance did no damage among Democratic loyalists, but for independents it raised dismaying questions about how out of touch she is with reality. For Republicans, it was a wonderful comedy break from the pain of the Obama presidency.

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Douglas E. Schoen

Democratic political consultant and former pollster for President Bill Clinton

The book tour underscores in fine relief the challenges facing a prospective Hillary Clinton candidacy for president in 2016. As in 2008, there is a compelling need for former Secretary Clinton to develop an overarching message of change and inclusion—something the book tour suggests quite compellingly is still very much a work in progress.

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William Kristol

Editor of the Weekly Standard

Hillary Clinton's book tour should have emboldened any Democrat who's ever toyed with the idea of running in 2016 to get to work organizing his or her campaign. Hillary has sold many fewer books than expected. If she runs, she'll win many fewer delegates than expected.

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Anita Dunn

Senior partner at SKDKnickerbocker and former Barack Obama adviser

I've been amused by the many "lessons" being drawn about 2016 out of a 2014 book tour, because the one lesson the press and political establishment never seem to learn is what is important to voters and what isn't. A book tour in 2014 teaches us very little about a presidential campaign in 2016, particularly because the book was a memoir as opposed to being the classic "presidential campaign book" filled with policy proposals for the future. Should Secretary Clinton decide to run for the presidency, voters are going pay a lot more attention to the vision she outlines for the future as a candidate than to what happened in the spring of 2014 when she was talking about her book, and they will have a lot of questions for her. Their questions will be tough and pointed across a number of issues. How Secretary Clinton answers to the voters, should she choose to run, is what will determine the success of her candidacy, not this book tour. And that is a lesson I think Secretary Clinton, who has run before, understands better than most of the other potential candidates.

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Beth Myers

Mitt Romney campaign adviser

Bill and Hillary Clinton have created a new post-presidential model that includes self-promotion, corporate consulting, paid speaking fees, mega-book deals and massive wealth accumulation. There is nothing necessarily wrong with accumulating great wealth, but no former first family has done anything like it before. The Washington establishment may have embraced this model, but Hillary 2014 demonstrates that American voters will want to understand "Clinton, Inc." a whole lot better before they are sold on a Hillary Clinton candidacy.

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Alex Vogel

Co-founder and managing partner, VogelHood research

First, it shows the broader Democratic primary base that she is not in close touch with the populist mood of her own party. Her struggle to deal with questions about her own wealth highlights that disparity. Second, while her popularity remains high, her stumbles show there is a real opportunity for someone else in the race—and will encourage them to hang around in case she trips harder. Third, and maybe most importantly, her less-than-amazing book sales show that people aren't looking for a new definition of Hillary. Americans have a fairly defined view of her—something that cuts both ways—and aren't hyper-interested in laying down hardcover money to listen to a new version of it.

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Ramesh Ponnuru

Conservative pundit

Hillary Clinton's book tour doesn't tell us much about how she will do in 2016—but what it does tell us isn't good news for her. She can't be happy about the gaffe-filled coverage of it, or the fact that her favorability ratings have been dropping. She will be a formidable candidate but not an unbeatable one. But then we already knew that.

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Ana Navarro

Republican strategist

The Hillary book tour taught us that Hillary has the same problems—being overly cautious, measured, scripted, uninspiring and boring—going into

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2016 that she had going into 2008. And she has one more: Now she has to stay within the lines of the Obama administration's coloring book.

Jetting around world capitals as secretary of state to talk lofty issues with international leaders is very different from U.S. retail politics. She came across as rusty. It was just crazy to see her dig herself deeper and deeper in trying to explain her personal wealth. Calling the way she dealt with it "unartful" is being charitable.

We also learned that she views not having seized in 2008 the historical aspect of being the first woman candidate as a mistake. This time around, she obviously plans to embrace it fully.

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Lanhee Chen

Former Mitt Romney adviser

Hillary Clinton's book tour showed us how out of touch a rusty politician can look. But beyond the gaffes, I think it demonstrated that Clinton's efforts to showcase her record as secretary of state will end up backfiring. In fact, what she thinks is her biggest political strength will actually be her biggest liability if she decides to run for president. The world is in tumult, in no small part because of the role Clinton played as the chief executioner of President Obama's failed foreign policy. One needs to look no further than her obsession with pursuing a "reset" in our relations with Russia, her coddling of Bashar Assad in Syria or her inability to successfully negotiate a Status of Forces Agreement with the Iraqis to see how her time as America's chief diplomat will come back to haunt her. The media and political elites in Washington may have focused on Clinton's gaffes and other missteps during her recent book tour, but the bad news for her is that it showed us that the worst is yet to come.

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Zac Moffat

Republican consultant

In 2008, the Obama campaign ran circles around Clinton, and the cycle has gotten exponentially faster since. It appears that the Clinton staff has been effective at getting one-off predetermined tweets through approval, but much has changed since 2008, and their success will be contingent on their ability to adapt and be more responsive than their current communications strategy.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clinton would back changing border law"

By Jesse Byrnes

July 24, 2014, 1:31 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton said Thursday that she was open to changing a 2008 trafficking law to help the administration deal with an influx of child migrants crossing the border illegally.

"I think it should be looked at as part of an overall package," Clinton said on NPR's "On Point."

Clinton said Obama needed more "flexibility" to deal with the crisis on the border, noting the large number of migrants are fleeing their countries for many reasons.

"We do need more resources very quickly deployed, which is what the president and the Democrats have asked for. We need some flexibility within the laws," she added.

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The 2008 law has become a sticking point in the debate over how to handle the large number of child migrants who have entered the U.S. this year.

About three-quarters of the unaccompanied children crossing the southern border are from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. More than 50,000 have immigrated to the U.S. since October.

The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, named after the 19th-century British abolitionist, prevents officials from quickly deporting migrants from countries other than Canada or Mexico.

A House GOP border working group called for changes to the law, which Republicans say creates an incentive for children to cross the border. Republicans will likely include those changes in their $1.5 billion emergency funding bill for the border, while Senate Democrats are moving a $2.7 billion plan without changes to the 2008 law.

Congressional Democrats oppose changing the law, saying that doing so would weaken legal protections for young migrants.

But the Obama administration has called for measures to help speed up the deportation process.

On Tuesday, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said the law should be changed to expedite processing for those ineligible for asylum.

House Speaker John Boehner on Wednesday urged President Obama to publicly support changing the law.

Clinton at a CNN Town Hall last month said unaccompanied immigrant children would have to be sent home.

“The laws, our laws right now are not particularly well suited for making the kind of determinations that are required, and that we should, as Americans, want to see happen,” Clinton said Thursday.

Fast Company: “Most Americans Think the U.S. Would Be Better Governed If More Women Were In Charge”

By Kathleen Davis

July 25, 2014, 5:43 a.m. EDT

Tina Fey famously quipped on SNL in 2008 that “bitch is the new black,” asserting that the reason that Hillary Clinton was trailing Barack Obama was because of a lot of not-so-subtle misogyny.

Of course it’s not just Hillary Clinton who has faced an uphill battle; many female politicians have found themselves the subjects of questions, criticisms, and scrutiny that their male counterparts never have to face.

However, a new poll from Gallup shows that 63% of Americans say the country would be better governed with more female political leaders, which is up slightly from 57% in past polls in 1995 and 2000. But not everyone feels this way: While 78% of liberals as well as 78% of unmarried women think we need more female political leaders, only 46% of Republicans feel that having more women in office would result in better government, and almost one in five (19%) feel it would be worse.

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[GALLUPPOLLS]

Meanwhile, four in five Americans (81%) say the U.S. would be better governed if more people with business and management experience were in political office. Which means in theory that everyone in the tiny pool of women CEOs should run for office.

Of course, a lot goes into the public's voting decisions, and while Americans may claim to view demographic and professional backgrounds in a certain way, their final voting decisions can be swayed by many other factors. And there's the argument that less women than men run for public office in the first place.

Still, the proportion of women in elected offices remains staggeringly low when you consider that women make up 51% of the U.S. population: Women's representation in both the House and the Senate hovers around 20% (there are currently 20 female U.S. senators and 79 female U.S. House members), and there are only five female state governors in office.

According to Gallup's research however, we are at least slowly moving in a more equitable direction. "Far more women have been elected to federal or statewide office in the years since 1990," writes Justin McCarthy in the Gallup report. Maybe next we can finally stop talking about what they are wearing.

U.S. News & World Report blog: Washington Whispers: "Another Pro-Hillary PAC Tries to Make Clinton Cool"

By Nikki Schwab

July 24, 2014, 6:01 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] But who's the most grass-roots of them all?

If Eric Williams had his way, you'd be kicking back, sipping a pantsuit cocktail and supporting Hillary Clinton.

Williams, a 22-year-old from Alabama, who now lives across the Potomac from Washington in Alexandria, Virginia, is a founder of Hillary 2016 PAC, yet another outside group supporting a potential Clinton 2016 presidential run.

On Thursday night, he's throwing down. The group is hosting a second Washington fundraiser at the Soho Tea & Coffee shop, a Dupont Circle joint with bright art, mismatched tables, cement floors and, of course, a bar.

"Soho Tea & Coffee brings a unique flavor to D.C., like the candidate Hillary Clinton," Williams told Whispers. (The owner is also a big Clinton supporter.) The event promises specialty drinks, fun and music. Beverages served will include the nonalcoholic "Hillary's Hammerhead," a coffee drink, and a "White House Wine Spritzer," a boozy one. The pantsuit-themed drink was served at the group's first fundraiser, which took place in June, at a bowling alley in Georgetown, that's also a bar.

Tickets for the Thursday night event are $16. "A 'suggested donation' of $16 we felt would make it accessible to anybody who wanted to attend," Williams said. "And it's a suggested donation as well," he repeated, suggesting someone could get into the party for even less.

There's a similar flavor here to what Ready for Hillary has tried to accomplish with small dollar donation parties, though the organizers of that PAC, which is more connected with the Clintons, ask attendees for $20.16.

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Williams said Hillary 2016 PAC isn't a copycat, but more authentically grass roots.

That's because Williams has no ties to the Clinton family – he was born when they were already in the White House.

"I fell in love with Hillary when I was 3 years old," Williams explained.

The super PAC came about earlier this year when Williams joined forces with Kelley Johnson, a veteran of Terry McAuliffe's successful campaign for governor of Virginia in 2013, who also voted for Clinton when she ran for the U.S. Senate in New York. Together, the two of them are trying to get young people involved. "The things that we value and the things that the young progressive movement values … [Clinton] spent her entire life on those issues," Williams explained, noting that young people don't necessarily know her record.

Evidence of that delighted conservatives when, in May, right-of-center video journalist Michelle Fields went to the campus of George Washington University and failed to find a college student who could really pinpoint Clinton's record as secretary of state. (Though Fields found a lot of fans.)

Williams, however, has seen progress. "I see it first hand," he said. "I think more and more every day my generation has become more familiar with her as she's become the hot topic."

He aims to have the Hillary 2016 PAC educate, along with raise funds. So far, the super PAC, which can raise unlimited money, has only brought in about $10,000, with much of that eaten by operating expenditures. That doesn't seem to bother the founder.

"The stigma of political action committees is that we're just raising tons of money, we're just going to raise money to sway their opinions or whatever," Williams said. "But we believe in political action being action."

CNN: "Why liberals don't trust Hillary Clinton"

By Dan Merica

July 25, 2014, 5:45 a.m. EDT

To prove she wasn't just an opportunist hoping to use a U.S. Senate seat in New York as a ticket to bigger things, then-first lady Hillary Clinton tried to show voters that she cared about their values and views -- she listened.

More than a year before the 2000 election, Clinton sat in farmhouses and in community centers, listening to voters' needs and concerns and their problems with government.

Many liberal and progressive activists don't trust Clinton because they think she sides with big banks and big money instead of the middle class and they're wary of her on national security. With a Clinton presidential campaign a possibility, they want the same treatment New York voters got.

"If there was an actual, authentic 'I am going to listen to you about your issues' from Clinton, instead of kind of pounding the drum of inevitability and stampeding over the left on her way to assumed victory, that would be effective," said Sally Kohn, a progressive activist, CNN contributor and Clinton critic.

Until then, the trust deficit between Clinton and the left of her party will grow, Kohn and other liberals predict.

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Activists point to Clinton's voting record in the Senate, where she voted to authorize the Iraq war and increase domestic surveillance. They say that and decisions her husband made while president, like the Defense of Marriage Act and the authorization of the North American Free Trade Agreement, give her little street cred among liberals and populists.

Possibly the biggest concern among liberals is Clinton's coziness with Wall Street, their big bogeyman. Since leaving the State Department in 2013, she has spoken at events sponsored by Wall Street giants like Fidelity, Goldman Sachs and Ameriprise Financial, and during her Senate runs and 2008 presidential run, Clinton defended lobbyists.

"I don't think she has been aggressive on the banks," said Nelini Stamp, a progressive political organizer from New York. "When I think of Hillary Clinton, I actually think she is in bed with some of the banks and Wall Street is her ally."

There is also an overarching suspicion among liberals that Clinton is saying what she needs to get elected, but would govern differently.

"You wonder if it is a pivot or whether she is saying what the moment demands," Kohn said.

Starting in May, before Clinton crisscrossed the country selling her book "Hard Choices," the former secretary of state started to talk about populist and liberal issues like college affordability and income inequality.

Clinton told an audience at the liberal New American Foundation in May that "the dream of upward mobility that made this country a model for the world feels further and further out of reach" and because of that, "many Americans understandably feel frustrated, even angry."

Clinton has also recently labeled college affordability "one of the biggest problems we have in the country," and says if she were elected president she would "tackle growth, which is the handmaiden of inequality." People close to her have started to trumpet her record on pay equity and the minimum wage.

"She has come with a more populist tone because she knows what people want to hear," Stamp said. Asked if she trusts Clinton when she talks about income inequality, Stamp said bluntly, "Right now, not that much."

Clinton's changing message has been overshadowed by gaffes during her book tour, like countering questions about her wealth by saying her family was "dead broke" when it left the White House.

At the same time, possible opponents from the left -- like Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vice President Joe Biden -- have generated more buzz among liberals as alternatives to Clinton.

Other than changing her tune, Clinton hasn't been quick to address liberals who have questions for her. Instead of sitting down with them -- something that a candidate would certainly do, especially one battling distrust -- she has continued to hold events around her book and her family's foundation.

Polls might explain why she hasn't reached out yet: Right now, liberals don't matter that much to whether Clinton would win the Democratic nomination in 2016.

A CNN/ORC International Poll from June found that only 11% of Democrats want a more liberal option to Clinton. Twenty percent want someone more conservative and 63% want Clinton.

What's more, a Washington Post/ABC News poll from the same time showed that 72% of self-described liberals supported Clinton, a number that was larger than moderate and conservative Democrats.

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But liberals do make a lot of noise. Some of that has already boosted possible opponents from the left.

Earlier this month both Biden and Warren ignited the crowd of liberal bloggers and activists at the annual Netroots Nation conference in Detroit. Warren's speech was interrupted by chants of "Run, Liz, Run" from eager supporters who want to see her challenge Clinton for the presidency.

Clinton wasn't there, instead continuing with her "Hard Choices" memoir tour in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Madison, Connecticut.

While Stamp, who attended Netroots Nation, said there wasn't an overarching feeling of being snubbed by Clinton, she acknowledged, "It would have been interesting to hear her in a progressive setting."

"People want to hear from a potential candidate and have those candidates hear about the work they are doing on the ground," she added.

After the conference, left-leaning Democrats said they felt more energized and organized than ever -- and they hope that will lead to more influence on who their party nominates in 2016.

"She shouldn't be the inevitable candidate," said Erica Sagrans, the campaign manager for Ready for Warren, an effort to enlist Warren to run for president in 2016. "Our take is that no one should feel like they can't support a candidate that they like or are excited about just because there is a lot of support for Hillary."

Ready for Warren is a direct response to what many liberal organizers say is an assumption of inevitability among the cadre of groups and political operatives organizing for a possible Clinton campaign. The name itself is a play on Ready for Hillary, an organized group of Clinton loyalists who have raised over $8 million to help Clinton if she chooses to run in 2016.

Sagrans, whose group received a great deal of attention at Netroots this month, said it hopes to "channel the excitement about Warren into tangible results and a tangible organization."

But just as much as the group's goal is to "elevate Warren," as Sagrans said, progressives also want to direct the 2016 conversation.

On this goal, progressives seem to be winning. Clinton has talked more about populist issues since embarking on the book tour and will likely be forced to continue this rhetoric if she runs for president.

And liberals hope their influence will grow with time.

"There is this sort of inherent question, is Hillary ready for us?" Kohn said about 2016. "It is not enough to just be the next in line. The question is: Are you really, truly listening?"

Politico: “Deval Patrick: I'm not 'pals' with Hillary Clinton”

By Kyle Cheney

July 24, 2014, 1:43 p.m. EDT

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who raised eyebrows earlier this year by questioning the sense of “inevitability” around Hillary Clinton’s

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potential presidential candidacy, emphasized Thursday that he's worried Clinton's inner circle will perpetuate an "off-putting" feeling of "entitlement" surrounding her possible White House bid.

"I worry about the campaign; I don't think it's so much her," the Bay State Democrat said during an appearance on WGBH-FM, a public radio station in Boston.

Patrick added that he had a chance to speak with Clinton at a biotech conference in San Diego last month but said that he and the former secretary of state aren't close.

"It's not like we're pals," he said.

Patrick, echoing comments he made to CNN earlier this year, said the feeling of inevitability played a role in sinking Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign.

"The worry of that is that that can be interpreted by people as entitlement. And that can be off-putting to folks," he said. "They want you to sweat for it."

Patrick wasn't asked directly if he'd consider running for president in 2016, but, asked by a listener whether he believes a presidential candidate from "liberal Massachusetts" could ever win the presidency, Patrick rejected the premise.

"The worry of that is that that can be interpreted by people as entitlement. And that can be off-putting to folks," he said. "They want you to sweat for it."

Patrick wasn't asked directly if he'd consider running for president in 2016, but, asked by a listener whether he believes a presidential candidate from "liberal Massachusetts" could ever win the presidency, Patrick rejected the premise.

"Massachusetts is not that liberal," he said. "We have more unenrolled independents than we do registered Democrats and registered Republicans combined. … We have Democrats in Massachusetts who would be Republicans anywhere else."

He added that he thinks Americans prefer "good leadership" no matter the candidate's home state.

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton: You're lucky 'Hard Choices' isn't longer"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

July 24, 2014, 7:12 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton's new book "Hard Choices" is many things: a best-selling memoir, a detailed record of her time as secretary of state, a careful campaign document and, as Clinton likes to joke, a handy door stop. It's very thick.

The book's 650 pages have drawn complaints from the likes of Google CEO Eric Schmidt, who compared its length unfavorably to his own 37-page book while interviewing Clinton this week. "This would just slip under the door. You can't imagine using that as a door stop," Clinton scoffed while holding Schmidt's slim text on stage. To other interviewers, Clinton has joked that her book can be used as an exercise weight, encouraging audiences to buy two copies so they can work out both arms at once.

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But, Clinton revealed Thursday, her book could have been even longer. Much longer. Speaking with CNBC's John Harwood, who was guest-hosting the public radio show "On Point," produced by WBUR in Boston, Clinton said her book is a slimmed down version of what it could have been.

"I know I wrote a long book, but I cut about two-thirds of it out!" she added with a laugh. Harwood heartily agreed it was long.

With about 600 pages of text (minus the lengthy index, and other appendages), that suggests the potential presidential candidate could have produced a roughly 1,800 page manuscript. "War and Peace" runs about 1,400 pages in the Oxford World's Classic paperback printing.

More seriously, Clinton defended the Obama administration's controversial "reset" policy with Russia, which has been criticized in the wake of Russia's incursion into Crimea and the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 last week. "What I think I demonstrate in the book is that the reset worked," she told Harwood, insisting it was successful in extracting key concessions from then-Russian president Dmitry Medvedev before Vladimir Putin resumed power. "We'd gotten all we could get from the reset. The reset succeeded, but we had to make adjustments, given the fact that Putin was going … to be more aggressive in his foreign policy."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· ~ July 23-27 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Ameriprise Financial Conference (Politico)

· July 25 – New York City, NY: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Bronx Children's Museum Dream Big Day (CNN)

· July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Ivan Frishberg" <ivanfrishberg@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/14/2008 4:16:12 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain proposes $280 in taxpayer support for nukes.

Environment America released an analysis of McCain's McNuke plan today. The cost to tax payers is as much as $280B in what we are calling the mother of all sub-prime loans.

Enjoy,

Ivan

For Immediate Release:
10/14/2008

For More Information:
Ivan Frishberg, 202-683-1250
Jen Mueller, 202-683-1250

Senator McCain's Nuclear Plan: An Economic and Environmental Disaster

Washington, DC – Sen. John McCain's plan to build up to a 100 new nuclear reactors could cost taxpayers an estimated $280 billion and presents a significant risk for the economy and the public, while doing little to solve America's energy problems, according to a new report by Environment America .

"America needs a new direction on energy, but Sen. McCain's plan would be serious setback to our economy and to prospects for clean energy," said Anna Aurilio, of Environment America. "These 'McNukes' would super-size our tax bills, our energy bills and our nuclear waste problems," she added.

Since private investors have been unwilling to finance new nuclear power plants, the industry has been applying to the federal government for taxpayer-backed loans. The Congressional Budget Office assumes that these loans are so risky at least 50 percent would default. Environment America estimates that taxpayers could be on the hook for $126 billion to $280 billion in failed nuclear loans.

"As the country struggles with an economic meltdown, it's astonishing that Sen. McCain is proposing massive subprime loans to the nuclear industry," said Aurilio. "We've all seen what happens when Wall Street takes foolish risks, now Sen. McCain's plan asks taxpayers to foot the bill for building new nuclear plants that even Wall Street has refused to pay for," she added.

Sen. McCain has repeatedly called for building 45 new nuclear reactors before 2030 with an ultimate goal of building 100 new plants. Environment America's report shows:

A $280 Billion Cost to Taxpayers: Nuclear plants are enormously expensive. The cost of 45 reactors is likely to be at least $315 billion, while 100 reactors would cost at least $700 billion. Under Sen. McCain's plan, taxpayers are estimated to be on the hook for $126-280 billion in failed nuclear loans, with the average American household paying $1,100 to more than $2,400 for failed nuclear loans.

A Job Creation Fantasy: New nuclear power plants would create, at best, one- fourth as many jobs as Sen. McCain claimed during the second presidential debate, costing taxpayers as much as $19 million for each permanent job created.

Failure to Take Advantage of Cleaner, Cheaper Alternatives:
Clean energy technologies like energy efficient products, super-efficient buildings and wind and solar power can deliver environmental results and meet more of our energy needs much sooner than building new nuclear power plants, and create more jobs at a lower cost to taxpayers—without the collateral environmental and security risks.

Environment America estimates that Sen. McCain's plan would create enough highly radioactive waste to fill a second Yucca Mountain-sized dump and dramatically increase the amount of nuclear waste transported on our roads and rails. The report also concludes that the plan would do nothing to deal with our current energy crisis since no new power would be generated until at least 2019.

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"Sen. McCain is so vehement about building these nuclear plants that he has turned a deaf ear to what we just learned about risky loans and how much they can hurt tax payers," said Aurilio. "This is especially alarming given Sen. McCain's consistent failure to support the kinds of clean energy investments that can strengthen our economy and save us money," she concluded.

The report, "Sen. McCain's Nuclear Plan: An Economic and Environmental Disaster," can be found here .

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/1/2014 7:42:45 AM
Subject: RESEND: Correct The Record Monday September 1, 2014 Roundup

"On Labor Day, our nation celebrates the hardworking men and women who drive our economy and build the future of our nation." - Hillary Clinton

Correct The Record Monday September 1, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Benghazi coming back with a vengeance in September"

"Clinton defenders at Democratic groups like Correct the Record and American Bridge say they will be ready to respond to any incoming fire, and are already passing along research to undermine the books."

Washington Post: "Clintons keep up with a sprawling, yet aging, political network in Arkansas"

"'Lynda's List' as her under-the-radar alumni news service is called, is a telling example of the Clintons' attention to detail in maintaining and nurturing their formidable political network, which extends around the globe yet remains perhaps deepest in Arkansas."

Jewish Journal opinion: Lazar Palnick: "Hillary, Israel and the Jews"

"From her foreign policy abroad to her work back home, Hillary Clinton has consistently shown her support and dedication to the issues that matter most to Jewish Americans."

Washington Times: "O'Hillary: The Ready for Hillary superpac journeys to Ireland, raises $50,000"

"Fundraise for Hillary Clinton in Ireland: faith and begorra, that's exactly what Ready for Hillary did. The independent grass-roots activist group traveled all the way to Ballsbridge - that's an exclusive suburb of Dublin - to raise $50,000 for Mrs. Clinton, a potential White House candidate."

Washington Examiner: "Six signs Hillary Clinton is running"

"Hillary Clinton isn't officially running for president. But unofficially, the signs are everywhere."

Wonkette (satire): "At The New York Times, A Slow News Day"

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"Maureen Dowd manages a third straight week without any mention of Bill or Hillary Clinton…"

Articles:

MSNBC: "Benghazi coming back with a vengeance in September"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 1, 2014, 7:12 a.m. EDT

After several mercifully Benghazi-free months, the 2012 attack on the diplomatic compound in Libya is about to be thrust back into the spotlight around its September 11 anniversary.

The special House committee investigating Benghazi is finally expected to begin its work, in earnest, with its first hearing the week Congress returns from August recess. Meanwhile, two books promising explosive new allegations about the terror attack will hit shelves in September, and Fox News plans to air a new, one-hour documentary on the attack this week, featuring exclusive interviews with Americans who fought in the onslaught.

Add that to the usual fare that accompanies the anniversary of any major news event and you get a headache for the teams surrounding Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. For both, it's a stubborn political problem that will likely never go away, no matter how many investigations clear the senior players of the worst allegations of wrongdoing. And it's little doubt why: Polls suggest that Clinton is vulnerable on Benghazi ahead of a potential 2016 presidential run, with members of both parties listing it as her biggest weakness.

Partisans on both sides are gearing up for the return of Benghazi. Tim MIller, for example, who is the executive director of the GOP super PAC America Rising, told msnbc his team is prepared to jump on "anything that comes up in these books/hearings that call into question Sec. Clinton's claims." And Clinton defenders at Democratic groups like Correct the Record and American Bridge say they will be ready to respond to any incoming fire, and are already passing along research to undermine the books.

On Sept. 9, conservative talk radio host Aaron Klein's "The Real Benghazi Story" will hit bookstores. Published by an imprint of World Net Daily (the website that promotes the notion that Obama was not born in the U.S.), the book promises "to blow the lid off" "shocking," "devastating," and "mind-blowing" new details of the terror attack. It's the story "the White House and Hillary don't want you to know," the book's subtitle claims.

Klein's audience is undoubtedly the already-converted, but three of his previous books have made it to The New York Times bestseller list, and his latest is easy fodder for the conservative echo chamber. Klein has plans to promote the book in New York and Washington, and already "has interview commitments with top-tier cable, radio and print outlets," according to his publicist.

Then, at the end of the month comes "13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened In Benghazi." The book is likely to gain more traction in the mainstream press, considering its author, Boston University journalism professor Mitchell Zuckoff, and publisher, Hachette, a well respected house.

Zuckoff got unprecedented access to the six Americans who defended the CIA annex in Benghazi and tells their story from the ground. Paramount reportedly bought the film rights months ago and has a screenwriter and producers attached to the project.

Zuckoff's book promises to "set the record straight" on what happened on the ground, but will not dwell much on the politics or bureaucratic wrangling in Washington. Still, even if Clinton barely makes a cameo, anytime people are talking about Benghazi its bad for Clinton. The book may also provide embarrassing new details from people closest to the attack.

Zuckoff's work also spawned an hour-long Fox News special, set to air Friday, in which host Bret Baier interviews the security operators. The documentary is being promoted by Fox and will likely further stir the pot on the right.

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The House Select Committee on Benghazi – the seventh congressional committee that has looked into the attacks – has been quiet since its inception this spring, will hold its first hearing the second week of September. Led by South Carolina Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, Republicans last week hired the Army's former top lawyer to be their general counsel. They're finishing staffing up, but are revealing little about future plans beyond the first hearing. The Democratic side, led by Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, say they are mostly staffed up.

Rep. Adam Schiff, a California Democrat who sits on the select committee, said that while Gowdy has been inclusive of Democrats and responsible thus far, he'll have to deal with high expectations from the conservative base. "I'm not sure where we're headed. I'm not sure the House leadership knows where we're headed. But I do think there's going to be a lot pressure on the chairman to produce something," he told msnbc.

Gowdy told The New York Times Friday that it will likely take until at least the end of 2015 for the committee to complete its work, but that it could go into 2016 if agencies are slow to turn over requested documents.

Some Democrats and Clinton allies, who have long dismissed the slew of Benghazi investigations as being politically motivated, say they expect the committee will be used to attack Obama in anticipation of the midterm elections, before turning attention to Clinton afterwards. But Schiff said the committee is unlikely to produce anything in time for 2014 elections. He did, however, say there will be tremendous pressure on Gowdy to bring Clinton as a witness.

Other Democrats are treating a Clinton testimony request as a certainty.

"I don't think there are many new facts to be found there," Schiff added.

Washington Post: "Clintons keep up with a sprawling, yet aging, political network in Arkansas"

By Philip Rucker

August 31, 2014, 10:31 p.m. EDT

LITTLE ROCK — While Bill and Hillary Clinton were vacationing in August at their rented mansion on a scenic bluff in the tony Hamptons, they read a flurry of e-mail updates from an earlier life.

At 7:41 one Monday morning, the Clintons received word that the elderly mother of longtime Little Rock radio and television personality Craig O'Neill had passed away.

A few days later, another bulletin: Rufus Ellis "Buddy" Tate Jr., a farmer and lumberer from Marvell, Ark., died five days shy of his 100th birthday. His only child, Sherman Tate, is an old friend of Bill's.

Then another: Dorothy Jean Darr Martinous, who managed the bridal salon at J.C. Penney and was a prize-winning dancer of the Charleston, died at age 98. She had been active for decades in Arkansas Democratic politics.

In each case, the notices came from a 70-year-old retiree named Lynda Dixon, who worked as Bill Clinton's personal secretary when he was governor of Arkansas and now fires off e-mails to her old boss, Hillary Rodham Clinton and their aides from her home here in downtown Little Rock, within view of the Clinton Presidential Center.

"Lynda's List," as her under-the-radar alumni news service is called, is a telling example of the Clintons' attention to detail in maintaining and nurturing their formidable political network, which extends around the globe yet remains perhaps deepest in Arkansas. The couple's strong ties to the state have been highlighted this year as Bill spends time here stumping on behalf of Democratic candidates in the November midterms.

After the Clintons packed up from Arkansas in 1993 to move to the White House, never to return permanently, Dixon stayed behind and kept the couple up to date with news from their sprawling — and aging — network of friends and acquaintances. Once full of wedding and baby announcements, or reports of a new job or award, Dixon's notices nowadays more commonly deliver word of who is sick, who has died and who needs a helping hand.

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“I am the one that knows who his friends were, all his constituents that were important to him — I just send notices to him and Hillary,” Dixon said in a rare interview. Unlike many Clinton hands who lead public careers, Dixon has served the couple in near-anonymity.

In anticipation of Hillary Clinton’s potential 2016 presidential campaign, the Clintons are keeping their Arkansas network especially active. Their allies here insist she would put Arkansas in play, even though the state has become more Republican since Bill Clinton carried it in the 1990s. President Obama lost here by 20 percentage points in 2008 and by 24 percentage points in 2012.

The Clintons have staffs in New York and Washington, but, Dixon said, those aides “don’t know the Devoe Bollingers of the world. He was one of the president’s constituents, one of his supporters, an old cattle farmer from Horatio, Arkansas.”

Dixon said she scours the obituary pages of local newspapers and calls funeral homes looking for familiar names. At the top of each e-mail to the Clintons, Dixon writes the name, address and phone number of the subject — or, in the case of death, a next-of-kin. Like clockwork, that person often gets a call from Bill. A few days later, a warm letter from Hillary might show up in the mail. And in some instances, the Clintons fly home to attend funerals, as Bill did on Aug. 15 in Hot Springs, where he bade farewell to Margaret “Marge” Mitchell, a close friend of his late mother. The former president was an honorary pallbearer.

“You may move from your home town, you may move from your home state, but you don’t forget from where you came, and Bill Clinton is the prime example of that,” said Skip Rutherford, a longtime Clinton adviser and friend who serves as dean of the University of Arkansas’s Clinton School of Public Service.

When Bill returned to Little Rock on Aug. 15 to address a meeting of the Southern Governors’ Association, he referred to Arkansas as “our state.”

“I’m feeling pretty nostalgic,” he said, noting that he woke up in New York that morning at 4:45 to fly to Hot Springs for Mitchell’s funeral.

At a time when the Clintons are under scrutiny for their family’s exploding wealth and extravagant lifestyle on the paid speaking circuit, reminding voters of Hillary’s Arkansas roots has political benefits. This is where she married Bill, raised daughter Chelsea, practiced law, came of age politically, and, as first lady, championed state education and children’s health initiatives.

In July 2013, both Clintons attended the dedication of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library in Little Rock, a gleaming facility where, as Bill marveled in his recent speech to the governors, “they’ve got a 3-D printer!” At the opening, Hillary read “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” to youngsters sitting around her feet.

Hillary returned this May for the opening of the Clinton Presidential Center’s temporary blown-glass exhibit by artist Dale Chihuly. And she came in June to sign copies of her latest book, “Hard Choices,” at a suburban Wal-Mart.

But in this high-stakes election year, it’s Bill who’s been an especially frequent visitor, throwing himself into Arkansas races. With his sky-high popularity — his favorability rating was 68 percent among registered voters in Arkansas in a May NBC News-Marist poll — he is trying to boost three longtime friends: Sen. Mark Pryor, gubernatorial candidate Mike Ross and congressional candidate James Lee Witt.

In August, Clinton headlined a Democratic Party fundraiser at Little Rock’s historic Capital Hotel, and associates said he is coming back in September and October to campaign.

“If he could get away with it, he’d live here for the two to three weeks before the election,” said Vince Insalaco, the state Democratic Party’s chairman and a longtime Clinton friend.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe (D) said that when he asked Clinton’s staff if he would come to the August events, “they weren’t real high on him coming” because the Clintons were vacationing in the Hamptons. But once Beebe got the former president on the phone to personally invite him, it was easy to get to “yes.”

“A vacation from vacation is probably consistent with his personality,” Beebe said. Here in Arkansas, he added, “he soaks up information like a sponge. He’s always wanting to know the politics, he’s always wanting to know the policy, and even more often than when he comes, I’m getting a phone call from him.”

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Before the Little Rock fundraiser, Clinton huddled with Pryor to talk politics. Pryor said he met Clinton when he was about 12; his father, David Pryor, served as governor when Clinton was climbing the political ladder as attorney general, and then as a U.S. senator when Clinton was governor and president.

"It's not unusual if you're in Arkansas for the phone to ring at an odd hour and it be Bill Clinton at the end of the line," Mark Pryor said as he rested his hands on his Bible during an interview on a recent Sundaymorning before church.

Clinton is eyeing the race to succeed Beebe with special interest. The Democratic nominee is Ross, a protege who got his start in politics as Clinton's 21-year-old driver during the 1982 governor's campaign.

"We had a one-car motorcade: It was him and me in a Chevy Citation," Ross recalled. "People wanted their photo taken with him. I'd take it with one of those old Polaroid cameras where the picture shoots out the front. He would autograph the bottom and say, 'You'll have your picture developed in a couple minutes.' "

Clinton helped persuade Ross — a former congressman who graduated from Hope High School, in Clinton's birthplace — to run for governor and has counseled him throughout the race.

The Republican nominee is Asa Hutchinson, who as a congressman in the late 1990s was a floor manager of Clinton's impeachment proceedings following the Monica Lewinsky scandal. For many Clinton loyalists here, Hutchinson's role still stings.

"It's kind of like being against the Razorbacks," Insalaco said, referring to the University of Arkansas sports teams. "It wasn't just being against Clinton, but against the whole state. . . . Insiders remember, but voters outside, I think they may need to be reminded."

Hutchinson said Democrats were "grasping at straws." And he argued that Bill Clinton's popularity would not rub off on Ross. "Arkansas is not really a coattails state," he said.

Bill Clinton, busy reconnecting with old friends here, is trying to challenge that prophecy.

After Clinton's August fundraiser at the Capital Hotel, George Hale, 69, settled into a couch in the lobby. When a reporter introduced himself, Hale said, "I'm an F.O.B. Friend of Bill."

This May, after Hale's wife died, Hale said Clinton "sent me a little handwritten note saying he was very sorry for the loss. He said, 'Hang in there, George.' "

How did Clinton know about Hale's loss? Lynda's List, of course.

Jewish Journal opinion: Lazar Palnick: "Hillary, Israel and the Jews"

By Lazar Palnick

August 29, 2014

Last month, I read an opinion piece in a Jewish publication wrongfully accusing Hillary Clinton of being anti-Israel and not fighting for the issues that matter most to Jewish Americans. This couldn't be further from the truth. Throughout her career, Hillary Clinton has fought for and been a strong ally and representative of the Jewish community. To suggest otherwise is just absurd.

I have been lucky enough to know Hillary Clinton for more than 35 years, ever since I was a teenager in Arkansas in the 1970s. I don't know anyone who is more able and ready to work on the issues that matter and to make sure that the ideas and concerns of the Jewish people are addressed.

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I first met Hillary when my father, who was a Rabbi in Little Rock, went to Fayetteville to perform the town's first ever Bar Mitzvah. At the reception, we met a nice young couple, Bill and Hillary Clinton. My parents and the Clintons became friends, and thus began a long history working together in public service.

The author of the piece I read cites obscure references to Hillary Clinton's life and work back in Arkansas. Having witnessed that time in her life, I can say how misleading and unrepresentative these are to her history fighting for and understanding important issues to the Jewish community.

Hillary was always close to the Jewish community, and she and I worked together on many projects. Behind the scenes, Hillary became one of the leaders of a group of civic-minded professionals who worked together to help people of all faiths strive for communication and cooperation. While Hillary was a Methodist and Bill a Baptist, they always supported interfaith activities.

Hillary was always good at thinking outside the box and finding unique solutions to problems. While traveling, Hillary discovered an Israeli educational program that was designed to help immigrants and their children adjust to life in new countries. Hillary studied the groundbreaking program and figured out that it could be adapted to help economically disadvantaged families in Arkansas. Hillary brought the HIPPY program to Arkansas, where it was soon offered statewide and now operates in 21 states, serving 15,000 families.

I also noticed that the author conveniently chose to exempt from his argument Hillary Clinton's eight years in the Senate where, as a Senator from New York, she came to know the largest Jewish constituency outside of Israel and was an outspoken defender of Israel. Hillary Clinton's support within the Jewish communities of both New York and Arkansas is a testament to her friendships and relationships that have been developed over a lifetime.

Conflicts in Israel and the Middle East weigh heavy in the hearts and minds of the Jewish community. Strong leadership from leaders who understand our history and share the interests of the Jewish people is needed to bring about peaceful resolutions. The article chooses to neglect this in passing judgment on Hillary Clinton's record as Secretary of State.

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton continued her strong support for Israel. One of her greatest achievements as Secretary of State was negotiating a cease-fire to avert an all-out war in Gaza. She also helped lead efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. On the U.S's relationship with Israel, Hillary said, "Israel and the United States are united by a deep and unbreakable bond based on mutual interests and respect."

The domestic issues that the Jewish community cares about - freedom of religion and separation of church and state, personal freedoms and rights, education, and health care - are issues Hillary Clinton has worked on her entire life. Her passionate support of the Jewish community culminated with her being awarded a lifetime achievement award from the American Jewish Congress.

From her foreign policy abroad to her work back home, Hillary Clinton has consistently shown her support and dedication to the issues that matter most to Jewish Americans.

I share in the thoughts of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in saying to Hillary Clinton, "you are a great friend and a great champion of peace," and I hope the rest of the Jewish community can share in this long-lasting bond with Hillary Clinton.

Washington Times: "O'Hillary: The Ready for Hillary superpac journeys to Ireland, raises $50,000"

By Jennifer Harper

September 1, 2014

Fundraise for Hillary Clinton in Ireland: faith and begorra, that's exactly what Ready for Hillary did. The independent grass-roots activist group traveled all the way to Ballsbridge - that's an exclusive suburb of Dublin - to raise $50,000 for Mrs. Clinton, a potential White House candidate.

A hundred fans showed up on Friday night for the event, organized by New York-based attorney Brian O'Dwyer and hosted by local power couple Linda and Brian Farren, who also have raised money for former President Bill Clinton in the past.

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The Irish press was intrigued, boasting headlines like “Is Ireland ready for Hillary?” and suggesting that the nation feels ignored by the Obama administration. Meanwhile, only American citizens could donate to the cause, though organizers suggested Irish folks would donate if they could. Mrs. Clinton herself was not at the event. Iowa, rather than Ireland, is calling.

She will attend retiring Sen. Tom Harkin’s 37th annual steak fry on Sept. 14 in the company of Mr. Clinton - which might be problematic, as he is a vegan. But no matter. He can have a veggie fry. Ready for Hillary will also be there, incidentally. The group is raffling off an all-expenses-paid trip to the event for an eager Clinton fan.

Washington Examiner: “Six signs Hillary Clinton is running”

By Rebecca Berg

September 1, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton isn't officially running for president. But unofficially, the signs are everywhere.

Most Democrats expect the former secretary of state won't make a public decision before the midterm elections in November. But her actions so far this year have pretty much confirmed what most people already thought.

Here are six steps she's taken toward a presidential campaign:

The memoir.

A carefully crafted, inoffensive memoir is nearly a prerequisite to the modern presidential campaign, a convenient way for a candidate to tell her story on her own terms. Clinton released her memoir "Hard Choices" this summer, detailing her tenure as secretary of State, and outlining her policy perspectives on a wide range of foreign policy and national security issues. The book tour was not unlike a presidential campaign: Clinton crisscrossed the nation for book signings, speeches, and interviews, receiving outsized media attention all the while.

The super PACs.

Without money, there is no presidential bid — and Clinton will be able to count on plenty of the former. Two super PACs, although by law directly unaffiliated with Clinton herself, have already set to work raising money and building lists of volunteers to help Clinton hit the ground running if she decides to seek the presidency. The first, Priorities USA, which supported President Obama in 2008, has aligned itself early with Clinton and has brought on former Obama campaign manager Jim Messina to help attract the party's biggest donors. The second group, Ready For Hillary, has been methodically building a nationwide network of Clinton supporters and collecting mostly small-dollar donations.

The office upgrade.

Clinton recently relocated her personal office to a larger space in midtown Manhattan, an important step should she want to add to her existing staff in advance of a presidential bid. The office likely would not house her presidential campaign headquarters, but serve as a transitional space.

The trip to Iowa.

In 2008, Clinton posted a disappointing result in the key Iowa caucuses, where she finished third behind Obama and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. This time, she's launching her Iowa charm offensive early, with a trip to the Hawkeye State in September. Clinton will headline the annual Steak Fry of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, an important political event, along with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

The cautious remarks.

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Clinton drew some criticism for taking more than a week to respond to the protests in Ferguson, Mo., but her caution was hardly surprising. Clinton appears to have made a deliberate calculation that any newsmaking statements that could later pop up in a campaign setting where views have changed. That's not to say Clinton hasn't taken some risks, however. In an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton attempted to distance herself from some of the president's foreign policy by calling his decision not to intervene early in Syria a "failure."

The celebrity endorsements.

Should she run for president, Clinton will likely have no trouble lining up celebrity surrogates on her behalf. In fact, they're lining up already. Singer Katy Perry snapped a photo with Clinton earlier this year, with the caption: "I told @hillaryclinton that I would write her a 'theme' song if she needs it..." Actresses Liv Tyler and Aubrey Plaza, among others, have also expressed their early support for Clinton.

Wonkette (satire): "At The New York Times, A Slow News Day"

By Doktor Zoom

August 31, 2014, 3:38 p.m. EDT

Things have quieted down in Ferguson and we have a holiday weekend, so the New York Times is full of analysis-type stuff today. There's a pretty good piece on Democrats' attempts to mobilize African-American voters who are outraged over Michael Brown's shooting (and another story about that effort in Ferguson, specifically). There's also longish story about the Chinese Communist Party's attempt to prevent Hong Kong from doing free-n-fair elections, which is both well-reported and interesting, but which we bet you won't read because it is not sexxay, you laggards. Go on, we dare you! You probably can't handle it! The big breaking news of the morning, we guess, is the St. Louis Rams' cutting Michael Sam, and if you read the New York Times for sports news, that's in there too.

How about more analysis stuff? ISIS is both medieval in its politics, and pretty darn modern in its use of social media, doing what the Times calls "jihad 3.0." Also, too, five years after everyone freaked out about "Death Panels" in Obamacare, insurance companies are increasingly covering end of life planning sessions, and the American Medical Association has recently requested that Medicare do the same. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is considering the proposal but not saying anything about how it may decide, so get ready for a Return of the Death Panels — or not, maybe, since aging Boomers really want coverage for their visits to plan living wills and such. And here's some cheery news: "Temporary" jobs are becoming a bigger part of the employment picture, and we're all doomed (OK, we skimmed that one).

The Social Q's advice column is as terrible as it ever was, and fun to read because you can thank your personal deities (ours are Molly Ivins and George Carlin) that you don't know any people like these:

An old friend has a perennial problem being faithful to girlfriends. His current mate, whom he met while cheating on his former girlfriend, recently discovered a number of his dalliances. She decided to stay with him, but asked me to stop being friends with one of the women he cheated with. (I was not aware of the affair while it was going on, if that matters.) Trouble is, I am not that close with the girlfriend, but I've become quite friendly with the woman I've been asked to drop. Thoughts?

We can't really quibble with the advice — "Simply ignore the request. You are not that close" — and the suggestion that if the new GF continues to press the issue, it would be best to sympathize but add "You focus on your relationships, and I'll tend to mine." But yeesh, we're happy we don't have any friends who are apparently still in junior high school. Also, too, there is a question about diarrhea, right there in the Paper of Record:

A sweet friend, who is justifiably modest about her culinary abilities, had us to dinner at her house. The next day, when I called to thank her, she said her husband had been up all night, feeling queasy. I did not confess that I, too, had suffered symptoms associated with travel in third-world countries because my friend (who has a low self-esteem thanks to a rough childhood) would be crushed. My husband viewed this as a matter of public health and thought I should have spoken up to prevent future episodes. What say you?

Irene, Stamford, Conn.

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Again, the advice is spot-on (ewww), and even gets to the central weirdness of the question:

When your friend opens a food truck, trolling the streets of Stamford to hawk her extra-rare chicken cordon bleu, that is the moment for speaking up. But the morning after a modest dinner for four, where 25 percent of the guests have already complained of food-related illness, I would probably keep it to myself [...] But you have conjured a heroine almost as fragile as Laura Wingfield in “The Glass Menagerie.” Why smash her unicorn (again)?

Honestly, only here on Wonkette would we ever say, “Oh, yeah, that gave me the squirts, too!”

Which seems like the obvious transition to the Sunday Review section, and the note that Ross Douthat and Tom Friedman are off today, does it not? Instead, Roger Cohen has a column about Barack Obama’s “hesitant foreign policy,” and why mister we could use a man like Richard Holbrooke again.

Frank Bruni has a book-blurb as a column, about Sam Harris’s upcoming Waking Up, which asks what it means to be “spiritual but not religious.” It’s every bit as fascinating and exciting as a Frank Bruni column should be, although Bruni does have this worthwhile question:

We hear the highest-ranking politicians mention God at every turn and with little or no fear of negative repercussion. When’s the last time you heard one of them wrestle publicly with agnosticism?

Hahaha, this is a hilarious question, seeing as how it is written about elected politicians in the United States of America Under God.

Maureen Dowd manages a third straight week without any mention of Bill or Hillary Clinton, largely because she’s hanging out with a celebrity, Matthew Michael Sheen [one of those "M" names, whatevs -- Dok Z], star of Masters of Sex. Skip it, unless you like Matthew Michael Sheen a whole lot.

Nicholas Kristoff has the groundbreaking insight that white people, very often, simply Don’t Get It, and he is eager to “push back at what I see as smug white delusion,” which will probably win him some friends among the Bill O’Reillys of the world. After a litany of statistics that should be shocking, he says,

All these constitute not a black problem or a white problem, but an American problem. When so much talent is underemployed and overincarcerated, the entire country suffers.

Kristoff hopes that if more whites actually had black friends, they might become a little more aware of what reality is like for black Americans:

I was shaken after a well-known black woman told me about looking out her front window and seeing that police officers had her teenage son down on the ground after he had stepped out of their upscale house because they thought he was a prowler. “Thank God he didn’t run,” she said.

One black friend tells me that he freaked out when his white fiancée purchased an item in a store and promptly threw the receipt away. “What are you doing?” he protested to her. He is a highly successful and well-educated professional but would never dream of tossing a receipt for fear of being accused of shoplifting.

And he also says that a “starting point is for those of us in white America to wipe away any self-satisfaction about racial progress.” Yes, we got rid of Jim Crow, in a legal sense, but maybe it also would be helpful “to acknowledge that the central race challenge in America today is not the suffering of whites.”

It will be fascinating to see how Fox News addresses Nicholas Kristoff’s shockingly racist anti-white column.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/23/2015 3:41:55 PM
Subject: New News! (10/23/2015)

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de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending October 23rd, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

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Polls

Carson pulls ahead in Iowa for the first time, leading 28% to **Trump**'s 20%. **Marco Rubio** follows with 13% and **Ted Cruz** polls at 10%. **Rand Paul** is at 6%, and **Jeb Bush** and **Carly Fiorina** are at 5% each. *Quinnipiac University* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Clinton must be breathing easier, but Benghazi hearing proves unlikely to change people's minds: "...So deep is the partisan divide over the attack that the exhaustive hearing is unlikely to have changed many minds. Republicans are sure to still view Clinton as resistant to scrutiny and to blame her for security lapses in Benghazi. Democrats are sure to continue to see the hearing as a witch hunt designed to wound the Democratic front-runner's 2016 campaign." **Stephen Collinson**, *CNN* **[More]**

Jeb Bush cuts spending and pay due to struggling campaign: "Bush's struggling presidential campaign is cutting salaries across the board and reducing staff in a money-saving effort intended to concentrate resources on early voting states, an internal memo said on Friday. The memo said payroll costs were being slashed by 40 percent and staff at the Miami headquarters drastically cut back with some workers offered positions at reduced pay in early voting states…" **Steve Holland,** *Reuters* **[More]**

Ted Cruz, the fundraising front-runner: "If you believe in the predictive validity of fundraising numbers, **Ted Cruz** is actually the front-runner in this race, with **Donald Trump** his only serious competition. Cruz is the only candidate who has shown that he can extensively raise hard dollars from both large and small donors, ranking second in hard dollars to **Carson** and second in total dollars (including from Super PACs) to **Jeb Bush**. Cruz's fundraising is almost evenly balanced between small and large donors. Furthermore, toxic as his relations are with some parts of the party establishment and Congress, it is notable that he has endorsements from the largest number of elected officials of any candidate except Bush." **Lawrence Brinton**, *National Review* **[More]**

Ryan testing GOP direction: "Ryan is essentially asking conservatives within the GOP: What is your actual goal? Is it to govern in the public interest according to a conservative vision while building a political coalition capable of supporting needed reforms? Or is it the expression of outrage, rooted in a right-wing populism that is in fundamental (and continual) revolt against the political establishment? This has been the main question posed to Republicans since the wave election of 2010: governing or rage?" **Michael Gerson**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Why Biden didn't run: "Biden made the rarest of choices in Presidential politics today: dignity over ambition...Biden would have had to begin with no money (and no love for raising it), no staff, and no organization in the states." **Evan Osnos (TCG Speaker)**, Op-Ed, *The New Yorker* **[More]**

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Chafee and Webb drop out of Dem primary race: "Lincoln Chafee's announcement, coming just days after **Jim Webb** also withdrew, leaves Clinton with only two opponents for the Democratic nomination: **Bernie Sanders** and **Martin O'Malley." David Jackson,** *USA TODAY* **[More]**

Explaining the unpredictability of the 2016 race: "An anemic economy that has Americans questioning incumbents, doubting experts and worrying about their own prospects...The discontented hail from both ends of the political spectrum, and their numbers are getting larger. If we combine the voters supporting **Mr. Sanders, Mr. Trump, Dr. Carson** and **Ted Cruz**, we might not reach a majority of the country, but we would get awfully close. This motley assortment of critics hardly agrees on anything, beyond what isn't working." **Jay Cost,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

The Economy

Deficits shrink, but deficit hawks still worried: "The U.S. budget deficit is lower than before the 2008 financial crisis. But the good news is tempered by concerns on two fronts, one about the nation's debt load and the other about the economy. Deficit hawks are concerned that the improvement will lead both parties to overlook the red ink set to rise later this decade from a surge in spending on health care and retirement benefits for the baby-boom generation." **Nick Timiraos**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Without bailouts and stimulus, U.S. economy would be far worse off: "TARP, fiscal stimulus, quantitative easing and auto bailout remain dirty words to many people who increasingly blame them for prolonging the Great Recession and the slow pace of recovery...We found the reverse to be true: These extraordinary policies ended the crisis and jump-started an economic recovery that is stronger in the U.S. than in most countries. The U.S. economy has outperformed the plodding European and Japanese economies is the timely, massive and unprecedented responses of U.S. policy makers in 2008-09. So let's get the history right." **Alan S. Blinder (TCG Speaker)** and **Mark Zandi**, Op-Ed, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Orszag on wage inequality: In the US, growing wage disparities may be the result of differences between highly successful companies and sectors, not differences in employee talents. A recent report by **Jason Furman,** Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, and **Peter Orszag,** suggests just that. "Some companies in, say, the technology or financial sectors could generate consistently supernormal returns. Their employees would share the wealth by earning higher wages. Consistent with this possibility, other research suggests that the rise in wage inequality is driven more by a widening gap in the average earnings of workers in different companies…" **Peter R. Orszag**, Op-Ed, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

China easing: cutting interest rates and removing caps on bank deposit rates: "Just days after reporting its worst economic performance since the global financial crisis, China has unveiled a one-two punch to prop up growth, while also sweeping away a major control on how banks set deposit rates. The country's central bank combined a quarter-point cut in benchmark interest rates with a half-percentage reduction in banks' reserve-requirement ratios, moves aimed at lowering corporate financing costs and pumping liquidity into the economy...Simultaneously with the moves easing rates, China also took a crucial step toward reforming its creaky banking system by removing caps on deposit rates, illustrating a persistent dilemma for the country's economic stewards." **Lingling Wei**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

ECB prepares to extend its quantitative-easing program in December: "The European Central Bank (ECB) did not act to further ease its already extraordinarily loose monetary stance...[but] gave a broad hint that it was preparing to do so when the council convenes for its final monetary-policy meeting of the year, on December 3rd. **Mario Draghi**, the head of the ECB, highlighted "the strength and persistence" of the factors that were currently preventing inflation from returning to the central bank's goal of nearly 2%." *The Economist* **[More]**

El-Erian on the Fed: "The fragility of the global economy, weakening conditions in the U.S. and recent statements from some Federal Reserve officials have led to a growing acceptance that the central bank won't raise interest rates this year. But those who now predict the Fed will put off its first increase in almost 10 years until March 2016 may be misreading the broader domestic and international context." **Mohamed A. El-Erian**, Op-Ed, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

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U.S. and Russian officials reach a deal on Syrian flights: Pentagon officials said a "memorandum of understanding was signed Tuesday to set a series of basic protocols Russian and American jets will follow to avoid collisions or other problems as they conduct their air campaigns at cross-purposes inside Syria**." Gordon Lubold,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

U.S. soldier killed in raid to free hostages of ISIS: "[The soldier] was killed as American Special Forces conducted a raid in support of with Kurdish Iraqi forces to free dozens of hostages held in Northern Iraq, U.S. defense officials said Friday. About 70 hostages were rescued in the operation, including more than 20 members of the Iraqi Security Forces." *CBS News* **[More]**

What did we learn from Benghazi hearing?: "The hearing revealed two new pieces of information: that in the aftermath of the attack Clinton told an Egyptian official that the violence was planned rather than the result of a spontaneous demonstration in response to an anti-Islam video and that she sent her family an email attributing the violence to a known terrorist group...**Clinton** chalked up the differences... to shifting intelligence assessments during a chaotic period." **Jeremy Diamond** and **Elise Labott,** *CNN* **[More]**

Kissinger: the US needs a new Middle East strategy: "American policy runs the risk of feeding suspicion rather than abating it. Its challenge is that two rigid and apocalyptic blocs are confronting each other: a Sunni bloc consisting of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States; and the Shiite bloc comprising Iran, the Shiite sector of Iraq with Baghdad as its capital, the Shiite south of Lebanon under Hezbollah control facing Israel, and the Houthi portion of Yemen, completing the encirclement of the Sunni world. In these circumstances, the traditional adage that the enemy of your enemy can be treated as your friend no longer applies. For in the contemporary Middle East, it is likely that the enemy of your enemy remains your enemy." **Secretary Henry Kissinger (TCG Speaker),** Op-Ed**,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

The myth of Putin's strength: "Five years ago, Russia was in a much stronger position, both at home and in the world...**Mr. Putin** is adept at short-term tactical responses to setbacks, but less talented at long-term strategy. Even with no response from the West, Mr. Putin's foreign adventures will finally fail, especially as domestic economic problems continue to fester. But the United States and its allies should seek to shorten that time by pushing back against Russia on multiple fronts. As Mr. Putin goes all in to prop up his ally in Syria, we should do the same with our partners and allies — not only in Syria, but in Europe and around the world." **Michael McFaul,** Op-Ed, *New York Times* **[More]**

Putin on the march: "President Obama says Russia is doomed to fail in the Syrian quagmire. But Russia is not trying to reconquer the country for Assad. It is consolidating a rump Syrian state in the roughly 20% of the country he now controls...It's a partition. It will leave the Islamic State in control in the interior north and east. Why is this doomed to failure? Putin's larger strategy is also obvious. He is not reconstructing the old Soviet empire. That's too large a task. But he is rebuilding and reasserting Russia's ability to project power beyond its borders." **Charles Krauthammer**, Op-Ed, *Washington Post*, **[More]**

Trudeau wins with "sunny" message and center-left change in Canada's policies: Trudeau will use major infrastructure investment to fuel jobs and growth. "The first major shift came when Trudeau announced he had spoken with President **Barack Obama** and told him he will remove Canada's six fighter jets from the U.S.-led bombing campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. Among the other areas in which Trudeau differs from Conservative **Stephen Harper**: climate change, immigration and whether relations with the U.S. should hinge on the future of the Keystone XL oil pipeline." **Rob Gillies,** *ABC News* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

The unprecedented insurgency of the Freedom Caucus: "Congress has never seen anything quite like the House Freedom Caucus. There's always someone unhappy on Capitol Hill and it's not unusual for malcontents to band together. A rebellion made up of members who refuse to work with either party, however, is something that hasn't happened in living memory...The Freedom Caucus, rather than breaking from Republican ranks, has forced Republican leaders to break from them. It's a perverse sort of political jujitsu." **Alan Greenblatt**, Op-Ed, *POLITICO* **[More]**

Dems in denial, their Party is in trouble down the ballot: "The GOP might be in chaos ...But Democrats have nothing at all in the works to redress their crippling weakness down the ballot. Democrats aren't even talking about how to improve on their weak points, because by and large

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they don't even admit that they exist." **Matthew Yglesias,** Op-Ed, *Vox* **[More]**

With support from the Freedom Caucus and other GOP groups, Paul Ryan will run for speaker: "The latest to support him was the Republican Study Committee and the so-called Tuesday Group. The former represents mainstream House conservatives and claims over 170 members.....The Tuesday Group, which also backed Ryan, represents GOP moderates. Their support comes after the House Freedom Caucus, which earlier had endorsed another candidate, put out a statement Wednesday saying that the overwhelming majority of its members now support Ryan – though it wasn't technically an endorsement." *Fox News* **[More]**

Obama vetoes defense authorization bill: "[He] exercised his veto power for just the fifth time in his presidency, rejecting a defense authorization bill because of the way it would sidestep budget limitations for the military and because it would restrict the transfer of detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay. The White House said that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would tap an overseas contingency operations account designed for emergencies and war costs and use it as a "slush fund" to avoid budget restrictions. Those restrictions — known as sequestration — would impose offsetting across-the-board cuts if spending passed certain levels." **Steven Mufson**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Books

Review of Dennis Ross' "Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.-Israel Relationship From Truman to Obama": "Ross, who served most notably as President Clinton's special envoy to the Middle East, has produced a work that is simultaneously comprehensive, quite fair-minded and somewhat ponderous. As the subtitle suggests, this is not a history of Arab-Israeli peace efforts per se, but rather of the evolution of Israeli-American diplomatic relations — except these two matters are so inextricably linked as to pose an almost semantic difference. Because of that linkage, and because of American fears of repercussions from Arab nations should they appear too cozy with Israel, those relations have not always been as close as one might assume." **Scott Anderson,** *Review, New York Times* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III

Monday, November 9, 2015

Lunch & remarks: 12:00-1:30pm
Executive Members only.

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan and our interns Samar Nadi, Tracey Pennito and Justin Vacura.

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Date:	12/4/2007 12:14:52 PM
Subject:	Tracker Program Update 12/4
Attachments:	Program Update 12-4.doc MasterTrackerEventLog.xls

Here is the latest update on the tracking program.

Thanks,

Tara

Tracker Program Update 12/4

Staffing

We will be eight strong starting on Monday, Dec. 10 when our second DC tracker starts full-time. Given the current demands on our DC team, this is a much welcomed addition.

One spot is still open on the team.

Equipment/Technology

No issues to report. All systems go!

Tracking System

Our team is fully acclimated to the equipment and video transmission process. Our conference calls are no longer dominated by tech. support questions. We've moved to a place where event details and campaign nuances are the primary focus of our calls.

The largest problem facing the tracking system at the moment is the backlog of video that needs uploaded to a user-friendly viewing site like YouTube. The addition of another DC based tracker will help alleviate this strain.

Media Monitoring

Both a national and local media monitoring system is up and running. Every morning the DC based trackers

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send out news clips. Every Tuesday and Friday local news clips from our target states (IA, NH, SC) are sent out.

Event Details:

- Campaigned in NH and FL this past week.
- His events in NH are not as well attended as the other candidates' events. Further, he does not receive as warm of a reception. Media is always present in force.
- In FL, he received a standing ovation at his campaign event, which is an anomaly compared to his reception in NH.
- One of our campaigners got a question about Iran asked at a town hall event in NH (question and answer below).

Key Quotes:

Q: "I know one of the issues that is facing our country right now is Iran and they pose a clear threat to us and I would like to know what precautions you are going to take to protect our nation from a terrorist attack. How would you prevent us from becoming susceptible to that happening again?"

A: "It's gotta be very clear to Iran that we are not going to allow them to become a nuclear power. It is against the policy of the American government in my view, it should be, to allow Iran to become a nuclear power. Why? Because Iran is irresponsible. And the worst nightmare of the Cold War, for those of us who lived through the Cold War, the biggest nightmare of the Cold War was nuclear weapons in the hands of an irresponsible person or regime. And they fit both of those categories. **Ahmadinejad is an irresponsible person, the regime, has been an irresponsible regime at least since the late 1970's, taking hostages, promoting terrorism, engaged in terrorism, considered the be the biggest state sponsor of terrorism today**. What does it mean to be a state sponsor of terrorism? It means giving money and armaments to terrorists. We're not, you want these people to have nuclear weapons? If they're supplying them with conventional weapons, isn't there a risk they are going to supply them with nuclear weapons? Do you want them to have that kind of power? Do you want them, if they become a nuclear power to create a nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, which is what would happen if they became nuclear, well then who knows what Saudi Arabia would do, who knows what Jordan would do, or Kuwait, or maybe some combination of those countries that tend to be Sunni Arab countries, rather than Shiite Arab countries, which have its own set of problems. **So, there has to be a major commitment of the United States government, we are not going to allow them to become nuclear and we will take whatever steps we believe in are necessary to stop it**. And we should try to get the rest of the world to cooperate with us with the kind of sanctions that really work and that, uh, stop them from going there, but they have to know that we are going to back that up, that we are not going to walk away from our responsibility at the end or that they can talk us out of it, otherwise I don't think the sanctions work."

Clip: **http://youtube.com/watch?v=Ggo9qe9WyNE**

**If you want to watch the selected tracker videos, you need to log on to the private youtube site for selected clips.

Username: IssueAlliance
Password: TomMatzzie

On Iraq: "In an effort to try to achieve a successful result in Iraq, which, thank God, it seems like they [U.S. military] got a better chance of doing it now, **can't say absolutely they will**."

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Event Details:

- Visited NH and IA this past week.
- Events are well-attended but voters are not responding with the same enthusiasm as in previous weeks. He is NOT the inspiration candidate.
- Has the "Kerry Syndrome" – i.e. gives answers to questions that situate him on both sides of the issue.
- In IA, Romney emphasizes his opposition to marriage equality and a women's right to choose. In NH, he focuses on immigration and taxes. His mail pieces in each state reflect this message discipline: 1) in IA, he's sent out a mailer about a constitutional amendment to keep marriage between a man and a woman and 2) in NH, he's sent out a couple of attack pieces on Giuliani about immigration.
- One of our campaigners got a question about endless war asked at a town hall in Iowa (question and answer below).

Key Quote:

Q: "Right Now Bush is in negotiations with Iraqi leaders regarding a long-term military commitment to secure both Iraq and the United States. My question is: do you support George Bush and his efforts to establish a long-term military presence in Iraq to keep us safe, even if it takes years?"

A: "Let me tell you what I do believe about Iraq. **I do not believe we should have a permanent military presence in Iraq.** I don't think we should announce to the world we want to have a permanent military presence in Iraq. We **have permanent military bases very close and in the region**. And we have such a base in Kuwait, Cutter, and there are other places from which we can defend our interests in the region but **I do not believe we should precipitously withdraw from Iraq.** And let me tell you why, for me the key in Iraq right now is making sure that Al Qaeda and people like Hezbollah and other groups like that do not establish a safe-haven or a base from which they recruit and finance and launch attacks against us… and our friends.

And the surge is working to prevent Al Qaeda from establishing such a safe, safe-haven. As a matter of fact, as you are now reading and more & more people are learning, the Sunnis, a large portion of the population of Iraq, has been working with our military to help get rid of Al Qaeda amongst them. Al Qaeda over-played their hand, was too aggressive, too domineering, too demanding, and the Sunnis are rejecting them and working with us. This is a very positive development for their country and our success there, because we do not want to have, we don't want to have Al Qaeda in charge in a major region of the world. If they had a major piece of Iraq or all of Iraq, let me tell you, Iraq would make Afghanistan, and the launch of terror from that country look like child's play.

And so it's important to me that we get the job done. **And I will not walk out of Iraq until the job is done**."

Clip: http://youtube.com/watch?v=_NkGhFliYpI

**If you want to watch the selected tracker videos, you need to log on to the private youtube site for selected clips.

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Event Details:

- Visited NH and IA this past week
- Met with overflowing crowds and press interest. Voters responded to him with standing ovations and applause.

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- First response from trackers covering his events, "Gee, I really like this guy."

Key Quotes:

When asked about his recent surge in the polls, Huckabee responds: "I think the underlying reason is the same reason that a little boy fed 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves. There's no human explanation for it."

Clip: http://youtube.com/watch?v=JqSAiFtO-nE

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News Clip:

The Real Secret to Huckabee's Rise in the Polls (ABC News 12/03/07)

Last Wednesday, speaking at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University, former Arkansas Gov. and Baptist preacher Mike Huckabee said that "Divine **providence was responsible for his recent surge in the polls in Iowa**," as he noted that he "is the candidate with much less capital firepower than his rivals."

http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2007/12/the-real-secret.html

On Immigration: "And by the way, no disrespect, but let's not forget it was a, uh, Republican Senate and Ronald Reagan who actually signed the amnesty bill twenty years ago that helped create this mess. So we gotta get it fixed."

"The Republican party is far from dead."

Event Details:

- Thompson fundraised in California this week and appeared on Larry King Live.
- We attempted to track Thompson at an event in New Hampshire this past weekend but he did not show. This is likely the fault of the organizers of the event.

Event Details:

- Campaigned in SC this week.
- Events not as well populated by press compared to top three GOP candidates.
- Events well attended – not the highest attendance of all the candidates, but his supporters are the most enthusiastic.

Key Quotes:

"[The troops] are succeeding. […] They are succeeding. And anyone who tells you anything different doesn't

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know the facts on the ground. And I'm here to tell you there are some democrats who have declared this war lost a long time ago. And if we would have done what they wanted to do seven or eight months ago, Al-Qaeda would be tellin' the world they beat the United States of America."

On Petraeus: "This is the right strategy, the right general."

On the youtube debate: "There's a lot of things that need to be done in Washington today, my friends. And, in case you saw the debate the other night, we didn't address many of them. I'm sorry to tell you. I mean, getting questions from cartoon characters is all very interesting experience, but I'm not sure how illuminating [it is] to the people who are watching."

On contractors and Rumsfeld: "I think it's unfortunate that we have to use these contractors **and it's directly related to Rumsfeld's failure** in not expanding the Marine Corps and the Army into a much larger organization so they could handle these requirements and responsibilities. And it's not a good thing that we didn't have enough members of the Army and Marine Corps. And one of the many mistakes secretary Rumsfeld made was not expanding the Army and Marine Corps to a point where they could take over those responsibilities. And I'd remind you that the Army and the Marine Corps are one-third smaller than they were at the time of the first Gulf War. They're the best military we've ever had there just aren't enough of them. And we're gonna have to recruit and enlist a lot more members of the military today."

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HRC Clips
March 24, 2015

HRC

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U.S. News: Clinton Tests Two Themes: Working Together, Inequality (The Wall Street Journal)
By Laura Meckler
March 24, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON -- Hillary Clinton road-tested two themes likely to shape her pitch to voters in a 2016 presidential campaign -- the value of working together and the need to combat economic inequality -- during a panel discussion with Democratic groups on Monday.

Her appearance at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank, represented another building block for her expected campaign. Already, some people who have agreed to take on key roles with a future campaign have begun working on a volunteer basis, in addition to the small staff that Mrs. Clinton pays with her own money.

Mrs. Clinton appears set for an April launch of her presidential campaign.

In the discussion that focused on American cities, co-sponsored by a labor union, Mrs. Clinton emphasized the value of leaders' working together in what advisers say is certain to be one of her core themes as a full-fledged presidential candidate. Mrs. Clinton didn't place the blame on either party, but her words could be read as a critique of both President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans.

People should "get out of the kind of very unproductive discussion that we've had for too long, where people are just in their ideological bunkers, having arguments instead of trying to reach across those divides and have some solutions," Mrs. Clinton said.

She added with a smile, "Maybe we'll start not too far from here in a beautiful domed building," an apparent reference to the Capitol.

Mrs. Clinton thus far has faced minimal opposition in her bid for the Democratic nomination, though one potential opponent, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, appeared to be sharpening his message on his first trip to Iowa over the weekend.

In a populist critique of Wall Street -- and perhaps by implication of Mrs. Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who retain strong ties to New York's financial sector -- Mr. O'Malley critiqued the size of banker bonuses and called for reinstating the Glass-Steagall law. The repeal of that Depression-era legislation, which separated commercial and investment banking, was signed by Mr. Clinton.

"We must not allow another Wall Street meltdown to bring down the hardworking families of our country," he said. "We have a responsibility to put that sort of repeat performance beyond the realm of the possible."

Urban America is a welcome topic for many Democrats, as the party relies heavily on metropolitan voters to win elections. Monday's panel, which was co-sponsored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, featured speakers representing teachers, civil-rights groups, business and academia. The panel offered Mrs. Clinton the chance to revel in policy, citing details of a Harvard University professor's research and studiously taking notes.

Mrs. Clinton pointed to income inequality as a persistent problem. "A lot of our cities truly are divided," she said. "They have some of the most dynamic, well-educated, affluent people in the world, and people who are trapped in generational poverty."

The issue is a top concern for many progressives in the party and an emerging theme among some Republicans as well.

The Republican National Committee, in a written statement, called Mrs. Clinton's panel discussion "a scripted press event at the far-left Center for American Progress."

The panel discussion was a break from a recent rough spot for Mrs. Clinton, including revelations about her use of a personal email server as secretary of state and questions concerning foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation, her family's charitable organization.

On Monday, she defended the foundation, twice mentioning programs it supported. She pointed to a partnership with unions to encourage energy retrofits helped by the Clinton Global Initiative, an allied group. "That's the kind

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of creative work we can do together, and I'm obviously proud that CGI was the convener to make that happen," she said.

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Clinton: Problems aren't fixed in 'ideological bunkers' (The Washington Post)
By Anne Gearan
March 24, 2015
The Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton warned Monday that tough policy problems don't get fixed from inside "ideological bunkers" but made no direct attack on the large and noisy field of Republican candidates vying to oppose her.

As the soon-to-be-official Democratic presidential candidate spoke at a liberal forum on urban problems, tea party favorite Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) was announcing his presidential bid.

Clinton is expected to announce her own presidential campaign next month but kept coy about her plans Monday.

Policymakers need to "look at what works and get out of the very unproductive discussions that we've had for too long where people are just in their ideological bunkers having arguments instead of trying to reach across those divides and come up with some solutions," Clinton said at the forum, which was organized by the liberal Center for American Progress and the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees.

The reference seemed at least partly aimed at Clinton's differences with many in the progressive-leaning crowd over issues such as free-trade agreements, which labor groups generally view with skepticism.

But that's as far as the disagreement went, at least in public. Instead, Clinton dove happily into the weeds of urban revitalization, job creation and social mobility - making what may be some of her last policy-related remarks before she enters the 2016 presidential race.

"We know a lot about social mobility," Clinton said during the discussion. "One of the biggest issues we face is income inequality combined with wage stagnation. They really go hand in hand. We don't have enough good jobs, we don't have people being placed into those jobs. We don't have enough social mobility."

In between the buzzwords were planks of Clinton's forthcoming economic platform, which will focus on expanding middle-class opportunity in "a way that lifts everybody up," as she said Monday.

Clinton seemed to take extra care to stress her ability to work across party lines, even as she came back repeatedly to the issue of income inequality that is a touchstone for her own party's left flank.

She closed with a playful suggestion that she might have reason in the future to enlist Compton, Calif., Mayor Aja Brown, an event participant, for ideas on dealing with urban gangs.

"Don't be surprised if you get a call," Clinton said as the crowd began to laugh knowingly. "Maybe we'll start not too far from here," Clinton said, as the laughter grew.

The White House is about three blocks from where she spoke. But Clinton kept going, appearing to turn the reference toward the Capitol, home of the Republican-led Congress.

"In a beautiful domed building, get everybody in the same room," Clinton said. "Start that conversation that can lead to that collaboration and better results for our cities and our country."

Clinton later met with President Obama for about an hour, the White House said Monday. As with at least one earlier such meeting, the White House did not disclose the topics.

At an evening speech named for the late New York Times political correspondent Robin Toner, Clinton gave a spirited defense of the Affordable Care Act. She also joked about her reputation for secrecy and distrust of reporters, and the recent controversy over her use of a private e-mail server and address while serving as secretary of state.

"I am all about new beginnings," Clinton said.

The fresh starts, she said, include "a new e-mail account," and "a new relationship with the press."

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Hillary being Hillary: Clinton flaunts wonky side at Washington panel (The Guardian)
By Dan Roberts
March 23, 2015
The Guardian

The presumptive presidential candidate quotes research on social immobility and drops policy buzz phrases during discussion about urban development. Who said it: Clinton or Cruz?

“Amen,” sighed Hillary Clinton, as she debated urban development at a Washington thinktank that was 180 miles – and 180 degrees – away from the fiery campaign launch of Republican rival Ted Cruz at the same time in Virginia.

“I love sessions like this because it’s really nice to get back into an evidenced-based discussion,” she added, in oblique reference to the email scandal that has so far overshadowed her own attempt to begin a more earnest, policy-focused campaign.

None of the panel at the Center for American Progress – a centre-left thinktank set up by Clinton during her last tilt at the White House – were rude enough to bring it up again during what proved a more tightly controlled appearance than her disastrous press conference on the affair two weeks ago.

But the former secretary of state’s relief at being back on ideological home turf could not have been more palpable.

Three times during her brief remarks, she also paid tribute to the Clinton Global Initiative and Clinton Foundation, family-run institutions whose reliance on corporate and overseas donors has also attracted more negative public attention of late.

A starker contrast still for Clinton was to the more colourful, if less cautious, political message being unveiled further south by Cruz.

White the Texas senator was reaching out to evangelicals and conservatives with a full-throated assault on the Washington consensus, Clinton was here to preach to its policy wonks, and hopefully show her concern for Democratic causes in danger of becoming captured by leftwing rival Elizabeth Warren.

“A lot of our cities truly are divided,” said Clinton. “They have a lot a of inequality that has only gotten worse... They have people that are trapped in generational poverty and whose skills are not keeping up with what the jobs or today and tomorrow demand.”

This was no policy speech, more a mood music hymn, replete with the requisite buzz phrases such as “abolishing silos” and “creating the conditions for coordination and collaboration”.

But this was also a putative presidential candidate willing to quote research by Harvard professors on the causes of social immobility and draw uncomfortable comparisons between parts of the country that had got it right and those that had not.

“Two cities with similar affluence – Seattle and Atlanta – have markedly different rates of economic mobility,” said Clinton. “It’s not about race... It turns out that places where the fabric of community is strong, with a vibrant middle class, places that are more integrated across class, places with good skills, places with unions, places with religious and civil organisations, help people feel rooted in being part of a community and be able to pull together all of the aspects that play into upward mobility.”

While Cruz railed against big government, the queen of Washington’s political class was also unafraid to sing its praises and hint at a more European-style economic intervention.

“We have 5.6 million people in America between 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor at work, and if we don’t consciously try to reach out to these people and train them, [then] they don’t have the hard skills but they also don’t have the soft skills,” she added.

“The other thing that Germany has is instead of an unemployment system they have a wage subsidy system, so you don’t let people go in the first place, and I think there are lots of creative ideas both in our own country and elsewhere in comparable economies.”

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There may be many more speeches and events like this before Clinton even formally declares she is in the race for the White House. But if the first public appearance since the first wave of scandals began to die down is anything to go by, Hillary is planning to carry on being Hillary.

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At liberal venue, Clinton urges better deal for urban poor, youth (Reuters)
By Amanda Becker
March 23, 2015
Reuters

WASHINGTON, March 23 (Reuters) - Likely presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called for better access to jobs and improved opportunities for the urban poor and the young on Monday at an event hosted by a left-leaning think tank.

In remarks that will likely appeal to her Democratic base, the former secretary of state said middle-class Americans risk being squeezed out of U.S. cities and called for cheaper housing, improved infrastructure and expanded jobs training.

She praised the work of the Clinton Foundation in urban centers. The foundation has faced criticism for receiving money from foreign donors while she was America's top diplomat and for failing to adhere to an agreement to disclose such money.

"One of the biggest issues we face is income inequality combined with wage stagnation," Clinton said. "They really go hand-in-hand. We don't have enough good jobs, we don't have people being placed into those jobs, we don't have enough social mobility."

While she has not announced her candidacy, Clinton is the presumed frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic nomination.

Some Democrats have called for a challenger for Clinton from the party's liberal wing. The Boston Globe on Sunday urged Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, a liberal critic of Wall Street and big banks, to jump into the race.

Warren, who spearheaded the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau after the 2008 financial crisis, has repeatedly said she does not plan to run. Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who also is weighing a campaign, attacked Wall Street last week in a speech in the early voting state of Iowa.

The former first lady took no questions from the media at the panel at the Center for American Progress, founded by John Podesta, a former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton and the likely chairman of Clinton's anticipated campaign.

Nor did Clinton address the controversy over her use of a private email account and server for State Department emails while she was secretary of state.

Clinton said the foundation had coordinated with unions to pool pension funds to train workers on energy retrofitting, generating "tens of thousands of jobs." She also highlighted the foundation's "Job One" program, which helps place young workers in their first job through partnerships with nonprofits and businesses.

She said policymakers and business leaders should "consciously try to set up better systems to reach out, find these young people and train them."

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Hillary Clinton Wades Back Into Policy Waters (Bloomberg)
By Jennifer Epstein
March 23, 2015
Bloomberg

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday reveled in the wonkiness of a discussion of ways to combat income inequality in American cities and hinted that more conversations like it would be on the way.

“I love sessions like this because it's really nice to get back into an evidence-based discussion about what works, what doesn’t work,” she said at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., where she spoke about urban challenges alongside union leaders, local officials, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro.

Clinton hasn’t spent much time in recent months diving into policy in public forums. Her recent appearances have largely been paid speeches, and any discussion of policy leads to inevitable questions about her likely presidential candidacy. But with a campaign launch believed to be approaching, Clinton took a chance to hint at how she hopes to handle policy debates as she re-enters the political arena.

“Look at what works and get out of the very unproductive discussions that we’ve had for too long where people are just in their ideological bunkers having arguments, instead of trying to reach across those divides and come up with some solutions,” said Clinton, speaking the same morning as Republican Senator Ted Cruz took to a stage in Virginia to say he would seek the White House.

Turning to Compton, Calif., Mayor Aja Brown, who had discussed the city’s efforts to fight gangs, Clinton added in an apparent reference to the Capitol or to the building she hopes to occupy, the White House: “Don’t be surprised if you get a call to come. Maybe we'll start not too far from here in a beautiful domed building, get everybody in the same room.”

Clinton’s policy comments were focused on inequality and jobs, and not on areas where she has some disagreements with the left wing of her party, including trade.

“One of the biggest issues we face is income inequality combined with wage stagnation,” she said. “A lot of our cities truly are divided. They have a lot of inequality that has only gotten worse.”

In cities, Clinton said, some of the most “dynamic, well-educated, affluent people in the world” live alongside “people who are trapped in generational poverty and whose skills aren’t keeping up with what the jobs of today and tomorrow demand.”

One area of emphasis, she suggested, should be the 5 million Americans age 16-24 who are not in school and do not have jobs. “We have to focus on that first job and get that person into that system so that they can get better educated and better opportunities will come,” she said.

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Hillary Clinton talks urban policy (USA Today)
By David Jackson
March 23, 2015
USA Today

While observers assess Ted Cruz's impact on the Republican presidential race, prospective Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton spent Monday discussing urban policy — and meeting with President Obama.

The president and his former Secretary of State " enjoy catching up in person when their schedules permit," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest. "This afternoon they met privately for about an hour at the White House and discussed a range of topics."

Neither the White House nor Clinton provided further information.

Earlier in the day, Clinton told a forum in Washington that modern cities are "driving economic prosperity" and that government and the private sector should help them do more to generate jobs, improve infrastructure and address the challenges of inequality.

"How do we promote success?" said Clinton, a former senator from New York state who noted that her constituency included New York City, Buffalo, Albany, Syracuse and Rochester.

The forum, sponsored by the liberal-leaning Center for American Progress, also included business people, labor leaders and government officials from the federal and local levels.

There was a very little political talk, though Clinton at one point said people should address urban challenges by getting out of their "ideological bunkers" and reaching across political divides.

"Look at what works," she said.

Clinton also said that good urban policy can help battle income inequality, a comment that drew catcalls from Republicans about the former first lady's lifestyle.

"It's always interesting to hear Hillary Clinton chime in on income inequality given that her speaking fee alone is more than the average American makes in four years," said Michael Short, a Republican Party spokesman. "What voter out there struggling to make ends meet can relate to someone who spends millions flying around on private jets and thinks leaving the White House with a multimillion dollar book deal counts as being 'dead broke? '"

It's the first of two public events on Clinton's schedule. Later in the day , she addresses a ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting.

The events take place amid reports that Clinton may announce her decision on a presidential bid as early as next month.

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Hillary Clinton takes on inequality in remarks to liberal group (Los Angeles Times)
By Michael A. Memoli
March 23, 2015
Los Angeles Times

Hillary Clinton addressed the promise of urban renewal as an engine for economic expansion Monday but stressed the need for fostering growth "in a way that lifts everybody up."

As she closes in on the launch of a presidential campaign in which she will immediately be the Democratic Party front-runner, Clinton used her remarks at a liberal think tank in Washington to show her commitment to an issue important to the party's base: the equality gap.

"One of the biggest issues we face is income inequality, combined with wage stagnation," she said during a panel discussion at the Center for American Progress, an organization founded by her likely campaign chairman, John Podesta. "We need to think hard about what we're going to do, now that people are moving back into and staying in cities, to make sure that our cities are not just places of economic prosperity and job creation on average, but do it in a way that lifts everybody up."

She described herself as very supportive of an effort by New York Mayor Bill de Blasio to launch universal prekindergarten, calling it an example of ways to keep middle-class families from being priced out of increasingly expensive cities.

While her remarks touched on issues that have become top priorities for her party, she avoided a laundry list of policy proposals of the type a candidate might offer and instead sought to associate herself with what she described as a more pragmatic approach to governance in big cities.

"We have cities that are working well because they have been reinventing themselves, and they have done so in a collaborative, inclusive manner," she said, while other cities are struggling in a "political battlefield" where people are "in their ideological bunkers."

Clinton's participation in the panel, which also included Compton Mayor Aja Brown and Dixon Slingerland, the executive director of Los Angeles' Youth Policy Institute, was limited to brief opening and closing remarks. After the discussion, she singled out Brown's work combating gang violence, at which point she offered the morning's only hint of what might be in store for her in the near future.

"Don't be surprised if you get a call to come, and maybe we'll start not too far from here," she said, before clarifying she had a "beautiful domed building" in Washington in mind for Brown -- the Capitol, not the White House.

After the event, Brown praised Clinton's depth of understanding on the challenges urban communities face and said she looks forward to "seeing her back on the national stage."

"If we can really focus on the things that unify us and the issues that really matter, then we can come to some real conclusions," she said.

Clinton is also scheduled to speak at a journalism awards dinner in Washington on Monday. The former secretary of state is expected to formally launch a presidential bid as soon as next month.

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Hillary Clinton is getting serious about social mobility (The Washington Post)
By Emily Badger
March 23, 2015
The Washington Post

Hillary Clinton raised the right question, which is a start.

"Why," she asked Monday morning, "do some communities have, frankly, more ladders for opportunity than other communities?"

The likely 2016 Democratic frontrunner was headlining a roundtable discussion at the Center for American Progress on expanding opportunity in urban America. This question is actually a sophisticated and hugely important one, and the fact that Clinton is thinking about it hints at what could be an important theme in the coming election.

By definition, the American Dream sounds like an American phenomenon, something equally accessible to hard workers whether they live in a big city or a rural community, the North or the South, a Rust Belt town or a Sun Belt suburb. But, in fact, an accumulating body of research suggests that children growing up in some parts of the country have much better odds than children elsewhere of climbing up the economic ladder, of rising from poor roots to head middle- and upper-class households of their own.

The American dream, it turns out, is not a universal promise. It's more real for children in Seattle than Atlanta, for poor kids growing up around Salt Lake City than Charlotte.

Clinton cited Monday the research that helped document this, a landmark study led by Raj Chetty and other researchers at Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley released in 2013. They found that a child's prospects for economic mobility vary greatly — and disturbingly — by geography in America. There's something about metropolitan Seattle, in other words, that's more conducive to intergenerational mobility than Atlanta.

So what is that something (or somethings)? A couple of years ago — as recently as the last presidential election — we didn't even know to ask this question. Now that we do, we can have an election-season debate about social mobility that goes far beyond empty platitudes about hard work versus helping hands.

"How do we promote success and upward mobility?" Clinton said on Monday. "It’s not only about average income, as important as that is. You can look at cities that on average have similar affluence, but people are trapped and not able to move up in one city, and are moving up in another."

Metropolitan Seattle and Atlanta have comparable median incomes. But in Seattle, about one in 10 kids raised by families in the bottom fifth of household incomes will rise to the top fifth by age 30. In Atlanta, the same is true for only about one in 25 kids at the bottom.

Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline and Emmanuel Saez have offered some initial answers as to what might be going on. Social mobility appears to be higher, they found, in metropolitan areas with less economic and racial segregation, with better schools, more social capital and lower rates of single parenthood. Other researchers at CAP have found higher social mobility among metros with a large middle class.

The importance of good schools isn't surprising. Nor is the role of two-parent families, although part of the finding on this front is fascinating: Even children with married parents have higher mobility when they live in communities with fewer single parents. Perhaps this happens because overwhelmed single mothers are able to contribute less time to not only their own children, but to the communities around them — to the PTA or even the parenting of a neighbor's kids.

The findings about segregation reinforce the idea that social mobility and geographic mobility are intimately linked. If poor communities live segregated far from jobs, as is often the case in a sprawling metro like Atlanta, employment and opportunity are harder to access for poor residents. When poor people are segregated, they're also less likely to benefit from the connections to middle- or upper-income neighbors who might know about a better job opportunity or a good after-school program.

Chetty and his co-authors can't explain all of these relationships; they're just starting the work of highlighting them. But their data raises crucial questions about who we're leaving behind in America and what might be important to help them ahead. And that's precisely the kind of policy debate we might want to have in the upcoming election if we really want to ensure more equality of opportunity.

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Clinton's comments Monday suggest that she's already thinking about these problems. Few voters in either party are likely comfortable with the idea that a child's future is significantly determined in the U.S. today by where he or she lives. Talking about the difference between Seattle and Atlanta — as she did Monday — is powerful both because it tugs at the American sense of fairness, and because it turns abstract fears about inequality into something terribly real.

If Clinton talks more about it, the topic gives her a chance to unite many policy goals — investing in better schools, greater job access for the poor, stronger civic institutions like unions and larger middle-class communities — under the much larger theme of social mobility at a time when many Americans worry their children will grow up to be worse off than them.

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Hillary Clinton tries to soothe progressives (Politico)
By Gabriel Debenedetti
March 23, 2015
Politico

As Ted Cruz rallied the GOP's conservative wing with his Monday announcement that he's running for president, all-but-declared Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton quietly tried to calm her party's restive progressive wing, segments of which are actively seeking an alternative in 2016.

The former secretary of state spoke at the Washington headquarters of the liberal Center for American Progress think tank at an urban policy-focused event co-hosted by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees union. She stuck largely to policy, praising, for example, a pre-Kindergarten program championed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, a darling of many progressives wary of Clinton.

Clinton in particular zeroed in on the growing gap between the rich and the poor. "One of the biggest issues we face is income inequality, combined with wage stagnation," the former senator said.

Cruz's announcement at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, sucked up much of the day's political oxygen. Still, Clinton's appearance 200 miles away was a chance for her to calm some of the jitters among progressives, many of whom fear Clinton is too close to Wall Street and won't follow through on their priorities.

On Sunday, for instance, The Boston Globe editorial board urged Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, another favorite of progressives, to run in 2016. Warren insists she won't run, but many liberal groups are still agitating for her to do so.

Clinton is currently polling far ahead of any potential challengers for the Democratic nomination, but she does have potential competition aside from Warren.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has recently been traveling through the influential early-voting states and ratcheting up his own rhetoric against major financial institutions. O'Malley's political action committee sent out a fundraising email focused on Wall Street reform just as Clinton was speaking on Monday morning.

Clinton, who avoided any mention of her 2016 ambitions on Monday, at one point said it was important to break "out of the very unproductive discussion that we've had for too long where people are just in their ideological bunkers having arguments."

She was joined on the panel by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, often mentioned as a possible vice presidential choice, and the think tank's president, Neera Tanden, who served as policy director on Clinton's unsuccessful 2008 White House campaign.

Some progressives argue that Clinton is too chummy with Wall Street and link her to her husband Bill Clinton's policies of deregulation during his stint in the White House.

But by appearing with union leaders Monday, Clinton seemed to be trying to show her commitment to the middle class. She was seated next to AFSCME's Lee Saunders and four seats down from the American Federation of Teachers' Randi Weingarten, with expected campaign chairman John Podesta looking on from the front row. Podesta helped found the Center for American Progress, which has strong ties to Clinton and the Obama administration.

The presumed Democratic frontrunner has spent recent weeks fending off questions about her use of a private email account at the State Department and foreign fundraising conducted by her family's foundation. On Monday, she specifically pointed to the foundation's work on urban job-training programs, but did not refer to the dual imbroglios.

Clinton also did not explicitly mention the importance of collective bargaining rights as she did in a Washington speech in early March — a line that was seen, at the time, as a jab at likely Republican presidential contender and union foe Scott Walker.

Clinton, whose schedule of public appearances drops off after this week ahead of an expected campaign launch in April, also avoided the topic of trade. She is eventually expected to weigh in on an effort to pass a "fast track" trade promotion authority supported by President Barack Obama but vilified by union and environmental

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interests.

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Hillary Clinton tackles economic inequality, in her own way (MSNBC)
By Alex Seitz-Wald
March 23, 2015
MSNBC

Hillary Clinton used one of her final events before an imminent presidential campaign launch to tackle economic inequality in American cities, but preached a message more inclusive than antagonistic.

“A lot of our cities really are divided,” Clinton said during an urban policy panel at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., which was also sponsored by the labor union AFSCME. “They have a lot of inequality that has only gotten worse. They have some of the most dynamic, well-educated, most affluent people in the world. And people who are trapped in generational poverty and whose skills are not keeping up with what the jobs of today and tomorrow demand.”

Inequality has become a rallying cry for progressives, including those who want Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to challenge Clinton for the nomination. Others have called on Hillary to adopt Warren’s populist message, including her blistering rhetorical attacks on big banks and the richest 1%. But the former secretary of state and all-but-declared presidential candidate’s solution to inequality was decidedly more Clintonian than Warren-esque.

Clinton sat dead center on a ten-member panel that included labor union bosses, local and federal government leaders, financial investors, and think tank experts. The assembly represented Clinton’s vision for an “evidence-based” policy conversation that steers clear of politics and relies on close collaboration between the public and private sectors.
It’s a model pioneered by Clinton’s husband at his Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative, and one which Clinton hinted she would bring to government if she became president.

“I’m looking not just at what can be done working across governmental lines,” Clinton said, “but what we can do in partnership with the public and private sector.” One example she pointed to was youth unemployment, saying it can be helped by giving companies government help train young people and give them their first jobs.

Without using the word “gentrification,” Clinton also spoke to one of the thorniest issues in urban policy, saying cities need to find a way to remain affordable for middle and working class Americans, even as they become more popular destinations for the affluent.

Don’t focus on “mobility and job creation on average,” she said, “but do it in a way that lifts everybody up.”
Clinton cast race aside as a major factor in the divisions, citing the work of Harvard professor Raj Chetty, instead saying the solution is strengthening the social and economic fabric of cities with institutions like unions and faith groups.

Government resources, which for decades facilitated flight to the suburbs, need to be refocused on rebuilding city infrastructure, Clinton added.

Cities are often praised in Washington as places beyond partisanship, where elected officials are forced to tackle tangible problems regardless of ideology, a message Clinton has adopted of late.
“[We need to] get out of the very unproductive discussion we’ve had too long where people are just in their ideological bunkers having arguments instead of trying to reach across those divides and come up with some solutions,” Clinton said, echoing her recent emphasis on bipartisan problem solving.

Republicans, not surprisingly, were not impressed with Clinton’s talk of social mobility. “It’s always interesting to hear Hillary Clinton chime in on income inequality given that her speaking fee alone is more than the average American makes in four years. What voter out there struggling to make ends meet can relate to someone who spends millions flying around on private jets and thinks leaving the White House with a multi-million dollar book deal counts as being ‘dead broke?’” said Republican National Committee spokesperson Michael Short.

Also on the panel was Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, who has been discussed as a potential vice presidential pick, and Aja Brown, the mayor of Compton, California who talked about convening a meeting with gang members to try to find a path to peace.

Clinton liked the idea.

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“What you did with gangs and gang members is exactly what needs to be done in so many parts of our country,” Cinton said.

“So don’t be too surprised if you get a call,” the soon-to-declare presidential candidate continued. “Maybe we’ll start not too far from here, in a beautiful domed building, where we’ll get everybody in the same room and start that conversation that could lead to collaboration and better results for our cities and our countries.”

The White House is about three blocks from where Clinton spoke.

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Watching Hillary Clinton Nod Vigorously (Bloomberg)
By Melinda Henneberger
March 23, 2015
Bloomberg

Mostly, what Hillary Clinton did on Monday morning, as part of a panel discussion on urban issues held at the liberal think tank the Center for American Progress, was nod vigorously and take copious notes. She did this with great enthusiasm, as if the ideas being presented were all thrilling and new. And in a way, the message her body language sent was perfect: I'm here. I'm listening more than I'm talking. And I am even willing to go to school.

For the many progressives who wonder where exactly Clinton stands on a number of issues, including trade, Wall Street reform and how she'd address income inequality, inspiring the feeling that they are being heard as she's still sketching out the policy particulars of her expected presidential run is no small thing.

Also in her favor, she looked far more rested and at ease than when most of us last saw her, at the news conference on her decision to do all State Department business on a personal email address.

When she did speak on Monday, she talked about investing in infrastructure, including human infrastructure. Among the most pressing questions, she said, are, "What do we do to better equip our people to be able to take the jobs? And how do we keep middle-class families in cities where they want to stay? They don't want to leave, but they're being priced out."

She applauded the work of unions pooling their public pension money to create green jobs by training people to do "energy retrofits, energy efficiency," and praised progressive New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio for "trying to create pre-K access for every young child in New York, regardless of who that child is and who its parents are."

And she cited new work out out of Harvard on how a lack of social mobility and income equality go hand and hand. "It turns out that places where the fabric of community is strong, with a vibrant middle class, places that are more integrated across class, places with good schools, places with unions, places with religious organizations and civic organizations help people feel rooted, part of a community and then being able to pull together all of the aspects that play into upward mobility."

She touted the work of her family's foundation in preparing young people for their first jobs -- through a program called "Job One." And she spoke favorably about Germany's wage-subsidy system, based on the idea that it's better to pay out to keep people employed than to pay unemployment benefits.

In closing, she told advocates for criminal justice reform, job and skills training and Latino entrepreneurship, "Amen! I love discussions like this," and loved, too, she said, getting back to "an evidence-based discussion," presumably as opposed to the one about her exclusive use of a private email as secretary of state.

She also paid those present the compliment of hinting broadly that she'll need to hear more from them as she puts a campaign together: "Don't be surprised if you get a call."

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Hillary Clinton, Julian Castro Shared Ideas on Urban Progress (NBC News)
By Suzanne Gamboa
March 23, 2015
NBC News

They were at separate tables and divided by a moderator, but potential 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Housing Secretary Julían Castro were on the same page about creating more opportunity in America's urban centers.

Castro used what became the operative idea of Monday's event organized by the Center for American Progress: collaboration across government agencies _ or as another speaker described it, using a phrase invoked by Clinton and made the title of her 1996 book, "it takes a village."

An announcement is pending from Clinton, the former first lady, a former U.S. senator and Obama's former secretary of state, on her plan for 2016. Castro is considered a potential runningmate.

But the two seemed to be in sync during the policy discussion on urban areas, described by Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees union, as experiencing revitalization, but only in limited areas.

Clinton said the country needs to make sure cities are not just "places of economic prosperity and job creation on average," but are renewed in a way "that lifts everybody up to deal with the overriding issues of inequality and lack of mobility" economically.

"How do we make what we already have more of an attraction? . . . How do we repair and update a lot of our infrastructure?" Clinton asked. She said she is looking at not only what can be done by working across governmental lines, but also through public-private partnerships.

Later in the discussion, Castro gave something of a response to her questions.

"If I have one piece of advice for local leaders around the country, it would be to break through the silos that often exist at the local level," Castro said, drawing on his experience as San Antonio's mayor from 2009-14.

He told of serving on San Antonio's city council and trying to find a place for limited street maintenance and repair resources. A woman complained of the long wait for sidewalks in her neighborhood and how her diabetic mother had been told by her doctor to do more walking.

"For me as a policymaker, it drove home this idea that all of these things that we do are connected … It's infrastructure. It's health. It's economic development, the housing," Castro said.

Clinton also expressed her support for pre-kindergarten. Castro managed to expand pre-K in San Antonio with help from a sales tax increase approved by the city's voters in 2012.

Janet Murguia, the head of the National Council of La Raza who served in the administration of former President Bill Clinton, also participated in the panel. She promoted the role of Latino-owned small businesses in communities and pointed out that Latinas are the fastest growing segment of the small business owner community.

"Many times they are doing that out of sheer grit and will and yet there's still not enough support and services to keep these small businesses sustainable," she said.

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Clinton: US needs solutions to income inequality (Associated Press)
By Ken Thomas
March 23, 2015
Associated Press

Approaching a likely presidential campaign announcement next month, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that income inequality and wage stagnation are problems that go hand-in-hand and the nation needs creative solutions to bolster job opportunities and living conditions in the cities.

Clinton, at a discussion about urban areas, cited the benefits of partnerships between the private and public sectors and updated policies to improve social mobility. The policy event offered a preview of economic themes she is likely to address in a campaign.

"We need to think hard about what we're going to do now that people are moving back into and staying in cities to make sure that our cities are not just places of economic prosperity and job creation on average," Clinton said. "But do it in a way that lifts everybody up to deal with the overriding issues of inequality and lack of mobility."

Her appearance at the Center for American Progress, a Democratic think tank founded by allies of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, offered no new clues on the timing of her announcement, but plenty of presidential atmospherics. Clinton was joined by Housing Secretary Julian Castro, considered a potential running mate for Clinton by some Democrats, and the heads of a public workers union and teachers union, two of Clinton's most ardent labor allies.

Neera Tanden, a former Hillary Clinton policy adviser, is president of the center and moderated the discussion while the think tank's founder, John Podesta, sat in the front row. Podesta, a former Bill Clinton chief of staff, is expected to take a senior position in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Clinton later met with President Barack Obama at the White House, where the two discussed "a range of topics," the White House said.

Many Democrats support boosting wages and household income and argue that many families have yet to benefit from an improving job market. Liberals, led most visibly by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, say the party has become too intertwined with Wall Street and needs bold strategies to address inequality.

Republicans say Clinton's message will ring hollow after she spent months earning six-figure fees for speaking engagements and stumbled during last year's book tour, when she said her family was "dead broke" when it left the White House.

"What voter out there struggling to make ends meet can relate to someone who spends millions flying around on private jets and thinks leaving the White House with a multi-million dollar book deal counts as being 'dead broke?'" said Michael Short, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee.

Clinton said economic problems have been acutely felt by young people, with more than 5 million people between the ages of 16 and 24 not in school or employed and in need of job skills and training. She urged leaders to get out of their "ideological bunkers" and said they could learn from the work of one panelist, Mayor Aja Brown of Compton, Calif., on curbing gang violence.

"Don't be surprised if you get a call to come and maybe we'll start not too far from here in a beautiful domed building," Clinton said to laughter, referring to the U.S. Capitol. "Get everybody in the same room and start that conversation that could lead to collaboration and better results for our cities and our country."

Joined at the event by Lee Saunders of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Randi Weingarten of the American Federation of Teachers, Clinton made no mention of a trade proposal backed by Obama called the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Some labor unions worry she might support the initiative, which they see as undermining jobs, environmental standards and worker rights. They call it "NAFTA on steroids" in a reference to the North American trade pact Clinton's husband piloted with Canada and Mexico in the 1990s.

Clinton ended the day at an awards ceremony honoring the legacy of Robin Toner, the first woman to serve as national political correspondent for The New York Times. Toner, who died in December 2008, covered Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and the Clinton White House.

Hillary Clinton joked that her relationship with the press "has been at times, shall we say, complicated." She quipped that she was all about "new beginnings," including a new grandchild, "another new hairstyle" and a "new

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email account." She did not take questions from reporters at the event.

It was the final event on her public schedule for the rest of March.

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Hillary Clinton offers reporters and a yardstick (MSNBC)
By Alex Seitz-Wald
March 23, 2015
MSNBC

In her last scheduled public appearance before embarking on a presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton offered the press corps that will cover her for the next two years an olive branch in one hand and a proverbial yardstick she will judge them with in the other.

The former secretary of state has a famously “complicated” relationship with the media, as she put it, but appeared Monday night at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to present the Robin Toner prize for journalism. “I am well aware that some of you may be a little surprised to see me here,” Clinton cracked a the room full of Washington political reporters – the first in a series of jokes at her own expense.

With her self-effacing humor and awareness of her own foibles in dealing with the press, Clinton offered an olive branch. “I am all about new beginnings. A new granddaughter, another new hairstyle, a new email account. So why not a new relationship with the press?” Clinton asked. “So here goes: no more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?”

She even offered a pitch-perfect industry joke about college newspapers transitioning to new digital content platforms, including the buzzy new live streaming app Meerkat.

But at the same time, Clinton presented the journalists who are about cover her campaign with a yardstick against which she will measure them in the legacy of Robin Toner.

Toner was the first woman to be named national political correspondent for the New York Times, and covered Clinton in the White House and beyond. Toner died in 2009 and a prestigious award has been presented in her honor since 2010, thanks to the work of her husband, Peter Gosselin, another reporter whom she met covering Clinton’s failed health care reform effort.

“She really set a high standard,” Clinton said of Toner, explaining that the journalist focused on policy over politics. “Journalism that informs our debates, educates our citizens, and makes it possible to base public policy decisions on evidence rather than ideology,” she said.

The former secretary of state and made it clear that Toner was the exception, however, and worried that economic and technological forces have made it even more difficult for journalists to do serious journalism today.

And with her praise for Toner and serious journalism, and calls for more journalism awards, Clinton suggested a guide for how she thinks reporters should cover presidential campaigns.

“We need more than ever smart, fair-minded journalists to challenge our assumptions, push us towards new solutions, and hold all of accountable,” Clinton said. That didn’t mean she expects brown nosing. Toner was “relentless,” Clinton said, “She always put you in the spot, but in a way that you felt was totally fair. It was a search for understanding.”

The war words were refreshing from from a politician who once tried to kick reporters out of the White House. Who, in a healthcare forum in 1993 said, the “bane of all people in political life” is “the unfair, unjust, inaccurate reporting that goes on from coast to coast, North to South, East to West.” Who, according her friend Diane Blair’s diaries, thought journalists had only “big egos and no brains.”

Who, as former White House Press secretary Dee Dee Myers told PBS’ Frontline in 2000, had an “intense distrust of the press” that “really affected…the way [Bill Clinton] viewed it.”

Who avoided the press during her 2008 campaign until she started losing and hired spokespeople who seemed to relish being rough with reporters. Who, just last year, speaking speaking in Connecticut, said that “with professional tweaking and some creativity, we could address some of the issues we know are plaguing journalism today.”

At the same time, the Washington press corps has hardly been blameless. It relentlessly and often baselessly hounded the then-first lady in her White House daus, pursuing scandal after scandal that ended up evaporating. And in 2008, it seemed enthralled with a fresh-faced Barack Obama over Clinton.

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But now, with a new generation of reporters covering her and the lessons of both her negative 2008 experience and her more positive experiences with the State Department press corps, Clinton seems ready for a “reset.”

For her upcoming presidential bid, the Democrat he has hired a new team of senior spokespeople, none of whom had top jobs in her 2008 campaign and all of whom are well respected by the reporters that worked with them in their previous jobs.

Even with the warmer tones, the common thread running through Clinton’s media criticism from the 1990s to today is a desire for substantive policy coverage over the shallowness of day-to-day horse race coverage.

During her speech Monday, Clinton took a momentary break from her joking to discuss health care reform, an issue Toner covered, as if daring testing reporters to cover the substance of her remarks instead of focusing on her joke she had just about Meerkat.

Monday marked the fifth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, which Clinton celebrated earlier in the day with a tweet that included a photo of her embracing Obama from the day the law passed the House. She also quietly met with the Obama earlier in the afternoon, which was only announced to reporters after she left the White House. No details of the meeting were given.

We need reporters “explaining what’s at stake” with health care reform, she said.

“Now I don’t want to get carried away here,” she continued. “Those of us on the other side are not always going to be happy with whatever it is you do. But we understand – in our more rational moments – that is your job. And we and our democracy depend on you.”

With both sides wary, the question now is whether this “reset” goes better than one she attempted with a different adversarial power.

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Hillary Clinton jokes with press about her email, privacy at Syracuse University event (Syracuse Post Standard)
By Mark Weiner
March 23, 2015
Syracuse Post Standard

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Hillary Rodham Clinton joked about her relationship with the press and her controversial private emails while speaking Monday night at a Syracuse University journalism prize ceremony.

Clinton, delivering a keynote address at SU's Toner Prize event, told a crowd of almost 300 people -- mostly journalists -- that they might be surprised to see her at an event for the press.

"With a room full of political reporters, I thought to myself, 'What could possibly go wrong?' " Clinton joked, conceding that her relationship with the press has been at times "complicated."

"But I am all about new beginnings," Clinton said. "A new grandchild, another new hairstyle, a new email account. Why not a new relationship with the press? So here it goes: No more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do for me?"

Clinton's went on to deliver a serious speech about the importance of journalism to substantive political debate in a media landscape changing with technology.

"I think the stakes are really high," Clinton said. "Too many of our most important debates occur in what I call an evidence-free zone."

Clinton's address at the prize ceremony sponsored by SU's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication was the last public speech before her expected announcement of a presidential campaign in early April.

The Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting honors the late Robin Toner, a 1976 Newhouse School graduate who became the first woman to serve as national political correspondent for the New York Times.

Toner died of cancer in December 2008. She covered the Clinton White House in the 1990s, including Hillary Clinton's efforts to establish Early Head Start and establish the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Clinton said she first met Toner in 1992, and admired her approach to reporting. "I saw a reporter who really liked to delve into the substance of issues," she said. "And that was particularly meaningful to me, being kind of a policy person myself."

After her 20-minute speech, Clinton stayed for the rest of the awards dinner and worked the crowd for about 15 minutes after the event at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. She did not take questions from reporters or the audience.

Dan Balz, chief correspondent for the Washington Post, won this year's Toner Prize for a series of political profiles on the partisan divide in Washington. The prize, which includes $5,000, is for the best national or local political reporting in print, broadcast or online.

Toner Prize judge Adam Clymer said in a statement that Balz's coverage provided a "thoughtful look at the state of the Republican Party through the eyes of the old-line faction that put governing ahead of ideology."

Among the non-journalists in attendance Monday was New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Syracuse University graduate, and other prominent SU grads who live in the Washington area.

Before the event, Friends of the Earth and the Center for Biological Diversity, two environmental groups, protested in front of the office building where Clinton spoke.

The groups said they were concerned about Clinton's "commitment to climate justice" and her positions on hydrofracking for oil and natural gas. The groups also oppose construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

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Hillary Clinton keynotes event to honor political journalism (CBS News)
By Kylie Atwood
March 24, 2015
CBS News

Hillary Clinton made an unusual appearance Monday evening - she keynoted an awards ceremony to honor political journalists.

"I am well aware that some of you may be a little surprised to see me here tonight," she said to the room of about 300 people, many of them journalists. "You know my relationship with the press has been at times, shall we say, complicated."

Clinton joked that everyone had non-disclosure agreements under their seats, and then moved on to reflect on the life and legacy of Robin Toner, for whom the award was named. Toner was a longtime New York Times reporter who passed away in 2008, the first woman named to be the Times' national political correspondent. Clinton's appearance at the ceremony was a testament to her respect for Toner.

"Mostly I am here because I really admired Robin, I admired her approach toward covering the events that I was involved in, directly, starting in the 1992 presidential campaign, when she covered that campaign," Hillary explained.

Toner, who was also the Times' lead reporter for Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential run, sat down with Hillary Clinton for multiple interviews, the last one in 2007 when they spoke about healthcare. Clinton had just rolled out her healthcare plan for the 2008 presidential campaign.

"We had a long substantive conversation about what I had learned what the country had learned from the '93, '94 experience," Clinton reflected, describing Toner as a reporter who immersed herself in the details and hammered questions of substance in a way that was "totally fair."

Clinton held up Toner, known to be a tough, meticulous reporter, as an example to be emulated even as the journalistic landscape changes. She challenged the journalists in the room to be thorough and measured.

"You are facing fundamental questions that may not fit into 140 characters but are nonetheless vital to our democracy. I think the stakes are really high," Clinton said. "Too many of our most important debates occur in what I call an evidence-free zone, ideology trumping facts, made-for-cable shout-fests, twitter storms, drowning out substantive dialogue and reporting that often leads to shallower more contentious politics and even no or not the best public policy."

On the same day that Sen. Tex Cruz (R-TX) renewed his commitment to repealing Obamacare, as a part of his speech announcing that he would run for president in 2016, Clinton talked about her policy priorities, should she decide to run for President. She'd still fight to expand healthcare to more Americans, she said, but hinted that she might be open to slight alterations to Obamacare.

"We should be exploring those [questions about the future of healthcare] but at the same time trying to ask ourselves how to improve the Affordable Care Act," Clinton said, adding "there is so much more to do."

Clinton also praised Toner's twins -- noting that one of them, the editor-in-chief at her high school newspaper, might "Meerkat us at any moment."

Despite what most would concede have been tough weeks for her in terms of the media attention paid to her email accounts and foreign donations to her family foundation, Clinton closed with a pitch for journalism, saying, "We need, more than ever, smart, fair-minded journalists to challenge our assumptions, push us toward new solutions and hold all of us accountable."

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Hillary Clinton seeks 'new beginning' with the press (CNN)
By Dan Merica
March 23, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN)"Complicated" is how Hillary Clinton described her relationship with the political press corps at an event on Monday night.

The honest admission provided a rare glimpse into how the former secretary of state -- and frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination -- views the journalists who constantly follow her.

"I am aware some of you may be a little surprised to see me here tonight," Clinton said.

Clinton, who most recently held an adversarial press conference with throngs of reporters over her use of personal email as secretary of state, has a long, often antagonistic history with the national media.

When she was asked to headline an event with hundreds of political reporters, editors and executives, she recounted thinking, "What could possibly go wrong?"

"I am all about new beginnings," Clinton said at the Toner Prize event in Washington. "A new grandchild, another new hair style, a new email account, why not a new relationship with the press? So here goes, no more secrecy, no more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?"

At the cozy event, Clinton hinted at her 2016 bid by noting that she has been "ruminating" lately.

Clinton has operated with the media almost exclusively on her terms for the last two years. At her paid speaking engagements and foundation events, the press is generally kept hundreds of feet away. During the 2014 midterm election -- and at times during Clinton's 2014 book tour -- media was sometimes close enough to ask a question, but the occurrences were rare.

Her press conference two weeks ago at the United Nations was the first time since September 2014 she gaggled with the cadre of reporters that have followed her for the better part of a year.

"Before I go any further, if you look under your chairs, you will find a simple non-disclosure agreement. My attorney's drew it up. Old habits last," she joked.

Clinton struck a serious note in her keynote address, however, outlining her vision for a noble media.

"I believe we need more Robin Toners," Clinton said about the journalist who died in 2008. The former first lady argued that today's media focuses too much on the political horse race and too little on policy. Clinton -- a proud policy wonk -- noted that Toner "really liked to delve into the substance of issues" and would ask incisive, but fair, questions.

"It has gotten even harder to do the kind of journalism that she did," Clinton said as a pool of reporters tweeted her remarks in the back of the room.

"Everyday, you, the reporters and the writers in this room, are under more and more pressure from changes in technology, in the marketplace and, of course, in our politics," she said.

In particular, Clinton noted knocked "Twitter-storms drowning out substantive dialogue and reporting" and "cable shout fests."

Honored on Monday was reporter Dan Balz, The Washington Post's chief correspondent and an icon in the political reporting world. Upon accepting his prize, Balz thanked Clinton and said, "I am happy to yield my time back to you if you want to take some questions."

Clinton declined, but did chat briefly with some of the reporters in the room before leaving the event.

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Hillary Clinton Jokes About Fresh Start With the Press (Bloomberg)
By Jennifer Epstein
March 23, 2015
Bloomberg

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledged her rocky history with the political press on Monday and said she hopes to turn over a new leaf as she heads into a new campaign season as she implored journalists to focus on telling substantive stories.

“My relationship with the press has been, at times, shall we say, complicated,” she said as she addressed an awards ceremony celebrating the late New York Times political reporter Robin Toner. Journalists filled the two-dozen tables at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, as did a few press-facing current and former White House staffers.

But as she prepares to launch her second presidential campaign and builds a press team that’s notably more cooperative than the one that worked for her in 2008, she conveyed that ready for a reset.

"I am all about new beginnings,” she said. "A new grandchild, another new hairstyle, a new e-mail account. The relationship with the press. So here goes: no more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?”

Then, she joked, with a hint that her transformation may not be a full one: "before I go any further, look under your chair, you’ll find a simple non-disclosure agreement my attorneys drew up. Old habits last."

Clinton started on a light note but turned more serious. "We and our democracy depend on you,” she said before urging the reporters in the room to follow Toner’s lead and write substantive stories about policy.

She conceded that “it has gotten even harder to do the kind of journalism that she did” as the country and the media have gotten more polarized, and technology has put new pressures on reporters.

“I think the stakes are really high,” she said, with too much political discourse taking place in an “evidence-free zone.” The realities of the industry make it difficult, but it’s important to try to "get us out of the echo chambers we all inhabit.”

“I believe we need more Robin Toners,” she added.

Toner covered politics and also had an emphasis in her reporting on health care policy. Her final interview with Clinton, in the fall of 2007, was about the then-senator’s health care proposals during the Democratic presidential primary.

Monday is the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act and, while Republican Sen. Ted Cruz entered the presidential race vowing to repeal the law, Clinton said she hopes to improve the law, not dismantle it.

The questions to ask are "how to improve the ACA...how to build on the successes,” she said. “I’m well aware none of this will be easy,” she continued, but it will be even more difficult without people like those in the audience explaining the policies and personalities at play.

Clinton said the role of the press is to “hold us all accountable.” Still, she said, "those of us on the other side are not always going to be happy about what whatever it is you do but we understand in our more rational moments."

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Hillary Clinton Offers the Media an Olive Branch... and a Lecture (National Journal)
By Emily Schultheis
March 23, 2015
National Journal

Hillary Clinton opened her speech to a room full of political reporters by acknowledging an awkward, if obvious, fact: she's not known for being media-friendly. But Monday night, she also pledged to make a change.

"I am well aware that some of you may be a little surprised to see me here tonight," she said. "My relationship with the press has been at times, shall we say, complicated."

The former secretary of State spoke at the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting ceremony, and her address was part olive branch—and part not-so-subtle suggestions about the need for "serious" and "substantive" journalism going forward.

"I am all about new beginnings: a new grandchild, another new hairstyle, a new email account," she quipped, "Why not a new relationship with the press? So here goes. No more secrecy. No more zone of privacy." (She then joked that ceremony attendees could find non-disclosure agreements under their chairs.)

Following the nearly 20-minute speech, she did not take questions.

Washington Post reporter Dan Balz, who won this year's award, made Clinton an offer: "I am happy to yield my time back to you if you want to take some questions," he said, making Clinton laugh.

The speech was the last on Clinton's schedule, and the next time she appears publicly, it will likely be to kick off her 2016 presidential campaign.

She acknowledged her at-times tumultuous relationship with the press, making light of both it and the controversy over her private email server that again made her the subject of negative headlines in recent weeks.

Clinton also talked at length about former New York Times reporter Robin Toner, for whom the Toner Prize is named. The two got to know each other during the 1992 presidential campaign and during Clinton's health care push in 1993 and 1994. She praised Toner's brand of journalism, which she said was substantive, serious, and based on asking tough questions—and in the process, she offered what sounded like advice to the 2016 press corps who will chronicle her every move on the campaign trail.

In Toner, she said, "I saw a reporter who really liked to delve into the substance of issues … the details were complicated and she immersed herself in them, but she understood that the details really mattered."

Clinton added that Toner didn't hold back from criticizing her when necessary, but that she always did so with context and perspective. "I appreciated that even if sometimes it was my stumbles and setbacks she was sharing with the world, it was always in a context I could recognize and make sense of," she said.

Without quality journalism, the former senator added, Washington politics can at times enter "an evidence-free zone," citing partisan discussion about the Affordable Care Act—which had its fifth anniversary Monday—as a prime example. "Over these five years we've heard plenty of scare tactics, wild claims about socialism and death panels," she said, "but not enough about how to keep expanding access, lowering costs and improving quality."

Clinton acknowledged that public figures will be put under the microscope, and that she usually understands that, regardless of whether public officials like the coverage, they understand reporters are just doing their job.

"Those of us on the other side are not always going to be happy about whatever it is you do," she said. "But we do understand, in our more rational moments, that is your job. And we and our democracy depend on you."

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Clinton to News Media: 'No More Secrecy' (The New York Times)
By Amy Chozick
March 24, 2015
The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton was all about new beginnings on Monday night.

"A new grandchild, another new hairstyle, a new email account," she said at a journalism awards dinner to honor the Times reporter Robin Toner, who died in 2008. "Why not a new relationship with the press?" she said.

Turning over a new leaf, Mrs. Clinton said: "So here goes, no more secrecy, no more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?"

Then, Mrs. Clinton told the audience of political reporters and editors to first look under their chairs. "You'll find a simple nondisclosure agreement," she joked. "My attorneys drew it up. Old habits last."

The event signaled what would most likely be Mrs. Clinton's last public appearance before declaring her candidacy for president. It seemed only fitting that she used the evening to mingle with the news media and try to put aside grievances. Or, as Mrs. Clinton put it, "My relationship with the press has been at times, shall we say, complicated."

Showing some admiration for the profession, Mrs. Clinton reminisced about Ms. Toner, the first female national political correspondent for The Times, as a serious journalist who "really liked to delve into the substance of issues," and she expressed concern that the changing media landscape threatened such thoughtful journalism today.

She concluded with a defense of the Affordable Care Act, which Senator Ted Cruz, the Texas Republican, said earlier on Monday that he would repeal should he win the presidency in 2016.

The political news media, Mrs. Clinton said, can help explain to the American public what is at stake should the benefits be rolled back. "I believe we need more Robin Toners," she said

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For Hillary Clinton, sharp tweets foreshadow imminent campaign (CNN)
By Dan Merica
March 23, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN)At speaking engagements and paid appearances over the past year, Hillary Clinton has cast herself as a relationship-building politician who argues that spending time with people you disagree with can fix Washington's dysfunction.

That's not the message coming through on Clinton's Twitter account, though, a platform the former secretary of state has turned into her main venue for political messages that bashes Republicans.

The recent uptick in partisan tweets foreshadows the next month in Clinton's life, when the former first lady and senator is expected to announce a second presidential bid. But given Clinton's past benign use of Twitter -- where she regularly sent tweets about wonky studies, her foundation's successes and messages of congratulations -- the change has been stark.

Last week, Clinton faulted the GOP for a "congressional trifecta against women," hitting the opposing party for slow-walking Loretta Lynch's attorney general confirmation, playing "politics with trafficking victims" and "threatening women's health and rights."

Hillary Clinton @HillaryClinton
Congressional trifecta against women today: 1) Blocking great nominee, 1st African American woman AG, for longer than any AG in 30 years…
3:59 PM - 16 Mar 2015

Hillary Clinton @HillaryClinton
...2) Playing politics with trafficking victims… 3) Threatening women's health & rights.
4:01 PM - 16 Mar 2015

The next day, Clinton fired off a series of tweets that went after Republicans again, hitting the party's planned budget for failing Americans and noting that "budgets reflect our priorities."

Hillary Clinton @HillaryClinton
Budgets reflect our priorities. They should help families get ahead, educate our kids, and spark small business growth.
8:04 PM - 17 Mar 2015

Clinton's spokesman would not describe how the former secretary of state tweets and whether she sends her own messages.

Though Clinton stepped up her partisan rhetoric during the 2014 midterm campaign, knocking Republicans on women's and equality issues, she spent most of 2014 touring the country to sell her latest memoir or on the paid speaking circuit and staying above the partisan fray.

Clinton's tweets have also become news-making events, thanks to her general lack of media availability. Before her March 10 press conference, Clinton hadn't gaggled with reporters since September 2014.

A Democrat with knowledge of Clinton's campaign plans told CNN news outlets should expect Clinton to use Twitter as a way to get a message to voters without going through the media. The platform, the source said, allows the campaign more message control and is a one-way conversation, as opposed to two-way discussions with journalists.

One of the first pioneers of social media political messaging was former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee. As a rising conservative star with an adversarial relationship with the "lamestream media," Palin took to Facebook to post her unfiltered commentary. The venue allowed her to connect directly with supporters and prepare her thoughts in advance so as to avoid any "gotcha" moments she often accuses the press of contriving.

But President Barack Obama, as well, has honed the art of circumventing traditional media to press his message. Obama released the entire text of his 2015 State of the Union address via Medium, a social media site,

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allowing the public to see it at the same time as the press.

Days after, he invited three YouTube stars to the White House to conduct interviews, rather than traditional news outlets. And frequently White House photographer Pete Souza releases pictures on Instagram of meetings or events that the White House press corps isn't privy to.

The motivation is clear: politicians don't need to rely on the press to be their megaphones any more.

So it comes as no surprise that Clinton, facing scrutiny over her exclusive use of private email while she was secretary of state, initially turned to Twitter to address the issue.

Nick Pacilio, Twitter's spokesman on government and news, sent reporters an email the next day noting that Clinton's tweet was seen 3.3 million times in less than 24 hours.

Given the obvious reach and advantage to employing social media rather than traditional, it's likely the event was just a tweet of things to come.

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Hillary Clinton meets Barack Obama at the White House (Politico)
By Edward-Isaac Dovere
March 23, 2015
Politico

No word on whether she came with a ruler to measure the curtains, but Hillary Clinton did meet privately with President Barack Obama on Monday at the White House.

Clinton was in Washington for an event about the future of urban policy hosted by the Center for American Progress in the morning and the presentation of the Toner Award at a dinner in the evening.

In between, the all-but-declared Democratic presidential candidate swung by to see her old boss in the building she's hoping to move into.

The White House wouldn't comment about whether a meeting was going to happen earlier in the day, but White House press secretary Josh Earnest confirmed afterward that it had happened — though he provided few details.

"President Obama and Secretary Clinton enjoy catching up in person when their schedules permit," Earnest said. "This afternoon they met privately for about an hour at the White House and discussed a range of topics."

Reflecting the growing message coordination between the White House and the Clinton near-campaign, immediately after the White House announced the meeting, her official account tweeted out a photo of her going in for a hug with Obama, with a message noting the fifth anniversary of the president's signing of the Affordable Care Act on Monday.

"Young ppl. Preexisting conditions. Women get better coverage. Repeal those things? Embrace them!" she wrote.

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Obama, Hillary Clinton Meet Privately at the White House (Associated Press)
March 23, 2015
Associated Press

President Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton met privately at the White House Monday afternoon.

The White House says the former rivals-turned-colleagues met for about an hour and discussed a range of issues.

Obama and Clinton have met occasionally since she left the administration in 2013 after serving as secretary of state. Monday's meeting comes as Clinton prepares to launch another presidential campaign.

Moments after the White House confirmed the meeting, Clinton posted a message on Twitter praising Obama's health care law and its provisions aimed at covering young people and those with preexisting conditions. In a jab at Republicans who want to get rid of the law, she wrote: "Repeal those things? Embrace them!"

To emphasize her point, Clinton shared an old photo of her and Obama hugging.

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Make No Mistake, Hillary Clinton Loves Obamacare (Bloomberg)
By David Knowles
March 23, 2015
Bloomberg

On this, the fifth anniversary of the signing into law of the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, many of the presumed and actual Republican candidates for president much of the day attacking the legislation.

While Texas Senator Ted Cruz asked his audience at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University to "imagine in 2017, a new president signing legislation repealing every word of Obamacare," former Florida Governor Jeb Bush kept pace by declaring the law a "disaster."

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, meanwhile, used the anniversary to try and bolster his growing database of supporters.

Across the ideological divide, however, one prospective presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, was busy embracing the law, as well as the man who's name is so closely associated with it.

Clinton, who had tried and failed to push through a single payer healthcare system as First Lady, has defended the Affordable Care Act before, even while acknowledging some of its faults.

“I think we are on the right track in many respects but I would be the first to say if things aren’t working then we need people of good faith to come together and make evidence-based changes,” Clinton said at a healthcare event in Orlando, Fla., last June. Ahead of the 2014 midterm elections, Clinton had urged Democratic candidates to run on Obamacare's successes, rather than let Republicans control the narrative of what they portrayed as a failed law.

“On a very personal, self-interested basis, you should have health insurance to protect yourself and your families from unpredictable costs that none of us know will be striking whenever,” she said. “You can’t sit here today and tell me for sure you won’t have a car accident, you won’t have a slip or a fall, you won’t have some kind of disease that you never thought you’d ever be stricken by.”

But Clinton has also signaled that she might be open to amending the law, specifically targeting the medical device tax.

"On the tax itself, again, I think we have to look to see what are the pluses and minuses that are embodied in a decision about either to remove or alter or continue this particular piece of the Affordable Care Act," Clinton told a Chicago conference of medical device makers in October.

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O'Malley boosters say 2016 bid increasingly likely (Washington Post.com)
By John Wagner
March 24, 2015
Washington Post.com
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The former Maryland governor, who's said he will probably make a decision by May, huddled with more than 150 donors and other boosters at the Baltimore Hilton for what was billed as an "issues conference." The event was closed to the press and included discussions about foreign policy, health care and education.

Though O'Malley said nothing explicit about his plans, those in attendance said his upbeat nature and assessments offered by top political aides gave them the distinct impression that he is willing to challenge Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination, however long the odds.

"I think he's energized by the reception he got this past weekend in Iowa," said Rob Werner, a supporter from New Hampshire who came down for the gathering Monday. "I think he's poised to do it, to get in the race. He certainly seems to be heading in that direction."

Senior members of O'Malley's political team made presentations, participants said, and a speech by O'Malley echoed the populist addresses he gave in Iowa, the nation's first presidential caucus state. O'Malley aides said the former governor plans to give several policy speeches in coming months to flesh out his agenda.

On recent trips to South Carolina, New Hampshire and Iowa, O'Malley has been aggressively trying to position himself as a more progressive, forward-looking alternative to Clinton. At the same time, some Democrats have started looking more seriously for other options in the wake of recent controversies over Clinton's use of a private e-mail account as secretary of state and foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation.

"A month or so ago, there was a view that Hillary's it," said Phil Noble, a longtime Democratic activist in South Carolina who's known O'Malley for more than 30 years. "Now, there's a view that there is room for an alternative, and O'Malley's on the radar screen."

At Monday's gathering, Clinton's name wasn't really part of the conversation, said Terry Lierman, a former chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party who has helped raise money for O'Malley's political action committee.

"That name was not mentioned at all today," Lierman said. "It was about Martin and what his vision is and where he thinks the country should be going."

While most of those in attendance were longtime O'Malley boosters, some said they remain undecided about a 2016 White House hopeful, including Vincent Sheheen, the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for governor of South Carolina in 2010 and 2014.

"I guess I came up here to see if [O'Malley] is serious, and I came away with the impression that he's very serious," Sheheen said. "I think he's a legitimate candidate and contender."
O'Malley plans to be in New Hampshire next Tuesday for a "Politics & Eggs" address to business and political leaders, a Granite State tradition that is considered a rite of passage for White House hopefuls. It will be his second trip this month to the state that holds the first presidential primary. And he's booked to be back in Iowa in early April, with an itinerary that includes a speech to the Polk County Democrats in Des Moines.

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Ted Cruz: Hillary Clinton's wrecking ball (Politico)
By Gabriel Debenedetti
March 24, 2015
Politico

Hillary Clinton's embattled pre-campaign team breathed a sigh of relief Monday as a central player in their grand strategy to win the White House strode boldly onto the 2016 battlefield.

His name? Rafael Edward Cruz, the Republican junior senator from Texas.

Democrats from both inside and outside the Clinton camp have groused for months that the all-but-certain candidate was moving too slowly in formulating and projecting a rationale for running for the White House outside of her gender and the dreaded "it's my time" argument. She was relying too much on a platform of inevitability, they said — the same platform that doomed her bid in 2008. But those closest to the former secretary of state have counseled patience, arguing that a core element of Clinton's plan was to get out of the way and let the dueling wings of the Republican Party savage each other while she floats above it all.

Cruz, they say, is Hillary's wrecking ball.

People close to Clinton smiled at the sight of the first-term senator wandering alone on stage at Liberty University, implicitly threatening a civil war with the "mushy" establishment of his party that he loves to decry — while at the exact same time Clinton sat comfortably alongside heavyweights from her own party's progressive and labor elements, who have thus far entirely declined to challenge her.

"Imagine repealing every word of Common Core," Cruz implored his audience while announcing his presidential campaign in Lynchburg, Va., in the morning, implicitly previewing a fight over education policy that he intends to pick with Republican establishment favorite Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor. It was just one line of many Cruz has delivered since joining the Senate in 2013 that highlights his appetite for combat even within his own party — an appetite that flared up famously when he helped spearhead the government shutdown in October of that year.

Meanwhile the clamoring of some liberal groups to recruit Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the progressive darling, was entirely unheard in downtown Washington as Clinton spent her morning discussing domestic policy at the headquarters of the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank run by her allies. The presumptive Democratic front-runner sat near a pair of union bosses and current and former urban mayors, making sure to throw in some love for liberal hero Bill de Blasio, the New York City mayor, as she previewed pieces of her likely domestic policy platform.

She touched all corners of the Democratic Party in the morning performance before meeting with President Barack Obama in the White House and speaking at an award ceremony for political reporters in the evening, dogged only by barbs from her Republican critics.

So for Clinton, Monday was smooth sailing. For Republicans, her camp figures, it signaled the beginning of a wild and messy primary contest that will let Clinton appear to be the adult in the room before she takes on a bloodied GOP nominee.

Cruz "could go a very long way in the Republican primary, and give whoever emerges as the Republican establishment candidate a fight," said Maria Cardona, a Democratic strategist and senior adviser to Clinton during her 2008 run. "That is going to be something Republicans will focus on while Hillary is going to be talking about fighting income inequality and expanding opportunity, like she did today."

"While Ted Cruz and other Republican politicians are fighting to outdo each others' Tea Party bona fides and score political points with the conservative right wing, Hillary Clinton is continuing, as she always has, to spread her vision of opportunity and success for all Americans," added Adrienne Watson of Correct the Record, the pro-Clinton group that has recently started mounting attacks on her possible opponents in the Republican field, including Jeb Bush today.

As publicly excited as Clinton allies profess to be, the Democratic exuberance is not universal, and the Republican National Committee hit Clinton in eight separate emails to reporters on Monday, including criticizing her for her notoriously high speaking fees and her history of a bad relations with journalists — her "pathological aversion to transparency," in spokesman Michael Short's words.

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But most members of Clinton's circles looked beyond that and the still-lingering controversy over Clinton's use of a private email address as secretary of state, happy on Monday that this particular Texan was the first contender to throw his hat in the ring. They recalled the divisive Republican primary battles of 2008 and 2012, and pointed to the continued tension between the establishment, Tea Party, and libertarian wings of the party.

"Even if an establishment candidate wins, there is no question that Ted Cruz being in the race is going to pull the Republican Party much more to the right, and we know how that turns out," Cardona added. "Just ask Mitt Romney."

Clinton previewed her model of weighing in on policy while Republicans scuffle over politics in early February, when her late-night tweet about mandatory vaccinations after a day of GOP struggles aimed to paint her as above the squabbling. Her recent rhetoric about bipartisan compromise is similarly calibrated to portray her as apolitical, even as she has unleashed a stream of tweets aimed at congressional Republicans rather than her likely 2016 opponents.

On Monday night, at a journalism award ceremony in Washington, she spoke of the importance of embracing, but improving, Obamacare — anathema to congressional conservatives, and to Cruz in particular.

Still, some Clinton allies urged their fellow Democrats to be cautious, looking back on 2008's Democratic primary between Clinton and then-Senator Obama as a model for how a lively primary could strengthen a party. But they also see Cruz's ideological positioning on the far right of the conservative spectrum as an indication that Republicans are in for a fight, and that Clinton could benefit from the lack of her own drawn-out battle.

"The Hillary-Barack death-match was the best thing that ever happened to the Democratic Party, but that's because they kept it between the ditches," said longtime Clinton ally and Democratic operative Paul Begala, drawing a contrast between the Obama-Clinton disagreements and Cruz's testy policy fights with his colleagues. "They didn't run on radical, crazy stuff. They both ran on progressive, moderate sets of ideas."

But as the primary season begins in earnest, liberals have not coalesced behind any likely candidate aside from Clinton, even as a Sunday Boston Globe editorial urged Warren to jump into the race and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has been speaking out about bank regulation, ever-so-slightly drawing a contrast with the Clintons. Instead, Clinton has been able to consolidate the party's influential forces, which her allies see as the starkest contrast with Cruz's Republicans.

That contrast, Cardona said, is a particular powerful one as Cruz — who 2008 GOP nominee John McCain once called a "wacko bird" — launches his first withering criticisms on fellow Republicans.

"I'm sure she's happy he's running," Cardona said.

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Some Dems echo GOP's 'no compromise' demand in primaries (Associated Press)
By Charles Babington
Associated Press
March 24, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans from sharply conservative House districts have won recent elections by promising to "never compromise," and now some Democrats are eyeing the same motto for their primaries.

Liberal activists, frustrated by the absence of a potent challenger from the left to Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential hopes, are turning some of their energies to congressional and mayoral races.

In Maryland, key liberal groups are assailing a well-regarded Senate candidate for his earlier refusal to rule out bipartisan deals that could combine tax increases with cuts in the projected growth of Medicare and Social Security. These liberals demand no nicks in such social programs, even if conservatives bend on tax hikes and other matters.

Democratic insiders question how far the strategy might spread in a party that generally wants government to work. But if it does expand, it could make life harder for legislative leaders in a Congress whose political middle already has largely vanished.

The Maryland target is seven-term Rep. Chris Van Hollen. Now the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee, Van Hollen has held other party leadership posts, including the one overseeing congressional campaigns in 2008 and 2010, and won the endorsement of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

By most measures, Van Hollen's record is mainstream liberal or progressive. Americans for Democratic Action gives him an 80 percent rating. That ranks him fourth among the seven House Democrats from Maryland, one of the nation's most liberal states.

But Van Hollen isn't ideologically pure enough for liberal groups that prefer Rep. Donna Edwards for the seat being vacated by five-term Democratic Sen. Barbara Mikulski. ADA gives Edwards a 95 percent approval rating, and her political persona is more unabashedly liberal than is Van Hollen's.

Van Hollen's liberal critics include Daily Kos columnists and the group Moveon.org. The group began in response to President Bill Clinton's 1998 impeachment and strongly backed Barack Obama's presidential campaigns.

Moveon.org calls Van Hollen "accomplished and capable." But the group says "it was deeply disappointing" when Van Hollen praised the basic framework of the 2010 Bowles-Simpson deficit-reduction plan.

Obama commissioned the report but never embraced it, and it eventually fell victim to attacks from all sides. The report called for tax increases and spending cuts, saying both parties must yield hallowed political ground to make significant progress against future deficits. Neither party did.

The Bowles-Simpson plan would have slowed the projected growth of Medicare and Social Security, something many nonpartisan analysts advocate.

Over time, however, key liberal groups hardened their stand against any trims to these large and growing programs. They now question whether Democrats such as Van Hollen are sufficiently liberal.

Some lawmakers blamed the collapse of Bowles-Simpson and similar bipartisan "grand bargains" on congressional Republicans who promised voters they would never compromise their conservative principles, even if Democrats gave up a lot in return. Such "don't compromise" rhetoric is now animating at least a few Democratic primaries.

In Chicago, some liberal groups say Democratic Mayor Rahm Emanuel — a former congressman and Obama's onetime chief of staff — is too centrist and pro-establishment. They are backing his challenger, Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, in the April 7 primary runoff.

Political analysts say the Democrats' remarkably uncrowded presidential field — so far, anyway — is pushing liberal activism elsewhere.

"The absence of a prominent progressive in the ranks of Democratic presidential hopefuls has accelerated the

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quest for congressional candidates who could hold Hillary Clinton's feet to the fire," said Rutgers University political scientist Ross K. Baker. The Clintons' "centrist legacy," he said, "causes considerable anxiety in the ranks of Occupy Wall Street groups, unions, liberal media," and candidates like Van Hollen can become collateral damage.

Dan Schnur, who was an adviser to President George H.W. Bush and GOP Sen. John McCain, said demands for ideological purity are familiar to many Republicans but are "a newer dynamic for the Democrats."

"The only powerbroker strong enough to discourage these types of infra-party brawls is usually the president," Schnur said. As Obama becomes increasingly seen as a lame duck, he said, "there's no one in the party with the ability to discourage a potential spoiler."

Polls find Democratic voters more inclined to see government as a force for good, and therefore more accepting of compromises to make divided government work. That's why some analysts think a "no compromise" mandate won't go far in Democratic primaries.

"Nothing like the 'no new taxes' pledge has been duplicated on the Democratic side," said Brookings Institution scholar Thomas E. Mann. "The center-left position on most issues espoused by Obama remains relatively safe ground in Democratic primaries."

In Maryland, Mann said, "Van Hollen clearly occupies that space."

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One More Question on Hillary Clinton E-Mails: Where Was the Watchdog? (Bloomberg)
By Arit John
March 24, 2015
Bloomberg

One of the many unanswered questions of the Hillary Clinton e-mail story has been: Whose job was it to raise and address concerns about her exclusive use of a private account? According to open government advocates, it would have been the agency's permanent, independent Inspector General—someone nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate—if such a person had existed.

For five years, including all of Clinton's time as secretary, the State Department's Office of Inspector General never had a confirmed inspector. Instead, it was lead by acting inspector Harold W. Geisel, a former ambassador who was accused of being too cozy to agency leadership by transparency groups like the Project on Government Oversight. Throughout the first half of President Obama's first term, the absence of a State Department Inspector General while internal scandals and Benghazi rocked the department drew bipartisan criticism.

"For no one to raise concerns, it's almost impossible to believe," said Danielle Brian, the executive director for POGO.

For years POGO has been highlighting "the frequency and the longevity of vacancies in Inspectors General offices," as Brian put it. She added that while it was ironic that the Clinton story broke so close to last week's Sunshine Week—a time for open government advocates to raise awareness of transparency issues—it was also an opportunity to highlight the importance of why open government issues like Inspectors General vacancies.

"It seems like a really boring issue, but this is why it's not," Brian said. "These are people who … were in a position to have received tips or created a sense of there being accountability on these matters. But those vacancies scream essentially that there's nobody whose really interested in making sure that someone is a junkyard dog in those agencies, looking for these kinds of problems."

Beyond the State Department

The Inspector General Act of 1978 established independent watchdog offices for every major federal agency, led by an official nominated either by the president or the agency. There are currently 11 inspector general positions open—either because President Obama or the agency have yet to nominate anyone, or because a presidential nominee has yet to be confirmed by Congress.

Some positions have gone without nominees for years—according to a database maintained by POGO, the Department of Interior hasn't has a permanent inspector, or presidential nominee, since early 2009; the Agency for International Development's OIG hasn't had a leader or presidential nominee since 2011. The National Archives and Records Administration hasn't had an inspector since September 2012, when Inspector General Paul Brachfield was put on administrative leave while being investigated for racial and sexual comments.

The State Department's permanent inspectors haven't been above reproach—in 2007 then-IG Howard J. Krongard resigned over allegations that he'd impeded investigations into Blackwater and corruption in Iraq—but the work of vetted and confirmed officials carry more weight. In a 2011 report, the Government Accountability Office called on the State Department to address concerns regarding it independence writing that "the appointment of management and Foreign Service officials to head the State OIG in an acting capacity for extended periods of time is not consistent with professional standards for independence."

In other words, if you wanted to inspire confidence in whistleblowers and others that the State Department is being held accountable by an independent official, that official shouldn't be a former State Department official.

By September 2013, several months after Clinton left State, the department finally had a permanent inspector, and the department recently released a report documenting how few e-mails the State Department has saved for government records. But the long-time gap, as well as the ones at other agencies, raise questions about what other problems aren't being investigated.

"If there was any confidence that those were robust office then people within the agency or others would have turned to them," Brian said. "I have to believe that at some point we'll find out that there were people who were saying 'Why am I getting this weird email from what should obviously be state.gov?'"

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Where does Hillary Clinton stand on the Middle East? (The Washington Post)
By Jennifer Rubin
March 23, 2015
The Washington Post

Hillary Clinton's experience as secretary of state is supposed to be the main selling point for her presidency. Oddly, we know very little about her specific views on matters of pressing concern directly within her sphere of supposed expertise. If the press ever corners her, here is what we would like to know:

Does she think the president's relationship with the elected leader of our closest Middle East ally is strong, and if not, what would she do differently?

Would you feel free to criticize the Israeli prime minister as openly and harshly as the president has? If an adviser in your administration were to use a barnyard epithet to characterize him, would you want to know who that staffer is and dismiss him?

Do you agree with the notion that settlements are the main barrier to a peace deal? If so, why didn't the prime minister's building freeze and extension of the freeze jump-start a deal?

Should the Palestinian people get to choose their leaders or be stuck with a president who has continued to occupy office long after his term expired?

How can there be a comprehensive peace deal so long as Gaza is controlled by Hamas?

Israel withdrew from Gaza and got war. What makes you believe further withdrawals would have a different result?

Does the Palestinian Authority's attempts to unilaterally seek recognition of statehood violate its obligations under the Oslo Accords?

How many times has Israel offered a peace deal that includes more than 90 percent of the West Bank? Your husband was closely involved in a negotiation of one such offer. Could that have been the basis of a lasting peace deal?

Martin Indyk has blamed Israel for the failure in the peace process. Do you agree?

If Israel were to pull out entirely from the West Bank now, with Hamas and Hezbollah firmly in place and the region in turmoil, what do you think would be the result? Would Jordan fear such a move?

Should Iran be allowed to keep 6,000 centrifuges?

Why did we never impose those crippling sanctions of which you spoke? Might we have gotten more cooperation from Iran if we did?

With a 10-year sunset, what would prevent Iran from then kicking out all inspectors, withdrawing from the NPT and/or racing to develop a bomb?

Since the Obama administration refused to recognize for months that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was using chemical weapons, drew a red line and then erased it, what makes you think the administration would recognize reported violations of the deal swiftly enough to take action to prevent a nuclear breakout?

Do you think you are a better negotiator than the president when it comes to Iran? If so, shouldn't Congress try to fend off a bad deal in order to give you or whoever is the next president the chance to negotiate a better one?

Are there "moderates" in power in Iran? Who are they, and what evidence of moderation do you see?

Had you known where we would wind up with Iran, would you have done anything differently when you were in office?

The president held up Yemen as a great success, and now it is in turmoil and falling under Iranian influence. Why should we trust his judgment on Iran if his predictive powers are so poor?

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Hillary Clinton ponders who she'll call after White House win (The Washington Times)
By S.A. Miller
March 24, 2015
The Washington Times

Undaunted by an email scandal and congressional investigation, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton exuded wholehearted confidence Monday that she'll win the White House as she publicly mused about hires for her administration.

Speaking at a policy roundtable at a liberal Washington think tank, Mrs. Clinton hinted at a future job offer for Compton, California, Mayor Aja Brown.

"Don't be surprised if you get a call," Mrs. Clinton said after praising the Democratic mayor's anti-gang programs.

"Maybe we'll start not too far from here in a beautiful domed building, where we'll get everybody in the same room and start that conversation," continued Mrs. Clinton. "It could lead to collaboration and better results for our cities and our country."

The remarks provoked laughs from the friendly crowd at the Center for American Progress. But Mrs. Clinton wasn't joking about her self-assurance and unabashed determination to win the presidency in 2016.

The event marked the beginning of a new phase in Mrs. Clinton's quest for the White House. She has ended two years of high-priced speaking gigs while she mostly kept out of the headlines since stepping down as secretary of state.

The days are over for her to lay the groundwork for a presidential run, although last year's book tour was marred by multiple gaffes — she remarked about how "dead broke" she and former President Bill Clinton were in 2001, had a testy interview with National Public Radio and was defended by Mr. Clinton's saying the two regularly took weekend trips to grocery stores to meet "regular people."

Mrs. Clinton soon will officially announce her campaign, with little more than token opposition currently standing between her and the Democratic nomination.

Mrs. Clinton holds a commanding lead over every potential challenger for the Democratic nomination, including Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont, former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

She leads in theoretical match-ups against every potential Republican contender as well. In a Real Clear Politics average of recent polls, Mrs. Clinton topped former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush by 15 points and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who announced his candidacy Monday, by 11 points.

At the policy roundtable, which focused on urban economics, Mrs. Clinton slipped into campaign mode, carefully reciting Democratic catch phrases such as "social mobility," "income inequality" and "wage stagnation."

"One of the biggest issues we face is income inequality combined with wage stagnation. They really go hand in hand," she said. "We don't have enough good jobs. We don't have people being placed into those jobs. We don't have enough social mobility."

"A lot of our cities truly are divided," she said. "They have a lot of inequality that has only gotten worse. They have some of the most dynamic, well educated and affluent people in the world and people who are trapped in generational poverty and whose skills are not keeping up with what the jobs of today and tomorrow demand."

Mrs. Clinton also checked off policy positions from a liberal to-do list. She called for universal pre-kindergarten and gave a shout out to New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, a liberal champion for the pre-K cause.

Still, Mrs. Clinton has faced sharp criticism for exclusively using a private email account and a private server in her home for conducting official business while serving as Secretary of State.

The unorthodox practice has shielded her official communications from Public Information Act requests and from attempts by Congress to access those documents, likely violating federal records-keeping laws.

A House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks and the administration's response formally requested Friday that Mrs. Clinton turn her email server over to an independent third party so it can be scrutinized to

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determine whether she and the Obama administration complied with the law.

The email flap and revelations that the Clinton Global Initiative accepted foreign donations during Mrs. Clinton's tenure as America's top diplomat have fueled speculation that Mrs. Clinton's presidential ambitions could be imperiled.

Mrs. Clinton has shrugged off the criticism. A Boston Globe editorial board joined the chorus that has called for liberal firebrand Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts Democrat, to enter the presidential race and give Mrs. Clinton come stiff competition.

"Fairly or not, many Americans already view Clinton skeptically, and waltzing to the nomination may actually hurt her in the November election against the Republican nominee," said the editorial in Monday's newspaper.

The editorial board slammed Mrs. Clinton for lacking "gumption" to tackle Wall Street reforms and the country's deep-seeded economic problems.

"Warren's dedication is obvious to anyone who watched her raise funds by rallying thousands of grass-roots supporters in her 2012 Senate campaign. She should not shrink from the chance to set the course for the Democratic Party or cede that task to Hillary Clinton without a fight," they wrote.

Mrs. Warren, who is considered the most potent challenger for the party's nomination, so far has rebuffed liberal activists' persistent calls that she run.

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Obama scrambles to limit Hillary Clinton email scandal damage (The Washington Times)
By Stephen Dinan and S.A. Miller
March 24, 2015
The Washington Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton's email practices are now becoming a legal headache for the Obama administration, which for the first time has admitted to a court that the former secretary of state withheld her emails.

Administration attorneys are now scrambling to contain the damage by promising to redo what eventually could be hundreds of open records searches that were tainted by Mrs. Clinton's email practices and those of her top aides, who, according to a New York Times report Monday, also occasionally used private emails to communicate.

The government attorneys, however, insist that the officials didn't break the law or act in bad faith by not revealing to anyone that it never searched Mrs. Clinton's emails, despite hundreds of requests for her electronic communications that were unable to be completely fulfilled because the department didn't gain access to her messages until late last year.

"It's a con game. They've been caught in a con," said Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, a conservative public interest law firm that filed 160 open-records requests that could have been tainted by Mrs. Clinton's email practices. "The concern is there's been misconduct and misrepresentation and fraud on the courts, and certainly on Judicial Watch."

His organization has asked a court to reopen one case seeking Mrs. Clinton's emails, saying the State Department couldn't have completed a search last year because it never had her emails in the first place.

Justice Department lawyers defending the State Department told Judge Royce C. Lamberth that while the government didn't get Mrs. Clinton's emails until last year, they have since searched the 30,000 or so messages to determine whether any of them should be released in response to Judicial Watch's request. The lawyers promised to share the results of their search next month.

"Those documents were not in [the State Department's] possession and control when the original search was completed," the lawyers told U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. "Once those emails were provided to the department and thus entered the department's possession and control the department, on its own initiative, searched them for records responsive to the [open-records] request."

The attorneys said the fact that they didn't disclose that Mrs. Clinton's emails weren't searched "was neither a misrepresentation nor a material omission" because the government didn't have control of them.

But the revelation that other top Clinton aides may have used personal addresses to communicate with Mrs. Clinton or with one another creates a bigger headache for the department, opening a number of other potential searches.

Gawker Media sued earlier this month seeking access to emails from Philippe Reines, a top aide to Mrs. Clinton. Gawker was stunned when the State Department earlier said it couldn't find any Reines emails on a particular topic, even though another news outlet confirmed that Mr. Reines emailed on the subject.

"Based on the facts known thus far the developing story appears to be that the use of personal e-mails by Secretary Clinton and members of her senior staff may have been a deliberate attempt to shield communications from capture by governmental systems and the public's eye, for reasons yet unknown," Gawker's attorneys told the federal court.

The New York Times on Monday reported that Mr. Reines and at least three other top Clinton aides, Huma Abedin, Jake Sullivan and Cheryl Mills, occasionally used private emails to communicate with Mrs. Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton's office told the paper that her aides rarely used their nongovernment email accounts to conduct business, amounting to "the tiniest fraction of the more than one million emails they sent or received."

The State Department this month asked Mrs. Clinton's team whether any members still have emails on their personal accounts that should be considered public business.

The White House and State Department have tried to keep the controversy at arm's length, saying the law made it Mrs. Clinton's responsibility to follow email guidelines and regulations. They have directed questions on the

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matter to her.

Open-records laws require that communications involving government business generally be stored — though the laws leave a good deal of discretion to agencies and to the individuals creating the records. Official email accounts are usually automatically cataloged and stored, but those who use nonofficial accounts are supposed to forward messages involving government business to their official accounts to ensure that they, too, are collected.

Mrs. Clinton instead relied on her own email account and a private server kept at her home in New York for all business during her time in the administration. She said it was more convenient than having a personal and a work account.

Nearly two years after she left office, and after a congressional probe learned about her account, she turned over about 30,000 messages to the State Department but said she didn't keep another 32,000 messages she deemed private business, not government-related.

The State Department didn't respond to a request from The Washington Times on Monday, and spokeswoman Marie Harf refused to comment at the department's daily press briefing about reports that top Clinton aides also used private accounts.

Mr. Fitton said the Obama administration is trying to keep the courts from delving too deeply into the situation, but he said plenty of unanswered questions pose tricky problems for the administration and for Mrs. Clinton, who is expected to announce a bid soon for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"We still don't know who has separate email accounts, who had these alias accounts, how many records there are, were records destroyed, who was responsible for these records legally, who in the agency knew about these records, when did the Justice Department know about these records, why wasn't Judicial Watch aware of these records, why wasn't the court aware of these records?" Mr. Fitton said.

If Mrs. Clinton were a CEO or some other private individual whose records came under scrutiny, Mr. Fitton said, the FBI would have rushed to secure the records and ensure they weren't being destroyed. The government then would try to recover any lost or deleted records.

One legal hurdle for those seeking to pry into the emails is a federal judge's ruling this month that courts cannot compel agencies to dig into their employees' private email accounts to dig up messages dealing with government business. The court ruled that it is up to agencies to police themselves, not for judges to intervene.

Mr. Fitton, though, said Mrs. Clinton's situation goes beyond an employee occasionally using a private account, and he said it's wrong to describe Mrs. Clinton's emails as private because the server and account were set up to handle government business.

"This is an unprecedented case. This is the head of an agency setting up an email specifically to make sure that no one could search and review that material as the law requires," he said.

A House investigative committee has requested that Mrs. Clinton's emails be turned over to an independent third party such as a retired judge or inspector general, but the documents could end up in front of an active judge or inspector general. Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which oversees open-records laws, has asked the State Department's inspector general to take a look at the department's email rules and Mrs. Clinton's behavior and to report back on what the next steps should be.

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For Clinton to win she needs Liz to run (Boston Herald)
KIMBERLY ATKINS
March 23, 2015
Boston Herald
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WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Warren, as we now know her, would make a terrible presidential candidate. But her party, the Democrats — including presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton — need Elizabeth Warren to run.

Because they need a primary, and no one else can give them one.

The MoveOn.org faction of the party might be ready for Warren, but Warren is not ready for presidential prime time.

At a time when the world's on fire, her foreign policy chops are weak. Her domestic agenda, as important as economic equality may be, is too one-note for the Oval Office. Making the same speech over and over might raise a lot of money, but it won't win votes. Her severe aversion to the press evidences a thin skin that makes her denials about presidential plans completely understandable.

But right now Warren is also the only Democrat capable of saving Clinton from her own self-destruction. That's why Democrats need her to run. She probably won't win — though who knows what could happen on the campaign trail. But she's got to be willing to take one for the team if she wants the White House to stay blue.

To call Clinton's campaigning skills rusty would be kind. For someone who has been running for president for the better part of the last decade, she's has managed to make a complete mess of things. Unforced errors like Emailgate and the Clinton Foundation foreign funding scandal and her “dead broke" comment last summer have Democrats sweating.

These gaffes don't mean Clinton isn't qualified to be president. On paper, it's easy to see how the former senator and secretary of state has kept the field clear. But presidential campaigns aren't fought on paper.

Clinton needs to be challenged. She needs to be reminded that the word “campaign" is a verb as well as a noun. Mettle must be tested and proven, even by formidable players. Big Papi doesn't skip spring training, and Clinton shouldn't be given a primary pass.

Potential Democratic challengers like former Maryland Gov. Marty O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb have shown an unwillingness to take Clinton on. They wouldn't touch on Emailgate, even though Clinton's conduct raised fair questions. That sort of deference toward Clinton — or fear of her — does her no good.

Now imagine the entry of Warren, whose top attribute is her willingness to take on a fight. Warren would hold Clinton's feet to the fire in debates, call out her cozy Wall Street ties, and give Democrats something to get excited about — and possibly embolden other Democrats to jump in.

Sparring with Warren would breathe some life into Clinton's lethargic operation, force her to fight like she wants to win this thing, and get her ready to take on the GOP.

That's why even Clinton backers should urge Warren to run, Liz, run!

— kimberly.atkins@bostonherald.com

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Another Clinton presidency would be a dreary, endless battle (Record-Journal)
David Horsey
March 24, 2015
Record-Journal
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This may sound harsh, but the thought of another Clinton presidency is just plain dreary. Certainly there are far worse fates for the country (can you say "President Huckabee?") and some scenarios scary enough to set off a stampede to Canada (can you say "President Ted Cruz?"), but the election of Hillary Rodham Clinton would be like a return to trench warfare - a grueling, mud-spattered battle fought over the same ground day after day after dispiriting day.

Clinton has not yet announced her candidacy, but Fox News commentators are already on the attack, fulminating about the "Clinton scandals" (note the plural). In the 1990s, Hillary was mocked for blaming her troubles, and Bill's, on "a vast right-wing conspiracy." She was merely describing what has become a familiar reality. The broadly arrayed forces of the conservative media, right-wing billionaires and Republican attack artists engaged in an all-fronts assault on the Clintons. Then, after an eight-year break, the same people came back with enhanced power to mount a relentless siege aimed at destroying Barack Obama's presidency.

At least Obama brought something new to our political life. Contrary to the bizarre and cynical fantasies promulgated by the conservative scare machine (Obama wasn't born here! Obama is a Muslim! Obama is the Antichrist!), Obama has proven to be one of the most decent, eloquent and intelligent men ever to take up residence in the White House. There has not been a whiff of personal scandal during his presidency and the so-called political scandals - Benghazi, Fast and Furious, et al. - have been almost entirely trumped up tempests in very tiny teapots.

Obama has not been a president without flaws and disappointments. As predicted by his opponents in the 2008 campaign, his lack of governmental experience has sometimes been a detriment. He was naive in his initial dealings with the Republican opposition, failing too long to recognize that they had absolutely no interest in governing with him for the common good. His solitary nature, his intellectualism and his mocking sense of the absurd were less than perfectly suited for the back-slapping, ego-stroking, dumbed-down ethos of the inside-the-beltway political game. Still, now in his final two years, the president is beginning to live up to the hope he inspired in his "Yes We Can" campaign. Compared to the country bumpkins, snake oil salesmen and bomb throwers running Congress, he is a calm, firm voice of reason and inspiration. Just the fact that our first nonwhite president won re-election gives the modest hope that this country can become a more perfect union and that American government will one day rise from the current trough of dysfunction, mendacity and willful, self-serving ignorance. It is much harder to imagine that hope being sustained in a new Clinton presidency. In 1993, the young Clintons did bring a rush of energy and high expectations. After eight years of triangulations, investigations and sordid revelations, that energy and those expectations were spent. Now, even the exciting prospect of electing the first female president is dimmed because this particular female and her husband have been here before. We know what to expect, both from the Clintons and from their enemies, and it is far from new.

If they get their second chance - and I say they because, whatever role he is given in a Hillary Clinton administration, there is no way Bill will confine himself to serving tea like Mamie Eisenhower - they will arrive like a veteran rock band on a farewell tour. They will arrive with all the complicated connections to foreign governments and opportunistic power players who have donated millions of dollars to the Clintons' philanthropic efforts and all the super-rich friends they have made at Davos and on Wall Street. They will arrive with mountains of baggage, including all the baggage from past controversies, from Whitewater to Monica Lewinsky.

They will not intend to bring that old stuff along, but it will be delivered to their doorstep by their right-wing enemies, who are eager to cull through all the dirty laundry of the past. Of course, any Democratic president now has to contend with a perpetual assault from conservatives. But at least someone who has not been around as long might get a brief respite, a narrow opportunity to launch new initiatives and raise hopes that progress is possible.

For Hillary Clinton, there will be nothing close to a honeymoon. It will be a "Groundhog Day" of a presidency with each new morning bringing the same weary repetition of old battles between a power couple we know too well and reactionary political forces that would rather destroy another presidency than give an inch of ground for the sake of our nation.

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David Horsey is a political commentator for the Los Angeles Times.

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Hillary Is Daring Us to Look Into the Clinton Foundation (The Daily Beast)
By Eleanor Clift
March 24, 2015
The Daily Beast

Hillary Clinton can't stop talking about the Clinton Foundation everywhere she goes because at the end of the day, they believe the good works outweighs the shady foreign money.
Hillary Clinton spent Monday morning talking to a friendly audience about policies that could help cities, and with unabashed pride, name checked Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), her controversial family foundation, several times.

The message? CGI is an asset, not an albatross.

Republicans and reporters look at CGI as a treasure trove of scandals, laden with foreign money from governments with questionable human rights practices and potential conflicts of interest.

But to Clinton, it's a living laboratory of programs that work alongside government, or instead of government, and in partnerships with corporations or foreign entities that may raise eyebrows among the pesky press but do good works.

The panel discussion at the Center for American Progress on Monday wasn't the first time she has talked up the family foundation since the news of the foreign donations broke a few weeks ago.

Clinton touted CGI in both her paid speech to the American Camp Association last week as well as at the United Nations before and after her dismal press conference about her State Department emails.

"Her long relationship with CGI is a matter of public record; she's not going to be able to run away from it, and if it's a good idea, I wouldn't advise her to stay silent about it," says Bill Galston, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution and a former policy advisor in the Clinton White House. "If she's going to get a lot of the downside of the relationship, why shouldn't she get the upside?"

Nick Merrill, Clinton's spokesman, said that while he doesn't speak for the Foundation, the press scrutiny "doesn't stop her from being proud of the very substantial work and innovative ideas that have come out of there."

When Neera Tanden, president of Center for American Progress, and a former Clinton staffer, asked Clinton why the country should care about the success, or failure, of cities, Clinton referenced the CGI's work as "a convener" in addressing the issue of rampant inequality in cities where a highly educated and affluent population exists alongside people trapped in generational poverty.

She then described a CGI program called "Job One," that works with companies to place people who've never had jobs.

Her comments were met with approving nods.

Clinton was very much in her element on the revitalization of cities panel.

She sat in the center of a roundish table that stretched out on both sides to accommodate other panelists, including HUD Secretary Julian Castro, who the audience was sizing up as a potential running mate should Clinton make it across the finish line on her second try.

"If she's going to get a lot of the downside of the relationship, why shouldn't she get the upside?" Bill Galston, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution and a former policy advisor in the Clinton White House.

"Well Amen," Clinton said in her closing thoughts on the panel discussion. "I love conversations like this. It's really nice to be getting back in on evidence-based solutions," a remark that brought knowing laughter from the invited audience.

"We need to abolish the silos," she said, a reference to the repeated declaration by the participants that the various parts of government need to talk to each other, and finally, that what's needed is a culture of collaboration rather than a culture of confrontation.

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And then came the hint – which has also become part of every Clinton speech lately.

“Mayor,” she said, turning to the mayor of Compton, California, 32-year-old Aja Brown, citing her work in disbanding gangs, “Don’t be surprised if you get a call, not too far from here, beautiful domed building…..” where help is needed to bridge gaps, Clinton said amidst the laughter at her teasing acknowledgment of what lies ahead should her campaign succeed.

In the audience were Victor and Sarah Kovner, longtime Democratic activists and fundraisers in New York.

They thought Clinton did well, that she was relaxed and appears ready for the rough road ahead. They acknowledged the recent Boston Globe editorial calling on Elizabeth Warren to enter the primaries, if only to insure Clinton is in fighting form for the general election.

“Sure she could use a debate, but not one that’s going to tear us apart,” Sarah Kovner told The Daily Beast.

Asked what she thought of Castro as a potential running mate, Kovner said no, too young and inexperienced. Democrats did that with the current president. Clinton could be seen nodding approvingly as the 40-year-old former mayor of San Antonio declared, “We’re falling in love with cities again,” as he recounted programs he put in place for his city’s poorest residents, including such simple things as improving bus routes.

That’s all well and good, but Kovner’s candidate is Virginia Senator Tim Kaine, former governor, old enough (57), experienced, no skeletons, no drama, and from a state Clinton would need to win.

But then that’s getting way ahead of where we are in this process, so many more stories to write, and boxes to check before we know whether the rules are truly different this time, and which ones apply to the Clintons.

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From: "Gary Ritterstein" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/6/2012 2:31:51 AM
Subject: dangerous

JOHN DOUGLASS
HELP VIRGINIA FAMILIES

John --

John Douglass is urging Corporate Congressman Robert Hurt to introduce a federal ban on uranium mining near residential communities. If Hurt fails to act now, families and farmers throughout our district could be at risk. Studies show ties between uranium mining and the threat of cancer.

Get Hurt and his allies in Congress to ban dangerous mining in our district before the election. Read the letter and add your signature.

We have already seen what happens when we let these corporations take over -- Canonsburg, Pa is now called the "most radioactive town in America" since uranium waste contaminated buildings and soil, costing taxpayers $48 million for the clean-up.

Yet in response to news that the Virginia legislature is soon expected to consider lifting the ban, Hurt said it's "a state issue," leaving it up to the same politicians that tried to force painful procedures on Virginia women.

Don't leave it up to the state legislature -- tell them that No means No by urging Hurt to act now.

In Congress, Hurt got caught trying to block oversight of what his campaign admits is "radioactive matter produced from uranium". His campaign tries to get away with claiming that the final Farm Dust bill keeps mining subject to the Clean Air Act, but refuses to come clean about the fact that Hurt opposed that very requirement.

Hurt understands that introducing a federal ban of uranium mining could cost him politically and personally. It has been widely reported that uranium executives have funded his campaigns and his family owns a financial stake in the mine itself.

Share your concerns with Congressman Hurt by co-signing General Douglass's letter.

John Douglass is ready to help build bipartisan support for a federal ban in Congress, before this becomes a matter of life and death. Having put his life on the line in defense of our country, he will always put the safety of our families first.

Gary Ritterstein

Campaign Manager
Douglass for Congress

P.S. Hurt and his Republican allies recently voted to take a month-long break from their work in Congress. And if they don't get back to work on a federal uranium mining ban by November, it will be up to us to send him packing permanently.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

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Paid for by John Douglass for Congress

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	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	12/7/2012 12:28:33 PM
Subject:	Biweekly Report
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 12.07.12.docx

Hannah,
I have attached and pasted below the latest Biweekly Report for President Clinton.
Please let me know if he has any questions or comments.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
December 7, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative (CEO)

- CEO reached out to mentee participants in the NYC-based Entrepreneur Mentoring Program (EMP) to understand the extent to which Hurricane Sandy impacted their businesses and is currently working to identify additional mentors and advisors for the businesses that were hardest hit by the hurricane and have requested additional advisory support.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

- The Peru Ministry of Tourism has agreed to jointly fund a project with CGSGI to provide capacity building and link small suppliers to the hospitality sector in Cusco, Peru. This project is a replication of the successful project that CGSGI has operated for the last three years in Cartagena. The project will involve 30 supplier groups linked to 26 buyers including 7 hotel chains and 5 restaurant chains. The hotels and restaurants have actively participated in a demand analysis in advance of launching the project and based on this analysis the project is expected to yield over $5M in cumulative producer income over 3 years and create over 500 jobs. The product lines that will be developed include vegetables and fruit, traditional meats, dairy products, processed foods and grains, and fish. The target start date for the project will be in early 2013.

Clinton Development Initiative
Malawi

- Rains have still not been sufficient for significant planting on the commercial farms. Major sales contracts are in place. CDI had a good meeting with an Israeli company that specializes in drip irrigation systems for commercial and smallholder farms. The company is expected to submit a proposal to CDI.

Rwanda (CHDI)

- An estimated 70% of the work on the Mt. Meru Soyco site has is complete. Most of the civil work is done and a large amount of equipment is on site. The refinery's boiler is currently in transit and a boiler operator has been hired for a period of 2 years.
- With regards to the AGRA project, planting is complete. The results are mixed, with good crops in regions that experienced regular rainfall and poor crops in regions affected by drought. This week, Dr. Rebbie from AGRA visited CDI. She analyzed soil and rainfall data from last season in addition to overall performance over the season.
- Construction of the coffee roasting factory is moving along well and CDI is up-to-date on all payments. The director general of the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) has agreed to provide equipment specifications within the next week.

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Date: 1/5/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: What to Watch in 2016 | GMF to Host Kissinger | Call for Brussels Forum Volunteers

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GMF's World Wire

January 6, 2016

What to Watch in 2016: GMF Experts Look at the Year Ahead

2015 was a tumultuous year for the transatlantic partners. The refugee crisis, terrorist attacks, Russian aggression, and economic issues dominated discussions on both sides of the Atlantic in ways that would have been difficult to predict at the start of the year. What will 2016 bring?

READ MORE

Helmut Schmidt: The Life and Legacy of a German Statesman

On January 12, GMF will host a discussion on the life and legacy of Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt with Henry Kissinger, Theo Sommer, Constanze Stelzenmüller, and David Ignatius.

READ MORE

The Fallacies of Treating Turkey as Europe's Gatekeeper

Emiliano Alessandri
Ongoing developments in EU-Turkey relations are as significant as they are worrying. *The Globalist* chose this publication as one of the top essays of 2015.

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Tweet of the Week

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@LundqvistMC :
Interesting take by @gmfus on what were this year's wins and losses? Transatlantic 2015 - The Year in Review http://shar.es/1Gi9QP

RETWEET

Brussels Forum: Call for Volunteers

GMF seeks volunteers for Brussels Forum , which will take place March 18-20. Volunteers will provide essential operational support at this annual, major international conference held in Brussels.

APPLY NOW

Here's What We Know About How to Help Spread Democracy

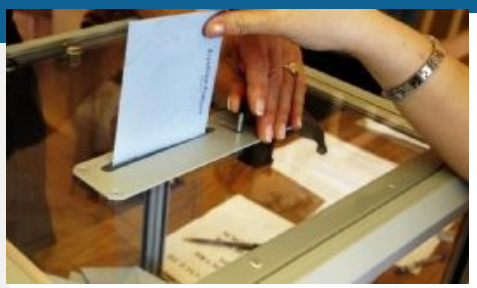

Nelli Babayan
Programs that familiarize leaders from transitioning countries with democratic rules and principles have the best chance of success at spreading democracy. | *The Washington Post*

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Date: 6/25/2015 8:33:48 AM
Subject: News from Hudson: Turkey's Future, Oil Abundance, Targeting ISIS, and More

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/30/2008 7:33:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Employee Town Hall in Aurora, CO 07/30/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Aurora, CO. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Promises "I will not raise your taxes nor support a tax increase," not even to pay for Social Security
- Repeats attacks on Obama that
    - he voted for tax hikes for people making $32,000/ year (vs. http://www.factcheck.org/elections-2008/the_32000_question.html)
    - his words don't mean much, for all his eloquence
- Lumps Obama with Bush Administration and Congress: people saying whatever they need to score political points
- Touts community college partnerships as "centerpiece" of dealing with displaces workers
- Says he's humbled to go from bottom of his class at Naval Academy to top of the GOP ticket

Aurora, CO: McCain Employee Town Hall 07/30/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- 350-400 people in audience, all Wagner Manufacturing Co employees
- McCain speaks in front of 2 giant tractors and a large American flag
- Tracker didn't see protesters outside the event
- Security pretty tight, only letting in employees and press
- Joe Wagner gives introductory remarks
    - coal-mining and uranium-mining very important to our business - we support these endeavors but also conservation and development of alternative energy sources - we are on both sides of the energy equation
    - *As chair of her own company, Cindy can understand how government can help or hurt small privately-owned businesses*
- Cindy introduces her husband
    - These Rwandan women watched their families killed in front of them. But on my trip, I saw a rebirth, led by women. Rwanda will succeed because of their strength, courage and deliberate attitude and leadership. I saw in these women what I have seen in my husband for 28 years. They made sure they put their countries first.
    - I hope I'm introducing you to the next POTUS.
- Event noticeably shorter than most McCain events (trend of the week)
- McCain reads from papers, not teleprompters
- Stump speech an almost-verbatim copy of yesterday's town hall
- McCain's non-cancer spot visible

Speech Highlights

- TY Cindy, Wagner (your son is doing a great job -- not as great as his dad), TY for the tour
- *I was surprised to hear your business is as far-reaching as Mongolia - i hope you all get to visit*
- Happy to hear you're making good use of community colleges. We need to provide training and education to workers, esp displaced workers. We can't leave people behind. The best way we can take care of displaced workers is to get them a quality, high-paying job.
- Probably the best test is workers that stay for a long time. I know you're proud.
- The purpose of this meeting is so I can respond to your questions, comments and insults. Town halls are the essence of America. Americans want to be heard today, they're hurting.
- I've been called a maverick, someone who marches to the beat of his own drum. Sometimes meant as a

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compliment sometimes an insult. I don't work for a President, a party, special interests or myself - I work for you and the country I love.

  - I spoke up against a President when he had a strategy I thought wasn't working, against a party when I believed they had wasteful spending, against a Congress for an irresponsible energy bill.
  - This hasn't made me friends in DC. I've heard pundits tell me this isn't a smart way to go, but

- We need to change everything, from education to energy to
- We have a lot of work to do and to get it done, we're really going to have to have the energy to change Washington
- **Obama wants to raise your taxes to pay for bigger government. I promise you this: "I will not raise your taxes nor support a tax increase"**
- Obama's requested about $1billion in pork-barrel projects. I never have. I will veto every bill that comes across my desk. It's wrong and I know how to fix it. We'll stop We won't spend millions investigating the DNA of bears.
- **Obama says he'll only vote for tax increases on the rich, but in the Senate he's voted for raising taxes on people making $32k.**
- **I am opposed to raising taxes on Social Security. I want to fix the system without raising taxes.** That's a debate I'm willing to have. We need to sit down together to fix SS.
- We are Americans first before GOP or Dem, i will always put my country first.
- Raising taxes in a bad economy is about the worst thing you can do because it kills jobs. I want to keep jobs
- Obama has said every domestic energy sources has a problem, I think every domestic energy source can be part of the solution
- **We ought to start drilling for more oil at home, including offshore!** Obama opposes that. Meanwhile Congress is gridlocked, esp on offshore drilling. That's what's wrong with DC.
- Obama says he wants peace. But his policy of unconditional withdrawal could lead to more violence and a third Iraq war. I believe in withdrawal based on conditions on the ground. I hate war and I know its cost.
- **For all the eloquence of Obama's words, they dont mean very much. Not just Bush Admin or Congress, but everyone says what they need to get elected and score political points.** If Obama cant say what he means openly and honestly, how can he stand up and change Washignton? We don't need another politician in Washington.
- I always chose my country first. I will always put our country's greatness, prosperity and peace and hopes and ambitions of its people before partisan politics.

Question & Answer

- 1Q) Do you view term limits as an effective resolution to an ineffective Congress?
  - MCCAIN: It's addressing a symptom of the problem rather than the problem itself. There are great people in Congress who have irreplaceable experience, e.g. **Sen. Lugar.** What we need is more people involved in the political process and have those who aren't as good in judgment leave. I go back adn forth, but I prefer leveling hte playing field for challengers adn give them a chance. We've seen a rise in voter reg and in independents, saying I'm not happy with GOPs or Dems. I think we on both sides have to put our country first. And we GOPs have seen our base disaffected by our wasteful spending. Sometimes I feel differently when I try to do the Lord's work in the city of Satan.

- 2Q) I'm not prejudiced, but what's your view on immigration?
  - MCCAIN: Twice Sen. Kennedy and I, working with Administration, sought to get comprehensive legislation and secure our borders. We failed because public didn't believe we would. We need to secure our borders, then truly temporary worker program (prosecuting employers who hire ppl without tamper-proof biometric IDs), then address the 12million people here illegally in a human fashion (they shouldnt' get precendence over people who came legally, and they should come here legally and they should have to learn English). Another issues is the Mexican drug cartels, a life-and-death struggle in Mexico. Calderon has a huge struggle on his hand because the corruption bred by these cartels goes up through the govt. And we have an interest in this because their product is coming across the border and killing our people. We also have to do something about the demand, which is anohter subject.

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- 3Q) I've also been critical of you reaching across the aisle too much. When things liek offshore drilling and the Fairness Doctrine are put up in Congress adn the leadership does nothing, I start to lose faith that DC will ever change.
    - MCCAIN: First, there's a poll that shows 9% Congressional approval and 80% people think USA on wrong track. So we see gridlock in Congress. Is there anyone here taht thinks we shouldn't at least vote on offshore drilling? They won't get spending under control. Let's face it, we are in crisis in America. These are tough times. these are times when Americans historically stood up together and said we're not GOPs or Dems, we're Americans. I have a record of reaching across the aisle, from Abramoff investigations to Boeing deal to campaign finance and other issues. You may disagree with me on some of these issues, but I know how to get things done.

- 4Q) What are you going to do to help those of us who have to choose between buying gas to get to work versus buying groceries?
    - MCCAIN: On the price of food?
    - Audience member: On both.
    - MCCAIN: They're not disconnected. Cost of energy, e.g. ethanol has a direct effect on cost of food. There are Americans who have to choose between buying gas and buying food. Mostly the lowest-income Americans. We have to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling. Will it solve the problem? No, but it will send a message to the world. We can't afford this $700B transfer of wealth. We also need wind, tide, solar. We need nuclear. The French do it. We need to store and re-process. I want to build 45 nuclear plants. And green technology. I saw GM's new Volt. This is a leap forward in technology. We have to understand that it took us 30 years to get into this position, so we're not going to get out tomorrow. I believe offshore drilling and conservation can get us where we need. I call it the Lexington Project. We will start as soon as I'm POTUS.
    - FOLLOWUP: In the meantime what are we supposed to do?
    - MCCAIN: I'd like to give you a gas tax holiday. It's been much derided. Is that going to help? It'll help some. Diesel-truck driver doesn't like that his tax goes to bridge to nowhere, etc. I'd remove the ethanol subsidies and the tariff on imported sugar-energy, I'd invest $2m in R&D.

- 5Q) [President of Aurora Community College]
    - MCCAIN: Can you tell us more about the partnership between Warner and your community college? I've been briefed, but I think this is the future of dealing with the displaced worker.
    - ACC President: We provide training and they provide equipment, very successful.
- My question is these programs only exist when there's a huge investment like Wagner has done.
    - MCCAIN: We all know that because of international competition and jobs fleeing, we have lost tons of jobs. *I think the centerpiece is, the govt should sponsor these programs.* If you're a small-business person and you need a person educated in your particular specialty, you can turn to the community colleges and get that person. And I'd be glad to supplement an older worker's income while they're getting retrained. And i say that as a small-government, low-taxes conservative because we all know that a job is more than a job.

- 6Q) What is your stance on benefits for veterans?
    - MCCAIN: Say what? Oh. First of all, TY for your service to this country. I carry around with me a quote from George Washington ('willingness of young Americans to serve is directly related to how we treat vets). you know about the disgraces of Walter Reed. The good thing is that we've improved in the speed we can get people from the battlefield to care. *And there are going to be a lot of people coming out this current conflict are going to have PTSD because of its horrific nature.* So we're going to have to increase our capability to deal with combat-related wounds and injuries. But for routine health care needs, they should get a plastic card and see a doctor of their choice.

- CO is going to be a battleground state. I will be back. I want to thank the people here for the work they're doing, as far away as Mongolia - that's one thign I didnt expect when I came here.

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- **I'm very humbled that a guy that stood 5th from the bottom of his class at the Naval Academy could stand with the nomination of the party of Lincoln and T. Roosevelt.** But I'm also honored. I'm the luckiest guy.
- Years ago, N Vietnamese offered me to leave early and I wanted to, but I also wanted to honor a guy who had come there first, Everett Alvarez, and our code of conduct. I put my country first then and I always will.

--
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Date: 2/1/2014 9:32:47 PM

Subject: Bruce Riedel article

Article by Bruce

Al-Qaeda now frontline threat to Israel - Al-Monitor: the Pulse of the Middle East

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/01/al-qaeda-israel-threat.html

Al-Qaeda now frontline threat to Israel

Al-Qaeda's affiliates and al-Qaedism the idea are gradually, inexorably, surrounding Israel. Safe havens and bases are sprouting up north and south of Israel like never before in the history of the global jihad, fulfilling the dreams of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri. Israel remains a very hard target for terrorists and is fully capable of defending itself, but the challenges facing Israeli counter terrorists are becoming more difficult.

Summary Print With gains in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, al-Qaeda and its affiliates threaten Israel more than ever.

Author Bruce Riedel Posted January 31, 2014

Israel has always been at the core of al-Qaeda's narrative and ideology. From the beginning of bin Laden's jihadist war on the "Crusader-Zionist" enemy, Israel was a key target. The "liberation" of the holy mosques of Jerusalem actually came before the "liberation" of the holy mosques of Mecca and Medina in his writings. When he endorsed the attempt to blow up an American jetliner over Detroit on Christmas 2009, he said attacks like it would continue as long as America supported Israel. But until recently al-Qaeda and its affiliates found it hard to get to the promised land and attack Israel. Israeli and/or Jewish targets in Kenya or Tunisia or elsewhere were attacked, but Israel itself was too hard to get to.

Most of al-Qaeda's activity until two years ago took place in parts of the Islamic world remote from the center of the Arab world and Israel. Al-Qaeda thrived in Pakistan, Yemen, Algeria and Iraq, but it had little presence in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Arab Awakening has changed the geography of al-Qaedism dramatically. The Iraqi branch of al-Qaeda — the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) — gave birth to a Syrian branch, Jabhat al-Nusra , in 2012 that has thrived in the Syrian civil war. Now the two groups are competitors for influence in eastern and northern Syria. Israeli intelligence sources claim that they together command the loyalty of 40,000 fighters. An American intelligence source put the number at around 25,000. Many are foreigners drawn to Syria by the vision that they are part of a campaign to liberate Jerusalem after first defeating the Assad dictatorship. US officials estimate 7,000 foreign volunteers are in Syria from 50 countries. Even tiny Luxembourg has been identified as a country from which foreign volunteers have gone to fight and die in the Syrian jihad.

Jabhat al-Nusra has also created a Lebanese franchise, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, named after the iconic Palestinian ideologue who was bin Laden's partner in Afghanistan in the 1980s war against the Soviet Union. With Lebanon's Sunni community frustrated by Hezbollah's dominance of the country, the situation is ripe for al-Qaeda to grow. Zawahri in January urged all al-Qaeda affiliates in Syria and Iraq to work together to set the stage for the final liberation of Jerusalem. Zawahri has backed Jabhat al-Nusra's leader, Mohammad al-Golani , as the rightful leader of the Syrian war; Golani's nom de guerre itself tells you his ultimate objective is Israel.

In the south, al-Qaedism is growing in Egypt in the wake of the army coup last summer that toppled the democratically elected Muslim Brotherhood government. Zawahri had predicted from the start of the Arab Spring in Egypt that the army would stage a counterrevolution and he urged his sympathizers to prepare for an armed struggle, a jihad, to fight them. In the mind of al-Qaeda supporters, the coup validated their narrative: Peaceful, democratic change was an illusion, the Brotherhood was too weak and the army too determined to keep power. Al-Qaeda propaganda charges that the coup was arranged behind the scenes by the Saudi intelligence service with the silent blessing of Israel and the collusion of the Americans.

Now a number of groups have emerged in Egypt waging jihad on the military government. The most dangerous is Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, or Ansar Jerusalem, which has carried out a series of terrorist attacks in Cairo and other Egyptian cities and also in the Sinai Peninsula. On Jan. 25, the group took responsibility with a video for shooting down an Egyptian military helicopter with a sophisticated man-portable surface-to-air missile. Analysis of the video suggests the MANPAD (Man-

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Portable Air Defense system) was more advanced than the usual state of the art in the region. Zawahri has more than once praised the jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula for their operations, especially against Israeli targets like the gas pipeline that delivers gas from Egypt to Israel and Jordan. The group's name betrays its ultimate objective.

Israeli intelligence announced last month that they had foiled an al-Qaeda plot to attack multiple targets inside Israel, including the US Embassy in Tel Aviv. The embassy is a vulnerable target since it sits on a major road with virtually no standoff from traffic. The Israeli internal intelligence service, the Shin Bet, reported it had arrested a number of Palestinians who were said to be in touch with Zawahri indirectly via jihadists in the Gaza Strip who were involved in planning the attacks. There may have also been contacts with Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria. The Israelis indicated that several Russian Muslims, probably from Chechnya, would participate in the actual suicide attacks. The operation appears to have been thwarted fairly early in its aspirational phase — that is, before the planning was complete and the operatives in place. If the accusation that Zawahri were directly involved in the planning was true, it would suggest a more active operational level of activity for the Egyptian head of al-Qaeda than is usually adduced.

The Israeli intelligence community would be especially alarmed if al-Qaeda could develop an infrastructure in Jordan. Then the noose would be complete. Jordanian intelligence is extremely effective in fighting al-Qaeda, but the group has a long history of recruiting in the Hashemite Kingdom. The founder of al-Qaeda in Iraq was, of course, the Jordanian Abu Musab Zarqawi. Jordanian sources say that some 2,500 Jordanians are fighting with the two al-Qaeda groups in Syria, Jabhat al-Nusra and the ISIS. Most are with Jabhat al-Nusra.

Israel has a long history of fighting terrorism and has exceptional capabilities to counter terror threats. It is a hard target with hard border security, including at airports and other entry posts. The Israeli intelligence and security services like the Shin Bet are among the best in the world. Al-Qaeda bases in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt are undoubtedly high on the collection priority lists of the Israeli security community.

The growth of al-Qaeda franchises and al-Qaedism in the neighborhood is the result of the Arab Awakening and the chaos it has produced, not some al-Qaeda master plan. Zawahri was caught off balance by the Egyptian revolution in 2011. But al-Qaeda is an adaptive ideology and it has taken advantage of the regional situation to fulfill the aspiration of its founders, bin Laden and Zawahri, to take the war to Israel’s border and someday into Israel itself.

Read more: http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/01/al-qaeda-israel-threat.html#ixzz2s8UQQZsp

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 1:56:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Stories for tomorrow:

- Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
- New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
- ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
- Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
- WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
- Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
- Bloomberg- Laureate
- NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed

Story Lines:

1. Nervous Dems
2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/15/2014 9:56:42 AM
Subject: FW: Hillary by Joseph Lelyveld (New York Review of Books - Sept 25, 2014 issue)

Any reaction to this review?
Any history with Lelyveld and Hillary?

Hillary

Joseph Lelyveld

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 ISSUE

The memoirs of Hillary Clinton have to be viewed, like their author, as a work in progress. Volume one carried her all the way from her days as a Goldwater girl in Park Ridge, Illinois, to her years as a political lightning rod in the Clinton White House, then finally to the United States Senate, which was never going to be her last stop.* Volume two, picking up the story at the end of her 2008 presidential campaign, recounts her four years at the State Department as what she accurately enough but a tad vainglorously calls "the chief diplomat of the most powerful nation on earth."

Taken together, the two volumes add up to nearly 1,200 pages, and a third can hardly be ruled out. Passages toward the end of the latest, on building the middle class at home and abroad and restoring the American dream for the twenty-first century, read like early drafts for an acceptance speech at the next Democratic convention. Just possibly, by the time that third volume is written, the first African-American president will have long since given way to the first woman to hold the office; and Hillary and Bill will have spent more time in the White House than Eleanor and Franklin.

If it comes to that, *Hard Choices* won't be the reason. The book landed with a thud. It's a stiff-jointed, careful performance, assembled by a "book team" of former and present aides from briefing papers, old speeches, town hall transcripts, and interviews. What we get are the highly edited reflections of a prospective candidate: part résumé, designed to reveal the depth of her immersion in global affairs and the extent of her familiarity with the world's great and near great, scores of them (from the Empress of Japan to His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, to Bono); part rampart, designed not to reveal too much.

Here and there, maybe every eighty pages, it's flecked with stabs at wry humor, mostly about her wardrobe and hair. ("How many times, as Senator from New York, did I go on David Letterman's show to deliver a pantsuit joke?" she asks.) Here and there also, flashes of real feeling briefly light up dry recitals of yet another trip, another itinerary. "That drove me crazy," Clinton exclaims over her discovery that there were no schools in a vast Congolese refugee camp she visited. A "senior administration official" invites a blast from the secretary by posing a question about the wound that could be inflicted on Pakistan's sense of national honor by a raid on Osama bin Laden's presumed hideout. "What about *our* national honor?" the exasperated Clinton shoots back. The senior official—unnamed, of course—is left to absorb this notice that there may not be a place for him (or her) in the next Clinton administration.

This edgy, tough Hillary often stays home in *Hard Choices*. Her other persona, the exceptionally diligent chief diplomat, escorts us on a literal *tour d'horizon* through many of the 112 nations she visited while foreign policy was largely being shaped in the White House by the man who defeated her. Republican campaign hirelings engaged in what's called opposition research are likely to read these pages more avidly than casual Clinton adherents who may have difficulty getting past clunky, cursory

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accounts of how she pulled off a thaw in relations with New Zealand or spoke up for democracy in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Kosovo. The book has few revelations, let alone pleasures. Its gazetteer notes compete with one another for lameness. (The Sinai is "famous for its role in the Bible." Lahore is "full of fantastic Mogul architecture." Copenhagen is "a picturesque city, full of cobblestoned streets.")

Still, there's more here than impressions gathered from a motorcade. This installment of Clinton's memoirs is strewn with clues to the way the odds-makers' favorite for next president thinks about the world and our place in it. Fond as she is of proclaiming "new eras" and "new beginnings," little in her approach reflects new thinking.

Having it both ways, she describes herself as neither an idealist nor a realist in foreign policy but an "idealistic realist," which is to say a "hybrid" (her word). On the evidence here, Hillary Clinton belongs to the *Yes…but* school on foreign policy whose basic premise boils down to this: *Yes,* our interventions in other countries don't always or often work out the way we mean them to, *but* we have to get involved, have to uphold the leadership role history has assigned us, for we are the "indispensable nation." That self-glorifying slogan, usually attributed to Madeleine Albright, Bill Clinton's second secretary of state, rolls easily off her lips: "Everything that I have done and seen has convinced me that America remains the 'indispensable nation.'" No opponent will ever get away with accusing her of not embracing the doctrine of American exceptionalism, a civil religion to which every recent president, including Barack Obama, has had to pay homage.

On a swing through North Africa, confronted by a question from a Tunisian lawyer who asks whether she understands why her country is so mistrusted by young people aspiring to democracy, given its compromises with corrupt autocrats who abuse human rights, Clinton gives the *Yes…but* response. "Yes," it's true, she concedes, "We've made a lot of mistakes. But I think if you look at the entire historical record, the entire historical record shows we've been on the side of freedom, we've been on the side of human rights."

Not to the Tunisian lawyer but in an aside to her readers, almost as if she's letting them in on a secret, she also says: "America will always do what it takes to keep our people safe and advance our core interests. Sometimes that means working with partners with whom we have deep disagreements." It's a proposition she illustrates by conceding that American values were bent in our dependence on the then president of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh: "He was corrupt and autocratic, but he was also committed to fighting al Qaeda and keeping his fractious country together." He's our man in Sanaa, at least until we drop him.

She writes of "actual, real-world trade-offs" and acknowledges: "There are always choices we regret, consequences we do not foresee, and alternate paths we wish we had taken." For instance, in Iran ("a classic Cold War move," she calls the 1953 coup there), Indochina (Laos paid "a terrible price"), Chile ("a dark chapter"), and Iraq. She ticks off each as blemishes on our sterling record but doesn't see a pattern. Her hardheaded credo boils down to this: "Making policy is a balancing act. Hopefully we get it more right than wrong."

The hard choice she regrets most keenly is her vote in the Senate in 2002 authorizing President Bush to use military force in Iraq. She says she took too long to acknowledge that it was a mistake, held out too long "against using the word *mistake*" during the 2008 primary season. Indirectly, she attributes her defeat to that vote, referring to Obama as "a President who had been elected in part because of his opposition to the war in Iraq and his pledge to end it."

She also writes about her 2007 vote against the "surge" in Iraq that Bush promoted on the advice of General David Petraeus. But we have to turn to *Duty*, the recent memoir by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who isn't running for anything, to find her admission to Obama that the vote had more to

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do with her need not to be wrong-footed by him in the Iowa caucuses than her real thoughts about Iraq. Politics aside, it seems, she could have supported it. Gates then has the president indicating "vaguely" that the same could have been true of him. As a peace candidate, Gates infers, Obama couldn't support a strategy for war.

A cold warrior of the old school who spent most of his career in the CIA, Gates harrumphs: "To hear the two of them making these admissions, and in front of me, was as surprising as it was dismaying." As a moment of truth viewed in retrospect with a measure of candor, it might also be called refreshing.

An earnest-sounding Clinton leads us to believe her conclusions about hard choices have been hard-won. When choices on war and peace are made at the highest level, she writes, it's necessary to search for "the unintended consequences of every decision." She says she vowed to do this "with more experience, wisdom, skepticism, and humility." How this vow played out in strategy sessions in the White House situation room, when she was consulted on major decisions, tells a lot about her instincts and what they say, or imply, about any differences she may have had with the instinctively prudent Barack Obama. By the standards of recent American statecraft, he's more unconventional, more inclined for better or worse to question the predictable options and the supposedly tried-and-true assumptions behind them.

Faced with a thorny choice—on Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Libya—her own instinct is usually to act in furtherance of America's "global leadership" role, not abstain. On Afghanistan, for instance, she supports Obama's 2009 decision to send in a "surge" of 30,000 more troops but wishes he hadn't capped the number so firmly or publicly committed himself to their withdrawal by the end of this year. But when the Arab Spring sweeps into Cairo's Tahir Square she's understandably confounded.
It's *Yes…but* time again. Mubarak may have been "a heavy-handed autocrat who presided over a corrupt and calcified regime," *but* he was "a longtime partner" who "supported peace and cooperation with Israel and hunted terrorists." Here she advances the best (at least, the normative) thinking of State Department professionals who worry about "other partners" (synonymous with other autocrats) who might "lose trust and confidence in their relationships with us" if we pushed this "key strategic ally" out.

The argument is "unpopular in some quarters of the White House." This is Clinton's recurrent narrative trope for a situation in which she finds herself out of sync with the president. In such circumstances, his residence is more likely to be named than he is. Over time, as she explains it, he has evolved in her mind from opponent to partner to the even more exalted rank of personal friend. Of course, he's also president. She not only writes of their "shared agenda," but touchingly describes "a lovely, quiet moment" shared in a Cairo mosque, followed by similar stolen moments in a Buddhist temple in Bangkok and the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon. So comfortable have they become in one another's company that he doesn't hesitate to nudge her aside at an international summit to whisper, "You've got something in your teeth."

Strains with the disembodied "White House" are frequently ascribed to "younger White House aides" who are invariably nameless. The president is "swayed" when they appeal to his "idealism," according to the self-described "idealistic realist" who has—at least in this retrospective, inevitably self-serving rendition—a more nuanced view of the forces at work, of the staying power of the pro-democracy demonstrators; still, Obama calls on Mubarak to step down.

When a retired former ambassador to Egypt voices an apparently dissenting view about Mubarak after visiting him on behalf of Clinton, Obama phones his secretary of state to complain about "mixed messages." Clinton explains: "That's a diplomatic way of saying he took me to the woodshed."

A longer-lasting, more serious strain was over the role of Richard Holbrooke, Clinton's choice to oversee diplomatic strategy and tactics in the conflict- ridden region known in State Department jargon as Af-Pak. The freewheeling Holbrooke, credited with ending the war in Bosnia in 1995, never

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succeeded in getting on the same wavelength as the president (and vice versa). The harder he pushed, the more he tried Obama's patience. Soon the source of power known as the White House was finding ways to trim his mandate and circumvent him. Increasingly unveiled messages were sent to Clinton to ditch him. She went to Obama to save Holbrooke's job but it's not clear in this retelling how forcefully she supported the game plan he was seeking to advance, or indeed what the game plan was beyond drawing the Taliban into a negotiation and sponsoring some kind of détente between the Pakistani military and the government in Kabul.

President Hamid Karzai was convinced that Holbrooke was scheming to undermine him, she says. Clinton considered Karzai "a linchpin of our mission in Afghanistan." She doesn't say her chief representative agreed. They didn't agree on everything. She thought more troops were needed; he didn't. One time in Pakistan, she tells us, this self-propelled "force of nature" pursued the secretary of state into a ladies' restroom to continue making a point.

The standoff over the envoy's role ended in December 2011 with his collapse in Clinton's office with a torn aorta and death two days later. Our author doesn't say what thoughts ran through her mind as she listened to Obama's somewhat wooden, not much more than adequate eulogy at the memorial service at the Kennedy Center.

Built to thwart opposition researchers scrounging for vulnerabilities, *Hard Choices* has more pages on Libya than China, including a whole chapter on Benghazi and the 2012 attack there on the US consulate in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died. House Republicans and Fox News have kept up a clamor on Benghazi ever since in hopes of wounding a presumptive nominee with no discernable challenger in the ranks of her own party. A feisty Clinton shows in these pages that she's ready for them.

In October 2011, she landed in Tripoli and declared, "I am proud to stand here on the soil of a free Libya." It was a typical Hillary moment. "Proud" is a favorite word, used to congratulate her audience as well as herself, to bask in a sense of shared accomplishment. But now that Libya has descended into anarchy, with the militias that arose with Western (and Arab) backing to oust Muammar Qaddafi carrying on as local mafias and fighting among themselves, how are we to weigh that accomplishment, that pride? Is this unraveling any business of the United States and its allies? Having intervened once to prevent what was branded a "humanitarian catastrophe," do we have any residual interest or responsibility there, let alone in Afghanistan or Iraq where, as it happens, we've decided we have a new "humanitarian catastrophe" on our hands? So severe was this latest crisis, brought on by the rise of ISIS, that US aircraft had to be sent in for the first time in more than two years to halt the jihadist advance, raising the question: How many times, in how many places, can we reintervene?

From where we now sit, Clinton's day in Tripoli seems faintly reminiscent of George W. Bush's "Mission Accomplished" show on a carrier flight deck. More recently, Clinton was off on her book tour when, taking no chances, the snake-bitten State Department transferred its Libya personnel to a temporary station in Tunisia. "When America is absent, extremism takes root," she warns in her Benghazi chapter. Retreat, she asserts, is "just not in our country's DNA." So what would she do now? The best wisdom we can draw from these pages is the self-evident observation that Libya might face "very difficult challenges translating the hopes of a revolution into a free, secure, and prosperous future." It seems a fair translation to say that that amounts, in present circumstances, to "Good luck, Libya."

President Obama, more willing to focus on bad results, to try to draw lessons from them, recently told Thomas Friedman in an interview that the time to move on is emphatically not the moment "when everybody is feeling good and everybody is holding up posters saying, 'Thank you, America.'" That's when "there has to be a much more aggressive effort to rebuild societies that didn't have any civic

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traditions." The United States and its allies "under-estimated" what would be needed in Libya, he said.

At this point, the discussion threatens to turn circular. Isn't it possible, even likely, that we wouldn't have intervened at all if we'd allowed ourselves a more realistic estimate, understood from the start that intervening to the extent we did meant taking on the burden of trying to rebuild a ferociously divided Libya? Wasn't that one of the many lessons of Iraq?

"Challenges" is another favorite Clinton word. And they are everywhere demanding a response, none more so than Syria. In these pages, she's respectful of Obama's deliberative approach but eagerly backs a plan drawn up by David Petraeus, by then heading the CIA, for arming and training certifiably "moderate" Syrian rebels. A cautious Obama asks for "examples of instances when the United States had backed an insurgency that could be considered a success." No one, it seems, has a ready answer. The idea of success has to be redefined. It's not to overthrow Bashar al-Assad, Obama is told; it's to take the initiative away from Qatar and Saudia Arabia, which are "dumping weapons into the country," in order to have "a partner on the ground we could work with." It was, Clinton writes, "the least bad option among many even worse alternatives." Leon Panetta, Gates's successor at the Pentagon, is on her side. "He knew from his own time leading the CIA what our intelligence operatives could do."

"Some in the White House" are skeptical. They doubt that a credible "moderate" force can be created. It may not be irrelevant that Obama was in the midst of his reelection campaign. In any case, he wasn't persuaded. "He had promised me," she writes, "that I would always get a fair hearing. And I always did. In this case, my position did not prevail."

In her memoir, she presents the choice as a close call, one on which reasonable people could differ. Now, with the launch of her second run for the presidency presumably drawing near and Obama's poll numbers in the dumps, she views it as having been a no-brainer. "The failure to build up a credible fighting force," she recently told Jeffrey Goldberg of *The Atlantic*, left "a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled." The "least bad option" was always the obvious one to grasp. The former secretary speaks again in the voice of the senator who was proud to serve on the Armed Service Committee, who cultivated top generals, showing that a woman commander in chief could be trusted to command.

She thus aligns herself, at least in one interview, with the commentators for whom Obama's decision to reject "the least bad option" on Syria stood as proof of his weakness, America's decline. Now that we see ISIS fighting in Iraq with American weapons seized in armories abandoned by forces we trained, the argument has become muddled. Possibly it takes more strength for a president to reject military intervention when the national security establishment lines up behind it than to give the order everyone is expecting. What seems pretty clear is that Hillary Clinton, experienced and knowledgeable as she now is, wouldn't be such a president. Like Panetta, she knows what our intelligence operatives can do.

The rollout of *Hard Choices* hasn't been helped by the summer's depressing news feeds from around the world. Vladimir Putin's reckless, thumb-in-your eye forays in eastern Ukraine began early enough for Clinton to work in a mention of his seizure of Crimea. This suggests that she may have recast other parts of her chapter on Russia, which now is appropriately downbeat. There had been high hopes of a new relationship with Russia, nicknamed "the reset" when Obama reached the White House in 2009. Clinton, who early on staged the jokey presentation of a gift-wrapped "reset button" to her Russian counterpart, now tells us she had only "modest expectations" herself. Leaving office, she advised Obama in what was presumably a highly classified memo that Putin was on a "negative trajectory" and it was now time to hit the "pause button," to take a tougher line. This was another of those occasions when "not everyone at the White House agreed." Obama accepted an invitation to a Moscow summit she'd advised him to skip. Months later he "began taking a harder line with Putin" and finally did back out of the Moscow visit. Now it's important for her to have us (and those pesky opposition researchers) know that she was never

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taken in, even if that means leaving an impression that the president was a little soft.

Her care in distinguishing her inclinations from Obama's is even more conspicuous in her pages on the Israelis and Palestinians. As might perhaps be expected of a former senator from New York, she can't find it in herself to scold Israel over its occupation of the West Bank; in fact, she never uses the word "occupation." She recognizes the expanding settlements as a political problem, and she pressed hard while in office for a limited construction "freeze," but says nothing to suggest that the problems posed by existing settlements or the actual conditions on the West Bank—the suffocating overlay of security checks, road blocks, army patrols—offend her sense of fairness or human rights. Of course, like all secretaries of state of the last half-century, she doesn't mention that Israel never signed the nuclear nonproliferation pact, the treaty we're rightly pressing Iran to observe. First she says that she feels "personally invested in Israel's security and success," then that she's "someone who cares deeply about Israel's security and future."

We get the point. Still, it's instructive to see how carefully she distances herself from Obama in recounting his difficulties with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The two men repeatedly go to the edge of confrontation while she and the Israeli leader are able to work together as "partners and friends."

"I learned that Bibi would fight if he felt he was being cornered, but if you connected with him as a friend, there was a chance that you could get something done together." Someone who was "friending" long before the invention of Facebook, she believes in "building relationships and understanding how and when to use them." What she gets out of this one is an agreement to extend the freeze on settlement construction for ninety days, except in East Jerusalem, at the cost of an additional $3 billion in military aid. Earlier, when Joe Biden was greeted on a visit to Israel with an announcement of new Jewish construction in the Arab quarter of Jerusalem, a "furious" Obama instructed her to tell Netanyahu that he viewed the provocation "as a personal insult to him, the Vice President, and the United States." Clinton puts the words in quotes so we understand that they're the president's. She delivers the blast but almost seems to excuse herself. "I didn't like playing bad cop," she writes, "but it was part of the job."

Late in 2012, with her time in office running down, she persuades the president to let her fly to the Middle East to see if she can head off a threatened Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. An air campaign is already underway in retaliation for rockets fired into Israel by Hamas. Civilian casualties are rising. "There was no substitute for American leadership," she argued. She even succeeds in lining up Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood president of Egypt who'll soon be on his way to jail. A cease-fire is struck, thanks to her "diplomatic intervention." Now in the summer of 2014, less than two years later, her account of this achievement makes sour reading (no fault of Clinton's, obviously). Hamas and Israel have been at it again. Another "intervention" is required. Clinton's successor flies in and out of Cairo, doing what he can through the good offices of Hosni Mubarak's real successor, Egypt's latest military ruler.

Florida's Marco Rubio, twenty-four years her junior, a first-term senator hoping to replicate Obama's 2008 run, recently put Hillary Clinton down as a "twentieth century candidate." She could see this line of attack on her longevity in politics and her age—sixty-nine on Election Day 2016—coming. Having been there in 1992 as well as 2008, she doesn't need to be told that a new face often trumps a long résumé. So she stakes out positions on the near side of the generational line. The last pages of her memoir are crammed with up-to-the-minute references not only to her struggles on behalf of women but also (for eight of those pages) efforts as secretary to inscribe the fraught subject of LGBTrights on the international agenda.

She mentions, too, a push to spread democratic values by offering technological support and smart phones to networking young dissidents around the globe. Of course, if they then rise up against rulers who have been important strategic partners, she could face even more hard choices.

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Kayo Sumisaki
Executive Assistant
Sandler Foundation
ksumisaki@sandlerfoundation.org

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From: "Karen Sack" <Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/15/2015 5:13:40 PM
Subject: Re: Human polar bear in DC Tuesday

No worries. Hope all is well.

K

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 15, 2015, at 6:10 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> On the road. Sorry
>
> On Apr 15, 2015 4:18 PM, "Karen Sack" <Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org > wrote:
> Dear John,
>
> I am sure you are wickedly busy given everything going on at the moment, however, if you have time for a 30 minute break on Tuesday, Lewis Pugh will be in DC and if you are interested, I can arrange for him to have a quick sit-down with you. After doing a series of swims in the Antarctic to protect the Ross Sea, he joined forces with a Russian ice hockey star in Moscow and seemed to have taken the Russian media by storm. He also met the Defense Minister. We call it speedo diplomacy ☺ - a little piece from an interview Lewis did, attached.
>
> Let me know if you have any time on Tuesday afternoon and I can try and set something up.
>
> Best,
>
> Karen
>
> **Karen Sack**
>
> Managing Director, Ocean Unite
>
> e-mail: Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org
>
> m: + 1 202.415.5403
>
> skype: karensack
>
> twitter: @karen_sack
>
> *"We must protect the ocean as if our lives depend upon it -- because they do." --Sylvia Earle*

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From: "Joe Patterson" <viejojoe@outlook.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/16/2015 2:40:57 PM
Subject: A 2016 game changing, feature film project for your consideration.

Dear Professor Podesta,

Hello from a D.A.R. documented descendant of Ohio Governor Robert Lucas, chairman of the very first DNC Convention that was held in Baltimore.

He was appointed by the President to become the territorial governor of Iowa.

I also sent this to gpataki@chadbourne.com

Remember what happened when President Reagan said
"Tear Down This Wall?" to Mr. Gorbachev,

A gigantic economic expansion was ignited.

That's the goal of this film project.

I have the script, the budget and a producer for this 2016 political, game changing film project - funding is needed.

You would be in charge of the content and selecting the producer.
~~~~~~~~~~~~jp

Presenting "INEZ COMES TO AMERICA"

The entire film is scored with a very up-beat Mariachi/Mexicana theme.

Below is the beginning of the final scene, but first, some set-up detail.

Most Americans (and for that matter, the entire rest of the world) either don't remember or might not even have heard about our war with Mexico and - The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which forced Mexico to accept $15 million for all the land in this link.

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/borders/map1a.html

It's time to redress this old wrong!

Log Line: INEZ, a young Mexican girl, crosses the border in search of work and her missing mother.

She finds political corruption, murder and cover-up.

ALEX, a young border guard/law student of mixed ethnic heritage (American/Mexican) intercepts her, and listens to her story.

Trained in the art of body language, he can see that she is very worried about her mother - they have not heard from her in weeks and her bank transfers have stopped.

Alex points to the moon and tells her, "Keep the moon on your right shoulder and you'll be ok."

Some days later, he can't seem to shake the image of this brave young woman and the danger she faces. He feels he could have, should have, offered to help her.
~~~~~~~~~~~~

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He tries to find her but she has disappeared into the barrios of Santa Ana.

When she is caught again - Alex is alerted and races down to stop the bus before it gets to the Mexican border and - He sets her free again!

Alex is called on the carpet for his actions.

He mumbles in his defense, “She’s my fiancée.”

Alex is given 72 hours to find her and marry her or go to prison.

Frantically, Alex searches and finally makes contact with MARIA, Inez’s new friend.

Result: a lively Mexican wedding celebration - where some new drama is revealed.

Now - Alex and Inez begin the search for her missing mother.

The search leads them to an isolated ranch house with a massive underground tunnel at Tecate, Ca. -

The HQ of ARMANDO, the drug lord and his partner - U.S. CONGRESSMAN ROBERT LONGHORN.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~jp

If “Fahrenheit 911” could deliver $211 million on a budget of $6M, this film would be in demand to be screened in all of North and South American theaters and some pirated copies could even find there way into Russia and China.

I believe this important film is deserving of the services of a major producer, However, Ken Del Conte is an expert in producing low budget features.

He knows film people who will work for part of their compensation based on a box office bonus.

Ken penciled out a budget of $1.5 million.

For a no obligation copy of the WGA registered script, please contact me.

Joe Patterson - Southern California.

viejojoe1@cox.net

https://www.facebook.com/viejojoe1/about?section=bio - for more about me.
and my five film projects.
two are political
one is spiritual
and two are just for fun

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~jp

This exciting action/drama takes place in Orange County, Ca. and the Mexican border at San Diego.

Your input is welcome.

Below is the first part of the final scene. ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~jp

INT./THE GRETA VAN SUSTEREN SHOW/FOX/NIGHT

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Inez, and Alex are on with Greta.

GRETA
Alex, you now have your law degree and are running for Congress; correct?

ALEX
(grins))
Yes, congressman Longhorn's vacant seat.

GRETA
Tell me about your plan for Mexican statehood. I hope it's not like the Russian's plan for the Ukraine.

ALEX
No, but that's another good reason to team up with our good neighbor to the South. China has 1.2 Billion citizens and they are also looking to expand.

GRETA
Are you suggesting...

ALEX
(interrupts)
Remember the boy scout motto Greta and in our case it has to be the will of the people in both countries, not the politicians and certainly not an invasion.

GRETA
A referendum vote?

ALEX
(nods in the affirmative)
Yes, we will invite the Mexican people to merge with us; to form one great Nation, thereby narrowing our Southern border to the easily protected strip with Guatemala.

GRETA
But that would create a massive shift in our ethnic balance.

ALEX
Not at all, the people who are established with family, friends and good jobs will most likely remain. The rest of the 11 million estimated total, would go back home, because that's where most of the new jobs will be.

Inez joins in.

INEZ
This may be the answer to our budget and social security issues. It would set off the largest influx of talented young immigrants in One hundred years and ignite an explosive economic boom.

~~~~~~~~~~more in the actual script..
~~~~~~~~~~

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/5/2015 2:02:05 AM
Subject: News Update - August 5, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, August 5

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Obama: If Congress Kills Iran Deal, Rockets will Fall on Tel Aviv**
- **U.S. to Join Israel in Fight against Iranian Terror Funding**
- **Qatar: Gulf Arabs Confident Region Safer with Iran Deal**
- **US Official: "Obama and Netanyahu Will Meet to Discuss Deal"**
- **Rajoub: Israelis' Condemnation of Arson didn't Fall on Deaf Ears**
- **UN Chief seeks Urgent Funding for Palestinian Refugees**
- **Ya'alon Orders Administrative Detention for Jewish Extremist**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Hatred is Killing the Foundation of Israel's Existence"**
  - By Nahum Barnea
- **New York Times: "Do we, Israelis, Still Care about Justice?"**
  - By Etgar Keret

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Times of Israel

Obama: if Deal Killed, Rockets will Fall on Tel Aviv

If the US Congress shoots down the Iranian nuclear deal, America will eventually be pressured into a military strike against Tehran's nuclear facilities, which will in turn increase terror against Israel, US President Obama told Jewish leaders Tuesday, a source who was present at the meeting said. During the two-hour meeting, Obama said it was legitimate for opponents of the deal to lobby lawmakers to reject it, but added that a discussion focused on personal attacks, rather than the merits of the deal, could jeopardize the coherence of the American Jewish community and ultimately the resilience of US-Israel relations. *See also, "Obama to Tell Congress: Rejecting Deal Would Be a 'historic Mistake'" (Ha'aretz)*

Ha'aretz

U.S. to J oin Israel in Fight against Iran Terror Funding

In the wake of the nuclear deal with Iran, a high-level U.S. delegation plans to come to Israel early next month to discuss increasing cooperation in stopping Iran's funding of terror groups in Gaza and Lebanon, a senior administration official said Tuesday. Heading the delegation will be Adam Szubin, undersecretary of state for terrorism and financial crimes. The Americans are due to meet with officials from the Foreign Ministry, Mossad, National Security Council and Military Intelligence. The administration official said some of the money generated from sanctions lift is likely to go to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, and from there to find its way to Hezbollah and Palestinian terror groups, the official said, adding that the US will invest more effort than before in keeping an eye on these funds.

Reuters

Qatar: Gulf Arabs Confident Region Safer with Deal

Qatari foreign minister Khalid al-Attiyah said on Monday Gulf Arab states were confident that a historic nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers made the Gulf region safer. Speaking at a news conference after hosting talks between Gulf Arab foreign ministers and visiting U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Attiyah said: "We are confident that what they undertook makes this region safer and more stable." Qatar currently holds the rotating chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which comprises Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Ma'ariv

US Official: "Obama and Netanyahu Will Meet"

According to a senior US official, President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu will end the rift between them and will meet sometime in the next two months to discuss the nuclear agreement with Iran. "We have profound disagreements on the issue, but we must make sure that it does not affect our relations," the senior official told Ma'ariv. "I do not know what Netanyahu's motives were when he spoke to Congress," the senior official added cautiously. "He talked about the threats to Israel and about exporting terror, but he knew that we only intended to negotiate on the issue of the nuclear program. Israel can deal with an Iranian military threat, but nuclear weapons are a game changer so we focused on that issue."

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Ynet News

Rajoub: we Heard Israelis' Condemnation of Arson

"I very much appreciate all the condemnations that were expressed by Israeli society," senior Fatah official Jibril Rajoub told Ynet in an interview following the hate crime that killed Palestinian infant Ali Dawabshe in Duma last week. "It makes me hopeful that the Israeli people have rejected this heinous crime that was committed in Duma." With that said, Rajoub clarified that he was not convinced by the condemnations that were uttered by the government in after the attack, specifically the condemnation aired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "Netanyahu and his right wing government are responsible, and stand behind every act of terror in the West Bank," said Rajoub. "They incite and provide funding, security, and support to the 'price tag' bullies. The murder of a child is a dark stain. I hope that after the shock and the upheaval, Israeli society will wake up and understand that the true existential threat to Israel's future is the occupation, and the settlements."

Times of Israel

UN Chief seeks Urgent Funding for Pal. Refugees

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday raised alarm over a $100 million shortfall in funding for the UN aid agency for Palestinian refugees and called for urgent donations. Ban said in a statement that the UNRWA relief agency was “a pillar of stability” for five million Palestinian refugees at a time when the Middle East is in the throes of crises and suffering. He called “on all donors to urgently ensure that the $100 million required be contributed to UNRWA at the earliest possible date so that the children of Palestine can begin their 2015-2016 school year without delay.”

Ynet News

Ya'alon Orders Detention for Jewish Extremist

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon signed an order Tuesday night to allow the administrative detention of right-wing activist Mordechai Meir (18) to last as long as six months without trial. Meir, a resident of Ma'ale Adumim, just east of Jerusalem, was arrested Tuesday evening on suspicion of organizing an arson attack on the Church of Loaves and Fishes on the Sea of Galilee several weeks ago. The suspect had been under house arrest and forbidden from going to certain places after spending some time in jail. A second suspect, Avitar Salonim, was also arrested Tuesday for helping organize the activities of Jewish extremists and forbidden from going to the West Bank or Jerusalem. An official statement from the Defense Ministry said that Meir had been involved in violent incidents and terror attacks as part of a "Jewish terrorist group."

Yedioth Ahronoth – August 4, 2015

Hatred is Killing the Foundation of Israel's Existence

Freedom of expression is a noble value, the air democracy breathes; but the court has failed to equip democracy with tools to defend itself against those who are using freedom of expression to recruit hate criminals.

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By Nahum Barnea

Since Friday morning I have been asking myself why I am so angry: After all, hate crimes are a global epidemic. They are directed at foreigners, at immigrants and at ethnic, racial, religious and gender minorities.

We often cover anti-Semitic outbursts, but attacks on Jews are just one link in the chain. The United States has been dealing in recent years with white hate criminals who murder black people and with Muslim hate criminals who murder soldiers. Europe is dealing with Muslims who murder Jews and Christians and with Christians who murder Muslims.

The law authorities are doing the best they can to prevent such acts or at least to jail the culprits. Nonetheless, they are failing time and again.

So why get angry? It's the way of the world. Our forefathers believed that only when we have a Jewish prostitute and a Jewish thief here, we will become a normal state. Miraculously, we outdid their expectations: We have Jewish prostitutes and thieves, murderers and rapists of all kinds, and we have hate criminals.

Two people were murdered in hate crimes over the weekend: Two-year-old Ali Dawabsheh of the village of Duma and 16-year-old Shira Banki of Jerusalem. The prime minister offered his condolences.

I am angry because Israel is not a state like all other states. It's an idea, a project, an initiative. There is a hotel chain in the country which advertises itself on the radio as "a hotel with an idea." I never understood what that means when it comes to hotels, but I can understand why the ideological plan which led to the Jewish state's establishment is still part of it, 67 years after it was established. That's how we are judged by others; that's how we should judge ourselves. The villains who burn babies or stab teenage girls because of their hatred towards the other are sabotaging the foundation of our existence.

Looking back, Israel's governments should have treated the settler public differently. They shouldn't have gave in to the lawbreakers in Sebastia, they shouldn't have pardoned the Jewish Underground terrorists prematurely, they shouldn't have – acting on an order from above – skipped the rabbis who inflamed Yigal Amir, funded their whims, winked at them and flattered them.

Governments are not the only ones who sinned deeply here. The Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice Meir Shamgar and mainly under the leadership of Chief Justice Aharon Barak, gave full, remarkably liberal protection to the freedom of expression on the one hand, while on the other hand legitimizing the settlement enterprise in the territories in different ways.

In the issue we are discussing, it was a lethal combination. It opened the door to weeds like Kahane Chai, the Lehava organization and the price tag gang. It conveyed a message to the judges in the lower courts, to the State Prosecutor's Office, to the police, that political delinquency can be forgiven as part of the freedom of expression. There is no wonder that slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's widow,

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Leah, refused to shake Justice Barak's hand over her husband's grave. She knew exactly why.

Freedom of expression is a noble value, the air democracy breathes. But the court has failed to equip democracy with the tools it needs to defend itself against those who are turning freedom of expression into a basis for recruiting hate criminals. This applies both to extreme right-wing organizations and to the haredim. Hate crimes are usually not committed in an empty space: There is an atmosphere, there are instigators, there is a supportive community.

The recurring waves of terror and the failure of the peace process, and perhaps the demographic changes as well, have made the Israeli street more rightist. That's natural and understandable. The voters wanted a government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Little did they know they would be getting a government which depends on the finger of one Bezalel Smotrich, a Knesset member on behalf of the Bayit Yehudi faction, who combines both haredi for Arabs and hatred for the LGBT community. He is the supreme authority.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, the head of Smotrich's party, asked if he could speak at the LGBT protest on Saturday evening. He was offended when his request was turned down. "I wanted to tell them I love them," Bennett said. "I disagree with them and I love them."

Bennett is a legitimate representative of his voters, a worthy politician from several aspects. But his expressions of love are unrestrained. "I love you," he told the stone and bottle throwers in Beit El. A sea of love. If you want, love will cover every crime.

The members of the LGBT community don't need his patronizing love. They need security. The education system Bennett is in charge of is afflicted with racism and homophobia. He should start with the state-religious education and the ultra-Orthodox streams.

P.S. The LGBT community asked every speaker to sign a document summarizing its demands. Bennett and MK Yinon Magal, both from the Bayit Yehudi party, refused to sign. No one forbade them to come and express their solidarity with the victims, just like thousands of people did in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv. Magal, who used to be a journalist, arrived at the protest, but the moment he realized he won't be allowed to speak, he broke off contact. Either he speaks, or he goes home.

New York Times – August 3, 2015

Do we, Israelis, Still Care About Justice?

By Etgar Keret

"This isn't everyone," my son said Saturday as we stood on the steps of the Tel Aviv City Hall, in Rabin Square. "There are more people coming, right?"

It was already 9 p.m., an hour and a half past the official opening of the anti-violence, anti-incitement demonstration. He's not even 10 yet, but he's already seen that square full of people demonstrating for less

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important causes and he's sure that, as in every good Western, the cavalry is on the way, that tens, maybe hundreds of thousands of citizens horrified by the terrible events that occurred in Israel this week will be thronging the square. How is it possible that fewer people would come to demonstrate against the murder of children and innocent people than to demonstrate against the high cost of housing or the halt to building in the settlements?

The next day, Sunday, the newspapers reported that there were "thousands of demonstrators," the word "thousands" designed only to conceal the empty spaces in the square. Skilled photo editors produced pictures for the front pages that made the relatively small crowd appear huge. That sad effort to enlarge the size of the demonstration was not a result of hidden political motives, but of a collective sense of shame.

Because the embarrassing truth is that a demonstration against two hate crimes — the firebombing on Friday of a home in a Palestinian village, which killed an 18-month-old boy, and the stabbing of six marchers on Saturday in Jerusalem's Gay Pride Parade, including a 16-year-old girl who later died of her injuries — did not get many people out of their homes, definitely not in this especially hot, humid August. And that truth is not a pleasant one for anybody.

I'm old enough to remember Rabin Square, when it was still called the Kings of Israel Square, full of demonstrators on many occasions. I remember, as a teenager, hundreds of thousands of people railing against the Lebanon War after the Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982 and a crowd so full of hope at the demonstration for the peace agreement, after which Yitzhak Rabin was murdered in 1995. I remember it full of men in their knitted skullcaps demonstrating against the disengagement, and the eager young people singing at the demonstration for social justice. But today it's half-empty. Where are all the people who filled it then?

Have the young men and women who failed miserably in their struggle for social justice given up hope and lost their faith in the ability of this democratic tool to have an impact? Have the people on the left who come to sweat in this square every time a new injustice is perpetrated in our country — not an infrequent occurrence — begun to tire?

And where are those settlers in their skull caps who instantly filled this square when demonstrations were held against the demolition of illegal settlements — but who are now choosing not to demonstrate against the murder of babies? Do they think that, when it comes to Palestinians and the L.G.B.T. community, the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" has been erased from their set of stone tablets? That we have some sort of division of labor here: The right demonstrates for the sanctity of the land, and anything related to murder of innocents who are not Jewish or straight falls completely outside their jurisdiction?

And what about all those who don't really take an interest in politics, but simply live here and try to survive — do they also think that this demonstration has nothing at all to do with their lives?

It seems that we've all given up on the belief that we can change something here — the fact is that even the few who have come to the demonstration look tired. Many of them are sitting on the rim of the fountain and the steps of City Hall. Only a few have come to the

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demonstration on Saturday night, and even they don't have the strength to stand. The speakers finished their speeches and the crowd began to disperse, but my son refused to leave.

To his mind, every person who believes that the murder of children and the stabbing of innocent people are wrong should come out to demonstrate against those acts. As he sees it, there should be millions of such people in our country, millions. If people haven't arrived yet, he insists, it's only because something's holding them up. Maybe their kid can't find his shoes or the babysitter is late. It's only a matter of time until they come, that's clear.

"Let's wait a little longer," he said, placing his small hand in mine. "Another tiny little bit, just until they come." The only answer I managed to mumble: It's late already and it might take a long time, a really long time, for all the people who should be in the square to make their way here.

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www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Tait Sye" <taitsye@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/2/2008 4:48:49 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Huffington Post: Women's Health: Yet Another Issue Sarah Palin is Out of Touch On

Huffington Post: Women's Health: Yet Another Issue Sarah Palin is Out of Touch On
by Cecile Richards
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cecile-richards/add-womens-health-to-the_b_131186.html

Over the last several weeks, it has become apparent that Sarah Palin is out of touch on a whole host of issues, ranging from the bailout and the economy to foreign policy to the Supreme Court. After this week's interview with Katie Couric, we can now add women's health to the list.
Her answers on reproductive health issues, such as criminalizing abortion, exceptions for rape and incest, and what exactly the morning-after pill is, were a rambling mix of contradictions and platitudes, much like her answers about Russia bordering Alaska, the bailout, health care, and the economy.

So, for the vice-presidential debate tonight, here's what I'd ask Sarah Palin to answer directly:

1. You said in your interview with Katie Couric that you are "all for contraception," but then you said you don't support the morning-after pill. Do you know that the morning-after pill IS contraception, it's simply a higher dose of hormonal birth control? Now that you know that, does it change how you feel about it being made available?

2. You said that abortion should be illegal even in the cases of rape or incest, but then you said no one should end up in jail for having an abortion. I assume when you say it should be illegal, that you mean it should be a crime - if you don't think anyone should go to jail, how would you enforce it?

3. You say that you believe there is an inherent right to privacy in the Constitution, yet you want to overturn Roe v. Wade, which is based on a right to privacy. How do you reconcile these two conflicting beliefs?

4. You say that you support abstinence-only policies, which have been proven over and over to be ineffective. Then you seem to contradict yourself, saying that you are "pro-contraception." What exactly are you for, comprehensive sex education, which includes teaching of abstinence as well as contraception and prevention; or "abstinence-only until marriage," which typically does not cover contraception. As vice president, would you like to continue President Bush's legacy in funneling millions of federal dollars to ineffective "abstinence-only" programs, or do you support comprehensive sex education programs that include abstinence and have proven to reduce the number of teen pregnancies?

5. Will you continue to cut funding for support of young mothers? After cutting funding by 20 percent for Covenant House Alaska, a place with the resources and assistance to help teen mothers gain the necessary skills to create a stable life, will you extend this to the rest of young, low-income mothers in the U.S.?

6. Considering all of these things, would you say that the women of America will have a champion in Sarah Palin as vice president?

We thought it couldn't get more anti-choice and more extreme for women and for health care than George Bush and John McCain. But let's face it -- with Sarah Palin, John McCain has outdone himself. Women voting for McCain-Palin is like chickens voting for Col. Sanders. That is not a risk we can afford to take.

Sign our letter today -- tell Sarah Palin that she is not your candidate.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 1/15/2016 1:10:21 PM
Subject: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance

Hi all – As we gear up for the 5th Annual Health Matters Activation Summit, we wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news.

Abby Wambach to join health leaders for 2016 Health Matters Activation Summit
On Sunday, January 24, and Monday, January 25, President Bill Clinton and Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton will host the Clinton Health Matters Initiative's (CHMI) Fifth Annual Activation Summit, a yearly convening of the country's foremost health experts and implementers. Participants will engage in action-oriented dialogue, take examples and cues from CHMI's key programs and partners, and use case studies of universally applicable successes and less-discussed failures to chart the path for scaling and sustaining what works in health advancement.

Key themes at this year's Summit will include communities as centers of health innovation, the quest for longevity and healthy aging, health-tech innovation, and reducing health disparities. The Activation Summit further aims to underscore the value of facilitating cross-sector solutions and systemic strengthening of chronic disease prevention efforts. The event will follow the CareerBuilder Challenge, a PGA TOUR event held January 21 – 24 in La Quinta, CA, in partnership with the Clinton Foundation.

World Cup and Olympic Champion Abby Wambach will be joining the 2016 Health Matters Activation Summit, where she and Chelsea Clinton will discuss the inclusion and empowerment of girls and women in sports. Read a piece in the Desert Sun on Abby's participation and what to expect at this year's Summit.

Sessions at this year's Health Matters Activation Summit will include:

Town Hall focused on addressing health disparities through technology and innovation;

Celebrity morning workout led by Jenna Wolfe;

Opening plenary session on the quest for longevity and our rising death rates with specific regards to the Coachella Valley and CHMI's work to reduce health disparities in additional communities including Little Rock, Houston, Jacksonville, Natchez, and Galesburg;

Discussion between Chelsea Clinton and Abby Wambach on girls and women in sports; and

Closing plenary session on how communities and local organizations across the country, despite the national landscape, are driving the development and scale of solutions that are best suited to their local needs.

Share the announcement on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/688055672957734912

Also, make sure to RSVP to watch the Activation Summit live and join the conversation: http://wjcf.co/1ZnYpzZ

Bringing together stakeholders to address unique health challenges
Key to CHMI's work is community health transformation. Last weekend, the Natchez Democrat published a story on CHMI's work in Adams County, Mississippi, where we've brought stakeholders together to address the unique health needs of the community.

"It's time to get healthy. With the help of the Clinton Foundation and an army of lifestyle coaches and health advocates, the City of Natchez is planning to do just that.

In May, the Clinton Health Matters Initiative released a Blueprint for Action document, detailing its strategy for improving the overall health of Natchez and Adams County. The document includes what it calls 'bold action steps,' as well as ways the foundation will mature each step's effectiveness."

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/687385543416610816
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/907558112698964

Fighting childhood obesity and breaking world records
The Washington Post wrote a story about how pro endurance athlete Colin O'Brady is working to raise $1 million to combat childhood obesity in partnership with the **Alliance for a Healthier Generation**. Colin is attempting to break a world record by completing the Explorers Grand Slam in six months. Colin will climb the tallest peak on each continent and trek to the North

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and South Poles. Learn more about the challenge and his crowdfunding campaign here .

> *"He calls this incredible endurance challenge an "inspirational campaign" and he hopes to promote active, healthy lifestyles throughout his travels. He has partnered with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and is accepting donations on his website (beyond72.com) to help fund programs that will combat childhood obesity."*

Bob Harrison on the "Five things we learned in 2015 about the future of philanthropy"

Clinton Global Initiative CEO Bob Harrison authored a piece for Quartz that outlines what CGI and its members learned about philanthropy in 2015, including the importance of working together across sectors, being inclusive, inspiring impact with technology, empowering millennials to become social entrepreneurs, and challenging others to raise the bar. The article was also published on LinkedIn Pulse .

> *"But this new world of philanthropy wasn't built overnight. Ever since the Clinton Global Initiative was founded as an experiment in 2005, we have seen firsthand how bringing together the world's top business, government, and civil society leaders could help address the great challenges of the 21st century. A decade—and by our count, more than 430 million improved lives—later, CGI members are helping shape modern philanthropy."*

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/682647799129833473
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/899161023538673

Chelsea Clinton picks her six most memorable Clinton Foundation stories of the year

As 2015 came to an end, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton selected six of the most memorable stories of the year. From "Seeds of Progress" in Haiti to ways "We Can Save African Elephants" – see her top picks here .
Share the blog post on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ChelseaClinton/status/682683079912206336
Share the blog post on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/899682790153163

CGI commitments encourage private sector to increase LGBT inclusion wherever they do business

The Huffington Post published an op-ed by Cynthia Marshall, AT&T's Chief Diversity Officer, which highlights two LGBT-related 2015 CGI Commitments to Action made by the Brunswick Group and Human Rights Campaign. Cynthia calls on private sector leaders to increase inclusion for LGBT workers around the world:

> *'While many individual companies have stepped up on LGBT issues, the private sector now has an opportunity to pool our resources and speak with one voice to drive even greater change. Many of the world's top business leaders took a collective leap forward in September at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Annual Meeting. This gathering of world leaders saw the launch of two seminal LGBT rights-related commitments to make the private sector more inclusive."*

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/684832335137779712
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/902993039822138

13 photos from the front lines of impact

CGI published a photo essay on Medium that highlights and reflects on some of the most compelling commitment photos submitted in 2015. Take a look at the photos here .
Share the photo essay on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/684365084672548864

In Case You Missed It:

The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported on Charity Navigator's removal of the Clinton Foundation from their Watchlist.

On Tuesday, President Clinton commemorated the sixth anniversary of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. He said, "Together, Haitians and their partners are working today to create jobs, grow small businesses, revitalize Haiti's once-vibrant agricultural sector, and protect the environment." Read the full statement here.

A piece in AllAfrica discusses a partnership between the Clinton Development Initiative (CDI) and Visa to help farmers in Rwanda conduct business through digital transactions.

The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership's CEO Mark Gunton was profiled as one of GOOD's "local globalists" who is helping to turn the U.N.'s global goals into reality.

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A recent post on Mother.ly, "Talking is teaching: 5 creative ways to help your baby learn today," incorporates tips from Too Small to Fail on how simple actions such as talking, reading, and singing to children can help improve babies' brain development.

An article published in Quartz discusses Sistema Biobolsa , a CGI commitment-maker that develops and installs "biodigesters" to convert animal waste into energy and fertilizer. With the help of CGI, Sistema Biobolsa aims to scale up their commitment.

In just two weeks, we will be returning to the Coachella Valley where President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton will host the Clinton Health Matters Activation Summit. This anchor event of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative will bring together more than 400 leaders in healthcare, technology, business, education, and government to highlight systemic approaches to chronic disease prevention nationwide. Read a story in the Desert Sun on what to expect at the 2016 summit.

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
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"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 4:14:08 AM
Subject: RE: Immigration remarks

Apologies if this was already discussed, but I thought one of the constructs of this would be "if Congress doesn't act in X time, I will do y and z." If that is still the case, I think we should change the "right away as president" formulation.

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2015 10:52 AM
To: Joel Benenson; John Podesta; Kristina Schake; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; Huma Abedin; Jennifer Palmieri; Jake Sullivan; Brian Fallon; John Anzalone; David Binder; Jim Margolis; Teddy Goff; Oren Shur; Tony Carrk
Cc: Marissa Astor
Subject: Immigration remarks

Here's a revised topper for tomorrow that spells out a bit more of what we're talking about in terms of the sympathetic cases. Also takes Joel's point about punching up the "can't wait" up top.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 11:57 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> In advance of this discussion, here's a draft of her Las Vegas topper. It's a little long so I'm going to try to tighten it up, but this attempts to lay out the contrast on path to citizenship and move the ball forward with the parents of dreamers.
>
> On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>
> > Agree with Jake and John
> > We're not running against King.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On May 3, 2015, at 7:28 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.
> > >
> > > On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.
> > > >
> > > > On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.
> > > > >
> > > > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > > > **Grunwald Communications**
> > > > > **202 973-9400**

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-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:
>
> - Immigration plan
> - Clinton Cash update
>
> Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:
>
> **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call**
>
> **Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays**
> Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.
>
> --
> Kristina Schake
> Hillary for America

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 12/1/2007 1:09:03 AM
Subject: Clips: Sat 12/1

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Saturday, December 1st, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

New York Post: http://www.nypost.com/frontback

Albany Times Union: http://www.timesunion.com/news/frontpage/

HRC Articles/Mentions

Standoff Ends Peacefully At A Clinton Field Office *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/us/01hostage.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Standoff Ends With Surrender At Clinton Office *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002546_pf.html

Standoff Ends At Clinton Office In N.H. *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/la-na-hostage1dec01,1,5277636.story

Clinton's Hostage Standoff Ends Peacefully *Newsday*
http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-ushost1130,0,1554946.print.story?coll=ny_home_rail_headlines

Arrest Ends Clinton Office Standoff *Concord Monitor*
http://concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071201/FRONTPAGE/712010380

Hostage Crisis Ends Peacefully *Union Leader*
http://unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Hostage+crisis+ends+peacefully&articleId=4a266b60-526d-46eb-a6af-764c7792920c

Clinton Visits With Hostages, Thanks Police After Standoff *Union Leader*
http://unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Clinton+visits+with+hostages%2c+thanks+police+after+standoff&articleId=676ddd10-2f0c-42c8-aa8a-3ceb7ed4efa5

Defused: Somersworth Man Surrenders After More Than 5-Hour Ordeal *Foster's Daily Democrat*
http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071201/GJNEWS04/712010063

Clinton Makes Emergency Appearance To Thank Police, Hostages For Their Courage *Foster's Daily Democrat*
http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071201/GJNEWS_01/712010061

'Bomber' Takes Hostages At Hillary Clinton's Campaign Headquarters *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/us_world/2007/12/01/2007-12-01_bomber_takes_hostages_at_hillary_clinton-1.html?print=1&page=all

Terror At Hill's HQ *NY Post*
http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12012007/news/nationalnews/terror_at_hills_hq_742726.htm

Hostage-Taker Surrenders At Hillary's N.H. Campaign Office *Washington Times*
http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071201/NATION/112010051/1002

Analysis: **Clinton Calm In Hostage Crisis** *AP*
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Clinton-Hostage-Leadership.html?pagewanted=print

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Clinton Seizes Opportunity After Crisis *Politico*
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=9383CEBB-3048-5C12-00CE4804C1900437

Suspect In Trouble Before Hostage Drama *AP*
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Clinton-Office-Hostages.html?pagewanted=print

Democrats' Battle Shifts To Healthcare *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-na-health1dec01,1,4484202.story

Clinton Blasts Obama Health Care Television Ad *Newsday*
http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-ushill015484077dec01,0,2748148.print.story

Campaign Takeout: Barack's Health Care Ad Is Bull, Says Hillary *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/01/2007-12-01_campaign_takeout_baracks_health_care_ad_-1.html?print=1&page=all

Black Leaders Torn Over Endorsement *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002257_pf.html

Clinton Adviser Was On Air At GOP Debate *AP*
http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/tv/wire/sns-ap-republicans-debate-cnn-flap,0,6010188.print.story

Naive Media Aghast At News Of HRC Plants *Politico*
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=92AD2175-3048-5C12-009A04F332D55416

Tony For Hillary *NY Post*
http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/11302007/gossip/pagesix/tony_for_hillary_169032.htm

Op-ed: **Hillary's False Claims By Merrill Matthews** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119646509038709996.html

Column: **Death, Taxes aNd Mrs. Clinton By Peggy Noonan** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119646166232809922.html

Blog Post: **Okay, Hillary Is Now My "Gal"** *Daily Kos*
http://www.dailykos.com/story/2007/11/30/2267/4179

Blog Post: **Clinton Workers Taken Hostage; Rightwingers Fast To Exploit The Crisis** *Mother Jones*
http://www.motherjones.com/mojoblog/archives/2007/11/6370_hillary_clinton_5.html

Blog Post: **Debunking Polarization** *Watching Those We Choose*
http://proctoringcongress.blogspot.com/2007/11/debunking-polarization.html

Blog Post: **Top Ten Reasons For Mandated Universal Health Care** *Daily Kos*
http://www.dailykos.com/story/2007/11/30/21135/421

Blog Post: **Icon Douglas Wilder Cools On Obama** *MyDD*
http://www.mydd.com/story/2007/11/30/21242/197

Blog Post: **Is Obama Committed To Universal Health Care?** *Left Coaster*
http://www.theleftcoaster.com/archives/011423.php

Blog Post: **Rudy's Judy Problem** *Digby*
http://digbysblog.blogspot.com/2007/11/rudys-judy-problem-by-digby-matthews.html

2008

Candidates Speak To Democratic Leaders *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002258_pf.html

Barackfast Obama-Bloomy Diner Summit *NY Post*
http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12012007/news/regionalnews/barackfast_obama_bloomy_diner_summit_783555.htm

City Taxpayers Picked Up Tab For Judith Giuliani's Visit To Kin In Pennsylvania *NY Daily News*

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http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/01/2007-12-01_city_taxpayers_picked_up_tab_for_judith_-1.html?print=1&page=all

Giuliani's Profitable Partnership *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119647627254210408.html

Lone Star Kick-Starts Huckabee Campaign *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119647069382910204.html

Thompson Bid, Criticized As Sleepy, Is At The Least Unconventional *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/us/politics/01thompson.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Foot Soldiers For The Ron Paul Revolution *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-ronpaul1dec01,1,10685.story?coll=la-headlines-frontpage

Column: **Rudy's Security Blanket By Gail Collins** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/opinion/01collins.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

WP Editorial: **Mr. Giuliani And The Tax Fairy**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002190_pf.html

Column: **Rambo And The G.O.P. By Bob Herbert** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/opinion/01herbert.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Flat-Tax And Spend GOP By Michael Kinsley** *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-kinsley1dec01,1,4184329.story?coll=la-news-comment

New York

Firm Employing Bruno Handles Unions' Money *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/nyregion/01bruno.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Process Begins At Ethanol Plant In Shelby *Rochester D&C*
http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071130/BUSINESS/711300342/1001

Op-ed: **Buffalo's Field Of Dreams By Jake Halpern** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119646634517310042.html

National

Dozens Hurt In Train Crash In Chicago *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/us/01chicago.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Washington: Health Care Bill Heads To The President *Reuters*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/us/01brfs-HEALTHCAREBI_BRF.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Witness Names To Be Withheld From Detainee *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/us/nationalspecial3/01gitmo.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Bush Seeks More Funds For AIDS Fight *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113001165_pf.html

Estimate Of AIDS Cases In U.S. Rises *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002535_pf.html

Advisers Say F.D.A.'s Flaws Put Lives At Risk *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/washington/01fda.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

News Analysis: **Wall St. Sees Silver Lining In Economy** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/business/01econ.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Mothers Skimp As States Take Child Support *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/us/01child.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Deal In The Works To Freeze Rates On Subprime Loans *WP*

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002627_pf.html

Lawmakers Set Deal On Raising Fuel Efficiency *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/washington/01energy.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Let's Unite Against HIV-AIDS By Laura Bush** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113001787_pf.html

NYT Editorial: **Behind The Stem Cell Breakthrough**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/opinion/01sat1.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

NYT Editorial: **Endangered Species**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/opinion/01sat4.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Political/Administration/Capitol Hill/Media

WH Says 1,000,000 Docs Handed Over *Politico*
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=92CA550B-3048-5C12-00F4890276C086BA

Iraq/Afghanistan

Rove's Version Of 2002 War Vote Is Disputed *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002256_pf.html

In Iraq, U.S. Shifts Its Tone On Iran *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-fg-iraqiran1dec01,1,5720368.story?coll=la-headlines-frontpage

News Analysis: **A Fuller Picture: U.S. Looks To Iraqi Data** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/world/middleeast/01assess.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Iraq Seeks To Execute 3 Former Officials *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/world/middleeast/01iraq.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

International

U.S. Withdraws Draft On Mideast At U.N. *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002307_pf.html

Putin Withdraws Russia From Major Arms Treaty *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113000221_pf.html

Saudi Rape Case Spurs Calls For Reform *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/world/01saudi.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

WP Editorial: **Hope Against A Pandemic**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113002191_pf.html

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/31/2015 3:15:07 AM
Subject: Invitation: Global Energy Forum: Revolutionary Changes and Security Pathways

To view this email as a web page, click here

Special Event

Wilson Center

Global Energy Forum: Revolutionary Changes and Security Pathways

The international energy system is going through revolutionary changes. Oil and natural gas production is growing in the United States and elsewhere in response to new technologies. Geopolitics face several inflection points, from a turbulent Middle East to increased Russian pressure in Europe, and Chinese pressure in East Asia. Furthermore, new pathways must be developed to advance global energy security at a time of revolutionary change. The system must be more resilient, as energy trade is vulnerable to interruption, and as strategic petroleum reserves need to be modernized. Up to and beyond the next climate change conference (COP-21) in Paris, national security, energy and climate goals need to be better integrated in future policies.

Panel 1: A Global - and Revolutionary - Energy System

Amy Myers Jaffe
Executive Director, Energy and Sustainability, University of California, Davis

Robert Johnston
CEO and Natural Resources Head, The Eurasia Group

David G. Victor
Professor, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego

Keynote: The Energy World Ahead

To Be Announced

Panel 2: Pathways to Global Energy Security

Leon Fuerth
Practitioner in Residence, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University

David L. Goldwyn
Principal, Goldwyn Global Strategies LLC

Jan H. Kalicki
Public Policy Fellow and Energy Lead, Woodrow Wilson Center

Conference Rapporteur

Julia Nanay
Principal, Energy Ventures LLC

RSVP NOW

Monday, September 21, 2015
1:15 pm-4:30 pm

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

wwics@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/13/2015 8:32:15 AM
Subject: Koch Brothers connection to anti-Iran deal campaign

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

John -

Opponents of the negotiated deal to prevent Iran obtaining nuclear weapons have the money.

But we have the people.

Since the deal was announced, outside groups receiving untraceable contributions have spent over $10 million on ads attempting to convince legislators to oppose the deals.

VoteVets was built for moments like this -- there is no other progressive organization with the ability to organize tens of thousands of veterans and military family members nationally, and dozens in each congressional district.

We are the key to countering this attack on diplomacy, but we need the resources to amplify the voices of veterans who support the deal.

Contribute $3 to VoteVets today to help us lift up the voices of the veterans and military family members who support a diplomacy-first approach to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

We don't know much about their funding, but we do know something about two of the largest shadowy groups opposing the deal.

The first, Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran counts Joe Lieberman as a prominent advisor. You may remember him as the Senator who led the our charge into Iraq before retiring in shame years later. The other includes the CEO of the Koch Brothers' funded Concerned Veterans for America on their board.

This is who we're up against, and it's so important that the voices of veterans who support this deal aren't drowned out by dark money.

Contribute $3 to VoteVets today and help us elevate the voices of veterans who support this deal.

There are two alternatives: support diplomacy as the best way to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, or there will be war.

Thanks for choosing the right side.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran & Chairman
VoteVets

Contribute

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PAID FOR BY VOTEVETS ACTION FUND

This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Alla Konstantinova" <allak1979@gmail.com>
To: "Tiffany Davis" <tmd@georgetown.edu>
Date: 8/8/2014 1:40:07 PM
Subject: Re: Sign up to be a tutor with Peer to Peer Tutoring!

Likewise. 2001 and I live in Russia:)

Alla

2014-08-09 0:34 GMT+04:00 Tiffany Davis <tmd@georgetown.edu >:

> Hello,
>
> I think you sent this to the wrong person. I graduated Georgetown in 1994 and live in Atlanta; I"m nowhere in the geographical proximity to give peer-to-peer tutoring.
>
> Thank you, and Hoya Saxa.
>
> Tiffany M. Davis
> CAS 1994
>
> On Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:29 PM, Georgetown Peer-to-Peer Tutoring <georgetownp2ptutoring@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi M3's!
> >
> > M1's and M2's start classes next week and we are looking for more tutors to participate in the Peer to Peer Tutoring Program!
> >
> > Why be a tutor? You get paid for tutoring, help your peers, meet new students, review old material and it's a great activity to put on your CV! This year in addition to one-on-one tutoring, we have added **walk-in tutoring** hours. These will be held in SEB-5 from 5:30-7:30 every Tuesday and Thursday.
> >
> > Once you're approved by the deans the only requirement for participation is attendance at a short training session (with free food!). You can attend one of two training sessions to be held on **Wednesday, August 13th at noon** or **Tuesday, August 19th at 7pm** in GA2/4.
> >
> > Please RSVP on the attached google doc:
> > https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nwEdiBedo_Hz3V9HE3I3CFJW-mTuZSrXiJSOvrzV0jI/edit?usp=sharing
> >
> > We hope to see you next week!,
> >
> > Haley Bunting, Emily Kivlehan, Tyler Kingdon
> > Peer to Peer Coordinators
>
> --
> **Tiffany M. Davis**
> www.linkedin.com/in/tiffanymdavis
> tmd@georgetown.edu

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From: "Scott Lilly" <slilly@americanprogress.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/10/2008 9:14:09 AM
Subject: Obama Cabinet

I don't know why you had to leave us and go off to Chicago when your former employee already had it figured out.

22 to Know

Our Picks for an Obama Cabinet: Parts 1 & 2

By **IN THESE TIMES EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

In 2007, the Pew Research Center conducted a poll asking Americans if they could identify a man named Robert Gates. As the Iraq War raged, fewer than one in four respondents knew he was the secretary of defense. Is this a sad commentary on whether the public is following events in Iraq? Perhaps. But more likely it's a reflection of the overall obscurity of our government's top decision makers
In a media environment that portrays presidents as the sole messianic implementer of their agenda, the steep drop-off in name recognition is predictable — even if it belies how power really works.

Far more than a brain trust of advisers, the U.S. Cabinet has been the instrument by which political rhetoric becomes public policy. From Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins (under FDR) to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (under Ford and Bush II), Cabinet officials have been the chief sculptors and enforcers of the best — and worst — presidential policies.

In many ways, administrations are the sum of their Cabinets' work, and that axiom would be especially powerful should Sen. Barack Obama win the 2008 election. With just four years of federal legislative experience, the Illinois senator would be the antithesis of the old Washington hands who tend to occupy the Oval Office — and based on his campaign themes, he will likely enter office with a mandate for progressive change.

Which raises the question: What would a truly progressive Cabinet look like? There has been no such thing in at least a generation (if not longer), so it is a difficult — but critical — question to answer. After all, who heads our federal government's major departments will have an impact on all issues, from Africa policy to zero-tolerance criminal sentencing.

In These Times asked its editors and writers to suggest their top progressive choices for a potential Obama Cabinet. We asked that contributors weigh ideological and political considerations, with an eye toward recommending people who have both progressive credentials and at least an arguable chance at being appointed in an Obama White House.

This group of people would represent at once the most progressive, aggressive and practical Cabinet in contemporary history. Of course, it is by no means a definitive list. It is merely one proposal aimed at staring a longer discussion about the very concept of a progressive Cabinet — and why it will be important to a new administration, especially if that administration is serious about change.

-David Sirota

Energy: Dan Reicher

Climate change and America's fossil-fuel dependency are two of the biggest challenges an Obama administration will face. Ironically, the job of energy secretary is ill-suited for tackling them. Most of the Energy Department's $25 billion budget goes toward maintaining the nation's nuclear-weapons stockpile and handling waste disposal — leaving only a fraction for developing alternative energy sources. It's tough to direct a clean-energy revolution with that portfolio.

Still, there's room for improvement. Under the Bush administration, the department has abandoned many of its successful partnerships to boost efficiency and curb emissions in dirty industries, while prioritizing costly clean-coal and hydrogen fuel-cell boondoggles that have achieved little.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has voiced interest in this position, but a head-cracking superstar like him might be better slotted in a new "climate czar" role. After all, the task of de-carbonizing the U.S. economy will be so titanic that someone will need to coordinate all the different agencies — from agriculture to transportation.

The Energy Department needs a smart manager who values sound research and understands the importance of efficiency — the cheapest, quickest way to curb our carbon output. Over the past year, Dan Reicher, a former assistant secretary of energy under President Clinton, has been doing just that — as head of Google's new climate and energy fund, seeding innovative projects across the country, from geothermal research to plug-in hybrids. His recent congressional testimonies have smartly laid out how better federal policy could spur trillions in private investment toward cleaner and more-efficient technologies — just the questions the department should be obsessing over.

—Bradford Plumer

Labor: David Bonior

Obama's best choice for secretary of labor would be David Bonior, who from 1976 to 2002 served as the progressive congressman from the Macomb and St. Clair County suburbs outside Detroit — the famous district of Reagan Democrats. During his tenure, Bonior championed unions, opposed trade agreements like NAFTA, and criticized both President Reagan's Central American counter-insurgency policies and President Clinton's civil liberties policies.

After Michigan Republicans re-drew his district in 2000 and he lost a bid for governor two years later, Bonior became chair of American Rights at Work, a labor-sponsored coalition of non-union groups advocating worker rights,

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especially the freedom to organize unions.

That work bolsters his credentials for pushing one of organized labor's top legislative goals: the Employee Free Choice Act. The measure would provide for union recognition when a majority of workers in a workplace sign cards indicating they want a union, increase penalties for labor law violations and guarantee access to arbitration to establish a first contract if employers refuse to bargain seriously.

Leaders on both sides of the AFL-CIO/Change To Win divide respect Bonior, who managed John Edwards' presidential campaign. Bonior's time as party whip for a decade gives him experience working with Congress for what will be a tough fight on behalf of the Employee Free Choice Act, even with a large Democratic majority. And his stature would guarantee a strong voice in Obama's Cabinet for both unions and broader workers' interests, from the local workplace to the global economy.

—David Moberg

Transportation: Earl Blumenauer

Last summer, as Congress wrestled with energy legislation, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) offered a simple, $1 million proposal to encourage bike commuting. To his disbelief, the plan was ridiculed by a number of Republicans, including Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-N.C.), who called two-wheelers "a 19th century solution to a 21st century problem." In a prospective Obama administration, Blumenauer should get the last laugh.

An eco-friendly labor advocate from Portland, Blumenauer couldn't be more representative of his liberal district, which he's served since 1996. In the Oregon legislature and later on the Portland city council, Blumenauer helped direct Portland's planning renaissance, championing bike lanes, light rail and streetcars. He brought his emphasis on smart growth to Washington, advocating for high-speed rail and launching the Congressional Bike Caucus. In fact, nobody in his congressional office applies for a parking permit.

An early and vocal supporter of Obama, Blumenauer could be tapped as transportation secretary, a post that will undoubtedly grow in importance as the United States grapples with rising energy prices and climate change. He seems to be preparing for the role. In July, he co-wrote a substantive energy bill that subsidizes telecommuting, public transit and transit-friendly affordable housing.

But the biggest challenge facing the new transit guru will come next year, when Congress revisits the Transportation Bill. If Blumenauer can redirect more revenue from the nation's gas tax to alternative forms of transit, he'll be laughing his way to a future where Americans live better with less oil.

—Adam Doster

U.S. Trade Representative: Marcy Kaptur

Polls show the public overwhelmingly opposes America's NAFTA-style trade policies, and Obama has committed to reforming those policies as president. Part of doing that means naming a fair-trade voice as his lead trade negotiator — and no voice for trade reform has been more dogged than Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-Ohio).

A 13-term House member, Kaptur serves on the Appropriations Committee — one of Congress' most powerful panels. As Toledo's representative, she has seen firsthand the devastation that comes with unfair trade pacts, and has led the fight against every major lobbyist-written deal that has come through Congress — from NAFTA to China PNTR to CAFTA.

That personal connection to the trade issue would serve Kaptur well in international negotiations where compromise too often means selling out the American worker. Similarly, Kaptur's longtime experience in the House would be critical in powering fair-trade deals through what remains a corporate-dominated Congress.

Presidents of both parties have treated the trade representative position as an ambassadorship to a banana republic, appointing go-along-to-get-along hacks — such as former Clinton campaign chairman Mickey Kantor — who use the department as a taxpayer-funded training program for their post-government career in the corporate whorehouse.

Kaptur would be far different.

—David Sirota

Head of EPA: Daniel Kammen

To head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Obama would make a smart choice with University of California, Berkeley, public policy professor Daniel Kammen.

A senior energy and environmental aide to the Obama campaign, Kammen is the founder and director of the school's Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, which designs, tests and disseminates renewable energy systems for industrialized and developing nations. He is also co-director of the Berkeley Institute of the Environment, which looks at environmental problems and their solutions.

At 46, Kammen signals the kind of youthful vitality the EPA needs. And as someone outside the Washington bubble, he hasn't been tainted by the political wranglings that have screwed up U.S. environmental policies for so many years.

As someone with a background in environmental issues and a primary focus on energy, Kammen has the necessary experience to address the two-headed beast of sound energy and climate policy.

He was also a coordinating lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, which means that, unlike the current political appointees in the EPA, Kammen is well aware of the significance and urgency of this threat.

—Kate Sheppard

Federal Reserve Chair: Marion or Herbert Sandler

Firing up the printing press at the U.S. Mint and handing over billions in cash to Wall Street con artists isn't a serious monetary policy — but that's been Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's response to the housing and credit crisis. When Bernanke's term expires in 2010, either Marion or Herbert Sandler would be a welcome replacement.

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Over four decades, the husband-and-wife team built Golden West Financial into one of the most stable and successful mortgage companies — and they did it through the kind of responsible lending practices that the greed-is-good crowd mocked.

As the *Wall Street Journal* reported in 2007, "Golden West historically had very low levels of bad loans, which Mr. Sandler has attributed to his bank's careful vetting of borrowers and their credit." Indeed, the Journal noted that the Sandlers were "frequent critic[s] of competitors who required no down payment, set interest rates that reset quickly at high rates and sold bundled loans to far-off investors." They also spoke out against "the lax lending practices that pervaded the industry for the past few years — even writing a letter to federal regulators last year in support of tighter standards." That's precisely the kind of foresight America's bank of banks desperately needs.

What's more, the Sandlers are about as progressive as bankers come — and they put their money where their politics are. Their foundation underwrites, among others, the Center for Responsible Lending and the National Women's Law Center.

A Federal Reserve chairperson with a vague familiarity with — much less a connection to — such groups would inject a populist perspective into an institution whose secrecy and insularity has made it one of the elite's most reliable weapons in the class war.

—David Sirota

Defense: Sarah Sewall

Admittedly a long-shot candidate, Sarah Sewall should be the next defense secretary.

During the Clinton administration, Sewall served as the first deputy assistant secretary of defense for peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

Currently the executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University and a lecturer in public policy, Sewall also directs the Center's program on national security and human rights.

Sewall has worked at a variety of defense research organizations. In addition to writing the introduction to the University of Chicago edition of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual (2007), she has written widely on U.S. foreign policy, multilateralism, peace operations and military intervention. She currently focuses on civilians in war, facilitating dialogue between the military and human rights communities on the use of force.

One of the biggest challenges facing our country today is recognizing — and adequately responding to — the broad spectrum of threats we face in our globalized world. That includes environmental changes and disease pandemics that are contributing to global conflicts. It also includes the weaponization of space; the proliferation of nuclear weapons; and the extravagance of bloated military budgets — while our schools crumble and nearly 46 million Americans go uninsured.

The mindless use of military might — at the expense of meaningful diplomacy — has left the United States much disliked today. America seems to have lost its moral compass and with it, the ability to lead by example — once a hallmark of our nation.

With Sewall's extensive background in policy, defense and national security, she understands these challenges and would work to restore American leadership.

—Jody Williams

Commerce: Margot Dorfman

For decades, the Department of Commerce has represented the interests of the U.S. global business elite to the detriment of healthy and sustainable commerce.

Since the '80s, the department has done little to abate the destruction of Main Street enterprise, the collapse of our manufacturing base, the looting of our public infrastructure, massive global outsourcing of jobs, and rampant tax shifting to overseas tax havens.

A prospective Obama administration should nominate Margot Dorfman for secretary of commerce. Dorfman would advocate for Main Street, not Wall Street, and for business owners and employees, not absentee shareholders. She would support high-road enterprise that encourages real investment and healthy growth, not speculation, outsourcing and exploitation.

As CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, Dorfman has supported sustainable business development, durable economic policies, community entrepreneurship, worker education, and small business development for women and people of color. Prior to that, Dorfman worked for General Mills and several small enterprises.

When the U.S. Chamber of Commerce led the fight against raising the federal minimum wage in 2007, Dorfman and the Women's Chamber led the fight to raise it. "We all lose when American workers are underpaid," she said. She has been a leading voice with Business for Shared Prosperity, a national network of forward-thinking business leaders.

Sub-appointments: Van Jones, of the Ella Baker Center, to direct the Commerce Department's new "green jobs initiative," and John Arensmeyer, of Small Business Majority, to oversee the economic development administration.

—Chuck Collins

Interior: Susan Williams

The most serious challenge facing the new secretary of interior will be the bureaucratic mayhem that politicians have created. Worse, many of these lawmakers still fail to recognize Native people as part of true sovereign nations, especially in relation to the United States.

Susan M. Williams — a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota tribe — would help untangle this mess. Her commitment to the environment and her involvement in civic affairs make her an excellent choice for the post.

After getting a degree from Harvard Law School (and working there as a lecturer), Williams worked in firms committed

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to Native law and served on boards that focus on improving relations between the federal government and tribes.

Typically, the Interior Department oversees efforts to uphold treaty rights and agreements with the federal government. What's at stake for Native people is the right to live on healthy land, have access to clean water and maintain control over their natural resources. The department also assists Indigenous tribes in creating a sustainable future for themselves.Williams lobbied for amendments that affected tribes' water rights and tax status.

Add to this résumé Williams' membership in various bar associations — the American Bar Association, District of Columbia Bar, New Mexico Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar — and she couldn't be better qualified for the position.

—Winona LaDuke

FDA Commissioner: David Blumenthal

For Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner, the pick should be Dr. David Blumenthal, director of the Institute of Health Policy at Massachusetts General Hospital and a professor at Harvard Medical School.

One of the top issues the next commissioner will face is regulating the pharmaceutical and medical-device industries.

Under the Bush administration, FDA scientists have been beset with low morale and widespread concern that they cannot do their jobs without risk of inappropriate political interference.

This decade, Blumenthal has shown independence from the pharmaceutical industry. He is a critic of detailing, drug-makers' use of salespeople to pressure physicians to prescribe their most expensive medicines. He supports government use of drug formularies, which is an effective way of negotiating lower drug prices and protecting access to needed medicines. Blumenthal also advocates for comparative effectiveness research — an approach to studying the safety and efficacy of medicines that could save many lives.

Blumenthal was the founding chairman of AcademyHealth, the national organization of health services researchers. From 1995 to 2002, he served as executive director for the Task Force on Academic Health Centers at the Commonwealth Fund — a foundation whose goal is to improve healthcare quality for low-income people, the uninsured, young children, people of color and the elderly.

—Raman Castellblanch

Director of National Intelligence: Ellen Laipson

For director of national intelligence, President Obama should nominate Ellen Laipson, president and CEO of the Henry L. Stimson Center — a nonprofit public policy institute that focuses on peace and security issues.

I worked with Laipson at Stimson for four years and I know she values the knowledge found inside the bureaucracy — even if that knowledge can be difficult to extract. As director, Laipson would modernize the institution so that the intelligence community is the best information resource in government.

From 1997 until 2002, Laipson was vice chair of the National Intelligence Council. Before that, she was special assistant to the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations. She has had stints working for the Congressional Research Service, on the policy planning staff of the State Department and as a policy director at the National Security Council, giving her an invaluable perspective on policy.

In 2000, Laipson was responsible for one of the most forward-thinking public documents on intelligence and national security: Global Trends 2015, which pointed out transnational threats like criminal networks and terrorism. It remains highly relevant today.

Successful intelligence gathering in the coming years will require mending international good will. In that regard, Laipson's U.N. experience will serve her well. More importantly, her expertise lies in the Middle East — especially Iran, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula.

As director of national intelligence, Laipson must restore Americans' trust in its intelligence agencies. She can do this by working to resolve concerns about torture and surveillance, by putting a stop to the privatization of intelligence, by including Congress in the dialogue, and by communicating with Americans to build mutual understanding and respect.

—Lorelei Kelly

Secretary of State: Jim McDermott

Secretary of state has two major tasks: To define and represent U.S. interests in the world, and to bring the rest of the world's interests to the United States. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) — a 10-term member of Congress and a Progressive Caucus stalwart — would do both.

McDermott has been a consistent voice for single-payer healthcare, for increased funding for the U.S. and global HIV/AIDS crisis, and for maintaining the estate tax. And he has stated unequivocally that Big Oil and the Iraq War are causing skyrocketing oil prices.

Like any U.S. politician, his record isn't perfect, particularly on trade. But unlike most of his colleagues, McDermott is independent and willing to think and act outside the Washington box.

McDermott actively opposes U.S. threats of war against Iran, and he has challenged Israel directly, saying it's "both appropriate and urgent for the U.S. to raise questions about [Israel's] intentions" toward Iran.

Secretary McDermott would not only call for redeploying combat troops out of Iraq, he would also press for bringing home all U.S. troops and mercenaries. He would enforce ignored laws prohibiting U.S. bases there. And he would immediately renounce U.S. efforts to control Iraq's oil. In fact, he read into the Congressional Record the full text of the 1930 Anglo-Iraqi treaty, which set the same terms for British control of oil that the Bush administration is trying to impose on Iraq today.

Secretary of State Jim McDermott would reclaim the primacy of diplomacy in U.S. foreign policy.

—Phyllis Bennis

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FCC Chairman: Michael Copps

In his two terms on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Michael Copps has done yeoman's duty, consistently protecting the public's stake in the communications spectrum under a string of hostile chairmen.

In his first term, Copps helped launch a series of public hearings about media consolidation. In 2007, he announced his American Media Contract, which asserts citizens' rights to "programming that isn't so damned bad so damned often." And at the 2008 National Conference for Media Reform, Copps called for tougher, more frequent FCC monitoring of local broadcast licenses, and the enforcement of net neutrality principles.

Trained as a historian at the University of North Carolina, Copps would bring nearly four decades of public and private sector experience to the position. He'll need all of it to deal with the coming disruptions in the media environment.

On Feb. 17, 2009, the analog broadcast signal will be shut off, turning many Americans' TVs into doorstops unless they subscribe to commercial cable or satellite services, or obtain a converter box. Coupons for those boxes are limited, and advocates for elderly, minority and low-income Americans warn that they may be cut off from crucial emergency and public information services.

A battle is also raging over new spectrum allocations: Consumer advocates argue that "white spaces" should be left open to provide options for affordable public wireless networks, while broadcasters counter that this would interfere with broadcast quality.

Meanwhile, media consolidation continues. Current FCC Chairman Kevin Martin approved the recent merger of XM and Sirius, even though the move created a monopoly in satellite radio. Copps dissented, citing, as usual, the public interest.

It's long past time such dissent became mainstream.

—Jessica Clark

Education: C.J. Prentiss

An African American from Ohio, C.J. Prentiss has the background needed to confront the key tasks of any education secretary: maintaining a focus on student achievement, closing the achievement gap and mobilizing a broad constituency to demand reform beyond the current emphasis on teaching children to fill in bubbles on standardized tests.

For more than a quarter-century, Prentiss has been a legislator, policy-maker and community activist adept at building bridges among diverse groups. She currently heads a new initiative by Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland to increase the state's graduation rate for African-American males.

Prentiss began as an organizer in the '80s, working on literacy campaigns in housing projects. She went on to serve 15 years in the Ohio legislature, rising to become the Democratic leader in the Ohio Senate. For eight years, Prentiss also headed the Education Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

She has developed initiatives that put into practice oft-stated goals of investing in children, involving parents and community, changing teacher practices, and closing the achievement gap. She demands more of teachers and schools, but refuses to scapegoat them: a delicate balance essential to any meaningful reform.

Because education is primarily a state responsibility, such a background will serve Prentiss well as education secretary.

—Barbara Miner

Urban Development: Valerie Jarrett

Valerie Jarrett's blue-ribbon résumé delivers a potent blend of corporate, government and civic "street cred."

Jarrett, 51, is CEO of the Habitat Co. — a clout-heavy Chicago real estate firm — and the court-appointed overseer of the city's massive plan to transform its notoriously decrepit public housing developments.

A lawyer by trade, Jarrett has served as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's deputy chief of staff and planning commissioner, and has chaired the boards of the Chicago Transit Authority and Chicago Stock Exchange.

In 1991, Jarrett recruited Obama's then-fiancée Michelle Robinson, for a job in Daley's office. But first Jarrett had to pass muster with Obama. They sealed the deal over dinner, and today, Jarrett is a tight family friend and indispensable Obama confidante.

She's well prepared for the treacheries of the Washington Beltway. Jarrett has stood down an array of Chicago characters, like cranky transit riders, vociferous public housing activists and mendacious aldermen. Friend and foe consider her a no-nonsense, astute operative.

The first woman at Housing and Urban Development's helm will need to navigate multiple threats to the American Dream of home ownership: the subprime loan debacle, an affordable-housing crisis and skyrocketing foreclosures, to name a few. Whatever her prescriptions, she'll have the president's ear.

Then again, Jarrett — who has been called "the other side of Obama's brain" — may be better suited for a Karl Rove-ian role in the White House.

—Laura Washington

Attorney General: Charles Ogletree Jr.

For the post of attorney general in an Obama administration, Charles Ogletree Jr. would be a good choice.

Ogletree, a tireless advocate for social justice causes, is the founder and director of the Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, which focuses on issues relating to race and justice, sponsors research and provides policy analysis.

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Ogletree is another one of Obama's Harvard professors-turned-adviser. He counsels the candidate on constitutional and criminal justice issues. He would be the perfect antidote to a justice department poisoned by illegal, politicized hiring, a reprehensible tolerance for torture and a refusal to enforce civil rights legislation.

Before joining the Harvard faculty in 1985, Ogletree served as a public defender in the District of Columbia, a position that helped shape his focus on civil rights and criminal justice issues. He has since earned a reputation as a brilliant legal theorist.

In 1991, he was legal counsel to Anita Hill during the Senate confirmation hearings for Justice Clarence Thomas.

Ogletree has also been a prominent media presence, moderating several PBS forums and serving as a commentator on national news programs.

He is author of several books, including *From Lynch Mobs To The Killing State: Race And The Death Penalty In America* in 2006, and the 2004 book *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half Century of Brown v. Board of Education*.

Ogletree is co-chair of the Reparations Coordinating Committee, a group of attorneys pursuing a legal route to reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans.

In 2000 and 2002, the National Law Journal named him one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America."

—Salim Muwakkil

Agriculture: Jim Hightower

Two current U.S. senators would make excellent secretaries of agriculture.

One is Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa). Harkin has been a committee chair and leader on agriculture issues, opposing deregulation and favoring supply management, conservation, antitrust actions and many progressive policies — only some of which he has managed to put into law.

The other is freshman Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), an organic farmer with a distinctive flat-top haircut. Tester is a populist who is sympathetic to environmental issues and critical of corporate globalization. He might push more comprehensive reform than Harkin would.

But here's the problem: Both are needed in the Senate.

Luckily, Obama can call on Jim Hightower, who is best known for his crusading print and radio journalism and his pithy, punchy, populist proverbs — like his book title, "There's nothing in the middle of the road but yellow stripes and dead armadillos."

But the funny, feisty Hightower also knows his farm and food issues. As Texas Agriculture Commissioner from 1983 to 1990, he promoted organic agriculture, alternative crops (like wine grapes and native plants), direct international marketing by small farmers, strong pesticide control and comprehensive environmental management.

Hightower would be a cheerfully combative complement to Obama's ultra-cool post-partisanship (although he may have been too post-partisan for some Democrats by supporting Ralph Nader in 2000).

If Obama ever needs a Cabinet member to attack the fat cats who keep the sweet stuff for themselves on the top shelf — out of reach for the little guy — he could send Hightower, who would perform the task with glee.

—David Moberg

Homeland Security: Donald J. Guter

Retired Rear Adm. Donald J. Guter, one of the many principled military lawyers who voiced strong opposition to the failed policies of the Bush administration, would make a great secretary of homeland security.

Guter was the Navy's top lawyer from 2000 until retiring in 2002, after 32 years of service. (He was also in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.)

One of the first insiders to challenge then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Guter waged an internal battle against the military tribunal system, arguing that it was inherently unjust.

In 2003, he was one of three high-ranking military officers to file an amicus brief on behalf of detainees being held indefinitely at the U.S. Navy base at Guantánamo Bay.

Last year, when Attorney General Michael Mukasey was mumbling murky answers about the legality of waterboarding during his Senate confirmation hearings, Guter and three other retired military lawyers sent a letter to Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), arguing that "waterboarding is inhumane, it is torture, and it is illegal." He is currently dean of Duquesne University's law school.

First order of business for Guter as secretary of homeland security? Change the department's awful, Third Reich-sounding name. Next, he should work closely with the attorney general to restore the full rule of law, from which true security derives, by abolishing racial and religious profiling, repudiating programs that encroach on the privacy rights of citizens (warrantless wiretapping, spy satellites on domestic targets, and the like), and implementing a humane and equitable immigration policy.

—Moustafa Bayoumi

FEC Chairman: Spencer Overton

If Barack Obama is elected, he would take office with arguably more knowledge about what's wrong with our current election system — and how to reform it — than any president since the framers of the Constitution. At the University of Chicago, Obama taught election law courses covering public financing, the Electoral College, proportional representation and universal voter registration. He has sponsored state legislation to establish instant runoff voting and federal legislation to stop deceptive electoral practices.

As a result, Obama's choice to head the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which regulates campaign finance legislation and provides a bully pulpit for improving democracy, should be a good one. He could do little better than

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George Washington University law professor Spencer Overton.

A visionary academic grounded in reality, Overton has served on the boards of Common Cause — a nonprofit that advocates for an open and accountable government — and of Demos — a nonpartisan public policy research and advocacy organization. He has written widely on campaign financing and knows the rules, regulations and needed reforms.

More than one in four eligible U.S. voters is unregistered to vote, and campaign finance inequities are worse than ever. Moreover, our system's winner-take-all rules make most voters spectators in presidential and congressional races.

With more than 12,000 jurisdictions making independent decisions affecting federal elections — often with limited guidance and insufficient funding — a strong FEC member is needed to revamp the country's antiquated, voice-suppressing, vote-wasting elections, and to unify a partisan commission. Overton would bring the passion, knowledge and civility necessary to do just that, and ensure every vote counts and every vote matters.

—Rob Richie

Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Maj. Ladda "Tam my" Duckworth

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the federal government's second largest department (after defense). With an annual budget of more than $90 billion, the VA employs more than 230,000 people at hundreds of VA medical centers, clinics and benefits offices that assist many of the 60 million U.S. veterans and their families.

But the Bush administration has woefully mismanaged the department, which is suffering from overcrowded facilities, lenghty waiting lists and a backlog of disability claims. The present state of affairs is the result of poor leadership and a failure to anticipate and allocate the requisite funding to support the needs of an escalating veteran population.

According to Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz, "The number of disability claims exceeds 600,000, with another 1.6 million claims expected in the next two years." Overcrowded VA mental health facilities cannot provide comprehensive care to the hundreds of thousands of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress. Not surprisingly, the suicide rate among veterans and service members is the highest it has ever been.

Maj. Tammy Duckworth, a double amputee pilot of the Iraq War, has the character and credentials to serve as our nation's secretary of veterans affairs. Her years of distinguished military service and her firsthand knowledge of the VA system — she has served as director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs since 2006 — would serve her well.

Duckworth is the best choice to deliver what millions of veterans need — and have failed to receive from the current administration.

—Luis Carlos Montalván

Health & Human Services: Kathleen Sebelius

For secretary of health and human services, Obama would do well to pick Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Three major obstacles face the next secretary. One, tens of millions of Americans lack health insurance. Two, any attempt to deal with this crisis will result in the private insurance industry — and its lobbyists — swooping in to turn policy changes into a windfall for itself. And three, for eight years, the department has been crippled by low morale and staff departures caused by Bush administration mismanagement.

The next secretary must have the ability to help undo this damage.

Sebelius has shown independence from the healthcare industry. While serving as Kansas insurance commissioner from 1995 to 2003, she rejected an attempt by Anthem insurance company to buy out Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. As governor, she has challenged the pharmaceutical industry by advocating for the import of prescription drugs. She also set up a state agency to work on plans to obtain better prices for prescription drugs and other healthcare services.

Sebelius has a strong background in health policy, having served on President Clinton's Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry.

Most importantly, her experience as a governor could provide her with the needed executive ability to fill this vital post.

—Ramon Castellblanch

Treasury: Elizabeth Warren

If treasury secretaries have legacies, the two with the most memorable in the last 16 years are Clinton Treasury Secretary Bob Rubin and recent Bush Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. At different points in their careers, both men championed extremist free-trade policies, had a hand in the deregulatory policies that led to corporate meltdowns; contributed to boom-bust cycles; and spent time heading investment banking behemoth Goldman Sachs. Perhaps the latest financial meltdown will break Goldman Sachs' death grip — and maybe, just maybe, Elizabeth Warren will be the first woman to head this key department.

A renowned Harvard Law professor, Warren may seem an unconventional choice for a position typically held by a business titan. But a presidency whose economic prospects will pivot on cleaning up conservatives' laissez-faire wreckage could use a tough-minded regulator at the helm of the government apparatus responsible for collecting taxes and policing Wall Street. Warren fits that description perfectly as one of the nation's leading experts on the laws and regulations that the treasury department is supposed to enforce, but too often doesn't.

Having made national headlines as a bestselling author and a leader in the fight against the lobbyist-written Bankruptcy Bill of 2005, Warren would set a new tone for a treasury department that has often been a bought-and-paid-for appendage of Corporate America.

—David Sirota

David Sirota is a senior editor at *In These Times* and author of *The Uprising: An Unauthorized Tour of the Populist Revolt*

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/24/2015 2:33:59 AM
Subject: Fwd: The Note: Inside 'Clinton Cash'

--BUT THE BOOK OFFERS NO PROOF THAT HILLARY CLINTON TOOK ANY DIRECT ACTION TO BENEFIT THE GROUPS AND INTERESTS THAT WERE PAYING HER HUSBAND: An independent review of source material by ABC News uncovered errors in the book, including an instance where paid and unpaid speaking appearances were conflated. Schweizer said the errors would be corrected. But those same records supported the premise that former President Clinton accepted speaking fees from numerous companies and individuals with interests pending before the State Department. http://abcn.ws/1DhN8Fe

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Falcone, Michael P.** <Michael.P.Falcone@abc.com >
Date: Fri, Apr 24, 2015 at 9:14 AM
Subject: The Note: Inside 'Clinton Cash'
To: "Falcone, Michael P." <Michael.P.Falcone@abc.com >

The Note: Inside 'Clinton Cash'

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/note-inside-clinton-cash/story?id=30552766

By MICHAEL FALCONE

NOTABLES

--BILL CLINTON CASHED IN WHEN HILLARY BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE: After his wife became Secretary of State, former President Bill Clinton began to collect speaking fees that often doubled or tripled what he had been charging earlier in his post White House years, bringing in millions of dollars from groups that included several with interests pending before the State Department, an ABC News review of financial disclosure records shows. Where he once had drawn $150,000 for a typical address in the years following his presidency, Clinton saw a succession of staggering paydays for speeches in 2010 and 2011, including $500,000 paid by a Russian investment bank and $750,000 to address a telecom conference in China, **ABC's MATTHEW MOSK** and **BRIAN ROSS** report. That steady flow of income has come under scrutiny in recent days, as it formed an element of a book by author and conservative think tank fellow Peter Schweizer called "Clinton Cash," due for release in coming days. http://abcn.ws/1DhN8Fe

--BUT THE BOOK OFFERS NO PROOF THAT HILLARY CLINTON TOOK ANY DIRECT ACTION TO BENEFIT THE GROUPS AND INTERESTS THAT WERE PAYING HER HUSBAND: An independent review of source material by ABC News uncovered errors in the book, including an instance where paid and unpaid speaking appearances were conflated. Schweizer said the errors would be corrected. But those same records supported the premise that former President Clinton accepted speaking fees from numerous companies and individuals with interests pending before the State Department. http://abcn.ws/1DhN8Fe

--CHELSEA CLINTON PLAYS DEFENSE: Chelsea Clinton defended her family's charity yesterday against allegations that foreign governments received favors in return for donations, saying that despite all the questions,

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the Clinton Foundation does "important" work and is "among the most transparent" of foundations. "What the Clinton Foundation has said is that we will be even more transparent, even though Transparency International and others have said we're among the most transparent of foundations," the former First Daughter and Vice Chair of the Clinton Foundation said when asked Thursday morning. **ABC's LIZ KREUTZ** has more. http://abcn.ws/1Qod1h5

--ANALYSIS -- ABC's RICK KLEIN: No joke here, but how hard is President Obama making things for Hillary Clinton on trade right now? His speech to his old campaign organization Thursday night featured a spirited passage characterizing his critics' views that – according to the official White House transcript – was punctuated three times by laughter. His "good friends who are opposed to this trade agreement," he said, are making an argument "that doesn't make any sense." It's vintage Obama, getting his loyalists fired up by characterizing the other side of an argument with a little snark. "When I ask them specifically what is it that you oppose," the president said, "they start talking about NAFTA. (Laughter.)" The "they" are usually Republicans in these types of presidential riffs. This time, though, they include Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Martin O'Malley, and Sen. Bernie Sanders. All of which increases the pressure on Clinton, who's been noncommittal on trade questions since launching her candidacy two weeks ago. And the president's lines about fixing NAFTA, which Obama reminded the audience was passed when he had "just come out of law school"? That's got to be a special kind of grating on Clinton-era ears.

THIS WEEK ON 'THIS WEEK': Sunday on "This Week," author Peter Schweizer discusses his new book, "Clinton Cash." And the powerhouse roundtable debates all the week's politics, with Democratic strategist and ABC News contributor Donna Brazile, CNN political commentator and former House speaker Newt Gingrich, and Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, managing editors of Bloomberg Politics and hosts of "With All Due Respect." Check the "This Week" page for full guest listings. Be sure to use #ThisWeek when you tweet about the program. **TUNE IN SUNDAY**: http://abcnews.go.com/thisweek

IN THE NOTE'S INBOX

RICK SANTORUM, FOSTER FRIESS, MAJOR DONORS GO GOLFING. Likely presidential candidate Rick Santorum and some of his top -- and most deep-pocketed – supporters gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona yesterday for a luncheon and golf outing. An aide to Santorum tells The Note: "Over 25 major Republican and conservative donors from nearly a dozen states were in attendance, where they heard from Santorum, senior political advisors to the Senator, and Friess regarding the status of a potential 2016 run. The topics discussed included political updates, strategic plans, and finance plans. Following a strategy luncheon, participants took part in a golf outing with Santorum and Friess."

THE BUZZ

with ABC's VERONICA STRACQUALURSI

OBAMA: 'I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY' FOR US OPERATION THAT KILLED INNOCENT HOSTAGES HELD BY AL QAEDA. President Obama said Thursday that he takes "full responsibility" for a U.S. government counterterrorism operation that killed two innocent hostages held by al Qaeda. Dr. Warren Weinstein, an American held by the terror group since 2011, and Giovanni Lo Porto, an Italian national who had been an al Qaeda hostage since 2012, were "accidentally" killed in a U.S. operation in January, the president acknowledged. "I want to express our grief and condolences for the families of two hostages," Obama said from the White House briefing room, noting that at the time, the U.S. believed no civilians were present at the operation site, **ABC's ERIN DOOLEY** and **LUIS MARTINEZ** write. http://abcn.ws/1bluXZf

--BOEHNER: 'WE NEED ALL THE FACTS.' House Speaker John Boehner expressed condolences to the

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families of Weinstein and Lo Porto, emphasizing that he believes the independent review that the president announced “is entirely appropriate." "As President Obama indicated, this is not a time for excuses," Boehner said. "We need all the facts, for the families and so that we can make sure that nothing like this ever happens again in our efforts to keep Americans safe." Boehner said he has not spoken personally to President Obama about the killed Americans, although he said he was "notified prior to the public disclosure of this," **ABC's JOHN PARKINSON** notes.

--WARREN WEINSTEIN'S CONGRESSMAN WANTS 'HOSTAGE CZAR.' The congressman who represents the family of slain American Dr. Warren Weinstein in the House of Representatives is crafting legislation to create a "hostage czar" who would be empowered to cut through bureaucracy in order to maximize the capabilities of the U.S. government to deal with hostage situations. "There should be no tolerance for a bureaucracy when it comes to dealing with an American held overseas," Rep. John Delaney, D-Maryland, told ABC News in an interview in his office Thursday, **ABC's JOHN PARKINSON** reports. http://abcn.ws/1yYm2YJ

SENATE CONFIRMS LORETTA LYNCH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL -- 166 DAYS AFTER NOMINATION. The Senate narrowly confirmed Loretta Lynch as the next attorney general Thursday, 166 days after she was first nominated for the post. The Senate approved Lynch's nomination with a vote of 56 to 43. After her confirmation, President Obama said "America will be better off for it." Lynch, a North Carolina native who serves as a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, will be the first African-American woman to serve as attorney general, **ABC's ARLETTE SAENZ** notes. Her confirmation period was the longest of any attorney general nominee in recent history. http://abcn.ws/1JhonBA

OBAMA TRIES SELLING THE TRADE DEAL AS THE ANTI-NAFTA. President Obama went straight into the progressive lions' den Thursday to sell the Pacific trade deal he’s trying to pass: his old campaign organization-turned-advocacy-group, Organizing for Action. His goal was clear: convince the audience at the spring meeting that this is the best possible trade negotiation, with stringent labor and environment requirements built in. Boiled down: it isn't the North American Free Trade Agreement, **ABC's ALI WEINBERG** writes. "I've been listening to this debate, I've got some good friends who are opposed to this trade agreement but when I ask specifically what you oppose, they start talking about NAFTA," he said. "And I'm thinking, well I had just come out of law school when NAFTA was passed! That's not the trade agreement I'm passing!" Labor unions and other progressives remain opposed to the Bill Clinton-brokered North American Free Trade Agreement because they say it stole U.S. jobs, furthered income inequality and widened the trade deficit with Mexico and Canada.

WHAT WE’RE WATCHING

RONALD REAGAN IN THE NUDE: A FORMER WHITE HOUSE USHER TELLS ALL. Skip Allen was new to being a White House usher for President Ronald Reagan when it fell to him to deliver a top-secret document to the commander in chief in the private residence. While the document was designated "for the President's eyes only," Allen would end up seeing more than he bargained for that day in 1981: a naked president. "I took it up, and I'm looking for him, and the steward comes out and says, 'He's in there.' So I went over and knocked on the door and he said, 'Come in,'" Allen recalled Reagan saying in an interview with **ABC's JONATHAN KARL**. "And there he was getting out of the shower." Allen remembers a much less friendly rapport with the Clinton's, calling their transition to the White House the most difficult of his time as usher from 1979 to 2004, **ABC's JORDYN PHELPS** writes. **WATCH:** http://abcn.ws/1INV463

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

OBAMA MAKES FUN OF DEFLATE-GATE. President Obama couldn't help himself as he honored the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots yesterday, poking fun at their “deflate-gate” controversy. "I usually tell a bunch of jokes at these events, but with the Patriots in town, I was worried that 11 out of 12 of them would fall flat,” Obama said at a White House ceremony. The joke was met with groans from the crowd on the South Lawn, **ABC's MARY BRUCE** notes. "That whole story got blown a little out of proportion," he added. The president went on to laud the Patriots, saying "even in the midst of a huge distraction during the biggest media circus of the sports year,

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they stayed focused."

WHO'S TWEETING?

@Creativity_Con : Watch the 2015 #CreativityCon live, starting today at 9am ET: http://thecreativityconference.com

@amyewalter: So much happening in WH 16 - so little of it matters. Focus on these fundamentals instead http://cookpolitical.com/story/8384

@jackshafer: "Former Pres. George W. Bush's typical speaking fee is apparently $110,000." Nonprofit Quarterly 2014 http://bit.ly/1yYg9uG

@alexis_levinson: A new year, a new video about Boehner's love affair with his lawn mower. https://www.youtube.com/watch?Source=GovD&v=hWdfb_YfePk ...

@matthewjdowd: Fabulous Friday! i realize open-mindedness is the path way to truth, joy, and fulfillment. allowing people, purpose, plans to change me.

--
Josh Schwerin
Cell: 518-369-5469

--
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From: "Andrew Schwartz" <externalrelations@csis.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/13/2014 1:47:44 PM
Subject: CSIS Releases 2015 Global Forecast: Crisis and Opportunity

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Web Flash

H. ANDREW SCHWARTZ 202-775-3242 ASCHWARTZ@CSIS.ORG

CSIS Releases
2015 Global Forecast: Crisis and Opportunity

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) today releases *Global Forecast 2015*, an annual CSIS signature publication providing analysis of the key issues that will determine the future trajectory of American power in 2015 and beyond.

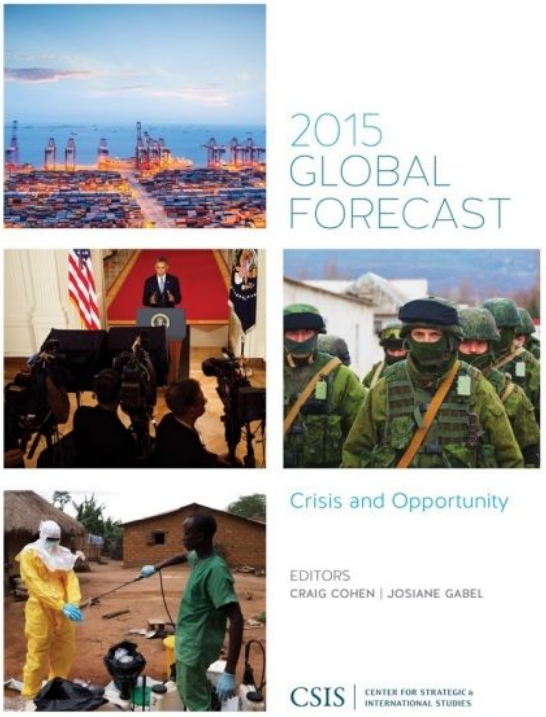

CSIS explores the questions:

- What role will deterrence play in America's national security strategy?

- What are the implications of Putin's New Russia?

- How can the United States best exert influence in today's Middle East?

- Is the rebalance to Asia sustainable?

- Is a competing economic order emerging?

- Will Ebola evolve from a health crisis to an economic and governance crisis?

This volume includes contributions from a cross-section of CSIS's top scholars about the main security challenges and opportunities likely to arise in 2015.

Read the report here

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/6/2008 4:55:26 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/06/08

Main Topics: energy, drilling, fully-inflated tires

Summary: GOA shows the Iraqi government could have $79M budget surplus at year's end. Federal officials set to reveal possible motive behind the 2001 anthrax attacks. President Bush expresses hope N Korea will be off the axis of evil soon. Senate Democrats refuse to enter summer recess in order to prevent appointments without their approval while House Republicans refuse to leave because of a drilling bill they'd like to pass. An NRA spy allegedly infiltrated two anti-violence groups. Maryland officials found a Camp David map at the home of a teenager held on firearm charges. MSNBC plays a significant amount of Olympic games. Late in the morning, reports came out that a jury of military officials reached a guilty verdict on the trial of Osama Bin Laden's driver.

Paris Hilton's response to John McCain's 'Celeb' ad continues to grab airtime this morning. Energy is once again the central issue in campaign coverage with a strong emphasis on offshore drilling. Speculation over vice presidential picks is a recurrent subject of stories and panels.

Highlights:

1. Energy
   a. MSNBC: Crist talks about the tone and energy platform of McCain's campaign
   b. FNC: Crist debates Bayh
   c. CNN: Jeanne Moos: McCain does agree with Obama that tire inflation is a good thing

Highlights No YouTube:

1) MSNBC – JOE SCARBOROUGH: 'John McCain had a great story until George [W] Bush became president.'
2) WTTE- FOX-OH: Summary of responses from candidates to Paris Hilton ad followed by, 'Tomorrow McCain will be in Wilmington, OH, tackling DHL's plan to use UPS for air cargo shipping. If that company were to leave, it would cost Ohio 10,000 jobs.'
3) WJBK-FOX-MI: '[…] republican presidential hopeful, John McCain is coming back to Michigan. John McCain is expected to return to the state in less than a week from today for high-priced fundraisers in Birmingham. He was here yesterday for a visit to the Fermi nuclear plant. He called for the construction of 45 new nuclear plants by 2030. He's a supporter of offshore drilling.'

Clips:

Highlight #1

Crist Talks about the Tone and Energy Platform of McCain's Campaign (MSNBC 08/06/08 7:08am)

JOE SCARBOROUGH: [...] You supported [sic] a candidate that went from being concerned about protecting the environment to running around motorcycle events shouting, 'Drill, drill, drill.'

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: It's kind of a change.

SCARBOROUGH: It's kind of a change and we're a little confused. Explain.

BRZEZINSKI: It's a shift.

CHARLIE CRIST: Well, the facts have changed. The reality is Senator McCain has been somebody concerned about the environment for a long time. First guy who really talked to me about climate change.

He is a great leader on these issues. He also understands the importance of how this issue, the rising price oil is affecting the American family and certainly families here, in Florida, too, Joe. When it gets to about $4 a gallon it's a crisis and it's a problem and it's rippling through our entire economy.

So Senator McCain took a leadership position, said we should stop having the moratorium at the federal level and let states decide individually. I know that Senator Bayh is with us this morning. Good morning to you, sir. As a former governor—

EVAN BAYH: Good morning, Charlie.

CRIST: I think he ms he would appreciate—it's good to be with you—probably would appreciate the fact that, you know, state's ought to have that independent right. The tenth amendment gives states those kind of rights. I

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think Senator McCain is right on this again….

[…]

SCARBOROUGH: Charlie Crist, let's talk about the tone of the campaign over the past week. Even John McCain's 96-year-old mother is critical of these ads that have been put out showing Paris Hilton and Britney Spears next to Barack Obama. She says it's silly. Don't you agree?

CRIST: Well, you know, what's wrong with a little humor. I think it's important we not get so intense in this political environment that we lose sight of a little of humor injected into a campaign. You talked about it earlier on the show today, this is an expensive business, unfortunately.

It takes an awful lot of money to get a message out. Look at the brilliance of what the McCain campaign can has been able to achieve. They make a commercial for about $10 and get millions of dollars of exposure.

SCARBOROUGH: Why do they show images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton? Why is that juxtaposed next to Barack Obama?

CRIST: I think the point they are trying to make is Senator Obama is a very charismatic figure. He's a guy that is a celebrity, a true American celebrity and they are comparing him with other celebrities evidently and making that point, but the question is, is he ready to lead? Does he have the judgment? Does he have the experience to really lead our country?

SCARBOROUGH: All right, but Britney Spears didn't go to Harvard. Britney Spears wasn't a community organizer. Britney Spears isn't a United States Senator. That's a false analogy, isn't it?

CRIST: I don't know if it's a false analogy. I think they are both celebrities. I think that's the only point they are trying to make. I don't think they are trying to match up their resumes together. They are trying to show these people are famous, well-known, are they ready to lead? That's the real question in the presidential campaign.

Governor Crist and Senator Bayh Debate their Candidates Energy Policies on Fox and Friends (FNC 08/06/08 07:18am)
[…]
GRETCHEN CARLSON: Governor Charlie Crist, you would know something about the energy policy. You are one of the states where this is incredibly important, Florida. You obviously support John McCain's stance on this.

CHARLIE CRIST: Senator John McCain, once again, is leading on this issue. It's very important I think to understand that you do need a comprehensive approach. Senator McCain certainly understands that. He talks about the possibility of offshore oil drilling to increase our domestic production of oil so we are not so dependent on foreign oil. When you realize that about 500 to $700 billion a year are being sent to the middle east in order for us to have oil for our vehicles here in America, something has to be done to offset that. Senator McCain understands that, as well as conservation. Using nuclear power. He went to a nuclear plant yesterday in Michigan to make that point.

[…]

CLAYTON MORRIS: Let's go back to Florida and talk more about Florida on this energy issue. **Isn't it really an infrastructure issue? […] Offshore drilling there is little infrastructure to get the oil from the water back to the main land. Now that's unlike what's up there in Anwar where you have the pipelines already in there. Isn't it disingenuous so say there can be quick turn around with offshore drilling?**

CRIST: **Well not from what I hear from people in the industry. What they tell me is they can, instead of in 10 years period of time, within about a year and a half. Remember there is an awful lot of pipelines already hooked up off of Louisiana and Texas. Some of those are not that far from the Florida coast.** It's important for me to emphasize this, too. We've talked about it in terms of allowing it but only if it's far enough, safe enough, and clean enough. We have an important tourist industry here in the sunshine state. We want to increase our domestic oil production to help our country, obviously. But we want to do it in way that is smart. And that's what Senator McCain believes in doing. Doing it in a way that is consistent with protecting our environment, protecting our beaches in Florida. It's a beautiful place to come visit. We want to make sure that while were doing that though we do conserve, that we look to solar, wind, nuclear, tide energy. All these things is what we have to do. It has to be all hands on deck with this issue. A crisis, issue number one to voters of my state. When gas hits $4 a gallon it's a crisis point. It affects the price of tourism and food and I have been touring small businesses

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across the state and it's having an impact.

[…]

BRIAN KILMEADE […] Senator Bayh, **will you have a hard time supporting Barack Obama because you've worked so well with John McCain and you supported Senator Hillary Clinton?**

EVAN BAYH: No, not at all. Look, I respect John McCain. **He is a good man. But he is badly mistaken in embracing many of the Bush policies, particularly the economic policies. And I think John was just wrong when he said the last eight years have been pretty good for us economically and that things are going pretty well today economically**. We need a change in Washington, a fundamental change. And I think Barack Obama is best positioned to provide that change.

Jeanne Moos Examines McCain's Tire Gauge Stunt (CNN 08/06/08 06:51am)
ROBERTS: Well when it comes to solving Americas energy problems, John McCain seems to think Barack Obama is full of hot air.

CHETRY: […] The McCain campaign has a brand new weapon to drive the point home.

JEANNE MOOS: Could this be the hiss of the air going out of a political stunt? The tire pressure gauge has become the political prop of the week, as the McCain campaign tries to use it to deflate Senator Obama.

MCCAIN: He suggested that we put air in our tires to save on gas. We're not going to achieve energy independence by inflating our tires. The only thing I've heard him say is that we should inflate our tires.

MOOS: This is what Senator Obama did say as he ticked off things individuals could do to save energy.

OBAMA: Making sure your tires are inflated.

MOOS: Those seven words became what the McCain campaign dubbed, Obama's Energy Plan. Emblazoned on tire pressure gauges they handed out on the press plane. The McCain folks even handed out tire gauges to people lining up for an Obama rally. They're being sold on eBay for 10 bucks. And over and over, Senator McCain used tire inflation to tread on Obama.

MCCAIN: Do you think that's enough to break our dependence on Middle Eastern oil? My opponent doesn't want to drill, he doesn't want nuclear power, he wants you to inflate your tires.

MOOS: Tire pressure, tire pressure! All this talk about tire pressure is raising my blood pressure. There's something wrong with my blood pressure. Hoo Hiss is what columnist Joe Klein is saying.

JOE KLIEN: **I think the McCain campaign has some weird idea that you can win a presidential election through mockery.**

MOOS: But the Automobile Association of America isn't mocking tire inflation, on a vehicle like this just one tire: So you're about 4lbs under inflated.

MOOS: Can result in this:

AAA EXPERT: So you're losing about 8% of your fuel economy.

MOOS: After several days of Republican spin on the tire issue Obama got tired of it.

BARACK OBAMA: They're going around, they're sending like little tire gauges, making fun of this idea as if this is Barack Obama's energy policy.

MOOS: His actual energy plan fills page after page on his website.

OBAMA: It's like these guys take pride in being ignorant. **They think it's funny that they are making fun of something that's actually true.**

MOOS: But watch your back, tire gauges can be hazardous. This guy used one to create a pipe to smoke ghanga. And our AAA expert found out it's not just the gauge that's feeling the pressure. [Expert hit in head with camera]

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CHETRY: By the way the McCain campaign emailed us with a reminder that **John McCain did say that he does agree we should keep our tires inflated to the optimum level.** He just doesn't think that it's enough to break our dependence on foreign oil. And as we said there are a bunch of these websites like politifect, who say that if your talking plausibility, **there is a chance perhaps that if we all were running on optimum tire pressure we could save as much as we could possible get from offshore drilling.**

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/13/2008 10:14:42 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Media Avail in Birmingham, MI 08/13/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was not allowed into this closed event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- Says that "In the 21st century, nations don't invade other nations"
- Says he "applauds" Bush's remarks on Georgia this morning and steps he called for
- Evades questions on where his hard-line view on Russia came from and whether Lieberman's comments in Teaneck yesterday were too political; says this isn't a time for partisan sniping
- Says he hopes he can make his faith clear at event with Rick Warren

Birmingham, MI: McCain Media Avail 08/13/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Speech Highlights

- Someone shook Cindy's hand too hard and sprained it
- situation in Georgia is perilous
- I'm pleased by Bush's remarks earlier today
- situation is of concern not only to Georgians but to all
- I welcome Sarkozy's visit
- ceasefire agreement omitted
- anyone committing acts of war should be held accountable
- the Baccaru pipleline has been shut down and Tbilisi pipeline is also closed
- US has planned a joint military op w/ Russia - we will now need to review nature of alliances, we need to assess whether it makes sense to continue to have Russia in G8 and consider
- discussion should begin anew on whether to include Georgia and Ukraine in NATO
- situation in Georgia remains fluid and dangerous
- ASAP lieberman and Graham will be travelling to Georgia - I hope other members of Armed Services Committee will seek an assessment - we need to protect independence and frdm of this brave nation

Question & Answer

- 1Q) Do you think there ought to be tightened security for Ukraine, Baltic States?
    - MCCAIN: Yes i do. Most heartening aspect of this has been visit of 5 presidents in this region to Tbilisi. What they ahve in common is having been under thumb of Russai. We need to help them maintain their independence. But I hope this is isolated.

- 2Q) Obama advisor said your comments on situation were initiially aggressive, belligerent and complicating matters - your response? and does your hard position make them less cooperative?
    - MCCAIN: This isn't a time for partisanship or sniping b/t campaigns. It's a time when thousands of innocent are dying or homeless. 2nd, there was another POTUS, Reagan, who spoke strongly about USA's advocacy for democracy adn frdm and he was criticized then.
    - 2nd, I know Saashkivili well, I've been to Georgia. I know that Georgians are suffering. Maybe later we can have a back-and-forht but now we should concentrate on helping situaiton.

- 3Q) [Carl Cameron] Disitnction b/t yourself and Lieberman yesterday in Teaneck. Obama has moral neutrality due to inexperience, vs you was strong and clear. A little political, no?
    - MCCAIN: Whatever we think at the moment that we can all reserve that for a future time. I think

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judgments will be made about how we handle this situation, the situation in Iraq, and American ppl will judge experience and judgment. There will be a time for that.

- 4Q) You said heightened security for Baltic states and Poland might be order - what shape might that take?
    - MCCAIN: We need to make sure that our NATO allies are recognized across the world, that in NATO alliance an attack on 1 is an attack on all. But I don't think we're goin gto reignite Cold War here. It's a serious situation, but not a return to nuclear standoffs. I want to have dialogue w/ Russia, I want them to get out of Georgia ASAP. **in 21st century, nations don't invade other nations.** We will decide later who was right and wrong. But Russian intervention in Georgia was unjustifiable. We need to show solidariyty. Behavior of 21st cnetury is one of respect for sovereignty of nations. That's what I meant.

- 5Q) 1- Do you think Bush's declartion of actions today went far enough? 2- Would you consider using US military force in this situation?
    - MCCAIN: 2nd question--No. 1st question, **I applaud Bush's comments this morning and I support the steps he called for.** I think we have sent a clear msg. Again, the time is now for all Americans to join together and take necessary actions to bring quick end to this conflict. First step is actual ceasefire, then Russian withdrawal from Georgina territory.

- 6Q) [Peter Hamby] You immediately took aggressive stance toward Russia. Where did these feelings toward Russ come from?
    - MCCAIN: My position toward Putin has been very clear for long time. I've been very concerned about Russian behavior for long time, from forcibly removing businesses in Russia or reducing oil flow to Czech Republic for doing business w / us, Putin's rhetoric, brutality toward Chechnya. Long list. I've advocated Russian cooperation in areas vital to world security, e.g. Iranian continued path to acquisition of nuclear weapons. I've given speeches about this since Putin came to power. This isn't a new stmt on my part. This is a new reaction to clearly aggressive act. In 21st century world shouldn't stand for this behavior. We should work it out peacefully and without loss of life. I have a long record of experience and background and knoweldge vis-a-vis our relations with Russia. Although I was deeply disappointed with Russ behaviour, this is 1 in a series of actions taken by PM Putin that I've objected to for a long time.

- 7Q) Do you also consdier yourself a 'citizen of the world'? In these times of Russia and IRan do you think it's an asset or liability to be citizen of the wrold?
    - MCCAIN: I am a person who has had honor and privilege of serving my country for # of years. I've alwasy put my country first and advocated for close cooperation with our allies. I believe my experience and background leads me to conclusion that USA is still world's leader in many respects and we remain a beacon of hope and liberty for ppl throughout the world incl. ppl of Georgia.

- 8Q) [Voice of America] There is a proposed US-Russia nuclear agrmt hung up in Congress. Brownback says we should reject it. Are you supporting this?
    - MCCAIN: I think Bush did the right thing when we canceled exercises w/ Russia. WE ahve to act in USA's natl security interest. EVen in height of Cold War, we had agreemetns w/ then-USSR in interests of both countries. I'd have to examine this proposal in light of whether it's in USA's security interests going forward. I'm not advocating cutting off relations w/ Russia. I'm not advocating reigniting Cold War. I'm advocating actions that'll make it clear to Russia that there are consequences for violating of norms of internatl behavior. But I will still support proposals/ agrmts b/t our 2 countries and other countries that are in USA's national security interest.

- 9Q) [Moisha, Fox News] You equivocated a bit on Carl's question. Do you think Lieberman's comments last

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night politicizing the issue were out of line and whether you're calling upon your own surrogates to refrain from that?

- MCCAIN: This is no time for that. The time is for USA to act united on behalf of Georgian ppl and not do a lot of partisan sniping. When this crisis is resolved--and I hope w/in next 24 hours, Russian troops will be withdrawn and negotiations initiated so there is an agrmt. And I remain concerned on issue of Georgian territorial integrity. So this isn't the time for back-and-forht.

- 10Q) [Detroit News] Parochial question- Proposals in Congress for making loan guarantees - there are # of us who think they're crucial for keeping bankruptcy at bay. Cong. Upton is one working on it. Do you support those proposals?
  - MCCAIN: I have heard most of those proposals. But I've also had mtgs with the Big 3 and they are confident w the new hybrids, w/ flex fuels and other technological advances, which will help auto industry AND create jobs throughout heartland, that they will succeed. So i worry about us predicting failure for auto makers when they're striving mightily--having made agrmts b/t management and labor on health care and pensions -- that they're going toward success thru new tech. I'll consdier proposals to help auto industry, incl. investment in R&D and tax credits for hybrid or flex fuels cars. To predict doom for auto industry is not timely. And it might become a self-fulfilling prophecy

- 11Q) What's your positive message for people in Michigan w/r/t the econ?
  - MCCAIN: We need to give new loans on mortgages. We need nuclear power plants. There will be an enormous market for the new autos and we need to give tax incentives to buy them. We need to give hope and confidence we'll get gov't spending under control.
  - These are tough times in MI. Congress should go back into session.

- 11Q) What are you doing to get the Catholic vote? Do you distinguish between Catholics who practice from those who don't?
  - MCCAIN: We don't distinguish. We're reaching out to all Americans. I have made my position clear on whom I'd submit for the Supreme Court and I advocate for the rights of the unborn.

- 12Q) You said you'd like to reassure countries in the Balkan region. What steps would you take?
  - MCCAIN: They will pay attention to what happens in Georgia. So we should bring about a ceasefire and remove Russian troops. This kind of behavior in the 21st century is unacceptable. We want Russia to behave as a mature nation.

- 13Q) You bring Lieberman with you a lot. Is he a running mate choice?
  - MCCAIN: We don't discuss that nor individuals.

- 14Q) Do you know about Detroit's mayor's issues? Do you think it's an issue for your campaign?
  - MCCAIN: Not enough info.

- **15Q) What msg will you bring to Rick Warren's church?**
  - **MCCAIN: I look forward to going. I hope I can make my faith clear. It's a way for lots of Americans to make a judgment. I wish Obama would join me so we could answer together.**

- 16Q) How'd Cindy hurt herself?

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    - CINDY MCCAIN: I'll be fine.

- 17Q) Will you accept the debate invitation?
    - MCCAIN: We're in discussions about that. I haven't gotten into much detail on it.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/13/2014 7:06:16 AM
Subject: News Update - August 13

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, August 13

Headlines:

- **Israel Won't Cooperate with UN Commission of Inquiry**
- **Lieberman: Israel Must Defeat Hamas**
- **Opposition to Netanyahu Strengthens After Gaza War**
- **After Month of Fighting, Gazans Questioning Hamas Decisions**
- **Hamas Official Says Group Preparing for 'Long Battle'**
- **IDF to Line Gaza Border with Tunnel Detection Systems**
- **Month of War Leaves Israel with Tricky Economic Outlook**
- **Islamic State Seizes More Territory in Syria**

Commentary:

- **New York Times: "Role in Gaza Talks Signals a Comeback for Abbas"**
  - By Isabel Kershner
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "We've Seen This Bad Movie Before"**
  - By Aviad Kleinberg

Israel Radio

Israel Won't Cooperate with UN Commission of Inquiry

Israel is expected to form an independent investigative committee for Operation Protective Edge, and will not cooperate with the Schabas commission. The political echelon in Jerusalem is drawing up a plan not to cooperate with the commission of inquiry formed by the UN Human Rights Council, but will form an Israeli investigative committee headed by a retired Supreme Court justice who is held in high regard by the international legal community. This committee will be given a mandate to investigate whether the use of force by IDF forces in the operation was proportional.
See also, "State comptroller to investigate whether Israel violated int'l law during Gaza op" (Ha'aretz)

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Ha'aretz

Lieberman: Israel Must Defeat Hamas

Israel must defeat Hamas even at the price of a further escalation of the conflict with Gaza, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Wednesday, adding that no peace deal is possible until Hamas is vanquished. Speaking to local politicians in the south, Lieberman said Operation Protective Edge must not be halted until Hamas returns the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza. He threatened that Israel would assassinate top Hamas leaders if Hamas did not return the bodies.

See also, "Peres tells BBC: World must reinstall Abbas, Palestinian Authority as ruler in Gaza" (Jerusalem Post)

Jerusalem Post

Opposition to Netanyahu Strengthens After Gaza War

Prime Minister Netanyahu was not honest with the people of Israel regarding the fate of the Gaza Strip, opposition leader Herzog said in a speech to residents of Netiv Ha'asara, a moshav on the Gaza border, on Tuesday. Herzog backed Netanyahu throughout Operation Protective Edge, but he has been increasingly critical since IDF troops pulled out last week. "The real victory will only come in a diplomatic agreement and not in any other way," Herzog said. Netanyahu also faced criticism from right-wing MKs inside the Likud ahead of a possible agreement with Hamas to extend ceasefire.

See also, "Opposition leader Isaac Herzog: We must start a political process to create a Palestinian state" (BICOM)

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Ynet News

After Month of Fighting, Gazans Questioning Hamas Decisions

Gazans are starting to be vocal in their criticism of Hamas, the Washington Post reported Wednesday. Rafaat Shamiya, 40, a resident of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza, condemned the rocket fire from residential areas, as it inevitably resulted in an IDF reaction. "When they fire from here, Israel repays us with an F-16 airstrike," Shamiya told the newspaper. "We don't have the power to fight the Israeli. While he is sitting in his office in Israel, he can destroy all of Gaza by remote control." Meanwhile, the paper said, other Gazans are criticizing Hamas for not accepting an Egyptian ceasefire proposal after the first week of the IDF operation. "All the people are whispering, 'Why didn't Hamas accept the Egyptian initiative in the beginning of the war when the casualties were still low?' " the Post quoted Palestinian journalist and political analyst Hani Habib as saying.

See also, "As ware with Israel shatters lives, more Gazans questions Hamas decisions" (Washington Post)

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Jerusalem Post

Hamas Official Says Group Preparing for 'Long Battle'

The 72-hour cease-fire is to expire at midnight Wednesday, with Israeli officials unable or unwilling to predict whether it will be extended or the fighting will start anew. Finance Minister Yair Lapid, part of the eight-member security cabinet, said the gaps between Israel and Hamas in indirect talks in Cairo were "wide." Yehya Musa, a senior Hamas official in the Gaza Strip, said his movement was preparing for a "long battle" with Israel. The Palestinians "won't accept humiliation," Musa said, during a pro-Hamas rally in Khan Yunis.

See also, "Amidror: Reoccupation of Gaza 'only military way' to stop rockets" (Jerusalem Post)

Israel Hayom

IDF to Line Gaza Border with Tunnel Detection Systems

Israel is preparing to build a network of sensors to try to detect tunnel building by terrorists along the 68-kilometer (42-mile) Israel-Gaza Strip border, and also plans to place physical obstacles in some of the more sensitive places along the border, a senior military official said Monday. According to the official, the system in question has successfully graduated its initial testing stages and will now be deployed on the ground for an operational trial. Should the trial prove successful, the military would have to invest between 1.5 and 2.5 billion shekels ($430 million to $720 million) in deploying the system along the border. He noted that it could take up to a year for the system to be fully in place and operational. The past few years have seen the Israel Defense Forces test some 700 pilot programs as part of its effort to counter the threat posed by terror tunnels along the southern border.

Reuters

Month of War Leaves Israel with Tricky Economic Outlook

Israel's month-long war with Hamas in Gaza has added fuel to a Palestinian boycott movement and may damage investor sentiment towards Israel at the margins, even if the $250 billion hi-tech economy looks set to emerge largely unscathed. Analysts expect the war to have dented growth and cost several billion dollars - foreign tourism alone fell by 25 percent in July. But Israel has weathered such storms in the past and tends to rebound within a few months, with output expanding at around 3-4 percent a year in recent years. The additional concern this time is that unrest in the West Bank has become more frequent and intense, the threat of a resumption of war in Gaza - the fourth in eight years - is very real, and international criticism of Israel has been loud, particularly in Europe, fuelling those who support a boycott.

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Reuters

Islamic State Seizes More Territory in Syria

Islamic State insurgents have seized several towns and villages from rival Islamist groups in the Syrian province of Aleppo, opening the way for further westward advances. Islamic State's advance in Syria has accelerated since the group seized control of the Iraqi city of Mosul in June, declaring a caliphate in areas under its control in a bid to redraw the borders of the Middle East. Islamic State is tightening its grip over areas of Syria under its control, including the city of Raqqa on the Euphrates river. Raqqa has become Islamic State's Syrian power base.

New York Times – August, 12, 2014

Role in Gaza Talks Signals a Comeback for Abbas

By Isabel Kershner

For months Israel called on President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority to break with Hamas, the Islamic group that controls Gaza, and to dismantle the new government that resulted from the reconciliation agreement.

That April deal scuttled the American-backed Middle East negotiations as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly declared, "Whoever chooses the terrorism of Hamas does not want peace."

But Mr. Abbas is making a comeback as a major player in the Egyptian-mediated talks in Cairo to end the latest war in Gaza, and he is emerging as a potential linchpin for Israel, Egypt and Hamas as they seek new and lasting arrangements for that Palestinian coastal enclave.·

Israel has no direct dealings with Hamas, which refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, and Egypt under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has turned hostile to the group. So Mr. Netanyahu told reporters here last week that cooperation with the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority was "important" for the reconstruction of Gaza and the flow of humanitarian aid. He praised the authority for helping coordinate the second 72-hour cease-fire, which held for another day on Tuesday. And he has dropped his public condemnations of the Palestinian government.

"Things have changed, don't you agree?" Yair Lapid, Israel's finance minister and the leader of the government's second-largest party, Yesh Atid, said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

"One of the problems we had with what they called the technocratic government was that everyone felt Hamas was too strong and might take over," Mr. Lapid said. "Hamas has weakened since then, both militarily and policywise."

If Israel had worried before that the Palestinian reconciliation government supported by Hamas was "a tool for Hamas to go to the West Bank, now it can be a tool for bringing the West Bank to Gaza," he added.

Udi Dekel, a former lead Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians who is

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now a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, said that most of the Israeli government supported this idea of "turning the reconciliation inside out."

"The direction, without saying it loud and clear, is that Israel is reconciling itself to the reconciliation and trying to reap some benefits," Mr. Dekel said.

Evidence of a change in Israeli policy came with the arrival of Ziad Abu Amr, the deputy prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza on Tuesday. Mr. Abu Amr said that the Israelis had repeatedly denied him a travel permit from the West Bank during the fighting, but that word came around 10 a.m. that he could enter Gaza through Israel's Erez crossing.

"I hope the Israelis are changing their mind and lifting the ban on the national reconciliation government," he said in an interview. "I think Cairo is having a sobering effect. It's going to bring everyone back to see reality and to be realistic."

Mr. Lapid and other centrist ministers have put forward their own plans in recent days for an ambitious new order, including the restoration of Palestinian Authority control in Gaza. That ended in 2007, when Hamas routed Mr. Abbas's forces, leading to a bitter seven-year schism between the Palestinian factions.

But Mr. Abbas remains politically weak among his people, and few of the Israeli ministers have an immediate prescription for restoring his rule in Gaza, beyond allowing the Palestinian Authority's forces to supervise the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt. In addition, the fractious Israeli government coalition remains divided on the broader issue of peace and, some critics said, appears to lack any unified vision. The fact that several ministers have put forward plans "means the government has no plan," Mr. Dekel said.

Hamas has demanded the lifting of the economic blockade of Gaza, an expansion of the permitted fishing zone in the Mediterranean, a new seaport, the reconstruction of Gaza's airport and the release of Palestinian prisoners, possibly in exchange for the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in the recent fighting.

Israel backs the idea of an internationally financed reconstruction package for Gaza funneled through Mr. Abbas, to enable supervision and bolster his influence and standing among the Palestinians. Israel also wants measures to prevent Hamas from rearming.

Mr. Lapid's diplomatic initiative calls for an international conference, hosted by Egypt, to include the United States, Europe, Russia, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Israel and "moderate Arab states including Saudi Arabia," to work for the demilitarization of Gaza and the return of the Palestinian Authority there.

Mr. Lapid said that the plan was being discussed in the Israeli government and that there had been "some very interesting reactions from the Arab world," though he refused to elaborate. "Everyone understands that the point is not to have some extended cease-fire for Gaza that will collapse in a few months or a year and a half at best. Something deeper needs to be achieved, and so there is a need to get the Arab world involved."

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Another senior member of Mr. Lapid's party, Yaakov Peri, the government's minister for science and technology, went further, telling The Washington Post this week that the scope of the talks could expand to include a permanent Israeli-Palestinian peace deal based on the Arab Peace Initiative, a plan first proposed in 2002 that offered Israel normalized relations throughout the Arab world.

Tzipi Livni, the justice minister and the government's chief negotiator with the Palestinians, last weekend presented her parameters for talks that include the restoration of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza. Issues like the seaport and airport should be discussed with Mr. Abbas's Palestine Liberation Organization, she said, "as part of a final status agreement." Asked if Mr. Netanyahu had adopted her proposal, she said cryptically, "The principles represent most of my friends in the government."

They presumably do not include Naftali Bennett, the leader of the right-wing Jewish Home party, who said in an interview on Israeli television on Monday that Mr. Abbas was "a partner for terror" and that the idea of a Palestinian state was over. "That line that Abu Mazen is some kind of Mama Teresa — we are deluding ourselves," he said, referring to Mr. Abbas by his popular name.

Avigdor Lieberman, Israel's foreign minister and the leader of the ultranationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party, has called for a "decisive victory over Hamas."

Prof. Efraim Inbar, the director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, said that Israel did not view Mr. Abbas as powerful enough to take over Gaza in practice but that Israel was reluctant to re-invade Gaza. "What Israel wants is quiet at a minimum price," Professor Inbar said. "For now the Egyptians say let him send a few soldiers to Gaza, and we are saying O.K. I don't think it will go beyond that."

Yedioth Ahronoth – August 13, 2014

We've Seen this Bad Movie Before

By Aviad Kleinberg

Ostensibly, the State of Israel's goal is the elimination of Hamas, and the means of obtaining this goal is the use of more and more force, until Hamas yields. But there seems to be confusion here between the means and the end. Israel's true end goal is not the elimination of Hamas—that is a means, at most—but rather to minimize the loss of lives and property damage to its citizens and to improve its standing in the geopolitical arena.

Once this goal has been defined, it appears that the idea of the takeover of Gaza—which is presented by some right wing spokespersons as a victory—becomes a questionable move. The takeover of Gaza and the ongoing control of Gaza will not give Israel greater security, and will certainly not strengthen its international standing. It will entail many losses for Israel and even greater losses for the Palestinians. These will give rise to much greater international opposition than was created by Operation Protective Edge.

But even after the takeover, the problems will not end. It is possible that no more rockets will be fired at Israel, but the number of fatalities among the IDF soldiers will rise dramatically, as shown by the Israeli

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experience in southern Lebanon. It is also not at all certain that our presence in the Gaza Strip will completely stop the terrorism. After all, we have already been through this story. We have already controlled Gaza, we have killed and have been killed. There is no place that Israel left with a greater sense of relief than Gaza.

The wise, so it is said, learn from others' experience. We should learn from the American experience in Iraq. The Americans did not make do with limited operations like Israel. They went for broke: They occupied all of Iraq and "chopped off the head of the snake" (Saddam Hussein and the Baath Party). The outcome was catastrophic by any measure.

Not only did the American rule lead to great bloodshed and an increase in terrorism in Iraq, but when the Americans left (since they did not want to rule Iraq, only to solve the problem of its "Hamas-like" regime), the entire region went up in flames.

I am aware, of course, of the differences between Iraq and Gaza, but they should not hide the commonalities from us: A military victory without policy (The US completely ignored any non-military aspect of its actions in Iraq, such as strengthening Iran by neutralizing its greatest enemy) is no guarantee of stability. When you enter a swamp, you have to take into account that you will have to stay there and take full responsibility for it for a long time. It is no surprise that the Egyptians do not want to control Gaza. Whoever controls Gaza gains little and pays a great deal.

Hamas is an organization that is fueled by the continuation of the "struggle." It is in Hamas's interest to drag us into using force. It is not deterred by losses. The language of violence and death is Hamas's language. It speaks it well. When we speak this language, it is not weakened, it gains strength. Again and again we are surprised by the fact that painful blows do not destabilize it. The opposite is true.

What can weaken Hamas is to take steps that will throw it off balance, create internal opposition to it or force it to change. The necessary step to take, therefore, is not military but rather diplomatic—to place on the table a serious Israeli offer for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which will receive Arab and international support.

And why are we incapable of taking such a step? Naftali Bennett tells us that the reason is security. In the name of security they oppose any diplomatic initiative. The opposition is in the best case an expression of conceptual fixation and in the worst case, deception. The reason that Bennett and his friends are opposed to a diplomatic initiative is not Israel's security, but rather preserving the settlements, and specifically preserving the settlement outposts. The State of Israel is clinging to the settlement dream and paying a heavy security and political price. The time has come to wake up.

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Date: 1/19/2016 3:16:50 PM
Subject: Tara Sonenshine - "An American journalist finally comes home"

Contributors feed **THEHILL.COM**
January 18, 2016, 07:30 am
An American journalist finally comes home
By Tara Sonenshine, contributor

20

Getty Images

The release of American journalist Jason Rezaian and four other Americans from imprisonment in Iran caps a frantic week of U.S.-Iranian relations. The roller-coaster ride included the capture by Iran of 10 American sailors on the day of the State of the Union, a clearly staged confession and their quick release, followed by a prisoner swap with clemency for seven Iranians held in the United States and the transfer of Rezaian and the three others to American custody. (Left out of the deal is long-held hostage Robert Levinson.) All of this takes places against the backdrop of a monumental nuclear agreement between the United States and Iran, a historic achievement for the Obama administration. Implementation of the agreement is about to start.

For those of us dedicated to the profession of journalism, this is a huge day. Rezaian has paid a high price for bringing us information from Iran. Having been imprisoned in July 2014, Rezaian has suffered enormously, as have other Americans unfairly held. Unlike Western systems of jurisprudence, Iran's justice system remains shrouded in secrecy. Little information was made public about the charges against Rezaian, the conditions of his imprisonment or his ordeal.

Journalism is hard work. Despite a world of blogs, hashtags, tweets and texts, the real work remains that of honest, genuine, authentic, on-the-ground reporters who risk life and limb to bring us the news. When reporters go missing or die covering stories, we mourn. When reporters are imprisoned or held against their will, we must continue to demand their freedom. In the case of Washington Post correspondent Rezaian, our pleas have been heard.

Years ago, I worked on the campaign to free another American from Iran: Haleh Esfandiari, a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. In 2007, Haleh was interrogated for almost eight months, spending nearly four of them in the same notorious prison where Rezaian was held. Like Rezaian, Esfandiari had family roots in both Iran and the United States. Her release came about because of both public pressure and private pressure. The same is true for Rezaian.

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It is easy to take for granted the freedoms that we in the United States enjoy, and the risks that others take in leaving these shores — especially when the mission is to keep us educated and aware of life in other lands. The right to be informed is a fundamental right of all citizens and without credible, independent reporting, that right is denied to citizens. We must continue to fight for journalists and for open media, the building blocks of open societies.

For Rezaian's family, the next few days and weeks will be filled with joy at his release and sadness for the precious months of his life unnecessarily lost. The adjustment to regular life will be hard. For those of us who have benefitted from his work, and watched this sad saga, we say thank you, and welcome home.

Sonenshine is former under secretary of State for public diplomacy and public affairs. She is currently based at George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/23/2015 3:40:24 AM
Subject: Invitation: Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili to speak at the Wilson Center

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Director's Forum

Wilson Center

A Conversation with the President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili

Georgia is Europe's gateway between the East and the West. It lies at the heart of a region rapidly changing—Russia, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia. An aspirant to EU and NATO, Georgia's soldiers have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan as America's allies. Its democracy has developed against the odds in a neighborhood where power is often exercised without popular consent. How will the strategic realignments underway in Eurasia affect Georgia? Is Georgia's embrace of the West enduring, and what path links Georgia's future to Europe and America? How can the US benefit from Georgia's further Western integration?

His Excellency the President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili will discuss these issues with the Honorable Jane Harman, Director, President, and CEO of the Wilson Center, and then take your questions, at the Wilson Center on Thursday, October 1 at 11:00am.

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Thursday, October 1, 2015
11:00am-12:00pm

6th floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Eleni Kounalakis" <kounalakiset@gmail.com>
"Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 3/10/2016 7:27:28 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Greek Community Call

I like the idea.

On Thursday, March 10, 2016, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:

> Laura -
>
> We had a terrific call today with John Podesta and Governor Dukakis and the Greek American community. Some participants are asking for a position paper/memo on where Secretary stands on some key issues.
>
> I've been leading the EU/Russia sub-group effort on the migration crisis, so I have a good idea of how you are formatting the framing memos. This would be a little different, but would you let me take a crack at a 1 pager on issues important to the community, that they can use with their networks?
>
> We would also like to let call participants know that something is coming, if that works for you.
>
> Thanks and hope to hear back soon. Eleni
>
> Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
> 2500 Steiner Street #9
> San Francisco, CA 94115
> KounalakisET@gmail.com

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From: "Evelyn Farkas" <efarkas@aol.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/21/2016 11:53:15 AM
Subject: Re: Following up from Tony's brunch - Ethnic surrogate work for HRC

Sounds great. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 21, 2016, at 6:27 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Thanks Evelyn. Good seeing you and we will follow up in the next few days.
>
> On Sunday, February 21, 2016, <efarkas@aol.com > wrote:
>
> > John,
> > As I mentioned, as a second-generation (parents came here in '56) Hungarian-American, I'd love to do surrogate work for HRC with the ethnic Eastern European communities, in addition to the foreign policy work with Jake and Laura.
> >
> > Let me know what I need to do to get it going. As of now I have trips planned to give lectures in the spring in Newport, RI and Seattle and London next week (I did participate in a Munich fundraiser with Melanne V. the week before last and could do something like that again.) I also do a lot of media, mainly right now on Russia and the Middle East -- Amanpour probably next Monday, BBC radio tomorrow am.
> >
> > Attached is more info about me than you could ever need! - Evelyn

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/6/2015 5:26:26 PM
Subject: New News! (11/06/2015)

---

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending November 6, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

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- Flight recorders point to bomb attack; Russia suspends Egypt flights
- Obama rejects Keystone XL pipeline
- Rubio gains in the polls, donations, becomes a target for rivals
- Yellen suggests December Fed rate hike more likely
- Turkey's Erdogan holds onto power amid regional crises

Polls

Bush free falling in new Quinnipiac national poll: Trump 24%, **Carson** 23%, **Rubio** 14%, **Cruz** 13%, **Bush** 4%. "In... September,... **Bush** earned 10%... [This week] in terms of favorability, no one polled lower than **Bush**. Just 25%... said they had a positive opinion of him, while 58% said they had a negative one." **Nick Gass**, *Politico* **[More]** *Quinnipiac* **[Poll]**

New Hampshire: Hillary Clinton leads 48% to 45% over Bernie Sanders: Sanders retains his sizable advantage among registered independents and new voters, men, and younger voters. **Clinton** has made significant gains in the past two months with registered Democrats, women, and older voters." *Monmouth University* **[Poll]**

2016 Campaign

Rubio rises, becomes a target for GOP rivals: Sensing a threat, **Trump** and **Bush** sense attack Rubio's finances and missed votes. **Jenna Johnson** and **Sean Sullivan**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Red States getting redder? Off-year elections reveal a 2016 map with sharper borders: "As the parties head into a new presidential year, the country's partisan divide has deepened. Republicans walked away from Tuesday with the big wins. Democrats walked away with fresh confidence that their map can win a third presidential election in a row." **David Weigel,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Paul Singer declares his support for Marco Rubio:.**Singer** raised more than $3 million in hard money for **Romney** in 2012 (primary and general) and plans to do much more for **Rubio**. **Mike Allen,** *Politico* **[More]**

Backlash to culture wars? Houston voters reject anti-discrimination ordinance: "A yearlong

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battle over gay and transgender rights that turned into a costly, ugly war of words between this city's lesbian mayor and social conservatives ended Tuesday as voters easily repealed an anti-discrimination ordinance...The measure failed by a vote of 61% to 39%." **Manny Fernandez** and **Mitch Smith,** *New York Times* **[More]**

GOP win in Kentucky sets up unprecedented Affordable Care Act fight: "In polls, Kentucky voters rejected Obamacare at roughly the rate they rejected the president, 2-1. But they were fond of KYnect, which [Governor] **Beshear** created by executive order, bypassing a gridlocked Kentucky legislature. Month by month, Kentuckians took advantage of the state's Medicaid expansion or the plans offered on the exchange, and the state's uninsured rate plummeted from 20.4 percent to 9 percent." **David Weigel,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

The decline of the swing voter: According to new research by political scientist **Corwin Smidt,** "The percentage of floating voters has declined from a high of 15% to 5 %. Meanwhile, the consistent partisans... have become more prevalent...One implication, is that American voters should be less responsive to election-year forces, like shifts in the economy or other important events. Another is that politicians have less incentive to appeal to swing voters and more incentive to appeal to their loyal supporters." **John Sides,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

The Economy

Fed's Yellen hints at raised interest rates in December: "The Fed expects that the economy will continue to grow at a pace sufficient to generate further improvements in the labor market and to return inflation to our 2% target over the medium term, and if the incoming information supports that expectation, then…'December would be a live possibility'," **Janet Yellen**, Chair of the Fed." **Ben Leubsdorf,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Kenneth Rogoff (TCG Speaker) argues for waiting on Fed hike: "Personally, I would probably err on the side of waiting longer and accept the very high risk that, when inflation does rise, it will do so briskly, requiring a steeper path of interest-rate hikes later. The case for waiting is that we really have no idea of what the equilibrium real (inflation-adjusted) policy interest rate is right now, and as such, need a clear signal on price growth before moving." **Kenneth Rogoff,** Op-Ed, *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

Stronger-than-expected jobs report: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that nonfarm payrolls rose by a seasonally adjusted 271,000 jobs in October. It was well ahead of expectations of 183,000 jobs added. *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

"How's the economy doing?" is not the right question: "We've got two economic problems: slack and distribution...If the private sector won't generate the economic activity we need, the public sector must pick up the slack, as it were. Infrastructure investment in our deteriorating stock of public goods, direct job creation in places where jobs are nowhere to be seen even at low unemployment, quality pre-K for all 3-4 year-olds— all are great investment targets that I suspect would lower slack, raise the speed limit and improve distributional outcomes...None will happen because of political constraints." **Jared Bernstein,** Op-Ed, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Russian plane crash result of a bomb; Putin suspends flights to Egypt: "President **Vladimir Putin** made the announcement after UK investigators said they believed a bomb was put in the plane's hold prior to take-off, killing all 224 people on board... Militants linked to the Islamic State group say they downed the plane." *BBC News* **[More]**

John Kerry seeks to check Russia's influence in Central Asia: "Secretary of State **John Kerry, (TCG Speaker)** is seeking to boost trade and security ties with countries at risk of falling further under the sway of the Kremlin. Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has increasingly sought to rally the former Soviet states of the region behind a Moscow push to fight the Islamic State and other Islamist militant groups that are spreading their influence across the Middle East and Central Asia. Mr. Kerry stressed that these countries didn't need to fall into a Russian bloc in order to fight the shared threat of the Islamic State." **Jay Solomon,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Despite new impetus, differences thwart Israeli-Palestinian peace effort: "[Recent]

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violence...has created a new impetus to revive a political process between the two sides...but there is no international agreement on what approach to adopt...New Zealand is circulating a draft resolution that backs having a period of confidence-building efforts to improve the situation but also seeks more politically challenging moves such as an Israeli settlement freeze and a Palestinian commitment to steer clear of new cases at the International Criminal Court. **Rory Jones** and **Laurence Norman,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Erdogan wins election in Turkey: The victory will ensure his continued dominance of Turkish politics after months of political turmoil and violence. "The result will permit Mr. Erdogan to remain the country's pre-eminent political figure while pushing the boundaries of the constitutional limits of the presidency, a largely ceremonial role." **Tim Arango** and **Ceylan Yeginsun,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Obama finalizing plan to close Guantanamo: "A political impasse over the Guantánamo prison appears increasingly likely to force **[President Obama]** to choose between two politically unsavory options: Invoke executive power to relocate the remaining detainees in defiance of a statute, or allow history to say he never fulfilled his promise to shutter the prison." **Charlie Savage**, *New York Times* **[More]**

World's mass migration crisis may get worse: "There are more displaced people and refugees now than at any other time in recorded history — 60 million in all...The most striking thing about the current migration crisis, however, is how much bigger it could still get." **Rod Nordland,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Transitional leadership and political solution needed for Syria: "What Syria needs is a broad-based transitional coalition government which maintains institutions - learning from missteps in Iraq- and takes more measured, gradual steps towards democratic change - learning from missteps in Egypt. Stability and security in Syria are in the United States' national interest...Removing **Bashar al-Assad** and installing **Rifaat al-Assad (TCG Speaker)** as interim president...provides the best circumstances for achieving this outcome." **David Avital (TCG Member)** and **Marc Engberg,** Op-Ed, *American Diplomacy* **[More]**

How the Syrian conflict could get even bigger and bloodier: Is Syria turning into a proxy war? "**President Obama** is sending fewer than 50 Special Operations forces to Syria, but make no mistake, this is a significant commitment. The U.S. troops will need air support — not just to bomb the Islamic State, but for resupply, rescue if they get in trouble, and perhaps to enable the cycle of intelligence-driven "night raids " that was so devastating in Iraq. **David Ignatius,** Op-Ed, *Washington Post* **[More]**

American airstrikes targeted what was "probably the largest" al-Qaeda training camp found in the 14-year Afghan war: The multi-day operation in southern Afghanistan involved 200 Special Operations forces and scores of airstrikes...Some 160 al-Qaeda fighters were reported killed." **Dan Lamothe**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

New data shows China burns more coal than reported, complicating climate talks: "China, the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases from coal, has been burning up to 17% more coal a year than the government previously disclosed... Even for a country of China's size, the scale of the correction is immense." **Chris Buckley,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Leaders of China and Taiwan scheduled to meet for the first time: The formulation reflects China's insistence that Taiwan and the mainland are part of a single Chinese nation, but it also affords both leaders equal status, possibly an attempt to blunt criticism in Taiwan that **Ma Ying-jeou** is pandering to China." **Simon Denyer,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Obama rejects Keystone XL pipeline: "'Keystone has had an "over-inflated role in our political discourse' and the project's potential to create jobs and the potential environmental threats were exaggerated. Secretary of State **John Kerry** concluded the controversial project is not in the country's national security interest." **Elise Labott** and **Dan Berman**, *CNN* **[More]**

Ryan says he won't work with Obama on immigration reform: The new Speaker of the House's statement effectively pushed the issue off until at least 2017. **Josh Earnest,** the White House press secretary, described the speaker's stance as "a source of deep disappointment." **Nicholas Fando,** *New York Times* **[More]**

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The House passes $325 billion transportation bill: The debate tested new **Speaker Paul Ryan**'s promise for a more egalitarian and participatory legislative process in the House. "The bill calls for spending $261 billion on highways and $55 billion on transit over six years." **Keith Lang,** *The Hill* **[More]**

Bill Gates on the private sector's role in combatting climate change: Gates expressed his willingness to pledge $2 billion to further climate change efforts, and encouraged other figures of wealth to do the same. **Gates** said: "Yes, the government will be somewhat inept… But the private sector is in general inept. How many companies do venture capitalists invest in that go poorly? By far most of them." **James Bennet,** *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Books & Film

Ben Bernanke: ***The Courage to Act: A Memoir of a Crisis and its Aftermath:*** Bernanke's memoir of the crisis and Great Recession is "essential reading" according to the *New York Times*

Jon Meacham (TCG speaker): "*Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush.*" "Bush has finally broken his public silence ... issuing scathing critiques of Vice President **Dick Cheney (TCG Speaker)** and Defense Secretary **Donald H. Rumsfeld**" **Peter Baker,** *New York Times* **[More]**

***Truth*:** The doc depicts the *60 Minutes*' 2004 investigation into **President George W. Bush**'s service record in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War. **Jeff Labrecque**, *Entertainment Weekly* **[More]**

In Memoriam - Fred Thompson: A former U.S. senator, actor and Republican presidential candidate, died on Sunday in Nashville. He was 73.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III

Monday, November 9, 2015

Lunch & remarks: 12:00-1:30pm

Executive Members only.

Limited seating available. Please register by Monday, November 2nd, 2015.

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Empowering Half the World

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband
Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan, and our interns, Tracey Pennito, Justin Vacura, and Samar Nadi.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/13/2015 2:48:05 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday February 13, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday February 13, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times opinion: Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bill Frist: "Save the Children's Insurance"

"No child in America should be denied the chance to see a doctor when he or she needs one — but if Congress doesn't act soon, that's exactly what might happen."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Hillary calls for extending CHIP funding"

"The op-ed also marks the second time in as many weeks that Clinton has jumped into a healthcare debate."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton Consults Experts to Chart Foreign-Policy Agenda"

"The major takeaway from these private talks is that she wants a strategy more suited to shaping conditions overseas, as opposed to reacting to events as they arise, people familiar with the meetings said."

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton's Play for Pennsylvania"

"Pennsylvania is a geographically and demographically diverse state—and how Clinton fares there among the state's electorate will be an indication of her ability to shape a winning national coalition."

Politico: "Who's going to win Iowa and N.H.? Introducing The POLITICO Caucus"

"The consensus across this group is that Hillary Clinton is almost guaranteed to become the Democratic nominee. Only four of 70 who answered

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guessed that a Democrat other than Clinton will ultimately win their state."

The Daily Beast: "Progressives: Between Hillary and a Hard Place"

"Without a candidate to get behind, some liberal and labor groups are focusing instead on changing the complexion of the electorate, hoping that Clinton can be pulled to the left by forces on the ground."

BuzzFeed: "Top Latino Donors Warn Clinton: Do Better With Latinos Than Dems Did In Florida, Colorado"

"Unlike the highly competitive Republican landscape, Clinton is expected to be the Democratic nominee — the question for Democratic donors then is less whether they'll support her, and instead, with how much money and what their priorities are. And when it comes to the growing base of Latino donors looking to make their mark, the answer is incorporating Latinos into a campaign in a real way, from the vice presidential selection to the on-the-ground outreach to voters."

Business Insider: "Iowa Republicans are embracing Joe Biden to troll Hillary Clinton"

"Republicans are mocking Hillary Clinton's absence from the 2016 campaign trail by rolling out the red carpet for Vice President Joe Biden."

Articles:

New York Times opinion: Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bill Frist: "Save the Children's Insurance"

By Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bill Frist

February 12, 2015

No child in America should be denied the chance to see a doctor when he or she needs one — but if Congress doesn't act soon, that's exactly what might happen.

For the past 18 years, the Children's Health Insurance Program has provided much-needed coverage to millions of American children. And yet, despite strong bipartisan support, we are concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program. As parents, grandparents and former legislators, we believe that partisan politics should never stand between our kids and quality health care.

We may be from different political parties, but both of us have dedicated our careers to supporting the health of children and their families. This shared commitment inspired us to work together in the late 1990s to help create CHIP to address the needs of the two million children whose families make too much money to be covered by Medicaid, but cannot afford private insurance.

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The resulting program, a compromise between Republicans and Democrats, disburses money to the states but gives them flexibility to tailor how they provide coverage to meet the needs of their own children and families. Some expanded Medicaid; others created separate programs. As a result, the number of uninsured children in America has dropped by half. Children miss less school because of illness or injury, and we've seen a significant decline in childhood mortality.

Today, state governments continue to rely on the program to meet crucial health and budget priorities. It's not surprising that every single governor who responded to a 2014 survey — 39 in all — supported saving CHIP.

Of course, the American health care landscape has changed significantly since CHIP started. Under the Affordable Care Act, many families with children are now receiving financial help to enroll in private health coverage through the new health insurance marketplace. But while it is possible that private, family-wide policies offered by employers and marketplaces may one day render CHIP unnecessary, for now substantial gaps still exist — and too many children can still fall through them.

One specific provision of the Affordable Care Act, often called the "family glitch," has been interpreted to prevent many families from receiving subsidized health coverage in the new marketplace if one parent is offered "affordable coverage" through his or her job. In this case, "affordable" is defined as less than roughly 9.5 percent of household income for that parent to sign up alone — even though the actual cost of available family coverage is far higher. For families affected by this glitch, CHIP may be the only affordable option for making sure their children are covered.

We already know what happens when CHIP is no longer an option for families. According to a recent report from the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, as many as 14,000 children in Arizona lost their health insurance after 2010, when it became the only state to drop CHIP.

We don't want to see the same thing happen across the country. If CHIP is not reauthorized, more families will be hit with higher costs. As many as two million children could lose coverage altogether. Millions more will have fewer health care benefits and much higher out-of-pocket costs, threatening access to needed health services. And because families without adequate insurance often miss out on preventive care and instead receive more expensive treatment in hospital emergency rooms, all of us will be likely to end up paying part of the bill.

While reauthorization is not due until the end of September, Congress needs to act now. With more than four-fifths of state legislatures adjourning by the end of June, lack of action and clarity from Washington by then will make budgeting and planning virtually impossible.

Reauthorizing CHIP for the next four years would cost about $10 billion — an investment in our children that will pay off for decades to come. This is an opportunity to send a message that Washington is still capable of making common-sense progress for American families.

As 2015 unfolds, we know Congress will continue to debate the future of health care reform. We most likely won't see eye to eye about some of the more contentious questions. But one thing everyone should be able to agree on is that our most vulnerable children shouldn't be caught in the crossfire.

This isn't about politics. It's about our kids and our nation's future. What could be more important than that?

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Hillary calls for extending CHIP funding"

By Jesse Byrnes

February 12, 2015, 9:29 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is pushing for Congress to reauthorize the federal government's child healthcare program, lending her support to congressional Democrats looking to keep the program around.

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"[D]espite strong bipartisan support, we are concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program," Clinton and former GOP Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (Tenn.) wrote in an op-ed in The New York Times on Thursday.

"As parents, grandparents and former legislators, we believe that partisan politics should never stand between our kids and quality health care," the pair added.

Clinton, the presumed 2016 Democratic presidential frontrunner, is calling on Congress to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program's (CHIP) funding for the next four years, labeling the approximately $10 billion expense "an investment in our children that will pay off for decades to come."

Senate Democrats have launched their own push to reauthorize the program, signing on as co-sponsors of a bill that would extend funding through 2019. Currently, the program's funding runs out at the end of September. A companion bill was also introduced in the House on Thursday.

The program, which has been around for the better part of two decades, covers about 10 million children. Some Republicans have cast CHIP as duplicative given benefits under ObamaCare, and say additional subsidies and eligibility under Medicaid make the program as unnecessary.

"If CHIP is not reauthorized, more families will be hit with higher costs. As many as two million children could lose coverage altogether. Millions more will have fewer health care benefits and much higher out-of-pocket costs, threatening access to needed health services," Clinton and Frist wrote.

"And because families without adequate insurance often miss out on preventive care and instead receive more expensive treatment in hospital emergency rooms, all of us will be likely to end up paying part of the bill," they added.

The op-ed also marks the second time in as many weeks that Clinton has jumped into a healthcare debate. Last week she tweeted that "#vaccineswork" after two possible 2016 Republican contenders, Gov. Chris Christie (N.J.) and Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) suggested that parents should have some choice on whether to immunize their children.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton Consults Experts to Chart Foreign-Policy Agenda"

By Peter Nicholas

February 13, 2015, 6:59 a.m. EST

Voters aren't seeing much of Hillary Clinton these days, leading some Democrats to wonder when their front-runner will enter the 2016 contest. Behind the scenes, she is prepping carefully for the race of her life.

Private meetings that she's held with various foreign-policy experts offer some hints as to how she might part ways with President Barack Obama when it comes to crises in Ukraine, Syria and other global trouble spots. The major takeaway from these private talks is that she wants a strategy more suited to shaping conditions overseas, as opposed to reacting to events as they arise, people familiar with the meetings said.

In these meetings, Mrs. Clinton's habit is to go a round the room, asking questions and taking notes with pad and pen in hand. She has been looking for an analysis of current conditions and possible solutions – but also a more proactive posture, some familiar with the meetings say.

Mr. Obama has seemed flat-footed at times in response to the Islamic State's advances in Syria and Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggressive moves to gain territory in Ukraine.

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"There's a degree of concern that what we're doing oftentimes looks to be reactive in response to what the problem of the moment is — as opposed to what is the strategic approach and what might we be doing differently," said one person familiar with her thinking who requested anonymity.

As Secretary of State during Mr. Obama's first term, Mrs. Clinton played the role of loyal adviser in a foreign-policy apparatus that was run out of the White House; Mr. Obama was the one making the decisions.

It seems clear that if Mrs. Clinton wins the White House she would chart a different path than the one charted during the Obama administration.

In her 2014 book, "Hard Choices," and in various speeches, Mrs. Clinton suggested she would have been more interventionist in Syria in 2012–more willing than the president to arm moderate rebels in hopes of stopping the civil war. She has been unsparing in her criticism of Mr. Putin, likening territorial grabs in Ukraine to Adolph Hitler's aggression before World War II.

"She's much less risk-averse" than Mr. Obama, said Aaron David Miller, vice president of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars who has taken part in Mrs. Clinton's foreign-policy briefings.

If she becomes president, Mrs. Clinton might have some latitude to pursue a more activist foreign policy. Context is everything.

Mr. Obama took office at a time when the nation was weary of the Iraq war. His caution suited an electorate that was skeptical of new military engagements. But after eight years of Mr. Obama, the public might be ready for a president who favors a more muscular approach, Mr. Miller said.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll last month showed that 56% disapproved of the president's handling of foreign policy, compared to just 37% who favored the job he's doing.

"If she becomes president, her political space on foreign policy will be a reaction to what has been criticized by many as an over-course correction [by Mr. Obama]," Mr. Miller said. "She'll have an easier time of it, I think, than Obama had in this direction."

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton's Play for Pennsylvania"

By Emily Schultheis

February 12, 2015

Democrats face two major demographic challenges in the 2016 presidential campaign. First, can Hillary Clinton, assuming she's the party's nominee, win back the white working-class voters who have drifted toward Republicans in recent years? And second, will she be able to maintain the Democratic coalition that twice elected Barack Obama president—including the sky-high turnout among African-American voters his campaign spurred?

Those questions will be partly answered in Pennsylvania, where Democrats have just announced they're holding their 2016 convention.

As Philadelphia's selection for the 2016 Democratic convention spurs headlines about the symbolism of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, the importance of the state goes far beyond that. It's a microcosm of the challenges Democrats face in putting together a winning coalition.

Pennsylvania is the GOP's perennial white whale: Every four years, Republicans puts money and time into a last-minute effort to mine the state's

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electoral votes—and every time since 1988, they've been unsuccessful. Though it's still early, Democrats and observers in the state say that with Democrats' presidential-year electoral advantages there, there's little chance that dynamic will change this time around.

"It's a state that has become solidly blue in presidential politics and now, in many ways, is a cornerstone of the Democratic electoral coalition, along with other big states—along with New York, Illinois, and California," said Chris Borick, a veteran Pennsylvania pollster at Muhlenberg College, adding that winning Pennsylvania is "almost a given for Democrats."

A February Quinnipiac poll found Clinton starting out strong in Pennsylvania with high favorability ratings and double-digit leads over all her would-be GOP challengers. Fifty-five percent of the state's voters viewed her favorably, compared with 38 percent who viewed her unfavorably—far better than any of the GOP hopefuls fared. In hypothetical head-to-head matchups, Clinton bested New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie by 11 points (50-39), former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush by 15 points (50-35), Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky by 19 points (53-34), and both former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania by 20 points (54-34).

But Pennsylvania is a geographically and demographically diverse state—and how Clinton fares there among the state's electorate will be an indication of her ability to shape a winning national coalition. Victory for Democrats now largely hinges on the southeastern part of the state, where they need to draw a strong turnout in Philadelphia proper and to win a majority in the four suburban counties (Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, and Delaware) that surround it. At the same time, a significant chunk of the state—the southwestern part near Pittsburgh and the northeastern part surrounding Scranton—is full of white, working-class voters whom Democrats have struggled with in recent years.

Pennsylvania Democratic operatives and observers say Clinton has a track record of connecting better with the state's working-class electorate than Obama did in 2008 and 2012—but that African-American turnout drop-off is certainly a concern. In an interview with BuzzFeed, Obama said he didn't "think any president inherits a coalition," adding that "any candidate has to win over people based on what they stand for, what their message is, what their vision is for the future."

Back in the 2008 Democratic primary, when Clinton defeated Obama by just under 10 points, the former secretary of State did well among exactly those kinds of voters. Exit polls found Clinton ahead of Obama among Pennsylvania's white voters, low- and middle-income voters, and those without a college degree.

"Her father came from Scranton, so she's always had a strong base there in the same way that Joe Biden has," said Charlie Lyons, a veteran Democratic strategist in the state. "And I think she comes out of that area strong, and in the southwest I think she has the potential to come out perhaps even stronger than the president did."

As a surrogate for now-Gov. Tom Wolf in Philadelphia last fall, Clinton came out swinging with what observers say is the closest indication she's given of the kind of message her campaign could have—one heavy on economic fairness, equal pay, and education funding. These are the kinds of issues that play well among both minority voters and working-class whites.

As for African-American voters in Philadelphia, observers in the state say it would be tough for Clinton to match the kind of turnout Obama drew among that demographic—but that the drop-off wouldn't be enough to affect her chances in the state. In 2008, exit polling data showed Obama winning 95 percent of African-American voters in Pennsylvania, compared with just 5 percent for Republican nominee John McCain; even if turnout among that demographic decreases, the margins will likely be similar.

"She clearly has room to build on voters that Obama didn't have—while being challenged to make sure she has the same or close levels of turnout in the Democrat-rich Philadelphia city limits," Borick said.

Even if Pennsylvania seems unlikely to top 2016's list of presidential swing states, it will undoubtedly be home to one of the most competitive Senate campaigns on the map this cycle: the race to unseat GOP Sen. Pat Toomey, who rode into office on the Republican wave of 2010.

And while party conventions rarely have an effect on the presidential electoral outcome in a state, they're known for energizing the party base and drawing attention to in-state candidates—which, for Philadelphia, could have a positive effect on turning the city's African-American voters out to the polls that fall for both Clinton and Toomey's Democratic challenger.

"Pat Toomey is going to be seriously challenged," said Dan Fee, a veteran of both of former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell's gubernatorial campaigns. "This is a year, and this is a race, in which there will be significant turnout in areas that will never vote for Pat Toomey."

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Politico: "Who's going to win Iowa and N.H.? Introducing The POLITICO Caucus"

By James Hohmann

February 13, 2015, 5:58 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The Walker surge in Iowa, Hillary's Obama problem and other news from Week One of our yearlong insiders' survey from the ground in 2016's first-in-the-nation races.

Most Iowa insiders believe Scott Walker would win their state's caucuses if they were this week.

But they're not this week, and virtually none of the most influential thought leaders in the Hawkeye State believe that the Wisconsin governor will sustain his recent bounce in polls.

This is one of several intriguing findings in the debut survey of The POLITICO Caucus. More than 100 of the most plugged-in activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire have agreed to answer a weekly survey over the next year, which will be published here every Friday. It's a diverse mix of powerful figures from across the political spectrum, including party chairmen, members of Congress, radio hosts and rising stars who command loyal followings.

The insiders are immersed in the nomination battles and their views could be a leading indicator of where the polls are heading. The vast majority of those who are participating are not committed to a candidate yet, though some are playing key roles on the burgeoning campaigns.

The consensus across this group is that Hillary Clinton is almost guaranteed to become the Democratic nominee. Only four of 70 who answered guessed that a Democrat other than Clinton will ultimately win their state.

But there's widespread agreement that the GOP field really is wide open. In New Hampshire, the feeling is that Jeb Bush would win the first-in-the-nation primary if it was this week but that it's premature to call him a frontrunner.

Six in 10 Iowa insiders surveyed believe Walker would win the caucuses if they were this week. But only two of the 32 Iowans who returned questionnaires believe the Wisconsin governor will ultimately prevail. "He will now go through a scrutiny that will determine how prepared he is to sustain this frontrunner status," one Iowa Republican remarked.

Here are the key takeaways from our first weekly survey:

Jeb Bush and Scott Walker are fighting for frontrunner status. But neither has it.

Most Republican insiders answered "no" when asked if there's a GOP frontrunner. The field is stronger than in 2012, and any one from a handful of candidates could emerge as the nominee, they believe.

Walker got a big boost from his breakout speech at an event put on last month by Iowa Rep. Steve King in Des Moines. But the insiders are keenly aware he remains untested outside Wisconsin.

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Bush is a bigger media draw, enjoys higher name ID and has access to more money than any other GOP candidate. For these reasons, one New Hampshire Republican said he is the frontrunner “simply by default.”

Others on the right argued that none of these advantages is enough to make Bush a “real” frontrunner the way that Mitt Romney was at this stage in 2012. “It’s too early,” said one of the GOP respondents from New Hampshire. “There’s a lot of kicking of tires yet to happen.”

An Iowa Republican remarked, “This is the most wide open contest I have ever seen.”

The world matters. At least, a surprisingly high number of insiders think 2016 will be a national security election.

Roughly half of those interviewed identified the economy – from stagnant wages to income inequality – as the defining issue of 2016. The next-most cited issue was foreign policy and/or national security, with about a quarter of those surveyed predicting it will drive the debate.

Several insiders mentioned specifically the Islamic State and the Levant, or ISIL.

A nonpartisan academic from Iowa said the use of force directive introduced to Congress by President Barack Obama “automatically moves foreign affairs up on this list for 2016.”

Clinton, as the former Secretary of State, will likely position herself as the candidate with unrivaled foreign policy chops. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who looks increasingly serious about running, is playing up his roles on the Senate intelligence and foreign relations committees.

Rand Paul is winning the GOP ground war. So far.

Hillary Clinton has a built-in, years-in-the-making campaign organization that insiders from both parties agreed is unrivaled. Her 2008 supporters are still with her, and many Obama hands are ready to get on board.

On the Republican side, the majority surveyed in both states said Rand Paul has the most robust organization. His father, Ron, finished third in Iowa and second in New Hampshire in 2012, giving the Kentucky senator a network to build from.

“Paul probably has the best organization at this point, with good management and strong grass roots,” said a New Hampshire Republican. “Others will catch up and level this out though.”

Others in Iowa mentioned retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who has benefited from an aggressive movement to draft him into the race, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has been spending a lot of time in the state.

Does being a Bush help or hurt Jeb? Insiders are split.

Most Democrats think George W. Bush would be a serious drag on Jeb in a general election. But Republicans are almost evenly divided about whether the Bush name is more of an asset or a liability for the former governor.

“It is a wash if Jeb gets out and shows he is his own person,” said an uncommitted Iowa Republican.

Another said anyone who doesn’t think it’s a net positive is “nuts” but added, “Bush fatigue is a real issue.”

A New Hampshire Republican called it a “two-edge sword” with the grass roots. Another described it as a “net asset in a primary” and a “net

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liability in the general."

If Rand Paul benefits from his father's network, so does Jeb Bush, wrote another Republican respondent from the Hawkeye State. "On one hand both his Dad and Brother won here," this person said of Bush. "A lot of activists who were a part of those camps will be a great starting point for an organization. But the name brand isn't going to help with conservatives, tea party folks and the liberty crowd."

Clinton could be America's first woman president. And one of its oldest. The pols think age could be a bigger potential problem.

Asked whether the former First Lady's age or gender is more of a possible liability in the campaign, six in 10 picked her age. Only a handful said gender; the rest said neither.

"Mitt Romney and Hillary Clinton are the same age, but that won't stop someone like, say, Rand Paul, whose father ran for president in his mid-70s, from trying to make it a thing," said a New Hampshire Democrat.

An Iowa Democrat said that Clinton's gender will be the bigger issue, "but that won't manifest till the general election." Others called the question absurd.

Several Republicans worried that Clinton's potential to break the ultimate glass ceiling is a big asset and may draw independent women to her candidacy.

Yes, the inside line has Hillary Clinton walking away with the Democratic nod.

Almost no one in either party thinks Clinton won't wind up winning both early states. They may want her to spend time on the ground and insist that she'll have to earn it, but there are few who doubt that she'll win at the end of the day. Clinton finished third in Iowa last time and won an upset in New Hampshire.

"It seems very unlikely that anyone in the primary field as of now could come near her," said an Iowa Democrat. "Nobody sees that changing, and Iowa Democrats are equal parts bored and furious about it."

There are varying opinions about who, if anyone, will emerge as Clinton's main Democratic challenger. Most Democrats said no one. Warren was the most mentioned, followed by former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, ex-Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Just one Democrat mentioned Vice President Joe Biden.

Republicans see Ted Cruz as likeliest to emerge as the social conservative favorite.

Evangelicals picked the last two winners of the Iowa caucuses: Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum. Both are running again, but neither can count on the support they had in 2008 and 2012, respectively. An Iowa Republican predicted that "a firebrand" like the Texas senator is more likely to win over base voters.

Among GOP insiders, twice as many picked Cruz to become the leading social conservative candidate as anyone else. But the field is scattered, with nominations for Santorum, Huckabee, Carson, Walker, Rubio, Bobby Jindal and others.

"I think in the short term it will be Ted Cruz," said an Iowa Republican. "In the long-term I think a guy like Santorum will emerge again because of his ability to weave" his moral beliefs through an array of social and pocketbook issues.

A New Hampshire Republican warned against counting out Huckabee: "It depends on how well a campaign [he] runs."

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Political chatter this week is all about Scott Walker not having graduated from college. Does it matter? Our insiders say no.

The question of Walker's lack of a college degree split respondents: A few more said it will hurt than help his prospects. Several of those who thought it would be a plus remarked it could enhance his "regular guy" image.

But very few believe Walker's scholastic deficit will move votes.

"A surprising number of people seem to know Harry Truman pulled it off and the Democratic Party Chair here is also without a college degree and the sky has not fallen," said one New Hampshire Democrat. "The precise circumstances of leaving college—not the fact of no degree—could be more problematic to New Hampshire voters if the circumstances are unsavory."

"I can't wait to see this play out," said an Iowa Democrat. "I will be terribly disappointed if one of his rivals, or a surrogate, does not put their foot in their mouth on this issue. … I think it will make him seem more populist."

Who's a bigger help to Hillary? Both Democrats and Republicans pick Bill Clinton over Obama.

The former president is viewed by both Democrats and Republicans as much more of an asset for Hillary than Obama. Only one of the Democrats surveyed think that he hurts her, although two other Democrats said there are sure to be some moments where he becomes unhelpful – just like in 2008.

All but a handful of Republicans think having Bill Clinton on the campaign trail helps her.

Among 31 Democrats who answered the question, 16 said Obama is an asset, while 7 said he is a liability. The rest said they're either unsure or it depends on what happens overseas and with the economy.

"The President is up and down in New Hampshire like a yo-yo," said a Democrat there.

"They should see him as an asset, but I am not sure that they do," added an Iowa Democrat. "He will win them caucus voters and help solidify her base."

The Daily Beast: "Progressives: Between Hillary and a Hard Place"

By David Freedlander

February 13, 2015

[Subtitle:] Between Hillary and a Hard Place

Elizabeth says she's a no. Bernie is a fighter, but he is also, you know, Bernie. O'Malley doesn't excite, Webb used to be a Republican, and Hillary is, well, a Clinton.

The 2016 presidential primaries are fast approaching. What is a good progressive to do?

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At a moment when a handful of issues that liberal activists have campaigned on for years, from raising the minimum wage to the growth of corporate power to climate change to criminal justice reform, are entering the mainstream debate—even within the Republican Party—progressives are facing the prospect of being rendered voiceless just as the nation is tuning in to the 2016 presidential primary.

"What progressives are saying is, how are we going to get people out of bed to vote if we don't stand up on the issues that people care about," said Ed Ott, a longtime New York labor leader and a professor of labor studies at the City University of New York. "There is a lot of anger at the Democratic Party. People want to know where they stand."

This strange moment for progressives was crystallized over the weekend when the liberal Working Families Party, which is based in Clinton's home state of New York and which backed her in both of her Senate runs, decided to join liberal groups such as Move On and Democracy for America in supporting a Draft Warren effort.

The move dismayed some progressives. Warren has consistently maintained she isn't running, and fantasies that she will change her mind distract from some more achievable goals, some liberals maintain.

"The whole Warren thing is kind of silly," said Howie Klein, a progressive activist who blogs at the website Down with Tyranny. "If I could pick anybody to run for president it would be her, but she is not going to do it. It started out as a not-bad idea but I think it has gone on long enough."

Without a candidate to get behind, some liberal and labor groups are focusing instead on changing the complexion of the electorate, hoping that Clinton can be pulled to the left by forces on the ground. After a summit on the issue of raising wages (headlined, it should be noted, by Elizabeth Warren) the AFL-CIO announced that they would barnstorm the first four primary states to rally voters around the issue.

The Progressive Change Campaign Committee, meanwhile, is trying to persuade progressive leaders in Iowa and New Hampshire to hold off announcing that they are ready for Hillary until she publicly announces where she stands on key liberal issues such as expanding Social Security and breaking up big banks.

"We really have a one of a kind role at this point, which is being a grassroots force that is working to incentivize all of the Democratic presidential candidates to sound more like Elizabeth Warren," said Adam Green, the group's executive director. "It's a different strategy, but we want Warren's positions to be the mainstream Democratic position."

Although PCCC did not sign on to the Draft Warren effort, Green said that the organizing around it is helping to pull Clinton to the left even without Warren.

"In many ways the prospect of Elizabeth Warren running might be more powerful than the actual candidacy of Elizabeth Warren," Green added. "If she makes no comment about running for president for the next six months there is every incentive in the world for Hillary Clinton to co-opt her message so that Warren doesn't jump in. If Hillary said, 'We should cut Social Security, we don't need to regulate the banks,' I think you would see not just Warren but a lot of people jump in."

A dozen progressive activists, donors and operatives from around the country said much the same thing: their first choice was Warren, and despite her denials, they believe there is still time for her to get into the race, and that she would meet a groundswell of grassroots and fundraising support if she did.

"We are in a conditional situation—if Hillary runs strong [Warren] won't run," said Bob Fertik, a progressive activist and political consultant. "But Hillary could decide not to run, or she could flame out on any given day for any reason—it could be about Bill, it could be a thousand reasons. If that happens then the entire progressive movement would rise up behind Elizabeth Warren."

Most progressives interviewed for this story did not sound particularly enthusiastic about the other Democratic challengers.

On Martin O'Malley, the two-term governor of Maryland who is running cautiously to the left of Clinton, Fertik said, "Nobody has heard of him."

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“He seems like someone who is running really hard to be vice president. I have no feel for the guy one way or the other,” said Klein.

“I can’t imagine he is going to get traction,” said Robert Borosage, the head of the liberal Campaign for America’s Future.

Bernie Sanders should be the progressive choice. The socialist senator from Vermont rails against the billionaire class, and unlike Warren, has never been wrapped up in the political money game. Which is precisely the problem.

“Unlike Elizabeth, Bernie is actually running for president. What do you think it says about him that we are all trying to get Elizabeth in,” said one person involved in the Draft Warren effort.

“Sanders is extremely progressive,” said Douglas Kahn, who has given more than $100,000 to liberal candidates over the last couple of election cycles. “I would love his ideas and principles to be the platform of the…Party. That is not likely to happen.”

Klein has been raising money for Sanders, but now he thinks the Draft Warren effort has sucked up all of the progressive energy, and he is not certain Sanders will run.

“I think the whole Elizabeth thing has been very disappointing for Bernie.”

Some progressives say they remain curious about the prospect of Webb.

“I think he is going to be stronger than a lot of people think,” said Borosage. “Hillary wants to be to the right of Obama on foreign policy, and that opens up space for [Virginia’s Jim] Webb, especially if we get ensnared in the Ukraine or the Middle East and things go south. There remains a huge anti-war sentiment out there.”

“People have short memories,” responded Klein. “Webb is no lefty. He was to the right of Hillary Clinton on practically every vote.”

Which raises the question: What about Hillary? She after all supports Dodd-Frank, favors a higher minimum wage and has long history of fighting for working families. And all the activists spoken to for this article said they would support her in a general election.

But they also said that at last the public seemed interested in income inequality, and they doubted that Hillary Clinton could carry the torch, especially if she coasted in the primary.

“What this election should be about is the very structure of the economy,” said Borosage. “And where is Hillary when it comes to shackling Wall Street, when it comes to CEO pay, when it comes to unions. She needs a challenge so we can hear these things out.”

Zephyr Teachout, who ran a left-leaning charge against New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2014 and who was a key organizer on Howard Dean’s 2004 campaign, said there was plenty of time for someone to emerge, someone perhaps who isn’t being yet discussed in the corridors of Washington D.C.

“The big fear about Hillary Clinton is that she might be a very weak candidate, and that she doesn’t reflect the best interests of a lot of traditional and populists Democrats. I certainly share those fears, but there is plenty of time for a true populist to jump into the race.”

So don’t despair then?

“No! Despair is the ultimate strategy of the neo-liberals, and it doesn’t accomplish anything.”

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BuzzFeed: "Top Latino Donors Warn Clinton: Do Better With Latinos Than Dems Did In Florida, Colorado"

By Adrian Carrasquillo

February 12, 2015, 3:57 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The donors and fundraisers tell BuzzFeed News Hillary Clinton must set up a real and meaningful operation to reach Latino voters. Other wishes? A Latino vice presidential nominee.

A network of top Latino Democratic donors is warning early that Hillary Clinton must correct one of the big mistakes Democrats made in 2014: taking Latino voter turnout for granted.

Unlike the highly competitive Republican landscape, Clinton is expected to be the Democratic nominee — the question for Democratic donors then is less whether they'll support her, and instead, with how much money and what their priorities are. And when it comes to the growing base of Latino donors looking to make their mark, the answer is incorporating Latinos into a campaign in a real way, from the vice presidential selection to the on-the-ground outreach to voters.

"Hillary just needs to look at Colorado and Florida," said Andrés W. López, a lawyer from Puerto Rico and co-founder of the Futuro Fund, referencing the losses of Charlie Crist and former Sen. Mark Udall. "They're prime examples of how you don't succeed. It's essentially squandering opportunity and neglecting the Latino community, doing the same basic things you did before, which is an endless source of frustration for us."

The Futuro Fund was one of the major Democratic fundraising success stories of 2012; led prominently by Eva Longoria and Henry Muñoz, the group raised $32 million for Barack Obama's reelection effort. López, one of the first major Latino donors to join Obama in 2007, individually raised millions which was folded into the Futuro Fund. That effort then begat the Latino Victory Project, a fundraising effort to increase Latino candidates in politics. (The group says they are nonpartisan and are looking for Republicans, but have only supported Democrats.) Muñoz, meanwhile, became the DNC's finance chairman.

The mistakes of last year for Democrats are clear, the donors say, and there were plenty of missed opportunities.

Ralph Patino, a Latino Victory Project board member from Miami, met then-Senator Obama in 2007 at a Marriott in Orlando. Enthralled by Obama, he immediately cut a $35,000 check. He later found out that donation put him in the top 1% of Latino donors in the country. In 2012, he bundled $1 million at his home one night for Obama.

Having worked closely with the Crist campaign, Patino said its inadequate Hispanic voter operation is a reason they lost a race that was decided by a razor-thin 60,000 votes.

"Charlie is a good friend," Patino told BuzzFeed News. "I told them we need to concentrate on the I-4 corridor, from the east to the west, from Orlando all the way across to Tampa. Let's get Eva Longoria involved, let's have rallies. Let's connect to Latinos."

He says the mistake was a common one: having a Latino outreach "appendage" rather than making it a fundamental part of the campaign.

"The guy they put in as the Latino outreach director was very lightweight, extremely lightweight," he said. "You have to have, from the ground up, a Latino organization within your election committee."

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Sources close to the Latino Victory Project said that as the organization lays out its plans looking ahead to 2016, one major priority has emerged: pushing for a Latino vice presidential nominee.

The president of the Latino Victory Project, Cristóbal Alex, declined to comment.

Julián Castro, the former San Antonio mayor who Obama picked as his current Housing and Urban Development Secretary, is the one most often mentioned as someone Clinton might look at for the position after his keynote speech at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. It was Muñoz who pushed for Castro — whom he called the "future of the Democratic Party, the future of this country" — to give the speech.

But top Latino donors say it's about more than pushing Clinton to choose a Latino running mate.

"You want to always keep your eye on what will essentially be the most high-profile position in the land," López said. "My concern is sometimes we lose sight of the larger issue. We should spend time building a robust pipeline of people for other positions."

He said many like former Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, who have real power to effect change in the country, joined Obama's administration after spending time in Bill Clinton's administration.

Frank Sánchez, who served in the Clinton and Obama administrations, and bundled $500,000 in 2008 but did not fundraise in 2012 because he was part of the administration, said a Latino running mate would be great but it's not something he's personally pushing for.

"My sense is that if your interest is in having someone win, you don't impose those kinds of demands," he said. "We should give her latitude to pick who makes the most sense for the country and the ticket. Latino candidates should be in the mix though, a few should be on any shortlist."

The donors BuzzFeed News spoke with all echoed López in insisting that Clinton needs to have Latinos on staff, in her inner circle — and were she to win — in appointments and cabinet positions.

"It can't be one of these situations we've seen time and time again where everything is a general market strategy until some genius inside the war room figures out they should reach out to Latino voters and everybody is scurrying to translate haphazardly," said media strategist Freddy Balsera, an early Obama supporter and 2012 bundler who raised $500,000. "It has to be part of the conversation from day one."

Balsera was named in a December New York Times report after the Obama administration overturned a ban on a politically-connected Ecuadorian national entering the country. Her family donated to Democratic campaigns and Balsera employed her and sponsored her visa. The ban was overturned by the State Department, which was under Clinton at the time.

Manuel Sanchez, a Chicago lawyer, who helped raise $8 million for Obama in 2008 and was part of the Futuro Fund in 2012, said he was at the National Council of La Raza event in Obama's first term when he promised to focus on "immigration reform in his first 100 days." Despite Obama's executive actions to protect millions from deportation, he said Clinton can't make the same mistake of not making an immigration overhaul a priority.

"People don't forget that," he said.

"She needs to continue to push for some action on immigration, to say that it's been a disappointment is a gross understatement," Frank Sánchez added.

Balsera said "for a lot of Hispanics the immigration debate is about how accepting you are of this new community."

The donors didn't stop there, imagining a suite of positions Clinton could take along with immigration, including support for Obama's move to normalize relations with Cuba and Puerto Rican statehood, an issue close to the heart of López, who is from the island and frames it as "equality" for Puerto Ricans, which to him, means citizenship.

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“I don’t want to live in a place where an American can raise millions of dollars and I can’t vote,” he said, noting that the 2020 Census may surprise many who think they know Florida’s demographics.

“People are going to be in shock in about four years when it turns out Puerto Ricans outnumber Cubans in Florida,” he said.

Gone are the days of 2004, Frank Sánchez says, when John Kerry and George W. Bush combined to spend only around $7 million on outreach to Hispanic voters.

“In 2008, Obama spent $22 million by himself,” he said.

And López pointed to the big Clinton-world news this week, when infighting between Priorities USA and other pro-Clinton groups broke out in the public eye.

“There are no top-level Latino names. That’s what we notice, not what everyone else is noticing,” he said. “For the newer folks among us, it’s about how do you change this? It’s about getting inside the room with them and saying, ‘What are you doing to reach Latinos?’ That’s the adult conversation that needs to happen with Hillary’s folks, and it can’t just be all white guys.”

Manuel Sanchez broke down the importance of real-live Latinos having Clinton’s ear.

“At minimum they bring the issue to the fore,” he said, “it doesn’t mean its going to carry the day but if you don’t have the person in the room with the decision makers, in a tight inner circle, then it’s very likely the issue will be ignored.”

Business Insider: “Iowa Republicans are embracing Joe Biden to troll Hillary Clinton”

By Colin Campbell

February 12, 2015

Republicans are mocking Hillary Clinton's absence from the 2016 campaign trail by rolling out the red carpet for Vice President Joe Biden.

Biden, who hasn't ruled out running for president next year, visited Iowa on Thursday for two events on college campuses. The state's GOP reacted to the news by gleefully noting it's been some time since Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, dropped by the key presidential primary state.

"We welcome Vice President Biden to Iowa and are glad he is here to give Iowa voters the time and consideration they deserve," the party's chairman, Jeff Kaufmann, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, co-chair Cody Hoefert accused Clinton of expecting a "coronation" despite coming in third place in Iowa when she last ran for president in 2008.

"Say what you will about Vice President Biden, but at least he’s here," Hoefert said. "While the Republican Party prepares for one of the most vibrant nomination contests in memory, the Democrats are frozen in place waiting for Hillary Clinton’s coronation. Hillary has never had a warm

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relationship with Iowa voters, and it's clear she doesn't care much to fix it now. I'm confident Iowa voters will remember this in 2016."

Clinton's team insists she will fight hard for the state's votes if she launches a bid for the White House. Her campaign is widely viewed as all but certain and polls show she is well ahead of any potential rivals.

"If she runs, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote," Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill told The Des Moines Register. "Anyone who thinks otherwise should think again."

However, Clinton has had almost no public appearances or media interviews so far this year. In January, she notably held two events but they were paid speaking engagements in Canada. (Clinton has been fiercely criticized for taking sums as high as $300,000 in speaking fees.)

The national Republican Party also recently mocked Clinton for her lack of public events. The party bought a "Hillary's Hiding" billboard in Iowa on Wednesday and even released a fake movie trailer the next day noting she launched her 2008 campaign much earlier:

[VIDEO]

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/11/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: An Expensive Fight for Russia and Turkey

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An Expensive Fight for Russia and Turkey

Chris Miller — January 12, 2016

WASHINGTON—It was “a stab in the back,” Russian President Vladimir Putin declared. Turkey’s shooting down of the Russian jet over Turkish airspace in late November sparked angry denunciations from Moscow. But rather than “stab in the back,” the more relevant bodily metaphor is “shot in the foot.” For both Russia and Turkey, the spat over the downed plane — and about Syria more generally — is imposing painful economic costs...

FULL ARTICLE

Chris Miller is a Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, an initiative of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, DC.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Markos Kounalakis - Hoover Institution" <kounalakis@gmail.com>
To: John <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 11/19/2015 4:05:04 PM
Subject: New Foreign Affairs Columns War, Peace & Revolution

Markos Kounalakis

Foreign Affairs Columns

Gloria Steinem and the CIA; how sex can save Japan; wildfires and terrorism; the Greek financial crisis; recruiting kids for war...the last six months have been a busy time in the world. Here's my most recent column on giving refugees a fighting chance in the Middle East.

Read my latest columns

Markos Kounalakis, Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution

Chinese spy games in the USA, virtual reality revives Palmyra, and a rogues' list of global leaders...my columns deal with some of the latest developments in global affairs. The columns appear in *The Sacramento Bee* and nationwide via the McClatchy-Tribune news service.

I remain a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University and a Senior Fellow with Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Links below to my latest columns:

- Give Middle East refugees a fighting chance
- Adding to America's rogues' list of unsavory but friendly leaders
- The feminist was a spook
- U.N., underwater gas reserves help solve Cyprus split
- Crying lone wolf? Fires used in warfare, terrorism
- Disrupting Islamic State, saving ancient civilization and employing virtual reality
- From living in Loomis to hiding from Chinese agents
- Tunnels here, there, bad and good
- Greece's high-stakes gamble
- Greece's Economy Hangs in Balance After 'Greferendum'
- Filling Greece's ATMs with promises
- Greece today feels like old Soviet Union
- European confederacy slowly dies
- The perverse act of recruiting kids for war
- How sex could save Japan

..and many more columns from 2014 & 2015 at my Hoover Institution homepage .

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Monument Park, Tallinn, Estonia. Summer 2015.

Thanks for taking the time to read my latest writings. I'll send updates with new columns every so often.

Let me know what you think about these opinion pieces or if you have any thoughts about columns I should pursue in the future.

Thanks again,

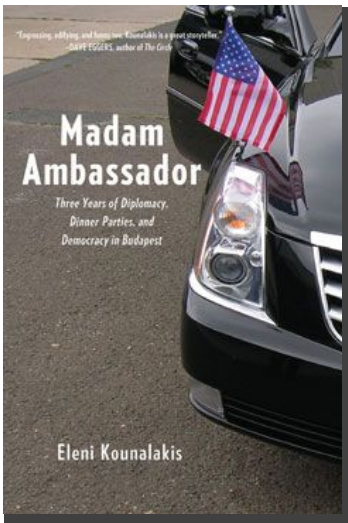

Read my wife's book, "Madam Ambassador" , also available in Hungarian .

Read *The Washington Post* review. Here's an excerpt:

"In her memoir, 'Madam Ambassador,' Kounalakis recounts Hungary's slide into what Orban himself has described as an 'illiberal democracy' inspired by Vladimir Putin's Russia. To her credit, it's a far more forthcoming book — personally and analytically — than one would expect from a diplomat, and it offers further evidence, if anyone still needs it, that the European Union now faces the possibility of an autocracy taking shape within its borders."

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PS, Most of you receiving this email have asked to be put on my mailing list. If you want to be taken off, just go to the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.

Oh, and Happy Thanksgiving!

MEDIA: For media inquiries, please contact Jennifer Mayfield , Director of Media Relations at the Hoover Institution at +1 650-847-7250 .

I also invite you to join me on Facebook , LinkedIn and Google+ , watch my YouTube videos and follow me on Twitter .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/1/2014 12:45:58 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday October 1, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday October 1, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to appear at Jeanne Shaheen fundraiser"

"Hillary Clinton will headline a fundraiser for Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in New York City on Wednesday, an event being hosted by longtime Clinton friends Ron and Beth Dozoretz, according to an invitation sent to donors."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Clinton to speak at medical device conference"

"Clinton will hold a moderated Q&A with the president of Advanced Medical Technology Association, Stephen Ubl, after her speech, according to a media advisory released Tuesday. "

Bloomberg: "No Hard Feelings as Bill Clinton Subs for Wife at Event"

"Hillary Clinton, who is considering a 2016 Democratic bid for the presidency, has nixed several fundraisers for her party's candidates since her daughter, Chelsea Clinton, gave birth Sept. 26. Political operatives in both parties say that, like Kelly, most donors understand when a politician cancels an appearance at the last minute for exceptional personal or family reasons."

NPR: "Transcript: Sen. Warren's Full NPR Interview On Financial Regulation"

"*Should Hillary Clinton address this issue [bank regulation] forcefully?* You know, I'd like to see everybody address this issue forcefully. I think it is a very important question, and I'm — I wanna see everybody in on it. Both parties — I think we all should be there."

The Hill blog: In The Know: "ElectHillary.com? RandPaul.com? Betting on 2016's hottest Web address"

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"Election-year website squatters have dollar signs in their eyes, scooping up 2016-related domain names with the aim of cashing in on six-figure payouts — before any candidate has even thrown his or her hat into the ring."

SouthFlorida.com: "More 'Hard Choices' for Hillary"

"The 3:30 p.m. [Books and Books] signing is expected to draw at least 1,000 visitors…."

Des Moines Register: "Late-night comics joke about Iowa and Hillary"

"The steady stream of potential 2016 presidential candidates visiting the state in recent weeks has caught the attention of comedians and made the state literally a punchline."

Time: "Meet the Clinton Baby's Other Grandparents"

"Even before Charlotte Clinton Mevzinsky headed home from the hospital on Monday, we had seen the first photos of her with her "over the moon" new grandparents, Bill and Hillary Clinton. But where were the machatonim?"

Washington Post blog: The Switch: "Meet Share America, the U.S. State Department's Upworthy clone"

"American diplomats have long tried to win the information game. And under both previous Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Secretary John Kerry, the State Department has attempted to identify and even amplify the nuances of an increasingly horizontal world…"

The Daily Beast: "This Is How Eva Longoria Is Trying to Win the Midterms"

Eva Longoria: "I love and adore Hillary [Clinton]…"

Articles:

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to appear at Jeanne Shaheen fundraiser"

By Maggie Haberman

September 30, 2014, 8:10 p.m. EDT

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hillary Clinton will headline a fundraiser for Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in New York City on Wednesday, an event being hosted by longtime Clinton friends Ron and Beth Dozoretz, according to an invitation sent to donors.

The invitation, obtained by POLITICO, shows the event taking place late in the afternoon at the Dozoretz home.

A Clinton spokesman did not respond to an email. A Shaheen spokesman declined to comment. Shaheen (D-N.H.) is battling former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown for reelection.

Ron and Beth Dozoretz are old friends of the Clintons, as is Shaheen.

Clinton has canceled a number of appearances this week, following the birth of her granddaughter last Friday. She has primarily kept appearances that are in New York, where her daughter, Chelsea, lives.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Clinton to speak at medical device conference"

By Peter Sullivan

September 30, 2014, 3:08 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton will speak at a medical technology industry conference in Chicago the same day that she campaigns for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn (D).

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Clinton will campaign for Quinn on Oct. 8. That is the same day that she has a previously scheduled appearance at the AdvaMed 2014 conference.

The medical decive tax under ObamaCare has been controversial, and Republicans have made repealing it a central part of their platform for next year.

The former secretary of State is often compensated for appearances at conferences such as these and has faced criticism for her speaking fees.

Details of Clinton's campaign appearance for Quinn have not been made public. Quinn is also slated to speak at the medical technology conference.

Clinton will hold a moderated Q&A with the president of Advanced Medical Technology Association, Stephen Ubl, after her speech, according to a media advisory released Tuesday.

"More than 2,500 attendees will network, conduct business, gain access to capital and share insights in Chicago, Ill.,fromOctober 6-8" the advisory says of the conference. "The conference also features world-class plenary speakers, networking and business development opportunities."

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is also slated to speak at the conference.

On the campaign side, Quinn is locked in a tight battle with Republican businessman Bruce Rauner in his reelection race this year.

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Bloomberg: "No Hard Feelings as Bill Clinton Subs for Wife at Event"

By Jonathan Allen

October 1, 2014, 12:00 a.m. EDT

Maeve Sanford-Kelly, 10, lost out to Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky, four-days-old.

Sanford-Kelly had been planning for nearly two weeks to see Hillary Clinton last night at a fundraiser for Anthony Brown, Maryland's Democratic lieutenant governor who is seeking the state's top job in November's election. But Clinton, whose granddaughter was born Sept. 26, canceled and sent her husband, former President Bill Clinton, in her place.

"My 10-year-old daughter, who got a $1,000 ticket, is crushed," Sanford-Kelly's mom, Ariana Kelly, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, said earlier yesterday of the former secretary of state's absence. "But for what it's worth, I'm glad she's with the baby instead of with us. It says something good about her soul."

Hillary Clinton, who is considering a 2016 Democratic bid for the presidency, has nixed several fundraisers for her party's candidates since her daughter, Chelsea Clinton, gave birth Sept. 26. Political operatives in both parties say that, like Kelly, most donors understand when a politician cancels an appearance at the last minute for exceptional personal or family reasons.

And sometimes, the reserve called off the bench to stand in is good enough to satisfy even skeptics in a crowd.

"Just like middle school, it depends on who the substitute is," Matt Canter, deputy executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee said, referring to the star power of the former president who stood in at the Brown fundraiser.

'Frustrates People'

Rob Jesmer, former executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said that some big names in politics develop a bad reputation for last-minute cancellations for less-than-pressing matters.

"That frustrates people," he said. In this case, though, "Hillary Clinton can get away with it."

The former first lady has been one of this year's most sought-after surrogates for Democratic candidates across the nation, Canter said.

"For the vast majority of our campaigns, there's a tremendous demand for her to be involved in various aspects of the campaign," he said.

At last night's fundraiser, held at the Potomac, Maryland, home of David Trone, co-owner of Total Wine & More retail company, Bill Clinton echoed recent remarks by President Barack Obama about the U.S. economy, saying it has been growing stronger, according to a person who attended and requested anonymity to discuss a private event.

Foster Children

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In praising Brown for his work with foster children, Clinton said that his wife, a former U.S. senator from New York, had worked with former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, a Texas Republican, on issues affecting such children when they were both in Congress, the person said.

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who picked Brown as his running mate eight years ago and is considering his own bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, also attended the fundraiser.

Hillary Clinton appeared at a pair of fundraisers for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee on Sept. 29 in New York, where her daughter lives. She is scheduled to headline an event for Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, a Democrat up for re-election, today in New York.

NPR: "Transcript: Sen. Warren's Full NPR Interview On Financial Regulation"

[Transcript]

October 1, 2014, 5:03 a.m. EDT

STEVE INSKEEP: You described what you learned from this report as disturbing. What's disturbing about it?

ELIZABETH WARREN: Well ultimately, this report tells us exactly what we already knew — that the relationship between regulators and the financial institutions they oversee is too cozy to provide the kind of tough oversight that's really needed.

How is it too cozy? Because of course, we hear the regulators on these tapes saying: "There's a reason that we're trying to have good relationships with banks like Goldman Sachs — we want to know what's going on, we want to get information."

Oh golly. So look — listen, though, to those tapes. For me, there were two things that jumped out. The first was just a basic lack of truthful reporting: Supervisors are actually telling examiners not to report accurately the damning things they heard from bank executives during meetings. I mean, wow. If there's not even an accurate record of what's going on, then the regulators can't hope to do their jobs.

And the second thing: Look at how the Fed emphasized talk instead of action. You know, the regulators seemed to think that it was a victory just to raise an issue, even if they took absolutely no action to address the issue. And that's the kind of approach that allowed banks to take on massive risks before the financial crisis.

You know, think about that: The regulators seemed to think that fussing at banks behind closed doors was their toughest sanction. Does anyone believe that Goldman Sachs is gonna give up a deal that would yield millions of dollars because someone fussed at them behind closed doors?

The regulators described this particular deal — that was reported on in great detail on the tapes — as a transaction that was legal, but shady. Uh, it did seem to be within in the rules. Does that call for a proper — does that suggest a problem with regulators or the rules?

You know, for me it starts as a problem with the regulators — and let me describe it this way: You know, the cultural problem isn't just some secondary concern. It's the whole ball game.

We can keep making the rules tougher and tougher, but it won't make an ounce of difference if the regulators won't enforce the rules that are there. If the regulators back down or back off whenever the banks tell them to? Then it's the banks — and not the regulators — who are running the show-

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Now you mention-

-and I think — yeah, go ahead.

Now you mentioned a cultural problem, Sen. Warren. Of course way back in 2009, five years ago now, there was a report commissioned by the Fed that identified this cultural problem: a reluctance to speak up and a suggestion of a too-close relationship with the banks.

But what can you really do about that, given that you need to have regulators who, perhaps, have experience in the financial industry, and are going to get to know the financial industry and the people in it really well?

Well you know, the first thing we can do is expose it. I mean, that's where this really starts — that's the first step. And that's why it is I want to see oversight hearings — I want to get a complete picture of what's happened here...

But we need to move on this and move quickly, because the big banks are just getting bigger, and they're taking on new kinds of risks. We need regulators who understand that they work for the American people, not for the big banks.

Carmen Segarra, the woman who made these tapes — and who was fired from the Fed — sued, and her lawsuit was thrown out. One way to describe the reason it was thrown is simply that the whistleblower statutes did not apply to her — she had not exposed a violation of regulations, she had exposed something short of that that was troubling to her.

Do you think the whistleblower statutes should be expanded in some way?

Yeah, I think that's one of things that ought to be on the table. I mean, look — we need to look at whether or not we've got the right tools to protect the kind of people who will speak up. But, but what we've got to start with is we've got to expose what happened here, we've got to look at what the available tools are, but we've got to give the message loud and clear to the Fed: Um, this isn't gonna work — you work for the American people, you don't for the big banks.

I should mention that these allegations have been around for a while — Carmen Segarra's story has been known for a while — what is new here is the tapes. Was there something, just from the tone — from listening to the tapes — that you learned that you did not know before?

You know, there is something about listening to those tapes, and hearing someone say "no, no!" you know, "back up!" almost — almost a whiny tone about the, the fact that she feels pretty strongly that Goldman is not in compliance with the requirements of the law. And I'm...

That's the part, when you hear the tape, there's no more "he said, she said," one person describes it this way and another says no. It's that you really do, for a moment, get to be the fly on the wall that watches all of it, and there it is to be exposed to everyone: the cozy relationship, the fact that the Fed is more concerned about its relationship with a too-big-to-fail bank than it is with protecting the American public.

I suppose if a Goldman official was sitting here, they might point out Goldman was complying with the law — at least according to some of the regulators — and the problem was whether they were doing something that was around the edges of the law, so to speak.

Yeah, but this is partly the role of a regulator. A regulator doesn't say to a big financial institution: "Hey! Step right up here. Get your toes on the line, and so long as you can make a legal argument that you have not crossed the line then, hey, we're — we're all cool here."

That's not the way regulation of large financial institutions is supposed to work — they're supposed to be using judgment. And remember, part of this judgment is about whether or not there has been compliance with the law. The fact that Goldman could mount a legal defense here is not really the point of these tapes. The point of these tapes is that the regulators are backing off long before anyone's in court making a legal argument about whether or not they came right up to the line or they crossed over the line.

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Do you think regulators in a situation like that could say, "listen, this may be legal, but I don't like it — don't do it"?

You know, I think what regulators can do, is they can remind these large financial institutions that there's a lot of room in there for the large financial institutions to get themselves into trouble and to get the entire economy into trouble.

I mean look, that's what happened in 2008 — the regulators stood by as the big financial institutions kept loading up on more and more and more risk. The regulators had the tools to say to the big financial institutions, "hey guys, you gotta back off — you're putting the whole system at risk when you do this." And yet the regulators didn't do that. They were willfully blind to what went on.

And what we're seeing here is that same kind of cozy relationship, as the big financial institutions continue to run their operations, taking on more risk, doing what they want to do and brushing their regulators aside.

Sen. Warren, this is, uh, something that you're clearly passionate about, but it's a complicated issue — bank regulation. What would have to happen for it to be a major campaign issue this fall or in 2016?

You know, I think it already is a campaign issue. The way I see this, for everybody who's running right now in 2014, there's a fundamental question of whose side you stand on.

You know, the game out there is rigged, and people across this country really get it. And the Goldman Sachs tapes just show it one more time. Little banks have to follow the rules, regular families have to follow the rules, but big financial institutions? Somehow they can manage just to push their regulators aside and go forward.

There's a — there's a fundamental question about who this country works for. It can't just work for those who already have lots of money and lots of power. We've got to have a country that works for everybody else.

Should Hillary Clinton address this issue forcefully?

You know, I'd like to see everybody address this issue forcefully. I think it is a very important question, and I'm — I wanna see everybody in on it. Both parties — I think we all should be there.

Do you think that — do you think that your party is going to be able to make an issue of this in the general election coming up in a couple of years?

You know, I'm gonna keep talking about it, and I think there are a lot of people in the Democratic Party who will do the same.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, thanks very much.

Thank you.

The Hill blog: In The Know: "ElectHillary.com? RandPaul.com? Betting on 2016's hottest Web address"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Judy Kurtz

October 1, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Election-year website squatters have dollar signs in their eyes, scooping up 2016-related domain names with the aim of cashing in on six-figure payouts — before any candidate has even thrown his or her hat into the ring.

The starting bid to buy either ElectHillary.com or ReelectHillary.com at GoDaddy's domain name auction site: $275,000. RandPaul.com is being offered for $125,000.

By comparison, the price of other names based on possible presidential hopefuls might be considered a steal: ChrisChristiePresident2016.com is up for grabs for $49,000, while TedCruzForCommanderinChief.com is $20,000, and ElizabethWarren2016.com goes for a mere $3,300.

Jeremy Peter Green shelled out thousands of dollars to amass his collection of 180 domain names. The 26-year-old recent law school graduate says proudly, "As far as I know, I have a better 2016 collection than anyone else out there."

Green's bipartisan, eclectic and sometimes long-shot list pairs former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with a slew of possible Democratic vice presidential picks in domain names such as ClintonNapolitano.com, ClintonOMalley.com, and ClintonWarner.com, referring to former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, and Sen. Mark Warner (Va.). And Green is gambling on former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) running with Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) for BushAyotte.com.

The Maryland native started focusing on 2016 well before the previous presidential showdown was decided, buying up domains shortly after finishing college in 2010. The domain name guessing game seemed like a natural fit for the self-professed political junkie, who worked as an autograph dealer in college to earn extra spending money.

“The only political autographs that were really worth money were people that buyers thought might become president soon, or people that already were president, so I had to speculate on who was going to be president and then get things signed by them before they got big,” Green tells ITK.

He’s banking on his Clinton names, saying the former first lady is “the single most likely candidate to be the first name” on the Democrats’ ticket. Indeed, more than 50 domains based on variations on Clinton’s name (including HillaryForPres2016.com for $8,300, HillaryNotPresident.com for $295,000, and YesHillaryCan.com for $49,995) are for sale on GoDaddy.com.

But Green, like many other Internet entrepreneurs, also attempts to think outside the box when he’s buying up domains. He purchased a domain with the name of former Puerto Rico Gov. Luis Fortuño (R), saying, “I just think he’d be a cool ticket add-on for a Republican nominee, even though nobody will ever pick him.”

He’s also placing his bets on Vice President Biden making a run again in 2016, but not for commander in chief: “I also like ClintonBiden[.com], even though nobody talks about Biden running for vice president again. I still think he’s more likely than any other individual candidate to be picked for that.”

Since he buys his online acquisitions in bulk, Green pays about $8 a year per domain in his cache. Although he has yet to make a profit, he’s eyeing a big payout ahead of the presidential election.

“Definitely if you happen to have the right two last names that end up on one of the two tickets, that is worth a lot of money. I think it’s worth low six-figures if you happen to have one of those.”

Green says his goal is to sell all his domain names as a bundle to make money sooner rather than later.

“I would only sell the bundle for tens of thousands, so it would still be a pretty good amount,” he says.

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But Bill Sweetman, president of the domain name consulting firm Name Ninja, says dreams of a big payday are likely pie in the political sky.

“I am aware of hundreds of different examples of people registering these names in the hopes of somebody coming along and buying it from them,” Sweetman tells ITK. “I’m not aware of a single instance where a candidate or a group bought ‘Somebody’s name for president.com.’ ”

While “technically not illegal,” according to Sweetman, snagging domain names in the hopes of selling them to a candidate or campaign “just doesn’t pass the sniff test.”

Green, who works at a labor law firm, says he knows not everyone approves of his domain name buying spree.

“It’s sort of a kind of bottom-feeding to a lot of people, I think … I mean I don’t think there’s anything to look down on about it, but I guess it’s just the idea of buying something that you don’t plan to use and then sitting on it until you can exploit it — that rubs people the wrong way,” he says.

Sweetman says he appreciates the “predicting the future” aspect of 2016 domain name sellers, but contends as a general rule: “I still don’t think you should do that with political candidates or with people.”

“It’s a gamble, and there are better ways. If you’re serious about making money and buying and selling domain names, you don’t play that game.”

Instead, the domain name expert suggests researching things, not people, that might be all the buzz in a few years.

“If you think the world is moving towards solar power, or some new thing you’re learning about … and you buy a bunch of those names and hope to sell them down the road, I think that’s fantastic," Sweetman says.

Green says he has a game plan if his domain names prove to be a tough sell: “I will use them. I’ll make fun of the politicians if I’m unable to sell them.” That’s what Green, a Democrat, did in 2012, turning a domain name based on Rick Santorum into a blog poking fun of the former GOP presidential candidate.

Asked if it ever pains him to plunk down money on domain names involving potential nominees on the opposing party’s ticket, Green replies, “No, the Republican ones are the easy ones for me to buy because if I can grab one of those domains before somebody else does and then charge as much as I can to Republican candidates, then I feel good about that.”

Green pauses before adding, “It’s the Democrat ones I feel a little more ambivalent about. But I also don’t think it’s a big deal. Somebody’s going to grab them. It might as well be me.”

SouthFlorida.com: “More 'Hard Choices' for Hillary”

By Phillip Valys

October 1, 2014

Hillary Clinton's political memoir published in the spring, "Hard Choices," ends on a cliffhanger. In an acknowledgement of the will-she-or-won't-she question that has dogged her life since leaving the post of Secretary of State in 2013, she writes, "Over the past year, as I've traveled around the country once again, the one question I'm asked more than any other is: Will I run for President in 2016?"

Her answer, naturally: "I haven't decided yet."

So the presidential frontrunner may have some explaining to do when she appears Thursday at Books and Books in Coral Gables to sign copies of "Hard Choices." The 3:30 p.m. signing is expected to draw at least 1,000 visitors, or to say it more optimistically, 1,000 opportunities to coax a clear answer from the former first lady.

Here's what to know before queuing up to visit Clinton:

Expect to find now-Grandma Clinton in a more buoyant mood this week, as the book signing is her first since the birth of her granddaughter, Charlotte, last Friday.

Another possible sign Clinton is warming up for a 2016 presidential run is her scheduled stop later that night in Miami, for a campaign dinner for Florida's Republican-turned-Democratic candidate for governor, Charlie Crist.

Admission is the $35 book purchase, available at the bookstore (265 Aragon Ave.) or at BooksandBooks.com. Clinton's security detail will check visitors' bags, as well, so leave totes and purses in the car.

Des Moines Register: "Late-night comics joke about Iowa and Hillary"

By Jason Noble

September 30, 2014, 5:40 p.m. CDT

Late-night comics have rediscovered Iowa.

The steady stream of potential 2016 presidential candidates visiting the state in recent weeks has caught the attention of comedians and made the state literally a punchline.

On Saturday Night Live over the weekend, faux-news anchors Colin Jost and Michael Che noted Hillary Clinton's recent visit to the Harkin Steak Fry and her "Hello, Iowa, I'm back!" quip.

"If I remember 2008 correctly," Che said, as a photo of '08 caucus winner and current President Barack Obama flashed on the screen, "that's not as effective as saying, 'Hello, Iowa, I'm black.'"

Tonight Show Host Jimmy Fallon offered a string of jokes on Monday night on the birth of Bill and Hillary Clinton's first grandchild, including one with an allusion to Iowa's first in the nation caucuses.

"Chelsea Clinton gave birth to a baby girl named Charlotte, she's already said her first word: 'Iowa!'" he said. "It's so cute. It's really adorable."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Time: "Meet the Clinton Baby's Other Grandparents"

By Landon Jones

September 30, 2014

[Subtitle:] Or, as they're called in Yiddish, the 'machatonim'

Even before Charlotte Clinton Mevzinsky headed home from the hospital on Monday, we had seen the first photos of her with her "over the moon" new grandparents, Bill and Hillary Clinton. But where were the machatonim?

In case you're wondering, machatonim is a Yiddish word that describes a relationship for which there is no equivalent word in English: the parents of your child's spouse. And in the case of the Clintons, the machatonim are two longtime friends and allies: Marjorie Margolies and Edward Mevzinsky.

Marjorie is a women's rights activist and former Congresswoman from Pennsylvania who served a momentous single term in 1993-95 after her deciding vote for the Clinton budget cost her her seat. She ran but lost in the Democratic primary this spring, despite vigorous support from both Clintons. Her former husband, Edward Mevzinsky, served two terms in Congress from Iowa — but also served fived years in prison after being convicted of fraud in 2001. They were divorced in 2007. So maybe their low profile is understandable.

"We are totally delighted," Marjorie told TIME What matters this week, anyway, is the relationship of the Clintons and the Margolies-Mevzinskys as machatonim — surely a more efficient way to put it than fumbling around awkwardly with phrases like "my daughter's in-laws." If Bill and Hillary are newcomers to their heightened status as grandparents, Marjorie and Ed are black-belt machatonim. Between their combined eleven children, they already have 18 grandchildren, thus presenting Charlotte with 18 cousins "who can't wait to be part of Charlotte's life," Margolies says.

It's often pointed out that the machatonim often become uncommonly close for two reasons: (1) their shared love for the same grandchildren, and (2) because they and the grandchildren are united by a common enemy: the parents.

So now begin the sensitive negotiations that are more than familiar to many grandparents. Which family will Charlotte (and, oh, her parents) visit for Thanksgiving? Or will they split the difference, Solomonically bolting after turkey dinner to commute to the Other Grandparents' House for dessert? Who gives her the coolest presents? And, most terrifying, which grandparents does she says she loves the MOST? She will say she loves them all, of course. After all, at least genetically, all machatonim are created equal.

Washington Post blog: The Switch: "Meet Share America, the U.S. State Department's Upworthy clone"

By Nancy Scola

September 30, 2014, 4:31 p.m. EDT

The public diplomacy game is going viral, as Russia has been demonstrating of late with its remarkable agility in getting its message out about the Ukraine conflict in today's networked information environment. Eager to compete in what might be called social warfare, the United States has just soft-launched Share America, a new site that looks much like another enormously successful vendor of social media fodder, Upworthy.

And what Share America is serving up is bite-sized nuggets of video, photos and text, all optimized to be as shareable as possible on the Web.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The goal is to feed content aligned with stated American values -- "democracy, freedom of expression, innovation, entrepreneurship, education, and the role of civil society," reads the site -- in the ever-hungry maw of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networks.

"Share America is an effort to take the issues that the United States cares about, and present them in ways that people will find interesting and in turn share through their networks," said Macon Phillips, who leads the Bureau of International Information Programs at the State Department. "As I've traveled around to posts all over the world, one thing is clear: We use our social presences as the main way we publish information for audiences in those countries. And so we want to create and publish information that we can provide to our colleagues in the field through their own social network and to allies around the world who share our interests."

State Department officials are taking a liberal view of what constitutes reflections of American interests. Leading the home page Tuesday was a video of Steve Jobs's 2005 commencement address at Stanford. But other posts are more straightforward, such as a White House photo that reveals the Martin Luther King, Jr. quote decorating the Oval Office's rug. Each Share America story comes equipped with prominent "Share This" and "Tweet This" buttons. And there's little hiding the source -- the .gov address is baked into each shared link, even in shortened form.

American diplomats have long tried to win the information game. And under both previous Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Secretary John Kerry, the State Department has attempted to identify and even amplify the nuances of an increasingly horizontal world; the 21st Century Statecraft push centered on the idea that there is growing power in peer-to-peer communications. But now that formal outreach channels like Voice of America are competing with thousands, if not millions, of less formal channels, it can be difficult for governments to find traction.

Tom Cochran, the former chief technology officer at Atlantic Media, joined the State Department in March, bringing his knowledge of how the modern, data-driven media environment works. Cochran is helping to drive the creation of Share America. Each post on the site is produced by State Department staff.

Cochran will be among the first to know whether the world is, indeed, eager to share Share America's vision of America. But just as the Internet has revealed the world's common love of cat photos, officials are hoping that it will also reveal its love of American-style freedom.

The Daily Beast: "This Is How Eva Longoria Is Trying to Win the Midterms"

By Asawin Suebsaeng

October 1, 2014

[Subtitle:] From working behind the scenes in the midterms to making a new farm labor documentary, the former Desperate Housewife has emerged as a force to be reckoned with in liberal politics.

These days, if you're a rising star in Democratic politics, it is downright weird if you don't have Eva Longoria in your corner.

The 39-year-old actress starred on the long-running ABC satire Desperate Housewives and in more lackluster theatrical fare such as Harsh Times and Over Her Dead Body. She's done commercials for L'Oréal, and hosted Saturday Night Live. But her work as an entertainer isn't what's earning her the biggest headlines these days—it's her role as a serious political activist and powerhouse in Democratic politics.

"Eva is so much more than a celebrity who occasionally lends her name to causes," Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)—with whom Longoria enthusiastically campaigned during his Senate run last year—told The Daily Beast. "Eva immerses herself in the pursuit of social and political justice. She knows the issues, is a great strategist, and is willing to sacrifice popularity for her larger sense of purpose. When I first met her, I was impressed and inspired by the fact that her activism is at the center of her being, and it is that authenticity that I believe makes her such a potent force for progressive change."

During the 2012 presidential election, Longoria was an Obama campaign co-chair and one of the president's top bundlers, and she delivered one of

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the more memorable speeches at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. "[Mitt Romney] would raise taxes on middle-class families to cut his own—and mine," she said, building up to one of the convention's biggest applause lines. "That's not who we are as a nation, and let me tell you why: Because the Eva Longoria who worked at Wendy's flipping burgers—she needed a tax break. But the Eva Longoria who works on movie sets does not."

Longoria's impressive dive into politics and advocacy also includes working with first lady Michelle Obama on the anti-obesity Let's Move! campaign, traveling to Capitol Hill to drum up support for the Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE Act), and even trying her hand at endorsing student body presidents. And when the actress met with Obama in 2012 following Congress's failure to move on immigration reform, she pushed the president to get more productively "emotional" and to take swift executive action to protect undocumented kids. (Two months later, that's exactly what he did.)

"I've always been politically active," Longoria told The Daily Beast. "I've been involved since Clinton ran in '92, volunteering, going door-to-door, canvassing, phone-banking…And coming from the state of Texas—the country of Texas, I should say—I'm definitely at the forefront."

Her new role as a leading Latina power broker has brought her glowing coverage:

"Eva Longoria Is Obama's Newest Hispanic Political Power Chip"

"The year of the political Latino celebrity, starring Eva Longoria"

"Can Eva Longoria start a Latino political movement?"

"Eva Longoria Moves From Desperate Housewife to Political Power Player"

Longoria has been instrumental in building an operation and network dedicated to encouraging more Latino and Latina political participation, and to getting more Latinos elected to local, state, and federal offices—and she isn't slowing down for the 2014 midterms, or at any point in the foreseeable future.

"We had this amazing turnout in 2012…yet in the midterms, nobody shows up!" Longoria said. "It's across the board. You can't elect the president, then sit and stay home and not elect the people he has to work with…I love and adore Hillary [Clinton], but I'm definitely not going to be speaking about 2016 until we can continue to fix what's on our agenda…We need to show our disappointment in the midterm elections; [at] this lame-duck Congress that won't get anything done."

During this election season, the actress/activist has been working mostly as a behind-the-scenes operator: voter registration efforts, fundraising, getting out the vote, campaign events, and—not so behind-the-scenes—social media. (She told The Daily Beast that she is supporting "many people" this November but declined to name a few, so as not to appear to be publicly playing favorites.)

She's been an active supporter of Voto Latino, an organization geared toward Latino Millennials, since its inception in 2008. When the group launched its Latinos 2014 project, Longoria was standing by.

"Eva and her organization the Latino Victory Project kindly jumped on board immediately," Maria Teresa Kumar, president of Voto Latino, told The Daily Beast. "Not just reaching out to their networks, but also reaching out to other celebrity voices to help us during the [midterms]." This outreach includes a soon-to-launch photo campaign that will showcase celebrities holding up handwritten signs reading, "I'm asking you: Register to vote."

"In 2010, Eva was one of the biggest advocates for United We Win, which went up against the SB 1070 law in Arizona," Kumar said, referring to the state's immigration law. "Eva lent her voice to make sure that didn't happen [in other states]. She would be up at 5 in the morning hitting different radio stations across the country to remind folks to register to vote."

And her work with the Latino Victory Project—which includes the Latino Victory PAC—runs even deeper. Founded by Longoria and DNC finance chairman Henry Muñoz, the project focuses on building Latino political power nationwide in order to "institutionalize what happened in 2012,", as Longoria has previously described it. (The Republican National Committee has called the project out as a "Democrat[ic] front group.") As co-

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founder, she does everything from approving press releases to sending voter information to the project's databases.

"We have never had a Latina elected to the U.S. Senate. Eva wants to change that," Cristóbal Alex, president of the Latino Victory Project, told The Daily Beast. "She is one of the only people in the country who can spearhead an effort, build an organization from scratch, who can do that…She has been creating a leadership pipeline."

Longoria and Muñoz also co-founded the Futuro Fund, which hauled in more than $32 million from more than 100,000 donors for Obama's reelection. "The two of them really figured out how to get Latinos to flex their muscle with their pocketbook, too—not just at the ballot box," Alex said. "She was certainly one of the primary drivers for the fund, one of the key spokespeople."

Alex recounted one of the first times he met Longoria, when the two attended a meeting at The Atlantic Philanthropies in New York City at the end of 2011. "This was the first time I had ever sat in a room with her to have a high-level conversation about strategy and politics, and about how to advance immigration reform, and she absolutely ran that conversation…Everyone in the room looked to her on her thoughts on strategy and guidance."

Longoria has discussed with Alex the possibility of headlining events to engage voters in Texas, her home state and "the state with one of the largest numbers of unregistered Latino voters," Alex noted. The Latino Victory Project has a number of these activities planned for late October but is still hashing out the details.

And though Longoria dreams of one day seeing a Latino or Latina commander in chief sworn in, she has shot down any talk about running for public office herself. "Would I ever run for something?" she wrote in The Hollywood Reporter in 2012. "God, no. I have more power as a citizen. Once you become a politician, your hands are tied. I'd rather have a voice."

There's at least one colleague who hopes she's changed her mind since then. "I'm sure if she weren't so busy being a movie star, she could be in the White House," Alex said. "Or governor of the state of Texas, or certainly in the Senate. Maybe she'll be the first Latina senator…I don't say that jokingly. She's brilliant."

For the time being, it looks like Longoria doesn't have time to consider a running for office, even if she wanted to. "Ninety-nine percent of my time right now is devoted to helping Latinas through educational programs," she said, referring to the Eva Longoria Foundation. She also has her hands full with Eva's Heroes—a nonprofit she co-founded to help people with special needs—and promoting Food Chains, a Human Rights Watch-endorsed documentary that she executive-produced. The film examines labor in the U.S. agriculture sector and the "immoral practices" that affect thousands of farm workers. (Longoria calls agriculture the "backbone of America.")

"There are still so many labor laws that are broken daily, and there are so many labor laws that exclude agriculture that we have not changed or updated," she said.

Going forward, Longoria and her political allies are, of course, going to renew their campaign for comprehensive immigration reform, a stalled ambition of the Obama presidency. Longoria says she has not spoken with the Obama since news broke that he had delayed further executive action on immigration until after the November election. (That political calculation naturally pissed off a lot of Latino activists.) However, Longoria says she is not angered by the president's delay; she's forming another game plan. "We were extremely disappointed that we couldn't get immigration reform done," she said. "But we're still pushing and working on something."

And it's this optimism that drives so much of her advocacy and action.

"We can't dismiss the growing population, the changing demographics of our country," Longoria noted. "And with that comes exciting times for everybody in America."

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for NH Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (Politico)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the real estate CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 2 – Miami, FL: Sec. Clinton signs "Hard Choices" at Books and Books (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· October 2 – Miami, FL: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Charlie Crist (Politico)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 8 – (Chicago, IL): Sec. Clinton stumps for Illinois Gov. Quinn (Chicago Sun-Times)

· October 8 – (Chicago, IL): Sec. Clinton keynotes AdvaMed 2014 conference (AdvaMed)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton and Sen. Reid fundraise for the Reid Nevada Fund (Ralston Reports)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
"Karen Finney" <finneyk8@yahoo.com>
"Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
"Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
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"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com>
"Adrienne Elrod" <adrienne.elrod@gmail.com>
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"Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
"Alex Hornbrook" <ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/21/2015 7:04:58 AM
Subject: Re: NH | Day 2

Message event this morning went well.

She started with a tour of one of the robotics classrooms and met with an ex-marine who did avionics while stationed in Japan who is now about to graduate with an associates degree from the community college. He was joined by the Chancellor and a professor, who showed them how the machines worked, and she asked lots of questions about where the machines come from, how they do their training, etc.

The pool was there, Andrea shouted a trade question at her, which she ignored and then later addressed in the course of her conversation with the student and professor.

She said "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security, we have to do our part in making sure we have the capabilities and the skills to be competitive. So it's got to be a partnership between our business, our government, our workforce, the intellectual property that comes out of our universities. We have to get back to a much more focused effort in me opinion, to try and produce those capacities here at home."

The round table itself was very good. A lot of talk about the opportunities a community college and vocational training creates, cost issues, need to pushing people into engineering careers, etc. Will have a transcript this afternoon.

We then stopped by Mary-Louise Hancock's house. Small print pool joined us so a little color and some nice photos should come out of that.

We're at the NDP now, where a small print pool joined us again. She did the four fights, really leaned into the rhetoric about campaign finance, talked about John Paul Stevens' proposal for a Constitutional amendment, and revisited the "Republicans came up here and only talked about me" line.

The pool report will likely note that her language was a little

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hotter, so let's see where that goes. Hopefully it will also note the incredible reception she got.

Good day so far.

Nick

On Apr 20, 2015, at 6:11 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

House party was good. She gave good remarks, people were murmuring about how good she was in such a scenario, and she stayed for 92 minutes, so had a lot of good conversation. Chozick of the NYT, James Pindell of the Boston Globe, and Nancy Cavanaugh of the Eagle Times (local paper) joined to listen to remarks.

All went well.

It was also a good reminder that wall paper is still very much a thing in parts of America.

Ert to Concord now. No more press with us today.

On Apr 20, 2015, at 3:34 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Just departed the baby furniture factory. She did the tour, which will have lots of great images come out of it, and while press couldn't hear her on the tour itself, she referenced what she talked about in the round table a few times, including a comment about all the machines being from other countries at the top.

The round table itself was another natural, substantive conversation on a range of issues, from drug use among young people to the need for a return to vocational training to capital gains taxes and spurring small business growth. A note that she hit hedge fund managers again for not paying their fair share in taxes.

She did very well in the opening, did the four fights, talked about our need to make the middle class mean something again, and did it with little to no looking at her notes sounding very natural.

At the end she chatted with the participants and then walked over to shake hands with the guests there. After some brief conversations she doubled back to the center to take some questions. The first question was about Clinton Cash and she did quite well with it, used our line about Republicans being focused on her and her being focused on the issues.

WMUR asked her 2 questions, one about staged events which she handled well, said she was hear to talk to people and doing this how she wanted to do it. The other question was a redux of the Clinton Cash question.

Will send a transcript this afternoon. Headed to Claremont now.

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On Apr 20, 2015, at 1:33 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Departed Kristin's Bakery, headed to the message event. She ordered a black tea and worked the room. Sat for about 20 minutes at one of the tables.

On Apr 20, 2015, at 9:53 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Road trip had commenced.

Will send event updates here.

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From: "Democracy Corps" <dcorps@democracycorps.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/29/2016 9:40:29 AM
Subject: Explaining Trump: The GOP Civil War & Its Opportunities

DEMOCRACY CORPS
CARVILLE ◆ GREENBERG

Explaining Trump: The GOP Civil War & Its Opportunities

As the Republican Party grapples with a fateful decision about its nominee for president, this new Democracy Corps survey of Republican voters shows the GOP is headed towards a train-wreck that will change our politics. That may seem like hyperbole, but this one of kind survey is an eye opening glimpse into what is really happening inside one of our major national parties.

When you see the results of this survey you will believe that Donald Trump either has an amazing antenna for the mood of the party or a great pollster. It is clear from this study that there is an explosive civil war inside the GOP and it can move significant numbers of voters out of the Republican camp – and this poll begins to show how.

- Trump is poised to win because his intense opposition to Obama Democrats and anti-immigration views gives him a Tea Party and working class base, and because he competes among Evangelicals *and* Moderates. Cruz has faltered because Observant Catholics don't like him; Rubio is faltering because his hard pro-life stance blocks gains with Moderates, as it did for Jeb Bush.

- What unites and animates today's Republican Party are two things: the fight against Obama-Democratic governance and the insistence that the party get serious about fighting growing immigration:
    - They are fundamentally opposed to Clinton, Obama, Obamacare and the Democrats they believe are socialists that threaten the Constitution;
    - They are opposed to illegal immigration and the

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    - growing foreign presence in a more racially diverse America. Thus, they deny facts and evidence about net-migration across the U.S.-Mexico border and demand their presidential candidate fight to get immigration under control;
    - They also favor a strong military and oppose regulation, but those preferences are not what is motivating today's Republicans.

- The GOP's problems begin the Moderates who form 31 percent of the base. They are heavily college-educated and accept the sexual revolution. They believe most abortions should be legal and they dislike the pro-life groups. They want the Republican nominee to stop fighting gay marriage.
    - Their distinct attitudes are the reason why the GOP establishment has not been able to consolidate their votes behind any candidate.
    - Their attitudes create a vast opening for Democrats in the general election.

- The GOP is further endangered by a huge crack that runs right down the middle of the GOP separating the Tea Party and Evangelical voters (47 percent) from the Moderates and Observant Catholics (45 percent). These are the issues that fracture the party:
    - The Moderate/Observant Catholic bloc believes government should help with health care and the free market needs regulation. Not the Tea Party/Evangelical bloc.
    - The Moderate led bloc believes the facts and scientific consensus about climate change. Not the Tea Party led bloc.
    - The Moderate led bloc is anti-NRA, not the Tea Party led bloc.

- The Trump race in particular already pushes 20 of Republicans to say they are uncertain what they will do in the general election against Hillary Clinton, including one quarter of the Catholics and one third of the moderates. The party is poised to shed voters. After attacks and messages, the Trump vote drops 14 points among the Catholics and among the Moderates, the Trump margin against Clinton drops 9 points.

- The strongest attacks on Trump are that he is an ego-maniac that is for himself, not the country; he is disrespectful of women; he can't be trusted with nuclear weapons; he is intolerant towards immigrants; and he denies America a clean energy future.

- The strongest Democratic messages that shift the Tea Party, Observant Catholics and Moderate voters away from Trump make the case for long-term investment in modernizing America; for reforming corporate governance so CEOs and corporations focus on investing in their companies and employees,

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not stock prices; and for an end to fighting to turn back the clock on social issues so we can address the country's problems.

The GOP civil war has consequences and this poll gives people the tools they need to plan their strategy and campaigns.

READ THE FULL MEMO

Democracy Corps is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to making the government of the United States more responsive to the American people. It was founded in 1999 by James Carville and Stanley Greenberg. Democracy Corps provides public opinion research and strategic advice to those dedicated to a more responsive Congress and Presidency. Learn more at www.democracycorps.com

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From: "Jorge A. Vilches" <jorgevilches@fibertel.com.ar>
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albright@georgetown.edu
mfeldstein@harvard.edu
Martin_Feldstein@hks.harvard.edu
Date: 1/24/2015 6:21:52 PM
Subject: Fw: EPW - < Did Argentina 'default' ? > Jan. 24, 2015 - Economic & Political Weekly (India)

Did Argentina *default* ?

by T. Sabri Öncü * and Jorge Vilches**

Economic&PoliticalWEEKLY

Vol.- L No. 4., January 24, 2015

http://www.epw.in/commentary/did-argentina-default.html

A US court ruling has warped the otherwise precise meanings of three key words republic, sovereign, and default leading to absurdities like a New York district court holding the Republic of Argentina in contempt of court! The entire understanding of sovereign debt and its restructuring is being read through ***private contract law that cannot address*** *the complex questions that are inherently public in nature, à la questions around restructuring Argentinas debt. It appeared that a misreading of key words could benefit some vulture funds, but so far no one has seen as much as a penny! Maybe they never will.* **www.epw.in**

The Setting

As lawyers know all too well, semantics does matter, and Argentinas case is no exception. Accordingly, terms such as republic, sovereign, and default take centre stage. Ever since the mess the United States (US) Judge Thomas Griesa created (Öncü 2014b), the word default has been misused hundreds of times regarding Argentinas 2014 sovereign debt payments. So, let us start with default. Financial default means failure to meet financial obligations. So, did Argentina default?

This should be of the utmost legal, financial, and political interest worldwide, in view of recent headlines **think Europe, think Greece, think PIIGS** (Pope 2014).

The Mess

Due to the glaring lack of (and badly needed) international framework for sovereign debt restructuring, Argentinas New York Law bonds today are basically in the hands of (a) the US judiciary with its non-performing default rulings, and (b) the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA), under direct oversight of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, for credit default swap (CDS) settlement purposes where (beyond belief!) Elliot Management Corporation the parent company of plaintiff NML Capital is a voting member (Hayakawa 2014). Logically and geographically, (a) and (b) should not be applicable to Argentine bonds issued under other jurisdictions such as London or Tokyo.

Unfortunately, in this case, logic is rarely the rule. Judge Griesa leads the lot, including his sophomoric judgments **declaring the sovereign Republic of Argentina in contempt of court** or that its **payments are illegal.** After six turbulent months, neither Argentinas legitimately restructured bond holders nor the Cayman Islands vulture funds have collected a penny. Possibly they never will, unless Judge Griesas rulings are revoked or something to that extent, as was proposed in a piece in *The New York Times* (Norris 2014b).

The US judiciary, including its Supreme Court of Justice (SCOTUS), has been clearly ineffective regarding the Argentine case (Vilches 2014). Indeed, US Supreme Court Justice Ruth B Ginsburg has openly dissented with the exorbitant 16 June 2014 decision taken by her SCOTUS colleagues whereby financial service providers clearinghouses, banks, trustees, fiscal agents worldwide are now **sovereign debt enforcement agents.**

Default Check

The US judiciary authorities have ruled that despite timely and proper disbursement of restructured due payments, Argentina has supposedly defaulted by failing to meet an unprecedented interpretation of its financial obligations towards 1% of its restructured bond exchange holdouts (Öncü 2014a). Furthermore, terms such as technical default and/or selective default and/or partial default have been artificially and hurriedly coined by third parties in their attempt to capture the essence of the resulting confusion. Insisting again on proper semantics, we doubt the value of this widely-used ex-post-facto terminology. **Being in default somewhat is like being somewhat pregnant**.

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Be it as it may, not so fast. For example, the ISDA is the only authority entitled and empowered to enforce the settlement of Argentinas CDS obligations.

Interestingly, the ISDA **does not even attempt to invoke the term default** or any of its respective flavoured variations in the case of Argentina. Instead, the ISDA declared that Argentina has incurred in a failure to pay credit event. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York was actively involved in establishing timelines for dispute resolution and auction hardwiring of CDSs, while supporting the permanent incorporation of the auction-based mechanism in order to increase the certainty, transparency and orderliness of settling CDS transactions following a credit event (FRBNY 2009: 6). Once again, interestingly, the New York Fed also **does not deal with any type, shape or form of defaults** (Duffie, Li and Lubke 2010).

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

We argue that the inconsistency of terminology used throughout the financial community and the lack of common definitions may not be all that innocent.

One explanation is that the entire financial world has not been able to get its act together on some fundamental matters, thus making the whole system inconsistent and, thus, ineffective.

Another possibility is that the above confusion was allowed and perpetuated on purpose so as to have all possible options open, as with Argentinas case today, making it fully discretionary rather than **certain, transparent and orderly** as the New York Fed and ISDA say it is supposed to be.

Or maybe it is just another glaring case of international financial incompetence.

Jurisdiction and Applicable Legislation

True enough, the Republic of Argentina did issue New York Law restructured bonds. But such bonds are not within the legal scope of parochial contract law. Semantics again. The Latin etymology of the term Republic is *res publica* meaning public thing, matter or affair. **So public law rules here, not private law**.

Georgetown University academic Adam Levitin has described Argentinas case as a high-stakes game of chicken with a sovereign state...that US courts cannot and should not win... abstention would have been the right approach (Levitin 2014).

This case involves a sovereign state with 45 million people and their futures are at stake. This is not a family gourmet restaurant in Upper Manhattan under a run-of-the-mill Chapter 11 bankruptcy process whereby creditors jockey for anything up for grabs, refrigerators included. Sovereign means supreme independent authority not subject to any other power or state. **It is not called sovereign debt for nothing.** In the case of a sovereign state such as the Republic of Argentina, local legislation is an acknowledged part of its bonds wherever they are issued, New York or elsewhere. The Republic of Argentina has specific legislation regarding its sovereign debt payments, which it necessarily has to abide by. Otherwise, Argentina would be violating its own laws while simultaneously ceasing to be a sovereign republic.

In case of a disagreement with what was accepted by 92.4% of the original creditors, the 1% of the remaining creditors should sue before Argentine Courts of Law, **not before the Wall Street tribunals**.

In turn, the US judiciary should abstain from getting involved in a case completely outside its scope as it will not solve, nor help to solve, sovereign debt restructuring processes such as the many that are threatening to hard land upon the worlds economy these days.

Effective Payment

The trustee banks Trust Indenture and Prospectuses of Argentine restructured exchange bonds foresaw two different payment mechanisms. The first one was through intermediary trustee banks. The second one was direct payment to bondholders who wished to get paid without intermediation. In the first case Argentinas responsibility ended as soon as trustee banks received the funds. In the latter case, it was Argentinas specific responsibility to ensure that bondholders received the payment. Argentina has regularly paid 92.4% of the original creditors who agreed to the restructuring through its intermediary trustee banks as allowed by the Trust Indenture and Prospectuses, thus **making trustee banks responsible for delivering payment to bondholders**, not the Republic of Argentina.

But then Judge Griesa surprised the whole jurisprudential world yet again by deciding to freeze Argentine payments as an additional unprecedented nuclear option of an exorbitant US court system. Accordingly, bondholders (including George Soros and Kyle Bass) have already sued trustee banks thus contributing to the relentless confusion and nonperformance. **Adding insult to injury**, the above freeze includes the British and Japanese Law bonds also, not only the New York Law bonds.

Top-tier sovereign debt international authority Anna Gelpern is on record saying, **Its scary** (Norris 2014b); **The world of sovereign debt is deeply dysfunctional** (Gelpern 2014).

The jurisprudential impact of this transnational overreach is unfathomable. Let us just imagine a Chinese judge saying: If you dont pay us you are violating the Chinese law. Argentina continues to insist on paying the remaining holdouts including the vulture funds exactly the same it has always paid the other 92.4% of creditors at a 300% profit for

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vulture funds (Herman 2014). Common sense indicates that this should be good enough for any bankruptcy situation. Otherwise a 99.99% creditors agreement would also mean default (sorry, credit event). Think Detroit (Davey and Walsh 2014).

A Quick Quiz

Q: Did Argentina default?

A: No, because it did not fail to meet its financial obligations as Argentina did pay 100% of its restructured bondholders duly and fully through its trustee banks as foreseen in the restructured bond Trust Indentures and Prospectuses.

Q: Did Argentina incur in a failure to pay credit event?

A: No, because Argentinas officially registered trustee banks duly received 100% of the restructured sovereign debt payments in full compliance with the bond Prospectuses.

Q: Did Argentina fail to comply with the pari passu clause specified in its bond Prospectuses?

A: No, because Argentina has repeatedly and emphatically proposed to pay every single original sovereign debt creditor exactly the same that was agreed with 92.4% of its creditors.

Q: Has Argentina been victim of judicial extortion?

A: Yes, among other things, because the US judiciary has (a) illegally frozen Argentine payments that belong to their rightful owners, namely, the restructured bondholders, and (b) because it has allowed vulture funds direct access to US listings of Argentinas seizable assets worldwide.

Q: Should the restructured bond holders make any claims on Argentina?

A: No, because Argentina opted to pay them through the officially registered trustee banks, not directly. It is Judge Griesa and the trustee banks they should go after.

* **T. Sabri Öncü** (sabri.oncu@gmail.com) is a financial economist based in Istanbul, Turkey.

** **Jorge Vilches** (jorgevilches@fibertel.com.ar) is a financial op-ed columnist based in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

References

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Economic&PoliticalWEEKLY

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From: "DC Hoyas" <dchoyas@dchoyas.org>
To: "Georgetown Club of DC" <podesta@georgetown.edu>
Date: 9/1/2014 9:08:25 PM
Subject: Georgetown Alumni Club News - Fall Winery Tour, Book Events, Welcome to the Neighborhood & more

DC Hoyas banner

Labor Day signals both the end of the summer and the start of a new school year. The Alumni Club started the weekend by volunteering at DC Prep School in Northeast with Georgetown University students to help prepare the school for the 425 pre-school to 3rd graders who will be starting a new school year on Tuesday. Below are some of our volunteers sorting books in the newly renovated library.

UPDATE: Last newsletter, we asked you if you'd like to participate in a Georgetown kickball game against American University. Because of a great response, we want to officially let you know that this event will happen on October 26 at Glover Archibald Park. Learn more or RSVP at http://dchoyas.org/event-1748238.

Club Events and News

Fall Winery Trip to Chrysalis Winery

September 13 - Bus Leaves from McDonough Gym

Our annual Fall Winery Tour has long been a popular event. This year, we will visit Chrysalis in southern Loudoun County.

After a bus trip from the Georgetown campus to the winery near Middleburg, VA, Chrysalis will provide a tasting of its wines, led by a dedicated wine educator, and then provide box lunches so that we can enjoy the view while enjoying wine and food. We can buy wine to accompany our meal.

Then we can recover from our lunch while we ride the bus back to Georgetown.

This event is limited, so register early! Box lunch orders must be submitted a week in advance, so if you register after 9/5 you?ll get turkey and gruyere sandwich.

Meet bus at McDonough Gym parking lot on main campus. Bus leaves promptly at 10am, please arrive by 9:45am.

RSVP Online

Featured Events and News

Club Events and News

Sept 7 - Alumni Book Club

Sept 8 - Cardinal Sean O'Malley

Sept 13 - Fall Wine Tour

Sept 24 - Author Talk/Signing

Sept 30 - Welcome to the Neighborhood

University and Other Events

Sept 6 - Six Flags America

Sept 12-13 - GEMA ROCKS

Sept 18 - Student-Alumni Networking

Oct 18 - Lombardi Gala

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Pope Francis and the New Evangelization: a Lecture by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston

September 8 @ The Newseum

The John Carroll Society & the Georgetown Alumni Club of DC invite you to a special lecture by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston.

Cardinal O'Malley will draw from his rich background including founding the Spanish Catholic Center in DC and most recently serving on the Council of 9 Cardinals who advises Pope Francis on governance of the Church.

Admission to the lecture is free, but seating is on a first-come first-served basis. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

Cost: No cost to attend, but seating will be first-come, first-served

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Georgetown Alumni Club September Bookclub Meeting

September 7 @ Atrium of the National Portrait Gallery

Interested in discussing books with other Georgetown graduates?

Come to the next meeting of the Georgetown Alumni Book Club to discuss "A Constellation of Vital Phenomenon" by Anthony Marra. This novel - set in the background of the Chechen wars - begins when 8-year old, Havaa, is saved by her doctor neighbor Akmed, after her father disappears from her tiny village of Eldar, Russia. After rescuing Havaa, Akmed takes her to the nearest hospital and puts her under the care of the skilled and resourceful doctor, Sonja. As the five days during which Sonja cares for Havaa unfold, the pasts of these three characters - Akmed, Havaa and Sonja - are woven together, and the fate of them is ultimately determined. A "New York Times" best seller deemed to be a powerful story about "the transcendent power of love in wartime," this novel should excite readers and bring about thought-provoking conversation for our meeting!

We certainly hope you can join the group for this discussion at our September meeting!

If you plan on attending one of the sessions, please email the group?s organizer at hoya2007@gmail.com to let her know.

Meet the Author of Meet me at the Bar, I'm Hungry, Mike Soper

September 24 @ The City Tavern Club

The Georgetown Alumni Club and City Tavern Club are pleased to welcome Mike Soper to speak about his latest book, Meet me at the Bar, I'm Hungry.

Local chef Michael Soper (C '75) will be joining the alumni club on September 24 to discuss and sign copies of his cookbook-memoir entitled "Meet Me At The Bar - I'm Hungry." He has already received enthusiastic endorsements from esteemed Washington Post restaurant critic Phyllis Richman and Washington Capitals and Wizards owner Ted Leonsis (C '77).

This book features stories and recipes from a local restaurant career spanning four decades. Many of the tales celebrate Georgetown's golden saloon age, when Mike was introduced to the enjoyment of dining at the bar. The book proceeds like a great menu, starting with appetizer recipes and ending with some of his signature dishes.

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Welcome to the Neighborhood

September 30 @ BlackFinn

Whether you're new to the area or returning to your hometown, you are invited to meet and network with Hoyas in your neighborhood at our upcoming "Welcome to the Neighborhood" events!

Join recent undergraduate and professional school alumni from the Class of 2014, as well as members of your local alumni club, to learn more about the Georgetown alumni community in your corner of the world.

Come join us at our basketball game watch location as we welcome our newest Hoyas to Washington, D.C. We'll have appetizer and drink specials, including a signature Georgetown cocktail!

RSVP Online

University and Other Events

Georgetown University Welcome Week Discount at Six Flags

You are invited to attend Georgetown's Special Day at Six Flags America, on Saturday, September 6th 2014!

This event is brought to you by Georgetown University Welcome Week.

The park will be open from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm.

More Information: Enjoy your Saturday at the biggest amusement park on the continent! For ONLY $26 you, your family and friends can enjoy admission to both Six Flags Amusement Park and Hurricane Harbor with a performance by the GU Pep Band!

Visit sixflags.com/america and enter the promo code GUWELCOME to receive your discounted ticket.

Don't miss out on this great deal! Get your ticket now!

Save the Date: GEMA ROCKS - Sept 12 & 13 @ Gonda Theatre, Georgetown University

Tickets are on sale now for GEMA ROCKS. Please get your tickets now at: http://gema-hoyas.org/gema_rocks_2014b.cfm

RSVP on the GEMA Facebook page and see who else is coming: https://www.facebook.com/events/333298713486548/

Get into the groove for GEMA ROCKS by checking out the event trailer online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzNABU5jzLY .

Don't miss the opportunity to rock to the music of established alumni musicians and entertainers from across the country including:

- Michael Zakarin (C '05, MBA '13) of The Bravery;
- International Trance/Dance artist Jeza, aka Jessica Bennett (C '09);
- Kiran Ghandi (C'11), percussionist for award winning British-Sri Lankan recording artist M.I.A.;
- Michael Pearsall (B '06) and Evan Field (C '98) of the critically-acclaimed band Honor by August (Last Chance);
- Teddy Zambetti (C '80) (Sirius XM In-House Composer/Producer and Co-Founder GU's Cabaret);
- Johnny Zambetti (B '09) (Guitarist/Songwriter of Terraplane Sun & guitarist from top-selling artist Schwayze);
- The Georgetown Improv Association.

And a special tribute to Bill Danoff (I '68) (Take Me Home Country Roads, Afternoon Delight) where he will receive the very first GEMA Lifetime Achievement Award.

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You?re Invited to the 5th Annual Ready, Set, Connect Student-Alumni Speed-Networking Event

Thursday, September 18th, 2014
7:00 ? 9:00 PM
Georgetown University Hotel & Conference Center
Washington, DC

We invite you to share your professional expertise, career advice and industry knowledge at the most celebrated Alumni Career Services? event of the year! Ready, Set, Connect provides undergraduate juniors and seniors the opportunity to network and connect with fellow Hoyas in various industries and careers. This event is done in a speed networking format where you will have the opportunity to make 1:1 connections with approximately 6 individual students over a 60 minute time frame.

Register here or e-mail Whitney Pezza, Associate Director, Alumni Career Services at wcp9@georgetown.edu

Please note that the 1:1 ratio is imperative for this event to be effective for all attendees. Please do not register until you know that you are able to 100% attend the event. If you must cancel after you register, please use the Cancel Registration button or email wcp9@georgetown.edu. If you do not cancel in advance, you will leave students without a conversation partner.

A Special Invite from President DeGioia

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington John J. DeGioia President of Georgetown University requests the pleasure of your company for the conferral of an honorary degree upon HIS EMINENCE DONALD CARDINAL WUERL ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON on Monday, September 22, 2014.

CEREMONY
5:00 pm - Gaston Hall, 3rd floor Healy Hall

RECEPTION
6:00 pm - The Quadrangle

Georgetown University
37th & O Streets, NW
Washington, DC

Please Register HERE

Save the Date! The 28th Annual Lombardi Gala

Saturday, October 18, 2014

Join us for the opportunity to volunteer or attend the 28th Annual Lombardi Gala, benefiting Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center!

Interested in volunteering? In order for this event to be a success, we are still in need of 35+ volunteers to assist with our large silent auction and registration. It is a fun and rewarding experience, so please consider lending your time. If you are interested, contact Patton Carrington at spc58@georgetown.edu or 202.687.1019. Training sessions will be held on Tuesday, October 7 at noon and 6pm. If you have a friend that we can count on who would be interested in volunteering, please pass this information along!

Interested in attending? Young Professionals (35 and under) tickets are available for $200 each and regular individual tickets are available for $500 each. The purchase of a ticket includes entry to the cocktail reception/silent auction, a seated dinner and dancing with the band Marquise after!

Each year, the Gala draws roughly 1,000 guests to support research and clinical care at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Like us on Facebook for further information or register HERE .

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Georgetown University Office of Advancement | PO Box 571253 | Washington, DC 20057

Please contact us at dchoyas@dchoyas.org with any questions or comments.

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This ***Club*** email was sent to podesta@georgetown.edu.
To ensure you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

Need your NetID, please click here . | Make a gift

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/23/2008 1:45:51 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/23

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 23rd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
TBA McCain: Meets with Gov. Jindal in New Orleans, LA - New Orleans, LA

10am McCain: Town Hall and Media Availability in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
10:45am BUSH: Signs H.R. 3403, the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008

12pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in Wilkes-Barre, PA

1:10pm BUSH: Attends a defense department briefing with Secretary Gates and the Joint Chiefs at the Pentago n

3:25pm BUSH: Photo-op with the 2008 Boys and Girls Nation delegates at the White House

3:45pm BUSH: Signs a proclamation in honor of the 60th anniversary of Armed Forces integration at the White House

4:30pm McCain: HQ tour in Harrisburg,PA - Harrisburg,PA

8pm Pawlenty: Finance Dinner in Grand Rapids, MI

9pm McCain: Interview on FNC - "Hannity and Colmes"

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Big GOP Donor Faced Trouble Back Home (Washington Post 7/23/08)
By Matthew Mosk; A01
...For two years, venture capitalist Craig Berkman battled angry investment partners after lending himself $5 million of their money; a jury awarded them $28 million in civil damages. All the while, he was contributing to Republican committees and candidates, including Sen. John McCain, whose campaign later donated the money to charity.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072202693.html

Bush Bundlers Raise Nearly $26 Million for McCain (Washington Post blog 7/22/08)
By Matthew Mosk
The group Campaign Money Watch has reviewed the latest campaign filings by Sen. John McCain's campaign and found that while the presumptive GOP nominee is not spending much time with President Bush, he is spending plenty of time with Bush's bundlers.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/22/bush_bundlers_raise_26_million.html

Is McCain's Age Showing? Tongues Wag Over Flubs (Washington Post 7/23/08)
By Howard Kurtz; C01
We interrupt the nonstop coverage of Barack Obama's overseas trip to bring you some breaking whispers about John McCain. He has been making a series of verbal slips -- invariably described as "gaffes" -- that are starting to ricochet from liberal blogs to the mainstream media. And fairly or not, some critics are suggesting the 71-year-old Republican candidate is showing his age.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072203201.html

Obama Shifts the Foreign Policy Debate (Washington Post 7/23/08)

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By Karen DeYoung and Jonathan Weisman; A08
Sen. Barack Obama, on his first and likely only overseas trip as the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has remade the campaign's foreign policy playing field, neatly sidestepping Republican charges that he has been naive and wrong on Iraq and moving to a broader, post-Iraq focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072202942.html?hpid=topnews

With the Mideast a Priority for Both Campaigns, McCain Intensifies His Attack (NYT 7/23/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Senator John McCain and his campaign sharply stepped up criticism of Senator Barack Obama on Tuesday as a craven and naïve traveler to the Middle East who, as Mr. McCain put it at a raucous town-hall-style meeting here, "would rather lose a war in order to win a political campaign."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/us/politics/23mccain.html?ref=politics

Obama Overseas! In Presidential Mode! Back Home, It's McCain in a Golf Cart. (NYT 7/23/08)
By ALESSANDRA STANLEY
It wasn't a television blackout of John McCain; it was worse: split-screen contrasts that at times made it seem as if Barack Obama was on a state visit while back home his opponent chafed at the perks and privileges of an incumbent commander in chief.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/us/politics/23watch.html

McCain pushes offshore-drilling plan (USA Today 7/23/08)
By David Jackson
Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Tuesday that the nation faces an "energy crisis" with both economic and national security implications, requiring more offshore oil drilling to lower gas prices and offset imports from hostile countries.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-22-mccain-energy_N.htm

McCain's Message Gets Makeover (WSJ 7/23/08)
By Laura Meckler and Elizabeth Holmes
As his campaign bus rolled through northern Wisconsin recently, John McCain interrupted a conversation to take a cell-phone call. It was "Sgt. Schmidt," he reported -- his nickname for Steve Schmidt, the sharp-tongued strategist he recently drafted to take over the campaign.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121676261654474987.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

McCain And The Economy (Forbes 7/23/08)
While the presidential candidates are crossing the U.S. to sell their visions for a post-Bush America, their advisers are scrambling to help them navigate the economic turbulence. Earlier this week, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, senior policy adviser to Arizona Sen. John McCain, spoke at length with Forbes.com and Forbes magazine about how the presumptive Republican nominee might handle the situation.
http://www.forbes.com/businessinthebeltway/2008/07/22/mccain-economy-holtzeakin-biz-wash-cx_0723adviser.html

Press coverage of Obama puts envy in the air at McCain headquarters (LA Times 7/23/08)
By Maeve Reston
'The media is in LOVE with Barack,' McCain's camp says in a video that mocks the reporting on the Democrat.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain23-2008jul23,0,4463372.story
See WSJ's "News Coverage Of Obama Irks McCain Team": http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121677550831675803.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox
See WaPo blog's "McCain Celebrates His 'JV' Press Pack": http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/22/mccain_celebrates_his_jv_press.html

McCain: "Obama Love" Web Video (RealClearPolitics 7/22/08)
The John McCain campaign released this web video accusing the media of being in love with Barack Obama. Chris Matthews figures prominently.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video_log/2008/07/mccain_obama_love_web_video.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC-yMUQ8KzI

McCain Falsely Claims The Surge 'Began The Anbar Awakening,' But CBS Doesn't Air It (ThinkProgress 7/22/08)
During an interview with Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), CBS Evening News host Katie Couric noted that Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) said recently that "there might have been improved security [in Iraq] even without the surge" and asked McCain, "What's your response to that?" After first calling Obama's claim "a false depiction of what

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actually happened," McCain proceeded to falsely claim that the surge "began the Anbar awakening": http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/22/mccain-anbar-history/

Obama Campaign: McCain Flubs on Iraq Timeline (AP 7/22/08)
McCain says Obama is wrong on Iraq, but Obama camp says McCain errs in discussing war timeline ...Obama's campaign says McCain was wrong about the war's timeline during a nationally televised interview Tuesday.
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=5430118

Not a Gaffe: A Fundamental Misunderstanding of Iraq (Democracy Arsenal 7/22/08)
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg
John McCain made a mistake this evening, which as far as I'm concerned disqualifies him from being President. It is so appalling and so factually wrong that I'm actually sitting here wondering who McCain's advisers are. This isn't some gaffe where he talks about the Iraq-Pakistan border. It's a real misunderstanding of what has happened in Iraq over the past year. It is even more disturbing because according to John McCain, Iraq is the central front in the "war on terror." If we are going to have an Iraq-centric policy, he should at least understand what he is talking about. But anyway, what happened.
http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/07/not-a-gaffe-a-f.html

McCain: "We Will Come Home In Victory" (CBS 7/22/08)
Exclusive: Ariz. Senator Tells Katie Couric Obama Does Not Understand Challenges The U.S. Faces In Iraq ...What follows is a full transcript of the interview.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/22/eveningnews/main4283813.shtml
Link to video: http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=4284432n

McCain Meltdown (TIME blog 7/22/08)
by Joe Klein
This John McCain said this today in Rochester, New Hampshire: This is a clear choice that the American people have. I had the courage and the judgment to say I would rather lose a political campaign than lose a war. It seems to me that Obama would rather lose a war in order to win a political campaign.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/07/mccain_meltdown.html

McCain Explains Czechoslovakia Gaffe ... And Explains ... And Explains (TPM 7/22/08)
By Greg Sargent
As you all know, McCain has repeatedly referred to "Czechoslovakia" in recent days, even though that country hasn't existed since the beginning of the Clinton administration. Well, at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire today, McCain again made the same slip-up. But this time, he caught himself, and proceeded to deliver a rather extensive mea culpa of sorts for his serial mistake.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccain_explains_czechoslovakia.php
See HuffPo's "McCain Explains His Repeated Czechoslovakia Gaffes (VIDEO): http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/22/watch-mccain-explains-his_n_114368.html

Energy plan: McCain would open 45 nuclear reactors across country (Union-Leader 7/23/08)
By JOHN DISTASO
On his third visit to New Hampshire in four months, John McCain yesterday defended his energy and tax cut plans, his votes on home heating assistance and said the United States is clearly winning the war in Iraq.
http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Energy+plan%3a+McCain+would+open+45+nuclear+reactors+across+country&articleId=3cbeaafc-d7e2-4b68-aefb-1f84c61369f4
See Union-Leader's "McCain slams Obama on energy, war in Iraq": http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=McCain+slams+Obama+on+energy%2c+war+in+Iraq&articleId=cdb8edc9-5566-46c8-8a3f-207a54852067

No arrest after McCain incident (Foster's Daily Democrat 7/23/08)
ROCHESTER — The scuffle across the street from City Hall which police broke up at around 9:50 a.m. has not resulted in any arrests. Foster's reported Tuesday morning, a man who was protesting before the rally for Sen. John McCain had been assaulted before the Republican presidential nominee was scheduled to speak at the Rochester Opera House.
http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080723/GJNEWS_01/470222812/-1/rss1&source=RSS

Wilkes-Barre prepares for McCain visit (Scranton Times-Tribune 7/22/08)
BY COULTER JONES
Hand-painted signs supporting Sen. John McCain air dried on the floor as a half-dozen volunteers called local supporters.

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http://www.scrantontimes.com/articles/2008/07/22/news/sc_times_trib.20080722.a.pg8.tt22mccain_s1.1827181_loc.txt

Obama Abroad, McCain Looks to Change the Subject (Newsweek blog 7/22/08)
By Suzanne Smalley
John McCain may not be the shoot from the hip maverick of old, but he hasn't lost his sense of humor. After a long day of loading on and off buses and planes, a press wrangler tonight told reporters the campaign had a "surprise" gift, adding that it is one that campaign officials, at least, consider "pretty funny." With that, the staffer walked down the aisle and handed out laminated press ID cards emblazoned with the words "McCain Press Corps JV Squad" underneath a photo of the Statue of Liberty. The caption? "Left behind to report in America." The reverse side of the ID offered a French translation of the same text along with a picture of a beret wearing pseudo-Frenchman pouring a glass of wine. Mon Dieu!
http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/stumper/archive/2008/07/22/obama-abroad-mccain-looks-to-change-the-subject.aspx
See CNN's "With spotlight on Obama, McCain steps up attacks": http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/22/mccain/index.html
See NYT blog's "McCain Camp Talks of Speedier Iraq Withdrawal — Or Not": http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/22/mccain-camp-talks-of-speedier-iraq-withdrawal-or-not/

McCain adviser paid by controversial businessman (AP 7/22/08)
Sen. John McCain's campaign on Tuesday distanced its foreign policy adviser from a longtime Republican fundraiser who paid the adviser $130,000 when he was a lobbyist. The payments by Texas businessman Stephen Payne to McCain adviser Randy Scheunemann, ending in 2006, were largely for lobbying Congress and executive branch agencies on energy issues, according to records filed with the Senate.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_ADVISER?SITE=ORAST&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Vice president buzz swirls around McCain (CNN 7/22/08)
* McCain on Tuesday: Will "announce when we are ready to announce"
* Bobby Jindal-McCain meeting planned for Wednesday fuels speculation
* Reports: McCain camp may announce this week to coincide with Obama trip
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/22/veep.talk/index.html

McCain Adviser Scowcroft Says He'd Tell Israel To "Calm Down" On Iran Strike (Huffington Post 7/22/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
Brent Scowcroft doesn't think the biggest problem with Iran getting a nuclear weapon is, well, Iran getting a nuclear weapon. "To me, whether or not Iran itself has [nuclear weapons] is a less important question than what it will do to proliferation around the world," the former national security adviser to President George H.W. Bush said at a Tuesday event in Washington D.C., adding: "I think we're standing on the brink of another forward surge in nuclear proliferation. ... Don't talk about 'do we bomb them now or after they get to weapons.' That's not the point. The point is how can we dissuade Tehran from its current course of action."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/22/mccain-adviser-scowcroft_n_114379.html

McCain's Free-Trade Tough Love Is Tough Sell in Ohio, Michigan (Bloomberg 7/22/08)
By Indira A.R. Lakshmanan
At General Electric Co.'s sprawling jet-engine plant outside Cincinnati, 80 percent of orders come from overseas, up from just over half in 2003, and employment has risen for five consecutive years. It's the kind of trade success John McCain loves to talk about.
http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=asaJxzIEmGQY&refer=politics

McCain's Unhappy Warrior (Slate 7/22/08)
By John Dickerson
John McCain attacked Barack Obama both at home and abroad this week. One attack was smart. One wasn't. On Iraq, McCain pressed Obama over his opposition to the troop surge—the strategy that has reduced violence in Iraq and led to modest political gains for the al-Maliki government. This was smart. The topic is on McCain's issue turf, potentially puts his opponent at odds with the American generals who executed the surge, and makes Obama look like a hidebound pol who won't absorb new facts that contradict his predetermined conclusions. McCain's dumb attack came in a television ad that blamed Barack Obama for high oil prices. You might have thought the cause of the oil-price hike was war, SUVs, OPEC, speculation, and global demand for oil. Nope—it's Obama. By this standard, he should also answer for the Starbucks closings and the dent in my Honda.
http://www.slate.com/id/2195762/

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John McCain's Neverending War (JedReport 7/22/08)
My newest video features John McCain talking about the Iraq war from 2002 through the present, exposing -- in his own words -- the lie behind his claim that he was the war's "greatest critic." It demonstrates his chilling commitment to fighting this war no matter what the people of America -- or Iraq -- want.
http://www.jedreport.com/2008/07/john-mccains--1.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ieHwOm4IjA

McCain Becomes Latest To Feel Chalabi's Burn (Huffington Post 7/22/08)
By Sam Stein
By now, Americans are accustomed to getting burned by Ahmad Chalabi. The Iraqi exile turned political official was instrumental in greasing the wheels for George W. Bush's war efforts only to be disavowed for leaking sensitive information to Iran. Numerous journalists, meanwhile, worked with Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress for stories on weapons of mass destruction (see: Miller, Judith) only to discover that the information they were being fed was monumentally bogus.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/22/mccain-becomes-latest-to_n_114268.html

Live Blogging A McCain Town Hall, Part III: Angry At McCain's Staff (Atlantic Online 7/22/08)
By Marc Ambinder
McCain calls on a woman wearing a McCain button. She pulls out a piece of paper. "You are, without a doubt, a true American hero, and we all thank you for that." She begins to give a speech. "I'm going to do a little straight talk," she says. "Mine is not really a question. It's a statement about a lot of your campaign staff members. I can tell you right now that Iam going to be right on top of their shit list." McCain: "Sssh!"
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/live_blogging_a_mccain_town_ha_2.php

McCain gets more than he bargained for (MSNBC blog 7/22/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
ROCHESTER, NH -- During a return trip to the state that he won in the 2000 primaries and that launched him on the road to this year's GOP nomination, McCain got more than he bargained for from the independent-minded voters he is so complimentary of on the campaign trail. Before opening up to questions from the audience of several hundred that crowded into the Opera House downtown here, McCain picked up on his campaign's message of the day: Obama and Iraq.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/07/22/1215039.aspx
Link to video: http://www.wmur.com/video/16955400/index.html

Lieberman Appearance at Hagee Conference Sparks Objections (Washington Post blog 7/22/08)
By Michelle Boorstein
A close adviser and advocate of Sen. John McCain is set to make an appearance tonight in Washington, D.C., with Texas megapreacher Pastor John Hagee -- a man McCain disavowed in the wake of controversy over inflammatory comments Hagee had made about Jews and Catholics.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/22/lieberman_appearance_at_hagee.html#more

McCain's Iraq Dilemma (Atlantic 7/21/08)
...Where Iraq is concerned, McCain is suddenly in the odd position of playing Winston Churchill in 1945, or George H.W. Bush in 1992 - a leader whose successes in crafting wartime policy don't translate into electoral victory - without having ever been elected President in the first place.
http://thecurrent.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/mccains-iraq-dilemma.php

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

On Iraq, Obama emulates Bush's worst mistake (NH Union-Leader 7/23/08)
By SEN. JOHN MCCAIN
IN JANUARY 2007, when Gen. David Petraeus took command in Iraq, he called the situation "hard" but not "hopeless." Today, 18 months later, violence has fallen by up to 80 percent to the lowest levels in four years, and Sunni and Shiite terrorists are reeling from a string of defeats. The situation now is full of hope, but considerable hard work remains to consolidate our fragile gains.
http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Sen.+John+McCain%3a+On+Iraq%2c+Obama+emulates+Bush%27s+worst+mistake&articleId=5d46ff8b-f018-4083-8137-260ae16a3e78

All Hail 'McBama' (NYT 7/23/08)
By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
The right position on Iraq today is probably "McBama" — stick to a clear withdrawal timetable, but leave yourself some wiggle room.

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http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/opinion/23friedman.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

Obama's Strategic Vision (Washington Post 7/23/08)
By Harold Meyerson
... it was Frederick the Great ... who once advised his generals, "He who would defend everything ends up defending nothing." You can't deploy everywhere in strength, Frederick was saying, and that's a lesson Obama seems to understand a lot better than John McCain does.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072202170.html

A new low in the high life (LA Times 7/23/08)
By Tim Rutten
As Candy Spelling's condo deal illustrates, so much wealth in the U.S. is concentrated in so few hands. Will Obama or McCain address this issue?
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-rutten23-2008jul23,0,2962955.column

V-day in Iraq? (LA Times 7/22/08)
It doesn't matter who's right. If all sides agree on an Iraq drawdown, then claim victory and get out.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-iraq22-2008jul22,0,4239079.story

McCain Campaign: Obama is "Frighteningly Inexperienced" (The Nation 7/22/08)
Barack Obama is in the midst of one of the more successful global tours by an American political leader in recent history. ... So what is the response of the campaign of Republican John McCain? ...The McCain camp is warning that Obama is "frighteningly inexperienced" and "the antithesis of what we should expect from the president of the United States."
http://news.yahoo.com/s/thenation/20080722/cm_thenation/45338370

A Quiet Humanitarian (Washington Post 7/23/08)
By Michael Gerson; A15
Cindy McCain's generosity would be a credit to her husband's administration.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072202114.html

McCain in Rochester - But where is Obama? (NH Union-Leader 7/22/08)
SEN. JOHN MCCAIN speaks at a town hall meeting in Rochester today. There, citizens can question a man who might be the next President of the United States. And if you've ever seen McCain at a town hall meeting, you know that anyone with a hostile question usually gets called on first.
http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=McCain+in+Rochester+-+But+where+is+Obama%3f&articleId=39e1ddf6-3850-45d6-a838-0323cf91cc1a

BUSH NEWS

A Private, Blunter Bush Declares, 'Wall Street Got Drunk' (NYT 7/23/08)
By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
When he talks about why the economy is ailing, President Bush often turns to euphemism, citing "challenges in the housing and financial markets." But Mr. Bush offered a far blunter assessment last week at a closed Republican fund-raiser in Houston: "Wall Street got drunk."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/washington/23bush.html?ref=business
See ABC blog's "Bush Says Wall Street's 'Got a Hangover'": http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/07/bush-says-wall.html

Ex-Advisers Warn Against Threatening to Attack Iran (Washington Post 7/23/08)
By Walter Pincus; A11
The Bush administration should stop talking about a military attack as an option if negotiations do not immediately halt Iran's uranium reprocessing program, two former national security advisers said yesterday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072202698.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Bush urges Congress to OK Colombia trade pact (AP 7/22/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
President Bush on Tuesday seasoned his call to Congress to pass a free trade pact with Colombia with a little Latino music.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iOfjBoHq88ylU7Txf6wCP4FfTNUwD9235NE80

Bush drops in for fund-raiser (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution 7/22/08)

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By JIM GALLOWAY
In what was more like a brief layover than a proper visit, President Bush made a rush-hour dash into and out of Atlanta on Tuesday to boost the Republican congressional campaign of Rick Goddard. Close to 200 people — including Gov. Sonny Perdue — attended the event at the home of Harrison Merrill, a local developer, just off West Paces Ferry Road.
http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/07/22/bush_visit_brief.html

Bush Cronies Tried To Redefine 'Carbon Dioxide' To Save Power Plants From Emissions Regulations (ThinkProgress 7/22/08)
Earlier this month, former EPA official Jason Burnett wrote to Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) with explosive revelations on how the White House has neutered climate change science to protect corporate interests. For example, OMB general counsel Jeffrey Rosen asked for multiple memos on whether carbon dioxide (CO2) from cars and plants could be regulated differently.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/22/bush-cronies-tried-to-redefine-carbon-dioxide-to-save-power-plants-from-emissions-regulations/

OTHER TOP NEWS

US, NKorea meet at nuclear talksamid tough tone (AFP 7/23/08)
The United States and North Korea sat down Wednesday for their highest level meeting in four years at six-country talks on North Korean nuclear disarmament.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5isP5LKAhrIk2cTttPqjF8WyvGGjQ

Spending on vets exceeds 1947 high (USA Today 7/23/08)
By Gregg Zoroya
The federal government is spending more money on veterans than at any time in modern history, surpassing the tidal wave of spending following World War II and the demilitarizing of millions of troops.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-07-22-vabudget_N.htm

Bank Investors Expect Less as Losses Mount (NYT 7/23/08)
By ERIC DASH
Can the bad news for banks get any worse? After the last week brought another round of woeful quarterly results from the industry, capped by news on Tuesday of multibillion-dollar losses at the Wachovia Corporation and Washington Mutual, that question is nagging banking executives and their investors.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/business/23bank.html?ref=todayspaper

Hill Budget Chief Weighs Odds, Cost Of Rescue Plan (Washington Post 7/23/08)
By Lori Montgomery and David S. Hilzenrath; D01
The Bush administration's plan to prop up troubled mortgage-finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is likely to cost taxpayers less than $25 billion, Capitol Hill's chief budget analyst said yesterday. But there is an outside chance that a further collapse in the housing market could require an infusion of $100 billion or more.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/22/AR2008072200907.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Civilian Risks Curbing Strikes in Afghan War (NYT 7/23/08)
By THOM SHANKER
Dawn was breaking over Afghanistan one day this month as Air Force surveillance planes locked in on a top-ranking insurgent commander as he traveled in secret around Kandahar, the spiritual home of the Taliban.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/world/asia/23military.html?hp

Obama promises focus on Middle East peace (USA Today 7/23/08)
By Kathy Kiely
Barack Obama arrived here Tuesday night emphasizing his solidarity with Israel and vowing as president to bring "sustained energy and focus" on ending the intractable Arab-Israeli conflict — the solution to which could hold the key to peace throughout the Middle East.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-07-22-obama_N.htm

Maliki's Endorsement: Not Lost in Translation (New Republic blog 7/22/08)
German magazine Der Spiegel caused quite a commotion this week by printing an interview with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki in which he endorsed Obama's Iraq plan by name. Some tried to downplay the significance of this endorsement by saying that Maliki had been misquoted by the magazine. But it turns out that Maliki actually got a copy of the interview before it was printed and had the option to make any changes.
http://blogs.tnr.com/tnr/blogs/the_plank/archive/2008/07/22/maliki-s-endorsement-not-lost-in-translation.aspx

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Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
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202-609-7681 (office)
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: GIDEON <mond1967@zahav.net.il>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/13/2015 5:47:03 AM
Subject: November 10 2012 Debbie Wasserman

Ben Ammi May 3 2013
Fax--775-513--454
mond1967@015.net.il
Israel

Dear Mr. Weigel,
My personal congratulations for President Obama re-election for a second tenure
A serious encumbering problem for the US is evidently the War in Afghanistan Objectively, any prolongation of belligerency there won't achieve anything but unnecessary casualties
The situation has recently been aggravated by the murder of US military guiders by
Afghan soldiers
Under such severe circumstances, evacuation of troops has become most urgent as early as possible On the other hand, a Super Power like the US cannot afford being
Defeated humiliated by Third World Country Terror Organizations Unilateral withdrawal from Afghanistan after 11 years of fighting means actually encouragement of Terror Activation against the Free World everywhere in Future
Analytically, the Winner of the Afghan War is nobody but King Opium who produces
90% of World yield of the Drug
It well known that Terror Organizations feed on Drug Merchandise as their main financial source having Iranian Intermediaries and Russian Blood Speculation as Accomplices
Hence is the Inevitable Conclusion King Opium has to pay the price for his Crimes against Humanity Culminated by Nine Eleven Horrendousness
The Opportunity for Bringing the King to Justice has been engendered currently with the Unmanned Aircraft Invention
I think to have thought about those Aircraft as an efficacious carrier of Herbicides equipped with special Dispersal accessories in order to achieve Desertification of the Narcotic Vegetation mainly Poppy and Coca for Heroine and Cocaine Production prevention.
It is quite plausible that Devastation of Narcotic Vegetation in Asia and in Central
America will indicate US Victory instead of an Ignominious Defeat predictable in current reality.
I suggest letting this letter be transferred to the White House in favor of US, Israel and Entire Mankind Affluence Please contact me in order to get full specifications for Unmanned Aircraft Transformation becoming Narcotic Vegetations Eliminators letting small bombers be decisive finally
Sincerely,

Gideon Rodeh

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: H <hdr29@hrcoffice.com>
"Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/22/2015 6:10:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Formal response from me

The memo we sent to NYT follows.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Brian Fallon <brianefallon@gmail.com >
> **Date:** April 23, 2015 at 12:50:45 AM EDT
> **To:** jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com , bfallon@hillaryclinton.com
> **Subject: Fwd: Formal response from me**
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Brian Fallon** <brianefallon@gmail.com >
> Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 9:15 PM
> Subject: Formal response from me
> To: Jo Becker <jbecker@nytimes.com >, "McIntire, Mike" <mcintire@nytimes.com >
>
> Below is the campaign's official response to your inquiry.
>
> **MEMORANDUM**
>
> TO: Jo Becker and Mike McIntyre, New York Times
>
> FROM: Brian Fallon, Hillary for America
>
> DATE: April 22, 2015
> RE: Response to story based on "Clinton Cash"
>
> ---
>
> The below memorandum presents our response to the questions you have posed in the course of your reporting on Peter Schweizer's book, *Clinton Cash*.
>
> At the outset, it is important to note that no one – neither Mr. Schweizer, nor the *Times*, nor anyone else -- has ever produced a shred of evidence supporting the theory that Hillary Clinton ever took action as Secretary of State to support the interests of donors to the Clinton Foundation. Therefore, we are extremely disappointed that the *New York Times* intends to rely on research culled from a biased author like Mr. Schweizer. During our conversations with the *Times*, it has been unclear to what extent, if at all, the *Times*' reporting goes beyond the allegations made in *Clinton Cash*. This is troubling because, as has been well documented already, the book's author is a known Republican operative whose organization has links to the Koch brothers and a major donor to Ted Cruz. Moreover, the book's rollout has been coordinated with another Republican presidential candidate, Rand Paul. It is worrisome that the Times would repeat the claims from such a questionable source.

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As we understand it, the crux of your story revolves around the allegations contained in the book's third chapter, entitled "Hillary's Reset." This chapter attempts to trace a connection between Frank Giustra, a known philanthropist who has long partnered with the Clinton Foundation, and the U.S. government's review of the proposed sale of a majority stake in Uranium One to a Russian-based company in 2010.

To suggest the State Department, under then-Secretary Clinton, exerted undue influence in the U.S. government's review of the sale of Uranium One is utterly baseless. It mischaracterizes the nature of the State Department's participation in such reviews, and also ignores the range of other regulatory agencies that ultimately supported this sale. It is impossible to view this allegation as anything other than just another in the many partisan conspiracy theories advanced in the *Clinton Cash* book.

To begin with, the fact of Mr. Giustra's contributions to the Clinton Foundation is not new. In fact, the only reason his contributions are known to the book's author is because the Foundation goes above and beyond what the law requires of nonprofit foundations in terms of disclosing its donors.

With respect to the State Department, it is but one of nine agencies involved in the CFIUS process. While the details of CFIUS deliberations are classified, it is widely known that it is the Treasury Department that serves as the lead agency in the body's reviews, and that the State Department very seldom serves in the role of "co-lead." Moreover, decisions by CFIUS are made on the basis of consensus. This means that to the extent anyone were to claim that the Uranium One sale might have raised national security questions, agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and Defense Department would have been party to the approval and could have elevated any concerns to the President if they had them. In light of these facts, it is completely misleading to suggest that the State Department was in a position to steer the approval of this deal.

Apart from the fact that the State Department was one of just nine agencies involved in CFIUS, it is also true that within the State Department, the CFIUS approval process historically does not trigger the personal involvement of the Secretary of State. The State Department's principal representative to CFIUS was the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs. During the time period in question, that position was held by Jose Fernandez. As you are aware, Mr. Fernandez has personally attested that "Secretary Clinton never intervened with me on any CFIUS matter."

In addition, the deal in question was approved by a range of regulatory bodies beyond CFIUS. This includes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Utah Department of Radiation. On account of the target company being Canadian, that country's regulators would also have had to approve the deal. They indeed did so.

The widespread nature of the approval of this transaction stemmed in part from the concessions that Russia made in the course of the review process. Indeed, one of the conditions imposed by the U.S. regulators is that U.S. uranium assets could not be exported and had to be sold in the United States. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) verified this arrangement and said it satisfied him.

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In our conversations, you have raised a possible contradiction in the fact that while CFIUS approved this particular transaction, it blocked a separate deal involving U.S. uranium assets sought by the Chinese government. This comparison is inaccurate. According to many press reports, the FirstGold investment was blocked because it was proximate to the Fallon Air Force Base, not because it involved uranium.

The bottom line is that the State Department was but one in a multitude of agencies that participated in the review of this widely supported transaction, and there is no evidence that the Department deviated in any way from its normal process involving CFIUS reviews. In fact, as noted above, the Department's principal representative to CFIUS at the time has confirmed that the Secretary never intervened with him in any CFIUS matter during his tenure there. Any allegations to the contrary are wholly unsubstantiated.

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/30/2010 7:30:16 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Conservative Myths On Obama Administration's National Security Policies

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/patrick-barry/conservatives-peddle-myth_b_558878.html

Conservatives Peddle Myths On Obama Administration's National Security Policies

Conservative commentary on President Obama's national security agenda is in a sorry state these days. Lacking policy alternatives, the right has resorted to peddling distortions in an attempt to sabotage the Administration. But the facts say the opposite. Policies that have weakened terrorist organizations dramatically and restored momentum to global nonproliferation efforts in fact have earned the support of U.S. military leaders and the national security establishment, American citizens at home and global publics abroad. The right's strategy, which may have worked in the past, is clear evidence that the conservative movement is out of touch when it comes to today's national security challenges.

Myth: Administration's nonproliferation policies have failed to advance American security and undermine American standing abroad. A recent Politico article describes Victor Davis Hanson complaining in the National Review that the Administration "has developed a bad habit of talking tough and bullying friendly constitutional states while reaching out to hostile and bad-acting dictatorships. In general, that is unwise foreign policy. In terms of nuclear politics, it is dangerous beyond belief." [Victor Davis Hanson, via Politico, 4/29/10]

Fact: The Obama administration is taking unprecedented action to protect America and its allies from the dual threats of nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation - and gaining traction.

- **The Obama administration is taking successful steps to increase American security, as demonstrated through meaningful actions taken this spring**. After years in which Washington opted to work alone, the US is getting global control of nuclear materials back on track by: signing a New START agreement that challenges other states to follow us in reducing nuclear weapons; clarifying our nuclear posture to support our security and heighten the consequences for proliferator states; bring effective pressure to bear on Iran and North Korea the bring them into compliance; and taking initiatives to curb the threat of nuclear terrorism and lock down all vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide. Additionally, the U.S. will participate in the Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference next month in New York, allowing the U.S. and the international community to sharpen its response to Iran and North Korea.

- **National security experts agree that, by putting nonproliferation issues on the international agenda at a level never seen before, the Obama administration has reasserted U.S. global leadership**. As George Schultz, Secretary of State for the Reagan administration stated, "[President Obama] is doing an excellent job. He has put the vision out there and keeps it out there. The nuclear posture review shows he is being careful about American national security at every step. The conference of world leaders on securing fissile material is the right thing to do. Who is going to disagree with that? So you get the whole world working on something and solving a problem. That is always a good step." Administration efforts to reassert U.S. leadership have had an impact. The U.S. - Global Leadership Project sponsored by Gallup and the Meridian International Center found that while approval for the U.S. remained low from 2005 to 2008, in 2009, a majority "approves of the job performance of U.S. leadership (51%) -- a first since Gallup began asking the question worldwide." [George Schultz, 4/14/10 . Gallup, 2/14/10]

Conservative Myth: Obama's counterterrorism policies are naïve and dangerous.

Marco Rubio, the conservative Senatorial candidate in Florida, recently discussed President Obama's counterterrorism policy saying: "It's naive, short-sighted, quite frankly, misguided in terms of what he thinks he's going to accomplish." [Marco Rubio, via Red State, 4/20/10]

Fact: The results speak for themselves: Obama administration has stepped up counterterrorism efforts and the strategy has proven successful.

- **The Administration has taken the fight to extremists overseas.** Andy Johnson of Third Way writes that, "Since the day President Obama took office, the United States has stepped up the fight against terrorists, and it's working." Johnson points out that, under President Obama's leadership, the U.S. has killed and captured al Qaeda and Taliban Leaders Baitullah Mehsud: Leader of the Pakistani Taliban... Sadam Hussein Al Hussami: A top al Qaeda official, involved in planning the suicide attack against the CIA in Afghanistan...Saleh al Somali: al Qaeda's senior operations planner... Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar: Taliban Leader Mullah Omar's Deputy, he was believed to be in de facto control of the Taliban in recent years." As well as, "Taliban regional 'shadow governors.'" [Andy Johnson, 3/23/10]
- **Vigilance has thwarted terrorist attacks at home, including the most serious plot since 9/11**. In addition, the

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administration has disrupted plots at home including the Bryant Neal Vinas case and the Najibullah Zazi, which the New York Times called "one of the most serious terrorism plots on American soil since Sept. 11, 2001." The U.S. has received actionable intelligence from these cases -without using torture -and others that have lead to further arrests of al Qaeda connected militants. [New York Daily News, 4/12/10 . Michael Isikoff, Newsweek, 2/22/10]

Conservative Myth: Obama's policies convey weakness to countries like Iran. In an op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal, Harvard Law Progressor Alan Dershowitz accused the President of appeasing Iran.

Reality: The Obama administration's diplomatic efforts have placed intense pressure on Iran. After Iran engagement with Iran, a policy that significantly bolstered the international standing of the United States, failed to bear fruit, the Administration shifted in January to a more assertive pressure track. The President's methodical diplomatic approach, unlike the previous administration's, has won critical international support. As detailed by the Washington Independent, President Obama will soon be the one who "shepherds an economic sanctions package on the Iranian regime's key organs through the United Nations Security Council. After winning China's acquiescence; spending almost a year and a half rebuilding relations with Russia; and leveraging new and less patient leadership at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the administration has pieces in position to unite the international community against Iran's uranium enrichment." Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nick Burns observed that Iran's international isolation has increased because of Obama's engagement: "He [Obama] had to build up political capital...The reality is that Iran is more isolated today because of this strategy, and because of their own behavior, than they were a year ago." Even Iran hawk John McCain recognized the benefits of the administration's approach, saying, "I never thought a policy of engagement with Iran's rulers would succeed, but I understand why the president pursued it." [Washington Independent, 4/19/10 . John McCain, via the NY Times, 4/15/10. R. Nicholas Burns, via NY Times, 2/11/10]

Myth: Obama administration policies have hurt America's military. The Obama administration is facing off against military leadership, weakening the armed forces, and, in William Kristol's words, cutting the defense budget "to a level at which maintaining the dominant military we have become accustomed to since the end of the Cold War will almost certainly be a thing of the past." [Weekly Standard, 5/3/10]

Reality: Military leadership and bipartisan national security leaders say they have the resources to complete their missions and prepare for future threats. There is wide support amongst experts that the Obama administration has taken principled and pragmatic position on a host of issues in order to keep America secure.

- **Budget.** Despite Kristol's fuzzy math, defense spending remains at historically high levels. This year alone, between the "baseline" budget and the spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Defense Department will shell out741.2 billion. The Center for a New American Security notes that: "in inflation-adjusted dollars and including war costs, the fiscal year 2011 Pentagon budget request is 13 percent higher than the Korea War peak; 33 percent higher than the Vietnam War peak; 23 percent higher than the Reagan-era 1980s peak; 64 percent higher than the Cold War average; and 15 percent higher than the post-9/11 average." [CNAS, February 2010 . Slate, 3/1/10]
- **Afghanistan-Pakistan.** When testifying to Congress after President Obama announced his strategy for the war in Afghanistan, ISAF Commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal told Congress that he had the resources and support he needed to carry out the mission there: "I agree with the president's decision. And I believe that it provides me the resources that we need to execute the strategy to accomplish the mission as outlined for us." [NPR, 12/8/2009]
- **Iran**. Military leaders have lined up to support the Administration's policy on Iran. Chairman of the Joints Chiefs Adm. Michael Mullen said President Obama "has made it very clear that we certainly seek to ensure that Iran does not obtain that capability, and that's the policy... Clearly the priority right now is the engagement, dialogue, sanctions piece, which I fully support." [Admiral Michael Mullen via Bloomberg, 4/30/10]
- **"Don't Ask, Don't Tell."** One day after Adm. Mullen expressed his "personal belief" that the discriminatory policy to ban gays in the military be repealed, Retired General Colin Powell expressed his support the President's policy. "If the chiefs and commanders are comfortable with moving to change the policy," Powell said, "then I support it." [Washington Post, 2/4/10]
- **Energy and climate.** Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said of the military's efforts on this subject that "The stakes could not be higher... energy reform will make us better fighters. In the end, it is a matter of energy independence and it is a matter of national security. Our dependence on foreign sources of petroleum makes us vulnerable in too many ways. The stakes are clear and the stakes are high. Our response has to be equal to that challenge." [Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate, 4/20/10 . Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, 4/20/10]

Conservative Myth: American public deeply concerned with President's national security policies. Conservatives have continually sought to suggest public disapproval for the Obama administration's national security policies.

Reality: Americans have expressed strong confidence in the President's handling of the country's top national security issues.

- **Poll after poll finds the American people strongly supportive of the President's handling of national security issues.** An ABC\Washington Post Poll released this week found the public approving of Obama's handling of the war in Afghanistan 56% to 36%. The same poll shows Americans approving of his nonproliferation agenda 49% to 37%. A Democracy Corps survey done in February, and released in March had even more impressive numbers. On issues ranging from America's wars to leadership of the military to fighting terrorism, clear majorities of the American people

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approve of the President.

- **Support for Obama administration's national security policies also runs deep.** As broadly as Americans support the Obama administration's foreign policy actions, there is growing evidence that such support has deep roots. Additionally, public anxiety over U.S. foreign policy has also eased since Obama took office. According to Public Agenda's Confidence in U.S. Foreign Policy Index, the foreign policy anxiety indicator has dropped 10-points to 122, the lowest level recorded since Public Agenda introduced the indicator in 2006. [Washington Post\ABC, 4/28/10 . Democracy Corps, March 2010 . Public Agenda, Spring 2010]

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/8/2008 6:15:42 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech to LULAC Washington, DC 07/08/09

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Kelli who made it into today's event. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain addresses struggling economy, highlights his job growth plan
- Newest health care plan sound byte: ' I intend to make health care more available to more Americans by making it more affordable and portable.'
- Highlights support for free trade: 'A little straight-talk, the global economy is here to stay.'
- Characterizes the problems/inequities in education for Hispanic and African-American families as the biggest 'civil rights challenge of our time'
- Highlights the key points of his Lexington Project plan
- Talks about comprehensive immigration reform and our 'humanitarian responsibilities'
- Works in a story about his experience as a POW: 'When I was in prison in Vietnam, I like other of my fellow POWs, was offered early release by my captors. Most of us refused because we were bound to our code of conduct, which said those who had been captured the earliest had to be released the soonest. My friend, Everett Alvarez, a brave American of Mexican descent, had been shot down years before I was, and had suffered for his country much more and much longer than I had. To leave him behind would have shamed us.'

Washington, DC: McCain Speech to the League of United Latin American Citizens 07/08/09

Background Details:
- Audience 600-700 in size, predominately Hispanic, middle-age crowd
- Audience was noticeably more supportive of McCain in applause and campaign chum than previous speech to NALEO
- Press included all major networks, traveling press and local networks as well as Spanish speaking stations
- Tracker had no trouble getting in
- No noticeable demonstrators/protesters

FULL Remarks
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-address-to-lulac/
REMARKS BY JOHN MCCAIN TO THE 79th ANNUAL LULAC CONVENTION

Thank you. I'm very pleased to be here to discuss with you some of the issues in this campaign that most concern Americans, particularly the issue that worries us the most — the American economy.

All of us know what is happening to the economy. It is slowing. Over 400,000 people have lost their jobs since December, and the rate of new job creation has fallen sharply. Some economists have noted that companies seem to be on a "hiring strike." Americans are worried about the security of their current job, and they're worried that they, their kids and their neighbors may not find good jobs and new opportunities in the future. To make matters worse, gas is over $4 a gallon and the price of oil has nearly doubled in the last year. The cost of everything from energy to food is rising.

I have a plan to grow the economy, create more and better jobs, and get America moving again. I have a plan to reform government, achieve energy security, and ensure that healthcare and a quality education are affordable and available for all. I believe the role of government is to unleash the creativity, ingenuity and hard work of the American people, and make it easier to create jobs.

At its core, the economy isn't the sum of an array of bewildering statistics. It's about where Americans work, how theylive, how the pay their bills today and save for tomorrow. It's about small businesses opening their doors, hiring employees and growing. It's about giving workers the education and training to find a good job and prosper in it. It's about the aspirations of the American people to build a better life for their families; dreams that begin with a job.

So how are we going to create good jobs? Let's start with small businesses, which create the majority of all jobs. A recent report says small businesses have created 233,000 jobs so far this year while other sectors are losing jobs. Small businesses are the job engine of America, and I will make it easier for them to grow and create more jobs. There are two million Latino owned businesses in America, a number that is growing very rapidly. The first consideration we should have when debating tax policy is how we can help those companies grow and increase

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the prosperity of the millions of American families whose economic security depends on their success.

It is a terrible mistake to raise taxes during an economic downturn. Increasing the tax burden on Americans impedes job growth, discourages innovation and makes us less competitive. Small businesses are the biggest job creators in our economy. Keeping individual rates low isn't intended as a favor to wealthy Americans. 23 million small business owners pay those rates, and taking more money from them deprives them of the capital they need to invest and grow and hire. If you believe you should pay more taxes, I am the wrong candidate for you. Jobs are the most important thing our economy creates. When you raise taxes in a bad economy you eliminate jobs. I'm not going to let that happen. I will keep current rates low and cut them where I can. For those of you with children, I will double the child deduction from $3500 to $7000 for every dependent, in every family in America. I will reduce the estate tax to fifteen percent, so parents who have spent long years working hard to build a business, and provide a decent living to their employees, can leave the product of a lifetime of labor and love to their children.

My health care plan is careful not to impose greater burdens on small business. A "pay or play" health mandate on small business would add a crushing $12,000 to the cost of employing anyone with a family. That would not only prevent them from creating new jobs, but will force them to cut jobs, and reduce the wages of current employees to pay for it. I intend to make health care more available to more Americans by making it more affordable and portable. The answer is to get health care costs under control by creating real competition among insurance companies, reforming the way medical treatment is billed, and helping American families make their own health care decisions with a $5000 tax credit.

Our current business tax rate, the second highest in the world, will postpone our recovery from this downturn and make us increasingly less competitive in the world economy. When a corporation plans to expand and hire more workers, they face a choice between building a new plant here at home or building it in a country where they will pay a third or a half the tax rate they pay in America. Employers can hire more people, or they can pay more taxes. They can rarely do both. We can no longer afford the luxury of nostalgia for past times when American business faced little serious competition in the world. I propose to reduce the business tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent.

The global economy is here to stay. We cannot build walls to foreign competition, and we shouldn't want to. When have Americans ever been afraid of competition? America is the biggest exporter, importer, producer, manufacturer, and innovator in the world. That's why I reject the false virtues of economic isolationism. Any confident, competent country and its government should embrace competition - it makes us stronger - not hide from our competitors and cheat our consumers and workers. We can compete and win, as we always have, or we can be left behind. Lowering barriers to trade creates more and better jobs, and higher wages. It keeps inflation under control. It makes goods more affordable for low and middle income consumers. Ninety-five percent of the world's consumers live outside the U.S. Our future prosperity depends on opening more of these markets, not closing them.

For Americans who have lost their job to foreign competition, I have proposed a comprehensive reform of our unemployment insurance and worker retraining programs. We will use our community colleges to help train workers for specific opportunities in their communities. And for workers of a certain age who have lost a job that won't come back, we'll help make up the difference in wages between their old job and a temporary, lower paid one until they've completed retraining and found secure new employment at a decent wage.

In the global economy what you learn is what you earn. Today, studies show that half of Hispanics and half of AfricanAmericans entering high school do not graduate with their class. By the 12th grade, U.S. students in math and science score near the bottom of all industrialized nations. Many parents fear their children won't have the same opportunities they had. That is unacceptable in a country as great as ours. In many schools, particularly where people are struggling the hardest, the situation is dire, and I believe poses the civil rights challenge of our time. We need to shake up failed school bureaucracies with competition; hold schools accountable for results; strengthen math, science, technology and engineering curriculums; empower parents with choice; remove barriers to qualified instructors, attract and reward superior teachers, and have a fair but sure process to weed out incompetents.

Few problems hurt Americans more than our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, and the rapid and dramatic increase in the price of gasoline it has caused. Obviously, the crisis hurts lower income Americans, who often drive the furthest to work and own the oldest cars. But because the cost of almost everything is affected directly by the cost of oil, the quality of life for many millions of Americans and the growth and hiring plans of millions of small businesses are suffering. Our dependence on foreign oil has been thirty years in the making, and was caused by the failure of politicians in Washington to think long term about the future of the country. If we don't act now to achieve energy security, we are putting our national security, our economy and our environment at grave risk. By 2030, America's demand for energy will rise by nearly twenty percent. Our jobs and our very way of life depend on the next President beginnin g to solve this challenge.

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Two weeks ago, I announced the Lexington Project to secure our energy future, named for the place where Americans first fought for their independence. We will begin by producing more of our own oil and gas. Increasing our own supply will send a message to the market and result in lower prices for oil and gas.

We will develop more clean energy. Nuclear power is the most dependable source of zero-emission energy we have. We will build at least 45 new nuclear plants that will create over 700,000 good jobs to construct and operate them.

The development of clean coal technology will create jobs in some of America's most economically disadvantaged areas. Our coal reserves are larger than Saudi Arabia's supply of oil. Clean coal demonstration projects alone will employ over 30,000 Americans.

My proposal to help automakers design and sell new generations of cars that don't depend on gasoline will re-invigorate that struggling industry. My plan to develop wind and solar power and renewable technologies will drive innovation and create high tech jobs. The Lexington Project will create millions of jobs, help protect our environment, improve our security, and solve the nation's energy problems. It is an ambitious plan, but I am confident our American workers, industry and entrepreneurs are up to this next great challenge in our history. The genius, hard work and courage of Americans have never failed us, and will not fail us now.

Let me close by talking briefly about my respect and gratitude for the contributions of Hispanic-Americans to the culture, economy and security of the country I have served all my adult life. I represent Arizona where Spanish was spoken before English was, and where the character and prosperity of our state owes a great deal to the many Arizonans of Hispanic descent who live there. And I know this country, which I love more than almost anything, would be the poorer were we deprived of the patriotism, industry and decency of those millions of Americans whose families came here from other countries in our hemisphere. I will honor their contributions to America for as long as I live.

I and many other colleagues twice attempted to pass comprehensive immigration legislation to fix our broken borders; ensure respect for the laws of this country; recognize the important economic necessity of immigrant laborers; apprehend those who came here illegally to commit crimes; and deal practically and humanely with those who came here, as my distant ancestors did, to build a better, safer life for their families, without excusing the fact they came here illegally or granting them privileges before those who have been waiting their turn outside the country. Many Americans, with good cause, did not believe us when we said we would secure our borders, and so we failed in our efforts. We must prove to them that we can and will secure our borders first, while respecting the dignity and rights of citizens and legal residents of the United States. But we must not make the mistake of thinking that our responsibility to meet this challenge will end with that accomplishment. We have economic and humanitarian responsibilities as well, and they require no less dedication from us in meeting them.

When I was in prison in Vietnam, I like other of my fellow POWs, was offered early release by my captors. Most of us refused because we were bound to our code of conduct, which said those who had been captured the earliest had to be released the soonest. My friend, Everett Alvarez, a brave American of Mexican descent, had been shot down years before I was, and had suffered for his country much more and much longer than I had. To leave him behind would have shamed us. When you take the solemn stroll along that wall of black granite on the national Mall, it is hard not to notice the many names such as Rodriguez, Hernandez, and Lopez that so sadly adorn it. When you visit Iraq and Afghanistan you will meet some of the thousands of Hispanic-Americans who serve there, and many of those who risk their lives to protect the rest of us do not yet possess the rights and privileges of full citizenship in the country they love so well. To love your country, as I discovered in Vietnam, is to love your countrymen. Those men and women are my brothers and sisters, my fellow Americans, an association that means more to me than any other. As a private citizen or as your President, I will never, never do anything to dishonor our obligations to them and their families or to forget what they and their ancestors have done to make this country the beautiful, bountiful, blessed place we love.

Thank you.

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Cammie L. Croft
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To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/19/2015 9:24:06 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Carpe diem

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for August 20th

Skimm'd with late-night sushi.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Embarrassing now, but you'll get over it" – An encouraging message from the group that hacked Ashley Madison, a website for people who want to cheat. Yesterday, as many as 37 million of their names were leaked online. And divorce lawyers everywhere rejoiced.

SKIMM THIS

SOMETIMES IRAN, SOMETIMES I HIDE

THE STORY

The Iran nuclear deal is facing a big vote soon. And now there's a twist.

BACK UP.

For years, Iran's been accused of trying to develop nuclear weapons. The country has always responded 'nope, not us.' Earlier this summer, Iran and six world powers (including the US) signed a deal to end the nuke drama by lifting sanctions in exchange for limits to Iran's program. Congress now has to approve that deal.

SO WHAT'S THE TWIST?

Yesterday, the AP reported that there's a side agreement attached to the deal. It allows Iran to use its own inspectors (instead of UN inspectors) at a site that's allegedly been used to develop nuclear weapons. This news makes the deal even more controversial, with critics saying it puts too much trust in Iran to police itself. b

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From: "Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com>
To: "Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)" <Huma@clintonemail.com>
Date: 3/30/2015 6:26:05 AM
Subject: RE: Hillary Clinton Tells Malcolm Hoenlein Wants to Improve Relations With Israel

Also pls be aware that these articles will be mailed to thousands of people who are interested in the subject matter and who have been asking themselves ,,,,and me ,many times "Where is Hillary on this"
Well ,,,,,now they will know.
Adding John .

From: Haim Saban
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:56 AM
To: Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)
Cc: Laura Hartigan; Alex De Ocampo
Subject: FW: Hillary Clinton Tells Malcolm Hoenlein Wants to Improve Relations With Israel

Hey Huma.
A very good statement ,,,,,w/o saying anything that would show even a sign of criticism of the administration.
Very smart and politically correct.
Pls say thanks to the lady.

Below: NYT & Algemeiner

Clinton Wants to Improve Ties With Israel

By MAGGIE HABERMANMARCH 29, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told a representative of a group of prominent Jewish leaders on Sunday that she wanted to put the relationship between the United States and Israel back on "constructive footing," the representative said.

Mrs. Clinton's comments, made in a phone call to Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, contrasted in tone from recent remarks by members of the Obama administration, who have publicly criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel amid tensions over a nuclear deal with Iran and comments Mr. Netanyahu made in the final days of his re-election campaign this month.

"Secretary Clinton thinks we need to all work together to return the special U.S.-Israel relationship to constructive footing, to get back to basic shared concerns and interests, including a two-state solution pursued through direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians," Mr. Hoenlein said in a statement issued by his organization on Sunday evening. "We must ensure that Israel never becomes a partisan issue," he quoted her as saying. Mrs. Clinton knows Mr. Hoenlein from her time in the Senate.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Hoenlein, but would not elaborate on what they had discussed or say if he had quoted her accurately.

Mrs. Clinton's comments are her first on the United States- Israeli relationship to be made public since Mr. Netanyahu's re-election on March 17, when the strains between the two countries reached their height in the days surrounding the election. Mr. Netanyahu urged supporters to counter Israeli Arabs who he said were voting in "droves," comments widely criticized as racist , and asserted that no Palestinian state would be established on his watch, a statement that President Obama 's chief of staff, Denis McDonough, called "very troubling."

After his victory, Mr. Netanyahu backed off both statements. Obama administration officials have left open the possibility of changing the United States' stance on Israel at the United Nations since the election. Historically, the United States has acted as a shield for resolutions that Israel found troublesome.

A senior White House official was quoted by The Wall Street Journal recently suggesting that some in the Obama administration felt "personally sold out," after accusations that Israel had spied on negotiations for an Iran nuclear deal and that those aides could be around for the "next administration," a clear reference to a potential Clinton White House.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/30/us/politics/hillary-clinton-wants-to-improve-relations-with-israel.html?_r=0

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Algemeiner

Hillary Clinton Breaks Silence on US-Israel Tensions Under Obama, Calls for Return of 'Constructive' Relationship

March 29, 2015 7:50 pm 65 comments

After weeks of escalating criticism of Israel by the Obama Administration, Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State and the leading 2016 Democratic presidential contender, on Sunday called for the renewal of the "special" relationship between the US and the Jewish state.

In a telephone conversation with Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Clinton said that she "thinks we need to all work together to return the special US-Israel relationship to constructive footing, to get back to basic shared concerns and interests."

The Secretary said this includes "a two-state solution pursued through direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians." She further noted that, "we must ensure that Israel never becomes a partisan issue."

Mr. Hoenlein, who initiated the conversation, said that, "Secretary Clinton's views are of special importance and timeliness given recent issues in the US-Israel relationship. We note her call for direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, which, we believe, is the only possible route to a true peace."

Clinton's comments follow weeks of escalating criticisms from the Obama Administration mainly addressing comments made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu days before his reelection earlier this month. The latest attacks follow a pattern of aggressive language directed towards Israel's leaders throughout the Obama presidency which has been marked by a number of stark policy differences between the Israelis and the White House.

A number of major Jewish leaders have spoken out in recent days, calling on the White House to tone down its rhetoric and to respect the historic bipartisan nature of US-Israel relations.

Explaining the significance of Clinton's comments Hoenlein told *The Algemeiner*, "As the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination, her words are especially significant and impactful."

"We believe that it is particularly important, given the challenges Israel and the region are facing, that the US and Israel stand together to advance their shared concerns and interests," Hoenlein added. "There is too much at stake to do otherwise."

http://www.algemeiner.com/2015/03/29/hillary-clinton-breaks-silence-on-us-israel-tensions-under-obama-calls-for-return-of-special-relationship/

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/20/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: E urope's Next Problem: U.S. Sanctions Agains t China

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

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Transatlantic Take

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Europe's Next Problem: U.S. Sanctions Against China

Hans Kundnani — September 21, 2015

BERLIN—During the last two weeks, it has been widely reported that the U.S. government has been developing a package of unprecedented economic sanctions against Chinese companies and individuals it alleges have benefited from cybertheft by their government. There seems to be a consensus in the United States behind a tougher response to Chinese hackers — five of whom were already indicted in May 2014. But, according to several reports, there were differences within the administration about whether or not to announce the sanctions before Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington, which begins on September 22. While the State Department wanted to delay the announcement — one official quoted in the *Financial Times* said it would "crater" the visit and there has even been speculation that China could cancel the visit if sanctions were imposed beforehand — law enforcement officials want to send a message that the United States was serious.

If the United States does go ahead with this tough new approach, it may create a dilemma for Europeans analogous to the one they faced after the United States imposed economic sanctions in response to the Russian annexation of Crimea last year...

FULL ARTICLE

Hans Kundnani is a senior transatlantic fellow with GMF's Europe program, based in Berlin. Follow him @hanskundnani .

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From: "Tara McGuinness" <tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/17/2008 2:04:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] don't miss this NYT piece - NYT: How Close McCain Is to Bush Depends on the Issue

NYT: How Close McCain Is to Bush Depends on the Issue

By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Published: June 17, 2008

WASHINGTON — The Democrats like to say that electing Senator John McCain would usher in the third term of George W. Bush, and they do not mean it as a compliment. **The Republicans counter that calling the senator "McBush" is political spin and that Mr. McCain is his own man.**

A look at Mr. McCain's 25-year record in the House and Senate, his 2008 campaign positions and his major speeches over the last three months indicates that on big-ticket issues — the economy, support for continuing the Iraq war, health care — his stances are indeed similar to Mr. Bush's brand of conservatism. Mr. McCain's positions are nearly identical to the president's on abortion and the types of judges he says he would appoint to the courts. On the environment, American diplomacy and nuclear proliferation, Mr. McCain has strikingly different views from Mr. Bush, and while he shares the president's goals in Iraq, he was at times an outspoken critic of the way the war was managed.

The disparities between the two are murkier on other issues. On immigration, Mr. McCain started out with Mr. Bush — at odds with the Republican mainstream — by favoring a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants, then backed off and emphasized the border-security-first approach favored by a majority of his party.

When it comes to dealing with terrorism suspects, Mr. McCain has supported imposing tighter rules than favored by the administration on the use of harsh interrogation techniques, but has consistently been with the president on limiting the legal rights of Guantánamo detainees. In one indicator that his view of executive power is moving closer to that of Mr. Bush, his campaign has recently signaled that he believes it was constitutional for the president to authorize wiretaps without warrants to monitor Americans' international phone calls and e-mail.

Mr. McCain has reversed himself on some issues — most notably, embracing the Bush tax cuts now after deriding them initially as fiscally risky and excessively skewed to the wealthy — and continues to adjust his positions on others. On Monday, he said he continued to oppose opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, leaving him at odds with the White House and most of his party, but said he favored giving states more flexibility to decide whether to explore for oil off their coasts.

On balance, the McCain campaign has sought to emphasize the differences between Mr. McCain and the unpopular Mr. Bush rather than the similarities.

"In the last 10 years, he's been an independent voice for what he thinks is in his country's best interest," said Mark Salter, one of Mr. McCain's closest advisers. "Sometimes it's brought him into conflict with members of his party and with the president. The Democrats know that."

Yet while it would be hard to categorize him as a doctrinaire Republican or conservative, Mr. McCain appears to have ceded some of his carefully cultivated reputation as a maverick.

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In a CBS News poll two weeks ago, 43 percent of registered voters said they believed he would continue Mr. Bush's policies, and 21 percent said he would be more conservative in his policies than Mr. Bush. Twenty-eight percent said he would be less conservative than Mr. Bush.

Presidencies are about more than policies, of course, and Mr. McCain would bring a different style, background and world view to the White House should he be elected in November.

Although he once held very different views, Mr. McCain's biggest similarity to Mr. Bush now is on the economy. Not only does the senator now support making permanent the large Bush tax cuts he once opposed — the $1.35 trillion tax reduction of 2001 and the $320 billion tax cut of 2003 — but he has proposed four major new tax cuts of his own.

Democrats say that those four proposed cuts — a reduction in the corporate tax rate to 25 percent from 35 percent, immediate tax breaks for corporate investment, a repeal of the alternative minimum tax and doubling the value of exemptions for dependents to $7,000 from $3,500 — are more regressive than Mr. Bush's tax cuts because they favor the rich more disproportionately than the president's reductions did. Mr. McCain's advisers said his plan would help stimulate job creation by reducing taxes on small businesses, especially those that pay taxes at the personal income tax rate, and would be part of a fiscal plan that would also emphasize reining in the growth of government spending far more than Mr. Bush did.

On health care, Mr. McCain has a market-oriented model similar to the one that Mr. Bush proposed to little effect in 2007. Like Mr. Bush, Mr. McCain would shift the emphasis from insurance provided by employers to insurance bought by individuals, and would offer a tax benefit for families to do so.

"In general, they're much more similar than different," said Drew Altman, the president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a health research group. "In terms of their goals, they're more focused on making the market more efficient than in expanding coverage."

Mr. McCain's proposal, however, is more progressive in that it offers a refundable credit of $5,000 to families to buy their own insurance, whether or not they pay taxes — in effect, cash. Although experts have questioned whether the $5,000 tax credit would cover the cost of private insurance, they generally say that Mr. Bush's plan, which offered a $15,000 tax deduction for families buying their own insurance, was more valuable to higher-income people.

On the Iraq war, Mr. McCain has been one of the president's biggest defenders of its stated rationale: saving the world from Saddam Hussein. Yet he was also an early advocate of increasing troop levels at a time when Mr. Bush was resistant, and was withering, from 2004 on, about Donald H. Rumsfeld, then defense secretary, and what Mr. McCain called Mr. Rumsfeld's "whack a mole" strategy of moving American troops from one violence-plagued part of Iraq to another.

Like Mr. Bush, Mr. McCain has steadfastly refused to set dates for withdrawals of troops and envisions a long-term American presence in the country. But last month, in the general election battleground state of Ohio, Mr. McCain did a semantic dance and said he expected that most American troops would be home from Iraq by 2013.

On abortion, Mr. McCain has long been opposed, and is in fact more explicit than the president in his opposition to Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to abortion. Although Mr. Bush has spoken about changing American "hearts and minds" to build a

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"culture of life," Mr. McCain has said directly, in South Carolina in 2007, that Roe v. Wade "should be overturned."

On judges, Mr. McCain has strongly embraced the judicial philosophy of Mr. Bush and vowed to appoint conservative judges in the mold of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.

On gay rights, Mr. McCain voted against a proposed constitutional amendment backed by Mr. Bush banning same-sex marriage , saying that it should be up to the states. Then in 2006, he made it clear how he thought his home state, Arizona, should decide: Mr. McCain appeared in a television commercial in support of a state amendment, which ultimately failed, to ban same-sex marriages.

Perhaps Mr. McCain's biggest departure from the president is on climate change . Mr. McCain has called for mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions, unlike Mr. Bush, who says such limits would be bad for the economy. Mr. McCain also supports a "cap and trade" system in which power plants and other polluters could meet limits on heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide by either reducing emissions on their own or by buying credits from more efficient producers.

Mr. McCain, who has a mixed record on the environment in the Senate — he has missed votes on toughening fuel economy standards and has opposed tax breaks meant to encourage alternative energy — has nonetheless tried to highlight what he considers his stark environmental divide with Mr. Bush.

"There is a longstanding, significant, deep, strong difference on this issue between myself and the administration," Mr. McCain said last month.

On diplomacy, Mr. McCain has regularly distanced himself from the go-it-alone unilateralism of the Bush administration.

"We cannot build an enduring peace based on freedom by ourselves, and we do not want to," Mr. McCain said in a major foreign policy address in Los Angeles in late March. "We have to strengthen our global alliances as the core of a new compact."

In the same vein, Mr. McCain has significantly broken with Mr. Bush on nuclear security policy. Unlike the president, he supports a legally binding accord between the United States and Russia on limiting nuclear weapons, the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, a strengthening of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, increased financing for the International Atomic Energy Agency and nuclear talks with China.

On Iran and North Korea, the two nations whose nuclear programs will present the next president with a tough set of options, Mr. McCain has allied himself with the Bush administration. He would refuse to engage in unconditional diplomacy with Iran and would continue to maintain contact with North Korea, primarily through multilateral talks. He has insisted, however, that the United States be able to verify effectively any agreement in which North Korea promises to abandon its nuclear weapons.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/us/politics/17policy.html?_r=1&hp=&oref=slogin&pagewanted=all

And don't miss the chart of policies and smiley photo of Bush and McCain:

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/06/17/us/politics/20080617_POLICY_GRAPHIC.html

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/12/2014 2:07:03 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday August 12, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday August 12, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times: "Attacking Obama Policy, Hillary Clinton Exposes Different Worldviews"

"As Mrs. Clinton stakes out her own foreign policy positions in advance of a possible campaign for the White House, there are likely to be other cases where her statements do not seem entirely in sync with her record as secretary of state."

Washington Post: "Hillary Clinton criticizes President Obama's foreign policy in interview with the Atlantic"

"Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has not yet said whether she will pursue the presidency. But for a candidate-in-waiting, she is clearly carving out a foreign policy distinct from the man she used to serve."

Politico Magazine: "Saving Syria Is No 'Fantasy'"

[Subtitle:] "Hillary Clinton's former adviser says Obama stood alone against calls to arm the rebels."

New York Times column: David Brooks: "Clinton, Obama and Iraq"

"If you don't take steady, aggressive preventive action, of the sort that Clinton leans toward, then you end up compelled to take the sort of large risky action that Obama abhors."

Politico: "Jeffrey Goldberg: Hillary Clinton line seemed like 'shot' at President Obama"

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"'Hillary hedged in this interview,' Goldberg told Andrea Mitchell. 'And she's not attacking the president, but I think she felt like, 'You know what, I thought this, and I think events are bearing out the truth of what I advocated for.'"

Talking Points Memo blog: TPM Editor's Blog: "Hillary's Delicate, Dangerous Game"

"Quite apart from the pros and cons of particular foreign policy strategies, I believe the great majority of partisan Democrats feel protective of the President. So it's a delicate, perilous thing to criticize him so publicly, particularly at a politically vulnerable moment, especially when the nature of the criticism mirrors that of many of the President's most dogged and aggrieved foes."

The Hill: "Hillary shows her hawkish side"

"Clinton's foreign policy differs from Obama's in that it is "a little more muscular, a little more deliberate and less deliberative," he added."

The Daily Beast: "Exclusive: Obama Told Lawmakers Criticism of His Syria Policy is 'Horsesh*t'"

"The argument that America should have done more in Syria, made for years by foreign policy leaders in both parties and several members of Obama's senior national security team, was brought back to the fore this past weekend."

Capital New York: "Schumer: Hillary would be 'so happy' with D.N.C. in Brooklyn"

"Among the reasons New York's senior senator sees that Brooklyn should get the 2016 Democratic National Convention: The location would suit the party's most likely nominee."

CBS News: "As Hillary Clinton criticizes Obama, conservatives balk"

"Criticism of Clinton's remarks was more muted on the left, though some anti-interventionist liberals took issue with her statements."

Politico: "Karl Rove: Clinton tries to be 'Goldilocks'"

"Karl Rove on Monday characterized Hillary Clinton's split with the president on foreign affairs as the former secretary of state painting herself as 'Goldilocks.'"

Articles:

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New York Times: "Attacking Obama Policy, Hillary Clinton Exposes Different Worldviews"

By Mark Landler

August 11, 2014

For the 19 months since Hillary Rodham Clinton departed as President Obama's secretary of state, she and Mr. Obama, and their respective aides, have labored to preserve a veneer of unity over how they worked together and how they view the world.

On Sunday, that veneer shattered — the victim of Mrs. Clinton's remarkably blunt interview with the Atlantic correspondent, Jeffrey Goldberg, in which she criticized not just Mr. Obama's refusal to aid the rebels in Syria but his shorthand description of his entire foreign policy.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Mrs. Clinton said, referring to the line that Mr. Obama has used with aides and reporters to describe his reluctance to inject the United States into messy foreign conflicts.

Mrs. Clinton said she assumed the line was more a "political message" for a war-weary American public than his actual worldview — an interpretation that makes her words even more stinging, since "don't do stupid stuff" was in fact the animating principle for the new foreign policy blueprint that Mr. Obama laid out at West Point in May.

That Mrs. Clinton is more hawkish than Mr. Obama is no surprise to anyone who watched a Democratic primary debate in 2008. Her policy differences with the president are well-documented: She favored supplying arms to moderate Syrian rebels, leaving behind a larger residual force in Iraq, and waiting longer before pulling American support for Egypt's former President Hosni Mubarak during the historic protests in Cairo.

What has changed is her readiness to surface those differences and put them in the context of a different worldview. Even her memoir, "Hard Choices," which she was promoting in her interview with Mr. Goldberg, soft-pedaled the gaps and painted a portrait of her and Mr. Obama in lock step in rebuilding America's tattered image abroad.

Now, though, Mrs. Clinton is suggesting that she and the president hold fundamentally different views of American power: his view cautious, inward-looking, suffused with a sense of limits; hers muscular, optimistic, unabashedly old-fashioned.

"You know, when you're down on yourself, and when you are hunkering down and pulling back, you're not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward," Mrs. Clinton said to Mr. Goldberg. "One issue is that we don't even tell our own story very well these days."

Much of the interview's resonance is in its timing, coming two days after Mr. Obama authorized airstrikes against Sunni militants in Iraq. Mrs. Clinton's aides say this was a coincidence; the session was scheduled long before anyone knew about military action.

Still, when Mrs. Clinton says "the failure to help build up a credible fighting force" against President Bashar al-Assad in Syria "left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," it suggests Mr. Obama's refusal to arm the rebels might end up being a singular misjudgment.

At the time of the Obama administration's internal debate over that decision, several officials said, Mrs. Clinton's advocacy was far less thunderous: the United States had tried every diplomatic channel with Syria, she said, and nothing else had worked, so why not try funneling weapons to the moderate rebels.

As Mrs. Clinton stakes out her own foreign policy positions in advance of a possible campaign for the White House, there are likely to be other cases where her statements do not seem entirely in sync with her record as secretary of state.

At the end of her tenure, for example, Mrs. Clinton wrote a memo to Mr. Obama recommending that the United States lift its half-century-old trade embargo against Cuba. It was not a position that she seriously advocated while at the State Department, officials said.

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Mrs. Clinton also dashed off an exit memo warning about President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, which White House aides said was redundant, since his behavior was already clear by then. At the beginning of the administration, she was an enthusiastic proponent of the administration's attempt to reset relations with Russia.

In the interview with The Atlantic, Mrs. Clinton said she had always been in the camp of those who believed that Iran had no right to enrich uranium. Yet in December 2010, she was one of the first American officials to acknowledge publicly, in an interview with the BBC, that Iran could emerge from nuclear negotiations with the right to enrich.

Mrs. Clinton is not the only former cabinet member to part company with Mr. Obama on foreign policy. Robert M. Gates, the former defense secretary, wrote a memoir laced with scathing criticism of the administration's approach to Afghanistan and other crises.

In a New York Times article in April about Mrs. Clinton, Leon E. Panetta, the former defense secretary and C.I.A. director, said, "The president has made some tough decisions. But it's been a mixed record, and the concern is, the president defining what America's role in the world is in the 21st century hasn't happened."

But because of their long history and Mrs. Clinton's political future, advisers to her and Mr. Obama have worked especially hard to head off any discord. Her staff gave parts of her memoir to Benjamin J. Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser, for vetting before publication.

And interlocking staffs has been a big factor in that effort. Jake Sullivan, Mrs. Clinton's top policy adviser at the State Department, went to work as national security adviser to Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., a post that allowed him to convey the White House's sensitivities to her aides.

Mrs. Clinton hired Tommy Vietor, a longtime Obama aide who was the spokesman for the National Security Council, to help with the rollout of her book. Mrs. Clinton's aides worried that some in the news media might use the book to try to drive a wedge between her and the president; Mr. Vietor's job was to push back on that effort.

While Mr. Obama still speaks periodically with Mrs. Clinton, their staffs communicate more regularly. During the Crimea crisis, the White House chief of staff, Denis R. McDonough, invited in several Clinton aides, including Philippe Reines and Huma Abedin, for consultations. Mrs. Clinton also checks in by email with senior aides like Mr. Rhodes on issues like Myanmar, in which both have a special interest.

Whether that communication will weather Mrs. Clinton's latest statements remains to be seen.

Washington Post: "Hillary Clinton criticizes President Obama's foreign policy in interview with the Atlantic"

By Juliet Eilperin

August 11, 2014, 8:44 p.m. EDT

Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has not yet said whether she will pursue the presidency. But for a candidate-in-waiting, she is clearly carving out a foreign policy distinct from the man she used to serve.

In the spring, President Obama articulated a philosophy for avoiding dangerous entanglements overseas that was modest in its ambitions and focused on avoiding mistakes. Don't do stupid things, he said.

Now Clinton is offering a blunt retort to that approach, telling an interviewer, "Great nations need organizing principles — and 'Don't do stupid stuff'

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is not an organizing principle."

The surprisingly direct critique, coming in an interview with the Atlantic, represents Clinton's most forceful effort yet to distance herself from an unpopular administration ahead of her expected 2016 campaign. It also foreshadows the unusual political challenges facing Clinton as she accentuates her foreign policy credentials while trying to avoid blame for the nation's defensive posture in an increasingly unstable world.

The White House declined to comment on Clinton's remarks, which came as Iraq has plunged into political turmoil and the United States has launched airstrikes to aid Kurdish forces under siege by the Islamic State militant group.

The administration is now grappling with multiple armed conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, making Clinton's record as the nation's top diplomat more fraught.

Clinton, who has already used her recent memoir, "Hard Choices ," to apologize for her decision to support the invasion of Iraq in 2002 and to draw some careful distinctions between herself and the administration, provided a more direct assessment in the interview published Sunday.

She drew special attention to Obama's determination to sidestep costly foreign interventions. The president and his aides have referred privately to that strategy in recent months as, "Don't do stupid s---." That approach has come under fire from some now that Islamist militants have gained ground overseas.

Clinton said the phrase was "a political message" rather than Obama's "worldview."

Even so, she argued that the United States has to strike a better balance between overreaching in foreign affairs and being so restrained that conflicts can spiral out of hand.

"You know, when you're down on yourself, and when you are hunkering down and pulling back, you're not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward," Clinton said.

Differences on Syria

As secretary of state, Clinton backed arming the rebels in Syria's ongoing civil war. In the new interview, she said, "The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against [Bashar al-Assad] — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled."

Clinton added that she couldn't be sure whether her preferred course of action would have changed the direction of the war. "I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what [former U.S. ambassador to Syria] Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place," she said.

While Clinton and Obama have taken steps since her departure from the administration to present themselves as friends, the two engaged over the weekend in a sort of indirect foreign policy debate — with each sitting for separate interviews with journalists known for their Middle East expertise.

Clinton made her comments to the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg. Obama, speaking with New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman, dismissed the idea that arming the Syrian rebels would have made a difference, saying it has "always been a fantasy."

"This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards," he added.

Benefits in distance

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In an e-mail Monday, an aide to Clinton wrote that the interview was "intended to promote her memoir, and Goldberg was a long-planned-for target on a list of interviews around the book — and not part of an overarching political strategy related to 2016."

Several experts said there is little precedent for a secretary of state preparing a presidential campaign in part by criticizing the foreign policy being carried out by the administration she helped lead. Yet the benefits to Clinton are clear.

"It's in her political interest to begin to distance herself from an unpopular president and to drive home the fact that she's risk-ready while Obama's risk-averse," said Aaron David Miller, vice president for new initiatives at the Wilson Center.

Clinton's comments cheered some Democrats who have become anxious about the threat Islamist militants pose to both stability in the Middle East and U.S. national security.

Josh Block, president of the Israel Project, said it is "important" to see a Democratic leader laying out a worldview "that recognizes the role of our values and very real threats and trends facing the U.S. and our allies today."

"It struck me as the reemergence of common sense in Democratic foreign policy after a period of drift and indecision," Block added.

Republican National Committee press secretary Kirsten Kukowski seized on Clinton's remarks Monday, e-mailing reporters, "good luck to you, Hillary" as she tries to refashion her record.

"She's going to try, because that's what the ever-calculating, ever-political Clintons do best, but let's be real, she was the Obama foreign policy for four years," Kukowski wrote.

Shawn Brimley, who served as the National Security Council's director for strategic planning during Obama's first term, said he did not see "much of a chasm between where Secretary Clinton is and where the president's been at some time."

Brimley said it is always easier for those who have left the administration to reflect upon world affairs and articulate an overarching vision than those who are "running on a treadmill at 20 to 30 miles an hour."

Still, Clinton's remarks appear to be carefully calibrated, the latest example of a deliberate distancing from her former colleagues.

Syria, for example, was not the only issue in which Clinton had a more interventionist view than Obama. Along with then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, she advocated sending more troops to Afghanistan. Clinton also wrote in the book that when it came to the Arab Spring, she and other senior advisers — including Gates and Vice President Biden — were not "swept up in the drama and idealism of the moment" like other, younger White House aides when it came to ousting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Politico Magazine: "Saving Syria Is No 'Fantasy'"

By Frederic Hof, former special advisor for transition in Syria at the U.S. Department of State

August 11, 2014

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton's former adviser says Obama stood alone against calls to arm the rebels.

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In June 2014, the Obama administration asked Congress for $500 million to train and equip nationalist Syrian rebels battling both the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Assad regime. Questions were posed then about the genuineness of the gesture: The request was emailed to Capitol Hill rather than made in person; it was unaccompanied by visits or telephone calls; there were no follow-up consultations; there was no order to the Department of Defense to reprogram funds to initiate activity quickly; and there was no evidence of an existing plan or overall strategy. Two months later, those questions seem to have been answered by the president of the United States. He says that arming nationalist Syrian rebels was never going to work anyway.

In an interview with the New York Times on Aug. 8, President Obama said the notion that ISIL's rise could have been stopped or hindered if he had armed the secular, more Western-friendly Syrian rebels at the start of the civil war—a view recently endorsed by his former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton—"has always been a fantasy. This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards.'"

Ironically, in the same interview the president also defended the U.S.-supported NATO military intervention in Libya on the grounds that without it, "it's likely that Libya would be Syria." One wonders if Syria itself would "be Syria" had its armed nationalists been adequately supported since 2012 and had the Assad regime's mass terror-delivery systems been neutralized in the summer of 2013 following the chemical-weapons atrocity, when more than 1,400 people were killed in an attack outside Damascus.

No doubt the president is sensitive to the charge that his rejection of the 2012 recommendation by his national security team to arm and equip nationalist Syrian rebels robustly has contributed significantly, if inadvertently, to ISIL's growth in both Syria and Iraq. His comments to Friedman implicitly dismiss the 2012 recommendation itself as a fantasy, but as Secretary Clinton's Syria adviser I was a member of the administration at that time. The recommendation, in one form or another, was offered not only by Clinton, but by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, CIA Director David Petraeus and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey. Yet the president, ignoring decades of universal conscription and mandatory military service in Syria, persists in characterizing the Assad regime's armed opponents as a hopeless collection of former butchers, bakers and candlestick makers.

What is truly curious, however, is the request to Congress for $500 million to finance what the president deems a fantasy. Indeed, if press reports are true that the United States is already involved in some low-level arming, equipping and training of Syrian rebels, one wonders how many taxpayer dollars have already been spent on something the commander-in-chief deems illusory. What is Congress now to make of this $500 million request? What are military planners at the U.S. Central Command to make of the midnight oil they have been burning trying to give shape to something they thought was real? What exactly was the purpose of whatever interagency process produced the $500 million initiative in the first place?

Perhaps the president misspoke or was inaccurately quoted. Perhaps he meant to argue that his 2012 decision was correct, but that the rise of ISIL has been a game-changer, and this is why he is seeking $500 million from Congress: to accelerate, despite all of the difficulties, the development of an alternative to Assad and the jihadis. Perhaps he really meant only to repeat his customary straw-man argument: Those who claim Assad would be gone today if only a different decision had been made in 2012 are wrong. One prays this is the case.

Congress, mercifully in recess, now has a choice: Take the president literally and summarily reject the $500 million request; or give the president the benefit of the doubt as to his choice of words and deliver the kind of serious consideration the request merits. It should choose the latter. When it returns to session it should invite senior administration officials to testify about the national security objectives and strategy motivating the request. Obama, for his part, should move quickly to clarify his remarks to convey that he is not asking Congress to throw money at a policy he doesn't believe in.

American pilots are now engaging ISIL targets in northern Iraq to support Kurdish peshmerga warriors. Syrian nationalists battling ISIL next door have long since given up on getting that kind of direct combat support from the United States. In the past, President Obama's words about a dictator who should step aside and red lines that are not to be crossed encouraged the Syrian opposition to believe that the United States would not permit Iranian and Russian support for mass homicide to go unanswered. They have grown deeply disappointed, disillusioned and embittered. Yet they have held out against steep odds.

Evidently, they never got the memo about successful resistance not being in the cards.

These people do not, in their dire straits, need a presidential back-of-the-hand, even one that may not have been meant as such. They need help in their two-way fight: help in downing regime helicopters bearing barrel bombs dropped indiscriminately on civilians, and help in repulsing and expelling the jihadis' terror squads. Had the requisite assistance started flowing two years ago, both Syria and Iraq would be in better places now.

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Fantasy? Few in the administration—including at very senior levels—think so. But the president has the only vote that counts. And what he does now—not what he did or failed to do two years ago—is what truly matters.

New York Times column: David Brooks: "Clinton, Obama and Iraq"

By David Brooks

August 11, 2014

Last week, Hillary Clinton had a fascinating interview with Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic. The interview got immediate attention because of the way she discussed her differences with President Obama.

While admitting that no one will ever know who was right, Clinton argues that Obama might have done more to help the moderate opposition in Syria fight the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. "The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad ... left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," she told Goldberg.

While showing lavish respect for the president's intelligence and judgment, Clinton also made it clear that she'd be a more aggressive foreign policy leader. "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she said, citing Obama's famous phrase.

But the interview also illuminates the different flavors of Democratic thinking on foreign policy. We are now living in what we might as well admit is the Age of Iraq. The last four presidents have found themselves drawn into that nation because it epitomizes the core problem at the center of so many crises: the interaction between failing secular governance and radical Islam.

In her interview with Goldberg, Clinton likens the current moment to the Cold War. The U.S. confronts a diverse global movement, motivated by a hostile ideology: jihadism.

"Jihadist groups are governing territory. They will never stay there, though. They are driven to expand." This jihadism shows up in many contexts, but whether in Gaza or Syria or Iraq, she says, "it is all one big threat."

Clinton speaks as a Truman-Kennedy Democrat. She's obviously much, much more multilateral than Republicans, but there's a certain muscular tone, a certain assumption that there will be hostile ideologies that threaten America. There is also a grand strategic cast to her mind. The U.S. has to come up with an "overarching" strategy, she told Goldberg, to contain, deter and defeat anti-democratic foes.

She argues that harsh action is sometimes necessary. "I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the rockets, " she declared, embracing recent Israeli policy. "There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict. ... So the ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas."

This tone sometimes stands in tension with the approach President Obama articulated in his West Point speech in the spring, or in his interview with my colleague Thomas Friedman on Friday.

Obama has carefully not organized a large part of his foreign policy around a war against jihadism. The foreign policy vision he describes is, as you'd expect from a former law professor, built around reverence for certain procedures: compromise, inclusiveness, rules and norms. The threat he described in his West Point speech was a tactic, terrorism, not an ideology, jihadism. His main argument was against a means not an end: the efficacy of military action.

Obama is notably cautious, arguing that the U.S. errs when it tries to do too much. The cast of his mind is against intervention. Sometimes, when the situation demands it, he goes against his natural temperament (he told Friedman that he regrets not getting more involved in Libya), but it takes a mighty shove, and he is resistant all the way. In his West Point speech, he erected barriers to action. He argued, for example, that the U.S. could

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take direct action only when “there is near certainty of no civilian casualties.” (This is not a standard Franklin Roosevelt would have applied.)

Obama and Clinton represent different Democratic tendencies. In their descriptions of the current situation in Iraq, Clinton emphasizes that there cannot be inclusive politics unless the caliphate is seriously pushed back, while Obama argues that we will be unable to push back the caliphate unless the Iraqis themselves create inclusive politics. The Clinton language points toward some sort of intervention. Obama’s points away from it, though he may be forced by events into being more involved.

It will be fascinating to see how Clinton’s approach plays in Democratic primaries. (I’d bet she is going to get a more serious challenge than people now expect.) In practice, the Clinton approach strikes me as more sound, for the same reason that early intervention against cancer is safer than late-term surgery. In the Middle East, malevolent groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria grow unless checked. Even in situations where our “friends” are dysfunctional, the world has to somehow check them, using a multitude of levers. Having done so little in Syria and Iraq for the past year, we can end the caliphate or we can stay out of Iraq, but we can’t do both.

If you don’t take steady, aggressive preventive action, of the sort that Clinton leans toward, then you end up compelled to take the sort of large risky action that Obama abhors.

Politico: “Jeffrey Goldberg: Hillary Clinton line seemed like ‘shot’ at President Obama”

By Jonathan Topaz

August 11, 2014, 2:02 p.m. EDT

Jeffrey Goldberg on Monday dissected his interview with Hillary Clinton, saying she took “a bit of a shot” at President Barack Obama and his foreign policy.

Appearing on MSNBC, the Atlantic journalist who interviewed Clinton was asked about the former secretary of State’s comments that an Obama foreign policy quip — “Don’t do stupid stuff” — was not an adequate “organizing principle.”

“[W]hen she says, that’s not an organizing principle — and people understand that to be one of Barack Obama’s organizing principles — it does seem like a bit of a shot,” Goldberg said.

He added that her comments on the issue underscore a significant stylistic difference between Obama and Clinton, who served in the administration during the president’s first term.

“What she’s saying is that, ‘My organizing principle is, we defeated Communism and we’re going to defeat jihadism,’”

Goldberg said of Clinton. “Barack Obama, as you well know, is allergic to that kind of sweeping language.”

The interview, conducted last week and published over the weekend, was perhaps Clinton’s largest break from Obama, whom she has strongly supported since leaving the State Department. On Syria — in what Goldberg called the “single sharpest point of disagreement” between Clinton and Obama expressed in the interview — she suggested that the president’s failure to arm the Syrian rebels earlier in the conflict helped created a security “vacuum” now filled by jihadists. Goldberg said that Clinton, who advocated a more hawkish foreign policy on several issues during her time in the Cabinet, might feel “vindicated in her position” that the U.S. should have intervened in Syria earlier.

“Hillary hedged in this interview,” Goldberg told Andrea Mitchell. “And she’s not attacking the president, but I think she felt like, ‘You know what, I thought this, and I think events are bearing out the truth of what I advocated for.’”

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Mitchell asked Goldberg about Clinton and Obama's differences on Israel, noting that Clinton seemed to be more resolutely siding with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "Hillary doesn't think that differently [from Obama]," he said. "I think she's running for president and he's not and she knows that Israel remains, according to polls, a popular cause in America."

Goldberg added that Clinton's more unequivocal answer supporting Israel lacked some "nuance," adding that her message to the U.S. public and Netanyahu was: "[Obama] had a tough relationship with Israel; I'm going to have a smoother relationship with Israel."

Talking Points Memo blog: TPM Editor's Blog: "Hillary's Delicate, Dangerous Game"

By Josh Marshall

August 11, 2014, 10:56 p.m. EDT

Let's start by affirming a few points. After a bruising and devastating defeat to Barack Obama in 2008, Hillary Clinton went on to serve his administration ably, loyally and well for four years. It's also true that it's entirely natural for a future presidential aspirant to find ways to separate herself from the current president, especially one with flagging popularity. Indeed, it is incumbent on a would-be president to make clear what she would have done differently and what she would do if she were elected. As President Clinton has said many times, elections are always about the future.

But there's an element of Hillary's strategic distancing I've not seen widely mentioned. President Obama is not popular at the moment. His popularity is at best in the low 40s. But among the people who choose Democratic nominees - that is, partisan Democrats - he remains quite popular. And even for many Democrats who feel disappointed, let down or just worn out by the whole six year journey, President Obama represents something that transcends how they may feel about him at just this moment.

Quite apart from the pros and cons of particular foreign policy strategies, I believe the great majority of partisan Democrats feel protective of the President. So it's a delicate, perilous thing to criticize him so publicly, particularly at a politically vulnerable moment, especially when the nature of the criticism mirrors that of many of the President's most dogged and aggrieved foes.

The particular nature of the supposed disagreement adds to the equation.

Remember that Sen. Clinton's hawkishness - summed up by her Iraq War vote but expressed on various fronts during her six years in the Senate - was a significant reason she lost her primary fight against Obama in 2008. And that's matched by what seems to be an effort on Hillary's part today to position herself as the candidate of what might be termed the moderate wing of the neoconservative foreign policy intelligentsia.

Both the positioning and the substance of the positioning hearken back to what undid Hillary in 2007-08. Indeed, there's one more thread: the sense, critical in 2007-08, that Hillary had become a creature of Washington, its factions, its consultants, its conventional wisdoms so impervious to outside influence.

I don't pretend any of this is likely to derail her. She's phenomenally popular and for good reason among Democrats and beats all comers in the general. But it all threatens to crystallize a mix of traits many Democrats grew suspicious of in 2008 and could led to a catalyzing if not successful primary challenge to her in 2016.

Perhaps more than anything, as a political matter, once you loose these memes and mini-controversies, you don't necessarily control them. The Murdoch press, aggrieved frenemies, Fox News, MSNBC, the Sunday Show crowd do with them what they will. Which is half the point, of course. But not necessarily as you planned.

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The Hill: "Hillary shows her hawkish side"

By Peter Sullivan

August 12, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is staking out a more hawkish foreign policy stance than President Obama as she moves toward a run for the presidency in 2016.

From Syria to Israel to Iran, Clinton is beginning to draw contrasts with the man she served under as secretary of State.

"It's a decision on her part to remind people of where she's coming from and how that's different," said Jon Alterman, senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Clinton's foreign policy differs from Obama's in that it is "a little more muscular, a little more deliberate and less deliberative," he added.

The strongest break came over the weekend, when in an interview Clinton criticized Obama's "failure to help build up a credible fighting force" in Syria while faulting his foreign policy approach in broad strokes.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she told The Atlantic.

Clinton aides said the interview was part of her book tour, and not about the 2016 campaign or any political strategy.

Nonetheless, the remark could be the start of a more aggressive effort by Clinton to distance herself from Obama's foreign policy, which scored an approval rating of just 36 percent in the most recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll.

But shaking off her association with the president could be a tall order, given that she helped shape major policy decisions from within his Cabinet.

Republicans eyeing a presidential run in 2016 have begun to make the link between Obama and Clinton a point of attack.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) over the weekend blamed the "failures of the Obama-Clinton foreign policies" for the rise of Sunni militants in Iraq.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), another rising GOP star, criticized Clinton for backing the U.S. intervention in Libya in 2011.

"There are some who call Libya 'Hillary's war.' She was all for it. . … And if you look objectively at Libya now, it's a jihadist wonderland there," he told The Washington Post earlier this month.

And Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) told CNBC that under the Obama administration there has been "chaos all over the world," with Clinton "at the State Department while all this was happening."

Clinton has stressed that she often disagreed with the president's policy moves, most notably on Syria, where she failed to persuade him of the need to arm rebel fighters.

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"We pushed very hard," Clinton told CNN in June. "But as I say in my book, I believe that Harry Truman was right, the buck stops with the president. And the president had very legitimate concerns."

Obama, by contrast, told Thomas Friedman of The New York Times last week the idea that arming the Syrian rebels would have made a difference in the conflict is a "fantasy."

Clinton has also begun to diverge on the conflict in Gaza.

The administration has repeatedly criticized Israel for not doing enough to prevent civilian casualties, earlier this month stating that the United States was "appalled" by the shelling of a United Nations school in Gaza.

Clinton took a different tack. Asked by The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, "Do you think Israel did enough to limit civilian casualties?" Clinton responded, "It's unclear. I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the rockets."

She went on to criticize the international reaction against Israel, adding, "You can't ever discount anti-Semitism as an explanation."

The daylight on policy extends to Iran, where Clinton has aired doubts about the ongoing nuclear talks.

"President Obama has said that the odds of getting a comprehensive agreement are 50-50," Clinton said in May. "I personally am skeptical that the Iranians will follow through and deliver."

Clinton and Obama famously clashed on Iran during the 2008 campaign when Obama said he would be willing to meet with then-president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad "without preconditions." Clinton at the time called the position "irresponsible and frankly naïve."

Clinton's criticism of Obama is not as sharp-edged now. While critiquing Obama's "Don't do stupid stuff" mantra, she cautioned that it doesn't encapsulate Obama's full policy approach.

"I think that that's a political message," she said. "It's not his worldview, if that makes sense to you."

Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said Clinton was not diverging on policy, but instead making a point about how Obama's motto could leave U.S. foreign policy without a "clear voice."

"It's more disagreeing with the messaging," said O'Hanlon, who has co-authored a new book with James Steinberg, Clinton's deputy secretary of State.

Clinton told The Atlantic her organizing principle is "peace, progress and prosperity," and emphasized the role of ensuring domestic prosperity to win support for foreign policy.

"You've got to take care of your home first," she said.

The Daily Beast: "Exclusive: Obama Told Lawmakers Criticism of His Syria Policy is 'Horsesh*t'"

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By Josh Rogin

August 11, 2014

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton and congressmen alike have called on Obama to arm Syria's rebels. But the president fumed at lawmakers in a private meeting for suggesting he should've done more.

President Obama got angry at lawmakers who suggested in a private meeting that he should have armed the Syrian rebels, calling the criticism "horseshit."

The argument that America should have done more in Syria, made for years by foreign policy leaders in both parties and several members of Obama's senior national security team, was brought back to the fore this past weekend. Obama and Hillary Clinton gave dueling interviews in which they publicly split on whether the security and humanitarian catastrophe in Syria could have been avoided if the United States had played a larger role. Obama's outburst on July 31, one week prior, reveals the criticism was already getting to him, even before the White House tried to deflect Clinton's remarks as pre-presidential political posturing.

Just before the Congressional recess, President Obama invited over a dozen Senate and House leaders from both parties to the White House to talk about foreign policy. According to two lawmakers inside the meeting, Obama became visibly agitated when confronted by bipartisan criticism of the White House's policy of slow-rolling moderate Syrian rebels' repeated requests for arms to fight the Assad regime and ISIS.

According to one of the lawmakers, Sen. Bob Corker asked the President a long question that included sharp criticisms of President Obama's handling of a number of foreign policy issues—including Syria, ISIS, Russia, and Ukraine. Obama answered Corker at length. Then, the president defended his administration's actions on Syria, saying that the notion that many have put forth regarding arming the rebels earlier would have led to better outcomes in Syria was "horseshit."

White House officials confirmed the charged exchange between Obama and Corker but declined to confirm that Obama used the expletive. The interaction between Obama and Corker was a tense moment in the otherwise uneventful meeting.

Corker's office declined to comment for this story. But days after the White House meeting, he wrote a blistering op-ed for the Washington Post criticizing Obama's handling of foreign policy. "Today, after three years of bold rhetoric divorced from reality, 170,000 Syrians are dead, and we are not innocent bystanders. The president encouraged the opposition to swallow deadly risks, then left them mostly hanging," the senator wrote. "Extremist groups from Syria have surged into Iraq, seizing key territory and resources, and are threatening to completely undo the progress of years of U.S. sacrifice."

Top Democratic lawmakers agreed with Corker and Clinton that doing more to support the moderate rebels would have at least had a chance of averting or mitigating the current crisis, which has now spread to large parts of Iraq as ISIS expands its newly declared Caliphate.

Rep. Elliot Engel, the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, arrived at the White House meeting after the Obama-Corker exchange. But the congressman also heard Obama defend his Syria policy, although using more polite language.

"The president still feels very strongly that we are deluding ourselves if we think American intervention in Syria early on by assisting these rebels would have made a difference," Engel told The Daily Beast in an interview. "He still believes that. I disagree, respectfully. They were not looking for U.S. troops, they were looking for help and the Syria civil war started with the most noblest of causes."

In a New York Times interview published Aug. 8, Obama said that the idea arming the rebels would have made a difference had "always been a fantasy."

"This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards," Obama said.

Clinton told The Atlantic in an interview published Aug. 10 that Obama's "failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the

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originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled."

In 2012, Clinton revealed that she and then-CIA Director David Petraeus had pushed a plan earlier that year to arm the Syrian rebels that was rejected by the White House. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey later said they supported the plan at that time. Many lawmakers, including Corker and Engel, still support that plan and they agree with Clinton that Obama's policy left a vacuum that ISIS rushed to fill.

"[ISIS's threat in Iraq] is definitely tied to Syria because when the uprising started against Bashar al Assad, it was a movement of people wanting freedom and democracy in Syria, it wasn't a war involving jihadism at all," Engel said. "They desperately needed our help, which we didn't supply, and as a result ISIS got the upper hand. We are now paying the price of that."

Not all lawmakers support arming the rebels; Sen. Rand Paul, for example, is on the record opposing the use of U.S. military resources to fight ISIS in Iraq or Syria. Also, Clinton and many lawmakers acknowledge that arming the rebels was risky and might not have worked. The weapons could've fallen into the extremists' hands, and Syria might have remained a jihadist free-for-all.

"Well, I did believe, which is why I advocated this, that if we were to carefully vet, train, and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army, we would, number one, have some better insight into what was going on on the ground," Clinton said.

But experts say Obama still sees Syria as one place where more American action will not make things better. Despite an uptick in American action across the border in Iraq—and despite an announcement of a half-billion dollars in military aid for the rebels—it's unlikely Obama will drastically change his policy.

"We may never know for sure if ISIS's decisions were encouraged by Obama's choices in Syria. What we know for sure is that ISIS metastasized in Syria and was not deterred because of anything Obama said or did so far," said Andrew Tabler, senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "Sometimes standing by and doing relatively nothing in the face of such a threat implicates you. The question now is, what do we do about it?"

Capital New York: "Schumer: Hillary would be 'so happy' with D.N.C. in Brooklyn"

By Azi Paybarah

August 11, 2014, 3:29 p.m. EDT

Among the reasons New York's senior senator sees that Brooklyn should get the 2016 Democratic National Convention: The location would suit the party's most likely nominee.

"Hillary Clinton, it's been in the newspaper, wants it in Brooklyn, and she walked the streets of Brooklyn with me when she first campaigned, and I think she would be so so happy if we had the convention in Brooklyn," said Senator Charles Schumer, standing outside the Barclays Center, where Democratic National Committee officials kicked off their 36-hour tour of the prospective host city.

Clinton did not attend Monday event but prefers the prospective Brooklyn site to other possible host cities, including Philadelphia and Columbus, Ohio, according to unnamed sources cited by the Times.

Asked how much his erstwhile junior colleague's preference should factor into the selection process, Schumer said, "You'll have to ask the delegates. We're just selling them on Brooklyn. They'll have to weigh everything else."

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A Clinton spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Monday morning, D.N.C. officials traveled from midtown Manhattan to the Barclays Center in “under 14 minutes,” Peter Ragone, a top City Hall aide, told reporters.

That's important, because Brooklyn doesn't have enough hotel rooms to accommodate all the delegates who would come to town for the convention.

Ragone acknowledged that the short trip was made possible because committee members utilized "dedicated lanes" which, he said, are used “frequently in New York."

When NBC's Melissa Russo noted that most people traveling the same route have much longer commutes, Ragone replied, "We have world leaders visiting all the time, including the president, very frequently."

New York is bidding against Birmingham, Alabama, in addition to Phoenix and Philadelphia, which is considered early on to be the leading contender.

The tour continues Tuesday with breakfast at Rockefeller Center, featuring an array of elected officials, “to demonstrate consensus among the Democratic Party to have this here,” Ragone said.

Lunch will at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and “that will have all the cultural leaders of New York City there.”

Though it would billed as a “five-borough” convention, the heart of it would be in Brooklyn.

Borough President Eric Adams said Brooklyn is a micrcosm of the United States. City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, of Manhattan, said that "Brooklyn's story is America's story."

For Mayor Bill de Blasio, who managed Clinton’s 2000 Senate campaign in New York, hosting the 2016 convention helps underscore an economic message, Ragone said: “There is a concept here that goes beyond just the political convention, which is 54 or 55 million visitors here to New York City every year. ... But we want people to know it’s not just about Manhattan anymore."

CBS News: “As Hillary Clinton criticizes Obama, conservatives balk”

By Stephanie Condon

August 12, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent critique of the Obama administration's foreign policy, seemingly in preparation for a 2016 presidential run, has some pundits on the right crying foul.

By criticizing President Obama's handling of foreign affairs, Clinton is attempting to distinguish Mr. Obama's view of America's role in the world from her own. Conservatives, however, are questioning how much Mr. Obama's former top diplomat can truly distance herself from the administration. Some liberals, meanwhile, have revived the argument that Clinton may be too hawkish -- a judgment some on the left leveled against her in the 2008 campaign.

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Clinton's harshest criticisms targeted Mr. Obama's response to the crisis in Syria, telling the The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg that the administration's actions there amounted to a "failure."

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad--there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle--the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," Clinton said.

Mr. Obama himself has called that line of argument a "fantasy."

"This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards," Mr. Obama said in an interview with the New York Times' Thomas Friedman that was published over the weekend.

Marc Thiessen, a senior White House staffer during the George W. Bush administration who is currently a fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, called Mr. Obama's defense of his foreign policy "absurd."

At the same time, he noted that Clinton can't easily distance herself from Mr. Obama's policies.

"If she wants to achieve separation, she will have to answer some tough questions in the period ahead, such as: how hard did she really fight for arming and training the Free Syrian Army?" Thiessen wrote. "Did she threaten to resign? What specifically did she advocate doing to help the opposition? Did she advocate air strikes against ISIS? And - most importantly - did she oppose Obama's complete withdrawal from Iraq, which also 'left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled'?"

Jennifer Rubin, a conservative columnist for the Washington Post, called Clinton's remarks "the worst sort of political opportunism for which she is infamous."

"For a year and a half after leaving the administration, she has not spoken out against the president on Syria or much of anything else," Rubin wrote. "She did not have the nerve to resign out of principle on Syria, as did former ambassador Robert Ford. Only now, when the entire region has gone to seed she decides the Obama critics were right on some key aspects of foreign policy."

The Republican opposition research firm America Rising similarly called Clinton's statements amount to " naked political opportunism." The group pointed to a 2012 interview with CBS News in which shot down the idea of more robustly arming the Syrian rebels.

"What are we going to arm them with and against what?" Clinton said to CBS News' Wyatt Andrews. "We're not going to bring tanks over the borders of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan... If you're a military planner or if you're a secretary of state and you're trying to figure out do you have the elements of an opposition that is actually viable, that we don't see."

Clinton's political interest in distancing herself from President Obama's foreign policy is evident: a CBS News poll released last week showed that while 52 percent of Americans have at least some confidence in Mr. Obama's ability to handle an international crisis, just 25 percent they have a lot of confidence -- down 14 points from last September.

Criticism of Clinton's remarks was more muted on the left, though some anti-interventionist liberals took issue with her statements.

Liberal Joan Walsh, the editor of Salon.com, wrote that as a 2008 Clinton supporter, she found the former secretary of state's comments "sobering." If Clinton were to run for president again, she "may think she can write off the anti-interventionist left - again."

However, Walsh said, "So far, my approach to 2016 is to say that Clinton may not be perfect, but she's the not-perfect candidate we know, very well."

Politico: "Karl Rove: Clinton tries to be 'Goldilocks'"

By Sarah Smith

August 11, 2014, 12:04 p.m. EDT

Karl Rove on Monday characterized Hillary Clinton's split with the president on foreign affairs as the former secretary of state painting herself as "Goldilocks."

"She's trying to position herself as sort of the Goldilocks of foreign policy," the Republican strategist said on Fox News' "Happening Now." "She's not gonna be as belligerent as Bush or as overly cautious as Obama."

Rove's comments were a response to Clinton's foreign policy interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, published Sunday, in which Clinton voiced her harshest criticism yet of her former boss. She painted herself as more hawkish than Obama, arguing that not arming Syrian rebels helped lead to the rise of ISIL and fiercely defending Israel. She also took a shot at Obama's colloquial "don't do stupid stuff" foreign policy principle telling Goldberg, "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Rove chalked up Clinton's motives to pure politics.

"I'm not certain that they're going to view this in the White House as anything other than Hillary Clinton covering her political posterior in order to get nominated in 2016," he said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton attends Ann Dibble Jordan's 80th birthday party (Politico Playbook)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/18/2008 7:11:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 5/18/08

Main Topics: McCain's SNL Appearance, McCain's Age & Health, Appeasement & Iran

Summary of Shift: The Democratic race took center stage in the news today as pundits speculated on the future of the race as the Oregon and Kentucky primaries approach. President Bush called for reform in the Middle East speaking to the World Economic Forum today. Ted Kennedy was rushed to the hospital yesterday after suffering seizure-like symptoms and is recovering in Boston. The death toll from the China quake and aftershocks has reached 32,500 but is expected to top 50,000.

Highlights:

1. Pfotenhauer on *Inside Washington*
   a. Claims that the media are giving Obama a pass, the reason McCain gets favorable coverage is because he deserves it
   b. Denies that 2013 is the mark of a real timeline for withdrawal
2. Biden calls Bush hypocritical on *This Week*
3. Republican strategist: No denying McCain is old
4. McCain is closer than ever to Bush
5. McCain gets a pass on his health
6. John McCain's SNL appearance
   a. Fox Summarizes
   b. Weekend Update sketch
   c. Address to the nation sketch

Clips w/ Labels and Transcriptions:

Highlight #1
Pfotenhauer: The Media are Giving Obama a Pass, McCain Gets Good Coverage Because He Deserves It
(ABC-WJLA-DC 05/18/08 9:42am)
LEON HARRIS: . . . this week we let Nancy Pfotenhauer of the McCain campaign to ask Politico's Jonathon Martin any question she likes . . .

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: . . . can you, with a straight face, looking at things like the *Newsweek* article that's come out, the *Time* magazine article that's come out, you know, days before John McCain's health records are going to be released, the comment that Obama made . . . calling a female reporter, "sweetie" . . . can you, with a straight face, say that there isn't kid gloving going on of this candidate?

JONATHON MARTIN: I can say this, that John McCain knows something about good media coverage . . . this is probably a Republican who's gotten the best coverage from the press than any other—

PFOTENHAUER: Maybe that's because he deserves it!

[. . .]

PFOTENHAUER: It's just pretty obvious, each week, there's kind of a new, this is amazing, how can they face themselves. I thought the *Newsweek* article should've been held up by journalism professors all over the country as an example of what not to do if you're going to call yourself a reporter.

HARRIS: Speaking of *Newsweek*, there was talk last week from Mark Salter . . . about maybe tossing the *Newsweek* reporters off of the Straight-Talk Express . . . is the Straight-Talk Express now about surprising freedom of the press?

PFOTENHAUER: Now that's a bit of a stretch don't you think? Considering that John McCain offers more access to the media than any candidate has in modern history . . .

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Pfotenhauer Dismisses Timetable Line on 2013, Calls Inexperience on Obama (ABC-WJLA-DC 05/18/08 9:33am)
JONATHAN MARTIN: . . .he mentioned that he would like to have American troops coming back home from Iraq at that point. How is that not setting some kind of time line at least for withdrawal?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well, I think there's one that's implicit but non-specific and it's reflective of where he thinks we will be, but it doesn't prescribe specific troop withdrawals with a calendar because of course that's never been a very wise thing to do. You don't telegraph your strategy to your adversaries and most people understand that. Whether they're Republicans or Democrats . . . they understand that there are downside risks . . .

LEON HARRIS: By what standard then will people be able to judge him by this promise that he's making? There's gotta be some kind of standard . . .

PFOTENHAUER: Well, of course, and he has gone on the record more than any president that I can think of in recent history by describing clearly where he expects to be by the end of his first term. It's hard to get any more clear than he did. You're really sticking your neck out. Your political neck out when you say we're largely going to have the troops home by 2013 . . . he went through and really fleshed out where the goalposts are. And that puts him as on the record as you can be.

MARTIN: So what if conditions have not improved over there . . . does that mean that it's not worth the paper it's written on? That John McCain will keep the troops there . . .

PFOTENHAUER: John McCain will always put the national interest above his political self-interest . . .

MARTIN: So what he said Thursday was more his ideal for how he'd like the world to be in 2013 . . .

PFOTENHAUER: It's his best, honest estimate of where we will be. . .
[. . .]
PFOTENHAUER: . . . we cannot accept this double standard or this standard that is trying to be enforced by Barack Obama's campaign that says that any question of his judgment is somehow illegitimate or a low blow. Questions about his judgment are precisely the most important ones to ask as we go into this November election . . . there is not a lot to hang your hat in as far as what has he actually accomplished, what has he ever done to improve the lives of Americans. And John McCain, whether you agree or disagree with his decisions, has unapologetically gone after problems with both hands . . .

HARRIS: I find it hard to believe that your camp is not going to look at the race factor. We've seen that has been rippling below the surface in every single race now . . .you can see the potency of that tactic. . . are you saying here that race is not going to be an issue with John McCain?

PFOTENHAUER: Sen. McCain has been so clear about what he thinks is legitimate and not legitimate as far as a tactic goes . . . if I had a bone to pick with the Obama campaign, whenever Sen. McCain has thought that someone crossed a line he has spoken out immediately and in the strongest possible terms and I think what you get from Obama are kind of the mildest rebukes even to some of the nastiest things that have been said . . . you're going to hear it from Sen. McCain.

MARTIN: But hasn't McCain also said he's not going to play referee anymore and try and kind of dictate to outside parties what they're saying about Sen. Obama . . .

PFOTENHAUER: Try and stop Sen. McCain from speaking his mind . . . there is a pragmatism that comes in. There's no way you can control what other people are going to do . . .

Highlight #2
Biden: President Hypocritical on Obama Meeting with Iran (ABC 05/18/08 10:05am)
JOHN MCCAIN: . . . unconditional meetings with the man who calls Israel a stinking corpse . . . will not convince Iran to give up its nuclear program. It is reckless.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: Sen. Obama has said that his State Department . . . would engage in unconditional talks with the Iranians.

JOE BIDEN: Let's put this in perspective, the reason why it would be so much trouble if John McCain were president . . . is because of what you just heard. What's the alternative to talking with a country that's building a

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nuclear weapon . . . that is helping kill Americans . . . you either talk or you go to war or you maintain the status quo. Now let's talk about talking. President Bush . . . called me several years ago, told me Air Force 2 was waiting for me . . . would I go get in the plane and meet with Qaddaffi? A real known terrorist . . . personally responsible for killing kids at the school I went to . . . blowing up that Pan Am flight. The president of the United States asked me to go. He cut a deal with Qaddaffi. Directly. It was a smart thing to do. He gave up his nuclear weapons . . . the president of the United States of America, last time I was in Iraq was trying to set up, and recently asked for a third meeting with the Iranians . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: It sounds like you're calling it hypocrisy.

BIDEN: Well, I'm trying to be more polite. But I shouldn't be.

Highlight #3
Tripp Baird, Republican Strategist: 'McCain Is Old…There's No Denying It' (MSNBC 05/18/08 10:30am)
(clip of McCain on SNL)
REPORTER: Is that how you handle the age question? To be self-deprecating?

TRIPP BAIRD: Sure, I mean, uh, John McCain is old. There's nothing, there's no denying it. Again, does it really matter? […] I think McCain is gonna be fine. Age is not gonna be the issue.

Highlight #4
Bob Shrum: John McCain Bush (NBC 05/18/08 10:54am)
BOB SHRUM: […] John McCain acquired a new last name, John McCain Bush. On the big issues, war, foreign policy, the economy, uh healthcare, he is George Bush. And if he's Bush III instead of the McCain who ran in 2000 when Murphy was running the campaign, he's in big trouble.

Highlight #5
McCain Gets a Pass on His Health (FNC 05/18/08 9:17am)
HOST: He's still got a lot of spark though, doesn't he? John McCain's health records due to come out soon, so will presidential health become an issue this fall?

ALISYN EARHARDT: Well, Ken Walsh is the chief White House correspondent for US News and World Report . . . now Ken, the medical records for McCain, at least the recent records haven't been released yet. Why's it taking so long?

KEN WALSH: Well the McCain campaign says it has a number of doctors, three, four maybe five physicians who need coordinating all the, all the—

EARHARDT: What, they need to fix the charts or something?

WALSH: Well they need to coordinate, do fresh examinations, that sort of thing. And they want to have them all out front for a press conference when everybody's ready.

EARHARDT: So it'll be just a generalization, it won't be like: these are his ailments.

WALSH: Well, what they've done before is they've released records and they've allow reporters to sit in a room with records and look through them. And that's probably what they'll do this time.

HOST: critics will certainly point out the fact that he had melanoma. That he gets a disability check. But he's not the first president to have medical concerns. And again let's point out that John McCain is going to hike rim to rim, the Grand Canyon . . .

EARHARDT: And his mom is 96.

Highlight #6
John McCain on SNL (FNC 05/18/08 9:10am)
CLAYTON MORRIS: John McCain making another funny appearance . . .on Saturday Night Live last night. Taking some swipes at his own old age. Take a look, pretty funny:

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JOHN MCCAIN: It's about being able to look your children in the eye. Or in my case, my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren, the youngest of whom are nearing retirement. I've also opposed federal water projects, even when they benefited my state. That's why, thanks to me, fifteen percent of Arizona citizens must get their drinking water from cactus.

[laughter]

MORRIS: See, if he does more of that . . . Bob Doe . . . he went on Letterman . . . and Letterman even said to him, "If you were this funny when you were running for President, you might've won.

McCain on Saturday Night Live-Weekend Update (NBC 05/17/08 11:30am)
JOHN MCCAIN: I would like to begin tonight, by thanking Republican voters. We are gearing up for one of the most pivotal elections in this nation's history and I am honored to be part of it. But I also want to speak to Democrats. I know we don't see eye-to-eye on every issue but I also believe we respect one another. That's why I want to give you this piece of advice. Democrats, I have to urge you, do not, under any circumstances, pick a candidate too soon.
SETH MEYERS: So you don't think Hillary should drop out?
MCCAIN: Absolutely not.
AMY POEHLER: I told you.
MEYERS: Cool it.
POEHLER: You cool it.
MCCAIN: (to himself) That's right. Fight amongst yourselves.
MEYERS: What did you say?
MCCAIN: Nothing. But what I want to say to the Democrats is this:
You have two incredibly talented candidates, why not take every possible second to weigh each of their pros and cons? For all you know, there are a bunch of cons you don't even know about yet. Cons that won't reveal themselves should you choose a candidate too early.
MEYERS: But of course, the convention is in late August so I guess that would be the deadline.
MCCAIN: What's the rush, Seth? I'd urge Democrats not to get caught up in the idea that the candidate has to be decided by the time the convention ends. I've been to a lot of conventions and they are a lot of fun. But when they end, there is always that empty feeling of, 'Oh well, we've picked a nominee. I guess the party's over.' Imagine the excitement of leaving the convention and still not knowing who the nominee was? That would be crazy. Crazy exciting. And if, come November, you still haven't decided, I'd be willing to set aside my differences with your party and say 'Hey, lets put both of them on the ballot.' I will support you on that. It's the least I can do. In conclusion, I want to add that I also thought John Edwards had a lot of good ideas and you might want to kick the tires on him one more time. Thank you and God bless America.

McCain on Saturday Night Live-Address to the Nation (NBC 05/18/08 11:30pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: This November, I ask you what should we be looking for in our next President? Certainly, someone who is very, very, very old. But just as important, we will need a leader of courage and principle. Someone who's willing to do what is best for this country, even when doing so is unpopular.
McCain then criticized "runaway government spending" and listed numerous wasteful "pork-barrel" projects he voted down in his long career in government.
-$15 million to the U.S. Postal Service for a commemorative stamp honoring Tom Delay's Appellate lawyers.
-$160 million to the Department of Defense for developing a device to jam 'Gaydar,'
-I don't know if this is anti-gay or pro-gay, or if such a device would even work. But I do know this: jamming gaydar is not a federal responsibility. That's something best left to state and local government.

MCCAIN: I have not once sought to bring pork-barrel spending back to my state, not even highway funds. When I entered the Senate in 1987, Arizona had forty-seven thousand miles of paved roadway. Today, it's less than nine hundred. I've also opposed federal water projects, even when they benefited my state. That's why, thanks to me, fifteen percent of Arizona citizens must get their drinking water from cactus. In 25 years, I haven't even brought a post office to my state. And I'm proud of the fact that, because of my work, when residents of Flagstaff want to mail a letter, or pick up a package, they have to drive to New Mexico. Controlling government spending isn't about Republicans or Democrats. It's about being able to look your children in the eye — or in my case, my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren, the youngest of whom are nearing retirement — and tell them, we have left you the same thing we were left: a future free from debt. As your President, I will guarantee it. I have the courage, the wisdom, the experience and most importantly the oldness necessary. The oldness it takes to protect America, to honor her, love her and tell her about what cute things the cat did.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

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From: "Nikki Budzinski" <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Pete Ogden" <progden@gmail.com>
Date: 8/23/2015 9:58:09 AM
Subject: Re: KXL

Hi guys
Ok, some feedback for your consideration regarding the Op Ed and fact sheet. Would you be willing to let me know if any of these suggestions you think are possible? I'd appreciate knowing where you finally land. I think with the trades one of the most important things is to provide them a heads up, even if we're going to be in different places. I'd like to be able to do that when appropriate.

Not surprising I know, but the trades are going to go nuclear (so to speak) on the Administration once this announcement comes out. They will likely attack around the argument that this decision will lead to increased energy prices for those on fixed incomes. They will also point out that if his rationale is increased CO2 exposure, HRC's State Department said there will negligible traces. Just a fyi.

1. Thank you Trevor for breaking it down, that was really helpful. I do think the grid piece and the pipeline infrastructure piece will be liked.
2. Could we include the terminology around "current baseload needs" in the current energy economy in both the fact sheet and Op Ed? This will at least tip the hat to where we are today with the acknowledgement that we are transitioning to green.
3. When we talk about infrastructure standards, could we please mention prevailing wage and project labor agreements as one good set of standards?
4. Could we beef up the mentioning jobs? O'Malley made the mistake with the trades of stating that energy jobs are temporary. They really bristle at that. Could we mention that these are "jobs and careers" for many workers and as we transition HRC wants to create more careers within the new energy economy? Careers is their buzz word.
5. As I mention above, the Trades will attack Obama on raising energy prices, could HRC's OpEd and Fact sheet mention that she wants to see protections for consumers for those potential rising prices?

The Op Ed will be read as very celebratory, and maybe that's it. But I think if we could incorporate a little of these suggestions above and tone, it could be helpful.

I'd love to hear what you think and if anything is possible. Thank you again for the heads up. I appreciate it.

Thanks
Nikki

On Sun, Aug 23, 2015 at 4:06 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> Ideally to get passed the Sept 9 meeting with the Building trades would be a personal god-send.
>
> Will we move forward with the op Ed and fact sheet with or with Obama KXL action?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:52 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com > wrote:
>
>> Good to know. Maybe they decided to push it until after the Canadian election on 10/19.
>>
>> On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:47 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>>
>> Now I am hearing it's back to late October. So this may again end up as just an HRC answer to a q. John, you hearing otherwise?
>>
>>
>>
>> On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:46 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>>
>>> Got it. Will do.

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Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:43 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:

That should work for us. Earlier in the evening is better if possible.

On Aug 22, 2015, at 2:42 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Thank you Trevor. Very much appreciated. Is feedback by tomorrow evening ok for you? Or are you moving on a quicker timeline?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:37 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:

Amanda and Nikki,

Attached is the current draft of an op-ed on KXL and our overall energy infrastructure package and a detailed fact sheet on the latter. Remains to be seen whether the op-ed will be released before or after the President decides on the pipeline so it's been drafted both ways.

A few things to flag from the fact sheet that should help soften the blow to the Building Trades of the KXL decision:

1. **National Infrastructure Bank** – HRC mentioned this in her launch speech but it's called out more specifically here (positive for all the trades).

2. **Modernizing our Pipeline System –** A pledge to repair or replace thousands of miles of outdated pipeline by the end of her first term, through a new "Pipeline Partnership" that supports rate relief for states, cities and rural communities that accelerate replacement of outdated pipes (good for LiUNA and UA).

3. **Increase Rail Safety** – Accelerate the phase-out of outdated tank cars and repair track defects (will create jobs for affiliates with exposure on the tank car manufacturing and track repair fronts, though the Teamsters may be negative if they see it as slowing oil-by-rail volumes).

4. **Enhance Grid Security** - Provide new tools and resources to states, cities and rural communities to make the investments necessary to improve grid resilience to both cyber-attack and extreme weather events (positive for IBEW).

5. **Expanding Consumer Choice:** Offer financing tools for grid investments that support the integration of distributed energy resources and for gas pipeline investments that enable households and businesses to switch away from heating oil and other petroleum products (the trades won't love the distributed energy piece but the expanded natural gas pipeline network to enable replacement of old fuel oil furnaces with natural gas furnaces is positive for LiUNA, UA and the Boilermakers) .

6. **Transmission Investment:** Ensure the federal government is a partner in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to market through improved federal coordination and cooperation with local governments and power companies (positive for IBEW).

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7. **Transportation Funding:** Work with Congress to close corporate tax loopholes and increase invest investment in transportation solutions that expand transit access and reduce congestion, commute times, oil consumption, and pollution (positive for IBEW, ironworkers and other public transit-exposed trades).

More broadly, we are calling for a North American Climate Compact that would provide a coordinate, continent-wide energy and climate framework so we don't have to keep battling it our pipeline-by-pipeline and can provides infrastructure investment certainty. That section of the factsheet includes the following line, which the trades should like:

Infrastructure Standards: Develop common, world-class standards for North American infrastructure that create good jobs and ensure energy transportation across the continent is clean, safe, reliable and affordable.

Happy to discuss this weekend if you'd like. I'm at 917-755-5446 .

Best,

Trevor

From: Amanda Renteria [mailto:arenteria@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:09 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com >; Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: KXL

Can we make sure that Nikki sees the statement before it goes out? Just want to make sure we don't catch anyone by surprise. We are so close to getting bldg trades and if we do this right, it will be ok even though they won't like it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 6:02 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Your in trouble, girl. Seriously, doubt we'll say we "encouraged" but assume we'll support if it goes that way.
>
> On Thursday, August 20, 2015, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi guys
> >
> > The Building Trades are flagging for me that they hear the Obama Administration will deny KXL on Monday. I just wanted to try to politically get ahead of this and where we are on the issue if this in fact happens. The trades are also hearing that HRC will put out a statement stating that she encouraged Obama to take this position. Politically with the building trades, this would be a very dangerous posture. Just curious what your thoughts will be if the situation goes this way on Monday.

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Appreciate it.

--

Nikki Budzinski

Labor Outreach Director

Hillary for America

646-854-1442 (direct)

<08.21 Modernizing infrastructure fact sheet - 3pm.docx>

<08.21 KXL oped draft - 3pm.docx>

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Nikki Budzinski
Labor Outreach Director
Hillary for America
646-854-1442 (direct)

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Cassandra Butts" <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com>
Date: 9/24/2008 8:17:52 AM
Subject: Re: Energy and EPA names

Gee, pershing are asst sec types not higher. Holstein maybe as deputy not top job. Jackson has a good rep, AA woman, should be considered. Immelt seems impossible to me. Maybe commerce but very unlikely at energy.
I'd add Tom Steyer, Farallon Capital, Tim Wirth, maybe mayor hickenlooper of denver.
At epa 3 more katie mcginty, just left pa enviro office, ian bowles, mass epa, dan esty at yale.

On 9/24/08, Cassandra Butts <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com> wrote:
> John, to follow are some of the names that have come us as we have consulted
> on top candidates for Energy and EPA. We'd appreciate your thoughts and
> additions. Needless to say, your name has come up repeatedly in our
> consultations. Best, Cassandra
>
> Energy
>
> -Frampton, George
> -Gee, Robert W.: From 1997 to 2000 he served as Assistant Secretary for
> Policy and International Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Fossil
> Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy; oversaw the operation of the
> Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the national research program to develop
> and demonstrate advanced clean coal, natural gas, and petroleum
> technologies.
> -Jackson, Shirley Ann: Former chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
> current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
> -Holstein, Elgie
> -Immelt, Jeff
> -Pershing, Jonathan
> -Schwarzenegger, Arnold
> -Schweitzer, Brian
>
> EPA
>
> -Bloomberg, Michael
> -Gregoire, Christine
> -Grumet, Jason
> -Hayes, David
> -Learner, Howard: executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy
> Center, a Chicago-based environmental legal advocacy group that has been a
> key player in setting up the region's cap-and-trade program for global
> warming.
> -Sebelius, Kathleen
> -Stern, Todd
>

--
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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/25/2015 7:45:04 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS: US-China Announcement

Great will schedule.

On Fri, Sep 25, 2015 at 2:39 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Ok
>
> On Friday, September 25, 2015, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > These with input from Kristina and the Climate guys.
> >
> > **TWEETS:**
> >
> > The US and China are following up their joint announcement last November with domestic policy action (1/3)
> >
> > The US has adopted the first-ever carbon pollution standards for power plants and new efficiency standards for trucks and appliances (2/3)
> >
> > China has added more than 55 GW of wind, solar & nuclear since last November = 800 wind turbines or 1 nuclear plant every week (3/3)
> >
> > Read my statement on US-China climate announcements on @TheBriefing2016: https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/25/republicans-get-it-wrong-on-china-and-climate-change/
> >
> > --
> > Milia Fisher
> > Special Assistant to the Chair
> > Hillary for America
> > mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
> > c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Sara Latham" <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov>
To: "Unruh-Cohen, Ana" <Ana.UnruhCohen@mail.house.gov>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/13/2008 7:41:49 AM
Subject: FW:

person John mentioned on the phone

From: Denis McDonough
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 2:28 PM
To: Sara Latham
Subject: Re:

Adm John Nathman, 4*, excellent man. Want to take care of him. Was a navy pilot, bit is bif on nuclear power.

From: Sara Latham
To: Denis McDonough
Sent: Sat Dec 13 13:58:54 2008
Subject:

hi, John asked me to check with you - Nackman ? from the navy, 4 star general?

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kfarr@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <KFarr@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/11/2008 6:01:39 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/11/08

Main Topics: McCain's Economic Plan, Energy, Gas prices

Summary of Shift:
Political coverage was still focused on the economy this morning with Barack Obama and John McCain squaring off on the gas tax holiday and tax reform. Democratic leaders engage in push back against McCain's economic plan. Comparisons between McCain and Bush as well as Obama and Carter continue to be made.
In other news, the chance of more flooding in the Midwest has many towns in a state of fear as they struggle to heighten levees. Grass fires claim homes in Northern California and continue to burn. Officials are still trying to find the source of the tainted tomatoes while many stores and restaurants remove them from circulation.

Highlights:
1) McCain: No idea when American forces can come home from Iraq but "That's not too important," discusses gas prices and Bush
2) McCain talks taxes and spending
3) McCain talks about housing and his economic experience
4) The Economy
a. McCain's challenge is to show economic credentials and push McDifferent
b. Fiorina on McCain's tax plan
c. McCain's tax plan is bad for the economy
d. Voter anger over rising fuel prices could be a "Big Problem" for McCain
5) McCain's position on energy hurting him with Republicans, fundraising

Clips:
Highlight #1
McCain: No Idea When American Forces Can Come Home From Iraq But "That's Not Too Important," Discusses Gas Prices and Bush (NBC 06/11/08 7:07am)
MATT LAUER: […] $4 a gallon for gas. Americans want to know that the next POTUS gets it, feels their pain […] When it comes to the price of gas, is there anything that you or senator Obama can do about it if elected president?

JOHN MCCAIN: […] We could give them a bit of a break for the summer. […] The real key to this, nuclear power, alternate energy.
[…]

LAUER: So enough about the debate of whether we drill in the wilderness areas? That's still oil, oil, oil. Your energy plan will take us away from oil?

MCCAIN: Oh it'll have to. […] We have to go to alternate energy

LAUER: February 28th, […] President Bush was asked by a reporter about the prospect of $4 a gallon for gasoline and he kind of scoffed at the question […] which makes it sound, Senator, as if he didn't have a real good handle on the scope of the problem. […] As Americans go to the polls in November to vote for the next president, what do you think we'll be paying for a gallon of gasoline?

MCCAIN: […] I think part of it depends on how it looks like we are making advances […] towards alternate energy. […] I can't predict to you, except to say to you, I don't think it's going much lower. And it could go higher.
[…]
LAUER: You are forgiving the oil companies subsidies to help defer cost of their exploration at a time of record oil prices and record profits. Shouldn't this be a two-way street? If the company is going to get something from the government, shouldn't they be able to give something back to the consumer?

MCCAIN: Absolutely. They should be investing in alternate energy and they should be giving back to the consumer and they should be embarking on research and development that will pay off in the forms of reducing our dependency on foreign oil.
[…]
LAUER: […] **The Tax Policy Center […] says that your plan for tax cuts would -- 80% of the benefit would go to the top 10% of earners**. Given the situation right now with the middle-class and working-class, gasoline, foreclosures, is that where those benefits should go?

MCCAIN: Of course not. And one of our proposals is doubling the tax exemption for children from $3,500 to $7,000. […] But we don't want to increase taxes. […] Raising the cap on social security earnings will affect millions and millions of Americans. I don't want to redistribute the wealth. I want lower-income Americans to […] better lives and that means reforming health care and […] restore America's economy.
[…]
LAUER: […] When the President […] came up with this surge at a time when everyone, it seemed, was thinking the contrary, you endorsed it with great conviction and courage. **People say the surge is working. […] If it's now working, Senator, do you now have a better estimate of when American forces can come home to Iraq?**

MCCAIN: No, but that's not too important. What's important is the casualties in Iraq. […] We will be able to withdraw. General Petraeus is going to tell us in July when he thinks we are.

Highlight #2
McCain Talks Taxes and Spending (CNBC 06/11/08 7.05am)
JOHN MCCAIN: I think if you raise taxes, and at the same time you abrogated free trade agreements, which is clearly what we said he wanted to do and it's, quote, "unilaterally renegotiate" the treaty which is 35% of our trade, I think you face very serious economic consequences and you don't have to look too far back to the Smoot-Holly Tariff Act, which was protectionist, which was isolationist and barriers that we raised to trade in the 1930, sent America from a recession into a depression. I'm not saying that's going to happen as a result of Senator Obama's wanting to raise taxes. It's just, I think that this kind of thing is very risky for America when we are hurting very badly.

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CARL QUINTANILLA: We asked Obama about that earlier in the week. And even he though admitted he's not willing to be dogmatic on taxes. He said depending on what the situation is on the ground at the time you take office, that's how presidents make decisions.

MCCAIN: He was pretty dogmatic during the primaries. He was pretty dogmatic when he went to Ohio and tragically, there's a lot of displaced workers and proudly proclaimed his commitment to unilaterally renegotiating one of the most important trade agreements in this country, signed into law by President Clinton.

QUINTANILLA: Can you excuse it? Can you throw it up to the primary? Can you blame it on the silly season that is winning the nomination? A process you know well and good all about.

MCCAIN: Carl, I went to Iowa and said I opposed ethanol subsidies and I lost in Iowa. But I still think ethanol subsidies are distorting the market. Don't you think that unless you're straight with the American people when you're campaigning that they will have a dramatic increase in their cynicism about you unless you tell them not only what you think they want to hear, but what you think they have to hear.

QUINTANILLA: One more question on taxes, something you said on the floor of the senate in 2003, "I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of tax cuts. No one can be expected to make an informed decision on a fiscal policy at this time with so many uncertain contingencies. Let us wait. It is far sounder statesmanship than cutting taxes in the dark." What would that John McCain say to the one sitting here right now?

MCCAIN: That John McCain also said, I have a proposal and I campaigned and lost with very large tax cuts but keeping spending under control. The reasons why I voted against the tax cut were several. I had my own plan to cut taxes and had no doubt in my own commitment to lower taxes but also to restrain spending. It wasn't revenues that caused us to have such huge deficits, it was spending. and I have opposed and fought against the pork barrel spending and wasteful spending. Senator Obama has become part of the earmark process.

QUINTANILLA: People are—

MCCAIN: I never asked for one.

QUINTANILLA: People are still waiting though for detailed spending cuts from you, beyond a one-year moratorium in discretionary spending and beyond earmarks.

MCCAIN: I've mentioned many, I'll be glad to give you a long list. Subsidies for ethanol to start with, we ought to eliminate. All o the tarriffs that we are imposing, certainly the overwhelming majority of them. There's many, many programs, marketing assistance program, we have got a very long list. Those that I outline in the farm bill, the farm bill is a $300 billion bill.

Highlight #3
McCain Talks About Housing and His Economic Experience (CNBC 06/11/08 8:01am)
JOHN MCCAIN: I'm eager to talk about the economy. I'm eager. And we all know there's going to be change, but there's right change and wrong change. Senator Obama seems to be dusting off the old policies of the '60s and '70s. You know he keeps saying it's going to be a Bush third term. I think it's possible we could have a Carter second term. Pretty good line, right?

CARL QUINTANILLA: That's a pretty good line. I've thought about that one.

MCCAIN: The point is we need to discuss the economy. That's a primary issue. When you're going to increase capital gains that will affect 100 million Americans, then you're taking money out of their pockets. So energy independence and the economy which is a good part of the economy and health care, should be primary issues and I'm looking forward to this debate. I know that -- I know that I can prevail on this debate.

QUINTANILLA: Quick question on housing. Your early comments in January showed some resistance to having government be a big part of the solution. Now you have a federal insurance program that some say could cost $10 billion. Did your view on housing pivot or get worse at some point?

MCCAIN: My view on housing is what it was in that we don't want to reward speculators. The person that bought houses in my home state and let them sit empty so they can flip them, there's no reason to reward them. We need to help people, and I said that at the time, who are primary residence owners need help and assistance. That, to me, would be the application by a homeowner for a 30-year, FHA, guaranteed loan at the new value of the house so they can make the payments, if they sell it one-third, one-third, one-third of the profits go to the homeowner, the lender and the federal government. It seems to me it puts the initiative into the homeowner's hands rather than the lender's hands. It seems to me that's someth-- of course we have to give Americans relief.

QUINTANILLA: The fed's been pretty aggressive on all this. But have they ridden the edge of the envelope in terms of where their responsibility should end and begin?

MCCAIN: Listen, in these difficult times, I think a lot of things are on the edge. As I stay, I have fundamental optimism about the ultimate future of our economy. But now we're seeing a weakened dollar, which then drives up the price of oil. I didn't mention that in our earlier part of our conversation. It's helped our exports, but inflation fears, I think as articulated by Bernanke, just I think yesterday or the day before, are very cogent and I really worry about a return to the '70s and so this is a very, very dicey proposition we're in and it's going to take all of us together, not divided up.

QUINTANILLA: Secretary Paulson this week, didn't rule out intervention on the dollar. I'm going to guess you don't have a problem with that statement?

MCCAIN: I would not rule it out. I wouldn't like to do it because those actions are always temporary, when the intervention ends, unless you solve the underlying cause, then it goes back to what it was before. But we are in a spiral right now, weak dollar, increase of the price of oil, passed on to the consumer and it's tough, It's really tough and the last thing I want to do -- and it's a small item. Why not give the guy they met that owns a couple or three, four trucks relief from diesel trucks that he pays 24 and a half cents per gallon tax on, give him a break.

QUINTANILLA: Why have you had such a hard time with that?

MCCAIN: I'm astonished. Because you know, when you think about it, it's the lowest income Americans that drive the farthest and the automobiles that consume the most gasoline and can afford it least. I don't know. It's remarkable.

QUINTANILLA: You have been dogged since December about a statement you made that suggested somehow that economics don't come

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naturally to you. Is that going to dog you all the way through or is all of this an attempt to wipe that out?

MCCAIN: Listen, I am sure there are a lot of things, my comments about Iraq and how we have to remain there but the key-- we won't even go into that as we remain in South Korea and other places, but the point is, I know a lot about economics. I have a long period of experience as chairman of the commerce committee and the senate, for being involved in the early years of when we embarked on a period of incredible prosperity. I understand it very well. Do I understand national security issues very well? Of course, I spent 22 years in the military. And I have been on the armed services committee all these years. That's what that's about. I'm a big boy, i know that life isn't fair.

QUINTANILLA: It's politics.

MCCAIN: Exactly. But this campaign, the reason why I want the town hall meetings, as I said to you before, the reason why I want the town hall meetings, let's hear the complete statement by the candidates and then draw their own conclusions.

Highlight #4
McCain's Challenge is to Show Economic Credentials and Push McDifferent (NBC 06/11/08 7:05am)
ANDREA MITCHELL: John McCain and Barack Obama have been debating the economy all week as McCain tries to set himself apart from the economic policies of George Bush. Even while running for president, John McCain can't help joking about his lack of business experience.

[. . .]

MITCHELL: But now, with voters in a panic over how to pay for gas, McCain has to prove he's better than Barack Obama at handling an economy in crisis.

JOHN MCCAIN: Under Sen. Obama's tax plan, Americans of every background would see their taxes rise.

[. . .]

MITCHELL: McCain supports a summertime gas tax holiday . . . McCain with CNBC's Maria Bartiromo:

MCCAIN: I think you're out of touch with America when you don't support such a thing . . .

MITCHELL: But even some Republicans say suspending the gas tax for the summer won't work.

DICK ARMEY: It's just pure demagoguery. John McCain has shown some capacity to understand some economics.

MITCHELL: And Democrats are trying to portray McCain as out of touch on the economy and the war.

HARRY REID: We have as a Republican nominee a flawed candidate . . .

MITCHELL: McCain's challenge is to try to prove that he is right on the economy and distance himself from the president's record without appearing too disloyal.

Fiorina on McCain's Tax Plan (ABC 06/11/08 07:06am)
CARLY FIORINA: […] Senator McCain has proposed gas tax relief, Senator Obama has opposed it. […] Senator McCain understands that we must create jobs in this country. And small businesses do that. […] So it's vital that we lower the tax burden on small business. […]

WILLIAM DALEY: […] the gas policy that Carly mentioned, not one single economist has endorsed it. It was a gimmick when it was proposed by Senator McCain in April, and that was a relief of this 18 cents a gallon, and gas has gone up 64 cents since then. So it's a meaningless gimmick to try to get some attention to a policy, gas policy, that this administration has not had for the last 8 years.

[…]

FIORINA: Well the majority of American's support a gas tax holiday; the American Trucking association has endorsed a gas tax holiday. I don't think many economists actually understand what am American family is going through.

[…]

DALEY: We've got to go to alternative fuels, we've got to raise standards […] this is a serious problem that the American people are feeling. We've got to give more. Carly mentions the tax relief that McCain is proposing. It would be twice as large as any tax cut that President Bush has ever proposed. That's not what he American working families need right now. They need relief; they need relief across the board. And Senator Obama is going to bring that with a serious attempt to bring down spending and give relief to the American people. Without that we're just going to continue the policies of the last 8 years that have led us to a very serious situation.

[…]

McCain's Tax Plan is Bad for the Economy (FNC 06/11/08 08:00am)
ELLEN TAUSCHER: […] Gas prices in my district in California are approaching 4.50 a gallon. We've had this one president for the last 7 and a half years and until 18 months ago my colleagues were In charge of the congress for almost 14 years. So there was a lot they could have done, unfortunately they didn't. And keep in Mind that Senator McCain was there the entire time. […]

MARSHA BLACKBURN: Barack Obama […] voted for increased taxes hundreds of times. […]

TAUSCHER: […] My colleague apparently thinks that borrowing is the right way to drive the economy and it's driven it right into the ground. This President and my colleague have continued to borrow money from China and others to fund the war in Iraq and to pay for tax cuts that have not stimulated the economy.

Voter Anger Over Rising Fuel Prices Could Be a "Big Problem" for McCain (MSNBC 06/11/08 6:35am)
DAVID SHUSTER: […] The $4 mark for gasoline is another blow to the legacy of Pres Bush, a former oil man who just 5 months ago scoffed at predictions prices would reach this high. […] Energy policy was supposed to be Bush's strength. […] Gas prices are more twice what they were when Pres Bush and Vice Pres Cheney took office. […] Voter anger over rising fuel prices could be a big problem for John McCain. On top of

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being tied politically to Pres Bush, McCain is proposing tax breaks for energy corporations. [...] Obama meanwhile is hitting back at McCain[…]

[video clip]

BARACK OBAMA: When we're paying more than $4 a gallon for gas, the man who rails against government spending wants to spend $1.2 billion on a tax break for ExxonMobil. […]

[end video clip]

Highlight #5
McCain's Position on Energy Hurting him with Republicans, Fundraising (MSNBC 06/11/08 9:17am)
TAMRON HALL: There are a lot of Republicans who are not going along with some of Sen. McCain's positions on energy. How does he overcome that in a battle . . . ?

PAT BUCHANAN: Well, gasoline prices are going to hurt Republicans because they're in charge of the country. And Tamron, what I think McCain ought to do, and he hasn't done it, is he's not in favor of drilling in ANWR . . . and I think the Republican answer is, "Look, if we have a shortage of oil and prices are going up, let's drill for more oil in the United States of America rather than rely on Saudi Arabia. McCain's not for that, he ought to get behind it, it's the one thing that could help him.

HALL: But does that hurt him, with his own party?

BUCHANAN: It does hurt his own party. They're wondering why he's not for production. That's what we're for.

HALL: *The New York Times* has an article that basically says John McCain and Barack Obama . . . are toeing the party's line when it comes to the economy . . . they're seen as these independents but if it is perceived that they're following the company line, how does anything shake out?

KEITH BOYKIN: Well, because the economy is a sore point, it's a big weakness point for the Republicans right now, a big albatross that they're going to have to deal with in the fall, in the general election. John McCain is very closely associate with President Bush because of his enduring endorsement of President Bush's tax cuts, now those are two tax cuts that John McCain opposed in 2001 . . . in 2003 he said it was unwise to cut taxes in the middle of a war. But now that John McCain is running for president, John McCain has a different take on things . . .

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Normapercy@aol.com
Date: 8/1/2015 2:51:42 AM
Subject: Re: Thank you from 'America in the Obama years': a 4-hour tv history for the BBC,etc

Look forward to seeing the new series.

On Friday, July 31, 2015, <Normapercy@aol.com > wrote:

Dear Mr Podesta,

I'm writing - with real apologies for taking so long - to thank you for the great interview you gave us a few weeks ago. You conveyed a marvelous sense of what it was like inside the Oval, the constraints that the President had to deal with, and particularly the careful work that went into 'getting the numbers as ambitious possible'.

Thanks also for taking the trouble to answer in a way that works best in our program. I hope that if you get the chance to watch some of the DVDs of our past series, you will see it has worked in the past - and hopefully it will repay your effort again.

We will keep you posted on our broadcast date in the spring.

Until then, all best wishes to you and to Hillary's campaign.

Best regards,

NormaPercy,
Mick Gold,
Delphine Jaudeau

norma percy
series producer
AMERICA IN THE OBAMA YEARS
www.brooklapping.com
View a sample of THE IRAQ WAR http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-22694542

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In a message dated 24/04/2015 17:56:16 GMT Daylight Time, john.podesta@gmail.com writes:

Let's see if we can work something out. Eryn handles my schedule.

On Apr 24, 2015 12:43 PM, "Lotte Murphy-Johnson" <lotte@brooklapping.com > wrote:

Brook Lapping

America in the Obama years

a 4-hour television history for the BBC

John Podesta

Founder, Center for American Progress

24 April 2015

Dear Mr Podesta,

I am writing to ask for a filmed interview for our four-hour TV history of US politics in the Obama years. The series will be broadcast early in 2016 on the BBC – and on partner broadcasters in America, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and the Middle East.

You probably have forgotten but we met long ago (in the first week of the Center for American Progress). You gave us an off-the-record briefing for our series **ELUSIVEPEACE**. We still remember a very funny story about President Clinton's bout of food poisoning after a delayed visit to Pakistan – or was it India?

What is unusual about our histories is that the story is told only by the decision-makers and their close advisors. No journalists or pundits tell the

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audience what to think. (To view some short excerpts, click on this link: Brook Lapping Documentaries .)

The London Times said of our most recent series, **THE IRAQ WAR**, for the BBC and the National Geographic Channel: *"Television is rarely as gripping, informed and important as this."*

Other series – such as **IRAN AND THE WEST** (2009) and **PUTIN RUSSIA & THE WEST** (2012) – have won top awards on both sides of the Atlantic, including five Peabody Awards, four duPonts, two British Academy Awards and a prime time Emmy. They are used to brief policy-makers and are part of university syllabuses. A note on our method and some reviews are attached.

Those we have interviewed for previous series include Bill Clinton (three times), Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, Walter Mondale, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Bill Burns, Mike McFaul, Jim Jones, as well as Tony Blair, Vladimir Putin, Jacques Chirac and Mikhail Gorbachev. That such people are willing to take part – and do so again, after they have seen the result – we hope speaks for itself.

For **AMERICA IN THE OBAMA YEARS** we have interviewed or are arranging interviews with (among others): Robert Gates, Valerie Jarrett, Kathleen Sebelius, Cecilia Munoz, Jason Furman, Phil Schiliro, Jack Lew, Samantha Power, William Daley, David Axelrod, Jim Messina, Larry Summers, Ben Rhodes, Peter Orszag, Mona Sutphen, Dick Durbin, Joe Lieberman, Chris Dodd, Bill Burns, Wendy Sherman and Jake Sullivan.

We would like to talk to you about your time with President Obama – especially how you successfully pushed forward the President's climate change agenda through executive action and the historic deal you reached with China, dealing with the ISIS crisis, the immigration executive order and the decision to start normalising US relations with Cuba.

This is a serious history that will reach millions worldwide. Without your participation we can't get it right. We hope you can spare us an hour.

Best wishes,

Norma Percy, Series Producer

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From: "Edward Elgar Publishing" <elgarsubscribe@e-elgar.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/27/2015 8:28:32 AM
Subject: New Titles on Climate Change Reference No. (134180)

Climate Change

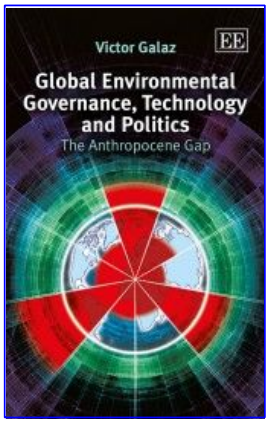

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Global Environmental Governance, Technology and Politics

The Anthropocene Gap

Victor Galaz

Victor Galaz, Associate Professor in Political Science, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden

We live on an increasingly human-dominated planet. Our impact on the Earth has become so huge that researchers now suggest that it merits its own geological epoch - the 'Anthropocene' - the age of humans. Combining theory development and case studies of 'planetary boundaries', emerging infectious diseases, financial markets and geoengineering, this groundbreaking book explores the 'Anthropocene Gap' otherwise known as society's current failure to address the most profound environmental challenges of our times.

2014	**November 2015**
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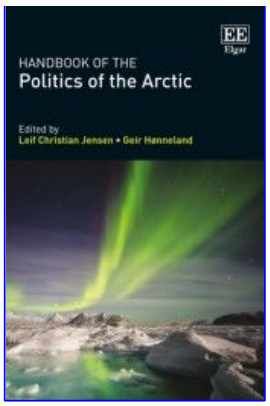

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Handbook of the Politics of the Arctic

Leif Christian Jensen, Geir Hønneland

Edited by Leif Christian Jensen, Senior Research Fellow and Geir Hønneland, Research Professor and Director, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway

The Arctic has again become one of the leading issues on the international foreign policy agenda, in a manner unseen since the Cold War. Drawing on the perspectives of geo-politics and international law, this Handbook offers fresh insights and perspectives on the most pressing issues, grouped under the headings of political ascendancy, climate and environmental issues, resources and energy, and the response and policies of affected countries.

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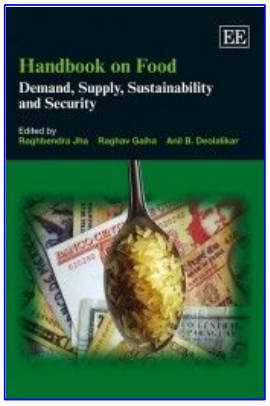

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Handbook on Food

Demand, Supply, Sustainability and Security

Raghbendra Jha, Raghav Gaiha, Anil B. Deolalikar

Edited by Raghbendra Jha, Rajiv Ghandi Professor of Economics, Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics and Executive Director, the Australia South Asia Research Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Australia, Raghav Gaiha, Visiting Scientist, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health, US and Anil B. Deolalikar, University of California, Riverside, US

The global population is forecasted to reach 9.4 billion by 2050, with much of this increase concentrated in developing regions and cities. Ensuring adequate food and nourishment to this large population is a pressing economic, moral and even security challenge and requires research (and action) from a multi-disciplinary perspective. This book provides the first such integrated approach to tackling this problem by addressing the multiplicity of challenges posed by rising global population, diet diversification and urbanization in developing countries and climate change.

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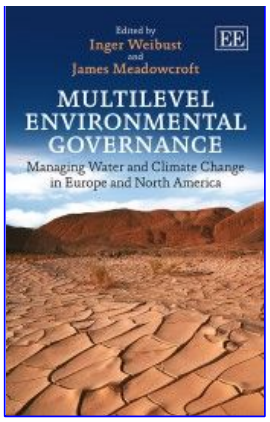

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Multilevel Environmental Governance

Managing Water and Climate Change in Europe and North America

Inger Weibust, James Meadowcroft

Edited by Inger Weibust, Assistant Professor, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University and James Meadowcroft, Professor, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University, Canada

The literature on Multi-level governance (MLG), an approach that explicitly looks at the system of the many interacting authority structures at work in the global political economy, has grown significantly over the last decade. The authors in this volume examine how multilevel governance (MLG) systems address climate change and water policy.

2014	**November 2015**
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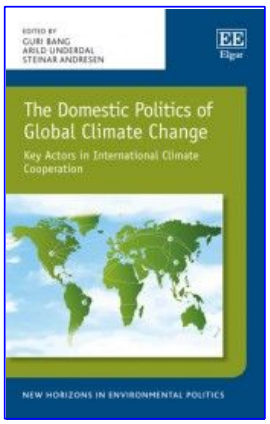

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The Domestic Politics of Global Climate Change

Key Actors in International Climate Cooperation

Series: New Horizons in Environmental Politics series

Guri Bang, Arild Underdal, Steinar Andresen

Edited by Guri Bang, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO), Arild Underdal, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo and Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO) and Steinar Andresen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway

Why are some countries more willing and able than others to engage in climate change mitigation? The Domestic Politics of Global Climate Change compiles insights from experts in comparative politics and international relations to describe and explain climate policy trajectories of seven key actors: Brazil, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Russia, and the United States. Using a common conceptual framework, the authors find that ambitious climate policy change is limited by stable material parameters and that governmental supply of mitigation policies meet (or even exceed) societal demand in most cases. Given the important roles that the seven actors play in addressing global climate change, the book's in-depth comparative analysis will help readers assess the prospects for a new and more effective international climate agreement for 2020 and beyond.

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From: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/8/2015 10:03:27 AM
Subject: Bio: Amb. Arun Kumar Singh

His Excellency Shri. Arun Kumar Singh
Ambassador

Arun K. Singh joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1979 after completing his Masters Degree in Economics from Delhi University and teaching at the University for two years.

His first assignment abroad was at the Embassy of India, Moscow from 1981-1982, where he learnt Russian. Later, he served at the Indian Missions in Addis Ababa as Second Secretary from 1982-1985, and in Tokyo as First Secretary from 1985 - 1988. On returning to Delhi at the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, he served as Deputy Secretary / Director dealing with East Asia and Pakistan Divisions from 1988-1991. From 1991-1993, he headed the Offices of the Foreign Secretary and the External Affairs Minister of India.

Ambassador Singh served at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office, New York from 1993-1997 as Counsellor and handled multilateral social and economic negotiations. He served in the Indian Mission at Moscow again as Counsellor / Minister from 1997-2000. During his assignment in Delhi from 2000-2005, he served in the capacity of Joint Secretary dealing first with the United Nations Policy, and then Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran Divisions at the Ministry of External Affairs.

Ambassador Singh served as Ambassador of India to Israel from April 2005 to September, 2008; and then as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India, Washington D.C from October 2008 to April 2013. Ambassador Singh served as Ambassador of India to France from April, 2013 to April, 2015. He assumed his new assignment as Ambassador of India to United States on April 30, 2015.

Ambassador Singh speaks Russian and Japanese and has some knowledge of French and Hebrew. He is married to Dr. Maina Chawla Singh; they have one daughter.

--
Eryn M. Sepp
Cell: 818-456-2881

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From:	"Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To:	"Sandler, Susan" <ses@sandlerfoundation.org> "Sandler, Jim" <james@sandlerfoundation.org> "Daetz, Steve" <sdaetz@sandlerfoundation.org> "Knaebel, Sergio" <SKnaebel@sandlerfoundation.org>
Date:	4/14/2014 10:22:39 AM
Subject:	FW: Innovation: The Government Was Crucial After All by Jeff Madrick (New York Review of Books - Apr 24, 2014 issue)

Very much worth reading.

Innovation: The Government Was Crucial After All

By Jeff Madrick

"The great advances of civilization," wrote Milton Friedman in *Capitalism and Freedom*, his influential best seller published in 1962, "whether in architecture or painting, in science or literature, in industry or agriculture, have never come from centralized government." He did not say what he made of the state-sponsored art of Athens's Periclean Age or the Medici family, who, as Europe's dominant bankers but then as Florentine rulers, commissioned and financed so much Renaissance art. Or the Spanish court that gave us Velázquez. Or the many public universities that produced great scientists in our times. Or, even just before Friedman was writing, what could he have made of the Manhattan Project of the US government, which produced the atomic bomb? Or the National Institutes of Health, whose government-supported grants led to many of the most important pharmaceutical breakthroughs?

We could perhaps forgive Friedman's ill-informed remarks as a burst of ideological enthusiasm if so many economists and business executives didn't accept this myth as largely true. We hear time and again from those who should know better that government is a hindrance to the innovation that produces economic growth. Above all, the government should not try to pick "winners" by investing in what may be the next great companies. Many orthodox economists insist that the government should just get out of the way.

Lawrence Summers said something of the sort in a 2001 interview, shortly after the end of his tenure as Bill Clinton's treasury secretary:

> There is something about this epoch in history that really puts a premium on incentives, on decentralization, on allowing small economic energy to bubble up rather than a more top-down, more directed approach.

More recently, the respected Northwestern economist Robert Gordon reiterated the conventional view in a talk at the New School, saying that he was "extremely skeptical of government" as a source of innovation. "This is the role of individual entrepreneurs. Government had nothing to do with Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Zuckerberg."

Fortunately, a new book, *The Entrepreneurial State*, by the Sussex University economist Mariana Mazzucato, forcefully documents just how wrong these assertions are. It is one of the most incisive economic books in years. Mazzucato's research goes well beyond the oft-told story about how the Internet was originally developed at the US Department of Defense. For example, she shows in detail that, while Steve Jobs brilliantly imagined and designed attractive new commercial products, almost all the scientific research on which the iPod, iPhone, and iPad were based was done by government-backed

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scientists and engineers in Europe and America. The touch-screen technology, specifically, now so common to Apple products, was based on research done at government-funded labs in Europe and the US in the 1960s and 1970s.

Similarly, Gordon called the National Institutes of Health a useful government "backstop" to the apparently far more important work done by pharmaceutical companies. But Mazzucato cites research to show that the NIH was responsible for some 75 percent of the major original breakthroughs known as new molecular entities between 1993 and 2004.

Further, Marcia Angell, former editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, found that new molecular entities that were given priority as possibly leading to significant advances in medical treatment were often if not mostly created by government. As Angell notes in her book *The Truth About the Drug Companies* (2004), only three of the seven high-priority drugs in 2002 came from pharmaceutical companies: the drug Zelnorm was developed by Novartis to treat irritable bowel syndrome, Gilead Sciences created Hepsera to treat hepatitis B, and Eloxatin was created by Sanofi-Synthélabo to treat colon cancer. No one can doubt the benefits of these drugs, or the expense incurred to develop them, but this is a far cry from the common claim, such as Gordon's, that it is the private sector that does almost all the important innovation.

The rise of Silicon Valley, the high-technology center of the US based in and around Palo Alto, California, is supposedly the quintessential example of how entrepreneurial ideas succeeded without government direction. As Summers put it, new economic ideas were "born of the lessons of the experience of the success of decentralization in a place like Silicon Valley." In fact, military contracts for research gave initial rise to the Silicon Valley firms, and national defense policy strongly influenced their development. Two researchers cited by Mazzucato found that in 2006, the last year sampled, only twenty-seven of the hundred top inventions annually listed by *R&D Magazine* in the 2000s were created by a single firm as opposed to government alone or a collaboration with government-funded entities. Among those recently developed by government labs were a computer program to speed up data-mining significantly and Babel, a program that translates one computer-programming language into another.

For all the acclaim now given to venture capital, Mazzucato says, private firms often invest after innovations have already come a long way under government's much more daring basic research and patient investment of capital. The obvious case is the development of the technology for the Internet, but the process is much the same in the pharmaceutical industry.

Mazzucato observes that less and less basic research is being done by companies today. Rather, they focus on the commercial development of the research already done by the government. One shouldn't underestimate the degree of imagination and funding necessary to transform a major scientific idea into a product that can be used by millions of consumers. The money paid by investors for some young unproven companies can be astounding, even when they are only beginning to make profits.

Facebook had hardly turned a profit when it went public in 2012 at a share price that made it worth more than $100 billion. Earlier this year, Facebook in turn bought for $19 billion WhatsApp, a messaging service that reaches 450 million people and has only fifty-five employees. The possibility remains that competition could wipe out WhatApp's advantage, just as the once-popular Blackberry mobile communication service was made to seem archaic by Apple's iPhone. It's not yet even clear whether Facebook itself can maintain its newfound profitability. We can only imagine the possible benefits if such money were spent earlier in the basic research cycle.

Both government research and entrepreneurial capital are necessary conditions for the advance of commercial innovation. Neither is sufficient. But the consensus among many economists and politicians doesn't seem to acknowledge an equal role for government. Resistance to acknowledging government's

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fundamental contribution to American scientific and technical innovation became especially vigorous when the federal government's solar energy project, Solyndra, to which it had lent more than $500 million, went bankrupt. The investment was part of President Obama's 2009 stimulus package, which included a substantial program of loans for clean energy, run by a successful former hedge fund and venture capital manager. But the solar energy company was undermined when the high price of silicon, on which an alternative technology to Solyndra's was based, fell sharply, enabling competition, especially from China's solar companies, to underprice the American start-up.

Solyndra's 2011 bankruptcy led to a Republican congressional investigation, and a bill to end the loan program altogether. Although venture capital funds, such as Argonaut Ventures, controlled by Obama fund-raiser George Kaiser, were among the major investors in Solyndra, critics saw the failure as proof that government couldn't and shouldn't invest in such new ventures at all. "Governments have always been lousy at picking winners, and they are likely to become more so, as legions of entrepreneurs and tinkerers swap designs online," wrote *The Economist* in 2012. But including Solyndra, only roughly 2 percent of the projects partly financed by the federal government have gone bankrupt.

In Mazzucato's account of the enormous success of federal scientific and technical research as the foundation of the most revolutionary of today's technologies, the most telling example is how dependent Steve Jobs's Apple was on government-funded breakthroughs. Apple's earliest innovations in computers were themselves dependent on government research. But by the 1990s, sales of its traditional laptops were flagging. The launch of the iPod in 2001, which displaced the once-popular but more limited Sony Walkman, and in 2007 of the touch-screen systems of the new iPhone and iPad, turned the company into the electronic powerhouse of our time. From that point, its global sales almost quintupled and its stock price rose from roughly $100 to more than $700 a share at its high.

These later breakthroughs were almost completely dependent on government-sponsored research. "While the products owe their beautiful design and slick integration to the genius of Jobs and his large team," writes Mazzucato,

> nearly every state-of-the-art technology found in the iPod, iPhone and iPad is an often overlooked and ignored achievement of the research efforts and funding support of the government and military.

A major government-funded discovery known as giant magnetoresistance, which won its two European inventors a Nobel Prize in physics, is a telling example of such support. The process enlarges the storage capacity of computers and more recent electronic devices. In a speech at the Nobel ceremony, a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science explained that this breakthrough made the iPod possible. Other major developments by Apple also had their "roots" in federal research, among them, Mazzucato writes, the global positioning system of the iPhone and Siri, its voice-activated personal assistant.

Apple is only one of many such stories. In the early 1980s, the federal government formed the often-forgotten Sematech, the Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology consortium, a research partnership of US semiconductor companies designed to combat Japan's growing lead in chip technologies. The US provided $100 million a year to encourage private companies to join the effort, including the innovative giant Intel, whose pioneering work on microprocessors in the 1970s had been central to the electronics explosion.

Virtually all experts acknowledged that Sematech reestablished the US competitiveness in microprocessors and memory chips, leading to a sharp reduction in costs and radical miniaturization. The tiny integrated circuits with huge memories that resulted are the core of most electronic products today, long exploited by major companies like Microsoft and Apple. Their development was critically

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aided by military purchases in their early stages when commercial possibilities were still in their infancy.

Mazzucato claims not that business entrepreneurs and venture capitalists did not make crucial contributions, but that they were, on balance, more averse to risks than government researchers. One successful venture capitalist, William Janeway, fully acknowledges the fundamental contributions of government research in his book, *Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy*. He is concerned that the antigovernment attitudes of recent decades may prove dangerous. “The very success in ‘liberating’ the market economy from the encroachment of the state,” he writes, which defines today’s conventional economic wisdom, as the quote by Summers suggests, “has potentially dire consequences for the Innovation Economy.”

Janeway is a well-informed economist as well as a successful venture entrepreneur, and he argues for the importance of government in the nation’s economic growth. With the development of huge, highly profitable corporations in steel, oil, aluminum, chemicals, and communications by the late 1800s, he notes, crucial research was increasingly dominated by the private sector. Janeway cites the business historian Alfred Chandler to show that this is not an example of the free market at work. Rather, the huge, unchallenged profits of large oligopolistic companies enabled them to make long-term investments in research. Chandler called it the “visible hand.” Still, while Bell Labs and Xerox PARC, as well as research labs at General Electric, DuPont, and Alcoa, among others, made important, even legendary discoveries, they were also partly financed by Washington.

A major shift occurred after World War II. Federally funded science research became critical to commercial success. It may well have been the Manhattan Project that encouraged serious federal spending on research. Much of it was done in, or for, the Defense Department, but not all. The National Science Foundation was created by Congress and the National Institutes of Health were expanded. During the same period, the major private leaders in research, such as Bell Labs and Xerox PARC, were becoming less rich, and started closing down or reducing their commitments to their research labs by the 1980s and 1990s.

In response to the Soviet launch of Sputnik, the Defense Department created what became the progenitor of the Internet, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), in 1958. But, as Janeway points out, the DOD had already funded roughly twenty projects to help construct digital computers. “The IT sector, which scarcely existed in 1945,” write two economic historians cited by Janeway,

> was a key focus of federal R&D and defense-related procurement spending for much of the postwar period. Moreover, the structure of these federal R&D and procurement programs exerted a powerful influence on the pace of development of the underlying technologies of defense and civilian applications.

Federal funding accounted for more than 50 percent of all US R&D from the early 1950s through 1978 and exceeded the total spent by all other OECD countries over this period. The conventional economic justification for government spending on basic research is that business won’t make sufficient investments because no single company will be able to benefit sufficiently from the potential financial returns.

Mazzucato argues that government research has been visionary. It not merely reduces risks in the market, but opens technology to entirely new ideas. She cites how government directed the development of major new technologies in completely new spheres like information technology, biotechnology, nuclear energy, and nanotechnology. She also argues that government funding even of later-stage research can be beneficial. Government subsidies in Denmark, Germany, and China have resulted in

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successful individual companies. The US has had a success with First Solar, a solar energy company whose existence depended on state support.

Venture capital, according to Mazzucato, cuts and runs too rapidly to be trusted and also encourages short-term successes that may not be sustainable, the better to entice financial market investors. It would have been helpful had she provided more real-world examples for this argument.

Like Mazzucato, Janeway wants government to invest more; but as a firm believer in venture capital he has a more conventional view of the process of innovation. “The state can play a decisively catalytic, and more than merely constructive role,” he writes. “But to explore the new space for innovative applications thereby created remains the realm of entrepreneurial finance, the world of bubbles and crashes.”

Citing the history of the railroad boom of the 1800s, the electrification boom of the 1920s, and the high-technology boom of the 1990s, he says these speculative bubbles are the necessary fuel of productive innovation because the uncertainty of a profitable future for these companies is just too high for many other investors. Facing enormous uncertainty, business is only willing to invest as speculative fever mounts, knowing it may be able to sell out to investors—who, as Janeway admits, are greater fools—even if the company is not ultimately successful.

In one case, Janeway and his partners made a killing with an initial cash investment of some $6 million in an Internet company called Covad. Soon enough, Bear Stearns, the large investment house later sold to JPMorgan Chase, invested $300 million in the company, which at that point had only $26,000 of revenues. Before the crash, Janeway and his investors had a 20 percent stake in a company that went public in 1999 and had a market value of $5 billion. Janeway and his partners earned a $1 billion return. The company soon went bankrupt.

Janeway’s main point is that while there will be a lot of waste in such speculative bubbles, some of these investments will become giant successes. An example of the buying frenzy’s longer-term benefits was a company Janeway and his partners invested in called Neustar, which provided the technology to allow customers to keep their telephone numbers when they switched phone companies. It had a workable business plan, got its financing, and ultimately survived the 2000–2001 crash, earning Janeway and partners some $1 billion on a $77 million investment. “Financial bubbles have been the vehicle for mobilizing capital at the scale required in the face,” he writes, of such “fundamental, intractable uncertainty.”

For Janeway, as for the admired Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter, who eventually taught at Harvard, this is healthy capitalism at work. Well before World War II, Schumpeter called it “creative destruction,” a phrase soon to be famous and arguably all too common now. Still, Janeway gives government basic research much if not most of the credit. Most investment of private venture capital was directed at IT or biotech, and not at other technologies, precisely because government led the way, he says.

Janeway favors bubbles, just the good kind, like the high-technology boom of the 1990s. The mortgage boom of the 2000s was a “bad” bubble, which left mostly destruction in its wake. But Janeway tells us little about how to distinguish among bubbles when they are underway. For years, defenders of the mortgage boom argued that it was justified by the sharp rise in home ownership, for example. My own preference would be to minimize bubbles by means of restraints on debt and on banker compensation, because the incentives too easily make investors rich while resulting in far too few useful products with lasting value. Such bubbles also give rise to large-scale fraud, such as the accounting fictions at Enron, or the deceptive sales practices of mortgage brokers. In short, the pay-off for cheating becomes too large.

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The nation may well be in a new high-technology bubble right now, as evidenced by the price paid for the WhatsApp messaging service. The large venture capital firm Sequoia Capital invested $60 million in WhatsApp over the past couple of years. Since Facebook's offer, it now has a value of between $2 billion and $3 billion. But we won't know whether this is one of Janeway's "good" bubbles until it increases income or crashes. As it competes with other apps such as Skype and Google Hangouts, we don't know whether WhatsApp will survive.

Mazzucato may underestimate the risks that venture capitalists take, even if she is largely right that it is the government that takes the biggest risks of all. Besides DARPA and the National Institutes of Health, Mazzucato cites three other major examples of government research programs that worked well and are generally neglected in public discussions. The Small Business Innovation Research program—started, it may surprise some readers, by Ronald Reagan—provided research funding to small independent companies, such as the computer security company Symantec and the telecommunications company Qualcomm. The success of this little-known agency, which distributes $2 billion in funding directly, is almost a secret. Yet a survey and analysis of forty-four recipients of funding by several scholars showed a significant positive return on the government's investment. The Orphan Drug Act, also signed by Reagan, provides funding for drugs designed to treat rare diseases. Novartis drew on such funding in developing its leukemia drug Gleevec, which by 2010 had generated sales of $4.3 billion.

The National Nanotechnology Initiative may be most worth watching because it is the federal government's attempt to find "the next new thing." Many, including Mazzucato, think nanotechnology, which works with the tiniest bits of matter from single molecules to atoms themselves, will become the next general-purpose technology, spreading across medicine, electronics, and the creation of new materials. But commercial applications are still elusive. Mazzucato similarly thinks that green technology such as solar panels, if it is to succeed, requires committed, long-term investment by the government or extensions of government-directed investment, like state-funded banks.

A mutually accepted assumption of Mazzucato, Janeway, and also the critics of government interference in research is that scientific innovation will be a main source of rising productivity for the economy, and therefore of a rising standard of living. Such single-minded emphasis on something as amorphous as innovation can be misleading. Scholars are understandably influenced by the wonders of the IT revolution. But there are multiple sources of economic growth besides technical innovation. Military spending for the cold war created persistent Keynesian demand. An energy-dependent economy was aided by sharp drops in the price of oil as new sources were found in the Middle East and elsewhere, while cheaper American natural gas may well have similar effects in the future. The building of the national highway system led to the growth of the suburbs. And as the Nobel Prize–winning economist Edmund Phelps writes in his new book *Mass Flourishing* (2013), an entrepreneurial culture that begins at the grass-roots level is also probably crucial for the countless small improvements that go almost unnoticed but make possible innovation on the national level.

In the 1970s, when American companies were overrun by Japanese and European competition, it was not so much scientific—IT was in its infancy—but managerial innovation that led to foreign domination. Meanwhile, some technological wonders, like nuclear energy, did not have a deep effect on the US economy, despite advances in electricity-generating reactors and in medical procedures.

Moreover, during the last twenty years, productivity has grown while wages have largely stagnated. Basic economic theory suggests they should grow together. Are the new technologies failing to create jobs? Do they make it that much easier for jobs to be created offshore? Mazzucato acknowledges that the relationship between research, innovation, and economic growth is not predictable. But she and Janeway make the right assumption. Where would we be without it?

How do we fund what we need? The debate over the nation's budget deficit aside, government's

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contribution to innovation is not financially rewarded. The benefits to government, it has always been argued, would be increases in tax revenues as companies grow based on its research. The fact that Apple avoids almost all taxes by international avoidance strategies, as do many other high-technology companies, shows such hypotheses to be largely bogus.

Mazzucato proposes that when its research is used commercially, the government collects royalties to be put in a federal innovation fund. Companies could be required to pay back grants if their products succeed financially. "A more direct tool," she says, are state investment banks. Such state banks in Germany, Brazil, and China earn billions of dollars, which they can reinvest. Government could also take equity stakes in companies that use the technologies developed.

"Many of the problems being faced today by the Obama administration," she writes, "are due to the fact that US taxpayers…do not realize that corporations are making money from innovation that has been supported by their taxes." That they are not aware of the benefits to competition seems to be a triumph of free-market ideology over good sense. How many Americans are aware that Google's basic algorithm was developed with a National Science Foundation grant?

Business failures do not provoke such generalized criticism. A few decades ago, the Detroit auto industry almost collapsed under poor management. US industry never exploited liquid crystal display technology for TV and computer screens, leaving the business to Japanese and other Asian manufacturers. Owing to government research, China leads the way in solar energy development.

Sitting on trillions of dollars of cash resulting from high profits these days, corporations buy back hundreds of billions of dollars of their own shares to boost stock prices, a systematic practice documented closely by the economist William Lazonick.* They often do so rather than invest in new ideas or research. The financial community fights financial reform with great ferocity, and banks are bigger than ever.

Both Mazzucato and Janeway fear that China's large investments in basic research will produce innovation that leaves the US behind. Under the limits set by sequestration, government research programs are now being cut back to the lowest level as a percent of GDP in forty years.

As government research spending falls, one relatively new development, with potential benefits but also dangers, is a rapid rise in funding for research—mostly in the sciences and mostly related to health and environment issues—by the nation's new high-technology and financial billionaires, including Bill Gates of Microsoft, Lawrence Ellison of Oracle, and Michael Bloomberg. Thus far, the donations do not nearly equal the amount spent by government agencies on research, but there have been notable successes, in particular treatment for cystic fibrosis. On the other hand, some scientists are critical of organizations in which research agendas are to a large extent influenced by the personal preferences of a fairly small number of philanthropists. Since contributions to such organizations are usually tax-deductible, the general public in effect subsidizes a major part of the research.

But Mazzucato's criticism of US innovation strategies goes deeper than the lack of adequate funding. She makes one of the most convincing cases I have seen for the value and competence of government itself, and for its ability to do what the private sector simply cannot. It is not only, as economists argue, a matter of reducing the risk of research and innovation for private enterprise. She argues that government efforts are the source of new technological visions for the future, and—very persuasively—she cites the innovations of the past sixty years to make her case.

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/30/2008 1:43:28 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/30

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 30th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
12:30pm McCain: Media availability in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

3:30pm McCain: Town Hall in Pipersville, PA

3:30pm BUSH: Attends a White House tee ball game on the South Lawn

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Gets Praise, Not Backing, From Grahams (NYT 6/30/08)
By ROBERT D. McFADDEN
Senator John McCain, who has had trouble courting faith-based voters, went to the mountaintop on Sunday — Billy Graham's Blue Ridge mountaintop retreat in western North Carolina, that is — and met with the evangelist and his son the Rev. Franklin Graham for a private, 45-minute conversation.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/30/us/politics/30campaign.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

McCain Aims to Score Points Globally (WSJ 6/30/08)
By Laura Meckler
John McCain heads south this week -- all the way to South America, where there are no votes to win but perhaps a few points to score.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121478463379514553.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

In travels, McCain attempts to frame campaign issues (LA Times 6/30/08)
By Mark Z. Barabak
Itinerary at odds with his political needs, analysts say
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/30/
in_travels_mccain_attempts_to_frame_campaign_issues/

McCain's Delicate Immigration Dance (TIME 6/30/08)
By Michael Scherer
Back on the campaign trail late last year, amid snow drifts and ice storms, candidate Tom Tancredo spoke often about the possibility of defecting from the Republican Party if its eventual nominee failed to meet his benchmarks of conservatism, most importantly a zero-tolerance policy for undocumented immigrants.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1818697,00.html

Some on left target McCain's war record (Politico 6/30/08)
By: Ben Smith
The highest voltage third rail of this presidential campaign may not be race, sex, or age, but Senator John McCain's military service. McCain's campaign Sunday issued a pair of outraged statements after retired general and Barack Obama supporter Wesley Clark said he didn't think that McCain's service as a fighter pilot and prisoner of war was relevant to running the country.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11429.html

McCain talks the party line (The Guardian 6/30/08)
By Michael Tomasky
For a change, it's the Republicans who are keeping their candidate on a short leash
http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jun/30/johnmccain.barackobama

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McCain for education, training to check impact of outsourcing (The Economic Times 6/30/08)
US presidential hopeful John McCain has underlined the need to put in place new education and training programmes in the country to check the impact of outsourcing and enable displaced persons re-enter the workforce.
http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/PoliticsNation/McCain_for_education_training_to_check_impact_of_outsourcing/articleshow/3178108.cms

Obama trip abroad aims to aid image (Washington Times 6/30/08)
By Joseph Curl
Goal is to blunt McCain's edge
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/30/obama-trip-abroad-aims-to-aid-image/

McCain To Press Obama on Iraq (Atlantic Online 6/30/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Look for the McCain camp this week to start predicting that Obama will change his position on Iraq and to press the case that Obama has flip-flopped on a half dozen issues within the space of a month. (McCain, in his remarks yesterday, previewed this line of attack).
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/06/look_for_the_mccain_camp.php

A Win by McCain Could Push a Split Court to Right (Washington Post 6/29/08)
By Robert Barnes; A01
For much of its term, the Supreme Court muted last year's noisy dissents, warmed to Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.'s vision of narrow, incremental decisions and continued a slow but hardly steady move to the right. But as justices finished their work last week, two overarching truths about the court remained unchanged: It is sharply divided ideologically on some of the most fundamental constitutional questions, and the coming presidential election will determine its future path.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/06/29/ST2008062900126.html

Candidates Court Latino Leaders (Washington Post 6/29/08)
By Amy Goldstein; A09
Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) yesterday accused Republican Sen. John McCain of retreating from a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws that the senator from Arizona had championed in Congress, contending that his rival for the White House "walked away" from his own legislation to win the GOP presidential primary.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/28/AR2008062800994.html
***See* LA Times's "Immigration policy reform has Obama, McCain in agreement":** http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign29-2008jun29,0,4764682.story
***See* Politico's "McCain and Obama court Latino voters"**: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11418.html
Link to transcript of NALEO speech: http://www.johnmccain.com/informing/news/Speeches/0d163bbb-5384-43f8-b679-2dfbbc3de124.htm

Hecklers Butt In as McCain Addresses Latino Group (ABC blog 6/28/08)
By Bret Hovell and Jennifer Duck
Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., was interrupted repeatedly by hecklers as he and his likely Democratic presidential opponent, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., separately addressed the National Association of Latino Elected Officials Saturday, at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/06/hecklers-butt-i.html

McCain's unorthodox campaign (LA Times 6/29/08)
By Mark Z. Barabak
Such seemingly contrary tactics as focusing on national security and foreign affairs when voters are most concerned about the domestic economy have provoked consternation among fellow Republicans.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/la-na-mccain29-2008jun29,0,3957628.story

For McCain, Airliner Interior as Campaign Motif (NYT 6/29/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
For several months, Senator John McCain has struggled, with mixed success, to preserve the feeling of the scrappy and sometimes irreverent primary campaign style that helped make him the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. ...But this week his campaign will try to restore a little of the old McCain style when it unveils his new campaign airplane, the flying Straight Talk Express.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/us/politics/29plane.html?ref=politics

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Eureka! Where Do I Cash the Check? (NYT 6/29/08)
By GEORGE JOHNSON
...last week... John McCain called for the government to offer a prize ... to the inventor of a battery so compact, powerful and inexpensive that it would supplement or even supplant the need for fossil fuels. Barack Obama quickly derided the proposal...On one level the rhetoric was a replay of the old standoff between Big Government and the virtues of entrepreneurship. But it also raised deeper questions, like how best can the government finance and direct basic research without stifling something as mercurial as the spirit of invention.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/weekinreview/29johnson.html

Defense hawk McCain also proves a tough military critic (Boston Globe 6/29/08)
By Bryan Bender
In more than two decades in Congress, Senator John McCain has earned a reputation as a leading defense hawk, using his perch on the powerful Armed Services Committee and his war-hero status to advocate for a stronger military. But in the plush office towers of some of America's leading defense companies, the recipients of billions of dollars of Pentagon contracts each year, the presumptive Republican nominee for president has another label: persona non grata.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/29/
defense_hawk_mccain_also_proves_a_tough_military_critic/

General Clark Says McCain Oversold Navy Experience (Bloomberg 6/29/08)
By Christopher Swann and William McQuillen
Retired U.S. Army General Wesley Clark, an adviser to Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, said Republican contender John McCain has oversold his military and national-security experience.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aXcOoughoRFQ&refer=home

Lieberman: U.S. May Be Attacked In 2009 (CBS 6/29/08)
McCain Supporter Says Terrorists Have Tested New Presidents By Launching Attacks In First Year Of Term
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/29/ftn/main4217516.shtml

Conservatives warm to McCain on law (Politico 6/29/08)
By: Ben Adler
Conservatives may not be enamored of John McCain, but on subjects that are near and dear to their hearts — legal philosophy and judicial appointments — they are finding a lot to like about the Arizona senator.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11413.html

McCain prepares new economic rollout as Taylor Griffin comes aboard –What Clintonites are doing -- Could a terror attack help Obama? (Politico 6/29/08)
By: MIKE ALLEN
...Senator McCain plans to roll out a beefed-up ECONOMIC plan and message after July 4, with a mix of current and new policy.
http://www.politico.com/playbook/0608/playbook352.html

Roberta McCain steals reporter's heart, strikes fear in handlers' (LA Times 6/29/08)
By JAMES RAINEY
A formal interview with John McCain's mother proves elusive to arrange. But she picks up the phone on the first ring.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/la-na-onthemedia29-2008jun29,0,5262599,full.story

McCain Offers `More of the Same' on Energy Policy, Corzine Says (Bloomberg 6/29/08)
By William McQuillen
John McCain, the presumed Republican nominee for president, offers ``more of the same'' energy policy as George W. Bush while gas prices rise to record levels, Jon Corzine, New Jersey's Democratic governor, said today.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=aPtVirs.ubnw&refer=home

John McCain 'fails to pay taxes' (UK's Telegraph 6/29/08)
By Toby Harnden
John McCain and his wife failed to pay house taxes and owe more than $225,000 on credit cards, it has been revealed.
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/uselection2008/johnmccain/2218203/John-McCain-'fails-to-pay-taxes'.html

McCain hails Iraq progress as Obama visits war veterans (AP 6/29/08)

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As Republican presidential nominee-in-waiting John McCain said yesterday that significant progress is being made in Iraq, Democrat Barack Obama paid a visit to wounded war veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/nation/ny-uscamp295745967jun29,0,6081221.story

McCain on the defensive about spending (AP 6/29/08)
By LIBBY QUAID
John McCain squinted in the midday sunshine as he crossed the meandering Alabama River aboard the Gee's Bend ferry, smiling at a dozen elderly black women who clasped his hands and crooned gospel hymns. The ferry began running in 2006 with $3 million in federal dollars — money the senator voted against — four decades after whites eliminated ferry service to stop black residents from crossing to the county seat to register to vote.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jg1jtHcVu3RXiT-fGUlEL-pqxE3AD91JSJ6O0

Workers reject McCain overture (Financial Times 6/29/08)
By Andrew Ward
Three hours after John McCain's campaign bus left General Motors' plant in Lordstown, Ohio, workers started streaming in and out of the factory's gates for the mid-afternoon shift change. ...His efforts appeared wasted on many. "We're a working-class factory," said 49-year-old Greg George. "McCain calls himself moderate, but his party has been a disaster for working people over the past eight years."
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/993874b2-4614-11dd-9009-0000779fd2ac.html

Obama and McCain search for running mates (LA Times 6/29/08)
By Doyle McManus
The early lists of potential vice presidential nominees are long. But political strategists have ideas about how the winnowing will proceed.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-veepstakes30-2008jun30,0,7191880.story

Is Carly Fiorina the Answer to McCain's Prayers for a VP? (Rothenberg Political Report 6/30/08)
By Stuart Rothenberg
Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina may or may not be on Arizona Sen. John McCain's short list for vice president, but she already is taking a crucial role in the Republican presidential hopeful's campaign.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/is_carly_fiorina_the_answer_to.html

McCain, Obama Seek to Show Commander-in-Chief Potential (ABC 6/29/08)
By JOHN HENDREN
Candidates Aim to Demonstrate Leadership on Foreign Affairs
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5272906&page=1

McCain makes the race personal, attacks Obama's integrity (Carpetbagger Report 6/29/08)
It was probably inevitable that John McCain would abandon his pledge to focus exclusively on the issues, and steer clear of personal attacks, I just didn't expect it as early as June. John McCain, in his sharpest attack yet against rival Barack Obama, said the Democratic presidential candidate's word "cannot be trusted."
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/16040.html

FLASHBACK: McCain In 1999 — 'I Would Not Support Repeal Of Roe V. Wade' (ThinkProgress 6/29/08)
Today, CNN's Late Edition re-broadcasted an August 22, 1999 interview with Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), in which McCain expressed support for overturning Roe v. Wade, while also noting that the action "would condemn young women to dangerous and illegal operations":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/29/mccain-on-choice-99/

McCain: Maverick, or more of same? (St. Petersburg Times 6/28/08)
By Wes Allison
...At a time when the Republican president's approval ratings are in the cellar, it's helpful for the Republican vying to replace him to have a certain reputation: maverick. But McCain's 21-year record in the U.S. Senate, as well as many of the positions he has taken as a candidate, shows he is a solid conservative who generally supports the Republican orthodoxy.
http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/elections/article649723.ece#

Sen. Hagel won't endorse McCain (Bloomberg 6/28/08)
Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) declined to endorse his party's likely presidential nominee, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, and said he would consider serving in a Cabinet under Democrat Barack Obama.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-hagel28-2008jun28,0,1089970.story

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McCain, Iraqi president say progress being made (AP 6/28/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Appearing together in solidarity, Republican John McCain and Iraq's president said Saturday that the war-ravaged country is making significant but fragile progress.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080628/D91J5Q3O0.html
Link to Pool Report From McCain and President Talabani: http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-from-mccain-and-president-talabani/
Pool Report from McCain's Meeting With Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-from-mccains-meeting-with-gloria-macapagal-arroyo/

Can you hear me now? (LA Times 6/28/08)
By Bob Drogin
Bedeviled by a bad cellphone connection, John McCain gives a conference call speech to dead air. But he gets a do-over.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailmccain28-2008jun28,0,1179827.story

Mrs. McCain, San Diego County Would Like a Word (NEWSWEEK 6/28/08)
By Suzanne Smalley, Andrew Murr, Mark Hosenball and Nathan Dinsdale
When you're poor, it can be hard to pay the bills. When you're rich, it's hard to keep track of all the bills that need paying. It's a lesson Cindy McCain learned the hard way when NEWSWEEK raised questions about an overdue property-tax bill on a La Jolla, Calif., property owned by a trust that she oversees. Mrs. McCain is a beer heiress with an estimated $100 million fortune and, along with her husband, she owns at least seven properties, including condos in California and Arizona.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/143775/output/print

Phil Gramm: The Return of Dr. No (WSJ 6/28/08)
By STEPHEN MOORE; Page A9
...When he rode off into the political sunset in 2002 for a high-rolling investment banking job at UBS, there was joy among many of his liberal colleagues on Capitol Hill. For two decades the man who came to be called "Dr. No" had earned a reputation as a one-man wrecking crew of big-government legislative priorities. "I consider defeating Hillary health care as one of my greatest accomplishments," he says.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121460589609712025.html?mod=hps_us_inside_today

Obama, McCain spar over immigration (Reuters 6/28/08)
By John Whitesides and Jeff Mason
*Obama and McCain court Hispanic vote
*Fastest growing minority is now 9 percent of electorate
*Obama says McCain flip-flopped on immigration policy
http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/2008/06/wrapup_3obama_mccain_spar_over.php

DNC Releases New Web Video: 'McCain vs. McCain: Immigration Reform' (PRNewswire-USNewswire 6/28/08)
Following the debate on immigration reform that John McCain had with himself at today's meeting of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, the Democratic National
Committee released a new web video called "McCain vs. McCain: Immigration Reform." During this campaign, McCain has abandoned his support for comprehensive immigration reform to pander to the right wing of his Party. After adopting an enforcement-first approach that he previously said wouldn't work, McCain even promised to vote against the bipartisan bill that bears his name if came up for a vote.
http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS51365+28-Jun-2008+PRN20080628
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUYTUbJy71k

Pool Report of McCain's Louisville, Kentucky Fundraiser (The Page 6/28/08)
Sen. John McCain flew from Washington D.C. to Kentucky on Saturday afternoon to headline a fundraiser in a cavernous banquet room in Louisville's International Convention Center. Proceeds, which McCain Victory Kentucky chairwoman Catherine Todd Bailey said amounted to $2 million, were to be split between McCain and the Kentucky Republican Party.
http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-of-mccains-louisville-kentucky-fundraiser/

Election 2008: Arizona Presidential Election (Rasmussen 6/29/08)
Since Hillary Clinton dropped out of the race for the White House, Barack Obama has enjoyed a bounce in the national polls and in many state polls. John McCain's home state of Arizona is no exception, though the presumptive Republican nominee still enjoys a decent lead in the state.

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http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_presidential_election/arizona/election_2008_arizona_presidential_election

A Candidate Runs to a G.O.P. Chorus of 'Don't' (NYT 6/28/08)
By JULIE BOSMAN
He has been called a spoiler. A would-be Ralph Nader. A thorn in the side of Senator John McCain and the Republican establishment. None of it bothers Bob Barr
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/28/us/politics/28barr.html?pagewanted=1&ref=politics

Ad Watch: McCain energy ad short on specifics (AP 6/27/08)
...The ad blends patriotism and a can-do attitude to try to respond to people's anger over high gasoline prices. It promises to lower prices at the pump, but provides nothing that would, in fact, do that. It calls for reducing America's dependence on foreign oil, but studies project that even with increased domestic production and greater use of biofuels such as ethanol, the United States will continue to rely on imports for more than half of its motor fuels and be subject to global oil market pressures on the price.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_AD_WATCH?SITE=TXHAR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT
***See* NYT's "McCain Pitches a 'Bipartisan' Plan for Achieving Energy Security":** http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/28/us/politics/28madbox.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O85jpuFKT4

McCain outspending Obama on TV ads in Missouri (St. Louis Post-Dispatch blog 6/27/08)
By Jo Mannies
Since his visit to southwest Missouri last week, presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain has aired more than three times as many campaign ads in the state as his Democratic rival, Barack Obama.
http://www.stltoday.com/blogzone/political-fix/political-fix/2008/06/mccain-outspending-obama-on-tv-ads-in-missouri/

McCain calls Carter a 'lousy president' (CNN 6/27/08)
By Alexander Mooney
John McCain directed his trademark straight talk toward a former president, flatly calling Jimmy Carter a "lousy" commander in chief.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/27/mccain-calls-carter-a-lousy-president/

McCain calls prospect of joint town halls "very, very unlikely" (FOX News 6/27/08)
by Mosheh Oinounou
During a nearly hour-long Q & A session with reporters aboard his bus Friday, McCain said he still has hope that Obama will take him up on his joint-town hall proposal but now calls the prospect that the appearances will take place "very, very unlikely."
http://embeds.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/06/27/mccain-calls-prospect-of-joint-townhalls-very-very-unlikely/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Beyond Guantanamo (Washington Post 6/30/08)
THE SUPREME Court's recent decision to allow those held at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to challenge their detentions in federal court triggered the beginning of what could have been a welcome debate about terrorism policy between the presumptive presidential nominees. Too bad that the exchange quickly descended into name-calling and evasion, with surrogates for Republican John McCain calling Democrat Barack Obama "naive" for applauding the decision and Mr. Obama asserting that Republicans lacked the moral authority to criticize him because they had engineered the "distraction of the war in Iraq" instead of tracking down the culprits in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/29/AR2008062901610.html

If Terrorists Rock the Vote in 2008 (NYT 6/29/08)
By FRANK RICH
DON'T fault Charles Black, the John McCain adviser, for publicly stating his honest belief that a domestic terrorist attack would be "a big advantage" for their campaign and that Benazir Bhutto's assassination had "helped" Mr. McCain win the New Hampshire primary. His real sin is that he didn't come completely clean on his strategic thinking.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/opinion/29rich.html

Why Not A Debate In Dubai? (Washington Post 6/29/08)
By David Ignatius; B07

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Here's a crazy idea that's being discussed by the rulers of the Persian Gulf city-state of Dubai: What if they were to invite Barack Obama and John McCain to come to the desert oasis for a presidential debate?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/27/AR2008062702769.html

Talking to Iran Is Our Best Option (Washington Post 6/29/08)
By Ivo Daalder and Philip Gordon; B07
When it comes to engaging Iran -- a signature theme of his foreign policy -- Barack Obama is taking his share of criticism. Republican rival John McCain predictably denounces Obama's call for direct talks with Iran, while his foreign policy aide Randy Scheunemann labels that approach nothing less than "unilateral cowboy summitry."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/27/AR2008062703099.html

I'm So Old, (Insert Punch Line) (NYT 6/28/08)
By CHARLES M. BLOW
John McCain, when I was born, you were nearly six years older than my mother. Now, seven years into her retirement, you want a new job: the hardest job in the world. Wow! Obviously, my mother isn't running for president, but her age gives me a context for considering yours. And within that context, your age gives me pause. Apparently, I'm not alone.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/28/opinion/28blow.html

On Language: Gaffe (NYT 6/29/08)
By WILLIAM SAFIRE
...Asked about Hillary Clinton's false memory of being under sniper fire at a Bosnian airport... John McCain said: "I have misspoken from time to time, and so I think she just misspoke. ... McCain's admission that economics was not his strong suit makes it into the gaffe tank because he was chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee for six years and such modesty now haunts him. Contrariwise, his statement that U.S. forces might be in Iraq for "100 years," seized upon as a gaffe by Obama supporters, lends itself to counterattack as a smear because the tape exists to show the phrase was taken out of context.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/magazine/29wwln-safire-t.html

BUSH NEWS
The Tragic End of Bush's North Korea Policy (WSJ 6/30/08)
By JOHN R. BOLTON
Maskirovka – the Soviet dark art of denial, deception and disguise – is alive and well in Pyongyang, years after the Soviet Union disappeared. Unfortunately, the Bush administration appears not to have gotten the word.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121478274355214441.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Preparing the Battlefield (New Yorker Magazine 7/7/08)
by Seymour M. Hersh
The Bush Administration steps up its secret moves against Iran.
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/07/080707fa_fact_hersh
***See* LA Times's "Bush's covert game in Iran?":** http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/presidentbush/2008/06/are-us-covert-f.html

Bush calls Zimbabwe election 'a sham' (LA Times 6/29/08)
President Robert Mugabe's party says it expects a massive victory in the one-candidate runoff. The U.S. threatens new sanctions.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-fg-zimbabwe29-2008jun29,0,7091886.story

Tainted Justice (LA Times 6/28/08)
By Bruce J. Einhorn
Alberto Gonzales and John Ashcroft illegally contaminated Department of Justice hiring by favoring conservative applicants.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-einhorn28-2008jun28,0,3849584.story

OTHER TOP NEWS

Oil surges on Mid East tension, dollar slide (Reuters 6/30/08)
By Mike Dolan
Crude oil prices spiralled higher again on Monday toward record highs set late last week as a weak on continuing tensions between Israel and Iran over Tehran's nuclear programme and on further U.S. dollar weakness.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/30/AR2008063000015.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Gas prices hit all-time high (CNNMoney 6/30/08)
By Ben Rooney,
The national average price for a gallon of gas rises to $4.086, with 33 states paying more than $4 a gallon.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/30/news/economy/gas/index.htm?cnn=yes

Pentagon Fights EPA On Pollution Cleanup (Washington Post 6/30/08)
By Lyndsey Layton; A01
The Defense Department, the nation's biggest polluter, is resisting orders from the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up Fort Meade and two other military bases where the EPA says dumped chemicals pose "imminent and substantial" dangers to public health and the environment.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/29/AR2008062901977.html?hpid=topnews

Amid Policy Disputes, Qaeda Grows in Pakistan (NYT 6/30/08)
By MARK MAZZETTI and DAVID ROHDE
Late last year, top Bush administration officials decided to take a step they had long resisted. They drafted a secret plan to make it easer for the Pentagon's Special Operations forces to launch missions into the snow-capped mountains of Pakistan to capture or kill top leaders of Al Qaeda.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/30/washington/30tribal.html?hp

Mandela council urges Africa not to recognize Zimbabwe vote (CNN 6/30/08)
* Newly sworn-in Zimbabwe president Mugabe attends Africa Union summit
* Ex-world leaders, led by Mandela, want African leaders to say vote "illegitimate"
* U.S., UK, France want international action against Zimbabwe government
http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/africa/06/30/zimbabwe.monday/index.html

Luck - A president's best jobs plan (CNNMoney 6/30/08)
By Chris Isidore
A year from now, economist say the economy will be stronger and unemployment lower - regardless of whether John McCain or Barack Obama wins.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/30/news/economy/president_jobs/index.htm?cnn=yes

Obama Plans Meetings With Leaders in Mideast, Europe (Washington Post 6/29/08)
By Dan Balz and Anne E. Kornblut; A07
Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama announced plans yesterday for a midsummer trip that will take him to the Middle East and Europe for firsthand observation and consultations with foreign leaders while providing him an opportunity to bolster his national security credentials for the fall election against Republican John McCain.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/28/AR2008062800985.html

A New Political Geography (Washington Post 6/29/08)
By Alec MacGillis; A01
Role Reversals in Virginias Reflect National Shifts
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/28/AR2008062802124.html

Political Freelancers Use Web to Join the Attack (NYT 6/29/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG
The video blasted across the Internet, drawing political blood from Senator John McCain within a matter of days. ... In previous elections, an attack like that would have come from party operatives, campaign researchers or the professional political hit men who orbit around them. But in the 2008 race, the first in which campaigns are feeling the full force of the changes wrought by the Web, the most attention-grabbing attacks are increasingly coming from people outside the political world.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/us/politics/29opposition.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

McAuliffe: Bill Clinton and Obama to talk within 48 hours (CNN 6/29/08)
By Jake Lansburgh
Clinton campaign chairman Terry McAuliffe assured CNN's Candy Crowley that former President Bill Clinton and presumptive Democratic nominee Barack Obama will be discussing Clinton's role in the campaign within the next two days.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/29/mcauliffe-bill-clinton-and-obama-to-talk-within-48-hours/

Pakistan forces attack Taliban near Peshawar (LA Times 6/29/08)
By Laura King

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With insurgents filtering into the city, troops move against their strongholds in the Khyber area. But there's an ambivalence about the offensive.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-pakistan29-2008jun29,0,3190754.story

Occupation Plan for Iraq Faulted in Army History (NYT 6/29/08)
By MICHAEL R. GORDON
...The story of the American occupation of Iraq has been the subject of numerous books, studies and memoirs. But now the Army has waded into the highly charged debate with its own nearly 700-page account: "On Point II: Transition to the New Campaign." The unclassified study, the second volume in a continuing history of the Iraq conflict, is as noteworthy for who prepared it as for what it says. In essence, the study is an attempt by the Army to tell the story of one of the most contentious periods in its history to military experts — and to itself.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/washington/29army.html?
em&ex=1214884800&en=4d9636bb99326d75&ei=5087

Pentagon Report Anticipates Rising Violence in Afghanistan (Washington Post 6/28/08)
By Josh White; A09
Violence in Afghanistan will continue to rise this year, as Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters have proved resilient and aggressive foes against coalition forces, according to a new Pentagon report issued to Congress yesterday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/27/AR2008062702202.html

Al-Qaida in Iraq says it was behind Anbar attack (AP 6/28/08)
Al-Qaida's affiliate in Iraq has released an Internet statement claiming responsibility for an attack that killed more than 20 people, including three U.S. Marines.
http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D91J2HG00&show_article=1&catnum=0

Second al-Qaeda leader to be freed in Britain (The Times 6/28/08)
By Sean O'Neill
Secret negotiations have taken place to arrange the release from a British jail of one of al-Qaeda's most important operatives in Europe, The Times has learnt.
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4228331.ece

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Progressive Media USA
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: Pete <progden@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/30/2014 6:19:35 AM
Subject: Re: global tech initiative

Yeah, Deutch didn't have any answers off the top of his head about how to operationalize something bigger but said that if you wanted him to spend time trying to work something like that up he'd want to talk to you directly first.

Let me know if you do want to do that -- I am going to see him Thur -- or if there's someone else you'd like me to approach. Arun Majumdar?

--Pete

On Nov 30, 2014, at 11:33 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:

Not sure what to do with this beyond ccs demo announced in Beijing.

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

> On Nov 29, 2014, at 2:07 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Hi John -- Good seeing you the other day, and hope you had a good Thanksgiving.
>
> I asked John Deutch if he had any thoughts about what a global technology initiative might look like, and he sent the attached note for you to take a look at. He makes the case that the focus should be on CCS, and told me that nuclear he thought too expensive and solar was progressing on its own. If you are interested in him thinking about what exactly the shape of an initiative might be, he'll want to hear from you directly.
>
> Let me know if there's anyone else you think that I should solicit ideas on this from at at this stage.
>
>
> --Pete
> <CCS RD&D proposal.pdf>

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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: bfallon@hillaryclinton.com
john@algpolling.com
Date: 10/4/2015 8:29:55 AM
Subject: Re: BS and guns

There have been a couple stories in the last few days about past HRC positions on gun control, like this one in Buzzfeed about HRC OPPOSING federal gun control standards and arguing (as on minimum wage now) that states had different needs.

http://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/clinton-in-2008-it-doesnt-make-sense-for-federal-government#.nfQAQdNqz

I also saw something about her supporting a 25% tax on gun sales back in 1993.

I didn't see q and a on either of these in the briefing.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>
Cc: Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>; Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com>; caitlin <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com>; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; David Binder <david@db-research.com>; Ellen Esterhay <ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com>; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>; Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com>; Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>; Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>; Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com>; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com>; Heather Stone <hstone@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Sun, Oct 4, 2015 3:24 pm
Subject: Re: BS and guns

Circling back around on guns as a follow up to the Friday morning discussion: the Today show has indicated they definitely plan to ask bout guns, and so to have the discussion be more of a news event than her previous times discussing guns, we are going to background reporters tonight on a few of the specific proposals she would support as President - universal background checks of course, but also closing the gun show loophole by executive order and imposing manufacturer liability.

On Friday, October 2, 2015, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> Here is the BS interview last night on tragedy/guns last night I referenced on the call where he punts on gun manufacturer liability. He also keeps using the term “sensible” gun legislation
>
> **MSNBC’s All in With Chris Hayes: Bernie Sanders on Gun Control and Oregon Shooting**
>
> Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5d507cd6-3074-4f06-aabe-41c26000012a
>
> Rough Transcript
> **CHRIS HAYES:** i just spoke with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, vermont senator, and i asked him for his reaction to today's mass shooting.
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** you know, chris, i saw the president's statement. and i know him well enough to know that this was very personal for him, that he is disgusted, he is angry, he is sick and tired, as we all are, of sending our condolences to the families of people who have been murdered in cold blood. and the president is right. condolences are not enough. we've got to do something. we have to stop shooting at each other. we need sensible gun control legislation. and by the way, we need to significantly improve mental health services in the united states of america. and i pledge to do everything that i can in both of those areas.
> **CHRIS HAYES:** yeah, if you were elected president is this something that would be a priority for you? have you thought about how you go about putting in place the policies that could reduce the amount of mass shootings we see?
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** well, i don't think anyone has all the answers, but i think some of the components are first of all guns should not be in the hands of people who should not have them. people who have criminal records, people who are mentally ill. and that means we need a very strong instant background check system. number two, we have a huge loophole right now in gun legislation in that unlicensed gun dealers can sell guns at these gun shows. that's the gun show loophole, which has to be eliminated. and in my view, which is somewhat controversial, i don't think in this country we should be selling or distributing weapons of mass -- weapons that are designed just to kill people, automatic weapons, military type weapons. and that's what i voted for. but what we need, chris, as a nation is to get beyond the shouting. some people want to ban every gun in america and some people believe in nothing at all. i think the vast majority of the american people, as the president indicated, including gun owners, and i know that's true here in vermont, want sensible gun control legislation and they also believe that we should have more access to mental health facilities and counselors than we presently do. the bottom line is if somebody is suicidal,

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somebody is homicidal, you've got to make sure that person gets care and attention immediately, not two months from today.
CHRIS HAYES: you reference that your constituents in vermont, a state of course you represent, that's a state that it's my understanding of the statistics has relatively high levels of gun ownership, relatively low levels of gun violence. compared to some other states.
BERNIE SANDERS: yeah.
CHRIS HAYES: you also -- you voted for some gun safety legislation and against others. you voted for the brady bill, for instant background checks, against a bill that would have allowed lawsuits against gun companies. has your thinking on this evolved over time? have you been influenced in how you think about it in discussions with your constituents who are gun owners?
BERNIE SANDERS: well, i think we are all disgusted and horrified by these mass killings. and as the president indicated, we're tired of sending condolences and we know that it could happen tomorrow, it could happen again a month from now. i have voted as i said a moment ago for what i think is the most important provision, and that is strong instant background checks to make sure that people who should not have guns do not have guns. and i have voted to eliminate this gun show loophole, which is what we have got to do. and i think, chris --
CHRIS HAYES: but the fact --
BERNIE SANDERS: -- that at the end of the day --
CHRIS HAYES: if i could just say, senator --
BERNIE SANDERS: yes.
CHRIS HAYES: there's two things about this. one is it strikes me it may prove to be a more difficult policy problem than we're prepared to admit about keeping guns out of the hands of the wrong people. and it may be that that isn't enough. the sort of items that you've indicated, that if we need to take a more robust approach like, say, in australia or england, which the president mentioned today.
BERNIE SANDERS: well, i don't -- i don't know that anybody knows what the magic solution is. what we do know is the current situation is not tenable. it is clearly not working. and as the president indicated we can and must do a lot better. i believe -- i'll tell you what else i believe. you can sit there and say i think we should do this and do that states in this country where but you've got a whole lot of people want virtually no gun control at all. and if we are going to have some success we are going to have to start talking to each other. and here's what i think is the good news, that i think there is a consensus for serious gun control including among people who own guns. and i think that's what we have to bring about. and the fact we have folks in congress who don't even want us to get information about shootings in this country and fatalities, that's pretty crazy stuff. so i think the job is to bring people together and say yes, we've got to move forward, we've got to move forward aggressively, stop the shouting and let's work together to do something that's realistic.
CHRIS HAYES: senator Bernie Sanders.

John Anzalone
Partner
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
(o) 334.387.3121
Website | Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

From: Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Friday, October 2, 2015 at 6:01 AM
To: Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, "caitlin@grunwald-communications.com" <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, David Binder <david@db-research.com >, Ellen Esterhay <ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Mindy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >, Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >, Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >, Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >, Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >, Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com >, Heather Stone <hstone@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Accomplishments for 8AM

Dear all,

Please see the below foreign policy accomplishments, for discussion on today's 8am call.

Thanks!
Kate

She has a long list of accomplishments, but to name 3…:

- She built the toughest sanctions regime on Iran in history, twisting arms in China, Russia, and dozens of other countries, to force Iran to the negotiating table. And when pressure started working, she sent her closest aides to explore a deal that would cut off Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.

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- She personally negotiated an end to Hamas rockets raining down on Israel in 2012 and worked to build stronger defense programs for Israel, including upgrading the Iron Dome rocket defense system, which has saved the lives of so many Israelis.

- She fought to make women's rights a priority in international relations. She stood up against sex trafficking of women and children, intervened in Saudi Arabia to prevent child marriage, and led the fight for a UN Security Council resolution to combat sexual violence against women and children around the world that passed unanimously.

…And 3 more….

- She oversaw negotiation and worked to ensure ratification of the New START treaty, which will make the world safer by reducing U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals to their smallest size in 50 years.

- She helped build the unprecedented global effort to combat climate change, joining with President Obama to stand up to the Chinese in Copenhagen and get them to take responsibility for the first time, resulting in last year's major climate agreement.

- She stood up to Russia, China, and Iran on internet freedom and fought for the "freedom to connect" around the world.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/28/2014 7:28:16 AM
Subject: Green Neocolonialism, Afro-Brazilian Rebellion in Brazil

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Green Neocolonialism, Afro-Brazilian Rebellion in Brazil

Santiago Navarro F., Renata Bessi and Translated by Miriam Taylor, Truthout: The Afro-Brazilian *Quilombola* people were forced from their land in Brazil in order to make way for eucalyptus plantations, which produce toilet paper destined for Western markets. But they are resisting by replanting native trees and food crops, and working for a post-eucalyptus reality.

Read the Article

Killer Drones Are a Lethal Extension of American Exceptionalism

Marjorie Cohn, Olive Branch Press: "Like his predecessor, Obama defines virtually the entire world as a battlefield, ostensibly obviating the necessity to provide due process before execution," the author writes in this introduction to *Drones and Targeted Killing*.

Read the Excerpt

In Black Lives Matter Protest, Corporate Rights Trump Free Speech

Brendan Fischer, PR Watch: Minnesotans protesting police violence and institutional racism could face "staggering" fees and criminal charges for a protest at Mall of America, with the city of Bloomington announcing plans to force organizers to pay for the mall's lost revenue during the exercise of their free speech rights.

Read the Article

Truthout Interviews Joe Macaré on Keeping the Independence in Independent Journalism and Truthout

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: What does it take to make sure that Truthout remains independent from corporate sponsorship and advertisements? Truthout publisher Joe Macaré talks about how Truthout is able to maintain its journalistic independence.

Watch the Video

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

After 13 Years, US-Led Afghanistan War Is Officially Over, but Nightmare Goes On

Read the Article at Common Dreams

AirAsia Indonesia Flight to Singapore Goes Missing With 162 on Board; Search for Jet Suspended

Read the Article at The Washington Post

At Least 24 Killed in Malaysia, Thailand Floods as 200,000 Evacuated

Read the Article at

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Tiny House Living: How Two Families Made It Work

Liz Pleasant, YES! Magazine: How do you fit a full-sized family into a tiny house? The Morrisons and Kasls found that the benefits of life in 200 square feet outweigh the difficulties - teenagers, sleepovers, alone time and all.

Read the Article

Despite Enduring a Lifetime of Violence, Kelly Savage Emerges as an In-Prison Activist

Victoria Law, Waging Nonviolence: After enduring a lifetime of violence and abuse and then facing the rest of her life behind prison walls, it would be easy for a person to become bitter, disillusioned and self-destructive. But rather than sinking into despair, Kelly Savage has instead become an in-prison activist.

Read the Article

Feds Bar Companies' Long-Distance Lawsuits Against Soldiers

Paul Kiel, ProPublica: In the latest move against companies targeting military customers, federal regulators prohibit two Virginia-based lenders from suing out-of-state debtors in Virginia courts.

Read the Article

"Employee Engagement" Is No Substitute for a Union at Volkswagen

Alexandra Bradbury, Labor Notes: There's no bargaining in Volkswagen's new policy. On closer inspection, it looks more like something anti-union forces have been angling to try. In fact, it's suspiciously similar to what Tennessee legislators imposed on teachers.

Read the Article

Selma Portrays the True Martin Luther King Jr: A Radical Despised by the Political Establishment

Zaid Jilani, AlterNet: *Selma* has won nearly unanimous praise from film critics - partly for its unflinching look at King as a true radical who upset not just a fringe of racists in the South, but the entire political establishment. The film is particularly relevant right now, in light of recent protests against police brutality.

Read the Review

Top 10 Progressive Policies We'd Love to See Enacted in 2015 (but Probably Won't Be)

Robin Marty, Care2: The new year would be an amazing time to pass some real legislation that could decrease the gap between the rich and poor and the haves and the have-nots. Sadly, with a new, even more conservative Congress to be sworn in this January, the odds of that happening are pretty slim.

Read the Article

This week in Speakout:

The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five is overjoyed that the Cuban Five are home, forever free from the unjust imprisonment and cruel punishment that denied them their freedom for 16 long years, while **Jack A. Smith** applauds the overdue policy changes that led there; **El Grito de Sunset Park and Bronxites for NYPD Accountability** reflect on how the

Al Jazeera America

Malaria Is Killing Thousands More Than Ebola in West Africa

Read the Article at the Associated Press

The Mysterious Case of Prisoner 212

Read the Article at The Intercept

"I Can't Breathe" T-Shirts See High School Basketball Team Disinvited From Event

Read the Article at the Associated Press

How Canadian Oilmen Pinkwash the Keystone Pipeline

Read the Article at The Daily Beast

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fight against police brutality is just and must continue; **George Ygarza** reports how hundreds of delegates from all corners of the globe descended upon Lima to be heard in regard to their struggles in confronting climate change in their respective regions; **Ken Peeples** reveals how the United States government actually really hates press freedom; **Mike Miller** describes the six pillars of effective anti-poverty policy; **Jason Flores-Williams** argues that a culture of torture is the very soundtrack of our lives; **Walter Shapiro** explains the crash course Americans got on the mischief that can transpire when Congress actually fulfills its duties; the **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation** notes that more than 5 million signatures have been garnered for a Nuclear Zero Campaign; **Arnold Oliver** says the break in hostilities in the trenches of Belgium and France on Christmas a century ago was actually a mutiny, not a truce; and more.

Read the Articles

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To: "Adele Morris" <amorris@brookings.edu>
"Andy Karsner" <akarsner@manifestenergy.com>
"Bob Nordhaus" <rrn@vnf.com>
"Bob Perciasepe" <bobperciasepe@c2es.org>
"Boyden Gray" <cbg@cboydengray.com>
"Charles Curtis" <curtis@nti.org>
"Dan Esty" <daniel.esty@yale.edu>
"David Orr" <dorr@oberlin.edu>
"Greg Dotson" <gdotson@americanprogress.org>
"Jerry Taylor" <jtaylor@niskanencenter.org>
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"Richard Branson" <Helen.clarke@virgin.com>
"Richard Cizik" <rcizik@aol.com>
"Rush Holt" <rholt@aaas.org>
"Scott DeFife" <sdefife@outlook.com>
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"Susan Eisenhower" <susan@eisenhowergroup.com>
"Debbie?? Masterson" <debbie.masterson@tedturner.com>
"Thea Lee" <tlee@aflcio.org>
"Tim?? Wirth" <twirth@unfoundation.org>
"Tom Daschle" <Tom@DaschleGroup.com>
"Thomas?? Lovejoy" <tlovejoy@unfoundation.org>
"Vic Fazio" <vfazio@akingump.com>
Date: 1/13/2016 6:52:05 PM
Subject: Energy Future Coalition: Jan. 22
Attachments: 12-15-15 Meeting Notes cs rd.docx

As a reminder, the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on **Friday, January 22.** We will meet as usual from 10 am to noon in the 12th floor board room at our offices, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

For our agenda, we thought it would be welcome to follow up on the discussion we had at our December meeting about nuclear energy, particularly in a carbon-constrained future. For example, small modular reactors have been discussed for years – what are their prospects? Is there a path to market for new technologies, or will the US market focus solely on life extension?

We are pleased to have two experts with us to frame our conversation:

John Kotek is the Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy at DOE. His Office is responsible for conducting research on current and future nuclear energy systems, maintaining the government's nuclear energy research infrastructure, and establishing a path forward for the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste management program. From 2010-2012, John served as Staff Director to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which recommended a new strategy for managing nuclear waste in the United States. Before joining DOE in July 2003, he worked for Argonne National Laboratory as the Generation IV and Nuclear-Hydrogen Programs Manager, participating in an international effort to evaluate and develop the next generation of nuclear energy systems. In 2002, as the American Nuclear Society's Glenn T. Seaborg Congressional Fellow, John worked for Sen. Jeff Bingaman. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

Jeff Baran has served since October 2014 as a Commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); his term ends June 30, 2018. He came to the NRC after 11 years in the House, most recently as Democratic Staff Director for Energy and Environment on the Energy and Commerce Committee. Prior to his work on Capitol Hill, he served as a law clerk for Judge Lesley Wells of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Jeff earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in political science from Ohio University and holds a law degree from Harvard Law School.

For background on this topic, I recommend two items as a point-counterpoint: First, the letter written last month by four distinguished climate scientists (James Hansen, Kerry Emanuel, Ken Caldeira and Tom Wigley) – "Nuclear power paves the only viable path forward on climate change." It is posted here .
Second, Joe Romm, a Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Founding Editor of the blog Climate Progress, posted a rebuttal last week, "Why James Hansen Is Wrong About Nuclear Power." It is posted here . Joe has agreed to be with us and participate in our discussion.

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At our December meeting, Steering Committee members also suggested that we refresh our membership, as we have done before at this time of year. We are delighted to report that Jerry Taylor and Bob Perciasepe – familiar figures to us from past sessions – have agreed to join our ranks:

Jerry Taylor is the founder and president of the Niskanen Center , a libertarian think tank established in 2014 that works to change public policy through direct engagement in the policymaking process: developing and promoting proposals to legislative and executive branch policymakers, building coalitions to facilitate joint action, and marshaling the most convincing arguments in support of this agenda. Jerry has participated with us to discuss "The Conservative Case for a Carbon Tax." Previously, he spent 23 years at the Cato Institute, where he served as director of natural resource studies, assistant editor of Regulation magazine, senior fellow, and then vice president.

Bob Perciasepe is President of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (previously the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, now better known as C2ES), an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to advance strong policy and action to address our climate and energy challenges. Bob has been an environmental policy leader in and outside government for more than 30 years, most recently as Deputy Administrator of EPA from 2009 to 2014. He is a respected expert on environmental stewardship, natural resource management, and public policy, and has built a reputation for bringing stakeholders together to solve issues.

Our December meeting featured a compelling presentation by Rich Thau of Presentation Testing on "What Liberals Should Say – and Not Say – to Conservatives about Climate," a look at what happened at COP 21 (the Paris climate talks), and a robust discussion about the Energy Future Coalition's agenda for 2016. Some notes are attached, if you were unable to attend. (As always, these notes are not verbatim and not for distribution or attribution, please.)

Our next two meetings of 2016 are as follows:

Tuesday, February 23
Tuesday, March 29

Again, we hope you can join us on **Friday, Jan. 22** – from 10 am to noon in the 12th floor board room at our offices, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. As always, we welcome RSVPs to Caitlin Shubick at cshubick@energyfuturecoalition.org or by phone at (202) 778-1638.

With best regards,
Reid

* * * * *

Reid Detchon
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From: "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jen Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
"Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"Robert Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/10/2015 3:39:40 AM
Subject: Iran

Language from Jake:

Let me say a word on Iran. As Secretary of State, I worked with Congress on a bipartisan basis to construct the most effective sanctions regime in history. Those sanctions, along with patient and determined diplomacy, brought Iran to the negotiating table. Now the President and his team are in the midst of intense negotiations. Their goal is a diplomatic solution that would close off all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear bomb and give us unprecedented access and insight into Iran's nuclear program. Reasonable people can disagree about what exactly it will take to accomplish this objective, and we all must judge any final agreement on its merits. But right now, there is an urgent need to restore a bipartisan commitment to the patriotic idea that politics stops at the water's edge. The recent letter from Republican senators was out of step with the best traditions of American leadership. One has to ask: what was the purpose of this letter? There appear to be two logical answers -- either these Senators were trying to be helpful to the Iranians, or hurtful to the commander-in-chief in the midst of high-stakes international diplomacy. Either answer does discredit to the letter's signatories. We can all agree that a diplomatic solution that prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon is the right objective. Let's give the president the space and support he needs to achieve it. Let's choose statesmanship over politics.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/22/2016 5:16:45 PM
Subject: New News! (1/22/2016)

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de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of January 22nd, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

---

- New anxiety as US stocks plunge
- Iran deal done: Iran frees 5 as sanctions are lifted
- Trump retakes Iowa lead, Sanders leading in Iowa and New Hampshire
- More terrorism around the globe

The Economy

Top CEOs worried about economy and political unrest: "Two of three corporate chiefs concerned over growth prospects of their companies...Only 16% of North American CEOs were optimistic, less than half of CEOs in the most optimistic regions - Western Europe (33%) and the Middle East (34%)." **Kim Hjelmgaard**, *USA Today* **[More]**

Fareed Zakaria at Davos: "There is more anxiety in the air than at any time since the global financial crisis. The worry is reflected in the world's stock markets...and in the anger, rebellion and unpredictability of the Presidential campaign when "we need grown ups in charge," according to some CEOs. **Fareed Zakaria**, Op-Ed, *Washington Post* **[More]**

The global slowdown hits the US: "The sanguine narrative argues that the U.S. is again the safest house in a volatile world.. 2016 forecasts for U.S. growth that begin with a 2 may have to be revised to begin with a 1. The global slowdown is coming here." **Ruchir Sharma**, Op-Ed, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

"Fiendishly" small shifts can signal huge changes in economies: Gillian Tett (TCG Speaker), *Financial Times* **[More]**

New anxiety as US stocks plunge: "What's changed is the level of uncertainty and...fears that [China] is slowing more than official statistics suggest. Oil prices...continue to get hammered...Investors also are concerned that international sanctions on Iran are close to being lifted, which would allow that nation to ship more oil." **Jim Puzzanghera** and **Don Lee**, *LA Times* **[More]**

This meltdown isn't a reprise of 2008: "While losses could continue, the U.S. appears ... to be in a better position to weather them... U.S. banks today are in far better position to absorb losses than during the financial crisis." **Justin Lahart**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Iran is open for business. What does this mean for the global economy?: Juan Cole, *The Nation* **[More]**

Polls

Iowa: Trump regains lead, with 37% support to **Cruz**'s 26%. **Sanders** takes the lead at 51% to **Clinton**'s 46%, after trailing her by 3 points last week. **[Poll]**

New Hampshire: Sanders increases his lead from 4 points to 9 points, leading **Clinton** 50% to 41%. **Trump** continues to dominate, leading by 20 points with 34% to Cruz's 14%. **[Poll]** **[Poll]**

"The single statistically significant variable that predicts whether a voter supports Trump—and it's not race, income or education levels: It's authoritarianism." **Matthew McWilliams,** Poll under University Of Massachusetts, *Politico* **[More]**

Latinos are rising, but so are Latino nonvoters: "27 million Latinos will be eligible to cast a ballot in November — an increase of 17% since 2012 — [but] the Latino population is becoming more distant from the American political process." **Damien Cave**, *New York Times* **[More]**

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These voters could decide GOP race: Blue-collar cultural conservatives loom large as a pivotal voting block, especially across the South and Midwest. **Ronald Brownstein,** Op-Ed, *National Journal* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

With Trump-Cruz race upsetting establishment, time running out for a shift before Iowa: Phil Rucker and **Bob Costa,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Clinton allies regret forgoing early attacks on Sanders: Patrick Healy, *New York Times* **[More]**

Sarah Palin's endorsement the latest prize as Trump & Cruz battle for conservatives: "**Palin**'s endorsement came a day after **Trump** received the effusive praise of evangelical leader **Jerry Falwell Jr**…Other conservative voices…have rallied to **Cruz**'s side" **Robert Costa,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

A Trump/Kasich Ticket?: Myra Adams, *National Review* **[More]**

Cruz offends New York donors: **Isaac Arnsdorf**, *Politico* **[More]**

Iowa Governor Branstad speaks out against Cruz: **Branstad** has instead gone on the attack against **Cruz** for his "Big Oil" ties and opposition to the Renewable Fuel Standard regulations." **Donnelle Eller** and **Matthew Patane**, *Des Moines Register* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Iran frees 5 as sanctions are lifted: New era of bilateral ties: "Post reporter **Jason Rezaian** released after 544 days in prison ...The coordinated moves cemented a major diplomatic victory for the **Obama** administration" **Carol Morello, Karen DeYoung, William Branigin** and **Joby Warrick**, *Washington Post* **[More]; "**The United States and European nations lifted oil and financial sanctions on Iran and released roughly $100 billion of its assets as Iran complies with nuclear deal. .'Iran has undertaken significant steps that many people - and I do mean many - doubted would ever come to pass,' Secretary of State **John Kerry (TCG Speaker)** said." **David E. Sanger** in Vienna, *New York Times* **[More]**

"Russian airstrikes are working in Syria tilting the battlefield in favor of **President Bashar al-Assad** to such an extent that the Obama administration's quest for a negotiated settlement to the war suddenly looks a lot less likely to succeed." **Liz Sly,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Tsai Ing-wen elected President of Taiwan, 1st woman to hold office: Austin Ramzy, *New York Times* **[More]**

Helping the Syrians who want to return home: According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the US and all other signatories to the convention have a legal obligation to protect refugees and their well-being, which can mean resettlement when necessary." **Maureen White (TCG Speaker Member),** Op-Ed, *New York TImes* **[More]**

UN quantifies suffering in an Iraq: Tim Arango and **Falih Hassan**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Burkina Faso hotel siege 'over' amid reports of new attack: *BBC* **[More]**

TERRORISM: Istanbul suicide bombing results in deadliest attack on Germans in over 13 years: Kaya Genc, Op-Ed, *Huffington Post* **[More] ; Turkey, the US & Europe are all partly to blame for Syria War: Behlül Özkan**, Op-Ed, *Huffington Post* **[More] ; Gunmen storm university in Pakistan, killing at least 20 people:** Taliban militants claimed responsibility for the Charsadda attack. **Tim Craig,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Putin 'probably approved' murder of a former Russian spy: "The results of [a] public inquiry suggest that **Putin** and **Nikolai Patrushev**, then the head of FSB, signed off on the operation." **Marina Koren,** *The Atlantic* **[More]**

More European nations are barring their doors to migrants: "A domino effect is taking shape as nations in Europe suddenly moves to keep more migrants out." **Anthony Faiola,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Flint was an epicenter of America's lead problem as the auto industry grew there: Philip Bump, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Drug overdoses propel rise in mortality rates of young whites: Gina Kolata and **Sarah Cohen**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Clinton's server had classified material beyond 'top secret': "Intelligence Community Inspector General found messages … from an even more restricted subcategory of sensitive compartmented information…'" **Rachael Bade** and **Josh Gerstein,** *Politico* **[More]**

Supreme Court to review Obama's power on deportation policy: Robert Barnes and **Juliet Eilperin,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Ending the filibuster would be a huge victory for progressives: Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE) Op-Ed, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

U.S. is ranked #4 according to **U.S. News & World Report "Best Countries" ranking**: **Mortimer B. Zuckerman, (TCG Speaker & Member)**. **Niraj Chokshi**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Books & Film

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Ex-CIA chief in Benghazi disputes "13 Hours" film: The scene where highest-ranking CIA man orders his team to 'stand down' rather than rush off to rescue U.S. diplomat is untrue "according to the officer in charge of the CIA's Benghazi base that night..." **Adam Goldman** and **Greg Miller,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Another Oscar year, another all-white ballot. Cara Buckley, *New York Times* **[More]**

Economic espionage sponsored by the Chinese government is costing US corporations billions of dollars and more than 2 million jobs, a Justice Dept official tells **Lesley Stahl (TCG Speaker)**, ***60 MINUTES*** **[More]**

Katie Couric: Yahoo series, "Cities Rising: Rebuilding America": Highlighting cities like Pittsburgh, Detroit and New Orleans. **[More]**

Showtime's "The Circus" - 1st real-time documentary series about a presidential campaign, from **Mark Halperin (TCG Speaker), John Heilemann (TCG Speaker) and Mark McKinnon. [More]**

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To: "Stephanie Cutter" <scutter@barackobama.com>
"Dan Pfeiffer" <dpfeiffer@barackobama.com>
saramlatham@gmail.com
Date: 11/5/2008 4:07:34 PM
Subject: NYT story on ethics, lobbying

Stephanie and Dan - Dont know if you have seen this gem. Kirkpatrick has a story up about how ethics rules could limit hires. Notes that there could be some "questions" about Podesta, Daschle and Axelrod (Podesta was a registered lobbyist for CAP from 11/03 to 12/06). I have not heard from other reporters on this. If you want to dicsuss in the morning, let me know.

Jennifer

November 6, 2008

Campaign Pledge on Ethics Could Become Obstacle to Filling White House Jobs

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
President-elect Barack Obama , now recruiting for his administration, is trying to fulfill campaign promises of sweeping ethics restrictions that could deter some potential appointees.

Vowing to combat the power of "lobbyists who kill good ideas and good plans with secret meetings and campaign checks," Mr. Obama has laid out more detailed and more onerous ethics rules than any previous president. He has pledged to bar appointees from working on matters involving their former employers for two years, prohibit departing officials from lobbying his administration for its duration, and require all political appointees to publicly disclose every meeting with registered lobbyists.

But in a city where policy experts typically work for private interests between stints in public service — and often have spouses or family members in the same business — such measures could hamper the new administration, scholars and ethics experts say.

"The problem for Obama is that he will be limiting himself in the expertise he can tap," said Martha Kumar, a Towson University professor who studies presidential transitions, noting that President Bill Clinton faced a similar difficulty with less sweeping rules.

Some Republicans see a trove of political ammunition in Mr. Obama's promises about public transparency. He has pledged to post online all of his appointees' employment histories and personal financial disclosures, along with regular updates of any meetings or conversations they hold with registered lobbyists.

"If they want to hold themselves to that standard of transparency, then they will be ridiculed continuously, in incessant attacks from the outside," said David Bossie, an operative who once specialized in unflattering research on the Clinton White House and now heads the conservative group Citizens United.

Others are already noting the potential gaps in the rules. Many people in Washington make money by consulting for private interests seeking to influence the government but without engaging in the specific activities that require registration as a lobbyist, thus sidestepping some of Mr. Obama's restrictions.

"There are so many people who don't have to register that it captures not so many," Ms. Kumar said.

Some of the challenges and potential ambiguities in Mr. Obama's lofty goals are already apparent in his presidential transition team, which will help select his administration's senior staff.

Mr. Obama has required everyone advising his transition team to remove themselves from matters involving a broad spectrum of potential conflicts of interest —issues in which the adviser has a financial interest, in which family or business associates have a financial interest, or on which the person lobbied over the previous year. In cases of an appearance of conflict, Christopher Lu, the transition team's executive director and a member of Mr. Obama's Senate staff, must referee.

But John D. Podesta , a former Clinton administration chief of staff and the leader of the transition team, presents several potential questions.

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Mr. Podesta is the chairman of the Center for American Progress, a liberal research group that solicits private donations and lobbies on a variety of issues. While he has not personally acted as a registered lobbyist in the last year, according to the disclosure filings for the center's political advocacy arm, he had earlier lobbied on issues including the war and reconstruction in Iraq, Defense Department spending, the treatment of military detainees, energy issues, bio-fuels and oil prices.

And his brother Tony is the chairman of a major lobbying firm, the Podesta Group, which the brothers founded together two decades ago.

In an interview, Tony Podesta said that he bought his brother out of his firm in 1996 and that the firm banned lobbying John Podesta while he was in the government, either in the Clinton White House or the Obama transition. To comply with the Obama ethics rules, Tony Podesta said jokingly, "I am taking my brother out of my will."

Former Senator Tom Daschle , a top Obama campaign adviser considered to be a candidate for a prominent White House job, does not engage in the specific activities that require him to register as a lobbyist. But he is a highly paid member of the law and lobbying firm Alston & Bird, where he sells strategic political advice about a variety of matters that have recently included the financial industry bailout. And his wife, Linda Daschle, is a registered lobbyist specializing in defense and aerospace clients. (The Daschles declined to comment.)

David Axelrod , Mr. Obama's top campaign strategist and another likely candidate for a White House job, is not a lobbyist either. But he is a partner in a public advocacy group that has helped corporate clients including the telecommunications companies AT&T, Cablevision and SBC Communications; Household Financial, a subprime mortgage lender; Wisconsin Energy, a coal-fired power company; the nuclear power giant Exelon; and a coalition that pushes deregulation of the electricity markets.

Still, several Republicans expressed admiration for Mr. Obama's effort. "It is impressive, very ambitious, with some very laudable objectives — minimizing conflicts of interest and self-dealing, slowing the revolving door, increasing transparency," said Jan Baran, a Republican political law expert who served on a commission on ethics rules for the first President Bush.

Joe Gaylord, a Republican consultant and former adviser to Newt Gingrich , the former House speaker, said: "It could be of value to opposition researchers. But I guess I would applaud it. It might not be terrific for the president-elect, but it would be great for America, huh?"

Mr. Clinton set the previous high bar for White House ethics rules, with mixed results. He required political appointees to pledge that for five years they would not lobby the government agencies where they had worked, and that for the rest of their careers they would not lobby on behalf of a foreign government.

But even those rules were widely criticized as too onerous for many in Washington. "Much too burdensome," said Paul Light, a public-ethics expert at New York University .

Whether in response to his appointees' complaints or his own political timetable, Mr. Clinton rescinded his rules in his last week in office.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/06/us/politics/06lobby.html?sq=david%20kirkpatrick%20november%206%202008&st=cse&scp=1&pagewanted=print

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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/1/2008 3:43:38 AM
Subject: [big campaign] FW: NYDN: NORAD grounds Palin claim

-----Original Message-----
From: Meek, James [mailto:jmeek@nydailynews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 10:42 AM
To: Meek, James
Subject: NYDN: NORAD grounds Palin claim

NORAD: Sarah Palin has no role in guarding U.S. airspace despite claims in Katie Couric interview

BY JAMES GORDON MEEK
DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

Tuesday, September 30th 2008, 5:21 PM

WASHINGTON - When Russian bombers approach American airspace and U.S. Air Force fighters are scrambled, Sarah Palin's phone doesn't ring.
The Alaska governor has no command authority over the guardians of U.S. airspace despite her recent suggestion otherwise.
"She doesn't have any role in that process," Air Force Maj. Allen Herritage, spokesman for the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command, told the Daily News.
"The authority to launch and respond to a Russian incursion lies with the Alaska NORAD Region commander" - Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, he said.
Palin said last week that her foreign policy experience includes facing the Russians.
"It's very important when you consider even national security issues with Russia, as Putin rears his head and comes into the airspace of the United States of America - where do they go? It's Alaska," Palin told CBS' Katie Couric.
"It is from Alaska that we send those out to make sure that an eye is being kept on this very powerful nation," she said.
Moscow's bombers have skirted Alaskan airspace 20 times, thugh they have not violated it, during Palin's governorship, officials said.
When F-15 and F-22 interceptors scrambled from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage in response, John McCain's running mate was not speed-dialed with the news.
"The commander does not call the governor," Herritage said.
Steven Biegun, a McCain foreign policy adviser, said Palin is informed of the fly-bys by her National Guard commander.
The Alaska Air Guard, which Palin oversees, performs airspace-watching missions only under NORAD command, and does not fly interception sorties.
Palin did get an annual Air Force briefing in February.
"She asked a lot of questions and seemed generally curious," recalled Herritage, who was there. "She was very interested in Russian long-range aviation."

jmeek@nydailynews.com

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2008/09/30/2008-09-30_norad_sarah_palin_has_no_role_in_guardin.html

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From: "Julie Cohen" <jec@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "Law Faculty and Visitors" <LawFacultyandVisitors@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 3/19/2015 1:53:46 PM
Subject: Beware of philosophical arguments?

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www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russian-man-shot-in-quarrel-over-immanuel-kants-philosophy-8820327.html

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/20/2015 12:15:19 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 7.20.15
Attachments:	7.20.15 H4A News Clips.docx

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton's fair growth gambit // LA Times // Doyle McManus – July 19, 2015

For most of a generation, Democrats have divided into two broad camps on economic policy. There are "growth Democrats," who argue that a rising tide will lift all boats; that was the reigning view during the Bill Clinton administration under Treasury Secretaries Robert Rubin and Lawrence H. Summers. And there are "fairness Democrats," who argue that the central problem is inequality. That's the view of the party's progressive wing, led today by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

As she began spelling out her views for the 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Rodham Clinton faced a choice: Which Democrat was she going to be?

Her answer: She wants to be both. "I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," she said last week. "You can't have one without the other."

Politically, that put Clinton exactly where she wants to be: to the left of her husband's long-ago administration, which progressives think was too solicitous toward Wall Street, but to the right of Sanders, who's running as the scourge of the billionaire class.

So her economic policy speech included a dose of the pro-worker Hillary, calling for stronger union bargaining power and demanding equal pay for equal work, but also the pro-business Hillary, extolling entrepreneurs and promising to be "the small-business president."

There was recycled Obama administration policy too: a higher minimum wage, an infrastructure bank, investment in education and renewable energy. In economic policy a Hillary Clinton presidency would look more like a third Obama term than a third Bill Clinton term.

But she offered some intriguing new elements as well — policies that could not only help her bridge the gaps between her party's wings but also make her pitch more than just a warmed-over version of the last eight years.

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She promised proposals to promote long-term investment by businesses instead of a chase for quarterly results — a problem she called "short-termism." (It may be the first time any presidential candidate has ever used that word.)

"Too many pressures in our economy push us toward short-termism," Clinton said. "Everything is focused on the next earnings report or the short-term share price, and the result is too little attention to the sources of long-term growth: research and development, physical capital and talent."

She promised proposals for "making sure stock buybacks aren't used only for an immediate boost in share prices," a practice economists fear is soaking up funds that might go to more productive investments. And she said she wants to make sure stock markets "work for everyday investors, not just high-frequency traders."

Clinton hasn't spelled out any details yet. But it sounded as though she may propose changing Securities and Exchange Commission rules to make it harder for companies to buy back their own stock, an idea Warren and other progressives have championed.

Aides said Clinton also plans to propose changes in the tax treatment of capital gains — income from investments — to reward long-term investors. Laurence Fink, chairman of the investment firm BlackRock, has proposed lengthening the holding period for long-term capital gains (which benefit from a low tax rate) from one year to three years, and perhaps making all gains tax-free after 10 years.

"U.S. tax policy, as it stands, incentivizes short-term behavior," Fink wrote. "Tax reform that promotes long-term investment will benefit both the companies who rely on capital markets and the hundreds of millions of people saving for retirement."

Finally, Clinton called for a broader shift in the way American businesses behave. "We need to get businesses back looking after their employees and their customers and their communities and our country, not just their executives and their shareholders," she said in New Hampshire on Thursday.

In effect, she was arguing for abandoning a principle many U.S. firms have followed since the 1970s: the idea that the sole duty of a corporation is to maximize shareholder value.

"There's increasing debate in the business community over a fundamental question: What's the purpose of a corporation?" Judith Samuelson, director of the Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program, told me. "We've been in thrall to a very simplistic idea — that the purpose is to maximize shareholder value. But that's not the only purpose, and it doesn't need to be."

Some of these ideas, intriguingly, appeal not only to Democratic business leaders but to some Republicans. too. Conservative writer James Pethokoukis of the American Enterprise Institute warned: "Arguing against short-termism should be a natural fit for Republicans.... Hillary Clinton just stole a potentially powerful theme right from under them."

The details will be important, of course. But Clinton has managed not only to find a sensible starting point in the middle of the Democratic Party; she's introduced some useful new ideas to the campaign and launched a debate that will force rivals in both parties to respond.

Hillary Clinton Draws Scrappy Determination From a Tough, Combative Father // NYT // Amy Chozick – July 19, 2015

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As a little girl, if Hillary Rodham forgot to screw the cap back on the toothpaste, her father would toss the tube out the bathroom window. She'd scurry around in the snow-covered evergreen bushes outside their suburban Chicago home to find it and return inside to brush her teeth, reminded, once again, of one of Hugh E. Rodham's many rules.

When she lagged behind in Miss Metzger's fourth-grade math class, Mr. Rodham would wake his daughter at dawn to grill her on multiplication tables. When she brought home an A, he would sneer: "You must go to a pretty easy school."

Mrs. Clinton has made the struggles of her mother, Dorothy Rodham, a central part of her 2016 campaign's message, and has repeatedly described Mrs. Rodham's life story to crowds around the country. But her father, whom Mrs. Clinton rarely talks about publicly, exerted an equally powerful, if sometimes bruising, influence on the woman who wants to become the first female president.

The brusque son of an English immigrant and a coal miner's daughter in Scranton, Pa., Mr. Rodham, for most of his life, harbored prejudices against blacks, Catholics and anyone else not like him. He hurled biting sarcasm at his wife and only daughter and spanked, at times excessively, his three children to keep them in line, according to interviews with friends and a review of documents, Mrs. Clinton's writings and former President Bill Clinton's memoir.

"By all accounts he was kind of a tough customer," said Lissa Muscatine, a longtime friend and adviser to Mrs. Clinton. "Hard working, believed in no free rides, believed you had to earn what you're going to get, believed his kids could always do better."

Presidential candidates often turn to hard-knocks family stories to help them connect to voters, but for years, Mrs. Clinton refrained from sharing a detailed portrait of her childhood. In her 2016 campaign, she has shown an increased willingness to talk about her mother, a warm and devoted parent who had been abandoned by her own parents and who worked as a housekeeper as a teenager before she met and married Mr. Rodham.

But Mrs. Clinton refers in only oblique ways to her father.

At a house party in Iowa this month, a supporter gave Mrs. Clinton garlic pills to help her fend off illness on the campaign trail. The unexpected gift brought about an olfactory, and impromptu, memory. "My late father was a huge believer in garlic," and not the odorless kind, Mrs. Clinton said. "I couldn't believe it when I saw him eating a garlic and peanut butter and jelly sandwich."

Even her Father's Day message this year, posted on Twitter, was, essentially, an ode to her mother.

"I wish she could have seen the America we are going to build together," she wrote of Mrs. Rodham, who died in 2011. "An America," Mrs. Clinton continued, "where a father can tell his daughter: Yes, you can be anything you want to be. Even President of the United States."

It is unclear what Mr. Rodham, an ardent conservative, would have thought about his only daughter's trying (again) to capture the Democratic nomination.

He died of a stroke at age 82 in 1993, not long after he watched his daughter hold the Bible as his son-in-law was sworn into office, but long before she began her own political career.

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When Mr. Clinton eulogized Mr. Rodham, he described him as “tough and gruff” and said he “thought Democrats were one step short of Communism — but that I might be O.K.”

If Mrs. Rodham, a homemaker who never attended college but who raised her daughter to be confident and caring, is forming the emotional core of Mrs. Clinton’s 2016 campaign, invoked as the inspiration behind her decades of public service, then Mrs. Clinton’s father quietly represents the candidate’s combative, determined and scrappy side. The inspiration, friends said, that toughened his daughter up to not just withstand but embrace yet another political battle.

“He was such a force in the family, and there’s a lot of him in Hillary,” said Lisa Caputo, a friend and former White House press aide who knew Mr. Rodham. “The discipline, the tenacity, the work ethic, a lot of that’s from him.”

When Mrs. Clinton does invoke her father on the campaign trail, she talks about him as a small-business owner who “just believed that you had to work hard to make your way and do whatever you had to do to be successful and provided a good living for our family.” (Mr. Rodham shut his drapery business in 1965.)

Or, Mrs. Clinton reminds people that her father was a Republican, an aside to show she can work with the other side. She did highlight her father’s geographic roots in her 2008 campaign, when she tried to win white working-class voters in the Democratic primaries against Barack Obama. Mr. Rodham was born to strict Methodists in working-class eastern Pennsylvania.

His father, Hugh Simpson Rodham, toiled in a Scranton lace mill, and his mother, Hannah Jones Rodham, came from a long line of coal miners. When she was a girl, Hillary and her two brothers spent summers at a cabin in the Pocono Mountains that had no indoor bath.

Mrs. Clinton tries to visit her father’s grave, in the Rodham plot at the Washburn Street Cemetery in Scranton, when she passes through. She will return to Scranton on July 29 to raise money, her first trip back since she began her 2016 campaign.

“My grandfather, like so many of his generation, came to this country as a young child, as an immigrant, went to work at age 11 in the lace mills in Scranton,” she says. “So when my dad was born in Scranton, he was born with that American dream.”

But unlike her mother’s struggles, the darker parts of her father’s biography rarely come up when Mrs. Clinton speaks.

Depression ran in the family. Mrs. Clinton’s father found his brother Russell hanging but alive in the attic of his parents’ home and had to cut him down. Russell came to live with the Rodhams in their one-bedroom Lincoln Park apartment in Chicago. (In 1950, when Hillary was a toddler, the family moved to a two-story brick house in the affluent suburb of Park Ridge, Ill. Russell rented an apartment nearby, but he died in 1962 when he left a cigarette burning, setting his home afire.)

Mr. Rodham, who was 230 pounds and 6-foot-2, with thick black hair and furrowed eyebrows, had played football at Pennsylvania State University and worked as a fitness instructor in the Navy during World War II.

He would hurl criticism at his wife around the kitchen table at 235 Wisner Street. When she encouraged Hillary to learn for learning’s sake, Mr. Rodham, who drove a Cadillac, would quip: “Learn for earning’s sake.” If his children asked for an allowance for their many household chores, he would reply bluntly: “I feed you, don’t I?”

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The family was isolated from its neighbors because of Mr. Rodham's sour, demeaning nature and his misanthropic tendencies, said Carl Bernstein, who wrote a 2007 biography of Hillary Clinton, "A Woman in Charge."

"It was anything but 'Father Knows Best,'" Mr. Bernstein said in an interview.

Mrs. Rodham was on blood thinners and unable to travel to see her daughter deliver the 1969 commencement speech at Wellesley. Hillary was devastated that her mother could not make it. Mr. Rodham attended instead.

Her relationship with her father had deteriorated as she drifted away from the party of Barry Goldwater and got swept up in the liberalism of the late 1960s. "In typical Hugh Rodham fashion, he flew to Boston late the night before, stayed out by the airport, took the MTA to campus, attended graduation" and, after lunch with some of Hillary's classmates, went right back to Chicago, Mrs. Clinton wrote in her 2003 memoir, "Living History."

But their relationship was not without warmth.

Mrs. Clinton and her father shared the same distinct laugh, a "big, rolling guffaw that can turn heads in a restaurant and send cats running from the room," as she described it in "Living History." They played heated games of pinochle (though Mr. Rodham was known to flip the table if he lost).

Mr. Rodham taught his only daughter that she could play sports and do anything the boys did. When she was racked with self-doubt at Wellesley and Yale, her father wrote her tough but tender letters telling her to buck up. "Even when he erupted at me, he admired my independence and accomplishments," she later wrote.

At his daughter's wedding in 1975, Mr. Rodham was hesitant to give the bride away to Mr. Clinton, a penniless Southern Baptist Democrat. "You can step back now, Mr. Rodham," the minister finally said.

In 1987, after Mr. Rodham had quadruple-bypass surgery, he and Dorothy moved to Little Rock, Ark., to be closer to their daughter and granddaughter, Chelsea. Mrs. Clinton arranged for them to live in a condominium in the city's leafy Hillcrest district. Chelsea Clinton called her grandfather Pop Pop. The Rodhams attended her softball games, cheering her on and taking her and her friends out for frozen yogurt afterward.

"Her father at that point was beginning to decline, so I think it was to be close to family, and obviously Hillary was close to her family, especially to her mom," said Skip Rutherford, a longtime friend in Little Rock.

After President Clinton's 1993 inauguration, when friends and family toasted the Clintons' arrival in Washington at a party, Mr. Rodham was spotted stewing in a corner and nursing a drink. "My daughter is a real special girl," he told a friend from Scranton, Manny Gelb, who relayed the story to The Associated Press.

When her father had a stroke in 1993, Mrs. Clinton, who was having difficulty adjusting to life in the White House, was deeply shaken.

After his life-support machines had been removed and Mr. Rodham lay in a coma at St. Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock, a scrum of news cameras and reporters waiting outside for any updates, Mrs. Clinton traveled to Austin, Tex., to deliver a speech she felt obligated to give.

It became one of the more unusual addresses ever delivered by a first lady. Ms. Caputo, who accompanied Mrs.

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Clinton on the trip, described the stream-of-consciousness speech — about the meaning of life, death and the need to remake civil society, delivered without a script — as “cathartic.”

“When does life start? When does life end? Who makes those decisions? How do we dare to impinge upon these areas of such delicate, difficult questions?” Mrs. Clinton asked the crowd.

She never mentioned her father, but quoted Lee Atwater, the Republican strategist who wrote that America was suffering from a “spiritual vacuum,” caught up in its “ruthless ambitions and moral decay,” before he died of cancer at age 40 in 1991.

“You can acquire all you want and still feel empty,” Mrs. Clinton said. “What power wouldn’t I trade for a little more time with my family?”

Hugh Rodham died the next day.

Hillary Clinton Lambastes Republicans in Arkansas Homecoming **// NYT // Amy Chozick – July 19, 2015**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A Democrat is not likely to win this state in the 2016 presidential election, not even one with the last name Clinton.

But on Saturday, Hillary Rodham Clinton returned to Arkansas where she and her husband began their political ascent, delivering a fiery critique of Republican policies and a pep talk of sorts for Democrats who suffered dramatic losses in the midterm elections.

Mrs. Clinton lambasted Republicans as “the party of the past” and tried to portray the extreme comments of one candidate, the businessman and reality TV star, Donald Trump, as representative of the entire party.

“There’s nothing funny about the hate he is spewing at immigrants and their families,” Mrs. Clinton said of Mr. Trump who addressed Arkansas Republicans in Hot Springs, Ark. on Friday. But, she added, of the other Republican candidates, “The sad truth is if you look at many of their policies, it can be hard to tell the difference.”

Mrs. Clinton denounced comments made by Mr. Trump (who she referred to as the “Republican frontrunner”) about Senator John McCain’s war record and she said it was “shameful” how long it has taken other Republican candidates “to start standing up to him.”

(The night before, Mr. Trump, speaking at an Arkansas Republican Party convention said the Clintons had “deserted” the state.)

The visit to Arkansas whose six electoral votes will not likely up for grabs in 2016 was brief; Mrs. Clinton flew in from Iowa in the early afternoon and departed back to New York that night. But it was nevertheless a homecoming of sorts.

It was Mrs. Clinton first visit back to the place where Bill Clinton served as governor and she as first lady, since she made her 2016 campaign official. Earlier in the afternoon, Mrs. Clinton had stopped by the red brick home where she and Mr. Clinton lived and the apartment the Clintons stay at on the top floor of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center here. Before the Democratic Party Jefferson Jackson Day Dinner, which drew around 2,500 people paying as much as $200 a plate for a buffet dinner, Mrs. Clinton greeted donors and old friends at a

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backstage reception.

Her visit comes in the midst of an existential crisis for Arkansas Democrats. The place that bred such centrist "yellow dog Democrats" as Mr. Clinton, and former governors Dale Bumpers, David Pryor and Mark Beebe, turned deep red in the midterm elections. The audience was sprinkled with prominent Democrats who lost their midterm races, including former Rep. Mike Ross who got his start as Mr. Clinton's driver and who lost his race for governor to Republican Asa Hutchinson.

For many Arkansans, no matter how many times Mrs. Clinton visits, the prospects of a Democrat winning the state in 2016 seemed slim, but having her name on the ticket could help lift down-ballot Democrats in local races. "There's no doubt she helps to energize the Arkansas Democratic base," said Will Bond, a former chairman of the state's Democratic Party who is running for state senate.

Mr. Beebe, the popular Democratic governor who left office last year due to term limits, called the 2014 midterm elections "a huge sea change" and said Mrs. Clinton's speech "revitalizes a lot of folks."

Despite the turn away from Democratic candidates in Arkansas, voters here have embraced some of the party's policies including a minimum wage increase and a private-option health insurance program.

"I am well aware that here in Arkansas last year was a hard one for Democrats," Mrs. Clinton said. "But don't forget, voters did come out and pass an increase in the minimum wage, Arkansas voters know pay checks need to grow."

She said she hoped the 2016 election could also help lift Democratic candidates "on school boards and county offices and, yes, the state legislator and hold onto the White House."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton's political director brings key lessons from her own (losing) campaign // WaPo // Evan Halper – July 19, 2015

The most prized credential of Hillary Rodham Clinton's political director may not be her connections on Capitol Hill, her experience courting the crucial Latino vote or the diversity she brings as the child of a Mexican immigrant, but her run for office — which she lost.

Last year, Amanda Renteria returned home to California's Central Valley to run for Congress and got crushed. The race in the heavily Latino district exposed blind spots in Democratic strategy with Latino voters, who largely stayed home. The message for Clinton in her 2016 presidential run was clear: The gains Democrats had been making among Latinos could stall anytime.

Now, as Clinton's political director, Renteria is putting the campaign's vast resources to work avenging the 2014 midterms, when Democrats were unable to mobilize the coalition of minority voters that had helped elect President Obama twice.

"It is really time for Latinos to understand who is with them and who is not," Renteria said during a break from the National Council of La Raza conference in Kansas City, where she was working the hallways before Clinton addressed a packed ballroom. "One of the real opportunities in a presidential election is to truly have a message that can break through, even in the little towns where I grew up."

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Clinton's massive Latino outreach machine is unprecedented for this stage in a primary. Most Latinos don't even know the name of Clinton's closest challenger for the Democratic nomination, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, according a new Univision poll.

Yet about 500 days before the general election, the outreach effort overseen by Renteria is running on all cylinders. Some of it is clearly visible, with the candidate's aggressive positioning on immigration, her much-talked-about Nevada round table with "Dreamers" — immigrants brought to the country illegally as children — and an economic agenda targeted at empowering minorities.

But in an election in which the Latino vote is likely to be decisive, it's the on-the-ground work that could pay the biggest dividends.

"You can't take it for granted," Clarissa Martinez de Castro, a deputy vice president at La Raza, warned attendees of a session at the conference. "Some people are like, 'Hey, I'm good, so they will vote for me even if I don't do anything.' No. You've got to get out there."

Renteria, who grew up in the hardscrabble town of Woodlake, near Visalia, went on to become the first chief of staff of Latino descent for a U.S. senator, when she worked for Michigan Democrat Debbie Stabenow. Under Renteria's direction, Clinton organizers are showing up in Latino and other minority communities in a variety of ways.

Often it's not even to talk much politics. Renteria, 40, recalls a recent networking event at a bar in Philadelphia where the millennials who showed up wanted to discuss career strategies, how to go about paying off student loans and what her family thinks of what she is doing with her life. So they did.

"It is not just about come vote for me, but ... how can I help?" said Renteria, who disarms with a rare mix of a candidate's charm and an operative's urgency. "We have the resources in this election to talk about it."

Renteria talks without the pretension common in the inner circle of presidential campaigns. She can carry on a conversation with the apolitical. Many in Washington can't.

Clinton's campaign is burning through an eye-popping $230,000 per day in this stage of the campaign, and much of it is going toward making contact with voters more aggressively than is the norm so early on, whether it be through hiring field organizers with community ties, investing in the newest microtargeting technology or holding events like the one in Philadelphia.

The Clinton team is scouting for consultants in every state with a large Latino presence to develop localized strategies for boosting turnout. Buzz-stirring events like the Dreamers gathering Clinton held in Nevada in early May are conceived with input from local activists.

They are all the campaigning tasks Renteria was unable to do when she ran for Congress.

"With the hand she was dealt, she did the best she could," said Mark Salavaggio, a Central Valley political analyst. "It did shock people that she lost by so much."

Her opponent, Rep. David Valadao (R-Hanford), relentlessly pounded Renteria, then a staffer on Capitol Hill, as a

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carpetbagging Washingtonian. "She is not one of us," several of his mailers shouted.

Valadao, who was concluding his first term in Congress, benefited from a Latino-sounding last name, despite his Portuguese ancestry, which made his accusations that Renteria was the interloper in a district heavy with migrant farmworkers sting all the more to her.

She recalls how her family would sometimes not get served at Denny's until after the white customers, how she sat in a chair for hours at a Border Patrol station as agents grilled her parents, how she proudly danced as a child in the traveling Ballet Folklorico.

"It means a lot to us in the Latino community to have someone like Amanda at the table making decisions ... and making sure the community is at the table," Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) said.

Rep. Xavier Becerra of Los Angeles, also a Democrat, said Clinton's appointments of Renteria to one the campaign's most senior jobs and of Lorella Praeli, a Dreamer, to be the director of Latino outreach, resonated deeply among Latino leaders. "Those are the decisions that make you feel like [Clinton] is one of us," he said.

GOP strategists say Renteria's race in California was not a fluke, but a reflection of a wall Democrats are about to hit nationally with Latino voters.

"The idea that if you just bring out more Latinos to the polls you will win is a big mistake, and one I hope Democrats continue to make," said Mike Madrid, a Republican consultant in California. "Amanda Renteria was running in an area where Latinos tend to be very conservative. They are similar to what the Latino voters will look like in Colorado, New Mexico, rural Virginia and a lot of battleground states."

Republicans are hopeful that 2016 will be the year they achieve what they last did in 2000, when George W. Bush, a Texan with a knack for Spanglish and a firm grasp of border culture, was able to slow the surge of Latino support toward Democrats. He also attracted strong Latino support in his 2004 reelection.

This year, Bush's brother Jeb, a former Florida governor, speaks even better Spanish and his wife is a native of Mexico. Another Floridian seeking the GOP nomination, Sen. Marco Rubio, is the child of Cuban immigrants.

Even so, the Univision poll and others show neither of those contenders is gaining the kind of traction among Latinos that George W. Bush did when he ran against Al Gore, whose patrician demeanor did not play well.

Hard as Republicans try to cast Clinton in the same mold, it is proving a tougher sell. When Clinton last ran for president, in 2008, two Latinos voted for her for every one who voted for Barack Obama in the Democratic primaries.

"Everyone has the abuela who ran the show when it came to dinner, giving you a hard time about school, or how you treated your parents," Renteria said, using the Spanish word for grandmother. "That strong woman you look up to in the Latino community.... There is a lot in the community we see in her."

Clinton to Push Revamp of Capital-Gains Tax Rates // WSJ // Laura Meckler and John D. McKinnon – July 20, 2015

WASHINGTON—Hillary Clinton will propose a revamp of capital-gains taxes that would hit some short-term

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investors with higher rates, part of a package of measures designed to prod companies to put more emphasis on long-term growth, a campaign official said.

The proposal, to be laid out in a speech later this week, is one of a number of ideas designed to tackle what Mrs. Clinton, some economists and some on Wall Street consider the overly short-term focus of corporate strategy. Other topics will include the risks and benefits of shareholder activism and the role of executive compensation.

At the center is Mrs. Clinton's proposal to change capital-gains tax rates, the details of which are being finalized. The Democratic presidential candidate's plan would create a sliding scale with at least three new rates that change depending on how long an investment is held, the official said.

Investments held for less than a year would continue to be taxed at regular income-tax rates, which can top out at 39.6% or more for the highest earners. For those held just a little longer—likely two or three years—the current capital-gains tax rate of 23.8% for top earners would rise. The Clinton rate, which hasn't been finalized, would be higher than the 28% President Barack Obama proposed earlier this year for the highest earners. The Clinton campaign hasn't ruled out taxing such investments at the regular income-tax rate.

The plan would include additional rates tied to the length that an investment is held, with the lowest rates for investments held the longest.

Under current law, the capital-gains rate for investments held for at least a year is 15% for middle-income investors, and people with the lowest incomes pay no tax on capital gains.

The former senator and secretary of state is diving into an area of significant debate about which policy steps could or should be taken to discourage what Mrs. Clinton calls "quarterly capitalism," meaning overly focused on the next earnings report.

Some economists and many Republicans argue there is little the government can do to change corporate behavior. GOP presidential contenders by and large want to go in the opposite direction by eliminating taxes on investment income or at least reducing them.

Activist investors, who generally take positions in stocks and then push for changes they believe would boost share prices, have in the past few years gained more influence and won more battles with larger companies. These investors, such as Nelson Peltz at Trian Fund Management LP and William Ackman at Pershing Square Capital Management LP, say they hold weak corporate managers accountable and help lift share prices for all holders.

Detractors, including Laurence Fink, chief executive at money manager BlackRock Inc., and Martin Lipton, a leading corporate-defense lawyer, say the typical activist wish list, including share buybacks, dividends and corporate breakups, diverts cash from long-term investments in plants or people to appease investors who want to sell out quickly.

Mrs. Clinton's speech represents part of her effort to distinguish herself on economic policy from GOP candidates, who focus largely on growth, and her Democratic primary challengers who focus on income inequality and are pushing ideas that are popular with the liberal base, such as breaking up large banks. Wall Street regulation and inequality are topics Mrs. Clinton plans to address separately in coming weeks.

Foreshadowing this week's announcement, Mrs. Clinton last week promised to propose "reforms to help CEOs and shareholders alike to focus on the next decade rather than just the next day." This week, Mrs. Clinton will expand on that theme, arguing that companies that invest in their workers and focus on long-term growth are better positioned to succeed, the campaign official said.

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Mrs. Clinton also plans to discuss the pros and cons of shareholder activism and call for steps to address “hit-and-run” activists she argues contribute to short-term planning. Still, the campaign official said, she believes that some activism is good in that in holds managers accountable.

Mrs. Clinton will also discuss the dramatic increase in companies’ repurchasing their shares, as well as ways to promote long-term considerations in setting executive compensations.

The campaign didn’t estimate how much in additional taxes the proposal would raise. The official said the primary goal is to change behavior, not increase revenue.

U.S. companies in the S&P 500 index spent a median 36% of operating cash flow in 2013 on their buybacks and dividends, moves designed to deliver gains to current shareholders, compared with 18% in 2003. Over that same period, those companies cut spending on plants and equipment to 29% of operating cash flow, from 33% in 2003, according to S&P Capital IQ. When the companies have an activist shareholder, the changes are even sharper, the data show.

Those who back the kinds of changes Mrs. Clinton will propose say current tax rules for investment income are a little-noticed part of the problem. Low tax rates on capital gains and dividends, along with a relatively short one-year holding period to qualify for capital-gains treatment, encourage companies to return more profits to shareholders as opposed to investing in long-term growth.

In a recent paper, Clinton adviser Neera Tanden wrote that activist investors are hurting some companies’ capital investments. Company spending on buybacks and dividends surges in the five years after shareholders start putting pressure on a company, and capital investments fall, she wrote in a paper for the Center for American Progress, where she is president, along with Blair Effron of Centerview Partners.

Ms. Tanden suggested a sliding scale for capital-gains tax rates, where the longer an investor holds the asset, the lower the rate. Mr. Fink of BlackRock has suggested a similar scale, with a three-year holding period for basic capital-gains treatment, among other changes. Mrs. Clinton appears to be adopting a version of their idea.

It is a matter of debate whether such changes would make much difference to how companies operate. In practice, many corporate shares are held by tax-exempt entities such as pension funds that are largely indifferent to tax changes.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a Republican economist, noted in an interview the tax code already requires investments to be held for a year and is skeptical increasing the time period would make much difference. Managers are more swayed by changes to taxes and regulations relating to their core business, not the tax rate paid by investors.

“My gut instinct is this is going to sound good but it’s not going to change very much. It’s just not that powerful,” he said.

U.S. tax law has had multiple holding periods and rates for capital gains in the past. President Bill Clinton signed a law in 1997 that would have created a special low rate for assets held at least five years. That system was eliminated as part of the tax breaks adopted under his successor, President George W. Bush.

Many Republicans running for president want to reduce or eliminate taxes held on investments. Among the arguments: They are a form of double taxation, where the income is taxed first at the company level and then

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again when it is returned to shareholders.

GOP Peddles Hard the 'Hillary Can't Be Trusted' Line **// HuffPo // Earl Ofari Hutchinson – July 19, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is the runaway pick among voters when asked who among the presidential candidates is the most credible, honest and trustworthy, and even the most compassionate. Her rank on the voter trustworthy meter is far higher than that of Barack Obama and easily tops that of all other GOP presidential contenders. The problem with this is the AP-Ipsos poll that gave Hillary high marks on trustworthiness was taken in March, 2007.

The two big questions are: What happened in the eight years since that that poll was taken and today to change voter's attitudes on the trust issue toward Clinton? The other even bigger one is: Does this pose a real problem for Clinton's campaign?

The trust issue and Hillary has been the sole fixation of the pollsters and they seem to crank out a new poll monthly hitting that theme. If one believes the barrage of polls, one comes away with the notion that voters, especially Democrats, simply don't trust Hillary.

Playing up Clinton's supposed free fall in integrity has been the one constant in the run-up to the 2016 presidential campaign. The Republican National Committee early on put Hillary dead in its hit sights to do everything possible to render her candidacy stillborn even before it officially became a candidacy. It not so subtly recycled the old trumped up scandals of the past from Whitewater to the Lewinsky scandal. It then cranked out a sneering "poor Hillary" video that touted Hillary's quip that she and Bill were "dead broke" when they left the White House. It then intimated that she shook down poor cash strapped universities for her alleged outrageous speaking fees.

There was little doubt that the first chance the GOP got it would seize on a real or manufactured Obama foreign policy flub and make Clinton their hard target. The Benghazi debacle seemed to be just the right flub. In August 2013, the Republican National Committee rammed the attack home with a half-minute clip of her Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony earlier that year on the Benghazi attack.

The aim as always was to embarrass and discredit her not because of her alleged missteps as Secretary of State, but as a 2016 presidential candidate. Republicans got what they wanted when their phony accusations against her of cover-up and incompetence got tons of media chatter and focus and raised the first shadow of public doubt. The GOP then tirelessly searched for something else that could ramp up more public doubt about Clinton's honesty. It didn't take long to find.

This time it got two for the price of one. Congressional Republicans jubilantly waved a fresh batch of Clinton emails to the media, claiming that it proved that she deliberately mislead Congressional investigators, and the public, on what she knew and how she handled or allegedly mishandled the Benghazi debacle. This ties in with the GOP's and the media's incessant flailing of Clinton for supposedly hiding, deleting or misusing her private emails for some sinister and nefarious reason during her stint as Secretary of State. There will be more to come on this rest assured.

Meanwhile, the GOP mockingly ridicules Clinton's attempt to reimage her campaign and herself as a hands, on in the trenches with the people, caring, feeling candidate as just more of the Clinton con, and an ineffectual one to boot. The supposed proof of that is to finger point her plunging favorability numbers in the polls. Of course, what's conveniently omitted from the Hillary smear is that every one of her GOP rivals is doing an even lousier job trying to convince voters that they are any more "trustworthy" than Clinton. In the case of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Chris Christie, and especially Jeb Bush, their integrity meter score with the public fall somewhere between Watergate Richard Nixon and that of a used car salesman.

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There's more. A USA Poll and an ABC-Washington Post poll found that not only does Clinton have solid numbers in terms of approval with voters, but bags big time general favorability numbers from Democrats. This is even more impressive given the spirited, and populist issues run that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders is making at Hillary.

It's certainly true that voters do want a president that they can trust to say and do the right thing both on the issues and in their dealing with the public. But they also want a president who is experienced, well-versed, thoughtful, and firm on dealing with the inevitable crises that will confront the country, here and abroad. There's absolutely no hint in the polls or anywhere else that the general public has shut down on Clinton in this vital area of public policy. But this won't stop the GOP and those in the media obsessed with depicting Hillary as two-faced from peddling that line.

Same-Sex Couple Featured In Hillary Clinton Video Get Married **// CBS // Dana Kozlov – July 19, 2015**

CHICAGO (CBS) — A few months after a Chicago couple that was in Hillary Clinton's campaign launch video invited the candidate to their wedding, they got married without her, reports CBS 2's Dana Kozlov.

Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson appeared in Hillary Clinton's campaign launch video. They represented her support of gay marriage. On Sunday, they actually tied the knot.

They were surrounded by family and friends at Montrose Harbor this afternoon. Absent, though, was the presidential candidate. They sent her a Twitter invitation to their wedding today right after they publically appeared in her campaign announcement video. They say they were honored to be included in that and wanted to include her in their wedding day.

The couple says Clinton's staff immediately got back to them with a sort of 'we'll see.' In the end, she didn't make it.

"She rightfully pointed out that if she came to the wedding, it might distract from our special day so we understand she supports us," said Milrad.

Clinton did send them a congratulatory note.

Milrad and Johnson have been together for several years.

Being that they got married in a public space, Clinton's attendance would have likely caused quite a security nightmare on an already really busy beach day.

Ghost of Hillary Clinton Haunts Liberal Convention **// TIME // Sam Frizell – July 19, 2015**

The raucous Democratic base is skeptical of Hillary Clinton

For an eclectic snapshot of the Democratic left, look no further than a squat civic building in downtown Phoenix on Friday night. A loud punk band was packing up, men in uniforms were clearing away vats of orange-and-mint flavored ice water, and stragglers were tucking away thin cucumber slices topped with cheese and bacon bits. The last of the elaborately tattooed young folks were mixed in with the suits, as the party, hosted by a food workers union, wound to a close.

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“I’m a long, longtime admirer of Secretary Clinton,” Greg Stanton, the mayor of Phoenix was saying. He wore a jacket, sipped a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and mingled. “I’m probably in the minority here, but mayors across the country are big Hillary fans.”

Surrounded by union organizers and progressive activists, Stanton was definitely the exception. Hillary Clinton may safely be the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, but at the largest gathering of the liberal grassroots in the country, enthusiasm for her campaign was as mushy as day-old oatmeal. The Netroots Nation conference was much more excited about Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a self-described socialist and populist firebrand.

“It’s a pragmatist versus idealist race,” said Krissi Jimroglou, communications director for Working America, explaining the enthusiasm for Sanders as the union-hosted party cleared out. “This is a very idealist crowd.”

It didn’t help that Clinton was nowhere to be found. In fact, she was in Iowa and heading to Arkansas, even while her rivals for the Democratic nomination—Sanders and Martin O’Malley—were en route to Phoenix and preparing to court the progressives. The bloggers, unions, teachers, techies, activists, organizers, laborers, musicians and non-profit founders who come to Netroots are the vocal base of the Democratic Party. They’re key for Democrats seeking to winning national elections.

Clinton has sought to attract progressives like these her campaign, many of whom believe that she is too closely connected to Wall Street and corporate interests, and too similar to her centrist husband, President Bill Clinton. The folks at Netroots may well ultimately vote for her in a general election, but for now they’re not enthusiastic about the prospect.

Clinton has talked like a populist and laid out a liberal vision for the country, centering her economic policy around solving income inequality instead of some “arbitrary growth figure” like gross domestic product. She has already called for raising the minimum wage, requiring paid family leave, reducing the cost of college and reining in Wall Street, and she has a host of other progressive policies lined up for the coming months. And she is leading in the polls by large margins, with polls showing her favorability ratings on solid ground.

But the the Netroots attendees are thirsty for specifics. “She’s done a great job explaining the problem: that we have economy that works really well for the top 1% and not everyone else, and we need to fix it,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America, the grassroots organization founded by former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean. “Now she needs to detail the policy behind it that puts meat on the bone.”

And even then, they may not be sated. A lot of attendees spoke of a general feeling—a sort of populist touch—which they say they’re not sure Clinton has. Sanders, they say, has it. There was also a widely shared resentment at Netroots that Clinton hadn’t come to kiss the ring. “There’s something people have been looking for that they haven’t been seeing,” said a woman at the Phoenix Convention Center on Friday named Hillary Keyes. She was wearing a button that said “I’m a Hillary for Bernie.” Clinton not coming, Keyes said means for “the people here she loses credibility.”

“We’re disappointed the Democratic frontrunner could miss such a great opportunity,” said Arshad Hasan, chair of the board of directors of Netroots Nation. “The silence from her side makes Bernie shine all the brighter.”

With Clinton gone, the Sanders crowd had full rein. The morning he addressed the crowd, a group dressed as robber barons replete with top hats and bow-ties chanted ironically, “Capitalists for Bernie!” while holding signs saying “Long live the oligarchs!” Others carried huge cutouts of Sanders’ head with a Robin Hood hat.

Clinton’s campaign said their candidate could not attend because of scheduling conflicts—though the organizers

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set the date for the conference a year in advance. Netroots would have been an unwieldy and raucous stage for Clinton, who tends to favor controlled spaces. And this year was less controlled than usual, as Black Lives Matters protesters derailed the presidential town hall meetings featuring O'Malley and Sanders.

Despite her absence, Clinton's ghost defined much of the proceedings here. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts progressive who is beloved among the Netroots crowd, said in a speech on Friday that all the presidential candidates should move to stop the revolving door between Wall Street and the Cabinet, an applause line that was largely seen as aimed at Clinton. Many of the activists spoke about "moving Hillary to the left," a common refrain among Democrats.

And activists said at Netroots they could build a huge progressive network to support Clinton in her left-leaning positions. "It is up to everyone in this hall to actually draft a progressive agenda," said AFL-CIO executive vice president Tefere Gebre in an interview. "And give Hillary Clinton a backbone, or give Bernie Sanders a backbone, or give anyone else a background to govern on that agenda."

For Clinton, who is establishing her progressive credentials but has not yet managed to capture the imagination of the Netroots demographic, the key will be driving them out in heavy numbers to vote for in a general election. Sanders may know how to rile up the base. But if Netroots is a barometric reading of devotion, then Clinton may have some work to do.

"It's a degree-of-enthusiasm question," said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "Democratic activists here will probably go out and vote for her. But will they go out to canvass for her, mobilize for her and make calls for her? It really depends on her."

Meanwhile, on Saturday night, Sanders gave a speech in Phoenix's convention center, the final big event of the weekend. It was the largest rally of Sanders' campaign, and 11,300 people streamed through the sand-colored streets of Phoenix and down two long escalators into a cavernous auditorium with the feel of an ocean trench.

Sanders took the stage and delivered his blistering attack on billionaires and the multinational corporations. But first, some context. "When we were coming to Arizona, somebody said Arizona is a conservative state," thundered Sanders. "What were they talking about?!"

Jeb and Hillary: Flawed front-runners generating little excitement // Fox News // Howard Kurtz - July 20, 2015

America may well get another Bush-Clinton race once this whole presidential thing shakes out, with predictable groans about royal families and political retreads.

But in looking at the coverage this past week, I was struck by this thought: This is one weak pair of front-runners.

Jeb is losing to a guy who's never run for public office and is in hot water over comments about Mexican immigrants. In short, he's been Trumped. (Though maybe The Donald has trumped himself by making light of John McCain's Vietnam captivity, not that the media were in love with him before.)

Hillary is way ahead in her race, but a socialist senator is generating most of the excitement. A majority of voters have doubts about her honesty. And she's long been at odds with the press.

As the New York Times has noted, Hillary may have raised $47.5 million, but less than one-fifth has come in

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contributions of $200 or less. That means big-money donors, many of whom have maxed out at $2,700, are powering her campaign. Bernie Sanders, by contrast, has gotten four-fifths of his $15 million in small donations. (Hillary has also spent a chunk of her haul, stirring concerns about another bloated, consultant-heavy campaign.)

Equally worrisome, the latest Fox News poll confirms the findings of several other surveys that Hillary has a trust problem. Some 58 percent of respondents say Clinton's natural instincts lean more toward "hiding the truth" than "telling the truth."

It's hardly shocking that Hillary isn't firing up the grass roots. She's been in public life for a quarter century, as first lady, senator, presidential candidate, secretary of State and global celebrity. She's a Democrat running to succeed another Democrat. And the lack of a major opponent is draining much of the drama from her race. That's why Elizabeth Warren, not HRC, is on the cover of Time.

At the same time, even Hillary's team is said to be concerned that Sanders, a 73-year-old who isn't even a Democrat and who's been a bit player in the Senate, could knock her off in Iowa. Or worse.

Yet in a New York Times Magazine piece that's in part about the press staff micromanaging Mark Leibovich (no tweeting from her headquarters!), campaign manager Robby Mook said: "I take issue with the excitement question."'

Jeb has problems that go beyond Donald Trump. He's at odds with conservative Republican voters over illegal immigration and Common Core education standards. He's raised $114 million, but he's had to talk repeatedly about his brother and why his last name isn't a liability.

And while Bush has been solid and substantive in his campaign, aside from his initial Iraq stumble, he has not been a dominating presence. He regularly talks to the press, in stark contrast to Hillary, but makes little news.

And Trump is looming as an obstacle for Bush, particularly with the Fox debate coming up next month.

"During one recent phone call with a political ally," Politico says, "Bush pointedly asked about the surging real estate mogul. What, the friend recalled the former governor wondering out loud, was behind Trump's antics, and what was he trying to accomplish?"

Jeb is trying to be the grownup in the room. He told the Los Angeles Times: "I think candidates ought to lay out proposals to solve problems rather than basically prey on legitimate fears and concerns."

The Donald, meanwhile, speaks of Jeb with open disdain. "He raises 100 million, so what does 100 million mean?" Trump asked. "100 million means he's doing favors for so many people, it means lobbyists, it means special interests, it means donors," said Trump. "Who knows it better than me?"

The eventual nominees often seem lackluster during the preseason. I remember lots of political and media grumbling over Mitt Romney, John McCain, John Kerry and Al Gore, whereas the likes of Howard Dean and Newt Gingrich generated more excitement. Those who win their party's nod have to be acceptable to a broad coalition, which usually means they can't be fire-breathing insurgents.

Maybe even Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush aren't immune from premature boredom.

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[6 Facts About Hillary Clinton & Her Dad That Totally Gave Us #FatherDaughterGoals](#) // Bustle // Tonya Riley – July 19, 2015

Even as a first lady, the now-presidential candidate refused to be defined by the man in her life. But as the New York Times reported Sunday, Hillary Clinton's father, Hugh Rodham, had a substantial influence on the woman she is today. Clinton spoke candidly about the strength of her mother in her speech announcing her campaign, but she rarely speaks about her father, who passed away in 1993, in public. Clinton, who veered away from her father's conservative political values in college, had a tumultuous relationship with him in her early years. Clinton's former advisor Lissa Muscatine told The New York Times, "By all accounts he was kind of a tough customer … believed in no free rides, believed you had to earn what you're going to get, believed his kids could always do better."

Despite his sometimes tough personality, Rodham had a huge impact on his daughter, who would go on to be both a senator and Secretary of State. He gets several mentions in her 2003 biography Living History, in which she describes him as a hardworking, "hardheaded and often gruff" business owner descended "from a line of black-haired Welsh coal miners." And though he died long before he could have ever seen his daughter transition from first lady to possible president,

Here's what we know about their relationship.

Clinton's Father Was Stern, But Cared About Her Education

One of the reasons you may have heard so little about Clinton's father is that he wasn't always the nicest guy, according to The New York Times. Rodham was a strict man and depression ran in his family. The Times, who spoke with Clinton biographer Carl Berstein, wrote:

> He would hurl criticism at his wife around the kitchen table at 235 Wisner Street. When she encouraged Hillary to learn for learning's sake, Mr. Rodham, who drove a Cadillac, would quip: "Learn for earning's sake." If his children asked for an allowance for their many household chores, he would reply bluntly: "I feed you, don't I?"

When Clinton was in fourth grade, her father woke her up at dawn every day to help her catch up on the multiplication tables she was falling behind on. Rodham never sugar-coated things for Clinton, so it's no wonder she can now tough it out with the hardest of politicians domestically and abroad.

Hillary Learned How To Play Tough From Her Father

Clinton's father always encouraged her to play sports and taught her that she was equal to any man. According to the Associated Press, one spring he practiced with her every day until she was able to hit a curveball. According to her biography Living History, he also taught her how to shoot a gun.

Her Father Encouraged Her Throughout Her Early 20s

Later when Clinton attended Wellesley and Yale, her father sent her letters to encourage her to persevere through tough times. Clinton once wrote about her father that "Even when he erupted at me, he admired my independence and accomplishments."

Hillary's Conservative Father Loved Her — Even After She Married (& Became) A Democrat

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Clinton's father was a Goldwater Republican, but even after she became a Democrat herself and married a man who would go on to be a Democratic governor and president, he expressed pride in her. In 1993 right before his death, Rodham told a friend "My daughter is a real special girl."

They Shared The Same Great Laugh

Clinton wrote in her 2003 autobiography Living History, "I inherited his laugh, the same big rolling guffaw that can turn heads in a restaurant and send cats running from the room."

He Was A Great Grandpa

While Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, both of Hillary's parents moved to Little Rock to be closer to her. They always went to games to watch their granddaughter Chelsea play softball and would take the team out for frozen yogurt after the game, according to the New York Times.

Clinton insider faced IG probe for informal diplomacy // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – July 19, 2015

A longtime Clinton ally who was once under investigation for a possible violation of the Logan Act may have helped Sidney Blumenthal prepare intelligence memos for Hillary Clinton while she served as secretary of state.

Cody Shearer was the subject of a State Department inspector general probe in 1998 after he allegedly conducted rogue negotiations that "caused temporary diplomatic damage in Bosnia," according to documents obtained by Citizens United through the Freedom of Information Act.

The inspector general found that Shearer, whose ties to the Clintons stretch back to the 1992 election, "may have represented himself as speaking on behalf of the U.S. Department of State" in private conversations about the proposed partitioning of Bosnia — a policy the U.S. publicly opposed.

More than a decade later, Shearer is entangled in another instance of back-channel information peddling at the State Department.

Shearer assisted Blumenthal and Tyler Drumheller, a former CIA operative, in preparing a series of informal intelligence memos for Clinton as she waded deeper into the Libyan conflict, according to Pro Publica.

The edited tranche of emails published by the State Department in May and June suggest she relied almost exclusively on their guidance to inform her decision-making in the country.

Shearer's sister Brooke first grew close to Clinton during the 1992 presidential election, when she traveled with the former first lady on the campaign trail.

Shearer's brother-in-law, Strobe Talbott, has been close to the Clintons for decades.

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After rising through the ranks of the State Department to become deputy secretary of state, Talbott accepted a position as head of the Brookings Institution.

But it appears he, too, maintained influence at the agency through his connection to Clinton.

When she went looking for a new assistant in June 2009, Clinton turned to Talbott for suggestions on who to hire.

Clinton's emails suggest she and Talbott were in frequent contact and even had "catch-up calls" to provide each other with diplomatic updates.

Talbott's name surfaced in the inspector general documents as having written a letter to his brother-in-law that warned Shearer to "be careful in his actions" in Bosnia during Bill Clinton's presidency.

The records suggest the FBI participated in the probe of Shearer's independent diplomacy.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

O'Malley sorry for saying 'all lives matter' **// CNN // Chris Moody – July 19, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley apologized on Saturday for saying "All lives matter" while discussing police violence against African-Americans with liberal demonstrators.

Several dozen demonstrators interrupted the former Maryland governor while he was speaking here at the Netroots Nation conference, a gathering of liberal activists, demanding that he address criminal justice and police brutality. When they shouted, "Black lives matter!" a rallying cry of protests that broke out after several black Americans were killed at the hands of police in recent months, O'Malley responded: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

The demonstrators, who were mostly black, responded by booing him and shouting him down.

Later that day, O'Malley apologized for using the phrase in that context if it was perceived that he was minimizing the importance of blacks killed by police.

"I meant no disrespect," O'Malley said in an interview on This Week in Blackness, a digital show. "That was a mistake on my part and I meant no disrespect. I did not mean to be insensitive in any way or communicate that I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

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Judith Butler, a philosopher at the University of California, Berkeley, recently explained why some find it offensive to respond to the "Black Lives Matter" movement with the "all lives matter."

"When some people rejoin with 'All Lives Matter' they misunderstand the problem, but not because their message is untrue. It is true that all lives matter, but it is equally true that not all lives are understood to matter, which is precisely why it is most important to name the lives that have not mattered, and are struggling to matter in the way they deserve," Butler said in an interview with The New York Times. "If we jump too quickly to the universal formulation, 'all lives matter,' then we miss the fact that black people have not yet been included in the idea of 'all lives.'"

O'Malley isn't the first Democrat to come under fire for the remark. Hillary Clinton was criticized in June for doing the same thing.

Martin O'Malley's Presidential Strategy: Try, Try, Try Again // Buzzfeed // Ruby Cramer – July 19, 2015

The southwest corner of 1st Avenue and 3rd Street was Martin O'Malley territory.

This — for much of the hot and humid Friday afternoon in Cedar Rapids, Iowa — was not in dispute. A few dozen O'Malley people, each wearing an O'Malley t-shirt, stood chanting near a line of cars, each taped with an O'Malley sign. "O-Mall-ee! O-Mall-ee!"

Then came the Hillary Clinton people — twice as many, with more signs and louder cheers — an army of "H" arrows. They moved in on the corner, singing the refrain from "Land of 1000 Dances": Naaa, na-na-na-naaa, na-na-na-naaa, na-na-naaa-na-na-NA.

But even as the Hillary group took over, engulfing the smaller contingent almost entirely, the O'Malley fans stayed put until the main event: a state party dinner. Across the street was the convention center where, for the first time, from the same stage, O'Malley would face Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders — the competition he's been trying to overtake with as much persistence and as little success as his t-shirted cheer-squad.

The great sign wars of 1st Avenue kicked off a weekend that, in effect, served as the start of the Democratic contest — and put on display the distinctions in approach between the three candidates as the first caucuses and primaries draw closer. Inside the convention hall, Clinton and Sanders each fell into what is, by now, their own familiar rhythms.

He made his call for a "political revolution" to close the gap between rich and poor — and she for a unified front against the other party. Clinton, who leads the field in fundraising and among early voters in key states like Iowa, didn't acknowledge her primary opponents. "I'm already having a great debate with Republicans," Clinton told the crowd. The next day, she skipped the annual progressive conference, Netroots Nation, held this year in Phoenix, to headline a state party dinner in Arkansas — the Republican-leaning state where her campaign could hope to compete next year in the general election.

At every point this weekend — as Clinton and Sanders held to their carefully hewn strategies — O'Malley telegraphed, with trademark persistence, that no matter how bad the polls look, he is the candidate who simply won't go away: who will work harder and mingle longer, who will shake more hands, answer more questions, propose more policy, be the most progressive and most aggressive — the candidate who will always engage.

He has, now 50 days into his campaign, taken almost every opportunity.

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While Clinton draws headlines about her “strained relations” with the press, O’Malley’s staff rarely turns a reporter away. (On Friday night, his super PAC invited members of the media to an afterparty with the sign-carrying field organizers. “It’s open-press and we promise no rope-lines,” an official said in an email, adding a smiling emoticon. The Clinton cheer-squad, meanwhile, said they weren’t allowed to talk to reporters.)

And while other Democrats in the race, including Sanders, don’t often go after Clinton, O’Malley makes a habit of it — indirectly, at least. (In his Iowa speech, he stressed his support for a $15 minimum wage, days after Clinton declined to endorse it, and suggested she was slow to oppose “bad trade deals” like the Trans-Pacific Partnership.)

But there was no greater show of the O’Malley method than inside the Phoenix Convention Center on Saturday morning — when activists aligned with Black Lives Matter, a social justice group, upended a presidential forum at Netroots Nation.

O’Malley and Sanders spoke separately. The protesters asked each candidate to address questions about violence against blacks involving law enforcement. Both “responded poorly” at the time, as the co-founder of Black Lives Matter, Patrisse Cullors, put it later.

But after the forum — a jarring event that drew attention in and far outside the Netroots gathering — Sanders canceled his afternoon line-up of small meetings, including one with Black Lives Matters backers, according to participants. O’Malley, as his aides were quick to note, added events and sought to apologize for his reaction to the protest.

O’Malley was only through about two questions from Jose Antonio Vargas — a journalist and activist who moderated the forum — before the activists started up their chorus: “What side are you on, my people,” they yelled through the hall. “What side are you on?”

At first, O’Malley tapped his knee along with the chant. But the protesters continued on, bringing the event to a stand-still. O’Malley leaned back and sighed. Vargas didn’t know what to do. When one of the activists mounted the stage, he handed her the microphone.

O’Malley stood off to the side, waiting.

Cullors, the Black Lives Matter co-founder, joined her colleague on stage. “We don’t like shutting shit down.” But we have to, she told the crowd. “We are in a stage of emergency.”

Given the chance to respond, O’Malley fumbled.

When he promised to roll out a “criminal justice reform package,” an activist shouted back, “Don’t generalize that shit.” And when he mentioned his push as governor of Maryland to repeal the state death penalty — telling the protesters that “black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter” — the group boomed back in anger. “We already know white lives matter,” one man yelled. “We don’t want to hear that shit!”

Then Vargas cut the event off. “Oh, man,” O’Malley said. “We just started.” He walked off, quietly chanting along with the crowd. “Black. Lives. Matter… Black. Lives. Matter.”

Sanders was waiting backstage — and apparently ready to deliver his same call for “political revolution,” a stump speech that is almost exclusively centered on the economy and has drawn crowds of thousands from the progressive and labor communities.

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As he took his seat next to Vargas, there were regular cheers from the crowd — “we love you, Bernie!” — but the activists still dominated, chanting over the candidate. “Whoa, whoa,” Sanders said. “Let me talk about what I want to talk about for a moment.”

“Say her name, say her name, say her name,” the group yelled back, referring to Sandra Bland, a black woman found dead of an apparent suicide in a Texas jail cell.

“Should I continue or leave?” Sanders asked Vargas. “It’s okay with me.”

Sanders tried shouting his speech over the protesters. “Of course black lives matter,” he finally told them. Sanders looked to the moderator. “What are we doing here?”

“Hold on one second, sir,” said Vargas.

Sanders stared back. “OK. Are you in charge?”

SANDERS

Liberal activists see Bernie Sanders as champion for causes failed by Obama // WaPo // David Weigel - July 20, 2015

PHOENIX — First came the People for Bernie reception, held by Occupy Wall Street veterans, at a club modeled after a Venetian estate. One night later came the We Want Bernie party, hosted by Progressive Democrats of America in a low-key tacqueria.

On the third day of Netroots Nation, an annual meeting of liberal activists that wrapped up over the weekend, Bernie Sanders himself appeared — and named what many of the activists gathered here consider the original sin of the Obama presidency.

“Today, the largest six financial institutions in this country have assets of some $10 trillion, equivalent to 60 percent of the GDP of America,” the senator from Vermont told a crowd of 11,000 people on Saturday night. “After we bailed them out, because they were ‘too big to fail,’ most of them are now a lot bigger than they were before.”

The surge of Sanders’s presidential campaign has been widely viewed as a gambit, by liberals, to force Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton to the left. The netroots activists see no downside to that.

To them, it was the Democrats’ failure to prosecute Wall Street after the 2008 crash enabled the tea party movement and the Republican Party’s comeback in Congress. It was the kludged, mandate-driven design of the Affordable Care Act that prevented it from being a boon to Democrats, as Medicare for all might have been.

These activists are not just supporting Sanders’s agenda, or asking Clinton to embrace free college tuition or vast

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new infrastructure spending. They're telling an alternate history of modern liberalism.

And Sanders has been telling it with them. In a February speech, he bemoaned how President Obama had "missed the opportunity, politically, of doing what [Franklin] Roosevelt did when he was elected and making it clear to the American people what is happening and why." In an interview last year with Bloomberg News, he said that "the key mistake of the Obama administration, starting from the day after he was elected, was to more or less disband the grass-roots network that he had put together to get elected."

Sanders's campaign, and its allies, are pledging never to repeat that. In late June, the grassroots group Ready for Warren gave up on drafting Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run for president and rebranded as the pro-Sanders Ready to Fight. It joined Progressive Democrats for America — whose founder, Tim Carpenter, died in 2014 — after beseeching Sanders to run, and the Occupy-colored People for Bernie. Some of the loudest applause at the meeting came when Warren recounted how progressives had campaigned against some Obama administration appointees. Some of the best-attended Netroots Nation panels dealt with how activists could bypass the mainstream media, and make a bad bill, or bad law, or bad police tactic too infamous to continue.

"As soon as [Obama] got elected, they should not have held back their pressure," said Netroots Nation participant Felipe Andres Coronel, a rapper best known by his stage name Immortal Technique. "We should have put the pressure on and made it even harder. There were people who made their presence known. Wall Street made its presence known."

When the doors opened here for Sanders's speech on Saturday morning, people who had been waiting in line sprinted to get as close as possible to the stage.

"[Sanders] and Elizabeth Warren are saying the sorts of things — like Jon Stewart is saying the sorts of things — we wish we heard everywhere," said Connie Aglione, 67, an Arizona activist.

Athena Soules, 36, an artist who designed banners for the Occupy Wall Street movement, said Sanders's success is possible in part because of the energy generated by the 2011 protests that began in Lower Manhattan. She unfurled a new banner — "Feel the Bern," it read — surrounded by fellow activists.

"We learned the hard way from Obama," Soules said.

Said Katherine Brezler, 33, the national digital organizer for People for Bernie: "We elected Barack Obama on the idea that we were going to get a universal health-care system. We have 35 million people uninsured in this country."

Outside of Netroots Nation, among the Democrats who had followed the Obama strategy, these critiques sounded part cruel and all wrong.

"Look, I wish this country were further left than it is, but I live in reality," former congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who worked with the White House to overhaul Wall Street regulations, said in a phone interview. "These people watch MSNBC, and they talk to each other on the Internet — in some ways, they're like the tea party. They're in this parallel universe."

David Axelrod, the Obama campaign strategist who was a senior White House adviser during the crisis years, said Sanders-style criticism ignored the reality of the economic crash.

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Bernie Sanders' newest fan? Jesse Ventura. **// WaPo // Hunter Schwarz – July 19, 2015**

Jesse Ventura feels the "Bern."

The professional wrestler turned former Minnesota governor wrote on Off The Grid that he would help Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders anyway he could and hopes he's successful in his longshot presidential primary challenge to Hillary Clinton. It's just short of an endorsement, but not by much.

"I think what Bernie Sanders is doing is extremely healthy," he wrote. "I love the idea of somebody throwing a fly in the ointment. I'm sick and tired of the handpicked two candidates."

Ventura, who ran and won a third party bid in 1998, doesn't go for the conventional political picks; in 2012, he endorsed Ron Paul in part because of the Texas Republican's anti-war and pro-audit-the-Fed views. Paul and Sanders might have their disagreements and run as candidates for opposing parties' nominations, but for Ventura to go from libertarian-turned-Republican Paul in 2012 to Socialist-turned-Democrat Sanders isn't that big of a stretch.

Both tap into a growing frustration with voters over the two-party system, the influence of money in politics, and the prospect of another dynasty election. They also each claim grassroots support with small-dollar donors. About three-quarters of Sanders' campaign donations were $200 or less in the first three months of his campaign; 45 percent of Paul's 2012 campaign donations were $200 of less.

The relative success of Paul and Sanders is a product of a time when identifying as politically independent is more popular than ever. A January Gallup poll found 43 percent of Americans described themselves as independent, a record.

There's frustration with the system, and voters are showing it with who they're supporting for president and how they identify themselves. But does that mean we're going to soon see Socialists, libertarians, or third-party candidates in the White House? Not exactly.

Sanders and Paul both might have avid fanbases, but Paul fell far short of the nomination, and Sanders still trails Hillary Clinton by a significant margin. And despite both of their third-party pasts, both Sanders and Paul ran as candidates for major party nominations.

That move by Sanders is something Ventura believes was a savvy move. "By jumping in and going for the Democratic nomination, he'll have to be included in all the Democratic debates and that'll put him on TV, that'll get his face out there, so in a way, it's kind of a brilliant tactical move," he said.

It's not just a matter of getting on TV, though. For as much as voters say they're independent, a 2012 Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll found 63 percent of independents actually act like "disguised" Democrats or Republicans. Americans increasingly want to change the status quo, but a lot of it's just lip service. That means a lot of hype and support for candidates like Sanders early in the race, but it doesn't bode well for them come Election Day.

How the NRA helped put Bernie Sanders in Congress **// WaPo // David A. Fahrenthold – July 19, 2015**

BURLINGTON, Vt. — A few days before Election Day in 1990, the National Rifle Association sent a letter to its

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12,000 members in Vermont, with an urgent message about the race for the state's single House seat.

Vote for the socialist, the gun rights group said. It's important.

"Bernie Sanders is a more honorable choice for Vermont sportsmen than Peter Smith," wrote Wayne LaPierre, who was — and still is — a top official at the national NRA, backing Sanders over the Republican incumbent.

That was odd. Sanders was the ex-hippie ex-mayor of Burlington, running as an independent because the Democrats weren't far enough left. He had never even owned a gun.

But that year, he was the enemy of the NRA's enemy.

Smith had changed his mind about a ban on assault weapons. The NRA and its allies wanted him beaten. They didn't much care who beat him.

"It is not about Peter Smith vs. Bernie Sanders," LaPierre wrote, according to news coverage from the time. "It is about integrity in politics."

Today, Sanders is a senator and a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, drawing huge crowds with his calls to break up big banks, increase taxes on the rich and make college free. The election of 1990 launched him. When Sanders won, he became the first socialist in Congress since the 1950s.

That campaign also marked the beginning of Sanders's complicated relationship with the issue of gun rights — the one area where Sanders's Democratic presidential rivals have been able to attack him from the left.

As a candidate in 1990, Sanders won over gun rights groups by promising to oppose one bill they hated — a measure that would establish a waiting period for handgun sales. In Congress, he kept that promise. The dynamic served as an early demonstration that, despite his pure-leftist persona, Sanders was at his core a pragmatic politician, calculating that he couldn't win in rural Vermont without doing something for gun owners.

"The gun vote brought us down," said Judy Shailor, Smith's 1990 campaign manager. She said she had warned gun groups that, in the long run, Sanders would prove too liberal for them.

"The gun groups would say to me, 'We are going to put him in office for one term and teach Peter Smith a lesson. Then we're going to vote [Sanders] out,'" Shailor said. "I said, 'You won't get him out.' . . . He's one of the best master politicians I've ever come across."

At the time of the 1990 election, Sanders was 49, a guy who'd had a big break and was looking for a bigger one.

Trying to break through

He didn't look like a politician. With his wild hair and rumpled clothes, Sanders carried himself like a man recently startled out of a nap. But he had a sharp, relentless political mind. It had taken him from a small leftist party — where the other leftists called him "the silver tongue" — to Burlington City Hall, where Sanders had been elected mayor by a 10-vote margin. He served four terms.

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But he couldn't take the next step. In six runs for statewide office, Sanders lost six times — including in 1988, when he lost to Smith in a close race for Vermont's House seat.

Then, down in Washington, Smith made a disastrous, rookie mistake.

He went to a hearing. And he started to think.

The hearing was not supposed to be about guns at all. The witnesses were students who had graduated from low-performing D.C. high schools and gone on to college. Smith asked one woman what she wished she'd had more of in high school. "Courage," the woman said. She meant courage to confront the armed bullies who taunted her on the way to school.

"It personalized something for me that had always been at arm's length," Smith recalled this week. "Which is that this woman lived in a culture of fear, and she faced danger and threat because of guns every day of her life."

Just a few months before, as a candidate, Smith had promised to oppose new forms of gun control. That's why the NRA had supported him. And the NRA support was a major reason why he had won in Vermont, where guns are associated with hunting moose and deer and not committing crimes.

But to the freshman congressman, all that didn't seem to matter as much now.

"I'll never forget, [the next day] brushing my teeth, looking in the mirror in my bathroom and realizing, as clear as day, 'I'm going to have to look at this face for the rest of my life in the mirror, and I want to be proud of the person I see,'" Smith said. "I went back and looked up the gun bills."

Smith found a bill to ban the sale of some assault weapons. He signed on as co-sponsor.

That was April 1989. Almost immediately, Smith's office was flooded with angry cards, petitions, faxes and letters.

"I will do all I can to see that Mr Smith does not go to Washington much longer," Pamela K. Walters of Middlesex, Vt., wrote in May, one of the many such letters that are now preserved in Smith's papers at the University of Vermont. Someone in Smith's House office — perhaps worn down by the vitriol and certain that the letter would never be seen again — scrawled an expletive in capital letters over Walters's note before filing it.

Local gun groups passed out bumper stickers: "Smith and Wesson, Yes. Smith and Congress, No." There were pictures of Smith as Pinocchio, with the caption "The Big Lie."

"Let's get even," Ed Cutler, the current president of Gun Owners of Vermont, remembered thinking then.

The NRA made Smith the only incumbent that it actively opposed in 1990. The group eventually spent between $18,000 and $20,000 on advertising and direct mail in Vermont, according to an estimate from the time.

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The beneficiary was Sanders, who was Smith's main opponent in the 1990 House race. The Democrat in the race turned out to be so far left — suggesting the legalization of heroin — she made the socialist look moderate.

The unlikely alliance

The NRA-Sanders bond was an imperfect love affair.

Sanders was with the gun group on one major issue: he opposed a mandatory waiting period for handguns, saying that was best left to states. But, on assault weapons, his position was the same as the one for which Smith was getting hammered.

"It's an issue I do not feel comfortable about," Sanders said after one debate, according to a memoir about the race by a former aide, Steven Rosenfeld.

Sanders couldn't very well rail against Smith for his views on assault weapons when they were the same as his own. Instead, the aide said, Sanders wanted to let others "do our dirty work for us."

Instead of talking about guns, then, Sanders talked about honesty.

"Unlike some people, I won't change my views on the subject," he told one pro-gun group.

It worked.

"Bernie Sanders was upfront with us," an NRA official wrote to one of Smith's constituents after the race. The letter ended up in another official collection of Smith's papers. "He was viewed as the lesser of two evils."

As the election approached, the socialist's good luck kept getting better.

Smith, the incumbent, invited his own party's president, George H.W. Bush, to a breakfast fundraiser in Burlington. Then, Smith criticized the president to his face, calling for Bush to do more to tax the rich. "Like all Vermonters, Peter's a man of independent mind," the baffled president said when it was his turn to speak.

On Election Day, it wasn't close. Sanders beat Smith, 56 percent to 40 percent.

Today, Sanders's allies insist that gun control wasn't a major reason for his victory. "A couple of percentage points, in an election that we won by 16 points," said Jeff Weaver, Sanders's longtime aide and his current campaign manager.

Republicans insist gun control was the most important factor in the race. "The reason Bernie Sanders got elected to Congress, beat Peter Smith, was he sided with the NRA," said Stephan Morse, a former Republican speaker of the Vermont House and a close friend of Smith. Smith himself declined to talk about the race in an interview this week.

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The correct analysis could be somewhere in between.

One poll after the election showed that about 35 percent of Sanders voters said the gun issue was a major factor in their decision.

“The NRA did not elect Bernie. But they provided much of the margin,” said Garrison Nelson, a longtime political observer at the University of Vermont.

Either way, Nelson said, the 1990 race was another step in the evolution of Sanders, who had risen from the leftist fringe by embracing allies and tactics that the fringe would not. In Burlington, he had made allies out of the police and worked out an uneasy relationship with big business. Later, in Congress, he would join the Democratic caucus, attaching himself to the party’s seniority system, after decades of railing against the Democratic Party’s politics as weak-kneed.

In the 1990 race, he made a tacit ally out of the NRA, a powerful Washington lobby that has become a chief nemesis of the left and a fierce obstacle to gun control efforts in Congress and state capitals across the country. The alliance allowed the group to bash an opponent whose positions were almost identical to Sanders’s own.

‘Bernie wants to win’

“Most socialists don’t want to win. Most socialists want to lose, because they can blame it on the system” and justify their decision to remain outside it, Nelson said. “But Bernie wants to win.”

After he was elected, Sanders stuck to the assurances he had given gun rights groups. In 1991, he voted against a measure that would have required a seven-day waiting period to buy a gun. In 1993, Sanders voted against a broader version of the bill — named for James Brady, the White House press secretary who was shot in the 1981 attempt on President Ronald Reagan’s life — that became law.

That bill set up the national background check system in place today. But Sanders objected because it also included a provision for temporary waiting period, said Weaver, his longtime aide.

“He had been explicit with people that he would not support a federal mandatory waiting period,” Weaver said. “And he kept his word.”

Since then, Sanders has had a mixed record on guns. He supported an NRA-backed bill to shield gun manufacturers from liability lawsuits. But in 2013, in the aftermath of the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, he backed a provision that would have tightened gun laws.

Amid his surprising rise in the presidential race, Sanders has been attacked for that record by a super PAC that backs a Democratic rival, former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley. “The NRA even paid for ads attacking a Sanders opponent?” the video ad says. “Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns.”

Sanders declined to comment for this article, as did LaPierre, the NRA executive who wrote the 1990 endorsement letter.

The senator has defended himself by saying that he’s uniquely qualified to lead a national dialogue on guns, since

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he can see the issue from both an urban and a rural perspective. And besides, he said, the NRA has given him little support.

Except once.

“In every single race that I have run, with the exception of one, the NRA and the gun lobbies and the people who are most interested in guns supported my opponent,” he told ABC’s George Stephanopoulos this year.

Among Vermont gun groups, there is some ambivalence about that long-ago election.

“In some ways, I’m happy that it happened. And in some ways I seriously regret it,” said Cutler, of the Gun Owners of Vermont. “I’m happy I did it, because it sent a message around the state that the gun vote really does count around here.”

But now, Cutler said, when he calls Sanders’s office to ask for a meeting, he never gets one. “I regret that it happened,” he said, “because, realistically, we have no input with him.”

Sanders campaign claims highest turnout yet for Netroots Nation speech //Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 19, 2015

PHOENIX — Bernie Sanders’ campaign claimed its highest turnout yet for a speech the Vermont senator and 2016 presidential candidate gave here on Saturday night on the third day of the liberal Netroots Nation convention.

Sanders’ campaign, citing Phoenix Convention Center officials, said more than 11,000 people showed up for the wide-ranging speech. Some 10,000 people heard Sanders speak in Madison, Wisconsin, a little more than two weeks earlier.

Sanders hit his favorite notes on economic inequality and raising the minimum wage but also pushed for 12 weeks of paid family leave, the need to aggressively tackle climate change, and pass “a Medicare for all single-payer program.”

Sanders, unlike most other 2016 presidential candidates, did not weigh in on Donald Trump’s comments that Sen. John McCain is not a war hero as he was captured in Vietnam. He did, however, ding former Florida governor Jeb Bush for saying Americans need to work longer hours.

“We all heard a few weeks ago that Jeb Bush thinks the American people need to work a little bit harder,” Sanders said, provoking the crowd to boo. “Well he obviously didn’t hear the sad reality that the American people already work the longest hours of any major country on earth.”

The rest of the field wasn’t name-checked but Sanders contrasted his party with Republicans, who he said were divisive.

“Our job is not to divide, our job is to bring people together,” Sanders said to cheers from the crowd.

Earlier in the day, Sanders seemed flummoxed when Black Lives Matter protesters stormed the stage at a Netroots

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Nation candidate forum, demanding Sanders and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley address police brutality.

On Saturday night, Sanders said "when a police officer breaks the law, that officer must be held accountable."

"Let us be clear, while we have overcome a lot of racism, we still have a long way to go," he also said.

Bernie Sanders Continues to Draw the Biggest Crowds of Any 2016 Candidate // Bloomberg // Ali Elkin – July 19, 2015

Size matters.

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is still drawing the some of largest crowds on the campaign trail, as evidenced by the 11,000 people who turned up to hear the Vermont senator and self-described independent socialist speak at the Phoenix Convention Center on Saturday, according to reports. He had appeared there earlier that day as part of the progressive Netroots Nation convention. The turnout broke Sanders's previous record, some 10,000 at an rally in Madison earlier this month, which was heralded as the largest crowd any 2016 candidate had attracted yet.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke at the very same venue on Saturday, and drew roughly half as many attendees as Sanders did.

Now, it's possible Sanders is drawing the most attendees because his chief rival, Hillary Clinton, is taking a distinctly different approach, preferring to meet with small groups of people at house parties and intimate sit-downs. That said, Clinton did have some empty space leftover at her official campaign launch event in New York City in June. About 5,500 people showed up, the New York Times reported, citing Clinton's campaign, but the space on Roosevelt Island's Four Freedoms Park could have held more. The Times reported that the area set up for overflow crowd was nearly empty.

The other Sanders-level crowd of the cycle so far went to Ted Cruz, for his campaign launch, which drew some 11,000 attendees, but there was a catch. Cruz launched his campaign at Liberty University, a Christian school in Virginia. He was the weekly convocation speaker, and attendance was mandatory for students, under penalty of a fine.

Can Bernie Sanders win black voters? // CNN // Nia-Malika Henderson and Chris Moody – July 19, 2015

(CNN)In his bid to ride a progressive wave to the White House, Bernie Sanders is failing to connect with a key Democratic constituency: African-Americans.

Democrats are pinning their electoral fortunes on African-American and Latino voters. But the Sanders revolution looks a lot like Vermont, the second whitest state in the country. To mount a competitive challenge against Hillary Clinton, Sanders must do something he has never had to do—reach beyond the kind of post-racial political message he honed in his home state and connect with voters who don't look like him.

And so far, he's coming up short.

"I haven't seen him engaging the black community. Nor am I hearing any chatter about him," said Rick Wade,

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Obama for America's African-American vote director. "Black voters don't know him."

A June CNN/ORC poll showed just 2% of black Democrats supporting Sanders, a figure that has remained unchanged since February. Among non-white voters overall, Sanders polls at 9% compared to Hillary Clinton's 61%.

The challenge was on full display at this weekend's Netroots Nation conference, a gathering of thousands of left-leaning Democrats. With his populist, soak-the-rich rhetoric, this was supposed to be prime Sanders territory.

Shaky response

A group of protestors crashed his speech, forcing Sanders to go off script while they chanted "black lives matter," a phrase that has become the rallying cry for a new civil rights movement.

His initial response was shaky and some activists found Sanders dismissive.

"Black lives, of course, matter. I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and for dignity," Sanders said. "But if you don't want me to be here, that's OK. I don't want to out-scream people."

After the protests, Sanders retreated from public view for several hours. He canceled a small group meeting that included Elon White, a host of a show about black issues, and he was a no-show at an event hosted by the Arizona Democratic Party. Meanwhile, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is also mounting a liberal challenge to Clinton, participated in panels at the conference and took question from on the online interview show, "This Week in Blackness."

Sanders re-emerged later that evening for a short speech at a private fundraiser for the Latino Victory Project, an advocacy group led by major Democratic donors that focuses on Latino outreach, where he, again, took questions about race.

But instead of adopting the defensive stance from that morning, Sanders' tone changed. He appeared humble, and asked questions of the activists gathered about how he could better pursue and talk about policies to combat racial injustice.

"I want some help on this. I'm being very honest," Sanders said. "I want some ideas, as somebody who was arrested 50 years ago fighting for Civil Rights trying to desegregate schools in Chicago, who spent his whole life fighting against racism, I want your ideas. What do you think we can do? What can we do?"

Sanders took on questions about what activists called "institutional racism" in education, housing, and criminal justice, and called for changes in leadership and an end to mass incarceration. He listened to ideas from the small group, and he even brought those who questioned him to stand next time while he spoke. He said that stories of minorities being shot by police was "horrendous" and "unacceptable," but touted progress that had been made since he began first started protesting for civil rights as a young radical in the 1960s.

'Impatient'

"I wish I could tell you I had a magical formula for how to end racism. It's gone on in this country for before it was

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America," Sanders said. "Let me just say this, because I'm older than you: You're impatient, and you should be impatient. But if we were standing here 30 years ago and somebody said, 'You know, I think in 2008, the United States of America will elect an African-American president,' you know what people in this room would've said? They would've said, 'You are crazy. That will never happen because America has too much racist baggage.' But it happened. So, I guess you're right to be impatient, but we have made progress in this country. Not enough."

Sanders and his aides have long insisted that his central message of fixing income inequality, providing universal health care and raising the minimum wage will help all Americans -- Latinos and African-Americans most of all.

In his campaign announcement and in subsequent speeches, he bashes oligarchs and vows to take on the "billionaire class."

But in most of his speeches, he is largely silent on immigration, racial inequality, police brutality and criminal justice reform, all front-bunner issues for the sizeable African-American voting bloc.

Sanders, who has narrowed Clinton's lead in states like Iowa and New Hampshire, is trying to broaden his reach, but his stumble at Netroots suggests that, for Sanders, expanding beyond class to matters of race will be a challenge.

"He is not a rainbow coalition guy or at least he hasn't been," said Greg Guma, author of "The People's Republic: Vermont and the Sanders Revolution," who has known Sanders since the 1970s. "He feels like he knows what the problem is and it's monopoly capitalism. Anything that takes him away from that message is a distraction."

He has opportunities to connect more deeply with African-Americans in the days ahead. He is slated to speak Saturday at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Baton Rouge and at the end of the month he is set to address the National Urban League in Fort Lauderdale. A campaign aide said that Sanders will talk about race, touching on malnutrition in the inner city and youth unemployment among other topics in upcoming speeches.

Last week Sanders, 73, spoke at the National Council of La Raza, where he touted his immigrant roots and vowed to push for a pathway to citizenship.

'Energize minorities'

And he recently tweeted: "We must energize minorities all across the country to engage in the Democratic process and thwart efforts to disenfranchise minority voters."

"It's important for him to make sure the core constituencies know who he is," said Tad Devine, a senior campaign adviser. "We have a story to tell about him and we are going to campaign actively in different communities."

Campaign trips to Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina are planned for August—all three states have significant black populations.

Spotlighting Sanders' early activism will be key to connecting with African-American voters, Devine said.

His campaign biography now includes a reference to his participation in the March on Washington. His aides often mention his endorsement of Jesse Jackson in the 1988 Democratic primary, a move that helped the civil rights

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leader win Vermont. Sanders also joined the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), as a student at the University of Chicago.

In an ironic twist, Sanders' civil rights activism stretches further back than Clinton. While she was a "Goldwater girl," Sanders was paying a $25 fine for leading a protest march against school segregation in Chicago.

But, to some, Sanders' civil rights credentials seem dated.

"I'm happy to know that he was rallying in the 1960s. That tells me he was on the path when I was a child, but not too many people are thinking about the 60s" said Mary Brown-Guillory, president of the Vermont chapter of the NAACP. "What is he doing today about police brutality and the right to vote and equality? He has to be more than just Vermont."

Sanders' home state is 95% white. The NAACP held its first-ever state chapter meeting earlier this month.

Though Sanders' run and his ability to draw huge crowds has brought comparisons to Obama's 2008 bid, the more apt comparison is to Howard Dean, who also struggled to gain traction outside of Vermont in 2004.

But aides suggest that Sanders has a better story to tell, with his past activism and current political resume as a key selling point.

He has a solid 100% in the most recent NAACP scorecard. As a candidate for mayor of Burlington in 1981, Sanders campaigned against a plan to convert Burlington's Lake Champlain waterfront into an enclave for the rich. He announced his bid for the White House on the shores of Lake Champlain, highlighting his fight for the underdog and a class battle that he managed to win.

But absent from his announcement were people like Curtiss Reed, the executive director for Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, who skipped the event because of Sanders' one-note emphasis on class.

'Remarkably consistent'

"His message is remarkably consistent in that it is devoid of any conversation around race. He is colorblind to an extent that it seems that race is something that is uncomfortable for him to talk about. He is like a lot of Vermonters," Reed said. "It's easy to rattle off statistics, but that's not engaging people of color."

Clinton, whose weakness among black voters in 2008 cost her the nomination, has made a concerted effort to try to lock-up the Obama coalition. She gave a race speech after the Charleston massacre, called for an end to mass incarceration in her first policy speech and has made two campaign stops in South Carolina. She met with the Congressional Black Caucus last week as well as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, mindful that there are delegates to be had among party leaders.

But even Clinton, who saw the intersection of race and class up close in Arkansas, has struggled to keep up with the rhetoric of young, progressive blacks. In a June speech at a black church near Ferguson, Missouri, she said "all lives matter," rather than "black lives matter." Grassroots activists, who see such generalizations as a way to sidestep specific race-based remedies, were outraged.

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Donna Brazile, a CNN contributor and longtime Clinton friend and supporter, pointed out on Twitter that Clinton has said black lives matter in the past.

Yet those are the kind of ties and connections that Sanders lacks. Several grassroots activists in Vermont complained that he didn't reach out as he ramped up his national campaign. And when they look at his campaign team, they see the Vermont problem.

"If he is going to have a serious national campaign, he is going to have to better reflect the changing demographics with his team. Diversity is a strength," said Hal Colston, a black Sanders supporter who runs Partnership for Change, a non-profit education group in Vermont. "Bernie gets it and he does listen. He's always been the champion for the person left behind. He knows he has to update his rhetoric and he is already showing signs of expanding the conversation."

Updating the conversation will mean responding to a rapid social media driven movement that is now trying to bring attention the the case of Sandra Bland, a Texas woman who died in police custody. Campaign aides said that in the coming months, they will bring on more staff, including people of color steeped in policy issues. For her part, Clinton has scooped up black policy advisers as part of her core team, putting Sanders at somewhat of a disadvantage.

"It will take some time because we are not the frontrunner, but it's a priority," Devine said. "We want a campaign that looks like a Democratic party campaign and not a Republican party convention."

#BlackTwitter Turns On Bernie Sanders **// The Daily Beast // Asawin Suebsaeng – July 19, 2015**

Black Twitter has a bone to pick with Bernie Sanders.

The 2016 lefty darling's seeming unwillingness to talk about race on the campaign trail is not sitting well with some black activists and observers, and a tense moment turned #BernieSoBlack into a dominant trending topic over the weekend.

Confronted Saturday by protesters at the Netroots Nation conference in Phoenix chanting "Black lives matter!" and "What side are you on?" Sanders was clearly annoyed. "Black lives, of course, matter," the populist and self-described socialist senator said. "I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and for dignity…If you don't want me to be here, that's OK. I don't want to outscream people."

As a senator from Vermont, which is roughly 95 percent white, Sanders has had scant direct experience connecting with black constituents and voters, and he prefers to focus his speeches on income inequality. His campaign events are overwhelmingly white, and his own advisers have conceded—and he himself has acknowledged—that he is still a virtual unknown among African-American voters.

"Basically, the Bernie Sanders campaign has a lot of groundwork to do with regards to building the relationship with black voters," Terrell Starr, a senior editor at Alternet, told The Daily Beast. "There is still privilege with how white progressives view progressive politics with regards to racial discrimination…And what we saw [Saturday] was an example of that disconnect."

Black Twitter went after the senator after his Netroots appearance:

(It's true: Sanders marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 and was also arrested for protesting in favor of

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desegregating public schools in Chicago.)

That @AngryBlackLady tweet, sent out to her 35,000 followers, inspired Roderick Morrow—who runs the "Black Guy Who Tips" comedy podcast with his wife, Karen—to launch the mocking hashtag #BernieSoBlack:

#BernieSoBlack quickly began trending on Twitter:

Morrow, who goes by @rodimusprime on Twitter and has more than 11,000 followers, said he was surprised his impromptu hashtag suddenly took off. "I just thought it was a funny joke!" he told The Daily Beast. But he added that his lighthearted jab was rooted in a serious concern about Sanders's candidacy.

"Every time race is brought up, he pivots to the economy, which obviously a lot of racial disparity comes via economic means, but some of it is just flat out racism and discrimination," Morrow said. Sanders's view that "if we had more jobs in Ferguson, this wouldn't have happened, I'm not sure that is valid. I mean, Mike Brown was on his way to college. It's not just a jobs thing."

The Sanders backlash could indicate friction and dissonance between two critical components of the Democratic base: white liberals and African-Americans. Many younger black activists are skeptical not just of Sanders but of the current Democratic field, who they believe have taken the solidly blue African-American vote for granted.

"Not to disrespect what he did with Martin Luther King," Morrow said. "But if you want to connect with black voters, they need to know what you are going to do now and going forward, not what you've done in the past."

Still, Morrow said he thinks the backlash this weekend—on Black Twitter, and otherwise—has already done some good.

On Sunday, the official Bernie Sanders Twitter account addressed #BlackLivesMatter directly.

Morrow said he hopes those tweets are a signal the senator will discuss race more frequently during the long campaign. "Well, he's listening and paying attention," Morrow said. "The last thing I want for any candidate is for them to give up on the black vote, because that would be the most destructive. Criticism is just part of the job."

Bernie Sanders draws largest crowds yet in Phoenix **// MSNBC // Nisha Chittal – Jully 19, 2015**

PHOENIX, Arizona – Bernie Sanders had his largest rally yet of his nascent campaign on Saturday night in Phoenix, Arizona.

"We've had big turnouts in Wisconsin, in Iowa … but this is the biggest turnout yet!" Sanders said as he took the stage to begin his speech. "And some people say Arizona is a conservative state!" he said, receiving wild applause and cheers from the crowd.

A campaign spokesperson confirmed that over 11,000 people attended the rally at Phoenix Convention Center, which the largest attendance number yet for a Sanders rally.

While the event was timed to coincide with the Netroots Nation conference that brought many progressive

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activists to Phoenix for the weekend, the attendees at the Saturday night rally appeared to be primarily local area supporters, with some Netroots attendees mixed in.

Sanders spoke for nearly an hour, and his speech initially focused on the economic themes that Sanders has continually emphasized throughout his campaign: income inequality, job creation, raising the minimum wage, and debt-free college.

Sanders also went after GOP candidate Jeb Bush for his recent comments suggesting that Americans should work more. “Jeb Bush thinks the American people need to work harder,” Sanders said, as the audience booed. “Our people do not need to work longer hours, they need better wages!”

But his speech also broadened beyond his usual comfort zone of economic issues and touched on a broad range of social issues, including LGBT rights, women’s reproductive rights, racial justice, and the gender wage gap.

“What our Republicans colleagues talk about is ‘family values.’ And this is what they mean by family values: they mean that a woman should not be able to have the right to control her own body. They believe that women, if you can believe this, should not be able to purchase the contraceptives they want. And they believe that our gay brothers and sisters should not have the right to marry.”

“Those are their ‘family values,’” Sanders continued, referring to Republicans. “Those are not OUR family values.”

Sanders also addressed wage inequality, saying: “It is unacceptable that women today make 78 cents to the man’s dollar. Brothers, we need to stand with our sisters and fight for pay equity.”

Earlier on Saturday, Sanders spoke at a presidential town hall moderated by journalist and immigration rights activist Jose Antonio Vargas. However, Sanders was only able to speak for a few brief minutes before the event was abruptly cut short due to protesters interrupting the event. During the first portion of the town hall, Vargas interviewed Democratic candidate Martin O’Malley, but the former Maryland governor was interrupted a few questions in by protesters chanting “black lives matter” and “say her name” to draw attention to the recent deaths of black women at the hands of police, including Sandra Bland, who died while in police custody earlier this week, sparking a Twitter movement under the hashtag #IfIDieInPoliceCustody.

At Saturday evening’s event, Sanders made a point of addressing the issues of racial justice and policing tactics that were bought up at the earlier town hall. On race, Sanders said: “While we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go.”

“It is not acceptable to me,” he added, “that we have seen young black men walk down street in this country, be beaten, and be killed unjustly, that is not acceptable.”

As supporters applauded and began to cheer “black lives matter,” Sanders continued: “When a police officer breaks the law, that officer must be held accountable.”

But as the event came to a close, Sanders pivoted back to his comfort zone of economic issues.

“We need to stand up and say, enough is enough, the billionaires are not gonna have it all, it’s our country!” he closed, to thunderous applause and cheers from the crowd.

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Sanders vaults from fringe to the heart of the fray // **Boston Globe // Annie Linskey – July 19, 2015**

SOMEWHERE OVER THE AMERICAN WEST — It's 7:20 a.m. and Bernie Sanders looks irritated. He's already buckled into his economy seat on Delta Flight 4516 and an attendant just announced that the flight would sit on the runway for 30 minutes before taking off.

"Planes," grumbled the Vermont senator. "Don't get me started about airplanes." Then he added, in a tone that sounded only half-joking, "This is when you want a private jet."

Sanders' insurgent campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination doesn't spring for charters like his top competitor — at least not yet. On this day he isn't even flying nonstop, as he heads from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Phoenix via Minneapolis. If all goes well, he'll just be a few minutes late to a forum at Netroots Nation, an annual gathering of liberals.

The weekend events — another rally is planned in Houston Sunday — is capping off Sanders' best week so far in his increasingly credible quest for the nomination. Federal reports made public last week show he has raised more than $15 million for his campaign, beating every other presidential candidate from either party save Hillary Rodham Clinton (she hauled in about $46 million). He has gathered the money from an army of small donors that is larger than that of any other presidential candidate.

And, as he pulled his roller bag out of the air-conditioned terminal into the blast of Phoenix heat Saturday morning, he was preparing to speak that evening before his largest crowd yet.

Through some combination of political skill, fortuitous timing, well-tuned messaging, and sheer luck this has become the Summer of Sanders — in which an unkempt 73-year-old man who isn't even a member of the Democratic Party is mounting the strongest challenge to the Democratic establishment. He's gone from being dismissed as a fringe candidate to having a huge early impact on the primary.

The self-described Democratic socialist flying coach is suddenly a star. Clinton aides have acknowledged concern about losing ground in Iowa and New Hampshire, or both, to Sanders. One poll has shown him within 19 percentage points of Clinton in the Hawkeye State and another has him within eight points of her in New Hampshire.

But, will it last? Or, as one of his strategists put it, could the next few months bring the fall of Sanders?

Already the Sanders campaign infrastructure is creaking under the weight of the unexpected interest in his candidacy. Tens of thousands of bumper stickers were on back order. Venues for rallies need to be changed multiple times as the RSVPs pile high, and crowds swell. And most importantly, to survive, he'll need to expand his support beyond the liberal wing of the Democratic Party — and persuade the party that he should be the standard bearer.

Sanders contends that the national caricature of him as a hippy-dippy socialist from the People's Republic of Burlington, where he was mayor from 1981 to 1989, is largely inaccurate. He jokes about it — saying that he doesn't own a pair of Birkenstocks and never would "in a million years." He says that his message resonates most loudly with blue-collar workers, not the tie-dye set.

On Friday night in a vast hall in Cedar Rapids before 1,300 people, that appeal was on full display. Sanders shared the stage for the first time with the other four Democratic candidates who took turns speaking to the audience. He

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won multiple standing ovations for a thundering rant against the inordinate power of the super-rich. He called for a “political revolution” and predicted that without it, the country was heading toward an oligarchy.

“Nothing will get done unless millions of people stand up and roundly proclaim enough is enough,” Sanders said, gripping the lectern with both hands. “This country belongs to all of us, and not a handful of billionaires.”

It was a classic display of Sanders’ freewheeling approach, the aura of blunt authenticity that makes him seem a refreshing change from Clinton’s poll-tested messages and reluctance to offer detailed positions on issues of the day.

“He really connected,” said Steve Hultman, a 65-year-old retired teacher from Council Bluffs, Iowa. “Hillary has to go to work. She has to get the facts and framing to excite the Democratic side of the party.”

Some part of Sanders’ popularity flows directly from the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party. He only began to rise in polls of probable voters when the Massachusetts senator’s name was dropped from their surveys after it became clear that she wouldn’t run. For him as for her, not having to worry much about moderate support is liberating; Clinton has no such luxury. And it doesn’t really tell against Sanders at this early stage that a liberal message like his may not play well, or at all, in some states a candidate must win to gain nomination or election.

But there’s more to Sanders than the Warren echo. Unlike others in the current field, he has been quietly building a national grass-roots network for years. His 2012 Senate campaign finance report looks remarkably similar to his presidential one last week, with most contributions coming from small donors across the country. He raised $7.2 million for that election, swamping his Republican opponent, who took in about $135,000.

While he was being written off in 2014 by the news media and other candidates focused on Warren instead, Sanders road-tested his message. In Los Angeles, he recalled, there were standing-room-only crowds this year well before announcing his candidacy. In Texas, so many people came to hear him that a traffic jam of supporters headed for the venue made it difficult for him to get to the event himself.

Still, those around Sanders weren’t sure he was going to run even weeks before his April 30 announcement. “As late as late April, if Bernie had called and said ‘we’re not doing this’ I would not have been shocked,” said Tad Devine, a longtime Sanders ally and a political consultant.

There’s a limit to the revolution Sanders is pushing: The senator won’t mount an independent bid for president. No matter how the crowds swell. “We’re doing this within the party system,” he said again Saturday on the Minneapolis leg of his trip.

Keeping it simple

Sanders’ plane landed in Minneapolis with about 30 minutes to get his connecting flight. One passenger positioned himself near the end of the jet bridge to get a photo of him getting off the plane. He paused for selfies with several others as they all waited for luggage checked at the gate.

Unlike Clinton’s container-ship-sized campaign organization with more than 300 on staff, Sanders has a much smaller operation. On Saturday he traveled with only his campaign manager, his communications director, a videographer, and his wife. He figured out most of the logistics himself — securing boarding passes for the group and leading everyone through the Minneapolis airport from one terminal to the other.

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The campaign pays 25 full-time staff members in Iowa and rents offices in 10 different towns. Sanders has just 10 full-time staffers in Vermont, 5 in Washington, and 4 in New Hampshire, plus 11 paid interns in Vermont and New Hampshire.

He revels in this relative lack of professional help. To make his point, he briefly commandeered an interview with a reporter last week in Washington.

“Ask me who my campaign finance director is,” he said over coffee in a Senate cafeteria.

“We don’t have one. Ask me who my pollster is,” he said. “We don’t have one.” He said he writes his own direct mail.

That’s not to say Sanders has a consultant-free campaign. He’s soaked up some talent from President Obama’s team. The names include Scott Goodstein, an online director for Obama’s first presidential race, and Arun Chaudhary, another veteran of the 2008 Obama campaign team who was Obama’s first videographer.

Teamwork pays off

Should this team’s work pay off and Sanders becomes even more viable, the target on his candidacy will grow. On June 25 a super PAC linked to former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley, another declared Democratic candidate, spent about $10,000 on online ads critical of Sanders’ record on gun control, which is, for a Democrat, notably friendly to gun owners.

Sanders’ team fought back, using the same rhetoric that Warren so effectively employs against her many critics: Frame the attack as an assault on the progressive movement and raise buckets of cash off of it.

The day after the ads began, Sanders’ campaign blasted an e-mail to supporters requesting help. Within 48 hours they’d raised more than $800,000, according to a source familiar with his fund-raising.

But by far the most talked about aspect of Sanders’ candidacy is the size of the crowds — it comes as a shock even to the candidate.

“You walk into an arena and find 10,000 people looking at you . . . ” he said in an interview, trailing off. Then he turned to Michael Briggs, his charmingly beleaguered press aide.

“How many RSVPs do we have now in Phoenix?” he asked. “10,000?”

The swell forced the campaign to move the event twice. The same thing happened in Portland, Maine, where he ended up speaking to more than 7,500. And in Madison, Wis., where he spoke to a crowd about 10,000. And in Denver, where he spoke to about 5,000.

Putting this many supporters in a room takes work. The campaign e-mails supporters who live near events, and they ask an enthusiastic Reddit community to spread the word.

There’s a practical reason for holding these events. Sanders hasn’t spent much time building the relationships

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within the Democratic Party leaders at the state level that can help propel a national candidacy.

“We need to build organization, particularly in relatively early states,” Devine said.

On Saturday — when Sanders finally arrived at Netroots — the work that he needs to do to appeal to the broader Democratic coalition was clear. A group of mostly African-American demonstrators protesting police brutality had heckled O’Malley, disrupting his speech.

Sanders knew he was walking into a difficult situation. “It’s this afternoon’s talk I’m worried about,” he said before walking on the stage — and faced some of the same angry chants, competing with the cheers.

Bernie Sanders voices concerns about police brutality in Dallas campaign stop // Trailblazers Blog // Ryan J. Rusak – July 19, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, sought Sunday during a Dallas visit to calm complaints about his response to concerns about police brutality at a progressive activists gathering this weekend.

“We want a nation where a young black man or woman can walk down the street without worrying about being falsely arrested, beaten or killed,” Sanders told more than 8,000 people who packed a Sheraton Hotel ballroom to hear him.

Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont, has been drawing huge crowds in his long-shot bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Though he’s unlikely to wrest the nomination from Hillary Clinton, liberal voters concerned about issues such as income inequality and the power of big banks have responded with enthusiasm to the self-described socialist.

But on Saturday, Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, got a less-than-friendly reception at Netroots Nation. Attendees chanting “black lives matter” interrupted the pair, and Sanders at one point threatened to leave. By Sunday afternoon, #berniesoblack was trending on Twitter, as users both mocked Sanders’ response and hailed his progressive agenda.

Sanders’ appearance in Dallas, though, drew no protests. The crowd hailed his standard lines on topics from abortion and civil rights to Social Security and corporations.

Sanders, who supports the transition to sustainable energy and away from fossil fuels, criticized the oil and gas energy industry but he said he “understands speaking here in Texas, a fossil fuel state, that people are concerned of losing their jobs.”

“We’ve got to break up these banks. If they’re too big to fail they’re too big to exist,” Sanders said. “Paying more in this election cycle than either major political party does not sound like democracy to me.”

Supporters were greeted with revolution-themed song like “Uprising” by Muse, and attendees could be heard laughing as the music changed to “Rocking in the Free World” by Neil Young—a jab at Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Supporters of all ages held signs and wore T-shirts with phrases like “Feel the Bern.”

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Dallas is the state's largest reliably Democratic county, but Sanders could struggle here to gain traction against Clinton, who is popular among Texas Democrats. The state's primary, slated for March 1, could be a key moment in the parties' nominating contests, as it's the first big state to vote after the smaller areas that traditionally lead off the process.

Sanders later headed to Houston for a rally.

'Police must be held accountable': Bernie Sanders rips bad cops who attack young black men // RawStory // Tom Boggioni – July 19, 2015

Following his townhall-style appearance at Netroots Nation that could have gone better, Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders told a packed house in Phoenix that, although the country has made great strides is race relations, "we still have a long way to go."

Before a fervent crowd that Sanders' campaign spokesperson estimated at over 11,000 took time to switch gears from his message of economic populism to address the concerns of #BlackLivesMatters protesters who disrupted his talk earlier.

"It is not acceptable that an African-American male baby born today, if we do not change things, stands a 1 in 4 chance of being in prison during his life," the Vermont independent told the crowd.

He continued, "It is not acceptable to me that we have seen young black men walk down streets in this country be beaten and be killed unjustly — that is not acceptable. Most police officers — and I was a mayor for eight years — and I worked with police officers, it's a tough job but most cops do it well. But when a police officer breaks the law, that officer must be held accountable."

Twitter users debate Bernie Sanders' civil rights credibility with #BernieSoBlack hashtag // RawStory // David Ferguson – July 19, 2015

After a group of #BlackLivesMatter protesters disrupted Democratic candidates Gov. Martin O'Malley (MD) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT) at Netroots Nation 2015 on Saturday, some activists took to Twitter to express their dissatisfaction with Sanders' response.

By Sunday afternoon, the hashtag #BernieSoBlack was trending, with progressives trading barbs on Twitter and accusing each other of racism, character assassination, censorship, "whitesplaining" and more.

It began as a way of mocking the candidate while trading cultural signifiers.

But then some progressives began to point out some of the real work Sanders has done for racial progress in this country.

And then the usual tears and recriminations followed.

The #BernieSoBlack hashtag is proof that #BlackLivesMatter is not organized and has no vision about how to engage to get real change

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— YeaYouRite (@YeaYouRite) July 19, 2015

While others just had fun with it.

#BernieSoBlack his wife passed Precious the bucket of fried chicken at M & G Diner in Harlem. pic.twitter.com/2F9jASsiiH

— eri (@eri_cyrus) July 19, 2015

UNDECLARED

BIDEN

Report: Joe Biden may still enter 2016 presidential race **// MSNBC // Adam Howard – July 19, 2015**

Vice President Joe Biden still hasn't ruled out a 2016 run for the presidency, according to a report from The Huffington Post.

Sources reportedly close to the 72-year-old told the website that he's expected to make a final decision by September.

"He has said he would announce his decision at the end of the summer," Ted Kaufman, a longtime Biden aide who briefly filled his Senate seat when he was elected vice president, told Huffington Post. On the other hand, Biden's Kendra A. Barkoff, appeared to throw cold water on the 2016 buzz. "The Biden family is going through a difficult time right now," said Barkoff. "Any speculation about the views of the vice president or his family about his political future is premature and inappropriate."

Biden has been in mourning the death of his son Beau Biden, who succumbed to a long battle with brain cancer on May 30th. Beau Biden, who had political aspirations of his own, reportedly encouraged his father to seek the White House next year.

There has been speculation about BIden entering the campaign for months. "I think there's concern about this being his last act and him losing a primary by 40 or 50 points," Bloomberg reporter Phil Mattingly said on a July 2 episode of msnbc's "Morning Joe." "In the wake of what he's done as vice president and the legacy that he's left, I do think there is a very, very real push inside his family and inside his team to get in."

"He's as good a politician as anybody in the world, he's not going to hop in something if he doesn't see a window, or a pathway forward. And I don't know that they've seen Hillary's team falter to a point where the window is very clear right now," Mattingly continued.

Current polls show Biden trailing behind frontrunner HIllary Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders among Democratic primary voters. However, a CNN poll from earlier this month showed Biden moving into second place if he were to enter the race.

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William Pierce, a military veteran the leader of a "Draft Biden" Super PAC, told msnbc's Lawrence O'Donnell earlier this month that staff in the early primary voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire are working to generate enthusiasm for a potential Biden run. "We haven't seen no bat signal from the vice president telling us not to do what we're doing," Pierce said. "What we have seen though are a lot of supporters from around the entire country who have supported him in the past or who are now current, new supporters – they're coming out and they're supporting him."

However, veteran pollster Charlie Cook argued that Biden's age – he'll be 74 by next November – completely derails any chance he would have at being the Democratic 2016 nominee. "It's not gonna happen," he told O'Donnell.

OTHER

How Clinton, Sanders, O'Malley answer union's questions about education // WaPo // Valerie Strauss – July 19, 2015

The American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teachers union in the country, became the first major union to endorse a candidate, when it picked Hillary Clinton earlier this month.

The July 11 endorsement by the AFT's executive council has sparked backlash from some union members, who support Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and/or wanted the AFT to wait longer while the political process played out. But the endorsement was never in doubt, given AFT President Randi Weingarten's longtime association with Clinton.

Putting the politics of the endorsement aside for the moment, here is how Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley answered AFT questions in questionnaires submitted before the endorsement and before both the House and Senate had passed their own versions of a rewritten No Child Left Behind bill. (They were the only three to answer the AFT's questions).

The questions involve issues including education, health care and the economy. You can decide for yourself who directly answered questions and who dodged them. Here are the questionnaires with the answers:

Hillary Rodham Clinton

AFT: Today, almost 50 million students attend our nation's public schools. Along with their parents, communities, teachers, paraprofessionals and other school employees, these students have been forced to live under test-and-punish policies that include sanctions and school closings, high-stakes assessments, and federalized teacher evaluations that are counterproductive and have taken the joy out of teaching and learning.

Q. What is your view of the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as the No Child Left Behind Act)? What changes, if any, would you make to the law, and why? Please include positions on:

The federal government's role in ensuring equity and access to resources for all children;

The role of standards, assessments and accountability in public education;

Ensuring that all students have access to a broad curriculum that includes art and music, as well as science,

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technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);

Professional development for school staff; and Community schools.

HRC: I have been working to improve and support our public schools for decades. Throughout my career I have worked to ensure that every child reaches his or her full potential, and I know a quality education is essential to reach that goal. When I was First Lady of Arkansas, I chaired the Arkansas Educational Standards Commission where I worked to raise standards for Arkansas' schools, increase teacher salaries, and lower class size. I continued in this effort as First Lady of the United States and as a Senator, working throughout my career to provide dedicated resources and support to teachers and to recruit, support, and retain more outstanding teachers. We need to attract a whole new generation to teaching because it is critical that our students have well-prepared and well-supported teachers.

When the No Child Left Behind Act was enacted, I viewed it as a historic promise between the federal government and educators. I hoped that it would lead to a greater sense of shared responsibility for our schools' success. Unfortunately, that promise was largely broken because schools struggled to meet the mandates imposed by the law and the implementation at the federal level was problematic.

I applaud Senator Patty Murray and Senator Lamar Alexander for coming together in a bipartisan fashion to unanimously pass the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee to reauthorize NCLB. I believe this bill addresses some of the real challenges with NCLB while retaining our commitment to high academic standards, and to assessments that give parents and teachers the information they need to know how students are performing and if and where they need help to improve. I believe that this bill will correct for some of the real challenges that schools and communities experienced in implementing the law and will ensure that principals, educators and local communities are lifted up as full partners and innovators in improving public education. I also applaud the forward-looking investments in education contained in the bill, including a new commitment to improving early learning.

One of the issues that I am most concerned about is testing. Tests are intended to provide parents and educators with an understanding of how well kids are learning. Having that understanding is crucial. And it is important to remember that testing provides communities with full information about how our low-income students and students of color are doing in comparison to other groups so that we can continue to improve our educational system for all students.

But I understand the frustration many parents and educators feel about tests. Teachers and parents alike are concerned about the amount of time being spent on test preparation, and worry that children are missing out on the most valuable experience in the classroom– a teacher sparking a student's curiosity and love for learning.

So I am mindful that we need to find the right balance — and that starts with bringing parents and educators back into this conversation about how we ensure a robust and engaging curriculum that engages students in the love of learning rather than narrowing our schools to focus primarily on test preparation.

I do think that Senators Murray and Alexander struck the right balance in the Every Child Achieves Act by continuing to maintain the federal requirement for annual statewide testing in grades 3-8, but ensuring that accountability for improving schools will be based on multiple measures of performance. And I think it will be critical for states and communities to continue to strike the right balance and not layer test upon test. There must be room for invigorating teaching and learning in the classroom.

Q. Do you support any of the current reauthorization proposals under consideration in the 114th Congress?

HRC: I applaud Senator Patty Murray and Senator Lamar Alexander for coming together in a bipartisan fashion to unanimously pass the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee to reauthorize NCLB.

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Q. What role do you think the federal government can play in providing access to early childhood education? What specific policy proposals would your administration pursue?

HRC: I believe we need to improve access to quality child care and early learning opportunities for all children. Every child, regardless of parental income, deserves access to high-quality pre-K. I think any discussion of improving our public schools must include universal access to pre-kindergarten. I believe we can start to close the achievement gap by investing in programs that increase children's school readiness and academic preparation while making it easier for parents to balance their responsibilities at work with their responsibilities to their children. We know children's brains develop more rapidly at this time in their lives than at any other and that high quality interventions make a real difference in the outcomes of children from low-income families. In the months ahead, I look forward to laying out a significant agenda to improve early learning in our country.

I have been highlighting the importance of early childhood education for more than forty years. As First Lady of Arkansas, I helped bring the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Program (HIPPY) to Arkansas. As First Lady, I hosted the first White House conference on early learning and the brain, championed the program "Prescription for Reading," in which pediatricians provided free books for new mothers to read to their infants as their brains were rapidly developing, and supported the Administration's work to create Early Head Start, which reaches children from birth to age three throughout country. As Senator, I co-sponsored the Education Begins at Home Act, which expands the Parents as Teachers program and other quality programs of early childhood home visitation. As a leader at the Clinton Foundation, I led a national initiative called "Too Small to Fail" aimed at supporting parents to improve vocabulary and brain development in the early years to close the "word gap" and better prepare children for school. As President, I will continue my lifelong work to expand early childhood and parent education programs.

Q. What are your views on private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, and charter school accountability and transparency?

HRC: I strongly oppose voucher schemes because they divert precious resources away from financially strapped public schools to private schools that are not subject to the same accountability standards or teacher quality standards. It would be harmful to our democracy if we dismantled our public school system through vouchers, and there is no evidence that doing so would improve outcomes for children.

Charters should be held to the same standards, and to the same level of accountability and transparency to which traditional public schools are held. This includes the requirements of civil rights laws. They can innovate and help improve educational practices. But I also believe that we must go back to the original purpose of charter schools. Where charters are succeeding, we should be doing more to ensure that their innovations can be widely disseminated throughout our traditional public school system. Where they are failing, they should be closed.

AFT: Access to an affordable and high-quality system of public higher education is critical to the health of the nation — both to ensure that students reach their fullest potential, and to enable the United States to continue to develop as a just society, a vibrant democracy and a land of economic opportunity.

Q. Escalating tuition and fees are leading to a growing number of students leaving college with overwhelming debt from student loans. This burden of rising costs and rising debt makes access to higher education increasingly difficult for many students and their families. What is the role of the federal government in ensuring that higher education is affordable and accessible?

HRC: First, too many young people are struggling under the burden of student debt and too many families are struggling to pay the rising cost of college. Second, too many students are starting but never completing college, which means they leave with debt but no degree. I will be offering my own ideas for how to make college more affordable, how to make sure no one graduates with crushing debt, and how to hold colleges accountable to help more students graduate. Among other things, we have to do more to link student loan repayments to income and

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to help people refinance their loans. And we have to think about both four-year colleges and community colleges. I support President Obama's free community college proposal. I will be talking about ways to reduce the burdens on those entering four-year colleges too, as well as those who are out in the world trying to start a business or a family. I intend to introduce significant proposals on these subjects in the weeks and months ahead.

Q. There has been a nationwide pattern of disinvestment in public higher education such that per-student funding dropped 26.1 percent between 1990 and 2010. What would your administration do to remedy this?

HRC: State budget cuts are a primary cause of tuition increases at public universities and reversing this trend is key to making college more affordable. That's why I will make incentivizing increased state funding of higher education a priority, and explore ways to make sure that the federal government is actively partnering and working with states to address the problem of college affordability.

Q. Career and technical education programs help ensure that postsecondary credentials and skills are accessible to all — a necessity in today's economy. In your view, what is the role of the federal government in supporting high-quality CTE programs?

HRC: In the months ahead, I will lay out my ideas for a comprehensive proposal to train millions more workers over the next decade. I am exploring a number of options to incentivize GTE programs and help provide grants to train workers for the 21st century economy.

Q. What is the federal government's role in requiring appropriate transparency and accountability of for-profit institutions?

HRC: We have to do a lot more to protect students and families from unscrupulous institutions and abusive debt servicers. There are a lot of non-traditional students who want to go back to school to improve their lives, but don't have access to much information or support to figure out how best to do that. Money and time are both tight, with a lot of them trying to juggle family, jobs, and school all at the same time. So they're particularly vulnerable to exploitation and deception.

All students need more guidance in making decisions about where to go to school. We should protect them from institutions that will almost certainly not serve them well. The government should stop funding colleges where almost no one graduates and where most students accumulate a lot of debt but can't get the jobs that would allow them to repay their loans. In the months ahead, I will be laying out specific ideas and proposals on how to increase accountability in the for-profit sector.

AFT: Having a high-quality healthcare system in the United States is a moral imperative, an economic necessity and a fundamental right for all. Underpinning this right is a healthcare system that reflects the needs of the patients, providers and community.

Q. What are your views of the Affordable Care Act? What changes would you make, if any, to the ACA, including the excise tax on high-cost plans and the provisions on shared responsibility for employers?

HRC: Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more than 16 million Americans have gained new coverage. The reduction in the uninsured rate across the country has been staggering, down to roughly 12% for adults.

These statistics translate into real change in people's lives. Families who no longer have to face the threat of bankruptcy because of catastrophic health care costs. Parents who now have health care when only their children were covered before. Women can no longer be charged higher rates solely because of their gender. People with preexisting conditions can no longer be denied coverage. Americans can make the leap of changing jobs or starting

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a business without worrying about whether they'll still be able to buy insurance — because now they know they can purchase it on the marketplace. So this is a real accomplishment we should be proud of

As with any piece of major legislation, it's not perfect and would benefit from updates and fixes. One area of the ACA that I am examining is the so-called "Cadillac" tax. As currently structured, I worry that it may create an incentive to substantially lower the value of the benefits package and shift more and more costs to consumers. As President, I would work to ensure that our tax code appropriately advances the health care interests of lower-income and middle-class families.

We also need to take steps beyond the ACA. We should crack down on the drug companies that charge too much and the insurance companies that offer too little. And we need to tackling rising out-of-pocket health care costs for consumers across the board.

Q. Do you support initiatives designed to move health insurance coverage away from an employer-based model? If so, what would you propose as an alternative to the current system for covering working adults?

HRC: I've long believed that progress on health care is only possible if there is a principle of shared responsibility among every major actor in our health care system. Employers have always played a critical role in ensuring working families have access to coverage — in fact more than 96% of firms with 50 or more employees already offer health insurance.

Q. Many licensed healthcare professionals, particularly RNs, are leaving hospital service because of difficult working conditions, including excessive and unsafe workloads, understaffing and mandatory overtime. What would you do to address these problems and to improve recruitment and retention of nurses and other healthcare professionals?

HRC: I know that we must address the nursing shortage in this country and give nurses the training, education, and support they need to provide the care patients deserve. We need appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios in order to improve patient care and working conditions for nurses.

I have a history of working for America's nurses. As Senator, I was proud to champion provisions in the Nurse Reinvestment Act that provided significant resources to recruit and train nurses, and I introduced the Nursing Education and Quality of Health Care Act. I believe it is important that all American employees are safe and protected where they work In particular, I believe that we need to consider the effects of ergonomic hazards in order to quickly and effectively address musculoskeletal disorders in the workplace. I know that this is a problem for nurses, who often suffer from back-related injuries as a result of having to move and lift patients.

Q. Merger and acquisition activity continues to consolidate the U.S. healthcare system into the hands of a few corporations, many of which are for-profit. What would you do to ensure competition in the healthcare industry is fair and protects the American consumer?

HRC: The federal government plays a critical role in evaluating and enforcing health care mergers to ensure that they do not stymie competition, burdening consumers with fewer choices and higher prices. Anti-competitive and costly market consolidation in health care or other markets should not be permitted. While the Affordable Care Act created incentives for providers to better coordinate care and pass those savings onto consumers, we need to make sure that acquisitions and integration of health care stakeholders will ultimately lower cost growth and increase quality of care. To that end, in addition to providing necessary guidance to health care providers about appropriate and beneficial ways to better integrate their services, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) should be funded and directed to be ever-vigilant in halting anti-competitive health care arrangements through robust enforcement.

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Q. What would you do to ensure that communities have access to public health services?

HRC: I believe we must take full advantage of the movement from volume to value purchasing of health care to encourage much more of a focus on the value of prevention and the imperative of population health. My record shows my dedication to this issue. As Senator, I led a bipartisan coalition to fight for legislation to combat childhood obesity, helped pass legislation to provide extra funding for flu vaccine and proposed legislation that would raise public awareness and speed up production of the vaccine, and proposed legislation to combat diabetes, asthma and HIV/AIDS. As the chairperson of the Superfund and Environmental Health Subcommittee of the Environmental and Public Works Committee, I held the first-ever congressional hearing on environmental justice, bringing much-needed attention to the fact that certain environmental conditions cause health problems, which is often the case in low-income or underserved communities. Following the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, providers are being more appropriately rewarded on their success in ensuring wellness and good health and not on unnecessary, wasteful, expensive and, all-too-frequently, dangerous health care interventions. By focusing on prevention and the necessity of population health, we have a real opportunity to finally make long-overdue inroads in the public's health.

AFT: An administration's economic policy has far-reaching implications for the United States and the world. It also says a great deal about a president's priorities and general philosophy about the federal government's responsibility to its citizens.

Q. What are your priorities for revitalizing the economy, strengthening the middle class, creating jobs and ensuring fair taxation? How would your plan help restore funding for education, healthcare, transportation, public safety and many other services provided to our citizens?

HRC: I want to make being middle-class mean something again. I'm going to take on four big fights in this campaign: (1) building an economy for tomorrow, instead of yesterday; (2) strengthening our families and communities; (3) fixing our broken political system; (4) protecting our country from threats.

I will lay out a number of new ideas over the course of the campaign, including helping small businesses create jobs, making college more affordable, raising workers' wages and reducing cost pressures on families, balancing work and family, helping workers get the skills they need to get ahead in a changing economy, and making sure all our kids have the chance to live up to their God-given potential.

Q. The United States has a $3.2 trillion infrastructure deficit according to the American Society of Civil Engineers — and that's just for repairs. What are the mechanisms (e.g., public, private, infrastructure bank) through which we can fund the rebuilding of this country, including the necessary renovation and modernization of our public schools, hospitals and public buildings?

HRC: Ordinary Americans can't afford failing to invest in our infrastructure. If we don't repair our roads and bridges, and upgrade our infrastructure for the 21st Century, it's harder for Americans to get to work, and for our businesses to grow and compete. It's time for us to invest in America. That means Congress must make the investments we need in our roads and highways and that means leveraging investment by the private sector as well. I will be laying out my own proposals on how to leverage both public and private sources of funding and creative financing mechanisms to address America's infrastructure needs.

Q. What would your administration do to build and strengthen retirement security for all working men and women, including protecting employees' pensions? What is your plan for sustaining and strengthening Social Security and Medicare?

HRC: Let me start by saying I've fought to defend Social Security for years, including when the Bush Administration tried to privatize it. We need to keep defending it from attacks and enhance it to meet new realities. I'm especially focused on the fact that we need to improve how Social Security works for women. I also want to enhance benefits for our most vulnerable seniors. We need to reject years of Republican myth-making

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that claims we cannot afford it and that the only solution must therefore be to cut benefits.

I will continue to oppose Republican efforts that seek to privatize or gut Medicare.

We need a broader strategy to help Americans with their retirement security. I will have ideas on that.

Q. What are your views on the privatization and contracting out of public services, including school services and state and local government services?

HRC: I do not believe that we should be contracting, outsourcing, or privatizing work that is inherently governmental in nature, including school services and state and local government services. In the Senate, I helped secure a measure that became law that blocked the Bush administration from downsizing the Federal Protective Service. I co-sponsored legislation to protect city and rural letter carriers from having their work contracted out by the U.S. Postal Service to private firms and individuals. Lastly, I was an original co-sponsor of the Honest Leadership and Accountability in Contracting Act.

AFT: Labor unions give workers a collective voice in the workplace and are integral to the social and economic health of our country. AFT members are interested in knowing your views on the role of labor unions.

Q. Current federal laws and policies encourage and promote collective bargaining through the National Labor Relations Act. What are your views on collective bargaining for the private and public sectors? What is your view regarding agency fee and so-called right-to-work laws?

HRC: The right to organize is one of our most fundamental human rights. I believe that unions are critical to a strong American middle class. Throughout my career, I have stood with all workers as they exercise their right to organize and bargain collectively and was an original co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act. I'm talking to a lot of labor leaders and labor economists about what the next president can do to support 21st century organizing and collective bargaining.

Q. As president, what would you do to: (a) prevent employers from intimidating and harassing workers who support union representation, (b) ensure that workers are free to organize and bargain in the workplace, and (c) protect the rights of American workers?

HRC: Throughout my career, I have stood with all workers as they exercise their right to organize and bargain collectively and am an original co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act. I actively opposed anti-collective bargaining provisions contained in the Department of Defense's proposed National Security Personnel System and have voted in favor of collective bargaining rights for TSA screeners. It is also vital that we modernize basic labor standards. Worker protections and basic labor standards have failed to keep pace with changes over the past half century. We need to raise wages and reduce poverty among working families, including raising the minimum wage, eradicating wage theft, promoting collective bargaining, updating overtime protections, ensuring that employers do not misclassify, true employees as "independent contractors" to skirt their obligations, and leveling the playing field for women and people of color.

Q. The federal government has direct responsibility for setting labor standards. There has been a growing call for changes to those standards, including paid sick days, paid family leave and higher minimum wages. What changes, if any, would you prioritize?

HRC: Experience shows that policies that are good for middle-class families are good for everyone — including businesses. These policies are pro-growth, and pro-family, and that's a pretty good twofer.

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It is long past time for the U.S. to join every other nation in the developed world in having paid leave, which is critical to ensuring that workers do not have to choose between caring for their family and keeping a job. I'm not under any illusions that this will be easy. We had to fight for years to pass the unpaid Family and Medical Leave Act, and the day my husband signed that law was a day I'll never forget. I look forward to talking about how we move forward on this.

I have fought to raise the minimum wage for many years, and I strongly support the fast food workers and others who are out there asking for a living wage and a fair shot at success. A higher minimum wage doesn't just help those at the bottom of the pay scale, it has a ripple effect across the economy and helps millions of American workers and middle class families. As we work to raise the federal minimum wage, we should also support state and local efforts to go above the federal floor where it makes sense to do so.

Q. More than 8 million public employees in 25 states currently have no OSHA protection or entitlement to a safe and healthful workplace. Do you support universal OSHA coverage for all public employees?

HRC: I believe it is important that American employees are safe and protected where they work. In the decades since OSHA has been enacted, we've made great strides in strengthening the safety of work environments for our workers. But there are improvements that need to be made. In particular, too few workers are protected by OSHA. That's why in the Senate I was an original co-sponsor of the Protecting America's Workers Act, which would extend OSHA protections to all federal, state, and local public employees.

AFT: The AFT and our members are champions of fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement. Our members are interested in knowing your views on the following important community issues:

Q. What policies would your administration pursue to ensure that all people— regardless of who they are, where they live or where they come from — are able to climb the ladder of opportunity and participate fully in our economy and democracy?

HRC: Today, there are nearly 6 million young people in America who are out of school and out of work. The unemployment rate for this rising generation is double what it is for the rest of the population. It wasn't like that in 2000. Young people were getting jobs, they were climbing the ladder of opportunity. Millions more of our young people are underemployed because the jobs that are available just aren't sufficient. They don't offer the kind of income and growth potential that should be more broadly accessible. For young people of color things are even harder. And if you don't have a college degree or didn't graduate from high school, most doors just aren't open, no matter how hard you knock.

That is why education at all levels — from birth through higher education — is so important to helping all people climb that ladder of opportunity. I have worked hard throughout my career to make sure that every child gets a chance to develop his or her mental capacity by developing their brain from the very earliest age, because if your vocabulary is so far behind by the time you're five years old, through no fault of your own but because the adults in your life are so busy, so stressed or don't know how you build brain cells, by talking and singing and reading to babies, then you enter kindergarten having heard 30 million less words than a child from one of our families. And that's very hard to overcome. It's not that when you're 18 you're not trying, it's when you're five you were already left behind.

Q. In your opinion, what are the elements of comprehensive immigration reform? How would your administration's stance on immigration reform fight back against inequality, promote economic justice and increase wages for all workers?

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HRC: I support comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) and a path to citizenship not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it strengthens families, strengthens our economy, and strengthens our country. I was a strong supporter of CIR as a Senator, co-sponsoring Senator Ted Kennedy's 2004 bill and supporting the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act in 2006 and 2007. In 2003, 2005 and 2007, I co-sponsored the Dream Act in the Senate. I also support President Obama's DACA/DAPA executive actions. And if Congress continues to refuse to act, as President I would do everything possible under the law to go even further.

Q. What are your views on campaign finance reform? Do you support a constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision?

HRC: We have to reduce the influence of big money in politics. As I said recently, I support a constitutional amendment to get unaccountable money out of politics.

Q. What would your administration do to ensure that voting in elections is free, fair and available to all Americans? Do you oppose policies that restrict access to voting and voter registration?

HRC: As I said recently, the assault on voting rights threatens to block millions of Americans from fully participating in our democracy. We need to fix the holes opened up by the Supreme Court's ruling. Congress should pass legislation to replace those portions of the act that the Court struck down, and as President I would work to ensure that all citizens have the information and access they need to fully participate in our democracy.

Conclusion

Q. What do you think this nation's priorities should be during the next decade? How would your presidency advance those priorities?

HRC: I am committed to being a champion for everyday Americans and American families. That's what I've been devoted to my entire adult life, starting with my first job out of law school when I went to work for the Children's Defense Fund, all the way through to the work that I did as Secretary of State promoting women's rights, promoting the rights of people who would otherwise be marginalized or left on the sidelines. And I know that although we have begun to move forward again, it is still hard to imagine exactly how we're going to get to the point where people are not just getting by but getting ahead again and staying ahead. Because the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top.

We have to be focused on how we're going to bring about the changes that will ignite opportunity for everybody willing to work hard for it again. We have to build an economy that's innovative, sustainable, and producing good jobs with rising wages. We need to actually reward workers with increases in their paychecks for the increases in productivity and profitability.

It's also imperative that we give people the tools through education and job training, so that they can make the most out of their own lives. And for me that starts at the very beginning. I have been a child advocate and a child development proponent for my entire adult life, because it's what I really care about and believe in. Then we have to make sure that we are doing all we can to empower our educators, to make sure that they have the support of parents so that they can do the job they have been trained to do to help prepare our kids. And then we've got to make sure that college is affordable.

One of the biggest stresses in anybody's life is healthcare. I'm going to support and defend the Affordable Care Act, and I will work to fix those parts of it that need fixing. But, we have made a great step forward as a nation to provide a mechanism for people to get access to healthcare, some for the first time.

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We also have to address the unaccountable dark money in politics. I think the Supreme Court made a grave error with its Citizens United decision. And I will do everything I can do to appoint Supreme Court Justices who will protect the right to vote and not the right of billionaires to buy elections.

Finally, we have challenges around the world. But we have to be confident and strong in understanding that there are many ways to approach the problems that America will be confronting in the world, and we must do so in cooperation with our friends, our allies, our fellow democracies around the world. I am convinced that the 21st century can once again be a century in which the United States leads and helps to set the values and standards.

—

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont

Today, almost 50 million students attend our nation's public schools. Along with their parents, communities, teachers, paraprofessionals and other school employees, these students have been forced to live under test-and-punish policies that include sanctions and school closings, high-stakes assessments, and federalized teacher evaluations that are counterproductive and have taken the joy out of teaching and learning.

Q. What is your view of the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as the No Child Left Behind Act)? What changes, if any, would you make to the law, and why? Please include positions on:

• The federal government's role in ensuring equity and access to resources for all children;

• The role of standards, assessments and accountability in public education;

• Ensuring that all students have access to a broad curriculum that includes art and music,

as well as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);

• Professional development for school staff; and

• Community schools.

BS: I voted against No Child Left Behind in 2001, and continue to oppose the bill's reliance on high-stakes standardized testing to direct draconian interventions. In my view, No Child Left Behind ignores several important factors in a student's academic performance, specifically the impact of poverty, access to adequate health care, mental health, nutrition, and a wide variety of supports that children in poverty should have access to. By placing so much emphasis on standardized testing, No Child Left Behind ignores many of the skills and qualities that are vitally important in our 21st century economy, like problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork, in favor of test preparation that provides no benefit to students after they leave school.In my home state of Vermont, almost every school is identified as "failing" under the requirements of No Child Left Behind, despite the fact that we have one of the highest graduation rates in the country, and students from Vermont continually score among the highest in the country on annual NAEP assessments.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, I have worked to reform No Child Left Behind. My top priorities during the most recent iteration of the bill have been:

• Reducing the high-stakes nature of standardized tests by basing accountability on multiple measures of a school's effectiveness.

• Including a pilot program that allows states to implement innovative systems of assessment that do not rely on standardized tests. Instead, new innovative assessments will empower educators by providing actionable information during the school year that can inform instructional practice.

• Maintaining federal support for afterschool programs provided through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

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• The inclusion of wrap-around support services like health, mental health, nutrition and family supports.

I believe guaranteeing resource equity is a core tenet of the federal government's role in education policy, and if elected, I will work reduce the resource disparities that currently exist between schools in wealthy and low-income areas.

In addition, I strongly support increased emphasis on a well-rounded curriculum. No Child Left Behind's narrow focus on math and literacy has deprived children, especially low-income children, from critical opportunities in the arts, music, physical education, civics and STEM fields.

I also believe that not enough emphasis has been placed on effective professional development for educators and school leaders. Districts and schools must provide more time and support for educators to pursue highly effective professional development. We should be encouraging innovation in professional development, and ensuring that teachers will be able to incorporate professional development into their classroom practice. Finally, we must provide the resources necessary to provide effective professional development for all teachers, and have consistently supported efforts to increase Title II funding.

Q: Do you support any of the current reauthorization proposals under consideration in the 114thCongress?

BS: I believe the Alexander-Murray compromise on No Child Left Behind reauthorization represents a step in the right direction, and voted for the bill in Committee. While this legislation could go much further to provide adequate resources to our lowest-income students, I believe it is an important step forward. I strongly oppose the Student Success Act because it would gut the core provisions of federal law that direct education funding toward the low-income students who need it most.

Q: What role do you think the federal government can play in providing access to early childhood education? What specific policy proposals would your administration pursue?

BS: Every child in the United States should have access to high quality early childhood education programs, and that the federal government has a critical role to play. If elected, I would pursue a federal program to guarantee access for every child, and ensure early-childhood educators receive compensation that is commensurate with elementary school teachers.

Q: What are your views on private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, and charter school accountability and transparency?

BS: I am strongly opposed to any voucher system that would re-direct public education dollars to private schools, including through the use of tax credits. In addition, I believe charter schools should be held to the same standards of transparency as public schools, and that these standards should also apply to the non-profit and for-profit entities that organize charter schools.

Q: Escalating tuition and fees are leading to a growing number of students leaving college with overwhelming debt from student loans. This burden of rising costs and rising debt makes access to higher education increasingly difficult for many students and their families. What is the role of the federal government in ensuring that higher education is affordable and accessible?

BS: Skyrocketing college tuition has left college out of reach for hundreds of thousands of students, and left millions more deeply in debt. In an increasingly global economy, I believe it is unfair and bad economic policy to force our young people to compete with workers from other countries who can pursue a higher education at little or no cost. This is why I introduced the College for All Act which would create a federal-state partnership to

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eliminate undergraduate tuition at public colleges and universities. In addition, this legislation would slash student loan interest rates, and allow borrowers to refinance their loans. If elected, I would continue my work to eliminate tuition at public colleges and to alleviate the burden of student debt.

Q: There has been a nationwide pattern of disinvestment in public higher education such that per-student funding dropped 26.1 percent between 1990 and 2010. What would your administration do to remedy this?

BS: State disinvestment has unquestionably been a prime driver of skyrocketing tuition costs. I strongly support the creation of a federal-state partnership that will incentivize states to re-invest in their public higher education systems.

Q: Career and technical education programs help ensure that postsecondary credentials and skills are accessible to all — a necessity in today's economy. In your view, what is the role of the federal government in supporting high-quality CTE programs?

BS: Career and Technical Education programs are vital pathways to middle-class, family-supporting jobs. I believe it is in our national and economic interest to ensure quality CTE programs are available to every American, and effectively aligned with the needs of the 21st century workforce. Accordingly, I strongly support fully-funding the Perkins CTE program. In addition, if elected, I would work to revolutionize our nation's approach to workforce development and technical education to build effective, attainable pathways for young people to pursue middle-class careers.

Q: What is the federal government's role in requiring appropriate transparency and accountability of for-profit institutions?

BS: In my view, for-profit colleges and career programs have perpetrated a massive fraud at the expense of American taxpayers, and hundreds of thousands of students who are now saddled with worthless degrees and massive amounts of student debt. As the gatekeeper to financial aid programs, the federal government must be far more vigilant, and do a much more effective job in protecting students and taxpayers from low-quality and fraudulent programs. I support efforts to implement gainful employment regulations, and regulations requiring that no institution receives more than 85% of its revenue from federal sources. In addition, I support efforts to increase transparency in the sector, so students and policymakers have a clearer understanding of institutions' activities and quality.

Q: What are your views of the Affordable Care Act? What changes would you make, if any, to the ACA, including the excise tax on high-cost plans and the provisions on shared responsibility for employers?

BS: I start my approach to healthcare from a very basic point: healthcare should be a right and not a privilege. Our healthcare system is broken, and the Affordable Care Act was an important first step. It has done a lot of good things that have improved the health and economic security of millions of Americans, including closing the prescription drug "donut hole" for seniors, allowing young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plans, and preventing insurance companies from discriminating based on pre-existing conditions. But the ACA was not perfect, and there are some improvements we can make. Although millions more Americans have insurance now, the ACA will still leave some 30 million Americans without health coverage. Families will still face plans that have high deductibles and copays, or do not cover the medications or doctors they need.

Beyond those larger improvements, any specific changes to the ACA must be done thoughtfully and with a few key principles in mind — namely, the impact any changes will have on the rest of the healthcare system. Changes to the employer shared responsibility provision should not be done in a way that leads to higher premiums for employees or reduced revenues for the government. As for the excise tax on high-cost health plans, it is important to preserve the savings Congress intended from that provision, but I want to be certain that workers who have traded lower wages for better benefits over the years are not penalized.

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Q: Do you support initiatives designed to move health insurance coverage away from an employer-based model? If so, what would you propose as an alternative to the current system for covering working adults?

BS: As I said above, the Affordable Care Act was a good first step towards fixing our broken healthcare system — but it also heavily relies on continuing the employer-based model of health coverage. There is no reason employers should be in the insurance business, unless they actually happen to run an insurance company! I believe the best strategy is to move to universal coverage under a Medicare-for-all single payer system. Your health coverage and your level of benefits should not depend on your employer.

Q: Many licensed healthcare professionals, particularly RNs, are leaving hospital service because of difficult working conditions, including excessive and unsafe workloads, understaffing and mandatory overtime. What would you do to address these problems and to improve recruitment and retention of nurses and other healthcare professionals?

BS: I believe that health care is a right, not a privilege and every American should have access to the health care services they need, regardless of their income. I also believe improved access to primary care will keep people healthier and reduce reliance on emergency rooms as a first site of care. These changes in our health care system will improve the lives of patients but also of health care providers, including RNs working in hospitals, who are often the ones who bear the brunt of our flawed system. Until these types of changes can be made, we need to protect this critical workforce by ensuring they have the equipment and resources they need to provide world class health care without risking personal injury. I have long supported programs and policies, including the National Health Service Corps, designed to encourage caring and dedicated individuals to go into the health care field and serve in areas of greatest need.

Q: Merger and acquisition activity continues to consolidate the U.S. healthcare system into the hands of a few corporations, many of which are for-profit. What would you do to ensure competition in the healthcare industry is fair and protects the American consumer?

BS: Consolidation and concentration of power is occurring throughout every sector of our economy and it must stop. We must not allow a few companies and a few families to control every industry in this country. This is a problem in the health care industry where only a select number companies control the system and focus more on their shareholders' profits than the health of their customers. For example, prescription medications in this country are not only made by a limited number of companies but are distributed by only a few companies with the ability to set prices however they want and can limit the supply however they choose. America desperately needs a reinvigorated anti-trust system aimed at dismantling the growing concentration in many sectors of our economy.

Q: What would you do to ensure that communities have access to public health services?

BS: Access to public health services has been a substantial focus of my time in Congress. As Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Senate I worked tirelessly to make sure that every eligible veteran in this country had access to high-quality, timely care through the VA. And as Chairman of the Health Education Labor and Pension's subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging I led the efforts to reauthorize the Older Americans Act, which helps guarantee access to critical health programs for seniors throughout the country and fought hard to extend funding for three key public service programs: Federally Qualified Health Centers, Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education, and the National Health Service Corps. I am a huge supporter of community health centers as I believe they help all Americans, regardless of income, access the preventive care that keeps them healthy and well. I would like to expand these centers, making sure even more Americans can benefit. I have also fought hard to include dental care in more public health programs so more Americans aren't forced to ignore dangerous, even life-threatening oral health problems because they don't have coverage.

Q: What are your priorities for revitalizing the economy, strengthening the middle class, creating jobs and

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ensuring fair taxation? How would your plan help restore funding for education, healthcare, transportation, public safety and many other services provided to our citizens?

BS: Creating Millions of jobs. If we are truly serious about reversing the decline of the middle class and putting millions of people back to work, we need a major federal jobs program. The most effective way to do that is to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. That's why I've introduced legislation which would invest $1 trillion over 5 years to modernize our country's physical infrastructure. My bill would create and maintain at least 13 million good-paying jobs, while making our country more productive, efficient and safe.

Raising Wages and Benefits. The current federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour is a starvation wage. The minimum wage must become a living wage — which means raising it to $15 an hour over the next few years. My goal is to ensure that no full-time worker lives in poverty. We must also bring about pay equity. It's unconscionable for women to earn 78 cents on the dollar compared to men who perform the same work. Overtime protections must be strengthened for millions of workers. It is absurd that "supervisors" earning $25,000 a year — and who may in fact supervise no one — are currently forced to work 50 or 60 hours a week with no overtime pay. We also need paid sick leave and vacation time for all.

Progressive Taxation. In order to reverse the massive transfer of wealth and income from the middle class to the very rich we've seen in recent years, we need real tax reform which makes wealthy individuals and profitable corporations begin to pay their fair share of taxes. It is fiscally irresponsible for the U.S. Treasury to lose about $100 billion a year because corporations and the rich stash their profits in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and other tax havens. I have introduced legislation which would end this legalized tax fraud.

College for All. The United States must join Germany and many other countries in understanding that investing in our young people's education is investing in the future of our nation. I have introduced legislation to make tuition in public colleges and universities free, as well as substantially lower interest rates on student loans.

Tax on Wall Street Speculation. At a time of massive income and wealth inequality, at a time when trillions of dollars in wealth have left the pockets of the middle class and have gone to the top one-tenth of one percent, at a time when the wealthiest people in this country have made huge amounts of money from risky derivative transactions and the soaring value of the stock market, I would impose a speculation fee on Wall Street investment houses and hedge funds.

Medicare for All. The United States remains the only major country on earth that does not guarantee health care for all as a right. Despite the modest gains of the Affordable Care Act, 35 million Americans continue to lack health insurance and many more are under-insured. Yet, we continue paying far more per capita for health care than any other nation. The United States must move toward a Medicare-for-All single-payer system.

Q: The United States has a $3.2 trillion infrastructure deficit according to the American Society of Civil Engineers — and that's just for repairs. What are the mechanisms (e.g., public, private, infrastructure bank) through which we can fund the rebuilding of this country, including the necessary renovation and modernization of our public schools, hospitals and public buildings?

BS:. For years, we have significantly underfunded the maintenance and improvement of the physical infrastructure on which our economy depends. That has to change, and that is why I have introduced the Rebuild America Act, which would invest $1 trillion over five years to modernize our infrastructure. I introduced a similar, but scaled down $476 billion measure as a floor amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution. Both efforts would be paid for by closing tax loopholes that allow profitable American corporations to stash their profits in tax haven countries like the Cayman Islands.

The Rebuild America would go a long way toward closing the national infrastructure deficit identified by the American Society of Civil Engineers. In fact, I worked closely with ASCE in drafting the Rebuild America, and I am proud they endorsed the bill and participated in its rollout.

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The Rebuild America Act would invest in roads, bridges and transit; intercity passenger and freight rail; airports; seaports and inland waterways; drinking water and waste water plants; dams and levees; electric transmission and distribution; and broadband.

Importantly, at a time when the real unemployment is more than 11%, the Rebuild America Act would create 13 million jobs that can't be outsources or off-shored.

In terms of 21′ century infrastructure technology, the Rebuild America Act would make a $25 billion investment in broadband technology over five years. There is no question this investment is needed: the U.S. ranks 16th in the world in terms of broadband access (OECD) and 12th in the world for broadband speed (Akamai). It simply isn't acceptable that businesses, schools and families in Bucharest, Romania have access to much faster internet than most of the United States.

Q: What would your administration do to build and strengthen retirement security for all working men and women, including protecting employees' pensions? What is your plan for sustaining and strengthening Social Security and Medicare?

BS: Expand Social Security. Today, we have a retirement crisis in this country. Only one in five American workers have a defined benefit pension plan that guarantees income in retirement. Over half of the American people have less than $10,000 in savings and have no idea how they will ever be able to retire in dignity. More than one-third of senior citizens depend on Social Security for virtually all of their income. And, twenty percent of the elderly are trying to live on an average income of just $7,600 a year.

Given this reality, our job is not to cut Social Security, our job is to expand Social Security.

In the Senate, I have proposed legislation to increase Social Security benefits by an average of $65 a month; expand cost-of-living-adjustments so that seniors can afford the increased prices of prescription drugs and other healthcare expenses; and lift millions of seniors out of poverty by expanding the minimum Social Security benefits that seniors receive in retirement.

This legislation would be paid for by eliminating the cap on taxable income subject to the Social Security payroll tax. Right now, a Wall Street CEO making $20 million a year pays the same amount of money into the Social Security system as someone making $118,500. That is unfair. My legislation would change that.

If we scrapped the cap, and applied the Social Security payroll tax on all income above $250,000, not only would we be able to expand benefits, we would also ensure that Social Security can pay every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 50 years.

Stop Pension Cuts. I would reverse the provision included in last year's appropriations bill that allows the pensions of millions of workers and retirees in multi-employer pension plans to be slashed.

Expand Unions. The most important thing we can do to both preserve and expand defined benefit pension plans is to make it easier for workers to join unions. One of the most significant reasons for the decline in defined benefit pension plans is that the rights of workers to join together and bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions have been severely undermined.

Today, corporate executives are routinely negotiating obscenely high compensation packages for themselves, but

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then they deny their own employees the ability to bargain for a better life. That is wrong. We have got to turn this around.

That's why I support allowing workers to join unions when a majority sign valid authorization cards stating that they want a union as their bargaining representative.

Today, about 68 percent of union workers have a guaranteed pension through a defined benefit plan; while less than 14 percent of nonunion workers do. Expanding union membership in this country would be the best way to protect and expand defined benefit pensions.

Q: What are your views on the privatization and contracting out of public services, including school services and state and local government services?

BS: I am strongly opposed to the outsourcing and privatization of public services. The reality is that many private contractors provide jobs with low pay and no benefits with little or no training. It is not a surprise that initially these private contractors out-bid their government competitors because the federal government provides better pay, health care, pension benefits and quality training to their employees. But, in the long-term, in most instances, privatization leads to poor service, high turnover, and an overall increase in taxpayer dollars.

For example, on the state government level, the State of New Jersey thought they were going to save taxpayer dollars by privatizing their vehicle inspection program. What happened? According to a 2002 report, this program turned into a "mammoth boondoggle" that ended up costing taxpayers $247 million more than it would have cost if it were run by the state.

As President, I would do everything I could to reverse the privatization of public services and support the creation of more good-paying public sector jobs.

Q: Current federal laws and policies encourage and promote collective bargaining through the National Labor Relations Act. What are your views on collective bargaining for the private and public sectors? What is your view regarding agency fee and so-called right-to-work laws?

BS: I am strongly supportive of collective bargaining for private and public sector workers. I am strongly opposed to agency fee and right-to-work laws.

I will fight to make sure that workers are allowed to join unions when a majority sign valid authorization cards stating that they want a union as their bargaining representative. This is not a radical idea. Card check recognition was the law of the land from 1941-1966.

Today, we have more wealth and income inequality in our country than at any time since 1928. There are lots of reasons for this.

The failure to raise the minimum wage is an obvious example. Unfettered free trade that forces American workers to compete against desperate workers in China, Mexico, and Vietnam is another.

But perhaps one of the most significant reasons for the decline in the middle class is that the rights of workers to join together and bargain collectively for better wages, benefits, and working conditions have been severely undermined. That will change under my Administration.

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Q: As president, what would you do to: (a) prevent employers from intimidating and harassing workers who support union representation, (b) ensure that workers are free to organize and bargain in the workplace, and (c) protect the rights of American workers?

BS: I would strongly penalize employers that illegally fire or discriminate against workers for their union activity during an organizing or first contract drive.

Perhaps most importantly, we have got to make it easier for workers who win union elections to negotiate a first contract.

We also need to address the overtime scandal in this country in which millions of Americans are working 50 or 60 hours a week but fail to get time-and-a-half for their efforts. Four decades ago, more than 65 percent of the workforce qualified for time-and-a-half pay for every hour worked over 40 hours a week. Today, that figure is down to just 11 percent. The threshold for overtime pay is now so low that it fails to cover middle class employees. Only workers who earn $23,660 a year currently qualify for overtime, which is below the poverty line for a family of four.

I would make sure that all workers who make up to $1,090 a week are allowed to receive time-and-a-half pay for working overtime. This would increase the take-home pay of millions of workers who are now making less than $57,000 a year.

Further, we need pay equity in this country so that women do not make 78 cents on the dollar compared to what a man makes for doing the same work. I am a proud co-sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act that would close the pay gap by empowering women to negotiate for equal pay, eliminate loopholes courts have created in the law, and create strong incentives for employers to obey the laws.

Q: The federal government has direct responsibility for setting labor standards. There has been a growing call for changes to those standards, including paid sick days, paid family leave and higher minimum wages. What changes, if any, would you prioritize?

BS: I would raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour over a period of years and index it to inflation. I would fight for paid sick leave, paid family leave, and paid sick days.

It is unacceptable that the out of 185 countries, the U.S. is one of only three that does not grant paid maternity leave.

It is unacceptable that the U.S. is one out of only 13 countries in the entire world that does not guarantee paid vacation.

That would change if I was elected President.

Q: More than 8 million public employees in 25 states currently have no OSHA protection or entitlement to a safe and healthful workplace. Do you support universal OSHA coverage for all public employees?

BS: Of course, I support universal OSHA coverage for all public employees. Every workers should have the right to a safe and healthy work environment. It is a disgrace that millions of public sector employees do not have these fundamental rights in 25 states.

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Q: What policies would your administration pursue to ensure that all people — regardless of who they are, where they live or where they come from — are able to climb the ladder of opportunity and participate fully in our economy and democracy?

BS: We need to make a 4-year education at every public college and university in this country free. If Germany, Sweden and Denmark can afford to do this, then so can we.

We need to make health care a basic right in our society, and we need to move beyond the rhetoric about growth and prosperity and recommit to the principles of the Full Employment Act of 1946.

If we are going to rely on an economy that requires people to work in order to survive, then we must make certain that work is available to every American who needs a job. By guaranteeing the right to employment, we can ensure a minimum level of economic security to all.

This is an ambitious program that would lift millions of families out of poverty and provide a pathway to greater economic security for all Americans. Free college, free health care and a guaranteed right to employment. It will not heal all wounds or relieve all tensions, but it would go beyond anything we have tried before, and it would send a clear signal that the lives of all Americans matter.

Q: In your opinion, what are the elements of comprehensive immigration reform? How would your administration's stance on immigration reform fight back against inequality, promote economic justice and increase wages for all workers?

BS: Our immigration system is broken, and it is long past time to fit it. Comprehensive immigration reform must begin with implementing a responsible path to citizenship for the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. They should be given the opportunity to come out of the shadows, have the full protection of the law — including workplace safety and wage and hours protections — pay into Social Security and Medicare, and contribute to the American economy.

Comprehensive immigration must hold unscrupulous employers accountable that exploit immigrant workers. Immigration reform must not be structured such that an employer has the effective power to have a person's legal status revoked. This has the potential to lead to too many abuses.

At a time when the real unemployment rate exceeds 11%, it makes little sense to increase temporary work visas in high skill fields like science, technology, engineering and math. More often than not, these visas are used to lower wages and cover the fact that we are doing too little to education and retrain workers — both native born and immigrant alike — who already here.

We must pass the DREAM Act. If young people who were brought to the U.S. as children are willing serve in our armed forces, earn a U.S. high school diploma or attend college, and if they do not have a criminal record, I believe they should be eligible for permanent residency.

Instead of demonizing unaccompanied minors from Central America, we must make sure these children are humanely cared for while in U.S. custody. And, we must address the root causes of the crisis, including the fact that these children are fleeing economic despair, criminal violence, and false rumors of amnesty spread by the very people who profit by trafficking children.

We must provide adequate federal support for schools and communities that have large immigrant populations,

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by significantly increasing funding for Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students. And we must reward and support communities that have agreed to resettle refugees, by significantly increasing funding for the HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement grant programs.

Comprehensive immigration reform will be very complex, and yes, it will have to address border security. But my top priorities will be focusing on reducing income inequality by increasing wages and legal protections for all workers.

Q: What are your views on campaign finance reform? Do you support a constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision?

BS: In my view, Citizens United is one of the worst decisions in Supreme Court history, and I have introduced a constitutional amendment to overturn it. We need to fix our broken campaign finance system by placing limits on contributions and expenditures, requiring more stringent disclosure, and eventually instituting a system of public financing. We cannot allow billionaires and millionaires to buy our elections.

Q: What would your administration do to ensure that voting in elections is free, fair and available to all Americans? Do you oppose policies that restrict access to voting and voter registration?

BS: We must be doing everything we can to make it easier, not harder, for people to vote. Instead, what is happening now is that Republican governors and Republican legislators are going out of their way to put up barriers to voting. They are using unfounded scare tactics and unproven cases of voter fraud to keep people from the polls. Over two years ago, I asked the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) to look into voter fraud and the effects of voter ID laws. The GAO found that while there were very few, if any, cases of voter fraud, the ID laws were working to suppress legitimate voters. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court turned back the clock on equality when it struck down part of the Voting Rights Act, a landmark civil rights law. But the Court also challenged Congress to act, and even though this law was reauthorized unanimously only nine years ago, we still have not managed to fix this incredibly important law.

Last March, I, with many others, traveled to Selma to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic march that lead to the Voting Rights Act. Those incredibly brave men and women literally put their lives on the line and stood up for what they believed in, that all Americans, regardless of color, should have the right to vote. We must honor their legacy and continue their fight.

I have introduced legislation to make Election Day a national holiday. Although this is not a cure-all, it is a first step to show that participating in elections is an important part of Americans society. At a time when less than 40 percent of eligible voters turned out to the polls in November 2014, we must do everything we can to emphasize the importance of participating in democracy.

Conclusion

Q: What do you think this nation's priorities should be during the next decade? How would your presidency advance those priorities?

BS: 1. Reversing Income and Wealth Inequality

The great moral, economic and political issue of our time is the growing level of income and wealth inequality in our nation. It goes against everything this country is supposed to stand for when the top one-tenth of 1 percent owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent, and when 95 percent of all new income generated since the Wall Street crash goes to the top 1 percent. Addressing income and wealth inequality would be my top priority, and would include:

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• Ending corporate tax loopholes that allow profitable corporations and the wealthy to stash their profits in the Cayman Islands and other tax havens.

• Demanding that the wealthy and special interests begin paying their fair share of taxes. It is a disgrace that the top 25 hedge managers last year not only made more than the nation's 158,000 kindergarten teachers combined, but also that they generally pay a lower effective tax rate than most of those teachers.

• Improving and investing in early childhood education as well as K-12, by hiring more teachers and giving them the resources they need to succeed.

• Addressing the crisis of college affordability by expanding Pell grants, allowing high school juniors and seniors to take college-level classes and earn credit, letting college graduates refinance their loans, capping student loan payments, and making community colleges free.

• Rejecting austerity policies that hurt the elderly, children, the poor and working families.

• Strengthening Social Security and Medicare: When the average Social Security benefit is $1,328 a month, and more than one-third of our senior citizens rely on Social Security for virtually all of their income, our job is to expand benefits, not cut them

• Raising the minimum wage to $15 to put more money into the pockets of workers in underpaid jobs and strengthen the economy.

• Creating 13 million new jobs by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure (roads, bridges, water systems, wastewater plants, rail, airports, and schools), by investing $1 trillion over five years.

• Supporting working women and families by expanding affordable childcare and promoting pay equity.

• Developing a new policy on trade, rather than continue with the free trade agreements that have been unrelentingly bad for American workers and are a major reason why 60,000 American factories have closed and 4.7 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared since 2001.

These are some, but certainly not all of the components of a comprehensive approach to addressing income and wealth inequality.

2. Overturning Citizens United, campaign finance reform and reviving democracy

Another priority would be campaign finance reform. If we don't do this, we will have no hope at implementing any of the items I just listed above.

In particular, we must reverse two disastrous Supreme Court decisions that have opened the floodgates of almost unrestricted campaign spending: the 2010 Citizens United decision and the more recent McCutcheon decision. These decisions hinge on the absurd notion that giving large sums of money to a politician in exchange for influence and access does not constitute corruption.

These decisions undermine the democratic foundations of our country and have shifted political power to huge corporations and the wealthiest people in the United States. According to recent reports, the billionaire Koch brothers plan to spend $889 million in the 2016 elections, twice what their network spent in 2012, and nearly the amount spent by Obama and Romney. When one family can raise and spend as much as a major party candidate for president, the system is broken. That is oligarchy, not democracy.

We must overturn these Supreme Court decisions, to make it clear that the ability to make campaign contributions and expenditures – just like the right to vote – belongs only to real people. We must also move toward publicly funded elections.

I recently had the honor of joining Rep. John Lewis and other civil rights leaders on the 50th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma. While that historic march led to the Voting Rights Act — which for decades protected voters from discrimination — the Supreme Court two years ago invalidated a key portion of the landmark law. We must undo that misguided court decision. What happened on that bridge that day was a huge step forward for democracy in America. But what is happening right now — not just in the South but all over this country — are voter suppression efforts by Republican governors and Republican legislatures to make it harder

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for African-Americans, for low-income people and for senior citizens to vote.

Lastly, we must do everything possible to make it easier for people to participate in the political process, including making Election Day a national holiday so that everyone has the time and opportunity to vote. While this would not be a cure-all, it would indicate a national commitment to create a more vibrant democracy.

In last November's election, turnout was only 37 percent, and turnout was even lower among minorities and young people. Voters 18- to 29-years-old made up only 13 percent of those who went to the polls, according to exit polls. The same survey found that only 8 percent of Tuesday's voters were Latinos, far less than the Latino share of the population.

3. Dealing with Climate Change

Climate change is perhaps the single greatest threat facing our planet. We are already seeing its effects, including more super storms, severe droughts, forest fires, flooding, and rising sea levels. Virtually the entire scientific community agrees that human activity is a significant driver of global warming, and that if we don't drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will get much worse by mid-century — including crop failures, increasing hunger and illness, and more extreme weather.

We need a bold vision to address climate change, and that begins with dramatically reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. That is why in last Congress, I introduced the Climate Protection Act, which would have taxed carbon and methane emissions from coal, oil, and natural gas production, and used the revenue to make historic investments in energy efficiency and sustainable energy. It would have also tripled funding for advanced energy research, and made huge investments in wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, plug-in electric vehicles and other clean technologies.

There are many other steps we must take right now to curb greenhouse gas emissions, including using existing authority under the Clean Air Act to significantly improve fuel economy standards for cars and trucks, and reducing harmful pollution from power plants and industrial facilities.

As we accelerate investments in energy efficiency and make the transition to clean energy, I believe we can create millions of decent paying jobs. I was one of the authors of the Green Jobs Act, which created a green jobs workforce training program through the economic stimulus bill. Moreover, the Climate Protection Act alone would weatherize one million homes every year, reducing family energy bills and creating millions of good-paying jobs. Replacing old power plants with new solar, wind and other sustainable energy facilities will also create hundreds of thousands of "green" jobs.

Unless we take bold action to reverse climate change, our children and grandchildren are going to look back on this period in history and ask: "Where were they? Why didn't they listen to the scientists when they had a chance? Why did they allow this planet to become so damaged?" We have a short window of opportunity. We must act now. ——

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley

AFT: Today, almost 50 million students attend our nation's public schools. Along with their parents, communities, teachers, paraprofessionals and other school employees, these students have been forced to live under test—and-punish policies that include sanctions and school closings, high-stakes assessments, and federalized teacher evaluations that are counterproductive and have taken the joy out of teaching and learning.

Q. What is your view of the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as the No Child Left Behind Act)? What changes, if any, would you make to the law, and why? Please include positions

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on:

• The federal government's role in ensuring equity and access to resources for all children;

• The role of standards, assessments and accountability in public education;

• Ensuring that all students have access to a broad curriculum that includes art and music,

as well as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);

• Professional development for school staff; and

• Community schools.

MO'M: I support the reauthorization of the ESEA. The Senate HELP Committee has preserved the integrity of the bill while avoiding the most extreme Republican amendment attempts. I urge the House to maintain that integrity and to reject any changes that would radically undermine our nation's public education system.

Though I support the reauthorization of ESEA, there are a number of areas where the law needs improvements — most notably, a requirement for turning around our lowest-performing schools. This legislation must acknowledge that equitable allocation of resources for our most vulnerable kids is not the same as equal allocation of resources. As a nation, we must commit to concentrating federal dollars where the need is greatest, including in the communities with the most underperforming schools and students. As our well-performing suburban schools find new and innovative ways to connect a child's learning experience with their real-world environment, our lower-income urban schools can't be left behind.

Our children, regardless of their circumstances, deserve a well-rounded education, including training in the arts, that will prepare them for the needs of the modern workforce and economy. During my time as Governor, we increased the number of students enrolled in STEM or related CTE programs by nearly 400%.

While the federal government plays an important role in education, that role does not include the determination of standards or curriculum in the classroom. However, in order to grow a strong workforce for tomorrow, we need an accurate way of evaluating how we're building students' potential today. I support performance-based assessments, which allow students the flexibility to show their learning in ways that meet their strengths and interests — and allow professional teachers to adjust in real-time so student achievement accelerates.

Test score data should not be used as a hammer at the end of a teacher's evaluation, it should be used from the start to begin an instructional improvement process. To shift test scores from a punitive measure into a supportive one, we must make additional investments in professional development for our teachers. We also need to offer adequate training for new initiatives, and engage the educator community in virtually all systemic decision-making in our schools. I'm all for modernizing and improving education for all kids, but we should be doing so in partnership with our educators, not at their expense.

Q. Do you support any of the current reauthorization proposals under consideration in the 114th Congress?

MO'M: I support the ESEA reauthorization currently on its way to the Senate floor, but would encourage the improvements noted above.

Q. What role do you think the federal government can play in providing access to early childhood education? What specific policy proposals would your administration pursue?

MO'M: The federal government plays a fundamental role providing access to early childhood education. This is one of the strengths of the current ESEA reauthorization. I support and applaud Senator Murray's amendment creating grants to help states boost quality and access in early learning. Further, I support using federal funds, in

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partnership with states, to make pre-K universal.

Q. What are your views on private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, and charter school accountability and transparency?

MO'M: I support the strengthening of our public education system, not only as a way for all children to prepare themselves for economic success, but as a way to stronger neighborhoods, healthier communities, and a more engaged citizenry and informed electorate. I oppose vouchers for private schools, and the expanded use of tax credits to support private school tuition. I am concerned about the rapid proliferation of unaccountable charter schools. Providing excellent and innovative education should be the goal of charter schools — not expansion for the sake of profit. We need strong standards, oversight, and transparency to ensure that charters are acting in the best interest of our kids — and are serving the goals of our education system as a whole.

Q. Escalating tuition and fees are leading to a growing number of students leaving college with overwhelming debt from student loans. This burden of rising costs and rising debt makes access to higher education increasingly difficult for many students and their families. What is the role of the federal government in ensuring that higher education is affordable and accessible?

MO'M: The federal government plays an essential role in making higher education affordable and accessible. While states like Maryland have worked hard to hold the line on the cost of college tuition, we cannot make college truly affordable for families unless the federal government provides leadership. This is especially true when it comes to student debt: Congress helped create the student debt crisis by setting high, fixed interest rates on student loans. My administration would fight to win student borrowers the right to refinance their loans, and would make income- based repayment the default for all borrowers. The ultimate goal must be to make college debt-free for all students.

Q. There has been a nationwide pattern of disinvestment in public higher education such that per-student funding dropped 26.1 percent between 1990 and 2010. What would your administration do to remedy this?

MO'M: My administration would restore investments in higher education. First, I would provide additional aid to states to cover the cost of tuition at public and community college and universities, tied to states also investing more. Second, I would tie the receipt of federal aid to states and schools taking steps to reduce the underlying costs of college. This includes increasing AP and dual-enrollment courses, easing the transfer of credits from community colleges, expanding quality online learning, and making sure that aid is reaching the students who need it most.

Q. Career and technical education programs help ensure that postsecondary credentials and skills are accessible to all – necessary in today's economy. In your view, what is the role of the federal government in supporting high-quality CTE programs?

MO'M: As Governor, my administration increased the number of students enrolled in STEM or related CTE programs in Maryland by nearly 400%. However, while the federal government plays a critical role supporting these efforts, the taken modest steps we have taken as a country to expand STEM or related CTE education are far from sufficient.

My administration would launch a new, comprehensive national program for CTE, starting in high schools, and in partnership with community colleges and employers. This builds on successful efforts launched by the Obama Administration, where

schools partner with employers — who also provide financial support — to train students and workers for the positions they need to fill now. Our program will require greater federal investment, but we will see far greater

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returns — in good jobs created and filled, and in reduced spending on higher education. CTE training is an equal alternative to a four-year college degree, and we must treat it as such.

Q. What is the federal government's role in requiring appropriate transparency and accountability of for-profit institutions?

MO'M: I support the Protections And Regulations For Our Students Act and its efforts to protect students from the predatory practices that are too prevalent in the for-profit college sector. The federal government should not only play a strong role in cracking down on such fraudulent behavior, it should proactively seek out these bad players and cancel the federal debt incurred by students who were sold a bad deal.

Q. What are your views of the Affordable Care Act? What changes would you make, if any, to the ACA, including the excise tax on high-cost plans and the provisions on shared responsibility for employers?

MO'M: I agree that a high quality healthcare system is a "moral imperative, an economic necessity, and a fundamental right for all." The Affordable Care Act is an important step in realizing that goal. My administration would build on the successes of the Affordable Care Act while being ready, as always, to support smart changes that can better provide high quality coverage and control costs. Our guiding principle would always be the triple aim: better patient experience, lower costs, and improved outcomes.

For example, to promote creative solutions to healthcare challenges around the country, I support flexibility for states to pursue innovations in health care delivery and payment with the potential for shared savings, such as through the State Innovation Model program at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. One underappreciated aspect of the Affordable Care Act is its support for innovative models of health care delivery in payment. In Maryland, we adopted a creative approach with our unique hospital rate setting commission: We obtained approval to put our hospitals on global budgets covering all payers, creating a strong incentive to reduce preventable admissions and keep patients and communities healthy.

Q. Do you support initiatives designed to move health insurance coverage away from an employer-based model? If so, what would you propose as an alternative to the current system for covering working adults?

MO'M: I support a public option, which should have been included in the Affordable Care Act.

Q. Many licensed healthcare professionals, particularly RNs, are leaving hospital service because of difficult working conditions, including excessive and unsafe workloads, understaffing, and mandatory overtime. What would you do to address these problems and to improve recruitment and retention of nurses and other healthcare professionals?

MO'M: Maryland has long prohibited mandatory overtime for nurses, with some exceptions, and I support such bans.

More broadly, my administration would make securing reforms to our nation's overtime rules a priority — including raising the overtime salary threshold to 1,000 a week, limiting exemptions, and enforcing the law. Wage law violations are unacceptable and far too prevalent in the healthcare industry. My administration would invest the resources necessary to hold all employers accountable for wage theft, overtime violations, and other failures to comply with labor laws.

My administration would also vocally support efforts to organize healthcare professionals, including in hospitals and among home healthcare workers. Expanding and protecting collective bargaining rights is a critical step to securing better working conditions in the healthcare industry. I applaud AFT's efforts to organize nurses and

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other healthcare professionals, winning these workers a greater role in shaping the U.S. healthcare system to better meet the needs of the people they serve.

Finally, my administration would proactively invest in our healthcare workforce. As we continue to transform our healthcare system and the settings and methods used to deliver care continue to evolve, it is critical that our healthcare workforce is trained and prepared for the transitions ahead. At the same time, the reforms we're making within the healthcare system will align to help improve working conditions for healthcare professionals. Offering greater rewards for prevention and fewer avoidable admissions, for example, can reduce the burnout that results from a system that historically rewarded volume rather than value.

Q. Merger and acquisition activity continues to consolidate the U.S. healthcare system into the hands of a few corporations, many of which are for-profit. What would you do to ensure competition in the healthcare industry is fair and protects the American consumer?

MO'M: My administration's strategy would be two-fold. First, I would continue to embrace proven strategies for coordinating care. In Maryland we not only put hospitals on global budgets, we established a statewide information system for patients that allows doctors and nurses to securely access patients' health data from every hospital across the state. Even before the ACA took full effect, we used this big data approach to providing smarter health care to reduce avoidable hospital admissions by 10% in a single year.

While this greater coordination is critical to providing more targeted and thus less costly care, I am concerned about consolidation that does not further these aims. Far too often, mergers and acquisitions within the health care industry are used not to achieve savings through reduced fragmentation, but to drive up prices for patients and consumers – at the cost of providing better care. That is why my administration would aggressively enforce our nation's antitrust laws, and why I will continue to champion the need to restore competition to the U.S. economy throughout my campaign.

Q. What would you do to ensure that communities have access to public health services?

MO'M: My administration would look to the innovative steps we took in Maryland to expand access to public health services. For instance, we used the statewide health information system described above to pinpoint clusters of patients and diagnose public health concerns. We then used this information to charge community-level care managers with improving wellness at a neighborhood-level. We did this most importantly through the Health Enterprise Zones we stood up to improve health care access and quality, and reduce health disparities, in underserved communities. We also encouraged the development of more comprehensive women's health centers, to provide screenings and referrals for Medicaid eligibility, WIC nutrition, substance abuse and mental health treatment alongside reproductive health care.

Beyond these important steps, my administration would protect and build on the Affordable Care Act's efforts to promote good health and prevent chronic disease. I would protect the mandatory funding stream the ACA obligated for these efforts, which has wrongly been reallocated for other purposes, and develop better metrics for measuring the effectiveness of prevention-related efforts.

Q. What are your priorities for revitalizing the economy, strengthening the middle class, creating jobs, and ensuring fair taxation? How would your plan help restore funding for education, healthcare, transportation, public safety, and many other services provided to our citizens?

MO'M: My administration would focus first and foremost on raising wages: by increasing the minimum wage and the salary threshold for overtime pay; restoring and strengthening collective bargaining power; and supporting families by expanding access to paid leave and safe and affordable childcare. My administration would also restore investments in the common good and future of our nation, including in infrastructure and innovation, and most of all in education. We cannot revitalize our economy without creating an education system that empowers each and every child to reach their full potential, starting with pre-k and all the way through college.

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We can restore funding for these better choices and investments by rebalancing our tax system so that the wealthiest Americans – not just middle class families – pay their fair share. This includes setting higher marginal rates, taxing capital gains and income at the same rate, corporate tax reform, and other long-overdue reforms. We must also restore accountability to our financial markets, to reverse the failed policies of deregulation and wealth accumulation that gutted funding for key priorities while costing millions of Americans their jobs, homes, and retirements. That's why I have called for real structural and accountability reforms, including reinstating Glass-Steagall, charging regulators with holding law-breakers accountable, and breaking up big banks before they break us. These steps must be an explicit part of any agenda to revitalize the economy and make it work for all families.

Q. The United States has a $3.2 trillion infrastructure deficit according to the American Society of Civil Engineers and that's just for repairs. What are the mechanisms (e.g., public, private, infrastructure bank) through which we can fund the rebuilding of this country, including necessary renovation and modernization of our public schools, hospitals, and public buildings?

MO'M: Repairing, upgrading, and modernizing our nation's infrastructure will require an historic investment — one that can only be made using both public programs and other financing tools. My administration would restore the Highway Trust Fund, while redoubling successful competitive grant programs. But I would also look to credit and loan guarantee programs; to bonding programs, for both transportation infrastructure and building construction and retrofits; and to other programs that support public-private partnerships, including an infrastructure bank. However, whenever we leverage private dollars to build public projects, I would make protecting high-road labor standards a priority, as we did in Maryland. We cannot look for cost efficiencies on the backs of American workers.

Q. What would your administration do to build and strengthen retirement security for all working men and women, including protecting employees' pensions? What is your plan for sustaining and strengthening Social Security and Medicare?

MO'M: My administration would expand Social Security benefits, not cut them. We are the most prosperous country the world has ever seen. In an economy that is increasingly out of balance towards the most privileged, expanding Social Security so seniors can retire with dignity—not cutting benefits, not privatization, not raising the retirement age, not means testing, not eating into their economic security — should be a top priority, and an achievable one.

I would expand Social Security benefits by lifting the payroll tax cap for the highest earners, starting at 250,000. Right now, millionaires are essentially done paying into Social Security by mid-February. Those in that upper income range can afford to contribute more to expand one of our most cherished programs. I would also modify the formula that determines the level of benefits that seniors receive, including so that increased benefits are targeted towards lower and middle-income beneficiaries.

These are critical steps, because we know for a fact that 401(k)s won't leave enough for many seniors to live on in retirement. The recession took its toll on families' ability to save and plan adequately, and further weakened state pension systems, including the one I inherited in Maryland. As a result, we had to implement balanced reforms that brought the pension system back on the path to fiscal health, while protecting the collective bargaining rights and retirement security of state employees. This was tremendously difficult, but we got it done not by demonizing teachers and state workers, as other states have, but by bringing them to the table. I have always fought to ensure the rights and benefits of Maryland workers, and my administration would do the same for all public employees.

Q. What are your views on the privatization and contracting out of public services, including school services and state and local government services?

MO'M: We should not privatize or contract out school services. Teachers are our partners in educating our students. We should invest more, not less, to train and equip teachers — not engage in a race to the bottom.

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Q. Current federal laws and policies encourage and promote collective bargaining through the National Labor Relations Act. What are your views on collective bargaining for the private and public sectors? What is your view regarding agency fee and so-called right-to-work laws?

MO'M: I believe that we must make it easier, not harder, for workers to organize – by tearing down barriers to collective bargaining, while embracing new and expanded organizing models, and reversing the nearly unprecedented consolidation of corporate power. As Governor, I expanded public sector collective bargaining rights to thousands of additional state workers, and to home health aides and child care workers whose pay is subsidized by the state. I signed a Fair Share Act so that unions can do their job representing the voices of their members. And I created a Public School Labor Relations Board, as well as legislation requiring prevailing wages to be paid on public school projects.

There is no question that the decline of unionization over the last 30 years has fueled growing inequality and stagnating wages, and that the steps states are taking to wipe out unions — especially those attacking teachers' unions — are failed choices. I reject right-to-work laws that weaken the bargaining power of workers and drive down wages, as well as misguided efforts to roll back public sector bargaining rights. Chasing cheaper labor will not grow our economy or more it more competitive.

Q. As president, what would you do to: (a) prevent employers from intimidating and harassing workers who support union representation, (b) ensure that workers are free to organize and bargain the workplace, and (c) protect the rights of American workers?

MO'M: My administration would do everything in its power to protect and strengthen the rights of American workers. I would support efforts to make it easier to join a union by streamlining the process and reducing employers' ability to interfere with elections. This includes the rule NLRB has moved forward to speed up union elections, which I believe is an important first step. I also support the board's efforts to hold companies jointly responsible when their franchisees violate labor laws. We've allowed large corporations to largely shed their responsibilities for managing their employees and to consolidate power over markets, and we've seen poorer working conditions and stagnating wages as a result. I would aggressively enforce our nation's anti-trust laws to reverse this concentration of corporate power and give workers a louder voice. Finally, I would strongly support efforts to expand collective bargaining rights to more people, including home care workers, as we did in Maryland — and to continue upgrading these jobs by fighting for higher wages and better working conditions. I applaud labor's efforts continue organizing and engaging new and existing members even in light of what I agree was a bad decision in Harris v. Quinn. We have to use every tool at our disposal to continue making progress.

Q. The federal government has direct responsibility for setting labor standards. There has been a growing call for changes to those standards, including paid sick days, paid family leave, and higher minimum wages. What changes, if any, would you prioritize?

MO'M: I would make changing these labor standards my first priority as president. I would call for a 15 federal minimum wage, and — if DOL does not first complete its rule — would use executive authority to raise the threshold for overtime pay to 1,000 a week. I would fight for laws that guarantee all workers access to paid maternity leave and paternity leave, and expand access to safe and affordable childcare. I have helped lead the call for these higher standards, including in Maryland, and will continue to make these issues a central issue in my campaign.

Q. More than 8 million public employees in 25 states currently have no OSHA protection or entitlement to a safe and healthful workplace. Do you support universal OSHA coverage for all public employees?

MO'M: Yes, and more. The gaps in the enforcement of our labor laws should be unacceptable to everyone. Beyond health and safety, millions of people, including some of our most vulnerable workers, are victims of wage theft every year. Our enforcement agencies must be able to hold employers accountable, and to prevent these blatant

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violations in the first place. My administration would dedicate the energy and resources necessary to fully enforce the law.

Q. What policies would your administration pursue to ensure that all people — regardless of who they are, where they live, or where they come from — are able to climb the ladder of opportunity and participate fully in our economy and democracy?

MO'M: My administration would be committed to ensuring that Americans, regardless of their background and status, would have the opportunity to succeed by investing in education, raising wages, supporting families, securing immigration reform, expanding health care, and protecting the dignity of retirement. These are the better choices our national interest demands. I have also called for a new agenda for opportunity and justice in America's cities and communities, built on investments to connect poverty to opportunity: guaranteeing every family access to affordable housing near good schools and jobs, building and upgrading infrastructure to connect poverty to opportunity, committing to reduce poverty and eradicate child hunger, and — most importantly — creating new jobs and equipping students and workers with the skills needed to secure them.

Q. In your opinion, what are the elements of comprehensive immigration reform? How would your administration's stance on immigration reform fight back against inequality, promote economic justice, and increase wages for all workers?

MO'M: As Governor I urged Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform, and I would forcefully do the same as president. Bringing undocumented immigrants out of the shadows will grow the economy, create new jobs, and expand our tax base – benefiting the country as a whole. It will help all our workers, especially our most vulnerable workers, by lifting wages, and helping to drive improved labor standards. I know this from personal experience, from what we've done in Maryland, even without federal action — passing the DREAM Act, expanding access to drivers' licenses, launching the New Americans Commission, and providing refuge for more migrant children per capita than any other state.

That's why, while we continue to advocate for and will achieve comprehensive reform, we can't wait for Congress to act. My administration would also use executive action to the fullest extent of our authority: to expand deferred arrival programs to more people, including the parents of Dreamers; to end detention, especially for families and children; and to make prosecutorial discretion meaningful, by individually examining cases to assess whether people are eligible to remain in the U.S. and contribute to their family and community.

Q. What are your views on campaign finance reform? Do you support a constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision?

MO'M: I support a constitutional amendment to overturning Citizens United. But I also recognize that we can't afford to wish and wait for a Constitutional amendment to restore our democracy. We can bring greater transparency to our elections: by updating the rules governing disclosure to ensure that big special interest spending is reported, and charging and empowering federal regulators to block unlawful outside spending. Even more important, we must return to a government where all voters' voices are heard. Runaway election spending forces candidates to listen to big money donors over the voters they claim to represent. We should embrace citizen-funded elections, giving candidates the opportunity to raise a larger number of smaller contributions from people back home.

Q. What would your administration do to ensure that voting in elections is free, fair, and available to all Americans? Do you oppose policies that restrict access to voting and voter registration?

MO'M: Our democracy depends on greater participation, yet in recent years we have sharply limited access to our most fundamental right. My administration would push to restore the Voting Rights Act and tear down barriers to voting, like ID requirements. And we would work to modernize voting and voter registration to make it easier for more people to vote. We did this in Maryland, establishing on-site early voting and same-day registration, as well

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as online voter registration. We also restored voting rights to more than 50,000 people with criminal records, and made it easier for young people to vote.

Conclusion

Q. What do you think this nation's priorities should be during the next decade? How would your presidency advance those priorities?

MO'M: The most important thing that we as a people need to get done is to restore the truth of the American dream: that when people work hard, they should be able to get ahead. That dream is in danger of becoming a lie for the vast majority of Americans who see their families slipping further behind. Making it true again will require us to return to the better choices we long made as a country – and to fundamentally rebalance our economy so that it works for everyone, not just the wealthy few. My administration would focus first and foremost on raising wages, not only by increasing the minimum wage, but by strengthening collective bargaining and securing comprehensive immigration reform. At the same time, my administration would hold Wall Street accountable, ending the decades of deregulation that wrecked our economy and accumulated wealth at the top like almost never before. By asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share, I would restore investments in the future of our country — most especially in our students, teachers, and schools.

These choices require better leadership and the ability to get things done. I have 15 years of executive experience, and I have never backed down from a fight. I fought to make these better choices in Maryland, where we put the goal of a stronger middle class at the center of every decision we made. And as a result, we made Maryland one of the top states for upward mobility for families, with the highest median income in the nation, and – since the depths of the recession – a faster rate of job creation than our neighbors in Virginia or Maryland who were mostly trying to cut their way to prosperity. These are the goals we should be setting for our nation, and I believe that with will and leadership we can achieve them.

What the First Democratic Cattle Call Reveals About the State of the Presidential Race // Bloomberg // Arit John – July 19, 2015

Hours before the first face-off of the Democratic presidential campaign, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley stood in the far left corner of the White Star Ale House, a sleek bar in downtown Cedar Rapids, greeting a line of voters, some committed, others not so much.

"Well, thanks for coming just the same," O'Malley, who has been outspoken in his support for stricter gun control, said to man in a Second Amendment tee shirt. "You can't agree with everybody on everything." The reception was better from Jean Schultz, a 71-year-old retired teacher. She told O'Malley she'd seen him on TV a few times, liked what he'd said, and that he seemed reasonable. "You make me feel like I should keep going," he told her.

On Friday, all five of the declared Democratic presidential candidates descended on Cedar Rapids Convention Center for the first cattle call of their nominating contest, the Democratic Party Hall of Fame dinner. But even before the events, some of the candidates dominated much of downtown Cedar Rapids: during the afternoon former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, O'Malley and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders held two rallies, a meet-and-greet, and a press conference, respectively, in different venues less than a mile of the convention center. It was a chance for Iowa voters to compare the candidates side by side, but also for the presidential hopefuls to demonstrate the strength of their support in the first-in-the-nation caucus state.

Virginia Senator Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee, neither of whom held any events in Cedar Rapids the day of the dinner, may need to ask themselves if they're taking the same basic steps to promote themselves as their competitors.

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O'Malley, who is polling in the low single digits in Iowa, used his meet-and-greet to try and rectify that situation one voter at a time.

Senator Bernie Sanders, gave a substantive, if not professorial press conference on the state of veterans affairs and his past work as chairman of that committee. But while Sanders' it's-about-the-issues-not-me approach plays well for the thousands of supporters who have filled stadiums to hear him, it doesn't have the same affect on the media, or other Democrats. During the question-and-answer session after his veterans press conference, for example, he was asked almost exclusively about Clinton.

And some candidates are already thinking past the primary race. In a new pizza parlor right down the street from the White Star Ale House, Clinton—who is leading her Democratic challengers by an average of 34 points in the polls—offered encouragement and advice at two large events, a new pizza place and the basement of the Veterans Memorial building. They were "organizing with purpose, so I can campaign with purpose, we we can win with purpose and govern with purpose" she told about 130 volunteers and staffers at Need Pizza, a new business in downtown Cedar Rapids. "Impressed" by what they've accomplished so far, she talked about how important it was for them to be part of politics.

"I am thrilled you have chosen to come and work for me, but also that you've chosen to be part of this process," Clinton told the audience of about 140 volunteers and staffers, waxing nostalgic about her own days as a campaign volunteer in 1972, when she worked for Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern. "It was just so much fun but it was also really meaningful," Clinton said.

As the candidates held their pre-dinner events, Clinton supporters, along with supporters of the O'Malley campaign and members of Generation Forward, a pro-O'Malley super-PAC, gathered outside the convention center with signs, chanting their candidates names and trying to drown out the other camp. (Sanders supporters were conspicuously absent because, according to one of his Iowa staffers, he held a meet-and-greet in the lobby of his hotel with his top volunteers.)

"We were excited to be here because so many candidates were out here and this is the start and the kick off of the real campaign," Erica Reardon, a field organizer for Generation Forward, O'Malley's super-PAC.

Inside the convention center, the rivalry between the candidates shown by the cheer-off outside was still on display. Supporters were banned from bringing in signs (and, in once case, a large quilt with a Clinton logo), and volunteers for all but Chafee's campaign manned booths with pamphlets and sign-up sheets.

About 1,200 guests filled the convention hall, many sitting at tables puchased by the campaigns. In the evening, when the candidates spoke, it was easy to discern the pockets of support were—Sanders supporters sat stage left, while the O'Malley and Clinton supporters sat at tables in the center and stage right.

Clinton, who probably had the most support in the room, received loud cheers for lines about how she was "never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made" or a joke about how trickle-down economics was one of the worst ideas of the 1980s, along with "new Coke, shoulder pads and big hair." O'Malley started off slow, asking people to raise their hands if they believed kids would have a better life than they had enjoyed (less than a dozen people did). By the time he got around to talking about his record, and a not-so-subtle dig at Clinton ("And we didn't just talk about it, we actually got it done"), the crowd response picked up.

The loudest, if not the rowdiest, response in the room, went to Sanders. As the senator gave his stump speech, his supporters banged on tables and clinked their silverware on glasses. The other side of the room, where "Hil-lar-ry" and "O-Mal-ley" had come from a moment earlier, varied from applause for his hope that young black men would be able to walk down the street without fear of police brutality, to a smattering of polite claps when Sanders described the extent of income inequality today.

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But the night was also about honoring Democrats (including the seven inductees into the Hall of Fame) and the liberal policies the party has championed over the years. Every candidate received loud applause for listing their support for and action to implement Democratic agendas. Everyone who criticized the state's Republican governor, Terry Branstad, earned a cheer. Every candidate had at least one big applause line, whether it was O'Malley proposing making it easier to join unions and collectively bargain, Sanders outlining the extent of income inequality in America (to which one man shouted "Preach!"), Chafee praising President Barack Obama's Iran nuclear deal deal, Webb calling for a candidate willing to achieve bipartisan reform, or Clinton promising to continue talking about women's issues.

"Now I know that when I talk about this some people think, I can see it in their eyes, 'There she goes again, with the women's issues,'" Clinton said. "Well I'm not going to stop so get ready for a long campaign."

Even some attendees who've already settled on a candidate had something nice to say about some of the competition. Graham Carl, a 26-year-old attorney from Cedar Rapids, walked out of the convention center with an O'Malley sticker, but thought Sanders "had the most specific goals or specific plans of action of any of the speeches." Nicholas Johnson, a, 80-year-old retired law professor from Iowa City, said Sanders "so totally stole the show" but said Chafee was "probably the highest quality maybe of the five," based on his résumé.

Libby Coyte, a 67-year-old physician's assistant from Red Field, Iowa is a Clinton supporter—she sat at Clinton's table at the event—but said all of the candidates impressed her. "If you took all of their speeches together it was a very complete program … and each one has a different strength," Coyte said. "I'm a trueblooded Democrat, so I couldn't find anyone that I didn't like."

Instead of boos there was polite golf clapping, silence, or—in Jim Webb's case—people who couldn't be bothered to stay for the full night. The candidates spoke in alphabetical order, and several audience members streamed out of the convention center after Sanders spoke. All things considered, Webb took it well.

"Bernie, you always fire me up," Webb quipped. "I'm here to turn the lights out, folks."

Democrats lose control of presidential event // CNN // Chris Moody – July 19, 2015

PHOENIX (CNN) —A town hall for liberal activists featuring two Democratic presidential candidates was interrupted by dozens of demonstrators on Saturday who shouted down the contenders and demanded they address criminal justice issues and police brutality.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders planned to attend a public sit-down interview with journalist Jose Antonio Vargas in front of a left-leaning crowd here at the annual Netroots Nation conference, a gathering of progressives, when the tone of the program shifted just a few minutes into the event.

O'Malley was answering questions from Vargas on stage when dozens of boisterous conference attendees flooded through a side door and shouted down the White House contender.

"What side are you on my people?" they sang in unison as they approached.

Tia Oso of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, who represented the demonstrators, climbed onto the stage, secured a microphone, and delivered a speech while O'Malley looked on.

"We are going to hold this space. We are going to acknowledge the names of black women who have died in police

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custody. And Governor O'Malley, we do have questions for you ... As the leader of this nation, will you advance a racial justice agenda that will dismantle -- not reform, not make progress -- but will begin to dismantle structural racism in the United States?"

"Yes," O'Malley replied, but before he could say more, the demonstrators in front of the stage shouted over him by reciting names of black women who have died in police custody. While they shouted, O'Malley stood in silence. At one point he turned to Oso on stage: "My people came here as immigrants from Ireland."

Below, dozens shouted several chants in unison.

"Black lives matter! Black lives matter!" they shouted toward O'Malley, and began a call-and-repeat rallying cry that activists have been using in the wake of the death of 28-year-old Sandra Bland, who died in police custody last week. "If I die in police in custody!" one of the chants went, "Burn everything down! That's the only way mother******* like you listen!"

Conference organizers begged them to allow O'Malley to respond.

"I think all of us as Americans have a responsibility to recognize the pain and the grief throughout our country from all of the lives that have been lost to violence, whether that's violence at the hands at the police or whether that's violence at the hands of civilians," O'Malley said, before being interrupted again.

"Don't generalize this s***!" one person shouted back.

O'Malley said he wanted to require police departments to report all police-involved shootings and brutality complaints and he called on departments to implement civilian review boards. He vowed to release a wide-ranging plan on criminal justice reform.

The demonstrators started shouting and booing again when O'Malley said: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

O'Malley later apologized for the remarks, telling This Week in Blackness, a digital news site, that he "meant no disrespect" to the black community.

"That was a mistake on my part and I meant no disrespect," O'Malley told the outlet. "I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

And when he stepped off stage, he chanted, "Black lives matter! Black lives matter!"

When Sanders approached the stage a moment later, the demonstrators continued. The candidate, a favorite of Netroots Nation, threatened to leave if they continued to interrupt him.

"Black lives, of course, matter. I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and for dignity," he said. "But if you don't want me to be here, that's OK. I don't want to outscream people."

Sanders proceeded to deliver his usual presidential stump speech over sporadic shouting from below.

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After talking over one another, Sanders eventually ditched pre-planned remarks and tried to address questions from demonstrators.

"Black people are dying in this country because we have a criminal justice system which is out of control, a system in which over 50% of young African-American kids are unemployed," Sanders said. "It is estimated that a black baby born today has a one in four chance of ending up in the criminal justice system."

When Sanders cited the Affordable Care Act as a law he supported that helped people of color by making health insurance more accessible, one man shouted, "we can't afford that!"

Before Sanders finished speaking, many of the protesters walked out on him toward exit doors in the back.

The spectacle was a far cry from what was expected of the forum. Sanders, who is running as a more liberal alternative to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, was one of the most highly anticipated speakers at the gathering. Hours before the event, excited supporters lined up to hear him speak, and some ran to secure seats close to the stage when organizers opened the doors.

Attendees who were not part of the rally said they supported the protesters' message, but debated how it was carried out.

Conference organizers issued a statement following the townhall.

"Our aim was to give presidential candidates a chance to respond to the issues facing the many diverse communities represented here," Netroots Nation spokeswoman Mary Rickles said. "Although we wish the candidates had more time to respond to the issues, what happened today is reflective of an urgent moment that America is facing today."

O'Malley, Sanders heckled by protestors during presidential forum // USA Today // Dan Nowicki – July 19, 2015

Civil-rights protesters gave Democratic presidential contenders Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley a raucous and tense reception Saturday in downtown Phoenix, disrupting and commandeering a forum that was billed as a conversation with the two progressive candidates.

Sanders, a left-leaning independent U.S. senator from Vermont, was visibly irritated at times during his shorter-than-expected appearance at the Netroots Nation gathering. He, in turn, angered the "Black Lives Matter" protesters by not immediately responding to them.

The hashtag #BlackLivesMatter is widely used on social media by activists and their allies.

"Black lives, of course, matter," Sanders said at one point. "... But if you don't want me to be here, that's O.K."

O'Malley, a former Maryland governor and Baltimore mayor whose record has come under fire in the wake of the civil unrest in the city, spoke first. He stood by silently on stage as the demonstrators took control of the

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proceedings.

"What side are you on, my people," the several dozen protesters chanted as they filed between tables to the front of the Phoenix Convention Center hall, where O'Malley and moderator Jose Antonio Vargas were talking.

During the event, O'Malley defended his Baltimore law-enforcement legacy.

"Far from bringing forward the mass arrest/mass incarceration policing that you talked about it, I actually made policing more responsive," O'Malley said. "We did a hundred reverse-integrity stings a year."

But O'Malley was later booed when he said: "Every life matters ... Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

The comments make it clear that Democratic candidates have work to do in understanding and addressing the movement for Black lives, according to Anna Galland, executive director of the liberal group MoveOn.org Civil Action.

"Saying that 'all lives matter' or 'white lives matter' immediately after saying 'Black lives matter' minimizes and draws attention away from the specific, distinct ways in which Black lives have been devalued by our society and in which Black people have been subject to state and other violence," Galland said.

O'Malley later apologized for the remarks during an interview with This Week in Blackness, a digital show.

"I meant no disrespect," O'Malley said. "...I did not mean to be insensitive in anyway or communicate that I did not understand the tremendous passion commitment, and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

"Senator Sanders told us to wait. ... That's what marginalized people have been told to do and nothing's happened," Bradley said after the event.

Tia Oso, a Phoenix resident with the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, said she helped organize the protest because Black-rights issues were not represented at the annual national gathering of political progressives this year. While events for Latino immigrants were integrated into the convention, black immigrants were ignored, she said.

"We had to do this," she said. "This is the most important progressive gathering."

In a black shirt with white letting that said "Black love," Oso climbed on stage with O'Malley to talk about racial inequality and law enforcement treatment of the Black population and to chide Netroots Nation's programming for not addressing Black immigration issues, such as the Black refugees in Arizona who had to seek asylum because of U.S. foreign policy.

"I feel like his response is very rooted in what he believed his track record was," she said of O'Malley. "He's very tone deaf to our community."

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While on-stage, Oso also hammered the Republican-controlled Arizona Legislature and recalled former GOP Gov. Evan Mecham's controversial repeal of the state's Martin Luther King holiday in the 1980s.

In a written statement, Netroots Nation said it "stands in solidarity with all people seeking human rights."

"Although we wish the candidates had more time to respond to the issues, what happened today is reflective of an urgent moment that America is facing today," the statement said. "In 2016, we're heading to St. Louis. We plan to work with activists there just as we did in Phoenix with local leaders, including the #BlackLivesMatter movement, to amplify issues like racial profiling and police brutality in a major way."

In the chaotic atmosphere, Sanders, who had many fans in the Netroots Nation audience, struggled to make his points about income inequality, the minimum wage and his other top issues.

For his part, O'Malley was kept on the defensive about police issues for most of his appearance. He said his criminal-justice plan will be forthcoming from his campaign.

"Specifically, I believe every police department in America should have to report, in an open and transparent and timely way all police-involved shootings, all discourtesy complaints and all brutality complaints," O'Malley said when the Q&A resumed after the interruption. "I believe that all departments should have civilian review boards. We implemented one, and it works. But they have to be staffed."

Hall Of Fame Wrap Up: Who Stood Out, Who Missed Out // Iowa Starting Line // Pay Rynard and Angela Ufheil – July 19, 2015

No need to bury the lede here: Hillary Clinton didn't win the Iowa Caucus with just one speech, but she came damn well close on Friday night. Her feisty, passionate barrage of policy issues, one-liners and hits on Republican candidates stood out amongst the crowd on an exciting night full of great moments. Clinton didn't only give one of the best speeches she's ever delivered, but one of the best Iowa Caucus speeches Starting Line has seen, rivaling (though not overtaking) John Kerry's 2003 Jefferson-Jackson Dinner speech and Barack Obama's one at that same event in 2007.

That's certainly not to say the other Democrats didn't turn in great performances as well. Martin O'Malley helped himself more than any other candidate Friday night with some powerful oratory of his own, positioning him as the progressive alternative with executive experience. Bernie Sanders demonstrated once again that he commands the most enthusiastic supporters of the field, and gave a classic stem-winder that brought many to their feet. Even Jim Webb, with a much lower-key approach, still improved upon his niche in the party.

Iowa Democrats were treated to an outstanding show from their candidates and Iowa leaders, gathered in Cedar Rapids at the annual Hall of Fame event to honor a number of activists and elected officials. This gathering was particularly informing on where Iowa caucus-goers feel about their 2016 candidates. It's still early enough in the cycle that many remain undecided and very few labor unions have endorsed, so the crowd's reactions weren't skewed by one or two campaigns bringing in swarms of supporters. Each campaign was given ten tables, all of which obviously cheered on their candidates loudly, but the rest of the room was fairly neutral.

Your Starting Line team roamed the pre- and post-events, talked with attendees, and sat back in press row to bring you all the angles of big night. Here's our analysis and summaries of the day's important moments:

The Pre-Events: Clinton Rally and Sign Wars

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Clinton held a pre-rally a few blocks away from the convention center before the main event started, and a thank-you session with a smaller group of staff and volunteers at a pizza place earlier in the day. About 250 came out to the pre-rally, some of which hadn't been able to get tickets to the Hall of Fame Dinner. That turnout seemed a bit low, and is something to keep an eye on. Although, if people attended some of these pre-events around 3:00 and then the dinner, they would have been committing a full seven hours of a day.

After what Iowa Starting Line has officially dubbed "The Great Sign Wars of 2007" (and 2003), we had high expectations for each candidate's cheering section outside this year's Hall of Fame dinner. Unfortunately, high expectations led to disappointment, as they so often do. Hillary Clinton's group numbered around 50 for most of the time, not exactly like the massive, intimidating presence the campaigns had in 2007.

A group of Martin O'Malley supporters got reinforced by members of the O'Malley Super PAC, Generation Forward, which is working to hire its own campaign team in Iowa. The Generation Forward volunteers stood across the street from O'Malley's volunteers, sometimes joining in the same chants. Which raises the humorous question – does joint chanting constitute coordination?

The most unexpected moment of the sign wars was not a moment at all, but an absence. Bernie Sanders' supporters have a reputation for rowdiness, but were nowhere to be seen outside the DoubleTree Convention Complex. A meet-and-greet with Sanders nearby pulled them away, apparently replacing a planned outside rally they had. We have to assume that they were not too upset at the opportunity to meet their candidate in an air-conditioned facility. Temperatures approached 100°F, and all Democrats participating in the sign wars ran a risk of melting. Perhaps, then, all can be forgiven for "The Great Sign Wars Let-Down of 2015."

The Convention Center

The Secret Service caused long lines for attendees, as they had to pass through metal detectors, but the event otherwise ran quite smoothly. The NextGen Climate team was the most visible presence in the hall of booths, with about 40 staff and volunteers by the entrance. With nearly every important Democratic activist and leader in town, the hall was filled with glad-handing Iowa candidates. Senate hopefuls Rob Hogg, Tom Fiegen and Bob Krause all had booths, as did announced 1st District candidates Monica Vernon and Gary Kroeger. Sadly, there were only two small bars in the event and no cocktail tables – Starting Line heard a number of attendees lament the long lines, saying, "We're a bunch of Democrats, we love to drink!"

The Room

Each campaign could fill up to ten tables with supporters, and seating arrangements had an impact on the energy in the room. Face the stage and look right to find Bernie's supporters; turn left to see Hillary volunteers. Watching each side of the room get fired up for their respective candidate was fun, but most interesting was the O'Malley table placements. The candidate trailing behind Hillary and Bernie had his volunteers at tables near the press, making them sound a lot louder to the journalists. Good strategy.

Finally, there was no missing the NextGen Climate folks, and not just because they showed up in bright orange t-shirts. NextGen had a cluster of tables near the center, and were perfectly willing to give any candidate who mentioned climate change a standing ovation.

The Iowa Speeches and Honorees

While the presidential candidates spoke later in the evening, the real reason for the dinner is to honor important Democratic activists and elected officials. The honorees this year were Pam Jochum, Kay Halloran, Bev Hannon, Penny Rosfjord, Melinda Jones, Kurt Meyer and Morgan Miller. Jochum spoke on her own behalf, though we wish everyone got to get up and say something (of course it would need to be strictly time-limited). While these are all

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well-known Democrats to the activist/insider crowd, there's still tons of attendees who haven't seen these folks before.

The night began with IDP Chair Andy McGuire bringing all five presidentials up on stage, with chants of "Bernie! Bernie!" already coming from the audience. McGuire gave a solid and well-received rally speech to get the Democrats fired up, with that day being the six-month anniversary of her election as party chair (we interviewed her about that here).

Both Dave Loebsack's and Jochum's speeches ran a little long, but the overall event only ran a mere 30 minutes past schedule. Democrats should be thankful. Starting Line has attended several Republican cattle call forums this year that have seriously lasted from six to eight hours.

The Presidential Candidate Speeches (in order of appearance)

Lincoln Chafee

Speech: Speaking before a crowd of 1,300 key Iowa Caucus activists, Chafee kept his speech to a simple six minutes of the fifteen allowed. He mostly touted his record of liberal votes, on addressing climate change, women's choice, LGBT rights, immigration reform, public education support and infrastructure funding. At times he seemed impressed at the applause he did get, smiling and looking around when the crowd clapped politely at some of his lines.

"We have a choice in 2016: prosperity through peace or endless war," Chafee said, thanking President Obama for the recent Iran deal. He stayed on the topic of foreign policy for a while, promoting diplomatic cooperation, and highlighted his resume on international affairs.

Analysis: Chafee missed a big opportunity here with a dull and short speech. About 99.5% of the Democrats in the room have never seen him in person before, and he didn't present either a memorable biography of himself or a vision for the country. If you're going to be an extreme long-shot running for President, one would figure you're running because you have something to say. Chafee didn't say much at all. And oddly, his constant recounting of liberal policies he's supported in the past seemed like a defense of his former Republican Party allegiance, but many people there probably weren't even aware of that. He was elected to the Senate and the Governor's office in Rhode Island, so he clearly has some political skills. They weren't on display Friday night. I mean, come on man, prepare a real speech next time.

Hillary Clinton

Speech: Clinton's speech targeted Republicans early and often, but she also added in near the beginning a story of speaking with her late mother, who struggled early in life. Clinton recounted how her mother instilled in her the passion for public service, a useful explanation that could help with those who doubt her motivation.

When Clinton brought up her section about paid family medical leave and jobs, she jokingly noted, "I know that when I talk about this, some people think, 'There she goes again, with the women's issues.' Well I'm not going to stop, so get ready for a long campaign." She went on to list off issues like paid sick leave, childcare help, the minimum wage, adding, "These are not women's issues, these are family issues and they are economic issues."

In one of the most well-received lines of the night of any candidate, Clinton ripped into Terry Branstad for the vetoes on the mental health facilities and education funding. "So tonight I'm adding my voice to yours: Governor Branstad, put down your veto pen," she said, bringing a long-lasting standing ovation to the room.

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Most of the final six minutes of her speech was a rapid-fire, non-stop applause line bonanza, bringing the crowd to their feet a number of times.

"We're not going back to denying climate change – if you ask most of these Republican candidates about that they'll say, 'Sorry, I'm not a scientist,'" Clinton shouted near the end. "Well then why don't they start listening to those that are scientists? Look, I'm not a scientist either, I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I'm not going to let them take us backwards!"

She finished with a forceful crescendo, saying, "I am running for anyone who's ever been knocked down, but refused to be knocked out, I'm running for you, we're going to build an America where we don't leave anyone out or anyone behind!"

Analysis: For whatever reason, at past major multi-candidate gatherings in 2007/2008, Clinton often struck the wrong tone of what Iowa caucus-goers were looking for. These types of events have been a real weakness for Clinton before. Not Friday night. Gone were the too-cutesy lines that often fell flat outside the most ardent supporters, the touchy-feely cadence meant to "humanize" her that just comes off weird, and the tone-deaf jokes like "I'm baaack!"

Instead Clinton was energized, punchy and a little bit chippy. She cracked a few jokes, but quickly turned serious again in the next sentence. She sounded strong and confident. Most of all, she looked and sounded authentic. It seemed like she was finally enjoying herself while campaigning.

A number of news outlets labeled the Hall of Fame room a "Hillary crowd," probably thinking a fundraiser had more "establishment" Democrats that would be predispositioned to her. But that simply wasn't the case. If you watched the crowd closely, when Clinton was introduced she got her big cheers from her section of tables, but the rest of the room gave typical, polite applause (much as happened for every candidate). It wasn't until really the last six minutes of her speech that the room erupted in excitement and sustained standing ovations, and it was most definitely earned, not already present.

Reaction:

"She was very moving – everything she said made me want to get shit done," said Tiffany Hach, who still noted she's currently supporting Sanders. "She was very good at striking a chord, hitting the heart strings."

"I love her passion and her tenacity – she's so inspiring, she knows how to get you fired up," said Cassie Yost. "What resonated with me was talking about the wage gap. I work forty plus hours at three jobs trying to pay my rent and my bills. I'm already in student debt as a nontraditional student, trying to earn my degree to get a better job. So having someone who can fight for us and has been fighting to get into this office for years, I love that. That determination to keep fighting for America, even though you get knocked down, you get back up again. She's phenomenal."

Martin O'Malley

Speech: Hillary Clinton's speech brought down the house, and Martin O'Malley had a tough act to follow. But O'Malley was impressive in his own right. He highlighted his executive experience as the governor of Maryland, where his administration raised the minimum wage, froze college tuition for four years, and expanded family leave.

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O'Malley also highlighted his advocacy in Maryland for driver's licenses for new American immigrants, marriage equality, and a ban on assault weapons. "And we didn't just talk about it, we actually got it done," O'Malley said to audience applause.

O'Malley also got big applause for his criticism of Wall Street executives' role in the 2008 recession. "What have we come to as a nation that you can get pulled over for a broken taillight, but if you break the nation's economy, you're untouchable?" O'Malley said.

The middle class makes the economy strong, he noted, and many in the crowd were impressed by his desire to fight for the working class. They were especially excited when he condemned Branstad's recent education veto, a move that shows how well O'Malley knew his audience.

Also impressive is O'Malley's extensive energy platform, which certainly gave NextGen something to cheer for. "I am the first candidate, but let's hope I am not the last, to call for moving America forward by 2050 to a 100 percent clean-powered electric grid," O'Malley said.

Analysis:

For those wary of Clinton and concerned about Sanders' electability, O'Malley made himself their candidate on Friday night. His speech started out slow, but became very forceful and eloquent near the end, eliciting some of the most widely participated in standing ovations of the night. O'Malley does very well at these major speaking events, a gifted speaker armed with well-structured speeches. He certainly gained the most of anyone at this event, and should pick up a number of new activists and endorsers with his performance. Most importantly, his appeal seemed to reach broadly across the room and didn't appear to turn anyone off. He's positioned himself as part of the top three candidates, a legitimate option that should begin to pick up steam.

Reaction:

"I like his executive background, that he's actually been a governor and a mayor, and I think that's really important in a president," said Margaret Appleby. "I think he did a wonderful job."

"He has a record of being able to work with Republicans, and enact legislation, really good legislation that works for working class families," said Sharon Holle. "I thought he gave a really good speech. He touched on all the major issues."

Bernie's Speech

Speech: "Preach!" shouted a Bernie-backer in the Sanders corner of the room, and boy, did he ever.

The "Bernie" chants started the moment O'Malley wrapped up his speech, before the Vermont senator was even announced. The craziness didn't stop there. In typical "Feel the Bern" fashion, Bernie supporters whooped and hollered during the speech; a few even pounded on tables in support of Sanders.

Sanders, like the candidates before him, was game to criticize the Republican party and their emphasis on family values. "Their family values say that a woman does not have a right to control her body. I disagree," Sanders said to applause. "They say women should not be able to get the contraceptives she needs. I disagree. They say that our brothers and sisters who are gay should not be able to enjoy the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples enjoy. We disagree."

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Democratic family values are based on love and compassion, not hatred, Sanders said. “Our family values say that when a woman has a baby, she should get twelve weeks of family and medical aid,” Sanders said.

Bernie also launched his usual attacks on the billionaires who have in his eyes bought elections with Super PACs. He condemned the Koch brothers for spending more money on elections than the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. He further pledged to only nominate Supreme Court justices that would vote to overturn Citizens United, the Supreme Court decision that he said is “moving this country towards and oligarchic form of society.”

Bernie ended his speech with a declaration that stirred the passions of everyone in the room, not just his devotees. “Think big,” Sanders said as the crowd rose in a standing ovation. “Think about a future where our kids get the best education in the world, where women’s rights are protected. That is the America we can become if we stand together.”

Analysis: It’s not like it needed confirmation, but Friday night demonstrated loud and clear that Bernie Sanders has the most enthusiastic supporters of anyone in the Democratic Party. Overall, Bernie followed his usual script. While both Hillary and O’Malley seemed to tailor their speech for the Hall of Fame event, Bernie stuck to his usual call for a political revolution, albeit in a voice slightly more hoarse than usual (he’s been speaking a lot lately). People like his “Bernie persona,” and it’s gotten him far to this point, so straying from it would have been risky.

But Sanders may need to consider what his best approach is for the nomination. His attack on the TPP trade deal didn’t get the overwhelming reaction from the entire room that it does at his own events. His corner of the room cheered wildly, but again, if you watched the crowd very closely, it wasn’t like the response to Clinton and O’Malley. He got considerable applause from the full room, but not the same type of standing ovations. Sanders gave a very dramatic and, at times, angry speech – it appealed to people already with him, but it may not have picked up many new supporters.

Reaction:

“I like how progressive he is,” Payton Kears said. “He’s got a long record of that. I remember reading about him in the 70s, supporting marriage equality.”

“I think that Bernie is the candidate that everyone always says they want to vote for,” said Adam Schantz, who noted that Sanders has had to increase space in a Texas venue because so many people want to hear him speak. “It’s very interesting to see the overwhelming response that he’s getting, and it will be very interesting to see if people can actually follow through.”

Jim Webb

Speech: Webb began his turn at the lectern highlighting his past work on veterans issues, and asked the veterans in the room to stand up to be recognized. His speech was policy-heavy, but he still subtly dropped in some fun personality references that warmed the crowd to him, noting he’s likely the only former Virginia elected official “with a union card, two Purple Hearts and three tattoos.”

“We see so much demonizing of organized labor these days,” Webb said in a very well-received line, one of the few non-foreign policy topics he hit upon. “Organized labor is not the enemy – it is the friend of working people.”

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The most notable policy difference Webb mentioned was that he doesn't support the new Iran deal. "I would never accept directly or indirectly Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons," Webb said, getting mostly silence from the crowd for breaking with the Democratic president. It probably, however, helped his authenticity to tell such a liberal crowd something they didn't want to hear.

Analysis: Some will likely think Webb failed to impress at the Hall of Fame Dinner with the lower-key speech, but that may not actually be the case. There really is a set of activists who like Webb's approach. Not everyone gets swept up in the fancy rhetoric and applause lines. Many listen for specific policies – and on that front, Webb did deliver.

So Webb certainly did help himself with his speech. It wasn't one that's going to see him gain much in the polls, but it should help recruit a base of support, even if it's a small one. That's still important and needed for Webb to remain in any real conversations. And that's still much better than Chafee, who likely didn't pick up anything.

However, like Chafee, he alluded to potential foreign policy criticisms of Clinton, but didn't specifically mention her and failed to land a solid hit. If these folks really want to have that debate, they need to do it, not make vague critiques that don't have a more forceful impact.

Reaction:

"He's really, really good on policy," offered Joe Stutler. "Probably not the most enthusiastic speech, but then it's hard to follow Bernie. But, Webb's on message. And being a veteran myself, props to anybody who's got a Purple Heart."

"You can tell the conventionally top runners have maybe been out on the stump a little more," commented Linda Santi. "Having said that, Jim Webb had substance and he too did a great job. A little less fire in his belly, and he seemed to have the legislative perspective."

"I thought he did a good job," said Carol Dillard. "I felt like his was a male point of view, a military point of view, and that's not my point of view."

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Poll: Bush has edge over Rubio among Miami Cuban voters **// Politico // Marc Caputo – July 19, 2015**

In their home county in Florida, Jeb Bush is beating Marco Rubio by double digits among GOP voters and even among those who are most like the freshman senator: Cuban-American Republicans, a new poll shows.

Bush's "shocking" 43-31 percent lead among Cuban-American Republicans is "real serious problem" for Rubio because it indicates the son of Cuban immigrants will have broader problems in Florida in the March 15 GOP primary, pollster Fernand Amandi with Bendixen & Amandi, told POLITICO. His firm conducted the Miami-Dade

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poll for The Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald.

“Jeb is an honorary Cuban but Marco Rubio would be the first actual Cuban-American president. So how is the Cuban community not supporting him en masse?” Amandi asked, before answering his question: “Marco Rubio hasn’t made a persuasive case to his own community that he can win. And if he can’t make that case here, he can’t win Florida if the trend holds.”

Bush’s 12-percentage point lead among Cuban-American Republicans is driving his overall 10 percentage-point lead (35-25 percent) among Miami-Dade County’s GOP over Rubio, where 73 percent of the party’s registered voters are Hispanic, nearly all of them of Cuban-American descent.

Miami-Dade, the only county in America to produce two top-tier Republican presidential candidates, is crucial to winning Florida. Of the state’s 67 counties, Miami-Dade is the most populous and has more Republicans than any other in the state, which has a closed primary where Democrats and independents can’t vote. In 2012, Miami-Dade accounted for more presidential-preference primary votes than any other in the state, 7 percent.

Bush in the early 1980s helped turn Miami-Dade’s Republican Party into a regional powerhouse and then helped do the same for the state GOP as governor from 1999 to 2007. The bilingual Bush’s efforts — and his support for the Cuban embargo and Cuban-exile politics — made him a favored local political figure for decades. Only Rubio rivaled Bush’s status as a favored local son as he climbed the political rungs of power to become Florida House speaker in 2007-2008 and, in 2010, a sitting U.S. senator.

To make sure Rubio didn’t eclipse him at home, Bush made sure his announcement for president in June had a local, Latino flavor that played far more to the Cuban-American base in the county than Rubio’s announcement. Bush also has a larger stable of longtime community figures backing him, such as Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart.

Diaz-Balart’s brother, former Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart is a longtime figure in Cuban-exile politics and supports Bush as does Mel Martinez, Florida’s first Cuban-American senator.

The poll by Bendixen & Amandi, which often surveys for Democrats, is the first publicly released survey to test the two men on the same GOP ballot. Because the race is early and because the sample size is relatively small, 250 registered Republicans, the survey is an early window into the race, not the final or most exhaustive poll that has or will be done. Of all the other candidates in the GOP race, Cuban-American Ted Cruz, from Texas, came in a distant third, earning 7 percent of the vote along with undecided. The margin of error is plus/minus 7 points.

While some have said support for Rubio and Bush in Florida and Miami-Dade reflects a generational divide, even young Cuban-Americans Republicans back Bush. Diana Arteaga, a 30-year-old voter and member of the county’s Young Republicans club said Bush’s support can be summed up in a word: “Gratitude.”

“Dade Republicans and Cuban Americans have known Jeb for a very long time. He has been embraced by our community and genuinely cares about issues that are important to us,” Arteaga said in an email to POLITICO. “He has been our advocate both in and out of office. Jeb is familia.”

And some older establishment Republicans also support Rubio, including the three brothers of the Diaz de la Portilla family. One is a state senator, the other used to hold that seat, and a third is a former school board member.

Former state Sen. Alex Diaz de la Portilla told POLITICO that he doesn’t consider Bush “an honorary Cuban” and added: “The days of a candidate yelling Viva Cuba Libre and then not doing anything about it are long gone.”

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Diaz de la Potilla said he could see some members of the community supporting Bush over Rubio because some might think "Marco is too young and will have another chance." But he added, "I don't think people should vote for someone because it's their last chance, and they feel sorry for him. They should vote based on who would make the best nominee and have the best shot at beating Clinton, and Marco is clearly that choice. He brings us the future and not the past."

Rubio backers say the poll results are not unexpected and say it's just a clarion call for Rubio to make the case that he's the best choice for the party. But older Cuban-Americans, the base of the Republican Party in the county, seem to deeply appreciate Bush.

"He's the only one who's going to be strong, who's going to calm things down a bit, because there's a lot of crime in this country," Dora Lorenzo, 81, told The Miami Herald. Of Rubio, she said, "of course, I like him too. But I think he's too much of a youngster."

In looking at the numbers, Amandi said Rubio's big task is to take a page from Barack Obama's successful 2008 campaign in which, at the beginning, he wasn't even backed by many African-American figures because they didn't think he could win.

"This is Miami-Dade's version of Obama v. Hillary," Amandi said. "The question we all are asking is: Will the result be the same?"

How Jeb Tackled the Cocaine Cartels **// The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff and Alexa Corse – July 19, 2015**

It was an October day in Miami, 1985, and Leonel Martinez didn't want to die.

Margarita Escobar—a Colombian woman known as La Doctora and rumored to be a distant relative of Pablo Escobar—had paid Martinez, a construction magnate, a hefty sum to move 12 duffel bags of cocaine from The Bahamas to Miami on his luxury yacht. The load got intercepted en route, though, and La Doctora wanted her money back. But Martinez didn't have it.

So she called him up and said she would be visiting his office. Martinez did the natural thing: He bought a Cadillac limousine, sent it to pick up her and her bodyguard at the airport—in an effort to project wealth he didn't quite have—and welcomed her to his office.

She demanded he produce the cash. He didn't have it, and he offered her 10 condominiums instead. But that wasn't good enough. Give her the money, she said, or she'd kill him.

"You can kill me, or you can wait," he replied.

She decided to wait, and she flew back to Colombia. Then Martinez got to work rustling up the thousands he owed her.

Overlooking that conversation was a wall plastered with pictures of Martinez glad-handing some of South Florida's most powerful political luminaries. That's because the drug trafficker—according to a retired DEA agent and a retired Metro Dade police officer who worked to hunt him down—had a knack for creating the illusion of intimacy with elected officials.

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A few of those officials had the last name Bush.

But those donations didn't get him much.

In fact, as governor, Jeb Bush became a favorite of drug warriors. He mirrored his father's tough-on-drugs tactics in Florida, won the loyalty of cops and DEA agents, and showed the limits of money in politics.

When Jeb arrived in South Florida after the 1980 presidential campaign, it was a crazy time.

The use of drug money in politics was commonplace.

In fact, his dad's presidential campaign and the Jeb-helmed Dade County Republican Party both took contributions from Martinez, and faced minimal political repercussions when Martinez's true career was revealed.

Eduardo Gamarra, a professor in Florida International University's department of politics and international relations, said at that time Southern Florida was so saturated with cocaine-tainted cash that it would have been odd if none of it could get traced to Jeb.

"That's just the way things were in the 1980s," he said.

Gamarra added that grip-and-grin photos with drug dealers didn't immediately mean the politician was in league with them. Even then-state attorney Janet Reno appeared in a photo with Martinez when he was being investigated for bribery.

Martinez moved from Cuba to Miami when Castro rose to power, and he proceeded to build a successful construction business—with a lucrative marijuana- and cocaine-trafficking business on the side.

He also made a number of contributions to the Dade County Republican Party when young Jeb Bush chaired it, as Jack Colhoun detailed in an essay in the anthology Covert Action: The Roots of Terrorism. Martinez won respect in Republican circles and, according to his former defense attorney Ron Dresnick, even managed to snag a photo with Jeb. It was never released.

This came at a time when Jeb was laying some of the groundwork for the GOP's eventual and total takeover of state-level politics there. In 1984, Politico wrote, 4,000 Democrats became Republicans and 74 percent of Hispanics to join the voter rolls that year registered with the GOP.

That success ballooned, and Bush carried Miami-Dade in both of his successful gubernatorial campaigns. His impact in the Sunshine State is hard to overstate.

And a tiny little statistically insignificant sliver of it was thanks to coke money.

By 1989, Martinez was unmasked as a narcotrafficker. The Miami Herald reported that he had promised to give a

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covert Drug Enforcement Administration informant a dump truck worth $80,000 and five lots worth $120,000 in exchange for 300 kilograms of cocaine. The Herald also noted that, in a government affidavit, between 1981 and 1989 Martinez and his team endeavored to move hundreds of pounds of marijuana and "multi-hundred kilogram shipments of cocaine" into Southern Florida. As one does.

The Martinez case was representative of a South Florida cocaine problem of cartoonish proportions—a culture where Jeb's political ambitions first began to flourish.

"It was a nuthouse," recalled Tom Raffanello, a former Special Agent in Charge of the DEA's Miami Field Division, who had that position for three years of Jeb's governorship there. "We averaged two drug-related shootings a month for almost two years. Everybody had a gun. Everybody was pissed off all the time."

Tony Kost, a retired Metro-Dade Police Department detective who worked to apprehend Martinez, Dominic Albanese (a retired DEA agent who worked on the investigation), and Raffanello all praised Jeb's work to continue the prosecution of the Drug War that started when his father, George H.W. Bush, was vice president for Ronald Reagan.

It's an interesting story of the failure of money in politics; though Martinez managed to donate his way into the good graces of South Florida Republicans, some of his favorite politicians ended up being the most dogged foes of his industry.

Albanese said that Jeb Bush's support of the War on Drugs—despite inadvertently appearing in a photo with a powerful drug trafficker—speaks to his integrity.

"I can't say enough good things about what the Bushes did for the anti-drug department, I'm telling you now," he added. "I know where we would have been if it wasn't for them. We'd be in deep kimchi right now, I'm telling you, with the drug problems."

Jeb Bush appointed the state's first drug czar, Jim McDonough, just a month after he assumed office. McDonough's responsibilities included coordinating statewide efforts to curtail the import and distribution of narcotics. Bush prioritized streamlining the communications between different agencies and governments—local, state, and federal—to make anti-drug efforts more efficient.

Gamarra, a Democrat, also said taking Martinez's cocaine cash shouldn't taint the Bush family's anti-drug legacy.

"It's kind of popular to go around saying we've lost the drug war," he said, "but South Florida really demonstrates how they built up the correct kind of legislation—financial controls and so on."

"You're not going to find an airplane flying into the Everglades dumping cocaine," he added. "Miami has drug problems today but this is not the 1980s by any stretch of the imagination."

Gamarra described Bush and his team as "the best drug warriors in town."

"Just like today everybody has to be a badass when it comes to fighting terrorists, the '80s and '90s were really the same," he continued. "You had to demonstrate that you were a drug warrior, that you were in favor of all the extreme kind of measures to stop drugs coming into the United States."

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Data from the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that total violent crime grew at a slower rate than Florida's overall population during Bush's governorship.

While the population grew steadily, from 15.1 million people in 1999 to 18.3 million in 2007, the number of violent crimes committed in the state ebbed and flowed. In 1999, there were 129,044 total violent offenses. That number dipped to a low of 123,754 in 2004. And it grew to 129,602 in 2006, his last full year as governor.

That violent crime didn't grow at the same rate as the population seems to corroborate the anecdotal evidence from South Florida's top drug warriors—that, with time, the state became less bloody.

Raffanello said Bush's efforts to improve communication between local sheriffs, the DEA, and other law enforcement arms were particularly fruitful.

As governor, he and his wife, Columba, participated in yearly Tallahassee summits that brought together the state's drug warriors for networking, planning, and coordination. Raffanello said the impact of those meetings—and the impact of the governor's involvement with them—made statewide enforcement efforts more organized and effective.

"I thought he really gave a shit," Raffanello said. "It's refreshing to see a politician care about an issue."

So his efforts seem to have made Florida less violent and crazy, but Gamarra said the overall outcome was mixed. While drug-related violence went down, there weren't great results as far as overall drug use.

"The objective of all of this stuff was to stop the flow of drugs into the United States," he said. "And we have just as many drugs coming into the United States today as we did in 1985. And the price is cheaper and quality of the drugs is better."

Still, Raffanello said Jeb's greatest impact was the shift of drug violence from the Sunshine State to the U.S.-Mexico border, saying the violence in Florida decreased "exponentially."

"We probably had three of the most successful years we had in the last two decades," he said.

Jeb Bush Wants to Share **// Real Clear Politics // Debra Saunders – July 19, 2015**

The most recent time I had seen Jeb Bush speak in San Francisco was in January, he addressed the National Automobile Dealers Association. It is hard to imagine a group more invested in the old-school economy. It was a friendly crowd. The former Florida governor seemed comfortable -- and boring. I left feeling as if I'd spent an hour listening to a human BarcaLounger.

The Jeb Bush I saw Thursday morning was a different candidate. He had shed some 30 pounds on the Paleo Diet. His campaign had pulled the dynasty name from the campaign logo and added an exclamation point. Now he's "Jeb!" In this trip to San Fran, Bush ventured away from the stolid GOP base to address the young workforce of Thumbtack, a 6-year-old digital service that links consumers to painters, DJs, dog walkers and other contractors. Bush arrived in a Toyota Camry ordered via Uber -- the ride-hailing company that runs roughshod over the single-occupant vehicle model dear to car dealers.

It's hard to think of a clearer contrast to Hillary Clinton. In 2014, she told NADA, "The last time I actually drove a

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car myself was 1996." The former first lady, who has Secret Service protection for life, has no reason to use Uber.

In a recent speech, the former secretary of state took Uber to task -- without, and this is so Clinton-like, naming Uber. She said: "Many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing websites, selling products they design themselves at home or even driving their own car. This on-demand, or so-called gig, economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation. But it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future."

According to The New York Times, Team Hillary "diplomatically contacted top officials at Uber to let them know about the passage in her speech that would draw attention to the service, according to people told of the conversations." That passage probably was: "I'll crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages."

Clinton clearly is on the side of politicians who want to cripple ride-hailing startups that allow individuals to drive their cars at their own discretion. These outfits truly reflect market demand. If consumers don't like a service, they won't use it. If drivers don't like the terms, they will stop offering rides. Competition improves the outcome -- but Clinton wants to impose more regulation.

In contrast, the son and brother of former presidents embraced the benefits of "disrupting the old order." Bush started the day extolling businesses such as Thumbtack on a LinkedIn post. "I love learning about these kinds of companies precisely because before they existed, their market didn't exist either," he wrote. Startups, he added, "cause mental dissonance for people who think they can plan the future of the economy from Washington D.C. -- people like Hillary Clinton."

"He's got a good grasp of the way tech is changing the workforce," Thumbtack economist Jon Lieber told me after the talk.

2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney extolled "creative destruction" as an essential element of free enterprise. He was right, but those words mean nothing to kids used to summoning wheels with their phones. They just know what they want. Perhaps 2016 will be the year capitalism finally clicks for millennial voters.

If so, Bush is ready. When a reporter asked him about Uber, Bush talked about a college student he met who graduated without crippling debt -- because he drove for Uber. A Thumbtacker asked Bush about Obamacare. He turned "repealing Obamacare" into an act of disruption that would free consumers to "opt out of these old models."

When a Thumbtack worker asked Bush what he thinks of new FCC net neutrality regulation dear to the South of Market crowd, Bush did not pander. He answered, "The unintended consequence of these top-down proven rules is always negative."

Unlike the man I saw in January, I think, I maybe could vote for this Jeb Bush. CEO Marco Zappacosta, 30, seemed to be enjoying Thumbtack's first presidential hopeful meet-and-greet, so I asked him: Would you vote for Bush? Zappacosta answered, "I don't know."

It's not clear at all that feeling the love for the sharing economy can win Bush young voters. During the Thumbtack town hall, no one asked Bush about Uber or Clinton or niggling regulations. Other than the net neutrality query, Thumbtackers asked about equal pay for women, about gun control, whether Bush supports state laws to protect gays from discrimination in housing and the workplace -- social issues where, as with net neutrality, young voters like government regulation. And really, they're not all that impressed when a Republican uses Uber.

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Jeb Bush consultant critiques Republican digital culture **// Yahoo News // Jon Ward – July 19, 2015**

SAN FRANCISCO – A top digital consultant to Jeb Bush's presidential campaign had harsh words for Republican technologists on Saturday, saying that many of them are "impostors" and that the GOP has until recently been an "atrociously bad" place for tech-savvy people wanting to get involved in politics.

The Republican Party "was a terrible place for a smart technologist to come work," Andy Barkett, a former Facebook engineer, said at a conference on technology and politics hosted by Lincoln Labs, a conservative nonprofit group.

Barkett, who was hired by the Republican National Committee as its chief technology officer two years ago, made reference to his time at the RNC, which did not go smoothly.

"I mean, it was a terrible place for me when I started. It was horrible. It was, like, the worst experience of my life," Barkett said of his entry into Republican politics after spending more than a decade at Silicon Valley companies, where he moved into angel investing on the side. "It was just, like, atrociously bad."

Barkett was brought in after the RNC conducted an "autopsy" on the 2012 election that concluded they lagged far behind the Democrats in using technology to target voters for persuasion and turnout.

But Barkett said that Republican digital culture "is getting better, and now for the first time since I've been involved in it over the last few years, you can take a smart person and plug them in and they can be really effective and make a difference."

And yet, Barkett, 34, said that too many people in Republican politics, and political culture in general, still are too ignorant of basic technology.

"There's a whole bunch of people in politics who say a lot of words, all the buzzwords that we talked about, and they say, 'I want more analytics.' None of them have any idea what any of those things mean," he said, seated on a stage during a panel discussion alongside digital operatives working for the presidential campaigns of Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"They have no idea what the difference is between building an infrastructure of servers that know how to send e-mails to having an e-mail list or the difference between the records in the voter file and the analytics that you do in addition to those," he said.

Barkett urged people in politics doing tech-related work to "get over the impostor syndrome and learn what the ef you are talking about."

"Be honest with yourself — you're probably a political person, and you probably don't know what the ef you're taking about. And the first thing you should do is probably dig in and learn. In the short run it will hurt you, because you will be exposed as a fraud," he said. "You people will learn that you don't know these things yet. And in the long run it will help you, because you will then be one of the 1 percent of people in politics who do know what they're talking about."

"I wouldn't say all 200 of them are complete phonies. I would say that a lot of them are good at one thing or

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another. So a lot of them may be very good at online fundraising, which is a thing, which is important, or they may be very good at online advertising in a political context, which is a thing that's important," Barkett said. "There's not a lot of people who are genuinely well-rounded technology leaders. It's a pretty small percentage of that number."

Ralston Reports: Jeb Bush pandering to nativist wing // Reno Gazette-Journal // Jon Ralston – July 19, 2015

As he strives to become Bush 45, Jeb brought his "I'm the grown-up" campaign to Carson City on Friday, leaving behind an exclamation point on why being an infantile Trumpian is so much easier.

Bush spent an hour at a town hall amid 200 or so attendees at the Silver State Charter School in the capital, looking relaxed and facing nary a hostile query after a boilerplate presentation. He checked off all the boxes, with hoary anti-D.C. and anti-Obama rhetoric, albeit wrapped in kindler and gentler language Bush 41 would have appreciated, while also showing a facility and depth on issues not often seen at such events. And he went after the administration's Iran deal with a bellicosity that Bush 43 would have smiled about, carefully adding he does not question the president's motives.

But even as he projected an amiable seriousness and subtly emphasized he's not like the other guys, he couldn't help but reveal himself as man with a difficult needle to thread to get to the nomination: Pose as the adult in the room but occasionally be willing to be a child in the sandbox.

Nowhere was that duality more evident than on the issue of illegal immigration, where Bush clearly has switched his position on a path to citizenship and only because he is now running in a Republican primary for president.

Just two years ago, Bush told Charlie Rose he supported illegal immigrants becoming citizens: "You have to deal with this issue. You can't ignore it, and so either a path to citizenship, which I would support — and that does put me probably out of the mainstream of most conservatives — or... a path... to residency of some kind."

But this year, he has taken that off the table now that he is competing against Ted Cruz and The Donald and others pandering to the nativist wing. Why?

Give Bush credit for honesty when he explained why 10 days ago: "It has changed because the climate has changed, and this is the consensus view that allows conservatives to get in the game," he told Fox News.

I came (to run). I saw (the political landscape). I conquered (my consistency.)

I pressed Bush on the issue after his town hall, in which he talked thoughtfully and deliberately about the issue, disdaining harsh rhetoric ("Self-deportation is not a plan; it's a sentiment") but stopping short of supporting citizenship, leaving it at "legal status" after paying a fine, going to the back of the line and learning English.

He almost seemed peremptory during our exchange, reminding me, for some reason, of former Democratic Rep. Jim Santini in 1986, suddenly uncomfortable in his skin as a Republican-of-convenience running (unsuccessfully) for the U.S. Senate.

"Legal status: That's my consistent view," Bush told me. Well...

What about a path to citizenship, which he backed just two years ago?

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"Given the environment we're in now, given the need to build consensus on how we craft an immigration policy that allows us to grow is the right one," Bush replied.

Really? THAT's the reason to change your view? The political environment? Speak softly but pander with a loud voice?

Wouldn't that kind of policy include citizenship?

"No! Legal status!" Bush all but snapped and then turned away.

Will that be enough to cut into what a recent Univision poll showed was a 42-point gap between Bush and Hillary Clinton in Nevada, and enough to help him win Florida and Colorado, for instance? If he is relegating illegal immigrants to non-citizen status, is he then not agreeing with those "angrier voices" (hello, Trump) he decried, almost in sotto voce?

Maybe.

"There are people that are preying on people's legitimate fears and anger," Bush lamented at one point. "What I don't get is why people aspiring to the greatest office in the land are preying on their fears, preying on their anger. That I don't understand."

But isn't Bush responding to those same fears and exploiting them by suddenly taking a path to citizenship off the table? Is it less damaging than Trump's manifest idiocy or Cruz's inflammatory statements?

There's a pretty simple algorithm for presidential candidate visits to key states: They don't want to make news unless they have decided to make news, and then only the news they want to make.

Bush generally met that test, making sure he took oblique shots at Trump and Scott Walker, who repeated in a Las Vegas stop last week that he would reverse the Iran agreement on Day One. Bush tried to finesse that one too, albeit taking a serpentine path.

Bush said he wouldn't have talked to Iran, hated the deal but hadn't read it and would not simply abolish it without consulting allies and his national security apparatus. "If you're running for president, it's important to be mature and thoughtful about this," Bush said.

Or at least be mature and thoughtful after you've immediately attacked the president.

To his credit, Bush showed spine in criticizing Cliven Bundy ("He is breaking the law... and the law ought to be enforced.") and standing up for Common Core even though he wouldn't call it Common Core ("I'm for higher standards... it should be a national priority, not a federal program.")

And Bush clearly is frustrated, even exasperated with the Trump phenomenon, cutting off a CNN reporter who started to ask about something the Mouth that Boored said and exclaimed, "Oh my God!" He speaks for many.

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The question remains whether all of Bush's money can buy him enough love in a GOP primary to defeat those who are speaking with much more strident voices on immigration, Iran and pretty much everything else, so long as he projects gravitas while subtly pandering, too.

Sometimes, even in a room full of adults, the child wailing the loudest gets the most affection.

Leaner, meaner: Jeb Bush starts his climb // Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – July 19, 2015

Monday marks the first in a series of speeches by Jeb Bush "that will outline what his priorities will be as president, beginning with taking on Mount Washington and reforming the way D.C. works" — this according to his campaign. The inaugural speech itself is titled "Taking on Mount Washington," in fact.

While it is an interesting metaphor, the tone and tenor of it also could mark a change in demeanor for Mr. Bush which could help him fend off critics who frame his campaign as inconsequential or tepid. Indeed, the candidate appears to be evolving on the campaign trail. The leaner Mr. Bush has dropped 30 pounds, raised more money than his rivals, and ramped up his public presence; he was in four states last week, with more of same in the near future.

He's recently shown his compassionate conservative style and big tent thinking: "Rhetoric of divisiveness is wrong. A Republican will never win by striking fear into people's hearts. I campaign with my arms open. I campaign embracing diversity. Come join us, come join the team that is creating hope and opportunity," a cheerful and energetic Mr. Bush recently told an audience in Iowa.

But he now appears ready to rumble, and ready to release his inner Bush, or words to that effect. His "Mount Washington" speech, to be delivered at Florida State University in Tallahassee at 10 a.m. Monday, could prove a clear challenge to big government and stifling regulations — always popular with a wide swath of voters. And yes, C-SPAN will be there, often an indicator that some substance is expected.

"Is Trump's campaign effectively over?" asks Townhall political reporter Daniel Doherty. "Trump campaign implodes," declares a New York Post headline. Some wish it was true, perhaps; at least seven of Donald Trump's fellow Republican hopefuls strongly disagree with the billionaire's recent comment that Sen. John McCain was "only a hero because he was captured" during his deployment to Vietnam in 1967. Those critics included Sens. Lindsey Graham, Marco Rubio and Rand Paul, Govs. Scott Walker and Bobby Jindal, former Govs. Rick Perry and Jeb Bush, former Sen. Rick Santorum and businesswoman Carly Fiorina.

So. Is Mr. Trump's campaign over? "Depends on who you talk to," Mr. Doherty advises.

It also depends on the shelf life of the comment; even controversial remarks can lose their edge in the welter of incessant, incoming news coverage. Mr. Trump also appears to have moved on, telling ABC News on Sunday that he owes Mr. McCain no apology. But tenacious rivals may not be ready to let it go just yet, particularly since Mr. Trump has led multiple voter polls in recent days.

"Republicans begin to surround Trump before moving in for the kill," writes Tim Hain, an analyst for Real Clear Politics.

Well, maybe. But Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer has released a statement: "Senator McCain is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period. There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably."

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RUBIO

Marco Rubio: Trump insulted McCain and 'all POWs' **// Politico // Kevin Robillard – July 19, 2015**

Republicans continued to gang up on Donald Trump on Sunday for his comments disparaging Sen. John McCain's military service.

"I do," Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said on CNN's "State of the Union" when asked if he believed Trump's comments disqualified the bombastic billionaire real estate developer and entertainer from serving as commander in chief. "This is an insult to all POWs, all men and women who have served us in uniform and have been captured."

Rubio also defended Republicans from charges they should have spoken out more forcefully when Trump insulted Mexican immigrants. (Rubio was among the GOP presidential rivals who did speak out early against Trump's comments.)

"This is a man who spent his whole life saying outrageous things," Rubio said. "So, early in this campaign when he said something outrageous, people kind of said 'Just ignore it and move on. This is what he does.' But I think now as things have gone forward and he's become more of a covered candidate and people have paid more attention to him, it requires people to be more forceful about some of these offensive things that he is saying."

Trump ignited the firestorm on Saturday at a gathering of GOP presidential candidates in Iowa, declaring of the Republican senator from Arizona was "not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

The comments were immediately and widely condemned by many GOP presidential candidates, including former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who almost immediately called for Trump to drop out of the race. The Republican National Committee, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush also were quick to join the condemnations. The only GOP presidential candidates who did not directly criticize Trump's comments were former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet The Press" Sunday, Perry said he would leave it up to debate organizers to decide whether Trump should be eligible to join the other candidates on stage at the first forum Aug. 6.

"I'm real comfortable being on the stage with him and confronting him on a host of issues that he's just wrong on," Perry said.

But pressed by host Chuck Todd on whether the GOP should have embraced Trump with such a fervor four years ago when he campaigned with Mitt Romney and was still regularly falsely saying President Barack Obama was born outside the United States, Perry demurred and said the problem with Trump was his failure to reach out to minorities or offer solutions.

"I haven't heard any solutions coming from Donald Trump," Perry said.

On the "Meet The Press" roundtable, the American Enterprise Institute's Danielle Pletka was decidedly more blunt in assessing Trump.

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“He’s an idiot,” she said. “He’s in this for himself.”

McCain and Trump have spent the past week feuding after McCain said Trump had fired up the “crazies” during an appearance last weekend in Phoenix.

Democrats have also joined the fray.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, dismissed Trump’s comments as “shameful” on the campaign trail Saturday. And Secretary of State John Kerry, whose own war record was questioned during the 2004 presidential race, defended McCain.

“One thing I know is beyond debate is that John McCain is a hero, a man of grit and guts and character personified,” Kerry said. “He served and bled and endured unspeakable acts of torture. His captors broke his bones, but they couldn’t break his spirit, which is why he refused early release when he had the chance. That’s heroism, pure and simple, and it is unimpeachable.”

“If anyone doesn’t know that John McCain is a war hero,” he declared, “it only proves they know nothing about war and even less about heroism.”

Rubio: Trump's McCain attack a 'disqualifier' **// CNN // Eric Bradner – July 19, 2015**

"It's not just absurd, it's offensive. It's ridiculous. And I do think it's a disqualifier as commander-in-chief," Rubio said in an interview Sunday with CNN's Jake Tapper on "State of the Union."

The Florida senator was the latest Republican White House contender to hit Trump after the real estate mogul said Saturday that McCain "is not a war hero" because he was captured and held prisoner in Vietnam.

"He is a war hero because he was captured," Trump said. "I like people that weren't captured, OK?"

He walked back those comments on Twitter later, saying that "captured or not, all our soldiers are heroes!" But opponents who'd been looking for openings to criticize Trump were already piling on.

Rubio defended Republicans who were slow to criticize Trump over his controversial comments about undocumented Mexican immigrants a week ago, too, saying that it's been Trump's rise in the polls that has "required people to be more forceful on some of these offensive things he is saying."

"I spoke out against what Donald Trump said," Rubio said. "But we have to remember, this is a man who spent his whole life saying outrageous things."

Trump defended himself Sunday, issuing a statement touting his financial contributions to veterans' causes and criticizing Veterans Affairs hospitals with long waits for military veterans to receive medical care.

He also explained his attack on McCain, saying his anger is because "politicians like John McCain have totally

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failed" at tackling illegal immigration.

He pointed to McCain's reaction to a Trump event in the Arizona senator's home state.

"Last week in Phoenix, I held a record breaking rally with thousands of people. They are devastated by what is happening with illegal immigration. This group was totally united -- the silent majority became alive," Trump said.

"These were fabulous people and great Americans but John McCain called them 'crazies,'" Trump said. "Everyone was very insulted by his disgusting and unfair characterization. A nation without borders is not a nation at all but John McCain has not been able to figure that out."

Marco Rubio says Iran deal breaks 'anytime, anywhere' inspection promise by Barack Obama // PolitiFact / / Louis Jacobson – July 19, 2015

The agreement reached with Iran over nuclear weapons remained a top issue on the Sunday July 19 news shows, with critics of the deal urging that it be scuttled by Congress.

On CNN's State of the Union, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., told host Jake Tapper that "this deal violates promises the president made to the American people on multiple fronts. It is not an anytime, anywhere inspection process."

This issue also came up on the same day on CBS's Face the Nation, when Secretary of State John Kerry said of anytime, anywhere inspections, "This is a term that, honestly, I never heard in the four years that we were negotiating. It was not on the table. There's no such thing in arms control as 'anytime, anywhere.' There isn't any nation in the world, none that has an anytime, anywhere. We always were negotiating was an end to the interminable delays that people had previously. "

On Rubio's claim, we see two questions. First, does the Iran deal fall short of an "anytime, anywhere inspection process"? And second, did Obama promise that it would include an inspection regime that strict?

Does the Iran deal fall short of an 'anytime, anywhere inspection process'?

We addressed this question in the course of checking a recent claim by Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., that "thanks to the Obama administration's negotiations, Iran's nuclear program will be under lock, key and camera 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

We found that it's correct that certain specific Iranian assets that will be under 24/7 monitoring by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA.

According to the agreement, "for 15 years, Iran will permit the IAEA to implement continuous monitoring, including through containment and surveillance measures, as necessary, to verify that stored centrifuges and infrastructure remain in storage, and are only used to replace failed or damaged centrifuges."

This round-the-clock monitoring will explicitly include "electronic seals which communicate their status within nuclear sites to IAEA inspectors, as well as other IAEA approved and certified modern technologies," according to the agreement.

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For instance, at an Iranian facility like Natanz, where more than 5,000 centrifuges will be operating, the IAEA will have cameras that provide 24-hour monitoring, said Matthew Bunn, a nuclear specialist at the Harvard Kennedy School. In addition, the agreement says, "Iran will permit the IAEA regular access, including daily access as requested by the IAEA, to relevant buildings at (the Iranian nuclear facility at) Natanz ... for 15 years."

However, this sort of 24/7 surveillance will not be the rule everywhere in the Iranian nuclear archipelago.

"At most locations, inspections will be every once in a while, on a schedule the inspectors judge to be sufficient based on the sensitivity of the activities at that location, how long it would take for Iran to do something there that would make a difference, and so on," Bunn said.

In fact, even if Iran ultimately agrees to a contentious inspection, the wait could be as long as 24 days.

The agreement spells out that if the IAEA and Iran can't work out their differences over suspicions about undeclared nuclear materials or activities within 14 days, a joint commission empowered by the agreement would try to resolve the situation for another seven days. Once the commission decides what to do, Iran would have three more days to follow through.

In other words, when looking at Iran's nuclear complex as a whole, "the IAEA can't just drive up with no warning — it's not 'anytime, anywhere,' " Bunn said

So on this point, Rubio is justified in suggesting that the deal doesn't include "anytime, anywhere" inspections.

Did Obama promise that the agreement with Iran would include an 'anytime, anywhere' inspection regime?

This question is a bit more complicated.

We located at least one, and possibly two, instances in which Ben Rhodes -- an assistant to the president and deputy national security advisor for strategic communications and speechwriting -- said the deal would include "anytime, anywhere" inspections.

One of Rhodes' comments came in an interview with Tapper on April 6, 2015. Tapper asked Rhodes, "So the Israelis have put out this list of things that they think should be in the final deal with Iran, including allowing inspectors to go anywhere, anytime. That seems perfectly reasonable, no?"

Rhodes responded, "Well, Jake, first of all, under this deal, you will have anywhere, anytime 24/7 access as it relates to the nuclear facilities that Iran has."

The second of Rhodes' comments came on the same day, in an interview with Israel's Channel 10, April 6, 2015. After objecting to the paraphrases used in a widely cited Times of Israel article about the interview, the White House sent us a transcript of the exchange.

Rhodes was asked, "Will the IAEA have the ability to visit anywhere, anytime?"

Rhodes responded, "Yes, if we see something we want to inspect. So in the first case we will have 'anytime

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anywhere' access to all of the nuclear facilities. We'll have the ability to look across all of their supply chain, their uranium mines and mills, their centrifuge production and storage facilities. But I think what you're mainly referring to is if there's a suspicious site, for instance, on a military base in Iran, and we want to seek access to that we will be able to go to the IAEA, and get that inspection because of the additional protocol of the IAEA that Iran will be joining, and some of the additional transparency and inspection measures that are in the deal."

Much of the coverage has focused on Rhodes' agreement with the interviewer's words that the IAEA will "have the ability to visit anywhere, anytime." The White House notes, however, that Rhodes' full comments are more nuanced, spelling out the more complicated -- and not instantaneous -- process of inspecting suspicious sites not already cited in the agreement.

So we see one pretty clear statement, plus one somewhat less clear statement, made by the Obama administration that backs up Rubio's claim.

"The answer given by Ben Rhodes is consistent with the messaging that the Obama administration has been providing since the nuclear talks with Iran began," said Rick Brennan Jr., a senior political scientist with Rand Corp. "In fact, in 2012 President Obama declared that the final deal with Iran would ensure 'the end to their nuclear program,' which we now understand is not accurate."

That said, though, Rhodes' comments are something of an outlier to the words other White House officials have said. In general, the message from senior White House officials has been that the inspections regime in the deal would be strong by historical standards -- and strong enough to achieve its goals -- but not allowing "anytime, anywhere" inspections.

Critics like Rubio "are trying to imply that the Obama administration promised that international inspectors bust into any undeclared Iranian site, whenever they felt like doing so, and without cause," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association. However, that was not the administration's goal, because "no sovereign state would agree to such an arrangement; no such access is necessary to verify compliance; and any such arrangement would waste the inspectors' resources. Iran is a large country and the inspectors should and will focus on particular areas/sites of concern."

A good example of the White House's usual wording is the briefing held by Press Secretary Josh Earnest on March 9, 2015. Here are some of the phrases Earnest used to describe the extent of the inspection regime:

• "We're going to insist that the Iranians agree to intrusive inspection measures that will resolve the broader international community's concerns."

• "What we are seeking from Iran are a whole set of commitments from them ... to comply with an intrusive set of inspections to verify their compliance with the agreement."

• "They're going to have to agree to a set of very intrusive inspections."

• "Any sort of agreement that is reached will require serious commitments on the part of Iran to an intrusive inspections program that allows international inspectors not just into their nuclear facilities, but also into the manufacturing facilities that are manufacturing parts and equipment for their nuclear facilities that would require inspections at uranium mines in Iran."

• "We would insist ... that Iran commit to comply with a historically intrusive set of inspections."

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• The deal would "impose an intrusive set of inspections that would verify Iran's compliance with the agreement."

Such language has been echoed numerous other times by White House officials, including Obama.

In a Rose Garden address on April 2, 2015, four days before Rhodes' televised comments, Obama said: "Iran will face strict limitations on its program, and Iran has also agreed to the most robust and intrusive inspections and transparency regime ever negotiated for any nuclear program in history. ... International inspectors will have unprecedented access not only to Iranian nuclear facilities, but to the entire supply chain that supports Iran's nuclear program -- from uranium mills that provide the raw materials, to the centrifuge production and storage facilities that support the program."

Obama repeated the sentiment in his weekly address on April 4, 2015, and the message was echoed by others -- including Rhodes himself. At a press briefing at Camp David May 14, 2015, Rhodes said, "Under this agreement that we're pursuing with the Iranians, (the nuclear) program will be rolled back and face significant limitations that it doesn't currently face, and there will be the most intrusive inspections regime of any arms control agreement that we've ever had."

Rhodes also backtracked on the "anywhere, anytime" phrasing in an interview with CNN's Erin Burnett on July 14, 2015.

"We never sought in this negotiation the capacity for so-called 'anytime, anywhere' where you can basically go anywhere in the country, look at whatever you wanted to do, even if it had nothing to do with the nuclear program. What we did seek is beyond this comprehensive verification of the nuclear sites. If we have a suspicion about a site, we have the ability to go to the IAEA, the organization that conducts inspections, and to say, we need to inspect that site."

So Rubio's not wrong to say that the Obama administration promised "anywhere, anytime" inspections. However, it's also reasonable to point out that most of the administration's statements on this point have not used that specific language.

Our ruling

Rubio said that the Iran nuclear deal "violates promises the president made to the American people" because it "is not an anytime, anywhere inspection process."

Rubio has a point that a senior administration national-security official did, in at least one case and possibly two cases, say on television that the deal would include "anytime, anywhere" inspection provisions. However, focusing on these two comments is a bit of cherry-picking, since most of the White House's statements on this issue have avoided that term in favor of ones that can be more plausibly used to describe the provisions of the agreement that were ultimately reached.

The statement is partially accurate but leaves out important details, so we rate it Half True.

Rubio: Clinton's Uber Criticisms Show Someone 'Trapped In The Past' // Free Beacon // Andrew Kugle – July 19, 2015

During an interview on CNN's State of the Union Sunday, Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.), said that Hillary Clinton is trapped in the past.

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Clinton outlined some of her economic platform in which she complained that new companies like Uber should treat their drivers as employees and not contractors so they can provide certain benefits to them.

"She's trying to apply 20th century constricts to a 21st century innovative industry," Rubio said. "We're trying to regulate internet development the way we regulated telephony, you know, telephone systems 20 years ago. You cannot regulate 21st century industries with 20th century ideas."

Rubio also stated that Clinton was trapped in the past.

"And her take on Airbnb, Lyft, Uber, these sorts of things, is a perfect example of someone who's trapped in the past, and cannot understand how much the world is changing, and how much it's going to change in the years to come economically," Rubio said.

PAUL

CRUZ

Ted Cruz drops off D.C. bestseller list // WaPo // Ron Charles – July 19, 2015

You win some, you lose some.

Even as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) convinced the New York Times that his memoir is a genuine bestseller, his book fell off The Washington Post's bestseller list.

Such are the vicissitudes of publishing and various book-buying markets around the country.

Let's back up to the beginning of July.

The presidential candidate's book, "A Time for Truth," sold almost 12,000 copies nationwide its first week, but the Times refused to list it, reportedly because the editors suspected that someone was gaming the system by buying up copies in bulk. (Such books are routinely omitted.)

Meanwhile, "A Time for Truth" came in at No. 4 on The Washington Post list for the week ending July 5. The Post relies on Nielsen BookScan for data on sales in the greater Washington area.

After Cruz campaign spokesperson Rick Tyler accused the Times of "obvious partisan bias," the paper relented. The Times now lists Cruz's book at No. 7 for the period ending July 11. (That's the list readers will see in the Times's Book Review next Sunday, on July 26.)

But here in Washington, sales of "A Time for Truth" appear to be falling quickly. Cruz's book dropped off The Post's top 10 list this week. (If our list extended beyond 10, you'd see "A Time For Truth" at No. 15.)

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That's at odds with the trend nationwide. Publishers Weekly lists his book at No. 7, with almost 19,000 copies sold at the end of its second week.

It's possible, of course, that Cruz's spat with the Times will boost his book's sales here in the Washington area. There is, after all, no bad publicity in publishing.

Ted Cruz Looks for His Iowa Moment **// Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – July 19, 2015**

While Republican firebrand Donald Trump has seized control of news headlines over the past few weeks, it's Texas Senator Ted Cruz who may be poised for a breakout moment on the campaign trail, particularly after impressing conservatives over the weekend in the key state of Iowa.

Cruz led the presidential pack in fundraising during the latest quarter of the campaign, hauling in a remarkable $14.3 million in addition to $38 million raised by super PACs supporting him. He's enjoying greater publicity with the release of his book A Time for Truth, over which he battled with the New York Times about a spot on its coveted bestseller list. And he's raising fresh hackles in the Senate by threatening to block all of President Barack Obama's nominees to the State Department unless Congress gets to review the Iran nuclear deal prior to a United Nations vote.

Cruz's hopes of competing for the big prize likely hinge on Iowa, the first nominating contest which, unlike other early states, plays to his strengths, with an outsize crop of evangelical and hard-right Republicans. Judging from his reception in Iowa over the weekend, Cruz has some reason for optimism.

'A great shot'

"Senator Cruz has a great shot," said Bob Vander Plaats, a social conservative activist in Iowa who endorsed Mike Huckabee in 2008 and Rick Santorum in 2012—both went on to win the state caucuses. "He's definitely a movement conservative, who has $51 million behind him. Quite frankly, we've been hoping for a movement conservative to be well resourced."

At a Saturday gathering of religious conservatives here in Ames, Iowa hosted by Vander Plaats's group The Family Leader, Cruz turned a ho-hum question-and-answer session into a parade of cheers with his distinctive right-wing edge and wit.

Republican pollster Frank Luntz, adorned in his trademark American flag-themed sneakers as he interviewed Cruz, tried to throw the Texan off his game by pointing out that the 2013 government shutdown that he led had failed in its goal of defunding Obamacare. Cruz spun it into a tale of him "standing and fighting" against Washington. The crowd ate it up. Next, Luntz asked the crowd if they'd like to have a governor or a senator become president—overwhelmingly the answer was a governor.

Cruz interrupted: "Actually Frank, let me jump in and ask: how many of you would like to have a conservative as your next president?"

Deafening applause. Luntz was flustered. Cruz had taken over.

A festival of red meat

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It's a pattern that would continue through the half-hour session, which was littered with applause lines and featured two spontaneous standing ovations—one when Cruz called for defunding and prosecuting Planned Parenthood over a recent video he called "gruesome and disgusting," which featured one of its officials discussing donating fetal organs; another when he vowed, if elected, to revoke "every single unconstitutional, illegal executive action" Obama has taken. He also attacked against the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, accusing his fellow Republicans who don't want to amend the constitution of spouting Obama talking points, and trashed the new Iran nuclear accord.

It was a festival of red meat for a crowd that lapped it all up. In a classic Cruzian act, he himself stood up with the crowd to applaud several of his own lines.

"You're a powerful speaker," Luntz deadpanned.

Of course, it was a Cruz-friendly crowd, but the same reception was not enjoyed by other social conservatives like Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor currently leading the field in Iowa polls, or Huckabee, who is running for president again.

"And thank you for being a fighter," said one attendee who asked Cruz a question about "Commiecare," devising a new jeering term for the Affordable Care Act.

Obstacles ahead

Now the unsettling part for Cruz: The Family Leadership Summit was a reminder that anything less than an impressive showing in Iowa could doom Cruz's chances. He's not a natural fit for any other of the early states—New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada—and after those contests are decided, the field is expected to narrow significantly. And so far, Cruz has yet to show polling strength in the Hawkeye State. He was tied for fourth place in a Quinnipiac University poll of Iowa Republican voters released July 1. A prior Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa poll late May placed him in the middle of the pack. Potential was there—primary voters viewed him favorably—but they preferred others.

As Trump sucked up most of the oxygen Saturday with an inflammatory remark deriding Arizona Senator John McCain's war record, Cruz stood apart from most candidates in refusing to disavow the brash real estate mogul's remarks. That seems risky given the intense backlash, but it may be a calculated strategy that involves playing nice with Trump in the hope that he flames out and his supporters flock to Cruz. It's a lot of supporters, too: Trump has led the Republican field in several national polls lately.

Cruz's other problem is the massive field of candidates competing for the conservative vote, including Walker, Huckabee, Santorum and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal.

The question is whether Cruz's book publicity and tour through Iowa can translate into the polling boost he needs. If not now, when?

"People like [Cruz] because of his bold and courageous spirit," Vander Plaats said. "He's not only willing to take on Democrats but he's willing to take out the Republicans who wear our jerseys but score for the other team."

CHRISTIE

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'I Wouldn't Let This Guy Buy a Car For Me': Chris Christie Slams Obama on Iran Deal // Vice // Gillian Mohney – July 19, 2015

New Jersey governor and presidential hopeful Chris Christie once again didn't mince his words while discussing President Barack Obama, this time as he slammed the recent Iran nuclear deal.

Speaking to a crowd at a campaign stop in Franklin, New Hampshire late last week, Christie criticized the deal, saying oversight of Iran's nuclear problem would be compromised by an arbitration process.

"I wouldn't let this guy buy a car for me, let alone negotiate an arms deal with Iran," Christie said of Obama.

While nuclear negotiations regarding Iran's proposed program have been going on for a decade, the recent deal was announced on Tuesday after a marathon 18 day session, when Iran and a group of countries known as the P5+1 — the US, Russia, Britain, China and France, plus Germany — came to an agreement that is intended to limit Tehran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for relief from crippling international sanctions.

Christie told the crowd in Franklin that Obama had mis-characterized the situation to the public, describing the deal as "not built on trust, it is built on verification." Christie said that if United Nations investigators want to go to a uranium enrichment site, they have to request access from the government.

"If they object, it then goes to an arbitration panel, and the Iranians have a vote on the arbitration panel, as do the Russians and Chinese," Christie said, adding that the panel will then have another 24 days to make a decision. He compared the potential situation to asking for a search warrant and then having to wait 24 days to gather evidence.

"I got to tell you the truth, if you were engaged in that crime, I got a feeling when I came back 24 days later that evidence would be gone," said Christie.

The governor was just the latest to join in among Republican presidential candidates who have criticized the president for agreeing to the deal. Immediately after it was announced, Mike Huckabee called the deal "evil" on Twitter, and wrote that if needed he would consider using the military to topple the "terrorist Iranian regime."

Rand Paul, who previously said he would have an open mind about the deal, said he is against the agreement for multiple reasons.

"While I continue to believe that negotiations are preferable to war, I would prefer to keep the interim agreement in place instead of accepting a bad deal," he said on Facebook earlier this week.

Jeb Bush was not as defiant as his peers, and according to CNN he told a crowd that if elected president he would not destroy the current deal as soon as he's sworn in.

"One thing I won't do is just say as a candidate: 'I'm just going to tear up the agreement on the first day.' That sounds great, but maybe you ought to check in with your allies first. Maybe you ought to appoint a secretary of state, maybe a secretary of defense," he said. "You might want to have your team in place before you take an act like that."

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Bush, however, is far from supporting the deal, which he said left him "deeply worried," according to CNN. He also said "every aspect of this deal, I think, is headed south."

Across the globe in Iran, the country's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei came just short of endorsing the deal and framed it as a win for Iran.

"After 12 years of struggling with the Islamic republic, the result is that they have to bear the turning of thousands of centrifuges in the country," Khamenei said according to the New York Times. While Khamenei's statements may make the deal more likely to be approved in that country, it could cause problems in the US, if his statements are seized by the deal's opponents.

The US Congress has 60 days to review the deal before sanctions can be lifted, and could potentially hold up its progress up even longer.

Chris Christie tries to trump Donald on immigration // NJ // Paul Mulshine – July 19, 2015

He was going along good for a while there.

On Thursday, Chris Christie visited Camden to outline his views on criminal-justice reform. Those views were quite innovative. But then he decided to try for a sound bite on the issue of immigration.

It bit back.

As recently as last April, the governor was positioning himself as a moderate on immigration.

"There are not enough law enforcement officers in all the country if all they were doing is rounding up and deporting people," he told a crowd in New Hampshire.

But on Thursday, he turned into a tough guy. He brought up the case of that unfortunate young woman who was killed by a stray bullet when walking with her father at a popular tourist spot in San Francisco. Police later traced the bullet to the gun of an undocumented immigrant with a long criminal record. San Francisco authorities had released him from jail in keeping with their policy of running a sanctuary city.

"Sanctuary cities have to stop protecting felons in the midst of law-abiding people," Christie said. "That has to end and if I'm elected president it will end in a Christie administration."

That San Francisco shooting has been in the news largely because of Donald Trump. Trump has risen to the top of the polls the race for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination largely because of his pounding on the immigration issue.

Meanwhile Christie's been relegated to the ranks of the 2 percenters, the candidates who are fighting to make the cut for the Aug. 6 Fox News debate. So you can see the reason he wants to sound tough on sanctuary cities.

But if you happen to be a certain former mayor of Morristown, you've got to have a good laugh upon hearing those words from Christie.

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"It's hypocritical for him to say he's not going to have sanctuary cities when he had the entire state of New Jersey as a sanctuary state," said Don Cresitello.

Back in 2007 when Christie was the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey he had a highly publicized confrontation with Cresitello over the immigration enforcement. Cresitello had applied with the federal government for 287(g) status for his town. Local police would have been trained and authorized to enforce federal immigration laws.

Though Cresitello is a Democrat, he faced opposition from the entire Republican establishment that runs the county as well as the U.S. Attorney, he said.

At the height of the controversy Christie visited a local church with a largely Latino congregation and told the crowd that "Being in this country without proper documentation is not a crime."

That quote got him denounced by TV commentator Lou Dobbs as "out of his mind. Dobbs went on to report that that he could find only 13 instances between 2002 and 2007 in which Christie's office prosecuted immigration violations compared with 597 prosecutions by the U.S. attorney for Kansas during the same period.

But it was what happened next that offers a direct parallel to the San Francisco situation. After four college students were gunned down in a Newark schoolyard by members of a Latino gang, it was revealed that the ringleader was an undocumented immigrant who'd been released on bail by Essex County officials after being arrested for assault.

"There's the same situation. Newark was a sanctuary city," said Cresitello. "Those murders never would have happened if the law was enforced. Christie never did anything about it."

Actually, he did. After he was elected governor, Christie chose as his attorney general Paula Dow. Dow was the same county prosecutor who had failed to notify federal officials that the county was holding the undocumented alien who later led the gang involved in the schoolyard shooting.

But if Christie now wants to get tough on illegal immigration, there's nothing stopping him, said Cresitello, who is no longer mayor.

"You don't need a federal law to prosecute a contractor for hiring illegals," he said. "The governor has the authority under current state labor law to do whatever he wants to stop the hiring of illegals."

A muster zone for the hiring of day workers that was the subject of the 2007 debate is still in operation. It's about a mile from the place in Morristown where Christie is setting up his national campaign headquarters. That should make for some nice video if the national media come calling.

Perhaps the governor should do something about it. And maybe she will. Most days of the week, that's Kim Guadagno. Back when she was sheriff of Monmouth County, Guadagno also applied for 287(g) status for her officers.

So at least one member of the administration can claim to be tough on immigration enforcement.

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But it sure isn't Christie.

PERRY

Rick Perry: Boy Scouts 'better off' without gay leaders // CNN // Eric Bradner – July 19, 2015

Rick Perry opposes openly gay leaders in the Boy Scouts of America, he said Sunday, even after that organization dropped its ban on such scoutmasters.

"I believe that scouting would be better off if they didn't have openly gay scoutmasters," the former Texas governor and 2016 GOP presidential candidate said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The Boy Scouts dropped its policy banning gay scouts in 2013. And earlier this month, the organization also dropped its ban on gay scoutmasters after a push by the group's national president, former Defense Secretary Bob Gates.

His comments come as Republicans court socially conservative voters in the wake of the Supreme Court's June decision legalizing same-sex marriage everywhere in the United States.

Conservatives have responded by pushing state-level measures to protect businesses from having to participate in same-sex marriage ceremonies in the name of religious freedom. Republican presidential candidates have also said they disagree with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said in an interview with CNN's Dana Bash that aired Sunday that he doesn't know if being gay is a choice. And he said he supported the Boy Scouts of America's old ban on openly gay scoutmasters.

"I thought the policy was just fine. I'm saying when I was in scouts, it was fine. You're asking what should the policy be going forward. It should be left up to the leaders of the scouts," Walker said.

Rick Perry Slams GOP Rival: 'We're Seeing the Real Donald Trump Now' // NBC // Dan Cooney – July 19, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry on Sunday responded to Donald Trump's controversial comments about Sen. John McCain's military service, saying that "we're seeing the real Donald Trump now."

"We're seeing an individual who's more interested in throwing invectives and this hyperbolic rhetoric out there, rather than laying out solutions," the former Texas governor told Chuck Todd on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Trump, who in the past has referred to McCain as a "dummy," was asked to defend those comments Saturday at the conservative Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa.

"Is that appropriate in running for president?" asked the summit's host, Frank Luntz. Lutz, a prominent pollster, later said, "He's a war hero."

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Trump apparently disagreed. "He's not a war hero," he responded. "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured."

Perry on Sunday slammed Trump's comments.

"It matters that we have a commander in chief that respects what those individuals have done," Perry said, referring to veterans. "I still stand by my statement. Until Mr. Trump apologizes directly to John McCain, and also to the veterans of this country, I don't think he has the character or the temperament to hold the highest position in this country."

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., also appearing on "Meet the Press," said he disagreed with Trump's comments on McCain and said the fellow senator is "a great American."

"I would recommend that he apologize and retract them, and then get back to the campaign that he's been running on," Cotton said.

Trump, when asked Sunday morning on ABC's "This Week" if he would apologize to McCain, said, "No, not at all." He later said, "When I left the room, it was a total standing ovation. It was wonderful to see. Nobody was insulted."

McCain has yet to publicly address the comments.

Perry on Sunday also discussed the possibility of facing Trump in the upcoming Republican presidential debates. When asked if he would advocate for Trump getting kicked off the debate stage, he said he would let the debate organizers decide that.

"I'm real comfortable being on the stage with him and confronting him on a host of issues that he's just wrong on. I mean, there's one thing to just spew invectives and spew rhetoric out there. But America's looking for somebody that's got some solutions," Perry said. "And I'll be real honest with you, I haven't heard any solutions coming from Donald Trump. Just rhetoric."

Perry Still Opposes Gay Scout Leaders, While Walker Backtracks **// TIME // Justin Worland – July 19, 2015**

Former Texas Governor Rick Perry said Sunday that he still opposes openly gay leaders in the Boy Scouts of America, even as the organization has moved to change a policy that banned such leaders.

“I believe that Scouting would be better off if they didn’t have openly gay Scoutmasters,” the GOP presidential candidate said on Meet the Press Sunday.

The Boy Scouts changed a policy banning gay scouts in 2013. After taking the helm of the organization last year, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates called for the organization to drop the ban on gay leaders as well. Earlier this month, the Boy Scouts executive committee voted to do just that.

Perry, who wrote a book about the Boy Scouts last year, isn’t the only GOP presidential candidate to support the ban. In a statement earlier in the week, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said the BSA should keep the ban on openly gay leaders, but in an interview with CNN he backtracked.

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"I thought the policy was just fine. I'm saying when I was in Scouts, it was fine. You're asking what should the policy be going forward. It should be left up to the leaders of the Scouts," he said.

Both Walker and Perry are Eagle Scouts and cite their achievement in campaign materials.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham Defends John McCain: 'Being Captured Doesn't Mean You're A Loser' **// HuffPo // Samantha-Jo Roth – July 19, 2015**

South Carolina senator and Republican presidential candidate Lindsey Graham rose to defend Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) on Saturday, after Donald Trump attacked McCain's record as a war hero.

"I think he crossed a line with a lot of people, not just me. John is my best friend in politics and one of my best friends in life," Graham told The Huffington Post at a campaign stop in Iowa on Saturday. "This will work out. Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina Republicans are conservative, but they aren't going to put up with this. This will work itself out. I'm not calling for him to get out of the race, I'm calling for people of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina to tell him he's fired."

"If you want to be commander in chief, you need to understand how the military works. Being captured doesn't mean you're a loser, it means you put yourself at great risk and you probably are young to go through hell while you're in captivity. It just shows a lack of understanding of the military, lack of respect for those who have served," he added.

McCain spent five and a half years in a North Vietnam prison where he was tortured after his bomber plane was shot down in 1967. Trump has refused to apologize for his remarks, despite near unanimous denouncements from his Republican rivals for the White House.

Graham said Trump's latest antics were the last straw.

"I can understand being frustrated about immigration, but there's no justification to slander a bunch of people that are hardworking folks," he said. "This is a line that is crossed. I think the American people, the caucusgoers, the primary voters are going to fix this. To the other candidates, this is your chance to do the right thing and disassociate yourself from somebody who has basically shown a lack of judgment to be commander in chief and to be president of us all."

CARSON

Ben Carson: Walking away from paid speaking commitments would be 'unethical' **// Washington Examiner // Ryan Lovelace – July 19, 2015**

AMES, Iowa — Ben Carson has run an unconventional presidential campaign and benefited handsomely. The retired neurosurgeon has never held elected office, but enjoys the support of many Iowans in attendance at the Family Leadership Summit on Saturday.

His most recent book's sales quadrupled in the immediate weeks after launching his presidential campaign, and his

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personal financial disclosure shows he made more than $4 million from delivering speeches across the country.

Carson continues to give speeches for cash while on the campaign trail, and explained his reasoning for doing so while in Ames, Iowa, this weekend. He said he used to do about 100 or so paid speaking events per year, but only has two or three remaining this year.

"[I] tried to get rid of all of them, but there are a few straggling events," Carson said in response to a question from the Washington Examiner. "Some people have said to me, 'Well, why don't you just cancel those?' Well, what they don't recognize is these people have spent enormous amounts of money, time, and energy getting sponsors, setting tables; frequently this is their annual budget that we're talking about. And for me to just to walk out on them is unethical."

Other presidential candidates have stayed on the paid-speaking circuit while running for president. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee collected payment for his speeches during his failed 2008 presidential bid. He wound up with a television show on Fox News after his campaign faltered.

Carson is polling among the top five GOP presidential candidates nationally, and appears poised to appear in the first televised primary debate next month. Carson told reporters the biggest lesson he has learned during the first couple of months on the campaign trail is to avoid making inflammatory statements littered with buzz words.

But Carson also appeared to gain unwanted attention when he declined to say whether Sen. John McCain was a "war hero," in light of Donald Trump's earlier assertion that Trump was a war hero because he was held in captivity. Carson said whether McCain was a war hero "depends on your definition of a war hero," and chose not to provide any explanation. He did say he thought McCain had done some wonderful things.

Carson appears intent on making sure his message does not get lost in the shuffle of comments that others perceive to be controversial, but it appears that he still has some work to do before he takes the debate stage next month.

FIORINA

Carly Fiorina on the bubble **// Politico // Eli Stokols – July 19, 2015**

LAS VEGAS — When Carly Fiorina took the stage here Saturday night, she bathed in warm applause from the 200 or so attendees of the annual Mavericks PAC conference and relished her status as the only woman seeking the GOP presidential nomination.

“Go ahead, admit it,” she said to the 20- and 30-something conservatives seated in the ballroom as the cheering quieted down. “You want to see me debate Hillary Clinton in the general election.”

But there was no getting around the glaring subtext of that opening line: The woman hoping to capitalize on her unique ability to nullify the likely Democratic nominee’s gender advantage in a debate next year might not even make the first Republican primary debate in less than three weeks.

Fox News Channel, which is hosting the Aug. 6 forum in Cleveland, is taking the top 10 candidates based on an average of national polls. Fiorina, for the moment, is polling 14th out of 15 officially declared candidates.

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“Everybody’s sort of fixated on this first debate and I’ve been honest, I’d love to be on that first debate stage and I’m working really hard to get there. I think I will be,” Fiorina said in an interview following her 45 minutes on stage. “If I’m not, it’s not the end of the world, it’s not the end of the campaign.”

Despite her low standing nationally, Fiorina has shown an ability to connect in New Hampshire, where she’s fifth in the most recent poll of the Republican field on the strength of a commitment to retail politics in the state.

Early state polls, however, don’t figure into the criteria for participation in the first debate; and in a race dominated by national figures and personalities like Donald Trump, whose bull in a China shop routine has left almost no media oxygen for other candidates in recent weeks. Fiorina’s methodical approach — however warmly she’s been received in New Hampshire — may not be enough for her to break through.

At this point, she says, there’s still time — more than six months, in fact, until primary voting begins.

“I think it will work itself out,” she said. “I think people, given enough time and enough information, kind of sort it out. So now we need to make sure they have enough time and enough information.”

Fiorina said voters got important information about Trump on Saturday, when he disparaged Sen. John McCain by questioning whether the Vietnam veteran who spent six years in a North Vietnamese prison was truly a war hero — and drew the loudest, more unrestrained chorus of criticism from his Republican rivals to date.

“GOP voters deserve better than outrageous statements & personal attacks,” Fiorina tweeted earlier Saturday. Rick Perry and Lindsey Graham, both military veterans (and also on the debate bubble), went even harder at Trump, calling for the bombastic billionaire to quit the race.

Trump’s sudden, unexpected surge has become an issue for the GOP field from top to bottom and for a Republican Party hoping to broaden its appeal. It’s undeniable that his personal celebrity and name ID is unmatched, and that there is a deep disaffection among some conservatives to whom his combative criticism — of immigrants, President Barack Obama, other more measured Republicans — is viscerally satisfying and resonant.

Fiorina, on the other hand, has no national profile and no real fundraising network to speak of. Unwilling to go practice Trump’s politics of grievance, Fiorina is left with little choice but to keep plodding away and hoping that this moment, Trump’s, gives way to her own.

“In New Hampshire, when we started, May 4, less than 4 percent of New Hampshire voters had ever heard my name — less than four percent — and we’re now tied for number four in the polls,” she said. “It takes enormous effort to get out there and go everywhere possible so that the message gets out.”

“I’m pleased with the progress we’re making in terms of getting out and getting known. I’m pleased with the progress we’re making in terms of building donor files and email lists, but we’re going to build it more slowly than others. As I’ve said all along, I’m not going to raise as much money as everybody else, not at first, but on the other hand, the election isn’t tomorrow.”

When she concluded her time on stage Saturday night, she asked the young conservatives in the room, who heard from Jeb Bush on Friday night, not to be swayed by her long-shot status but to help her overcome it.

“As a candidate who is not a professional politician, I need more help and more support than lots of others,” she told them. “I don’t have years of email lists; I don’t have years of donor lists, so I would really appreciate your

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consideration to help me and to support me. I think our nation is at a critical time and I think we do need someone different now.

"I think we need someone different to win in 2016 and we must win."

Fiorina did not receive quite the same hero's welcome that Mav PAC attendees lavished on Bush, whose two sons helped found the group to maintain their network of young donors after his brother's 2004 presidential campaign. But Jay Ziedman, a Mav PAC co-chairman from Houston, feels strongly that serious candidates like Fiorina who make the effort to speak to groups like his, should have a place on the debate stage.

"Trump's running a reality show and, unfortunately, that's going to get him on the stage, whereas she should be up there instead of him," Ziedman said.

"He's making a mockery and a joke of running for the presidency of the United States, when there's people like Carly Fiorina putting in the time, building their own donor base, building their own list, and really networking. Trump's not raising money, he's not building support from grassroots conservatives — he's just out there running his mouth. It's disgusting."

Reynolds: Carly Fiorina, the other woman **// USA Today // Glenn Harlan Reynolds – July 19, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is fond of saying that if she's elected, she'll be the first woman president. But there's someone else who can say that as well. Her name is Carly Fiorina, and she's running for the Republican presidential nomination. With her history as a high-powered CEO (at Hewlett-Packard) and with cheeky videos (at BuzzFeed), Fiorina is in it to win it, just like Clinton. But because she's not as well known as Clinton, I asked her a few questions:

1. Hillary is talking about the middle class. What's the difference between your program and hers?

CF: "We help the middle class when we unburden them from the very policies that Hillary Clinton would double down on. She champions Big Government, which we know enables crony capitalism and exacerbates inequality. If you are wealthy, powerful and well-connected, you can handle Big Government. If you are small and powerless, you are getting crushed by things like our colossal, 70,000-page tax code. I have advocated for rolling back regulations, simplifying the tax code and moving to zero-based budgeting — policies that will support small businesses and raise up the middle class."

2. You said last week that Donald Trump has tapped into a general anger at the establishment. Why are people angry, and what's your answer?

CF: "People are angry that things as common sense as securing the border and eliminating sanctuary cities are being framed as extreme views. They are tired of empty rhetoric without action, and they are hungry for a leader from outside the professional political class. I think we need a real plan, which is why I have offered a much more specific approach to securing the border, fixing the legal immigration system and addressing illegal immigration."

3. Like Hillary, you're a female candidate. Like Trump, you're coming from a private sector background. What distinguishes you from each of them?

CF: "I come from a world where accountability and accomplishments matter, and where titles and rhetoric take a back seat to results. Those in the professional political class come from a world of bickering and posturing, where they spend more time worrying about protecting their position and power than doing the work of the American

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people. If Americans want the status quo to change, it is time to reach outside of the industry intent on preserving it."

4. What would you do about the threats of Iran and the terrorist organization Islamic State?

CF: "As CEO of Hewlett-Packard, chair of the CIA's External Advisory Board and adviser to several secretaries of Defense, I have negotiated many deals. So I know that President Obama broke all of the rules of good negotiating and, as a consequence, he achieved none of his stated goals. As president, I would roll back the deal with Iran and restore our trusted friendship with Israel.

"Our allies in the Middle East know that the Islamic State is their fight — and they have asked for very specific things to help push back against ISIL. The Egyptians have asked for intelligence and the Jordanians for bombs and materiel. We must give our allies the help they need to confront and defeat this evil."

5. What's the most important issue that's not being talked about so far in this campaign?

CF: "People are tired of the status quo. You see that in various movements in and out of our party, but most candidates are offering hollow rhetoric, not specific solutions. We must first do two very specific things: We must simplify our 70,000-page tax code, and we must move to zero-based budgeting. We have runaway spending because we view smaller funding increases as budget cuts. Zero-based budgeting would fix that, forcing every agency to justify every dollar. When Hillary Clinton talks about adding more restrictions and complexity to our financial system, as she did in her economic policy speech, it shows how clueless she is about how the economy actually works."

Voters looking for a female president will have a stark choice between Hillary Clinton, a Democrats' Democrat with a history of public-sector involvement, and Carly Fiorina, a Silicon Valley Republican. And voters willing to entertain a broader range of choices will still find the contrast between them instructive. Expect to hear more from Carly — and, of course, Hillary — in the weeks and months to come.

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal calls for federal religious freedom order, draws big applause lines at Family Leadership Summit // NOLA // Kevin Litten – July 19, 2015

Gov. Bobby Jindal on Saturday told Iowa voters that the next president of the United States should issue a religious freedom order similar to the one he issued in Louisiana.

Jindal's comments were in response to a question at the Family Leadership Summit, where moderator Frank Luntz asked Jindal whether the next president should ignore the Supreme Court's ruling legalizing gay marriage.

"The next president should do what we did in Louisiana: Issue an executive order immediately saying the federal government will not discriminate or take action against any individual or business that has a traditional view of marriage," Jindal said. "We're not going to threaten their tax rights, not going to fire them."

Luntz said that he interpreted Jindal's answer as indicating that Jindal wouldn't follow court rulings. Earlier in the appearance, Jindal said it was bad precedent for Republicans to ignore the constitution or laws they didn't like.

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"I just want to be clear that you're saying that even if the Supreme Court says, 'this is the law of the land,' you're prepared -- you think the next president should say to the Supreme Court, 'I'm sorry, you're wrong,'" Luntz said. "That's significant."

Jindal responded by saying, "clearly, the Supreme Court is wrong."

"They can't change what God has created and instituted," Jindal said. "The government should not be able to fire me, should not be able to take away my tax status, and the government should not be able to discriminate against me for being a Christian and wanting to live my life according to my beliefs. That's what's happening today."

When Luntz pressed Jindal further, asking if he was for the "whole constitution," Jindal said he was.

The Family Leadership Summit featured 10 of the presidential candidates, each taking the stage separately for about 22 minutes. According to Politico's Playbook, the candidates did not know questions in advance. They also took questions from the audience.

Luntz also asked Jindal about his ethnicity, making the case that Jindal had faced discrimination in the past when he ran for office and lost. There were elected offices Jindal deserved to win but did not, Luntz said, because he is Indian-American.

"I've never believed I've been discriminated against," Jindal said. "I am not a victim. ... We've got too many victims in this country. This president is trying to turn us all into victims. ... I'm going to win (the presidential race) not based on the color of my skin, I'm going to win based on my ideas."

Jindal also returned to a familiar refrain from his stump speech about "hyphenated Americans."

A question about the media drew perhaps the largest response in the entire interview.

"I am critical when the mainstream media -- they don't apply the same standards to this president that they apply to the rest of us," Jindal said, drawing applause that was so prolonged, Luntz had to quiet the crowd. "If we nominate a Republican who wants to be liked by the media, wants to be liked by the establishment, wants to go to the cool cocktail parties, we are done."

Another applause line from a questioner who thanked Jindal for investigating Planned Parenthood indicated Jindal's series of announcements last week about a probe into the nation's largest abortion provider is resonating in Iowa. Jindal did not address the investigation during the event because no one asked him a question about it.

Luntz also asked Jindal to name three issues he thought he could convince Democrats to work with him on if he was elected president.

"In Louisiana, we did school choice reform where the dollar followed the child instead of the child following the dollar," Jindal said. "A lot of children that are in the worst schools today are in the poorest zip codes. That's not right."

Jindal also said he thought there are Democrats who would join him in stopping Iran from getting nuclear weapons and "stand with Israel."

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The third issue Jindal cited was growing the private sector economy, saying "there are Democrats who will work with me or the next president to bring good-paying jobs back to America by reining in the EPA, cutting and lowering taxes."

"The last time we had successful tax reform -- lower and flatter taxes -- was actually back in Reagan, in the late 80s," Jindal said. "Both parties have to give up their carve-outs and special interests -- that means Republicans and Democrats."

The appearance seemed to work well for Jindal: Aside from the big applause lines, Luntz could be heard telling Jindal off-microphone, "I never knew you were that good."

TRUMP

Trump Refuses to Apologize for Comments on McCain's Service // NYT // Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Martin – July 19, 2015

Donald J. Trump refused to apologize on Sunday for ridiculing Senator John McCain's war record in Vietnam and accused Mr. McCain of stoking outrage, even as Mr. Trump's comments continued to draw anger and calls from some Republicans for him to quit the 2016 presidential race.

"I always believe in apologizing if you've done something wrong, but if you read my statement, you'll see I said nothing wrong," Mr. Trump said in an interview, referring to his comments at a candidates forum in Iowa on Saturday, which he insists were taken out of context.

Responding to a question about Mr. McCain's military service Mr. Trump said of the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam: "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

On Sunday, Mr. Trump also accused Mr. McCain of "working the phones real hard" and then "saying we have no comment."

"He's played this game for a long time," Mr. Trump said. And while pointing out that he had also called Mr. McCain "a hero" on Saturday, Mr. Trump questioned the Arizona senator's integrity, noting his involvement in the 1980s savings and loan scandal.

"He had the Keating Five, a tremendous scandal," said Mr. Trump, who has been targeting Mr. McCain since the senator said Mr. Trump had "fired up the crazies" at a rally in Phoenix last week.

In a separate, if just as discursive, interview Sunday on ABC's "This Week," Mr. Trump faulted some of his rivals for creating the tempest, attacked Mr. McCain for not doing more to help veterans, and claimed that the service of American military veterans who were not prisoners of war was not recognized.

"People that fought hard and weren't captured and went through a lot, they get no credit," Mr. Trump said on the network. "Nobody even talks about them. They're, like, forgotten."

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Asked if he would withdraw from the race, Mr. Trump said, “I’m certainly not pulling out.”

He has commanded vast media attention for weeks thanks largely to an early episode of bombast, in which he portrayed Mexican immigrants as rapists. Yet many leading Republicans — because they feared offending his supporters, did not want to encourage him to run as an independent, or merely hoped that ignoring the publicity-hungry celebrity would diminish his profile — were restrained in their response to those comments.

But Mr. Trump’s inflammatory comments about Mr. McCain, whose refusal of early release from a Hanoi prison camp vaulted him to fame long before he entered politics, has left Republican officials exasperated about the developer’s disruptive presence in the campaign.

“Early in his campaign, when he said something outrageous, people kind of said just ignore it and move on, it will go away,” Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said on CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday. “This is what he does for a living. I think now, as this has gone forward and he’s become a more covered candidate and people pay more attention to him, it’s required people to be more forceful on some of these offensive things that he’s saying.”

Mr. Rubio said Mr. Trump had insulted the entire P.O.W. community.

“This somehow makes the assumption or he’s saying that somehow if you’re captured in battle, you’re less worthy of honors than someone who isn’t,” he said. “It’s not just absurd, it’s offensive. It’s ridiculous. And I do think it is a disqualifier as commander in chief.”

Democrats, already relishing Mr. Trump’s long shadow in the Republican race, also seized on his comments about Mr. McCain, attempting to tar the entire Republican field with Mr. Trump’s provocations.

“It’s shameful, and so is the fact that it took so long for most of his fellow Republican candidates to start standing up to him,” Hillary Rodham Clinton said at a Democratic fund-raising dinner in Arkansas on Saturday night.

The criticism of Mr. Trump was not just confined to political leaders, though. John W. Stroud, head of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, denounced Mr. Trump’s comments. “For someone who never served a day in uniform to criticize the service and sacrifice of a combat-wounded veteran is despicable,” Mr. Stroud said.

As for why Mr. Trump, 69, did not serve in the military during Vietnam, he said on Sunday that he had student deferments and a medical deferment. He said that while he was “not a fan of the Vietnam War,” he would have “proudly served.” Mr. Trump, the son of a wealthy New York real estate developer, received four student deferments while studying at Fordham University and the University of Pennsylvania, according to The Smoking Gun, which obtained his draft records in 2011.

When he graduated from Pennsylvania in 1968, Mr. Trump’s status was reclassified to 1-A, or ready for unrestricted service. But that changed in the fall of the same year. After a September medical exam, Mr. Trump was labeled 1-Y the following month — the category for those individuals with limiting but not disabling medical conditions. Under this category, Mr. Trump would have only had to serve in a national emergency.

“I had a minor medical deferment for feet, for a bone spur of the foot, which was minor,” he said on Sunday.

Bombast Trumps Organization for One Republican Candidate // NYT //Maggie Haberman and Michael Barbaro – July 19, 2015

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In what passes for normal inside Donald J. Trump's unorthodox campaign for president, he flew from Arkansas to Iowa on his Trump-emblazoned jet on Friday, arrived the next morning at a candidate forum without any prepared remarks and, wearing a bright red tie that evoked his days on "The Apprentice," told the world exactly what he thought about Senator John McCain's reputation as a war hero.

It was an improvised fit of pique, roundly and vigorously denounced by his rivals all weekend, that exposed the biggest vulnerability of Mr. Trump's campaign for president: It is built entirely around the instincts and grievances of its unpredictable candidate — and does not rely on a conventional political operation that protects presidential hopefuls from themselves.

In a reaction that highlighted the problem, Mr. Trump refused on Sunday to apologize for declaring that Mr. McCain is "not a war hero" because he was captured and instead boasted in an interview that his talk in Iowa had aroused "the biggest standing ovation" of the day.

The remarks about Mr. McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, ended any qualms party officials had about criticizing Mr. Trump for fear of alienating his supporters and might normally have led to days of backpedaling and extended explanations. Even as Mr. Trump insisted that no one was troubled by his comments, his small group of aides emailed one another about how to respond to the growing criticism.

But the word "sorry" is not in Mr. Trump's lexicon, and apologizing was not an option that was discussed, people privy to the internal debate said.

In a sign of the seat-of-the-pants nature of his campaign, it sent out a series of dissonant messages, some trying to tamp down the controversy (by showing support from veterans) and others going on the attack (especially of the media).

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Trump's standing in public opinion surveys will suffer from the episode with Mr. McCain. But recent national and early-primary state polls put Mr. Trump in the top tier of candidates.

If nothing else, the weekend reaffirmed that Mr. Trump is running a presidential campaign on his own unique terms.

Never mind that his top rivals for the Republican nomination treat campaigning like a full-time job. For Mr. Trump, the task of seeking the White House occupies half his time, he estimated in an interview. ("It's probably 50-50," he said.)

The rest of the Republican field's top tier has cast a wide net to find experienced political aides. But Mr. Trump has plucked much of his team from inside his own corporate empire. (The résumé of his Iowa co-chairwoman: She was a contestant on "The Apprentice.")

While his competitors may be busy working through thick stacks of books on world affairs to prove their qualifications, Mr. Trump says he has little use for such. ("One of the problems with foreign policy," he explained, "is that it changes on a daily basis." As a busy man, he added, he prefers newspapers.)

There is no real policy shop churning out position papers, or for that matter a well-staffed central headquarters plotting his long-term message, or speechwriters drafting — or modulating — his words. And there is a circular, interoffice quality to what the campaign does with its money.

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But the dangers of Mr. Trump's approach are now being laid bare. Bare-bones improvisation, which seemed sufficient to fuel his ascent in the polls, is starting to backfire.

Mr. Trump faces a moment of real reckoning. Is the man known for the catchphrase "You're fired!" willing to soften his caustic language? Will he slog through the grueling rituals of a long campaign? And, above all, will his message keep resonating — or will his own outlandishness undermine his candidacy, turning it into his latest exercise in brand-building?

So far, tellingly, he is continuing to criticize Mr. McCain, and has shown little interest in building a conventional campaign.

"I'm not trying to arm the country," he said in a lengthy interview last week, emphasizing that he does have staffs in the first three states in the nominating process: Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

The reality is that Mr. Trump is pulling off something that, for now, requires little planning, spending or organization: He is giving voice to a profound rage in the Republican electorate — over economic displacement, illegal immigration and America's diminished place in the world.

"I have a pulse to the ground," he added. "I think I know what's wrong with the country, and I think I've been able to portray that in a way that people agree with."

Unlike in the past when he mused about the presidency, Mr. Trump is putting a team on the ground as well. He has hired at least four workers in New Hampshire, for example, and has visited Iowa nearly a dozen times. He hired a campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, a New Hampshire resident who previously worked for Americans for Prosperity, a political action committee financed by the conservative billionaire Koch brothers.

Over all, he has spent $1.4 million on his campaign, most of it out of his own pocket, and less than half of what Jeb Bush and Senator Marco Rubio have spent.

Exasperated aides, who said they were tired of making the case to skeptical reporters that Mr. Trump was really running, called those moves evidence enough that a legitimate campaign was taking shape.

"Nobody's asking Jeb Bush if he's serious about running," Mr. Lewandowski said last week, adding that his candidate's place in recent polling spoke for itself. "I don't know what to do. I don't know which metric you want to measure it by."

The unorthodox tenor of Mr. Trump's campaign may flow from its unusual origins. He has, of course, flirted with running for office before, as early as 2000 as an independent presidential candidate (he did not do it) and then 2011, when he talked about mounting a bid for the White House. (Again, he did not.) In 2013, he floated the idea of running for governor of New York. (He decided not to.)

This time he declared a candidacy. And despite questions about his sincerity, his commitment seemed to grow as his business deals became imperiled by the remarks he made about Mexican immigrants during his announcement speech last month. In that speech — an hourlong riff, delivered without a teleprompter — he said Mexico sent the United States criminals and "rapists."

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Those close to him said he was surprised that, in the uproar that followed, NBC severed ties with him, ending his long run on “The Apprentice,” the show that made him a television star, not just a developer. Soon, Macy’s, the P.G.A. and a prominent chef who was developing a restaurant inside a new Trump hotel in Washington followed suit.

Without his hit show as an option, Mr. Trump has little left to lose by staying in the race and conducting an increasingly provocative campaign. In fact, he may have something to reclaim — a brand that firmly identifies with the working Americans who are flocking to his events.

Hank Sheinkopf, a longtime political operative who has watched Mr. Trump for decades, said that every time a business cancels a contract with Mr. Trump, his supporters view him as the victim of entrenched, powerful institutions that do not have the interests of regular people in mind.

In any case, Mr. Sheinkopf said, Mr. Trump will benefit even if he never makes it to Election Day, by appealing to working-class white voters (and potential consumers of his corporate brand) who feel dispossessed by contemporary politics. “His real business is giving out his name as a franchise,” he added. “His business is being Donald Trump.”

But his staying power in the campaign remains highly uncertain. He has never committed to remaining in the race even through its first contest, the Iowa caucuses, early next year, although he has left open the option of running a third-party race.

And his many businesses still beckon. Last week, in keeping with his “50-50” time commitment to running for president, he took a break from the campaign to attend a ribbon-cutting at a Trump-owned winery in Charlottesville, Va. Those looking for Mr. Trump’s views on policy were treated to a sales pitch for what he called the largest winery on the East Coast.

“More important than the size,” Mr. Trump told the crowd, “we make the finest wines.”

In an interview on Sunday, Mr. Trump showed no sign of changing his style.

He checked off the names of those attacking him over his remarks about Mr. McCain, insulting Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas in the process.

“Jindal, who has nothing,” he said. “Rick Perry — I mean Rick Perry, give me a break here.”

Donald Trump didn’t apologize to John McCain. Because, of course not. **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – July 19, 2015**

"No, not at all."

That was reality TV star Donald Trump's response to ABC's Martha Raddatz Sunday morning when she asked him whether he owed John McCain an apology for suggesting that the Arizona Senator wasn't a war hero because he had been captured during the Vietnam War.

If you were expecting anything else from Trump, you haven't been paying much attention to his presidential campaign. Or his life. Trump's appeal in the 2016 race appears to be built on saying things and acting in ways that

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other politicians would never dream of doing. Trump, to his credit, appears to grasp that fact.

"I will say what I want to say, and maybe that's why I'm leading in the polls because people are tired of hearing politicians and pollsters telling the politicians exactly what to say," Trump told Raddatz.

The fact is that apologizing after a comment judged as ill-advised (at best) by most politicians is exact opposite of the Trump brand. The sort of people who misspeak and then try to clean up their messes are the very people that Trump derides -- and that he believes the public can't stand either.

Even as Trump was refusing to apologize, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley was in the midst of the misspeak-apology cycle. In response to demonstrators at a liberal gathering in Phoenix demanding that O'Malley address police brutality and chanting "black lives matter, O'Malley said "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter." He later apologized; "That was a mistake on my part and I meant no disrespect," he said. "I did not mean to be insensitive in any way or communicate that I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

Now, simply because Trump won't pull the full O'Malley doesn't mean that he isn't trying to revise history a bit. In the Raddatz interview, he blames the media for not picking up the entirety of his remarks, robbing them of the context in which he described McCain as a "hero." And, he insists that what he was really saying was that those who are not captured during war time deserve as much credit and attention as those, like McCain, who have been captured. Which is absolutely fine. But is also not really what Trump said.

Regardless, when impugning a recognized war hero, most politicians would have apologized totally and completely seconds after they stepped off the stage. And, it's possible that a comment like the one Trump made about McCain might end -- or at least badly cripple -- a more traditional presidential bid.

And, who knows -- it might wind up doing so for Trump too. But, if past is prologue for Trump and what people like about him, the McCain comments seem unlikely to be the end of the line. Remember that Trump's appeal is rooted in a sort of "we're Americans, we don't apologize" mentality. He presents himself and by extension the country as the sort of person who says what he thinks -- consequences be damned. Trump speaks, dares you to be offended and then shrugs it off when/if you are.

So, no, we shouldn't expect Donald Trump to apologize for what he said about McCain. Or, really, ever. Don't like it? Tough.

Trump's attack on McCain marks a turning point for him — and the GOP **// WaPo // Dan Balz – July 19, 2015**

It was only a matter of time before Donald Trump crossed the kind of line he did on Saturday, when he questioned the heroism of Sen. John McCain, a Vietnam War POW. The question now is whether Candidate Trump is immune from the laws of political gravity or soon will be isolated and regarded as an object of scorn or curiosity rather than of presidential seriousness.

Since announcing his candidacy last month, Trump has enjoyed a swift rise, vaulting into the lead in some national and state polls in the crowded contest for the Republican nomination. His sharp attacks on illegal immigrants from Mexico and his flamboyant style struck a nerve with voters who are angry with Washington and with political double talk.

Trump has dominated coverage of the race with nonstop interviews and over-the-top comments. He has proved to be a skilled showman — a talent honed on reality TV — who is able to command attention with his combative verbal style.

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But there is more to becoming president than what Trump has displayed so far, and many Republicans said Sunday that they believe his attack on McCain (R-Ariz.) marks a turning point for Trump the politician.

Few would offer their views for the record, owing to their positions working for other candidates or a desire not to put themselves into direct conflict with Trump. One described Trump's attack on McCain as "lethal." Another said he expects "a complete cratering" of Trump's support. Still another predicted that Trump would become "a niche candidate" and a sideshow to the main event.

But others are less confident that Trump's candidacy will take a nose dive, highlighting the combination of hope, fear and uncertainty that has gripped the party since Trump decided to run.

Phil Musser, a GOP strategist unaffiliated with a campaign, said anyone with claims to know what the next turn is for Trump is only guessing. "This guy has tapped into a very virulent strain of the anti-establishment wing of the Republican Party," he said, while adding that he finds Trump's comments personally offensive. "If he's got a message that works for 15 percent of the people in the first five states," Musser said, "he's a factor, and he's a factor with delegates."

Trump has benefited from being cast as a not-quite-serious presidential candidate, which has allowed him to carry on as he has. His Republican rivals have been tentative in attacking him for describing illegal immigrants from Mexico as "rapists" and drug dealers, hoping he will collapse under his own weight and not wanting to get into a head-to-head scrap. The media, for all the coverage and often critical commentary given to Trump, have not subjected him to the kind of scrutiny that often goes with being atop the polls.

But every candidate who becomes a serious contender for the presidency eventually has to cross a threshold of acceptability with the voters. That is measured not only in where candidates stand on issues or how authentic they seem, but whether voters conclude they have the temperament, character and judgment to sit in the Oval Office.

That day of reckoning was always coming for Trump if he remained in the thick of the nomination contest, but his remarks on Saturday may have accelerated it. "The fact that he has no filter is what some voters find appealing, but it's that lack of a filter that could doom his presidential campaign," said GOP pollster Neil Newhouse, who is working for the super PAC affiliated with former Florida governor Jeb Bush but offered his comments only on behalf of himself.

Trump's candidacy for the GOP nomination is a knot of contradictions. He disparages the Affordable Care Act but has called for a universal national health-care program. He calls himself pro-life after earlier saying he was pro-choice. He wants to expand Social Security benefits. He has repeatedly mocked his opponents in the most personal ways. Could someone like that unite the Republican Party or the country?

Such questions have been avoided, along with those of temperament and judgment. What happened Saturday could give license to his rivals and his critics to subject his candidacy — what he says and how he says it, where he stands vs. where he once stood — to the kind of scrutiny he has largely escaped.

Trump gave no indication Sunday that he had been chastened by the latest controversy or that he was ready to tone it down, as Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus asked him to do.

On ABC's "This Week," correspondent Martha Raddatz asked Trump whether he owed McCain an apology. "No, not at all," he replied. He repeatedly accused McCain — who still bears the physical scars from the torture he was subjected to during more than five years in a North Vietnamese prison camp — of having "done nothing" for veterans.

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When Raddatz confronted him with statements of condemnations by leaders of veterans groups, Trump said, “Well, maybe they don’t speak to the same vets that I speak to.” He filibustered throughout in the face of persistent questioning.

Raddatz asked whether, as president, Trump would continue to label an opponent as a “loser” or “dummy,” as he has done as a candidate. “Look, when people attack me, I let them have it back,” he said. “You say physical appearance. You know . . . people are constantly attacking my hair. I don’t see you coming to my defense.” Then he again called McCain “a dummy.”

If Republicans — many privately and some publicly — agreed that Trump has entered a new and more challenging phase of his candidacy, they differed on what the right strategy should be for those who feel he is a threat to the party’s hopes of winning the 2016 election.

Steve Schmidt, who was senior adviser to McCain in the 2008 presidential campaign, says Trump’s GOP rivals and others in the party must step up and confront him. “What he represents has to be taken seriously. It has to be confronted seriously,” he said in a telephone interview. “It’s not just a cancer on the Republican Party and the conservative movement. It’s a cancer on our politics as a whole. . . . My personal view is that it ought to trigger a fight for the soul and heart of the Republican Party and the conservative movement.”

Another prominent GOP strategist, who to speak candidly declined to be identified by name, counseled a more nuanced approach. Candidates should prosecute the case against Trump, this strategist said. “But they have to do that with a certain amount of respect, with disappointment in their voice, and not go over the top.”

Trump’s harshest critic among his fellow Republican candidates has been former Texas governor Rick Perry. Even before Saturday’s controversy, Perry had aggressively criticized Trump for his comments on immigration. Now, after the attack on McCain, he says the businessman should get out of the race.

That’s unlikely right now, and it still would leave Trump free to mount an independent candidacy next year. Perry’s motivation may spring in part from his desire to raise his own profile in the hope of qualifying for the first GOP debate, which will take place Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

That debate promises to be dominated by the issue of Trump, and every candidate on that stage will have to weigh the political consequences of challenging him directly. Whether Trump will begin to weigh the consequences of his actions is another question. So far, there’s no indication of a change of heart. But for the candidate, the stakes have gotten noticeably higher after what he did Saturday.

How to handle a bully like Trump **// WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – July 19, 2015**

As the candidates who will qualify for the presidential debate in August begin their preparations, they are going to want to bone up on a range of policy issues and make sure they have coherent answers to hard questions. (Now that Syria is a mess what do we do about it? If a Supreme Court vacancy opens on Day One, who is at the top of your replacement list? Has the president pardoned too few or too many people?) Equally important will be a game plan for neutralizing Donald Trump.

Even before Trump self-destructed on Saturday, we saw candidates like Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), as well as former Texas governor Rick Perry, call out Trump for talking nonsense and for racist language. At the other end of the spectrum, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) has been obsequious, slobbering over Trump with praise and refusing to rebuke his racist characterization of immigrants.

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Now that Trump has attacked war hero Sen. JohnMcCain (R-Ariz.) and other POWs, those who shrank from criticizing him when he went after Hispanics are revealed to be near-sighted and, in fact, hypocritical. Once you excuse or ignore hatred against one group, you've lost the moral authority to knock him when he goes a step too far. Those who defended Trump — or were silent — need to demonstrate they get this. A contender like Perry, who called out Trump from the start — and now calls for him to get out of the race as unfit to be commander in chief — looks principled and a good judge of character (or lack thereof). Likewise, Jeb Bush — who called Trump out for racism — was well positioned to slam Trump again. (He tweeted yesterday, "Enough with the slanderous attacks. @SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans — particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration.")

The Trump problem is acute for the non-Bush candidates, especially those who have been meek about calling him out. As we predicted, Trump is overshadowing all of them at the moment. "He seems to be taking support from the most conservative and anti-Washington rivals in the field, particularly Mike Huckabee, Scott Walker, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul," the Wall Street Journal reports. "Mr. Bush's rise in the polls, coming in tandem with Mr. Trump's growing strength, may be a sign that so-called establishment Republicans are closing ranks around Mr. Bush, possibly as a result of Mr. Trump consolidating his own support. Marco Rubio may be feeling some of that shift with his sinking numbers. The numbers suggest there may be very different approaches among the candidates to dealing with Mr. Trump, who has the media's attention right now."

Here is the dilemma on a debate stage, provided Trump is still in the race then. No candidate wants to further elevate Trump nor appear to be obsessed with fighting another contender when the target is obviously President Obama, Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party. The key is an effective counterpunch — or even a gesture.

One is reminded of the 2000 presidential debate in which Al Gore circled around George W. Bush, trying to intimidate him. Bush tersely nodded in his direction and kept going. An alternative style was demonstrated by Ronald Reagan in the New Hampshire debate in 1980:"I am paying for this microphone Mr. Green!" In both cases what was needed was presence of mind, confidence and an appreciation for the visual impact. What made Reagan effective was not simply his words, but his gesture in literally standing up to the offending party.

In the case of Trump, he may interrupt, say outrageous things, fling insults or directly challenge opponents. The object of his aggression has to be willing to respond without seeming peevish or defensive, but neither can he simply ignore the bait. One of the things voters are looking for is a sense of command. Who is going to stand up to Minority House Leader Nancy Pelosi or to the liberal attack dogs at a news conference? If a candidate can't handle a buffoon like Trump, he will be overwhelmed by far more sophisticated adversaries. So here's some unsolicited advice.

Don't let Trump interrupt you. Tell him to pipe down and wait his turn.

Don't let Trump trash your record or insult you. Tell him he doesn't know what he's talking about and then succinctly respond.

Don't let Trump say something racist or offensive about a group or individual. Put him in his place and tell him that sort of talk is not what America and the GOP are all about.

Don't let him appear serious. It is perfectly appropriate to laugh when he suggests sending Mexico a $100,000 tab for each illegal immigrant. It is effective to make a joke at Trump's expense pointing out his billionaire cluelessness, his lack of experience in relevant areas or his obnoxious personality. (New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was right to point out you cannot say "You're fired!" to Congress.)

Don't obsess about him. If he is just doing his "I'll make everyone rich!" routine, there is no reason to comment. Instead, if you have a record and have done things it is fine (irrespective of Trump) to observe that talk is cheap and you can't fake action or results.

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Don't leave yourself open to attack by making excuses. Don't complain about being thwarted by Democrats in Congress or facing economic headwinds if you are a governor. Trump is likely to pounce and say he never lets anyone or anything get in his way.

Trump is a sideshow, but is also a test for other contenders. He was a test of character, which some but certainly not all candidates passed with flying colors. In a debate the challenge will about defending themselves against heckling, lies and insults.

Donald Trump Not Sorry for Comments, Not Dropping Out // WSJ // Louise Radnofsky and Sarah Portlock – July 19, 2015

Mr. Trump drew fire after he said Saturday that Mr. McCain, the party's 2008 presidential standard-bearer who spent five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, was "not a war hero." Mr. Trump explained his dislike of seeing Mr. McCain was described that way by saying that Mr. McCain was "a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

The New York developer and entertainer drew broad condemnation from GOP competitors for his comments. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called on Mr. Trump to end "slanderous attacks," and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry called for Mr. Trump to drop out of the race.

"I'm certainly not pulling out," Mr. Trump told ABC's This Week on Sunday morning.

Mr. Trump said he wasn't apologizing, "not at all" and said it was disgruntled rivals who had stirred up a controversy over his remarks. "This whole thing was brought up by a lot of the people that are competing against me currently that aren't even registering in the polls because people are tired of them."

"I'm certainly not pulling out; I'm leading and I'm leading in many states," he said.

Asked to explain his remarks, Mr. Trump said that he was angry that not enough had been done to improve medical care for veterans, and that he believed veterans who were not prisoners of wars got ignored.

On Sunday, GOP presidential candidate and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio joined the chorus of GOP rivals and calling for Mr. Trump to drop out of the race on CNN's State of the Union Sunday.

Mr. Rubio said Mr. Trump's "insult" to prisoners of war disqualified him to be commander-in-chief.

Mr. Trump has seldom backed off controversial comments. In a live phone interview with "Fox and Friends" on Sunday morning, Mr. Trump said the uproar over his comments was "total nonsense" and taken out of context of his full remarks.

"I'm saying McCain isn't fighting for the veterans," Mr. Trump said.

He compared this episode to his comments several weeks ago about illegal immigration when he ignited a firestorm after labeling the group "drug dealers" and "rapists."

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"I brought illegal immigration to the forefront. I believe now I'm bringing the plight of the veterans to the forefront which is great. If that is what happens, I'll be very proud because the veterans are treated very, very badly and John McCain – like all politicians – has been all talk and no action."

Trump Refuses to Back Down on McCain Criticism // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – July 19, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa—Presidential candidate Donald Trump refused Sunday to apologize for criticizing Sen. John McCain's war record, a politically risky stance in keeping with his long record of standing behind provocative remarks and brushing off guidance from aides.

Mr. Trump operates as his own chief strategist and political consultant—the "chief theoretician of Trumpism," according to one person who works with him. He's not known to submit himself to policy briefings or do the homework typical of successful politicians, according to another person who has worked for Mr. Trump on previous political efforts.

The result is a Republican presidential campaign of freewheeling, off-the-cuff commentary that always carries the potential to run off the rails.

On Sunday, Mr. Trump didn't back down from remarks he made a day earlier at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, where he said that Mr. McCain, who spent five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, was "not a war hero." He added that Mr. McCain was considered "a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

Mr. Trump, who also said Sunday he was ignoring calls to drop out of the presidential race, has been fuming about Mr. McCain since the senator referred to the crowd at Mr. Trump's rally in Phoenix last week as "crazies," which Mr. Trump took as a personal insult.

Mr. McCain himself has a controversial reputation within the party for whom he served as the presidential standard-bearer in 2008, after previously going through a tough race for its nomination in 2000. He angered some fellow Republicans with his proposals for an immigration overhaul and tighter campaign-finance restrictions.

Even among critics, however, his war record has been considered off limits, and over the weekend, Mr. Trump's 2016 competitors rushed to Mr. McCain's defense. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham described the remark as one that should disqualify Mr. Trump from serving as commander-in-chief. Others, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal also condemned the comments. A Republican National Committee spokesman said the remarks had "no place in our party or our country."

Mr. Trump has declined to rule out a bid as an independent, a move that could potentially siphon voters away from the eventual GOP nominee.

A spokesman for Mr. McCain declined to comment Sunday.

Mr. Trump said on ABC and in a phone interview with Fox News that his rivals' criticisms were self-serving, that veterans who weren't prisoners of war had been ignored, and singled out Mr. McCain as a lawmaker who had done too little to improve their medical care.

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"This whole thing was brought up by a lot of the people that are competing against me currently that aren't even registering in the polls because people are tired of them," he said on ABC. "I'm certainly not pulling out."

Mr. Trump said in a press conference after his remarks Saturday that he didn't serve in Vietnam because he received student deferments and a medical deferment related to a bone spur in a foot.

Mr. Trump's standing in national polling—he is neck and neck with Mr. Bush at the head of the crowded field—leaves him certain to qualify for the first RNC-sanctioned debate on Aug. 6 in Cleveland. His team believes sparring with Mr. McCain will only increase his popularity among the sort of anti-establishment GOP voters who have cheered Mr. Trump's caustic comments about Mexican immigrants.

"He's in first place," Corey Lewandowski, Mr. Trump's campaign manager, said Sunday. "Why would anything change?

Mr. Lewandowski declined to discuss internal discussions of the Trump campaign or whether anyone has challenged Mr. Trump internally about his comments about Mr. McCain or earlier comments about Mexican immigrants.

Mr. Trump's top strategic advisers include longtime political aide Roger Stone, who ran his 2000 presidential exploratory campaign, and a team of relative political neophytes. Nobody besides Mr. Stone in the Trump inner circle has been involved in presidential campaign at a national level before, though Mr. Trump's Iowa director, Chuck Laudner, served in a similar role for Rick Santorum in 2012.

In the past, Mr. Trump's aides haven't been able to rein in Mr. Trump's comments, the person who formerly worked with him said. "People try to steer him and he rebuffs them, meanders in his conversations and it never gets around to, 'Mr. Trump, you can't say this, you can't do this,'" said the former aide.

The Trump campaign plans campaign stops this week in South Carolina, the first opportunity to see if Mr. Trump's remarks about Mr. McCain reduce the interest in his candidacy. So far he has drawn overflow crowds at events across the country.

"Sometimes maybe he talks a little bit before he thinks, but he covers the issues well," said Jeff Frank, a corn-and-soybean farmer from Auburn, Iowa, after hearing Mr. Trump's remarks at the Ames event Saturday.

Lou Gargiulo, the chairman of the Trump campaign in Rockingham County, N.H., said Sunday that he doesn't expect Mr. Trump's remarks about Mr. McCain to damage him among the people who have propelled him atop national polling.

"There are a lot of establishment Republicans who are fearful of Mr. Trump and recognize that he is resonating with a lot of people," Mr. Gargiulo said. "There's a high level of frustration and people are looking for someone who is going to talk plainly. The only person in the race who is going to talk plainly about issues of trade and immigration is Trump."

What Donald Trump Has Said — About McCain, Obama, Immigrants, His Hair **// WSJ – July 19, 2015**

Businessman and now presidential candidate Donald Trump has made a series of controversial comments over the

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years, including remarks questioning President Barack Obama's birthplace and whether Arizona Sen. John McCain is a war hero. Here's a roundup.

* * *

On whether President Barack Obama was born in the U.S.:

"I am embracing the issue, and I'm proud of the issue. I think somebody has to embrace it because, frankly, the people that are – and I don't like the name 'birther,' because I think it's very unfair and I think it's very derogatory to a lot of very good people that happen to think that there's a possibility that this man was not born in this country, and by the way, if that were true, you know it's very interesting, if that were true, it'd be the greatest scam in the history of this country. So I feel that there is certainly a chance that he was not born in this country. Now, if he were not born in this country, that means he can't be president — it's very simple!" [MSNBC Daily Rundown March 31, 2011]

On Iraqi oil fields:

"We go into Iraq. We have spent thus far, $1.5 trillion. We could have rebuilt half of the United States. $1.5 trillion. And we're going to then leave. So, in the old days, you know when you had a war, to the victor belong the spoils. You go in. You win the war and you take it.... You're not stealing anything. You're taking- we're reimbursing ourselves- at least, at a minimum, and I say more. We're taking back $1.5 trillion to reimburse ourselves." [To ABC April 18, 2011]

On his 2012 presidential campaign:

"I maintain the strong conviction that if I were to run, I would be able to win the primary and ultimately, the general election.... Ultimately, however, business is my greatest passion." [To advertisers at an NBC TV event May 16, 2011]

On whether American aid worker Dr. Kent Brantly should receive treatment for Ebola in the U.S.

"The U.S. cannot allow EBOLA infected people back. People that go to far away places to help out are great-but must suffer the consequences!" [On Twitter, 1 Aug 2014]

On his plan to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border:

"I love the Mexican people. I do business with the Mexican people, but you have people coming through the border that are from all over. And they're bad. They're really bad. You have people coming in, and I'm not just saying Mexicans — I'm talking about people that are from all over that are killers and rapists, and they're coming into this country." [To CNN, June 28, 2015]

On whether Sen. John McCain is a war hero:

"I supported him for president, I raised a million dollars for him, that's a lot of money, I supported him, he lost, he let us down. But you know, he lost, so I've never liked him as much after that, because I don't like losers... He's not a war hero.... He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured, ok, I hate to tell you.

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He's a war hero because he was captured, ok and I believe, perhaps he's a war hero, but right now he's said some very bad things about a lot of people." [Ames, Iowa, July 18, 2015]

On language and name calling that might be seen as un-presidential, including comments about physical appearance:

"Oh, I don't think — look, when people attack me, I let them have it back. You say physical appearance. You know, it's my hair but people are constantly attacking my hair. I don't see you coming to my defense. I'm — my hair is just fine, but I don't see you coming to my defense. But if I say something about somebody else. Yesterday, I mentioned somebody was saying, McCain's a smart man. I said, really? He graduated last in his class at Annapolis, OK. So people laughed when I said it, but a lot of people don't know that." [ABC's This Week, July 19, 2015]

Trump and His Apologists **// WSJ – July 19, 2015**

It came slightly ahead of schedule, but Donald Trump's inevitable self-immolation arrived on the weekend when he assailed John McCain's war record. The question now is how long his political and media apologists on the right will keep pretending he's a serious candidate.

Speaking at a forum in Iowa, Mr. Trump declared that Senator McCain was "not a war hero," adding that "he's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

Mr. McCain spent more than five years in a Vietnamese prison camp, was tortured to the point of lifelong disability, and yet refused an offer to be released before all of his fellow prisoners. Mr. Trump had a more relaxed war due to military deferments. The Trump dump drew immediate condemnations from most GOP candidates and others, but the political apprentice refused to apologize.

His campaign instead released a statement that compounded the felony. "I am not a fan [sic] John McCain because he has done so little for our Veterans," the statement said. "He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the Vets. He is also allowing our military to decrease substantially in size and strength, something which should never be allowed to happen."

Coming from a reality TV star, this too-much-time-on-television line is hilarious. Mr. McCain doesn't need our defense on Mr. Trump's other insults, but they are notable because anyone with a cursory knowledge of politics knows they're false. They show that Mr. Trump has barely a passing acquaintance with America's current policy debates.

The summer Trump polling spurt has nonetheless been instructive in exposing a growing problem on the political right. All too many conservatives, including some magazine editors, have been willing to overlook his hucksterism as he's risen in the polls. They pretend that he deserves respect because he's giving voice to some deep disquiet or anger in the American electorate.

But America has rarely lacked for demagogues willing to exploit public discontents. William Jennings Bryan won three Democratic presidential nominations running against eastern elites. In 1948 Henry Wallace ran as a Soviet sympathizer while Strom Thurmond won 39 electoral votes running as a segregationist. Either one would have been a disaster as President.

As a standard-bearer for conservative ideas, Mr. Trump would likewise be a catastrophe. His only discernible principle is the promotion of his personal brand. His main message seems to be that because he's rich and doesn't care what anyone thinks, he can afford to tell everyone to go to hell. Some Americans may find it satisfying 16 months from Election Day to tell pollsters they'd vote for him, but that doesn't mean conservative elites should

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validate this nonsense.

So full credit to Rick Perry, the former Texas Governor, who led the pack in saying even before the weekend that Mr. Trump lacks the temperament to be Commander in Chief. Several other candidates have now said the same.

But note the silence of Ted Cruz, who declined to criticize Mr. Trump because he said the media enjoy such intra-Republican fights. Mr. Cruz has recently released a book whose main theme is an attack on other Republicans. It's central to his campaign strategy. The Texas Senator must be hoping to inherit Trump voters once the casino magnate flames out, but he's revealing his own lack of political character.

As for conservative media elites, too many have adopted the view that there can be no adversary to their right. This was mainly a left-wing affliction in the last century as many liberals refused to condemn Communists. But today many on the right seem willing to indulge any populist outburst no matter how divorced from reality or insulting to most Americans. If Donald Trump becomes the voice of conservatives, conservatism will implode along with him.

Donald Trump: No apology to McCain, vows to stay the course **// Politico // Kevin Robillard – July 19, 2015**

Trump, who has stood by past statements questioning President Barack Obama's birthplace and asserting many Mexican undocumented immigrants were "rapists," is doing the same with his comments disparaging Ariz. Sen. John McCain's military service because McCain was shot down and captured during the Vietnam War.

"No, not at all," Trump said during a phone interview Sunday on ABC's "This Week" when asked if he owed the Arizona Republican an apology.

Trump, who made his remark — "He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured" — on Saturday at a gathering of Republican presidential at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, also insisted the crowd was delighted by his attack on McCain.

"I got a standing ovation, the biggest ovation they had all weekend, by far," Trump said. "When I left the room, it was a total standing ovation. It was wonderful to see. Nobody was insulted."

He said the the GOP presidential candidates who were quick to condemn his remarks were motivated by jealousy.

"Later on, the Republican candidates, some of whom are registering 1 percent and zero, and they're very upset that I'm leading the polls by actually a nice margin, they're extremely upset," Trump said Sunday, adding: "They started attacking me."

He also said he wouldn't drop out of the race, as former Texas Gov. Rick Perry called for him to do.

"Of course, they'd love to have me do that because I'm leading the pack," Trump said, naming Nevada and North Carolina as two states where polls show him in the lead. "I'm certainly not pulling out; I'm leading, and I'm leading in many states."

Trump said it was actually McCain, who still cannot lift his arms above his head because of torture he experienced while a prisoner of war in Vietnam, who needed to apologize — to the citizens who showed up at a Trump rally in Phoenix recently. McCain said Trump "fired up the crazies" at the rally, sparking their now weeklong feud.

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The people in Phoenix were “devastated by illegal immigration, something I’m very proud to have brought to the forefront,” Trump said. “We had thousands of people, and he said they’re all crazies. He called them crazies. And frankly, I think he owes them an apology.”

Trump also continued to attack McCain for not doing enough to help veterans.

“I’m very disappointed in John McCain because the vets are horribly treated in this country,” Trump said. “I’m going to fight for the vets. I’ve done a lot for the vets. And the vets — I’ve been going around to the campaign trail. They’re treated like third-class citizens. He’s done nothing to help the vets. And I will tell you, they are living in hell.”

The billionaire real estate developer and entertainer said his experience helping to build the Vietnam Memorial in downtown Manhattan showed he could help veterans more than McCain could.

“He’s on television all the time, talking, talking,” Trump said of McCain. “Nothing gets done. You look at what’s happening to our veterans — they’re being decimated, OK. So, I will do far more for veterans than anybody. I’ll be able to build them new hospitals, I’ll be able to build them care centers. I’ll be able to help the veterans.”

And Trump vowed to keep a key part of his persona — responding to critics by calling people “dummy,” among other things, and insulting the physical appearance of others — even if he were elected president.

“When people attack me, I let them have it back,” Trump said. “You say physical appearance, you know, it’s my hair but people are constantly attacking my hair. I don’t see you coming to my defense.”

Donald Trump evades specifics on his draft deferment **// Politico // David Rogers – July 19, 2015**

Who’d have guessed it, but the Vietnam War draft could become a political issue again given the pattern of evasive answers by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

The New York billionaire, who was a genuine student-athlete in his youth, came away with a medical deferment in 1968 owing to bone spurs in both heels, according to his latest explanation. But in seeking to downplay that exemption as “minor” and “short-term,” Trump’s campaign raises more questions than it answers as to how he sidestepped military service during the war.

This is not a new controversy for the wealthy New Yorker. But this weekend, Trump made himself more of a target with his attacks on Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a Navy veteran who spent years as a POW in Hanoi. And much as Trump insists that the decisive factor was his high number in the December 1969 draft lottery, the real question is how he stayed out of the draft for the nearly 18 months before.

Like politics itself, timing was everything in that crucial period of 1968 and 1969, when the Army was running out of volunteer replacements and more and more draftees were needed to man infantry units in Vietnam. Draftees represented an ever larger percentage of those Americans killed in action in 1968 and 1969, and college graduates born, like Trump, in 1946 or 1947 became a target for draft boards across the country.

Having enjoyed four years of student deferments, the name of the game for many was to find a new way to stay out of the war. National Guard slots were coveted as a safer alternative to Vietnam. Others got married, had children or found jobs, such as teaching, that might keep the draft board at bay.

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Most important, when the new-styled lottery was announced in 1969, it changed the rules so a young man's birth year meant less in the order of the draft. Everything now rested instead on what day he was born. A high number for that day became the "home free" ticket for those 1946-47 babies who had avoided being drafted until then.

In this same period, Bill Clinton famously posed as a future ROTC officer candidate at the University of Arkansas, until his high number came in and he was off the hook. George W. Bush and Dan Quayle opted not to wait and found places in their states' National Guard.

Trump's medical deferment for bone spurs was just as timely. The process may have been perfectly in order, but he continues to act embarrassed by the fact and is murky about the details.

Indeed, for many years, Trump — who was born June 14, 1946 — never mentioned his medical deferment, and Saturday's explanation from his campaign again downplayed its import.

"While attending the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Finance, Mr. Trump received a minor medical deferment for bone spurs on both heels of his feet," the statement reads. "The medical deferment was expected to be short-term and he was therefore entered in the military draft lottery where he received an extremely high number, 356 out of 365.

"When the draft occurred, they never got near his number and he was therefore exempt from serving in the military," the statement continues. "Although he was not a fan of the Vietnam War, yet another disaster for our country, had his draft number been selected he would have proudly served and he is tremendously grateful to all those who did."

In fact, a summary of Trump's draft record — from the National Archives and Records Administration in Missouri and first published by the The Smoking Gun website in 2011 — tells a different story.

Trump's medical deferment is listed for October 1968, months after he had left Wharton. And despite the campaign's statement that it was "expected to be short-term," there is no evidence in the records of it being dropped before the draft lottery in 1969.

The dates suggest the deferment stemmed from a Sept. 17, 1968, draft physical at the Armed Forces Center in New York described in a 1992 book on the businessman by veteran journalist Wayne Barrett. "The baseball-tennis-squash star qualified for a medical deferment," Barrett writes, but no explanation is given of the cause.

Various news accounts in 2011 also stopped short, and the first mention of bone spurs appears to have come from Trump this past weekend.

The fact that Trump was called for a physical within months after graduating indicates that there was a very real threat of him being drafted — long before the December 1969 lottery. Any deferment was more than "minor" then. And one big question is whether Trump actively sought the deferment by bringing a letter from his own doctor to the physical citing the bone spur problem.

Young men with access to friendly family physicians had this advantage at the time in dealing with draft physicals. Lower-income individuals, with no doctor but health issues bigger than bone spurs, could find themselves approved for military service.

POLITICO asked a Trump spokesperson Saturday about such a letter but the only response as of Sunday afternoon was the more general campaign statement.

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“Many years later, Mr. Trump was responsible for the building of the beautiful Vietnam War Memorial in lower Manhattan, for which he contributed a tremendous sum of money,” that statement concludes. “He was also responsible for bringing back the New York City Memorial Day parade in 1995, after our military was embarrassed by the previous year’s parade where almost nobody showed up. Mr. Trump’s parade was one of the largest parades ever held. Today, he remains committed to helping and honoring all of our Veterans.”

Donald Trump Digs in as More Pile On **// Bloomberg // Ari Elkin – July 19, 2015**

Donald Trump on Sunday stuck to his guns after igniting criticism over the weekend when he questioned Arizona Senator John McCain's status as war hero, and said the Republicans attacking him are irked by his recent polling success.

"What happened is, later on, the Republican candidates, some of whom are registering 1 percent and zero, and they’re very upset that I’m leading the polls by actually a nice margin," Trump said on ABC's This Week. "They’re extremely upset."

Trump has been at or near the top of several national polls recently, including a Fox News Poll out last week, which had Trump leading among Republicans with 18 percent.

Trump's ABC appearance came one day after he ignited a firestorm of criticism after he said at the Iowa Family Leadership Summit that McCain, a former Navy pilot who was held for more than five years in Vietnam after his plane was shot down in 1967, qualifies as a war hero only "because he was captured."

Most of the Republican presidential candidates and the Republican National Committee swiftly condemned the comments, with the notable exception of Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. So did press magnate Rupert Murdoch, whose Fox News network will be hosting the first presidential debate next month and will be deciding which of the 16 major Republican candidates get the coveted 10 seats on the stage.

A number of leading Democrats also spoke out against Trump, including the party's presidential front-runner, Hillary Clinton, and Secretary of State John Kerry. A former Senate colleague of McCain's and a fellow Vietnam War veteran, Kerry took the unusual step of issuing a statement hailing McCain's endurance in the face of "unspeakable acts of torture." Said Kerry, who as the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, got an assist from McCain when some Republicans questioned Kerry's Vietnam war record:

"If anyone doesn't know that John McCain is a war hero, it only proves they know nothing about war and even less about heroism."

On ABC, Trump said he did not serve in Vietnam because of student deferments and then a medical deferment for a bone spur in one of his feet. He called himself "fortunate" because "I was not a believer in the Vietnam war."

Trump insisted he will do a better job than McCain in advancing veterans' issues. In a statement issued by his campaign after the ABC appearance, Trump cited his contributions to the New York City Vietnam Veteran's memorial and to a 1995 Veteran's Day parade.

During the TV appearance, he complained that he's being treated more harshly than other candidates. When ABC reporter Martha Raddatz mentioned that Trump will sometimes lampoon other peoples' physical appearances, Trump pointed out that he is not immune to such attacks.

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"You say physical appearance," Trump said, according to the transcript. "You know, it's my hair but people are constantly attacking my hair. I don't see you coming to my defense. I'm -- my hair is just fine, but I don't see you coming to my defense."

On Sunday, Florida Senator Marco Rubio said on CNN's State of the Union that he agrees with fellow Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry, an Air Force veteran who said Saturday that Trump's comments make him unfit to serve as commander-in-chief.

"This is not just an insult to John McCain, who clearly is a war hero and a great man, but it's an insult to all POWs, to all men and women who have served us in uniform, who have been captured in battle," Rubio said. "And this somehow makes the assumption that somehow, if you are captured in battle you're less worthy of honors than someone who isn't. It's not just absurd. It's offensive. It's ridiculous, and I do think it is a disqualifier as commander-in-chief."

Trump Awakens Kerry's Vietnam Anger With Slam On McCain // The Daily Beast // Mike Barnicle – July 19, 2015

John Kerry was angry.

"Listen to this. Listen to what Trump just said about John McCain," Kerry was saying over the phone. " 'He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured.' "

"That's unbelievable," Kerry said. "That's beyond outrageous."

"John and I have some serious differences on a lot of things but he is nothing other than a hero and a good man. Where was Trump when John got shot down over North Vietnam? In school? At a party? Where was he?"

For many months now, years even, Kerry has been point man in Barack Obama's attempt to restrict Iran's plan to develop a nuclear bomb. He has been a walking high wire act, traveling a region that is nothing less than a geographical bonfire filled with the debris of failed nations, countries that have collapsed into chaos and terror largely because of the contrived plans of men like Dick Cheney who dreamed of the day when Saddam Hussein could be toppled. The conservative ideologues got their wish while the United States got a larger, longer war and the Middle East became an even bigger source of horror and death.

Trump's assault on McCain evoked immediate anger in Kerry because it resurrected feelings within him that are always there, certainly beneath a surface calm but always, always there: A long gone war called Vietnam.

"All of us sat for weeks and months around a table trying to get this deal done," Kerry was saying. "The Russians, the Chinese, the French, the British, the Germans, all of us. and every once in awhile I thought about that other table, that other time and that was nearly a half century ago."

He was talking about the Paris Peace Talks that began in 1970 and concluded with an agreement signed on January 23, 1973. Henry Kissinger, represented another president, Richard Nixon. John McCain was in Hanoi, in captivity. John Kerry had returned from Vietnam to help organize Vietnam Veterans Against The War. Donald Trump was somewhere else.

As talks in Paris dragged on, more than half of the 58,195 names carved into the wall of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington were killed. Thousands more were wounded and carry those wounds still, today.

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Both Kerry and Obama are firm believers that conversation is a better starter-kit than combat when it comes to dealing with a country like Iran. Neither man is naive about that nation's aspiration to dominate the region.

"But the Iranians are not suicidal," Kerry pointed out.

Clearly, the Iranians are well aware that Teheran would be turned into a field of glass and sand if they ever stepped toward open war with Israel or Saudi Arabia. And every nation around that table in Vienna knew that the sanctions that crippled the Iranian economy and caused Iran to accept a deal would soon collapse under the weight of countries like France, Russia and China that were eager to begin doing business in Teheran, the dollar emerging as the strongest weapon of all.

So as he shuttled back and forth between Washington and Vienna, his leg broken, his spirit determined, Kerry found himself thinking about that other time and those other talks. He is a student of history and in his mind's eye he saw another president, Lyndon Johnson, broken by a long war that still lingers in the American psyche. He thought about the Ivy League sophisticates that surrounded John F. Kennedy and then Johnson, men named Bundy, Rostow, McNamara and others who spent the lives of so many younger men pursuing their old men's dreams of defeating communism in the lethal laboratory of Vietnam.

In a trick of history and irony communism collapsed on a death bed that Ronald Reagan helped make up by…talking; talking to Mikhail Gorbachev. A wall fell. One continent, Europe, changed forever. Two nations, Russia and the United States, altered their behavior toward each another because of a handshake and a conversation.

Last week, John Kerry returned to the United States. After months of discussion, Germany, China, France, the United Kingdom and Putin's Russia along with the U.S. had a deal with Iran. Now it goes to a congress more than half full of politicians who place a higher priority in defeating anything Barack Obama supports than educating the country and the world with an honest debate about a deal structured to insert more than a decade's worth of roadblocks in Iran's drive to develop a nuclear weapon.

And as John Kerry came home, his mind filled with facts, the ups, the downs, the potential and the politics of getting an accord with Iran through the Congress, he was brought back to his own war five decades ago. A war that won't go away. A war that awoke him one more time because of a libelous slur uttered by a real estate man against a friend of Kerry's who will line up against him on the treaty with Iran. But hat didn't matter because brothers in arms form a bond far stronger than politics.

Trump offers no apologizes for McCain war record attack **// MSNBC // Adam Howard – July 19, 2015**

In his first interview since making remarks critical of Sen. John McCain's Vietnam war record, Donald Trump on Sunday did not back down, saying he doesn't owe the Arizona Republican an apology and that the former GOP presidential nominee "has done nothing to help the veterans except talk."

During a Q&A session Saturday at the conservative Family Leadership Summit, the Republican presidential candidate said of McCain: "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured, okay?" McCain is one of the many prominent Republicans to come out in opposition to Trump's candidacy and his controversial rhetoric regarding undocumented immigrants. Trump's comments on McCain have since drawn widespread condemnation across the political spectrum.

And some of his fellow Republican 2016 candidates are even going so far as to call for Trump to drop out of the race. "His attack on veterans makes him unfit to be Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for president," Rick Perry said in a statement Saturday. During a Sunday

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appearance on CNN's "State of the Nation," Sen. Marco Rubio echoed Perry's sentiments, calling Trump's comments "absurd and offensive."

"It's ridiculous," Rubio told host Dana Bash. "And I do think it is a dis-qualifier as Commander-in-Chief."

In a Sunday televised phone interview on ABC's "This Week," Trump was defiant about his comments the previous day. "I'm very disappointed in John McCain because the vets are horribly treated in this country. I'm fighting for the vets, I've done a lot for the vets," Trump told host Martha Raddatz. "They're treated like third class citizens. He's done nothing to help the vets. And I will tell you they are living in hell."

Trump claimed that "nobody was insulted" at the Family Leader Summit by his comments and that subsequent uproar was being generated by his 2016 GOP rivals "some of whom are registering 1% and 0" in the polls.

He went on to blame McCain for instigating their public squabble because the Arizona senator had described some of his supporters as "crazies." "And frankly, I think he owes them an apology," Trump said.

Trump's attacks on McCain have resurrected criticism of his own history of military service, or lack thereof. When asked about a series of deferments he received during the Vietnam War, Trump said, "I had student deferments, like many other people had, during the war or around the time of the war. I had a minor medical deferment for feet, for a bone spur of the foot, which was minor. I was then entered into the draft because if I would have gotten a different number, I could have been drafted."

"I was fortunate, in a sense, because I was not a believer in the Vietnam War. That was another war that was a disaster for this country. Lives and money and it's disgraceful what happened with the Vietnam War. I was not a fan of the Vietnam War," he continued.

The real estate mogul also defended his tendency to launch personal attacks on his critics. "You know, it's my hair but people are constantly attacking my hair. I don't see you coming to my defense," he said. He then went on to mock McCain's academic record at Annapolis. And yet, Trump admitted to having raised $1 million for McCain's failed 2008 presidential campaign.

Although he conceded that in the past he has said things "on occasion" he regrets, Trump didn't offer an example when pressed. He instead boasted about topping recent polls in early primary states like Nevada and North Carolina. He also insisted he has no plans to withdraw from the campaign.

"John McCain has failed. Because all you have to do is take a look – what you report on all the time, take a look at the scandal at the Veterans' Administration and the disastrous conditions under which our veterans have to live," Trump told Raddatz. "And believe me, I built, with a small group, the Vietnam Memorial in downtown Manhattan. I know what it is to help people and I know what it is to help veterans."

Donald Trump Says He Does Not Owe John McCain Apology // ABC // Benjamin Bell and Emily Shapiro – July 19, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said he does not owe John McCain an apology for saying the Arizona senator is only a war hero "because he was captured."

Trump told Martha Raddatz on ABC's "This Week" that he won't be pulling out of the presidential race over his comments, which he made Saturday during a campaign event in Iowa. Trump said he left to a "standing ovation"

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after speaking at the Family Leadership Council summit.

"When I left the room, it was a total standing ovation," said Trump. "It was wonderful to see. Nobody was insulted."

When speaking about McCain on Saturday, Trump said he likes "people who weren't captured." He didn't back down when asked about the comment.

"People that fought hard and weren't captured and went through a lot, they get no credit," he said. "Nobody even talks about them. They're like forgotten, and I think that's a shame, if you want to know the truth."

Before Trump's comments Saturday, McCain had said the real estate mogul was firing up "crazies." Trump had already found himself embroiled in controversy over comments he made last month regarding Mexican immigrants.

Raddatz asked Trump if McCain's capture in Vietnam -- where he spent five years as a prisoner of war and was beaten and tortured by the North Vietnamese -- described a war hero. He reiterated what his campaign said following his comments Saturday -- that he was disappointed in the Arizona senator because of how veterans are treated in the U.S.

"I'm very disappointed in John McCain because the vets are horribly treated in this country," said Trump. "I'm fighting for the vets. I've done a lot for the vets."

Trump said veterans were treated like "third-class citizens," adding that McCain has "done nothing to help the vets."

Trump didn't serve in the Vietnam War after receiving four student deferments and an additional medical deferment after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1968. He said he would have "proudly served" but wasn't drafted because of his high lottery number.

"If I would have gotten a low number, I would have been drafted. I would have proudly served," he said. "But I got a number, I think it was 356. That’s right at the very end. And they didn't get -- I don’t believe -- past even 300, so I was -- I was not chosen because of the fact that I had a very high lottery number."

Asked if he would continue his pattern of "name-calling, using terms like 'dummy,' 'loser,' 'total losers' on Twitter and elsewhere" when he's "criticized or attacked" if he was elected president, Trump told Raddatz he only gives it back to people who attack him.

"When people attack me, I let them have it back," he said. "People are constantly attacking my hair. I don’t see you coming to my defense."

Trump has come under criticism from numerous fellow 2016 candidates on both sides of aisle. Hillary Clinton called the attack on McCain "shameful." Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said the comments by Trump made him unfit to be president and said the reality TV star should withdraw from the race.

John Kerry, who knows something about having his war record attacked, savages Donald Trump // Business Insider // Brett Logiurato – July 19, 2015

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Secretary of State John Kerry came to the defense late Saturday night of Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona), whose combat record had come under fire earlier in the day from Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Kerry served in the US Senate with McCain for nearly 30 years before replacing Hillary Clinton as secretary of state near the start of President Barack Obama's second term.

"I have known John McCain for more than 30 years. We've had our share of disagreements and still do today. But one thing I know is beyond debate is that John McCain is a hero, a man of grit and guts and character personified," Kerry said in the statement.

"He served and bled and endured unspeakable acts of torture. His captors broke his bones, but they couldn't break his spirit, which is why he refused early release when he had the chance. That's heroism, pure and simple, and it is unimpeachable."

Kerry went on to blast Trump without mentioning his name.

"If anyone doesn't know that John McCain is a war hero, it only proves they know nothing about war and even less about heroism," Kerry said.

Earlier in the day during a forum in Iowa, the real-estate magnate Trump had questioned McCain's status as a "war hero." Trump, who has been in a war of words with McCain for much of the past week over his views on immigration, disparaged McCain for being "captured" during the Vietnam War.

"He's not a war hero," Trump said. "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured."

"Perhaps he's a war hero, but right now, he's said bad things about a lot of people," Trump later added.

McCain's plane was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. He spent five years in a prisoner-of-war camp, where he was tortured. He has been an outspoken advocate for fair treatment of prisoners of war, breaking with many of his Republican colleagues on whether to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and clashing with the Bush administration over its use of "enhanced interrogation techniques."

Republican rivals quickly moved to condemn Trump's remarks, as many have for his assertion that the Mexican government has sent "rapists" and drug runners across the border to the US. McCain took issue with a speech Trump gave last week in Phoenix, where McCain said Trump had fired up "the crazies" in the Republican Party.

For his part, Trump has said he doesn't plan to apologize, even saying that McCain should offer an apology to those he called "crazies."

Kerry has also endured a highly public scrutiny of his war record. During the 2004 presidential election, when Kerry, the Democratic nominee, ran against then incumbent Republican president George W. Bush, a group known as the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" disparaged Kerry's service and attacked the awarding of some combat medals to him.

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The group's allegations were widely discredited, but not before they became a key theme of the 2004 campaign.

Trump: I don't need to be lectured // **USA Today // Donald Trump – July 19, 2015**

John McCain has called his own constituents who want a secure border "crazies." No one in the news media or the establishment, including the Republican National Committee, criticized the senator for those comments.

Now, as respected reporter Sharyl Attkisson has proved point by point, the news media are also distorting my words. But that is not my point. McCain the politician has failed the state of Arizona and the country.

During my entire business career, I have always made supporting veterans a top priority because our heroes deserve the very best for defending our freedom. Our Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals are outdated dumps. I will build the finest and most modern veterans hospitals in the world. The current medical assistance to our veterans is a disaster. A Trump administration will provide the finest universal access health care for our veterans. They will be able to get the best care anytime and anywhere.

Thanks to McCain and his Senate colleague Bernie Sanders, their legislation to cover up the VA scandal, in which 1,000+ veterans died waiting for medical care, made sure no one has been punished, charged, jailed, fined or held responsible. McCain has abandoned our veterans. I will fight for them.

The reality is that John McCain the politician has made America less safe, sent our brave soldiers into wrong-headed foreign adventures, covered up for President Obama with the VA scandal and has spent most of his time in the Senate pushing amnesty. He would rather protect the Iraqi border than Arizona's. He even voted for the Iran Nuclear Review Act of 2015, which allows Obama, who McCain lost to in a record defeat, to push his dangerous Iran nuclear agreement through the Senate without a supermajority of votes.

A number of my competitors for the Republican nomination have no business running for president. I do not need to be lectured by any of them. Many are failed politicians or people who would be unable to succeed in the private sector. Some, however, I have great respect for.

My record of veteran support is well-documented. I served as co-chairman of the New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission and was responsible, with a small group, for getting it built. Toward this end, I contributed over $1 million so our warriors can be honored in New York City with a proper memorial. I also helped finance and served as the grand marshal of the 1995 Nation's Day Parade, which honored over 25,000 veterans. It was one of the biggest parades in the history of New York City, and I was very proud to have made it possible.

I will continue to fight to secure our border and take care of our veterans because these steps are vital to make America great again!

Donald Trump is a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

Donald Trump Says He Doesn't Owe John McCain An Apology // **TIME // Justin Worland – July 19, 2015**

Billionaire GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump said Sunday he won't apologize to John McCain for saying he is only a war hero "because he was captured."

"No, not at all," Trump told ABC's This Week when asked whether he owed Trump an apology. "I'm very

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disappointed in John McCain because the vets are treated horribly in this country."

At a forum for GOP candidates on Saturday, Trump questioned McCain's status as a war hero and said that the Arizona senator had failed veterans. His comments were met with widespread condemnation from both sides of the aisle, including national GOP officials and nearly all of his presidential rivals.

Trump, who is currently leading several polls of GOP presidential contenders, said on Sunday that he would "do far more for veterans than anybody" and suggested that controversy over the comments was the result of less popular candidates "attacking me."

In the interview, ABC's Martha Raddatz noted that Trump has a pattern of blaming others when he's been criticized for controversial remarks and asked whether he has ever regretted anything he has said. Trump said that he had but "surprisingly not that often."

John McCain slam seen as new low for Donald Trump // Boston Herald // Lindsay Kalter – July 19, 2015

Donald Trump's brash rhetoric reached new heights yesterday when he took at shot at John McCain's status as a prisoner of war — a move analysts say could alienate key supporters and threatens to derail the business magnate's campaign.

"The Republican Party really understands itself as more aligned with the military than Democrats," said Erin O'Brien, associate professor of political science at University of Massachusetts Boston. "He is angering folks in the Republican Party that he doesn't want to anger."

The Republican presidential candidate slammed McCain's military record at a conservative forum yesterday, saying he was a "war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

His remarks drew boos from the audience.

Earlier this week, McCain criticized Trump for his controversial remarks on immigration, saying they had "fired up the crazies" at a rally in Phoenix.

Earlier in the week, Trump called McCain "a dummy" who graduated at the bottom of his U.S. Naval Academy class.

He then took the jibe to another level.

"He's not a war hero," Trump said. "He is a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

McCain, whose experience in the Vietnam War was a linchpin of his 2008 presidential bid, was held for more than five years

after his plane was shot down.

"No matter what side you're on, you can't say that being a prisoner of war for that many years is not heroic,"

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O'Brien said. "He really overstepped here. He overplayed his hands in the Republican Party."

Trump's comments were particularly careless in the wake of the Chattanooga shooting Thursday that killed five service members, said GOP national pundit Ford O'Connell.

"Trump doesn't like to apologize, but he's probably going to have to walk back some of those comments," said O'Connell, who is a former McCain adviser. "This is one of those things where you only get so many of them before you're kaput as a candidate."

Trump has, indeed, shown some signs of backtracking.

"If a person is captured, they're a hero as far as I'm concerned. ... But you have to do other things also," Trump said at a news conference after the summit yesterday.

Trump's comments weren't just offensive — they show his weakness as a presidential candidate, said Fergus Cullen, former GOP New Hampshire chairman.

"Voters want someone who's serious to be president of the United States," Cullen said. "They want someone who's responsible and measured in their rhetoric."

He added, "I think this will probably just accelerate the inevitable unraveling of Donald Trump."

Has America gone nuts? Could Republican frontrunner Donald Trump really become president? // The Guardian // Tom McCarthy – July 19, 2015

For two serene months after Donald Trump announced in March that he was forming a presidential exploratory committee, he failed to register in national political polls. People basically thought he was kidding.

Then something funny happened. Trump, the developer and reality TV star, began hiring staffers in early voting states. He travelled to political rallies. He held a campaign launch event. And his poll numbers began to climb.

Now Trump has climbed all the way to the top. In three of the last four major national political surveys, Trump is the leader in the race for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. A Fox News survey this week had Trump ahead of the Wisconsin governor, Scott Walker, 18-15, with Jeb Bush third. Thousands of enthusiastic citizens have been flocking to Trump rallies, from Arizona to New Hampshire.

The effect of Trump's controversial weekend attack on 2008 presidential candidate John McCain , over his time in captivity in Vietnam, remains to be seen. But should Trump ride out the storm – as he has flourished in the squalls stirred up so far – the question will have to be asked.

Has American politics collapsed? Has the Republican party lost its collective mind? Is the Trump "surge" for real?

Veteran observers of US politics counsel calm, predicting that Trump will dazzle for a bit and then fade. With 16 months to go until election day and many voters doing everything they can to avoid political news, it's too early, analysts say, for polling numbers to mean much. In the turbulent 2012 Republican nominating race, they point

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out, the so-called “lead” was passed among at least four non-competitive candidates before settling on eventual victor Mitt Romney.

Rick Wilson, a veteran Republican political consultant, said Trump was experiencing “a celebrity political bubble”.

He is a clown in a fancy hat, strutting the stage for a few minutes, and then the serious actors will come on the stage Rick Wilson

“This is a guy who obviously, on every axis, is not a serious candidate, but who has touched a combination of factors – he’s got a lot of built-in name ID and celebrity from being on television for 20-plus years, and being a known public quantity for 20-plus years,” Wilson told the Guardian. “He’s struck a few chords with the immigration stuff, and he’s managed to capture the most valuable asset in a campaign, which is the attention of the press.

“He is an entertainer. He is a showman. He is a clown in a fancy hat, strutting the stage for a few minutes, and then the serious actors will come on the stage in a little while.”

While Trump may not have a chance of winning the Republican nomination, however, party leaders have warned that he could disrupt the Republican selection process. The potential problem, for the GOP, is that Trump has gained in the polls by saying divisive things, particularly on the topic of immigration .

“[Mexico] are sending people that have lots of problems, and they are bringing those problems to us,” Trump said at his launch event. “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists … They’re sending us the worst people”.

The rhetorical bomb-throwing has activated a hard-right faction in the party who are excited to hear their anti-immigration views broadcast and who would embrace an intra-Republican war over immigration and other issues. That war could threaten the GOP bid to make inroads with Hispanic and Latino voters, and with other centrist voters. And such a failure could make the road to the White House an uphill climb.

In an apparent attempt at damage control, the Republican national committee chairman, Reince Priebus, called Trump last week to tell the candidate to “tone it down”, NBC News reported. Trump denied the report on Twitter.

“Totally false reporting on my call with @Reince Priebus,” Trump wrote . “He called me, 10 minutes, said I hit a ‘nerve’, doing well, end!”

But other Republican leaders and candidates are joining the call for Trump to zip it. McCain, who faces re-election next year, told the New Yorker this week that a large rally Trump held in Phoenix, in which the candidate appeared onstage with the father of a man who was killed by an undocumented migrant, was “very hurtful to me”.

“Because what he did was he fired up the crazies,” McCain said.

Even before his remarks on Saturday, Trump responded characteristically.

“The thousands of people that showed up for me in Phoenix were amazing Americans. @SenJohnMcCain called

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them “crazies” – must apologize!” Trump tweeted . “ @SenJohnMcCain should be defeated in the primaries. Graduated last in his class at Annapolis – dummy!”

The former Texas governor and current White House hopeful Rick Perry, who is lagging in the polls and could use some publicity, also squared off with Trump.

“I have a message for my fellow Republicans and the independents who will be voting in the primary process: what Mr Trump is offering is not conservatism, it is Trump-ism – a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense,” Perry said .

Trump fired back: “[Perry] doesn’t understand what the word demagoguery means … He should be forced to take an IQ test before being allowed to enter the GOP debate.”

On Saturday, Perry released a strongly worded statement in answer to Trump’s attack on McCain, saying he should withdraw from the race immediately.

Erstwhile frontrunner Jeb Bush has weighed in, too. “I have a big disagreement with Mr Trump about his tone and what he’s saying because it’s not accurate,” Bush said on Thursday.

Trump, in turn, has lustily criticized the Bush political machine. “Why do people listen to clown @KarlRove on @FoxNews ?” Trump tweeted Wednesday. “Spent $430M & lost all races — a Bushy!”

Senator Lindsey Graham, another weak-polling presidential candidate, has said Trump’s candidacy is a “defining moment” for the party and called on Priebus to declare Trump persona non grata.

“I think he’s riding a wave of outlandish behaviour,” Graham said of Trump on NBC . “He’s a wrecking ball when it comes to policy, and the way he’s engaging the public is hurting the Republican party.”

Not every competing 2016 candidate is going after Trump, however. Ted Cruz, the Texas senator, told NBC News he was “a big fan of Donald Trump” and planned to meet with him.

“Ted Cruz called me,” Trump said in his version . “And I don’t know why I’m meeting him, to be honest, but I do have respect for him.”

Cruz followed the same course on Saturday, decrying “Republican on Republican violence” .

The entire drama appears headed for a very public denouement in early August, when Trump is likely to appear onstage with the other candidates at the first Republican primary debate. Trump cinched his right to appear in the debates by hitting a campaign finance filing deadline on Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission.

Trump’s financial disclosure showed that he had raised $1.9m since entering the race a month ago. That included a $1.8m loan from himself – but Trump also had about 60 individual donors.

In a statement in advance of his filing, Trump claimed he was worth TEN BILLION DOLLARS, spelling the sum out in capital letters, and his team complained that the financial disclosure document was “not designed for a man

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of Mr Trump's massive wealth".

"This is a carnival seal," said Wilson. "It balances a ball on its nose, and it's very clever at doing that. It's very clever at saying, 'I'm so rich! I'm so rich! My fortune is huuuuge' – and doing the whole Donald Trump act. At playing Donald Trump.

"At some point voters are going to say, is this a man whose finger I want on the button, is this a man who is actually going to go out and negotiate with countries that don't like us on consequential things?

"This isn't about badgering someone down on cost-per-square-foot. This is about real, consequential, life-and-death, existential challenges to our nation and others.

"And at the end of the day, Donald Trump is not a person who is a serious choice."

Beat Trump, don't ban him from the debates // Washington Examiner // W. James Antle III – July 19, 2015

After weeks of pent up Republican criticism of Donald Trump, the dam finally burst Saturday. Once Trump's rivals started condemning him for insulting a party elder and, less directly, any American captured or killed in combat, it began to feel safer to attack him on a wide variety of fronts.

That's all to the good. But some Republicans are taking things a step further and hoping Trump will be excluded from the debates unless he apologizes, which he rarely does. If, as the Republican National Committee says, there "is no place in our party or our country" for Trump's comments, how can there be any place for Trump on the debate stage?

Yes, Trump's presence on that stage has the potential to tarnish the entire GOP brand. He will be seen among the top ten of the Republican field, including the eventual nominee. He is sure to be featured in ads attacking Republican candidates in the fall of 2016.

Barring Trump from the debates would still do more harm than good. First, it would appear to validate the narrative he is pushing to conservatives so disaffected with the party leadership that they are backing a Hillary Clinton donor who favored single-payer healthcare: the fix is in, the Republican establishment will pick the nominee rather than grassroots conservatives. Such speculation is already rife.

Fueling Trump's martyrdom complex is dangerous enough. When the base already feels disrespected, bolstering the perception that the party bosses are more important than the rank-and-file voters is playing with fire. And they would have a point: What legitimacy would the debate criteria have when candidates who meet them and are polling near the top of the field can be denied their spot?

Where would disenchanted voters go in 2016? Kicking Trump out of the debates would increase the chances that he runs as an independent or third-party candidate. This would mitigate his impact on the Republican brand, but also siphon potentially millions of votes away from the party's presidential nominee and make it that much more difficult to beat Hillary Clinton.

Gary Johnson wasn't even polling well enough to qualify for most of the debates in 2012, yet keeping him out still had the effect of pushing the former two-term governor of New Mexico into the Libertarian Party. Johnson won more than 1 million votes that November and he is nowhere nearly as famous as Trump.

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Ross Perot wasn't as famous Trump either, until he launched his 1992 presidential campaign. Like Trump, he had the resources to compete without the party system. Perot also dropped out of the race, making outlandish charges about President Bush planning to disrupt his daughter's wedding. He still won nearly 19 percent of the vote when he re-entered the campaign that fall.

Finally, the benefit of Trump-free debates to the party's image can be overstated. People justifiably ask why Trump has only crossed the line now and not with any of his other numerous crass and controversial statements. Why didn't his comments about Mexicans or his never-recanted birtherism disqualify him? The implication will be that Republicans are fine with racism and bizarre conspiracy theories, or at least unwilling to alienate voters who are.

A counterargument to most of the above is that Trump won't matter if Republicans nominate a real conservative, especially if the nominee is an otherwise attractive and capable candidate. Perhaps. Third-party campaigns are as likely to fizzle as effect the outcome of the election.

Yet this objection suggests that the best solution to Trump isn't changing the debate rules at the last minute, but trusting the voters to do the right thing. Steve Deace, the Iowa conservative radio talk show host who was among the first to predict the Trump boom, has already detected that the billionaire went too far for conservative activists.

Maybe now there can be a real discussion about Trump's record, a past that includes donations to Democratic candidates and a slew of liberal policy positions. Won't the sight of a united Republican field, from Jeb Bush to Ben Carson and Rand Paul to Lindsey Graham, holding Trump accountable also say something about the party's brand identity? It's an argument conservative candidates ought to feel confident about winning, either in the media or on the debate stage.

WALKER

Scott Walker on whether being gay is a choice: 'I don't know the answer to that question' **// WaPo // Jenna Johnson – July 19, 2015**

WATERLOO, Iowa. — Republican presidential hopeful Scott Walker is continuing to struggle over questions about gay rights, telling CNN this weekend that he does not know whether being gay is a choice.

"I don't have an opinion on every single issue out there," Walker told CNN in an interview aboard the Winnebago that is transporting him around Iowa, where he is focusing much of his time and campaign resources. "I mean, to me, that's, I don't know. I don't know the answer to that question."

As the general public has quickly become more accepting of LGBT rights and gay marriage, Walker has opposed same-sex marriage more forcefully than many of his fellow Republican candidates — and he has, at times, struggled to explain his views on other LGBT issues. After the Supreme Court's landmark decision to allow gay marriage in all 50 states, he called for a constitutional amendment that would allow states to ban same-sex marriage. Walker's two college-age sons have said that they support gay marriage. Tonette Walker, Walker's wife, has said that she's emotionally torn on the issue, as a close relative is gay and recently married her partner, but that she stands with her husband on the issue.

Although his stance could help Scott Walker win the Iowa caucuses, which are often dominated by social conservatives, some of his donors and supporters worry that it could hurt him in later primaries or the general election.

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Early last week, Walker told the Independent Journal Review, an online news outlet aimed at young conservatives, that the Boy Scouts of America should keep its ban on gay leaders because it "protected children and advanced Scout values." That immediately ignited a backlash, with gay rights activists saying he needed to apologize for implying that young boys must be protected from gay leaders. Walker later said that he wants to protect Boy Scouts from a "political and media discussion." He has since said that it is up to the Boy Scouts, not him, to decide whether the policy should be changed.

"I'm not talking about personal protection," Walker said in the CNN interview. "I'm talking about, for me, the reason why I didn't have a problem with it is I just think it pulls scouting into a whole larger political and cultural debate as opposed to just saying scouting is about camping and citizenship and merit badges and service awards instead of pulling all these other issues out there. And I was just hoping that they could stay focused on that, that's all."

When CNN asked whether being gay is a choice, Walker said it is "not even an issue for me to be involved in."

"The bottom line is I'm going to stand up and work hard for every American, without regard of who they are, no matter where they come from, no matter what their background. I'm going to fight for people, whether they vote for me or not," he responded.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry (R) wrote in his 2008 book about the Boy Scouts — titled "On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting for" — that openly gay leaders would present a problem: "[G]ay activism is central to their lives. It would unavoidably be a topic of conversation within a scout troop. This would distract from the mission of scouting, character building, not sex education."

Perry said in an interview with NBC News' "Meet the Press" on Saturday that he stands by that statement and opposes the Boy Scouts changing its policy.

"I do," said Perry, who is also making an aggressive play for voters in Iowa. "I believe that scouting would be better off if they didn't have openly gay scoutmasters."

Scott Walker tells undocumented worker that immigrants must follow the law // WaPo // Jenna Johnson – July 19, 2015

PLAINFIELD, Iowa — As presidential hopeful Scott Walker toured a farm in this tiny town where he lived as a child, he was confronted by an undocumented worker from Mexico who is living in Wisconsin and demanded to know why Walker does not support President Obama's plan to give temporary status to some undocumented workers, including parents of children who were born in the United States.

"We're a nation of laws," Walker, the Republican governor of Wisconsin, repeatedly told Jose Flores, 38, who was joined by two of his four children, Luis, 7, and Leslie, 13, who had tears rolling down her cheeks throughout the exchange. Flores, who lives in Waukesha and works for a medical supply factory, said he and his wife live in fear of being deported and separated from their children, who he said were all born in the United States.

"My point," Walker said, "is that you have to follow the law, follow the process."

Immigration has been a weak area for Walker, who announced his presidential campaign last week in the same town where the Flores family lives. Although he used to support granting amnesty to some of the 11 million immigrants who are in the country illegally, Walker now says his position has changed. He said that those living

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here need to leave and reenter legally, prompting some critics to accuse him of flip-flopping. Walker also has suggested curtailing legal immigration during difficult economic times.

Even though immigration has often dominated this presidential contest, Walker did not mention it in his announcement speech or his first couple of campaign stops, including a breakfast at a Harley-Davidson dealership in North Charleston, S.C. Afterward, Walker was confronted by a man who shouted, "What about the border?" At the next campaign stop, a barbecue joint in Lexington, Walker added immigration to his stump speech and continued to talk about the issue — nearly always receiving loud, supportive cheers.

The campaign stop in Plainfield was a joyful homecoming for Walker, who lived in this town of about 400 for seven years as a child in the 1970s. Residents brought lawn chairs to a large machine shed to meet the local boy who is now running for president. The hosts were Janice and Charlie Dietz, who decades ago interviewed Walker's father for the pastor position at their church and then became close family friends. Walker's parents and third-grade teacher were in attendance, too. Walker spoke fondly of buying circus peanut candy at the corner store, swimming in a neighbor's pool and collecting money for a state flag for the city hall. He posed for photos with corn and cows and gushed about Midwestern values.

It was a childhood quite different from that of Leslie and Luis Flores, who said they worry about their parents being deported. Leslie Flores, who is in middle school, said her mother was unable to travel to Mexico to see her father before he recently died. The teenager said that she has seen "so many families" torn apart by deportation.

The Flores family stood out in the white crowd, a reminder that Iowa towns such as this one and others where Walker has campaigned are not always fully representative of the nation's diversity. At first, Walker told the family that he did not have time to talk to them, as he had an interview with Fox News Channel. But the Flores family waited by his campaign bus and approached him again, an exchange that was captured by reporters and three immigration activists, one of whom drove the family to Iowa.

It was an opportunity for Walker to demonstrate how he calmly fights back against challenges from activists. He was forceful as he told the Flores family that immigrants must follow the rules, but he added, "I completely sympathize with the situation you're all in and others are in."

One of the activists, Sam Freeman of Wisconsin's Voces de la Frontera, cut the governor off and shouted, "So that's why you want to separate their family?"

Walker curtly said that he wanted to talk only with the family and that their plight is the reason the United States must go forward with "putting in place a logical system." To address illegal immigration , Walker said, the nation needs to secure the border and enforce its laws before it can focus on other issues. An immigration system cannot come at the cost of American workers and their wages, he added.

"The president had years to deal with this throughout the legitimate legislative process," Walker said. "He had his own party in charge for the first two years ... he was in office."

Flores listened intently to Walker and then said, "Now it's my turn."

In November, Obama announced that he would use his executive authority to shield 5 million illegal immigrants from deportation and allow them to legally work in this country. This become known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or DAPA. Twenty-six states, including Wisconsin, sued, calling the executive action unconstitutional. Such legal action has halted the program.

Flores repeatedly asked Walker why he tried to block DAPA. Walker told him that he is a governor and not part of

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the federal government or the legal system. Flores said thousands of Wisconsin families could have benefited.

"When are you guys going to fix the immigration system?" Flores said. "When are you guys going to take the time to fix immigration reform? So we've got to be deported?"

Walker stayed on message, listing his immigration talking points and criticizing Obama for not fixing the system. He also said that he supported the lawsuit Wisconsin filed to stop Obama's executive action.

"No man or woman is above the law in this country," Walker said. "That's the beauty of America."

Then Luis Flores jumped in: "Do you want me, like, to come home ... come from school and my dad get deported?"

"No, that's not what I'm talking about," Walker said. "You mentioned Waukesha. I've got two nieces who go to school there as well. ... I appreciate kids like you and kids like them, so that's not what my point is. My point is that in America, nobody is above the law."

Scott Walker Goes All In on Iowa **// WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – July 19, 2015**

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa—Scott Walker's aides say his path to winning the 2016 Republican presidential nomination goes through Iowa, a course that hasn't worked for any other candidate for 15 years.

Only twice since 1976 has the Iowa caucus winner ultimately become the Republican nominee for president after a competitive primary—and not at all since George W. Bush in 2000. That spotty history, combined with Mr. Walker's decision to adopt more conservative positions to please the state's electorate, makes Mr. Walker's game plan an uncertain one.

In a crowded ballroom here Sunday, the Wisconsin governor played up his local ties and said his unostentatious style shouldn't mask his conservative record. "In the Midwest, we just take care of problems," Mr. Walker said. "We don't make a lot of fuss, we just get the job done and we go back to work."

Ed Berry, a retired postal clerk from Dike, said he admires Mr. Walker's political victories in Wisconsin, where he beat back a recall election supported by labor unions. "I was impressed by his struggle with progressives, and then he convinced voters to vote him back in," Mr. Berry said.

Mr. Walker's Iowa focus reflects a challenge for the crowded GOP field: winning an early state to cement a place in the top tier among the 16 major candidates. Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey and John Kasich of Ohio, who is announcing his candidacy Tuesday, are among those focused entirely on New Hampshire, which holds the first primary. Sen. Lindsey Graham says his campaign is predicated on winning his home state of South Carolina. Florida will become the most coveted prize for two home-state candidates, Sen. Marco Rubio and former Gov. Jeb Bush.

Mr. Walker's stop here, at a fundraiser for a state lawmaker who is a grandson of Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, was the ninth of 11 weekend appearances in the state; he has vowed to tour all 99 counties before the February caucuses. His staff here dwarfs those in other states. He has taken harder stands against gay marriage and immigration to appeal to the social conservatives who attend the state's Republican caucuses—a move some strategists warn could backfire in a general election.

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The optimal endgame for Mr. Walker is to become conservative activists' favored alternative to Mr. Bush, a fundraising behemoth who, with his super PAC, threatens to swamp the rest of the GOP field in TV advertising.

Mr. Walker is seeking to remain in the top tier of candidates by the time 11 states hold primaries next March 1. A week later comes Michigan, a large Midwestern state where the Wisconsin governor can stress his regional bona fides to Republican voters who already know his story.

"We think we play well in every state," Mr. Walker said during an airport interview Friday in Moline, Ill. "We're going to play to win, I think we do first, second or third. We place in any of those first four [early states], it puts us in great shape."

Complicating matters for Mr. Walker is the fickle nature of Iowa's Republicans, who, like voters elsewhere, have propelled Donald Trump to the top tier of candidates after his caustic comments about Mexican immigrants.

Before Saturday, Mr. Walker had dodged questions about Mr. Trump. When the New York developer declared John McCain, the party's 2008 presidential nominee who spent five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, "not a war hero," Mr. Walker finally engaged.

"I unequivocally denounce him," Mr. Walker said at a campaign stop Saturday in Sioux City.

On his tour here, he offered himself as a candidate running against Washington. "I've been here plenty," he reminded a Friday crowd at a minor-league ballpark in Davenport. "I actually lived here even for a few years."

Walker's pitch is also a resuscitation of his political victories in Wisconsin intermixed with a call to take on Islamic State militants and cut off illegal immigration. It is a different political argument than the optimistic immigrant story offered by Mr. Rubio or the rock-ribbed conservatism from Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

Former Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, who introduced Mr. Walker at his campaign stop last week in New Hampshire but hasn't endorsed a candidate, said the contrast between Mr. Walker and Mr. Rubio presents a stark choice for voters there.

Mr. Rubio, Mr. Brown said, is "appealing to a more hopeful, uplifting American dream, kind of not looking back and looking forward, and Scott Walker is looking at,'Here's what we've done in Wisconsin and here's what we can do nationally with your help."

Scott Walker on the Boy Scouts' Ban on Gay Leaders **// AP – July 19, 2015**

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential contender Scott Walker is struggling with the issue of gay Boy Scout leaders.

The Boy Scouts of America has taken steps to end the blanket ban on gay adult leaders and let Scout units set their own policy.

That prompted Wisconsin's governor to express support for the ban. The governor told the Independent Journal Review website the ban "protected children and advanced Scout values."

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Afterward, he tried to clarify the statement, saying he did not mean physical protection from gay leaders but protection of boys from the public debate.

Now, though, he's no longer saying the ban should remain. He says that's for the scouting organization to decide.

Speaking on CNN's "State of the Union," Walker also said he doesn't know whether being gay is a choice.

Scott Walker in Iowa: Relentlessly on message // Politico // Katie Glueck – July 19, 2015

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — The outfits were nearly identical, the speeches repeated almost verbatim and even the intonations rarely varied. Over the course of Scott Walker's three-day Winnebago trip across Iowa, the Wisconsin governor stumped with the precision of a Swiss watchmaker, exhibiting the kind of discipline that most candidates can only dream of.

In his first days as a presidential candidate in the state where he's leading in the polls, Walker showed the consistency and attention to detail that propelled him to 12 victories back home — including three statewide wins. He sported the same campaign trail uniform (a blue-and-white checked, collared shirt, jeans and belt), and used the same prop (a rumpled dollar bill pulled from his pocket). He told the same anecdote about his thriftiness that's become his signature (his shopping habits at retailer Kohl's) and quoted whole paragraphs of his announcement speech from last Monday, almost word for word.

"I'm for high standards," he said of his education stance at several stops, sweeping his arm upwards to accentuate his point. But standards should be set at the local level, he would follow up, theatrically lowering his arm for emphasis.

Even by presidential campaign trail standards, where the intense media scrutiny pushes candidates to adopt a more buttoned-up approach and White House hopefuls strive to hew closely to message, Walker stands out. On several occasions, when he used a slightly different word at one stop than he had at the previous appearance, he paused and then corrected himself.

In Cedar Rapids, when a voter asked him Friday during a town hall about what he would do to keep jobs in Iowa, Walker took that as an opportunity to dive into his five-point economic plan, making a few connections between Obamacare and her question, but generally sticking to a script that he used everywhere else.

"He had a lot of things he wanted to say," said Mary Howard, 57, who asked the question. "It was more like he was still doing his speech than a direct answer."

The mechanical nature of Walker's appearances is especially well-suited for the grind of a presidential primary season where the first votes won't be cast for another six months. It will help the two-term governor steer clear of gaffes and keep the focus on his message — that he's a battle-tested fighter for conservative values.

Yet as one of the most rigorously on-message — and cautious — candidates in the GOP field, he could also eventually undercut the plain-spoken, authentic image he seeks to cultivate and fuel critics who insist it's a protective shield for a candidate who's not ready for the national stage. The scripted nature of Walker's stump speech has already captured the attention of late-night comedians like Jimmy Fallon, who has mocked the Kohl's anecdote Walker rolled out — nearly verbatim — in at least a half-dozen stops.

Walker, however, is seeking to turn it to his advantage, revealing to audiences that he can laugh at himself.

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“Tonette and I —and some of you might have heard this — we like to his shop at a place called Kohl’s,” the Wisconsin governor said Saturday here in Sioux City. “In fact, I’ve told this story so much that even my friend Jimmy Fallon had a little fun with it the other night.”

With his regional accent, humor and a message he delivers with energy, if not spontaneity, Walker nevertheless managed to connect with his large and enthusiastic Iowa audiences. Portraying himself as a typical Midwestern father, he frequently referenced his two college-aged sons who were in tow over the weekend.

But off the stage was where Walker shined, always ready with a handshake and a sports joke (even if it was a practiced one — anyone wearing Iowa State University gear would hear the lament, “You messed up my bracket!”). He chatted up voters more easily than many of his rivals, never appearing stiff or ill at ease, showcasing the one-on-one, retail politicking skills that even his Wisconsin opponents concede are formidable.

During his first stop Friday morning, in the eastern city of Davenport, Walker was approached by an emotional man who described himself as a homeless Vietnam veteran. When the man began to cry as he described losing his family, Walker embraced him and promised that he “won’t let you down.”

Walker’s formula has so far paid dividends. It guided him to victory in three tough, blue state gubernatorial elections over a period of four years, including in 2012 when he survived withering attacks and a harsh national spotlight in a recall election. And it’s currently got him in sole possession of first place in Iowa, with 18 percent, according to the latest Quinnipiac University poll.

“He’s a good speaker, I like his policies,” said Danny Schleisman, 78, of Carroll, Iowa, who saw Walker at a Saturday stop. “And he didn’t have notes! Totally off the cuff!”

Scott Walker: 'I don't know' if being gay a choice **// CNN // Dana Bash – July 19, 2015**

(CNN)In a weekend interview with Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker about whether the Boy Scouts should allow gay troop leaders, CNN's Dana Bash asked Walker, "Do you think being gay is a choice?"

"I don't have an opinion on every single issue out there. To me, that's, I don't know," Walker answered. "I don't know the answer to that question."

The Wisconsin governor said he supports the current ban that keeps openly gay leaders out of the organization but that he believes the Boy Scouts, not government, should ultimately be able to decide that kind of policy.

Bash and Walker spoke aboard Walker's RV, traveling through Iowa. Earlier in the week Walker told reporters that the Boy Scouts should keep the ban on gay leaders because the policy "protected children."

His campaign later released a statement saying he meant protecting Scouts from the media debate.

"I'm not talking about personal protection. I'm talking about, for me, the reason why I didn't have a problem with it is I just think it pulls Scouting into a whole larger political and cultural debate, as opposed to just saying Scouting is about camping and citizenship and merit badges and service awards, instead of pulling all these other issues out there. And I was just hoping that they could stay focused on that, that's all," said Walker, who is an Eagle Scout.

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When pressed about whether that means he is for or against the ban, at first the governor said that's "up to the people who run the places."

Reminded that presidents of the United States are actually honorary presidents of Boy Scouts of America, Walker responded that he would have "plenty much more significant issues to deal with as president."

"From a domestic and foreign policy and national security standpoint, the one thing people find unique, I guess, whether you like it or not, is that I actually answer questions people ask me," Walker added.

With that opening, pressed again, Walker suggested he believes the ban on gay scout leaders is the right policy.

"I thought the policy was just fine. I'm saying when I was in Scouts, it was fine. You're asking what should the policy be going forward. It should be left up to the leaders of the Scouts," said Walker.

On whether being gay is a choice or not, Walker said that's "not even an issue for me to be involved in."

"The bottom line is I'm going to stand up and work hard for every American, without regard of who they are, no matter where they come from, no matter what their background, I'm going to fight for people, whether they vote for me or not," said Walker.

Contrary to popular belief, Walker said, his wife does not disagree with him on same-sex marriage.

In a recent interview with The Washington Post, Tonette Walker talked about how disappointed their two sons were that her husband called last month's Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage a "grave mistake."

That story left the impression that Tonette Walker agreed with her sons and disagreed with her husband.

The GOP presidential candidate told CNN that is not the case.

"My wife doesn't disagree with me on my position on marriage. She said she was torn because we have some family members who have some very different views on that. She was torn just because the emotion on the family and because all of the media attention on that. Not because she was torn with me on the position," Walker said.

Tonette Walker's cousin, Shelly, married another woman last month. Alex Walker, Scott and Tonette Walker's youngest son, was a groomsman.

Wisconsin's first lady confirmed to CNN separately that she does, in fact, oppose same-sex marriage, as her husband does.

Last week, GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum went after the Walkers, saying if she is for same-sex marriage it could have an impact on her husband's policies and positions because "spouses matter."

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"He's just wrong," Walker said.

Walker talks everything but Trump // Boston Herald // Chris Villani – July 19, 2015

When it comes to Donald Trump, Scott Walker seems content to let the issues and his poll numbers do all the talking.

During a campaign swing through New Hampshire this past week, the Wisconsin governor took questions of any sort, offering replies on immigration, social issues, how much time he plans on spending in New Hampshire, and even his own question-answering.

“The unique thing about me is that I answer questions,” he said Thursday. He even made sure to answer questions from local reporters rather than the same faces from the national outlets he’s apt to see after most events.

When asked whether Trump is hurting the GOP brand, Walker took a pass.

“Donald Trump can speak for himself, I am not going to put words in the mouth of any candidate,” he said. “I think people are tired of candidates lashing out at other candidates.”

He went on to pivot to what he is “for” — reform, growth and safety.

It’s unlikely Walker is going to go after Trump since he’s essentially working from the same playbook. He says he’s against amnesty for illegal immigrants. He touts reforms in Wisconsin that he says put more money in the hands of local governments and gutted funding for Planned Parenthood. He strongly disagrees with President Obama that climate change presents a greater threat to coming generations than radical Islamic terrorism.

In many ways, Scott Walker is Donald Trump with toned-down rhetoric and a more manageable, if less full, head of hair.

And his messages sell to the Republican base. The standing room only crowd cheered when he brought up his tough stance on illegal immigration and sharply criticized the president and Hillary Clinton for their foreign policy decisions.

Another reason for Walker not to punch Trump — he’d be punching himself, in a roundabout way.

When Lindsey Graham or Rick Perry take shots at The Donald, they’re doing so with polling numbers that have them outside of the top-10 tier. Walker is within the margin of Trump and beating Jeb Bush in the latest Fox News poll. He’s managed to make it a three-headed race and has only a fraction of the name recognition of his top rivals. Not to mention the fact that Walker only joined the race, officially, on Monday.

So while the newcomer to the 2016 field may not be taking shots at Trump, he may have the ability to take him out at the ballot box.

Republican Scott Walker brushes up on U.S. foreign policy // Reuters // Steve Holland – July 19, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Scott Walker had a steep learning curve on U.S. foreign policy after some early miscues in his race for the Republican presidential nomination. Now an eager student of global affairs, he is staking out positions that, while perhaps short on nuance, play well to conservatives.

The governor of Wisconsin, Walker is best known for his victory over unions in his state. Republicans generally do not put him in the category of a strategic foreign policy thinker.

But he has been brushing up.

This was evident on a campaign bus tour across Iowa this weekend and on earlier stops in South Carolina.

Walker, 47, last week became the 15th candidate to seek the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. He, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida are among the early front-runners in polling for the November 2016 election.

Walker saw no need for diplomatic niceties in response to the Iran nuclear deal that President Barack Obama announced last week with Tehran: He would terminate it as soon as possible and persuade U.S. allies to join Washington in imposing more crippling economic sanctions on Tehran.

"This is not a country we should be doing business with," he said in Davenport, Iowa, reminding the crowd of Iran's holding of 52 American hostages in 1979. "This is one of the leading state sponsors of terrorism."

Walker would also be more confrontational with both Russia over its aggression against Ukraine and against China, for the territorial pressures Beijing is putting on U.S. allies in the South China Sea.

He would dramatically increase U.S. military spending after budget cuts that have drawn complaints from military officials.

"The United States needs a foreign policy that puts steel in the face of our enemies," Walker says.

LEADER IN KEY STATE OF IOWA

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"What he said is exactly what we need to do," said Judy Jamison of Bettendorf, Iowa, after hearing Walker speak in Davenport. "He's shown in Wisconsin that he's not going to be intimidated."

One of Walker's most prominent early missteps was a statement that his fight against the unions in Wisconsin had girded him for the battle against Islamic State.

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He also said the biggest national security decision by 1980s President Ronald Reagan - who is credited with adopting policies that helped win the Cold War - was his move to fire air traffic controllers at U.S. airports.

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OPEN TO CRITICISM

Aides said Walker has enjoyed learning more about world hot spots. But his remarks on the Iran nuclear deal opened him up to criticism.

Bush took issue with Walker's position that he would immediately jettison the deal, suggesting it lacked maturity. He did not mention Walker by name but his intention was clear.

"One thing I won't do is just say as a candidate: 'I'm just going to tear up the agreement on the first day.' That sounds great, but maybe you ought to check in with your allies first," Bush told reporters in Carson City, Nevada, on Friday.

He said a secretary of state and a secretary of defense should be put in place first. "You might want to have your team in place before you take an act like that," Bush said.

Such talk prompted a rare response from the Walker team to Bush, a possible prelude to a clash over the issue when the candidates have their first debate on Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

The Walker campaign blasted out a statement from foreign policy adviser Robert C. O'Brien that rejected Bush's view without mentioning him by name.

"We don’t need more information, we don’t need to wait to confirm the next secretary of state, we need decisive leadership and we need it now. This won’t be easy, but when America leads, and has a strong president with clear priorities who believes in American strength, the rest of the world will follow," O'Brien said.

Republican pollster Frank Luntz, after listening to Walker at a town hall event in Cedar Rapids, placed Walker's views on national security in the middle of conservative thinking among presidential candidates. He said Walker is between U.S. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, who would limit U.S. engagement overseas, and U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who favors more U.S. intervention.

"He's dead center," Luntz told Reuters. "That's what the public is thinking right now. That’s what Republicans are thinking. There is a general fear among Americans that we are weaker today than we were five years ago, and we’re going to be weaker still."

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Reuters – July 19, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker had a steep learning curve on foreign policy after some early off-key statements. Now an eager student of global affairs, is staking out positions that play well to conservatives but lack a lot of nuance.

This was clear from a weekend bus tour the Wisconsin governor took across Iowa and earlier stops in South Carolina as part of the campaign swing he took in the week after becoming the 15th candidate to seek the 2016 Republican presidential nomination.

He saw no need for diplomatic niceties in response to the Iran nuclear deal that President Barack Obama negotiated with Tehran: He would terminate it as soon as possible and persuade U.S. allies to join Washington in imposing more crippling economic sanctions on Tehran.

“This is not a country we should be doing business with,” he said in Davenport, Iowa, reminding the crowd of Iran’s holding of 52 American hostages in 1979. “This is one of the leading state sponsors of terrorism.”

Walker would also be more confrontational with both Russia over its aggression against Ukraine and against China, for the territorial pressures Beijing is putting on U.S. allies in the South China Sea.

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Walker says he supported path to citizenship, but not amnesty // Washington Examiner // Philip Klein – July 19, 2015

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Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker acknowledged in a CNN interview that in the past he had expressed support for a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants, but said that he wasn't talking about amnesty at the time.

In an interview aboard his campaign trailer that aired Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," Dana Bash pressed Walker about his shift from somebody who once said a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants "made sense" to a presidential candidate talking about restrictions on legal immigration. She asked whether such shifts undermined his pitch to voters that he's somebody who stands up for his principles.

"The only issue where I've clearly said I had a position before — and even on that, as governor, I didn't have a role to play in immigration. I said there should be a path, years ago, when I talked about going forward with legal immigration", he said. "I didn't talk about amnesty. In fact, I said in that specific interview, I opposed the 'Gang of 5,' the measure that Marco Rubio proposed. So I specifically even then said, 'I'm not supporting that.' But I said flat out in the beginning of the year, that's a position I have changed on."

In the 2013 interview with the Wausau Daily Herald editorial board that has gotten a second life during his presidential run, Walker was asked about the millions of individuals who immigrated to the United States illegally, and whether he could see them gaining citizenship with the right mix of penalties and waiting periods. "Sure, yeah," he responded. "I mean, I think it makes sense."

The meaning of the term "amnesty" is itself a hotly debated one in politics, and to many conservatives, any path to citizenship to those who entered the country illegally — even with penalties — would be considered amnesty.

Bash also asked Walker about comments he's made about legal immigration.

"What I've specifically said is I think priority under legal immigration should be given to the impact on American working families on their wages in a way that would improve the American economy," Walker said. "That not only means people like me who were born here, that means people like the woman I just met in Cedar Rapids, for example, who moved here many years ago, was a political refugee of the Congo, and who went through the process to be a legal citizen. She's working here. And I believe for her, and for others who were born here, there needs to be priority given, to say, we're going to need to make sure we put priority [on] American working families and their wages. Doesn't mean there won't ever be legal immigration, it just means that's what our priorities should be."

UNDECLARED

KASICH

John Kasich Group's Video All But Declares Him a 2016 Presidential Candidate // Bloomberg // Steven Yaccino – July 19, 2015

New Day for America, a group supporting John Kasich's bid for the White House, released a five-minute video Sunday about their soon-to-be candidate, highlighting his life story, record in Congress, and executive experience in a must-win swing state.

When Kasich first comes on the screen, the words "Conservative Governor of Ohio" appear beneath his name. By the end, that titled had changed to "PRESIDENT 2016."

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An extended version of an ad buy that New Day is running on New Hampshire and Boston-area television, the video is the farthest Kasich's team has gone to declare publicly that he is running for president. He is expected to announce his candidacy at Ohio State University in Columbus on Tuesday morning, followed by stops in New Hampshire, South Carolina, Iowa and Michigan this week.

"Who is it that has the experience to balance the federal budget, which is very hard to do?" Kasich asks in the video, which begins by flipping through the pictures of every other Republican and Democratic candidate in the presidential race. "Who is it that's had the experience in turning a major state with huge deficits and high unemployment to prosperity? Who is it that spent time, actual time, working on the national security issues. You know, of all those people running, there's not one that has experience in all those critical three areas."

Kasich has been struggling to gain traction on the national stage, consistently getting around 2 percent in national polls. The video addresses head on what may be Kasich's biggest challenge: convincing voters that an unprecedented field of 15 GOP candidates needs one more member. And it signals exactly how Kasich will try to stand out in the coming months.

"You know, I was one of the chief architects of balancing the budget," Kasich said after the camera panned over framed photos from time in Congress, where he was the chairman of the U.S. House Budget Committee and a member of U.S. House Armed Services Committee. "First time we did it since man walked on the moon. We haven't done it since."

The spot, which is part of the digital component of a seven-figure media buy New Day recently launched, also includes footage of Kasich's time as a Fox News host and touches on the fiscal challenges of his time as governor of Ohio, where he won re-election by a 2-to-1 margin last year.

How John Kasich could win in 2016 **// Cincinnati Enquirer // Chrissie Thompson – July 19, 2015**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — John Kasich has two problems.

You may have already noticed the first. Kasich is going to run for president, in a campaign scheduled to launch Tuesday.

But do you know who he is?

Here's the second: Kasich is the popular second-term governor of Ohio and an 18-year veteran of Congress. But the same Ohio voters who have never handed him a loss, whose swing-state endorsement is crucial to his White House résumé, question whether he really could be president. To some, it's almost like he'll always be the boy next door.

Much of the country doesn't know him. The people who do, know him too well.

Then there's a third group: believers.

Kasich's experience, candor and moderate views are winning him a growing number of fans in New Hampshire and Iowa and among politicos elsewhere.

He could outshine presumed frontrunner Jeb Bush, they say. His experience level would challenge Marco Rubio.

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And if Republican voters can coalesce around a moderate like Kasich, he might even pose a threat to Hillary Clinton.

CAMPAIGNING LIKE HE MEANS IT

Maybe the doubters don't realize what a big deal it is to be the governor of Ohio.

Every time Kasich addresses a group of Republicans, he talks about his landslide re-election in 2014. Almost without fail, several people say: "Wow." Once, in Georgia, someone gasped.

One thing is clear: Many Republican primary voters feel a responsibility to raise up a candidate who can win back the White House. And no Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio.

For Kasich, the journey to presidential candidacy is rooted in his re-election. Touting income-tax cuts and economic growth, he rolled over scandal-ruined Democrat Ed FitzGerald, 64% to 33%. Kasich won 86 of Ohio's 88 counties – even the one containing Democratic stronghold Cleveland.

A month after the election, he launched a national tour to promote a federal balanced-budget amendment. Then he began campaigning in early-primary states.

"It was sort of amazing, right?" he said after his first trip to New Hampshire, in March. "You come to something like this and see how people react, and it's pretty positive. It really does have an impact on the way you think."

But to run for president requires more than positive vibes. Recently, Kasich, 63, seemed to flip a switch, from entitled elder statesman to earnest campaigner.

It's a role he hasn't filled since 2010, when he eked out a two-point victory over incumbent Democrat Ted Strickland to become Ohio's governor.

That election marked Kasich's third-straight defeat of a Democratic incumbent. He knocked the first one off in 1978, becoming a state senator at age 26. He kicked off his nine terms in Congress in 1982, becoming the only Republican in the country to defeat an incumbent that year.

Kasich's only failed election? The last time he ran for president, in 1999. Kasich had helped lead a charge in the 1990s to balance the federal budget and sought to convert a growing national profile into a White House bid. (Even now, most conservatives who recognize Kasich on the campaign trail cite his balanced-budget experience in Congress.)

Enthusiasm and financial support for George W. Bush forced Kasich to end his 1999 presidential campaign in July. The loss kicked off a decade outside of public office: working for Lehman Brothers out of a two-person office in Ohio, hosting a show on Fox News, writing books.

Kasich says he didn't prepare for his first presidential bid. This time, he says, "I can see sort of the pathway as to how I can be president. I can see what the trek is like to the top of Mount Everest."

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LESSONS LEARNED

Something else has changed for Kasich. He’s intentionally less of a jerk.

Take this exchange, from a campaign stop in Georgia. When a reporter asked about an executive order he'd issued, taking away union rights for some home-health-care workers, he cut off the question, answered brusquely and walked away. He later, out of nowhere, apologized and took time to answer the question. It was a deferential, even courteous, gesture not always seen from Kasich with reporters.

He's almost assumed an "aw shucks" demeanor when he thanks voters on the campaign trail, making jokes about how few people came to see him when he ran in 1999. "Aw shucks" is definitely not natural Kasich.

"Most people don't know me very well. People make judgments," he explained.

"I'm a McKees Rocks boy," he said, referencing his Western Pennsylvania childhood hometown. "We're rough and tumble there. We're direct and blunt and all that kind of stuff."

To be fair, he is still quite sure of his own rightness.

As he said last month, "The doubters are not experts."

Are the believers experts?

"Uh, yeah, pretty much," he said.

And he is still unapologetic. Nearly every campaign stop, he answers a question the way the conservative questioner doesn't like. But most of the time, people seem OK with it. It's refreshing, they say.

"There's a Midwestern bluntness, but without a Northeastern edge," said John Watson, who served as chief of staff for former Georgia governor Sonny Perdue and who has introduced Kasich to Atlanta donors.

Republican political junkies are often familiar with Kasich's support for Common Core educational standards or for Medicaid expansion under President Obama's health care law.

But how about this?

In Iowa, a woman asked about officials' misbehavior, calling out Lois Lerner, formerly of the IRS, and Clinton.

"I'm more worried about what we're going to do to fix America than I am about Hillary's (email) server," Kasich said, almost chastising the woman.

Yet she told the Columbus Dispatch after the event that she was "fine" with his answer, and Kasich "appears to be

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presidential."

"You have to look at the totality of the candidate on all the issues and whether they hold to their belief," said Robb Thomson, a Republican activist whose father served as governor of New Hampshire. "Are they trying to pander to me? I don't think Governor Kasich does a lot of pandering."

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

Teresa Fedor wasn't prepared for the result of her first meeting with Kasich.

The Democratic state representative walked out during Kasich's first State of the State address, joining a protest in the Statehouse rotunda over his plan to limit the collective bargaining rights of public employees. During hearings for the anti-union bill, state troopers closed the Statehouse to the public, citing overcrowding concerns. Fedor defied them, dramatically opening the doors to crowds outside and then joining a lawsuit over Statehouse access.

The bill passed, but Ohio voters overwhelmingly voted to repeal the legislation a year after electing Kasich governor.

A few months later, Fedor asked to meet with Kasich. His advisers told him to decline. He didn't take their advice.

It turned out Fedor had been trying to pass comprehensive anti-human trafficking legislation.

Early into her pitch, Kasich signed on. "Why don't we pass your bill?" the governor said.

She stared at him. "Do you really mean it?" Fedor said.

Kasich has since signed two massive bills and an executive order, stiffening penalties for traffickers and johns and providing services to victims. Fedor still opposed Kasich's re-election bid in 2014, but newspapers have run photos of the two hugging at bill signings. "No one was more surprised than me" at the partnership, Fedor says.

Kasich credits his faith in God with his interest in stopping human trafficking. It's also one of the motivators for his signature gubernatorial accomplishment: expanding Medicaid under Obamacare, a move which angered conservatives and required heavy Democratic support.

"For me, faith is the do's, not the don'ts," Kasich said in May to a group of about 250 Georgians, who mostly responded in thoughtful silence.

Kasich says his faith has grown consistently since the late 1980s, after his parents died in a car crash with a drunken driver.

"I'm just trying to figure out how my life can have meaning in the world," Kasich told me. "My life is not going to be, 'I'm waiting for a voice' or 'I'm waiting for an email.' I don't know if God really emails or not."

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Kasich routinely polls at 1 to 2% nationally in the crowded GOP field– and in Iowa, and in New Hampshire. Aides believe his candor will stand out in a debate. But he's polling so poorly he risks missing the cut for the first one, Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

So Kasich goes back to his roots: what he did while running for state Senate or Congress. Calling supporters. Visiting homes. And that means New Hampshire, whose population of 1.3 million is about double that of a congressional district.

"You don't have to meet the whole country," Kasich told me. "You build your own army. ... I've never met anybody who I didn't think I could get to vote for me if I could talk to them."

For what it's worth, Kasich also has a strategy for taking on Clinton, whom he's leading in Ohio polls.

"I don't believe you beat Hillary by talking about Benghazi or emails or anything like that," said Kasich, who has repeatedly declined to criticize the former first lady and secretary of State. "The person that's going to get elected is someone that can give people confidence that they can renew the American spirit."

Is Kasich – the incumbent-defeating state senator and congressman and governor – out of his league?

Not a bit, said Dick Wright, an elderly Navy veteran from Charleston, S.C. "I think he's electable," he said.

After all, said Wright's stepson, Russell Guerard: "Somebody's got to be president."

Kasich prepared for long run in presidential bid // Columbus Dispatch // Darrel Rowland and Jessica Wehrman – July 19, 2015

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — John Kasich is ready to compete in every primary and every caucus in America for the presidential nomination, his top campaign strategist says.

Kasich is willing to pursue that long-shot quest clear through the Republican National Convention a year from now in Cleveland.

And “when” the Ohio governor wins the nomination, he will put likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton on the defensive “from Day One” in a campaign that may cost $2 billion overall.

That is John Weaver’s sweeping overview of how Kasich can become the next president of the United States. Weaver, who also advised the GOP presidential campaigns of Arizona Sen. John McCain and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, spoke during Kasich’s campaign swing through New Hampshire last week.

Although Kasich will become the 16th major GOP candidate when he officially declares his presidential intentions on Tuesday at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University campus, his campaign team regards only two or three of the others — whom they wouldn’t identify — as serious contenders, Weaver said.

The campaign will continue to push the Kasich resume trifecta: experience as governor during Ohio’s recovery; 18 years as a congressman who helped balance the federal budget and reform defense spending; and almost a decade

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in private business. However, Weaver said, part of Kasich's status as "the best candidate in the field" is "having the most interesting personality and interesting charisma."

Is the veteran political consultant worried about a possible cringe moment along the grueling campaign trail from the governor who once chastised the "idiot cop" for giving him a ticket and warned opponents to "get on the bus or get run over by it"?

"I worked for people like (former Texas Sen.) Phil Gramm and John McCain, so when people warned me that John Kasich could be prickly — perhaps my prickly meter is worn out, because I haven't see that side of him. Look, he's direct. Only in politics could somebody who answers a question honestly, directly, is that considered something that makes people nervous," Weaver said.

"I find it refreshing, and I think the voters will reward him for being direct" in an era of blow-dried, focus-group-tested candidates. "He is who he is. We're not going to change him."

The University of Virginia's Larry Sabato, one of the nation's most-respected political scientists, doesn't disagree with Weaver's take on Kasich, but he says time is growing short and the governor needs both luck and money.

"He has a good case to make and a good story to tell, but he's going to have to make that case aggressively and tell the story quickly because the train's leaving the station because of the debates ... and right now he's nowhere man," Sabato said.

The first GOP presidential debate is Aug. 6 in Cleveland and the second on Sept. 16 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California. Sponsors of both are limiting their prime-time matchups to the top 10 contenders based on national polls, although secondary events are scheduled for the also-rans. Kasich is 12th in RealClear Politics' national polls' average, but only half a percentage point out of 10th.

"He's got to get in the debates, he's got to distinguish himself quickly, he's got to help Republicans understand why the governor of super swing state Ohio is a strong nominee," Sabato said.

Candidates "always overestimate how well-known they are," he said. "Outside Ohio, he's really not really well-known. He is prominent compared to 99.99 percent of Americans, but he's behind the group of presidential candidates, and that's all that matters."

The 2016 Republican race has often been described as one with a limited number of lanes: one for the Christian conservative candidate, one for the Main Street business type, and so on. And, as Weaver put it, "There are more swimmers than there are lanes."

Right now, Sabato said, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is blocking Kasich's lane to the nomination.

"Essentially, Jeb Bush and his enormous family machine have taken up that entire lane," Sabato said. "They bought the lane. They bought it. How is he going to compete with now $118 million (raised on behalf of Bush)?"

However, Sabato added, "If Jeb Bush dissolves for some reason, collapses, then Kasich is in a good position to move into the Jeb Bush lane."

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Weaver's not sure he's buying the whole lanes analogy.

"You can swim in multiple lanes. You have to have some broad appeal," he said. "You can't have a winning coalition in just one lane."

Weaver said Kasich will not fall into the trap that's hurt previous presidential candidates of failing to qualify for a state primary or caucus. In 2012, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum was Mitt Romney's main challenger but wasn't even on the ballot in some Ohio congressional districts.

"We'll be on the ballot everywhere," Weaver said.

That includes Iowa, whose caucuses represent the nation's first presidential contest — one that some wondered whether Kasich would skip. The governor is stopping in Iowa on his five-day announcement tour this week, and future visits are scheduled, Weaver said.

"Every campaign has their own path to the nomination. ... We'll have a path that's unique to us, but it will include Iowa in some form," he said.

Although Kasich will make occasional forays elsewhere, his emphasis will remain on early voting states. Those include Michigan, which could turn into a showdown for Midwestern supremacy with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

The Kasich team has game-planned numerous possibilities for how the GOP contest may take shape.

"We're prepared for this to be over early — which I don't anticipate — and we're prepared for this to be over at the convention, and anywhere in between," Weaver said.

The new dynamic for 2016 is that even candidates who perform poorly can stay in the race with just one or two mega-donors.

"We're prepared for any of that," Weaver acknowledged. "I expect the race to go deep into the (election) calendar."

Kasich also is prepared for the loosely regulated campaign-finance world of modern elections. Once he formally becomes a candidate, his official campaign is limited to individual contributions of $2,700 per cycle. And it cannot legally coordinate with the two "independent" campaign committees that Kasich has been using to fund the bulk of his activity to date.

However, leaders of the independent committees — which can continue raising money in unlimited amounts — already are privy to Kasich's long-term campaign strategy (which, of course, may change as a race takes shape). His official campaign committee is managed by Beth Hansen, his gubernatorial chief of staff who ran his 2010 campaign for governor. The outside committees are headed by Matt Carle, the governor's legislative lobbyist who ran his 2014 re-election effort.

Fred Davis, the Hollywood ad-maker whose team recorded virtually every Kasich move last week in New Hampshire, will remain with the separate committees. That means the latest material shot will go to the

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independent groups for possible future ads.

Once Kasich declares, Weaver said, the outside groups will be on their own, but “they’ll keep doing their thing. Hopefully, they’ll be doing it effectively and efficiently, and I have faith that they will … Hopefully the combination of those things being done together is successful."

The key to Kasich’s success “is how he can translate what he’s achieved in the past into a vision that is understandable by average Americans where he wants to lead the country moving forward,” Weaver said.

“I am very confident that within relative short order that the governor will be considered … in the top tier, and the race takes a different set of contours.”

OTHER

Walker, Kasich and the GOP’s Midwest bracket // WaPo // E. J. Dionne Jr. – July 19, 2015

Republicans won’t win the presidency in 2016 without making inroads in the Midwest. Happily for the GOP, two Midwestern governors are running for their party’s nomination.

Both won reelection in 2014. The one from the state with more electoral votes won with 64 percent of the vote with wide appeal to Democrats and independents. The one from the smaller state got just 52 percent of the vote after a divisive campaign.

The former fought to have his state accept the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion. He made his case on moral grounds, arguing that at heaven’s door, Saint Peter is “probably not going to ask you much about what you did about keeping government small. But he is going to ask you what you did for the poor.”

The latter adamantly opposed expanding Medicaid under the ACA, and his speeches are compendiums of every right-wing bromide party activists demand. “We need a president who — on the first day in office — will call on Congress to pass a full repeal of Obamacare,” this hopeful declared when he announced his candidacy last week. “Next, we need to rein in the federal government’s out-of-control regulations that are like a wet blanket on the economy.” And on he went.

Now: Guess which one is seen as a top contender, and which is dismissed as the darkest of dark horses? Which one was running third behind only Jeb Bush and Donald Trump in the Real Clear Politics poll average as of Sunday, and which one was in 12th place with all of 1.5 percent?

You have no doubt figured out that I’m talking about John Kasich of Ohio, who is expected to announce his candidacy on Tuesday, and Scott Walker of Wisconsin. It’s telling about the contemporary Republican party: Kasich would probably be the better bet in the general election but barely registers in the surveys, while Walker has the better chance of winning the nomination.

It’s preposterous to see Kasich as anything but a conservative. He was a drill sergeant for Newt Gingrich’s Republican Revolution in the 1990s. When Kasich was chairman of the House Budget Committee, “60 Minutes” produced a segment about him titled “The Axman Cometh.” As governor, Kasich pushed big tax cuts that included repealing the estate tax. (The Republican obsession with protecting large fortunes is beyond me.) He also took on the unions with what was known as Senate Bill 5 to end collective bargaining for public employees.

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And it's on the labor question that the Kasich and Walker stories diverge, in large part because of the accident of state election laws. In Ohio, the unions could put Bill 5 directly to the voters, and they repealed it in 2011 by a 61-percent-to-39-percent landslide. A chastened Kasich recalibrated.

Walker is best known for a very similar attack on public employee unions, but Wisconsin had no provision for a comparable referendum. The unions felt they had no choice but to organize a recall of Walker. Voters typically don't take well to recalls that aren't a reaction to outright skullduggery and corruption. Walker prevailed, and he's been bragging about busting unions and surviving ever since. Conservatives love him for it.

Kasich, by contrast, reached out to his previous enemies. When he was endorsed by the Carpenters Union last year, Kasich said: "For too long, there's been a disconnect between people like me and organized labor." Walker is as likely to say something like this as he is to sing a rousing chorus of "Solidarity Forever."

When Kasich talks about his time as governor, as he did to my Post colleague Michael Gerson last year, the things he brags about include his work on autism, mental illness and drug addiction. He notes — the Almighty again — that all his constituents "are made in the image of God."

You can tell Kasich knows he will have to run a rebel's campaign because he has hired rebellious Republican consultants, including John Weaver, John McCain's campaign strategist who feuded famously with Karl Rove, and Fred Davis, who specializes in offbeat (and sometimes controversial) political commercials.

Kasich's poll standing might well exclude him from one or more of the early debates. That would be a shame. Perhaps there should be a Midwest debate bracket. A Kasich-Walker confrontation would be especially enlightening.

"I have a little bit of a different message here," Kasich said at a Republican Governors Association meeting last year. Indeed he does. It's probably why he can't win. It's also why his party needs to listen.

GOP field chases Iowa evangelicals **// Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 19, 2015**

AMES, Iowa — After nine hours and 10 presidential candidates, evangelicals were no closer to settling on a standard-bearer to support in the Iowa caucuses by the end of the Family Leadership Summit on Saturday.

In the 2008 and 2012 Republican caucuses, Iowa's Christian conservatives played kingmakers by rallying decisively around alternatives to the party's establishment-backed candidate. But rather than helping them zero in on a single candidate, the summit displayed the breadth of motivating issues — from gay marriage to Benghazi to Common Core — and large number of attractive candidates that are making it difficult for the bloc to consolidate its influence.

"My hope is that the field will winnow down by caucus time, but there's really no reason to believe it will," said Robert Cramer, who serves on the board of the Family Leader, a group that promotes social conservatism and the sponsor of Saturday's event. "There might not be any clear consensus candidate."

In Iowa politics, where the group's endorsement carries significant weight, Family Leader President Bob Vander Plaats said he was not ready to declare that progress had been made. "The summit was exceptionally insightful and informative," he told POLITICO. "We will see if it serves to begin winnowing the field."

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In May, national evangelical leaders met in McLean, Virginia, to try to settle on a single presidential candidate, even as they privately expressed skepticism that it could be done.

Saturday's summit demonstrated just how difficult it will be.

Conservative leaders singled out Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, the 2008 Iowa caucus winner, as the current frontrunners among the state's conservative Christian activists. But despite the doubts social conservatives have expressed about Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker — he's attended the reception for a lesbian wedding and a questioner on Saturday challenged him for hiring pro-choice staffers — he continues to lead in Iowa, including among white, born-again evangelical Christians.

In a Quinnipiac poll conducted in late June, Walker had 18 percent support among that group, followed by Cruz with 11 percent and neurosurgeon Ben Carson with 9 percent.

It was Cruz and Carson, though, who had the most visible contingent of supporters inside the Stephens Auditorium on the campus of Iowa State University.

Cruz received a more enthusiastic reception than either Walker, Carson or Huckabee when he sat down with the event's emcee, Republican messaging guru Frank Luntz — including a rousing standing ovation when he called for investigating, prosecuting and de-funding Planned Parenthood after a video was released this week showing an executive of the organization discussing fetal tissue harvesting.

But Cruz is currently polling in eighth place in Iowa, according to the RealClearPolitics average of recent surveys, behind all three of those rivals.

And it was Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, currently polling 13th in Iowa, who generated the most enthusiasm, receiving three standing ovations to Cruz's two. He received one for calling for a constitutional amendment to protect religious freedom, but it was a line accusing the New York Times of going soft on President Obama that brought down the house.

"I am critical when the mainstream media, when they don't apply the same standards to this president they apply to the rest of us," said Jindal, after he had said, "The next president has to be ready to fight the New York Times, the ACLU, the Washington Post" and Luntz had pointed out a Times reporter in the auditorium.

The warm receptions weren't reserved for social conservative favorites. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham — a defense and foreign policy-oriented candidate who has urged the Republican party to accept the Supreme Court's recent ruling legalizing gay marriage — brought the crowd to its feet by attacking Hillary Clinton for her handling of the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya.

Even the thrice-married, often profane Donald Trump, who invited Clinton to his most recent wedding, found favor with attendees. Trump was booed by some for saying that Arizona Sen. John McCain was "not a war hero" — a comment that prompted a much larger firestorm outside of the summit — and he struggled through a question about whether he had had ever asked God for forgiveness.

But Trump had the crowd laughing and cheering at several points. Luntz called out the mogul for his language when Trump questioned whether federal bureaucrats "give a damn about education," asking him, "Do you really want to use that word in this forum?"

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"I do ... We're so politically correct that we can't do anything anymore," said Trump to loud cheers.

The willingness to entertain a range of candidates and the fractious effect of a broad range of pressing issues speaks to the diffuse disaffection of religious conservatives six and a half years into Obama's presidency. It follows a string of recent developments — from the Supreme Court rulings on Obamacare and gay marriage in June, to this week's nuclear deal with Iran and release of the Planned Parenthood video — which the group considers setbacks and all of which came up repeatedly on Saturday.

"They see more failures than successes," Luntz told POLITICO in between interviewing candidates and struggling to keep them from using language that turned the tax-exempt summit into a campaign event (by the time Walker concluded the day by telling the audience, "I ask for your vote," he had given up).

As a result of this palpable sense of discouragement, Luntz, who has been conducting polls and focus groups among religious conservatives, said they have less of an appetite for electoral politicking. "There is a greater rejection of politics than I would've expected and a much greater embrace of a philosophical approach."

That mood could make settling on a pragmatic consensus candidate all the more difficult.

If the current dynamics of the race in Iowa hold, the immediate beneficiary of a splintered evangelical bloc could be Scott Walker, who is currently ahead in the state and palatable to many evangelicals, even if he is not the favorite among the most conservative activists. But the ultimate beneficiary could be Jeb Bush, if he remains the national favorite of moderate Republicans and the party establishment, and no clear alternative emerges from Iowa with evangelical backing.

That would be just one more in a long series of disappointments for a group looking for any shred of encouragement. "They want to win," said Luntz. "They desperately want to win, and I don't mean politically."

GOP Candidates' Rosy 4 Percent Growth Goal // RealClearPolitics // Rebecca Berg - July 20, 2015

Jeb Bush and other Republican presidential candidates have recently introduced a lofty goal into their campaign platforms: 4 percent growth in the country's economy — or, in some cases, even more.

Most economists agree the number is arbitrary and implausible; many have called it downright impossible. Now, Bush and others face the daunting prospect of explaining their math, much of which hinges on policy proposals that, at this early stage, are sketchy at best.

Bush tripped up for the first time last week when he said the 4 percent objective would demand that Americans "be a lot more productive."

"Workforce participation has to rise from its all-time modern lows," Bush said during a meeting with the New Hampshire Union-Leader editorial board. "Means that people need to work longer hours and through their productivity gain more income for their families."

Democrats immediately seized on the remark. In a major speech on the economy this week, Hillary Clinton said Bush "must not have met very many American workers."

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“Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day or the teacher who is in that classroom, or the trucker who drives all night,” Clinton said. “Let him tell that to the fast-food workers marching in the streets for better pay. They don’t need a lecture. They need a raise.”

Bush explained later that he was referring to workers whose hours have been cut, and the Union-Leader backed up his logic. “Bush was exactly right,” the paper’s editorial board wrote.

But the incident illustrated the policy contortions that will be required of candidates pushing for 4 percent GDP growth or higher.

Pivotal to Bush’s argument is his record in Florida, where the state’s economy grew at 4.4 percent while he was governor. But that pace likely owed much to the housing bubble, which collapsed on itself in 2008 after Bush left office.

“There is not a reason in the world why we cannot grow at a rate of 4 percent a year,” Bush said last month when he announced his candidacy. “And that will be my goal as president.”

Other Republicans have echoed Bush’s economic optimism, many of them latching on to the same number, 4 percent — a pleasantly rounded, big-sounding number.

In May, Chris Christie unveiled his “Five-Point Plan to take America to 4 percent growth.”

In March, Ted Cruz told Fox News: “If we can get back to historic levels of growth — 3, 4, 5 percent — suddenly, the federal budget picture transforms.”

Scott Walker followed suit last month. “I think we could go from the stagnant growth we have today anywhere to upwards to 4.5 percent if with did dramatic growth, pro-growth policies that are not just about reining in taxes,” Walker told Fox News.

In economic terms, such a growth objective is rather shock-and-awe. Since the economy began to rebound in 2009, growth has averaged just 2.2 percent.

“Let’s face it, 4 percent sustained economic growth would be out of range of what we have had for most of American economic history,” said Allen Sinai, co-founder of Decision Economics, where he is CEO and chief global economist.

But if the threshold is something of a pipe dream in reality, it has often been paid lip service in presidential politics by candidates who recognize the persuasive power of a positive economic message.

During the 2011 presidential election, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty reached for an even higher number than Bush: “Let’s grow the economy by 5 percent, instead of an anemic 2 percent,” he wrote in a Chicago Tribune op-ed.

“It's been done before,” Pawlenty noted. “Between 1983 and 1987, the Reagan recovery grew at 4.9 percent annually. Between 1996 and 1999, under President Bill Clinton and a Republican Congress, the economy grew at around 4.7 percent annually.

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That benchmark is not solely the creation of Republican candidates. The Democratic Party and its candidate, John F. Kennedy, used the same number to rally voters during the 1960 presidential election.

“We Democrats believe that our economy can and must grow at an average rate of 5 percent annually,” the party platform read that year — setting a goal of nearly double the average growth rate from the preceding seven years.

A 5 percent marker, and even 4 percent, has always been ambitious. But many economists argue that it is even more so now in a changed economic landscape.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has projected that the economic growth will average 3 percent in 2015 and 2016, with a dip in 2017 to 2.5 percent. Later, the outlook dims: Between 2020 and 2025, the CBO estimates GDP growth at 2.2 percent, with labor growth stifled as baby boomers retire.

Economists who argue sustained growth at 4 percent is possible have pointed to Reagan’s presidency, when the economy grew at nearly 5 percent. But women at that time were entering the workforce in historically large numbers, expanding the country’s productivity.

Underpinning the political argument for 4 percent GDP growth is not just optimism alone, however, but a push for substantial changes to tax policy, welfare, trade and spending, among other areas.

In the Wall Street Journal recently, Kevin Marsh and Glenn Hubbard, an economist who has advised Jeb Bush, wrote that “setting a goal of 4 percent growth invites meaningful policy contributions from those who would be our leaders.”

“Many leading economic thinkers judge the economy’s underperformance as unrelated to the policies adopted in the last several years. Instead, their thinking goes, the economy is no longer capable of performing as in previous recoveries,” Hubbard and Marsh wrote. “… We strongly disagree. A more vigorous recovery from the financial crisis was an opportunity squandered. Even today, the economy can grow at significantly higher rates than the prevailing pessimism.”

But there is profound disagreement even over the magnitude to which policy changes can grow the economy.

Last month, the International Monetary Fund presented findings that reforming spending and revenue policies could grow advanced economies by ¾ of a percent. But Doug Elmendorf, a former director of the CBO and incoming dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, cautioned in a response to the IMF’s paper that such effects are often exaggerated.

“Economists should be careful not to overstate the potency of positive policy changes, because subsequent disappointments can undermine people’s confidence in economic analysis,” Elmendorf said.

To hedge expectations, perhaps, Republicans have so far sought to present the 4 percent growth marker less as a promise than as something to aspire to. But aiming for such nuance can be politically risky.

“If a candidate says, ‘I’d like to see 4 percent growth,’ it’s going to be seen as a campaign promise,” said one Republican who has advised presidential candidates on policy.

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And each candidate will need to back up his promise with concrete proposals, which will be subject to the full scrutiny of the electorate.

Some economists have practically dared them.

Gene Sperling, the diminutive former head of the National Economic Council under President Obama, recently told the New York Times: “My personal goal is to be six feet tall and have a six-pack stomach, but I don’t think most people would think either Gov. Bush or myself have a very viable plan for reaching our targets.”

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Some surprising winners and losers in the 2016 fundraising race **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – July 19, 2015**

The results of the first major test of the 2016 presidential race were announced this past week: the initial six months of fundraising numbers for the slew of candidates running to be their party’s nominee next year and for aligned super PACs.

As with any test, some people passed with flying colors. Others, well, didn’t. Here are the winners and the losers of the cash dash for those contests and other races.

WINNERS

● Jeb Bush

Sure, we all knew the former Florida governor was going to raise scads of money, largely through his Right to Rise super PAC. But meeting such lofty expectations is a lot harder than it might seem. The Republican’s $103 million raised through the super PAC is a stunning number and almost certainly ensures that he will enjoy a considerable financial advantage throughout the primary season. Money isn’t determinative for Bush or anyone else, but his cash stash will allow him to overcome a slip-up in one of the early states.

● Ted Cruz

Bush’s number is the biggest, but the senator’s haul may be the most important. The Texas Republican’s $52 million raised puts him behind only Bush — a spot that must thrill his team. Cruz is something we haven’t seen in recent presidential contests: He’s the favorite of the base of his party and has the money to stay within shouting distance of the more-establishment candidates.

● Hillary Clinton

As with Bush, we knew the Democrat was going to have a massive quarter. And she did it the hard way. She raised her $46 million through a federal campaign committee, meaning that she collected it all in $2,700 chunks rather than the unlimited donations that super PACs can accept. That is pretty impressive. Yes, she does have some of the same problems with small donors that afflicted her in the 2008 race against Barack Obama, but there’s no President Obama in the 2016 race — at least fundraising-wise.

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● Bernie Sanders

Guess who raised the second-largest amount of money through his campaign committee of any 2016 candidate over the second quarter? Yup! The Bern. The socialist senator from Vermont, who is running for the Democratic nomination, has collected $15.2 million over the past three months. The independent's strength among small-dollar donors was a stirring contrast to Clinton's top-heavy, big-dollar donor base. Can he possibly keep it up?

●Todd Young

The Republican congressman from Indiana just launched his Senate campaign, and he did so with a splash, pulling in $1 million in the second quarter despite not being an official candidate yet. The even better news for Young? Former state GOP chairman Eric Holcomb, the top party opponent and erstwhile favorite, raised just $200,000.

● Michael Bennet

The vulnerable Democratic senator from Colorado pulled in more than $2 million in the second quarter — a very good off-year sum — and has $4.3 million cash on hand in his reelection bid. Perhaps more important, he raised that as Republicans struggle to find a candidate.

●Russ Feingold

The Democratic former senator outraised Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), $2.2 million to $2 million, for a rematch of their 2010 race. Johnson self-funded heavily last time but has said he won't do so again. Given that, the fact that Feingold ($2 million cash on hand) is already approaching Johnson in total cash on hand ($2.75 million) means even more.

LOSERS

● Mike Huckabee

Every time people ask us about the top tier of candidates and we don't mention the former Arkansas governor, they inevitably say: What about Huckabee? Well, here's what about Huckabee: As someone who is near the top of the pack in most national polling in the race, he raised $2 million, with $6 million more coming in from his super PAC. Not so good. The Republican has never been a good and/or committed fundraiser. Not much appears to have changed this time around.

● Rand Paul

One of the arguments in the Republican's favor has long been that he has a deep and almost-exclusive fundraising base among the libertarian-minded crowd that gave his father's 2008 and 2012 presidential bids tens of millions of dollars. The senator from Kentucky brought in $7 million for his presidential campaign committee during the quarter, however, which is not close to what some expected of him. (By way of comparison, Republican contender Ben Carson raised $8.5 million through his campaign committee in the same period.)

● Rick Santorum

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This guy won Iowa in 2012! He won 11 states in the GOP nomination fight against Mitt Romney! And yet in his first quarter of active fundraising for 2016, the former senator from Pennsylvania brought in only $608,000 and had a meager $232,000 left in the bank. Ouch. Gut punch.

● Lincoln Chafee

The former Rhode Island governor and U.S. senator, who is seeking the Democratic nomination, raised less than $30,000 from people not named "Lincoln Chafee" in the second quarter. Um, what? Chafee's meager — and that's being nice — fundraising total raises the question: If no one other than you wants to invest in your candidacy, why are you running?

●Ohio Democrats

Anytime you see this headline — "Ted Strickland is far behind in the fundraising goals advisers proposed" — it's probably bad news. That was written before the former governor, who is seeking his party's nomination to take on Sen. Rob Portman (R), announced a seven-figure quarter last week. But he was still outraised by Portman, $2.9 million to $1 million. And as a former governor, Strickland should really be able to tap into cash more quickly. The other Democrat in the race, Cincinnati City Council member P.G. Sittenfeld, saw a dip in fundraising, to $270,000, which suggests that his campaign is in pretty rough shape.

The Iowa Crisis t he Candidates Aren't Talking About // Politico // Clay Masters – July 19, 2015

As a parade of presidential hopefuls visits Iowa ahead of its first-in-the-nation caucuses, the candidates are promising to fight for the issues that matter most to Iowans. "What this election needs to be about is making sure that America is once again a nation where people out here in the heartland of this country are not forgotten," Mike Huckabee told a crowd at in Urbandale back in May. "This campaign isn't going to be about me, it's going to be about Iowans and people across our country who are ready for a better future," Hillary Clinton wrote in a Des Moines Register op-ed in April. "America at its best is when people pursue their dreams as they see fit," Jeb Bush said in Pella last month. "A farmer in Iowa sees the massive regulation in their lives overwhelming them, making it harder to make ends meet."

Yet for all their love for everyday Iowans, none of the candidates is getting anywhere near the biggest crisis to hit the state in years—one of the worst animal health emergencies in U.S. history. That would be avian flu, which since April has wiped out more than 30 million chickens and turkeys in this top egg-producing state. There have been no new cases reported for about a month, but egg prices have shot up and poultry farmers have had to dispose of entire flocks, incinerate the dead animals and rebuild their farms. Last month, Gov. Terry Branstad requested a presidential disaster declaration for the four counties hit the hardest in northwest Iowa, appealing to Barack Obama himself for federal aid. FEMA denied the request and wrote the damage was "not of such severity and magnitude that it could not be handled by the state"—leaving Iowans on their own to make up for losses projected to exceed $1 billion.

You wouldn't know any of this from campaign stump speeches. At the peak of the outbreak in early June, a fundraiser for freshman Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) drew a handful of candidates to Boone, in Iowa farm country. Surrounded by corn fields, the speakers—Scott Walker, Carly Fiorina, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry and Ben Carson—went with their usual speeches about smaller government, immigration and foreign policy, but not the outbreak. This weekend, Democratic and Republican candidates held court at two big multi-candidate events in the state, but at neither was there a mention of avian flu or that the state's denied presidential disaster declaration.

Of course, there are other topics that come first for 2016 candidates on the trail—the economy, immigration, Iran.

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But in Iowa, it's not uncommon to hear presidential hopefuls talk about issues that matter to farmers here—wind energy or ethanol subsidies, for instance. Whether they think bird flu has fewer national implications or that the rural counties most affected by the crisis (and less frequented by presidential candidates) aren't as crucial electorally, it's clear the candidates are leaving this issue unaddressed—to some Iowans' chagrin.

The candidates' apparent indifference "reflects a general lack of understanding and appreciation of where our food comes from for most of the general public," says Randy Olson, the executive director of the Iowa Poultry Association and Iowa Egg Council.

Former Republican Party chairman Matt Strawn, a GOP strategist who hasn't committed to a candidate this cycle, suspects more political motives. He's surprised that, other than a well-funded and aggressive effort to highlight the Renewable Fuel Standard (a federal program that regulates how much ethanol to blend into gasoline), the candidates have given little attention to the agricultural economy in Iowa in general, especially at a time of "dark clouds on the ag economy," including falling commodity and land prices. Still, Strawn says, "Generally, when you're dealing with hyperlocal public policy or political issues, there is very little upside for a national candidate to weigh into something that may well not have clearly defined ideological lines."

Still, this is a crisis that affects more than just Iowans. The federal government has stepped in, for one thing. Although the outbreak was initially blamed on migrating water fowl, officials now suspect that humans broke biosecurity measures somewhere along the line and even that the virus has been transmitted by the wind. In response, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has assigned more than 2,300 staff to respond to the outbreak and assisted poultry farms financially with the process of incinerating and euthanizing affected birds. As of late June, all the commercial laying and pullet facilities affected by the outbreak have been depopulated. The agriculture department will also cover some of the catastrophic costs of the crisis with a fixed price per animal lost. Iowa Senators Charles Grassley and Ernst, both Republicans, held a congressional hearing days before the Obama administration denied the presidential disaster declaration, though there is no bailout legislation for Iowa pending in Congress.

Then, there's the economic impact. Surrounding states, like Minnesota and Nebraska also experienced an avian outbreak and nationally, egg prices have gone up. Even in Europe, prices are starting to soar because of the increase in demand from the United States.

In Iowa alone, the $1 billion in expected losses assumes an annualized loss of 34 percent of poultry production, says Iowa State University economist David Swenson. Still, he cautions against over-attributing statewide losses to localized tragedy; the more important figure, he says, is the loss of GDP, which is still expected to be $327 million in the state. Although Swenson says the economy should grow back to the level it was before the outbreak once production resumes, more than 2,800 workers are expected to have lost jobs in the meantime. The egg and poultry industry remains on high alert, "bracing for the worst-case scenario across the country in the fall where we might have it spread further east," Olson says.

With that much money and that many jobs on the line, many farmers in the midst of cleaning up their flocks don't have their minds on politics. "I haven't paid any attention," says Buena Vista County poultry farmer Dan Ehlers, who lost 52,000 turkeys in his flock. "I've been too busy taking care of my own affairs to pay attention to politics."

Ehlers was one of dozens who attended a recent prayer supper in Buena Vista, one of the counties hit hardest by avian flu. The crowd feasted on pulled pork sandwiches and various salads as they listened to speeches from local pastors, as well as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Bill Northey, who struck a comforting, if resigned, tone.

"Put your arms around the folks that went through this," Northey said. "Let them know there's not a lot that you can do for them other than to let them know you care."

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Turkey farmer Mark Herrig, who lost more than 40,000 birds, was listening in the crowd. He says if there was anything he could tell those running for president, it would be a plea for more open trade. Many countries have placed partial or, in the case of places like China and Mexico, total bans on U.S. poultry and egg imports—which Northey says is an overreaction.

"We need to find answers," Herrig says. "If we can't, we need to go to a vaccination program, then we need our trade partners to work with us on accepting our products that are vaccinated. ... We all need to be able to keep our own bird populations safe. We can do it in a way that doesn't destroy each other's industry or trade relationships."

True, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders and Marco Rubio have been talking about trade while in Iowa—specifically, the proposed international trade deals on the table. But when it comes to the trade issue that matters most to Iowans now—the crisis that the candidates' beloved everyday farmers are dealing with every day—there's been nary a peep on the campaign trail.

'Too big to fail' a flashpoint in 2016 race // The Hill // Kevin Cirilli – July 19, 2015

Too big to fail has emerged as a flashpoint in the presidential race, five years after President Obama signed sweeping financial regulations into law.

Candidates on both sides of the aisle are vowing to end the massive taxpayer bailouts that angered the nation after the 2008 economic collapse, though they differ on their policy prescriptions.

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton vowed to "appoint and empower regulators who understand that too big to fail is still too big a problem" during an economic speech in Manhattan on Monday.

Jeb Bush said last month the "systematic risk is perhaps greater now than it was when the law was signed" while talking to reporters in Berlin.

Clinton's Democratic challenger Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said Friday that "if an institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist" while endorsing a policy from Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) that'd aims to break up big banks.

And Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett Packard, told Breitbart in May that the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law "="has taken ten banks too big to fail and turned them into five banks too big to fail."

The rhetoric underscores how candidates are looking to tap into voters' deep-rooted frustration and angst that's still prevalent seven years after the financial crisis, said Jason O'Donnell, chief information officer at Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund.

"The candidates are playing on the emotion of the public," O'Donnell said, noting that the slow pace of the economic recovery has left voters angry.

"They may want different solutions to 'too big to fail,' but they both hate it," said Michael Norbert, a financial services research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

On policy, liberals have argued that Dodd-Frank didn't go far enough to prevent more taxpayer bailouts. Conservatives argue that Dodd-Frank went too far and ended up codifying too big to fail.

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“It's very popular because on both the left and the right it plays into many cases the extremist narrative that drive that smaller percentage of people who turn out in presidential primaries,""said Richard Farley, author of Wall Street Wars: The Epic Battles with Washington that Created the Modern Financial System.

Farley argued that politicians aren't capturing the whole truth of the 'too big to fail' debate, noting the big banks are "generally safer" than smaller financial institutions.

"But it's easier, I guess, for politicians to attack the fat cats on Wall Street," Farley said.

The Snapchat Elections Begin With Bernie, Hillary and Jeb // Recode // Mark Bergen – July 19, 2015

In 2008, it was the Google election. 2012 was Twitter’s turn as the campaign centerpiece. Facebook populism rang in the ’14 midterms.

And now, as 2016 approaches, prepare for the presidential politics of Snapchat.

Enter Bernie Sanders, the lefty, 73-year-old Democratic contender chasing Hillary Clinton in the polls. On Friday, the honorable Independent senator from Vermont made his debut on the mobile app (though judging from his expression, he doesn’t look entirely comfortable with the medium yet).

Politicians since time immemorial have done their glad-handing where the voters are. And the young voters are on Snapchat. Sanders is following behind Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush, both of whom have made cameos in Snapchat’s “2016” curated stories since announcing their elections.

Sanders’ press team told Re/code a Snapchat representative in Cedar Rapids met with Sanders, took the picture and added it to Snapchat’s public story for the election. Sanders team is considering whether they want to create a Snapchat account for the Senator’s social media strategy. According to Snapchat, neither Clinton nor Bush has created their own accounts yet so their pictures and video were submitted by their staffers or users on the campaign trail. Scott Walker, on the other hand, does have his own account.

The platforms, for their part, are game to help the pols out, particularly when the ample campaign advertiser dollars are at play. In May, Snapchat poached Rob Saliterman, a four-year veteran of Google’s political ad sales and former George W. Bush operative, to leads its own GOP efforts. A month later Snapchat ran its first ever political ad — a 10-second spot, paid for by a nonprofit affiliated with House Republicans.

Of course, money also flows the other way. But, sorry Bernie. So far, Silicon Valley’s campaign cash is mostly going to Clinton.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

What US leaders have never understood about Iran // NY Post // Amir Taheri –July 19, 2015

“American rulers have always dreamed of forcing us to change our behavior, and failed,” Iran’s “Supreme Guide,” Ali Khamenei, said Saturday. “Five US administrations took that dream to their graves. The present one shall have the same fate.”

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Khamenei's analysis is not far off the mark. Successive American presidents have worked hard to persuade the Khomeinist regime in Tehran to modify aspects of its foreign policy, so far with no success.

The reason may be the inability or unwillingness of successive US presidents, and a good part of the American political and cultural elite, to properly understand the nature of the Khomeinist regime.

Jimmy Carter believed the Khomeinist seizure of power represented the return of religion to the center of public life.

His administration described Khomeini as "a holy man" and "the Gandhi of Islam." Carter wrote letters to Khomeini "as a man of faith to a man of faith." He even ordered the resumption of arms supplies to Tehran.

We all know what that did to Carter.

President Ronald Reagan, who had visited Iran just a year before the revolution, thought he knew Iranians better. He described them as "carpet merchants and dealmakers." Accordingly, he smuggled arms that the mullahs needed to stop the Iraqi army from advancing farther into Iran. He also sent a huge heart-shaped cake and a personally autographed copy of the Bible to the ayatollah.

One result was the Iran-Contra scandal that rocked Reagan's presidency.

Dealing with the aftershocks of that crisis, President George H.W. Bush developed no policy on Iran beyond a number of secret talks that led nowhere but reassured Tehran that the American "Great Satan" had been neutralized.

President Bill Clinton saw the Khomeinist regime as "progressist," a view shared by many American liberals who think anti-Americanism is the surest sign of progressive beliefs.

Here is what Clinton said at a meeting on the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in 2005: "Iran today is, in a sense, the only country where progressive ideas enjoy a vast constituency. It is there that the ideas that I subscribe to are defended by a majority."

And here is what Clinton had to say in an interview a bit later with Charlie Rose:

"Iran is the only country in the world, the only one with elections, including the United States, including Israel, including you name it, where the liberals, or the progressives, have won two-thirds to 70 percent of the vote in six elections: two for president; two for the Parliament, the Majlis; two for the mayoralties. In every single election, the guys I identify with got two-thirds to 70 percent of the vote. There is no other country in the world I can say that about, certainly not my own."

Clinton and his secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, apologized to the mullahs for unspecified "crimes" committed "by my civilization" and removed a raft of sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic after the seizure of the US hostages in Tehran.

But what crimes?

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Clinton summed them thus: “It’s a sad story that really began in the 1950s when the United States deposed Mr. Mossadegh, who was an elected parliamentary democrat, and brought the Shah back and then he was overturned by the Ayatollah Khomeini, driving us into the arms of one Saddam Hussein. We got rid of the parliamentary democracy [there] back in the ’50s; at least, that is my belief.”

Clinton did not know that in the Islamic Republic that he so admired, Mossadegh, far from being regarded as a national hero, is an object of intense vilification. One of the first acts of the mullahs after seizing power was to take the name of Mossadegh off a street in Tehran.

Apologizing to the mullahs for a wrong supposedly done to Mossadegh is like begging Josef Stalin’s pardon for a discourtesy toward Alexander Kerensky.

Too busy with Afghanistan and Iraq, President George W. Bush paid little attention to Iran. Nevertheless, in his second term he, too, tried to persuade the mullahs to modify their behavior. His secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, sent an invitation, not to say a begging note, to the mullahs for “constructive dialogue.” They responded by stepping up the killing of US soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq by local surrogates.

Needless to say, he did no better.

President Obama has gone further than any of his predecessors in trying to curry favor with the mullahs. Even in 2009, when the regime’s paramilitary units were massacring people in the streets of Iranian cities during a nationwide pro-democracy uprising, Obama decided to side with the mullahs.

Earlier this month, Obama officially recognized the Islamic Republic as a threshold nuclear state in exchange for dubious concessions by Tehran that have not yet even been endorsed by Khamenei, who has every intention of ignoring them at the first opportunity.

One key reason for misunderstanding the nature of the present regime in Tehran is the failure to acknowledge that, for the past four decades, Iran has suffered from a Jekyll-and-Hyde split personality.

As a people and a culture, Iran is immensely attractive.

Valerie Jarett, reputed to be Obama’s closest adviser, remembers Shiraz, the Iranian cultural capital and the Florence of the East, where she was born and grew up. Before the revolution, Shiraz, with its breathtakingly beautiful architecture, was a city of gardens, wine and music with an annual international art festival. How could one not love Iran through it?

Today, however, Shiraz, where John Kerry’s sister worked for years, is a scene of public hangings and floggings, with its prisons filled with political and religious dissidents.

The film star Sean Penn, acting as a part-time reporter, visited Iran and wrote laudatory pieces. He saw Isfahan, the great former capital of Iran, as something of a paradise on earth. Like Clinton he was impressed by “incredibly progressive” people he met. What he ignored was that the Islamic Republic has been top of the list in the world for the number of executions and political prisoners.

Another movie star, George Clooney, praises Iranian cinema as “the only original one” in the world. But he ignores

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the fact that the films he admires, seen in festivals in the West, are never shown inside Iran itself and that many Iranian cineastes are in jail or in exile.

The pop star Madonna sings the ghazals of Persian Sufi poet Rumi and admires Iran. She ignores the fact that under the Khomeinist regime, Sufis are assassinated or in jail or forced into silence.

Secretary of State John Kerry admires Iran because he knows it through his Iranian son-in-law, who hails from a pre-revolution middle-class family. He doesn't know it is precisely such families that suffer most from Khomeinist terror and repression; this is why many fled into exile.

As a nation-state, Iran has no problems with anybody. As a vehicle for the Khomeinist ideology it has problems with everybody, starting with the Iranian people. The Khomeinist regime makes no secret of its intense hatred for Iranian culture, which it claims has roots in "the age of ignorance" (jahiliyyah).

To admire this regime because of Iranian culture is like admiring Hitler for Goethe and Beethoven and praising Stalin for Pushkin and Tchaikovsky.

This regime has executed tens of thousands of Iranians, driven almost 6 million into exile, and deprived the nation of its basic freedoms. It has also killed more Americans, often through surrogates, than al Qaeda did on 9/11. Not a single day has passed without this regime holding some American hostages.

Iran as a nation is a solid friend of America. Iran as a vehicle for the Khomeinist revolution is an eternal enemy of "The Great Satan."

The only realistic strategy for the United States would be to help it stop being the Islamic Republic and become Iran again.

President Obama's policy, however, points in the opposite direction. He has made it harder for the Iranian people to regain their human rights.

Tehran getting missiles

If Iran does violate its nuclear agreement, it will be harder for the US to stop it militarily.

Iran is buying five Russian S-300 long-range surface-to-air missile systems, which can shoot down aircraft and intercept ballistic missiles.

The UN Security Council still needs to vote Monday on a resolution that would endorse Iran's nuclear deal but Russia — one of the council's permanent members — has already agreed to sell it the missile systems.

The deal was first inked in 2007 but then delayed by Russia after pressure by the West and Israel when UN sanctions were imposed in 2010.

It's unknown exactly which model of S-300 Iran will get (the original 2007 deal was for missile systems developed two decades ago), but the S-300 is one of the most complex defense systems available.

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Russia tried to claim in April that other countries should not fear Iran arming itself.

“The S-300 is exclusively a defensive weapon, which can’t serve offensive purposes and will not jeopardize the security of any country, including, of course, Israel,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

But a S-300 can down aircraft flying at 90,000 feet, can track aerial targets 150 miles away, and has a range of 93 miles, putting neighboring countries at possible risk.

“It is proof that the economic momentum in Iran that will come after the lifting of the sanctions will be exploited for arming and not for the welfare of the Iranian people,” Israeli Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz said.

Deal with the devil // The News-Gazette – July 19, 2015

Whether one supports or opposes President Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran, the simple, undeniable political fact is that it's going to be implemented and the world is going to have to live with it.

How can that be when Congress has not yet begun its review of an agreement that has most Republicans and many Democrats expressing reservations?

It's simple math. Even if Congress rejects the plan, President Obama can veto that rejection. All Obama needs to sustain his veto is one-third plus one vote of either the House or Senate. Given the hard-core cadre of party loyalists Obama enjoys in both bodies, it's hard to imagine that his inevitable veto will not be sustained.

Here's something else to chew on. Even before Congress begins its review, Obama will take his case to the United Nations, where that body will repeal its previous resolutions that impose bans and sanctions on Iran's nuclear program.

Think of the international economic sanctions that crippled the Iranian economy and brought it to the negotiating table as a modern-day Humpty Dumpty. Once they come crashing down, they will be virtually impossible to restore.

So given the leverage the U.S. has forfeited, the question then becomes what does the U.S. gets out of this agreement? President Obama insists that it will block Iran from gaining nuclear weapons for at least 10 years, prevent a sure war between the U.S. and Iran and lay the groundwork for a rapprochement between our two countries.

That's theoretically possible, but it assumes the Iranians intend to strictly abide by the agreement's terms.

The U.S. has played this game before, trading tangible benefits for promises of good behavior vis a vis other countries' nuclear programs.

President Bill Clinton reached a similar deal with North Korea during the 1990s.

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"This is a good deal for the United States. North Korea will freeze and then dismantle its nuclear program. The entire world will be safer as we slow the spread of nuclear weapons. The United States and international inspectors will carefully monitor North Korea to make sure it keeps its commitment," Clinton said when he announced the settlement of nuclear talks with the Hermit Kingdom.

Americas know now, of course, that North Korea, which is led by an unstable, ruthless regime, has nuclear weapons that it regularly threatens to use.

In other words, North Korea viewed its accord as a mere scrap of paper that opened a gateway to political subterfuge.

What assurance does the international community have that Iran will be any different? Obama touts planned inspections, but the agreement establishes all kinds of hurdles that must be cleared before inspectors can take a look-see.

Why, if Iran is bent on compliance, is it so resistant to inspections? One need not be unduly suspicious to conclude that it has no intention of following the rules.

This is tough stuff. Iran has been pursuing nuclear weapons for many years, even as it relies on more tried and true techniques — terrorism and direct military intervention — to influence the affairs of Iraq and Syria. But it's also bragged that it will annihilate Israel one day while threatening Saudi Arabia.

Israel already has nuclear weapons while the Saudis say they intend to acquire them to re-establish a military balance with the nuclear Iran they see in their future.

So rather than helping to stabilize a region of the world already in turmoil, Obama's agreement appears to be unleashing an arms race.

Where this will go, no one can say. The Israelis view a nuclear Iran as an existential threat and see this agreement as guaranteeing that Iran will become a nuclear power — sooner rather than later.

President Obama considers it as a path to permanent peace, one that reinforces his legacy of trying to turn enemies like Cuba, Russia and Iran into friends.

That assumes that this country's enemies actually want to be friends. Obama's proposed reset with Russia has failed, his passivity encouraging Soviet leader Vladimir Putin to invade his neighbors in an effort to restore the old Soviet empire.

Tiny Cuba no longer matters any more, its geographic significance lost in the aftermath of the end of the Cold War.

As for Iran, its leaders routinely chant "Death to America," not exactly a harbinger of glad tidings, while crowing that they got everything they wanted in their nuclear deal with Obama.

A New York Times headline characterized this agreement as reflective of "Obama's leap of faith." That it surely is. But he's taking this country and the entire world along for the ride, and it looks like it's going to be a very bumpy

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trip.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

For G.O.P., Pope Francis's Visit to Congress Comes With Tensions // NYT // Jennifer Steinhauer – July 19, 2015

WASHINGTON — In the Reading, Ohio, neighborhood where Speaker John A. Boehner grew up, nearly every house had two things on the wall: a crucifix and a photo of the pope. "You never ever expected to meet the pope," said Jerry Vanden Eynden, a lifelong friend of Mr. Boehner's. "In all of our minds, the pope was the closest thing to meeting God in person here on earth."

When Pope Francis comes to Capitol Hill in September, he will be the first pontiff to address a joint meeting of Congress, where more than 30 percent of the members are Catholic. The visit will fulfill a long-held dream of Mr. Boehner, who says only his working-class roots as a bar owner's son are more essential to his core than his Catholic upbringing. He has extended offers to popes for the last 20 years, and Francis, after taking nearly a year to consider, was the first to accept.

The pope's visit comes with inherent tension for many Republicans, including those who are Catholic. While he has made no changes in church doctrine, Francis has forcefully staked out ideological ground opposite that of Mr. Boehner and his party. He has excoriated the excesses of capitalism as the "dung of the devil," pleaded for action to stop global warming and enthusiastically supported the new nuclear accord with Iran.

For Republicans, fiscal issues are more immediate and problematic. They are pushing for spending cuts, including ones that would reduce funding for the poor, setting up a fight with Democrats that could lead to a government shutdown around the time of the pope's remarks, which will be broadcast live from the West Front of the Capitol.

Many Republican leaders have been quietly discussing their fears of a spending fight or government shutdown during his visit. "That would be awful," said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine and a Catholic. "My hope is that we will all be infused with the spirit of St. Francis," she added, suggesting that Congress would perhaps be moved to agree on some appropriation bills to avoid embarrassment.

For all the potential tension, Mr. Boehner remains thrilled, shelving ideological differences to honor Francis, who might sound to most Americans more like Bernie Sanders than Ronald Reagan.

"Well, listen, there's one thing we know about this pope," Mr. Boehner said. "He's not afraid to take on the status quo or not afraid to say what he really thinks. And I can tell you this: I'm not about to get myself into an argument with the pope. So I'm sure the pope will have things to say that people will find interesting, and I'm looking forward to his visit."

The pope's speech to Congress — one of the most significant events of his visit to the United States — will afford him a rare opportunity to deliver a message at the seat of American political power, with a vast audience around the nation. Before him will be 535 House members and senators who dare not show even a whiff of disrespect during the speech, whether he is imploring action on climate change or wading into the issue of abortion.

For their part, House Democrats, including their leader, Representative Nancy Pelosi of California, who is also Catholic, have their own disagreements with the pope, who opposes abortion and same-sex marriage.

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More than half a century since John F. Kennedy told voters that he would not be taking orders from the pope, Catholic politicians have had to reconcile tenets of their faith with the imperatives of their politics.

On his recent trip through Latin America, Francis denounced aspects of capitalism and human-caused climate change, echoing his encyclical, which environmental activists praised. The pope has not been directly confrontational with host countries, preferring to speak broadly about political priorities, but his words are instantly scrutinized for signals.

While Catholic groups certainly insert themselves into the political process — the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops labored to prevent employers from being compelled to offer contraception as part of standard health insurance, but supported Democrat's ideas for immigration reform — the Vatican's views do not comport with the American left-right political framework.

"There is a common perception that he is really shaking things up," said Mark A. Smith, who is a professor of politics and expert on comparative religion at the University of Washington in Seattle. "But I read him as really reiterating themes that have been part of Catholic doctrine for a long time. At the end of the 19th century, the pope wrote an encyclical that had a lot of themes about needing to take care of the poor and not let business take over the world. He has put it back on the agenda."

Mr. Smith added: "When he said about gays, 'Who am I to judge,' that looks like it is certainly a new tone. But if you read deeper, for a long time there has been this sense in the church that we are not going to condemn people for their desires, only their behavior."

For Mr. Boehner, a visit from the pope is the culmination of a religious honor that he would never have expected, in the context of a job he could never have dreamed about as a child.

Mr. Vanden Eynden, the speaker's childhood friend, recalled daily Mass during the school week: "There were the little old ladies and us." The two boys rolled up papers together at 2 a.m. for their Sunday paper route, and then zipped off for 5:30 a.m. Mass before delivering them.

"We would sit up in the balcony because we were not dressed for church," Mr. Vanden Eynden said.

School papers during their years in Catholic high school were initialed with J.M.J. (Jesus Mary Joseph), and prayers were said along the sideline during football games with their intensely religious coach, who also made players do the rosary on the way to practice in the car. "We still say Hail Marys when we get together on the golf course," Mr. Vanden Eynden said. Mr. Boehner, who came from a working-class home with 12 children, also went on Saturdays with his father to Cincinnati to distribute charity to the poor.

"John has been exposed to that from an early age on, that you help your fellow man," Mr. Vanden Eynden said. The message of the church of their upbringing emphasized charity, but did not demonize wealth, either, he said.

"There is nothing wrong with being successful at all with Catholics," he said. "I am not sure this pope is saying that. If you go over to Europe, the Catholic Church is pretty successful with what they own."

Inflation's Steady Tick Poses Headaches in Congress **// WSJ // Josh Zumbrun – July 19, 2015**

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The U.S. government has an inflation challenge.

Many familiar programs, from Social Security to income-tax thresholds, are indexed to inflation and rise accordingly. Many dozens more aren't, a simple fact now causing heartburn among policy makers and politicians in Washington.

Take three issues in the news: the federal gasoline tax, the minimum wage and overtime pay. All are affected by the slow but steady tick of inflation, prompting fights over whether it is time for Congress to adjust them.

Federal statutes and the tax code are littered with dozens of examples of thresholds and figures put in place decades ago. Left unchanged, they cause an array of unforeseen consequences, including depleted funding for infrastructure, less-generous pay for employees and higher taxes on Social Security benefits.

Currently up for debate in Congress are measures to shore up the Highway Trust Fund, which pays for much of the nation's highway and mass-transit projects and maintenance. The fund has been depleted because the federal tax of 18.4 cents a gallon for gasoline hasn't changed since 1993, while inflation has cut the real value of the tax by nearly 40% since then.

Each year the fund's resources dwindle and the expense for Congress to keep them on track increases. The House passed a measure last week that would temporarily maintain the fund through December. Some senators, who will debate the issue this week, favor a two-year extension that would be much more expensive.

Both the minimum wage and overtime threshold—battlegrounds in the Obama administration's campaign to boost the middle class and reduce income inequality—are set in fixed dollar terms.

In 2009, the minimum wage was raised to $7.25 an hour. Back then, that amount went as far as $8 goes today. Even that is a cut from the 1960s; the minimum wage then was the equivalent of about $9.50 today.

The overtime threshold has fallen ever further. In 1970, anyone earning under $200 a week was eligible for overtime pay. That is the equivalent of about $1,090 a week today, more than double the current threshold of $455 a week.

The Labor Department has proposed that anyone earning less than $970 a week should be eligible. That would be a huge jump that could suddenly require many employers to pay overtime, or to retool their workforce to stop their employees from working more than 40 hours a week. But it still wouldn't be as generous as the policy of the late 1970s.

The policy was established with the understanding that officials "will raise the threshold to accommodate changes in the economy, or inflation, or whatever," said Ross Eisenbrey, a vice president at the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank that supports boosting the minimum wage and overtime threshold. "And they've just stopped doing that."

Democrats argue the overtime and minimum-wage measures will give workers a much-needed pay boost, while Republicans warn that a big jump in either measure could hinder employers' ability to hire.

Even in an era of generally low inflation, thresholds in laws end up changing drastically if left unchecked for years or decades. Most Americans are acutely aware of this erosion. The median household earned $51,939 in 2013, according to the Census Bureau. In nominal terms, that is a record, but adjusted for inflation, families earn

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$5,000 less than they did in 1999.

Inflation's slow but inexorable creep tripped up Congress for years with the alternative minimum tax, a levy designed to ensure wealthy people weren't avoiding taxes. Only about 20,000 people owed the AMT in 1970, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. Because of inflation, however, the tax began to apply to more households. By 2010, the AMT would have hit 27 million families, barring new legislation. Congress applied temporary patches nearly a dozen times before indexing the thresholds to inflation in 2013.

Many important federal tax provisions are indexed, including income- and estate-tax thresholds, the standard tax deduction and the earned income tax credit. So are some spending programs: federal employee retirement programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps.

But other provisions haven't been adjusted in years. Mr. Eisenbrey, a former commissioner of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, cites the penalty a company can be charged for knowingly putting an employee at risk of death, which was set at $70,000 in 1990 and hasn't been changed since. Thanks to inflation, that penalty is only half as onerous today.

Social Security checks rise with the consumer-price index, but the threshold for taxing those benefits was set in 1984. An unmarried Social Security recipient has to pay tax if he or she earns more than $25,000 in benefits and other income. In 1984, that threshold was the equivalent of $54,000 in today's dollars—what was once a tax that hit relatively well off people now falls on seniors with much more modest incomes. Every year that Social Security checks increase, a growing share is swept away by the never-adjusted tax.

Inflation even helped ensnare former House Speaker Dennis Hastert. He was indicted this year after federal officials caught him avoiding a $10,000 threshold for transferring funds. When the Bank Secrecy Act's threshold was established, in 1970, the figure was equivalent to more than $50,000 today. Indexed for inflation, the transfers by Mr. Hastert might not have been high enough to raise eyebrows.

"There's a broader issue here of what you want to index to," said Donald Marron, director of economic policy initiatives at the Urban Institute and a former member of George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers. For the gas tax, "you might want something reflective of miles driven plus inflation," he said. But for income tax "you might want to index in measures of income growth, not just inflation."

A host of additional tax thresholds are fixed, including the brackets for corporate profits. As inflation rises over time, more profits go to tax. More recently, the Affordable Care Act imposed an additional tax on the investment income of people earning $200,000 or more a year. For now, that is a high income, but if left unadjusted for decades, it would sweep up more middle-class households.

Even with low inflation, these aren't easy decisions for lawmakers. The issue hits home for Congress eventually, however. Congressional salaries aren't automatically adjusted for inflation either. Every year they erode a little bit. After adjusting for inflation, today's salaries for congressional lawmakers are at a 25-year low.

Same-Sex Couple Featured In Hillary Clinton Video Get Married // CBS Chicago // Dana Kozlov – July 19, 2015

A few months after a Chicago couple that was in Hillary Clinton's campaign launch video invited the candidate to their wedding, they got married without her, reports CBS 2's Dana Kozlov.

Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson appeared in Hillary Clinton's campaign launch video. They represented her support of gay marriage. On Sunday, they actually tied the knot.

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They were surrounded by family and friends at Montrose Harbor this afternoon. Absent, though, was the presidential candidate. They sent her a Twitter invitation to their wedding today right after they publically appeared in her campaign announcement video. They say they were honored to be included in that and wanted to include her in their wedding day.

The couple says Clinton's staff immediately got back to them with a sort of 'we'll see.' In the end, she didn't make it.

"She rightfully pointed out that if she came to the wedding, it might distract from our special day so we understand she supports us," said Milrad.

Clinton did send them a congratulatory note.

Milrad and Johnson have been together for several years.

Being that they got married in a public space, Clinton's attendance would have likely caused quite a security nightmare on an already really busy beach day.

INTERNATIONAL

U.N. Vote on Iran Nuclear Deal Irks Congress // NYT // Michael R. Gordon and David E. Sanger – July 19, 2015

WASHINGTON — During the closed-door talks in Vienna on limiting Iran's nuclear program, Secretary of State John Kerry argued that the United Nations Security Council should not vote on lifting sanctions on Iran until Congress had a chance to review the deal.

But he ran into a wall of opposition from Iran, Russia and even the United States' closest European allies, who argued successfully that Security Council action should come first, according to Western officials.

On Sunday, as the Obama administration submitted the Iran nuclear agreement to Congress for what promises to be a raucous 60-day debate, Mr. Kerry and President Obama began grappling with the fallout of that decision, which has complicated their efforts to secure much needed support within their own party.

At least two senior Democrats have joined the Republican leadership in complaining that the Security Council action, expected Monday morning, would pre-empt the congressional debate. Their concern is that it would signal the international community's intention to dismantle the sanctions — if Iran meets the nuclear terms of the accord — before American lawmakers have had time to vote on it.

Asked if she thought Democratic lawmakers would support the deal, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, told CBS's "Face the Nation" that "the jury is out."

Mr. Kerry expressed little sympathy on Sunday for congressional demands that the Security Council delay its vote, insisting that lawmakers will still have ample opportunity to carry out their review.

A provision inserted into the agreement at the behest of American negotiators, he said, stipulates that the deal will not take effect until 90 days after the Security Council formally endorses the accord — giving Congress time for action.

Mr. Kerry, a former senator from Massachusetts, scolded some of his erstwhile colleagues. "It's presumptuous of

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some people to suspect that France, Russia, China, Germany, Britain ought to do what the Congress tells them to do," he said on ABC's "This Week."

"They have a right to have a vote" at the United Nations, Mr. Kerry added, referring to his negotiating partners, who include the four other permanent members of the Security Council, plus Germany. "But we prevailed on them to delay the implementation of that vote out of respect for our Congress, so we wouldn't be jamming them."

The congressional review, which formally begins on Monday, will focus on an array of contentious issues, including the duration of the agreement, the strength of inspection provisions and the procedures for reimposing sanctions if the Iranians violate the agreement. Critics have also complained that the lifting of sanctions and the eventual end of an arms embargo will empower Iran to act against American interests around the world.

In response, the White House has stepped up its campaign to argue that a congressional rebuff would bring about the very outcome lawmakers want to avoid: the collapse of sanctions and an Iran on the threshold of having a nuclear weapon.

"If Congress says 'no' to this deal, then there will be no restraints on Iran," Mr. Kerry told "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "There will be no sanctions left. Our friends in this effort will desert us."

So far that argument has failed to impress Republicans, who have long pressed for tough sanctions and have viewed the idea of the Security Council voting first as an affront to the United States' role as the ultimate check on Iran.

But some Democrats have also voiced concern that the administration may be trying to box them in by agreeing to swiftly proceed with a Council vote that will reduce the international pressure on Tehran.

Senator Bob Corker, Republican of Tennessee, who chairs the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland, the panel's ranking Democrat, sent a joint letter to Mr. Obama last week urging him to postpone the Council vote until after Congress has voted on the accord.

Some legal experts, including those who have worked for Republican administrations, say congressional fears that Security Council action would tie the hands of the United States are misplaced.

The adoption of a new Security Council resolution that lays out the terms for lifting United Nations sanctions, and which is already circulating in draft form, would not legally require the United States to lifts its sanctions on Iran, said John B. Bellinger III, who served as the legal adviser for the State Department and the National Security Council during the administration of George W. Bush.

"The draft resolution appears to have been carefully crafted by administration lawyers to avoid imposing binding legal obligations on the United States before Congress considers the JCPOA," he wrote on the Lawfare blog, using the abbreviation for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the Iran agreement is formally known.

The Obama administration had hoped to sidestep this highly charged political debate by persuading its negotiating partners in Vienna to let Congress vote first. But the Iranians wanted to ensure a Security Council vote as soon as possible to get the international community behind a road map for sanctions relief.

The Russians also wanted speedy action at the United Nations, if only to underscore the authority of the Council and their own influence. For some of the Europeans, Council action was seen as a way to reinforce the multilateral

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character of the negotiations.

When the congressional review period doubled to 60 days after a July 9 deadline was missed, Mr. Kerry's hopes of persuading the United States' negotiating partners to delay going to the United Nations dimmed further.

The compromise American diplomats engineered — stipulating that the "adoption date" of the agreement would come 90 days after the Security Council endorsement — was intended as a way to provide time for Congress to complete its review while accepting the allies' argument that the adoption of the Council resolution should be a significant step and not an afterthought.

Even after an endorsement, United Nations sanctions would not be lifted until the Iranians take the required steps under the deal.

As strenuously as administration officials have pressed their case, many in Congress do not yet appear to be persuaded. On Friday, Representative Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, a senior Democrat in the House, joined House Speaker John A. Boehner, Republican of Ohio, in urging that the United Nations vote be delayed.

"I believe that waiting to go to the United Nations until such time as Congress has acted would be consistent with the intent and substance of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act," said Mr. Hoyer, the House minority whip, referring to the legislation Mr. Obama reluctantly signed in May that will give Congress 60 days this summer to debate the Iran agreement.

War Crimes and Rwandan Realities // NYT // Stephen W. Smith – July 19, 2015

Gen. Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, the head of the Rwandan intelligence services who is now free on bail in London pending an extradition hearing in October, is an exemplar of the tightly knit group of diaspora Tutsis that ousted Rwanda's Hutu-dominated government and rose to power during the 1994 genocide. Once a victim of human rights abuses, he now stands accused as a perpetrator. He is also a hostage — not of any justice system, but of an increasingly lone and erratic dictator, President Paul Kagame, who uses and abuses his inner circle as he grows more desperate to stay in power.

General Karake was arrested on June 20 at Heathrow airport on charges brought by a Spanish investigative judge, who accuses him of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed between 1990 and 2002 in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In particular, he is suspected of ordering the killing, in 1997, of three Spanish nationals working for the relief organization Medicos del mundo.

The fact that General Karake was arrested in Britain, a country he has visited with impunity for years, and hitherto one of post-genocide Rwanda's staunchest allies, suggests that Mr. Kagame himself is no longer beyond the reach of international justice. It also shows that the fate of the two men, so close for many years, is inextricably linked. General Karake has nothing to gain from a break with Mr. Kagame, beyond a stiff sentence from a foreign tribunal. But the reverse is equally true. Both men can only be free and powerful in Rwanda.

The arrest was only the latest twist in the wandering life of Mr. Kagame's spy chief. Both men were raised in Uganda, where their parents sought refuge after a revolution in 1959 led to the creation of a Rwandan "Hutu Republic." The young Mr. Karake earned degrees in business and international studies from universities in Uganda and Kenya, and an M.B.A. from the University of London before joining the Rwandan Patriotic Front, fighting to reclaim power in Kigali. The civil war, started in 1990 by the RPF, culminated in the massacre by Hutu extremists in 1994 of an estimated 800,000 civilians — mainly Tutsis but also Hutus who opposed the killing.

After the rebels took Kigali, Mr. Karake became a member of Mr. Kagame's inner circle — mostly English-

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speaking Tutsi returnees from Uganda — that now rules Rwanda. But even as the new government won the favor of a Western leadership riddled with guilt for failing to halt the genocide, Mr. Kagame and his men orchestrated revenge killings. During the second half of 1994, at least 40,000 Hutus were killed inside Rwanda. Between October 1996 and May 1997, another 200,000 perished as they fled across Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Many died of hunger or disease or at the hands of RPF fighters and their Congolese rebel allies, whom a U.N. investigation accuses of crimes against humanity and possibly "acts of genocide."

In 2007, General Karake was appointed deputy commander of the African Union peacekeeping force in the Sudanese province of Darfur. Though he was promoted deputy commander of the larger U.N. mission in Darfur in January 2008, the United Nations was embarrassed by allegations by Human Rights Watch that forces under his command had massacred Congolese civilians in the battle for Kisangani in 2000.

Nevertheless, the U.N. extended the general's tenure beyond its expiry in October 2008 after Mr. Kagame threatened to pull the Rwandan contingent out of Darfur. Both the United States and Britain, which have praised Mr. Kagame for his efforts to lift Rwanda out of atavistic poverty, also exerted pressure on the United Nations.Since then, in the face of an increasingly vindictive and megalomaniac leader, the phalanx controlling Rwanda has broken up. Many of Mr. Kagame's closest supporters have opposed the president's iron-fisted methods on the grounds that they jeopardize not only their own future but the future of the minority Rwandan community. Rebuked and punished by Mr. Kagame, several of his former associates have fled into exile. Some have been assassinated, including one of General Karake's predecessors, Col. Patrick Karegeya, who was murdered in a Johannesburg hotel room on Jan. 1, 2014. General Karake fell from grace in April 2010 when he was arrested for "immoral conduct." Like many colleagues, he was cashiered and detained, but eventually rehabilitated after he was made to understand that his destiny is entangled with that of his boss.

Mr. Kagame can't leave office without risking arraignment by the International Criminal Court, a threat from which even a trusted successor could not shield him — and Mr. Kagame no longer trusts anyone. Ignoring constitutional limits, he is orchestrating a "popular" movement to seek another term in 2017. Another election "victory" lies ahead, unless justice catches up with him. Thus the president is defending General Karake as if he himself were being forced to remain in London. He has denounced his spy chief's arrest as a continuation of "colonialism" and accused the British of "arrogance and contempt" for complying with what is in fact a legal obligation.

Mr. Kagame has also called on his foreign allies for support. Cherie Booth, former Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife, leads the Karake defense team. Two of the Rwandan leader's most steadfast supporters have been Mr. Blair and Bill Clinton, who has said that one of his greatest regrets as president was not intervening to stop the genocide in 1994.

The post-genocide regime in Rwanda has many friends around the world for understandable — and in most cases, honorable — reasons. Horrified as we were by the bloodbath in 1994, and ashamed by our inability to prevent or stop it, who would want to believe that the good face Mr. Kagame has put on Rwanda — creating an image as a prospering and healing nation — is in fact a lie? Today, opposition voices in Rwanda have been completely silenced.

Yet, it is precisely the outside world's need for a soothing moral tale — for a Manichean narrative to believe in — that betrays the reality in post-genocide Rwanda and renders us complicit, yet again, in more bloodshed. In a place where the absence of democracy and gross violations of human rights have already led to the ultimate collective crime, we simply cannot afford to continue to avert our gaze from Mr. Kagame's violent and arbitrary rule.

General Karake's case is a searing reminder of the need to hold Mr. Kagame accountable. He too belongs in the dock, standing trial before the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

U.S. Seeks to Allay Concerns of Allies on Iran Nuclear Deal // WSJ // Carol E. Lee and Gordon Lubold – July 19, 2015

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The Obama administration has launched an aggressive campaign to try to allay the fears of allies in the Middle East over the Iran nuclear deal.

Senior administration officials are making the strongest overtures to Israel and Saudi Arabia. There have been repeated offers recently to increase the $3 billion U.S. military aid package to Israel.

The U.S. is specifically looking at ways to expedite arms transfers to Arab states in the Persian Gulf and is accelerating plans for them to develop an integrated regional ballistic missile defense capability, a senior administration official said.

One of the administration's top challenges is to counter backlash over a provision in the nuclear pact that would lift United Nations embargoes on arms and ballistic missile technologies to Iran, in five and eight years respectively.

The White House is seeking to ease Saudi Arabia's anxiety over the Iran deal to keep the oil-rich kingdom from trying to match Tehran's nuclear capabilities. President Barack Obama wants to assure that Israel doesn't launch a military strike on Iranian nuclear sites. The Israelis also exert political influence in Congress, which can vote to approve or disapprove the deal.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter was to arrive in Israel late Sunday for a two-day visit—the first cabinet member to do so since the Iran deal was reached last Tuesday. He will also visit Saudi Arabia later this week to discuss security issues.

Both sides were braced for possible friction. Some Pentagon officials said Israeli leaders could use Mr. Carter's trip to further chastise the Obama administration. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared on U.S. Sunday morning news programs to lambaste the deal and defense officials held out the possibility that Mr. Carter could personally bear the brunt of the Israeli leader's unhappiness.

"I think he would be unwise to do that with us," said one senior defense official. "But if the secretary has to defend the deal, he will."

In Israel, top officials are expected to remain unwavering.

"Israel will not be timid in stating its views about this agreement, because it affects the national security of the country," said Dore Gold, a former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations who recently became foreign ministry director general.

A former senior Israeli security official said that Israel can't afford to look like it is accepting any form of compromise with the administration.

Secretary of State John Kerry will follow Mr. Carter's visit to the region, meeting early next month with his counterparts from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The high-level talks are designed to set the agenda for a series of meetings Mr. Obama is expected to hold with Middle East leaders, including Mr. Netanyahu, in September around the annual United Nations General Assembly,

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senior administration officials said.

Israeli officials are refusing to discuss with the White House additional American military assistance at least until after Congress completes its review of the Iran deal in September. Instead, Israeli leaders are training their focus on pressing lawmakers to reject the deal and view entertaining any new offers of military assistance as condoning the agreement.

“We have repeatedly offered to the Israeli leadership to hold these consultations, including the president to the prime minister on their last few calls, but they have made clear privately and publicly that they do not want to engage in this conversation at this juncture,” a senior U.S. official said. “Our offer still stands.”

U.S. officials said they don’t expect any serious discussions on new military assistance for Israel during Mr. Carter’s visit. Mr. Carter also will not be there to try to persuade Mr. Netanyahu to support the agreement. Mr. Netanyahu has disparaged the deal as a “historic mistake.”

“We have a first-order difference of opinion whether this deal makes them and us more safe; we believe it does, he believes it doesn’t,” a senior defense official said.

By refusing to stand down, however, Israel could be forgoing hardware prized by its military—a trade-off that might spur opposition to Mr. Netanyahu’s tactics within Israel’s top brass. It also might mean missing the opportunity to collaborate more closely with U.S. on implementation of the agreement or influence the U.S. draft of an expected U.N. Security Council Resolution codifying the deal.

“These are the dilemmas,’’ Mr. Gold acknowledged. “Right now, it’s too premature to say what the Israeli policy will be in the coming period.”

Mr. Carter, who has visited Israel numerous times in previous jobs, will use his personal ties to Israel to provide assurances that the U.S. will maintain its security commitments, officials said.

In addition to meeting with Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Carter will meet his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Ya’alon. Mr. Ya’alon will host Mr. Carter at a military facility in the north, along Israel’s border with Lebanon, to discuss the security threat posed by Iranian-backed Hezbollah. The two are expected to discuss ways to defend against the Shiite militant group and the readiness of the Israel Defense Forces in the region, but not Mr. Obama’s offer of new aid.

Mr. Obama spoke with Mr. Netanyahu on Tuesday after the Iran deal was announced. He has also spoken with the leaders of Arab states and met last Friday at the White House with Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister.

U.S. officials have been working with the Gulf states on a host of new security guarantees and military cooperation following Mr. Obama’s meeting with officials from Gulf nations at Camp David in May. They met last month on new measures involving maritime and cyberthreats, and U.S. officials are studying the GCC’s existing ballistic missile defense capabilities to develop a plan for an integrated system.

Another senior U.S. official said the U.S. and GCC nations have implemented some of the measures agreed to at Camp David. The U.S. also plans to hold a meeting with GCC officials in coming months to discuss expedited arms transfers, longer-range military planning and how they can procure other needed military capabilities.

Mr. Carter’s visit to Saudi Arabia isn't expected to include announcements of new weapons deals. The Pentagon

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chief also will travel to Jordan this week to discuss the fight against Islamic State.

The Republican-led Congress has 60 days to review and could vote on the deal. Mr. Obama has said he would veto any resolution rejecting it. Lawmakers then would need significant majorities in both chambers to override the president's veto.

In Tehran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Saturday that Iran will uphold its anti-American policies and continue to support regional allies.

"Our policy regarding the arrogant U.S. government will not change," Mr. Khamenei said in a televised address to mark Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim feast day at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "We don't have any negotiations or deal with the U.S. on different issues in the world or the region."

His comments are being closely watched because he has final say in most matters of state and could scuttle the agreement. He didn't explicitly reject its provisions, nor did he fully embrace the deal, an ambiguity that appeared to both play to his hard-line base and appeal to Iranians who support the negotiations.

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From: "Michael Bronfein" <mbronfein@gmail.com>
To: "Dennis Cheng" <dcheng@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/27/2016 4:13:57 AM
Subject: Fwd: The Chelsea Clinton fundraiser that should worr y Hillary's pro-Israel backers

I am fielding quite a few concerns over this.. , seems to have some viral qualities.. FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cary Luskin <cary@thebigtv.com >
Subject: Fwd: The Chelsea Clinton fundraiser that should worry Hillary's pro-Israel backers
Date: January 27, 2016 at 10:34:22 AM EST
To: mbronfein@gmail.com

The Chelsea Clinton fundraiser that should worry Hillary's pro-Israel backers

Resize Text

Print Article

Comments 92

By Jennifer Rubin January 25

Iranian Foreign Minister I

(REUTERS/Leonhard Foeger)

For $250,"friends" — or $1000 for a "champion" (photo included) — you too can attend a fundraiser with Chelsea California, according to an invitation to the event obtained by Right Turn. Michael Chegini served on theboard of (NIAC), a notorious group with links to the Iranian regime that opposed, among other things, any sanctions on I

"The Clintons never miss an opportunity to put money ahead of principle," a spokesman for the Republican Jewish concern has been supporting the NIAC — a notorious supporter of the Radical Islamic Mullahs in Iran. Instead as is hard cash."

The NIAC, you may recall, was forced to pay damages for a spurious lawsuit against blogger Hassan Daioleslam, v dedicated to Israel's destruction. (A federal court found in 2012 "that the work of NIAC president and founder Tı

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for the regime.' The judge essentially found it was conceivable that NIAC could reasonably be accused of lobbying

This is not the first Clinton encounter with the NIAC. Bill Clinton, while Hillary was secretary of state, according t the NIAC: "An aide to Bill Clinton asked the State Department in 2012 about the former president potentially deliv U.S. sanctions against Tehran, according to an email exclusively obtained by Fox News." Ultimately Bill Clinton c **Congo – an event that would have included notorious Democratic Republic of the Congo leader Joseph Kabila." (So** appointment).

It does however suggest that the Clintons are quite comfortable with taking money from people with ties to apolog Clintons willingness to take money for themselves and their foundation **from scoundrels and despots (e.g. Arab** that propagandists for Iran would have Hillary Clinton's ear should she make it to the White House. Former ambas Clinton foreign policy on Iran will be no different from what we have now," he told me.

The event should also serve as a reminder to Clinton's pro-Israel backers, argues Noah Pollak, executive director o insist that she cannot dance at two weddings. To the extent they do not deliver this message, they share part of th

In any event, it is one more reminder that with Clinton comes a whole parade of influence peddlers, some of whom American Enterprise Institute, observing that the fundraiser "just isn't good politics," asks, "Surely there's someo Hillary Clinton will not take money.

nifer Rubin writes the Right Turn blog for The Post, offering reported opinion from a conservative perspective.

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From: "Danielle Brian, Project On Government Oversight" <danielle@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 7/30/2015 5:27:22 AM
Subject: Is government accountability important to you?

POGO
PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Dear John,

With the year just a little more than halfway over, we need a moment to catch our breath. We've packed a lot into the past six and half months.

As we've done for nearly 35 years, we've continued our mission of holding the federal government accountable. This past spring, we exposed the Navy's questionable—possibly illegal—attempts to lobby Congress for an off-budget account to fund new nuclear submarines. We also exposed the Senate Armed Services Committee's secret and improper vote to keep the Pentagon budget debate behind closed doors.

Last month, the Society of Professional Journalists' DC Chapter recognized our investigative work by giving us five awards, including their top "Watchdog" prize.

It has, to some degree, been a year of addition by way of subtraction. **We pushed the Obama administration to remove officials who failed the public interest—and in several cases, we claimed victory.**

Those we're not sorry to see go include the Air Force general who asserted that airmen communicating with Congress about the capabilities of the A-10 aircraft were "committing treason," the Commerce Inspector General with a history of acting against whistleblowers, the Department of Defense "watchdog" who seemed more interested in protecting Pentagon superiors than holding them accountable, and the Veterans Affairs Acting Inspector General who helped perpetuate the department's toxic culture of retaliation and intimidation.

In the last case, the VA official stepped down just a few weeks after I testified before a Senate committee about his terrible record.

None of these victories would have happened without our supporters, people like you, who make our work possible through contributions and by signing petitions and sending emails to Congress and the President demanding accountability.

Donate now

But there is much more work to be done. **Please support us by making a contribution to the Project On Government Oversight today.**

With your help, POGO will continue to be able to tackle problems like these, and to make a difference in Washington.

Sincerely,

Danielle Brian

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Danielle Brian
Executive Director

We rely on people like you to spread the word about our work. Tell a friend about POGO!

POGO :: 1100 G Street, NW, Suite 500 :: Washington, DC 20005 :: (202) 347-1122

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From: "Daniella Gibbs Leger" <daniellagibbsleger@gmail.com>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 9/12/2008 10:11:52 AM
Subject: [big campaign] two reviews of Palin

Thought you might enjoy these.

From Politico's Arena:

Norman J. Ornstein , Resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute:
She had me at hello Charley-- had me scared to death. Not a single doubt that she is ready to be president-- everyone, no matter how experienced, should have doubts about the ability to take that job. A combination of utter inexperience and utter arrogance is about the worst possible combination I can imagine. Not knowing what the Bush Doctrine is would be bad enough, but saying unequivocally that Georgia should be in NATO-- meaning we would now perhaps be in a state of war with Russia-- and then without a beat saying that military action should be the last resort-- shows a series of knowledge and logic gaps that ought to shake every foreign policy specialist, liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, to his or her roots. Maybe they can force feed her enough facts to skate through a debate, and maybe her self-confidence will still play well with many voters, but this first cut performance underscores our worst fears.

From Swampland:

A Joke

Posted by Joe Klein | Comments (304) | Permalink | Trackbacks (0) | Email This

This woman clearly has no idea what she's talking about. What an embarrassment.

Update: Jim Fallows spells it out.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/30/2014 3:01:32 PM
Subject: Re: global tech initiative

John,

I am happy to talk about this and I do have ideas about how an international CCS initiative should be/might be organized. It would be different that the pattern of bilateral until now. Let me know when you are free; Pete and I will be at the SEAB meeting at NREL in Denver on Tuesday and Wednesday.

John

> On Nov 30, 2014, at 2:38 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> The three of us should talk. China project is supposed to involve international partners.
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
>> On Nov 30, 2014, at 1:19 PM, Pete <progden@gmail.com> wrote:
>>
>> Yeah, Deutch didn't have any answers off the top of his head about how to operationalize something bigger but said that if you wanted him to spend time trying to work something like that up he'd want to talk to you directly first.
>>
>> Let me know if you do want to do that -- I am going to see him Thur -- or if there's someone else you'd like me to approach. Arun Majumdar?
>>
>> --Pete
>>
>>
>> On Nov 30, 2014, at 11:33 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
>>
>> Not sure what to do with this beyond ccs demo announced in Beijing.
>>
>> JP
>> --Sent from my iPad--
>> john.podesta@gmail.com
>> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>>
>>> On Nov 29, 2014, at 2:07 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Hi John -- Good seeing you the other day, and hope you had a good Thanksgiving.
>>>
>>> I asked John Deutch if he had any thoughts about what a global technology initiative might look like, and he sent the attached note for you to take a look at. He makes the case that the focus should be on CCS, and told me that nuclear he thought too expensive and solar was progressing on its own. If you are interested in him thinking about what exactly the shape of an initiative might be, he'll want to hear from you directly.
>>>
>>> Let me know if there's anyone else you think that I should solicit ideas on this from at at this stage.
>>>
>>>
>>> --Pete
>>> <CCS RD&D proposal.pdf>

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com> "Karen Finney" <finneyk8@yahoo.com> "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com> "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com> "Adrienne Elrod" <adrienne.elrod@gmail.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Amanda Renteria" <amandarenteria@gmail.com> "Marlon Marshall" <marlondmarshall@gmail.com> "Katie Dowd" <katie.w.dowd@gmail.com> "Teddy Goff" <teddy.goff@gmail.com> "Lona Valmoro" <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com> "Harrell Kirstein" <hkirstein@hillaryclinton.com> "Tyrone Gayle" <tgayle@hillaryclinton.com> "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com> "Alex Hornbrook" <ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/28/2015 7:57:11 AM
Subject:	NYC Finance Day | 4.28.15

Just leaving the first fundraiser of three today.

Did the photo line and straight up to a balcony for remarks and Q&A.

She did well with the points.

Questions were an even balance between foreign policy and campaign machinations stuff for the most part. What's the deal with Russia? Cyber security. How do we get young people excited?

She did well. Had people laughing. Did the Eleanor Roosevelt/skin like a rhino bit.

ABC on the way in and out. On the way out, they shouted a Baltimore question but she didn't engage.

Just got to # 2. No press.

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/27/2008 1:19:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/27

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 27th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:30am McCain: Tour and Employee Town Hall in Warren, OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event
12pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in Howland, OH

4pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Hunting Valley, OH

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Schwarzenegger criticizes McCain's offshore drilling proposal (LA Times 6/27/08)
By Carol J. Williams
At a Florida conference on global warming, California's governor says drilling will not bring down oil prices, and he urges consumers to use more renewable resources.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-me-arnold27-2008jun27,0,1954634.story
***See* HuffPo's "Schwarzenegger: McCain "Blowing Smoke" On Offshore Drilling":** http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/26/schwarzenegger-mccain-blo_n_109451.html

Obama, McCain Likely to Step Up Government Role in U.S. Economy (Bloomberg 6/27/08)
By Rich Miller and Lorraine Woellert
An era of active government may be approaching -- no matter who wins the presidency. In a variety of areas -- from oil-futures trading and investment banking to climate change and home mortgages -- Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama both see a bigger government role in the economy.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=a5Ol9JeDatck&refer=home

McCain seeks to reassure conservatives in Ohio (LA Times 6/27/08)
By Peter Wallsten and Bob Drogin
Participants in the private meeting say he promised to consider an anti-abortion running mate and to talk more openly about his opposition to gay marriage.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain27-2008jun27,0,2333.story
***See* WSJ's "Conservative Leaders Urge McCain To Speak Out on Social Issues":** http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121452732081709177.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

McCain tries to assure conservatives (MSNBC blog 6/26/08)
By Matthew E. Berger
McCain told conservative leaders that he would speak out more to highlight his pro-life record and views on other social issues to garner more Christian conservative support, leaders in the room said Thursday.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/26/1171065.aspx

Faithful in pews might not be voters in November (AP 6/26/08)
By PHILIP ELLIOTT
If Christian conservatives stay on the sidelines during the fall campaign, presidential hopeful John McCain probably stays in the Senate.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/7612531

McCain, GOP unleash anti-Obama plan (Politico 6/27/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
... After weeks of criticism from Republicans about the leisurely pace at which they seemed to be preparing for the general election, McCain's campaign has apparently settled on a highly personal campaign theme that aims

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to differentiate McCain and Obama on both character and issues.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11372.html

McCain Praises Supreme Court Gun Decision (Washington Post blog 6/26/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Sen. John McCain leaped quickly Thursday to praise the Supreme Court decision striking down the District of Columbia's gun ban. It is a political position that that will surely please gun owners and the National Rifle Association. ... But McCain has his own checkered history when it comes to the Second Amendment.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/26/mccain_praises_supreme_court_g.html#more
Link to McCain statement on SCOTUS ruling: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/PressReleases/87e4941a-3753-4a82-8985-7d461b1b894e.htm

McCain backs gun decision, Obama straddles issue (AP 6/26/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
John McCain welcomed a Supreme Court decision invalidating a District of Columbia handgun ban. Barack Obama sought to straddle the subject by saying he favors an individual's right to bear firearms as well as a government's right to regulate them.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iws_NUP4CywbKPEd1Czf0PY8NWVAD91I2T0G0

Gun (law) battle coming today (Boston Globe blog 6/26/08)
By Foon Rhee
While John McCain and Barack Obama agreed in their disdain for Wednesday's US Supreme Court ruling outlawing the death penalty for child rapists, the presidential candidates will not be united in today's decision throwing out the handgun ban in Washington, D.C.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/06/gun_law_battle.html
Link to McCain release in response to Obama's statement on SCOTUS ruling: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/PressReleases/8528d447-e576-439f-89b6-718238ed7ed3.htm
Link to McCain oppo release on Obama "A Timeline of Political Positioning on Second Amendment Rights": http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/PressReleases/5a80daf7-b81f-4e61-aef0-6f70fd44f933.htm

John McCain's Voodoo Reformism (The Nation 6/26/08*)
*Print version of this article will appear in July 14th issue
By Ari Berman
In early April John McCain held a top-dollar fundraiser at Washington's Willard Hotel, where President Ulysses S. Grant invented the term "lobbyist." It was a fitting locale, as the election-reform group Public Campaign noted, since thirty-five of the forty-three hosts for the evening were registered lobbyists. The following week Rick Davis--on leave from his job as a lobbyist to work as McCain's campaign manager--gave a strategy presentation to lobbyists from the oil, utility and nuclear power industries, soliciting campaign contributions.
http://www.thenation.com/doc/20080714/berman

Modern Maturity? (Newsweek 6/26/08)
By Michael Hirsh
McCain's campaign touts his 'grown-up' energy plan
http://www.newsweek.com/id/143405

In Call To End Partisanship, McCain Camp Jabs Bush, Obama (CBS blog 6/26/08)
By Jamie Farnsworth
A memo circulated by the McCain campaign Thursday morning calls for an end to partisan bickering and promotes putting the country before politics. In the same statement, the campaign hits the Bush Administration for having "disappointed many" and hits Sen. Obama for never putting "his career on the line for a cause greater than himself."
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/06/26/politics/fromtheroad/entry4211824.shtml

McCain, Obama cautious on N. Korea moves (AP 6/26/08)
Say trade sanctions, terrorism blacklist removal should be looked at closely
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25392717/
Link to McCain statement on N. Korea: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/PressReleases/a375dc21-a2c6-4ec1-9058-92f368d0c595.htm

McCain and Obama on energy issues (Cleveland's The Plain Dealer blog 6/26/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain isn't playing it safe by sticking to friendly turf as he travels the

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United States to sell voters his plans for energy independence.
http://blog.cleveland.com/openers/2008/06/washington_republican_presiden.html

McCain focuses on 'undecideds' (Cincinnati Enquirer 6/26/08)
By Howard Wilkinson and Peggy O'Farrell
That Republican John McCain would come to Cincinnati for a town hall forum with undecided voters so early in the general election campaign made it clear that he knows this will be a major battleground... And what he talked about made it clear the battle won't be won on the issues he has been most comfortable with in his long congressional career - national security, defense, and, in recent years, the war on radical Islamic terrorists. "The economy, the economy, and the economy," the senator from Arizona said after his town hall performance at Xavier University's Schmidt Hall.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080626/NEWS0108/306260040/1055/NEWS
Link to video: http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080626/VIDEO/80626006/1055/NEWS

McCain to tap top donors (Cincinnati Enquirer 6/26/08)
By Malia Rulon
When it comes to rounding up money from Greater Cincinnati's top Republican donors, John McCain is no George W. Bush. These big donors - nicknamed "Rangers" or "Pioneers" for raising more than $200,000 or $100,000 for President Bush... so far, they haven't opened their checkbooks as much for McCain, the presumed GOP presidential nominee.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080626/NEWS01/806260366/1055/NEWS

Not everybody undecided at McCain event (Dayton Daily News 6/26/08)
By William Hershey
More than 150 people packed into a meeting room in Schmidt Hall at Xavier University in Cincinnati for a town hall meeting with Republican presidential candidate John McCain. ... The crowd mainly undecided voters, picked by a marketing firm, but there also were college students and McCain backers.
http://www.daytondailynews.com/o/content/shared-gen/blogs/dayton/ohiopolitics/entries/2008/06/26/not_everybody_undecided_at_mcc.html

Calling all McCain fans (Cincinnati Enquirer blog 6/25/08)
An evening email from the Hamilton County GOP:
Dear Republican Supporter,
There are a few seats available for Senator John McCain's townhall meeting tomorrow at noon at Xavier University. ... Please let me know if you are intersted in attending.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=blog02&plckController=Blog&plckScript=blogScript&plckElementId=blogDest&plckBlogPage=BlogViewPost&plckPostId=Blog%3aec38bb2b-982e-46ba-819a-da01a547e8eaPost%3a418a2432-9b87-47a4-8124-2524aa1a4b5f&plckCommentSortOrder=TimeStampAscending&sid=sitelife.cincinnati.com

Distorting Obama (FactCheck.org 6/26/08)
By Brooks Jackson
...Sen. John McCain's campaign announced the new Web-only ad on June 25. It portrays Obama as "The Dr. No of energy security." We find that some of the claims in the ad go too far and misrepresent some of Obama's positions.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/143344

Hill Dems launch major assault on McCain policies (Politico blog 6/26/08)
By Martin Kady II
Democrats on Capitol Hill have launched a major assault Thursday on John McCain's policies, targeting two areas where he is thought to be the strongest: taxes and foreign policy.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0608/Hill_Dems_launch_major_assault_on_McCain_policies.html

After Impeaching Clinton, McCain Now Dismisses Idea Of Impeaching Bush: 'I Do Not Agree With It' (ThinkProgress 6/26/08)
Today during a town hall event at Xavier University, an attendee forced Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to respond to Rep. Dennis Kucinich's (D-OH) impeachment articles against President Bush. McCain immediately brushed off the question, saying that he opposes them:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/26/mccain-impeachment/

McCain heads for top-level talks in Colombia, Mexico (AFP 6/26/08)
Republican White House hopeful John McCain is heading to Colombia and Mexico next week for talks with their presidents on trade and narcotics, aides said Thursday.

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http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i13e_Z_T2JSRgUZAk9xxMX220zOw

HALPERIN'S TAKE: What Smart Republican Strategists Think Should Be on John McCain's To-Do List (The Page 6/26/08)
1. Prove to your staff you can drive a message for more than one consecutive day.
http://thepage.time.com/halperin%e2%80%99s-take-what-smart-republican-strategists-think-should-be-on-john-mccain%e2%80%99s-to-do-list/

Black Ops (New Yorker Magazine blog 6/25/08)
By Hendrik Hertzberg
All the ostentatious indignation about Charlie Black's comment that a terrorist attack on American soil would be helpful to McCain's candidacy—MoveOn has just jumped into the fray with a demand that Black be fired—is a little puzzling. Black merely stated the conventional wisdom. The view that terrorism is good for McCain is supported by polling data and is shared across the board
http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/hendrikhertzberg/2008/06/black-ops.html

Budweiser deal puts political pressure on McCain campaign (The Hill 6/25/08)
By Michael O'Brien
A Belgian brewery's recent attempt to buy out iconic American firm Anheuser-Busch is putting Cindy McCain in a politically difficult position.
http://thehill.com/campaign-2008/budweiser-deal-puts-political-pressure-on-mccain-campaign-2008-06-25.html

Charlie Crist's McCain Problem (TIME 6/26/08)
By Tim Padgett
...Crist's environmental victory came just as many Floridians and other national political observers had begun to wonder if he was going overboard in a perceived bid to be John McCain's running mate. McCain announced earlier this month that he favors allowing new offshore oil drilling to help ease America's gas-pump nightmare.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1818326,00.html

La. gov. signs chemical castration bill (UPI 6/26/08)
Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has signed into law a measure that would force convicted rapists and others to undergo chemical castration. Calling sex offenders "monsters," Jindal signed Senate Bill 144 into law on Wednesday
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/06/26/La_gov_signs_chemical_castration_bill/UPI-16241214510807/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's Day Of Repudiation (Washington Post 6/27/08)
By George F. Will; A17
Two of yesterday's Supreme Court rulings -- both decided 5 to 4, and with the same alignment of justices -- concerned the Constitution's first two amendments. One ruling benefits Barack Obama by not reviving the dormant debate about gun control. The other embarrasses John McCain by underscoring discordance between his deeds and his promises.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/26/AR2008062603651.html

Let McCain Be McCain (WSJ 6/27/08)
By PEGGY NOONAN
Why should Obama be the only interesting candidate?
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121450930616708139.html?mod=todays_columnists

No, McCain Isn't 'Doomed' (WSJ 6/27/08)
By JOHN FUND; Page A13
Some pundits claim John McCain has no chance of beating Barack Obama. "The current bundle of economic troubles should doom any Republican hoping to succeed George Bush," says NBC's Chris Matthews. "It's almost impossible to believe that another Republican could get elected," insists Katty Kay, the BBC's Washington-based correspondent. They need to better understand the rhythms of presidential campaigns and show more humility in a year that's been chock full of political surprises.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121452433272409083.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

McCain has answers to U.S. energy needs (Morning Call 6/27/08)
By Sen. ARLEN SPECTER
"McCain knows America needs to reform its energy portfolio to include both new and proven sources of energy.

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He supports harnessing solar, wind and clean coal as well as expanding the use of nuclear power."
www.mcall.com/news/opinion/anotherview/all-right_col-b.6478598jun27,0,7962234.story

On energy, McCain sounds a lot like Cheney (Salon 6/27/08)
By Joe Conason
The GOP nominee wants to distance himself from Bush on climate change, but he'd do better to emulate Jimmy Carter than the vice president.
http://www.salon.com/opinion/conason/2008/06/27/energy_plans/

BUSH NEWS

Bush Rebuffs Hard-Liners to Ease North Korean Curbs (NYT 6/27/08)
By HELENE COOPER
Two days ago, during an off-the-record session with a group of foreign policy experts, Vice President Dick Cheney got a question he did not want to answer. "Mr. Vice President," asked one of them, "I understand that on Wednesday or Thursday, we are going to de-list North Korea from the terrorism blacklist. Could you please set the context for this decision?"
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/27/world/asia/27nuke.html?ref=todayspaper

Flashback: As Governor, Bush Said, 'Why Should I Care About North Korea?' (ThinkProgress 6/26/08)
Today, President Bush announced that North Korea has turned over a statement describing its nuclear program, prompting Bush to lift sanctions and rescind its designation as a state sponsor of terror. The news is a step "toward reintegration into the world community and rapprochement with the United States," the New York Times observed.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/26/bush-north-korea/

Bush Policies On Terror Get Fresh Airing (WSJ 6/27/08)
By Evan Perez
Democrats in Congress used a rare House appearance by David Addington, an aide to Vice President Dick Cheney, to take aim at the Bush administration's interrogation and terror-detainee policies.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121453420995409733.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

White House insiders refuse to shed light on interrogations (CNN 6/26/08)
* Alleged architects of detainee interrogation policy prove to be difficult witnesses
* David Addington, vice president's chief of staff, dances around questions
* John Yoo, ex-deputy assistant attorney general, refuses to answer questions
* Men among 6 accused of colluding to form legal rationale for harsh treatment
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/26/interrogations.hearing/index.html

Pastor Who Officiated at Jenna Bush Wedding Launches Pro-Obama Website (Washington Post blog 6/26/08)
By Krissah Williams
Sparks are flying in the 2008 culture wars. The Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, leader of the largest Methodist congregation in the country, launched a website yesterday titled "James Dobson Does Not Speak For Me."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/26/pastor_who_officiated_at_jenna.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

North Korea Destroys Tower at Nuclear Plant (NYT 6/28/08)
By CHOE SANG-HUN
In a gesture demonstrating its commitment to halt its nuclear weapons program, North Korea blew up the most visible symbol of its plutonium production Friday, South Korean media reported from the site.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/28/world/asia/28korea.html?ref=world

NWS: Levee breaks, threatening eastern Mo. homes (AP 6/27/08)
The National Weather Service says a corner of an earthen levee has broken, and officials say the leak will "ultimately inundate" part of an eastern Missouri town.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5Sllmi4SoQ_N4HJvwHE0ZAD91ID9QG1

Landmark Ruling Enshrines Right to Own Guns (NYT 6/27/08)
By LINDA GREENHOUSE
The Supreme Court on Thursday embraced the long-disputed view that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to own a gun for personal use, ruling 5 to 4 that there is a constitutional right to keep a loaded handgun at home for self-defense.

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http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/27/washington/27scotus.html?ref=todayspaper

Supreme Court Strikes Down 'Millionaire's Amendment' (NYT 6/27/08)
By ADAM LIPTAK
The Supreme Court on Thursday struck down a law meant to level the financial playing field when rich candidates pay for their own political campaigns. The 5-to-4 decision, legal experts said, was significant for rejecting the rationale behind the law, known as the "millionaire's amendment," and for confirming the court's continuing skepticism about the constitutionality of campaign finance regulations.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/27/washington/27money.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

Lawmakers Call for Air Force to Reopen Tanker Competition (Washington Post 6/27/08)
By Dana Hedgpeth; D04
Congressional and military leaders said yesterday that they are continuing to investigate how the Air Force awarded a $40 billion aerial refueling tanker contract to Northrop Grumman and its European partner, leaving the deal's future on shaky ground.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/26/AR2008062603793.html

Obama, Clinton Join Together in Show of Unity (Washington Post 6/27/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut and Matthew Mosk; A04
Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton showered each other with praise yesterday in their first joint appearance since the end of the Democratic presidential primary season at an event in which the senator from New York urged hundreds of her top donors to get behind the party's presumptive nominee.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/26/AR2008062604151.html

Obama Gives $2,300, Intended as a Spur, for Clinton Debt (NYT 6/27/08)
By JEFF ZELENY
Senator Barack Obama said on Thursday that he had written a personal check of $2,300 to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, a goodwill gesture intended to nudge his top donors to help ease Mrs. Clinton's campaign debt and help the two Democrats move beyond their rivalry to focus on the fall contest.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/27/us/politics/27campaign.html

Wave of bad news sends Dow down nearly 360 (AP 6/26/08)
By MADLEN READ
A barrage of bad news including yet another record high for oil drove stocks sharply lower Thursday, hurtling the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 360 points to their lowest level in almost two years.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080626/ap_on_bi_st_ma_re/
wall_street;_ylt=Am0qDWRwSyPqWjg03eHYs1Gs0NUE

Senate finalizes war funding bill (CNN 6/26/08)
* $165 billion bill funds the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan into early 2009
* Measure includes money for a new GI Bill, extended unemployment benefits
* Bill also provides disaster assistance for Midwest flooding
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/26/senate.war.funding/index.html

Housing bill, FISA delayed until after July recess (The Hill 6/26/08)
By Manu Raju and J. Taylor Rushing
The Senate hit impasses over legislation aimed at helping struggling homeowners and a rewrite of spying laws, forcing Democratic leaders to push back consideration of those measures until next month.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/housing-bill-fisa-delayed-until-after-july-recess-2008-06-26.html

New high for Afghanistan deaths (CNN blog 6/26/08)
A roadside bomb killed three service members and a local-national interpreter in a coalition convoy in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led coalition said. With the deaths, the number of foreign forces in Afghanistan killed in June has reached 39, the highest monthly toll of the war, according to a CNN count of official figures.
http://cnnwire.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/26/new-high-for-afghanistan-deaths/

3 Marines killed in attack on Iraq officials (AP 6/26/08)
At least 20 Iraqis also slain at meeting; 18 die in Mosul car bombing
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25384438/

Weather delays U.S. handover of Iraqi province (Reuters 6/27/08)
The handover of security control in Iraq's Anbar province to Iraqi forces has been put on hold, the U.S. military said on Friday, blaming a sandstorm forecast to hit the region.

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http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSL27289784

POLLS

Americans Prioritize the Economy Over Terrorism (Gallup 6/27/08)
by Lymari Morales
Confidence in a presidential candidate's ability to handle terrorism may not be enough to satisfy American voters in 2008. A majority of Americans say they prefer a candidate whose greatest strength is fixing the economy (56%) rather than one whose greatest strength is protecting the country from terrorism (39%).
http://www.gallup.com/poll/108415/Americans-Prioritize-Economy-Over-Terrorism.aspx

Obama Leads McCain In Key Battleground States (WSJ 6/27/08)
By JUNE KRONHOLZ; Page A6
Four states that are expected to be pivotal in deciding November's presidential election are trending comfortably toward Barack Obama, with independents giving him wide support over John McCain, according to a Quinnipiac University poll conducted in partnership with The Wall Street Journal and washingtonpost.com : [Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin]
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121448793591307047.html?mod=hpp_us_whats_news

Obama Lead Tight Over McCain (TIME 6/26/08)
By Jay Newton-Small / Washington
Illinois Senator Barack Obama enters the General Election with a tight lead, 43% to 38%, over Arizona Senator John McCain, according to a new TIME Magazine poll of registered voters. The poll shows Obama gaining only a slight bounce from Hillary Clinton's departure from the campaign early this month.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1818386,00.html

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	8/27/2014 8:40:06 AM
Subject:	Invitation: Children of Misery: Guns and Gangs in Central America - Wednesday, September 10, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Hudson Institute
Event Invitation

Children of Misery: Guns and Gangs in Central America

Wednesday, September 10th
12:00 to 2:00 pm

Hudson Institute
Betsy and Walter Stern Conference Center
1015 15th Street, NW - Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Register for event

The Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras have missed out on the economic growth that many other developing countries have experienced over the past decades. Despite confronting some of the same challenges faced in neighboring countries, Costa Rica's democracy has strengthened and its economy has flourished. This disparity largely results from the pervasive violence and crime that have stifled other Central American economies, undermining growth and interfering with social development. In particular, youth gangs (*maras*) have wreaked havoc in the region.

Central American gangs tend to be involved in a range of criminal activities, including arms, drug, and human trafficking; kidnapping and extortion; and migrant smuggling. The toll taken by such crime is evident in the stories told by local children and adolescents. They report that their options are to join a gang, die, or emigrate.

Such entrenched, wide-spread criminality is not only a human rights issue, but one that directly impacts the United States and all countries facing a surge of migrant children from Central America. What can be done?

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On September 10th, Hudson Institute's Center for Latin American Studies will host a discussion with noted regional experts. Moderated by Ambassador Jaime Daremblum, the panel will examine the underlying social, economic, and political environment fueling gang activity, with particular focus on whether policymakers in the region have adopted the right responses to counter this crisis, or instead paid too little attention to its structural causes.

A buffet lunch will be available beginning at 11:30 am.

Hudson Institute is grateful to the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation for their generous support of this conference series.

Panel

Armando González

Armando González is Chief Editor of *La Nación* in San Jose, Costa Rica. He is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Press Association and president of the Legal Affairs Committee. As a journalist and editor for more than 18 years, Mr. González has received multiple awards, including the Pío Víquez National Award for Journalism in 1989.

Evan Ellis

Evan Ellis is an associate professor with the National Defense University's William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. As an analyst of Latin American economies, politics, and security, Dr. Ellis is an expert on Latin American relationships with China, Iran, India, Russia, and other nations. He has published more than 70 works and has presented his research in more than 25 countries.

Yleem Sarmiento de Poblete

Yleem Sarmiento de Poblete served for close to two decades on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, including as its Chief of Staff, until early last year. She was listed as one of the "14 Top Women on the Hill for 2011." She is currently a fellow at the Institute for Policy Research at The Catholic University of America and leads a team of experts at Poblete Analysis Group providing strategic advice and analysis.

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Celina Realuyo

Celina Realuyo is a professor at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at the National Defense University where she focuses on U.S. national security, social, and economic problems in Latin America. Professor Realuyo has over two decades of international experience in the public, private, and academic sectors.

Ambassador Jaime Daremblum

Ambassador Jaime Daremblum is a senior fellow and director of Hudson Institute's Center for Latin American Studies.

Program

11:30 am — 12:00 pm
Registration and Lunch

12:00 pm — 12:10 pm
Introductory Remarks

12:10 pm — 1:30 pm
Speaker Presentations

1:30 pm — 2:00 pm
Audience Q & A

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/3/2014 4:01:25 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday December 3, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday December 3, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton's Historic 2016 Primary Advantage in Two Charts"

"The press wants a race, and the left wants a race, but the Democratic electorate isn't sure that it needs one."

Politico: "Delay of game"

"Despite a commanding lead among Democrats and the widespread expectation that she'll run, Clinton is still uncertain about whether to launch a second run for president, according to several people familiar with her thinking in recent weeks."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Elizabeth Warren Still a Longshot in Possible 2016 Matchup"

"Mrs. Clinton is in a more dominant position than was the case eight years ago, when she was also seen as the inevitable nominee (only to lose the nomination to then-Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois)."

Washington Post blog: The Switch: "Can political groups raise money for the mere idea of a woman president?"

"ActBlue, the Democratic online fundraising powerhouse group, is asking federal election officials whether it can set up a system for allowing fundraising on behalf of a female presidential candidate before knowing who, exactly, the money would go to."

Dallas Morning News: "Cruz links Hillary Clinton to Obama as he blasts U.S. foreign policy"

"In the jockeying ahead of the 2016 presidential race, Sen. Ted Cruz blasted the 'Obama-Clinton foreign policy' on Tuesday — taking aim at the

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current president and the Democrats' leading contender to replace him."

Wall Street Journal: "Sen. Rand Paul Says Foreign Policy Stance Puts Him in Mainstream"

"Mr. Paul didn't mention potential Republican competitors for president but he did take a shot at former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton , who is weighing another bid for the Democratic nomination. Mr. Paul called Libya 'Hillary's war,' referring to Mrs. Clinton's support for the 2011 bombing campaign aimed at eradicating the Gadhafi regime."

New York Post column: John Podhoretz: "Why Hillary's walk to the Democratic nation is a sign of the party's weakness"

"Mrs. Clinton will be the best-known person to run for the presidency since Dwight David Eisenhower decided to go for it in 1952."

Articles:

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton's Historic 2016 Primary Advantage in Two Charts"

By David Weigel

December 3, 2014, 9:14 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The Democratic frontrunner is running twice as strong as she did at this point in the 2008 cycle.

There are oodles of silly tropes in politics, but in the winter of 2014, this might be the silliest: "Hillary Clinton seems inevitable now, but wasn't she inevitable last time?" It's a blinkered way of viewing presidential politics, and the latest CNN/ORC International poll demonstrates why.

First, the numbers. CNN's poll, conducted right before Thanksgiving with a sample of "1,045 adult Americans," finds the former secretary of state far ahead of the Democratic field in a national ballot test. Clinton's at 65 percent support among Democrats, followed by Senator Elizabeth Warren at 10 percent, Vice President Joe Biden at 9 percent, Senator Bernie Sanders at 5 percent, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor Deval Patrick and (the only candidate so far exploring a bid) former Senator James Webb at 1 percent, and Governor Martin O'Malley with support too low to calculate.

[GRAPH]

There is no National Primary. There's an Iowa caucus, where Clinton's 3rd place 2008 showing started the Obama wave, in large part by convincing black voters that the Illinois senator could win. But about the national poll—it shows a Clinton lead that has not diminished in what, the punditocracy decided, was a rotten year for her. Her book was outsold by Ben Carson's! Most of the candidates she stumped for lost! (They include the Democratic gubernatorial nominees in Warren's and O'Malley's states.) In November 2013, The New Republic's great Noam Scheiber published a cover story that pronounced Warren to be "Hillary's nightmare." The November 2013 CNN poll found Clinton at 63 percent and Warren at 7 percent. After 13 months of hype, Democratic voters have remain unmoved: A supermajority of them favors Clinton.

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How does this compare to the “inevitability” of 2008? Good question! In late November 2006, CNN polled “1,025 adult Americans” and came back with a ballot test. Clinton led with 33 percent; three other candidates were above 10 percent, stronger than Warren now.

[GRAPH]

It's just a national test, but the story's identical in the states—Clinton with swollen leads in New Hampshire and Iowa. In Iowa her numbers are better than twice as high as they were at this point in that cycle, when a war-skeptical Democratic electorate was desperate for another choice. You see why the discussion among the chin-strokers is about whether Clinton can remain so aloof from voters and still win the nomination. The press wants a race, and the left wants a race, but the Democratic electorate isn't sure that it needs one.

Politico: “Delay of game”

By Maggie Haberman and James Hohmann

December 3, 2014, 5:34 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Clinton’s speech schedule indicates 2016 announcement may be months away.

The would-be 2016 presidential candidates are increasingly seeing the benefits to waiting longer before declaring their intentions — including the dominant person in the race, Hillary Clinton, who shows few signs of making a decision before next year.

Despite a commanding lead among Democrats and the widespread expectation that she’ll run, Clinton is still uncertain about whether to launch a second run for president, according to several people familiar with her thinking in recent weeks.

While some advisers suggested she should form an exploratory committee this year to send a signal to donors, her allies who argued otherwise have won the debate — with no committee expected until well after January 1, the sources said.

“She should take her time,” said one adviser who believes that the high-profile Clinton would only give license to her critics by becoming a declared candidate too early.

Last time, Clinton felt pushed into the race earlier than she’d wanted to be by Barack Obama’s January 2007 announcement of an exploratory committee. Now she appears comfortable moving at a slower pace. She is still scheduling paid speeches, as POLITICO first reported, as late as February 24 – suggesting she’s unlikely to be a declared candidate until after that date. What’s more, the man she is expected to tap for a major role in her campaign, current White House adviser John Podesta, has raised the possibility of remaining in his job until after the State of the Union address in late January.

Clinton could, in January, make clear she’s running but delay an announcement. And if she doesn’t intend to run, she would be criticized for harming the party’s chances of holding the White House if she waits much beyond mid-January, several Democratic insiders said.

Clinton is by no means the only candidate waiting until next year. Other than Jim Webb, the long-shot former Virginia senator who recently launched an exploratory committee, the people likeliest to announce intentions now are those who aren’t running.

That was apparent early Tuesday morning, when Ohio Sen. Rob Portman told a local newspaper that he planned to seek reelection to the Senate instead of launching a national campaign.

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Portman's decision will have little bearing on what other Republicans decide to do in a field of up to 20 potential candidates. But at a moment when national politics seems relatively quiet, it provided clarity that the invisible primary is taking shape behind the scenes. Anyone considering running is assessing their chances, talking to supporters and debating when to make a move.

For the 2008 election, the last time there was an open White House seat, candidates started announcing exploratory committees as early as December 2006, looking for an edge in a crowded field. In the 2012 race, with an incumbent President Obama, most Republicans waited until well into 2011 before declaring their intentions.

The 2016 campaign is poised to look more like 2012 than 2008, with the majority of the major candidates waiting at least until January to make an announcement – and some saying they'll put off a decision until summer. The debates this cycle are unlikely to start until August, and the Iowa caucuses may happen in February 2016, instead of January, giving candidates an additional cushion.

"The benefits of starting early aren't what they were eight years ago," said Republican strategist Chip Saltsman, who managed Mike Huckabee's dark-horse campaign in 2008. "For some of the bigger names out there, they're a known quantity and they don't feel like they need to get out of the box early."

In 2012, former Minessota Gov. Tim Pawlenty was harmed by his early entry into the presidential race, in March 2011. He faltered and ultimately cratered at the Ames Straw Poll in Iowa over the summer. By contrast, Rick Perry, the outgoing Texas governor, entered the race in August – giving him no time to recover from serious blunders.

"I don't think you're going to see anybody go out before the end of the year, and I'm not so sure you're going to see anyone officially get in until maybe late first quarter," said Saltsman, adding that big money super PACs alleviate the fundraising imperative and thus provide potential candidates more time to weigh their options. "And I think the bulk of people will get in during the second quarter."

There is little question, in interviews with more than a dozen operatives and donors, that Clinton is the dominant figure in both primaries. Some Republican may see a window in early 2015, if she still hasn't declared, to try to position themselves as the strongest "anti-Hillary," several operatives said.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), the libertarian favorite who has attracted attention for his attempts to broaden the party's reach among African-American voters, announced Tuesday he will run for reelection. But Paul's decision is not just about looking like he wants to defend a seat – if he runs for president, the time he spends raising money for his seat can also work for a national race down the road.

On a conference call with reporters Tuesday, senior advisor Doug Stafford said Paul, who has been the most transparent about his national ambitions, is "still months away" from an official announcement on a White House run.

"He'll make that decision in the early spring," said Stafford. "We don't have an exact hard cut off on that."

One issue for Paul is that legally he cannot be on the ballot for president and Senate at the same time, but his team has satisfied itself that there are ways around this.

Jeb Bush appears genuinely torn whether to give it a go. At a Wall Street Journal event on Monday, he said he would decide "in short order, not that far out into the future." Bush learned earlier this year the dangers of being perceived as a candidate too early: after he described illegal immigration as an "act of love" by families, he was promptly eviscerated by conservatives. He lowered his profile shortly after.

If Bush bows out, he's expected to say so fairly soon; no word from him would indicate that he's learning toward running. But he doesn't have the luxury of waiting until, say, May, given the work involved in launching a campaign operation and soothing Republican donors who are waiting to see what he does before committing to a candidate.

Another formidable potential candidate, Republican Scott Walker, seems poised to wait as long as possible before announcing. The Wisconsin governor has kept on a host of aides from his successful reelection campaign for a likely bid, but he said in a recent interview that a formal announcement would not come until after a spring legislative session, and possibly as late as midsummer.

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His team feels no need to rush because Walker built relationships with the donor class during his successful campaign to beat back an effort to recall him from office.

“Rick Perry got in too late” in the 2012 election cycle, a senior Walker adviser said recently. “Tim Pawlenty got in too early. So it’s all about figuring out what’s just right.”

Many Republicans have expected that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie would make a decision shortly after the midterms. But he recently said he plans to wait until after the first of the year.

Some donors believe Christie will move to form a committee sooner rather than later to be the “first ask” with donors from whom he and Jeb Bush would both seek support.

The GOP field has a key advantage this time around that no one other than Mitt Romney had last time – existing donor networks. Former Romney adviser Kevin Madden said the candidates eying a run seem to be moving at a “a more measured pace” in hiring staff and lining up fundraising commitments.

“Many like Christie, Paul and Bush,” Madden said, already “have existing core teams or a strong national fundraising base.”

There are a handful of other candidates who appear certain to run. Perry is convening donors and seems likely to launch a campaign early next year, given the work he needs to do to restore credibility after his disastrous 2012 run. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said in a statement that he’ll decide “in the first half of next year.” Rick Santorum won the 2012 Iowa caucuses and has made no secret that he’s running again, but the former Pennsylvania senator is never going to raise huge money, so there’s little pressure to enter the race early.

Huckabee, the 2008 caucus winner, would likely draw from Santorum’s support if he ran. The former Arkansas governor has been speaking with donors and is looking at a possible announcement in April or May if he runs.

As for establishment figures, Rep. Paul Ryan, the Wisconsin congressman and 2012 vice presidential nominee, has said he will wait until 2015 to decide. People close to him believe he is giving it a close look, but would only run if there is a clear path to the nomination.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has a book coming out on January 13, which will be followed by a national book tour that’s expected to take him into the early presidential nominating states. A formal announcement wouldn’t likely come until after the tour ends.

Rubio is also up for reelection to the Senate in 2016 and has said he won’t run for both offices. If Bush runs, Rubio’s fundraising and path to the nomination would become much more difficult, potentially dissuading him from a White House bid.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is the only potential candidate who would appear to benefit from Portman’s decision this week, giving him easier access to the Buckeye State’s conservative donor network. Among those said to have spoken favorably of Kasich privately is Rupert Murdoch, the billionaire News Corporation and Fox News owner. A News Corporation official declined comment.

Kasich, who briefly sought the presidential nomination in 2000 and just skated to reelection, is about to launch a national tour to lobby other states to pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. He has trips planned to states including Idaho, Utah and Wyoming.

“Right now the governor is preparing for a second term in office, he’s writing the next budget for the state of Ohio, and he’s engineering Ohio State’s national championship win,” said Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols. “Needless to say, he has a lot on his plate.”

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Elizabeth Warren Still a Longshot in Possible 2016 Matchup"

By Peter Nicholas

December 2, 2014, 1:13 p.m. EST

No other prospective Democratic candidate comes close to threatening a Hillary Clinton bid for the party's presidential nomination, a new poll shows.

A CNN/ORC survey shows that Mrs. Clinton commands 65% support from Democrats and independents who lean Democratic. Far behind was Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), whose support stood at 10%. Ms. Warren is a favorite of the Democrats' liberal wing. Only 9% backed Vice President Joe Biden.

The poll underscores the hard reality of 2016 Democratic presidential politics: Though the party has a long history of contested nominations, no one at this stage seems positioned to mount a serious challenge to Mrs. Clinton.

Ms. Warren, for her part, has said she won't jump in the race. Mr. Biden has said he is considering a run.

Mrs. Clinton said she will announce her plans in the new year, though she is widely expected to enter the race.

Democrats who seem more inclined to run trail Mrs. Clinton by even wider margins. Former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, a Virginia Democrat, announced last month he was setting up a presidential exploratory committee. Mr. Webb notched only 1% in the CNN/ORC poll. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who has made repeated trips to Iowa and New Hampshire and is also mulling a presidential bid, is actually losing ground, the poll shows. He had 2% support in three different polls over the past year, but wound up with less than 1% in the latest survey.

Should Mrs. Clinton decide not to run, Mr. Biden stands the most to gain. The poll showed that if Mrs. Clinton were to bow out, 41% of Democrats and those who lean that way would favor Mr. Biden. By contrast, 20% would support Ms. Warren, the survey shows.

Mrs. Clinton is in a more dominant position than was the case eight years ago, when she was also seen as the inevitable nominee (only to lose the nomination to then-Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois).

In the summer of 2006, a Gallup survey of Democrats showed Mrs. Clinton with 36% support. Ranking second was former Vice President Al Gore, at 16%.

As strong as Mrs. Clinton now appears, some Clinton loyalists worry that her public image is more blemished now than was the case when she served as secretary of state.

A Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll from September, for example, showed that her favorability rating had fallen 16 percentage points over the past five years.

"It's all well and good to be the front-runner, but that pales in comparison to being the front-runner on election day," said Doug Schoen, a former pollster for ex-President Bill Clinton. "And right now her numbers are not going in the right direction."

The CNN/ORC poll interviewed a total of 457 Democrats and had a margin of error of +/- 4.5 points. The survey was conducted Nov. 21-23.

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Washington Post blog: The Switch: "Can political groups raise money for the mere idea of a woman president?"

By Nancy Scola

December 2, 2014, 2:02 p.m. EST

ActBlue, the Democratic online fundraising powerhouse group, is asking federal election officials whether it can set up a system for allowing fundraising on behalf of a female presidential candidate before knowing who, exactly, the money would go to.

This is how it would work: Democrats would chip in $5, $10, $50, $100 for a generic, to-be-named female candidate. If, say, Hillary Clinton or U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren got the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, she would get whatever money had piled up.

But if, say, former senator Jim Webb was the Democrats' nominee instead, the accumulated money would revert elsewhere -- perhaps to a group like EMILY's List.

That cash could give a female candidate a little more incentive to run -- and the Democratic establishment a little extra motivation to rally behind a female candidate. That's ActBlue's hope, anyway.

"If someone has a strong preference for a woman, but not for one candidate over the other," says Steven Gold, ActBlue's general counsel, "this is a way they could express that preference." ActBlue executive director Erin Hill describes it as letting small-dollar donors shape the "marketplace" for candidates.

The nonprofit ActBlue has received FEC approval for other unusual fundraising strategies. The group was the first to establish "draft campaigns" to raise money for candidates who had not announced they were running. Warren, for example, had more than $100,000 in ActBlue -- collected donations waiting for her from one "Draft Warren" fund alone -- when she got into the 2012 race for the Senate.

Of course, gender can be a tricky thing. ActBlue told the FEC in its application that it "looks forward to the day when a transgender candidate mounts a viable presidential campaign, but for purposes of this opinion, we respectfully request that the Commission treat gender as though it is easily determined."

Founded in 2004, ActBlue has figured out how to use the Internet to extract vast sums of money from Democratic donors. Donations can be as small as a dollar, and the mean donation last election cycle was just $45, but ActBlue has managed to raise more than $680 million in its decade of existence. The platform's first great innovation was making it trivially easy for campaigns of any size to tap into state-of-the-art online fundraising technology and a networked base of ready donors. It's been pushing the boundaries of what's possible with small-dollar, digital donations ever since.

Republicans have tried to set up ActBlue equivalents over the years, but none have stuck.

The FEC declined to comment on ActBlue's application as the request is still pending.

Dallas Morning News: "Cruz links Hillary Clinton to Obama as he blasts U.S. foreign policy"

By Todd J. Gillman

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

December 2, 2014, 10:11 p.m.

WASHINGTON — In the jockeying ahead of the 2016 presidential race, Sen. Ted Cruz blasted the “Obama-Clinton foreign policy” on Tuesday — taking aim at the current president and the Democrats’ leading contender to replace him.

“I guess Antarctica is doing OK,” Cruz joked. In a scathing critique, he asserted that the rest of the world suffers from a lack of American leadership — a vacuum that he said Russia, Iran, China and the Islamic State terror group are eager to exploit.

“The failures of the Obama-Clinton foreign policy are manifest,” he said. “If Saturday Night Live were parodying a hapless, ineffective president, they couldn’t make things up worse. Just a few months ago, Jimmy Carter criticized this president for being weak on foreign policy. Holy cow.”

Cruz was delivering the keynote speech at a lunch hosted by Concerned Veterans for America, a conservative group, and the conservative magazine The Weekly Standard at a hotel a block from the White House. Cruz has given several such addresses and will deliver another next week at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, as he burnishes his credentials for a presidential run.

Tuesday’s speech included numerous references to Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama’s first secretary of state and the presumed Democratic front-runner for 2016.

The Texas freshman, like Obama before he leapt from the Senate to the White House, lacks executive and military experience. He offered a vision of a far more muscular foreign policy. When the U.S. uses military force, he said, there should be a clear objective, overwhelming force and a quick exit.

“It is not the job of our military to produce democratic utopias around the world. … Hunt down our enemies and kill them before they kill us,” Cruz said. “That is a focus that sadly has been lacking the last six years.”

He asserted that Obama had allowed a “KBG thug,” Vladimir Putin, to flex Russia’s muscles virtually unchecked. When Russia menaced Ukraine and invaded Crimea, Cruz said, he would have hit back by expanding U.S. energy exports to undermine Russia’s leverage over its neighbors.

When it comes to the Islamic State, Cruz accused Obama of pursuing a “photo op campaign” against the terror group rather than a “serious, concerted, real bombing campaign.” If he were in charge, he said, “We would be using the boots on the ground or the peshmerga to hunt down and kill the leadership of ISIS.”

Cruz blasted Obama for failing to speak out with “a clarion voice for freedom,” especially religious freedom. He cited, as he often does, the cases of Saeed Abedini, a Christian pastor imprisoned in Iran since 2012, and others.

Amid reports that Obama will pick Ashton Carter as his next defense secretary, Cruz asserted that the administration has treated Pentagon chiefs “as subservient to political lackeys in the White House.”

“It is my hope that Mr. Carter will not give in to that,” he said.

Carter would be Obama’s fourth defense secretary. The turnover reflects “a failure of leadership at a time when the world is on fire,” Cruz said. “We shouldn’t see more turnover at the Defense Department than one has at the typical Burger King.”

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Wall Street Journal: "Sen. Rand Paul Says Foreign Policy Stance Puts Him in Mainstream"

By Beth Reinhard

December 2, 2014, 7:33 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Possible Republican Presidential Contender Speaks at Wall Street Journal CEO Council Meeting

WASHINGTON—Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul , who is positioning himself for a bid for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, sought Tuesday to present a fine-tuned approach to foreign policy that he said puts him in the mainstream of the country and his party.

Mr. Paul said he sees war as a "last resort," seeking a middle ground between his party's traditional defense arm and a libertarian wing skeptical of foreign entanglements. Congress needs to be consulted on military actions and should approve defense budgets that don't compromise national security or increase the deficit, he said.

"I'm not going to apologize for this. If I'm ever commander-in-chief, I will not want to take the country to war," he told The Wall Street Journal CEO Council's annual meeting.

Mr. Paul's support in September for airstrikes against the Islamic State terrorist group in Iraq and Syria marked the first time since his 2010 election that he sided with President Barack Obama 's use of military force. His caution is a potential political liability in a party that typically nominates candidates with a more muscular approach to foreign policy.

To critics who call him an isolationist and could seek to block his path to the nomination, Mr. Paul said, "That's a caricature and I will have to fight that." He added, "I'm right there with most of the country and most of the party."

Support for U.S. intervention in foreign conflicts declined in the wake of protracted wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but public opinion started to shift amid the rising threat of Islamic State and videos of the group beheading civilians. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll in September found almost two-thirds of respondents believed it is in the nation's interest to confront the group, also known as ISIS.

Mr. Paul touted his recent request for a congressional declaration of war against ISIS—a move that demonstrated his willingness to go to war while reassuring his libertarian base that he would pursue limits on executive-branch powers.

Mr. Paul accused a "docile" Congress of abdicating its responsibility and said he introduced the war resolution "to shake them up a bit and say, 'Hey guys, this is our responsibility.'" Asked if the president needs to seek congressional approval for every military action, Mr. Paul demurred, saying, "I don't think anyone can give a blanket answer to every possible instance."

He also declined to be pinned down on a percentage of the gross domestic product that should be devoted to the military. During his first year in the Senate, Mr. Paul proposed cutting military spending by 10%. He now favors increasing the defense budget over spending limits set in the 2013 deal reached by Congress and the White House to avert a government shutdown.

"I'll spend more money [on defense], as much as I can get out of Congress if I were president," he said. "However, I won't do it and run up another $10 trillion in the deficit. So it has to be done by cutting other parts of government."

Mr. Paul said he doesn't favor increasing sanctions on Iran as the U.S. continues diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the Iranian nuclear weapons program, saying, "I think it would be a mistake to push them away from the table."

Mr. Paul's position puts him at odds with at least one potential 2016 rival, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio , who wants to boost sanctions and has tried to position himself as one of the biggest hawks in the nascent GOP field.

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Rep. Paul Ryan (R., Wis.), incoming House Ways and Means Committee chairman and another possible GOP candidate, separately told the CEO Council he will pursue an overhaul of the tax code next year focused on business rates.

Mr. Ryan also said Republicans would spend the next two years working to build a GOP platform to sell to voters in the 2016 election and would pursue broader changes to a variety of programs, including welfare, if they win the White House.

Mr. Paul didn't mention potential Republican competitors for president but he did take a shot at former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton , who is weighing another bid for the Democratic nomination. Mr. Paul called Libya "Hillary's war," referring to Mrs. Clinton's support for the 2011 bombing campaign aimed at eradicating the Gadhafi regime. In a sign of the continued instability in Libya, the U.S. had to evacuate its embassy there this summer, Mr. Paul noted.

"Every time that we have toppled a secular dictator, it's been replaced by chaos and the rise of radical Islam," he said.

Mr. Paul's speech came just hours after he announced he will seek re-election to the Senate, triggering a broadside from national Democrats. Kentucky law forbids a candidate from running for two offices at once, but Mr. Paul's allies are exploring options to allow him to do so.

New York Post column: John Podhoretz: "Why Hillary's walk to the Democratic nation is a sign of the party's weakness"

By John Podhoretz

December 2, 2014, 7:12 p.m. EST

You'd have to be crazy, right now, to run for the Democratic nomination against Hillary Clinton — but it would say something terrible about the condition of the American polity if she doesn't face a serious challenge going into 2016 from within her party.

You'd have to be crazy because, according to the latest CNN poll, Hillary is 55 points ahead — yes, I said 55 points ahead — of her closest rival. She gets 65 percent to Sen. Elizabeth Warren's 10 percent.

We've never seen numbers like this for any putative presidential candidate before.

Even when Hillary herself seemed like a prohibitive front-runner for the 2008 nomination, she only led Barack Obama 33 percent to 15 percent in a comparably early CNN poll (taken in the third week of November 2006).

What's striking about 2016 is that Hillary's service in the Obama administration allowed her effectively to steal away the veep slot from Joe Biden, who's only five years older than she.

In the CNN poll, he gets only 9 percent, a vertigo-inducing 56-point margin for Hillary.

Democrats aren't stupid; they may be amused by Biden or even admire his passion, but they know he'd likely embarrass them as their nominee.

They admire Hillary, not least because she is so roundly disliked by the very people they dislike so much.

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More important, her vote for the Iraq war, which gave Barack Obama the opening he needed against her in 2007, will have been 14 years past by the time 2016 rolls around.

What accounts for her colossal lead? Two decades as one of the world's most famous people, for one thing. Mrs. Clinton will be the best-known person to run for the presidency since Dwight David Eisenhower decided to go for it in 1952.

At the time, Ike was the most revered figure in American public life after commanding the Allied forces in Europe in the Second World War and leading the West to its victory over Nazi Germany.

Hillary is no Eisenhower, to put it mildly. Her tenure as secretary of state featured no signature accomplishments and was marred (by her own admission) by the security failures that contributed to the slaughter of four Americans at the Benghazi consulate in 2012.

No matter, to Democrats at least.

In contrast to 2008, when she consciously chose not to trumpet her position as the first serious female candidate for the nation's highest office, Hillary and her people are making it clear that her 2016 candidacy will provide Democrats with a second historic opportunity to cast votes representing social change, comparable to their votes for an African-American in 2008.

So she's golden.

And yet there's something undeniably discomfiting about the ease with which she's sliding straight into the nomination without any evident friction.

Even Eisenhower faced a competitive field that included the governors of California (Earl Warren) and Minnesota (Harold Stassen). Ike was never assured of the nomination, and was challenged all the way to the national convention in Chicago by Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio.

The presidency was up for grabs in 1952, since Harry Truman had chosen not to run for re-election.

There have been five such open elections since. In all save the 2008 race, vice presidents were in the running.

If one considers her the equivalent to Obama's vice president, that too should make her supporters confident: Her four "veep" predecessors all secured their party's nomination.

But they faced challenges.

Richard Nixon faced down Henry Cabot Lodge in 1960. Hubert Humphrey was nearly toppled by Eugene McCarthy and might have been taken by Robert F. Kennedy had RFK not been assassinated in June 1968. George H.W. Bush had seven rivals in 1988 and lost Iowa and several more states to Bob Dole.

Only Al Gore skated into the nomination in 2000 after facing what turned out to be a lifeless challenge from Bill Bradley.

Right now, Hillary's token challenger is James Webb, a fascinating gadfly with no known constituency in the Democratic Party. She might have another in Sen. Bernie Sanders — who isn't even a Democrat, but a Socialist. Neither is a remotely serious rival.

This is disturbing because Hillary Clinton has no natural claim to her party's nomination.

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She's not even an especially gifted politician. Aside from the spectacular incompetence of her 2008 campaign, she is as gaffe-prone as Dan Quayle and as awkward as Bob Dole.

It doesn't speak well of the health of the Democratic Party that she and its voters seem to think she does have that claim. Rather, it's a mark of lifelessness, of a hardening of the party's arteries.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton helps launch the "Security Through Inclusive Leadership" event at Georgetown (International Peace and Conflict)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 5 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Saban Forum (CNN)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From:	"Lotte Murphy-Johnson" <lotte@brooklapping.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	4/24/2015 9:37:01 AM
Subject:	FAO: John Podesta, America in the Obama years: a 4-hour television history for the BBC
Attachments:	Brook Lapping Method and Reviews 2015.pdf

Brook Lapping

America in the Obama years

a 4-hour television history for the BBC

John Podesta
Founder, Center for American Progress

24 April 2015

Dear Mr Podesta,

I am writing to ask for a filmed interview for our four-hour TV history of US politics in the Obama years. The series will be broadcast early in 2016 on the BBC – and on partner broadcasters in America, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and the Middle East.

You probably have forgotten but we met long ago (in the first week of the Center for American Progress). You gave us an off-the-record briefing for our series **ELUSIVE PEACE**. We still remember a very funny story about President Clinton's bout of food poisoning after a delayed visit to Pakistan – or was it India?

What is unusual about our histories is that the story is told only by the decision-makers and their close advisors. No journalists or pundits tell the audience what to think. (To view some short excerpts, click on this link: Brook Lapping Documentaries .)

The London Times said of our most recent series, **THE IRAQ WAR**, for the BBC and the National Geographic Channel: *"Television is rarely as gripping, informed and important as this."*

Other series – such as **IRAN AND THE WEST** (2009) and **PUTIN RUSSIA & THE WEST** (2012) – have won top awards on both sides of the Atlantic, including five Peabody Awards, four duPonts, two British Academy Awards and a prime time Emmy. They are used to brief policy-makers and are part of university syllabuses. A note on our method and some reviews are attached.

Those we have interviewed for previous series include Bill Clinton (three times), Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, Walter Mondale, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Bill Burns, Mike McFaul, Jim Jones, as well as Tony Blair, Vladimir Putin, Jacques Chirac and Mikhail Gorbachev. That such people are willing to take part – and do so again, after they have seen the result – we hope speaks for itself.

For **AMERICA IN THE OBAMA YEARS** we have interviewed or are arranging interviews with (among others): Robert Gates, Valerie Jarrett, Kathleen Sebelius, Cecilia Munoz, Jason Furman, Phil Schiliro, Jack Lew, Samantha Power, William Daley, David Axelrod, Jim Messina, Larry Summers, Ben Rhodes, Peter Orszag, Mona Sutphen, Dick Durbin, Joe Lieberman, Chris Dodd, Bill Burns, Wendy Sherman and Jake Sullivan.

We would like to talk to you about your time with President Obama – especially how you successfully pushed forward the President's climate change agenda through executive action and the historic deal you reached with China, dealing with the ISIS crisis, the immigration executive order and the decision to start normalising US relations with Cuba.

This is a serious history that will reach millions worldwide. Without your participation we can't get it right. We hope you can spare us an hour.

Best wishes,
Norma Percy, Series Producer

Lotte Murphy Johnson
Researcher
Brook Lapping Productions
6 Anglers Lane, London, NW5 3DG

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From:	"Progressive Policy Institute" <info@ppionline.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	8/15/2014 6:06:50 AM
Subject:	PPI WEEKLY UPDATE: Democrats Need a Willard Hotel moment, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy, and Youth Unemployment

Dear John,

In a special to *Politico Magazine* , PPI President Will Marshall reflects on Hillary Clinton's important interview with the *Atlantic* and urges Democrats to heed her challenge to talk more about the positive uses of American power. Marshall argues that President Obama's "realism," focused on correcting his predecessor's errors and avoiding mistakes, offers an insufficient guide the United States as we confront a resurgent Russia and spreading jihadist violence. "Democrats once again need a Willard Hotel moment," writes Marshall. "They need to find the party's misplaced moral compass and rededicate themselves to defending freedom against its new enemies."

In a related piece for *Time* , pollster and former PPI Vice President Jeremy Rosner challenges the view that President Obama's discretion in foreign affairs is constrained by polls showing Americans turning away from global engagement. Rosner aruges public attitudes about foreign affairs are more fluid and contingent on events than on domestic matters. Giving presidents wide latitude to lead and shape inchoate public opinion than many realize. Read "Obama Can Ignore Public Opinion on Foreign Policy " at *Time* .

PPI also released a policy brief by Rosner, "Don't Listen to the Polls: Why Obama Has More Room for Foreign Activism Than Polls Suggest". In the brief, Rosner offers a more detailed commentary on why we should all pay less attention to the polls when it comes to national security and foreign policy.

Diana Carew, PPI economist and director of the Young American Prosperity Project, was quoted on youth unemployment in *CS Monitor* . "You see overall progress," says Carew. "It's a slow recovery, but there have been some gains."

In an op-ed for the *New Jersey Star-Ledger* , Carew argues that Congress should repeal an outdated and innovation-restricting requirement on the design of cable boxes.

Regards,

Progressive Policy Institute

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/5/2016 5:39:06 PM
Subject: New News! (2/5/2016)

News as of February 5, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

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Polls

Most voters don't think any of the 2016 candidates would make a good president: Of the 9 candidates included in the survey, more voters said each would make a "terrible" president than a "great" one. *Pew Research Center*

Iowa Republican entrance poll finding: "Moderate" caucus-goers heavily favored **Trump.** "Somewhat conservative" ones picked **Rubio.** "Very conservative" ones picked **Cruz**. *CBS News*

Iowa Democratic entrance poll finding: Young voters favored **Sanders** by a margin of 6 to 1, while older voters went overwhelmingly for **Clinton**—revealing a party split along generational lines. *The Atlantic*

Trump holds lead in New Hampshire; Rubio gains ground: Trump holds 30% support of likely Republican primary followers while **Rubio** holds 17% support, up from 11%. **Mark Murray,** *NBC News*

After Iowa, Sanders leads Clinton 2-to-1 in NH: Sanders 61% support, up from the 57%. **Clinton** holds 30%, down from the 34% she held before the caucuses. **Jennifer Agiesta , *CNN***

2016 Campaign

Iowa caucus results are in: with 99.9% reporting: **Cruz** 27.7%, **Trump** 24.3%, **Rubio** 23.1%; **Carson 9.3%, Paul 4.5%, Bush 2.8% , Fiorina 1.9%, Kasich 1.9%**

Clinton claimed victory despite a virtual tie with **Bernie Sanders**, winning by approximately .3%. Dropping out: **Martin O'Malley**, **Rand Paul** and **Mike Huckabee. Stephen Collinson,** *CNN*

Pollsters got Iowa wrong: They were close on the Democratic race, but all of them missed **Ted Cruz**'s win," **Steve Shepard**, *Politico*

Rubio had a model in Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), who has found support from both the right and the center of Iowa's GOP going back to 2014, when she navigated a crowded primary **Bob Costa** & **Bill Rucker**, *Wash Post*

What Iowa revealed about 2016: "As **David Corn (TCG Speaker)** of *Mother Jones* has described it..the system isn't working well enough to maintain the living standards of the vast bulk of Americans who live between the coast. ... You can't call **Sanders** a crank or an accident anymore. He embodies something real. ... [W]hat **Clinton** really must do now is engage the economic issues." **David Ignatius,** Op-Ed, *Wash Post*

Ted Cruz on 'dirty trick' against Ben Carson: Cruz is on the defense after a caucus night email sent to his supporters suggested that **Ben Carson** was about to drop out of the Presidential race. "**[Cruz]** told reporters that his staff simply "passed on a CNN news story that CNN broke."" **Callum Borchers**,*NY Times*

Trump's loss is significant, but don't discount him just yet: "Even if [he] fizzles, the passions and discontents that have fueled him shouldn't be ignored." **Rich Lowry,** Op-Ed, *Nat'l Review*

Trump & Sanders voters share anger but express it differently: While on the opposite ends of the political spectrum, **Trump** and **Sanders** share striking similarities, particularly within the raced and gendered makeup of the majority of their followers and their shared distrust of **Hillary Clinton**. **John Leland**, *NY Times*

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The GOP's Holy War: While religion typically plays a prominent role in elections,the Republican candidates talk of religion in Iowa was excessive, with candidates professing their own piety and questioning that of their opponents. **Frank Bruni**, Op-Ed, *NY Times*

The Economy

American worker finally getting a raise? After years of scant real gains despite steadily falling unemployment and healthy hiring, wages picked up significantly last month, a sign the job market could be tightening enough to force companies to pay more to attract and retain employees. **Nelson D. Schwartz**, *New York Times*

US Service sector growing at the slowest pace in the past 2 years: Retail, banking, and healthcare companies have been in a steady decline for at least the last 3 months, according to the ISM service index, suggesting a lull in hiring practices this month. **Jeffry Bartash**, *MarketWatch*

The market predicts slim chance for Fed interest hikes this year, despite Fed prediction of 4 raises in interest rates this year, as the beginning of this year has seen falling oil price and a raise on the dollar. **Heather Long**, *CNN*

Businesses are indicating an unwillingness to take on risk. Loan demand declined for the 1st time in 4 years: **Jeff Cox**, *CNBC*

Last month 151,000 jobs were added, wages rose 2.5%, & the unemployment rate dropped below 5% for the 1st time since the recession. **Camila Domonoske, *NPR***

Doug Elmendorf, former CBO director, on the shifting picture of US Debt: "Our analysis of the implications of low interest rates provides strong evidence that addressing the debt is not especially urgent and is not the overriding budget issue–and that a strategy of increasing federal investment now and addressing the debt on a delayed and gradual basis makes more sense." **David Wessel**, *WSJ*

Obama to seek new tax on oil in budget proposal to support the nation's transportation infrastructure: The bid would involve a $10-a-barrel tax on crude oil and would be paid by oil companies. This tax would be phased in over the next five years. *NY Times*

Greece fears more austerity pain ahead to unlock bailout loans: The recent talks with the IMF and other European institutions have spurred fears of higher taxes and spending cuts in order to receive loans. "**Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras** is caught between creditors' demands for fiscal retrenchment including pension cuts, and pressure from an austerity-weary public." **Stelios Bouras**, *WSJ*

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Syrian forces press Aleppo, send thousands fleeing: "The Syrian government's dramatic advance on Aleppo has sent insurgents scrambling, led thousands to flee toward the border with Turkey and scuttled peace talks in Geneva." **Ann Barnard**, *NY Times*

Syria talks open with shuttle diplomacy: The talks are the first since 2014 for negotiations "to end a war that has left more than a quarter-million people dead, displaced millions and entangled regional and global military powers. But unlike in the previous talks, the United States and Russia seem to have shown far more interest now in seeking an end to the war." **Somini Sengupta & Anne Barnard**, *New York Times*

Saudi Arabia is ready to send ground troops into Syria: "The Saudi announcement came as pressure increased on international stakeholders in Syria's separate, civil conflict to push for a ceasefire that would allow Syrians to shift their attention away from fighting each other and focus on the Islamic State." **Carol Morello** & **Karen DeYoung, *Wash Post***

United Nations human rights panel has concluded that Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks has been arbitrarily detained in violation of international law. Assange sought refuge in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London in 2012. **Sewell Chan and Liam Stack,** *New York Times*

Turkey accuses Russia of again violating its airspace: "Russia denied that any of its aircraft had crossed into Turkish territory." **Liam Stack,** *NY Times*

US missile destroyer sailed close to island claimed by China: ''This operation was about challenging excessive maritime claims that restrict the rights and freedoms of the US and others, not about territorial claims to land features.'' **Missy Ryan**, *Boston Globe*

Military intervention in Libya could be real possibility: With ISIS taking advantage of civil war and unrest in Libya, western military intervention might happen soon in attempt to counter its threat to international security. *The Economist*

Obama forced again to rethink troop numbers in Afghanistan: "For a second time, **Obama** is rethinking his plan to drop U.S. troop levels from 9,800 to 5,500 before he leaves office in January 2017." **Deb Riechmann** & **Robert Burns,** *Boston Globe*

Nobody wins if Britain leaves the EU: The referendum to withdraw from the Union will "deal a serious blow to a European Union already battered by an economic crisis and an immigration crisis." **The Editorial Board,** *NY Times*

Domestic Affairs

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22 of Clinton's email deemed too classified for release: While over 1,000 emails have had portions blocked out due to classified information, this is the first time that entire emails will be withheld from the release of the archive. **Byron Tau,** *WSJ*

State Dept probe finds that Secretaries Colin Powell & Condoleezza Rice may have received classified information on personal email accounts: "Investigation looks at record-keeping practices of previous five secretaries of state." **Byron Tau,** *WSJ*

CDC confirms Zika can be sexually transmitted: The virus, now found in the US and at least 28 other countries, is confirmed to be transmitted both by mosquitos and sexual intercourse. The new warning focuses especially on pregnant women due to the birth defects the virus causes in babies born to mothers infected with Zika. **Sandee LaMotte,** *CNN*

Obama's budget urges a $4 billion commitment to help states offer computer education: Michael D. Shear, *NY Times*

Facebook banning gun sales: Vindu Goel & **Mike Isaac,** *NY Times*

Senator John Cornyn pushes fellow Republicans on criminal justice legislation: The legislation, written primarily by Mr. Cornyn, involves reducing some sentences and easing reentry into society. This is a continuation of the growing support of a "comprehensive criminal justice package aimed at easing mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenders." **Carl Hulse,** *NY Times*

Obama visits US Mosque, warns citizens to not be "bystanders to bigotry": The Islamic Society of Baltimore was the first Mosque **Obama** has visited in his terms as president. **Gardiner Harris,** *NY Times*

Who poisoned Flint, Michigan?: "A writer returns home to find a toxic disaster, giant government failure and countless children exposed to lead." **Stephen Rodrick,** *Rolling Stone*

How aviation made the modern modern mind: "Has the internet made air travel irrelevant?" **Nathan Heller,** *The New Yorker*

Books & Film

"Realpolitik - a History": **John Bew** explores the many definition of realpolitik over history: politics based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations, from the 16th century **Niccolo Machiavelli** to **Harry Truman**. *WSJ*

"***The Real Legacy of Steve Jobs***" **by Sue Halpern:** *NY Review of Books*

Upcoming Events

Meet the Candidate: Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Candidate for US Senate

Monday, February 29, 2016
Breakfast & remarks: 10:30-11:30am

RSVP

The Comm Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner, Emily Samuels, and Isaac Getlan, and our interns Emily Abrams, Juliet Kirk, Uzma Azhar, Daniela Gutierrez, and Grace Ewing.
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
Date: 8/18/2015 12:47:03 PM
Subject: Re: Albright: Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq

Thanks and no I had the old numbers.

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com > wrote:

Hi John,
Thanks for the message. I'll pass it on immediately.
Not sure if you have our numbers at the new office (since March). I'm at 202-759-5156 and main line is 202-759-5100. Feel free to call my cell anytime too - 201-739-7272.
Hope you and your family are enjoying some downtime this summer. At least some!
Best, Fariba

On Aug 18, 2015, at 7:26 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Fariba,
I tried calling but maybe you changed your main line. Will you tell Madeleine I loved her op-ed and so did my current boss!
John

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com > wrote:

All, pasted below and at link is a piece Madeleine wrote in response to Jeb Bush's position on Iraq.

http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#.VdJv8oKCOnM

IN THE ARENA
Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq
By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

August 17, 2015
Since leaving office, I have come to a détente with many of my Republican friends, agreeing not to keep rehashing mistakes of the past and to instead focus on the future of America's foreign policy. However, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's brazen attempts to rewrite history in a series of campaign appearances last week cannot go unchallenged. By blaming President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for the rise of ISIL, Governor Bush is clearly seeking to absolve his brother's administration of responsibility for today's problems in Iraq. This argument may serve Governor Bush's political interests, but it does a disservice to the truth

No honest discussion of the situation today in Iraq can brush aside the mistakes that were made by the Bush administration during the invasion and its aftermath, much of it based on faulty intelligence and flawed assumptions. They sent too few troops to secure the country. They replaced a government that was a sworn enemy of Iran with one that had close ties to the mullahs. They disbanded the Iraqi Army and dismissed thousands of Sunni officers, who soon launched a violent insurgency.
None of these facts were acknowledged by Governor Bush in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library or in his recent campaign appearances in Iowa, because they undermine his attempts at blame shifting.

According to Bush's emerging narrative, the fatal U.S. error in Iraq was the withdrawal of our troops on December 31, 2011. If that is the case, then the error was made by President George W. Bush, who negotiated that withdrawal date in a binding agreement reached with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in

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2008. The Obama administration sought to extend the mission for U.S. troops, and by all accounts Secretary Clinton strongly supported such a residual presence. But Prime Minister Maliki refused to give U.S. troops immunity from prosecution—and the administration wisely decided not to put U.S. troops at risk to support a government that did not want them there any longer.
It is these circumstances that Governor Bush believes led to the rise of ISIL, but once again, he is only telling part of the story. ISIL, which emerged from al Qaeda in Iraq, was established in 2003 in the chaos that followed the invasion. AQI became a magnet for disaffected Sunnis and remnants of Saddam Hussein's army, who still help lead ISIL.

No one, Democrat or Republican, would claim that all is going well in the Middle East today. The Obama administration has certainly made mistakes, and the Bush administration did not do everything wrong. We should also not fall into the trap of assuming everything is America's fault. Sectarian Iraqi leaders, the Assad regime in Syria and malign Iranian influence also bear responsibility for the tremendous problems facing the region.

Still, the United States has been and will be an important force in the Middle East. Our country does not need a backward-looking partisan fight over our policy in the region. Instead, we should be having a substantive, forward-looking discussion about the kind of role we can play in bringing stability to a critical part of the world.

To his credit, Governor Bush did present some ideas for how his administration would deal with Iraq. While his rhetoric has been lofty, and his criticism of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton has been sharp, the policies he proposes look remarkably similar to what the administration is already doing—supporting the Iraqi military in their fight against ISIL. The areas where he appears to differ are his willingness to put more U.S. lives at risk by sending troops into combat, and his unwillingness to rule out waterboarding in interrogations.
Governor Bush also spoke of the importance of alliances, but his rhetoric and proposed actions would jeopardize these important sources of strength. Nothing would infuriate our European allies more than Governor Bush's plan to break away from the nuclear agreement with Iran that they spent years negotiating alongside us. Similarly, Governor Bush made a point of using the term "Islamic terrorists," a phrase that our allies in the Arab world have pressed us not to use because it feeds the false narrative that we are at war with a religion.

Words matter in the world of diplomacy, and so does leadership. The reputation of the United States was severely damaged during President' Bush's administration. Today, America's place in the world is far stronger than it was in 2009 thanks to the leadership of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton. They renewed alliances, relentlessly pursued our terrorist enemies, and forged international coalitions on Iran sanctions and on the fight against climate change. That's a laudable record of achievement—one that needs no re-writes.

In the months ahead, I would encourage Mr. Bush to be a true student of foreign policy rather than a hurler of political potshots. The United States cannot afford another President Bush who blinds himself to global reality and who forges ahead into chaos. Americans deserve a president who will acknowledge the past and will forge a better future.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#ixzz3j7jyKZKa

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fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com

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From: "Wilson Center" <IonRatiu-Award@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/4/2015 1:04:28 AM
Subject: Reminder: 2015 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Workshop

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Global Europe

Wilson Center

Political Challenges of Contemporary Azerbaijan

2015 Annual Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Workshop

Established in 2005, the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award (IRDA) aims to bring visibility and international recognition to the ideas, ideals and accomplishments of individuals around the world who are working on behalf of democracy. Previous awardees include Mustafa Nayyem (Ukraine, 2014), Angela Kocze (Hungary, 2013), Aung San Suu Kyi (Myanmar, 2012), Nabeel Rajab (Bahrain, 2011), Oleg Kozlovsky (Russia, 2010), Adam Michnik (Poland, 2009), Eleonora Cercavschi (Moldova, 2008), Anatoli Mikhailov (Belarus, 2007), Saad Ibrahim (Egypt, 2006), and Sergio Aguayo (Mexico, 2005).

2015 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Recipient

Dr. Jamil Hasanli
Historian; Chairman, National Council of Democratic Forces of Azerbaijan; former Wilson Center Public Policy Fellow

Speakers

Audrey Altstadt
Professor of History, University of Massachusetts; former Wilson Center Fellow

Richard Kauzlarich
Director, Center for Energy Science and Policy and Adjunct Professor, George Mason University; former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan and Bosnia & Herzegovina

Richard Morningstar
Founding Director, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council; former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan

Christian F. Ostermann
Director, History and Public Policy Program, Wilson Center

Cory Welt
Associate Director & Associate Research Professor, Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies; Co-Director, PONARS Eurasia, The Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University

Kenneth Yalowitz
Global Fellow, Wilson Center; former U.S. Ambassador to Belarus and Georgia

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2:00 - 6:00pm

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Directions

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/12/2014 9:44:51 AM
Subject: How the Mainstream Media Helped Kill Michael Brown

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Gaza's Doctors Struggle to Provide Basic Care Amid Strikes on Ambulances, Health Workers, Hospitals

Nora Barrows-Friedman, Truthout: Two major international human rights organizations have called for immediate investigations into possible war crimes committed by Israel, after evidence has emerged of the Israeli army's targeted killing of Palestinian medical staff and rescue workers in Gaza.

Read the Article

How the Mainstream Media Helped Kill Michael Brown

Aaron Cantú, Truthout: It took three days for the mainstream media to report any version of events surrounding Michael Brown's killing in Ferguson, Missouri, beyond what the police had to say. This distorted coverage, which favors the authorities' narrative, is not an aberration for dominant media outlets.

Read the Article

As Iraq Unravels, US Repeats Mistakes

Matthew Schweitzer, Truthout: The United States' invasion essentially created sectarian politics in Iraq. Airstrikes will not mold the country into a stable or inclusive state, which is what is necessary for Iraq to face the challenges before it.

Read the Article

Abolishing the Broken US Juvenile Justice System

Hannah K. Gold, Truthout: In her second book, *Burning Down the House*, Nell Bernstein focuses on the criminalization of American young people, from the mid-1980s when the trend first exploded to the present day when the United States incarcerates more of its kids than any other industrialized nation.

Read the Review

Truths and Falsehoods About Ralph Nader's New Book

Bruce E. Levine, Truthout: Readers of Ralph

BuzzFlash

Taxpayers Pay About $88,000 a Year to Confine a Juvenile; It's Wasted Money That Wastes Lives

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Imagine how the future of young people could be positively changed by investing in them instead of brutalizing and stigmatizing them. To accomplish this goal, we need to end their incarceration in juvenile facilities.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Shouldn't We End the "Members Only" Club of Nuclear Arms by Destroying the Weapons?

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

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Nader's new book, *Unstoppable: The Emerging Left-Right Alliance to Dismantle the Corporate State*, may not conclude that liberal-libertarian alliances are inevitable, but will come to see how they can be profoundly productive.

Read the Review

Advice for "Meet the Press"

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Going on "Meet the Press" shouldn't be a walk in the park. Lawmakers and guests should be grilled. Instead of asking the same old beltway regulars the same old questions and relying on boring panels, "Meet The Press" should be talking to experts on the issues.

Read the Article

Justice Ginsburg Wants "Equal Dignity" for Women in Court Decisions

Karin Kamp, Moyers & Company: Supreme Court rulings on gay rights are progressively pushing forward, while decisions related to women's equality are moving in the opposite direction, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg says.

Read the Article and Watch the Video

Critical Moment to Stop the TPP and Other Rigged Trade Agreements

Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance: The moment facing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, its sibling the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the future approach to trade is reaching a critical stage. These new trade agreements are meeting significant opposition and obstacles. We can stop the "fast track," and defeat corporate trade.

Read the Article

Blown Chances in Gaza: Israel and the US Miss Many Chances to Avoid War

Sandy Tolan, TomDispatch: Alongside the toll of death and broken lives, perhaps the saddest reality of the latest Gaza war is how easy it would have been to avoid. For the last eight years, Israel and the United States had repeated opportunities to opt for a diplomatic solution in Gaza.

Read the Article

Federal Investigators Crack Down on Two Virginia Schools' Use of Restraints

Heather Vogell, ProPublica: Federal investigators have faulted two Virginia schools for pinning down and isolating disabled students improperly, saying the schools used the practices routinely as a "one-size fits all" response to disruptive behavior despite evidence they didn't work.

Read the Article

Paul Krugman | Solving the Poverty Problem With Magic Asterisks

Paul Krugman, Krugman & Co.: Ezra Klein recently asked the wrong question in an article on Vox: Why should anyone trust Paul Ryan's poverty plan? That's easy: Nobody should. This has been another edition of simple answers to simple questions.

Exxon Starts "Most Controversial Oil Rig in the World"

Read the Article at EcoWatch

Congress Takes Summer Break From Doing Nothing for Years

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Robin Williams: What Will Your Verse Be?

Watch the Video on YouTube

Eyewitness to Michael Brown Shooting Recounts His Friend's Death

Read the Article at MSNBC

Power Struggle on Baghdad Streets as Maliki Replaced but Refuses to Go

Read the Article at Reuters

Tales of the Cities: the Progressive Vision of Urban America

Read the Article at The Guardian

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Read the Article

The Mass Destruction of Iraq: The Disintegration of a Nation: Why It Is Happening and Who Is Responsible

Truthout writers William Rivers Pitt and Dahr Jamail have collaborated on a new e-book that examines the history behind the chaos in Iraq. From PNAC to Bush, with vivid reporting from the scene, this book definitively explains why this is happening. Order *The Mass Destruction of Iraq* for Kindle now!

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/7/2008 9:04:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting Denver, Colorado 07/07/08

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Sara who is on the ground today in Denver. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS

- CO Independent: Pea Pod and other Protesters threatened with Arrest, http://coloradoindependent.com/view/pea-protesters-at
- McCain pledges to balance budget by 2013
- McCain praises the company Crocs - just like Bush did in 2006, http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/what_a_crock.php
- McCain has difficult exchange with veteran over GI Bill and Veteran's health care benefits
- Restated his position on FISA, telecommunication companies should not be held liable for serving their government
- McCain tells disabled American that he will not support the Community Choice Act
- McCain tells college student that he has "very attractive friends" -- refers to the young blonde woman sitting next to him
- McCain gets into a difficult exchange with a questioner on the articles of impeachment and why he voted for impeaching Bill Clinton, but opposes impeaching Bush now

Denver, Colorado: McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/07/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:
- Demonstrators asked to leave event or be arrested
- Approximately 300 in attendance; most of audience white, casually dressed
- There were 10 cameras -- mostly local news outlets, one pool camera
- Three teleprompters set up to assist McCain
- Security was really light, tracker had no problem getting in
- Small business owner, Beth Ecern opened the event and introduced Cindy McCain
- Cindy McCain gave introductory remarks and introduced her husband
- Post-event demonstrators holding McBush and Obama signs

FULL Remarks
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/full-remarks-of-mccains-denver-speech-on-jobs/

ARLINGTON, VA — U.S. Senator John McCain will deliver the following remarks as prepared for delivery at a town hall meeting in Denver, CO, today at 12:00 p.m. MDT (2:00 P.M. EDT):

Thank you, Beth, for the kind introduction and inspiring words. Bethany Manufacturing is one of the many small business success stories in America. Beth is rightfully proud to have created good, secure jobs. Through her and her employees' ingenuity and hard work, Bethany keeps growing. But Beth tells me it gets harder every year, not because of the market and competition, but because of government regulations, taxes and the cost of health care. Beth, I promise you, if I'm elected President, we're going to remove these obstacles to your continued success, and make government a catalyst for growth and good jobs.

Before I take your questions, I want to begin by talking about the issue in this campaign Americans worry the most about – the American economy.

All of us know what is happening to the economy. It is slowing. More than 400,000 people have lost their jobs since December, and the rate of new job creation has fallen sharply. Some economists have noted that companies seem to be on a "hiring strike." Americans are worried about the security of their current job, and they're worried that they, their kids and their neighbors may not find good jobs and new opportunities in the future. To make matters worse, gas is over $4 a gallon and the price of oil has almost doubled in the last year. The cost of everything from energy to food is rising.

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I have a plan to grow this economy, create more and better jobs, and get America moving again. I have a plan to reform government, achieve energy security, and ensure that healthcare and a quality education are affordable and available for all. I believe the role of government is to unleash the creativity, ingenuity and hard work of the American people, and make it easier to create jobs.

At its core, the economy isn't the sum of an array of bewildering statistics. It's about where Americans work, how they live, how they pay their bills today and save for tomorrow. It's about small businesses opening their doors, hiring employees and growing. It's about giving workers the education and training to find a good job and prosper in it. It's about the aspirations of the American people to build a better life for their families; dreams that begin with a job.

So how are we going to create good jobs? Let's start with small businesses, which create the majority of all jobs. A recent report says small businesses have created 233,000 jobs so far this year while other sectors are losing jobs. Small businesses are the job engine of America, and I will make it easier for them to grow and create more jobs. My opponent wants to make it harder by imposing a "pay or play" health mandate on small business. This adds $12,000 to the cost of employing anyone with a family. That means new jobs will not be created. It means existing employees will have their wages cut to pay for this mandate. My plan attacks the real problems of healthcare – cost, availability and portability.

Some economists don't think much of my gas tax holiday. But the American people like it, and so do small business owners. Just ask Andrew Emmett who runs Air-Tite insulation in Michigan. He has had to stop hiring new workers because of the cost of fuel for his trucks.

We need to keep the IRS from taking more of your income and making life harder for small business. If you believe you should pay more taxes, I am the wrong candidate for you. Senator Obama is your man. The choice in this election is stark and simple. Senator Obama will raise your taxes. I won't. I will cut them where I can. Jobs are the most important thing our economy creates. When you raise taxes in a bad economy you eliminate jobs. I'm not going to let that happen.

Senator Obama's tax increases will hurt the economy even more, and destroy jobs across this country. If you are one of the 23 million small business owners in America who files as an individual rate payer, Senator Obama is going to raise your tax rates. If you have an investment for your child's education or own a mutual fund or a stock in a retirement plan, he is going to raise your taxes. He will raise estate taxes to 45 percent. I propose to cut them to 15 percent. His plan will hurt the American worker and family. It will hurt the economy and cost us jobs. For those of you with children, I will double the child deduction from $3,500 to $7,000 for every dependent, in every family in America. At a time of increasing gas and food prices, American families need tax relief and I, not my opponent, will deliver it.

In addition to small business, the other bright spot in the economy are our exports, which are estimated to be growing at over seven percent. I will expand markets for our goods and services. Twenty-five percent of all the jobs in this country are linked to world trade. In five states alone – Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Colorado – over five million jobs depend on open markets.

My opponent believes America would be better off by refusing opportunities to sell in growing foreign markets. But protectionism not only puts a hidden tax on almost everything you buy, but it undermines American competitiveness and costs jobs. Ninety-five percent of the world's consumers live outside the U.S. Our future prosperity depends on opening more of these markets, not closing them.

Five years ago, the outdoor footwear company, Crocs, was started by a couple of entrepreneurs with a great idea, ingenuity and drive. This former small business now employs 600 people in Colorado alone, and sells over 50 percent of its products in 90 countries around the world. Building barriers to Crocs or any American company's access to foreign markets will have a devastating effect on our economy and jobs, and the prosperity of American families.

I understand free trade is not a positive for everyone. If a worker loses a job we must retrain them and prepare them for 21st Century jobs. That's why I have proposed a comprehensive reform of our unemployment insurance and worker retraining programs. We will use our community colleges to help train workers for specific opportunities in their communities. And for workers of a certain age who have lost a job that won't come back, we'll help make up the difference in wages between their old job and a temporary, lower paid one until they've completed retraining and found secure new employment at a decent wage.

We must also get government's fiscal house in order. American workers and families pay their bills and balance their budgets, and I will demand the same of the government. A government that spends wisely and balances its budget is a catalyst for economic growth and the creation of good and secure jobs.

This Congress and this Administration have failed to meet their responsibilities to manage the government.

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Government has grown by 60 percent in the last eight years. That is simply inexcusable. When I'm president, I will order a stem to stern review of government, modernize how it does business and save billions of dollars. I will veto every single bill with wasteful spending. We aren't going to continue mortgaging this country's future for things Americans don't want or need. My opponent has a very different record on this issue. He has sought millions upon millions of dollars in earmarks since his election to the Senate. In 2007 alone, Senator Obama requested nearly $100 million for earmark projects. I have never asked for a single earmark in my entire career. He supported the $300 billion pork laden agricultural subsidy bill. I opposed it. He voted for an energy bill stuffed with give-aways to oil compan ies at a time of record profits. I voted against it.

Let me give you a little bit of straight talk on energy. Our dangerous dependence on foreign oil has been thirty years in the making, and was caused by the failure of politicians in Washington to think long term about the future of the country. If we don't act now to break our strategic dependence on foreign oil, we are putting our national security, our economy and our environment at grave risk. By 2030, America's demand for energy will rise by nearly twenty percent. Our jobs and our very way of life depend on the next President beginning to solve this challenge.

Two weeks ago, I announced the Lexington Project to secure our energy future, named for the place where Americans first fought for their independence. We will begin by producing more of our own oil and gas. Increasing our own supply will send a message to the market and result in lower prices for oil and gas.

We will develop more clean energy. Nuclear power is the most dependable source of zero-emission energy we have. We will build at least 45 new nuclear plants that will create over 700,000 good jobs to construct and operate them.

The development of clean coal technology will create jobs in some of America's most economically disadvantaged areas. Our coal reserves are larger than Saudi Arabia's supply of oil. Clean coal demonstration projects alone will employ over 30,000 Americans. In the state of Colorado over 80 percent of the electricity comes from coal, and in Ohio it's over 90 percent.

My proposal to help automakers design and sell new generations of cars that don't depend on gasoline will re-invigorate that struggling industry. My plan to develop wind and solar power and renewable technologies will drive innovation and create high-tech jobs.

My opponent's answer to the Lexington Project is no; no to more drilling; no to more nuclear power; no to research prizes that help solve the problem of affordable electric cars. For a guy whose "official seal" carried the motto, "Yes, we can," Senator Obama's agenda sure has a whole lot of "No, we can't." The Lexington Project will create millions of jobs, help protect our environment, improve our security, and solve the nation's energy problems.

Americans are having a tough time. But we've been through worse, and beaten longer odds. Even in these difficult days, we must believe in ourselves. Nothing is inevitable in America. We've always been the captains of our fate. All you've ever asked of government is that it stand on your side, not in your way. I intend to do just that: to stand on your side; to help business and not government create jobs; to fight for your future and not the personal ambitions of politicians and bureaucrats.

We have much work to do if we are to end the self-interested partisanship that prevents us from fixing problems that need to be fixed and changing government to keep this country prosperous and at peace. I make you one promise I will always keep, no matter what.

In war and peace, I have been an imperfect servant of my country. But I have been her servant first, last and always. Whenever I faced an important choice between my country's interests or my own interests, party politics or any special interest, I chose my country. Nothing has ever mattered more to me than the honor of serving America, and nothing ever will. If you elect me President, I will always put our country first. I will put its greatness; its prosperity and peace; and the hopes and concerns of the people who make it great before any personal or partisan interest. I will keep that promise every hour of every day I am in office. And I will ask you to help me convince Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to keep that promise as well. There is nothing beyond our ability to achieve. We are Americans, and we don't hide from history. We make history. All we need is to believe in ourselves as we always have, and to cherish the beautiful country we are so blessed to call home.

Link to Economic Plan: http://thepage.time.com/official-mccain-camp-economic-policy/

Link to McCain Release on Economists Backing His Economic Plan: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-release-on-economists-backing-his-proposals/

Question and Answer

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1 Q) Vietnam Vet asks -- GI bill you spoke out against, and why did you vote against increasing health care funding for soldiers returning from these two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

MCCAIN: We need to increase educational benefits -- but the problem that I had was that we didn't have enough incentives for career military members. I don't know what you're referring to -- I've received every award from veteran's organizations - they give me a perfect voting record.

FOLLOW-UP: You do not have a perfect voting record from the VFW. Names votes.

MCCAIN: Thank you and I'll be happy to examine your version of my votes. But again I've received every endorsement from veteran's groups.

2 Q) Could you change the tax code for small business so we don't outsource jobs? And two, can you pick Mitt Romney as your VP?

MCCAIN: On your second question, I'm going through a process. And Mitt Romney is a well-respected Republican.

On your first question, the corporate tax rate here is 35% -- in Ireland it's 11%. We have the second highest rate in the world, second to Japan. I want to reduce the taxes on business.

3 Q) Veteran: Thank you it's an honor.

MCCAIN: Do you agree with this other gentleman?

Follow-up: No. I'm a registered Democrat -- and I am going to vote for you.

MCCAIN: Hugs gentleman. Thank you very much and thank you for your service to this country.

My friends, I hate war. And nobody knows that better a veteran. And I want to tell ya -- I believe we are in a transcendent struggle with Islamic extremists. I want to bring our troops home - But I'm going to do it with honor and dignity.

4 Q) [carrying camera] We're spending a trillion dollars a year on wars, while here our rights our being trampled on at home. How will you personally address the redress of grievances that you were given to you on June 30. People petitioned you to restore the rule of law. Will you restore the rule of law?

MCCAIN: I will be happy to look that over. On FISA, we needed to be able to monitor the communications of terrorists. I believe that any telecommunications company when called upon by their government should not have to be punished or sued for that. There has to be a continued balance between rights and national security. We should have the ability to monitor the communications between organizations that want to do American harm.

I'm glad you are recording this. The Telecommunication companies should not be held liable for serving their government.

5 Q) [young person] How do you plan to fix social security for future generations?

MCCAIN: I have to give you some straight talk - you will not have social security benefits under the current system unless it is fixed. How do we fix it? We have to reach across the aisle and sit down and come up with a plan. It's broken again. I wanna promise you -- I'm gonna say to the Democrats and American people that there's this chart and not enough money is coming in. This issue has to be addressed. We are grid-locked by partisan politics. And I promise you I'll change it.

6 Q) Group member from ADAPT. 40 of us were arrested at your offices in DC back in April. Will you sign on to the Community Choice Act?

MCCAIN: I will not because I don't think it's the right kind of legislation. I will continue to communicate to you and continue to respect disabled Americans.

7 Q) I honor your service. Keep people off the roads -- make the 4 day work week common practice. Have people earn their living from home.

MCCAIN: I look forward to hearing more and I agree with you. More and more people are working from home. A large number of people are working off of Ebay from home and are off the roads. Let's encourage more Americans to work in industries that require less transportation.

8 Q) You didn't vote for the latest Medicare bill. What do you say to those who can't get their bills paid now as a result?

MCCAIN: The medicare system is broken -- it's an underfunded liability. And I'm going to tell you we have to fix the broken system -- sit down and reach across the aisle. I want every family in America to have a choice -- be given a $5K tax credit to go anywhere to get insurance. We also have to provide insurance for the quote uninsurables and I will deal with that too. I'll work with the states to build risk-pools to make insurance available for those uninsurables. We also have to deal with childhood obesity. I'd love to see every respected athlete in the country going to schools and motivating kids to get in shape.

9 Q) On this oil thing, these other countries are going to get benefits by us sacrificing and roller-skating to work.

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I believe that the estate tax is the death tax -- Bush had that right. I don't understand why that's supported.

MCCAIN: Basically everything under $10 million is tax free -- anything above that is 15%. That takes care of 99% of the population.

Greenhouse gas emissions are poisoning our planet. I believe that nuclear power is part of the solution -- my friends the French do it, 80% of their electricity is from nuclear power. We need to produce it, reprocess it. The point is, it's an economic issue finally. We are sending hundreds of billions of dollars overseas to countries that don't like us very much. Some of that money ends up in the hands of terrorist organizations. The Lexington Project is a national mission. Americans need to come together. It's not just nuclear power -- and roller skates -- it's wind and solar, etc.

10 Q) How are going to gain energy independence in any real timely fashion?

MCCAIN: I believe that when President Jack Kennedy challenged us to get to the moon -- no one thought we could do it then -- but we did it. And I believe Americans are capable of very great things.

11 Q) Welcome to Colorado! You tax us when we're born, you tax us when we die -- you tax us when we eat, you tax us when we sleep. You tax us every which way. Get off our backs!

MCCAIN: If you're not busy, I'd like to take you everywhere I go.

FOLLOW-UP: We know certain things aren't possible. Americans have gotten fat and lazy and they want everything handed to them. It goes both ways. It's time to wake up!

MCCAIN: Thank you. Can I say thank you and thank you for your passion. I have a small disagreement -- every time Americans have been asked to serve, I believe they've answered that call.

12 Q) What are your plans to alleviate the burden of recent college graduates? They are graduating with the highest debts ever.

MCCAIN: In the short-term, we got to make sure student loans are available this fall. In the long term, we have to provide incentives -- including incentives to join the military, to teach, etc. We have to put in programs for national service. That's the first step. We have to find ways to rewards those who enter engineering and computer fields.

[NOTE: During this exchange, McCain said the young man has 'attractive friends' - refers to the young blonde woman sitting next to the questioner]

13 Q) Tells Frank's story who is a vet on Medicare and still can't pay his bills. Do you have a more concrete answer for those who can't pay their bills?

MCCAIN: If he's a veteran, I would make sure he'd have the ability to get veterans care. Outside of that, I would have to look into the specifics of his case. But whatever it is, no American should go without the necessary health care. That's the promise of government.

There's a pilot program that's been rather successful -- cash and carry. We give seniors cash to then choose and take care of their needs themselves.

14 Q) I'm an intern with the COPIRG foundation, health care project. More young adults are going to college, having children. What is your plan to help 19-34 year olds?

MCCAIN: Their health care is going to be affordable, available and portable. My plan will give every family a $5K tax credit to go across state lines and choose their own health care. We have to bring health care costs down -- it has to be one of our highest priorities. And technology is really helping. I don't want the government making decisions, I want families making decision.

15 Q) Thank you for not screening questions. My family emigrated here. I am all for legal immigration -- what is your plan for illegal immigration.

MCCAIN: Legal immigration is the vitality and strength of American. And we tried twice to develop a comprehensive immigration reform. We now have a president of Mexico that is committed to helping us. We have to secure the borders first. And we have to install a biometric identification system. And then we have to figure out what to do with the 12 million illegal immigrants. And this is going to require republicans and democrats.

16 Q) [carrying camera] You voted in favor of impeachment of Bill Clinton. And then last week you said you didn't support articles of impeachment for Bush. How do you explain that?

MCCAIN: I don't believe that any effort to impeach the president is appropriate.

17 Q) What's the fundamental difference between you and Obama?

MCCAIN: I think it's the role of government and security. He has a liberal democrat voting record. His solutions are big government, mine are different. On national security - we also differ. I supported the surge -- and he said that it was doomed to failure. I am a very proud conservative and believe in less

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government and more security. Government only intervenes in people's lives when it's absolutely necessary. I believe in the individual first.

18 Q) With 75 cents of every health care dollar going to chronic disease, how do you plan on paying for preventative care?

MCCAIN: I believe all parents should know what their child is eating at school. We have to make wellness and fitness a core part of our daily lives. Employers can help incentivize this as well.

Conclusion

It's been as always and entertaining and enjoyable experience. Thank you all the men and women who brought cameras -- keep buying them. It helps the economy.

[Impeachment questioner yelling in the background]

All I can say to you is that I respectfully disagree. I thank you for being here. Whether you vote for me or not -- thanks for being here and being part of this process, the essence of the democratic process.

My friends, I will always, always put my country first.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Accountability Office
cammie@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/5/2015 3:19:19 AM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Ohhh, we're halfway there

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for August 5th

Skimm'd over cantaloupe

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Ample scientific data" – Russia's justification for saying 'that's mine' to almost half a million square miles in the Arctic, which reportedly hold a lot of the world's unused oil and gas. Because…why not?

SKIMM THIS

THINGS HAPPENING FAR AWAY

SYRIA

THE STORY

Yesterday, the US confirmed that the Syrian rebels it's training aren't doing so hot in the fight against ISIS. Read: some of them have been captured .

WAIT, BACK UP.

Last year, the US announced it planned to train thousands of Syrian rebels in the fight against ISIS. Last month, the Pentagon said it has trained …wait for it…60 people so far. And then earlier this week, a group connected to al-Qaeda reportedly kidnapped five of those rebels.

theSKIMM

These moderate rebels are supposed to be a key part of the US strategy to fight ISIS. Turns out that strategy doesn't work so well when you don't have many rebels.

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IRAN

THE STORY

Yesterday, President Obama told US Jewish leaders that the Iran nuclear deal is a really, really ridiculously good idea. And Israeli PM Netanyahu told the US Jewish community it's a really, really ridiculously bad idea.

GIMME THE DEETS.

Earlier this summer, the US, Iran, and five other world powers signed an agreement that will limit Iran's nuclear program, in exchange for lifting sanctions that have been crippling Iran's economy. Obama said 'yaass,' this is a foreign policy win. Netanyahu said 'woof,' this is a neighborhood nightmare.

WHY?

Because Netanyahu thinks that if you give Iran a nuclear inch, it'll build a weapon. Which would be scary news for Israel, since Iranian leaders have repeatedly called for the country's 'elimination.' Yesterday, Netanyahu said "this deal will bring war." Meanwhile, Obama has said this deal is actually an alternative to war.

theSKIMM

Israel and the US are usually BFFs. Not the case when it comes to the Iran nuclear deal. But Obama has more than Netanyahu throwing shade to worry about. He has less than 60 days to convince Congress to get on board with the deal. Always easy .

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FRIEND WHO ALWAYS BRINGS UP POLITICS AT DINNER...

This is your moment. Tomorrow's the first GOP presidential debate — aka "The Apprentice Season 15." And there's been A LOT of hype about it. Partly because it's the first official 2016 debate, and partly because everyone only found out yesterday which top 10 candidates made the cut. Who's in? Reality star slash billionaire real estate mogul Donald Trump, political newbie former Gov. Jeb Bush (FL), Gov. Scott Walker (WI), former Gov. Mike Huckabee (AR), Sen. Ted Cruz (TX), Sen. Marco Rubio (FL), Sen. Rand Paul (KY), Gov. Chris Christie (NJ), Gov. John Kasich (OH)…and a neurosurgeon named Ben Carson. Who's not invited? The other seven candidates. They'll be pregaming and debating a few hours earlier at what's been dubbed the 'kid's table.' Burn. PS Skimm some of your Candidates here.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR BLOG GETS SO POPULAR IT STARTS CUTTING INTO YOUR 9-TO-5...

I'm a victim of my own success. Just like Apple . Yesterday, The Fruit's stock dropped like it was very, very hot. So much so that it's now in "correction" territory – which is Wall St. speak for being really off your game. It's not because people have stopped loving their iPhones. It's because a lot of investors are worried that the good times can't last. A big market where Apple's been trying to grow – China – has been having a rough ride lately. Plus, some analysts think sales of the Apple Watch have been meh. Hence the "correction" territory.
Reminder: Apple is the world's most valuable public company. So when the world's most valuable public company has a bad day, it hurts the rest of the stock market . TBD on whether The Fruit can turn it around today.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR FRIEND SAYS SHE'S NOT WEARING FUR ANYMORE...

Delta's changing its ways too. Earlier this week, Delta announced it's not going to let hunters take home their big game 'trophies' on its airplanes anymore. Think: lions, leopards, elephants, rhinoceroses, oh my. American Airlines and United have since announced similar policies. Yes, this has to do with Cecil, a famous lion that was killed by an American dentist recently in Zimbabwe. What's unclear is how many of these 'trophy' kills have been carried as cargo in the first place, since American has zero flights to or from Africa, and United has one.

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR FRIEND BRINGS UP T-SWIFT'S SPOTIFY DISS ...

Here's another feud for you. Rappers Drake and Meek Mill are NOT getting along lately. And they've been handling their feelings like mature adults. By tweeting about it. It allegedly started earlier this summer when Meek's new album came out, and Drake didn't tweet his support. So Meek tweeted that Drake doesn't write his own lyrics. Which led to Drake releasing a song about it. Because nothing says 'don't F with me' like a smooth Drake beat. Then earlier this week at a festival in Canada, Drake put up a slideshow making fun of Meek Mill or the backdrop behind him. This isn't the last time you'll be hearing about this. Sorry.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

Flonde: Kinda sounds like the dessert. Means 'fake blonde.' See: your friend who was "born blonde" and now spends half her paycheck keeping it that way.

SKIMM LIFE

Skimm HQ writes late. And then orders in a lot. Pro tip: This does the shopping for you, but still lets you feel domestic. And full. Dinner is served .

SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

*indicates Skimm'bassador. Go bananas.

Skimm'tern Emily Golden (Boston, MA); ***Jheannelle Laguerre** (Baltimore, MD); ***Tanya Holmes** (Memphis, TN); ***Mary Grace Ford** (Winnetka, IL); ***Amber Carter** (Camden,NJ); ***Kristin Kemp** (Atlanta, GA); ***Mallory McKinnon** (Richmond, VA); ***Regan Edwards** (Notre Dame, IN); ***Susan Gerock** (Alexandria, VA); ***Lainey Segel** (Boston, MA); ***William Alfano** (Union, NJ); ***Nicole Wachter** (Charlotte, NC); ***Parker Wheat** (Richmond, VA); **Michelle Fort** (Boston, MA); **Elizabeth Johnston** (Chicago, IL); **Alliah Livingstone** (Montclair, NJ); **Debbie Soo** (Brooklyn, NY); **Diane Haggard** (Amity, ME); **Jerry Bell** (Corpus Christi, TX); **Grace Goetz** (Brooklyn, NY);**Lindsey Simpson** (New York, NY); **Kat Worten** (Rosslyn, VA); **Katie Kowalski** (Chicago, IL); **Kelly Wall** (New York, NY); **Luisa Longo** (Chicago, IL); **Nick Berglund** (Raleigh, NC); **Patty O'Dell** (Bellevue, NE); **Stephanie Molloy** (Rutherford, NJ); **Megan Garafola** (Washington, DC); **Nupur Bal** (Richmond, VA); **Kelly Ricker** (New York, NY); **Melissa Manganello** (Boston, MA); **Melinda Moody** (Midland, TX); **Pamela Weyl** (Kennebunkport, ME); **Rachel Severance** (Jefferson City, MO); **Katie Warner** (Cleveland, OH); **Julisa Medina** (Maspeth, NY); **Mary Claire Gibson** (Columbia, MO)

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date: 3/21/2015 11:43:59 AM
Subject: Re: SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash

That would be big - we are having a hard time finding it.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:36 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> wrote:
>
> May have a line on it
>
>> On 3/21/15, 3:01 PM, "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> wrote:
>>
>> Adding Kristina who is poking around as well
>>
>>
>>
>>> On Mar 21, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>> Definitely would be good to get a copyŠ
>>>
>>>
>>> <Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc>
>

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/21/2016 3:21:13 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Trump and Clinton cement their claims to front-runner status

If you're having trouble reading this, click here.

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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Trump and Clinton cement their claims to front-runner status

Donald Trump takes the stage in Spartanburg, S.C., last night. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

Good morning from GREENVILLE, South Carolina.

Marco Rubio will edge out Ted Cruz for second place in the Republican primary here. With 100 percent of precincts reporting, the Florida senator received 165,881 votes to the Texas senator's 164,790. Jeb Bush dropped out after getting less than 8 percent of the vote.

But the big stories out of last night are Donald Trump's decisive 10-point win and Hillary Clinton's 5.5-point victory in the Democrats' Nevada caucuses. The billionaire and the former Secretary of State are now each in the driver's seat, front-runners to win their party's respective nominations. Both won two of their first three contests and are strong favorites to win the fourth (Nevada for Trump this Tuesday; South Carolina for Clinton next Saturday).

-- The deeply-divided anti-Trump factions in the GOP really only have three weeks to get their act together if they're going to stop the first-time candidate. If Donald wins Cruz's home state of Texas on March 1 and then Rubio's home state of Florida on March 15, it's difficult to see how the convention in Cleveland does not become his coronation. "Let's put this thing away and let's make America great again," a confident Trump said last night.

-- Cruz failed to carry a single county, including here in the deeply-religious Upstate, which should be tailor-made for someone with his profile. As National Review executive editor Rich Lowry put it, "If tonight is any indication of his strength versus Trump, how is Cruz going to win any March 1 state *besides* Texas?"

-- While Rubio got his groove back after the fifth-place finish in New Hampshire and benefits from Bush being out, it's not at all clear which will be the first state he actually wins. Remember only a few weeks ago top people linked to his campaign were saying they could win South Carolina outright.

-- "As the campaign moves soon from a series of isolated contests in single states to primary days with multiple contests across a much wider terrain, Trump holds some key advantages," Dan Balz explains in his column today . "The principal one is that **the race will become ever more nationalized**, favoring someone who has shown mastery for dominating media coverage at the expense of his rivals. A second is that **his coalition**

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appears similar to that of past winners of the nomination, as he is doing better than the others among Republicans who call themselves 'somewhat conservative' or 'moderate,' rather than those who say they are 'very conservative.' … A third is that **against a divided opposition, Trump can continue to win primaries and caucuses with less than half the vote.** That could become significantly more valuable starting on March 15, when states award delegates on some version of a winner-take-all basis."

-- NBC's Chuck Todd notes that Trump won by double digits despite defending Planned Parenthood, saying George W. Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction as a pretense to invade Iraq and getting into a war of words with Pope Francis.

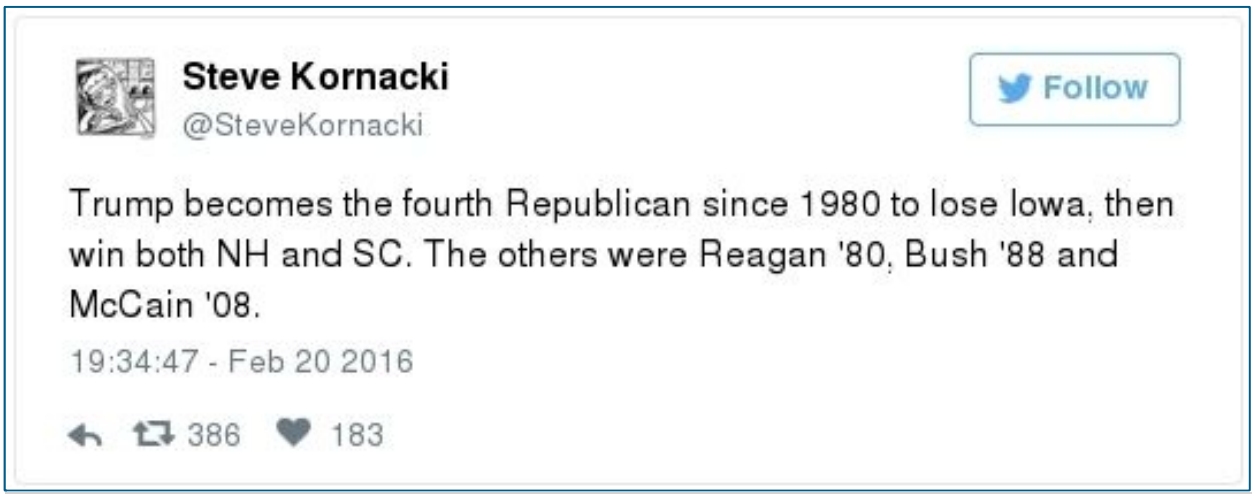

The crowd reacts at Trump's party in Spartanburg when CNN declared him the winner. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

-- But, but, but – Dan Balz flags three potential cracks in Trump's façade:

1. "**Trump's winning percentage was the lowest or second lowest recorded here over the past 10 presidential primaries.**"
2. **Late deciders broke against him**: "Trump had a margin of nearly 2 to 1 among the 60 percent of voters who said that they had made up their mind earlier than in the last few days of the primary. Among the other 40 percent, however, he ran third behind his two leading rivals."
3. "He scored overwhelmingly among voters looking for someone who tells it like it is and led the field among those who are looking for a candidate to bring change to Washington. But **among those in South Carolina who said that they wanted a**

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candidate who shares their values, fewer than 1 in 10 backed Trump."

-- And here are three others ways of thinking about the South Carolina results:

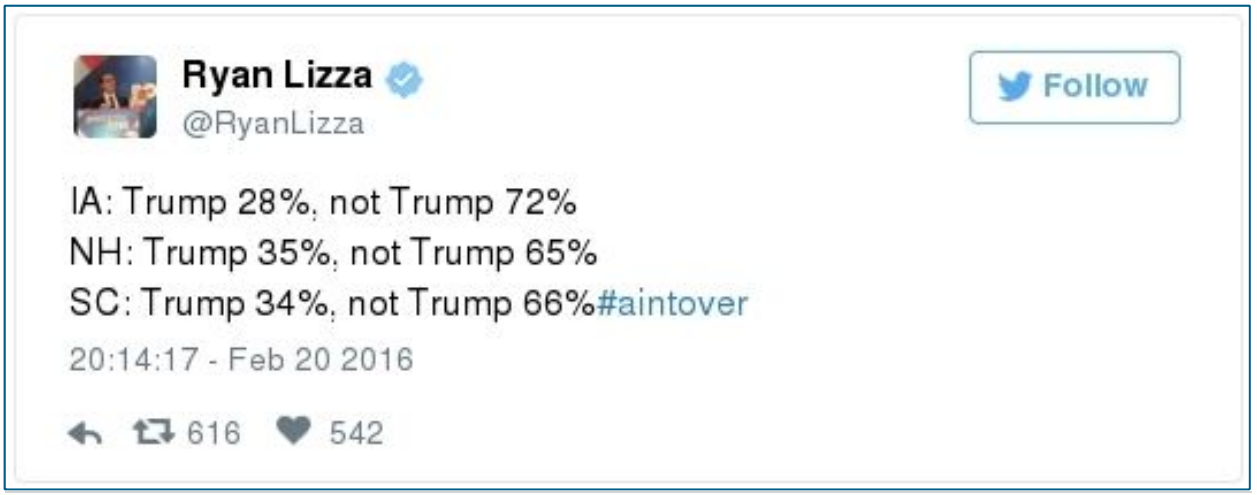

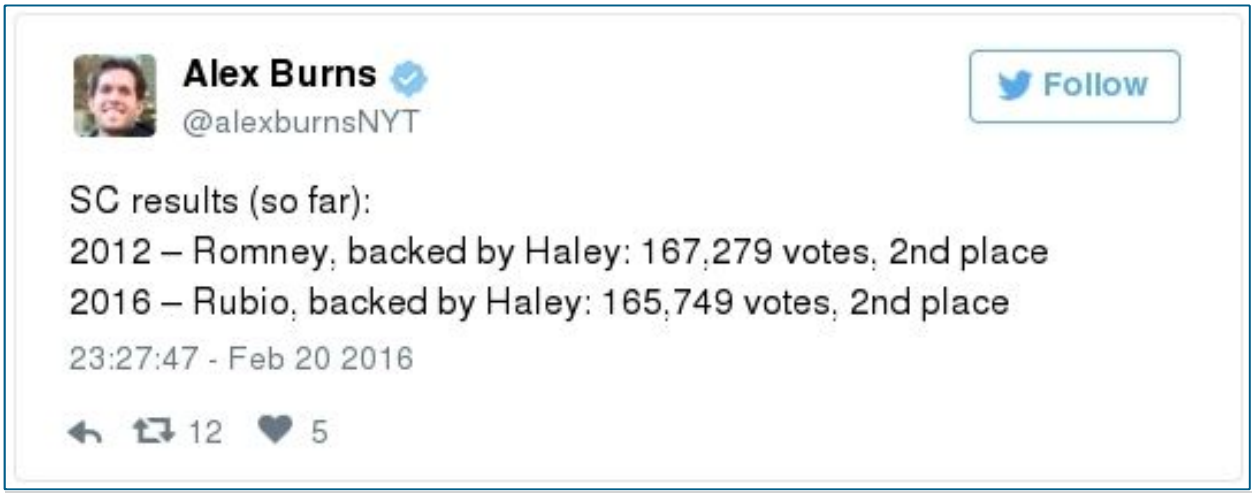

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Hillary Clinton gives a victory speech at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. (Photo by Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

-- Hillary's firewall is holding, and Nevada gave Clinton her first clean win. Iowa was basically a tie. New Hampshire brought a 22-point shellacking. A clear victory is exactly what the campaign needed to soothe anxious donors and elites.

"Some may have doubted us, but we never doubted each other," she told supporters at Caesar's Palace.

Her victory speech got high marks. After over-using "I" recently, she used a lot more "we"-s last night.

-- Clinton's much-needed win comes as the calendar moves to much friendlier terrain. A deep look at preliminary network entrance polls shows two exceptionally important data points: Hillary won women by 16 points and carried African

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Americans three-to-one. Whites made up 59 percent of the electorate, far less than in Iowa and New Hampshire, while 19 percent were Hispanic and 13 percent were black. (Preliminary exits show Sanders leading among Latinos.)

-- Also significant: Clinton battled Sanders nearly to a draw among liberal voters, while winning moderates handily. "What's more, half of those who came out to caucus want a president who will continue the policies of Barack Obama," The Fix's Philip Bump flags, a validation of her strategy to run as his rightful heir. "This is Clinton's proposition over the long term: a close race will tilt her way as more black voters go to the polls. Nevada appears to have proved that correct."

-- David Weigel humanizes Hillary's win in one telling vignette , from a caucus site inside the Wynn: "Felicia Fletcher, a 44-year-old cashier at Circus Circus, was one of two undecided voters. Precinct captains for Clinton and Sanders descended on her, reducing lifetimes of politics to a few sentences. 'Hillary's been there for the working people,' said Autumn Johnson, 38, a black woman with a blue Clinton T-shirt and a small American flag pinned in a hair bun. 'I know that personally.' Melanie Malfabon, 26, leaned in a little closer to argue for Sanders. 'The banks have lobbyists, and that's why so many people can't get ahead,' she said. 'His average donation is $37. He's not owned by big money.' **Finally, politely, Fletcher dropped the poker face. 'I trust Bernie more,' she admitted. 'But I like Hillary's views more.'"**

Bernie waves to supporters before delivering his concession speech at the Henderson Pavilion. (Photo by Ricky Carioti/ The Washington Post)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- Don't forget: Sanders invested heavily in Nevada. He actually ran more ads on TV than Clinton did. **This is a major factor in a n alarmingly high burn rate , revealed in an FEC report that the campaign filed late last night.** For the first time, Sanders outraised Clinton last month, bringing in $21.2 million to her $15.6 million. BUT he spent nearly $35 million to her $21.2 million during that time. Now she has more of a comfortable cash cushion. She started February with $33.7 million to his $14.7 million.

-- The big question on the Democratic side now is: Where does Bernie win next? Most of the states that vote on Super Tuesday should be Hillary country, from Alabama to Georgia and Virginia. Sanders' team argues that he's making inroads in each of those places, but they think he can win outright in Massachusetts and Vermont, with possible victories in Minnesota, Colorado and Oklahoma.

-- In his concession speech, Sanders already seemed to be looking past South Carolina to the 11 states that vote on March 1. He's holding an afternoon rally here in Greenville that I'll cover. But then he's flying north.

-- To be sure: Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said just last month that their polling had Hillary up 25 points in Nevada. By this metric, she actually under-performed by 20 points. But public polling this week showing a neck-and-neck race rejiggered the expectations game in Hillary's favor.

-- Even though the caucuses were much closer than anyone would have envisioned a year ago, that point is largely missing from the clips this morning. Instead, **The Narrative has finally broken in HRC's favor.** Here are five examples from the coverage that's out there this morning:

- **Jon Ralston in the Reno Gazette-Journal: "Nevada may indeed prove to be the state that saved Clinton's campaign** … (in which) Clinton blunted Sanders and slingshotted her with new momentum into South Carolina and then Super Tuesday."
- **ABC's Rick Klein: "Clinton regained control of the Democratic race** … Sanders will need to win some states he's not expected to if he's going to contend for the nomination."
- **The New York Times' Nate Cohn:** "Clinton's victory in the Nevada caucus suggests that her national advantage, although diminished, has survived … **She carried Las Vegas's Clark County, the most diverse in the state, by a 10-point margin.**"
- **The New Republic's Jeet Heer: "Coming out of Nevada, Clinton can reasonably argue that she won in a state that looks much more like the Democratic coalition** … The only thing missing from the equation is the enthusiasm of young people, which Sanders still has."

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- **MSNBC's Joy Reid : "Sanders has to prove he can win in a diverse state.** And he needs to beat Hillary decisively in a big state to make up the delegate deficit."

-- The conversation is once again about WHEN Clinton will wrap up the Democratic nomination, not IF:

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Jeb Bush, accompanied by his wife Columba, speaks in Columbia. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

-- The Bush Dynasty is over. (Until George P. is ready to run…)

Almost a year ago, I wrote a piece that explained why Jeb could not count on South Carolina, which had delivered big time for his dad in 1988 and his brother in 2000. It was based on more than two dozen interviews here with folks who should have been for Bush but were not. The story generated some of the most profane pushback I've received this cycle, from members of the former Florida governor's high command. This was back when no one thought Trump would actually run, but it was a wake-up call that Jeb and his inner-circle were full of hubris, that their "shock and awe" strategy was not going to scare anyone away and that they really did not grasp the buzz saw they were walking into. (He had not been on the ballot since 2002, and it took him many months to get the rust off.)

Since I wrote that story, Bush's super PAC spent more than $95.7 million and Jeb shook up his campaign, but it was all to no avail. He finished sixth in Iowa and then fourth in the last two contests. Last-minute visits from Bush 43 and Barbara Bush did nothing to arrest his continuing decline in the polls. "The people of Iowa and New Hampshire and South Carolina have spoken, and I really respect their decision," Jeb said last night in Columbia.

Finance reports due last night showed that Bush had only $2.9 million in cash at the start of this month. His super PAC, Right to Rise, only raised $370,000 in January. The Post's Ed O'Keefe, who has been following Jeb full-time for a year, has written his political obituary. (Read it here.)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Marco Rubio is greeted by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley in Columbia last night. (Photo by Win McNamee/ Getty Images)

-- An endorsement that mattered: Nikki Haley throwing her support to Rubio demonstrably hurt Bush. In the exit polls, 26 percent of voters said the governor's endorsement was important. Half of them voted for Rubio. Rubio also fared 9 points better among voters who said they decided in the final few days voting than those who decided earlier (27 vs. 18 percent). This is why Bush had been polling in the double digits but wound up with 7.8 percent.

The Rubio surge "was fueled by the upper class pragmatists of the Republican Party -- a coalition that skews wealthier and higher-educated, and cosmopolitan, just the type of Republican who is apprehensive about Trump," Washington Post pollster Scott Clement explains. For example, 15 percent of Republican voters said electability in November was the most important factor in their vote in preliminary exit poll data. Rubio won 47 percent of those voters. And he won 36 percent of those looking first and foremost for a candidate with experience in politics.

Standing on stage with Haley last night, Rubio unveiled a new talking point aimed at turning his youth into an advantage. "Ronald Reagan made us believe that it was 'morning in America' again. And it was," he said. "Now the children of the Reagan Revolution are ready to assume the mantle of leadership." Expect to hear this a lot more.

-- The question now for Rubio: How long does it take Jeb voters and donors to fall

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in line? It took less than an hour for Norm Coleman, the former Republican senator from Minnesota. “I thought Jeb was the most qualified to be president," he told the Star Tribune . "But Rubio clearly is our best hope and most qualified to be commander in chief with Jeb out of the race."

-- But not everyone will follow so quickly, especially Bush himself. There is a LOT of bad blood between the two now. The onetime mentor deeply resents his protégé. The big question in Florida politics is whether he’ll endorse at all, with some Bush allies saying he’d hold off until the general. “No one knows what’s going to happen. There are a lot of hard feelings,” a Florida House Republican told Politico’s Marc Caputo . “We’ll have to wait till the dust settles. Make that the dirt. Once the dirt settles.”

-- Rubio needs a strong second-place finish Tuesday night in Nevada’s caucuses to crystalize his argument that he’s the establishment’s best hope to stop Trump. Cruz would be helped by the same. We have limited polling, and it’s hard to predict what turnout will look like, which makes the Silver State even more suspenseful.

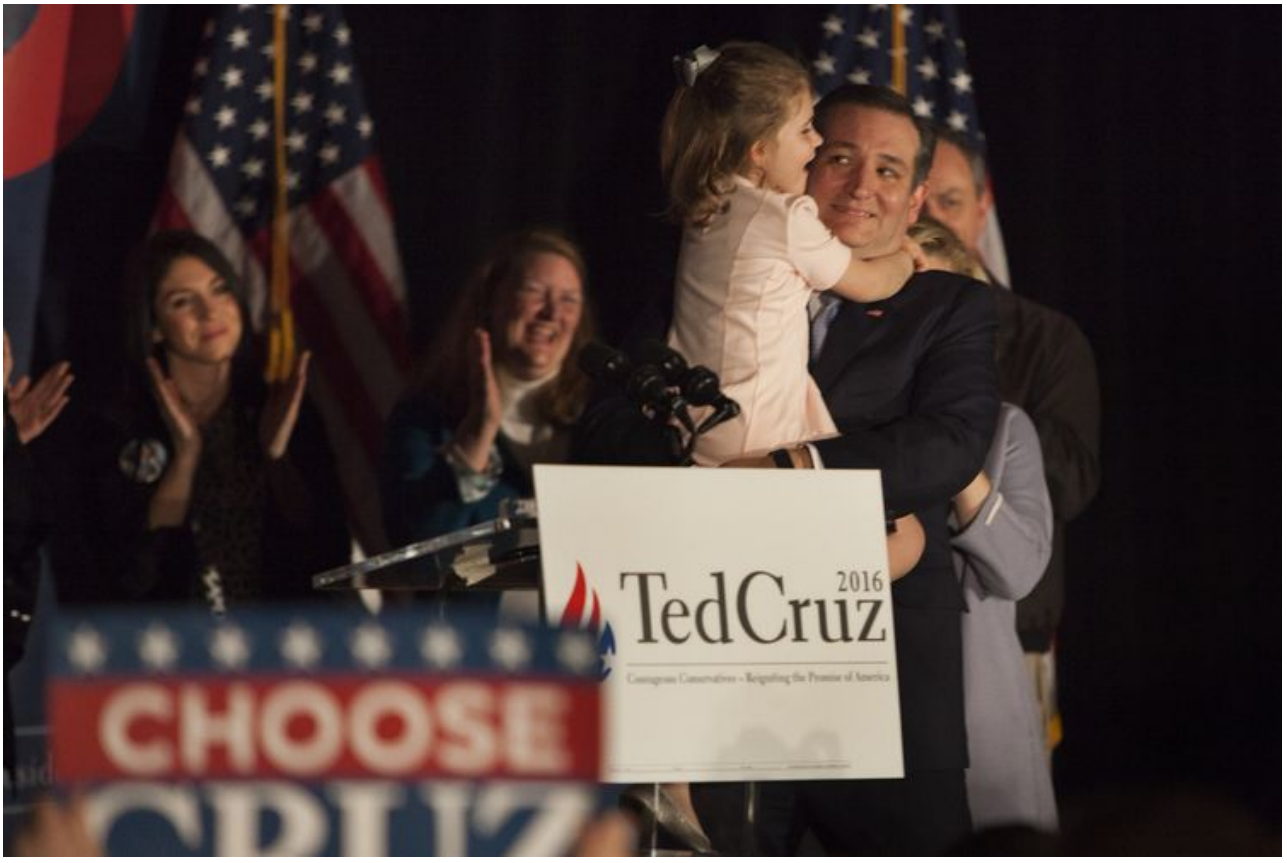

Ted Cruz holds his daughter, Catherine (4), as he thanks supporters in Columbia. (Photo by Lucian Perkins / for The Washington Post)

-- Why Cruz’s narrow third-place finish is such a blow: “He is now in danger of being cast as the 2016 iteration of Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum — social conservatives who simply weren't able to expand beyond that base,” Washington Post’s Chris Cillizza explains.

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Ben Carson's declaration that he will remain in the race will also make it harder for Cruz to consolidate evangelicals who do not like Trump. The retired neurosurgeon continues to resent the Texan for his underhanded tactics on the night of the Iowa caucuses.

Cruz's team predicts they can reassert themselves as the main alternative to Trump on Super Tuesday. "If you are a conservative, this is where you belong because only one strong conservative is in a position to win this race," Cruz said in his concession speech. "This is the only campaign that has beaten, and can beat, Donald Trump."

Jeff Roe, Cruz's campaign manager, stresses that the electoral map still favors them. "There were 79,000 people choosing between us and Trump in the last four days," he told Katie Zezima. "We were calling them. We know them. Now you don't do that on Super Tuesday. Super Tuesday becomes much more of a narrative-based campaign, much more of a national campaign."

(Photos from last night's parties by Jabin Botsford, Alex Holt and Lucian Perkins, for the Washington Post)

-- With the above comments from Rubio and Cruz, it is quite difficult to see this quickly becoming a two-man race.

-- And don't forget that John Kasich is still running. He got the outcome he wanted last night, which was squeezing Bush out. His strategy requires continuing chaos – and the nominee being decided during an open convention this summer, at which he could play a kingmaker role or emerge as a consensus alternative to Trump. But first he'll need to win the Michigan primary on March 8. "To survive until then, however, he will have to weather 16 earlier contests, with more than 750 delegates at stake," Balz notes. "The more he finishes behind the three leaders across a swath of states before Michigan, the more difficult that will

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become."

-- In something else to keep an eye on, an interesting turnout trend continued:

Republicans appear to have broken another record: 735,000 people voted in South Carolina, just narrowly eclipsing a previous record set in 2000 and higher than in 2012 or 2008. That's 20 percent of eligible voters in the state. (Philip Rucker and Robert Costa)

Democrats saw another drop-off compared to eight years ago: About two-thirds as many caucused in Nevada as did eight years ago, 80,000 compared to 120,000. (Abby Phillip, John Wagner and Anne Gearan)

On "Meet the Press" this morning, Sanders blamed his loss on lower turnout. "The voter turnout was not as high as I had wanted," he said. "And what I've said over and over again, we will do well when young people, when working-class people come out. We do not do well when the voter turnout is not large."

-- Breanne Deppisch and Elise Viebeck contributed to this special Sunday edition of The Daily 202.

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

-- THE MONEY CHASE: FEC filings for January fundraising were due at midnight and trickled in while we were awaiting results. From Matea Gold and Anu Narayanswamy's round-up:

- **Of the $15.6 million that Clinton raised, $2.4 million was collected through the Hillary Victory Fund**, a joint fundraising committee with the DNC and 32 state parties. She is also helped by a well-funded super PAC, Priorities USA Action, which collected $9.6 million in January, including $3.5 million from hedge-fund billionaire James Simons.
- **Cruz was the money leader among the Republicans**, raising nearly $7.6 million in January. He began the month with $13.6 million in the bank. He raised $3.2 million from contributors who gave $200 or less — 42 percent of his entire haul in January.
- **Behind Bush, Rubio has been the beneficiary of the second-largest amount of super PAC spending:** His group, Conservative Solutions PAC, has poured more than $30 million into ads touting him and attacking rivals. In January, the group raised just under $2.5 million. Oracle's executive chairman, Larry Ellison, gave $1 million. Rubio's campaign raised $4.9 million and spent twice that in January. He began the month with $5 million in the bank.
- **Trump lent his campaign $4.9 million in January. In all, he has now put in $17.5**

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million. He reported $973,000 in donations from supporters.

GET SMART FAST:

1. **The Justice Department said it would allow Apple to retain possession of, and later destroy, specialized software it created to hack a San Bernardino terrorist's iPhone**. The less intrusive option was issued in response to Apple CEO's Tim Cook, who said any software created to hack the iPhone would, by extension, "threaten digital privacy of millions of Apple customers worldwide." (AP)
2. **New detail: An FBI mistake got them into this mess.** During the chaotic hours after the shooting, investigators asked a technician in the California county for which the shooter worked to reset the phone's iCloud password. "But that action foreclosed the possibility of an automatic backup to the Apple iCloud servers that might have turned up more clues," Ellen Nakashima and Mark Berman report .
3. Six are dead and three more are injured in **Kalamazoo, Mich.**, after a man drove around and opened fire at three locations, including a Cracker Barrel restaurant and a Ford dealership. (AP)
4. A **Michigan** woman suffered non-life-threatening injuries after being shot in the head by her 3-year-old son. (USA Today)
5. **Prime Minister David Cameron announced that Britain will have a referendum on June 23 over whether or not to remain in the European Union.** The announcement comes after more than two days of concession negotiations with the E.U. over currency protections and immigration. Though the UK emerged with a deal, British voters remain deeply divided over a potential "Brexit." (Griff Witte and Karla Adam) (Confused? Check out a handy guide to the drama for non-Europeans here .)
6. One of the occupiers arrested in **the Oregon standoff** is arguing he was there "as a journalist" in an attempt to avoid indictment. (Leah Sottile)
7. **John Kerry** traveled to London and Jordan to discuss **Syria's civil war** and the ongoing battle with ISIS. The Secretary's weekend of diplomacy underscores his concern for pending peace talks in Geneva, which have so far been unsuccessful. Last week's deadline for a "cessation of hostilities" has also expired. (Carol Morello)
8. Tropical Cyclone **Winston**, a Category 5 **cyclone** with winds nearing 150 mph, is expected to make direct landfall on **Fiji's** most populous island. (Angela Fritz)
9. **France** has extended an eviction deadline for over 1,000 refugees living in its famous "Jungle" refugee camp. The original notice gave refugees seven days to vacate the camp before it was demolished. (James McAuley)
10. After months of heavy fighting with Taliban insurgents**, Afghan forces have pulled out of bases in Musa Qala**, a strategic district in Helmand. Officials speculate the

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Taliban's takedown of Musa Qala could signify further losses elsewhere. (Reuters)

11. Two **New York police officers** were shot after a car chase in Brooklyn. They were responding to a noise complaint when a suspect pulled a revolver on them and fled. Both are in stable condition. (Niraj Chokshi)
12. Rep. **Todd Young** (R-Ind.) will appear on the ballot for Indiana's GOP Senate primary after barely surviving a signature challenge. He faces fellow Republican Rep. Marlin Stutzman in the May 3 primary. (Politico)
13. The **White House** unveiled an initiative to connect over 1 million students with mentors in an effort to improve **school attendance**. (Emma Brown)
14. **Yahoo** announced it is "exploring strategic options" for the company's core business – another euphemism suggesting the **company might soon put itself up for sale**. (Hayley Tsukayama)
15. Novelist **Harper Lee**, the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird," died on Friday. (Emily Langer)

Father Paul Scalia, the son of Antonin Scalia, leads the funeral Mass for his father at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. (Pool photo by Doug Mills/AFP/Getty Images)

-- Among the thousands in attendance at Scalia's funeral were Vice President Biden and all but one of the living Supreme Court justices with whom Scalia served. (Read Robert Barnes ' spot story here.)

-- "Funeral cements Scalia's legacy as a larger-than-life conservative force,"

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scene story by Joel Achenbach: "Replacing Scalia — how, when, with whom — is the urgent Washington partisan question of the moment, one that has intruded ungraciously upon what for many people at his funeral is a grieving period. When they say you can't replace Scalia, they're not just talking about a seat on the Supreme Court … Justices tend not to be flashy, verbose characters. Scalia, however, broke the mold and then shattered it into a thousand pieces. He was by leaps and bounds the court's most voluble, entertaining, maddening member. Scalia tore up jelly-kneed lawyers in oral arguments. He sought no coalitions, happy to be the lone dissenter. He had no desire to ever be anything as mutable as a 'swing vote.' And beyond inciting all this grief, Scalia's death is a blow to 'originalism,' the conservative legal philosophy that Scalia personified … 'He's one of a kind,' said former solicitor general Ted Olson. 'You can't get over a man like that.'"

-- Meanwhile, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley will meet privately with the 11 Republicans on his panel to decide whether or not to even hold a hearing for Obama's pick to replace Scalia.

-- And retiring **Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) said the president's nominee deserves a hearing**, even though he's ultimately likely to vote against that person. (The Journal Gazette)

Dick Cheney and Clarence Thomas take their seats during the funeral mass. (Pool photo by Doug Mills/AFP/ Getty Images)

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WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

-- "Obama's final year in office shaping up to be one of genuine relevance ," by Steven Mufson: "It was not so long ago that many observers were arguing that it was time to slide Obama's presidency onto the bookshelf labeled 'history.' The president's political capital seemed spent, and [Obama] seemed tired … He looked and sounded like a lame duck. Then, bam! A confluence of events has conspired to keep the president not just relevant but also vital, even as the campaign to replace him intensifies. The unexpected Court vacancy, a historic trip to Cuba and a deeply unsettled presidential primary campaign all promise to keep the president at the center of Washington politics and policy deep into his final year in office. And he still has a chance to do damage control on foreign issues, such as the war in Syria … Many U.S. presidents have faded early from the political scene. [But] the White House insists that Obama still has some fight left in him."

-- "Turkey's increasingly desperate predicament poses real dangers ," by Liz Sly: "Turkey is confronting what amounts to a strategic nightmare as bombs explode in its cities, its enemies encroach on its borders and its allies seemingly snub its demands. Russia, Turkey's oldest and nearest rival, is expanding its presence around Turkey's borders … recently announcing the deployment of a new batch of fighter jets and combat helicopters to an air base 25 miles from the Turkish border. Strings of suicide bombings have brought fear to Turkish streets and dampened the vital tourist industry, [and] collapse of a peace process with Turkey's Kurds has plunged the southeast of the country into war. Worries that the tensions could escalate further are spreading, both in Turkey and in the international community. 'Turkey is facing a multifaceted catastrophe,' said Gokhan Bacik, professor of international relations at Ankara's Ipek University. 'The scale of what is happening now is beyond Turkey's capacity for digestion.'"

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL LABS VISUAL: Check out the emojis most often tweeted in conjunction with Trump and Bush.

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ZIGNAL LABS DONALD TRUMP EMOJI CLOUD

ZIGNAL LABS JEB BUSH EMOJI CLOUD

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Here are some moments from the day:

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Monica Alba
@AlbaMonica

Follow

Dueling Sanders and Clinton supporters waiting to enter a caucus site at Caesars Palace pic.twitter.com/5skXu5vrjj

14:58:05 - Feb 20 2016

21 24

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Follow

What a great night. Thank you South Carolina, a special place with truly amazing people! LOVE

22:01:10 - Feb 20 2016

3,828 11,951

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

lesley clark
@lesleyclark

Follow

@JebBush + @LindseyGrahamSC share a laugh after Jeb says he won't be @realDonaldTrump VP pic.twitter.com/RtQQT39RdE

13:33:54 - Feb 20 2016

42 60

George P. Bush
@georgepbush

Follow

I love you Dad and proud that you offered a servant's heart to the people of this great Country #allinforjeb

20:57:31 - Feb 20 2016

465 1,105

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Paul Kane
@pkcapitol

Follow

2 Bushes, Adamses, Roosevelts won presidency. Maybe still a 2nd Clinton. Never a 2nd Kennedy, not a 2nd Taft. Our dynasties have limits.

00:20:03 - Feb 21 2016

3 4

Philip Bump
@pbump

Follow

Guess now is when I remind the world Jeb's N.H. headquarters was in a closed furniture store next to a cemetery.
pic.twitter.com/OXOdOYL5an

22:21:49 - Feb 20 2016

92 156

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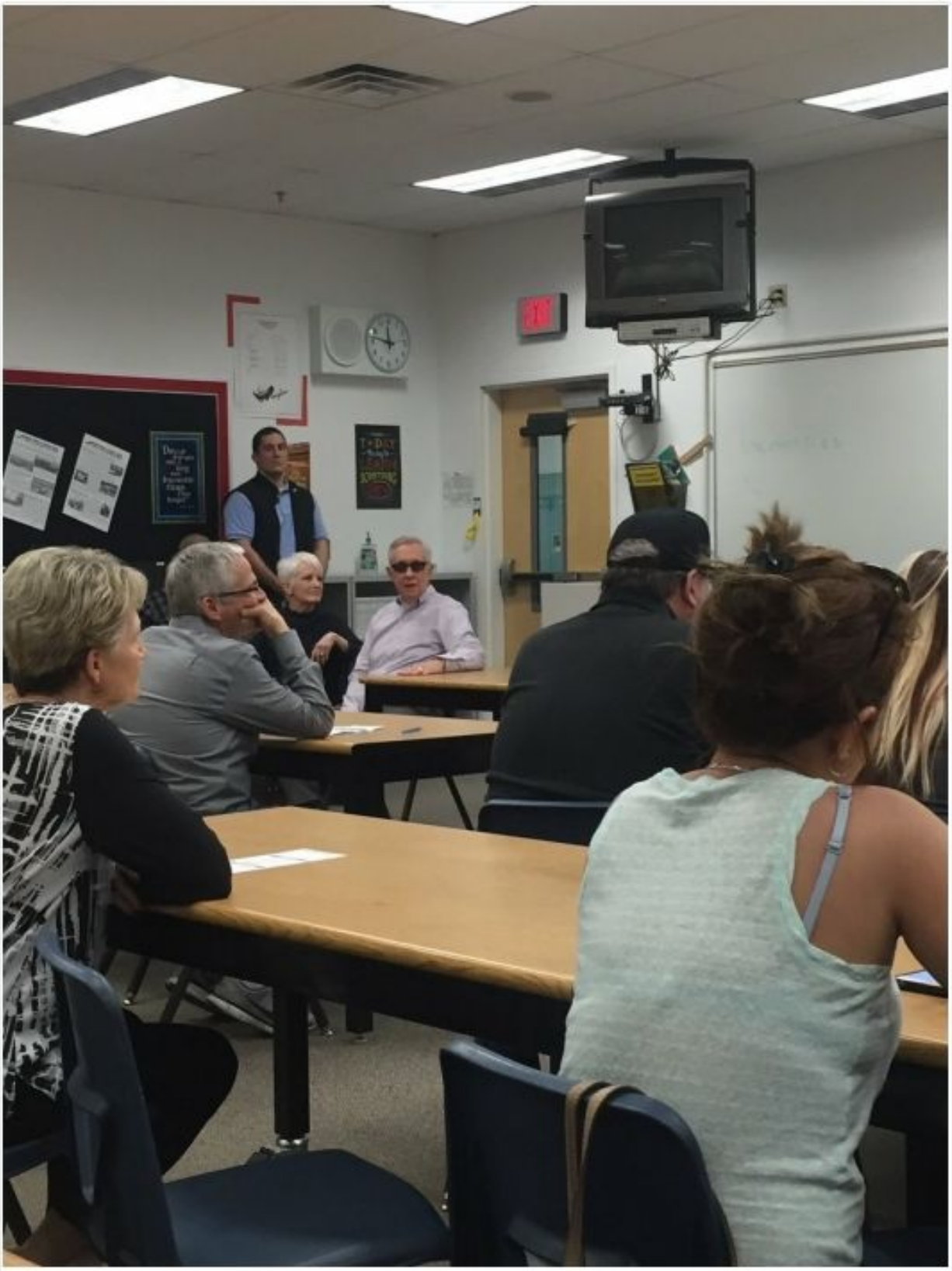

Byron Tau ✓
@ByronTau

Follow

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is at his caucus site, a middle school classroom in Henderson, Nev. pic.twitter.com/oFsy3X8Lrg

14:47:51 - Feb 20 2016

40 44

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Harry Reid's spokesman joked about an advisory that included the directions to go past "the fire breathing praying mantis":

MEDIA ADVISORY

TODAY AT 6:30pm PT

Reid To Hold Press Conference

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Senator Harry Reid will hold a press conference today at 6:30 p.m. PT in downtown Las Vegas.

WHO: Nevada Senator Harry Reid

WHAT: Press conference

WHERE: **Downtown Container Park**, 707 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101 (Event location is on the second floor above bin 707. Enter the Container Park past the fire-breathing praying mantis, take a left and walk up the stairs.)

WHEN: Today at 6:30 p.m. PT

###

SENATOR HARRY REID

Adam Jentleson
@AJentleson

Follow

I love Las Vegas. #DTLV pic.twitter.com/ZVRir1elRa

19:04:15 - Feb 20 2016

46 69

But it was not all fun and games for the Democrats. There was quite a lot of drama. Longtime civil rights and farm-labor activist Dolores Huerta was heckled by a Sanders crowd, chanting "English only" after she offered to translate at a Nevada caucus. (Read the story by Janell Ross and Abby Phillip here.)

Dolores Huerta
@DoloresHuerta

Follow

I offered to translate & Bernie supporters chanted English only! We fought too long & hard to be silenced Si Se Puede! #ImwithHer #NVcaucus

18:18:43 - Feb 20 2016

3,478 2,996

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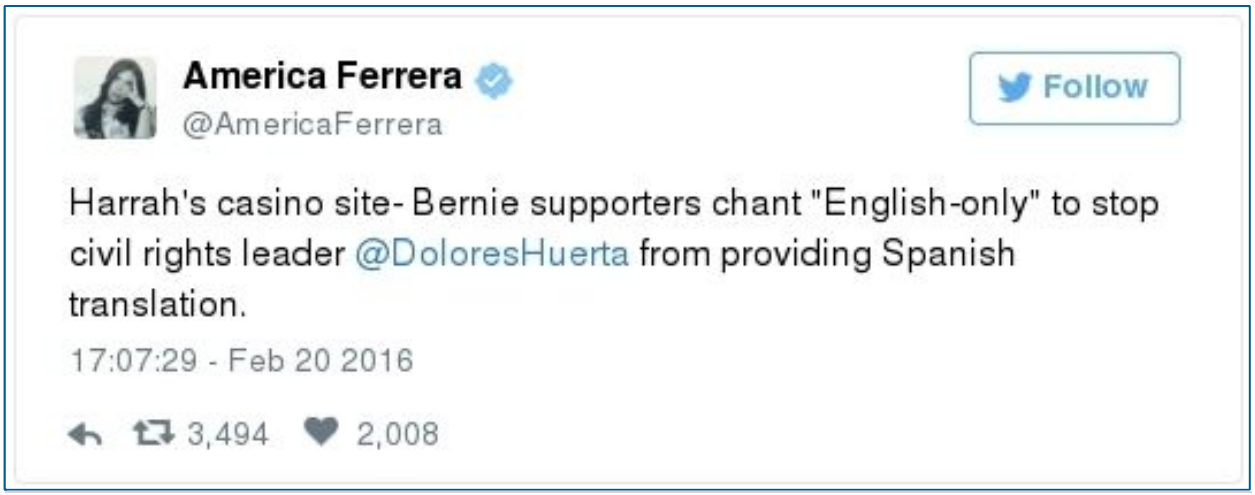

Watch a clip of the moment:

Harrah's Democratic Nevada Caucus Shouting over Dolores Huerta

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NationalNursesUnited
@NationalNurses

Follow

This morning of the #NVcaucus, @RoseAnnDeMoro & @DBurgerNNU of @NationalNurses spend a few moments w @BernieSanders pic.twitter.com/lEm9osn0F5

14:10:42 - Feb 20 2016

79 153

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

RoseAnn DeMoro
@RoseAnnDeMoro

Follow

Photo of Clinton campaign pretending to be @NationalNurses in #Nevadacaucus. More deception @SymoneDSanders #1U pic.twitter.com/3G372xmtvX

13:28:53 - Feb 20 2016

379 262

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Bernie

PRESS

Sanders Wins Latino Vote in Nevada

February 20, 2016
Contact: Michael Briggs (802) 233-8653

LAS VEGAS – After trailing by as many as 50 points in Nevada, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders pulled within 4 points of former Secretary Hillary Clinton in the Nevada caucuses.

A key factor in Sanders making up so much ground in Nevada was his strong showing with Latino voters. According to entrance polls Sanders won among Latino voters by 8 points.

"What we learned today is Hillary Clinton's firewall with Latino voters is a myth," Arturo Carmona, deputy political director for Bernie 2016, said. "The Latino community responded strongly to Bernie Sanders' message of immigration reform and creating an economy that works for all families. This is critically important as we move ahead to states like Colorado, Arizona, Texas and California."

Jennifer Palmieri
@jmpalmieri

Follow

Yeah. Reporting Hispanic precincts have @HillaryClinton up by 20. Yeah this doesn't appear to be the case. pic.twitter.com/FnQ0Ow6vEy"

22:19:25 - Feb 20 2016

123 128

Sarah Silverman
@SarahKSilverman

Follow

Must we pit the woman & the Jew against each other? They're both swell- good Lord w the in-fighting. See who u agree w more & vote, cuz

23:13:02 - Feb 20 2016

448 1,615

Back in South Carolina:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

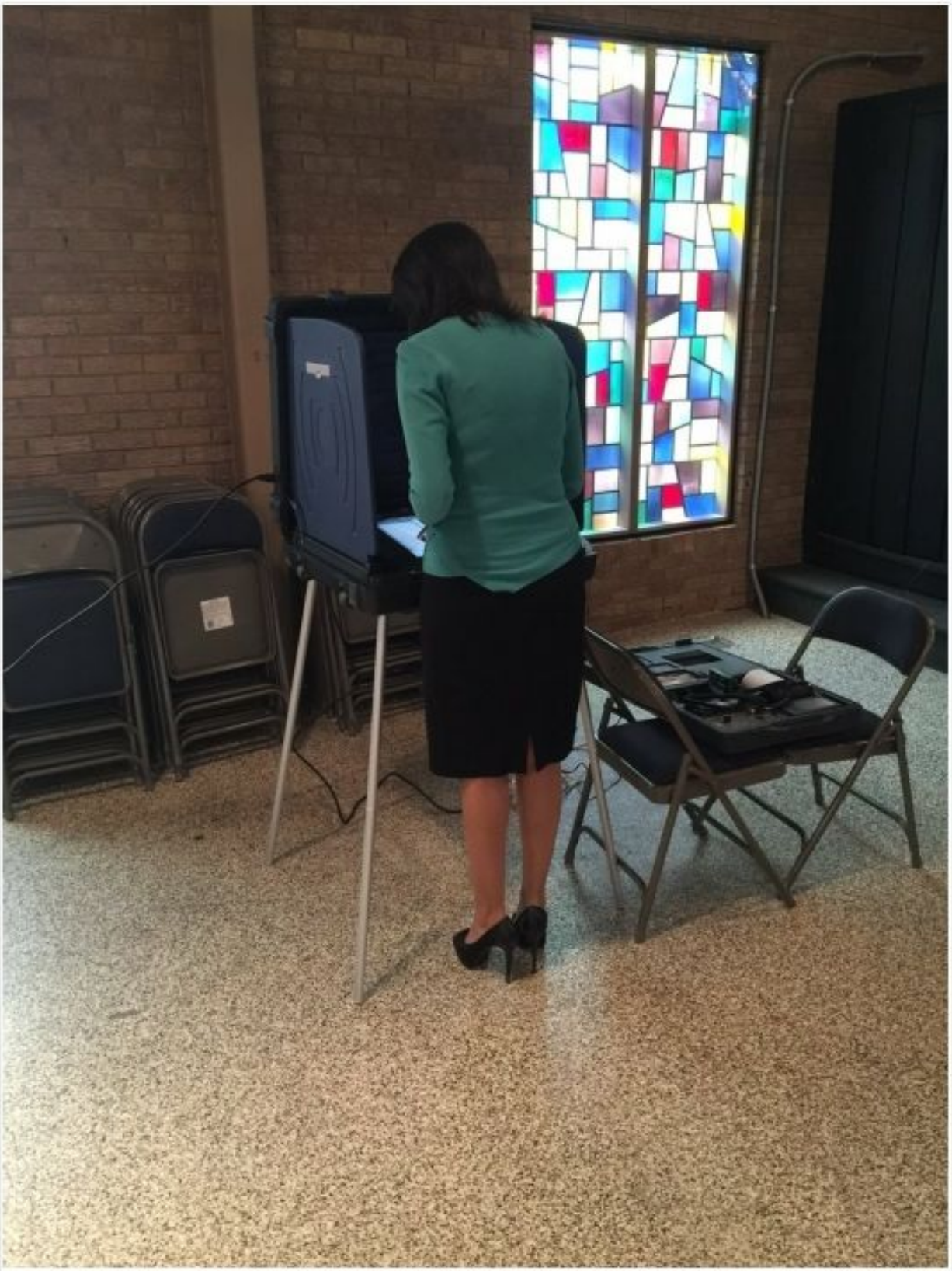

Rob Godfrey
@RobGodfrey

Follow

.@nikkihaley casts vote for @TeamMarco @marcorubio in @scgop first in the South presidential primary. pic.twitter.com/ajLDBC4aux

11:34:06 - Feb 20 2016

41 45

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

marcorubiofla · 17 hours ago

+ Follow

Two of our star supporters helping get out the vote in South Carolina today

6,506 likes 167 comments Instagram

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

cruzforpresident · 1 day ago + Follow

Backstage with Sean Hannity and Phil Robertson in Charleston! #ChooseCruz tomorrow, South Carolina: votetedcruz.com/sc

4,080 likes 234 comments Instagram

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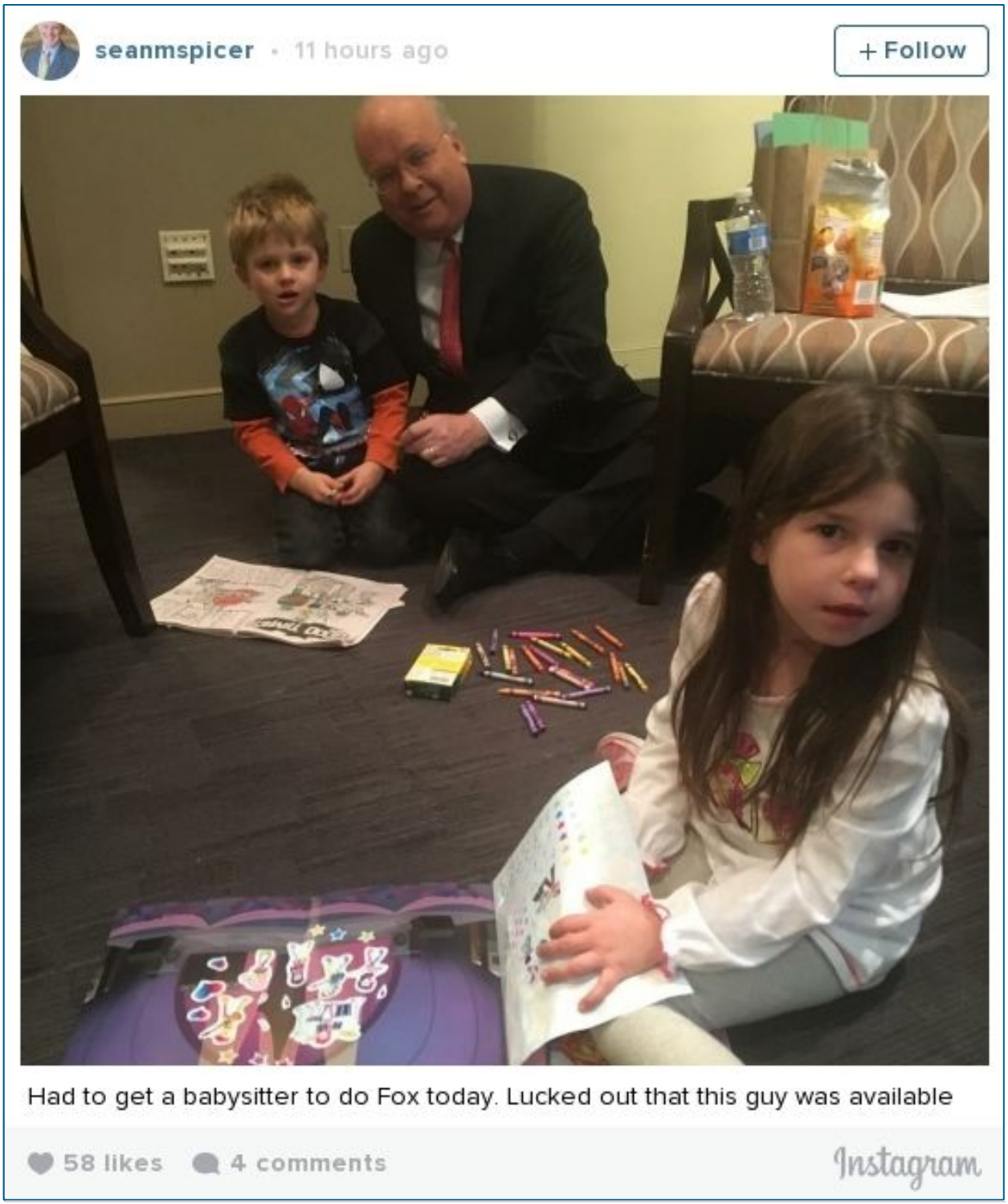

Here's a taste of the online reaction to the results:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Joe Carter
@joecarter

Follow

Trump is the monster created by 20yrs of talk radio conditioning listeners to be angry and spiteful rather than conservative and principled.

22:28:04 - Feb 20 2016

418 540

Matt Viser
@mviser

Follow

Trump wins SC primary. After calling GWB a liar. After fighting with the Pope. After threatening to sue Ted Cruz. Welcome to the new GOP.

19:29:57 - Feb 20 2016

1,194 969

Amanda Carpenter
@amandacarpenter

Follow

GOP must unite together to fight for core beliefs or risk losing everything to Trump. Wake up time.

19:41:49 - Feb 20 2016

369 400

Jon Favreau
@jonfavs

Follow

Marco Rubio's gonna do five Sunday shows to celebrate a comeback that netted him ZERO delegates https://t.co/InBIjOSSxL

23:10:48 - Feb 20 2016

169 161

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Roger Stone
@RogerJStoneJr

Follow

Now @marcorubio carries the Discredited Bush Agenda

22:29:28 - Feb 20 2016

82 94

Joe Scarborough
@JoeNBC

Follow

Big loser tonight: Nikki Haley.

20:18:22 - Feb 20 2016

422 826

Robert Draper
@DraperRobert

Follow

For 7 months Team @JohnKasich's goal was to overtake Jeb! Congrats, but that's like winning Gulf of Tonkin. Now comes the quagmire.

23:15:45 - Feb 20 2016

10 25

Trip Gabriel
@tripgabriel

Follow

Carson claimed to be non politician. Longer he stays in w these results, more he shows he's in it to build an email list and sell books.

23:01:43 - Feb 20 2016

2 7

A few other images that are going viral:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

elisestefanik • 16 hours ago

+ Follow

Powerful image shared on Facebook yesterday of 98 Justice Antonin Scalia clerks honoring his legacy and service. (Original Image posted and shared by Hannah Oh)

245 likes 0 comments Instagram

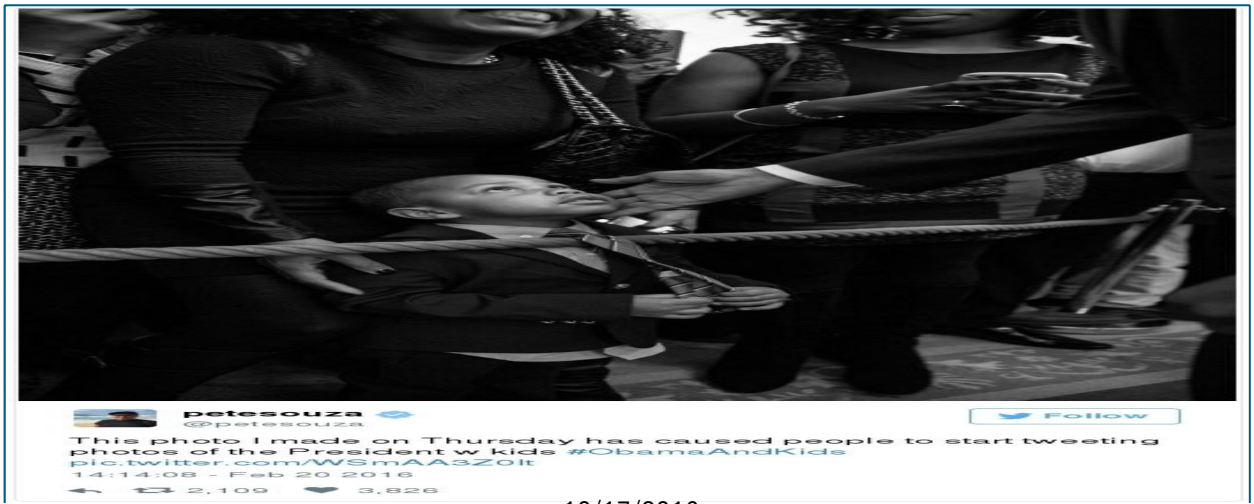

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

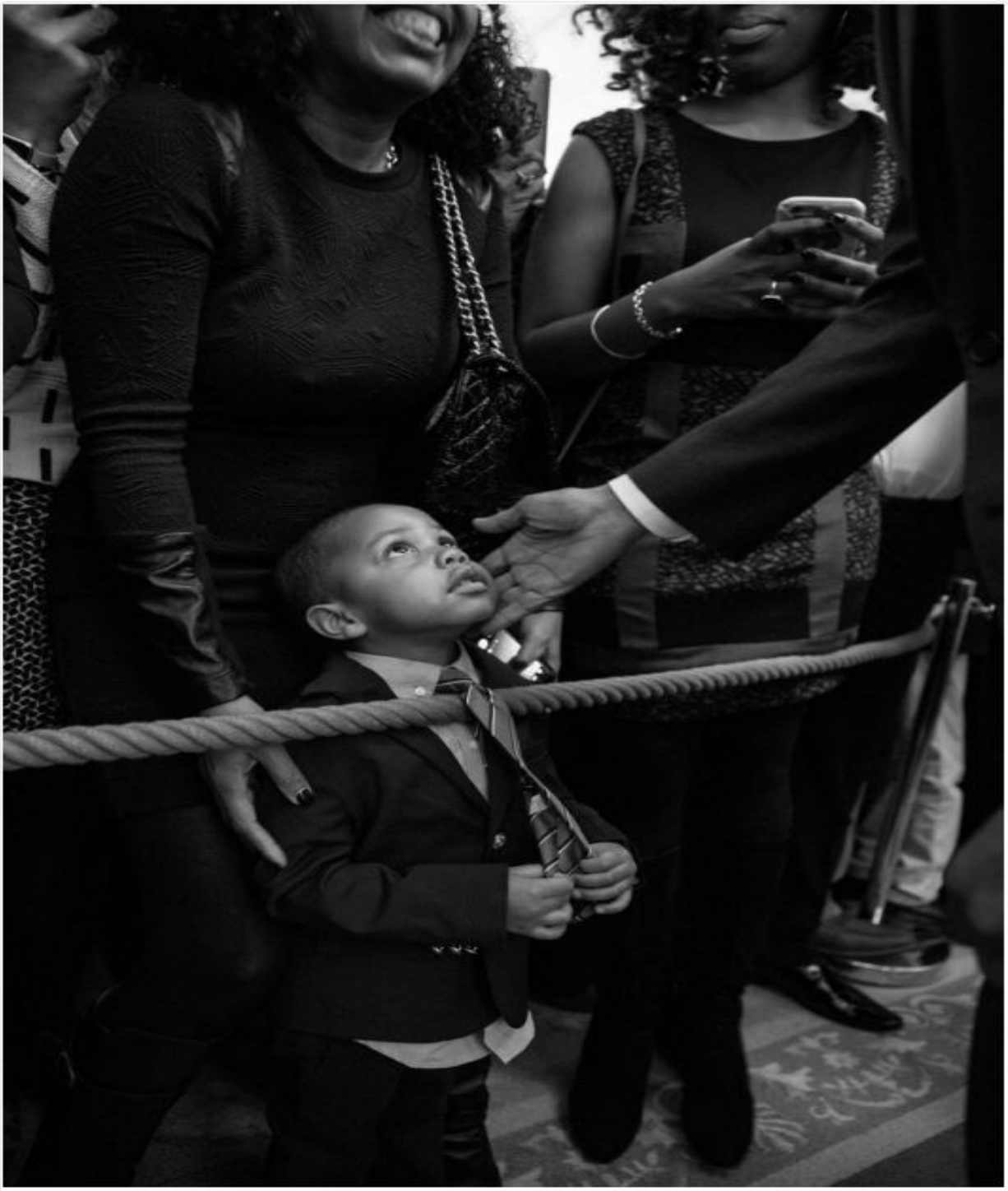

petesouza
@petesouza

Follow

This photo I made on Thursday has caused people to start tweeting photos of the President w kids #ObamaAndKids
pic.twitter.com/WSmAA3Z0It
14:14:08 - Feb 20 2016

2,109 3,826

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- The New York Times editorial board argues that "superdelegates" need to better clarify their role in the Democratic election: "Even after Sanders's victory in New

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Hampshire, some supporters began fretting about a new menace: 'superdelegates' who could deliver the nomination to Clinton in July. Super delegates serve multiple functions at the convention, among them maintaining order — for example, by casting their votes to avoid deadlock in a fragmented field. That is why superdelegates shouldn't have to make ironclad pledges to transfer fealty to the biggest vote-getter .. Still, this issue presents the party with an important opportunity. By better explaining the role of superdelegates, and publicly acknowledging that the 2016 presidential nomination rightly belongs to the majority vote-getter, Democrats could show new, youthful voters that the party wants their energy and their ideas inside the tent. To these idealistic voters, superdelegate influence reeks of smoke-filled rooms and establishment deals, when in fact they were created to end such maneuverings."

-- Politico, "Donald Trump's Sizzling Sister Act ," by Ben Schreckinger: "For many minorities, Donald Trump's gold-plated brand is tarnished by a presidential campaign mired in racial controversy. Lucky for him, two sisters are on a mission to stud that tarnished brand with diamonds and wrap it in silk. African-American video bloggers Lynette 'Diamond' Hardaway and Rochelle 'Silk' Richardson have risen from obscurity to fame with a series of infectiously watchable videos in which the pair praises Trump and denigrates his rivals. In addition to their prodigious output of videos with titles like 'We are not giving Jeb the Keys to the White House. That set of keys is going to Donald Trump,' Diamond and Silk, former Democrats themselves, promote ditchandswitchnow.com to get black voters (and Democrats of all races) to switch their voter registrations in states with closed primaries so they are eligible to vote for Trump. They see in the businessman qualities that many others miss. 'He is very meek,' said Diamond. 'He's humble.'"

HOT ON THE LEFT

Gun-wielding protesters showed up to refugee event at Texas mosque. From the Dallas Morning News: "An event to welcome refugees at the Islamic Center of Irving drew a small group of camouflage-clad, gun-wielding protesters Saturday ... Such a standoff has become almost commonplace in Irving, home to the Ahmed 'clock boy' controversy and a series of other tense events that have

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Did Twitter's 'Trust and Safety' Council get Robert Stacy McCain banned? From Reason : "One [Twitter] user who won't be expressing himself at all is Robert Stacy McCain: a conservative journalist, blogger, self-described anti-feminist, and prominent GamerGate figure who was banned from Twitter on Friday night. Clicking on his page redirects to this 'account suspended' message that encourages

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turned the city into a symbol of Islamophobia for many. About a dozen anti-refugee protesters stood on the outskirts of the mosque's property Saturday, waving flags and holding signs that said, 'Say No To Syrian Refugees.'"

users to re-read Twitter's policies on abusive behavior ... There's a difference between using strong language to disagree with people, and abusing them. If McCain has crossed that line, I'm not aware of it."

DAYBOOK:

On the campaign trail: Candidates are all over the map today:

- Clinton: Menlo Park, Atherton, Piedmont, Calif.
- Sanders: Greenville, S.C.
- Trump: Atlanta
- Rubio: Franklin, Tenn., Little Rock, Ark., North Las Vegas, Nev.
- Cruz: Pahrump and Henderson, Nev.

At the White House: President Obama delivers remarks at the National Governors Association Dinner and Reception.

On Capitol Hill: The Senate and House are in recess.

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- Yesterday's nice day may have been an outlier, unfortunately. From Capital Weather Gang: "The forecast for Sunday has continued to look less pleasant as we close in. Clouds thicken through the morning and showers are possible by midday to early afternoon. We could even see a period of relatively steady rain late day. Before all that gets underway, highs make the mid-50s, or thereabouts. It's probably coolest west, where rain begins earliest."

-- **Metro's ridership has plummeted to its lowest levels in 10 years.** (Luz Lazo)

-- **According to federal government data, Metro operators have had 47 "red signal violations" since 2012.** The local transit authority has hired a neuroscientist and outside safety expert to combat these dangerous violations, which are thought to be caused by distraction and human error. (Michael Laris)

-- **The Miami Heat beat the Wizards 114-94.** (Jorge Castillo)

-- **The Capitals beat the New Jersey Devils 4-3.** (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- **Maryland held a joint-committee meeting on a right to die bill,** which would make the state the sixth to legalize aid in dying. (Ovetta Wiggins)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Morgan Freeman recorded the voiceover for a new Clinton commercial:

Stand | Hillary Clinton

Watch Jeb announce he's dropping out:

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Jeb Bush suspends presidential campaign

Trump's full victory speech:

Donald Trump's full speech in South Carolina

And a quick recap of how he won:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

How Donald Trump won the South Carolina GOP primary, in 60 seconds

The Clinton campaign circulated this clip:

Hillary Clinton 2016 Be strong That's what I like about you

Funeralgoers remembered Antonin Scalia:

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Family, dignitaries remember Justice Antonin Scalia

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Cassandra Butts" <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com>
Date: 9/24/2008 7:44:01 AM
Subject: Re: Energy and EPA names

These seem wildly different in potential although all could play a roll.

On 9/24/08, Cassandra Butts <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com> wrote:
> John, to follow are some of the names that have come us as we have consulted
> on top candidates for Energy and EPA. We'd appreciate your thoughts and
> additions. Needless to say, your name has come up repeatedly in our
> consultations. Best, Cassandra
>
> Energy
>
> -Frampton, George
> -Gee, Robert W.: From 1997 to 2000 he served as Assistant Secretary for
> Policy and International Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Fossil
> Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy; oversaw the operation of the
> Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the national research program to develop
> and demonstrate advanced clean coal, natural gas, and petroleum
> technologies.
> -Jackson, Shirley Ann: Former chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
> current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
> -Holstein, Elgie
> -Immelt, Jeff
> -Pershing, Jonathan
> -Schwarzenegger, Arnold
> -Schweitzer, Brian
>
> EPA
>
> -Bloomberg, Michael
> -Gregoire, Christine
> -Grumet, Jason
> -Hayes, David
> -Learner, Howard: executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy
> Center, a Chicago-based environmental legal advocacy group that has been a
> key player in setting up the region's cap-and-trade program for global
> warming.
> -Sebelius, Kathleen
> -Stern, Todd
>

--
Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 11:09:36 AM
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

just to give people background here:
1. She believes she needs to do this video is because her integrity is being attacked and she is the only one who can say she didnt make a decision as secstate based on a donor.
2. Imp point: The foundation has had little luck getting their surrogates booked on any serious shows. So she feels like it has to be someone at her level or WJC level that engages directly in order for there to be any coverage of the defense.
3. She doesnt want to continue to have to have press yell these questions at her in Nevada and CA and if she doesnt do the video, that is the situation she will be in

_____
From: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:53 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: RE: Heads up for call with HRC

For some reason I don't have the morning news round up -- can someone send that to me.

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Given this morning's am shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>
> Thanks.
> Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or morning news...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
> To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma
> Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan
> Schwerin
> Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Elise Annunziata" <eannunziata@cleanwater.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/26/2009 3:15:45 PM
Subject: [big campaign] House Passes American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

CLEAN WATER ACTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 26, 2009

Contacts: Christine LeMieux, Global Warming and Energy Programs Coordinator
Phone: 202-895-0420, ext. 110
Email: clemieux@cleanwater.org

Roger Smith, Global Warming and Energy Policy Analyst
Phone: 860-232-6232
E-Mail: rsmith@cleanwater.org

Clean Water Action Statement on US Energy Policy

House Passes American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

(Washington, D.C.)

Statement of John DeCock, President, Clean Water Action

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives took the first meaningful steps on the long path toward transforming ou r energy economy and curbing global warming. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) pas sed the House by a vote of 219-212. This action signals that Americans want to address the challenge of climate ch ange by transforming our economy and rewarding investments in clean, smart energy production. This bill will cr eate jobs and allow us to reap the economic and environmental benefits of a new energy economy. We can now m ove forward with the transformation of our energy policies that will reduce global warming pollution and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

Last week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) report on climate change impacts in t he United States underscored that our climate is already changing across the country—altering our water cycle, in creasing floods and droughts, and threatening the quality and quantity of our drinking water. This damage could b e compounded if our energy choices continue to draw significantly from our water sources, while polluting what re mains.

Passage of this bill is a move in the right direction, but is not our destination.

Clean Water Action will continue to mobilize for an even stronger companion bill in the U.S. Senate, and will work with our allies to require more measures to reduce global warming and achieve the clean energy transformation w e need to boost our economy and to protect our water and other natural resources.

Clean Water Action believes the next steps on the path are clear:

- Create more clean energy jobs with stronger renewable energy and energy efficiency provisions;
- Increase investments that help foster a fair and effective international agreement;
- Prepare for the impacts of climate change on natural resources and vulnerable communities, changes that c an no longer be avoided;
- Provide strong, effective oversight by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure the progr am meets its goals;
- Develop a requirement that global warming polluters pay for their pollution, generating funds for initiatives that assist consumers and support efficiency, renewables and other clean energy programs;
- Halt all investment of limited public resources for energy sources that continue to waste and pollute water r esources – including coal and nuclear power.

Clean Water Action commends Representatives Waxman and Markey on their foresight and leadership on this

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issue, and hope that similar principals emerge in the Senate as our country gets down to the real work of developing solutions to this great challenge. We are at a crossroads in our history. Passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act provides the signpost we need to continue in the right direction.

Clean Water Action is the nation's leading grassroots environmental campaign organization, with more than 1 million members nationwide. For over thirty years, Clean Water Action has been a leader in protecting America's waters, the public health and empowering people to take charge of their environmental future.
www.cleanwateraction.org

****

Elise Annunziata
National Deputy Political Director
Clean Water Action
www.cleanwateraction.org

913 Elm St., Suite 506
Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 622-8151
(603) 622-2661 Fax

****

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
David@db-research.com
Date: 4/24/2015 12:04:38 PM
Subject: RE: Initial Economic Questions for Republicans

Of course I meant Paul Ryan.

It's just so confusing with 19 of them. It's like a football team that has its offense and defense on the field at the same time.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 2:52 PM
To: jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com; David@db-research.com
Cc: john.podesta@gmail.com; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; re47@hillaryclinton.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Initial Economic Questions for Republicans

On economic issues, I know Jake and his team will come up with a good list, but there are already two proposals on the table that I think we should try to get all GOPers to weigh in on:
--Rubio's tax plan that includes dropping the top rate for those making over $400k from 39.6 to 35.
--Rand Paul's 17% flat tax.
Also, it would be great to get:
--Dodd/Frank -- repeal? CFPB repeal?
--repeal of carried interest tax break
--repeal of oil company tax breaks
We already have the Senators' votes on Elizabeth Warren's student loan refinancing bills. We might get the other candidates too.
We might also get reaction to paid leave.

thx

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
To: David Binder <David@db-research.com >
Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 9:43 pm
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder < David@db-research.com > wrote:

> One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:
>
> Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.
>
> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
> **To:** John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
> **Subject:** Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24
>
> For our eight am call tomorrow

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Stories for tomorrow:

- Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
- New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
- ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
- Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
- WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
- Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
- Bloomberg- Laureate
- NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed

Story Lines:

1. Nervous Dems
2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/3/2008 1:28:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/3

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 3rd, 2008

Today: New Mexico, South Dakota and Montana primaries

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
10:05am BUSH: Participates in a photo opportunity and speaks to the 2008 NCAA Men's Basketball Champions at the White House

1pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in Memphis, TN

5pm McCain: Finance Reception in New Orleans, LA

9pm McCain: Speech and Rally in Kenner, LA
- Tracking scheduled for this event

News Clips:

MCCAIN AIPAC SPEECH NEWS

McCain Sharpens His Foreign Policy Attacks on Obama (NYT 6/3/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
As the bitter Democratic presidential nomination battle was consumed by rancorous maneuverings, Senator John McCain honed his national security message before Jewish leaders on Monday, saying Senator Barack Obama's policies toward Iraq and Iran would create chaos in the Middle East and endanger the United States and Israel.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/03/us/politics/03mccain.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin
Link to transcript: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/mccains_speech_to_aipac.html
Link to video: http://thepage.time.com/video-mccain-at-aipac/
Link to Obama's response: http://thepage.time.com/obama-camp-response-to-mccains-aipac-speech/

Iran Emerges As Key Issue In Jewish Vote (WSJ 6/3/08)
By JAY SOLOMON and ELIZABETH HOLMES; Page A8
John McCain told Washington's most powerful pro-Israel lobby that if elected president he would drastically ramp up financial pressure on Iran's rulers by targeting the country's gasoline imports and imposing sanctions against its central bank.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121244038734339131.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

McCain's Attack On Obama Gets Standing Ovation At AIPAC (Huffington Post 6/2/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
Republican strategists who hope to cut into Democrats' usual advantage among Jewish voters have some cause for optimism this morning. Speaking on Monday to the annual policy conference of the most powerful Jewish lobbying organization in Washington, DC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Sen. John McCain received his most enthusiastic standing ovation at the close of his most pointed attack on Sen. Barack Obama.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/02/mccains-attack-on-obama-g_n_104668.html

Both McCain, Obama exaggerating Iran's nuclear program (McClatchy 6/2/08)
Jonathan S. Landay
The presumptive Republican nominee for president and the leading contender for the Democratic nomination are exaggerating what's known about Iran's nuclear program as they duel over how best to deal with Tehran.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/227/story/39423.html

McCain, Obama funds invest in firms working in Iran (USA TODAY 6/3/08)
By Matt Kelley and Ken Dilanian
John McCain and Barack Obama have urged investors to steer clear of Iran, but their family investments include

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mutual funds with shares in companies doing business in the oil-rich country, their financial disclosures show.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-02-investments_N.htm

McCain Mocks Idea Of Presidential Talks With Enemies, Despite Fact That Majority Of Americans Favor It (ThinkProgress 6/2/08)
Speaking at the America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) meeting today, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) derided the idea of direct talks with the Iranian leadership, as favored by Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), mocking "the hope that we can talk sense into them":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/02/poll-favor-negotiations/

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain talks social issues in Nashville visit (The Tennessean 6/3/08)
By BRAD SCHRADE and THEO EMERY
Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain was tested as a social conservative in a campaign stop in Nashville Monday, while he also repeated his familiar criticism of Democratic candidate Barack Obama's fitness to be commander-in-chief.
http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080603/NEWS0201/806030346&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL

McCain to appear with country singer who compared same-sex marriage to incest (ThinkProgress 6/2/08)
In October 2007, country music singer John Rich, one half of Big & Rich, sparked controversy when he called homosexuality "unnatural" and compared same-sex marriage to incest:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/02/mccain-to-appear-with-country-singer-who-compared-same-sex-marriage-to-incest/

After losing in primary, McCain targets Tennessee (The Tennessean 6/3/08)
By JENNIFER BROOKS
Rolling into Nashville, John McCain laid out his strategy for winning over the two-thirds of Tennessee Republicans who didn't vote for him during the presidential primary.
http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080603/NEWS0201/806030347&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL

Obama focuses on economy (Boston Globe blog 6/2/08)
Posted by Foon Rhee
In the state with the nation's highest unemployment rate, Democrat Barack Obama said this afternoon that his likely Republican foe John McCain just wants to talk about Iraq "instead of offering real solutions" to the nation's economic woes.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/06/obama_focuses_o.html

Old Issue in N.J. Race Could Be Preview (Washington Post 6/3/08)
By Paul Kane; A05
Sen. Lautenberg Criticized Over Age, Raising Similar November Scenario for McCain
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/02/AR2008060202985.html

McCain has 'senior moment' on the campaign trail: 'I will win in January.' (ThinkProgress 6/2/08)
Sen. John McCain had one of his infamous "senior moments" while speaking at a campaign rally in Nashville today. "If we do everything right — and we can and we will — I will win in January," he said, "and I will be the next President of the United States."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/02/mccains-has-senior-moment-on-the-campaign-trail-i-will-win-in-january/
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Bqy2vrPGV8

McCain 'Nitpicks' His 'Verb Tense,' Claims Troops Are Now 'Drawing Down' To Pre-Surge Levels (ThinkProgress 6/2/08)
...Apparently, however, McCain is now acknowledging that he did misspeak. At a campaign event today, McCain "nitpicked" his "verb tense" and said that U.S. forces are currently in the process of drawing down to pre-surge levels:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/02/mccain-pre-surge/
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvOeC8WvlfU

Cheney calls suspending gas tax a 'false notion' (Washington Post 6/3/08)
By BEN FELLER

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Vice President Dick Cheney on Monday rejected a suspension of the federal gasoline tax as proposed by his party's presumptive presidential nominee, Sen. John McCain. Cheney said it would offer little help to consumers coping with gas prices around $4 a gallon.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/02/AR2008060202328.html

TRB: The Illusionist (New Republic 6/3/08*)
*Print date: 6/11/08
by Jonathan Chait
...Actually, McCain is following the pattern of not just Bush but every Republican president since Ronald Reagan. Phase One is to enact tax cuts and promise that they'll cause revenues to rise, or will cause revenues to fall (leading to spending cuts), or somehow both at once, so, either way, there's no possibility that it will lead to deficits. Phase Two is deficits. Phase Three is to blame the deficits on big-spending congressional fat cats and to issue increasingly strident threats to cut expenditures, without going so far as to identify actual programs to cut.
http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=f5a811b8-a7e3-4615-8677-7f349950a9c7

McCain to try to claim mantle of change (AP 6/3/08)
By Liz Sidoti
With voters sour on the status quo, Republican John McCain plans to spend the next five months arguing that he has a history of fighting to reform government and that Democrat Barack Obama talks of change with nothing to show for it.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080603/D9129L6G0.html

November sit-out threats worry GOP (Washington Times 6/3/08)
By S.A. Miller
Republican voters increasingly say they have lost faith in the party and might not vote this year, compounding headaches for party leaders struggling to avert a November massacre at the polls.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/03/november-sit-out-threats-worry-gop/

She's Back (Portfolio Magazine 6/2/08)
Could ousted Hewlett-Packard C.E.O. Carly Fiorina end up on the McCain ticket?
http://www.portfolio.com/views/columns/washington/2008/06/02/Possible-McCain-Fiorina-Ticket

McCain Aide Sees Sexism, a View That Fits a Pattern (Washington Post blog 6/2/08)
By Garance Franke-Ruta
A top adviser to presumptive Republican nominee Sen. John McCain said that she believes Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has faced sexism on the campaign trail.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/02/top_mccain_advisers_says_sexis.html

McCain Quietly Spending on TV in Swing States (Washington Post blog 6/2/08)
By Matthew Mosk
Republican John McCain has quietly spent about $1.5 million on television ads in key swing states over the past 90 days, trying to get an early edge with voters while his Democratic rival remains bogged down by a protracted primary battle.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/02/mccain_quietly_spending_on_tv.html

Exclusive: McCain Almost Took "One-Term" Pledge (Atlantic Online 6/2/08)
By Marc Ambinder
When he formally announced his presidential candidacy last year, Sen. John McCain was inches away from making an unprecedented pledge: if he were elected, he would serve only one term as president.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/06/exclusive_mccain_almost_took_o.php

McCain's Top Strategist Lobbied For Iran-Linked Firm (Huffington Post 6/2/08)
By Sam Stein
In the summer of 2005, John McCain's chief strategist Charlie Black, working for his firm Black, Kelly, Scruggs & Healey, was paid $60,000 to lobby the U.S. government on behalf of the Chinese oil conglomerate CNOOC. At the time, CNOOC was mounting an aggressive bid to buy Unocal, a California-based oil giant, and Black was tasked with churning up congressional support. But the bid ultimately fell through, in part because of objections over the China oil industry's ties to Iran, a country in which it had already invested tens of millions of dollars.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/02/senior-mccain-aide-had-cl_n_104696.html

On the budget, Bush and McCain are eerily similar (Carpetbagger Report 6/2/08)
The Up-Until-Recently John McCain took a fairly reasonable line on the federal budget. In 2001, this McCain saw

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Bush's tax-cut plan as reckless and irresponsible, and voted accordingly. In 2003, the same McCain went in the same direction.
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/15741.html

McCain's Timetable for Choosing a Running Mate (US News & World Report 6/2/08)
Insiders in John McCain's Republican presidential campaign expect him to make his choice of a vice presidential running mate during the first half of August, about two or three weeks before the start of the GOP nominating convention in Minnesota.
http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/campaign-2008/2008/06/02/mccains-timetable-for-choosing-a-running-mate.html

John McCain's reign of error (Philadephia Inquirer blog 6/2/08)
It's lucky for John McCain that most politically-aware Americans remain riveted by the Hillary Clinton sideshow (more on that later), because he continues to make inexplicable factual errors without any willingness to acknowledge them. If more people were paying attention, they might well wonder whether this guy is as sharp about foreign policy as he purports to be.
http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/americandebate/19455269.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Calling Dr. Doom (NYT 6/3/08)
By DAVID BROOKS
It took Christopher Columbus about 70 days to get to the New World — a bit less than half as long as it took us to get through the 2008 primary calendar. But by Tuesday night, we'll have reached our destination, and people in the Obama and McCain camps are feeling good about themselves.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/03/opinion/03brooks.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Obama's judgment on Iraq falls short (LA Times 6/3/08)
By Jonah Goldberg
There is one candidate who's been consistently right about the war, and it isn't the Democrat.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goldberg3-2008jun03,0,4829049.column

McCain plan bad for wounded GIs (Arizona Daily Star 6/3/08)
By John Gage
With 1.6 million American heroes returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, never has it been more urgent to strengthen the veterans' health-care system.
http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/241845

Is There Life After Earmarks? (Washington Post 6/3/08)
By Jeffrey H. Birnbaum; A13
It looks as though 2008 will be a year of few earmarks.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/02/AR2008060202625_pf.html

McCain and Obama's Excellent Adventure (NYT blog 6/2/08)
By Dan Schnur
There was a time when John McCain and Barack Obama could have gone to Iraq together. There was a time, perhaps back in 2000, when candidate McCain could have made the offer in good faith. There was a time, perhaps back in 2004, when keynote speaker Obama could have accepted. But those two men no longer exist. Here in the present, neither candidate can afford the risk of high-mindedness or statesmanship when the stakes are so high.
http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/02/mccain-and-obamas-excellent-adventure/?ref=opinion

BUSH NEWS

Bush gives Medal of Honor to soldier killed in Iraq (AP 6/2/08)
President Bush on Monday presented the nation's highest military award to a 19-year-old soldier who died saving the lives of four comrades in Iraq by jumping on a grenade tossed into their military vehicle. The honored soldier, Army Pfc. Ross McGinnis, "gave all for his country," the president said somberly.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jgmq1XAfrDpfeFyTbsiAeW7UmofgD91267880

Bush: 43M families hurt if tax cuts expire (CNNMoney 6/2/08)
By Jeanne Sahadi
President also says small business owners will take a hit if lawmakers fail to extend his 2001-03 tax relief. But critics say that's not necessarily the case.

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http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/02/news/economy/bush_taxcuts_anniversary/?postversion=2008060218

Cheney Offers False Excuse For His 'So?' Comment: I Meant, 'What's The Question, Martha?' (ThinkProgress 6/2/08)
In an interview on the fifth anniversary of the Iraq invasion, Vice President Cheney told ABC's Martha Raddatz that he doesn't care about the American public's views on the war:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/02/cheney-so-revise/

Cheney forced to apologize for incest joke about West Virginians (ThinkProgress 6/2/08)
At the National Press Club today, Vice President Dick Cheney raised the ire of West Virginia lawmakers when he made an offhand incest joke about the state, saying he "had Cheneys on both sides of the family and we don't even live in West Virginia." West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, Sens. Robert Byrd (D) and Jay Rockefeller (D) and Reps. Shelley Moore Capito (R) and Nick Rahall (D) all condemned Cheney's attempt at humor. This evening, Cheney's spokesperson, Lea Anne McBride, put out a statement apologizing for the Vice President:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/02/cheney-forced-to-apologize-for-incest-joke-about-west-virginians/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Obama Is Poised To Clinch Victory (Washington Post 6/3/08)
By Shailagh Murray and Anne E. Kornblut; A01
On the eve of the final two primaries of a five-month marathon, Sen. Barack Obama stood poised to wrap up the Democratic presidential nomination, while Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton weighed whether to stay in the race in hopes of delaying what appears to be an inevitable outcome.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/02/AR2008060203095.html
See also: http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1811254,00.html

Kennedy Brain Surgery 'Successful' (AP 6/2/08)
By AP/MIKE BAKER
Sen. Edward M. Kennedy is out of surgery at Duke University, and his doctor says a procedure to treat his cancerous brain tumor "was successful and accomplished our goals."
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1811154,00.html

Byrd admitted to hospital (West Virginia Gazette 6/2/08)
U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd was admitted to a hospital Monday evening because of a high temperature, his spokesman said.
http://wvgazette.com/latest/200806020650

Pakistan Blast Was Suicide Attack (NYT 6/4/08)
By JANE PERLEZ and PIR ZUBAIR SHAH
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The car-bomb attack on the Danish Embassy that killed eight people appears to have been carried out by a suicide bomber, Pakistan's Interior Ministry said Tuesday.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/04/world/asia/04pakistan.html?hp

U.N. chief: Increase food to avert crisis (CNN 6/3/08)
* 3-day Rome summit aims to avert widening hunger and civil unrest worldwide
* Ban urges nations to ease farming taxes, export bans and import tariffs
* Ban to request U.S. and other nations phase out subsidies for biofuels
* Food prices have been skyrocketing due to high oil prices, extreme weather

http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/06/03/un.food.prices/

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Sara DuBois
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/5/2015 12:58:03 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 7.5.15
Attachments:	7.5.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips
July 5, 2015

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Bill Clinton (7/4/15, 9:24 AM) - 239 years later, the United States of America is still in the future business. Happy Independence Day everyone! #4thofjuly..... 8

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Reassures Gay Youth in Viral Facebook Photo // NYT // Liam Stack – July 4, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton offered moral support to a distraught gay youth who shared his anxiety about his future in a viral photograph posted on the Humans of New York Facebook page, telling him on Friday that it would be "amazing."

The boy, who is not named in the photo, is shown frowning and holding his head in his hands while sitting on a stoop.

"I'm homosexual, and I'm afraid about what my future will be and that people won't like me," he said, according to the caption.

Two hours after the picture was posted, Mrs. Clinton typed out some words of encouragement and signed her comment "H," indicating that it was written by her and not by a member of her staff.

"Prediction from a grown-up: Your future is going to be amazing," she wrote. "You will surprise yourself with what you're capable of and the incredible things you go on to do. Find the people who love and believe in you — there will be lots of them."

Kristina Schake, Clinton's deputy communications director, took a screen shot of the comment and shared it on Twitter shortly after it was written.

Humans of New York is no stranger to viral content. Its posts, often showcasing the quirkier side of life in New York City, have been viewed millions of times and have inspired imitators in cities and countries around the world, including Syria; Mumbai, India; and Tehran.

But the nature of Friday's post — a young gay person who appeared little more than a child, and Mrs. Clinton's comforting response — gave it a lightning-in-a-bottle charge that helped it spread rapidly. Within 24 hours, it had been liked by more than 530,000 people and shared over 47,000 times, with more than 33,000 people scrolling through the comment thread to like Mrs. Clinton's response.

Mrs. Clinton has made support for gay people one of the cornerstones of her presidential campaign. Two days before the Supreme Court ruled last month that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right, her campaign released a video that featured a montage of same-sex weddings.

"Some have suggested that gay rights and human rights are separate and distinct, but in fact, they are one and the same," she said in the video. "Being L.G.B.T. does not make you less human."

Gay rights organizations scored a major victory with the Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage, but significant challenges remain, they say. Discrimination is still an issue, and many young people face isolation and hostility from their families and communities.

According to the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention organization, lesbian, gay and bisexual young people are four times more likely than their straight peers to attempt suicide, and roughly a quarter of transgender youth report having made at least one suicide attempt.

Hillary Clinton Accuses China of Hacking U.S. Computers // Reuters – July 4, 2015

GLEN, N.H. (Reuters) - U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton accused China on Saturday of stealing commercial secrets and "huge amounts of government information," and of trying to "hack into everything that doesn't move in America."

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Clinton's language on China appeared to be far stronger than that usually used by President Barack Obama's Democratic administration.

Speaking at a campaign event in New Hampshire, Clinton said she wanted to see China's peaceful rise.

"But we also have to be fully vigilant, China's military is growing very quickly, they're establishing military installations that again threaten countries we have treaties with, like the Philippines because they are building on contested property," said Clinton, who was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

"They're also trying to hack into everything that doesn't move in America. Stealing commercial secrets ... from defense contractors, stealing huge amounts of government information, all looking for an advantage," she said.

Clinton is the front-runner to win the Democratic nomination for the November 2016 presidential election.

Asked about the remarks, a White House official declined to comment.

In the most recent case involving suspicions of Chinese hacking, Obama administration officials have said China is the top suspect in the massive hacking of a U.S. government agency that compromised the personnel records of at least 4.2 million current and former government workers.

China has denied hacking into the computers of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

IRAN AND PUTIN

Clinton also addressed the current talks over Iran's nuclear program and had strong words for Tehran.

She said that even if a deal is reached with Iran, Tehran's "aggressiveness will not end" and it will remain a principal state sponsor of terrorism.

Clinton said she hoped that "a strong verifiable deal" would be reached at talks in Vienna between world powers and Iran.

But she added that even with an agreement, "They will continue to be the principal state sponsor of terrorism. They will continue to destabilize governments in the region and beyond. They will continue to use their proxies like Hezbollah. And they will continue to be an existential threat to Israel."

The United States, other world powers and Iran have set a July 7 deadline to reach a deal to curb Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for a lifting of sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

At the campaign event, Clinton also said the United States has to be "much smarter" about how it deals with Russian President Vladimir Putin's territorial ambitions.

She said Putin's moves to expand Russia's boundaries, such as the annexation of Crimea last year, posed a challenge for the United States but she touted her experience as America's chief diplomat.

She noted that because of NATO members' agreement to protect fellow members, had Ukraine been a member of NATO when Crimea was annexed, "that would have caused us to have to respond."

She added on Putin: "I've dealt with him. I know him. He's not an easy man ... But I don't think there is any substitute other than constant engagement."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dan Merica (7/4/15, 6:43 AM) - Many ppl in Gorham seem genuinely impressed HRC is traveling this far north for the 4th in NH, say they haven't had many 2016 visits.

Bill Clinton (7/4/15, 9:24 AM) - 239 years later, the United States of America is still in the future business. Happy Independence Day everyone! #4thofjuly

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Protesters Challenge Hillary Clinton During Parade in New Hampshire // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 4, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton made her first visit of the campaign to northern New Hampshire on Saturday, marching in

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a Fourth of July parade alongside dozens of her supporters and, for the first time since she became a candidate, being met by a handful of persistent protesters.

Mrs. Clinton walked in front of a large sign with her campaign logo at the parade in Gorham, N.H., and a group of supporters chanted her name as they walked along. People along the sidewalks called out “Hillary!” to her on Main Street, urging her to shake their hands.

But there was other chanting as well, from a tall man on the sidelines who carried a sign that read “Benghazi” with red paint stains on it.

“Carpetbagger!” he called out repeatedly, a charge leveled against Mrs. Clinton when she first ran for the Senate in 2000 (and not used much since). He was joined by a half-dozen other protesters who followed her along the route in the working-class area, trying repeatedly to get her attention.

“Where were you at 3 o’clock in the morning when the phone rang!” the man yelled. “Tell us about when you were poor!”

A handful of Clinton volunteers eventually drifted toward the sidewalks, chanting her name in an effort to drown the protesters out. Mrs. Clinton never acknowledged them, as she took pictures with a group of beauty queens and stopped to talk to a wounded Marine, injured in Iraq, who was in a wheelchair and could not communicate.

“He can understand everything you say to him,” Nellie Bagli said of her 40-year-old son, Jose, who was seriously wounded in March 2006.

“I can see that in his eyes,” Mrs. Clinton said.

Ms. Bagli told reporters she lives in Florida and that the cooler climate of New Hampshire benefits her son’s health. She is unsure of whether she will support Mrs. Clinton, she said, adding that after what her son had gone through, “it’s hard to believe” what politicians say.

Mrs. Clinton’s aides, in what they said was an effort to allow voters to reach her freely without her being surrounded by a mass of reporters, kept the dozen journalists covering the event behind a length of rope carried by two campaign aides.

When the parade ended, Mrs. Clinton held up her hands in a shrug when asked whether the protesters were jarring.

At another point, she was asked the same question and said, “I’m just having a good time meeting everybody.”

Aides said they selected the location for Mrs. Clinton’s Fourth of July event because she had not visited the region yet during the campaign, and other parades were in parts of the state she had traveled to already.

Later, Mrs. Clinton made an unscheduled stop to the Northland Dairy Bar in nearby Berlin, which was fairly empty. She chatted with the patrons there, before heading toward a corner table. There were slices of pie waiting for her.

“O.K., you guys are not gonna film me eating,” Mrs. Clinton said, laughing, as she urged the reporters who were there to move on. “This is not newsworthy. Take a picture of me standing here in front of these great pies by myself. It’s a headline! It’s a headline.”

Clinton, Bush struggle to shed dynasty labels during holiday parades in N.H. // WaPo // Philip Rucker & Ed O’Keefe – July 4, 2015

GORHAM, N.H. — For Hillary Rodham Clinton, walking in Saturday’s Fourth of July parade in this mountain hamlet was supposed to showcase the sometimes-stiff candidate as accessible and in touch with the people — a champion for everyday Americans, as the Democratic presidential front-runner likes to put it.

But the image Clinton projected during this rare glimpse as a candidate away from the podium seemed to reinforce how very different she is from the voters she was courting. She marched briskly down Main Street in a cocoon of campaign staffers and Secret Service agents. Hecklers followed her, shouting epithets. The former secretary of state enthusiastically shook hands and exchanged pleasantries with supporters — “Good to see you!” “I need your vote.” “Let’s make it happen!” — but only occasionally slowed down to chat, such as when aides directed her to a Marine Corps veteran in a wheelchair.

The media, meanwhile, was kept at a distance and mostly out of earshot of Clinton’s interactions in this rural, working-class community. A few minutes into the parade, her aides unfurled a long rope across the street to physically block journalists from getting too close to the candidate.

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“It feels like a coronation, doesn’t it?” one man shouted. “God bless the queen!”

Clinton, smiling in a red-white-and-blue pantsuit and navy Salvatore Ferragamo patent leather flats, pretended not to hear him and remarked, “I actually love parades.”

At another parade at the other end of New Hampshire, another dynasty candidate also tried to shake impressions of being aloof.

Jeb Bush has been laboring to rid himself of the burdens of his family’s political legacy. But as the former Republican governor of Florida walked the parade route in Amherst, it became clear how difficult it would be for voters to distinguish him from his father and brother, both former presidents.

A few people accidentally called him George. One man wore a red T-shirt that said, “Bush Hat Trick,” a reference to when hockey players score three goals in a game. “Where did you get that shirt?” Bush asked begrudgingly. When an older woman said, “I love your mother,” the candidate replied, “I love her, too!”

Others had different opinions.

“No more Bushes!” one woman shouted at the candidate. “No more Bushes!”

Marching in Independence Day parades is a time-honored political tradition in New Hampshire, which hosts the first presidential primary. With seven months until the primary, candidates fanned out across the state Saturday to walk with their supporters carrying signs, balloons or other insignia — and to win over new fans.

In Wolfeboro, a picturesque tourist town on Lake Winnipesaukee, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) marched in the morning parade. Both candidates, as well as their families, had spent the night at the home of Wolfeboro’s most famous part-time resident: Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee. The three politicians were spotted getting ice cream together at Bailey’s Bubble on Friday night.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry (R), Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) and former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee (D) also marched in the Amherst parade with Bush. Other candidates had contingents if they, themselves, couldn’t participate. One of the biggest draws there was a blue school bus, powered by vegetable oil, to promote the candidacy of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Riding aboard the bus were two chickens, Clucky and Chucky.

Bush’s group was relatively subdued. Sporting chinos and a button-down shirt, Bush walked with about 30 campaign volunteers. Their big attraction was a 1961 silver Corvette with red leather interior, driven by state Sen. Russell Prescott.

“I’m carrying water for Jeb Bush,” Prescott said. He literally was: A case of bottled water was on the floor of the car next to him. As the parade began, an EMT worker instructed Bush: “Keep everybody hydrated. I don’t want to have to work today.”

Bush was joined by son George P., the Texas land commissioner, and Bush’s daughter, Noelle, who rarely appears publicly with her father. Unlike her more gregarious brother, who kept near his father, she trailed behind, blending in with the crowd and handing out stickers.

Bush hustled on the parade route, darting back and forth across the street, seemingly determined to shake every hand on both sides. It was an impossible feat, of course, and quickly slowed down the parade. At one point, a parade marshal, Paula Schmida, asked Bush adviser Rich Killion to get the candidate to pick up the pace.

Like Clinton, Bush was confronted by aggressive activists, some of whom wore orange T-shirts and sunglasses furnished by NextGen Climate, the group funded by billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer.

One young woman handed Bush a small cup with a slushy treat, telling him that it represented a warming planet.

“Oh, yeah? I already got one of those,” Bush told her.

“Our second one today,” Killion said as he took the treat from Bush and nudged the woman back.

When another woman haggled over climate change with Bush, the candidate, clearly aggravated, told her to “chill out!”

In Gorham, Clinton was joined on the parade route by a few dozen supporters. They carried a big banner and signs with her H campaign logo and chanted “H-I-L-L-A-R-Y!”

But one man followed closely at Clinton’s side with a very different message: “Benghazi,” read the homemade sign,

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with what looked like red blood dripping from the letters. He screamed at her about the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attacks in Libya and her book-tour gaffe last year that she and former president Bill Clinton had been "dead broke."

"Where were you when the phone rang at 3 a.m. on September 11th?" he asked. "Tell us about when you were poor," he demanded.

Across the way, a man on a bicycle shouted at Clinton: "What about Benghazi? What about the e-mails? You're a liar!" One Clinton aide, noticing the man's spandex biking outfit, shot back, "Nice shorts."

Clinton did not seem fazed by the hecklers. Asked at the end how the parade went, she said, "It was fabulous!"

But by this point, the Clinton campaign's rope line barring journalists had lighted up Twitter. Within about an hour, Jennifer Horn, chairman of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee, was out with a statement calling the rope "a sad joke" and condemning Clinton for "arrogant and shameful behavior."

"Hillary Clinton continues to demonstrate her obvious contempt and disdain for the Granite State's style of grass-roots campaigning," Horn said.

At day's end, Clinton visited a diner-style restaurant in nearby Berlin to mix and mingle. "How are the fries?" she asked a woman and her two children, sliding into the booth to join them for a moment.

Clinton then headed to an empty table, where two slices of pie (blueberry and raspberry) awaited her. Reporters followed.

"Okay, you guys are not gonna film me eating," she said, sitting down with aides Huma Abedin, Kristina Schake and Mike Vlacich.

When one reporter asked her about Donald Trump, Clinton demurred.

"You know," she said, "I'm gonna sit down and have some pie."

Clinton campaign gives new meaning to the term 'rope line' at New Hampshire parade // WaPo // Vanessa Williams – July 4, 2015

It wasn't like A-list celebrities or pro ballers were being hounded by the paparazzi at Saturday's Independence Day parade in Gorham, N.H. It was just Hillary Clinton and the workaday press corps that regularly follows her around.

So why did the Democratic presidential candidate's campaign see fit to put up a rope line to keep reporters and photographers at bay while Clinton shook hands and greeted voters during an afternoon procession up Main Street?

Our colleague Philip Rucker reports that initially the press had been able to get close to Clinton and observe and listen as she chatted up voters. Then he said campaign aides unfurled a rope that stretched across the street, blocking access to the candidate. Rucker said they were kept 10 to 15 feet away from Clinton and could no longer hear what she was saying to people.

But the press could clearly hear what some people were saying to her. A group of protesters followed her along the route shouting such sentiments as "What about Benghazi?" and "Show us your e-mails!"

The conservative news site Twitchy was clearly enjoying the spectacle.

The New Hampshire Republican Party denounced "the use of a rope line to protect the arrogant Democrat frontrunner on a public street."

"Hillary Clinton continues to demonstrate her obvious contempt and disdain for the Granite State's style of grassroots campaigning," Jennifer Horn, chairman of the state GOP, said in a statement. "The use of a rope line at a New Hampshire parade is a sad joke and insults the traditions of our First-in-the-Nation primary."

Clinton herself was quite pleased with the event:

Liz Kreutz @ABCLiz
Hillary Clinton to @PhilipRucker on how she enjoyed the parade: "It was fabulous!"

Bernie and Hillary's holiday weekend // Politico // Annie Karni & Jonathan Topaz – July 4, 2015

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GORHAM, N.H. — Hillary Clinton trekked to this small town in the White Mountains Saturday to march in a low-key Fourth of July parade, where she was trailed by a vocal heckler and surrounded by so many cameras that her aides employed a rope to corral the press.

After about 25 minutes of marching at a brisk pace and shaking hands with locals, Clinton headed to a diner where she chatted about policy issues with a handful of late lunchers, and then sat down to eat pie alone with a few of her senior staffers. It was the second leg of her two-day Granite State tour — on Friday she spoke at a campaign cookout that attracted about 850 people in the liberal enclave of Hanover, vowing: “I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record in standing up and fighting for progressive values.”

Meanwhile, Clinton’s main Democratic rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, spent the holiday weekend campaigning in Iowa, where a crowd of about 2,500 people overflowed a Friday evening rally in Council Bluffs. On Saturday, riding high off the energy of the crowd, he marched in two parades, in Creston and Waukee, a Republican-leaning suburb of Des Moines, where the crowd yelled for him: “We love you Bernie, yes we do!”
With seven months to go before the first caucuses in the country, the split-screen appearances offered telling clues to the state of the race between the Democratic front-runner and her insurgent rival on the left. Clinton’s events and appearances are modest and controlled, marked by caution and distance. Despite a double-digit lead over Sanders, she’s still seeking to establish her credentials to her skeptics on the left.

For his part, Sanders is feeding off a wave of liberal enthusiasm and plowing forward with populist grit. He’s embracing his surging underdog role — and the media attention and crowds accompanying it.

Clinton’s van arrived in Gorham just before 2 p.m., when she greeted local elected officials and a union leader inside a pizza parlor. Earlier in the day, she spoke at a grassroots campaign organizing event outside of Bartlett, N.H., which drew about 100 people at the private home of a supporter.

The parade route — just under a mile along the town’s Main Street, dotted with Clinton campaign posters — was complicated by a persistent heckler who trailed Clinton waving a poster that read “Benghazi,” and yelling out taunts at the candidate (“Carpetbagger!” “Where were you at 3 in the morning when the phone rang!” “Tell us when you were poor!”). Clinton wore a grin-and-bear-it smile as she continued shaking hands. “I’m just having a good time meeting everybody,” she shrugged when asked by reporters about the disruption.

To further complicate matters, Clinton’s advance team, worried a swarm of over a dozen reporters and cameras were blocking the former secretary of state from seeing the locals along the route, herded the press away from the candidate with the unsightly aid of a rope line. Photographs of reporters being physically dragged along by campaign staffers only bolstered the image of Clinton as press-averse. Republicans pounced on the photographs. “Today, Republican presidential candidates marched in parades across New Hampshire that were open to the public without obstruction from their staff,” New Hampshire Republican State Committee Chairman Jennifer Horn said in a statement.
Despite the disruptions, Clinton managed to interact with a few parade-goers. She stopped to chat with a veteran after an aide pointed her toward Nellie Bagli, who was watching the parade with her disabled son, Jose, 40, a Marine who has been in a wheelchair since being injured by a grenade in Iraq in 2006.

“Thank you for your sacrifice,” Clinton told them, with emotion in her voice. “I’ll be thinking of you.” She told Bagli that the holiday was all about people like her son. But Bagli shrugged off the interaction with Clinton. “I’m not sure yet,” she said of who she plans to vote for. Pointing to her son, she said: “I lost a lot here. By losing that much, it’s hard to believe a lot.”

Clinton did not take any questions from the press, but told a gaggle of reporters as she headed for the diner: “I love parades, I love walking in parades. We got such a great response, a lot of enthusiasm and energy to celebrate the Fourth of July.”

At her third stop of the day, at Northland Restaurant & Dairy Bar, Clinton spoke with about eight diners before settling into a corner table with two top campaign aides and her state director, Mike Vlacich, in front of thick slices of blueberry and raspberry pie. She refused to answer a question about Donald Trump. “You know, I’m gonna sit down and have some pie,” she said, as a swarm of reporters was ushered out of the restaurant.
Roughly 1,500 miles away, in central Iowa, Sanders headed into the holiday weekend with the wind at his back, and his poll numbers showing him up to 33 percent in the Hawkeye State. On Wednesday night, he hosted by far the biggest rally of the presidential cycle, attracting roughly 10,000 people at a raucous rally in Madison, Wisconsin. At the Friday rally in Council Bluffs, campaign officials passed out envelopes for campaign contributions and signed up volunteers.

“They cheered when he called for raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour,” said a spokesman, in an ebullient statement released Friday evening touting “the biggest Iowa crowd so far for any presidential candidate.” “They applauded when he said it’s time to break up the big banks on Wall Street. They shouted approval when he credited Pope Francis for his call for bold action to prevent catastrophic climate change. They rose to their feet when he said the United States should join every other major country and provide health care as a right of

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citizenship."

Sanders received another boost Friday — an endorsement from Larry Cohen, who recently stepped down as president of the Communications Workers of America. "This is not a close call," Cohen said at a press conference at a Council Bluffs union hall. "This is a guy who for his entire life has been there for working people."

Members of several other unions — including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the International Association of Firefighters — also attended the event. Organized labor has been a core constituency for Sanders during his time in the Senate, and in a sign of his increasing traction, AFL-CIO chief Richard Trumka sent a memo this week to state, central and area divisions of the labor federation reminding them that its bylaws don't permit them to "endorse a presidential candidate" or "introduce, consider, debate, or pass resolutions or statements that indicate a preference for one candidate over another."

Pete D'Alessandro, Sanders' Iowa director, said Sanders' trip showed his appeal throughout the state, and not just in liberal bastions like Iowa City. "This isn't some regional campaign. The message is resonating everywhere," he said. The campaign will have 30-35 people on the ground in Iowa by the end of the month and has a goal for 75-100 people by caucus night next year, D'Alessandro said. Clinton is scheduled to make her fourth visit to Iowa on Tuesday.

Her campaign, meanwhile, shrugged off the rope line drama with humor and said the day went according to plan. "While the GOP may want to spin a good yarn on this, let's not get tied up in knots," spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement. "We wanted to accommodate the press, allow her to greet voters, and allow the press to be right there in the parade with her as opposed to preset locations. And that's what we did."

Clinton goes after a Bush in New Hampshire // CNN // Dan Merica – July 4, 2015

Hanover, New Hampshire – Hillary Clinton went after a member of the Bush family on Friday in New Hampshire. Just not the one who is running for President.

Instead, Clinton subtly knocked -- but did not name -- George W. Bush twice in a speech where she portrayed herself as a progressive fighter.

"If you look at the evidence, at the end of Bill Clinton's two terms, we had the longest peacetime expansion in American history with 22 million new jobs, a balanced budget and a surplus that would have paid off our national debt if it had not been rudely interrupted by the next administration," Clinton said to loud applause from the assembled Dartmouth College students and local Democrats.

Clinton argued that "there is just a pattern" in which a Republican President wrecks the economy and it is left to the succeeding Democratic President to fix it. As her proof, Clinton pointed to both her husband and President Barack Obama, who she argued does not get enough credit for his response to the recession when he took office 2009.

"There is just a pattern here where the other side keeps using the same old tired, failed policies. They don't work," Clinton said. "And then Democratic presidents have to come in and fix what was broken."

And as a pitch for herself, Clinton said, "So lets break that and have a Democratic President to continue the policies that actually work for the vast majority of Americans."

Clinton's visit to New Hampshire for the Fourth of July holiday is her fourth to the first-in-the-nation primary state since she launched her campaign in April. To date, the campaign has focused on small events and organizing, something Clinton's aides hope will pay off at primary time in January 2016.

At Friday's event, Clinton delivered her standard stump speech to a crowd of around 850, the campaign said.

"We have to take on the gun lobby one more time," Clinton said in a pitch for gun control. "At the very least, we need to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, people with serious mental challenges, terrorists, all of whom now are perfectly free to go and find a gun somewhere. This is a controversial issue, I am well aware of that. But I think it is the height of irresponsibility not to talk about it. So I will talk about it."

Clinton spoke at length about how difficult the presidency is, calling it the "hardest job in the world," but one she knows she wants.

After the speech, Clinton and her staff headed to Dairy Twirl, a small local ice cream shop in Lebanon, the town over from Hanover.

"It's Fourth of July. You've got to get some ice cream," she said, getting out of her van.

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After ordering for herself, Clinton turned to the press and offered to buy.

"Would you guys like some ice cream?" Clinton asked the dozen or so reporters with her. "Those of you have traveled to the Upper Valley in pursuit of presidential politics. How about it? I'm paying. I'll buy if anybody wants it."

Instead of ice cream orders, though, Clinton was asked about Bernie Sanders, her Democratic challenger who has been surging lately, and why she hasn't drawn sizable crowds like the Independent Vermont senator.

"We each run our own campaigns, and I always knew this was going to be competitive," she said. "I want to have a great debate in the primary and caucus around the country and that is what I am looking forward to."

Earlier this week, Sanders was greeted by 9,600 people at an event in Madison, Wisconsin. Although crowd size does not equal electoral success, the Sanders campaign argues it shows excitement around their candidate and a lack of enthusiasm for Clinton.

The largest event Clinton has held so far was her campaign kickoff rally on New York's Roosevelt Island last month, where a few thousand people attended.

After taking two more questions, Clinton's ice cream appeared in the window.

"Is that for me?" she said at the size of the scoops. "Holy schmoley."

Clinton then shook a few more hands, met the owners of the shop and hopped into her van, headed for a fundraiser at the Holderness, New Hampshire home of Meg and Gary Hirshberg, the owners of the Stonyfield Farm organic yogurt company.

Clinton will celebrate the Fourth of July in Gorham, New Hampshire, where she will walk in their holiday parade.

Clinton campaign corrals media **// Dan Merica // CNN – July 4, 2015**

Gorham, New Hampshire (CNN)Hillary Clinton's campaign used a rope to keep journalists away from the candidate on Saturday while she walked in this small town's July Fourth parade.

The ensuing photos of journalists, including a CNN reporter, being somewhat dragged by a thin white rope as Clinton walked down Main Street caught fire online.

Initially, Clinton's campaign was not using a rope to corral the press, allowing journalists to get close to her and ask her questions.

But campaign aides said they brought the rope out because they feared the press scrum of around a dozen reporters and photojournalists would obstruct the view of New Hampshire voters attending the parade.

The rope was held by two of Clinton's advance staffers, who at times walked ahead of reporters, seemingly pulling them along the parade route.

"You guys, we are going to do 10 yards and a little more organized," said one of the advance staffers after breaking out the rope.

In explaining why they were using the rope, the staffer said, "so maybe a voter could see her, that kind of thing."

Clinton's Secret Service detail also urged journalists to abide by the mobile rope line.

"You are not going fast enough," one agent said when the rope tightened around a reporter's waist.

Since the campaign launched in April, Clinton's aides have tried to improve typically tense relations between the Clintons and the press, at times calling for a reset with reporters covering Clinton.

While the circus aspect of the event at times overshadowed Clinton's time at the parade, the candidate did glad-hand with many supporters and New Hampshire voters. At one point, she spoke with a wheelchair-bound Marine and his mother. The Iraq War veteran, who had a Marines blanket draped across most of his body, was injured by a grenade attack in March 2006.

Clinton walked away from the conversation somewhat shaken. "Whoa," she said when CNN asked her about the interaction.

But in addition to the corralled media and New Hampshire voters excited to see the presidential candidate, Clinton

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was followed by one vocal protester with a sign that read, "Benghazi." The older man, whose sign had fake blood spattered on it, continually shouted at the former secretary of state.

"Hillary, where were you at 3 a.m. when the phone rang on September 11?" he yelled, referring to the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi that left four Americans dead. He also yelled "carpetbagger," a reference to her 2000 Senate race in New York, and "Tell us when you were poor," a reference to a 2014 comment about being "dead broke" when she and former President Bill Clinton left the White House in 2001.

As the protester continued to follow Clinton, volunteers from the campaign followed him, chanting "Hillary, Hillary, Hillary."

Clinton was asked about the protesters, to which she responded, "I am just having a good time meeting everybody."

Clinton rarely comes in such close contact with protesters. Although there are regularly protesters outside her events, few ever get within shouting distance of her, let alone close enough to get her attention like the man.

A Clinton spokesperson told CNN called the rope a "soft barrier" that was necessary because the media mass around the candidate was making it "impossible" for her to talk to people.

One camera operator backpedaled into a toddler, the Clinton spokesperson said, and the rope made it possible for the parade to move smoothly.

But the Clinton campaign's use of a mobile rope line was catnip for Republicans, who seized on the issue.

"We all knew Hillary Clinton was desperate to avoid the media after months of controversy, but employing a moving rope line takes ducking reporters to absurd new heights," said Michael Short, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee. "Clearly the Fourth of July for Hillary Clinton means independence from answering tough questions."

The New Hampshire Republican Party took note.

"Clinton continues to demonstrate her obvious contempt and disdain for the Granite State's style of grassroots campaigning. The use of a rope line at a New Hampshire parade is a sad joke and insults the traditions of our First-in-the-Nation primary," New Hampshire Republican State Committee Chairman Jennifer Horn said in a statement.

But the Clinton campaign fired back.

"While the GOP may want to spin a good yarn on this, let's not get tied up in knots," said Nick Merrill, the campaign's traveling press secretary. "We wanted to accommodate the press, allow her to greet voters, and allow the press to be right there in the parade with her as opposed to preset locations. And that's what we did."

Who Clinton was looking for in New Hampshire **// CNN // Cassie Spodak – July 4, 2015**

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire (CNN)Hillary Clinton shook hands with countless supporters this weekend.

But there was one backer she recognized in particular when she made her fourth visit to New Hampshire as a presidential candidate: 9-year-old Ollie Olsen.

In June, Clinton held a rally outside Concord, New Hampshire, and signed a number of souvenirs supporters had left for her, one of which was a note Ollie wrote excusing him from school that day.

Ollie didn't realize she had signed it until the campaign tweeted out a picture, and he didn't get to meet the Democratic presidential hopeful.

But at Friday's grassroots event in Hanover, Ollie told CNN that Clinton came right up to him and said, "You're Ollie!"

"She said, 'You're the boy from the note,' and she noticed my grandma was a really good tennis player," he said.

Ollie was there with his mom Sarah, her boyfriend and her parents, and said they have no idea how she knew Sarah's mother, Lee, was a tennis player.

"I'm sure she was briefed, but that was really cute and just made us feel very special, even when she was about to go on stage in front of all these people she just made us feel very important," Sarah Olsen told CNN.

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Ollie and Clinton didn't talk for long, but they did take a picture with the note.

Ollie plans to campaign for Clinton this fall and said he's excited that Hillary Clinton could be the first woman president.

"It would be important because she would be the first woman president and that would be a lot of education for other kids learning Hillary Clinton was the first woman president," he told CNN. "It would be, like, as big as Abraham Lincoln."

For Sarah Olsen, the meeting is an important part of Ollie's education as a future New Hampshire voter.

"We want Ollie to go to all the different events and see Republicans and see Bernie Sanders and just kind of experience it and be able to make up his own mind for what he wants," she told CNN. "None of his friends know anything about politics. Granted, they're only 9, they don't vote for a while. They just completely don't understand why are all these people coming to New Hampshire, why this is so important."

Clinton has strong words on Chinese hacking // CNN // Dan Merica & Mariano Castillo – July 5, 2015

(CNN)Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unleashed some of the strongest words to date about China's hacking of U.S. computers.

China is "trying to hack into everything that doesn't move" in the United States, Clinton said, accusing the Chinese of stealing information from both businesses and government agencies.

China is suspected of the recent theft of the personal data of about 18 million current, former and prospective federal employees who were affected by a cyber breach at the Office of Personnel Management.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told an intelligence conference last month that the Chinese are "the leading suspect" in the massive hack of the OPM.

"They're also trying to hack into everything that doesn't move in America," Clinton said at a campaign event in Glen, New Hampshire. "Stealing commercial secrets, blueprints from defense contractors, stealing huge amounts of government information. All looking for an advantage."

Clinton said America's response to China's rise will determine much of the future for the United States and the world.

"I want to see a peaceful rise for China," Clinton said. "I worked very hard on that as secretary of state, I will continue to do so. But we also have to be fully vigilant that China's military is growing very quickly and they are establishing military installations that again threaten countries we have treaties with, like the Philippines, because they are building on contested property."

Clinton was referring to China's building of manmade islands in disputed waters.

Hillary Clinton Reporters Kept Behind Moving Rope Line At New Hampshire Parade // ABC News // Liz Kreutz – July 4, 2015

At the Fourth of July parade Hillary Clinton marched in today in Gorham, New Hampshire, reporters following the candidate were kept -- and at moments, dragged -- behind an actual moving rope line.

The rope, which two Clinton staffers held on to on either side, was meant to give Clinton space as she walked down the parade route, but photos of reporters being dragged behind the rope as she marched have gone viral on Twitter.

The New Hampshire GOP released a statement critiquing Clinton, saying her use of the rope "insults the traditions of our First-in-the-Nation primary" and touted the Republican presidential candidates for marching in parades without "obstruction from their staff."

Clinton's campaign has not responded to ABC News' request for comment regarding the use of the rope for reporters or to the GOP criticism.

Clinton, meanwhile, seemed to enjoy the parade herself, as she waved to and greeted voters -- ignoring a group of loud protesters that trailed right behind her.

"Where were you at 3am when the phone rang? Name one accomplishment! Tell us about when you were poor!" shouted one man, holding up a sign that read "BENGHAZI."

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But Clinton didn't let that rattle her.

"I'm just having a good time meeting everybody," Clinton said when asked whether she had anything to say to them.

And even by the end, her sentiment hadn't changed.

"It was fabulous," she said. "I love parades, I love walking in parades, got such a great response ... a lot of enthusiasm and energy to celebrate the Fourth of July."

Following the event, Clinton made a stop at Dairy Bar, a relatively empty nearby restaurant, where she mingled with patrons. Clinton was asked by this reporter about her thoughts to the backlash against Donald Trump. But she dismissed the question in lieu of dessert.

"I'm going to sit down and have some pie," she said.

Clinton defends progressive record as campaigns hit Independence Day // The Guardian // Jana Kasperkevic – July 4, 2015

As 2016 presidential candidates flocked to spend Independence Day in early voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton found herself defending her record on policy and the size of crowds at her events.

“I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record in standing up and fighting for progressive values,” Clinton told an audience in Hanover, New Hampshire, on Friday.

On Saturday, Independence Day itself, she spoke extensively about subjects including last week’s historic supreme court ruling on same-sex marriage, saying: “The language Justice Kennedy uses about the bonds between people is just almost mystical. It’s beautiful. So we have to do everything we can to end discrimination in the LGBT community.”

Clinton has come under greater-than-expected pressure from the independent Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist running a determinedly grassroots-focused campaign who nonetheless attracted nearly 10,000 people to a rally in Wisconsin on Wednesday. On Friday night, a Sanders event in Council Buffs, Iowa, was standing-room only.

On Friday, while visiting the Dairy Twirl ice cream shop in Lebanon, Clinton was asked why she was not drawing such big crowds.

“Well, we each run our own campaigns and I always knew this was gonna be competitive,” she said. “And I want to have a great debate in the primary and caucuses around the country and that’s what I’m looking forward to.”

Clinton also said her defeat by Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic primary had taught her the importance of organizing every single day.

“That’s why I’m doing a lot of meetings and discussions about specific issues,” she said, “because I want to hear from people and I also want to connect them to the campaign.

“And I feel like it’s really working. It is building a campaign here in New Hampshire, using the grassroots, and coming up from that, because at the end of the day, I think that wins elections and wins caucuses.”

On the morning of 4 July, the former senator and secretary of state attended a grassroots organizing event in Glen.

Asked about the Obama administration’s involvement in ongoing nuclear talks with Iran, she said: “I’m hoping it’s a strong, verifiable deal that will put the lid on Iran’s nuclear weapons ambitions. Even if we are successful, however, Iran’s aggressiveness will not end.”

In an hour-long event, Clinton also discussed her ideas on college debt, the same-sex marriage ruling and the future makeup of the court.

College graduates and those with graduate degrees should get help to refinance their debt and be allowed to pay back their loans as a percentage of their incomes, she said, adding of her early life with her husband, former President Bill Clinton: “We were paying back loans while he was governor of Arkansas.”

Clinton encouraged people to read the supreme court’s decision extending same-sex marriage rights nationwide, saying “it’s not only a constitutionally based decision, which it should be, but there is a current underpinning it,

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which is [that] we need to respect each other, and we need to allow people to live and love and we need to support that".

Asked about the future of the court, Clinton said it was possible the next president could have three to four appointments. If elected, she said she would appoint justices who would "bring an open mind and an open heart".

In the afternoon, Clinton was set to march in the Gorham Fourth of July parade. Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee, another candidate for the Democratic nomination, was also campaigning in the state, planning to visit Merrimack and Amherst.

Sanders and the former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley were both in Iowa. Sanders was due to march in parades in Creston and Waukee.

Sanders has been gaining on Clinton. On Thursday, a Quinnipiac University poll found Clinton at 52% in Iowa while Sanders had climbed to 33%. On 7 May, Clinton led the same poll by 60% to 15%. The latest CNN poll shows Clinton only eight points ahead of Sanders in New Hampshire, although national surveys remain more clearly in Clinton's favor.

Republican presidential candidates also opted to celebrate Independence Day in the early voting states.

After a "sleepover" at 2012 candidate Mitt Romney's vacation home in New Hampshire, New Jersey governor Chris Christie and Florida senator Marco Rubio were to march in Wolfeboro's parade.

The former Texas governor Rick Perry, former Florida governor Jeb Bush and South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham joined Chafee for a parade in Amherst.
Bush and Chafee have old school ties in common. They duly met up, the Democratic candidate using Twitter to say: "Always fun to run into classmates @phillipsacademy on the campaign trail."

Bush, who was marching with his son George P Bush, the recently elected Texas land commissioner, was chided by a voter who told him he was holding up the parade.

"There's nothing behind us – other than Hillary," Bush said. A team of Clinton supporters were marching right behind a group backing the former Florida governor, their blue signs in sharp contrast with his red.

Hillary Clinton Says She Will Be Better Friend than Obama to Israel // Jewish Press // Tzvi Ben-Gedalyahu – July 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton has promised that Israel will have her as a better friend than President Barack Obama if she is elected President next year.

She also exclaimed that Iran poses an "existential threat" to Israel, as if any serious presidential contender thinks otherwise.

While strongly supporting attempts for a "good" deal with Iran, she is trying to reassure wealthy Jews that they can safely contribute to her campaign coffers and can sleep safely last night knowing that she will be good for Israel, even if Israelis spend the night running to bomb shelters.

That is what President Obama also said in 2008. That is what every presidential candidate says, but American Jews lover to hear because they want to believe it.

When it comes to the deal being negotiated between the P5+1 and Iran, Clinton is playing both sides of the fence, and it is not clear where she stands. Politico interviewed 10 donors and fundraisers and reported:

> Donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Clinton is no different from Obama and every other politician. "No deal is better than a bad deal," she said, but what is a bad deal? Is it possible to make any deal with Iran can call it "good?"

Since no one yet knows if a deal with Iran will be reached and if so, what it will contain, Clinton can safely hedge her bets.

At stake is $2 billion that Clinton's aides hope to raise for her campaign and super PACs.

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in the meantime, she is boasting that her personality and experience as Secretary of State are guarantees for Americans Jews that she will be a lot friendlier than Obama when it comes to relations with Israel.

She started name-dropping, referring to former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren as "Michael" whom she said she knows well.

The penchant for American Jews to buy assurances that the American-Israeli relation will be just fine and dandy was summed up by Politico's report on a fundraiser last month at the home of Democratic party donor Jay Jacobs. An Orthodox rabbi asked Clinton about threats to Israel, and Jacobs told Politico:

> She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel. And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer.

Good grief!

What did the rabbi think she would say? Did he really believe that Clinton would say, "Well, you know all the talk about threats to Israel is just talk to get more money from the military-industrial complex. Israel can fend for itself. Let's talk about the economy and immigration."

Of course she fervently supports Israel. That is what J Street also says.

At least she was honest when she stated, "I'm going to do what's in the best interest of the U.S."

That is what any president of the United States should do. He or she should be "pro-American" and not "pro-Israel."

The kicker is that being pro-Israel usually is the best thing for the United States, even if presidents can't admit it.

From Clinton, a multi-generational message in N.H. // Boston Globe // Monica Disare – July 4, 2015

HANOVER, N.H. — Hillary Rodham Clinton kicked off her Fourth of July weekend by telling about 850 people at Dartmouth College that two people motivated her run for president: her mother and her granddaughter.

Her mother, Clinton said, instilled in her a steadfast belief in kindness, while her granddaughter makes her think about "what kind of world will be waiting for her."

"That's what keeps me up at night," Clinton said.

Clinton's mixed-generational message was apt for the crowd she addressed Friday afternoon — Dartmouth students mingled with longtime Clinton supporters.

Lois Little, 67, of New London, N.H., became a Clinton fan 24 years ago but decided not to wear the "Madame President" shirt she bought during Clinton's unsuccessful 2008 presidential run to avoid jinxing Clinton's chances.

"She's a very dynamic person, very intelligent," Little said. Her husband nodded in agreement.

Among those who have watched Clinton for years were some who were lukewarm toward her — but nonetheless likely to vote for her. Julie McCashin, 52, of Hanover, said she was not a diehard Clinton fan, but she was "diehard anti-Republican." McCashin said Clinton has the best chance to beat the eventual GOP nominee.

Little and McCashin stood in the same crowd, eating hamburgers and potato salad, with Thuy Le, 20, a Dartmouth sophomore who said her philosophy aligns more with Senator Bernie Sanders, another Democratic presidential contender. Le watched Clinton's speech with a group of five other Dartmouth sophomores who said they were trying to decide between Clinton and Sanders.

Parker Gardner, 20, on campus for the summer, said that Clinton was likely the "best option" but he needed more information to be certain.

At the Friday event, he said he hoped to hear about her personal journey into politics, not just her policy positions.

Clinton will have to appeal to both demographics to be successful both in the Democratic primary and perhaps in the general election. Her speech tried to do just that.

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She argued that she is the best candidate to improve the economy, disparaging the economic policy efforts of former Republican presidents.

“These are folks who just don’t know the theory of original sin,” she said, “because we wouldn’t have had to have a recovery if we hadn’t had the kind of poor management and bad economic policies that put us into the ditch in the first place.”

In about 10 days, she said, she would release more details on her economic platform.

In the meantime, she ticked through a laundry list of issues important to her campaign, including voting rights, immigration, clean energy, cybersecurity, and removing big money from politics. She praised the Supreme Court’s recent decisions on health care and same-sex marriage.

Clinton ended her speech with a set of personal stories. She told the crowd about her mother’s troubled childhood and said her mother kept going because people showed her kindness along the way. She pledged to bring this type of kindness to the White House.

“I think we are a nation that really believes in a helping hand,” she said.

And she cited her young granddaughter as her inspiration to work toward creating a world the next generation will be proud to inherit.

“That flag which we’ll see in parades and at picnics and flying proudly in front of houses this weekend, that flag represents, I believe, humanity’s best progress,” Clinton said. “I want to be proud, and I want my daughter and granddaughter to be proud.”

Margaret Mulley, 65, said Clinton’s speech “was very competent and powerful.”

But not all the college students were convinced.

As Mariana Almeida, 19, and Andrew Jeon, 20, walked away from the event, they said they enjoyed the speech. But as for which candidate they will ultimately support — both walked away undecided.

Danielle Foullon, 54, left the event with one piece of advice for Clinton: “Hillary, don’t play it safe.”

Hillary Clinton Comments On Viral ‘Humans of New York’ Photo // TIME // Dan Stewart – July 4, 2015

Street photographer Brandon Stanton — better known as the creator of Humans of New York — posted a picture Friday of a tearful boy with the caption, “I’m homosexual and I’m afraid about what my future will be and that people won’t like me.”

The post garnered 498,000 ‘Likes’, about standard for a HONY post, but what Stanton may not have expected was a comment from Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Clinton wrote, “Prediction from a grown-up: Your future is going to be amazing. You will surprise yourself with what you’re capable of and the incredible things you go on to do. Find the people who love and believe in you – there will be lots of them.”

The photo initially became the subject of controversy when Stanton claimed Facebook had removed it from the site. But a Facebook spokesperson said Saturday the photo had not been intentionally deleted, but had been temporarily unavailable due to a bug. The photo is now available to be seen online, along with Clinton’s comment signed with her distinctive “-H.”

Humans of New York features photographs of ordinary people on the street along with quotes from the subjects, who typically do not identify themselves.

Hillary Clinton Has The Top Comment On This Heartbreaking “Humans Of New York” Photo // Buzzfeed // David Mack – July 4, 2015

You may have seen this heartbreaking “Humans of New York” picture pop up in your Facebook feed recently.

The young boy’s tears have elicited a ton of support in the HONY picture’s comments.

Someone else who commented on the picture also happens to be running for president.

Hillary Clinton posted this comment on the picture on Friday.

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It reads:

Prediction from a grown-up: Your future is going to be amazing. You will surprise yourself with what you're capable of and the incredible things you go on to do. Find the people who love and believe in you - there will be lots of them. –H

The comment was signed "–H", indicating that the words were penned by Clinton herself and not an aide.

Hillary Clinton accuses China of 'stealing US secrets' **// BBC – July 4, 2015**

US Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton has accused China of stealing commercial secrets and government information.

She accused China of "trying to hack into everything that doesn't move in America", and urged vigilance.

US officials had named China as the chief suspect in the massive hack of the records of a US government agency earlier this year.

China had denied any involvement, and called US claims "irresponsible".

'Fully vigilant'

Speaking at a campaign event in New Hampshire, Ms Clinton said that China was stealing secrets from defence contractors and had taken "huge amounts of government information, all looking for an advantage."

She added that she wanted to see China's peaceful rise but that the US needed to stay "fully vigilant".

"China's military is growing very quickly, they're establishing military installations that again threaten countries we have treaties with, like the Philippines because they are building on contested property," she said.

US officials have blamed China for a major data breach of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that was revealed in June.

The hacking of federal government computers could have compromised the records of four million employees.

US intelligence chief James Clapper called China a "leading suspect" after the incident.

But China dismissed the accusation, saying that it was "irresponsible and unscientific".

China has previously argued that it is also the victim of hacking attacks.

Republican presidential candidates have used the recent OPM cyber hack to attack President Obama's administration, accusing it of "incompetence".

Marco Rubio and Rick Perry have called for the US to threaten sanctions against organisations linked to hacking, while Mike Huckabee has argued that the US should "hack China back".

Meanwhile, Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley has called for better funding for cyber security.

The hack against the OPM is not the first time that China has been blamed for a cyber attack against the US.

An earlier attempt to breach OPM networks was blocked in March 2014, with the US saying China was behind the attack.

Union chief defends Hillary amid Bernie Sanders uprising **// New York Post // Geoff Earle – July 4, 2015**

WASHINGTON — AFL-CIO boss Richard Trumka is using his political muscle to try to run interference for Hillary Rodham Clinton, after movement by some local labor groups to back rival Bernie Sanders.

The powerful union head advised state and local union chapters this week that the national union in DC handles presidential endorsements.

"I want to remind you all that the AFL-CIO endorsement for president and vice president belongs to the national AFL-CIO. State federations, central and area labor councils, and all other subordinate bodies must follow the national AFL-CIO endorsement," Trumka wrote, according to Politico.

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Clinton's campaign is facing a growing challenge from Sanders. The South Carolina and Vermont AFL-CIOs passed resolutions this spring calling on "working people everywhere" to unite behind Sanders.

Clinton, Chafee celebrate Fourth of July in the Granite State // WMUR9 // Kristen Carosa – July 4, 2015

GLEN, N.H. —Presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Lincoln Chafee celebrated the Fourth of July in New Hampshire Saturday.

Clinton opened an event in Glen by discussing her granddaughter.

"You know, you say to yourself, 'I want to do everything I can to make sure this precious little girl has every opportunity,'" Clinton said.

She said her campaign is about fighting for the middle class and helping those in need.

"I advocate to raise the minimum wage, that's why I am a supporter of the income tax credit. We need to get more money into people's pockets," she said. "I want to take a bright light and shine it on every regulation, every licensing requirement, every tax requirement and take a hard look at the difficulty of getting credit."

Clinton also spoke about the importance of early education.

"If people are not equipped for the jobs of the future then a lot of what we do today won't have staying power," she said.

Clinton also visited the town of Gorham later Saturday. She will head to Iowa Tuesday.

Chafee, the former Rhode Island governor, met voters during Fourth of July parades in Merrimack and Amherst.

Chafee worked with Clinton in the Senate and said he looks forward to seeing her on the presidential trail. He said he differs from Clinton because he voted against the war in Iraq.

"I bring a good resume, a vision for the future, a more peaceful world, not that hawkish approach is what I'm advocating. Bring those tax dollars home here to spend on our schools, our roads and bridges and our health care," Chafee said.

Chafee began his political career as a Republican, first holding public office in 1985.

Hillary Clinton tells supporters in Virginia that 'love triumphed' in gay marriage // Sentinel Republic // Alan Binder – July 4, 2015

Clinton headlined the state Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson event, previously a formal dinner but this year held as a campaign event at George Mason University's Patriot Center with general admission at $30.

The New Hampshire poll shows that many Democrats are responding favorably to Clinton's candidacy, including 74% who say they have a positive impression of her. She also is more trusted to handle the economy and health care, two of the leading domestic issues in the contest.

A fired-up Clinton then seemingly spoke directly at the 13 declared Republican presidential hopefuls. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), who has said repeatedly that she will not run for president but was still being included in polls at that point.

"Hillary Clinton's early numbers had been higher than they reasonably could have been expected to remain", Smith said. "Equality triumphed, America triumphed".

Vice President Joe Biden clocks in at 8 percent, with 2 percent or less supporting Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb and Lincoln Chafee. Clinton has the money, the infrastructure, and the support from other prominent Democrats that Sanders lacks, but the Vermont senator has advantages, too: enthusiasm at the grassroots, the flexibility that comes with being a one-man band, and the ability to position himself as a scrappy underdog and outsider.

Clinton is seeing her strong lead over Sen. As a senator, Clinton backed civil unions and partner benefits for same-sex couples, and came out in favor of same-sex marriage in 2013, shortly before the Court struck down a key provision of the 1996 law. "The solution is for Congress to admit they screwed up, repeal the 'nightmare of Obamacare, ' and let states road-test real health care reforms", he said in a statement.

Ex- Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, who is seeking the GOP presidential nomination, also blasted the court's

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ruling. Neither governor would be able to do anything to stop same-sex marriage in their state if the high court rules it is a constitutional right.

Friday's ruling is just one more step in securing equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, she said. But she said she was looking forward to the Clinton rally, especially because "we don't have to dress up".

Yet it is important to remember that Obama and Clinton both opposed marriage equality as late as early 2012.

She also ripped Republicans for recently voting against allowing the Centers for Disease Control to study gun violence.

Mrs. Clinton asked "How can you watch massacre after massacre and take that vote?" "I think that break from the pack has already begun".

"I am for Hillary", Cho said.

"This is personal for me", said McAuliffe of Clinton.

The 2016 presidential race came to Virginia on Friday evening, ushered in by the roaring voice of Gov. Terry McAuliffe introducing Hillary Clinton. While we celebrate today, our work won't be finished until every American cannot only marry, but live, work, pray, learn and raise a family free from discrimination and prejudice.

Despite her "crush", the outspoken entertainer and LGBT rights activist said she's "long been" a fan of Clinton: "I had a hard time sort of deciding between Hillary and Obama". His fundraising efforts helped bankroll the campaigns of both Clinton and her husband, ex- President Bill Clinton. But most of all...because Hillary Clinton is a tenacious fighter.

Hillary Clinton shrugs off heckler while GOP candidates meet voters in New Hampshire, Iowa for Fourth of July campaigning // NY Daily News // Dennis Slattery – July 4, 2015

Fourth of July parade routes were transformed into campaign trails Saturday as presidential candidates spent the holiday shaking hands, mingling with voters, and dealing with hecklers.

Early primary states celebrating Independence Day -- including Iowa and New Hampshire -- were particularly awash in White House wannabes.

Democratic hopeful Hillary Clinton spent the day in the tiny hamlet of Gorham, N.H., where she was taunted by a relentless heckler with a string of grievances, including protesting her role leading the State Department during the 2012 Benghazi attacks.

"Hillary, where were you at 3 a.m. when the phone rang on September 11th?" the man yelled as he followed her along the parade route. "Can you name one accomplishment at State? Just one?"

Clinton shrugged off the shouter.

"I'm just having a good time meeting everybody," she told CNN.

Republican candidates got into the spirit as well, with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio walking in a parade in Wolfeboro, N.H.

Former Govs. Jeb Bush of Florida, Rick Perry of Texas and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island as well as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham worked the crowd in Amherst, N.H.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley met voters in Iowa.

Clinton hears cheers and jeers // New Hampshire Union Leader // John Koziol – July 4, 2015

GORHAM - Hillary Clinton marched in the town's historic Independence Day parade Saturday, exciting her base, provoking her detractors and in general, being met with mild amusement by the public.

Preceded by a gaggle of the touring press, some of whom appeared to be filming a video documentary; inside a cordon of uniformed and plainclothes security officer; flanked by staff; and backed by sign-carrying supporters, the former first lady, U.S. senator from New York and Secretary of State walked the entire parade route from Dublin Street down to the Gorham Town Common.

The Gorham parade was Clinton's third event in the North County yesterday, sandwiched in between a grassroots

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organizing event in Glen and a stop at the Northland Restaurant & Dairy Bar in Berlin to schmooze with patrons.

Clinton is familiar with the Androscoggin Valley and Coos County, having campaigned here on the way to winning the Jan. 8, 2008, New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary and defeating then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

Obama went on to win the Democratic presidential nomination and then the presidency in 2008 and he was re-elected in 2012. Despite those victories, however, Gorham was one prize that Obama could not claim in 2008, as Clinton bested him there by 330 votes to 222.

The presumptive Democratic presidential candidate for 2016 - although Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is mounting a strong challenge - Clinton yesterday saw visible signs, a few, not many, that her past will continue to be part of her future and that some people, like Sudie Francoeur and Carl Gagnon, both of Berlin, desperately do not want to see her in the Oval Office.

Exercising what they said was their First Amendment right of free speech on the most hallowed of national holidays, both Francoeur and Gagnon held signs with messages that were highly critical of Clinton's role in the deaths of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans at the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012.

As he got within earshot of Clinton, Gagnon would lob verbal jabs, asking her, for example, to "tell us about when you were a poor person." One woman yelled that Clinton "oughtta be in prison, not the White House."

Nonetheless, Clinton was undeterred, frequently stepping into the groups of parade watchers on either side of the road to greet individuals and to occasionally exchange some words.

Francoeur said she had been a longtime Democrat but became disenchanted with what she said was its tilt toward socialism, adding that she was unhappy with Clinton in particular about what happened in Benghazi.

Gagnon, who said he's attended the Gorham 4th of July parade "since childhood," said Clinton has been a failure as a public servant and therefore should not even be considered as a presidential candidate.

He was dismissive of what he saw Saturday as Clinton marched down Main Street, with supporters loudly chanting her name while local residents - some parked in vehicles directly on the parade route or sitting in lawn chairs on the sidewalk - smiled and politely applauded, or occasionally let out a joyful whoop, or, less frequently, a boo.

"The American election process," said Gagnon, "has now turned into a coronation."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

Sanders, O'Malley race to be the Clinton alternative // WaPo // John Wagner – July 4, 2015

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa — Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, two candidates vying to become the chief challenger to Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, crisscrossed Iowa over the past few days, stopping in some of the same cities and marching in small-town Fourth of July parades.

But at this point in the race, they could hardly be in different places.

During his swing, Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont, drew more than 2,500 people to a convention center here — a record crowd for Iowa. Supporters leapt to their feet and screamed as he decried the "grotesque level" of income inequality in the country and the outsize influence of the "billionaire class" on its politics.

O'Malley's biggest turnout during his three-day trip was 119 people, who gathered in the side room of a suburban bar outside Des Moines. The former Maryland governor's pitch included a self-deprecating joke about how little known he remains in the state that will hold the nation's first caucuses in February.

Presidential politics are replete with candidates who get hot during the summer only to fizzle in the fall. But the early rise of Sanders — a self-described democratic socialist — underscores how hungry the progressive base of the Democratic Party is for a truly authentic alternative to Clinton.

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As his crowds have swelled in recent weeks, Sanders's poll numbers have jumped in Iowa and New Hampshire. O'Malley and the other more mainstream Democratic hopefuls, meanwhile, have stalled in the low single digits. Former senator Jim Webb of Virginia, who jumped into the race Thursday, and former Rhode Island senator and governor Lincoln Chafee have also stepped forward to challenge Clinton.

Scores of interviews suggest Sanders has clearly tapped into the anxieties of recession-weary voters, many of whom feel completely alienated from Washington.

Echoing many others who came to see Sanders here, Steve Pinegar, a 33-year-old heating and air-conditioning technician, said he is looking for someone outside the establishment and said he thinks that Sanders is the only candidate for the Democratic nomination who is speaking to him.

"I don't want to vote for anyone who's part of the grand scheme," Pinegar said, adding that he has grown disillusioned with President Obama's lack of progress on working-class issues. "I was all hopey-changey last time, but I'm done with that. . . . I feel like me and Bernie Sanders, we could go have lunch and talk about the issues."

Much of Sanders's hour-long stump speech focuses on issues that could affect the wallets of workers like Pinegar. Sanders wants to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour. He wants to guarantee family leave, sick time and vacation time — Americans are working too long, he says. He wants to make college free. And he promises that as president he would make corporations and the wealthy pay more in taxes while trying to cut taxes for those in lower brackets.

"The greed of the billionaire class and corporate America is destroying this great country," Sanders said Friday night, offering one of a few dozen lines that produced sustained applause from a crowd that included many Nebraskans from across the river.

Building on momentum

Some of Sanders's largest audiences lately have been in states without early nominating contests, including in Madison, Wis., where he attracted 10,000 people Wednesday.

It was clear from the outset of the race that there would be a bloc of non-Clinton voters, and polling suggests that Sanders — at least for now — has managed to corral most of them. That includes Democrats who were pining to see Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), a darling of the left, get into the race. She has suggested recently that she might campaign for Sanders.

A Quinnipiac University poll released last week showed Clinton drawing 52 percent of likely Democratic caucusgoers in Iowa, with Sanders at 33 percent. O'Malley lagged with 3 percent, followed by Webb and Chafee, with 1 percent each.

Sanders's numbers have been higher in New Hampshire, where voters are more familiar with him, given his representation of neighboring Vermont. A recent poll from the Granite State showed Sanders trailing Clinton by eight percentage points.

Joe Trippi, a longtime Democratic strategist, said Sanders's challenge will be to build on the momentum he has established and show that he can demonstrate a broader appeal than just to the party's left wing.

"If you're going to run a campaign based on 'I'm further to the left of the establishment,' there's a ready-made audience," said Trippi, who ran the 2004 presidential campaign of former Vermont governor Howard Dean.

Dean surged in that race based on anti-Iraq war sentiment only to collapse as voting began. Then Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.), a candidate with more establishment support, emerged as the Democratic nominee. Trippi said part of the reason Dean lost support is people began to question whether he was the strongest candidate to beat George W. Bush in the general election.

The O'Malley camp is betting on a similar phenomenon this cycle: that once voters get to know all the candidates better, they will see O'Malley as a more viable alternative than Sanders. O'Malley, 52, has also been casting himself as a part of a "new generation" of leaders, a contrast with both Clinton, who is 67, and Sanders, who is 73.

In an interview following a stop Thursday in Waukee, O'Malley said Sanders has been on the rise partly because voters see him for now as a "protest candidate."

"People feel like big money has subsumed, taken over, their politics, and they're frustrated by it," O'Malley said. "People feel like their voices don't matter. People feel like they're not being heard, and right now, they want to protest about that. I'm not running for protest candidate; I'm running for president of the United States."

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O'Malley's three-day swing has focused on his plan to address climate change by moving the country's electricity consumption entirely to clean energy by 2050. Aides say other more substantive proposals will help set him apart in coming months.

O'Malley, who served for eight years as Maryland's governor and seven years as Baltimore mayor, is also increasingly touting his executive experience as an asset. In contrast to Sanders, who talks a lot about legislation he has introduced, O'Malley touts bills that he muscled through in Maryland to legalize same-sex marriage, abolish the death penalty and provide new benefits to immigrants.

"There's a great distance in saying what we're for and actually accomplishing things," O'Malley told a crowd of about 70 people who came to see him at a coffeehouse in Newton on Friday.

Swaying voters

Some analysts suggest O'Malley waited too long to get into the race. By the time of O'Malley's May 30 announcement, Sanders had already made significant headway with progressive voters looking for an alternative to Clinton.

"People were looking for someone to get in that space, and Martin was playing coy, and Bernie wasn't," said one Democratic consultant formerly employed by O'Malley who spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak more freely.

In Newton and elsewhere, there is evidence that O'Malley is making strides with voters that doesn't show up in a meaningful way yet in the polls.

Susan Daniels, a retired property manager, said she came to the event in Newton "to expand my horizons" by hearing from a candidate she didn't know much about. She left inclined to caucus for O'Malley, impressed by his command of details without notes. She also has nagging doubts about supporting Clinton.

Interviews, however, also suggest that Sanders supporters might be harder to peel off than people think. While some who attend his events are still shopping for a candidate, many arrive already sold.

Daryl Kothenbeutel, a retired owner of a prairie seed business, drove about 90 minutes from Clear Lake to Fort Dodge on Thursday to see Sanders for the third time in recent weeks. He said he has been most impressed with Sanders's commitment to fighting climate change and that he likes his other prescriptions for the country.

"The man, I think, is our last hope for America. I really do," said Kothenbeutel, 71. "Hillary seems to bring up everything after Bernie does," Kothenbeutel said.

Tad Devine, a strategist for Sanders, said he thinks Sanders's support will continue to grow, in part because he has the ability to attract new voters to the race, as Obama did in 2008. Once party elites begin to understand that, Devine suggested, he said he thinks Sanders has the potential to win more backing from the Democratic establishment.

Sanders made headway with endorsements over the weekend in New Hampshire, winning the support of longtime party activist Dudley Dudley.

Dudley, who in the 1970s became the highest serving woman in the state's history as an executive councilor, hosted a house party in Durham for O'Malley just two months ago.

She told CNN that she has nothing against O'Malley, but she likes the way Sanders delivers his message.

"He has a way of stating it in a way that is no-nonsense and so straightforward," Dudley said.

Martin O'Malley finishes three-day tour in Clinton, Iowa // WQAD8 // Caroline Reinwald – July 4, 2015

Following a three-day tour across the state of Iowa, democratic presidential candidate, Martin O'Malley, stopped in Clinton, Iowa to speak to voters on Saturday.

During his visit, O'Malley talked about Social Security reform, immigration reform, and his climate change plan.

"We must set a goal as a nation of being 100-percent clean energy powered by 2050. We can do it and create a lot of jobs along the way," said O'Malley.

O'Malley is polling third behind democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, but O'Malley says he plans to break away from the pack in the upcoming weeks.

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"The people of Iowa are not intimidated by polls or like being told who they are supposed to vote for. They expect to meet every candidate to look them in the eye, ask them questions, shake their hand, and take the full measure of them," O'Malley said.

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders Outpaces Martin O'Malley as Hillary Clinton Alternative // WSJ // Peter Nicholas and Colleen Mccain Nelson - July 5, 2015

Once considered the most viable Democratic challenger to Hillary Clinton, former Maryland Gov. O'Malley is struggling to get a toehold

CARROLL, Iowa—Waiting for Martin O'Malley to arrive for a backyard campaign stop, Chris Henning and some of her friends tried to figure out what office the Democratic presidential candidate once held. Was he the former governor of Maryland or perhaps Virginia? They weren't sure.

Another Iowan who came out to hear Mr. O'Malley speak was at a loss as to his employment. "He's from the East Coast," Rosemary Partridge told a reporter. "Connecticut? I'm trying to guess. He's a senator."

At one time, the former Maryland governor seemed the most viable alternative to Hillary Clinton the Democratic Party would produce. Yet he is struggling to get a toehold, while the attention and donations from the party's liberal wing instead are going to an older, rumpled rival: Bernie Sanders, the 73-year-old senator from Vermont.

Mr. Sanders is the one drawing boisterous crowds with his fiery attacks on billionaires and wealthy corporations. Mr. Sanders drew about 10,000 people in Madison, Wis., last week, a turnout the campaign billed as the largest in either party to date.

"I've been waiting for him to run," said Florita Louis de Malavé, a librarian at the Sanders event in Madison. "He's not beholden to corporate interests. The other candidates are the same old, same old."

On the stump, Mr. Sanders pledges to take direct aim at the wealthy, diminish their power, expose their tax havens and break up the largest financial institutions in the country. He tells working-class Americans that he'll fight for higher wages, guaranteed health care, family and medical leave and paid vacations.

"This grotesque level of [income] inequality is immoral. It is bad economics. It is unsustainable, and it is not what the United States of America is supposed to be about," Mr. Sanders said in Madison.

Mr. Sanders's backers say this race is a choice between the senator from Vermont and the former secretary of state; Mr. O'Malley doesn't figure into their thinking. Mr. Sanders can win the nomination, they say, but if he doesn't, he may push Mrs. Clinton to the left.

"At the very least, I hope some of these ideas take hold," said Patrick Downing, a piano tuner and technician and luthier from Perry, Wis.

In Madison, many Sanders supporters drove long distances to see their candidate of choice, trekking in from other cities and states. Two hours before Mr. Sanders was scheduled to take the stage, thousands were already in line, spilling across the parking lot outside the arena.

Inside, a raucous crowd eventually filled nearly every one of the 10,000 seats, with more people standing in the aisles and on the floor of the arena. They donned Bernie buttons and chanted "Feel the Bern" while they waited for Mr. Sanders to take the stage.

If the Clinton campaign is worried about anyone in the Democratic field at this stage, it would seem to be Mr. Sanders—not the more mainstream, camera-ready Mr. O'Malley.

Speaking Friday in New Hampshire, Mrs. Clinton appeared to have Mr. Sanders in mind when she said: "I take a back seat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values."

Meantime, polling shows Mr. O'Malley's path to the nomination is getting tougher. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll last month showed him with just 2% support among registered voters planning to vote in the Democratic primary. Mr. Sanders had 15%; Mrs. Clinton, 75%.

Asked if they could see themselves supporting Mr. O'Malley, 12% said yes and 28% said no.

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“He’s not a shouter,” Jim Kessler, a senior vice president at the centrist think tank Third Way, said of Mr. O’Malley. “He’s a thoughtful and in some ways ponderous person…He doesn’t come across as much of a real populist. The message doesn’t come naturally to him.”

On the campaign trail, Mr. O’Malley seems to recognize the hurdles he faces. Appearing at a house party in Ames, Iowa, after his visit to Carroll, he told the crowd his name—not something Mrs. Clinton ever needs to do. He ran through the offices he’s held and other bits of biography before drawing contrasts with his rivals.

It seems clear from his stump speech that he wants to eclipse Mr. Sanders as the liberal challenger to Mrs. Clinton. He stresses the parts of his gubernatorial record that would most appeal to the left, telling how he signed legislation imposing stricter gun controls in Maryland, legalizing same-sex marriage and raising the state’s minimum wage.

“I have fearless progressive values,” Mr. O’Malley said in Ames.

He suggests that having enacted such measures he has a level of accomplishment that eludes Mr. Sanders, a legislator working in a polarized Congress. Asked how his brand of liberalism differs from that of Mr. Sanders, Mr. O’Malley told reporters in Carroll: “I’ve actually gotten these things done.”

Sanders snags key endorsement in New Hampshire // CNN // Cassie Spodak – July 4, 2015

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire (CNN)Sen. Bernie Sanders has snagged a key endorsement in New Hampshire that may sting a little for Martin O'Malley's campaign.

Longtime New Hampshire Democratic activist Dudley Dudley told CNN Friday that she has decided to endorse Bernie Sanders for the Democratic 2016 nomination. Her decision comes less than two months after she hosted O'Malley at both her Durham, New Hampshire homes.

Since then, according to a recent CNN/WMUR New Hampshire primary poll, frontrunner Hillary Clinton's lead over Sanders has shrunk from 38 percentage points to 8, with O'Malley trailing both. Likely Democratic primary voters are now more apt to see Sanders as the candidate who "best represents the values of Democrats like yourself," the poll found.

Sanders recently finished a two-day swing through the state that saw 500-person crowds and high attendance at more intimate house parties.

Dudley told CNN she was won over by Sanders focus on money in politics, but was particularly impressed by his style of delivering his message.

"He's very believable. A lot of people seem to say a lot of things that don't come to pass. I feel that he is compelling and trustworthy and I'm hoping that he will get the nomination," Dudley told CNN. "I particularly like what he has to say about Citizens United, about the need to have a more just tax system in this country, and to even out the income inequality. He has a way of stating it in a way that is no nonsense and so straight forward."

Sanders' campaign spokesperson Michael Briggs told CNN, "We are very grateful and appreciate the support from such a key figure in New Hampshire."

O'Malley's camp declined to comment on the endorsement.

As a state executive councilor in the 1970s, Dudley was the highest serving woman in the state's history. She also gained a reputation as a grassroots activist when she led a successful effort to stop the building of an oil refinery off the coast of New Hampshire.

During a house party on May 13, Dudley spoke positively about O'Malley, but told reporters after that event that while she opened her home, she was not ready to endorse.

O'Malley returned the kind words for Dudley and spent a considerable amount of time wooing the Democratic activists. In addition to the event, O'Malley filmed key portions of his announcement video at Dudley's house. Dudley said Friday that her Sanders endorsement is not so much about what other Democratic candidates are lacking, but about how Sanders has differentiated himself in the field.

"It wasn't in opposition to them. I'm just feeling that I like the way Sanders presents himself and puts his points of view," Dudley told CNN.

Dudley acknowledges that Sanders' road to the White House, let alone the Democratic nomination, will not be easy.

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"Neither (race) is going to be a cakewalk, but I think that his stamina and energy and points of view will carry him through," she said.

Dudley has had mixed success in endorsements over the years. In 2008, she supported Barack Obama in the lead-up to the New Hampshire primary, but in 1992 she supported Paul Tsongas over Bill Clinton, and in 1980, she spearheaded an unsuccessful challenge to incumbent President Jimmy Carter with a write-in campaign for Ted Kennedy.

Bernie Sanders Gains on Clinton in Early-State Polls, Hits Iowa Patriotic Parade Circuit // Slate // Beth Ethier – July 4, 2015

On Saturday night, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders wrapped up a three-day charm offensive that took him through a half-dozen counties in Iowa. He brought standing-room crowds to small-town cafes and his Fourth of July schedule was packed with parades, with hours spent carrying banners with small armies in matching Bernie shirts and shaking hands in a state where his standing in the polls seems to be growing by the day.

Sanders didn't manage to replicate the astonishing turnout that packed his rally in a Madison, Wisconsin arena this week, if only because venues that size are harder to find down in Iowa, but his 2,500-strong crowd in Council Bluffs on Friday is reportedly the largest so far of any 2016 candidate who's visited the state.

Conceding in their headline that "OK, now Hillary Clinton seems to have some problems in Iowa," the Fix laid out poll numbers showing that Sanders' impressive crowds seem to be driven by a trend upward in support, at least in Iowa. Clinton still has a 19-point lead over Sanders in the state, 52-33, in the latest Quinnipiac poll, but that's not great news for a candidate who was ahead by 45 in May.

Sanders is gaining Iowa's support largely at Clinton's expense, not only from voters who identify themselves as very liberal but also from women. Clinton is showing "a 12-point drop among women, in a poll with a margin of error of 3.6 points," Philip Bump writes for the Fix. "It's real."

In Lebanon, New Hampshire on Friday, the Union Leader reports that Clinton tried gamely to treat the press corps to ice cream but was met instead with questions about the adoring fans following around her closest competitor, who's within single digits in some recent New Hampshire polling.

> Clinton had just come from an event at Dartmouth College in Hanover at which 850 people turned out. The turnout was high for a Clinton campaign stop in New Hampshire this go round, but nothing compared to the reported 10,000 people who turned out to see Sanders at a campaign stop in Wisconsin on Wednesday.
>
> When asked for her reaction to Sanders' big crowds and why she is not drawing the same numbers, she simply said, "We each run our own campaigns and I always knew it would be competitive. I want to have free debate in the primary and caucuses around the country."

Clinton booster Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri went on MSNBC's Morning Joe last week to downplay Bernie's large crowds, saying that "Well, you know, Rand Paul's father got massive crowds, Ron Paul. He got the same size crowds. Pat Buchanan got massive crowds. It's not unusual for someone who has an extreme message to have a following."

Even if McCaskill is right about that, there's still a cautionary tale in the Ron Paul example: the participatory structure of the Iowa caucuses allowed Paul's noisy faction to effectively stage a coup on the leadership of the state Republican party in 2012.

With a chance that Sanders has both noise and numbers in his favor, and with seven months left for him to win over voters in Iowa, Hillary should resist the urge to be dismissive of his newest fans as extremists and fanatics and start plotting to win them back to her side.

Sanders encouraged by Iowa crowds, rising polls // Des Moines Register // Kevin Hardy – July 4, 2015

On the tail end of a three-day Iowa swing, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders says he's feeling good about his momentum here and across the country.

More than 150 supporters marched with Sanders on Saturday in Waukee's Independence Day parade, the last of his eight Iowa stops this week.

"It's very gratifying to have so many people here in Waukee marching with me," said Sanders, an independent

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vying for the Democratic nomination for president. "I think our message is getting through. People are tired of seeing our great middle class disappear."

In Iowa, Sanders has railed against money's influence on politics, big banks and the "billionaire class," while at the same time pitching policies to help strengthen the middle class, such as increasing the minimum hourly wage to $15, providing free college for all, rolling out a massive federal jobs program and making health care a universal right through a single-payer system.

"I think people want to see a change in the way we do economics, make our economic system work for working families and not just for billionaires," Sanders told reporters Saturday.

The senator's Iowa trip comes as national polls show him cutting into Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton's lead.

"Two or three months ago, not a lot of people here in Iowa knew who Bernie Sanders was or what our message was about," Sanders said. "I think it does indicate we're gaining some good momentum and I look forward to seeing it continue."

Sanders is drawing record crowds. On Wednesday night, more than 10,000 people attended his rally in Madison, Wisconsin, and nearly 2,500 attended a Friday evening event in Council Bluffs — the biggest Iowa crowd of any 2016 presidential contender yet. Sanders said he likes his chances in Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses.

"I think there's a lot of support and I think momentum is with us," he said.

In Waukee, Sanders led about 155 supporters who marched behind him. They chanted "Bernie, Bernie," donned "Bern Unit" shirts and cleverly inserted his name into a number of musical tunes.

"Bern, Bern, Bern, Bern is the word," they sang together to the tune of The Trashmen's 1963 hit, "Surfin' Bird."

Some parade-goers seemed surprised by Sanders' following.

"Wow, look at all those people," one woman said. "Dear God."

Sanders drew both traditional Democrats and conservatives on Saturday.

"This will be the first time I've caucused with the Democrats," said Michael Tallman, 25, of Des Moines.

Tallman, who works in banking, said Sanders seems like a candidate who will represent all people — rich or poor, male or female, gay or straight. He said many millennials are disturbed by the current political process and they could be key to boosting Sanders' shot at winning.

"I think he has a real chance," Tallman said. "We've seen it happen before."

Micheal Davenport, 35, of Des Moines said he generally votes conservatively. But he marched in support of Sanders Saturday.

Davenport is an anti-abortion Catholic (Sanders is staunchly pro-abortion rights). But Davenport said Pope Francis' call for tolerance and more moderate rhetoric surrounding social issues has made him rethink some issues.

"There's an interesting synchronicity between the Pope and Bernie," said Davenport, who works in security and is going back to school to become a teacher.

Davenport relates to Sanders stances on economic issues, which he says are just more pressing now than social issues.

"He's got the big mo," he said. "Great momentum."

AT THE EVENT

SETTING: Waukee Independence Day parade

CROWD: About 155 marching in parade

REACTION: Mills Roberts, 59, of West Des Moines said he's impressed with Sanders, whose rising stock is reminiscent of Barack Obama's come-from-behind campaign in 2008. "It has a little bit of that feel," he said as a

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crowd swarmed around the candidate shouting "Bernie, Bernie, Bernie."

OTHER STOPS: Creston Independence Day parade

WHAT'S NEXT: With his Iowa trip complete, Sanders will hold a campaign event in Maine on Monday. The senator has a fundraiser planned for July 16 in Washington and is scheduled to be in Iowa again July 17 for the Democratic Party's hall of fame celebration in Cedar Rapids. For details, go to DesMoines Register.com/candidate tracker.

'Feel the Bern': Activists spearhead Bernie Sanders social push // MSNBC // Eric Levitz – July 4, 2015

Bernie Sanders may trail Hillary Clinton by double digits in New Hampshire, but he leads the Democratic front-runner by more than 4,000 "points" on Twitter.

Between June 25 and July 1, the most popular hashtag associated with the Vermont senator's presidential campaign, "#feelthebern," was tweeted an average of 6,800 times-a-day, while "#hillary2016" garnered 2,700 tweets, according to Topsy, which tracks activity on social media.

The insurgent candidate's campaign picked up some momentum over the past week, too. Last Wednesday, Sanders made headlines by drawing 10,000 supporters to a campaign event in Madison, Wisconsin – the largest crowd assembled by any candidate so far this year. The following day, his campaign announced that it had raised $15 million since April 30, and a Quinnipiac poll showed Sanders gaining ground in the early voting state of Iowa.

Still, by the candidate's own estimation, it would take nothing short of a "political revolution" for Sanders to win the 2016 Democratic primary. Unable to compete with Clinton in fundraising or name recognition, Sanders will need to make social media fervor matter more than it ever has in an American election.

Winnie Wong and Charles Lenchner are spearheading that "revolution." Veteran political organizers, Wong and Lenchner created the #feelthebern hashtag and co-founded People for Bernie Sanders, a digital platform where the senator's supporters can network and organize outreach efforts both online and off. Through those efforts, People For Bernie has already enlisted 10,000 campaign volunteers, according to its organizers.

Wong believes that social media will play a greater role in 2016 than it has in any prior election.

"While I enjoy Quinnipiac polls, and watch them closely, I think there's a huge piece of data that they miss," Wong told msnbc. "In 2015, we have huge numbers of people taking to the internet to discuss everything. And those conversations will affect the outcome of the 2016 elections."

To put Sanders at the center of those conversations, People for Bernie works with data analysts to track the success of their hashtags and map the reach of their most influential Twitter supporters.

But behind such technical pursuits is an idealistic faith in the power of social media to expand democratic engagement – faith born of Wong and Lechner's experiences in New York City's Zuccotti Park in 2011.

"Many of us are graduates of Occupy Wall Street," Lenchner told msnbc. "And we feel like there's an enormous cohort of people that are disillusioned with the limited range of choices in American politics. We're committed to expanding the number and kinds of people that assert their power within the democratic system."

"Bernie is taking donations from people and from unions. There's no bull****. He's raising money from people, not corporations," Wong added.

To get a sense of the kind of anti-corporate voter that Wong and Lenchner wish to reach, Google the name "Killer Mike."

People For Bernie first reached out to the rapper from the popular group Run The Jewels in late May, tweeting to his account, "We hope that you decide to #feeltheBern. Any Q's feel free to hit us up."

Killer Mike – whose actual name is Michael Render – invited them to send more information. People for Bernie provided him with campaign memes and links to articles about Sanders' policy positions.

Last Monday, Killer Mike endorsed Sanders for president, telling his 149,000 Twitter followers, "I cannot support another Clinton or Bush ever. I am beginning to see American political families like monarchs and I have no affection for monarchs."

The fact that Sanders – the 2016 campaign's oldest candidate – is beloved on social media would seem more ironic if it weren't so familiar. In both 2008 and 2012, the elderly libertarian Rep. Ron Paul enjoyed a similarly energetic

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online following, while drawing similarly large, impassioned crowds to his campaign events. But that enthusiastic support proved too narrow to carry Paul anywhere near his party's nomination.

Some have called Sanders the left-wing version of Paul, and expect his campaign to run a similar course. But Lenchner argues that there's a key distinction between the two candidates – unlike Paul, Sanders' central policy positions actually enjoy broad public support.

"Ron Paul's signature's issue was the Federal Reserve and monetary policy, and I would say that's esoteric for most people," Lenchner said. "That's of a different caliber than Bernie's issues – There's too much inequality. We should take care of our veterans. We should allow our students to graduate without being in debt servitude. These are not complicated issues to explain."

Still, Lenchner doesn't mind the comparison with the Paul campaign. While the former Texas congressman failed to win his party's nomination, Lenchner believes his candidacy helped promote a libertarian view of criminal justice reform that has since gained traction within the GOP.

Ultimately, Wong and Lenchner are as concerned with promoting Sanders' policies as they are with promoting his candidacy. Both are veterans of the campaign to draft Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the Democratic presidential primary race, and believe that the threat of her candidacy forced Clinton to run on a significantly more progressive platform in 2016 than she did in 2008.

Sanders' candidacy has already brought mainstream media attention to proposals like free public college and a 90% top marginal tax-rate – policies that were far outside the left-pole of the 2012 debate.

"The traditional political game is one in which we're presented with a really narrow range of options," Lenchner said. "And expanding that range isn't a strategy in order to do something – it's one of the goals of politics itself."

Our Bernie Sanders moment: This July 4, remember only true independence and revolution ever brings change // Salon // Patrick L. Smith – July 4, 2015

One of the things progressives often get wrong has to do with how fundamental change comes about. The standard reasoning is that people are stirred when they hit the bottom of the bottom—a condition of diminished expectations. It takes an economic depression, or a lot of political repression, to prompt people to rise. We need things to get worse before they get better. Let the suffering come.

This appears to be an entirely logical dialectic. But politics as desperation, as we might call the thought, rarely, if ever, proves out. Almost always it turns out to be an error.

Follow this line, and you want the Kochs to smash what remains of the political process to smithereens. You want the Supreme Court handing down ever more irrational judgments, you want more cops-in-camo shooting African-Americans, you want more unemployment and more reckless ambition among the foreign policy cliques. Then, you declare, people will be stirred out of the stupefied apathy that grips this nation.

We ought to ask ourselves this July 4 the extent to which we are given to this argument. Speaking only for myself, I made the mistake too many times too many years ago not to have learned how wrong it is.

Those who, in another time, made revolution their work knew better. It is amid rising expectations, not falling, that people are most likely to exert themselves in pursuit of authentic change.

The key to this truth, I have always thought, lies in a people's consciousness of themselves. It is when they get some worthy things done, and so realize the power they possess, that they use it to effect change with true dedication. Nineteenth century Europe offers many examples making the point. If I have my history right, the Russian revolution is a classic case. (And so is the Berlin Wall's fall.)

But there is no need to go further than the event we now celebrate, thoughtfully or thoughtlessly as the case may be, to find an irrefutable demonstration of the point.

Let's ask ourselves this July 4: What exactly was on the minds of the signers gathered in Philadelphia 239 summers ago this weekend? Was George III's boot on the colonists' necks the primary sensation? The Declaration was the original American case of politics as desperation? It was all about the Stamp Act, the taxes on tea, the Boston Massacre?

Wrong read, obviously. The Declaration was a statement of principle reflecting the confidence of people who had the Boston Tea Party, the First Continental Congress, the battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress and Bunker Hill immediately behind them. In Jefferson's handwriting they read of a future that they understood would belong to them. The document exudes determination in its very cadences.

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I mention this for a reason that may be plain by now. As anyone who pays attention knows, we have just witnessed at least two very significant political advances and probably a third. Suddenly, the expectations of many millions are rising.

The gay marriage and health care decisions, handed down by the worst, most corruptly biased Supreme Court to sit in my lifetime, suggest that those judges who are nothing more than creatures of conservative ideology and corporate interests recognized that they would risk a national revolt had they ruled the other way on these questions. This is my read.

What will come of the Charleston murders is still to be determined. But we have already seen an extraordinary display of solidarity and restraint as a forms of power among South Carolina blacks close to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and it looks like this could eventually drive the worst of Old Dixie down.

The point not to be missed: We reach this national day with the wind at last at our backs and the road coming up to meet us, as the Irish say. I see a momentum in the cause of a progressive redefinition of what it means to be American that seemed little more than delusion or a faded memory but a few years ago, so thoroughly did the American right appear to triumph in the name of a perverse notion of patriotism.

Expectations rise. Returning to my original thought, a chance to get still more done, created by way of a lot of sacrifice and hard work, presents itself. What will people do with it? This is our question—not least because the 2016 election draws near, and I will return to these.

A little autobiography here. In many years abroad I often looked back and thought I saw some salutary impulse to resist the marketization of the political process and the commodification of all culture at the hands of corporations possessed of a conscienceless greed. It seemed just under the surface, waiting to break through.

Then I would return on home leave and find everyone kicking the dirt. Talk about diminished expectations. An assumption of powerlessness was everywhere I looked. I found it hard to be around. I had to put what I thought I saw from afar down to illusion, or an incurable streak of optimism wholly in the American grain.

What about Obama's victory in 2008, you ask. Yes, it seemed at the time a confirmation of the perceptions I describe. I have said this before in this space: I wept tears of joy when McCain capitulated—11 in the morning where I was. But soon enough, the cold, hard judgment rendered by the late, estimable Alex Cockburn seemed more the case: The junior senator was too pretty for his own good, Cockburn wrote before the election, and would never get his hands dirty.

A revised, altogether complicated take on Obama will have to get written, given how things have just turned, but it no longer seems I was so wrong as all that. What I thought I saw now takes form. The events of the past couple of weeks have been crystallizing in this respect.

I leave the foreign side out of this, you will note. It is the dark side of Obama's moon by any reasonable reckoning.

At writing, there are one and a half exceptions. Yes, the opening to Cuba is a triumphant stroke. (I wept the morning that was announced, too, half a century's suffering at American hands finally ended.) Iran may come good, depending on how Secretary of State Kerry does in the final days of negotiations on a deal governing the Iranian nuclear program.

But Cuba is as nothing next to the truly strategic blunders—Russia, Ukraine, Iraq redux, a god-awful misinterpretation of China and its intent and now NATO unbound. By the same token, any Iran deal will be purposely shorn of its proper significance: An agreement with Tehran should open out to a broad rapprochement, so altering numerous dysfunctional relationships, not least Washington's with Israel. But the White House is already clear that no such potential is to be explored. What Obama wants is primarily to assuage the Israeli right wing, and that is the wrong ambition. It has already cost Egyptians their first attempt at democratic government.

So the Cold War ends in Cuba and begins again on Russia's western border and across the Pacific. Status quo in the Middle East. This is the Obama record on the foreign side. I count it an appalling legacy.

I do not think we can forget this when celebrating the past couple of weeks' good news at home. In this there is a lesson in the Obama presidency, and I will return to it shortly.

For now, a couple of things that should be considered next to the crystallizing events of the past couple of weeks.

One is the unexpected (at least among many of us) success of Bernie Sanders since the Vermont senator announced he would run for the Democratic nomination. The other, of considerable importance if of somewhat lesser magnitude, was a remarkable piece published recently on this site called "Hillary Clinton is going to lose: She doesn't even see the frustrated progressive wave that will nominate Bernie Sanders."

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Numerous students of American politics argue now that Sanders cannot win the nomination and is even further from carrying the election next year; he is important because he shows how weak Hillary is. As of now, both of these judgments seem right.

But I hold to "as of now." One, Sanders trails Clinton by a startlingly small margin in one poll after another. Two, you do not want to underestimate the power of rising expectations. Think again of the signers in Philadelphia and the events that propelled them there over a very short period. Political landscapes can change very quickly.

Listen to what Sanders has to say. To me it is perfectly clear, and I doubt he would be so shy of the language as American politicians customarily are: He is talking about a social democratic America, which is not a new idea. It is a 19th century idea buried and made "un-American" by very bad Americans posing as patriots.

In terms deployed previously in this space and in the books noted at this column's end, Sanders is talking about a demythologized America, a nation free of its exceptionalist tradition, one wherein we understand ourselves and what we do in historical terms. Myth or history: In my view, absolutely no distinction is more important now. At bottom, it is putting this question in front of us, if only implicitly, that makes Sanders important.

As to the Salon piece just noted, it is remarkable not only for its argument but also for who makes it. Read it here. Bill Curry was an adviser to Bill Clinton and twice ran for governor on the Democratic ticket in Connecticut. And here he is asserting, "There's a rumbling out there, but most Democrats are a long way from hearing it, let alone joining in."

Curry's piece astonished me for its to-the-point pith when I read it and has captivated me ever since. Here we have a mainstreamer and one-time White House insider identifying a progressive groundswell—his word—that has often seemed illusory because virtually no one in power dared acknowledge it. In effect, Curry pierces a conspiracy of silence, just as Sanders does.

More than this, Curry thinks this now-evident current in American politics is already strong enough to tip Hillary over.

None of us can forecast with authority at this early moment. What interests me is the power Curry assigns those who want to see authentic change and who see Hillary Clinton for precisely what she is: treacherously awful, whose nomination would amount to a political blight. Hillary would do one thing with the expectations now rising among Americans: Foil them, crush them, pervert them, turn them bitter. Take your pick, they all amount to the same thing.

I got off Hillary's bus long ago. Anyone remember November 1999, when, as first lady, she traveled to the West Bank, where she lunched and exchanged ceremonial praises with Suha Arafat, the late Yasser's wife? On departing she kissed Suha Arafat on the cheek—a kiss of Judas straight out of Matthew, for when Clinton arrived in Jerusalem to shrieks of protest, she thought nothing of denouncing Arafat and effectively denying the gesture of friendship made a matter of hours earlier.

Unforgivable, but that is Hillary. Opportunism incarnate is all I see. To be honest, until Sanders announced his candidacy I could not think of a single reason to vote. We were offered no choice.

In pursuing the Democratic nomination, Sanders has craftily averted all the "don't split the vote" rubbish one heard when Ralph Nader ran as the candidate of the Greens, the Vermont Progressives and the United Citizens Party. This is exceptionally astute. There is nothing better than winning, but a close second in the current American context is pushing candidates with alternative politics in voters' faces and forcing them to think about what they have to say.

Such candidates have a cumulative effect, in other words, that can take several election cycles to play out. The rapid pace of recent events notwithstanding, we have to think in terms of a generational project, it seems to me. In repudiating Nader in 2000, those who may otherwise have supported him missed this, so that when the election was over, George W. the victor, Democrats were at square one, no ground gained, as there could have been, in the course of the defeat.

I would support Sanders on this basis alone. In a phrase, he speaks to the groundswell. He is rising expectations, so obvious on this 239th anniversary, made flesh. And in this Sanders stands more or less alone among holders of high office for the moment, unless we count the reticent Elizabeth Warren.

And here is the lesson the Obama administration leaves us with. As expectations rise by way of big victories, we do not need another gradualist who comes out of the policy cliques, or is too weak to resist them, and is hence available to be betrayed in their internecine wars for power. If the successes of the past few weeks tell us anything, it is that transformers, not transitioners, are required if we are to make sense of our time. Obama wanted to be the former but has turned out the latter.

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More broadly, we must begin to identify mythologizers and exceptionalists, no matter their professed stripe—and Hillary and her former boss are of this type. And we must recognize the historicists among us, such as Bernie Sanders. If this is what sets Sanders fundamentally apart, I urge we learn from him the importance of the distinction: Unless Americans master the exceptionalist impulse and dispose of all its attendant rhetoric, no battle worth fighting can be decisively won.

Genuine Americans are critical Americans. This is by definition. And they are unceasingly critical of the definition itself. Critical Americans just handed us some excellent news. Happy 4th to them, especially.

The Times Doctrine on Bernie Sanders **// HuffPo // David Bromwich – July 4, 2015**

On the fourth of July, the New York Times gave its readers a first extended look at the political history of Bernie Sanders in Vermont. The article, by Sarah Lyall, is titled "Bernie Sanders's Revolutionary Roots Were Nurtured in '60s Vermont." This sketch of the young Sanders is free of obvious malice. It would serve its purpose less effectively if it were malicious.

The attitude that Lyall adopts toward Senator Sanders is, instead, mildly and cheerfully disparaging -- affectionate, but at the proper distance of condescension; ironically agreeable, as you are allowed to be in dealing with a second cousin or an eccentric uncle who is a bit of a blowhard. Hers is not the first such article to appear on Sanders in the Times. Is it safe to predict that this will remain the paper's approach to his campaign for as long as he stays in the race?

Though malice is absent, the pejorative shading here begins with the title. Does Sanders today describe himself as a revolutionist? "Revolutionary roots" implies that he does. Sanders indeed calls himself a democratic socialist. But it was a pretty steady difference between socialists and communists, throughout the twentieth century, that socialists would choose not to describe themselves as revolutionists. They were radical reformers and tended to reject the path of violence that revolutionists embrace. "Radical reformist roots" would have made a truer but a less eye-catching headline.

Symptomatic excerpts from the article follow in boldface, with my comments in italics:

[The young Bernie Sanders] came to Vermont in the late 1960s to help plan the upending of the old social order.

Did he in fact come to Vermont with a detailed plan? The word suggests that Sanders was a bit deluded. More likely, he came to Vermont with no plan except to organize and reform: something that people with political convictions have been known to do. The word "upending" is curious. It comes from football: a linebacker who tackles a charging halfback by a grabbing his ankles and tossing him head-over-heels is said to upend him. You can't do that to something as heterogeneous and extended as American society. The word suggests as much without having to say so. But it is unlikely that he ever used the word "upend"; once again, the relevant missing word and idea is reform.

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[A youthful article by Sanders in the Vermont Freeman gave] an apocalyptically alarmist account of the unbearable horror of having an office job in New York City.

The pileup of "apocalyptically alarmist" and "unbearable horror" triggers the sarcasm. You can almost hear the unwritten sequel: "An office job in New York City? Give me a break." Various personalities of the era - Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel -- seem to have shared the sentiments of the young Sanders, but the incredulous adverb and adjectives do their work.

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Chalk some of this up to being young and unemployed. Mr. Sanders, now 73, has had a steady, nonrevolutionary job for quite some time now.

It is the usual dig. Resistance and protest come from dissatisfaction and failure; get a decent job and watch how your politics change.

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... barely 30, full of restless energy, with wild curly hair, a brash Brooklyn manner and a mind fizzing with plans to remake the world. Short on money but long on ideas...

Human-interest writing may come disguised as biography but it performs that duty imperfectly. The fizzing mind is there because it rhymes with the frizzy hair. "Short on money but long on ideas" is a cliché so lazy that the barb is robbed of its sting.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

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[Sanders's description of himself as a freelance writer] is a bit of a stretch. A look through his journalistic output, such as it was, reveals that he had perhaps a dozen articles published.

How many articles do you have to publish to qualify as a freelance writer? Two dozen? The pedantry is polemical.

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[In a 1972 article by Sanders, the] opening passage, which deals with men's sexual fantasies, is meant to be satirically provocative but comes across as crassly sexist.

The article was reprinted in Mother Jones, and readers are free to check their impressions against Lyall's description. It opens with a suggestion that men too often fantasize themselves as rapists and women fantasize being raped: the pleasurable compulsiveness of the fantasies testifies to the sickness sex in American society. However shallow or wrong this speculation, Lyall's characterization of it as "crassly sexist" is false. The title, "Man -- And Woman," is enough to indicate the perspective.

Men think of women as an afterthought, the young Sanders was saying, and that is our mistake. The article declares that the typical male vice is "pigness" while the typical female vice is "slavishness." It advises men to stop being pigs and women to stop being slaves. Lyall says that this early article has drawn "unflattering attention," but her only link online yields a brief Times paragraph which alludes to criticism "bouncing around social media." In fact, the unflattering attention has mostly come from right-wing corporate and pro-war sites -- Town Hall, National Review, The Weekly Standard, Breitbart -- whose reasons for undermining Sanders are remote from feminism.

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"Sexual adjustment seemed to be very poor in those with cancer of the cervix," [Sanders] wrote, quoting a study in a journal called Psychosomatic Medicine.

"Wrote, quoting": but if he quoted it, he didn't write it. This is meant to emphasize again the supposed oddity of Sanders's sexual attitudes, but it should never have passed editing.

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He also made a half-hour film about his hero, Eugene V. Debs, the labor organizer who ran unsuccessfully for president five times.

What a peculiar fellow to have as a hero. The conjunction of "unsuccessfully" and "five times" makes Debs an average union organizer and a serial failure: he couldn't stop running for president. Not a word about Debs going to prison for his opposition to American involvement in the First World War. Would it be different -- and perhaps fairer -- to speak of Eugene V. Debs as "the union leader who founded the Social Democratic Party of America"? Of course, that would open up a weakness or two in the story of Sanders's hopeless eccentricity.

None of this is likely to change as the contest of ideas in the presidential race grows warmer. "What contest," you may ask. The Republican field has drawn amused regard from the mainstream media for its array of qualified and unqualified candidates -- the former seeking ever more assiduously to resemble the latter -- with its apparent consensus that climate change is a hoax and that we should have more wars, less immigration, no unions, and work together to facilitate the extinction of public education. The exception is Rand Paul, with his explicit criticism of mass warrantless surveillance and of the Iraq and Libya wars.

The Democrats have been saved from embarrassment by showing little interest in public discussion and only the beginnings of a debate. With the exception of Bernie Sanders: His announcement of his candidacy and his early speeches in Wisconsin and Iowa have shown no slackening in the force of his attacks on Wall Street and the big corporations. His voice today speaks almost alone for a wide dissatisfaction among the electorate with our politics generally, and the popular jealousy of the vested interests that for two decades have dictated policy and set the limits of reform far beyond the area of free trade and the bank interest rates. Public opinion must be controlled, domesticated, shepherded, and the dissatisfactions made somehow laughable. Every amusing and dismissive report on a figure like Sanders or Paul goes to serve that larger purpose.

Bernie Sanders Sets A 2016 Record By Drawing A Huge Overflow Crowd In Iowa // Politicus // Jason Easley – July 4, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders set a new record in Iowa by drawing an overflow crowd of 2,600 to a venue that only had 2,300 chairs.

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The biggest Iowa crowd so far for any presidential candidate turned out on a Friday night in Council Bluffs to hear Bernie Sanders ask them to join a new American political revolution to reclaim the government of the United States from the billionaire class.

At least 2,600 people filled the 2,300 chairs at the Mid-America Convention Center and stood at the rear of the cavernous convention hall.

It was a remarkable turnout on the eve of Saturday's Fourth of July celebration as the Bernie called on them to join a mass movement to restore the once-great American middle class.

They cheered when he called for raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour. They applauded when he said it's time to break up the big banks on Wall Street. They shouted approval when he credited Pope Francis for his call for bold action to prevent catastrophic climate change. They rose to their feet when he said the United States should join every other major country and provide health care as a right of citizenship.

The recent Quinnipiac Poll that showed Sanders gaining on Hillary Clinton in Iowa looks like it was no fluke.

Bernie Sanders is setting attendance records where ever he goes. Sen. Sanders has more grassroots enthusiasm for his campaign than any Republican candidate, yet the media continues to give airtime to clowns and controversy mongers like Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Mike Huckabee.

At some point, the press must be forced to wake up and realize that the issues that Bernie Sanders is talking about are the ones that matter to the American people. When the media ignores Bernie Sanders, they are ignoring the concerns of hard-working Americans.

By filling up arena and venues around the country when Sanders comes to their towns, the American people are forcing the corporate owned media to pay attention.

How Bernie Sanders threatens to derail Hillary's coronation // NY Post // Michael Goodwin – July 5, 2015

Trying to create a presidential persona and a rationale for running, Hillary Clinton relaunched her campaign at a memorial to FDR. She used the glorious setting of Four Freedoms Park to summon Roosevelt's legacy and frame her theme as "Four Fights."

She also invoked her husband and President Obama, as if piggy-backing on presidents would define her. Perhaps it will work, but her predicament recalls a Dem president she didn't mention: Lyndon Baines Johnson. The similarities must scare her.

LBJ looked certain to be re-elected in 1968, until a Minnesota senator with a penchant for poetry named Eugene McCarthy shocked the world by getting 42 percent in the New Hampshire primary, against Johnson's 49 percent. Less than three weeks later, the president famously declared that "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president."

If there is a McCarthy-like figure on the scene today, it is Bernie Sanders, the scrappy underdog threatening to upset Hillary's coronation.

The news that Sanders is surging in polls in Iowa and New Hampshire must be sending shivers through Clinton's camp. Even though Hillary still leads in the 2016 first states, the gap has narrowed so much that her surrogates are lowering expectations, saying Sanders might win some showdowns.

That's amazing enough, but her problem could be even more serious. Echoing the Mark Twain line that "history doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme," the Clinton-Sanders dynamic is starting to rumble like the political earthquake of '68.

LBJ's demise is a textbook example of how quickly the bubble can burst. He had the power of incumbency while Hillary wears the mantle of inevitability. That didn't work for her in 2008, either, when Obama emerged to crash her party.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, doesn't need to win the nomination — and he probably won't — to block Clinton. He only need show that she's not inevitable, and that there is a motivated, significant piece of the party that rejects her.

That is exactly what he's doing, as large, enthusiastic crowds greet him wherever he goes. If she looks beatable, more viable candidates will find the courage to run.

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That's the McCarthy model. He ran as a dissident against the Vietnam War and the New Hampshire results in mid-March of '68 crystallized unhappiness with Johnson.

Nearly 20,000 American soldiers were dead by the end of 1967, and the election year would be the bloodiest of all. It started with a Jan. 1 attack on a US military base and February's Tet Offensive saw the deadliest single week of the war, when 543 Americans were killed and more than 2,500 wounded. Overall, 16,899 of our soldiers died in 1968, the most in any year.

In those dark days, many people, including top Democrats, grew disillusioned with Johnson, and McCarthy's promise to end the conflict found special resonance among draft-age students. Shaggy anti-war protesters shaved and got haircuts in a "clean for Gene" movement.

But the New Hampshire primary was McCarthy's high-water mark. After Johnson bowed out, Bobby Kennedy jumped in, as did Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Kennedy probably would have won, but was assassinated in June by Palestinian terrorist Sirhan Sirhan. Humphrey got the nod at the Chicago convention, a debacle marked by violent street protests that helped Republican Richard Nixon win the presidency.

For her part, Clinton already has veered left to head off a challenge from the progressive flank. But her long record as a relative military hawk who is cozy with Wall Street is proving a tough sell in a party increasingly more radical than she is.

The anti-Hillary movement is also picking up steam because of her shady dealings with international oligarchs and the rivers of cash flowing to the Clinton Foundation. Never reliably honest, she's been caught in lies about her e-mails as secretary of state, leading most voters to say she is untrustworthy. That, in turn, is keeping several GOP candidates ahead or close in hypothetical matchups.

Although she remains the likely nominee, there are many dents in Clinton's armor and a long way to go. By the end, 2016 could be the new 1968.

Bratton is better than his word

Bill Bratton's bite is worse than his bark. That's a very good thing for New York.

With crime in June falling to its lowest level since at least 1993, the top cop is showing he still has a talent for miracles. Through May, murder was up nearly 20 percent.

Bratton's reaction then was a disappointment, writing in The Post that the "relatively minor increase" did not mean crime was "raging out of control." He said he had a plan of action, but his lack of a clear promise sounded like he was preparing the city for a new normal of more violence.

Thankfully, that has not happened. June's numbers were dramatically lower than a year ago, with murders down 38 percent and fewer shootings, rapes, robberies and stolen cars.

Beyond the obvious benefits, the stats are comforting because they prove the NYPD still can move quickly and make a life-saving difference despite the handcuffs and insults coming from City Hall. It's just one month, but let's hope this is the start of a new, downward trend.

Congratulations to the commissioner and all the members of the NYPD. Once again, they showed why they are the Finest.

Smith's old wives tale

Former state Senate leader Malcolm Smith had delusions of grandeur, boasting that he, President Obama and Gov. David Paterson all had wives named Michelle. The implication was that he, too, was bound for glory.

His sentencing on federal bribery charges brought him back to earth with a thud. A Democrat, he was convicted of a scheme to buy his way onto the Republican mayoral ballot in 2013.

Leaving court last week, Smith said only, "I thank God for the opportunity I've had to serve." Presumably, he didn't mean his time in prison, which was set at seven years.

Oh, how the would-be mighty have fallen.

Pataki plays his 'Trump' card

Who's afraid of Donald Trump? Apparently most of the GOP presidential candidates except George Pataki.

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Even as Republicans try to attract Latino voters, the former three-term New York governor broke the party's shocking silence over Trump's statement that Mexican immigrants are "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

In an open letter to competitors, Pataki said the comments "left me and a lot of other sensible people wondering what century we are living in," and urged others to join him in denouncing them.

Initially, only former Texas Gov. Rick Perry mumbled disagreement, but late Friday Marco Rubio finally denounced Trump's comments as "offensive." And yesterday, Jeb Bush chimed in, labeling Trump's remarks "extraordinarily ugly." Better late than never.

Pataki is a long shot for the nomination, but his refreshing capacity for decency has not been dimmed by his time out of office.

WEBB

Jim Webb Announces Presidential Bid; Only Democratic Candidate Opposed To Marriage Equality // On Top // Carlos Santoscoy – July 4, 2015

Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb on Thursday announced his bid for the White House.

Webb made his announcement in a 2,000-word Facebook post.

"After many months of thought, deliberation and discussion, I have decided to seek the office of the Presidency of the United States," Webb wrote.

He said that he had decided to run because "our country needs a fresh approach to solving the problems that confront us and too often unnecessarily divide us. ... And at the same time our fellow Americans need proven, experienced leadership that can be trusted to move us forward from a new President's first days in office."

Webb is the fifth candidate seeking the Democratic nomination. Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is considered the race's frontrunner. Also in the race are Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee. All of Webb's rivals support marriage equality.

While Webb is generally supportive of LGBT rights, he has yet to officially change his stance favoring civil unions, not marriage, for gay and lesbian couples. During a 2014 appearance on Meet the Press, Webb said that the debate "has been a good thing for the country."

CHAFEE

Chafee's campaign leaves some NH Democrats a bit puzzled // Miami Herald // Michelle R. Smith – July 4, 2015

LACONIA, N.H. - Presidential candidate Lincoln Chafee stands before a few dozen people at a meeting of New Hampshire's Belknap County Democrats. The Republican-turned-independent-turned-Democrat gets nods of approval when he tells them he was the only Republican senator to vote against authorizing the war in Iraq.

Then smiles turn to laughter when he pitches another idea: The U.S. should switch to the metric system.

The former Rhode Island governor has visited the first primary state of New Hampshire a dozen times this year. But he seems to be making barely a ripple — aside from curiosity about some of his policy platforms.

In Belknap County, at least some Democrats seemed intrigued by Chafee as someone who could represent an alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton, the commanding favorite for the nomination. But they are also puzzled by what he talks about sometimes.

Chafee told the group he wants to bring National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden home, dropping all charges against him. Paula Trombi of Meredith said she liked some of what he said but was taken aback and disappointed by his position on Snowden. She also can't understand why he keeps talking about the metric system, of all things.

"With all the troubles that are going on, that seems almost odd to bring up," she said.

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Dave Kerr, a selectman in Barnstead, said he agreed with Chafee that billions have been spent on the war that could have been better spent on roads and schools. But Kerr was leaving with a poster and a donation envelope for another Democratic rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who also opposed the Iraq war. A Sanders supporter had handed them out, and Kerr wondered why Chafee hadn't, also.

Chafee is known to dislike fundraising and is just starting to raise money for a race where spending is expected to be measured in the billions. His past campaigns — two Senate races as a Republican and a governor's race as an independent — have relied on an old New England family fortune amassed over generations.

Dave Pollak, chairman of Belknap County Democrats, said he agreed with Chafee that Snowden is a whistleblower and should not be prosecuted. With Chafee's background in different parties, Pollak sees him as someone who could bridge the ideological divide between Democrats and Republicans. He even likes the metric system idea.

But Pollak finds other aspects of Chafee's campaign peculiar.

Clinton's campaign is in contact with the group every week inviting its members to events, has multiple campaign offices open and created specialty groups for supporters such as "High Schoolers for Hillary." The Sanders campaign sends regular "rousing" emails on issues, Pollak said. The campaign for another rival, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, also has staff in the state.

Chafee, on the other hand, has no campaign staff in New Hampshire yet and appears to be running on a shoestring. Although Chafee has a vacation home further north in Franconia, he said he hasn't been staying there during the campaign. Instead, he drives to his New Hampshire events from Rhode Island, a five-hour round trip this evening. He was back in Somersworth, New Hampshire, the following day.

It makes Pollak wonder how serious he is.

"What's the organization?" he asks. "What gives you confidence that he can get the voters out?"

Chafee gets testy when asked about matters like that. He says it's an "evolutionary process."

"You guys never ask anything about the substance," he told a reporter. "It's always about how many people, how much money have you raised. Ugh.

"I wish there was more intellectual discussion about the issues in these campaigns."

As he spoke, Chafee aide Jonathan Stevens handed out stickers saying "Trust Chafee." The design and motto are identical to the one from his 2010 campaign for governor. Asked if they're 2010 leftovers, Stevens replied, "We recycle everything."

Stickers bearing this year's motto, "Fresh Ideas for America," were nowhere in sight.

UNDECLARED

BIDEN

The Joe Biden (mini-)boom // Pittsburgh Post-Gazette // David M. Shribman – July 5, 2015

Suddenly everybody's talking about Joe Biden.

That itself is a phenomenon. The nation's first vice president, John Adams, described the job in a letter to his wife as "the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived," and indeed he did little in it. Its later occupants — and here the names Daniel D. Tompkins, Richard Mentor Johnson, Henry Wilson and Charles W. Fairbanks come to mind only if you're playing a particularly difficult trivia contest — have faded into the mists of history, forgettable and forgotten.

But in recent years vice presidents have become important forces in American political life. As late as 1977, the vice presidency was a political backwater; titanic political figures such as former Senate majority leader Lyndon B. Johnson and former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller swiftly grew bored and depressed in the office. But all that changed when Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota negotiated an important role for the vice presidency as the price of joining former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia on the 1976 Democratic ticket, and strong vice presidents such as Albert Gore Jr. and Richard B. Cheney further changed the profile of the office.

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And, in a major departure from American history, vice presidents recently have become formidable presidential candidates. Richard Nixon and Mr. Gore were in breathtakingly close presidential elections only to lose in disputed circumstances. George H.W. Bush ascended directly to the presidency. Mr. Mondale and Hubert H. Humphrey won tough battles for the Democratic presidential nomination but lost in the general election. The vice presidency has become a potent staging ground for a presidential campaign.

Which is why Mr. Biden now is in the news again — not for what he has done but for what he might do.

Today nobody has an inkling whether Mr. Biden will seek to ascend the greasy pole to the presidency. He is in deep mourning for his son, Beau Biden, who died at 46 in May, though the younger Mr. Biden (and his brother, Hunter) are thought to have hoped for a third Biden presidential candidacy. The first two, in 1988 and 2008, went nowhere, though Mr. Biden's elder-statesman wisdom and generous spirit positioned him to become Barack Obama's running mate in 2008.

Makeshift draft-Biden efforts have launched in the early political states of Iowa and New Hampshire, but they do not have the heft of either the Ready for Hillary or the Run Warren Run organizations that were created for former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who now is running for president, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who apparently is not. They pale in comparison, moreover, with the Draft Eisenhower effort of 1951 and 1952, when the former supreme commander of Allied forces hadn't even made clear whether he was a Republican or a Democrat.

The question for 2016 is whether either the vice presidency or Mr. Biden himself have the advantages Mr. Bush and Mr. Gore possessed when they sought to go directly from the office to the White House. Mr. Bush is the only person after Martin Van Buren to make that leap since 1837. Mr. Nixon, a two-term vice president under Gen. Eisenhower, failed to do so in 1960, though he prevailed eight years later, defeating another vice president, Mr. Humphrey.

None of the vice presidents who won presidential nominations began the race as far behind as Mr. Biden, nor did any face an established, perhaps even historic, rival with the profile of Ms. Clinton, wife of a onetime president, secretary of state to another and a U.S. senator. Mr. Biden is in single digits in the latest Iowa and New Hampshire polls, and Ms. Clinton holds a lead of nearly five-to-one over Mr. Biden in the RealClearPolitics survey.

Until recent times, the presidential prospects of a vice president such as Mr. Biden would be considered remote. Though 13 vice presidents have become presidents, all but four of them ascended through the death or resignation of an incumbent. John Adams (1796) and Thomas Jefferson (1800) pulled that off when the political system bore almost no resemblance to contemporary American politics.

Only in the 20th century, and only sporadically at that, has the vice presidency been regarded as a stepping stone. Three wealthy men of small accomplishment but large ambition sought the position with an eye on the presidency in the first half of the century. Two of them (Franklin Delano Roosevelt, successful 1920 Democratic nominee, and John F. Kennedy, unsuccessful 1956 Democratic contender) calculated the vice presidency would enhance their resumes. The third, Theodore Roosevelt, became president on the death of William McKinley in 1901.

Like Mr. Cheney before him, Mr. Biden's appeal for the vice presidency was based in large measure on the belief he would not seek the White House on his own. But Mr. Cheney, while an important vice president, did not have a history of seeking the presidency while Mr. Biden has been preoccupied with the notion for decades. Though his 1988 campaign ended amid charges he plagiarized part of his stump speech from the British Labor leader Nick Kinnock, it is largely forgotten today that Mr. Biden was regarded as a very strong contender and the one with perhaps the best-developed strategy for winning the White House.

That strategy — a Baby Boomer appeal by a man who wasn't part of that generation but nonetheless recognized the power of 75 million voters born between 1946 and 1964 — would have no resonance today. His attraction in 2016 would be as the tested man of experience, the onetime young-man-in-a-hurry who now possesses the seasoning, patience and perspective to guide the United States to the end of the second decade of the new century.

Ms. Clinton already has broken with the administration on the Pacific trade pact and will be under pressure to identify other areas in which she differs. Mr. Biden would face the same pressure but would have less incentive or inclination to identify differences with his patron.

But in two respects a Biden candidacy would help Ms. Clinton. He is five years older than she, thus removing the age issue. And he is still a member of the administration, thus removing the notion that Ms. Clinton is the candidate of a third Obama term.

GOP

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DECLARED

BUSH

Indignant Jeb Bush Says He Takes Donald Trump's Remarks Personally // NYT // Patrick Healy – July 4, 2015

MERRIMACK, N.H. – Jeb Bush, whose wife is Mexican and three children were raised to celebrate their bicultural roots, showed a flash of anger on Saturday as he said that he "absolutely" took personal offense when Donald Trump recently described Mexican immigrants coming to the United States as "rapists" and criminals.

Mr. Bush, a former Florida governor, used his strongest language yet to denounce Mr. Trump, a rival for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination and the second-place finisher behind Mr. Bush in a New Hampshire poll that was conducted after Mr. Trump made those remarks. Mr. Bush, after marching in an Independence Day parade here with two of his children, George and Noelle, said that Mr. Trump's views are "way out of the mainstream" of the party.

"To make these extraordinarily ugly kind of comments is not reflective of the Republican Party," Mr. Bush said about Mr. Trump, whose comments caused NBC, Univision, Macy's and others to cut ties with him.

"He's doing this — he's not a stupid guy, so I don't assume he thinks that every Mexican crossing the border is a rapist. He's doing this to inflame and incite and to draw attention, which seems to be the organizing principle of his campaign," Mr. Bush said.

Asked if he took Mr. Trump's remarks personally, given his family, Mr. Bush became a little cross.

"Yeah, of course it — absolutely — and a lot of other people" did as well, he said. "But politically, we're going to win when we're hopeful and optimistic and big and broad rather than errrrr, grrrr, just angry all the time. This is an exaggerated form of that, and there is no tolerance for it."

Another Republican candidate, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, gave a different answer on Friday when asked about Mr. Trump, a longtime friend. He criticized Mr. Trump's remarks but then appeared to vouch for him.

"I like Donald. He's a good guy," Mr. Christie said. "And as I said right from the beginning, he'll be as serious a candidate as he wants to be. Those are his choices."

Mr. Trump issued a statement in response to the criticism, saying, "Today, Jeb Bush once again proves that he is out of touch with the American people. Just like the simple question asked of Jeb on Iraq, where it took him five days and multiple answers to get it right, he doesn't understand anything about the border or border security. In fact, Jeb believes illegal immigrants who break our laws when they cross our border come "out of love." "

Bush: 'Absolutely' offended by Trump's comments on Mexicans // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – July 4, 2015

MERRIMACK, N.H. -- Jeb Bush says he's "absolutely" personally offended by Donald Trump's recent incendiary comments about Mexico and immigrants coming from the country.

Bush, the former Florida governor whose wife is from Mexico, made his comments about Trump to reporters at the end of two Independence Day parades in the first-in-the-nation primary state.

"I don't think he represents the Republican Party, and his views are way out of the mainstream of what Republicans think," Bush said. "No one suggests that we shouldn't control our borders – everybody has a belief that we should control our borders. But to make these extraordinarily ugly kind of comments is not reflective of the Republican Party. Trump is wrong on this."

"He's doing this to inflame and to incite and to get to draw attention which just seems to be the organization principle of his campaign. It doesn't represent the Republican Party or its values," Bush added.

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush begins marching in an Independence Day parade in Amherst, N.H., on Saturday. (Ed O'Keefe/The Washington Post)

During his announcement speech nearly three weeks ago, Trump blamed Mexico for allowing immigrants to illegally cross into the United States.

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“They’re bringing drugs,” Trump said in his campaign announcement speech. “They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.”

In the weeks since, several companies have cut ties to Trump and Democrats have seized on the remarks as further evidence of the GOP's difficulty in appealing to Latinos and other minority groups.

Bush was asked whether he's personally offended by the comments, given that his wife, Columba, was born in Mexico.

"Yeah, of course. Absolutely. And a lot of other people as well," he said. "But politically -- we’re going to win when we’re hopeful and optimistic and big and broad rather than 'RRRR'" he said -- literally, growling -- "just angry all the time. This is an exaggerated form of that and there is no tolerance for it."

Bush made similar, but less expansive comments about Trump while campaigning in Nevada last weekend. His comments on Saturday were sharper and more personal and came just a few hours after former Republican Party presidential nominee Mitt Romney said that Trump's comments were hurting the GOP.

"I think he made a severe error in saying what he did about Mexican-Americans," Romney said, according to CNN.

Bush and Trump sit atop the most recent polls of New Hampshire Republican primary voters, with several other GOP opponents who once topped the surveys -- including Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker -- sinking in those recent polls.

Bush spent more than four hours on Saturday marching with supporters and likely shaking thousands of hands. He has been spending the last few days at the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine. Given the proximity to New Hampshire, his son, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, and his daughter, Noelle, tagged along for the parades.

Bush marched first in tiny Amherst before coming here to Merrimack. Several other presidential candidates, including Democrat Lincoln Chaffee and Republicans Lindsey O. Graham and Rick Perry also marched in the Amherst parade. Chaffee also marched here in Merrimack.

Jeb Bush: Trump comments meant 'to draw attention' **// CNN // Ashley Killough – July 5, 2015**

(CNN)Jeb Bush said Donald Trump doesn't represent the views of most Republicans, offering his most aggressive comments so far on the real estate titan who's used inflammatory language when talking about immigrants.

"This is a guy who was a Democrat for most of the last decade. I don't think he represents the Republican Party, and his views are way out of the mainstream of what most Republicans think," Bush told reporters after an Independence Day parade in Merrimack, New Hampshire, according to The New York Times.

Calling immigrants from Latin America "rapists," Trump has become a thorn in the side of many Republicans, who are trying to appeal to a wider tent of voters, including Latinos.

Bush, whose wife is from Mexico, stated a week ago in Nevada that he simply thought Trump was "wrong," adding that "maybe we will have a chance to have an honest discussion about it on a stage somewhere."

But on Saturday, Bush talked at length about his presidential rival after a week of continued pressure on Republicans -- including by other Republicans -- to make more forceful condemnations of Trump.

"Trump is wrong on this," Bush said. "He's doing this. He's not a stupid guy. Don't think he thinks every Mexican crossing the border is a rapist. He's doing this to inflame and incite and to draw attention, which seems to be his organizing principle of his campaign."

Trump fired back Saturday.

"Today, Jeb Bush once again proves that he is out of touch with the American people," he said in a statement.

"... He doesn't understand anything about the border or border security. In fact, Jeb believes illegal immigrants who break our laws when they cross our border come "out of love."

He said he is "proud to be fighting for a strong and secure border," describing it as a crucial issue.

Trump said Friday that the recent killing of a young woman in San Francisco by a suspect who police say is an undocumented immigrant is further proof of his argument.

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Asked about the slaying, Bush agreed that the border needs to be secure and that anyone who commits a crime "should be deported," chiding what he called "sanctuary cities that encourage this."

Sticking to his message about maintaining an optimistic tune, Bush said Republicans will do best "when we're hopeful" rather than "angry all the time."

"And this is an exaggerated form of that and there is no tolerance for that," he said, according to The New York Times.

Following his presidential announcement last month, Trump saw a sharp boost in his poll numbers and came in second place behind Bush according to the latest CNN/ORC International poll.

Bush has been on the receiving end of sharp rhetoric from Trump, who's criticized the former Florida governor for his positions on immigration and Common Core.

"He thinks people come over for love. I don't understand why he's in first place," Trump told CNN's Don Lemon earlier this week. "Maybe it's the Bush name. Last thing we need is another Bush. But I will tell you, I'm a little surprised he's in the position he's in."

Jeb Bush's Giving Totaled 1.5% of Income From 2007 to 2013 **// The Bell Jar – July 5, 2015**

In fact as shown above from Bush's own tax return data in many years his income and taxes were zero.

Bush's income skyrocketed after he finished his time as Florida governor in 2007.

While the internet has made much of Bush's post-political income (approaching $30 million since he stopped being Governor in 2007) and his high effective tax rate in recent years (nearing 42%), I'd like to focus our attention a bit more narrowly: How was Jeb Bush impacted by President Obama's decision to allow the tax cuts enacted by his brother, George W., to expire effective January 1, 2013? Returns from 2014 aren't yet filed because Bush is still waiting to receive tax paperwork from his business partnerships, aides said.

Mr Bush paid no federal taxes in 1985 and 1986, two years when his investment losses cancelled out his income.

Republican Jeb Bush planned to release 33 years of tax records on Tuesday in what was believed to be the most ever made public by a presidential candidate.

Clinton's campaign press secretary, Brian Fallon, said Tuesday that she "fully expects to release her tax returns again this time, as she did the last time she ran for president". He also gave more than $100,000 to charity that year.

He continued to make at least $1.85 million each year, with his highest total, $7.3 million, coming in 2013.

Bush's effective tax rate from 1981 to 2013 was about 36 percent – much higher than Romney's because most of Bush's income was regular income rather than capital gains, which are taxed a lower rate.

[Bush tax forms show income of million since 2007]. "And I don't believe that that is appropriate", Bush said. A bar graph rendering that comparison, showing Bush to the left of Bob Dole, who released 30 years of returns, sat atop the page when it went live. In 2004, Democratic nominee John Kerry disclosed 20 years of such records.

The tax returns can be viewed on Bush's website here.

No other candidate or prospective presidential candidate this year has committed to releasing as many tax returns as Bush. "None of Hillary Clinton's presidential opponents have revealed anything close to this amount of personal financial information".

Clinton's earning since 2014 put the couple in the top one-tenth of 1 percent of all Americans.

"I paid the government more than one in three dollars that I earned in my career".

Some of the information has already been publicly available.

He earns between $40,000 and $50,000 per domestic speaking engagement – which he noted during a news conference was less than the $65,000 that fellow presidential offspring Chelsea Clinton brings in.

In 2012, the previous year for which Mrs Clinton made financial disclosures, her wealth was estimated at $15m by OpenSecrets.org which tracks candidates and campaign finances.

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Bush's Republican rivals did not indicate when their tax returns might be made public.

And his income only continued to grow.

Mr Bush is himself a very wealthy man, with a net worth of $19-22m [GBP12-14m].

Mr. Bush sat on several for-profit boards after he left the governor's office, including Cormatrix, Rayonier, Swisher Hygiene, Tenet Healthcare, Empower Software Holdings and Geo Fossil Fuels LLC.

Jeb Bush, Married To Mexican, Denounces Donald Trump, Takes 'Ugly' Remarks About Immigrants Personally // International Business Times // Elizabeth Whitman – July 4, 2015

Donald Trump's recent comments about Mexicans, which have offended a broad range of Latin American society, from celebrities to television channels, did not sit well with Jeb Bush. In fact, the former Florida governor and one of Trump's many fellow contenders for the 2016 Republican nomination for president took those remarks somewhat personally.

"He's doing this to inflame and incite and to draw attention, which seems to be the organizing principle of his campaign," Bush told the New York Times while in New Hampshire Saturday. And he "absolutely" felt the remarks on a personal level. Bush's wife, Columba, is Mexican. They have three children together, and Bush speaks fluent Spanish.

In June, Trump offered some thoughts on Mexican immigrants in the United States: "They are bringing drugs. They are bringing crime. They're rapists," he said in launching his first bid for the presidency. "Some, I assume, are good people," the business tycoon added.

Bush was also careful to deflect Trump's comments away from the party whose presidential nomination they both seek. "To make these extraordinarily ugly kind of comments is not reflective of the Republican Party," Bush said. "He's not a stupid guy, so I don't assume he thinks that every Mexican crossing the border is a rapist," he added.

As for the benefits of making such derogatory remarks, Bush suggested there were none. "But politically, we're going to win when we're hopeful and optimistic and big and broad rather than errrrr, grrrr, just angry all the time. This is an exaggerated form of that, and there is no tolerance for it."

In response to Trump's remarks, numerous entities have cut ties to the media mogul. Several Latin American countries have dropped out of this year's Miss Universe pageant or refused to broadcast the contest. Macy's, NBC, Serta and Univision have also cut business ties with him, and the City of New York is reviewing its contracts. Mayor Bill de Blasio called the remarks "disgusting and offensive."

Polls Show Jeb Bush In Good Standing To Win The GOP Nomination // Inquisitr – July 5, 2015

Marco Rubio had been gaining on Jeb Bush in the polls last month, but now the momentum has switched and Bush appears to have regained his front-runner status and is surging ahead of Rubio in one national poll, the Tampa Bay Times reports. In the newest CNN/ORC poll released this past week, Jeb Bush leads nationally among Republican candidates for president with 19 percent, a substantial improvement over his 13 percent in June in the same poll. Rubio has fallen from 14 percent to just six percent in the same time period in the same poll.

While Bush has gained on Rubio in the CNN/ORC poll, the Miami Herald reports that both candidates are still behind Hillary Clinton in possible general election match-ups measured in that poll. Hillary Clinton leads Bush 54 percent to 41 percent, while having a 59 to 34 percent lead over Donald Trump and a 56 to 39 percent lead over Marco Rubio.

Business Insider reports that Bush might well be once again the front-runner for the GOP nomination for president in 2016, according to a statement by CNN's polling director, Jennifer Agiesta.

"The findings suggest Bush is making progress toward being seen as the frontrunner in a field that has long lacked a clear leader," wrote Agiesta, "He holds a significant lead over the second-place candidate Trump, is seen as the candidate who could best handle illegal immigration and social issues, and runs about even with Trump and well ahead of the other candidates when Republicans are asked which candidate can best handle the economy."

A look at the latest polling data and averages at Real Clear Politics (RCP) shows that Jeb Bush has a very plausible path to winning the GOP nomination in 2016. Assuming some degree of accuracy of this polling data, here is how the early caucus and primary votes might well go, and how they could lead to a Jeb Bush nomination for president in 2016.

Bush is currently tied for second place, with Dr. Ben Carson, in the RCP average in Iowa with 9.3 percent, and Scott Walker leads with 17.5 percent in the average but he is believed to be slipping in the polls in Iowa. A renewed

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and serious effort by Jeb Bush in Iowa could still find him coming in second to Walker but perhaps a stronger-than-expected second that would lead to pundits saying maybe the Bush campaign is gaining strength.

The momentum of finishing better than expected in Iowa should have Jeb Bush going into New Hampshire gaining in the polls there, where Bush now leads with 15.2 percent in the RCP average while Walker and Trump come in second and third place respectively in New Hampshire. Poor finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire are likely to cause several of the under-performing candidates to suspend their candidacies.

After the strong performance in New Hampshire, Jeb Bush goes to South Carolina gaining in the polls, where he now leads 13.7 percent to 13.3 percent over Scott Walker in the RCP average. This will be very much like 2000 in South Carolina, where John McCain needed to beat George W. Bush in the state to stay in the race, and winning the state gave Bush a clear advantage over McCain. Same in South Carolina in 2016, except the candidates are Jeb Bush and Scott Walker. Same result, the candidate with the last name of Bush wins.

Florida will vote next, where Jeb Bush even now leads with 24.3 percent to Rubio at 18.7 and Walker at 11.7 in the RCP average of polls. Bush should win that more easily, after winning New Hampshire and South Carolina, and beyond that should easily win most of the remaining primary and caucus votes on his way to winning the GOP nomination in 2016. This will be very much like winning GOP campaigns of the past, including Mitt Romney in 2012, John McCain in 2008, George W. Bush in 2000, George H.W. Bush in 1988, and Ronald Reagan in 1980.

The current polling data shows Jeb Bush could very well follow the patterns of many of those winning candidates who become GOP nominees and win the GOP nomination for 2016. For that not to happen, one of the other candidates will have to become the clear choice of those who do not want Jeb Bush as the nominee, and win some early states to become the sole challenger to Bush early in the process. Either Marco Rubio or Scott Walker would have to defeat Bush in New Hampshire and South Carolina for that scenario to be possible, and for one of them to defeat Jeb Bush in 2016. The polling data today suggests that is not likely, but there is plenty of time for all of this to change.

RUBIO

Trump fires back at Rubio after ICE says suspected killer was deported 5 times // Washington Times // Kellan Howell – July 4, 2015

Donald Trump wants to know what Florida Senator Marco Rubio has to say about a San Francisco woman who may have been killed by a convicted felon with five previous deportations.

The New York businessman has come under fire for unfiltered comments on the kinds of criminality that accompanies illegal immigration.

“Our next president needs to be someone who brings Americans together — not someone who continues to divide,” Mr. Rubio wrote on Thursday. “Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from — not closer to — a solution.”

Mr. Trump took to Twitter on Thursday to highlight the case of Kathryn Steinle, 32, who was killed while she walked along the city’s Pier 14 with her father earlier in the week. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials said the man who was arrested in connection with her seemingly random killing had been deported five times.

“.@marcorubio what do you say to the family of Kathryn Steinle in CA who was viciously killed b/c we can’t secure our border? Stand up for US,” Mr. Trump Tweeted.

Suspect Francisco Sanchez, 45, was arrested shortly after Ms. Steinle’s killing.

Mr. Trump also used the story to fire back at his other critics as well. His rhetoric on illegal immigration has cost him several partnerships with major businesses like Macy’s, NBC, and Univision, and earned him harsh criticism from actress America Ferrera.

“Thank you America Ferrara [sic] for supporting lawless criminals from Mexico. One more needless death. 2 innocent lives taken,” Mr. Trump tweeted. “Our Southern border it totally out of control. This is an absolutely disgraceful. situation. We need border security!”

Trump hammers Rubio: ‘Zero credibility,’ ‘outright lies’ to sell amnesty // Breitbart News // Matthew Boyle – July 4, 2015

Rubio joined Democrats and liberals—as well as most of the mainstream media—in attacking Trump for calling out

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international criminals who exploit America's weak and insecure border to get into the United States illegally.

"Trump's comments are not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive," Rubio said. "Our next president needs to be someone who brings Americans together – not someone who continues to divide. Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from – not closer to – a solution. We need leaders who offer serious solutions to secure our border and fix our broken immigration system."

Rubio's statement follows what Trump said about illegal aliens two weeks ago in his presidential campaign announcement speech. "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best," Trump said then. "They're sending people that have lots of problems… they're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Rubio joins people like Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign co-chair and liberal actress Eva Longoria—who compared Trump to Adolf Hitler—and Univision programming president Alberto Ciurana–who compared Trump to Charleston, South Carolina, mass murderer Dylann Storm Roof. There are plenty of others throughout the mainstream media and institutional left who have slammed Trump as well, and some Republicans like former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former New York Gov. George Pataki.

Sending out a link to a Breitbart California article detailing how one such illegal alien like the criminals Trump called out in his announcement speech allegedly murdered a woman in San Francisco on Wednesday, Trump launched his initial response at Rubio via Twitter: "Our Southern border is unsecure. I am the only one that can fix it, nobody else has the guts to even talk about it."

"Our Southern border is totally out of control. This is an absolutely disgraceful. situation," Trump added. "We need border security!"

"Where are the other candidates now that this tragic murder has taken place b/c of our unsafe border," he added in another tweet. "We need a wall!"

In a fourth tweet, Trump sent a message directly to Rubio: ".@marcorubio what do you say to the family of Kathryn Steinle in CA who was viciously killed b/c we can't secure our border? Stand up for US."

In addition, a Trump adviser sent a lengthy statement to Breitbart News on Friday evening signaling that the real estate mogul isn't backing down.

"Mr. Trump will never apologize for wanting the American people to have a secure border," the Trump adviser said. "He is the sole candidate who will secure our broken southern border by building a massive wall. The American people deserve a wall to protect their safety, jobs and economy."

In addition, Trump's adviser told Breitbart News that his boss can't wait to expose Rubio's weakness on immigration:

> Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) has zero credibility on securing our border. Nothing has been more "divisive" than the outright lies used to try and sell his amnesty for illegal immigrants to the American people. Hard working Americans cannot depend on Senator Rubio to protect their jobs. Senator Rubio's "Gang of Eight" bill, which was such an epic failure it never even came up for a vote in the House, would have given President Obama the immediate power to grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

Trump's team seems ready to hone in on Rubio's biggest weakness: That he worked with senior Democrats like Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and the now-indicted Bob Menendez (D-NJ) to put forward an amnesty bill last Congress. Rubio eventually backed away from his own bill after he tanked in the polls.

"Rubio flip flopped on the bill for political expediency with the explanation that he could not expect President Obama to enforce it. Why would Rubio have given Obama this authority in the first place?" Trump's adviser said.

Just this past weekend in New Hampshire, Rubio used several of the same talking points he used to sell the Gang of Eight bill to push a pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens. When asked if he supports a pathway to citizenship for those who broke America's immigration laws, Rubio said: "I do."

> But first we have to prove to the American people that illegal immigration is under control and today that lack of confidence has made it impossible for us to make progress on immigration reform. So the first thing we have to do is we have to pass real reforms that secure the border more secure than it is today, an entry-exit tracking system to prevent visa overstays, and we also need to create an Electronic Verification system

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> for employers so they can verify that the people they're hiring are legally here. We need to put that in place and show it to the American people and prove that illegal immigration for the future is under control. After we do that the second step is we must modernize our legal immigration system.
>
> Today, legal immigration is primarily on the basis of whether or not you have a relative living here. In the 21st century it must be based on what skills you have or what you can contribute economically. After we've done those two steps, I believe the American people will be very generous and responsible about what you do with those who have been here a long time. I think the best approach is to have them come forward, undergo a background check, pay a fine for having violated our law, start paying taxes—and in return for all of that—they will get a work permit that will allow them to work and travel legally in the United States. That's the only status they would be allowed to have for at least a decade.
>
> Then assuming if after a decade they've complied with all of that then they would be allowed to apply for permanent residency just like anybody else would—not through a special path—and then of course once you have permanent residency depending on how you acquire it, within three to five years, you could apply for citizenship. That is a long path. But I do think it's fair and reasonable. But we can't even get to that third step I've outlined until we've done the other two things first. That's just the reality of the political situation we have today in America.

Rubio made most of the same claims in nearly identical language during his advocacy for the Gang of Eight bill.

Trump has also been extraordinarily critical of the Obamatrade deal that Rubio voted for.

"Rubio's dangerous amnesty bill and his recent vote for Trade Promotion Authority – after never reading the Trans-Pacific Partnership – show an unsettling truth," Trump's adviser told Breitbart News.

Trump's team compared Rubio at that point to Obama himself—both of them, after all, were first-term U.S. Senators when they launched their White House bids.

"Rubio is a typical politician who is controlled by the special interests," Trump's adviser said. "The one-term Senator simply does not have the experience or judgment to be President."

Trump's adviser wrapped his statement to Breitbart News by noting that Trump will actually secure the border, unlike Rubio.

"Mr. Trump believes that a nation without borders is not a nation at all," Trump's adviser said. "Mr. Trump will never apologize for fighting for border security. It is common sense and will Make America Great Again!"

Trump is likely to turn the jets on Rubio, as Rubio continues sinking in the polls again—much like he did after he drove amnesty through the Senate last Congress. In an exclusive interview with Breitbart News in Trump Tower in New York City after his presidential campaign announcement, Trump said of Rubio: "I would say Marco Rubio is just not the guy."

"Rubio is weak on immigration and he's weak on jobs," Trump said in a previous interview with Breitbart News. "We need someone who is going to make the country great again, and Rubio is not going to make the country great again—and neither is [former Florida Gov. Jeb] Bush."

PAUL

Don't dismiss Rand Paul's tax plan **// Dallas News // Scott Burns – July 4, 2015**

Most news media dismissed Rand Paul's tax plan, like his candidacy for president, as a nonstarter. But many of those reports failed to grasp a gigantic part of the plan. They also wrongly concluded that the flat tax was a big break for high-income people but not so good for middle-income people.

Let's take a closer look at the plan the Republican senator from Kentucky proposes.

It would abolish the employment tax. The plan would end the most regressive tax in the lifetime of every living American. This is a big, big deal. All workers pay this tax on the first dollar of wages. But the tax stops at $118,500. Wages over that amount pay taxes for Medicare but not for Social Security. This tax has been rising since 1937.

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In 1937, the tax was 2 percent of the first $2,000. Today, including the Medicare tax, the rate is 15.3 percent on the first $118,500 in earnings. It's a big tax.

How big? Most Americans pay more employment taxes than income taxes. A recent report shows that the income tax burden was lower than the employment tax for most households with incomes under $200,000. Internal Revenue Service data tells us that 96 percent of households have incomes under that amount.

So take a look at your next pay stub. Think about what you could do with the largest "raise" most people have gotten in years. Then think about the trivial tinkering that most of the other candidates are offering.

The money to support Social Security and Medicare would come from a new 14.5 percent tax on corporate payrolls. Note that the tax is on the entire payroll, not just wages up to $118,500. So the tax could sustain our nation's most important social programs. And it wouldn't be regressive. The other benefit is that a later increase in the tax could bolster Social Security. The next generation wouldn't be short-changed on benefits.

Most proposals to improve Social Security focus on shrinking the benefits of future retirees while collecting the same regressive taxes. Young workers would be most affected. For years, public and media reaction to the idea of a flat tax has been that it would be tough on poor people but great for rich people. The reality is different.

The Rand Paul proposal calls for a flat tax rate of 14.5 percent on all taxable income. But first, some hefty deductions and exemptions come off the top.

How hefty? Under current tax law, a family of four that didn't itemize would have deductions of $28,600. That's four personal exemptions of $4,000 and a standard deduction of $12,600. Under Paul's tax plan, the same family would have $50,000 in exemptions and deductions. That means no taxes on an extra $21,400.

A family with $50,000 in income would pay no income taxes under Paul's plan. The same family would pay $2,287.50 under current law. That's a 100 percent tax cut.

Double income to $100,000, and the family would pay $7,250 under the Paul plan and $9,787.50 under current law. That's a 26 percent tax cut.

Double income again to $200,000, and the family would pay $21,750 under the Paul plan and $35,043.50 under current law. That's a 38 percent tax cut.

What about the big dogs? Yes, they'd get a big tax cut, too. The top 1 percent pays income taxes at an average tax rate of 22.8 percent according to IRS figures. So the drop to 14.5 percent would be about a 36 percent cut.

The Paul plan cuts the corporate tax rate to 14.5 percent. Right now the top rate is 35 percent. Armies of corporate finaglers, lobbyists and tax code whisperers work to avoid that rate. They do their best to cut the burden.

So reduce the rate. Then watch Apple and dozens of other companies repatriate billions in overseas earnings. Watch companies that have become corporate expatriates renew their love for Delaware. Watch companies decide to build factories and hire workers in America, not Asia or Mexico.

This is a new deal for America. If Republicans can't find the nerve to back it, pray that a smart Democrat does.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz: 'Asinine' to pull reruns of 'The Dukes of Hazzard' **// WaPo // Katie Zezima – July 4, 2015**

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Sen. Ted Cruz said Saturday that it is "asinine" that TV Land pulled "The Dukes of Hazzard" after widespread calls for the Confederate flag to come down.

"I think the cancellation of 'The Dukes of Hazzard' is utterly asinine and an example of corporate America's embrace of political correctness to a degree that is ridiculous," Cruz said in an interview with The Washington Post.

"I'm curious if the Torquemadas seeking to ban 'The Dukes of Hazzard' from our TV sets are equally exercised by all of the leftist college students with posters of Che Guevara in their college dorm rooms," Cruz said, referring to Tomas de Torquemada, who served as the first grand inquisitor of Spain.

Cruz visited South Carolina for the first time since Gov. Nikki Haley (R) called for the removal of the Confederate

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flag from near the state capitol in the wake of of the shooting deaths of nine people at a historic African American church in Charleston. Photos have surfaced of the alleged shooter, Dylann Roof, posing with the Confederate flag. Since then, a backlash has grown against the flag, with Alabama removing it from its state capitol and retailers pulling merchandise that displays the banner.

Two of Cruz's campaign co-chairs, South Carolina state Sen. Lee Bright and state Rep. Bill Chumley, have said that they will fight to keep the flag at a state house memorial.

The Texas Republican said that he has not spoken to Bright and Chumley; Cruz's campaign said last month they are going to "stand by" Bright and Chumley.

Bright likened the removal of the flag to a "Stalinist purge."

"It's not just the flag," Bright said in an interview with Politico last month. "They want to take down the Confederate monuments; I've gotten e-mails from people who want to rename streets. ... Anytime you want to basically remove the symbols of history from a state, that's something that just is very bad."

Chumley said on CNN last month that the people killed in the church "waited their turn to be shot."

"We need to be focusing on the nine families that are left and see that this doesn't happen again," he said. "These people sat in there and waited their turn to be shot. That's sad that somebody in there with the means of self-defense could have stopped this."

Cruz said, as he did in an interview with The Washington Post last month, that the issue of the Confederate flag is one for South Carolina to decide.

"I understand this is an issue and debate that evokes strong emotions. I understand those who see in the flag remembrances of our nation's shameful legacy of slavery and bigotry and hatred and oppression. I also understand those who see in the flag a recognition of their ancestor's sacrifices and our history and traditions separate and apart from the horrors of slavery," Cruz said Saturday.

"The issue should be decided by South Carolinians, not by those from other states parachuting in to lecture the citizens on how to resolve this question of state law," Cruz said. "That's the way our federalist system is supposed to work."

Cruz said the decision of Wal-Mart and other retailers to stop selling Confederate flag merchandise is theirs to make.

"I think that is a decision for each company and each individual in our free market to make. I believe in free speech. Free speech means that each of us can choose what to say and what not to say," he said.

Cruz said Guevara was "a sick, murderous, torturing, tyrant. And yet in the bizarro world that is modern political correctness, because he's a leftist, Che Guevara, like Chairman Mao on their kitschy little watches, is to be celebrated and glorified with no recognition of the thousands or even millions of souls tortured and murdered at their hands."

GOP presidential candidate Cruz wasn't always 'Ted' // Star-Telegram // Maria Recio & Anna M. Tinsley – July 4, 2015

Until U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, was 13, he had an altogether different first name than he does now.

He was named Rafael Edward after his father when he was born in 1970 and to distinguish him from the elder Cruz, he went by the diminutive "Rafaelito," which was shortened to "Felito."

"Until I was thirteen, I was 'Felito Cruz,'" writes the GOP presidential candidate in his just-released autobiography, A Time for Truth: Reigniting the Promise of America. "The problem with that name was that it seemed to rhyme with every major corn chip on the market. Fritos, Cheetos, Doritos, and Tostitos — a fact that other young children were quite happy to point out."

What to do? His mother Eleanor gave him the solution: change your name.

"There are a number of other possibilities," Cruz quotes her as saying "Rafael. Raph. Ralph. Edward. Ed. Eddie. Or you could go by Ted," she said.

Cruz said that he immediately warmed to "Ted."

"But my father was furious with the decision. He viewed it as a rejection of him and his heritage, which was not my

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intention," recalled Cruz.

"'What do you mean Ted is a nickname for Edward?" he snapped at my mother. 'Who's ever heard of that?'"

"My mother's response was unfortunate. 'Well, there's Ted Kennedy,'" she said."

The late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., the liberal "Lion of the Senate" was indeed known as "Ted."

Rafael Cruz, Sr. refused to utter his son's new name for two years.

No more 'two-step' in Texas

Fort Worth attorney Jason Smith is among those happy to see that the Texas Democratic Party is scrapping the "Texas Two-Step," a two-tiered system that awards delegates through both a popular vote on election night and also through post-election caucuses.

Smith filed a challenge to the way delegates were designated in 2008, after Democrat Hillary Clinton won the popular vote in Texas' primary but Democrat Barack Obama received more delegates through the caucus process.

Recently, both the Texas Democratic Party and the Republican Party of Texas made official plans to designate national convention delegates based on the outcomes of their primaries.

"The DNC's decision vindicates the principle of one person, one vote for Texas Democrats," Smith said.

Symbol of the struggle

U.S. Rep. Kay Granger, R-Fort Worth, a long-time advocate for education for girls in the developing world, met June 23 with Malala Yousafzai, the 17-year old Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The Pakistani girl, who is promoting education on a U.S. tour, became a symbol of the struggle for young women to get an education in 2012 when she was shot in the head for defying Taliban orders that girls not go to school.

After recovering in Britain, Malala, as she is internationally known, became a vocal advocate for girls' education and in 2014 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

"Malala Yousafzai's accomplishments are a source of inspiration for me and many others," Granger said in a statement. "As the daughter of a teacher and principal, and a former educator myself, I know firsthand the profound impact that an education can have on a young adult."

"The work that Malala does improves the lives of young men and women throughout the world," she said.

Granger, chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., the ranking member of the appropriations committee and Granger's panel, met with Malala in the Capitol.

Cruz defends Trump: 'Washington cartel' doesn't want illegal immigration debate // Washington Times // Kellan Howell – July 4, 2015

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz defended Donald Trump in an interview on Friday, praising the businessman for boldness in addressing illegal immigration despite protests by the "Washington cartel."

"I like Donald Trump. He's bold, he's brash, and I get that it seems the favorite sport of the Washington media is to encourage some Republicans to attack other Republicans," Mr. Cruz told NBC's Chuck Todd in an interview on Meet The Press. "I ain't going to do it. I'm not interested in Republican on Republican violence," he said, Mediaite reported.

Mr. Trump has been the subject of harsh criticism, including from GOP candidates Marco Rubio and George Pataki, for comments he made in his campaign launch speech calling Mexican illegal immigrants rapists and criminals.

When Mr. Todd asked Mr. Cruz if "rhetoric matters," Mr. Cruz responded, "I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration. The Washington cartel doesn't want to address that," Mediaite reported.

Mr. Cruz admitted that Mr. Trump has a "colorful" way of speaking and said that was not the way he would speak, but added that he would not engage in the media's "game of throwing rocks and attacking other Republicans."

Ted Cruz Calls For US To Quit UN Human Rights Council After Vote Condemning Israel //

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International Business Times // Mark Hanrahan – July 4, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz called Friday for the U.S. to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), after the body voted to condemn Israel's conduct during the 2014 war in Gaza.

The U.S. was the only country to vote against the resolution put before the council Friday, with 41 voting in favor, and five countries abstaining. The resolution condemned Israel's targeting of innocent civilians during the conflict, and also called for an end to the impunity of Israeli officials responsible for alleged war crimes.

In a statement posted on his website, Cruz said that the single U.S. vote against the censure was a "meaningless gesture."

"It is time to stop ceding moral authority to the UNHRC and tell the truth about this hopelessly biased and anti-Semitic institution. ... The United States should stop legitimizing the UNHRC with our membership and withdraw now," he added.

Other critics of the resolution argued that it ignored criticism of the Palestinian side raised in an earlier U.N. Report, which accused both sides in the conflict of committing war crimes.

"We are troubled that this current resolution focuses exclusively on alleged Israeli violations, without any expressed reference to Palestinian violations," U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva Keith Harper said as he explained why his country voted against the resolution, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also condemned the UNHRC in a statement, saying that the body was neither interested "in facts nor in true human rights," Haaretz reported.

The United Nations has long been a target of Republican ire. President George W. Bush's former ambassador to the U.N., John Bolton, famously once remarked that if the U.N. building "lost ten stories it wouldn't make a bit of difference."

Ted Cruz Is Right to Call for Retention Elections for the Supreme Court // National Review // Andrrew C. McCarthy – July 4, 2015

Within the space of just 48 hours, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the president is above the law; that straightforward statutory words may be twisted to mean the opposite of what they say; that discrimination — heretofore, the textbook example of a willful act — can be committed unconsciously, thereby supplanting our constitutional foundation of equal opportunity for all with the totalitarian's dream of guaranteed outcomes for favored factions; and that five politically unaccountable lawyers, by dint of being issued robes, may impose their vision of the good society on 320 million Americans, reimagining our most basic institutions, our founding law, centuries of jurisprudence, and millennia of civilization.

Like millions of Americans, Senator Ted Cruz (R., Texas) thought this was a disastrous couple of days for the country. So did the rest of the Trumped-up cavalcade of GOP presidential hopefuls — or, at least, they said they did. Cruz, however, undertook to do something about it. He proposed an amendment to the Constitution that would subject the justices to retention elections.

"No social transformation without representation" adjured Justice Antonin Scalia in dissent from the five-justice diktat that 50 states end their democratic debate and redefine marriage to include same-sex couples. At least for now it is "couples." No coherent limiting principle stops Justice Anthony Kennedy's rendition of "All You Need Is Love" from devolving into "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" — and yes, for the modern Supreme Court, Lennon and McCartney are more apt than Blackstone and Story to shed light on the countless ways we might "enjoy liberty as we learn its meaning."

Cruz's amendment simply takes up Scalia's suggestion. Our would-be overlords would be required to account to us if they wanted to continue ruling us. Here at National Review last week, the senator outlined his proposal: The justices would face the voters every eight years, earning retention only if they are approved by a popular national majority plus majorities in at least half of the states.

For this, Cruz has drawn the ire of the estimable George Will. The columnist lambastes the senator for trying to "turn the court into a third political branch" over "what he considers" the justices' "political behavior."

Well, Homer nods.

My abiding respect for him notwithstanding, Will has this one exactly backwards. What Cruz considers to be political behavior? Considers?

Alright, let's "consider" the same-sex marriage ruling. In an opinion dutifully joined by the Court's four

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"progressive" justices (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan), Justice Kennedy ruled that the states were powerless to define marriage for themselves because our Constitution makes its definition a federal question — the answer to which Kennedy purported to find in a remote Fourteenth Amendment penumbra that had gone unexplored lo these 147 years.

But hold on: Just two terms ago, the jurisprudential blink of an eye, the same Anthony Kennedy writing for the same four progressives, ruled that the federal government was powerless to define marriage because our Constitution makes its definition a state question — the answer to which was for the people of each state to work out for themselves.

This breathtaking shift can be explained only by politics. It is not law. Law is obliged to be rigorously logical and consistent. It is in politics — the realm of opportunism, compromise, and the swerves of popular passion — that logic and consistency are merely an option, and often not even an aspiration.

The issue in 2013 was the Defense of Marriage Act, which progressives despised because it cut against the campaign to promote same-sex marriage in the states. The issue last week was the decision of several states to reaffirm marriage as traditionally understood, which progressives despised because it cut against the campaign to mandate same-sex marriage in the states. The legal rationales for the two decisions cannot be squared, but the legal rationales were beside the point. The Court was doing politics, through and through.

As I pointed out last weekend, the Court's four progressives are not jurists applying legal principles to resolve cases. They are a voting bloc of super-legislators, implementing an ideological agenda. In tandem with Kennedy and Chief Justice John Roberts, who walk on the wild side when personal or political calculation so dispose them, The Four prescribe policy that hundreds of millions of people — people who have no cases before the Court — are expected to accept without recourse. In this, The Four are indistinguishable from, say, the Congressional Black Caucus . . . except that the Caucus must account to its constituents and cannot, under the guise of "constitutional interpretation," proclaim its pieties as the last, unreviewable word on whatever subject.

Cruz is not "turning the court into a third political branch." Will has mistaken the coroner for the surgeon. The Court already is a third political branch. Cruz is trying to rein it in the only way a political branch gets reined in: by requiring political accountability.

Will frets about what would become of the high court's "prestige" if its incumbents were subjected to elections. But the point is not the justices' amour-propre. The Court's prestige does not owe to the jurists' insulation from electoral politics; it owes to their function in our system: the dispassionate reading of legal texts and application of developed legal principle. That function, not concern over spectacle, is why justices are not subjected to the ballot box.

And it is that function that the Supreme Court no longer performs. How, Will wonders, would a politically accountable Court "stand athwart rampant executives and overbearing congressional majorities"? When Will wrote those words, the ink was not yet dry on the Court's Obamacare ruling, which upheld a rampant executive rewrite of a law rammed through Congress by an overbearing majority. Yet it is somehow not parody.

Will is surely right to be concerned about the specter of national judicial elections. I suspect they would be less harrowing than he supposes. Cruz is not talking about having justices run against each other for office. At issue would be whether a justice's record warrants retention on the bench; if he or she were voted out of office, that would create a vacancy that would have to be filled in the familiar manner outlined in the Constitution. This would not be an election between candidates, each making commitments to this and that interest group in hopes of edging out the rival. It would be a referendum on the American people's conception of the judicial role and the justice's fidelity to it.

Of course it would be better if we did not have to do something like this. It would be better if Congress and presidents had used their constitutional appointment and impeachment powers to make clear that judges were expected merely to judge (a hard enough job). It would be better if Congress had used its constitutional control over the judiciary's jurisdiction to minimize the opportunities for judicial imperialism.

But they have not. Thus, as reformer types like to say, the system is broken. Cruz did not break it; the justices did, with lots of help. Cruz is trying to fix it: proposing a political check to pressure a politicized institution into reverting to the Court Will is nostalgic for — the nonpolitical branch that fortifies limited government. Conservatives, it should be stressed, are not asking for a Supreme Court that imposes our vision of marriage and market-based health care, or that excuses discrimination when it actually occurs. We are asking for a Supreme Court that upholds the constitutional framework of divided government; that assigns law- and policy-making to the people's representatives at the state or federal level, depending on the subject matter; and that upholds the liberty guarantees that are actually in the Constitution, rather than degrading them in an arrogant exploration of "existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

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We are asking to go back to ruling ourselves.

CHRISTIE

Christie slams Obama on Iran, hedges on breaking nuclear deal // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 4, 2015

WOLFEBORO, N.H. — Chris Christie thinks President Barack Obama's handling of the Iran nuclear talks has been the "single most disturbing" chapter of his presidency, but the New Jersey governor isn't sure he'd undo a deal if elected president.

Though Christie said Saturday morning that Obama should walk away from the nuclear talks, he indicated only that as president, he would investigate whether or not it made sense to stick to a deal the Obama administration and its allies are expected to conclude with Iran to prevent the country from obtaining nuclear weapons.

"I'm not one of those guys who's going to say to you, 'On day one I will abrogate the agreement,'" said Christie. It was a reference to rivals — including Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Marco Rubio, Rick Perry, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. Bobby Jindal — who have said that as president they would break off any deal not approved by Congress. Christie cited the complexity of the region and the difficulty of predicting the state of the Middle East in January 2017, when the next president will assume office.

"On day one, I will look into and try to decide what to do with the agreement, depending on where we are at that moment," said Christie in response to a question at a breakfast gathering of local Republicans. "Because by the way it's not just us involved anymore. We have a number of our allies around the world who're at that table as well, and sanctions are most effective when not only we do it, but the other allies do it."

The UK, Germany, France, China and Russia are also party to the negotiations.

Christie harshly criticized Obama's negotiating performance, saying he had lost leverage by appearing too eager to reach a deal. "The best way to get a result as you know in any negotiation, whether you're negotiating an arms deal with Iran or whether you're buying a car, is to not look so desperate," he said. "Don't look like you want the car. Don't look like you're already driving the car, because the car salesman will go, 'Oh wow, I'm getting sticker today."

Christie said that if he were conducting negotiations, he would have walked away from the table and advised allies to reimpose tougher sanctions until Iran offered more favorable terms.

On Thursday, China's foreign minister said there was a "high possibility" that Iran would reach a final deal with world powers within a matter of days.

After the breakfast, Christie marched in Wolfeboro's Independence Day parade, along with Rubio and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Christie Won't Pledge to Undo Iran Deal // TIME // Zeke J Miller – July 4, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said Saturday that while he is deeply troubled by the emerging Iranian nuclear agreement, he would not pledge to undo it should he take office.

Speaking to Republicans on July 4th in this lakeside vacation town, Christie sought to differentiate himself from the other 15 GOP candidates for president, casting himself as a leader who would carefully consider all options.

"I'm not one of those guys who's going to say to you, 'on Day One I will abrogate the agreement,'" Christie said, noting that the American president could not just act alone when China, Russia, Germany, France and the United Kingdom are also parties to the deal, should one emerge. "On Day One, I will look into it and try to decide, depending upon where we are at that moment."

As Christie was speaking, American and international negotiators were continuing talks in Vienna to complete the deal before this week's deadline. Christie said he would have long since walked away from the table, arguing that Iran cannot be trusted to implement the agreement.

"If I was negotiating this deal right now, I would be gone," he said. "I would be away from the table. I would be going back to our allies and saying these are not reliable negotiators on the other side—not the people we can count on to keep their word. They haven't shown us that."

But Christie added he could not commit to revoke an agreement without prior investigation.

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“If I’m saddled with the deal as president, then on the first day I’ll be saying to my national security advisor, to my Secretary of State and to my head of national intelligence: give me all the information I need to let me know all the options I have to try to put this genie back in the bottle, and then we’ll make a decision,” he added.

The comments follow a pattern for Christie, who has tried to draw subtle differences between himself and the rest of the GOP field on a range of policy proposals. Christie told a crowd of more than 100 at the breakfast event to “be careful” of candidates who make promises about what they’ll do on “Day One.”

“I have grave, grave doubts that this is an agreement I will be willing to stand behind, but I also don’t want to be the kind of president who tells all of you something in a campaign and that either doesn’t do it, hoping you forget that I told you I would actually do it on the first day,” he said. “Or, who does it only because I promised it, even if at that moment it’s not what’s in the best interests of America.”

Christie makes nice on the trail in New Hampshire // USA Today // Bob Jordan – July 4, 2015

ASBURY PARK, N.J. — New Hampshire primary voters saw plenty of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the first week of his presidential campaign.

There he was making nice at the Pink Cadillac Diner. You could catch him at the American Legion hall. If not there, then perhaps at a pub or fielding questions at one of his trademark town halls. Wherever Christie went, he was folksy, humorous, engaging, many miles removed from his most caustic, "Sit down and shup up" YouTube moments.

But it remains to be seen, in a week where Donald Trump stole most of the headlines and shined in the polls, whether Christie's focus on the Granite State can improve his longshot chances for the 2016 Republican nomination.

Christie, trying to reverse a litany of polls showing voters view him unfavorably, was warmly received at each campaign stop he made during a five-day swing through New Hampshire through Saturday, but attendees generally said they were still making up their minds, in a Republican field expected to swell to some 16 candidates.

Christie officially became a candidate Tuesday.

"He comes across as a real guy but I'm still on the fence," said Tom Hamlin, a retired carpenter, after meeting Christie at a packed town hall in rural Ashland.

Dean Blake, a cook, also had praise for Christie, but added, "I'm undecided. We're so early with our primary and really relish our important role in the nominating process. A lot of us wait for all the candidates to meet the grassroots people, shake hands with us, and look us in the eye."

Because voters in New Hampshire tend to be fiscally conservative but more socially moderate than those in Iowa or South Carolina, two other key early-decision states, it has the profile of a state Christie could do well in, political experts say.

Matthew Hale, a Seton Hall University political scientist, said it takes effort to win over New Hampshire's voters.

"Campaigning in New Hampshire is unlike any place else in the country. It only works in person," Hale said. "Governor Christie knows that and is quite good at face-to-face politics."

Christie's campaign skills should serve him well, said David Redlawsk, a Rutgers University professor and the director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling.

"He has a shot of being in the top tier in New Hampshire but right now it's unclear if he can get there just on his campaign style alone," Redlawsk said. "I think he will need to benefit from stumbles by other candidates and need Republicans to overlook his baggage on the theory that he would be a strong general election contender."

Christie has held 11 town halls this year in New Hampshire, including eight before his announcement. That's the most of any candidate.

"I assure you no one will catch up," Christie said. "We're just going to keep doing them."

Nonetheless, Christie has his work cut out for him. There is no clear front-runner among New Hampshire Republicans, according to a recent CNN poll, but six candidates polled higher than Christie. And with so many candidates in the field, it will become that much more difficult to get noticed.

At week's end, even Christie found himself fielding questions about fellow candidate Trump, who caused an international stir with his harsh comments about Mexican immigrants, followed by blow back from business

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partners cutting their Trump ties. The "bad" publicity notwithstanding, Trump was second only to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in some national, Iowa and New Hampshire polls. Christie, newly wonkish on policy matters ranging from education to entitlements, still languishes in the back of the pack.

During his week in New Hampshire, Christie also showed a willingness to pivot on positions in order to gain broader acceptance.

At one of the town halls, Christie tried to downplay concerns his foreign policy positions are too hawkish.

Christie in May had laid out a get-tough vision that included a call for more troops, more Navy ships, and more combat aircraft. He also urged active American engagement in global conflicts, declaring at the time that "we have never ignored the crises in the world around us."

But he added this modification when chatting with a morning audience at the Pink Cadillac Diner on Thursday: "Let me be really clear: I'm not a president who'd be looking to go to war at all."

That was good enough for retiree Cathy Spreeman, a Rochester resident.

"I've always liked Chris Christie," she said. "I like him because when somebody is being stupid, he'll tell them they're being stupid."

Chris Christie: King of the 2016 long shots // Burlington County Times // Jonathan Bernstein – July 4, 2015

Of the nine Republican presidential candidates I consider viable, I have Gov. Chris Christie, who made his bid official Tuesday, as dead last.

From the start, Christie was probably too moderate to have much of a chance at the nomination, and it wasn't clear if Republicans nationwide would ever warm to his New Jersey style. While conservatives might have forgiven him for some of his positions (as they did Mitt Romney), they wouldn't forget his embrace of President Barack Obama after Superstorm Sandy, just before the 2012 election. Then the trouble his staff created in blocking traffic on the George Washington Bridge destroyed his November electability argument by attaching a scandal to his candidacy.

Still, Christie remains a candidate with conventional qualifications (unlike, say, Carly Fiorina or Ben Carson), and he is in the Republican mainstream on policy (unlike Rand Paul). A sudden surge in public opinion would make a lot of his liabilities look less formidable.

Christie may have a better chance of creating a surge moment than most other long shots in the 2016 race — Mike Huckabee, Bobby Jindal, Rick Perry, John Kasish and Rick Santorum. I suspect a poll of Republican operatives might find that opinion widespread.

Any candidate in the 2016 cycle can have a polling surge. But only plausible nominees (that is, those who have conventional credentials and mainstream party positions on policy) can take advantage of such a leap. If one of them suddenly moves to the top of the heap early, then party actors might rush to support him or her. (By contrast, if a Carson or a Fiorina gets the same polling rush, the party figures wouldn't jump on board; they might even try to derail such a contender.)

A public-opinion groundswell isn't enough to clinch the nomination (ask Rick Perry, who lost his 2012 momentum in his awful debate performances). But the eventual winner needs to get such a lift at some point in his or her campaign. We understand how those surges happen. A candidate who attracts national media attention early in the cycle, long before most voters are paying attention, is likely to receive even higher rankings in subsequent polls because voters are likely to think first of candidates whose names they've seen more recently. That showing leads to more media attention, producing even larger poll numbers. (Are those public-opinion surges, and the campaign events that spark them, really that random? I don't think we political scientists have a good handle on the answer yet.)

In Christie's case, even if he moves back up in the polls temporarily, his prospects are dismal, as reflected in his campaign's own spin. His team is trying to make us believe, for example, that Vermont and Massachusetts — where they believe Christie will do well — are crucial Republican primaries. With no endorsements from governors to tout, his campaign is reduced to letting Politico know that "he occasionally texts" with Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina as an example of his (potential?) party support in early primary states.

Still, none of the other viable candidates — not Jeb Bush nor Marco Rubio nor Scott Walker nor others — has stepped up over the last six months, so at least Christie hasn't fallen any further behind. For a few more months, that's probably all it takes to make sticking around a reasonable choice.

Green Pressure Applied Against Christie on Cap and Trade as He Enters Presidential Fray // The

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Blaze // Kevin Mooney – July 4, 2015

With Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey now officially entering the presidential fray, his decision to withdraw from a multi-state "cap and trade" coalition, is expected to come under increased scrutiny and criticism. Christie announced his decision during a May 2011 press conference much to the consternation of environmental activists who hold considerable power and influence in the state.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, widely known as RGGI, calls for participating states to cut their emissions by 10 percent. During his press conference, the Republican governor described RGGI as an ineffective, counterproductive program that would result in higher costs for state residents without producing any tangible environmental benefits.

"RGGI does nothing more than tax electricity, tax our citizens, tax our businesses, with no discernable or measurable impact upon our environment. Because states such as Pennsylvania are not RGGI members it's just possible that by making the cap too stringent clean New Jersey plants would be forced to close only to be replaced by power from dirty Pennsylvania coal plants," Christie said. "It doesn't make any sense environmentally or economically and the continuation of this tax makes no sense for my efforts and the Lieutenant Governor's continued efforts to make New Jersey a more business-friendly environment and a place where private sector jobs can continue to be created."

But now, there is a movement afoot at the state level that could force N.J. back into a "cap and trade" arrangement in anticipation of federal regulations built around President Obama's Clean Power Plan proposal. Team Obama is aiming for a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release a new rule later this year, perhaps as early as August, setting state-by-state goals for reducing carbon emissions. Legal analysts familiar with the EPA proposal have expressed concern that state officials could be persuaded to embrace a "back door cap and trade" strategy as a way to preempt federal regulations. This approach would avoid straight up and down votes in state legislatures where opposition to cap and trade policies could gather strength, they warn.

"The politics of carbon trading has generally been pretty toxic whenever it comes up at the federal level," Gregory Sopkin, a partner at Wilkinson, Barker Knauer, LLP, said in an interview. "Even during the Obama Administration when it had Democrats in control of both houses of Congress, cap and trade didn't pass because the public generally opposed. So now, with about 30 state legislatures controlled by Republicans, you can imagine that a lot of environmental groups are not going to like this sort of political accountability we could have if a proposal needed to pass both chambers."

But in those states where political opposition would most likely scuttle cap and trade proposals, a "Common Elements Approach" could be presented as a "middle ground" where states craft their own individual, as opposed to multi-state, plans to achieve certain emissions targets, according to a white paper Sopkin co-authored on behalf of his firm.

"The state adopting this approach with select common elements in its state plan could, after approval by EPA of the individual state plan, partner with states with similar state plans and effectively back in to multi-state CO2 trading markets," the paper explains. "These markets would not necessarily share common regions or electrical interconnections, but would share 'common elements.' "

At the state level, there is growing concern over the impact a "federal implementation plan" or FIP, could have on the coal industry, Sopkin noted. For this reason, state officials are willing to entertain alternative carbon trading plans folded within the "Common Elements Approach" that would supposedly provide them with greater flexibility, he said.

Environmental organizations such as the Center for New Energy Economy, which is part of Colorado State University, The Great Plains Institute based in Minneapolis, Minn., the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy based in Knoxville, Tenn. and RGGI have been organizing meetings with state officials across the country.

"Not all of the meetings are publicized, and they take many forms, but we do know these groups support the EPA plan and that they are pushing the states in a certain direction," Matthew Larson, an associate with the firm and a co-author of the paper, said. Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, has been a particularly active player in the northeast while Jay Nixon, the governor of Missouri, has been holding court with environmentalists in his state, Larson added.

Where Christie is concerned, RGGI was never enforceable between states. He was able to take advantage of the fact that any state could leave the coalition at any time. However, this would not be an option under the EPA proposal.

"RGGI is different from the Common Elements Approach in which each state would have its own plan, which involves trading with other states," Sopkin said. "Ultimately, we don't believe RGGI is an adequate model for what

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the EPA would require."

If new regional agreements are implemented, it is possible N.J. could be forced back into the cap and trade plan similar to what Christie unraveled back in 2011.

So what happens if a state presses ahead with carbon trading without any new legislation under the Clean Power Plan?

"I would expect, parties within that state will bring suit saying you do not have the authority to do this," Sopkin said. "But you could also see litigation from the other side if they don't believe the plan is sufficient enough to comply with the EPA requirements. You could have citizen suits involving Sierra Club and other environmental groups. There could be a lot of pressure on both sides."

But just prior to Christie's official announcement on Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court added a new wrinkle that could solidify state opposition to green regulatory schemes. In Michigan v. EPA, the justices overturned an EPA rule for reducing emissions of mercury and other substances from coal-fired power plants. As this decision could set a strong precedent for cases that involve EPA overreach, states and utilities may want to stay their hand and avoid preemptively complying with the agency's climate rule before legalities are settled. That's what the language of the ruling strongly suggests.

Christie's decision to withdraw from cap and trade has been opposed by N.J. environmental groups and Democratic lawmakers. He has vetoed bills that called for the state to rejoin RGGI.

Even so, the governor has sent out mixed signals on environmental policies that he will need to clarify on the campaign trail. Back in November 2010, he expressed skepticism toward the idea that human activity drove climate change during a town hall meeting in Toms River, N.J. But during the press conference announcing his decision to withdraw from RGGI, he moved decisively in the opposite direction while also embracing wind and solar power initiatives.

Recall that Christie was endorsed by the N.J. Environmental Federation during his first run for governor. Since then, he has lost support from the greenies, but hasn't exactly convinced conservatives across the country of his free-market credentials. He has arrived at the point where it is necessary to clarify his position on the "science" underpinning global warming alarmism.

Christie campaign surges ahead on road to failure // Las Vegas Sun // Jonathan Bernstein – July 4, 2015

Of the nine Republican presidential candidates I consider viable, I have New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who made his bid official Tuesday, as dead last.

From the start, he was probably too moderate to have much of a chance at the nomination, and it wasn't clear whether Republicans nationwide would ever warm to his New Jersey style. While conservatives might have forgiven him for some of his positions (as they did Mitt Romney), they wouldn't forget his embrace of Barack Obama after Hurricane Sandy, just before the 2012 election. Then the trouble his staff created in blocking traffic on the George Washington Bridge destroyed his November electability argument by attaching a scandal to his candidacy.

Still, he remains a candidate with conventional qualifications (unlike, say, Carly Fiorina or Ben Carson), and he is in the Republican mainstream on policy (unlike Rand Paul). A sudden surge in public opinion would make a lot of Christie's liabilities look less formidable.

Christie may have a better chance of creating a surge moment than most other long shots in the 2016 race: Mike Huckabee, Bobby Jindal, Rick Perry, John Kasish and Rick Santorum. I suspect a poll of Republican operatives might find that opinion widespread.

Any candidate in the 2016 cycle can have a polling surge. But only plausible nominees (that is, those who have conventional credentials and mainstream party positions on policy) can take advantage of such a leap. If one of them suddenly moves to the top of the heap early, party actors might rush to support him or her. (By contrast, if a Ben Carson or a Carly Fiorina gets the same polling rush, the party figures wouldn't jump on board; they might even try to derail such a contender.)

A public-opinion groundswell isn't enough to clinch the nomination (ask Perry, who lost his 2012 momentum in his awful debate performances). But the eventual winner needs to get such a lift at some point in his or her campaign.

We understand how those surges happen. A candidate who attracts national media attention early in the cycle, long before most voters are paying attention, is likely to receive even higher rankings in subsequent polls because

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voters are likely to think first of candidates whose names they've seen more recently. That showing leads to more media attention, producing even larger poll numbers. (Are those public-opinion surges, and the campaign events that spark them, really that random? I don't think we political scientists have a good handle on the answer yet.)

In Christie's case, even if he moves back up in the polls temporarily, his prospects are dismal, as reflected in his campaign's own spin. His team is trying to make us believe, for example, that Vermont and Massachusetts — where his team members believe Christie will do well — are crucial Republican primaries. With no endorsements from governors to tout, his campaign is reduced to letting Politico know that "he occasionally texts" with Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina as an example of his (potential?) party support in early primary states.

Still, none of the other viable candidates — not Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Scott Walker or others — has stepped up over the past six months, so at least Christie hasn't fallen any further behind. For a few more months, that's probably all it takes to make sticking around a reasonable choice.

In N.H., Christie says he's 'Telling It Like It Is' **// Boston Globe // James Pindell – July 4, 2015**

SANDOWN, N.H. — Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey, in the middle of a five-day presidential announcement tour in New Hampshire, travels with a campaign banner that says "Telling It Like It Is."

But the "it" Christie talks about these days is mostly himself.

This week Christie became the 14th Republican to announce his intention to run for president in 2016. Two years ago Christie led the field, but he is in a much weakened position today.

Under his watch, New Jersey has undergone nine credit rating downgrades. The state is ranked 48th in private-sector job growth. He faces a public employee pension crisis. In addition, the so-called Bridgegate scandal, involving his once inner circle of aides, is still not over.

And when it comes to issues, Christie, a moderate, is hardly a darling of the Republican base.

As a result, in his presidential announcement launch and during five straight days of campaigning in the Granite State, Christie has treated the presidential contest like a season of "The Bachelorette": trying to win over voters with charm and personal rapport.

His answers to voters' questions are laced with "man" and "buddy" and "let me tell ya." When Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush released their announcement videos, they featured everyday people talking about their lives. Christie's pitch was two minutes of the candidate talking about the moment his mother died.

He has repeated the story at town hall meetings in New Hampshire. He has given marital advice, revealed how often he gets a test for prostate cancer, and told a lengthy story about his daughter's Notre Dame tuition bill.

"The first thing that came to mind after seeing him is that he has a strong personality," said New Hampshire state Representative Joe Hagan, a Republican from Chester, who attended Christie's town hall meeting in Sandown on Tuesday night.

Privately his aides note that Christie is trying, in part, to use the playbook of Republican John McCain's win in the 2000 New Hampshire primary.

Like McCain back then, he is essentially skipping Iowa, running an underdog campaign on the cheap, and hoping his big personality will win people over at endless town hall meetings at VFW halls, schools, diners, and even bars.

Whether this approach will work is unclear.

Sarah Crawford Stewart, a key New Hampshire aide to McCain in both his 2000 and 2008 victories, said Christie faces a more complicated campaign than McCain did 16 years ago.

"Back then, McCain was the only Republican really going after independent voters who can vote in the Republican primary," Crawford Stewart said. "I think there is a lot of opportunity in that space this year, and more Republican candidates are going to be going after that group later in the campaign than even these candidates realize."

Still, Christie's performance at the 138 town hall meetings he has held in New Jersey made him a prominent national politician. Christie aides believe they can recreate the magic of his YouTube town hall moments in another state.

"Christie is an excellent campaigner in small groups — he is engaging and funny, and can connect," said David Redlawsk, who heads up the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll in New Jersey.

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Jodi Nelson, vice chairwoman of the Derry Republicans, said Christie is standing out by being a truth-teller.

“At this point in the contest, people are just trying to get a sense of all of these candidates, and Christie is someone out trying to meet everyone,” Nelson said.

Boston College political science professor Dave Hawkins says Christie is bringing a different style of campaign than McCain did.

“Their approach to what they call ‘straight talk’ is different,” Hawkins said. “McCain used humor and tried to bring everyone together. He called for campaign finance reform and an end to pork-barrel spending as a way to demonstrate he was an honest broker against the system.”

Christie tries to earn points by going after political opponents — liberals, Democrats, and teachers’ unions, Hawkins said.

“McCain also had an inspiring war hero biography that was central to his story,” he said. “When people think of Christie, they think of a brash New Jersey guy who yells at people.”

But these days Christie is doing less yelling. His style, he says, is “take or leave it.”

“I am going to tell you what I think. If you like it, great. And if you don’t, my goodness, there are 13 other candidates to pick from, so you will find somebody who you agree with more than you agree with me. But you need to know what you are buying,” Christie said.

To Jeff Pattera of Sandown, that approach puts Christie in the top tier of candidates he might support in the February presidential primary.

In modern politics, Pattera said, Christie’s personality “is refreshing.”

Here's Chris Christie's big problem in a nutshell // Business Insider // Brett Logiurato – July 4, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) has a big problem.

Two years ago, when he was a candidate for governor, he was the big-tent candidate. He was attractive to both conservative and moderate Republican voters. And he attracted a broad swath of traditionally Democratic voters — he won 48% of the Latino vote, one-fifth of the African-American vote, and 31% of Democrats overall.

Two years later, as he officially dips his toe into the race for president, he's no one's candidate.

"His issue at this point is that both moderates and conservatives within the GOP hate him," said Tom Jensen, the director of Public Policy Polling. "There was a time when maybe you could see everyone else splitting the conservatives and Christie getting the centrists, but even they don't like him now."

Two years after being touted as potentially the GOP's best hope against Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, Christie faces a steep uphill climb to the Republican nomination. He's boxed in by members of his own party who are similar to him ideologically. And he's lost his appeal as a moderate candidate because people have grown tired of his brash personality.

That is manifesting itself in early-voting states like Iowa — which Christie has been mostly avoiding so far, opting instead to press full-steam ahead into New Hampshire. Home Depot founder Ken Langone, perhaps Christie's most significant donor and Wall Street supporter, said "the hell with Iowa" in an interview this week, leading to a round of bad press in the state. Iowa Republicans are souring on him, too — just 28% view him favorably, according to a recent Des Moines Register poll, compared with 58% who view him unfavorably.

"His problem is that there isn't even a single fix for his problems," Jensen said. "Some people don't like him because he's too liberal, some people don't like him because he's a jerk, some people don't like him because he's a Cowboys fan. It would be hard enough to overcome one of those problems, but near impossible to overcome all of them."

The chart below shows the change in Christie's fortunes, illustrating how the percentages of Americans who hold favorable and unfavorable views of the New Jersey governor have shifted over time. Christie's net favorability peaked in January 2013, when 51% of Americans had a favorable opinion, and just 23% had an unfavorable opinion.

Those numbers have flipped upside-down, with polling last month showing 27% favorable and 55% unfavorable:

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Over the past year and a half, different elements have pummeled his image in and out of his home state. There's the Bridgegate scandal, to which he was never directly linked but which clearly damaged his reputation as an executive.

Then there's his economic record: He has endured nine credit downgrades, and New Jersey's credit rating is second-worst in the nation. He has had continual problems with his state's budget. And Democrats point to the fact that New Jersey ranks 48th in job creation.

"He likes to tell people that he isn't responsible for New Jersey's economic failures because he inherited a bad economy," one Democratic strategist told Business Insider. "But since the Great Recession the country has bounced back and New Jersey's neighboring states haven't just recovered all the jobs they lost – they've added significantly more."

One poll released this week displayed, in brutal fashion, how his home state's voters have turned on him. Among the highlights:

> A clear majority (57%) of New Jerseyans think Christie should resign now that he is officially running for president, compared with 37% who think he should be allowed to stay in office.
>
> His approval rating in the state sits at just 36%, compared with 58% who disapprove.
>
> Christie trails Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, 49-32, in a hypothetical general-election matchup.
>
> Christie also trails his Republican opponents in primary matchups. Republican voters in the state think both former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and US Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) would make better presidents. And Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker draws even with Christie.

Then there's this: Just 27% of New Jersey residents say Christie would make a good president, compared with 69%. Christie is well aware of this fact, and he has attributed it in an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly to the notion that "a lot of those people ... want me to stay" as governor.

But Monmouth followed up with poll respondents in an attempt to fact check Christie's claim. It found that just 5% who said Christie wouldn't make a good president said they gave that response because they hope he stays on as governor. On the other hand, 89% confirmed for a second time that they really think he would make a bad president.

"I'm not sure how the governor defines 'a lot,' but any common sense usage of the term would have to be significantly greater than five percent," said Patrick Murray, the director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Christie enters the race: Swinging for the fence // North Jersey // Matthew Hale – July 4, 2015

CHRIS CHRISTIE is a Met Fan. There is always hope. Despite almost identical records this year, Yankee fans have a lot more confidence in their team's playoff chances than Met fans do. That is because the Yankees always have an air of inevitability about them; the Mets? It's always about hope.

In the summer of 2011, Chris Christie was the Yankees. Every spring Yankee fans expect them to make the World Series. Even Yankee haters have the sense that no matter what they do, the Yankees will in fact make it to the Promised Land. Back in 2011 Christie was full of confidence and swagger, and even his harshest critics seemed resigned to the fact he was eventually headed to the World Series of politics otherwise known as the White House.

In the summer of 2015, Chris Christie is the Mets. In the end, while Mets and Christie fans alike hope they can go all the way, they have a gut sense that maybe this is not their year.

Hope flourishes

Last week Governor Christie formally announced he was running for president. For all candidates, announcement week is a time where hope flourishes and nothing is inevitable. It is no exception with Christie. So since he is a diehard Mets fan, here are a few things that Christie has to "hope" will happen for him to thread the needle and win

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his party's nomination.

1) A solid re-introduction to inattentive primary voters

I took my generally-indifferent-to-electoral-politics 12-year-old daughter to Christie's formal announcement at Livingston High School on June 30. Her thoughts afterward spoke volumes. What stood out to her were his "conviction and honesty." I know my jaw dropped also, but, hey, she is only 12. However, I soon realized that my daughter was probably like many voters in Iowa and New Hampshire. She doesn't (nor should she) pay enough attention to what is going on in New Jersey politics to realize that voter sentiment in the state toward the governor is such that those terms may well rest on the bottom of a list of adjectives they'd invoke to describe him.

Much has been made of how low Christie's poll ratings are in New Jersey and even his overall negative ratings nationwide. However, like my daughter, at this point voters in Iowa and especially New Hampshire probably don't care or don't know about New Jersey or his record in it.

What they will soon know is what my daughter saw. Christie still has the capacity to deliver a gut-grabbing, straight-talk juggernaut town hall performance that has the room believing every single word. That counts for a lot in New Hampshire and Iowa, where it is all about seeing the candidates face to face. Christie has to hope that he connects with voters in New Hampshire in the same way he connected with my daughter and the crowd in Livingston this week.

2) The YouTube monster reawakens

I did a quick YouTube search by candidate names and then sorted them by number of views. The overall lesson is: Get on Jimmy Fallon's show. Christie doing "Dad Dancing with Jimmy Fallon" has been viewed almost 9 million times, while Jeb Bush's recent slow jam of the news with Fallon is just under 1.5 million views. But even this back-of-the-envelope look shows that Christie owns YouTube, at least among serious (e.g. non-Trump) candidates. He has almost 20 different posts with more than 200,000 hits. That is more than current frontrunners Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Scott Walker combined.

Christie must reawaken the kind of viral video activity he had back when he was a Yankee. Luckily for the governor, the debates, his town hall-style meetings and New Hampshire in general are a natural breeding ground for the YouTube moments that can make or break candidates. Can you imagine how many hits Gary Hart's 1984 axe throwing would have today? Christie and his team have the capacity to create a moment like that and he has to hope it happens.

3) Christie's jabs become haymakers that land

Christie has been on his best behavior lately. It has been a long time since he called anyone an "idiot" or "numbnuts." As a result, we haven't been focusing on one of the governor's greatest strengths. He will take on anyone, anywhere, anytime. In his announcement speech, Christie took a few smacks at President Obama and "Second Mate" Hillary Clinton. But he also took some vague jabs at fellow Republicans. Earlier this year, he was a little more pointed when in the space of about six hours he took swings at Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz and his favorite target, Rand Paul.

In a field of 15 plus, presidential candidates can either try to stay above the fray hoping to look more presidential or they can attack their opponents with joy and vigor. Guess which one is better suited for Christie? He is, perhaps, the best debater of the bunch. A well-placed haymaker from Christie might make Jeb Bush look entitled and privileged; Scott Walker or Marco Rubio inexperienced and untested; or any of the other candidates just plain crazy and unelectable. Christie has to hope that happens. Even better if he can make those moments go viral.

Every year the Mets have moments of magic and hope. So far this year it has been early outings from rookie pitchers Noah Syndergaard and Steven Matza and an 11-game winning streak back in April. But talk to most Met fans and while they are still hopeful, they are expecting the inevitable bad news to come.

Christie has done an amazing job at steadying his sinking ship and repositioning himself to make a serious run for his party's nomination. His opening announcement tour continues to be well received and he clearly has the talent and capacity to throw a couple of no hitters. There is hope in the Christie camp.

For Chris Christie, Freedom Means Nothing Left to Lose as New Jersey Voters Want Him to Resign // Politicus // Sarah Jones – July 4, 2015

New Jersey wants to be free of Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ) according to a Monmouth University poll taken after the Governor announced his bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

It's not that they don't want to lose Christie, either, contrary to what Christie believes. Only 5% said that's why they don't want Christie to run. It's more that they really, really, really do not think he will be a good President. In

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fact, a majority would like the Republican governor to resign.

From the Monmouth University poll released on Thursday:

A large majority feels that Christie has abandoned his commitment to the state and few say he is a good fit for the Oval Office.

Just 27% of New Jerseyans say Chris Christie would make a good president. More than two-thirds (69%) say he would not. A few months ago, Christie was asked on national TV about similar poll results. He responded that survey participants told pollsters he would not make a good president because “a lot of those people…want me to stay.” Monmouth followed up with the participants in our poll and found that just 5% of those who said he would not make a good president say they gave that response because they would rather have Christie stay in New Jersey. Fully 89% of this group, though, confirmed that their answer meant they really think he would make a bad president.

And…. New Jersey would like Chris Christie to resign. Fifty-seven percent of Garden State residents want Christie to get out of the Governor’s mansion, and only 26% say he can run for president and govern New Jersey effectively at the same time:
A majority (57%) of Garden State residents say the governor should resign now that he’s thrown his hat into the ring, compared to 37% who say he should stay in office. Even more New Jerseyans (71%) feel that Christie cannot run for president and govern New Jersey effectively at the same time. Just 26% say he can do both well.

“Chris Christie may be looking for a new job. Just don’t expect his current employer to provide a good reference,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Familiarity breeds contempt and all of that.

They hate him in New Jersey. So, like a Republican lost in his Fox bubble, Christie figures this means he should run for national office.

You are probably thinking about reality and history and how being hated in the state where a candidate is currently in office doesn’t bode well for running for a bigger office, but being hated and hatred are working out super well for Donald Trump. The Republican expert in bankruptcy is currently polling in second place for his party’s nomination. There is nothing the Republican base likes more than someone America hates.

Freedom for Christ Christie this Fourth of July is just another word for nothing left to lose.

PERRY

New Hampshire Republicans Not Ruling Perry Out // Texas Tribune // Abby Livingston – July 4, 2015

DERRY, N.H. — If Rick Perry has a base in New Hampshire, it’s made up of women and veterans.

At a Friday night campaign event, an adoring crowd ate up every word from the Texas governor. Perry playfully referred to each female supporter he met as "girl," no matter her age. And when the party’s hostess presented him with a New Hampshire-shaped pin, he said, “Pin me.”

And with only two veterans in the GOP nomination hunt, veterans say they have a special affinity for Perry, a former Air Force cargo pilot.

Perry’s New Hampshire political team ensured that parallel-parked cars outside snaked down the street for blocks. But attendance isn’t commitment among New Hampshire’s high-maintenance, fickle electorate.

Even the event’s host, retired Air Force fighter pilot Rob Hampton, is still on the fence.

“He’s on our short list,” he said of Perry.

New Hampshire and Iowa, the other early primary state, are small enough in population that Perry has enough time as an out-of-office former official to make his case. Candidates like Ted Cruz, meanwhile, are tied down with official duties.

Betty Gay, a relocated Texan who now lives in New Hampshire, was at the event and said she liked Perry’s economic positions.

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But she worries about Republican candidates taking a hard line on gay marriage and abortion and alienating women and voters with friends and family members who are gay.

“That’s my concern,” the retired Lamar University graduate said.

New Hampshire is traditionally more economically conservative than Iowa. Perry cautiously answered a question on the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent gay marriage ruling.

“I agree with those four justices that were on the losing side is who I agree with,” Perry said. “But the fact is, we’re a rule-of-law country and they make decisions up there that from time to time I don’t agree with. But we are a country of rules and laws, and if we get away from that, we’ve lost everything that we have.”

He then promised to appoint conservative judges as president.

“He finally got to the answer where he said we are a nation of laws, even if we don’t like them,” Gay said. “So I thought that was the answer. But I got the impression he didn’t really want to come out and say it’s a non-issue… because he knows some people here are very upset about it.”

In contrast, New Hampshire state Rep. Ken Weyler is all-in for Perry.

Weyler does not want Perry to just do well in New Hampshire – his aim is for Perry to run the table.

Weyler is part of a conservative initiative called the “603 Alliance.” 603 is the state’s area code, and the group seeks to consolidate conservative support behind a single candidate so that Democratic and registered Independent voters cannot cross over and determine the nominee in the state’s open Republican primary.

But six months out from that election, Perry lags behind his GOP rivals in state polling. A decisive victory over the crowded and talented GOP field is a tall order for Perry.

“We have to start emphasizing, we want a resume, not a slogan. We want something real,” Weyler said. “And we want a record of accomplishment. We want a veteran… I’m trying to get the veteran vote behind him.”

Like a Perry campaign swing in March, the candidate’s articulate and wide-ranging stump speech played well in this setting. Voter by voter, Perry is effectively erasing memories of his 2011 debate flop.

“For crying out loud!” Gay said when asked about Perry’s 2011 troubles. “If anybody can say they have never been deep into a discussion and all of the sudden their mind switches to a different track…”

“Baloney!” she exclaimed.

Perry’s Texas rival for the GOP nomination, Cruz, will spend the Fourth of July doing campaign and book tour events in Greenville, South Carolina.

Report: Perry Emerges as Trump's Biggest Critic Among GOP Rivals // Newsmax // Todd Beam on – July 4, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is emerging as the strongest critic of fellow Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and his controversial remarks on illegal immigrants.

"I don't think Donald Trump's remarks reflect the Republican Party," Perry said Thursday after a speech at the National Press Club in Washington in which he called on the GOP to reach out to African Americans in the upcoming election.

He sharpened his attacks later in an interview with Fox News, The Texas Tribune reports.

"I think that was huge error on his part and, number one, it's wrong," Perry said of Trump's remarks on illegals in his June 16 announcement speech. "What I would say is that we want somebody who’s actually dealt with this before, not somebody that’s just going to shoot from the hip.

"I will suggest to you I know how to secure the border, and the border security is the real issue here," he said.

Perry, who stepped down in January as the Lone Star State's longest-serving governor, last year deployed 1,000 National Guard troops to the Texas-Mexico border to combat the surge in illegal immigrant children pouring into the country.

His Thursday attacks on Trump marked a sharp departure from Perry's comments the previous day, in which he told Fox that the billionaire developer's remarks on immigration simply were ones "that I certainly wouldn't have

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made."

Perry's campaign, however, played Thursday's criticism for all that it was worth, the Tribune reports. Staffers immediately released the comments to reporters, with video from the interview and transcripts highlighting the remarks.

Perry himself even sent out this Twitter message linking to the release:
In response, Trump criticized Perry on Saturday, telling Fox News the former governor had not done more "in terms of protecting people" from illegals crossing the South Texas border.

Still, Perry remains far behind Trump in the polls. He finished 8 percentage points behind Trump, who placed second, with 12 percent of those surveyed saying that they supported him.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush finished first, with 19 percent.

GRAHAM

Republican presidential candidate Lindsey Graham has a stark warning for the US // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – July 4, 2015

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) has a warning for the US: if we don't reform entitlements, we could end up like Greece.

On Saturday, the Republican presidential candidate told Business Insider that the US risks a Greek-style financial crisis if Congress doesn't reform entitlement programs.

"If you can't do a grand bargain where you reform entitlements and flatten out the tax code, we could become Greece," Graham said.

Years of debt and subsequent austerity measures have stifled the Greek economy.

This week, Greece defaulted on its loan payments to the International Monetary Fund. The country will vote Sunday on a referendum that will decide if Greece will accept another bailout from its three main creditors: the IMF, the European Central Bank, and the European Commission

In order to prevent a similar situation, Graham proposed a broad range of solutions outlined in the 2012 Simpson-Bowles plan — a broad, relatively centrist entitlement reform plan that died in Congress.

The Senator said that in order to curb rising costs of Medicare, Social Security, and other programs, he'd raise the retirement age, trim benefits, and flatten out the tax code.

Graham said he would be willing to eliminate some tax deductions to get centrist Democrats on board. Graham told Business Insider that the Senate Democrats like Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-New York) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) had expressed interest in entitlement reform, as long as the plans included new revenue.

The South Carolina Senator said his plan may upset the hard-liners of both parties, but could be a good compromise.

"You're not going to get Bernie Sanders, you're probably not going to get the folks on the right to agree on revenue," Graham said. "We got to have a bipartisan plan in order to avoid becoming Greece."

It's unlikely the US would run into a problem like Greece's, since the US controls the currency that it owes its debt in. If the debt became too great, the US could physically print its way out of debt, which would devalue its currency significantly and lead to inflation, but would not leave the country at the mercy of the IMF or other creditors.

The South Carolina Senator also brushed off concerns about Greece leaving the European Union and seeking a greater alliance with Russia.

"That'd be like getting a ticket on the Titanic. I'm not so sure that's the way to go for Greece," Graham said.

Graham sees 'perfect storm' from terror // Union Leader // Dan Tuohy – July 4, 2015

MANCHESTER - Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the U.S. government is losing the ability to defend Americans "because of stupid politics."

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The Republican presidential hopeful spoke before campaigning in New Hampshire on the Fourth of July, when the State Department warned about potential terror threats related to the holiday weekend.

Graham, long a defense hawk, continues to advocate for more robust national security and surveillance.

"People kind of push back on me that I'm too much of an alarmist - that I'm over-selling. I don't think I am," Graham said in an interview with the New Hampshire Union Leader. "I think there's a perfect storm brewing out there for us to get hit hard. In the face of increased threats, we are literally reducing our defense and intelligence capability."

Graham had argued for renewal of the Patriot Act to ensure the National Security Agency maintains surveillance authority.

Graham, a retired Air Force lawyer and judge advocate, sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

This weekend was the first time Graham campaigned in New Hampshire since the shooting in a church in Charleston, S.C., two weeks ago. Graham postponed a visit in order to be in his home state to address the murders, including controversy over the Confederate flag flying on state house grounds. Graham, in a change of position on the flag, joined other leaders in his state in calling for the flag to be removed from state house grounds.

Graham, in the interview, shook his head as he said he still cannot understand how a 21-year-old like Dylann Roof could go into a church, be invited to worship, and then shoot people.

"That's a level of hate that's hard to understand," Graham said.

Roof was arrested and charged with killing nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

"But at the end of the day, 48 hours after the shooting, the families appeared in court to confront the killer. They say, 'You destroyed my life, but I forgive you, I love you.' That kind of love can only come from God," Graham said. "It changed my state. There's been a soul-searching in South Carolina like I have never seen. Churches have been full. People have been reaching out, holding each other. The flag will come down Monday. It won't solve all of our problems, but it is a step forward."

HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee Vows To Prosecute Attacks Against Gay Marriage Opponents As Hate Crimes //
On Top - July 4, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee on Thursday denounced the Supreme Court ruling striking down state bans on gay marriage, saying that as president he would protect opponents.

In a Fox News op-ed, Huckabee claimed that the Supreme Court's ruling was an “out-of-control act of unconstitutional judicial tyranny.”

“While some cowardly politicians will wave the white flag and surrender to the false god of judicial supremacy, I refuse to light a match to our Constitution,” he wrote. “We must resist and reject judicial tyranny, not retreat.”

Huckabee pledged as president to sign executive orders that “support traditional marriage and protect businesses, churches, non-profits, schools and universities, hospitals, and other organizations from discrimination, intimidation, civil penalties, or criminal attacks for exercising their religious beliefs” and direct the attorney general to “protect liberty and prosecute any violations of First Amendment rights of individuals, businesses, religious organizations, institutions, and civil servants, including those who believe in traditional marriage.”

“The Justice Department will protect and defend the rights of American citizens to follow their religious convictions without discrimination, and prosecute attacks on people of faith and their religious liberty.”

“I will aggressively prosecute attacks against people of faith as hate crimes,” he added.

A graphic posted on the Huckabee campaign Facebook page quotes the former governor as saying, “An attack on Christians and their religious liberty is a hate crime that be prosecuted.”

FIORINA

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Lt. governor offers support to Fiorina // Journal Gazette // Niki Kelly & Brian Francisco – July 5, 2015

Indiana Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann on Monday announced that she supports Republican Carly Fiorina in her bid for the presidency in 2016.

"As a former business owner, I appreciate that Carly, previous CEO of a Fortune 100 company, has the background to grow our economy and lead our country," Ellspermann said.

"With her breadth and depth of experience as a business leader, as the former Chair of the CIA's Advisory Board and as the leader of multiple nonprofit organizations, Carly brings a fresh, yet informed perspective to Washington. I believe Carly will place problem-solving before politics, a behavior Americans desire and deserve."

Ellspermann will co-chair Fiorina's Indiana efforts with Suzanne Jaworowski, the communications and government affairs director for Hallador Energy/Sunrise Coal.

A news release said Ellspermann and Jaworowski will work to communicate Fiorina's unique credentials and accomplishments and will help build a grass-roots network of support.

Fiorina is a businesswoman and former CEO of Hewlett-Packard.

She is the only female Republican candidate and recently came in second in the Western Conservative Summit's GOP presidential straw poll.

Donnellyvisits Iraq

Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., is part of a congressional delegation that has been in Iraq on a fact-finding trip, his office announced Monday.

The delegation met with U.S. military leaders and Iraqi officials, including Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, to discuss the fight against Islamic State militants in Iraq.

"With more than 3,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and more on the way, I felt it was critical to hear directly from our commanders on the ground and our Iraqi allies – Shia, Sunni, and Kurdish – about the current strategy. We also discussed what role the U.S. and our coalition partners in the region should play going forward," said Donnelly, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in a statement.

Donnelly is part of a delegation led by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va.

According to Kaine's office, others in the group are Democratic Reps. Brian Higgins of New York, Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, Stephen Lynch and Jim McGovern of Massachusetts and Peter Welch of Vermont.

The delegation visited Iraq and Kuwait last weekend, traveled to Jordan on Monday and was in Turkey on Tuesday.

Hale not running

State Rep. Christina Hale, D-Indianapolis, announced Monday that she will campaign for re-election next year rather than run for an open U.S. Senate seat, the Associated Press reported.

Hale's decision leaves former U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, a native of Seymour, as the only announced Democratic candidate for the seat held by Republican Sen. Dan Coats, who will not seek re-election.

Two Republicans – former state GOP Chairman Eric Holcomb of Indianapolis and U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd, of Howe – seek to replace Coats.

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal: The son of im migrants and new champion of the tough-on-immigrants crowd // WaPo // Janell Ross – July 4, 2015

Bobby Jindal lives in a very interesting and unique political space.

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He's one of many, many men and one woman vying for the GOP nomination in 2016. He's a young governor but is widely regarded as a withered-though-once-rising political star. He's the first Indian-American to be considered a serious candidate for the White House, but he shuns that label and believes that every American should strive to live a non-hyphenated experience.

He's the pro-melting pot candidate in a world in which the American salad bowl is seen as a hipper or at least more inclusive national metaphor. He expresses significant concern about the danger he insists some immigrants can represent in the United States and countries abroad. And this month, all of that may have attracted more attention than Jindal's formal announcement that he's running for president.

First, a bit of background.

In January, Jindal took a trip to Europe, gave some speeches and did some interviews. They included the idea that some European countries have mistakenly allowed Muslim immigrants to establish almost autonomous communities in which strict religious laws, known as Sharia, govern life. Some of these places had become "no-go" zones for non-Muslims, Jindal claimed.

Amid criticism that his comments were not only counterfactual but flavored by more than a little bit of influence from people like Pamela Geller, who has long warned of the dangers created by so-called "creeping Sharia," Jindal doubled down. In a satellite interview from London with CNN, Jindal said:

> I knew that by speaking the truth we were going to make people upset. ... The huge issue, the big issue in non-assimilation is the fact that you have people that want to come to our country but not adopt our values, not adopt our language and in some cases want to set apart their own enclaves and hold on to their own values. I think that's dangerous.

Then in February, Jindal came to Washington, D.C., addressed an anti-Common Core curriculum organization, and repeated these thoughts.

All that was looming in the backdrop when Jindal announced his bid for the White House on June 24. And true to his politics, Jindal's speech included references to the exceptionalism of America, the experiences of his immigrant parents and the "assault" that Christianity faces.

Then, he went on.

> As for me, I'm sick and tired of people dividing Americans. And I'm done with all this talk about hyphenated Americans. We are not Indian-Americans, Irish-Americans, African-Americans, rich Americans, or poor Americans – we are all Americans.

> While I'm at it, here's another thing you aren't allowed to say, but I'm going to say it anyway: We cannot allow people to immigrate to this country so that they can use our freedoms to undermine our freedoms. ... It is not unreasonable to demand that if you immigrate to America, you must do so legally, and you must be ready and willing to embrace our values, learn English and roll up your sleeves and get to work.

That was all too much for a certain subset of Americans. For those whose social media accounts have yet to feature the #Jindian and #BobbyJindalIsSoWhite hashtags, please brace yourself.

Writer Hari Kondabolu, formerly part of the writing team at the now-canceled political comedy show "Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell," told the publication Colorlines that after Jindal's announcement, he was irritated. Kondabolu, who is Indian American, was bothered by what he sees as Jindal's cynical games with race and identity, fear of immigrants and the desire of older Indian Americans to be fully included in American life. So, he started the #BobbyJindalIsSoWhite hashtag.

Then, he went at Jindal hard. Real hard.

Soon, someone else shared their sense that Jindal pulled a downright #jindian move when he allowed official and unofficial gubernatorial portraits of himself to depict a man whose skin mysteriously appeared several shades lighter than Jindal's own to be hung in public spaces.

And then there was this -- quite possibly the sharpest critique of them all -- from comedian and "Daily Show" alum Aasif Mandvi:

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It wasn't long before conservative fans of Jindal and others rose to Jindal's defense. They described the online commentary as deeply offensive, inappropriate, cruel and an exemplar of the left's hypocrisy. Jindal's campaign even had some fun with it, printing T-shirts with the slogan "Tanned. Rested. Ready."

All that might have faded into the mass of ideas shared on social media if a pro-Jindal super PAC hadn't begun running ads in Iowa in recent days playing up -- what else -- Jindal's views about immigrants.

“I think our immigration system is broken,” Jindal said in a clip included in the ad. “If folks want to immigrate to America, they should do so legally. They should adopt our values. They should learn English. And they should roll up their sleeves and get to work.”

Here, we see the super PAC's version of Jindal, equipped and willing to say what others won't or can't about America's immigrants -- perhaps because he is the brown-skinned son of Indian Hindu immigrants. He "learned" English. He speaks with a vaguely Southern-American-inflected accent. He converted to Christianity. He rejects a life in which Indian Americans don't focus on the latter portion of that label. Why can't others just do the same? In fact, Jindal should be trusted to lead the United States, the argument goes, precisely because of all of the above.

Jindal seems to subscribe to the idea that immigrants arrive with a range of deficits and can't become better until they become American in the ways that he believes matter. In the ad, it seems Jindal is American precisely because he believes in a constant effort to emulate and approximate "standard American-ness" -- what many would say is actually white-ness or at least a very muted Indian-American-ness -- whenever and however possible.

Think that's reading a little too deeply? In January, while in London, Jindal shared these insights:

> I am not suggesting for one second that people should be shy or embarrassed about their ethnic heritage. But I am explicitly saying that it is completely reasonable for nations to discriminate between allowing people into their country who want to embrace their culture, or allowing people into their country who want to destroy their culture, or establish a separate culture within.

Now, to be very clear, there are very large shares of Americans who share Jindal's views.

The 2014 General Social Survey -- one of the most expansive looks at social attitudes and change in United States each year since 1972 -- found that a full 93 percent of Americans said that being able to speak English is very or fairly important to being an American, compared to just 64 percent who said that one's birthplace determines whether or not you're an American. In that same poll, 92 percent pointed to citizenship and 91 percent said following America's laws make you an American.

But lest anyone think that Jindal's views are all there is, also consider this:

In a September 2012 CNN/Opinion Research poll, Americans were nearly evenly split on questions of cultural assimilation. About 48 percent said it is better for the United States to encourage immigrants to blend in by "giving up some important aspects of their own culture." But 44 percent said the country should encourage, "immigrants to maintain their own culture" even if it means they "do not blend as well." And 5 percent said they thought some mixture of both approaches would be ideal.

Finally, a Pew Research Center poll released in June 2014 found some appreciable differences between the way that white, black and Latino Americans view immigrants. And not surprisingly, there were even bigger differences between Republicans and Democrats.

Now, Jindal is certainly entitled to advance whatever themes and policy ideas he thinks best. It's also worth noting that the content of the super PAC's ads are outside Jindal's control, even if they were created from snippets of his public speeches and closely mirror his own, oft-used rhetoric.

But it's also clear that Jindal is one of the few candidates -- besides Donald Trump -- who has decided that talking about the threats he believes are posed by unassimilated immigrants is part of his path to the White House.

Conservative defenders would do well not to aggressively police the way that Indian Americans discuss or even ridicule Jindal's choices. That obscures the kind of learning and information exchange -- no matter how embarrassing, squirm-inducing or painful -- that every American surely knows can come from humor and debate.

At the same time, those who would dismiss Jindal as a political actor worthy of nothing more than identity-centered ridicule might do well to think about just how appealing a candidate willing to talk tough on immigration and push assimilation and speaking English can be to many Americans.

Bobby Jindal expresses optimism about his future in Iowa // Des Moines Register // Maya Kliger

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– July 4, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Bobby Jindal wrapped up a five-day swing through Iowa with stops at two metro-area parades on Independence Day.

The governor of Louisiana was encouraged by the reception he received throughout the week, and he said was optimistic about future trips back to the state hosting the first-in-the-nation caucuses.

"I think this is a marathon, not a sprint. I think that we got great responses everywhere we went. Everywhere we went, people were signing up to be volunteers and to learn more about the campaign," he said. "But everywhere we went, we also committed that we'd be coming back, and we'd be spending a lot of time here.

"We intend to do town halls and go to restaurants and factories, and do exactly what we've done this week, and do that over and over. And I think that will absolutely generate great results for us."

In both Urbandale and Windsor Heights, Jindal eagerly spoke to people in the crowd, oftentimes falling behind the rest of the parade.

Many of the people he spoke to, although not positive they will ultimately caucus for him, expressed support because of his conservative values and what they described as his genuine demeanor.

"So far, he (Jindal) is my favorite. He seems like just a person, you know?" said Pat Green, 64, of Urbandale. "I think we need down-to-earth people to run our country because the majority of the country is down-to-earth."

Despite the fact that Jindal is at the bottom of recent polls, he was recognized Saturday because of his campaign ads and media appearances.

Those who knew of him at the parades referenced the video his campaign released of Jindal and his wife telling their children he was running for president, his ads concerning immigration and his interview this past week with Fox News commentator Sean Hannity.

AT THE EVENT

SETTINGS: Fourth of July parades in Urbandale and Windsor Heights.

CROWDS: Jindal greeted dozens at both parades.

REACTION: Many were eager to shake hands and take pictures with the governor, though few were sure that they'll be Jindal supporters.

WHAT'S NEXT: Saturday was the last of a five-day swing through Iowa. The Jindal campaign is planning on coming back later in the month.

Jindal poses with gun at campaign stop, met with online mockery // Statesman // July 4, 2015

SIBLEY, Iowa — Republican presidential candidate and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal posted a photo of himself holding and admiring a weapon while at a campaign stop in Iowa Friday.

Jindal's photo caption reads: "My kind of campaign stop; Capital Armament in Sibley."

According to the company's Facebook page, CapArms is a veteran-owned company that manufactures ammunition, firearms and smokeless gunpowder.

Jindal has proven to be a strong supporter of gun ownership rights during his tenure as governor, signing several pro-gun rights bills into law in the state of Louisiana.

Still, not everyone is buying Jindal's affection for weapons, especially on social media. The photo received some mocking comments on Twitter, saying he was pandering to constituents and calling him a poser. One commenter called it Jindal's Dukakis moment, referencing the 1988 campaign photo of Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis riding in a tank. Politico refers to that image as one of the "worst campaign backfires in history."

Bobby Jindal's former media director brands him 'anti-gay' and 'destructive' // Pink News // Nick Duffy – July 4, 2015

Republican Presidential hopeful Bobby Jindal has been attacked by his former head of news media.

The Governor of Louisiana has in the past said his party doesn't need the support of gay people, and has

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continually tried to force through “religious freedom” laws in his state which would allow anti-gay discrimination.

However, in a column for the New Orleans Advocate, Jindal’s former news media director Taylor Huckaby lashed out at him.

Mr Huckaby, who is gay, wrote: “During my years in the Jindal machine, I became entrenched in the culture that gave birth to what we see today: fire-and-brimstone Jindal, chomping at the bit to stand in the church house door and refuse Americans their individual right to marry the one they love.

He continues: “I regret nothing more than my complicity in the state’s relentless attacks against my fellow LGBTQ citizens.

“Being anti-gay was (and is) a system requirement for working in Louisiana conservative politics, and it bred a powerful self-hatred.”

Savaging his former employer, he writes: “Jindal’s signature strategy of rallying bigotry diminishes in power with each passing moment.

“Whatever procedural or bureaucratic chicanery he attempts in order to block our freedom to marry will be fruitless, petty and ultimately unsuccessful.

“This Independence Day marks the final Fourth of July Louisiana will observe under Jindal’s dishonest, destructive administration — and also the first Fourth of July that queer Americans may marry whomever they choose.

“For many, that’s something worth celebrating — and as Jindal fades into irrelevance, my deepest hope is that Louisiana elects new leaders who govern differently, leaders who prize fairness, charity, dignity, prudence and kindness above all.”

Governor Jindal has previously defended anti-gay Duck Dynasty star Phil Robertson, who has equated homosexuality with bestiality and claimed that AIDS is “God’s punishment” for homosexuality.

The Governor claimed the Robertsons were “great citizens” of Louisiana, and went on to attack the “politically correct crowd” for criticising the comments by Robertson.

The Human Rights Campaign earlier this year marked an op-ed from Governor Jindal – and he definitely didn’t pass with flying colours.

An attempted put-down of President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address last year backfired, when Governor Jindal used the wrong “your” in a tweet.

Bobby Jindal Sued Over Anti-Gay Executive Order // Edge Media Network // John Reilly – July 4, 2015

Bobby Jindal had better get the lawyers ready.

The ACLU Foundation of Louisiana, the Forum for Equality Foundation and six individual plaintiffs have filed a lawsuit challenging an executive order issued by the Louisiana governor that would allow people to discriminate against same-sex couples.

The "Marriage and Conscience Order," as issued by Jindal in May, prohibits the state or its agents from denying tax exemptions or credits, grants, contracts, certification or accreditation from a person or business who refuses to provide services to LGBT people if they believe that doing so would violate their personal moral or religious beliefs regarding homosexuality or same-sex marriage. Jindal, a Republican presidential hopeful, issued the order after a bill that was similar in scope failed to obtain enough votes to move out of committee in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs argue that Jindal's order is unconstitutional because it goes beyond his authority as governor, as spelled out by the separation of powers clause in the Louisiana state constitution. The lawsuit also alleges that the order creates a special class of people and businesses who are protected due to their opposition to marriage equality, while other people and businesses who support marriage equality are not afforded those same rights. As a result of the protections afforded to only those who oppose marriage equality, the plaintiffs argue that the order essentially "sanctions discrimination" against not only same-sex couples, but those who support them.

"Governor Jindal's unauthorized taking of the legislature's power to make new laws or change existing laws violates the Louisiana Constitution," the lawsuit reads. "Governor Jindal's 'Marriage and Conscience Order' also exceeds the authority granted to him for issuing executive orders. The governor is given authority to issue

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executive orders to see that laws are faithfully executed. The statute does not give the governor the authority to create a new law or overrule the legislature's decision to not pass a law."

"Governor Jindal has violated the Louisiana Constitution by setting up special protections for those who share his belief system," said Marjorie Esman, the executive director of the ACLU Foundation of Louisiana. "In our country no one is above the law, including the Governor. He swore to uphold the laws of Louisiana. This lawsuit seeks to hold him to that oath."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal governs via cellphone // The Advocate // Mark Ballard & Marsha Shuler – July 4, 2015

Even before officially joining the presidential sweepstakes, Gov. Bobby Jindal spent far less time in Louisiana than his predecessors.

Since announcing June 24 that he was seeking the Republican presidential nomination, Jindal has been in Louisiana only one day, according to campaign news releases and the lieutenant governor's records. And with just six months left in his administration, Jindal is expected to spend more and more time in the early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

He'll be governing Louisiana by cellphone.

"He has a tremendous amount of horsepower and bandwidth," said Timmy Teepell, Jindal's longtime political strategist. "He'll be able to campaign and handle his duties as governor without a problem. He will keep a very busy schedule."

Even before he announced, Jindal spent a lot of time tending to politics out-of-state.

So far this year, he has spent four days out of every 10 somewhere other than in Louisiana, which is about the same rate he was gone in 2014, according to the records of lieutenant governor, who by law is supposed to take over when the governor leaves the state.

The governor's office has stopped issuing press releases alerting the public when Jindal is gone. But just like before the announcement, Louisiana taxpayers are paying the salaries and expenses of the State Police troopers who provide security for him, which includes renting and driving the black Suburbans in which Jindal travels.

The governor's aides send the lieutenant governor a notice when Jindal leaves the state, as required by law, but otherwise there is no coordination or communication with Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, who is technically in charge. "The governor is chief executive at all times," Jindal's Communications Director Mike Reed said.

Though it may not look good, computers and cellphones make it a lot easier for an absent chief executive to keep abreast of the issues and make decisions, former Gov. Mike Foster said in an interview last week.

"I don't really see it as a big deal. It's something somebody can gripe about. Whether it hurts your efficiency, I doubt that," said Foster, who was criticized in his day for not traveling very much.

Short of a something like a hurricane or the Mississippi River flooding, Foster said, Jindal's presence in Baton Rouge isn't necessary.

"I'm sure if there's a hurricane he would be back here. I would be surprised if he weren't," Foster said. "You know when they are coming, and you have time to get back."

But maybe the timing for a presidential run is a little off, said former Gov. Buddy Roemer, who ran for president in 2012.

"He can do that. That is fun," Roemer said of Jindal's presidential bid. "But his responsibility is governor. And for that he should stay with the job or quit. Let the lieutenant governor do it. I want to make that point. I don't mind Bobby running for president, just not as governor."

Similarly, former Gov. Kathleen Blanco criticized Jindal's divided attention. "I don't know how a governor can take off so much time from his job, but my experience was different," she said.

Her last six months in office were wall-to-wall work as Louisiana recovered from the 2005 hurricanes. Usually her trips out of state were to Washington, D.C., to argue with congressmen and federal officials about the conditions and requirements of loans and grants needed to rebuild flooded homes, damaged schools and weakened levees.

Seventy-three-year-old state Sen. Francis Thompson, who just finished his 40th legislative session and has seen five other governors wind down their administrations, said all the state's chief executives have their own styles.

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Some are more hands-on; others, like Jindal, delegate authority and responsibilities. But all governors rely on their staffs to keep an even keel, particularly during the final days of their tenure.

“It’s so critical that the staff stays engaged,” said Thompson, D-Delhi. “They still have a role to play. Capital outlay goes nowhere without them. We still have a number of lawsuits. We are still fooling with BP,” the British oil giant responsible for the historic crude oil release in the Gulf of Mexico after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident.

Though a state government budget crisis — lawmakers had to fill a $1.6 billion deficit — was averted this year, the solutions are precarious. Its balance could be upset by any number of factors, such as another drop in oil prices or a lack of confidence in the state by credit rating agencies or the success of a lawsuit, like the one filed last week by the Louisiana Chemical Association, challenging the constitutionality of one of the revenue-raising rollbacks in tax breaks that impact businesses.

But short of a calamity like that, being in Baton Rouge is not that necessary, said Terry Ryder, who was Blanco’s executive counsel and Foster’s deputy chief of staff. “He’s got staff in Baton Rouge that can handle it and, as needed, consult him by cellphone. There’s the signature machine (to sign documents),” said Ryder, now a Baton Rouge lawyer.

Jindal receives a binder every morning with briefing materials about what is going on that day. He usually reaches out by breakfast with questions, said his chief of staff, Melissa Mann. The governor calls throughout the day to walk through the questions and issue directives.

“My job is to keep everything running on time. If legislators have issues, I help them sort through them,” Mann said June 26 at the end of her first week on the job. “If the cabinet brings up issues that rise to the level of the governor’s attention, then we have additional conferences on the phone.”

An Oak Grove native who joined the administration in 2008 after graduating from LSU, Mann got the fourth-floor corner office on June 19 after Jindal’s fourth chief of staff, Kyle Plotkin, joined the presidential campaign team.

“We have a pretty good idea of when the governor needs to be briefed on something, when it rises to his level and when we need input and decisions,” Mann said. “We understand the positions and the policies. We’ve been doing this for seven and a half years, so there’s going to be some hard guardrails we understand.”

Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols is Jindal’s chief budget adviser and is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the state government bureaucracy. Nothing much has changed for her. Over the years, she has met with Jindal regularly — daily during legislative sessions or weekly, depending on what’s going on. She contacts Jindal through the chief of staff.

The rhythm Nichols and Jindal have developed over the years is in-depth briefings on issues like the budget, operations of state government, upcoming discussions with the Legislature, forecasting future finances and major contracts that are being considered, she said.

“After having been with him for this length of time, I have a good feel of what really needs to be decided by him. But I certainly always brief him on issues that need to be brought to his attention,” Nichols said.

“He’s always got his finger on the pulse of what’s going on here,” said Revenue Secretary Tim Barfield, who, like Nichols, has served in several jobs during the Jindal administration. “From the things I see in my department, I don’t see his physical presence necessary.”

“We’ve finished our final legislative session. We are not going to be advancing a lot of new initiatives,” Mann said. “We’re going to be more overseeing that transition and ensuring that cabinet agencies are prepared for the transition period. ... We’re going to make sure we finish well.”

TRUMP

Mitt Romney Criticizes Donald Trump for Comments on Mexican Immigrants // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 4, 2015

Mitt Romney criticized the real-estate mogul and presidential candidate Donald Trump on Saturday, saying he was damaging the Republican Party with his comments linking Mexican immigrants to crime.

Mr. Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, spoke at a Fourth of July parade in Wolfeboro, N.H., where he owns a home. He was asked whether Mr. Trump’s comments depicting Mexican immigrants as violent predators had hurt a party that has been trying to make inroads with Hispanics.

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"Yes," he replied, in remarks reported by CNN. "I think he made a severe error in saying what he did about Mexican-Americans."

Some of Mr. Trump's Republican rivals, like Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, former governors Jeb Bush of Florida and George E. Pataki of New York, have also taken issue with his comments. And the Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton has been alluding to the comments in trying to portray the Republican field as a whole as anti-immigrant.

NASCAR is the latest brand to dump Donald Trump // AP // July 4, 2015

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR is the latest corporation to distance itself from Donald Trump.

On the same day one of its top sponsors called on NASCAR to take a stance against Trump, the motorsports series said it will not hold its season-ending awards ceremony at the Trump National Doral Miami.

"We looked at everything we saw coming down and what we heard from our sponsors and our partners and what we feel we should be doing, and that's what led us to the decision today," NASCAR spokesman David Higdon said Friday at Daytona International Speedway.

A message seeking comment from Trump left by The Associated Press was not returned.

Higdon was responding to a letter released by Camping World CEO Marcus Lemonis, whose company is the title sponsor of NASCAR's Truck Series. Lemonis made it clear he would not attend or participate in the awards ceremony if it was held at a Trump property. The ceremony was held at Doral last year.

"My company ... has enjoyed a long running relationship with NASCAR as I believe the vision of our companies both embody family, respect, unity, comradery and diversity," Lemonis wrote in a letter to NASCAR Chairman Brian France. "These sentiments are at the core of what our country stands for and will continue to embrace. ... Due to recent and ongoing blatantly bigoted and racist comments from Donald Trump in regards to immigrants of the United States, I would like to inform you that I will not, nor will any representative of Camping World, participate or attend in the ceremonial event if it is held at any Trump property.

"Our company will not stand to support any person or organization that associates with such beliefs and we feel strongly about distancing ourselves from any negative and discriminatory comments made against any gender, ethnicity, age group or so forth. I would hope that the entire NASCAR organization would agree with my sentiments."

NASCAR and Camping World are the latest to distance themselves from Trump following his inflammatory statements regarding immigrants from Mexico.

NBC, which is one of NASCAR's television broadcast partners, parted ways with Trump earlier this week.

Higdon said NASCAR is looking for another place to hold its awards ceremony and plans to formally announce a location later this summer.

GOP worries about Donald Trump fallout // CNN // Chris Moody – July 4, 2015

Washington (CNN)Republicans seeking to broaden the party's appeal to Latino voters have a challenge: Donald Trump.

The bombastic businessman, who is seeking the GOP presidential nomination, is leaving many Republicans worried about the fallout from his comments that immigrants from Latin America are "killers" and "rapists."

"Donald Trump's comments are hurtful for the cause of Republicans who want to reach out not just to Latinos but across many different ethnic barriers," said Ben Domenech, founder of The Federalist, a conservative opinion website, who co-authored a 2012 guide for Republicans on Hispanic outreach. "The problem with those comments is made worse by the fact that people will continue to confuse Trump with a Republican, which he is not, as opposed to thinking of him as an entertainer, which he is."

Since losing the 2012 presidential election, Republicans have emphasized efforts to bring Latino voters into the fold. As a whole, the rapidly-growing group supported President Barack Obama over Republican Mitt Romney 71% to 27%, according to the Pew Research Center. The Republican National Committee pledged to spend $10 million on minority outreach after the election and made some in-roads during last year's mid-term races 2014, Pew found.

Trump, who is polling near the top of Republican presidential contenders, has already lost partnerships with companies including NBC and Macy's after his comments stirred a public uproar.

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Earlier this week, RNC chairman Reince Priebus, who initiated the party's multi-million outreach program called Trump's comments "not helpful," according to The Washington Post.

Conservative groups unaffiliated with the official party that coordinate Latino outreach efforts are speaking out against Trump's characterization of immigrants.

"He's just wrong on policy. Flat-out. It's unkind and it mischaracterizes the contributions of the entire immigrant community," said Daniel Garza, executive director of the Libre Initiative. "They've brought wealth to America and ingenuity and innovation. The fact that Donald Trump is wrong both on sentiment and policy has allowed the Latino left to pile on. And there's something valid about what they're saying, that this is wrong in both content, style and policy."

Despite the outcry, Trump has refused to back down or walk back his remarks.

"If you look at the statistics of people coming, you look at the statistics on rape, on crime, on everything coming in illegally into this country it's mind-boggling!" Trump told CNN's Don Lemon in an interview Wednesday. "Somebody's doing the raping, Don! I mean somebody's doing it! Who's doing the raping?"

Meanwhile, Trump's fellow Republican presidential candidates have distanced themselves from Trump on immigration.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who delivered a speech at the National Press Club in which he called on minority voters to give Republicans a chance to make their case, said: "I don't think Donald Trump's remarks reflect the Republican Party."

And Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said last week that candidates "will be held accountable by the voters for what they say."

"I can tell you what I believe, particularly about Mexican-Americans: they are a community that has contributed greatly to this country, they work extremely hard, they've been very productive citizens of our country, and I think that's true of many ethnic groups in this country," he said.

Trump stands by statements on Mexican illegal immigrants, surprised by backlash // Fox News – July 4, 2015

Republican presidential candidate and real estate mogul Donald Trump on Saturday stood by statements he made recently that too many illegal immigrants from Mexico are criminals but said he was surprised by the backlash and that his comments are causing financial concerns.

“The crime is raging and it’s violent. And if you talk about it, it’s racist,” Trump told Fox News, three days after a purported illegal Mexican immigrant deported five previous times allegedly killed a woman in San Francisco.

Trump first made his inflammatory remarks during his non-scripted, June 16 presidential announcement speech.

“When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best,” he said during the announcement. “They're not sending you, they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists and some, I assume, are good people, but I speak to border guards and they're telling us what we're getting."

Since then, a list of businesses have announced plans to cut ties with Trump’s vast business empire, while fellow Republican candidates and others have questioned Trump’s remarks.

NBC and Univision, for example, have decided not to air the Trump-owned Miss Universe Pageant, Macy’s is dropping his signature clothing line, New York Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio has ordered a review of Trump's city contracts and NASCAR is moving an annual banquet from the Trump National Doral resort in Miami.

“I didn’t know it was going to be this severe,” Trump said Saturday, adding that he was surprised by the NASCAR decision, considering he has a good relationship with the group. “I am a whipping post.”

Still, Trump has drawn support from Americans who say he is openly confronting the severity of the immigration problem that others won’t publicly knowledge.

Trump also said Saturday that the problem isn’t limited to Mexico, that everybody entering the United States is not criminal or problematic and that his concerns are rooted in national security.

“It’s about safety,” he said. “Some of the people coming here are very violent people, not all.”

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Trump and fellow GOP White House candidate and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio have publicly exchanged remarks since Trump's presidential announcement, with Rubio saying Trump's comments about Mexicans were "offensive, inaccurate and divisive."

After Mexican illegal immigrant Francisco Sanchez apparently killed 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle in San Francisco in a random attack Wednesday, Trump, who has proposed build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, sent a direct tweet to Rubio, the son of Cuban parents who has made immigration reform a part of his presidential campaign.

"What do you say to the family of Kathryn Steinle in CA who was viciously killed b/c we can't secure our border? Stand up for US," Trump tweeted.

Federal officials said local authorities repeatedly released Sanchez, who was in their custody as recently as this spring.

On Saturday, Trump said Rubio was "weak on immigration" and that fellow GOP White House candidate and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry "could have done a lot more."

He praised what he considers fellow candidate and Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz's tough immigration stance, calling him "very brave."

Trump comes up top in 'poll of polls' of Republican voters - despite growing backlash over his anti-immigrant comments // Daily Mail // Christopher Brennan – July 4, 2015

Donald Trump continues to stand by controversial comments he made about Mexican immigrants as his standings in Republican primary polls improve despite increasing criticism.

The presidential hopeful placed ahead of perceived front-runner Jeb Bush in a new aggregated 'poll of polls' with 13.6 per cent support compared to the former Florida governor's 13.3.

The rise comes as public figures and businesses continue to admonish Trump because of the comments saying that those crossing the border from Mexico illegally were 'rapists'.

Former Republican candidate Mitt Romney told CNN Saturday that the businessman 'made a severe error in saying what he did about Mexican-Americans'.

Trump defended the remarks,and used an interview on Fox and Friends Saturday morning to take a dig at fellow presidential hopeful Marco Rubio.

'Rubio is weak on immigration,' Trump told Fox, while praising the stance of Tea Party favorite Ted Cruz.

He linked policy at the southern US border to crimes, including the San Francisco shooting of 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle by a man who had been deported back to Mexico five times.

'The crime is raging and people don't want to talk about it. And if you talk about it you're a racist,' he said Saturday.

Trump has continued to lose partnerships business after saying in his presidential announcement that migrants from Mexico are 'bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists. And some I assume are good people'.

On Saturday NASCAR decided not to hold an event at one of his hotel's in Miami. Univision and NBC have cut ties with his Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants after outrage among Hispanic and Latino groups.

'I'm a little surprised at NASCAR to be honest', Trump said.

While Trump's polling numbers have risen beyond Jeb Bush's, Romney, whose father was born in Mexico, replied that the comments have hurt the Republican party.

He replied 'yes' when asked about the matter, according to CNN.

Former New York Governor and Republican candidate George Pataki, who Trump criticized for not doing well in the polls, sent an open letter to those in his party to denounce the Apprentice host.

Some presidential candidates such as Bush have been keen to court the Hispanic vote, speaking Spanish on prominent television appearances and during his announcement speech in a bid to make inroads to the crucial 2016 demographic.

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Trump has repeatedly said that he love Mexico despite many saying that his 'rapists' comments were racist against people from the country.

The candidate said that he was being targeted 'from all sides' because he is successful.

He denied that the ordeal was helping him by making him more recognizable. 'This is not good for my brand, I think it's bad for my brand. Maybe I'm leading in polls, but this is certainly not good. I lose customers, lose people,' he said.

Romney, who spoke at a New Hampshire event he attended with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Florida Senator Marco Rubio, refused to say who he is endorsing for the Republican nomination, adding that his decision will come later.

Republicans cast into turmoil as Donald Trump rides the populist surge // Telegraph // Philip Sherwell – July 5, 2015

For Donald Trump the entrepreneur, it was a damaging week. Two major television networks severed ties, Macy's dropped his clothing line and Carlos Slim, the even richer Mexican tycoon, ended a joint venture with him.

But for Donald Trump the inveterate showman and Republican challenger for president, the week was a triumph as he climbed in the opinion polls and dominated media coverage, despite the backlash against his decision to condemn Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug traffickers.

"Wow, Huffington Post just stated that I am number one in the polls of Republican candidates," the brash billionaire bragged as the week closed, citing the liberal media outlet that has been a platform for many of the strongest attacks on him. "Thank you, but the work has just begun!"

Mr Trump was touting his first place in an average of 105 polls. Of the 14 candidates who have declared, Trump topped the field with 13.6 per cent support to 13.3 per cent for Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor and son and brother of two past presidents.

The property mogul, reality television star and beauty pageant owner with the most flamboyant comb-over in public life may seem like a caricature and a political joke.

But the Republican hierarchy is not laughing as he rides an anti-establishment populist tide, shooting from the hip with his overheated rhetoric. They are concerned not because they think he has a chance of securing the nomination but because they fear he could influence the election by scarring the party's reputation.

"Donald Trump is like watching a roadside accident," Ari Fleischer, a former spokesman for George W Bush, told Politico. "Everybody pulls over to see the mess. And Trump thinks that's entertainment. But running for president is serious. And the risk for the party is that he tarnishes everybody."

Mr Fleischer was a co-author of the party's post-mortem into the 2012 presidential election defeat. That soul-searching concluded that the Republicans needed to broaden their appeal to younger voters, women and crucially the demographic of Hispanics.

Mr Fleischer's old boss won 40 per cent of the Latino vote in 2004. Mitt Romney took just 27 per cent eight years later. The party fears efforts to reverse that trend will be set back by Mr Trump's comments, especially if his poll rating secures him a place at the first televised debate next month.

"There's a danger that Trump will crowd out our message with his antics," a senior Romney financial donor who is considering his 2016 options said.

"At first we all just thought he would crash and burn, but now the problem is who he takes down with him."

Mr Trump has long revelled in controversy and was a champion of the "birther movement" that questioned whether Barack Obama was born in America. But it was his comments about Mexican immigrants when he declared his candidacy that have dominated attention.

"Mexico is sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with them," he said. "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists." And then he added as an afterthought: "And some, I assume, are good people."

His solution is to build a wall along the border and make Mexico pay for it.

Mr Trump's rivals in the race were at first unsure how to respond. Marco Rubio, the Florida senator and son of Cuban immigrants, finally on Thursday called the comments "not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive".

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Jeb Bush, whose wife is Mexican and who delivered his declaration speech in English and Spanish and supports creating a path for legalising the status of undocumented immigrants, said: “His remarks do not represent the values of the Republican party and they do not represent my values.”

Univision, the largest Spanish-language network in the US, and NBC said they were dropping their broadcasts of the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants, which Mr Trump co-owns, while Macy’s axed his line of suits and ties.

The latest to distance itself from Mr Trump is Nascar, the motor racing body, which said it would no longer use one of his hotels for its end-of-season awards. Speaking to Fox News yesterday, Mr Trump, 69, said he was surprised by Nascar’s decision and at the strength of the backlash.

“I knew it was going to be bad because all my life I have been told: if you are successful you don’t run for office,” he said. “I didn’t know it was going to be this severe.”

But he defended his stance and said he had become a “whipping post” for speaking up on immigration and crime.The lone fellow candidate to speak up for Mr Trump was Ted Cruz, the Texas senator whose father is Cuban, saying he “speaks the truth”.

This is what attracts grassroots supporters such as Ken Crow, a leader of the Tea Party in the first-voting caucus of Iowa. He reeled off a list of reasons why he was backing Mr Trump. “Americans are sick and tired of corrupt government and career politicians,” he said. “He will straighten out the economy and defend our borders. Americans want a John Wayne right now, someone who’ll be a champion of our country.”

The Trump candidacy is playing up strains between Tea Party activists and senior party figures, with Mr Fleischer adding that his comments were irresponsible and “hurtful”.

And John Weaver, an adviser on John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign, noted: “I remember growing up in Kermit [Texas], every time the carnival came to town it drew a big crowd. But nobody wanted the carnival barker to be mayor.”

Donald Trump Immigration: Panama Leaves Miss Universe Pageant, Protesting Offensive Comments About Mexicans // International Business Times // Elizabeth Whitman – July 4, 2015

Add Panama to the growing list of Latin American nations refusing to participate in this year's Miss Universe pageant, a contest partially owned by 2016 presidential candidate Donald Trump, after the business tycoon generated global backlash with disparaging remarks about Mexicans immigrating to the United States.

“They are bringing drugs. They are bringing crime. They’re rapists,” Trump said in June, referring to Mexican immigrants. “Some, I assume, are good people,” he added. He also suggested building a wall between the United States and Mexico.

Protesting these words, Panama's Miss Panama Organization and its Telemetro television channel announced they would neither participate in nor broadcast this year's contest, the Associated Press reported Saturday. The entities described their decision as "a message of solidarity" to Mexicans.

With this move, Panama joins a growing chorus of voices from the Latin American community blasting Trump's remarks as offensive and ignorant. Colombian Paulina Vega, the reigning Miss Universe, condemned Trump's comments in an Instagram post Thursday as "unjust and hurtful."

Organizers in Costa Rica and Mexico have also withdrawn from this year's contest.

"We reject the xenophobic and offensive statements by the owner of the Miss Universe pageant against our Mexican brothers and sisters, and therefore, against all Latin Americans," Teletica, the television network that organizes Miss Costa Rica, said Wednesday in a statement.

Teletica added it would not broadcast the annual pageant. "We will only reconsider our decision if Donald Trump retracts his comments immediately and apologizes for his inadmissible statements, or if he separates himself completely from the organization of the pageant," it said.

Miss Universe is a beauty pageant that began in 1973. It is part of the Miss Universe Organization, a venture jointly owned by Donald Trump and NBCUniversal that includes Miss USA and Miss Teen USA, according to its corporate website. The organization "uses its global grassroots reach to empower women to be self-confident and strive to be their personal best."

Fox Panelist Rips Trump: ‘Negotiate with Mexico? He Can’t Even Negotiate with Macy’s!’ // Mediaite // Josh Feldman - July 4, 2015

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Donald Trump's presidential campaign has given conservatives and Republicans lots of mixed feelings. But Fox's Eric Bolling, at least, continues to be one of Trump's biggest cable news defenders. On today's Cashin' In

Panelist Jonathan Hoenig, however, wasn't quite on board. He told Bolling, "He's not just a fool, but he's a fraud... Negotiate with Mexico? He can't even negotiate with Macy's!"

And quite frankly, Bolling was the only one really defending Trump. Wayne Rogers said "if Trump can't survive in the free market, that's his problem," while Michelle Fields said she's not a Trump fan and that NBC probably did the right thing (even if they hypocritically embrace Al Sharpton and Brian Williams).

Bolling still defended Trump, arguing that he's bringing "fresh new ideas" and is someone willing to stand up for America. Rogers pointed out that there are other candidates who fit that description already, while Hoenig made it abundantly clear he just really doesn't like Trump.

Presidents, he said, don't make over-the-top threats and don't "alienate America's major corporations." Hoenig pointed out how Trump used to be a Democrat, and when Bolling talked about getting someone with a different kind of track record in the White House, Hoenig said, "Trump's got a record of bankruptcy."

Donald Trump's contracts with the city protected under the First Amendment, civil liberties lawyer says // New York Daily News // Erin Durkin & Celeste Katz – July 4, 2015

Donald Trump's city contracts might be saved by something his billions can't buy: Free speech.

City politicians eager to dump the GOP presidential candidate over his recent anti-Mexican rant are likely to find their efforts thwarted by the First Amendment, according to a leading civil liberties lawyer.

While Macy's, Univision and NBC all cut ties with The Donald in recent days, nixing his deals with the city would not be as fast or easy, according to both Trump and experts.

Mayor de Blasio already promised a review of Trump's contracts, including his sweet deal to operate New York's newest golf course — a $230 million Bronx layout.

And City Councilman Mark Levine called on the Parks Department to immediately use the "out" clauses in its contracts to cut ties with Trump over his "despicable" comments.

Other Trump-operated city attractions include the Wollman and Lasker skating rinks, along with the Central Park carousel.

"Our parks are public spaces where everyone should feel welcome, and an association with Mr. Trump directly contradicts this spirit," said Levine, whose district includes Upper West Side and Harlem.

"The Parks Department should exercise this option to sever all ties with Mr. Trump immediately."

But don't cancel those Trump tee times just yet.

While Trump's comments during his presidential kickoff speech about Mexico importing "rapists" to the U.S. caused a furor, the odds on voiding any of his city contracts are longer than a 900-yard par five.

"They can't do that," said prominent civil rights lawyer Norman Siegel. "There's a thing called the First Amendment, and the city of New York can't cancel a binding contract because they don't like the political views of Donald Trump."

Ron Lieberman, an executive vice president in the Trump Organization, echoed the attorney.

"Our position is clear on that: There's nothing to be reviewed," said Lieberman. "They don't have the constitutional right to put these contracts in play.

"They're binding contracts. There's all sorts of rights and provisions — and millions and millions of dollars that would have to be paid back to us. It would be an incredible mistake."

The contract for the Ferry Park golf course, provided by City Controller Scott Stringer's office, specifies the agreement between Trump and Parks "is terminable at will by the Commissioner in his sole absolute discretion, at any time."

There's a caveat: "Such termination shall not be arbitrary or capricious."

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The Parks Department punted Daily News inquiries about Trump to City Hall, and the Law Department declined to comment.

Siegel, former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union, agreed Trump's comments were “offensive and wrong-minded.” But he warned it would “set a terrible precedent” to penalize Trump for expressing his opinion.

It’s easy to see why Trump would want to stay the (golf) course.

He's got a contract to run the nearly 200-acre site next to the Whitestone Bridge — a former landfill with Manhattan skyline views — while charging far more per person per round than other courses operating on city land. City residents pay $169 for 18 holes on weekends, while nonresidents pay $215.

Under a deal struck during the Bloomberg Administration, the city footed the approximately $230 million bill for the construction of the course - and, as The News has reported, taxpayers could have to shell out as much as $300,000 a year for the massive amount of water needed to maintain the greens.

Trump Says Comments on Mexicans Have Hurt Business // Bloomberg // Ben Brody – July 4, 2015

Donald Trump admits that racially charged comments he made while announcing a run for the White House have hurt his business interests. And he swears he doesn't care.

"For the people that say I’m doing it for my brand -- this isn’t good for my brand," the real estate mogul and Republican candidate said Saturday on Fox & Friends. "I think it’s bad for my brand. I don’t care. You know maybe I’m leading in polls, but this is certainly not good. I lose customers. I lose people."

Trump, who nonetheless described his ongoing operations as "very powerful, very strong" during the interview, shrugged off the defection of multiple high-profile business and media partners over his characterization of Mexican immigrants as violent criminals and "rapists."

"I’ve always said if you’re a successful person, it’s very hard to run for office, because they come at you at all different sides," Trump said.

Macy's, Serta mattresses, Univision, NASCAR, and NBC, which carried his TV show The Apprentice, have all terminated agreements with Trump in recent days over the assertion, made on June 16 during Trump's announcement of a presidential run, that Mexico is "sending people that have lots of problems... They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city would review contracts it has with the mogul, and his rivals in both parties have also condemned his comments.

Still, Trump's recent surge in the polls has suggested the some voters don't mind the rhetoric. Some may even warm to it.

In the Saturday interview, Trump continued to defend the comments.

"The crime is raging — it’s raging — and it’s violent," he said. "People don’t even want to talk about it, and if you talk about it, you’re a racist. I don’t understand it."

UNDECLARED

WALKER

Walker to drop open records restrictions in Wisconsin // The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 4, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) said his state is jettisoning part of its proposed budget that would eliminate many opens records laws.

Walker announced the move late Saturday alongside State Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R), Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R) and the co-chairs of the state’s joint budget committee.

“[The proposal] will be removed from the budget entirely,” they said in a statement, according to The Associated Press.

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"[It] was never intended to inhibit transparency in government in any way," they added.

AP said the budget language would have exempted nearly anything created by Wisconsin government officials from the state's open records law.

Republicans added the details into the proposed budget late Thursday evening.

The Wisconsin legislature is now forming a committee to research the transparency issue and publicly discuss possible solutions.

Walker is reportedly formally launching his 2016 GOP presidential bid July 13 after the completion of his state budget.

A RealClearPolitics average of recent polls shows him second only to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush among potential Republican voters.

He also has a commanding lead in recent sampling of Iowa caucus voters.

To Celebrate the Fourth, Scott Walker's GOP Declares Secrecy // HuffPo // Mary Bottari – July 4, 2015

America fought a revolution against secret and unaccountable government, but this Fourth of July Scott Walker and the Wisconsin GOP are planning on gutting Wisconsin's open records law, the strongest in the nation.

On the same day that Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker announced his run for president, the Wisconsin GOP has proposed a virtual gutting of Wisconsin's open records law, long considered one of the best in the nation. The drastic changes were proposed in a last-minute, anonymous budget motion, with zero public input on the eve of a holiday weekend. The motion will be rolled into the state's massive budget bill and voted on in the coming weeks.

The unprecedented proposal would give lawmakers broad authority to hide the special interests who are working to influence legislation. It would keep legislative drafting files under wraps, create a new "deliberative materials" exemption in the open records law that would exempt records at all levels of government, and give the legislature an easy way to hide even more records from disclosure in the future.

The move to gut the open records law appears to come in direct response to a lawsuit that the Center for Media and Democracy filed against Governor Walker in May. State Rep. Gordon Hintz, a democrat from Oshkosh on the Joint Finance Committee, tweeted that GOP budget leaders made it clear to the committee that Walker had signed off on the changes, including the changes to the open records law.

CMD was the first to reveal that Walker's office had struck the "search for truth" from the university's mission and eliminated the "Wisconsin Idea," and sued Walker after he withheld records pertaining to the changes, based on a claimed "deliberative process privilege." Although Walker's lawyers claim there already exists a deliberative privilege in Wisconsin law, that clearly is not true, because if it were, his allies in the legislature wouldn't have to add one through the budget process.

The sweeping proposal would gut the public records law as it applies to the legislature and governor's office, hiding special interest influence over public policy. The measure would help candidate Walker sidestep public scrutiny as more and more national media outlets file records requests with his office. The Joint Finance Committee chairs, Sen. Alberta Darling (R) and Rep. John Nygren (R), have refused to say who asked for the changes.

Bill Lueders, president of the transparency watchdog Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, called the proposal a "cowardly" and a "shocking assault on the state's long and proud tradition of open government."

"These radical and sweeping changes represent a full-frontal attack on Wisconsin's history of open government," Lueders said. "They are clearly intended to block the public from discovering what factors drive the official actions of government, especially the Legislature, and will inevitably lead to abuse, malfeasance and corruption."

Ron Sklansky, a former 35-year senior staff attorney at the nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Counsel and an experts on open records, told CMD he had never seen a legislative proposal put forward that was as "devastating" to the open records law as this one. The measure is "almost a complete gutting of open records as it applies to the legislative and executive branch. It prevents the public from investigating the undue influence of special interests on the passage of legislation and the development of executive branch proposals and rule making," he said.

Although the proposal passed the Joint Finance Committee along party lines--with all Republicans voting in favor and all Democrats against--the move has prompted outrage across the political spectrum. The president of the

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right-wing MacIver Institute, Brett Healy, said the proposal "looks to be a huge step backwards for open government." Wisconsin's Republican Attorney General, Brad Schimel, said "Transparency is the cornerstone of democracy and the provisions in the Budget Bill limiting access to public records move Wisconsin in the wrong direction." Hours later, Walker's spokesperson promised vaguely that the governor would work with the legislature to address the issue.

Critically, some legislators are saying they will not vote for the controversial budget with the changes included. "I will not support a budget that includes this assault on democracy," GOP Senator Robert Cowles said. And other GOP Reps. expressed discomfort and surprise with the move.

The proposal would:

1) Create a new "deliberative materials" exemption

The amendments would exempt all "deliberative materials" from disclosure under the public records law, protecting anything that might have informed a policy decision.

"Deliberative materials" are broadly defined as "communications and other materials, including opinions, analyses, briefings, background information, recommendations, suggestions, drafts, correspondence about drafts, and notes, created or prepared in the process of reaching a decision concerning a policy or course of action."

This measure could protect the disclosure of communications, draft legislation, or background materials from groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council, or "ALEC." It would allow legislators to hide their communications with lobbyists or campaign donors seeking policy favors. And it would allow the governor to hide how the executive budget was developed--including, for example, how, and why, his office might have sought to alter the purpose of the university system.

2) Allow legislators to hide the identify of any person who communicates about the development of policy

This could allow lawmakers to hide the special interests who are working to influence legislation.

For example, CMD has filed an open records request with Joint Finance Chair Alberta Darling, who received thousands of dollars of contributions from Bill Minahan, whose company Building Committee Inc. received a $500,000 unsecured loan from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), then promptly went bust leaving taxpayers to foot the bill.

The Wisconsin State Journall used the open records law to take a deep dive into this loan, documenting that it came shortly after Minahan gave Walker a $10,000 contribution and linking it to Walker's chief of staff Keith Gilkes and second-in-command Mike Huebsch. Most recently, the State Journal discovered that Minahan loan had not gone through the underwriting required by law and many more loans failed to go through proper underwriting, putting millions of taxpayer dollars at risk.

WEDC has been the subject of two damning state audits which documented continued lawbreaking at Walker's flagship jobs agency. Shortly after the last audit was published, two legislators threatened to get rid of the highly respected non-partisan audit bureau. CMD sent records requests to Reps. Adam Jarchow and David Craig, curious as to who was behind the radical move to destroy the audit bureau, but has not yet received their response.

3) Hide the "drafting files" showing how legislation is developed

"Drafting files" reveal the process of developing a bill or budget provision, and are used regularly by journalists to gain insight into how policy is developed. And those insights can sometimes be embarrassing.

Drafting files were key to undermining Walker's claims about his offices changes to the Wisconsin Idea. After the deletion of the "search for truth" sparked a "political firestorm" in Wisconsin and around the country, the governor blamed the change on a "drafting error," and then on a "miscommunication," then claimed that the university never raised concerns about the changes. Yet those statements were contradicted by the drafting files examined by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and documents obtained through records requests, earning Walker a "pants on fire" rating from Politifact.

Drafting files also informed other important investigations. In 2014, for example, a Wisconsin State Journal examination of drafting files showed a wealthy, divorced donor to Rep. Joel Kleefisch helping to write a bill that would have lowered his child support payments. If these amendments were enacted, those records--and the donor's influence--would have been kept secret.

Additionally, drafting records aren't just important for accountability, "they are needed by the courts to discern the legislative intent behind the construction of statutes," said Sklansky who noted that legislative intent was a consideration in the recent Supreme Courts ruling on the federal health care law last week.

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser, for example, a former Republican legislator, regularly consults drafting files and legislative records to ascertain legislative intent.
4) Allow the legislature to override the Public Records Law via legislative rule

The proposal also gives the legislature the ability to exempt any additional records from disclosure merely by adopting a new rule by majority vote--without having to go through the legislative process.

By eliminating access to records that had previously been public, this move limits the ability of the press and public to play their watchdog role. Taken together with proposals to dismantle the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board (after it investigated alleged campaign finance violations by Walker's campaign) and the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau (after it critiqued Walker's jobs agency in a scathing audit), all evidence indicates that Governor Walker and his allies are seeking to muzzle the watchdogs.

Scott Walker, Republican leaders remove open records restrictions from Wisconsin budget // The Capital Times // Jason Joyce – July 4, 2015

It appears Wisconsin's tradition of open records and transparent government may be safe — for the weekend, at least.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, along with the co-chairs of the Legislature's Joint Finance committee, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, all Republicans, responded to substantial pushback over a measure that would severely limit access to legislative records with a Saturday afternoon statement, saying "the provisions relating to any changes in the state's open records law will be removed from the budget in its entirety."

The Joint Finance Committee, controlled like both houses of the Legislature by Republicans, passed the measure on a party line vote late Thursday as part of "Motion #999," which often includes last-minute wishlist items, non-fiscal policy and nods to special interests.

"We are steadfastly committed to open and accountable government," read the statement. "The intended policy goal of these changes was to provide a reasonable solution to protect constituents' privacy and to encourage a deliberative process between elected officials and their staff in developing policy. It was never intended to inhibit transparent government in any way."

Republicans have avoided identifying who is behind the proposal, but Rep. Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh, a member of the JFC, tweeted Friday that his Republican colleagues on the panel assured him that Walker had gone over the motion, signing off on "motions including open records changes after crossing out what he'd veto."

The statement also says a Legislative Council committee will be formed to examine the issue of records access more closely and outside the budget deliberation process.

Speaking with reporters Saturday morning, Walker made no mention of any plans to address the issue this weekend, insisting that he planned to wait until a Monday meeting with legislative leaders to iron out an issue that was met by sharp criticism from all sides over the past two days. He also avoided answering questions about his role in crafting and proposing the measure.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel posted a brief video of Walker's meeting with reporters.

The governor, who will announce he's running for president in Waukesha on July 13, was first asked if his office had any input on the proposal.

"As I mentioned yesterday, we're going to sit down and talk to the legislative leaders about that. We had already planned a follow-up meeting the other day in terms of the arena where we had all four legislative leaders," Walker said. "I think it's pretty clear they need to make some changes on that and we're going to work with them on it Monday."

Walker was then asked if he planned to veto the measure from the final budget if it cleared the Assembly and Senate.

"Certainly it will all depend. We haven't made commitments on any other vetoes, but those are things obviously a lot of concerns about. My hope is, after talking to them on Monday we get to a point where it's either out completely or there are significant changes to it," Walker said. "Again, as you know at the end of the legislative processs, there's a lot of things the legislative leadership works on and for us, there's other things in there. We'll review it and we'll see what passes not just the Joint Finance Committee, but what gets through the Assembly and the Senate."

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Finally, Walker was asked if he was aware of the proposal and if he objected to it.

"Again, those are all things we'll talk about on Monday. We'll talk about what we're going to do going forward. There's always all sorts of ideas that float around the Capitol before the end of the Joint Finance Committee process, but I think it's pretty clear that lawmakers from both parties, as well as others, want us to make changes and we're going to make sure that happens starting with a meeting on Monday," Walker said.

Walker went on to say it's "overall, a very positive budget" and called attention to property tax cuts.

The proposal to limit access to legislative records, effective as of July 1, the first day of the state's fiscal year, was immediately greeted with criticism Thursday afternoon with legislators from both parties condemning it within 24 hours of its passage.

The Capital Times and other media organizations have filed open records requests for documents related to the drafting of the measure, which could have been ignored had the proposal passed with the state budget and been signed into law by Walker.

Wisconsin Open Records Law: Gov Scott Walker, Likely 2016 Candidate, Backtracks On Attempts To Limit Public Access To Records // International Business Times - Clark Mindock – July 4, 2015

Expected 2016 Republican presidential candidate and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker backtracked on legislation that would have restricted open records access amid harsh backlash from critics in the last two days, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Saturday. The open records law was part of a broader state budget plan currently being considered.

A joint finance committee for the state Senate and Assembly voted Thursday along party lines to advance a measure that included the open records restrictions. The same day, Walker filed a letter with the Federal Election Commission announcing he had met the formal qualifications to be considered a candidate for president. However, he said, he was not yet making an official announcement.

The open records provisions would have exempted certain records from public scrutiny, including records from the Walker administration and draft legislation.

"After substantive discussion over the last day, we have agreed that the provisions relating to any changes in the state's open records law will be removed from the budget in its entirety. We are steadfastly committed to open and accountable government," a joint statement from Walker and GOP lawmakers read, according to the Journal Sentinel. "The intended policy goal of these changes was to provide a reasonable solution to protect constituents' privacy and to encourage a deliberative process between elected officials and their staff in developing policy. It was never intended to inhibit transparent government in any way."

The Wisconsin Legislature is expected to hold a series of votes next week. It will consider the budget, a 20-week abortion ban that makes no exception for rape or incest cases, major tax changes, public funding for a Milwaukee Bucks arena and possible changes to the prevailing wage for public workers, which establishes minimum wages for those workers.

Walker is expected, according to several news outlets including CNN, to declare his presidential candidacy July 13 after the budget is finalized in the Legislature. He is entering as a favorite, and regularly polls in the lead or near the top of the large GOP field currently fighting for the party's nomination. He is one of several current or former governors in the race.

Democrats underestimate Scott Walker at their own peril // Burlington County Times // Gene Lyons – July 5, 2015

Economically speaking, all 237 GOP presidential candidates are selling the same magic beans.

Everybody knows the script. Tax cuts for wealthy "job creators" bring widespread prosperity. Top off Scrooge McDuck's bullion pool, and the benefits flow outward to everybody else. The economy surges, budget deficits melt away, and the song of the turtledove will be heard in the land.

Almost needless to say, these "supply side" miracles have never actually happened in the visible world. State budget debacles in Kansas and Louisiana only signify the latest failures of right-wing dogma. Hardly anybody peddling magic beans actually believes in them anymore. Nevertheless, feigning belief signifies tribal loyalty to the partisan Republicans who will choose the party's nominee.

However, with everybody in the field playing "let's pretend," a candidate needs another way to distinguish himself. I suspect that Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin may have found it. See, Walker won't just put money back in "hardworking taxpayers' " pockets.

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Like a latter-day Richard Nixon, Walker will also stick it to people he doesn't like: lollygagging schoolteachers; featherbedding union members; and smug, tenured college professors who think they're smarter than everybody else. If he lacks charisma, there's an edge of ruthlessness in Walker's otherwise bland demeanor that hits GOP primary voters right where they live.

No less an authority than Uncle Scrooge himself — i.e., David Koch of Koch Industries, who with his brother, Charles, has pledged to spend $900 million to elect a Republican in 2016 — told the New York Observer after a closed-door gathering at Manhattan's Empire Club that Walker will win the nomination and crush Hillary Clinton in a general election "by a major margin."

Viewed from a distance, the determination of prosperous, well-educated Wisconsin to convert itself into an anti-union, right-to-work state like Alabama or Arkansas appears mystifying. To risk the standing of the University of Wisconsin system by abolishing academic tenure, as Walker intends, is damn near incomprehensible.

Attack one of America's great public research universities for the sake of humiliating (Democratic-leaning) professors over nickel-and-dime budgetary issues? Do Wisconsinites have no clue how modern economies work?

Maybe not. But Walker's supporters definitely appear to know who their enemies are, culturally speaking. Incredulity aside, it would be a mistake not to notice the craftiness with which he's brought off the transformation. Not to mention that Walker has won three elections since 2010 in a blue state that hasn't supported a Republican presidential nominee since Ronald Reagan.

Wisconsin's 10 electoral votes don't mean much by themselves, but throw in Michigan and Ohio, Midwestern states also trending similarly, and you've definitely got something.

Act 10, the 2011 law that took away collective bargaining rights for many public employees in Wisconsin — except, at first, for police officers and firefighters — brought crowds of angry teachers (also mostly Democrats) to the state capitol in Madison for weeks of angry demonstrations. As much as MSNBC was thrilled, many Wisconsinites appear to have been irked.

In the end, the state ended up saving roughly $3 billion by shifting the funding of fringe benefits such as health insurance and pensions from employer to employee, costing the average teacher roughly 16 percent of his or her compensation. Mindful of budget shortfalls, the unions had proposed negotiations, but that wasn't enough for Walker. For the record, Act 10 was an almost verbatim copy of a bill promoted by the Arlington, Virginia-based American Legislative Exchange Council, a think tank largely funded by, you guessed it, the brothers Koch.

Four years ago, a documentary filmmaker caught Walker on camera telling wealthy supporters that the new law was just the beginning. "The first step is, we're going to deal with collective bargaining for all public employee unions," he said, "because you use divide-and-conquer."

"If we can do it in Wisconsin, we can do it anywhere — even in our nation's capital," Walker wrote in his book, "Unintimidated," noted Dan Kaufman in the New York Times Magazine. Elsewhere, Walker has boasted that, as president, he could take on foreign policy challenges, because "if I can take on 100,000 protesters, I can do the same across the world."

Ridiculous, of course, but it plays.

Meanwhile, rueful trade unionists who endorsed Walker in 2010, because they never imagined that having vanquished the women's union he'd come after the ironworkers and the electricians in their pickup trucks, are crying the blues. Divided, they've been conquered.

So right-to-work it is: Salaries are already diminished, with job security, pensions, and health and safety regulations inevitably to follow.

More bullion for Scrooge McDuck's pool.

So now it's the professors' turn. Walker, a Marquette dropout, has described his new law as "Act 10 for the university." Tenure is a dead letter in cases of "financial emergency ... requiring program discontinuance, curtailment, modification or redirection."

So who gets redirected first? Left-wing culture warriors or climate scientists? Hint: Scrooge is a fierce climate-change denier.

Meanwhile, Democrats underestimate Scott Walker at considerable peril.

Politics of immigration take root in Walker's hometown // Journal Sentinel // Mary Spicuzza –

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July 5, 2015

Delavan— A glimpse along the historic brick street at the heart of this small southeastern Wisconsin city hints at how completely Gov. Scott Walker's hometown has been transformed by immigration.

Brightly colored cakes for coming-of-age celebrations, known as quinceañeras, and towering wedding cakes fill the windows at Cake Pastel Mexican bakery. A few steps away, La Guanajuato Mexican food store offers everything from a taqueria and butcher shop to calling cards and money transfer services. Just next door, piñatas fill the storefront of Dulceria Acapulco ice cream, coffee and candy shop.

Delavan has been thrust into the national news recently as Walker talks about the values he learned as the son of a preacher during the nearly 10 years he spent here.

But the Republican governor and likely presidential candidate also has been emphasizing get-tough policies on illegal, and even legal, immigration. He has compared securing the borders to responding to military attacks on our water ports and wants to bolster methods for making sure employers give jobs only to people here legally.

In Wisconsin, Latinos account for 6% of the population, and the vast majority live in urban counties.

But perhaps nowhere would Walker's proposals resonate more profoundly than in the people, economy and culture of his boyhood home.

Almost 30% of Delavan's roughly 8,500 residents are Latino, and almost one-third of those Latinos are first-generation immigrants, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

The city this year hosted its 14th annual Cinco de Mayo Festival in May, and the entertainment lineup at the fall Heritage Fest features mariachi bands along with polka and swing.

The Delavan-Darien School District, where Walker attended school from third grade until he graduated from high school in 1986, has a Latino student population of about 47%.

A University of Wisconsin-Madison report released last year found Delavan-Darien had the highest proportion of Latino students of any school district in Wisconsin. Recent statistics from the state Department of Public Instruction show it's now essentially tied with Arcadia School District for that spot.

"A lot of the higher-percentage districts were not in places that you would think of on the map as being Latino centers," said David Long, a UW-Madison researcher in the Applied Population Laboratory who co-authored the 2014 report on Wisconsin's Latino population. "It's pretty striking, and Delavan is a great example of that."

Bilingual offerings

Coming from the town of Plainfield, Iowa, with fewer than 500 people, Walker has said he saw Delavan as the "big city" when his family moved there in 1977.

His father, Llew, took a job as the pastor at Delavan First Baptist Church, and the future governor remained here with his family until enrolling at Marquette University in 1986.

The area's Latino population has grow exponentially since around that time. Only 7% in 1980, it climbed to 11% in 1990, then 21% in 2000 and nearly 30% in 2010.

Many of Delavan's Latino families have members who initially moved here to work at farms in the area, and others have been drawn by the pull of family ties as increasing numbers of people stay throughout the year rather than traveling back to Mexico.

In the Delavan-Darien district, classes, menus and services at the school district are offered in both Spanish and English. A recent end-of-the-year performance featured children singing the song "Five Little Monkeys" in English and Spanish ("Cinco Monitos"). Young children starting in kindergarten and first grade — English-speakers and Spanish-speakers, white and Latino students alike — alternate languages.

Last school year the district launched a new two-way language immersion experiment, the Dual Language Education Program, where English- and Spanish-speaking students start 4-year-old kindergarten receiving 90% of instruction in Spanish and 10% in English. Each year, the proportion adjusts, so the split is 50/50 by third grade.

"We've really made a push to try to do more things in a bilingual manner," said Mike Heine, a spokesman for the district. "Then kids are learning both languages side by side."

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Cynthia Bell-Jimenez, a dual-language kindergarten teacher at Turtle Creek Elementary School, said parents are encouraged to participate whether or not they speak English.

"The parents are very involved, and we're making sure the parents are involved more," she said. "We are trying to make sure everybody feels part of the community."

School officials praise the district's growing Latino population as an asset, saying its mission is to make sure students are prepared to "contribute as a 21st-century citizen by providing a real-world education that is engaging, thought-provoking and culturally diverse."

But Delavan-Darien also faces problems common in districts with large numbers of immigrants.

Poverty is high, and support for school referendums is hard to come by because residents don't want to approve higher taxes they can't afford. In that climate, holding onto staff has been hard, the superintendent says. At a time when the needs of Delavan schools are higher than ever, in part because of its diversity, its budget is being crunched tighter than ever.

"Seventy percent of our students qualify for free (or) reduced lunch," Superintendent Robert Crist wrote in a recent letter to lawmakers. "We have over one hundred homeless students."

Migrant workers

The town's unofficial historian, Wallace Gordon Yadon, spoke about the evolution of the Latino community in a high school documentary project not long before he died in 2013.

Yadon, who was born in Delavan in 1923 and lived there his whole life except when he was serving in the Navy during World War II, talked about seeing Latinos around town for the first time in about 1931. They picked produce like potatoes, carrots and cabbage, Yadon said.

"It required an awful lot of hand cultivation, and the Latinos provided it," Yadon said in the film. "By today's standards, the pay seems ridiculously low. They got about $5 a day working 10-hour days."

Yadon told those interviewing him that the immigrants lived in shacks with no electricity or running water and would typically stay from late spring to early fall.

"It started out with a couple hundred laborers; as it expanded they would bring more with them," he said. "Several hundred on a seasonal basis, then after the war it steadily grew."

He added that after WWII, some Latinos started staying rather than leaving after the growing season ended. "It wasn't a great movement overnight, but they trickled in," he said. "Most of them applied for citizenship, and that kind of was the embryonic start of our Latino population."

Yadon, who served as Delavan's postmaster for years, said he remembers workers coming to the post office immediately after getting paid to send money back home.

Yadon said many Latinos didn't "mix too well with the community" at first but have since "blended in very harmoniously."

"They've been remarkable," Yadon said. "They're quite an asset to Delavan. So many of them have gone into business of their own and been highly successful."

Complex issue

What is left unspoken in all this is how much of that population is here illegally.

Wisconsin is home to some 85,000 people who immigrated illegally, three-fourths of them from Mexico, a study released last year by the Pew Hispanic Center found. Much of Delavan's Latino population was born in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato.

Money continues to be sent back home. Several local shop windows are lined with signs offering a variety of money transfer services that allow cash to be quickly wired directly to Mexico and other destinations.

The issue of illegal immigration has long been politically volatile — and it will be critical to anyone seeking the GOP nomination in 2016. Although the party is divided on exactly what measures should be taken to tighten immigration laws, the consensus is that illegal immigrants should not be afforded the same benefits as those who came here legally. The party's base — which plays such a big role in primary season — is largely opposed to a path to citizenship, something Democrats generally support.

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Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, for example, has faced intense criticism from some in the GOP base over his support for giving illegal immigrants a path to legal status.

Walker's views on immigration have been something of a moving target. He has changed his mind from advocating a clear path to citizenship to opposing any form of amnesty, and has said illegal immigrants should return to their country of origin and essentially get in line to come back. He's recently suggested that legal immigration should be curbed as well.

The governor frames his views as doing what's best for America's security, its workers and its jobs — a framework virtually any candidate would support. It's what fills in the picture that gets hard. How much should be spent securing the border? How would self-deportation work, and what's the fallout of breaking up families? What about employers who use illegal immigrant labor? With an estimated 11 million to 12 million undocumented immigrants in the country, that's where it gets difficult on both a philosophical and practical level.

In Delavan, the complexity of the issue is evident. The mayor did not respond to requests to be interviewed on Walker and immigration policy. The city website has only the smallest hint that Latinos are a part of the community's identity, much less a significant part.

AshLee Strong, a Walker political aide, said that he "has explained that we have limits on immigration now, they just don't make any sense."

"His position on policies that are good for working families and wages are not inconsistent with policies that are good for immigrants here today and future immigrants. He is saying that we are a nation of immigrants, and as we look at fixing our broken immigration system — we need to make sure the policies are working as planned, which inherently means that they are beneficial for working families, wages and the strength of the U.S. economy," she said.

Strong stressed Walker's opposition to President Barack Obama's 2014 executive action on immigration.

"American citizenship is a distinct privilege and requires meeting a high threshold. Citizenship should be reserved for only those who follow the law and apply like everyone else," Strong said. "The next president is going to have to work with Congress to determine what future policies look like for the people here. This cannot be done outside of the law through executive order."

Effects on Delavan

Karen Cano, a 22-year-old high school Spanish teacher who was raised in Delavan, said Walker's recent immigration comments suggest he may be out-of-touch with his hometown.

"It's always interesting to see that some people are so prideful that he's from here. But some of the people feel he's not accepting of certain populations — like the growing Latino community," Cano said. "I don't think he is thinking about how his proposals would affect his hometown. And I don't think he's accepting of how much it's changed."

Cano was born in Whitewater but moved to Delavan when she was 4 years old because her parents, who were Mexican immigrants, wanted to be closer to the town's La Luz del Mundo church congregation. She graduated from Delavan-Darien High School and now teaches in nearby Milton.

She added that Walker's proposals would hurt not only Latino students and families, but also Delavan's economy.

"Just in downtown alone, there are so many Latino-owned businesses I can't even think of how many," Cano said.

She added that some Latino families have illegal immigrants, legal immigrants (such as "green card" holders who have been granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis) and citizens all living under one roof, and the idea of asking people who are in the country illegally to return to their country of origin would tear families apart. "It's just not logical," Cano said.

Positive contributions

Andy Sanchez is one of those illegal immigrants.

Waiting for his lunch at the taqueria in back of La Guanajuato one recent day, he sits near a shrine to the Virgin of Guadalupe and a mural honoring Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata.

Sanchez said he was born in Mexico and came to the U.S. as a teenager.

He has three children — a fourth died eight years ago — and seven grandchildren, all of whom are U.S. citizens.

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He says he spent years picking fruit before returning to his homeland to serve in the Mexican army. He now works as a machine operator in the food industry, Sanchez said.

He's heard all the negatives — the talk of gang involvement, criminal behavior. But he said the positive contributions of Latinos who are in the country both legally and illegally far outweigh the negatives, and he wishes that would be more broadly embraced than any notion of deportation.

"If we go, we go," he said.

But he shakes his head at such talk.

"Believe me, if we leave, this country is going down," he said.

KASICH

For Ohio Gov. John Kasich, "Win with Jeb and John" has a nice -- even plausible – ring // Cleveland // Thomas Suddes – July 5, 2015

Word seeped out last Sunday that Republican Gov. John Kasich would soon announce his bid for the presidency, demonstrating yet again that life is one coincidence after another.

Exactly 71 years before last Sunday, in 1944, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Ohio's then-governor, John Bricker, for vice president. The GOP's pick for president: New York Gov. Thomas Dewey.

The Dewey-Bricker ticket lost to Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Still, Dewey, with Bricker's help, carried Ohio. And part of American politics' apostles' creed is that no Republican can reach the White House without carrying Ohio.

Obviously, as Dewey demonstrated in 1944, and Richard Nixon did in 1960, a Republican can carry Ohio and not become president. Still, beginning in 1860 with Abraham Lincoln, every Republican elected president has carried Ohio. And John Kasich's record demonstrates he can carry Ohio.

Kasich's formal announcement will come on July 21, at Ohio State University's Ohio Union. If you underestimate Kasich, your picture belongs in the dictionary next to the word "fool." The only elections Ohio State grad Kasich seems to have lost were 1972 and 1973 bids for president of OSU's undergraduate student government. (The 1972 winner: Future Cleveland Mayor Michael White.)

But for public office, look at Kasich's trophies:

* Unseat an incumbent Democratic state senator in 1978? Check.

* Unseat an incumbent Democratic U.S. House member in 1982? Check.

* Unseat an incumbent Democratic Ohio governor in 2010? Check.

* And win re-election as governor in 2014 despite having enraged organized labor in 2011 with Senate Bill 5? Check.

It's tough, at this writing, to imagine that Republicans won't nominate former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for president at next year's Cleveland convention. And if Bush is the nominee, it's hard to imagine a more suitable running mate, politically, than John Kasich. True, Kasich's ... um ... spontaneity ... may make it hard for some bystanders to imagine him in the presidency or vice presidency.

But compared with, say, Joe Biden, Kasich is an introvert.

"We'll win with Tom and John in November," pumped-up Bricker backers shouted in 1944, when Ohio's Bricker landed the GOP's vice presidential nomination.

Maybe, at next summer's Cleveland convention, Republicans will be shouting, "We'll win with Jeb and John."

2004 marriage tally

Ohio voters banned same-sex marriage by amending the state constitution in 2004. And that year, the General

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Assembly passed Substitute House Bill 272, a statutory (as opposed to constitutional) ban on same-sex marriage. The House approved the bill 73-23; the Senate agreed, 18-15; and Gov. Bob Taft signed the measure on Feb. 6, 2004.

Among legislators who voted against the 2004 statutory marriage ban were former Gov. Nancy Hollister of Marietta, the only House Republican with the courage to vote "no"; Rep. Fred Strahorn, a Dayton Democrat, now the House's minority leader; then-Sen. Dan Brady, a Cleveland Democrat, now Cuyahoga County Council president; then-Sen. David Goodman, a suburban Columbus Republican, now in Kasich's Cabinet as director of Development Services; then-Rep. Michael Skindell, a Lakewood Democrat now a state senator; and then-Sen. Steve Stivers, a suburban Columbus Republican now in Congress.

Those weren't easy votes 11 years ago. But as the Supreme Court's June ruling showed, those votes defended human rights.

Among Ohio House Republicans voting in 2004 to pass the same-sex marriage ban were then-Reps. Keith Faber of Celina, now the Senate's president; Jon Husted of suburban Dayton, now secretary of state; and Mary Taylor of suburban Akron, now Kasich's lieutenant governor.

Ohio education officials: Kasich vetoes likely mean less funding for some school districts // Hudson Hub Times // Marc Kovac – July 5, 2015

Columbus -- State education officials say they won't know until after the start of the new school year the total impact of policy and funding decisions made in the $71 billion-plus biennial state budget.

Basic state foundation aid to schools, they said, won't decrease for any district. But a couple of line-item vetoes by Gov. John Kasich June 30 likely mean less overall state funding for more than 100 districts.

Hudson is one of those districts.

Based on estimates Hudson Superintendent Phil Herman has seen, the Hudson School District would see no reduction for fiscal 2016 but would have a $1.8 million reduction to state funding in the second year of the budget, 2017.

"Because of the efforts to make reductions in the past, we are in a position we won't have to immediately seek tax funding," Herman said.

The Hudson School District made previous reductions and reduced costs in order to operate as long as possible without going back to the taxpayers with a levy, he said.

"But with this reduction, we may have to go back sooner," Herman said. "There will not be any immediate plans for a levy as a result of the state's proposed budget," he added.

Herman said he was disappointed Gov. Kasich said the reductions were being made to districts who have the capacity to pay more.

"Our taxpayers have already supported the schools, and that's disappointing to feel we're being punished for the revenues our community has already generated," Herman said.

The Ohio Department of Education won't compile funding totals for districts until after the start of the new school year.

"We are about the work of implementing the contents of HB 64," said Aaron Rausch, budget director for the state education department. "We will begin to implement those changes. When the bill becomes effective at the end of September, we will update all of the per pupil amounts and data ..."

On basic state aid, the budget allocates more than $20 billion over the biennium, the highest level on record. The legislation increases per-pupil funding by $100 annually -- to $5,900 in fiscal 2016 and $6,000 in '17 from $5,800 in the last fiscal year.

State Superintendent Richard Ross said the budget also includes incentives for expanding career technical programs, an extra $40 million for early childhood education, $10 million for expanded classes enabling high schoolers to earn college credit and incentives for higher graduation and reading proficiency rates, among other changes.

"We'll actually be funding school districts based on evidence that they are successfully educating our children," Ross said.

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But Ross and others did not have details about how Kasich's vetoes would affect overall school funding.

The governor deleted a wealthy school district funding guarantee and a tangible personal property reimbursement supplement for certain districts.

The administration has said the TPP supplement should be phased out, allowing the state's school funding formula to work as intended.

That would mean more money for districts with less capacity to raise funds on their own and less money for districts with declining enrollments.

Lawmakers, however, added the TPP supplement, among other budget moves, to ensure no district received less in funding during the biennium than they received in fiscal '15.

In the end, Kasich vetoed the TPP supplement for the second year of the biennium.

"... This guarantee provision diverts resources that could be targeted to lower capacity school districts and circumvents original intent of the law to limit the reimbursement payments so that they were both declining and temporary," Kasich wrote in his veto message.

Lawmakers had proposed the supplement for more than 100 of the 600-plus school districts in the state. Affected districts will still receive the funding during the next school year, but the reimbursements will end thereafter.

"To recognize the concerns that districts receiving TPP payments need more time to prepare for the decline in these payments, this veto will only apply to the FY 2017 payments ...," Kasich wrote.

An earlier estimate using enrollment totals from the fall put the second year TPP supplement at more than $84 million. An updated projection, using more recent enrollment statistics, put the total back at about $78.3 million.

OTHER

New Hampshire Voters Bemoan Size of G.O.P. Field // NYT // Patrick Healy & Maggie Haberman – July 4, 2015

AMHERST, N.H. — The Independence Day parades across New Hampshire on Saturday turned into parades of presidential candidates, and voters like Stuart Harmon were left shaking their heads at the daunting reality of watching, hearing and judging more than 20 contenders for the White House over the next seven months.

“This race feels more like a spectator sport than an election,” said Mr. Harmon, an independent who shook hands with former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and watched a dozen other campaign contingents march through this town of about 11,000. “Having all these candidates is a real problem, because it’ll be hard to hear each of them. I’m interested in Jeb Bush, but it’s not easy to pay attention to just one when there are so many.”

The likely field of 16 Republican candidates is stirring frustration, particularly among voters who say they feel more overwhelmed, even ambivalent, than ever before about their long-cherished responsibilities in holding the nation’s first primary. Some voters said they were already dreading the weeks of political fliers stuffed in their mailboxes, of campaign volunteers at their doors during the day and of television ads and automated phone calls all through the night. Others said they already had candidate fatigue.

“Maybe I’ll just vote for the one who leaves me alone the most,” said Tim Sullivan, a Republican from Gilford. He compared his party’s pack of candidates to “a clown car where they never stop coming out.”

For decades, New Hampshire has fought to keep its place at the front of the presidential nominating contests, and party leaders talk with almost religious fervor about the state’s duty to “screen” and “weed out” second-tier wannabes to save most other Americans the trouble. The state’s news outlets, political consultants, and hotel and hospitality industries also make tens of millions of dollars from the campaign operations. Politics is pastime here, but the 2016 race creates a challenge that is the opposite of a leisure pursuit: Is there such a thing for New Hampshire voters as too many presidential candidates?

“I can’t keep track of all of them. It’s ridiculous,” Laura Major, an independent voter from Milford, said as she collected candidate stickers and free candy from volunteers for Mr. Bush and other campaigns along the parade route here.

Steve Sartorelli, a registered independent from Auburn, said he felt that the plethora of long-shot candidates was “insulting our intelligence.”

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“It feels like a lot of Republicans are running for the recognition or to get a TV gig or another job, not because they actually believe they could win the presidency,” Mr. Sartorelli said.

On the Democratic side are a mere five candidates, though only two, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, are showing real strength in polls. And those two names were the only ones on the lips of several voters at a campaign stop for Mrs. Clinton on Friday in Hanover, a liberal enclave that is home to Dartmouth College.

As they stood in line for barbecue at Mrs. Clinton’s event, Ann Bracken and Sue Donnelly chuckled when they were asked about Lincoln Chafee, a former Rhode Island governor who is also running on the Democratic side.

“It’s certainly interesting on the Republican side — they keep us entertained,” Ms. Bracken said. She offered a single name: “Trump.”

While recent polls show Donald Trump running second in the Republican field here, many in New Hampshire still do not take him seriously. But interviews with two dozen Republicans suggested concern that Mr. Trump’s remarks, personality and billions of dollars would overshadow more credible Republican candidates.

“Mr. Trump and some of the others are distractions, and it’s frustrating that the serious candidates won’t get all the attention,” said Bill Burtt, a Republican living in Tilton at the New Hampshire Veterans Home, which Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey visited on Friday afternoon.

In Wolfeboro, a resort town in the northern part of the state, Mr. Christie and his sign-waving supporters were directly ahead of a caravan of volunteers for Senator Marco Rubio of Florida. Both men zigzagged along the route, urged by paradegoers to come squeeze their hands.

“I like paying attention, but they have to get their act together, really,” Lori Kirwan said of the Republicans, shaking her head. “I don’t know,” she added, her voice trailing off. She and her husband both predicted that candidates would have to drop out well before Primary Day, or it would all become too unwieldy.

State Senator Jeb Bradley, the Republican majority leader, said the complications of 2016 went beyond the sheer number of candidates: Voters are also struggling because there is no clear front-runner, as there was in 2012 (Mitt Romney), 2008 (John McCain), 2004 (George W. Bush) and 2000 (Mr. McCain).

“This is the first time since 1996 when we have a wide-open contest, and there are now twice as many major candidates compared to back then,” Mr. Bradley said. As for his own preferences, they are increasing — Mr. Bush, Mr. Rubio, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Mr. Christie, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, Carly Fiorina, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana — rather than shrinking.

“But look, by the time our primary rolls around in February, I just can’t imagine there will be 16 people on the Republican ballot,” Mr. Bradley said.

Others are not so sure. The emergence of “super PACs” could allow just a few wealthy supporters to finance advertising and other activities for their preferred candidates, giving many of the 2016 contenders the resources to survive poor showings in the first few nominating contests.

“I don’t think Iowa’s going to solve anything — the Republicans will pick up from there and come here,” said Jack Donovan, an independent from Concord, referring to the presidential caucuses that are held just before the New Hampshire primary. “The candidates will still have money and more televised debates, and will think: Why not try their luck in New Hampshire?”

It is the debates that start next month, far more than the number of candidates in the parades this weekend, that many voters are eager to see to help make up their minds.

“Every day there are two more Republicans jumping into the race, but hopefully the debates will help us sort all of this out,” said Okie Howe, a 98-year-old Democrat and Army veteran living at the Tilton retirement home. She said she wanted to find a Republican to support because she was “sick of Hillary Clinton,” but thought she would probably vote for Mrs. Clinton in the end because the Republican field “was too big to make sense out of.” (As for the 73-year-old Mr. Sanders, Ms. Howe said, “He’s a bit too old, isn’t he?” She then chided herself for “being the pot calling the kettle black.”)

Other Democrats are torn about not having their own surfeit of candidates this year. Katrina and Todd Spenceman of Chesterfield are a house divided. She is an ardent supporter of Mrs. Clinton, while her husband and many of her friends are Obama 2008 supporters who now lean toward Mr. Sanders.

“The independent streak in this region is palpable,” Mr. Spenceman said, attributing some of the buck-the-Clinton

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behavior to that characteristic.

“I am right on the border of Vermont, which is very Bernie,” Mrs. Spenceman said. “I’m experiencing a lot of discord between the former Hillarys abandoning Hillary for Bernie.”

Would having more choices, as the Republicans do, benefit the Democratic electorate?

“Yes and no,” Mr. Spenceman said. “Yes, from a Democratic view, that’d be swell. But I also know that too many choices paralyze people from making a decision.”

Sleepover at Mitt's: Christie, Rubio bunk with Romney at N.H. retreat // CNN // Cassie Spodak – July 4, 2015

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire (CNN)Truth or dare? Warring pillow forts? What does one do at a presidential candidate slumber party?

We'll likely never know exactly what happened Friday at Mitt Romney's lakeside summer home in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, where Chris Christie and Marco Rubio spent the night.

But Romney shared a few details Saturday morning at the Wolfeboro Fourth of July parade, saying he didn't give either candidates any advice on running.

"These guys will make their own mistakes, Romney said. "Hopefully, they won't follow mine."

The men ate hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, corn and potato salad, Romney added.

"It was great, they're great hosts," Rubio said Saturday.

So what did they talk about?

"Life. All kinds of stuff," Rubio said, adding, "No politics."

According to Romney and his wife Ann, the group stayed up late chatting.

"A lot of sports talk actually, and family, talked about our family and how we gather up here and what we do when we're up here. It was a lot of fun. We stayed up late last night," he said.

Romney's extensive experience as a presidential candidate -- as well as his broad network of donors -- makes him a unique resource for candidates competing for votes in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary.

He said its exciting to watch the candidates this time around and even weighed in on the Democrats running.

"I thought it was going to be kind of boring, but I think Bernie Sanders has made it kind of exciting," Romney said.

On Friday, Christie praised the former Massachusetts governor.

"What matters most to me is that he's a resource for me," said the New Jersey governor, who was an early backer of Romney's 2012 candidacy. "And he's a resource for our party, someone who has been doing this process twice. He's been our nominee. That's somebody who you want to talk to and listen to, if you're someone who's running for the first time, like I am."

Christie, who is finishing up a five-day visit to New Hampshire, said it's too soon to expect an endorsement from Romney. For his part, Romney on Saturday said he's not going to endorse anybody until later in the nomination process.

"A lot of these folks helped me during my campaign. I'm going to be as loyal to them as they were to me," he said.

But Rubio and Christie are not the only two GOP candidates to sit down with Romney. On Monday, he'll meet with Jeb Bush and his wife, Columba, at Walker's Point, the Bush family home in Maine.

ObamaCare win turns up heat on GOP presidential field // The Hill // Peter Sullivan and Sarah Ferris – July 4, 2015

ObamaCare's victory at the Supreme Court is putting new pressure on Republican presidential candidates to map out a replacement to the healthcare law — a task that has eluded the party for more than five years.

With President Obama’s law twice affirmed by the nation’s high court, congressional Republicans now say a

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victory in 2016 is their best chance to tear down the statute and replace it with a GOP-favored alternative.

“I definitely think there will be pressure on these guys to put something out there,” said Lanhee Chen, the policy director for Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign. “They will need to have a plan.”

However, few of the party’s dozen 2016 hopefuls have thus far offered concrete details about what their alternative to the law would look like.
Chen said Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) are “arguably further along,” in their planning, a point echoed by other experts.

Rubio’s plan includes giving tax credits to people to help them afford coverage and setting up high-risk insurance pools for people with pre-existing conditions. His plan is still in the form of an op-ed, and has not been fleshed out with details like the size of the credits and how it would be paid for.

Jindal’s plan — outlined last year in a 23-page document — centers on providing $100 billion over ten years in block grants to states that come up with their own innovative healthcare proposals.

That funding would also be based on how well states control costs like premiums and how well they ensure access to high-risk individuals, such as people with pre-existing conditions.

Jindal’s and Rubio’s plans are more developed than much of the rest of the field. Jeb Bush’s campaign referred The Hill to a blog post posted this week on Medium, which includes a half-dozen bullet points about a system to “empower states” but offers no specifics. He proposed a form of “tax relief” for premiums and a “conservative solution” for people with pre-existing conditions.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, another one of the party’s frontrunners, has also been mum on details, and his campaign did not respond to a request for comment on his replacement plan.

Asked on Fox News last week about his replacement plan, Walker mentioned letting the market “drive things,” giving consumers “full information” about their choices and allowing people to buy insurance across state lines.

The campaign of Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) also did not respond to a request for comment. When asked how he would replace the law in January, Paul indicated he would largely return to the pre-ObamaCare system.

“We could try freedom for a while,” Paul told Fox News.

“Nobody's talking about a time when the government doesn't participate at all,” he said. “Even before ObamaCare, the government did take care of the bottom five or ten percent of our public, who were on Medicaid, and then there was also charity, so there are different ways that we take care and help the poor. Nobody's saying we wouldn't still do those things if we didn't have ObamaCare.”

A problem for Republicans is that ObamaCare’s coverage expansion gets more ingrained with each passing year.

Tom Miller, who advised Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) on healthcare during his 2008 campaign, said he doesn’t expect any of the candidates to put forward a fully fleshed plan — because they don’t need to.

A promise to repeal ObamaCare remains a litmus test for the GOP, but Miller said it doesn’t mean that a Republican president would make it the first goal of their presidency.

The most likely scenario for a GOP president is a gradual phasing out of ObamaCare mandates, with help from Congress, to avert the chaos that would result from an immediate and complete repeal of the law, he said.

“You’re steering the ship in a different direction but it’s not going in a 180 degree change,” said Miller, a fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. “No matter who is elected, it’s going to be slower and little bit more incremental.”

Even so, any Republican president would need to act quickly, he warned. By the time the next president takes office, the law will have been in place for nearly seven years.

“You run out of time. Every year into the future makes it harder to go into a different direction," Miller said, adding that he hasn’t yet endorsed a candidate.

The difficulty in drafting a replacement plan for ObamaCare became clear over the last six months as congressional Republicans scrambled to come up with contingency plans for the King v. Burwell ruling.

Like that decision, a full repeal of ObamaCare would cause millions of people to, at least temporarily, lose their subsidies.

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Chen, the former Romney advisor, said that candidates have “guideposts” from two replacement plans, one from Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) and one from Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Both plans offer a form of tax credits, as ObamaCare does, but without the law’s mandate to buy coverage and same rules on pre-existing conditions and what a plan must cover.

After ObamaCare survived its last major legal challenge last week, Republicans acknowledge that full repeal is impossible with the president still in office.

Congress still has a few options to try to peel back pieces of the law — primarily, a legislative tool known as reconciliation that allows certain budget bills to bypass the Senate’s 60-vote threshold. Others are hoping to slash the president’s healthcare budgets through appropriation bills that make the law tougher to implement. But Obama wields the veto pen.

Several Republican presidential candidates in the last few weeks have said they are in favor of abolishing the Senate’s filibuster, which would help a Republican president repeal ObamaCare even if the party can’t reach 60 votes in the chamber.

That idea, though, has drawn opposition from one of the biggest ObamaCare critics in the 2016 field, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas).

Walker, along with former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, have all endorsed the idea, while Bush said he would “certainly consider” it during an appearance on the Hugh Hewitt show.

Still, there’s near universal consensus that the debate over full repeal will have to take place in the presidential debates.

“In 2016, we need to show the country what exactly we’d replace this law with,” House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said on CBS's "Face the Nation" after the ruling. “So that when we win the election in 2016, we have the ability to do it in 2017.”

The GOP’s pathetic crybaby agenda: Trump, Scalia and the whiny, paranoid new face of the right // Salon // Bill Curry – July 5, 2015

Republicans have no agenda. America won't fall for culture/religion wars anymore. Petulance is all they have left

We are numbed by Charleston; by its irrefutable proof of our still virulent racism and violent, gun-crazed culture, by being made to stare once again into the face of evil. Yet when the families of the slain stood up in court to voice forgiveness of Dylann Roof, we were startled and suddenly it was harder to divide us. Our politics is small to begin with; next to such staggering grief, it seems smaller still.

Like everyone on Facebook, Roof told us his life story in pictures. Absent the shots of him sporting the insignia of the Confederacy, apartheid and Nazi Germany, it’s hard to conceive of the Confederate flag being banished from Wal-Mart, let alone the ground of his state Capitol. Some may fly it out of mere nostalgia, but its core messages, now as always, are racism and sedition. It’s the flag of those who loved slavery more than their country; who sent hundreds of thousands to die rather than let one slave go free. A hundred and fifty years after Appomattox it is at last coming down. Long indeed is the arc of the moral universe.

The victory is more than symbolic. Fifty years ago as part of their post-Civil Rights Act national membership drive, Republicans began beaming coded racial messages to white voters. That code just got easier to crack. Fifteen years ago they began to amp up voter suppression under cover of absurdly inflated claims of voter fraud. If challenged on their motives or their facts they hurl furious denials. They can hurl all they want now. Debate has shifted. We’ve seen the pictures.

The slaughter of the Emanuel innocents was the most savage in a line of white-on-black slayings that pricked the nation’s conscience. The list of martyrs is long: Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Walter Scott and countless others, known and unknown. Their deaths, though tragic, were not in vain. America is at last sifting through the evidence. A decade ago, most whites rejected every claim of racial disparity in our law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Now sentencing reform and cameras on cops are popular policies amongst all voters. We’ve a long ways to go, but there’s less doubt about where we’re headed.

President Obama has spoken eloquently of the millions of young black men in crisis in America. The chilling saga of Dylann Roof reminds us that millions of young white men are also in crisis. We can’t pretend to know its full nature or all its complex causes. We do know that, like young black men, young white men need better education and better jobs, better mental health services and better parenting. It’s probably time for someone to talk to them and their families as Obama spoke of and to young black men. For sure, it’s time we stop talking to them the way

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we do.

The right has long charged liberalism with fostering alienation, dependency, isolation and addiction among the poor — and leading minorities to reject traditional values and to see themselves as victims and whites as culprits. Now consider Dylann Roof: a jobless, stoned, opiate-abusing high school dropout who rejects such traditional values as law, order, hard work, sobriety and tolerance to vent his rage and blames his problems on a racially denominated 'other.'

The right blames all social pathologies on the left but would howl were anyone to imply that it helped spawn Dylann Roof — or that its anti-intellectualism led any young man to forgo college or that its economic policies left anyone without the chance for a decent job at decent pay. How does a young man so ensnared rationalize his fate? Roof got many of his theories from the website of the Concerned Citizens Council—"We oppose all efforts to mix the races"—headed by the lovely and vivacious Earl P. Holt III ("Black people are the laziest, stupidest, most criminally inclined race in the history of the world"). He was a donor to at least five current or former GOP presidential candidates. But the problem isn't confined to the dark demimonde of far right hate groups.

Young white males are dropping out of college, high school and the workforce in droves. In the reddest of states many turn to crime and drugs. They deserve better than a steady diet of racially coded conspiracy theories; better than Rick Santorum calling college a liberal trap or Mike Huckabee calling their centrist black president a "tyrant"; better than being taught each day to despise those who think different thoughts or blame those who don't look enough like them. The toxicity of right-wing politics seeps steadily into the larger culture. It runs on infantile rage and so must infantilize white men. We must find a way to reach even the ones who seem a danger only to themselves.

Some Republicans must feel shame, or at least sense risk. Late last month was full of historic happenings and at every one Republicans seemed out of sync or ill at ease. On Wednesday the Senate sent Obama the bill authorizing fast track approval for the Trans Pacific Partnership. It was a big win for them and a bigger one for him. Passage pleased both parties' big donors, who are after all the same people, more or less.

Some say the fight left Obama with wounds to heal but many of the wounded were Democrats in Congress, a group whose health he seldom asks after. Labor was mad but no one recalls the last time a union went off the reservation. Democratic voters tend to dislike trade deals, but if Obama's happy they're happy.

GOP voters really hate fast track, so House Republicans didn't take any victory laps. Passing the bill meant breaking their sacred vow not to let Obama do anything. His continued low standing would help them in 2016. But business wanted the bill and they figured Obama's last months in office would offer him few chances to gild his resume.

Wouldn't you know a big one got dropped in his lap the very next day? By a 6-3 vote the Supreme Court again upheld the Affordable Care Act. The TPP was a big win for Obama but this was huge. When the case was filed, few took it seriously. When the Court took it up, opinion shifted. Why would it go to the trouble of yet another review if five justices weren't at least thinking of voting for the plaintiffs?

The case came down to four words. Under the law the federal government may subsidize consumers buying insurance through exchanges "established by the states." But only 13 states set up exchanges. The rest use the federal exchange. The IRS ruled that Congress meant to provide subsidies to those purchasing via the federal exchange. The Court ruled that the IRS ruled correctly.

In a rude dissent, Justice Scalia called Justice Roberts' majority opinion "quite absurd… interpretive jiggery-pokery" that undermined the Court's reputation for "honest jurisprudence." The right exploded. Among GOP presidential candidates, Mike Huckabee outdid even Scalia, calling Roberts' ruling, you guessed it, "an act of judicial tyranny."

Only men as frivolous as Alito, Thomas and Scalia could fail to see it truly was a frivolous case. As loud as Scalia screamed that those four words could mean just one thing, Roberts was right to rule that the act's 381,113 other words meant just the opposite. Courts give agencies wide berths to interpret statutes but as Roberts took care to emphasize, here it didn't need to. Congress' intent was clear.

John Boehner vowed another repeal vote—it would be the 57th— but voters want to fix the law, not kill it. Republicans keep promising an alternative plan, but in the narrow confines of their ideology there is none. Obamacare, nee Romneycare, started at the Heritage Foundation. Heritage now denies paternity but when Romneycare was signed into law, its president attended the christening. GOP dead-enders are alone now on health care. In the TPP fight their donors stood at their side, but here the insurers, hospitals and docs are all with Obama.

On Friday the Court dropped the other shoe, voting 5-4 to recognize the right of all same sex couples to marry. The Republican response to Justice Kennedy's heartfelt opinion was predictable enough. Scott Walker said he'd amend the Constitution. Huckabee called it tyranny. Ted Cruz, sounding increasingly unhinged, preached

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nullification, if not outright sedition. But Jeb Bush and even Ben Carson said it was time to move on. They knew they were on the wrong side of not just history but demography, a bad place to be with an election coming on.

Watching Friday's joyous celebration in front of the Court, it was hard to imagine anyone not wanting to join in. For decades Republicans fought same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Watching those revelers I felt as I did hearing the families who forgave Dylann Roof — glad to bear witness to such a powerful expression of love. I wanted to be there and wondered if any Republicans wished they were, too.

Later that day Obama flew to South Carolina to deliver a eulogy for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney of Charleston's AME church. For six years even some of his staunch supporters had wanted him to address issues of race more forcefully and directly. On Friday he did all they'd asked and more. That he did it in Pinckney's honor — and in his church — made his words more powerful still. Early on, he evoked the history of all black churches,

…'hush harbors' where slaves could worship in safety… rest stops for the weary on the Underground Railroad; bunkers for the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement.

He then called the shootings what they were, "not random, but … a means of control, a way to terrorize and oppress." He cited a policy or two — gun safety, voting rights — but mostly he preached about prejudice, duty, grace, forgiveness and love. The camera often cut to Boehner. who couldn't help looking out of place. Asked once on "Meet the Press" if he believed Obama was a Christian, Boehner replied tartly, "I take him at his word." Meaning, of course, that he didn't. Hearing Obama preach the word, I wondered what Boehner had to say now.

It was a historic week, though to pilfer a thought from Justice Kennedy, perhaps in ways we don't yet see. Kennedy's and Roberts' opinions will mean more or less depending on who our next president is. The Charleston tragedy changed us all, but in ways that will be hard to measure and impossible to prove. What seems most certain is that our politics is changing, perhaps even in a fundamental way.

Little more than a week ago the press portrayed Obama as reeling from a minor dust-up with House Dems over trade. Today he bestrides the town like a colossus. Politics is a tough game; he may be back on the skids shortly. But what happened to Republicans this week feels more lasting. Less than a year after their triumph in the 2014 midterms they seem suddenly to be in more than just cyclical trouble. There are, I think, three reasons for it.

The first reason is that the culture wars that have raged since the 1960s are at last winding down, at least as we've known them. Such historic changes don't happen overnight, but the week showed America at or near at or near a tipping point. Race ignited these wars. Issues of gender and sexuality fueled them. America is taking a harder look at all who seek to foment or exploit racial anger or fear, even as it continues to be transformed on issues of sexual preference and identity. We don't need to prove Republican complicity in the culture wars. They deny ever stooping to such tactics. Fine; if so, they've nothing to worry about.

The second reason is that religion is—there's no better word for it—evolving. If the GOP can't keep pace it will pay a steep price; we all know what evolution does to those who fail to adapt. Its response to Pope Francis' masterfully composed encyclical on climate change is a case in point. Bobby Jindal, Rick Santorum, and Jeb Bush, heretofore three of the showiest Catholics in all of Christendom, told His Holiness quite bluntly to mind his own beeswax. It seems they don't see how a threat to the survival of our species has a moral dimension. They don't listen to scientists either so one wonders whose advice they do take. (Oh, right.)

It was strangest coming from Bush, whose strict Catholic faith compelled him to hand Terry Schiavo's body over to Congress for disposition. Since "Catholic" and "Reagan Democrat" are near synonyms, dissing the Pope should come with fallout, but Republicans don't see it. James Inhofe, the moron who brought a snowball to the Senate to prove global warming's a hoax–he also chairs the environment committee–went on a Family Research Council radio show to say Francis unwittingly fulfilled a dark biblical prophecy, which would, technically speaking, make him an instrument of Satan. The Holy Father will be here in September. Republicans underestimate how happy we'll all be to see him; it's another event they'll wish they could attend in good faith.

The third reason is the absolute dearth of anything remotely resembling a real GOP policy agenda, unless you count corporate tax cuts. It turns out they can't have one, partly because their base is so crazy and partly because they are. For six years Obama tried to sell them Mitt Romney's healthcare reform and George Bush's immigration reform. They couldn't even meet for coffee. More than once he tried to sell them one of their own fiscal policies, but when word got out Obama was for it, they no longer could be. Their defense hawks' favorite remedy is more tough talk. What's their alternative to a nuclear deal with Iran? Best possible answer: do nothing and hope the sanctions regime holds. Likeliest answer: leave it to Bibi.

For a while now we've known and they've known that time's running out on the politics of racism and sexism or as they call it, traditional values. What we learned last week is how fast the sand is running through that hour glass. With those cards harder to hide up their sleeve and with no agenda to peddle, Republicans wandered all week from press conference to press conference looking dazed and confused.

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The smart ones felt the ground shift beneath their feet. It isn't just the tyrant Obama staring them down now on healthcare. It's a 6-3 majority of a Republican Supreme Court, their friends in the medical and insurance industries and a majority of voters. On discrimination they have to beat not just "the radical gay lobby" but another likely Supreme Court majority and an even bigger popular one. For 20 years they ridiculed Al Gore for reading, knowing and caring so much about our environment. They'll find Pope Francis a tougher target. As for race, at Rev. Pinckney's service we saw love's power to heal and unite. If they watched, they saw it too.

Last week made Republicans easier to see through. My favorite Republican is Donald Trump, who can't open his mouth without giving away the game. Trump used his campaign kickoff to deliver a rant so offensive to Mexicans it forced Univision to cancel its broadcast of his tasteless beauty pageant. To retaliate he banned Univision employees from his golf courses, a move sure to help GOP outreach. Then NBC pulled out of his pageants and kicked him off "Celebrity Apprentice." It'll be interesting to see how many relationships he can torch before he feels he's reaped enough publicity to declare victory and get back to the links.

Seeing their limp diversification plans so easily thwarted makes Republicans more desperate to rev up the base. They're always on the lookout for new ways to divide and conquer and lately they think they've found one. It's called xenophobia. If you want to know more about it you can visit the same websites Dylann Roof frequents or those of any far right European political party. As you may know, all are on the rise. Their métier is immigration but they traffic in every species of nativism.

Republicans paint with a somewhat broader brush but clearly their new culture war focuses on the foreign 'other'; a mix of ISIS and immigrants, of Putin, China and Iran; of anyone and everyone who is or can be made to look scary. The world's a scary enough place but they know how to make it feel even more so. That they do it so well is one reason why Obama's foreign policy grades lag behind all his other grades by eight or more points in polls.

With no viable or salable domestic policies to run on in 2016 Republicans will complement their xenophobic neoconservatism with rehashes of various schemes to cut taxes on the rich and slash spending for the old, the poor and the sick; that and a vicious assault on the Democratic presidential nominee. It's a strategy anyone can see coming, so defeating it should be no problem, right? Wrong. There are in fact two problems.

One is that Republicans always nominate their least crazy candidate. Every four years Democrats pray they'll pick a Pat Buchanan or Michelle Bachman, a Ted Cruz or Ben Carson, but they never do. We hope the far right will rise up and win it all but it turns out even Tea Partiers vote tactically. In the end the party always goes with a Dole, a Romney or a McCain. Even George Bush didn't look like a guy who'd bankrupt the nation or lie his way into a catastrophic war. Granted, in a huge 2016 field only two or three fit the bill of not seeming crazy, but they'll find a way to thread the needle. Anyway, Democrats have a bigger problem: themselves.

Hillary Clinton runs ahead of her field even as Bernie Sanders puts up impressive numbers; in the size of his crowds; in his small donors–200,000 of whom have already ponied up $8 million—and in state polls. Thus far it isn't enough to get old liberal lobbies to take a serious look. Everybody's read a poll that told them, as polls always do, not to rock the boat. The smart money's been wrong so often it's a wonder they still call it that, but labor and environmental leaders still think and talk like political consultants.

Democrats' resistance to open debate is jaw dropping. You'd think they'd have learned from their experience with Obama. When he disappointed them early on, they held their tongues. Looking back, do they still think their silence did him any favors? Most think their mute loyalty to Hillary is helping now, but it isn't. Her strategy is clear. Like Obama in 2008, she hopes to break big-dollar fundraising records while giving speeches laced with populist metaphors. On national security she'll run to Obama's right, where she thinks it safest for the country and herself. She's a liberal on social issues and for once it may help.

The two issues that matter most to voters are the twin slow motion collapses of our democracy and our middle class. On both Clinton will do as she always does: preach the glories of growth and technology while nodding to political reform. The TPP vote showed us once again that she, Obama and most elite Dems march in lockstep with global capital, which runs on corruption. It's the wrong strategy for her and us — but absent a real contest and an open debate, just try moving her off it.

It was an amazing week. America shed bigotry even while mourning its victims. We saw a glimpse of a possible new politics. The country and the Court said loud racism and homophobia are no longer traditional or Christian values. A Republican Party that trafficked in bigotry and looked suddenly cornered. Many of its most easily identified leaders—Scalia, Trump, Cruz, Huckabee, Walker, Santorum, the list goes on—acting like infants, gave the lie to the whole enterprise. Still picking fights with their chosen cast of villains– terrorists, immigrants, gays, liberals, Obama—they saw the list of their foes suddenly lengthen to include Walmart, Univision, NBC, the Pope, the Supreme Court, the Constitution, the union and the rule of law. It was the future itself and it was circling them like a shark.

Perhaps most unexpectedly, the week brought the coming elections into focus by exposing the choice toward which we drift: between GOP supply side economics and xenophobia and the Democrats' neoliberal economics,

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pay to play politics and social liberalism. There's no question which is the better choice, but neither one will save us. With our environment, our democracy and our middle class all at their tipping points, we need something better. The most amazing thing about this week was that it reminded us of how to get it. The heroes of Emanuel church and the same-sex marriage movement know. So did Frederick Douglass: "If there is no struggle there is no progress." We can choose progress, but never quietly.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Facing a Selfie Election, Presidential Hopefuls Grin and Bear It // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters and & Ashley Parker – July 4, 2015

"Press that white button! This right here," the former secretary of state instructed a technologically deficient fan in New Hampshire who was fumbling to work an iPhone camera. Her patience thinning, Hillary Rodham Clinton took matters into her own hands and jabbed the button herself. And with the sound of an electronic shutter snap, another selfie — the must-have political souvenir of 2016 — went up into the cloud for campaign posterity.

Who wants their babies kissed or their yard signs autographed anymore? This is the Selfie Election. And if you are running for president, you have no choice but to submit.

Candidates can now spend an hour — or sometimes two, as Senator Rand Paul did last month in New Hampshire — exhausting a line of eager selfie seekers. Others, like Senator Ted Cruz, have learned to add an extra 20 minutes at the beginning and end of events because so many people want pictures.

Jeb Bush has perfected a technique suited to his 6-foot-3 frame: For his shorter fans, he will take the picture with his own outstretched selfie stick of an arm. The sons of Gov. Scott Walker have watched their father take so many, they say he has significantly polished his shutterbug skills. Gov. Chris Christie's staff says he has taken "too many to count."

But as campaigns adjust to a new self-focused social media world, some are left wondering whether more meaningful voter-candidate interactions are suffering. When candidates oblige so many people, some requesting multiple takes to straighten that smile, square a double chin or get a pesky photo bomber out of the frame, are they losing the chance to clarify a policy position, listen to concerns or even just look a voter in the eye?

"It's self-serving, and the candidate is kind of screwed," said Craig Robinson, a former political director of the Iowa Republican Party.

"They just have to put up with it, because how do you decipher who is a fan and who wants to fill their profile with pictures of them with candidates?" said Mr. Robinson, now the editor of The Iowa Republican, a political publication.

Indeed, it is not always clear whether the people asking for photographs even like or plan to vote for the candidate they are posing with, or whether they just want a Facebook trophy to flaunt.

Not all candidates care to oblige.

"Please stop," wrote Ben Carson, the retired pediatric neurosurgeon and Republican presidential hopeful, in a recent opinion piece for The Washington Post that raised a jarring if somewhat hyperbolic concern: Selfies kill.

"Beyond the obvious narcissism of endlessly photographing oneself and blasting it over social networks for others to admire, selfies are dangerous," he went on, citing a few examples of how inattentive selfie snappers had met their demise. (Falling off a cliff in Portugal, for example.)

Former President Bill Clinton has complained that he is inundated with requests whenever he goes out in public. At an event last year with another former president, George W. Bush, Mr. Clinton observed that even eating out had become a challenge — to which Mr. Bush cracked, "At least they're still asking."

President Obama has had to draw the line before. "I want to warn in advance, I can't do a selfie with everybody," he told a crowd last month.

Few people embody the selfie craze like Maggie Fitzgerald, a lobbyist in Des Moines who has maneuvered her way into photos with politicians willing and unwilling. Her biggest gets: Donald J. Trump, Rick Perry and Gov. Bobby Jindal, whom she found eager and obliging, and Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Paul and Mr. Carson, who seemed much less enthusiastic.

"Sometimes they'll ask me, 'Don't you want a normal picture?' " Ms. Fitzgerald said in an interview. "No, I just want a selfie."

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She is undecided in the race, but said she gained some insight into the candidates by their demeanor during selfies. “Most of them aren’t stiff about it,” Ms. Fitzgerald added. “Some of them might be. But they shouldn’t be president.”

Then there are those who see the selfie as just one more example of how people have become slaves to their devices at the expense of human interaction. Queen Elizabeth II has said she finds the trend disconcerting and indicated she misses eye contact with her subjects.

For security teams on the campaigns, all this close contact between candidates and strangers can be a challenge, but in some ways it is easier to monitor than a traditional rope line. That is because selfies keep people’s hands up where they can be seen.

Many campaigns say they are benefiting after posing for all those pictures. When shared on Facebook and Instagram, they can exponentially increase a candidate’s visibility, spreading an authentic memento that helps extend the chatter around a rally beyond those who attended.

“This is something that campaigns should embrace and be very happy with, because it’s just free advertising,” said Mr. Paul’s chief digital strategist, Vincent Harris.

The Paul campaign sees a branding opportunity. When people line up for photos, campaign aides often erect a backdrop with a “Rand” logo on it for people to pose in front of. These exercises have also resulted in a little horizon broadening for Mr. Paul, who picked up a new term on the trail: “Us-ie,” a selfie with multiple people.

The ubiquity of camera phones at campaign stops is forcing aides to become proficient in operating different brands. Rick Tyler, an aide to Mr. Cruz, said the staff member who usually traveled with the senator was now well versed in how to quickly snap pictures with a Samsung Galaxy versus an iPhone.

The demand for selfies has grown so much, he added, that even walking just a short distance from one event to another can be an ordeal.

“Our schedulers will say to me: ‘He’s just going 100 steps. Why would it take 20 minutes to get there?’ ” Mr. Tyler said. “Well, travel with us and you’ll see.”

Senator Lindsey Graham said he could probably benefit from losing 15 pounds to make his selfies a bit more flattering. But his attitude toward selfies is upbeat: Society, he said, is richer for the selfie.

“When we take selfies and chat, it’s the beauty of American democracy,” Mr. Graham said. “I don’t think Putin really does this,” he added, referring to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia. “I don’t think he probably has to worry about selfies.”

Senator Marco Rubio will indulge people who want selfies. But he often travels with a professional photographer who takes photos of him with voters as an aide trails behind, handing out index cards listing a website where supporters can go to download their pictures.

The benefit? Not only does the photographer speed the process and produce higher-quality images, but voters are asked to provide personal information on Mr. Rubio’s website. Before they can view their photos, Rubio supporters have told the campaign their name, their home and email addresses, which issues matter most to them and if they are willing to volunteer.

Even voters who embrace the selfie culture can seem slightly conflicted. Just take Lincoln Boyd, 22, who sneaked up to the stage at a recent conservative gathering and captured a selfie with Mr. Rubio that quickly went viral.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Boyd said he would have preferred to “grill” Mr. Rubio, asking him, “Why weren’t you able to corral the Republicans to get behind immigration?” But, he added, “there’s a time and a place for that.”

And, Mr. Boyd explained, “we’re millennials, it’s the 21st century, and if I’m with the candidate and I can get a quick picture with him, I’m going to do that.”

Voters are shifting to Democrats, flashing a warning for Republicans // WaPo // Dan Balz - July 4, 2015

The Gallup organization reported its latest findings on party identification late last week, and the report contained good news for the Democrats and a flashing yellow for Republicans.

The Democrats “have regained an advantage” over the GOP in party affiliation, Gallup’s Jeffrey M. Jones wrote in an accompanying analysis. Republicans, he added, “have seemingly lost the momentum they had going into last

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fall's elections."

The current numbers don't mean Republicans can't win the White House in 2016. The Democrats' advantage is not as large as at other points in the past, for example. But the findings add to a series of data points that underscore the challenges ahead for a party trying to keep pace with a rapidly changing country.

The latest numbers essentially mark a reset that returns party affiliation to its modern historical norm. Democrats long have enjoyed the advantage over Republicans in Gallup's measures.

In those few periods when the GOP drew even or slightly ahead (after Republicans took control of Congress in 1994 or after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001), the party has been unable to hold that ground for long.

These have obviously been good weeks for President Obama and the Democrats. The Supreme Court's decisions rejecting another legal challenge to the Affordable Care Act and ruling that same-sex marriage is now legal around the country gave the Obama administration two significant victories that were at odds with Republican doctrine.

Obama's eulogy at the memorial service for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, one of nine people slain last month after Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., was further evidence of a president determined to leverage the powers of his office to advance an agenda at odds with the policies and positions of the GOP.

Republicans in Congress have blocked his path to legislative success on many of Obama's pet issues: gun control, minimum wage, immigration reform and climate change among them. But the president's sharpened rhetoric on these and other issues signaled a renewal of the quadrennial battle for public opinion and electoral support.

Obama has repeated his attacks on the GOP as a party out of touch with the country, as a party of the past during a time of historic change. Hillary Rodham Clinton is echoing that same message about the Republicans as she campaigns for the Democratic nomination.

Democratic Party affiliation no doubt has benefited by a modest rise in Obama's approval ratings, which were weak through most of 2014 and have recovered somewhat this spring and summer. The stronger Obama's approval ratings next year, the more likely it is that the Democrats will retain the White House for a third consecutive term.

This isn't the first time Obama has enjoyed a confluence of good events and renewed energy, only to see it slip away. Such ebbs and flows have marked his presidency from the start and could pull him down from the high moment he is enjoying.

Clinton is widely popular among Democrats of all ideological stripes, even as she faces a challenge from the left for the nomination from Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Still, she carries substantial baggage that could affect her prospects in a general election, if she is the party's nominee.

Republicans must hope that they nominate a presidential candidate who the public sees as sharing its values and who embodies the future direction of the country. For now, however, the contest for the nomination offers potholes and pitfalls.

"Although Obama and the Republican majority in Congress remain a major focus of the political news coverage, attention is increasingly turning to the 2016 presidential campaign," Jones's analysis notes. "Here Democrats may be benefiting from having a well-known and relatively popular front-running candidate in Hillary Clinton, which paints a contrast to the large, fractured and generally less well-known field of Republican presidential candidates."

The Republican field on paper is substantially better than it was four years ago. But at present, no one is capturing the interest or imagination of the voters.

The best known among the group is former Florida governor Jeb Bush. But his family name and resistance hobble him to another Bush presidency.

The other Republicans have barely registered, even among party faithful. Every one of the candidates has a personal story he or she thinks will turn him or her into a more compelling figure, but few voters are listening at this point. The seeming strength of the field has yet to return dividends to the party as a whole.

Nor have the candidates begun to engage one another. When they do, the party will be plunged into a debate about the future — of health care, of the environment, of same-sex marriage, of the economy. On some of these issues, the divisions risk playing into Obama's and Clinton's characterization of the Republicans being caught in the past.

Obamacare animates the Republican base but is a call for repeal a winning issue?

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On same-sex marriage, should Republicans stand for a constitutional amendment to give states the power to decide the definition of marriage, as some GOP candidates advocate, or try to take the issue off the agenda?

On climate change, the challenge appears to be finding the right language and the right balance on policy. How will the candidates divide on this issue?

The Republicans running for president have choices to make as they attempt to position themselves and their party as being in touch with the aspirations of a majority of the voters.

The principles and values they stand for and the fights they decide to take on will determine their success. What they have lost in affiliation over the past few months is not irretrievably gone, but having to make up lost ground is hardly the way Republicans wanted to start the 2016 campaign.

Presidential candidates campaign in July Fourth parades // AP // Kathleen Ronayne – July 4, 2015

AMHERST, N.H. — Alongside the patriotic music and waving flags Saturday in parades across Iowa and New Hampshire were clear reminders of a presidential race coming up next year: Red balloons promoting "Jeb! 2016," a tractor draped in a Rick Perry banner and dutiful volunteers holding signs and chanting for their chosen candidates.

Marching in Fourth of July parades in these early voting states has become a tradition for politicians seeking the White House, giving them a chance to boost their name recognition and glad-hand with voters.

Former Govs. Jeb Bush of Florida, Rick Perry of Texas and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island as well as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham worked the crowd in Amherst, while Hillary Rodham Clinton marched in a parade in New Hampshire's North Country. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio spent the holiday in New Hampshire's Lakes Region, as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley met voters in Iowa.

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Clinton marched in a Fourth of July parade in Gorham, New Hampshire, trailed by a band of supporters waving signs and separated by a long rope from the pack of journalists that followed.

"I'll tell you what — we need to get a Democratic president," Clinton told one woman along the parade route, who asked about the health care overhaul. "I'm going to not only defend it, I'm going to make it even better."

One man who carried a sign that read, "Benghazi" also followed the candidate. Alluding to her time representing New York in the Senate, he screamed repeatedly, "Carpetbagger!"

Another man on the route yelled, "What about Benghazi? What about the emails?"

Clinton smiled broadly, shaking hands and stopping for quick photos. At one point, she posed for a photo with two New Hampshire beauty pageant contestants, who playfully flexed their biceps.

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Graham and Perry brought the energy to Amherst, running through the streets waving, shouting jokes and posing for photos.

"Sorry the government's so screwed up!" Graham shouted to the crowd numerous times, often followed by an apology to any children in the crowd about the future of Social Security.

The former governor and current senator shook hands in the street, prompting jokes of a Perry-Graham presidential ticket. Later, Perry snapped a cell phone picture of Graham with two voters outside their home.

Chafee, meanwhile, walked the route with just a few aides and no large signs bearing his name — nothing to indicate he's vying for the Democratic presidential nomination.

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Bush took a more methodical approach, shaking so many hands that his team had to nearly run down an entire street to catch up with the procession. His campaign handed out red "Jeb! 2016" balloons along the entire parade route.

"There's nothing behind us — other than Hillary," Bush joked to a voter who chided him for holding up the parade. While Clinton campaigned elsewhere, a team of her supporters marched right behind Bush's, their blue signs in sharp contrast with his red.

With his son George P. Bush, Texas's land commissioner, by his side, Bush picked up a number of small children,

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posed for selfies and thanked voters who said they've been longtime fans of the Bushs. One of those voters wore a shirt that said "Bush Hat Trick."

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Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said he got clear instructions on how to behave in an Iowa parade — no throwing things to the crowd.

Jindal walked in a July Fourth parade in the Des Moines suburb of Urbandale. Accompanied by his wife, Jindal was the only Republican presidential candidate there, though other contenders had representatives there.

Jindal said he was cautioned that Iowa and Louisiana parades are different.

"We're used to throwing things in Louisiana parades. We're told that's not allowed here," he said.

Jindal said that one of the first time the family went to Disney World, the children were upset because Mickey Mouse didn't throw them anything.

"In Louisiana every single parade, not just Mardi Gras, you're supposed to throw things," the governor said.

Jindal kicked off the parade shaking hands and posing for selfies. He was scheduled to appear at another parade in the area later in the day. He has been campaigning in the kickoff caucus state since Tuesday.

Presidential hopefuls discuss patriotism on July 4th // Des Moines Register – July 4, 2015

Contenders for the nation's highest office are once again crisscrossing Iowa, the state that kicks off presidential voting. Often, they speak of their love of country.

In honor of this Fourth of July weekend, The Des Moines Register asked each of them: How in your life have you best demonstrated patriotism?

DEMOCRATS

Lincoln Chafee

Former governor and U.S. senator from Rhode Island

"Patriots are those who love their country. We have a country that is special — God shed its grace on thee, from sea to shining sea. I have spent three decades in public service because I want to do my small part to keep America strong and beautiful. I am proud of my record on protecting our water, air and land, on defending our constitutional liberties, on voting against the Iraq war, and on supporting programs that help build the middle class. We are fortunate to be Americans. Happy July Fourth!"

Hillary Clinton

Former U.S. secretary of state, former U.S. senator from New York

"I have never felt more patriotic than standing with our first responders in the aftermath of 9/11. The thick smoke made it hard to breathe or see, but the brave rescuers never wavered. They made me so proud to be an American, and inspired me to do everything I could as their senator to support them and rebuild. Tragically, many of our first responders suffered lasting health effects from their service at Ground Zero, and I spent years working with both parties until they got care. They represent America at its best, and they deserve the best from us."

Martin O'Malley

Former governor of Maryland

"We demonstrate patriotism through the care and compassion we show to one another as Americans. In my life, that has taken on the form of service to others — especially the most vulnerable and voiceless among us: the poor, the sick, the homeless, the hungry and the imprisoned. That service has also called me to be present, again and again, when our most courageous and patriotic families have lost a family member who died serving the rest of us."

Jim Webb

Former U.S. senator from Virginia

Editor's note: Webb was a combat Marine in Vietnam, awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze

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Star Medals and two Purple Hearts; an assistant secretary of defense; and the secretary of the Navy. His campaign submitted this seal for his response:

REPUBLICANS

Jeb Bush

Former governor of Florida

"The Fourth of July is the perfect time to not only celebrate our independence but to reflect on and thank those defending our freedom today. As governor of Florida, I had the honor of serving as commander in chief of the Florida National Guard. Daily, I was inspired by patriotism and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Whether serving overseas in war or responding to the eight hurricanes that battered the Sunshine State in just 16 months, Florida's national guardsmen exemplified the values of all the men and women who have committed to serving in our armed forces."

Ben Carson

Retired neurosurgeon

"I am humbled before God and before the courage and leadership of our Founding Fathers. These are the touchstones and the guiding light of my faith and patriotic values. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Nathan Hale; they represent the very essence of patriotism, defined by their selfless duty and service to their countrymen, and the generations that have followed. Long ago, I accepted their baton of service to my fellow man as my calling in life, as a care provider for children and as an advocate for the principles of our Constitution."

Chris Christie

Governor of New Jersey

"The brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform have courageously and selflessly served to uphold the democratic principles that as Americans we hold so dear. At the same time, we must remember the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not come home. I am honored to be governor of a state with so many heroic and honorable men and women who have served with distinction. We are forever grateful for their service, today and every day."

Ted Cruz

U.S. senator from Texas

"My father came to America from Cuba in 1957. He had little money, and spoke little English. My Irish-Italian mother was the daughter of working-class parents. Both my parents worked hard. In a single generation, their son became a United States senator, and now I am running for president. That could only happen in America. These stories demonstrate how America is the land of limitless opportunity. I ask myself, 'What have I done today to ensure that same opportunity exists for future generations?' We're an exceptional nation, and it is up to each of us to keep it that way."

Carly Fiorina

Former CEO of Hewlett-Packard

"Ours was intended to be a citizen government, so when citizens volunteer our time and talent to make our country, our government and our politics better, we exhibit patriotism. I have continued to make this a priority, acting as a volunteer chair of two large charities dedicated to improving our communities. I have volunteered my time to help good candidates run for political office — and I have even volunteered more directly to improve our government, serving as an adviser for the departments of State, Defense and Homeland Security as well as for the CIA and (National Security Agency)."

Lindsey Graham

U.S. senator from South Carolina

"I was honored to be an Air Force officer serving on active duty, in the Guard, and in the Reserves for 33 years. Being part of a military unit that is focused on the mission and not on individual differences was a great inspiration and taught me what true patriotism is all about."

Mike Huckabee

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Former governor of Arkansas

"When I was asked how I demonstrate patriotism, I considered all the ways I try to convey my love and gratitude for this truly exceptional nation, where a poor kid from Arkansas can someday become governor. But then I remembered JFK: 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.' And I realized that what perfectly demonstrates pure, selfless patriotism are those who love this country so much they offer their lives to preserve its freedoms and opportunities for us all: the heroic men and women of the United States military. "

Bobby Jindal

Governor of Louisiana

"My parents came to chase the American dream and they caught it, they've lived it. I simply want my children and one day my grandchildren to be able to live that same American dream. I want all of our children to have those opportunities, so I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities that America has afforded my family. I want those opportunities to continue. One of the ways I can show my gratitude for what this country has done for me is fight with everything I've got to make sure those opportunities continue to exist for the next generation."

John Kasich

Governor of Ohio

"Patriotism means you don't take a pass on dealing with problems where you live. Far too many officials fear taking on big challenges, and as a result, nothing gets done and problems worsen. Throughout my public career both in Congress and as governor, I have taken on the challenges of the day in the belief that big ideas drive success and generate excitement. Are they risky? Do they aggravate some people? Sometimes. But, if you're not doing that, you're not doing your job, and a strong agenda of ideas is not only what people want — it's what our nation needs."

Rick Perry

Former governor of Texas

"Patriots put their country first, alongside faith and family. I had the honor of wearing America's uniform, defending freedom as an Air Force officer and aircraft commander. I inherited my love and sense of duty for my country from my father, a WWII B-17 tail gunner. Patriots work 365 days a year, not just on July 4. Providing for our heroes and their families is a sacred duty I take extreme pride in executing. As governor, we took important steps to expand our commitment to our nation's heroes. As commander in chief, it would remain one of my highest priorities."

Marco Rubio

U.S. senator from Florida

"One way I exercise patriotism is by teaching my kids what America means to me on a personal level. In school and from our entertainment culture, children rarely receive a meaningful explanation of the principles and ideals that set America apart from every other nation. I teach my children that they, like me, owe a debt to America, for it is the nation that changed our family's history. I believe these conversations are important, for if our children believe America is just an ordinary country, they will not be willing to go to extraordinary lengths to extend her promise."

Rand Paul

U.S. senator from Kentucky

"To me, patriotism means giving back to your community. Whether it is volunteering at the local food shelter, tutoring struggling students, singing in the church choir, or the most selfless act of all, serving in our military to protect our nation and our American values. As a physician, I have an obligation to help those in need. I am honored to have the opportunity to perform free sight-restoring eye surgeries for lower-income families in my home state. There is nothing more rewarding than using my skills as an ophthalmologist to give back — to find the problem and diagnose the solution."

Rick Santorum

Former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania

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"The moment in my life I gave the most for my country was not when I ran for Congress, not when I ran for the Senate, and not when I decided to run for president. The moment I most committed myself to my country was the day my son Daniel came to me and said he wanted to join the Air Force. I cannot give more to my country than one of my own."

Donald Trump

Businessman

"Our country has a sacred duty to care for veterans and their families. One of the greatest gifts of my success is being able to honor veterans. I sit on the board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which helps find jobs for veterans. One of my proudest accomplishments: In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of World War II, only 100 spectators watched New York City's parade. It was an insult. I agreed to lead a second parade that year. I made a $1 million matching donation to finance the parade. Over 1.4 million watched; more than 25,000 veterans participated."

Scott Walker

Governor of Wisconsin

"My family lived in Plainfield, Iowa, from 1970 to 1977. Right around the time of our nation's bicentennial, I noticed that there was no state flag at our City Hall. That inspired me and my brother to go around town with an old mayonnaise jar and collect enough money to purchase an Iowa flag to fly at City Hall. My mom still has a picture of my brother David and me holding the flag, with smiles on our faces."

Editor's note: Campaigns for George Pataki and Bernie Sanders either declined to provide a statement or did not respond to requests to do so. Candidates were asked to submit statements of 100 words or fewer. Longer responses were edited to that length.

Candidates do holiday march through New Hampshire // USA Today // David Jackson – July 4, 2015

AMHERST, N.H. — Ah, the Fourth of July in New Hampshire: parades, picnics, pyrotechnics and — and every four years — presidential candidates.

Republicans and Democrats marched up and down New Hampshire on Saturday's holiday, seeking to build support and goodwill seven months before the Granite State holds the first presidential primaries of the 2016 campaign.

"It's great to be in New Hampshire!" former Florida governor Jeb Bush told a crowd in Amherst, N.H., at its traditional July 4 parade.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, both Republicans, also marched in Amherst.

Other campaigns, Democratic as well as Republican, sponsored marchers in the parade that began at an elementary school staging area and wound its way to a village green filled with families, musicians and games of chance.

As is tradition, the candidates walked at the back of the parade, behind exhibits that included a truck carrying a Pop Warner football team, Shriners in tiny red Corvettes, Civil War re-enactors dressed in Union blue, high school bands, a kayak club, a clown car, at least one small horse-drawn carriage and bagpipers blaring Amazing Grace and other tunes.

Graham noted to supporters that he was at least first in the parade line among the politicians.

"This is a good omen," he said. "It means everybody else should drop out, except me."

At one point on the parade route, Bush — the son of one president and the brother of another — walked up to a man wearing a red T-shirt that said: "Bush Hat Trick."

"I told you it'd work," the man told family and friends as the candidate seeking to be the third Bush president strode up.

"Where'd you get that shirt?" Bush said as photographers and supporters converged.

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Bush later marched in another parade in nearby Merrimack.

Throughout the parade in Amherst, the candidates shook hands, held babies, posed for selfies and signed campaign placards. At one point, Bush signed the cast of a woman who had injured her leg playing soccer. The two discussed Sunday's U.S.-Japan Women's World Cup final, each predicting an American victory.

Two other Republican candidates — Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — walked in the traditional parade in Wolfeboro, N.H. Both Rubio and Christie spent time this weekend at the nearby home of Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee.

Democratic presidential candidates also partook in July Fourth festivities in both New Hampshire and Iowa, where caucuses will be the first nomination contests of 2016.

Former secretary of State Hillary Clinton marched in a parade in Gorham, N.H., after a local visit to a Mountain Fire Pizza.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley spent the holiday in Iowa. Sanders, who is moving up in polls against the heavily favored Clinton, walked in parades in Creston and Waukee.

O'Malley, who has been in Iowa promoting his climate change plan, marched in the July Fourth parade in aptly named Independence, Iowa, before hitting the barbecue circuit in Dubuque and Clinton.

Another Democratic candidate, former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee, spent Saturday at the parades in Amherst and Merrimack, N.H.

Surveying the scene in Amherst, as residents hung bunting or positioned lawn chairs in front of white clapboard houses, Chafee said: "It's Americana, isn't it?"

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Wirthman: Hillary Clinton's everyday feminism // The Denver Post // Lisa Wirthman – July 4, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign is a manifesto for everyday feminism, both in Colorado and the nation. And that's a good thing. It's long past time to air out our deep-seated gender issues and redefine what it means to be a woman.

For decades, women have tried to fit into a world standardized around men. In her 2008 presidential campaign, Clinton said she wasn't running as a woman, but as a great candidate. For 2016, she's wholeheartedly embraced the fact that she can be both.

Fueled by social media and a progressive cultural environment, feminism has never been more popular — or more populist. And that's a good thing, too.

The economy is stronger when more women are involved, not just a token few. This is not because women are inherently better than men, but because diversity of thought and experience is better than a narrow view.

Colorado is a top state for women's workforce participation, which overall added $2 trillion to the U.S. economy since the 1970s. Yet women hold only 7 percent of top corporate positions in Colorado.

In the 2016 presidential race, women are a majority of registered voters in Colorado, and a widening gender gap could tip the scales. Single white women — along with Hispanics, young voters, and working-class white men — are likely swing votes in the election.

Clinton launched her campaign in June with a reference to her historic candidacy, calling her outdoor rally on New York's Roosevelt Island "a place with absolutely no ceilings."

To break those glass ceilings, women in Clinton's generation often had to work twice as hard as their male colleagues to earn half as much money — all while dealing with rampant sexism.

While these glass breakers are celebrated for their firsts, however, they're also criticized by younger feminists for being the only members of a small and exclusive group.

In 2016, feminism's greatest challenge is that women must not only be equal to men, but to each other as well.

From the start, the banner of feminism has been held primarily by white women privileged with the education and

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opportunity to reach the glass ceiling — and make those initial cracks. But women's suffrage also has strong ties to social justice.

In Colorado, suffragists argued that female voters would address the needs of working people who were ignored by mainstream politicians, according to the Women of the West Museum.

Today, young women are quick to point out that so-called corporate feminists rarely represent the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation that creates a multilayered experience for many women.

The issue of equal pay, which Clinton referenced in her kick-off speech, is a good example of that intersection. While women in Colorado make 77.9 cents for every dollar earned by men, African- American women make 67.5 cents on that same dollar, and Hispanic women make just 52.5 cents.

If Clinton captures women's votes in 2016, it won't be simply because of her gender, but also because she convinces women of all backgrounds and experiences that she's willing and able to flip America's patriarchy on its head.

So far, she seems to understand the challenge. Clinton's "Fighter" campaign video highlights her 1995 visit to Beijing, where she told the U.N. Conference on Women: "Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all."

It was one of Clinton's most iconic feminist moments — and a part of her résumé that clearly illustrates her willingness to fight for all women and girls.

Clinton established herself as a fighter again in her kickoff speech, in which she outlined her plan to restore equity to the middle class.

And she's planted her feet firmly at the intersection of gender, class, race and sexual orientation in solidarity with women who see feminism as just one facet of a more complex identity.

Clinton is impassioned on racial issues. After the shooting of nine people in a black church in Charleston, S.C., she told the U.S. Conference of Mayors: "Despite our best efforts and our highest hopes, America's long struggle with race is far from finished."

She strongly supported the Supreme Court's decision to legalize gay marriage in all 50 states. "Love triumphed in the highest court in our land," Clinton told supporters. "Equality triumphed."

And she includes men in feminism's promise of equal opportunity by framing universal preschool and child care, paid sick days and family leave, and affordable college as family issues that impact both genders. It's a timely message: In Colorado, more than 60 percent of children under the age of 6 live in households where all parents work.

Of course, female leadership is no guarantee for passing family-friendly legislation. Colorado has the highest percent of female legislators of any state, and an all-female leadership team in the house.

But with Republicans controlling the state Senate, Democrats were unable to pass bills to create a family and medical leave insurance program, raise the minimum wage, or make it easier for middle-class families to save for college.

Clinton would face a similarly tough battle. But it's these populist elements of her campaign that may give her the chance to fight it.

Clinton's everyday feminism is also a contrast to the more individualized brand of feminism promoted by GOP candidate and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, who recently visited Colorado.

In a campaign speech, Fiorina said a feminist is "a woman who lives the life she chooses." Unfortunately, that definition only includes women who have the opportunity to make choices.

Eventually, the GOP's male candidates will need to join this conversation. And that's a good thing, too. Because while over 80 percent of Americans say they believe in full gender equality, only one-fifth identify themselves as feminists — or people who believe all men and women should have equal opportunities.

Back in 2007, Clinton's gender-neutral campaign created strong debate among feminists. "Do liberated women want to join the clubhouse or do we want to burn it down?" asked a columnist for The Nation.

The answer is neither. Feminism's goal is not to enable women to succeed in a man's world, nor to attack the success of men. Rather, it requires an entirely new paradigm, where success is no longer defined by male

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experiences, and all human beings have equal opportunities to succeed.

By putting her gender at center stage in 2016, Clinton may finally clarify the conversation — and help voters realize our shared belief in gender equality makes us all feminists at heart.

Editorial: Hillary Clinton's emails erode transparency claim // The Des Moines Register – July 4, 2015

A thistle to former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who claimed in March that she had turned over to the State Department all relevant work emails from her private server, and that she had never used her private account to exchange classified information. Last week, the State Department acknowledged that Clinton didn't turn over at least 15 emails that are now the subject of controversy. It also said portions of 25 emails it was releasing are being kept confidential and "upgraded" to classified status. As a presidential candidate, Clinton is turning press avoidance into something of an art form, yet she once called herself "probably the most transparent person in public life." It's a claim that becomes less believable with each passing day.

Fair pay for hard work is not just happy talk // The Columbus Dispatch // E.J. Dionne – July 5, 2015

Central to our national self-understanding is the idea that hard work pays off. Americans have always tolerated rather high levels of inequality, as long as most people had a chance to rise.

Thus was Chris Christie's opening tribute to his hardworking parents and grandparents the most affecting part of his announcement on Tuesday that he is seeking the Republican presidential nomination. The New Jersey governor bestowed praise across gender lines, describing his grandmothers as women "who knew how to work and who knew that hard work would deliver something for their children."

This section of Christie's speech got little attention. But work, its rewards and its discontents, will be central to our nation's debate going into the 2016 campaign. And President Barack Obama has laid down a marker for testing how seriously politicians take the obligation to make hard work pay.

Obama is putting forward new rules that would make up to 5 million more American workers eligible for overtime pay. He's doing this by ending a scam through which employers designate even relatively low-paid workers as managers to get around the law, which requires an overtime premium after 40 hours per week.

Under the current rules, as Obama wrote earlier this week in the Huffington Post, workers earning as little as $23,660 a year can be robbed of overtime by being given supervisory or managerial designations. The new regulation would raise the threshold to a more-plausible $50,440 a year.

Not surprisingly, some firms immediately announced they would find ways of evading the rule, warning of shorter hours and fewer jobs. But there are always people in business — not everyone — who react this way to any effort to improve the bargaining position or compensation of employees. Remember all those warnings that the Affordable Care Act would be a "job killer"? Funny how we seem to have added well over 12 million new private-sector jobs since Obamacare passed in March 2010.

And avoiding overtime is not the only way in which employers are trying to cut the compensation they offer workers. This week, The Wall Street Journal's Lauren Weber reported on how businesses are "setting up workers as franchisees or owners of limited liability companies" to "shield" themselves "from tax and labor statutes." My Washington Post colleague Catherine Rampell also has documented "the shifting of risk off corporate balance sheets and onto the shoulders of individual Americans."

In discussing rising inequality, we often act as if the trend is a natural development about which we can do nothing. Of course there are big economic forces at work. But government rules and laws — on pay, health care, labor rights and taxes — can improve the standing of workers or they can make the disparities worse. Government has a choice, and there is no purely neutral ground on this question.

And this is why Christie's lovely tribute to work and family needs to be examined as something more than a sentiment from a greeting card. In the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage, what are typically referred to as "values issues" quickly rose to the forefront of the argument in the Republican presidential primary and next year's election. But no values issue is more relevant to more Americans (across the boundaries of sexual orientation, gender and race) than whether the hard work that politicians extol pays off in the ways they claim it should.

In a very crowded Republican presidential field, will any candidate find it in his or her interest to break with the party's orthodoxy on government regulations and labor rights? Will any of them have the temerity to appeal to their party's many working-class supporters by making the point that Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and other Democrats are sure to advance: that reinforcing our "conservative" values about the honor of work often requires what are usually seen as "progressive" measures by government to keep workers from being shortchanged?

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“One of the things my mother used to say all the time,” Christie declared on Tuesday, “was, ‘Christopher, if you work hard enough, you can be anything.’” That is precisely the promise that our politicians should be working harder to vindicate.

Hillary Clinton takes the knocks but keeps on trucking // Sydney Morning Herald // Annabel Crabb – July 4, 2015

I cannot be the only carbon-based life form on Earth who fell a little bit in love with Hillary Clinton when it was revealed on Wednesday that she cannot use a fax machine.

And not in an adorable, Gen-Y, "what is a fax machine, old person with kind eyes?" way either. No, Hillary Clinton – a woman in her late sixties whose professional career has witnessed the fax machine's entire trajectory from infancy to ascendancy and thence to redundancy – cannot use a fax machine because they are just stupid and annoying and it's not her fault.

Clinton's refreshing fax-fail was revealed in the blizzard of her private emails released last week for reasons only trainspotters can now readily recall. Her exchange with aide Huma Abedin (a woman who - being married to serial social media willy-waver Anthony Wiener - has ample cause to distrust any image-based form of electronic communication) occurred in December 2009 and carries the subject line: "Can you hang up the fax line, they will call again and try fax".

HC: I thought it was supposed to be off hook to work?

HA: Yes but hang up one more time. So they can re-establish the line.

HC: I did.

HA: Just pick up phone and hang it up. And leave it hung up.

HC: I've done it twice now.

I like political leaders to be good at their jobs wherever possible, but that's not to say a tiny part of me doesn't rejoice when they fail at basic tasks. And the ancillary revelation that Mrs Clinton didn't know what the diplomatic "E3+3" grouping was, even when she was the senior US representative on it, also reassures me as to her fundamental humanity.

"What is the E and who are the three?" a mystified Clinton emailed her adviser Jake Sullivan in 2009.

JS: E is Europe. E3 is UK, France and Germany. +3 is US, China, Russia. So it's the same 6 as P5+1, just a different name.

HC: I already feel safer.

Hillary Clinton has been in and out of – or spousally proximate to – public office in America for thirty-six years now. And in that time, America has lived through a lot with that lady. It's praised her, despised her, turned its nose up at her 1993 health reforms, felt sorry for her when Bill went out tomcatting, harboured suspicions about her motivations, opted for the other guy in 2008, paid her out for her scrunchies and pantsuits, snoozed through her recent memoir, and next year Americans will all get together (or at least the 57 per cent of them who bother to vote will; the rest will heckle from the couch) to cast a final judgment on her.

This is a person who just keeps on trucking. Not much is handed to her. The mounting-yard of opponents to her presidential run grows both more populous and more ludicrous by the day; there are nearly 20 declared candidates now. On Thursday, New Jersey Republican Governor Chris Christie announced he too would be running. This is a guy best-known for intentionally causing large traffic jams for base political purposes, so the scale of his optimism here is fairly impressive; half of the Republican Party, it seems, thinks they have a shot against Mrs Clinton.

It's not that the bread always falls butter-side-down for the former First Lady; she has had a privileged life, and many opportunities, and people will pay her several hundred thousand dollars just to turn up and make a speech, which is more than you can say for most people who've missed out on big jobs or been cheated on by their husbands.

But it's interesting to consider what all the loudly-proclaimed recent triumphs of the Obama administration - the Supreme Court backing Obamacare and declaring gay marriage to be legal across the USA, Obama's congressional win on the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal and so on – will mean for a campaigning Hillary Clinton.

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Imagine the handover letter from the departing President Obama:

"Hi Hill! Couple of housekeeping things. You're welcome to everything in the garden. Don't hang around near any lighted White House windows at night. And sorry about the dog hair. On policy: I've done health care reform, and it seems to be sticking. (You're welcome!) I've introduced gay marriage, pretty much, so look out for angry religious types. Also gun owners, because I've promised we're going to do something about that stuff. I'm sure you'll do a super job of taking guns off people. Plus I've pledged some pretty stiff carbon emission cuts, which the Republicans hate. And I've legislated that free trade deal, which our party hates. You'll muddle through, I'm sure. Let's see, what else – oh yeah. I've opened an embassy in communist Cuba. Enjoy! And don't hesitate to fax me if you need anything. Barack."

Emotional decisions and Hillary Clinton's presidential bid (Your letters) // Syracuse // Max Malikow – July 4, 2015

To the Editor:

Separated by over two centuries, David Hume, a philosopher, and Jonathan Haidt, a psychologist, have said decision-making tends to be emotionally driven. Both have written of the human tendency to begin decision making with a conclusion derived from feelings followed by the intellectual work of justifying the conclusion. I'm not exempt from this proclivity, but I am aware of it and resist it.

Concerning the current presidential campaign and Hillary Clinton's candidacy, I submit there is nothing in her resume to support the belief that she is qualified to serve as president of the United States. An eight-year stint as first lady, an uneventful tenure as a senator, and accumulating frequent flier miles as secretary of state have not prepared her for the oval office. Moreover, being a woman is hardly a credential for the presidency.

In the 1960 presidential campaign John Kennedy addressed the possibility of being the first Catholic president: "I hope that no American, considering the really critical issues facing this country today, will waste his franchise and throw away his vote, by voting either for me or against me because of my religious affiliation. It is not relevant."

I doubt Mrs. Clinton will address her status as a woman seeking the presidency by saying, "It is not relevant." I also doubt what I've written here will have the slightest effect on anyone who is emotionally committed to Hillary Clinton - and there are many. So I brace myself for her nomination, election, and presidency.

Max Malikow,
Syracuse

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Gay rights activists in Philadelphia mark landmark march from 1965 // WaPo // Natalie Pompilio – July 4, 2015

PHILADELPHIA — Gay rights activists gathered in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July to mark the progress of their movement and pay tribute to those who launched it a half-century ago — but also made it clear that the fight for equality was far from over.

“In too many communities, you can still get married on Sunday and then fired on Monday. Marriage equality was a critical milestone but not the final destination,” said activist Aisha Moodie-Mills, referring to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriages nationwide.

“If history has taught us anything, it’s that no community’s rights are one and done with a simple piece of legislation,” Moodie-Mills said. “Equality is not set in stone.”

The event was part of a weekend-long celebration of some of the earliest gay rights marches, including a gathering of about 40 protesters calling for equality at the same location on July 5, 1965.

Organizers called that demonstration an incredibly bold and courageous move by the standards of the day, when homosexuals were legally barred from government jobs and could be arrested for engaging in consensual intimate acts even in the privacy of their own homes. The American Psychiatric Association classified being gay as a disease that could be treated with chemical castration or lobotomy.

“Fifty years ago, America perceived us as degenerates,” said Malcolm Lazin, who organized the anniversary

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events. “One of the many goals of the gay pioneers was to demonstrate that we are first-class American citizens.”

One way they did that in 1965 was with a dress code for the picketers: suits for men, dresses and pantyhose for women. The marchers were silent, holding hand-lettered signs calling for fair treatment. During Saturday’s ceremony, a group of 40 people re-created that march, walking in a circle on the cobblestone street in front of the building where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed.

The event also paid special tribute to the “mother and father of the gay rights movement,” as Lazin described them: activists Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny.

Other notables included Edie Windsor, the plaintiff in the 2013 Supreme Court case that struck down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act; Judy and Dennis Shepard, whose son Matthew was killed in 1998 because of his sexual orientation; the Rev. Gene Robinson, the first openly gay priest in the Episcopal Church; and Walter Naegle, long-time partner of civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, a confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Entertainer Wanda Sykes, who hosted the event, joked that she was now “a happily married woman in all 50 states, but I’m not sure I’m going to go test the water in all 50 states. I’ll let them get a little bit used to it first.”

Jim Obergefell, who was listed as the lead plaintiff in the successful lawsuit that led the Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage, was stopped after his remarks by South Jersey resident Jim Mancinelli, 64, and his partner of 15 years, Dave Helgeson, 52.

“Thank you so much. I really appreciate what you did for all of us, the strength you showed for all of us, the courage you showed for all of us,” Mancinelli said, gesturing between himself and Helgeson as his eyes filled with tears.

Obergefell, too, was emotional as he replied, “I loved my husband,” who died in 2013.

“It was the easiest thing in the world to do.”

Fatal shooting in San Francisco ignites immigration policy debate // LA Times // Louis Sahagun and Emily Alpert Reyes – July 4, 2015

San Francisco and its liberal policy toward people in the U.S. illegally were thrust into the national political debate this weekend after the fatal shooting of a woman at a popular tourist destination, allegedly by a man with a criminal record who had been deported to Mexico several times.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a law in 2013 that limited the conditions under which those arrested could be placed in federal immigration holds. Since then, dozens of cities and counties across the country have stopped complying with immigration "detainer" requests after a federal judge ruled that an Oregon county violated one woman's 4th Amendment rights by holding her for immigration authorities without probable cause.

The San Francisco law allows holds only for people with violent records. The suspect in the shooting, Francisco Sanchez, 45, had several felonies but no major violent crime conviction in recent years, according to the San Francisco Sheriff's Department.

On March 26, Sanchez was booked into the San Francisco County Jail on a 10-year-old drug-related warrant. The following day, local charges against Sanchez were dismissed in San Francisco County Superior Court. Despite his undocumented status, Sanchez was released from custody after the Sheriff's Department confirmed that he had no active warrants and had completed a federal prison sentence on separate charges, officials said.

San Francisco's ordinance made Sanchez ineligible for a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement hold because he did not have "a violent felony conviction within the last seven years, or a probable cause for holding issued by a magistrate or judge on a current violent felony," said Freya Horne, an attorney for the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. "Nothing in his background showed anything like that."

Sanchez was freed even though ICE sought to hold him for deportation, said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for the federal agency.

"An individual with a lengthy criminal history, who is now the suspect in a tragic murder case, was released onto the street rather than being turned over to ICE for deportation," Kice said. "We're not asking local cops to do our job. All we're asking is that they notify us when a serious foreign national criminal offender is being released to the street so we can arrange to take custody."

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department announced last year that it would only honor such requests if a judge had vetted them or a warrant was obtained.

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San Francisco County Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi said Kice misses the point. "ICE was informed about San Francisco's position on detainers," he said, "but did not seek a court order for Sanchez's transfer as required under the law."

"That's all they had to do," he said. "Get a court order and we'd be happy to honor it."

Sanchez was arrested Wednesday after police responded to reports of a shooting on Pier 14 near the Embarcadero and Mission Street. Police found Kathryn Steinle, 32, with a fatal gunshot wound to her upper body. After she fell to the ground, Steinle, who had recently moved to San Francisco, reportedly kept saying, "Dad, help me, help me."

She was transported to a local hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The motive for the shooting remains under investigation, but police believe it was a random attack.

An hour later, working on tips provided by witnesses, authorities arrested Sanchez, who has seven felony convictions and has been deported five times, most recently in 2009, authorities said. Four of his convictions involved narcotics charges.

In 1989, San Francisco passed the "city and county of refuge" ordinance that barred city money from being used to enforce immigration law and prohibited authorities from stopping people based solely on their immigration status or country of origin. The city has since expanded its sanctuary policies.

The original ordinance grew out of the sanctuary movement of the 1980s, when churches across the country provided refuge to Central Americans fleeing civil strife in their homelands. Since then, hundreds of cities and counties across the country have adopted "sanctuary" laws or policies, most recently in response to immigration raids that have torn thousands of families apart.

Civil rights organizations argue that ICE's detention requests are unconstitutional under the 4th Amendment because they are not based on any finding of probable cause.

Angela Chan, senior staff attorney for Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Asian Law Caucus, pointed out that many law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department, decided to reexamine their practices after a 2014 federal ruling determined that an Oregon county was liable for damages after holding an inmate beyond her release date so she could be transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"Nationally, over 320 jurisdictions do not respond to ICE holds because they violate the 4th Amendment of the Constitution," Chan said. In San Francisco, "even if the sheriff had a policy of responding to ICE holds, if he'd respond he would be liable. He'd be sued."

It's not the first time San Francisco has found itself at the center of an immigration controversy.

In 2008, then-Mayor Gavin Newsom was the target of criticism over the city's policy of shielding convicted juvenile offenders who were in the country illegally from federal authorities, either escorting them to their home countries at city expense or transporting them to group homes, often outside the city.

Newsom, who was positioning himself to run for governor at the time, said the city had stopped the practice.

But news reports that eight young drug dealers in the country illegally from Honduras who were convicted in San Francisco walked away from unguarded facilities in San Bernardino County created an uproar.

The case against Sanchez became a divisive political campaign topic Friday after Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has come under blistering criticism for comments about Mexican immigrants, described it as "a senseless and totally preventable violent act committed by an illegal immigrant."

Immigrant rights groups say the San Francisco tragedy is being exploited politically to promote practices that have already been called into question in federal courts.

"Unfortunately, some will utilize this tragic, senseless death to try to impose immigration policies, city policies that are archaic and that are more harmful to the community than they are good," said Jorge-Maria Cabrera, a spokesman for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles.

Activists pushing for stricter enforcement of immigration laws disagree. "If you can't deport an illegal immigrant who has been deported five times and is guilty of seven felonies, then who exactly is deportable?" asked Joe Guzzardi, national media director of Californians for Population Stabilization.

INTERNATIONAL

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Day of Reckoning for Greek Banks and Eurozone's Central Banker // NYT // Jacl Ewing & James Kanter – July 5, 2015

FRANKFURT — No matter which way the Greek vote goes, the European Central Bank on Monday will face a series of agonizing decisions. Greece's future in the eurozone may well depend on how far the central bank is willing to go to prop up struggling Greek banks and prevent a total economic collapse.

If Greeks vote yes — agreeing to accept unpopular dictates from other eurozone nations and international creditors in return for more aid — the central bank would have a much easier time justifying emergency loans and other steps to keep the banks from failing. No economy can function properly without banks; if they topple, so will the economy.

But if Greeks vote no, Mario Draghi, the president of the E.C.B., may be confronted with a difficult choice. The central bank's rules would probably require it to stop providing cash to Greek banks. But Mr. Draghi might be tempted to find a way around those rules, because choking off financial support would thrust untold hardship upon ordinary Greeks and might send the country on its way out of the euro currency union.

Either way the situation is tricky, and there are no precedents to rely on.

"It's fair to say we can expect a few surprises in the next few days," said Nicolas Véron, a senior fellow at Bruegel, a research organization in Brussels. "Clearly, we are in uncharted territory."

The E.C.B.'s Governing Council is expected to hold a conference call Monday to discuss Greek banks in light of the election results. If Greeks vote no — rejecting further austerity measures, even though that could mean no further bailout help — the central bank might focus its energy on minimizing the collateral damage elsewhere in the 19-nation eurozone. One way to do that would be to pump money into the bloc's economy by stepping up the central bank's purchase of government bonds, and other debt, from other eurozone countries.

But for Greece, its banks pose the clearest immediate danger. For months, they have depended on the E.C.B.'s emergency loans to compensate for withdrawals of money by Greeks who are worried that their government would be unable to reach a bailout agreement with its creditors.

The extent of that dependency became clear last week after the central bank decided to cap the emergency loans at about 89 billion euros, or about $99 billion. Because much of that credit line had already been used, the borrowing cap forced the government to close the banks before they ran completely out of money.

Under central bank rules, no emergency loans may be made to insolvent banks. If Greeks vote no, it will be hard for Mr. Draghi and the Governing Council to maintain the pretense that Greek banks are solvent. For one thing, the banks have large holdings of Greek government bonds, which have already plunged in value and would probably fall further.

Mujtaba Rahman, the Europe director for the Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy, wrote in a briefing note on Friday that a no vote by Greeks would probably tilt the balance of opinion on the Governing Council in favor of members from Germany, Latvia and other eurozone countries that want to take a hard line with Greece.

But the E.C.B. is treading carefully. It does not want to take the blame for any economic or humanitarian chaos that might ensue if Greek citizens choose to reject a deal with creditors.

Even if Greeks vote yes, banks may not reopen Tuesday as the government has promised. The banks have only about €1 billion, or $1.1 million, on hand, Louka Katseli, the head of Greece's banking association, said on Friday.

But a yes vote would improve the chances that Greece could negotiate a new aid package with the other eurozone countries and its other main creditor, the International Monetary Fund.

Those prospects could make it easier for the E.C.B. to justify an increase in emergency lending, perhaps allowing the banks to reopen soon, or at least continue dispensing limited amounts of cash. (Since last Monday's bank closure, the daily A.T.M. withdrawal limit for people with Greek bank cards has been €60, or about $67.)

When the Greece government's debt problems became evident during the financial crisis, leading to international bailouts of the country in 2010 and 2012, one big worry was that other European banks could be dragged down by losses on their Greek holdings.

By now, though, as European banks have sold off their Greek investments and new eurozone banking regulations have been put in place, that risk has been greatly reduced, according to the European Banking Federation, an industry trade group.

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"European banks in recent years have significantly reduced their exposures to Greece, greatly limiting the risk of contagion through the banking system to other countries," the British bank Barclays wrote in a briefing note on Friday.

Barclays said that other euro countries had exposure to Greece amounting to only 3.5 percent of the eurozone's gross domestic product and that exposure of European banks to Greece had fallen to less than one-tenth of that level.

But Barclays warned that the safeguards put in place the last five years were not "infallible."

Even if the E.C.B. and other eurozone countries decide that Greece's banks deserve a rescue, the process would be far from painless.

The central bank's emergency loans would not be a permanent solution. The longer-term fix would probably need to come from a war chest called the European Stability Mechanism that the eurozone countries set up during the financial crisis to guard against future calamities.

That fund was used in 2012 and 2013 to lend €41 billion, or about $45.5 billion, to the Spanish government to help rebuild the assets of Spain's banking system, which was teetering toward collapse. It was also used the next year to lend €9 billion, or about $10 billion, to Cyprus; some of those funds were used for its banks.

In the case of Cyprus, there were howls of protest when a eurozone bank bailout for the first time required some depositors to take "haircuts," or losses on their money.

But two years later, as the new Cypriot government that came to power during the crisis had met the bailout conditions set by the eurozone and the I.M.F., that solution has been deemed largely successful.

If a yes vote prevails in Greece, and the country — perhaps with a new government — can come to terms with its creditors, a Cyprus-style bank bailout might be part of the package. That is the view of Daniel Gros, the director of the Centre for European Policy Studies, a research organization in Brussels.

"There would certainly have to be a quid pro quo," Mr. Gros said, "and I'm almost certain that there would have to be some haircutting."

Spurned by the West, Georgians look to Russia despite past quarrels // WaPo // Michael Birnbaum – July 4, 2015

TBILISI, Georgia — In this fiercely pro-Western nation that fought a brief war with Russia in 2008, few thought the Kremlin could ever regain a toehold. But with the West backing away from Georgia's path to E.U. and NATO membership after a year of conflict in Ukraine, pro-Russian sentiments are on the rise.

The former Soviet nation's leaders are warning that Russia may yet prevail if Georgia is shut out from Western clubs. Wary of further provoking Russia, Western politicians have quashed talk of NATO and the European Union expanding eastward anytime soon. Russia has stepped into the vacuum, increasing its presence by opening Georgian-language outlets of its state-owned news network and deepening investments in the energy industry and other key sectors.

Similar movements are happening in other former Eastern bloc nations trapped between Russia and the West, in a tug of war that has deep Cold War resonance.

"Stability and security cannot be maintained with this paradigm, with Russia's paradigm of having special rights towards other countries," said Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, in an interview in the presidential palace on a bluff overlooking the old city of Tbilisi. The blue-and-gold E.U. flag flies outside of the building, as it does at most Georgian governmental buildings, as an emblem of the nation's aspirations.

"Russia is working pretty actively, not only in Georgia, but all around the world" to expand its influence, he said. Despite the growing Russian presence, Georgia remains unshakably committed to eventual membership in NATO and the E.U., he said. As a token of its devotion, Georgia has sent more soldiers to Afghanistan to fight alongside U.S. troops in recent years than many nations already in NATO.

The germ of the present conflict between Russia and the West lies in an E.U. offer of closer ties to Ukraine and Russian President Vladimir Putin's infuriated reaction. E.U. membership for Ukraine was always a long shot — but it has become even less likely after fighting that has killed more than 6,400 people, according to U.N. estimates.

E.U. leaders squabbled at a summit in May about whether to offer even the faintest prospects for membership to Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, which have said they want to join. The E.U. leaders decided against it, and they also delayed plans to ease visa rules for Georgian travelers, a bitter disappointment for Georgia's leaders. The E.U.

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caution stemmed from a desire not to inspire backlash from Russia, diplomats involved in the discussions say.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has taken the role of the lead European interlocutor with Putin, has played down expansion prospects. So has President Obama.

“Neither Ukraine or Georgia are currently on a path to NATO membership. And there has not been any immediate plans for expansion of NATO’s membership,” Obama said last year.

Now support for pro-Russian politicians in Moldova and Georgia is growing, while Ukraine is so consumed by conflict that it has made little progress in instituting overhauls necessary for westward integration. Armenia, a fourth post-Soviet country that had been in talks with E.U. leaders about a trade deal, last year abandoned the discussions altogether, allying itself with the Russian camp.

Many here say that Russia has skillfully outmaneuvered the West.

“The Russians are working to dominate this part of the world. They calculate, they plan and they know this region much better than the Europeans and Americans,” said Tedo Japaridze, the chairman of the Georgian Parliament’s foreign relations committee.

The United States has tried to offer consolation measures. U.S. troops did training exercises with Georgian soldiers in May, and Georgia’s leaders present an upbeat face about their westward efforts.

“We don’t have time to be disappointed,” said David Bakradze, the state minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration. “Our aspirations are irreversible.”

But some Georgians feel they have little to show for their long westward push. Some of those sacrifices have been made in blood in grueling deployments to Afghanistan, where they have been one of the top contributors of soldiers to the battle efforts per capita, even though they are not NATO members.

“More and more Georgians are feeling they haven’t gotten anything tangible from the West,” said Shorena Shaverdashvili, a prominent Georgian journalist. “There isn’t more love for Putin and Russia. It’s just a realization that we’re left face-to-face with Russia, and we have to deal with it.”

Spurned by the West, Georgians are starting to look elsewhere. Support for signing the E.U. trade agreement was at 68 percent in April polls from the National Democratic Institute, down from 80 percent immediately before the Ukraine crisis started. Support for Georgia’s joining the Russian-dominated Eurasian Economic Union, meanwhile, is up to 31 percent.

Part of the shift inside Georgia came with the ousting of President Mikheil Saakashvili, the Western-trained lawyer who ruled the country for a decade starting in 2003. Passionately anti-Russian and close to U.S. leaders, Saakashvili rarely missed a chance to jab at the Kremlin. The biggest eruption came in August 2008, when Georgian soldiers attacked Russian soldiers who were amassing in greater numbers on breakaway territories of Georgia.

The ensuing five-day war decimated Georgia’s military and led to Russia’s recognizing the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. By 2012, many Georgians were ready to embrace the leadership of their nation’s wealthiest man, Bidzina Ivanishvili, who promised to improve relations with Russia while maintaining ties to the West.

The payoff for Georgia was swift. Russia lifted a ban on imports of Georgian wine in 2013, and trade spiked.

“Those people who are trying to help us, we just want to tell them, ‘Stop meddling with Russia,’ ” said Jemal Veliashvili, who works in a seed and fertilizer shop in Georgia’s Kakheti wine-growing region, in the green shadow of the Caucasus Mountains that form the border with Russia. He said his business had tripled since the ban was lifted.

Even though diplomatic relations with the Kremlin remain tense, Russia’s presence inside Georgia is strengthening. Just last month, Russia’s Sputnik news agency opened new offices here and started a Georgian- and Russian-language Georgian news service.

“Georgia should be neutral, and it should be militarily free,” said Archil Chkoidze, the leader of Georgia’s Eurasian Choice, a coalition of pro-Russian groups that says it has nearly 16,000 members.

For now, even some of Georgia’s most committed pro-Western politicians say that their best hope is to hold tight to their goals but to expect little from their partners.

“No one told us it was going to be easy,” said Irakli Alasania, the leader of the opposition Free Democrats. Alasania

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was defense minister until November, when he was ousted for being too pro-West, he says. The possibility of joining NATO "will only open up after Putin," he said.

Putin is widely expected to remain Russia's leader until at least 2024.

Iran Nuclear Talks Appear to Advance as Deadline Nears // WSJ // Jay Solomon & Laurence Norman – July 4, 2015

VIENNA—Key elements of a nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers appeared to be falling into place on Saturday, just ahead of a July 7 deadline, according to officials involved in negotiations in Austria's capital.

Still, senior American and Iranian diplomats stressed an elusive deal to end a 10-year standoff over Iran's nuclear program was far from certain.

But they said advances have been made in recent days on two of the thorniest issues confronting negotiators: the pace of sanctions relief for Iran and a United Nations investigation into charges that Tehran has secretly developed nuclear weapons technologies in recent decades.

A nuclear deal is aimed at blocking Iran's ability to move swiftly toward nuclear weapons in exchange for easing tight international sanctions. Besides the U.S., the group with which Iran has been negotiating includes Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China.

Meanwhile, the head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog said on Saturday that he had agreed with Iran's leadership to conclude an investigation into Tehran's alleged suspected nuclear weapons work by the end of the year.

"With the cooperation from Iran, I think we can issue a report by the end of the year on the assessment of the clarification of the issues related to possible military dimensions," Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told reporters in Vienna shortly after returning from Iran. Tehran says its nuclear program has been conducted purely for civilian purposes.

The IAEA has been seeking Iranian responses to 12 sets of questions it first raised in 2011 about Iran's past nuclear work, based on evidence suggesting Iran may have been developing nuclear weapons technology. The IAEA says that despite promising closer cooperation in November 2013, Iran has so far only partially addressed two of those questions. The agency says that to date, Tehran has balked at requests to interview key Iranian scientists and to visit alleged nuclear sites.

Negotiations continued in Vienna on Saturday despite the July 4 festivities in the U.S.

The American Secretary of State John Kerry held a string of meetings on Saturday with his Iranian counterpart, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, according to U.S. officials. And U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz was in negotiations with Iranian atomic energy agency chief Ali Akbar Salehi. Some other foreign ministers from the six power group are due to arrive in Vienna for discussions on Sunday.

Iran and the U.S. have also made progress in recent days in addressing the tricky issue of sanctions relief, according to senior U.S. and Iranian officials.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has publicly demanded all economic and financial sanctions on Tehran be lifted at the time of an agreement. But Iranian negotiators in the past few days have committed in Vienna to a phased approach, where sanctions will be lifted as Iran takes specific steps to roll back its nuclear program.

That includes disconnecting centrifuge machines, reducing the country's nuclear stockpile and reconverting its heavy water reactor in the city of Arak so it produces less weapons-usable plutonium.

"On a certain date, Iran will start doing its share, and at the same time, the Americans and the Europeans will commit themselves to terminate sanctions at a certain point," a senior Iranian official said earlier this week. "So the commitment is made beforehand, and the actual termination will happen on the date that Iran will have finished its work."

A senior U.S. official had warned on Friday evening that the July 7 deadline could slip, as the two sides try to narrow differences on several key issues, including access to Iranian military sites, the timing of sanctions relief and the continuing questions about Iran's past nuclear work.

If Iran and the world powers meet the July 7 deadline, it would mean the U.S. Congress would only get 30 days to review an agreement. However, if no deal is reached before July 9, the U.S. legislature would have an additional 30 days to look over the accord. That would give skeptics more time to rally opposition.

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Appearing to anticipate an agreement in Vienna, leaders of the Republican party in Washington, on Saturday stepped-up attacks on what they alleged were going to be weak terms.

“Obama administration officials have talked themselves into the delusion that the regime in Tehran will use a sanctions-relief jackpot to help its people,” said Rep. Ed Royce (R., Calif.), chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, on Saturday. “But Iran’s Supreme Leader isn’t looking to cut this deal because he cares about ordinary Iranians.”

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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	2/6/2015 7:05:00 AM
Subject:	Fwd: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
Attachments:	Rothschild Econ Doc for Chozick.pdf

As you would say....this is f'ing psychotic.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
Date: February 6, 2015 at 12:18:21 PM EST
To: "jbenenson@bsgco.com " <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, "cheryl.mills@gmail.com " <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, "john.podesta@gmail.com " <john.podesta@gmail.com >, "jake.sullivan@gmail.com " <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, "Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com " <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "john@algpolling.com " <john@algpolling.com >, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com " <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, "jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com " <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, "kristinakschake@gmail.com " <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com " <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "john@algpolling.com " <john@algpolling.com >, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com " <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

Agree

On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

I think this piece turned out well.

But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.

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> One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas
Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.
One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts. She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.
As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.
Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.
In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.
Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.
Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.
The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.
"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.
Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.
The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.
Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

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Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a “tour” of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia’s incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a “strategic” view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is

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From: "Jesse Lehrich" <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/22/2015 3:21:16 PM
Subject: WSJ: Gifts to Hillary Clinton's Family Charity Are Scrutinized in Wake of Book

http://www.wsj.com/articles/gifts-to-hillary-clintons-family-charity-are-scrutinized-in-wake-of-book-1429754883

Gifts to Hillary Clinton's Family Charity Are Scrutinized in Wake of Book

Hillary Clinton's State Department was part of a panel that approved the sale of one of America's largest uranium mines at the same time a foundation controlled by the seller's chairman was making donations to a Clinton family charity, records reviewed by The Wall Street Journal show.

The $610 million sale of 51% of Uranium One to a unit of Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear agency, was approved in 2010 by a U.S. federal committee that assesses the security implications of foreign investments. The State Department, which Mrs. Clinton then ran, is one of its members.

Between 2008 and 2012, the Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative, a project of the Clinton Foundation, received $2.35 million from the Fernwood Foundation, a family charity run by Ian Telfer, chairman of Uranium One before its sale, according to Canada Revenue Agency records.

The donations were first reported in "Clinton Cash," a new book by Peter Schweizer, an editor-at-large at a conservative news website, about the financial dealings of Mrs. Clinton and former President Bill Clinton. A copy of the book, set to be released next month, was reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The book is to be published by HarperCollins, a division of News Corp ., which also publishes the Journal.

The book adds fresh details to previous reporting by the Journal and others aboutpotential conflicts between Mrs. Clinton's private charitable work and her public activities as secretary of state. The Journal reported in February that at least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department during her tenure donated a total of more than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Josh Schwerin, a campaign spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, the front-runner for Democratic presidential nomination, said the Uranium One sale "went through the usual process, and the official responsible for managing CFIUS reviews has stated that the secretary did not intervene with him. This book is twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories."

The campaign on Wednesday also provided a comment from Jose Fernandez, a former assistant secretary of state who served as the department's principal representative on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which reviewed the sale. "Secretary Clinton never intervened with me on any CFIUS matter," Mr. Fernandez said.

In response to past questions about possible conflicts, Mrs. Clinton has said she is proud of the foundation's work. Earlier this week, she called the book a distraction from real campaign issues.

Mr. Telfer, in an interview Wednesday, said he made the contributions not for the sake of the Clintons, but to support his longtime business partner, Frank Giustra, a Canadian mining executive and longtime Clinton friend who co-founded the program to spur development in poor countries.

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"The donations started before there was any idea of this takeover," Mr. Telfer said. "And I can't imagine Hillary Clinton would have been aware of this donation to this growth initiative," he added.

The Fernwood contributions don't appear on the Clinton Foundation website, as was required under an agreement between the foundation and the Obama administration. A Clinton Foundation spokesman referred questions to the Clinton-Giustra program spokeswoman in Canada, who didn't respond.

Under the terms of the sale, the company said it wouldn't seek an export license to send uranium out of the country, and that executives at the U.S.-based unit would control the mine, according to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission report. Uranium One, now a fully owned subsidiary of the Russian nuclear agency, owns a 300,000-acre mine in Wyoming and could produce up to half of the U.S. output of uranium this year. Some members of Congress at the time wrote to the committee calling on it to block the sale.

The Journal confirmed some other instances detailed in the book about Mrs. Clinton's official activities and her family charity.

In June 2009, the Clinton Giustra initiative received two million shares in Polo Resources , a mining investment company headed by Stephen Dattels, a Canadian businessman, according to a Polo Resources news release. About two months later, the U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh pushed the energy adviser to that nation's prime minister to allow "open pit mining," including in Phulbari Mines, where Polo Resources has a stake, according to a State Department cable released by WikiLeaks. The company seeking to develop the mine is still waiting for government approval, according to the firm's website.

It isn't known whether the Clinton-Giustra program still owns the shares. Neither Mr. Dattels nor his foundation nor Polo Resources are listed as donors by the Clinton Foundation website. Mr. Dattels, who retired in 2013, and representatives for Polo Resources couldn't be reached for comment.

Irish billionaire Denis O'Brien, who heads a mobile-phone network provider called Digicel, won a $2.5 million award in 2011 from a program run by the State Department's U.S. Agency for International Development to offer mobile money services in post-earthquake Haiti. The firm won subsequent awards. Funds for the awards were provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, while USAID administered the program, with a top Clinton aide directly overseeing earthquake aid.

Mr. O'Brien has given between $5 million and $10 million to the Clinton Foundation since its launch. It is unclear whether Mr. O'Brien gave while Mrs. Clinton was at the State Department because of the way the foundation discloses its donations.

A USAID spokesman said the company met the criteria laid out in the Haiti Mobile Money Initiative. A spokesman for Mr. O'Brien said he couldn't be reached and declined to comment. The Clinton campaign didn't respond to request for comment on Polo Resources or Mr. O'Brien.

--
Jesse Lehrich
Rapid Response
Hillary For America
781-307-2254
@JesseLehrich

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to

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hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Andy Fellows - Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/20/2012 4:15:50 AM
Subject: 2013 Could Come Down to What You Do Today!

Clean Water Action logo with wave background

Dear Mary,

We're Counting on You - Make a Special Gift for Clean Water

2012 was a good year for the Chesapeake region. Maryland adopted a new law that will reduce polluted runoff into the Bay. And Virginia continued its ban on uranium mining for another year. But we need your special year end gift of $60 to continue this momentum into 2013!

We're expecting a major effort this year to lift the ban on uranium mining in Virginia, putting the health and water of many commonwealth residents at risk. 2013 will also be a critical election year in Virginia, with a new Governor to be elected and all the members of the House of Delegates up for election as well.

In Maryland, we are looking to pass legislation that would give us more information on what pesticides are used in the Bay watershed. We will be fighting to keep fracking from polluting our water and endangering the health of Maryland residents. And we'll be working to make sure that the runoff law passed in 2012 isn't weakened.

Your support will help us protect the Bay and communities throughout the region. Please help us continue our efforts to build a clean water future in the Chesapeake region with a generous year-end gift .

For clean water,
Andy Fellows, Chesapeake Regional Director

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave | Suite 400 | Washington D.C. | 20005 202.895.0420

You are receiving this message because you or someone using your e-mail address, john.podesta@gmail.com, gave us permission to send it. Not interested anymore?
unsubscribe now .

empowered by salsa

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From:	"John M Deutch" <jmd@MIT.EDU>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/2/2014 10:47:42 AM
Subject:	Some what revised draft and nuclear
Attachments:	President Obama placed energy and climate change at the top of his second term agenda.docx

John,

Hoping you will give me your comments on this piece the WSJ as invited. A few changes from the prior draft I sent.

With regard to nuclear. I ran some numbers: on a consistent basis the whole sale cost of nuclear for a new plant would be about 7.5 cents/kW-h compared to natural gas ($4/MCF) of about 5 cents/kw-h.

As extreme case would be to offer a production subsidy of up to 2.5 cents/kW-h for the first 10 plants to see if learning brought the capital cost down from the over night cost of about $5000/kW. This would imply a cost of carbon displaced (from NG) of over $100/metric tonne, well above other available options. The direct approach just does not work.

John

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/2/2015 8:52:20 AM
Subject: News Update - November 2

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, November 2

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **80 Year-Old Woman Stabbed in Rishon Lezion Terror Attack**
- **Israel Faces Tough Dilemma Over Palestinian Terrorists' Bodies**
- **Israel Present Strategic Shopping List to US**
- **Unilateral Building Freeze Implemented Throughout East Jerusalem**
- **Diplomats to Learn to Defend 'Legality of Settlements'**
- **Arab Rock Terror Reaches Haifa**
- **Israel Relaxes Live-Fire Restrictions Against Rock-Throwing Rioters**
- **IDF on Mount Hermon Preparing Iran-Backed Terrorism**

Commentary:

- **Times of Israel: "At Rabin Rally, Clinton Urges Israelis to Choose Peace"**
  - By Times of Israel Staff
- **Times of Israel: "Obama: Peace Is Only Way to Ensure Israeli Security"**
  - By Tamar Pileggi, News Editor, Times of Israel

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Times of Israel

80 Year-Old Woman Stabbed in Rishon Lezion Terror Attack

Three people were wounded Monday afternoon in a stabbing attack by a Palestinian in the central city of Rishon Lezion, a southern suburb of Tel Aviv. Two people — a man in his 40s and a woman in her 80s — were in serious condition, the Magen David Adom rescue service said. The third victim, 26, was lightly hurt. The attacker, identified by authorities as a 19-year-old Palestinian man from Hebron, stabbed the 40-year-old man from behind on a bus on Tarmab Street, got off the bus and ran to the adjacent Herzl Street, where he stabbed the elderly woman and the young man.

See also, "Palestinian Assailant Stabs 3 in Rishon Lezion Terror Attack" (Jerusalem Post)

Ha'aretz

Israel Faces Tough Dilemma Over Palestinian Terrorists' Bodies

The question of whether or not to return bodies of Palestinian terrorists to the PA, especially from the Hebron region, is dividing the defense establishment. Amid the panicked public atmosphere, the security cabinet decided to vary its standard practice and begin delaying the transfer of the bodies of terrorists killed while committing attacks to their families. The shift was led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, over the reservations of Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and senior army brass.

See also, "Israel to Return More Terrorist Bodies" (Ynet News)

Ynet News

Israel Presents Strategic Shopping List to US

A new squadron of F-15's, modern tanker aircraft, helicopters, the V-22 osprey tilt rotor, precision weaponry, and large-scale financial aid for the Arrow 3 missile program—those are just some of things Israel is demanding from the US in the framework of a security aid package. The aid package surpasses the typical annual aid package—which amounts to $3.1 billion. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said during Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon's visit that Israel would be the only country in the Middle East to receive the futuristic F-35 fighter, but Israeli officials also asked for a squadron of F-15's which are often considered the "work horse" of the air force.

See also, "US Said to Have Approved Sale to Israel of Ospreys, Capable of Reaching Iran" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

Unilateral Building Freeze Implemented Throughout East J'lem

The Jerusalem Municipality has suspended all building activity in the eastern portion of the capital, which will impact the controversial residential construction plan in Ramat Shlomo. According to the Army Radio morning report, the construction freeze order, which will be submitted this week to the municipality's Local Committee on Planning and Building, applies unilaterally to Palestinian and Jewish homes. The announcement comes as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travels to the US to repair badly frayed diplomatic ties, and against the backdrop of a city-wide terror wave.

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Times of Israel

Diplomats to Learn to Defend 'Legality of Settlements'

Foreign Ministry cadets will tour West Bank settlements and learn how to defend their legality, as well as hear lectures on Judaism and tour the City of David archaeological site in East Jerusalem, officials said Sunday, in a rightward shift for the country's diplomatic corps. The new additions to the cadet course are a joint effort of Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovel and Foreign Ministry director Dore Gold, a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Both ministry officials believe the modified cadet course will help fledgling diplomats "honestly represent the positions of the Israeli government," Army Radio quoted unnamed Foreign Ministry sources as saying.

See also, "Israel Training Diplomats to Defend Settlements is Nothing New" (Ha'aretz)

Arutz Sheva

Arab Rock Terror Reaches Haifa

Arabs in Haifa threw a rock that hit a Jewish youth in the head Saturday, and tension between Jews and Arabs in the northern port city has been growing, according to Rabbi Shmuel Sasson, who heads the Torah nucleus group in the city. Rabbi Sasson said police responses to Arab crimes sometimes tend to be "somewhat sleepy," and cited an incident in which an Israeli flag was burned. In another incident, Arabs threatened the local Jewish congregation and spilled garbage near the synagogue. In that case, police responded with alacrity, he said. "We hope they won't start raising their heads too high," the rabbi said of the local Muslim Arab population. "This is the feeling and atmosphere throughout the country. A feeling of uncertainty. Let's hope we remain on the quiet part of the scale."

Algemeiner

Israel Relaxes Fire Restrictions Against Rock-Throwing Rioters

The Israel Police has relaxed its restrictions on the use of live fire against rioters, Israeli news website *Walla* reported on Sunday. According to the new directives, if an officer is confronted with rioters shooting fireworks, tossing Molotov cocktails, or hurling stones or rocks at close range with slingshots, he or she is permitted to use live fire to neutralize the danger. This is only allowed, however, "when there is a real danger of harm, death, or injury to a person's body." Police sources told *Walla* that in spite of the fact that the use of live fire is still a last resort, the new directives are a necessary adaptation of the old rules due to the life-threatening situations Israeli personnel have faced during the current wave of Palestinian violence.

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Jerusalem Post

IDF on Mount Hermon Preparing for Iran-Backed Terrorism

Since the start of Russian Air involvement, a more assertive Assad regime has retaken several posts in Syrian Golan. IDF units on Mount Hermon, which borders Syria, are preparing to encounter Iranian-backed terrorist attacks, a senior military source told *The Jerusalem Post*on Sunday. According to the source, units operating under the command of the Mount Hermon Territorial Brigade have been training to respond to a "combined terrorist attack" that could involve border bombs, rockets, an attempted kidnapping of soldiers, and possible anti-tank missile fire.

Times of Israel – October 31, 2015

At Rabin Rally, Clinton Urges Israelis to Choose Peace

At rally of 100,000 marking 20 years since assassination, former president says Israelis must decide how to complete Rabin's legacy; Peres, not allowed to speak from stage, urges two-state solution.

By Times of Israel Staff

Former US president Bill Clinton addressed some 100,000 people in Tel Aviv on Saturday night at the memorial rally marking 20 years since the assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, giving a rousing speech about Rabin's legacy and Israel's way forward. He urged Israelis to complete Rabin's work by making peace with the Palestinians, saying Rabin knew that the risks of peace were less "severe" than the risks of walking away from peace.

Current US President Barack Obama later addressed the rally, in pre-recorded remarks in which he told Israelis that peace was "necessary, just and possible."

Clinton was introduced to the crowd by Dalia Rabin, the daughter of the late prime minister.

In heartfelt remarks recalling many personal moments with Rabin during the peace process that led to the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, Clinton urged Israeli society to choose peace and to pursue Rabin's legacy. He said the day of Rabin's assassination was probably the worst in his eight years as president.

"Rabin's legacy in one way is clear and untouchable," Clinton said at the rally. "He risked his life to create and defend Israel. He spent his life serving Israel to advance your values and your interests. and he gave his life so that you could live in peace."

"What does it all amount to? Now that is up to you," he said, adding that "all of you now must decide when your leave here tonight… how to finish the last chapter of his story."

He also said that Rabin did not want to "see Israel come to a democratic crossroads where it has to decide whether it is a Jewish state or a democratic state."

Rabin knew, Clinton said, that "the risks of peace are not as severe

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as the risks of walking away from it."

"Those who loved him and love your country are praying that you make that decision. May God bless this country," he said.

Speaking of the late prime minister's leadership, Clinton compared Rabin to the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and to Mahatma Gandhi, who were both killed by their respective fellow countrymen for pursuing policies their assailants opposed.

Rabin, said Clinton, knew the risks and he was aware that he could be killed by a fellow Israeli. At the same time, he added, Rabin "knew who he was, he knew what he believed, he knew why he loved Israel, he believed that democracy and freedom and peace were essential" to its people and to the people in this audience.

"You must decide how to finish his legacy, the last chapter must be written by people he gave his life for," Clinton charged.

Former president and prime minister Shimon Peres, who was not allowed by the organizers to speak at the rally — which was aimed to be non-partisan politically — told Army Radio that his message would have been, "We must make peace on the basis of two states." He said that goal "unifies" Israel's right and left. It was crucial, he added, that Israel maintain both its Jewish majority and its democracy.

Most speakers at the rally maintained a relatively non-political tone, but Rabin's grandson Yonatan Ben-Artzi urged from the stage that "Israel must recognize a Palestinian state."

The speakers addressed the crowd from behind a bullet-proof glass screen, organizers said, days after Hagai Amir, brother of Rabin assassin Yigal Amir, had posted on Facebook that Rivlin would soon "depart the world." Hebrew media reports said the screen had been installed at the last moment, at the request of American security officials, and that Israel's Shin Bet security agency had no objections.

At the memorial site where Rabin was gunned down, behind the square, his Labour Party held a small ceremony of its own earlier in the evening. At that event, current Labor and Zionist Union leader Isaac Herzog said "most of the Israeli public" now shared Rabin's vision, including "separation from the Palestinians and greater social justice, and vowed to fight for the causes Rabin espoused.

Clinton arrived in Israel on Friday and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin.

Earlier Saturday, Rivlin gave the opening speech at the event, warning that Israel would not be cowed by violence and extremism.

He welcomed Clinton's address, saying "welcome, chaver [friend]," a sort of homage to Clinton's famous words at his eulogy for Rabin at the state funeral in Jerusalem following the assassination, during which Clinton memorably ended with the words "Shalom, chaver," or "Goodbye, friend."

President Barack Obama later also addressed the 100,000 people gathered at the Saturday event in a pre-recorded speech.

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Times of Israel – October 31, 2015

Peace Is Only Way to Ensure Security for Israel, Says Obama

In pre-recorded speech to Tel Aviv rally, US president pays tribute to PM, says 'a bullet can take a man's life, but his dream of peace will never die.'

By Tamar Pileggi

US President Barack Obama paid tribute to slain Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on the 20th anniversary of his assassination via video message on Saturday night, declaring that Rabin's vision of peace remains "necessary, just and possible."

In a pre-recorded message broadcast in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square where organizers said some 100,000 Israelis gathered for the memorial rally, Obama related the murdered prime minister's legacy to the need to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Calling Rabin "a warrior for peace," Obama recalled the night the late prime minister was gunned down.

"One the night he was taken from us, he looked at the thousands gathered and said that the path of peace was preferable to the path of war, and he exhausted every opening, every possibility in the pursuit of a just peace," Obama said.

Rabin, Obama said, "understood the challenges and dangers Israel faced and defended his country like a general."

Rabin "also said the Palestinians could not be ruled over forever by force. And, like a true statesman, he was willing to exhaust every opening, every possibility, in pursuit of peace," he said.

"The Jewish people have the right to live in their homeland, and Palestinians have the right to be a free people in their own land. And peace is possible, if both parties are willing to truly compromise and take risks for the only real solution — two states for two people; a democratic Jewish state living side-by-side in peace and security with a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian state," Obama said.

"And in these difficult times, for Israelis, Palestinians, the region, Yitzhak's life and dream inspire us still," Obama urged. He promised the US "commitment" to Israel and its security "will never waver."

Obama recalled a speech he gave on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during his presidential visit to Israel in 2013, where he said that peace was "necessary, just and possible."

"Peace is necessary, because it is the only way to ensure true and lasting security for Israelis and Palestinians," he said. "Peace is just," he said, "because the Jewish people have the right to live in their homeland and Palestinians have the right to be a free people in their homeland." It is possible, he said, "if both parties are willing to truly compromise and take risks for the only real solution: two states for two peoples."

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“A bullet can take a man’s life, but his spirit and his dream of peace will never die,” Obama concluded, adding a blessing to all in the crowd and for all who seek peace and justice.

Tamar Pileggi is a breaking news editor at The Times of Israel.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Marissa Astor" <mastor@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 2:32:55 PM
Subject: Re: Moving Monday's 8 am Call to Tuesday

Calendar invite has been adjusted to Tuesday at 8:00 aM EDT instead of tomorrow. Same dial in. Thanks, all.

On Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 9:23 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> We are moving tomorrow's 8 am call to Tuesday morning. We are set for tomorrow's plan in NH so it would be more beneficial to receive feedback on Tuesday after our first day of the trip. Marissa will send out an updated calendar invite.
>
> Also, flagging for you that the NY Times published the first story on Clinton Cash just now. We are asking that it be updated with a quote from us. Jo Becker's longer investigative piece on the foundation and State Department ties is set to be published next Sunday. Amy's story helps us somewhat by putting the book and allegations into a political frame. Jen, Brian and I are working on this - will have updates soon.

Book Questions Clinton Donations

By AMY CHOZICK APRIL 19, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/us/politics/book-questions-clinton-donations.html?_r=0

The book does not hit shelves until May 5, but already the Republican Rand Paul has called its findings “big news” that will “shock people” and make voters “question” the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

“Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich,” by Peter Schweizer — a 186-page investigation of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities — is proving the most anticipated and feared book of a presidential cycle still in its infancy.

The book, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, asserts that foreign entities who made payments to the Clinton Foundation and to Mr. Clinton through high speaking fees received favors from Mrs. Clinton’s State Department in return.

“We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds,” Mr. Schweizer writes.

His examples include a free-trade agreement in Colombia that benefited a major foundation donor’s natural resource investments in the South American nation, development projects in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

In the long lead up to Mrs. Clinton’s campaign announcement, aides proved adept in swatting down critical books as conservative propaganda, including Edward Klein’s “Blood Feud,” about tensions between the Clintons and the Obamas, and Daniel Halper’s “Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding

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of a Political Machine."

But "Clinton Cash" is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations are expected to pursue the story lines found in the book.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been briefed about the book's findings, which have already made their way into several of the Republican presidential candidates' campaigns.

Conservative "super PACs " plan to seize on "Clinton Cash," and a pro-Democrat super PAC has already assembled a dossier on Mr. Schweizer, a speechwriting consultant to former President George W. Bush and a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institute, to make the case that he has a bias against Mrs. Clinton.

And the newly assembled Clinton campaign team is planning a full-court press to diminish the book as yet another conservative hit job.

Mr. Schweizer and a spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corporation and is publishing the book, declined to comment.

The timing is problematic for Mrs. Clinton as she begins a campaign to position herself as a "champion for everyday Americans."

From 2001 to 2012, the Clintons' income was at least $136.5 million, Mr. Schweizer writes, using a figure previously reported in The Washington Post. "During Hillary's years of public service, the Clintons have conducted or facilitated hundreds of large transactions" with foreign governments, he writes. "Some of these transactions have put millions in their own pockets."

Continue reading the main story

The Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for accepting foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state. Last week, the foundation revised its policy to allow donations from countries like Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Britain but prohibit giving by other nations in the Middle East.

Mr. Schweizer's book will be released the same day former President Bill Clinton and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will host the Clinton Global Initiative gathering with donors in Morocco, the culmination of a foundation trip to several African nations. (A chapter in the book is titled "Warlord Economics: The Clintons do Africa.")

There is a robust market for books critical of the Clintons. The thinly sourced "Blood Feud," by Mr. Klein, at one point overtook Mrs. Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices" on the best-seller list.

But whether Mr. Schweizer's book can deliver the same sales is not clear.

Mr. Schweizer writes mainly in the voice of a neutral journalist and meticulously documents his sources, including tax records and government documents, while leaving little doubt about his view of the Clintons.

His reporting largely focuses on payments made to Mr. Clinton for speeches, which increased while

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his wife served as secretary of state, writing that “of the 13 Clinton speeches that fetched $500,000 or more, only two occurred during the years his wife was not secretary of state.”

In 2011, Mr. Clinton made $13.3 million in speaking fees for 54 speeches, the majority of which were made overseas, the author writes. Among the connections he tries to draw is a $750,000 speaking fee to Mr. Clinton by the Swedish telecom company Ericsson and a State Department list of new sanctions on Iran that did not include telecom.

Mr. Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute, is the author of the 2013 book “Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets,” and “Throw Them All Out” about elected officials receiving insider stock tips.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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From: "Faiz Shakir" <FShakir@americanprogress.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
jlrhalpin@gmail.com
Date: 7/19/2008 10:05:21 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY

Yup. We posted that this morning. Then we just posted response from senior campaign adviser who said that voters don't care what iraqi leaders think.

Haven't seen the politico piece linked around, but will check.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: John Halpin <jlrhalpin@gmail.com>; Faiz Shakir
Sent: Sat Jul 19 17:00:58 2008
Subject: Fwd: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY

Faiz,
See this?
Any traction on Mcain politico oped. maybe adam can post to list serve.
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Andres Moreno <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: Jul 19, 2008 9:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY
To: Ilan Goldenberg <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
Cc: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>

You can find this interview at:

SPIEGEL Online International:

http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,566852,00.html

On Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 10:03 AM, Andres Moreno <andres@progressiveaccountability.org> wrote:

Here is an excerpt and full text of interview

EXCERPT:

SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.

SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?

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Maliki: Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems. Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business. But it's the business of Iraqis to say what they want. And that's where the people and the government are in general agreement: The tenure of the coalition troops in Iraq should be limited.

FULLL TEXT OF INTERVIEW:

SPIEGEL: Germany was opposed to the war. The German economics minister was in Baghdad last week, Daimler AG plans to build trucks in Iraq, and you will travel to Berlin this week. Has everything been smoothed out between Germany and Iraq?

Maliki: We want closer relations, and it is my impression that the Germans -- the government, the people and German companies -- want the same thing. Our task is to rebuild a country, and the Germans are famous for effective and efficient work. We have great confidence in them and want to involve them in the development of our country.

SPIEGEL: And there is truly no resentment against a country that opposed the war in 2003?

Maliki: We do not judge our partners on the basis of whether or not they were militarily involved in toppling Saddam. The decisions back then corresponded to the national will of the countries, and we respect that.

SPIEGEL: What exactly do you expect from the Germans and from German companies?

Maliki: We want to get to know them, and we want to know what they want -- and the things they fear when thinking about Iraq. We have to start over again in many areas, including oil production, the development of the power grid and all industries. There is much to be done.

SPIEGEL: What do you expect from the Germans, politically and militarily? The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) occasionally trains Iraqi security forces -- but only in neighboring countries.

Maliki: What matters most to us is that we develop resilient political relationships and work together economically. Our security forces are steadily improving, partly as a result of German efforts. We will be pleased to turn to the Germans to equip our police and military; and should there be new training programs with the German Bundeswehr, we will be happy to accept their help. However, we would clearly prefer that the training take place in Iraq in the future. Overall, I believe that we are gradually becoming self-sufficient.

SPIEGEL: Three weeks ago, your government filed a civil lawsuit in New York against companies that allegedly paid bribes to officials in the Saddam regime. The defendants include three German companies: Daimler, Siemens and B. Braun Melsungen. How is this compatible with your overtures to German industry?

Maliki: We are in negotiations with Siemens for the construction of power plants, which shows just how serious we are. Whether the suit you mention succeeds will be for the courts to decide. Under no circumstances will the consequence be that we no longer wish to work with the companies in question.

SPIEGEL: Large parts of Iraq's assets abroad remain frozen -- and inaccessible to creditors. What will happen to this money when the UN Security Council mandate for Iraq expires at the end of this year?

Maliki: We have hired several international law firms to deal with these assets. At the moment, they are protected by UN resolutions, American law and the personal commitment of President George W. Bush -- and we want this protection to remain in place after the end of UN mandate on Iraq. We consider the claims being lodged against this money to be unjustified. Iraq cannot be punished for crimes that were committed by the dictator. This is very important to us, and a key aspect of our negotiations over the future status of US troops in Iraq.

SPIEGEL: Germany, after World War II, was also liberated from a tyrant by a US-led coalition. That was 63 years ago, and today there are still American military bases and soldiers in Germany. How do you feel about this model?

Maliki: Iraq can learn from Germany's experiences, but the situation is not truly comparable. Back then Germany waged a war that changed the world. Today, we in Iraq want to establish a timeframe for the withdrawal of international troops -- and it should be short. At the same time, we would like to see the establishment of a long-

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term strategic treaty with the United States, which would govern the basic aspects of our economic and cultural relations. However, I wish to re-emphasize that our security agreement should remain in effect in the short term.

SPIEGEL: How short-term? Are you hoping for a new agreement before the end of the Bush administration?

Maliki: So far the Americans have had trouble agreeing to a concrete timetable for withdrawal, because they feel it would appear tantamount to an admission of defeat. But that isn't the case at all. If we come to an agreement, it is not evidence of a defeat, but of a victory, of a severe blow we have inflicted on al-Qaida and the militias. The American lead negotiators realize this now, and that's why I expect to see an agreement taking shape even before the end of President Bush's term in office. With these negotiations, we will start the whole thing over again, on a clearer, better basis, because the first proposals were unacceptable to us.

SPIEGEL: Immunity for the US troops is apparently the central issue.

Maliki: It is a fundamental problem for us that it should not be possible, in my country, to prosecute offences or crimes committed by US soldiers against our population. But other issues are no less important: How much longer will these soldiers remain in our country? How much authority do they have? Who controls how many, soldiers enter and leave the country and where they do so?

SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.

SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?

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SPIEGEL: In your opinion, which factor has contributed most to bringing calm to the situation in the country?

Maliki: There are many factors, but I see them in the following order. First, there is the political rapprochement we have managed to achieve in central Iraq. This has enabled us, above all, to pull the plug on al-Qaida. Second, there is the progress being made by our security forces. Third, there is the deep sense of abhorrence with which the population has reacted to the atrocities of al-Qaida and the militias. Finally, of course, there is the economic recovery.

SPIEGEL: Critics have accused you of striking harshly against the Mahdi army of Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, while going easy on his rival Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim's Badr militia.

Maliki: That's not true. We proceed just as firmly against anyone who breaks the law. Just a few days ago, we had an incident with a group associated with the Badr people. The army moved in immediately and arrested them all. No one was spared. The punishment is based purely on the nature of the crime, not on the identity of the criminal.

SPIEGEL: In southern Iraq, where you come from, you have been compared with Saddam Hussein when it comes to harshness.

Maliki: That's the sort of thing that people say who don't understand how urgently Iraq needs stability -- or these people prefer instability. We don't want to spread fear and terror in Iraq. We have, for example, given the militias several deadlines to hand over their weapons. Their resistance was tremendous, so we had to oppose them with tremendous force of our own.

SPIEGEL: What role do you envision for your chief rival, Muqtada al-Sadr? Can there ever be national reconciliation in Iraq without his participation?

Maliki: You can only reconcile with someone who wants to reconcile. His Excellency Muqtada al-Sadr can be a political partner, especially if, to that end, he draws on the great spiritual legacy he has inherited from his

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ancestors. He has understood that his following was eventually infiltrated by criminal elements, by men from the former regime, al-Qaida people and others. The fact that he is now in the process of systematically separating himself from these elements makes him even stronger as a political partner. As a politician, I might add, not as a militia leader.

SPIEGEL: You spent part of your exile in Iran, and you have visited the country several times since you took office. Can you explain to us what the leaders in Tehran are up to? Are they building a nuclear bomb? Do you see this as a serious threat?

Maliki: I have not been made privy to the details of the Iranian nuclear program. Iranian representatives assure us, however, that this program serves peaceful purposes. Even if Tehran wanted to develop a nuclear weapon, it would take a very long time, simply from a technical standpoint. It is obvious that our region is far too fragile for even a single country to possess nuclear weapons, because it will always be an incentive for other countries to also build their own.

SPIEGEL: Exactly 50 years ago, the monarchy in Iraq was overthrown and a republic established. But we didn't see any celebration of this event at all. What does that day mean for the history of Iraq?

Maliki: There may have been people who celebrated. But certainly not all Iraqis. On July 14, 1958, and era came to an end, but what came afterwards didn't live up to our expectations and hopes. What came were decades of military putsches and the dictatorship. We are still dealing with the aftermath today.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, your job is probably one of the most dangerous a politician can have. How do you cope with this, and what do you do to make it bearable?

Maliki: I lead a very simple life -- one that is shaped by external forces, which is apparently what fate has determined for us Iraqis. In that regard, the past few decades of dictatorship have not changed all that much. What keeps me going? The constant exertion of my job -- and the successes we are now having. It means a lot to me to see how much closer we are today to a democratic Iraq, one that respects human rights, than we were only a few months ago.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Interview conducted by Mathias Müller von Blumencron and Bernard Zand in Baghdad

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Ilan Goldenberg <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
Date: Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 9:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] HUGE STORY
To: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>

This is absolutely huge. Maliki just essentially endorsed by name the Obama Iraq plan

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/07/its-over.html

It's Over
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

Not much to say here. Other than the fact that this is a huge huge huge deal. Article speaks for itself.

In an interview with Der Spiegel released on Saturday, Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe

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And

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"Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems."

And

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Is there anything left to say?

July 19, 2008 at 05:59 AM | Permalink

http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSL198009020080719

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Iraqi PM backs Obama troop exit plan: report
Sat Jul 19, 2008 7:38am EDT

BERLIN (Reuters) - Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told a German magazine he supported prospective U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's proposal that U.S. troops should leave Iraq within 16 months.

In an interview with Der Spiegel released on Saturday, Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes."

It is the first time he has backed the withdrawal timetable put forward by Obama, who is visiting Afghanistan and us set to go to Iraq as part of a tour of Europe and the Middle East.

Obama has called for a shift away from a "single-minded" focus on Iraq and wants to pull out troops within 16 months, instead adding U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan.

Asked if he supported Obama's ideas more than those of John McCain, Republican presidential hopeful, Maliki said he did not want to recommend who people should vote for.

"Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems."

Maliki, who is due to visit Germany this week, has suggested a timetable should be set for a U.S. withdrawal but U.S. officials have been more cautious, despite an improving security situation.

The White House said on Friday President George W. Bush and Maliki had agreed that a security deal under negotiation should set a "time horizon" for meeting "aspirational goals" for reducing U.S. forces in Iraq.

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Some five years after the U.S.-led invasion, there are still some 146,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

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Andres Moreno
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
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202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6661 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

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(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO)
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6661 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/24/2014 5:59:33 AM
Subject:	10.24.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	10.24.14 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below.

10.24.14 Weekend Package

1. Rand Paul's Foreign Policy TPs
2. Harper's Hit Piece on Hillary TPs
3. Eleven Things You Should Know About Hillary

TALKING POINTS: RAND PAUL'S FOREIGN POLICY

BACKGROUND: In a lame attempt to clarify his contradictory foreign policy positions, Rand Paul gave a speech last night that only left more questions about what are the real views of Rand Paul and what are just political posturing.

TALKING POINTS:

· Rand Paul's foreign policy is about as clear and predictable as rolling the dice.

· After being criticized for his extreme isolationist views, Rand Paul is now trying to back track on those positions.

· Rand Paul wants to have it both ways, claiming to be more of a hawk when it is politically convenient for him.

· This isn't the first time Rand Paul has flip-flopped on important issues for political reasons.

  o Rand Paul flip-flopped on Israel: After repeatedly claiming he would eliminate foreign aid, including to Israel, he now claims that he would not.

  o Rand Paul flip-flopped on ISIS: Rand Paul expressed reluctance to intervene against ISIS, only to change his mind a few months later.

  o Rand Paul flip-flopped Russia: Rand Paul was against standing up to Putin after the Russian leader sent troops into Georgia, but took a different stance after Russian troops entered Ukraine.

· In his speech, Rand Paul criticized Secretary Clinton and cited former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Pakistani activist and recent Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, both of whom have praised Secretary Clinton for her leadership around the world.

· Rand Paul is quick to criticize the actions of our country's leaders after the fact, but he has never been in hot seat.

· With such an unclear and contradictory foreign policy position, it is impossible to predict the actions Rand Paul would take if he were ever the one making the decisions.

· Supporting Rand Paul's foreign policy would be the biggest, and most dangerous, gamble the American people could ever take.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

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Rand Paul flip-flopped on Israel. "Paul said, 'I haven't really proposed (phasing out aid to Israel) in the past.' That's rewriting history. Not only did Paul say he would eliminate all foreign aid during multiple media interviews in January and February of 2011, but as late as March of that year, his office released a budget proposal that included a zeroing-out of foreign assistance, with a section specifically inserted to defend the effect that policy would have on Israel. Paul is free to change his position, but saying he never held the position in the first place is flatly contradicted by his past statements and documents. We rate the claim Pants on Fire." ["Pants On Fire: I haven't really proposed (phasing out aid to Israel) in the past," PolitiFact, 8/7/14]

Rand Paul flip-flopped on ISIS. "After expressing reluctance to intervene against ISIS over the summer, Sen. Rand Paul abruptly shifted gears on Thursday and announced that he supports military action to eliminate the Islamist group. 'The military means to achieve these goals include airstrikes against ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria,' the Kentucky Republican and likely 2016 presidential hopeful wrote in an op-ed in TIME. 'Such airstrikes are the best way to suppress ISIS's operational strength and allow allies such as the Kurds to regain a military advantage.' [...] When ISIS initially captured large swaths of Iraqi territory in June, Paul's response was mainly to criticize former President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for enabling ISIS's rise by launching the U.S. invasion of Iraq. In fact, Paul specifically argued that Obama didn't deserve scorn for failing to prevent the insurgent gains as a result. And while his new op-ed criticizes Obama for saying he still hasn't decided on a strategy to confront ISIS, Paul himself has made similar comments in arguing there might not be a viable strategy to defeat ISIS." ["Rand Paul's epic ISIS flip-flop," MSNBC, 9/4/14]

Rand Paul flip-flopped on Russia. According to Mother Jones, "So when Russia sent troops into Georgia (on George W. Bush's watch), Paul didn't want to provoke Russia by placing missiles in Poland. Yet today, when Russia moves into Ukraine (on Obama's watch), he's all for dispatching missiles to Poland to send a message to Putin. Does Paul care more about Crimea than Georgia? Or does he care more about keeping a foot on the GOP's anti-Obama bandwagon? Paul's office did not respond to a request for comment." ["Rand Paul's Big Flip-Flop on Russia," David Corn column, Mother Jones, 3/14/14]

Robert Gates: Sec. Clinton "made a singular contribution to strengthening this country's relationships with allies." Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates: "In a world that is ever more complex, turbulent and dangerous, Secretary Clinton, 64, has made a singular contribution to strengthening this country's relationships with allies, partners and friends; rallying other countries to join us in dealing with challenges to the global order, from Libya and Iran to the South China Sea; and reaching out to people in scores of countries to demonstrate that America cares about them. She has developed, for the first time, long-range, comprehensive strategies for diplomacy and development that will strengthen the critical civilian contribution to America's national security abroad." [Robert Gates, Time Magazine, 4/18/12]

Malala: "A world with more women leaders will be a better world, and Hillary Clinton is helping make that possible." "Hillary Clinton is a symbol of strength for women across the world. It was she who famously said, 'Women's rights are human rights.' She not only spoke those words, but also dedicated her life to empowering women around the world through politics and philanthropy. She has been a source of strength for many women leaders, including myself, my family and those who stood by me after I was attacked. 'Continue your mission, be strong, we believe in you' is what she said to me, my father and the rest of the Malala Fund team when we met her last year at the Clinton Global Initiative awards. Her life and leadership show women what we can achieve if we believe in our own strength and if we channel our inner creativity, compassion and determination. A world with more women leaders will be a better world, and Hillary Clinton is helping make that possible." [Malala Yousafzai op-ed, 4/23/14]

TALKING POINTS: HARPER'S HILLARY HIT PIECE

BACKGROUND: Harper's Magazine published an attack essay on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton by reporter Doug Henwood, misleading readers on Hillary Clinton's record and spreading a false narrative of Hillary Clinton's many decades of public service.

TALKING POINTS:

Folks with a political axe to grind have been trying to reinvent Hillary Clinton's legacy for decades. But Hillary only gets stronger because she has always been about a better future for everyone.

The latest anti-Hillary hit piece contains nothing new – it merely rehashes the same old stories from the same old hit men.

Relying on unreliable sources such as Dick Morris, the article is factually untrue and full of debunked information.

- The author even admits in the article that "his [Dick Morris'] pronouncements on both Bill and Hillary should be taken with a substantial grain of salt."

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The article's criticism of President Clinton's economic policies completely ignores the fact that the 1990s were the longest period of growth in U.S. history and during Clinton's administration, 7 million people were lifted out of poverty and nearly 23 million jobs were created.

Repeating the same talking points we've heard from America Rising and Rush Limbaugh – from undermining Hillary's accomplishments to bringing up conspiracy theories from the past – the piece reads like a page straight out of the GOP playbook.

Despite these desperate attempts to undermine her accomplishments, Hillary Clinton's record speaks for itself.

- Hillary was crucial in expanding health care for millions of children.
- Senator Clinton repeatedly voted and introduced legislation to increase the minimum wage and played a pivotal role in securing billions for 9/11 funding.
- In the words of Bob Gates, Secretary Clinton "made a singular contribution to strengthening this country's relationships with allies."
- Since leaving the State Department, Secretary Clinton has focused on early childhood development, full global participation for women, electing Democrats, and her family.

The unprecedented support behind Hillary Clinton is a result of her vision and focus, making a real difference, supporting our families, improving our communities and enhancing the lives of all people.

ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes , it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in

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Foreign Policy, "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As theWashington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia ,Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 8:07:47 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

Let's def give it to someone. I see zero downside to a story. Then we can circulate around right away (hopefully) in advance of Iran

On Jul 3, 2015, at 2:48 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Right, but if we wanted to have a reporter cover the Israel support now, a leak of the letter could probably get written.
>
> Otherwise, we can work around the Israel support for reporters covering Iran.
>
> **From:** Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 3, 2015 2:44 PM
> **To:** Christina Reynolds
> **Cc:** Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin; Oren Shur; John Podesta; Nick Merrill
> **Subject:** Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO
>
> We have a two pager I'm getting clearance from her on. That is what we have to ship around.
>
> On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:17 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > We could either get a donor to leak it or just give it to a reporter if we want to get it out there. I'm semi-surprised it's not out yet.
> >
> > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?
> > >
> > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.
> > > >
> > > > On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?
> > > > >
> > > > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > > > This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Begin forwarded message:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the

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country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's

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security. “She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel,” recalled Jacobs. “And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer.”

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. “She said ‘I’m going to do what’s in the best interest of the U.S.,’ and that was the end of it,” Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, “although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it’s got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people.” He urged Jewish donors “to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits,” adding: “I’d hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support.”

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton’s senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

“It’s a tricky issue for her,” said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran “are going to put her in a box.”

Clinton’s allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. “I know where she stands, but I can’t talk about it,” Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, “She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don’t need to worry about this.”

He soon backtracked, saying “I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal.”

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban

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expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as

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too hawkish for their tastes.

“For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy,” said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street’s PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

“She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community.”

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 12:01:41 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

Just so all on same page - 3 scripts being written:

1. Straight positive from DMR endorsement (DDMG)
2. Endorsement script that leans more heavily into the contrast language from the DMR (DDMG)
3. Endorsement buffet script - PP, gun groups, DMR, etc. (GMMB)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:55 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

I wonder if we should try a version of the DMR spot with our endorsement groups too. Planned Parenthood, HRC, Labor, LCV, Gabby Giffords etc -- something that gives a big sense of momentum

I think these groups actually have more impact on voters than the DMR (a lot of good they did us in 2008!)

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunw ald <gruncom@aol.com >; David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >; John Rimel <john.rimel@gmmb.com >; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Sent: Sat, Jan 23, 2016 6:40 pm
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.

John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121. Office
@AnzaloneLiszt

On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton

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has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Programthat provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more fromher on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

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Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

Buy Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

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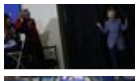

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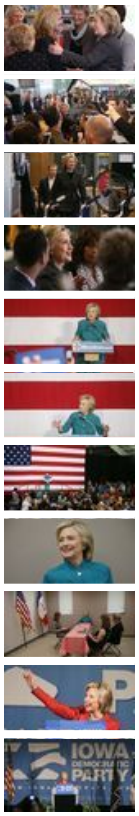

Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/6/2008 3:16:52 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain's Foreign Policy Bad for Gas Prices

National Security Network

NSN Daily Update: McCain's Foreign Policy Bad for Gas Prices
8/6/08

With all the focus on energy prices this week, it is important to remember that the candidates' foreign policies will have an important impact on gas prices. Experts believe that up to 30 percent of the current price of oil is due to instability in the world's largest oil producers, and any potential for confrontation only exacerbates the situation. John McCain's bellicose approach towards both Iran and Russia, two of the world's largest producers, will keep energy prices high.

While McCain and Obama have both presented plans for reducing energy prices it is important to remember that foreign policy has a major impact on world oil prices as well. Obama and McCain have both presented proposals for lowering energy prices, but those proposals cannot be viewed in a vacuum. We must also take into account the candidates' foreign policies. According to the Chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Daniel Yergin, these national security concerns have built "an almost-permanent security premium' into the price of oil." In fact according to some estimates rising tensions in the world's oil producing hotspots have resulted in as much as a 30 percent increase in the price of oil. [NY Times, 8/05/08 ; NY Times, 8/05/08 ; NY Times 5/11/08]

John McCain and George Bush's foreign policy of unwavering confrontation with Iran has raised costly speculation about a future oil shock and led to an increase in oil prices. John McCain supports not talking to Iran and instead continuing the same strategies that have not worked for the last eight years, agreeing with George Bush's assessment of characterizing direct talks with Iran as appeasement. As John Kilduff, an energy analyst, has observed: "Well, I think at this point, the problem we have… is statements from the President and the Vice President, almost on a daily basis lately, really raising the rhetoric, raising the temperature on the situation…and this is the mother of all supply fears, the mother of all supply threats. Not only the Iranian oil, but the Strait of Hormuz, where 25 percent of the world's oil flows, that's 100 percent Western-friendly, could easily be blocked by the Iranians…we in the oil markets have to call them as we see them and take what we get in terms of rhetoric and worry." [NewsHour, 10/26/07 , John McCain, 6/2/08]

McCain's confrontational policies toward Russia, the world's largest exporter of natural gas and the second largest oil exporter, would only heighten the security premium. Russia's energy supplies are critical for Europe and impact world oil prices. It has not hesitated in the past to use its position as a major energy supplier for leverage and has, at times, resorted to cutting off gas supplies to consumer nations. McCain believes Russia should be excluded from the G-8. In a Foreign Affairs article published late last year, McCain advocated kicking Russia out of the G-8: "Today, we see in Russia diminishing political freedoms, a leadership dominated by a clique of former intelligence officers, efforts to bully democratic neighbors, such as Georgia, and attempts to manipulate Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas. We need a new Western approach to this revanchist Russia. We should start by ensuring that the G-8, the group of eight highly industrialized states, becomes again a club of leading market democracies: it should include Brazil and India but exclude Russia." McCain repeated this view in his global vision speech at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council where he called for Russia to be kicked out of the G8. [Foreign Affairs, 11-12/07 ; EIA, 2008 ; John McCain, 3/26/08 .]

Quick Hits

The NY Times reports of sluggish progress with training the Iraqi army, while the Washington Post reports that the **training of Afghan police is advancing at a slow pace with disappointing results**.

Iraq is utilizing only a fraction of its $79 billion budget surplus on reconstruction efforts, leaving the bulk of the burden on American taxpayers.

Iran's response to an incentive package offered to it in exchange for suspending its uranium enrichment was unclear. It appears likely that the U.S. and its allies will likely now seek further sanctions in the UN Security Council.

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The former Olympic speed-skater and Darfur activist Joey Cheek was denied entry into China ahead of the games' opening ceremony. He was set to advocate for new Chinese policies towards the embattled African region.

A Syrian general believed to be in charge of weapons shipments to Hezbollah was assassinated . The government of Syria has yet to issue an official statement regarding the killing.

The trial of Salim Hamdan enters its third day of deliberations after the possibility of a mistrial arose over the judge's instructions to the jury.

President Bush will emphasize Chinese political intolerance and the development of democracy in Myanmar in a speech in Thailand. The speech marks the 20th anniversary of an uprising defying the military junta.

President Bush's trip to South Korea was met with large protests.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/15/2008 6:56:06 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: Albuquerque, NM - McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/15/08

Hello All,

Unfortunately, our tracker was turned away at the door from today's town hall meeting. It was a ticketed event. But here's the good news: We captured the event streaming online. Below are our notes.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- References "Czechoslovakia" again
- Says Obama's comments about Iraq today "flip-floppers all over the world are enraged. It gives new meaning."
- Says Obama has it backwards to discuss his plans about Iraq and Afghanistan *before* stepping foot there on his fact-finding mission
- Says situation "our enemies are on the offensive" in Aghanistan, situation has deteriorated
- Calls for more unified and centralized strategy in Afghanistan
- Promises the installation of a czar to oversee the War in Afghanistan specifically, following the footsteps of Bush's war czar
- Says we should apply the lessons and strategies of Iraq to Afghanistan, e.g. the counter-insurgency strategy, benchmarks with the government
- Calls for a doubling of troops in Afghanistan, paid for by an international trust fund
- Claims he made 'the right call in Iraq a year and a half ago'
- Other big topics: farm bill, GI bill, drug trade SCOTUS, immigration

Albuquerque, NM - McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/15/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

BACKGROUND DETAILS

- Manuel Luhan gives introductory remarks.
- Cong. Pearce also in the audience, made remarks mid-event (McCain is eliable straight-shooter who could unite the US, etc)
- Event was ticketed. Aide instructed volunteers and staff on how to turn away guests without tickets ('Tell them we will notify them first next time McCain is in town. Everyone leaves happy.')
- Before prepared remarks, McCain begins by talking about the need to take on Native American issues
- Thank-yous
- Americans are hurting, but it's so important to have these kind of town hall meetings

  NM will be important
  I understand the issues, the challenges. But these Town hall meetings are where I learn most, more than the briefing papers, etc.

FULL Transcript
LINK TO FULL REMARKS: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/07/strategy_for_victory_in_afghan.html

July 15, 2008
Strategy for Victory in Afghanistan
John McCain

I'm here today to discuss with you several issues that worry you and most Americans, our slumping economy, job loss, rising gas and food prices, and what we need to do to get our economy growing again, create jobs and reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil. But there is another urgent issue I want to address before I take your questions, which I know concerns you because brave Americans are risking their lives right now to deal with it.

Over the last year, Senator Obama and I were part of a great debate about the war in Iraq. Both of us agreed the Bush administration had pursued a failed [policy] there and that we had to change course. Where Senator

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Obama and I disagreed, fundamentally, was what course we should take. I called for a comprehensive new strategy -- a surge of troops and counterinsurgency to win the war. Senator Obama disagreed. He opposed the surge, predicted it would increase sectarian violence, and called for our troops to retreat as quickly as possible.

Today we know Senator Obama was wrong. The surge has succeeded. And because of its success, the next President will inherit a situation in Iraq in which America's enemies are on the run, and our soldiers are beginning to come home. **Senator Obama is departing soon on a trip abroad that will include a fact-finding mission to Iraq and Afghanistan. And I note that he is speaking today about his plans for Iraq and Afghanistan before he has even left, before he has talked to General Petraeus, before he has seen the progress in Iraq, and before he has set foot in Afghanistan for the first time. In my experience, fact-finding missions usually work best the other way around: first you assess the facts on the ground, then you present a new strategy.**

Although the situation in Iraq is much improved, another test awaits whoever wins this election: the war in Afghanistan. The status quo is not acceptable. Security in Afghanistan has deteriorated, and our enemies are on the offensive. From the moment the next President walks into the Oval Office, he will face critical decisions about Afghanistan.

Senator Obama will tell you we can't win in Afghanistan without losing in Iraq. In fact, he has it exactly backwards. It is precisely the success of the surge in Iraq that shows us the way to succeed in Afghanistan. **It is by applying the tried and true principles of counter-insurgency used in the surge -- which Senator Obama opposed -- that we will win in Afghanistan.** With the right strategy and the right forces, we can succeed in both Iraq and Afghanistan. **I know how to win wars. And if I'm elected President, I will turn around the war in Afghanistan, just as we have turned around the war in Iraq, with a comprehensive strategy for victory.**

That strategy will have several components. Our commanders on the ground in Afghanistan say that they need at least three additional brigades. Thanks to the success of the surge, these forces are becoming available, and our commanders in Afghanistan must get them. But sending more forces, by itself, is not enough to prevail. In the 18 months that Senator Obama has been campaigning for the presidency, the number of NATO forces in Afghanistan has already almost doubled -- from 33,000 in January 2007 to about 53,000 today. Yet security has still deteriorated. What we need in Afghanistan is exactly what Gen. Petraeus brought to Iraq: a nationwide civil-military campaign plan that is focused on providing security for the population. Today no such integrated plan exists. When I am commander-in-chief, it will.

There are, of course, many differences between Afghanistan and Iraq, which any plan must account for. But, as in Iraq, the center of gravity is the security of the population. The good news is that our soldiers have begun to apply the lessons of Iraq to Afghanistan -- especially in eastern Afghanistan, where U.S. forces are concentrated. These efforts, however, are too piecemeal; the work of innovative local commanders, rather than a strategy for the entire country. In particular, the U.S. needs to reengage deeper in southern Afghanistan, the Taliban heartland.

One of the reasons there is no comprehensive campaign plan for Afghanistan is because we have violated one of the cardinal rules of any military operation: unity of command. Today there are no less than three different American military combatant commands operating in Afghanistan, as well as NATO, some of whose members have national restrictions on where their troops can go and what they can do. This is no way to run a war. The top commander in Afghanistan needs to be just that: the supreme commander of all coalition forces. As commander-in-chief, I will work with our allies to ensure unity of command.

A successful counterinsurgency requires more than military force. It requires all instruments of our national power, and that military and civilian leaders work together, at all levels, under a joint plan. Too often in Afghanistan this is not happening. And we need to build the same kind of civil-military partnership that Gen. Petraeus and Amb. Crocker have forged in Iraq, supported by the best talent in the U.S. government and the resources necessary to prevail. Unity of command is also a principle I will bring to Washington. Too often, even as American soldiers and diplomats cooperate in the field, their superiors back home have been squabbling. **Last year, the Bush administration appointed a war czar, responsible for both Iraq and Afghanistan. This was a step in the right direction. But Afghanistan is sufficiently important that a separate Afghanistan Czar is needed. I will appoint a highly-respected national security lea der**, based in the White House and reporting directly to the President, whose sole mission will be to ensure we bring the war in Afghanistan to a successful end.

Everyone knows the United States increased the number of its soldiers in Iraq last year. What's less well known

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is that the Iraqis surged with us, adding over 100,000 security forces to their ranks. It's time for the Afghans to do the same. The Afghan army is already a great success story: a multiethnic, battle-tested fighting force. The problem is, it's too small, with a projected strength of only 80,000 troops. For years, the Afghans have been telling us they need a bigger army, and they are right. We need to at least double the size of the Afghan army to 160,000 troops. The costs of this increase, however, should not be borne by American taxpayers alone. Insecurity in Afghanistan is the world's problem, and the world should share the costs. We must work with our allies to establish an international trust fund to provide long-term financing for the Afghan army.

We also need to increase our non-military assistance to the Afghan government, with a multi-front plan for strengthening its institutions, the rule of law, and the economy in order to provide a sustainable alternative to the drug trade. Getting control of narcotics trafficking is central to our efforts in Afghanistan. Alternative crops must be able to get to market and traffickers must be arrested and prosecuted by enhanced Special Courts. We should agree on specific governance and development benchmarks with the Afghan government, then work with them closely to ensure they are met.

Just as we have worked over the past 18 months to stabilize Iraq by bringing together its neighbors, this kind of diplomacy is just as important for Afghanistan. The violence there has many causes, but chief among them is the fact that Afghanistan is treated by some regional powers a chessboard on which to pursue their own ambitions. I will appoint a special presidential envoy to address disputes between Afghanistan and its neighbors. Our goal must be to turn Afghanistan from a theater for regional rivalries into a commons for regional cooperation.

A special focus of our regional strategy must be Pakistan, where terrorists today enjoy sanctuary. This must end. We must strengthen local tribes in the border areas who are willing to fight the foreign terrorists there -- the strategy used successfully in Anbar and elsewhere in Iraq. We must convince Pakistanis that this is their war as much as it is ours. And we must empower the new civilian government of Pakistan to defeat radicalism with greater support for development, health, and education. Senator Obama has spoken in public about taking unilateral military action in Pakistan. In trying to sound tough, he has made it harder for the people whose support we most need to provide it. I will not bluster, and I will not make idle threats. But understand this: when I am commander -in-chief, there will be nowhere the terrorists can run, and nowhere they can hide.

In wartime, judgment and experience matter. In a time of war, the commander-in-chief doesn't get a learning curve. If I have that privilege, I will bring to the job many years of military and political experience; **experience that gave me the judgment necessary to make the right call in Iraq a year and half ago.** I supported the surge because I believed it was our only realistic chance to reverse the disaster our previous strategy had caused, and the right thing to do for our country. And although events have proven me right, my position wasn't popular at the time, and I risked my own political ambitions when I took it. When I tell you, I will put our country's interests -- your interests -- before party; before any special interest; before my own interests, every hour of every day I'm in office, you can believe me. Because for my entire adult life, in war and peace, nothing has ever been more important to me than the se curity and well-being of the country I love. Thank you.

Question & Answer

- jokes "we have some work-release people here with the microphone" so be patient
- 1Q)What would be wrong with telling Americans to buy gas from people who help us (e.g. American-owned) and not from those who hurt us (e.g. Citgo, Chavez)?
    - MCCAIN: I think you're right. The American people are starting to understand that this transfer of $700B / year of your money is a security issues, enviro issue, economic issue. There's compelling evidence that some of that money goes to people who hurt us. We can do this through wind, tide, solar, hydrogen, hybrid, flex fuels. A few areas: (1) if the states want to, we should be offshore drilling right now. Obama opposes it. BTW, Crist says it's a good idea. In Cali, governor thinks it's a bad idea. Off louisiana, they've had 2 hurricanes without any real problems. (2) tax dollars for pure research and development--that's how we got the Internet. (3) Let's give lower-class Americans a little break--gas tax holiday. (4) Nuclear power. 80% of French energy is from nuclear, they are reducing greenhouse gases. It's safe. We should both re-process and stores it. Obama opposes doing either. We've sailed navy ships for 60 years with nuclear plants on them--they're safe. (5) Lexington Project. we need to embark on a national mission. when JFK called to go to the moon, we got there sooner than anyone expected. We can do it soon. "and then we can tell these countries we're importing from to take a hike."

- 2Q) How would you address the impact of Iran on Israel?

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- MCCAIN: All americans are concerned with growing threat. Ahmedijenad, "the quote 'President' of Iran." In recent days, they have tested missiles. It's a very serious situation. I believe we are seeing a positive response from our European friends. I have called for a LEague of Democracies. Russia and China, especially Russia has and will veto. **Czechoslovakia**. At the end of the day, America can never allow a second Holocaust

- 3Q) Do you support the total repeal of the estate tax, which is unfair to farmers? What about the farmer subsidies
  - MCCAIN: The estate tax is onerous and i think "death tax" is a better description. Those tax breaks are about to expire in 2010; I'm worried about sudden and unexpected deaths right before (laughs). I support Kyl's proposal.
  - MCCAIN: I also have to give you straight talk. I opposed the farm bill, Obama supported it. I don't think we can afford to give this money to asparagus growers, etc. I want to do everything to support the family farm, but I oppose the bloated $300B farm bill. Maybe you want to make an argument, but I've never accepted it because I've never supported a farm bill. I'll open every market in the world to your products. I believe in free trade. Colombia is the largest importer of American goods--the same country that just freed those hostages. Pelosi wont allow a vote on the Colombian FTA, and those tariffs are giving us an unlevel playing ground.

- 4Q) [child asks] What will you do to help families and children?
  - MCCAIN: [asks to repeat the question] After this question if you feel like taking a nap, you're more than welcome to. The best thing we can to for families is give you a quality education, not hand off to you a bankrupt government, make sure that SS and Medicare will be there when you retire, and that any money you pay in taxes because your success we'll have stopped this outrageous spending spree--I'll restore trust and confidence in government.

- 5Q) What's your vision for the future of our national labs?
  - MCCAIN: Research in new technologies is as important now as it's ever been because of our dependence on foreign oil. At an event of mine in Cali, there were Silicon Valley people that had developed a more efficient car with a more efficient one on the way. If there were a battery that powered a car, and the government could help, and it were affordable, people would get it. Look at the evolution we've had with cell phones--huge and expensive initially and now small and they're giving them away.
  - It's not the government's role to build that technology, get it onto the market--that's for private enterprise.
  - I also want to point out the large # of NM people in the military and the NM guard and I want to thank them.
  - shout-out to Congressman Pierce, who "i believe will be joining me in the United States Senate"
- Pearce: MCCAIN doesn't mince words. It's going to restore confidence. we're not a Democratic or GOP country, we're an American country.

- McCain-- Normally I don't take questions from members of the press during these events, but I'm making an exception. introduce yourself.
- 6Q) [Scholastic Kids news reporter]: When do you plan to announce the selection of your VP running mate?
  - MCCAIN: As soon as we can. It's a difficult process because we have so many highly-qualified choices.
  - FOLLOW-UP: What qualities are you looking for in a VP running mate?
  - MCCAIN: Someone exactly liek you. Young, vigorous, talented. They should share my principles, priorites and my values. VP only has 2 big responsibilities: (1) tie-breaking senate vote, (2) inquire as to health of the President

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- 7Q) What are you going to do about sky-rocketing costs of college?
    - MCCAIN: Make sure every American qualified to do so can received a quality educaiton. We have good student loans but cost of educaiton making it too difficult still. We should encourage service to country that then provides them help with it: TFA, Americorps, military. It doesn't incentivize people to serve--people do so out of their own noble instincts--but it rewards them. I would expand them. We just passed the GI bill that increases educational benefits to military people--and allows them to transfer benefits to their families and children if they stay in long enough . Webb and I had a disagreement but we resolved it. We need to hold down costs of education--we need to work with schools to do so. Finally, there's a shortage of math experts, so I will focus on providing those opportunities to pepole like my daughter who graduated with a degree in art history. We need to have more engineers, etc. to insure the future of our nation.

- 8Q) Things are hard for entrepreneurs. How are you going to secure prosperity for the economic backbone of this country, small businesses?
    - MCCAIN: you epitomize to me what America is all about. If we let you down, we let America down. (1) We need to eliminate dependence on foreign oil, because you can't pass all that cost down to your customer. (2) I will not raise your taxes. If you think otherwise, I'm not your candidate. (3) We must continue with free trade. I still believe Americans are the greatest and strongest economy, but small businesses are the only bright spot in the whole dismal economic picture. net loss of 400K jobs, but a growth of 233K jobs in small business. The last thing i want to do is raise your taxes or mandate health insurance that will cost you. Those decisions should be made by you not by the federal goverment.
    - without getting too emotional about it, when I think about America, I think about you "and your partner there" (awkward laughter)... corrects "your friend--don't mean to get personal". you're the backbone.

- 9Q) I'm going to school on GI bill right now. I'm halfway through my bachelor's program and my benefits are about to run out. So i want to hear from the straight talk express, why do you not support the new GI bill?
    - MCCAIN: The initial studies for the original bill said that retention would drop 16%. We need to retain people, highly-trained people. We've resolved this, the only thing left is transferability and I'll continue working on that. I just want it to apply to everybody, unfortunately they won't accept it beyond people who joined after 9/11.

- 10Q) The SCOTUS can undo in a minute what took years to pass. Where do you stand on the new DC gun law?
    - MCCAIN: One of the most important abilities of the POTUS is the nomination of federal judges, especially to the SCOTUS. I'm proud of my support of Roberts and Alito. I will always nominate people with strict adherence to the
    - Straight talk: i voted for Breyer and Ginsburg, not because I agreed with them ideologically, but because elections have consequences and because they were qualified. Plus, the votes were overwhelming toward them. Obama voted against Alito and Roberts because he didn't agree with them ideologically. There is a strong divide between myself and Obama because he opposed "conservative judges". I want judges who follow strictly to the Constitution and nothing more.

- 11Q) Worried more about the 60million people south of the border who are getting benefits.
    - MCCAIN: We want to get rid of this extended family situation. 1986 amnesty/immigration bill failed because we didnt' secure our borders and now people dont' trust us. We have to secure our borders, then we have to have a temp worker program with tamper-proof biometric IDs--this is separate from people waiting in line legally. And we have to deal with the 12M people here in a human way. When I went to the floor with Kennedy, it was not popular with parts of GOP.
    - Drug problem. I met with the Mexican president. Mexican police are being assassinated, all related to drug trade to USA. So we have to address that to secure our borders. Corruption there is a huge problem. I'm not predicting armageddon but a Mexican official said that the drug trade is threatening the stability of the Mexican government. Colombia is one of the biggest problems. And we're telling

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them no free trade. We need the Maurita plan. We need to do a better job of educating young Americans about drugs.
    - I know how to fix it. I've reached across the aisle. And that's because I've always put my country first. Americans want a restoration of trust and confidence. Congressional approval is down to 9%. Today Senate majority leader said we're not going to pass appropriations bill, says we're not going to take up a bill for offshore drilling, says we're going to do nothing. Why should we do nothing when Americans are hurting? They're not going to miss a recess and they're not going to miss a pay raise. I'm going to shake them up. I'm going to stop wasteful pork-barrel spending. I'm going to make them famous.
    - NM is going to be important. They're going to say I need this state, that I need 2 new Congressman from this area, etc. But it's not jsut that I need them, you need them too. And it's ok to disagree, that's what Americans are about. We need to fix so many issues. I put my country first. There was a time when I was offered to leave first from the POW camp. But I had a Mexican-American friend there named Everett Alavarez and we couldn't do that. I will always put my country first.

- [standing ovation]

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From: "Laurel Ruza" <lruza@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
"Lorella Praeli" <lpraeli@hillaryclinton.com>
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/24/2015 12:13:53 PM
Subject: Daily Media Report 7.24.2015

National:

-- Mark Halperin comments on Quinnipiac poll and inspectors generals coming out suggesting that a criminal investigation looked into. Halperin says the notion of a criminal probe is very significant. Says the reason HRC's campaign pushed for the change is that maybe HRC didn't initiate the emailing of classified information, but what if it was emailed to her and she responded, would that implicate her. Morning Joe . 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Commentary, National, Mark Halperin on Q Poll and Email Scandal

-- Commentary on HRC's statement on the Sandra Bland case. Shows clip of HRC saying it is essential that we all stand up and say yes black lives matter. Reporter notes that Bland's autopsy revealed marijuana in her system. Kevin Jackson comments and says when you watch HRC's clip, you know for a fact she has been coached on this, especially on the heels of the O'Malley incident. Says it's patronizing and insulting to back people that HRC would do that and it looks contrived. Says HRC wants to appear that she really cares about black lives, but the fact is when she was the first lady of Arkansas and America she didn't care. Says some of the most heinous crimes that are happening to African Americans came about due to policies put in place by WJC. Says HRC hasn't talked about black on black crime or some of the other issues, and it's HRC's highly politicized way of getting black people energized about her campaign. Jackson says what HRC and other like her are doing is creating this idea that black people have to be afraid of the cops. Says at the end of the day, Sandra Bland very well could have had a fear around what could happen if you're stopped by a cop. Fox & Friends . 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Commentary, National, Kevin Jackson on HRC and Sandra Bland

-- Preview of HRC's capital gains tax speech today. John Barrasso joins the show and says HRC's support for the capital gains tax shows that she wants to punish people for success. Says we know what works to grow the economy and we need to get more people back to work. Says we can get more money into the treasury is to get more workers. The problem isn't that we are taxed too little, but rather that the government spends too much. Says HRC wants to raise taxes so she can spend more. Varney & Company . 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Commentary, National, John Barrasso on HRC economic agenda

-- Preview of HRC's capital gains tax speech today. Charlie Gasparino says every democratic candidate needs a Wall Street boogie man. Says HRC has too many supporters in private equity and at Goldman, so hers is in the form of activist investors, who she says are in it for the short term gain that she says is hurting the economy. Varney says HRC is taking what she thinks is the moral high ground. Gasparino says HRC looks at polls and this is the only option she has for going after Wall Street. Varney & Company . 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Commentary, National, Gaparino on HRC and activist investors

-- Leslie Marshall says HRC will win the nomination despite her the issues facing her this week. Says the plan HRC has been laying out keeps in line with what democrats are talking about with income inequality. Varney says you have redistribution in the name of fairness versus growth. He thinks that people would choose growth and tax cuts. Marshall disagrees and say HRC could win with her current policies. Varney & Company. 2015 07 24,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Leslie Marshall on HRC economic plan.mp4

-- Coverage of HRC's economic speech focusing on capital gains tax to encourage long-term investing. Greg Taxin says HRC's plans are bad for the economy and is looking to put some artificial impediments in the way of the free flow of capitalism. Says HRC is making this mistake of conflating the length of time you hold the stock with your interest. John Heilemann then comments on HRC's capital gains tax plan and says the proposal is bringing together the ideas of Center for American Progress and people in the investment community. Says the Obama administration learned that the question of executive compensation is what a lot of people get really upset about. Says that could be a more politically explosive discussion. Taxin counters that the capital gains tax inhibits innovation because people who would be investing in start up will pause when thinking about moving their money. Market Makers . 2015 07 24,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Criticism of HRC capital gains tax.mp4

-- Coverage of HRC's economic speech today. Trish Regan says HRC wants to essentially double taxes on capital gains. Panel joins the show to comment on HRC's plan. Ashley Webster says it takes away the incentive for people to invest in the market. Says this is HRC's way of going after and demonize the rich. Chad Morganlander says the topic HRC should be focused on is business investment and how to incentivize that and says HRC touched on it a little. Regan says we didn't hear much about the billionaires funding HRC's campaign. Brad Blakeman says it's hypocrisy since HRC and WJC make so much on speeches. Richard Fowler says this is a good thing because it incentivizes pension and mutual funds to get in the marketplace and invest in long term investment. Says we have to invest in long term investment if we want to turn the economy around. Says we can only build infrastructure when we do long term investment. Morganlander says HRC was thin on giving real solutions to building the standard of living for people. Chris says at least she's putting forth substantive policy proposals which is more than we've seen from any other candidate in three weeks. Says as for the speeches, HRC gets taxed on those and all HRC is saying that people should be taxed on investments as income. You're taxing the gain, not the investment, and incentivizing long term investment. The Intelligence Report with Trish Regan . 2015 07 24,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Panel comments on HRC capital gains tax.mp4

-- Grover Norquist comments on HRC's capital gains speech. Says if the stock market doesn't go down in the next few weeks people are saying they don't think HRC is going to be the next president. Says this is a truly stupid tax proposal and doubles the present rate to 43%. Says the whole point of a free market economy is that people can move freely to move stocks. Says it won't be indexed for inflation and is trickle down taxation.

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Says the incentive to buy stocks is way down under this proposal. Norquist says HRC has a tax policy to force you to stay in for a long haul. Risk and Reward with Deidre Bolton . 2015 07 24,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Grover Norquist comments on HRC capital gains tax.mp4

-- Coverage of HRC commenting on Black Lives Matter. Shows clip of HRC saying that for a lot of well-meaning white people, the sight of a young black man in a hoodie still invokes a feeling of fear and we can start by saying black lives matter. Host notes that HRC at one point said all lives matter. Shows clip of Jeb Bush saying we're so uptight that we apologize for saying all lives matter. Juan Williams says the far left is missing the high moral ground of saying that all lives matter. Says HRC and the other democrats are trying to respond to the intense pressure from the far left. The Five . 2015 07 24,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders;Martin O'Malley,Commentary,National,Commentary on Democrats and Black Lives Matter.mp4

Spanish:

-- Report on Univision about HRC emails investigation. Says that federal investigators asked for an analysis of whether there were risks of illegal access to classified information in HRC's private emails while she was Secretary of State. A DOJ official made the announcement today, and they clarified that investigators' request was *not* related to a possible crime. Noticiero Univision . 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Noticiero Univision HRC Emails Investigation

-- Report on Telemundo HRC email investigation. Says the DOJ is considering opening a criminal investigation over HRC's use of personal emails while she was Secretary of State. The investigators want to know if HRC mishandled classified information. Previously it was revealed that there were possibly hundreds of classified messages. HRC denied the accusations.
Noticiero Telemundo (Miami). 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo HRC Emails Accusation

-- Report from Telemundo on HRC going to Southern California for fundraiser. HRC will travel to southern California on August 6th for a fundraiser. Clinton will go to a private party where guests will have to pay the maximum contribution of $2700. Noticiero Telemundo (in LA). 2015 07 24 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo HRC Southern CA Fundraiser

-- Report on Telemundo on Donald Trump visit to border. Trump visited border, initially on the invitaiton from a border patrol agents' union that later canceled his trip. Trump said it was because of Washington pressure. Trump said he would be able to beat HRC, whom he believes to be the worst Secretary of State in history. He also mentioned that he's leading in the polls and that he employs thousands of Latinos to show that he will win the Latino vote.
Telenoticias Washington (Telemundo). 2015 07 23 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Telemundo Telenoticias DC Trump Visit Border

States:

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC's email account controversy: Justice Department is considering a request by two government inspectors on a potential inquiry on HRC mishandling her private email account. HRC claimed that she has not done anything wrong through her private account. WCSC-CHS(CBS)'s Live 5 News First at 4, Charleston (SC). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email server Charleston.mp4

--Report on HRC's email account: Weija Jiang claimed that Senior Justice Department officials have not yet decided whether to open a criminal investigation. Paula Reid claimed that subpoena power and the right to assemble a grand jury could come into play if the investigation takes place. Trey Gowdy issued a statement calling on HRC to turn over the email server so that it could be put through a forensic evaluation. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s WTOC News Now, Savannah (GA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email server News Now.mp4

--Report on HRC and females: HRC spoke about helping women get jobs and how that would facilitate a better economy. WOLO-COL(ABC)'s ABC Columbia News at Noon , Columbia (SC). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC women economy.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on criminal investigation for HRC: Christa Delcamp reported that the U.S. Justice Department has been asked to open a criminal investigation about whether HRC released classified information from her private email server while serving as Secretary of State. Two inspectors general have called for this inquiry. HRC spokesperson claimed that HRC followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s 7News Today in New England, Boston (MA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email investigation.mp4

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--Report on HRC and immigration: HRC claimed that the U.S. will not deport undocumented immigrants. HRC claimed that in order to fix this issue, comprehensive immigration reform must occur. New England Cable News' NECN Today, Boston (MA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC on immigration.mp4

--Report on HRC email investigation: Steve Aveson reported that two secretary generals want HRC's emails investigated. HRC claimed that she never used her private email for business. The Justice Department is yet to decide whether or not they will open up a criminal investigation. New England Cable News, Boston (MA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC server.mp4

Nevada:

--Report on HRC email scandal: Two inspectors general have asked that there be a criminal investigation by the Department of Justice due to private use of HRC's email account. HRC maintained that she has always followed appropriate procedures. KTNV-LV(ABC)'s Good Morning America, Las Vegas (NV). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC DOJ email.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC's email investigation: Stephanie Ramos claimed that there are new questions about sensitive, deleted, emails being mishandled while HRC was Secretary of State. Two inspectors general have urged the Department of Justice to file a criminal investigation against HRC. Rick Klein claimed that there are two issues within the email scandal that are of important notice. One issue is HRC sending classified email, and the second issue is the substance of what was released and the method in which it was released. Reporters and officials are now questioning when certain emails were deemed classified, and whether or not the emails sent out during HRC's time as Secretary of State were indeed classified. Klein claimed that HRC's campaign stated that none of the emails were classified; however, the two inspectors general claimed that the campaign statement may be questionable. KCRG-IOW(ABC)'s KCRG TV9 News at 11, Iowa City (IA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, KCRG HRC emails.mp4

--Report on HRC and Trump: Reporters claimed that strategists have claimed that Trump and his comments are good things for HRC's campaign. Trump claims that he is the GOP's prime bet to beat HRC. HRC attacked Trump by claiming that to get attention in the GOP, one must attack HRC. WHO-DM(NBC)'s Channel 13 News at Noon , Des Moines, (IA) . 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Trump attacks.mp4

--Report on HRC's emails: Megan Reugher claimed that HRC has come under scrutiny after using a private server and personal email account. The State Department has not commented on the request for the criminal investigation. HRC claimed that she has done nothing wrong. WHO-DM(NBC)'s Channel 13 News at Noon , Des Moines, (IA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC emails Channel 13.mp4

--Report on HRC's email server: Kelly D'Ambrosio reported that investigators want to know whether HRC's email account was mishandled. According to the Office of Inspector General, several of HRC's emails contained classified IC information, even though they were not labeled or flagged as classified. HRC has repeatedly denied that she has done anything wrong. Nick Merrill claimed that any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the email release and not at the time that they were transmitted. Weija Jiang claimed that Senior Justice Department officials have not yet decided whether to open a criminal investigation. Paula Reid claimed that subpoena power and the right to assemble a grand jury could come into play if the investigation takes place. Trey Gowdy issued a statement calling on HRC to turn over the email server so that it could be put through a forensic evaluation. KGAN-IOW(CBS)'s CBS 2 News at Noon , Iowa City (IA). 2015.07.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email server CBS2 News at Noon.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Sanders in Iowa: Sanders will be in Iowa in the Des Moines area campaigning. KCRG-IOW(ABC)'s Good Morning America, Iowa City (IA). 2015.07.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders campaigning.mp4

--Report on Sanders in Iowa: Sanders will hold a town hall meeting in Des Moines this afternoon. The event starts at seven and is open to the public with an RSVP. WHO-DM(NBC)'s Today in Iowa at 5, Des Moines (IA). 2015.07.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders town hall meeting.mp4

--Report on Bill de Blasio on Sanders: de Blasio claimed that he supports sanders because he has done an extraordinary job on promoting where the U.S. needs to be headed. de Blasio claimed that he supported Sanders on being a socialist. de Blasio claimed that Sanders is helping to drive a

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national debate and is playing a very productive role in the presidential race. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Carol Colstello. 2015.07.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders De Blasio.mp4

--Report on Sanders doing better: Sanders is doing as well or better than HRC against Republicans, according to Ed Henry. Henry stated that Sanders is getting the all the excitement when compared to HRC's lack of voter excitement.Fox News' Red Eye . 2015.07.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders better in poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders by Cruz: Ted Cruz claimed that Sanders and Cruz are on the same page regarding giant corporations. Chris Matthews responded by claiming that it is a Republican strategy to build up Bernie Sanders. Cruz claimed that other Democrats do not admit that they are socialist. Cruz claimed that he respected Sanders' honesty. Cruz claimed that Sanders stood against the Export Import Bank, and that Cruz respected his decision. Matthews claimed that Cruz is building Sanders up, and he would refer to it as "troublemaking". MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews. 2015.07.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Cruz on Sanders.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM in Iowa: MOM will be in Des Moines this afternoon at the State Historical Building, taking part in a forum. 2015.07. WHO-DM(NBC)'s Channel 13 News at Noon , Des Moines (IA). 2015.07.24., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM in Iowa.mp4

--Report on MOM claiming that all lives matter: Jeb Bush claimed that MOM should not have backtracked on his remarks. Bush claimed that the U.S. is being uptight and politicians have to be too politically correct. Bush claimed that all lives do matter; he claimed that if MOM believes that all lives matter, he should not have apologized. New England Cable News' NECN Today, Boston (MA). 2015.07.24., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, Jeb Bush on MOM.mp4

--Report on MOM attacked for climate change: MOM is getting backlash from Republicans by linking ISIS to climate change in the Middle East. Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier. 2015.07.24., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM attacks climate change.mp4

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From: Mbronfein <mbronfein@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/16/2015 7:12:57 AM
Subject: Fwd: Action Required: Urge Members of Congress to Oppose a Bad Deal

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "AIPAC Political Department " <grassroots@aipac.org >
Date: July 16, 2015 at 11:58:28 AM EDT
To: mbronfein@gmail.com
Subject: Action Required: Urge Members of Congress to Oppose a Bad Deal
Reply-To: "AIPAC" <membership@aipac.org >

Click here to view the web version.

Urge Members of Congress to Oppose the Nuclear Agreement with Iran

Call
(202) 225-3121
to reach Senate and House members through the Capitol switchboard

E-mail
your members of Congress

Find
your members of Congress

Info/Questions
grassroots@aipac.org

Background Information

After more than 20 months of negotiations, the United States and its negotiating partners announced a nuclear agreement with Iran. Throughout the negotiations, AIPAC outlined five critical criteria for a good deal. Unfortunately, the proposed agreement is fundamentally flawed in each of these vital areas.

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 established a procedure for congressional review of any nuclear agreement with Iran. Congress must now oppose this deal, which would leave Iran as a nuclear threshold state, thereby jeopardizing U.S. interests and posing an existential threat to Israel and other American allies.

Please call or email your members of Congress today and urge them to oppose this deal.

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Phone Script

"I am calling to urge the senator/representative to oppose the Iran nuclear deal because it will not block Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Talking Points

- I have consistently supported diplomatic efforts to peacefully prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. I appreciate the hard work of the administration to reach a deal.
- Unfortunately, the proposed deal will let Iran become a threshold nuclear weapons state and will not guarantee international inspectors access to suspicious sites in Iran.
- Congress and the president have repeatedly said, **"No deal is better than a bad deal**." **This is a bad deal**.
- Congress must oppose this agreement, and urge the administration to negotiate a better deal that will truly prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

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From: "Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/22/2015 2:49:47 PM
Subject: 2015: Year at a Glance

This message contains graphics. If you do not see the graphics, click here to view .

In a year marked by both hopeful trends and alarming challenges, the Belfer Center's mission to provide thoughtful, policy-relevant research and insights for a more secure, peaceful world has never been more timely. In 2015, our faculty and fellows delved into critical issues from Iran's nuclear program, China's rise, and Russian relations to violent extremism, climate talks, U.S. leadership, and economic growth. Whether in books, reports, testimony, commentary, or multimedia, see the ways our experts responded to a world in need of impactful ideas:

SEE YEAR AT A GLANCE

PHOTO GALLERY

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

2015 PODCASTS

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Iran Nuclear Deal

"In the case of Iran's nuclear challenge, what are we trying to do? In one line: to prevent a nuclear weapon exploding on the territory of the United States or our allies." –Graham Allison, *Lessons Learned from Past WMD Negotiations*

"The negotiators appear to be headed toward an agreement in which the central restrictions will last less time than the period it took to negotiate them." –William Tobey, *Lessons Learned from Past Negotiations to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism*

U.S.-China Relations

"With the rise of China, we are observing the geopolitical equivalent of the melting of the polar ice caps." –Kevin Rudd, *The Future of U.S.-China Relations Under Xi Jinping*

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American Leadership

"…I can't think of a time when the United States of America has been leading in as many places simultaneously, engaged in as many life-and-death challenges, around the world." –John Kerry, *Belfer Center Conversation with Secretary of State John Kerry*

Energy & Climate

"The Paris Agreement is a truly landmark climate accord, and checks all the boxes in my five-point scorecard for a potentially effective deal." –Robert Stavins, *Thanks to Paris, We Have a Foundation for Meaningful Climate Progress*

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Fighting Terror & Violent Extremism

"Extremists have attempted to shape every possible part of the cultural ecosystem surrounding young Muslims. They seek to make the extremist mindset the new normal." –Farah Pandith, *The World Needs a Long-Term Strategy for Defeating Extremism*

"…ISIS is— all at the same time— a terrorist group, a state, and a revolutionary political movement. We have not faced an adversary like it before." –Michael Morell, *Former CIA Director: ISIS Will Strike America*

Nuclear Security

"The possibility of a terrorist detonating a "dirty bomb" or even a crude nuclear bomb is one of the gravest threats facing the United States today." –Matthew Bunn, *Don't Weaken Our Defenses Against Nuclear Smuggling*

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Economic Growth & Innovation

"…[A]dvances in energy production, manufacturing, life sciences and IT amount to four interlocking revolutions that could make North America the next great emerging market – as long as policymakers in this country don't impede their potential."
–David Petraeus & Paras Bhayani, *An Agenda of Prosperity for America*

U.S.-Russia Relations

"Bilateral relations are in free fall, and attempts to change that belie the gravitational forces taking it down. In the next decade, we will look back on the Obama-Putin spat as the 'good old days.'" –Kevin Ryan, *Future Is Bleak for U.S.-Russian Relationship*

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Refugee & Humanitarian Crises

"If a soldier is widely identified as a rapist, or a commander is known around the world to tolerate rape, the shame and threat to their reputation may dissuade their peers — particularly those who seek international legitimacy — from raping."
–Dara Kay Cohen, *How to Counter Rape During War*

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From: "Maya Harris, Hillary for America" <issues@hillaryclinton.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/17/2015 11:47:33 AM
Subject: Quick survey:

Hey there --

My name's Maya, and I work on policy issues here at Hillary for America. I want to thank you for getting involved so early -- it's so important.

Since we're just getting started here, I have a quick question for you: Which of Hillary's Four Fights is most important to you?

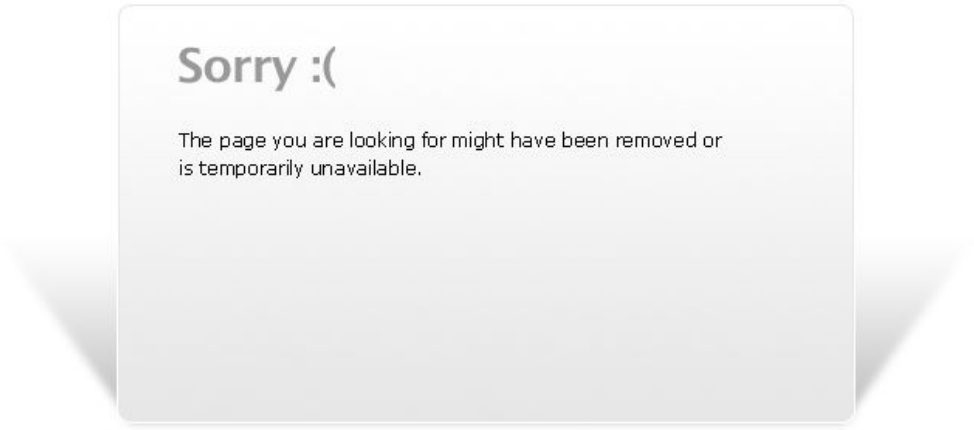

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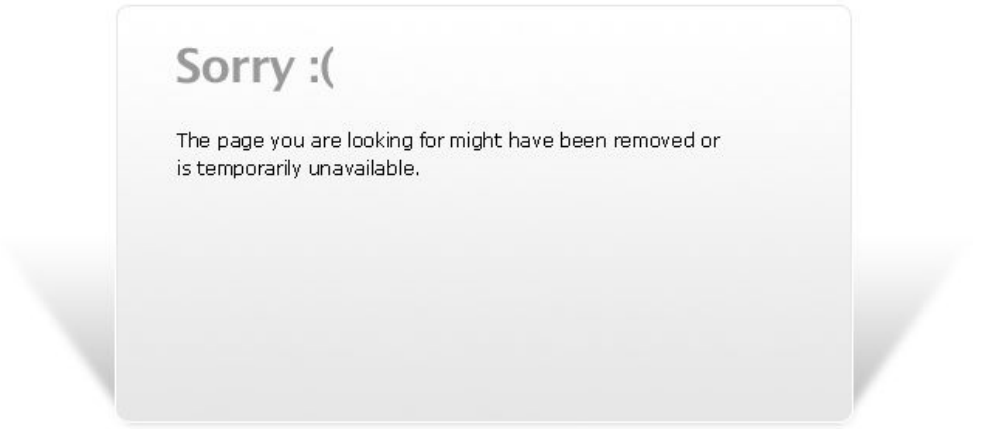

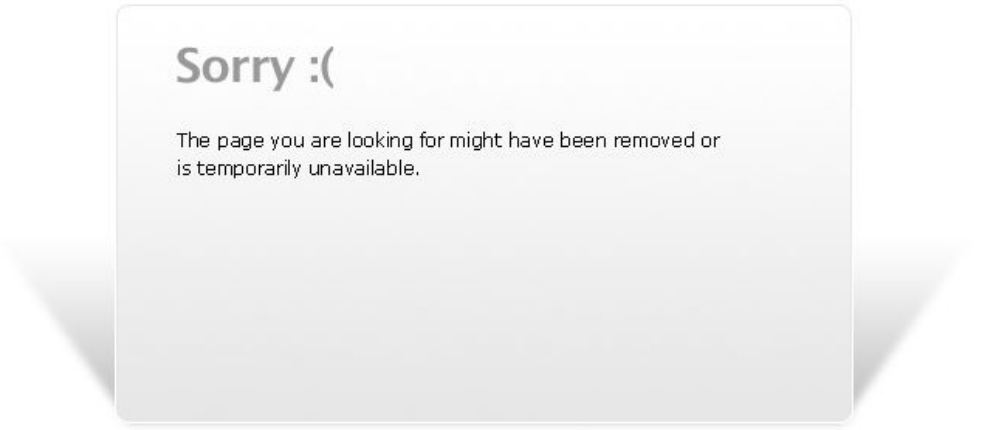

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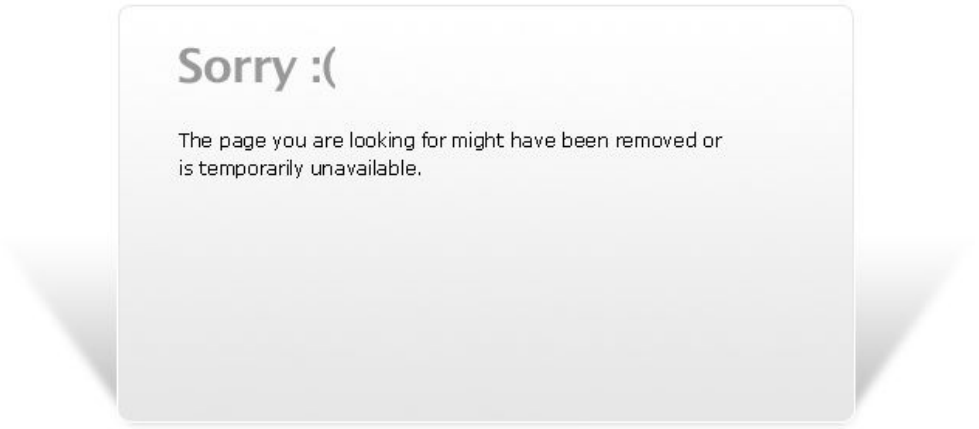

Not seeing your top issue listed here? Feel free to reply to this email and tell us what you care about most.

We know some issues may be more important to you than others, and as we kick off this campaign, we really want to know where our earliest supporters stand -- and we'll try to make sure you hear more about what you care about.

Thanks very much for sharing! We've got a lot of work to do here, and I'm happy you're on the team.

Thanks,

Maya

Maya Harris
Senior Policy Advisor
Hillary for America

P.S. Forward this to three friends who might want to have their voices heard, too.

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. Click here to unsubscribe .

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From:	David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	8/6/2008 9:47:42 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Ad Watch: New McCain Ad Denounced As False and Misleading on Renewable Energy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2008
CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384
David Willett, 202.675.6698

Ad Watch: McCain Campaign Fabricates Support for Renewable Energy in False, Misleading New Ad

Washington, D.C.—The Sierra Club today denounced a new John McCain ad, "Family," as completely false and misleading. The ad attacks Barack Obama and then goes on to tout McCain's supposed support for renewable energy and energy independence. McCain has a long record of consistently voting against renewable energy.

The ad can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3DxDBH9nn4

Partial script:

Text on screen: McCain Energy Plan [images of wind turbines]

Announcer: Renewable energy to transform our economy, create jobs and energy independence. That's John McCain.

John McCain Offers Nothing More Than Empty Rhetoric on Renewable Energy
John McCain talks about renewable energy every single day, yet has actively opposed the policies needed to make the clean energy economy a reality.
John McCain—like President Bush, coal companies, and the utility industry—opposes a Renewable Electricity Standard and has consistently voted against such a standard in the past. (Sources: 2005 Senate Vote #141, 6/16/2005; 2002 Senate Vote #50, 3/14/2002; 2002 Senate Vote #55, 3/21/2002; 2002 Senate Vote #59, 3/21/2002)
John McCain believes the renewable energy industry is "doing fine" and doesn't need any incentives. While he offered a $300 million gimmick on electric cars, he has voted against $290 million for clean energy. Meanwhile, John McCain favors billions in new and existing subsidies for dirty, dangerous, and distracting nuclear power. (Sources: Grist, 10/1/07; 2006 Senate Vote #42, 3/14/2006)
If key clean energy incentives that are in danger of expiring soon are not renewed, it could cost more than 116,000 hardworking Americans in the wind and solar industries alone their jobs and sacrifice $19 billion in economic growth. Twice, when every single other Senator voted and measures to renew these critical incentives lost by just a single vote, John McCain didn't even show up to vote when he could have made the difference. (Sources: Navigant Consulting study, 02/04/2008, http://www.awea.org/newsroom/pdf/Tax_Credit_Impact.pdf; 2007 Senate Vote #425, 2008 Senate Vote #8)

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Statement of Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club Political Director

"It's shameful that John McCain and his campaign continue to deliberately mislead voters about his record on renewable energy. Hundreds of stump speeches and millions of dollars in ads cannot change a two decade-long record of consistently voting against renewable energy.

"While his ad may talk about creating jobs, John McCain's failure to support key clean energy tax incentives could cost the 116,000 hardworking Americans in the wind and solar industries alone their jobs. It will also sacrifice billions in lost economic opportunity.

"John McCain could've been the deciding vote on this issue twice -- something that would've truly helped America's workers and moved us toward energy independence -- but he was the only Senator who didn't even bother to show up and vote. And just last week, John McCain's allies in the Senate blocked extending these energy incentives twice because they were determined to hold Congress hostage in order to push the Bush-McCain-Big Oil energy agenda at all costs.

"When it comes to energy independence, America needs a plan -- not political platitudes. All talk and no votes -- that's John McCain."

# # #

Paid for by the Sierra Club Political Committee, http://www.sierraclub.org/, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

----- Forwarded by Josh Dorner/Sierraclub on 08/06/2008 04:36 PM -----

"Josh Dorner, Sierra Club" <josh.dorner@sierraclub.org>
To: josh.dorner@sierraclub.org
cc:
08/06/2008 04:33 PM
Subject: Ad Watch: New McCain Ad Denounced As False and Misleading on Renewable Energy
Please respond to "Josh Dorner, Sierra Club" <josh.dorner@sierraclub.org>

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sierra.news@sierraclub.org) to your Address Book.
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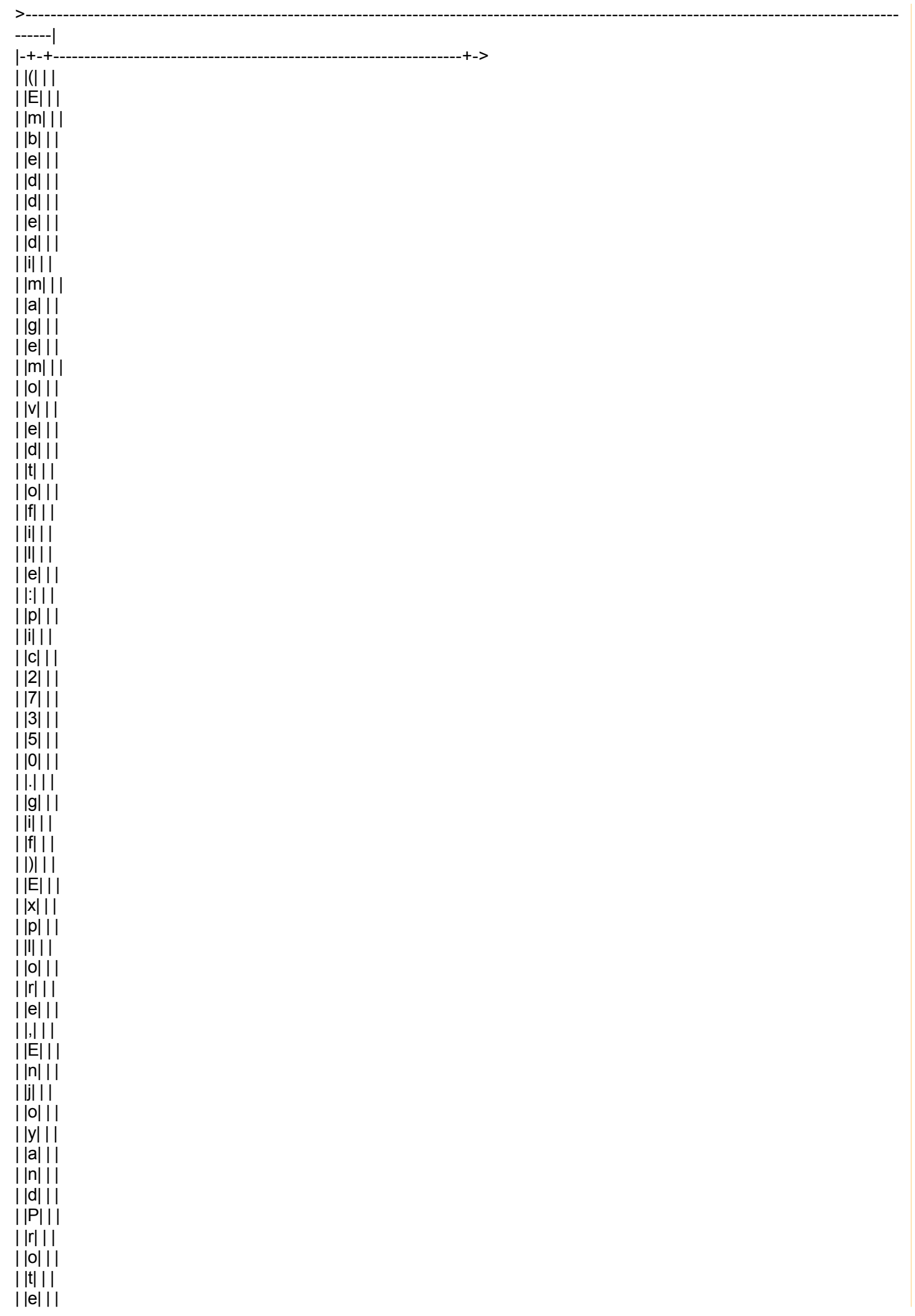

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	E	CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384	E
	m	David Willett, 202.675.6698	m
	b		b
	e		e
	d	Ad Watch: McCain Campaign Fabricates Support for Renewable Energy	d
	d	in False, Misleading New Ad	d
	e		e
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	i	Washington, D.C.—The Sierra Club today denounced a new John McCain	i
	m	ad, "Family," as completely false and misleading. The ad attacks	m
	a	Barack Obama and then goes on to tout McCain’s supposed support	a
	g	for renewable energy and energy independence. McCain has a long	g
	e	record of consistently voting against renewable energy.	e
	m		m
	o		o
	v	The ad can be viewed at:	v
	e	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3DxDBH9nn4	e
	d		d
	t		t
	o	Partial script:	o
	f		f
	i		i
	l	Text on screen: McCain Energy Plan [images of wind turbines]	l
	e		e
	:		:
	p	Announcer: Renewable energy to transform our economy, create jobs	p
	i	and energy independence. That’s John McCain.	i
	c		c
	0		1
	1	John McCain Offers Nothing More Than Empty Rhetoric on Renewable	3
	1	Energy	9
	5	John McCain talks about renewable energy every single day,	6
	0	yet has actively opposed the policies needed to make the	6
	.	clean energy economy a reality.	.
	g	John McCain—like President Bush, coal companies, and the	g
	i	utility industry—opposes a Renewable Electricity Standard	i
	f	and has consistently voted against such a standard in the	f
	)	past. (Sources: 2005 Senate Vote #141, 6/16/2005; 2002	)
		Senate Vote #50, 3/14/2002; 2002 Senate Vote #55, 3/21/2002;	
		2002 Senate Vote #59, 3/21/2002)	
		John McCain believes the renewable energy industry is "doing	
		fine" and doesn’t need any incentives. While he offered a	
		$300 million gimmick on electric cars, he has voted against	
		$290 million for clean energy. Meanwhile, John McCain favors	

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		billions in new and existing subsidies for dirty, dangerous,	
		and distracting nuclear power. (Sources: Grist, 10/1/07;	
		2006 Senate Vote #42, 3/14/2006)	
		If key clean energy incentives that are in danger of	
		expiring soon are not renewed, it could cost more than	
		116,000 hardworking Americans in the wind and solar	
		industries alone their jobs and sacrifice $19 billion in	
		economic growth. Twice, when every single other Senator	
		voted and measures to renew these critical incentives lost	
		by just a single vote, John McCain didn’t even show up to	
		vote when he could have made the difference. (Sources:	
		Navigant Consulting study, 02/04/2008,	
		http://www.awea.org/newsroom/pdf/Tax_Credit_Impact.pdf; 2007	
		Senate Vote #425, 2008 Senate Vote #8)	
		Statement of Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club Political Director	
		"It's shameful that John McCain and his campaign continue to	
		deliberately mislead voters about his record on renewable energy.	
		Hundreds of stump speeches and millions of dollars in ads cannot	
		change a two decade-long record of consistently voting against	
		renewable energy.	
		"While his ad may talk about creating jobs, John McCain's failure	
		to support key clean energy tax incentives could cost the 116,000	
		hardworking Americans in the wind and solar industries alone their	
		jobs. It will also sacrifice billions in lost economic	
		opportunity.	
		"John McCain could've been the deciding vote on this issue twice	
		-- something that would've truly helped America's workers and	
		moved us toward energy independence -- but he was the only Senator	
		who didn’t even bother to show up and vote. And just last week,	
		John McCain's allies in the Senate blocked extending these energy	
		incentives twice because they were determined to hold Congress	
		hostage in order to push the Bush-McCain-Big Oil energy agenda at	
		all costs.	
		"When it comes to energy independence, America needs a plan -- not	
		political platitudes. All talk and no votes -- that’s John	
		McCain."	
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		Paid for by the Sierra Club Political Committee,	
		http://www.sierraclub.org/, and not authorized by any candidate or	
		candidate's committee.	

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 5/20/2015 1:21:22 AM
Subject: News Update - May 20, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, May 20

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Israel Separating Palestinians, Israelis on West Bank Buses**
- **Netanyahu: Iran-Backed Jihadi Threat Top Priority for New Govt'**
- **Herzog Mocks PM's Chances of Reigniting Peace Process**
- **Netanyahu Meets FIFA chief to Block Pal' Suspension Attempt**
- **Uri Ariel Taunts Obama on Twitter over Jerusalem Construction**
- **Israel: US let Iran Plane Deal Go Ahead despite Sanctions**
- **Fatah to Hamas: Stop Direct Negotiations with Israel**
- **New UN Middle East Envoy to IL: Freeze Settlement construction**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "Israel's Netanyahu Stops Short of Creating a Ministry of Magic"**
  - By Ruth Eglash
- **Al Monitor: "Netanyahu's New Government Already on Shaky Ground"**
  - By Ben Caspit

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Ha'aretz

Israel Separating Palestinians, Israelis on WB Buses

Israel on Tuesday launched a pilot program under directive from Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon to separate Israeli and Palestinian bus travel in the West Bank. Palestinian workers will now have to return from Israel to the West Bank via the same checkpoint they left and will not be allowed to ride Israeli bus lines. The new regulations, implemented by the Civil Administration, could lengthen some workers' commutes by as much as two hours, according to the human rights organizations that plan to appeal against the new rules to the High Court of Justice.

See also, "Opposition blasts separation of Israelis, Palestinians on West Bank buses" (Ha'aretz)

Times of Israel

PM: Iran Jihadi Threat Top Priority for New Govt'

Benjamin Netanyahu formally presented his new cabinet at the President's Residence in Jerusalem on Tuesday, and vowed to put the fight against Islamist extremists at the top of his agenda. "This government has been established at a time of great challenges and opportunities," Netanyahu said. "Our first challenge is to ensure the security of Israel in the face of accumulating threats around us. Radical Islam is lapping at all our borders, nearly all in the form of factions and forces led by Iran and other radical elements." He said, however, that the country would seek to forge new alliances given the regional turmoil, hinting at Israel's shared interests with Sunni states against Iran.

Jerusalem Post

Herzog Mocks PM's Chances of Reigniting P. Process

A day after Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted saying in closed conversations that he wants to restart the peace process, opposition leader Isaac Herzog expressed doubt on Tuesday that talks would begin while Netanyahu is in power. Herzog mocked the prime minister's decision to distribute the former responsibilities of the Foreign Ministry among six different Likud politicians, including putting vice premier Silvan Shalom in charge of the currently nonexistent peace talks with the Palestinians. "There may be a peace process between Netanyahu and Silvan Shalom," Herzog said. "Spreading out the Foreign Ministry's functions shows it's just another example of Netanyahu's circus."

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Ha'aretz

PM Meets FIFA to Block Pal' Suspension Attempt

FIFA President Sepp Blatter, in Israel to try to resolve the crisis between Israel and the Palestinian Authority over suspending Israel's membership in the international soccer association, met Tuesday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The purpose of the meeting was to seek a solution to Palestinian complaints that Israel is restricting the movements of Palestinian soccer players in Gaza and the West Bank. A senior official in Jerusalem said Israel wants to find a solution that will stop a planned vote on a Palestinian resolution to suspend Israel, at the FIFA congress on May 27. Netanyahu said at the start of his meeting with Blatter that any attempt to politicize sports – which he said could destroy FIFA, soccer's international governing body – should be stopped.

Jerusalem Post

Uri Ariel Taunts Obama on Twitter over Jerusalem

US President Barack Obama received a rude welcome on his newly opened personal Twitter account on Tuesday from a right-wing Israeli minister who made it clear the new government in Jerusalem has no plans to cease construction in disputed areas of the capital. Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel of the pro-settler Bayit Yehudi party wrote: "Welcome! Happy Jerusalem Day! In case u didn't hear PM Netanyahu: "Jerusalem won't be divided again, we build all over the city." Ariel's tweet elicited angry reactions from Israeli Twitter users, one of whom wrote: "You remind me of a pyromaniac who lights things on fire and then rushes to tell his friends so that they don't miss the blaze."

Ynet News

Israel: US Enabled Iran Plane Deal despite Sanctions

A senior Israeli official took a swipe at Washington on Tuesday over Iran's purchase of second-hand civilian aircraft, saying the acquisition violated US sanctions and went ahead despite a tip-off from Israel. Iranian Transport Minister Abbas Akhoondi was quoted on May 11 by the Iranian Students News Agency as saying Tehran bought 15 used commercial planes in the last three months. He did not say who sold them or how they had been acquired. A long-standing ban on the export of aircraft spare parts to Iran was eased under an interim nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers in late 2013, but the US sanctions regime continues to restrict sales of planes. "Israel learned from intelligence sources about this very significant breach of the sanctions in advance of it occurring," said the Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

See also, "Israel: US let Iran break sanctions to purchase aircraft" (Times of Israel)

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Ynet News

Fatah to Hamas: Stop Direct Negotiations with Israel

Arab diplomats told the Jordanian newspaper Al-Dustour yesterday that Israel has been holding direct talks with Hamas about the establishment of a floating seaport in the Gaza Strip, among other issues. In response, Fatah has called on Hamas to stop the talks immediately, arguing that those talks "contradict the national Palestinian interest." A statement issued by a Fatah spokesman, Osama al-Qawasme, and which was published by the Palestinian news agency, Wafa, noted that the talks between Hamas and Israel served Israel's interests, since Israel "aspires to separate between the Gaza Strip and Palestine." He went on to say that the Palestinian Authority was the only entity that had the right to hold talks with Israel about ending the occupation." Ahmed Yousef, a Hamas official in the Gaza Strip, said in April that talks were being held between Hamas and Israel about a truce by means of Turkish mediators.

Israel Radio News

UN Envoy to Israel: Freeze Settlement Construction

The new UN Middle East envoy has called upon Israel to freeze construction in the settlements and to take more steps to resume the negotiations with the Palestinians. The envoy, Nikolai Mladenov, said at a meeting of the UN Security Council that he would work with UN Secretary General Ban and with the new government of Israel to see if the negotiations could resume for a two-state solution according to a logical timetable.

Washington Post – May 18, 2015

Israel's Netanyahu Stops Short of Creating a Ministry of Magic

By Ruth Eglash

In his inauguration speech on Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decried the problems he faced piecing together a ruling coalition despite an unexpected win at the polls in March.

Indeed, it took "King Bibi" nearly two long, arduous months to reach agreements with four other parties to create the new government. He needed a minimum of 61 lawmakers to secure a majority — the slimmest possible — in Israel's 120-seat parliament.

No one here was too surprised by the frantic political negotiations or by Netanyahu managing to pull it together for the fourth time. But what has left commentators — and the public — a bit perplexed is the mishmash of ministries that were announced, some of which he was forced to create to keep senior members of his own Likud party happy.

***1. Prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, minister of health, minister of communications, minister of regional cooperation — Benjamin Netanyahu*. Yep, that's right, Netanyahu will head at least five ministries.**

There are several theories about why he kept these slots for himself, especially at the expense of one of his party's most senior and

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popular lawmakers, Gilad Erdan. For now, Erdan, the outgoing interior minister, will remain outside the government. According to media speculation, the Likud No. 2 had been hoping to receive a top ministry — education, justice or foreign —but that never materialized.

While the education and justice portfolios were dished out as part of deals to other parties, it is still unclear why Netanyahu is holding on to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some commentators believe it is because the prime minister wants to use the position as a bargaining chip to lure in another coalition partner, possibly opposition leader Isaac Herzog, and strengthen the government. Only time will tell.

***2. Minister in the Communications Ministry — Ofir Akunis*. Previously a deputy minister, Ofir Akunis was bestowed the role of "minister in the Communication Ministry." And, no, that is not a typo.**

When the formal announcement was made by a Likud spokesman on Thursday, some journalists asked whether there was a mistake in the title. But the flack confirmed that Akunis would be 'a minister in the Communications Ministry' — which, of course, will be run by none other than the prime minister.

Perhaps to quickly save face, Akunis's new job description was revised to the more respectable title of "minister-without-portfolio" … to serve in the Communications Ministry.

***3. Minister of science, technology and space — Danny Danon*. Far-right lawmaker Danny Danon was fired from his post as deputy defense minister after criticizing the government's restraint during last summer's war with Hamas in Gaza.**
However, when Netanyahu appointed him science, technology and space minister, the question was not how the oft-outspoken politician managed to patch things up with the big boss, but rather: Whom exactly he is representing in outer space?

Almost immediately a host of memes appeared on social media, as well as two Facebook pages that poked fun at Israel's new "minister for alien affairs." They garnered thousands of "likes." However, in response to questions about his new position and title, Danon explained in a radio interview that, in fact, his predecessor, Yaakov Peri, had created the title. And, he insisted, it was fitting because Israel does have a serious space program.

***4. Minister of immigrant absorption and strategic affairs — Ze'ev Elkin.* Immigration to Israel is called "aliyah," which in Hebrew means "the act of going up" or "ascending," and encouraging aliyah among Jews around the world is one of the primary functions of the Immigrant Absorption Ministry.**

It's true that Ze'ev Elkin, a former deputy foreign minister who served as chairman of the coalition in the last government, might have gained invaluable experience keeping the peace between warring ministers. But encouraging aliyah at a time when Israel faces all sorts of strategic external threats might prove a little more tricky.

***5. Minister of senior citizens, gender equality, young people and minority affairs — Gila Gamliel.* It sounds a bit like a 5-year-old's glued-together art project: Former deputy minister Gila Gamliel, one**

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of the youngest members of the new government, will be responsible for the country's elderly, its youths, its minorities and its women. Basically, a ministry for anyone who is not white, male and between 25 to 65 years old.

Good luck with all that.

Al Monitor – May 20, 2015

Netanyahu's New Government Already on Shaky Ground

By Ben Caspit

Israel's Knesset convened May 18 for its first official meeting since the presentation and swearing-in of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government. The new ministers have begun getting accustomed to the new, difficult political reality forced on them. Since Netanyahu's fourth government is based on a very slim majority — 61 supporters in the coalition versus 59 in the opposition — ministers and Knesset members (MKs) in the coalition will have to remain firmly grounded, ready to vote at any given moment in the Knesset plenum.

Until today, an "offset," or quid pro quo, system had been customary in the Israeli parliament. This meant that coalition MKs could go on trips abroad and otherwise be absent from the plenum as much as they wanted as long as they could produce the name of a corresponding MK in the opposition who agreed to "offset" him or her — in other words, be absent from the same meetings and votes. As of now, the offset method has been revoked, and all leaves have been canceled. Everyone, and that means everyone, is confined to the plenum in a brittle, rare and terrifying balancing act.

MK Eitan Cabel, chairman of the Zionist Camp faction, which has 24 MKs, said on opening day that he has no intention of founding a "humanitarian exceptions committee" to give passes to unfortunate MKs who need to travel abroad.
"They are in the coalition," said Cabel, "and they need to win every vote. We in the opposition only need one vote to topple the

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government, and we'll do it."

Is it really so simple?

The burning question of the day is what is the anticipated life span of Netanyahu's government, balanced on a hair's breadth? Indeed, the government is already threatened by former popular minister and senior Likud Party member Gilad Erdan choosing to remain outside the festivities and the government, practically a one-man opposition against the prime minister. Well, different people have different answers to the life-span question.

Newbie opposition member and former Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman was quoted by associates as saying in closed talks May 18 that the government will fall faster than we think, "within months, maximum a year." An additional, fascinating question is: How long will it take for Liberman to get tired of the frustrating life in the opposition after being accustomed to a cushy, extended tenure in the Foreign Ministry?

Meantime, Liberman swears he's enjoying every minute of it, but the strong impulses that led him to take revenge on Netanyahu and topple him still exist and in full force. Liberman has no intention of giving up. He represents an alternative to Netanyahu on the right and is waiting in a dark corner for the right moment. The only problem is that the corner is shadowy, shabby, and boring.

Netanyahu will try his utmost to enlarge the government. The problem is that at this point, he has no options. Zionist Camp leader Isaac Herzog, with whom he had been in indirect contact in recent weeks, slammed the door in his face with a belligerent opposition speech during the swearing-in ceremony of the new government. Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid is not interested because it would be political suicide for him to join Netanyahu's government. In any case, the ultra-Orthodox parties would veto Lapid. Liberman? The hatred between the two men broke new records.

Given this state of affairs, Netanyahu will try to "fish" for isolated Knesset members in various parties to raise the quota of coalition MKs even by another two or three members. Here, too, however, there is no good news. Only one MK, former journalist Sharon Gal, who joined Liberman and serves in the Knesset under him, is viewed as a "possible target" for courting by Netanyahu. It's doubtful that Gal will make the move, and even if he does, it's doubtful that it will be sufficient.

Still, under the current system it's hard to bring down a government. The main obstacle faced by Netanyahu is the budget, which must pass before the end of the year. If he fails to pass a budget, with his razor-thin majority his government will fall. Another possibility is a no-confidence vote, but now, in contrast to the past, the opposition needs 61 hands to topple the government, plus it has to present an alternative government as well. This is no easy task. Thus, Netanyahu's real existential threat is his finance minister, Moshe Kahlon.

In the course of the coalition negotiations, Kahlon made it clear that he would not join a 61-member coalition, because it will be difficult for him to pass the reforms he plans. Reality slapped Netanyahu in the face, however, and the only coalition he was able to assemble was the

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narrow coalition that Kahlon feared. Thus the way for the opposition to undermine Netanyahu's government is to try and make Kahlon's life miserable, torpedoing his reforms in the hope that he'll get sick and tired of it and dissolve the government on his own. This is the scenario that worries Netanyahu as well.

Meanwhile, the new government is breaking all previous records in contradictions and fallacies suffered by its predecessors. The best example is Silvan Shalom, who also almost remained outside the government, joining at the last minute. Shalom received the Interior Ministry portfolio — minus the planning and construction jurisdictions, which were given to the finance minister — and the empty title of "vice prime minister."

Recently, it was publicized that Netanyahu had appointed Shalom to be "responsible for conducting negotiations with the Palestinians" and for "dialogue and strategic relations with the United States." We must remember that the current government has no active foreign minister, because that portfolio remains in Netanyahu's hands. Shalom, like many other Likud higher-ups, has expressed many times over the course of the past year that he is against a Palestinian state and the two-state solution. So, what kind of negotiations can he hold with the Palestinians? What exactly will he negotiate?

Netanyahu announced on Jerusalem Day, May 17, that Israel's capital will never be the capital of any other nation or state, slamming the door on all attempts to renew negotiations. After only 24 hours, the Jerusalem Post quoted Netanyahu's associates as saying that he aims to "renew the talks with the Palestinians." This leak was meant to serve as a welcoming greeting for Federica Mogherini, EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, who is due to arrive in Israel May 19 for meetings with Netanyahu and other high-level officials. It is clear to everyone involved that Netanyahu and Israel cannot continue to juggle so many balls in the air for much longer.

During his ultra-right-wing election campaign, the prime minister announced that a Palestinian state would not happen. Afterward he moderated his tone and began to talk again about negotiations, although his coalition makeup does not lend itself to any kind of flexibility and negates the basic assumption of any future peace agreement. How does one untangle this mess? Netanyahu hopes to go with the flow of events, to buy time and survive until the expiration of the serving American president's term.

And speaking of Barack Obama, let us also mention that he is responsible for Netanyahu's most important moment this week. Contrary to previous assessments, the president said that the chances for achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians are very slim at the moment, mainly because of the composition of Israel's coalition. In Jerusalem, they breathed a sigh of relief, but also raised a worried eyebrow. What was behind Obama's announcement?

At the beginning of his second term, Obama had staked his political capital on the goal of achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Will Obama now give the European Union the green light to start a campaign of boycotts and ostracism of Israel, including passing a resolution in the Security Council on outlines for an agreement with the Palestinians, thus gradually transforming Israel into a pariah state? Jerusalem has been receiving scraps of

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information indicating that this is, indeed, the direction in which things are headed.

“We’ll cross that bridge when we come to it,” Netanyahu’s people say. At the moment, they are battling enough fires on the domestic front. They’ll deal with the global front later.

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To: "Elias, Marc (Perkins Coie)" <MElias@perkinscoie.com>
Date: 3/21/2015 1:44:42 PM
Subject: Re: Brock

It's a book about to be published by Harper Collins called Clinton Cash. Will forward you the press release.

On Sat, Mar 21, 2015 at 8:39 PM, Elias, Marc (Perkins Coie) <MElias@perkinscoie.com > wrote:

> What is it a published book or a research book?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Mar 21, 2015, at 8:38 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > Marc, can we communicate with Brock about getting a copy of this Clinton Cash book? We need it very urgently if possible.
>
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> NOTICE: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you have received it in error, please advise the sender by reply email and immediately delete the message and any attachments without copying or disclosing the contents. Thank you.

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To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/3/2016 8:54:49 AM
Subject: Mitt Romney Speaks: Trump is a Phony

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Leah Barkoukis

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Matt Vespa

National Harbor, MD– The American Conservative Union hosted a panel on the issue of marriage and religious liberty at their annual Conservative Political Action Conference.
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Matt Vespa

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Christine Rousselle

Speaker Ryan Seeks To Turn Around Warped Definition of Success In Anti-Poverty Fight

Matt Vespa

Carry Reciprocity Restored: NRA Scores Huge Victory Against Bloomberg's Anti-Gun Zealots in Virginia

Katie Pavlich

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Matt Vespa

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Sen. Ted Cruz, My New Best Friend
Debra J. Saunders

Political Cartoons

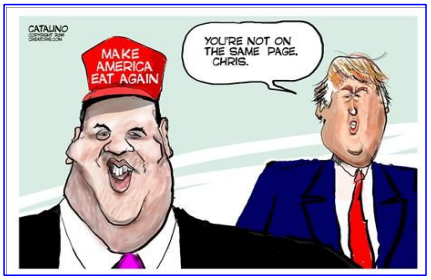

Bearing Arms

Friendly Reminder: SCOTUS Could Decide On Constitutionality Of 'Assault Weapons' Bans | Matt Vespa

MY VIEW: It's Cruz, or the Second Amendment Is Toast (Part 2) | Bob Owens

MY VIEW: It's Cruz, or the Second Amendment Is Toast (Part 1) | Bob Owens

ICYMI: Delaware Gun Sales Are Surging | Matt Vespa

Concrete Man Surprisingly Not Bulletproof | Bob Owens

Political News

Obama cites gains in health coverage during Milwaukee visit | AP News

Judge considers right to strike for US women's soccer team | AP News

APNewsBreak: US seeks end to Yellowstone grizzly protections | AP News

Debate day: Trump's ready for Rubio, Cruz to bring it on | AP News

Christie on Trump appearance: 'I wasn't being held hostage' | AP News

Obamacare in Full Effect
Plus: 2014 Senate Races

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From: "Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Begala, Paul" <pbegala@hatcreekent.com>
"Susan McCue" <susan@one.org>
"Stan Greenberg" <sgreenberg@gqrr.com>
"Zach Schwartz" <zschwartz@shangrila.us>
"Tara McGuinness" <tara@iraqcampaign.org>
ic2008 <ic2008@gqrr.com>
"Ana Iparraguirre" <anai@gqrr.com>
"Jim Gerstein" <jgerstein@democracycorps.com>
Date: 12/18/2007 3:41:48 AM
Subject: 11 AM ET today--IC call

IC Meeting
11:00 AM Eastern

This will be a short meeting just to update on items we skipped yesterday.

DIAL IN NUMBER: 877-699-4804
PASSCODE 202 478 8300

Agenda

1. Tracking Update
2. Research Update
3. George W. Bush SOTU planning
4. Check-in on items for this week: timelines, creative briefs, polling memo

(See tracking update on what the R candidates have been up to below.)

Re: Tracker Program Update 12/13

Rudy Giuliani 1

Mitt Romney 2

Mike Huckabee 5

Fred Thompson 7

John McCain 8

Event Details:

- Giuliani held two events in IA, two events in IL, two events in FL, two events in CA and one event in Texas 12/6-12/12. This pattern evidences a "Feb. 5th State" strategy.
- He attended the GOP Univision Debate in Miami on 12/09/07.
- He appeared on NBC on 12/09/07 (transcript below).
- He attended the GOP Iowa debate on 12/12/07.
- While in TX for Romney's religion speech, one of our trackers was denied entry into a Giuliani fundraiser in the area.
- While in Florida on 12/06/07, Giuliani hosted a Web "House Party" event.

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- In Cedar Rapids, IA, Giuliani hosted a town hall where approximately 130 supporters showed, but our tracker noticed several of empty seats.

Key Quotes from Web "House Party":

On Health Care: "I don't want Hillary's bureaucrats to run your health care, I want *you* to run your health care. That's the thing that makes America great. America is not great because of it's central government; America is great because of its people."

On Iran:

"We should increase the sanctions. **Obviously the pressure worked in 2003, if the national intelligence estimate is correct.** The pressure worked in 2003 to get them to back off their nuclear program. And what happened in 2003? What big thing happened in 2003? We deposed Saddam."

"The main sponsor or biggest sponsor of international terrorism."

"The end result is we should consider Iran a country that is an irresponsible regime."

On the Economy:

"If you can hold down the growth of government, you can reduce taxes. If you can reduce taxes, you can put a lot more people to work. I see lower taxes as more jobs."

On Meet The Press:

Giuliani played "defense" on Meet the Press on 12/09/07.

View Article Here: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/10/2007-12-10_rudy_giuliani_plays_defense_on_press.html

Transcript Here: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22170668/print/1/displaymode/1098/

Video Here: http://video.msn.com/video.aspx?mkt=en-US&brand=msnbc&vid=e10461f7-89e1-415c-aa58-80d1b6f8066e

Event Details:

- Romney held four events in FL, four events in IA, two events in MI, one event in NY and four events in TX 12/6-12/12. In terms of sheer number of events and the scope of their geography, Romney's team is the most organized and hard-working of all the campaigns.
- He attended the GOP Univision Debate in Miami on 12/09/07.
- He appeared on ABC on 12/09/07.
- He attended the GOP Iowa debate on 12/12/07.
- Romney spoke to packed houses at his events in IA this week. One event in Cedar Rapids attracted over 700 people.
- One of our trackers was able to get into and record Romney's big speech on faith on 12/06/09. This was no easy feat. Our tracker had to get passed the Secret Service to get in. We have the full video in house and in the process of being categorized and uploaded to a viewer-friendly site.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Results from Romney's 'Faith in America' Speech:

Poll: Romney speech fails to sway voters' opinions on Mormons (Salt Lake Tribune, 12/11/07)

Despite Mitt Romney's passionate plea for voters to look beyond doctrinal differences between his Mormon faith and other Christian religions, a new [Gallup] poll shows virtually no change in Americans' willingness to cast a ballot for a Mormon candidate.

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_7692437

Romney released an attack ad against Huckabee this week:

In New Ad, Romney Attacks Huckabee on Immigration (New York Times, 12/11/07)

Mitt Romney 's presidential campaign plans to begin running a negative television advertisement today in Iowa highlighting Mike Huckabee 's record on immigration , escalating the warfare between the two Republican candidates as they scramble for support in the nation's first nominating state.

Article: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/ 12/11/us/politics/11huckabee.html?ref=politics

Transcript of the ad: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/11/us/politics/11adbox.html?ref=politics

Link to the ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hei8iDK61do

Romney runs campaign's inaugural TV attack ad (LA Times, 12/11/07)

In a sign of the rapidly shifting dynamics of the Republican presidential contest, Mitt Romney on Monday became the first candidate to run a TV attack ad, slamming Mike Huckabee on immigration in a bid to brake his rival's sharp rise in the polls.

http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/la-na-romney11dec11,1,5902015.story?coll=la-news-politics-national&ctrack=2&cset=true

On the draft:

> **Q:** "When is Congress and all the candidates gonna realize that our American army is spread out as thin as mayonnaise on a hamburger sandwich, or ham sandwich, and we need to reinstate the draft. We need to reinstate the draft to make sure, to send a strong message to the terrorists all around the world, from all walks of life, that we maintain our army and uh be free…"

A: " …Let me respond to your question on the draft. And that is, **I do not believe we should have draft or we need to return to the draft to have a strong and able military**. And I believe, I believe that in part because I've seen the experience of what happens if we, if we provide to our military the kind of benefits and rewards that America should provide. In my state we had, we saw every-year we saw about 6% of our enrollments in our National Guard going down; down 6% a year. And then the legislature and I passed something known as the 'Welcome Home Bill'. And it said that if you signed up for the National Guard you'd get four years tuition and fee-free at any Massachusetts public institution of higher learning. And our enrollments went up 30%. Men and women said 'Yeah, I want that. I want to be able to have that, that uh military career and I want that education.' And so I want to make sure that we provide the benefits to our young men and young women which make it a good deal and an interesting opportunity for them to be able to serve in the military.

And so that's, in my view, how we'll be able build the troops from our current 1.5 million approximately, active duty, to about **1.6 million, which I think is the number that we need. I also think we're gonna have to increase our military funding from about 3.8% of our economic activity to about 4%.** That doesn't sound like a lot; but that little change in percent takes us up about 40 or 50 billion dollars a year, will allow us to build new equipment, to buy new equipment for our soldiers to be safe and to be successful, and also allow us to take better care of our veterans."

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("Strategy for a Stronger America" event; Des Moines, IA 12/07/07)

*Clip Available

On illegal immigration and his personal ties to it:

> **Question from Dana Bash of CNN:** Governor, both in the mail and on the stump, and even on television, you talk about how tough you are on immigration. And yet you allowed contractors to be at your house who clearly had illegal immigrants working for them. Do you see a paradox there?

A: What I see is that we have a country where there is not an employment verification system, that allows contractors, that allows companies to know who's in the country legally and illegally. And I certainly have never proposed that homeowners have a responsibility, when they hire a contractor or a company, to then go out and inquire of the company's employees whether they happen to be illegal or not. That's not the, that's not the course of this country, it's actually… potentially even against the law. So its not something that as a, as a homeowner, I'm able to do, its not something that's available under our current system in this country. **And that's why I proposed that instead we have an employment verification system, to identify which aliens are here legally which are not here legally**. On that basis companies that do the hiring would be able to do the assessment. But the individuals at my home were not my employees. They were hired by a company, **the company made a fault, made a mistake in judgment**, and that's why I terminated the relationship with them.

> **Q:** If I may follow up sir, you're running as someone who is a CEO, who is really focused on issues like this. Like judgment, not an average everyday citizen; so, should people look to you as someone who would have the judgment or perhaps take the extra mile to make sure that no illegal…

A: And what's, and what's the extra mile?

> **Q:** To make sure… especially if you're trying to be president.

A: Tell me how you would do that in this country? So for instance, let's say I go to a restaurant. Should I make sure that all the waiters there are all legal? How would I do that?"

> **Q:** You knew that this company had illegal immigrants before…"

("Strategy for a Stronger America" event; Des Moines, IA 12/07/07)

*Clip Available

His wife on the stump:

"…what is the most important thing in life. It certainly has been our children and making sure that our boys have good values and understand what's the most important thing in life. I cannot say as a mother **how proud I am of my sons because they have married well**, and they are good fathers too. And um, **that to me is really the greatest honor I can give Mitt**, really…"

(Post Debate Party; Johnston, IA 12/12/07)

*Clip Available

On Reagan:

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"The **right course for America, is to follow the course that Ronald Reagan outlined**. Ronald Reagan when he faced the Soviets in the Cold War said the right way for us to win this battle is to strengthen ourselves, to have strong confidence in ourselves, strong values, strong families…"

(Christmas Party; Marion, IA 12/12/07)

*Clip Available

Event Details:

- Huckabee held one event in IA (three events were cancelled due to the ice storm), one event in NC and two events in SC 12/6-12/12.
- He attended the GOP Univision Debate in Miami on 12/09/07.
- He also appeared on Fox News on 12/09/07.

View Transcript Here: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,316253,00.html

- He attended the GOP Iowa debate on 12/12/07.

On Energy and Terrorists:

"It is secondly important that we can fuel ourselves. One of the most urgent tasks of the next president had better be to lead this country to energy independence not in twenty… not in thirty years… (inaudible). **I am no longer willing to pay for both sides of the war on terror. Having my tax dollars fund the military to fight it, but the gasoline and oil dollars pay for the other side to send the terrorists against us**." (Meet and Greet; Greenville, SC 12/08/07)

*Clip Available

On previous statements on AIDS:

"**I have to stand by what I said**. And the fact is it wasn't unusual for us to do something unlike the medical protocols. Medical protocol typically says that when you have a disease for which there is no cure, and you are uncertain about the transmission of it, that the first thing you do is quarantine or isolate the carriers."

(Press Conference; Asheville, SC 12/08/07)

*Clip Available

Citing Progressive Leaders:

"In my lifetime I've seen four major cultural shifts, which is what we're talking about here, a cultural shift not a programmatic shift. Four cultural shifts in my lifetime, litter, seat-belt use, smoking, drunk-driving. Go all the way back to the mid-60s. Litter was a huge problem. **Lady Bird Johnson said that 'we need to keep America beautiful.' And so we started a campaign to do that**… The same thing happened with seat belts. I remember when seat belts didn't exist in cars and they were an after-market device. Nobody had a seat-belt… **And Ralph Nader kept pushing it. Next thing you know, we put the seatbelts in the car by congressional mandate in the late 60s…**"

Note: He did NOT mention Reagan at this event.

(Healthcare Forum; Des Moines, IA 12/12/07)

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On Health Care/'Socialized Medicine':

Q: Why are all Republican candidates frequently misusing the term "socialized-medicine" when they refer to any Democratic candidates' healthcare plans?

A: "**Cause we want to win**," (laughter). I think the idea, to be fair, I think Republicans and Democrats both somewhat have it wrong. The Democrats say we want the government to run your healthcare system, **frankly some of the Republicans, their only answer is we want the insurance companies to do it**. My position has been neither of those; **I don't trust the insurance companies, I don't trust the government, I trust me.** I don't want a third party person making the decision on whether or not I get surgery, or what kind of test is going to be run.

You know why? They're not looking after my interest, they're looking after their own. And whether its an insurance company or a government don't ever think you're gonna be better off if you turn your basic healthcare needs over to someone who doesn't love you as much as you need to love yourself… An insurance company ought to be a provider but not necessarily the personal decision-maker. And so that's why I believe in personal ownership of your plan that has portability…"

(Healthcare Forum; Des Moines, IA 12/12/07)

*Clip Available

On Mormonism:

Q: Would you like to take the opportunity to clarify your recent statements on whether Mormons are Christians?

A: Well, today, after the uhh debate**, I personally went to Mitt Romney. I apologized for the comment that was in the, I guess it was all over the news, all over the place**. It was excerpted out of an article that is going to appear this week. And it raised the question, it said, I asked a question about Jesus and Satan. The conversation, and we talked to a reporter at the New York Times, who was I think as shocked as we were that even became this news story. It was in a discussion that lasted over several hours… He was asking me about the whole issue of my faith and then it drifted to what I think about Mormonism. I said I don't want to talk about someone else's faith, I can barely keep up with being a Baptist, and I sure don't know much about being a Mormon. And I simply didn't go there, and I haven't gone there. And so then he was saying, but there are some different things about Mormonism. He obviously knew more about it then I did. In the course of that conversation, honestly, I raised the question, I asked, is this part of their beliefs. The next thing I know, I mean it was in the story, and it was even quoted in the story as an innocent question. But no-one believed it was an innocent question, they thought I was trying to throw something out there. I was horrified when I read that.

And I apologized to Mitt Romney because first of all, I don't think his being a Mormon or not being a Mormon has a thing to do with being president. And I would never say that a person should for or against anybody because their of any faith. Umm, **I don't think people should vote for or against me because I'm a Baptist**… **Mitt Romney's Mormonism is not an issue, as far as I'm concerned, in his qualification to be President**…."

(Healthcare Forum; Des Moines, IA 12/12/07)

*Clip Available

Huckabee apologizes for comments on Mormons (CNN, 12/12/07)

Republican Mike Huckabee Wednesday personally apologized to rival Mitt Romney for comments he made in an upcoming New York Times Magazine article that appear to disparage the Mormon faith.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/ 12/12/huckabee.mormons/?iref=mpstoryview

Event Details:

- Thompson held two events is IA 12/6-12/12.
- Thompson's wife held one event in SC this week as well. However, the event lasted only a few minutes.
- He attended the GOP Univision Debate in Miami on 12/09/07.
- He attended the GOP Iowa debate on 12/12/07.
- The media's characterization of Thompson as 'lazy' is not inaccurate. His events are often very short and a very few. In fact, it looks like he'll be narrowing his campaign stops to even fewer places – NH is not longer part of his strategy:

> **Thompson Rules Out N.H. (CBS, 12/11/07)**
>
> The Thompson campaign confirms to **CBS News** that Thompson will not campaign in New Hampshire before January 3rd to concentrate on Iowa. On Friday night, he **hinted** at this but the campaign made it official today.
>
> http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2007/12/11/politics/fromtheroad/entry3607951.shtml

On Taxes:

"…People oughta have the option to pay a much simpler, much flatter tax. I have proposed a 10% rate and a 25% rate. The cut off is 100k a couple. Above 100k you pay 25%, plain and simple. You could fill it out on that right there and send it in…"

(Meet and Greet; Davenport, IA 12/07/07)

*Clip Available

On Energy:

Q: With oil around 90 dollars a barrel would you be willing consider drilling in ANWR or the Gulf…?

A: "Well I like the way you think. Um, first question has to do with ANWR, absolutely."

(Meet and Greet; Davenport, IA 12/07/07)

*Clip Available

Event Details:

- McCain held one event in IA, one event in FL, eight events in NH and six events in SC 12/6-12/12.
- He attended the GOP Univision Debate in Miami on 12/09/07.
- He also appeared on Fox News on 12/09/07.

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View Transcript Here: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,316254,00.html

- He attended the GOP Iowa debate on 12/12/07.
- At two separate events, our campaign staff was able to get questions asked. (see transcript below)

On Iran and the NIE:

Questioner Tim Lisewski: "Senator, General Petraeus today said that the Iranians have stopped arming the insurgents in Iraq and you have been pretty tough, like President Bush has, on Iraq and you seem to be (McCain: "you mean Iran"), well I mean Iraq and Iran. I just wondered what your opinion is on the latest NIE.

McCain: "Well, um, I'm interested that General Petraeus said that today, if he did, I did not see the report because uh, when I saw him last week, he said that they didn't know and so I would have to also check it out. I think he said there were some indications of reductions of some of these explosive devices coming across the border, but they were still coming across and I think that is what it was. I believe that the Iranians are not acting in the national security interest…" ….

"So, um **I would be willing to have a dialogue with Iran** if it's necessary to do so. I wouldn't necessarily do it with the President of Iran. Blackberries work, communications work, intermediaries work, ambassadors work, uh, but **I don't believe that Iran has abandoned in any way shape or form their ambition to exert Persian influence in the region**. That has been the case for thousands of years and I don't think it's changed and I believe that they are oppressive and repressive(?) and unfair government and everybody I have talked to whose word I trust says the same thing. There is always an element in America, it was there when we thought Hitler was a nice guy, we thought, it was there when we thought Stalin was a nice guy. And there have been many times where we thought that some of these foreign countries and their leaders, uh, shared our values and our principles. I don't think the Iranians do, not that government. Go ahead, give him back the microphone. Go ahead"

Tim: "So, do I understand you would use diplomacy rather than a military, you know, viewpoint on Iran."

McCain: "No leader in the world, hold on to the microphone, no leader of the United States of America would say they would use a military option. **But to completely remove the military option is not something I would do**. I would certainly, certainly exercise sanctions, exercise any effort that I can, because when we send our young men and women into harms way that's the most difficult decision of all. Okay? Thank you very much."

(Town Hall; Raymond, NH 12/06/07)

*Clip Available

On 527's:

"We do have, unfortunately, the 527s, the MoveOn.orgs. Those are not a violation of our law. Perhaps they, we should have been more specific on that, but the '74 law, the 1974 law applies to these people, and, uh, if I could just quote it very quickly, it says any organizations that, that engage in partisan political purposes to influence the outcome of elections are subject to campaign contribution limits. So the Federal Elections Commission, the commission that's set up to enforce this, basically has not enforced this, and if they did it was on a case-by-case basis rather than prohibiting all of it. **This is how you get MoveOn.org and George Soros, uh, spending hundreds, I'm told, hundreds of millions of dollars to affect the outcome of political campaigns. It's got to be stopped. It's got to be stopped**. And by the way, again, I don't mean to, to continue on this, but I'm sure you all know about the full-page ad that MoveOn.org took out in the New York Times with a picture of General Petraeus and said 'General Petraeus or General Betray Us. You know, there's, there's no place in America for that, for that kinda thing. **And so I want it stopped, I will try to get the 527s stopped**."

(Town Hall; Atkinson, NH 12/07/07)

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More on MoveOn (and Iraq):

"This is an organization that a couple of months ago, took out a full-page ad in the New York Times, with a picture of General Patreus on it. And it said: 'General Patreus or General Betray Us.' A disgraceful attack on a patriotic American…

Well the same organization today said that the Democrat senators that are running for president have to pledge to filibuster the bill that funds the young men and women and their mission in Iraq today… **We are winning in Iraq. And we can win. And we will win**."

(Town Hall; Leesville, SC 12/10/07)

*Clip Available

Cost of war:

"If the Democrats have their way and we set a date for surrender, we will pay a horrendous cost in American blood and treasure in the future."

(Town Hall; Bedford, NH 12/07/07)

On military families poll:

> Questioner Tory Brown: "I've read a poll today that said that 60%, I believe, of military families, don't believe that the Iraq War justifies the cost. How do you expect to justify sort of the tough talk you give about Iran, especially in light of the NIE findings that they have suspended their nuclear weapons program."

McCain: "…I don't except that or believe it. In all due respect, ma'am, I know the military, I hear from them by the thousands, I know them. I just came back from spending Thanksgiving with them in Iraq. So, I categorically reject that assertion and I will not accept it…They know they're succeeding."

> Tory: "It was a poll that was taken."

McCain: "**I don't care if it's a banana. I don't believe it.** I know them too well. I've spent too many years in the military and associated with the military. We just have a disagreement with the poll…"

> Tory: "…The costs have been enormous…they don't believe the war is justified by the costs. How can you go about justifying the future cost of a war…I just don't understand."

McCain: "…Nobody hates war more than a veteran…**But there are worse things than war**, unfortunately, and we found that out with the rise of Hitler and we found out in other times in history that there are times when tragically it is a necessary action we take. But no one understands better than a veteran."

(Town Hall; Bedford, NH 12/07/07)

Clip: **http://youtube.com/watch?v=lK-AQFNIwIE**

On destroyed CIA tapes:

"Today we see, on the front page of the New York Times and other newspapers, that the CIA decided to erase

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some interrogation tapes of interrogations of some al Qaeda people… bad people, bad, bad people. But they decided against the recommendation of members of Congress, and, uh, a lot of other people and organizations not to erase those tapes. What does that do? That confirms suspicions of people who are our enemies that, that we, that we engage in interrogation techniques which are illegal, it causes, uh, others to be encouraged, and it erodes the credibility and confidence of the American people in their government. **And I'll tell ya, as president of the United States, we will never torture another person in the custody of the United States of America. That's not what America is supposed to do**. [applause]"

(Town Hall; Nashua, NH 12/08/07)

*Clip Available

Question: Sen. Biden called for a special counsel to investigate the destruction of the two CIA tapes. Do you think it's an appropriate measure?

A: "I think it's a partisan measure… We oughtta at least first wait and see while the Justice Department preliminary investigation is going on before we 'jump' to a 'special counsel.' Why don't we what the new Attorney General of the United States has to say?"

(Meet and Greet; North Augusta, SC 12/10/07)

*Clip Available

On Climate Change and Bush:

"I was deeply **disappointed in the Bush Administration's failure to recognize the reality of climate change** and to seriously address it… For a long time, we got no cooperation on the issue of climate change."

(Speech at the Center for Hydrogen Research; Aiken, SC 12/10/07)

*Clip Available

On his experience and National Security:

"My friends I've had the experience, I've had the knowledge and the background that I have the judgement to handle these challenges to national security. Unlike 2000, we are in two wars. Unlike 2000, we have had an attack on the United States of America that killed more than 3000 of our innocent civilians. Unlike 2000, we are facing this challenge of radical Islamic extremism, which will be with us for a long time. I think I'm prepared to beat it. [...] In the toughest times when I supported the surge, Sen. John Edwards called it 'the McCain surge.' 'McCain strategy.' He doesn't say that anymore, but he used to. A lot of political pundits are saying that 'John McCain's political ambitions are at an end.' **I will tell you right now that I'd rather lose a campaign than I would lose a war.**"

(Meet and Greet; Greenville, SC 12/12/07)

*Clip Available

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/9/2015 4:08:54 AM
Subject: TWEETS 9/9

TWEETS 9/9

Evidence that unions push policies — higher minimum wage, $ for schools, govt programs — that benefit workers http://nyti.ms/1hXdo4W @amprog (139)

.@HillaryClinton's history confronting Iran's support for terrorism & countering its nuclear ambitions is unmatched https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/08/counter-threats-from-iran/ (140)

Falling cost of batteries and distributed solar signal a major shift. It's time to open up the grid. http://www.vox.com/2015/9/9/9287719/utilities-monopoly?utm_campaign=vox&utm_content=article%3Afixed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter#
Want to piss off some utilities? Really great long-form piece from Vox about breaking down public utilities and opening up the grid to innovation...
(140)

RETWEETS 9/9

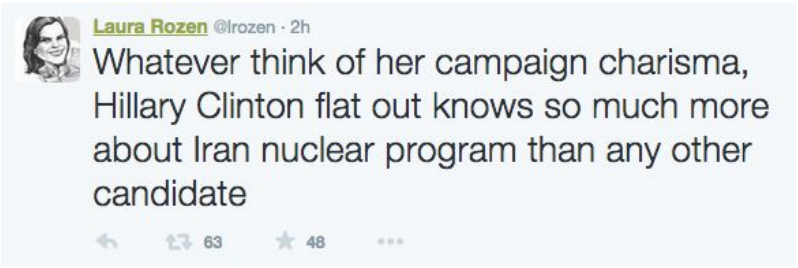

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: andres@progressiveaccountability.org
Date: 7/10/2008 1:13:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/10

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 10th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

12pm McCain: Town Hall in Belleville, MI - 5910 Belleville Rd, Belleville, MI
- Tracking scheduled for this event
5:30pm McCain: HQ tour in St. Paul, MN - 680 Transfer Rd, St. Paul, MN
7pm McCain: Tele-Town Hall for Virginia Voters

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Tanker redo might hurt McCain's bid (Politico 7/10/08)
By Jen Dimascio
As the Pentagon mounts a new effort to buy $35 billion in aerial refueling tankers, the controversy engulfing the competition could haunt John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11648.html

McCain: Selling an Economic Policy (Time 7/10/08)
By Karen Tumulty
John McCain has retooled his campaign — yet again — and put Steve Schmidt, a veteran of Karl Rove's old shop, in charge of the day-to-day operation. He's back out again doing what he says he loves best, mixing it up with voters in town hall settings. Where he once professed not to know much about the economy, it's now what he talks about constantly.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1821470,00.html

McCain revs up efforts to woo Hispanic voters (Arizona Republic 7/10/08)
By Dan Nowicki
John McCain is in aggressive pursuit of Latino voters but is struggling to overcome a negative Republican brand and a crucial political pivot on immigration reform that he made during the GOP primaries.
http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/07/10/20080710mccain-immig0710.html
See Also: http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/laplaza/2008/07/mccain-shifts-h.html

McCain's Adviser Salter Writes, Speaks and Fights for Candidate (Bloomberg.com 7/10/08)
By Edwin Chen
John McCain has run for president twice, gone through four campaign managers, written five books and delivered hundreds of speeches. The one constant: Mark Salter, the Arizona senator's longtime aide and alter ego.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=a1B9CrfQUSlo&refer=home

A new tactic for straight-talking McCain? Dump the traveling press (LA Times 7/10/08)
By Andrew Malcolm
One of the most important issues to any presidential campaign is controlling the message transmitted to the voting public through the media covering each day's events. One of the biggest threats to controlling that message is the media itself
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/07/mccain-media.html

McCain, RNC to hit Obama on radio (Politico 7/9/08)
By Jonathan Martin
In a coordinated ad, John McCain and the RNC are going after Barack Obama on Washington-area radio stations ahead of the Democrat's visit to northern Virginia Thursday.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCain_RNC_to_hit_Obama_on_radio_.html
Link to ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ryg7HmLA2-g

McCain Squirms on Birth Control Question (Wall Street Journal 7/9/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
While John McCain often embodies an anything-goes attitude when talking to reporters, it doesn't mean some subjects can't make him sweat—say, birth control. A female Los Angeles Times reporter inquired today about comments made earlier this week by McCain campaign adviser Carly Fiorina, the former head of Hewlett Packard.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/09/mccain-squirms-on-birth-control-question/

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

McCain takes on abortion issue in Ohio (CNN.com 7/9/08)
By Peter Hamby
John McCain broached his pet topic of pork barrel spending about five separate times during his Ohio town hall Wednesday, but the GOP nominee-in-waiting didn't get a standing ovation during question time until he mentioned an issue he typically avoids — abortion.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/09/mccain-takes-on-abortion-issue-in-ohio/

In theory, economists support McCain (Politico 7/9/08)
By Alexander Burns and Avi Zenilman
The endorsement could hardly have been stronger. On Monday, **John McCain** 's campaign released a **statement** signed by 300 economists who "enthusiastically support" his "Jobs for America" economic plan, providing a heavyweight testimonial to the presumptive Republican nominee's "broad and powerful economic agenda."
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11618.html

Carly Fiorina's fuzzy McCain-speak (LA Times 7/9/08)
By Cathleen Decker
Carly Fiorina is one of John McCain's chief surrogates, talking him up particularly to that key target group, women. But Fiorina, ousted as chief of Hewlett-Packard in 2005, is not above rounding the edges on straight talk.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-carly10-2008jul10,0,228806.story?track=rss

McCain Sparks Controversy with Social Security 'Disgrace' Comments (Washington Post - The Trial 7/9/08)
By Jonathan Weisman and Michael D. Shear
In remarks at a town hall meeting in Denver Monday, which are only now catching up to him, the presumptive Republican nominee laid out what he likes to call "a little straight talk." ... If that payment system is a disgrace, it has been one since Social Security was created during the Great Depression.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/09/mccain_sparks_controversy_with.html

Analysis: McCain's camp highlights differences with Bush (CNN 7/9/08)
By Mark Preston
John McCain and George Bush have a lot in common, but these two Republicans have also had some high profile differences, and McCain's presidential campaign is more than willing to point them out.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/09/preston.mccain/

McCain Gets a Little Help from Outside Group (Washington Post - The Trail 7/9/08)
By Matthew Mosk
When the political group Vets for Freedom bought TV ads in Virginia, right after Sen. John McCain's campaign canceled its own ad buy there, Democrats complained that the group must be coordinating its efforts with the McCain camp.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/09/mccain_gets_a_little_help_from.html

AFL-CIO Goes After McCain in Battleground States (Washington Post - The Fix 7/9/08)
By Chris Cillizza
The AFL-CIO is preparing to launch television ads in six battleground states tomorrow that take direct aim at separating **John McCain** 's military service from his service and record in the U.S. Senate.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/07/aflcio_goes_after_mccain_in_ba.html?nav=rss_blog

The Two Johns: How Kerry and McCain Grew Apart (Washington Post - The Fix 7/9/08)
By Chris Cillizza
By all accounts, the two men were close for much of the past two decades -- brought together by their service on a Senate select committee in the early 1990s that looked into the fate of prisoners of war and others missing in action in Vietnam. http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/07/the_two_johns_how_kerry_and_mc.html?nav=rss_blog

McCain adviser tells House GOPers they won't flip on ANWR (Politico 7/9/08)
By Jonathan Martin
A top adviser to John McCain's campaign told a private gathering of House Republicans today that the GOP nominee would press Barack Obama on energy but wouldn't retreat from his opposition to drilling in ANWR.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCain_adviser_tells_House_GOPers_they_wont_flip_on_ANWR.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

No G(r)8 Accomplishment (Washington Post 7/10/08)
President Bush's agreement to a declaration on climate change comes seven years late. THE GROUP of Eight declaration of its commitment to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2050 could be viewed as a ho-hum event when you consider that German Chancellor Angela Merkel sought the same commitment at last year's summit and that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has called for a cut of up to 80 percent in the same period.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/09/AR2008070901977.html?hpid=opinionsbox1

McCain Sticks By Cap-N-Trade (The Atlantic 7/9/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Larry Kudlow is happy because he thinks John McCain has consigned his signature cap-and-trade carbon emissions proposal to the basement ... Jill Hazelbaker, McCain's communications director, calls the notion that McCain is abandoning or minimizing his support for cap-n-trade "totally false."
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/mccain_sticks_by_capntrade.php

McCain's Energy Ad Working -- Obama Fights Back (San Francisco Chronicle 7/9/08)
By Joe Garofoli
We told you earlier this week that the Republican National Committee ad touting John McCain's energy plan was full o' holes, but did you care? No.
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/sfgate/detail?blogid=14&entry_id=28014

McCain vs. Obama: Still fighting the '60s culture wars? (LA Times 7/9/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

If you ever want to know whether someone is really a Democrat or a Republican at heart, just ask them what they think about the '60s. As Bill Clinton, the shrewdest of all judges when it came to divining voters' subconscious political loyalties, memorably put it: "If you look back on the '60s and think there was more good than harm, you're probably a Democrat. If you think there was more harm than good, you're probably a Republican."
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/the_big_picture/2008/07/mccain-vs-obama.html

The Wiretapping Bill: President Bush, and Fear, Lead the Senate Off a Cliff (NY Times 7/9/08)
The results were so thoroughly precooked that there was no surprise in the Senate's 69-to-28 vote today to gut a law that has protected Americans from spying by their own government for 30 years.
http://theboard.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/the-wiretapping-bill-president-bush-and-fear-lead-the-senate-off-a-cliff/?hp

BUSH NEWS

Bush Wins Ground at His Last G-8 Session (Wall Street Journal 7/10/08)
By John D. McKinnon and Sebastian Moffett
President George W. Bush's last meeting of the Group of Eight leading powers proved to be his most successful, at least as measured by the incremental progress achieved on climate change, aid to Africa and G-8 accountability measures.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121559941214738889.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Bush's last climate summit leaves much to do (AFP 7/10/08)
US President George W. Bush's last Group of Eight summit only inched forward the fight against climate change but drew the battle lines more sharply than ever between rich and poor nations.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5iLkCYECzd09K-_2K8hdlqn1IMH4A

George Bush signs a letter to GOP faithful about you-know-what (LA Times 7/10/08)
By Andrew Malcolm
George is calling for money. President Bush's public approval ratings may be gathering mold in the Gallup Poll's basement. But the soon-retiring Republican president still has pull on the purse-strings of his party members.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/07/bush-money.html

Bush wins passage of spy bill to protect telecoms (Reuters 7/10/08)
By Thomas Ferraro
President George W. Bush won final congressional approval on Wednesday of a bill granting liability protection to telecommunication companies that took part in the warrantless domestic spying program he began after the September 11 attacks.
http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSWAT00975320080710
See Also: http://origin.sltrib.com/news/ci_9829067 , http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=5344932 , http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/09/senate.fisa/

OTHER TOP NEWS

U.S. Foreclosures Rose 53% in June, Bank Seizures Almost Triple (Bloomberg.com 7/10/08)
By Dan Levy
U.S. foreclosure filings rose 53 percent in June from a year earlier and bank repossessions almost tripled as deteriorating property values and higher payments on adjustable mortgages forced more people to give up their homes.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=abT98mv4UtNI&refer=home

Iran test-fires more missiles in Persian Gulf (AP 7/10/08)
Iran test-fired more long-range missiles overnight in a second round of exercises meant to show that the country can defend itself against any attack by the U.S. or Israel, Iranian state television reported Thursday.
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-fg-iranmissile11-2008jul11,0,1629142.story?track=rss

Rice warns Iran that U.S. will defend Israel (AP 7/10/08)
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned Iran on Thursday that the United States will not back down in the face of Iranian threats against Israel. Iranian officials have strongly suggested the country's missile test on Wednesday was itself a warning to Israel not to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. Israel has left that option open.
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-fg-rice11-2008jul11,0,2538358.story?track=rss

Ex-Secretaries Suggest New War Powers Policy (Washington Post 7/9/08)
By Karen DeYoung
The 1973 War Powers Resolution is ineffective, possibly unconstitutional and should be repealed, two former secretaries of state said yesterday in proposing new legislation to govern the war-making powers of the president and Congress.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/08/AR2008070802803.html?nav=rss_politics

Kennedy Casts Key Vote as Medicare Bill Passes (NY Times 7/10/08)
By DAVID STOUT
Senator Edward M. Kennedy returned to the Senate on Wednesday for the first time since being sidelined with cancer and was greeted by a bipartisan barrage of whoops, cheers and applause before savoring a legislative triumph.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/10/washington/10kennedy.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&oref=slogin

Senate Approves Bill to Broaden Wiretap Powers (NY Times 7/9/08)
By Eric Lichtblau
The Senate gave final approval on Wednesday to a major expansion of the government's surveillance powers, handing President Bush one more victory in a series of hard-fought clashes with Democrats over national security issues.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/10/washington/10fisa.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Polls show high interest in poverty issue (Politico 7/9/08)
By Alexander Burns
Americans want the news media to focus more on poverty during the current presidential campaign, according to a new poll commissioned by Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity, an initiative that raises awareness about economic distress in America.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11637.html

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Sen. Kennedy Returns to the Senate (Wall Street Journal 7/9/08)
By Sarah Lueck
The U.S. Senate—Republicans and Democrats alike—greeted Sen. Edward Kennedy with a standing ovation Wednesday afternoon as he made an unannounced visit to vote for a health care bill to increase pay for doctors in Medicare.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/09/sen-kennedy-returns-to-the-senate/

Jackson Apologizes for Obama Remarks (NY Times 7/9/08)
By Brian Stelter
Updated The Rev. Jesse Jackson apologized Wednesday for critical comments he made about Senator Barack Obama that were picked up by a Fox News Channel microphone.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/jackson-apologizes-for-obama-remarks/

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 4/2/2015 11:44:24 AM
Subject: Re: Iran statement

Looks great. If folks are good, let's get out.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:14 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

+ Brian

From: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Cc: Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
Subject: Iran statement

HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It is also vital that our efforts to deny Iran a nuclear weapon be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From: "Kennan Institute" <kennan@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/11/2014 3:03:24 AM
Subject: Register Now: “They Can Live in the Desert but N owhere Else: A History of the Armenian Genocide"

To view this email as a web page, click here

Kennan Institute

Wilson Center

“They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else: A History of the Armenian Genocide"

Starting in early 1915, the Ottoman Turks began deporting and killing hundreds of thousands of Armenians in the first major genocide of the twentieth century. By the end of the First World War, the number of Armenians in what would become Turkey had been reduced by ninety percent—more than a million people. A century later, the Armenian Genocide remains controversial but relatively unknown, overshadowed by later slaughters and the chasm separating Turkish and Armenian versions of events. In this definitive narrative history, **Ronald Suny** cuts through nationalist myths, propaganda, and denial to provide an unmatched account of when, how, and why the atrocities of 1915–1916 were committed.

Drawing on archival documents and eyewitness accounts, Professor Suny's book is a vivid and unforgettable chronicle of a cataclysm that set a tragic pattern for a century of genocide and crimes against humanity.

This event is cosponsored by the Global Europe Program

Speaker

Ronald Grigor Suny
Kennan Institute Title VIII-supported Short Term Scholar; Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of History, University of Michigan

Moderator

Thomas de Waal
Senior Associate, Russia and Eurasia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

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Thursday, August 14, 2014
3:00pm - 4:30pm

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

kennan@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "Matt Wing" <Matt.Wing@changetowin.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/18/2008 2:51:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] UNIONS SAY: IT'S TIME FOR SOME REAL STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JOHN MCCAIN

News from CHANGE to WIN FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Matt Wing
202-251-4021

Monday, August 18, 2008

UNIONS SAY: IT'S TIME FOR SOME REAL STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JOHN MCCAIN

Change To Win Launches Nationwide Truth Campaign on John McCain

~

Truth Squad to Hit 10 Battleground States in Seven Weeks

~

Workers to Directly Question McCain on New Website

~

Online Video Series to Showcase Controversial McCain Agenda through Parody

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A new campaign by the seven unions and six million members of Change to Win is telling working families about John McCain's anti-worker agenda.

In a multifaceted, multimedia effort, Change to Win is launching a McCain Truth Squad tour; starting a new website, www.worsethanbush.org , that allows workers to directly question McCain and his agenda; and premiering after Labor Day a two-part online comedy video series showcasing McCain's anti-worker policies through humor.

The Squad of 9 workers starts its journey today in Nevada and will travel through three states using direct action and creative events to educate members on controversial McCain positions on America's mortgage crisis, Yucca Mountain, Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and McCain's own negligence in the Senate.

"It's time for some truth about who John McCain really is and what a McCain presidency would mean for America's workers," said Anna Burger, chair of Change to Win. "Change to Win's Truth Squad is standing up to John McCain's campaign of distortion, which disguises a Bush-inspired agenda that will bankrupt our economy for four more years. At the same time, the Squad is standing up for Barack Obama whose presidency will help build a new American Dream for working families by delivering the change our members desperately need on the issues that matter most – the economy and jobs, health care and workers' rights."

The Change to Win Truth Squad is comprised of workers from Nevada, Illinois and Florida, including waitresses, cashiers, dishwashers, homecare workers and government employees. The Squad will highlight McCain's agenda through dramatic demonstrations such as:

- **Foreclosure funerals in Reno and Las Vegas:** These memorials symbolize the disastrous effect the mortgage crisis has had on Nevada and the completely inadequate response of John McCain. The events will feature speeches by workers who have lost their home, a coffin filled with mortgage statements and workers dressed up as the "McCain Mortgage Reapers." The *Foreclosure Funerals* will take place at Washoe County Republican Party headquarters and John McCain's Nevada campaign headquarters.

- **Jim Gibbons Rally in Carson City**: John McCain has called Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons a "Great Governor" despite an FBI investigation into Gibbons' congressional past, allegations that he got his property taxes lowered from $5,000 to $15 and using a state cell phone to text his mistress 860 times. The Squad will highlight McCain's dedication to the embattled governor with a mock rally at the Nevada State capital featuring the "True McCain" explaining his support for Jim Gibbons based on their united anti-worker agenda.

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- **Yucca Mountain Disaster Prep in Pahrump:** To highlight John McCain's strong support of storing nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain, the Squad will hold a disaster preparation rally. The event will feature the "Truth McCain" demonstrating procedures and outfits workers will need to use on the job in the event of a nuclear spill to prevent side effects such as cancer and radiation poisoning.

The Squad's mission is also spread online through www.worsethanbush.org . A main feature of the site is called "Ask McCain" – videos of workers across the country telling their stories of what life has been like over the last seven years and asking John McCain questions about his record and agenda. In addition, www.worsethanbush.org is a hub for videos featuring candid and entertaining McCain moments, up-to-date news on McCain flaps, and "Who Said It?," an interactive game featuring prominent, and comic, McCain quotes.

The website will also host an online comedy video series highlighting through parody the consequences of McCain's agenda for working families. The videos will be produced by Olde English, a New York-based comedy group formerly of Turner's SuperDeluxe.com and featured monthly at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater.

The following is the schedule for the Truth Squad's three tours:

Tour 1	**Tour 2**	**Tour 3**
8.18 - Reno, NV	9.5 - St. Paul, MN	9.26 - Grand Rapids, MI
8.19 - Carson City, NV	9.6 - La Crosse, WI	9.27 - Lansing, MI
8.20 - Las Vegas, NV	9.7 - Cedar Rapids, IA	9.28 - Detroit, MI
8.21 - Pahrump, NV	9.9 - Kansas City, MO	9.29 - Toledo, OH
8.22 - Phoenix, AZ	9.11 - St. Louis, MO	9.30 - Cleveland, OH
8.24 - Denver, CO	9.5 - St. Paul, MN	10.1 – Pittsburgh, PA
		10.3 – Scranton, PA

On February 21, 2008, Change to Win endorsed Senator Barack Obama for president of the United States of America. The Change to Win political program is conducting a comprehensive mail, phone and canvass effort in 13 battleground states: Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nevada, Colorado, Michigan, Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia. Change to Win plans to send 10 million pieces of direct mail, make 20 million phone calls, and run a full-time, coordinated member-to-member canvass with 1,500 member organizers. Change to Win unions also plan to recruit over 50,000 volunteers for Election Day.

# # #

About Change to Win

Change to Win is a partnership of seven unions and six million members founded in 2005 to organize workers of the new American economy. Change to Win is committed to restoring the American Dream so that all workers have a paycheck that can support a family, affordable health care, a secure and dignified retirement, and the opportunity for the next generation to be better off. The seven affiliated unions are: Service Employees International Union, UNITE HERE, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Laborers' International Union of North America, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and United Farm Workers of America.

Paid for by the Change to Win Committee for the American Dream Not authorized by any Candidate or Candidate Committee

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "German Marshall Fund" <executiveintern@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/15/2015 7:29:24 AM
Subject: Reminder: GMF Event: Russian Expansion-A Reality or Fiction: A Conversation with Elmar Brok

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
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The German Marshall Fund of the United States is pleased to invite you to:

Invitation

Russian Expansion - A Reality or Fiction: A Conversation with Elmar Brok

Tuesday, July 21, 2015
12:30 - 1:30 pm

A Light lunch and refreshments will be available at 12:00

Introductions

Dr. Karen Donfried, President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

Dr. Lars Hänsel, Director, Washington Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Speaker

Elmar Brok, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs

Moderator

Dr. Stephen Szabo, Executive Director, Transatlantic Academy

Location

The German Marshall Fund of the United States 1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Gabriel White at +1 202 683 2926 or fpintern2@gmfus.org .

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

With the Minsk II ceasefire in eastern Ukraine looking increasingly shaky, Europe risks a frozen conflict for years to come. However, is Russian President Vladimir Putin finished in Ukraine? Can the United States and Europe expect more aggression from the Kremlin or is consolidation Russia's strategy now? What do the future of Russian relations with the European Union and Germany look like and what role do sanctions play in this calculation? Elmar Brok, chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, wil answer these questions and provide analysis of U.S.-European views toward Ukraine and Russia. GMF, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the European Parliament Liaison Office are pleased to jointly host this conversation.

Elmar Brok is the chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET). A member of the European Parliament since 1980, Brok is also a member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, the Conference of Committee Chairs, a member of the Delegation for Relations with India, a deputy member of the Delegation for Relations with the United States, and a co-chairman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue. A German Christian Democrat, Brok is the spokesman on external affairs for the European Parliament's Group of the European People's Party (EPP) and a member of the Federal Committee of the German Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Brok has received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and was recognized as "Commander of the Gregorius-Order" by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

Dr. Stephen F. Szabo is the executive director of the Transatlantic Academy (TA). As executive director, he works with the partners of the TA to shape the research content of each term, to assist in the recruitment and selection of Fellows and to manage the Academy. Prior to joining GMF, Szabo had been with the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, where he served as academic and interim dean as well as professor of European studies. Prior to that, he had served as professor of National Security Affairs at the National Defense University and chairman of west European studies at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State. He has written on German foreign and security policies, generational politics in Europe, and transatlantic security and political relations.

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

European Parliament

Policy Leadership Civil Society Follow

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
podesta.mary@gmail.com
Date: 10/20/2015 8:25:06 AM
Subject: Invitation: Dinner with Ambassador Arun Singh / November 19

Dear John and Mary -

I'm co-hosting a dinner with the new Ambassador of India to the US, His Excellency Arun K. Singh, on Thursday, November 19 at the Ambassador's residence.
Our aim is to assemble an intimate group of policy makers, elected officials and thought leaders for a lively and engaging evening.
The Ambassador's impressive Foreign Service career began in 1979 and included postings as Ambassador to Israel, Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington, and assignments at the UN, in Moscow, Addis Ababa and Tokyo.
Most recently, he was India's Ambassador to France.
Would love if you could join us.
Please let me know if the date works and the Embassy will send you a formal invite with all the specific details.
Best,
Tony

Tony Podesta
Office: 202-879-9300
Cell: 202-352-4645
podesta@podesta.com
1001 G St. NW, Suite 1000 West
Washington, DC 20001

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From: Erskine <erskine@2bowles.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/26/2016 11:33:42 AM
Subject: Fwd: Benn Steil's Weekly Standard piece on Trump, "Selling America Short," 2/26/16

Worth reading

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Benn Steil <AHenderson@e.cfr.org >
Date: February 26, 2016 at 10:04:21 AM EST
To: erskine@2bowles.com
Subject: Benn Steil's Weekly Standard piece on Trump, "Selling America Short," 2/26/16
Reply-To: AHenderson@cfr.org

Dear Mr. Bowles,

My latest piece in *The Weekly Standard*, co-authored with Max Boot, argues that a Trump presidency would undermine the liberal international order which the United States painstakingly constructed and cultivated after the Second World War. This would, we believe, gravely damage America's security and standing in the world.

I hope you find the piece of interest.

All best regards,

Benn Steil

Follow me on Twitter @BennSteil , and read about my latest book, *The Battle of Bretton Woods: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White, and the Making of a New World Order*: www.cfr.org/battle_of_bretton_woods

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Selling America Short

Max Boot and Benn Steil
The Weekly Standard
February 26, 2016

Following his primary victories in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada, Donald Trump has established himself as the clear frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination. He has done so offering grandiose slogans — He'll Make America Great Again! He'll have us win so much we'll get bored with winning! — and precious little in specifics. He has said, for example, that he would repeal Obamacare, without saying a word about what would replace it — beyond promising that his health program would be "terrific" and "take care of everyone."

When Trump does offer specifics, more often than not they are impossible to implement. Recently, for example, he said that he would solve the North Korea nuclear problem by getting China to assassinate Kim Jong-un. Given that China's leaders are unwilling to sanction North Korea, it is exceedingly unlikely they will murder its leader at President Trump's request.

In short, Trump has redefined the Art of the Deal in American politics: His promises would make even the most cynical political veteran blush. It is hard to know whether Trump is serious about what he says, given his ever-shifting views, lack of policy advisers, and claims that he would behave differently in office than on the campaign trail. Nevertheless, with the populist billionaire continuing to ride high, it is important to take him seriously as a potential occupant of the Oval Office. What would a President Trump do, and what would

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be the likely consequences of his actions?

Start with trade policy, the area that, along with immigration, seems to exercise him the most. One of America's greatest accomplishments in the early postwar era was the creation of a rules-based international trade regime. The aim was to prevent a recurrence of the trade wars of the early 1930s, which spread the Great Depression globally and helped fuel the rise of both fascist and Communist movements around the world.

Governments stuck by this trade regime even through the recent financial crisis and recession. Trump, however, says he is prepared to abrogate America's commitments, citing nothing more than the pretense that our importing more than we export is evidence of "cheating" by foreign governments. He has pledged to slap an illegal 35 percent tariff on U.S. automakers that manufacture vehicles in Mexico. If Mexico refuses to accept his as-yet unspecified demands to change the terms of the North America Free Trade Agreement, he has pledged that "we will break it." Such a trade war with America's third-largest trade partner would raise prices and kill jobs on both sides of the border, no doubt prompting new waves of the illegal immigration that Trump has pledged to end.

As for the recently concluded 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, not yet ratified by Congress, Trump has condemned it. He argues that TPP will benefit "big corporations in America" and China, which is doubly bizarre. Companies with over 500 employees account for half of U.S. employment and two-thirds of U.S. exports. Does Trump then seek trade deals in which mom-and-pop shops will somehow drive exports? As for China, it is not part of the deal and has in fact signaled "countermeasures" to offset the impact of its exclusion.

Trump has pledged to brand China a currency manipulator for pushing down its currency as a means of gaining trade advantages. In retaliation Trump has threatened a 45 percent tariff on Chinese goods — which will surely open a second front in the trade war, this time with America's second-largest trading partner.

Yet even ignoring that the International Monetary Fund declared China's currency "fairly valued" last May, its central bank has lately been intervening to push its currency up — not down. China's foreign currency reserves have fallen $760 billion from their 2014 peak and $300 billion in just the past three months. At this rate of decline, it will actually face a dangerous shortage of reserves by the spring. To start a trade war with China while it is helping, rather than hurting, U.S. exporters is not only reckless but crazed.

On immigration, Trump has famously called for the roundup and deportation of the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. He claims he can accomplish this in 18 months. According to the center-right American Action Forum, this would actually take about 20 years to accomplish and cost U.S. taxpayers between $400 billion and $600 billion. The impact on the U.S. economy would be considerably larger: Gross domestic product would fall by nearly $1.6 trillion, not only because of enforcement costs but because of the disruptive impact of removing 11 million people from the workforce. Industries such as agriculture that rely on immigrant labor would be hardest hit: Farm income would decline; food prices would increase. Businesses in urban areas, where many immigrants live and work, also would suffer from a sharp fall in customers, while consumers would suffer an increase in the cost of everyday services.

To prevent a future immigrant influx, Trump would construct a 1,000-mile wall on the Mexican border; he claims this will cost $8 billion, but more credible estimates suggest it will be over $40 billion. This, he says, Mexico will finance because "you tell them they're gonna pay for it." This strategy failed signally for Trump's creditors when his businesses declared bankruptcy four times, refusing to pay their debts; how it would succeed in Mexico's case remains a mystery.

Trump assures us Mexico can afford the wall, whose cost would amount to 3 percent of its annual GDP ($1.2 trillion), because of its trade surplus with the United States. Yet a surplus is a claim on future U.S. goods and services; it gives America goods and services for which we do not immediately provide any in return. It is manifestly not a windfall. It is a safe bet that no Mexican government could possibly give in to his demands and, if it did, it would not stay in power for long.

Trump would be no more successful in pursuing his stated strategy for the Middle East. Instead of trying to end the Syrian civil war, he suggests we should "make something with Russia" — that is, support its military intervention in Syria. This is of a piece with his admiration for Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, whom he has praised as a real "leader, unlike what we have in this country."

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One problem with this is that only 10 percent of Russia's munitions in Syria are directed at America's enemy, ISIS. The other 90 percent are being dropped on moderate opposition groups supported by the United States. Putin's objective is to shore up the Bashar al-Assad regime in cooperation with Assad's backers in Iran. But as long as Assad continues to commit war crimes against the majority Sunni population, ISIS and other extremist Sunni groups, such as the Nusra Front, will continue to attract support from Sunnis.

There is also the troubling fact that Russia is aiding and abetting Assad's war crimes — troubling to everyone but Donald Trump. He has pledged to commit war crimes of his own by going "beyond waterboarding" in his treatment of captured terrorist suspects, even if brutal interrogation techniques don't elicit any new information. "They deserve it anyway for what they do to us," he says. He also threatens to target families of terrorists and to "bomb the shit" out of areas held by ISIS. More recently he has spoken admiringly of shooting Muslim prisoners of war with bullets dipped in pig's blood — a practice he erroneously attributes to Gen. John J. Pershing during his service in the Philippines.

If Trump were to order the U.S. military to act as he suggests, the likely result would be a crisis in civil-military relations. Many military personnel would refuse to carry out orders so blatantly at odds with the laws of war; soldiers know that they could face prosecution under a future administration. If soldiers were to do as President Trump ordered, moreover, terrorist organizations would have a new recruiting pitch with the world's Muslims — the need to counter American barbarism.

The anti-American backlash would grow greater still if Trump carried out his threat to ban Muslims from entering the United States and to seize Syrian or Iraqi oil fields — an undertaking that would require a long-term American military occupation. Such actions would alienate allies that the United States needs to fight terror and would risk driving a substantial minority of American Muslims toward extremist views in a way that both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama carefully avoided doing.

Trump would also alienate America's oldest allies in Europe and Asia if he carried through on his repeated threats to renegotiate or terminate the agreements under which U.S. troops have been based abroad for decades. Trump has promised to tear up the 1960 U.S.-Japan Treaty, saying, "If somebody attacks Japan, we have to immediately go and start World War III, okay? If we get attacked, Japan doesn't have to help us. Somehow that doesn't sound so fair."

He has been equally acerbic in criticizing South Korea, saying, "We have 28,000 soldiers on the line in South Korea between the madman [Kim Jong-un] and them. We get practically nothing compared to the cost of this." In fact South Korea pays more than $800 million annually to support U.S. troops on the peninsula, making it arguably cheaper to keep U.S. forces there than on the American mainland. Japan also contributes to the upkeep of U.S. forces based there. In return the United States maintains the security of America's fourth-largest and sixth-largest trade partners, while preventing a nuclear arms race in Asia. Japan and South Korea, if stripped of American protection, would almost surely go nuclear. Indeed, Trump's incendiary rhetoric is already leading more South Koreans to argue that their nation should acquire its own nuclear arsenal.

Trump has spoken in similarly contemptuous tones of America's European allies, who, in his view, are also giving American taxpayers a raw deal. He says that in combating Russian aggression, the Europeans should take the lead. "You know the old expression," he says, " 'Go on fellows. I'm right behind you'?" And he adds indignantly: "Why are we always at the forefront of everything?" At the same time, Trump has said he would get along "fine" with Russia. This suggests that he would undo the role that the United States has played in defending Europe against Russian aggression since 1949 and might even tilt U.S. policy in a pro-Russian direction. Since Putin has called the collapse of the Soviet Union the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the [20th] century," Eastern Europe will surely tremble while waiting to see how much of it will have to be restored as the cost of the blossoming Trump-Putin "bromance."

The radical changes that Trump proposes are all the more dangerous because he is so singularly ill-equipped to manage the resulting turmoil. This is a candidate, after all, who doesn't know the difference between the Kurds and the Quds Force or have any idea what the "nuclear triad" is. Nor has Trump so far made good on his pledge to attract "top top people" to help him run things; he has still not unveiled a campaign foreign policy team in spite of months of pledges to do so. In any case, advisers cannot make up for a president's ignorance and prejudice; presidents always get conflicting advice, and it is their job, and their job alone, to make the most difficult judgment calls in the world.

Trump has already done considerable damage to America's reputation with his crude, bombastic, and often ugly rhetoric. American standing, as measured both in "soft power" and more traditional realpolitik terms,

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would suffer far more if he were to become commander in chief. A Trump presidency threatens the post-World War II liberal international order that American presidents of both parties have so laboriously built up — an order based on free trade and alliances with other democracies.

His policies would not make America "great." Just the opposite. A Trump presidency would represent the death knell of America as a great power.

-- Max Boot, a senior fellow in national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, is a contributing editor to *The Weekly Standard*. Benn Steil is director of international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of *The Battle of Bretton Woods*.

Original article link: http://www.weeklystandard.com/selling-america-short/article/2001271

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Council on Foreign Relations
58 East 68th Street
New York, NY 10065

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/18/2008 6:44:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/18/08

Main Topics: McCain surrogates attack Obama trip, McCain doesn't know if Obama is a Socialist

Summary: Media excitement revolving around Obama's trip to Europe, Afghanistan and Iraq led the news today. Although anchors were quick to repeat GOP talking points of Obama's travel as being part 'political' and occurring too late, several outlets still noted the contradictory criticisms emanating from the McCain campaign on this issue. There were mentions of McCain's rebuke of Jill Hazelbaker's photo-op comment from yesterday. Top McCain surrogates Tim Pawlenty and Mitt Romney gave interviews this morning, both faithfully delivering the message that Obama is campaigning for the "President of Europe" and that the entire trip to the Middle East is more about politics than policy. Political-related news touched on an EPA report about climate change and health concerns, Bill Clinton's willingness to campaign for Obama, Al Gore's environmental speech on Thursday, new Republican smears against Michelle Obama, and an interview Speaker Pelosi gave to Wolf Blitzer attacking President Bush. Segments about the release of the new Batman movie, an increase in travel costs, an apparent parachute mishap, and a missing child story, were on constant rotation throughout the day.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Pawlenty disparages Obama for speaking in Europe, campaigning for "President of Europe"
2. NBC: Romney similarly attacks Obama, also saying Obama should have proposed policy after fact-finding trip rather than before
3. ABC: Tapper analyzes McCain position on Obama trip
4. CNN: Hosts discuss McCain town hall, conflicting messages from McCain camp regarding Obama's travels
5. CNN: McCain campaign dumps oppo research and 8 minute video file to reporters in attempt to reframe Obama foreign policy position
6. CNN: Moost mock McCain's response to Viagra position
7. MSNBC: Jim Warren of the Chicago Tribune calls Cindy McCain 'stolid,' an 'ice queen'
8. MSNBC: Morning Joe pundits discuss Hazelbaker comments, blame 24/7 news cycle yet note conflicting message coming from McCain campaign
9. COMEDY: Stewart uses word pander to describe McCain's NAACP address, highlights vote and opposition to MLK holiday [no clip]

Local Highlights:
10. KANSAS CITY STAR: McCain interviewed, says he "doesn't know" if Obama is a Socialist, discusses reversals on domestic policy

Clips:

Highlight #1
Pawlenty Says Obama Is Campaigning For 'President of Europe' (MSNBC 07/18/08)
MIKE BARNICLE: The Obama trip to Iraq, Afghanistan, overseas. How many trips to Iraq have you taken?
TIM PAWLENTY: I've taken three Mike and the last one was last year. I'm glad, we're glad the McCain campaign said Senator Obama is finally getting back to Iraq. He's only been there once. He hasn't been there almost three years. If you're going to make pronouncements about war, be helpful if you had some on the ground experience. So we applaud his decision to go. And we applaud his decision to migrate more towards McCain's position on these issues. But I am concerned about the unprecedented political rallies he's going to be having across Europe. **It's one thing to meet with world leaders. It's another thing to be basically campaigning for President of Europe, it seems. And that's a little unprecedented and concerning if he's going to be having political rallies.**
BARNICLE: Aren't you encouraged though? Everything, all the reporting says that in the papers are that Europeans are down on America because of Iraq and they don't like the Bush administration. So this might be some element of the United States of America might like? That's kind of encouraging don't you think?
PAWLENTY: Well again I segregate the trip. I applaud the Iraq and Afghanistan trip but I don't think he's ever by the way set foot in Afghanistan even though he's making pronouncements about the war. But going to Europe and meeting with those leaders and introducing himself, trying to build good relations, that's positive. But it looks like he's planning what looks like political rallies in Europe. And I think that's unprecedented and to me it seems a little untoward.
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Ok let me try to give you the other side of that. And that is that one could argue that we are at a time, a moment in history where some feel that our international reputation is at stake. And perhaps Barack Obama is going there to build on not only his foreign policy credentials but also work on something that has

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been ripped to shreds over the past 8 years.
PAWLENTY: And I think that's good in that you saw Senator McCain go to Colombia for example. He met with President Uribe, he met with the Defense Sec. Santos, others at high level official meetings. He didn't go out and have rallies and politicize the trip in Colombia, or in Canada. He kept it in the context of formal policy speeches or meeting with officials. This trip seems designed to have kind of a political rally or campaign rally component to it. If you're a sitting President that would be good or a sitting official but it seems a little bit odd if your in the middle of a Presidential campaign that he'd be having these political rallies on this trip.
BARNICLE: What's odd about it? The guys a politician. You're a politician. I mean if you were given the opportunity, I mean if somebody said to you we're the government of Germany we'd like you to stand up and speak before 4,000 people or how many people, what would you say? No I don't want to do it because I'm the Gov of Minnesota and I don't want to speak when I'm overseas. It's odd. This complaint seems odd.
PAWLENTY: Well I think it's a question of is it political or is it policy? He's a sitting Senator and in that capacity the right and opportunity to go and deal with those kinds of issues or have those kinds of meetings but are those things really designed to advance a policy discussion and the United States national security interests which we try not to politicize as officials? **Or is it designed to be part of his campaign? And if it's part of his campaign, campaigning in Europe, seems to be perhaps unusual or unprecedented at least in my knowledge about Presidential campaigning.**

Highlight #2
Romney Attacks Obama's Trip As 'Campaign Swing,' Distances Himself From Past Criticism of McCain
(NBC 07/18/08)
MITT ROMNEY: **As a campaign swing more than a fact-finding tour, it's unfortunate that he developed this policy with regards to the surge before he was actually there 20 see how the surge might be progressing. As a matter of fact, had he been president a year ago he would have said no to the surge, pulled out our troops and we would be in a setting where al qaeda would be planning attacks against us from Iraq. We're fortunate he wasn't president and not doing this tour at a time when it could have shaped his policy with regards to iraq and foreign policy**. [...]

ROMNEY: I'm sure he'll be warmly received. People of different political backgrounds are warmly received there. I don't know whether he'll be able to erase the things he's already said. My guess is he'll say don't confuse me with the facts. My mind is already made up. He's already said what he'd do without the benefit of speaking to General Petraeus and leaders on the ground there. John McCain is saying, look, his goal get the troops out by the end of his first term. They're in a combat setting, and get that done but not going to do it based upon some artificial political timetable.

MATT LAUER: [...] **Primary races, of course, good news you get to run for president. Bad news, everything you say during that primary race comes back to haunt you in some caes. Here what you said, quote, in January, 'I frankly don't think Senator McCain despite his service and length of experience will be able to stand up to the message that Barack Obama has brought forward. I think Barack Obama would be able to do the John McCain exactly what he was able to do to other senators who are running on the democratic side.' So if that's what you said in January, why do you think John McCain's now the man?**

ROMNEY: Well, no question when it comes to Barack Obama you've got a charming person, well spoken. He speaks beautifully. But i think in the final analysis that the sweet talk is going to give way to straight talk. [...] Barack is very tough. No question about that. When I was running in the primary I thought i was the right guy to run against Barack Obama. When it comes to comparison between John McCain and Barack Obama I know who I'd pick, who America should choose and in the final analysis will choose the guy that's been there, has the experience, demonstrated right on the surge, author of it, his work.

LAUER: They worry about John McCain and the economy. Six in ten a poll feel that John McCain will continue basically the policies of our current president George Bush. 54% to 35% in a Washington Post abc poll think Barack Obama will best handle the economy. With the economy being the biggest issue on the minds of voters, that's got to be a real problem for John McCain. Doesn't it?

ROMNEY: It's a big opportunity for John McCain. As they understand Barack Obama's position, the John McCain position, the American people will say, guess what? John McCain is right on the economy. Barack Obama is wrong. Raising taxes, as Barack Obama would do would slow down the economy. He's admitted that as much. His energy policy is critical to the economy. Barack Obama doesn't want additional drilling or nuclear power plants fast tracked, wants to put higher tax on coal and John McCain will bring the cost of energy down. that's the right policy.

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Highlight #3
"Good Morning America" Analyzes McCain Camp's Position Vis-à-vis Obama's Trip Overseas (ABC 06/18/08 7:00am)
JAKE TAPPER: From the Euphrates to the Chunnel, Barack Obama will wade into the waters of international geopolitics. McCain campaign spokeswoman Jill Hazelbacker said there was nothing 'fact-finding' about any of his trip, just image-building.

[clip of Hazelbacker]
JILL HAZELBACKER: This trip is a political trip for him. It's one giant photo opportunity. It is not designed to inform his world view.
[end clip]

TAPPER: McCain himself backed off that charge a bit, but continued to argue Obama is unprepared to be Commander-in-Chief.

[video clip]
JOHN MCCAIN: I'm glad he's going to Afghanistan. It's long, long overdue if you want to lead this nation and secure our national security.
[end clip]

TAPPER: Obama's trip comes after a back-and-forth with McCain over international issues such as Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq.
[...]
JUSTIN LOGAN: "What I think Senator Obama is trying to do is to take away the initiative from Senator McCain to be able to brand him as a neophite in foreign affairs and on military issues.
[...]
ROBIN ROBERTS: How does McCain counter all this attention that Obama is going to be receving on this trip?

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: The McCain campaign is very frustrated by this. As you know, All three evening news anchors going over on this foreign soil with Barack Obama. They know he's going to get a lot of attention. I think they will look to take quick hits every day. And of course, pounce on any mistake that Barack Obama makes. That would be the big opening for the McCain campaign.

Highlight #4
CNN Previews McCain's MI Town Hall, Discusses His Position Having "Goaded" Obama Into Iraq/ Afghanistan Trip (CNN 06/18/08 9:00am)
TONY HARRIS: Michigan is one of the hardest hit states economically. I'm wondering what John McCain's message is today.

DANA BASH: It's going to be talking about exactly that. […] that is going to be a big part of John McCain's message there that he has been trying to give across the country on this stump talking a lot about the economy and the fact that he understands people are hurting. But what he's going to do at this particular event is try to shine a light on some new technology that he says he hopes will be the wave of the future and perhaps a jobs gainer in the future. He's going to be touring this plant where they're hoping to and trying to devise the first plug in electric car. It's called the Chevy Volt. **So you are going to hear some of the 'I feel your pain' message from John McCain but also a try to focus on some of the technologies that he says he hopes can be developed for in the future.**

HARRIS: Hey Dana you know we've heard John McCain crticize Barack Obama's upcoming overseas trip. Are we likely to hear more of that today?

BASH: We are. […] **in the words of one adviser it is extraordinarily arrogant for him to be explaining his policies, his foreign policies on Afghanistan on Iraq which he did this week before even going.** You heard John McCain yesterday say that from his experience, he's travel abroad extensively, he waits until he comes home from a fact finding mission to announce his policies. **There they feel that they have a little bit of an edge on something they know** Tony they know full well that this trip is going to get extensive, extensive coverage. They're trying to influence it as much they can.

HARRIS**: And remind us: this is a trip McCain suggested Obama should take, correct?**

BASH: **Exactly. Pretty much goaded him into it.** He talked about over and over counting the days Obama had not been in Iraq and of course he's never been to Afghanistan.

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Highlight #5
CNN: McCain Campaign Clamors to Frame Coverage of Obama's Trip With Accusations of Politicking and 8-Min Video (CNN 07/18/08 6:30am)
JOHN KING: Today John McCain holds a town hall meeting with General Motor Employees in Michigan focusing on issue number one. The McCain campaign also critizing Barack Obama as he prepares to go global.

DANA BASH: Aides to John McCain say that when Barack Obama is abroad McCain will spend his time talking about the economy, the issue most on voters' minds here at home. Still the McCain camp is trying hard to influence what they know will be a heavy focus on Obama's trip.

DANA BASH: This Kansas City Town Hall was billed as a chance to talk about problems close to home like the economy, but **John McCain also made sure to tweak Barack Obama for his upcoming trip abroad.**

[Clip of McCain Town Hall]
JOHN MCCAIN: I know that Senator Obama is going to Iraq I was very interested that he articulated and announced his policies and approach to Iraq before he went.

BASH: **Aides to McCain may not like it but they know full well Obama's overseas trip will get a lot of coverage and the reality is that McCain himself goaded Obama into it.**

[Clip of McCain]

BASH: The Republican National Committee still has a running clock on its website. Now that Obama is going, it's oppo time inside camp McCain their central theme? By announcing his war policies before leaving Obama is embarking on a campaign swing not a fact finding mission.

[Clip of McCain]

BASH: McCain aids are stepping up their push to highlight Obama's apparent shift in rhetoric on Iraq.

[Clip of McCain]

MCCAIN: My friends, flip floppers all over the world are enraged

BASH: Earlier this week McCain declared Obama a flip-flopper for changing statements on the success of the surge.

BASH: Now McCain's campaign made this eight-minute video aimed at illustrating Obama's contradictory statements on Iraq.

[Clip of 8min McCain Attack ad]

BASH: The Obama campaign quickly responded with a lengthy statement suggesting Senator McCain has for the most part been lockstep with President Bush on the Iraq war and that McCain's position keeps troops there indefinitely but notably there response did not address McCain's central charge that over the years Obama's Iraq position has shifted with the politics of the moment.

Highlight #6
CNN Mocks McCain's "Bad-Hand," Awkward Response to Viagra Question (CNN 06/18/08 6:45am)
[montage of awkward photos of McCain squirming to a soundtrack of "Freeze Frame"]
[…]
JEANIE MOOST: This is what they call glad-handing and this is what we call bad hand. Q and A so bad you have to hide behind your hand, so bad your move is imitated.

JONATHAN CAPEHART: You got to have an answer you can't do this.

MOOST: So bad that Planned Parenthood has turned the exchange into an anti-mccain commercial.

[Clip of Planned Parenthood Ad]

MOOST: For eight seconds Senator McCain said nothing critics dubbed it his Viagra moment. A politician rendered speechless, squirms and winces, froze, agonized and a week after it happened still haunted by impotent performance hunted by the new commercial which the Republican National Committee called a

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misleading partisan attack. Allow me to introduce you to the latest character in the 08 campaign, John McCains hand. A hand mocked on the Daily Show.

JON STEWART: John McCain's face is being attacked by the hand of a prehistoric monster. I'm sorry I am being told that is in fact John McCain's own hand, I apologize.

MOOST: A hand we asked body language expert and author Dan Hill to analyze

DAN HILL: He puts his hand across his mouth as to protect himself from telling a lie [...]

Highlight #7
Chicago Tribune's Jim Warren Calls Cindy McCain 'Stolid,' An 'Ice Queen' (MSNBC 07/18/08)
JIM WARREN, CHICAGO TRIBUNE: **If you look at Cindy McCain, you could argue playing amateur psychologist there's big of an insecurity when it comes to political campaigns, you know there's sort of an implicit caricature of a bit of the ice queen in the background always with that sort of stolid figure of hers and that kind of unchanging visage.** So no I think its sort of more logical that given Michelle propensity to sort of be out there, to be the independent minded, opinionated person that she is that she'd open herself up for criticism to a greater extent that Cindy McCain.

Highlight #8
Brzezinski Defends Hazelbaker While Stating McCain Campaign Conflicted On Obama Trip (MSNBC 07/18/08)
MIKE BARNICLE: I would submit to you, part of the reason we have these things, Jill Hazelbaker, smart woman, knows what she's talking about, sort of gets slapped a couple of hours later by the candidate himself John McCain, part of the reason these things happen is they have to feed this beast, that is 24 hours cable news. All day long, Tiki you know you get these Blackberries every five minutes you get e-mails point counter point from these campaigns and you go immediately to erase.

TIKI BARBER: It's exausting to hear though.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Well Mike you bring up a great point I was actually talking to Andrea from the campaign yesterday and we were, it is a little bit the beast and I don't think John McCain. **The idea I got from talking to the campaign last night is not that upset with her. It's just there's different concepts as to what Barack Obama is doing abroad and Jill got a sense as we do every morning how hard it is to go on the air and get like 50 thousand hatemail and I'm still getting hatemail.**

Highlight #9
Stewart Skewers McCain's NAACP address, 'What Else Do You Have In Your Pander Box?' (COMEDY 07/17/08)
STEWART: What else do you have in your pander box?
JOHN MCCAIN (CLIP): Martin Luther King who often reminded us there's no moral badness and there was moral blindness. It was this spirit that turned hatred into forgiveness, anger into conviction, and a bitter life into a great one.
STEWART: **And that is why I, John McCain, voted fought so hard so long to prevent to prevent his birthday from becoming a national holiday. Well into the 1980's long after most of my likeminded colleagues had given up fighting that. That's why when it was passed into law I supported the drive to prevent its observation in my home state of Arizona.**

Highlight #10
McCain Says He "Do[es]n't Know" If Obama Is a Socialist, Answers Questions about Gas Tax Holiday, Immigration and Flip-Floppping on Tax Cuts (Kansas City Star taped interview 07/17/08)
INTERVIEWER: Your opponent raised $52million dollars. [...] That shows he has a lot of support it seems.

JOHN MCCAIN: Well we have never raised more money than our opponents in the primary and other races. Now we have more than enough money to do the things we need to do, to buy the media we need to buy[...] We're gonna get $85 million in public financing. And Senator Obama, after he had pledged to take public financing as well if I did obviously went back on his word.
[…]
INTERVIEWER: You talked about a gas tax holiday[...] You said it would be brief. [...] How long would it be?

MCCAIN: …It depends on the economy, it depends on a lot of things. [...] I was at a big trucking company yesterday; they said we could save $40 million a year. …

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INTERVIEWER: A lot of experts this is just not a good idea.

MCCAIN: **A lot of experts are driven to work in chauffeured limousines.** A lot of experts live in Georgetown and walk to work. These are the lower-income Americans that are being hurt by it.

INTERVIEWER: You're saying it could last for... a summer?

MCCAIN: We'd have to see. But let's declare it and see what happens. And […] you want to spend their gas-tax dollars on $233million bridge in Alaska to an island with 50 people on it, or do you wanna let people have a little relief? The most pork-barrel laden aspect of all the everything we do are the highway bills.

INTERVIEWER: Kit Bond might have some problems with that, as you know—

MCCAIN (interrupting): Senator Bond and I have strong disagreement […] on pork-barrel spending and we've fought on the floor of the Senate, and I think the American people are fed up with earmark pork-barrel spending […] They're sick of Washington and the ways they're doing things.

INTERVIEWER: […] T. Boone Pickens has suggested natural gas for cars, wind power. What do you think of his idea?

MCCAIN: I think it's a good idea. The only disagreement I have—I think we need nuclear […] and he agrees with that. We need wind, tide, solar […] I agree with that. All of these alternate forms of energy have to be (1) funded in pure research and development and second, see which one wins. Let 'em all loose. Unleash 'em all. And nuclear *has* to be part of any equation. Sen Obama opposes nuclear. Offshore drilling *has* to be part of it—he opposes offshore drilling.

INTERVIEWER: […] Been a little dustup here over a group called the Minutemen Civil Defense Fund. […] Are they a good thing? […] Do they help in the immigration fight or not?

MCCAIN: I think they are citizens who are […] entitled to being engaged in the process […] I don't agree with them but they certainly are exercising their legal rights as citizens.

INTERVIEWER: Finally, you talked a little bit about Senator Obama today. You said he was the most extreme member, I think.

MCCAIN: Yep, that's his voting record.

INTERVIEWER: […] Do you really think he's an extremist? I mean, he's clearly liberal, but—

MCCAIN: That's his voting record. All I said was his voting record, and that is more to the left than the announced Socialist in the United States Senate, Bernie Sanders of Vermont. So—

INTERVIEWER: Do you think he's a socialist—Barack Obama?

MCCAIN: Oh I don't know. All I know is his voting record. […] But I know this, too. Senator Obama has not done what I've done. He's not reached across the aisle […] I have. […] And finally, Senator Obama supported amendments that would've killed comprehensive immigration reform. Then he says that he's for immigration reform.

INTERVIEWER: But you flip-flop a little bit too…

MCCAIN: No, I didn't!

INTERVIEWER: You flip-flopped on drilling a little bit…

MCCAIN (interrupting_: Actually I didn't!

INTERVIEWER: …tax cuts…

MCCAIN: Actually, on the drilling issue—when gasoline reached $4 a gallon, we gotta do things that we otherwise have not done in the past. I have not changed my position on any other issue: On immigration […]

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INTERVIEWER: But you were against the tax cuts, now you're talking about making them permanent.

MCCAIN: I mean, isn't there flip-flopping on both sides, Senator?

INTERVIEWER: Actually no. actually, I had a tax cut proposal of my own—Senator Obama wants to raise taxes, I want to keep them low. […] I had a package of tax cuts and I said we had to restrain spending. […] We did not restrain spending, and that's why I voted—main reason why I voted against them. […] And I have voted for tax cuts in the past. And Sen Obama wants to raise them. So, I've heard a lot of this propaganda. And I understand what campaigns are about—all of the […] back-and-forth. But I'll stand on my record of bipartisan effectiveness for America […] as I did when I said that we had to send additional troops to Iraq. Sen Obama said it would fail […] We have succeeded in Iraq, and if we keep doing what we're doing, we'll win this war.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	3/25/2015 12:55:52 PM
Subject:	Look Ahead March 26 – Apr 6
Attachments:	March Scheduling Memo 0325.docx John Podesta Travel Options 2015_0402-03.docx

There's never a totally dandy time to take a look at these scheduling memos, but just wanted to let you know the next memo is on your chair, attached to this email and in plain text below in case you can't sleep and want some stimulating reading. There are actual attachments this time (a few letters providing more context to a couple of speaking engagement request) that are printed and flagged here but not attached to this email (though I explain the gist of each, and that should give you an idea of what to expect).

As always, new things are highlighted in yellow, and burning questions are in red italics.

Look Ahead March 26 – Apr 6

Memo Organization:

1. **To Dos**
2. **Week Ahead Pending and New Requests**
3. **Day-by Day: Thursday March 26 Through Monday April 6**
4. **Post-Transition Catch Up List, HRC Related Catch Up Requests, Organization/Board Requests, Personal / Medical Pending** (New items highlighted in Yellow)
5. **Media Requests (In approx. order of deadline)**
6. **Attachments:**

a. **UPDATED as of 3/25: Donor Calls list from Dennis Cheng**

b. **FFD Reading from John Norris**

No attachments unless specified

In approximate order of date requested (some are very flexible)

Highlighted Items are New

Red, Italicized Items Require a Response or will be OBE

TO DOS:

Personal:

- @johnpodesta & Facebook social media strategy

- ***Update:*** United Mileage Plus for Ethiopia Return: Ethiopian Fare was a Z class – can't be honored. See attachment. *(printed out at office)*

CAP Development:

- CAP Development Calls (will be added to Call Log on final page—awaiting a bit more substantive info from CAP Dev Team on what exactly they are asking for.)

WCEG Development:

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- Ford Foundation: Contact Darren. What do you need Heather to do?

- Peter G. Peterson Foundation: Follow up with Michael Peterson (get DINA memo from Heather)

- Rockefeller: Reach out to Michael Myers and Judith Rodin

- Wyss Foundation: Reach out to Hansjorg Wyss

HRC Development:

-Ongoing list from Dennis Cheng – *No more calls are set. Shall we do some for Friday 3/27?*

DAY BY DAY: Thursday March 26 through Monday April 6

Thursday March 26

Equitable Growth:
None
HRC:
9 am call: Congressional Outreach Discussion
2-4 pm Meeting: Cheryl Mills & Wendy Clark @ Cheryl's Friendship Heights Office
6 pm onward: Frank White Donor Cocktail Hour
CAP:
11:45-12:45: China Brief: Kelly Gallagher @ CAP Green Room
Pending: Meeting with Matt Browne
Personal

Personal/Transit/Delays time from 4-6 pm.

Friday March 27

Equitable Growth:
None
HRC:
9:30 – 10:30 am: Early political and finance plans discussion
11-12: SEIU Meeting with Peter Colavito (w/Kirk Adams by phone)
CAP:
None
Personal

5:05 pm: POTUS Departure Photo (schedule blocked early from 4-5 pm for link up with Mary & Mae and early arrival)

Saturday March 28 – Wednesday Apr 1: China Trip

Departing IAD: Sat Mar 28, 12:35 pm

Returning IAD: Weds Apr 1, 8:05 pm

Thursday April 2: Boston with Wyss

Note: *Eryn will be returning from China Thurs Apr 2, 8 pm. While hotel and cars will be taken care of by Wyss directly, your flexible flights are booked through your name and credit card so that you can make changes if you want to.*

BOSTON FLIGHT OPTIONS ARE ATTACHED – Please provide feedback of what flights to choose, noting that we will pick a flexible fare.

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Friday April 3: Nothing yet other than Boston Return – Holding scheduling until your return, or only for things you want to add

New Request: **Amb. Luis Lauredo** will be in NYC and DC this week and wants to talk to you on the phone about "future plans" while he's here. *Is this something you want to do?*

Monday April 6:

HRC:

11 am: Glen Fukushima

Equitable Growth:

11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Equitable Growth Check-In With Heather

CAP:

None Large

GULC

2-5 pm: Blocked for Class Prep

6:45 pm: Neil Eggleston Speaking

New Requests:

New Date Ask: CAP Interns Brown Bag

Monday, April 6, around 1 pm, or really anytime you want. Nothing in the afternoon except class prep.

NEW: Possible Journalist Dinner at your house

TBD week of April 6th (Jen Palmieri coordinating)

CATCH-UP REQUESTS LIST:

- **NEW: Stephanie Schriock** wants to get together for coffee
- **NEW: Kit Batten:** Call or coffee/lunch request to get your advice.
- **NEW: Leslie Kean** (or just a call)

Alphabetical Order, for those who did not specify dates:

- Mayor Alvin Brown (wants to catch up before election on March 24th. Would travel to DC)
- Maks Czuperski (Knox Alum at Atlantic Council)
- Phil Deutch: Wants to grab a cocktail or coffee to talk energy soon.
- Put off: Tim Drake (Former GULC '14 student: t.w.drakex@gmail.com)
- Charles Harned – WHO / NEC Knox Intern (during March)
- Susan Kleinberg
- Dan Lubetzky (KIND healthy snacks, via Erskine; asst: Avery Feldman AFeldman@kindsnacks.com)
- Dan Sakura: "update on job search & to catch up"

CAP Catch up requests:

- **Milia Fisher (You said you'll catch up with her soon)**

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- **NEW: Arkadi Gerney re: CAP Action Future**
- Vanessa Cardenas re: Thoughts on her future

HRC RELATED CATCH-UP REQUESTS:

- **Holding: Bob Boorstin** (via your gmail – Just let Eryn know when you're ready to set this up)

- **Holding: Gov. Ronnie Musgrove** (Per your gmail: *He will reach out when dates work*)

- **No guidance from you yet: Michael Ettlinger (Call or meeting when in town this month, which is now through 3/25, and then back April 8-10)**: Request via email on 3/8 to you and Ann O'Leary. Would like to talk to you about:
    1) An idea for a project on federal spending
    2) Ideas for UNH Carsey School of Public Policy Role in Election:

a. Hosting candidates for events (not fundraisers) @ Durham or Manchester campuses

b. "NH Listens" Project: convene conversations with the people of New Hampshire for candidates

- **HOLD for NYC Start: Dennis Mehiel** (via Manatos)

- **HOLD for NYC Start: R. Scott Pastrick** (Would like to be helpful with HRC)

ORGANIZATION / BOARD REQUESTS:

- **Moniz** – SEAB (Definitely still need to turn down, if you intend to. He knows you'll be in)

- **EQ CAP –** Pending more information from Dave Chen

- **Nuclear Advisory Committee** — more info to follow from John Deutch

PERSONAL/MEDICAL:

-**Dr. Iadarola**: Thurs 4/16 at 10 am (trying to move earlier because that week is just crazy)

POST-TRANSITION MEDIA (In approx. order of deadline):

HOLDING ON ALL

NEW OUTREACH: Julie Pace has renewed her request for an off the record dinner idea with AP Staff. She is aware we're holding.

HOLDING: Gloria Borger (CNN, chief political analyst):
Gist: Basic "who is" profile on each major candidate as they announce.
More from Gloria: "I know John will have an exalted place in the campaign, and would love to chat with him about HRC—in a general way, not in a gotcha way re HRC. It would be about 10 mins, very general, about her as a person and a candidate."
Deadline: Would only run as part of a piece only when she announces. (Which Gloria thinks is quite soon)

HOLDING: Mike Dorning again, new story: "Now more focused on the idea that Secretary Clinton hasn't yet signaled where she will be on the progressive v. Business/moderate internal debate within the party on where to go on economic policy/inequality."
Deadline: Not clear, but through beginning of next week

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HOLDING: Pending a call with her to say "I can't talk soon": Mara Liasson
She has newly reached out regarding an interview on HRC **the week of March 16**

HOLDING: Laura Meckler & Peter Nicholas (WSJ): Laura would like to see you before WHCA Dinner. Coffee, lunch, or office drop by. Wants to talk about the political landscape in general. Could do this with or without Peter, but she'd like to include him.

HOLDING: Gabriel Debenedetti (Politico) – He's covering the Clinton campaign and would like to chat and get to know you (meeting, coffee, lunch) before things ramp up. Received via your AmProg email.

Pending consideration, but you said likely not: Connie Bruck (New Yorker)
Profile on Sen. Feinstein Deadline: Mid-March
Gist: "The piece is one of those endless, 10,000-word New Yorker profiles. So I'm interested in any experiences with Senator Feinstein that John has had, going back to his Clinton years and, of course, his last year with President Obama. He could speak on the record or on background, as he prefers."

APRIL – NEW/PENDING/ACCEPTED REQUESTS:

Holding, Awaiting Robby's Schedule: Possible NYC Day via Dennis Cheng: Finance Senior Staff Retreat

Date: Tuesday Apr 7

Timing: Pushing for late morning, based on your schedule, but Robby doesn't know when he can be free for this yet.

Conflicts: Just have to be back for dinner with Dennis & Pam Lucey at 7 pm in McLean, via Mary (please advise if this is movable though) .

NEW: Breakfast Invitation from Robert Raben honoring Anna Deavere Smith

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 8:30 - 10:00 AM

Location: Four Seasons Hotel: 2800 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Context: Anna Deavere Smith has been chosen to deliver the 2015 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities on April 6 at the Kennedy Center

NEW: Lunch Invitation from Amb. Westmacott

Gist: Presentation of Insignia of Honorary Knight Commander, OBE to Michael Bloomberg

Date/Time: Weds Apr 8th, 12:15 – 2:30 pm

Location: British Amb. Residence at 3100 Mass Ave NW

NEW: Speaking Request from Wade Henderson

Date/Time: Weds Apr 8th, Flexible

Location: GULC Gewirz Hall

Attachment: Letter from Wade Henderson

Gist: "Important convening in Washington, DC designed to highlight our collective efforts to address the role of

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big data in the future of lending."

Not yet accepted—holding until schedule is clearer: Meeting/Dinner Request: Jane Lubchenco

Attendees: Jane, John Bridgefield, Laura Cantral, and Mike Conathan

Proposed dates: Tues Apr 7 (dinner/late meeting only), Weds Apr 8, or Thurs Apr 9

Gist: Wants to discuss whether this idea has legs, via Conathan: "Jane Lubchenco met with John Bridgeland a few weeks back and John has teamed up with Sylvia Earle and filmmakers Sarah & Scott Nixon (who made Sylvia's movie) and they're working with Jane to develop the concept of a kind of home run proposal to go big on ocean monuments/parks to coincide with the National Parks Service centennial in 2016. Kind of a "next big idea"/ pivot from Green to Blue kind of thing"

Holding until schedule is clearer: Wyss Board Meeting in Boston

Dates: Thurs Apr 9 – Fri Apr 10

Note: Wyss will cover travel

Conflicts: None yet

Cherry Blossom 10 Miler

Sun Apr 12

NEW: HRC Political Conference Calls

Conf Calls: Sun Apr 12

Individual Calls: Week of Apr 13

Note: Will be discussed on conf. call on 3/26 or 3/27. Robby's team asked that I block time for these:

Sunday, April 12th: 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Monday, April 13th: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Tuesday, April 14th: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Wednesday, April 15th: 10:00am – 12:00pm and 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Unofficial Invitation: Democracy Alliance 10th Anniversary Conference

Via: Gara LaMarche (glamarche@democracyalliance.org)

When: Apr 12 – 15 Where: San Francisco

Conflicts:

Cherry Blossom 10 Miler Apr 12

GULC Class on April 13

NEW: HRC likely needs you in NYC at least one of those days (just got the heads up today, Mon 3/23)

Notes: HRC Video

Next 34th Street Group Dinner (Added to Calendar as FYI)

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Wed, April 15 at 7:30pm. Guest Speaker: Ben Rhodes. Topic: TBD – Taking suggestions

NEW: Renzi Dinner Invitation

Date/Time: Thurs Apr 16 at 7:30 pm

Location: Villa Firenze

Conflicts: None for now, except the insanity that week will be. *Are you going to Iowa?*

If staying in DC: *Do you want to go?*

NEW: Private Discussion Request from Center for Global Development

Date/Time: Thurs Apr 16, 6 pm

Location: CGD's offices at 2055 L Street NW, Fifth Floor, in Washington, DC.

Attachment: Letter from Nancy Birdsall

Gist: "Private discussion to discuss steps towards making the Addis Declaration a strong foundation for progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals." This is on the occasion of Minister Sufian Ahmed's visit to Washington. They have also invited him but he is not confirmed yet, nor do they know if this will work for his calendar. Others in attendance for the discussion would be "senior officials and development experts".

Conflicts: Renzi Dinner, sort of. I don't think there's enough time to get from this to Villa Firenze, unless you leave by 7 pm.

Set: Senator Jeff Merkley

Thursday, April 16th, 8am breakfast in the Senate Dining Room

Topic: Mostly on Climate, not urgent

Pending: Tarun Das visiting Washington

When: Aiming for something on Apr 16 (full trip: Apr 14 – 16), if it works

Regarding: Unknown

Hold: Lunch with Melody Barnes

Friday, April 17, 12 pm

Al Tiramisu

Based on her schedule. Knows to be flexible in case you have to travel.

Set: Amrita & Ashok Mahbubani (The EKTA Foundation)

Dinner on Sunday Apr 19 at Brandywine, Time TBD

Note: Neera & Ben will join

FYI only for now: UNHCR HC Guterres visiting Washington DC around Apr. 22. May be a dinner or meeting invitation in your future.

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Accepted: White House Correspondents' Dinner

When: Sat April 25

Accepted Invitation: WSJ Laura Meckler & Jerry Seib

Save the Date Received: Allbritton Politico Brunch

Date/Time: 11 am – 2 pm

Location: TBD Washington, D.C.

Pending: Luke Albee

Re: Senate Chiefs on Hillary Discussion, at something like Mott House, informally with 10-15 chiefs

Timing Note: You want to aim for Post-Easter Recess

MAY – NEW/PENDING/ACCEPTED REQUESTS:

FYI for now: Jorge Dotto next DC visit

May 4 to May 15

Do you want to see him?

GULC Papers due to you and Judge Leon (Graduating Students)

Thurs May 7, Midnight

May 34th Street Group Dinner (Added to Calendar as FYI)

Thurs May 14th at 7:30pm. Guest Speaker: Sec. Ash Carter. Topic: TBD – Taking suggestions

GULC Grades Due to Registrar (for graduating students)

Fri May 15, 12 pm

Capitol Hill Classic 10k

Sunday May 17, 8:30 am (You're already **registered**)

NEW Invitation: Global Ocean Commission Final Meeting

Dates: Sat May 16 – Mon May 18 (Dinner on 16th, Meeting on 17th, and meetings with Ambassadors on 18th)

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Location: NYC

Meeting Purpose: "Update everyone on the work we have been doing, discuss our strategy to push key proposals forward, gather advice and input on our strategy and seek participation and support going forward."

Other Context: "We put forward a funding proposal which has been endorsed by the Adessium Foundation, Oceans5 and Pew, allowing us to continue until the end of 2015."

Pending: Tim Wirth & Reid Detchon NYC Invitation

See NEW Attachment: Letter from Tim outlining new options

Timing: Around May 18, 19, 20

JUNE—NEW/PENDING/ACCEPTED REQUESTS:

Pending: Ansel Adams Award from TWS, likely Thurs June 18

Save the Date: EQ-Cap Investors Forum

Via: Dave Chen

When: Tues June 23 (Travel date Mon June 22)

Where: San Francisco

Style: Panel with TBD on topic of climate & carbon.

DATE UNSPECIFIC:

Pending for April / May: Annual White House Fellows talk with Judge Leon

POC: Jenn Paolino

Looking Past June to Fall 2015 & 2016 Early Look

- **Addis Ababa**

Business Conference: July 10th-ish to 12th or 13th (not yet set but holding on calendar)

FFD Conference: July 13-16

- **Pending: Leahy Fundraiser @ Brandywine w/Tony P.** Likely Thurs July 23rd (Awaiting date confirmation from Tony)

- **CAP Summer Board Meeting:** Thurs July 16th (via phone) 2-4 pm

- **CAP Fall Board Meeting:** Tues Oct 20th (in person) 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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- **Food Security War Game:**

Sunday, November 8, 7pm-9pm: OPENING RECEPTION, CAP FOOD SECURITY GAME

Monday, November 9, 10am-4pm: GAME DAY 1, CAP FOOD SECURITY GAME

Tuesday, November 10, 10am-4pm: DAY 2, CAP FOOD SECURITY GAME

- **Global Infrastructure Initiative:** Nov 18-20 in San Francisco

They've only sent a save the date but would like you to be a panelist.

Conference Theme: Explore the disruptive new delivery models resulting from innovation and technology in infrastructure

2016

WCEG:

-American Economic Association Annual Meeting (ASSA): Jan 3-5, San Fran

HRC:

-Early Primaries (Tentative): Iowa Feb 1, New Hampshire Feb 9, Nevada Feb 20, South Carolina Feb 27

-DNC: Mon July 25 – Thurs July 28 in Philadelphia (Wells Fargo Ctr, Pennsylvania Convention Ctr)

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From: "Mark Lippert" <mlippert@barackobama.com>
To: Ricesusane@aol.com
"Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
djsberg@gmail.com
"Antony \(Tony\) Blinken" <tblinken@barackobama.com>
john.podesta@gmail.com
john.podesta@ptt.gov
Date: 11/7/2008 7:19:43 AM
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Just skimming - I'd throw CTJF-HOA brief into the mix for DOD.

From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: Denis McDonough; Mark Lippert; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri Nov 07 14:17:07 2008
Subject: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Below is the list of briefings Jim and I propose we request of the IC and others for senior transition national security staff over the coming weeks.

A subset of these TBD could subsequently be requested for POTUS-E and VPOTUS-E. We leave it to others to decide if it is desirable and appropriate for POTUS-E to request any or all of these in his meeting with Bush on Monday).

We welcome your thoughts.

IC

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity and CI
IRDPA briefs

NSC

Policy briefings on:

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime

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Syria
Lebanon
Egypt
Saudi Arabia
Darfur
Zimbabwe
DRC
Weak States strategy

OMB

Budget briefing

DOD

Ongoing Operations
Iraq
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Nuclear safety and security
Readiness

Homeland Security

Infrastructure security
Border security
Disease/pandemic preparedness
First respone/disaster preparedness
Crisis Response plans/processes and continuity in government

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/14/2015 8:32:28 AM
Subject: Iran tonight

Here's where we've landed:

I want to start by saying something about one of the most serious decisions we face today as a nation – the Iranian nuclear agreement.

As Secretary of State, I traveled tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition against Iran and impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us the leverage necessary to get to the negotiating table and begin the first preliminary talks.

Now, thanks to President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and Secretary Moniz, we have an agreement that blocks Iran's pathways to a bomb and gives us new tools for verification and inspection to compel rigorous Iranian compliance.

There are people of good faith on both sides of this debate, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel, a true friend of America.

None of us should have any illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted, including how we enforce this agreement and deter Iranian aggression and sponsorship of terrorism.

But our path is clear. This agreement, combined with strong enforcement and deterrence, is the only way to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

There simply is no viable alternative.

That's why I strongly support President Obama. And I encourage all of you to get involved and let Congress know that you support the President as well.

And when this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
Date: 7/19/2008 3:40:43 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY

You can find this interview at:

SPIEGEL Online International:

http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,566852,00.html

On Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 10:03 AM, Andres Moreno <andres@progressiveaccountability.org > wrote:

Here is an excerpt and full text of interview
EXCERPT:

SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.

SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?

Maliki: Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems. Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business. But it's the business of Iraqis to say what they want. And that's where the people and the government are in general agreement: The tenure of the coalition troops in Iraq should be limited.

FULLL TEXT OF INTERVIEW:

SPIEGEL: Germany was opposed to the war. The German economics minister was in Baghdad last week, Daimler AG plans to build trucks in Iraq, and you will travel to Berlin this week. Has everything been smoothed out between Germany and Iraq?

Maliki: We want closer relations, and it is my impression that the Germans -- the government, the people and German companies -- want the same thing. Our task is to rebuild a country, and the Germans are famous for effective and efficient work. We have great confidence in them and want to involve them in the development of our country.

SPIEGEL: And there is truly no resentment against a country that opposed the war in 2003?

Maliki: We do not judge our partners on the basis of whether or not they were militarily involved in toppling Saddam. The decisions back then corresponded to the national will of the countries, and we respect that.

SPIEGEL: What exactly do you expect from the Germans and from German companies?

Maliki: We want to get to know them, and we want to know what they want -- and the things they fear when thinking about Iraq. We have to start over again in many areas, including oil production, the development of the power grid and all industries. There is much to be done.

SPIEGEL: What do you expect from the Germans, politically and militarily? The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) occasionally trains Iraqi security forces -- but only in neighboring countries.

Maliki: What matters most to us is that we develop resilient political relationships and work together economically. Our security forces are steadily improving, partly as a result of German efforts. We will be pleased to turn to the Germans to equip our police and military; and should there be new training programs with the German Bundeswehr, we will be happy to accept their help. However, we would clearly prefer that the training take place in Iraq in the future. Overall, I believe that we are gradually becoming self-sufficient.

SPIEGEL: Three weeks ago, your government filed a civil lawsuit in New York against companies that allegedly paid bribes to officials in the Saddam regime. The defendants include three German companies: Daimler,

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Siemens and B. Braun Melsungen. How is this compatible with your overtures to German industry?

Maliki: We are in negotiations with Siemens for the construction of power plants, which shows just how serious we are. Whether the suit you mention succeeds will be for the courts to decide. Under no circumstances will the consequence be that we no longer wish to work with the companies in question.

SPIEGEL: Large parts of Iraq's assets abroad remain frozen -- and inaccessible to creditors. What will happen to this money when the UN Security Council mandate for Iraq expires at the end of this year?

Maliki: We have hired several international law firms to deal with these assets. At the moment, they are protected by UN resolutions, American law and the personal commitment of President George W. Bush -- and we want this protection to remain in place after the end of UN mandate on Iraq. We consider the claims being lodged against this money to be unjustified. Iraq cannot be punished for crimes that were committed by the dictator. This is very important to us, and a key aspect of our negotiations over the future status of US troops in Iraq.

SPIEGEL: Germany, after World War II, was also liberated from a tyrant by a US-led coalition. That was 63 years ago, and today there are still American military bases and soldiers in Germany. How do you feel about this model?

Maliki: Iraq can learn from Germany's experiences, but the situation is not truly comparable. Back then Germany waged a war that changed the world. Today, we in Iraq want to establish a timeframe for the withdrawal of international troops -- and it should be short. At the same time, we would like to see the establishment of a long-term strategic treaty with the United States, which would govern the basic aspects of our economic and cultural relations. However, I wish to re-emphasize that our security agreement should remain in effect in the short term.

SPIEGEL: How short-term? Are you hoping for a new agreement before the end of the Bush administration?

Maliki: So far the Americans have had trouble agreeing to a concrete timetable for withdrawal, because they feel it would appear tantamount to an admission of defeat. But that isn't the case at all. If we come to an agreement, it is not evidence of a defeat, but of a victory, of a severe blow we have inflicted on al-Qaida and the militias. The American lead negotiators realize this now, and that's why I expect to see an agreement taking shape even before the end of President Bush's term in office. With these negotiations, we will start the whole thing over again, on a clearer, better basis, because the first proposals were unacceptable to us.

SPIEGEL: Immunity for the US troops is apparently the central issue.

Maliki: It is a fundamental problem for us that it should not be possible, in my country, to prosecute offences or crimes committed by US soldiers against our population. But other issues are no less important: How much longer will these soldiers remain in our country? How much authority do they have? Who controls how many, soldiers enter and leave the country and where they do so?

SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.

SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?

Maliki: Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems. Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business. But it's the business of Iraqis to say what they want. And that's where the people and the government are in general agreement: The tenure of the coalition troops in Iraq should be limited.

SPIEGEL: In your opinion, which factor has contributed most to bringing calm to the situation in the country?

Maliki: There are many factors, but I see them in the following order. First, there is the political rapprochement we have managed to achieve in central Iraq. This has enabled us, above all, to pull the plug on al-Qaida. Second, there is the progress being made by our security forces. Third, there is the deep sense of abhorrence with which the population has reacted to the atrocities of al-Qaida and the militias. Finally, of course, there is the economic recovery.

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SPIEGEL: Critics have accused you of striking harshly against the Mahdi army of Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, while going easy on his rival Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim's Badr militia.

Maliki: That's not true. We proceed just as firmly against anyone who breaks the law. Just a few days ago, we had an incident with a group associated with the Badr people. The army moved in immediately and arrested them all. No one was spared. The punishment is based purely on the nature of the crime, not on the identity of the criminal.

SPIEGEL: In southern Iraq, where you come from, you have been compared with Saddam Hussein when it comes to harshness.

Maliki: That's the sort of thing that people say who don't understand how urgently Iraq needs stability -- or these people prefer instability. We don't want to spread fear and terror in Iraq. We have, for example, given the militias several deadlines to hand over their weapons. Their resistance was tremendous, so we had to oppose them with tremendous force of our own.

SPIEGEL: What role do you envision for your chief rival, Muqtada al-Sadr? Can there ever be national reconciliation in Iraq without his participation?

Maliki: You can only reconcile with someone who wants to reconcile. His Excellency Muqtada al-Sadr can be a political partner, especially if, to that end, he draws on the great spiritual legacy he has inherited from his ancestors. He has understood that his following was eventually infiltrated by criminal elements, by men from the former regime, al-Qaida people and others. The fact that he is now in the process of systematically separating himself from these elements makes him even stronger as a political partner. As a politician, I might add, not as a militia leader.

SPIEGEL: You spent part of your exile in Iran, and you have visited the country several times since you took office. Can you explain to us what the leaders in Tehran are up to? Are they building a nuclear bomb? Do you see this as a serious threat?

Maliki: I have not been made privy to the details of the Iranian nuclear program. Iranian representatives assure us, however, that this program serves peaceful purposes. Even if Tehran wanted to develop a nuclear weapon, it would take a very long time, simply from a technical standpoint. It is obvious that our region is far too fragile for even a single country to possess nuclear weapons, because it will always be an incentive for other countries to also build their own.

SPIEGEL: Exactly 50 years ago, the monarchy in Iraq was overthrown and a republic established. But we didn't see any celebration of this event at all. What does that day mean for the history of Iraq?

Maliki: There may have been people who celebrated. But certainly not all Iraqis. On July 14, 1958, and era came to an end, but what came afterwards didn't live up to our expectations and hopes. What came were decades of military putsches and the dictatorship. We are still dealing with the aftermath today.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, your job is probably one of the most dangerous a politician can have. How do you cope with this, and what do you do to make it bearable?

Maliki: I lead a very simple life -- one that is shaped by external forces, which is apparently what fate has determined for us Iraqis. In that regard, the past few decades of dictatorship have not changed all that much. What keeps me going? The constant exertion of my job -- and the successes we are now having. It means a lot to me to see how much closer we are today to a democratic Iraq, one that respects human rights, than we were only a few months ago.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Interview conducted by Mathias Müller von Blumencron and Bernard Zand in Baghdad

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ilan Goldenberg** <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org >
Date: Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 9:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] HUGE STORY
To: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com " <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com >

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This is absolutely huge. Maliki just essentially endorsed by name the Obama Iraq plan

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/07/its-over.html

It's Over
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

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In an interview with Der Spiegel released on Saturday, Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

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And

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"Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems."

And

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Is there anything left to say?

July 19, 2008 at 05:59 AM | Permalink

http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSL198009020080719

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Iraqi PM backs Obama troop exit plan: report
Sat Jul 19, 2008 7:38am EDT

BERLIN (Reuters) - Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told a German magazine he supported prospective U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's proposal that U.S. troops should leave Iraq within 16 months.

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"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes."

It is the first time he has backed the withdrawal timetable put forward by Obama, who is visiting Afghanistan and us set to go to Iraq as part of a tour of Europe and the Middle East.

Obama has called for a shift away from a "single-minded" focus on Iraq and wants to pull out troops within 16 months, instead adding U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan.

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Maliki, who is due to visit Germany this week, has suggested a timetable should be set for a U.S. withdrawal but U.S. officials have been more cautious, despite an improving security situation.

The White House said on Friday President George W. Bush and Maliki had agreed that a security deal under negotiation should set a "time horizon" for meeting "aspirational goals" for reducing U.S. forces in Iraq.

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Some five years after the U.S.-led invasion, there are still some 146,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

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(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

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Andres Moreno
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To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/19/2008 1:48:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 9/19

08 Election Daily News Clips
September 19th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9am McCain: Speech on the economy in Green Bay, WI

9:30am BUSH: Meets with the prime minister of Kuwait at the White House

12pm McCain and Palin: Rally in Blaine, MN
- Tracking scheduled for this event

1:15pm BUSH: Photo opportunity with recipients of the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award at the White House

3pm BUSH: Photo opportunity and makes remarks to the Boston Celtics at the White House

News Clips:

MCCAIN ECONOMIC NEWS

McCain to Address Local Business Leaders Friday (Green Bay's WLUK 9/18/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain will give a speech to local business leaders on Friday morning in Ashwaubenon. McCain's speech will be "a policy speech on the state of the economy" according to a spokesperson for the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.
http://www.myfoxnewisconsin.com/myfox/pages/News/Politics/Detail?contentId=7463417&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.14.1

For Rivals, Finance Crisis Is Posing on-the-Fly Tests (WaPo 9/19/08)
By JACKIE CALMES and JEFF ZELENY
The financial crisis has turned the race between Senators John McCain and Barack Obama into an audition for who could best handle a national economic emergency. Mr. McCain, the Republican nominee for president, called on President Bush on Thursday to dismiss the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Christopher Cox, a former Republican congressman and a Bush appointee.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/us/politics/19campaign.html?ref=politics&pagewanted=print

Financial Upheaval NarrowsOptions of Next U.S. President (WSJ 9/19/08)
By GERALD F. SEIB
Sometimes events reshape a presidential campaign. Sometimes they reshape the world the candidates seek to lead.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122177465587454019.html

Obama, McCain Trade Shots Over Responses to Financial Meltdown (WaPo 9/19/08)
By Robert Barnes and Michael D. Shear; A03
Republican presidential nominee John McCain proposed the creation of a new financial institution to head off future Wall Street meltdowns as he and his Democratic rival both groped for a more robust response to the nation's deepening economic crisis.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803822_pf.html

Advisers give clue to candidates on economy (USA TODAY 9/19/08)
By David Jackson, Kathy Kiely and Richard Wolf
The stock market tanks. Major banks and investment firms fail. The economy flirts with recession. Who would President Barack Obama or President John McCain call? ...Team McCain is more professionally eclectic,

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reaching beyond Washington to Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who have run companies such as Hewlett-Packard and eBay. It trumpets low taxes and — at least until now — less regulation.... McCain's economic team is a far-flung enterprise, including dozens of specialists from Wall Street, universities and conservative think tanks
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-18-econteams_N.htm?csp=34

McCain says he would fire SEC chairman (AP 09/18/08)
By Glen Johnson
Republican John McCain, buffeted by criticism about his response to Wall Street's financial problems, said Thursday he would fire the SEC chairman and create a special trust to help strengthen weak institutions.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iE2JCSH5p9r2GBkQWS9TWAMzmuvQD939CMT00

Obama mocks McCain's call to fire SEC chairman (AP 9/18/08)
By TERENCE HUNT
Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama promised new ideas Thursday to calm America's financial meltdown and help struggling families avoid mortgage foreclosure, saying "this is not a time for fear and it's not a time for panic."
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080918/D939CBG80.html

McCain Flub? Republican Says He'd Fire SEC Chair as President (ABC Blog 09/18/08)
By Martha Raddatz
"The regulators were asleep, my friends," McCain said. "The chairman of the SEC serves at the appointment of the president, and in my view, has betrayed the public trust. If I were president today, I would fire him."
But while the president nominates and the Senate confirms the SEC chair, a commissioner of an independent regulatory commission cannot be removed by the president.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/09/mccain-blasts-o.html

Cox Ignores McCain's Criticism (WaPo 09/18/08)
By Michael Shear
"As someone who's been in public life for over twenty years, I know as well as anyone that occasionally this sort of thing can come with the territory," Cox said. "The best response to political jabs like this is simply to put your head down and not lose a step doing the best job you can possibly do on behalf of those you serve.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/18/cox_ignores_mccains_criticism.html

POW!!! ZAP!!! BOOM!! (The Page 9/18/08)
New Obama ad batters McCain along with Fiorina, Gramm and Bush on the economy. Calls Fiorina "a fired CEO" who left with "a $42 million golden parachute." And raises Gramm's "nation of whiners" comment. Says of all four: "They think the economy's fundamentally strong. We know they're fundamentally wrong."
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/396770374/
Link to video of ad ("Who Advises"): http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/whoadvises_ad/
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-of-obama-ad-4/

New McCain Ad Targets Obama Aide's Freddie, Fannie Connections (The Page 9/18/08)
Latest spot skewers the Democratic nominee, goes after Franklin Raines, one of Obama's economic advisers. "Under Raines, Fannie Mae committed 'extensive financial fraud.' Raines made millions. Fannie Mae collapsed." "Barack Obama. Bad advice. Bad instincts. Not ready to lead."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/18/new-mccain-ad-obama-has-no-background-in-economics/
Link to video of ad ("Advice"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYI0mHWQeD8

McCain Plays the Race Card (Time blog 9/18/08)
by Karen Tumulty
When politicians interject race into a campaign, they seldom do it directly. Consider McCain's new ad, which the campaign says it will be airing nationally:
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/09/mccain_plays_the_race_card.html

MCCAIN NEWS

The New McCain: More Aggressive and Scripted on the Campaign Trail (NYT 9/19/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Senator John McCain's campaign events were once free-wheeling journeys marked by flashes of humor, candor and arch observations from the candidate about presidential politics — and John McCain. Oh, and moments that left no doubt that Mr. McCain was not working from any script.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/us/politics/19mccain.html?bl=&ei=5087&en=cd579a98ca5b8c75&ex=1221969600&pagewanted=print

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http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/us/politics/19mccain.html?hp=&pagewanted=print

McCain is criticized for position on Spain (Boston Globe 9/19/08)
By Bryan Bender
Senator John McCain caused a stir yesterday after he would not commit, if he becomes president, to meeting the prime minister of Spain, a key NATO ally fighting alongside the United States in Afghanistan but which pulled its troops out of Iraq in 2004. McCain, in an interview this week with Radio Caracol in Miami, appeared to lump socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero with leaders of Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia who have deep rifts with the United States.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/09/19/mccain_is_criticized_for_position_on_spain?mode=PF
See LAT's "Spain is puzzled by McCain's remarks": http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailspain19-2008sep19,0,568148.story
See NYT blog's "McCain's Position on Spain": http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/09/18/mccains-position-on-spain/

Mother of Fallen Soldier Meets McCain and Palin (Green Bay's WLUK 9/18/08)
It's Senator John McCain's first stop in the area since accepting the Republican nomination. The Straight Talk Express roared onto the tarmac at Austin Straubel in Ashwaubenon Thursday afternoon. FOX 11's Laura Smith has the story of an area woman who was able to greet McCain and his running mate Sarah Palin.
http://www.myfoxnewisconsin.com/myfox/pages/News/Politics/Detail?contentId=7464097&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=3.14.1

In Green Bay, McCain-Palin message is: No tax increase (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel 9/19/08)
By GREG J. BOROWSKI
GOP candidate and Palin draw thousands in visit... Republican presidential candidate John McCain brought a sharpened economic message with him to the state Thursday night, hammering Democratic rival Barack Obama as a job-killing, tax-hiking, do-nothing, old-school politician.
http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=796668
See AP's "Thousands Turn Out to See McCain-Palin in Ashwaubenon": http://www.myfoxnewisconsin.com/myfox/pages/News/Politics/Detail?contentId=7465315&version=6&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.14.1

Not everyone sold on McCain-Palin after Michigan meeting (McClatchy 09/18/08)
By William Douglas
The McCain-Palin campaign plane roared out of this largely Republican western Michigan city Thursday following a Wednesday night town-hall meeting that produced upbeat local news coverage, a throng of Republican faithful and a handful of protesters.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/52738.html

Spain Goof Consensus Emerges (TPM 9/18/08)
by Josh Marshall
...a consensus appears to be emerging that the really shocking lapse was not the original gaffe but how the campaign chose to deal with it.
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Talking-Points-Memo/ ~3/25hagMl3-2k/218038.php

Bill Clinton: McCain 'A Great Man'; Praises Wife's, Not Obama's Economic Plan (ABC Blog 09/18/08)
By Jennifer Parker
However in a rare television interview tonight the former president called Republican presidential candidate John McCain "a great man" and praised GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin as an "instinctively effective candidate."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/09/bill-clinton-pr.html

McCain, Palin change plans, tour Cedar Rapids (AP 09/18/08)
By Glen Johnson and Mike Glover
John McCain and running mate Sarah Palin decided to go the extra five miles after all Thursday when local leaders grew upset that they were flying in and out for an airport rally with no plans to see the flood-damaged city.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_IOWA?SITE=JRC&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain would wield veto pen for farm subsidies (McClatchy 09/18/08)
By Michael Doyle
It's an easy target for the self-styled reformer and a reliable source of mockery. It also distinguishes the Republican presidential candidate from his Democratic opponent, Barack Obama, who's more traditional when it comes to farm subsidies.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/52728.html

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McCain's Hollow Promise To Fight For Equal Pay: 'We'll Take Employers To Court' (THINKPROGRESS 9/18/08)
Last night in a joint townhall meeting, Gov. Sarah Palin (R-AK) and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) touted their supposed support for gender equality, especially equal pay. Palin called herself "a product of Title IX" and declared she and McCain would "create more legislation" to ensure equal pay. McCain jumped in and declared himself an equally ardent supporter of women's rights, pledging his administration would go to court to protect workplace equality:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/09/18/mccain-palin-equal-pay/

PALIN NEWS

Palin Attuned More to Public Will, Less to Job's Details (WaPo 9/19/08)
By Amy Goldstein, Kimberly Kindy and Steven Mufson; A04
...those who know her say Palin, 44, is uncommonly deft at something else: sensing the mood of her constituents, shaping her public messages and harnessing a remarkable personal popularity to accomplish what she wants. "She has an incredible pulse on the public will," said Bruce Botelho, a Democrat who is mayor of Juneau, the state capital.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803492_pf.html

Sarah Palin said yes, thanks, to a road to nowhere in Alaska (LA Times 9/19/08)
By Erika Hayasaki
While seeking votes, she told Ketchikan residents she backed the 'bridge to nowhere.' As governor, she spent the money elsewhere and moved ahead with a $26-million road to the nonexistent bridge.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-bridge19-2008sep19,0,3279132.story
See LAT's "Sarah Palin and Alaska's 'road to nowhere': a timeline": http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-timeline19-2008sep19,0,882044.story

Alaska Star May Add Luster to Tarnished Senator (WaPo 9/19/08)
By WILLIAM YARDLEY
The day Gov. Sarah Palin was introduced as the Republican candidate for vice president, her fellow Alaska Republican, Senator Ted Stevens, announced his strong support. ...This week, as Mr. Stevens has closed in on Mr. Begich in some polls
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/us/politics/19stevens.html?_r=1&ref=politics&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin

Hacker impersonated Palin, stole e-mail password (AP 9/18/08)
By TED BRIDIS
Details emerged Thursday behind the break-in of Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin's e-mail account, including a first-hand account suggesting it was vulnerable because a hacker was able to impersonate her online to obtain her password.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iem-vu_mlRjRYfqkscEkw2ciRm7wD939AO101

Palin's husband refuses to testify in probe (AP 9/18/08)
By MATT VOLZ
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's husband has refused to testify in the investigation of his wife's alleged abuse of power, and a key lawmaker said Thursday that uncooperative witnesses are effectively sidetracking the probe until after Election Day.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jOTk11gvqDAgD0cY3i4WjI_2YOxwD939ES4O0

Palin disinvited from Iran rally (Politico Blog 09/18/08)
By Ben Smith
The organizers of an anti-Iran rally Monday rescinded their invitation to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin after Democrats protested that her presence would turn the event into a political rally, McCain campaign and Jewish community sources said.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0908/Palin_disinvited_from_Iran_rally.html?showall

Shocker: Palin Cancels Big California Swing (SF Chronicle blog 9/18/08)
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who was to star at two major California fundraisers and an Orange County rally for 15,000 next week, has canceled her two-day swing through the Golden State, campaign sources said.
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/sfgate/detail?blogid=14&entry_id=30444

On the Road: Palin Plays It Safe (NYT Blog 09/18/08)
By Kate Zernike
She sticks to her script, even when the facts are in dispute. And while her new stump speech talks about how

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she sees her role in a McCain administration, she skims over specifics, leaving even some voters wondering whether when she will wade into more detail.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/09/18/on-the-road-palin-plays-it-safe/

Palin-McCain (Politico Blog 09/18/08)
By Ben Smith
Sarah Palin promises a "Palin and McCain administration" on the stump in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she was talking about small businesses.
And the reportage from the scene does suggest that the crowds are, still, coming for the bottom of the ticket. O. Kay Henderson reports that the rally began with chants of "We want Sarah."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0908/PalinMcCain.html?showall
Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZKQDyL5gzc

Former Palin colleague says VP candidate is only interested in helping herself, cronies (St. Lake Tribune 9/18/08)
By Robert Gehrke
Sarah Palin's meteoric rise to political superstardom got its start thanks to Nick Carney, who soon came to regret the move.
http://www.sltrib.com/ci_10503452

Palin's hometown legacy left trail of legal bills (CNN 09/18/08)
By Randi Kaye
The sports complex that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's supporters call her most visible legacy as mayor of her hometown left the town paying inflated prices for the land and huge legal bills, according to court records.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/18/palin.arena/index.html?eref=rss_politics

Palin fuels ANWR shift speculation (Hill 09/18/08)
By Jackie Kucinich
GOP lawmakers had mixed reactions Thursday about whether Sen. John McCain will change his position on drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) after his running mate said she is lobbying the Arizona senator on the hot-button issue.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/palin-fuels-anwr-shift-speculation-2008-09-18.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's Scapegoat (WSJ 9/19/08)
John McCain has made it clear this week he doesn't understand what's happening on Wall Street any better than Barack Obama does. But on Thursday, he took his populist riffing up a notch and found his scapegoat for financial panic -- Christopher Cox, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122178318884054675.html?mod=todays_us_opinion

'Always for Less Regulation'? (WaPo 9/19/08)
John McCain's record on Wall Street oversight gets some misleading spin from Barack Obama.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803159_pf.html

Failing Econ 101 (WaPo 9/19/08)
By Eugene Robinson
John McCain was telling the truth when he said that economics wasn't his strong suit.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803052.html

The Crisis Candidates (WaPo 9/19/08)
By R. Glenn Hubbard
How McCain and Obama should respond to the failures on Wall Street.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803050.html

Why It's Getting Mean (WSJ 9/18/08)
By PEGGY NOONAN
Supporters of both candidates doubt their man is up to the job.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122176556077753375.html

Immigration Deception (NYT 9/19/08)
Yes, immigration is a complicated and combustible issue for political candidates — and the economic meltdown is everyone's top priority. No, that is no excuse for ignoring immigration or lying about it to voters, as John McCain and Barack Obama have been doing.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/opinion/19fri1.html?pagewanted=print

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Reckless disregard: McCain and Palin's misplaced allegiance (Salt Lake Tribune 9/19/08)
Dan Galpern
Examination of Sarah Palin's fitness to run the U.S. government - the only proper test for a vice presidential nominee - is compromised by her continuing negotiation with John McCain about which interviewers are safe for her to talk with, and what she may say to them.
http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci_10501434

A political dodge (Baltimore Sun 9/19/08)
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin can run but she can't hide. The Republican vice presidential candidate now says she won't cooperate with a state investigation into her firing of the state public safety chief, an inquiry that she initially welcomed. The probe centers on charges that her dismissal of Walter Monegan was linked to his refusal to fire a state trooper who was caught up in a messy divorce with Mrs. Palin's sister.
http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bal-ed.palin19sep19,0,2871291.story

Palin, McCain add up to a continuation of Bush policies (Hearst Newspapers 9/19/08)
HELEN THOMAS
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin has awesome self-confidence. Chosen by fellow Republicans to be Sen. John McCain's running mate, she told an interviewer: "I'm ready."That confidence reflects her naivete about her role that puts her one heartbeat away from the presidency.
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/379628_helenonline19.html

History Will Judge (WaPo 9/19/08)
By Charles Krauthammer
President Bush exudes a sense of calm and confidence in eventual vindication.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803049.html

A Lasting Bush Doctrine (WaPo 9/19/08)
By Michael Gerson
Whether or not they can identify it, the next occupants of the White House will live by it.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091803048.html

Israel and Palestine Can Still Achieve Peace (WSJ 9/19/08)
By MAHMOUD ABBAS
This month marks 15 painful years since the Arafat-Rabin handshake on the White House lawn. Palestinian children who started school when the Oslo Agreement was signed in 1993 are now young adults. They have not known a day of true freedom or genuine security in their lives.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122178624406455063.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Bush Defends U.S. Moves (WSJ 9/19/08)
By JOHN D. MCKINNON
President George W. Bush sought again to reassure the public about financial markets Thursday morning, but it appeared to have little immediate impact save for drawing new attacks from Democrats.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122173203401851965.html

President Bush goes AWOL (Politico 9/19/08)
By: Roger Simon
Where's George? The president, I mean. You remember him. Dubya. No. 43. Won a second term a few years ago. It was in all the papers. But where has he been lately? Where has he been during America's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression?
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=7713FD84-18FE-70B2-A8422C87B773ADCB

Rice: Russia becoming isolated, irrelevant (CNN 9/18/08)
* U.S. secretary of state decries Russia's foreign, energy policies
* Georgian invasion achieves "no strategic objective," Condoleezza Rice says
* Russia risks bid to join international organizations, Rice says

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/18/rice.russia/index.html

U.S. Drafts Sweeping Plan to Fight Crisis As Turmoil Worsens in Credit Markets (WSJ 9/19/08)
By DEBORAH SOLOMON and DAMIAN PALETTA
Paulson Briefs Congress on Idea to Buy Bad Assets From Banks, Insure Money-Market Funds; Stocks Rebound Sharply
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122177442732653979.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us

Fed Offers $180 Billion for Ailing Money Markets (NYT 9/19/08)
By MATTHEW SALTMARSH and KEITH BRADSHER
Reflecting concerns about the health of the global financial system, the Federal Reserve and the world's other major central banks significantly escalated their assistance to global markets on Thursday, making almost $200 billion available after bank lending came to a near halt and threatened the global economy.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/business/worldbusiness/19centbank.html?

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_r=1&hp=&oref=login&pagewanted=print

U.S. Stocks Rally Most in Six Years on Plan to Shore Up Banks (Bloomberg 9/18/08)
By Elizabeth Stanton
U.S. stocks rallied the most in six years on prospects the government will formulate a ``permanent'' plan to shore up financial markets, while regulators and pension funds took steps to curb bets against banks and brokerages.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aOEQDGa_6XT0&refer=home

GOP Sees Rebound in Battle for Congress (WaPo 9/19/08)
By Shailagh Murray and Paul Kane; A01
Party Hopes Momentum Will Help Limit Losses
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091804138_pf.html

POLLS

Polls: McCain, Obama even in many Big Ten states (AP 09/18/08)
By AP Staff
Results of the Big Ten Battleground Poll, which asked voters in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota for their views on the presidential race.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/09/18/polls_mccain_obama_even_in_many_big_ten_states/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Latest+news

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
"Brian Fallon" <brianefallon@gmail.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
"Nick Merrill" <nick.s.merrill@gmail.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 4/2/2015 10:46:18 AM
Subject: Iran from WH

WH points on Iran....

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Schultz, Eric" <Eric_H_Schultz@who.eop.gov >
Date: April 2, 2015 at 5:27:13 PM EDT
To: "'jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com '" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: you

In case you need:

Historic Understanding with Iran
· Today, the President announced that the United States – with our allies and partners -- has reached an historic understanding with Iran which, if fully implemented, will prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon and make our country, our allies, and our world safer.
· When the President took office, Iran was operating thousands of centrifuges – which can produce the materials for a nuclear bomb – and was concealing a covert nuclear facility.
· The President made clear that America was prepared to resolve this issue diplomatically – but only if Iran came to the table in a serious way. When that did not happen, he rallied the world to impose the toughest sanctions in history—sanctions which had a profound impact on the Iranian economy and helped bring Iran to the negotiating table.
· The world stood with our diplomatic efforts and we were joined at the negotiating table by the world's major powers – the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China, as well as the European Union. So far, Iran has met its obligations to eliminate its stockpile of dangerous nuclear material and increase inspections.

A Good Deal
· Today, after many months of tough, principled diplomacy, we have achieved the framework for a comprehensive deal that meets our core objectives. It's a deal based not on trust, but on unprecedented verification.
· It would cut off every pathway that Iran could take to develop a nuclear weapon and include the most robust and intrusive inspections and transparency regime ever negotiated for any nuclear program in history.
· Key details will be finalized over the next few months, but this is the outline of the deal:
1. Iran will not be able to pursue a bomb using plutonium because it will not develop weapons-grade plutonium. The core of its reactor at Arak will be dismantled and replaced. The spent fuel from that facility will be shipped out of Iran for the life of the reactor. Iran will not build a new heavy water reactor. And Iran will not reprocess fuel from its existing reactors – ever.

2. This deal shuts down Iran's path to a bomb using enriched uranium. Iran has agreed that its installed centrifuges will be reduced by two-thirds. Iran will no longer enrich uranium at its Fordow facility. Iran will not enrich uranium with its advanced centrifuges for at least the next ten years. The vast majority of Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium will be neutralized.

Today, estimates indicate that Iran is only two or three months away from acquiring the raw materials for a single nuclear bomb. Under this deal, Iran has agreed that it will not stockpile the materials needed to build a weapon. Even if it violated the deal, for the next decade, Iran would be at least a year away from acquiring enough material for a bomb. And the strict limitations on Iran's stockpile will last for 15 years.

3. This deal provides the best possible defense against Iran's ability to pursue a nuclear weapon covertly – that is, in secret. International inspectors will have unprecedented access not only to Iranian nuclear facilities, but to the entire supply chain that supports Iran's nuclear program – from uranium mills that provide the raw materials, to the centrifuge

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production and storage facilities that support the program. If Iran cheats, the world will know it. If we see something suspicious, we will inspect it. Iran's past efforts to weaponize its program will be addressed. With this deal, Iran will face more inspections than any other country in the world.

Long-Term Deal

· This will be a long-term deal that addresses each path to a potential Iranian nuclear bomb.
· There will be strict limits on Iran's program for a decade.
· Additional restrictions – on building new facilities, or stockpiling materials – will last for 15 years. The unprecedented transparency measures will last for 20 years or more – indeed, some will be permanent. And as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran will never be permitted to develop a nuclear weapon.

Phased, Earned Sanctions Relief

· In return for Iran's actions, the international community has agreed to provide Iran with relief from certain sanctions – our own sanctions, and international sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council.
· This relief will be phased as Iran takes steps to adhere to the deal. If Iran violates the deal, sanctions can be snapped back into place. Meanwhile, other American sanctions on Iran—for its support of terrorism, its human rights abuses, and its ballistic missile program—will be fully enforced.

Moving Forward

· The President reiterated that the deal is not yet done – and if there is backsliding from Iran in the months to come, there will be no deal.
· He's instructed his negotiators to fully brief Congress and the American people on the substance of the agreement. And the President is confident that the deal will be shown to be good for the security of the United States, our allies, and the world.
· The President's Administration will engage Congress about how it can play a constructive oversight role, and he will begin that effort by speaking to the leaders of the House and Senate today.
· The President will also speak with Prime Minister Netanyahu to make clear that there is no daylight when it comes to our support for Israel's security and our concerns about Iran's destabilizing policies and threats toward Israel.
· Additionally, today, he will reach out to the leaders of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to reaffirm our commitment to the security of our partners in the Gulf. And he is inviting the leaders of the six countries who make up the Gulf Cooperation Council to meet me at Camp David this Spring to discuss how we can further strengthen our security cooperation.

Bigger Than Politics

· Inevitably, there will be critics – but the context is crucial and the questions to ask is simple: do you really think that this verifiable deal – backed by the world's major powers – is worse than the risk of another war in the Middle East? Is it worse than doing what we've done for almost two decades, with Iran moving forward and without robust inspections?
· This is not simply a deal between the President's Administration and Iran. It's a deal between Iran, the United States of America, and the major powers in the world – including some of our closest allies.
· If Congress kills this deal—not based on expert analysis, and without offering any reasonable alternative—then it is the United States that will be blamed for the failure of diplomacy. International unity will collapse, and the path to conflict will widen.
· The American people understand this, which is why solid majorities support a diplomatic resolution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:11 PM
To: Schultz, Eric
Subject: Re: you

Love it!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2015, at 7:21 PM, Schultz, Eric <Eric_H_Schultz@who.eop.gov > wrote:

are on my list for Iran deal outreach!!!

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From: "Kennan Institute" <kennan@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/13/2015 1:18:15 AM
Subject: Invitation: "White Spots—Black Spots. Difficult Matters in Polish-Russian Relations, 1918–2008"

To view this email as a web page, click here

Kennan Institute

Wilson Center

"White Spots—Black Spots. Difficult Matters in Polish-Russian Relations, 1918–2008"

Please join us for a presentation of this pioneering study, produced jointly by the Polish-Russian Group on Difficult Matters. The work, published in Polish and Russian, is based on the expertise of scholars tasked with discussing difficult issues in the Polish-Russian relationship, such as the origins of World War II, the infamously shrouded Katyn massacre, the communization of Poland, and others, incorporating both the Polish and Russian perspectives.

The Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding also invites you to come early and enjoy a coffee and pastry reception.

Speakers

Dr. Sławomir Dębski, Director, Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding; Member, Polish-Russian Group For Difficult Matters

Dr. Artem V. Malgin, Vice-rector, MGIMO-University; Secretary, Polish-Russian Group For Difficult Matters

Moderator

William Pomeranz, Deputy Director, Kennan Institute

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Wednesday, November 18, 2015
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

5th Floor Conference Room

Directions

Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

kennan@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "Ilyse G. Hogue, NARAL Pro-Choice America" <can@prochoiceamerica.org>
To: "John Podesta" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/5/2015 11:02:01 AM
Subject: They. Will. Defund. Planned. Parenthood.

Dear John,

Just two days ago, the U.S. Senate passed legislation to defund Planned Parenthood.[1]

The House of Representatives is dominated by anti-choice Republicans who have voted over and over to defund Planned Parenthood.

And if Republicans win the White House next year, we can kiss Planned Parenthood funding goodbye.

That's what's at stake in 2016. So we're aiming to raise $200,000 by the end of this year to make sure we have the resources to hit the ground running on January 1.

Will you make a generous year-end contribution to NARAL Pro-Choice America right now? Your gift will be DOUBLED by a few generous donors--but only if you give right now.

Planned Parenthood has been attacked by anti-choice extremists for years. **But in the past few months, their war on Planned Parenthood has gone nuclear.**

Starting with those outrageous, heavily edited and illegally recorded videos, there's been an avalanche of hate, culminating with the tragic killing of three people at a Colorado Planned Parenthood.

And from the beginning, anti-choice presidential candidates have poured fuel on the fire by repeating and even exaggerating the worst lies about Planned Parenthood.

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We've been on the front lines of this fight from the start, covering Capitol Hill with policy experts and holding anti-choice Presidential candidates accountable for their unpopular views with our #OwnIt campaign.

Now we're aiming to raise $200,000 before the end of the year, to make sure we have the resources to stop the attacks on Planned Parenthood in 2016.

Will you make a year-end donation to help reach our goal of $200,000 by midnight on December 31? All year-end donations will be doubled.

Thank you for helping to make reproductive freedom real for all women.

Ilyse G. Hogue
President, NARAL Pro-Choice America

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Source:

1. Senate Passes Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood, Repeal Health Law , NPR, December 3, 2015

This message was sent to: John.Podesta@gmail.com | If you'd like to sign up for emails in a different account, click here . If we need to update your contact information, please click here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for NARAL to stay in touch with supporters. However, if you'd like to unsubscribe, click here .

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/22/2008 5:13:19 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 04/22/08

Main Topics: Clinton on McCain, Giuliani on McCain, Gas prises rising, Late Night hosts poke fun at McCain

Summary of Shift:
Networks split coverage between Earth Day segments and the Democratic race as polls open in PA this morning. With gas prices reaching a new record overnight, PA primary coverage focuses on the economy as a deciding factor and single women as this cycle's target demographic. McCain, on Day 2 of his "Time for Action" tour today in Ohio, receives little media attention.
In the second day of the North American Summit, Bush and Canadian and Mexican leaders will focus on expandi ng commerce. Laura Bush co-hosts NBC's "Today Show," where she and the twins discuss their new children's b ook, Bush family life and green tips. Al Qaeda #2 Zawahri releases a new audio message urging Muslims to support Al Qaeda in Iraq. Coverage continues of Army and Marine Corps recruiting convicted felons, and of Defense. Secretary. Robert Gates's comments yesterday that Iran is determined to get nukes but that another war in the Middle East would be "disastrous."

Highlights:
1) McCain dances awkwardly with 'forgotten America'
2) Clinton says her administration would utilize McCain's experience
3) Giuliani discusses purpose of 'Time for Action' tour and talks economics
4) CNN says gas prices rising faster than expected, almost a penny per day
5) Late-night shows hit McCain for being really, really old
   a. Kimmel airs fake McCain youth outreach ad
   b. Leno: McCain is old, Bush is dumb, and Rumsfeld's war is endless
6) Hillary tells Olbermann she'd be willing to use nuclear weapons if Iran launched nuclear attack on Israel [no clip]
7) New USA Today/Gallup poll shows both Democrats would beat McCain, Hillary by 6 points and Obama by 3 [no clip]

Clips:

Highlights #1 and #2
HRC Administration Would be Friendly to McCain; McCain Dances Awkwardly in Selma (CNN 04/22/08 07:03 am)
HILLARY CLINTON: "When I am president I am going to ask him (John McCain) to come over to the White House quite often and take trips with me because he has a perspective, I don't agree with it, and I think he is the wrong person to be president at this time, but we are friends and we will remain friends."

KYRA PHILLIPS: "For his part, John McCain will campaign in working class Youngstown, OH today, part of the tour that takes him off the beaten path for most Republican candidates actually."

PHILLIPS: "McCain met with a group of gospel singers in Selma, Alabama yesterday. And visited landmarks of the civil rights struggle"

PHILLIPS: (Clip of McCain attempting to dance) "this is the part I like to watch, John, ok he is trying to get the moves there"

Highlight #3
Giuliani: McCain Tour Shows He Cares, McCain Economic Plan Better Than Democrats' (CNN 04/22/08 07:55 am)
RUDY GIULIANI: "I think the reason they were selected are these are parts of the country that are suffering more than some others. Suffering from transition, maybe from steel or maybe from mining, other situations**.** He wants to show people there I care about you, you're going to be part of my planning, you're very much a part of the America John McCain wants to lead."

KYRA PHILLIPS: "Well, he has also pledged to extend president Bush's tax cuts. Let's take a look at what the "Wall Street Journal," a conservative paper of course, had to say about his tax plan. **McCain is proposing tax**

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cuts that would cause the deficit to explode or would require unprecedented spending cuts equal to one-third of federal spending on domestic programs. How do you respond to that?"

GIULIANI: "A large number of those I proposed myself. I think those are the tax cuts that will spur the economy. You look at what the Democrats want to do, it would be a disaster for the economy. The capital gains rate would go from 15% to double or triple. The tax on dividends would go from double to triple."

GIULIANI: "I think that the Democratic candidates have a very poor understanding of our economy at the kind of stage it is at right now."

Highlight #4
Gas Prices Rising by a Penny Per Day (CNN 04/22/08 6:09am)
ALI VELSHI: "It's almost been a penny a day. A new record for the price of unleaded gasoline. National average now $3.51 a gallon. These increases are moving faster than we expected them to."

Highlight #5
Jimmy Kimmel Airs Fake McCain Youth Outreach Ad (ABC 04/22/08 12:14am)
JIMMY KIMMEL: Arizona's senator John McCain has pulled ahead now of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, in several recent polls. If elected, you know, he will be 105 years old when he takes office. Which would make him the oldest president ever. It makes sense that he doesn't have a lot of support from younger voters, but he's not giving up on the youth vote. In fact, he has a new ad running that I guess is designed specifically to show young people that he's still with it.

[Begin video clip]
FAKE MCCAIN: Hey, America's youth, John McCain is down with you. Whether I'm listening to chubby checker on my hi-fi or sneaking liquor into a drive-in movie or stuffing myself into a phone booth with 20 of my frat brothers John McCain is far out. So vote for cool cat John McCain. I'll share my drugs with you!
JOHN MCCAIN: I'm John McCain, and I approve this message. [End video clip]

Leno: McCain is Old, Bush is Dumb, Rumsfeld's War is Endless (NBC 04/21/08 11:37pm)
JAY LENO: "According to some of the political blogs, Democratic operatives have been looking for dirt on John McCain since February. You know what you call someone who digs up dirt on John McCain? An archaeologist."

LENO: "And earlier this evening, President Bush made an appearance on the tv show "Deal or No Deal." President Bush was on "Deal or No Deal." I guess he got turned down for "Are you smarter than a fifth grader?" He couldn't get on that one… And in an interview, First Lady Laura Bush, who used to be a librarian, by the way, said she cannot fall asleep without reading. That's what she says. She can't fall asleep without reading. As opposed to her husband, who can't read without falling asleep. That's the whole difference.

LENO: "Speaking of reading, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld now working on a book about his strategy for the war in Iraq. It will be a while before it goes to the publisher 'cause he just doesn't know how to end it. Can't come up with an ending. See, much like his real life."

--
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From: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/15/2015 2:21:04 PM
Subject: you call it

"This agreement condemns the next generation to cleaning up a nuclear war in the Persian Gulf… This is the greatest appeasement since Chamberlain gave Czechoslovakia to Hitler."

— Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), quoted by BuzzFeed , on the nuclear deal reached with Iran.

— John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/13/2008 9:15:38 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain's 70th Bday bash with Russian tycoon...

#35

Online Journal

http://onlinejournal.com

June 12, 2008

John McCain's 70th birthday bash held on boat of Russian tycoon By Wayne Madsen Online Journal Contributing Writer

(WMR) -- John McCain's campaign is trying to make political hay out of the conviction of Chicago tycoon Tony Rezko, a one-time fundraiser for presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. However, the McCain campaign wants to bury the story of McCain's 70th birthday bash held on board the yacht of a Russian aluminum tycoon in the Adriatic Sea. The party was held on August 29, 2006, McCain's birthday and followed a congressional junket by McCain and five other GOP senators to the Republic of Georgia.

The host for McCain's yacht party off the coast of the Republic of Montenegro was, according to WMR sources with close links to the Republican Party, Oleg Deripaska, one of Russia's most powerful tycoons who made his billions in cornering Russia's aluminum market in the 1990s.

The 40-year old Deripaska is also

politically-connected, having married the daughter of Russia's late President Boris Yeltsin. Unlike most other Russian tycoons, who now live in exile abroad and are protected by Israeli passports, Deripaska maintains close relations to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and another Russian tycoon, Roman Abramovich, who was also invested in Russia's aluminum industry. In 2000, Deripaska merged his firm, Basic Element, with Abramovich's firm, RusAl. Both tycoons maintain expensive homes in London.

Deripaska has attracted the attention of U.S. law enforcement and he has been the subject of several civil law suits filed against him because of his business practices. However, no federal criminal charges have been brought against Deripaska. That is because Yeltsin's son-in-law counts, in addition to McCain, former GOP Senator and 1996 GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole among his most ardent supporters. In 2005, Deripaska paid Dole $500,000 in lobbying fees and was granted a visa to enter the United States.

However, in 2006, the Wall Street Journal reported that the U.S. government refused to grant Deripaska another visa because the FBI discovered he made "inaccurate statements" to the bureau.

In the past, the Canadian firm Magna

International, in which Deripaska is a $1.5 billion investor, attempted to buy Daimler Chrysler. The deal ultimately fell through.

McCain and Deripaska first met at a dinner party held concurrently with the Davos World Economic Forum in January 2006 in Switzerland. The party was hosted by Canadian gold mining billionaire Peter Munk, owner of Barrick Gold, which has counted former President George H. W. Bush, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, former Senator Howard Baker, major Democratic Party lawyer/lobbyist Vernon Jordan, and former German Central Bank President Karl Otto Pohl among the members of its International Advisory Board. The party was arranged by McCain's 2000 campaign manager Rick Davis of the Washington lobbying group Davis Manafort. Attending the meeting in Davos were McCain, Davis, Deripaska,

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and Senators Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and John Sununu (R-NH), as well as the host, Munk.

On August 29, 2006, McCain attended a dinner party in Montenegro that was followed by a champagne reception on a yacht that was hosted by Deripaska. Also reportedly in attendance was Davis, whose lobbying firm was representing the government of Montenegro; Munk; and Nathan Rothschild who, on March 20 of this year held a controversial fundraiser for McCain at Spencer House in London. The fundraiser raised questions about McCain receiving illegal "in kind" contributions from a foreign national.

The 70th birthday bash was reportedly a promise of huge cash donations to McCain's forthcoming presidential campaign, another indication of violations of law prohibiting donations from foreign sources. The quid pro quo for Derpaska was that McCain and his top lobbyists were pushing the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS) and its Airbus subsidiary to receive the lucrative US Air Force contract to replace the Air Force's fleet of refueling tankers. The reported source for the aluminum in the Airbus tanker aircraft is Deripaska's Russian Aluminum Company (RusAl).

Some two weeks after the McCain birthday bash in Montenegro, the Russian state-owned Vneshtorgbank announced that it was acquiring more than 5 percent of EADS. At the same time, it was announced that RusAl was in negotiations to merge with a Russian aluminum competitor, SUAL, and Glencore of Switzerland, the firm owned by billionaire American fugitive Marc Rich.

The nexus of McCain with Russian oligarchs like Deripaska, as well as Munk, Rothschild, and Rich signifies that McCain is owned and operated by the very same entrenched global interests who have held sway in Washington during the seven-plus years of the George W. Bush administration.

Previously published in the Wayne Madsen Report.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based

investigative journalist and

nationally-distributed columnist. He is the editor and publisher of the Wayne Madsen Report.

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/17/2009 7:33:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: Conservatives' Dangerous and Reckless Iran Response

Here's a link: http://www.nsnetwork.org/node/1340

On Wed, Jun 17, 2009 at 1:26 PM, Adam Blickstein <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org > wrote:

National Security Network

Conservatives' Dangerous and Reckless Iran Response

Washington, D.C. - American conservatives are showing their true colors in their response to demonstrations in Iran. Despite the almost unanimous opinion of serious Iran experts that it would be very harmful to the demonstrators if the United States were seen as directly supporting them, conservative political leaders - such as Mike Pence, Eric Cantor, and John McCain - and thinkers - such as Robert Kagan - have insisted that the United States do just that. Ascertaining the motives of these conservatives is difficult - are they so blinded by ideology that they actually don't recognize that U.S. meddling would play into Ahmadinejad's hands and would potentially further endanger Iranian demonstrators; or are they simply trying to score cheap political points by attacking Obama. But what is clear is that their cries, recommendations, and critiques are reflective of a conservative movement that on foreign policy has run off the rails.

Calling for the United States to directly support the protests - even symbolically - could place the demonstrators in severe danger. The Iranian regime is feverishly attempting to label the demonstrators as western agitators backed by the United States - Iranian state television even used a clip from FOX News in an effort to make this point. Therefore the calls from Pence, Kantor, and McCain are not only just unhelpful but they are a total gift to Ahmadinejad. Furthermore, conservatives seem oblivious to their own record of failure to promote democracy under the Bush administration, as democracy failed to advance and even receded in much of the world. Aggressive sounding talk, threats of force, and an over emphasis on the mere holding of elections served only to strengthen hardliners and undermine the United States.

- **Iranians, Iranian Americans, journalists, and Iranian national security experts all agree that the last thing Iranian demonstrators need is U.S. interference.** There is an overwhelming consensus among journalists following Iran, experts on Iran, and Iranians themselves that U.S. interference in the current turmoil would strengthen hardliners, and put demonstrators in harm's way:
- **Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nick Burns:** "President Ahmadinejad would like nothing better than to see aggressive statements, a series of statements, from the United States which try to put the US at the center of this." [Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nick Burns, 6/16/09]
- **National Iranian American Council President and Iran Expert Trita Parsi:** "I think it's quite reckless to turn this into a political football here in the United States. In reality, this can have severe repercussions on the streets of Tehran, if the protests are being casted as being orchestrated from the United States." [Trita Parsi, 6/16/09]
- **Iran Expert and Former NSC Official Gary Sick:** "Anything we do or say is going to be interpreted in Iran as interference in their domestic affairs and it will tarnish anyone who is in anyway seen as being supported by the United States." [Gary Sick, 6/15/09]
- **Carnegie Endowment Iran Expert Karim Sadjadpour:** "[W]e don't want to denounce these elections and insert ourselves into that political process which is playing out in Tehran. Historically, we have unwittingly hurt those whom we've tried to help in the past." [Carnegie Endowment Iran Expert Karim Sadjadpour, 6/15/09]
- **Spokesman for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran Hadi Ghaemi:** "It is better for the U.S. not to comment and make itself part of the equation... By supporting one faction versus another, the U.S. would not be helpful at all." [Spokesman for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran Hadi Ghaemi, 6/15/09]
- **Iranian Expatriate via Andrew Sullivan:** "I'm an Iranian living in Canada. A few hours ago I talked to my brother who is a student at Sharif University, he was at the big rally yesterday and they were only feet away from Karoubi when they marched from the university entrance to Azadi square. He asked what had Obama had said and I started reading the transcript. When I got to 'the United States can be a handy political football, or discussions with the United States [can be]' my brother sighed and said thank God this guy gets it." [Iranian expatriate reported by Andrew Sullivan, 6/16/09]
- **Washington Independent Reporter Spencer Ackerman:** "American rhetorical support will immediately become a cudgel in the hands of Ahmadinejad." [Spencer Ackerman, Washington Independent, 6/15/09]

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Nevertheless, conservatives endanger protestors in Iran in order to advance narrow political objectives. Despite pleas from Iranians and insistence from experts, conservatives latched on to protests in Iran as a means of attacking the administration, putting both the protests and U.S. interests in jeopardy. Seizing on the instability in Iran as a means to score political points, Congressman Mike Spence (R - IN) introduced a resolution supporting Iranian dissidents, which read: "While the President may be 'troubled by the violence,' he has yet to express the unqualified support of the American people for those who are courageously risking their lives for free elections and democracy in Iran. If the President of the United States will not express our nation's solidarity with the dissidents in the streets of Tehran, then Congress must." Spence's resolution received the backing of conservative leadership, as second-ranking minority Member Eric Cantor (R - VA) issued a statement saying "The Administration's silence in the face of Iran's brutal suppression of democratic rights represents a step backwards for homegrown democracy in the Mideast. President Obama must take a strong public position in the face of violence and human rights abuses." Cantor and Spence's conservative colleagues in the Senate echoed these extreme positions. Long-time foreign policy hawk and occasional conservative ally Joe Lieberman (I - CT) proclaimed: "We as Americans have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with people when they are denied their rights by repressive regimes. When elections are stolen, our government should protest. When peaceful demonstrators are beaten and silenced, we have a duty to raise our voices on their behalf. We must tell the Iranian people that we are on their side." And, as the Politico reports this morning, Sen. John McCain (R - AZ) demanded on NBC that "that the United States should make clear that it backs anti-Mahmoud Ahmadinejad demonstrators in their battle against 'an oppressive, repressive regime.'" [Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN), 6/16/09 . Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), 6/15/09 . Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), 6/14/09 . Politico, 6/17/09]

Conservatives' approach - which is based on dangerous ideology and ignorance of the situation in Iran - would endanger demonstrators and undermine broader U.S. objectives. Commentator Joe Klein remarked that the comments by McCain and his conservative colleagues are consistent with their "dangerous habit of making broad, extreme statements based on ideology rather than detailed knowledge of the situation in Iran and elsewhere." Even right-wing commentator Pat Buchannan condemned the approach taken by congressional conservatives, saying: "When your adversary is making a fool of himself, get out of the way... U.S. fulminations will change nothing in Tehran. But they would enable the regime to divert attention to U.S. meddling in Iran's affairs and portray the candidate robbed in this election, Mir-Hossein Mousavi, as a poodle of the Americans." Nico Pitney of the Huffington Post reported Iranian national television playing clips of FOX News to show that foreign press was trying to divide the Iranian people in order to take advantage of a weakened Iran. Trita Parsi explains their approach is not based on any familiarity with the situation in Iran: "They're [conservatives] coming out and saying that we should side with the opposition, with Moussavi. I'm really curious to know if they've been in contact with Moussavi, and asked him if he thinks that's a good idea. That's the test that we've failed to pass in the past, in the sense that we've made up our mind on what they should want, and then we act. And then, even when it doesn't work out the way that we hoped for, we think that it's their fault, that they did understanding, genuinely, how positive our intentions were. We can't do it this way." [Joe Klein, 6/16/09 . Pat Buchannan, 6/16/09 . Huffington Post, 6/16/09 . Trita Parsi, 6/16/09]

Conservatives claim Obama and progressives don't care about democracy promotion, but after Bush's eight years of failure they have no legs to stand on. Robert Kagan wrote in the Washington Post today that, "[t]he turmoil in Iran since last week's election has confused the foreign policy debate here in the United States in interesting ways. Supporters of President Obama, who until very recently had railed against the Bush administration's 'freedom agenda' and who insisted on a new 'realism,' have suddenly found themselves rooting for freedom and democracy in Iran... His [Obama's] strategy toward Iran places him objectively on the side of the government's efforts to return to normalcy as quickly as possible, not in league with the opposition's efforts to prolong the crisis." Contrary to the claims of Kagan, progressives railed against Bush's "freedom agenda" not because they oppose the promotion of democracy, but because Bush's efforts both totally failed and were pursued in ways that undermined democracy and hurt America's national interests. The invasion of Iraq is the most clear example of neoconservatives efforts to promote democracy through the barrel of a gun. Yet it was the Bush administration, by giving only insubstantial and inconsistent support for democracy promotion that damaged democracy promotion efforts abroad. When the Bush administration was not invading countries to promote "freedom," its democracy promotion efforts were almost solely based on calling for elections. In the Middle East, from Iraq to Lebanon to the Palestinian territories, the Bush administration pushed elections, while ignoring the need to support liberal institutions, individual rights, rule of law, and the role of civil society that are necessary to build long-lasting democracy. Meanwhile, President Bush kept silent on the various illiberal policies of nations like Russia and Pakistan, where the president preferred a policy based on personal relationships with the dictatorial leaders. [Robert Kagan, 6/17/09 . Washington Post, 8/20/08 . Washington Post, 8/27/08]

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Adam Blickstein

Press Secretary

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/12/2015 6:55:57 AM
Subject: News Update - October 12

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, October 12

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Policeman Prevents Car Bombing in Jerusalem**
- **Shin Bet Tells Israeli Government: Abbas Not Encouraging Terror**
- **Stop Urging Violence, Abbas Tells Fatah Militant Leaders**
- **Fatah Leaders Split Over Support for Disturbances**
- **Hamas Turns Blind Eye to Fatah's Military Activities in Gaza**
- **Security Forces Thwart Stabbing Attack in Jerusalem**
- **Interior Committee Chair: "There is No Security in Jerusalem"**
- **Mideast Quartet Cancels Trip to Jerusalem, Ramallah**

Commentary:

- **Ma'ariv: "The Seamline"**
  - By Alon Ben David
- **Ha'aretz: "Abbas Can't Control the Lost Generation of Oslo"**
  - By Amira Haas

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Ma'ariv

Policeman Prevents Car Bombing in Jerusalem

A car bombing attack that was planned for Jerusalem was averted thanks to the alertness of a traffic cop who stopped a suspicious vehicle on the road between Maale Adumim and Jerusalem. The car was being driven by a Palestinian woman from Jericho, who allegedly cried out "Allahu akbar," after being pulled over and detonated the charge in her car, which reportedly was packed with gas balloons. The traffic cop who stopped her sustained light injuries whereas she suffered from serious injuries.

See also, "Arab Citizen Rams and Stabs Four Israelis, Police Stop Suspected Palestinian Car Bomb" (Reuters)

See also, "Would Be Car-Bomber is East Jerusalem Woman – Shin Bet" (Times of Israel)

Ha'aretz

Shin Bet Tells Government: Abbas Not Encouraging Terror

A senior official at the Shin Bet security service said at the weekly Israeli government meeting that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is not encouraging terrorism "and is even instructing his security forces to prevent terror attacks as much as possible." However, according to a senior official that took part in the meeting, the Shin Bet official said the opposite about senior Palestinian Authority and PLO officials. These officials, he said, "are part of the incitement campaign that is exasperating the violence."

See also, "Shin Bet: Hamas, Islamic Movement Fueling Current Wave of Terror" (Times of Israel)

Times of Israel

Stop Urging Violence, Abbas Tells Fatah Militant Leaders

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas told the leaders of his Fatah movement's Tanzim militant wing Sunday to immediately work to calm spiraling tensions with Israel. According to Palestinian sources, he demanded that the Tanzim representatives, who serve as heads of local branches of the paramilitary group throughout the West Bank, avoid using violence in the struggle against Israel. Israeli officials have charged that Tanzim leaders, including the organization's local leaders, encouraged the growing protests, in part to prevent rival group Hamas from gaining control of developments in the Palestinian street.

Jerusalem Post

Fatah Leaders Split Over Support for Disturbances

Differences have erupted among top leaders of the Fatah faction regarding the latest wave of attacks against Israelis, Palestinian sources said on Sunday. According to the sources, as reported by the *Rai Al-Youm* online newspaper, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is also head of Fatah, has been facing demands from some of the faction's leaders to openly support the new Palestinian intifada. These leaders are reportedly unhappy with the PA's failure to play any role in or support the current wave of attacks on Israelis, the sources told *Rai Al-Youm*.

See also, "Shin Bet to Cabinet: Abbas Not Behind Terror but Fatah Officials Involved in Incitement" (Jerusalem Post)

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Al-Monitor

Hamas Turns Blind Eye To Fatah's Military Activities in Gaza

Despite the ban imposed by Hamas on Fatah's activities in the Gaza Strip since it took control in June 2007, and despite the intensification of political differences between the two parties, the military relationship on the ground looks different: Fatah's military wing, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, is conducting unrestricted military training in Gaza. Questions arise regarding the nature of the relationship between Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and Hamas and about the brigades' adoption of armed resistance, although Fatah leader and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejects the armed struggle against Israel.

See also, "Hamas Joins Fatah/PA Campaign Claiming Temple Mount Jewish Takeover" (Arutz Sheva)

Ynet News

Security Forces Thwart Stabbing Attack in Jerusalem

A Palestinian assailant was shot and killed after trying to stab a Border Policeman in Jerusalem's Old City, the site of numerous similar attacks recently. The terrorist attempted to conduct a stabbing attack near the Lion's Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on Monday morning, when he walked up to a border policeman and stabbed him in his vest. The border policeman was not wounded and security forces immediately opened fire on the terrorist, killing him.

See also, "Lapid: Terrorist was Shot and Killed, That is How It Should Be" (Jerusalem Post)

See also, "Attacker Killed After Stabbing Attempt in Old City" (Times of Israel)

Arutz Sheva

Interior Committee Chair: "There Is No Security In Jerusalem"

The Knesset's Interior Committee held a session on Monday afternoon to discuss the deteriorating security situation in Jerusalem, just hours after an Arab terrorist was shot in the capital's Old City as he attempted to stab a security guard. The Committee meeting was opened by statements from its chair, MK Dudi Amsalem (Likud), who noted that he had initiated the meeting several months ago although it was postponed at the request of Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan (Likud). "There's no security in Jerusalem," began Amsalem, who recounted the seemingly unending list of stabbings, rock and firebomb throwing and general rioting being conducted by Arab terrorists in and around the capital in recent months - and particularly in recent weeks.

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Ha'aretz

Mideast Quartet Cancels Trip to Jerusalem, Ramallah

Representatives of the Mideast Quartet who were set to visit Jerusalem and Ramallah this week have cancelled the trip. The delegation, representing the U.S., Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, was meant to discuss an end to the unrest as well as trust-building measures between Israel and the Palestinians. A senior official in Jerusalem said the announcement was conveyed to Israel on Monday afternoon, noting that the reason for the unexpected cancellation wasn't entirely clear. According to the official, some of the messages received in Jerusalem indicated that the members of the Quartet felt the sides aren't interested in international involvement and in the delegation's visit at this time.
See also, "EU: Current Violence Should 'Push Both Parties to Work Together'" (Times of Israel)

Ma'ariv – October 9, 2015

The Seamline

By Alon Ben David

This is not a wave of terror, neither is it an Intifada, this is a new situation, and it is not about to end anytime soon. Even if there is a certain drop in the violence in the next few days, which is likely, the violence and the terror attacks will not stop: neither in the territories nor in Jerusalem nor throughout Israel. Faced with this new situation, Israel must take stronger deterrent steps against the perpetrator s and their families, and separate between Israelis and Palestinians in every place possible.

We enjoyed the status of being a "villa in the jungle" in recent years and the thought that the insane wave of violence sweeping our region would remain outside our borders, but in today's networked world, there are no real borders and it was just a matter of time until this atmosphere of violence would also reach our close neighbors and reach those among us, inside Israel. This did not begin last month, nor did it begin in Operation Protective Edge. For some years the atmosphere of violence among the Palestinians has been intensifying.

All around them is a Middle East that mainly lives by the knife. The PA deluges them with ultra-violent films that document this—and this has an effect. Polls conducted by the IDF and by civilian research institutions found that more than 10% of Palestinians support ISIS's ideology. That is the highest rate of support from among all the countries in the region. Every once in a while a spark comes along that ignites these toxic fumes, and this time, it was the rumors of a change in the status quo on the Temple Mount.

Most of us have the sense that this is an Intifada. The pictures shown on television look similar to the Intifadas we know. But there is still a major difference: the Palestinian public, in its overwhelming majority, has not joined in the events. Even Fatah's armed Tanzim, the major force in the territories after the Palestinian Authority, is not taking part in the clashes.

In Kalandiya, at the Ayosh junction and at Rachel's Tomb, you can see

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hundreds of young people clashing with the IDF, but these are not the thousands that we saw in the first and second Intifadas. On the day that we see the masses, or the Tanzim, taking part in demonstrations, and let's hope that that day will not come, then we can use the term Intifada. At the moment, we are facing a wave of violence and terror that is mainly terrorism by individuals.

The majority of the Palestinian public feels that it has no reason to embark on another confrontation. True, it has despaired in the political sense, but it wants to hold onto the little that it has—a livelihood, freedom of movement and a life that is, all in all, reasonable in comparison to what is happening in the majority of the Middle East. True, events have an accumulative effect, but the critical mass has not yet been created for a large-scale uprising. A major event on the Temple Mount or another lethal Jewish terror attack could create such a mass.

There are still some effective shock absorbers in Judea and Samaria, but they are being eroded. The PA, despite the declarations of the prime minister, is a restraining factor, not the opposite. It is not a lover of Zion and even less so a Netanyahu fan. The politically battered Abu Mazen cannot even condemn terror attacks, but does not at all encourage them and is trying to suppress the violence.

<u>Too Little Too Late</u>

In this context, it was surprising to see the restraints working for Gaza. Usually, the Gaza Strip responds quickly to events in Judea and Samaria. The events of Operation Brother's Keeper last year spurred Hamas into war at the time whereas now—complete silence. Now too, nobody can guarantee that this will last, but as of now, Hamas's rational thinking, to not drag Gaza into another war, is taking precedence over emotion.

Hamas praises and extols the individual terrorists and calls on more young people to join them, on condition that this takes place in the West Bank and not in the Gaza Strip. These lone wolves, who usually act on a momentary impulse, know that both Hamas and the PA will look out for their families, whether they are killed in the terror attack or whether they emerge alive. They know that their families will be eligible for generous allowances and they know the honor that the family of a shahid commands. This knowledge must be shaken.

The demolitions of terrorists' homes, which were renewed last week, are taking place too rarely and too late. It also appears that they are not having the desired deterrent effect. A stricter punitive policy toward the individual terrorists who are now on their way into Israel must be adopted: from denying their rights to expulsion to the Gaza Strip. The individual terrorist deliberating whether to turn the steering wheel of his car into a group of Israelis must know that he is sentencing his family to a life of wretchedness. This will not stop all the terrorists, but it will cause the majority of them to think twice if it's worth it.

In Jerusalem, despite the 5,600 police deployed there, the police find it difficult to prevent terror attacks in the Old City. One terror attack follows on the heels of another terror attack on Haguy Street, the most heavily guarded alley in Israel, indicating that there must be a change in the entrance arrangements into the city and that metal detectors must be installed at the Old City gates. A number of metal

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detectors were installed yesterday [last Thursday] as a pilot, but more thorough searches must be conducted at all the gates of the Old City.

True, this will greatly impede normal life and will require much more work of the police, it's also true that there will be terrorists who will obtain a knife after entering the Old City, but there is no choice but to conduct more meticulous checks at the gates, which will prevent the unbearable ease with which terror attacks take place today.

The prime minister's decision to ban high profile visits to the Temple Mount is also a step in the right direction, but it should have been done two weeks earlier. The Temple Mount is the most flammable of sites, and that is where quiet must be instated. The ability to hold Friday prayers on the Temple Mount without violence will be an indication of things to follow.

Of all places, the police were successful in containing events on the seamline in the capital. After years of avoiding entering and enforcing the law in the Palestinian villages of Jerusalem, the fact that today, police and Border Police troops have a presence in all these villages, keeps the violence away from the Jewish neighborhoods on the seamline. The clashes take place inside the villages while in the nearby Israeli neighborhoods –Armon Hanatziv and Mount Scopus—the violence is less.

But in order to reach this point, the police emptied most of the rest of the State of Israel of police to bring them to Jerusalem. Sometime soon, they will go back to their own districts, and the seamline will again be set on fire. Jerusalem is desperate for a large and permanent police force, and even more, it is desperate for separation. The only thing that will make it possible for residents of the front line in the Armon Hanatziv neighborhood to make it home in the evening without fear of stones and firebombs is a wall that will separate them from Jabel Mukaber.

For that to happen, the fact that Jerusalem is not actually united has to be admitted, and then to start building dividers between the populations. Anyone who expects Issawiya and Sur Baher to become quiet, pleasant neighborhoods of Israeli Jerusalem—most likely are not familiar with these villages. Yes, the majority of their residents work in western Jerusalem, and they have lived next to Jerusalem neighborhoods for many years now, but they were and remain part of Palestinian society.

All this brings us back to the basic, unanswered question: what does Israel want? What borders does it want to live inside? In the last interview he gave before his death, the late Maj. Gen. Benny Peled, the former Air Force commander, said that Israel had never used its might to achieve a political goal. That it had always addressed what the other side was demanding in exchange for peace, and had never tried to go to the other side and to dictate to it from a position of strength, the kind of arrangement that it wanted. But to that end, Israel would have to decide, finally, for itself, among itself, what its borders are and what kind of arrangement it wants in order to continue to exist.

Alon Ben David is an Israeli television and print journalist. He has been covering Israeli military affairs for more than 25 years for Israeli and international media outlets and is currently senior defense correspondent for Israel Channel 10 and Middle East correspondent

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for Aviation Week.

Ha'aretz – October 11, 2015

Abbas Can't Control the Lost Generation of Oslo

Tens of thousands of families in East Jerusalem and the West Bank fear for the safety of their children, but are also proud that the young people collectively are showing that they are fed up.

By Amira Haas

Tens of thousands of families in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are currently living in fear that their children will be killed, injured or arrested in confrontations with the Israeli army or while attempting to carry out lone-wolf attacks.

When their children leave in the morning, they don't know whether they are really going to school or to friends or to demonstrate at an army checkpoint or to attack an Israeli with a knife. No less than the Israeli and Palestinian intelligence forces, the parents are amazed at the mass, unorganized wave sweeping over the young generation of Palestinians and putting them at risk.

In the face of this uncertainty, each family knows that it, too, may become a statistic, subject to collective punishment — subject to having its home demolished or sealed, having a family member expelled from Jerusalem, having siblings or parents arrested and beaten by security forces or being targeted for months on end by the Shin Bet security service. For the time being, it appears that the green light that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave for collective punishment and shooting at demonstrators is not deterring the lone wolves and the thousands of young people gathering at checkpoints, defying fate and the soldiers.

One of the assumptions of Israeli and Palestinian intelligence is that those carrying out the lone-wolf attacks are influenced by social media. That's true, but they are also influenced by video clips, some of which appear on Israeli sites first, depicting the routine violence that Israel directs at Palestinians. Those speaking of incitement are underestimating the influence of Israeli soldiers killing Palestinians civilians.

For instance, there are the cases of Ahmed Khatatbeh of Beit Furik and Hadil Hashlamun of Hebron, whom the Israel Defense Forces claimed were shot to death after attacking soldiers. A press investigation revealed that no such attack occurred. And then, early last Sunday, there was the case of Fadi Alon of Isawiyah in Jerusalem. The police said he had stabbed a Jew and was therefore shot to death. A YouTube video on Israeli websites showed clearly that, even if he did carry out a stabbing, he didn't pose a danger to anyone when he was shot. It also showed that young Jews had told a policeman to shoot him without knowing what Alon had allegedly done. The videos are fodder, ready to ignite the situation, but they are not the reason for it.

Every family fearing for a son or daughter lives this fodder in the form of the Israeli occupation, so they are not only fearful but also proud in

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advance. They cry a collective "we've had enough," these young people, the lost generation of the Oslo Accords of the 1990s. They don't have the independent state they were promised, don't have active political organizations or a leadership they can look up to. They also don't have prospects for a good job and feel increasingly hemmed in by Jewish settlements.

There is a major difference between the lone-wolf attackers and the thousands of young people marching to West Bank army checkpoints. The lone-wolf is indeed very alone and has reached the depths of despair. The confrontations at the checkpoints, as with any collective action, is a kind of public gathering, which despite the risks involved, has a social dimension, providing a sense of being able to influence the situation.

Palestinian spokespeople are careful not to call the clashes an intifada, but rather a mass outburst, which is appropriate under the circumstances. An intifada, as the Palestinians understand it, is an organized uprising with a clear and unified goal directed by a recognized and accepted leadership. That's far from the current situation.

The disintegrating Fatah movement can't lead the outburst and turn it into an uprising, but it has warned against the use of live ammunition at demonstrations, which it says would serve Israel's needs. Hamas, which is a semi-underground movement in the West Bank, also can't and perhaps wouldn't dare, although the Islamic bloc at the universities, which is identified with Hamas, has called for its followers to join in the current unrest.

And Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas? Several days ago, when newspapers began reporting the clashes and the casualties, he found time to dedicate the new, luxurious headquarters of a construction and investment firm, Consolidated Contractors Company, at a location in the West Bank town of El Bireh that is two kilometers at most from the restive Beit El checkpoint.

Abbas is trying to project a sense of business as usual. Perhaps he knows something the young demonstrators don't. But the time he found for the dedication of the company offices shows how cut off he is from the public. Reality shows that he has no authority or power to prevent this lost Oslo generation from going to the checkpoints and expressing their collective cry of "we're fed up," which ultimately is also directed at Abbas himself.

***Amira Haas is an Israeli journalist and Ha'aretz correspondent for the occupied territories*.**

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From: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/7/2016 12:37:20 AM
Subject: Re: Iowa

Here's a Q and A we did on her record; looks like you have her statement but pasting below as well for convenience:

Didn't North Korea increase its nuclear arsenal on your watch? Hasn't the Obama Administration neglected this problem?

This is North Korea's fourth nuclear test, if it is verified. North Korea's nuclear breakout and its first nuclear test happened under George W. Bush's administration, which was putting almost all of its energy into Iraq. When I became Secretary, I saw the need to up our game in Asia - to build stronger alliances - and to improve our military posture.

We also worked with our allies to test whether North Korea would take concrete steps to denuclearize. Unfortunately, North Korea quickly made clear that it had no interest in abiding by commitments it made. And we made clear that we would not be blackmailed or settle for Pyongyang's terms.

So we built a global coalition to expand sanctions on North Korea. We also worked with our allies to block numerous attempts by North Korea to proliferate. We cut off some of North Korea's key arms clients. And we enhanced our defense posture in the region to deal with the evolving threat.

It's also important to remember that when I became Secretary, our relations with the ROK and Japan were frayed. I worked to restore those ties and to ensure that we put our allies first – and to make clear that we would not cut a deal at their expense. And we took important steps – including to deepen cooperation on missile defense.

Now North Korea has continued its defiance. So we need to be resolute in response, increasing pressure and sending Pyongyang an unmistakable message that its nuclear brinksmanship won't succeed. We need to make clear that we will take whatever steps are necessary to defend our allies in the region. And we need to press the Chinese government, which wields influence with the North Koreans, to be more assertive in deterring the North's irresponsible actions. It should take actions to halt prohibited activities transpiring across its borders or its firms that participate in illicit trade or proliferation will have to face sanctions.

Statement From Hillary Clinton on North Korea's Apparent Nuclear Test

Hillary Clinton released the following statement Wednesday about North Korea's apparent nuclear test:

"I strongly condemn North Korea's apparent nuclear test. If verified, this is a provocative and dangerous act, and North Korea must have no doubt that we will take whatever steps are necessary to defend ourselves and our treaty allies, South Korea and Japan. North Korea's goal is to blackmail the world into easing the pressure on its rogue regime. We can't give in to or in any way encourage this kind of bullying. Instead, we should increase pressure and send Pyongyang an unmistakable message that its nuclear brinksmanship won't succeed.

"The United States and our partners, including the UN Security Council, need to immediately impose additional sanctions against North Korea. The Chinese government, which wields influence with the North Koreans, must be more assertive in deterring the North's irresponsible actions, and it should take actions to halt prohibited activities transpiring across its borders or its firms that participate in illicit trade or proliferation will have to face sanctions. We should also work with our allies to strengthen our missile defenses.

"As Secretary I championed the United States' pivot to the Asia Pacific - including shifting additional military assets to the theater – in part to confront threats like North Korea and to support our allies. I worked to get not just our allies but also Russia and China on board for the strongest sanctions yet.

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“North Korea’s nuclear and missile tests, its human rights record, the cyber hack of Sony this past December -- highlight the continuing threat that North Korea poses.

“And threats like this are yet another reminder of what’s at stake in this election. We cannot afford reckless, imprudent publicity stunts that risk war. We need a Commander-in-Chief with the experience and judgement to deal with a dangerous North Korea on Day One.”

###

On Thu, Jan 7, 2016 at 7:31 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Laura can send you our statement.

On Jan 7, 2016, at 5:07 AM, Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com > wrote:

Any guidance (beyond the statement you issued) on NK?

On Jan 6, 2016, at 7:20 PM, Tina Flournoy <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:

Got it and thanks. We can print it in the am before we leave

On Jan 6, 2016, at 7:16 PM, Michael Shapiro <mshapiro@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

On tax fairness - we're still developing exactly what our policy is going to look like and how to frame it; we're planning to put a memo into her book tonight - so my thought was we should send that across once it's fully formed. We won't be public with the policy until next Monday at the earliest.

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 6:14 PM, Mike Schmidt <mschmidt@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Hi Tina:

I'm attaching a memo we just sent in to HRC on Bernie's Wall Street speech, which also includes Q&A.

Thanks,

Mike

On Tue, Jan 5, 2016 at 4:46 PM, Tina Flournoy <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
Great. Thank you

> On Jan 5, 2016, at 4:42 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> + Schmidt and Shapiro. We will send him a note on Bernie's Wall Street
> speech today and HRC's forthcoming tax proposals
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Tina Flournoy [mailto:Tina@presidentclinton.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:55 PM

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> To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta
> <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> Cc: Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com >; Jon Davidson
> <Jon@presidentclinton.com >
> Subject: Iowa
>
> Thank you both for everything you did to get WJC ready for NH. Any updates
> we need for Iowa?
>
> Thanks

--
Michael Shapiro
Hillary for America
Policy
860-306-5849

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From:	"Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	8/8/2008 3:38:17 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] FW: Administration Appears to be Moving Towards a Timeline. Why Can't John McCain?

Subject: Administration Appears to be Moving Towards a Timeline. Why Can't John McCain?

NSN Daily Update: Bush Administration Appears to Be Moving Towards a Timeline. Why Won't John McCain?

8/8/08

Reports out of Baghdad are that the Bush administration and the Iraqi Government are close to an agreement that would include a timetable for the withdrawal of American combat forces by the end of 2010. This timetable is very similar to the one proposed by Barack Obama and other progressive leaders, security experts Prime Minister Maliki and the Iraqi Government. Unfortunately, John McCain continues to cling to the idea of a permanent American presence in Iraq and continues to claim that Obama's timeline strategy would "forfeit" the war in Iraq.

Iraqi officials report that Iraq and the U.S. are nearing an agreement for a 2010 redeployment timeline for U.S. combat forces. According to Iraqi officials, Iraq and the U.S. are near an agreement to have U.S. forces out of Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009 and all combat troops out of the country by October 2010. Under the plan, which has yet to be officially adopted by the Bush Administration, all support personnel would be withdrawn "around 2013." Still at issue is the administration's demand for immunity for U.S. soldiers under Iraqi law. [AP, 8/8/08]

Despite statements from Iraq's Prime Minister supporting a timeline similar to Senator Obama's and the Bush administration's greater willingness to accept timelines, John McCain continues to cling to the idea of a permanent American presence and claimed this week that Senator Obama wants to "forfeit" the war in Iraq. Last month, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki endorsed a vision for a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from Iraq, saying "U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes." He added, "Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems" and setting timetables would not be an "admission of defeat." Later statements by Iraq's National Security Advisor, Mouwaffak al-Rubaie, and, Iraq's Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi both echoed Maliki's statement. Nonetheless, in his weekly radio address, McCain spoke on Obama's plan in Iraq, stating, "We're finally winning in Iraq, and he wants to forfeit." [LA Times, 8/8/08 ; Reuters, 7/7/08 ; AP, 7/9/08; Huff Post, 7/10/08 ; Der Spiegel, 7/20/08]

Any agreement should be run through a transparent process that includes Congress, the American people and the Iraqi Parliament instead of being negotiated in secret. If the agreement involves a long term security commitment to Iraq, it must be approved by the Congress. Any such commitment would tie the hands of a subsequent administration and constitute a legally-binding treaty that must be ratified before the Senate. [U.S. Constitution . House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 7/23/08]

Quick Hits

The Bush Administration finally appears to be putting a greater emphasis on the war in Afghanistan. In recognition of **Afghanistan's strategic importance**, Defense Secretary Gates will make two recommendations : first, to double the size of the Afghan National Army and second, to bring all U.S. forces under NATO-command. The recommendations, consistent with those the progressive community has been advocating for years, will place more authority into the hands of Afghans and eliminate a bifurcated command structure, opening the opportunity to contribute more resources to the

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mission.

After years of skirmishing between Russian-backed rebels and U.S.-backed Georgian troops **violence has escalated** . Russian tanks and troops entered the province of South Ossetia after Russian peacekeepers, in place since 1992, were killed by Georgian troops. Meanwhile, Georgia shot down two Russian warplanes that it says were bombing the civilian population.

Salim Ahmed Hamdan , Osama Bin Laden's former driver, was sentenced to five and a half years in prison for supporting terrorism; with the time he has already served at Guantanamo Bay, his sentence will be completed in **five months,** at which time he will be returned to the general population of detainees in Guantanamo Bay. It's unclear whether he will be released at that time.

Embattled Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has been gathering his allies, who state that he will not resign in the face of ruling coalition's decision to impeach him.

The Beijing Olympic Games began today, with an extravagant ceremony before 91,000 people, and an outpouring of Chinese national pride.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/24/2008 4:07:06 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/24/08

Main Topics: Charlie Black, energy, health care, public finance

Summary of Shift: Interest in Charlie Black's terror remarks has continued into the second evening of news coverage with less momentum than last night. Chris Matthews led with the story on *Hardball* as did Keith Olbermann. Several people have now invoked the Michael Hensley maxim on gaffes in response to the statement. Doug Imus' controversial comments received only slightly less coverage.
Reports on Barack Obama's alleged snub of Muslims also took a spot on tonight's television news stage. Also o n the democratic side, reporters and anchors took interest in the Clinton family again with Bill's endorsement of Obama and Hillary's return to the Senate. In lieu of the recent Pew poll, faith in America was another major topic t onight as well.

Highlights
1) MSNBC: Trent Lott sings Black's praises
2) CNN: Campbell Brown reminds Nancy Pfotenhauer to stay on-topic during debate
3) MSNBC: Senator Tom Coburn lauds McCain's health care plan
4) MSNBC: Rachel Maddow points to McCain's campaign finance troubles
5) CNN: McCain's appearance with the Governator
   a. Offshore drilling links Bush to McCain
   b. Arnie remains silent on drilling while others protest
6) MSNBC: Olbermann refers to Black's remarks as part of the campaign 'to scare you into voting' for McCain and leads with the story. Richard Wolffe calls Black 'the gift that keeps in giving' for Obama [no clip]
7) MSNBC: Chris Matthews, Andrea Mitchell and Chuck Todd engage in panel discussion on whether another terror attack would help McCain in November with them concluding it's too difficult to tell [no clip]
8) MSNBC: Panel of journalists speculate over possible political impact of another terror attack on the US [no clip]
9) MSNBC: Chris Matthews pokes fun at McCain for his recent head injury [no clip]
10) CBS WUSA's Susan Roberts describes McCain as 'on the ropes' in the wake of Black's terror comments [no clip]
11) CBS WUSA: Summary of back-and-forth between Obama and McCain on energy [no clip]
12) NBC WRC: Summarizes Obama-McCain exchange on energy [no clip]
13) FNC: Bill O'Reilly stated that Media Matters is not attacking Don Imus for his recent comments because any talk of race in the media is bad for Obama. [No Clip]
14) FNC: Karl Rove on "The O'Reilly Factor": Speculator's and the Enron loophole are not to blame for high gas prices, bashes Obama [No Clip]
15)

Clips
Highlight #1
Trent Lott: Defends Charlie Black "as one of the finest people in Washington DC" (MSNBC 06/24/08 3:00pm)
REPORTER: Before we get to Senator McCain's energy proposals, his adviser Charlie Black has now apologized for saying that another terrorist attack would be an advantage for John McCain. I'm wondering what your reaction is to these comments. It's been painted a little bit like something a lot of people have been thinking about but simply wouldn't say because it's not PC frankly.

TRENT LOTT: Well, first **I know Charlie Black as one of the finest people in Washington DC**. I've known him for a long time, I consider him a personal friend. So I have to admit that. He has apologized for it and certainly would have probably chosen a different way to say that. But it was, he was responding to a question. There is no doubt in anybody's mind that when it comes to foreign policy, defense, the terrorism issue, John McCain is strong in that area. And sometimes I worry that the American people have sort of, you know, stopped being aware or they have kind of forgotten the real dangers that we face from terrorists all over this country and all around the world.

So I know that's what Charlie was saying. He was basically saying, 'Well look, this is a strong suit for John McCain based on his background, his history, his leadership, in this area.' He didn't mean to you know to say it or make it sound the way it did and ohh good, you know if we had another strike, it would be beneficial. You shouldn't look

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at it that way. But you should look at the fact that you need the strongest person possible that will deter another terrorist attack.

Highlight #2
Pfotenhauer on CNN Dodges Questions about the 'Psychological Impact' of Offshore Drilling (CNN 06/24/08 8:07pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: […] 'Psychological impact' – that what people really need right now? Is that what they want to hear?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Campbell, you can't take it out of context. I mean, we have—Senator McCain has proposed a comprehensive plan that will give relief in the short-term with the gas tax moratorium, will give near-term relief with energy exploration and development and will give long-term relief through innovation alternatives.

BROWN: What do you mean by that? I don't think we're necessarily pulling that out of context. I just want clarification.

PFOTENHAUER: What I'm saying is it's one piece of a broad, comprehensive plan that will bring result[s] as opposed to Barack Obama. Now we've all been talking a lot about speculators and the role that speculators may have had in why oil prices are so high. You can't say, 'Speculators have contributed to the problem,' and then deny the fact that expectations and market expectations affect reality. That's what futures markets do.

So, of course, future expectations affect prices in the near-term, very, very quickly […]. So it's a very important signal to send to the OPEC countries that have no interest in America doing well here and saying, 'We are no longer going to sit on our hands about supply constraints. We're gonna do something about it.'

[…]

PFOTENHAUER: The windfall profits tax was tried once and it failed miserably. It punishes domestic production and so it falls and therefore increases our reliance on foreign oil and it punishes consumers because it increases prices. Senator Obama truly is Dr. No in this arena.

He has said, 'No' to gas tax relief, no to drilling, no to nuclear, no to batteries. The only thing he says yes to is increase taxes. Increase windfall profit tax on oil, increase on coal, increase on natural gas, as I've said—a perfect storm on bad energy policy.

[…]

PFOTENHAUER: Well, it just reveals ignorance if [McCain's $300 million battery contest] sounds gimmicky because battery technology is a lynchpin for securing our energy independence—

BROWN: But wait! It's the incentive, I guess, in comparison to other methods for how you would go about it.

PFOTENHAUER: […] Senator Obama has praised Senator McCain for his leadership on environmental issues because he proposed the global climate change bill with Senator Lieberman. So Senator Obama has praised Senator McCain's leadership when he wasn't running against him for president. Onto battery technology: the future is not biofuels like ethanol because that still requires oil.

It's not hydrogen. It's not natural gas. We don't have the infrastructure—

BROWN: But the question isn't about battery technology, it's about holding a contest! I mean why—is that what it takes, I guess to get people motivated to deal with the problem?

PFOTENHAUER: Well it's certainly a lot more efficient than just pumping billions of dollars in through the government infrastructure that has produced nothing. Senator Obama's plan is a lot like Jimmy Carter's where we spent billions of dollars and didn't get results because government research does not require results in order to get money. This idea says you have to achieve the objective or you do not get the money.

Highlight #3
Senator Coburn Touts McCain's Health Care Plan (MSNBC 06/24/08 4:00pm)
REPORTER: John McCain is willing to give some people up to $5,000 in tax credits to pay for health insurance but the national coalition on health care says it can cost a family a four up to $12,000, that's a big gap, especially in these economic times. What do you make of that?

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TOM COBURN: Well, I think it's only one part of his plan. **Remember our biggest problem is the 75% of the dollars we spend on health care on chronic diseases. And a key component of his plan is to emphasize prevention and put the dollars into prevention so that 10 years down the road, or 15 years down the road, we're not spending 75% of the money on treating chronic diseases, we will have prevented a large number of those.**

So the problem is not that we don't have enough money in health care, the problem is that only about 2/3 of it actually gets spent on health care preventing some disease or helping somebody get well. So the idea of allowing those people, who no longer have, who have no access to health care, to start along that plan. He also has a plan to tapper the eligibility on Medicaid, so you don't have an abrupt drop with Medicaid [...].

One of the thing that's happened with health care is the market place isn't working. And it's because we're mandating it through bureaucracies and insurance companies and putting them in between the patient and their doctor. And what Senator McCain's plan will do is put the actual patient and doctor back together and give them incentives to go do it efficiently and with great quality outcomes [...]

Highlight #4
Rachel Maddow Reminds Viewers of McCain's Public Finance Troubles (MSNBC 06/24/08 6:38pm)
DAVID GREGORY: […] McCain wants to keep this [public financing] issue alive. Does it resonate?

RACHEL MADDOW: I think that it resonated for a while. I think it is a mistake to keep pushing this because, if he keeps pushing this, if he literally tries to get this out on television—right now, as far as I know it's just on the web—ultimately it's gonna come back to bite him because has his own problems on public financing. I mean, **McCain is the one who said he would take public financing during the primary campaign and then, at the last minute, decided no**, no, no.

He didn't want to take that public financing even though he received loans, at least, partially and allegedly on the basis of the collateral that he was going to get from taking public financing. I mean, he's been back and forth on this issue himself to the point that he's being sued by the democratic party for his stance on it during the primaries. I mean, he's sort of on the moral high ground here, but it's tenuous and I think it's weird for him to push this hard.

TONY BLANKLEY: […] The issue regarding McCain had to do with a lack of a quorum on the election committee because the democrats wouldn't confirm Bush's nominees. That's a very messy issue. This is a nice clean one and it's regarding Obama who says he's above politics.

MADDOW: Tony, [McCain] did change his mind, though.

Highlight #5
Concerns over drilling caused "Bumps in the McCain-Schwarzenegger Road Show" (CNN 06/24/08 06:12pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] John McCain right now. He's trying to put a bigger spotlight on his energy plan with help from California's larger than life Governor. That would be Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER: I have every confidence that once McCain is in the Whitehouse America will get back in the game of having a sensible, consistent and forward looking energy policy.

BLITZER: But there were some bumps in the McCain- Schwarzenegger road show today. Including protests and a biting response from Barack Obama. […]

DANA BASH: John McCain got a big boost from somebody who is incredibly important. Perhaps the most important Republican for John McCain when it comes to the **issue of the environment. Which is obviously is one of the big issues he is trying to use to separate himself from President Bush and make himself out as a different kind of Republican**.

The problem […] they do differ on something that really has bubbled up and really exploded as a potential problem for McCain in that road for him that he is trying to take as a different kind of Republican. **And that problem is offshore drilling. Clearly Arnold does differ with McCain on that issue.** They didn't talk about it today but it was really interesting Wolf, there was some open disagreement from one other member of the panel […] challenged him not only on offshore drilling but nuclear policy. So it was kind of the straight talk that McCain says he likes. […] There were also some protestors outside. […]

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Schwarzenegger Remains Quiet While Protestors and Environmental Experts in California Reject McCain's Energy Proposals (CNN 06/24/08 08:03pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: 83% of American's now feel the cost of gasoline is either a major problem or a crisis. But its not just gas […] everything at the grocery store costs more. […] Whatever you're shopping for, its delivered by truck and truckers say the price of diesel is driving them out of business […] But if you think drilling for more oil is the answer, the scientist that warned us about global warming 20 years ago has a scary new message.

JAMES HANSEN: We really have reached a point of a planetary emergency. The things we hear being said now by Congress and by the President for that matter, to go drill for the last drop of oil in the continental shelf. **It's exactly the wrong thing to do**. In the process it guarantees that we pass the tipping point.

BROWN**: Today John McCain went to California to try a tricky two step**. He again called for offshore oil drilling while at the same time saying we got to do more for the environment and global warming. […] **He had some high profile help; he also had no shortage of critics.**

[…]

DANA BASH: A joint appearance with Arnold Schwarzenegger and an environmental plug from California's green Republican Governor. […] McCain tried to live up to that […]

JOHN MCCAIN: I propose to put the purchasing power of the United States government on the side of green technology.

[Clip of Protestors]

BASH: **Outside the event protesters decrying McCain's new position supporting offshore drilling as a way to ease gas prices. An unpopular move in California. Schwarzenegger strongly opposes McCain on the issue, and an advisor told CNN the Governor planned to make that very clear today, but instead Schwarzenegger largely kept quiet. Still McCain got an ear full on offshore drilling from another invited guest.**

MICHEAL FEENEY: It would be 12, 15 maybe 20 years before those resources came on line and got to full production. That's not going to impact the price of gasoline anytime soon.

BASH: Later McCain tried to clarify his position by saying states should decide whether to drill off their shores.

[…]

OBAMA: John McCain still doesn't get it.

BASH: Barack Obama seized on something McCain said yesterday. McCain was asked just how long it would take before offshore drilling actually started to lower gas prices.

MCCAIN: It may take some years. The fact that we are exploiting those reserves would have a psychological effect that I think would be beneficial.

OBAMA: A psychological effect. In case you're wondering, in Washington speak that means it polls well.

BASH: Obama also mocked McCain's idea for a $300 million cash prize for inventing an alternative car battery.

OBAMA: **When John F. Kennedy decided we were going to put a man on the moon he didn't put a bounty out for some rocket scientist to win**.

BASH: In response McCain pressed a new campaign theme. Obama is Dr. No.

MCCAIN: He talks the talk but has not walked the walk. And on this energy issue, yea it's easy to say no to everything. That's what Senator Obama's doing.

--
Jacob Roberts

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Media Analyst
PMUSA
(c) 208.420.3470
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: efarkas@aol.com
Date: 2/21/2016 11:27:57 AM
Subject: Re: Following up from Tony's brunch - Ethnic surrogate work for HRC

Thanks Evelyn. Good seeing you and we will follow up in the next few days.

On Sunday, February 21, 2016, <efarkas@aol.com > wrote:

> John,
> As I mentioned, as a second-generation (parents came here in '56) Hungarian-American, I'd love to do surrogate work for HRC with the ethnic Eastern European communities, in addition to the foreign policy work with Jake and Laura.
>
> Let me know what I need to do to get it going. As of now I have trips planned to give lectures in the spring in Newport, RI and Seattle and London next week (I did participate in a Munich fundraiser with Melanne V. the week before last and could do something like that again.) I also do a lot of media, mainly right now on Russia and the Middle East -- Amanpour probably next Monday, BBC radio tomorrow am.
>
> Attached is more info about me than you could ever need! - Evelyn

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 12:13:56 PM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

> If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
> To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
> Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
> Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls
>
> Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.
>
> On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>> Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:
>>
>> - Immigration plan
>> - Clinton Cash update
>>
>> Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:
>>
>> **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call**
>>
>> **Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays**
>> Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.
>>
>> --
>> Kristina Schake
>> Hillary for America

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 10:36:37 AM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

The report that Boehner will announce a new investigation can actually help a lot. Interested to see more about that. Cummings said on CBS today that she wants the Committee to release her emails but did not present it as news and no press has noticed. I am trying to reach Cummings staff to get more background and determine how we lift that up tonight and the am. But if Boehner does go investigative route - we have great response on making emails public now, not creating some new investigation. We can also get our Hill tv surrogates like Boxer, Schiff, Schumer out.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 15, 2015, at 5:12 PM, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com > wrote:

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.
2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.
Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.
Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.
Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.
Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-

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records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

<Clips 3 15 15 - GOP Email Stories.docx>

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From: "Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@me.com>
To: "Andrew Wilder" <awilder@usip.org>
"Caroline Wadhams" <cwadhams@americanprogress.org>
"Scott Smith" <ssmith@usip.org>
"Brian Katulis" <bkatulis@americanprogress.org>
Date: 1/14/2014 1:45:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it

This from Fred Hiatt.

Stephen J. Hadley
(202) 220-5061

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hiatt, Fred" <Fred.Hiatt@washpost.com >
> **Date:** January 14, 2014 at 8:14:35 AM EST
> **To:** Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com >
> **Cc:** "Diehl, Jackson K" <Jackson.Diehl@washpost.com >, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com >, Aysha Chowdhry <chowdhry@ricehadleygates.com >, Catherine Eng <eng@ricehadleygates.com >
> **Subject: Re: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it**
>
> Steve, Autumn can always shrink-- we would like to use.
>
> > On Jan 13, 2014, at 10:38 PM, "Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@me.com > wrote:
> >
> > All --
> >
> > The purpose is to help the Administration out of the box on the signature of the BSA. The op ed reflects a lot of input from U.S. experts on the subject, some key Afghan leaders, and from some Administration officials. I believe that the Administration would find it helpful -- and this is a problem that certainly needs solving.
> >
> > Let me know what you think.
> >
> > "U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they reached agreement on a draft "bilateral security agreement" or BSA. The draft BSA lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after the end of 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training, and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
> >
> > Most U.S. Afghanistan experts believe such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to improve and professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate an inclusive political settlement including the Taliban. Some of our NATO allies will also leave forces but only if we do.
> >
> > Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for the Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development simply will not materialize. Without this assistance, few believe any Afghan government can survive for very long.

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So the stakes are high -- for Afghanistan, and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the last twelve years.

Initially President Karzai said he would sign the BSA after its approval by a traditional convocation of Afghan leaders called a Loya Jirga. The BSA received overwhelming approval, But Karzai nonetheless declined to sign. He has required further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and non-interference in the April election to choose President Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened not to sign at all and to leave it to his successor.

U.S. officials have responded by pressuring President Karzai directly and indirectly and setting a succession of missed deadlines, most recently saying that the BSA must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.

One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement along the following lines.

First, he would praise Afghanistan's progress in assuming greater responsibility for its security, in improving the education, health, and well-being of its citizens, and in preparing for the upcoming Presidential election. He would state that, to support that progress, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids, he is committed to facilitating the peace process, and pledges full support for an April election free from all outside influences.

These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer President Karzai a face saver if in fact he wishes to sign the BSA.

Second, President Obama would announce the specific number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.

This step would go a long way to reassuring the candidates for the Afghan Presidency and the Afghan people of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the success of the Afghan election and the morale of the Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, President Obama should resist any pressure to set at this point a date for the termination of the U.S. post-2014 deployment.

Third, President Obama would state that while he is willing to sign the BSA with President Karzai, he is also willing to sign it post-April with a new Afghan President. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring President Karzai -- or anyone else -- for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens President Karzai's hand, encourages further delay, and makes the United States look weak and desperate.

President Obama should make clear in his statement that his troop commitment is dependent upon the ultimate signature of the BSA. But a post-election April or May signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before the end of the year. Indeed, informed experts say that even without the BSA, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) (although our allies would have to negotiate a new SOFA for their forces with the new Afghan government).

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Recent polling suggests that over 60% of the American people believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll suggests that 55% support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And public statements by members suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan Congressional support.

President Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops post-2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, place the Presidential election in doubt, and ultimately risk the collapse of the Afghan security forces. It would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would become once again a safe haven for terrorists -- who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made (with our help) in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure, and prosperous society.

There are less than three months to go before elections to replace President Karzai. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior. It must be based on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to President Karzai with whom the United States can sign a BSA that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries."

All -- That's it. May be a little long for you but Autumn has shown great skill in helping to shrink my stuff without losing the substance. And I will help. At the same time, the subject is important enough to warrant an extended treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve

Stephen J. Hadley

(202) 431-9797

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/1/2008 4:45:58 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Independence, MO 10/01/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately our tracker was turned away from this closed event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain praises Truman for "stay[ing] the course" (and for the courage to fire 1 of the most popular military figures in US history)
- Makes vague promises about "new rules" to "shrink, sell and clean house at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac" (to view: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X10oQlZYSmE) and "new rules" to end frenzied speculation on Wall St
- Promises 1-year spending freeze on everything except defense, vet care and "a few other priorities"
    - promises billions in spending reductions "that will balance the budget"
- Says the original proposal was "flawed", Announces he'll be returning to DC to vote on a "bill that marks a decisive step in the right direction"
- Says they'll be a time to fix the blame later, but now it's Congress's duty to come together as they did after another crisis, 9/11
- When speech was over, McCain can't find the way off stage

Independence, MO: McCain Econ. Speech 10/01/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Ticket-only event
- Pool coverage of event; local media turned away
- About 20 McCain supporters gathered outside event; Tracker didn't see any demonstrators
- When speech was over, McCain switches back and forth across the stage multiple times and has to be led off
    - after speech, went down into audience to shake hands and take pictures with babies
- Local congressman gives brief intro remarks

FULL REMARKS
Thank you all very much. I appreciate the hospitality of the Harry Truman Library Institute. I'm honored to be here in the town that sent Harry Truman to Washington, and the town that welcomed him back when his work was done.

- [ad libs]: before i go much further, i admire much about Truman. 1 among many, incl. his honesty and candor , was his willingness and understanding that the War in Korea could not be abandoned, even in the face of overwhelming public opinion to the contrary. **truman had the courage to fire one of the most popular military figures in US history and he "stayed the course"**

He was a man of principle, of wisdom and a deep and abiding love for our country. His accomplishments in war and peace are among the most significant of any president in the Twentieth Century. He succeeded beyond everyone's expectations – perhaps, even his own – because every day Harry Truman woke up determined to put his country before party and self-interest. We would all be better public servants and the country would be better served if we tried a little more often to keep the example of this good American before us.

President Truman was a student of history, and he knew how suddenly a crisis could come about. And while so many things have changed in the 35 years since his passing, Harry Truman would surely recognize the sources of the financial crisis that now threaten the livelihoods of millions and the future of the entire American economy. Only the vast sums of money would surprise him. But the costs of unbridled greed on Wall Street, the foolishness of politicians who fed the problem, and the recklessness of politicians who failed to meet the crisis – all of these would have a familiar feel to the man from Independence.

We are square in the greatest financial crisis of our lifetimes. And I am pleased to report that today, I will be

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returning to the floor of the Senate to vote on a bill that marks a decisive step in the right direction. **The original proposal was flawed.** I urged additions of taxpayer protections, stronger oversight, limitations on executive compensation and more protections for people's bank accounts. I am pleased that these are being added to improve the original bill. It took Congress a while, and there were costs to these delays. But they have awakened to the danger. And today, with the unity that this crisis demands, Congress will once again work to restore confidence and stability to the American economy.

There will be a time to fix the blame for all that has happened – especially in the case of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and the abuses and political deal-making that corrupted those institutions. But our duty right now is to fix the problem, and that is the business that will shortly take me back to Washington. Following September 11th, our national leaders came together at a time of crisis. Now, with this measure, we have another chance to come together to prove that Washington is once again capable of leading this country.

If the financial rescue bill fails in Congress yet again, the present crisis will turn into a disaster. As credit disappears, students will no longer be able to get loans for college, and families looking for a new home will be unable to get a loan. New car sales will come to a halt. Businesses will have difficulty securing credit for operations and may be unable to pay employees. If we fail to act, the gears of our economy will grind to a halt.

This is a moment of great testing. At such moments, there are those on both sides of this debate who will act on principle. Of course, there are always some who think first of their own interests, who calculate their own advantage instead of rushing to the aid of their country. But in the case of this bill, I am confident there are enough people of good will in both parties to help see America through this crisis. And when the last vote is cast, we can be grateful to all of them – Democrats and Republicans alike – for helping to solve the crisis instead of merely exploiting it.

Crises often have a way of revealing our better selves – of showing what we are made of, and how much we can achieve when we are put to the test. This is true as well of the grave challenges we face in Washington. Yet it should not require extreme emergencies – when the future of our entire economy is on the line – to bring out the best in us, or to bring us together in service to the common good. We are supposed to do that even in the calmest of times. And if we worked together more often in that spirit, perhaps there would be fewer crises, close-calls, and near-disasters confronting our nation.

Just consider the day-to-day routine of Congress – even as the 110th Congress ends, there remains a long list of challenges unmet. Congress has failed to pass many of the appropriations bills funding the regular business of our government. From agriculture to the labor department to transportation, the majority of appropriations bills have not passed. Even funding for the operations of the legislative branch itself has not passed. Congress can't even find agreement on the yearly bill to pay for the Congress itself.

And while these routine funding issues are addressed at the last minute behind closed doors, the big challenges facing our country continue to languish. We still have made no progress to resolving our energy crisis. While we seek solutions to the economic crisis we face today, Washington has been ineffective in addressing the housing crisis that started it. And in the face of mounting job losses, we still have not taken action to put our economy back on track with policies that would encourage job creation, or with updates to an unemployment system and job training programs that were created for the 1950s.

Our government is on the wrong track, our economy is struggling, and I expect we will receive more bad news with Friday's unemployment report. It is a time for leadership and a plan to create jobs and get our country on the right track.

I believe in low taxes; spending discipline, and open markets. I believe in rewarding hard work and letting people keep the fruits of their labor. We will keep the current low tax rates. We will simplify the current tax code. We will double the child exemption from 3500 dollars to 7000 dollars. We will give every family a 5000 dollar tax credit to buy their own health insurance or keep their current plan, and we will open up the national health-care market to expand choices and improve quality. And my administration will reduce the price of food by eliminating the subsidies for ethanol and agricultural goods. These subsidies inflate the price of food, not only for Americans but for people in poverty across the world, and I propose to abolish them.

I believe in a government that unleashes the creativity and initiative of Americans, so they can create more jobs and keep our economy growing. So we will cut business taxes from 35 percent to 25 percent, to give American businesses a new edge in competition. We will spur new investment through R&D tax credits and expensing of equipment. And we will protect the right of workers to decide for themselves, by democratic vote, whether to unionize.

Keeping taxes low helps small businesses grow and create new jobs. Cutting the second highest business tax rate in the world will help American companies compete and keep our best jobs from moving overseas. Doubling the child tax exemption will improve the lives of millions of American families at a time when the cost of living is rising. Reducing government spending and getting rid of failed programs will let you keep more of your own money to save, spend and invest as you see fit. Opening new markets for our goods and preparing workers to compete in the world economy is essential to our future prosperity.

As president, I will also set this country on the straightest, swiftest path to energy independence. As a nation, we will embark on the most ambitious national project in decades. We are going to stop sending $700 billion a year to countries that don't like us very much. We will attack the problem on every front. We will produce more energy at home. We will drill new wells offshore, and we'll drill them now. We will build more nuclear power plants. We will develop clean coal technology. We will increase the use of wind, tide, solar and natural gas. We will encourage the development and use of flex fuel, hybrid and electric automobiles. And in all of this, we will create millions of new jobs, many in industries that will be the engine of our future prosperity – jobs that will be there when your children enter the workforce.

Some still insist that we can achieve energy independence without more drilling and without more nuclear power.

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But Americans know better than that. We must use all resources and develop all technologies necessary to rescue our economy from the damage caused by rising oil prices and to restore the health of our planet. It's an ambitious plan, but Americans are ambitious by nature, and we have faced greater challenges. It's time for us to show the world again how Americans lead.

As president, I will also act immediately with reforms to restore fairness, integrity, and financial sanity to the institutions that have failed us on Wall Street. We will apply new rules to Wall Street, to end the frenzies of speculation by people gaming the system, and to make sure that this present crisis is never repeated. We will bring regulatory agencies built for the 1930s into the 21st century. On my watch, the rules will be enforced, and violations will be prosecuted. And there will be new rules to shrink, sell, and clean house at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We must also realize that this rescue plan has serious implications for future spending. We cannot dedicate [possibly] more than a trillion dollars to rescue failing institutions, and then go right back to business as usual in Washington – as if there were no end to the resources of government or to the patience of taxpayers. Therefore, as president, **I will impose a one-year spending freeze on every agency of the federal government, excepting only national defense, the care of our veterans, and a few critical priorities.** Leadership requires candor. And I will tell you bluntly that America is already ten trillion dollars in debt, and to make our economy strong again we must reduce the burden of federal spending. We cannot tax our way to prosperity. **I am committed to billions in spending reductions that will balance the budget,** and get us on the path away from ruinous debt.

The constant partisan rancor that stops us from solving these problems in Washington isn't a cause, it's a symptom. It's what happens when people go to Washington to work for themselves and not you.

Again and again, I've worked with members of both parties to fix problems that need to be fixed. That's how I will govern as president. I will reach out my hand to anyone to help me get this country moving again. I have that record and the scars to prove it.

I offer this not just as a campaign slogan, but as the way to solve our country's problems. Instead of rejecting good ideas because we didn't think of them first, let's use the best ideas from both sides. This great country can do anything we put our minds to. I will ask Democrats and Independents to serve with me. And my administration will set a new standard for transparency and accountability. We're going to finally start getting things done for the people who are counting on us, and I won't care who gets the credit.

That is the spirit of **can-do patriotism**, Harry Truman, that humble, good man from Independence, Missouri, brought to the presidency. When, to his and everyone's surprise, he assumed the office of the President and the mantle of leader of the free world, he faced the grave and difficult decisions that would end the World War and remake the world out of its ashes.

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Marissa Astor" <mastor@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/24/2015 12:34:01 AM
Subject: Re: [AGENDA & MEMO] Friday Strategy Call at 8:00 AM ET

Good morning,

Below please find background on fundraiser press for discussion on this morning's call.

Fundraiser Cell Phone/Press Access

Upcoming finance events

three events in NY (4/28) three events in DC (4/30)

three dates in LA and three dates in SF will be announced soon.

All events are large receptions 150-300 people in private homes, all will include a 50 person clutch with photo line beforehand.

**the finance team also told me they will be doing a ton of grassroots fundraisers in cities across the country where tickets are $20- if people are going to start writing up the big fancier ones it could be helpful to get these events out there as well.

Recommendation: Establish 2 types of fundraising events, small (under 60 people) which will be closed to press and phones can be taken. Large events where phones will not be taken and we will have a print pooler. In addition to increasing access, an added benefit of having a pooler there is that donors will leak some of what HRC says to the press anyway, and it will likely be inaccurate.

Below is a rundown of what others have been doing on press access at fundraisers.

There have been no public reports about cell phones being confiscated so either it isn't happening or donors aren't leaking (my guess is the former). I have some concerns about collecting everyone's phones at a 200+ person event. It goes beyond what POTUS does and seems more than likely that one of the donors will talk to the press and it will continue the extreme secrecy storyline.

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Yahoo: Obama campaign nixes cell phones at some fundraisers

Time: Obama Campaign Bans Cell Phones at Private Fundraisers

POTUS/FLOTUS

At DNC fundraisers cell phones are confiscated for events with under 60 people (essentially whenever there is Q and A and not just prepared remarks.)

Press Access- when over approx. 60ppl they are pooled for print press, smaller events are closed (DNC got A LOT of pushback for this, some from WHCA)

For FLOTUS we select one local print reporter to pool the event.

GOP 2016ers

Jeb Bush

Jeb held an open press fundraiser in Tallahassee prior to his speech to his foundation promising to be transparent. He also allowed reporters into a house party in NH. It doesn't seem like reporters are generally let in though.

"The New York events follow a Bush super PAC fundraiser in Tallahassee, Florida that included several hundred of the state's top donors and fundraisers. The event was also open to reporters, part of Bush's effort to run a more transparent presidential campaign." [Politico, 2/10/15]

"Aside from the press attention, Bush's trip to New Hampshire was fairly low key. He held no big, open-to-the-public events, only visiting a bioscience company in Hudson and attending a house party in Dover. He took questions during a roundtable event at the local company and again from attendees at the house party, hosted at the home of former New Hampshire GOP chairman Fergus Cullen." [CNN, 3/14/15]

- "His other appearances on Friday and Saturday, which included a fundraiser for Rep. Frank Guinta and meetings with New Hampshire leaders, were all private." [CNN, 3/14/15]

NJ: Jeb Bush's Team Is Taping His Private Events 'As Much As Possible'

Chris Christie

I haven't seen anything about formalized rules, but the vast majority of them have been closed to the press.

Ted Cruz

No specific rules or restrictions that I've seen yet. So far I've only seen dates reported but no stories of reporters getting denied access as of yet.

Rand Paul

Rand's private fundraisers are generally closed press. Occasionally when he does closed press events he'll have one friendly reporter there ie Matt Boyle

A Spokesperson For Rand Paul Said A Fundraiser Was Changed From Open Press To Closed In The Wake Of

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The Jesse Benton Resignation Because "Private Fundraisers Are Not Routinely Covered By The Media." "Rand Paul, of Bowling Green, has not commented about [Jesse] Benton's resignation from the McConnell campaign. Paul was scheduled to host a fundraiser Tuesday afternoon at Forcht Bank in Lexington's Hamburg Place for Republican state House candidate Ken Kearns, who is trying to defeat Democratic incumbent Susan Westrom. The Kearns campaign said last Friday that media could attend the event but on Monday said the event had been closed to the media, at Paul's request. The Kearns campaign gave no reason Paul, who generally is talkative to reporters, did not want the media to attend. Paul spokesman Dan Bayens said Tuesday that Paul is 'most accessible to the media but he's doing a series of fundraisers that were billed as private. Private fundraisers are not routinely covered by the media.'" [Lexington Herald-Leader, 9/2/14]

Marco Rubio

I haven't seen anything on Rubio's fundraisers being open to the press.

Scott Walker

Hasn't announced his run yet so slightly more difficult but it appears his fundraisers have been closed press.

On Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 9:35 PM, Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Below please find the agenda for tomorrow morning's 8:00 AM ET Strategy Call.
>
> There is a memo for the DNC discussion attached to this email for your review ahead of the call.
>
> AGENDA:
>
> 1. Clinton Cash update
> 2. DNC plan (see attached memo)
> 3. Phones / Pool plan
>
> Thank you!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/12/2008 2:29:15 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/12/08

Main Topic: Georgia War

Summary of Shift: The three networks led with coverage of the surprise cease-fire announced today by the Russian President. Despite this shift, pockets of violence are being reported throughout Georgia, and the question of how long Russian soldiers will remain in occupation lingers. Olbermann highlighted McCain's mispronunciation of the Georgian President's name, the exploitation of the war as a campaign tactic, the shallowness of McCain's appeal on the issue, and finally the conflict of interest Randy Scheunemann poses as a former lobbyist for Georgia. Olympic coverage still dominated the cycle with some concerns about swimsuit technology artificially allowing athletes to shatter world records. In domestic news, Nancy Pelosi signaled that she may allow a vote on offshore drilling, oil prices are down while food and shipping prices steadily rise, continued coverage of the leaked HRC strategy memos, and more segments on backyard oil millionaires in North Dakota.

Highlights:
1. FNC: McCain uses Georgian War to Distance Himself from Bush
2. FNC: Pawlenty Emphasizes 'Party of Ideas' brand for GOP
3. ABC: McCain has better record of bipartisanship than Obama
4. MSNBC: Fineman Highlight's McCain's Adoption of Mark Penn Strategy To Portray Obama As Foreign
5. MSNBC: Maddow and Olbermann Discuss McCain's Crass Exploitation Of Georgian War, Conflict of Interest, Shallow Appeals

Clips:

Highlight #1
John McCain uses Georgian Distance Himself from President Bush (FNC 08/12/08 07:05pm)
SHEPHARD SMITH: Now John McCain says Georgia is at a strategic crossroads, and he's calling on Russia again to withdraw those troops. McCain says he's talked to Georgia's President and told him the United States will support what he calls this little tiny democracy.

JOHN MCCAIN: **And I told him that I know I speak for every American when I say to him, today we are all Georgian.**

[…]

CARL CAMERON: Well he says he's been talking to Saakashvili everyday since the Russian invasion began on Friday. **And he made the point that he thinks the Bush administration probably underestimated Russia's expansionist intentions and ambitions throughout the region, and specifically drew differences with himself and President Bush on foreign policy and how trustworthy the President thought Vladimir Putin is.**

MCCAIN: I don't know if the President quote, missed the boat, but I do believe the President isn't, probably had a higher opinion of Vladimir Putin than I do.

CAMERON: McCain suggested that Russia did score a victory here and the US relationship will be affected for years.

SMITH: Politics entering this of course. And some Republicans have said that Obama's response to the crisis hasn't been as strong as McCain's. What does McCain have to say about that?

CAMERON: Well he is having none of that, while his aides suggest that Senator McCain has greater experience. When I talk to the Arizona Senator about it today, he was not going to criticize; saying now is the time to sort of leave partisanship at the waters edge if you will. He pulled his punches:

MCCAIN**: I respect Senator Obama's views and I believe that it's important that we act in a bipartisan fashion now. There's no room for partisanship now.**

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CAMERON: **He's called him naive and inexperienced in the past.**

Highlight #2

Tim Pawlenty: The Republican Party Needs to be a Party of Ideas, and John McCain has Ideas (FNC 08/11/08 05:16pm)

HEATHER NAUERT: […] what is a Sam's Club Republican. Who are these folks, Governor, and why do you believe that the Republican Party is losing what you call Sam's Club Republican's.

TIM PAWLENTY: **In short, the Republican Party needs to do a better job of reaching out to different groups than just our traditional groups. And one of those is people who might shop at a place like Sam's Club or Target or Costco**. They are looking for value, they don't necessarily have more money to spend, but they want to make sure they get good value for what they have. So living within their means, making sure government lives within its means might be one of the measurements for them and what they're looking for in a candidate. **[…] I think the Republican Party needs to get back to being a party of ideas and enthusiasm that will help people where their real needs are and where their real concerns are. And I don't think we've done as good of a job in that in recent years as we could.**

NAUERT: Ok it sounds like you are talking about some of these Reagan democrats of the 80's that John McCain is of course hoping to bring into the party. But you know a lot of conservatives feel that the Republican Part has really gotten off course, there's too much government spending. What do you say to those conservatives who are uncertain about the direction of the Republican Party today?

PAWLENTY: […] We need to be the party that says all right if government isn't going to deal with these things then what are our ideas to make sure peoples needs and concerns can get addressed. […] **Well maybe Senator McCain's idea for a tax cut to allow people to purchase their own heath insurance would be the way to go. It would be one example of not building a government bureaucracy**. […]

NAUERT: […] Tell us what you would bring to John McCain's team?

PAWLENTY: Well I don't talk about the vice president's stuff. […] In general Senator McCain is going to have some great people to look at. He has so many strengths, such a strong leader in his own right that I think he's going to look for somebody who strengthens him in some geographic or policy consideration. Somebody who shares his views and maybe his outlook for the country from a philosophical direction. […]

NAUERT: […] But it is said that you two share a close relationship and a really a political style that is the same.

PAWLENTY: Well I think Senator McCain is a leader of enormous courage and epic abilities. I think the country is calling him out, they need somebody like him. I think he is going to be a fantastic President for the United States of America

Highlight #3

ABC World News: John McCain has a Better Record of Bipartisanship Then Barack Obama (ABC 08/12/08 06:49pm)

JAKE TAPPER: In York, PN, John McCain was introduced by Joe Lieberman, who calls himself an Independent Democrat.

JOE LIEBERMEN: It's great to be here with Rocky McCain.

TAPPER: 13% of Democrats support McCain. […]

JOHN MCCAIN: I just want to say I have a record of reaching across the aisle, of reaching across the aisle and working with my friends, whether it be Joe Lieberman or Ted Kennedy.

TAPPER: **McCain has broken with his party on controversial issues such as campaign finance reform, global warming and most recently immigration reform, his support for which almost cost him the Republican nomination. In the Senate, Obama has teamed up with Republican's […] but nothing that has caused him any real political trouble.**

Highlight #4

Howard Fineman Highlights Strategy Of Portraying Obama As The Other, Non-American (MSNBC 08/12/08 8:02pm)

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HOWARD FINEMAN: Well McCain didn't so much just wrap himself in the flag in York today, he was in it tighter than one of those swimmers in the Olympics in those new bathing suits. I mean they not only did the pledge of allegiance, and the star spangled banner, they did God Bless America, again they did a whole number of things to try emphasize in York, Pennsylvania this old colonial town in East Central Pennsylvania the America theme that John McCain is running on. And I was there when Joe Lieberman introduced him and said you know we want one guy who puts America first and reaches across party lines and one guy who does not. And it struck me as fighting words for sure. And it'll be interesting what if anything the Obama campaign does about it.

KEITH OLBERMANN: […] Isn't this all 6 inches away from being racism?

FINEMAN: […] It's about the idea of mystery and difference. It can take all kinds of forms. It can take allegations of elitism, it can take allegations of religious background, race may be part of it, I stil don't think if you asked McCain flat out if you agree with this kind of messaging that he would necessarily approve of it or support it. But there's no doubt that that's the implication of what Lieberman said and what Mark Penn's memos are about. As you pointed out Keith, Hawaii is part of the United States.

Highlight #5
Maddow and Olberman Discuss McCain's Political Exploitation Of Georgian Crisis, Lobbyist Ties, Focus On Oil And Religion Rather Than Civilian Deaths (MSNBC 08/12/08 8:22pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: […] Could someone tried to have looked slightly like they were not exploiting Georgia for political gain?

RACHEL MADDOW: What a handy little war this has turned out to be, right? […] For all the political celebrating, you could hardly make out the dead civilians here.

OLBERMANN: **Two of the McCain stated reasons for protecting Georgia: Christ and Oil.** Apart from it sounding more and more Goldwaterian here, these are good enough reasons to reignite the Cold War?

MADDOW: Him and what army? We're not going to go to war with Russia any time soon. I mean obviously Russia is way out of line and Russia under Putin is not only a threat to that region but a threat to the global order of things and it's a scary thing. There's two ways to approach that. You either invade Moscow or you try to unite the world and unite NATO even in opposition to what Russia is doing. You don't do that by taking off your shoe and banging pounding it on the podium and saying **'I'll get you Russia my foreign policy guy is a registered lobbyist for your country, the country that you just invade.' That's not the way you move things forward in the same way**.

OLBERMANN: By the way how is that not a big front page conflict of interest in the middle of what apparently a shooting war?

MADDOW: **Randy Scheunemann, top foreign policy aide to John McCain, til March the registered agent of the government of Georgia, one of the two parties involved here. And McCain coming out here bellicose as all get out on wading into this conflict essentially with talking points that were bought and paid for by one of the governments that is party to this conflict. If you want to look like an honest broker, that is not the way to do it. You don't take Randy Scheunemann out on the campaign trail with you to show off your lobbyists.**

OLBERMANN: And having briefed the reporters on the plane coming back from Pennsylvania. 100 years in Iraq or a month, we've heard that. 100 or a month with the bomb bomb bomb Iran song, now this garbage between Russia and Georgia and it's exploitation by the McCain campaign. You use the word bellicose. It seems worse than that. More bellicose than what Bush and Cheney put out for 8 years.

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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Rich Davis" <rich@dixondavismedia.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"David Dixon" <david@dixondavismedia.com>
"John Rimel" <John.Rimel@gmmb.com>
"Jim Andrews" <jandrews@jacompany.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 4:16:24 PM
Subject: RE: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

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We'll work on a first draft...

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 6:14 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>, David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com>, Rich Davis <rich@dixondavismedia.com>, John Rimel <John.Rimel@gmmb.com>, Jim Andrews <jandrews@jacompany.com>
Cc: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Subject: Fwd: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

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The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Rodney White/The Register

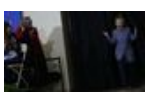

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- 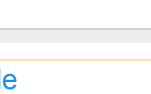
- 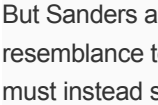
- 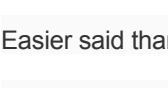
- 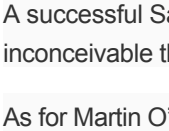
- 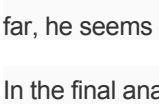
- 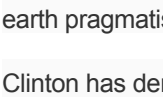
- 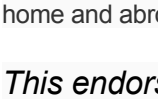

Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

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Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 10/16/2015 11:53:17 AM
Subject: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance 10/16/15

Hi everyone – we wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news this week.

Clinton Development Initiative builds agricultural in East Africa
The International Policy Digest wrote about how the Clinton Development Initiative builds strategic partnerships in Malawi, Rwanda, and Tanzania to address food insecurity and agricultural sustainability. These are key components of the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals.

> *"In Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania, the Clinton Development Initiative (CDI) is implementing a similarly themed model that builds mutual partnerships and blends strengths of the nonprofit, government, research and private sectors toward realization of SDG 2. Within the CDI, strategic partnerships between governments and private sector actors along the value chain are bridging the infrastructure gap."*

Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/654047476421402624
Share the piece on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/862742330513876

Partnership between CGEPartnership, Unilever, DFID works to improve health in developing countries
Devex wrote about how Unilever , a CGI member, is leveraging its knowledge and skills to educate people around the world on basic sanitation and hygiene. The piece also discusses how Unilever is partnering with the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership and U.K.'s Department for International Development to create jobs and improve the health and wellbeing of people in developing countries.

> *"Unilever is also looking at new ways of bringing in innovative ideas and tackling these issues. Last month the company announced a partnership with U.K. Department for International Development and the Clinton Foundation's Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership called Transform, which is designed to create jobs, increase incomes and improve the health and well-being of 100 million people in developing countries by 2025. The five-year, 10 million pound ($15.47 million) initiative will start with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene and will aim to develop social business models that serve low-income households and contribute to the evidence base around behavior change."*

Share news about the partnership on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/651606553884258304

Local New Jersey schools receive awards from Alliance for a Healthier Generation
The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, which was founded by the Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association, recently awarded seven local public schools for their work in creating healthier environments for the students.

> *"At the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Leader's Summit in Washington, D.C., the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, founded by the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation awarded Bronze and Silver Awards to seven Elizabeth Public Schools for transforming their schools into healthier places for students and team members."*

How four Foundation initiatives are empowering rural women
In honor of the International Day of Rural Women , Clinton Foundation staff discuss on Medium how our initiatives are helping to empower rural women around the world.

> *"Observed every year on October 15, the International Day of Rural Women is an important reminder that girls and women in even the most remote parts of the world play a critical role in improving the health, stability, and security of our planet.*
>
> *The Clinton Foundation has witnessed firsthand the power of rural women through our various initiatives to unlock human potential. We asked four leaders from across the Foundation to discuss their work to empower rural women as agents of positive change and economic growth in their communities."*

Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/654833676031819777

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Share the piece on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/863719440416165

CGI at the forefront of virtual reality

Tech Insider covered CGI's virtual reality film "Inside Impact: East Africa." Viewers are "virtually" transported to East Africa, where they see how CGI commitments are improving thousands of lives. The author writes about how virtual reality is becoming an important tool in the philanthropic world and how CGI is at the forefront.

> *"After spending just 10 minutes in virtual reality with Clinton, touring social good projects across East Africa with a little help from the Samsung Gear VR headset, I was convinced: VR is going to be a hugely important tool for nonprofits in the future. It allows people to tell immersive stories about world-changing projects without blatantly tugging at your heartstrings. And it can get across ideas about nonprofit work that might normally make your eyes glaze over."*

CGI celebrates International Day of the Girl

In the Huffington Post's *Impact* section, Greg Woodburn, founder of Give Running, holds a Q&A with Renée Joslyn, CGI's Director of Girls and Women Integration. The piece is in honor of last Tuesday's International Day of the Girl.

> *"There are so many great CGI commitments that highlight how investing in girls and women translates into better communities and stronger economies. One commitment that comes to mind focuses on collaboratively building a more effective channel to identify high-potential women entrepreneurs and develop them into strong corporate suppliers."*

Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/654344679610281984

Hult Prize winners work to improve access to early childhood education

Forbes covered this year's Hult Prize winner, which was announced at the 2015 CGI Annual Meeting. The winning team's unique model improves access to early childhood education around the world.

> *"Prudot sees the problem this way, 'Over 100 million children under the age of six are living in underserved communities and do not have access to quality early childhood education. This situation leads to children being unprepared to enter primary school and with a weaker social and emotional foundation, thus making it more challenging for the youth to thrive and become productive members of society.'*
>
> *Prudot led the formation of a team of student entrepreneurs in Taiwan, where he attends business school at National Chengchi University. The team launched IMPCT, which operates Playcares.com, and competed in and won the 2015 Hult Prize competition at the Clinton Global Initiative last month."*

Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/654377406669713412

CGI Commitment to Action supports working families

As part of a CGI Commitment to Action, Stonyfield joined the Working Parent Support Coalition. The coalition, made up of several corporations, will work to develop best practices in supporting working parents.

> *"The announcement was part of a broader initiative of Stonyfield's parent company, French-based Danone. Danone is part of the newly announced Clinton Global Initiative's Working Parent Support Coalition that includes the U.S.-based divisions and subsidiaries of Barclays, Ernst & Young, KKR and Nestle. The coalition will share best practices and make policy adjustments to support mothers and working families... Each company has made their own pledge, their own commitment, to in some way help support women in the workplace."*

Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/653625867000807424

In Case You Missed It:

The Chronicle of Philanthropy wrote extensively on CGI, its unique model, and how commitment-makers are positively impacting lives around the world.

- A piece in The Hill explains how the work of the Clinton Foundation stands on its own, independent of political rhetoric.

A New York Times article explains how, through a CGI commitment, the New York City public advocate's office is working to make sure nail salons are safe to both employees and patrons.

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- A piece for National Geographic discusses how a new partnership, “Blue Guardians,” which was formed through a CGI commitment, is helping to “protect oceans and enable blue economies.” The Clinton Climate Initiative is one of the partners on the commitment.
- Clinton Foundation President Donna Shalala participated in a radio interview – live from the CGI Annual Meeting – with WNYC’s Brian Lehrer. They discussed a variety of Commitments to Action and the 2015 Annual Meeting’s theme “The Future of Impact.”
- A piece in Quartz discusses a commitment by Google and Aclima to map air pollution in California.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <rduncan@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/23/2008 4:53:37 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/23/08

Main Topics: McCain on Immigration, Phil Graham, $300 Million Car Battery Contest, Pfotenhauer, Pawlenty

Summary of Shift: North Korea is to provide full report and access on nuclear program. Fires are raging out of control in northern California, threatening the well-known wine country. Midwest flooding continues to cause destruction, more levees break but the mighty Mississippi is expected to crest in the coming days. A ferry sinks near Thailand due to a typhoon that has left 800 feared dead. Coalition confirms death of 55+ militants in ambush fighting in Afghanistan. The world is a little less funny as George Carlin passed away yesterday at the age of 71. McCain's car battery challenge as well as his stances on immigration and public financing continue to be talked about.

Highlights:
1. McCain Accused of Being Wrong on All Sides on Immigration
2. Nancy Pfotenhauer Speaks on Finance Reform and Immigration Reform on Behalf of McCain
3. "Empathy is easy, investment is hard", McCain Called Out for Voting Record vs. Record Hypocrisy Over Levee Infrastructure
4. Obama Accuses Phil Graham of Writing Enron Energy Loophole Legislation
5. The Early Show Discusses McCain's Image Strategy
6. $300 Million Dollar Battery Prize Gets Mixed Reviews
7. Pawlenty Talks Mccain on Bush's Tax Cuts
8. Obama ahead in the polls but Republicans are catching up on fundraising [no clip]
9. Corzine mentions Phil Gramm's influence on the Enron loophole [no clip]
10. McCain's Top TV Pics (24, The Office, Lost) Highlighted on FNC [no clip]
11. Surprise! McCain Does Better Among White Voters Poll Finds [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Accused of Being Wrong on All Sides on Immigration (CNN, 06/23/08, 6:57am)
KIRAN CHETRTY: […] Some conservatives say they are outraged by what they are saying is John McCain's flip-flopping on immigration. They're accusing him of pandering to Latinos for votes. **Our next guest says there are two John McCain's when it comes to immigration. [**…] Rosanna, let me start with you because you were invited to this closed door session with McCain as well as with some other Hispanic leaders last week. You're a Mexican-American and you're also conservative, and you're saying that meeting, or what you heard him say at that meeting was upsetting. Explain.

ROSANNA PULIDO: Absolutely, because John McCain one day said, "I got it. I understand that people, American citizens want enforcement first. **But the truth is if you look at John McCain's voting record, as far as illegal immigration, it's terrible.** And to come into a group, and his mantra that evening was that he assured us that he would urge Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Well, that's not what I came to hear. **And John McCain is just another politician that acts like he was elected to represent the Mexican government, not the citizens of America.**

CHETRY: […] What is it that you want to hear from him? Don't we need some sort of reform when it comes to immigration in our country?

PULIDO: We need enforcement. We need comprehensive immigration enforcement of our laws.

CHETRY: And hasn't he said that he would do that?

PULIDO: Not when he's talking comprehensive immigration reform which is really a code word for amnesty. **John McCain acts like there's two choices, mass deportation or mass legalization.** What Americans want is intrition through enforcement.

CHETRY: […] Is John McCain finding himself in a no-win situation when it comes to immigration?

LESLIE SANCHEZ: No, I think that John McCain took his lumps when it comes to immigration reform. Especially

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with respect to conservatives, making sure their voices are heard on this issue. If you look back to last summer, this issue was one of the few that basically destroyed the campaign. Three quarters, it basically went bankrupt. It lost three quarters of the staff, and had to rebuild. And I think if you listen to the rhetoric that John McCain put forward, he says, I stridently worked with Kennedy on comprehensive immigration reform. Not through any fault of his own, or any republicans, but I would say a lot of fault does lay on the democrats, mud on both sides, that this did not move forward.

CHETRY: Is he saying one thing to the conservative republican voters, and one thing to Latinos when it comes to what he would do?

SANCHEZ: Kiran, absolutely not! I think what he is saying is exactly what's consistent. I spoke to the campaign yesterday about this particular meeting, it's consistent with everything else he says. He says I moved very forward with comprehensive immigration reform, it did not work, there was not this kind of sentiment in America for this type of movement. I understand now that we have to work on border enforcement first. And he's going to start with that, he is not going to move forward with a measure like McCain-Kennedy. He knows that didn't work. And I think that's what he's saying. The difference is he's saying there has to be some sort of compassionate realistic approach to what to do with the twelve million plus undocumented illegal's who are here.

CHETRY: […] He said that he would not again vote for his measure. He says that he understands that people want the borders secured first. What's wrong with that?

PULIDO: **What's wrong with that is that he is a senator in a border state where we've had a massive flood of illegal aliens come into this country, he hasn't done anything to stop it, and now he's going to use it for his campaign saying I will close the border. What has he been doing all these years?** Border security is not an immigration issue. Border security is a national security issue. Which he's failed.

Highlight #2

Nancy Pfotenhauer Speaks on Finance Reform and Immigration Reform on Behalf of McCain (CNN, 6/23/08, 7:25am)

JOHN ROBERTS: John McCain and Barack Obama battling over money after Senator Obama opted out of public financing for the general election. What does the McCain side think about Senator Obama's move? […] She joins us now from McCain headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Nancy, good to see you. There's been an awful lot of criticism of Senator Obama for this decision from the McCain campaign. Isn't that just because it puts Senator McCain at a distinct financial disadvantage?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I don't think so. This is something that both gentlemen said they would pursue because it was the right thing the do. I t was the right thing to do because pursuing public financing is a way of keeping corruption and special interest politics to a minimum. And the bottom line is that Obama broke his word to the American people. You know, it's easy -- doing the right thing is easy, it doesn't really test your character. It's doing the right thing when it's difficult that character is revealed. Juxtapose Obama who has a preacher's gift for a righteous statement but side steps like a politician when it's going to cost him anything, with John McCain. He wouldn't take the easy way out, even when his life was on the line as a prisoner of war and he was offered early release and special treatment and he refused to take it because that wasn't the right thing to do.

ROBERTS: Let me try to keep this focused on campaign financed. We had Robert Gibbs, the communications director from the Obama campaign on this program on Friday. He says that the McCain campaign uses financing, the public system only when it suits his purpose and that he's got his own problems when it comes to public versus private financing. Let's listen to what Robert Gibbs said.

[…] [Robert Gibbs Clip Shown]

So what he's talking about there, Nancy, is back in the early stages of the primary campaign when John McCain wasn't doing so well, it looked like he was going to take public financing and then when his poll numbers came up he decided to opt out. Then there was this idea of this line of credit for $4 million that he took and still some lingering questions over whether or not he used that as collateral for public financing. The FEC still wants to know about this and the democrats are going to re-file a lawsuit on that issue tomorrow morning. So what do you say about that?

PFOTENHAUER: Well, of course they are. That's the nature of politics. But you know, John, that there's a big difference between public financing at the primary level and the general election. People have acknowledged from both parties that the primary system is broken, if you will, from the standpoint of financing. And it was the people who were kind of the cream of the crop who are committing to public financing in the general election.

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And Obama said that he would aggressively pursue it and then threw it out the window the second it was inconvenient. It's bold talk, not bold actions. And frankly, it's bold actions that makes the man.

ROBERTS: There's another issue out there, Nancy, that we were talking about this morning, this idea of a meeting that Senator McCain had last week with a group of Hispanic voters, about 100 of them. One of the people who was there was Rosanna Pulito, who is a member of the Minutemen Organization. She accused him of pandering to Hispanic interests by saying at that meeting that he was going to push for comprehensive immigration reform. Let's listen to what she told us just a little white ago here.

[Pulito Clip Shown]

Is senator McCain, Nancy, throwing conservatives under the bus on this issue of immigration reform? He said during one of our debates that you've got to secure the borders first. Rosanna Pulito was accusing him of pandering to Hispanic voters.

PFOTENHAUER: She's also the only first who came out of that meeting makes the claim. I think Senator McCain, who has provided more day-to-day access to the media, he's on the record more than any presidential candidate in history, certainly in recent history, so he's not hiding what he has to say. He's made it clear that he heard from the American people that it's secure the borders first, but you don't stop once you secure the borders. We still then have to deal with the problem that we've got and the challenge of this nation.

ROBERTS: So he will push for comprehensive immigration reform?

PFOTENHAUER: He will secure the borders first and then continue to deal with the problem of immigration. He's never hidden from that at all. In fact, it's something that was the subject of quite a few debates during the primary season.

Highlight #3

"Empathy is easy, investment is hard", McCain Called Out for Voting Record vs. Record Hypocrisy Over Levee Infrastructure (FNC, 06/23/08, 6:40am)

CHRIS GATES: […] **John McCain can't have it both ways. Empathy is easy, investment is hard. You can't fly to Iowa, talk about how badly you feel, talk about how your heart goes out to all of them, and then have voted against funding for those levees, for those damns**. The country has huge infrastructure needs and I think that's going to be a legitimate issue in the fall election.

[…]

Well I think the larger issue is, John McCain puts all of this kind of work in the category of pork barrel spending. And he says that any projects like these are wasteful pork barrel spending. I think people want a president that knows the difference between wise investment and pork barrel spending. And I think it's going to be a legitimate point of contention in the campaign.

Highlight #4

Obama Accuses Phil Graham of Writing Enron Energy Loophole Legislation (FNC, 06/23/08, 6:48am)

KELLY WRIGHT: […] Obama says one of the lawmakers responsible for the Enron loophole, which was inserted into a bill some 8 years ago, was former republican Phil Graham of Texas, who is now an adviser to John McCain. Obama says as president, he would close the so called Enron loophole which he claims creates the climate for oil speculators to trade energy futures. Obama wants to close it, requiring future energy speculators to be regulated. […]

Highlight #5

The Early Show *Discusses McCain's Image Strategy* (CBS 06/23/08 7:18am)

HARRY SMITH: Let's talk about John McCain, he's working on his image issues as well and we have some pictures of John McCain with Women in the audience.

[. . .]

LAURA SCHWARTZ: Ever since Hillary conceded the race, both John McCain and Barack Obama are working for those women voters . . . [pointing at picture of McCain event] we've got women all around him, young women, older women. . .

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[. . .]

SCHWARTZ: There's a lotta gaffes that have been said about him and that green background in Louisiana . . . to get out there among the people, walk around and show that you're in touch with the people is also a great visual . . .

SMITH: Here's McCain, he was miles away from the President of the United States but he wanted to make sure that he was not in the same shot . . .

SCHWARTZ: They were thirty miles apart at all times.

Highlight #6
$300 Million Dollar Battery Prize Gets Mixed Reviews (MSNBC 06/23/08 7:15am)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: John McCain has an offer any inventor just cannot refuse . . .

WILIE GEIST: . . . $300 million . . . to any man, woman or child . . . it's a government prize, anyone that can come up with an automobile battery that surpasses the existing technology.

[. . .]

GEIST: He will announce this today in Fresno, he said the device could deliver power at 30% of current costs, have the size, capacity and power to leapfrog the currently available car [batteries].

MIKE BARNICLE: Why do I have this picture in my mind of Sen. McCain presenting a check to the Energizer Bunny?

[. . .]

BRZEZINSKI: Ok, but here's the thing, we mock it but at the same time isn't this kind of--?

PAT BUCHANAN: There's an incentive out there. The first guy that comes up with [one of these] . . .

[. . .]

BUCHANAN: You know everyone's working on the next generation battery because they're going to get trillions of dollars . . . I don't think you need to hand people a three hundred million dollar check. I mean the first guy to—

BRZEZINSKI: Maybe in America we do.

BUCHANAN: Did he say it was confined to Americans?

BRZEZINSKI: I don't know. That's a good—we'll have to listen in Fresno.

Highlight #7
Pawlenty Talks Mccain on Bush's Tax Cuts (CNN, 06/22/08, 12:07pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Joining us now from St. Paul, Minnesota, the site of this Summer's Republican National Convention is Minnesota's governor, Tim Pawlenty, he's the national co-chairman for the McCain campaign. He's also been mentioned frequently as a potential prospect for the vice presidential slot on the GOP ticket.

[. . .]

BLITZER: Here's some statistics that I'm sure you're familiar with. When president bush took office seven years ago, almost eight years ago . . . the national debt was around $5 trillion. It's now closer to $9 trillion with and it's going up. Senator Obama says if senator McCain has his way with the tax cuts he wants to make permanent, the Bush tax cuts which senator McCain originally opposed, that national debt is going to skyrocket

[. . .]

BLITZER: So Governor Pawlenty, you don't have a problem with allowing the Bush tax cuts that were implemented in 2001 and 2003 being made permanent, all the Bush tax cuts, the estate tax plus the tax cuts for

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the wealthiest Americans, including billionaires?

TIM PAWLENTY: They should have been permanent in the first place. The fact they're even having the debate, I think, is silly. But now that they're going to expire, I think they should continue. And keep in mind, when you talk about tax cuts for the wealthy, that involves these reductions in corporate taxes . . . Senator McCain understands that you cannot grow an economy by adding tax burdens on the people who invest, do research, build buildings, add jobs. . .

[. . .]

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/24/2015 5:45:26 PM
Subject:	Re: Silicon Valley / Kara Swisher
Attachments:	0224015 HWA Remarks for Watermark (Santa Clara, CA).docx

This one with the Q&A.

02242015 Lead On HRC Speech

Lead On: Watermark's Silicon Valley Conference for Women
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Moderator: Kara Swisher
Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
February 24, 2015

(Cheers, applause.)

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you so much! Hello. (Cheers, applause.) Wow, what an amazing crowd! (Cheers, applause.) It's great to be here. (Applause.) Thank you all so much. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I want to thank Renee for her introduction, but more than that, I want to thank her for what Intel is doing that she just described. And I hope that -- (cheers, applause) -- more companies will join with her and with Intel to really elevate this issue about diversity and inclusivity in the workforce here in Silicon Valley, and literally around our country.

I want to thank everyone at Watermark for organizing this terrific gathering and supporting such a vibrant, visionary community of women leaders here in the Bay Area, because you can just feel the energy. I love it. I was watching backstage when Brene Brown was speaking. Isn't she amazing, and the work that she's done, and the insights she provides? ? (Cheers, applause.)

So for 20 years Watermark has been helping people, women grow networks, gain skills, crack ceilings in technology, entrepreneurship and beyond. So really it's all of you who should be applauded for being part of this movement.

And I am delighted that I can be here for this first Lead On Conference. It's a great theme and a very important one, because we do need to lead. We have the information, we understand the challenge, and if there's any place in the world where Lead On should be happening, it's right here in a place of big dreams and transformational achievements, where a kid can have a good idea and then build a billion dollar company, in a place where faith in the future is so strong that it's taken as a given.

In fact, you all know Moore's Law, computer processors will keep doubling in power roughly every two years. Well, there's something very American about that kind of optimism. After all, our country is a great entrepreneurial experiment. Families like my grandparents who came to our shores with nothing but hope and a willingness to work hard, the pioneers who set out for California by wagon train, the patriots who dared imagine that a new nation could be built on the novel proposition that all of us are created equal.

And even though it's taken centuries to turn that idea into reality, and we're still not there, those dreamers and doers would have been right at home here, because the innovation and success we see around us is proof that progress is possible, but also that it is not inevitable, not in a life, not in a country. After all, Moore's Law doesn't tell the whole story. Those processors don't get smaller and more powerful on their own. That takes incredible effort and ingenuity. It takes people not only working hard but working together.

And America's prosperity and security are not inevitable either. We've learned that we can bounce back from some pretty tough blows. So we know that progress is possible if we as a country harness all our talents, find the best and freshest ideas, no matter where they come from, and grow together, lift each other up.

Today, I want to focus briefly on two areas where you know and I know there's much more work to be done, women in technology and technology and our broader economy.

Now, many of you in this audience know far more about those two areas than I do or ever will. You live it every day. You

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bump your heads on the glass ceilings that persist in the tech industry. You watch too many of your daughters and granddaughters get diverted away from careers in STEM.

As familiar as this story is, and we heard Renee summarizing it as she made the announcement about what Intel will try to do, it is still shocking, the numbers are sobering.

On the Forbes list of the top 100 venture investors in tech, only four are women. Just 11 percent of executives in Silicon Valley, and only about 20 percent of software developers overall are women.

One recent report on the gender pay gap in the Valley found that a woman with a bachelor's degree here tends to make 60 percent less than a man with the same degree.

And we can literally count on one hand the number of women who have actually been able to come here and turn their dream into billion dollar businesses.

And think of this: While nearly 60 percent of college graduates are now women, they earn only 18 percent of the computer science degrees. That's actually less than half of what it was in the 1980s when women earned 38 percent of those degrees. We are going backwards in a field that is supposed to be all about moving forward.

Women and girls remain underrepresented in STEM education more broadly, and with STEM jobs growing faster and paying more than many other fields, this puts our daughters and granddaughters at a disadvantage that can have lasting consequences for them, their families, and yes, our economy. I think the bottom line here is we cannot afford to leave all that talent sitting on the sidelines.

So to borrow a familiar phrase, it's time to think different. All of us in the private sector, government, the nonprofit world and education, we all have a stake in making this better, from the classroom to the boardroom.

I love the way Watermark supports a class at Stanford's Business School focused on women entrepreneurship.

I really appreciated when Google became the first big tech company to disclose the demographics of its tech workforce, 83 percent male, 17 percent female, 2 percent Latino, 1 percent black.

So there's a lot of entry points into tackling this problem. At the Clinton Foundation we're working with partners to recruit more STEM teachers for schools. We've also organized a series of code-a-thons to bring together young women software engineers to collaborate on new apps to promote women's health and wellness, while also building new professional networks for themselves.

And many of you are involved in other efforts to open avenues for women and people of color to participate and succeed in this industry, and we have to keep that work going and growing, because inclusivity is more than a buzzword or a box to check. It is a recipe for success in the 21st century. Bringing different perspectives and life experiences into corporate offices, engineering labs and venture funds is likely to bring fresh ideas and higher revenues.

And in our increasingly multicultural country, in an increasingly interdependent world, building a more diverse talent pool can't just be a nice to do for business, it has to be a must do.

Now, of course, the challenges we're talking about are by no means limited to the tech field. Less than 5 percent of all Fortune 500 CEOs are women. And women entrepreneurs often have a much harder time accessing capital to start or grow a business.

Up and down the ladder, many women are paid less for the same work, which is why I think we all cheered at Patricia Arquette's speech at the Oscars because she's right, it's time to have wage equality once and for all.

But it's not just wage equality. Many working parents all too often don't have access to commonsense benefits like sick days and paid leave that would allow them to balance work and family. (Applause.) I think we are embarrassed by, even shocked by the fact we are just one of nine countries in the entire world without national paid family leave.

Now, you may not realize that because here in California this state has had paid leave for 10 years. And the last time I looked, it seemed to work well for both businesses and families.

But even that is not a silver bullet. As Sheryl Sandberg and others have reminded us, even the professional women who have

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access to these basic benefits are often set back in their careers, in some cases simply for taking advantage of family leave or flexible schedules, and in others because of more subtle biases or attitudes in the workplace.

When I was a young lawyer and was pregnant, I worked in a small law firm and there was no family leave policy. It had never come up before. I was the first woman to be a partner in that law firm. So nobody said anything to me, and I didn't say anything to them; I just kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger. (Laughter.) And I'd walk down the halls and some of my partners would avert their eyes. They didn't know what to say to me. (Laughter.)

So when the time came and I went in and gave birth, the next morning, the lead partner called and he said two things. He said, "Congratulations, and when are you coming back to work?" (Laughter.) I said, "Well, thank you very much, maybe in four months." Pause. He goes, "Oh, okay." He had no idea. (Laughter.) I had no idea, but I was in a position where I could say, okay, four months.

And too many women even in those days, I can remember so well, they lost their jobs, they were marginalized, they were demoted for doing one of the most important jobs anybody in a society has, producing the next generation. (Applause.)

Even though things have changed in many places, not nearly enough and not everywhere, in so many ways our economy seems to still be operating like it's 1955.

And that's not just a problem for working women, it's a problem for everyone. Just think about all the hard working families that depend on two incomes to make ends meet. When one is shortchanged, the entire family suffers. In fact, more than 40 percent of mothers are now the sole or primary breadwinners for their families, and our economy depends on the strong participation by women.

Women moving into the workforce in large numbers helped drive a significant amount of America's economic growth over the past 40 years. Without that movement, the average American family would be earning $14,000 less today and our gross domestic product would be about $2 trillion smaller. So when women's participation is limited, our country's prosperity is limited, too.

And there are still too many women who want to work more and earn more, but are held back by outdated policies and pressures that hurt them, that hurt their families. That translates into more families struggling. We're just leaving that money, that growth on the table. And many families then can't afford their standard of living, they can't afford to get into and stay in the middle class.

And sometimes when I would go out and talk about women's issues, which I've done for decades, and particularly as Secretary of State when I said that it was the great unfinished business of the 21st century because the data on all of this is overwhelming, I could see men's eyes glaze over. I could see particularly foreign leaders but some Americans too saying, "Oh yeah, here she goes. Just look like you're concentrating." (Laughter.) "Act like you're listening and this too shall pass." (Laughter.)

But when we began using the economic data collected by, you know, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and a lot of other organizations, both public and private, and I could say, do you know how much money you're leaving on the table, do you know how much greater your economic growth and GDP could be if women were able to participate fully in the economy, because this great unfinished business of the 21st century really is moving toward the full participation of women and girls in every aspect of society all over the world.

That is a goal that has inspired me from the time I was an advocate for children and families through today, and which I took with me into the State Department, because I wanted it to be a priority of American foreign policy, because where women are included you're more likely to have democracy, you're more likely to have stability and prosperity. So it's not just a nice thing to do, it's important to our economic growth and our security.

And since leaving the government, I've worked on it at the Clinton Foundation with my daughter. And Chelsea and I are working with Melinda Gates and other partners on an initiative we call No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project. We're collecting the best data and research available on the gains women and girls have made around the world over the past 20 years, and the gaps that still remain. And we're looking at ways to accelerate progress in the years ahead.

Next month, we'll publish a sweeping global progress report full of data, designed to be accessible, sharable, even snackable, and I hope you'll all check it out.

Now, there will be good news to celebrate. For example, around the world we've nearly closed the gender gap in primary

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education. But there's also bad news, including the persistent gap between boys and girls in secondary education.

When it comes to technology, the data reveals a massive digital divide. An estimated 200 million fewer women than men are online in developing countries. And you know better than most how Internet access can help unleash economic growth, lift people out of poverty.

So this is a problem but it's also an opportunity to build new markets, to improve education, to spur new growth. Technology has the potential to empower women and girls like nothing ever before, and it is helping inspire and mobilize grassroots action in places we'd never expect.

I've seen that firsthand. I've seen how innovations starting right here are helping to lift people out of poverty, giving them more control over their own lives, helping them hold their governments accountable.

I'll never forget one woman I met at a tech camp that we set up at the State Department in Lithuania to train pro-democracy activists from Russia and other former Soviet countries, help them stay one step ahead of the censors and secret police. It was part of a broader effort that included investing in new apps and devices to protect dissidents, like a panic button that a protestor could press on a phone that would signal to friends that she was being arrested, while simultaneously erasing all of her personal contacts.

For the tech camps we brought along experts from Twitter, Facebook, Microsoft, to explain how activists could protect their privacy and anonymity online, and thwart restrictive government firewalls.

I asked one women from Belarus if she was scared that coming to this tech camp would get her in trouble back home. She said, "No. My government can go to hell," she said. "I'm here to learn how I can promote democracy."

My goal was to make the State Department a hub of innovation, leading the way with what we call 21st century statecraft, harnessing new technologies, public-private partnerships, diaspora networks, tapping expertise right here in Silicon Valley to help build programs that would address the challenges, from the drug war in Northern Mexico to the epidemic of rape in Eastern Congo to persecution in the Middle East, and a partnership we called Civil Society 2.0 helped deliver technology training to more than 1,000 civil society organizations from 80 countries.

And I was very pleased that we were ranked in the State Department as having the most innovation friendly culture. Now the Federal Government has a long way to go, so you might think that's damning when saying praise, but we were pleased that the work we were doing was being recognized that we could effectively partner with Silicon Valley and the broader tech community.

We had a great public-private partnership called M Women, which brought together leading telecom companies from around the world to narrow the digital divide. And there was this wonderful woman from India at the launch event. She represented the Self-Employed Women's Association, SEWA, an economic cooperative that has transformed the lives of millions of poor women through microloans and other support.

Here's the story she told me. She said for most of her life she had never seen a cell phone. She made a meager living by picking flowers and then bringing them to the local market, where she would go from trader to trader hoping to find a buyer. Sometimes her entire day was spent this way with nothing sold. Then she joined SEWA and through SEWA she got a loan for $48 to buy her first mobile phone. Suddenly she could actually call different markets, arrange to sell her flowers at a fair price in a fraction of the time. She used the money she saved to start a small business. She stared buying and selling grain from neighboring villages also using her cell phone. It was her dream that every woman would get a phone.

Now the bottom line from all the data and all the stories is this, we still have a long way to go but progress is possible, especially when we make a commitment of resources and political will. In fact, I think we are at a pivotal point that requires all of us to work together, roll up our sleeves, figure out what we're going to do, whether it's here in Silicon Valley or halfway around the world, to help shape the future we want, to close the digital divide, to unlock our full potential, crack every last glass ceiling.

So technology presents both peril and promise for all human beings, and it also presents some challenges for our economy. And this is another area where we should be clear-eyed about the gains and the gaps. American innovation, including the work many of you do, holds such enormous potential, whether it's clean energy or cloud computing or the Internet of Things, new advances will continue to revolutionize how we live, learn, and do business. And increasingly the divide between the old economy and the new is breaking down. The next wave of innovation could reach far beyond not just Silicon Valley but certainly beyond our nation's borders, creating new industries and remaking established ones.

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And that's important because even the most successful tech startups rarely end up hiring large numbers of American workers. So there's enormous promise in the intersection of new technology, IT, but also nanotech, biotech, robotics, and traditional industries like energy, automobiles, healthcare, education and more. That's really the beating heart of the American economy. That's where most Americans work. So we should set our sights on increasing productivity, spurring growth and improving standards for all, not just a few at top.

And let's be honest, as we've learned the hard way, there can be a real human cost to some of these amazing innovations. We can't lose sight of that. Just as technology can boost productivity and create jobs, it has the potential to put many people out of their jobs by automating processes that used to require a full day's work, advances that are supposed to move us ahead can end up leaving a lot of people further behind.

And I know from my own travels and discussions how many Americans feel the ground shifting under their feet. The old jobs and careers are either gone or unrecognizable, and the old rules just don't seem to apply. And, frankly, the new rules are just not that clear. And the result is anxiety and dislocation.

Just think about how much our families have changed with caregivers becoming breadwinners. Well, our jobs have changed, too, and wages no longer rise with productivity, while CEO pay keeps going up. Young people expect to change jobs much more frequently, certainly, than their parents. So if we want to find our balance again, we have to figure out how to make this new economy work for everyone. That's why we have to ask how we organize ourselves so that technological change helps create more jobs not just disrupts and displaces them.

And how we try to have rising wages. We have to redouble our efforts to provide the education and skills, not just for our kids, but for adults, too, so they have the tools they need to change jobs, or start businesses. And we had to think hard about how to have the flexibility and support that American families need so that parents can be both great workers and great parents. And that brings me back to Moore's Law and the march of progress, because we can't do this without working together. We can't do it without really empathizing and understanding what our neighbors are going through. But, I think we can help more families find a way forward, find their footing in the middle class, find a way to see rising wages and rising hope.

I think it's within our grasp, but I know it's not inevitable. Our economic success is not a birthright. It can't be inherited. It has to be earned by each generation, just like it was earned by those who came before us. My grandfather was a factory worker in the lace mills in Scranton, Pennsylvania, proudly worked there from the age of 11 until he retired at 65. My father made it to college on a football scholarship, started a small business, my mother overcame a childhood of abandonment to help build a middle class life for me and my brothers and I knew I was a beneficiary not only of their love and hard work, but their aspirations for us and a larger community that believed as they did in America's promise.

I never doubted how fortunate I was to live in America at a time of such positive change from the post-war economic boom to the Civil Rights Movement, to the Women's Moment. And I hope for all of our children the same sense of possibility that I had. Now it can be easy to get discouraged sometimes if you look only at the headlines, but if you look at the trend lines you can see there is a movement stirring across our nation. It is about putting families first. It is about creating a 21st Century economy for 21st Century families.

You can see it in parents across California who demanded paid sick leave so they wouldn't have to choose between their jobs and their kids. You could see it in the security guards right here in Silicon Valley who are organizing for more hours not fewer. You can see it in the hourly workers in San Francisco who fought to make shift schedules more predictable and family life more stable. You can see it in the businesses and community leaders coming together to invest in early childhood education in Oakland. And you can see it in the moms demanding equal pay for equal work and the dads demanding access to quality affordable childcare.

So many people are just asking for that same chance, a chance at a living wage at their dreams and there are many reasons to think that we will reinvent ourselves, we will figure out how we're going to do this. We'll be part of the solution. That's really what I think lead on means. Yes, lead on for yourselves. All of us have to come to grips with rising and falling, as I heard Renee Brown say at the very end. We fall together, we rise together.

And as women let's do more to help all women lead on and succeed. My friend Madeline Albright famously said there is a special spot in hell for women who don't help other women. (Applause.) So what you do does not have to be big and dramatic. You don't have to run for office. (Cheers, applause.) Although if you do more power to you. (Cheers, applause.) But, seriously, a helping hand or a kind word can make a big difference. It's one of those click moments where you realize that helping somebody else not only feels good, but ends up helping you.

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The more we stand with each other the more obstacles we can overcome, the more we will be able to shape our own destiny. That's true not just for women, it's true for everyone. Indeed, it's true for our entire country. So you came here today under the banner of lead on, wanting to listen and learn and meet and talk and network, because there may be nuggets you can pick up and use for your own professional or personal betterment. But, there may also be ways you can think about, you know, I hadn't thought about how that could help my friend, or my coworker, my neighbor.

I'm going to try to have a conversation about what I heard today, or about an issue that you really have been kind of stewing over, but now maybe go out and find some other people to lead on with you to try to resolve, to prove every single day that progress is possible in our own lives and believe me I know that's not easy, because we have no time to waste.

You know in our report, the progress report we're issuing with the Gates Foundation on the progress women around the world, including in the United States have made over the last 20 years. We boldly assert that there has never been a better time to be a woman in the history of the world. (Applause.) And, indeed, I believe that with all my heart. The changes that I've seen in my own life, the changes I've watched my daughter go through, and what I now think about the future for my granddaughter, I'm absolutely convinced of that. But I also believe, and maybe it's part of the American DNA, we have a special obligation to make it better for each other as well as ourselves and to set an example for people across the globe.

When my granddaughter Charlotte was born on September 26th, 2014, I have to confess I was just overwhelmed. I've had lots of friends who got to grandparenthood before me and who have far more grandchildren than I will ever catch up to. And I heard them and I listened to them, and I thought that's really nice. (Laughter.) And then all of a sudden here is this new life, this new hope, this new opportunity, this blessing given to us in my family. And, of course, her parents, her grandparents, her extended family, we will do whatever it takes to make sure that this baby has every opportunity in the world. But even as I say that I know that's not enough. She will become a citizen of our country and of the world, 20-25 years, god willing, and what kind of world is going to be there waiting for her? Is it a world of hope or fear? Is it a world of possibility or of shrunken, destroyed dreams?

I don’t know. I do know that it really matters for the life I hope she will lead that we do everything we can now to make sure every child is given the same opportunities we will do our best to provide for her. I believe talent is universal but opportunity is not. And leading on means in large measure how we expand that circle of opportunity so every girl and boy has a chance to be all she or he can become with their own efforts, their own works, but with the support and the love of the rest of us.

The time to start is now. I'm excited about what we can do together, and I believe that all of us can certainly show the way as we lead on to the kind of future we want.

Thank you all very, very much

(Applause.)

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, to lead a special conversation with Secretary Clinton please welcome to the stage technology commentator and entrepreneur Kara Swisher.

KARA SWISHER: I didn't know I was an entrepreneur.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: It's always a definition, right.

KARA SWISHER: Yes, exactly.

I have to make an announcement.

Excuse me for a second, Secretary Clinton.

The sessions afterwards are at 3:20, but I think we all want to listen to her, correct? (Applause.)

So hello.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Hello.

KARA SWISHER: How are you doing?

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So I interviewed President Obama last week and I'm very eager to interview another president. (Cheers, applause.)

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: That's good.

KARA SWISHER: So I want to ask the big question, iPhone or Android?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: iPhone. (Cheers.) Okay, in full disclosure, and a Blackberry. And I think the president told you the same thing, because I think he really loves his.

KARA SWISHER: Well, you know, it is --

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: There are reasons why when you start out in Washington on a Blackberry you stay on it in many instances. But, it's also -- I don't know. I don't throw anything away. I'm like two steps short of a hoarder. So I have an iPad, a mini iPad, an iPhone and a Blackberry.

KARA SWISHER: You know, if you lived in, and I go to Washington a lot lately, my kids are living there, and you would think Blackberry was the biggest company in the world form all the people that -- because everybody uses it.

All right, second one, Apple Watch or Fitbit?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, you can tell I'm not doing Fitbit and I haven't gotten into the Apple Watch yet. I'm not in a wearable frame of mind yet. You know, I mean three people have given me a Fitbit or a Jawbone, and I look at it and I think do I really want something telling me I should do what I know I should do? I mean I have enough stress in my life avoiding doing what I'm told I should do, so I haven't jumped off the ledge yet.

KARA SWISHER: Okay. President of the United States, running for President of the United States or host of the Oscars next year, both jobs are open it seems?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes. Well, and both jobs are really painful from my own personal experience and observation. I don't think I could do the bird man imitation. That goes back to the Fitbit conversation. I just couldn't do that.

KARA SWISHER: What about the president thing?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: You know, there have been a lot more Oscar presentations than there have been presidents. So the pressure is probably somewhat less. It's a one-night gig. And for many it's just one night. And the other one it's like a many year commitment.

KARA SWISHER: Eight in your case, you hope, correct?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, yes. You've got to hope that. And I am, look, if you don't tell anybody, I am obviously talking to a lot of people, thinking through, because here's my view on this, Kara. I just think that we have so many big issues that we have to deal with that unless we really can come together and have a national conversation about those issues, we're not going to make the progress we made. And there are a lot of things that I would love to see our country do. I would like to bring people from right, left, red, blue, get them into a nice warm purple space where everybody is talking and where we're actually trying to solve problems. And that would be my objective if I decide to do this.

KARA SWISHER: Why wait announcing? There are all these women here in Silicon Valley, which is an anomaly. This is an anomaly, let me tell you. (Cheers, applause.)

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, all in good time is sort of my response because there's a lot to think about. I have to tell you. I don't know how many of you are list makers, I have a very long list. I'm going down it. I'm very committed to go down it, but I haven't checked off the last couple of things here.

KARA SWISHER: So I guess if I asked you Queens for Brooklyn for the announcement, you're not going to tell me. Okay.

If you were to run, what would be the central parts of the campaign for you? You mentioned a lot of things. The purple thing, I get that. But what would be the central thing that you would want to --

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SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, let me answer it this way by saying, whoever runs here's what I hope the central thing is, because we have to restore economic growth with rising wages for the vast majority of Americans, and we have to restore trust and cooperation within our political system so that we can act like the great country we are. (Cheers, applause.)

And those two things, it seems to me, are actually related, because there are some steps that business has to take. We heard Renee talking about what Intel is going to do. I talked about Google. And we have to have businesses take a hard look, how can they expand opportunity, be more inclusive, that's part of it.

But we also have to figure out how we can have a foundation in our economy again that makes people feel that their hard work and effort will be rewarded because productivity is actually up. People are working longer hours than many had to work in the past. But there's just no increase in their wages that demonstrates they're respected, appreciated.

KARA SWISHER: What could a supposed president do to fix that?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I think that --

KARA SWISHER: Actually, I'm going to call you the alleged president.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, this is where I'm supposed to say, stay-tuned. But what I would say is, this is why we need to figure out how to go after this problem. And some of it is a bottom up issue, like the minimum wage. Some of it is a fairness and equity issue, like equal pay for equal work, like paid leave so that people can actually stay in the workforce. Women are, not because they want to but because they have to, dropping out of the workforce in many instances, thereby diminishing their income. So there are certain steps that a government can and should take, and in the past you've seen a government sort of shore that up.

And then there are ways that we have to recast our thinking. You know, so much about the rise in productivity without the rise in wages has to do with decisions that businesses are making. And a lot of businesses say to me, but we are under tremendous pressure, quarterly pressure. We have to meet certain targets. And we just don't have the leeway. And my response is, well, then we need to create that leeway. How do we look at what's happening in corporate governance, in how the incentives work within the corporate world today, and figure if there isn't some way we can help the good guys so that they can actually do more for their employees.

I'm looking at a lot of different approaches.

KARA SWISHER: Can you actually create jobs, because you referenced it, and many Silicon Valley people reference that there are going to be fewer jobs, and that as things become automated --

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, let me give you two quick examples. One, look at the enormous numbers of jobs that technology created starting in the '90s, it was a huge explosion, not just in tech companies but across the board. And now we've got to figure out are we hitting a ceiling because with increased innovation, automation, we're not able to create more jobs, or is there more that we can do in order to promote job creation? But it's not just job creation; it has to be with a rising wage and opportunity ladder.

Energy is a huge opportunity. Energy efficiency jobs are woefully under-represented in the economy. Now, there are things that both utility companies and governments at local, state, federal level could do to encourage more jobs that would move us toward more renewable energy. We've done a bit of it, but we haven't done near enough of it. And so there is an area where it's sitting right there, and we're not doing everything we could. We don't have a level playing field. We still highly subsidize non-renewable, non-clean energy. We should have a much more open, competitive so that energy efficiency, solar, geothermal, wind, all of that is on a stronger foundation. And we will create more jobs.

(Applause.)

KARA SWISHER: Why do you think we need a woman president, I'm just curious?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Again, speaking hypothetically, well, you know --

KARA SWISHER: We can say President Warren, if you want.

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SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: I think whoever it is or should be, we need to make sure that all the talent in our country is represented.

KARA SWISHER: Do you think it would be a different president being a woman?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: I can only speak both for myself and for my experience. But having been in the Senate, and having seen the difference that women in the Senate made -- the most famous example, and it's literally hard to believe right now, but in the '70s and '80s, women were not used as subjects in clinical trials by the National Institutes of Health. And, in fact, big trials on breast cancer did not include women patients. And it's so sad, right. And so along came somebody like Barbara Mikulski, and others who were determined to lead on, and they changed that.

That's a specific example, and there are many others, where the experience of being a woman, the ability to see what others might not see as either gender discrimination or marginalization, gives us a chance to speak up, to be heard, and to make changes. When I was first lady, I worked with a lot of the breast cancer advocates to continue on breast cancer because it was one of the most egregious examples. And we kept seeing how research for the cause and prevention of breast cancer kept being cut. And so I worked with a lot of these advocates, and we put a breast cancer research program into the Defense Department budget because it wouldn't be cut. Now, we had to keep saving it, because people found it and tried to cut it. But that's the kind of difference when you sit and talk.

And this is bipartisan, women on both sides of the aisle, they have these views, and we had some of the best times. We had dinners every month together. They were totally off the record. They were not political. We would say, well, what are you working on? How can we help? And so it was what you would hope your elected officials would do together. And I think there's a lot more of that. And women in public life do bring that perspective which we need.

KARA SWISHER: Let's get to Silicon Valley. You talked about Rosanna Arquette's statement at the Oscars, the wage inequalities. Those numbers you quoted for Google is every single company in Silicon Valley. It's essentially white dudes and a couple of ladies. What do you think about that? This is supposed to be our most fast-forward industry, the one where all the jobs are, but it's completely --

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: I've thought a lot about it. And I think there are, I'll over-generalize, but three big reasons. One, this pipeline problem. When you had more women getting computer science degrees in the '80s by a factor of two-plus than you do now, that kind of lets people off the hook. Why aren't more girls and women going into this field?

What was different about being a high school or college student in the '80s than it is today and I think we need to unpack that. And we have to do more to create opportunities for girls to have access to computer science, programming, coding experiences, to kind of light those interests in them and then secondly I do think you have to recognize that it ends in technology, which has just exploded over the last 20 years. It's been a very almost wild west environment.

And I think a lot of women find that distasteful, unappealing to be in a situation sort of resembling a locker room in some ways where you just feel like you're -- it's hard to get, you know, your voice in. It's hard to be heard. It's like that classic tale where you say something in a meeting and nobody pays attention and then 20 minutes later a man says it and everybody thinks he's a genius. And I've had that experience a lot of times. And you just have to kind of gird up and you therefore need support systems like the Watermark, or like this conference, because it's not easy if you poke your head above the parapet if you're in technology, politics, and a lot of other areas. And the third thing is I think that companies should be held to account. I mean you need shareholders and executives and customers and others to say, hey, you can do better than 83 percent male.

KARA SWISHER: How do you do that? Right now there's a trial going on in the open today of a big Silicon Valley venture from Kleiner Perkins about gender discrimination. It's a very tough case, both sides not settling. How do you stop this systematic and the environmental qualities that create that locker room and how do you imagine that shifting, because everyone says, oh, we shouldn't have it and then there it is, or the women are not on the board. The women are not --

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Look, I think that it requires both men and women to speak up and speak out about this. And I think for men it's always fascinating when you talk to groups of men in tech or any other industry it's almost inevitable in my experience that some of them will tell me how great their daughters are and how well their daughters are doing and what their daughters hope to become. And I always say, well, don't you want your daughter to be able to go as far as she can go in whatever field she chooses. Oh of course, well you're a bank, you're a big corporation, you're this, you're that. You'd better pay attention to the kind of environment that educated young women are going into and maybe raise questions about it.

So men have to be more sensitive to, more interested in creating this environment. If you can't get them on the daughter

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side of the argument try to get them on the fact that we now are amassing evidence that corporations with women on boards actually do better. They have a higher ROI, they are consistently more successful. And so we have some both personal and some statistical data to back it up. But, then I think for women that's why I ended by talking about how we have to support each other more. And this is a constant challenge and we need to be willing to stand up for other women, to raise questions about how other women are being treated.

I remember all those years ago when I was in this law firm around 3:00 every secretary, every administrative assistant, every woman paralegal would be on the phone trying to make sure their kid got home safely, because the kids were coming home, they were what we called them latchkey kids. And they wanted to make sure their kids were safe. And they were whispering in the phone, because you're not supposed to make personal phone calls at business. And I finally I went to the partners and said, this is absurd. You should have a window of opportunity. These women work so hard, they're great members of our team. So you need to pick up on what's happening and not just among your peers, but women who may not have the power and position you do and then finally develop a thick skin.

I mean, you know, my favorite predecessor Eleanor Roosevelt said that women in the public arena have to grow skin as thick as the hide of a rhinoceros. And you have to be prepared, you know, try to think ahead of the smart thing you'll say if somebody makes an offensive comment to you, instead of what we all do, which is you sit there shocked and then in bed at night you think, oh, I wish I had said this. So have a stock of those that you kind of carry around with you and throw out and kind of say, oh, take that.

KARA SWISHER: You're pretty good at that, actually.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I have had a lot of practice. I mean really.

KARA SWISHER: Would you put this idea of childcare at the center of an administration, a real center and not a sort of side way? Did you do enough in the last campaign to bring it to the center? Many say you didn't.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: You know, I've heard that and I certainly am trying to learn from what I did right and what I didn't in thinking through doing this again. I think that the family issue, sort of putting families first, creating more supportive work environments so that if you do that what people find, I mean, is that women who get treated well as such loyal employees, they will stay with the company, they will work double time, they will do everything they can to make the enterprise that supported them successful. So this is not a nice thing to do, this is a win-win. So I think the childcare, these families issues are now bubbling to the top of the list on people's minds.

KARA SWISHER: Okay. So let's talk a little bit about some of the issue in the tech sector. We talked back stage. Net neutrality, there's a vote on it Thursday. The President has been rather aggressive about making it a utility. Do you think it should be a utility?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Here's what I think. I think that it's for the FCC to do what they want to do to try to --

KARA SWISHER: Regulate it like a phone.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Create net neutrality as the norm they have to have a hook to hang it on and so they're hanging it on Title 2 of the --

KARA SWISHER: Do you like that hook?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, it's the only hook they've got. I don't know --

KARA SWISHER: What hook would you like, because your husband's administration and the bush administration before were mostly hands off in that regard?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well you see how things developed. I mean it wasn't really a threat until relatively recently. I think I gave my first statement about net neutrality about eight or nine years ago and we know how important it is, because of concentration in the industry and the like. But, I think if there were another hook it would come out of a modern 21st Century telecom technology act and we don't have that and we're not likely to get it.

KARA SWISHER: Should this vote happen that way?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes, absolutely.

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KARA SWISHER: Would you vote for that?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes, I would. Yes, I would.

KARA SWISHER: Yes to that act, but what about the one the FCC is about to --

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: I would vote for net neutrality, because as I understand it it's Title 2 with a lot of changes within it in order to avoid the worst of the utility regulations. So it's a foot in the door. It's a values statement. I think the president is right to be up front and out front on that. But, it's not the end of the discussion. I mean we need to do more about how the spectrum is allocated. We need to do more about how we incentivize more competition in broadband. We need to figure out how to treat connectivity as an infrastructure development. There's a lot of other aspects. So it's not just net neutrality standing alone, end of debate, and that should be part of a really smart legislative endeavor, but I don't think people believe that can happen in the short term.

KARA SWISHER: Okay. What about encryption? Right now Apple and Google are fighting the government. Do you have a side in this which I mean the President was sort of -- I was for it until I was against it kind of thing? Where you feel on encryption? Do you feel these companies should be able to encrypt these phones?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I think that you have a classic hard choice. I wrote a book called *Hard Choices* and it's not a dodge or a feint, because I think that what we're missing is people are kind of in their corners arguing about liberty versus security instead of saying, look, we all want to have privacy for the end user. That's what the companies are responding to. They're trying to be able to tell their customers we're going to protect your data. But, we also don't want to find ourselves in a position where it's a legitimate security threat we're facing and we can't figure out how to address it, because we have no way in to whatever is holding the information.

And we also are not operating in a vacuum. We know that other countries are taking their own steps to monitor the Internet, control the Internet, which we're not. But, what we've got to figure out is how you get the right balance. So encryption is a part of protecting people's legitimate right to privacy.

KARA SWISHER: How would you address Google and Apple if you were the President?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I've talked to some of the leaders in technology, some of the executives of these companies, and I think that's the way to start, a real conversation, where you say, look, here's our problem. If you were sitting in my seat, if all of a sudden some president said, okay, Mr. or Ms. X, we want you to be the head of the counter-terrorism or the new cyber warfare something that takes advantage of your expertise. So you're sitting in these meetings that the president and I and others have sat in and we can see the sequencing where we know people are in contact and where we have both human intelligence and some technology enabled intelligence and we know there is something going to happen and we're trying to figure out how to get through the door that has been locked.

So I think the conversation, rather than you don't understand privacy, and you don't understand security ought to be, okay, let's figure out how we're going to do this. So I don't have answer. I would be the first to say I don't have the answer. I think there are really strong, legitimate arguments on both sides. And what I would like to see is more of the kind of brainstorming that I've had the good fortune to do.

KARA SWISHER: Another issue of contention was the NSA. Would you throttle back the NSA in the ways that President Obama had promised and then hasn't come to pass?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I think the -- I mean look I think the NSA needs to be more transparent about what it is doing, sharing with the American people, which it wasn't. And I think a lot of the reaction about the NSA was people felt betrayed. They felt like, wait, you didn't tell us you were doing this and all of a sudden now we're reading about it on the front page and we're getting hammered by our customers and by other countries that I would say very hypocritically are going after our companies, because I know for a fact that there's not a country out there that doesn't do anything they can do to get an advantage. And they do things we would never do, like industrial espionage, like stealing intellectual property and so there's a lot that's going on in this space. And so when you say, well, would you throttle -- I mean the NSA has to act lawfully and we as a country have to decide what the rules are. And then we have to make it absolutely clear we're going to hold them accountable and what we had, because of post-9-11 legislation was a lot more flexibility than I think people really understood and was not explained to them and I voted against the FISA Amendment in 2008, because I didn't think that they went far enough to kind of hold us accountable in the Congress for figuring out what was going on.

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KARA SWISHER: By flexibility you mean too much spying power, really?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes, but how much is too much? And how much is not enough? I mean, that's the hard part. I think if Americans felt like, number one, you're not going after my personal information, the content of my personal information, but I do want you to get the bad guys, because I don't want them to use social media, use communications devices invented right here to plot against us, so let's draw the line. And I think it's hard if everybody is in their corner. So I resist saying it has to be this or that. I want us to come to a better balance.

KARA SWISHER: Do you think Edward Snowden was a traitor?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: I can never condone what he did. And I think he stole millions of documents, and the great irony is the vast majority of those documents had nothing to do with American civil liberty, privacy or anything affecting us here at home. They were about information we had vis-à-vis China, Russia, Iran, others. And then he fled to China, then he ends up in Russia. So the president had given a speech before Snowden's disclosures laying out some of these issues that we needed to address. So people were beginning to take a deep breath after a decade of 9-11 reaction, and the president was sort of leading that. And then along comes Snowden and puts forth information into the public domain that people are entitled to know, but I think it's fair to say a lot of it was nothing to do with the subject we're talking about, but very damaging to our national security vis-à-vis countries that do their very best to gather information about us.

KARA SWISHER: Okay, two more things, a couple more topics. ISIS is serving videos, they're using social media, creating terror there. Has the administration done enough to tackle the problem, and what would you do more to deal with them?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, again, how much time do we have? I think not enough.

KARA SWISHER: As much as you want.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes. Look, okay, then let me start with this. ISIS is the manifestation of a movement that is incredibly fueled by an obsession to control territory, to reestablish as they say a caliphate that would be governed by people with a very retrograde view of everything about women, everything I care about, everything about due process, or rights, or anything. We know that.

So why did they get a foothold? First of all, they're the successor to what was called Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Al-Qaeda in Iraq was an Al-Qaeda affiliate that was based in the Sunni regions within Iraq and was fighting the Shiite forces in Iraq during the American involvement in Iraq. They were so brutal at that time that it provided the opportunity for a lot of the Sunni tribal sheiks and community leaders to band against them, to come together to try to drive them out of Anbar province and out of the Sunni dominated regions. And they were successful in doing so because they finally decided that the enemy of my enemy is my friend didn't work, because these people were so brutal, so beyond the pale.

So they effectively squashed them, and then the United States turned over Iraq to the elected leadership of then Prime Minister Malaki. And he proceeded to alienate all of the Sunni leaders and citizenry, purge the army of the Sunni officers, generally behaved in a sectarian, exclusive, oppressive way. And so these shoots that had been suppressed began to pop through the surface.

Meanwhile, next door in Syria, you have all kinds of extremist groups taking advantage of the vacuum there, and one of them morphed into ISIS and was able to recruit former officers in the Saddam Hussein army as well as foreign fighters, as well as very hardened combat experienced jihadists, and were able to gather up a lot of resources by breaking into banks and stealing everything in them, by stealing oil and selling it on the black market, et cetera, and they did something that up until now no other extremist group has done as effectively and that is use social media.

All of a sudden it wasn't just like, oh, my gosh, those people are killing each other over here again. It was, oh my gosh, they are threatening us. They are recruiting kids from the United States, Canada, Europe, elsewhere. They are threatening to expand their territorial grasp. They are really a metastasizing danger. So therefore we have to work with our partners in the region to try to diminish and eventually eradicate the threat because it does affect us.

KARA SWISHER: But how? Do you think enough is being done?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I think that it's a very hard challenge because you can't very well put American or Western troops in to fight this organism. You have to use not only Air Force, but also army soldiers from the region, and particularly from Iraq. And so what Americans are doing now is helping to retrain the Iraqi army after it was really

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decimated by Malaki, trying to get leadership back in within the Sunni regions, trying to integrate them so the Sunnis feel they have a stake in the future, supporting the Kurds because the Kurdish Peshmerga are right now certainly the best fighting force. It's like three, four, five dimensional chess.

So yes, I think a lot of the right moves are being made, but this is a really complicated and long-term problem, because remember we've got Al-Qaeda in Yemen. We've got Boko Haram in North Africa. We've got terrorist groups from the Sinai through Libya and south into Mali. This is a long-term struggle.

KARA SWISHER: Are you sure you want to be president then?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes. Well, every time has its own problems. So these happen to be some of ours.

KARA SWISHER: That's true. So two more very quick questions. If you could wave a wand and change anything about this country what would it be, one thing?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: That's so hard.

KARA SWISHER: And not another season of Downton Abbey or something like that. (Laughter.)

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: I hope that happens without me waving a magic wand. You know, if we could get back to working together cooperatively again. That we could get out of our mind sets, our partisan bunkers. We've come so far. We still have lots to do on ending sexism and racism and homophobia and all kinds of really bad issues that we've had to confront. And we have work still to do, but we're making a lot of progress.

But nobody wants to associate with anybody who doesn't agree with them politically. You can't have a conversation. People won't listen to each other. They listen to different media. And those different media tell different stories about the very same thing that you're watching unfold in front of your eyes. You cannot run a great country like that. And this is the greatest country. And we need to start acting like it and working like it again. (Applause.)

KARA SWISHER: Do you think you've become less polarizing?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Yes, obviously I think I have. I mean, I think that -- I was a little bit -- when I was First Lady of Arkansas, I worked on a lot of really controversial issues in education and health, and I worked with people across the aisle, worked with people of different philosophies within the Democratic Party in those days there were lots of very conservative Democrats.

And then I go to Washington and all of a sudden it's considered just an incredible shock that somebody like me, who has been an advocate and involved in so many movements for so long would actually have an opinion about something like healthcare for everybody or whatever it might be. So I think there was some back and forth there that I had to understand better and I certainly tried to do that when I ran for the senate. That was something that I stressed. And when I worked in the Senate I was very much somebody who would work across the aisle, look for opportunities to do that, because I don't think I have all the right ideas. I don't think my party has all the right ideas.

I think there are good ideas in lots of places. But, if you don't talk to each other you don't listen to each other, and in Washington you don't spend time with each other, because you fly in, you vote, vote, vote, and then you fly out to go raise money.

And I'll just end with this, because I know we're running out of time, I was so proud of my friend, Patty Murray, the Senator from Washington, who when the government was shut down a year or so ago she was the chair of the budget committee. And so they shut the government down and then they reopen it, but they basically say we have to pass a budget. And they turned to Patty and they say, okay, well, you're the chair of the Budget Committee, go work out a budget. So Patty worked with Paul Ryan, the former Vice Presidential Nominee for Mitt Romney, Congressman from Wisconsin, and they actually talked to each other.

They didn't show up at a big conference table with phalanxes of true believers on each side of them, with notebooks filled with argumentation. They had breakfast together. They had lunch together. They'd sit and talk about what each of them wanted, knowing that they couldn't agree on giving each other everything, but how could they make enough decisions to reach a consensus. And they did. So it's possible and it requires relationship building. A lot of people that I have really serious disagreements with I found ways to work together and I got to know better. And that's kind of lost. So this is, as you can tell, one of my pet peeves here.

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KARA SWISHER: So my last question, I asked this of the President, last question, if you could have a hash tag for the next few years, and you can't do grandmother knows best, you've used that one.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: That's such a good one.

KARA SWISHER: But, you could do Hillary 2016 if you want, but just offering a suggestion. I love hash tag I love selfies, whatever. What would it be, your hash tag?

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Lead on. (Laughter, applause.)

KARA SWISHER: All right. Thank you.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you.

Thank you all very much.

KARA SWISHER: Take a bow.

END

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org> "Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org> "Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	7/6/2012 8:35:55 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 7.6.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached is President Clinton's latest biweekly report. Please let me know if there are any questions or feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
July 6, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Governor Kitzhaber of Oregon and the Alliance have made a CGI commitment to train a state cadre in the Healthy Schools Program model. This will triple the number of Oregon schools reached by 2014.

The Alliance is working with Kaiser Permanente to scale up the Healthy Schools Program in more than 1,000 schools across the nation through 2014.

In October, YOU will recognize 250 schools for making transformative changes to their school environment. Two schools—one from Elizabeth, NJ and one from El Monte, CA—have achieved gold level recognition.

The Alliance is in discussions with the WalMart Foundation to support an expansion of its Healthy Out of School Time program to four new markets.

The Alliance is in discussions with Coca Cola and the American Beverage Association about expanding the school beverage guidelines to additional child-focused settings, such as Ys, Boys and Girls Clubs, and children's hospitals.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

The Philadelphia Entrepreneur Mentoring Program (EMP) is entering its final stretch. Over the past eleven months, EMP mentors have helped their mentees address a myriad of business concerns including identifying ways to increase profitability, navigating procurement processes to gain access to government contracts, and business expansion into new markets.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

The CDI team is working to finalize an agreement with an investor to develop an agro-distribution business that will service smallholder farmers in Anchor Farm Project. A significant percentage of the profits will go toward social impact projects in the communities CDI serves in Malawi.

Rwanda (CHDI)

Construction of the edible oil plant is moving along well. The Government has been supportive in this regard and is working with CHDI to establish the production plan for the factory's raw materials. On July 18, there will be a meeting between the vice chair of Mount Meru Soyco Ltd. and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture to agree on the production plan.

The construction contract for the coffee roasting factory has been signed and The Hunter Foundation has transferred the funds. Preparation for construction on the factory site has begun. On July 18, 2012, Sir Tom Hunter

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will officially lay the first stone.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

CGSGI Management will be meeting with the management of Fundación Carlos Slim next week to discuss new opportunities for working together in Haiti, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The particular focus of these discussions will be CGSGI's strategic interest in development of tourism supply chains, agricultural value chain optimization and enterprise building.

Peru

This month, the Cataracts Surgery project in Peru will reach the completion of 40,000 surgeries. The surgical network now consists of 72 surgical partners including 46 private clinics and 26 public hospitals.

Colombia

The Acceso Investment Fund in Colombia is completing due diligence on three new investment opportunities including an ethnic sweets company, a children's apparel exporter and a restaurant chain.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
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77 Water Street, New York, NY 10005
T: 917.720.0295 | **M:** 646.873.0244
E: zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/13/2014 9:27:55 AM
Subject: The Other Midterm Elections Result: Americans Want Legal Weed

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Paul Armentano | The Other Midterm Elections Result: Americans Want Legal Weed

Paul Armentano, Truthout: The majority of Americans - if not yet a majority of their elected officials - believe that the ongoing enforcement of marijuana prohibition financially burdens taxpayers, encroaches on civil liberties, impedes legitimate scientific research, engenders disrespect for the law and disproportionately impacts communities of color.

Read the Article

James Risen | If Journalists Ever Stop Uncovering Abuses of Power, We Will Lose Our Democracy

James Risen, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing: In *Pay Any Price*, James Risen uncovers fraud and malfeasance of massive financial proportions during the war in Iraq - and the cancerous spread of the surveillance-industrial state.

Read the Excerpt

The Myth of "Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform": Mississippi Close-Up

Nancy A. Heitzeg, Critical Mass Progress: Mississippi locks up more people per capita than China and Russia combined, and the state spends $389 million annually on corrections. On closer inspection, a "bipartisan" prison reform law passed earlier this year by the governor is not what it seems.

Read the Article and Watch the Videos

Bush Family and its Inner Circle Play Central Role in Lawsuits Against Denton, Texas, Fracking Ban

Steve Horn, DeSmogBlog: Two lawsuits filed against Denton show the Bush oil and gas legacy clearly lives on and stretches from the state where the fracking industry was born, all the way to Iraq,

BuzzFlash

If a Boat Had Its Weight as Disproportionately Distributed as Wealth Is in the US, It Would Sink

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Another study (published last month) confirms the startling imbalance of wealth in the United States.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Lame-Duck Senate Will Vote to Approve Keystone Pipeline

Read the Article at Talking Points Memo

Rebirth: The Awesome Power of Restorative Justice

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

The Life and Death of Tomas Young

Read the Article at The Nation

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and back again.
Read the Article

What Do Joni Ernst's Senate Win and Support for Embryo "Personhood" Really Tell Us?

Katie Klabusich, Truthout: Stop saying Joni Ernst won because she ran from her personhood stance. We can't afford to learn the wrong lesson from the midterms as the campaign for 2016 gets underway.
Read the Article

Corporate America Steps Up for Maine's Right-Wing Gov. Paul LePage

Jonathan Pelto, Truthout: Although Maine's governor, Paul LePage, has been referred to as "America's Craziest Governor," he won his re-election last week - with plenty of corporate and national GOP cash.
Read the Article

Conservatives Lie About Net Neutrality for Big Bucks

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: When it comes to net neutrality, conservatives are absolutely clueless. The only thing that President Obama's proposed net neutrality plan does is prevent internet service providers like Comcast from blocking or slowing down websites that Comcast doesn't like or that are owned by rival companies.
Read the Article

Here's What's Been Happening in Ferguson as Tensions Rise Again

Read the Article at Mother Jones

"We Crossed the Line," US Admits to UN Anti-Torture Body

Read the Article at Agence France Presse

The Arctic Sea Ice Meltdown in Maps

Read the Article at InsideClimate News

US and Western Allies Turn Backs on Refugee Crisis in Syria and Iraq

Read the Article at Common Dreams

Imagine Your Water Bill Shooting Up to $4,000: Inside One of Detroit's Biggest Crises

Terrell Jermaine Starr, AlterNet: Detroit has cut off water to at least 27,000 residences this year. Around 10,000 households are without running water. Without question, Detroit's political and economic climate has been the most tumultuous of any major city in the United States.
Read the Article

Land, Co-ops, Compost: A Local Food Economy Emerges in Boston's Poorest Neighborhoods

Penn Loh, YES! Magazine: From kitchens that buy and sell locally grown food, to a waste co-op that will return compost to the land, new enterprises are building an integrated food network. It's about local people keeping the wealth of their land at home.
Read the Article

The Working Families Party Must Go

Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report: It is time to admit that leftists have no influence in the Democratic Party. The re-election of Gov. 1% Cuomo (with the endorsement of the Working Families Party) in New York shows that third parties aren't spoilers; it is the Democrats who do that all by themselves.
Read the Article

Passports for Sale

Atossa Araxia Abrahamian, Dissent: The influence of big money on citizenship policies can be read as a natural progression of what's been taking place over the past few decades as a result of laissez-faire economic policies: privatization, offshoring and the resultant growing wealth inequality.
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Why We Lost: Retired US General Calls for Public Inquiry Into Failures of Iraq, Afghan Wars

Amy Goodman and Juan González, Democracy Now!: Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger, a retired, three-star US general who helped command troops in Iraq and Afghanistan is calling for a public inquiry along the lines of the 9/11 Commission to look into why the two wars have gone so poorly.

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From: "Team Kirkpatrick" <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 9/14/2014 10:31:59 AM
Subject: John, did you sign yet?

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

John --

What a response!

So far, over 42,000 of you have signed your name to stand with Ann to protect the Grand Canyon -- that's incredible!

We've got to keep our grassroots momentum going! Will you help us reach 50,000 supporters standing strong to protect the Grand Canyon?

Please click here to add your name to our list of supporters and demand Congress pass a permanent ban on new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

---------- Original Email ----------

From: Ann Kirkpatrick
Subject: Protect The Grand Canyon: [PETITION]

John --

12,000: Jobs created by the Grand Canyon
$700,000,000: Yearly income the Grand Canyon provides to our local economy.
28,800: Number of people who have signed our petition to save the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon is our district's own personal Wonder of the World.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

It's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon. Will you join me in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

John, click here to sign our petition and add your name to the list of supporters demanding Congress ban new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon >>

As a native Arizonan, the Grand Canyon is especially important to me. But if we're going to protect it, we need your help.

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ADD YOUR NAME: http://action.kirkpatrickforarizona.com/Grand-Canyon

Thanks,

Ann

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters like you. However, if you'd prefer to take a break from emails, click here . If you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click here .

Our campaign is powered by supporters like you. Your grassroots support is critical to helping Ann fight back against Republican lies. If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to donate to our campaign, please click here . Thanks for having Ann's back!

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From: "Peter Slutsky" <PSlutsky@progressivestrategies.net>
To: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/12/2008 4:13:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: McCain Misprounces Mikhail Saakashvili's Name

Someone with money needs to cut an ad ASAPcalling him on this….this plays into McCain's "confusion…"

He says he knows world leaders and the voters agree (9% advantage on the issue of dealing with a nat'l crisis), yet he can't pronounce the name of a foreign leader who needs US assistance. Americans trust John McCain over Barack Obama, yet he isn't mentally prepared to lead…

"John McCain…too confused to serve…"

Peter

From: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com [mailto:bigcampaign@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Adam Blickstein
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2008 11:06 AM
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Subject: [big campaign] McCain Misprounces Mikhail Saakashvili's Name

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/08/whats-my-name.html

What's My Name?
Posted by Adam Blickstein

Too bad Wikipdia doesn't phonetically spell out the names of world leaders who are at war with Russia cause John McCain could use the assistance (or at least maybe one of his top foreign policy aides who used to work for the Georgian government could have helped):

[VIDEO]

To quote Bob from Office Space: We're gonna be getting rid of these people here... First, Mr. Samir Naga... Naga... Naga... Not gonna work here anymore, anyway.

August 12, 2008 at 07:57 AM | Permalink

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/13/2015 1:02:04 PM
Subject:	Economic Framework Clips Post Speech 7.13.15
Attachments:	Economic Framework Post Speech Clips, 7.13.15.docx

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Clinton calls for 'growth and fairness economy,' vows Wall Street crackdown // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 13, 2015

In her most sweeping policy address to date, Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton on

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Monday presented her vision for a “growth and fairness economy” built on rising incomes for middle-class workers and vowed an aggressive crackdown on Wall Street.

Even as she outlined progressive policies she hoped would motivate liberal Democratic primary voters, Clinton attacked three leading Republican candidates by name for economic agendas she said would benefit corporations and wealthy people at the expense of ordinary workers.

“Today, as the shadow of crisis recedes and longer term challenges come into focus, I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy,” Clinton said. “You can’t have one without the other.”

She added, “The defining economic challenge of our time is clear: We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle-class life.. . .That will be my mission from the first day I’m president to the last.”

Clinton’s 45-minute speech Monday morning, delivered in a formal setting at the New School, a progressive college in Greenwich Village, is intended to form the basis of her campaign for the months to come.

With liberals openly concerned about her historic coziness with Wall Street — and with her insurgent primary rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), drawing thousands at his rallies by railing against big banks — Clinton struck a tough tone on the financial industry.

Clinton asserted that many institutions are “too complex and too risky” and promised to go further than President Obama has both in regulating the industry and in prosecuting its bad players. As president, she said, she would appoint and empower regulators who understand that “too big to fail is still too big a problem.” And she promised to ensure that the financial markets “work for everyday investors, not just high-risk traders.”

“Too often it has seemed that the human beings responsible get off with limited consequences or none at all, even when they’ve already pocketed the gains,” Clinton said. “This is wrong. And on my watch, it will change.. . .We will prosecute individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud.”

But Clinton may not have presented an aggressive enough Wall Street agenda to satisfy some liberals. As she concluded her speech, one man stood in the auditorium and shouted repeatedly, “Senator Clinton, will you restore Glass-Steagall?,” a reference to a 1990s-era law that restricted banking activities. Clinton gave no answer as Secret Service agents encircled the man and others in the crowd applauded loudly to drown him out.

Clinton also tackled the so-called sharing economy, epitomized by companies like Uber and Aibnb. She said such firms were “polarizing our economy” by displacing or down-grading blue-collar jobs that once provided solid incomes.

“This on-demand or so-called ‘gig’ economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it’s also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future,” she said.

Later this week, perhaps to drive a contrast with Clinton, former Florida governor Jeb Bush plans to order an Uber ride on his phone during a visit to Silicon Valley.

In her remarks, Clinton tried to draw a contrast more with Republicans than with other Democrats. She argued that more than three decades of Republican “trickle-down” policies of cutting taxes and loosening corporate regulations have resulted in rising debt and have not helped workers.

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“Twice now in the past 20 years, a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess,” she said.

Clinton singled out Bush for having said last week that people should “work longer hours” to boost the economy. He has clarified that he was referring to part-time workers who want to work longer hours, but Clinton seized on the remark nonetheless.

“He must not have met very many American workers,” Clinton said. “Let him tell that to the nurse that stands on her feet all day or the teacher that is in that classroom or the trucker that drives all night. . . They don’t need a lecture. They need a raise.”

Bush spokesperson Allie Bradenburger responded by saying Clinton is offering “antiquated proposals” that “protect the special interests that want to stifle American ingenuity.”

Clinton attacked Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), another leading GOP candidate, for his tax plan. She said that his proposal would cut taxes for a household making $3 million a year by almost $240,000, which she noted was exponentially more than the annual earnings of a typical family.

“That’s a sure budget-busting give-a-way to the super wealthy,” Clinton said.

She also went after Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), who will formally launch his campaign Monday afternoon.

“Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names stomping on worker’s rights,” Clinton said. Promising to defend collective bargaining, she added, “I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks.”

Clinton’s speech was heavy on thematic vision, but light on specifics. She said she would roll out more detailed policy prescriptions over the course of the summer on issues such as college affordability.

The campaign of one Democratic challenger, Martin O’Malley, tried to contrast Clinton’s remarks with the detailed economic plan the former Maryland governor already has laid out.

In a statement issued following Clinton’s speech, O’Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith said: “Rebuilding the American Dream will take more than vague promises. That’s why Governor O’Malley has set bold, progressive, and specific goals to make our economy work for more Americans.”

Much of Clinton’s agenda includes priorities that have shaped Obama’s second term priorities and issues Democratic congressional candidates highlighted in the 2014 midterm campaigns. This includes her focus on pay equity for women, paid maternal leave and sick days and expanding access to childcare.

“We should make it easier for Americans to be both good workers and good parents and caregivers,” Clinton said. She added, “I am well aware that for far too long these challenges have been dismissed by some as women’s issues. Well, those days are over.”

But Clinton previewed some new ideas, too, such as a corporate profit sharing plan she said she would expound

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upon during a visit to New Hampshire on Thursday.

"Hard working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they help produce," she said. "So I will propose ways to encourage companies to share profits with their employees. That's good for workers and good for businesses."

Clinton's economic platform DOA in today's Congress **// WaPo // Kelsey Snell – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton on Monday outlined a wide-ranging list of economic proposals that focus on creating more opportunities for low-and-middle income earners while raising their wages, a populist message that could also appeal to more moderate voters during the general election.

Many of the ideas laid out by the front-runner to be the Democrat's presidential nominee in 2016 are variations on policy goals that have been put forward in the past by progressive Democrats, such as Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), while others are similar to proposals pitched by President Obama. Others looked to expand on laws enacted during Obama's time in office.

If conventional wisdom holds and Republicans continue to control Congress after the 2016 elections — or at least the House — than many of the ideas discussed by Clinton will be dead on arrival.

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While Clinton didn't offer too many specifics, what follows is a look at how some of the ideas she discussed Monday have fared in Congress in recent years and whether they would have much of a chance under a President Clinton.

Minimum wage increase and worker protections. Clinton pitched a long list of policies aimed at middle-class workers, including a minimum wage hike, paid family leave and preventing employers from classifying employees as contractors to avoid paying benefits and overtime.

"We do have to raise the minimum wage, and implement President Obama's new rules on overtime, and then we have to go further," Clinton said.

Clinton could build on Obama's executive orders to expand leave time and increase wages for federal workers and empower the Labor Department to crack down on employee misclassification, but she would need Congress to approve a broader wage hike.

That would not be easy to do.

Republicans fought off legislation last year that would have gradually increased the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 per hour over the course of more than two years.

Democrats had a majority in the Senate at the time and still failed to get the 60 votes necessary to overcome a Republican filibuster of the bill. Chances of rallying support with Republicans in both the House and Senate are slim, but Jared Bernstein of the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said a wage increase could gain support if the economy continues to improve.

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“Both Bush presidents passed minimum wage increases,” said Bernstein, a former economic adviser to Vice President Joe Biden. “There would be a fight over how much it would be increased and what conservatives would get in return but it is not impossible.”

Student loan refinancing. Clinton embraced an idea pushed by progressives like Warren and Sanders that would allow people with student loan debt to refinance their loans at current market rates. The plan has been popular with young voters who have amassed tens of thousands of dollars in debt to finance the rising cost of a college education.

While the proposal sounds good on the campaign trail, many Republicans say that student loan debt needs to be addressed as a part of complete higher education overhaul bill, making the proposal’s path through Congress more difficult. Republicans earlier this year blocked a Warren-sponsored budget amendment that would set lower rates for all borrowers, including a slightly higher rate for graduate students.

“The nature of these changes is they do not help people get into college, complete more quickly and get jobs,” said Doug Holtz-Eakin, president of the conservative American Action Forum and former economic adviser for John McCain during his 2008 presidential bid. Lowering interest rates for student loan debt “is a windfall for people who already have jobs.”

Increasing taxes on investment earnings and the wealthy. If Clinton’s talk of making the wealthy pay more in taxes by, for example, ending breaks enjoyed by hedge-fund managers sounds familiar it’s because it’s an Obama talking point straight out of the 2012 election.

But many of the tax ideas she ticked off Monday have been rejected by Republicans in Congress.

Clinton backed the Buffett rule, named for billionaire investor Warren Buffett who famously lamented paying a lower tax rate than his secretary, that would impose a minimum tax rate of 30 percent on earnings over $1 million. The idea never went anywhere in Congress.

She also proposed closing the so-called carried interest loophole, which allows investment managers to classify some, if not most, of their income as capital gains interest so they can pay lower taxes on those earnings. Clinton paired that proposal with a pitch to make it harder for wealthy financial advisers to avoid taxes.

Most Democrats love the proposals but they have virtually no chance of getting any Republican support. Obama and Senate Democrats increased the capital gains rate from 15 percent to 20 percent as part of the “fiscal cliff” deal reached in the final hours of 2012. Republicans grudgingly gave in then but have vowed to fight back against any attempt to increase this rate in the future.

Strengthening Dodd-Frank and cracking down on Wall Street. Clinton may have spent years representing Wall Street banks and traders as a senator from New York, but presidential candidate Clinton embraced putting more rules on the financial sector saying there is a need to “go beyond” the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.

“Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky,” she said. “Serious risks are emerging from institutions in the so-called shadow banking system, including hedge funds, high-frequency traders, non- bank finance companies.”

Some Republican agree with liberal critics of Wall Street that “too big to fail” banks remain, but Republicans are unlikely to agree to new regulations after spending years arguing that Dodd-Frank is hurting lending and the

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broader economy.

Clinton appeared to have this criticism in mind when she made clear her intent is not to target the more traditional banking industry that focuses on such things as mortgages and business loans.

“We can do that, and still ease burdens on community banks to encourage responsible loans to local people and businesses they know and trust,” she said.

Clinton also hit on an issue that has led both Democrats and Republicans to criticize Obama’s Justice Department: The lack of criminal convictions stemming from the 2008 financial crisis.

“While institutions have paid large fines and in some cases admitted guilt, too often it has seemed that the human beings responsible get off with limited consequences or none at all, even when they have already pocketed the gains,” she said. “This is wrong, and on my watch it will change.”

Immigration reform. The one issue that has a good chance in a Clinton presidency is also the one that failed most dramatically during Obama’s presidency: immigration reform.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed bipartisan immigration legislation in 2013 after months of negotiations led by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.). The bill had the support of the business community, the Obama administration and 68 Senators. What it didn’t have was the backing of House conservatives.

Support has shifted in recent months and there is wide recognition among many in the House that immigration reform is necessary if not inevitable, said Holtz-Eakin. He said there is bipartisan support for rethinking the immigration system but there is too much bad blood between this Congress and Obama over this issue.

“The last attempt came on the heels of a long period of tension between the White House and Congress and they did not trust him,” Holtz-Eakin said. “New Congress, new president, you try again.”

Clinton, however, didn’t offer many specifics on Monday and the details of any immigration plan are what will be most contentious.

Tax and Budget: Hillary wants to reform the capital gains rate, and Democrats want details on federal contracts for inverted companies // WaPo // Kelsey Snell – July 13, 2015

HILLARY TO PITCH CAP GAINS REVAMP. Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to outline her economic agenda Monday at 10 a.m., and early documents obtained by Reuters show part of that plan is rethinking the capital gains rate. Reuters cites a memo that reads:

“In the coming weeks, she will outline specific policies—for example, by reforming capital gains taxation—that will seek to counter the effect of this short-term focus.”

The idea of reforming taxes on income from investments is not new for Democrats. President Obama and Senate Democrats increased the rate from 15 to 20 percent as part of the “fiscal cliff” deal reached in the final hours of 2012. Republicans grudgingly gave in on the tax rate but have vowed to fight back against any attempt to increase the rate in the future.

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Hillary Clinton's economic ideas would be big for Latinos. That's not a coincidence. **// WaPo // Janell Ross – July 13, 2015**

On Monday morning, Hillary Clinton laid out how she would narrow economic inequality and deal with the economic struggles of ordinary Americans. And later Monday, she'll head to the National Council of La Raza convention in Kansas City and likely repeat many of the same themes.

And maybe that's a coincidence of scheduling, but it's no coincidence that a lot of Clinton's proposals would be particularly beneficial to workers of color -- especially Latinos.

Here's the crux of what Clinton is talking about Monday:

As part of her workforce focus, Clinton will decry that women's participation in the workforce has stalled after decades of growth and that many working parents, especially single mothers, have passed up job opportunities because of family obligations. She will preview policies on child care, paid leave and paid sick days.

Clinton's second area of focus is reducing income inequality. She will assert that the current economy unfairly rewards some work, such as financial trading, more than other work. She will celebrate Obama's new rules on overtime but also urge raising the minimum wage and overhauling the tax code to make the wealthiest Americans pay what she considers their fair share. She will also back collective bargaining and reducing health-care costs.

...

Clinton will introduce these ideas in Monday's speech and then roll out more detailed prescriptions on issues such as college affordability, paid leave, wage growth and corporate accountability throughout the summer.

Clinton's speech at The New School in New York City and her policy proposals have been billed as ideas that will benefit the middle class. But during her speech, Clinton herself made some explicit references to workers of color. And Latino workers make up one of the fastest-growing segments of the workforce but are concentrated in lower-paying jobs with limited benefits. Hence, the kind of jobs that benefit most from things like paid sick leave, child care and maternity leave.

Here's what you need to know to understand why Clinton's policy ideas may have particular meaning to Latino voters.

Latinos made up about 16.6 percent of the American workforce in June. That's a figure that's expected to climb to nearly 20 percent within the next five years.

In 2011, when the U.S. Labor Department's statistical arm completed a deep dive on Latino workers in the recovery, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that about 20 percent of Latino workers over the age of 16 were employed part-time. More recent figures from 2014 indicate that the portion working part-time has grown to nearly 23 percent of the Hispanic labor force. But the majority told the government's statistics team they were doing so for non-economic reasons such as the need to care for young children or older family members. So child-care issues and family responsibilities weigh heavily on Latino workers.

While the gap between white, black and Latino high school graduates going on to college has nearly disappeared, the portion of Latinos who graduate continues to lag further than every other group. In that 2011 look at Latino

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workers, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that only one in six -- about 17 percent -- of Latinos 25 or older have completed a bachelor's degree.

This pattern is part of the reason that the majority of Latino workers -- about 58 percent -- are employed in the service industry, construction, maintenance, transportation and production industries and a far smaller portion -- about 32 percent-- work in professional or management jobs.

That also means that large numbers of Latino workers do not enjoy benefits that for many white-collar American workers are now part of the norm such as paid sick time, paid vacation days, partially paid maternity and/or paternity leave, extended time off to care for a sick relative or attend to their own serious health challenges and employer-provided health or life insurance.

The industries in which Latino workers are clustered also explains part of the yawning wage gaps between white workers and workers of color -- particularly Latinas. Latinas employed full-time earn about 56 cents to every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men employed full time, according to a National Women's Law Center analysis of 2013 Census data. That's compared to 64 cents on the dollar for full-time black female workers and 77 cents for white women working full time.

With that reality mind, the Clinton campaign knows that Clinton needs Latino workers who are also registered voters to turn out to vote in the upcoming Democratic primaries and the general election, should she make it that far. For Obama, some of these workers helped him win key swing states such as Nevada and Florida in 2008 and 2012.

Four ways Hillary Clinton distanced herself from Bernie Sanders on Monday // WaPo // Amber Phillips – July 13, 2015

From calling for raising middle-class wages to announcing a plan to share corporate profits with workers and go after Wall Street criminals, Hillary Clinton gave a remarkably populist/liberal speech Monday laying out her economic policies.

The 2016 Democratic frontrunner is highlighting her progressive bona fides on everything from social to economic issues as she contrasts herself with an increasingly conservative Republican field.

But she's also facing a stronger-than-expected challenge from the left in the form of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). The socialist is drawing large crowds across the country with his populist Robin Hood-style message of taking income from the rich and giving it to the poor and cracking down hard on Wall Street.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton says former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R) doesn't understand the plight of American workers, telling supporters in an economic speech, "They don't need a lecture. They need a raise." (AP)

Sanders isn't a real threat yet to her path to the nomination, but Clinton most certainly had his adoring crowds in the back of her mind as she laid out her campaign's major economic policy points. Here's four ways she tried to differentiate herself from Sanders.

1. She's focusing more on policies to lift up women

Key quote: "For far too long these challenges have been dismissed by some as women's issues. Well, those days are

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over."

What she said: This time around, Clinton is making her potential history-making run for the White House a major theme of her candidacy. And she spent a good chunk of her time Monday at the progressive New School talking about how as president she'd implement specific federal policies to make it easier for women to work, such as fair pay laws and expanding access to child care and paid sick leave.

Why its different from Sanders: Sanders has advocated for similar policies, including 12-week paid maternity leave, but he doesn't spent as much time as Clinton talking about gender policy. And that makes some sense: Clinton has the potential to make history, and Sanders is doing a lot better among white liberal men, the polls show.

2. Wall Street deserves scrutiny, but it's not evil

Key quote: "I know firsthand the role that Wall Street can and should play in our economy helping main street grow and prosper."

What she said: Clinton certainly tried to appeal to the left-wing of her party by criticizing Wall Street as too focused on short-term, quarterly profits instead of America's long-term economic health. She promised to criminally prosecute Wall Street CEOS responsible for trading that led to the 2008 financial crisis, and she called for policies to rein in such trading, such as taxing risky high-frequency trading. But the former New York senator refused to vilify Wall Street as the over-arching reason Americans are hurting today.

Why it's different from Sanders: Sanders, by contrast, has made Wall Street one of his top enemies. "I think these people are so greedy, they're so out of touch with reality," he told CNBC's John Harwood in May. Sanders is promising a "revolution" to redistribute -- and he does use that word -- wealth from the top 1 percent to the masses. A key part of his plan is to break up big banks on Wall Street and raise taxes on the rich.

3. Progressiveness is good, but blind ideology is bad

Key quote: "Let's get back to making decisions that rely on evidence more than ideology."

What she said: Clinton ended her speech with what sounded almost like a plea to stop campaigning on purely partisan politics, which she blamed for creating Washington gridlock. Of course, she pitched herself as the candidate to do just that. "I want to have principled and pragmatic and progressive policies that really move us forward together," she said.

Why it's different from Sanders: While certainly criticizing Republicans here too, this part of her speech could almost be read as a direct shot at Sanders. His call to break up big banks and significantly raise the income tax rate is seen by establishment Democrats as just not politically viable. And on Sunday, Sanders seemed to make the case that Democrats shouldn't work with Republicans.

4. Everything she left out of the speech

Sanders-supporting liberals were closely watching Clinton on Monday to see if she'd stake out even more liberal positions on trade and minimum wage and welfare.

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But Clinton probably left those folks wanting. She did not talk about expanding Social Security, she did not call for raising the national minimum wage to $15 an hour, and she did not explicitly disapprove of President Obama's trade deals with Pacific Rim nations and Europe.

So while she is pivoting to the left more than any other modern Democratic presidential candidate, what Sanders said Sunday on CBS's "Face The Nation" still holds true about the two candidates:

"There are very significant differences of opinion that we have."

Hillary Clinton signals how she'll attack Republicans on the economy // WaPo // Paul Waldman – July 13, 2015

One of the central challenges Hillary Clinton faces as a presidential candidate is how to deal with Barack Obama, a president with a mixed record and middling popularity ratings (not to mention one who used to be her boss). She isn't going to criticize him too directly, but she also needs to provide a full picture of how her presidency would be different from his.

In the economic speech she made today, Clinton showed how she's going to manage this on what will almost certainly be the most important issue of the 2016 campaign. And in (for her) a happy coincidence, the ground where she can draw those distinctions also provides some of the best opportunities to criticize the Republicans running for president.

The most thematically important section of Clinton's speech was this:

We're not going to find all the answers we need today in the playbooks of the past. We can't go back to the old policies that failed us before, nor can we just replay the successes. Today is not 1993. It's not 2009. So we need solutions for the big challenges we face now.

You can call this "distancing herself" from Obama, as many people surely will, but it's a bit more complicated than that. Here's the story as Clinton will tell it: Barack Obama came into office in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and so he had to concentrate on pulling the country out of that disaster. Which he did — the economy has produced 12 million jobs since it hit bottom at the end of 2009. But now that the fire has been put out, it's time to address the challenges of a changing workplace and a transformed economy. In other words, it's not 2009.

In telling that story, Clinton has an easy answer whenever someone asks whether she's implicitly criticizing Obama for one thing or another: times are different now. But more fundamental is the contrast she can draw with Republicans. The biggest advantage Clinton may have in this debate is that as a Democrat, she believes that government can take an active role in shaping the economy for people's benefit. That means she can address a wide range of economic and workplace challenges and offer new ideas for how they might be confronted, whether it's paid sick leave or Wall Street regulation or early childhood education.

You can argue that these ideas are good or bad, but she'll have many more of them than Republicans will. Because Republicans think government's role should be far more limited, they have much less to offer on those specific questions. They'd rather not have a debate on things like sick leave, because their default answer — just get out of the way and let the market work its magic — sounds like they don't want to fix the problem.

In the speech, Clinton found ways to criticize all three top-tier Republican candidates. She seized on Jeb Bush's recent remark that "People need to work longer hours" as though he had made it just to do her a favor. "Well, he must not have met very many American workers," she said. "Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet

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all day or the teacher who is in that classroom, or the trucker who drives all night. Let him tell that to the fast-food workers marching in the streets for better pay. They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

I've argued that Jeb should be forgiven for this "gaffe," but there's no doubt it fits in perfectly with the argument Clinton and other Democrats are making: that they're the ones who want to raise wages and make the workplace more fair, while Republicans just want you to work harder for the benefit of your boss. And while she was at it, Clinton went after Marco Rubio's tax plan, saying it "would cut taxes for households making around $3 million a year by almost $240,000, which is way more than three times the earnings of a typical family. Well, that is a sure budget busting giveaway to the super wealthy, and that's the kind of bad economics you are likely to hear from any of the candidates on the other side." She also went after Scott Walker in an emphatically pro-union section of the speech:

Alongside tax reform, it's time to stand up to efforts across our country to undermine worker bargaining power, which has been proven again and again to drive up wages. Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names stomping on workers' rights, and practically all the Republican candidates hope to do the same as president. I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks. Evidence shows that the decline of unions may be responsible for a third of the increase of inequality among men, so if we want to get serious about raising incomes, we have to get serious about supporting union workers.

There was plenty more — it was almost a State of the Union address in its multiplicity of proposals, on everything from immigration reform to equal pay for women to corporate profit-sharing to preschool. Back in 2008, Clinton was sometimes criticized for delivering too much policy wonkery while Barack Obama was delivering inspiring rhetoric. That doesn't seem to have changed — however else her 2016 campaign will be different, Clinton will have no shortage of proposals related to the economy and the workplace.

Republicans will of course say that every last one is wrongheaded and dangerous. But if they don't have much to offer in response, that will probably be just fine with her.

Why Hillary Clinton made gender such a big deal in her major economic speech // WaPo // Danielle Paquette – July 13, 2015

Last year, as Hillary Clinton awaited the birth of her first granddaughter, Charlotte, a nurse at New York City's Lenox Hill Hospital thanked her for promoting paid family leave.

"She sees first-hand what it means for herself and her colleagues and the working parents she takes care of," Clinton said, recalling the encounter Monday in her first major economic speech this election cycle.

The memory illustrated what has thus far been a central message of Clinton's campaign: So-called "women's issues" are economic issues, and they intensify for millions of workers after those life-shaking trips to the maternity ward.

In her sprawling speech, which touched on Wall Street and Internet competition and the sharing economy, Clinton dedicated more than 1,000 words to burdens disproportionately carried by women -- a rarity in the context of policy addresses from front-running presidential candidates.

She called fair pay, flexible scheduling, paid family leave and earned sick days "essential to our competitiveness and growth."

She told the stories of a single mother balancing full-time work and community college, highlighting the need for affordable childcare, and a grandmother who watches children for a living but can barely afford to fill her

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prescriptions, highlighting the weak financial rewards for providing it.

And she mentioned the disparity that makes all this even tougher for female workers nationwide: American women, on average, make 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Women of color, Clinton added, make even less. The number, compared to white men's earnings, dwindles to 64 cents for black women, the National Women's Law Center reports, and 56 cents for Hispanic women.

"Another key ingredient of strong growth that often goes overlooked and undervalued: Breaking down barriers so more Americans can participate more fully in the workforce, especially women," she said. "We are in a global competition and we can't afford to leave talent on the sidelines."

Over the last four decades, the number of female breadwinners in the U.S. has more than tripled. This trend generated $3.5 trillion of economic growth, Clinton said -- but progress is stalling.

Full-time employment increased from 28.6 percent of all women in 1979 to 43.6 percent in 2007 before declining to 40.7 percent in 2012, according to the the Center for American Progress.

The reasons are complicated, and research suggests no one policy fix can vanquish social deterrents like, say, the well-documented unconscious biases that seep into hiring and promotion decisions.

An estimated 43 million American workers have no access to paid leave. They're mostly low-wage workers, already strained when recovering after the birth of a child, for example, or tending to a sick kid. Top earners, on the other hand, tend to receive the benefits through employers, according to a recent survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The problem compounds for single mothers who lack the benefits. Some economists argue closing the wage gap would lift nearly half out of poverty, according to a report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

"All this lost money adds up," Clinton said Monday, "and for some women, it's thousands of dollars every year."

Advocates say Clinton's policy prescriptions for gender equality could be a good start for leveling the professional playing field, so long as government mandates don't make matters worse for working women.

The results are mixed when it comes to paid leave, in particular. The three states that so far offer some form of it -- California, New Jersey and Rhode Island -- are already recording increased wages for mothers of young children.

But evidence from abroad warns about possible, unintended consequences of sweeping reforms. After Chile, for example, required large employers to cover daycare costs, women, whether or not they had children, started seeing lower starting pay.

The hard questions that Hillary's speech on the economy left unanswered // WaPo // Greg Sargent – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton's speech on the economy today sent an important message: That the ambitiousness of her agenda will be commensurate with the scale of the economic challenges the country faces.

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The speech's big theme wasn't just that economic growth and the distribution of the fruits of that growth have come decoupled from one another. It was also that it is within our power to change this through a robust policy response — just as previous generations have "built" (her deliberate word choice) great economies and strong middle classes.

However, there are still plenty of specifics that need to be filled in — something her campaign has promised she will do in a series of speeches this summer.

So here are some of the questions that were left unanswered. From the speech:

"You know advances in technology and expanding global trade have created whole new areas of commercial activity and opened new markets for our exports, but too often they're also polarizing our economy — benefiting high-skilled workers but displacing or downgrading blue collar jobs and other mid-level jobs that used to provide solid incomes for millions of Americans….we do need to set a high bar for trade agreements. We should support them if they create jobs, raise wages, and advance our national security. And we should be prepared to walk away if they don't."

Where will Clinton come down on the Trans-Pacific Partnership? Today's rhetoric is consistent with her previous claim that any trade deal must "put us in a position to protect American workers, raise wages and create more good jobs at home." But this, of course, leaves room for her to decide either that the TPP does that or that it doesn't, and when we see the specifics of a deal, she'll have to take a stand. That won't be easy.

"Today's marketplace focuses too much on the short term – like second-to-second financial trading and quarterly earnings reports – and too little on long-term investments."

Will Clinton support a financial transactions tax to discourage "short-termism," as Bernie Sanders has called for? Or (and these things aren't mutually exclusive) will she support reforms to the tax code's treatment of executive compensation that the Center for American Progress has suggested in order to de-incentivize short-termism?

"We'll help families look forward to retirement by defending and enhancing Social Security and making it easier to save for the future."

Will Clinton come out for expanding Social Security, as Sanders and other progressive Democrats have? The choice of the word "enhancing" seemed deliberately vague.

"Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky. And the problems are not limited to the big banks that get all the headlines. Serious risks are emerging from institutions in the so-called "shadow banking" system — including hedge funds, high frequency traders, non-bank finance companies — so many new kinds of entities which receive little oversight at all…Over the course of this campaign, I will offer plans to rein in excessive risks on Wall Street and ensure that stock markets work for everyday investors, not just high frequency traders and those with the best — or fastest — connections."

Will Clinton call for re-instating Glass-Steagall, a key goal of the Elizabeth Warren wing of the party? One outside Clinton adviser says she won't. When Clinton says she'll "go beyond Dodd Frank," what will that look like?

Clinton, as expected, came out for incentivizing corporate "profit sharing," but said the specifics on how to accomplish that would have to wait until a speech in New Hampshire later this week.

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Much of Clinton's speech was very programmatic. She came out for paid family and sick leave, universal early education, and more investments in job training, all under the umbrella of boosting mobility and opportunity. She backed comprehensive immigration reform, higher taxes on capital gains, and more in infrastructure spending.

But still more specifics will be forthcoming. The general ambition of her speech demands them. Indeed, it seemed designed, if anything, to raise expectations along these lines.

Hillary Clinton Economic Plan Emphasizes Growth and Increasing Wages // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, laying out her economic vision, said Monday that government must do more to rein in excessive risk-taking on Wall Street, push financial firms to focus on long-term growth over short-term gains and assure stock markets "work for everyday investors, not just high-frequency traders."

"The truth is the current rules for our economy do reward some work, like financial trading … much more than other work, like actually building and selling things," she said.

Her wide-ranging remarks included a series of hits on leading Republican presidential candidates. She said Sen. Marco Rubio's tax plan would reward the rich and argued that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker made his name "stomping on workers' rights." Mrs. Clinton also charged former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush with wanting hardworking Americans to work even harder.

Overall, she said she is focused on growing the economy and increasing wages for all Americans, while Republican policies will aid only the wealthy.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Bush, Allie Brandenburger, replied that Mrs. Clinton is backing antiquated policies and that Mr. Bush would push for 4% economic growth. "Hillary Clinton is proposing the same failed policies we have seen in the Obama economy, where the typical American household's income has declined and it's harder for businesses to hire and the middle class to achieve rising incomes," she said.

In her remarks, Mrs. Clinton gave few policy details, saying they will come later. She declined to respond to a protester who interrupted her remarks near the end of the speech demanding to know if she will reinstate Glass-Steagall, the Depression-era law separating plain-vanilla banking activities from riskier investment-banking bets that was repealed when her husband, Bill Clinton, was president.

Supporters of Mrs. Clinton in the audience at the New School in Manhattan drowned out the protester with applause and he was escorted from the auditorium.

Mrs. Clinton isn't expected to back such a sweeping regulatory policy, but she said that as president she would both defend and expand the Dodd-Frank financial-sector regulations put into place under President Barack Obama.

"Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky," she said. She said the problems aren't limited to big banks but include those in the "shadow banking system" such as hedge funds, high-frequency traders and nonbank finance companies.

She also said that too often companies guilty of wrongdoing are punished but the people responsible get away with limited or no consequences. "We will ensure that no firm is too complex to manage or oversee," she said. "And we

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will prosecute individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud or criminal wrongdoing."

She promised a plan for the capital-gain tax that will "reward longer-term investments that create jobs, more than just quick trades." She didn't offer details.

As a whole, she said her economic plan would work to increase economic growth, as Republicans are pushing, and tackle inequality, as many in the Democratic Party are demanding.

To encourage growth, she said she would back an infrastructure bank to fund investments in airports, roads and bridges; an immigration overhaul to bring more people into the economic system; and a corporate-tax plan to close loopholes that she said reward companies for sending jobs and profits overseas. She also mentioned support for faster broadband networks, investments in clean energy and more money for medical research. She said she would help women participate in the workforce by backing child-care programs and paid leave.

To tackle inequality, she said she backs increasing the minimum wage, the Obama rules raising the threshold of pay that mandates overtime rates, reining in health-care costs, support for unions, reviving a "new markets" tax cut, and taxing so-called carried interest earned by investors as regular income. She also proposed new tax breaks to encourage corporate profit-sharing with employees, an idea she said she will expand on this Thursday.

With her heavy focus on growth, the speech offered an implicit critique of her Democratic rivals, but she ignored them in her remarks on Monday. Instead, she offered a string of attacks on Republican presidential contenders, and what she said was a GOP focus on aid for those at the top.

She pointed to Mr. Bush's comment last week that growing the economy will mean people have to "work longer hours," though he made clear he meant people who have part-time work must be able to find full-time employment.

"Now, you may have heard Gov. Bush say Americans just need to work longer hours. Well, he must not have met very many American workers," she said. Pointing to a variety of hardworking people, she said, "They do not need a lecture. They need a raise."

She also noted Mr. Walker's campaign to strip collective-bargaining rights from public-sector unions and said practically all Republican candidates want to do the same as president. She said unions have driven wages up and need to be supported. "I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks," she said.

Mr. Walker, who officially launched his campaign on Monday, defended his record. "We took power out of the hands of the big government special interests and put it firmly into the hands of the hardworking taxpayers," he said.

Mrs. Clinton said Mr. Rubio's plan would amount to a tax giveaway for the very rich. Mr. Rubio's spokesman, Alex Conant, replied: "Secretary Clinton wants to take us back to yesterday, but we cannot raise taxes like the 1990s or increase spending like the 2000s. Marco is proposing a 21st century tax plan that would benefit all Americans, especially middle-class families."

Hillary Clinton to Propose Tax Breaks for Firms Sharing Profits With Employees // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton will propose tax breaks for companies that create programs to

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share profits with their employees, part of an economic speech Monday where she will call for new action to raise middle-class wages.

Her overall theme is that raising incomes for all Americans is the nation's defining economic challenge.

"We need new ideas ... One that I believe in and will fight for is profit sharing," she plans to say Monday in her speech at the New School in New York City, according to a short excerpt provided by a campaign official. "Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce."

She plans to offer details on this idea at an event Thursday in New Hampshire.

The idea of profit-sharing is discussed at length in a report issued earlier this year by the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank with deep ties to the Clinton campaign. The report said that profit sharing programs is aimed at making sure that corporate profits benefit a broad base of workers and not just top executives, on the basis of overall performance. Benefits, the report said, include higher pay, greater employee participation in decision-making, increased productivity and higher profits.

The report suggested tax incentives to encourage these arrangements, such as allowing companies to deduct certain incentive-based pay as a business cost.

Clinton to Bush: American workers need a raise // AP // Ken Thomas and Jill Colvin – July 13, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton accused former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush of lacking an understanding of the needs of American workers on Monday, using an agenda-setting economic speech to cast Republican prescriptions for the economy as relics of the past that would do little to boost wages for the middle-class.

Outlining the tenets of her economic agenda, Clinton seized upon the recent comments from Bush, who said last week in New Hampshire that "people need to work longer hours." She said that Bush "must not have met many American workers," and said he wouldn't hear that sentiment from teachers or nurses or truck drivers. "They don't need a lecture. They need a raise," she said.

The Democratic presidential front-runner outlined the themes of her economic agenda in a speech at The New School in New York City, where she called raising incomes for hard-working Americans the defining economic challenge facing the nation. The speech offered tough medicine for Wall Street traders just a few blocks away and included swipes at other leading Republican presidential candidates, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who was launching his campaign on Monday.

She specifically criticized a tax proposal put forward by Rubio, saying it would significantly cut taxes for households earning $3 million a year. "That's a sure budget-busting giveaway to the super-wealthy," Clinton said. She also ripped into Walker, saying he was an example of a GOP governor who had "made their names stomping on workers' rights."

During a stop in New Hampshire last week, Bush had been discussing the high number of part-time workers listed among the roster of employed Americans, and the need for people to find more full-time employment. Democrats have seized upon the comments, hoping it will undermine the ability of the brother and son of U.S. presidents to connect with middle-class workers.

Allie Brandenburger, a Bush spokeswoman, said in response that Clinton was "proposing the same failed policies

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we have seen in the Obama economy, where the typical American household's income has declined and it's harder for businesses to hire and the middle class to achieve rising incomes."

Republicans note that under Obama, the workplace participation rate has declined to their lowest levels since 1977 and the labor force includes millions of people working in part-time jobs who would prefer working full-time.

In a sign of his stature in the GOP field, Bush received the brunt of Clinton's criticism. At one point, Clinton said the nation's economy should not be measured by "some arbitrary growth targets untethered to people's lives and livelihoods." That was a veiled reference to Bush, who has said he would set a goal of 4 percent economic growth, including 19 million jobs, if elected president, and would seek to harness innovation and technology.

Clinton, meanwhile, made no mention of her chief Democratic rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has wooed Democrats by making economic inequality the central plank of his insurgent campaign. But her message appeared aimed at liberals who have expressed anxiety about the uneven recovery of the economy since the Great Recession.

Clinton pointed to the economic progress during her husband's two terms in the 1990s and more recently under President Barack Obama. But she said that globalization and technological changes require the next president to take steps to help middle-class Americans participate in economic prosperity.

"Today is not 1993. It's not 2009. So we need solutions for the big challenges we face now," Clinton said.

She pointed to a laundry list of Democratic-leaning policy ideas, including more public investment in infrastructure projects like the construction of roads and bridges, advancing renewable energy and tax cuts for small business owners. Clinton also expressed support for an increase in the federal minimum wage, an overhaul to the tax code, and policies proposals related to child care, paid leave and paid sick days.

But in framing her economic vision, Clinton attempted to meet the demands of liberals within her own party who question her willingness to regulate Wall Street. Some of those Democrats have rallied behind Sanders and many progressives note that Clinton has received backing from the financial sector in past races and received lucrative speaking fees to address Wall Street conferences.

Clinton urged corporate leaders to "embrace their responsibilities" to workers, threatening tougher action against those who behave badly.

She vowed to expand the Dodd-Frank law passed by Congress in 2010, which tightened regulation of financial institutions. Clinton said the rules were "under assault" by Republicans — and advocated increased government oversight not only of the country's' biggest banks but of hedge funds, high-frequency traders, and other powerful financial players.

She leveled a subtle swipe against the Obama administration, which took no action against the individual financial titans who pursued risky fiscal practices that contributed to the 2008 financial crisis. Clinton promised criminal prosecutions of bad bankers.

She said financial figures too often "get off with limited consequences or none at all, even when they have already pocked the gains."

"This is wrong and on my watch it will change," she said. Clinton said she would offer plans to "rein in excessive

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risks on Wall Street and make sure stock markets work for everyday investors."

Clinton's economic framework will be followed by a series of speeches this summer to outline a number of economic proposals, including wage growth, college affordability, corporate accountability and paid leave. She plans to discuss the need for corporate profit-sharing during a stop in New Hampshire on Thursday.

Clinton's high-profile economic speech coincided with a courting of labor groups and Hispanic officials, who also are being wooed by Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. Clinton received the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers union on Saturday and both Clinton and Sanders were holding private meetings with labor leaders later in the week.

The three Democratic contenders were addressing the National Council of La Raza conference in Kansas City later Monday, appealing to members of the nation's largest Latino advocacy organization.

Hillary Clinton Blames Republicans for Promoting Inequality // NYT // Amy Chozick – July 13, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday blamed Republicans for “35 years” of policies that have exacerbated income inequality by giving “more wealth to those at the top” through tax cuts and corporate loopholes.

“Twice now in the past 20 years a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess,” Mrs. Clinton said in New York, as she called for tax relief for middle-class families, an increase in collective bargaining and other incentives to raise middle-class wages.

“I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy — you can’t have one without the other,” she said.

In a speech intended to lay the groundwork for the economic message she will carry throughout her 2016 campaign, Mrs. Clinton singled out by name three of her potential Republican rivals: Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

Mrs. Clinton alluded to comments Mr. Bush made last week about Americans needing to work longer hours.

“Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day or the teacher who is in that classroom or the trucker who drives all night,” she said. “They don’t need a lecture, they need a raise.”

Mr. Bush later clarified that he was referring to the 6.5 million Americans “stuck in part-time work” who haven’t been able to find a full-time job. A spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mrs. Clinton called Mr. Rubio’s economic plan a “sure budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy” and said Mr. Walker had embraced “meanspirited, misguided attacks” on worker’s rights in clashing with unions in Wisconsin. Mr. Walker later responded with a statement saying, “Hillary Clinton thinks you grow the economy in Washington. I think the American people grow the economy in cities, towns, and villages across the U.S.”

And Republican officials warned that Mrs. Clinton’s approach will cost the taxpayer.

“It’s pretty clear: she will have to raise taxes on American families,” Allison Moore, a spokeswoman for the

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Republican National Committee, said of Mrs. Clinton's proposals. "There's no way around it."

The singling out of Republican candidates was sprinkled into a wide-ranging and at times dense policy speech that presented the goal posts of the economic agenda Mrs. Clinton would advance in her administration.

The policies, intended to "drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families," ranged from relatively new ideas, like incentives for corporations to increase profit sharing, and populist ones, like criminalizing misconduct in the financial industry.

Mrs. Clinton included an extended plea to empower labor unions in collective bargaining, saying that the "decline of unions may be responsible for a third of the inequality among men."

She also called on eliminating the loophole that allows for lower taxation of carried interest (profits that a private equity adviser makes from investing in companies), reining "in excessive risks on Wall Street," and giving regulators greater power to oversee big banks and the so-called "shadow banking" industry of hedge funds and private equity firms.

"I will appoint and empower regulators who understand that 'too big to fail' is still too big a problem," she said.

The speech was the result of months of conversations with policy advisers that long predated the official announcement of her candidacy in April. And her remarks were a work-in-progress until the minute she delivered them, according to multiple advisers who helped craft the address.

Earlier versions of the speech included criticism of only Mr. Bush and Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, and did not go as far as the final draft in plans to criminalize bad players in the financial sector, according to these advisers, who could only discuss private discussions without attribution.

Among the many advisers who weighed in was Gary Gensler, the campaign's chief financial officer and a former Wall Street regulator known for his aggressive streak, who helped persuade Mrs. Clinton's to go further in her remarks on financial industry regulation.

"Those rules have been under assault by Republicans in Congress and those running for president," Mrs. Clinton said.

The remarks are intended to appease the liberal base of the Democratic Party, as one of Mrs. Clinton's opponents, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, surges in the polls with his socialist message.

At one point a protester interrupted Mrs. Clinton in the auditorium of the New School, yelling a question about whether she would reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act. President Bill Clinton signed legislation that repealed parts of Glass-Steagall in 1999, leading to the commingling of commercial and investment banking, a move widely criticized by some liberals.

But those regulations seem increasingly antiquated in a financial industry defined by the emergence of a "shadow banking" sector including hedge funds and high-frequency traders that have thrived in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

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"The problems are not limited to the big banks that get all the headlines," Mrs. Clinton said. "Serious risks are emerging from institutions in the so-called shadow banking system."

Another economic adviser to Mrs. Clinton, Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics who has written extensively about inequality, said "the speech showed a clear understanding that our economy is not working for most Americans" and that "we need to fundamentally rewrite the rules."

Hillary Clinton Speech Is Not Expected to Dwell on Wall Street // NYT // Amy Chozick – July 13, 2015

In a speech in Lower Manhattan during the 2008 Democratic primaries, Hillary Rodham Clinton assailed Wall Street for its role in a subprime mortgage crisis that was months away from becoming the worst financial meltdown since the Great Depression.

On Monday, Mrs. Clinton will again choose the area for a major economic address. But this time, speaking at the New School, she will only briefly touch on Wall Street, regulation and the financial industry.

Mrs. Clinton is expected to focus on the economic problem she believes is most urgent today: wages for low- and middle-class wage earners that have remained virtually stagnant for 15 years even as the overall economy has grown.

Economists call it "the great wage slowdown" of the 21st century, and Mrs. Clinton, who expressed foresight in her proposals for regulating derivatives and subprime mortgages months before the financial crisis hit, believes the wage slowdown and the income inequality it has caused is the fundamental economic challenge facing the country, according to aides who provided a preview of her remarks.

The speech comes at a critical time for Mrs. Clinton, when one of her Democratic opponents in the 2016 race, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has surged in the polls and drawn big crowds with his populist message.

Her speech won't be in the same populist vein, aides said.

Rather, she will lean heavily on proposals like paid family leave, incentives for corporations to expand profit sharing to employees, and an increase in the minimum wage. Mrs. Clinton will also come down hard on corporations (including Wall Street firms) that she will argue are too focused on quarterly returns to shareholders rather than on long-term investment in employees. She will call on the wealthiest Americans to pay more in taxes to help the country bridge the growing disparity between the top 1 percent of earners and a vast majority of Americans.

The speech will be a blueprint for the policies she plans to talk about over the course of the campaign. But liberals looking for Mrs. Clinton to repeat her earlier economic speech, casting blame on the financial industry and providing detailed policies that would affect the big banks, may be disappointed.

As one Clinton aide cautioned: "This is not her Wall Street speech."

Hillary Clinton, Unapologetic Grandma // NYT // Anna North – July 13, 2015

The question surfaced as soon as Chelsea Clinton announced her pregnancy: Would becoming a grandmother dim Hillary Clinton's presidential ambitions?

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Her speech on Monday offered a pointed answer.

“Last year, while I was at the hospital here in Manhattan waiting for little Charlotte to make her grand entrance,” she said, “one of the nurses said, ‘Thank you for fighting for paid leave.’” That anecdote, part of a larger promise to increase women’s participation in the labor force by improving leave for parents and caregivers, was only Mrs. Clinton’s first mention of her granddaughter.

She brought her up again in the context of early childhood development: “80 percent of your brain is physically formed by age of three. That’s why families like mine read, talk, and sing endlessly to our granddaughter.”

And again to highlight the need for long-term change in Washington: “Maybe it’s the grandmother in me, but I believe that part of public service is planting trees under whose shade you’ll never sit.”

She even let Charlotte close the show, leaving the audience “with one more thought”: “I want every child, every child in our country, not just the granddaughter of a former President or a former secretary of state, but every child to have the chance to live up to his or her God-given potential.”

Not only will Mrs. Clinton not be bowing out of the presidential race to care for her grandchild, she’s made her grandmother status central to her message — one that, if Monday’s speech is any guide, will present equal pay and paid leave as issues of crucial importance to the whole economy, not just to women.

Some of the focus on her grandchild may be calculated to make Mrs. Clinton seem warmer and more relatable (the standard of relatability for her has long been higher than it is for male politicians).

But given the speculation that surrounded and even preceded Charlotte’s birth, and the lack of respect generally afforded older women in America, asserting oneself as both grandmother and candidate still feels groundbreaking.

As her campaign moves forward, Mrs. Clinton is sure to receive criticism based on or compounded by her gender — on Monday, she looked prepared to address it head-on.

Clinton to lay out economic vision in New York speech, will point to husband’s 2 terms // AP // Ken Thomas – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton is laying out her most concrete vision for the U.S. economy on Monday in a pitch to Democrats who are being wooed by her chief rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and a larger electorate assessing the 2016 presidential field.

Clinton will emphasize the need for policies to increase real income of everyday Americans. Clinton is also expected to use the speech to portray a large field of Republicans as beholden to tax cuts and quick fixes that will fail to jumpstart wages.

Clinton will encourage companies to offer profit-sharing with their employees, and will point to potential changes in the tax code to help workers benefit, her campaign said Monday.

Aides said she would outline plans for more public investment in infrastructure projects like the construction of

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roads and bridges, advancing renewable energy and tax cuts for small business owners. Clinton is also expected to support an increase in the federal minimum wage.

Clinton's economic speech coincides with a courting of labour groups and Hispanic officials by Clinton, Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. Clinton received the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers union on Saturday.

Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist who has risen in recent Democratic polls, said in an interview with CBS on Sunday that he planned to address poverty in the coming weeks and reach out to voters in conservative states in the South.

The three Democratic contenders were addressing the National Council of La Raza conference later Monday, appealing to members of the nation's largest Latino advocacy organization.

In her New York address, Clinton will point to the economic progress during her husband's two terms in the 1990s and more recently under President Barack Obama. But she will note that globalization and technological changes require the next president to take steps to help middle-class Americans participate in economic prosperity.

Clinton will also attempt to meet the demands of liberals within her own party who are wary of her willingness to regulate Wall Street. Some have rallied behind Sanders, who has made economic inequality the central focus of his campaign.

Republicans said Clinton was simply offering a prescription for a bigger government role in the economy.

Clinton has sought to undermine the entire Republican field, including Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, as supporters of "top-down" economic policies and large tax breaks for the wealthy.

Clinton goes heavy on economic politics, light on policy // Politico // Annie Karni and Glenn Thrush – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton delivered her first major economic speech of the 2016 race on Monday — an attempt to address the threat posed by Bernie Sanders' populist crusade without being pinned to a set of liberal proposals that will hurt her in a general election.

The 45-minute speech at Manhattan's New School — among the most liberal schools in the country — was billed as a major policy address, but it was an unmistakably political broadside that hit on the major points of Clinton's announcement speech and didn't match Sanders' own specificity on key issues like hiking tax rates for the rich or opposing the Obama administration's Pacific trade deal negotiations.

Instead, she laid out an economic agenda for the country focused on increasing wages for the middle class, while drawing specific contrasts with the top contenders in the Republican field — calling out former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio by name. She made no mention of Sanders.

And she took an indirect swipe at her ally President Barack Obama, saying she would explore new ways to hold individuals accountable for shenanigans on Wall Street that lead to economic crises — a clear reference to the dearth of criminal prosecutions of financial-sector executives under Obama's longtime attorney general Eric Holder.

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Clinton said she would not hesitate to prosecute individuals in the finance sector who commit fraud, while also instituting incentives for companies to share profits with their workers, and creating an economy that works for "the struggling, the striving, and the successful."

Clinton said that raising incomes for Americans to afford a middle-class life was the "defining economic challenge of our time. … The evidence is in," she said later in the speech. "Inequality is a drag on our entire economy. This is the problem we need to tackle."

In laying out proposals to encourage both "growth and fairness" in the economy — encouraging small business growth and setting up an infrastructure bank, while also talking about increasing the minimum wage and profit-sharing — Clinton's speech appeared to be an attempt to unite the centrist and populist economic wings of her own party.

But she avoided some of the most controversial populist ideas, such as increasing the federal minimum wage to $15, significantly raising corporate tax rates or expanding Social Security for all.

She reiterated her support for the Warren Buffett rule, "to make sure millionaires don't pay lower rates than their secretaries." She said she supports closing the carried interest loophole, which allows wealthy financiers to pay a lower tax rate.

"While institutions have paid large fines, too often it seems that the human beings responsible get off with limited consequences, or none at all, even when they have pocketed the gains," she said about Wall Street prosecutions. "This is wrong. On my watch, this will change." She said she would rein in excessive risks on Wall Street and make sure the stock market works for "everyday investors," not just high-frequency traders.

She said the country needs to go beyond Dodd-Frank regulations of major financial institutions and warned that "serious risks are emerging from institutions in the so-called shadow banking system," including hedge funds, high-frequency traders and nonbank financial companies.

In terms of profit-sharing, she said: "I'm not talking about charity, I'm talking about clear-eyed capitalism. Many companies have prospered by improving wages and training their workers."

On trade, Clinton did not get more specific than she has in the past, saying "we do need to set a high bar for trade agreements."

Creating a contrast with the Republican field, Clinton criticized Bush for his comment that Americans need to work longer hours (Bush later clarified he was talking about the amount of part-time workers seeking full-time work). "Well, he must not have met very many American workers," she said. "Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day, or the teacher in the classroom, or the trucker who drives all night. Let him tell that to the fast-food workers marching in the streets for better pay … they don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

She called out Rubio for cutting taxes for the super-wealthy, saying his plan is to "cut taxes for households making around $3 million a year by almost $240,000, which is way more than three times the earnings of a typical family." She said a priority is reforming the country's Tax Code.

And she blasted Walker — who officially entered the 2016 contest Monday morning — for "stomping on workers' rights." She said she will fight back against "these mean-spirited and misguided attacks."

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Clinton's speech was interrupted toward the end by a heckler who called out to her, "Sen. Clinton, will you restore Glass-Steagall," a reference to legislation that creates distance between traditional banks and investments banks that was repealed by the Clinton administration in the 1990s. The heckler was escorted out of the auditorium by security, while the audience stood and applauded to drown out the disruption.

What Hillary Clinton gets wrong about job creation **// Politico // Danny Vinik – July 13, 2015**

In her first major speech on the economy Monday, Hillary Clinton stood in front of a crowd in Manhattan and declared her unwavering loyalty to small business. "Small businesses create more than 60 percent of new American jobs on net, so they have to be a top priority," she said at the New School. "I've said I want to be the small business president, and I mean it."

Clinton isn't the first candidate to profess her commitment to small businesses, and she won't be the last. Backing small businesses has become a rite of passage for presidential candidates of both parties.

Mitt Romney in 2012 said "We have to champion small business in this country." Then-candidate Barack Obama released a Small Business Rescue Plan in 2008 "so that we're extending our hand to the shops and restaurants; the start-ups and small firms that create jobs and make our economy grow." In his June announcement speech, Jeb Bush bragged that Florida was number one in small business creation during his time as governor.

It's great to have such wide agreement on an issue, but there's just one problem: Clinton, Romney, Obama and Bush are all wrong. Small businesses certainly matter, but they're not the drivers of job creation that everyone thinks they are.

The 60 percent figure has become gospel in politics. But the best research now suggests that jobs come from new businesses, not just small ones. Though there's overlap, those two groups of companies aren't the same. And the constant refrain of "small business" only serves to distract lawmakers from the actual job creators and policies needed to promote them.

The Small Business Administration promotes the 60 percent figure, which comes from a 2012 SBA report. But when economists John C. Haltiwanger, Javier Miranda and Ron S. Jarmin used Census Bureau data to try to determine where new jobs really come from, and controlled for firm age, the relationship between firm size and job growth disappeared. They found that new firms are the real job creators in the economy. In 2005, for instance, startups created 3.5 million net new jobs—a million more than were created in the entire private sector. In other words, non-startup businesses were responsible that year for a 1 million job decline in employment.

It's true that most new firms are also small. According to the SBA, "small business" encompasses 99 percent of companies in America. But most of them aren't new, and aren't adding jobs.

"Because new firms tend to be small, the finding of a systematic inverse relationship between firm size and net growth rates in prior analyses is entirely attributable to most new firms being classified in small size classes," the authors write.

If you care about new businesses, this might actually be a time to worry. Entrepreneurship rates have been declining for years, and economists aren't quite sure why. But they do have a few ideas for how to create more startups in America, such as passing immigration reform to bring in more high-tech workers and reforming U.S. patent laws to protect small companies from being dragged into court by patent trolls.

And some policies designed to help small businesses can actually hurt new ones. For instance, many occupational licensing laws help protect small businesses like hair salons and barber shops, but make it considerably more

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expensive to start new firms.

Clinton's speech wasn't bad for new businesses: she promised to cut red tape and offer easier access to capital for entrepreneurs.

But she's unlikely to shift her rhetoric anytime soon. Americans like the idea of their leaders fighting for mom-and-pop shops, and they like thinking that those shops are what drives American job growth. Until that changes, you can expect politicians across the political spectrum to keep mentioning it.

"Chalk this up to the fact that all politicians must, by unspoken law, and regardless of their economic validity, praise small business, a strong dollar, and balanced budgets," Jared Bernstein, a senior fellow at the left-leaning Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and former top economist for Vice President Joe Biden, wrote in an email. Of Clinton, whose campaign he has spoken with informally, he wrote: "The fact that she hit only one of those three is actually pretty good!"

Clinton speech react: 'Is that it?' **// Politico // Ben White – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton gave a big economics speech here on Monday, and the snap reaction among Wall Street investors, economists and ardent financial reformers who thrill to the soak-the-rich rhetoric of Bernie Sanders was a collective: "Meh. What's next?"

Clinton laid out the soft contours of a "growth and fairness economy" in a speech designed to appeal to struggling middle-class workers with promises of higher pay and more generous federal policies.

But she left out many hard specifics on tougher tax policy toward the rich and corporate America. And she offered limited pledges to crack down on big Wall Street banks while hitting her strongest notes promising to toss rogue bankers in prison while ripping recent worker-productivity comments from former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Despite those few moments, this was hardly Thomas Piketty invading the land of Wall Street titans and flipping over tables piled high with gold. And there were no radical new proposals aimed at reversing America's long slide into wage stagnation.

"She appears to have taken a page out of the Elizabeth Warren book on going after bankers and brokers and fat cats and people who may have broken the law," said Jack Ablin, chief investment office at BMO Private bank. "I'm sure a lot of polling went into that. But in terms of inequality and profit-sharing and general economic redistribution, she was a lot longer on problems than she was on solutions."

And Clinton sounded some of her by now very familiar themes, invoking her love of being a grandmother and arguing that middle-class wage stagnation since the end of the Great Recession was exacerbating income inequality while pledging that something must be done. But that something, according to Clinton, mainly consists of boosting the minimum wage and increasing overtime pay, something President Barack Obama has been pushing for some time.

Clinton also reiterated her long-held belief that the lower "carried interest" tax that some private equity and hedge fund managers pay on large chunks of their hefty take-home pay should be boosted to the ordinary income rate. But that was widely expected and not new. Wall Street mostly expects it will have to give up that benefit.

Clinton did gently push into some new ground by urging corporate America to share more of its record profits

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with average workers and not just top management. But Clinton offered little in the way of direct prescriptions for doing this, leaving that for future speeches.

“I will propose ways for companies to share more of their profits with employees,” Clinton said. “Later, in New Hampshire, I’ll have more to say about how we will do this.”

She also argued for tax relief for small businesses and broader corporate tax reform along with comprehensive immigration reform. But she did not go into specifics on any of these issues.

Other proposals also harkened back to Obama’s efforts, including an economic infrastructure bank to pay for much-needed upgrades to the U.S. transportation and communications systems. She again pressed for policies to address the pay gap between men and women, another familiar theme from the campaign trail, along with more early-childhood education.

Clinton perhaps hit her high point with a direct attack on recent comments from former Bush, who said last week that Americans need to “work longer hours” to increase economic growth. To significant applause, Clinton cited hard-working nurses and other Americans and said, “They don’t need a lecture. They need a raise.”

In a note that struck some as odd given the popularity of the services, Clinton specifically criticized “gig economy” companies, a group that includes upstarts such as Airbnb and Uber. These types of scrappy young companies have often provided corporate homes for former Obama administration officials. Former top Obama adviser David Plouffe is now a senior executive at Uber.

Defenders of Uber and companies like it say they are fighting entrenched and sluggish transportation incumbents such as cab companies. Getting rid of this opposition and allowing upstart companies to thrive would be a better path to faster growth than siding with their opponents, some analysts say.

“I think a lot of people view the sharing economy as a prime example of U.S. innovation and entrepreneurship,” said James Pethokoukis of the free market American Enterprise Institute. “They are breaking up these monopoly hotel chains and taxicab companies and allowing more people to provide not just great services but to provide more income to workers.”

Pethokoukis gave Clinton stronger marks for taking on corporate “short-termism” that focuses on quarterly earnings and stock buybacks rather than long-term investment. It’s an issue popular with Wall Street investors such as Larry Fink of Blackrock and tech investor Marc Andreessen, among others. “Republicans should look to get on board that issue as soon as possible,” Pethokoukis said.

Clinton also continued to straddle a middle ground on trade deals after strongly pushing for a free-trade agreement with Asia during her tenure as secretary of state. The halfway stance has enraged members of the Obama administration struggling to get the Asia deal done while also failing to excite ardent opponents of free trade deals on the left.

Many on the left strongly opposed to free trade and in favor of cracking down harder on Wall Street have gravitated to Sanders and, to a much lesser degree, former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

“Growth here at home and growth an ocean away are linked in a common global economy,” Clinton said on Monday. “Trade has been a major driver of the economy over recent decades, but it has also contributed to hollowing out our manufacturing base,” she said. “We do need to set a high bar for trade agreements, supporting them if they create jobs. … But we should be prepared to walk away if they don’t.”

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Clinton also found herself in a bit of a muddle as she praised the economy under her husband, former President Bill Clinton. But she did not note that Bill Clinton presided over the collapse of the Glass-Steagall wall between investment and commercial banking and unleashed a massively speculative market boom in technology stocks.

In perhaps her sharpest section, Clinton said that as a senator from New York, she learned “firsthand” the positive role Wall Street can play in growing the economy by helping innovators raise capital. But she also slammed bankers who “piled risk upon risk” heading into the crisis and cited her early calls to crack down on derivatives and subprime lending.

She pledged to both defend existing financial reform and go even further, almost hinting at a need to break up the largest banks, something sure to go down poorly with some of Clinton’s biggest supporters on Wall Street. “We have to go beyond Dodd-Frank; too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex. … I will offer plans to rein in excessive risk taking on Wall Street and ensure that stock markets work for everyday investors, not just high-speed traders.”

O’Malley last week issued specific proposals on this front. Clinton has yet to do so.

Financial reformers gave her mixed grades. “It’s a good start, but after all this listening, planning and thinking by the runaway leading candidate, I expected more,” said Dennis Kelleher of Better Markets, a pro-reform group. “The American people deserve a concrete, specific, comprehensive plan that really protects them from Wall Street recklessness and that she as president can be held accountable for once in office.”

Another financial reformer said the anti-Wall Street crowd was waiting to see whether Clinton will “put in place a team of advisers who have a demonstrated history of supporting meaningful reform and tough enforcement, or chooses instead to surround herself with the same crowd of revolving door insiders.”

The real test for Clinton on Wall Street will come when and if she turns this rhetoric into actual policy prescriptions. Big Wall Street titans heavily funding Clinton’s campaign and other business interests fully expect to take some heavy rhetorical hits as the Democratic front-runner fights off the Sanders surge. But they do not expect Clinton to try and fully reshape their industry.

Many conservatives breathed a sigh of relief after the speech, having feared a fresh set of innovative proposals that might have required serious responses. “I think it’s a horse race between what’s more tired, her or the material,” said Douglas Holtz-Eakin of the conservative American Enterprise Institute. “There really isn’t anything new here. It’s really more of the same, and I don’t understand how that would produce an outcome different from the last six or seven years.”

Hillary takes new shot at Jeb's 'longer hours' comment **// Politico // Nick Gass – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton laid into Jeb Bush’s remark that Americans need to work longer hours on Monday during her first economic policy speech at the New School in New York City.

“Well, he must not have met very many American workers,” Clinton said to applause and cheers. “Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day or the teacher who is in that classroom, or the trucker who drives all night. Let him tell that to the fast-food workers marching in the streets for better pay. They don’t need a lecture. They need a raise.”

“The truth is, the current rules for our economy do reward some work, like financial trading for example, much

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more than other work, like building and selling things," Clinton added.

Bush made the suggestion during an interview with New Hampshire's Union Leader last week, urging the need for people to work longer hours because workforce participation is at all-time modern lows.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. speaks to local residents during a breakfast meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, at the Drake Diner in Des Moines, Iowa. Sanders, looking more like a longshot candidate for president, is visiting Iowa for the first time since the midterm election. The self-styled independent socialist would likely run in the Democrat caucuses as a liberal voice in a field that could include establishment Democrat Hillary Rodham

It's not the first time Clinton's campaign has taken a shot at that remark. Her campaign tweeted a graph by the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute showing stagnating wages as productivity has risen over the last four decades.

Clinton also took shots at Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is set to formally announce his campaign later Monday.

Rubio's tax-cutting plan would be a "sure budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy," she said, "and that's the kind of bad economics you are likely to hear from any of the candidates on the other side."

She blasted Republican governors like Walker who "have made their names stomping on workers' rights, and practically all the Republican candidates hope to do the same as president."

Clinton bashes Wall Street, pledges U.S. income equality // Reuters // Luciana Lopez and Jonathan Allen – July 13, 2015

U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton took swipes at Wall Street and her Republican rivals on Monday, promising to impose tougher regulations on banks and raise the wages of ordinary Americans if she wins the 2016 White House race.

Under pressure from a campaign rival on the left, Clinton said she would appoint strict overseers to ensure that financial institutions never again indulge in the risky behavior that helped cause the 2008 banking crash.

In an address that her campaign promoted as a major economic policy speech, the former secretary of state vowed that banks cannot be "too big to fail."

"As we all know in the years before the crash, financial firms piled risk upon risk, and regulators in Washington either couldn't or wouldn't keep up," she said at The New School, a liberal university in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

"I will appoint and empower regulators who understand

that too big to fail is still too big a problem," Clinton said.

She promised to go beyond the 2010 Dodd-Frank law that imposed stronger regulations on the financial industry.

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But Alan Blinder, an economist who advises Clinton's campaign, told Reuters she had no plans to reinstate the

A former first lady and U.S. senator, Clinton is the clear favorite to win the Democratic nomination for the November 2016 presidential election but is facing a challenge from Bernie Sanders, a Vermont senator and self-styled socialist who is drawing large crowds at campaign events.

Clinton put the fight for higher wages for everyday Americans at the heart of her economic agenda, although her speech was short on specific policy proposals.

She said the U.S. economy will only run at full steam when middle-class wages rise steadily along with executive salaries and company profits.

"Corporate profits are at near-record highs and Americans are working as hard as ever but paychecks have barely budged in real terms," Clinton said.

Stepping up attacks against Republican rivals for the White House, Clinton took a dig at former Florida Governor Jeb Bush who said last week that Americans should have the chance to work longer hours.

"They don't need a lecture, they need a raise," she said. Clinton also took Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker to task for his strong opposition to union collective bargaining. Walker announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination on Monday.

Clinton will unveil more specifics of her economic policy in a series of speeches in coming weeks as liberal Democrats flirting with Sanders seek more details of her plans on increasing the minimum wage, creating universal preschool and investing in infrastructure.

Putting some meat on the bones of her economic policy could divert focus from issues dragging on Clinton's popularity, including a controversy over her use of a private email account while she was America's top diplomat.

"I think substance is her friend on the campaign because she has credibility as a substantive person, with extensive experience. Thoughtful, innovative proposals are going to help her," said Democratic strategist Bill Carrick.

It remains unclear how Clinton's tough-sounding language might affect the deep ties she and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, have with Wall Street. Both have been handsomely paid for speeches by major finance and investment institutions in recent years, including Goldman Sachs and The Carlyle Group.

Hillary Clinton, who represented Wall Street as part of her constituency when she was a U.S. senator from New York, has long looked to people in the finance industry for large campaign donations.

Hillary Clinton is about to lay out her economic vision **// Reuters – July 13, 2015**

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton will propose policies including "reforming capital gains taxation" in coming weeks to fight an excessive focus on short-term profits in capital markets, according to a campaign talking points document seen by Reuters.

Clinton will speak on Monday about her vision for the US economy, including addressing income inequality and encouraging longer-term investment horizons. The memo was sent out in advance of that speech.

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"In the coming weeks, she will outline specific policies — for example, by reforming capital gains taxation — that will seek to counter the effect of this short-term focus," according to the memo seen by Reuters.

On Monday, Clinton will propose tax incentives to encourage companies to share more profits with workers, according to a campaign aide.

Clinton will say workers need to benefit from the profits they are helping to produce and will cite studies showing profit-sharing can increase productivity.

"It's a win-win," she will say in her speech, according to the campaign official. The speech is scheduled for 10 a.m. EDT.

Clinton to propose tax incentives to encourage companies to share profits: aide // Reuters // Luciana Lopez – July 13, 2015

Presidential contender Hillary Clinton will pledge to "reform" capital gains taxation in coming weeks as part of her plan to fight an excessive focus on quick profits in capital markets, according to a campaign talking points document seen by Reuters.

Clinton, the favorite to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the November 2016 election, will speak on Monday about her plan for the U.S. economy, which includes addressing income inequality and encouraging longer-term investment.

The campaign memo, intended to help supporters discuss her ideas with the media and would-be donors, was sent out in advance of that speech.

"In the coming weeks, she will outline specific policies—for example, by reforming capital gains taxation—that will seek to counter the effect of this short-term focus," the memo, a copy of which was shared by a recipient with Reuters, said.

Such a pledge would appear to be a shift from her position when she last campaigned for the party's nomination in 2008.

In a primary debate that year, she stood by legislation signed by her husband, Bill Clinton, in 1997 when he was president.

That law lowered the maximum taxation rate on capital gains, which are the profits made on selling capital assets such as shares or real estate, from 28 percent to 20 percent. In 2003, the maximum rate was lowered further still to 15 percent under President Geoorge W. Bush.

"I wouldn't raise it above the 20 percent if I raised it at all," she said in the 2008 debate. "I would not raise it above what it was during the Clinton administration."

In 2012, the top capital gains taxation rate was raised back up to 20 percent for the wealthiest earners. For a

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period in the 1970s, the maximum taxation rate for long-term capital gains was almost 40 percent.

Clinton, who will say on Monday that the best way to increase the size of the U.S. economy is to increase middle-class people's incomes according to her campaign, hinted at her change of heart on capital gains at a campaign event in April.

Capital gains were intended to be "a way to reward people who made risky investments," she said at an event with voters in New Hampshire, "and now it is just being churned."

Hillary Clinton calls for greater U.S. income equality // Reuters // Luciana Lopez & Jonathan Allen – July 13, 2015

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton put the fight for higher wages for everyday Americans at the heart of her economic agenda on Monday, in the first major policy speech of her White House bid.

Clinton said the U.S. economy will only run at full steam when middle-class wages rise steadily along with executive salaries and company profits.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy. You can't have one without the other," she said at The New School university in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, a bastion of liberal education.

With one eye on the growing support for Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-described socialist who is also seeking the Democratic Party nomination, Clinton laid out a vision of economic equality.

"Corporate profits are at near-record highs and Americans are working as hard as ever but paychecks have barely budged in real terms. Families today are stretched in so many directions and so are their budgets," Clinton said.

The former secretary of state promised to push for a broader reform of the U.S. corporate tax code.

Clinton is the favorite to win the Democratic nomination for the November 2016 presidential election but Sanders has drawn large crowds at campaign events.

She will unveil more specifics of her economic policy in a series of speeches in the coming weeks as Democrats seek more details of her plans on increasing the minimum wage, creating universal preschool and investing in infrastructure.

Putting some meat on the bones of her economic policy could divert the focus away from issues that are dragging on Clinton's popularity, including a controversy over her use of a private email account while she was President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

Hillary Clinton To Put Wages At Heart Of Economic Policy // Reuters – July 13, 2015

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton will put the fight for higher wages for "everyday Americans" at the heart of her economic agenda on Monday, when she makes the first major policy speech in her White House bid.

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Clinton will argue that ensuring middle-class wages rise steadily along with executive salaries and company profits is the defining economic challenge of our time, her campaign said.

With one eye on the growing support for socialist Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who is also seeking the Democratic nomination, Clinton will lay out her economic vision in the address at The New School university in Manhattan's Greenwich Village at 10 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT).

She will unveil specifics in a series of speeches in the coming weeks as Democrats seek more details of her plans on increasing the minimum wage, creating universal preschool and investing in infrastructure.

Putting some meat on the bones of her economic policy could divert the focus away from issues that are dragging on Clinton's popularity, like the controversy over her use of a private email account while she was President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

"I think substance is her friend on the campaign because she has credibility as a substantive person, with extensive experience. Thoughtful, innovative proposals are going to help her," said Democratic strategist Bill Carrick.

Clinton is the favorite to win the Democratic nomination for the November 2016 presidential election but Sanders has drawn large crowds at campaign events in Iowa.

Wall Street will be watching Clinton's speech closely for hints of whether she will call for tougher financial regulation as her campaign develops. Rivals Sanders and Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, have urged a breakup of big banks but Clinton has not done so.

The former first lady will say that technology has created new business opportunities but also threatens to kill middle-class jobs, benefits and protections.

Clinton is likely to dismiss, at least indirectly, a pledge by leading Republican candidate Jeb Bush who says he will virtually double the U.S. economy's annual growth rate to 4 percent.

Republican presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina, a former Silicon Valley chief executive, said Clinton would damage businesses and fail to close the income gap.

"Every policy she is pursuing will make income inequality worse, not better, crony capitalism even worse, not better. And meanwhile, we will continue to crush the businesses that create jobs and middle-class families," Fiorina told ABC's "This Week" television show on Sunday.

Hillary Clinton Runs as Obama-Plus **// Bloomberg // Francis Wilkinson – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's speech today on the economy was more of a table-setter than a genuine policy repast. The outline was bold while the details were mostly left for other days. But her words made one thing clear: The 2016 presidential campaign will feature even more partisan polarization than the 2012 one did.

In May, Clinton suggested that she would not only protect President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration, which are currently tied up in court, but she would do even more than Obama has to protect settled

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undocumented immigrants in the U.S. "If Congress refuses to act, as president I would do everything possible under the law to go even further," Clinton said.

Clinton's speech today, at Manhattan's New School, essentially confirmed her pitch to be "Obama-plus."

"If you work hard, you ought to be paid fairly," she said. "So we have to raise the minimum wage and implement President Obama's new rules on overtime. And then we have to go further."

On health care, she promised to "protect the Affordable Care Act -- and build on it."

Wall Street? As president, she would fight efforts to undermine Obama-era financial regulations and work to "protect the reforms we've made," she said. Oh, and while she's busy guarding the president's reforms, "We also have to go beyond Dodd-Frank."

A campaign promising a policy menu of Obama-plus should rally Democrats -- and give the party's most liberal activists less cause to swoon over Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. But it also will expand the gulf between the Democratic and Republican nominees even beyond the gap between Obama and Mitt Romney in 2012. Presuming the 2016 Republican nominee's platform roughly resembles Romney's, the distance between Clinton and any GOP opponent -- even one with a more immigrant-friendly policy than "self-deportation" -- will be vast. Among other battle lines, the 2016 campaign is shaping up to be a stark competition between (Democratic) labor and (Republican) capital.

On rare occasions, Clinton has distanced herself from Obama. On Syria, she criticized the chaos in the region and leaned right by suggesting Obama should have been more aggressive in intervening in the conflict. On teachers and education policy, she has been coy. On trade, she has been noncommittal about the Pacific trade deal that Obama is negotiating, while hinting that a deal might be too costly to American workers. "Trade has been a major driver of the economy over recent decades but it has also contributed to hollowing out our manufacturing base and many hardworking communities," she said today. "So we do need to set a high bar for trade agreements."

Clinton has a freer hand discussing economics than Obama had in 2012, when his campaign was shadowed by sluggish, post-Great-Recession growth. She already has an easier time attacking Republican economic policy head-on. Speaking of 1993 and 2009, when Democrats last took over the presidency from Republicans, she said, "Twice now in the past 20 years, a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess. I think the results speak for themselves."

In 2008, Clinton ran as the hardheaded pragmatist against Obama's dreamy idealist. Now she is saying she will secure his hard-won policy gains, and build on them. Given the likelihood of a Republican House of Representatives, a Clinton White House would find it easier to secure than build. Either way, Obama is the foundation.

A Sneak Peek at Clinton's Capital Gains Tax Plan **// Bloomberg // Richard Rubin – July 13, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton suggested Monday that she may endorse lower capital gains taxes on long-held assets as a way to discourage a quick-profits mentality in the U.S. economy.

That could mean a sliding scale of tax rates on investments, offering a tax break to patient investors while continuing to subject the profits from fast trades to the highest marginal tax rates. Today's system, by contrast, features a preferential tax rate on assets held more than a year. But it makes no distinction beyond that. Gains on stocks held for 366 days are taxed at the same rate as those held 36 years.

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"I will soon be proposing a new plan to reform capital gains taxes to reward longer-term investments that create jobs, more than just quick trades," Clinton said during an economic policy speech in New York.

Clinton didn't offer further details, and her campaign didn't immediately respond to questions, but Neera Tanden, one of her most prominent outside advisers, last month proposed a sliding-scale capital gains tax in which the rate would decline the longer an asset is held.

"Once an investor holds a share past the one-year mark, the tax code provides no incentives to maintain the position any longer," Tanden and investor Blair Effron of Centerview Partners wrote. "A sliding-scale capital gains tax would involve more time horizons, extend further into the future, and avoid the kinds of kinks in tax schedules that policy wonks hate."

Under current law, the top capital gains tax rate on assets held for less than a year is 43.4 percent. That rate drops to 23.8 percent for assets held more than a year.

If this proposal sounds familiar, it is. President Bill Clinton signed a law in 1997 that would have imposed an 18 percent top capital gains tax rate on assets purchased after 2000 and held for at least five years. The Bush tax cuts of 2003 erased that idea and replaced it with lower rates for all.

It's also unclear how big a practical effect a sliding-scale tax rate would have. Many stocks already aren't subject to taxes at all because they're held by university endowments, retirement accounts and pension funds.

Unlike Republicans who have proposed eliminating the capital gains tax, Clinton has a proposal that would limit how much the wealthiest households could benefit from lower capital gains taxes.

She backs the Buffett Rule, an Obama policy named for billionaire (and Clinton backer) Warren Buffett that calls for a minimum 30 percent tax on the highest-income households. Depending on where she sets the capital gains rates, the Buffett Rule could claw back some of the benefits.

Clinton's reference to "quick trades" is "silly'" because the fastest trades are subject to high tax rates already, said Malcolm Salter, a Harvard Business School professor who has proposed a gradually declining tax rate for capital gains that would hit zero after five years. Still, he said, the idea of preferential capital gains tax rates for long-held assets has promise as a way of encouraging companies to change executive compensation practices. And, he said, it could shift the political discussion on capital gains out of the usual back-and-forth debate between the merits of the growth that could be spurred by lower rates and the revenue that would be lost to the Treasury.

But Salter questioned whether Clinton's middle road—offering investors a break on capital gains taxes in return for more long-term investments—is salable in the current political environment. The idea should be raised, he said, in the context of a broader discussion about the "institutional corruption that's eating away at the core" of American capitalism. "The Democrats would have a very difficult time trying to sell this because most people don't understand what's at stake," said Salter, who said he hasn't been in touch with Clinton's team.

That "quick trades" line also drew a quick rebuke from another target of Clinton—the private equity industry. Clinton's move to tax carried interest as ordinary income, not capital gains, is at odds with her stated desire for patient investing, said Steve Judge, president of the Private Equity Growth Capital Council. "Taxing long-term carried interest as anything other than a long-term capital gain would deprive private equity, venture capital, real estate, and many other businesses of the same treatment available to other kinds of businesses that sell a long-term capital asset for a profit," he said.

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It's not clear if Clinton will back the changes to capital gains taxation that President Barack Obama proposed earlier this year.

The president wants to raise the top tax rate to 28 percent and change a rule that lets people pass appreciated assets to their heirs at death without paying income taxes on the gains.

Behind Hillary Clinton's High Praise for a Republican Wall Street Guru // Bloomberg // Emily Greenhouse – July 13, 2015

In Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech Monday morning at the New School, the first major address of her 2016 presidential campaign to focus on the economy, she spoke for middle-class workers and against trickle-down policies. Clinton's aides had previously indicated that the focus would not be on Wall Street and the need to regulate the financial industry—she may be feeling the effects of Bernie Sanders's momentum, but she has not suddenly become him—and yet some among the liberal wing of the Democratic party might have found themselves surprised by a suggestion concerning Terrence Duffy, the executive chairman and president of futures market operator CME group and a registered Republican.

Clinton said, "We should listen to Terry Duffy."

In her address on lifting wages, Clinton cited an op-ed Duffy published two years ago in the Wall Street Journal that, she said, "really caught my attention. He wrote, and I quote: 'I'm concerned that those of us in financial services have forgotten who we serve—and that the public knows it… Some Wall Streeters can too easily slip into regarding their work as a kind of money-making game divorced from the concerns of Main Street.'"

Duffy's op-ed centered on the diminishing numbers of Ivy-League graduates entering financial firms. He said:

In 2008, Harvard sent 28% of its graduating class to firms where they would become bankers, traders or investors. By 2010, Harvard was sending just 17% of its graduating class. Yale graduates entering the finance business fell to 14% from 26% during the same period. Even Princeton, traditionally the most finance-friendly school, fell to 35.5% from 40%.

Wall Street was losing young peoples' trust. It had to show talented minds "what makes people tick," had to show them the value of the wealth sector. Duffy concluded, "We have to make the case to young people that if you want a remarkable career at a company with integrity that helps people and influences the world, then come to Wall Street."

Of all the ways for a politician to underline the importance of remembering and honoring the people you serve, quoting Duffy's op-ed was a peculiar one. But a look at Clinton's relationship with Duffy, who made $6.7 million last year, might explain why.

Duffy may be a registered Republican, but he is a Clinton supporter as well. He endorsed Clinton in her 2008 run, saying, "We need a president like Hillary Clinton who understands the important role that financial markets play in our global economy." He added, "Like no other candidate, Hillary Clinton crosses party lines to combine the visionary leadership and pragmatic problem-solving skills that this country needs in its President." He gave the maximum contribution of $4,600 to her 2008 campaign.

Duffy declined comment for this article, though Anita Liskey, the managing director of communications at CME, confirmed his current party registration. She told me, of Duffy's relationship with Clinton, "He knows her well and he's obviously pleased that she mentioned his piece."

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E-mails released last week by the State Department show evidence of this relationship, as Bloomberg's Jennifer Epstein and Ben Brody have detailed. Duffy asked Clinton to stop by a dinner he was hosting for "150 or so folks from the exchange," and she in turn asked an aide to help find a moment for Duffy's group to visit the State Department. He was the conduit through which Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican rival in the presidential race, sent greetings.

Their e-mails have taken a more personal tone, as well. In May 2009, as Bloomberg's Zachary Mider reported, Duffy e-mailed Clinton to invite her to a company event, and added, "You're doing an incredible job." In September came another invitation—and additional words of praise. "Once again," he wrote, "you're doing an amazing job." She responded this time that she would try hard to be there, and later apologized for the delay. "I've been hip deep in the rollout of the Afghanistan strategy," Clinton said, "I hope you, your family, and the futures markets are all well!"

In 2010, when Duffy was being honored by the American Friends of Hebrew University, he asked Clinton to deliver the keynote (she was unable; the conservative columnist George Will did instead).

But in November 2013, Clinton traveled to the beachside Ritz-Carlton Resort of Naples, Florida, to deliver the keynote at the CME Group's Global Financial Leadership Conference—an annual event that Duffy has called the "Davos of Derivatives."

The group featured some highlights of Clinton's appearance that day, for which she was paid, alongside men like former U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former Commodities Futures Trading Commission Chairman Gary Gensler, former Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus Athanasios Orphanides, former members of the European Central Bank executive board Lorenzo Bini Smaghi and Jurgen Stark.

OpenMarkets, the company's online magazine, shows a picture of Duffy and Clinton side by side onstage. The caption reads, "CME Group Executive Chairman and President Terry Duffy leads a Q&A with Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about America's economic and political challenges."

Fact-Checking Hillary Clinton's Economic Attacks on Top Republican Rivals // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton launched direct attacks on three of her top Republican rivals Monday in the first major economic speech of her presidential campaign, setting the table for what will be the defining policy debate of the 2016 election.

Here's what she said during the address at the New School in New York City, and how her claims stack up to the facts.

Jeb Bush

Clinton took a pointed shot at the former Florida governor's eyebrow-raising remarks last week to the New Hampshire Union Leader that "people need to work longer hours" in order to boost their income.

"He must not have met very many American workers," the Democratic front-runner said, adding that "they don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

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Clinton and Bush have already tussled over his comment, which Democrats jumped on to paint the ex-governor as an out-of-touch elitist, pointing out that Americans work longer hours than almost all of the developed world. Bush's quote seemed open to that interpretation, but he prefaced it by saying "[w]orkforce participation has to rise," suggesting he meant too few people work full-time. He labeled the attack an "out-of-context" reading, saying he wants people who are involuntarily stuck in part-time jobs to have opportunities to work full-time.

Bernie Sanders, a fellow Democratic presidential candidate who also criticized Bush, said last week on CNN: "If he is talking about the need for more full-time jobs rather than part-time jobs, he's absolutely right, that's what we have to do."

Marco Rubio

"Senator Rubio's [plan] would cut taxes for households making around $3 million a year by almost $240,000, which is way more than three times the earnings of a typical family," Clinton said. "Well, that's a sure budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy, and that's the kind of bad economics you're likely to hear from any of the candidates on the other side."

The basis of Clinton's criticism is an analysis by the Tax Policy Center, a joint project of the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution, of a proposal by Utah Senator Mike Lee. Rubio, the junior senator from Florida, has since joined Lee as a partner. "Those in the top 0.1 percent, who make $3.3 million and up, would be in line for an average tax cut of $240,000—a boost in after-tax income of 3.8 percent," TPC found.

In other words, it's not necessarily true that those in the lower end of that group—"around $3 million"—would get a tax break of as much as $240,000. Clinton's campaign website describes it more accurately by saying: "Senator Rubio's plan would cut taxes for households making above $3 million a year by almost $240,000" (emphasis added).

That said, Rubio's overall tax break for upper earners could be much bigger than Clinton described, depending on a household's mix of capital and wage income. A newer version of the Rubio-Lee plan eliminates all capital gains and dividend taxation. According to the Tax Foundation, another, more right-leaning think tank, the top 1 percent would have an average increase in after-tax income (another way of saying tax cut) of 11.5 percent.

Scott Walker

"Republican governors like Scott Walker," Clinton said, "have made their names stomping on workers' rights, and practically all the Republican candidates hope to do the same as president. I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks."

Heated political rhetoric aside, there's not much to fact check here. Her underlying premise is correct that the Wisconsin governor's ticket to stardom on the right was taking on public sector unions, most notably by ending their collective bargaining rights. It has been a defining feature of Walker's tenure, leading to a failed recall election against him, and it is a fight he is touting as a selling point to Republican voters.

As to Clinton's other assertion, Republicans won't like her framing, but their party is unabashedly aligned against unions that seek to bolster workers' clout against their employers. Richard Trumka, the president of the large labor union AFL-CIO, on Monday labeled Walker a "national disgrace," an attack that one Republican operative said was a "badge of honor."

Hillary Clinton Vows to Revamp Wall Street // Bloomberg // Kim Chipman – July 13, 2015

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"Too big to fail is still too big a problem," Hillary Clinton says in policy speech at the New School in NYC.

Pledges to rein in "excessive risk" on Wall Street

Says will "soon" propose plan to revamp capital gains taxes to reward long-term investments as opposed to "quick trades"

Stock buybacks shouldn't be used just for quick boost in stock prices

Wall Street needs to refocus on long term as opposed to solely quick gains

Financial industry should be helping "Main Street grow and prosper" and helping cos.

be more globally competitive

In yrs before crash, financial firms piled "risk upon risk" as federal regulators "either couldn't or wouldn't keep up"

Pledges to fight back against attacks to Dodd-Frank while also calling to go beyond the 2010 law

There are firms still "too complex and too risky"

"The problems aren't limited to the big banks"; risks emerging from so-called shadow banking system, including hedge funds, high-speed traders, non-bank finance cos.

Such businesses getting little oversight

Misconduct in financial industry is "shocking"; can be "no tolerance" for such criminal behavior

Too often seems individuals responsible for misdeeds meet limited consequences or "none at all even when they've already pocketed the gains"

Will make sure stock market works for "everyday investors"

Says she'll give details on her proposals to encourage cos. to share profits with workers later this week

Hillary Clinton to Propose Incentives for Corporate Profit Sharing // Bloomberg News // Jennifer Epstein – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Monday will detail what she calls a "win-win" plan to encourage companies to share their profits

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with employees as she outlines her broader economic vision for the United States, which centers on policies aimed at boosting the wages of middle-class workers, her campaign said.

“Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce,” Clinton plans to say in New York during the first major economic policy speech of her three-month-old presidential bid, according to excerpts provided by her campaign.

More widespread corporate profit-sharing “will be good for workers and good for business,” she will say. “Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company’s success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees’ pockets. It’s a win-win.”

The Democratic front-runner has hinted at the idea before, saying last month that she hopes to create “new incentives” for companies to share profits with more employees than just their top executives. A Clinton aide said the candidate will offer up changes to the tax code to encourage companies to participate, but did not say what those changes would be.

Clinton's Monday speech, to be delivered at the New School, a progressive university in Greenwich Village, is a big-picture survey of her views on the economy as a whole that will offer an introduction to policy proposals that she will detail in the coming weeks. She'll start on Thursday with a rollout of the profit-sharing plan during a campaign stop in New Hampshire, the aide said.

Hillary Clinton Says She'll Focus on Growing the Middle Class // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Monday outlined a plan for economic growth focused on the middle class, in one of the first major policy speeches of her presidential campaign.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy. You can’t have one without the other," the Democratic front-runner said at New York's New School, a university known as a liberal think tank on economics and foreign policy. "We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country. That will be my mission from the first day I'm president to the last."

The Democratic presidential front-runner's speech was a big-picture survey of her views on the economy offering an introduction to policy proposals that she will detail in the coming weeks, beginning Thursday with the rollout of her plan to encourage companies to share profits with their workers. Among other things, she said she will offer a capital gains tax that would create incentives for job creation over short-term profits. She also plans to encourage companies to share profits with employees, arguing that profit sharing "can boost productivity."

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," she said.

While Clinton's speech was rooted in policy, she was politically aggressive.

She went after former Florida Governor Jeb Bush's recent assertion that Americans should be working "longer hours" (which Democrats interpreted to mean Americans are not working enough, while the Republican presidential candidate has asserted that it was more about helping workers get the hours they want).

"He must not have met very many American workers ... they don't need a lecture, they need a raise," she said.

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Clinton also name-checked the newest entrant into the Republican presidential race, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, who announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination this morning on Twitter and will deliver his inaugural campaign speech this evening. "Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names by stomping on worker's rights" and their attacks are "mean-spirited and misguided," she said.

Clinton's plan is centered on three goals: boosting workforce participation and increasing public-private investments; rewarding work more fairly; and encouraging long-term thinking and sustainable business strategies.

Clinton pivots left in first economic address **// McClatchy // Kevin Hall – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is pivoting left of center in an economic address that is short on detail yet paints broad strokes of the themes she'll hit during her bid for the Democratic nomination and presidency.

In a speech delivered Monday morning at the New School, a self-described progressive university in the heart of Manhattan, Clinton struck themes such as boosting middle-class incomes, similar to a theme in President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign.

The Clinton campaign team highlighted what it called a novel proposal to expand company profit-sharing with employees, proposing a change in the tax code to make it happen.

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," Clinton said in remarks released ahead of her speech where she announced the profit- sharing plan.

Clinton added that profit sharing "will be good for workers and good for business. Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets. It's a win-win."

The issue of profit sharing fits neatly into the broader debate over Wall Street and who wins in America. Companies that are publicly traded are under pressure to show quarterly profits, often at the expense of investing for the long term. It also means that these profits flow to shareholders more than to stakeholders such as company employees.

Americans whose 401 K retirement plans invest in publicly traded companies benefit indirectly from corporate profits. But only 52 million workers have such retirement plans, so the benefits from corporate profits flow to the wealthy, who are more likely to be invested in financial markets.

Corporate profits in the first quarter of this year were up 9 percent over a 12-month period, although they dipped in the last two quarters because of the strengthening U.S. dollar, which made U.S. goods and services more expensive relative to other major currencies.

Hillary Clinton's New Mantra: It's the Wages, Stupid **// TIME // Michael Scherer – July 13, 2015**

It's the wages, stupid.

That's the magic sauce—in just four words—that Hillary Clinton believes will make her the next President of the

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United States. In a speech Monday to lay out her approach, she chose a more verbose version of the same message. “Wages need to rise to keep up with costs. Paychecks need to grow. Families who work hard and do their part deserve to get ahead and stay ahead,” she said. “The defining economic challenge of our time clear. We must raise incomes for hardworking Americans.”

As a theme, the approach is not new. A chart showing the divergence between median income growth and productivity growth over the last decade sat at the heart of Barack Obama’s 2012 campaign for President. “‘I’m working harder and falling behind,'” David Simas, Obama’s political strategist, explained after the 2012 election. “That was the North Star. Everything we did and everything we said was derivative of that sentiment.” As she spoke Monday, Clinton’s campaign tweeted out a version of the same chart that once hung at Obama’s Chicago campaign headquarters and now hangs in Simas’ West Wing office.

The difference now is that Clinton inherits a situation that is even more dire for American voters than the one that Obama struggled with over his past two campaigns, both of which promised improvement for middle class incomes that has yet to arrive. Even as the labor market has tightened in recent years and the national economy has continued to grow, wages have remained flat or, in many cases, declined.

A recent analysis of Census data by Democratic economist Robert J. Shapiro, whose work helped inform the Obama campaign’s approach, found that the economy shifted gears for American incomes after the 2001 recession. “Everybody declines from 2002 on relative to the 1980s and 1990s, and probably a majority of the country saw their incomes decline as they age,” he said, noting that unlike many economic indicators, this is one that voters feel directly. “It’s politically important because it’s people’s actual experience.” Shapiro found that the only two groups who saw their incomes increase on average between 2002 and 2013 were college graduates and households that were in their early 20s at the beginning of the decade.

To counteract this shift, Clinton proposed a variety of policy buckets she plans to focus on, many of which she did not detail. These include tax changes that will encourage large companies to share profits with employees, tax increases for the wealthy and new regulations of the financial sector. “The truth is the current rules for our economy do reward some work, like financial trading, for example much more than other work, like actually building and selling things, the work that has always been the backbone of our economy,” she said. “To get all incomes rising again, we need to strike a better balance.”

The focus on wages also gives a frame for Clinton to roll out a raft of other evergreen liberal policies, which could have indirect impacts on wage growth. These include better family leave policies to encourage more women to enter the workforce, lower health care costs, better early childhood education subsidies, more spending on infrastructure and “enhancing” Social Security.

Overall, the rhetoric draws heavily on the work of the left wing of the Democratic Party, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Clinton Administration economist Joseph Stiglitz. Though Clinton stopped short of calling for redistribution of wealth to combat inequality, a constant theme of the left, she did embrace the notion that the current economic stagnation for many Americans is a policy choice. “The choices we make in the years ahead will set the stage for what American life in the middle class and our economy will be like in this century,” she said.

At two points, Clinton contrasted her vision with the Obama Administration. First, she criticized the Justice Department and regulators for not being aggressive enough in prosecuting the misdeeds of financial firms. She also called for more financial regulation. “I will appoint and empower regulators who understand that too big to fail is still too big a problem,” she said, in a swipe at Obama, who has argued that the problem of too-big-to-fail was largely solved by financial reform in 2010.

Perhaps most important, the speech set up a contrast with Republican frontrunner Jeb Bush, who has laid out an economic vision of rising prosperity based on growing the whole economy by 4% annually, a target that few economists think can be reached. Clinton’s argument is that total growth is not enough. There also needs to be a reshuffling of the rules that makes the gains from that growth more widely distributed.

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The question for Clinton is much the same as the challenge faced by Obama. She may have diagnosed the disease in a way that the American people have endorsed in the past, but can she deliver the antidote? Republicans, who have a dramatically different world view, have been able to block many of Obama's reforms, and would likely have similar power under a Hillary Clinton Administration. There is also a skepticism, shared by many liberal economists, about just how much the reforms she laid out will impact incomes, which have been under pressure because technology and global competition have put a cap on prices and an increase in the unemployment rolls.

But that is a question for a later time. The first jobs for Clinton are to win the nomination and then the White House. And by borrowing heavily from her successful predecessor, her team believes she has a winning formula.

What to Know About Hillary Clinton's Economic Proposals **// TIME // Sam Frizell – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton called Monday for "progressive, principled and pragmatic policies" aimed at boosting middle-class incomes, as she laid out her vision of the American economy in the first major policy speech of her presidential campaign.

It was a speech intended to capitalize on the surge of populism that has swept much of the country and excited the Democratic base, and also lay out a roadmap for the goals of a Clinton presidency.

Clinton delivered her speech as a series of policy solutions for problems she sees in the American economy. Republicans quickly dismissed them. "Hillary Clinton's entire economic pitch is built upon the false premise that Democrats have not occupied the White House for the past six and a half years—a period that has seen the weakest economic recovery in modern history, rising income inequality, an ever-shrinking middle class, and negative growth in the first 3 months of this year," Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short said in a statement.

Below is a cheat sheet of what Clinton says ails the economy, and how she says she'll fix it. Note that many of the details are missing, as Clinton says in the coming months she'll fill in the gaps with more policy speeches.

Problem as described by Clinton: Income inequality is a drag on the economy

Wealth inequality is slowing economic growth, Clinton said. It's not just a fairness issue, she said, but a practical one. "The evidence is in: inequality is a drag on our entire economy," Clinton said.

How she wants to fix it

-Raise the minimum wage. "If you work hard you should be compensated fairly," Clinton said. But unlike Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who have called for a $15 minimum wage, Clinton has not set a firm target for the wage.

-Crack down on employers who misclassify employees as contractors, and fight wage theft.

-Protect President Obama's health care reform law, lower health care costs and make prescription drugs more affordable.

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-Defend and “enhance” social security to make it easier to save for the future.

-Create tax incentives to encourage corporate profit-sharing for employees.

-Tighten the tax code to make sure “millionaires don’t pay lower [tax] rates than their secretaries” and closing tax loopholes.

-Support unions and the right to organize. “If we want to get serious about raising incomes, we have to get serious about supporting union workers,” Clinton said.

Problem as described by Clinton: America needs to create more jobs and grow the economy

“More growth means more jobs and more new businesses. More jobs give people choices about where to work,” Clinton said. “That’s why economists that getting closer to full employment is crucial for raising incomes.”

How she wants to fix it

-Create for an infrastructure bank that would “finance world-class airports, railways, roads, bridges and ports” across the states.

-Build broadband networks with greater diversity of providers.

-Pass comprehensive immigration reform. Bringing the millions of undocumented immigrants into the legitimate economy, Clinton said, would create $700 billion of growth over 10 years.

-Invest in cleaner renewable energy and fund research and development. “The time has come to make America the world’s clean energy superpower,” Clinton said. “These investments will create millions of jobs.”

-Provide tax relief to small businesses, which Clinton said create 60% of new jobs in this country.

Problem as described by Clinton: Women aren’t participating fully in the economy

Clinton pointed to data showing that in 1990, the United States ranked 7th out of 24 developed countries in women’s labor force participation; by 2013, she said, the U.S. had fallen to 19th. “We cant afford to leave talent on the sidelines,” Clinton said.

How she wants to fix it

Clinton is advocating for fair pay laws, fair scheduling and easily accessible childcare. The lack of paid parental leave makes it inordinately difficult, Clinton said, for women to have a family and a job.

Problem as described by Clinton: The U.S. isn’t focused on long-term growth

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American businesses are too focused on short-term growth, a problem Clinton referred to as “quarterly capitalism.” The economy, Clinton said, should be structured to encourage investment over years and decades.

“I believe part of public service is planting trees under whose shade you’ll never sit,” Clinton said.

How she wants to fix it

-Create a tax credit of $1,500 to businesses for any worker that they train and hire. “Workers are assets. Investing in them pays of,” Clinton said.

-Reform capital gains taxes to encourage long-term investments over high-frequency trading.

Problem as described by Clinton: Wall Street is still engaged in risky business and trading practices

Too many individuals were not held accountable for the excesses of the last decade that led to the recession, Clinton said, and the Dodd-Frank financial reform law did not go far enough.

How she wants to fix it

-Appoint more regulators, prosecute individuals and firms, tighten rules for trading.

“We’ll ensure no firm is too complex to manage or oversee,” Clinton said.

Hillary Clinton Will Pledge Profit-Sharing Incentives to Boost Wages **// TIME // Sam Frizell – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will on Monday pledge to change the tax code to encourage corporate profit-sharing, calling such programs a “win-win” for business and employees.

Profit-sharing “will be good for workers and good for business,” Clinton will say on Monday, according to an advance excerpt provided by her campaign. “Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company’s success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees’ pockets. It’s a win-win.”

Clinton’s plan involves changing the tax code to push businesses to share corporate earnings with their employees, said a Clinton campaign official. She will expand further on the plan at a campaign stop in New Hampshire this week.

The profit-sharing proposal is part of the Democratic frontrunner’s broad vision for the economy that Clinton will be laying out in a speech Monday.

At the New School in New York, Clinton will explain that she envisions an economy that focuses on middle-class income growth over GDP growth for its own sake. The former secretary of state is riding a wave of economic

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populism, with many progressives discontent with the worsening income inequality in the country.

Many of the proposals Clinton will lay out are intended to boost wages and improve life for working families: paid leave, raising the minimum wage and protecting collective bargaining.

Her profit-sharing plan, the Clinton campaign official said, is a part of that. “Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce,” Clinton will say on Monday.

Shrinking Paychecks: Hillary Clinton Tackles 2016’s Toughest Economic Question // NPR // Danielle Kurtzleben – July 13, 2015

In a Monday speech, Hillary Clinton focused on a trend that millions of Americans know all too intimately: declining incomes.

The Clinton campaign is calling the phenomenon of stagnant wages "the defining economic challenge of our time," and as debates and primaries draw ever closer, it's becoming clear that jump-starting Americans' wages is going to be the defining challenge of the election. Candidates are furiously trying to differentiate themselves on how to deal with unstoppable phenomena.

A Recent, Scary Problem

The median U.S. household earned $51,939 in 2013. That's down by nearly 9 percent from the 1999 peak of nearly $56,900.

This decline in incomes isn't just about the Great Recession. Over a longer time frame, workers' share of the U.S. economic pie has shrunk. This is something economists call the "labor share" or "wage share" of the economy. Consider the following chart, which shows labor's share of economic output over time (the Federal Reserve has indexed the data in such a way that 2009 equals 100, but the point is more the direction than the numbers). That has been declining over the longer term as well.

Knowing what's behind this problem shows just what makes it hard to combat: Some of the biggest factors behind that shrinking labor share are also genies that are hard to put back into the proverbial bottle.

Why Are Workers Losing Money?

There are a lot of explanations for that shrinking labor share of income, but one popular one is that the Great Recession exacerbated longer-term trends that were already at work. That recession hangover still hasn't gone away. Employment is still pretty low right now, and when there's that much slack in the labor market, it's harder for workers to negotiate for higher paychecks. In addition, plenty of workers who are working part time want more hours. The labor market is healing, but there's still enough remaining slack that employers have the leverage.

Still, even once the U.S. is at full employment, longer-term factors could continue to eat away at workers' paychecks. One of the most commonly blamed factors behind the shrinking labor share is technology. Many jobs that can be routinized — scanning groceries and taking money, keeping a schedule and filing away documents, analyzing legal documents — are increasingly done by machines, threatening workers like store clerks, secretaries and paralegals. And while it's true that technology helps create jobs, many of those in the "gig economy" Clinton

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referenced Monday are low-paid and benefit-free — think Uber drivers and TaskRabbits.

Another factor is globalization. Increasing trade has its benefits and drawbacks — cheaper goods but the loss of some jobs to other countries, for example. A growing financial sector is also considered a potential cause behind the shrinking labor share, as businesses invest in capital instead of labor.

To the extent that these forces are indeed shrinking Americans' incomes, one of the key economic issues to watch in this election, then, will be whether and how candidates deal with these mammoth forces. They're all trends that would be remarkably difficult to roll back: You can't un-integrate an increasingly globalized world, you can't rewind technological progress, and shrinking the U.S. financial system would be, at the very least, a monumental undertaking.

As Clinton herself said of technology and trade, "All of these trends are real, and none, none is going away." Throughout her speech, she framed the challenge as one of dealing with new economic forces that prior presidents (like her husband) never even considered.

Clinton didn't outline specific policies in her speech, though she did advocate for unions, better paid leave policies and tougher regulations on Wall Street, among other things. At the same time, she blasted her Republican opponents' policies that are likewise aimed at helping the American economy: Marco Rubio's tax reform plan, Scott Walker's anti-union policies in Wisconsin and Jeb Bush's recent claim that he wants Americans to work longer hours as part of his bid to grow the economy by 4 percent. (The Bush campaign has said he meant part-time workers should get more hours if they want them.)

"He must not have met very many American workers," Clinton said. "They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

The Important Things Clinton Left Out

Clinton may have come out swinging against her conservative opponents, but she also toed a careful line, stopping short of creeping too far into class warfare territory.

It's true that she blasted Rubio's tax plan as benefiting the wealthy too much, and she also advocated closing tax loopholes that the wealthy take advantage of. But she also made it clear that she still wants the richest Americans, as well as the poorest, to continue prospering.

"The measure of our success must be how much incomes rise for hard-working families, not just for successful CEOs and money managers," she said, adding, "I want to see our economy work for the struggling, the striving, and the successful."

It's that all-encompassing inclusiveness that some on the left have criticized for nearly six months now, since the Center for American Progress released its report on "inclusive prosperity," considered an economic blueprint for a Hillary Clinton administration. Critics like Robert Reich (labor secretary under Bill Clinton) have said the more important (and controversial) issue she needs to tackle is income distribution.

That's one area where Hillary Clinton's rhetoric stands in stark contrast to her most visible Democratic opponent right now, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. While Clinton wants inclusive growth, Sanders says that maybe growth isn't all that important if not everyone shares in it, as the Washington Post's Jim Tankersley writes.

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One other big area Clinton left out Monday: the Trans-Pacific Partnership, one of the areas where Sanders most often attacks her. The closest she came was a vague call for setting a "high bar" on trade deals. She has been notably quiet on TPP, the massive and controversial trade deal the Obama administration is negotiating right now. Many on the left, including unions, hate the deal, saying it will hurt American workers' paychecks. In a speech about that very topic, it was an important omission, and her supporters and opponents alike will assuredly continue to watch closely to see exactly what she thinks about this hot economic topic.

Hillary Clinton Puts Paycheck Feminism at the Center of Her Economic Agenda // The Nation // Michelle Goldberg – July 13, 2015

illary Clinton's speech today was the most progressive address on economics by a major-party presidential candidate in a generation. It was strongly feminist and pro-union. It called for "enhancing" Social Security and stepping up prosecutions of Wall Street malefactors, and specifically attacked HSBC, the banking giant and Clinton Foundation donor. The speech marks a decisive break from the technocratic triangulation of her husband's administration. As Lawrence Mishel points out at the Economic Policy Institute, it was notable that Clinton didn't propose market-based solutions for wage stagnation, which she defined as the central economic challenge of our time. Rather than offering Third Way panaceas like worker retraining or middle-class tax cuts, she championed strong government intervention on behalf of workers: a higher minimum wage, strengthened collective bargaining, full employment, and cracking down "on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors."

That last bit seems particularly significant for what it says about how much politics has changed since the 1990s. Clinton's words, after all, seem to directly allude to an employment dispute at Uber. As a story about the contingent workforce in today's New York Times begins, "When the California Labor Commissioner's Office ruled last month that an Uber driver was an employee deserving of a variety of workplace protections—and was not, as the company maintained, an independent contractor—it highlighted the divided feelings many Americans have about what is increasingly being called the 'gig economy.'" Whereas Bill Clinton was known for championing Silicon Valley, Hillary Clinton has taken clear aim at the employment model underlying some of its hottest companies.

It's also important that Hillary Clinton has put paycheck feminism at the center of her economic agenda. The speech focused on all that's lost when women are forced out of the workplace by inadequate leave and childcare policies, without any wishy-washy obeisance to the glories of housewifery. "The movement of women into the workforce over the past forty years was responsible for more than three and a half trillion dollars in economic growth," Clinton said. "But that progress has stalled. The United States used to rank 7th out of 24 advanced countries in women's labor force participation. By 2013, we had dropped to 19th. That represents a lot of unused potential for our economy and for American families. Studies show that nearly a third of this decline relative to other countries is because they're expanding family-friendly policies like paid leave and we are not.... It's time to recognize that quality, affordable childcare is not a luxury—it's a growth strategy." Again, we've come a long way from the '90s, when Clinton was excoriated for making it clear that she valued her career over stay-at-home motherhood, and, as penance, had to participate in a bake-off with Barbara Bush.

The obvious progressive rejoinder to this is that Hillary—negotiator of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, onetime member of Walmart's board—is simply saying what she feels she needs to in order to get elected. To which I'd say: exactly! Clinton is a politician who believes in expediency and pragmatism, and she has come to believe that it is expedient and pragmatic to run an explicitly liberal campaign. This is a powerful statement about the evolution of American politics. It's long been a truism that Republicans fear their base, while Democrats hate theirs. That is no longer true; this is a speech meant to appeal to Elizabeth Warren's supporters, not Clinton's Wall Street friends.

But won't Clinton simply do those friends' bidding once in office? Perhaps, but the political-science literature suggests that, contrary to conventional wisdom, politicians actually try to fulfill their campaign pledges. Jonathan Bernstein looked at the scholarship surrounding the issue in a 2012 Washington Monthly piece, discussing a book by Jeff Fishel that analyzed campaigns from John F. Kennedy through Ronald Reagan. "What he found was that presidents invariably attempt to carry out their promises; the main reason some pledges are not redeemed is congressional opposition, not presidential flip-flopping," wrote Bernstein. "Similarly, Gerald Pomper studied party platforms, and discovered that the promises parties made were consistent with their postelection agendas. More recent and smaller-scale papers have confirmed the main point: presidents' agendas are clearly telegraphed in their campaigns."

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George H.W.'s Bush's reversal on his "no new taxes" pledge is considered the exception to the rule. More typical is the way he chiseled away at government support for family planning. It almost certainly contradicted his personal beliefs; as a congressman, Bush was so passionate about birth control that he was nicknamed "rubbers," and as US representative to the United Nations, he championed global action on overpopulation. As Reagan's vice president, however, he recognized that fealty to the anti-abortion movement was non-negotiable, and after promising to serve it faithfully in office, he never dared defy it. Politicians have very strong incentives to do what they say they're going to do, whatever their actual ideas.

So pundits may spend a lot of time wondering about Hillary Clinton's authenticity, but if you want to know what her administration would actually attempt, what's in her speeches probably matters more than what's in her secret heart. And so far in this campaign, what's in her speeches sounds pretty good.

Hillary Clinton draws contrast with Republicans as she lays out economic plan // LA Times // Evan Halper and Michael A. Memoli – July 13, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton used an economic policy speech Monday to make an early contrast with her potential Republican opponents, promising to "rely on evidence more than ideology" in an effort to restore financial security for Americans left behind in the recent economic recovery.

Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, said that boosting middle-class wages was the "defining economic issue of our time" and proposed to overhaul the tax code, promote corporate profit-sharing and advance paid family leave to build what she called a "growth and fairness economy."

"I want to see our economy work for the struggling, the striving and the successful," Clinton said in her address at the New School in New York. "We're not going to find all the answers we need today in the playbooks of the past, we can't go back to the old policies that failed us before, nor can we just replay the successes."

Corporate profit-sharing was an example of the "new ideas" Clinton said she'd promote as president, saying it would give workers a stake in the success of their employer as a way to "boost productivity and put money directly in employees' pockets."

The emphasis on profit-sharing comes amid concerns by Clinton and the many economists advising her that too much of the American economy has become focused on fast earnings for those in top income brackets, to the detriment of rank-and-file workers.

Clinton's speech represented the first look at what aides say will be a detailed agenda, to be rolled out in the coming weeks, that seeks to push capital toward more durable growth, creating incentives for investments in infrastructure and research, for example, while closing what her advisors say are tax loopholes that promote excessive risk-taking in the markets.

She also promoted familiar Democratic priorities such as pay equity for women, paid family leave and affordable childcare, something she said was not a "luxury" but a "growth strategy."

Her proposals take aim at a problem vexing economists: how to pull America out of a prolonged period of stagnant middle-class wages, even at a time when productivity is on the rise.

Income disparity has become a central issue in the race for the White House, and Republican candidates have ideas that differ from Clinton's. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is building his economic agenda around a plan to

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boost growth of the country's gross domestic product to a sustained 4% a year.

Calling inequality a "drag" on the entire economy, Clinton targeted Bush directly for saying last week that Americans needed to "work longer hours" -- a portion of the former Florida governor's discussion of economic solutions that his campaign said critics have taken out of context. Clinton said Bush "must not have met very many American workers," and challenged him to repeat the claim to nurses, teachers and others who she said "do not need a lecture. They need a raise."

Discussing tax reform, Clinton called a plan from Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida that would slash taxes on top incomes a "budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy," the kind of plan that was typical of the "bad economics" Republicans would propose.

And she attacked the newest GOP contender, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, for "stomping on workers' rights" by seeking to undermine the strength of public employee unions.

"I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks," she vowed, saying the decline of unions was responsible for a third of the increase in income inequality. "If we want to get serious about raising incomes, we have to get serious about supporting union workers."

The attacks on potential general election foes mirrored a recent effort by President Obama to frame the general election debate on the economy on favorable terms for the party. But Clinton also went a step further as she seeks to boost her standing with liberal Democrats animated by the economic fairness debate, promising to go beyond the Dodd-Frank financial reforms to hold Wall Street accountable for abuses that have hurt the working class.

"While institutions have paid large fines and in some cases admitted guilt, too often it has seemed that the human beings responsible get off with limited consequences or none at all, even when they have already pocketed the gains," she said. "This is wrong, and on my watch it will change."

Bush's campaign responded that Clinton's speech was just a collection of "antiquated proposals" to "protect the special interests that want to stifle American ingenuity." The campaign of one of Clinton's Democratic challengers, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, argued that she didn't go far enough and cited his specific plans to target Wall Street in particular as an example of the "fearless and progressive new leadership" needed to fix America's problems.

Hillary Clinton to tout profit sharing as a way to reduce income disparity // LA Times // Evan Halper – July 13, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton will make corporate profit sharing a key piece of her economic agenda, proposing changes in the tax code that encourage companies to boost employee compensation when earnings are robust, according to excerpts of a major campaign address she will deliver Monday.

“We need new ideas,” says a section of the text shared by her campaign. “Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce."

Clinton's speech lauds profit sharing that gives workers a stake in the success of their employer as a way to “boost productivity and put money directly in employees' pockets."

The proposal is part of the Democratic presidential hopeful's overall plan to narrow the income gap between the richest Americans and middle- and low-wage earners. Clinton will unveil her plan for addressing it in a speech at

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the New School in New York.

The emphasis on profit sharing comes amid concerns by Clinton and the many economists advising her that too much of the American economy has become focused on fast earnings for those in top income brackets, to the detriment of rank-and-file workers.

Clinton's speech will introduce a detailed agenda – to be rolled out gradually in the coming weeks – that seeks to push capital toward more durable growth, incentivizing investments in infrastructure and research, for example, while closing what her advisors say are tax loopholes that promote excessive risk-taking in the markets.

The profit sharing and other proposals Clinton will discuss Monday take aim at a problem vexing economists: how to pull America out of a prolonged period of stagnant middle-class wages, even at a time when productivity is on the rise.

Income disparity has become a central issue in the race for the White House, and Republican candidates have ideas that differ from Clinton's.

Jeb Bush is building his economic agenda around a plan to boost growth of the country's gross domestic product to a sustained 4% a year.

Clinton will argue Monday that growth alone will not solve the problem of an increasing gap in earnings between the richest Americans and everyone else. She will say the economy needs to be restructured to include policies that help distribute more of the nation's wealth to the middle class.

Clinton is also promoting various social programs intended to give the middle class a leg up, including easing the debt burden on college students and requiring employers to offer paid family leave and sick time.

What's Hillary Clinton really trying to do with the economy? **// Boston Globe // Evan Horowitz – July 13, 2015**

In a major campaign address Monday morning, Hillary Clinton laid out her plans to make the economy more fair, including by raising the minimum wage, creating more affordable child care, and boosting the incomes of "everyday Americans."

Clinton was direct in her critique of Republican rivals, particularly Jeb Bush's controversial comment that Americans need to work more. But she was silent about her closest Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders, whose dogged attacks on the burdens of inequality and the excesses of Wall Street have attracted an unexpectedly large and passionate following.

What did Clinton propose?

Clinton's remarks were fairly wide-ranging, covering everything from early education to Washington budget battles.

At each step, however, she came back to the challenges facing "hard-working Americans" — middle-class families and low-income workers whose wages have been stuck in place for decades.

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Clinton proposed a range of policies to shift the economic landscape and give more power to workers. That includes raising the minimum wage, encouraging companies to share profits with employees, and providing more worker training.

Clinton used an agenda-setting economic speech to cast GOP prescriptions for the economy as relics of the past.

She also emphasized the particular struggles of working women, like unequal pay, poor parental leave policies, and the limited (often expensive) options for high-quality child care.

“Women who want to work,” she said, “should be able to do so without worrying every day about how they’re going to take care of their children or what will happen if a family member gets sick.” (Obviously, these kinds of challenges can affect men too but in the United States women bear the greater burden of family responsibilities.)

How do Clinton’s plans compare to Republican proposals?

With 15 candidates now vying for the Republican nomination, it’s hard to compare Clinton’s proposals with everything out there. But she did speak directly about Jeb Bush’s call for 4 percent growth, as well as his comments last week that to achieve such growth Americans would have to work more.

“You may have heard Governor Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours. Well, he must not have met very many American workers.”

Yet, despite the jab, Clinton is also calling for Americans to work more. For instance, during her speech she lamented that too many women were leaving the workforce — and she and offered several strategies to bring them back. Separately, she talked about the number of young African-Americans and Latinos cut off from work, and suggested that getting them into jobs would put them on a path to the middle class.

How do Clinton’s proposals compare to Bernie Sanders?

On the Democratic side, Clinton’s closest challenger is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who has managed to attract a large, progressive following and whose poll numbers have been slowly ticking up.

On most every issue, Sanders is more truculent and more worker-friendly than Clinton. He doesn’t just call for an increase in the minimum wage but for a real living wage. And where Clinton talks about how to get companies to share their profits with workers, Sanders celebrates worker co-ops, where workers actually own more businesses.

Even if she can’t outflank Sanders, Clinton’s remarks did seem designed to peel off some support. She spent a fair bit of time castigating Wall Street for its obsession with short-term gains as well as some of the execrable scandals of recent years.

What she didn’t do was lay out a plan to address these problems — unlike Sanders, who wants to break up the big financial institutions. But perhaps Clinton is merely hoping to convince anti-Wall Street voters that she shares their concerns and that the issue is at least on her radar.

How important is this speech?

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It's hardly a make-or-break moment in the 2016 presidential campaign, but here's one reason to take note of what Hillary Clinton said this morning: Someday in the future, she may change her mind.

As the campaign goes on, the pool of opponents will shrink, the economy will continue to change, and Clinton herself will face new challenges. Any of those things could cause her to rethink her positions. And it's important to know when and how candidates shift.

After all, being president isn't just about what you believe, it's also about how you respond to an ever-changing world.

Hillary Clinton Attacks Scott Walker, Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio in Economic Policy Speech // ABC // Liz Kreutz – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton wants you to know her economic policy will be nothing like those proposed by the GOP.

While delivering her first major economic policy speech of her campaign, Clinton today called out Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Scott Walker by name to contrast her policies -- focused on strengthening the middle class and increasing wages -- against those of her front-running Republican rivals.

In her remarks, delivered at the New School in downtown Manhattan, Clinton first took aim at former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for his recent comment that "people need to work longer hours." (A remark Bush's campaign said was about unemployment.)

"You may have heard Governor Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours. Well, he must not have met very many American workers," the democratic presidential candidate said.

Clinton then went after Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, calling his tax reform plan a "sure budget busting giveaway for the super wealthy."

And lastly, Clinton went after Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker -- who just entered the presidential race today -- for his "mean-spirited, misguided attacks" against workers.

"Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names by stomping on workers' rights," she said.

Overall, Clinton attacked the trickle-down economics proposed by past Republican presidents -- saying that "twice now" a Democratic president (President Clinton and President Obama) "has had to come in and clean up the mess left behind" -- and proposed her own, new plan aimed at both "growth and fairness."

Clinton said her priority will be to boost middle-class wages, which she said is the "defining economic challenge of our time."

In her remarks, Clinton laid out a series of proposals -- including tax cuts for businesses and increasing the minimum wage -- for how she plans to do it.

Here's a list of what she proposed:

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- Increasing the minimum wage
- Policies such as affordable child care and paid leave, focused on getting more women get into the work force
- Tax cuts for small businesses
- Tax reforms so that the wealthy “have to pay their fair share.”
- Support for union workers and ending efforts to undermine worker bargaining power
- Incentives for businesses to expand profit-sharing with employees
- Education reform, including ways to improve schools, make college affordable and help Americans refinance their student debt
- Comprehensive immigration reform (which Clinton called “another engine of strong growth”)
- Investments in infrastructure, clean-energy programs, scientific and medical research, and net businesses investments like factories, machines and research labs
- Capital gains tax reform to reward “longer term investments that create jobs, not just quick trades”
- Wall Street reform and protection of “Dodd-Frank” laws

Notably, Clinton did not go into many specifics -- she did not specify by how much she wants to raise the minimum wage, nor did she say what her tax reform would entail. But her campaign says this speech simply laid out the foundation of her plan –- and the overarching themes -- and that she will roll out the details of the proposals in the coming weeks.

Towards the end of Clinton's remarks, a heckler called out over the crowd, "Will you restore Glass-Steagall?" -- referring to the 1933 legislation that limited the affiliation between banks and securities firms, and provisions of which were repealed in 1999. Some critics have pointed to the repeal as one of the contributing factors to the 2008 financial crisis.

Clinton did not respond and the man -- who said he was frustrated Clinton did not take any questions -- was quickly escorted out by security.

Hillary Clinton Pitches Plan for 'Growth and Fairness Economy' **// NBC News // Carrie Dann – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton offered her vision Monday of a "growth and fairness economy," saying that her agenda would boost Americans' incomes and push companies to share profits with their employees.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy. You can't have one without the other," she said during remarks at the New School in New York City.

The 2016 Democratic candidate said that incomes have stalled even as corporate profits have skyrocketed, creating inequality that is "a drag on our entire economy."

"Wages need to rise to keep up with costs," she said. "Paychecks need to grow. Families who work hard and do their part deserve to get ahead and stay ahead."

She took an explicit shot at Republican rival Jeb Bush, directly referencing his statement last week that Americans "need to work longer hours."

"Well, he must not have met very many American workers," she said. Referencing nurses and fast food workers with grueling schedules, she added: "They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

She also mentioned by name Republican candidates Sen. Marco Rubio, whose tax plan she derided as a "budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy," and Gov. Scott Walker, whose fights against labor unions in Wisconsin she branded as "mean-spirited and misguided attacks." Walker is slated to formally announce his run later Monday in

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Wisconsin.

During her remarks, Clinton also called for companies to expand profit-sharing with their employees, pledging to change the tax code to incentivize such moves.

"Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets. It's a win-win," she said.

And she promised to "break down barriers to joining the workforce - especially for women."

The Democratic frontrunner did not explicitly mention progressive rivals like Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who has won accolades from the party's left wing for his criticisms of Wall Street and big banks.

But she vowed to go beyond the Obama-backed Dodd-Frank banking reforms to "rein in excessive risk on Wall Street," and she called for prosecution of "criminal behavior" of culpable individuals in the banking industry.

In economic address, Hillary Clinton calls out 'gig' economy // CNBC // Kate Rogers – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton laid out her economic agenda in New York City on Monday. She focused on ways to lift American workers and called out the sharing economy as a potential factor in dampened wage growth.

The sharing economy—bolstered by high-flying start-ups including Uber, Airbnb and Lyft—allows individuals to share products and services like offering homes and apartments for rent, or driving passengers to destinations. The small tasks often are brokered through mobile smartphone apps, and the platforms connect freelancers with available short-term gigs.

Amid an uneven economic recovery, many American workers are cobbling together a patchwork of jobs. But freelance freedom and flexibility don't come with traditional full-time benefits including health care or retirement savings.

More lower-paying jobs since recession

"Many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing a website ... even driving their own car. This on demand or so called 'gig' economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future," Clinton said.

She laid out her economic plan during an address at The New School in Manhattan.

Read MoreMore retired Americans becoming Uber drivers

An estimated 53 million Americans—more than 1 in 3 workers—are freelancers, according to a 2014 report by independent research firm Edelman Berland. The study was commissioned by the Freelancers Union in partnership with Elance-oDesk.

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Separate data show recent lower-wage job gains outpacing higher-wage job growth, according to the National Employment Law Project.

There are now 1.2 million fewer jobs in mid- and higher-wage industries than there were prior to the Great Recession, according to NELP data. In contrast, there are 2.3 million more jobs in lower-wage sectors than before the recession.

Rise of the Uber driver

While older workers are participating in the sharing economy, the young, tech freelancer is likely to become an important symbol during the presidential election campaign.

"In 2008, it was all about 'Joe the Plumber.' In 2016, it will likely be 'Carl the Uber driver,'" said Jeremiah Owyang, analyst and founder of Silicon Valley-based Crowd Companies, which focuses on the collaborative economy.

Some workers are suing start-ups including Uber and Lyft to be classified as employees, not independent contractors.

Clinton also vowed to ensure workers are being properly paid and protected. "I'll crack down on bosses that exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages," she told the crowd.

But others argue the "gig" economy offers workers an incredible amount of flexibility.

If the jobs "meet people's needs for flexible employment and provide learning real skills and pay decent wages, then they are certainly a positive for the economy," said Paul Osterman, professor at the MIT Sloan School. If the freelance jobs "result from misclassification to avoid paying benefits or employment taxes, then they are an emerging problem and a source of worsening job quality," Osterman said in an email to CNBC.

Hillary Clinton shows she's really a liberal on economics **// Vox // Jonathan Allen – July 13, 2015**

If there's one thing that frustrates liberal Democrats the most about Hillary Clinton's politics, it's that she doesn't seem to share — or maybe even get — the base's gut instincts. She's bad at explaining her motivations in a way that connects with core Democrats.

But as she laid out her economic vision in a Monday speech that rejected Republican theories without embracing hard-left policies, Clinton did something that's been difficult for her in the past: She spoke to both the head and the heart of the Democratic Party.

Clinton promised to prosecute financial fraudsters, defend and expand the Affordable Care Act, and "fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks" on unions.

More broadly, Clinton succeeded in articulating a vision for reshaping the American economy to promote growth by directing help to working- and middle-class families. In classic Clintonian fashion, she drew her sharpest contrasts with Republicans — calling out Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, and Marco Rubio by name — while glossing over some of the differences on the Democratic side of the national policy debate.

"It was both an intellectual and emotional appeal," said Jared Bernstein, a liberal economist who served as an adviser to Vice President Joe Biden. He praised her, in particular, for a comprehensive connection of policies affecting middle-class Americans to economic growth, from collective bargaining to profit sharing. "She covered

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every corner of the debate."

She didn't read a white paper on tax reform. How do I know whether she's really liberal?

Clinton stayed at the 30,000-foot level for most of the speech, declining to get into the nitty-gritty of how she would use executive power — or work with Republicans in Congress — to implement her agenda.

What Clinton did articulate, though, is the set of fundamental concepts guiding her campaign's economic agenda. Taken as a whole, that vision is clearly left of center. Some of what she laid out sounded pretty progressive — for example, creating incentives for companies to share profits with their employees, increasing regulation of the financial industry, and prosecuting the financial crimes of individuals at big institutions. (Liberals have criticized President Obama and former Attorney General Eric Holder for failing to win convictions on Wall Street and for selling low in settlements with banks).

The broad strokes often aren't enough for many liberals. They worry that if not nailed down, she'll eventually tack toward a "third way" like President Bill Clinton. They want to be convinced that she's motivated by the same instincts they are, and they want to know that the set of advisers around her won't pull her in another direction.

Clinton's campaign released a set of advisers on the speech that includes liberal economists Joseph Stiglitz and Alan Blinder, as well as Neera Tanden, a former Clinton aide who is the head of the liberal think tank Center for American Progress.

In its construction — in terms of both language and who played a hand in writing it — Clinton's speech on Monday should have gone a long way toward assuaging those concerns. It's not that she's ready to adopt Bernie Sanders's platform. She'll never do that because she's simply not that far left. But she's starting to talk about the theory behind her policy, and it should comfort liberals because it matches up well with their heads and hearts.

Clinton's big move: explaining her motivations

The most important thing Clinton did Monday is explain why she wants to target government benefits to working- and middle-class Americans.

"The defining economic challenge of our time is clear," she said. "We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle-class life. We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country."

There's no more core progressive belief than the idea that boosting the lower and middle classes is how you spur sustainable economic growth.

And there are two reasons to think she would follow through on her plans. First, we know presidents try to fulfill their campaign promises. Second, Clinton has developed a policy process for her campaign that resembles that of the White House, with Jake Sullivan, the former deputy chief of staff at the State Department, playing the coordinating role. The vision and big decisions are made at the top, but the constituent parts are put together through the input of inside and outside advisers. That is, there are a lot of fingerprints on the plan and a lot of stakeholders to be kept on board.

Clinton won praise from Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate and chief economist at the Roosevelt Institute, who was one of the scores of advisers who helped build the foundation for the speech.

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"Growth is not achieved by pulling a number out of thin air but by focusing on and investing in our families and communities, ensuring Americans can earn enough to afford a middle-class life, and making our financial markets work for everyday Americans rather than the short-term interests of CEOs and speculators," Stiglitz said. "Today Hillary Clinton began to offer the kind of comprehensive approach we need to tackle the enormous economic challenges we face, one that is squarely in line with what we have called for at the Roosevelt Institute."

That's not to say Clinton went far enough to win ringing endorsements from everyone on the left — or on all of topics she raised.

Clinton talked about trade, but refused to pick a spot on the Democratic spectrum.

"We do need to set a high bar for trade agreements," she said, evading the question of whether she will back the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership pact. "We should support them if they create jobs, raise wages, and advance our national security. And we should be prepared to walk away if they don't."

Ultimately, it will matter less where Clinton would be rated on a progressive's scorecard than whether she can convince liberals that they should be excited — or at least comfortable — with where she wants to take the country and why.

The other key to the speech was her contrast with Republicans

Politicians like to say that elections are about choices. On Monday, Clinton framed her vision as the antithesis of Republican economic theory. She ripped Bush for saying American workers should work "longer hours" — though he may have meant moving from part-time to full-time employment — upbraided Rubio for a tax plan that would help millionaires, and said union-busting efforts by Gov. Scott Walker and other Republicans are "mean-spirited" and "misguided."

More important than the individual digs, which served to illustrate her larger point, was Clinton's basic attack on GOP economics.

"For 35 years, Republicans have argued that if we give more wealth to those at the top — by cutting their taxes and letting big corporations write their own rules — it will trickle down, it will trickle down to everyone else," Clinton said. "Yet every time they have a chance to try that approach, it explodes the national debt, concentrates wealth even more, and does practically nothing to help hard-working Americans."

Even in reaching out to progressives, Clinton all but said any flavor of Democrat is better than a Republican.

"Twice now in the past 20 years, a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess," she said. "I think the results speak for themselves.tec

Hillary Clinton just embraced one of Elizabeth Warren's main criticisms of Obama // Vox // Matthew Yglesias – July 13, 2015

If she becomes president, Hillary Clinton will confront the challenge that Republicans will almost certainly still control Congress. In practice, this means her scope for dramatic new policy achievements is likely to be limited. And it's why the remarks she made Monday morning on prosecuting financial crime are some of the most

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important words she's spoken thus far in the campaign.

Appointing prosecutors and regulators with a mandate to be tougher than those the Obama administration has put in office is something that she can actually do.

This speaks to one of liberals' biggest complaints with Eric Holder and the Obama Justice Department — an endless parade of fines with no serious consequences for individual wrongdoing. Elizabeth Warren, among others, has been banging this drum for years without securing any real change in the administration's approach:

"I would have thought that given the things the Department of Justice has been saying about how aggressive they want to get about corporate crime — I would expect to see more corporations prosecuted," Brandon L. Garrett, professor at University of Virginia Law School and author of Too Big To Jail, told Vox last November. "Instead, those numbers have been declining. And I would expect to see more individuals prosecuted in these cases, and very few individuals are prosecuted."

There are significant structural barriers to successful high-level white-collar criminal prosecutions, but whether to at least try is more or less up to the discretion of any given administration.

If a hypothetical future Clinton administration wants to go after more individuals when regulators catch banks breaking the rules, congressional Republicans can't really stop them. At the same time, in the universe of possible ways to get to Obama's left this seems like a pretty safe bet. Wall Street banks are happy to complain about excessive red tape, but no CEO is going to stand up and publicly say that he should be immune from prosecution if his bank is caught laundering money.

Meanwhile, to bank foes the question will be whether Clinton means it. Similar promises to get tough have been made before, only to leave reformers feeling burned by a lack of follow-up, with Obama's second SEC Chair Mary Jo White only the most recent example. Clinton doesn't bear any responsibility for the Obama administration's tendency to go back and forth on the desired severity of enforcement actions, but to activists focused on the issue there is a trust gap. But skeptics should take some succor from the fact that Clinton's practical scope for accomplishment is likely to be sharply constrained. The stakes in 2016 are high, but realistically Clinton is going to want to be remembered as something more than a conservator of the Obama agenda. Demanding tough prosecutions of financial malefactors is a way of leaving a mark that Clinton can actually deliver on.

Hillary Clinton to Jeb Bush: American workers "don't need a lecture, they need a raise" **// Vox // Jonathan Allen – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton ripped into top-tier Republican rivals Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker — but not the insurgent Donald Trump — in the midst of an economic policy speech Monday.

On Jeb Bush and whether workers need to work longer hours

Clinton's first name-check was Bush. Last week, Bush said that Americans "need to work longer hours" to boost the economy. That brought full gaffe condemnation from Democrats — and some pundits — leaving Bush defenders to assert that he meant it in the context of part-time laborers having more full-time employment opportunities. Clinton wasn't buying any of it.

"He must not have met very many American workers," she said. "They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

On Marco Rubio's tax cuts for the rich

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A Tax Policy Center analysis of a version of Rubio's tax plan found that there would be minimal benefit to low-income families, while those making $3.3 million or more would see an average tax cut of about $240,000. Clinton urged listeners to "take a good look" at GOP tax plans, starting with Rubio's.

"That's a sure budget-busting giveaway to the super-wealthy," she said.

On Scott Walker's crusade against unions

Clinton saved her harshest line of attack for the newest official candidate, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who rose to national prominence by busting unions in his home state.

"Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names stomping on workers' rights," Clinton said. "I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks."

The one she left alone: Donald Trump

Clinton drew an implicit contrast with Donald Trump, who has surged into a virtual tie with Bush atop the Republican field by whipping up fervor against unauthorized immigrants. "I know it's not always how we think about this, but another engine of strong growth should be comprehensive immigration reform," she said.

But she didn't go after The Donald by name. That's probably because his rise is exposing rifts within the Republican Party. One iron law of politics: Don't get in the way when the other party is imploding.

Update: Allie Brandenburger, a spokesperson for Bush, sent in her response to Clinton's speech.

"Hillary Clinton is proposing the same failed policies we have seen in the Obama economy, where the typical American household's income has declined and it's harder for businesses to hire and the middle class to achieve rising incomes.

"Americans want to work and want the opportunity to achieve earned success for their families, but Secretary Clinton's antiquated proposals protect the special interests that want to stifle American ingenuity and 21st Century companies like Uber that are creating jobs. Governor Bush believes harnessing innovation and fostering technology can help us grow at 4 percent once again."

Hillary Clinton's new paleo-liberalism **// VOX // Matthew Yglesia – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's record in office suggests that she is more liberal than either her husband or Barack Obama, and in a Monday speech outlining her economic vision she is set to confirm that.

Background briefing documents provided by her campaign to journalists in advance of the speech suggest she's making an effort to avoid a hard break with the previous two Democratic presidents, pointing out instead that times have changed since 1992 or since the circumstances of the 2008 economic crisis.

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But the documents nonetheless hint at a fundamental philosophical difference: Clinton is less inclined to favor a market-oriented approach than a left-wing approach, a real change from the past quarter century of Democratic Party economic policymaking.

What we won't get on Monday is much policy detail to flesh out how this difference might look in practice. And many left-wing interest group leaders and intellectuals to whom this new way of thinking has been previewed have expressed skepticism to me about its sincerity. But history suggests that presidents generally try to implement the agenda they have promised, so it's worth paying attention.

The great divide in left-of-center economics

The biggest divide in American economic policy is, of course, the one that separates the Republican approach from the Democratic one. But within the left-of-center camp there is a long-running conceptual dispute between what you might call neoliberalism and paleo-liberalism.

The keys to the neoliberal approach that dominated both the Clinton and Obama administrations are, roughly:

The main way the government can impact the pre-tax distribution of income is by providing high-quality education to as many people as possible.

Financial markets should be regulated to guard against catastrophe, but also should take a leading role in driving investment decisions across the private sector.

To the extent that the education path fails to generate a satisfactory distribution of economic resources, progressive taxes should fund redistributive programs to produce a better outcome.

The paleo-liberal approach denies most of this, harkening back to an era in which government regulation and labor unions played a more direct role in compressing the pre-tax distribution of labor income and the financial sector was deliberately regulated in a heavy-handed way rather than allowed to lead the economy.

Neither Clinton nor Obama ever adhered purely to the neoliberal philosophy (both endorsed minimum wage hikes, for example, and saw a large constructive role for the government in guiding the health care sector) but it has been a dominant strand in both administrations' thinking.

The new paleo-liberalism

The philosophy Clinton will outline is essentially a modern-day revival of the old paleoliberal side of this fight. The ideas and people referenced on background clearly reflect the influence of a new set of institutions that have arisen in the 21st century that all aim to push against the hegemony of neoliberal ideas. Key focus points for this paleoliberal revival include the Washington Center on Equitable Growth that Clinton's campaign chair John Podesta founded in 2013 (and where, full disclosure, my wife used to work), the Roosevelt Institute, and George Soros's Institute for New Economic Thinking.

These groups promote concepts that we can expect to see Clinton embrace but that reverse the neoliberal formula of her husband's administration:

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The government should take an active role in writing economic rules that promote high wages, rather than relying on taxes and transfer payments.

Financial markets do a poor job of guiding private sector investment (she will frame this as a critique of short-term thinking).

Increasing educational attainment is an inadequate strategy for curbing inequality.

Clinton intends to bring this all together under the idea that high levels of inequality reduce the rate of economic growth rather than being an inevitable result of growth-friendly policies, technology, and globalization.

Conceptually, this sets Clinton up for a much more vigorous regulatory approach than either the Obama or (especially) Clinton administrations took. One that is much less worried that rules that reduce business profits will also reduce investment and growth, and one that is much friendlier to the idea that strong labor unions are not only compatible with but arguably necessary for rapid economic growth.

What does it mean?

Politics is more about concrete policy choices than abstract philosophy, and thus far we've seen relatively little indication of how Clinton would deliver on these ideas in a concrete way that differs from her predecessors.

Joining the Congressional Democratic backlash against the Trans-Pacific Partnership would have been one way to do that, but it's a step she rather pointedly declined to take. Nor has she embraced liberals' call to expand Social Security and she's been somewhat cagey about whether or not she endorses the movement for a $15-an-hour minimum wage. She certainly hasn't joined Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley in calling for a break up of Wall Street's biggest banks.

Many veterans of the intra-Democratic clash on economic policy doubt the sincerity of Clinton's moves to join their camp. Ironically, the fact that leading neoliberals like Larry Summers are now singing from a more paleo-liberal songbook gives the old-time paleoliberals heartburn. They see a ploy by their old rivals to bend with the wind rather than breaking so as to retain control over the highest levels of the Democratic Party. Clinton's team is explicitly intending to stay abstract initially. Rather than a laundry-list of policy initiatives, they want to paint a broad vision that they then fill out over time. Only when that happens will we really get a sense of how much Clinton intends a break with the past.

Hillary Clinton dodges left and jabs right **// CNN // Jeff Zeleny and Eric Bradner – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton squarely took aim at her biggest rivals on Monday during the first policy speech of her campaign, directly calling them by name as she strives to get Democrats fired up about her candidacy.

The names she uttered spoke volumes: Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Scott Walker.

For all the talk about the need to protect her left flank, she treated the spark of Bernie Sanders like little more than a summer firefly that can be ignored or swatted away.

In her second bid for the presidency, Clinton may not be inspiring the passion of the crowds turning out for Sanders. But she made clear on Monday that she believes the best way to rally Democrats to her side in the primary fight is to present herself as the toughest, most electable candidate for the general election, casting back

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to her husband's economy in order to project forward to her own.

"Under President Clinton," she said, referring to him. "I like the sound of that," she added, smiling at the thought of being in the White House again.

The confidence of her words illustrates that she is comfortable playing the long game and has no intention of being spooked or distracted by any Democratic who are slow to jump on the bandwagon.

Whether it's a risky strategy to underestimate her Democratic opponents won't be known until the winter, when she faces the voters of Iowa and New Hampshire. But for now, at least, Clinton is looking far beyond those early contests to a bigger fight.

Framing 2016 as Democrat vs. Republican

She accused Bush, the former Florida governor, of being out of touch with American workers. She sought to use his own words against him when he said last week in New Hampshire that "people need to work longer hours."

"Well, he must not have met very many American workers," Clinton said. "They don't need a lecture -- they need a raise."

Before she even finished her speech at the New School in Manhattan, Bush had already opened a fundraising drive with her remarks. His aides said she was distorting his words, when he was simply saying there were not enough full-time job opportunities for workers.

While Clinton's policy address was substantive, it was also heavily laced with familiar economic arguments that have framed the Democratic vs. Republican fight for years. She hedged her bets, clearly not sure which Republican candidate would emerge from their crowded primary fight.

She blasted a tax proposal from Rubio, the Florida senator, and said it would cut taxes for families making $3 million a year.

"Well that's a sure budget-busting give-away to the super-wealthy," Clinton said. "And that's the kind of bad economics you're likely to get from any of the candidates on the other side."

And she assailed Walker as "mean-spirited" and "misguided" for his successful effort to curtain unions' rights in Wisconsin, rushing to the defense of Democrats' labor base -- tying its decline to growing inequality, particularly among men.

"Republicans' governors like Scott Walker have made their names stomping on workers' rights," Clinton said. "And practically all the Republican candidates hope to do the same as President."

A new look at policy proposals

The Clinton speech, which came nearly three months to the day since she declared her candidacy, offered one of the most expansive looks yet at her policy proposals.

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It was hardly a fiery stemwinder, but her 45-minute address laid the groundwork for themes she will turn back to again and again in her campaign as she tries to present herself as a fighter for the middle class. It also served as a benchmark for whether she can get through her primary fight without directly drawing distinctions with her Democratic rivals, namely Sanders, who has been strongly embraced by the progressive movement.

Clinton was dodging the left, offering up what liberals have ached to hear from a presidential candidate without delving into details or making firm commitments, while she jabbed the right.

She offered scolding words for Wall Street, saying she would criminally prosecute financial firms and individuals for any wrongdoing.

The comment struck liberal groups -- particularly several that had tried to recruit firebrand Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the race -- because it's further than President Barack Obama's administration was willing to go in the wake of the 2008 economic downturn.

Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist who is a darling of the left and has met with Clinton to talk policy, said her speech shows she understands the need to "fundamentally rewrite the rules" to ensure that "our financial markets work for everyday Americans rather than the short-term interests of CEOs and speculators."

Clinton didn't offer the harsh attacks on corporate America that Sanders has served up for the left, but she did condemn Republicans for claiming they could achieve substantial economic growth rates without also offering policies that would direct that new income toward the middle class.

"Today, as the shadow of crisis recedes and longer-term challenges come into focus, I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," Clinton said. "You can't have one without the other."

As she stood on a stage, flanked by a row of flags, Clinton sent a signal that she would rely on her experience -- and that of the last two Democratic presidential administrations -- but that she would also have to charter her own forward-looking course.

"We're not going to find all the answers we need today in the playbooks of the past," Clinton said. "Today is not 1993 or 2009. We need solutions for the big challenges we face now."

Hillary Clinton's economic pitch: Americans 'need a raise' **// CNN // Eric Bradner – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton pledged to rein in out-of-control financial institutions on Monday as she detailed an economic vision that she said would achieve the "defining economic challenge of our life" of lifting middle-class wages.

The Democratic front-runner lambasted a marketplace she said is too obsessed with second-to-second stock trading and quarterly earnings reports, at the expense of long-term growth and stability.

Clinton even took a veiled shot at President Barack Obama's administration for failing to prosecute individuals for banking crimes in the wake of the 2008 economic downturn.

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She accused hedge funds and high-frequency traders of "criminal behavior," and promised to "prosecute individuals as well as firms" when they break the law -- which liberals have long clamored for, but the Obama administration largely didn't do. She also said she'd seek to expand on the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law designed to prevent future economic crises.

"'Too big to fail' is still too big a problem," Clinton said.

Held at The New School, a university in lower Manhattan, the event was billed as Clinton's first major economic policy speech. She touched a long list of items she'll expound on in additional events over the summer, and included several sections -- including the attack on Wall Street -- that could help blunt the progressive dissatisfaction demonstrated in Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' rapid rise up the Democratic primary polls.

But Clinton didn't mention Sanders at all -- and instead, she went after her potential Republican rivals.

She laced the speech with assaults on three leading GOP presidential candidates: Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for his comment that some Americans should work more hours; Florida Sen. Marco Rubio for a tax plan she said would benefit only the wealthy; and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for battling with labor unions.

Those attacks signaled that Clinton believes her way to winning the Democratic nomination is by proving she's best able to take on Bush and other top Republicans in a general election, rather than locking horns with primary challengers.

"For 35 years, Republicans have argued that if we give more wealth to those at the top by cutting their taxes and letting big corporations write their own rules, it will trickle down -- it will trickle down to everyone else," Clinton said.

Her attack on Bush was the sharpest. Clinton pointed to his comment that some Americans who work in a part-time economy need to take on more hours and said: "They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

She said two Democratic presidents before -- Obama and Bill Clinton -- have been charged with rescuing an economy that GOP presidents left in shambles.

She praised Obama for bailing out the automotive industry and expanding access to health insurance. And she joked about her husband's title, while lauding his record.

"Under President Clinton -- I like the sound of that -- America saw the longest peace-time expansion in our history," Clinton said. "Nearly 23 million jobs, a balanced budget and a surplus for the future. And most importantly, incomes rose across the board, not just for those already at the top."

Clinton's speech was the product of more than 200 meetings between her policy team and a roster of outside advisers that includes economists like Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz. Clinton took many of the meetings herself, aides said.

Drawing on decades of research, Clinton said the evolution of the "gig economy" -- represented by companies like the ride-sharing Uber and housing renter Airbnb, which she made opaque references to without mentioning by name -- and said it has undercut the stability and security that jobs have traditionally offered.

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Clinton said she favors tax reforms that would give companies incentives to share their profits with employees. She pitched an American infrastructure bank, as well as a renewed focus on clean energy and tax relief for small businesses. And she previewed her upcoming policy pitches on child care, paid sick leave and paid family leave.

"Many of these proposals are time-tested and more than a little battle-scarred," she said.

Clinton is attemping to counter what she sees as a conservative-driven narrative in American politics that intervening in the economy on behalf of the middle class stymies job growth.

"That's really not what the weight of economic evidence shows," said Heather Boushey, who has consulted with Clinton's campaign and is the executive director and chief economist at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. "You can't accept a trade-off anymore that doesn't seem to hold water."

Boushey said Clinton is "laying out an agenda that looks at what inequality means for families up and down the income distribution, what we can do to fix it, and it's really exciting to see a politician take up a very serious set of research ideas and bring them into the public debate."

Her policy team is headed by Jake Sullivan, a former top aide to Clinton at the State Department and U.S. negotiator in the Iran nuclear talks, as well as Ann O'Leary and Maya Harris, who both worked at the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

Outside advisers have included a host of liberal economists, former government officials and more. Among them are the Noble Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, top Obama economic policy aides Gene Sperling, Christina Romer, David Kamin and Alan Krueger.

Neera Tanden, a top 2008 Clinton campaign aide and now president of the Center for American Progress, was among the outside advisers, as were former Bill Clinton economist Alan Blinder, and economists Jacob Hacker, Ronnie Chatterji and Boushey.

Clinton to urge firms to expand profit-sharing with workers, in economic address **// Fox – July 13, 2015**

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, in what is billed as a major economic address, plans Monday to urge companies to expand profit-sharing with employees as part of an agenda aimed at boosting middle-class wages.

Clinton is laying out her economic plans after weeks of staying coy on the subject. Though it's unclear whether she'll call for tax increases, a Clinton campaign official said she will urge companies to expand profit-sharing of corporate earnings, pledging changes in the tax code to encourage this. She describes the idea as a "win-win."

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," Clinton said in prepared remarks. "... That will be good for workers and good for business. Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets."

In laying out an economic agenda focused on middle-class earnings, Clinton may also be seeking to recapture the populist energy in the Democratic electorate, which lately has been gravitating toward Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, right now Clinton's biggest challenger.

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Clinton declined in a CNN interview earlier this week to say whether she would raise taxes on big corporations or the country's highest wage-earners, as Sanders has proposed.

"I think we have to grow the economy faster and fairer," she said. "So we have to do what will actually work in the short term, the medium term and the long term. ... then, I'll look forward to the debate."

While top-tier Republican candidate and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has called for an annual growth rate of 4 percent, Clinton will assert that the nation's economy should not be judged by a specific growth figure but rather by how much income increases for middle-class households.

"For a typical working American, their income has not been rising anywhere near as fast as it should be rising, and that is the challenge we face," said David Kamin, a New York University law professor who has advised Clinton's campaign. "It's not a new problem, and it's going to take a holistic vision."

The Clinton campaign said the former first lady and New York senator in her speech at The New School, a university in New York City, will point to economic progress during her husband's two terms in the 1990s and more recently under President Obama.

But she will aim to identify ways of improving upon the uneven nature of the nation's recovery since the Great Recession, bolstering wages even as the unemployment rate has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.3 percent.

Clinton is also expected to begin outlining a series of specific economic proposals this summer on issues like wage growth, college affordability, corporate accountability and paid leave.

In Clinton's approach to the economy, more Americans would share in the prosperity and avoid the boom-and-bust cycles of Wall Street that have led to economic turbulence of the past decade.

Clinton, who is seeking to become the nation's first female president, is also expected to address ways of making it easier for women to join the workforce.

Clinton will attempt to meet the demands of liberals within her own party who are wary of her willingness to regulate Wall Street while inspiring confidence among a larger electorate who will judge her policies if she wins the Democratic nomination.

Hillary Clinton's 'new' economic agenda shouldn't fool anyone. It's just recycled rhetoric that hasn't worked // Fox // Stephen Moore – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton will attempt to reinvent herself for the umpteenth time on Monday when she releases her "new" economic agenda for the working class. Except that from what the Clinton team released over the weekend this is not much more than the leftovers from Obamanomics -- and that hasn't worked out so well for middle America.

Let's see: she wants more infrastructure spending, higher taxes on the foreign earnings of U.S. Corporations and hedge fund managers, a higher minimum wage, new rules to make it easier to form unions (card check), more child care subsidies, expanded paid medical leave for workers, and renewable energy subsidies.

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Sound familiar? It's more taxes, more regulatory burdens on employers, the green agenda, more government spending paid for with debt. One looks at the list of leftist wish list priorities from yesteryear and wonders: Hillary, is this thin grool really all you got?

There aren't even hints of her husband's New Democrat agenda that generated growth and reform of government. The free trade, welfare reform, balanced budget, middle class tax cuts, sound money New Democrat agenda has vanished.

Sadly, Ms. Clinton is slamming the door on the successful centrist agenda of her husband and perhaps for good. Why? Because her political challenger Vermont Independent Senator Bernie Sanders, an avowed socialist, is pulling Hillary and the party in her direction. What's next from Hillary, a call for 70 percent tax rates?

Here's Hillary's unavoidable dilemma: her theme is to advance economic policies that benefit "everyday Americans." But the leftist Obamanomics 2.0 agenda she will announce Monday has been tried for six and a half years now. She says the key to economic progress is not the 4 percent growth that Jeb Bush and other Republicans are pushing, but middle class raises. But under Obama the middle class has gotten pummeled. Middle class household incomes are lower today adjusted for inflation than when the recovery started. Inequality has risen, not fallen under these redistribution policies.

Meanwhile, every poll shows the middle class is angry and anxious about the pint-sized economic recovery and the prospects for achieving the American Dream for their children. Hillary's betting that she can win on an agenda of more of the same when the nation is hungry for a new direction.

Pitifully, Hillary won't -- or politically can't -- advance a genuine agenda of new ideas inside today's demented Democratic party dominated by the progressive left. They won't let her move in a centrist direction. So much for hope and change.

So with Hillary's cupboard is bare when it comes to fixing the economy, Republicans need to respond to the let's vast policy wasteland with a robust platform of reforms to government -- health care, taxes, entitlements, the regulatory state, the IRS, 21st century America-first energy, and a war against waste and Washington incompetence. If they do, they have a good shot of winning back the White House in 2016.

Hillary Clinton unveils her vision for the economy // CBS // Rebecca Kaplan and Steve Chaggaris – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton unveiled her vision for the economy Monday, placing her focus squarely on boosting the middle class through a three-part plan to create jobs, reduce income inequality and hold financial institutions more accountable.

"Previous generations of Americans built the greatest economy and strongest middle class the world has ever known on the promise of a basic bargain: if you work hard and do your part, you should be able to get ahead," she said in a speech at the New School, a progressive university in New York City. "But over the past several decades, that bargain has eroded. Our job is to make it strong again."

Clinton, in the first major economic policy speech of her campaign, proposed expanding the workforce, especially for women, through both private and public investments, better benefits and lower healthcare costs for workers, and a reformed, more balanced tax code. Her goal, she said, was to create more "pathways" into the middle class.

"The defining challenge of our time is clear," she said. "We must raise incomes for hard working Americans so they can afford a middle class life."

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Clinton drew a stark comparison with her counterparts on the Republican side of the race. She took aim first at Jeb Bush, who Clinton pounced on last week for saying that "people need to work longer hours" in an interview with the New Hampshire Union Leader.

"Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day, or the teacher who in that classroom or the trucker who drives all night," she said. "They do not need a lecture, they need a raise."

But Bush was not talking about the work ethic of Americans. In a press conference with reporters after a town hall in Hudson, New Hampshire, he said that his words had been "taken out of context" and that he was referring to the need for people to have the opportunity for full-time work.

John Dickerson's field notes: When the race ends, will political dynasties become allies?

"If we're going to grow the economy people need to stop being part-time workers, they need to have access to greater opportunities to work," Bush said.

Clinton went on to attack by name Sen. Marco Rubio on his tax reform plan, calling it "bad economics" to cut taxes for the wealthy, and Gov. Scott Walker, whom she said has "made [his] name stomping on workers' rights." Walker will formally enter the race Monday night in Waukesha, Wisconsin, the site of his 2012 recall election victory.

Five things to know about Scott Walker

"I will fight back against these mean-spirited attacks," she said.

Though Clinton made Republicans her main foil as she laid out her plans, she also differentiated herself from Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who has recently been gaining on her in the polls. Sanders' arguments for promoting economic fairness -- in part by reducing the amount of wealth going to the richest Americans -- are helping him to draw crowds numbering in the thousands at his campaign rallies.

Sanders' definition of the "defining challenge" is different from Clinton's. He uses the phrase to describe the wealth gap between poor and working Americans and the wealthy and said in an interview with the Washington Post that he would sacrifice economic growth in favor of redistribution. Though narrowing that gap is part of the plan she described Monday, Clinton distinguished herself from Sanders by emphasizing that the middle class must rise along with corporate profits and executive compensation.

States where minimum wage covers the rent

Clinton proposed measures like raising the minimum wage and investing in an infrastructure bank to create jobs, both which Sanders also supports, but also talked about immigration as an "engine of strong growth" and called on companies to expand profit-sharing programs. And while Sanders has called definitively for a breakup of the big banks, Clinton introduced a more nuanced plan to regulate the financial industry.

"We have to go beyond Dodd-Frank," she said. "Too-big-to-fail is still too big of a problem."

Clinton said major financial institutions today are still "too complex" and that a "shadow banking system" of hedge funds and high frequency trading is creating new threats to American consumers.

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"While institutions have paid large fines and in some cases, admitted guilt, too often it has seemed that the human beings responsible get off with limited consequences or none at all," she said. "This is wrong and under my watch, it will change."

Clinton laid the groundwork for a separate policy speech on Wall Street reform, as well as a series of more specific announcements in the coming weeks on other economic policies like wage growth, college affordability and paid leave. Clinton will travel to New Hampshire later this week, where she is expected to talk more about incentives to encourage corporate profit-sharing.

Hillary Clinton Focuses On Middle-Class Wages In Sweeping Economic Policy Speech // HuffPo // Samantha Lachman – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton focused on the problem of stagnant middle-class wages on Monday in the first major economic policy speech of her presidential campaign.

In sweeping remarks at the progressive New School in New York City, the Democratic candidate said that higher wages are driven by strong, fair and long-term growth, offering policy proposals that fit into each of those three categories. Clinton praised the policies pursued by President Barack Obama, but suggested that more needs to be done to help middle-class families. Her message echoed themes espoused by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who has made her mark on the Democratic Party by arguing that the economy is rigged against the middle class.

Clinton's speech also name-checked three of the leading Republican presidential hopefuls -- former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio -- and criticized their economic philosophies.

At the beginning of her address, Clinton suggested that the economy is "not delivering the way that it should" for the middle class.

"It still seems to most Americans that I have spoken with that it is stacked for those at the top," Clinton said, criticizing the concept of trickle-down economics for concentrating wealth at the top while leaving middle- and lower-income Americans with less.

"Twice now a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess left behind," she said, praising the economic records of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and Obama. "We have to build a growth and fairness economy -- you can't have one without the other."

Though Clinton lauded Obama for saving the automobile industry, proposing new rules for overtime pay and passing the Dodd-Frank and Affordable Care Acts, the crux of the speech was that other policies that could further boost paychecks have yet to be enacted.

"The defining economic challenge of our time is clear: We must raise incomes for hardworking Americans so they can afford a middle-class life," Clinton said. "We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country."

Progressives have criticized the former secretary of state for not coming out against the Trans-Pacific Partnership being pushed by the Obama administration. While Monday's speech did not add to the remarks Clinton has already made on the subject, she did say that the expansion in global trade has hollowed out America's manufacturing industry. She added that the United States needs to "set a high bar for trade agreements" but also

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"be prepared to walk away" if the agreements don't meet the administration's standards.

The speech also called out large corporations for focusing on "short-termism" rather than long-term investments. While Clinton talked about the public investments she'd make -- in infrastructure, faster broadband networks, renewable energy, and scientific and medical research -- she also said corporations could do more on their end.

"Many business leaders see this. They've talked to me about. One has called it the problem of 'quarterly capitalism,'" she said. "They say everything's focused on the next earnings report or the short-term share price. The result is too little attention on the sources of long-term growth: research and development, physical capital, and talent."

Clinton said she'd support an apprenticeship tax credit as an incentive for companies to hire and train new workers.

"I'm not talking about charity – I'm talking about clear-eyed capitalism," she explained. "Many companies have prospered by improving wages and training their workers that then yield higher productivity, better service, and larger profits ... Workers are assets. Investing in them pays off. Higher wages pay off. And training pays off."

Clinton decried the decline in women's labor force participation compared to other developed nations, and said she'd work to reduce barriers to women entering the workforce by fighting for affordable childcare, equal pay for equal work and paid leave.

"These challenges have been dismissed as 'women's issues' -- that day is over," Clinton said.

In the section dedicated to "fair growth," Clinton pledged to defend "and enhance" Social Security and to protect Obama's health care law while working to reduce out-of-pocket costs. She also alluded to companies like Uber, saying she'd crack down on businesses that classify their workers as independent contractors in order to avoid providing benefits.

"This 'on demand' or so-called 'gig economy' is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future," she said.

Clinton took the opportunity to criticize Bush, who said last week that Americans need to work longer hours, by saying that Americans need a raise rather than a lecture. (Bush later said that he had really been talking about involuntary part-time workers.) She also called Rubio's economic proposals a "budget-busting giveaway to the super-wealthy."

But she reserved even more condemnation for Walker's fights against unions in Wisconsin, suggesting that Republican governors like him had made their name "stomping on workers' rights."

"It's time to stand up to efforts across our country to undermine worker bargaining power, which has been proven again and again to drive up wages," Clinton said. "I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks."

Addressing the issue of financial regulation, Clinton said "we have to go beyond Dodd-Frank" to impose additional protections on high-risk trading and hedge funds, while getting more serious about accountability for those institutions on Wall Street that break the law.

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Clinton's comments about financial institutions appeared to target progressive voters who may worry that her economic policies would resemble the deregulatory push undertaken by her husband in the 1990s. The proposals she outlined also aimed to defend her left flank against her two leading Democratic primary challengers, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

But the O'Malley campaign insists that its proposals are more developed than Clinton's.

“Rebuilding the American Dream will take more than vague promises," said Lis Smith, O’Malley's deputy campaign manager, in a statement following Clinton's speech. "That’s why Governor O’Malley has set bold, progressive, and specific goals to make our economy work for more Americans."

In a lighter moment on Monday, Clinton said she's guessed that her granddaughter Charlotte's first word will be "enough" because she's been read to incessantly. The quip came while Clinton was emphasizing that she'd press for universal pre-school and support other early childhood education efforts.

And in a tease of a proposal she said she'd develop more in a New Hampshire campaign stop Thursday, Clinton said that she'd back company profit-sharing, calling the proposal a "win-win" for employers and employees.

"Hardworking Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," she explained. "So I will propose ways to encourage companies to share profits with their employees. That will be good for workers and good for business. Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets."

Hillary Clinton: Wage Growth Is The “Defining” Economic Problem Today // BuzzFeed // Ruby Cramer – July 13, 2015

In a wide-ranging speech on the economy — the first of her campaign — Hillary Clinton cast wage stagnation as the “defining” challenge for America’s next president, and outlined as the solution an extensive, diverse set of proposals to encourage “growth and fairness,” raise the minimum wage, cut taxes for the middle-class, lift them on the wealthy, and strengthen working families by implementing policies for paid leave, equal pay for women, and earned sick days.

“We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so that they can afford a middle class life,” Clinton said. Lifting wages, she told the crowd, will be “my mission from my first day as president to the last.”

Clinton, now three months into the race for the Democratic nomination, spoke for about an hour on Monday at the New School in New York City on a broad array of topics, promising to deliver more specific proposals in the coming weeks.

She will, for instance, make more detailed remarks on her ideas for tax code simplification, college affordability, profit-sharing, and paid leave.

About 200 people attended the speech. A mix of surrogates, supporters, and donors, could also be spotted throughout the auditorium, including Van Jones, the pundit and liberal advocate, and Tom Nides, the Morgan Stanley executive and former State Department official. (The campaign’s finance director, Dennis Cheng, also greeted guests in the lobby before the speech began.)

The speech Monday was put together following a months-long period of outreach to more than 200 domestic

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policy experts, according to the campaign. Outside advisers included Neera Tanden, the head of the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank closely aligned with the campaign, as well as former administration advisers such as Gene Sperling and Alan Blinder.

Clinton touched on some topics more broadly than others: One of her more oblique references was to the so-called "gig economy," and the rise of companies like Uber, which has embodied a long-term shift toward freelance and contract work.

The industry, she acknowledged, has created "exciting opportunities" and unleashed "innovation." But Clinton also said the companies have raised "hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like."

She concluded that these and other "technological advances" influencing the economy were not "going away" anytime soon. "But they don't determine our destiny," Clinton said. "The choices we make as a nation matter."

The speech on Monday, details aside, was framed as a sweeping roadmap for Clinton's economic vision and an overview of her differences with Republicans, three of whom she mentioned by name: Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker.

"For 35 years, Republicans have argued that if we give more wealth to those at the top," Clinton said, "it will trickle down to everyone else. Yet every time they have a chance to try that approach, it explodes the national debt, concentrates wealth even more and does practically nothing to help hard-working Americas."

Her proposals did not differ drastically with those already outlined by Martin O'Malley, the former governor of Maryland, and Bernie Sanders, the U.S. senator from Vermont — two Democratic competitors who have made tough rhetoric on Wall Street and income inequality the central piece of their campaigns.

Her administration, Clinton said, would appoint regulators who believe "too big to fail is still too big a problem." In a comment that was seen as a contrast with a more passive approach by President Obama, Clinton promised to "prosecute individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud or other wrongdoing."

She added that problems of inequality "are not limited to the big banks that get all the headlines," describing a "shadow banking system" of hedge funds, high-frequency traders, and other new entities that "see little oversight at all."

Clinton received an initial positive response to the speech from progressive groups that have cast Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts as a liberal benchmark.

Democracy for America — a group that until earlier this summer was waging a draft movement to recruit Warren into the race — released a statement praising the speech as consistent with the Massachusetts senator and her economic priorities.

The remarks reflect a "clear understanding that the Democratic Party and the vast majority of the American people want a president who will fight alongside [Warren] and refuse to kowtow to wealthy and powerful interests," said Jim Dean, the chair of Democracy for America, which has not formally endorsed a candidate.

But just as Clinton was closing her speech, one unhappy protestor presented a jarring interruption, yelling repeatedly, "Will you restore Glass Steagall?"

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Clinton did not answer the question.

Hillary Channels Her Inner Springsteen **// Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – July 13, 2015**

"Maybe it's the grandmother in me," Hillary Clinton said Monday, "but I believe that part of public service is planting trees under whose shade you'll never sit."

The line, which can be attributed to a Canadian farmer named Nelson Henderson, came toward the end of Clinton's economic address at The New School in Manhattan, but it neatly summarizes the entirety of her agenda.

It's when Clinton is describing big-picture policies that she sounds most at ease. But when it comes to Hopes and Dreams and Everyday Americans, she sounds like latter-day Bruce Springsteen.

On his 2009 album Working on a Dream he sang of the "Queen of the Supermarket" who bags his groceries amid the "aisles and aisles of dreams." You get the feeling, listening to the song, that Springsteen, however noble his intention to pay tribute to the average worker, has probably not set foot in a supermarket in a very, very long time.

Likewise Clinton uneasily meditated on the plight of "the single mom" but it wasn't clear if this was one particular mom or a composite of many moms or just the proverbial single mom, or "the grandmother" who provides child care but can't live on her paycheck, or "the young entrepreneur" who wants to buy a bowling alley, or the "millions of hardworking Americans [who] tell similar stories."

In preparation for today's speech, Clinton and her aides reportedly spent months consulting with over 200 domestic policy advisers, including Neera Tanden, an adviser for her 2008 White House bid, and two former Obama Administration aides: Christina Romer and Jared Bernstein.

Standing in front of 12 American flags at a Hillaryclinton.com-stamped lectern, Clinton spent 45 minutes making a series of ambitious policy promises to the packed West Village auditorium: higher incomes for the middle class through a change to the tax code to incentivize companies to "share profits with their employees"; the appointment of harsher bank regulators; "breaking down barriers" to get more Americans—"especially women"—into the workforce; increased investment in clean renewable energy; "comprehensive immigration reform"; and the reining in of "excessive risks on Wall Street."

Clinton uneasily meditated on the plight of "the single mom" who she talked to, but it wasn't clear if this was one particular mom or a composite of many moms or just a proverbial single mom.

Clinton's economic philosophy is preventive rather than prescriptive.

She criticized short-term fixes for financial woes and decried a business environment which emphasizes end-of-quarter numbers rather than overall health.

Clinton focused her fire at the Republican field, hitting Marco Rubio, Scott Walker, and Jeb Bush by name, and tearing into trickle-down policies which, she claimed, have consistently led to disasters that Democrats, including her husband, have been forced to bail the country out of. Her Democratic rivals went unacknowledged, but traces of their influence were everywhere.

She borrowed the Howard Beale rallying cries of Elizabeth Warren and her left-wing primary rival Bernie Sanders,

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but adapted them to fit her tamer message. (In May, when The New Yorker asked Warren if Clinton was co-opting her message, Warren responded, “Eh.”)

Whereas Warren declares “the game rigged,” Clinton said (as she has since her April announcement) that families feel “the deck is stacked.”

And the Sanders line, “If a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist,” was edited to say the regulators she appoints will “understand that too big to fail is still too big a problem.”

Warren and Sanders have called for jail time for big bank CEOs who helped cause the financial crisis. Clinton tiptoed up to that line and then ran away scared.

“While institutions have paid large fines and, in some cases, admitted guilt,” Clinton said, “too often it has seemed that the human beings responsible get off with limited consequences or none at all, even when they’ve already pocketed the gains.” She continued, “This is wrong, and on my watch it will change.” How? She didn’t say, instead promising, as another Democratic Martin O’Malley did last week, that she would “rein in” Wall Street. “Over the course of this campaign,” she said, “I will offer plans to rein in excessive risks on Wall Street and ensure that stock markets work for everyday investors, not just high-frequency traders and those with the best or fastest connections.”

The Numbers Behind Hillary Clinton’s Economic Vision // Five Thirty Eight // Ben Casselman and Andrew Flowers – July 13, 2015

There was a single thread running through Hillary Clinton’s big economics speech on Monday: the importance of raising wages for working Americans. That’s no coincidence: The six-year-old economic recovery has succeeded in restoring corporate profits and creating jobs, but it hasn’t brought pay raises for many workers. Wage growth is running ahead of inflation, but it remains low and hasn’t accelerated as the economy as a whole has improved. And as Clinton stressed throughout her speech, many of those problems predate the recession, suggesting deeper structural challenges in the U.S. economy.

“The defining economic challenge of our time is clear,” Clinton said in a speech at New York City’s New School. “We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans, so they can afford a middle-class life. We must drive steady income growth that lifts up families, and lifts up our country.”

Clinton’s speech was light on specific proposals — those will arrive in coming weeks, according to her campaign — but it nonetheless represented one of the most comprehensive economic policy visions articulated to date by any of the major presidential candidates.

Many of Clinton’s themes will sound familiar to anyone who’s been listening to President Obama over the past eight years. She wants to boost incomes for the middle class, raise taxes on the wealthy and make it easier for parents to juggle work and family. But she also highlighted issues that haven’t been as central to Obama’s message, such as encouraging companies to share more of their profits with workers.

Clinton wasn’t shy about criticizing leading Republican candidates, calling out Jeb Bush, Scott Walker and Marco Rubio by name. Notably absent from her speech, however, was any reference to her opponents for the Democratic nomination, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley. But Clinton’s focus on inequality and wages, along with her criticism of Wall Street and measured skepticism of free trade agreements, was no doubt partly intended to shore up support among the liberal wing of her party.

Here are a few key passages from Clinton’s speech, along with some context and analysis. (Quotes are from a preliminary transcript.)

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Previous generations of Americans built the greatest economy and strongest middle class the world has ever known on the promise of a basic bargain: If you work hard and do your part, you should be able to get ahead. And when you get ahead, America gets ahead. But over the past several decades, that bargain has eroded.

The core of Clinton's message is that middle-class incomes have stagnated in recent years, not just during the recession and its aftermath but even during better economic times. That's true, though the middle class's struggles are sometimes exaggerated.

The typical (median) U.S. household earned just less than $52,000 before taxes in 2013, the latest year for which full data is available. Adjusting for inflation, that's less than in 1989, suggesting that the middle class has experienced two and a half decades of income stagnation.

Reality isn't quite that grim. The Census Bureau's income statistics don't account for the fact that the typical American household is smaller today than it was 25 years ago. That's a big deal because a single person living on $50,000 has a much higher standard of living than a family of six trying to squeeze by on the same amount. Adjust for household size, and incomes are up significantly since the late 1980s.

Even adjusting for household size, however, median income has been more or less stagnant since 2000. Some economists propose other adjustments to the census figures, such as using a different measure of inflation and looking at after-tax rather than pre-tax income. But while the exact figures are in dispute, the overall trend is not: Income growth has been far slower since 2000 than in the decades before.

The measure of our success must be how much incomes rise for hard-working families, not just for successful CEOs and money managers and not just some arbitrary growth targets untethered to people's lives and livelihoods.

Clinton didn't mention him by name until later in her speech, but there's little doubt this line was intended as a shot at former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, one of the leading candidates on the Republican side of the campaign. Bush has pledged to deliver a 4 percent annual growth rate, which he has argued is the best way to help the middle class.

Clinton says economic growth alone doesn't necessarily translate into more money for the middle class. There's evidence to back that up: In recent decades, the share of national income that goes to workers has fallen while the share going to corporate profits has risen. Taken at face value, the numbers mean workers aren't benefiting as much from economic growth as they used to.

Some economists, however, have recently questionedwhether workers' piece of the economic pie has shrunk as much as the official figures show, though they don't dispute that the so-called labor share fell significantly during the recession. Moreover, even if the long-term decline is real, it has been a global phenomenon, affecting virtually the entire developed world, including many countries with very different economic systems than the U.S.'s. That raises questions about whether Clinton — or any president — could do much to reverse the trend.

It's also worth noting that the one recent period when the labor share clearly rose was in the late 1990s, which was also the last time economic growth exceeded 4 percent for an extended period. That doesn't guarantee a repeat performance, but it does hint that a period of particularly strong growth can have benefits for workers up and down the earnings spectrum. (The late 1990s were also, of course, the last time a president named Clinton was in office.)

We also have to invest in our students and our teachers at every level, and in the coming weeks and months, I will lay out specific steps to improve our schools, make college truly affordable and help Americans refinance their student debt.

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This was nearly the only reference to college in Clinton's speech, which might seem surprising given her focus on income: For decades, Democrats have stressed expanding access to college as a key way to reduce income inequality and expand the middle class.

On an individual level, there's little doubt that going to college remains the clearest pathway to a good job: Theunemployment rate for college graduates was 2.5 percent in June, compared with 5.4 percent for those with only a high school diploma. The typical young bachelor's degree holder in 2013 earned two-thirds more than the typical high school graduate, and one-third more than the typical worker with an associate degree, according to census data.

But while a college education can clearly improve an individual's job prospects, some economists — including many on the left — argue that education can't do much to reduce inequality in the country as a whole. As more and more Americans go to college, the supply of college graduates has grown; more than 35 percent of Americans ages 25 to 34 now have at least a bachelor's degree, up from less than 10 percent 30 years ago. That's fine as long as employers keep needing more college-educated workers, but recent research suggests that demand for college graduates has leveled off or is even declining. Perhaps as a result, the college-wage premium — how much more college graduates earn than nongraduates — has stopped rising.

The movement of women into the American workforce over the past 40 years was responsible for more than $3.5 trillion in economic growth. But that progress has stalled.

Another major plank of Clinton's economic plan is offering families, and working mothers in particular, family-friendly policies like paid parental leave. Compared with most wealthy nations, the U.S. offers workers less paid (and unpaid) parental leave. According to a 2008 analysis by the left-leaning Center for Economic and Policy Research, the U.S. ranks 20th out of 21 wealthy countries in offering two-parent families a combined 24 weeks of *unpaid* parental leave — and that is only for the 60 percent of workers covered through the Family and Medical Leave Act. Currently, only 12 percent of Americans get *paid* parental leave through their job, and predictably those benefits are more common for higher-income people.

Clinton argued that in addition to promoting fairness, expanding paid parental leave can have serious economic benefits. One way these policies could affect the economy as a whole is by helping to reverse the troubling long-term decline in the share of the population that's participating in the labor force. The so-called labor force participation rate — the share of the population that's either working or actively looking for work — has been falling for years and stands at its lowest level since the late 1970s. The decline poses a major economic challenge because it leaves fewer workers to support the nonworking population.

The drop has been particularly pronounced among men, whose participation rate has been falling for decades. But just as important has been the leveling off and then eventual decline in participation among women. Female labor force participation peaked at about 60 percent in 2000 and has been falling ever since. The U.S., which once had one of the highest female labor force participation rates in the world, according to data from the OECD, now ranks below Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia and a bunch of other countries.

Liberal economists, including those on Clinton's team, have long argued that the U.S. could help more women work if it offered more generous family benefits. Research estimates that the U.S.'s stingier parental leave policies explain about 30 percent of its relatively low female labor-force participation rate. Some states have already instituted family-friendly policies similar to those outlined in Clinton's speech. California, Rhode Island and New Jerseyfund insurance programs that provide four to six weeks of paid family care leave. Advocates for paid parental leave policies also cite other economic benefits, such as reduced employee turnover.

Today's marketplace focuses too much on the short-term, like second-to-second financial trading and quarterly earnings reports, and too little on long-term investments.

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Clinton sketched out several ideas for reforming corporate America. She advocated for profit-sharing policies, which offer workers an ownership piece in the company they work for, with the goal to boost worker productivity and to distribute the company's stock gains more evenly. Clinton said "studies show that profit sharing that gives everyone a stake in the company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets." In a speech later this week in New Hampshire, she will have more to say on this issue.

Clinton also decried "quarterly capitalism," or the short-termism of corporate America. Citing the declining rates of business investment in things like factories and research labs and the explosion of share buybacks and dividends, she pledged to better align corporate decisions for long-term growth. But she didn't say how she would do that. Some potential policies can be found in a report published by the left-leaning (and Clinton-allied) Center for American Progress earlier this year. To encourage more long-term thinking by executives, the report proposed lengthening the time before executive stock options are fully vested, and limiting how many options executives can exercise. Clinton suggested other reforms that would affect corporate America, including the Buffett rule — named after billionaire Warren Buffett — that would institute a minimum tax of 30 percent on those making more than $1 million a year. She also proposed closing the carried-interest loophole, which allows those who make a bulk of their income from capital gains (such as hedge fund managers) to pay a lower overall tax rate.

Small businesses create more than 60 percent of new American jobs on net, so they have to be a top priority. I've said I want to be the small-business president, and I mean it. And throughout this campaign, I'm going to be talking about how we empower entrepreneurs with less red tape, easier access to capital, tax relief and simplification.

Politicians love to talk about the importance of small businesses, but economic research has found that the real drivers of job growth aren't small businesses but new businesses: Fast-growing startups account for a disproportionate share of hiring. New companies are also key sources of innovation and productivity gains.

But entrepreneurship in the U.S. is in trouble. The rate at which Americans start new businesses has been falling for 30 years, a decline that cuts across industries and geographies. The trend may be surprising given the buzz around Uber, Airbnb and other high-profile Silicon Valley startups. But for all the talk of "disruption," data from multiple sources suggests that the American economy has become more comfortable for big incumbent businessesand less hospitable to entrepreneurs.

Clinton's pledge to cut red tape and provide easier access to capital could just as easily have come from a speech from one of her Republican opponents. But the truth is economists aren't sure what's behind the decline in startups, which makes it hard to develop policies to combat it.

Talent is universal; you find it everywhere. But opportunity is not. There are nearly 6 million young people aged 16 to 24 in America today who are not in school or at work. The numbers for young people of color are particularly staggering. A quarter of young black men and nearly 15 percent of all Latino youth cannot find a job.

Clinton's decision to highlight young people who are neither working nor in school is notable because it's an economic measure that tends to get relatively little attention in the U.S. In Europe, the concept is so widely discussed that even mainstream news outlets routinely refer to "NEETs," short for "not in employment, education or training." In some European countries such as Greece and Italy, more than 30 percent of people ages 20 to 24 are NEETs.

The problem isn't nearly as severe in the U.S., but it is still significant. Nearly 19 percent of American 20- to 24-year-olds were neither working nor in school in 2013, according to OECD data. That's little better than in the worst of the recession and is up from 15.5 percent in 2005. And as Clinton said, the numbers are far worse for many minority groups. OECD doesn't break down its data by race, but according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 22 percent of black men ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor working, compared with 16 percent of all Americans in that age group.

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Hours after Hillary Clinton vowed to crack down on Wall Street, an adviser said she has no plans to push a bank break-up bill beloved by the left.

Alan Blinder, a former Federal Reserve official now advising the Clinton campaign, told Reuters Monday that she has no plans to push for the return of a banking law that separates commercial and investment banks.

Liberals frequently argue that the Glass-Steagall Act, whose repeal was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, would have helped minimize the damage of the last financial crisis. But Blinder, who worked in the Clinton White House as well, said that is not in the cards for Hillary Clinton.

“You’re not going to see Glass-Steagall,” he said, adding that he had spoken directly to Clinton about the issue.

That law separated traditional banking activity from riskier investment banking, and its proponents argue it if it had stayed in place, the fallout from the last financial crisis would have been much less severe.

Liberal critics of Wall Street frequently call for a return to that firewall, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) proposed its reinstatement earlier this month.

During a major economic speech Monday, Hillary Clinton was actually interrupted by a heckler calling on her to reinstate the law.

But former President Clinton has argued against such calls, pointing out that the banks that collapsed would not have been altered by Glass-Steagall, and bristled at claims his administration was too friendly to the financial sector.

In a lengthy economic address in New York, Hillary Clinton laid out her economic platform as a presidential candidate, and included a lengthy section vowing tough rules for Wall Street.

She said Washington must “go beyond” the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, calling banks “still too complex and too risky.” She vowed to prosecute banks and bankers that break the law, as well as appoint tough regulators that would crack down on “too big to fail” financial institutions.

On matters like banker prosecutions, Clinton sounded similar to Warren, the left’s most prominent voice on financial matters. But when it comes to Glass-Steagall, it appears the two differ.

Clinton to Bush: Workers need raise, not lecture **// The Hill // Ben Kamisar – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton rebuked her Republican presidential rival Jeb Bush on Monday for his assertion that Americans need to work longer hours.

“Let him tell that to the nurse that stands on her feet all day, or the teacher who is in the classroom, or the trucker that drives all night,” she said Monday during an economic speech in New York City.

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"They don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

Bush received widespread criticism from Democrats after comments last week that Americans "need to work longer hours," a comment his campaign later clarified meant to highlight the lack of full-time job opportunities in the current economic landscape.

Clinton zeroed in on the line as symptomatic of the nation's deep inequality. She panned inequality as a main "drag" on the economy and chided the GOP for relying on "trickle-down economics."

She also targeted two other GOP candidates: Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Gov. Scott Walker (Wis.), who officially announced his campaign on Monday.

Clinton called Rubio's tax plan, which she argues would cut taxes for households making $3 million a year by almost $240,000, as a "budget-busting giveaway."

And while linking the dwindling power of labor unions to a rise in inequality, she bashed Walker for making his name on "stomping on workers' rights" and promised to push back against the "mean-spirited, misguided attacks."

Bush's supporters have raked in more than $100 million for his super PAC in the hopes of countering Clinton's vast fundraising networks. And conservatives are bullish on Walker and Rubio's chances against her as well.

Clinton's broad economic speech included a widespread list of proposals including banking reform, profit-sharing for businesses and domestic policy reform that she framed as essential to jump-starting the American economy.

GOP field knocks Clinton on sharing economy // The Hill // Mario Trujillo – July 13, 2015

Republican presidential candidates are knocking Hillary Clinton after she delivered a speech claiming the so-called sharing economy, made up of companies such as Uber and Lyft faced "hard questions."

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul came out with the sharpest barb, saying the country "shouldn't take advice on the sharing economy from someone who has been driven around in a limo for 30 years," referring to Clinton's revelation last year that she hadn't driven a car since 1996.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush's (R-Fla.) campaign released a statement saying, "Secretary Clinton's antiquated proposals protect the special interests that want to stifle American ingenuity and 21st Century companies like Uber that are creating jobs."

In her broad economic speech, Clinton keyed in on the "gig economy," cautioning that it raises concerns about workplace protections and said they must take into account the changing business landscape.

Clinton said the measure of success is how much income can be boosted for middle-class families. She alluded to companies like Uber, which is currently the subject of legal challenges from drivers who say they should be treated as employees not just as contractors. She also seemed to reference companies like Airbnb, which allows people to rent out apartments or rooms, and Etsy, an online market for the artists and craftsmen.

"Many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing websites, selling products they design themselves at home, or even driving their own car," she said. "This 'on demand' or so-called 'gig economy' is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future."

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The Internet Association, which represents many of those companies, released a cautious response touting the benefits of the sharing economy.

"The sharing economy empowers people to determine when, where, and how they want to live and work in ways unimaginable just a few years ago," the group said. "It is important to remember that innovation in the sharing economy has led to unprecedented independence, flexibility, and autonomy that expands choices for all Americans."

Veering left, Hillary Clinton puts profit-sharing in economic plan // The Hill // Ben Kamisar – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Monday called wage inequality the "defining economic challenge of our time" as she unveiled a wide-reaching economic platform that veers toward the liberal policies championed by her main rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

"As the shadow of crisis recedes and longer-term challenges come into focus, I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," Clinton said at The New School in New York City.

"You can't have one without the other. We can't create enough jobs and new businesses without more growth."

Clinton's 40-minute speech provided the clearest look yet at the economic proposals she plans to champion while running for the White House. The expansive address — delivered the day before she visits Capitol Hill to meet with Democrats — included a litany of specific plans that she said would boost economic growth and help reduce income inequality.

One of the most attention-grabbing proposals was a call for encouraging businesses to share their profits with employees. She said she would say more about that plan in New Hampshire on Thursday, but said the idea would involve a change to the tax code.

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," Clinton said.

"That will be good for workers and good for business. Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets."

Clinton's focus on economics come as her primary opponent in the Democratic race, Sanders, continues to draw strong crowds.

While Clinton still holds a mammoth polling edge over Sanders, he's been gaining ground. But while Clinton criticized a group of top Republican challengers in the speech on Monday, she steered clear of mentioning Sanders.

Hillary Clinton's Big Economic Speech Abridged to 500 Words // Mother Jones // Kevin Drum – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton gave her big economic speech today. As is my wont, I plowed through the transcript and excerpted only those parts that are actual policy proposals. This is sometimes a judgment call, but I think I got most of them. I didn't include any vague prescriptions that she promised to explain in detail in later speeches.

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By my count, Hillary's laundry list includes 26 specific proposals, some with more detail than others. Not bad, even for a Clinton. So for those of you who aren't interested in the blah blah blah, and just want the meat, here's the Reader's Digest version of the speech, condensed to about two minutes of reading time.

Let me begin with strong growth.

....Empower entrepreneurs with less red tape, easier access to capital, tax relief and simplification.... business tax reform to spur investment in America, closing those loopholes that reward companies for sending jobs and profits overseas....comprehensive immigration reform....infrastructure bank that can channel more public and private funds, channel those funds to finance world-class airports, railways, roads, bridges and ports....greater investments in cleaner, renewable energy right now....fund the scientific and medical research that spawns innovative companies and creates entire new industries....breaking down barriers so more Americans participate more fully in the workforce — especially women....family-friendly policies....fair pay and fair scheduling, paid family leave and earned sick days, child care are essential to our competitiveness and growth.

....Beyond strong growth, we also need fair growth.

....We have to raise the minimum wage and implement President Obama's new rules on overtime....crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages....defending and enhancing Social Security....encourage companies to share profits with their employees....reforming our tax code....Buffett Rule....closing the carried interest loophole....the decline of unions may be responsible for a third of the increase of inequality among men....we have to get serious about supporting workers....every 4-year old in America [should] have access to high-quality preschool in the next ten years....80% of your brain is physically formed by age of three....intervention to help those often-stressed out young moms understand more about what they can do and avoid the difficulties that stand in the way of their being able to get their child off to the best start....reviving the New Markets Tax Credit and Empowerment Zones to create greater incentives to invest in poor and remote areas.

....The third key driver of income alongside strong growth and fair growth must be long-term growth.

....A new $1,500 apprenticeship tax credit....reform capital gains taxes to reward longer-term investments that create jobs more than just quick trades....[Make] sure stock buybacks aren't being used only for an immediate boost in share prices....Empowering outside investors who want to build companies but discouraging "cut and run" shareholders who act more like old-school corporate raiders....Serious risks are emerging from institutions in the so-called "shadow banking" system....I will appoint and empower regulators who understand that Too Big To Fail is still too big a problem....ensure that no firm is too complex to manage or oversee....prosecute individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud or other criminal wrongdoing....when the government recovers money from corporations or individuals for harming the public, it should go into a separate trust fund to benefit the public.

And the obligatory paean to bipartisanship and comity:

....You know passing legislation is not the only way to drive progress. As President, I'll use the power to convene, connect, and collaborate to build partnerships that actually get things done. Because above all, we have to break out of the poisonous partisan gridlock and focus on the long-term needs of our country.

Clinton Has Two Economic Messages: She's Not Jeb Bush, and She's a Lot like Elizabeth Warren // Mother Jones // Patrick Caldwell – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton's first major economic speech of the 2016 campaign had one clear target: Jeb Bush. The former Florida governor and top Republican fundraiser has pledged that, if elected president, he'd ensure 4 percent

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annual growth for the country. Clinton acknowledged the importance of growth but, without directly naming Bush, said that wasn't enough. “I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," she said. "You can’t have one without the other."

In a speech at the New School in New York City Monday morning, Clinton laid out a broad vision of what she'd do to make the economy fairer should she win next year—though it was scant on policy details, with many promises of specific proposals to come in the next few weeks. "The defining economic challenge of our time is clear," she said. "We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle-class life." Clinton promised to bring more women into the workforce with family-friendly policies, amend the tax code that lets the rich pay lower rates, end the misclassification of employees and contractors, and fix business incentives to focus on the long term rather than quarterly reports.

Clinton avoided discussing her Democratic primary rivals in a speech that appeared tailored to the general election. Clinton painted Republicans as obsessed with trickle-down economics and accused Marco Rubio of promoting a tax plan that would channel money to the rich.

But Bush got the most attention. "You may have heard Gov. Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours," Clinton said. "Well, he must not have met very many American workers." Clinton ticked off a list of professions where full-time work no longer guarantees people a sufficient livelihood. "They don't need a lecture, they need a raise." Clinton also defended the economic legacies of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama with a dig at the past two Bush presidencies. "Twice now in the past 20 years," she said, "a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess left behind."

Though she didn't discuss Bernie Sanders or Martin O'Malley, the anti-Wall Street crusader Sen. Elizabeth Warren—a liberal favorite who declined to mount a primary challenge against Clinton—was clearly on Clinton's mind. Clinton's remarks came into sharpest focus when she discussed the need for Wall Street reform. "Too big to fail is still too big a problem," Clinton said, vowing to appoint regulators who would keep the banks in check.

She borrowed one of Warren's favorite attacks: that the Obama administration has been too deferential to banks by being unwilling to use prosecutorial powers against specific Wall Street executives. "We will prosecute individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud or other wrongdoing," Clinton promised.

It's not just the major banks, Clinton said, but the hedge funds and nebulous financial firms that constitute the shadow-banking sector that need to be regulated. “We have to go beyond Dodd-Frank," she said, referring to the financial regulation law. "Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky.”

Hillary Slaps Wall Street, Demands Companies Share Profits // Washington Times // Joseph Curl – July 13, 2015

In an expansive economic speech on Monday, multimillionaire Hillary Clinton on Monday called wage inequality the “defining economic challenge of our time” and demanded that companies share profits with workers.

“As the shadow of crisis recedes and longer-term challenges come into focus, I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy,” Clinton said at The New School in New York City.

“You can’t have one without the other. We can’t create enough jobs and new businesses without more growth.”

Clinton also accused former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush of an inability to understand Americans’ needs, claiming Republicans won’t help those stuck in the middle-class.

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Bush, she said, “must not have met many American workers,” and, pointing to a comment that Bush made about Americans working longer hours, said: “They don’t need a lecture. They need a raise.”

Clinton also said she would hold Wall Street accountable.

“Stories of misconduct by individuals and institutions in the financial industry are shocking,” Clinton said. “HSBC allowing drug cartels to launder money, 5 major banks pleading guilty to felony charges for conspiring currency exchange and interest rates. There can be no justification or tolerance for this kind of criminal behavior.”

But the Weekly Standard reported that the Clintons received $200,000 from HSBC in 2011. The bank donated as mush as $1 million to the Clinton Foundation, the site said.

“In 2011, Bill Clinton was paid $200,000 for a speech to HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. in Key Largo, FL. In 2007, the Clintons sold between $15,001 and $50,000 in HSBC Holdings PLC. And HSBC has donated between $500,000 and $1,000,000 to the Clinton Foundation,” America Rising reports.

“Hillary Clinton attacked the financial criminal behavior of financial organizations during her economic speech this morning,” said Jeff Bechdel, America Rising PAC communications director.

“While it sounds like a great talking point, the facts and her own complex web of finances make it difficult for Hillary Clinton to pretend she’s just an ‘everyday American.’”

Details of Hillary Clinton’s liberal economic platform leaked // The Washington Times // S.A. Milller – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton will call for higher taxes on the wealthy and higher pay for everyone else when she presents her economic agenda Monday, but her remedy for income inequality has already come under fire from the right and the left.

In a speech at the New School in New York, Mrs. Clinton will outline a plan that she says will end more than a decade of wage stagnation that has hobbled the middle class and created a vast income gap between the megarich and the working class — a problem that she identifies as the most urgent economic challenge facing the world.

Details of her economic platform, which will be a cornerstone of Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, were leaked over the weekend to reporters, including The New York Times and Washington Post.

The plan is chock full of familiar liberal proposals: increased taxes on the wealthy, a higher federal minimum wage, more government spending on infrastructure projects, new child care benefits, federal subsidies for college tuition and laws to help expand unions.

The former first lady, senator and secretary of state will boast of the record of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who presided over a massive economic expansion that boosted median family income by nearly 15 percent between 1993 and 1999.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal gave Sen. Bernard Sanders backhanded praise over Mrs. Clinton, saying the

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Vermonter "is willing to call himself a socialist."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal gave Sen. Bernard Sanders backhanded praise over Mrs. ... more >

However, she won't be declaring an end of the era of big government, as her husband did.

Sen. Bernard Sanders, the Vermont independent and avowed socialist who has emerged as Mrs. Clinton's chief rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, said her liberal agenda echoes proposals he's backed for years, and her allegiance to those ideals remains unclear.

"I have spent my political life taking on the big money interests. I have introduced legislation that would break up the large financial institutions on Wall Street. I think, if a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist," said Mr. Sanders.

He noted his longtime support for raising the federal minimum wage from the current $7.25 per hour to a "living wage" of $15 per hour. Not until recently did Mrs. Clinton endorse a $15 minimum hourly wage.

He said Mrs. Clinton's positions remain unclear on a range of issues from breaking up Wall Street banks, which Mr. Sanders supports, to President Obama's pending trade deal with Pacific Rim countries and the opposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, both of which Mr. Sanders staunchly opposes.

Mrs. Clinton is not expected to clarify her positions on these or other hot-button issues in the speech, which is being described as a broad overview of her economic philosophy. The Clinton campaign has promised that future speeches will provide details of how she would reform the tax code and crack down on Wall Street.

"I like Hillary Clinton, and I respect Hillary Clinton. And I'm not going to engage in personal attacks against Hillary Clinton," said Mr. Sanders. "But there are differences of opinion that we have which should be the basis for a serious discussion."

The jabs from the right were more pointed.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican candidate for president, said the proposals from Mrs. Clinton would put America on the same path to bankruptcy as followed by Greece.

"Give Bernie Sanders credit: At least he's willing to call himself a socialist," Mr. Jindal said on "Fox News Sunday." "Hillary and President Obama are taking us down that same path, turning the American dream into the European nightmare."

"We already know what it is going to say," he said of Mrs. Clinton's speech. "It is going to be more taxes, more government spending, more regulations. It's feeding a greedier and greedier government that's going to swallow up the private sector economy."

Another Republican presidential candidate, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, said Mrs. Clinton's "big government" solutions actually would widen the income gap.

"The truth is, Hillary Clinton's ideas create more income inequality. Why? Because bigger government creates crony capitalism," she said on ABC's "This Week."

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"When you have a 70,000-page tax code, you've got to be very wealthy, very powerful, very well connected to dig your way through that tax code," said Ms. Fiorina. "What I will continue to point out is the fact that every policy she is pursuing will make income inequality worse, not better, crony capitalism even worse, not better. And, meanwhile, we will continue to crush the businesses that create jobs and middle-class families."

Ms. Fiorina said that she agreed that income inequality is a "huge problem," though she said Mrs. Clinton is wrong about how to narrow the income gap.

"Let's look to the state of California, where I lived for 12 years," she said. "Liberal policies have been in place for decades, and yet there are 111 billionaires — good for them — the highest poverty rates in the nation, the exodus of the middle class, the destruction of industry after industry. Now they're destroying agriculture in California."

She said she agreed with Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a rival for the GOP presidential nomination, who set a goal of 4 percent economic growth rather than the current lethargic rate of 1 percent or 2 percent.

Mrs. Fiorina said the focus should be on the "true engine of economic growth and job creation."

"It has always been small businesses, new businesses, family-owned businesses, community-based businesses that create two-thirds of the jobs and employ half the people," she said. "And we are now crushing those businesses. In fact, we are destroying more businesses in the United States now than are being created for the first time in our history."

Hillary Clinton's economic speech is heavy on attacking Republicans // Washington Times // S.A. Miller – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton jabbed GOP rival Jeb Bush when she presented her economic agenda Monday, hitting the former Florida governor for saying that Americans need to "work longer hours" to spur wage growth.

"He must not have met many American workers," Mrs. Clinton said. "Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day ... to the fast-food workers who march in the streets demanding better pay. They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

Mrs. Clinton has launched repeated attacks on Mr. Bush since he made the comment in New New Hampshire, although Mr. Bush was describing the low worker participation rate during the slow economic recovery.

"They don't need a lecture. They need a raise," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech at the New School in New York City, where outlined a liberal economic agenda that focused on boosting stagnant wage growth for working-class Americans.

She also took aim at other Republican presidential hopefuls, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who announced his entrance in the race earlier in the day, saying he built his political carrier "stomping" on workers' rights.

Mrs. Clinton said that the scourge of income inequality required the new ideas that she was offering, not the old "trickle down" economic policies that she said Republican continue to promote and which she blamed for both the Great Recession and the concentration of wealth among the richest families.

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Her plans included ranged from mandatory paid sick leave and incentives for corporations to provide more profit sharing to raising the minimum wage and giving America's roughly 12 million illegal immigrants a pathway to citizenship.

Hillary hits Clinton Foundation donor in economic speech // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton took aim at a bank that has donated heavily to the Clinton Foundation and paid her husband generous speaking fees.

During a sweeping economic address Monday, Clinton accused British bank HSBC of "laundering" money for "drug cartels" and called for an end to such "criminal behavior" from major financial firms.

HSBC entered a nearly $2 billion agreement with the U.S. in 2013 to lay criminal charges to rest in the wake of findings that the bank had failed to stop "drug kingpins" from laundering money through its channels.

But two years earlier, HSBC was inviting former President Bill Clinton to speak at an event at the swanky Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla. Bill Clinton was paid $200,000 for the engagement.

It was not the first time Bill Clinton had spoken at HSBC's behest; he also asked the State Department's permission in 2009 to attend an event hosted by the bank in the United Arab Emirates while his wife was secretary of state.

Bill and Hillary Clinton owned between $15,000 and $50,000 in HSBC holdings before Hillary Clinton launched her first presidential campaign, financial disclosure records show.

What's more, HSBC has donated between $500,000 and $1 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Hillary Clinton's ties to the London-based bank, first noted by the Republican-aligned group America Rising, raise questions about her commitment to taking down the very financial firms that have fueled much of her family's success in the years since Bill Clinton left the White House.

Hillary Clinton talks economics at New School in New York City // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton laid out her economic agenda Monday, with a heavy focus on raising middle-class wages after decades of increasing pay inequality.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy. You can't have one without the other," the Democratic presidential frontrunner declared at the New School in Manhattan.

Clinton's speech was filled with economic proposals that are broadly popular with Democrats as she triangulates between appealing to the centrist voters she'll need to defeat the GOP nominee next year and the populist Democratic base that is coalescing around Bernie Sanders in the primary.

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"Wages need to rise to keep up with costs. Paychecks need to grow," she declared. "The defining economic challenge of our time is clear. We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle-class life."

Hillary Clinton spoke Monday at the New School in New York City.

The speech marks the beginning of a series of policy speeches fleshing out her economic vision.

Clinton ripped Republicans' "trickle down" economic plans, calling instead for a minimum wage increase, guaranteed paid sick and family leave, increased taxes on the wealthy, increasing union strength and reducing health care costs, and making college more affordable.

Uber may become an issue in the US presidential race as Hillary Clinton vows to crack down on worker 'misclassificiation' // Business Insider // Nathan Mcalone – July 13, 2015

The on-demand economy, including the 1099 workers who companies such as Uber rely on, is now an issue in the US presidential race.

Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton weighed in on the topic in a speech on Monday.

In a comment that seems aimed at companies such as Uber, which pays most of its workers as independent contractors instead of employees, she vowed to "crack down on employers who misclassify employees as independent contractors," calling it "wage theft," according to TechCrunch. But she stopped short of naming any companies.

"Fair pay and fair scheduling, paid family leave and earned sick days, child care are essential to our competitiveness and growth," Clinton reportedly said. The former secretary of state is the leading candidate in the Democratic field but is facing a challenge from the left in the form of self-described socialist Bernie Sanders.

In her speech, Clinton said the "so-called gig economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation," according to the report. But she countered by saying it was raising tough questions about protections for workers and even the future of the concept of a good job.

The debate over the classification of Uber's workers has raged for months, but little concrete had been decided until last month, when the California labor commission ruled that an Uber driver was an employee, not an independent contractor.

The commission sided with Uber driver Barbara Ann Berwick primarily because it considered Uber to be "involved in every aspect of the operation." Berwick was awarded over $4,000 for her employee expenses.

Berwick has since launched Rideshare School, which promises to teach "drivers from ride-sharing services how to enforce their rights as employees and reclaim funds for driving expenses, overtime, and more." A three-hour class will cost $50.

While Berwick's lawsuit was individual, Uber is also fighting a federal class-action lawsuit that seeks to force Uber to reclassify all its drivers as employees. Uber has argued that the suit should be dropped because the 160,000 drivers referred to have "have little or nothing in common, other than their use of the Uber App in California at

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some point over the past six years."

Heckler ejected from Hillary Clinton speech after interrupting to ask about Wall Street regulation // **Business Insider // Colin Campbell & Hunter Walker – July 13, 2015**

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's major economic speech on Monday was interrupted by a protester who demanded answers from her about investment banking regulations.

The heckler, Daniel Burke, stood up and shouted at the end of Clinton's address, in which she outlined her presidential campaign's economic agenda.

"Senator Clinton, will you restore Glass-Steagall?" Burke yelled.

Clinton, who was speaking in Manhattan at The New School, appeared taken aback. She did not answer his question. Her supporters in the audience eventually started clapping to drown out Burke and security escorted him from the building.

Outside, Burke told Business Insider he is an organizer with LaRouche PAC, which supports the controversial political activist Lyndon LaRouche.

The Glass-Steagall Act, which was passed in 1933 and repealed in 1999, separates commercial banks and investment banks. Burke said he supports efforts launched last week by a bipartisan group of senators including Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) to restore Glass-Steagall. He said this is particularly important because the situation in Greece could fuel another financial crisis.

"It should be passed immediately, preferably in the next two weeks. We really do not know what will come ... of the potential for an immediate financial crash on the basis of the Greek trigger," Burke said.

Clinton has not been clear about her position on Glass-Steagall. Her two Democratic primary rivals, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) have said they support restoring the law.

Burke told Business Insider he is unhappy Clinton did not answer questions at the speech.

"She should take questions so that these things could be raised," he said.

View videos and photos of Burke interrupting the speech as well as our interview with him outside the event below.

Hillary Clinton just gave a big economic speech // **Business Insider // Brett Logiurato – July 13, 2015**

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton is using what her campaign is describing as a "major economic address" Monday morning to call for companies to share more profits with their employees and reforming the nation's tax code.

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Clinton promised to change the tax code to encourage companies to expand profit-sharing with their employees in the speech, which she delivered Monday morning at the famously progressive New School in Manhattan.

"We need new ideas. ... One that I believe in and will fight for is profit sharing," Clinton said, according to excerpts of her speech released by her campaign.

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," she said. "So I will propose ways to encourage companies to share profits with their employees. That will be good for workers and good for business. Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets. It's a win-win."

Clinton took shots at three Republican candidates by name: former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, for his much-debated comment last week that people need to "work more hours"; Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, for his fights against public-sector unions; and Sen. Marco Rubio, for his tax-reform plan.

The speech was the first major economic address of Clinton's campaign, and it comes as she is facing a bit of a surge from US Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), who has positioned himself as something of a more progressive alternative to Clinton.

In the speech, she took a subtle shot at the past six-plus years of President Barack Obama's presidency. A Clinton campaign official said prior to the speech that her vision aims to outline how, "after years of economic growth that have not delivered a meaningful rise in middle-class incomes," the country can "grow together."

We'll have more on Clinton's speech as it develops.

Hillary Clinton just called out the economic problem of the next decade // Business Insider // Shane Ferro – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton just brought the most important economic issue of the next decade into the mainstream: the gig economy.

The gig, or on-demand, economy is the new favorite business model coming out of Silicon Valley.

It is relevant to companies such as Uber, which streamlines work for its drivers and takes a cut of their fares but lets them work on their own schedule. It's a little bit like a blend between the regular employment model and the freelancer model.

Whether we like it or not, the gig economy seems to be everywhere. More and more Americans are turning to this semi-freelance way of making a living.

A study from the software company Intuit a few years ago estimated that as much as 40% of the American workforce could be freelancers, independent contractors, or consultants by the year 2020. It's a major, major economic shift.

The New York Times reported that the director of the Freelancers Union, which advocates independent contractors, "puts the scale of the dislocation on a par with that caused by the spread of railroads before and after

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the Civil War and the boom in the mass production of goods during the early 20th century."

Today's economy isn't set up to deal with this kind of disruption. Policy, so far, has not addressed it. That Clinton addressed the issue in her speech gives the issue a spotlight and legitimacy, the first step forward.

"This on-demand or so-called gig economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protection and what a good job will look like in the future," she said at the New School in Manhattan on Monday.

So, why is the gig economy a problem?

First off, it's expensive for its workers. What independent contractors gain in flexibility, they lose in benefits. Employment taxes are higher, healthcare is more expensive, and 401(k)s (let alone pensions) don't exist for people who freelance. Even if freelancers get paid the same amount as they would at a regular job, they still have a lot less left over to drive the consumer spending that makes up 70% of the American gross domestic product.

We need to be worried about this. Nearly everyone in America outside the top 10% of the income scale has seen incomes fall since 2007.

A recent article by Nick Hanauer and David Rolf in Democracy Journal calls this new kind of economy "an economic transformation that promises new efficiencies and greater flexibility for 'employers' and 'employees' alike, but which threatens to undermine the very foundation upon which middle-class America was built."

Like it or not, addressing the gig economy head on will have to be part of the solution. Monday's speech was a first step. That said, while Clinton raised the issue, she still hasn't laid out a plan for what should be done.

Here are the 3 Republicans that Hillary Clinton took big shots at during her major economic speech //
Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – July 13, 2015

For one of the first times in her presidential campaign, Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton took direct shots at several of her Republican rivals.

In a sweeping economic policy speech at the New School in New York on Monday, Clinton criticized three Republican presidential candidates including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) by name.

It's a sign that she expects to face one of the three in a general-election matchup next year.

Clinton first took a direct shot at Bush over his comments that Americans need to work longer hours to spur economic growth.

"You may have heard Gov. Bush say last week that Americans need to work longer hours. He must not have met very many American workers," Clinton said.

"Let him tell that to the fast food workers marching in the streets for better pay," Clinton said, referencing the

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push from McDonald's workers for a raise. "They don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

Bush's remarks — which prompted debate over whether they were taken out of context — outlined the governor's ambitious plan to reach 4% growth by helping more part-time workers find full-time employment.

Clinton then moved on to Rubio, claiming that the senator's tax plan includes a major tax $240,000 cut for individuals making over $3 million.

"That's a sure budget-busting giveaway to the super-wealthy," Clinton said.

The former Secretary of State also went after Walker, who will officially enter the race later on Monday, over the governor's heated battle with Wisconsin's public-sector employee unions.

"Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names by stomping on workers' rights," Clinton said.

The comments came during a major policy speech on economic policy.

The former Secretary of State laid out a number of proposals that she claims will help reduce income inequality, including reigning in the financial industry, raising the minimum wage and increasing training for low-wage workers, reforming the immigration system, and reforming the tax code.

The presumed front runners who Clinton took aim at have each criticized her at length over everything from her tenure as Secretary of State to her current policy proposals.

As The Washington Post's Rebecca Sinderbrand pointed out, before the speech even began, Bush's campaign was attempting to capitalize on the attention. Minutes before the start of the speech, the Bush campaign sent out a fundraising email asking supporters to donate to fund a "Hillary Rapid Response Fund."

Shortly after the speech finished, Bush jabbed Clinton on Twitter.

Hillary Clinton's Economic Intervention Agenda Unveiled // Forbes // Clyde Wayne Crews Jr. – July 13, 2015

In her major New School speech outlining her economic agenda, Hillary Clinton had a lot to say about jobs and higher incomes for Americans, but not much about what matters to those expected to provide them.

Hiring and business startups are suffering, fewer are self employed. Any politician concerned about jobs would first and foremost seek to reduce barriers to employment; to raise employers' willingness to hire.

Yet this is an individual who says "Don't let anybody, don't let anybody tell you that, ah, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs."

The real issue is not "income inequality," but rather that one has to be fairly heroic to be an employer in today's environment of hostility toward capitalism and free enterprise. It is not easy to create jobs for others.

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Today the candidate was “proposing an agenda for raising incomes,” but most of it was about more obligations–externally induced higher wages and benefits– for those carrying the weight and doing the hiring in America.

The Washington Post was full of praise on “seven big things” to know about Hillary’s plan. But few ask the key question about these endless flights of interventionist policy fancy, and Clinton is hardly unique in launching them; Will this vision cause business to see hiring new workers as favorable and a smart move, or more of a risk and something to avoid?

Let’s look at some initiatives being touted by Hillary Clinton. She has little private sector business experience, yet wants to “ raise median incomes” (unconcerned that government is an instrument of compulsion, of wealth transfer–not productivity).

Clinton said she’ll “build on” the Affordable Care Act. Notable here is that Obamacare’s employer mandate will activate when individual subsidies–now affirmed by the Supreme Court–kick in. Will that development and her promise to double-down make business more or less likely to hire?

She called for new “public investments,” and estabing an “infrastructure bank” to “ channel public and private funds.” Those were her words; government to channel funds. The government steers and the market only rows, in her view.

We’ve tried the shovel-ready, we’ve tried the trillion-plus stimulus; that didn’t work, yet she persists, calling for broadband “investment” (isn’t that a private industry?) and “cleaner” renewable energy investments (more Solyndra).

One gets the impression many on the left see the private sector as increasingly optional. (In news showing a similar mindset, President Barack Obama just locked up more lands in the west, where even the Post acknowledges the federal government owns over half.)

Clinton supports Obama’s new overtime pay rules. Will that make business more or less likely to expand hiring?

She says another overlooked need is breaking down workforce barriers and labor force participation, “especially for women.” She claims we are leaving talent on the sidelines. Those are legitimate issues, and the complexities and the sociology of it all are immense.

But that intro led to the real pitch: to make mandatory more paid family leave and earned sick pay; or pay for not working, missing the irony of just having talked about workplace participation. Will being required to make accommodations for work not done make business more or less likely to hire employees in the future?

Clinton called for affordable child care; but it’s not clear how the government does that without capturing more private sector resources; and such policies ignore the broader cultural debate that swirls over government assuming the roles of parents.

She touted early learning, another not-cheap program, in the form of “every four year old with access to pre-school.” Clinton claims to want to end the era of “budget brinksmanship” in Washington. But gauging from her speech, that must mean that others must stop arguing with Democrats about spending more money on progressives’ pet social programs.

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In discussing income inequality, Clinton invoked the " nurse, teacher, trucker, fast food worker." "They don't need a lecture [which she said Jeb Bush gave them], they need a raise." Clinton proclaims, "So we do have to raise the minimum wage, and implement Obama's new rules on overtime." Then she touted "worker bargaining power" and driving up wages via compulsory union advancement. Will all this make business more or less likely to hire? Will it increase or lessen " inequality"?

Astoundingly, Clinton claimed she said can do all this without burdens on small business — the Jobs Fairy will pay, one presumes.

Clinton did acknowledge red tape, but said nothing about significant relief, via reforms like the "Small Business Regulatory Sunset Act" from Senators Mark Kirk and Steve Daines, among many other regulatory liberalizations. The stances come from different universes, although it was nice to see her credit small business with providing half of jobs.

Clinton will get a lot of attention for encouraging incentives for employer "profit sharing" with workers.

Let it be understood that profit sharing means something different when government mandates or " incentivizes" it, compared to when companies do it of their own accord. Competition has many facets and is extraordinarily complex. Clinton promises more details "in New Hampshire" later. So if you're hearing that, and you're a business looking to direct new earnings and profits to growth, is this promise of intervention going to make you less or more inclined to hire?

Clinton attacks corporations, of which many ordinary individuals are shareholders, despite corporations paying her huge speaking fees, and collecting more money from them than anyone I know. She called for Buffet Rule tax requirements, closing carried interest loopholes. She talked disparagingly about "quarterly capitalism" and business " short-termism"; but she neglected politicians much like herself doing the very same thing in promising wealth transfers and government growth.

She wants to go "beyond Dodd-Frank," extending the already numbingly complex financial law to address the risks in hedge funds, high frequency trading and non-bank entities "which receive little oversight at all." So government has a better record managing finances, she thinks? She mentioned private firms rigging interest rates (no one is opposed to clamping down on fraud), but not the Federal Reserve and its century of manipulation of money and credit, or Dodd-Frank's escalation of too-big-to-fail. To "rein in excessive risk on Wall Street," she, seemingly without irony, wants to "empower new regulators."

In her promise to "crack down" on business and employers, she wants a "trust fund" created out of imposed penalties to " modernize infrastructure." That is an invitation to corruption and trumped up charges against firms. Will this, and all the foregoing, make Wall Street and corporations better or worse at funding the ventures that lead to hiring?

For that matter, will more or fewer corporations even form under policies like those articulated here?

Even the technology frontier is not exempt. Clinton touted technology such as the sharing economy, but then said it "raises questions about workplace protections and what a 'real' job will look like in the future." Will knowing Hillary Clinton will be questioning your new economy business practices make firms more or less likely to hire–or to form in the first place?

The annual federal deficit in the U.S. is projected to head back to the $1 trillion level in a few years, but Clinton seems unconcerned with getting spending under control. Federal regulations are an even bigger problem, creating

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uncertainty, making hiring a business risk and distorting the path of industries across the board. Clinton seems ready to add to the regulatory enterprise in the name of income inequality–but her interventions would worsen things.

In pursuit of job creation and economic growth, Congress is debating several red tape reforms with elevated but still insufficient focus.

In the wake of its "Waters of the United States" rule, the Environmental Protection Agency just this week issued a 600-page rule on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles. Republicans object, but all such are made possible by Congress' perpetual delegation of lawmaking power to agencies.

As I write this, the 2015 Federal Register has topped 40,000 pages, and contains 1,658 rules year-to-date.

Congressional reforms under consideration include automatic sunsetting of rules, versions of a base-closure style regulatory reduction commission (something bi-partisan for a change), and regulatory budgets.

Most worthwhile would be mandatory congressional votes and a presidential signature for the largest of each year's 3,500-plus rules and regulations; that is, treat regulations like normal laws, since they are, after all, laws.

CEI Agenda for Congress -- 114th Congress

With thousands of agency proclamations annually, it was never enough for so-called "significant" or "major" rules to receive White House Office of Management and Budget review. That's the primary foot on the brake, and it's weak.

Meanwhile, regulatory dark matter is gaining ground on the readily observable. Congress needs to scrutinize all agency decrees that affect the public, not just official rules.

"Sub rosa" regulation has been an issue for decades. In 1989′s Regulation and the Reagan Era: Politics, Bureaucracy and the Public Interest, Robert A Rogowski explained:

Regulatory bureaucracies are able to accomplish their goals outside the realm of formal rulemaking….An impressive underground regulatory infrastructure thrives on investigations, inquiries, threatened legal actions, and negotiated settlements. … Many of the most questionable regulatory actions are imposed in this way, most of which escape the scrutiny of the public, Congress, and even the regulatory watchdogs in the executive branch.

Even if formal notice and comment and OMB rule review were optimized, they can never suffice. "Undocumented regulation" like presidential and agency memoranda, guidance documents, bulletins, notices and press releases may enact policy with legal effect. Rule interpretations may be expressed by agencies, and regulated parties pressured to comply, without an actual formal regulation or an appreciation of costs.

Such proclamations obviously skirt the constitutional lawmaking process, but evade even the lesser published notice-and-comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and subsequent OMB review.

A July 2012 U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform expressed concern

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over guidance documents ("non-legislative" rules), but three years have passed and nothing was done:

Guidance documents, while not legally binding or technically enforceable, are supposed to be issued only to clarify regulations already on the books. However… they are increasingly used to effect policy changes, and they often are as effective as regulations in changing behavior due to the weight agencies and the courts give them. Accordingly, job creators feel forced to comply.

John Graham and James Broughel propose options such as reinstating a George W. Bush requirement to prepare analysis for guidance documents, explicitly labeling them as nonbinding, and requiring formal notice and comment for significant ones.

Guidance documents are an easy way of getting around oversight, since the APA's requirement of publishing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) doesn't apply to "to interpretative rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice" (P.L. 79-404. Section 553). Presto!

The APA also allows agencies a so-called "good cause" exemption from the requirement to provide the public with a warning, a notice of upcoming rulemaking. Thus it will be unsurprising to learn that the Government Accountability Office appeared in 2012 to announce:

Agencies did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), enabling the public to comment on a proposed rule, for about 35 percent of major rules and about 44 percent of nonmajor rules published during 2003 through 2010.

Like agency notice-and-comment rules, sometimes guidance is upheld by courts, sometimes not, when it does more than merely interpret.

Notable examples of guidance include the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on disclosure of paid search engine results, and President Barack Obama's waivers of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act elements. It seems no one has conducted a systematic study of the total quantity of agency guidance but it may be that guidance document volume dwarfs that of rulemaking (Raso 2010), which may not be surprising when no one can even say with authority how many agencies exist.

As noted above, this is not new: A 1992 Duke Law Journal article noted that "Federal Aviation Administration rules are two inches thick while corresponding guidance totals forty feet; similarly, IRS rules consume a foot of space while supporting guidance documents total over twenty feet." It is hard to argue against the conclusion by Mary Whisner that "the body of guidance documents (or nonlegislative rules) is growing, both in volume and in importance."

All potentially significant decrees by agencies need scrutiny, not just "rules." It is most assuredly the case that agencies will attempt to strategically adapt to the new scrutiny and skirt review, by such means as informal provision of information to a regulated party regarding an agency expectations, as Stuart Shapiro has explained. ("Nice business you got there, shame if something were to happen to it.") But a highly engaged executive and Congress can draw attention to and highlight regulatory dark matter and sub-rosa regulatory activity.

New administrative constraints could lead to many unforeseen measures by agencies to escape oversight, effectiveness of which could depend "significantly on how easy it is for OIRA [OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs] to detect avoidance, and for OIRA, the courts, and others to respond" (Mendelson, Nina A. and Wiener 2014). Agencies can also raise the costs of presidential review of what they do, "self-insulating" their decisions with "variations in policymaking form, cost-benefit analysis quality, timing strategies, and institutional coalition-building (Nou 2013)."

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It will become increasingly clear that the delegation of legislative power from the elected to the unelected is at the root of many of these concerns, so answers exist.

Hillary Clinton vows to give workers a raise **// Fortune // Tory Newmyer – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton just started the drumbeat that she aims to sustain her presidential bid and, as she framed it, her presidency itself: Working Americans need a raise. In the first major economic policy speech of her campaign, the Democratic front-runner called out a recovery that's distributed too many of its gains to the wealthiest and promised to be a hands-on agent ensuring more profits from Wall Street and beyond end up in the pockets of employees.

"The defining economic challenge of our time is clear. We must raise incomes for hardworking Americans so they can afford a middleclass life," Clinton told a morning crowd at New York City's New School, a liberal university and think tank. "We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country. And that will be my mission from the first day I'm president to the last."

To get that done, Clinton proposed a mix of stand-by Democratic policies — raising the minimum wage, making childcare more affordable, and ending tax breaks for financiers, to name a few — plans she acknowledged as "time-tested and more than a little battle-scarred." But she also pledged to confront corporate short-termism, a phenomenon she said is sapping investments in research, infrastructure and training while concentrating returns among the super wealthy.

Clinton used the speech to tip her hat to the presidencies of her husband and the current officeholder, whom she served for four years as Secretary of State, saying both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama "had to come in and clean up the mess left behind" by Republicans. Yet as she sustains Republican attacks that her connections to both mean her candidacy offers little more than a warmed-over throwback, Clinton suggested her presidency would turn a page. She presented as an empathetic grandma, drawing at one point on a conversation with a nurse during her granddaughter's birth that underlined the importance of family leave protections. And she blended that with a brand of technocratic populism she's been honing on the campaign trail, as she seeks to convince a restive liberal base she's attuned to their demands without aping the more acid-tipped barbs of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, her closest-running rival for the Democratic nod.

Clinton reserved her toughest talk for the financial industry. In a subtle swipe at her former boss, she declared it wrong that Wall Street executives have escaped prosecution even when their firms have admitted to crimes, "and on my watch, it will change," she said. Funds recovered from penalties on both firms and individuals should pay for new investments in infrastructure — or be returned directly to taxpayers, she said. And despite the post-crisis reforms tackling Too Big To Fail institutions, Clinton said too many major financial firms still pose systemic risks, suggesting she'd apply a litmus test to ensure the regulators she appoints agree. And she vowed to subject firms operating in the shadow banking system to new regulatory scrutiny, as well. But she was short on specifics — a fact highlighted by a heckler who tried to interrupt to demand whether she would restore the prohibition on securities trading by commercial banks that her husband removed (Clinton ignored him).

Clinton said she will flesh out the policy proposals she previewed in a series of speeches over the coming weeks. The first of those comes Thursday in New Hampshire, where the candidate will detail her plan to incentivize corporate profit sharing with employees. "Studies show that profit sharing that give everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees pockets. It's a win-win," she said.

Clinton was more measured in her comments about the new behemoths of the sharing economy. In a glancing reference to Silicon Valley darlings like Airbnb, Uber and Lyft, she said "the so-called gig economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation. But its also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future." And she briefly appeared to return to the fledgling sector later, promising to "crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors," an issue

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recently dogging Uber, in particular.

Though the policy proposals she associated with it remain meager for now, perhaps the most provocative portion of Clinton's address dealt with what she framed as the scourge of short-termism, an affliction challenging the capitalist system itself. "In recent years, some of our biggest companies have spent more than half their earnings to buy back their own stock and another third or more to pay dividends," she said. "That doesn't leave a lot left to raise pay or invest in the workers who made those profits possible or to make new investments necessary to ensure a company's future success." She said she's heard concern about the trend from business leaders themselves, who are eager "to embrace their responsibilities, not just to today's share price, but to workers, communities, and ultimately to our country, and, indeed, our planet." But she signaled she'll favor a carrot rather than a stick to address it, proposing a $1,500 tax credit for each new worker trained and hired and tweaks to capital gains taxes, to be named later, to encourage longer-term investments.

Teasing the speech over the weekend, Clinton's campaign released a list of the economic brains who helped shape it. The roster — heavy with liberal stalwarts including Christina Romer, Obama's first chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; Jared Bernstein, formerly Vice President Joe Biden's chief economist; Neera Tanden, who runs the Center for American Progress; and Joseph Stiglitz, a Columbia University economist — itself testifies to Clinton's conscious move to the left.

12 Progressive Promises From Hillary Clinton's Economic Speech // Rolling Stone // Tim Dickinson – July 13, 2015

In an address that lurched wildly between Elizabeth Warren-style populism and a more familiar corporate centrism, Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton unveiled a framework of her economic platform in at the New School in Manhattan on Monday.

Taking the fight to Republicans, Hillary threw punches at a trio of GOP candidates: Scott Walker, for "stomping on workers' rights"; Jeb Bush, for his out-of-touch suggestion that Americans need to work more hours — "he must not have met very many American workers"; and Marco Rubio, for a tax plan she scoffed is a "budget-busting give-away to the super-wealthy."

By contrast, Clinton offered an economic plan she called "principled and pragmatic and progressive" — with a central promise to grow the economy and the wages of average Americans.

Despite at times soaring progressive rhetoric — "hard working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they help produce" — much of what Clinton proposed sounded like it was written by Bob Dole's economic team, including her promise to "push for broader business tax reform to spur investment in America."

Clinton repeatedly banged the drum of deregulation — for the little guy. She promised to roll back Dodd Frank restrictions on smaller lenders, or as she put it to "ease burdens on community banks." And she vowed to be "the small business president" offering to slash taxes for job creators, specifically pledging to "empower entrepreneurs with less red tape, easier access to capital, tax relief and simplification."

But Clinton didn't leave the Democratic base out in the cold. Many of her most specific policy proposals are unmistakably progressive.

Here we survey the 12 leftiest economic promises Clinton made:

1. "We have to raise the minimum wage and implement President Obama's new rules on overtime."

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2. "I'll crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors."

3. "Let's establish an infrastructure bank that can channel more public and private funds, channel those funds to finance world-class airports, railways, roads, bridges and ports."

4. "I'm committed to seeing every 4-year-old in America have access to high-quality preschool in the next ten years."

5. "I support the Buffett Rule, which makes sure that millionaires don't pay lower rates than their secretaries."

6. "I have also called for closing the carried interest loophole, which lets wealthy financiers pay an artificially low rate."

7. "When the government recovers money from corporations or individuals for harming the public, it should go into a separate trust fund to benefit the public. It, could for example, help modernize infrastructure or even be returned directly to taxpayers."

8. "I've proposed a new $1,500 apprenticeship tax credit for every worker [businesses] train and hire."

9. "I've called for reviving the New Markets Tax Credit and Empowerment Zones to create greater incentives to invest in poor and remote areas."

10. "I will soon be proposing a new plan to reform capital gains taxes to reward longer-term investments that create jobs more than just quick trades."

11. "I will offer plans to rein in excessive risks on Wall Street and ensure that stock markets work for everyday investors, not just high frequency traders and those with the best – or fastest – connections."

12. "Another engine of strong growth should be comprehensive immigration reform....Bringing millions of hard-working people into the formal economy would increase our gross domestic product by an estimated $700 billion over ten years."

Hillary Clinton Tells Progressives: Trust Me, Trust Me, Trust Me // Gawker // Hamilton Nolan – July 13, 2015

Today, Hillary Clinton gave her first major speech on her economic policy. “Blah blah working families,” she said. What did she really say?

Talk is cheap. This speech was amply hyped as Hillary’s big, progressive statement—one that would establish once and for all that she is liberal enough (and fiery enough) to be an acceptable choice for the Democratic party’s left wing, which has spent the past several years appropriately raging over America’s growing economic inequality. This speech, in other words, was Hillary’s chance to convince the Bernie Sanders demographic that she, too, can be their champion.

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Anyone who wants to call themself a progressive in this country today must grasp how entrenched, pervasive, and harmful our inequality is. The worst since the Great Depression. A simple plan for addressing this issue should include things like, A) Higher taxes on the very wealthy, including estate taxes and capital gains taxes; B) Addressing systemic concentration of power in "too big to fail" institutions; C) Raising wages for low-income workers by a significant amount; and D) Expanding and strengthening the government programs that constitute the social safety net. Just to begin with! Patter about "growing the economy" and "creating jobs" "strengthening small businesses" is meaningless campaign rhetoric mouthed by Democrats and Republicans alike. What we really need to know is, does Hillary Clinton actually have any proposals that might resemble something so gauche as an ideal?

Once you scroll past the large amount of "I care about you, the average worker" filler, the answer is: meh. Here are the things that could be construed as real progressive economic proposals by Hillary Clinton** (**Subject to change by 2016):

I'll also push for broader business tax reform to spur investment in America, closing those loopholes that reward companies for sending jobs and profits overseas.

Promising, but desperately vague.

You know, when we get Americans moving, we get our country moving. So let's establish an infrastructure bank that can channel more public and private funds…channel those funds to finance world-class airports, railways, roads, bridges and ports.

A new WPA? Perhaps? Who can tell?

Fair pay and fair scheduling, paid family leave and earned sick days, childcare are essential to our competitiveness and our growth. And we can do this in a way that doesn't impose unfair burdens on businesses, especially small businesses.

Promising, but desperately vague.

So, we do have to raise the minimum wage, and implement President Obama's new rules on overtime, and then we have to go further. I will crack down on bosses who exploit employees by mis- classifying them as contractors or even steal their wages.

Raise the minimum wage by how much? Hillary Clinton does not say. And she certainly does not say "I support the ongoing effort to raise the national minimum wage to $15 an hour." And the "crack down" she offers here amounts to saying, "I will enforce current law."

First, hard-working families need and deserve tax relief and simplification. Second, those at the top have to pay their fair share. That's why I support the Buffet Rule, which makes sure millionaires do not pay lower rates than their secretaries. I have called for closing the carried interest loophole, that lets wealthy financiers pay an artificially low rate.

Piss poor and lacking in specifics. The Buffet Rule is rather weak sauce for a "progressive." Closing the carried interest loophole, which would make a relative handful of fantastically wealthy money managers pay more, is good; raising the capital gains tax rate, which would compel millions of investors to pay a fair tax rate, would be much better.

[Evidence] shows that the decline of unions may be responsible for a third of the increase of inequality among men, so if we want to get serious about raising incomes, we have to get serious about supporting union workers.

Promising, but desperately vague.

Over the course of this campaign, I will offer plans to rein in excessive risks on Wall Street and ensure that stock markets work for everyday investors, not just high-frequency traders and those with the best or fastest

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connections. I will appoint and empower regulators who understand that too big to fail is still too big a problem. We will ensure that no firm is too complex to manage or oversee. And we will also process individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud or other criminal wrongdoing.

Promising, but desperately vague.

The rest of the speech was feel-good pap.

In essence, Hillary Clinton is asking America's progressives to trust her. She is offering sentiment without specifics. For the voting bloc that does not have enough money to make campaign donations large enough to whisper in Hillary Clinton's ear, that is not going to be enough.

Hillary Clinton vows crackdown on Wall Street risk-taking // Financial Times // Megan Murphy – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged to rein in risk-taking on Wall Street and to jail executives found guilty of financial crimes, in a wide-ranging speech that laid out a progressive agenda for boosting growth and wages that will form the centrepiece of her 2016 presidential campaign.

Spelling out her vision of "Hillarynomics" at the New School in New York, the Democratic frontrunner labelled raising the incomes of hard-working Americans "the defining economic challenge of our time."

In setting out a list of policy items to fuel stronger, more sustainable economic growth, Mrs Clinton touched on many of the themes she has already discussed on the campaign trail, including boosting women's participation in the labour force, encouraging companies to share their profits with employees and prioritising early childhood education.

She singled out Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, and several other potential Republican rivals for touting policies she said have been shown to entrench economic inequality, such as reducing taxes for the wealthy.

However, it was her promise to crack down on excessive risk in the financial system, including across the so-called "shadow banking" sector, and to appoint regulators that would take a tougher approach to executives accused of criminal activity, that will probably energise the party's progressive wing, and cause minor tremors on Wall Street.

"Stories of misconduct by individuals and institutions in the financial industry are shocking," Mrs Clinton said. "HSBC allowing drug cartels to launder money. Five major banks pleading guilty to felony charges for conspiring to manipulate currency exchange and interest rates. There can be no justification or tolerance for this kind of criminal behaviour."

Mrs Clinton, who has faced criticism for accepting hefty speaking fees and financial support for her campaign from banks and hedge funds, said that legislators may need to "go beyond' the Dodd-Frank financial reforms she accused Republicans of trying to unravel.

"Too big to fail is still too big a problem," the former secretary of state said. "Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky."

After a rocky start to her campaign, Mrs Clinton is hoping to draw a line under a series of controversies and to refocus coverage on her message to middle-class families. Facing a stronger-than-expected early challenge from

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Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator and self-described socialist who has emerged as a favourite among the Democratic party's liberal wing, aides have been keen to stress Mrs Clinton's commitment to progressive ideals and her lengthy record on issues such as equal pay for women.

While Monday's speech was light on specific policy detail, Mrs Clinton said she would introduce proposals for overhauling the way capital gains are taxed to incentivise job creation, increasing public-private investment and encouraging companies to reward their employees more fairly.

"We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country," she said. "That will be my mission from the first day I'm president to the last."

In a nod to the bitter battle her party recently waged against President Barack Obama over his efforts to secure the authority to close the largest trade deal of a generation, Mrs Clinton said officials needed to set a "high bar" for trade agreements.

She reaffirmed her opposition to the so-called "carried interest" loophole that allows private equity fund managers to pay a lower rate of tax on their earnings. And she suggested that she would look for new ways to end tax inversions, where US companies shift their domiciles abroad to take advantage of lower tax rates.

She also lambasted a corporate culture she said was too focused on immediate profit-taking and quarterly earnings reports instead of long-term growth.

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," she said.

Millennial Shock: Hillary to Attack Uber, AirBnB, 'Sharing Economy' **// Breitbart // Joel Pollack – July 13, 2015**

In a speech laying out her economic policy, Hillary Clinton is set to attack companies like Uber and Airbnb in the "sharing economy" or "contractor economy," arguing that such companies undercut wages. Her proposed alternative is to use government regulations to guide economic activity. Previews of her speech have set off alarm bells in Silicon Valley, and are sure to surprise millennial consumers, whose loyalty to the Democratic Party has has largely been blind, and who have presumed that the party of government shared their love for technology.

Politico's Michael Grunwald delivered the preview of Clinton's approach to the sharing economy:

Clinton's aide said she will discuss some of the structural forces conspiring against sustainable wage growth, such as globalization, automation, and even consumer-friendly "sharing economy" firms like Uber and Airbnb that are creating new relationships between management and labor (and which now employ many Obama administration alumni). But she will argue that policy choices have contributed to the problem, and that she can fix it.

Josh Constine of TechCrunch sighed: "As if Uber needed more enemies." And John Kartch of Forbes wrote:

Because her transportation is always taken care of, perhaps Clinton has never bothered to talk to an Uber or Lyft driver and therefore doesn't understand that a flexible schedule is a top draw. Drivers take great pride in being their own boss. Making their own schedule allows drivers to balance family and work obligations. Drivers can take time to see their kid's Little League game, visit the doctor, get groceries or go to a job interview.

Clinton's expected assault on the sharing economy confirms that Big Labor is still the dominant force in left-wing politics. Democrats have targeted Uber and Airbnb with new regulations designed to protect entrenched

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monopolies, despite the value the new companies create for their customers.

The sharing economy has also lowered the cost of living for millennials who still crowd into Democrat-run cities. Attacking it means attacking them. Clinton's approach therefore creates an opportunity for her Republican rivals to reach the elusive millennial vote.

As Breitbart News noted recently:

The entire "sharing" economy, which is at the heart of the new tech boom, is in danger. "Millennials" in their 20s and 30s, who rely on the new social networks to fulfill their basic needs–or to pay the rent–are suddenly realizing that government is something other than "the name we give to the things we choose to do together," as former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank said. On the contrary, government is often the name we give to what one group of people does to another group by force of law.

In this case, the groups with their hands on the levers of power are special interests–especially unions–to which, ironically, millennials are aligned through their common support for the Democratic Party. Now, tech-savvy voters are rubbing their eyes and wondering how it is that the party that promised to reinvent government is, in fact, using government in the most old-fashioned of ways, destroying innovation and competition to protect the politically-connected donors who run things....

The crisis of the sharing economy has created a unique window of opportunity for conservative leaders to reach out to the millennial generation, which doesn't know who it can trust anymore....Are there presidential candidates who can explain how the best of what is new can be reconciled with the best of what is old? And are there enough millennials yet ready to listen–to "disrupt" themselves?

In Economic Address, Hillary Clinton Threads the Needle // Newsweek // Taylor Wofford – July 13, 2015

Vowing to fight for "hard-working families" instead of "successful CEOs and money managers," Hillary Clinton delivered the first major economic address of her campaign Monday, offering a glimpse at policies she plans to flesh out in coming weeks and hoping that her agenda will turn back any threat posed by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

The venue for the speech was no accident. The New School in Manhattan has been a citadel of progressive thought since the early 20th century. The talk was the first of several policy addresses that the Democratic front-runner plans to deliver in coming weeks, according to her campaign.

Clinton focused on jobs, growth and income inequality. The former New York senator began by blasting "trickle-down economics"—the term Democrats have used for Republican economic policies since Ronald Reagan was in the White House.

"For 35 years, Republicans have argued that if we give more wealth to those at the top, by cutting their taxes and letting big corporations write their own rules, it will trickle down. It will trickle down to everyone else," she said, decrying the high deficits and untoward concentrations of wealth that have been incurred during Republican turns in the White House.

Clinton offered a peek at economic policies that she plans to detail in coming weeks, including tackling the economic threat posed by loose regulation of the so-called shadow banking system, which includes hedge funds and high-frequency traders. She also advocated increased profit-sharing at corporations that would allow workers to benefit from record-high profits. The former secretary of state also took aim at tax rates on capital gains, urging a distinction between short-term and long-term gains and vowing to work for tax reform that encourages

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long-term investments and diminishes speculation.

While Clinton is feeling pressure from Sanders, the independent candidate who is challenging her for the Democratic nomination, she took shots at Republicans, including former Florida Governor Jeb Bush. "You may have heard Governor Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours. Well, he must not have met very many American workers," Clinton said.

(At a campaign event in New Hampshire last week, Bush made comments suggesting that in order to meet his ambitious goal of 4 percent annual growth, Americans would need to put in longer hours. The Republican front-runner's campaign clarified his remark, saying that it was aimed at underemployed Americans who are seeking more work and can't find it.)

Still, Clinton wasn't accepting any qualification of Bush's remarks. American workers, Clinton said, "don't need a lecture—they need a raise." She also took aim at Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker on the day of his formal entry into the presidential race, chiding his successful efforts to limit the bargaining power of public employee unions.

Clinton also stressed the role women have to play in growing the economy. "The United States used to rank seventh out of 24 advanced countries in women's labor force participation. By 2013, we had dropped to 19th. That represents a lot of unused potential for our economy and for American families," she said. (Sanders rarely makes gender distinctions when he makes his economic pitch.)

Paid family leave, earned sick days and child care are "essential to our competitiveness," she added.

The closest Clinton came to disagreeing with Sanders, a self-proclaimed democratic socialist, was when she described her policies as "clear-eyed capitalism."

Sanders responded to Clinton's speech by reiterating his proposals, including investing $1 trillion in infrastructure, raising the federal minimum wage to $15 and breaking up the largest banks, a step Clinton avoided proposing even as she allowed that financial institutions that are "too big to fail" still represent a threat to the economy and promised to appoint tough regulators.

Hillary Clinton: 'Mission' to boost middle-class incomes // Newsday // David Schwartz & Laura Figueroa – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton, in her first major economic address of the 2016 presidential campaign, said Monday she will make it her "mission" to raise incomes for middle class Americans.

"We must raise income for hardworking Americans so they can afford a middle-class life," Clinton said in a speech at the New School in Manhattan.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," Clinton said. "You can't have one with out the other."

Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, was expected to emphasize policies that would focus on the middle class. Other Democratic primary opponents, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, have appealed to the Democratic base by criticizing rising income equality.

Her campaign said the speech would outline proposals "for an economy that grows faster, fairer and more sustainably so that everyday Americans can get ahead and stay ahead."

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Republicans on Sunday criticized her positions as traditional "big government" proposals that would exacerbate the income divide.

"Bigger government creates crony capitalism," Carly Fiorina, a former chief executive at Hewlett-Packard, said on ABC's "This Week." Fiorina said the current tax code, for example, benefitted large corporations over small businesses.

Clinton last month announced her candidacy on Roosevelt Island, invoking the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and highlighting economic prosperity, to launch a new phase of her presidential campaign. Since then, Sanders has attracted large crowds in early primary and caucus voting states.

The era of small government is over: Hillary tacks left, while the right trots out bankrupt arguments //
Salon // Simon Maloy – July 13, 2015

This morning Hillary Clinton will deliver her first big economic policy speech of the 2016 campaign, and all indications are that she will embrace full communism. Hillary's strong position in the polls notwithstanding, she still has to keep an eye on two Democratic rivals making plays for the restive liberal base of the party: Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley. Sanders has amassed an impressive share of the Democratic electorate by running hard to the left on economic issues: single-payer healthcare, expanding Social Security, breaking up big banks, etc. O'Malley doesn't have anywhere near the support that Sanders does, but he's cranking out white papers on topics like climate change and bank regulation that are laying down markers for the 2016 policy fight.

And so with two competitors running hard to the left, Hillary wants to grab herself a slice of that liberal enthusiasm. Her big speech "kicking off" her campaign last month laid out some of the broad economic themes she'll run on: higher wages, reducing economic inequality, clean energy and so forth. The speech today will put a tiny bit of policy meat on those bones. Hillary's advisers gave a preview of what she'll propose to the New York Times:

Her most ambitious ideas, which her advisers say are designed to help families, include prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds, expanded access to child care, paid sick days and paid family leave, helping to make college students "as debt free as possible," a higher minimum wage, company profit-sharing for employees, legal protections for people in country illegally, and more financing for medical research.

Universal prekindergarten alone could cost tens of billions of dollars over the next decade, according to outside advisers to Mrs. Clinton.

As the last sentence of that block quote indicates, Hillary's policy platform is already being framed in terms of cost to the taxpayer – the lede of the Times article characterizes her agenda as "muscular federal policies that would require hundreds of billions of dollars in new spending and markedly expand Washington's influence in a host of areas." And, of course, when a Democrat proposes an expansion of federal programs to aid the poor and working class, there's a quick assumption that the increase in spending will be controversial and a ripe target for attack by Republicans. Again, from the Times:

The question is whether the lofty vision she is articulating as a candidate for the Democratic nomination is one that can be turned into a mandate if she is elected president.

"The problem for Hillary is that the country itself isn't hungering for liberalism," said Jeremy Mayer, an associate professor of politics at George Mason University. "Republicans will be well positioned to say to Hillary, 'Great, and how are you going to pay for that?'"

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This is so frustrating. I don't know if Hillary is going to use the speech to get into the funding mechanisms for all these programs, though I assume it involves some combination of raising taxes on rich people, closing various loopholes, and eliminating some deductions. But why should we automatically assume that Republicans will have the better of her when it comes to spending?

A quick perusal of the tax plans put forth by some of the GOP candidates shows that they don't really have too much credibility to criticize the (as yet unknown) price tag of Hillary's policy proposals. Rand Paul's tax plan, which calls for a complete elimination of our current progressive tax structure in favor of a 14.5 percent flat tax, would cost the government a gobsmacking $15 trillion in revenue over its first decade, according to Citizens for Tax Justice. Even when you goose the numbers with a hefty dose of dynamic scoring, as the right-leaning Tax Foundation did, the Paul plan still ends up costing nearly $1 trillion over ten years. Marco Rubio's tax plan, which combines massive tax cuts for the rich with an expansion of the child tax credit, would cost $4 trillion over the same time period, and "even if you assume that the plan results in a large amount of economic growth and thus a reflow of revenue from the large economy, the plan will still increase the debt by 8 percent in the next decade." Rubio also wants to vastly expand the military budget at the same time that he's starving the government of revenue.

These are common themes among most of the Republican candidates – slash tax revenues dramatically while boosting funding for the military, all the while promising to make up the gargantuan costs with unspecified cuts elsewhere in the budget. A candidate whose tax policy calls for an unpaid-for, multitrillion-dollar giveaway to America's wealthy can't also claim the mantle of fiscal responsibility to attack a Democrat's proposed expansion of social programs. But just as we're conditioned to treat wildly irresponsible Republican and conservative tax plans as the norm, we seem to reflexively grant Republicans an edge when it comes to issues of government spending. I look forward to hearing what Hillary has in mind, and I hope she does explain how she'll pay for what she's proposing. But let's not presume that she's already put herself at a political disadvantage.

The Best Quotes From Hillary Clinton's Speech That Outlined Her Seriously Feminist Economic Vision // Bustle // Josephine Yurcaba – July 13, 2015

In a speech Monday morning, 2016 presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton outlined her goals for the American economy. Clinton spoke at the New School in New York City about her vision, which includes raising median incomes, using policy to raise wages and reduce income inequality, and working, specifically, to raise pay for women across the U.S., according to the Washington Post. Some of the best quotes from Clinton's speech on the economy show that she understands the fundamental connection between economic disparities and social inequalities, which good policy can help change.

"I've had the opportunity to listen to Americans' concerns about an economy that still isn't delivering for them the way it should," Clinton said when she started the speech, according to her Twitter account. She talked about how Americans are working harder — they're working longer hours and producing more for their employers — but their wages aren't going up.

Clinton also pointed out that Republican policies are consistently the same, and they only help to worsen income inequality: Republicans want to cut taxes for the rich, loosen regulations on financial industries, break up unions and other organizations that provide protections for workers, and restrict public investments, according to her Twitter. Clinton said those policies have failed, and it's time to try something brand new — like raising the minimum wage, for starters.

Clinton: Why training for the new economy is key // Wired // Issie Lapowsky – July 13, 2015

Following similar comments made by President Obama, Hillary Clinton says that in order to ensure technology is creating jobs—and not displacing them—the country needs more training programs that can funnel low-income Americans into the tech-driven workforce.

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"In an age of technological change, we need to provide pathways to get skills and credentials for new occupations and create online platforms to connect workers to jobs," she said in a speech on economic policy in New York City today. "There are exciting efforts underway, and I want to support and scale the ones that show results."

Those programs will be critical to lowering the youth unemployment rate, she said, in which some 6 million Americans between 16 and 24 years old are neither currently working nor in school. That unemployment rate is especially high among young black and Hispanic people. Training plays a role in helping people secure those jobs, but Clinton said we must also ensure that even as technology eliminates the need for some jobs, there are enough new ones to take their place.

"The best antipoverty program is a job, but that's hard to say if there aren't enough jobs for people to help lift themselves out of poverty," Clinton said.

To increase the number of available jobs, the former Secretary of State laid out a plan to offer businesses $1,500 in tax credits for every employee they hire and train.

Hillary Clinton Will Crack Down On Contractor Economy // Wired // Issie Lopowsky – July 13, 2015

ADD HILLARY CLINTON to the list of labor advocates coming after the gig economy.

In her first major speech outlining her economic platform today at New York City's New School, the Democratic presidential candidate vowed to crack down on "bosses misclassifying workers as contractors." The promise seemed to come in direct response to the wave of legal action that's been taken against companies like Uber recently, which argue that drivers should be compensated as employees.

Clinton, who emphasized the need to raise wages throughout her speech, said that businesses that allow people to make extra money by renting a spare room or driving their own car can often threaten solid labor practices. "This on demand or so-called gig economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation," she said, "but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protection and what a good job will look like in the future."

Hillary Clinton Says On-Demand Economy Raises Hard Questions About Workplace Protections // TechCrunch // Josh Constine – July 13, 2015

"This on-demand, or so-called 'gig economy', is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation. But it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future" Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said in a speech today outlining her economic policy. You can rewatch the talk on C-Span here.

Clinton was referring to companies like Uber that are built on armies of independent contractors. She prefaced the statement noting that the country and Wall Street are thinking too much about short-term financial returns. She said "Meanwhile, many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing websites, selling products they design themselves at home, or even driving their own car."

Clinton SpeechWhile these workers get scheduling flexibility and the freedom to do other jobs, they don't get benefits and may not have the same long-term career opportunities. Some prefer being their own boss, but some want the extra protection of full-time positions. There may be an opportunity for policies that give workers themselves the choice.

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At the talk at The New School in Manhattan, Clinton laid out her plan to strengthen wages and build up the middle class. Her stance on contract workers came as part of her push to foster good paying jobs. That's one part of her three-pronged strategy that also includes balancing out inequality and a focus on long-term over short-term thinking for businesses.

Clinton accused some employers of "wage theft" through the way they treat contractors. She says "I'll crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages." Clinton cited "Fair pay and fair scheduling, paid family leave and earned sick days, child care are essential to our competitiveness and growth." These are the workplace protections that contractors lack.

However, her camp tells me Clinton sees this issue as having arisen well before the on-demand economy, and she views a crack down of enforcement as a distinct issue. Specifically, her campaign says that Clinton has not made a definitive statement about how Uber drivers should be classified, and I was told not to expect one soon. Instead, Clinton is thinking strategically about how to develop policies that protect all types of workers but that are relevant to the future and don't stifle innovation.

Also relevant to the tech sector, Clinton denounced quarterly capitalism. Speaking on behalf of business leaders she's spoken to, Clinton said "They say everything's focused on the next earnings report or the short-term share price. The result is too little attention on the sources of long-term growth: research and development, physical capital, and talent.

"Some of our biggest companies have spent almost half their earnings to buy back their own stock, and another third or more to pay dividends. That doesn't leave a lot left to raise pay or invest in the workers or make new investments to ensure a company's future success" Clinton said. "These trends need to change."

The question now is what concrete changes Clinton would like to see regarding contractor classifications, workplace protections, and reporting requirements for public companies to build what she calls "a growth and fairness economy."

Hillary Clinton takes aim at Uber economy in speech **// Market Watch // Robert Schroeder – July 13, 2015**

Uber was the elephant in the room when Hillary Clinton gave her economic-policy speech on Monday, as the Democrats' leading presidential contender called out the "gig economy."

In a major campaign speech in New York City, the former secretary of state didn't mention the ride-sharing service by name. But it was pretty clear what sort of companies she was talking about when she got to how some Americans earn money.

"Many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing websites, selling products they design themselves at home, or even driving their own car," she said at the New School.

But that sort of work comes with its own problems, she said.

"This 'on demand' or so-called 'gig economy' is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future," Clinton added.

As Mashable notes, her remarks came as startups like Uber and its competitor Lyft are under mounting scrutiny for classifying drivers as independent contractors rather than part-time or full-time employees, entitled to health-

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care benefits, sick time and paid time off.

Hillary Clinton tackles Republican rivals head-on in economic speech // Guardian // Sabrina Siddiqui – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged to fight for higher wages and lift the American middle class on Monday, in a speech that outlined her economic agenda and saw the Democratic presidential candidate take a more aggressive tone towards her Republican rivals.

Speaking at the New School in Greenwich Village, a New York university known for its progressive worldview, Clinton placed income inequality and improving the conditions of everyday Americans at the heart of her pitch to grow the economy and increase wages.

“I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy,” she said. “You can’t have one without the other.

“We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle-class life. We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country. That will be my mission from the first day I’m president to the last.”

To alleviate the financial burden on middle-class Americans, Clinton emphasized policies such as paid family leave, lowering childcare costs, passing equal pay for women and raising the minimum wage.

Signalling a willingness to play offense against Republicans, she called out three Republican candidates who are seen as the leaders in a crowded presidential field: Jeb Bush, on workers, Marco Rubio, on taxes, and Scott Walker on unions.

Invoking Bush’s recent comments that Americans need to “work longer hours” – a clumsy statement that drew immediate scrutiny from Democrats and the media – Clinton sought to portray the former Florida governor as out of touch.

“Well, he must not have met many American workers,” she said. “They don’t need a lecture, they need a raise.”

Clinton also described a tax plan proposed by Rubio, a senator from Florida, as “a sure, budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy”.

Alex Conant, a spokesman for Rubio, responded to Clinton’s jab by saying the former secretary of state “wants to take us back to yesterday”.

“We cannot raise taxes like the 1990s or increase spending like the 2000s,” Conant said in an email to the Guardian. “Marco is proposing a 21st-century tax plan that would benefit all Americans, especially middle-class families.”

Of Walker, the anti-union Wisconsin governor who formally launched his presidential campaign on Monday, Clinton said she would fight back against the “mean-spirited, misguided attacks” on workers waged by him and other Republican chief executives.

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“Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names stomping on workers’ rights,” Clinton said.

The Bush campaign hit back with a statement that characterized her proposals as “antiquated”.

“Hillary Clinton is proposing the same failed policies we have seen in the Obama economy, where the typical American household’s income has declined and it’s harder for businesses to hire and the middle class to achieve rising incomes,” Allie Brandenburger, a Bush spokeswoman, said in a statement.

“Americans want to work and want the opportunity to achieve earned success for their families, but Secretary Clinton’s antiquated proposals protect the special interests that want to stifle American ingenuity and 21st-century companies like Uber that are creating jobs. Governor Bush believes harnessing innovation and fostering technology can help us grow at 4% once again.”

Clinton’s tough talk was not reserved just for Republicans – sounding ever the progressive, the former first lady also vowed to go after individuals and corporations on Wall Street that run afoul of the law.

“Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky and the problems are not limited to the big banks that get all the headlines,” she said, adding that she would appoint bank regulators who recognized that “too big to fail is still too big a problem”.

“There can be no justification or tolerance,” she said, for criminal behavior, committing to going beyond the 2010 Wall Street reform legislation known as Dodd-Frank.

Clinton faces a primary challenge from Bernie Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont who is running for president as a Democrat and is a vocal critic of Wall Street. Although Clinton struck a firm tone on the financial services industry, she remained measured – citing her role as a former senator from New York to point out that she knows “first-hand the role Wall Street can and should play in the economy”.

Clinton said she would later introduce in more detail her plans to boost the economy and reform the tax code – including a proposal to reform capital gains taxes – to increase the minimum wage, boost infrastructure investment and establish universal preschool.

In conclusion, Clinton added a personal touch to summarize her approach to steering the economy. “Maybe it’s the grandmother in me,” Clinton said, but “leadership is planting trees under whose shade you will never sit.”

Hillary Clinton knows: the real face of low labor force participation is female // Guardian // Jessica Valenti – July 13, 2015

When we think about stay-at-home moms, the most common image is one of cheerful suburban women shuttling kids off to soccer games and packing bag lunches: women who choose to be at home instead of at work. But the truth is far thornier, with many women at home not because they want to be, but because they have to be – something to which Hillary Clinton seemed attuned as she called for more women in the workforce on Monday as part of her economic vision for the future.

Clinton has been pushing left on work-life issues, so it was no surprise that she cited family leave, closing the wage gap and access to affordable, quality childcare as key to a building a stronger economy and narrowing gender inequalities. But Clinton also said she wants more women working in the public sphere, saying: “we can’t afford to leave talent on the sidelines.”

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She continued: “The United States used to rank seventh out of 24 advanced countries in women’s labor force participation. By 2013, we’d dropped to 19th. That represents a lot of unused potential for our economy and American families.”

To prioritize putting more women in the workforce shouldn’t be controversial. But in a culture that still tells women that the most important job title they’ll ever hold is “mother” – and with Republicans at the ready to skewer anyone who hints at anything but pure reverence for women who stay at home – Clinton’s message is actually quite subversive. By plainly saying that she wants more women at work, the presidential hopeful is taking on the American fantasy that the majority of stay-at-home moms are there by choice.

While some moms who stay home to take care of children may label this decision as a choice, we can’t really call it such when the alternative may be spending an exorbitant amount of money on childcare. The long-held notion that stay-at-home moms are highly educated women who simply “opted out” of high-powered and well-paid careers is largely a myth.

According to a 2014 Pew study, a third of stay-at-home moms live in poverty, and 70% of single stay-at-home moms live below the poverty level. And nearly half of women who stay at home with children have a high school diploma or less. As Bryce Covert wrote last year: “these financial hardships and barriers are likely part of why a growing share of stay-at-home mothers are out of the workforce because they can’t find a job.” (Why it’s always women’s salaries that are considered expendable for the family good is a whole different story.)

It’s not just mothers who are out of work, of course. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while the labor participation rate of men over 20 years old is about 72%, it’s only 58% for women. The face of unemployed Americans is a distinctly female one.

In her speech, Clinton said: “We should be making it easier for Americans to be both good workers and good parents and caregivers.” Part of doing that is, as Clinton laid out, ensuring equal pay, fair family leave and affordable childcare. But it’s also dismantling the myth that women would largely rather be at home than at work. Yes, we love our children. And many of us moms do want more flexibility and family leave. But we also want to get paid, and we want real choices.

Women are a necessary and vital part of the workforce whose contribution to the public good goes beyond raising children. And as Clinton said, these are not just “women’s issues.” They’re American ones.

Clinton unveils economic plan, calls for corporate profit sharing // USA Today // David Jackson – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unveiled her economic program Monday, including a call for corporations to share more profits with employees in a bid to increase take-home pay.

“Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce,” Clinton said during an address in New York City.

Higher wages and salaries are keys to revving up the economy, Clinton said, as she outlined plans to generate economic growth, further regulate Wall Street excesses and promote opportunity for more women.

“I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy,” she said at one point. “You can’t have one without the other.”

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The former secretary of state, New York senator, and first lady also called out Republican presidential candidates Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Scott Walker while denouncing GOP-style tax-cut “trickle-down” economics that favor the wealthy.

In slamming Bush for his comment that people need to “work more hours” to help the economy grow, Clinton said that the former Florida governor obviously hasn’t spoken to many actual workers. “They don’t need a lecture,” Clinton said. “They need a raise.”

Bush said he was referring to the need for part-time workers to get full-time jobs, an aspiration made more difficult by the kinds of government regulations supported by Clinton and Democrats.

Allie Brandenburger, a Bush spokesperson, said that Clinton “is proposing the same failed policies we have seen” during President Obama’s tenure.

“Secretary Clinton’s antiquated proposals protect the special interests that want to stifle American ingenuity and 21st Century companies like Uber that are creating jobs,” she said.

The Democratic candidate also criticized Walker, the governor of Wisconsin who is kicking off his campaign today, saying he is anti-union. Walker says he acted to protect taxpayers.

Clinton said her economic strategy — including equal pay legislation — will tap the under-utilized contributions of women. She drew perhaps her biggest applause with the line, “it’s way past time to end the outrage of so many women still earning less than men on the job — and women of color making even less.”

A pro-family, pro-growth agenda also includes paid leave, affordable child care, earned sick days, and flexible scheduling, she said.

Clinton also called for more regulations of Wall Street financial practices, saying too many firms continue to abuse the system. She said that “too big to fail is still too big a problem,” and that abusers of the financial system should be criminally prosecuted.

Hillary Clinton Boosts Workers, Blasts Uber **// US News // Tim Risen – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is out to boost labor rights at companies like Uber, a move that may resonate with some voters but could alienate small-business owners.

The leading Democratic presidential contender on Monday took a thinly veiled swipe at Uber, which is facing scrutiny for classifying its drivers as independent contractors instead of employees – a practice Clinton called “wage theft” during a speech at the New School in New York City.

“This ‘on demand’ or so-called ‘gig' economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it’s also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future,” Clinton said, vowing to "crack down on bosses misclassifying workers as contractors.”

Clinton called for businesses to expand many benefits, including "fair pay and fair scheduling, paid family leave

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and earned sick days," but insisted that it could be done without causing prices to rise too steeply.

"We can do this in a way that doesn't impose unfair burdens on businesses -- especially small businesses," Clinton said of her proposals.

Independent contractors are not eligible for the same benefits or protections as full-time or even part-time employees, which means they often miss out on things like overtime pay or access to health or life insurance. Uber is facing lawsuits from former drivers who seek employee benefits including expense accounts to cover routine costs, like buying gas for the cars they drive for the company.

Uber has "hundreds of thousands of driver partners and millions of riders" but only "more than 3,000 worldwide employees," a spokeswoman for the company tells U.S. News.

Clinton's call for greater employee benefits may resonate with workers at sharing economy sites like Uber, Lyft or food delivery application Postmates. But adding benefits could have adverse effects, forcing businesses to raise prices, cut back services or trim jobs, says Joe Kennedy, a senior fellow at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation think tank.

"There is political pressure trying to makes sure the company doesn't make too much," Kennedy says. "All that risks the tremendous value the consumer gets." Also at risk: public opinion. "Anything that crimps Uber too much would be opposed by younger voters," Kennedy says.

The global sharing economy, much of which is based in the U.S., is currently worth approximately $15 billion and forecast to be valued at $335 billion by 2025, according to a report from PricewaterhouseCoopers, which listed affordability and convenience as key lures for its growing base of consumers.

Other businesses -- including trucking, construction and cleaning services -- also rely on contractors, says David Rosenfeld, a union counsel at the law firm of Weinberg, Roger and Rosenfeld.

"When you use contractors you don't have to pay taxes on them – you don't have to provide workers compensation, you don't have to worry about discrimination lawsuits, you don't have to worry about union issues, and you don't have to pay overtime," he says. "The disincentive of using contractors is that you lose the right to tell them how to work, how to behave, how to dress. You lose control of your brand that you would have with employees."

Not all companies may react negatively to Clinton's call for more worker benefits, however. Rosenfeld points out that her point of view could even re-energize the union vote among Democrats.

"This will create a split in the business community since there are some who like the model of employment, although there are benefits to using contractors," says Rosenfeld, who is also a lecturer at the University of California-Berkeley School of Law. "If unions get out and get their members and their families to vote it makes a difference. Obama really only paid lip service for unions and didn't rally support the way Hillary Clinton could."

Clinton Proposes 'Fairness' Economy, Swats Republicans // US News // David Catanese – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton said Monday her presidency would be dedicated to building an economy that lifts wages for middle-class Americans, but left many details of her broadly outlined platform for another day.

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Instead, her speech at The New School in Manhattan sought to draw a sharp distinction with her top Republican opponents and assure liberals that she will prioritize the issues of economic inequality and Wall Street profiteering in her 2016 campaign.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," Clinton said. "The measure of our success must be how much incomes rise for hardworking families, not just CEOs and middle managers."

Among the laundry list of Clinton's bare-boned economic proposals: Closing loopholes rewarding companies that send jobs and profits overseas, encouraging companies to profit-share with their employees, mandating paid leave for parents with newborn children and providing tax credits to companies that train and hire workers.te

She also pledged tax relief for small businesses and capital gains tax reform, and swiped at a plan by Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., without lending details of her own.

Clinton claimed that Rubio would slash rates for those making $3 million, which she categorized as "a sure budget-busting giveaway to the super wealthy."

Rubio wasn't the only Republican on the receiving end of a broadside from Clinton.

She also swatted Jeb Bush for his remark last week in New Hampshire saying Americans should "work longer hours" to help grow the economy.

"He must not have met very many American workers," Clinton said. "Let him say that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day, or the teacher who is in that classroom, or the trucker who drives all night. They don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

Bush, through a spokeswoman, noted that household income has declined through the current presidential administration – which Clinton was a part of – and deemed Clinton's solutions "antiquated proposals ... that want to stifle American ingenuity."

In a nod to the importance of unions, a crucial Democratic Party constituency, Clinton also took on Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is kicking off his presidential campaign Monday.

She accused Walker of making his name by "stomping on workers' rights" with "mean-spirited, misguided attacks."

"If we want to be serious about raising incomes, we have to support unions," she said.

Clinton also rehashed her commitment to policies she's previously advocated for, like a higher minimum wage, equal pay for women in the workplace and comprehensive immigration reform.

"Bringing millions of hardworking people into the formal economy would increase our gross domestic product $700 billion over 10 years," she estimated.

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In this Jan. 23, 2014, then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the deadly September attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. Senior Obama administration officials, including the White House chief of staff, knew as early as 2009 that Hillary Rodham Clinton was using a private email address for her government correspondence, according to some 3,000 pages of correspondence released by the State Department late Tuesday night, June 20, 2015. But it's unclear whether the officials realized Clinton, now the leading Democratic presidential candidate, was running her email from a server located in her home in Chappaqua, N.Y., a potential security risk and violation of administration policy.

She set a goal of providing high-quality pre-school access to every 4-year-old within a decade.

"Quality affordable childcare is not a luxury, it's a growth strategy," she said.

To address the excesses of Wall Street – an area where liberals continue to be skeptical about Clinton – the former New York senator said she would implement policies to incentivize financial firms to think about long-term growth, rather than "quarterly capitalism."

"We also have to go beyond Dodd-Frank," Clinton said, referring to the financial reforms implemented by President Barack Obama. And she acknowledged that "too big to fail is still too big a problem."

But again, she was light on specifics on how far she was willing to go, simply promising more consequences for leaders of firms who skirt the rules.

In this final section of the speech, a protester began to yell, "Senator Clinton, will you restore Glass-Stegall?"

That's the 1933 banking act that separated commercial and investment banking. It was repealed under her husband's administration in 1999, and critics say the move was partly responsible for the financial meltdown that occurred a decade later.

The crowd cheered as the protester was ejected from the auditorium. Clinton just smiled.

Hillary Clinton takes aim at Jeb Bush, and at America's falling rate of participation in the workforce // Quartz // Tim Fernholz – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton laid out her economic agenda as a battle to raise the incomes of average Americans, and didn't hesitate to slam her Republican rivals for the US presidency—in some cases by name—over their ideas for jumpstarting the economy.

"The measure of success must be how much incomes rise for hard-working families," the former US secretary of state told an audience in New York, "and not some arbitrary growth target untethered to people's lives and livelihoods."

That was a not-so-subtle dig at former Florida governor and Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, who has said that as president he would make 4% economic growth his target, despite the historical difficulty of achieving that goal:

While Bush has yet to outline his agenda fully, he has said that he wants Americans to work more, despite the fact

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that they already work quite a bit and that working more hours doesn't solve the US productivity problem. "He must not have met very many American workers," Clinton joked, saying that American workers "don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

But if Clinton wouldn't advise that people work more, she would at least like to see more people working. Participation in the US workforce has fallen in recent years, and less overall work in the country means less production—and less growth.

In particular, Clinton emphasized a desire to bring more women into the workforce. The flood of women entering the workforce in the latter half of the last century boosted growth, but the US, one of the few advanced countries without paid family leave, has fallen to 17th in the OECD's ranking of female labor participation.

Clinton argued that the country needs better family-leave policies so that working women can be confident that a career won't stand between their—and their partner's—ability to care for their family; this would likely result in more women working over the course of their adult lifetime, and thus more prosperity in the US.

The policy may seem counter-intuitive—give more time off to get more overall work—but it has empirical backing. The political challenge will be convincing businesses to share the near-term costs of such a policy before the long-term benefits kick in.

This idea fits with the broad theme of Clinton's speech, discussing a problem that "didn't start with the recession, and it didn't end with the recovery," as fundamental trends in the economy toward skilled labor and flexible jobs have changed the traditional calculus for workers.

Those changes, and the anxieties they've caused for many Americans, will be at the forefront of the debate over domestic policy in the long campaign ahead.

Hillary Clinton: Here's how I'd run the economy **// CS Monitor // Peter Grief – July 13, 2015**

Hillary Clinton wants you to know that her vision for the US economy is different from Jeb Bush's, Marco Rubio's, and Scott Walker's. Oh, and Bernie Sanders's, too.

That's a bottom line from Democratic front-runner Clinton's big Monday speech about American workers, opportunity, and US business. Aides billed it as a kickoff address meant to set the former secretary of State apart from all her rivals in the race for 2016.

Her theme? As the shadow of the Great Recession continues to recede, the United States needs a "growth and fairness" approach to get the economy moving again full-speed.

Recommended: How much do you know about Hillary Rodham Clinton? Take our quiz.

"We can't create enough jobs and new businesses without more growth, and we can't build strong families and support our consumer economy without more fairness. We need both, because while America is standing again, we're not yet running the way we should," she said in New York.

Mrs. Clinton took on the major Republican contenders by name. She hit Mr. Bush for his comment from last week that Americans need to "work more hours," saying that he must not have met many American workers.

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“Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day or the trucker who drives all night. Let him tell that to the fast-food workers marching in the streets for better pay. They don’t need a lecture – they need a raise,” said Clinton.

(Bush has said that what he really meant was that part-time workers need the opportunity to work more hours if they want.)

She criticized Senator Rubio’s tax plan as a “budget-busting giveaway to the super-wealthy." As for Governor Walker, she took aim at his attempts to curtail the power of public-sector unions.

“Evidence shows that the decline of unions may be responsible for a third of the increase of inequality among men. So if we want to get serious about raising incomes, we have to get serious about supporting workers,” Clinton said.

In contrast, Clinton did not mention Senator Sanders’s name. But she drew some lines that seemed intended to compare-and-contrast her economic plan with the beliefs of the rival who’s running to her left.

For instance, she talked about the need to confront Wall Street, as Sanders does, but she did not use his harsh language or endorse some of his more extreme proposals, such as breaking up big banks. Similarly, she backed an increase in the minimum wage, but without attaching a dollar figure, leaving herself some margin for maneuver.

Perhaps most important, she brought gender into her discussion of family needs. That’s not Sanders’s way of framing inequality. As Amber Phillips of "The Fix" political blog at The Washington Post notes, white liberal men are Sanders’s core supporters.

Clinton used a substantial portion of her speech to talk about the burdens women carry in the US economy as they try to balance family and work lives. Fair pay, flexible scheduling, paid family leave, earned sick days, and child care “are essential to our competitiveness and growth," she said.

The growing participation of women in the labor force in the US has stalled, said Clinton. That’s a lot of unused potential for the economy and US families, she said.

“Women who want to work should be able to do so without worrying every day about how they’re going to take care of their children or what will happen if a family member gets sick,” Clinton said.

Does Clinton want to force women to join the workforce? Of course not, writes Ramesh Ponnuru of the right-leaning National Review in a post critical of Clinton’s speech.

But Bush, with his “work more hours” line, wasn’t pushing Americans to work harder, either. He was just talking about opening up opportunity for those who want it, according to Mr. Ponnuru.

“If it’s fair game to distort his words, it’s fair game for the Republicans to say: Hey, Secretary Clinton, the stay-at-home moms of America don’t need a lecture from you,” he writes.

Hillary Clinton’s answer to t he wage gap: Profit-sharing? // CS Monitor // Jessica Mendoza – July 13, 2015

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Jobs and the economy remain the most critical issues for candidates of the 2016 elections, and on Monday Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton will reveal how she plans to address them.

The former US senator and secretary of State is set to give her first major speech on economic policy on Monday at the progressive New School in New York City's Greenwich Village. In it she will emphasize middle-class incomes and wages, as well as detail what she calls a "win-win" plan to encourage profit-sharing between companies and their employees, her campaign said Monday.

Mrs. Clinton will also call for changing the tax code to help workers benefit, increasing investment in infrastructure projects, boosting the power of unions, and lowering costs of health care. She will also advocate for raising the federal minimum wage.

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce," Clinton will say, according to excerpts of the speech obtained by Bloomberg.

Greater corporate profit-sharing "will be good for workers and good for business," because "studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets," Clinton is expected to say. "It's a win-win."

The speech, a product of consultation withmore than 200 domestic policy experts over the course of several months, is part of Clinton's bid to define herself against rivals in her party – particularly Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Both candidates have tried to position themselves to the left of Clinton: Sen. Sanders has been working "to ignite a grassroots fire among left-leaning Democrats" who may be wary of Clinton, the Associated Press reportedin May, while Mr. O'Malley shot to the spotlight early in July with his open letter against what he called the "too-big-to-prosecute and too-big-to-jail" megabanks on Wall Street.

All three candidates have also been actively wooing Hispanic officials and labor groups – an effort that for Clinton bore fruit Saturday, when she received the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers union, which represents more than 1.6 million teachers and school personnel nationwide.

Clinton's New York address is also meant to portray her Republican opponents as beholden to tax cuts and quick fixes that will fail to revitalize stagnating incomes.

GOP candidates have tried to portray Clinton as out of touch with the electorate she is courting, and said her policies are simply a prescription for a bigger government role in the economy.

"What I will continue to point out is the fact that every policy she is pursuing will make income inequality worse, not better – crony capitalism even worse, not better," Carly Fiorina, former Hewlett Packard chief executive officer and Republican presidential hopeful, said on ABC's "This Week" Sunday. "And meanwhile, we will continue to crush the businesses that create jobs and middle class families."

Clinton also got into a Twitter tiff with former Florida governor Jeb Bush after Mr. Bush suggested that Americans need to work more hours to increase economic growth.

"Anyone who believes Americans aren't working hard enough hasn't met enough American workers," Clinton posted on the social media site.

Bush shot back: "Anyone who discounts 6.5 million people stuck in part-time work & seeking full-time jobs hasnt listened to working Americans."

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Hillary Clinton Unveils Economic Agenda, but Can't Shake Wall Street Questions // National Journal // Emma Roller – July 13, 2015

When New School President David Van Zandt introduced Hillary Clinton on Monday, he made an inadvertent joke.

After Van Zandt said, "the New School does not endorse any particular candidate for political office," knowing laughter and clapping broke out in the audience. The New School has a proudly liberal history, thus making it a well-scouted venue for Clinton to give a populist speech about her economic platform.

In her speech, Clinton proposed three prongs for her economic policies: strong growth, fair growth, and long-term growth. What that looks like in policy terms: raising wages (especially for women), boosting participation in the workforce, encouraging profit-sharing for firms' employees, and deploying so-called "empowerment zones" to encourage growth in downtrodden cities. If that last one sounds familiar, it's because another candidate—Sen. Rand Paul—has already proposed a similar idea.

There was some tittering ahead of Clinton's speech that she would be attacking Uber, the ride-sharing service that's become a darling of the Republican Party. But whether she was alluding to disruptive businesses like Uber or entrenched Wall Street firms, her actual remarks hardly amounted to a scorched-earth attack.

"Many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing websites, selling products they designed themselves at home, or even driving their own car," Clinton said. "This on-demand or so-called 'gig economy' is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future."

Clinton also teased a plan to reform the capital-gains tax—a topic on which she has come under some scrutiny—that she says she'll get into when she visits New Hampshire later this week. And while the average voter's eyelids may start to droop as quick as you can say "capital-gains tax," it's become somewhat of a progressive litmus test for Democratic candidates. Democracy for America, one of the progressive groups that were agitating for an Elizabeth Warren presidential campaign, had a positive take on Clinton's economic speech.

"Coupled with Senator Bernie Sanders' early 2016 surge, today's speech illustrates the dominant force the Elizabeth Warren Wing is in the Democratic Party and the critical role it has already played in ensuring that income inequality, the moral issue of our time, sits at the very center of the 2016 presidential debate," Jim Dean, Democracy for America's chair, said in a statement.

There are still some gaps in Clinton's economic agenda. Both Sanders and Martin O'Malley have said they would raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour, while Clinton has remained mum on the exact wage she would seek. Some have argued that doubling the minimum wage would be too risky a move, and one that may reduce employment.

Still, for Democrats, Clinton's policies are light-years ahead of those of her Republican counterparts. And that's something she latched onto in her speech on Monday while avoiding criticism of her primary opponents. Clinton called out Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker by name to criticize their views on labor, taxes, and unions, respectively.

On Bush's comment that "people need to work longer hours": "You may have heard Governor Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours. Well, he must not have met very many American workers. Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day, or the teacher who is in that classroom, or the trucker who drives all night. Let him tell that to the fast-food worker marching in the streets for better pay. They don't need a lecture. They need a raise."

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On Rubio's proposed tax plan: "We hear Republican candidates talk a lot about tax reform, but take a good look at their plans. Senator Rubio's would cut taxes for households making around $3 million a year by almost $240,000, which is way more than three times the earnings of a typical family. Well, that's a sure budget-busting giveaway to the super-wealthy, and that's the kind of bad economics you're likely to hear from any of the candidates on the other side."

On Walker stripping public-employee unions in his state of collective bargaining: "Alongside tax reform, it's time to stand up to efforts across our country to undermine worker bargaining power, which has been proven again and again to drive up wages. Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names stomping on workers' rights, and practically all the Republican candidates hope to do the same as president. I will fight back against these mean-spirited, misguided attacks."

Hillary Clinton unveils economic plan with jabs at Wall St and her opponents // Telegraph // Peter Foster – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton set down the economic battle-lines for the 2016 US general election Monday, promising to rebuild the American dream while issuing a stinging attack on the “criminal” excesses of some sections of the Wall Street banking culture.

In a two-pronged strategy, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination attacked her Republican opponents for their “trickle-down” economic theories while seeking to defend against criticism from the Left wing of her own party about her links with Wall Street and big business interests.

Promising to raise incomes for America’s middle classes, Mrs Clinton singled out Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor who is likely to be one of her most formidable opponents in the 2016 race, for his recent remarks saying Americans needed to raise their productivity.

“You may have heard Governor Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours. He must not have met very many American workers .... They don’t need a lecture, they need a raise,” she said in a speech in New York.

Mrs Clinton, who can earn $250,000 (£160,000) from a single speaking engagement – nearly five times the current annual median US household income – has worked hard in recent months to burnish her credentials with ordinary Americans, embarking on a “listening tour” in key battleground states.

As president, Mrs Clinton promised new measures to boost incomes, such as schemes to increase corporate profit-sharing schemes, as well as new plans to help women, working families and low-skilled workers make better livings.

“The measure of our success must be how much incomes rise for hard-working families — not just for successful CEOs and money managers,” she said, before launching a scathing attack on “hedge funds” and “high-frequency traders”, her voice at times larded with disdain.

The populist rhetoric was aimed as much at her Democrat opponents, such as Bernie Sanders, the socialist Vermont senator who has rapidly closed to within 8 points of Mrs Clinton in the key primary state of New Hampshire, as it was at Republicans.

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Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor who is also running clearly to the Left of Mrs Clinton, was quick to push back after the speech, saying in a statement that "vague promises" would not rebuild the American dream.

His own policies, widely seen as far-fetched but appealing to the Left, include offering debt-free college education within five years, passing a $15 minimum wage and converting America to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050.

Republicans have retreated to populist rhetoric of their own, arguing that the same policies derided by Mrs Clinton – tax breaks, welfare cuts and union-busting – is the real road back to a high-growth economy and restoring middle class prosperity.

Among the leading proponents of that strategy is Scott Walker, the 47-year-old governor of the Midwestern state of Wisconsin who will launch his campaign today by touting his record crushing teachers unions and cutting taxes in his own state.

"He balanced budgets, cut taxes and beat the special interests, improved education, created jobs and showed how to fight and win," said a promotional video announcing his White House bid. He will become the fifteenth Republican to enter the race.

Mr Bush, who has promised to double America's current economic growth rate to four per cent per year, led Republican retorts to Mrs Clinton's brand of economics – dubbed "fair-left not far-left" by her own strategists – calling her "defeatist" for ducking annual growth targets.

Marco Rubio, the young Cuban-American senator from Florida who is widely seen as a leading challenger to Mr Bush, also attacked Mrs Clinton for what he said was a backward-looking speech full of tired ideas.

"She seems to believe pumping more of today's money into yesterday's programs will bring prosperity tomorrow. It will not," he said, "Increasing taxes and regulations will not promote fairness or opportunity; it will snuff out innovation and crush small business."

Rick Perry, the former Texas governor whose state led the US in job-creation on the back of the shale-oil boom, accused Mrs Clinton of "re-gifting" the economic policies of the Obama administration that had left wages flat and job creation stagnant.

"There is a proven blueprint for job creation in this country, and it is based on lowering taxes and reining in out of control, bureaucratic red tape," he said.

Hillary Clinton wants to raise wages for women and average Americans // Independent // Justin Carissimo – July 13, 2015

Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton announced her economic plan in New York on Monday.

"We need new ideas ... One that I believe in and will fight for is profit sharing," she said.

"Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce."

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The former secretary of state spoke at the New School, a progressive university in Greenwich Village on Monday morning. Ms Clinton proposed tax breaks for companies that create programmes to share profits with employees to raise action for middle-class wages.

The Washington Post received an early release of the report, and revealed that Ms Clinton wants to boost women's pay and ensure more women are in the workforce.

"Clinton will call for paid leave policies to help women work while raising families. That might help raising the number of women in the labor force, which has flatlined after years of growth. How much such a policy will to close pay disparities between men and women isn't as clear," the newspaper said.

Ms Clinton will urge growth by increasing taxes on the wealthiest Americans, raising the federal minimum wage, new child care benefits, federal subsidies for college tuition as well as laws that would help expand unions.

She said her framework would help sustain "an economy that grows faster, fairer and more sustainably so that everyday Americans can get ahead and stay ahead."

The Centre for American Progress, a liberal think tank with strong ties to the campaign, released a report.

The presidential hopeful will provide further details on the plan at an event on Thursday in New Hampshire.

Hillary Clinton: America is leaving 'talent on the sidelines' by limiting women at work // Mashable // Megan Specia – July 13, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton outlined her planned economic policy focusing on the middle class — with a special emphasis on gender equality in the workforce, small business and the protection of unions — during a speech in New York City on Monday.

She didn't hesitate to open her address by slamming Republican politicians for failed "trickle down" economic policies.

"Twice now in the past 20 years, a Democratic president has had to come in and clean up the mess left behind," Clinton said before proceeding on her wide-ranging policy plans.

"We must raise incomes for hardworking Americans so they can afford a middle class life," said Clinton, a theme she carried throughout her announcement at the New School in Manhattan. "And that will be my mission from the first day I am president to the last."

Much of her speech focused on the challenges faced by women in the workforce. She said that fair pay, fair scheduling, paid family leave, earned sick days and childcare are essential, adding that by limiting women in the workforce, American limits its own potential.

"We can't afford to leave talent on the sidelines, but that's exactly what we are doing," Clinton said.

"Women who want to work should be able to do so without worrying everyday about how they are going to care

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for their children or what they are going to do if a family member gets sick," said Clinton. "I am well aware that for far too long, these challenges have been dismissed by some as women's issues, well those days are over."

Clinton also made the case for defending the collective bargaining power of unions. Over the weekend, Clinton became the first major candidate to earn the endorsement of a national labor union when the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) said they would be supporting her in 2016. The AFT includes 1.6 million members and retirees nationwide.

She specifically called out newly declared GOP candidate Gov. Scott Walker, who announced his campaign on Monday. Walker is known nationally for efforts to limit the power of unions in his home state of Wisconsin.

"Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their names by stomping on workers rights," said Clinton. "I will fight back against these mean spirited misguided attacks."

Clinton also emphasized that if elected president, her policy would have a long-term focus.

"I believe part of public service is planting trees under whose shade you'll never sit," said Clinton.

The Uber economy worries Hillary Clinton a little // Mashable // Seth Figerman – July 13, 2015

Uber is suddenly becoming a talking point in the 2016 presidential race.

During her first major economic policy address since entering the 2016 presidential race, Hillary Clinton praised the innovation of startups that let "many Americans" make extra money by renting out spare rooms and offering rides in their cars, but she nonetheless tossed out a veiled threat at the way these and other businesses operate.

"I'll crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages," Clinton said in her economic speech at the New School in Manhattan on Monday.

Her remarks come as billion-dollar startups like Uber and Lyft are under mounting scrutiny from legislators, court judges and the media for classifying drivers as independent contractors rather than part-time or full-time employees entitled to healthcare benefits, sick time and paid time off.

Clinton did not cite any businesses by name in her comments, but earlier in her speech she expressed concern about the "gig economy" which comes without healthcare or benefits.

"This on demand or so called gig economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it is also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future," Clinton said in her speech at the New School in Manhattan on Monday.

Businesses like Uber argue that many of their employees actually prefer to be contractors, rather than employees, for the freedom it provides. Some contractors work for multiple startups, or choose to work only a few hours or days per week. Left unspoken, however, is the fact that classifying most or all contractors as employees would cut into these companies' profit margins, perhaps forcing them to raise prices or otherwise change their approach.

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Uber, in particular, is currently trying to fend off a pending class action lawsuit arguing that its drivers in California officially be recognized as employees. The ride-hailing company has recently lost a smaller, non-precedent setting case, with a court ruling that one individual driver was entitled to retroactive compensation entitled to proper employees.

Clinton stopped short of explaining exactly how she intended to crack down on this business practice, or offer an alternative arrangement for startups like Uber in particular.

The former Secretary of State isn't the only one with Uber on the mind: Jeb Bush, a Republican candidate for president, is reportedly planning to "hail an Uber" later this week and talk publicly about "the importance of innovation."

The growing number of presidential candidates talking about the on-demand economy is a testament to the fast growth and impact of this sector, but it could lead to even greater scrutiny of these businesses at a time when they are already mounting defenses against political and regulatory attacks around the world.

Perhaps recognizing the sensitive political optics and business risks, several similar startups have proactively shifted their approach: Instacart, a grocery delivery service, has begun converting contractors to part-time employees in select markets. Shyp, a startup for delivering packages, has also shifted to classifying its contractors as W2 employees.

The overall theme of Clinton's speech was calling for the need to "build a growth and fairness economy," which would better support the middle class and push for broader prosperity as we move further past the global recession of 2008.

In addition to concerns about the sharing economy, Clinton name-checked every major economic and financial problem of the moment. teased plans to help ease the burden of student loan debt, called for immigration reform, criticized high-frequency trading and slammed the "quarterly capitalism" trend of businesses looking to appease investors through stock buybacks and ever-larger dividends, rather than investing long-term in workers through greater pay and additional resources. She also advocated for women at work and said she wants to be the "small-business president."

7 Fem inist Aspects Of Hillary Clinton's Economic Plan That Would Change Everything For Women In America
// Bustle // Kendyl Kearly – July 13, 2015

Although she has been criticized for months for not being open enough, both in terms of communicating with the press and on her key policy points, Hillary Clinton laid out an expansive, feminist economic plan on Monday in a speech at the traditionally liberal New School in New York City. There, Clinton offered specific policy plans on a number of economic issues, like the need for corporations to profit-share with employees, education investments, tax code reform, and health care costs. However, the most optimistic point in her address was Clinton's focus on handling economic issues that specifically affect women — both for the sake of women's rights, Clinton noted, and for the growth of America's economy.

Deeply important issues like the gender pay gap and affordable childcare for working mothers are often lumped with abortion and contraception access into the broad, vague "women's issues" category by candidates. By bringing attention to the need for feminist economic reform, Clinton made clear she sees the lack of pro-women economic initiatives as a serious fiscal issue, noting, "These challenges have been dismissed by some as women's issues. Well, those days are over."

Although analysts might have expected such a high-profile feminist candidate to make fixing these problems a part of her platform, the pro-women points underlying her entire economic plan were much unprecedented. Some

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examples...

Equal Pay

In the economic dialogue of presidential candidates, fair pay rarely gets tat much attention. The focus typically goes to the national debt, unemployment, and welfare, to name a few. As important as those issues are, they are no more noteworthy than the fact that on average, women are paid less than men for doing the same work. The research varies, but the Pew Research Center has the gap at 84 cents on the dollar. Even if it's 99 cents on the dollar, this is a genuine economic problem, and a presidential candidate is finally making it a priority.

Paid Family Leave

Clinton also addressed the need for paid family leave. A lack of paid family leave is often one of the reasons women fall behind in the corporate world. They sometimes have to leave a job for maternity leave and do not find their jobs waiting for them when they return. In May, Clinton said, according to The Hill, "At a time that should be so exciting and joyful, I see so many women just distraught."

Fair Scheduling

Irregular hours and just-in-time scheduling hit women hard. They often have to deal with finding child care, and 6 million women have said a lack of fair scheduling is why they don't have full-time employment, according to Al Jazeera America. Women often work irregular hours and excessive overtime or face losing their jobs. Clinton has made herself one of the few politicians — nor just among the presidential candidates but among all lawmakers — to address this.

Affordable Child Care

Clinton also cites a lack of affordable child care as a reason women are held back. Her plan to give working and middle class families access to pre-k education fits in with this issue. If more women could afford child care, they could have the option of building careers or investing in higher education.

Earned Sick Days

A lack of earned sick days for employees can end up putting women behind their male coworkers. When a child is sick, a working mother often has to decide whether to take time off and possibly lose her job or go to work and risk the wellbeing of their family. One study revealed that working women are twice as likely to experience a job loss because of family illness, according to NJ Time To Care. Clinton wants to make sure everyone has access to the sick days they deserve.

Increased Minimum Wage

Although Clinton's support of a higher minimum wage is not a gender-specific issue, it could help a lot of women. The single mother is particularly susceptible to falling into poverty. One third of all families headed by single mothers were below the poverty line in 2013, about 15.6 million households, according to The Huffington Post.

Other Employee Benefits

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Clinton also wants to give employees more benefits and training. With women making up 47.21 percent of the workforce, according to The Huffington Post, worker benefits would definitely help them get ahead. Giving women the opportunity to get more training could be a factor in disassembling the glass ceiling — the idea that women don't get promoted as often or as quickly as men.

No major presidential candidate has ever really given these concerns so much intentness. No candidate has every promised to take them on with such fervor. Maybe it just took a female frontrunner. Maybe it just took Hillary.

It's the [Sharing] Economy, Stupid // Medium // Damian O'Doherty – July 13, 2015

Secretary Clinton's rebuke of Uber, Airbnb, and the sharing economy in her recent economic address is the 2016 campaign's first George H.W. Bush 1992 grocery scanner moment—where a visibly disconnected politician uncomfortably assesses a not-so-modern technology with bemusement. What's more troubling to progressives is that while Bush, Sr. seemed disconnected with the future, Secretary Clinton seems to declare war on it. Can anyone imagine President Bill Clinton railing against Amazon.com or eBay in the 1990s? How can a leader fight the future?

It's a troubling moment for the Democratic Party when our potential standard bearer dismisses the future of work, American innovation, and the lifestyle of the WE generation—all in one speech. Democrats have always been the party of the future, but Secretary Clinton's economic speech on Monday was much more interested in where we've been than where we're going.

Whether it's Gen Xers, millennials, or my mom in Memphis, "metroDemocrats" will, and rightfully should, challenge any candidate who wants to take our party—and our nation—backwards.

Luckily, we have leaders who get it. Leaders who understand that moving forward doesn't have to mean a wholesale rejection of the past; who understand that a traditional, W2-based economy can survive, and even thrive, in an era of innovation and risk-taking.

Leaders like Governor Martin O'Malley, who are willing to stand up and say that "an economy is not money—an economy is people," and who made sure that innovation was allowed to thrive in Maryland while ensuring that workers were protected and supported. A leader who could pair an increase in the minimum wage with fair regulations to ensure that companies grow while workers enjoyed the highest per capita income in the country. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, rarely a voice for progressives, rated Maryland the number one state for innovation and entrepreneurship three years in row.

We know the sharing economy is a foundation for a new kind of progress—progress that gives workers the freedom to choose their own hours, locations, and clients. Progress that allows new Americans, young people, and entrepreneurs decide the terms of their employment.

This is the kind of American problem solving that has taken hold across the globe, showing our national brand to the world as more than just militarism and consumerism. The last three Uber trips from my house were women driving women to work and school. More globally, Uber's United Nations Women partnership plans to employ 1,000,000 women from around the globe in the next 5 years.

An economy isn't money, it's people.

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Cities like San Francisco, Austin, Boston, Des Moines, Manchester, and Baltimore show where the global future wants to be. That's what the data tells us: that America is home to growing and attractive cities because of their BIG D Democratic values of density, innovation, connectivity, and interdependence. Millennials don't retreat to three-car garages. They want to get together and solve problems: local, social, and mobile. Martin O'Malley is a guru of these values—delivering open, data driven platforms that allow everyone to have a fair fight about the future. And to get to where they want to go, as efficiently as possible.

Washington is different. Since 1994, the year the booming Amazon.com was founded, Washington staffers and professionals have been perversely promoted and paid more for not getting things done. These incentives for under achievement are the hallmark of the last three decades of American politics. Martin O'Malley is different. As the innovator of American politics, he fights to create an entrepreneurial common platform that allows us all to get going somewhere together, share data, find shared solutions, and move forward. Together.

Hillary Clinton Touts Banking Reform And Bashes HSBC, Despite Clinton Charitable Foundation Taking Money From The Bank In 2014 // IB Times // Clark Mindock – July 13, 2015

Speaking in an auditorium in New York City on Monday, Hillary Clinton delivered an expansive policy address that looked to position herself as a champion of middle class voters and an advocate of tough banking policies. While speaking about the misconduct of financial institutions, however, Clinton mentioned HSBC, which her family's charitable foundation, the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), accepted money from in 2014 in spite of a recent money laundering settlement.

"Stories of misconduct by individuals and institutions in the financial industry are shocking" Clinton said. "HSBC allowing drug cartels to launder money, five major banks pleading guilty to felony charges for conspiring to manipulate currency exchange and interest rates. There can be no justification or tolerance for this kind of criminal behavior."

Just two years before the 2014 HSBC donation to CGI, the bank reached a nearly $2 billion settlement agreement with the U.S. government over money laundering charges. The foundation is also known to have received donations from wealthy donors with accounts in HSBC's controversial Swiss banks, where clients are said to stash money to avoid paying taxes.

Donations to the Clinton charitable foundations have raised questions on the influence that big money players from banks to foreign governments might have on the former secretary of state. At the same time, Clinton has delivered speeches on the campaign trail saying she will take banks to task as president. The charitable donations are not said to be illegal.

A CNN review of Clinton Global Initiative donations earlier this year showed that, in 2014, HSBC gave between $500,000 and $1 million for the CGI yearly meeting, which qualifies the bank in the highest support tier possible for the event. The Department of Justice and U.S. Treasury announced in 2012 that HSBC had to pay a $1.92 billion settlement over allegations that the bank allowed drug cartels to launder money and that HSBC violated U.S. sanctions by conducting transactions for customers in Iran, Libya, Sudan and Burma. It was unclear whether or not the bank had donated to the foundation in previous years.

A separate Guardian investigation from February connected $81 million in donations from wealthy donors with accounts in the HSBC bank in Geneva at the center of the controversy. The identities were discovered through memo leaks from a computer expert at the bank, and included a Canadian mining magnate, Frank Giustra, who donated $1 million from the tax-free haven. Hedge fund manager and convicted sex offender, Jeffrey Epstein, also donated money.

While mentioning the bank, Clinton was discussing her support for the Dodd-Frank reform act, which has become

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the target of Republicans. She said that she will support the act's continued existence against Republican attacks and called for it to go further.

"I will fight back against these attacks and protect the reforms we've made. We can do that and still ease burdens on community banks to encourage responsible loans to local people and businesses they know and trust," she said. "We also have to go beyond Dodd-Frank."

The Clinton campaign did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

Hillary Clinton Uses First Economic Speech to Attack Top GOP Opponent s // The Blaze // Fred Lucas – July 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton said Monday that her presidency would be devoted to ensuring a "growth and fairness economy."

"We must raise incomes for hardworking Americans," Clinton said in her first policy speech since launching her bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. "That will be my mission from my first day as president to the last."

The former secretary of state introduced points for her economic agenda that she promised to speak more about during the week. She defended President Barack Obama's economic record, and criticized large companies for thinking about short-term gains, which she said come at the expense of longterm growth.

Clinton talked about several ideas she has mentioned before, such as early-childhood education, an increased minimum wage and defending Obamacare. The newest idea she pledged explain more about this week was boosting incentives for companies to provide profit-sharing to employees.

"I will propose ways to encourage companies to share profits with their employees," Clinton said. "That will be good for workers and good for business. Studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company's success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees' pockets. It's a win-win."

Clinton faces an awkward situation as a Democratic presidential candidate arguing for higher wages, amid slow wage growth during the Obama administration.

As the leading Democrat in most polls, Clinton gave a glimpse as to who she has narrowed her expected Republicans opponents down to, targeting former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and race newcomer, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"You may have heard Governor Bush say last week that Americans just need to work longer hours. He must not have met very many American workers," Clinton said to applause.

Bush spoke last week about underemployment and not enough few full-time jobs. Clinton talked about nurses, truck drivers and fast-food workers logging on long hours, and said, "They don't need a lecture—they need a raise."

Walker, who formally announced Monday morning, was also in her crosshairs.

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“Republican governors like Scott Walker have made their name by stomping out worker’s rights,” Clinton said. She added, “If we want to get serious about raising incomes, we have to get serious about supporting union workers.”

She further said that Rubio’s tax plan is a “budget-busting giveaway” to the wealthy.

After taking shots at her opponents though, Clinton sounded conciliatory.

“We have to break out of the poisonous partisan gridlock and focus on the long term needs of our country,” Clinton said.

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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/27/2008 6:08:51 AM
Subject: [big campaign] FW: Experts React, Fact-Check McCain Speech on Nuclear Proliferation

From: Adam Blickstein
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 1:07 PM
To: staff
Subject: Experts React, Fact-Check McCain Speech on Nuclear Proliferation

National Security Network

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Adam Blickstein
202-289-7113

Moira Whelan
202-289-7211

Experts React, Fact-Check McCain Speech on Nuclear Proliferation

~ All agree that his unrealistic rhetoric and confrontational stances are unproductive to keeping America and the world safe and secure ~

Washington, D.C. - In reaction to John McCain's speech this morning on his views on nuclear proliferation and greater strategy for Asia, National Security Network compiled the following reactions from experts who agree that the speech and his overall outlook are misguided and return to the failed policies of the past:

> "John McCain says we should not undermine our allies by talking to North Korea, but in fact our allies in East Asia want us to talk to and engage North Korea. We lost their confidence under the Bush administration by holding to ideological positions that did not work instead of listening to our friends and working the problem to a realistic solution. Returning to the isolationist days of the first Bush term will only weaken our alliance and give North Korea a justification to resume their nuclear efforts."
> ***-Jon Wolfsthal, Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies***

> "Senator McCain's speech conveniently glosses over the largest factor undermining American ability to stem the flow of nuclear weapons in Asia and around the world: our strategic preoccupation in Iraq. For a Senator campaigning on reasserting America's diplomatic leverage to decrease the proliferation of these deadly weapons, his "100 year" Iraq plan further hinders our power to do just that."
> ***-Price Floyd, Director of External Relations, Center for a New American Security***

> "John McCain has made a major effort to reach for the votes of the of the arms control community with a broad speech on non-proliferation. Unfortunately, cooperation with Russia, the basic premise of the speech, is undermined by his earlier promise to throw Russia out of the G-8 and his continued support for ballistic missile defense in eastern Europe. An odd slip-up for a purported national security expert."
> ***-Rand Beers, President of the National Security Network***

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Also, John Wolfsthal wrote the following longer reaction piece to McCain's speech:

McCain's Nonproliferation Policy-It's a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

John McCain's speech on nuclear weapons seems to adopt the narrowest of lenses in dealing with nuclear weapons. Moreover, his proposals - many of which might sound good - don't match up with other things he has said on nuclear weapons, on Russia, on Iran and suggests he doesn't really get the complexity of these issues. Lastly, the tone may be better, but many of the proposals-not to mention his language choices-are right out of George W. Bush's play book. This may be a wolf in sheep's clothing, but it is still a wolf.

1) He wants to work with Russia on arms control and tactical nuclear weapons, but he also wants to kick Russia out of the G-8. Not sure how you get them to play nice on nukes after you kick them in the teeth. Also, Bush adopted a loose standard on counting nuclear weapons and verification. Will McCain (who is now working with John Bolton - father of Bush arms control dogma) be any better?

2) I applaud his desire to get tactical nuclear weapons out of Europe, but if we pull nuclear weapons out of Turkey as Iran advances its nuclear program, they are not going to have increased confidence in NATO and the US. This speech, and the references to it, will send shock waves through Europe and and a McCain Administration would start in a hole.

3) He does not walk away from the new "reliable replacement warhead" being pitched by the Bush administration. Lots of wiggle room for him, left there on purpose, I would guess.

4) Why is only the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) going to review nuclear policy? Where are the experts on nonproliferation, diplomacy, history, etc? This is the same line the Bush administration gave. In May of 2000, standing in front of Secretary Kissinger and other republican heavy-weights, then-candidate Bush said he would reduce nuclear weapons to the lowest number consistent with U.S. security. Sound familiar? McCain's statement is almost an exact quote. The JCS has set the current floor on reductions. The President sets the war guidance for the level of nuclear weapons, and leaving it to the JCS is a recipe for the status quo.

5) Did anyone else notice that McCain did not repudiate the policy of regime change? I know why Iran and North Korea want nuclear weapons. Reducing ours will not get them to change their course. Of course, singing "bomb bomb Iran" to the tune of "Barbara Ann" won't do it either. Is McCain really suggesting cutting our nukes will lead others to reduce theirs? It's the broader policy that needs changing, not just the number of nukes.

6) Coming out of left field (or from pander-ville) is the remark about international nuclear storage. It is possible that Russia might build a storage facility for countries in East Asia, but McCain seems to be suggesting some other country is going to accept our huge (the world's largest) stock of spent fuel and that this might be a way to avoid opening the spent fuel repository in Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Talk about pandering. Who does he think is going to take our nuclear waste? Even if someone would take it off our hands, the stuff contains about 100,000 weapons worth of plutonium that must be dealt with. Does McCain really want to export that to a country poor enough to want into the nuclear waste storage business?

7) Either you are for the ban on nuclear testing or you are not. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is the most studied arms control agreement in history. It has been verifiable since the 1960s. McCain voted against it. To play the "let's study it again" dance is too cute by half. If the President does not support it, it is not going to happen. Also, McCain seems to be suggesting we should re-open the agreement for new modifications. That is the fastest way to kill it. He also talks about limiting testing. We want to ban testing. We have more nuclear expertise than anyone - why we would want to make the world safe for others to test nuclear weapons is unclear. Obama and Clinton have said they are for the CTBT and plan to fight for its ratification. McCain has not. The rest of the world - including the states we need on our side to deal with Iran and North Korea - are embarrassed that we have not ratified it.

McCain's speech is a feeble attempt to try to tie all Republicans and Democrats into the failures of the Bush administration nuclear policies. Before 2000, the US was on the right track. The

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> regime needed work, but was sound - more states had given up nuclear weapons and weapon programs in the 1980s and 90s than had begun them. Now that track record lies in ashes - because of the Bush Administration approach, backed by a Republican Congress that killed the CTBT and sought to restrict funding for nuclear security efforts during 2000-2004. McCain is promising more of the same.

NSN's policy team produced the following posts below on DemocracyArsenal further scrutinizing the speech and McCain's Wall Street Journal Op-Ed :

McCain's Disjointed Russia Policy
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

OK, so John McCain is back to wishful thinking today laying out his bold new plan for stemming proliferation. Obviously, reducing the stockpiles of nuclear weapons is critical to American and world security. But his plan misses one slightly important detail. The critical players in this field are obviously Russia and the United States - by far the two largest nuclear powers in the world. McCain proposes a close working relationship with the Russians on these issues, and yet just two months ago in Los Angeles when he laid out his view of the world, he suggested tossing Russia out of the G8 - a needlessly provocative act that would essentially mark the start of a new Cold War in Europe. On top of that he continues to support a regional missile defense system for Europe, which a crucial nuclear security concern for the Russians. Does he really think that he can alienate the Russians and at the same time get their cooperation on critical nuclear issues? Is he that divorced from reality? Or is he just ignoring what he said two months ago? Either way, it doesn't make much sense.

Here is what he said at the Los Angeles Council on World Affairs:

> We should start by ensuring that the G-8, the group of eight highly industrialized states, becomes again a club of leading market democracies: it should include Brazil and India but exclude Russia. Rather than tolerate Russia's nuclear blackmail or cyber attacks, Western nations should make clear that the solidarity of NATO, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, is indivisible and that the organization's doors remain open to all democracies committed to the defense of freedom.

And here is what he is saying today:

> As our two countries possess the overwhelming majority of the world's nuclear weapons, we have a special responsibility to reduce their number. I believe we should reduce our nuclear forces to the lowest level we judge necessary, and we should be prepared to enter into a new arms control agreement with Russia reflecting the nuclear reductions I will seek. Further, we should be able to agree with Russia on binding verification measures based on those currently in effect under the START Agreement, to enhance confidence and transparency.

McCain's basic plan is to slap the Russians smack across the face and then ask them for a favor. Somehow I don't think that will work.

May 27, 2008 at 09:34 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

McCain apparently does not understand US policy toward Iran
Posted by Max Bergmann

In John McCain's speech today he says something very very puzzling:

> Many believe all we need to do to end the nuclear programs of hostile governments is have our president talk with leaders in Pyongyang and Tehran, **as if we haven't tried talking to these governments repeatedly over the past two decades.**

So McCain thinks that the President of the United States has been negotiating with the Iranians for the past two decades? Huh? Does McCain not understand that the stated policy of the U.S. government since April 7, 1980 has been to NOT TALK TO THE IRANIANS. And that we have not negotiated with Iran over their nuclear weapons program.

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May 27, 2008 at 09:51 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

McCain More Extreme Than Bush on North Korea
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

So on top of North Korea McCain decides that on North Korea it's actually better to be more extreme than George Bush. From 2000-2006 the Administration pursued a failed policy that got us no closer to eliminating the nuclear threat and actually ended with the detonation of a North Korean nuclear bomb. Now McCain says he wants to return to that policy:

> American leadership is also needed on North Korea. We must use the leverage available from the U.N. Security Council resolution passed after Pyongyang's 2006 nuclear test to ensure the full and complete declaration, disablement and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear facilities, in a verifiable manner, which we agreed to with the other members of the six-party talks.

Seems innocent enough, except it didn't work for six years and has now been dismissed by all but the hardest line Bush Administration officials. Glen Kessler has more .

May 27, 2008 at 09:31 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

What is John McCain talking about?
Posted by Max Bergmann
I mean really - what is he talking about?

In the Wall Street Journal today, McCain and Lieberman write?

> Top leaders in Asia have warned that a precipitous American retreat from Iraq would empower al Qaeda in its global terror campaign and badly undermine America's position in Asia. We should listen to them.

Which top leaders? Who are they talking about? Do McCain and Lieberman realize that John Howard is no longer Prime Minister of Australia?

May 27, 2008 at 09:21 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The National Security Network (NSN) mission is to revitalize America's national security policy, and bring cohesion and strategic focus to the progressive national security community. NSN works with a broad network of experts to identify, develop and communicate progressive national security policy solutions.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "David Dixon" <david@dixondavismedia.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 4:15:34 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

Sure...we'll take a crack.

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Date:** January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> **To:** Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience**

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

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RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

Buy Photo

Fullscreen

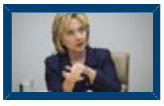

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- 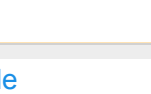

Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

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Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:26:24 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

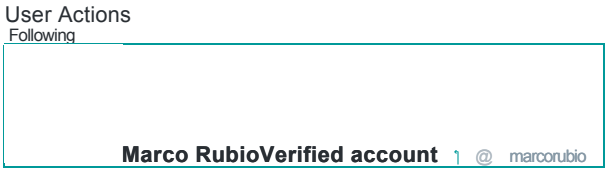

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

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https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/14/2008 1:10:04 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/14

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 14th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

3:30pm McCain: Speech in San Diego,CA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
8pm McCain: Fundraiser in Albuquerque, New Mexico

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Candidates Pushing Hard for the Latino Vote (Washington Post 7/14/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr. and Juliet Eilperin; A06
Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) are aggressively courting Latino voters in the early stages of their election contest, as the presumptive Republican nominee looks to hold on to Latino-heavy states, such as New Mexico, that Obama hopes to turn blue.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071301741.html
See AP's "McCain: I've earned Hispanics' trust ": http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iE2JCSH5p9r2GBkQWS9TWAMzmuvQD91TC4OO0

McCain says Obama should visit South America (Reuters 7/14/08)
By Steve Holland
Republican presidential candidate John McCain, who has hectored Democratic rival Barack Obama to visit Iraq, now says Obama should go to South America as well. McCain, an Arizona senator, is to make the case in a speech on Monday in San Diego to the National Council of La Raza, one of the most important advocacy groups in the United States for Hispanic Americans.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080714/pl_nm/usa_politics_mccain_dc
Link to excerpts of McCain's Speech to La Raza Conference: http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-of-mccains-speech-to-la-raza-conference/

McCain takes a risk on Social Security (LA Times 7/14/08)
By Peter Wallsten
The Republican seems willing to consider privatization -- and Democrats aim to use that to sway senior voters.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccainsocial14-2008jul14,0,1786903.story

Offshore Drilling Backed as Remedy for Oil Prices (Washington Post 7/14/08)
By Steven Mufson; A01
Push for U.S. Exploration Gains Traction, but Big Political Hurdles Remain... The issue has become a dividing line for the presidential candidates. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) reversed his position last month and endorsed expanded offshore drilling, while Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) wants to maintain the moratorium on offshore drilling, which he says would do nothing to immediately lower gasoline prices. In the past week, congressional Republicans have issued a blizzard of statements pushing for action before summer recess, and some Democrats may be leaning their way.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071302052.html
See USA Today's "Worth the risk? Debate on offshore drilling heats up": http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-07-13-offshore-drilling_N.htm
See NPR's "Gulf Coast States Mull Over Oil Drilling Ban" http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92471630

Gramm's Role Reduced (Washington Post 7/14/08)
By Perry Bacon, Jr.; Page A06

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While Sen. John McCain might not be sending his friend and former Senate Republican colleague Phil Gramm off to Belarus quite yet, he is definitely done trotting him out on the campaign trail, and he is also minimizing the Texan's role among his team of advisers.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071301822.html
See FirstRead's "Gramm fades to black": http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/07/11/1196048.aspx

Candidates' tax plans agree on one thing: More debt (Washington Times 7/14/08)
By David M. Dickson
The differences between the tax policies being promoted by Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain are stark, but neither candidate's proposal tackles the nation's worsening fiscal problems, analysts say.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jul/14/candidates-tax-plans-agree-on-one-thing-more-debt/

What if the Candidates Pandered to Economists? (NYT 7/13/08)
By N. GREGORY MANKIW
IN the months to come, John McCain and Barack Obama will be vying for the support of various voting blocs. It is safe to say, however, that one group won't get much attention: economists.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/business/13view.html

Obama Is From Google, McCain Is From AT&T on Digital-Age Rules (Bloomberg 7/14/08)
By Christopher Stern
A Barack Obama presidency would bode well for Google Inc. A John McCain victory would be good for AT&T Inc. That's because the two senators approach regulation in the information age from fundamentally different perspectives.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=alsJ22j5BQS0&refer=politics

For some, Republican John McCain is 'too old' (AP 7/14/08)
By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
So how old is John McCain? Six-packs, automatic transmissions and the American Express card were all introduced after he was born, not to mention computers which McCain admits he doesn't use.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071400142.html

McCain's Conservative Model? Roosevelt (Theodore, That Is) (NYT 7/13/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY and MICHAEL COOPER
Senator John McCain in a wide-ranging interview called for a government that is frugal but more active than many conservatives might prefer. He said government should play an important role in areas like addressing climate change, regulating campaign finance and taking care of "those in America who cannot take care of themselves."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/us/politics/13mccain.html?hp
Link to full transcript of interview: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/us/politics/13text-mccain.html?ref=politics
Link to audio of interview: http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/audio/politics/20080713_MCCAIN_AUDIO/071108_mccain_nagourney_nytinterview.mp3
See ThinkProgress's "McCain On His Computer Illiteracy: 'I'm Learning To Get Online Myself, And I'll Have That Down Fairly Soon'": http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/12/mccain-online/

Obama, McCain agree on many once-divisive issues (LA Times 7/13/08)
By Janet Hook,, Peter Wallsten and Peter Nicholas
Their similar stances on immigration, nuclear weapons, global warming and stem-cell research are evidence of a centrist shift in the political landscape.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-centrists13-2008jul13,0,1800667.story

Promises to Keep (NYT 7/13/08)
By MATT BAI
Perhaps it's telling that before they were nominees, John McCain and Barack Obama pursued literary careers, and that those careers unfolded in parallel. ...two different interpretations of what reform actually means. Both men criticize a lack of responsiveness of government to its people, caused primarily by the influence of "special interests."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/magazine/13wwln-lede-t.html

McCain, Obama to speak to NAACP (McClatchy 7/13/08)
By William Douglas

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Barack Obama and John McCain vie for African-American votes this week with appearances at the NAACP convention in Cincinnati, a stop with potential opportunities and pitfalls for both candidates.
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/politics/2008050126_naacp14.html

The Enthusiasm Gap, Part II (Weekly Standard 7/13/08*)
*Print edition: 7/21/08
by Stephen F. Hayes
Conservative voters remain uninspired by the McCain campaign.
http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/015/320jlvio.asp?pg=1

Iran denounces McCain's remarks about cigarettes (AP 7/13/08)
Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned remarks by Republican presidential candidate John McCain that exporting cigarettes could be a way of killing Iranians.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iAooNh2gX2iWuzp6TfM4zXNxtXhwD91T33TO0

McCain has no national service plan (Politico 7/13/08)
By: Ben Adler
John McCain, who's predicated his presidential run in no small part on his distinguished military record, frequently exhorts Americans — and especially young Americans — to serve their country. Despite that appeal, he has yet to offer any proposals to expand or transform national service outside of the military.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=1C512916-3048-5C12-00722A4E2AB8EAA3

Do Visits to Iraq Equal Perspective? Obama Says No (ABC blog 7/13/08)
By Sunlen Miller
Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., argued in San Diego today that just because Sen. John McCain has made multiple visits to Iraq, that does not mean that he has the correct perspective on the region.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/07/do-visits-to-ir.html
Link to McCain response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-team-response-to-obama-on-iraq/

McCain advisor: Fannie, Freddie moves support market (Reuters 7/13/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain believes the federal government's offer of massive aid to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is consistent with the goal of providing support through 'current duress,' a top aide to the senator [Douglas Holtz-Eakin] said on Sunday.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed7/idUSN1337447420080714

Is McCain a maverick, moderate or mystery? (Detroit Free-Press 7/13/08)
BY TODD SPANGLER
Voters work to understand the man unwilling to be bullied into the rank and file
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080713/NEWS15/807130577

Candidates' views differ on detainee policy (Miami Herald 7/13/08)
BY CAROL ROSENBERG
Although both John McCain and Barack Obama advocate closing the Guantánamo prison camps, they offer different visions on handling the detainees.
http://www.miamiherald.com/1218/story/603093.html

Veteran's Question McCain's Health Care Policy (Springfield, MO's KSPR News 7/13/08)
By Joanna Small
A group of veterans say they expect more from a war hero. They held a rally outside the Greene County Courthouse Saturday to express their concerns over presumptive republican presidential candidate John McCain's voting record when it comes to the VA health care system.
http://www.kspr.com/news/local/24808789.html

McCain official dismissive of campaign surrogates (AP 7/13/08)
A top economic surrogate for Republican presidential candidate John McCain doesn't think people are paying much attention to what people like her have to say.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/F/FIORINA_SURROGATES?SITE=ILROR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Fiorina: 'To Say McCain Was Aligned With Bush On Iraq Is To Change History' (ThinkProgress 7/13/08)
This morning on NBC's Meet the Press, Carly Fiorina, surrogate for Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), defended McCain's record on Iraq. She insisted he had stood up to President Bush and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld repeatedly, and declared those who say McCain was "aligned" with Bush on Iraq are trying to "change

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history":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/13/mccain-aligned-bush/

Fiorina Claims 'Economists Agree' With McCain's Pledge To Balance The Budget (ThinkProgress 7/13/08)
On NBC's Meet the Press this morning, host Tom Brokaw challenged the claim that Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) balance the budget by the end of his first term. Economists say that "you, in fact, can't balance the budget in four years," Brokaw told top McCain adviser Carly Fiorina.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/13/fiorina-economists-budget/

McCain's List Of 300 Economists Filled With Skeptics (Huffington Post 7/11/08)
By Nico Pitney and Sam Stein
Three times in the past two days, Sen. John McCain has proclaimed that 300 economists have enthusiastically endorsed his "Jobs for America" economic plan. The number, line, and message are highly misleading.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/11/mccains-list-of-300-econo_n_112147.html
See Atlantic Online (Ambinder)'s "300 Economists": http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/300_economists.php

McCain takes lead in transparency race (Politico 7/13/08)
By: Kenneth P. Vogel
John McCain today fired the latest round in his battle with Barack Obama over campaign finance transparency. Responding to a coalition of good government groups that last month requested additional details about their fundraising from both Obama and McCain, the Republican's campaign agreed to volunteer more information about bundlers and small donors.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11698.html

McCain Team Takes Offensive on Iraq (ThePage 7/13/08)
On afternoon conference call, aides to the Republican pound the "total confusion" of Obama's stance on Iraq
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/13/mccain-team-takes-offensive-on-iraq/
Link to Obama response: http://thepage.time.com/obama-response-to-mccain-call-on-iraq/

Obama: McCain Has "Slim Record on Education" (ThePage 7/13/08)
Speaking to the American Federation of Teachers by satellite, the Senator says his opponent "won't even get us to (a) starting point" in education. "For someone who's been in Washington nearly 30 years, he's got a pretty slim record on education, and when he has taken a stand, it's been the wrong one." Slams him for voting against No Child Left Behind funding and Head Start funding.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/13/obama-mccain-has-slim-record-on-education/
Link to Obama's full remarks: http://thepage.time.com/obamas-remarks-to-the-aft/
Link to McCain camp's response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-response-to-obama-education-speech/

CNN's "Late Edition" for July 13 (CNN/The Page 7/13/08)
Obama economics adviser Furman, McCain adviser Pfotenhauer sparred over economics. Pfotenhauer said McCain would be "open" to another economic stimulus, called Obama the first protectionist nominee of her lifetime. Furman criticized McCain for seeking to lower corporate income tax rates. ...Sen. Kyl said Obama's stance is "just say no" to all new energy production, stressed that McCain has distanced himself from Gramm.
http://thepage.time.com/wrap-up-of-sundays-tv-shows/
Link to full transcript of "Late Edition": http://thepage.time.com/cnns-late-edition-for-july-13/

Mark Sanford Draws A Blank On McCain/Bush Economics (Huffington Post 7/13/08)
By Nico Pitney
The most painful clip from the Sunday morning shows: top McCain VP prospect Mark Sanford "drawing a blank" (in his own words) on live TV when asked to name a major economic policy that President Bush and John McCain disagree on.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/13/mark-sanford-draws-a-blan_n_112391.html

Cindy McCain attends IndyCar race in Nashville (AP 7/13/08)
By TERESA M. WALKER
Cindy McCain spent her Saturday getting up close and personal with the IndyRacing League at the series' stop at the Nashville Superspeedway, taking a spin around the track in the pace car with Johnny Rutherford and checking out Danica Patrick's car in the garage.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CINDY_MCCAIN?SITE=WHIZ&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

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Week 1 of Push to Focus McCain: Tighter Message, Some Gaffes (WSJ 7/12/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES; Page A4
After a rocky three months, John McCain's presidential campaign embarked this week on a clear mission: present a tightly focused economic message, replacing the blurry, often-conflicting signals Sen. McCain had been sending voters.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121581947224947613.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Road still bumpy for McCain's retooled bandwagon (AP 7/12/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON
Every presidential campaign has its hitches. For John McCain, they felt more like full-blown lurches this week, with nearly every step forward quickly offset by a misstatement or wisecrack that seemed to blow his message off course.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080712/ap_on_el_pr/mccain_week_in_review

Taking cue from White House, McCain talks economy in new radio address (Reuters blog 7/12/08)
By: Jeff Mason
Part of the drill when running for the highest office in the United States is simply looking and sounding presidential. Cue John McCain. The Arizona senator and Republican presidential candidate started a weekly radio address on Saturday, modeled after President George W. Bush's regular broadcast ritual.
http://blogs.reuters.com/trail08/2008/07/12/taking-cue-from-white-house-mccain-talks-economy-in-new-radio-address/
Link to transcript of radio address: http://thepage.time.com/transcript-of-mccain-july-12-radio-address/
Link to audio of radio address: http://www.johnmccain.com/downloads/071108_audio.mp3

McCain, Obama Escalate Battle for Latino Support at San Diego Conference (Fox News 7/12/08)
Barack Obama and John McCain will step up their battle for Latino support over the next two days, as they take turns appealing to a major Hispanic organization for the third time in three weeks.
http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/07/12/mccain-obama-escalate-battle-for-latino-support-at-san-diego-conference/

Martinez Ignores McCain's Immigration Reversal, Calls Criticisms 'False,' 'Shameless,' 'Unfair' (ThinkProgress 7/12/08)
Yesterday, during a campaign conference call discussion of Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) new ad on immigration, Sen. Mel Martinez (R-FL) praised McCain for "standing tall" on comprehensive immigration reform throughout the primary. He also declared Sen. Barack Obama's (D-IL) criticism — pointing out that McCain has since disavowed his former position — as "false," "shameless," and "unfair"
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/12/martinez-mccain-immigration/

Distant Thunder (National Journal 7/12/08)
by Ronald Brownstein
Voters' doubts about Obama were by far McCain's strongest asset. ...Such ambivalence was voiced frequently during the two days I spent interviewing nearly 60 voters in the Denver suburbs around the Fourth of July.
http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/politicalconnections.php

McCain's access conundrum (Politico blog 7/12/08)
By Jonathan Martin
Phil Gramm's off-message remarks clouded McCain's campaign re-start this week, but a longer-range challenge continues to plague the GOP nominee: how to reconcile a well-honed brand that is defined by a free-wheeling candidate who takes on all comers, citizens and reporters alike, with the need to drive a consistent, coherent message.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCains_access_conundrum.html

Why Vietnam Loves McCain (NEWSWEEK 7/12/08*)
*Print edition: 7/21/08
By Ron Moreau
They jailed him for five years. Now they want him in the White House.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/145875?from=rss

Say What? Obama vs. McCain on the Stump (ABC 712/08)
By ARIEL SABAR
McCain Is Unscripted. Obama Is Soaring. In These Times, Both Styles Have Their Advantages

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http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/CSM/story?id=5358069&page=1

Ads press candidates on education (AP 7/12/08)
An education-advocacy group will begin airing ads this week seeking to nudge Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama on ways to improve the standing of U.S. schools compared with other industrialized nations. Strong American Schools, a nonpartisan group supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, wants the presidential candidates to focus on the condition of U.S. education at a time that the economy and gas prices are attracting the most public attention.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-07-13-ads-education_N.htm?csp=34

Like Obama, McCain Devotes a Day to Women Voters (AP 7/11/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON
Republican John McCain told a mostly female audience Friday that his plans to cut income, business and estate taxes would help women while Democrat Barack Obama's proposals would only erect new economic obstacles for them.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1821989,00.html
See Fox News's "McCain the lady's man?": http://embeds.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/07/11/mccain-the-ladys-man/
See FirstRead's "McCain draws differences on women's issues": http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/07/11/1195911.aspx

McCain misfires on Obama attack (CNN Political Ticker 7/11/08)
By Evan Glass and Kerith McFadden
It turns out that John McCain made an off-the-mark error when he launched at Barack Obama this week over Iran's missile tests. In a statement criticizing Obama's positions on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, the organization claiming credit for the missile launches, McCain wrote, "This is the same organization that I voted to condemn as a terrorist organization when an amendment was on the floor of the United States Senate. Senator Obama refused to vote." The problem with the critique? McCain also missed that vote on the Kyl-Lieberman amendment on September 26, 2007.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/11/mccain-misfires-on-obama-attack/

McCain Adviser Attempts to Clarify Viagra vs. Birth Control Comments (ABC News 7/11/08)
By JENNIFER PARKER
For the second time this week the McCain campaign tried to disentangle itself from embarrassing comments made by surrogates stumping for the Republican presidential candidate. ...Carly Fiorina Argues She Didn't Mean to Suggest a McCain Reversal on Birth Control or Abortion
http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=5355748

Anti-abortion group that battled McCain backs him (AP 7/11/08)
By Ryan J. Foley
Just last year, the views of Wisconsin Right to Life and Sen. John McCain clashed in the Supreme Court -- over McCain's signature campaign finance law, not abortion. The powerful anti-abortion group won the argument when the Supreme Court ruled that free speech trumps restrictions on political advertising. Now, with the anti-abortion McCain competing against an abortion-rights Democrat, Wisconsin Right to Life is backing McCain's bid for the White House.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/07/11/anti_abortion_group_that_battled_mccain_backs_him/

New McCain Immigration Ad Cites Latino Military Service (Washington Post blog 7/11/08)
By Ed O'Keefe
John McCain's newest ad attempts to humanize the nation's immigration debate by citing the military service and sacrifice of Latino veterans. It's a reminder to viewers that McCain once led immigration reform efforts, which died in Congress but proved popular with Latinos.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/channel-08/2008/07/new_mccain_ad_cites_service_of.html
Link to video of ad ("God's Children"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0cNqtUtufo

New Obama Radio Ad Hits McCain As "Shameful" For "Makin' Stuff Up" (TPM ElectionCentral 7/11/08)
By Greg Sargent
A source sends over a copy of a sharp new radio ad the Obama campaign will release a bit later today responding to this earlier RNC ad claiming Obama will hike taxes.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/tpmelectioncentral/~3/332991126/new_obama_radio_ad_blasts_mcca.php
Link to audio of ad: http://blip.tv/file/get/Tpmtv-ObamaRadioAdVoteSameAsBush973.mp3

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World According to ... [Carly Fiorina] (Portfolio 7/10/08)
by Lloyd Grove
The former Hewlett-Packard C.E.O. and current McCain campaigner discusses the economy, her candidate, and being a woman in power.
http://www.portfolio.com/views/columns/the-world-according-to/2008/07/10/Interview-With-Carly-Fiorina

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain Math (Washington Post 7/14/08)
Page A12
SEN. JOHN McCain says that President McCain would balance the federal budget by 2013. The plan is not credible.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071301659.html

Terms of (Dis)Engagement (Washington Post 7/14/08)
By Jackson Diehl; A13
Obama and McCain Need to Debate the Postwar U.S. Role Debate on Iraq Should Focus on What Happens After U.S. Troops Withdraw
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071301720.html

McCain Needs Crash Course in Basic Economics (Bloomberg 7/14/08)
By Albert R. Hunt
The American presidential campaign this week was fought on economic terrain, and John McCain was the New York Yankees battling in Boston's Fenway Park or Liverpool playing at Manchester United's Old Trafford: the visiting team with a decided disadvantage.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=alr_h8Epzxjc

McCain versus the eight-year electoral jinx (Boston Globe 7/14/08)
By Robert David Sullivan
PRESIDENT BUSH has left presumptive GOP nominee John McCain with a lot of problems, but the biggest may be the weak 50.7 percent of the vote that Bush received when running for reelection. That's a problematic number because American political parties almost always lose support when trying to secure a third term in the White House.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/14/
mccain_versus_the_eight_year_electoral_jinx/

My Plan for Iraq (NYT 7/14/08)
By BARACK OBAMA
THE call by Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki for a timetable for the removal of American troops from Iraq presents an enormous opportunity. We should seize this moment to begin the phased redeployment of combat troops that I have long advocated, and that is needed for long-term success in Iraq and the security interests of the United States.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/14/opinion/14obama.html?hp

Overstating Our Fears (Washington Post 7/13/08)
By Glenn L. Carle; Page B07
Sen. John McCain has repeatedly characterized the threat of "radical Islamic extremism" as "the absolute gravest threat . . . that we're in against." Before we simply accept this, we need to examine the nature of the terrorist threat facing our country. If we do so, we will see how we have allowed the specter of that threat to distort our lives and take our treasure.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/11/AR2008071102710.html

McCain's bill now foreign to him (Palm Beach Post 7/13/08)
By Dan Moffett
It's easy to forget that just last year, Barack Obama and John McCain were part of a bipartisan group that tried to push a comprehensive immigration reform bill through the Senate. Their effort failed, and now that they're campaigning against each other, it gets very confusing trying to figure out who actually did what with the bill, or who was even there to watch it die.
http://www.palmbeachpost.com/opinion/content/opinion/epaper/2008/07/13/a2e_moffettcol_0713.html

How McCain Can Use a Struggling Economy to Beat Obama (Richmond Times-Dispatch 7/13/08)
By BOB RAYNER
Amercians are smart, but we like to be able to conjure simple ideas about our prospective leaders. Who are they

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and what do they stand for? John McCain still has some work to do if he wants to become the next president. So here's some help: Spend less. Drill more. Don't raise taxes. Seven words. Just about right for a compelling domestic program.
http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/opinion.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-07-13-0054.html

Obama's Enigma (Washington Post 7/13/08)
By David S. Broder; B07
John McCain is the candidate who actually had experience as a wartime flier, but Barack Obama is the one who has most successfully adapted a favorite tactic of those intrepid aviators. When the pilots were over a target heavily defended by antiaircraft guns, they would release a cloud of fine metal scraps, hoping to confuse the aim of the shells or missiles being fired in their direction.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/11/AR2008071102545.html

Democrats, the military, and McCain (Boston Globe 7/13/08)
By Jeff Jacoby, Globe Columnist
FOUR YEARS ago, Democrats couldn't laud military service - especially that of their presidential standard-bearer - highly enough... Given that effusive show of respect for military experience in 2004, you would think no Democrat this year could even contemplate disparaging John McCain's far more extensive military career. ... Yet in recent months, one Democrat after another has gone out of his way to diminish or criticize McCain's war record. A partial list:
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/13/democrats_the_military_and_mccain/

There He Goes Again (NYT 7/12/08)
This has been a week in which the stock markets lurched sickeningly downward. The treasury secretary had to swat away rumors that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the pillars of the mortgage business, may be crumbling. Oil prices spiked, again. Airlines cut schedules and raised prices, again. And the best that could be said about one of the nation's biggest companies, General Electric, was that it didn't do worse in the second quarter than Wall Street had expected.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/12/opinion/12sat1.html?pagewanted=print

Feeling No Pain (NYT 7/12/08)
By BOB HERBERT
Neither party in this presidential campaign has been forthright with the public about the true extent of the crises facing the country.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/12/opinion/12herbert.html

Phil Gramm Is Right (Washington Post 7/12/08)
By Amity Shlaes; A13
"In serious consideration for ambassador to Belarus." That's the role John McCain joked that former senator Phil Gramm might have in a McCain administration. Gramm is McCain's most senior economic adviser, the one best qualified to lead the finance team of a McCain presidency. Now, however, Gramm faces political exile because he made the mistake of telling the truth.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/11/AR2008071102543.html

McCain Campaign Needs a Shot of Viagra (RealClearPolitics 7/12/08)
By Toby Harnden
If there's one thing that John McCain does not want to spend time talking about, it's Viagra. Barack Obama can make breezy stump jokes about adverts showing happy couples skipping through fields. For the 71-year-old Arizona senator, however, there's just no upside to any focus on the pharmaceutical product of choice of Bob Dole, the last battered war veteran to run - rather haplessly - for president.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/07/mccain_campaign_needs_a_shot_o.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush to hasten Iraq troop withdrawal in bid to help McCain win White House (UK's The Independent 7/14/08)
By Leonard Doyle
President George Bush wants to speed up the withdrawal of American combat troops from Iraq, a move that could help to quell the anti-war anxieties of voters before November's presidential election.
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/bush-to-hasten-iraq-troop-withdrawal-in-bid-to-help-mccain-win-white-house-866885.html

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President George W Bush lobbyist in 'cash for access' row (Times of London 7/13/08)
By Daniel Foggo
A lobbyist with close ties to the White House is offering access to key figures in George W Bush's administration in return for six-figure donations to the private library being set up to commemorate Bush's presidency.
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article4322684.ece

President George W Bush backs Israeli plan for strike on Iran (Times of London 7/13/08)
By Uzi Mahnaimi
As Tehran tests new missiles, America believes only a show of force can deter President Ahmadinejad
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article4322508.ece

Recent Bush Victories Smell of Compromise (Washington Post 7/13/08)
By Dan Eggen and Paul Kane; A04
The decider has become the compromiser. President Bush has racked up a series of significant political victories in recent weeks, on surveillance reform, war funding and an international agreement on global warming, but only after engaging in the kind of conciliation with opponents that his administration has often avoided.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/12/AR2008071201616.html?nav=rss_politics

Posturing and Abdication (NYT 7/13/08)
The Bush administration made clear on Friday that it will do virtually nothing to regulate the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. With no shame and no apology, it stuck a thumb in the eye of the Supreme Court, repudiated its own scientists and exposed the hollowness of Mr. Bush's claims to have seen the light on climate change.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/opinion/13sun1.html?ref=opinion

It Takes a School, Not Missiles (NYT 7/13/08)
By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
Since 9/11, Westerners have tried two approaches to fight terrorism in Pakistan, President Bush's and Greg Mortenson's. Mr. Bush has focused on military force and provided more than $10 billion ... to the highly unpopular government of President Pervez Musharraf. This approach has failed... Mr. Mortenson... builds schools in isolated parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, working closely with Muslim clerics and even praying with them at times.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/opinion/13kristof.html

White House rejects regulating greenhouse gases (AP 7/12/08)
By DINA CAPPIELLO
The Bush administration, dismissing the recommendations of its top experts, rejected regulating the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming Friday, saying it would cripple the U.S. economy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/11/AR2008071101854.html

Tony Snow Dies of Cancer (AP 7/12/08)
By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Fox News is reporting that conservative commentator and former White House press secretary Tony Snow has died of cancer.
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1822186,00.html
Link to McCain response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-on-tony-snows-death/
Link to Bush's response: http://thepage.time.com/president-bush-remembers-tony-snow/
Link to Cheney's Response on "Fox News Sunday": http://thepage.time.com/vice-president-cheney-on-tony-snow/

Schwarzenegger Blasts Bush on Global Warming (ABC news blog 7/11/08)
By Mary Bruce
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, R-Calif., spoke out against President Bush this morning attacking his administration for its failure to counter global warming emissions.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/07/schwarzenegger.html

Former Cheney adviser: The odds of Israel attacking Iran are 'slightly, slightly above 50-50.' (ThinkProgress 7/11/08)
In an article for Mother Jones, Laura Rozen reports that there are "significant factors weighing against prospective Israeli military action on Iran before the Bush term ends." "My sense is the Pentagon would be worried or opposed to an Israeli attack," says David Wurmser, former Middle East adviser to Vice President Dick Cheney. But, according to Wurmser, an Israeli attack against Iran is still more likely than not:

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http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/11/former-cheney-adviser-the-odds-of-israel-attacking-iran-are-slightly-slightly-above-50-50/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Treasury Acts to Save Mortgage Giants (NYT 7/14/08)
By STEPHEN LABATON
Alarmed by the sharply eroding confidence in the nation's two largest mortgage finance companies, the Bush administration on Sunday asked Congress to approve a sweeping rescue package that would give officials the power to inject billions of federal dollars into the beleaguered companies through investments and loans.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/14/washington/14fannie.html?hp

Bank Fears Spread After Seizure of IndyMac (WSJ 7/14/08)
By ROBIN SIDEL, DAVID ENRICH and JONATHAN KARP
The federal government's seizure of IndyMac Bank is deepening worries among executives, regulators and consumers about the U.S. banking industry, which is in a tightening bind following a long run of prosperity.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121599581234249669.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy
See NYT's "Analysts Say More Banks Will Fail": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/14/business/14bank.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

9 Americans Die in Afghan Attack (NYT 7/14/08)
By CARLOTTA GALL
Taliban insurgents carried out a bold assault on a remote base near the border with Pakistan on Sunday, NATO reported, and a senior American military official said nine American soldiers were killed.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/14/world/asia/14afghan.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Spending Bill Suggests Long Stay in Afghanistan (Washington Post 7/14/08)
By Walter Pincus; A11
Congress has quietly used fiscal 2008 legislation on military construction to signal that it plans on a long-term military presence in Afghanistan.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071301644.html

Sudanese president to face war crimes charges (UK's The Guardian 7/14/08)
By Peter Walker
The international criminal court (ICC) is today expected formally to seek the arrest of Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, for alleged war crimes offences in Darfur.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/14/sudan.warcrimes

U.S. plan to save Fannie and Freddie (CNNMoney.com 7/13/08)
By Tami Luhby
Paulson and Bernanke proposal would give mortgage finance giants bigger line of credit with Treasury and open NY Federal Reserve lending window.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/07/13/news/economy/fannie_freddie_sunday/index.htm?postversion=2008071318
See The Hill's "Dems, GOP vow cooperation on Fannie, Freddie": http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/congressional-leaders-vow-cooperation-on-fannie-freddie-2008-07-13.html

U.S., Iraq Scale Down Negotiations Over Forces (Washington Post 7/13/08)
By Karen DeYoung; A01
U.S. and Iraqi negotiators have abandoned efforts to conclude a comprehensive agreement governing the long-term status of U.S troops in Iraq before the end of the Bush presidency, according to senior U.S. officials, effectively leaving talks over an extended U.S. military presence there to the next administration.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/12/AR2008071201915.html

U.S. Considers Increasing Pace of Iraq Pullout (NYT 7/13/08)
By STEVEN LEE MYERS
The Bush administration is considering the withdrawal of additional combat forces from Iraq beginning in September, according to administration and military officials, raising the prospect of a far more ambitious plan than expected only months ago.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/washington/13military.html?_r=1&hp=&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1216008314-7MJ3h5UcpjYfTiBWoZBVxw

Pakistan: US Not Allowed To Search For Bin Laden (AP 7/13/08)
By JOHN HEILPRIN and PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

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Pakistan's top diplomat said Saturday there are no U.S. or other foreign military personnel on the hunt for Osama bin Laden in his nation, and none will be allowed in to search for the al-Qaida leader.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/13/pakistan-us-not-allowed-t_n_112365.html

Obama slams Muslim portrayal (Politico 7/14/08)
By: Mike Allen
Barack Obama's campaign is condemning as "tasteless and offensive" a New Yorker magazine cover that depicts Obama in a turban, fist-bumping his gun-slinging wife.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11719.html

Obama Picks Senators as Iraq Partners (NYT blog 7/13/08)
By Jeff Zeleny
When Senator Barack Obama travels to Iraq later this summer to get a firsthand look at conditions there, he said he would be accompanied by two colleagues who have "bipartisan wisdom when it comes to foreign policy."
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/obama-picks-senators-as-iraq-partners/index.html?hp

Obama Won't Commit to Event at Military Base (NYT 7/12/08)
By KATE ZERNIKE
A coalition of military groups is planning a nationally televised town-hall-style meeting with the presidential candidates near Fort Hood, Tex., the largest active-duty military installation in the country. But so far, only Senator John McCain of Arizona, the presumptive Republican nominee, has agreed to attend.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/12/us/politics/12obama.html

Barack Obama doesn't rule out Hillary Clinton for vice president (LA Times 7/12/08)
By Peter Nicholas
In a phone conversation with a Democratic donor, he says Bill's potential role makes the decision 'complicated.'
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-veep12-2008jul12,0,2671030.story

Bernie Mac Makes Off-Color Joke At Obama Event (AP 7/12/08)
By ASHLEY M. HEHER
Comedian Bernie Mac endured some heckling and a campaign rebuke during a surprise appearance Friday night at a fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/12/bernie-mac-heckled-rebuke_n_112296.html

Pope expresses worry about climate change (AP 7/12/08)
By Victor L. Simpson
ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE — Pope Benedict XVI said Saturday he wants to wake up consciences on climate change during his pilgrimage in Australia.
http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=5361430

Senate passes housing bill amid turmoil (CNNMoney 7/11/08)
By Jeanne Sahadi
Next stop is House, which will have another crack at amending foreclosure rescue bill's provisions.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/07/11/news/economy/senate_housing_vote/index.htm?eref=rss_politics

POLLS

McCain is trailing in polls but holding on (Gannett News Service / Detroit Free Press 7/13/08)
BY CHUCK RAASCH
Arizona Sen. John McCain frequently describes himself as an underdog, and for good reason, according to newly released polls that show an enthusiasm gap favoring Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.
http://freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080713/NEWS07/807130548

Hopes on race relations are high, poll shows (USA TODAY 7/13/08)
By Susan Page
Barack Obama's groundbreaking candidacy has raised high expectations among blacks and whites that his election would make race relations in the United States better.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-13-racepoll_N.htm?csp=34

Glow Fading? (Newsweek 7/11/08)
By Jonathan Darman
The latest NEWSWEEK Poll shows Barack Obama leading John McCain by only 3 points. [Obama 44, McCain 41] What a difference a few weeks can make.

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http://www.newsweek.com/id/145737

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/25/2016 2:00:20 PM
Subject: ICYMI #Aleppo #EU #ISIS

ASP ICYMI: #Aleppo #EU #ISIS

Is this email not displaying correctly?
View it in your browser .

www.AmericanSecurityProject.org

In case you missed it...

ASP: In case you missed it ...
25 February, 2016

Key Reads

Syrian Army Recaptures Town in Aleppo Province from IS Group
Zeina Karam / Associated Press
Syrian government troops backed by Russian airstrikes recaptured a town in Aleppo province from Islamic State militants on Thursday in a key advance just two days ahead of a U.S. and Russia-engineered cease-fire that is set to take effect in Syria.

With E.U. Paralyzed, 10 Nations Try to Stem Migrant Flow
Alison Smale / The New York Times
Austria and nine Balkan states on Wednesday agreed on several measures to choke off the flow of refugees from Greece, effectively imposing their own response to the migrant crisis while the European Union has been paralyzed over what to do.

ISIS Is Losing Its Capital
Nancy A. Youssef / Daily Beast
This week's fighting in Syria has seen major changes for the self-proclaimed Islamic State's grip there, leaving some in the Pentagon wondering if ISIS is trying to expand its territorial hold or is in its last throes.

American Competitiveness

Beijing Eclipses New York as Billionaire Capital
Yuan Yang / Financial Times
With 32 newly minted super-rich in the past year, China's capital has become the billionaire capital of the world, the latest Hurun Global Rich List says, with a total of 100 to former list topper New York City's 95.

Innovation in the U.S. Relies on Foreigners, New Study Shows
Georgia Wells / The Wall Street Journal
More than one-third of the U.S.-based innovators—scientists and engineers responsible for the advances that drive tech—were born outside the country, according to a recent survey of about 900 patent holders and award-winning scientists in the U.S. That represents a disproportionately high number of foreigners, since foreign-born people make up 13.5% of all U.S. residents, the study says.

Asymmetric Operations

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U.N. Has High Hopes for Aid from Syria Truce But Airdrop Flops
Tom Miles and Stephanie Nebehay / Reuters
Syria's opposition indicated on Wednesday it was ready for a truce in Syria. However, an air-drop of food to 200,000 people on Wednesday in the eastern town of Deir al-Zor, which is besieged by Islamic State, a jihadi group that the United Nations has no contact with, ran into problems.

Al-Shabab Killed 180 Kenyan Troops in El Adde: Somali President
Conor Gaffey / Newsweek
Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud says that at least 180 Kenyan troops died in an Al-Shabab attack on their base in Somalia in January.

Climate Security

Fossil Fuel Use Must Fall Twice as Fast as Thought to Contain Global Warming – Study
Tim Radford / The Guardian
Climate scientists have bad news for governments, energy companies, motorists, passengers and citizens everywhere in the world: to contain global warming to the limits agreed by 195 nations in Paris last December, they will have to cut fossil fuel combustion at an even faster rate than anybody had predicted.

Energy Security

Goldman Sachs: The Energy Collapse Isn't Even Close to the Subprime Crisis
Julie Verhage / Bloomberg
According to credit analysts at Goldman Sachs Group, there are four key reasons that similarities between the 2007 housing bust and the recent collapse in oil prices don't go very far. These include the low amount of debt outstanding, the drop in oil prices wasn't totally unforeseen, and leverage in the energy market isn't as high, and banks having healthier balance sheet.

National Security & Strategy

Apple CEO Tim Cook Says iPhone-Cracking Software 'Equivalent of Cancer'
Enjoli Francis / ABC News
Apple CEO Tim Cook told "World News Tonight" anchor David Muir that what the U.S. government was asking of the tech giant -- to essentially create software enabling the FBI to unlock an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino, California, shooters -- amounted to the "software equivalent of cancer."

Iran's Moderates Seek to Capitalize on Nuclear Deal for Election Gains
Aresu Eqbali and Asa Fitch / The Wall Street Journal
Iranian ultraconservatives are fighting to define Iran's ties with the West along the lines of the song ahead of Friday's general election for parliament and the Assembly of Experts, a clerical body. But the vote also presents an opportunity for relative moderates led by President Hassan Rouhani to cement political gains from last year's nuclear deal with world powers.

Nuclear Security

U.S., China Agree on Draft North Korea Sanctions Resolution at U.N.: Envoys
Louis Charbonneau and Michelle Nichols / Reuters
The United States and China have agreed on a draft resolution that would expand U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea over its latest nuclear test and hope to put it to a vote in the coming days, council diplomats said on Wednesday.

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On Our Flashpoint Blog

Four National and Global Economic Trends That Will Mark This Century
Elias Stahl
From a declining labor force to higher government spending around the world, these four trends will dictate the global economy for decades to come.

Crouching Panda, Hidden Potential: Public Diplomacy in China
Nicole Bohannon
What do cultural diplomacy and Kung Fu Panda 3 have in common? Creative collaboration that could be the difference between a flop and a blockbuster.

Cheney and Holland in WSJ: America's Chance to Help Break Russia's Energy Dominance
Andrew Vaccaro
ASP CEO and BGen Stephen Cheney and senior fellow for energy and climate Andrew Holland recently published an article in The Wall Street Journal on how increased U.S. exports of LNG can help break Russian energy dominance in Europe.

Energy Security in the U.S. Army
Andrew Vaccaro
Although the U.S. Army is making progress in energy efficiency and meeting renewable energy marks, there is still a need for increased resiliency for their installations by way of on-site power generation and micro-grids. It is time to increase funding for resilience projects on military bases and ensure greater energy security for our troops.

Environmental Business Journal Interviews ASP CEO Stephen Cheney
C. Alexander Doyle
ASP CEO BGen Stephen Cheney was recently interviewed by the Environmental Business Journal regarding the connections between climate change and international security.

***About the American Security Project**: The American Security Project is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.*

For more information, visit www.americansecurityproject.org .
info@americansecurityproject.org

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unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/16/2015 3:43:46 AM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Sounds a little like insider baseball. Why not just call it a political,charade that is wasting millions of taxpayer dollars- and we can put a specific price tag on it?

Joel Benenson
Benenson Strategy Group

On Mar 16, 2015, at 6:29 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I think we should be calling this millions of dollars of taxpayer funded oppo research.

On Mar 15, 2015 5:13 PM, "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com > wrote:

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned

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over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post: "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal: " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press, "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call, "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com> "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org> "Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org> "Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	7/20/2012 5:09:26 PM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 7.20.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached is President Clinton's latest biweekly report. Please let me know if there are any questions or feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
July 20, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

- Next week, the Alliance will welcome three independent members to its Board of Directors: Wendell Pierce, Actor; Dr. Natalie Shirley, President, Oklahoma State University – OKC; and Joan Werner, 100 Women in Hedge Funds.

- Also next week, the Alliance will announce and convene its 2013 Youth Advisory Board comprised of 21 young people from across the country, including Zachary Dell, son of Michael & Susan Dell.

- Con Agra and Otis Spunkmeyer have signed on to the Alliance's School Meals Initiative.

- Ambassador Bagley's New Mexico cellular company has donated the use of a cell phone to the Alliance's Navajo Nation relationship manager so that she has cell reception on reservation land.

Health Matters

- The Desert Regional Medical Center is interested in returning as presenting sponsor for the 2013 Health Matters conference. Promising talks continue. Karolee Sowle, CEO of Desert Regional Medical Center, will retire on July 31, 2012. She is working tirelessly to advocate for this relationship prior to her departure.

- The Alliance is in discussions with Lionel Rabb of the MGR Foundation about a Health Matters pledge.

- The Alliance is also in discussions with Humana, Desert Classic Charities, and the PGA Tour about opportunities to host integrated Health Matters activities throughout the week of the tournament.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

- As CEO enters the final stretch of its mentoring program in Philadelphia, success stories are beginning to emerge:

  - Mentee Angelo Salandra, President & CEO of a records management company calledQuality Management Services, was able to receive valuable assistance and guidance from his mentor, Hubin Jiang, President & CEO of ECOMPEX, Inc., on how to effectively win VA contracts. As a serial entrepreneur with vast amounts of experience in garnering contracts with the federal government, Mr. Jiang has proven to be a tremendous asset for Mr. Salandra.

  - CEO paired Dorothea Gillette-Spencer, CEO and Owner of D-Gillette Industrial Services, with former EMP Mentee, Sam Thevanayagam, President of PartsLife,Inc. Sam worked with Dorothea to review her pricing strategy andrealized that she was under-pricing her services. Together, Dorothea and Sam worked to revise her pricing to be more in line with her competitors. They have recently been working together to enable D-Gillette Industrial Services to gain entry into new industries.

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MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

- CDI is finalizing the sub-lease agreement to submit to Press Agriculture for additional farms for the Anchor Farm Project. In addition, CDI is working with John Deere on a final list of equipment needed for the coming planting season. Agreements with investors are being finalized to develop an agro-distribution business in Malawi to provide services to smallholder farmers involved the project.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Colombia

- In July, the suppliers in CGSGI's Cartagena hotel supplier network project will reach **$2 million in sales** since the project's inception. Suppliers include purveyors of fish and seafood, processed foods, agricultural products and uniforms. When CGSGI began this project, the Cartagena hospitality industry did not use local suppliers. As a result of CGSGI's supplier capacity building efforts, the hotels are now committed toprocuring from local supply chains, resulting in business efficiencies for the hospitality industry and job creation for Cartagena's low income community.

- Due to this project's success, the hotels have asked CGSGI to expand the supplier base and provide trained labor for the expanding Cartagena hotel sector. CGSGI is currently evaluating the creation of two social enterprises—one that would be a sustainable for-profit intermediary between the hotels and suppliers and one that would establish a Cartagena training center for hospitality labor. CGSGI is also evaluating similar projects for Cusco, Peru and Acapulco, Mexico.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

- CGI currently has 316 paying members registered for the 2012 Annual Meeting, a decrease of 66 from this time last year. We are systematically reaching out to everyone whose membership has expired since January 1st to encourage renewal, as well as soliciting new memberships.

- Since the last update, the Rockefeller Foundation has renewed its Annual Meeting sponsorship for $250,000, the Ford Foundation for $400,000 and the Victor Pinchuk Foundation for $750,000 (plus $250,000 for CGI U). In addition, Western Union has joined as a new Annual Meeting sponsor at the $250,000 level.

CGI America

- In addition to the 58 commitments finalized by the end of this year's CGI America meeting, CGI staff is working with participants on the development of 75 incremental commitments.

CGI University

- Based on your feedback, we are moving forward with holding CGI U 2013 at Washington University in St. Louis and are negotiating documentation with university leadership. We expect to be able to announce the location publicly before Labor Day.

CommitmentsUpdate

- CGI has solicited progress reports from 1,530 commitment makers this year. To date, we have received status updates for 772 commitments, which exceeds the number received last year (648).

Hiring Update

- As you know, to support CGI's enhanced year-round engagement activities, we have been hiring additional staff. Since January 1st, we have hired 52 new employees, and we currently have four open positions.

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From: "Mark Smit" <mark@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/22/2008 3:39:15 PM
Subject: [big campaign] MMR: McCain Interviewed on CNN and NBC, Evening 10/22/08

Media Monitoring Report

Highlights:

1. CNN: Blitzer Questions McCain Across the Board

   MCCAIN: I respect General Powell. But I respectfully disagree. I especially disagree when he said -- the comments that he made about Governor Palin, the most popular governor in America, a governor who knows energy issue, a $40 billion pipeline reformer, took on the governor of her own party. And I hope that sometime General Powell will take time out of his busy schedule to meet with her. I know she'd be pleased to meet with him.

2. NBC: Brian Williams Interviews John McCain and Sarah Palin

   MCCAIN: Down in money. Down in the polls. We got them just where we want them

3. FNC: McCain Quotes President Hoover on Baseball

   JOHN MCCAIN: "Next to religion, baseball has furnished a greater impact on American life than any other institution."

No video:

1. CNN: CHRIS LAWRENCE: A non-partisan group at NYU law school investigated voter fraud cases across the country, it found that most were caused by technical gliches and clerical errors and a person is more likely to be struck by lightening than impersonate another voter at the polls

2. CNN: CAROL CASTILLO: But nothing can rouse Minnesota democrats like her charges of liberal anti-Americanism and some observers say that it could lead to her ouster

Clips

Highlight #1

Questions McCain Across the Board (CNN 10/22/08 4:30pm)

MCCAIN: BLITZER: Let's talk about taxes right now.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: It's a key issue. Among other things, you would like to cut -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. Is that right?

MCCAIN: Absolutely. Absolutely.

BLITZER: Because what he says and what Democrats, a lot of Democrats, say, that would be a corporate bonanza for ExxonMobil. They would get an extra $4 billion.

Here's the question. Should ExxonMobil be excluded from that cut in the corporate tax rate?

MCCAIN: Oh, of course not. We should -- we should be cutting corporate tax for every business in America.

You know, Barney Frank just said, we're going to take some of that money away from the rich people. That's what Obama is all about. That is what this is about. Let me tell you -- let me tell you, we tried a windfall profit tax back during the days of Jimmy Carter, OK? We tried it. It didn't work.

But the important thing is, if you talk to the CEO of FedEx, Fred Smith, if you talk to the CEO of Cisco, John Chambers, you talk to Meg Whitman, former CEO of eBay, you know what they will tell you? They will tell you, they pay their full 35 percent. And you know what else they will tell you? When they have the ability to go overseas, unfortunately, they do go overseas.

And you know why? Because we're paying -- they're paying 35 percent, full-freight, no evasions or escapes from the taxes. They're paying full-freight. And they will show you their tax returns. And guess what? If they go to

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Ireland, they're only paying 11 percent. So, where are they going to go where they can create wealth and create jobs? It's simple, fundamental economics.

So, to somehow allege that a company or corporation that can be international is not going to go where they pay the lowest taxes and can create the most jobs is just foolishness. The last time we practiced this kind of isolationism and protectionism that Senator Obama espouses and higher taxes was a guy named Herbert Hoover.

BLITZER: We have another question from a viewer, Frederick Allier (ph) of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He says he's an independent. Normally, he says, he votes Republican, but he says he lost -- you lost his vote this time because of what he called negative campaigning. Here's his question.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCAIN: Have you got anybody who says they have changed their mind, and they support me?

BLITZER: Yes. Yes, there are.

MCCAIN: You got a question from them, Wolf? I would love to hear that.

(LAUGHTER)

BLITZER: Here's -- here's -- here's his question.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My question to you is about tax cuts. How can you explain to the American people that tax cuts are going to solve our economic issues, might it be for the rich or the poor, whomever it is for, when they really haven't worked for the last eight years?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MCCAIN: All I can say to him is that, look at history. Look at history.

You raise taxes during economic crisis times, as we did in -- in -- back in the time of Herbert Hoover, you send the country into a depression. I'm not going to do that.

We have a fundamental difference of opinion. Some people think you have got to spread the wealth around. You have got to raise taxes. As I said, Barney Frank and others said, we're going to get those rich people and we're going to take the money from them? Fine, if that's what they want to do.

And I can hardly -- it's -- it's incredible to think of Speaker Pelosi, Harry Reid and Barack Obama with the tax-and-spend policies that they did in the past and that they espouse now and might happen in the future. It invigorates me to keep my campaign going, and going hard. I don't want that to happen to America.

BLITZER: Social Security, it's a potential problem out there for our children and grandchildren.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: And you have said, nothing is off the table as far as coming up with some solutions, long-term solutions, to Social Security.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCAIN: That's the way you negotiate, and that's the way you negotiate and get solutions.

BLITZER: Right now, there's a cap at $102,000 for Social Security payroll withholding tax. Are you open, as part of an effort to save Social Security, to letting that -- that cap go up?

MCCAIN: I'm obviously against it. And I want to tell you again, the way you succeed in negotiations -- and I have done it many times across the aisle, whether it be Ted Kennedy, or Russ Feingold, or Joe Lieberman, or -- or anybody else -- is, you sit down and you negotiate.

You go in with your negotiating positions. I will go in with my negotiating oppositions. My position is that I won't raise taxes on anybody.

BLITZER: What about increasing the retirement age from 65?

MCCAIN: I am going in that I won't -- I will have -- there are things on the table we will negotiate.

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Ronald Reagan, Tip O'Neill, 1983, went in, negotiated, and came out and saved Social Security. Guess what? That's what the American people want from us. That's what I have done all the time I have been in the Congress of the United States.

And -- and -- and, so, for me to say that anything, but I'm going to do what I saw two great leaders, Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan, do is -- it's just foolishness.

BLITZER: So, raising the retirement age..

MCCAIN: The Democrats -- the Democrats insist -- the reason why we couldn't -- couldn't get agreement in 2005 is because the Democrats insisted, as a precondition, that we raise taxes.

So, guess what? We never sat down at the table together. The Americans want us to sit down together, Wolf. And, so, all I can tell is, I will sit down with them. I have worked with them before. I will sit across the table from them.

I'm against tax increases. I'm against a lot of the bad things that -- that -- that a lot of the people support. But I will get a result, and we will save Social Security.

BLITZER: And how do you feel about raising the retirement age?

MCCAIN: I feel very strongly that I will sit down with the Democrats, and we will negotiate out something that will save Social Security, because that's our obligation to future generations of Americans. And you can ask me, you know, for the next half-hour, if you would like.

BLITZER: All right.

MCCAIN: I mean, that would be kind of fun. And my answer is going to be the same. I will sit down and negotiate, the way have I done in the past, which Senator Obama has never done, whether it be in judicial nominations, or whether it be in immigration reform, or ethics or lobbying reform. He always went home to the Democrat leadership.

BLITZER: Let's talk a little bit about your support -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- you did support President Bush's plan to overhaul Social Security and allow Social Security recipients to use about 10 percent of their Social Security savings in the stock market. That collapsed, obviously. It didn't go forward. Knowing what we know now about the volatility of the stock market, is that still a good idea?

MCCAIN: The reason why the talks collapsed is because the Democrats insisted on agreeing to tax increases before we sat down. So, let's -- let's -- let's understand history.

(CROSSTALK)

BLITZER: What about private Social Security...

(CROSSTALK)

MCCAIN: OK. That's what they wanted to do.

BLITZER: ... investments in the stock market?

MCCAIN: And all this other stuff was -- was worth negotiating.

And I will protect, as president of the United States, the Social Security benefits of retirees and future retirees. I will protect those benefits and I will do whatever is necessary to protect those benefits. And I have said that time over time.

Every -- every even-numbered year, the Democrats run out, scare the senior citizens, say, they're going to raise your taxes, they're going to destroy Social Security -- same old stuff. I have seen it for, oh, so -- more years than I can count.

I'm not scaring any senior. I'm going to preserve their -- and protect their Social Security benefits, despite what ads may be run, and the senior citizens, as well as all citizens in this country.

(CROSSTALK)

BLITZER: And the notion of a 10 percent, using 10 percent in the stock market?

MCCAIN: They know me about -- about how I'm going to fix Social Security, and I'm going to make their Social Security the best I can, and we will preserve the benefits that they have, and I will protect Social Security.

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BLITZER: And the 10 percent?

MCCAIN: And I will protect Social Security.

BLITZER: All right.

MCCAIN: And I will sit down at the table with the Democrats. And, by the way, we can keep -- you know, this is -- I will give you this -- this is -- I'm telling you, I'm going to protect Social Security.

(CROSSTALK) BLITZER: All right.

MCCAIN: And that's what I have done my entire career. And I will do what Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did. And that is save Social Security and make Americans aware that, unfortunately, present- day retirees are -- have -- working Americans today are not going to receive the same benefits as present-day retirees, unless we fix it. Now, I think I can do it, convince the American people that we will sit down together.

BLITZER: Let's move on and talk about national security.

MCCAIN: Good.

BLITZER: If you're elected president, of the United States, do you believe America's enemies, whether terrorists or hostile governments, would test you during the first six months of your presidency?

MCCAIN: I've already been tested. And I'm astonished and amazed to hear Senator Obama pre -- Senator Biden predict that the untried, untested President Obama will be tested by our enemies. And we may not agree -- his own backers may not agree.

Look, I've been tested. Senator Biden referred to the Cuban missile crisis. I was there. We came that close, as historians say, to a nuclear exchange.

Senator Biden expects his own running mate, expects Senator Obama to be tested in that way?

I mean that's a remarkable statement.

BLITZER: Because usually (INAUDIBLE)...

MCCAIN: That should concern all Americans.

BLITZER: ...they are tested early on by hostile powers out there.

MCCAIN: They know I've been tested. They know I've been tested. I've been tested many times.

BLITZER: The U.S. -- the Bush administration...

MCCAIN: And the thing that probably may encourage them a little is that Senator Obama has been wrong. He was wrong about the surge in Iraq. He still fails to acknowledge that he was wrong. I mean remarkable.

He was wrong when he said the Georgians should show restraint. He was wrong when he said he would sit down across the table from Ahmadinejad, Chavez and the Castro brothers. He was wrong about those.

So I can understand why the American people might be concerned, particularly when his own running mate says he's going to be tested.

BLITZER: All right...

MCCAIN: I've been tested, my friend.

BLITZER: We've got a limited amount of time, so I just want to get a couple of things in before I let you go. Iraq, a very important issue.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: Right now, we still 140,000, 150,000 troops in Iraq. The Bush administration seems to be close to what's called a Status of Forces Agreement with the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Nuri Al- Maliki. It calls, in the draft agreement, at least, for complete withdrawal of forces from villages and cities by July 30th of 2009 and out of the country by December 31st 2011.

If you're elected president, would you, as commander-in-chief, honor this agreement if, in fact, it's formalized?

MCCAIN: Well, with respect, Wolf -- and you know better, my friend. You know better. It's condition-based. It's

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conditions-based. And Ryan Crocker, our ambassador in Baghdad, said if you want to know what victory looks like, look at this agreement. So you know better than that, Wolf. You know it's condition-based. And that's what the big fight was all about.

BLITZER: So you accept this -- what's on the table right now

MCCAIN: I've always said we would be out based on conditions and honor in victory and not defeat. And it's very clear to any observer now that if we would have done what Senator Biden wanted to do -- break Iraq up into three countries -- if we'd have done what Senator Obama to do, which was immediate withdrawal and setting firm dates for it, we'd have probably been defeated in Iraq.

And the problem there is we would have had increased Iranian influence. We'd have had sectarian violence on the increase. And probably we would have had to go back.

So it's a big -- a big issue, a big issue for the American people. And I understand why it's not on the front pages or the lead in CNN, because we have a relatively secure environment that's getting more secure.

BLITZER: Colin Powell was pretty biting in his criticism. He said you were a little unsure of how to deal with the economic crisis. You seem to have, he said, a different approach every day. He sensed you didn't have a complete grasp of the economic crisis the American people are going through right now.

I wonder if you'd like to respond to Secretary Powell.

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I respect General Powell. But I respectfully disagree. I especially disagree when he said -- the comments that he made about Governor Palin, the most popular governor in America, a governor who knows energy issue, a $40 billion pipeline reformer, took on the governor of her own party. And I hope that sometime General Powell will take time out of his busy schedule to meet with her. I know she'd be pleased to meet with him.

Highlight #2

Brian Williams Interviews John McCain and Sarah Palin (NBC 10/22/08 06:36pm)

BRIAN WILLIAMS: Senator, I will begin with your observation on the tarmac. You came in today, there is not one, but two planes with your name on the side. You immediately started reminiscing about the depth of New Hampshire, you and your garment bag coming off the commercial flight. So here you are, you are down, you are down in money. How do you stay up?

MCCAIN: Down in money. Down in the polls. We got them just where we want them.

WILLIAMS: What do you mean by that?

MCCAIN: I mean that's when we do best, really, Brian. I have always done best when we are running a little bit behind and got to catch up. That somehow I have been very blessed. We seem to catch fire and lately we have seen in the last several days, week, ever since the debate we have seen some uptick and we have three, four points to go and we can win this thing. >>

WILLIAMS: Did this campaign get out of your control? Here's what I mean -- a lot of people who know you well saw you take that microphone from that woman in Wisconsin and for the first time in a long time they said, there, that's john McCain.

MCCAIN: Brian, they either haven't been paying attention or don't want to. In my speech at the convention, I spoke of my admiration for senator Obama, the fact that he had motivated so many people. I have said continuously, my respect for him. That doesn't change my view that there are stark differences. When I am president there is not going to be an international crisis that he can -- that senator Biden can guarantee. I am not going to raise people's taxes in a bad economy. Look, we have got very big differences. But I have always been respectful of senator Obama. And he is now spending more money than any campaign in American history on negative ads against me. That's fine. The American people are paying attention.

WILLIAMS: You mention senator Biden's comment the other day about, a new president and a test of the new president's mettle, one of your closest friends in the senate, Joe Lieberman said on face the nation, our enemies will test the new president early. And it has happened throughout modern history.

MCCAIN: Well, look -- I have been tested. They know me, they know me very well. I have been tested. Senator Biden said it. What if Sarah or I had said it? Oh, my god, it would have been terrible. Imagine. His own running mate said it's because he is young and new and untested. That's why senator Biden said mark my word, mark

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my words, what he said, there is going to be an international crisis. And then he compared it to the Cuban missile crisis. My friend I was in the Cuban missile crisis. I was on the aircraft carrier "enterprise" in the ware wing. We were close to nuclear war. I wouldn't predict that. That is remarkable. When a vice presidential candidate predicts because a young untested president is going to face an international crisis like the Cuban missile crisis. Unbelievable. Americans know I have been tested.

BRIAN WILLIAMS: [Governor Palin], yesterday you tied this notion of an early test to a new president to this notion of preconditions that you both have been hammering the Obama campaign on. First of all what in your mind is a precondition?

SARAH PALIN: You have to have some, diplomatic strategy going into a meeting with some one like Ahmadinejad or Kim Jung Il . . . that would seek to destroy America or our allies. It is so naive and so dangerous . . . to proclaim they would be willing to sit down with a leader like Ahmadinejad and just talk about the problems, the issues that are facing them. So that is some ill-preparedness right there. But following up with your comment about Biden also, when Biden, what he had done the other night to his Democrat donors in talking to them in a fund raiser, warning mark my word there will be an international crisis if Barack Obama is elected, he was confirming what he had been saying all along in the primary race. He had warned voters that Barack was not prepared yet to be president. And that the presidency is not a place for on the job training.

WILLIAMS: When he says the new president will be tested though, I am missing how that is different from senator Lieberman saying, quote, "our enemies will test the new president early. "

JOHN MCCAIN: Look, I don't know when Joe Lieberman said that. Joe Lieberman is supporting me. The main reason, probably, he thinks America will be safer and more secure with me as president. Otherwise he wouldn't have crossed party lines and come over almost unprecedented and support my candidacy. So I don't know exactly what Joe Lieberman was saying, but I know that Joe Lieberman is convinced that this country and this world will be a lot safer place with me president. If he thought there was some kind of equivalency, he probably would have stayed in his own party as far as which nominee he supported. But I want to go back again to Sarah's point. And that is -- that we now have a guarantee, saying because he is young and untested, that's what part of senator Biden's rant was and because he was young and untested and . . . then Senator Obama will probably do what the donors don't agree with. This is probably one of those moments in American political history that stands out. And I think the American people are going to pay attention.

PALIN: I think it is the most telling comment that has been made yet on this campaign trail in all of these months. I think that has been the most significant comment, that is my personal opinion on this. For Biden too, to have been the one to say he would be so honored to run on a McCain ticket because he knew that way if Senator McCain is elected president that our country would be better off. I think there is significance there too in the comment made.

WILLIAMS: Let me ask you both about what must have been a hurtful Sunday for you especially, you Senator McCain, Colin Powell's endorsement of Barack Obama and Governor, respectfully, the heart of his quote, about Governor Palin, Senator McCain, "I don't believe she is ready to be president of the United States which is the job of vice president. And so that raised some question in my mind as to the judgment that Senator McCain made." When you heard those words from a man you have known for a long time, what was your reaction, saying basically we have little to judge these future leaders on except for the big decision of picking a running mate?

MCCAIN: I know that if General Powell had wanted to meet Governor Palin we could have arranged that easily number one. Number two is then obviously General Powell does not know governor Palin's record. Reform, governor, 24,000 employees I believe of the state of Alaska, negotiated a $40 billion natural gas pipeline by taking on the oil and gas interests, took on the governor of her own party who is incumbent. Stood up against corruption, cut taxes, gave her constituents money back, shares my world view, has frankly in all due respect, a son, who has got his life on the line right now in defense of freedom, and that's not qualified? Tell me what is qualified? I am overjoyed to have a person who is a real reformer. What Americans want right now more than anything else they want us to reform the way we do business in Washington and they want our economy put back on track. Here's a proven record. And so, all I can say is, I see all these attacks on governor Palin. I don't live in a bubble. But those people obviously, are either not paying attention to, or don't care about the record of the most popular governor in the United States of America.

PALIN: And, look, let me interrupt . . . I am not going to toot my own horn but I have more executive experience than even Barack Obama has, dealing with multibillion dollar budgets, thousand of employees in position as mayor, manager, regulator of oil and gas, and governor. Let's not forget in this context of one endorsement, of, um Senator, um-- Colin Powell's, that you have received the endorsement of at least four former secretaries of state and hundreds--

MCCAIN: Five secretary, former secretaries of states.

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PALIN: Five! And hundreds of retired top US brass and US military brass that see also in John McCain the ability to win the wars and to keep our nation safe and of course, those who are in more economic minded also who is endorsing John McCain because they know too that he will get our economy back on track. He will reduce taxes on our small businesses and on our families so that we can keep more of what we produce and earn so we can hire more people as business owners. That's how jobs are created. That's how the economy gets rolling. He has got that in him. He has got that in his plan and that's recognized. I am appreciative of the endorsements you have received.

MCCAIN: Kissinger, George Shultz, Larry Eagleburger and Al Hague. All of those have been strong supporters of mine, plus 200 or more retired generals and admirals and mine. I am more proud of that.

Highlight #3

McCain Quotes Hoover on Baseball (FNC 10/22/08, ad aired during World Series Coverage)

MICHAEL DOUGLAS: When Depression struck down the roaring '20s, Americans faced a bleak and uncertain future.

JOHN MCCAIN: "Next to religion, baseball has furnished a greater impact on American life than any other institution." - President Hoover.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Blakemore, Emily D. EOP" <Emily_D_Blakemore@who.eop.gov>
To: "Dumas, Clay A. EOP" <Clay_A_Dumas@who.eop.gov>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP" <Anita_Breckenridge@who.eop.gov>
Date: 5/7/2015 3:40:07 PM
Subject: RE: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

John -

We have 4 tickets to the event in Beaverton tomorrow. I will forward the details to Eryn and they should be all set.

Best,
Emily

-----Original Message-----
From: Dumas, Clay A. EOP
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2015 5:25 PM
To: 'John Podesta'; Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP; Blakemore, Emily D. EOP
Subject: RE: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

Thanks John. Will work with Emily to make sure Anita sees and whether anything can be done.

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2015 5:20 PM
To: Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP
Cc: Dumas, Clay A. EOP
Subject: Fwd: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu
<mailto:vergun@alumni.stanford.edu> >
Date: Thu, May 7, 2015 at 3:28 PM
Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
To: John Podesta <podesta@law.georgetown.edu <mailto:podesta@law.georgetown.edu> >

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

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My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: >https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com<
Isaac: >https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com<

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters, Pam Vergun

Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu <mailto:vergun@alumni.stanford.edu>
3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642 <tel:503-645-6642>

Mo: 503-332-7633 <tel:503-332-7633>

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
>https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beavert
>on-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power<
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: >https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com<
Isaac: >https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com<

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From: "Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/22/2015 4:50:13 PM
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

I like it, especially the use of "decreasing," which would get them pointed in the right direction (but also provide enough flexibility that they might go for it).

On Jun 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Looks good. One change I wouldn't use sustainable financing. Could be misinterpreted. I'd use financing for sustainable development in the two positive references and maybe decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk in the negative reference
What do others think?

On Jun 22, 2015 1:36 PM, "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org > wrote:

Hello John,

Below is the refined question you just conveyed via phone:

*****

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing sustainable financing and decreasing unsustainable financing will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards for sustainable financing?

*****

Will hold on sending until I receive either a green light or additional edits.

Background notes of potential interest:

Last Friday Zhang Gaoli attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia and delivered remarks re China's plans for the 2016 G20. His speech was very general but did contain some positive indicators: he said G20 nations should develop new driving forces for sustainable growth of the global economy. He also focused on China's Silk Road initiative, which he welcomed other countries to join. That suggests they are at least thinking about linking these other programs in with G20.

Terminology re China hosting G20: Turkey currently enjoys talking about the fact that they hold the "G20 presidency" but thus far Chinese state press is using the term "chair" instead of presidency.

The 2015 G20 summit will be November 14-15 in Turkey. Then Turkey hands the baton to China. The 2016 summit will be in Hangzhou, China (likely next fall, exact date TBD).

Thanks,

Melanie

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Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.

Director for China Policy

Center for American Progress

Direct Line: (202) 741-6359

Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Re: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

Makes sense to combine - and perhaps leading with G20 will draw out some responses about that, too.

- I wonder whether it's useful to nail down any specifics on high quality, e.g. investing in sustainable technologies and services, in ways that comply with high social and governance standards - the downside is the risk of getting too focused on a back and forth on governance, though could be interesting to specify each component to see if he responds to each.
- In the SDG financing world, China's official position is that ODA is still the main vehicle, so may be useful to say something to the effect of "increasing sustainable development financing, including harnessing a broader range of sources towards sustainable development is essential ". (REF recent official Chinese gov position paper on post-2015 which states: "Development financing should be enhanced with North-South cooperation serving as the main channel." This statement is a pure political play, since domestic resources are the main vehicle of SD financing and drove China's own rise, not to mention ODA is not terribly sustainable, but this line plays well with developing countries.) This may be adding too much into a single question, but thought it worthwhile to flag.

Cheers,

Molly

From: Melanie Hart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: RE: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

John and team,

Pete combined the G20 questions into one shorter one and added a separate one on finance. Here's some updated suggested text from Pete:

(1) As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. How will China use its G20 presidency next year to drive further progress on these two issues?

(2) Relatedly, increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

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I think Pete's finance language is excellent. My one concern is that if we send 2 questions, they might pick what is easiest to respond to rather than what we would find most interesting. One option would be to combine further, perhaps as follows:

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. It is in this environment that China is taking on the G20 presidency, and many observers around the world will be watching next year to see how China leverages the G20 to drive further progress on these two issues. Observers will also be monitoring whether and to what degree China leverages the AIIB to achieve these important goals. Increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

Additional thoughts/reactions from the team?

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.

Director for China Policy

Center for American Progress

Direct Line: (202) 741-6359

Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Eryn Sepp [mailto:esepp@equitablegrowth.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang
Importance: High

Hi Everyone—

John wants to respond on here to you all. He thinks we need to combine the two questions into one, and put a high standards sustainable finance question in.

Melanie, do we know who else is getting to ask questions?

John, the plain text is below:

To: John Podesta

From: Melanie Hart, Erin Auel, Molly Elgin-Cossart, Pete Ogden, John Norris

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Re: **Quick Response Needed – Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang**

Date: June 19, 2015

You are attending the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) think tank summit in Beijing June 26-27. There will be a side meeting with Li Keqiang. Around 40 guest scholars and officials will attend. **You are one of the high-level conference speakers invited to attend the Li Keqiang meeting. You have also been invited to ask Premier Li a question.** In that meeting only four people will ask questions (yourself included). CCIEE tells us the questions must be submitted in advance, no later than Monday evening (June 22) U.S. time. We should treat this as a hard deadline.

We suggest posing the following question:

Next year China will host the G20. Many nations around the world will be watching to see how China handles its G20 presidency and what that tells us about how China's rise will impact multilateral institutions. What does the Chinese government currently consider to be its top priorities for China's 2016 G20 presidency? As you know, 2015 is a very big year for sustainable development and climate change. We hope to see big progress this year on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Paris. Is the Chinese leadership thinking about how China can use its G20 presidency to unify and strengthen G20 support for implementing multilateral agendas on sustainable development and climate change?

Please share your thoughts asap (and no later than Monday evening) so that we can pass your preferred question on to Premier Li's team.

Additional meeting details below.

I. Meeting Format

Li will lead the meeting and do most of the talking. He has selected four people, including you, to ask questions. There is no pre-set theme for the meeting, but we have been told you are welcome to ask questions on topics including sustainable development, think tank cooperation, and economic issues.

II. Potential Participants

The meeting hosts have invited about 40 guest scholars and officials to attend the meeting. That group includes:

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BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video speech)

Romano PRODI, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, Professor at China Europe International Business School, Former Prime Minister of Italy

Danilo TURK, Professor of International Law, Former President of Slovenia

Kevin RUDD, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Former Prime Minister of Australia

Sir Don MCKINNON, Chairman of New Zealand China Council, Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand

Grzegorz W. KOLODKO, Founder and Director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Former Deputy Premier of Poland

Thomas SARGENT, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor of Economics at New York University

WU Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations

William BURNS, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Nubuo TANAKA, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Former Executive Director of International Energy Agency

III. Biography of Li Keqiang

<image001.jpg>Li Keqiang (Ke-chung) is the second-highest ranking official in the CCP. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, premier of the State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. From 2008-2013, he was vice premier of the State Council and deputy secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. In this role, he oversaw a portfolio of issues including economic development, price controls, finance, climate change, and macroeconomic management. During that time, he also directed the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee and of South-to-North Water Diversion Construction Project Committee. In 2013, he became Premier of the State Council. He has focused on economic development and meeting China's growth targets. He has also led efforts to set targets for reducing energy intensity, cap coal use, and boost renewable capacity. At a meeting of the National Leading Group on Climate Change on June 12, 2015, he backed China's commitments through the UNFCCC, stating "China stands ready to work with all other parties to ensure a comprehensive, balanced and strong agreement at the upcoming Paris Conference."

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/25/2015 5:39:20 PM
Subject: Letter

Dear Jake,

The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.

I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "Christopher Edley" <cedley@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Susan Rice" <ricesusane@aol.com>
mike.froman@ptt.gov
jim.messina@ptt.gov
Date: 11/17/2008 9:00:43 AM
Subject: WMD Terrorism; Graham Allison, Michael Nacht

John and Susan -- I know this is something you both care about. (I mean, not the terrorism, the personnel issue.) I just want to make sure that you give serious consideration to two guys I know well and think very, very highly of.

Graham Alison, former dean of the Kennedy School, has cared about the issue passionately for 25 years. Written a lot. Serves now on a Congressional Commission that's looking at the issue, so he's quite on top of the current situation. Has spoken with Obama about it in the past, etc. Known to Biden. I'm not sure Graham wants to go into government, but I hope so.

Michael Nacht just stepped down as dean of Berkeley's policy school, and before that was dean at Maryland and a researcher at Harvard. Was an Asst Director in ACDA ages ago. Still active on committees and commissions, and writing. Very broadly knowledgable about terrorism, prliferation, etc.

As I recall, there was a campaign pledge, consistent with a statute, to create within the NSC a coordinator on nuclear security. Either of these guys would be terrific. And I suppose there are appropriate sub-cabinet national security jobs, too.

--
(personal email)
Christopher Edley, Jr.
Professor and Dean
UC Berkeley Law School

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From: "Adam Jentleson \(CAPAF\)" <ajentleson@americanprogressaction.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/6/2008 6:37:44 AM
Subject: [big campaign] FW: RELEASE: Podesta/Kvaal on McCain and Bush Third Term

Here's the memo I mentioned earlier.

From: Center for American Progress Action Fund [mailto:media@americanprogressaction.org]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 1:17 PM
To: Adam Jentleson (CAPAF)
Subject: RELEASE: Podesta/Kvaal on McCain and Bush Third Term

Center for American Progress Action Fund

For Immediate Release
June 6, 2008

RELEASE: Podesta/Kvaal on McCain and Bush Third Term

Memorandum to Interested Parties

From: John Podesta, President and CEO, Center for American Progress Action Fund

James Kvaal, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress Action Fund

Subject: John McCain: A Third Term for the Bush Agenda

Date: June 6, 2008

As the general election begins, we expect a renewed focus on Sen. John McCain's policy platform. McCain is advocating a radically conservative agenda that is largely indistinguishable from the failed policies of President George W. Bush. We expect an intense debate over these ideas and the direction of our country. We provide the following information in the hope that it will be helpful to you in your upcoming public appearances, town hall meetings, and media interviews.

In recent conversations with journalists and commentators, we have been repeatedly confronted with the same myths about McCain. The misperception persists that he is a maverick that proposes moderate policies, no matter how conservative his actual agenda is. He has an opportunity to make deep inroads into key voter groups like independent voters, women, and working-class families. He is "a different kind of Republican."

The facts do not bear this out, however. The truth is that a McCain presidency is likely to be a third term for President Bush's policies. On the major issues of today, McCain has either been aligned closely with Bush or he has renounced his past positions and is now aligned closely with Bush. He claims to have differences with the president on certain key issues, but in fact the two men's current positions on these issues are very similar. American voters are beginning to see McCain's policies for what they are: 64 percent of voters say that McCain will continue Bush policies or adopt even more conservative policies.[1] Even the slogan "a different kind of Republican" is recycled from Bush.[2]

1. On the Big Issues, McCain Agrees with Bush

McCain professes to disagree with Bush on some issues, but not on the biggest issues. On the most important issues facing our country—the war in Iraq, the economy, and health care—McCain's policies are "virtually indistinguishable" from Bush's approach.[3]

The War in Iraq

Like Bush, McCain is committed to continuing an endless war in Iraq. While Bush says the war in Iraq could last 40 years, McCain has said that he is willing to stay for 100. When Bush was pumping false intelligence to the public before the war, McCain was a reliable echo. When Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz said we'd be greeted as liberators, McCain said the same. When Bush urged "stay the course" in Iraq, McCain followed. When Bush recommended a troop surge, McCain was the foremost supporter (see additional information on McCain's record supporting Bush's strategy in Iraq below).

McCain has said "no one has supported President Bush on Iraq more than I have." Exactly right. And he will pursue Bush's agenda of a long-term military presence in Iraq, regardless of the increasing regional threats and the escalating financial and human costs of this war. This is the wrong approach for our country.

The Economy

With gas prices near $4 a gallon, McCain's answer to our energy problems is nearly $4 billion a year in tax cuts for the five biggest American oil companies.[4] More than half of his new tax cuts—$170 billion a year—would go to corporations.

Like Bush, McCain has made massive tax cuts the centerpiece of his economic agenda.[5] McCain once opposed the Bush tax cuts as unfair to the middle class and too expensive in a time of war. Now, however, he has taken the opposite extreme, embracing the permanent extension of Bush's tax cuts and proposing an additional $300 billion a year in tax cuts. McCain's plan would essentially double the size of the Bush tax cuts, and the top 1 percent of taxpayers will get an even larger share of McCain's new tax cuts than they did of Bush's cuts. As progressives, we oppose this unwise and

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unfair tax policy.

McCain opposes helping communities purchase homes in foreclosure, a step that would protect neighboring properties from a sudden drop in value, eliminating home equity and possibly causing a vicious cycle of foreclosures.[6] His foreclosure plan would reach only 200,000 to 400,000 borrowers by his campaign's own optimistic estimate, a number that is far smaller than what is needed and explicitly excludes victims of predatory lending.

Health Care

McCain is campaigning on a health care plan that envisions a radical transformation of our health care system.[7] It envisions a system where most Americans shop for health insurance on their own in a highly deregulated market. It reforms the tax treatment of health insurance to promote individual insurance rather than job-based health benefits, and it makes it difficult for states to ensure minimal consumer protections on insurance plans. Tens of millions of Americans with preexisting conditions, such as cancer and diabetes, are likely to find coverage much more difficult to find and expensive to afford.
The McCain plan is also radical in another way: It envisions insurance plans that require greater deductibles and copayments that encourage patients to act more like "consumers." In other words, it will make health care more expensive in the hopes that patients will use less of it. However, studies show that higher costs lead families to avoid necessary care as well as wasteful care. In particular, higher costs undermine effective preventive care and care for chronic diseases that can bring down overall health care costs.
The McCain plan closely resembles a deeply unpopular proposal Bush unveiled in his 2007 budget.[8] Lawmakers were right to reject that plan, which failed to even earn a hearing on Capitol Hill.

Judges

McCain has pledged to appoint "clones of Alito and Roberts" to the Supreme Court.[9] In his address on his judicial philosophy, he declared that "Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito meet [my] standards in every respect."[10]

McCain has also promised to appoint "strict constructionists."[11] He adds, "I happen to view life to begin at conception, and that is a moral belief I have. And, therefore, I think that Roe v. Wade was not only a bad decision but a flawed decision."[12]

It is important to remember that his appointments would not be limited to the Supreme Court. He would make dozens of selections for lower courts as well. His appointments will have a decisive effect on the federal courts, and progressives should oppose their confirmation. .

2. McCain's Claimed Differences from Bush Are Minor

In a speech earlier this week, McCain cited four other areas where he differed from Bush: the conduct of the war in Iraq, climate change and energy policy, government spending, and the treatment of the detainees.[13] In each of these areas, however, McCain's positions look much more like Bush than different from him.

War in Iraq

McCain claims to have been the administration's "greatest critic" in the war's first few years.[14] In fact, McCain was one of the staunchest defenders of the administration's war strategy. In March 2003—the month the invasion began—McCain said he had "no qualms about our strategic plans."[15] He believed that the Bush administration had "an appropriate strategy."[16] In 2004, he remained "confident we're on the right course."[17] In 2005, he still believed that troop levels were adequate: "I think we have in numbers [sic] probably enough."[18]

McCain repeatedly predicted the success of Bush's approach. Like Cheney, Wolfowitz, and others, he predicted that "the Iraqi people will greet us as liberators."[19] In 2003, he said "I believe the war in Iraq can be concluded successfully in a relatively brief time."[20] In a later appearance on "Meet the Press," he said "I believe that this conflict is still going to be relatively short."[[21] In April 2003, he claimed that "the end is very much in sight," and that all that stood in the way would be "a short period of chaos."[22]

McCain repeatedly defended Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. In 2004, he told Sean Hannity and Alan Colmes that he believed Rumsfeld had done a "fine job."[23] In another interview, he said that he was "an admirer of Secretary Rumsfeld."[24]

Climate Change and Energy Policy

McCain is no longer a leader on climate change. Despite cosponsoring legislation to cap U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases, he is failing to push global warming at a crucial time. Historic legislation that closely resembles his bill is before the Senate this week, and McCain is withholding his support.[25] Bush also opposes this bill.

Like Bush, McCain also supports subsidies for oil companies. Last year, he opposed a measure to shift $13 billion in tax breaks from oil companies to wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources.[26] However, he continues to support billions of dollars in subsidies for the nuclear industry.

Government Spending

McCain argues that he "opposed wasteful spending by both parties and the Bush Administration."[27] However, McCain's promises to cut spending are long on rhetoric and short on programs targeted to cuts—the same approach taken for years by George Bush. [28]

McCain promises to immediately eliminate $100 billion in "wasteful spending and earmarks."[29] This figure relies on a Congressional Research Service report that uses a very broad definition of earmarks that includes foreign aid to countries like Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. The *Washington Post* called his $100 billion claim "largely fantasy." The Heritage Foundation estimated that, at most, it might be possible to eliminate $9 billion in earmarks.[30] Other than a one-year budget freeze saving $15 billion, McCain has not proposed any other budget savings. Instead, he has only promised to review lists of wasteful spending and to appoint a commission to draw up a new list.[31]

Under America's first 42 presidents, the nation accumulated $3.4 trillion in debt and President Clinton had our country on track to pay off the debt. Bush reversed course and is expected to expand the national debt to $5.4 trillion before leaving office.[32] McCain's proposals to date would raise the debt to a whopping to $12.7 trillion by the end of his second term,[33] which would destroy the value of the dollar and worsen inflation. Progressive should lead the fight toward getting the nation's books in order.

Treatment of the Detainees

After Attorney General Alberto Gonzales claimed that anti-torture laws and treaties did not apply at overseas prisons, McCain sponsored legislation to ban cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees in military custody. However, the law includes a major loophole: a provision authored by Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and supported by McCain that prevents courts from enforcing the law. Moreover, McCain sanctions the CIA use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation methods.[34]

This morning's *New York Times* revealed that McCain believes that President Bush's warrantless wiretapping program—which took place outside the laws passed by Congress—was nonetheless lawful.[35] According to the *Times*, McCain's support for wireless wiretapping contradicts earlier statements

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that presidents should obey wiretapping statutes.

Immigration

On immigration issues, McCain has broken with Bush—he is now more conservative. McCain once worked with Bush and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) to champion a comprehensive approach to immigration reform that combined border enforcement with an opportunity for undocumented immigrants to earn citizenship. Now, however, McCain says he "got the message."[36] According to ABC News, "He hasn't exactly renounced the bill he championed in the spring, but he has fine-tuned his position and changed the emphasis to assure the skeptics and critics — and there are many — that dealing with the fate of those already in the country only occurs after the borders are secured."[37]

3. McCain Lacks the Special Appeal He Claims to Have with Key Groups

The conventional wisdom holds that in the current political environment, the "moderate" McCain has a unique opportunity to make gains among demographic groups that supported Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), particularly women, Latinos, and the working class. Neither McCain's positions on issues important to these groups nor recent polling data support this idea.

Women

Contrary to the conventional wisdom, McCain's support among women is not strong. In fact, McCain today has less support from women than Bush did in 2004. While Bush won 48 percent of women in 2004, McCain gets support from only 44 percent.[38] McCain's weak support may be related to the fact that McCain is not a moderate on issues important to women.

McCain has opposed efforts to guarantee women equal pay. On April 23, McCain skipped a vote to invoke cloture on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The Associated Press reported that he opposed it "because it would lead to more lawsuits."[39] Asked by a 14-year-old girl about his opposition to equal pay laws, McCain said, "I don't believe that this would do anything to help the rights of women, except maybe help trial lawyers and others in that profession."[40]

McCain has repeatedly opposed federal funding for abortion, even in cases of rape or incest.[41] He joined just 20 other senators in opposing family-planning grants and only 18 others in prohibiting the use of Medicaid dollars for abortions in cases of rape and incest.[42] In 2003, McCain voted for Senator Rick Santorum's bill to ban the so-called "partial-birth abortion" bill, even though the procedure would only be allowed when it is necessary to save a woman's life.[43]

Working Class

Perhaps due to the failures of Bush's economic policies, McCain's support is lagging among working-class voters. Bush won 51 percent of working-class voters in 2004, but McCain has earned the support of only 45 percent of them.

McCain voted against raising the minimum wage at least seven times.[44] During the housing crisis, McCain rejected "activist approaches." He placed the blame on homeowners while supporting the bailout of Bear Stearns.[45]

While working class families are struggling with stagnant wages, higher energy costs, and rising unemployment, McCain told the *Boston Globe* that "[t]he issue of economics is not something I've understood as well as I should."[46] McCain's tax plan offers little or nothing to middle-class families, while delivering the majority of its benefits to the top 1 percent of taxpayers.[47] One of his top economic advisors, Carly Fiorina, defended the outsourcing of American jobs before receiving a $42 million severance package.[48] It is unclear how working class voters will relate to her circumstances.[49]

Latinos

Hispanics' median family income declined by an average of 0.5 percent per year from 2000 to 2006, after rising in the 1990s.[50] Latinos also have been among those most affected by the economic downturn. The unemployment rate for Hispanics in the United States rose to 6.5 percent in the first quarter of 2008, well above the 4.7 percent rate for all non-Hispanics. The unemployment rate among Latino immigrants was 7.5 percent in the first quarter of this year. Of working-age Latinos, 52.5 percent are immigrants.[51]

The housing crisis is also falling particularly hard on Hispanic households. Many more Hispanics got high-cost mortgages than did whites. Nearly 46 percent of home-purchase loans made to Hispanics in 2006 were high-cost, as opposed to only 18 percent for whites. [52] The crisis is expected to cost Hispanic homeowners between $75 billion and $129 billion.[53]

College education is a particularly important issue for many Hispanic families. McCain has repeatedly voted against additional funding for Pell grants and other forms of student aid.[54]

McCain's ties to Bush policies are likely to hurt him among Latinos. Some 41 percent of Latino registered voters say the policies of the Bush administration have been harmful to Hispanics, while just 16 percent say they have been helpful. McCain's performance among Latinos is 7 points behind that of Bush in 2004.[55] More Latinos give McCain an unfavorable rating than give him a favorable one (32 percent to 25 percent).[56]

ENDNOTES

[1] CBS News, 6/4/08.

[2] Associated Press, 8/24/00; Bloomberg, 5/30/08.

[3] Bloomberg, 2/26/08.

[4] Center for American Progress Action Fund, 3/27/08.

[5] For more information on McCain's tax agenda, see Robert Gordon and James Kvaal, "The Bush-McCain-Norquist Tax Agenda," 3/21/08, available at http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/tax_agenda.html .

[6] Center for American Progress Action Fund, 4/10/2008.

[7] For more information on McCain's health care agenda, see Jeanne Lambrew, "Conservative Health Reform: Why It Could Deepen Our Health System Crisis," 3/14/08, available at http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/conservative_critique.html .

[8] Washington Post, 4/30/08; New York Times, 4/30/08; Wall Street Journal, 4/30/08

[9] The Swamp Blog, 1/28/08

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[10] Speech by McCain, 5/6/08.

[11] NBC News, “Meet the Press,,” 12/5/99.

[12] ABC News, “Good Morning America Times Square Town Hall Meeting,,” 10/12/99.

[13] Speech by McCain, 6/4/08..

[14] ThinkProgress.org, 8/18/07.

[15] Hartford Courant, 3/5/03.

[16] NBC News, “Meet the Press,” 3/30/03.

[17] ABC News, “This Week,” 3/07/

[18] NBC News, “Meet the Press,” 2/20/05.

[19] NBC News, “The Today Show,” 3/20/03.

[20] McCain Senate Press Release, 3/18/03.

[21] NBC News, “Meet the Press,” 3/30/03.

[22] ABC News, “Good Morning America,” 4/9/03.

[23] Fox News Channel, “Hannity & Colmes,” 5/12/04.

[24] Fox News Channel, “The Big Story,” 5/10/04.

[25] ABC News, 5/30/08; Washington Post, 5/29/08.

[26] Forbes, 12/13/07.

[27] Speech by McCain, 6/3/08.

[28] New Republic, 6/11/08.

[29] Washington Post, 5/23/08.

[30] Washington Post, 5/23/08.

[31] American Prospect, 5/2/08.

[32] Office of Management and Budget, 2/12/08

[33] Center for American Progress Action Fund, 5/08.

[34] New York Times, 2/13/08.

[35] New York Times, 6/6/08.

[36] ABC News, 12/26/07

[37] ABC News, 12/26/07

[38] Democracy Corps, June 6/08

[39] Associated Press, 4/24/08.

[40] Washington Post, 5/7/08

[41] Associated Press, 5/6/08 .

[42] Washington Times, 2/18/08; the bill referred to is S 1956, Vote #231 , 7/23/96.

[43] S. 3,Vote #402, 10/21/03.

[44] S.Amdt. 4272 to H.R. 3448, Vote #183 , 7/06/96; S.Amdt. 44 to S. 256, Vote #26 , 3/07/05; S.Amdt. 3079 to S.Amdt. 2951 to S.Con.Res. 101, Vote #76 , 4/07/00; S.Amdt. 1383 to S. 1429, Vote #239 , 7/30/99; S. 96, Vote #94 , 4/28/99; S.Amdt. 3540 to S.Amdt. 3559 to S. 1301, Vote #278, 9/22/98; and HR 2, Vote #23 , 1/24/07.

[45] Los Angeles Times, 3/26/08.

[46] Boston Globe, 12/18/07

[47] Center for American Progress, 3/21/08 .

[48] Associated Press, 1/7/04.

[49] New York Times, 6/6/08

[50] Center for American Progress, 4/29/08

[51] Pew , 6/4/08.

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[52] Center for American Progress, 4/29/08

[53] Center for American Progress, 1/30/08.

[54] HR 2660, Vote #331 , 9/9/03; HR 1836, Vote #153 , 5/22/01; HR 1836, Vote #155 , 5/22/01;

HR 4577, Vote #156 , 6/28/00; S 1134, Vote #29 , 3/2/00; S 947, Vote #126 , 6/25/97; HJR 1, Vote #78 , 2/23/95; and

SCR 13, Vote #220 , 5/25/95.

[55] Democracy Corps, 6/08.

[56] Democracy Corps , 2/1/08.

The Center for American Progress Action Fund is the sister advocacy organization of the Center for American Progress . The Action Fund transforms progressive ideas into policy through rapid response communications, legislative action, grassroots organizing and advocacy, and partnerships with other progressive leaders throughout the country and the world. The Action Fund is also the home of the Progress Report.

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If you would rather not receive future email messages from Center for American Progress Action Fund, let us know by clicking here.
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/10/2014 1:15:59 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday July 10, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday July 10, 2014 Morning Roundup:

"Hard Choices" is a success! Secretary Clinton's book "Hard Choices" remains on track to be one of the bestselling political books of the year, spending its first three weeks at number one on the New York Times' Bestsellers List and now landing at number two in its fourth week. See here.

Headlines:

The Daily Beast: "Hillary's Outside Enforcers Are Led by a Former Foe"

"Some venues say that the job is to write on her once a day, or write on her five times a week or something, which puts a number value on the article, instead of a value of content," said Strider. "I think that deserves a little discussion from the other side. You know it is getting rough when you turn on Morning Joe and they are criticizing themselves for covering Hillary so much."

..."I think it is fair to say that it has always been the case that the media interest in the Clintons seems wide and deep," said Brock. "The right thinks, and there is a history going back 20 years, that the Clintons have been very good for business. They are magnets for money on the Republican and conservative side, and a lot of this anti-Clinton stuff can be seen as a business."

Las Vegas Review-Journal: "UNLV Foundation: Clinton fee pencils out"

"The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation can afford Hillary Clinton's much-debated $225,000 fee to speak at its annual fundraising dinner, having sold out the Oct. 13 event's best tables at $20,000-a-pop."

Gainesville Sun opinion: Douglas Smith, former assistant secretary for the private sector at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security: "International tourism benefits Florida"

"As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton used the tools available to her as America's top diplomat to positively impact the economy here at home, understanding that our economic security was integral to our national security, and vice versa."

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Media Matters for America: "MSNBC's Joan Walsh Corrects Mischaracterization Of Clinton's Court-Appointed Defense Work"

"MSNBC political analyst Joan Walsh corrected attempts to cast doubt on the fact that Hillary Clinton served as defense attorney on a decades-old criminal case at the direction of the court, pointing out that, in fact, the judge had compelled Clinton to take the case."

The Daily Caller opinion: Lanny Davis: "Hillary Clinton's 'Hard Choices' Show Who She Really Is"

"What is missing from most of the reviews is what the book reveals about Clinton the person. I can speak to that, knowing her since I was a senior and she was a freshman at Yale Law School when we first met in the fall of 1969."

Time: "Here's What John Kerry Can Learn From Hillary About Israel's New Crisis"

"Just over 18 months later, many of the same dynamics apply as Obama weighs whether Kerry can — or should — broker a deal like the one Clinton struck."

Washington Post column: Harold Meyerson: "Hillary Clinton's identity crisis"

"Which Hillary Clinton would run for — and, more important, govern as — president?"

Slate blog: Weigel: "How Hillary Clinton Went from Working Class Hero to Elite Loser, in Two Bill Kristol Columns"

"One of the great joys of political reporting circa 2014 is how quickly you can crowd-source a question."

Associated Press: APNewsBreak: "Different Attackers In Benghazi?"

"Newly revealed testimony from top military commanders involved in the U.S. response to the Benghazi attacks suggests that the perpetrators of a second, dawn attack on a CIA complex probably were different from those who penetrated the U.S. diplomatic mission the evening before and set it ablaze, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and another American."

New York Post: Page Six: "Sales figures for Hillary's book continue to plunge"

"According to Nielsen BookScan, Clinton's book sold just 16,000 copies in its most recent week, down from 28,000 a week prior. The title has sold 177,000 in its first month."

U.S. News & World Report blog: The Run 2016: "Joe Biden Heading to Netroots Nation"

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"The announcement Wednesday that Vice President Joe Biden is heading to Netroots Nation means that two of the three biggest stars in the Democratic Party will attend the largest gala of progressives in the nation this year. Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, will have a bus visiting in her absence."

Wall Street Journal: "Cuomo Weighs Making Trip to Israel"

"For Mr. Cuomo, who is said to have national political aspirations, such trips could boost his standing among other Democrats jockeying for the 2016 presidential nomination."

Washington Free Beacon: "What They're Saying About the Hillary Tapes"

"Mainstream media members have listened to the tapes uncovered by the Washington Free Beacon of Hillary Clinton laughingly discussing a child rapist she defended in the 1970s, and they've come away rather troubled about how they bode for her 2016 presidential prospects."

Articles:

The Daily Beast: "Hillary's Outside Enforcers Are Led by a Former Foe"

By David Freedlander

July 10, 2014

[Subtitle:] She's ostensibly not in campaign mode, but a staff of 20 at the outside group Correct the Record is busily working to defend the former secretary of state against right-wing attacks.

On a recent sweltering Wednesday in Washington, D.C., when most of the town had cleared out for the upcoming Fourth of July weekend, Adrienne Elrod was at a desk piled high with books—among them both of Hillary Clinton's memoirs and the 2008 campaign pot-boiler Game Change—emailing with a reporter from BuzzFeed about a small item running later that evening.

Elrod is the communications director for Correct the Record, a six-month-old outfit founded by David Brock, the one-time conservative dirty trickster who in the 1990s turned over a new leaf and started Media Matters, which keeps a watchful eye on the latest talk radio or Fox News outrage. The new group was created to, well, correct the record, particularly the right-wing attacks on Hillary Clinton as she mulls a 2016 presidential run.

The 20 or so staff members at Correct the Record, glued to computers in a loft-like space on Massachusetts Avenue, next to Brock's own office, were engaged that afternoon in pushing back on a narrative emerging that sales of Clinton's latest memoir, Hard Choices, were tanking.

"If we hadn't already seen three articles on this, before the bestseller list was even out, we wouldn't be doing this," said Burns Strider, a genial bear of a Mississippian. He was surrounded by Elrod, an Arkansan and former operative with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and two other aides who barely looked up from their MacBooks. On the walls around them were photos of Clinton at various periods of her career—looking regal at the State Department, shaggy with Bill in their Yale Law School days.

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The idea for CTR came to Brock during the Benghazi hearings on Capitol Hill. With Clinton not there to defend herself, having left her post as secretary of state, the right wing was having a field day, Brock says.

"There was no, or limited, capacity for her to deal with the range of attacks, coming mainly from Capitol Hill but echoed elsewhere," Brock told The Daily Beast. Plus, there were already a half-dozen or so right-wing super PACs that had Clinton in their sights, none more serious than America Rising, an opposition research outfit founded to counter some of Brock's efforts.

That group is run by Tim Miller, a 30-something former aide to Jon Huntsman who, Strider huffed, "must have, like, a Ph.D. in snark." (Indeed, on the PAC's website at the moment are GIFs of George Constanza, The Office, and Mr. Potato Head lifting a dumbbell, each meant to highlight some dunderheaded comment from a Democrat.)

Strider and his team see Miller and America Rising as their dark shadow, if a somewhat unserious one, throwing whatever they can against the wall to see what sticks.

"They throw out stuff, like, 10 times a day. The RNC has a damn squirrel following her around! I mean—they have a squirrel!" Strider said in disbelief, referring to the Republican National Committee intern tasked with stalking Clinton's appearances in a squirrel mascot outfit, wearing a T-shirt that reads, "Another Clinton in the White House is NUTS."

According to Elrod, Correct the Record is trying its best to avoid the kind of flack-on-flack combat that is a hallmark of political campaigns, especially in the era of Twitter and all-night news-athons, preferring to stick to the facts and work by subterfuge.

"We are strategic about how we get our facts out there," she said, pointing out that her group tends to push out its own research to friendly reporters. "A lot of what we do doesn't have our fingerprints on it."

So far, there have been only a few exceptions to that rule. When Miller and America Rising put out a hit on President Clinton for boasting about how he had given away several $550 watches to friends, Correct the Record did respond, noting that the watches came from the Shinola company, a Detroit success story. "So not only were they anti-Clinton, but they were anti-American small business and anti-generosity!" cackled Strider.

And when America Rising put out a surprise e-book on Clinton's time at the State Department, researchers at Correct the Record had, according to Isaac Wright, a Democratic consultant brought on by Brock, "within two hours on a Sundaynight debunked everything they had in that book. That book went nowhere. It quite deservedly landed in the trash."

A bigger question facing the new outfit, however, is how to manage press operations from a non-campaign campaign when Clinton is the best-known figure in American political life—according to a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, only 1 percent of respondents did not have an opinion about her—and when news outlets have proliferated since she was last approaching a race.

"There is no exact science. The first thing you look at is, is it getting any traction? And we start getting reports on Twitter or Facebook, or other reporters picking it up, and see where is it going," said Strider. "You may still hold off, or you may go balls to the wall for whatever reason."

If something is going to stay in conservative precincts, Correct the Record prefers to keep it there rather than respond and fan the flames further.

"You can almost tell what things she says will get mischaracterized," said Elrod. "You can tell what is going to end up in The Daily Caller, what is going to get picked up by the Free Beacon, and which are going to move more into the mainstream. We try to always have a prepared response, but we wait to see what moves."

Brock and his staff expressed frustration that mainstream outlets, The New York Times chief among them, have dedicated reporters to covering Clinton long before she has announced a potential candidacy.

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“Some venues say that the job is to write on her once a day, or write on her five times a week or something, which puts a number value on the article, instead of a value of content,” said Strider. “I think that deserves a little discussion from the other side. You know it is getting rough when you turn on Morning Joe and they are criticizing themselves for covering Hillary so much.”

Part of the point of Correct the Record is to make sure that Democrats don’t get caught flat-footed the way they did in 2004. Then, long before the days of super PACs, wealthy Republicans funded ads that questioned John Kerry’s war record. At the time, the attacks seemed absurd to Democrats; the Massachusetts senator was a decorated Vietnam veteran, and George W. Bush’s service record was spotty at best.

“I think Democrats to this day tend to have Swift Boaters right over our shoulder,” said Strider. “We tend to worry. We saw what happened to Senator Kerry, and while it was happening, everyone thought, This can’t work. This guy’s got medals. Well, they had a free ride for a good long while before there was an honest-to-God response. I think on some level Democrats think of that and say, ‘Never again.’”

If Kerry got it bad in 2004, Obama in 2008, with his funny name and exotic upbringing, surely had it far worse. That year, the campaign devoted a significant part of its outreach to a “Fight the Smears” effort to beat back rumors that their candidate was Muslim or born in another country. And even though a British tabloid occasionally picks up a story about Obama’s divorce or has some anonymous first-person account of his cocaine habit, no American political figure has undergone quite the onslaught that Clinton has in her nearly three decades on the national scene.

“I think it is fair to say that it has always been the case that the media interest in the Clintons seems wide and deep,” said Brock. “The right thinks, and there is a history going back 20 years, that the Clintons have been very good for business. They are magnets for money on the Republican and conservative side, and a lot of this anti-Clinton stuff can be seen as a business.”

Recently, staffers at Correct the Record have been surprised to discover that the stories they need to push back on are not about Clinton’s book tour, or her time as secretary of state, or even her stint in the U.S. Senate, but her time as first lady, or even more surprisingly, her time as first lady of Arkansas, if not before.

When the Free Beacon discovered diaries of the late Clinton friend Diane Blair that revealed Clinton’s thoughts during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the CTR staff thought it was old news but still flew someone down to Little Rock the next day. By that evening, their staffer was poring through the files at the University of Arkansas. When an uproar arose more recently over Clinton’s role as a public defender in a Little Rock rape case, the group helped arrange interviews with Mahlon Gibson, the prosecutor in the case whom Elrod and Brock knew from their Arkansas days. Gibson told CNN and others that Clinton was appointed to the case and expressed reservations about it at the time.

Such retread stories from the past, they say, do not worry them.

“When [Kentucky Sen.] Rand [Paul] cranks up his old hits from the ’70s, it is such a waste of time,” said Burns. “Certainly those events helped shape the character of the people we all are today, but you know, the people who remember it aren’t interested in reliving it. I remember the last night of disco. People burned that damn stadium down…Campaigns are about the future. It is all they have, so they are working it.

“Sometimes when somebody brings up one of [the scandals of the past], you see all the old hands come out of the woodwork. I mean, good lord. What is that woman’s name—Maureen Dowd? Peggy Noonan. It’s like they want to get one more shot at their glory years in their 40s, and they are all going at it again, all giddy.”

But if a well-turned phrase by Dowd or Noonan can no longer set tongues wagging like it did in the ’90s the ability of rapid responders to punch back is equally limited. In the last 24 hours, 365 news articles were devoted to Hillary Clinton, according to Google. There have been dozens of tweets just in the last few minutes, including, “Perhaps Hillary Clinton should have thought about who her husband was before naming her book ‘Hard Choices…’ Just sayin…” and “Name 1 thing Hillary Clinton has ever accomplished? As 1st lady? As Senator? As Secretary of State? You CAN’T! She has accomplished nothing!” Never mind whatever podcast, Vine, Tumblr, talk radio host or triple digit cable network is spouting off about at the moment.

How can any one response team keep up? And, for that matter, why should they?

“In the old days, rapid response meant you convince NBC or whomever that the story was bogus and don’t run it,” said Paul Begala, a Brock ally (and former Daily Beast columnist) running his own super PAC. “In this citizen journalism age, you can’t do that anymore. Somebody is going to run it anyway. All you can do is push back with the facts. I can come up with the hyperbole, don’t worry about that, but give me the facts and the data and the quote in context.”

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As Begala, who was chief strategist for the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign, sees it, the impetus behind the conservative attacks on Hillary Clinton now is not so much to change perceptions about her, since she is so well-known, but to drive down enthusiasm. If there is an idea afoot that Clinton is soft on rapists, for example, then maybe key parts of her coalition, like young women, will stay home.

Some Democratic communicators told The Daily Beast that they thought Correct the Record's time would be better spent on offense. With the group's resources, it could track what the top GOP 2016 contenders were doing, much as its bête noire, America Rising, is doing to Clinton, and pull out embarrassing comments made when Paul, Ted Cruz, and others think no one is really listening.

And the very idea that the Clintons already have a group pushing back on negative stories about them plays into one of the persistent themes of Clinton-world—that they are too sensitive to slights and press criticism, and so need an outside entity to defend them even during an ostensible non-campaign period. It was Hillary Clinton, after all, who invented the modern day campaign war room back in 1992, Begala said.

Brock, naturally, disputes this point.

"To the extent that there is a sensitivity, it is almost a wholly warranted sensitivity," he said. "I would say someone could write a book about the unfair treatment of the Clintons, but I already did."

But the main question facing Correct the Record is what becomes of it once Clinton embarks on a full-scale campaign. In the era of super PACs, almost everything a campaign does can be outsourced—get out the vote drives, advertising, and the like. Keeping a rapid response operation offsite could double its firepower, or it could mean two entities tripping over each other, adding to the noise.

"This is kind of a new chapter being written about how it is being done," said Strider. "It's death-defying. You are either writing a whole new chapter on how to win, or you know, you blew it."

Las Vegas Review-Journal: "UNLV Foundation: Clinton fee pencils out"

By Laura Myers

July 9, 2014, 9:37 p.m. EDT

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation can afford Hillary Clinton's much-debated $225,000 fee to speak at its annual fundraising dinner, having sold out the Oct. 13 event's best tables at $20,000-a-pop.

The foundation has already sold $353,000 in high-dollar seats and expects to make a profit from the event at Bellagio for only the third time in its history, UNLV spokesman Tony Allen said Wednesday.

The first profitable dinner was in 2012, when Clinton's husband, President Bill Clinton, was paid $250,000 to address a record crowd of 992 people, clearing a total of $75,998, according to figures released by the university. Last year talk show host Charlie Rose was paid $141,700 to speak at the dinner, which earned a $68,335 profit.

The UNLV Foundation launched the annual fundraiser in 1989 but didn't start charging to attend the event until 2010, when David Gergen, a former adviser to Bill Clinton and three previous presidents, spoke for $55,000. The dinner lost $93,289 after expenses, however.

The most expensive dinner was in 2005, when the nonprofit foundation spent $319,435 for 482 attendees to kick off a $500 million fundraising

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campaign. Over the years, the foundation has raised more than $1 billion for the university.

Allen said foundation leaders in recent years realized the value of selling pricey tables for 10 with special access to speakers.

“The foundation changed the business model for the donor recognition event in 2010 to a paid dinner, which has helped the foundation cover its event costs and in recent years raise money to support the work of the foundation,” Allen said in an email. “Previously, the annual dinner was complimentary to attendees and budgeted and paid for by the foundation.”

Asked whether the foundation expected the fall event with Clinton to be profitable, Allen said, “Yes, we anticipate the donor recognition dinner will cover event costs and generate a net profit.”

Hillary Clinton’s six-figure fee stirred controversy with critics complaining that it’s too large, especially because she’s speaking to an educational group. Timing is also an issue. The $225,000 fee got extra attention because of gaffes the former secretary of state made while on tour to promote her new book, “Hard Choices.”

The potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate said she was “not truly well off.” She also said the Clintons were “dead broke” when they left the White House in 2001. The couple has earn more than $100 million, much of it from speaking fees, in the past eight years, according to Politico.

David Damore, a political science professor at UNLV, said Hillary Clinton is under a microscope.

“She’s so high-profile that anything she does is going to draw the partisans out,” he said. “And the optics weren’t great.”

Clinton’s supporters note that her speaking fees from universities go to the Bill, Hillary &Chelsea Clinton Foundation, a charitable organization that deals with a range of issues, from global warming to economic growth.

Controversial or not, Clinton is looking like a good investment.

So far, all $20,000 tables ($18,000 tax deductible) have sold out, according to the foundation’s website. All confirmed 16 “world” tables were reserved. Those tickets include a photo session with Clinton and autographed copies of her book as well as “premium wines, champagne and special menu for guests.”

Three $10,000 tables have also been sold, as has one $3,000 table. There were no takers for a $5,000 table as ofWednesday afternoon, Allen said. The total tables sold so far adds up to $353,000.

Individual tickets at $200 a pop aren’t available for sale until August, according to the foundation. Allen said it’s too soon to say how many people will attend the dinner or how much it will cost because “it’s still in the planning stages.”

The Clinton dinner has created a division among UNLV’s student leaders, too.

Last week, Student Body President Elias Bejjelloun and Daniel Waqar, public relations director for the student government, co-signed a letter to the Clinton Foundation, suggesting she donate all or part of her fee to the university as a charitable gesture. The students were careful to praise Clinton and say they looked forward to her speaking at UNLV.

This week, UNLV Sen. Alex Murdock objected and on Tuesday mailed his own letter to the Clinton Foundation, apologizing for what he called an “inappropriate and embarrassing request” by Bejjelloun.

“The request made by the CSUN Student Body President was not only in poor taste, it was also misinformed and not indicative of the intelligence of

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UNLV Students," Murdock wrote.

Murdock also trashed Bejjelloun, saying his ascent to the presidency this year violated bylaws and the student government constitution. The two men have clashed since Murdock challenged Bejjelloun's election, which was upheld.

Murdock said Wednesday he thought Bejjelloun should have consulted with all UNLV student senators before writing the Clinton Foundation. He also noted that the event will make money, so the high fee is worth it.

"You have to spend money to make money," Murdock said.

Bejjelloun stood by his actions, saying Wednesday that he wanted to send out a timely request after Clinton's fee was revealed. He also said he consulted with other senators who were on campus. Murdock, a Navy reservist who served in Iraq, said he was involved in special military training at the time and wasn't asked.

Bejjelloun was unsympathetic.

"If Murdock wanted to be consulted he should come into the office and do his job. He's never here," he said.

Gainesville Sun opinion: Douglas Smith, former assistant secretary for the private sector at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security: "International tourism benefits Florida"

By Douglas Smith

July 7, 2014, 3:52 p.m. EDT

The Washington Economics Group recently released its quarterly report, which shows that tourism and recreation spending in Florida increased 6.4 percent from the same quarter last year. On the report, WEG principal and founder Tony Villamil said that the growth is "a sign of a sustainable economic recovery led by tourism and investment spending." In Florida, and other areas throughout the country, tourism has been a large driver on the road to economic recovery.

The money spent by foreign tourists fuels economic growth and supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs. According to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, "For every 65 international visitors, one American job is created." In Florida, international tourism is vital to the state's economy. The most recent data from the Department of Commerce ranks Florida as the second highest destination for international visitors to the United States.

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton used the tools available to her as America's top diplomat to positively impact the economy here at home, understanding that our economic security was integral to our national security, and vice versa. In her book, "Hard Choices," she writes about "how a collapsing economy in Athens, Greece, affects businesses in Athens, Georgia [and] how a revolution in Cairo, Egypt, impacts life in Cairo, Illinois."

I worked alongside Secretary Clinton's team to promote international tourism when I served on the President's Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. We implemented a variety of policies that helped increase the number of international tourists to the U.S. from 55 million in 2009 to 70 million in 2013 – which gave the American economy a boost when it needed it the most, while never compromising our national security.

Secretary Clinton's work on two important initiatives made a profound impact on Florida's economy by increasing the number of Brazilian visitors to the state. Florida is the top U.S. destination for Brazilian tourists, who spend more than $5,000 per visit, higher than the average overseas tourist

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and nearly twice as much as visitors from France and the UK.

First, she reduced inefficiencies and optimized the process for Brazilians to obtain U.S. visas, by creating new visa adjudicator positions and expanding processing facilities. This resulted in a 58% increase in visa processing capacity in just one year. According to Secretary Clinton, “in Sao Paulo in Brazil, it once took 140 days to get a visa, that time is now under 48 hours.”

Second, Clinton worked with the Brazilian government and American Airlines to increase the number of flights to the U.S., adding 10 additional flights a week between Miami and Brazil, including the first nonstop routes from Miami to Recife and Salvador.

Her work paid off. In 2012, it was reported that “more flights” and “easing of the visa logjam” are listed as two of the four reasons Florida has become “a magnet for Brazilians.” In fact, the number of visitors from Brazil to South Florida has reached record levels over the past few years, making Brazil Miami-Dade’s top international market. Secretary Clinton’s efforts on these two initiatives increased the number of visitors to Florida, fueled money into Florida’s economy, and created tens of thousands of jobs for Floridians in the middle of an economic downturn.

Earlier this year, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker said, “travel and tourism to and within the United States has been a significant contributor to our economic recovery.” The increase in foreign travelers under Secretary Clinton’s watch spurred economic growth and created jobs at a time when America needed it most, particularly in Florida.

Douglas Smith is executive vice president of the public relations firm MWW. He is the former assistant secretary for the private sector at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he served from October 2009 to November 2013.

Media Matters for America: “MSNBC's Joan Walsh Corrects Mischaracterization Of Clinton's Court-Appointed Defense Work”

By Emily Arrowood

July 9, 2014, 3:48 p.m. EDT

MSNBC political analyst Joan Walsh corrected attempts to cast doubt on the fact that Hillary Clinton served as defense attorney on a decades-old criminal case at the direction of the court, pointing out that, in fact, the judge had compelled Clinton to take the case.

The July 8 edition of MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews rehashed Hillary Clinton's work as a court-appointed defense attorney in the 1975 prosecution of an alleged rapist, a role that, while known publicly for years, is reemerging in wake of the conservative Washington Free Beacon's improper appropriation and publication of an interview Clinton gave in the mid-1980s discussing the case.

During the discussion, frequent MSNBC guest and president of the conservative Bernard Center for Women Michelle Bernard repeatedly suggested that Clinton had elected to represent the defendant of her own volition. Joan Walsh, Salon editor and MSNBC analyst, attempted to correct the record on Clinton's court appointment, pointing out that "she was court-appointed" and that the judge had forced her to take the case. Bernard, however, continued to imply Clinton may have voluntarily accepted the role after speaking with the prosecutor.

The fact that the court appointed Clinton to represent the defendant is not in doubt. The judge -- not the prosecutor -- directed Clinton to take on the case, as Glenn Thrush established in a 2008 Newsday report:

“On May 21, 1975, Tom Taylor rose in court to demand that Washington County Judge Maupin Cummings allow him to fire his male court-appointed lawyer in favor of a female attorney. Taylor, who earned a meager wage at a paper bag factory and lived with relatives, had already spent 10 days in the county jail and was grasping for a way to avoid a 30 years-to-life term in the state penitentiary for rape.

“Taylor, 41, figured a jury would be less hostile to a rape defendant represented by a woman, according to one of his friends. Cummings agreed to

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the request, scanned the list of available female attorneys (there were only a half dozen in the county at the time) and assigned Rodham, who had virtually no experience in criminal litigation.

"'Hillary told me she didn't want to take that case, she made that very clear,' recalls prosecutor Gibson, who phoned her with the judge's order.

"'I didn't feel comfortable taking on such a client, but Mahlon gently reminded me that I couldn't very well refuse the judge's request,' the eventual first lady writes in 'Living History.'"

Clinton had no choice but to accept the court's order, despite voicing reservations, a fact the case's prosecutor reiterated to CNN:

"Mahlon Gibson told CNN on Wednesday the then 27-year-old Hillary Rodham (now Clinton) was 'appointed' by the judge in the case, even though she voiced reservations.

"[...]

"Gibson said that it is 'ridiculous' for people to question how Clinton became Taylor's representation.

"'She got appointed to represent this guy,' he told CNN when asked about the controversy.

"According to Gibson, Maupin Cummings, the judge in the case, kept a list of attorneys who would represent poor clients. Clinton was on that list and helped run a legal aid clinic at the time.

"Taylor was assigned a public defender in the case but Gibson said he quickly 'started screaming for a woman attorney' to represent him.

"Gibson said Clinton called him shortly after the judge assigned her to the case and said, 'I don't want to represent this guy. I just can't stand this. I don't want to get involved. Can you get me off?'

"'I told her, 'Well contact the judge and see what he says about it,' but I also said don't jump on him and make him mad,' Gibson said. 'She contacted the judge and the judge didn't remove her and she stayed on the case.'"

The Daily Caller opinion: Lanny Davis: "Hillary Clinton's 'Hard Choices' Show Who She Really Is"

By Lanny Davis

July 9, 2014, 10:02 p.m. EDT

The reviews are in on Hard Choices, Hillary Clinton's history of her four-year tenure as U.S. secretary of State. They are almost all positive. Her book sales are strong — number one on The New York Times bestseller list for three weeks in a row.

What is missing from most of the reviews is what the book reveals about Clinton the person. I can speak to that, knowing her since I was a senior and she was a freshman at Yale Law School when we first met in the fall of 1969.

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First, to state the most obvious: Hard Choices is about Hillary working hard.

We have all read the data of her travels and meetings as secretary of State: 401 days on the road, one million miles traveled, 112 countries visited. The book depicts the results of that hard work, her enduring achievements as secretary of State, including her indefatigable personal shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Egypt, which led to a cease-fire between Israel and the Hamas-led Palestinians in Gaza, saving countless lives; her determined negotiations with Russia, which led to a reduction in U.S.-Russian nuclear missiles with better verification; and her successful effort to obtain global cooperation imposing economic sanctions on Iran, widely credited with bringing Iran to the negotiating table regarding its nuclear weapons program.

Then there is Hillary the strong and decisive leader, who made difficult judgments based on the available facts, taking the risk that, with the wisdom of hindsight, she might turn out to be wrong. The most dramatic example, described in page-turning detail in her book, was her support of President Obama's courageous decision to send in the Navy SEALs to kill Osama bin Laden, a decision opposed by Vice President Biden.

Finally, the book conveys the positive global effects of her authenticity and likeability. In my view, one of Clinton's most enduring achievements as secretary of State — maybe the most important — was the dramatic increase in positive perceptions of American leadership around the world during her tenure. In the last two years of the Bush administration, according to Gallup World Poll data, America trailed Britain, France, Germany, Japan and China in approval of its leadership. That's right, behind even China. In 2011, after two years of Clinton as secretary of State, America was tied for first place with Germany.

Finally, several sentences in the last two chapters of her book convey core insights into the real Hillary Clinton that her long-time friends have understood over the years.

When Obama asked her to stay into the second term, she wrote that she "felt the tug of my 'service gene,' that voice telling me there is no higher calling or more noble purpose than serving your country." But then made she made the decision to return to private life — "spending more time with my family, reconnecting with friends, doing the everyday things I missed."

She also wrote poignantly about her thoughts at her mom's funeral: "I looked at Chelsea and thought about how proud Mom was of her. Mom measured her own life by how much she was able to help us and serve others. I knew if she was still with us, she would be urging us to do the same. Never rest on your laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place. That's our unfinished business."

The first time I met Hillary Rodham in September 1969, we were standing in line to register for classes at Yale Law School. I asked her if she needed any advice on how to study and brief cases in her first semester at a fairly challenging law school. She said, politely, "no thank you," and then asked: "Can you tell me where I can find the nearest legal services clinic?"

No, Hillary Clinton hasn't changed through all the years: the importance of family and friends, the "service gene" as active today as I witnessed some 45 years ago, motivating her to "never quit — never stop working to make the world a better place."

Time: "Here's What John Kerry Can Learn From Hillary About Israel's New Crisis"

By Michael Crowley

July 9, 2014

[Subtitle:] Clinton writes that Obama was "understandably wary" about intervening the last time violence flared

Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday, amid rising fears that the confrontation between Israel and Hamas could escalate to new levels of bloodshed. But Kerry might also want to talk to his Foggy Bottom predecessor about how the last round of violence in the intractable conflict was defused.

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When Israel and Hamas last fought in Gaza in November 2012, President Barack Obama dispatched then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to broker a cease-fire. As Israel called up 75,000 reservists for a possible ground invasion, Obama was "understandably wary" of the U.S. taking a direct mediation role, Clinton writes in her new book, Hard Choices.

"If we tried to broker a cease-fire and failed, as seemed quite likely, it would sap America's prestige and credibility in the region," Clinton says. American involvement might also risk undercutting Israel, whose "right to defend itself" Clinton underscores. Obama officials also worried a U.S. role might "elevate" the conflict's profile, leading both sides to harden their negotiating positions.

Even so, Clinton and Obama concluded that it was "imperative to resolve the crisis before it became a ground war." Clinton knew that Netanyahu didn't want to invade Gaza — but that he faced domestic pressure to do so and had no clear "exit ramp" that would allow him to de-escalate without seeming to back down, Clinton writes.

Just over 18 months later, many of the same dynamics apply as Obama weighs whether Kerry can — or should — broker a deal like the one Clinton struck.

For now, Obama officials have two public messages. One is that Israel is entitled to hit back at Hamas when the hard-line Palestinian group launches rockets at its territory. "No country can accept rocket fire aimed at civilians, and we certainly support Israel's right to defend itself against these attacks," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki saidTuesday. The other is that the two sides should rein in the violence — which now takes the form of Hamas rocket attacks and Israeli air strikes. "We're continuing to convey the need to de-escalate to both sides," Psaki said.

That may not happen on its own, warns Dennis Ross, a former Obama White House aide who has handled Middle East issues for multiple Presidents. "Even if neither side wants it to spin out of control, the potential for that is quite high," Ross says.

That's why Obama has to decide whether to step in, especially given growing signs of an Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. Israel's 2009 incursion into the Hamas-governed coastal territory left 1,400 dead, and badly damaged Israel's international image. A second invasion was averted in November 2012 only by the Clinton-brokered cease-fire, a deal struck just 48 hours before Israeli troops planned to swarm into Hamas' stronghold.

Just before Thanksgiving that year, Clinton flew to the region and met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. She also saw Egypt's then President Mohamed Morsi, whose Muslim Brotherhood government was friendly with Hamas. The result was a mutual cease-fire, overseen by Egypt, with the promise of future negotiations about Hamas' rocket arsenal and Israel's Gaza blockade. Those talks never went far. But the cease-fire held. (Netanyahu won another concession, Clinton recalls: a phone call from Obama promising U.S. help against rocket smuggling into Gaza. "Did [Netanyahu] take some personal satisfaction from making the President jump through hoops?" Clinton wondered.)

Obama faces a different calculus today, including the recent collapse of Kerry's push for a Middle East peace deal, and a new Egyptian regime that is decidedly hostile to Hamas, making Cairo unlikely to mediate again.

But many of the core principles that Clinton says swayed Obama in 2012 likely still resonate at the White House: that peace in the Middle East is a key U.S. national-security priority, that a ground war in Gaza would be disastrous, and that there is "no substitute for American leadership." Indeed, Clinton writes that after the 2012 cease-fire deal, an Israeli official told her that "my diplomatic intervention was the only thing standing in the way of a much more explosive confrontation."

The burning question for Obama is whether the same holds true today.

Washington Post column: Harold Meyerson: "Hillary Clinton's identity crisis"

By Harold Meyerson

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July 9, 2014, 8:39 p.m. EDT

Which Hillary Clinton would run for — and, more important, govern as — president? The onetime New York senator whom many Wall Street bankers supported and former secretary of state who gave speeches to Goldman Sachs and others for a reported $200,000 per? Or the leader of an increasingly progressive Democratic Party, who, in an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel this week, affirmed the thesis of economist Thomas Piketty? “I think he makes a very strong case that we have unbalanced our economy too much towards favoring capital and away from labor,” she said.

Friend or foe of Wall Street? On the one hand, it was Clinton’s husband who entrusted the nation’s economic policymaking to former Goldman Sachs executive Robert Rubin, who, along with subsequent Treasury secretaries Lawrence Summers and Timothy Geithner, promoted an agenda of free trade, deregulation and privileging the interests of big banks over all others. On the other, as a senator, Clinton called for tougher regulations on derivatives and said that “Wall Street has played a significant role” in the subprime mortgage disaster — and she did so in 2007, one year before the great collapse.

What makes Clinton’s predicament particularly significant is that it’s not hers alone. For decades, the default position of generations of Democrats has been to back economic policies that helped ordinary Americans — higher minimum wages, the right to unionize, spending on infrastructure — without reining in banks, corporations and the wealthy beyond the basic constraints laid down by the New Deal. They could do this for one fundamental reason: Economic growth in the United States was largely equitable; prosperity was broadly shared.

When President John F. Kennedy famously declared that “a rising tide lifts all boats,” he was not merely describing how the economy worked in the pre-globalization and highly unionized United States of the post-World War II decades. He was also, however inadvertently, explaining how the relative absence of class conflict enabled Democrats to be both pro-union and a friend of financial elites, who were not yet accruing all the proceeds of growth for themselves.

But that was then.

Today, as Clinton told Der Spiegel, capital has eclipsed labor. Fully 95 percent of the nation’s income growth since the recovery began in 2009, University of California economist Emmanuel Saez has shown, has gone to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. The share of the country’s gross domestic product going to profits is at a record high; the share going to wages a record low.

Under these conditions, what’s a Democrat — what’s Hillary Clinton — to do? How does she propose to re-create a United States where the gains in productivity go not only to the largest shareholders but also to the workers who make those gains?

She could, for starters, propose cutting taxes on employers who raise wages in line with the nation’s annual productivity increase, and raising the levy on employers who don’t. She could propose hiking taxes on capital gains and dividends at least to the level of taxes on work-derived income. She could propose cutting taxes on corporations that divide their boards equally between representatives of shareholders and employees, as the Germans do, and raising the tax rates of corporations that don’t, that are run almost solely for the benefit of their large shareholders and their top executives — as most U.S. corporations are.

Immodest proposals, to be sure, but in an economy in which nearly all the income growth accrues to a sliver of investors, Democrats no longer have the luxury of indulging both that sliver and everybody else. As Clinton’s proto-candidacy continues to take shape, one modest way that she could begin to address the scourge of inequality would be to follow the example of Franklin Roosevelt.

In selecting his Treasury secretary, Roosevelt opted not to choose Sen. Carter Glass, in part because Glass wanted a J.P. Morgan executive as his deputy. As Adam Cohen documents in “Nothing to Fear,” his history of Roosevelt’s first 100 days as president, Roosevelt told his aide Raymond Moley, “We simply cannot go along with Twenty-Three.” (The Morgan bank was headquartered at 23 Wall St.)

Expanded from 23 to the rest of the street, that’s pretty good guidance for our next president, whomever it may be. Wall Street veterans aren’t likely to see Wall Street’s ascendancy over the rest of the economy as a problem. The cure for Clinton’s, and the Democrats’, identity crisis begins with a clear declaration that the nation’s economy will no longer be entrusted to the leaders of the very institutions that have brought it low.

Slate blog: Weigel: "How Hillary Clinton Went from Working Class Hero to Elite Loser, in Two Bill Kristol Columns"

By David Weigel

July 9, 2014, 2:07 p.m. EDT

One of the great joys of political reporting circa 2014 is how quickly you can crowd-source a question. After skimming a column about how Hillary Clinton's book tour might have happened too early (this, after how many months of coverage of when Clinton would climb back on the horse?), I flashed back to all the punditry from 2011 and 2012 about Clinton's political might. Hadn't pundits argued for Joe Biden to leave the ticket and the popular, adroit Hillary Clinton to replace him? Had any pundits argued both for a Hillary-veep switch and argued that Hillary 2016 was falling apart?

Within five minutes of my ask, Reuters reporter Gabriel Debenedetti produced two Bill Kristol columns that did exactly this. On May 28, 2012, Kristol trolled the Obama campaign by suggesting an obvious face-saving/election-winning switcheroo. Joe Biden had to go. (My emphasis.)

"Who should replace Biden? Everyone knows the answer. Hillary Clinton received nearly 18 million votes in the race for the 2008 Democratic nomination. Her rating in a Washington Post survey a couple of weeks ago was 65 percent favorable, 27 percent unfavorable. Biden hurts Obama. She would help him. What's more, she'd help with precisely the undecided voters Obama needs in November. Many of them are white, working- and middle-class Americans who supported her in the 2008 primaries. They overcame their disappointment at Clinton's defeat to vote for Obama that November. But many became disillusioned and voted Republican in 2010, producing that year's GOP landslide. Barack Obama needs to win back as many of them as possible in 2012. They voted for Hillary Clinton once. Surely they'd be more likely to return to Obama if given the opportunity to vote for her again as part of the ticket."

Just two years and one month later, Kristol reacted to Hillary Clinton's book tour -- specifically, her inartful answer to Diane Sawyer's question about how rich she'd become post-Foggy Bottom. In "Our Dead Broke Leaders," he suggested that the Republican party could easily out-campaign this royalist.

"Republicans, for a change, aren't saddled with the prospect of an out-of-touch insider as their presidential nominee. (Is it conceivable that no populist Democrat will see Hillary Clinton's glaring weaknesses and take her on?) The populist mantle, the reformist mantle, the Main Street and Middle America mantles, are there for the Republican taking."

To be fair, perhaps the white, working, and middle-class Americans who supported Hillary before do not technically live in middle America, or on Main Street. They might live on State Street, or Locust Street, or Electric Avenue. Thanks anyway to Debenedetti for coming up with the columns. It's nice when someone covers politics with consistency.

Associated Press: APNewsBreak: "Different Attackers In Benghazi?"

By Donna Cassata and Bradley Klapper

July 9, 2014, 7:53 p.m. EDT

Newly revealed testimony from top military commanders involved in the U.S. response to the Benghazi attacks suggests that the perpetrators of a second, dawn attack on a CIA complex probably were different from those who penetrated the U.S. diplomatic mission the evening before and set it ablaze, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and another American.

The second attack, which killed two security contractors, showed clear military training, retired Gen. Carter Ham told Congress in closed-door testimony released late Wednesday. The assault probably was the work of a new team of militants, seizing on reports of violence at the diplomatic mission the night before and hitting the Americans while they were most vulnerable.

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The testimony, which The Associated Press was able to read ahead of its release, could clarify for the first time the events of Sept. 11, 2012, that have stirred bitter recriminations in the U.S., including Republican-led congressional investigations and campaign-season denunciations of the Obama administration, which made inaccurate statements about the Libyan attacks. The testimony underscores a key detail that sometimes has been lost in the debate: that the attacks were two distinct events over two days on two different buildings, perhaps by unrelated groups.

The U.S. government still has not fully characterized the first attack in which, according to Ham and eight other military officers, men who seemed familiar with the lightly protected diplomatic compound breached it and set it on fire, killing Stevens and communications specialist Sean Smith. A disorganized mob of looters then overran the facility.

In testimony to two House panels earlier this year, the officers said that commanders didn't have the information they needed to understand the nature of the attack, that they were unaware of the extent of the U.S. presence in Benghazi at the time and they were convinced erroneously for a time that they were facing a hostage crisis without the ability to move military assets into place that would be of any use.

The testimony reveals how little information the military had on which to base an urgent response.

Two House panels — Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform — conducted interviews with the nine officers on separate days from January to April.

Four Americans died in Benghazi, including Stevens. To this day, despite the investigations, it's not clear if the violence resulted from a well-planned, multiphase military-type assault or from a loosely connected, escalating chain of events.

In their testimony, military officials expressed some uncertainty about the first attack, describing protests and looting in an assault that lasted about 45 minutes.

The military attache to the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli told Congress the first attack showed some advance planning. The Libyan police officer guarding the diplomatic compound fled as it began.

The defense attache, whose name wasn't released, suggested the attackers "had something on the shelf" — an outline of a plan based on previously obtained information about the compound and its security measures, so they were ready to strike when the opportunity arose.

"They came in, and they had a sense of purpose, and I think it sometimes gets confused because you had looters and everyone else coming in," he said. "It was less than kind of full, thought-out, methodical."

Ham testified that the second attack, which killed security officers Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty at the annex a mile from the diplomatic compound where the assault began the night before, showed clear military training. It was probably the work of a new team of militants, taking advantage after reports of violence at the first site and American vulnerability.

"Given the precision of the attack, it was a well-trained mortar crew, and in my estimation they probably had a well-trained observer," said Ham, who headed the U.S. command in Africa. The second attack showed "a degree of sophistication and military training that is relatively unusual and certainly, I think, indicates that this was not a pickup team. This was not a couple of guys who just found a mortar someplace."

Ham said the nearly eight-hour time lapse between the two attacks also seemed significant. "If the team (that launched the second attack) was already there, then why didn't they shoot sooner?" he asked.

"I think it's reasonable that a team came from outside of Benghazi," he said of the second attack in testimony on April 9. Violent extremists saw an opportunity "and said, 'Let's get somebody there.'" He also acknowledged that the absence of American security personnel on the ground soon enough after the first attack "allowed sufficient time for the second attack to be organized and conducted," he said.

Stevens had gone to Benghazi from the embassy in Tripoli to open a cultural center, State Department officials said.

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The attacks came as President Barack Obama was in a close re-election battle, campaigning in part on the contention that al-Qaida no longer posed a significant threat to the United States and that, blending the economy and the fight against terrorism, General Motors was alive but "Osama bin Laden is dead." A terror attack on American assets could have damaged that argument.

Five days after the attack, after feverish email exchanges about her "talking points" among national security staff members and their spokesmen, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice linked the Benghazi attacks to protests in Tunisia and Cairo over an anti-Islam video. Weeks later, U.S. officials retracted that account but never fully articulated a new one.

Republicans seized on the inaccuracies, contending that the Obama administration was covering up a terror attack for political gain.

Several congressional and independent investigations have faulted the State Department for inadequate security, but they have not provided a full reading of who was involved in the violence, what the motives were and how they could pull off such a seemingly complicated, multipronged assault.

People on both sides of the debate tend to link the two incidents as one attack.

The congressional testimony that distinguishes the attacks came from military officials in Tripoli or, like Ham, coordinating the response in Washington. Most have never given a public account. But they agreed that confusion reigned from the outset.

"We're under attack," was the first report the military received from Benghazi. That message came from Stevens' entourage to Tripoli in the late afternoon of Sept. 11. Word was relayed to the defense attache, who reported up the chain of command.

That report gave no indication about the size or intensity of the attack.

The defense attache testified that the assault on the diplomatic mission was followed by a mob that complicated and confused the situation.

He said of the original attackers, "I don't think they were on the objective, so to speak, longer than 45 minutes. They kind of got on, did their business, and left." For hours after that, he said, there were looters and "people throwing stuff and you see the graffiti and things like that."

Once the first attack ended around 10 p.m., the military moved to evacuate Americans from Benghazi, while preparing for what it erroneously believed might have been an emerging hostage situation involving Stevens.

In fact, Stevens died of smoke inhalation after the diplomatic post was set on fire in the first attack.

Seven-and-a-half hours later, at dawn, mortars crashed on a CIA compound that had been unknown to top military commanders.

The military worked up a response on numerous fronts.

At one point, fewer than 10 U.S. military personnel in Libya were grappling with the mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attack on Americans who had taken cover at the CIA facility and, some 600 miles away, the evacuation of about three dozen people from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli by a convoy of armored vehicles.

An unarmed Predator drone conducting an operation nearby in eastern Libya had been repositioned over Benghazi, yet offered limited assistance during the nighttime and with no intelligence to guide it. A standby force training in Croatia was ordered to Sicily, while another farther afield was mobilized. Neither was nearly ready in time to intervene during the first 45-minute attack and couldn't predict the quick mortar attack the next morning. An anti-terrorism support team in Spain was deployed, though it, too, was hours away.

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American reinforcements of a six-man security team, including two military personnel, were held up at the Benghazi airport for hours by Libyan authorities. Drone images and intelligence hadn't provided indications of a new attack, but word eventually came from two special forces troops who had made it to the annex and reported casualties from the dawn attack up the chain of command.

In Tripoli, military and embassy officials were evacuating the embassy there and destroying computer hardware and sensitive information.

The administration last month apprehended its first suspect, Ahmed Abu Khattala, and brought him to the United States to stand trial on terrorism charges.

The Justice Department maintains in court documents that Abu Khattala was involved in both attacks, and it describes the first breach on the diplomatic post as equally sophisticated. The government said a group of about 20 men, armed with AK-47- rifles, handguns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers, stormed the diplomatic facility in the first attack.

Abu Khattala supervised the looting after Americans fled, the government says, and then returned to the camp of the Islamist militant group Ansar al-Sharia, where the Justice Department says a large force began assembling for the second attack.

The Justice Department provided no supporting documentation for those conclusions. They also reflect the divisions among current and former government officials about the two attacks.

In her book "Hard Choices," former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote that there were scores of attackers with different motives. "It is inaccurate to state that every single one of them was influenced by this hateful video. It is equally inaccurate to state that none of them were. Both assertions defy not only the evidence but logic as well."

Abu Khattala's lawyer says the government has failed to show that he was connected to either attack.

Ham, who happened to be in Washington that week, briefed Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey. They informed the president.

Many of the military officials said they didn't even know about the diplomatic mission in Benghazi, let alone the CIA's clandestine installation nearby. Few knew of Stevens visiting the city that day. Given all of the confusion, Ham said there was one thing he clearly would have done differently: "Advise the ambassador to not go to Benghazi."

New York Post: Page Six: "Sales figures for Hillary's book continue to plunge"

By Ian Mohr

July 9, 2014, 10:36 p.m. EDT

Sales of Hillary Clinton's "Hard Choices" continued to plunge as new figures were released Wednesday.

According to Nielsen BookScan, Clinton's book sold just 16,000 copies in its most recent week, down from 28,000 a week prior. The title has sold 177,000 in its first month.

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Simon & Schuster reportedly gave Clinton a $14 million advance after her last book for the publisher sold 438,000 in its first week.

Clinton's tome was toppled from the No. 1 spot on the New York Times best-seller list by Edward Klein's Clinton "exposé," "Blood Feud," which sold 20,000 copies in the last week. However, BookScan measures only 85 percent of the market and not e-books.

U.S. News & World Report blog: The Run 2016: "Joe Biden Heading to Netroots Nation"

By David Catanese

July 9, 2014, 5:50 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] 2 of the 3 biggest stars in the Democratic Party are heading to the liberal gala.

The announcement Wednesday that Vice President Joe Biden is heading to Netroots Nation means that two of the three biggest stars in the Democratic Party will attend the largest gala of progressives in the nation this year.

Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, will have a bus visiting in her absence.

Biden will join Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., during the three-day conference in Detroit, Michigan. He's scheduled to speak a week from Thursday; Warren is slated for a morning address the day after. That same weekend Clinton will be doing a book signing in St. Paul, Minnesota, about a 90-minute flight from Detroit.

It will mark the first time Biden's talking at the conference and will come at point when the Democratic Party is wrestling with how best to approach the issue of income inequality.

"From his longtime support of labor unions to speaking out on important issues like LGBT equality, Vice President Biden has in many ways given heart and soul to this administration," said Raven Brooks, executive director of Netroots Nation, in a statement.

Clinton, in the midst of a monthlong promotional tour of her book, declined an invite. In one sense, it makes sense for her to avoid the risk of a cool welcome by some of the nation's most hardened liberals. But if The New Republic's Noam Scheiber is right, she's already made great inroads with the group who torpedoed her nomination six years ago.

Now that two of the Democrat's top three potential 2016 presidential candidates will be present, Clinton's absence will only be amplified.

But she'll have a surrogate of sorts on her behalf. Ready For Hillary, a pro-Clinton group unaffiliated with the former Secretary of State, is sending its bus to the conference.

Whether attendees are ready to hop on will be a fair measure of how far Clinton has come with the left.

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Wall Street Journal: "Cuomo Weighs Making Trip to Israel"

By Erica Orden

July 10, 2014, 12:01 a.m. EDT

In his nearly four years in office, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has ventured beyond the borders of New York state only a handful of times.

In coming months, that may change.

According to people familiar with the plans, Mr. Cuomo's administration is weighing a travel schedule that would send the governor to locations including Israel and Puerto Rico, an itinerary that would mark the first time he has left the country since he took office in 2011.

"There are always discussions about trade and economic-development missions," said Matt Wing, a spokesman for Mr. Cuomo. "Nothing is planned."

The governor's international travel, the people familiar with the matter said, would be conducted for the ostensible purpose of attracting business to an economic-development program, Global NY. Mr. Cuomo launched that initiative earlier this year to encourage export deals in foreign markets for startup companies in the state's new tax-free zones. It also opens the tax-free zones to foreign companies interested in establishing a branch of their business in New York.

To that end, administration officials planning the trips in recent weeks include Special Counsel Linda Lacewell, Cuomo liaison for Jewish affairs David Lobl and officials from Empire State Development Corp., the state agency that runs the Global NY program.

For Mr. Cuomo, who is said to have national political aspirations, such trips could boost his standing among other Democrats jockeying for the 2016 presidential nomination. While Mr. Cuomo is likely to sit the race out if former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton runs, he would be considered a top contender if she decides against running.

Current events could complicate or derail any potential ventures. In Israel, tensions have flared in the wake of the kidnapping and killing last month of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank, and the subsequent killing of a Palestinian teenager.

In the weeks since, Israeli security forces have mounted a crackdown on Hamas members, and Palestinian militants have stepped up rocket attacks against Israel.

Thus far, Mr. Cuomo has made a point of sticking close to his home state. Since his gubernatorial inauguration, he has traveled once to Puerto Rico, for a political conference; twice to Washington, D.C.; twice to Los Angeles for fundraisers; and once to Charlotte, N.C., for the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

Mr. Cuomo has toyed with international trips in prior years, according to people familiar with the matter. In late 2011, the administration considered sending the governor to destinations including China and Israel, and a similar plan resurfaced roughly two years ago.

It isn't clear why those trips never materialized, but Mr. Cuomo has touted his infrequent travel outside the state as a measure of his commitment to the cause of New York.

International travel is common for ambitious governors, particularly to Israel.

In the spring of 2012, Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie embarked on a "Jersey to Jerusalem Trade Mission," where he visited the Western Wall and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

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Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry has visited the country several times, most recently in the fall of 2013. In 1998, George W. Bush, then the governor of Texas, visited Israel with a group of other governors, two years before he ran for president.

Mr. Cuomo, however, hasn't visited Israel since 2002, when he made two trips there during his bid for the Democratic nomination for governor of New York.

In an interview with the Jewish Week newspaper in September 2002, Mr. Cuomo spoke about his connection to the country.

"I have a long relationship with Israel. I am a born-and-bred New Yorker. I was raised in a community in Queens with Jewish people," he said in the interview, which was published in 2010.

"So I feel a connection, I feel a bond. It is something I would like to do personally," he said of traveling to Israel, "and something I feel professionally the governor could do and should do."

Washington Free Beacon: "What They're Saying About the Hillary Tapes"

By David Rutz

July 9, 2014, 3:05 p.m. EDT

Mainstream media members have listened to the tapes uncovered by the Washington Free Beacon of Hillary Clinton laughingly discussing a child rapist she defended in the 1970s, and they've come away rather troubled about how they bode for her 2016 presidential prospects.

Both Morning Joe's Joe Scarborough and Huffington Post reporter Sam Stein called her comments "disturbing," with Scarborough's liberal co-host Mika Brzezinski adding there was a "bigger problem" there for Clinton.

The Washington Post's Karen Tumulty questioned the "swagger" and "dismissiveness" of Clinton regarding the emotionally sensitive issue on Andrea Mitchell Reports. On Hardball Tuesday, host Chris Matthews opened the segment about the case coming back to "haunt" Clinton and wondered why she would be laughing about it. Left-wing Salon's Joan Walsh even said she couldn't "sugarcoat" the tape that she admitted was not "fun" to listen to, and fellow MSNBC guest Michelle Bernard said they could be "very problematic" for Clinton.

CNN's Brianna Keilar also stated Clinton's attitude was "bad politics" and could serve to alienate young voters.

Others have seized on her recent remarks on the case to Mumsnet, where she claimed to have been appointed by a local judge to the case and requested to be taken off it. However, in the Roy Reed interview uncovered by reporter Alana Goodman, Clinton said, "The prosecutor called me a few years ago, he said he had a guy who had been accused of rape, and the guy wanted a woman lawyer. Would I do it as a favor for him?"'

The Washington Free Beacon's Andrew Stiles noted the "entire American media establishment" could not be bothered with asking Clinton about the tapes for more than three weeks after they were first published, leaving it to Mumsnet, a British parenting website.

"What she said last week does not appear to be truthful, does it?" Scarborough asked on Morning Joe Tuesday.

"It doesn't serve her well," reporter Mark Halperin replied.

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MSNBC's PoliticsNation host Al Sharpton said the tapes would put a dent into Clinton's image as an advocate for women.

"It clearly is not the kind of situation that she wants to have to defend, when you hear in your own voice taking lightly something that speaks to one of your core issues, and that is the value of women," he said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· July 19 – Madison, CT: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at R.J. Julia (Day of New London)

· July 20 – St. Paul, MN: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Common Good Books (AP)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 4/25/2015 9:40:48 AM
Subject: Re: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday

We have the line up...abc, fox, today, and am Joe. We did calls and q
and a for anchors.
Have yet to find a journalist who thinks book or nyt is serious.
Doesn't matter to those who are having the author on - HRC is just a
way for the press to make money. She is click bait.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 25, 2015, at 4:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>
> Do we have the line up of which shows he's doing -- we should be loading up surrogates and friendly hosts to the extent possible with the most challenging questions that the author flat out cannot answer:
>
> 1. This is yes or no question - do you have any concrete proof that there was any connection at all between these donations the approval of the sale of this uranium company, which was approved by 9 government agencies?
> 2. isn't it true that the two agencies that had most control over this decision were Treasury and Defense?
>
> We should have surrogates attack the NY TIMES for writing "thousands" of words when their own story admitted that there was no connection between the donations and the decision to approve the transaction.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
> Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 4:15 PM
> To: Joel Benenson
> Cc: Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Marissa Astor; Robby Mook; Jennifer Palmieri; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; David Binder; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Oren Shur; Brian Fallon; Dan Schwerin
> Subject: Re: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday
>
> Ditto here.
>
> But it still ran on the front page and he's still getting air time all over the place.
>
> Mandy Grunwald
> Grunwald Communications
> 202 973-9400
>
>
>
>> On Apr 25, 2015, at 4:06 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>>
>> Likewise --
>> And no journos from other orgs who believe it was a legit story. More said they thought the email story is more of a problem.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
>> Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 3:57 PM
>> To: Kristina Schake; Marissa Astor; Robby Mook; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Jennifer Palmieri; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; David Binder; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Oren Shur; Brian Fallon; Dan Schwerin
>> Subject: RE: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday
>>
>> fwiw,
>> I'm seen a lot of NYT reporters and editors at WHCA stuff last night and today.
>> A lot of quiet acknowledgement that this was a stupid, thin piece that shouldn't have seen daylight.
>> _____
>> From: Kristina Schake [kschake@hillaryclinton.com]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

>> Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 11:43 AM
>> To: Marissa Astor; Robby Mook; Margolis, Jim; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Jennifer Palmieri; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; David Binder; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Oren Shur; Brian Fallon; Dan Schwerin
>> Subject: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday
>>
>> We are canceling our 4 pm call tomorrow and instead will connect on Monday. Our most important topics are the May location and schedule and we won't have an update tomorrow. Our advance teams are out this weekend checking sites and the schedule is being reworked. We will connect on Monday with the latest info for discussion.
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this e-mail or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.
>>
>>

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/16/2015 12:15:41 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.16.15
Attachments:	6.16.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips
June 16, 2015

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

All network programs covered Jeb Bush's campaign announcement. ABC reported that Bush took direct aim at Hillary Clinton and said she has left a legacy of crisis all over the world. Hillary Clinton addressed age at her own campaign launch, and that she would be the first grandmother president, as well. NBC stated that immigration reform will be one of Bush's primary issues. Bush indirectly attacked Democratic candidates. CBS' Nancy Cordes said Bush said he should be the nominee not because of his name but despite it; reported Bush pointed to his executive experience as his qualifier as a nominee; reported Bush's fundraising efforts didn't scare off other candidates.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS..... 1

TODAY'S KEY STORIES..... 5

Hillary Clinton Pushes to Expand Access to Pre-Kindergarten // NYT // Amy Chozick & Jess Bidgood – June 15, 2015..... 5
Clinton says she has connected with voters in early stages of campaign // WMUR – June 15, 2015.. 7
Hillary Clinton on the issues: Six questions on the campaign trail // The Concord Monitor // Casey McDermott – June 15, 2015..... 8

SOCIAL MEDIA..... 10

Dan Merica (6/15/15, 9:13 am) - Bernie Sanders headlines a meeting in Denver on Saturday. https://go.berniesanders.com/page/event/detail/townmeeting/w3j ... Campaign says 2,500 ppl have RSVPd (not all will show)..... 10
Jason Noble (6/15/15, 10:21 am) - Here's your @DMRegister clips on relative Clinton/Obama crowd counts 10
Gabriela Domenzain (6/15/15, 11:16 am) - PERFECT: on 1st day on @GovernorOMalley 's team we get to THANK #DREAMers/all New Americans for #DACA :) #DACAworks..... 10
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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Pushes to Expand Access to Pre-Kindergarten // NYT // Amy Chozick & Jess Bidgood – June 15, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday pushed to broaden President Obama's efforts to expand access to pre-kindergarten, proposing more federal money for states to provide preschool to children from moderate and low-income families.

The proposal is the first policy proposal Mrs. Clinton has put forth since she officially kicked off her campaign with a speech on Saturday that was heavy on talk of lifting the middle class but light on specifics.

That changed on Monday when she said she would "invest in our most important assets, our children" and laid out a plan that would give incentives to states to provide public preschool to children whose family incomes are below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. The plan would be directed at the half of the country's 8.1 million 3- and 4-year-olds who are not currently enrolled in pre-kindergarten, her campaign said.

Mrs. Clinton also proposed doubling funding for the early Head Start program, as well as a middle-class tax cut that could "go towards helping parents pay for quality child care."

Speaking on the day that Jeb Bush officially entered the race for the Republican nomination, Mrs. Clinton sought to distinguish her position on early childhood education with that of her potential Republican rivals.

"Republicans aren't just missing the boat on early childhood education — they're trying to sink it," Mrs. Clinton said at a Y.M.C.A. in Rochester, N.H., where she read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" to a room of young children.

Of all the issues Mrs. Clinton could have delved into, early childhood education is perhaps the most obvious and among the safest. Liberal Democrats have criticized Mrs. Clinton for not addressing Wall Street regulation, financial reform and trade in her Saturday address, the most wide-ranging of her campaign so far.

Policies affecting children fit comfortably into Mrs. Clinton's broader biographical message. As a candidate this time around, she has emphasized her background advocating for children, including at the Children's Defense Fund in the 1970s, and as first lady and a senator. At the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, Mrs. Clinton started "Too Small to Fail," an initiative aimed at educating young children.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clinton continued Monday to avoid taking a firm position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal currently being debated in Washington.

"I will judge what's in the final agreement, but I hope it can be made better," Mrs. Clinton said as she answered questions from reporters in a packed barn on an apple orchard in Concord, N.H., during her second campaign stop of the day.

One Democratic rival, Martin O'Malley, was quick to criticize Mrs. Clinton for calling the "fast track" portion of Mr. Obama's trade deal a "process issue" in her New Hampshire remarks. Giving the president such "fast trade" powers would allow him to strike a deal with limited congressional oversight.

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“For thousands of American workers whose jobs are on the line with T.P.P., fast track is not a ‘process issue,’” said Lis Smith, O’Malley’s deputy campaign manager. “It’s a straightforward vote on their future and their livelihood.”

Clinton says she has connected with voters in early stages of campaign // WMUR – June 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Monday that she has used her first few months on the campaign trail to connect with voters.

Clinton gave her first one-on-one television interview since announcing her candidacy when she spoke with News 9's Josh McElveen. She has taken some heat from the media during the first months of her campaign for keeping the press at arm's length and holding closed events, but she said there was a reason for that.

"I hadn't been in politics since I became secretary of state," Clinton said. "I had certainly followed closely what was happening in our country because of the Great Recession, but I wanted that touch and that feel that you can only get by sitting and talking and looking at somebody."

Clinton didn't apologize for the initial soft launch of her campaign and said she is now happy to take on any question she gets, be it her plan for the economy or questions surrounding foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation while she was secretary of state.

"I don't know if we have enough time in this interview to debunk all of the allegations that were made by people who were wielding the partisan ax," Clinton said.

Clinton said she should be evaluated on her record and her plans for the future.

"I say judge me on my whole record, and in fact what people in New Hampshire talk to me about is the cost of child care, about their student loans, about how they can start and grow a new business," she said.

Clinton also said she isn't sold on the Trans Pacific Partnership deal President Barack Obama wants but failed to get through Congress last week.

"I'm still going to judge the deal at the end of the day with whether I think it's good for America," Clinton said, saying she thinks it needs work. "I think the questions that were raised are ones that have to be answered."

Clinton said she will continue to answer questions that have been raised over the past couple months, and she said voters in New Hampshire will see plenty of her moving forward.

Clinton also held several packed-house events in New Hampshire on Monday. She began with a roundtable discussion on early childhood education in Rochester.

Later, Clinton gave a speech before a large gathering at a midday “Launch Party” at the Carter Hill Orchard in Concord.

Click to watch raw video of Clinton's speech at the party.

At 6:30 p.m., Clinton is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Manchester City Democratic Committee’s Flag Day Dinner at the Puritan Backroom Conference Center.

Challenging Clinton on the Democratic side are U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

Hillary Clinton on the issues: Six questions on the campaign trail // The Concord Monitor // Casey McDermott – June 15, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton returned to New Hampshire this week, several days after what her campaign is dubbing its official “launch.” During a stop at Carter Hill Orchard in Concord, where she spoke about her goals as president and rallied several hundred supporters, Clinton sat down for interview with the Monitor — one of the first she’s done during this campaign. A recap of that conversation, which lasted just under 10 minutes, appears below.

How do you plan, if elected, to bridge the gap with Republican politicians — or even with Republican voters who might like the ideas of the other party?

Well the first thing I would do is what I did as Senator and Secretary of State, where I worked across the aisle all the time... I will do whatever it takes to reach out to anybody, anytime, anywhere in pursuit of common ground on issues that I think are important for the country — but I will also stand my ground. So I think the first thing is, I

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know how important it is to build relationships and be constantly working on congressional outreach and informational meetings and all that goes into having a receptive audience when you say 'We're going to have to do some hard work here, I need you on my side.'

Secondly, I'm going to try to be producing an agenda that I hope can draw Republican voters and Republican members of congress. I'm well aware that the party on the other side has gone very far toward the Tea Party side, but I think there are still a lot of Republicans that understand that we've got to do things for our country — we have to make progress, and we've got to get results. So I will be presenting an agenda. A lot of which, unless they are going to say 'no' just because of extreme partisanship, should be attractive to them on behalf of our country. I will in my campaign try to elect more Democrats. More Democrats in the Senate, more Democrats in the House so that we get back to a better balance.

Can you identify any Republican politicians who you think you would work well with or have worked well with?

I have worked well. Now, we'll go through the political season, and they'll be cringing when I say I worked well with them. But my co-sponsor on health care for the national guard and reserves was Lindsey Graham. And he may not want to be reminded of it, but we worked really hard to get that done. I have worked until the political winds changed with John McCain on climate change. And I think that maybe we can get back to trying to find common ground there. So those are just two examples.

You have been making an effort to learn more about the substance abuse epidemic in New Hampshire. Do you have any specific ideas about how to combat that issue, here or elsewhere?

I will be rolling it out, but I have to say that it is such an issue here in New Hampshire, I can't escape it. This morning, at our early childhood event, a grandmother stood up and was saying how she is taking care of her grandchildren because her daughter has an addiction problem. And when I talked about it, heads were nodding and people were looking at each other. So I've had an ongoing process to reach out and my policy team has been talking to experts here in New Hampshire because I want to gather the best advice. What may work in one community might not work in another community. We do under the Affordable Care Act, as you know, include mental health coverage but we don't have enough personnel, resources, programs so that it really means what it should — both in substance abuse and in mental health. So I'm going to be rolling out policies in the campaign to talk about what more I need to be doing.

But three really quick things: You can't cut health care for vulnerable people like extended Medicaid and deal with these problems, you can't cut community resources that are public-private partnerships and deal with this problem, you can't close the remaining few facilities that will take care of low-income vulnerable people and deal with this problem. So some states are doing better on certain categories than others, but we've got to have some national attention paid to this, try to remove the stigma, pull it into the spotlight so that families are not suffering alone and we do have more opportunities.

You've talked a lot about the fights you're aiming to wage on behalf of "everyday Americans." Some voters, even within the Democratic party, seem to think you embody the establishment more than the everyday citizen. How do you plan to overcome that?

I've been fighting for progressive causes my entire adult life, and I've outlined some of the work I've done in the past along those lines in my speech on Saturday. But I think if you look at my record in the Senate, and you look at what I fought for, what I supported, I think it's fair to say that I was the leader in going after the home foreclosure problem, that I called for regulating derivatives, that I called for ending the carried interest income loophole for hedge fund managers and others. I have a long record. Now, I was Secretary of State for four years and I was out of the political arena, so I haven't been talking about everything I've done and everything that I'm building on to do in the future. But I think that by the time this campaign is really in full swing people will know that I have a tried and true record. I'm not a person who's come lately to these issues, and I also care very much about getting things done. So I want to come up with solutions that I, number one, think will work — but also that, number two, politically we can keep driving until we actually implement them.

Do you have any thoughts on how the federal government could be more transparent or any steps you would take to make it more open or more accessible to the public?

That's a good question because in my four fights, the fourth one is reforming government and the campaign finance system since Citizens United blew it up. And I think part of the challenge is to get the United States government into the 21st century using technology so that it can be more open and transparent. It is still very heavily dependent upon paper, it is woefully behind in frankly computerization of records, and it's hard to — it's such a big organization, it's hard to move it. But I think it's important because when I was Secretary of State, I said I want to put all of the dollars we spend in foreign aid on the web so everybody can see them. And you know it took a couple of years because you have to gather them all up and you have to put them in the right format and you have to design the site — but we got it done. So I will go into the White House with the same commitment: More openness, more transparency, aided and abetted by better technology.

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You talk a lot about how much New Hampshire means to you. Is there a particular memory from your time here that has informed your approach as a candidate?

Well, there's so many. But my first trip to New Hampshire in 1991 occurred around my birthday. So when I landed in Keene, New Hampshire, I started celebrating my birthday across New Hampshire. I mean, people were doing cakes and cupcakes — and I just felt immediately at home. And it's been that way ever since. And I've made such good, close friends here. Of course, when I came here after the caucus in Iowa and was basically counted out and the people of New Hampshire opened their hearts and their homes to me, and voted for me, it was such an incredibly moving, heartwarming experience. I just like coming here, I like the feel for New Hampshire and I have gotten to know a lot of the people here.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dan Merica (6/15/15, 9:13 am) - Bernie Sanders headlines a meeting in Denver on Saturday. https://go.berniesanders.com/page/event/detail/townmeeting/w3j ... Campaign says 2,500 ppl have RSVPd (not all will show).

Jason Noble (6/15/15, 10:21 am) - Here's your @DMRegister clips on relative Clinton/Obama crowd counts

Gabriela Domenzain (6/15/15, 11:16 am) - PERFECT: on 1st day on @GovernorOMalley's team we get to THANK #DREAMers/all New Americans for #DACA :) #DACAworks

Trent Spiner (6/15/15, 1:26 pm) - Responding to @HillaryClinton early ed program, @GovernorOMalley slams her plan: "We can't afford the same old talk." #FITN #nhpolitics

Zeke Miller (6/15/15, 3:32 pm) - .@Lis_Smith/@GovernorOMalley blast Clinton on TPP

David Martosko (6/15/15, 7:01 pm) - Statement from the travel pool of journalists covering @HillaryClinton - endorsed by 13 news orgs

Zeke Miller (6/15/15, 8:23 pm) - Like @HillaryClinton, @JebBush's website only lists a few states. Unlike Hillary, it excludes his home state

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton's Vows to 'Fight' Evoke a Populist Appeal and a Contrast With Obama // NYT // Amy Chozick & Patrick Healy – June 15, 2015

In a roughly 45-minute speech on Saturday, Hillary Rodham Clinton made 14 references to herself as a fighter.

She said she would "fight" back against Republicans, "fight" climate change, "fight" to "strengthen America's families" and "fight" to "harness all of America's power." She used the verb in many of the same ways at her first major rally in Des Moines on Sunday, adding that she would "fight" for Midwestern values.

The presidential campaign's effort to define Mrs. Clinton as a fighter is, on the surface, a way to persuade middle-class voters that she is on their side. But it is also helping to convey a more subtle message: When it comes to political combat and perseverance, Mrs. Clinton is not President Obama.

The theme is emerging just as Mr. Obama has suffered a major setback on trade, one that many in Congress say reflects his weaknesses, namely his standoffishness and his inability to forge coalitions to push through an agenda.

During her campaign swing in Iowa on Sunday, Mrs. Clinton said no one would be a "tougher negotiator" on trade than she would. She offered her most explicit remarks yet on the president's handling of the issue, challenging him to work with Representative Nancy Pelosi of California, the minority leader, and other congressional Democrats to improve the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

"My view is the White House should call Nancy and a few other of the Democrats to say, 'What would it take to get an agreement that would be better and not worse for American workers?'" Mrs. Clinton said.

She added: "What I want to see is a concerted effort to see how far we can push the agreement."

In the early months of her campaign, Mrs. Clinton has worked to highlight her connection to, and respect for, the president she served for four years as secretary of state. She has appealed to Mr. Obama's coalition of young and African-American voters with sweeping speeches on voting rights and civil rights. And even as liberal Democrats

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urged her to speak out against Mr. Obama's troubled trade deal, Mrs. Clinton had for the most part remained mum.

But now that Democrats in Congress have rebuffed Mr. Obama in a public and embarrassing way, Mrs. Clinton faces heightened pressure to present to voters how she would be a different kind of leader, in style if not in substance.

At the same time, Clinton aides believe that if they can make the "tenacious fighter" image stick with voters, "ultimately she will win this election," the campaign manager, Robby Mook, said Friday at a question-and-answer session hosted by Politico.

A new biographical video released by the campaign, titled "Fighter," opens with a silhouette of Mrs. Clinton as a voice says: "What is a fighter? To me, a fighter is someone who won't give up."

Persistence is another emphasis. In the video and on the stump, Mrs. Clinton talks about her unsuccessful attempt to overhaul the health care system as first lady and how she continued to work and eventually got the Children's Health Insurance Program passed.

The inevitable contrast with Mr. Obama's leadership style that such language draws is not lost on Democrats in early nominating states.

"Her years in Arkansas, as first lady, as a losing candidate in 2008 and as secretary of state — all of that taught her to be tough and to keep on going," said Marti Anderson, an Iowa state representative who has a 2008 Obama campaign sticker on the front door of her Des Moines home.

"Obama's quiet, a studious person, a wonk, a constitutional lawyer. Hillary is more of an activist," Mrs. Anderson said. "And you need an activist when you have, for instance, a Congress that puts obstacles in your way. An activist doesn't stop trying."

Mrs. Clinton's efforts to draw a contrast must be subtle, lest she alienate the Democratic base of voters who supported Mr. Obama. When asked whether the positioning of Mrs. Clinton is a strategy to distance her from Mr. Obama, a campaign spokesman reiterated that she is a "tenacious, dogged fighter" and that the description would be "front and center" in the campaign.

It helps that she has also earned an image in the public eye of not giving up, said Kiki McLean, a former aide to Mrs. Clinton.

"It's her Methodist Midwestern stick-to-itiveness," Ms. McLean said. "I don't think it's a strategic adoption" to contrast her with Mr. Obama, she added, "but they are definitely different personalities."

At her speech in New York on Saturday, the biggest rally of her presidential campaign, Mrs. Clinton said she was devoting her candidacy to "everyone who's ever been knocked down but refused to be knocked out." Kelly Clarkson's "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)" blared from the outdoor speakers.

After the speech, supporters seemed satisfied to have seen Mrs. Clinton showcase her own temperament and style. They could not help but compare them with those of the sitting president.

"What you can see today and what you can see all the time is that Hillary loves people," Lynn Forester de Rothschild, a prominent backer of Democrats and Mrs. Clinton, said after the speech. "And even people who really like Barack Obama have said to me that is not the case with him."

Those differences were apparent to some of the Iowans who helped catapult Mr. Obama to victory in the 2008 caucuses.

On Saturday night, the Clinton campaign organized a house party at Mrs. Anderson's home in the Beaverdale neighborhood, which some Democrats nicknamed "Obamadale" during the 2008 caucuses because of the strong support there for Mr. Obama. Several attendees said they were attracted to Mrs. Clinton's doggedness after having been disappointed by Mr. Obama's occasional lack of gumption.

"I think Hillary knows how to fight, and she certainly saw how to deal with Republicans when Bill Clinton was in the White House," said Jay Peterson, a librarian for the State of Iowa who backed Mr. Obama in the 2008 caucuses.

A spokesman for the White House declined to comment, though Mr. Obama's supporters point out that he has been criticized for being too combative, especially on issues like immigration and health care.

The Clinton campaign decided early on not to distance itself from the Obama administration; instead, Mrs. Clinton

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often praises the economic progress Mr. Obama has made. On Saturday, she said Mr. Obama had brought the country "back from the brink of depression," but"we face new challenges in our economy and our democracy."

At the same time, polls show a growing frustration not just with Mr. Obama but also with Congress and Washington generally, indicating that Mrs. Clinton must convince voters she can bring something fresh to the White House.

Just 32 percent of Americans said they would prefer a presidential candidate whose political experience was mostly in the government in Washington, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll released May 5.

"The issue isn't that Washington isn't fighting. The issue is that people feel like there's no one in Washington fighting for them," said Guy Cecil, a co-chairman of Priorities USA Action, the pro-Clinton "super PAC."

Mrs. Clinton's message adds to the heat felt by Mr. Obama at a time when he is struggling to save his trade bill and avoid being incapacitated by his lame-duck status.

Bob Meddaugh, an activist who supported Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. in the 2008 caucuses and then embraced Mr. Obama, is hopeful that Mrs. Clinton can be more successful in building coalitions.

"I think she may be a little more direct and confrontational with individual people, compared to the way the president has been more standoffish with Republicans and even some Democrats," he said.

Sidney Blumenthal, Hillary Clinton's Confidant, Turns Over Memos on Libya // NYT // Michael Schmidt – June 15, 2015

A close confidant of Hillary Rodham Clinton's, Sidney Blumenthal, has provided the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, with dozens of pages of emails between him and Mrs. Clinton about Libya that were not included in the trove of emails that the State Department gave to the panel, according to people briefed on the matter.

The emails are similar to others that were provided to the committee by the State Department in February, the people said. Those emails included information about Libya that Mr. Blumenthal was passing along. Mrs. Clinton often forwarded the memos to her deputies to seek their feedback.

The committee had issued a subpoena to Mr. Blumenthal for any emails he had exchanged with Mrs. Clinton.

It is not clear whether Mr. Blumenthal's emails were among the 30,000 pages of emails from Mrs. Clinton's personal account that she provided to the State Department last year. Senior State Department officials have repeatedly said that they had fully complied with the committee's requests for the emails, while the committee's chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, had harshly criticized the department for not providing documents to the panel.

Alec Gerlach, a spokesman for the State Department, said, "We provided the committee with a subset of documents that matched its request and will continue to work with them going forward." Secretary of State John Kerry "has been clear that the State Department will be both transparent and thorough in its obligations to the public on this matter," he added.

An official for the committee declined to comment.

Mrs. Clinton said that after she provided the 30,000 emails to the State Department, she deleted roughly the same number of emails from the account, which, she said, were personal and not related to her work as secretary of state.

Mr. Blumenthal is scheduled to appear Tuesday before the committee for a deposition. Mr. Gowdy wants to question Mr. Blumenthal about where he was receiving his information about Libya and who was paying him to produce the memos.

At the time that Mr. Blumenthal was sending the memos to Mrs. Clinton, he was being paid by the Clinton Foundation. Among Mr. Blumenthal's responsibilities was to help with research, "message guidance" and the planning of commemorative events, according to foundation officials.

At the same time, Mr. Blumenthal, a former aide to President Bill Clinton, was a paid consultant to Media Matters for America and American Bridge, organizations that conduct research and answer attacks against Mrs. Clinton.

Why It Matters That Hillary Clinton Wore Ralph Lauren // NYT // Vanessa Friedman – June 15, 2015

At her campaign opening rally on Roosevelt Island on Saturday (to be distinguished from her campaign

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announcement, in April), Hillary Rodham Clinton donned her now-signature look: a bright blue pantsuit with a matching bright blue shirt underneath. She stuck out a mile, matched her H campaign logo — which was also the design of her stage — and looked appropriately patriotic, especially when standing next to Bill Clinton in his red polo.

So far, so expected, especially given her debut Instagram post: a series of red, white or blue pantsuits hanging in a row with the caption "Hard choices."

Mrs. Clinton has been extremely clever at co-opting the whole fashion-in-politics thing, defanging it and using it to demonstrate her quite developed sense of humor. It's a tool for her these days, and not just when it comes to image.

Vanessa Friedman writes about news happening in the fashion industry, from business decisions to designer moves.

Which is why it is worth thinking about. She is clearly considering it, as are her advisers, and using it to manipulate perception. As are all her competitors. Clothes are a political tool like any other. And that is why it was interesting to learn that the pantsuit she wore at her Roosevelt Island rally had been made by Ralph Lauren.

On the one hand, this is a clever choice: Mrs. Clinton's de facto dresser for the last few years had been Oscar de la Renta, and his death in October left her without a go-to label. She has known Mr. Lauren for a while: She presented him with the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal last June for his $13 million donation to help restore the Betsy Ross flag, and wore another blue Ralph Lauren pantsuit to do so.

And his personal narrative — Bronx boy made good — pretty much embodies the American dream. The clothes he sells are, in part, based on the aesthetics of that dream: the West, and the Gatsby version of Long Island. He understands sartorial stagecraft as well as any designer on the New York Fashion Week calendar, if not better.

Yet there's a possible weak spot in the relationship. Because for a candidate who has been pushing her connection to, and understanding of, the middle class — and whose speech while wearing the pantsuit was largely about closing the income gap — Ralph Lauren is a relatively inaccessible brand. It is also one often worn by and beloved of that sector of the population, the chief executives and financial wizards, she somewhat disavowed.

An average Ralph Lauren Women's Collection pantsuit, which this was — not, in other words, a style from the more accessible line, Lauren Ralph Lauren — is a few thousand dollars (a pinstriped wool jacket alone, for example, is $2,450 at the online store). That is out of reach for most voters.

It might not matter, given that voters also want their candidates to look presidential, which generally means good. Except that one of the story lines surrounding Mrs. Clinton has been how she is out-of-touch with those she claims to represent. It seems to me that working with a famous and high-end designer could provide ammunition for the opposition. And why even take that chance?

But maybe the fashion issue, with its potential sexism charges, is just too touchy for anyone, except fashion people like me, to go there.

Personally, if I were working out sartorial strategy on her team, I might suggest the issue be avoided entirely by opting for a contemporary label like Theory, which is known for its pantsuits, professional dressing — and anonymity. Its chief executive, Andrew Rosen, is a fashion mogul who has made something of a personal mission out of saving the New York garment district.

But that's me. And to be honest, I would not be surprised if, in the end, Ralph Lauren does become a Clinton wardrobe mainstay. If the campaign can avoid elitism charges, the brand will make her look confident, and absolutely convincing on the global stage.

According to a spokesman, the designer already works with the candidate "regularly."

Hillary signals aggressive attack on Republicans over Obamacare lawsuit // WaPo // Greg Sargent – June 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton gave the "official" kick-off speech of her presidential candidacy on Saturday. Jeb Bush will give the "official" kick-off speech of his presidential candidacy today. The presidential race is underway in earnest. And we may have our first major policy battle of the 2016 race within weeks, or even days — one all about Obamacare.

In an interview with the Des Moines Register, Clinton signaled that if the Supreme Court guts subsidies for millions in three dozen states, she will respond with a plan to avert all the chaos that would result. And she sharply dismissed the legal arguments being made by the challengers:

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Asked about the Affordable Care Act, often called Obamacare, Clinton said that no matter which way the U.S. Supreme Court rules on federal subsidies, “I will be prepared to set forth what I would do.”

Clinton said that if the court does what she thinks it should do based on the law and the facts, “that would mean it would not rule in favor of the very contorted argument that is being made by the opponents to blow up the Affordable Care Act’s guarantee of coverage.”

That suggests Clinton may be preparing to go on offense against Republicans if the Court rules for the challengers. She is dismissing the lawsuit as a cynical effort to undermine the ACA’s basic coverage guarantee — telegraphing a very critical response to such a ruling — and signaling aggressive engagement if and when the debate turns to what should happen next.

Republicans appear divided over how to respond if the Court guts subsidies. Some Congressional Republicans are floating plans that would temporarily extend subsidies. But they are now saying they won’t produce any consensus plan until after the Court rules. Meanwhile, it’s not clear that Republicans can pass any such consensus plan, because conservatives may revolt at doing anything to keep Obamacare going. It’s also unclear whether GOP leaders would want to buck conservatives and pass a temporary fix with the help of a lot of Democrats. Beyond all this, the GOP fix plans appear likely to do more harm to Obamacare than good.

Clinton says she will offer a fix of her own — probably some kind of simple rewrite of the disputed legislative language — while calling for the universal coverage guarantee to be restored. In other words, she would actually fix the problem created by the Court ruling. This could contrast sharply with the GOP post-King approach, which, judging by recent GOP rhetoric, will likely be saddled with a tortured, incoherent storyline: Republicans will blame the loss of coverage for millions on Obamacare itself, while pledging to fix the problem even as their “solution” undermines the law further.

This is another sign that the post-King battle could spill into the presidential race. The states with the largest numbers of people also happen to be the top presidential battleground states. The GOP candidates will likely be asked to take a position on what should be done for all those people. Scott Walker is already signaling that he’ll demand that the federal government — i.e., Congressional Republicans — fix the problem. To my knowledge, Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio have not meaningfully weighed on on what should come next, which might not be easy: conservative base voters might want Republicans to do nothing, but doing nothing might alienate swing voters. What’s more, Bush and Rubio both come from Florida, which is home to the greatest number of people who stand to lose subsidies — 1.3 million — so they might be under more pressure to support a solution of sorts.

If Republicans do prove divided over what should be done to keep millions from losing coverage and to prevent insurance markets from melting down across the country, it will be interesting to see if Clinton tries to use the post-King battle to exacerbate those divisions.

Hillary Clinton finally figured out how to talk about being a woman in presidential politics // **Chris Cillizza – June 15, 2015**

Here's Hillary Clinton in an interview Sunday with the Des Moines Register's Jennifer Jacobs: "I expect to be judged on my merits, and the historic nature of my candidacy is one of the merits that I hope people take into account."

That's a sentence she never dared utter during her 2008 campaign when her gender -- and her historic chance to be the first woman to be the presidential nominee of either party -- seemed to be swept under the rug by a deeply misguided campaign strategy.

The idea -- I guess -- was that if Clinton put her gender at the forefront of the campaign, voters (especially male voters) would wonder if she was "up" to the job. (Whatever the heck that means.) That judgment, blamed on strategist Mark Penn but ultimately followed by Hillary, led to a Democratic primary campaign in which she was cast as the status quo while then-Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois was the change agent. And you know how that turned out.

What's amazing about that decision was that as far back as 2007, Clinton's most appealing trait to voters was the fact that she would have been the first woman ever elected president; in Gallup polling at the time, 22 percent said the historic nature of her candidacy was the single most appealing part of her bid -- more than double the share who named any other character trait.

Seven years later, the story was the same. Roughly one in five voters (18 percent) told Gallup in 2014 that Clinton's potential status as the first female president was the most attractive trait about her. As Gallup's Frank Newport wrote at the time:

Clearly Clinton's "unique selling proposition" is that she would be the first woman president. Nearly one in five Americans mention this historic possibility as a positive, including 22% of women, 27% of 18- to 29-year-olds, and

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30% of Democrats.

Regardless of why they screwed it up last time, this version of the Clinton campaign appears to have figured out what had been staring them directly in the face for the last seven-plus years. From the emphasis on her status as a grandmother to the centrality of her own mother's struggles in her kickoff speech, Clinton is putting her gender at the core of this campaign.

That's of critical import not solely because it shows she learned the right lessons from the 2008 campaign but also because her gender (and the historic nature of her candidacy) provides Clinton her best possible response to the already underway Republican attack that she represents the past.

That hit has the potential to do severe damage to Clinton's chances of winning the White House next November. As we've written before in this space, presidential elections are almost always about the future and the candidate best able to present himself or herself as the right choice to lead the country into that future. Hillary's problem is that so much of who she is -- and so much of the strengths she carries as a candidate -- are rooted in the past. If and when she, at 67 and having spent the last two decades in the national spotlight, has to run against someone like Marco Rubio (age 43), it is going to be a real challenge for her to win the "future vs. past" argument.

Unless, that is, Clinton can show voters how electing her would be the biggest change the presidency has ever seen: After 43 men in the job, she would be the first woman.

"I may not be the youngest candidate in this race," Clinton said in her (re)announcement speech on Saturday in New York. "But I will be the youngest woman president in the history of the United States! And the first grandmother as well."

That's the exact right message for Clinton. It only took most of the past decade for her to find it.

Hillary Clinton balancing on the thin line between party and president // WaPo // Dan Balz – June 15, 2015

The Sunday dust-up over trade between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) was a clash waiting to happen — and a revealing look at how the two candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination are likely to be circling one another in the coming months.

Where Sanders stands on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement has long been clear. He is plainly and simply against it. Clinton's current position is ambiguous. She is skeptical but wants to see a completed agreement before she'll decided whether it's good or bad.

Where Sanders stands on giving the president fast-track authority also has been clear. He opposes it, as he opposes the trade deal itself. Where Clinton stands on that is no more clear after her Sunday comments.

She had more to say on Sunday than she's said before. She has allied herself with Democrats who currently oppose the treaty without committing herself to oppose the treaty herself. Ultimately, she could end up standing with President Obama, who has been abandoned by his own party on this, or with those who want to sink the deal.

Clinton had remained silent on trade as long as she could, probably longer. By claiming, correctly, that there was not a deal to support or oppose, she was looking for the maximum space to let the politics of the issue ripen or perhaps for the divisions within her party to lessen in some way.

When the fast-track legislation began to make its way through Congress, she was unwilling to say where she stood. Her advisers repeatedly said that fast-track was merely a process issue, not a substantive one, something for Congress to deal with but not one that she needed to weigh in on. The big issue, they said, was the trade agreement itself and that was still in negotiations.

Clinton had promoted an Asian trade deal as secretary of state — or at least the idea of it. She saw merit in trying to negotiate such a pact as part of the larger U.S. policy under Obama of paying more attention than previous administrations to the challenges of the rising power of China and the opportunities of deepening alliances with other Asian nations.

And backing free trade agreements runs in the family. Former president Bill Clinton had successfully campaigned for and won approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) despite strong opposition within his party.

As the political wars over the trade deal heated up, Clinton found what she thought a safe political haven in the space between concept and execution, between the meritorious idea of the 12-nation TPP and the specific details contained in a final agreement. Until those details were known — and it's not clear when the administration will complete the negotiations — she felt comfortable reserving her options.

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Two things intruded on that safe haven. One was the arrival of Sanders as an energized presidential candidate with a following on the left of the Democratic Party. He's not the only one among Clinton's opponents who wants to sink the trade deal. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley has the same position. But Sanders is getting the attention and drawing the crowds. His increasingly pointed criticism of Clinton has made her posture far less tenable.

Before he returned to Iowa for a weekend of campaigning, Sanders appeared at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Science Monitor. He was asked to offer criticisms of Clinton. He prefaced his answer by saying that, while he liked and respected Clinton, the two had serious disagreements that should be debated during the campaign.

"You know my view on the TPP," he said. "Trade policies have been disastrous. Secretary Clinton, if she's against this, we need her to speak out. Right now. Right now. And I don't understand how any candidate, Democrat, Republican, is not speaking out on that issue."

There was more, however, from Clinton's positions on the Keystone XL pipeline and the USA Patriot Act to his attacks on what he calls "the billionaire class" and what her policies are to deal with them. "What is the secretary's position?" he asked about each.

The other big change was the rebellion by House Democrats on Friday against the pact, a vote that has vastly complicated the administration's hopes of winning approval for fast-track authority and puts the entire trade deal in jeopardy.

When Clinton showed up in Des Moines on Sunday, she was forced by events and circumstances to take up the issue. What she did was tie herself to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and other Democrats in the House. She urged Obama to listen to the concerns of Pelosi and others and use them as leverage in the negotiations over the trade agreement. As before, she said if the ultimate agreement falls short of her measuring sticks, she would oppose it.

Clinton is in a unique position. If she were to come out against the TPP now, it's likely that her opposition would scuttle it. Obama probably could not overcome the combined opposition from organized labor, many Democratic elected officials and his former secretary of state. But supporting it even in general terms provides a bigger opening for Sanders and others on the left.

Clinton isn't prepared to do either, at least not yet. At some point, she will have to signal up or down. For now she is trying to bridge the divide in her party, and the strains are showing.

Why Hillary is asking America to see her candidacy as 'historic' **// WaPo // Greg Sargent – June 15, 2015**

In her presidential campaign kick-off speech and in a subsequent interview with Iowa media, Hillary Clinton leaned pretty hard into the notion that electing her president would represent a major historic breakthrough. Obviously this is about galvanizing female and younger voters who might be energized by the prospect of being swept up in a movement that elects the first female president.

But there may be another strategic goal here. The repeated emphasis on the historical nature of her candidacy could also be intended as a shield against seemingly unrelated GOP attacks that could prove potent: Republican suggestions that her age, generation and status as wife of a former president render her a candidate of the past, in contrast to the younger GOP White House hopefuls.

Here's Clinton, in an interview with the Des Moines Register:

Clinton said just the fact that she's running "is also very historic."

"I expect to be judged on my merits," she said, "and the historic nature of my candidacy is one of the merits that I hope people take into account."

In her speech on Saturday, Clinton stressed that her mother had been born before women had the right to vote, adding:

"I may not be the youngest candidate in this race. But I will be the youngest woman President in the history of the United States! And the first grandmother as well. And one additional advantage: You're won't see my hair turn white in the White House. I've been coloring it for years!"

I don't have any inside confirmation of this. But it probably isn't an accident that she noted that she'd be the first female president as a direct response to the fact that other candidates running for the White House are younger than she is.

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That's what the argument will be, either explicitly or not: Even if it's true that Clinton comes from an older generation of politicians than some of her Republican and Democratic rivals, the election of a female president itself represents change.

Celinda Lake, a pollster who is widely respected among Democrats, tells me that focus groups she has conducted show this has the potential to be an effective rebuttal — particularly among the voter groups it appears intended for.

"The two cohorts who feel most strongly that it's time for a woman president, and appreciate the historical nature of this, are baby boomer females and their millennial daughters," says Lake, who has been doing research for the non-partisan Barbara Lee Family Foundation for years on how voters perceive female candidates for executive office.

"We've learned that the inherent idea that this would be the first woman president in and of itself communicates 'change' to people," Lake says.

The question of which candidates — and which party — represent the future and which represent the past is already a major flashpoint in the race. In her speech, Clinton said even the younger GOP candidates were in thrall to a hidebound vision, arguing that "they're all singing the same old song – a song called 'Yesterday.'" Republicans have stressed that Clinton is a leader of the past who would represent a third term of Obama.

In response to Clinton's speech, Marco Rubio released a video mocking Clinton's reference to the Beatles song, arguing that America cannot author the next chapter in its history "by going back to the leaders and the ideas of the past." Scott Walker has been sounding a similar generational note (one that also appears aimed at Jeb Bush). And in the Democratic Primary, Martin O'Malley has been suggesting he can speak to a younger generation of Democratic voters more effectively than Clinton can.

As Chris Cillizza notes, many of Clinton's strengths as a candidate are rooted in the past. But this could be undercut as a negative if voters appreciate how much historic ground would be broken by electing her.

Or, to expand on that a bit, if electing a female president inherently breaks new ground, that itself might put a forward-looking gloss on her experience, turning her longevity on the political scene into an undiluted reason to vote for her, Lake suggests.

"The Republicans are trying to exploit age and health and a 'third Obama term' and a 'third Clinton term' to say, 'more of the same,'" Lake says. "People think they voted for change in Obama, but he wasn't able to deliver change. So you need more experience to deliver change. She represents change and the ability to deliver on it."

Of course, this by itself is hardly enough, Lake adds: "It's got to be followed up by a specific vision for the economy, one that includes women and men." Which might explain why, in her speech, she repeatedly described economic proposals that might disproportionately benefit women — such as pay equity, a minimum wage hike, and universal pre-kindergarten — as "family" issues.

"'Family first' is the strongest economic theme out there right now," Lake says. "She's running as a champion of making the economy work for families. A woman can be a very credible voice of change on that message."

Bill Clinton's claim that Hillary did economic diplomacy because there was no Commerce Secretary // WaPo // Glenn Kessler – June 15, 2015

"She [Hillary Clinton] believed that part of the job as secretary of state was to advance America's economic interests around the world. And, for much of the time she was secretary, for a number of complex reasons, we didn't have [a] commerce secretary. And now we have got Penny Pritzker. And she's very vigorous and very good, I think. But we didn't have one. And so, if she hadn't been doing this economic diplomacy work, nobody would have been doing it."

— Former President Bill Clinton, interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union," June 14, 2015

Former president Clinton, in rebutting accusations that Hillary Clinton helped donors to the Clinton Foundation while serving as secretary of state, made an interesting point on one of the Sunday politics shows — that she had to engage in "economic diplomacy" because "much of time she was secretary," there was no Commerce Secretary.

This made little sense to us, and it's certainly easy to check. Was there such a gap in Commerce leadership that it was left to Clinton to conduct the administration's economic diplomacy?

The Facts

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The Commerce Department is sometimes described as the broom closet of the federal bureaucracy, in that it contains a number of unrelated agencies, such as the Census Bureau, the National Weather Service, the Patent and Trademark office, the Economic Development Administration, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and so forth. The notion that the commerce secretary was some sort of globe-trotting promoter of American industry only began to take hold in Clinton's administration, when Ron Brown became commerce secretary.

The Commerce Secretary, in the department's mission statement, "serves as the voice of U.S. business within the President's Cabinet." Commerce Department Order 1-1 says "the historic mission of the Department is 'to foster, promote, and develop the foreign and domestic commerce' of the United States."

Meanwhile, the State Department has an economics unit and also is quite involved in international economic issues; the official duties of the Secretary of State includes "promotes beneficial economic intercourse between the United States and other countries."

International economics is represented in the department at the level of undersecretary of state. The undersecretary of state is expected to engage in economic diplomacy, charged with "implementing economic growth, energy, agricultural, oceans, environmental, and science and technology policies," the department's Web site says. The State Department, for instance, is the lead agency on the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) conference.

Of course, the real heavy lifting on international economic matters is done by the Treasury Secretary–and international trade negotiations are handled by the U.S. Trade Representative. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner might be surprised to learn that if Hillary Clinton "hadn't been doing this economic diplomacy work, nobody would have been doing it," as her husband put it.

In President Obama's first term, there were two commerce secretaries:

Gary F. Locke, former governor of Washington, who served from March 26, 2009, to August 1, 2011, when he became ambassador to China.

John E. Byson, former business executive, who served from Oct. 21, 2011, to June 21, 2012, when he resigned for health reasons. (He took a medical leave of absence starting June 11.)

In between Locke and Byson, Deputy Secretary Rebecca Blank served as acting secretary, a role she filled after Byson's departure as well. Penny Prizker became secretary on June 26, 2013, about four months after Clinton stepped down.

Clinton was secretary of state from Jan. 21, 2009, to Feb. 1, 2013 — essentially 48 months. As we have shown, there was a confirmed commerce secretary for all but 12 months of that period. So that's a ratio of 3 to 1 when a commerce secretary was in office at the same time as Clinton.

Byson may not have had as much of chance to have an impact, but by most accounts Locke did a pretty good job. Here's what Clinton said when she swore him in as ambassador to China:

"He helped improve the lives of the people of Washington and of the United States. He was a great job creator in Washington during two national recessions. He has helped to lead our efforts to increase U.S. exports. He has brought the Census in on time and under budget, an unheard of accomplishment. He's brought comprehensive patent reform legislation closer to passage than it has in decades."

Representatives of former president Clinton declined to provide an on-the-record response.

The Pinocchio Test

Former President Clinton exaggerated when he claimed that for "much of the time she was secretary," there was no commerce secretary. For three out of the four years, there was a Senate-confirmed commerce secretary sitting near Hillary Clinton at Cabinet meetings. Moreover, the secretary of state is supposed to engage in economic diplomacy, whether or not there is a commerce secretary.

Yes, there was some turnover in the leadership of the commerce department. But Clinton's assertion that if not for Hillary Clinton, "nobody would have been doing" economic diplomacy is quite a stretch, given the dominant role of the Treasury Secretary on international economic issues. That comment tipped this rating toward Three Pinocchios.

Clinton says her wealth is 'secondary' concern for voters **// AP // Lisa Lerer – June 15, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton countered criticism that her personal wealth undermines a populist campaign message

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focused on the economic problems of everyday Americans, saying on Monday that her family fortune is "secondary" to most voters.

"I don't think Americans are against success," she told reporters in Concord, New Hampshire. "Those of us who do have opportunities ought to be doing more to help other people do the same."

Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have made hundreds of millions of dollars since leaving the White House from paid speeches— a fortune that even she has struggled to explain.

Last year, she stumbled into a storm of political criticism after saying her family was "dead broke" at the end of her husband's second term. Though in deep debt due to legal fees from various controversies, Clinton quickly moved the couple into the top 1 percent with her book sales and speaking fees.

Last month, the couple reported that they earned more than $30 million in speaking fees and book royalties since January 2014.

In New Hampshire on Monday, Clinton seemed more comfortable acknowledging her wealth, describing her family as "blessed." But she also highlighted her middle class roots, pointing out that both she and her husband had federal college loans to pay off.

"What (voters) are interested in is who's going to fight for them," she said. "I want everybody to have the same opportunities that I had and my husband had."

While the opening days of her campaign have stressed Clinton's family and career history, her personal fortune has gone largely unmentioned.

Her remarks on Monday came in the midst of a campaign launch focused on her personal biography, particularly her mother's impoverished upbringing, as a way of reintroducing one of the country's best known political figures as a fighter for struggling families left behind by the economic recovery.

On Monday, she focused the first major policy proposal of her campaign on universal pre-K education — an issue championed both by liberal voices in her party, as well as by more conservative governors in Republican-led states, including Texas.

Speaking to parents and children at a YMCA, she promised that as president she would make "high quality preschool" available for all 4-year-old children in the next decade, double federal money for early Head Start programs, and implement a tax cut to help parents with the costs of raising children under age 3.

That proposal is one item on a wish-list of progressive policies Clinton has backed over the past three days, as part of her vision of a more "inclusive economy."

"Prosperity cannot be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers," she told hundreds of supporters Monday in a Concord barn.

Those Wall Street financiers include members of her immediate family.

Her son-in-law Marc Mezvinsky has leveraged family ties to raise money from investors for his hedge fund. Her daughter, Chelsea, also worked at a hedge fund founded by a major Clinton campaign donor.

Clinton was paid to speak to financial firms such as Deutsche Bank and Ameriprise Financial. One of her final paid speeches was delivered in March to eBay, which paid her $315,000, records show.

Republicans have spent months questioning how the Clinton family has leveraged political connections into personal cash— criticism that may be having some impact on early perceptions of her candidacy.

About 47 percent of Americans said Clinton cares about people like them in a CNN/ORC poll released earlier this month, down from 53 percent in the same poll last summer. An ABC News/Washington Post poll released the same day found a slight decline in the past year on a similar question, with 49 percent saying Clinton "understands the problems of people like you" and 46 percent saying she doesn't.

Republicans are flipping charges successfully leveled against their party in the last presidential race. In 2012, Republican nominee Mitt Romney, the wealthy co-founder of private equity firm Bain Capital LLC, found his presidential bid undermined by Democratic attack ads painting him as a heartless plutocrat.

"Hillary Clinton has to expect the same kind of treatment," Romney said Monday, in an interview on MSNBC. "How could she get out there and sell a populist message when she makes in one hour a multiple of what the average American will make in a year?"

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Clinton campaign denies access to pool reporter // Politico // Dylan Byers – June 15, 2015

The Hillary Clinton campaign denied access to the print pool reporter on Monday, reigniting reporters' longstanding concerns about the campaign's commitment to running an open and transparent campaign.

David Martosko, the U.S. political editor for London's Daily Mail, reported showing up at the campaign's breakfast stop in New Hampshire only to be told that he would not be allowed to pool the day's events. Pool reporters are responsible for sending reports from the trail to the rest of the press corps.

"Your pooler showed up at the Puritan Backroom in Manchester on a rainy New Hampshire morning at 7:45 and was greeted in the parking lot by Meredith Thatcher, a press staffer with the New Hampshire Democratic Party. Thatcher told your pooler that he wasn't the approved print pool reporter for today's pooled events," Martosko reported in his first pool report. (Note: Thatcher is actually a press staffer for "Hillary for New Hampshire," not the state's Democratic Party.)

"Asked to call her boss, Harrell Kirstein, she did so and then reported: 'So I'm afraid it's a no. You're not on the list.' She said [campaign press secretary] Nick Merrill should be phoned with questions," Martosko continued. "Asked if the print pooler was being prohibited from getting on either of the pool vans, Thatcher replied: 'I'm afraid that's right.' Asked why, she responded: 'All I know is what Harrell has told me. I got an email saying the print pooler would be changed for today. Sorry.'"

Denied a ride in the pool van, Martosko told Thatcher that he would drive to the first campaign stop in Rochester on his own, "in the hope that things would be sorted out during the 75-minute drive."

Reached via email, Martosko declined to comment. He apologized for any typos, noting, "I'm dictating to phone as I drive." Daily Mail spokesperson Sean Walsh said the organization is "seeking an explanation from the Clinton campaign as to why this occurred as Mr. Martosko was scheduled to be the designated print pool reporter in New Hampshire this morning."

Merrill, the campaign's traveling press secretary, did not respond to a request for comment. However, he did provide an additional explanation to Martosko, which Martosko relayed in a report on The Daily Mail's website:

Merrill said that the campaign's position is that the Daily Mail does not qualify because it has not yet been added to the White House's regular print pool – something Martosko informed him was a timing issue, not a White House choice, since Francesca Chambers, the Mail's White House correspondent, has been vetted and has a hard pass. ... 'We're just trying to follow the same process and system the White House has,' said Merrill. ... Merrill then insisted that the decision had 'nothing to do' with the campaign considering the Daily Mail foreign press. ... 'We don't consider you foreign press,' he said. ... Merrill then added; 'This isn't about you. It's about a larger...' and did not continue his sentence. ... Merrill later insisted that his reasons were not based on the foreign-press question, but that the campaign simply wanted a day to 'have a conversation' about how to proceed.

UPDATE (9:50 a.m.): Merrill emailed:

"We want a happy press corps as much as the press corps does. And we work very hard to achieve that in tandem with them. It's a long campaign, and we are going to do our best to find equilibrium and best accommodate interest from as many news outlets as possible, given the space limitations of our events."

UPDATE (11:01 a.m.): Martosko filed the following pool report:

After some confusion about the location of the morning's early childhood education summit in Rochester, NH, your pooled determined that it was at the YMCA of Strafford County and arrived at about 10:20. ... Secret Service at the main entrance refused to let your pooler in and advised to go in through another entrance near a playground. ... Visiting that doorway, another agent asked for your pooler's name and outlet, to which the pool replied "David Martosko with The Daily Mail." A voice from behind the door, whom your pool later learned was the head of Mrs. Clinton's Secret Service detail, was heard saying "Oh. No." ... The first agent sent your pooler back to the front door, advising that the head of the detail insisted. At the front door again, your pooler was asked to wait while the first agent on duty checked to see if the pool would be admitted. ... The answer: "No. You can't come in."

Pooler was advised by that Secret Service agent that he had contacted someone "with the campaign" named "Pollard," who personally said no, your pooler could not come in. It's unclear who Pollard is. ... Your pooler asked if he could come inside to use the restroom. The Secret Service agent advised that the area had been swept already, so he should "hit the woods." ... Pool saw a WMUR-TV truck outside and confirmed with a reporter from a competing local station that there were indeed pool journalist inside from photo and video. ... With a light rain falling, your pooler went back to his rental car to file this report, after counting about 210 cars in the parking lots and on the street. ... Both press pool vans from Manchester were visible outside, along with the now-famous black

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"Scooby" van and a contingent of New Hampshire state trooper vehicles.

Hillary Clinton's super PAC nabs 2 veteran pollsters // Politico // Annie Karni – June 15, 2015

Priorities USA Action, the Democratic super PAC backing Hillary Clinton's campaign, has hired two pollsters: Jefrey Pollock, founding partner and president of Global Strategy Group, and Geoff Garin, who oversaw polling on Clinton's 2008 campaign after pollster Mark Penn was pushed out.

Both pollsters worked for Priorities in 2012, when the super PAC supported Obama's reelection campaign. Pollock's firm also worked on some of the few Democratic wins in the 2014 midterm elections, including New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's reelection campaign and Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy's reelection campaign.

"We have the key pieces in place that will help shape the 2016 landscape and define the choice Americans will make on Election Day," Guy Cecil, Priorities' chief strategist, said in a statement. "We're also proud to have cornered the market on pollsters with unique ways to spell Jeff."

The pollsters have been working with Priorities and participating in conference calls for a few months. Their hiring was confirmed to POLITICO after a shakeup of the super PAC's leadership.

In May, Cecil, who came in to manage Clinton's 2008 campaign after a shakeup, took over from Obama holdover Jim Messina.

And last month, Anne Caprara joined the PAC from Emily's List, which works to elect pro-choice Democratic women to office. She replaced executive director Buffy Wicks, who was recruited by the Clinton campaign for a senior level job. Amid the restructuring, longtime Clinton defender David Brock rejoined the board after resigning last February because of internal disputes.

Some of Hillary Clinton's Libya emails said to be withheld from Benghazi Committee // Politico // Rachel Bade – June 15, 2015

House GOP Benghazi investigators have discovered additional Libya communications between Sidney Blumenthal and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a congressional source told POLITICO — suggesting that either the State Department or the 2016 Democratic presidential contender withheld correspondence the panel had subpoenaed.

Blumenthal — a longtime Clinton family friend who is set to testify before the committee behind closed doors Tuesday morning — recently gave the House Select Committee on Benghazi his Libya-related emails after the panel had quietly subpoenaed them.

Story Continued Below

Among those were several emails concerning Libya between Blumenthal and Clinton that had not been previously turned over by State. Clinton has said she gave all her work-related correspondence, kept on her personal email server, to the State Department. State was then tasked with going through the emails and giving the panel relevant correspondence. Department officials turned up about 300 emails related to Benghazi.

The source did not know whether Clinton had turned the emails over to State and State did not provide them, or whether Clinton failed to hand over the correspondence.

A State Department spokesman downplayed the discovery and said the agency gave the panel what it asked for.

"The Department is working diligently to publish to its public website all of the emails received from former Secretary Clinton through the FOIA process," Alec Gerlach said in a statement. "We provided the Committee with a subset of documents that matched its request and will continue to work with them going forward. Secretary Kerry has been clear that the State Department will be both transparent and thorough in its obligations to the public on this matter."

Blumenthal's attorney, James Cole, and Clinton's attorney, David Kendall, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The committee has subpoenaed Clinton's Libya-related emails. But because she used a personal server, her lawyer decided which emails constituted "official" communications and provided them to the State Department before they were released to the committee and publicly.

Hillary Clinton dismisses trade authority as 'process issue' // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – June 15, 2015

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While the political world's attention was focused on Jeb Bush's presidential announcement 1,500 miles to the south in Miami, Hillary Clinton brought her stump speech to New Hampshire and refused to be pinned down on her views of a trade deal that has raised progressives' ire.

Clinton's one-day swing through this state that buoyed her politically in 2008 is part of the Democratic front-runner's week-long tour of the four early-voting states following her campaign's first large rally in New York City on Saturday.

The former secretary of state spoke at a campaign launch party at a rainy apple orchard here, after holding a meeting at a YMCA in Rochester, N.H.

After delivering a version of her standard stump speech in Concord, Clinton held a rare 18-minute news conference. She again danced around the trade issue and tried to minimize the importance of her views about whether President Barack Obama should have fast-track authority to negotiate trade pacts.

"The TPA is a process issue. The issue for me is what's in the deal" she said. "I think this is a chance to use this leverage so that the deal does become one that more Americans and members of Congress can vote for."

"I believe that you take whatever happens to you in a negotiation, and you leverage it," she said minutes later when pressed again on the topic.

Democratic rival Martin O'Malley quickly seized on what he called Clinton's political dodge on the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact, which he and progressives in Congress have come out strongly against.

"For the thousands of American workers whose jobs are on the line with TPP, fast track is not a 'process' issue, it's a straightforward vote on their future and their livelihood," O'Malley aide Lis Smith said in a statement.

Just hours earlier, Clinton unveiled one of the first detailed policy proposals of her campaign, calling for universal preschool and new federal funding for the states that expand their preschool programs for low- and medium-income families.

New Hampshire, the second-voting state that has been politically kind to both Clinton and her husband in the past, was one of six states that did not provide any funding for preschool in the last fiscal year.

Clinton's proposal would aim to provide high-quality preschool access to all 4-year-olds within the next decade, and the former secretary of state also proposed doubling investment in the Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care programs.

During her speech in Concord, Clinton also defended the records of both her husband Bill Clinton and Obama, while criticizing Republicans.

"The records of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama of cleaning up the messes the inherited is something that speaks to Democratic values, and it's something that is historically factual. The other side is coming back with more of the same," she said.

Clinton also repeated her now-familiar calls to rid politics of unaccountable money, to make voting easier for young citizens and minorities, and to lessen the debt burden on students.

Clinton's appearance came as Bush, the son of one president and the brother of another, was launching his much-anticipated campaign. But she demurred when asked to provide Bush advice on running a campaign that distinguishes himself from his family name.

"That's a very tempting question to answer," she said, "But I won't."

Clinton campaign kicks off amid boiling press frustrations // Politico // Dylan Byers – June 15, 2015

Less than 48 hours out from its formal launch, the Hillary Clinton campaign has twice managed to anger the traveling press corps by denying access to the candidate.

Monday's dust-up, in which the print pool reporter was denied access for ambiguous reasons, came just one day after the campaign had angered reporters by keeping them away from Clinton's impromptu exchange with local New Hampshire residents.

On Sunday evening, the pool reportedly "threw a fit" after it missed an exchange between Clinton and residents of

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Burlington, Iowa, outside a private residence where the candidate had been holding a question-and-answer session with voters.

"The pool was kept in the backyard, and did not get to see Clinton walk out of the event and greet a group of neighbors who were across the street," The Boston Globe's Annie Linskey wrote in her pool report. "Neighbors later confirmed this occurred. Also, a local CBS news camera caught the exchange."

"The pool threw a fit when she heard Clinton had left the house," Linskey wrote. "Your pooler got outside fast enough to see Clinton drive away."

"NOTE FOR FUTURE HOUSE PARTIES," Linksey added. "POOL MUST be held in FRONT of the event, [not] in the back."

Thirteen hours later, pool reporter David Martosko, of The Daily Mail, showed up at the campaign's breakfast stop in New Hampshire and was told by one of the campaign's local press staffers that he would not be allowed to pool the day's events. Martosko decided to follow Clinton to her first campaign stop anyway, "in the hope that things would be sorted out during the 75-minute drive." (See the full details on that in our last post.)

Nick Merrill, the Clinton campaign's traveling press secretary, has yet to provide a clear explanation regarding the restriction. Martosko was initially informed by the state staffer that he was not allowed on because he works for a non-U.S. publication, though Merrill has stressed that the campaign does not consider Martosko foreign press.

In a statement Monday, he said only that the campaign wants "a happy press corps as much as the press corps does. And we work very hard to achieve that in tandem with them. It's a long campaign, and we are going to do our best to find equilibrium and best accommodate interest from as many news outlets as possible, given the space limitations of our events."

Whatever the case, the back-to-back dustups are drawing negative attention to a campaign already suffering from the perception that it has avoided or restricted the press wherever possible. In the two months leading up to Saturday's launch, Clinton did not grant members of the press a single interview.

Finally, on Sunday, Clinton sat down with Iowa journalists Jennifer Jacobs (of the Des Moines Register) and Kay Henderson (of Radio Iowa) for her first interviews of the campaign.

Hillary Clinton = Jeb Bush? **// Politico // Annie Karni & Gabriel Debenedetti – June 15, 2015**

One candidate vowed to “ban discrimination against LGBT Americans” and “make preschool and quality childcare available to every child in America.” The other pledged to “take Washington … out of the business of causing problems” and “get back on the side of free enterprise and free people.” She spoke in lists and bullet points; he stuck to broad brushstrokes.

While their visions for America couldn’t be more different, the dueling kickoff rallies of Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush — coming just 52 hours apart after years of anticipation in both parties — served to underscore a striking fact: Their political problems are remarkably similar.

“Both are the darlings of their respective party’s elites, unequaled fundraisers, and members of the nation’s political oligarchy,” noted Democratic strategist Hank Scheinkopf, who in the past has advised Bill Clinton.

“Both, if they are the nominees of their respective parties, need to win the same states. And while their rivals in both parties are using either center-right or center-left populist rhetoric, they have both shown propensity to cleave for life to the center.”

Then there’s the dynastic factor. A central struggle for both is escaping their famous families — and their political operations have accordingly marketed the candidates around their first names only: Clinton’s logo is a squat blue “H” pierced by a red arrow, while Bush’s is a big red “Jeb” punctuated by an exclamation point.

And while neither has created much distance from his or her family, both have inched away from their kins’ policy legacies. Hillary Clinton proposed effectively undoing some of Bill Clinton’s work on criminal justice, and Jeb Bush has struggled to answer questions about whether he would follow George W. Bush’s path in Iraq.

Clinton, 67, and Bush, 62, also face questions about their age, particularly from rivals Martin O’Malley, 52, and Marco Rubio, 44, respectively, who’ve made explicitly generational pitches. And while both campaigns will be run by well-respected 30-something party operatives instead of the legions of family loyalists on offer — Robby Mook for Clinton and Danny Diaz for Bush — the candidates themselves are shaking off the rust that comes from not having run full-scale political operations in years — eight for Clinton, 14 for Bush.

And rust isn’t the only issue. Clinton, for all her vast experience in the public eye, has won just two elections in her

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life: her 2000 New York Senate race against Republican patsy Rick Lazio, and her easy re-election in 2006; Bush hasn't faced a truly tough opponent since his Florida gubernatorial loss in 1994. So as they try to get back into proverbial fighting shape by losing weight, there's the lingering question of whether either was truly ever much of a candidate at all.

Their opponents employ many of the same tactics, too. As Clinton fends off Bernie Sanders' attacks on her trade contortions and Martin O'Malley digs at her Wall Street ties, Jeb will be getting blasted daily by the likes of Ted Cruz and Rand Paul on immigration and the Common Core.

All that aside, one major reality distinguishes these two would-be general election foes: Bush is far from the dominating front-runner, while Clinton faces no serious threat.

Hillary Clinton dismisses trade authority as 'process issue'

"On the Republican side, you have a 19-person field, ten of them who have a plausible path to get nominated," said Democratic strategist and lobbyist Steve Elmendorf, who advised Clinton's 2008 campaign. "You have a four-person field on the Democratic side, and the challenge for the other three people running is that they have to make the case for how they get to the White House."

As for the early primary states, "she has the establishment locked down" in New Hampshire far more than Jeb Bush does there, noted David Carney, a local Republican strategist. "He'll never be in a position like Hillary where the party establishment is all locked up for him."

While Clinton has been polling around 60 percent nationally, far ahead of any Democratic competitor, Bush has been stuck around 10 percent. He's a member of the Republican field's top tier — along with Rubio and Scott Walker — but seven candidates, including those three, sit between 8 and 13 percent in the Huffington Post Pollster average of national polls, and Bush faces a serious uphill struggle in Iowa, where he'll be lucky to come in third.

Still, Bush has one more thing in common with Clinton that could give him an edge: money, and lots of it.

"They both have deep, deep, deep networks that they've inherited at some level, or built on their own," explained one Clinton ally on Wall Street, noting that their fundraising prowess may be the strongest parallel of all.

While Bush has been focused on raising large amounts of money for his supportive super PAC, Clinton has been raising cash in smaller increments for her campaign itself. They each delayed their formal kickoffs to spent time raising the considerable amounts of money they would need to claim the White House, and in some cases their super PACs have even thought about targeting the same Wall Street-adjacent donors, like former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg.

They share close ties to the financial industry — Bush because of his work at Lehman Brothers and Barclay's and Clinton because of her time as a senator from New York — and both expected to raise well over $1 billion between their campaigns and super PACs should they become the nominees. Bush's super PAC is expected to bring in around $100 million by the end of May, and Clinton is hoping to raise that much for her campaign in 2015 alone. Their nearest rivals will likely raise mere fractions of those amounts.

"It's hard for the other candidates," said the New York Democrat. "But if you're Hillary or Jeb at this stage, it's pretty easy money."

Hillary Clinton Proposes More Funding for Early Childhood Education // Bloom berg News // Jennifer Epstein – June 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton embraced her new role as a grandmother and her longer-term one as a child advocate on Monday, offering up proposals on early childhood education including doubling funding for Head Start.

It was Clinton's first set of policy proposals kicking off a summer of planned rollouts. Speaking at a YMCA in Rochester, N.H., Clinton revealed some details of the approach she'd take if elected, including the goal of ensuring that "in the next 10 years every 4-year-old has access to high-quality preschool."

Clinton, who formally launched her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination on Saturday, said she hopes to double funding for Head Start and for the early Head Start grant program, and supports a middle-class tax cut "that can go toward helping parents pay for quality child care."

"Republicans aren't just missing the boat on early childhood education, they're trying to sink it."

Republicans, she said, have taken the wrong approach in supporting tax breaks for oil companies and hedge fund managers while cutting funding for programs that support young children.

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"Republicans aren't just missing the boat on early childhood education, they're trying to sink it," she said. "Republicans took care of those at the top and went after the kids."

After getting a question from a grandmother who is taking care of her young grandchildren, who she said would have otherwise been taken into the state's custody "because of addiction," Clinton added to her position, saying she would make sure to "extend every program, every tax break, everything we do to people who are taking care of kids."

The former secretary of state and first lady got emotional as she heard from the woman, who described her situation as "painful" and said she has half a dozen friends parenting their grandchildren.

"It is heartbreaking," Clinton said, mentioning the stories of drug addiction she said she's heard at every stop along the campaign trail over the past two months. "I think you're very brave and very loving to take on this responsibility."

Clinton also took a question about educating older kids, especially those with ADHD and other attention disorders. While some do need medications, "medicating kids because we have not yet figured out how to deal with their particular needs" is not the right approach.

Aides said Clinton will also roll out a comprehensive childcare agenda in the coming weeks aimed at ensuring that children from birth to age 3 have access to quality care.

Hillary Clinton Backs Fast-Track on Obama's Trade Deals **// HuffPo // Eric Zuesse – June 15, 2015**

On Sunday, June 14th, Hillary Clinton came out publicly for the first time in support of President Obama's trade-deals -- TPP with Asia, TTIP with Europe, and on TISA with all nations to lower the standards on banking and insurance and to privatize government services.

What's at issue in Congress right now -- and thus what she was responding to -- is whether or not to grant U.S. President Barack Obama the "Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority," which will produce expedited passage for his trade-deals; the trade-deals themselves are not even before Congress yet, and have not even been made public, though the first one up for consideration will be TPP with Asia; but that deal, like the others, will virtually certainly go down to defeat unless the president first wins "Fast Track," which is the issue now.

The reason "Fast Track" is the issue now before Congress, is that it's actually the only feasible way for Obama to be able to win congressional passage of TPP or of any of his big-three trade-deals. It's crucial because it reduces the Constitutionally required two-thirds of Senators voting for a given trade-deal, down to merely 50% of Senators (plus VP Joe Biden) needed to vote for it, in order for the deal to become U.S. law -- and there is no way possible for this Senate to vote two-thirds for either TPP with Asia, TTIP with Europe, or TISA for "Services." But 50% can safely be assured (especially with the gargantuan political-campaign donations that are pouring into Congress to back it).

Clinton said that it's so important for Obama to win Fast Track authority, that, "I am willing to try now to see whether you can push to get rid of the objectionable parts, to drive a harder bargain on some of the other parts," so that Congress will grant the president Fast Track Trade promotion Authority. (Her underlying assumption, which she knows to be false, is that to "drive a harder bargain" is "a harder bargain" against foreign nations, not against the publics in both the U.S. and all nations. International corporations will benefit enormously. But Obama is not negotiating against them; he's negotiating against the public, for the international corporations.)

She said that the president should work with congressional Democrats "starting with Nancy Pelosi," to pass Fast Track (though she judiciously avoided even mentioning "Fast Track," because she's aiming for low-information liberal voters, who -- like low-information conservative voters -- don't even know what the issues actually are, and can therefore be easily swayed by her words, regardless of what the issues are).

According to the pseudonymous blogger "Gaius Publius," who is very well connected with Democrats in Congress and with their aides: "According to two sources, in private Pelosi is working 'almost on a daily basis' to get Fast Track to pass, and with it, TPP."

He further reports: "White House's secret weapon on trade: Nancy Pelosi. Administration officials have been so impressed by Nancy Pelosi's approach to negotiations over giving president Barack Obama 'fast-track' trade authority that they've started to consider a crazy possibility: She could even vote for it herself. But only if she has to."

He explains that she won't vote for it herself unless only a single additional 'Democratic' House member (namely, her own vote) is needed in order to get the bill over the hump and to the president's desk to sign Fast Track into law. He reports that, "All she cares about, based on her reported behavior, is controlling her own appearance, her brand, as being 'pro-worker,'" so that she won't be able to be attacked in a Democratic primary by someone who is

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running to the left of her, saying "You sold us out!"

In other words: Nancy Pelosi already is working hand-in-glove with the White House on this fast-track matter. Pelosi wants these trade-deals to become U.S. law, just as much as does Hillary Clinton. But, of course, Democratic voters generally don't know this (and she won't tell them).

A subsequent headline on the matter was, "Gaius Publius: Nancy Pelosi Got a TPP Talking-To from Her Caucus, Plus Where We Are on Fast Track." It reported the anger on the part of many House Democrats who don't like Pelosi's double-dealing on this: they were enraged that she wanted Obama to win Fast Track. They're strongly against it. It's why the vote of Friday was disastrous for the president.

Pelosi tried to do everything she possibly could in order to win Fast Track for the president. Here is how she helped, as described by "Gaius Publius":

In order for any law to be placed upon the president's desk for his signature, both houses of Congress -- both the Senate and the House -- need first to agree 100% on the contents of the bill, because a president cannot sign two different versions, only one, final, version, which has passed both houses the same. Then, he can sign it.

The Senate has already voted for a "Fast Track" that includes something called "Trade Adjustment Assistance" (TAA), which will retrain some of the U.S. workers who will lose their jobs to foreigners on account of these deals. Democrats in the Senate demanded TAA. (I previously explained how that happened.) The leader of the Senate, Republican Mitch McConnell, had to agree with it in order to achieve any sort of Fast Track that could pass in the Senate, where few Democrats like what they've seen of TPP -- the draft that will come up first if the president first wins Fast Track. McConnell demanded from Senate Democrats that the federal money to pay for TAA would come out of the hides of Medicare benificiaries; and, though reluctantly, enough Democrats in the U.S. Senate went along with that so the bill could pass in the Senate, and then go on to the House, where it was voted down on Friday.

What's key is that, because in the House, Democrats voted overwhelmingly against TAA (the version that passed in the Senate, with the Medicare cuts), there's nothing now that can go directly to the president for his signature. (This was probably what Harry Reid in the Senate had expected and planned.) House Republicans were shocked; Democrats in the House weren't accepting the bill that had obtained the support of enough Democrats in the Senate for it to pass in the Senate.

Republicans, on Friday, June 12th, responded to that failure (for them and the president) by holding an immediate vote on Fast Track without any TAA in it; and it barely passed in the House. However, it cannot go to the president's desk, because it's a different bill than the one the Senate had approved. This was therefore just a symbolic 'win' for House Republicans: it didn't move anything toward the president's desk.

The news media have headlined about Hillary Clinton's statement, "Clinton urges Obama to work with Pelosi on trade deal," but Obama has already been doing, and still is doing, precisely that. And the press even headlined things like "Hillary Clinton snubs Obama on trade deal," which is simply false. Even the headlines sometimes lie.

Hillary Clinton actually supports Barack Obama's trade-policy, and even supports the way in which he is trying to get it through Congress. However, the news-media didn't report it that way.

Ms. Clinton is repeating her earlier tactics, in 2008, when she tried to give the impression that she had opposed her husband Bill Clinton's NAFTA, though in fact she had earlier bragged about how great it was for the country and claimed it as if it were her own. As everyone knows, the Clinton foundation, the Clintons personally, and the Clinton campaign, and her past political career, have been financed very heavily by the very same international corporations and Wall Street banks, and their lobbying firms and accounting firms, that are now lobbying intensely for President Obama to win Fast Track, and for him ultimately to win all three of his mega-corporate trade deals: TPP, TTIP, and TISA.

One independent economic analysis has been done of TPP, and one has been done on TTIP. Both show huge U.S. job-losses and considerable boost to the profits of U.S.-based international corporations.

However, though those U.S. job-losses are the impacts that are receiving all of the media attention (such as TAA, to compensate for some of those job-losses), there is an even bigger issue, which is that all of these trade-deals would transfer democratic U.S. government sovereignty to regulate in the interests of the public -- sovereignty to protect food-safety, product-safety, workers' rights, and the environment, among other things -- over to panels of international lawyers, whose careers will depend upon how well they serve international corporations. Those 'arbitrators' will come up with rulings that will not be able to be appealed to any court in any democracy at all. The worst aspect of these 'trade' deals would thus be that transfer of democratic national sovereignty to international corporate sovereignty. It would replace national democracies with an internattional corporate dictatorship -- an international fascist world government. And, just like Barack Obama and other Republicans, Hillary Clinton favors it. (Here is the back-story of how and why.) However, for her to come right out and admit this would be

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suicidal for anyone who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination. (It would hand the nomination to Bernie Sanders, whose whole career has been opposed to these types of 'trade' deals.) After all: it was Barack Obama himself, in his primary camppaign in 2008 against Clinton, who said, "Yesterday, Sen. Clinton also said I'm wrong to point out that she once supported NAFTA. But the fact is, she was saying great things about NAFTA until she started running for president." He was pretending to oppose these types of 'trade' deals, just as she was. Only he was much more skillful at it than she is. But they both have the same financial backers, who give also very heavily -- and often even more -- to the Republican Party.

Whereas most Democrats in Congress try to do a decent job for the American people (and this statement is based upon their voting-records -- including their having thus far beaten back the Republicans, including Obama, on Fast Track), most Democrats who run for president (just like virtually all Republicans who do) are much more interested in doing a terrific job for their biggest donors. There is (sad to say) nothing illegal about that. Whether there is anything immoral about it is (also sad to say) debated. However, voters should be skeptical of the honesty of any politician -- especially if the politician is running for congress or (even more) for the White House. The past record should be the sole basis for evaluating any candidate for national office; don't trust merely what they now are saying. To believe a candidate's words, divorced from their proven record in public office, including things that they said previously, would be foolish. It also would assist the corruptness that already exists. And it would make immeasurably more difficult any political victory for any honest person to win those offices; so, it's extremely unpatriotic. If a voter doesn't have the time to investigate on his own regarding a particular election, that person would be more patriotic to simply not vote, regarding that particular political post. After all: one can leave a ballot-line blank, which allows better-informed individuals to make that given judgment. Because the nation's fate depends upon that judgment.

But anyway, don't believe everything you read or hear -- not even this (and I'll be delighted if you will check out every source I've linked to, because I am honest; that's my top commitment -- and it's also why I always link to my main sources, so that they can be easily accessed). It's almost impossible to be successful as a journalist, regarding serious matters such as these, and to be employable by large-audience, well-financed, news-media (so I am entirely independent), because news-media are backed by the corporations that advertise in them, including by their 'non-profit' foundations. For example, pro-publica, which, like virtually all news-media, receives all of my news-reports and commentaries, just recently placed mine on their spam-list. They won't report to their readers the types of things that I customarily send to them and report. The level of public trust may be going down, but it still is way too high. One learns this, as an independent journalist, on important issues, such as international matters: the public is too trusting. Scoundrels benefit enormously from that excess of trust. By contrast, decent politicians suffer major competitive disadvantage from the excess of trust. Excess of trust gives the competitive advantage to liars. Unfortunately, ours is not a society in which trust by the public is warranted. Maybe it once was; it's not now.

Please pass this along to friends, and post it to Facebook and Twitter, so that others can know, too, that despite what the news-media might be saying, Hillary Clinton supports Barack Obama's 'trade' agenda, which is actually his mega-corporate agenda -- which she has always shared along with him. If your friends are going to support her, at least they ought to know what they are supporting. The links here provide access to the facts.

45 times Secretary Clinton pushed the trade bill she now opposes // CNN // Jake Tapper – June 15, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, seems reluctant to take a firm position on an issue dividing her party: whether President Obama should have fast-track trading authority for the immense trade deal he has been negotiating, the Trans-Pacific Partnership. With some progressive voters eyeing her with some skepticism, and facing a challenge (such as it is) from candidates on her left, she is being advised to tack in that direction.

President Obama has been pushing hard for the deal, while Democrats in the House of Representatives on Friday revolted and voted against a key part of the legislation. One told me, "there was a very strong concern about the lost jobs and growing income inequality," adding, pointedly: "Ms. Clinton should take notice."

She clearly did. After first dodging the issue, on Sunday in Iowa, Clinton said that "the President should listen to and work with his allies in Congress, starting with (House Minority Leader) Nancy Pelosi, who have expressed their concerns about the impact that a weak agreement would have on our workers, to make sure we get the best, strongest deal possible. And if we don't get it, there should be no deal."

Clinton said, "there are some specifics in there that could and should be changed. So I am hoping that's what happens now -- let's take the lemons and turn it into lemonade."

But as members of the Obama administration can attest, Clinton was one of the leading drivers of the TPP when Secretary of State. Here are 45 instances when she approvingly invoked the trade bill about which she is now expressing concerns:

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1. January 31, 2013: Remarks on American Leadership at the Council on Foreign Relations

"First and foremost, this so-called pivot has been about creative diplomacy:Like signing a little-noted treaty of amity and cooperation with ASEAN that opened the door to permanent representation and ultimately elevated a forum for engaging on high-stakes issues like the South China Sea. We've encouraged India's "Look East" policy as a way to weave another big democracy into the fabric of the Asia Pacific. We've used trade negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership to find common ground with a former adversary in Vietnam. And the list goes on." [State Department, 1/1/13]

2. January 18, 2013: Remarks With Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida

"We also discussed the Trans-Pacific Partnership and we shared perspectives on Japan's possible participation, because we think this holds out great economic opportunities to all participating nations." [State Department, 1/18/13]

3. November 29, 2012: Remarks at the Foreign Policy Group's "Transformational Trends 2013 Forum"

"...let me offer five big-ticket agenda items that we absolutely have to get right as well. This starts with following through on what is often called our pivot to the Asia Pacific, the most dynamic region in our rapidly changing world. Much of the attention so far has been on America's increasing military engagement. But it's important that we also emphasize the other elements of our strategy. In a speech in Singapore last week, I laid out America's expanding economic leadership in the region, from new trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership to stepped-up efforts on behalf of American businesses."

"...We are welcoming more of our neighbors, including Canada and Mexico, into the Trans-Pacific Partnership process. And we think it's imperative that we continue to build an economic relationship that covers the entire hemisphere for the future." [State Department, 11/29/12]

4. November 17, 2012: Delivering on the Promise of Economic Statecraft

"And with Singapore and a growing list of other countries on both sides of the Pacific, we are making progress toward finalizing a far-reaching new trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The so-called TPP will lower barriers, raise standards, and drive long-term growth across the region. It will cover 40 percent of the world's total trade and establish strong protections for workers and the environment. Better jobs with higher wages and safer working conditions, including for women, migrant workers and others too often in the past excluded from the formal economy will help build Asia's middle class and rebalance the global economy. Canada and Mexico have already joined the original TPP partners. We continue to consult with Japan. And we are offering to assist with capacity building, so that every country in ASEAN can eventually join. We welcome the interest of any nation willing to meet 21st century standards as embodied in the TPP, including China." [State Department, 11/17/12]

5. November 15, 2012: Remarks at Techport Australia

"...we need to keep upping our game both bilaterally and with partners across the region through agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP. Australia is a critical partner. This TPP sets the gold standard in trade agreements to open free, transparent, fair trade, the kind of environment that has the rule of law and a level playing field. And when negotiated, this agreement will cover 40 percent of the world's total trade and build in strong protections for workers and the environment." [State Department, 11/15/12]

6. November 2012: Remarks With Australian Foreign Minister Robert Carr, Australian Defense Minister Stephen Smith, and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

"Our diplomats work side by side at regional organizations to address shared security challenges and hammer out new economic agreements, and we congratulate Australia upon becoming a new nonpermanent member of the Security Council. Our growing trade across the region, including our work together to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership, binds our countries together, increases stability, and promotes security." [State Department, 11/14/12]

7. November 2012: Remarks at the Opening of the AUSMIN Ministerial

"That means finalizing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which will lower trade barriers, raise labor and environmental standards, and drive growth across the region. And it includes, of course, working closely together at the upcoming East Asia Summit to advance a shared agenda." [State Department, 11/14/12]

8. September 2012: Remarks at APEC CEO Summit

"That means pushing governments to support high-standard trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership,

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to drop harmful protectionist policies. It means playing by the rules, respecting workers, and opening doors qualified women. And most of all, it means doing what you do best: build, hire, and grow." [State Department, 9/8/12]

9. August 2012: Remarks With New Zealand Prime Minister Key

PRIME MINISTER KEY: "Secretary Clinton and I discussed the broad range of issues in the Asia Pacific region as we look towards the APEC summit in Russia in around 10 days time. New Zealand warmly supports the United States rebalancing towards the Asia-Pacific and we welcome the opportunities to cooperate further. In that context, we discussed our ongoing efforts to negotiate, alongside a number of other countries, a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement."

...

SECRETARY CLINTON: "I'm also very committed to expanding investment and trade in the region, in pursuit of sustainable economic growth. Later today, I'll meet with local pearl vendors from here in the Cook Islands who are running their businesses while also protecting marine resources." [State Department, 8/31/12]

10. July 2012: Remarks to the Lower Mekong Initiative Women's Gender Equality and Empowerment Dialogue

"We've also made workers rights a centerpiece of a new far-reaching trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We are working with Vietnam, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and others in these negotiations." [State Department, 7/13/12]

11. July 2012: Remarks With Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh After Their Meeting

"So we're working on expanding it through a far-reaching, new regional trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would lower trade barriers while raising standards on everything from labor conditions to environmental protection to intellectual property. Both of our countries will benefit. And in fact, economists expect that Vietnam would be among the countries under the Trans-Pacific Partnership to benefit the most. And we hope to finalize this agreement by the end of the year." [State Department, 7/10/12]

12. July 2012: Remarks at American Chamber of Commerce Reception and Commercial Signings

"Domestic and international businesses alike continue to face rules that restrict their activities, and that, in turn, deters investment and slows growth. So we are encouraging the Government of Vietnam to keep on the path of economic and administrative reform to open its markets to greater private investment. And through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we're working with Vietnam and seven other nations to lower trade barriers throughout the region, as we ensure the highest standards for labor, environmental, and intellectual property protections. Vietnam was an early entrant to the TPP, and we're hoping we can finalize the agreement this year. And the economic analysis is that of all the countries that will be participating -- Australia, Canada, Mexico, others -- of all the countries participating in the TPP, Vietnam stands to benefit the most. So we're hoping to really see this agreement finalized and then watch it take off." [State Department, 7/10/12]

13. July 2012: Remarks With Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba

"We also discussed the opportunity to strengthen our economic relationship, and the United States welcomes Japan's interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which we think will connect economies throughout the region, making trade and investment easier, spurring exports, creating jobs. The TPP is just one element of our increased focus on the Asia Pacific, but it is important that we recognize that the Japanese-American relationship is really at the cornerstone of everything we are doing in the Asia Pacific. We are not only treaty allies; we are friends and partners with common interests and shared values." [State Department, 7/8/12]

14. April 2012: Remarks With Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Philippines Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, and Philippines Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin After Their Meeting

"Finally, we discussed the maturing economic relationship between our countries as well as our shared commitment to enhanced development, trade, and investment. We would like to see the Philippines join the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade community. The foreign secretary raised the Philippines' interest in seeking passage of the Save our Industries Act, and we have conveyed that message to the United States Congress."[State Department, 4/30/12]

15. April 2012: Remarks at the White House Conference on Connecting the Americas

"Now President Obama and I have said many times that this will be America's Pacific century, and we are focused on the broader Pacific. But remember, the Pacific runs from the Indian Ocean to the western shores of Latin America. We see this as one large area for our strategic focus. That's why we're working with APEC; that's why

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we're creating the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We recognize the mutual benefits of engagement between the Americas and the rest of the Pacific." [State Department, 4/12/12]

16. April 2012: Forrestal Lecture at the Naval Academy

"As part of that same trip last November, the President built momentum for a new far-reaching trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership that we are negotiating with eight other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This agreement is not just about eliminating barriers to trade, although that is crucial for boosting U.S. exports and creating jobs here at home. It's also about agreeing on the rules of the road for an integrated Pacific economy that is open, free, transparent, and fair. It will put in place strong protections for workers, the environment, intellectual property, and innovation -- all key American values. And it will cover emerging issues such as the connectivity of regional supply chains, the competitive impact of state-owned enterprises, and create trade opportunities for more small-and-medium-sized businesses." [State Department, 4/10/12]

17. April 2012: Keynote Address At Global Business Conference

"Big or small, we're standing up for an economic system that benefits everyone, like when our Embassy in Manila worked with Filipino authorities on new intellectual property protections or when our negotiators ensure that the new Trans-Pacific Partnership requires that state-owned enterprises compete under the same rules as private companies." [State Department, 2/21/12]

18. February 2012: Remarks With Singaporean Foreign Minister and Minister for Law K. Shanmugam

"This is a very consequential relationship. The multidimensional growth of our relationship with Singapore is an example of the importance that the United States sets on strengthening our engagement in the Asia Pacific. We are working together on a full range of issues, including moving forward on a high-quality trade agreement through the Trans-Pacific Partnership process." [State Department, 2/1/12]

19. December 2011: Remarks With Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba After Their Meeting

"The minister and I also discussed a number of bilateral and regional issues and reviewed the close and ongoing collaboration between Japan and the United States in the aftermath of last March's earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. We discussed Japan's recent move to pursue consultations on joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations to resolve longstanding trade concerns in order to deepen the economic ties to the benefit of both our countries. I also urged that Japan take decisive steps so that it accedes to The Hague Convention on International Parental Child Abduction and address outstanding cases."[State Department, 12/19/11]

20. November 2011: Remarks at ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

"Now let me describe briefly four ways that we want to work with you: first, by lowering trade barriers; second, by strengthening the investment climate; third, by pursuing commercial diplomacy; and fourth, by supporting entrepreneurs. We're excited about the innovative trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. That would bring economies from across the Pacific, developed and developing alike, into a single trading community, not only to create more growth, but better growth." [State Department, 11/18/11]

21. November 2011: Presentation of the Order of Lakandula, Signing of the Partnership for Growth And Joint Press Availability With Philippines Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario

"Together we hope to deliver an array of benefits to the people, including more foreign investment to create new jobs, a more streamlined court system that can deliver justice and protect local businesses, better services, and more resources to fight poverty. Over time, these steps will better position the Philippines to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which we hope will dramatically increase trade and investment among the peoples of the Pacific." [State Department, 11/16/11]

22. November 2011: America's Pacific Century

"There is new momentum in our trade agenda with the recent passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and our ongoing work on a binding, high-quality Trans-Pacific Partnership, the so-called TPP. The TPP will bring together economies from across the Pacific, developed and developing alike, into a single 21st century trading community. A rules-based order will also be critical to meeting APEC's goal of eventually creating a free trade area of the Asia Pacific." [State Department, 11/10/11]

23. October 2011: Economic Statecraft

"One of America's great successes of the past century was to build a strong network of relationships and institutions across the Atlantic -- an investment that continues to pay off today. One of our great projects in this century will be to do the same across the Pacific. Our Free Trade Agreement with South Korea, our commitment

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to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, are clear demonstrations that we are not only a resident military and diplomatic power in Asia, we are a resident economic power and we are there to stay." [State Department, 10/14/11]

24. September 2011: Celebrating 60 years of the U.S.-Australia Alliance

"We are working to encourage trade through the Trans-Pacific Partnership and through APEC, whose leaders the President will be hosting this fall in Hawaii. Together, we are strengthening regional institutions like the East Asia Summit and ASEAN. And as Secretary Panetta will explain, our military relationship is deepening and becoming even more consequential."[State Department, 9/15/11]

25. July 2011: Remarks on Principles for Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific

"That is the spirit behind the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the so-called TPP, which we hope to outline by the time of APEC in November, because this agreement will bring together economies from across the Pacific—developed and developing alike—into a single trading community." [State Department, 7/25/11]

26. July 2011: Remarks on India and the United States: A Vision for the 21st Century

"The United States is pushing forward on comprehensive trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership and our free trade agreement with South Korea. We are also stepping up our commercial diplomacy and pursuing a robust economic agenda at APEC. India, for its part, has concluded or will soon conclude new bilateral economic partnerships with Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and others. The more our countries trade and invest with each other and with other partners, the more central the Asia Pacific region becomes to global commerce and prosperity, and the more interest we both have in maintaining stability and security. As the stakes grow higher, we should use our shared commitment to make sure that we have maritime security and freedom of navigation. We need to combat piracy together. We have immediate tasks that we must get about determining." [State Department, 7/20/11]

27. May 2011: Secretary Clinton's Remarks With New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully

"We looked ahead to the East Asia summit where President Obama will participate for the first time, and the United States will send our largest, most senior delegation ever to the Pacific Island Forum in New Zealand later this year. We talked about developments in Fiji, and both New Zealand and the United States agree that the military junta must take steps to return Fiji to democracy. And we agree on the importance of pursuing negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which will provide a free trade agreement for nine countries across the region, including both of ours. We're making steady progress on this. We hope to be able to have the negotiations complete by the time we all meet in Hawaii for APEC toward the end of this year." [State Department, 5/17/11]

28. May 2011: Remarks With Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd After Their Meeting

"And both of us understand the benefits of deeper economic integration and fair trade. Minister Rudd was very influential in helping us to work toward a greater, more relevant involvement in the Pacific-Asian institutions, such as joining the East Asian Summit. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is exploring ways to expand opportunity, is critical, and APEC and ASEAN are two other organizations where we work together." [State Department, 5/2/11]

29. April 2011: Remarks at the American Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

"We will be hosting the 2011 APEC summit in Hawaii later this year. We are pushing to advance economic integration, remove trade barriers, and make sure that our national regulations line up in a way that encourages trade. We are also working hard on the trans-Pacific partnership, a cutting edge regional free trade agreement that would eventually cover an area responsible for over 40 percent of global trade."[State Department, 4/17/11]

30. March 2011: Remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on Latin America

"As countries step up on the global stage, they will make essential contributions to helping all of us meet some of those most important challenges. Mexico, for example, made a crucial contribution to the fight against climate change through its remarkable leadership in Cancun last year. Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina in the G-20; Chile and Mexico in the OECD; Chile and Peru in the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and along with Mexico in APEC, these are all helping to build a foundation for balanced global growth, a transparent global economy, and broad-based opportunity. "[State Department, 3/18/11]

31. March 2011: Remarks at the First Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum

"The United States is also making important progress on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which will bring together

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nine APEC economies in a cutting-edge, next generation trade deal, one that aims to eliminate all trade tariffs by 2015 while improving supply change, saving energy, enhancing business practices both through information technology and green technologies. To date, the TPP includes Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Peru, Vietnam and the United States." [State Department, 3/9/11]

32. January 2011: Inaugural Richard C. Holbrooke Lecture on a Broad Vision of U.S.-China Relations in the 21st Century

"We are taking steps to ensure that our defense posture reflects the complex and evolving strategic environment in the region and we are working to ratify a free trade agreement with South Korea and pursuing a regional agreement through the Trans-Pacific Partnership to help create new opportunities for American companies and support new jobs here at home. Those goals will be front and center when we host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Hawaii later this year." [State Department, 1/14/11]

33: November 2010: Remarks at U.S. Trade Promotion Event

"Now, we've seen how bilateral trade benefits both sides. Our challenge now is to broaden those benefits. That means we have to look for even more opportunities to increase trade and investment between us. And it means that we work harder to broaden the benefits of trade even beyond our two countries. Australia is an important partner in negotiating the ambitious new multilateral trade deal called the Trans Pacific Partnership. Over time, we hope to deliver a groundbreaking agreement that connects countries as diverse as Peru and Vietnam with America and Australia to create a new free trade zone that can galvanize commerce, competition, and growth across the entire Pacific region." [State Department, 11/7/10]

34. November 2010: Speech and Townterview with Australian Broadcasting Company

"To continue this progress, we are both pressing ahead on something called the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It's an ambitious multilateral free trade agreement that would bring together many more nations of the Pacific Rim. Australia and the United States are helping to lead those negotiations and we're also working through APEC, which the United States will host in Hawaii in 2011. We see that as a pivotal year to drive progress on internal economic changes that will open more markets and make sure that any growth is more sustainable and inclusive. And finally, we believe that the United States and Australia have been at the forefront of organize the entire region for the future." [State Department, 11/7/10]

35. November 2010: Christchurch Trade Reception Hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce

"We are looking for ways to broaden and deepen our economic ties and build on the strong foundation we already have. And we think that the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a very exciting opportunity. This multilateral free trade agreement would bring together nine countries located in the Asia Pacific region -- New Zealand and the United States, Australia, Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Peru, Vietnam, and Malaysia. By eliminating most tariffs and other trade barriers, and embracing productive policies on competition, intellectual property, and government procurement, we can spur greater trade and integration not only among the participating countries, but as a spur to the entire region.

[State Department, 11/5/10]

36. November 2010: Remarks With New Zealand Prime Minister John Phillip Key and New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray Stuart McCully

" Well, let me say that we discussed at some length, both the foreign minister and I and then the prime minister and I, the way forward on trade. We are very committed to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and New Zealand, again, is playing a leading role. And we want to expedite the negotiations as much as possible. So we are exploring ways that we can try to drive this agenda. I am absolutely convinced that opening up markets in Asia amongst all of us and doing so in a way that creates win-win situations so that people feel that trade is in their interests." [State Department, 11/4/10]

37. November 2010: Remarks at the Pratt & Whitney Trade Event

"That is why the United States is very pleased by Malaysia's decision to join the negotiations for the Trans Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership. This regional trade agreement will promote shared success by expanding markets and building a level playing field for workers in every country that participates." [State Department, 11/3/10]

38. November 2010: Remarks with Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman

"Finally, we are pleased that Malaysia joined last month's negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership. That is a pact that would expand markets and create a level playing field for people in every country that does participate. I

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know there are tough issues to work out, as there always are with these agreements, but Malaysia's leadership in this region for greater economic growth is absolutely essential." [State Department, 11/2/10]

39. November 2010: Secretary Clinton's Meeting with Kuala Lumpur Embassy Staff and Their Families

"And I think we have tremendous opportunities here. But I know when I leave tomorrow, the work to make those opportunities into realities falls to all of you. So I know a lot is expected of you, but we're going to be doing even more in Malaysia. We have a lot of plans for educational exchanges. We have some very exciting work on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, enhancing trade and investment (inaudible) that will promote closer cooperation." [State, Department, 11/2/10]

40. November 2010: Townterview Hosted by Media Prima in Malaysia

"So in our meetings with your government officials and even in my conversation with the prime minister earlier today, we of course talked about our bilateral relationship but we also talked about the role that Malaysia is playing in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a new free trade agreement that will enhance market access, but also working to support Afghanistan and the people there with training and medical services." [State Department, 11/2/10]

41. October 2010:Remarks With Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem

"I n trade, our two countries have already made great progress. Fifteen years ago, our bilateral trade was about $450 million. Last year it was more than $15 billion. And the foreign minister and the prime minister and I talked about how to expand this trade relationship, including through the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The United States, Vietnam, and seven other countries finished a third round of negotiations on the TPP this month and we hope that Vietnam can conclude it in internal process and announce its status as a full member of the partnership soon." [State Department, 10/30/10]

42. October 2010: America's Engagement in the Asia-Pacific

"We are also pressing ahead with negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an innovative, ambitious multilateral free trade agreement that would bring together nine Pacific Rim countries, including four new free trade partners for the United States, and potentially others in the future. 2011 will be a pivotal year for this agenda. Starting with the Korea Free Trade Agreement, continuing with the negotiation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, working together for financial rebalancing at the G-20, and culminating at the APEC Leaders Summit in Hawaii, we have a historic chance to create broad, sustained, and balanced growth across the Asia Pacific and we intend to seize that. [State Department, 10/28/10]

43. September 2010: Remarks on United States Foreign Policy

"On the economic front, we've expanded our relationship with APEC, which includes four of America's top trading partners and receives 60 percent of our exports. We want to realize the benefits from greater economic integration. In order to do that, we have to be willing to play. To this end, we are working to ratify a free trade agreement with South Korea, we're pursuing a regional agreement with the nations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and we know that that will help create new jobs and opportunities here at home." [State Department, 9/8/10]

44. July 2010: Remarks With Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister And Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem

"And I am very much supportive of Vietnam's participation as a full member in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. As Vietnam embarks on labor and other reforms, the American businesses that are investing in Vietnam can provide expertise that will aid Vietnam's economic and infrastructure development."[State Department, 7/22/10]

45. January 2010: Remarks on Regional Architecture in Asia: Principles and Priorities

"In addition, the United States is engaging in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations as a mechanism for improving linkages among many of the major Asia-Pacific economies. And to build on political progress, we must support efforts to protect human rights and promote open societies." [State Department, 1/12/10]

How Hillary Clinton Gets Around Answering Questions About Fast-Track // The National Journal // Em ma Roller – June 15, 2015

At her official campaign kickoff rally on Saturday, Hillary Clinton continued to brand herself as an economic populist while also being the most likely to beat a Republican in the general election.

But Clinton has had a tough time mapping out the specifics of that populism, particularly in relation to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. At a news conference after an event in Concord, New Hampshire on Monday, multiple

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reporters tried to get Clinton to come down for or against trade promotion authority (TPA), also known as "fast-track," which would make Congress pass trade agreements such as the TPP on an up-or-down vote without amendments.

With some fancy rhetorical footwork, Clinton was able to give them some fairly long-winded answers without saying much of anything. When asked if she thought the fast-track authority is appropriate, Clinton pointed out that Congress would not be passing the deal sight unseen. While the actual text of the TPP is not yet public, members of Congress and select others have access to the details.

"The TPA is a process issue. The issue for me is, what's in the deal?" Clinton said Monday. "I will wait and see what the deal is, and then I will tell you what I think about it."

That is not a very satisfying answer for more progressive members of Clinton's party. Labor unions and environmental groups bitterly oppose the trade deal and TPA, and liberal House Democrats were able to scuttle a vote Friday that would have allowed fast-track to move forward.

Clinton does not have much to lose by pleading ignorance about the details of the deal—which, to be fair, have not been finalized. If she were to come out against fast-track, as her Democratic opponents Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley have, she risks alienating more moderate Democrats and the White House while opening herself up to yet another line of attack from Republicans.

Another reporter asked Clinton if she believes the president should have fast-track authority. And, like any seasoned politician, Clinton successfully answered a yes-or-no question with an extended nonanswer, with some tautological rhetoric mixed in.

"If [Obama] wants to get fast-track authority, then he's going to have to try to figure out how to use the vote on Friday, to get some changes, to get fast track authority," Clinton said. "There's always room to maneuver, and I think this is one of those times."

The only problem is, if the White House had its druthers, the public would not be able to see the details of the deal until Congress had made it far easier to pass through without opposition. So under that timeline, Clinton weighing in on the details would be a foregone conclusion.

O'Malley—who has said he opposed the White House's fast-track authority—quickly set to work responding to Clinton's answers.

"For the thousands of American workers whose jobs are on the line with TPP, fast-track is not a 'process' issue, it's a straightforward vote on their future and their livelihood," Lis Smith, O'Malley's deputy campaign manager, said in a statement. "Governor O'Malley believes we must stop the fast-track vote in Congress now because TPP will be a bad deal for America's middle class. Now is a time for leadership, not political dodges."

Until Congressional Democrats reckon with the White House—which could happen as soon as this week—Clinton will have to continue walking the tightrope of vaguely criticizing the trade deal process and siding with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi while not upsetting the White House too much. And until then, Sanders and O'Malley will have some free political leverage of their own.

If Hillary Clinton wants to fix income inequality, here's how to do it // Yahoo News // Rick Newman – June 15, 2015

She has identified the right problem. The question is whether she'll be any better at solving it than, say, President Obama, who has tried and struggled.

Hillary Clinton has begun to articulate the issues she'll campaign on as she aims for the White House, focusing above all on the patchy prosperity that has left some Americans richer than ever while millions of others fall behind. "Prosperity can't be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers," she said during a recent speech her campaign managers characterized as a sort of coming-out party for the Democratic candidate. "The middle class needs more growth and more fairness."

While leaving specific proposals till later, Clinton vowed to boost middle-class incomes and reduce income inequality, which has been worsening for roughly 35 years. Expect that to be a familiar theme among all the 2016 presidential candidates, from Jeb Bush to Bernie Sanders, since Americans continue to say economic issues such as unemployment and stagnant wages are the nation's biggest problem. The growing gap between rich and poor obviously isn't new. But it now seems apparent that much of the middle class remains worse off than before the recession that began in 2007. That could become a decade-long decline in middle-class living standards by the time the next president takes office -- an unprecedented economic slump.

There are many ideas for how to reduce income inequality, and while none is exactly proven, there is a form of

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consensus on measures likely to be most effective. They include:

* Education and training programs that help people develop the skills most needed by employers.

* Tax reform that would lower rates on businesses, close loopholes and make the tax system leaner and more efficient.

* Public-private infrastructure programs that would invest more in roads and bridges while leveraging private-sector know-how to prioritize projects and assure they run efficiently.

* Better access to education, especially for underprivileged kids, including programs to make college more affordable.

* Streamlined regulations for businesses and especially for startups, which would make it easier for companies to expand, hire and thrive.

* Trade deals that open more foreign markets to U.S. products and services while protecting Americans who might be harmed if jobs move overseas.

Other ideas are more partisan, which could bedevil Clinton just as it has Obama, since whoever wins the White House in 2016 will probably have to work with a Republican-controlled House and possibly Senate. Liberal Democrats, for instance, want to raise taxes on the wealthy and transfer more money to those who might be struggling. Conservatives, by contrast, want to slash regulation, cut taxes and encourage the wealthy to spend more. For any president who wants to tackle income inequality, coming up with political compromises that include ideas appealing to both parties is at least as important as crafting an economic strategy, maybe more.

Obama has been vowing to combat income inequality for much of his time in office, with little to show for it. The economy has improved significantly since bottoming out in 2009, but it's been the slowest recovery since World War II. The Federal Reserve, which the White House doesn't control, has done more to stimulate the economy than any policy passed by Congress or driven by the White House. Obama has a detailed plan he calls "middle class economics" that would cut regulatory red tape, boost manufacturing, provide work retraining, improve access to education and do many other things to reduce the wealth gap. But Congress won't approve any of it and has even shot down bills to promote free trade, traditionally a Republican, not a Democratic, priority.

If Clinton basically adopts the Obama agenda, there's no reason to think she'll have any more success reducing income inequality than Obama has had. Instead, she might want to start by finding ways to give Republicans some of what they want, in order to get some of what she wants. If she doesn't, income inequality may continue to get worse, no matter how many speeches she gives on it.

Clinton urges tax cuts to help families pay for child care // Reuters – June 15, 2015

Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Monday called for a tax cut to help middle-class parents cope with rising child care costs and said she wanted to boost services for low-income families with young children.

"We shouldn't think of child care as just a place to deposit our children, a warehouse," Clinton said during a campaign event in Rochester, New Hampshire.

Clinton, the former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state, is seeking the Democratic nomination for president in the November 2016 elections, her second bid for the party nod.

This time, much of her campaign has focused on promoting liberal policies aimed at helping low-income and middle-class families, children and working women.

On Monday, Clinton said she wanted to expand Early Head Start, a federally funded program that provides education and health services to low-income families with young children.

Clinton will press for states and communities to guarantee in the next 10 years that every American 4-year-old can attend a high-quality preschool, and she will roll out other proposals related to children in the coming months, an official with her presidential campaign said in a statement.

Clinton, in NH, calls for universal preschool, chides GOP // Union Leader // Dan Tuohy – June 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton called for universal preschool Monday while accusing Republicans of "missing the boat" on the importance of early childhood education.

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Clinton made her remarks at a forum at the Rochester YMCA, the first of three events in New Hampshire as she seeks to shift her Democratic presidential campaign into a higher gear.

Clinton, answering a question on funding for education, criticized Republicans.

"Republican leaders aren't just missing the boat on early childhood education they are trying to sink it," she said. "In their budget proposal they cut funding for Head Start. Did they cut subsidies oil companies? No. Did they go after carried interest for those running hedge funds? No. The leaders took care of those at the top and went after the kids."

Clinton's remarks were are being provided by a press pool of the event.

She is scheduled to speak before a larger rally at Carter Orchard in Concord during the early afternoon.

This is Clinton's first visit to New Hampshire since her relaunch speech Saturday in New York City.

Three others are running for the Democratic Party's nomination: Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

As Clinton's day began, her campaign was dealing with a controversy from a national print pool reporter being barred access to the candidate's first event at the Rochester YMCA. David Martosko, who is the U.S. political editor for the Daily Mail of London, said he was denied access.

Clinton's front-runner status remains apparent from statements issued Monday from her Democratic opponents. Matt Sheaff, New Hampshire deputy state director for O'Malley, called O'Malley the "only candidate in this race who has 15 years of executive experience expanding access to pre-K education."

Hillary Clinton Offers Obama-Like Vision for America // NBC News // Perry Bacon Jr. – June 15, 2015

In her first major campaign speech Saturday, Hillary Clinton promised essentially a more aggressive and liberal version of Barack Obama's presidency, listing a series of challenges such as the huge wealth gap between the rich and the rest of America that the president has tried to address but even many Democrats say Obama has not fully solved.

Clinton's husband famously declared in 1996 that "the era of big government is over." But the former secretary of state and First Lady argued in her campaign "kickoff speech" that the wealthy and the powerful are increasingly capturing the gains of the U.S. economy and that a more forceful role for the government is needed to help middle-class and poor Americans.

While not explaining how she would fund these programs, Clinton urged the creation of millions of clean-energy jobs, paid sick and family leave for all workers and pre-school for all American children.

Clinton said she would push to make sure women get paid as much as men and reform the nation's immigration laws to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Obama has proposed versions of all of those ideas.

But Clinton went further left than the president on some issues, calling for automatically registering all Americans to vote when they hit age 18 and a constitutional amendment to limit how much wealthy individuals and corporations can be spend on political campaigns.

"The middle class needs more growth and more fairness, for a lasting prosperity," Clinton said.

Her speech illustrated the sharp changes in politics since Obama's election in 2008. Obama rose to the presidency with a huge focus on foreign affairs, namely getting U.S. troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan. And the president suggested he would unify Washington and end the bickering between the two parties.

Clinton's speech had only a few sentences on national security, even though she served as Secretary of State from 2009-2013. This may reflect the challenges Obama and his team have faced in trying to wind down the U.S. military presence abroad while also preventing civil wars and the rise of groups like ISIS in the Middle East.

Clinton made a few nods to working with Republicans, but much of her language was a blistering attack on the GOP. Clinton suggested Republicans are obsessed with cutting taxes on the rich, ready to deport undocumented immigrants and intolerant toward gay, lesbian and transgender Americans.

"They shame and blame women rather than respect our right to make our own reproductive health decisions,"

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Clinton said in her remarks.

At another point in the speech, Clinton argued Republicans, "turn their backs on gay people who love each other."

In another shift from the start of her husband and Obama's presidencies, Clinton was very populist in tone, reflecting a Democratic Party that in 2015 increasingly views Wall Street and the financial sector as directly pitted against everyday Americans. She specifically named nurses and veterans as the kind of people who she is looking to help.

"While many of you are working multiple jobs to make ends meet, you see the top 25 hedge fund managers making more than all of America's kindergarten teachers combined. And, often paying a lower tax rate," Clinton said.

She added, "Prosperity can't just be for CEO's and hedge managers," Clinton said. "Democracy can't just be for billionaires and corporations."

And Clinton, dogged for months over the millions she and her husband have made by giving speeches to financial institutions, said "reining in the banks" was one of her major goals.

Clinton's speech was akin to a State of the Union address by a sitting president at times, as she covered a wide range of different policy issues without going into great detail on any. It at times closely paralled the State of the Union Obama gave in January, in part because Clinton and the presidency share many of the same policy ideas.

The kickoff speech, delivered in New York, will do little to alter the direction of the 2016 race. Clinton, who had been expected to run for years before, formally announced her candidacy in April and is the overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination.

And many of the ideas Clinton articulated are familiar to Republicans, since President Obama has proposed many of them.

But Clinton's focus on gay rights, voting rights and women's pay pose challenges for the GOP. Obama won in 2008 and 2012 in part because young, minority and female voters heavily favored him.

Clinton' speech illustrated that she will appeal strongly to those same voting blocs. Republicans will have to figure out both issues and political appeals that can blunt her advantages among these voters.

Ex-Obama Advisor: In the Game of Dynasties, House Clinton Will Always Crush House Bush // Mediaite // Josh Feldman – June 15, 2015

The excitement for a potential matchup between Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush is... well, virtually non-existent. If 2016 ends up being Clinton v. Bush again, many voters will likely grow fatigued and roll their eyes.

But in the game of dynasties, who will reign supreme and be deemed fit to rule King's Land––er, the United States?

Well, following Bush's announcement today, former Obama advisor Dan Pfeiffer talked about which candidates would have the best chance against Clinton, like Marco Rubio and Scott Walker.

As for a Clinton-Bush match-up, "I think Jeb Bush would be one of the worst nominees Republicans could have because if you're having a battle of dynasties, the Clinton dynasty's gonna beat the Bush dynasty every time."

Or they burn the country to the ground and Donald Trump becomes king of the ashes.

Sunday Spin from Clinton Surrogates // FactCheck.org // D'Angelo Gore & Eugene Kiely – June 15, 2015

Two of Hillary Clinton's high-profile surrogates made false and misleading claims on the Sunday talk shows the day after she officially kicked off her campaign:

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said that "no poll shows that voters don't trust Hillary Clinton." That's false. At least two recent polls, one conducted by CNN and one jointly by the Washington Post and ABC News, found that a majority did not find Clinton to be "honest and trustworthy."

Bill Clinton claimed "we didn't have a commerce secretary" for "much of the time" his wife was secretary of state, so she did economic diplomacy work that nobody was doing. In fact, for most of her time in office — 36 of 48 months — there was a Senate-confirmed commerce secretary on the job.

Trust in Clinton

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On CBS' "Face the Nation," Mook flat-out rejected host John Dickerson's claim that "polls have shown" that "voters do not trust" Hillary Clinton.

Dickerson, June 14: Here's the question that — when I talk to Democratic strategists, people who even are anxious for her to be president. They say she can list a lot of things. The biggest problem for her is trust. The voters in the polls have shown this. Voters do not trust her. How does she overcome that?

Mook: Well, first of all, there — no poll shows that voters don't trust Hillary Clinton.

Dickerson: They don't find her honest and trustworthy.

Mook: Well, no poll says that.

But Mook is wrong.

A Washington Post/ABC News national poll published on June 3 found that 52 percent of all adults, and 56 percent of registered voters, answered "no" when asked if Clinton was "honest and trustworthy." Just 41 percent of all adults, and 38 percent of registered voters, said that she was. The poll had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

Langer Research Associates, which produced the poll, noted that Clinton's ratings for honesty and trust had declined significantly since about this time last year.

Langer Research Associates, June 2: Perhaps most alarmingly for her campaign, the number who see Clinton as honest and trustworthy has dropped from 53 percent a year ago, then 46 percent two months ago, to 41 percent now. Fifty-two percent now don't see her as honest and trustworthy, the most, again, since April 2008.

A CNN-ORC International survey from late May produced similar results.
In that poll, 57 percent of those asked said that "honest and trustworthy" are not characteristics that apply to Clinton. And only 42 percent said they did apply to her. The poll had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

The percentage who didn't find Clinton "honest and trustworthy" was up 8 percentage points from March of this year and up 14 points since March 2014.

Mook argued that "the central question in this race is whether voters can trust Hillary Clinton to be a tenacious fighter for them, to go to bat for them, to push back on the stacked deck that has kept the middle class behind."

"And the answer to that is overwhelmingly yes," he said.

Neither poll asked the question that Mook posed. However, they did ask if Clinton "understands the problems of people like you" and "cares about people like you." We'll note that the answers were not "overwhelmingly yes."

In the Washington Post/ABC News poll, 49 percent of all adults, and 47 percent of registered voters, said that Clinton understands their problems. On the other hand, 46 percent of all adults, and 50 percent of registered voters, said that she did not.

In the CNN-ORC International poll, 52 percent of respondents said that "cares about people like you" is not a characteristic that applies to Clinton, while 47 percent felt that it did apply.

No Commerce Secretary?

On CNN's "State of the Union," Bill Clinton made his remarks about the commerce secretary and economic diplomacy when asked if any contributors to the Clinton Foundation sought favors from the State Department. He said he did not know.

Bill Clinton, June 14: But I will say this. She believed — and I did too. I did the same thing when I was president. She believed that part of the [job of the] secretary of state was to advance America's economic interests around the world and for much of the time she was secretary, for a number of complex reasons, we didn't have a commerce secretary. Now we've got Penny Pritzker and she's very vigorous and very good, I think. But we didn't have one. If she hadn't been doing this economic diplomacy work, nobody would have been doing this.

The fact is that for much of the time there was a Senate-confirmed commerce secretary during Hillary Clinton's four years in office.

Hillary Clinton headed the State Department for about 48 months, from Jan. 21, 2009, to Feb. 1, 2013. For 36 of those 48 months, Gary Locke and John Bryson served as commerce secretaries. Gary Locke served from March 26, 2009, to Aug. 1, 2011. John Bryson served from Oct. 21, 2011, until June 11, 2012, before officially resigning

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for health reasons on June 21, 2012. (He was involved in two car accidents June 9 after suffering a seizure.)

Before Locke took office, Otto Wolf served as acting secretary for a little more than two months, from Jan. 21, 2009, to March 26, 2009. After Locke resigned, Rebecca Blank served as the acting secretary for nearly three months, from Aug. 1, 2011, to Oct. 21, 2011. Blank also served as acting commerce secretary after Bryson took a leave of absence, and she remained as acting secretary after he resigned. In all, Wolf and Blank served in an acting capacity for about 12 of the 48 months that Hillary Clinton was in office. That's not "much of the time"; that's some of the time.

As for Clinton using her office "to advance America's economic interests around the world," as her husband put it, the State Department has long been involved in economic diplomacy.

In 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice created an advisory board to make recommendations on how to "transform the Department of State." In a 2007 report, the 17-member panel — which included Carly Fiorina, who is now a Republican presidential candidate — recommended elevating economic diplomacy.

The Advisory Committee on Transformational Diplomacy, 2007: Maintaining U.S. leadership in a rapidly growing and "flattening" global economy will be one of the pre-eminent challenges for U.S. diplomacy in the 21st century. The Department of State must increase its focus on economic diplomacy, bolster its capabilities in this area, and bring a forward-looking, strategic unity to USG foreign economic and development policy.

Under Clinton, the State Department did elevate economic diplomacy. On Feb. 16, 2012, Clinton announced an initiative she called "Economic Statecraft." Among other things, the department created a new position called the under secretary for economic growth, energy, and the environment.

But the initiative, which came in her final 12 months in office, was launched while Bryson was serving as commerce secretary. In fact, Bryson addressed the first-ever State Department Global Business Conference, which was Feb. 21-22, 2012.

So Hillary Clinton was involved in economic diplomacy and even elevated it, but it's not accurate to say that the Obama administration "didn't have a commerce secretary" for "much of the time" that Clinton was at the State Department or that she did economic diplomacy alone.

Hillary Clinton, the center-left's champion **// Newsday // Stephen Stromberg – June 15, 2015**

Hillary Clinton ended much of the suspense about what she's running on, delivering her first full campaign-style stump speech on New York's Roosevelt Island on Saturday. The result was a platform of workmanlike liberal policy that neither mimics her husband's agenda nor fully dignifies the populists pushing the Democratic Party from the country's ideological governing space. America's center-left has a champion.

Clothed in rhetoric condemning economic and social inequality, Clinton's address acknowledged the power of the Obama coalition of young and minority voters, striking a very different note from the triangulated social conservatism of her husband's presidency. She promised to help pretty much everyone except Republican presidential candidates and hedge-fund managers, arguing that the country needs an "inclusive economy" supported by an "inclusive society."

She proposed laws barring discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, backed universal preschool and child care, supported a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants with clean records, demanded easier access to the polls and endorsed a constitutional amendment re-imposing restrictions on political spending.

In one of the best lines in her speech, Clinton mocked the cowardice of Republicans who dodge reporters' questions on climate change. "They'll say, 'I'm not a scientist,'" she said. "Well, then why don't they start listening to those who are?" In one of the worst lines in her speech, Clinton again punted on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, bowing to progressives' current anti-trade hysteria. "Advances in technology and the rise of global trade have created whole new areas of economic activity and opened new markets for our exports," she said, "but they have also displaced jobs and undercut wages for millions of Americans."

But, thankfully, Clinton also avoided some of the worst populist excesses of the Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party. Crucially, Clinton emphasized the importance of economic growth, innovation and efficient government, not rigid regulatory and tax policies or unaffordable expansions of entitlements. "The middle class needs more growth and more fairness," she said. "Growth and fairness go together. For lasting prosperity, you can't have one without the other."

Clinton appears to be aligning herself with Democrats who stress the importance of economic competitiveness and flexibility in enabling the country to keep up with global competition and advance the standard of living.

It remains to be seen whether Clinton can harness the energy of progressives without buying more fully into their

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extravagances. But for those seeking care and substance, her speech was a pretty good opening move.

Hillary and Bill Clinton: Campaign Speech Twinsies **// TIME // Nell Scovell – June 15, 2015**

All campaign speeches have overlap. Blah, blah, middle class… Wah-wah education… Rah-rah, opportunity for all. But comparing then Governor Clinton's kick-off campaign speech on October 3, 1991, with former Senator Hillary Clinton's kick-off campaign speech on June 13, 2015, reveals some interesting overlaps and omissions.

ROOSEVELT MENTIONED

Bill: Teddy

Hillary: Franklin

STRUGGLES THEIR MOTHERS ENDURED

Bill: "My mother had been widowed three months before I was born. I was raised for four years by my grandparents, while she went back to nursing school."

Hillary: "[My mother's] own parents abandoned her, and by 14 she was out on her own, working as a housemaid."

24 YEARS AND DOCTORS STILL HAVEN'T FOUND A CURE FOR DC'S PARALYSIS

Bill: "… all we have out of Washington is status quo paralysis. No vision, no action. Just neglect, selfishness, and division."

Hillary: "Our political system is so paralyzed by gridlock and dysfunction that most Americans have lost confidence that anything can actually get done."

WHAT DO WE WANT? EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT. WHEN DO WE WANT IT? ONE OF THESE DAYS WOULD BE NICE…

Bill: "I want to reinvent government to make it more efficient and more effective."

Hillary: "Government is never going to have all the answers — but it has to be smarter, simpler, more efficient…"

STILL WAITING ON THAT CLEANER, SAFER PLANET…

Bill: "…We must protect our environment and develop an energy policy that relies more on conservation and clean natural gas so all our children will inherit a world that is cleaner, safer, and more beautiful."

Hillary: "And we will make America the clean energy superpower of the 21st century. Developing renewable power — wind, solar, advanced biofuels. Building cleaner power plants, smarter electric grids, greener buildings…"

AH, YES, THE 'PROMISE OF AMERICA'

Bill: "The small towns and main streets of America aren't like the corridors and backrooms of Washington. People out here don't care about the idle rhetoric of 'left' and 'right' and 'liberal' and 'conservative'… These families are crying out desperately for someone who believes the promise of America is to help them with their struggle to get ahead…"

Hillary: "There are allies for change everywhere who know we can't stand by while inequality increases, wages stagnate, and the promise of America dims."

THINGS BILL MENTIONED THAT HILLARY DID NOT

Communism, Cold War, the American Dream, Welfare, New Millennium, Hope

THINGS HILLARY MENTIONED THAT BILL DID NOT

LGBT Community, Biofuels, Technology, Hedge Fund Managers, Silicon Valley, Coloring hair

THINGS NEITHER OF THEM MENTIONED

Yale

BEST QUOTE/PROPHECY

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Bill: “I’m not out to soak the rich. I wouldn’t mind being rich.”

Hillary: “Well, I may not be the youngest candidate in this race. But I will be the youngest woman President in the history of the United States.”

The Critical Missing Sentence From Hillary Clinton's Roosevelt Island Speech // Forbes // Rick Ungar – June 15, 2015

As one whose political philosophy tends to lean to the left, it should come as no surprise that there was much in Hillary Clinton’s “reintroduction” speech that I found to my liking.

But there was something missing—something that would have told me, and millions of Americans who want to support Mrs. Clinton but just aren’t yet convinced, that she understands that progressives are grown-ups who are more than capable of hearing reality and responding positively to the same.

More on that in a moment.

The speech began well for me. After all, what Democrat with an understanding of our nation’s history is not a sucker for a speech designed to follow in the legendary footsteps of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

By the way, if you do not have much of a historical understanding or “feel” for what FDR was all about, it wouldn’t be a terrible idea to watch the multi-part PBS special on The Roosevelts—brilliantly put together by Ken Burns—to gain some sense of how the modern Democratic Party came to be.

Doing what no presidential candidate has done in a very long time, Mrs. Clinton invoked and honored this most significant of American presidents, not only by holding her first major rally on New York’s Roosevelt Island, but by reminding one and all of the greatness of Roosevelt and what has allowed him to achieve such status in the pantheon of great American leaders, noting:

“President Roosevelt called on every American to do his or her part, and every American answered. He said there’s no mystery about what it takes to build a strong and prosperous America: ‘Equality of opportunity… Jobs for those who can work… Security for those who need it… The ending of special privilege for the few… The preservation of civil liberties for all… a wider and constantly rising standard of living.’ That still sounds good to me,” Clinton said. “It’s America’s basic bargain. If you do your part you ought to be able to get ahead. And when everybody does their part, America gets ahead too.”

Not only was Mrs. Clinton bringing context to what makes a Democrat a Democrat, she managed to channel her inner-Elizabeth Warren to the base of her party—a base that fears that Hillary Clinton is running to be “triangulator-in-chief,” meaning that she may be all too willing to make any number of deals with the devil if it gets her the presidency.

While the speech likely bolstered Hillary’s stock with the left-wing base—who will remain suspicious if temporarily mollified—Clinton miscalculated in one area and, by so doing, failed in the opportunity to reach out to the average American who describes himself or herself as socially moderate or liberal while fiscally conservative.

The fact that Mrs. Clinton provided a laundry list supporting virtually every liberal cause in the book in the effort to establish her social progressiveness was certainly to be expected. And while some of the items on her list of objectives could be accomplished at no financial cost to the nation, most of her proposals would, indeed, come with a heavy price tag.

That is a reality that will not be missed by millions of progressives, not to mention the independent and centrist Americans whose support is critical to a candidate of either party.

Mrs. Clinton would have done well to confront that elephant on the island head on.

After putting forth her wish list for a better America, Hillary would have been wise to point out that much of this will cost money—more money than the nation actually has or can expect to have in the years to come. As a result, it will be necessary to prioritize her goals in the effort to create that America where everyone willing to work has a chance for a better life.

Clinton should then have invited Americans to tell her how they would set the priorities of her administration so as to guide her along the path to succeeding in many—if not all—of her goals without breaking a bank that is already hanging by a chad.

By failing to call out this reality, Mrs. Clinton pretended that she could, somehow, succeed in bringing about all of these transformative proposals in an eight year period and that this would be doable without further digging the

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debt hole even larger than it already is.

Hillary Clinton has always been to Obama's left on economics // VOX // Matthew Iglesias – June 15, 2015

At a dramatic weekend rally on Roosevelt Island, Hillary Clinton unleashed a speech that was in some ways strikingly liberal, especially for a candidate who's not facing meaningful opposition in the Democratic primary. Politico's Glenn Thrush says it shows that "the Democratic Party is moving left fast" and Clinton knows it, which is why she uncorked "economic-inequality rhetoric could have been comfortably uttered by the likes of Elizabeth Warren, Joseph Stiglitz, Bernie Sanders, or Martin O'Malley."

The truth, however, is that on the kind of pocketbook issues Clinton spent most of yesterday's speech discussing, she's always been on the left wing of the Democratic Party. She's been in the public eye far too long to have avoided inconsistencies over the years. But in positional terms, somewhat to the left of Obama — or Bill Clinton — on economics is where she's been this whole time.

Clinton's voting record was to the left of Obama's

In 2008, both Clinton and Obama spent a lot of time debating a single fateful vote she cast in 2002 in favor of George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq. But if you look at all the votes that were cast during the four years they served together in the Senate, it was Clinton who amassed the more liberal record.

In the 109th Senate, Obama was the 17th most liberal member (between Chuck Schumer and Tom Harkin), while Clinton was the 13th most liberal member.

In the 110th Senate, Obama was the 18th most liberal member (again one tick to the left of Schumer) while Clinton was again 13th most liberal.
Another way of looking at it is that of the two Democratic senators from New York, Clinton was the more liberal. Of the two Democratic senators from Illinois, Obama was the more conservative.

Of course, one could say that these kind of crude vote-agglomeration methods miss a lot of what matters. A single vote on Iraq was more consequential than dozens of votes on budget amendments. But this is the point. Clinton's reputation as a centrist Democrat comes largely from her foreign policy. On the economic issues that dominate congressional votes by volume, she's liberal.

On economics, Clinton ran left in 2008

In keeping with her voting record, Clinton ran to Obama's left on economic issues in the 2008 primaries. This manifested itself most clearly on the subject of health care, where Clinton was willing to include a politically unpopular individual mandate to buy health insurance as part of a program for universal coverage. Obama was not willing to go so far, and came in for substantial criticism from liberals for it. Less famously, Clinton proposed a Cabinet-level poverty czar position — an idea that might make a comeback in 2016.

The ideological divide here was not large, but it was reflected in patterns of support for the two candidates. Clinton secured more labor union backing than Obama, and Obama did better than Clinton at gaining primary votes from self-identified independents.

Much of the primary debate ended up focusing on foreign policy, where Clinton was (and continues to be) more hawkish than Obama. But there's nothing new about her running left on economics.

Hillary led the left wing of the Clinton administration

Reaching further back in time, there is considerable evidence that Hillary was to the left of her husband on economics in the 1990s. As Peter Beinart recounts, she was the senior adviser through whom liberals generally tried to win over the White House.

Carl Bernstein reports that in 1993, Hillary opposed the decision to prioritize deficit reduction, saying, "You didn't get elected to do Wall Street economics."

Sally Bedell Smith reports that in 1995, Hillary and Robert Reich tried (and failed) to get Bill to make a big stink about CEO pay.

George Stephanopoulos, who was in a position to know, referred to Hillary as "the most powerful liberal in the White House."

A then-obscure law professor named Elizabeth Warren reached out to Hillary and helped convince her to persuade her husband to veto a bank-friendly bankruptcy bill at the very end of the Clinton administration.

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Some of this, especially the parts about Clinton being out of step with the Wall Street wing of the party, has been obscured by subsequent events. Clinton, for example, flip-flopped on the bankruptcy issue in 2005.

But one should be cautious about reading too much into a New York politician's friendliness to Wall Street — especially a politician with such tenuous ties to New York. As a senator from Illinois, Obama was an ally of the Illinois coal industry. Elizabeth Warren is a dogmatic liberal on virtually every issue, but also a loyal ally of the medical device industry, which happens to be substantially based in the Boston area. Things can change over time, but it seems likely that First Lady Hillary Clinton rather than Fake New Yorker Hillary Clinton is the better guide to her views on Wall Street.

Hillary Clinton Calls Trade Stalemate 'a Process Issue' // Bloomberg News // Ali Elkin – June 15, 2015

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton on Monday continued to hedge on whether President Barack Obama should have fast-track authority in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement—and whether she would want it if she were the president.

"I'm going to say this," she said, speaking to reporters at an orchard in Concord, N.H. "I believe that you take whatever happens to you in a negotiation and you try to leverage it. In this case, I believe that one of the ways the president could get fast-track authority is to deal with the legitimate concerns of those Democrats who are potential 'yes' voters, to see what within the negotiation or what's even in the existing framework agreement that's being drafted, could be modified or changed."

Saying the failed House vote on Friday was "a process issue," Clinton echoed her remarks on Sunday in Iowa. “The president should listen to and work with his allies in Congress, starting with Nancy Pelosi,” she said. “And if we don't get it, there should be no deal.”

Monday's press conference followed weeks of complaints from reporters about Clinton's lack of availability, as well as a weekend of appearances by members of her staff, who also would not give an opinion on Clinton's behalf about the trade agreement. Senator Bernie Sanders and others have sharply criticized Clinton's refusal to take a position. "I am not clear, nor do I believe the American people are clear, as to what Secretary Clinton's position is," he said. "Is she for it or is she against it? Those are your two options."

After the failure of a strategic vote crucial to sending fast-track trade authority to the White House—a stunning defeat for Obama—Republicans are pushing for a new vote this week.

In New Hampshire, Clinton also touched on the criticism that her own family's wealth stands at odds with her campaign's populist message.

"I'm very grateful for the success that Bill and I have had," she said. "We both come from hardworking families and we have worked really hard, both of us, over the course of our lives and we feel blessed. We feel absolutely grateful for the opportunities that we've had. But I've been saying pretty much the same thing since I was a college student: I'm proud of my progressive credentials and experiences and accomplishments and I am waging a campaign about what I think is best for the country and it's going to be up to the American people to draw their own conclusions."

Clinton campaign bans national pool reporter from N.H. events // The Boston Globe // Annie Linskey – June 15, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential campaign this morning banned a representative from the national print pool from attending any of her events in New Hampshire, a development that will make coverage for her trip to New Hampshire spotty for some of the country’s largest print outlets.

The campaign team for Clinton, who is a former US secretary of state, is not allowing a reporter from the Daily Mail, a London news outlet, to have access to her events. Nick Merrill, a Clinton campaign spokesman, said that the campaign is getting “blowback” from foreign outlets. Foreign outlets have not been granted access to some Clinton events because the campaign wants to give preference to US publications.

“We need to rethink it all, maybe for a day,” Merrill told David Martosko, a reporter for the Daily Mail, according to the reporter’s account of the conversation sent to other outlets in the national pool. “And just cool things off until we can have a discussion.”

The flap is the latest flashpoint between the Clinton campaign and the political press corps. Clinton has only answered a handful of questions from the press, and over the weekend sat for her first interviews since she declared her candidacy in mid-April. Her near universal name recognition sets her apart from other political candidates who typically seek news coverage to promote their campaigns.

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Instead, intense media interest in the Clinton campaign prompted the campaign to request that the media form a pool for coverage. In the pool, a group of roughly a dozen outlets take turns traveling to cover Clinton in small, closed events and write reports off her remarks. The dispatches are first shared by e-mail with the outlets participating in the rotation, and then sent at the end of the day to all interested news outlets.

The pool was organized by the participating media, not the Clinton campaign. Any print outlet that commits to join the traveling rotation can join. It's currently being run by reporters from Buzzfeed and Politico.

Merrill said the Daily Mail reporter was denied because the campaign is trying to follow White House conventions for pooled coverage. The Daily Mail hasn't been added to the White House's regular print pool – though the publication does have a regular White House correspondent with a so-called "hard pass" that allows her access to the West Wing.

The Boston Globe, which participates in the Clinton traveling press pool and the White House pool, has access to Clinton's events today because a reporter from the paper was selected as a member of the local pool. The Globe's circulation area includes New Hampshire. The Clinton campaign has a policy to always allow wire reporters access to pool events.

Clinton is holding three events today, and two of them are open only to pooled coverage. Those include a forum in this morning in Rochester, N.H., on early childhood education and a dinner this evening in Manchester. Clinton is set to give the keynote address at the Manchester City Democrats Flag Day Dinner.

When Martosko showed up at their first event in Rochester, he said he was denied access inside the YMCA of Strafford County by a "Secret Service agent." When he requested to use the restroom, the agent told him the area had already gone through a security sweep and he should "hit the woods."

Unlike her Democratic rivals, Clinton's campaign has only held a handful of public events since she announced her candidacy – meaning access to the smaller or pooled events are critical to understanding how she's formulating positions.

For example, on Sunday, Clinton gave a full explanation of her position on trade Sunday evening at a small house party in Burlington, Iowa. She also foreshadowed this morning's Rochester forum by saying the campaign will focus on early childhood education.

Hillary Clinton Again Avoids Taking A Position On Trade Deal // NBC News // Leigh Ann Caldwell – June 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton gave her first organized news conference on Monday since she announced her candidacy two months ago. Despite being pressed on her position on the trade deal that has divided Democrats and consumed Congress, Clinton still refused to take a position and maintained that she would "judge the final product."

"I will judge what's in the final agreement but hope it can be made better," Clinton told reporters in New Hampshire.

Like she did in Iowa over the weekend, Clinton said she thinks President Barack Obama should use the failure of the trade agreement in the House of Representatives as leverage to get more out of the deal and attract more Democrats.

"I think this is a chance to use this leverage so the deal does become one that more Americans and more members of Congress can vote for," she said.

While Clinton gave Obama such advice, she also praised him for an economic recovery and said he "doesn't get the credit he deserves."

"I think the president has done an extraordinary job dealing with a terrible set of issues," she said of the president coming into office amidst a deep recession.

The former Secretary of State also addressed the criticism that she is too wealthy to understand the needs of the middle class and those who are struggling financially. She said she's "proud of her progressive credentials," adding that she's believed in progressive ideals "since college."

"When I say I'm going to fight ... that's what I'm going to do every single day," Clinton said.

De Blasio says Hillary Clinton lacks 'vision' // Marisa Schultz and Michael Gartland – June 15, 2015

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Even after delivering a campaign speech packed with eat-the-rich rhetoric, Hillary Clinton was still unable Sunday to win an endorsement from her far-left-leaning former protégé, Mayor Bill de Blasio.

“I’ve been waiting to hear a vision,” de Blasio said. “She’s doing more each time to give us a clearer picture, and I’m very optimistic, but we’ve got to see the plan of how she’s going to turn around this horrible income-inequality problem.”

In her Saturday campaign kickoff rally on Roosevelt Island, Clinton pledged support for gay rights, universal pre-K, paid family leave and higher wages for workers — all while vowing to keep corporate CEOs and hedge-fund managers in check.

But it wasn’t enough for de Blasio, who seeks to be a progressive kingmaker.
“It was a great speech,” he conceded, calling her “tremendously qualified.”

“I really commend her for what I thought was a powerful and progressive speech.”
Still, he said, he wants “to see those details.”

Clinton took another progressive turn Sunday by offering support for the Democrats, led by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who together defied President Obama on Friday in sinking a key trade-deal vote.

“The president should listen to and work with his allies in Congress, starting with Nancy Pelosi, who had expressed their concerns about the impact that a weak agreement would have on our workers to make sure we get the best, strongest deal possible,” Clinton told about 600 supporters in Iowa at her first public rally. “And if we don’t get it, there should be no deal.”

Clinton had been pounded from the right and left for failing to pick a side on whether to grant Obama fast-track authority for an Asia trade deal.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, her rival for the Democratic nomination, said Sunday on CBS’s “Face the Nation” that the trade deal would be a “disaster” and that Clinton should “side with every union in the country” and oppose the measure.

Earlier Sunday, Rep. Paul Ryan called her silence on the issue “mystifying.”

“Pick a position; that’s what leaders do,” he said on “Fox News Sunday” after a Clinton spokeswoman punted the question.

Meanwhile, hubby Bill Clinton sought to build up Hillary’s trust after a poll found that more than half of Americans believe her to be dishonest.

“I trust her with my life,” he told CNN’s “State of the Union.”

And he dismissed allegations that his wife’s policies as secretary of state were influenced by foreign donors to the family’s Clinton Foundation.

“She was pretty busy those years,” Bill Clinton said. “I never saw her study a list of my contributors, and I had no idea who was doing business before the State Department.”
Also Sunday, Hillary Clinton sat for an interview with Radio Iowa in Des Moines, where she equated the attacks on her as “a strange form of respect and even flattery, because if they weren’t so concerned about me, they’d leave me alone.

“They get up every day, you know, worried that the case I’m making will break through,” she said.

Hillary Clinton Is Taking Sides in Obama's Trade Fight With Liberal Democrats // Mic // Gregory Krieg – June 15, 2015

In politics, there is a distinct difference between giving an answer to a question and actually answering the question. Reporters have for weeks been asking Hillary Clinton's campaign whether she supports giving President Barack Obama the power to unilaterally negotiate a controversial trade deal currently pitting the White House against liberal Democratic leaders in Congress. For weeks, Clinton and her team seem to have done everything in their power to avoid giving a serious answer.

On Sunday in Iowa, that changed.

Speaking to a crowd of supporters in Des Moines, then in separate interviews with the Des Moines Register and Radio Iowa, Clinton broke from Obama and urged the administration to both partner with House Democratic

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Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and use the opposition in her caucus as leverage to negotiate a more labor-friendly version of the pending 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership.

"I think what Nancy Pelosi said on the floor when she voted to essentially stop it is the right approach to take," Clinton told the Register.

Following an afternoon rally, Clinton went into greater detail, telling Radio Iowa that Obama should "go back to the other countries and say: 'You want a lot out of this. I need more. Our market is still the biggest, most consumer friendly in the world, but I can't go forward unless I get X, Y and Z from you.'"

"Convince people who are convincible ... that you have answered some of the legitimate questions that have been raised," she said.

Clinton was just as blunt during her live remarks, according to MSNBC, saying Obama "should listen to and work with his allies in Congress, starting with Nancy Pelosi, who has expressed concern about the impact a trade agreement could have on our workers, to make sure we get the best deal possible.

"And if we don't get it, there should be no deal."

Why it matters: While this might seem pretty cut-and-dry, Clinton's critics continue to assert that she is vacillating. But here's the thing: Clinton is not running for a seat in Congress. If she was, it would make sense for voters and journalists to demand an immediate, real-time answer on whether she would vote to give the president "fast-track" authority. That bit of legislation, also called Trade Provisional Authority, provides the White House with the autonomy to negotiate the trade agreement and present it to Congress for a straight up-or-down vote without amendments.

But Clinton is running for president. With her comments Sunday, Clinton simply articulated what she would do if elected to the office she is campaigning to win. (Though it would be reasonable to assume, given her explicit backing of Pelosi's tactics, that she would have voted with the liberal detractors.)

If we can't accept that level of nuance, then it is the line of questioning, not Clinton's answers, that begins to seem disingenuous or cynical. There are plenty of reasons to oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership on its face. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), is a vocal opponent of free trade expansion, stating his very reasonable worries that these agreements tend to favor multinational corporations at the expense of American workers.

You might agree with Sanders. There is a lot of evidence showing that the North American Free Trade Agreement, signed by former President Bill Clinton in 1993 after being granted an extension to his "fast-track" authorities, was a disaster for the U.S. middle class. But the TPP is a new deal. Obama calls it the "most progressive trade agreement in our nation's history." Is he being truthful? The administration's decision to keep the details hidden from the public is a good reason to be skeptical.

Either way, Clinton has planted her flag. As she said later during her talk with Radio Iowa, "I'm going to set forth what I believe, what I think will work ... and then people will make their own decisions."

Top hedge fund managers make more than all kindergarten teachers combined // Politifact // Lauren Carroll – June 15, 2015

At her presidential campaign kick-off rally June 13, Hillary Clinton said the rich are getting richer, while many Americans are struggling to make ends meet. Case in point: the disparity between Wall Street hedge fund managers and kindergarten teachers.

"While many of you are working multiple jobs to make ends meet," she said, "you see the top 25 hedge fund managers making more than all of America's kindergarten teachers combined. And, often paying a lower tax rate."

Is the salary gap between kindergarten teachers and hedge fund managers really so wide? We decided to check it out. (We previously looked into a Clinton claim about taxes among the working class and the ultra-wealthy.)

Kindergarten teachers

The best data we could find on kindergarten teachers comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Other statistical sources, such as the National Center for Education Statistics, don't separate out kindergarten teachers specifically.

According to a 2014 BLS report, there are about 158,000 kindergarten teachers in the United States. The figure includes teachers from both public and private schools, though it excludes special education instructors.

The average annual pay for a kindergarten teacher is $53,480 -- ranging from less than $34,000 to more than

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$78,000. This is higher than what the average preschoolteacher makes, but slightly lower than that of elementary, middle and high schoolteachers.

So the aggregate pay for kindergarten teachers is about $8.5 billion.

For some historical context, Susan Moore Johnson, an education professor at Harvard University, said kindergarten teachers have traditionally been paid less than teachers at higher grade levels. But the implementation of district-wide pay scales has made pay mostly uniform across all grades within a district -- with exact salary varying based on experience and education, rather than the grade level. However, this is not the case in all districts.

Johnson added that, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, private school elementary teachers get paid, on average, several thousand dollars less than their public school counterparts.

So how does the $8.5 billion collective salary of America's kindergarten teachers compare to the top-25 hedge fund managers' take-home pay? This number is a little bit more elusive.

Hedge fund managers

In its 2015 ranking of the top-earning hedge fund managers, Institutional Investor's Alpha magazine said the group of 25 collectively earned $11.62 billion in compensation.

At the top of the list is Citadel founder and CEO Kenneth Griffin, who earned an estimated $1.3 billion off his fund.

Lest your jaw remain fully hinged, 2014 was a bad year. The magazine called the total $11.62 billion bounty "paltry" compared to what it was in 2013, when the top-25 hedge managers made about twice as much -- $21.15 billion.

There are, however, some issues with measuring hedge manager salaries, though the experts we polled couldn't name a source that would necessarily be more accurate than Alpha magazine's list.

The magazine's report is just an estimate -- based on the manager's capital gains in the fund, as well as his (the top 25 are all men) estimated share in the firm's management and performance fees charged to clients.

These numbers are hard to verify because no one really knows for certain a manager's stake in his or her firm, said Nicole Boyson, a finance professor at Northeastern University.

Additionally, funds charged to clients vary drastically among and within the different firms, and one would also have to account for how much of these fees go toward running the business, rather than the salary, Boyson said.

"If you could get comfortable with the 'right' number for a hedge fund manager, which I am not sure is possible, then you could compare it directly to the gross pay of teachers ... with the caveat that these two groups are likely subject to different tax rates, etc.," Boyson said.

In any case, the best information we have shows 25 hedge managers making about $3 billion more than the country's 158,000 kindergarten teachers combined -- and that's in a bad year for the hedge managers. The data here isn't perfect, but the gap between the two professions is so wide that it seems a safe bet that hedge fund managers make more.

Our ruling

Clinton said, "The top-25 hedge fund managers (are) making more than all of America's kindergarten teachers combined."

Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that America's 158,000 kindergarten teachers together make $8.5 billion a year.

There are a few possible problems with the data for hedge fund managers' earnings, but there's no denying it's significantly higher than a kindergarten teacher's compensation. A rough estimate for the top-25 hedge fund managers shows they collectively earned $11.62 billion in 2014, and that was a bad year. In 2013, they earned approximately $21.15 billion. So using the smaller number, kindergarten teachers come up shy of hedge fund managers by about $3 billion, a huge margin.

We rate Clinton's claim True.

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When Hillary Clinton ran for president in 2008, she said she felt like she had an "extra burden" of convincing the American people that a woman could be president and commander in chief. Now, she notes in an interview with the Des Moines Register, television is full of women in power.

The Democratic secretary of state noted two contemporary shows that feature women in power: "Veep," an HBO comedy in which Julia Louis-Dreyfus portrays a vice president who ascends to the top office when the president steps down. Then there's "Madam Secretary," a CBS show featuring Téa Leoni as U.S. Secretary of State.

"Madam Secretary" star Tea Leoni on hit series, women on TV
Years before either of those shows, Clinton was a reference point on "Gilmore Girls," a show about the life of single mother Lorelai Gilmore and her daughter, Rory, that aired for seven years on the WB and the CW networks. During the show's third season, Rory tells her boyfriend, Dean, that she plans to write her college application essay about Clinton.

"She's so smart and tough and nobody thought she could win New York but she did and she's doing amazing, and have you heard her speak?" Rory says. When Dean responds that she's made him watch "thousands" of hours of footage of Clinton on C-SPAN, Rory gushes, "She's a great speaker, strong and persuasive with a wonderful presence, and even those suits of hers are getting better." (The Hillary essay plan is derailed when a college admissions officer sitting on a panel at Rory's high school says, "If I read one more over-adulating piece of prose about Hillary Clinton and her profound influence, my head will explode.").

"A lot of different cultural references, which I find both fascinating and kind of reinforcing, because it does take a leap of faith of imagination for people to envision a woman in the Oval Office, and oftentimes culture, entertainment is ahead of the political system in lots of ways," Clinton told the Des Moines Register.

The creators of "Madam Secretary" have said that Clinton was an inspiration for fictional Secretary Elizabeth McCord, but that the character also drew on former female Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice.

"When we got into developing [the show], to me, the first thing I had to do was make it fictional, make a character who wasn't Hillary," writer and creator Barbara Hall told Politico when the show first hit the airwaves in the fall of 2014. She said she doesn't "mind" the discussion which compares the show to Clinton, but said, "I think it's clear in the show, that that's not what we're doing."

In fact, the show spent more time looking at Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, who, like Leoni's character, has young children that she balances with her high-profile job.

Bill Clinton: 'You can't have people walking around with guns' **// The Washington Times // Jessica Chasmar – June 15, 2015**

Former President Bill Clinton on Sunday blamed the recent unrest in Baltimore on people owning too many guns in this city, combined with a lack of trust in the local police department.

Speaking on CNN's "State of the Union," Mr. Clinton first suggested that development opportunities and more jobs could be the solution in Baltimore. He cited the Baltimore-based athletic clothing company Under Armour as keeping 17,000 jobs in the city.

"I'd go get that guy from Under Armour and I would bring all these leaders and all these kids and I'd figure out what to do and come up with a strategy. You don't have to solve it all overnight, you just have to make it better than it was," he said.

"The Baltimore thing came on the heels of what happened in Ferguson, what happened in New York City and all these other places. And there is a big national movement about whether the lives of young African-American men count," Mr. Clinton said, referring to the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

"You can't have people walking around with guns. I used to tell people when we did Bosnia, Kosovo, anything like that: You get enough people with weapons around, and there will be unintended consequences. People make mistakes. People do wrong. Things happen," he continued.

"To hold a community together, you've got to have a high level of community trust. Somebody that's in your family gets shot, you want an answer from somebody you know, and you want to be able to ask questions and get them answered and resolve that. So I think that in addition to economics, we need to look at the places in America where these things happen and they don't drive people into the streets because they actually trust the process in resolving them. There's such a trust deficit in America today," Mr. Clinton said.

Clinton: I never saw Hillary 'study a list of my contributors' **// The Hill // Cory Bennett – June 15,**

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2015

Former President Bill Clinton emphatically denied that 2016 Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton gave any favors to Clinton Foundation donors during her time as secretary of State.

“She was pretty busy those years,” Clinton said during an interview aired Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

“I never saw her study a list of my contributors, and I had no idea who was doing business before the State Department," he added.
In the early days of Hillary Clinton’s campaign for president, the former New York senator and first lady has faced attacks about foreign government funding for her family’s charitable organization, which does humanitarian work around the world.

The organization has admitted to omitting certain donations from its publicly available records.

Clinton specifically defended one donation that has come under scrutiny, a $500,000 check from the Embassy of Algeria in 2010. The foundation has acknowledged that the donation was not properly approved under rules the Obama administration put in place after Hillary Clinton became Secretary of State.

“I can say the one thing that there’s nothing to it is the Algeria giving half a million dollars for the Haiti earthquake,” Clinton said. “That Algerian money, we didn’t report that not because we were ashamed of it, but because it was coming within two days of the earthquake and they were performing imputative surgery on the lawn outside the major hospital with a flashlight at night and vodka for anesthesia and antiseptic. Nobody thought about it.”

Clinton also promoted the “economic diplomacy” that his wife did during her time in the Obama administration, pointing out that there was not a secretary of Commerce during much of that span.

“If she hadn’t been doing this economic diplomacy work, nobody would have been doing this,” he said. “I never thought about any overlap.”

Clinton camp shuts out foreign reporter // The Hill // Ben Kamisar – June 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s campaign is not allowing a Daily Mail reporter access to campaign events despite being chosen by media outlets to provide pooled coverage of Monday’s trip around New Hampshire.

Nick Merrill, a senior Clinton campaign press aide, told David Martosko, the U.S. political editor for the Daily Mail, was shut out because of “blowback from foreign outlets that want to be a part of the pool.”

“We need to rethink it all, maybe for a day, and just cool things off until we can have a discussion,” Merrill told Martosko.

When Martosko pointed out that non-American news sites like the Guardian are part of the pool, Merrill said that those outlets were a part of the official White House press pool, so the campaign treated those outlets differently. Martosko said on Twitter that he still plans to drive to Clinton’s event in Rochester, N.H.

News outlets covering Clinton set up the pool independently so that participating outlets would not have to always have someone traveling with the campaign. One representative chosen from the rotation each day travels closely with the campaign and provides all pool members with notes from her events.

But only outlets that have pledged to help with the travel pool receive immediate updates; other media outlets do not receive an aggregate list of all the reports until the end of Clinton's trip. That includes foreign outlets that can't send reporters stateside.

"We want a happy press corps as much as the press corps does. And we work very hard to achieve that in tandem with them," Merrill told Politico in a statement.

"It's a long campaign, and we are going to do our best to find equilibrium and best accommodate interest from as many news outlets as possible, given the space limitations of our events."

EXCLUSIVE: The day Hillary’s team booted me off the bus: ‘The Clinton's campaign wants to control which reporters can come along for the ride. Today it was supposed to be me - but at the last minute I was shut out. That's NOT okay' // The Daily Mail // David Martokso – June 15, 2015

Driving through New Hampshire in the rain without knowing where you're headed is an unnerving experience, but that's where I found myself this morning after Hillary Clinton's staff said I wouldn't be allowed to do my job reporting on her campaign.

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At the Clinton camp's request, a group of journalists set up a traveling 'pool' so a single print reporter can be everyone's eyes and ears at events where a room is too small to fit a crush of questions from a larger group.

Plus it saves more than a dozen news organizations the expense of having to be on the campaign trail every time Clinton decides to speak.

On Monday I was the designated 'pooler,' tasked by this informal group of my colleagues with going to two events in New Hampshire.

I landed at the Manchester, N.H. airport well after midnight, thanks to a lengthy flight delay in Washington. A message was waiting for me from one of the reporters who has the thankless task of coordinating the pool with the Clinton campaign.

There was a problem: Hillary's press staff said DailyMail.com wasn't welcome, and they decided it at the last minute.

The pool was asked to send a different reporter. It was too late to substitute someone else in the Live Free or Die state at that point, so I said I'd show up anyway.

Six hours earlier I had received emails from two different Clinton media liaisons – including the former secretary of state's traveling press secretary, Nick Merrill – telling me where to show up and when.

So what happened? That's the nagging question.

Monday morning I showed up at 7:45 in a parking lot where I was to hop on a Clinton campaign van for a drive to the town of Rochester, where the first event would be.
A very junior staffer told me I couldn't climb aboard: I wasn't 'on the list.'
No matter – I'm paid to chase stories, not to take no for an answer. I got back in my rental car and followed them to Rochester.

On the way, I spoke with Merrill for 10 minutes. He gave me a handful of reasons for the sudden rug-pulling.

At first it was because the campaign didn't want some foreign press outlets participating in the pool when others were giving them 'blowback' about being shut out of events when space is limited.

OK, so DailyMail.com is owned by the Daily Mail newspaper from England but the US content is not EDITED by that newspaper, it is edited in New York and currently has nearly 200 employees growing at about 50% a year – and more US online readers than every big city newspaper in America other than the New York Times.

The Clinton campaign hired two passenger vans to drive reporters to Rochester, NH on Monday morning but refused to let me board them, saying I wasn't approved to attend the morning event

The Clinton campaign hired two passenger vans to drive reporters to Rochester, NH on Monday morning but refused to let me board them, saying I wasn't approved to attend the morning event.

(The traveling press pool welcomes all credentialed outlets, whether they're from the U.S. or Antarctica. The Guardian and AFP, from the UK and France respectively, are already part of it.)

Perhaps they realized that wasn't going to fly because next they claimed the campaign was trying to follow the example of the White House pool, and by that standard we should have been excluded.

(DailyMail.com is part of what's called the 'supplemental' White House pool. Although our excellent White House correspondent, Francesca Chambers, has the same permanent credentials as her counterparts at The New York Times, the Associated Press and CNN.)

Ultimately, Merrill said they just wanted time to figure things out. Just enough time, I thought, for me to leave New Hampshire.

The bottom line is that for whatever half-baked reason, the Clinton campaign has decided that it wants to control which reporters, from which news organizations, can come along for the ride and report their impressions of what's going on.

That's not okay. It's the kind of thing that raises questions about transparency and launches let-them-eat-cake metaphors.

The Clinton campaign asked the press to set up the pool. But just like the White House pool – which is run by the

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White House Correspondents Association, not the Obama administration – Merrill and his team don't get to pick and choose who's on duty.

(That's decided by a rotating schedule.)

I showed up in Rochester on Monday morning, found the YMCA where the Clinton event was being held, and walked through the front door. A Secret Service agent wouldn't let me go any further.
Clinton's Secret Service detail drove her to New Hampshire in the famous 'Scooby' van, dropping her off Monday morning for a forum on early childhood education – which DailyMail.com was forbidden to cover

Clinton's Secret Service detail drove her to New Hampshire in the famous 'Scooby' van, dropping her off Monday morning for a forum on early childhood education – which DailyMail.com was forbidden to cover
Hillary Clinton's Scooby van seen topping speeds of 80mph

He sent me to another door, where the agent in charge of Clinton's protection detail heard who I work for and said, 'Oh. No.' I was sent back to door number one.

The first agent called a campaign staffer, and then told me that a final decision had been reached: I couldn't come in.

He also told me that for security reasons, I couldn't walk down the hall to use the bathroom.

'Hit the woods,' was his advice.

The question remains: Why?

As well as its huge US audience, DailyMail.com has a larger online audience than any other English-language newspaper in the world. More than 225 million unique visitors come to our website every month. Every political campaign worth its salt should welcome a news organization of our size and influence to show up, kick the tires and report what's going on.

Smaller outlets, too, including those with foreign ownership, should be welcome. Candidates and their handlers shouldn't have a say.

I suspect the decision has little to do with where my employers are from, and a lot to do with how we cover the news.

DailyMail.com doesn't hire stenographers. We chase stories aggressively. We don't pull punches. As a British-owned outlet, we don't institutionally have a dog in the U.S. election fight.

We genuinely haven’t already decided which candidates we want to see get the nominations or which party’s candidate eventually win.

We tell it as we see it – without fear and without favor to any side.

Two days ago, after Clinton delivered a speech in New York City to re-launch her campaign, I tweeted my view of scribes who 'reported exactly, and only, what the campaign wanted them to.' I don’t believe in coincidences.

I've followed Clinton's motorcade as it sped past a small New Hampshire airport, drove all the way to Boston, and deposited her on a large jet that had First Class seats.

I got on the plane and watched her in a Washington, D.C. airport, asking her the campaign’s first questions about the Benghazi terror attack. She met me with stone silence.

After a Clinton photo-op at a bakery in April, I reported that the kitchen staff didn't want to come out and shake her hand.

The nature of Clinton's very first small-scale event in Iowa – an intimate and apparently unscripted coffee-shop meet and greet – was called into question after I spoke to an attendee who said all of Clinton's table-mates were vetted and driven there by a political operative.

I get it: This kind of reporting doesn't make DailyMail.com the Clinton campaign's favorite outlet.

In the land of the free press, it's the journalists acting on behalf of readers – not the politicians acting in their own self-interest – who get to decide what's important and who's hiding the ball. We have to show up to get these stories. They can’t be covered via Google. And that’s why controlling who shows up is the equivalent of torching the free press.

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Via email and telephone calls, I've heard from about 50 political journalists today, including some from nearly every major news brand I can think of.
No one who spoke to me thinks Clinton has a leg to stand on.

Journalists who do this job every day know the stakes: If we're going to elect a president who believes she's above meaningful scrutiny this early in the campaign, just imagine what things might be like in the West Wing in 2017.

That goes for everyone on the Republican side of the ledger too. (Welcome to the race, Jeb! And it's your turn tomorrow, Mr. Trump.)

At dinnertime I headed to Monday's other 'pooled' press event, a Clinton keynote speech at the Manchester City Democratic Committee's annual dinner commemorating Flag Day.

They shut me out again, meaning that fewer people will learn what she has to say. That's ridiculous. And fans of the First Amendment may as well switch out that flag for a white one.

A press aide told me: 'You're not on the pool list so you need to leave.'
Daily Mail Online has reached out to Nick Merrill, spokesman for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign more than a half-dozen times today and have yet to hear back.

Longtime Hillary Clinton Confidant to Testify About Benghazi Emails // VOA News - June 16, 2015

A longtime confidant to former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will testify Tuesday before a special congressional committee investigating the 2012 deadly attack on the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya.

Sidney Blumenthal will tell the House Select Committee on Benghazi in a closed door session about a series of emails he sent to Clinton about the situation in Libya after the overthrow of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. Blumenthal has been close to both Hillary Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, ever since he served as aide to Clinton during his administration. He sent the emails to the personal email account Hillary Clinton used during her tenure as secretary of state, a process which led to massive criticism and charges that she was hiding information.

Blumenthal turned over the emails to the committee last week in response to a subpoena. The emails were not part of the hundreds of emails involving the Benghazi attack that the State Department turned over to the House panel earlier this year.

The attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi left four Americans dead, including Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens.

Clinton, the front-runner for the nomination to represent the Democratic Party in the 2016 presidential election, admitted to using a private server and email address during her tenure as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

The personal email account she used was hosted on a private server in her New York state home instead of a government one. She has said she used a private account because it was more convenient and points out that she violated no rules.

'Only the facts'

A spokeswoman for the committee, Amanda Duvall, said the GOP-led panel "is only interested in the facts," adding that Blumenthal was called to testify because of the large number of emails he sent Clinton regarding Libya.

Hillary Clinton's earlier efforts to hire Blumenthal, who has spent nearly two decades working for the Clinton family, as a State Department employee were rejected by White House aides. Those aides feared that Blumenthal's role spreading harsh attacks against Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential primaries would cause discomfort within the Obama administration.

Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga., said he and other committee members want to know the depth of Blumenthal's involvement in Libya policy, why he had the information and who gave it to him.

The five Democrats on the Benghazi panel said their Republican colleagues were no longer interested in discovering facts about Benghazi, but merely were trying to prove that Clinton "engaged in some sort of conspiracy" over the attacks.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., the senior Democrat on the panel, said Blumenthal's deposition was the latest example of how the committee "has strayed far from investigating the Benghazi attacks and is now focused like a

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laser on attacking Secretary Clinton in her run for president."

Cummings called it a "travesty" that the committee has spent more than $3.5 million on what he called a "partisan fishing expedition with no end in sight."

Blumenthal was willing to testify yet was served with a subpoena by armed marshals, Cummings said. He called the subpoena, issued by the panel's chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., "abusive" and difficult to understand.

Hillary Clinton's cam paign isn't about populist ideals. It's about Hillary Clinton. **// The Week // Edward Morrissey - June 16, 2015**

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton tried for a populist reboot of her meticulously stage-managed campaign over the weekend. But look beyond the spin, and you'll see the former secretary of state offered nothing new or exciting or bold. In fact, her big speech was less a reboot than it was a rerun.

Hillary Clinton has essentially spent the past 15 years running for president. Returning to the White House is the singular motivation driving everything in her public life. The Clintons' strategy as they prepared to leave the White House in early 2001 could not have been clearer. They intended to make their departure temporary, preferably returning at the end of an Al Gore presidency, by having the first lady establish her credibility by building her own career in electoral politics. The Clintons seized on an open Senate seat in New York, and expected to launch their second bid for the White House after an easy re-election bid in 2006.

That strategy worked — sort of. Gore lost a nail-biter election in 2000 to George W. Bush, which made a Democratic bid in 2008 even easier. The Clintons had leveraged their political power through Sen. Clinton's Capitol Hill career and with their family foundation, collecting chits from Wall Street and party movers and shakers. Team Clinton ran the 2008 presidential campaign as a preordained coronation, betting that the bitterness of the Bush era meant a good environment for Clinton nostalgia. Unfortunately for the Clintons, Democrats didn't want to embrace the past. They chose the future, in the form of one Barack Obama.

The Clinton project was far from over, however. Hillary Clinton took the job of secretary of state to add executive and foreign-policy experience to her resume, after embarrassing herself in the 2008 campaign by claiming foreign-policy expertise with the lie that she'd landed in Tuzla under fire during the Balkans wars. After four years at the State Department, Clinton left in early 2013. It was the first time in 20 years that both Bill and Hillary Clinton had no official office in the federal government. They did not plan on keeping it that way for long.

Clinton soon published her second memoir, Hard Choices. It revealed little insight and offered even less political conviction. The lackluster reviews got overshadowed by Clinton's claims to have been "dead broke" coming out of the White House while she and Bill earned millions in advances for their first two books. After a few weeks, Team Clinton slipped off the public stage to recalibrate.

Clinton came back early this year — and once again, she appeared to have nothing to add to the political conversation. She just really, really wanted to be president.

Meanwhile, a series of scandals involving the Clinton Foundation, her secret email system while at the State Department, and questions about the connections between Bill Clinton's paydays and entities having business before the State Department dominated the headlines. Clinton offered no serious answers to any of those scandals.

Nor did she do much talking about anything else as she traveled through the key early primary states over the next three months. She avoided clearly staking out policy positions. She dodged reporters. Even in her claimed areas of policy expertise, Clinton and her team refused to get pinned down — on ISIS strategy and on the Trade Promotion Authority in particular. While the progressives she courted rallied to embarrass President Obama on trade, all Team Clinton would concede was that the candidate was keeping an open mind on the matter.

With the campaign hiding behind skittish generics, Clinton and her advisers decided to hype a reboot. They staged a big speech on Roosevelt Island in New York City, and played it up as though it would be a re-debut. The media gathered to hear Clinton finally stake out her positions and her agenda. And once again, Team Clinton offered a rerun.

The Atlantic's Molly Ball found it "almost aggressively pedestrian," in "a surprisingly small venue that did not fill up." Ball argued that Clinton offered "a barrage of proposals," but a read of the speech transcript shows that Clinton offered at best a laundry list of traditional liberal agenda items, none of which would distinguish her from almost any other Democratic presidential contender. It more closely resembled a State of the Union speech than a campaign call to arms, especially in the manner in which it was delivered. "Clinton read it slowly off the teleprompter," Ball wrote to describe the "flat" delivery, "articulating every word, sometimes with odd emphasis, in a near-monotone."

As if to underline the dustiness of her tired strategy and message, the former secretary of state decided to use a

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50-year-old pop-culture reference to attack Republicans. "Now, there may be some new voices in the presidential Republican choir," Clinton said in one of the few moments that showed any dynamism, "but they're all singing the same old song — a song called 'Yesterday.'"

The Beatles recorded that ballad 50 years ago this month, when Hillary Clinton graduated from high school. Marco Rubio, who wouldn't be born for another six years, has campaigned this spring in part on the slogan that "Yesterday is over." His team leaped to take advantage of the contradiction, and Clinton's case of projection.

Even more telling, though, was the lack of any substance on issues that are priorities for American voters. She weighed in with no particularly interesting or surprising stands on America's hottest debates. She made just one passing reference to trade that offered no insight whatsoever on TPA or the massive Pacific trade deal that House Democrats all but submarined last week. She made passing mention of foreign policy and national security by pledging — wait for it — to "do whatever it takes to keep Americans safe." After four years at State, one would expect her to elaborate on exactly what whatever looks like, but Clinton offered nothing at all. The only reference to creating jobs in the entire speech was part of her pledge to fight climate change — a very low priority for American voters — and promised that "this will create millions of jobs and countless new businesses." Barack Obama promised that, too. How did that work out?

This was not a relaunch, let alone a reboot. The event turned out to be just another Saturday afternoon rerun. And it's a movie we've seen many times before: The Clintons lust for power, not to affect populist change on a national scale, but to accrue power for the Clintons.

2016 Is the Latest Bump in the Long Clinton-Bush Friendship // NY Mag // Margaret Hartmann – June 16, 2015

After months of speculation, it's finally official: the 2016 election will be a showdown between the Bush and Clinton political dynasties – that is, if Jeb manages to claw his way to the front of the GOP pack. Pundits are already placing bets on which house will win 2016's (relatively tame) game of thrones. "If you're having a battle of dynasties, the Clinton dynasty is gonna beat the Bush dynasty every time," former Obama senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer told CNN on Monday.

While the Bushes and Clintons have proven that they're fiercely dedicated to electing whatever family member happens to be running, the two families may actually have a healthier view of the competition. Over the past two decades, they've gone from being political enemies to declaring themselves as close as family, only to lash out again when another election rolls around. He's a recap of the drama behind Hillary and Jeb's potential showdown.

In the 1992, Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton managed to make George H.W. Bush a one-term president by attacking him on the economy and painting him as out of touch. Character played a large role in the campaign (and it remains a theme in the Bush/Clinton relationship), with Republicans attacking Clinton for his infidelities, draft dodging, and marijuana use.

In one of the harsher debate moments from the 1992 election, President Bush attacked Governor Clinton's patriotism and lack of military service (though he claimed he wasn't), saying he found it "impossible to understand" how Clinton could organize anti-Vietnam War demonstrations while studying in England, as men his age were serving their country. Clinton shot back with a Senator Joe McCarthy comparison, and praised the president's father, Senator Prescott Bush, for standing up to the Red Scare.

Jeb and Hillary got in some jabs as well, though they left the most vicious attacks to other campaign surrogates. In a local news interview captured by C-SPAN, Hillary called out the first couple by name, accusing them of "launching these untrue attacks against me" after previously thanking her for her work on children's issues. "They know what my husband and I have stood for, and it's just kind of sad that in the heat of a political battle when they're behind and they can't run on their record and they have no plan for the future that they would engage in these kinds of tactics," she said.

In a 1992 interview that aired on C-SPAN, Jeb said he had a problem with Governor Clinton's "series of deceptive comments and statements," but at another point he had a prescient prediction. "I know my dad well, and win or lose, he'll shake Bill Clinton's hand, look him in the eye and say 'you fought the good fight' and not hold anything against him personally, or his family," Jeb said.

Hillary Clinton and Barbara Bush represented two very different generations of women, and they were pitted against each other in the media – particularly after Clinton quipped that she chose to be an attorney rather than staying home to "bake cookies and have tea."

However, immediately after the election they had a friendly meeting at the White House, and during a Christmas event the first lady went out of her way to praise Clinton and urge the press to "give her a break." "I hope you all will treat her like you treated me," she told reporters. "Wait til she makes her mistakes. You waited until I made mine."

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Once they were all full-fledged members of the "presidents club," the Bushes and Clintons managed to remain cordial at the occasional events where all former White House inhabitants are required to assemble.

Senator Hillary Clinton was frequently at odds with the George W. Bush administration, but recently she had some kind words about her effort to lobby the president for aid to New York post-9/11. "President Bush looked at us and said, 'What do you need?' And I said, 'We need $20 billion to rebuild New York Mr. President.' And he said, 'You got it.' I will never forget that," Clinton said. "If you don't build relationships with people and all you do is show up to argue and show up to point fingers, you can't get anything done."

Then as both presidents assisted with relief efforts following the Asian tsunami in 2005, a friendship blossomed between Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush. "I thought I knew him; but until this trip I did not really know him," 41 said of traveling with his former rival in February of that year.

They worked together again when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2006, and afterward Bush wrote Clinton a note about how much he appreciated their friendship, and alluded to Hillary's potential 2008 run. "The politics between now and two years from now might put pressure on our friendship, but it is my view that it will survive," he wrote.

January 2014, Barbara Bush described the relationship, telling C-SPAN, "I love Bill Clinton."

While the two presidents regularly visit each other's homes and it appears their father-son dynamic is genuine, the relationship has also been played up in the media by members of both clans. "A friendship with the older, steadier Bush conferred a legitimacy on Clinton that he had partly squandered in his final years in office," Time magazine journalists Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy wrote in their book The Presidents Club. "For Bush, the political math was just as obvious — and even closer to home: his son, the president, was a divisive figure across the nation and having the spiritual leader of the Democratic Party as a partner made it more likely that the forty-second president would deliver his criticisms of the forty-third in a kinder, gentler fashion."

While the Clinton team was accused of pulling the "W" off keyboards before vacating the White House, Bill bonded with the younger Bush too when they both pitched in after Haiti's earthquake in 2010. In November 2014, W. told Sean Hannity he wasn't worried about campaigning against his family's adopted "black sheep son" in 2016. "It means that Bill and I are going to have to have some interesting things to talk about," Bush said, adding, "Look, I'll still like him when Jeb beats Hillary."

Hillary and Jeb's role in all this Bush-Clinton camaraderie is hazy. W. has said the former secretary of state is like his "sister-in-law," and two years ago, his daughter Barbara Bush said she hoped she would run for president, calling her "unbelievably accomplished." (Though she added that she didn't know who her opponent would be, and wouldn't necessarily be voting for her.)

But Jeb is actually the Bush who's offered the lengthiest public ode to Hillary – which according to several conservative groups, is why the former Florida governor is "unelectable." As chairman of the National Constitution Center, in 2013 Bush was tasked with awarding Clinton the organization's Liberty Medal. He praised Clinton for her "lifelong career in public service," and joked, "Hillary and I come from different political parties and we disagree about lots of things. But we do agree on the wisdom of the American people — especially those in Iowa and New Hampshire and South Carolina."

In her speech, Clinton joked that bipartisanship had become a "family tradition" thanks to the relationship between the former presidents. "[Jeb and I] also share something that is far more important than any of our political differences," she said. "We both love this country and we believe in the wisdom of our founders and the constitution."

It appears the ex-presidents are still on good terms, but Hillary and Jeb began taking shots at each other, and the opposing administration, before they even declared they were running. Last month on Face the Nation, Bush blasted the Clinton Foundation for its lack of transparency. "It turns out that the rules don't always apply consistently for the Clintons," he said.

And two weeks ago, Jeb was among the 2016 candidates Clinton called out by name for allegedly restricting voting rights. "In Florida, when Jeb Bush was governor, state authorities conducted a deeply flawed purge of voters before the presidential election in 2000," she said.

Clinton even got a shout out – in the form of a widely mocked "that's what she said" – as Bush officially announced his candidacy on Monday.

It looks like the truce between the Bushes and the Clintons may be off, at least until it's politically expedient for them to be friends again.

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OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

Martin O'Malley pins hope on Iowa caucuses // The Boston Globe // Annie Linskey – June 15, 2015

Martin O'Malley makes his way to the back of a crowded pub on a rainy night. He grabs a chair and climbs up.

"I'm running for president of the United States and I need your help," he says, holding his right hand on his chest. He promises not to talk long. "We are going to do Q&A because that is the Iowa way."

For O'Malley the Iowa way is the only way. The former Maryland governor's narrow path to the Democratic nomination hinges on persuading people at this bar and in homes across the state to support him in the caucuses seven months from now, longtime advisers and donors agree. A strong second, or even an upset, is possible here in a way that isn't in the cards anywhere else.

He knows it, too; that's why he and a crew of staff piled into a white sport utility vehicle and drove at breakneck speeds past rain-soaked farms from event to event last week. Even though O'Malley's name remains unfamiliar to many Iowans, and he still barely registers in that state's polls, political elites have talked of an O'Malley presidential run since his early days as Baltimore's mayor.

Still, the already faint track to victory for him in 2016 has been muddied recently by several factors out of O'Malley's immediate control.

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has vacuumed up voters on the left who are skeptical of Hillary Rodham Clinton, landing him in the valuable second-place berth here that could ignite a candidacy. And riots in Baltimore beamed some of America's most hopeless neighborhoods into homes across the country, undercutting O'Malley's message of progress in that city.

Both of these issues came up at campaign events in Iowa last week, and O'Malley stayed resolute in a commitment to keep showing up in the state and take sometimes uncomfortable questions. When asked at his third press conference of the day how much time he plans to spend here he said: "As much time as I possibly can."

The trip to Iowa was O'Malley's 10th since January 2014. He has made eight trips to New Hampshire — including one Saturday — and four trips to South Carolina in the same time period.

A super PAC supporting O'Malley's candidacy has so far run TV ads in three cities, all of them in Iowa. The campaign opened a Des Moines office the day O'Malley announced his presidential campaign (it's the only one he has outside Baltimore). Last week, he had about a half-dozen Iowa staff and volunteers collecting e-mail addresses and passing out "O'Malley for president" stickers.

Still, O'Malley's late start — his May 30 announcement was six weeks after Clinton and a month after Sanders — means he missed a critical window where he could have soaked up news coverage in the state.

Clinton's campaign was always going to be an oxygen-sucking bonfire, but Sanders used his headstart on O'Malley to define himself, in the absence of an Elizabeth Warren candidacy, as the liberal alternative. The Vermont senator got three standing ovations from an audience of more than 700 people Friday evening at Drake University before he even opened his mouth.

Advisers believe O'Malley, 52, will emerge as the more electable alternative to the 73-year-old Sanders, particularly after voters realize that both are running on a similar populist message.

"I think Bernie is a bit of a stalking horse," said George Appleby, O'Malley's state chairman. "He's putting those issues on the table."

Appleby and O'Malley both know well how a low-polling candidate can catch fire in Iowa. In 1983, both organized for Gary Hart, another long-shot candidate, who saw his chances lifted by finishing second in the 1984 Iowa caucuses.

"He knows how to run in Iowa," Appleby said, as he stood in a kitchen while O'Malley spoke in the living room at a Marshalltown house party. "Coming out and doing this over and over."

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The work has yet to pay off. O'Malley remains stuck in the low single digits in Iowa polls, compared to the mid-teens for Sanders (Clinton is at a whopping 60 percent). But he has clearly made some of the right connections. At the Iowa City pub, O'Malley was introduced by Kevin Kinney, a Democratic state senator for whom O'Malley raised money last year. Hours earlier Mark Smith, the top Democrat in the Iowa House, did the same in Marshalltown.

"The thing about O'Malley is he gets things done and he does them with respect," said Sarah Stutler, a preschool teacher who has heard him several times, including in Mount Vernon Thursday. "He is Biden-esque," she added, comparing him to the vice president.

O'Malley is careful never to criticize his opponents by name on the trip; when their names come up, he says he has respect for both of them. However, his most powerful line, and one he didn't repeat at all last week in Iowa, takes aim at both Clinton and former Florida governor Jeb Bush, a GOP favorite.

"The presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families," he said in an ABC interview in March. "It is an awesome and sacred trust that is to be earned and exercised on behalf of the American people."

Questions about how O'Malley can win over supporters dogged him at every stop.

"Can you tell me why I should change my support from Bernie Sanders to you?" asked Dorie Tammen, shouting her question to O'Malley through a screen window at a sweaty house party in Marshalltown.

O'Malley stresses his relative youth in the field and his 15 years of executive experience. Progressive highlights of his eight years as governor include ending the death penalty, allowing illegal immigrants to pay lower in-state university tuition, expanding gun control laws, raising the minimum wage, and approving same-sex marriage.

Yet it is O'Malley's record as Baltimore's mayor that is getting the closest scrutiny from Iowa voters. Faced with a persistently high murder rate, O'Malley ushered in an era of zero-tolerance policing that was imported directly from Rudy Giuliani's New York City. Some, including Baltimore's current mayor, have pointed to those O'Malley-era policies as the point where relations frayed between police and the policed in Baltimore.

In the Iowa pub, one woman asked a lengthy and detailed question about his law enforcement record.

"As mayor of Baltimore you oversaw an era of mass arrests," she said, recounting the hundreds of thousands of people arrested on his watch.

He responded by saying that violent crime was a scourge when he took over, and it plummeted on his watch.

"You weren't in Baltimore in 1999," O'Malley said, "but I was."

SANDERS

Meet the people coming to see Bernie Sanders in Iowa **// WaPo // John Wagner – June 15, 2015**

As the Democratic presidential field descended on Iowa this weekend, Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit generated more headlines -- but Democratic rival Bernie Sanders drew more people.

The independent senator from Vermont, who rails against greedy corporate interests ruining the country's democracy, drew overflow audiences nearly everywhere he went here over the weekend.

That included Des Moines, where close to 800 people streamed to a university auditorium on Friday night, and Waterloo, where more than 500 people gathered in a theater on Sunday afternoon.

The Vermont senator had the support of 16 percent of likely Democratic caucusgoers in a Des Moines Register/ Bloomberg News Iowa poll earlier this month, to Clinton's 57 percent.

So who's coming to hear him speak?

This weekend, there were those fully sold on the self-described democratic socialist -- they were the ones wearing "Bernie for president" t-shirts and holding the "Feel the Bern" signs. There were some others shopping for an alternative to Clinton, the formidable front-runner. Still others were merely curious about the fuss surrounding the frumpy politician who's seen his poll numbers surge.

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Terry Pensel, a Web developer who traveled more than 90 minutes from Guttenberg to see Sanders in Waterloo, was among those in the fully-sold category.

“I don’t want to bash Hillary Clinton or any of the other Democrats, but I don’t see them having a plan to deal with the concentrated wealth,” said Pensel, 47, as he left the auditorium with several yard signs and bumper stickers tucked under his arm. “They’re giving lip service to a lot of the issues Bernie has been talking about for a long, long time.”

Those issues, as Sanders described them, include the the “grotesque level of wealth and income inequality” in the country, the corrosive effects of big money on politics and the “disastrous” trade deals the country has entered into.

While Pensel was clearly pumped up about Sanders’s prospects, he also complained that the media -- the corporate-controlled media, as he described it -- has given Clinton so much more attention than Sanders.

Tara Monson, meanwhile, was fired up about Sanders even before he appeared at a union hall in Marshalltown on Saturday.

The 31-year-old mother of two arrived with her 6-month-old daughter in a carrier on her chest. The carrier sported a Bernie button, and Munson’s daughter was wearing a bow and a homemade “Feel the Bern” t-shirt.

“I never really heard of Bernie Sanders until he started running, and he’s really grabbed me,” said Monson, who performs audits for a goat farm. “He brings a different ball to the game.”

Monson said she particularly liked what Sanders has been saying about policies affecting families. He is calling for guaranteed vacation, family leave and sick time and says Americans should be working fewer hours. One of the biggest laughs Sanders gets on the trail comes from rattling off how many more hours a year Americans work than the French.

“My husband has been trying to get me to move to a socialist country for years,” said Monson, whose spouse hails from Norway. “Now I’m telling him it might come here.”

On a more serious note, she said that she’s not a big Clinton fan and thinks “it’s a little ridiculous that the Democratic party is just letting her have the spotlight.”

For every fan like Pensel and Monson who attended Sanders events, though, it seemed there was also someone like Ed Canade, who said he likes what the senator has to say but has some reservations about making him the party’s nominee.

Canade, a 68-year-old semi-retired paramedic, said he considers Clinton “a polarizing candidate” and is looking for an alternative. But he wasn’t ready to commit to Sanders after seeing him in Marshalltown.

“He kind of speaks with a grumpy-old-man kind of tone,” Canade said of Sanders, who is 73. “I don’t know if people are going to find that appealing.”

Canade said Sanders also doesn’t look the part of a president, adding: “I know glamor and appearance are a thing in politics.”

Canade said he is considering another Democratic candidate, former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley. But, he said, “I’m concerned that he’s this unknown at this point in the race.”

Kathleen Murrin, who came to see Sanders Friday night in Des Moines, said she can envision Sanders as the Democratic nominee, dismissing talk by pundits that Sanders would have a hard time winning a general election.

“Have you looked at the Republicans who’ve come into this state?” asked Murrin, 68, who works for a nonprofit organization focused on mental health issues.

Sanders, Murrin said, has “got real solutions that he’s talking about. And he’s got real heart.”

Still, she said she’s not ready to commit. For her, it’s partly a sense of duty.

“I’m an Iowan,” Murrin said, pledging to check out other candidates as well. “We have a long way to go to the caucuses.”

She said she has her doubts about Hillary -- “she’s very polarizing and tried this before” -- and said she just doesn’t know that much about O’Malley or the other Democrats.

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Lance Wilson, who caught Sanders on Saturday night at a labor dinner in Cedar Rapids, said he admires Sanders for running at a time when Clinton's presence kept many other Democrats out of the presidential race.

"Because Hillary is so big, other candidates don't want to step out," Wilson said. "What I like about Bernie is he's willing to step out."

Wilson, 36, works in collections for a company that makes car loans. Many of the people he talks to are down on their luck, he said, and what Sanders is saying should resonate with them. Wilson also thinks Clinton is too much of a centrist and likes Sanders's candor.

"He says what needs to be said rather than what people want to hear," Wilson said.

Dan Friedrichs, co-chairman of the Boone County Democrats, made a similar point in the Marshalltown union hall, where he came to see Sanders on Saturday.

"What people like is he shoots from the hip, but he has something substantive to say," Friedrichs said. "He's talking the language the middle class wants to hear: Protect us. That's what Bernie is all about."

A retired teacher, Friedrichs said he particularly likes Sanders call for free public university tuition and universal pre-kindergarten. But for now, Friedrichs said, he's encouraging people to see all the Democratic candidates before making a final decision.

Bob Handel, a semi-retired real estate agent, is among those who don't need any more convincing. A self-described "Sanders groupie," Handel traveled from Davenport to Cedar Rapids on Saturday to catch yet another appearance by the Vermont senator.

Handel said that the race should be about issues, and that there's too much about Clinton that detracts from that -- the email controversy, countless articles about the Clinton Foundation's donors and the Benghazi controversy.

Sanders, meanwhile, has a message that should resonate broadly, Handel argued.

"If people get past the socialism and just hear him, these aren't far-out, crazy ideas," he said. "I think people are going to get behind him."

Early-state polls hint at Bernie Sanders surge // Politico // Nick Gass – June 15, 2015

In a trio of new polls in early primary states, Hillary Clinton leads Democratic rivals in Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

It's in the Granite State, however, where the former secretary of state's standing is the least rock-solid, according to new polls conducted by Morning Consult.

Among Democratic voters who say they will participate in the state's primary next year, 44 percent back Clinton. Next up: independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, the self-described socialist from neighboring Vermont, who grabs 32 percent. Vice President Joe Biden, who has shown little inclination to run, claims 8 percent of likely Democratic voters.

In Iowa, Clinton picked up 54 percent, with no other candidate over 20 percent. Sanders grabbed the next closest, at 12 percent. In South Carolina, 56 percent of likely primary voters expressed support.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Sen. and Gov. Lincoln Chafee polled low in all three early states.

The survey polled 905 registered voters in Iowa, including 313 likely Democratic caucus-goers; 906 registered voters in South Carolina, including 309 likely Democratic primary voters; and 816 registered voters in New Hampshire, including 279 likely Democratic voters.

The overall margin of error for each state is plus-or-minus 3 percentage points, while the margin of error for Democratic respondents in all three states is plus-or-minus 6 percentage points.

Bernie Sanders Is Building an Army to Take D.C. // The Daily Beast // Eleanor Chift – June 15, 2015

Bernie Sanders is mad as hell and he's not going to take it anymore. That's why he's running for president. He's filled with righteous anger about a lot of things, and lots of people agree with him. Close to a thousand people turned out to see him in New Hampshire; 750 in Iowa, one of the largest crowds for any of the candidates. He's

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“bulking up” now in terms of his campaign staff and he’s doing pretty well fundraising, too: With 200,000 contributors at 40 bucks a piece, that's $8 million dollars.

“We’re going to be outspent, but it doesn’t matter,” he says. “We can run the kind of campaign I want.” His kind of campaign is about the big challenges facing the country, income inequality, climate change, the unaffordability of college, a disappearing middle class. He speaks about these issues with an ever present edge of outrage, what he calls “from my heart,” that lets you know he’s not just spouting briefing papers, these are his causes.

The reception he's gotten in the four or five weeks since he announced his candidacy has persuaded him that maybe the country's disgust with politics as usual has created an opening for somebody like him, a 73-year-old self-described "democratic socialist" who calls out the excesses of Wall Street and stands up for working families. "It is not a radical agenda," he told reporters at a breakfast organized by The Christian Science Monitor.

He wants to expand Social Security, move away from Obamacare to Medicare for all, and make tuition free at public universities. He would pay for these expanded benefits with a tax on Wall Street speculative trading, and he would end the loopholes that allow corporations to store their profits tax-free offshore. He doesn't expect support from the Business Roundtable, the Chamber of Commerce, or Wall Street, he says with delight, treating their opposition like a badge of honor.

There's nothing wrong with running to get your ideas heard, he says, but he insists he's in the race to win, however improbable that is given Hillary Clinton's big lead, and his own marginal status as a national candidate given his age and leftist politics. Asked what Clinton's biggest vulnerability is in a debate setting, he says, "I like Hillary Clinton, I respect Hillary Clinton, I disagree with Hillary Clinton...We don't have to make these campaigns personal, but we do have to discuss these issues."

"I like Hillary Clinton, I respect Hillary Clinton, I disagree with Hillary Clinton...We don't have to make these campaigns personal, but we do have to discuss these issues."
He wants to know what "the Secretary" thinks about the Keystone pipeline. He led the fight against it and believes climate change is a "planetary crisis." Where is she on the trade debate roiling the Congress? Asked if Clinton's vote for the Iraq war should disqualify her from the presidency, he said no, that he didn't intend to bring up that years-ago vote. (Someone else will.)

Listening to Sanders is like going back to the future. He is introducing legislation that would guarantee workers 10 days of vacation. These are the kinds of victories that labor unions won decades ago, but that are under assault in a Wall Street-driven economy. Sanders recalled American workers a century ago held up placards that said, "Give us a 40-hour week." Today, he says, millions of Americans don't have that guarantee because they're working two, three, four jobs to get by.

Asked what his first executive order would be as president, he was stumped, admitting he hadn't thought about that yet. He used the question to segue into the impact of big money on everything that goes on in Washington, and the reality that no one person can make the changes that he is advocating for. "I have a lot of respect and admiration for Barack Obama," he said, but the "biggest mistake" he made after running "one of the great campaigns in American history" was saying to the legions of people who supported him, "Thank you very much for electing me, I'll take it from here."

"I will not make that mistake," Sanders said, making a pitch for a mobilized grassroots movement that every candidate dreams of and that in '08 Obama came closest to achieving. The Obama movement faltered amidst legal issues once he was in the White House, and in '12 became Organizing for America, primarily a vehicle for fundraising and a shadow of what it once was. Sanders sounds like the political science major he was in college, explaining that the free tuition in public universities he seeks will not happen if it comes down to President Sanders negotiating with Republican leader Mitch McConnell. "It will happen,”he says, “if a million young people are marching on Washington."

The challenge for the Democratic nominee is to generate the kind of excitement that led to Obama's election and reelection. Among the issues that get Sanders most exercised is the "massive alienation among the American people" that leads to low voter turnout. If 60 percent and more of eligible voters don't vote, "nothing significant will change," he says. He is not happy about the Democratic National Committee scheduling only six debates, beginning in the fall, and decreeing if candidates participate in other debates, they will not be allowed in the sanctioned ones. "It's much too limited," he said. "Debates are a means to get people interested and engaged."

If it were up to him, candidates would debate across party lines. "Republicans have gotten away with murder because a lot of people don't know what their agenda is," he says. "Christie, Perry, Bush are all in favor of cutting Social Security. I want to expand it. Let's have that debate," he says. Sanders has never played party politics. He's the great disrupter. He's there to break the rules and regulations, and the voters are cheering him on.

Bernie Sanders Can Win the Iowa Caucus // The Observer // Brent Budowsky – June 15, 2015

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Let me be the first commentator to state explicitly what many Democratic insiders fear and many of the most progressive activists in the party yearn for: There is a very real prospect that Senator Bernie Sanders wins an outright victory in the Iowa caucus and pulls off one of the most stunning upsets in modern political history.

At this moment I would put the odds that Mr. Sanders upsets Hillary Clinton in the Iowa caucus at nearly 40 percent. As someone who can fairly be called a Democratic insider myself, I can report that some of the smartest Democratic strategists in national politics privately believe this but will not publicly state it. I just did.

To fully understand the powerful forces at work within the Democratic Party and national politics, and why Bernie Sanders has suddenly vaulted to a clear second place in the race for the Democratic nomination, lets briefly consider political events in the three days that began last Friday and ended on Sunday.

First, on Friday, President Obama was rebuked by Democrats in the House of Representatives over the fast track trade legislation which led—at least for now—to the bill being defeated in the House.

Then, on Saturday, Hillary Clinton made a major speech in New York in which she echoed many of the themes of progressive populist Democrats while appearing to wrap herself around the political mantle of President Obama with language so compelling it gave credence to the Republican charge that she is running for the third Obama term. I would emphasize—and this is important—that while Clinton was embracing Obama, progressives remember that not long ago Obama was personally and politically insulting prominent progressives such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), which I have previously written about in the Observer.

Next, on Sunday, Mr. Sanders and Ms. Clinton were both campaigning in Iowa, where he again aggressively opposed the trade bill and she implied that she would be a stronger trade negotiator than the president but again took no position on the trade bill.

Bernie Sanders took a position of conviction and purpose opposing the trade bill, while Hillary Clinton took a position that the Washington Post today correctly reported left her “a lot of wiggle room.”
The common denominators during these three days were that Bernie Sanders took a position of conviction and purpose opposing the trade bill, while Hillary Clinton took a position that the Washington Post today correctly reported left her “a lot of wiggle room” by failing to take any position on the trade bill.

These three days, from Friday through Sunday, are a microcosm of the forces at work within the Democratic Party that began in Washington and arrived in the heart of Iowa during campaigning for the caucus vote by the frontrunner candidate and her closest competitor.

The reason that Bernie Sanders has a viable chance of defeating Clinton in the Iowa caucus is that caucus elections involve a far smaller pool of voters than primary elections. In the caucus variation of “one person, one vote,” the candidate who can best inspire fervent supporters to attend a caucus on a frigid Iowa evening is the candidate who will win. A student at an Iowa college has the same “one vote” as the chair of the Democratic Party of an Iowa county.

In Washington Elizabeth Warren has seized the mantle of being the progressive conscience of the United States Senate, while in Iowa and other states Bernie Sanders is seizing the mantle of being the progressive conscience of the campaign for the Democratic nomination for president at a time when the progressive movement is on the ascendancy in national politics.

Mr. Sanders is the ultimate conviction politician in American politics. He is the epitome of authenticity. You will never see Mr. Sanders give paid speeches to big banks or Wall Street firms. Nor do his supporters dream of making their financial fortunes as highly paid lobbyists for special interests in Washington.

When the evening of the Iowa caucus arrives it is very possible that political experts and insiders will be astonished and confounded by the sudden appearance of new caucus participants who have never attended party meetings or caucus votes, and trudge through frigid cold and piles of snow to cast their caucus vote for Bernie Sanders.

Politics is similar to the concept of alternative universes in theoretical physics. Most political reporting in major media comes out of the universe of political insiders, where insider reporters report what they hear from insider politicians.

There is an alternate universe to this, which I would call “The Real America,” which is often missed by political insiders, which is why pundits are so often wrong.

In this alternate universe of real Americans who are suspicious of political insiders, there are people with passions and principles who are occasionally inspired to participate in politics in ways that are missed by the mainstream media until a shocking event unfolds in real time.

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It is very possible that such an event could occur in the Iowa caucus in 2016, when Mr. Sanders inspires a wave of participation from highly motivated and idealistic outsiders who suddenly descend on the caucuses and carry him to a victory that will shock and stun the political establishment and political media.

This column will cause great consternation among my friends in the Clinton campaign, but I would argue that the surge Mr. Sanders could ultimately prove a blessing in disguise for Hillary Clinton. The Sanders challenge will make her a stronger and better candidate and if she is nominated, Mr. Sanders could be a kingmaker if not a king by rallying his troops to vote for Ms. Clinton or any nominee, which he surely will for whomever is nominated.

I believe it is profoundly helpful, for Democrats and for America, that Mr. Sanders is bringing his integrity, passion, sincerity and progressive principles to center stage in the presidential campaign. It is good for Democrats and for America that new people are being inspired to join the political process which can only revitalize our democracy.

In the meantime, do not be surprised if the Iowa caucus in 2016 brings an earthquake to American politics and Bernie Sanders wins one of the great upset victories in modern times.

Poll: Sanders Gains on Clinton in New Hampshire // Real Clear Politics // Matthew Disler – June 15, 2015

The Morning Consult survey released Sunday shows the Vermont senator with 32 percent support among likely Democratic voters, compared with 44 percent for Clinton. This result should offer encouragement to the independent senator from Vermont (who is running as a Democrat) – but only in his neighboring state. Consult polls conducted in other early voting states show Sanders lagging much farther behind: He trails Clinton by 42 percentage points in Iowa and by 46 points in South Carolina. In the Palmetto State, in fact, Vice President Joe Biden is the second-place finisher, 41 points behind the frontrunner. (In Iowa, “Don’t Know” comes in second with 20 percent of responses; Sanders is third with 12 percent.)

In New Hampshire, however, Sanders’ 32 percent support has him well ahead of Biden (8 percent), former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley (2 percent) and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb (1 percent), according to the Consult. Notably, however, Biden is not in third place, as that distinction goes to “Don’t Know” at 11 percent.

Only Clinton, Sanders and O’Malley have declared their candidacy, along with former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, who failed to register in the Iowa and New Hampshire polls, and drew 1 percent in South Carolina.

Sanders has been gaining on Clinton elsewhere. Last week, he placed a relatively close second in the Wisconsin Democratic Party’s presidential straw poll, winning 41 percent of the 551 delegates’ votes to Clinton’s 49 percent.

In the RealClearPolitics average for New Hampshire, Sanders trails Clinton by 28.5 percentage points.

Nationally, the RCP average has Clinton in front with a whopping 59 percent of support to Sanders’ 11.5 percent, Biden’s 11.3 percent, O’Malley’s 2.3 percent, Webb’s 1.5 percent and Chafee at 0.8 percent.

The Morning Consult survey, conducted May 31-June 8 online and by phone, has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points in Iowa, South Carolina, and New Hampshire individually and six percentage points when all three polls are lumped together. The Iowa poll surveyed 905 registered voters, 313 of whom said that they intended to vote in the Democratic caucuses; in New Hampshire, the group polled 816 registered voters, 279 of whom planned to vote in that state’s Democratic primary; and in South Carolina, 906 register voters were polled, including 309 who planned to vote in the Democratic primary.

Sanders: I won’t wage personal attacks on Hillary Clinton // MSNBC // John O’Brien – June 15, 2015

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders drew contrasts between himself and Hillary Clinton ahead of the former secretary of state’s official campaign kick off over the weekend.

On msnbc Friday, Sanders spoke with Andrea Mitchell on the main focuses of his campaign. “People are deeply concerned about the disappearing middle class, wealth and income inequality, the fact that their young kids can’t afford to go to college,” Sanders said. “Those are the issues that we are talking about.”
He added that there was a “need to transform our economics and politics so that millionaires and billionaires can’t buy elections.” His biggest difference from Hillary Clinton? Sanders points out that he does not have a super PAC and won’t be soliciting donations from wealthy campaign contributors.

Instead, Sanders said that average Americans make up the backbone of his campaign donors. “Working families all over this country are saying, Bernie, we want to stand with you,” he said. Sanders’ website even boasts that it is “paid for by Bernie 2016, not the billionaires.”

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Sanders has also made clear that he will run a positive campaign focused on the issues. “I’ve known Hillary for 25 years. I am not going to be waging personal attacks against her. We differ on issues, and those are the areas that I’ll be focusing on,” Sanders said.

Why Bernie Sanders wins the crowds // CNN // Julian Zelizer – June 15, 2015

Bernie Sanders is drawing some large and enthusiastic crowds.

In New Hampshire at the Keene Recreation Center, which can hold more than 750 people, the place was packed to capacity with an overflowing crowd outside eager to hear him speak. This comes as a surprise. After all, Sanders has been a Democratic socialist for much of his political career. It would seem he is too far left on the political spectrum to be taken seriously.

The senator from Vermont is gaining attention among candidates and the press. Although some observers have explained the Sanders phenomenon as a product of Democratic politics shifting to the left, the truth is that much of what he has to say resonates with a broad spectrum of middle-class voters. Even if some of his solutions are far too much government for a broad portion of the electorate, what he's saying about American politics is resonating with voters.

A brief look at Sanders' stump speeches quickly reveals the senator is not always as "radical" as many people believe him to be. In many ways, he is as American as apple pie.

One of the biggest issues that helped Sanders gain traction is his passion for revitalizing the middle class.

Many voters in blue and red states are scared about the "new normal" of sluggish economic growth. They see their grown children struggling to obtain economic security. Polls indicate that people in both parties are greatly concerned about the expanding divide between the rich and poor.

While most Democrats still dance around this issue, fearful that their opponents will tag them as "too liberal" if they call on government to do something, Sanders tackles the issue directly. "In my view, the issue of wealth and income inequality is the great moral issue of our time; it is the great economic issue of our time, and it is the great political issue of our time," he said.

Unlike many candidates on the campaign trail, Sanders understands that these economic problems are directly related to the problems with the political process; namely, the power of private money in elections.

Economic inequality is not inevitable, in his mind. Polls show Americans are greatly concerned about the damaging reverberations of the Supreme Court's Citizens United case, which opened the floodgates to private money in campaigns. Sanders is unabashedly a critic of super PACs, large donations, and exorbitant campaign expenses. If it were up to him, the senator would revitalize the Watergate-era campaign finance reforms and go even further. He taps into deep discontent when he tells voters, "Enough is enough. This great nation and its government belong to all of the people, and not to a handful of billionaires, their super PACs and their lobbyists."

And, in an age when so many politicians seem to be scripted and elected officials willing to say anything to do better in the polls, Sanders actually believes in something.

Sanders believes in government.

When confronted with the major problems of the day, Sanders insists that government has historically done a pretty good job with issues like employment and infrastructure. He has no problem saying that the government can do a great job.

With many political advisers thinking about more "triangulation," Sanders harkens back to the accomplishments of the New Deal and Great Society. "If we are truly serious about reversing the decline of the middle class," Sanders said, "we need a major federal jobs program which puts millions of Americans back to work at decent paying jobs. At a time when our roads, bridges, water systems, rail and airports are decaying, the most effective way to rapidly create meaningful jobs is to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure."

His speeches are littered with examples of programs that have been effective. While most Republicans and a large number of independents and Democrats won't agree with his conclusions, there is something inescapably appealing about a candidate who stands for something with such clarity and verve.

Will he win? Probably not. Hillary Clinton will embrace many of these themes and speak more vocally about these issues, though probably with more hesitation and equivocation than Sanders. Clinton has launched a strong campaign, and with the possibility of electing the first female president, there's optimism and excitement in the air.

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But Sanders' arguments will continue to resonate with middle-class voters and his speeches will put immense pressure on Clinton and other Democrats. Even if Sanders is too far left, candidates in both parties should listen to what he is saying and learn about some of the concerns that are shaping the electorate.

Bernie Sanders says a black male baby born today has 1-in-3 chance of prison // Politifact // Louis Jacobson – June 15, 2015

Several 2016 presidential candidates in both parties have discussed how the criminal justice system might be improved. The latest to address this issue was Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders during a June 11, 2015, interview on PBS.
"A black male baby born today, if we do not change the system, stands a one-in-three chance (of) ending up in jail. This is (an) unspeakable tragedy."

When we took a closer look, we found that the statistic may not be far off -- but it's hard to know for sure, because the data Sanders relies on is so old. As with other dramatic talking points we've seen over the years, this one has been repeated and repeated over a decade and a half without being updated, despite evidence that the underlying trends have changed direction.

The statistic dates back to a 2003 paper published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, a division of the U.S. Justice Department. The Bureau of Justice Statistics paper includes the line, "About 1 in 3 black males ... are expected to go to prison during their lifetime, if current incarceration rates remain unchanged."

By contrast, the paper said, one of every six Hispanic males and one of every 17 white males can be expected to go to prison during their lifetime. (For this fact-check, we'll ignore Sanders' imprecise use of "jail," where people are held temporarily, rather than "prison," where inmates are typically serving substantial sentences.)

Not only was this data published 12 years ago, but the paper is based on data from 2001 -- a full 14 years ago. Despite its age, the statistic has been cited repeatedly -- notably in 2013 with the publication of a report by the Sentencing Project, a group that advocates for prison reform and promotes alternatives to incarceration. That report's claim -- that "if current trends continue, one of every three black American males born today can expect to go to prison in his lifetime" -- was footnoted to a 2011 paper by Marc Mauer, the Sentencing Project's executive director.

When we contacted Mauer, he said he doesn't know of any updated research that would shed light on the percentage today. "It's a very complex analysis to produce, so that's at least part of the reason that it hasn't been replicated in recent years," Mauer said.
We did, however, find reason to believe that the trend line that had been assumed in the 2003 paper has changed course.

According to annual Justice Department reports, in 2001 there were 3,535 sentenced black male prisoners under state or federal jurisdiction for every 100,000 black male residents. By 2013, the equivalent number was 2,805. So black incarceration rates were 21 percent lower in 2013 than they were in 2001.

That said, there's little doubt that black men have disproportionately higher incarceration rates. For instance, a study published in the journal Crime & Delinquency found that nearly half of black males and almost 40 percent of white males in the United States have been arrested by the age of 23.

But because of the complexities of modeling the statistics, Mauer said, it's hard to know how much the decline in incarceration rates would specifically change the one-in-three statistic Sanders used.

"We can't necessarily say that the one-in-three figure should be reduced by 21 percent, although if we did, it would bring it down to about 1 in 4, which is still quite dramatic," Mauer said.

Our ruling

Sanders said that "a black male baby born today, if we do not change the system, stands a one-in-three chance (of) ending up in jail."

This calculation, while it's the most recent one available, is 14 years old, and changes in the underlying data suggest that the actual odds of incarceration may be somewhat smaller today. Still, other evidence suggests that blacks have a disproportionate likelihood of ending up in prison. On balance we rate it Mostly True.

WEBB

Jim Webb to decide on presidential campaign in next two weeks // WaPo // Rachel Weiner – June

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As Jeb Bush announces the launch of a presidential campaign that has been all but official for months, Jim Webb is still openly wrestling with whether or not to run in the Democratic primary next year.

"We're going to make a decision within the next two weeks," the former Virginia senator told an Iowa radio host Monday morning. "The decision point is — can we put together a viable campaign without having to fall into this financial campaign funding process which I think is damaging to the country?"

Webb is back in Iowa on Monday and Tuesday, touring a wind farm and holding events around the Des Moines area.

Since launching an exploratory committee last fall with a low-budget Web video, Webb has acknowledged that he might not be able to raise the funds to compete on the national stage. He has been dipping in and out of early states while retreating from the trail for long stretches. He has gone through two Iowa operatives since he began considering a bid.

But he told Des Moines' WHO Radio that the huge audience that turned out to see Vermont's independent Sen. Bernie Sanders in Iowa this past weekend was a sign that some Democratic voters were "uneasy" with their choices and "looking for a different form of leadership."

Unlike Sanders, who this weekend went after Hillary Rodham Clinton for avoiding a clear position on a major free trade deal with Asia, Webb has avoided directly criticizing the former secretary of state. However, he agrees with Sanders and fellow Clinton opponent Martin O'Malley that the plan should not be fast-tracked through Congress.

"We need to see in writing what it is that the country is supposed to be approving," he said of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

OTHER

Labor buys 'thank you' ads for lawmakers who blocked Obama trade pact // WaPo // David Nakamura – June 15, 2015

The AFL-CIO is thanking Democratic lawmakers who stood with organized labor and blocked President Obama's trade deal in the House last week.

The ads, featuring individual members, will run on Facebook, and in print in the members' district. The labor union also is purchasing mobile ads in The Hill, a Capitol Hill publication.

"Thank you for standing with working families," the ads state, featuring photos of the lawmakers.

Labor has waged a fierce battle to block Congress from granting Obama fast-track powers to speed up completion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation free trade and regulatory deal. The AFL-CIO has said past trade deals have resulted in lost jobs and declining wages for workers in traditional manufacturing jobs.

The vast majority of House Democrats — 144 of 188 — voted Friday against a bill to offer financial assistance and job retraining for workers displaced by global trade. Though Democrats generally support such aid, the lawmakers voted against it to block a related bill to fast-track the TPP. Both bills were required to pass for the package to move forward, and it remains stalled in the House.

The Obama administration and Republican leaders have vowed to try again on the trade package as soon as this week.

Immigration 2016: Dems Try to out-DACA Each Other, While Mitt Admitting Mistake Gives GOP 'Chance to Win' // PJ Media // Bridget Johnson – June 15, 2015

If Hillary Clinton's opponents for the Democratic presidential nomination were chasing her on trade yesterday, today they're getting out front on immigration.

Today is the third anniversary of the announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that has given legal work status to 700,000 illegal immigrants.

"If it weren't for DREAMers, their voices and efforts, DACAmented youth around the country wouldn't be able to contribute their skills, work and ingenuity to the country they call home," former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley said in English and Spanish statements today. "These are the young New Americans who are doing what so many

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of our ancestors have done before them: making our nation stronger with their passion, their talent, and their love of country."

"I've had the honor of working side by side many of these New Americans. I am proud of what we fought for together – passing the DREAM Act in Maryland and making sure that all New Americans regardless of their status could drive lawfully and safely in our communities."

However, he said, "DACA is just a temporary solution, and it is a moral and economic imperative that we make sure DREAMers and other New Americans can fully contribute to our country."

"I know the urgency to fix our broken immigration system," O'Malley said. "I'm the only candidate in this race who has committed to tackle immigration reform in my first 100 days in office and the only one with a proven record of advancing New American rights."

Last month, Clinton hired a DREAMer activist as her campaign's Latino outreach director.

Campaigning in Nevada in early May with DREAMers — illegal immigrants brought to the country as children, named so for the DREAM Act — Hillary Clinton vowed "to stop partisan attacks on the executive actions that would put DREAMers – including many with us today – at risk of deportation."

"And, if Congress refuses to act, as president I will do everything possible under the law to go even further. There are more people – like many parents of DREAMers and others with deep ties and contributions to our communities – who deserve a chance to stay. I'll fight for them too," she added.

Clinton's campaign released a fact sheet on her plans for comprehensive immigration reform, stressing that anything from Congress "must include nothing less than a full and equal path to citizenship."

But the Dems aren't the only one staking out their claims on immigration.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), vying for the Republican nomination, told CBS on Sunday that "Mitt Romney and Ann Romney did our party a great service by admitting that embracing self-deportation in 2012 was their biggest mistake."

"They have given us a chance in 2016 to win," Graham said. "You're not going to self-deport 11 million people. You're not going to be able to do that. I'm not going to be a Republican nominee wanting to try to do that. If you pass a criminal background check, I will allow to you stay here legally and earn your way to citizenship. It will be hard-earned pathway. But I hope every candidate on the Republican side will follow Mitt Romney's lead and admit it was a mistake to embrace self-deportation. And I hope self-deportation is in our rear-view mirror as a party, because if it is not, we will lose in 2016."

"...There are some people saying we need to limit legal immigration. To me, they're just looking in a different world than I am. We will be down to two workers for every retiree in the next 20 years. We're going to need more legal immigration. And I hope we will embrace a comprehensive approach that is realistic and humane."

GOP

BUSH

Jeb Bush's Surprising Struggle With Moderates // NYT // Nate Cohn – June 15, 2015

It was easy to see Jeb Bush's path to the Republican nomination when he announced the formation of his super PAC in December. He wasn't guaranteed to pull it off — not by any stretch — but he seemed well positioned to appeal to the coalition of party elites and blue-state voters that has allowed center-right establishment candidates to win the party's last two contests.

Mr. Bush might still take exactly this path to the nomination. But the striking — and surprising — thing about his candidacy is that he will formally enter the race Monday bearing many of the costs of the center-right approach without seeming to enjoy many of the benefits.

He has not won the invisible primary, the behind-the-scenes competition for elite support that often decides the nomination, and he has not even emerged as a favorite of the party's large block of more moderate voters. He starts in a weaker position than not only his brother in 1999 or his father in 1987, but also Mitt Romney in 2011.

To a certain extent, Mr. Bush is a victim of unfair expectations. He was often called the front-runner, even though

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it was obvious that the party's large conservative and populist base would have serious reservations about an establishment candidate who often seemed to attack conservatives. And he was likely to face stronger competition, like Scott Walker, than recent Republican nominees.

What is surprising, though, is Mr. Bush's relatively vulnerable standing in the places he had seemed strong only a few months ago. It's no surprise that he has miserable numbers among Iowa caucus-goers, who are very conservative, and Tea Party supporters nationwide. It is surprising that he has not emerged as a clear favorite in New Hampshire, where self-identified moderates make up nearly half of the electorate. In national polls, he fares no better against Hillary Rodham Clinton than Marco Rubio or Mr. Walker, and his favorability ratings are worse than all of them. The party establishment hasn't unified around him, perhaps in part as a result of these indicators.

Mr. Bush's struggle is a reflection of his own missteps and weaknesses, like a handful of stumbles on the campaign trail and his unpopular last name. But it is also a reflection of the strength of his competition — not just from the mainstream candidates who can take a slice of the relatively moderate voters and elites he requires to be viable, but also from the conservative candidates he ultimately needs to defeat.

The early signs of Mr. Bush's strength — like prominent hires, reports of prodigious fund-raising, Mitt Romney's decision to stay out of the race, and reports that similarly positioned candidates were struggling to find breathing room — have all faded. Some are no longer true.

Mr. Romney's exit now looks like the exception, with a flood of candidates joining the race. Most significant is Mr. Rubio, the senator who many believed would not run if Mr. Bush, his mentor, entered the race.

Mr. Rubio, 44, may offer the field's best case for "electability" because of his youth, charisma and Cuban heritage, and he is competing for many of the same supporters as Mr. Bush, including in their home state of Florida. A stronger Mr. Bush would have made it very difficult for Mr. Rubio to win the nomination, but Mr. Bush's weakness has created an opening for Mr. Rubio that didn't even seem to be there as recently as two or three months ago.

John Kasich, the governor of Ohio, also seemed unlikely to run until a few months ago. Like Mr. Rubio, and along with Chris Christie and Lindsey Graham, he could draw at least some supporters and voters from Mr. Bush. "I didn't think I was going to be back up here again because, frankly, I thought Jeb was just going to suck all the air out of the room," Mr. Kasich said two weeks ago in New Hampshire, "and it just hasn't happened."

Mr. Bush's fund-raising, with a goal of $100 million for his super PAC, is impressive. But it's hard to say just how impressive it really is in an era of unlimited contributions, when even a candidate like Ted Cruz can raise more than $30 million for his super PAC in a few weeks. And in recent days, there have been reports that Mr. Bush might fall well short of early fund-raising expectations — a further sign of weakness.

Even if his fund-raising is as strong as he hoped, there is no reason to expect it will be decisive: Mr. Romney barely won pivotal states like Ohio and Michigan in the 2012 primaries, despite an overwhelming financial and organizational edge over a candidate, Rick Santorum, who was not nearly as strong as Mr. Bush's competition is today.

Perhaps most important, it's surprisingly hard to find prominent elites who support Mr. Bush — aside from a spurt of donors and high-profile aides who joined his team a few months ago and late last week. When my colleague Peter Baker recently surveyed 120 people who worked for President George W. Bush, only about 25 responded to say they supported Jeb Bush. You won't find many Republicans and conservatives praising him on television or in print. So far, Mr. Bush has received no formal endorsements from outside Florida, and nothing is a better indicator of primary strength than endorsements.
Mr. Bush, of course, might eventually generate a surge of endorsements. Fund-raising strength usually correlates with endorsements, even if a handful of candidates with unusually close ties to Wall Street and strong fund-raising performances but poor results — like Phil Gramm, chairman of the Senate committee on banking, and the former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani — have soured analysts on this metric.

But much of the Republican elite has serious reservations about whether Mr. Bush is the best candidate to face Mrs. Clinton. It's not hard to imagine why: His favorability ratings and standing against her are dismal. Whatever the actual value of public opinion polling at this early stage, the polls give no reason for elites to assume that Mr. Bush is a particularly strong general election candidate.

His performance on the campaign trail hasn't given them much reason to assume he could be a strong candidate, either. Last month, he struggled to answer a question about whether he would have invaded Iraq, given what we know today. It at once made him seem unprepared for a predictable question while highlighting the vulnerability posed by his last name. It was a very different Mr. Bush than the one depicted in initial press reports, which quoted Republican donors who insisted that he was such an impressive candidate that he could distinguish himself from his brother.

Candidates like Mr. Rubio, Mr. Walker, Mr. Kasich, Rick Perry, Mr. Christie and Rand Paul can compete for

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moderate and independent voters in New Hampshire, a state that Mr. Bush may need to win. On paper, one would expect that a relatively moderate Republican would fare well in New Hampshire. But Mr. Bush has struggled to take a lead there, and it's fair to wonder whether he is as good a fit for the state as one might guess from his moderate reputation.

The state's voters aren't just relatively moderate; they're independent and iconoclastic. John McCain won the state in 2000 and 2008, while Jon Huntsman and Ron Paul combined to amass more support than Mr. Romney received four years ago. One wonders whether an establishment-backed Bush is the right candidate to appeal to a state with a penchant for "mavericks."

Just as important, the field includes candidates who have the potential to consolidate conservatives without alienating the rest of the party. The inability of conservatives to get their act together has been one of the biggest assets to the establishment. In the last two Republican primaries, conservatives settled on two evangelical favorites — Mr. Santorum and Mike Huckabee — who had little chance of defeating the more mainstream front-runner in a long battle.

This year, both Mr. Walker and Mr. Rubio have the potential to consolidate conservatives and win a national campaign. Of the two, Mr. Walker has the easier path. He already holds a modest but consistent lead in Iowa polls, and, unlike recent Iowa winners, he has the broad appeal and elite support necessary to win a protracted contest. He could even win New Hampshire, especially over a divided field, something that could not be said for either of the last two winners of Iowa.

Mr. Rubio has a somewhat harder path. While Mr. Walker is a natural candidate of very conservative voters in part because of his victories over unions and liberal opponents in Wisconsin, Mr. Rubio lacks as clear a pitch to one of the party's major factions. So far, he is the second choice of many.

But Mr. Rubio offers the conservative elite a reliable representative of their views, and they believe he is well positioned to face Mrs. Clinton in the general election. He is also a charismatic enough politician to become the first choice of many if elites bestow the necessary resources, or if another candidate stumbles, and it would be unwise to rule out the possibility that he could simply outperform Mr. Bush in the minds of voters and elites alike.

Mr. Walker and Mr. Rubio could certainly falter. Well-positioned candidates have done so before, like Mr. Romney in 2008 and Mr. Perry in 2012. But if they do not, Mr. Bush will need to defeat them the old-fashioned way. He will need to perform better on the campaign trail, reassuring Republican elites and eventually swaying voters in New Hampshire.

This is not the path of an invisible primary leader, like that of his brother 16 years ago or of Mrs. Clinton today. It's a tougher one.

Jeb Bush Announces White House Bid, Saying 'America Deserves Better.' // NYT // Michael Barbaro and Jonathan Martin – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush, the son and brother of a president, offered himself up as the most accomplished leader in the 2016 field, declared war on Washington's political culture and insisted that his family name gave him no singular claim to the Oval Office as he formally entered the race for the White House on Monday.

As his mother, Barbara, the former first lady, looked on, Mr. Bush directly confronted the central doubt looming over his campaign: that he presents the latest incarnation of a tired dynasty and is entitled to the Republican nomination by virtue of his surname.

"Not a one of us deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family, or family narrative," Mr. Bush said inside a community college gymnasium. "It's nobody's turn. It's everybody's test."

In declaring his presidential bid before a cheering crowd at Miami Dade College, Mr. Bush promised to remove Washington as an obstacle to effective government and economic prosperity by declaring that "America deserves better."

Mr. Bush, whose two terms as governor of Florida were marked by the privatization of traditional state services, vowed to "take Washington – the static capital of this dynamic country – out of the business of causing problems."

Mr. Bush called upon his own record of ambitious, conservative-minded change as Florida's chief executive. "I know we can fix this," Mr. Bush said. "Because I've done it."

Mr. Bush, 62, declared his White House ambitions nearly 27 years after his father was elected president, molding a political dynasty that would propel one son into a governor's office and another into the White House.

But Mr. Bush entered a presidential contest — unruly in size, unyielding in pace and voracious in cost — that is

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unlike any faced by his father, George Bush, who won the office in 1988, or his brother, George W. Bush, who claimed it in 2000.

In his speech, Mr. Bush offered himself up as a counterpoint to a Republican Party that has struggled to connect with minority voters, costing it the last two presidential elections. He also vowed to remain true to his principles, an implicit attack on his Republican rivals who have changed their views to appeal to the party's conservative base.

And as the third member of his family to seek the nation's highest office, he brings to the race a last name that at once burnishes and tarnishes, evoking the nobility of public service and a deep distrust of political entitlement.

Mr. Bush's campaign highlighted that tension on Monday with the selection of a spare logo, first used in his failed 1994 race for governor, that excludes his surname. It reads simply "Jeb!" And while Mr. Bush's wife, Columba, and his three adult children attended his speech, his father and brother did not join him for the announcement at the Kendall Campus of Miami Dade College.

Mr. Bush's advisers and allies once predicted that he would emerge as the dominant Republican in the 2016 campaign, fueled by his record of conservative accomplishment as Florida's governor, his popularity at the end of his time in office and the fund-raising prowess of the Bush family network. But now they are resigned to a far longer and uglier slog for him in the Republican nominating contest.

"The operative word inside the campaign is patience," said Al Cardenas, a former Florida Republican Party leader and longtime ally of Mr. Bush. "As people get to know him, things will get better."

Mr. Bush made his formal announcement here in the multicultural city that allowed him to escape from his family's patrician roots in the ivy-covered walls of Connecticut and in the oil patches of Texas. It was Miami that eventually nurtured the political ambitions that had long been a birthright of his clan.

In his speech, he both embraced elements of his heritage and tried to transcend them, portraying himself as an entrepreneurial figure who, in the Bush family way, struck out on his own, built up a real estate business and became a governor who delivered on a promise of sweeping change.

"I said I was going to do these things, and I did them," Mr. Bush declared in a video released by his political operation on Sunday night. "The result was Florida's a lot better off."

Joining a field crowded with governors and senators, he tried on Monday to distinguish himself as an executive animated by big ideas and uniquely capable of carrying them out, pointing to his record in Florida of introducing a taxpayer-financed school voucher program, expanding charter schools, reducing the size of state government by thousands of workers and cutting taxes by billions.

Above all, he offered himself as a messenger of optimistic conservatism, uninterested in the politics of grievance, obstructionism and partisanship that, in his eyes and those of his allies, have catapulted less accomplished rivals, like Senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky, to national prominence.

Leadership, he says in the video, is "not just about yapping about things," an unmistakable attack on his voluble, less seasoned rivals from the Senate.

He adds: "There's a lot of people talking. And they're pretty good at it. But we need to start fixing things."

The risk for Mr. Bush, a cerebral figure who seems more at ease debating the intricacies of education policy with business leaders than electrifying a crowd of voters, is that the charismatic talkers in his party may outshine him before ballots are cast. He has yet to emerge as a front-runner in polls, lagging rivals in crucial states like Iowa, which will hold its caucuses early next year.

Mr. Cardenas said Monday's speech was only the beginning of a long sales pitch that Mr. Bush must make in states with early nominating contests like Iowa and New Hampshire.

"I consider the early states an asset for most candidates who are introducing themselves, and a burden for Governor Bush," Mr. Cardenas said.

"The reason for that is that since 2006, many of our pundits in the party have not been kind to the Bush family," Mr. Cardenas said.

Many Republican elected officials who admire Mr. Bush have nevertheless held back from endorsing him, saying he still needs to prove himself as a candidate.

Jeb Bradley, the majority leader in the New Hampshire State Senate, said that Mr. Bush met his three criteria for

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an endorsement — leadership skills, appealing stances on most issues and ability to win — but that he was still open to backing two other Republicans, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

“I want to see what Governor Bush says in Monday’s speech, see him at a town-hall meeting up here, see what his fund-raising looks like,” Mr. Bradley said.

The announcement of Mr. Bush’s White House run ends an unusual, legally problematic and occasionally comical phase in which Mr. Bush traveled, raised money and campaigned as a full-fledged candidate but insisted, despite all evidence to the contrary, that he was not officially exploring a presidential run.

It was a claim that allowed Mr. Bush to collect vast sums of cash for the political entities that could supercharge his campaign, but it produced several moments of semantic gymnastics. (A few days ago, to the barely suppressed laughter of the reporters nearby, Mr. Bush referred to “election night” and the “campaign that is likely to take place.”)

Despite Mr. Bush’s stumbles so far, his friends and allies said his biggest asset was his unwillingness to transform himself into something he is not.

“I think he needs to put aside the last few months and continue to calmly show a grown-up attitude,” said Barry Wynn, a prominent South Carolina Republican and donor. “The two things that will distinguish him are his stature, that he is a grown-up ready for the presidency, and his consistency, that he’s not changing to make everyone happy.”

“The worst thing for Jeb to do,” Mr. Wynn said, “is give his opponents any opportunity to close the stature gap he enjoys.”

But it remains unclear whether conservative-leaning voters will be as animated by Mr. Bush’s “grown-up” qualities as the party’s donor class, which has formed his core of early support.

“I am going to be who I am,” he said in Europe last weekend, on a trip during which he barely interacted with ordinary people. He seemed content mostly to bat around policy ideas, as he did on Saturday in Estonia with a group of technology executives who briefed him on the digitalization of the country’s government.

“I’m not going to change who I am,” Mr. Bush said as he left the meeting, his last in Europe, and headed home.

Jeb Bush on the Issues // NYT // Gerry Mullany – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush, who was governor of Florida from 1999 to 2007, on Monday announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. A son of George Bush, the 41st president, and a younger brother of George W. Bush, the 43rd, he is known for sometimes bucking Republican orthodoxy. Here is a look at his stand on important issues.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Bush says that American combat forces should not be sent to Iraq to fight the group calling itself the Islamic State, but that some troops should be embedded with Iraqi forces there “to help train them, to identify targets.” He has called the Obama administration’s framework of an agreement with Iran to curb its nuclear program a “horrific deal” and, like fellow Republican contenders, said he would most likely cancel any final agreement reached by the administration should he become president. Mr. Bush calls himself “an unwavering supporter” of Israel and its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and distanced himself from recent comments by an adviser, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, that were critical of Mr. Netanyahu. Mr. Bush opposes normalizing relations with Cuba; in early December, before President Obama moved to do so, Mr. Bush said that “instead of lifting the embargo, we should consider strengthening it.”

Immigration

Mr. Bush says he believes that people who are in this country illegally should be offered a path to legal status. “You pay your fines, you get provisional work permits, where you come out of the shadows, you pay taxes, you pay fines, you don’t receive government assistance, you learn English, you don’t commit crimes,” he said in February. “Any of those things that you do would be a deportable offense.” He also called, as many Republican candidates have, for tougher enforcement of immigration laws, including prosecuting businesses that hire undocumented aliens.

Same-Sex Marriage

Signaling his opposition to same-sex marriage, Mr. Bush says he believes in “traditional marriage.” But he has also suggested an openness to some form of recognition of same-sex unions. “I hope that we can show respect for the

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good people on all sides of the gay and lesbian marriage issue," he said in January, "including couples making lifetime commitments to each other who are seeking greater legal protections and those of us who believe marriage is a sacrament and want to safeguard religious liberty."

Environment

"The climate is changing, and I'm concerned about that," Mr. Bush said in New Hampshire in April, adding that "we need to work with the rest of the world to negotiate a way to reduce carbon emissions." Those remarks distinguished him from most other Republican presidential hopefuls, who deny that the climate is changing or that global warming is caused by human behavior. But Mr. Bush also said he was more concerned about protecting the economy, warning of "the hollowing out of our industrial core, the hollowing out of our ability to compete in an increasingly competitive world."

Education

Mr. Bush has been an outspoken defender of the Common Core national educational standards, which were intended to raise proficiency in math and English but have generated a strong backlash among conservatives who see Common Core as an overreach by the federal government. "Raising expectations and having accurate assessments of where kids are is essential for success," Mr. Bush said in defending the standards.

Economy and Budget

While focusing his economic message on inequality and middle-class wage stagnation, Mr. Bush has not yet offered detailed proposals to confront these issues. He has said he would try to nearly double the nation's annual growth rate to 4 percent to create jobs. Though he favors simplifying the tax code, he has not specified how he would change the federal tax system. As governor, though, he signed several tax cuts into law, including a cut and then a repeal of Florida's 0.2 percent tax on stocks, bonds and other so-called intangible assets.

Jeb Bush Shows Loyalty to a Logo Derided by Some // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush's new campaign logo — Jeb! — was unveiled to guffaws that it was unoriginal and lacking in design elements, but for the former Florida governor, a throwback look appears to have been part of the plan.

Mr. Bush's logo dates to his 1994 campaign, when he lost to Lawton Chiles, the incumbent Democratic governor. He stuck with it over the years, and in 2002 filed paperwork to trademark the logo.

The move was considered unorthodox at the time. According to a report from The Miami Herald, Mr. Bush intended to prevent groups that opposed him from using his name to raise money.

Mr. Bush remained protective of the trademark over the years. In 2010, after he had left office, his lawyer accused a Democratic State Senate candidate, Deborah Gianoulis, of stealing his logo after she distributed campaign signs and bumper stickers that read "Deb!"

After receiving a cease-and-desist letter, Ms. Gianoulis told The Florida Times-Union she had no idea about Mr. Bush's logo and said "Deb" was her nickname.

"Governor Bush is welcome to borrow the logo we used in my 2010 campaign," Ms. Gianoulis said on Monday. "All I ask in return is that his campaign put an exclamation point behind support for public education."

Mr. Bush's trademark lapsed later in 2010, and he reapplied for it this year, according to filings with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Branding experts noted on Monday that Mr. Bush's simple, first-name only logo works well with his 2016 bid, in which he is looking to play down his connection to a political dynasty.

Erick Erickson, the conservative blogger, suggested that Mr. Bush's logo is no worse than Hillary Rodham Clinton's "H" with an arrow and argued that it would be hard to trump the success that President Obama had with "O" and a swooshing flag.

"At least 'Jeb!' is consistent and carries some history with it," Mr. Erickson said. "Unfortunately for Jeb Bush, so does his last name."

Jeb Bush Is Still the Favorite, the Markets Say // NYT // David Leonhardt – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush has had a rough few months. He fumbled a question about the war in Iraq. He has not consolidated the support of Republican elites, as Nate Cohn notes. And he has not scared off other candidates who could hurt him in the primaries, like John Kasich. There is no clever case to be made that Mr. Bush's campaign has actually

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performed well this spring.

But if we've learned one thing about presidential campaigns, it's that most people who follow them overreact to short-term news. Ronald Reagan's 1980 campaign had its share of gaffes. Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign lurched from one crisis to the next. George W. Bush endured a drunk-driving revelation in the final days of his 2000 campaign. Barack Obama seemed to dismiss guns and religion as opiates of the masses. All survived to win not only those campaigns but also re-election four years later.

PredictWise gives him roughly a 31 percent chance of winning the Republican nomination, a number that has changed little in 2015. It was as low as 27 percent in January and briefly touched 36 percent a couple of times in early April. He remains the favorite, with Marco Rubio at 25 percent, Scott Walker at 18 percent and no other individual candidate above 5 percent (Rand Paul's chances have generally been rated higher in the last few months, but he is at 5 percent as of today).

Mr. Bush's basic strengths and weaknesses have not changed. He is the most experienced, tested candidate among the Republicans' major contenders, with deep ties to party leaders, a popular tenure as Florida's governor and a well-known interest in policy. He is also a mediocre speech-giver, the brother of a president who was among the least popular of the last 80 years, and a person who's distrusted by many conservatives.

I might quibble with the collective opinion of the prediction markets. (I believe they're still overestimating the chances that the nominee will be someone other than Mr. Bush, Mr. Rubio or Mr. Walker.) But the notion that Mr. Bush's chances are only slightly worse than they were at the peak feels right, for all the negative commentary he is now receiving.

He is both the most likely Republican nominee — and still more likely than not to lose the nomination. The campaign has a long way to go.

Jeb Bush repackages his brother's 'compassionate conservatism' // WaPo // Paul Waldman – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush will be announcing his presidential candidacy this afternoon, finally ending all the edge-of-your-seat mystery and speculation about whether he really is running. And from what we've learned in advance, Bush may be charting an interesting and somewhat risky path to get his party's nomination.

Instead of doing what we might have expected from someone in Jeb's position — bending over backward to convince base Republicans that he's a true conservative — he seems to be going in the opposite direction. It's almost as if he's already running a general election campaign.

We won't know all the details until he gives the speech, and I'm sure there will be a reasonable amount of massaging of the conservative pleasure centers on things like tax cuts and reducing regulation. But Jeb's first notes as an official candidate sound a lot like his brother's "compassionate conservatism."

Let's be clear about what that means. "Compassionate conservatism" was always light on policy and heavy on image-making. While it's fashionable for Republicans to now say that George W. Bush wasn't a "real" conservative because he didn't cut spending enough, the truth is that he gave conservatives almost everything they wanted: huge tax cuts for the wealthy, slashing regulations, a belligerent foreign policy, right-wing judges, and so on. But he also said nice things about poor people and spent lots of time posing for pictures with African-Americans and Hispanics — hence, "compassion." His 2004 campaign web site featured a "Compassion Photo Album" that was, I kid you not, just a bunch of photos of George and Laura with black and Hispanic people.

And Jeb is following in those footsteps. Check out this video the campaign just released:

In this video, the four people offering testimonials on Bush's behalf are an Hispanic immigrant man, the family member of a person with disabilities (also Hispanic), a woman who had been the victim of domestic violence, and a young African-American woman who was the first in her family to graduate college. Only one of them, the African-American woman, is associated with a conservative policy, school vouchers. In the other cases we have no idea what the actual policies were that helped these people, only that they are grateful to Jeb Bush. At the end, he says, "What we need is new leadership that takes conservative principles and applies them so that people can rise up," but other than that one mention of the word "conservative," you might not even be sure this is a Republican candidate.

Needless to say, this is a stark contrast to the way his opponents are running; the question most of them are trying to answer is how they can show primary voters that they're the most conservative candidate in the bunch. It's also a striking departure from the strategy employed four years ago by Mitt Romney, who had a profile similar in many ways to Bush's, and who like Bush had to win over skeptical conservatives.

At the time, Romney went on a national self-flagellation tour, renouncing his prior beliefs and begging for

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forgiveness for his past heresies. But Bush now looks like someone who's already trying to appeal to the general electorate. In another video released today, Bush has a litany of Americans he sees who are "ready" to get on board his train to the future ("children who are ready to learn, entrepreneurs who are ready to innovate," etc), and one of the groups he cites are "immigrants who are ready to contribute." You aren't going to hear that from Scott Walker.

To be clear, this doesn't mean Jeb Bush is some kind of moderate — he isn't, and he isn't going be claiming to be so in any explicit way. Saying that clearly would be going too far for the primary electorate (prominent conservative media figures like Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Mark Levin, and Laura Ingraham are already lining up against him because he supposedly isn't conservative enough). The differences between him and the other candidates on policy are tiny, where they exist at all.

But the Bush campaign says he'll be "showing his heart," which appears to mean talking to the kind of people his party has spent the last few years trying as hard as they could to alienate. It sounds like someone who's already looking past the primaries to the general election.

For Jeb Bush, a moment to refocus // WaPo // Dan Balz – June 15, 2015

Campaign kickoffs aren't what they once were, given the distractions of the time and speed with which one political event overtakes another. But for Jeb Bush, Monday's launch couldn't have come at a more opportune time.

For the past week, much of the media's attention on Bush has focused on the internal machinations of his staff and political operation. Monday's announcement provided Bush with a welcome circuit breaker, and he took full advantage of the moment.

His speech, delivered to an energized audience at Miami Dade College, was peppered with criticism of President Obama, Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, the progressive establishment and the lobbyist-dominated culture of Washington.

It was both personal and thematic, short on policy details but not on offering a roadmap to the kind of campaign he will run and the kind of president he would like to be. It was an opportunity for Bush to refocus attention on himself — and it was a call to Republicans to look more fully at who he is and isn't and at what he has to offer.

In his telling, what makes him stand out in a crowded field is a combination of executive experience as a governor, conservative values, a compassionate heart, a commitment to small government with what he described as the instincts of a reformer prepared to disrupt the "pampered elites" in the nation's capital.

Implicit in his message, and explicit in the words of some of the speakers who preceded him on the stage at Miami Dade College, was one more thing that he and his team believe sets him apart. That is the claim that he would be better positioned to win a general election and restore Republicans to the White House than any of his rivals.

That is, if he can defeat those rivals to win the GOP nomination. That is the central question surrounding his candidacy. He carries a famous name and would make history by becoming the third member of one family to be elected president.

On Monday, Bush made a special point of debunking any suggestion that he believes he has a head start or should be seen as anything approaching a front-runner or favorite for the nomination.

"Not a one of us deserves the job by right of résumé, party, seniority, family, or family narrative," he said. "It's nobody's turn. It's everybody's test, and it's wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be."

Bush's formal announcement ended six months of an exhibition season that did as much to underscore the obstacles ahead of him in his quest to win the White House as they did to highlight the reality that he will still have certain advantages in the months ahead.

He may not be the dominant GOP candidate that some people mistakenly thought anyone with the Bush name and network should be. But neither is anyone named Bush merely one more candidate in a crowded field of contenders, regardless of what the polls show.

Those polls show a compacted field, bunched at the top and with many others close behind. But Bush still has assets that could give him the staying power to win what shapes up as an extremely competitive contest.

One is money. When he finally reports on the results of his tireless, aggressive fundraising of the first months of this year, it is likely to outdistance his rivals, perhaps by significant millions. If a Bush-allied super PAC falls short of the $100 million threshold that has been talked about, it nonetheless is likely to get people's attention, particularly his rivals.

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Bush also knows what he thinks about issues and is comfortable talking about them — whether domestic issues that were his bread and butter in Tallahassee during his two terms as governor or some national security issues that are newer but not exactly foreign to him. That is an asset not to be underestimated over the course of a long and rigorous campaign.

He faces resistance inside his party — hesitation born of a belief among some Republicans that no matter what they might think of the presidencies of his father, George H.W. Bush, or his brother, George W. Bush, a third Bush presidency is simply one too many.

He faces resistance from other Republicans who doubt his authenticity as a conservative. His advisers say he will try to appeal to every segment of the party, and they believe he has something for each of them.

There were hints of that Monday, from talk of his fiscal conservatism to mentions of religious freedom and battles between Christian conservatives and the Obama administration to tough talk to appeal to national security hawks.

But it is Bush's differences with party orthodoxy that could disrupt his campaign for the nomination. He differs with others in his party on the issue of Common Core, though not on education reform more generally. He talked about taking on the education unions Monday but did not mention Common Core, other than to say the federal government should not be in charge of school curriculum standards.

He also parts company with most of his rivals on immigration. He supports a path to legal status for those here illegally, but opposes a path to citizenship, as Obama, Clinton and most Democrats favor.

His prepared text made no mention of immigration, but he could not hide from it. Two-thirds of the way through the speech, a group of young people stood up in the balcony with T-shirts that spelled out, "Legal status is not enough." In response Bush said that the next president would enact immigration reform.

Bush pledged an optimistic campaign and said he would run everywhere, "speaking to everyone, keeping my word, facing the issues without flinching, and staying true to what I believe. I will take nothing and no one for granted. I will run with heart and I will run to win."

He has no other choice. What the past months have shown is that he will face one of the most competitive contests Republicans have seen in many campaigns. He has filled his campaign coffers and realigned his staff for the battles ahead. Now it comes back to him. Can he make the sale to a wary party?

Meet the people who will try to get Jeb Bush elected president // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush launches his presidential campaign on Monday surrounded by a family all-too familiar with the strains and triumphs of presidential politics, a handful of friends and confidants who have known him for decades and younger recruits fluent in the mechanics of modern political warfare.

The former Florida governor also boasts an unrivaled donor network -- cultivated from his Miami home base and by his extended family for more than 40 years -- and a campaign team growing across the country. There's also a super PAC, run by Bush's political alter ego, that is poised to raise record sums of money.

Out on the campaign trail and behind the scenes, here's a list of people advising and supporting Bush, compiled by The Washington Post and subject to change as we learn more:

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:
Jeb Bush speaks to supporters as his wife, Columba Bush, and youngest son, Jeb Bush Jr., stand on stage with him during a fundraising event at the Jorge Mas Canosa Youth Center in Sweetwater, Fla., on March 18. (Joe Raedle/ Getty Images)
Columba Bush: The candidate's wife; they've been married for 41 years. The couple first met in her home town of Leon, Mexico, when he visited on a high school exchange trip. After marriage, they lived in Venezuela, where he worked as a bank executive, and the family moved two years later to Miami. They speak Spanish to one another and their lives have been immersed in Hispanic culture.

On the campaign trail, Bush frequently mentions the two distinct periods in his life: "B.C. and A.C.: Before Columba and After Columba."

"I love her dearly, and she has given me a purpose in my life that makes me kind of a grinder, if you will," he once said.

George P. Bush: The eldest of Bush's children and the oldest member of the family's next generation. He has two young sons with his wife, Amanda. Bush did a tour in Afghanistan with the Navy Reserve and now serves as Texas

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Land Commissioner, easily winning election last year. He will travel to Nevada this week to campaign on his father's behalf and is expected to focus especially on building Hispanic and younger-voter support.

Noelle Bush: Bush's middle child and only daughter, who he has described as "the joy of my life." She has shunned the spotlight and isn't expected to play an active role with the campaign. She lives in Orlando and frequently visits her parents in Miami.

Jeb Bush Jr.: Bush's youngest child is also expected to be the most active. He is his father's former business partner, lives in Miami and has two young children with his wife, Sandra, who is of Iraqi and Jordanian descent and grew up in Canada. "Jebbie," as he's nicknamed, has already headlined several smaller-dollar fundraisers for his father's super PAC.
Former president George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara Bush, seen at a college basketball regional final game between Gonzaga and Duke, during the NCAA Tournament on March 29 in Houston. (AP/David J. Phillip)
George H.W. Bush: The 41st president of the United States. Jeb Bush frequently tells voters that his father is "the greatest man alive."

Barbara Bush: The former first lady, who suggested in recent years that the country is "Bushed out" but now fully supports her son's campaign. Proudly outspoken, she said in a recent NBC interview, "I've promised that during this next campaign season, I will not talk."

George W. Bush: The 43rd president is Jeb Bush's older brother and widely seen as one of his biggest political liabilities. The former president has also said he plans to stay out of the limelight during the coming campaign season.

Marvin, Neil and Doro: Jeb Bush's younger siblings, who are active political figures. Marvin is usually the foil when Jeb jokes about his political family: "A lot of people, they know my dad, they know my brother – and I'm not talking about Marvin," he once told a Nevada crowd.

Josefina Gallo Esquivel: Jeb Bush's mother-in-law. He has invoked her story in discussions about federally-funded medical research by revealing that she has dementia. Esquivel lives under the care of her daughters in Miami.

John and Lucila Schmitz: If not for them, Jeb and Columba Bush probably would never have met. When Jeb first met Columba in Mexico, she was in a car with John and Lucila, who were dating at the time. The couple lives in Miami near the Bushes and Lucila and Columba's mother (see above).

Jorge Arrizurieta, Al Cardenas and Ana Navarro: They're among Bush's biggest backers and frequently called upon by reporters to illustrate his Miami roots, explain his political appeal or defend his viability. Arrizurieta first met Jeb Bush in the 1980s, held various roles during his governorship and is one of his top donors. Cardenas is a Miami-based super-lobbyist and his children went to school with Bush's. Navarro is a CNN commentator, veteran of Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign and her boyfriend, Gene Prescott, owns the famed Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

TOP CAMPAIGN AIDES:

Sally Bradshaw: Senior campaign adviser. Next to his family, she's the most trusted person in his orbit. Bradshaw served as one of Bush's chiefs of staff when he was Florida governor and has spent most of the past year preparing her former boss to run for president. Her biggest asset? She has Bush's total confidence and vice versa. Her biggest weakness? Physical distance. She lives in Tallahassee on her family's chicken farm and has no plans to move to Miami and work from campaign headquarters.

Danny Diaz: Campaign manager. A Washington native and one-time plumber, he earned the big job last week in a surprise shakeup. At 39, he's a veteran operative who quickly earned the trust of Bush, who recently labeled his new manager "a grinder" -- high praise from the hard-charging governor. Diaz co-founded FP1 Strategies (which stands for "50 percent plus one") with Jon Downs, who will serve as head of Bush's media team (see below). He previously worked for the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Congressional Committee and the presidential campaigns of McCain and Mitt Romney.

David Kochel: Chief strategist. Initially expected to serve as campaign manager, he will focus first on building support in the first four primary states: Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. He was one of Bush's first and boldest staff hires and helped signal the seriousness of the former governor's ambitions. An Iowa native, he's advised several GOP candidates for years and helped Romney place a close second in the 2012 GOP caucus.

Trent Wisecup: Director of strategy. During the 2012 cycle, he was strategist to the NRCC. He's also worked for former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Bush and Romney. Most recently, he worked for FP1 Strategies.

Justin Muzinch: Policy director. He's one of several Wall Street veterans poised to join Bush's team. Muzinich was

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most recently a vice president of Muzinich & Co., an international investment firm in New York. He's also been with Morgan Stanley and EMS Capital. Close with Glenn Hubbard, another occasional Bush adviser, Muzinich has advocated for revamping the U.S. Federal Reserve and U.S. foreign aid and has advocated for a new trade deal with Europe.

Scott Jennings: A Kentucky-based consultant who helped reelect Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) last year. He will advise the campaign on political matters. He ran Romney's 2012 operations in Ohio.

Heather Larrison: Finance director. It's her job to woo donors, keep them happy and raise as much money as possible for Bush's campaign. Her team has an ambitious goal of raising at least $5 million by June 30, in order to show a strong start when campaign finance filings are released July 15. She's been a finance aide for some of the most successful fundraisers in the GOP, including George W. Bush and Sen. Rob Portman (Ohio). She also had stints at the Republican Governors Association and National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Ann Herberger: A Miami-based GOP fundraiser, she runs the Woods Herberger Group, which has focused mostly on raising political money for the Bush family. Herberger has also served as a consultant for the RNC, RGA, NRSC and NRCC.

Jon Downs: Head of media and advertising. He's Diaz's business partner and worked on George W. Bush's 2000 campaign, helped run several other state races and worked as a congressional liaison in the Bush Justice Department.

Megan Sowards: General counsel. She held a similar post with the NRSC and was deputy general counsel for Romney's 2012 campaign.

Brenda Gianiny and David Hill: Head of research and polling teams. She served as pollster for George W. Bush's White House and on his 2004 reelection campaign. He has worked for several top GOP candidates and on behalf of more than 100 state ballot measures, including work that led to six amendments to Florida's constitution.

Alex Lundry: He'll be in charge of data analytics. He's a corporate and political consultant who worked on Romney's 2012 campaign.

Karen Unger: Head of voter engagement. A seasoned Florida political hand, she served as one of Bush's deputy chiefs of staff and director of external affairs and appointments. She also ran his 2002 reelection campaign and has managed other Florida political campaigns. Among Unger's early tasks is keeping in touch with Bush's 650-member alumni network of former staffers.

Annie Kelly: Iowa state director. She's most recently a former FP1 employee. During the 2014 cycle, she was a regional political director for NRCC, helping the GOP win five of the seven most competitive House races. In 2012, she managed the super competitive reelection of campaign of now-former Rep. Tom Latham (R-Iowa) in the Des Moines area.

Rich Killion: New Hampshire state director. He's a longtime Granite State political operative who's managed two statewide campaigns in the state and helped all incumbent GOP state senators win reelection last year.

Brett Doster and Jim Dyke: They're running Bush's operations. Doster is a Tallahassee-based consultant who has known and worked with Bush since his failed 1994 gubernatorial campaign. Dyke has longer ties to George W. Bush -- he was RNC communications director during the former president's 2004 reelection and a press secretary to former commerce secretary Donald Evans, one of the former president's closest friends.

Scott Schied and Ryan Erwin: Bush's Nevada state director and a senior adviser for Nevada. Schied most recently helped Rep. Crescent Hardy (R-Nev.) score a surprise win last year. Erwin worked for Romney's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, once led the Nevada GOP and had stints with Republican Party operations in California and Ohio.

Tim Miller: Campaign communications director. He most recently served as co-founder and executive director of America Rising, a super PAC that has spent millions of dollars digging into the histories of Democrats, especially Hillary Rodham Clinton. As if an encyclopedic knowledge of Clinton wasn't enough, Miller also worked last year on Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker's reelection campaign, giving him a unique understanding of one of Bush's biggest GOP rivals. He previously worked for McCain's 2008 campaign and Jon Huntsman's 2012 GOP presidential campaign.

Kristy Campbell: National press secretary. One of Bush's longest-serving aides and most frequent traveling companions, she served in his gubernatorial press office and later for his nonprofit education foundation. She was also a member of Romney's 2012 communications team. When reporters have questions about Bush's personal or professional past, Campbell usually gets the first call.

Michael Steel: Adviser for policy and communications. Most recently served as a spokesman for House Speaker

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John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and previously as on-the-plane press secretary for Paul Ryan's 2012 vice presidential campaign. A North Carolina native, he worked for the state GOP during Thom Tillis's successful Senate against Democrat Kay Hagan last year.

Emily Benavides: Hispanic communications director – a unique role among top-tier GOP presidential campaigns. It's her job to keep in touch with reporters for Spanish-language newspapers and television reporters working for Univision, Telemundo and their affiliates. She previously worked for Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

Allie Brandenburger: A deputy press secretary, who previously worked for Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.), Romney's 2012 campaign and the RNC.

Matt Gorman: Head of rapid response. He was deputy rapid response director for Romney's 2012 campaign.

Jose Mallea: Head of Latino engagement. A notable hire for Bush, because Mallea was manager of Sen. Marco Rubio's 2010 campaign. But he first made a name as an aide in George W. Bush's administration, holding several jobs, including special assistant to White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card.

Jordan Sekulow: Liaison to the evangelical community. An evangelical Christian attorney, he was executive director of American Center for Law & Justice, a conservative organization founded by televangelist Pat Robertson. Bush is Roman Catholic and eager to build support among conservative Christian Republicans, especially in Iowa and South Carolina.

James A. Baker III, George P. Shultz, Paul D. Wolfowitz, Michael Hayden, Stephen J. Hadley et al: They're part of a 21-member foreign policy advisory team Bush dramatically unveiled in February. The team includes a mix of moderates and neoconservatives who served during the presidencies of George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. The group mostly consults Jeb Bush from afar.

Josh Venable: A policy aide, he's been part of Bush's traveling team, briefing him on the road and keeping tabs on what needs to be followed up on after events. Previously, he's the RNC's former deputy finance director and worked for Bush's nonprofit education foundation.
See that guy standing to the left of Jeb Bush in a red tie? That's Raul Henriquez, one of his body guys. They're photographped here on June 2 at Florida Gov. Rick Scott's

Coleman LaPointe: Bush's first "body guy," or traveling aide who's responsible for holding his coat, his phone, snapping "selfies" with supporters, etc. He came with a gold-plated recommendation, having worked as a summer aide to the Bush family at their compound in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Raul Henriquez: Hired recently as another Bush "body guy," he'll alternate with LaPointe on the road. He's a Miami native and former aide to House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio).

TOP OFFICIALS AT BUSH-ALIGNED SUPER PAC "RIGHT TO RISE USA:"

Mike Murphy: Head of the PAC. A top adviser to Bush's 1998 and 2002 gubernatorial campaigns, he most famously worked on McCain's 2000 presidential campaign. Murphy also was an adviser to the gubernatorial campaigns of California's Arnold Schwarzenegger and many others. He lives in Los Angeles, is a partner of the media firm Revolution Agency and has been an adviser to corporate and political clients.

Liesl Hickey: Senior adviser. She's the former executive director of the NRCC, who once served as chief of staff too Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and held a fundraising job with the NRSC.

Paul Lindsay: Lead spokesman. He recently worked for Crossroads GPS, a Republican super PAC founded by Karl Rove. Previously was the NRCC's lead spokesman.

Charlie Spies: Counsel. He's a well-known GOP lawyer who co-founded Restore Our Future, which brought in more than $150 million in the 2012 cycle. Spies previously served as chief financial officer and counsel for Romney's 2008 presidential campaign and has provided counsel to the RNC and RGA.

Neil Newhouse and Jan van Lohuizen: Pollsters. Newhouse has a long association with Bush, serving as his pollster during his Florida gubernatorial campaigns. A partner and co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, he was the lead pollster for Romney's 2012 presidential campaign and was involved in six winning Senate races in 2014. He'll be joined by Nicole McCleskey and Robert Blizzard, who work for Public Opinion Strategies. Van Lohuizen is chairman and a founding member of Voter Consumer Research and has polled on behalf of hundreds of political campaigns, as well as corporate clients and think tanks.

Larry McCarthy: Ad maker. He's been a leading Republican media strategist for decades and has considerable experience navigating the super PAC world. In 2012, he made ads for Restore Our Future, the pro-Romney super PAC, as well as American Crossroads and Americans for Prosperity. Last year, he made ads for McConnell's

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successful reelection campaign.

Matt Leonardo: A partner with Murphy's Revolution Media, he'll also work on ads for the super PAC. He's advised the RNC, RGA, NRSC and NRCC, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and several super PACs and political groups, including the Republican State Leadership Committee, American Action Network, and the Center for Individual Freedom.

TOP DONORS:

Howard Leach: former ambassador to France during George W. Bush's first term.

Mel Sembler: A Missouri-based developer who was ambassador to Australia during George H.W. Bush's administration and Italy during George W. Bush's administration.

Mike Fernandez: A billionaire health-care industry executive from Coral Gables.

Woody Johnson: The owner of the New York Jets, his financial support signaled early "establishment" support for Bush and was a big blow to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's ambitions.

Henry Kravis: The co-founder of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., a private equity firm in New York.

Richard Breeden: He served as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission during George H.W. Bush's presidency. In the years since, he's been a hedge fund manager and corporate executive.

Stressing his experience as governor of Fla., Jeb Bush enters 2016 race // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe & Philip Rucker – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush, son and brother of former presidents, formally launched his campaign for the White House on Monday with a sweeping call to reform Washington and expand economic opportunity.

Against a diverse tableau at a boisterous rally here in the state he governed for eight years, Bush offered himself as a compassionate and tested chief executive who would fix a broken federal government and disrupt the country's political brinksmanship.

"We will take Washington — the static capital of this dynamic country — out of the business of causing problems," he said. "We will get back on the side of free enterprise and free people. I know we can fix this. Because I've done it."

With his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, sitting in the front row, Jeb Bush directly confronted the family history that is both an asset and a liability. His father and brother, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, were not present, but he invoked them by saying that he met his first president the day he was born and his second when he was taken home from the hospital.

Still, he said that he did not believe his lineage should grant him the Republican nomination.

"Not a one of us deserves the job by right of résumé, party, seniority, family or family narrative," he said. "It's nobody's turn. It's everybody's test, and it's wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be."

Addressing hundreds of supporters inside a Miami college gynasium, Bush spoke in aspirational terms about what he called a "nation filled with charitable hearts." He seemed determined to present a new, welcoming face for the Republican Party, looking as much to the general election as to the primaries.

He did not mention any GOP opponent by name, but he directly attacked Hillary Rodham Clinton, saying that the Democratic presidential front-runner sits atop "a no-suspense primary, for a no-change election" to succeed President Obama and would "slog on with the same agenda under another name."

"The presidency should not be passed on from one liberal to the next," he said.

Bush focused heavily on his record as Florida's governor, the office he held between 1999 and 2007. Under his leadership, he said, the state led the nation in job creation, income growth, balanced budgets and tax cuts.

"We don't need another president who merely holds the top spot among the pampered elites of Washington," he said. Later, he said, "I was a reforming governor, not just another member of the club."

As president, he said, he would "think big" about overhauling the tax code, undo Obama-era federal regulations and "get serious about limited government."

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Bush laid out an ambitious goal of 4 percent economic growth, which he said would bring 19 million new jobs. “It’s possible,” he said. “It can be done.”

But he had nothing in his prepared remarks about immigration reform, an issue he has championed for years but that is particularly divisive for die-hard Republican base voters. Only when two dozen protesters stood in the rafters to interrupt him — they stripped off a layer of clothing to reveal neon T-shirts spelling out “Legal status is not enough” — did Bush weigh in on the subject.

“The next president of the United States will pass meaningful immigration reform,” he said, departing from the text in his teleprompters.

Monday’s event was strikingly different from most Republican campaign rallies this year, which have drawn overwhelmingly white crowds. Bush spoke at a campus of Miami Dade College, a system that boasts the largest Hispanic student body in the nation, and packed the gymnasium with cheering Asian, black and Latino supporters, young and old, who held up campaign signs in Spanish and English.

Before Bush took the stage, a family of Cuban singers performed regional classics. A black Baptist minister called Bush “a man of deep conviction.” The Colombian mother of a disabled daughter defended his record, in Spanish. Bush’s former lieutenant governor looked across the big crowd and said: “It looks like family. The Bush family — the big Bush family.”

Florida State Sen. Don Gaetz told the crowd that Bush is “the new Florida. He is the new America. He is the new Republican Party.”

The message Bush hoped to convey was clear: In a crowded field of candidates, he is the seasoned Republican who can broaden the GOP’s appeal among minority voters who long have voted for Democrats.

Bush, who returned over the weekend from a five-day visit to Europe, earned some of his loudest applause by assailing the Obama administration’s foreign policy record.

“With their phone-it-in foreign policy, the Obama-Clinton-Kerry team is leaving a legacy of crises uncontained, violence unopposed, enemies unnamed, friends undefended and alliances unraveling,” he said.

The announcement capped six months of aggressive travel and fundraising for Bush, 62, a regimen that suggested a presidential bid was never in doubt. Testing the boundaries of modern campaign finance law and tapping a donor network first cultivated by his extended family more than 30 years ago, Bush has stockpiled tens of millions of dollars for an allied super PAC that will operate independently of his campaign operation and attack his opponents as he seeks to build support in early primary states.

Bush enters a fluid race for the Republican nomination, where an array of younger rivals, including his one-time protege, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), are posing strong challenges. Bush signaled that he would use his executive experience to draw a contrast between him and Rubio and other first-term senators.

“There’s no passing off responsibility when you’re a governor, no blending into the legislative crowd or filing an amendment and calling that success,” Bush said. “As our whole nation has learned since 2008, executive experience is another term for preparation, and there is no substitute for that.”

Gaetz used sharper language in introducing Bush. “The presidency of the United States does not come with training wheels,” he said, adding: “Jeb Bush is the Florida Republican who can win.”

From Miami, Bush planned to fly Monday night to launch a whirlwind four-day tour in New Hampshire, a state that will be critical to his early chances. On Wednesday, he is scheduled to visit Iowa, where conservatives remain deeply skeptical of his bid. In South Carolina on Thursday, he is expected to detail more of his military and foreign policy agenda. He plans to be in Washington on Friday for his first official campaign fundraiser, then return to Florida to headline a GOP fundraiser in Tampa.

Monday’s Miami rally took on the feel of a Bush family reunion. In addition to his mother, John Ellis Bush — nicknamed “Jeb” by his mother, for his initials — was joined by his wife, Columba, their three children and their own young families, plus his younger siblings, Neil Bush and Doro Bush Koch. The candidate’s extended political family was also present: Nearly 400 former staffers and supporters from campaigns past cheered in the arena.

“I’ve been waiting 30 years for Monday,” said Jorge Arrizurieta, a Miami businessman and longtime friend who has known Bush since the 1980s.

Since leaving office in 2007, Bush has launched a lucrative business career, including work with his youngest son, Jeb Jr., on investment and real estate ventures. Until last year, he also served as a special adviser to the British bank Barclays.

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Politically, Bush remained an active proponent of an immigration overhaul and education standards commonly known as Common Core. His support for both issues is considered a disqualifying factor by conservatives opposed to easing of immigration laws or possible federal intervention in local education policy.

But on Monday, Bush's intended audience was far broader than the conservative base. He pledged to take his campaign "everywhere, speaking to everyone."

Near the end of his remarks he broke into fluent Spanish and directly appealed for the support of Latino voters. In English, he explained, "In any language, my message will be an optimistic one."

"I will take nothing and no one for granted," he said. "I will run with heart. I will run to win."

Jeb Bush's K Street connections // WaPo // Catherine Ho – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush on Monday officially kicked off his presidential campaign in Miami, taking aim at Washington while promising to get "the static capital of this dynamic country – out of the business of causing problems."

To do so, however, he will partly rely on the help of lobbyists who engage in the type of Washington work that Bush criticized as he launched his bid for the White House.

"Leaders have to think big, and we've got a tax code filled with small-time thinking and self-interested politics," Bush said in his Miami speech touting the need for tax reform. "What swarms of lobbyists have done, we can undo with a vastly simpler system – clearing out special favors for the few reducing rates for all."

Several of Bush's financial backers and supporters are Washington veterans and his deep ties to K Street will likely boost the former Florida governor's ability to raise big money and allow him to tap into a well of veteran policy advisers for his campaign.

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His list of allies in the influence world include the heads of big lobby shops, Republican lawmakers-turned-lobbyists and longtime advisers to the Bush family.

Here's a sampling, but not a complete list, of Bush's K Street backers:

Kimberley Fritts, chief executive of lobby shop Podesta Group, worked for Jeb Bush during his first gubernatorial campaign in 1994, and is continuing her support this time around through fundraising and recruiting members of Congress to support the former Florida governor's efforts in their states.

"Last week we rolled out a number of endorsements with the Florida delegation," she said. "We think it's been going well." Fritts flew to Miami this morning to meet with members of Bush's team, and will head back to D.C. later today.

Tom Loeffler, the retired Texas congressman who now works at lobby giant Akin Gump, has been fundraising for Bush's super PAC, Right to Rise, for several months. Loeffler goes way back with the Bush family: he was the Texas political co-chairman for George H.W. Bush's 1988 campaign and a national adviser for the 1992 campaign. He later served as George W. Bush's Texas finance co-chairman for his 1994 gubernatorial campaign, Texas regional finance chairman for his 1998 campaign, national finance co-chairman for his 2000 presidential campaign and South Texas co-chairman for his 2004 campaign.

Bill Paxon, the retired New York congressman who now works at Akin Gump, is also fundraising on Bush's behalf.

Vin Weber, the retired Minnesota congressman who now works at lobby and public affairs shop Mercury, exchanged emails with Bush at least six months ago to express his commitment to the candidate. Weber said he is primarily interested in advising on policy — he spoke last month at an event for Bush's super PAC about economic mobility, one of the core parts of Bush's domestic agenda.

"I want to be helpful on the policy side of the campaign," Weber said. "I'm willing to raise money and give money but that's not what I'm best at. I want to coordinate policy to the extent that I can."

Denny Rehberg, the retired Montana congressman who now works at Mercury, is gathering support for Bush in Montana and Washington. He said he anticipates Bush will be drawing significant financial support from K Street. "When I think of K Street, I think of business, not necessarily lobbyists or government relations, but business," he said. "I think that he has a strong background of support for and from business."

Rob Collins, the former executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee who now works at

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GOP lobby shop S-3 Group, is working to recruit members of Congress to endorse Bush, and facilitating the exchange of ideas and information between the campaign and think tanks and other policy experts.

Lanny Griffth, chief executive of lobby shop BGR Group, has raised money for the candidate. Griffith served several roles in the George H.W. Bush administration, and was later a "Ranger" — the designation for those who raised at least $200,000 — for George W. Bush's 2004 campaign.

Jeb Bush Says He Will Run as a Political Outsider // WSJ // Beth Reinhard – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush, heir to one of American's most successful political dynasties, sought to jump-start his presidential campaign Monday as a scrappy political outsider after failing in recent months to emerge as the undisputed front-runner for the 2016 Republican nomination.

"Not a one of us deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family or family narrative," said Mr. Bush, kin to two American presidents and a former two-term Florida governor. "It's nobody's turn. It's everybody's test, and it's wide open."

In the six months he has been building his campaign, Mr. Bush has dropped in the national polls and finds himself unable so far to break from a crowded pack of GOP candidates, even though he is expected to raise the most money and has nabbed name-brand political talent.

Mr. Bush is reviving the logo he used for three gubernatorial campaigns—Jeb!—to emphasize that he is running not as a political scion but as his own man. Casting himself as a can-do chief executive, Mr. Bush drew his strongest contrasts to date with GOP rivals serving on Capitol Hill, including his former protégé, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "Executive experience is another term for preparation, and there is no substitute for that," Mr. Bush, who appeared without jacket or tie, told a cheering crowd his staff estimated at 3,000 people. "We are not going to clean up the mess in Washington by electing the people who either helped create it or have proven incapable of fixing it."

Mr. Bush also tried to repudiate the argument made by some of his rivals that as a member of the Bush family he would be less capable of prosecuting the case against Democratic front-runner and former first lady Hillary Clinton, who he said represented a "no-suspense primary" and "no-change election."

But presenting himself as the enemy of the "pampered elites" and the "rule makers" is a challenging argument for Mr. Bush, whose last name was on the national ticket in six of the last nine presidential elections.

Without providing specifics, Mr. Bush repeated his call for 4% annual economic growth and added that would translate into 19 million new jobs. The last time yearly inflation-adjusted growth in the nation's gross domestic product topped that percentage was in 2000, the year before his brother, President George W. Bush took office.

Mr. Bush said his two terms as governor showed he could boost growth, add jobs and cut taxes. In response, Florida's Democratic Party called Mr. Bush's tenure a "disaster" and said it would remind voters of what it called a racially motivated purge of voter files in the state and of Mr. Bush's effort to prolong the life of Terry Schiavo, the brain-damaged woman whose husband wanted to remove life support despite her parents' objections.

"His record as governor certainly showed his preference for giving tax breaks to his wealthy friends and deep-pocketed donors over the middle class," said a statement from the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Bush's father, former President George H.W. Bush, and brother didn't join the rally, but his mother, Barbara Bush, attended.

The group that vouched for Mr. Bush on stage defied the image of a party that fared poorly among minorities and women voters in the last two elections: an African-American pastor; the Hispanic mother of a disabled child; and the female lieutenant governor during Mr. Bush's second gubernatorial term.

Mr. Bush, who is fluent in Spanish, has vowed to campaign outside of GOP comfort zones: in black churches, Hispanic neighborhoods and college campuses. He is expected to begin campaigning in earnest in states hosting the earliest nominating contests.

Jeb Bush is not that far off politically from brother George W., but the two have very different personalities a nd backgrounds. Photo: AP
After spending the last six months seeking donations of unlimited size for a super PAC, he must now follow federal rules requiring him to campaign independently of the PAC and raise money for his campaign in increments capped at $2,700.

The pursuit of donors began six hours before the rally, with dozens attending a "national call day" at a nearby

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hotel. Among those in attendance was New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, who joined Mr. Bush on a trip last week to three European countries.

One fundraiser and lobbyist, Slater Bayliss, shrugged off some of the pre-campaign hiccups. “It’s like when Michael Jordan came out of retirement. Sure, there’s a little bit of rust…that’s part of getting back into it,” Mr. Bayliss.

Jeb Bush’s Chance for Takeoff // WSJ // Gerald Seib – June 15, 2015

Many are the presidential candidates who hit their high water mark on the carefree day they announce their candidacy, then begin a slide downward as reality sets in.

Jeb Bush may be the other kind of candidate.

It’s just possible that Mr. Bush, who formally announces his candidacy on Monday, has endured the toughest stretch of his campaign in the seemingly interminable stretch between the day in December when he launched a committee to collect money for a presidential run and the birth of his actual campaign.

In that six-month stretch, Mr. Bush has borne the brunt of his two biggest problems—the fact that his famous name has become as much burden as asset, and the antipathy of many conservatives toward his immigration and education positions—without the ability to fully counter them. Convincing voters he isn’t just another guy named Bush requires offering the kind of fully formed rationale for a candidacy that only a real campaign can provide; easing conservative concerns requires the kind of extended conversation in the party’s trenches that a primary debate requires.

It’s also possible, of course, that Mr. Bush simply can’t overcome those two obstacles—that the time isn’t right, or has passed him by. Yet it seems likely that he is a better marathon runner than a sprinter, somebody who benefits from more exposure rather than less, and who has the money to endure a race that figures to be stretched out simply because of the time needed to winnow an extraordinarily large field.

“Jeb’s announcement is a new beginning,” says Scott Reed, a longtime Republican activist who ran Bob Dole’s 1996 presidential campaign. “He has developed a strong platform on issues, will be well funded and has the ability to go the distance, for this nomination fight may go to June and California to put someone over the top and secure a majority of the delegates.”

In any case, the Bush candidacy is tough to analyze, if only because its birth has been so unusual. In some ways it’s the campaign being run in reverse order:

Usually a candidate announces, then tries to take advantage of the surge of interest to raise money. The Bush forces, taking advantage of new fund-raising rules, decided to raise the money first, then formally announce.

Usually high name identification is a significant plus because it means the candidate has no need to spend millions of dollars to introduce himself or herself to voters. In this case, the big name appears to be a net disadvantage because of his brother’s complicated legacy and unease over political dynasties, and it will take millions of dollars to get beyond it.
Usually, the “campaign in disarray” stories come months into the effort. In this case, they came last week, before the formal campaign had even begun, when Mr. Bush made a surprise choice in picking a campaign manager.

So, given that unusual start, what is the path to the nomination for Mr. Bush?

In a campaign in which there may be 16 Republican candidates, the three who seem to have the most plausible chance to win the nomination appear to be Mr. Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

In the early going, Iowa appears to be strong ground for Mr. Walker, whose Midwestern roots are an advantage there. That makes New Hampshire’s primary especially important—Mr. Reed calls it “the money state”—for many of the others, including Mr. Bush.

For him, though, the key may be surviving the early states in February and getting on to the rush of bigger primary states that come in March. They will bring into play a more diverse universe of Republican primary voters, and allow Mr. Bush to take advantage of his money and what remains of a Bush family national political network.

In the middle of March comes what may be the most important event of all for Mr. Bush, which is the primary in his home state of Florida. He will collide head-on there with Mr. Rubio, his fellow Floridian and onetime protégé, and odds are that only one will survive that kind of home-field test.

Along the way, his advantage over Mr. Walker should be his ability to handle the national-security conversation that now figures to be a dominant element of the campaign as the security situation worsens in the Middle East and

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Ukraine. His advantage over Mr. Rubio should be a greater sense of stature and experience.

On immigration, he needs to reach that majority of Republican voters who, polls suggest, actually agree with his formula granting a path to legal status for undocumented aliens. On Common Core educational standards, he needs to convince skeptics that, yes, he's for standards, but ones set by states rather than the feds.

Overhanging all, though, is the task of getting past today's jaundiced views of the political establishment with which, for better or worse, he is well identified.

Jeb Bush vows to stay true to beliefs in opening '16 race that will test his conservatism // AP // Steve Peoples & Brendan Farrington – June 15, 2015

Vowing to win the Republican presidential nomination on his own merits, Jeb Bush launched a White House bid months in the making Monday with a promise to stay true to his beliefs — easier said than done in a bristling primary contest where his conservative credentials will be sharply challenged.

"Not a one of us deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family, or family narrative. It's nobody's turn," Bush said, confronting critics who suggest he simply seeks to inherit the office already held by his father and brother. "It's everybody's test, and it's wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be."

Bush sought to turn the prime argument against his candidacy on its head, casting himself as the true Washington outsider while lashing out at competitors in both parties as being part of the problem. He opened his campaign at a rally near his south Florida home at Miami Dade College, an institution with a large and diverse student body that symbolizes the nation he seeks to lead.

"The presidency should not be passed on from one liberal to the next," he declared in a jab at Democratic favorite Hillary Rodham Clinton.

And he said: "We are not going to clean up the mess in Washington by electing the people who either helped create it or have proven incapable of fixing it."

That was an indirect but unmistakable swipe at Republican presidential rivals in the Senate. Among them is his political protege, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who welcomed Bush into the 2016 contest earlier in the day.

Bush enters a 2016 Republican contest that will test both his vision of conservatism and his ability to distance himself from family.

Neither his father, former President George H.W. Bush, nor his brother, former President George W. Bush, attended Monday's announcement. The family was represented instead by Jeb Bush's mother and former first lady, Barbara Bush, who once said that the country didn't need yet another Bush as president, and by his son George P. Bush, recently elected Texas land commissioner.

Before the event, the Bush campaign came out with a logo — Jeb! — that conspicuously leaves out the Bush surname.

Bush, whose wife is Mexican-born, addressed the packed college arena in English and Spanish, an unusual twist for a political speech aimed at a national audience.

"In any language, my message will be an optimistic one because I am certain that we can make the decades just ahead the greatest time ever to be alive in this world," he said. "I will campaign as I would serve, going everywhere, speaking to everyone, keeping my word, facing the issues without flinching,"

In the past six months, Bush has made clear he will remain committed to his core beliefs in the campaign to come — even if his positions on immigration and education standards are deeply unpopular among the conservative base of the party that plays an outsized role in the GOP primaries.

Tea party leader Mark Meckler on Monday said Bush's positions on education and immigration are "a nonstarter with many conservatives."

"There are two political dynasties eyeing 2016," said Meckler, a co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots, one of the movement's largest organizations, and now leader of Citizens for Self-Governance. "And before conservatives try to beat Hillary, they first need to beat Bush."

Yet a defiant Bush has showed little willingness to placate his party's right wing.

Instead, he aimed his message on Monday at the broader swath of the electorate that will ultimately decide the November 2016 general election. Minority voters, in particular, have fueled Democratic victories in the last two

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presidential elections.

Of the five people on the speaking program before Bush, just one was a white male.

Jeb Bush makes it official: 'I will run to win' // Politico // Eli Stokols – June 15, 2015

Declaring that it's nobody's turn and everybody's test, Jeb Bush joined the Republican race for president on Monday, as he sought to move beyond his family's history even as he seeks to become the third Bush in the White House.

"Not a one of us [candidates] deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family, or family narrative," Bush declared. "It's nobody's turn. It's everybody's test, and it's wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be."

In his adopted hometown before a multicultural crowd of long-time friends, Bush sought to re-introduce himself to the country as a relentless reformer who has gotten results, who eschews the politics of grievance and offers a more hopeful and compassionate brand of conservatism.

Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte, a Florida advocate for individuals and children with disabilities and one of several friends who vouched for Bush's character and compassion before he took the podium, told the crowd the former governor "understands our lives, our needs, our struggles and our fears."

His empathy — and cool under pressure — was tested toward the end of his speech when shouts echoed from the rafters inside the gymnasium at Miami Dade College as a group of DREAMers removed their jackets to reveal neon yellow t-shirts that spelled out "LEGAL STATUS IS NOT ENOUGH," challenging Bush's position on immigration reform.

"I agree," Bush said. As the group was escorted out amidst rising cheers of "Jeb!", Bush promised that "the next president of the United States will pass meaningful immigration reform."

The momentary disruption highlighted one of Bush's biggest challenges: reconciling his own support for immigration reform and a path to legal status, which doesn't go far enough for the protesters, with a Republican base that wants a more strident stance against illegal immigration.

In officially announcing on Monday, Bush, 62, is ending a six-month exploration phase that allowed him to raise unlimited sums of money for the super PAC that will undergird his campaign but left little doubt along the way that this day was coming.
As he became the eleventh declared candidate in the crowded Republican field, Bush vowed to run hard in every state, and to maintain the same message throughout the long nomination process, rather than tacking to the right just to win the primary and then reversing course come the general election.

"I will campaign as I would serve, going everywhere, speaking to everyone, keeping my word, facing the issues without flinching, and staying true to what I believe," Bush said. "I will take nothing and no one for granted. I will run with heart. I will run to win."
He also set some bold goals — 4 percent annual economic growth under a Jeb Bush presidency (which he said would create 19 million jobs), and energy security for the United States within five years.

And he wasn't shy about taking on his Democratic and Republican rivals, some by name. He dinged Hillary Clinton for speaking about conflicts, at times, between the progressive agenda and religious charities. And he took on both former Secretary of State Clinton and Obama for a "phone-it-in foreign policy."

Sen. Marco Rubio was also not spared, with Florida State Sen. Don Gaetz, an introduction speaker, calling Bush "the Florida Republican who can win."
In his own remarks, Bush avoided mentioning any of his Republican rivals by name, stating only that his experience as a governor is superior to those of senators who can shrug off responsibility and blend into a crowd.

"As our whole nation has learned since 2008, executive experience is another term for preparation, and there is no substitute for that," Bush said.

Speaking at the largest and most diverse college in the country, Bush highlighted his strong connections to the Latino community. He reminded the audience of the sweeping conservative reforms he enacted as Florida governor and his commitment to governing based on free-market principles that will create economic and educational opportunities for people to "rise up."

"We will take command of our future once again in this country," Bush said. "We will lift our sights again, make opportunity common again, get events in the world moving our way again."

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He also took a hawkish foreign policy stance, blasting the Obama administration for leaving behind "a legacy of crises uncontained, violence unopposed, enemies unnamed, friends undefended, and alliances unraveling." Despite the imperative of not reminding the country of his bellicose brother's presidency, Bush promised to restore Pentagon budget cuts and ensure that America is more engaged in the world.

Unlike some politicians known for more electrifying, soaring rhetoric, Bush argued that he's a proven leader who's shown an ability to put ideas and tough talk into practice, pointing to Florida's economic growth during his two terms, the education reforms he enacted and his penchant for vetoing spending bills.

"We will take Washington – the static capital of this dynamic country – out of the business of causing problems. We will get back on the side of free enterprise and free people. I know we can fix this. Because I've done it." Despite his presidential pedigree, Bush signaled that he will run a reform-minded campaign against Washington and its power class.

"We don't need another president who merely holds the top spot among the pampered elites of Washington," Bush said. "We need a president willing to challenge and disrupt the whole culture in our nation's capital."

Bush's mother Barbara Bush attended the announcement, but his brother and father were not scheduled to be there — a decision that underscores Bush's desire to present himself as his own man and candidate. The Jeb! logo that Bush revived over the weekend from his past campaigns also makes the point.

In his remarks, Bush only passingly referred to his parents; and even his words of gratitude for his wife, Columba, who usually serves as the overture to his stump speech, were condensed.

The announcement came as Bush tries to regain momentum. Despite raising an anticipated $100 million for his super PAC, Bush's "shock and awe" strategy has failed to play out the way he told donors it would. His team now foresees a long, hard fight for the nomination that will require the former Florida governor, eight years removed from holding elected office, to win the hearts and minds of a primary electorate that seems more enthralled with younger, more fiery candidates.

"My message will be an optimistic one because I am certain that we can make the decades just ahead in America the greatest time ever to be alive in this world."

From here, Bush heads off on an announcement tour that will take him through the first three states on the 2016 calendar. He'll hold events Tuesday in Derry, New Hampshire, Wednesday in Pella, Iowa, and Thursday in Charleston, South Carolina.

Jeb Bush says he doesn't need dynasty to win // Politico // Roger Simon – June 15, 2015

What Jeb Bush's presidential announcement speech lacked in grandeur Monday, it made up for in down home simplicity.

Unlike Hillary Clinton, who made her (second) announcement speech Saturday amid the grassy splendor of Roosevelt Island in New York, Bush went to a college gym in Miami.

Jeb did not need to "re-introduce" himself to America as Hillary did. While most people recognize his name, few have any idea of what he is about.

He has not helped that very much over the past few months. He has been raising large amounts of money, instead.

He has also made a few videos that range from the simplistic to the embarrassing.
"America's best days are in front of us," he said, concluding one video. "And we are going to lead the world."

Wow.

But on Monday, Jeb Bush had found a new voice.

"It's nobody's turn," he said, disarming his critics who say he is running on his family's name. "It's wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be."

He spoke mostly in English, but also in Spanish. The student body at Miami Dade College (Kendall Campus), where Jeb spoke, is 66 percent Hispanic. And the Republican Party needs no reminding how much it needs Hispanic votes to win in 2016.
"I will campaign as I will serve" Bush said, "by going everywhere.

"I will take nothing and no one for granted. I will run with heart and I will run to win."
Bush knew how high the stakes were for this speech. The past few weeks have been a series of bobbles for him,

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including four different answers about the war in Iraq in four days.

But he was extremely relaxed throughout his speech, resting his folded hands on the lectern, and peering out from his rimless glasses. He wore no jacket, just a button-down blue shirt and gray dress slacks.

His mother, wife, children, grandchildren and sister Doro were there, but George H.W. and George W. Bush stayed away, not wishing to overshadow Jeb.

They needn't have worried. The most popular Bush owned the crowd without speaking.
The crowd erupted in numerous ovations, but none so loud as when Jeb's mother, Barbara, was introduced and she spread her arms out to embrace the audience.
They did not seem like a dynasty. They seemed like a family.

And that is the image his campaign has been working hard on.

Unlike Hillary's (re)announcement in which she ticked off an entire, multi-item agenda, Bush stuck to generalities, but they were sometimes partisan and some stung.

"The presidency should not be passed down from one liberal to the next," Bush said in what turned out to be a huge applause line. "We need a president who will challenge and disrupt the whole culture in our nation's capital. And I will be that president."

Disrupt is a word the Bush campaign likes. They use it in the modern sense: overwhelming progress, like Amazon disrupting the book business and Uber disrupting the taxi business.

Bush lightly touched on foreign affairs, vowing support for the "brave, democratic state of Israel," but especially emphasized Cuba and whacked President Barack Obama for any plans to visit there.

"We don't need a glorified tourist to go to Havana in support of a failed Cuba," Bush said. "We need an American president to go to Havana in solidarity with a brave Cuban people and I am ready to be that president."

If he used the word "president" a lot, it's because he grew up around an unusual number of them.

"I met a president on the day I was born, and a second when I was brought home from the hospital," he said to the crowd's laughter.

It was an easygoing, almost lighthearted day.

Jeb may have what the Hillary campaign fears most about him: the ability to reach out and bond with an audience.

Hillary's husband had it, she doesn't yet, and if she faces Jeb in a general election, she is going to need it very badly.

Jeb Bush's Campaign Launch to be Featured on Snapchat // TIME // Sam Frizell – June 15, 2015

Soon after Jeb Bush makes his long-awaited announcement on Monday that he is running for president, he'll be on Snapchat.

Representatives from the popular photo messaging app will be on the scene at Miami Dade College, taking photos and video of the stage preparation for the the launch, Yahoo reports. The material from Jeb's announcement will be sent to a live feed on the app and broadcast to Snapchat's 100 million daily active users.

Bush's move onto Snapchat's live story feed will target a key constituency of young voters aged 18 to 34, who make up a majority of Snapchat users.

This is not the first time a presidential candidate has dipped his toes into the cutting-edge social media world. Rand Paul participated in the first-ever Snapchat senatorial interview in January, and Marco Rubio has a Pinterest page.

On the Democratic side, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has a Snapchat, and Hillary Clinton made the playlist from her campaign launch available on Spotify.

Jeb Bush Starts 2016 Campaign Trying to Calm Skittish Conservatives // TIME // Philip Elliott – June 15, 2015

The swipe is an acknowledgement that Bush faces challenges from Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina is trailing his Senate colleagues in

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fundraising and polling but he has been making solid appearances before activists—and cable news—that could leave him in a solid understudy position should one of the marquee names stumble.

In national polling, Bush remains in the tight cluster of contenders atop opinion surveys but he faces serious challengers nipping at his heels, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson. In fundraising, he remains a formidable candidate although his advisers have signaled that he is expected to fall short of the $100 million goal some in his circle thought was possible to collect before officially launching his campaign. Bush put together a raft of highly regarded consultants and operatives, yet last week he shuffled his team and brought aboard a sharp-elbowed operative to take over as campaign manager.

The campaign launched at a community college that Bush's critics were quick to point out that he, as Governor, signed a budget that cut funding from the school and resulted in fewer students finding desks. On the stage that Bush was set to begin a presidential bid that has been obvious for the last six months, a banner was ready announced him simply as "Jeb!" in bright red letters. Nowhere was his famous last name visible.

There was, however, no forgetting his family. Former first lady Barbara Bush was traveling from Maine to Florida for the launch. The family's patriarch, George H.W. Bush, was not, but he remains a revered figure among establishment-minded Republicans with an unrivaled resume in U.S. politics: former President, Vice President, CIA Director, Ambassador and Republican National Committee Chairman. Jeb Bush's brother, George W. Bush, has a trickier relationship with the party. He ended won the Presidency promising to govern as a "compassionate conservative" yet ended his two terms deeply unpopular as the public soured on the war in Iraq that he launched and frustrated about the 2008 economic crisis that consumed his final months in office. A Wall Street bailout may have averted a global financial meltdown but the use of taxpayer dollars prompted conservative outrage and planted the seeds of the anti-establishment tea party movement that now threatens Jeb Bush's candidacy.

For others inside the party, Jeb Bush's policy positions on education and immigration fall squarely outside GOP orthodoxy. Ahead of his announcement, conservative activist Brent Bozell told his 7 million online supporters that Bush "is unelectable" and would sacrifice conservatives' values. "Nominating him will be an exercise in futility—just as it was with Mitt Romney, John McCain and Bob Dole. All three were moderates who wound up losers, and Jeb Bush will be a loser, too, if he's nominated."

To them, Bush planned to signal he would not compromise on his support for higher education standards and an overhaul of the nation's immigration system: "I will campaign as I would serve, going everywhere, speaking to everyone, keeping my word, facing the issues without flinching, and staying true to what I believe."

Jeb Bush Seeks a Bigger Tent at Campaign Launch **// TIME // Philip Elliott – June 15, 2015**

Guests arrived at the community college to a soundtrack that included rapper Pitbull. The pre-game show included the national anthem sung by salsa legend Willy Chirino and, before that, songs in Spanish from his daughters. Those who spoke ahead of the candidate lauded his work to combat domestic violence and to help those who rely on social safety programs. The greying former Governor slipped passages of perfect Spanish into his speech and promised a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's broken immigration system. His Mexican-born wife watched him with a cautious smile.

Welcome to Jeb Bush's version of the Grand Old Party, one that he hopes can woo female and minority voters away from their historic home in the Democratic fold—all while defending domestic programs. As the 62-year-old Bush launched his White House campaign on Monday near Miami, it was clear his campaign was taking seriously its goal of expanding the appeal of a party that has shifted further and further rightward.

"I will campaign as I would serve, going everywhere, speaking to everyone, keeping my word, facing the issues without flinching and staying true to what I believe," Bush said at a kickoff event that was stage-managed with a finesse typically reserved for incumbent Presidents. It perhaps came naturally to a candidate who is the son of one President and brother to another.

"I will take nothing and no one for granted," Bush continued, anticipating questions over whether the country needs a third Bush as President. "I will run with heart. I will run to win."

Left largely unsaid: the last Republican to win the White House was his brother, George W. Bush. The year was 2004.

Since then, the party has seen itself overlooked by groups that are gaining their political clout as the nation's demographics shift. Things were so dire after Mitt Romney's loss in 2012 that the Republican National Committee—a body chaired four decades ago by another member of the Bush clan, George H.W. Bush—commissioned a report casually referred to as "the autopsy." Five leading operatives dug into political trends and, among other recommendations, prescribed aggressive outreach to minority and female voters, as well as softened rhetoric on immigration.

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One of that landmark report's five authors was Sally Bradshaw, a longtime Jeb Bush counselor who assembled his presidential-campaign-in-waiting. Watching Bush's rollout, it was as though he was building it from Bradshaw's blueprint. And, if Bush secures the GOP nomination, these early efforts at outreach could help him run against Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

MORE Full Text of Former Gov. Jeb Bush's Campaign Launch

Of course, candidates matter. And while Bush comes from prime presidential pedigree, nothing is pre-ordained and there are still seven long and competitive months before Iowa holds its leadoff Caucuses. Circling Bush is a stable for candidates looking to argue to very vocal conservative activists that Bush's support for immigration reform is unacceptable and his backing of higher education standards is disqualifying. "There are two political dynasties eyeing 2016, and before conservatives try to beat Hillary, they first need to beat Bush," said Mark Meckler, a co-founder of Tea Party Patriots.

The dynastic nature of the race is a challenge that Bush has struggled to address. During an early foreign policy speech, he flatly declared that he was his own man, not a clone of former President George W. Bush. His brother left the White House after two terms with high disapproval ratings in opinion surveys and many conservatives' scorn. The increasingly unpopular war in Iraq cratered his poll numbers while the economic crisis that crippled the economy in 2008 sent him home to Texas with few defenders. A Wall Street bailout may have averted a global financial meltdown but the use of taxpayer dollars prompted conservative outrage and planted the seeds of the anti-establishment tea party movement that now threatens Jeb Bush's candidacy.

Their father, former President George H.W. Bush, is another story in the GOP. He remains a revered figure among establishment-minded Republicans with an unrivaled resume in U.S. politics: former President, Vice President, CIA Director, Ambassador and RNC Chairman.

Neither former President was in the crowd. Former First Lady Barbara Bush sat in the front row, however, and drew wild applause from the crowd when her son introduced her.

"In this country of ours, the most improbable things can happen. Take that from a guy who met his first president on the day he was born, and his second on the day he was brought home from the hospital," Bush said of his father and brother.

In his bid to join upper reaches of the family business, Jeb Bush first faces a raft of serious rivals from Washington-based challengers Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida. (Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina is trailing his Senate colleagues in fundraising and polling but he has been making solid appearances before activists—and cable news—that could leave him in a solid understudy position should one of the marquee names stumble.)

In national polling, Bush remains in the tight cluster of contenders atop opinion surveys but he faces serious challengers nipping at his heels, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson. In fundraising, he remains a formidable candidate although his advisers have signaled that he is expected to fall short of the $100 million goal some in his circle thought was possible to collect before officially launching his campaign. Bush put together a raft of highly regarded consultants and operatives, yet last week he shuffled his team and brought aboard a sharp-elbowed operative to take over as campaign manager.

Bush is running hard to steady his internal operations and to win over conservatives who still view him skeptically. "Not a one of us deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family or family narrative," Bush said in a clear jab at his rivals. "It's nobody's turn. ... It is entirely up to me to earn the nomination of my party and then to take our case all across this great and diverse nation."

In that diversity, Bush hopes his outreach gives him an advantage. After all, he already has the soundtrack for the inauguration ready.

Jeb Bush Invokes Baltimore Protests In Presidential Campaign Kickoff // HuffPo // Amanda Terkel – June 15, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) brought up the recent protests in Baltimore during his presidential campaign kickoff speech Monday, using them as a call for education reform around the country.

"In government, if we get a few big things right, we can make life better for millions of people, especially for kids in public schools," said Bush during his rally at Miami-Dade College. "Think of what we all watched not long ago in Baltimore, where so many young adults are walking around with no vision of a life beyond the life they know. It's a tragedy played out over and over and over again."

Bush then touted his own record in Florida, saying "low-income student achievement improved here more than any other state" after his reforms.

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“We stopped processing kids along as if we didn’t care -- because we do care, and you don’t show that by counting out anyone’s child. You give them all a chance," he added.

Baltimore was shaken by riots and protests after the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African-American man who died after sustaining injuries in police custody in April.

"Here's what I believe," Bush said Monday. "When a school is just another dead end, every parent should have the right to send their child to a better school -- public, private or charter. Every school should have high standards, and the federal government should have nothing to do with setting them. Nationwide, if I'm president, we will take the power of choice away from the unions and bureaucrats and give it back to parents."

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton did not mention Baltimore in her kickoff rally on Saturday in New York City, although she has done so in the past in the context of criminal justice reform -- a topic that didn't come up in Bush's speech.

"From Ferguson, to Staten Island, to Baltimore, the patterns have become unmistakable and undeniable," Clinton said in April, referring to incidents where African-American men -- and a child -- have died at the hands of police. "Walter Scott shot in the back in Charleston, South Carolina -- unarmed, in debt, terrified of spending more time in jail for child support payments he couldn't afford. Tamir Rice shot in a park in Cleveland, Ohio, unarmed and just 12 years old. Eric Garner, choked to death after being stopped for selling cigarettes on the streets of our city. And now Freddie Gray, his spine nearly severed while in police custody."

Bush has been less vocal on the issue of criminal justice reform than many other presidential candidates, although he has signed on to a conservative group's campaign for cost-effective alternatives to prisons.

Jeb Bush Once Cut Funding to His Campaign Launch Site // TIME // Zeke Miller – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush is expected to trumpet his conservative credentials as the former governor of Florida Monday when he announces his presidential bid. But one casualty of his cost-conscious ways was the very school he selected to use as his announcement site.

A 2002 state constitutional amendment to limit class sizes in K-12 education, which Bush opposed, created a budget shortfall. The governor, who opposed new tax hikes, begrudgingly turned to colleges to fill the gap. Bush proposed cutting $111 million from the budgets of universities and community colleges, of which $10.3 million would have affected Miami Dade College, where Bush will launch his presidential bid.

College President Eduardo Padron emailed Bush when his budget was proposed, saying he was “disturbed and disappointed” by the proposed cuts. “We all understand the need for reductions in times of fiscal crisis; what’s beyond logical comprehension, however, are the huge inequities that are inherent in this budget proposal,” he wrote, arguing the college was bearing a disproportionate burden of cuts. “Our students are among the most needy in the state and cannot continue to bear the burden of the costs of education.”

Bush replied that he was working on a solution. “I know you are upset,” he said by email. “We are doing our best under difficult circumstances and will work with the legislature to identify ways that we can improve the situation.”

Bush ultimately signed a budget that cut $11 million from community colleges’ budgets, forcing them to turn away about 35,000 students looking to enroll, including 9,500 would-be Miami Dade College students.

By 2004, Bush was able to fully fund community colleges, earning plaudits from state educators.

Bush takes on immigration -- but at hecklers' request // CNN // Thedore Schleifer – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush didn't plan to talk about immigration at all when announcing his presidential run -- until protestors made him.

Bush took his only departure from his prepared remarks Monday to respond to a group of people heckling him on immigration reform. As Bush introduced his mother to the Miami crowd, Bush shot back.

"The next president will pass meaningful immigration reform so that will be resolved -- not by executive order," the former Florida governor said.

Bush, like most of the Republican field, has criticized President Barack Obama's reliance on executive orders to shield some undocumented immigrants from deportation. Bush himself has been one of the few GOP hopefuls to embrace a pathway to legal status for those immigrants, though his Republican rivals will almost certainly look to tarnish him with supporting what they deem "amnesty."

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The now-official presidential candidate is asked routinely on the stump about his immigration position, which is expected to be a serious liability among the Republican base. But it wasn't a topic he approached Monday in his remarks.

As he frequently does do, Bush detailed the story of how he met his Latina wife, Columba, while studying abroad in Mexico, and spoke for about 20 seconds in Spanish.

"As a candidate, I intend to let everyone hear my message, including the many who can express their love of country in a different language," Bush said.

Jeb Bush strikes softer tone at start of White House run // Reuters // Steve Holland – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush cast himself as a more moderate type of Republican while still holding on to his conservative principles as he began his U.S. presidential bid with an eye on the Hispanic vote which has eluded the party for years.

The former Florida governor announced his campaign for the Republican nomination to run in the November 2016 election at a multicultural college in Miami where he promised to pass meaningful immigration reform, spoke fluent Spanish and reminded voters he married a Mexican.

It was part of an effort by Bush, 62, to strike a different tone in a crowded field of 10 other Republicans and at the same time also showing he was keen to move out of the shadow of his father and brother and their White House legacies.

Even though the Bush family has a long history at the pinnacle of Washington government and politics, Bush portrayed himself as an outsider. He vowed to reform Washington, but Bush is only the latest candidate in the field to do so.

“We don’t need another president who merely holds the top spot among the pampered elites of Washington. We need a president willing to challenge and disrupt the whole culture in our nation’s capital," Bush, who was governor of Florida from 1999 to 2007, told supporters at Miami Dade College.

His speech was mostly the standard Republican fare of attacks on big government, and promises to protect free enterprise and strengthen America's role in the world.

But the tone of the campaign launch showed he seeks to use his links to Latino culture to give himself a lift over his Republican rivals, even if two of them - senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz - have stronger Hispanic credentials than Bush does.

Bush was preceded on stage by the Chirino Sisters, a Miami singing trio who sang a classic Cuban song, and an African-American preacher.

"As a candidate, I intend to let everyone hear my message, including the many who can express their love of country in a different language," Bush said, before switching to Spanish and calling on Latinos to "help us have a campaign that welcomes you."

Latinos will make up more than 10 percent of the electorate in 2016 and are important in swing states such as Nevada, Florida and Colorado.

Senator John McCain of Arizona won 31 percent among Hispanics in 2008, down from a stronger performance by Bush's brother President George W. Bush who was backed by 44 percent of Latino voters in 2004.

LATINO VOTERS

"I think Republicans have got to try something. It’s pretty hard for them to win the White House if current Hispanic voting trends continue. (Bush) has some unique abilities to appeal to those voters and he’s going to maximize them,” said David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University.

Bush's speech on Monday was briefly interrupted by pro-immigration reform protesters.

He quickly responded: "By the way. Just so that our friends know. The next president will pass meaningful immigration reform so that that will be solved not by executive order," Bush said, in reference to President Barack Obama's use of presidential powers to ease immigration restrictions.

Bush held an early lead in opinion polls of Republican voters when he first began talking about a White House run

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six months ago, but that has now dissipated. He is essentially tied for the lead with a host of challengers.

He was joined on Monday by his mother Barbara Bush, 90, at the event. Former presidents George H.W. Bush, his father, and George W. Bush, his brother, did not attend.

Bush reminded voters that his wife Columba was a Mexican he met on a visit south of the Rio Grande more than 40 years ago.

"In 1971, 8 years before then-candidate Ronald Reagan said that we should stop thinking of our neighbors as foreigners, I was ahead of my time in cross-border outreach," Bush said.

Both previous Bush presidents left office with low approval ratings. The legacy of Jeb's brother is particularly difficult because he ordered the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the financial crisis that erupted toward the end of his time in office.

Distancing himself from the pair, without being disloyal to his family, will be tricky for the younger Bush. His campaign logo "Jeb!" avoids using the family surname.

“I think the biggest hurdle is he is going to have to sell himself as his own person, not his brother and not his father,”

said Fran Hancock, 64, a supporter who was at Monday's event.

Bush criticized former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2016.

“With their phone-it-in foreign policy, the Obama-Clinton-Kerry team is leaving a legacy of crises uncontained, violence unopposed, enemies unnamed, friends undefended, and alliances unraveling," he said.

Democrats made sure to remind voters of the George W. Bush's record.

"We already know what to expect from a Bush presidency, because we’ve seen it before. Jeb Bush supported his brother’s disastrous economic and foreign policies that made us weaker at home and abroad," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, head of the Democratic National Committee.

Jeb Bush’s announcement speech made me bullish on Marco Rubio // VOX // Ezra Klein – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush's campaign announcement speech was pretty good, I thought. The biggest problem was that it was delivered by a candidate named Bush.

The core of Bush's message was simple: Democrats haven't delivered. "They have offered a progressive agenda that includes everything but progress," Bush raged. "They are responsible for the slowest economic recovery ever, the biggest debt increases ever, a massive tax increase on the middle class, the relentless buildup of the regulatory state, and the swift, mindless drawdown of a military that was generations in the making."

The problem? Bushes haven't delivered either. That slow economic recovery Bush mentions was the product of one of the deepest economic crashes in American history — a crash presided over by Jeb's brother, George W. Bush. That runup in debt? It also began under his brother. The red tape Bush loathes? According to OMB Watch, the Bush administration published new regulations at about the same clip as the Obama administration:

Bush's kicker is meant to be brutal. "I, for one, am not eager to see what another four years would look like under that kind of leadership," he says. But it is trivially easy to reverse the line. Is the country really so eager to see another four years under the kind of leadership that preceded the Obama administration?

Of course, Bush would say, correctly, that he isn't his brother. He isn't responsible for his brother's administration. He's his own man. And in this speech, Bush tried to subtly distance himself from his brother's record, lamenting "all the families who haven't gotten a raise in 15 years." But as Ramesh Ponnuru writes, that begs a follow-up question: why didn't people get raises during the last Republican administration?

So far, Bush hasn't delivered much of an answer for that one. He's gently criticized government spending under his brother's administration — "I think he let the Republican Congress get a little out of control in terms of the spending," he said on CBS — but that's not even a remotely plausible explanation for the economic failures of the Bush years. And more tellingly, many of Jeb Bush's economic advisers were also key voices in his brother's administration.

An easy way for Bush to distance himself from his brother would be to propose a sharply different policy agenda. But there was no sign of it in his speech. Bush's platform, like his brother's, will focus heavily on budget-busting

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tax cuts and promises of deregulation and deficit reduction. It is easy to imagine the ads splicing the two Bush campaigns together, and reminding Americans they have heard these promises before.

The prospect has Republicans worried, too. In Slate, conservative columnist Reihan Salam greeted Bush's announcement with a column begging him to drop out of the race.

Bush can't attack the past without attacking himself...but Marco Rubio can

Bush's line of attack on Clinton is natural: he wants to connect her to the failures of the previous administration. But it's a line of attack that damns Bush as surely as it damns Clinton.

Indeed, it might damn Bush more surely than it damns Clinton. The 4 percent economic growth Bush promised can't be found during Obama's presidency, but it also can't be found under either of the presidencies run by a man named Bush. Instead, the last time America saw 4 percent growth was under Bill Clinton — and as my colleague Matt Yglesias writes, "his services as an adviser are already spoken for."

Perhaps Bush could try to argue that the Clinton boom was partially the result of President George H. W. Bush's deficit reduction. There's a good case to be made that that's true — but H. W. Bush was only able to reduce the deficit so sharply by raising taxes, and there's little chance Jeb Bush will endorse that stratagem.

Bush wants to force Hillary Clinton to defend Barack Obama's record, but she has the advantage — particularly on domestic policy — of being more closely connected to Bill Clinton's. Meanwhile, Bush's demands that Clinton answer for past presidencies will ensure that he is held to the same standard — and at the moment, he doesn't have good answers.

I don't mean to be too hard on Bush. His speech was well-written and well-delivered. It was particularly affecting when, toward the end, Bush said, "I intend to let everyone hear my message, including the many who can express their love of country in a different language," and then transitioned into fluent Spanish. And when Bush was interrupted by an immigration protestor, he said what the Republican Party needs Hispanic voters to believe: that he would pass immigration reform.

But for that reason, Bush's speech had the unintended effect of making me more bullish on Marco Rubio, who brings many of Bush's political strengths but is free of his most serious weakness.

Jeb Bush's path more like dad than brother **// The Miami Herald – June 15, 2015**

Jeb Bush's biggest challenge may be setting himself apart from his brother. Yet Bush has managed to do that in one way he didn't want: the path to the Republican presidential nomination.

Unlike his brother's aggressive launch for the presidency in 2000, when George W. Bush bulldozed most GOP competitors out of the field, Jeb Bush is looking at more than a dozen challengers, some with significant resources and staying power.

Indeed, the route may bear more resemblance to his father's 1988 grueling chase to the nomination. Despite being vice president, George H.W. Bush faced considerable competition from Sen. Bob Dole and evangelical leader Pat Robertson before winning the nomination and then the White House.

Jeb Bush has raised gobs of money. That – and backing from much of the Republican establishment – helped keep 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney from jumping in again.

But since then, Bush's muddled efforts at distinguishing himself and sustained antipathy from conservatives who oppose his positions on immigration and education have done little to convince anyone else to stay out – a factor aided by the rise of political action committees and deep-pocket donors that make it easier for more candidates to stay in the running.

"He really finds himself smack dab in the middle of the pack in a huge field of Republican candidates," said Iowa Republican analyst Craig Robinson. "They thought it was going to be Romney 2012, where it's the front-runner and then everybody else. But he is part of the everybody else."

Bush has said he didn't expect a coronation, but Robinson says the slow walk out created a stall. Bush trails in Iowa, the state that kicks off the nominating season next winter, in a pack well behind Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

"I think they overestimated Jeb Bush," Robinson said. "Yes, his last name is Bush and yes he's going to raise all kinds of money, but people don't know him."

That lack of certitude could aid Bush in independent-minded New Hampshire, where voters pride themselves in

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taking their own measure of the candidates. Bush has a very narrow edge over Walker there.

“He’s not a front-runner in the normal sense and I don’t think anyone wants a front-runner,” said Tom Rath, a veteran New Hampshire Republican activist and former state attorney general who is not affiliated with any of the campaigns. “Voters in New Hampshire enjoy the opportunity to choose without anyone telling them what they’re going to do.”

The contrast with his brother – who came into New Hampshire as the undisputed front-runner only to lose to John McCain – also could help the former Florida governor stake his own claim running from inside the pack rather than from on high.His father in 1988 had lost Iowa, then fought back to win New Hampshire, prompting a bitter Dole to complain that Bush should “stop lying about my record.”

“He’s going to have to fight,” Rath said of the current race. “I think Jeb Bush understands that, and I think he probably welcomes the opportunity to fight because it’s an opportunity to prove who he is.”

Bush’s slow walk to official candidacy produced a rocky start: Even some of his supporters were aghast when it took him a week to articulate an answer to a question about the Iraq war his brother initiated. He’s sputtered in polls and his fledgling campaign became headline news for a staffing shakeup.

But it also may have allowed Bush, who hadn’t been on a campaign trail since 2002, to get in some practice in the punishing pace of campaigning in the era of Twitter and Periscope. He’s grown more comfortable delivering a stump speech, though he still fares better in one-on-one exchanges. He wrapped up a trip to Germany, Poland and Estonia with solid reviews – and avoided the gaffes that have overshadowed trips by other candidates.

“I never got the impression that anyone in that campaign thought the waters were going to part for Jeb Bush,” said Chip Felkel, an unaffiliated Republican strategist in South Carolina who worked for George W. Bush and George H.W. Bush. “It’s a different ballgame, a different year. The party has become a lot more fractious and they know that.”

Bush and Walker are neck and neck in South Carolina. That may mirror increased pragmatism after South Carolina Republicans in 2012 boosted former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in the primary, only to see him lose the nomination.

“Republicans want to win this election and I think people are going to gravitate to the most conservative who in turn can win a general election,” Felkel said.

Bush’s first challenge will be emerging from the family shadow with an identity of his own. Rivals such as Walker and Bush’s one-time Florida ally, Sen. Marco Rubio, are fresher faces. Rubio, especially, has sought to create a sharper generational contrast with Democrat Hillary Clinton.

“There’s only one candidate that had a backpack with weight to overcome, the Bush identity both helps and hurts,” said Al Cardenas, a longtime Bush adviser and former chairman of the Florida Republican Party. “His greatest access to improvement is leaving the Bush identity and gaining the Jeb ID with as many as voters as possible.”

Jeb Bush Borrows Hillary Clinton Strategy, Uses Snapchat to Launch Presidential Campaign // The Wrap // Kathy Zerbib – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush is following Hillary Clinton’s lead and taking his presidential campaign to Snapchat. The former Florida governor will declare his intentions for the Republican presidential nomination at Miami Dade College on Monday afternoon, streaming the appearance live on the app.

Before the much-anticipated announcement, Snapchat will post behind-the-scenes photos and videos as the college prepares for Bush’s arrival. These exclusive sneak peeks will be featured on the app’s Our Story feed for all users to see.

According Bush’s communications director, Tim Miller, this is an opportunity to reach a “broad, younger audience.” By incorporating Snapchat into his presidential campaign, he hopes to give users a “more authentic view” of what happens at an announcement.

Each of the 2016 presidential candidates can be found on a number of social networking sites and apps, such as Facebook, Twitter, Spotify, LinkedIn, Periscope and Snapchat. Bush, however, is the first to partner directly with Snapchat to launch a presidential campaign.

Snapchat is a Los Angeles-based company with 100 million daily active users, the majority of whom are 18-34 years old.

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Jeb Bush Goes Off Script To Promise Immigration Reform // HuffPo // Elise Foley – June 15, 2015

Newly announced GOP presidential candidate Jeb Bush went off script on Monday to pledge to pass immigration reform, in one of the most surprising moments of his announcement speech.

He wasn't initially planning to mention immigration, which underscores how difficult an issue it is for him in the primary, as he tries to avoid charges of supporting "amnesty" without backing away from his record and being seen as a flip-flopper. The 2,000-word prepared remarks don't include "immigration" at all.

A group of immigration advocates attended the speech in Miami wearing yellow shirts that spelled out "legal status is not enough."

As Bush was talking about his family, he broke away from his prepared speech to address them.

"By the way, just so that our friends know, the next president of the United States will pass meaningful immigration reform so that that will be solved -- not by executive order," Bush said, to applause.

Bush's statement was a reference to President Barack Obama's deportation relief policies that came in lieu of action from Congress. The president's first deportation relief program, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, was announced exactly three years ago. The program has allowed more than 660,000 undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children to stay and work legally on a temporary basis.

Obama announced plans last November to expand DACA to some older undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, and to create a new program to grant similar benefits to parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. Both the expanded DACA and the new deferred action program have been temporarily blocked in the courts.

Bush has said he opposes Obama's actions, but said he wanted to replace them with immigration reform legislation. He has also backed away somewhat from his past support for a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, instead saying he supports "a path to legalized status," which could allow them to eventually obtain citizenship.

According to a statement, the immigration advocates who interrupted Bush's speech were from the groups Homestead ERA, United We Dream, GetEQUAL Florida, Dreamers Mom's, Alliance for Citizenship, United Families, Farm-Workers Association, the American Friends Service Committee and WeCount.

Mariana Martinez, a member of the group Homestead ERA, said they protested because Bush "has been all over the map on immigration."

"He's also stated his support of reform with legalization for the undocumented community, but of any immigration reform we demand full and equal citizenship that doesn't leave millions of our loved ones in a permanent second class status," she said.

Other GOP presidential candidates have not devoted much time to immigration in their early speeches. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who helped draft a comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2013, didn't discuss it. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) gave it only a cursory mention.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) asked his supporters to "imagine a president that finally, finally, finally secures the borders," criticizing Obama's "lawlessness and the president's unconstitutional executive amnesty."

Laura Ingraham: 'Welcome to the race, Jeb --- now drop out' // The Washington Examiner // Paul Bedard – June 15, 2015

Conservatives are not waiting to hear Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's presidential announcement speech to slam him as unelectable.

"Welcome to the race, Jeb — now drop out," tweeted conservative radio talker Laura Ingraham.

"Jeb Bush will be a loser," added Brent Bozell, who runs both the Media Research Center and the conservative group ForAmerica. The group has been opposing Bush and Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton on their website.

Ingraham is one of talk radio's loudest voices against Bush, and she is joined by others, notably Mark Levin. Levin on Monday wrote a simple reaction to Bush on his Facebook page: "No to Jeb."

Critics do not believe that Bush is conservative enough and they charge that he has moved to the left on immigration and education, charges Bush rejects.

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Bozell issued a long statement sizing up the Right's complaints. "We've said it before and we say it again: Jeb Bush is unelectable," said Bozell. "Nominating him will be an exercise in futility — just as it was with Mitt Romney, John McCain and Bob Dole. All three were moderates who wound up losers, and Jeb Bush will be a loser, too — if he's nominated."

If Jeb wants 4 percent growth, he'll have to ask Bill Clinton how to do it // VOX // Matthew Iglesias – June 15, 2015

"So many challenges could be overcome if we just get this economy growing at full strength," Jeb Bush observed in his presidential campaign kickoff speech, "there is not a reason in the world why we cannot grow at a rate of four percent a year."

Most economists would say that there are actually some fairly profound reasons why achieving such a rapid growth rate on a sustained basis is difficult. But if Jeb's not interested in dreary academic controversies, he might want to ask his brother George about this. The economy, you see, grew slower than 4 percent in 2001. It also did so in 2002. And in 2003. And in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

He also might want to phone up his dad, who served four years in the White House and never achieved 4 percent growth. You can also talk about this in job-creation terms, where Jeb's dad is the second-worst president to take office in the past fifty years, surpassed in unimpressiveness only by Jeb's brother.

There is, of course, one living president who achieved 4 percent growth in five out of his eight years in office — Bill Clinton. He'd probably be a good guy to speak to if you're interested in some ideas about how to achieve 4 percent growth. But I think his services as an advisor are already spoken for.

Snappy start: Jeb goes tech with launch // CNN // Ashley Codiani – June 15, 2015

In just a few hours, Jeb Bush will be among the many 2016 presidential hopefuls experimenting with the disappearing messaging app, Snapchat.

Yahoo reports that representatives from the popular application will be on the ground snapping photos and videos for curation on Snapchat's live story feed, which can be viewed by as many as 100 million of Snapchat's daily users.

To be clear, this is not Jeb Bush joining Snapchat, like his snapchatting GOP opponents Sen. Rand Paul (SenatorRandPaul), Sen. Marco Rubio (marcorubio2016) and Gov. Rick Perry (GovernorPerry). Rather, it's Snapchat using Bush's campaign launch to showcase the app's storytelling abilities.

Perry, on the other hand, snapchatted this just prior to his announcement and only got a reach equal to his followers.

On the Democratic side, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (governoromalley) used Snapchat to tease the location of his May 30th presidential announcement, and later live -snapped his 2016 announcement from the sidelines:

Hillary Clinton, like Jeb, is also not officially on Snapchat. But while delivering her first major speech of her campaign on Saturday, she was featured as part of Snapchat's "Our Story." Here, users at the event could contribute their own Snaps to a curated story:

While they didn't snap, her campaign experimented in other ways with the popular annotation site Genius (formerly 'Rap Genius) by annotating her full speech:

They also live streamed the entire rally on Periscope just after launching her campaign playlist on Spotify:

But what makes Bush's Snapchat experiment unique (other than the fact he's not officially on the platform) is it's direct partnership with the social media company. Monday's campaign event will mark the first time a candidate has leveraged a relationship with Snapchat to gain full access to the platforms active users -- namely, the coveted 18-34 demographic. So far, others in the 2016 have been building their audience as an individual user without the force of Snapchat's influence.

5 Policy Issues that Show Why Jeb Bush Will Lose the Latino Vote // Latino Decisions // Matt Barreto & Gary Segura – June 15, 2015

After Mitt Romney's disastrous performance with Latino voters in 2012, some election observers have suggested Jeb Bush is the obvious candidate to help Republicans win over Latino voters.

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Bush's supposed advantages are based on three specific observations—that the Bush family has historically had a more positive relationship with this community than other candidates in the GOP, that the Spanish-speaking Jeb personally benefits from having a Mexican-born wife and Mexican-American children, and that Bush has a history of more moderate positions on issues of importance to the Latino community.

None of these is likely to withstand deeper examination. The first two—the broader family history and the personal characteristics of Bush's immediate family—are based on a form of identity politics that Latinos seldom if ever practice. Latino voters have proven more than willing to reject even actual Latinos as candidates when their policy positions are in contrast to the community preferences. Bush's marriage and linguistic skills, while symbolically important, would founder if his issue positions are in contrast to the average Latino voter.

So what about those issue positions? Bush's misplaced reputation for moderation is belied by his actual policy record. And few if any analysts have stopped to consider how Bush's specific policy issues line up with Latino support for key policy issues. If Bush is to ultimately be the Republican nominee, Latino voters will no-doubt review and assess his policy commitments. In a review of recent statements by Jeb Bush, we find five significant policy areas where Latino public opinion stands in direct contrast to policy advocated by Jeb Bush. Additionally, Jeb Bush is not currently campaigning for the average Latino voter but, rather, is campaigning for the average GOP primary voter, his path over the next months is far more likely to push him further away from the average Latino voter on a wide range of important policy issues.

Here are five policy areas where Jeb Bush is at odds with Latino voter public opinion:

1. Obama's Executive Orders on Immigration

Jeb Bush has said that he is against the Obama executive orders on immigration reform which would protect from deportation young immigrants who came to the country as children (DACA), and immigrants who are the parents of U.S. citizens (DAPA). When asked if he would undo the most recent Obama executive orders Bush told radio host Michael Medved, "The DACA and the DAPA? Yes I would" and called the Obama immigration orders "ill-advised." When it comes to comprehensive immigration reform, Bush has said "He would greatly strengthen border security, linking any legalized status for illegal immigrants to tangible progress on objective border security metrics." And wrote in his 2013 book that "Permanent residency in this context, however, should not lead to citizenship."

In a November 2014 poll of Latino registered voters nationwide 89% said they supported the Obama executive actions known as DACA and DAPA, and 80% said they would oppose any efforts to block or repeal these executive actions protecting immigrants. In another poll conducted in November of 2014, 67% of Latinos voters said immigration issues were either the most important, or one of the most important issues in evaluating candidates and their decision to vote.

Further, Latino voters strongly reject a "border security first" approach – only 13% support Bush on that in a 2013 national survey, while 81% said they want to see a focus on a path to citizenship implemented at the same time any border security measures are implemented, not making a path to citizenship contingent on border security litmus tests as Bush has proposed.

Finally, when asked in 2013 what they thought about giving immigrants legal status, but not citizenship, 78% of Latino voters said they would oppose such a plan. In every survey we have seen on this point, Latino voters reject any notion of second-class status for immigrants.

2. Medicaid Expansion and Obamacare

Latinos continue to have the highest rates of being uninsured. According to one estimate, 200,000 Latinos in Jeb Bush's home state of Florida alone would gain health insurance through Medicaid expansion, which Florida has blocked. On the issue of Medicaid expansion Bush has said he does not support expanding Medicaid under Obamacare because "expanding Medicaid without reforming it is not going to solve our problems over the long run" and called Obamacare a "monstrosity" and "flawed to its core"

In a Nov 2014 poll of Latino voters 77% nationwide and 74% of Latinos in Florida said they thought states should take federal money to expand Medicaid programs. When it comes to Obamacare, only 25% of Latino voters in 2012 said they wanted to see it repealed, while fully 66% said they think the federal government should help ensure access to health insurance. In a national poll in 2013, fully 89% of Latinos said they wanted to learn more about the benefits available under the Affordable Care Act and 75% said "in the long run" the ACA will be good for Latinos in the U.S.

3. Raising the Minimum Wage

On minimum wage, Jeb Bush has said he is against raising the minimum wage and wants to let the private sector decide what the minimum pay should be, "We need to leave it to the private sector. I think state minimum wages

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are fine. The federal government shouldn't be doing this"

Latino workers are heavily represented in lower income categories and disproportionately find themselves as minimum wage workers. In a Nov 2014 poll of Latino voters, 78% said they want to see the federal minimum wage raised to $10.10 per hour, including 80% of Latino voters in Florida. While Jeb Bush stated that "minimum wages are fine" a national poll in July 2014 found that 67% of Latino were somewhat or very concerned they were currently not earning enough to pay their basic expenses.

4. The Importance of Addressing Climate Change

On environmental issues and climate change Jeb Bush has that it's not clear that climate change is a man-made phenomenon and that the EPA is doing too much and that "We have to begin to rein in this top-down driven regulatory system." Bush says he wants the federal government to provide more incentives for hydraulic fracking and horizontal drilling.

In contrast to Jeb Bush, 82% of Latinos in a 2013 national poll said they were somewhat or very concerned that human activity is causing the earth to get warmer. In contrast to a weaker EPA, 77% of Latinos said they would support the President taking executive action through the EPA to flight climate change. On the issue of fracking, polling data from Colorado, a state where hydraulic fracking for oil shale was being debated, found that 70% of Latinos opposed increased fracking and oil shale development. Overall, 84% of Latino voters in 2014 said it was important for the federal government to take measures to reduce carbon pollution.

5. Taxes on the Super Wealthy

When it comes to the federal budget deficit, Jeb Bush created a bit of a stir three years ago when he said he was open to small revenue increases, however a senior spokesperson, Kristy Campbell, made clear in 2014 that Gov. Bush does not support any new tax increases. Rather, a headline in Forbes Magazine outlining the Bush tax plan said "Jeb Bush Catered Tax Cuts to the Wealthy" pointing out that he favored providing tax cuts for the wealthy and "tax relief for rich investors." Coupled with tax cuts for the wealthy, Bush has called for more spending cuts and touted his record as Florida Governor in vetoing state budgets for schools, job training and parks, regularly bragging about his extensive use of the line-item veto to cut state spending.

Polling data from Latino Decisions has repeatedly found Latinos oppose additional cuts to government services and instead support new tax increases on the most wealthy as a way to generate more revenue to address the deficit. In a 2012 poll of Latino voters 87% wanted to see tax increases on the super wealthy as part of the budget deficit solution, including 82% of Latino voters in Florida. When given a direct choice between lowering taxes or increasing government investment, only 25% of Latinos thought lowering taxes was the best approach to help the economy grow while 67% thought increased investment in new infrastructure projects was more important.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio sent praising note to Jeb Bush ahead of his announcement // Fox News // Serafin Gomez – June 15, 2015

As former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush formally launches his White House bid Monday in Miami, his one-time mentee, Marco Rubio, now a Republican primary threat, issued a statement of good will on Bush's entry into the race—a rarity in presidential campaign politics.

"In politics, people throw around the word 'friend' so much it often has little real meaning. This is not one of those times. When I call Jeb Bush my friend, I mean he is someone I like, care for and respect" Rubio said.

"He and I have worked closely together for many years, on issues big and small. He is a passionate advocate for what he believes, and I welcome him to the race, "Rubio added.

By Rubio's own admission, Bush was a significant influence on the U.S. senator, ever since he first became a rising GOP star after being elevated to speaker of the Florida House, and Bush was finishing his 2nd term as a popular governor of the Sunshine state.

Bush even gave him a sabre as gift when he became speaker in 2005.

"I'm going to bestow to you the sword of a great conservative warrior," Bush told Rubio then, according to a local report. Rubio took the sword, dubbed the "Sword of Chang" by Bush, and waved it like a torch.

In his 2012 book, "American Son," Rubio described his admiration for Bush.

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"I was most influenced by the creativity and daring of Governor Jeb Bush," Rubio wrote. "A one-man idea factory."

Rubio described him as "the man he admired most in Florida politics."

In April, Rubio launched his presidential campaign in The Magic City, across a placid Biscayne Bay.

"Before us now is the opportunity to author the greatest chapter yet in the amazing story of America. We can't do that by going back to the leaders and ideas of the past," Rubio said to the cheering crowd of thousands, many Latino, at the iconic Freedom Tower in downtown Miami. His words, an implied jab at not only the Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, also seemed at directed at Bush.

Bush allies have indicated privately to Fox News that the Bush campaign will have to go after Rubio, in an effort to deflate some of the growth Rubio has gained in the last few weeks as the Cuban-American solidifies himself with Bush, Walker and a couple of other rivals near the top of most recent GOP polls.

And the competition for supporters and donors is on, especially in Florida, where the March 15th primary will be a significant battle ground for each campaign. The Bush campaign released a statement last week that they had picked up three key supporters from Rubio's home turf.

Three Republican, Cuban-American members of Congress in South Florida, including U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a close ally of Rubio (Rubio had even interned for her at one point) – have all endorsed Bush.

But on Monday morning, after the Bush campaign released a well-produced video with a theme of optimism and positivity, the good will was returned on Twitter by Rubio's former mentor.

"Thanks Marco," Jeb Bush tweeted. "Glad I can do it in our hometown. See you out there!"

Sen. Marco Rubio: Under Obama the World Has Become a More Dangerous Place // TIME // Marco Rubio – June 15, 2015

A major challenge for the next president will be to fix our weakened intelligence system

In February 2011, I stepped into my first classified briefing as a member of the Senate's intelligence committee. The focus that day was on the Arab Spring that had begun to unfold in North Africa, and part of the Monday morning quarterbacking that day was about what more our intelligence community could have done—or what resources they needed—to better anticipate such a consequential turn of events. Those would be the first of hundreds of hours I would spend over the next four and a half years overseeing our nation's intelligence services and programs, and regularly considering what more we can be doing to equip our intelligence services with the tools they need to keep us safe.

During this period, I've seen the consequences that President Barack Obama's foreign policy has had on the world and our interests abroad. Under his leadership, the world has become a more dangerous place, our allies doubt whether America is still a nation of its word when it comes to our security commitments, and we've embarked on a dangerous unilateral disarmament of intelligence-gathering tools through policy reversals from the White House and mindless budget cuts due to sequestration.

This month, the Obama administration will begin the process of dismantling one such program that has helped to keep our people safe since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This so-called "Section 215 metadata program" authorized by the Patriot Act, which was closely overseen by Congress and the courts for more than a decade, has allowed us to thwart terrorist plots.

Contrary to the popularly accepted lie that this program allowed the U.S. government to spy on Americans and listen in on their phone calls, it simply enabled business records to be collected by phone companies and stored by the National Security Agency in a database that could be checked only when there was a known or suspected terrorist nexus. This program received rigorous oversight from Congress and the judiciary.

Unfortunately, misinformation, fear-mongering and the allure of campaign fundraising all contributed to its expiration, its explicit prohibition in the future, and its replacement with a weaker and untested system that fails to require phone companies to maintain records that we may one day need to track terrorists. Rather than use what power remains in his bully pulpit, President Obama opted to be a bystander and let this program be killed, even though he had previously championed it. Even worse, the White House clearly sent the message to the heads of the intelligence agencies that they needed to stand down from advocating for the program. As a result, the American people are now less safe.

Treating terrorism like a purely law enforcement function and returning our intelligence community to a pre-9/11 footing needlessly exposes the American people to the dangers of a radically changed and more dangerous world.

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A major challenge for the next president will be to fix the weakened intelligence system that the current one is leaving behind.

This will entail re-equipping our intelligence community with the authorities to quickly connect the dots between terrorist conspirators and ensure the intelligence community has the ability and tools to efficiently narrow the focus of an investigation to uncover plots and save valuable time and resources in the course of terrorist investigations in which time is absolutely of the essence.

With the right tools and a dedicated workforce, we can protect our people and our homeland from another terrorist attack while remaining true to our identity as the freest nation on earth. This belief is not based on a theory, on a campaign briefing, or on something I read in a book or newspaper. It's based on four and a half years of seeing the results with my own eyes.

We need clear leadership from the commander-in-chief to confront the myriad of national security challenges facing the nation. It is increasingly clear that the task of ensuring that those we entrust to protect us have every tool they need for the job will fall to the next president. It is also apparent that through their demagoguery on this issue, through their support for abandoning these crucial programs or through their outright silence that some who aspire to that office are not up to the challenge any more than President Obama is. There is no duty more important than rising to this challenge because Americans lives are on the line.

PAUL

Rand Paul: Obamatrade Tax Hikes on Small Businesses Mean Republicans Should Oppose Revival Efforts // Breitbart // Matthew Boyle – June 15, 2015

Paul said when asked to react to an article from Breitbart News from late Sunday evening exposing the tax increase in the deal:

You know typically to pass these kinds of things, the establishment will try to buy off Democrats by sprinkling money so they have some money in there. To get the money, under our budget rules, we have to pay for it—so they want to pay for it with a fine on small businesses. But I thought a point that was made in the article which was pretty good is this is similar to the fines they wanted to do in Obamacare with 1099s and there was such an outcry it's the only part of Obamacare we ever repealed. So I think when people discover they're sticking a tax increase in there I think people will be even more unhappy.

Paul said he recommends all Republicans vote against TAA when Ryan and House GOP leadership bring it back up on Tuesday for an attempt to revive it after it embarrassingly failed 302-126 when they tried to pass TAA last week in the House. To send Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to President Obama's desk, TPA and TAA have to pass as a package. A bipartisan coalition formed to take down TAA last week, therefore temporarily killing Obamatrade as a whole—but House GOP leadership, at Ryan's insistence, is going to try to change the game and pass TAA again on Tuesday despite the fact it raises taxes on small business.

Leadership didn't tell any of the members—including the 86 Republicans who voted for TAA last week—that they put the tax increase in the deal, so most of them who voted for it had no idea they were voting to violate a pledge they all made to Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform. That's largely because leadership was so dead-set on trying to convince rank-and-file Republicans to grant Obama fast-track authority under TPA—so that Obama can speed through at least three highly secretive trade deals, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), and Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)—because the donor class wants open borders trade so badly. Most members who support TPA didn't even read the TPP text because it's kept in a secretive room in the Capitol basement and only members can go in to read it—and they're only allowed to, in certain instances, bring staffers with high enough security clearances with them. TiSA and T-TIP text is not even available for members to read, so there's actually no way any member of Congress who supported TPA can know what it was they were actually voting for.

Paul told Breitbart News:

We borrow a million dollars a minute, so the first question I'd ask is where is the money coming from? They have a pay-for in there, but is it really a real pay-for? A lot of these pay-fors are basically set, they stick them on there as accounting gimmicks to say they're going to pay for the money somehow. But the bottom line is they want to raise some kind of fees or fines through the IRS to get money from certain industries, so I'd say that and that this trade deal is secret, and I don't want to give President Obama any more power.

Paul said he expects the issue of Obamatrade to be a big deal on the 2016 campaign trail. It's already separated the field as Paul, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Donald Trump, Carly Fiorina, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and more oppose it. Sens. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)93%, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) 80% and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) 47%

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(R-FL)–and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush—among others support it.

"Everywhere I go, people come up to me and say 'thank you for not giving the president more power' 'thank you for voting against TPA,'" Paul said. "So I think it does resonate with people, and we'll see how these things shake out, but it fits my message, because I've been saying we gave the president too much power, and he's tried to grab too much power on immigration, healthcare, war power and now really with trade. Part of the checks and balances is having equal amounts of power with each branch of government can jealously guard their power and I think it's a mistake to give too much power to the president. That's why their decision to make the treaty classified makes me suspicious—when people are not allowed to read it."

WALKER

UK's David Cameron fact-checks Scott Walker // MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 15, 2015

At major gatherings of world leaders, President Obama tends to be one of the more popular, sought-after figures on the global stage. This has been common throughout Obama's presidency – he may be seen as a divisive leader domestically, but internationally, Obama is generally a towering figure.
Republicans are heavily invested in believing the opposite. Indeed, one of the more common GOP criticisms of the president is that Obama simply isn't respected abroad. Republicans routinely insist that, behind the scenes, international officials voice their deep disappointment with the U.S. president, all evidence to the contrary notwithstanding.
Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) actually got specific on this point on Friday, saying that British Prime Minister David Cameron told the far-right governor directly that he's unsatisfied with American leadership. Time reported:

Walker, who has taken several trips overseas in recent months to study up on foreign policy in preparation for an all-but-certain presidential bid, told a roomful of Republican donors Friday that world leaders, including Cameron, are worried about the U.S. stepping back in the world. [...]
"I heard that from David Cameron back in February earlier when we were over at 10 Downing," Walker said. "I heard it from other leaders around the world. They're looking around realizing this lead from behind mentality just doesn't work. It's just not working."

If true, this would be a break with diplomatic protocol and a legitimately big deal. It's unpersuasive when GOP leaders run around telling voters, "Lots of foreign leaders don't like Obama; we just can't actually name any." But here's Walker saying the British prime minister personally told him that he's unsatisfied with Obama's leadership.
The problem, not surprisingly, is that Cameron quickly pushed back, suggesting the Wisconsinite, who's repeatedly struggled with foreign policy, has no idea what he's talking about.
"The Prime Minister did not say that and does not think that," a Cameron spokesperson told Time.
Congratulations, governor, on your latest foreign-policy triumph.
Incidentally, this isn't the first time Cameron has felt the need to fact-check the right from across the pond. In January, Fox News' Steven Emerson told a national television audience that the population of Birmingham, England, is now "totally Muslim," and has become a city where "non-Muslims just simply don't go."
Emerson added, "[P]arts of London, there are actually Muslim religious police that actually beat and actually wound seriously anyone who doesn't dress according to religious Muslim attire."
Cameron, asked for a comment, said, "[T]his guy is clearly a complete idiot."
The prime minister didn't go nearly as far when correcting Walker.

Supreme Court shuts down Scott Walker: T oday's ultrasound decision is a big defeat for anti-choice warriors // Salon // Katie McDonough – June 15, 2015

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to review North Carolina's forced ultrasound law, rendering it unenforceable and marking a rare bit of good news about reproductive freedom to come out of the high court. (This time last year, I was in the midst of a prolonged Charlie Brown sad walk over Hobby Lobby and buffer zones.)

This is the end of the road for the state's condescendingly-titled A Woman's Right to Know Act, which was challenged by a coalition of groups on First Amendment grounds. The law required doctors to give patients seeking abortion care detailed descriptions of their ultrasounds and follow a script that, according to a lower court ruling striking down the law, had an "ideological message in favor of carrying a pregnancy to term."

A woman could avert her eyes from the ultrasound screen or plug up her ears to avoid hearing the script, but doctors were legally required to keep going or risk losing their license.

It was a particularly draconian bit of compelled speech forced on patients in a particularly vulnerable position (half naked on an exam table, hours before a medical procedure), which is why it was blocked last year by a panel of judges on the Fourth Circuit. That court's ruling gives some useful context for the severity of the law as it

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compares to other informed consent laws, so it's worth including here:

Informed consent frequently consists of a fully-clothed conversation between the patient and physician, often in the physician's office. It is driven by the "patient's particular needs and circumstances" ... so that the patient receives the information he or she wants in a setting that promotes an informed and thoughtful choice. This provision, however, finds the patient half-naked or disrobed on her back on an examination table, with an ultrasound probe either on her belly or inserted into her vagina... Informed consent has not generally been thought to require a patient to view images from his or her own body much less in a setting in which personal judgment may be altered or impaired. Yet this provision requires that she do so or "avert her eyes."

Rather than engaging in a conversation calculated to inform, the physician must continue talking regardless of whether the patient is listening... The information is provided irrespective of the needs or wants of the patient, in direct contravention of medical ethics and the principle of patient autonomy. Forcing this experience on a patient over her objections in this manner interferes with the decision of a patient not to receive information that could make an indescribably difficult decision even more traumatic and could "actually cause harm to the patient." ... And it is intended to convey not the risks and benefits of the medical procedure to the patient's own health, but rather the full weight of the state's moral condemnation.

There are currently 10 states with mandatory ultrasound laws. One of them is Wisconsin. Here's how rumored Republican presidential hopeful Scott Walker described his own state's forced ultrasound law:

I'll give you an example. I'm pro-life, I've passed pro-life legislation. We defunded Planned Parenthood, we signed a law that requires an ultrasound. Which, the thing about that, the media tried to make that sound like that was a crazy idea. Most people I talk to, whether they're pro-life or not, I find people all the time who'll get out their iPhone and show me a picture of their grandkids' ultrasound and how excited they are, so that's a lovely thing. I think about my sons are 19 and 20, you know we still have their first ultrasound picture. It's just a cool thing out there.

We just knew if we signed that law, if we provided the information, that more people if they saw that unborn child would, would make a decision to protect and keep the life of that unborn child.

Walker may think forced ultrasounds are "cool," but he's wrong about the impact of such laws. As I've written before, forced ultrasound laws don't change women's minds about abortion, they just make the procedure more expensive — and potentially more traumatizing as women feel judged and condemned by a script the state forced into their doctors' mouths.

Scott Walker Already Failing At Diplomacy // Blue Nation Review // Jesse Berney – June 15, 2015

One of the most entertaining parts of presidential campaigns is watching governors take trips overseas to boost their foreign policy cred. Sooner or later, they always get into trouble, like when Mitt Romney insulted London's preparations for the Olympics during a 2012 trip.

Wisconsin Governor and imminent presidential candidate Scott Walker traveled to Britain in February and met with Prime Minister David Cameron, and has been using the experience to bolster his claim that President Obama is not so great with the foreign policy.

The only problem? According to Cameron, Walker is lying.

Walker has claimed world leaders, including Cameron, have told him President Obama's "lead from behind" polices are "just not working."

But a spokesman for Cameron told TIME, "The Prime Minister did not say that and does not think that."

Oops.

There are two possibilities here. Walker is telling the truth, and Cameron (reportedly one of Obama's closest allies among world leaders) is trashing Obama in private discussions with other American politicians. If that unlikely scenario is true, then Walker embarrassed himself by publicly revealing a private conversation with Cameron.
Or Walker is simply lying about what the prime minister of Great Britain told him.
Either way, it's clear Walker has a lot to learn before he engages in actual diplomacy with actual consequences for the United States. Or maybe it's best he just stays away from offices with responsibility over our foreign policies — like the presidency.

CRUZ

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Ted Cruz courts Houston business elite at private luncheon // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 15, 2015

Ted Cruz wooed his hometown's business elite Monday at a closed-door luncheon in Houston, the latest outreach by Cruz to a local community still somewhat uneasy with the Tea Party firebrand.

Cruz met with the guests and members of Houston's C Club, a conservative group that brings together 100 of the city's movers and shakers, including several prominent presidential donors. As Cruz prepared to run for president in 2013 and 2014, he looked to smooth over relations with the potential contributors in Houston who were squarely behind David Dewhurst, the Texas lieutenant governor who lost in an upset to Cruz in 2012.

As he frequently does in interviews and more intimate settings, the Texas senator gave a detailed explanation of how he could win the Republican nomination. Chief among his selling points, attendees said, was his early fundraising success: Cruz raised more than $4 million during the first 9 days of the campaign, and the cluster of super PACs independently supporting his bid claim to have raised more than $37 million.

Cruz at times sounded like a political operative as he walked through the numbers he needed to win, said George Strake Jr., a prominent Houston businessman supporting Cruz.

"I told him after the speech that would be better than you being the candidate would be you being the campaign manager for another candidate," Strake joked.

The C Club did endorse Cruz during that 2012 primary, and the Texas senator remains popular on the whole with Texas Republicans. But some in the business community soured on him after a Cruz-led group triggered a partial government shutdown in fall 2013.

Cruz spoke for about 45 minutes to the group on a day when much of the attention may have been placed on the city's other favorite son: Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor who grew up in Houston and announced his presidential bid later that afternoon in Miami.

Jeb Bush's Son Once Called Ted Cruz The "Future Of The Republican Party" // Buzzfeed // Megan Apper – June 15, 2015

George P. Bush, the Texas Land Commissioner and son of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, once called Senator Ted Cruz "the future of the Republican Party" and compared Cruz's effect on the party to the "Great Reformation."

"Ted is the future of the Republican Party," Bush said in a statement in support for Cruz during the 2012 Texas Republican Senate primary. Cruz, an upstart conservative and grassroots candidate, ultimately came from behind in that race to upset Texas lieutenant governor David Dewhurst, the establishment favorite.

"He is a proven conservative, and his personal story embodies the American Dream. Like Marco Rubio in Florida, I am confident that Ted will inspire a new generation of leaders to stand up and defend American Exceptionalism."

Speaking with the Texas Tribune about his 2013 campaign for land commissioner, Bush said his goal was to follow Cruz's playbook.

"Our idea is to take a page out of Ted Cruz's playbook and engage the grassroots and the activists within the party throughout the state," Bush said.

In that interview, Bush compared the effect candidates like Ted Cruz had on the party to the Great Reformation.

"I analogize it to the Great Reformation, where you have outside forces that reform a body or an institution," Bush said. "I think there are definitely some positive effects that are taking place within the party because of the Tea Party, increased grassroots activism, increased attention and concerns with respect to what's happening in Washington,D.C"
The young Bush told the Texas Tribune in September 2014 that Cruz was a "force of nature" and "fearless."

"I think he has been a forceful advocate for the issues that we talked about today on Obamacare and now increasingly on the international stage," said Bush. "But you know he is a force of nature on the conservative side and he's fearless. And honestly there are a lot of folks who are hungry for that type of challenge in Washington DC. And so we still exchange texts here and there you know, obviously we will help him with whatever he needs.
"
Asked about his past statements on Cruz by the Tribune, Bush said "I'm not going to endorse."

Asked about his dad, he said, "I think folks know that I love him."

CHRISTIE

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New Jersey Lawmakers' Plan To Circumvent Chris Christie, Start Automatic Voter Registration // Think Progress // Kira Lerner – June 15, 2015

After Hillary Clinton delivered a speech earlier this month calling for the restoration and expansion of voting rights across the country, likely Republican presidential candidate and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was quick to respond. "I don't want to expand [early voting] and increase the opportunities for fraud," he said, adding that "maybe that's what Mrs. Clinton wants to do."

While Christie has made it clear he would not support legislation to expand voting opportunities, his Democrat-controlled legislature is moving forward with it anyway. Democratic leaders plan to introduce and fast-track the "Democracy Act" this week which would make it the second state to adopt automatic voter registration and would expand early voting opportunities, among other changes.

"We're not reinventing the wheel" said Analilia Mejia, the director of New Jersey Working Families, which spearheaded the initiative to have lawmakers introduce the legislation. "Most of these things have been moved and adopted in other states successfully... It's just mind-bending that a governor of a state would be against every single one of his citizens having full ease and access to participate in the voting process."
Christie asserted last week that Clinton "doesn't know what she was talking about" when it comes to voting in New Jersey, but Mejia said "she totally does, otherwise New Jersey wouldn't be 39th in the country in participation and registration. We wouldn't be behind Mississippi."

New Jersey currently ranks 39th in the country in both percentage of eligible voters who are registered and percentage of voters who actually case a ballot, according to NJWF. The state does not allow in-person early voting, but requires citizens who want to cast an absentee ballot early to apply for one at an election official's office. New Jersey also does not permit online voter registration, something that is allowed in 33 other states.
The package of legislation will also include a bill that would ban governors from calling costly special elections, like the Senate race Christie ordered in 2013 which cost the state roughly $24 million. Around the same time Christie decided to spend millions of valuable taxpayer dollars on the special election, a move critics said he made in order to preserve his own seat, he vetoed a bill that would have let citizens vote 14 days before an election, calling the $25 million measure "hasty" and "counterproductive." Meanwhile, Clinton has called for a minimum 20 days of early voting in each state.

The Democracy Act would also solve another problem plaguing New Jersey elections — the need to accommodate non-English speakers. Currently materials only have to be printed in Spanish if 10 percent of the county or voting districts speaks it as their primary language, but the bill would require election materials to be made available to voters in multiple languages without other stipulations, according to NJ Advance Media.
"It's no wonder that our 21st century electorate is disengaged when our voting practices are stuck in the 17th century," Frank Argote-Freyre, president of the Latino Action Network, said in a statement. "By modernizing voter registration practices and ensuring ballot materials are translated into languages that reflect our communities, we can dramatically improve voter accessibility and engagement."

Mejia said that if Christie vetoes the bill, as NJWF expects him to do, the group plans to bring the issue directly to the voters on the next ballot. The move wouldn't be unique for New Jersey voters — most notably, they previously acted without the governor's support to raise the minimum wage through a constitutional amendment.

Chris Christie Used a Phrase to Describe the Fight Against ISIS That Brings George W. Bush to Mind // IJ Review // Mallory Shelbourne – June 15, 2015

During the lead up to the Iraq war, President George W. Bush used the phrase "coalition of the willing" to describe what the U.S. would assemble to defeat Iraq's Saddam Hussein if he would not surrender his weapons of mass destruction.

Now Governor Chris Christie is echoing the former president's phrase to describe the fight against ISIS.

According to Reuters, on "This Week" Sunday morning the New Jersey Republican said:

"'Well, listen, you know, we've got to put together a coalition of the willing, which has been used before ... and used successfully in that region,' he said on ABC's 'This Week.'"
In May, Christie told CNN's Jake Tapper that knowing what we know now, invading Iraq was not the right choice. Politico reported:

"'I think President Bush made the best decision he could at the time, given that his intelligence community was telling him that there was WMD and that there were other threats right there in Iraq,' Christie continued. 'But I don't think you could honestly say that if we knew then that there was no WMD that the country should have gone to war.'"

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Bush's own brother, presidential hopeful and former Governor Jeb Bush, struggled with the same question in May. The Florida Republican also had a heated exchange with a college student during a town-hall discussion in May over whether or not his brother's administration created ISIS.

PERRY

Perry inexplicably blasts Obama's 'lack of executive experience' // MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 15, 2015

We can apparently add former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) to the list of Republicans who don't fully understand the military offensive President Obama has launched against ISIS targets in the Middle East. Right Wing Watch reported the other day:

Former Texas governor and GOP presidential candidate Rick Perry told conservative talk radio host Dana Loesch on Wednesday that President Obama hasn't shown any "engagement to stop ISIS," which he attributed to the president's "lack of being able to really connect the dots" and "lack of executive experience." [...]
"I think that's the reason ISIS has gone forward, I think that's the reason Putin is standing there basically laughing at us as we have one lack of impact after another in the global world that we're living in," he said.
The Republican presidential candidate, currently under criminal indictment, added that Syria paid no price for crossing the "red line" established by the Obama administration.
I'll admit, criticizing Obama's "lack of executive experience" continues to be an unintentionally funny line of attack. In 2008, it was a legitimate area of interest (though Obama's general-election rival had exactly as much executive experience as he did), but in 2015, it's pretty silly.
After all, the first word in the phrase "President Obama" is "president." Obama doesn't "lack of executive experience"; he's led the executive branch during a time of war and economic crisis. He has the kind of executive experience few can even try to relate to.
As for whether or not Vladimir Putin is "laughing at" the United States, he's really not. Worse yet, when Perry says Syria paid no price, that's plainly false, too.
But perhaps most striking of all is Perry's belief that Obama hasn't shown any "engagement to stop ISIS." The former governor may have missed the news, but the U.S. president has launched thousands of airstrikes against ISIS targets and helped assemble an international coalition to confront the militants.
Perry's Republican allies on Capitol Hill haven't been willing to do any actual work on the issue – GOP lawmakers just haven't shown any "engagement to stop ISIS" – but Obama's been quite engaged, indeed.
Of course, if it were just Perry who made odd comments like these, it'd be easier to dismiss. It wouldn't be the first time the far-right Texan seemed confused by current events.
But as we've discussed before, there's actually an astounding number of Republican lawmakers and politicians, from state legislatures to the congressional leadership to the presidential trail, who've argued repeatedly in recent months that President Obama hasn't "done anything about ISIS."
Given the scope of the military offensive launched by the Obama administration, the rhetoric seems oddly delusional.

Perry, Rubio mock Hillary Clinton in new campaign ads // Yahoo News // Caitlin Dickson – June 15, 2015

The 2016 presidential election is still 17 months away, but some primary candidates are already getting a jumpstart on their general election attack ads.

Over the weekend, former Texas governor Rick Perry and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) both released campaign ads targeting Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

The video from Perry's camp, titled "Hillary Goes to the Movies," shows silhouetted cartoon Clinton pulling up to a movie theater in a van — presumably a reference to Clinton's heavily-hyped ride, which was spotted occupying a handicapped spot, on her road trip from New York to Iowa at the start of her campaign back in April. A film called "Stop Hillary Clinton" is playing, and a recording of Clinton's actual laughter plays on loop as the cartoon version watches the "previews of upcoming attractions," a compilation of controversies involving the former secretary of state.

The Hillary in Rubio's ad, on the other hand, is straight out real life — and almost real time.

The video, released on Saturday, shows Clinton speaking at her New York City campaign rally just hours earlier. Playing through an old-fashioned TV, however, the fresh clip of Clinton deriding the current Republican primary field looks like archival footage.

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The video switches from a grainy Clinton, reciting the lyrics to the Beatles' "Yesterday," which she called the Republican theme song, to Rubio in high-definition.

"Yesterday is over," Rubio says to a cheering crowd, many of them recording videos on their iPhones. "And we're never going back."

The ad contrasts Rubio as a fresh face against political dynasties like the Clintons and — though fellow Republican candidate Jeb Bush is not mentioned — the Bushes.

"We Americans are proud of our history, but our country has always been about the future," Rubio says in the video. "Before us now is the opportunity to author the greatest chapter yet in the amazing story of America. But we can't do that by going back to the leaders and the ideas of the past."

Clinton has hardly refrained from taking shots against the GOP field as a whole. But she's also become the target of many Republican primary candidates months before Democrats are ready to focus on any one of her opponents. Rand Paul's campaign store even has a whole section dedicated to anti-Hillary merchandise. Perry's and Rubio's videos are a taste of what's to come from both sides as the primary season progresses.

Rick Perry rates himself against Bush, Cruz // Dallas Daily News – June 15, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's officially kicked off his second bid for the White House two weeks ago at an airplane hangar in Addison. On Monday, as fellow Republican Jeb Bush joined the dozen-plus candidates in the field, Perry appeared on The Mark Davis Show on KSKY-AM (660) to talk about the campaign and the ever-growing chorus of contenders.

Here are some excerpts from that interview, as conducted and condensed by Mark Davis:

So what's been happening since the Addison rollout?

It was an extremely well-put-together rollout. It's always fun to stand in front of an old C-130 Hercules, so we were able to round one up, and remind people that freedom's not free. On the stage were a lot of people who paid an extraordinary price — Taya Kyle, and Marcus and Morgan Luttrell and others ... just a great backdrop to talk about this country we live in. It's wonderful, it's extraordinary, but it costs a great deal to keep those freedoms. We went from there to Iowa, on Saturday we did a motorcycle rally ... ended up in New Hampshire, then into South Carolina, then back into Texas for Wednesday and Thursday of this last week. So, headed off to do a big round in Texas the next four or five days. A lot of great crowds, a lot of excitement out there. I'm blessed, happy, healthy and prepared.

Every Republican will be out there suggesting he will be a better leader for the military. You focus a lot on your actual service.

Obviously, the people who are in office now or who are running for office on the other side, you have to look at this as a third term for Barack Obama. With Hillary Clinton, there's no way around that. She owns the foreign policy debacle that came out of Libya and Syria, so that is not a high hurdle for any of the men and women on our side. But I think it is very important to not only have worn the uniform of our country, but to have been in a position like I've been in for the last 14 years, as the commander in chief of the Texas military forces — that's executive experience, and that's military experience that is priceless, and there's only one way you can get it.

You had an interesting line in your announcement speech, saying leadership is not a speech delivered on the Senate floor. Seems like that's aimed toward four or five guys.

Listen, we have some extraordinarily brilliant, capable United States Senators running in this race. I mean Ted Cruz, I like him a lot. Ted is a smart, capable — but I mean, after eight years of this young, inexperienced United States senator, this President, and that lack of experience, ... it's going to be a hard, hard thing for Republican primary voters to say, "We're going to take a chance on that."

Jeb Bush was a Governor. How do you view his entry?

Good man, good family. But again, let's look at the records. Look at [my] 14 years of an environment of creating jobs — no one can touch Texas ... We're now the No. 1 total exporting state and have been for the last 13 years. We're the No. 1 high-tech exporting state. The job creation climate — during the worst recession the country has had since the Great Depression. Listen, if you weren't creating jobs back in the late '90s, early 2000s, then you weren't paying attention.

What's the President Perry answer to Obamacare?

You push the bulk of it back to the states. We've said that from the get-go. I'm a true believer in the 10th

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Amendment. I don't just give it lip service, I believe in it. When they tried to force No Child Left Behind on us in Texas, when they tried to force Race to the Top, Common Core … being able to push these issues back to the states, I trust Governors, legislators, working with their citizens to come up with better ways to deliver health care. … "If you want to keep your doctor, you can keep him." Well, no. "We're going to drive down the cost of health care." Well, no. All of those things they said about Obamacare did not come true, and now we're finding that not only does it most likely have a constitutional error in it that's going to be fatal — I hope states are looking at different ways, whether it's health savings accounts, whether it's a host of menus that people can pick and choose from. States will deliver health care more efficiently and, I know, at a cheaper rate than what you'll see Washington, D.C. do.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham telling it like it is // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 15, 2015

Jeb Bush has said he wants to run with joy in his heart. Right now the most joyous candidate may be a long shot — or perhaps he can be joyous because he is a long shot. Either way, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), already known as a wit, is becoming the truthteller in the race. With bluntness and humor, he is holding nothing back and in the process doing a fine job of debunking foolish people and foolish ideas.

It's no secret that the Pentagon can be risk-averse. Under George W. Bush, inspiration and support for the Iraq surge had to come from outside the military brass. More recently, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey drove informed senators and outside experts to distraction by raising a host of objections and a parade of horribles for not acting years ago in Syria — when the risks actually were low and the chance for success was high. So it surprised none of Dempsey's critics when word came that he didn't favor a more robust strategy for fighting the Islamic State. That provoked the following reaction from Graham, appearing on "Face the Nation": "So, now would be a good time to call Ash Carter and our military leaders to the Capitol Hill and say, if you have got a problem with what we're doing, let me know, but tell me how this is working, because if our military leadership thinks that we're on a path to degrading and destroying ISIL, they need to be fired." Exactly.

Graham also made plenty of sense explaining how we got into the mess we are in:

[JOHN] DICKERSON: The secretary of defense, in some blunt remarks, said Iraqi army is not really up to the task.

This has been a repeated story, so why, if you add 10,000 advisers, are you not just sending good after bad here?

GRAHAM: Well, the surge did work.

In 2011, we had security in Iraq, political progress. If you don't believe me, listen to President Obama in 2012. General Keane is the guy I have been listening to, who was the architect of the surge. If you have 10,000 Americans train and advise and assist at the battalion level, it would help Iraqi army be tougher.

It you had a couple of aviation battalions of American attack helicopters, you would have a distinct advantage over ISIL in Syria, in Iraq. But you have to look at Syria and Iraq as one battle space. We're not doing the. We have no strategy to deal with the Iraqi safe havens in Syria. You cannot win this war from the air.

Obama will go before Assad will go. So, this whole policy toward degrading and destroying ISIL is miserable failure. And when Secretary Clinton said that this country was well-positioned to deal with the threats from ISIL, Iran, Russia, and China, she is absolutely delusional.

We're in a bad position against all the threats we face, because Barack Obama has been a weak and indecisive commander in chief. And she would be the third term of a failed presidency. We better do something different.

And he might have added that senators on the right and left who cheered total withdrawal from Iraq and refused to recognize a national security interest in Syria share the responsibility for our current predicament. In the campaign, if New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie insists as he did on ABC News on Sunday that he doesn't "believe now the idea of putting 10,000 troops on the ground is what we need to do," or Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) insists contrary to all evidence we can win the war by dropping more bombs (Targeted where? And when did airpower alone win a war against an asymmetric, fundamentalist foe?) or Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) proclaims that the problem is too much U.S. engagement, I certainly expect Graham to be ready with a zinger. And speaking of Rand Paul, Graham had the nerve to say what virtually all foreign policy conservatives believe (albeit quietly), namely that Hillary Clinton would be a worse commander in chief than any GOP candidate "except for Rand Paul."

Graham is also a truthteller on immigration reform. "Mitt Romney and Ann Romney did our party a great service by admitting that embracing self-deportation in 2012 was their biggest mistake. . . .You're not going to self-deport

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11 million people. You're not going to be able to do that. I'm not going to be a Republican nominee wanting to try to do that. If you pass a criminal background check, I will allow to you stay here legally and earn your way to citizenship. It will be hard-earned pathway. But I hope every candidate on the Republican side will follow Mitt Romney's lead and admit it was a mistake to embrace self-deportation. And I hope self-deportation is in our rear-view mirror as a party, because if it is not, we will lose in 2016." As for those peddling in fears about legal immigrants, Graham was equally cutting: "To me, they're just looking in a different world than I am. We will be down to two workers for every retiree in the next 20 years. We're going to need more legal immigration. And I hope we will embrace a comprehensive approach that is realistic and humane."

And finally, in his lighthearted dismissal of the infatuation with first ladies, he makes no bones about the fact that the republic will do fine without an unelected White House fixture, a sort of royal consort (an expensive one at that) more appropriate for a monarchy than the United States. He joked: "The last time I checked, there was nothing in the Constitution or at the White House [that] said single people need not apply. I'm going to be a ready-to-go commander in chief, protect everybody, single people included." Good for him.

Both Graham and Ohio Gov. John Kasich benefit from candor and lack of concern for the ire they stir in the GOP. While Graham refuses to give way to those peddling snake oil on the Islamic State or immigration or feigning horror about the absence of a hostess-in-chief, Kasich pesters Republicans to embrace the poor, disabled, drug-addicted and other overlooked Americans. Neither especially cares what his right-wing critics say. So while they both can infuriate some on the right (especially in conservative media), their irreverence and intolerance of cant make them two of the most interesting and essential participants in the 2016 presidential race.

The power players behind Lindsey Graham's campaign // Politico // Katie Glueck – June 15, 2015

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who so far has hardly registered in the polls, entered the presidential race in early June on a platform of strong national security, entitlement reform and bipartisan cooperation at home. His close ally, fellow foreign policy hawk Sen. John McCain, has been a major Graham booster, and several McCain alums are helping Graham's effort, along with operatives who are longtime Graham loyalists. Graham is in his third term as a U.S. senator, winning reelection last year over the objections of tea party activists in his state, who disagreed with his collaboration with Democrats on immigration reform, among other issues.

The senator is considered a long-shot to win the GOP nomination, but he is popular among his fellow senators, and several presidential candidates and their allies have gone out of their way to praise him. Graham could also play an important role in pushing fellow 2016ers further to the right on national security issues. Here's a look at the key players in Graham's orbit, with more to come as he staffs up:

• Christian Ferry is campaign manager. Ferry, a GOP operative, served as deputy campaign manager of McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, and also worked on his unsuccessful 2000 primary bid. He has worked on political and business campaigns abroad as well.

• Jon Seaton is a senior adviser. He's a veteran Republican operative who served as former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty's national political director during the last presidential primary, and also held a number of positions on McCain's 2008 presidential bid, including national field director and regional campaign manager for Ohio and Pennsylvania.

• Brittany Bramell is the Graham campaign's spokeswoman, who also serves in a senior communications role. She's a former spokeswoman for House Speaker John Boehner.
• Scott Farmer is a senior adviser to Graham. He served as Graham's campaign manager in 2014 and 2008 and is a veteran of the senator's political shop.

• Rachael Leman is policy director. She spent 10 years in Congress working on the House Rules Committtee.

• David Wilkins is national finance chairman. Wilkins was nominated to serve as U.S. ambassador to Canada under President George W. Bush, something he did from 2005-2009. He's also a prominent South Carolina lawyer. He is head of a national finance committee that includes prominent donors such as businessman and cosmetics mogul Ronald Perelman and General Electric head Jeff Immelt.

• Paul Young is advising Graham in New Hampshire. He is a longtime Granite State operative who has advised several presidential campaigns, including McCain's, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's and former Sen. Bob Dole's, among others.

• Tracie Gibler is Graham's Iowa state director. She is well-connected in conservative circles as a former chief of staff to Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa). She was Pawlenty's political director during the last presidential election.

• Shell Suber is running political efforts in South Carolina. He is a longtime Palmetto State operative and served as political director for Graham's 2008 campaign.

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SUPER PAC

The group "Security is Strength" is backing Graham from the outside. Scott T. Ford, a prominent businessman, is co-chairman, along with former Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.). Andrew King, Graham's former deputy chief of staff, is executive director, and Caroline Wren is finance director, a position she held on his Senate race as well. Bill Bethea, a well-known South Carolina attorney, is treasurer.

Are Rumors About Lindsey Graham's Sexuality Hurting His Presidential Chances? // Slate // Mark Joseph Stern – June 15, 2015

Lindsey Graham is a formidable figure in Congress: A third-term Republican senator who also served eight years in the House, Graham is a national security hawk and a foreign policy expert beloved in his home state of South Carolina, despite his occasionally moderate leanings.

Yet ever since Graham formally announced his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, his candidacy has been treated as something of a joke. Thus far, Graham's bachelor status has attracted the most attention. Hispromise to have "a rotating first lady" drew giggles and jokes—including a quip by Sen. Mark Kirk that Graham was a "bro with no ho." Graham then gave a somewhat melancholy interview insisting that being single did not make him a "defective person."at CF
R
Lurking behind the media's fascination with Graham's singlehood is an assumption about his sexuality. Gay rumors have long plagued the senator , and other South Carolina politicians have even implied that Graham is closeted. (Graham has declared that he "ain't gay.") These whispers become shouts on the late-night circuit, where comedians like Jon Stewart and John Oliver earn laughs by ridiculing Graham's ostensibly effeminate mannerisms. Recently, Larry Wilmorefelt compelled to push back against one of his guests, who laughingly stated she thinks Graham is gay. "Here's the thing," Wilmore said:

Wilmore is on to something here. The mainstream media's coverage of Graham's bachelor status may not blatantly hint that the senator is gay—but it doesn't need to. Even in 2015, many Americans still assume that anybody who isn't partnered at a certain age must be homosexual. The fact that Graham talks in a somewhat stereotypically gay voice only makes the assumption more irresistible.
But when Stewart performs his effeminate Graham impression, he isn't just suggesting the senator is gay—he's *mocking* him for it. That's a problem. Were Graham openly gay, no progressive comedian would dare ridicule him for his manner of speech. Graham is only fair game because he's perceived to be closeted. The implication that he's gay *and lying about it* is what makes the joke amusing. (That is, if you think it's funny at all.)

It's difficult to draw a direct line between these jeering late-night jibes, the mainstream media's winking coverage of Graham, and the senator's striking unpopularity among GOP voters. (He is currently pollingaround 1 percent, lagging behind train wrecks like Bobby Jindal andRick Santorum .) But it's hard to believe the media's refusal to take Graham seriously isn't having some effect on his terrible numbers. Rather than pressing Graham to explain his apparent support for drone strikes without due process , anchors are forcing him to justify his lack of a wife. Nobody looks presidential when they're anxiously explaining why they're single in their 50s.

If Graham were more traditionally masculine, I seriously doubt he'd be dogged by so many questions about his bachelorhood. The fun of poking Graham about his personal life lies in the ambiguous presentation of his sexuality. Most Republican voters may not currently think Graham is gay. But they'll be all but required to consider that question if Graham's media coverage continues to dwell on his romantic and sexual choices. Graham may well be an awful presidential candidate for the Republican Party. But an analysis of his qualifications shouldn't rest on the giggling assumption that he's stuck in the closet.

SANTORUM

Rick Santorum vs Marriage // HuffPo // Matt Baume – June 15, 2015

With the Supreme Court due to rule on marriage any day now, Presidential "candidate" Rick Santorum says he would fight back against a pro-equality ruling. He says that states allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry is a violation of his religious freedom, which is an argument a lot people made about interracial marriage in the 60s. So do couples need to worry about the possibility that Rick Santorum could stop them from marrying? No. For one thing, the president doesn't get to veto Supreme Court rulings. And for another, Rick Santorum will never be president.

But statements like those give cover to organizations that oppose marriage equality. Last week a group of religious leaders took out an ad in some newspapers saying that they would defy any order from the Supreme Court to recognize marriage equality. Can they do that? No, not really. At most, they can use this as an excuse to gather

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email addresses on a petition, which is exactly what they're doing. This is the work of Rick Scarborough, who has in the past suggested that someone should file a class action lawsuit against homosexuality, so clearly not one of the country's great legal minds.

Meanwhile, back in reality, a judge in Arkansas ruled this week that the state must recognize marriages performed during a brief window last year when clerks were issuing licenses. And Lambda Legal has filed a new lawsuit in Texas to stop the state from denying spousal benefits to LGBT government employees. Texas is shaping up to be a battleground state when we get a marriage ruling, with some officials doing what they can to resist equality, and others, like the clerk in Dallas, eagerly awaiting the opportunity to marry queer couples.

Also last week, the North Carolina legislature passed a law that allows government officials to opt out of issuing licenses on the basis of their religion. If they opt out, they have to do so for everyone -- gay or straight, they'd have to reject all couples. It's worth pointing out that North Carolina has had marriage equality for over half a year at this point, with no problems. And a new survey shows public support for equality reaching a new high in the state.

That goes along with a new survey from Pew this week, showing support for marriage continuing to do what it's done for the last decade and a half. Nationally, support is averaging somewhere around 57%, with opposition well under 40. And that's the big reason why any attempt to disobey the Supreme Court will be unsuccessful. There just aren't enough people left who oppose the freedom to marry.

HUCKABEE

GOP hopeful Huckabee: My beliefs won't trip me up // CNBC // Matthew Belvedere – June 15, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee—an ex-Arkansas governor and former Southern Baptist pastor—said Monday he has a proven track record of bringing together diverse people of different backgrounds.

He also disputed the notion that a candidate, like himself, who believes in what he calls "traditional marriage" and opposes abortion cannot win the White House—pointing to the two terms of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush who shared similar views.

"I think people vote not so much horizontally—whether you're left or right, liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican ... [but] vertically. Do they believe you'll take the country up or down," Huckabee told CNBC's "Squawk Box" in an interview.
Making his case for being someone who can unite the electorate, he said, "Look at how I got 49 percent of the African-American vote in my state ... which historically had only elected three Republicans statewide before I got elected."

On the issue of free trade, Huckabee said he loves the idea of a free market, but he's wary about giving President Barack Obama the fast-track negotiating authority favored by GOP lawmakers and opposed by Democrats.

"I'm a capitalist with a capital 'C,'" he said, but he opposes the evolving Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement in part because of the secrecy surrounding the deal.

The former Arkansas governor said he doesn't know why Republicans want "to give this president who ... sort of defied his ability to make a deal on a secondhand Subaru much less major trade agreements."

On Friday, House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan appeared on "Squawk Box" ahead of key votes on Capitol Hill to advance the process for crafting the TPP. The effort, backed by the Wisconsin Republican and others in his party, failed.

Huckabee said Monday he's concerned about the impact on jobs. "A lot of American workers have taken a gut punch because [past] trade agreements have not been enforced on both sides of the deal. And we've allowed our partners to cheat."

CARSON

Ben Carson leads crowded GOP field in latest poll // The Detroit Free Press // Alicia Secord – June 15, 2015

In it's latest poll, Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J., found that "undecided" has a nine-percentage-

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point lead among Republican voters when asked who they support for their party's nomination, but native Detroiter Ben Carson rose to the forefront of the crowded field of GOP candidates.

Carson leads the pack with the support of 11% of voters, followed closely by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker (10%), former Florida Gov. Bush (9%), Florida Sen. Rubio (9%), and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (8%). Other potential picks include Kentucky Senator Rand Paul (6%), Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (5%), New Jersey Governor Chris Christie (4%), former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (4%) and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum (3%). The other candidates in the poll -- businesswoman Carly Fiorina (2%), South Carolina Sen Lindsey Graham (2%), businessman Donald Trump (2%), Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (1%), Ohio Gov. John Kasich (1%), and former New York Gov. George Pataki (0%) -- fall below the top-10 cut-off that will be used by Fox News and CNN to determine who gets an invitation to their debates in August.

The poll was conducted before Bush formally announced his candidacy today.

Carson's standing has increased by 4 points since the last Monmouth poll in April, and "undecided" has gone up by 6 points. Meanwhile, his favorability rating is up to 45% favorable and 12% unfavorable today, up from 39% favorable and 16% unfavorable in the previous poll. But this early in the game, it's hard to say what voters will do when they head to the polls in 2016.

"You would be hard pressed to look at these results and identify an emerging top tier in the Republican field, let alone a so-called front runner," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

View the full results at monmouth.edu .

TRUMP

EXCLUSIVE: T rump will declare $9 billion net worth as he reveals 2016 plans // WaPo // Robert Costa & Matea Gold – June 15, 2015

Donald J. Trump, the billionaire real-estate mogul, on Tuesday will release a summary of assets that total about $9 billion as part of his likely entry into the race for the Republican presidential nomination, according to people familiar with his plans.

The two-page document — which will be published after he holds a political rally at Trump Tower in New York — will provide a valuation of his hotels and other properties. It will also show hundreds of millions in cash on hand and an outline of his debt, the people said.

The details he will reveal Tuesday will provide one of the first looks at the worth of the real estate and television empire that the colorful impresario has amassed — one whose value has been avidly debated.

Trump's declared assets are more than double the estimate of his net worth by Forbes, which currently pegs his net holdings at $4.1 billion. And it would make him the wealthiest Republican contender.

Trump's longtime financial advisers and Donald F. McGahn, a partner at Jones Day, have finalized the report about his finances in recent weeks as Trump has moved closer to jumping into the 2016 contest. Three people briefed on those discussions Monday requested anonymity in order to talk about the process.

Trump's speech announcing his decision is likely to center on his career and fortune. He is expected to cast himself as an entrepreneur and outsider eager to tangle with the party establishment and U.S. economic rivals abroad, such as China.

The financial statement drafted by his office is aimed at demonstrating his success as a businessman, as well as proving to skeptical GOP leaders that he is serious about running.

One goal of Trump's camp is to make the cut for the Republican primary debates this summer and fall, which will require him to rank within the top 10 in national polls, among other factors. By divulging details about his finances, Trump believes he will be going above and beyond what will be necessary to win a place on stage, according to people familiar with his thinking.

Fox News, which is producing and airing the first debate on Aug. 6 in Cleveland, requires all candidates to have filed "all necessary paperwork with the Federal Election Commission."

The network has not specifically called for contenders to file their financial information before the debate is held. But under a 1978 federal ethics law, presidential candidates must file a personal financial disclosure with the FEC within 30 days after announcing their candidacies. (They can request two 45-day extensions.) The filing must

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detail their financial interests and income, as well as those of their spouses and dependent children.

Trump plans to file the disclosure within the allotted time, according to people familiar with this plan. He will not be releasing his income tax returns Tuesday, the people said, but he has not ruled out doing so at some point in the coming months.

Earlier this month, Trump told Fox Business Network that he is ready for reporters to scrutinize his holdings. "I've had great success. My statements are phenomenal," he said. "I get my financial statements very early, actually. I put tremendous amounts of people to work, I've negotiated against the best in the world, including countries, and I've come out on top."

Trump also recently made headlines when he told the Des Moines Register that he would be the "most successful person ever to run for president."

"Ross Perot isn't successful like me. Romney was — I have a Gucci store that's worth more money than Romney," Trump said, referencing the fashion mecca on his property on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

Trump, now 69, briefly and flamboyantly considered a bid in 2011 before deciding against a run. In New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina — all early voting states —Trump has hired staffers.

Still, Trump's path to the nomination will be rocky and uphill. Many Republicans, especially in the upper ranks of the GOP, see him as a celebrity bomb-thrower and provocateur who has flirted with "birtherism" and made other remarks casting doubt on President Obama's credentials and love of country.

Trump runs at the lower end of the pack of a very large potential set of Republican candidates, ranging from 3 to 5 percent support in national public polls. He is polling at 4 percent among Republicans and Republican-leaning independent voters in a late May Washington Post-ABC News poll.

That puts him behind seasoned Republican politicians like Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio (with 10 or 11 percent support each) but also in the same breath as Govs. Chris Christie and John Kasich (6 and 3 percent support).

Trump has insisted that he has sincere intentions. "Everybody feels I'm doing this just to have fun or because it's good for the brand," he said in an interview in February with The Washington Post. "Well, it's not fun. I'm not doing this for enjoyment. I'm doing this because the country is in serious trouble."

In revealing details about his finances, Trump is going further than he has in previous years when he has contemplated White House bids.

His estimated net worth has fluctuated dramatically over the years. In August 2013, Trump said he was worth "probably over $10 billion."

But even the most aggressive auditors have found it challenging to assess Trump's balance sheet, in part because his assets and liabilities are intricately complex, entwined with public subsidies and opaque private partnerships.

Trump has bristled at those who have raised questions about those high estimates of financial standing. He filed a libel suit against a New York Times reporter who wrote in 2005 that the real estate mogul was likely worth between $150 million and $250 million. The case was dismissed.

onald T rum p plans an announcement, and GOP wonders: Presidency or reality TV? // LA T im es // Kathleen Hennessey - June 16, 2015

As Donald Trump prepares to announce his plans, the reality TV aspect of the GOP presidential field could grow
In the huge GOP presidential field, several candidates seem to be running more for personal benefit
The Republican presidential field has a CEO, a doctor, three senators and one senator-doctor. On Tuesday, when Donald Trump will announce whether he plans to join the bunch, it could get its first reality TV star.

Already, however, the logic of reality TV has had an effect on all their campaigns.

The cast of candidates vying to be president includes some who have joined the race for the same reasons aging sitcom stars put on their dancing shoes and learn to tango. They know they have little chance of winning, but even losing could be good for their careers.

The rise of long-shot, nontraditional candidates is a growing trend, particularly in the recent open Republican contests. None will publicly admit it, but as was true four years ago, several candidates appear to be using the presidential race more as a springboard to television or radio punditry or the speaking circuit than as a contest to actually win office.

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Some need to expand their donor base. Others may walk away with a book deal. All that's required is a healthy ego and few donors.

"You have a category of people who exist in that fuzzy space where celebrity and politics meet in our culture. You've seen, increasingly, a number of those candidates running," said Steve Schmidt, a GOP strategist.

The trend gives some traditionalists pause and some party operatives heartburn as they try to manage a freewheeling and growing field.

To be sure, the party's front-runners – former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker or Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, for example – don't fall into this new group. Some of the second tier – Carly Fiorina or Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina – are viewed as angling for positions in the next GOP administration. And compared with the 2012 field – which included the pizza tycoon Herman Cain and the firebrand conservative Rep. Michele Bachmann – 2016 looks almost staid.

But it's the sheer number of candidates this year that has created problems for Republican officials. Four years ago, the largest candidate debates had eight participants. This year, the party has struggled to find a way to limit the cast to 10 – with the knowledge that some, like Trump, who come with high name recognition, could push aside lesser-known but more substantive hopefuls like Graham.

As Mitt Romney did four years ago, this year's straight-laced candidates will have to learn to run alongside less predictable counterparts.

The Republican National Committee emphasizes the upside to the candidate surge. The field is full of quality candidates, spokeswoman Allison Moore said.

"We have a neurosurgeon, major CEOs, accomplished governors and senators – all are highly talented people and capable of defeating Hillary Clinton," Moore said.

What's more, several of the candidates have agreed to share the data they collect from voters for use during the general election. The more candidates out there making contact, the better for the eventual nominee, party strategists say.

The reason Republicans seem to have attracted more nontraditional candidates than Democrats may be a function of timing. The rise of social media and digital fundraising has coincided with three consecutive open races for the GOP nomination.

"More people are running now frankly because social media allows you to launch a campaign without the funds in the bank or the organization on the ground," said Lee Edwards, an expert on the conservative movement at the Heritage Foundation, who bemoaned the rise of candidates who seem more concerned about their bank accounts than ideology or party politics.

"Some of these candidates are banking on exposure through things like the debate. But also, just because they are candidates, this will, frankly, advance their own careers. We know that if so-and-so is a presidential candidate he can charge a higher fee for speaking, for an article or for a book contract."

The power of conservative media may also play a role. Conservative radio and Fox News have welcomed some media-savvy also-rans with open arms and big paychecks. The model here is former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, whose failed bid in 2008 made him a household name, at least in Republican parts of the country, and landed him a show on Fox News. (Huckabee's show ended in January, when he announced he was exploring another run for president.)

Trump fits into a different category, noted Schmidt, one perhaps only he occupies.

"Politics has always had its showmen, and Donald Trump is a showman," he said, but he's one who taps into a very real sentiment even if he is accused of making a mockery of the process.

"There are substantial parts of the American population who think it's already a joke – that it's fundamentally not on the level," said Schmidt, who in the 2012 campaign referred to that season's GOP candidate debates as "the best reality show on TV."

"A candidate like that has a potential to tap into that in a pretty powerful way. No doubt about it."

OTHER

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2016 elections: GOP looks to train now, campaign later **// CNN // Mark Preston - June 16, 2015**

Washington - Republicans will convene the first of several political boot camps next month designed to train staffers and volunteers ahead of 2016 -- an election featuring so many races that it will put a strain on the most precious campaign commodity: human capital.

The Republican National Committee's "Republican Leadership Initiative" is a six-week program where activists and fledgling operatives will learn the nuts and bolts of political campaigning from developing strategy to registering voters and community organizing.

The first session of the quarterly program begins in July with the goal of training a "few thousand" people for the 2016 elections, according to an RNC official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the details not yet been publicly unveiled.

The drive by Republicans to bolster its roster of experienced state-based operatives comes as the GOP is preparing for what may be an epic battle with Hillary Clinton for the White House, while at the same time trying to defend its majority in the U.S. Senate. Also on the ballot in 2016: U.S. House seats, state legislative seats and a handful of competitive governor's races.

Of the 11 "battleground" states the RNC official said the program will focus on this summer -- Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin -- eight may feature competitive Senate races. The RNC expects to expand the program to more states in the fall.

The six-week program follows on the 2013 recommendations detailed in the Growth and Opportunity Project -- an RNC commissioned report that advised the GOP to modernize its campaign strategy, soften its rhetoric and put greater emphasis on engaging minority communities.

Republicans accepted into this unpaid training program will be asked to commit to between 15 to 30 hours each week for six weeks to learn campaign strategy.

Republicans start to throw some elbows at each other **// MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 15, 2015**

We're nearly through the initial phase of the presidential campaign – we know who's running, who's well positioned to compete, and roughly what the candidates' platforms are going to look like. If this were a literal race, the runners have all effectively taken their place in the starting blocks. The next phrase tends to get a little ... livelier.
On ABC yesterday morning, "This Week" host George Stephanopoulos said, in reference to some of the shots across the candidates' bows, "The gloves are off, I can see that right now." I think that's probably a little premature, but there appears to be one Republican presidential hopeful who's more eager than most to throw some jabs.
Here, for example, is New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) going after Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas):

...Christie took aim at 2016 Republican presidential hopeful Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas) on Friday, accusing him and other lawmakers of "hypocrisy" over federal disaster relief. "We have Sen. Cruz, who voted against Sandy relief. Now he says he's got floods in Texas. He says, 'Hey, we need some help down here in Texas.' It's great, right?" Christie said in the early-voting state of Iowa, according to CNN.

And here's Christie taking on Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

"The president's first job has to be to protect the lives of American citizens and yet you have folks, some of whom are running for president, who stood on the floor of the United States Senate and weakened our country, and then sent videos of it to raise money and brag about how much money they raised from it," he said. "To me, that's a disgrace."

And here's Christie going after senators in general:

"Just don't make the wrong vote on the markup in the subcommittee. Is that really who you want to run the country? Someone who has become an expert in not making the wrong vote on the mark-up on the subcommittee? "
How subtle.
To be sure, Christie's not the only one throwing elbows. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) on Friday drew a contrast between "fighters" and "winners," with Republican senators in the former category. "They have yet to win anything and accomplish anything," Walker said.
As political pugilism goes, all of these jabs are pretty mild, and we're still months away from televised attack ads.

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But let this be a reminder to campaign observers: one of the under-appreciated byproducts of a crowded Republican field is the inevitable crossfire. These GOP candidates have spent the last few months complaining about President Obama and Hillary Clinton, but we're slowly reaching the point at which they start turning on one another – they have primary rivals to dispatch before they can prepare in earnest for the general election. And when these folks do take the gloves off, it's going to get ugly.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Goldman to Move Into Online Consumer Lending // NYT // Michael Corkery & Nathaniel Popper – June 15, 2015

Goldman Sachs has spent 146 years largely as the bank of the powerful and privileged.

Now the Wall Street powerhouse is working on a new business line: providing loans that can help you consolidate your credit card debt or remodel your kitchen.

While the new consumer lending unit is still in the early planning stages, Goldman has ambitious plans to offer loans of a few thousand dollars to ordinary Americans and compete with Main Street banks and other lenders.

The new unit will offer the loans through a website or an app — functioning like a virtual bank in one of the oldest companies on Wall Street. Without the costs of bank branches and tellers, Goldman can lend the money at lower interest rates while still making a profit. The company hopes to be ready to make its first loans next year, people briefed on its plans said.

In devising its new strategy, Goldman is putting itself in league with start-ups that are similarly trying to use technology to disrupt the traditional business of finance. Unlike the media and retail industries, banking has been relatively slow to shed its bricks-and-mortar business model – a trend Silicon Valley and now Goldman are seeking to exploit.

But the new venture carries considerable risks. After the financial crisis, Goldman was vilified, accused of profiting while homeowners lost their properties to foreclosure. If the bank is too hard on its borrowers — suing a struggling family for unpaid debts, for example — it could revive a popular image as a bank that earns profits at the expense of ordinary people.

The lending will also involve Goldman in a relatively risky business in which it has little previous experience, dealing with ordinary borrowers with limited financial cushions.

"Everything Goldman has done in the last 30 to 40 years has all been focused on the commercial side, or things that abut it very closely," said Chris Kotowski, a bank analyst with Oppenheimer & Company. "I refuse to believe that hiring a couple of programmers and offering to make $15,000 loans online is a highly value-added banking strategy."

Still, this new type of lending could help burnish the firm's relevance to mainstream Americans.

The $840 billion consumer loan business is facing a shake-up as online upstarts like Lending Club, Prosper and even PayPal have begun offering small loans.

These outsiders have captured only a tiny slice of the market so far. But with their low overhead, they are persuading some analysts that they will be able to eat away at the businesses of old-school banks with the legacy costs of branches and bank tellers.

Jeffery Harte, a bank analyst at Sandler O'Neill and Partners, said, "Online lending has the potential to be quite disruptive to the way credit is extended."

On Wall Street, Goldman has a reputation for spotting businesses that are being transformed and finding a way to seize the opportunity.

To the degree that Goldman can "assess the risk and price things electronically, it may be a low cost way of getting into the business," Mr. Harte said.

The bank's push into lending is being led by Harit Talwar, a former top executive at the credit card giant Discover,

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who joined Goldman last month.

In a sign of how seriously Goldman is treating the new venture, the company approached several top consumer finance executives about the job, which comes with the title of partner, a highly coveted position at Goldman, people briefed on the matter said. The operation could have a staff of as many as 100 by the end of the year, the people said.

In a memo to employees announcing Mr. Talwar's hiring last month, Goldman's chief executive, Lloyd C. Blankfein, and its president, Gary D. Cohn, noted that "the traditional means by which financial services are delivered to consumers and small businesses is being fundamentally reshaped" by technology and the use of data and analytics.

Some of Goldman's traditional business lines are under pressure. Sluggish markets and new regulations have diminished historically profitable areas like trading, forcing Goldman and other Wall Street companies to hunt for new sources of revenue.

Before the financial crisis, Wall Street firms were generally not permitted to do traditional consumer lending because they were not set up as federally insured banks. But as part of the government bailout in the 2008 crisis, Goldman and its archrival, Morgan Stanley, were required to become bank holding companies.

Since 2011, the two banks have talked about increasing their lending and have tripled the amount of outstanding loans — to $42 billion in the case of Goldman. Until now, though, they have focused on providing mortgagesand credit lines to existing, generally very wealthy, clients.

With its new business, Goldman will take a very different approach, offering the types of loans that are traditionally pitched through mailing blasts to American homes.

The firm is probably going to focus on lending to customers who most likely would not come close to the $10 million minimum balance required to become one of Goldman's private wealth clients. The loans would not be backed by collateral like a home or automobile, allowing Goldman to charge higher rates.

"When you are looking around at the universe of asset classes, there is still nothing better than unsecured American consumer debt," said Nick Clements, a former banking executive at Barclays and Citigroup, who co-founded MagnifyMoney, a website that helps borrowers compare credit card and loan offers.

Goldman may eventually lend to small businesses, which have typically struggled to obtain bank loans.

The initial financing for the loans would come from certificates of deposit, which Goldman has been amassing in recent years. As the business grows, the bank may securitize the loans – bundle them and sell them to investors – to reduce some of the risk that it holds on its own books.

Goldman is still considering the details of the loans it will offer. In early discussions, the firm has been talking about making loans that would be about $15,000 to $20,000, people briefed on the conversation said. In terms of distributing the money, Goldman is considering issuing a sort of prepaid card could be drawn down each time the borrower buys something with it.

Goldman has not decided whether to attach its name to the loans or market them under another brand.

Consumer loans can be a fundamentally risky business even for a company with a reputation for deftly managing risk. Many people take out personal loans as a last resort to deal with cash flow problems at home or in their businesses.

"If you grow too fast in the personal loan business, you can get some bad surprises," said William N. Callender, a managing director in the financial services practice of AlixPartners, an advisory firm.

Also, Goldman will have to overcome some powerful forces that favor the incumbent Main Street banks. Even if Goldman can offer lower rates, consumers may still favor credit cards over personal loans, simply out of habit.

"The biggest thing the banks have in their favor is inertia," said Mr. Clements, the former consumer banking executive.

In A.I.G. Case, Surprise Ruling That Could End All Bailouts // NYT // Andrew Sorkin – June 15, 2015

For years, critics of the bailouts during the financial crisis argued that the rescue efforts weren't harsh enough. The chief executives of failing institutions should have lost their jobs. Shareholders should have suffered more pain. Taxpayers should have received substantial compensation for the risk they took.

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All that did come to pass in one case: the bailout of the American International Group, the large insurer and symbol of the crisis. Yet on Monday, a judge in Washington decided that the government's actions were too severe, and the rescue was illegal.

When the Federal Reserve propped up A.I.G. in September 2008, unlike its approach with most of the big banks, it threw out the company's chief executive and took control of 79.9 percent of the company, nearly wiping out many of its shareholders. Taxpayers got all of their money back, and then some, receiving a profit of more than $20 billion.

Maurice R. Greenberg, the former chief of A.I.G., argued that the Fed overstepped its bounds.Ex-A.I.G. Chief Wins Bailout Suit, but Gets No DamagesJUNE 15, 2015
But in a stunning ruling, Judge Thomas C. Wheeler of the United States Court of Federal Claims said on Monday that those terms were too "draconian." In other words, he suggested taxpayers should have offered A.I.G. a more generous deal.

The judge's decision could have far-reaching consequences should another financial crisis occur — and if history is any guide, one will. Legal experts say that the ruling, coupled with certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul law enacted after the crisis, makes it unlikely the government would ever rescue a failing institution, even if an intervention was warranted.

Should that happen, and the government decides it is handcuffed by the law from any intervention, taxpayers can thank Maurice Greenberg, the company's former chief executive and one of its largest shareholders. He sued the government on behalf of shareholders, contending its takeover was illegal and unfair to investors. The judge largely sided with Mr. Greenberg, confounding many legal experts who considered the case a long shot. A federal judge had previously thrown the case out of court, calling Mr. Greenberg's accusations "worthy of an Oliver Stone movie."

However, Judge Wheeler had a more sympathetic ear than his peers. He determined that the takeover of A.I.G. was orchestrated to "maximize the benefits to the government and to the taxpaying public." Contrary to the conventional wisdom — and common sense — he said that goal was troubling. "The government's unduly harsh treatment of A.I.G. in comparison to other institutions seemingly was misguided and had no legitimate purpose," he wrote.

Still, the judge did not award any monetary damages to Mr. Greenberg, making it a moral victory, but not an economic one. Mr. Greenberg had sought $40 billion and has spent millions bringing his case.

Judge Wheeler determined that Mr. Greenberg and the other shareholders did not suffer any economic damage because "if the government had done nothing, the shareholders would have been left with 100 percent of nothing." The judge cited John Studzinski, vice chairman of the Blackstone Group and an adviser to A.I.G., who had instructed the board to accept the government's offer in 2008, telling the room of directors: "Twenty percent of something [is] better than 100 percent of nothing."

Inexplicably, that line of logic did not extend to the judge's ruling that the government had unfairly taken advantage of A.I.G. by requiring tough loan terms, including the equity stake and a 12 percent interest rate.

"No matter how rationally A.I.G.'s board addressed its alternatives that night, and notwithstanding that A.I.G. had a team of outstanding professional advisers, the fact remains that A.I.G. was at the government's mercy," the judge wrote.

Judge Paul A. Engelmayer of Federal District Court in Manhattan, who had previously thrown out the case, had said that the claim that A.I.G.'s board was under the control of the government was specious. By the logic of Mr. Greenberg's case, the judge had written, "a loan shark whose usurious interest rate is agreed to by a small business so that it may stay afloat could equally be said to have had actual control over that business so as to compel its agreement to a loan."

"The court bizarrely expressed repeated sympathy for A.I.G. while failing to properly weigh the economic wreckage suffered by the American people," Mr. Kelleher said in an email. "It's the U.S. taxpayers that have been victimized here by A.I.G. when it acted recklessly, precipitated the crash of the financial system, took a $185 billion bailout, and then gave bonuses to some of the very same people who irresponsibly sold the derivatives that blew up the company."

Judge Wheeler's analysis, in comparing how A.I.G.'s rescue was handled relative to the big banks, appears to ignore the realities of the regulatory oversight rules at the time. The judge criticized the government for taking control of A.I.G. while not doing so for the banks. But the Fed did not have regulatory oversight of A.I.G., which is an insurance company, and therefore couldn't maintain the same kind of control it did over the banks. Similarly, the judge criticized the Fed for creating a trust to hold the shares of A.I.G. because the Fed technically can't own

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equity in companies. “The creation of the trust in an attempt to circumvent the legal restriction on holding corporate equity is a classic elevation of form over substance.”

The government was sticking to its guns on Monday. “The court confirmed today that A.I.G. shareholders were not harmed by those actions,” the Treasury Department said in a statement. “We disagree with the court’s conclusion regarding the Federal Reserve’s legal authority and continue to believe that the government acted well within legal bounds.”

While the ruling is likely to be appealed, possibly all the way to the Supreme Court, the head-scratching decision will undoubtedly have an effect on future bailouts, intended or unintended.

Hester Peirce, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, who is reportedly among the candidates for a Republican seat on the Securities and Exchange Commission, wrote last year that if Mr. Greenberg prevailed in his case, “it would strike a blow to too-big-to-fail by adding to the bailout calculus the specter of subsequent courtroom payouts to allegedly aggrieved shareholders.”

Obama Administration Seeks to Reassure Allies After Trade Rebuke // WSJ // William Mauldin – June 15, 2015

President Barack Obama’s trade czar expressed cautious optimism that Congress will overcome a deep divide over trade legislation, saying he called foreign officials over the weekend to reassure them bipartisan support for a trade package would pave the way for a sweeping trans-Pacific deal.

Mike Froman, the U.S. trade representative, said he has been in touch with a number of U.S. trading partners since a rebellion among Democrats on Friday sank a workers-aid program that was a vital piece of a package that would give Mr. Obama fast-track trade authority.

“Our trading partners are very much watching and assessing where we are,” Mr. Froman said in an interview Monday. “They are looking for signs that we will be able to close the negotiations successfully.”

The House Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, led most of her party in voting down the workers-aid program, known as trade adjustment assistance, or TAA. House Democrats called the workers-aid program inadequate and improperly funded and opposed it as a way of simultaneously halting the fast-track measure paired with it under House procedural rules.

Mr. Obama is seeking fast-track power, also known as trade promotion authority, so he and Mr. Froman can clinch a 12-nation agreement in the Pacific and later give it to Congress for expedited consideration, without the possibility of amendments. Officials from the other countries have said they don’t want to make painful concessions to seal the Pacific deal without proof the U.S. Congress is on board.

Mr. Froman declined to say what legislative techniques could be used to rescue the trade package, but said he hoped lawmakers understand that voting against the renewal of TAA could hurt workers who depend on the program. “It’s beginning to sink in that that’s now at risk,” he said.

Derailing fast track could further call into question the ability of the U.S. to lead on global economic policy as China is flexing its muscles in the Pacific. The trade agreement under negotiation, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, includes Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam, but not China.

“This is about the role of the United States in the world,” Mr. Froman said.

After a surprise appearance at the Capitol on Friday, Mr. Obama remains “personally engaged” in the fight for his trade policy, Mr. Froman said.

“We’re quite pleased to see that there are majorities” in both chambers that support the underlying fast-track measure, Mr. Froman said. Even though the fast-track portion got a majority in the House, the measure was derailed anyway due to a procedural mechanism that bound it to the workers-aid program. “There are a number of different options for dealing with it,” he said.

'No One Will Be Negotiating With Leader Pelosi On A Path Forward' // HuffPo // Ryan Grim & Jennifer Bendery – June 15, 2015

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) has no plans to negotiate with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) after her caucus torpedoed a trade deal backed by President Barack Obama and Boehner, a GOP leadership aide told The Huffington Post on Monday.

Without talks between Boehner and Pelosi, it's difficult to see how Obama's trade agenda can be revived.

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The Senate has already passed a trade measure that includes a provision to put future trade deals on a fast track -- known as trade promotion authority, or TPA -- through Congress, and also has set aside funds -- trade adjustment assistance, or TAA -- for workers dislocated by those same deals.

The House needed to pass both provisions for the overall measure to make it to the president's desk. Republicans were unwilling to vote to support the money for workers, but Democrats realized if they, too, rejected the support for workers, the entire package would go down.

On Thursday night, Pelosi and Boehner, who'd been hammering out details of the two packages for days, met on the House floor to swap notes. Pelosi asked Boehner how many votes he could deliver for the funding for dislocated workers. He guessed roughly 100.

"How about 150?" she said, according to sources in both parties.

After the failed vote, Pelosi said a "robust" highway bill could perhaps ease the path to finding the votes needed, but she and Boehner have not been engaged in negotiations, and won't anytime soon.

"After negotiating in bad faith for 3 days and successfully getting the process she demanded for consideration of TAA and TPA, Leader Pelosi turned around and screwed the President and the Speaker. No one will be negotiating with Leader Pelosi on a path forward," a House Republican leadership aide said in a statement to HuffPost.

For now, House Republican leaders simply don't have the votes to pass the trade package and need more time to find them. They plan to take a procedural vote on Tuesday to give themselves until July 30 to come up with a way forward.

“We remain committed to getting TPA done, and this will give the president more time to communicate the consequences of not moving forward with his party," said Boehner spokesman Kevin Smith.

As frustrated as they may be, proponents of the trade deal conceded they may need Pelosi to get it over the finish line.

"You'll have to ask her," grumbled Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), when asked Friday why he thinks his party leader voted against moving the trade package, before adding: "Obviously it's going to be hard to get a TAA bill done without her support."

Boehner's count of 100 was slightly optimistic. At one point during the TAA roll call, Republicans had 93 members voting yes. Once it became clear it was going down, seven switched and voted no. Theoretically, Republicans could pass TAA on their own and assure passage of the TPA bill they desperately want, but many aren't willing to swallow the TAA piece. That means that to get to the 218 votes needed to pass, Democrats would need to provide 125 votes. They only produced 40 votes Thursday.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest downplayed the seriousness of last week's setback, calling it a "legislative snafu" in the House, in what The Wall Street Journal described as "typically oblivious aplomb." He said that the president and others in the White House have been in regular talks to find a way forward.

One of those administration officials making calls was White House chief of staff Denis McDonough, who spoke to Pelosi on Monday. Neither the White House nor Pelosi's office gave details about their conversation.

Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, backed Pelosi's approach to the trade deal during a Sunday speech in Iowa. Clinton said that if the president can't come to terms with House Democratic leader, there should be no deal.

"Here's what I think should happen now," Clinton said. "The president should listen to and work with his allies in Congress, starting with Nancy Pelosi, who have expressed their concerns about the impact that a weak agreement would have on our workers, to make sure we get the best, strongest deal possible and if we don't get it, there should be no deal."

Earnest dismissed the idea that Clinton was out of step with the White House push on trade.

"I think what Secretary Clinton articulated over the weekend is a view that she is neither reflexively in favor of trade agreements nor reflexively against them," said the White House spokesman. "She indicated that her test would be to examine an agreement and determine whether or not it was in the best interest of our national security, and to determine whether or not it was in the best interest of American workers."

A re-enactment of Earnest's statements over the last few days is below.

INTERNATIONAL

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Uncertainty over US strike against al-Qaida leader in Libya // AP // Sarah El Deeb And Maggie Michael – June 15, 2015

Pentagon officials say they believe they hit their target — the one-eyed, al-Qaida-linked commander who led a deadly attack on an Algerian gas facility in 2013. But uncertainty still surrounds the U.S. airstrike in eastern Libya, and whether Mokhtar Belmokhtar was actually among the militants said to have been killed in the bombing.

Libyan officials say Sunday's airstrike hit a gathering of militants on a farm outside Ajdabiya, a coastal city about 850 kilometers (530 miles) east of the capital, Tripoli, but there were conflicting reports on how many died.

An initial assessment shows the bombing that targeted Belmokhtar was successful, and "post-strike assessments" were still underway Monday to determine whether the Algerian militant was killed, said Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman.

"But we're not prepared to confirm that because we haven't finalized our assessment," he said, adding that the strike had hit a "hard structure."

Maj. Mohammed Hegazi, a military spokesman from Libya's internationally recognized government based in the east, also said tests were needed to identify the dead, which numbered at least 17, with their bodies badly burned. Among those killed were three foreigners — a Tunisian and two unidentified militants, he said.

Hegazi criticized his own government for rushing to confirm late Sunday that Belmokhtar was among the dead.

"I don't confirm or deny. We are waiting confirmation," he told The Associated Press by telephone. "It is not easy."

He said the raid was based on solid intelligence that indicated militants forced out of the eastern city of Benghazi by fighting there had taken refuge in Ajdabiya.

No civilians were killed, Hegazi said, adding that the militants took the fatally wounded Tunisian to a hospital in Ajdabiya, clashes erupted with local troops that left three soldiers dead.

In the airstrikes, two F-15 fighter jets had launched multiple 500-pound bombs, a U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss details of the attack. Authorities say no U.S. personnel were on the ground for the assault.

A Libyan Islamist with ties to militants said the airstrikes missed Belmokhtar, but killed four members of a Libyan extremist group linked to al-Qaida, Ansar Shariah, in Ajdabiya. That group was tied to the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

The Islamist, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal in Libya, told the AP that Belmokhtar wasn't at the site of the airstrike.

However, a news website that has previously carried statements from Belmokhtar said he was in Ajdabiya, meeting with affiliates. The Mauritanian website quoted informed sources in Libya as saying six people were killed in the raid, and a Tunisian and Yemeni were wounded.

Abdel-Basit Haroun, a security adviser to the eastern government, said a total of 29 people were killed in the airstrike, which hit a meeting of al-Qaida affiliates as they tried to "rearrange their ranks."

If Belmokhtar's death is confirmed, it would be a major success for U.S. counterterrorism efforts. He is one of the most-wanted militants in the region, with a $5 million reward for information leading to his capture, and it is not the first time authorities claimed to have killed him.

Believed to be 43 years old, Belmokhtar fought in Afghanistan and was reported to have lost his eye in combat. He was one of a number of Islamist fighters who have battled Algeria's government since the 1990s, later joining al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the group's North Africa branch.

He was also known as "Belaouer the One-Eyed," "Abou al-Abbes" and "Mr. Marlboro," because he was accused of smuggling cigarettes through the Sahara and the Sahel region.

He formed his own group and led the January 2013 attack on Algeria's Ain Amenas gas complex that killed at least 35 hostages, including three Americans. He later emerged in Libya, and is believed to have been based in the western and southern parts of the country.

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The U.S. filed terrorism charges against Belmokhtar in connection with the Algeria attack. Officials have said they believe he remained a threat to U.S. and Western interests. Belmokhtar had just split off from al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb to start his own franchise.

The charges filed against him by U.S. law enforcement officials included conspiring to support al-Qaida, use of a weapon of mass destruction and conspiring to take hostages.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara had said Belmokhtar "unleashed a reign of terror years ago, in furtherance of his self-proclaimed goal of waging bloody jihad against the West."

Intelligence officials said Belmokhtar had essentially built a bridge between AQIM and the underworld, creating a system where various outlaws support each other and enroll youths.

He's been linked to terrorist attacks and the lucrative kidnapping of foreigners in the region.

Libya has been plagued by chaos since the civil war in 2011, which drew in U.S. and European airstrikes that helped topple longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. He was killed by armed groups, which have since grown to roil the country in violence.

Recently, the internationally recognized government, backed by its own militias, has been forced out of Tripoli by Islamist militias and their affiliated politicians who set up their own government and parliament.

U.N.-sponsored talks have bogged down as the two sides exchange accusations.

The weekend U.S. bombing raid could cause more disarray among the rival Libyan groups.

A Facebook page associated with Libya Dawn, the Islamist militia backing the Tripoli-based government, denied that the airstrikes targeted al-Qaida and instead said they targeted Islamists who are "Libya's revolutionaries ... considered the safety valve for the revolution." It said U.S. warplanes were allied with the forces led by powerful Gen. Khalifa Hifter and backing the internationally recognized government.

The east-based government hailed the U.S. raid as a "piece of the international support that it has long requested to fight terrorism that represents a dangerous threat to the regional and international situation."

It added that the government would like more help fighting terrorism, including the Islamic State group, which controls Sirte, west of Ajdabiya, and is spreading to the west and south.

Militants have taken advantage of Libya's chaos, with fighters flowing into the country's vast ungoverned spaces.

Al-Qaida militants in eastern Libya are battling the Islamic State group for power and resources. But as IS has grown in power, fueled by successes in Iraq and Syria, some al-Qaida fighters have switched loyalties.

It was not the first time the U.S. has been involved in the fight against Libyan extremists. U.S. special forces went into Tripoli in 2013 and took Abu Anas al-Libi out of the country. Al-Libi, who was accused by the U.S. of involvement in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa, died in January in a U.S. hospital from a longstanding medical condition.

Pope's climate change encyclical leaks **// The Hill // Devin Henry – June 15, 2015**

An Italian magazine on Monday posted an early draft version of Pope Francis' highly anticipated environment encyclical, a move that a Vatican official denounced as a "heinous act."

L'Espresso posted the 192-page Italian language document on Monday, four days before the Vatican is planning to release the public version. According to the National Catholic Reporter, the text is an early draft of the encyclical, which is expected to make a moral case for taking on climate change.

A Vatican official told Bloomberg News that the leak is "heinous act," and a spokesman said news organizations should not report on the document until the final version comes out at noon in Rome on Thursday.

"You are invited to respect the journalistic honesty that requests you wait for the official publication of the final text," Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi said in a statement, per the National Catholic Reporter.

In the draft, the pope says that human activity is driving climate change, according to a translationby Crux, a Boston Globe website focused on the Catholic issues.

The encyclical calls for "changes in styles of life, of production and consumption, to combat this warming, or, at least, the human causes that produce and exacerbate it."

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Francis writes that the Earth “protests for the evil that we’ve caused due to irresponsible use and abuse” of natural resources. He calls for a greater focus on a “sustainable and integral form of development” to combat climate change in the future.

“We grew up thinking we were the earth’s owners and dominators, authorized to pillage it,” Francis writes. “Violence in the human heart wounded by sin shows itself also in the symptoms of disease that we see in the soil, the water, the air and living creatures.”

The document calls climate change “one of the principal challenges now facing humanity," according to Crux, and it asks readers to accept that it's actually happening.

“It’s enough to look at reality with sincerity to see that there’s a great deterioration in our common home,” the encyclical says.

The encyclical, titled "Laudato Si, On the care of the common home,” comes ahead of a major international climate conference later this year. It is Francis’ second encyclical and will be his most thorough discussion of environmental issues to date, though he’s long advocated for a more active role in protecting the environment.

“This encyclical is addressed to all,” Francis said on Sunday. “Let us pray that all receive its message and grow in responsibility towards the common home that God has entrusted to us all."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Hillary Clinton’s first ‘hard choice’ on trade // WaPo // The Editorial Board – June 15, 2015

AFTER WORLD War II, the United States and its allies labored mightily to construct a global freetrade regime. They did so for many reasons, not least to avoid the trade wars that had fueled international tension and, ultimately, global conflict. In other words, trade — and the prosperity and interdependence it engenders — was central to both U.S. economic strategy and U.S. security policy.

Understanding this, and hoping to extend past achievements into the 21st century, President Obama is seeking Trade Promotion Authority from Congress so as to negotiate a consolidation of trade relationships with Pacific Rim nations, the most crucial of which is Japan, to be followed by an agreement deepening U.S. economic ties with Europe. It may be a turning point in contemporary history; if the president succeeds, the United States’ leadership could be strengthened for a generation. If he fails, U.S. influence will ebb, and, with it, American prosperity and security alike.

Of all the people who should be standing shoulder to shoulder with Mr. Obama at this moment, none could do more to help him than Hillary Clinton, who was an enthusiastic champion of these agreements throughout her tenure as secretary of state. The resistance to Mr. Obama’s trade agenda is led by Democrats in the House who fear that supporting the president will earn them the enmity of organized labor and other progressive groups that simplistically denounce the president’s trade agenda as a threat to jobs and the environment. These Democrats are joined, and validated, in this shortsighted position by Ms. Clinton’s rivals for the Democratic nomination, former governor Martin O’Malley of Maryland and Sen. Bernard Sanders (IVt.).

Think of the bracing effect it might have had on her fellow Democrats if Ms. Clinton had stood up against electionyear political pressure and reiterated what she said as America’s top diplomat in 2012: “that we need to keep upping our game both bilaterally and with partners across the region through agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP.” Imagine if she had read from her memoir, published just last year under the now ironic title “Hard Choices”: The TPP, Ms. Clinton wrote, “was also important for American workers, who would benefit from competing on a more level playing field. And it was a strategic initiative that would strengthen the position of the United States in Asia.”

Instead, Ms. Clinton broke her silence on the issue only long enough to equivocate about it, or, as she did Monday, to expand on the “legitimate” concerns of opponents of the TPP — and secondguess the president’s strategy. With 18 months to go in his second term, she now advises Mr. Obama to use the House Democrats’ obstruction of Trade Promotion Authority as “leverage” against the 11 negotiating partners; perhaps to reopen it just as the Obama administration spent a couple of years redoing the U.S.Korea trade deal it inherited from the Bush administration.

What this politically unrealistic advice did not include, however, was a simple yes or no to the question of whether Mr. Obama should have the additional bargaining power of Trade Promotion Authority now, as he requests. And that is the question of the hour.

How Obama Abandoned Israel // WSJ // Michael Oren – June 15, 2015

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‘Nobody has a monopoly on making mistakes.” When I was Israel’s ambassador to the United States from 2009 to the end of 2013, that was my standard response to reporters asking who bore the greatest responsibility—President Barack Obama or Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—for the crisis in U.S.-Israel relations.

I never felt like I was lying when I said it. But, in truth, while neither leader monopolized mistakes, only one leader made them deliberately.

Israel blundered in how it announced the expansion of Jewish neighborhoods and communities in Jerusalem over the border lines that existed before the Six Day War in 1967. On two occasions, the news came out during Mr. Netanyahu’s meetings with Vice President Joe Biden. A solid friend of Israel, Mr. Biden understandably took offense. Even when the White House stood by Israel, blocking hostile resolutions in the United Nations, settlement expansion often continued.

In a May 2012 Oval Office meeting, Mr. Netanyahu purportedly “lectured” Obama about the peace process. Later that year, he was reported to be backing Republican contenderMitt Romney in the presidential elections. This spring, the prime minister criticized Mr. Obama’s Iran policy before a joint meeting of Congress that was arranged without even informing the president.

Yet many of Israel’s bungles were not committed by Mr. Netanyahu personally. In both episodes with Mr. Biden, for example, the announcements were issued by midlevel officials who also caught the prime minister off-guard. Nevertheless, he personally apologized to the vice president.

Mr. Netanyahu’s only premeditated misstep was his speech to Congress, which I recommended against. Even that decision, though, came in reaction to a calculated mistake by President Obama. From the moment he entered office, Mr. Obama promoted an agenda of championing the Palestinian cause and achieving a nuclear accord with Iran. Such policies would have put him at odds with any Israeli leader. But Mr. Obama posed an even more fundamental challenge by abandoning the two core principles of Israel’s alliance with America.

The first principle was “no daylight.” The U.S. and Israel always could disagree but never openly. Doing so would encourage common enemies and render Israel vulnerable. Contrary to many of his detractors, Mr. Obama was never anti-Israel and, to his credit, he significantly strengthened security cooperation with the Jewish state. He rushed to help Israel in 2011 when the Carmel forest was devastated by fire. And yet, immediately after his first inauguration, Mr. Obama put daylight between Israel and America.

“When there is no daylight,” the president told American Jewish leaders in 2009, “Israel just sits on the sidelines and that erodes our credibility with the Arabs.” The explanation ignored Israel’s 2005 withdrawal from Gaza and its two previous offers of Palestinian statehood in Gaza, almost the entire West Bank and half of Jerusalem—both offers rejected by the Palestinians.

Mr. Obama also voided President George W. Bush’s commitment to include the major settlement blocs and Jewish Jerusalem within Israel’s borders in any peace agreement. Instead, he insisted on a total freeze of Israeli construction in those areas—“not a single brick,” I later heard he ordered Mr. Netanyahu—while making no substantive demands of the Palestinians.

Consequently, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas boycotted negotiations, reconciled with Hamas and sought statehood in the U.N.—all in violation of his commitments to the U.S.—but he never paid a price. By contrast, the White House routinely condemned Mr. Netanyahu for building in areas that even Palestinian negotiators had agreed would remain part of Israel.

The other core principle was “no surprises.” President Obama discarded it in his first meeting with Mr. Netanyahu, in May 2009, by abruptly demanding a settlement freeze and Israeli acceptance of the two-state solution. The following month the president traveled to the Middle East, pointedly skipping Israel and addressing the Muslim world from Cairo.

Israeli leaders typically received advance copies of major American policy statements on the Middle East and could submit their comments. But Mr. Obama delivered his Cairo speech, with its unprecedented support for the Palestinians and its recognition of Iran’s right to nuclear power, without consulting Israel.

Similarly, in May 2011, the president altered 40 years of U.S. policy by endorsing the 1967 lines with land swaps—formerly the Palestinian position—as the basis for peace-making. If Mr. Netanyahu appeared to lecture the president the following day, it was because he had been assured by the White House, through me, that no such change would happen.

Israel was also stunned to learn that Mr. Obama offered to sponsor a U.N. Security Council investigation of the settlements and to back Egyptian and Turkish efforts to force Israel to reveal its alleged nuclear capabilities. Mr.

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Netanyahu eventually agreed to a 10-month moratorium on settlement construction—the first such moratorium since 1967—and backed the creation of a Palestinian state. He was taken aback, however, when he received little credit for these concessions from Mr. Obama, who more than once publicly snubbed him.

The abandonment of the "no daylight" and "no surprises" principles climaxed over the Iranian nuclear program. Throughout my years in Washington, I participated in intimate and frank discussions with U.S. officials on the Iranian program. But parallel to the talks came administration statements and leaks—for example, each time Israeli warplanes reportedly struck Hezbollah-bound arms convoys in Syria—intended to deter Israel from striking Iran pre-emptively.

Finally, in 2014, Israel discovered that its primary ally had for months been secretly negotiating with its deadliest enemy. The talks resulted in an interim agreement that the great majority of Israelis considered a "bad deal" with an irrational, genocidal regime. Mr. Obama, though, insisted that Iran was a rational and potentially "very successful regional power."

The daylight between Israel and the U.S. could not have been more blinding. And for Israelis who repeatedly heard the president pledge that he "had their backs" and "was not bluffing" about the military option, only to watch him tell an Israeli interviewer that "a military solution cannot fix" the Iranian nuclear threat, the astonishment could not have been greater.

Now, with the Middle East unraveling and dependable allies a rarity, the U.S. and Israel must restore the "no daylight" and "no surprises" principles. Israel has no alternative to America as a source of security aid, diplomatic backing and overwhelming popular support. The U.S. has no substitute for the state that, though small, remains democratic, militarily and technologically robust, strategically located and unreservedly pro-American.

The past six years have seen successive crises in U.S.-Israeli relations, and there is a need to set the record straight. But the greater need is to ensure a future of minimal mistakes and prevent further erosion of our vital alliance.

Hillary Clinton is owning the joke about her fashion choices — and it's working // WaPo // Robin Givhan - June 16, 2015

Hillary Clinton, candidate for president, has been making jokes about fashion. They have not exactly been rib-cracking laugh lines, but they have been knowing, droll, even a bit silly. But mostly, they have not been defensive.

Instead, Clinton has gone on the offensive by finding humor in her fashion foibles and beauty regimen. Sometimes she takes up the shtick of her critics and makes it her own. Or she recognizes the joke and tells it before others have the chance. She long ago found a timeless aesthetic that works for her: pantsuit (preferably with matching blouse), blond bob, statement necklace, sensible heels. Now she has taken full ownership of it.

The fashion monster has — for the moment — been wrestled into submission. Clinton stands victorious.
Is this pantsuit blue enough for you? (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)
She put the stake in her tormentor on Roosevelt Island as she delivered her first big campaign speech. There she stood, in her new royal blue silk suit, making cracks about dyeing her hair.

"All our Presidents come into office looking so vigorous. And then we watch their hair grow grayer and grayer," Clinton said. "Well, I may not be the youngest candidate in this race. But I will be the youngest woman president in the history of the United States! And the first grandmother as well. And one additional advantage: You're won't see my hair turn white in the White House. I've been coloring it for years!"

The image of her against a backdrop of cerulean blue sky and flag-waving throngs combined with the cheeky comment about her hair to make a statement about comfort, familiarity and confidence — at least in the realm of public presentation. Here was Clinton laughing about her hair in a manner that was not the usual wry and grumpy remark about the pressures on women to be young, thin and Barbie-doll attractive. ("Your hair will send significant messages to those around you," she said, mockingly during a Class Day speech at Yale in 2001. "What hopes and dreams you have for the world, but more, what hopes and dreams you have for your hair. Pay attention to your hair, because everyone else will.")

Saturday's was a different kind of comment. It acknowledged a bit of vanity, indulgence and stage craft. It was an Everywoman comment — self-conscious to be sure, but not fraught with feminist theory.

The light-hearted observation took direct aim at a topic raised by conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh during the 2008 campaign: "Will Americans want to watch a woman get older before their eyes on a daily basis? And that woman, by the way, is not going to want to look like she's getting older, because it will impact poll numbers. It will impact perceptions. In politics, perceptions are reality."

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Clinton's joke addressed that question before it could become an issue, again. Because surely it would.

And yes, blond hair is high-maintenance, in case you were wondering or perhaps had forgotten. But you don't want to witness the alternative, do you?

Clinton's suit was designed by Ralph Lauren, who is known for his celebration and elevation of Americana. The label that has been worn by those who summer in exclusive New England enclaves, as well as those who spent their July and August only dreaming about such luxuries. Lauren, a self-made man, donated $13 million in 1998 to preserve the original Star-Spangled Banner hung at Fort McHenry in 1814. In 2014, he received the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal for his patriotism and philanthropy during a ceremony at the National Museum of American History. Could there be a better example of bootstrapping, entrepreneurial all-American success? Clinton was there for the occasion — wearing an eerily similar suit also designed by Lauren in cobalt blue silk. According to the folks at Ralph Lauren, the Roosevelt Island ensemble was new. But really, who could tell other than Clinton herself? For a campaign that's putting its senior staff on the Vamoose bus, Clinton could have made a sly nod to frugality. On her biggest campaign event so far, she could have shopped her closet. Instead, she had her own private little fashion moment.

Clinton has done more than reach détente with fashion. Fashion is now working for her — as a pleasure, an aesthetic proposition, as well as a campaign symbol. After years of dabbling in Donna Karan and St. John Collection, contact lenses and headbands, skirts and millinery, she finally said "enough." In 2012, while Secretary of State, she faced the public in an official capacity without makeup and wearing her once-maligned eyeglasses. Observers commented and debated the professionalism of her appearance. She did not look bad, although she certainly appeared tired. She eschewed the standard accouterments of the female professional class. When asked about her natural look, she laughed and noted she'd reached a stage in life when she felt empowered to dress as she pleased. Not to flout civility and good manners, but to make choices that more honestly represented her. Indeed, admitting that she had made a considered decision about her appearance — and decided to ignore all the unwritten rules — was a kind of victory for personal style in the political realm.

Clinton is now using her much-discussed and undiminished love of a brightly-colored pantsuit as a fundraising device. From her Senate campaign to her first presidential race, she has made cracks about her affection for the practical ensemble. In speeches, she referred to "my sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits." In multiple appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman," they were reliable fodder for a chuckle. And in informal settings, off-hand comments about them served as icebreakers.

The cracks about her pantsuits framed her as a no-frills, serious-minded politician with a uniform — albeit one that came in every color of the rainbow. It often seemed as though she delighted in these jokes because they set her outside the realm of fashion. They gave her a pass when it came to considerations of her style.

In her second presidential campaign, she's still wearing the pantsuits and she's still making jokes, but this time the jokes are aimed to cash in. Supporters can purchase a red "everyday pantsuit tee," with its tromp l'oeil print of a blazer, for $30.

To deflect the barbs about her style, Clinton used comedy as a defense. But through the jokes and the one-liners, she built her own fashion vocabulary. She found a way of talking about her personal aesthetics. And she's pointedly redefining them on the public stage.

Why Jim Webb Is the Most Interesting Candidate in the Democratic Primary **// The Observer // Jimmy Soni – June 15, 2015**

What is the point of the Democratic primary?

For the media, the point is figuring out how to make the inevitable interesting. For Hillary Clinton, the point is to make it through Super Tuesday with a minimum of drama and damage.

Ask Jim Webb that question, though, and you're likely to get an answer befitting someone who morphed from a Reagan Republican to an Elizabeth Warren Democrat; who entered an unwinnable Senate race in 2006 and won; who gave one of the only successful State of the Union responses in recent memory; who got bored of the Senate and quit to write books; and who became the first member of his party to explore the 2016 presidential race, with a longshot, shoestring campaign that's still waiting for traction. As Webb put it in his latest book, "All I have asked, as the ancient philosopher intoned, is not to be understood too quickly."

In other words: it's complicated.

It's complicated by the fact that Webb fits uncomfortably into his party's ideological boxes, and by the fact that the Vietnam veteran and ex-Navy Secretary enjoys politics about as much as the average low-information voter. Yet I'm convinced that Jim Webb is going to make noise this election season. Let's not expect him to derail the

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Clinton juggernaut—but let's be thankful that the Democratic primary is going to give one of the most interesting people in politics a public stage.

Yes, Webb is polling at around 1 percent right now. But here's why that number is going up.

He was Elizabeth Warren before it was cool.

It's clear that the Clinton-Warren showdown that much of the Democratic base has been pining for is not going to happen. That means Warren's defining issues—economic fairness, record inequality, and the political power of big finance—are up for grabs, and Webb is well-positioned to put them at the center of his campaign.

As early as 2006, he was calling out economic elites in the kind of blistering language that seems to have anticipated Warren's appeal: "The most important—and unfortunately the least debated—issue in politics today is our society's steady drift toward a class-based system, the likes of which we have not seen since the 19th century. America's top tier has grown infinitely richer and more removed over the past 25 years. It is not unfair to say that they are literally living in a different country." In the Senate, he supported a tax on bonuses for executives whose companies received government bailouts, as well as a higher capital gains tax.

Whatever you think of that version of economic fairness, it strikes a serious chord with the Democratic base. Can Clinton capitalize on it? She can try. But economic populism is always going to sit awkwardly on a politician with Clinton's personal wealth and ties to the financial industry. Webb isn't impoverished by any stretch—but he's a lot closer to the rest of us than Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush.

He can broaden his party's appeal.

It's true that other would-be Clinton challengers, like Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, are running to her left on the economy. But while they share the culture of East Coast, urban liberalism, a Virginian like Webb comes out of a different tradition—the Southern populism that was once the Democratic party's backbone. Dave "Mudcat" Saunders, a Democratic strategist who's still close to Webb, put it this way: "His constituency is people who feel like they're getting screwed."

If working-class, white voters represent the Achilles heel of the current Democratic coalition, Webb is the candidate best placed to bring them into the fold. Part of that is a question of symbolic signifiers, like the combat boots Webb famously wore during his Senate campaign, in honor of his son, who was deployed in Iraq. But it's also his own military service, which resonates heavily in rural America. Along with Rick Perry and Lindsey Graham, Webb is one of just three 2016 candidates with military experience. But Webb is by far the most decorated: he returned from Vietnam with a Navy Cross, two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and shrapnel that he still carries in his body.

Beyond that, Webb's service in the Reagan administration and his positions on issues like gun control and immigration, which are to the right of his party's liberal mainstream, could make him competitive in states that haven't been in the blue column since the days of Bill Clinton. At the very least, he's capable of pinning down the very fickle blueness of Virginia and continuing Barack Obama's inroads into North Carolina, two huge states for Democrats in 2016. Webb's ability to expand the electoral map is worth taking seriously in an election year when Republican frontrunners like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio (and VP hopefuls like John Kasich) stand a strong chance of making gains in Democratic territory.

He has unmatched credibility on foreign policy.

At the center of Hillary Clinton's case for the presidency is the fact that she's tough and tested, a politician who's truly been through the wringer and come out standing. But just as Webb's economic views capture part of Warren's populism, his time in government and the military captures part of Clinton's tenacity and experience.

Make what you will of the value of "executive experience," but actual time inside the belly of the federal government can make a real difference. A huge part of the president's power comes from his or her ability to push and prod the executive bureaucracy—especially in the current partisan environment, where the president's influence over legislation is limited. Skill at navigating byzantine bureaucracies isn't the sexiest campaign selling point, but it's an underrated asset and one that Webb can credibly claim as a former Assistant Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Navy.

Granted, Webb wasn't especially long-lived in the latter post—he resigned in protest of a plan to cut the size of the fleet—but we shouldn't underestimate the importance of his time in and around the military to his foreign policy judgments. Remember, he opposed President Bush's Iraq war and President Obama's intervention in Libya, which helped topple a dictator but set off a spiral of civil bloodshed. Clinton, on the other hand, arguably got both of those calls wrong.

But credibility on foreign policy issues is about more than just casting the right votes. As Navy veteran Ken

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Harbaugh wrote at Time.com, “Presidents with military experience, especially in combat roles, have undergone the kind of test that politics cannot match. As Commanders-in-Chief, they carry with them real empathy, the kind that cannot be faked, towards the men and women they will inevitably send into harm’s way.” Webb is the only contender in the race who has seen combat, the only one you could imagine saying, as Dwight Eisenhower once said, “I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can.” (Though Webb would probably give you an ugly look if you called him a soldier instead of a Marine.)

Consider the citation for Webb’s Silver Star. In 1969, on a search and destroy mission deep behind enemy lines, First Lieutenant Webb attacked two bunkers and apprehended three enemy soldiers, seemingly on his own. As the assault continued,

he approached a third bunker and was preparing to fire into it when the enemy threw another grenade. Observing the grenade land dangerously close to his companion, First Lieutenant Webb simultaneously fired his weapon at the enemy, pushed the Marine away from the grenade, and shielded him from the explosion with his own body. Although sustaining painful fragmentation wounds from the explosion, he managed to throw a grenade into the aperture and completely destroy the remaining bunker.

But as heroic as that was, does it matter today? I think it does. The president decides when and whether to send people to fight and die overseas, and the next president will become a wartime leader the second he or she takes the oath. There’s a moral authority in being able to say to the soldiers under their command, “I’m not asking you to do what I haven’t done. I’ve been there.”

He hates politics.

From Ross Perot to John McCain in his more candid moments, Americans have long had a thing for anti-politicians. Anti-politicians can still run for office—it’s just that they aren’t defined by vote-chasing and poll-watching. Like the kid in the back of the class shooting spitballs, the anti-politician appeals to the rebels, scares the establishment, and makes the rest of us pay attention.

In a field of political animals, that’s perhaps Webb’s defining characteristic. He left the Senate because, he said, “I faced the Hobson’s choice of either turning into a perennial scold or surrendering a part of my individuality to the uncontrollable, collective nature of group politics. I was not ready to do either.” The constant campaigning, the fundraising, the glad-handing and backslapping—Webb viscerally hates it. And that puts him in league with the many millions of Americans who can’t stand politics for the same reasons. Anti-politicians aren’t good at measuring their words or securing wealthy backers for their runs—but they are good at connecting with the anti-political public in an instantly credible way. When it comes to Washington dysfunction, someone like Webb can take a believable position above the fray.

Perhaps that’s why Webb’s ideological hodgepodge is something of an asset. There are large swathes of voters whose own views are weakly represented by either party—blue-collar workers who are falling behind economically but hold to traditional social values, or libertarian-ish millennials who want less regulation and more gay marriage. A candidate like Webb couldn’t possibly speak to all of those views, but he can speak to the sense of being dissatisfied with our standard-issue ideologies, of choosing a set of beliefs without the usual calculations. No, that’s not a formula for winning a primary. But it is a formula for looking a bit more like a “normal” person in a field of political lifers.

He’s the closest to “normal” of any candidate in the race.

This, it seems to me, is the core of Webb’s appeal: politics is part of his life, but it’s not his entire life. In this day and age, it may be too much to ask that our politicians be the kind of people we can comfortably have a beer with, but I don’t think it’s too much to ask that our leaders have done something—anything—outside the narrow world of politics and government.

And yet look at the field. Hillary Clinton has been on the national stage for a generation. Politics is the Bush family business, and Jeb was born into it. Marco Rubio and Scott Walker have had essentially no other careers but politics. Sure, Webb is a politician, too, but he’s also lived a full, varied, non-political life. He hasn’t plotted his every move on the basis of how it might look to voters; if anything, he seems to have done the opposite. Remember, this is a guy who twice held high office—and twice gave it up: he resigned as Secretary of the Navy, and he chose not to run for re-election after only one term in the Senate.

Seeing all this, you get the sense that part of him would rather not be in politics at all. Were one of his better-funded, better-organized, better-known opponents to win the primary, you get the feeling that he’d simply shrug his shoulders and move on. Which means that, more than any of his rivals, he’s a candidate with nothing to lose. That’s good, because he is going to lose. But whether because of a sharp performance in a debate, a surprise showing in a primary state, or sheer Clinton fatigue, Webb is going to have his moment in the spotlight. And whether it’s by speaking out for the constituency of “screwed” Americans, calling attention to the issues of criminal justice reform he’s been working on for a decade, or criticizing the drift of our foreign policy, the point of

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Webb's campaign is making the most of that moment when it comes.

Alexandria Phillips
Press Assistant | Communications
Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/21/2016 1:00:09 PM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP Newsletter: Iran and Saudi Arabia's Cold War, DoD Climate Change Adaption, and Upcoming Event

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Iran and Saudi Arabia Headed for a Cold War Over a Heated One

The sudden and dramatic breakup of Saudi-Iranian relations has put the world on watch as the situation develops. Now, as diplomatic ties between them are officially severed, war is inevitable. Correct? The short answer: probably not.

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Department of Defense Releases Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Directive

ASP in the News

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney in Politco
Bryan Bender, Politico

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney Interviewed On International Security Concerns
John Bersia, UCF

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On January 14, 2016, the Department of Defense a directive that codifies how to assess and manage the risks of climate change.

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Upcoming Events

ASP and Lloyd's of London Risk and Resiliency Forum

LLOYD'S

Date	**February 17, 2016**
Time	**12:00pm – 4:30pm**
Location	**Arnold & Porter LLP, 601 Massachusetts Ave NW, 11th Floor, Washington DC 20001**

The American Security Project will host ***Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience*** in partnership with Lloyd's , JLT , and Risk Cooperative . This is an invitation-only opportunity for policymakers, business leaders and regulators to introduce the findings of the City Risk Index and share best practices and insights on risk assessment, mitigation, adaptation and transfer to help U.S. cities and institutions build greater resilience

To request an invitation, contact:

events@americansecurityproject.org

On Our Blog

American Competitiveness

Business Council for American Security President and CEO of Risk Cooperative Dante Disparte on Understanding Social Risk Insurance
Traditional insurance coverage acts as a passive mechanism to protect against an unlikely but extreme financial loss. Particularly in emerging markets where historical loss information is limited, insurance underwriting requires multinational corporations to view risk through a different lens.

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Asymmetric Operations

Siege Tactics in Syria: Instability for the Future

C. Alexander Doyle

As 20,000 Syrian civilians face life threatening starvation, the Syrian government and rebel forces continue to use siege tactics as a way to gain a political advantage in local ceasefires and peace talks. Their use of starving citizens as bargaining chips will eventually lead to greater instability in the future as well as a stronger ISIS.

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Climate and Energy

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Andrew Holland

The beginning of 2016 has seen a collapse in oil prices, to levels that few would have predicted even a year ago. What's going on, and why?

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Doubling Down on Norms in Paris

Philip Rossetti

In this case, the architects of this global climate deal took a leaf out of nuclear nonproliferation's book and focused less on binding enforcement provisions, and more on inclusivity—a strategy which ASP outlined in our recent paper on climate diplomacy .

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National Security Strategy

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Ken Robbins

ASP Senior Adjunct Fellow Ken Robbins on what the recent events in Iran could mean in the long-term.

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Asha Castleberry

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American Security Project

An op-ed on the security implications of COP21 signed by four

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members of American Security Project's Consensus for American Security was published by Stars and Stripes online and in their December 19th print edition.
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Nuclear Security

The Iran Deal in Action
Maggie Feldman-Piltch
As Iran removes the core of their nuclear reactor and fills it with cement opening the door for the easing of sanctions in just a manner of days, it is clear times are changing.
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What to do About North Korea's Nuclear Weapons
Matthew Wallin
With North Korea's recent claims of having tested a hydrogen bomb, there is renewed concern about the situation on the Korean peninsula and the North's expanding nuclear program. Yet despite a possible increase in nuclear weapons capability, the strategic situation on the Korean peninsula has not changed since North Korea crossed the nuclear threshold.
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Public Diplomacy

Ch-Ch-Changes in the US Anti-Extremist Messaging Strategy
Matthew Wallin
Rather than boosting large, officially labeled messaging centers overseas, the US should focus on skill-based training centers that are not focused on CVE.
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The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

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To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/21/2008 1:44:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/21

08 Election Daily News Clips

July 21st, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:05am BUSH: Remarks to the 2008 United States Summer Olympic Team in the Rose Garden at the White House

10:55am BUSH: Photo opportunity with the 2008 March of Dimes National Ambassador in the Oval Office at the White House

1:15pm BUSH: Meets with the President of Kosovo and the Prime Minister of Kosovo in the Oval Office at the White House

11:30am McCain: Fund Raiser in Kennebunkport, ME

2pm McCain: Public Event in South Portland, ME
- Tracking scheduled for this event
7:35pm BUSH: Hosts a social dinner in honor of past and present U.S. Olympians at the White House

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

After 2000, McCain Learned to Work Levers of Power (NYT 7/21/08)
By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
...Previously a marginal player better known for heckling the Senate than for influencing it, Mr. McCain returned from the 2000 campaign with a new national reputation and a new political sophistication.Over the next eight years, he mastered the art of political triangulation
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/21/us/politics/21mccain.html?ref=politics

Rising Value of a Vote in a Struggling Economy (NYT 7/21/08)
By JOHN HARWOOD
Senator Barack Obama is commanding headlines this week from Baghdad to Berlin. But the central front in his war for the White House with Senator John McCain remains communities back home like Warren, Mich.; Columbus, Ohio; and Wilkes-Barre, Pa. If Mr. Obama faces a challenge in narrowing Mr. McCain's advantage on national security, the struggling economy offers the Democratic candidate an opportunity for building his own edge. The ill-timed remarks of Mr. McCain's adviser Phil Gramm, who resigned after he derided "a nation of whiners" about the economy, only compounded Republican fears about job losses and market turmoil on President Bush's watch.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/21/us/politics/21caucus.html

McCain and Obama Agree to Attend Megachurch Forum (NYT 7/21/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG
It has taken a man of God, perhaps, to do what nobody else has been able to do since the general election season began: Get Barack Obama and John McCain together on the same stage before their party conventions later this summer. The Rev. Rick Warren has persuaded the candidates to attend a forum at his Saddleback Church, in Lake Forest, Calif., on Aug. 16.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/21/us/politics/21church.html

Giuliani and McCain Go Out to the Ballgame (AP 7/21/08)
With Senator Obama on the other side of the planet, Senator McCain stayed closer to home yesterday, visiting Yankee Stadium with Mayor Giuliani.
http://www.nysun.com/national/giuliani-shrugs-off-veep-speculation-at-yankee/82217/

McCain in a race to raise and spend money by Labor Day (LA Times 7/21/08)
By Dan Morain
He lags behind Obama, but is cooperating with party fundraisers to raise more than individual limits allow.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-money21-2008jul21,0,1399269.story

McCain Reports $16 Million Spent on Media in June (WSJ 7/21/08)
By Mary Jacoby and T.W. Farnam
Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign spent heavily on television and other advertising in June, a newly filed report shows, as the campaign prepares for the official start of the general-election season in September.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121660657026669417.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox
See AP's "Obama Spends Less in June, Saves Resources": http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1824926,00.html

Obama's paid staff dwarfing McCain's (Boston Globe 7/20/08)
By Brian C. Mooney, Globe Staff
Behind the headlines about the unprecedented success of Democrat Barack Obama's fund-raising machine lies a more prosaic truth - his campaign will need every penny of its $300 million goal to bankroll an unprecedented 50-state general election campaign with a massive army on the ground.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/07/20/obamas_paid_staff_dwarfing_mccains/

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McCain Burning Funds Ahead of Cap (The Page 7/20/08)
...FEC reports show McCain spent nearly $26 million on June, eroding his cash on hand from $31.6 million to $27 million. Because McCain is accepting public financing for the general, he has to spend all the money he raises between now and September's Republican convention.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/20/mccain-burning-funds-ahead-of-cap/

McCain to Speak at Sept. 11 Forum (AP 7/21/08)
Republican presidential hopeful John McCain will speak about the need for public service at a national forum on that topic being held in New York on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. ServiceNation, a coalition of more than 100 service groups, including AARP and United Way of America, said Sunday that McCain has agreed to attend the two-day forum on "A Nation of Service." Democrat Barack Obama has also been invited to participate.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1824923,00.html

McCain arrives in Maine, will attend events today (Portland Press Herald 7/21/08)
By ELBERT AULL
Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain arrived in Portland late Sunday afternoon in advance of what is shaping up to be a day of debate on energy and the economy. McCain is due to attend private fundraisers this morning in Kennebunkport – one at the Bush family compound at Walker's Point – and make a public appearance at the Maine Military Museum in South Portland this afternoon. Democrats and antiwar activists have planned two events to coincide with McCain's stops in southern Maine, an effort to tie the Arizona senator to an unpopular Bush administration.
http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/story.php?id=200643&ac=PHnws
See Morning Sentinel's "McCain hits Maine Monday for votes, money": http://morningsentinel.mainetoday.com/news/local/5248261.html

McCain caught in crossfire over U.S. troops' status (USA Today 7/20/08)
By David Jackson
Republican John McCain's campaign jousted Sunday with two prominent politicians over when and how to pull troops out of Iraq: Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. In an interview published over the weekend in a German magazine, al-Maliki seemed to endorse Obama's short-term plan to pull out U.S. troops over 16 months. However, an al-Maliki spokesman seemed to back away from those comments in a statement released Sunday.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-20-McCain_N.htm

McCain's Hamptons Fund-Raiser (NYT blog 7/20/08)
By Larry Rohter
Last night at the lakeside home of Bill and Phyllis Mack, Senator John McCain told a high-profile crowd of Republicans that he was preparing for a close race in the fall and repeated his line that he liked being the underdog.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/20/mccains-hamptons-fund-raiser/

One simple way to predict a victor (Financial Times 7/20/08)
By Clive Crook
One cannot help but be struck by the current disconnection in US presidential politics between, on one hand, the excitement and enthusiasm that attend Barack Obama's candidacy and, on the other, the tightness of the race according to recent polls. The first suggests a sweeping victory for the Democrat in November, the second a close election and the distinct possibility of a win for John McCain.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3bf5c59a-5666-11dd-8686-000077b07658,Authorised=false.html?_i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2F3bf5c59a-5666-11dd-8686-000077b07658.html%3Fnclick_check%3D1&_i_referer=http%3A%2F%2Frealclearpolitics.com%2F&nclick_check=1

Conservative Christian leader considers McCain endorsement (AP 7/20/08)
Conservative Christian leader James Dobson has softened his stance against Republican presidential hopeful John McCain, saying he could reverse his position and endorse the Arizona senator despite serious misgivings.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/20/dobson.mccain.ap/index.html

500 Religious Leaders Against Hagee (Huffington Post 7/20/08)
By Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak and Rev. John Hubers
... What is most troubling is the political access Pastor Hagee has, with politicians in Israel and the United States wittingly or unwittingly giving credence to what is best described as a militant apocalyptic theo-political ideology. Senator McCain belatedly realized how toxic Hagee's views are, disassociating his presidential campaign from Hagee's embrace. Several politicians who will be appearing on stage with Pastor Hagee in next week's CUFI summit in Washington DC apparently haven't gotten the message yet.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/haim-dov-beliak-and-john-hubers/500-religious-leaders-aga_b_113928.html

McCain Aide Scheunemann Linked To Bush Library 'Cash For Access' Scandal (ThinkProgress 7/20/08)
Earlier this month, the Sunday Times caught longtime Bush associate Stephen Payne on tape offering access to top Bush administration officials in exchange for "six-figure donations to the private library being set up to commemorate Bush's presidency." Payne, who is now being investigated by the Homeland Security Department and the House Oversight Committee, made the offer to Kazakh politician Yerzhan Dosmukhamedov, who is also known as Eric Dos.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/20/scheunemann-payne/

From shipping lobbyist to McCain adviser (AP 7/20/08)
By PETE YOST
Playing a dual role as shipping lobbyist and member of a federal advisory panel, John McCain's campaign policy coordinator helped shape a controversial homeland security initiative that has taken the government 5 1/2 years to develop.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_SHIPPING_LOBBYIST?SITE=NYONI&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain Camp: Admiral Mullen Opposes Timtetable (TPM 7/20/08)
By Eric Kleefeld
The McCain campaign appears to have come up with their response to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's endorsement of Barack Obama's withdrawal proposal: Dig in, and keep insisting that U.S. commanders oppose it.

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http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccain_camp_admiral_mullen_opp.php

Unlike McCain, many seniors depend on the Web (Washington Post 7/20/08)
By JOCELYN NOVECK
If Sen. John McCain is really serious about becoming a Web-savvy citizen, perhaps Kathryn Robinson can help. Robinson is now 106 _ that's 35 years older than McCain _ and she began using the Internet at 98, at the Barclay Friends home in West Chester, Pa., where she lives.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/20/AR2008072000932.html

Court Orders Ohio to Include Libertarian Party on Ballot (NYT 7/19/08)
By BOB DRIEHAUS
Ohio must include the Libertarian Party's nominees on its ballot in November, a court has ruled, complicating Senator John McCain's effort to win conservative votes in a hotly contested state rich in electoral votes.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/us/politics/19ohio.html

McCain Co-Chairman, Under Fire, Steps Aside (NYT 7/19/08)
By LARRY ROHTER
Former Senator Phil Gramm resigned late Friday as a co-chairman of Senator John McCain's presidential campaign, capping a day filled with controversy for Mr. McCain, the presumed Republican nominee.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/us/politics/19mccain.html
Link to Phil Gramm's Statement Resigning from the McCain Campaign: http://thepage.time.com/phil-gramms-statement-resigning-from-the-mccain-campaign/

Graham, er Gramm, Out From McCain Campaign (ABC News blog 7/18/08)
By Jake Tapper
The McCain campaign was very eager to get this announcement out there, from top economic adviser and controversial former Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas: ...How eager ...? One of them e-mailed it out with the subject line: "phil graham statement." Whoops! It's GRAMM not Graham, as an e-mail from the same McCainiac sent out three minutes later corrected, noting that he was "in a hurry to get that out to you guys." On a Friday night at 7:45 p.m.?
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/07/graham-er-gramm.html

Housing crisis poses test for McCain (LA Times 7/19/08)
By Peter Wallsten and Tom Hamburger
Will he support a congressional plan to bail out mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae? Or might he propose a more radical solution? His conservative base is watching.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-econplans19-2008jul19,0,2535350.story

McCain Response to Obama Memo [on Foreign Policy] (McCain campaign release 7/19/08)
...If John McCain was following Barack Obama's lead on foreign policy, the United States would have already withdrawn from Iraq in a humiliating defeat at the hands of al Qaeda.
http://thepage.time.com/mccain-response-to-obama-memo/
Link to Obama Memo on Foreign Policy: http://thepage.time.com/obama-memo-on-foreign-policy/

The Buzz About a McCain-Romney Ticket (NYT 7/19/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER and MICHAEL LUO
It was not so long ago that the idea that Senator John McCain would even entertain tapping Mitt Romney, his bitterest primary rival, as his running mate would have seemed preposterous, rating at least 7.0 on the strange-bedfellows scale.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/us/politics/19romney.html
See NYT's "Once Bitter Rivals, McCain and Romney Make Up": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/18/us/politics/19romney.html

Why Won't Juan Come to the Phone? (NEWSWEEK 7/19/08)
By Jessica Ramirez and Holly Bailey
McCain's Hispanic outreach chief is both loved and loathed.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/147770/

The Story Of His Life (NEWSWEEK 7/19/08)
By Howard Fineman
No adviser is closer to John McCain than Mark Salter, whose prose has shaped how we see the senator. How will the climactic chapter read?
http://www.newsweek.com/id/147768/

McCain's Weekly Radio Address (The Page 7/19/08)
The Senator strongly attacks Obama for releasing his Iraq and Afghanistan strategies before his overseas trip. "Apparently, he's confident enough that he won't find any facts that might change his opinion or alter his strategy. Remarkable." Also hits Obama for opposing the surge in Iraq.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/19/mccains-weekly-radio-address/#
Link to transcript of radio address: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-weekly-radio-address/
Link to audio: http://www.johnmccain.com/downloads/weeklyradio_071908.mp3

For better or worse, McCain wedded to town halls (AP 7/19/08)
By Charles Babington
John McCain was in his favorite campaign setting, a town hall meeting, when he spotted a promising target. "I'd love to recognize you first, sir," the Republican presidential candidate said to a man in a Vietnam War veteran's hat. Instead of a softball opening question from a fellow vet, however, McCain got a lengthy harangue, as the man insisted the senator had opposed better medical benefits for veterans.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/topstories/2008-07-19-3141659923_x.htm

McCain Camp Sharpens Attack, More to Come (TIME blog 7/18/08)
By Michael Scherer

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Call it a soft launch. Friday afternoons in the dead heart of summer are not exactly when you make a splash in the news cycle. But this is when the McCain campaign chose to pull the trigger on its latest television ad, the harshest of the general election so far. It represents the beginnings of an evolution from the old McCain attack theme--"typical politics" ...--to something that frames the campaign around questions of Obama's experience and judgement. More of this is coming down the pike.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/07/mccain_camp_sharpens_attack_mo.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm9IUfPZsX8

McCain, Obama hedge on costly new Marine One (AP 7/18/08)
By Glen Johnson
John McCain and Barack Obama vow to reform the nation's defense procurement if elected president, yet each is unwilling to take a firm stand against the skyrocketing cost of a plum White House perk: the new Marine One helicopter.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/topstories/2008-07-18-2552785313_x.htm

States should set fuel efficiency, McCain says (Detroit Free Press 7/18/08)
BY KATHLEEN GRAY AND KATIE MERX
Sen. John McCain said this morning that states should be able to determine their own fuel efficiency standards. The policy, which a dozen states are pushing, is strongly opposed by the domestic auto industry as a job-killing proposal that would seriously harm the industry.
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080718/NEWS15/80718037/&imw=Y

McCain: Oil Rigs 'Very Successfully' Survived the Impact of Hurricanes (ThinkProgress 7/18/08)
Yesterday, Nancy Pfotenhauer, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) senior policy adviser, claimed that she had been "misinformed" when she falsely stated that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita "did not spill a drop of oil." Today, McCain made another "misinformed" argument, claiming that oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico "have survived, very successfully, the impacts of hurricanes":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/18/mccain-rigs/

McCain, Conan Say Old Jokes Getting Old (The Page 7/18/08)
The late-night talk show host says the country's getting tired of the old jokes, asks if he has any more embarassing qualities to keep the country entertained. And/But: Conan teases McCain about when they taped the show, saying they had to move it to 5:30 pm because 4:30 pm is when he eats dinner.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/18/mccain-to-draw-laughs-with-conan/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

In Iraq, and Under the Spotlight (Washington Post 7/21/08)
By Robert D. Novak; A15
I asked one of the Republican Party's smartest, most candid heavy hitters last week whether John McCain really has a chance to defeat Barack Obama in this season of Republican discontent. "No, if the campaign is about McCain," he replied. "Yes, if it's about Obama." That underlines the importance of Obama's visit to Iraq, beginning weeks of scrutiny for the Democratic presidential candidate under a GOP spotlight.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/20/AR2008072001668.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

Let's Have Some Love for Nuclear Power (WSJ 7/21/08)
By WILLIAM TUCKER; Page A13
All over the world, nuclear power is making a comeback. ...And just last month John McCain called for the construction of 45 new reactors by 2030. Barack Obama is less enthusiastic about nuclear energy, but he seems to be moving toward tacit approval.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121659839296769061.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Their Fair Share (WSJ 7/21/08)
Washington is teeing up "the rich" for a big tax hike next year, as a way to make them "pay their fair share." Well, the latest IRS data have arrived on who paid what share of income taxes in 2006, and it's going to be hard for the rich to pay any more than they already do. The data show that the 2003 Bush tax cuts caused what may be the biggest increase in tax payments by the rich in American history.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121659695380368965.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Obama's got the best plan for America (Portland Press Herald 7/21/08)
MIKE MICHAUD
As Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain dines at the Bush compound in Kennebunkport today, I'd like to send this message from the hardworking people of Maine: The last thing Maine needs is a third Bush term.
http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/story.php?id=200260&ac=PHedi

McCain, Take Cues From Ford (Creators Syndicate / NY Sun 7/21/08)
By MICHAEL BARONE
Looking back over the last 40 years, the presidential campaign that most closely resembles this year's is the contest between Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter in 1976. The Republicans were the incumbent presidential party that year, as they are now, but the Democrats had a big advantage in party identification — on the order of 49% from 26% then, far more than today.
http://www.nysun.com/opinion/mccain-take-cues-from-ford/82254/

It's the Economic Stupidity, Stupid (NYT 7/20/08)
By FRANK RICH
THE best thing to happen to John McCain was for the three network anchors to leave him in the dust this week while they chase Barack Obama on his global Lollapalooza tour. Were voters forced to actually focus on Mr. McCain's response to our spiraling economic crisis at home, the prospect of his ascension to the Oval Office could set off a panic that would make the IndyMac Bank bust in Pasadena look as merry as the Rose Bowl.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/20/opinion/20rich.html

Surge Protector (NYT 7/20/08)
By WILLIAM J. FALLON
THE prospect of a long-term security arrangement between the United States and Iraq has become a lightning rod for criticism. Yet such an agreement — which the White House believes could be completed this month now that the two countries have agreed to set a "general time

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horizon" for reducing the number of American troops in Iraq — would be in the best interests of the governments of both countries, and of the people who live in a region of the world that urgently needs stability.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/20/opinion/20fallon.html?scp=1&sq=surge%20protector&st=cse

Gramm 'jumped,' not pushed, from McCain campaign (Washington Times 7/20/08)
Ralph Z. Hallow
The ostensible trigger for former Sen. Phil Gramm's sudden resignation on Friday as national co-chairman of Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign was a Robert Novak column released on Saturday, sources in the McCain campaign told The Washington Times.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jul/20/gramm-jumped-not-pushed-from-mccain-campaign/

Gramm Old Party (NYT blog 7/19/08)
By Paul Krugman
The classic definition of a gaffe is when someone accidentally tells the truth. Phil Gramm committed a slightly different sin: he accidentally said what he, and most of the conservative movement, really believe.
http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/gramm-old-party/

BUSH NEWS

Now Bush Is Appeasing Iran (WSJ 7/21/08)
By MICHAEL RUBIN; Page A11
...The Bush administration has promised to support Iranian construction of a light-water reactor and provide it with nuclear fuel. In addition, the U.S. will help overhaul of Iran's energy infrastructure and cooperate in high-technology industries. At any point, Tehran can simply walk away, keeping its rewards.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121659929379969123.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Rice wants "serious answer" from Iran (Reuters 7/21/08)
By Sue Fleming
U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned Iran on Monday that it faced more sanctions if it defied a two-week deadline to agree to curb its nuclear programme.
http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL21572217

Nuclear Talks With Iran End in a Deadlock (NYT 7/20/08)
By ELAINE SCIOLINO
International talks on Iran's nuclear ambitions ended in deadlock on Saturday, despite the Bush administration's decision to reverse policy and send a senior American official to the table for the first time.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/20/world/middleeast/20nuke.html?hp

Bush, in a Shift, Accepts Concept of Iraq Timeline (NYT 7/19/08)
By STEVEN LEE MYERS
President Bush agreed to "a general time horizon" for withdrawing American troops in Iraq, the White House announced Friday, in a concession that reflected both progress in stabilizing Iraq and the depth of political opposition to an open-ended military presence in Iraq and at home.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/world/middleeast/19iraq.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin
See TIME's "Leaving Iraq: Debate Shifts to When": http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1824890,00.html

Washington's Dry Well (Washington Post 7/19/08)
WITH OIL hovering around $130 a barrel and an American public increasingly antsy about gasoline prices resting comfortably above $4 a gallon, President Bush ratcheted up the pressure on Congress this week to open the Outer Continental Shelf to oil drilling by rescinding the executive order prohibiting such exploration. There's just one catch: For the president's action to take effect, Congress has to lift its own ban, which has been in place since 1983. And that's not going to happen.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/18/AR2008071802803.html?nav=rss_opinions

Rice: Obama's Candidacy Great for Blacks (The Page 7/20/08)
The Secretary of State tells CNN's "Late Edition Sunday" that Obama's pending nomination shows that the U.S. has come a long way in race relations. Also insists she has told "everybody who will listen" she's not interested in the Veep slot.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/20/rice-obamas-candidacy-great-for-blacks/

OTHER TOP NEWS

First war crimes trial since WW II to begin at Guantanamo (AFP 7/21/08)
A special military trial was to get underway Monday at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay Cuba, with a former driver for terror mastermind Osama bin Laden facing the first US war-crimes tribunal since the end of World War II.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i03ITNFAY9pR0zqOUi9VlgCAaR-A

US economy may avoid recession but slow growth seen (Reuters 7/21/08)
By Joanne Morrison
The U.S. economy may have avoided a recession but will grow below trend for some time as firms face higher prices for a range of goods that will cut into profits, according to a panel of economists surveyed.
http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1845323420080721

Study: Poor ballot designs still affect U.S. election (USA Today 7/21/08)
By Richard Wolf
Poorly designed ballots continue to plague U.S. elections, even after Congress set aside $3 billion to overhaul voting systems to prevent a recurrence of the flawed Florida ballots that deadlocked the 2000 presidential race, a study out today concludes.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-20-ballots_N.htm

Independent Groups Step Up On-Air Ads (NPR 7/18/08)

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by Peter Overby
...The presidential candidates have ads on TV, and several independent groups are stepping up their effort to affect the White House and Senate races. So far, nobody has produced a roundhouse-punch of an ad like the Swift Boat Veterans ads that floored Democratic Sen. John Kerry's presidential bid four years ago. But over the past week or so, the independent ads have begun getting sharper and more numerous.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92686475&ft=1&f=1102

OBAMAROUND THE WORLD NEWS

Obama Begins Firsthand Look at Baghdad (AP 7/21/08)
By BRIAN MURPHY
Barack Obama began Monday his first on-the-ground inspection of Iraq since launching his bid for the White House, with U.S. commanders ready to brief him on progress in a war he has long opposed and Iraqi leaders wanting more details of his proposals for troop withdrawals.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1824906,00.html

News in hot spots appears to aid Obama (Politico 7/21/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Barack Obama's long-awaited and much-hyped trip overseas, in large part intended to overcome a perception that he's not up to the job of commander-in-chief, seems to have come at the perfect time as recent events in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran have played into his message.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11901.html

Barack Obama to arrive in Israel Tuesday (Ha'aretz 7/21/08)
By Barak Ravid
U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama is scheduled to land in Israel on Tuesday for a visit, which will include meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials in Jerusalem and the West Bank.
http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1003803.html

Obama calls situation in Afghanistan 'urgent' (CNN 7/20/08)
* McCain foreign policy adviser says Obama supports "strategy for defeat"
* Sen. Barack Obama says more troops needed in Afghanistan
* Obama meets with Afghan President Hamid Karzai
* Obama has said part of his strategy is "taking the fight to al Qaeda in Afghanistan"
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/20/obama.afghanistan/index.html

Obama: "The Situation Is Precarious and Urgent Here in Afghanistan" (The Page 7/20/08)
CBS chief foreign affairs correspondent Lara Logan nabs the first overseas interview with Obama, portions air on Sunday's "Face the Nation." Obama reiterates his call for additional brigades to Afghanistan, says the U.S. should start planning for that now instead of waiting for the next administration.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/20/cbs-gets-first-obama-interview-abroad/
Link to video: http://thepage.time.com/video-obama-on-cbs-from-afghanistan/
Link to McCain Camp Response to Obama's Troop Wthdrawal: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-response-to-obamas-troop-wthdrawal/

Obama Abroad (NEWSWEEK 7/19/08)
By Fareed Zakaria
He's been called a naive idealist. But in terms of foreign policy, he's the true realist in the race.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/147763/

SPIEGELGATE NEWS

Spiegel Stands By... (Atlantic Online 7/20/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Here's what Speigel says about the interview with al-Maliki: Obama is pleased, but McCain certainly is not. In an interview with SPIEGEL, Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki expressed support for Obama's troop withdrawal plans. Despite a half-hearted retraction, the comments have stirred up the US presidential campaign. SPIEGEL stands by its version of the conversation.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/spiegel_stands_by.php

Maliki Aide's Statement Came After U.S. Call (Washington Post blog 7/20/08)
By Dan Eggen
The statement by an aide to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki calling his remarks in Der Spiegel "misinterpreted and mistranslated" followed a call to the prime minister's office from U.S. government officials in Iraq.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/20/maliki_aides_statement_came_af.html

Maliki Doesn't Endorse Obama Troop Withdrawal Plan (Bloomberg 7/20/08)
By Tarek Al-Issawi
Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki hasn't endorsed any specific plan for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, a government spokesman said, a day after a magazine report that he backed Barack Obama's proposal.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=atqYi2NQ6vfc&refer=home

Iraqi Leader Stirs up US Campaign (Der Spiegel 7/20/08)
Obama is pleased, but McCain certainly is not. In an interview with SPIEGEL, Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki expressed support for Obama's troop withdrawal plans. Despite a half-hearted retraction, the comments have stirred up the US presidential campaign. SPIEGEL stands by its version of the conversation.
http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,druck-566914,00.html

McCain Response to Maliki Report (McCain campaign release 7/19/08)
Today, McCain 2008 Senior Foreign Policy Advisor Randy Scheunemann issued the following statement: ..."Timing is not as important as whether

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we leave with victory and honor, which is of no apparent concern to Barack Obama."
http://thepage.time.com/mccain-response-to-maliki-report/

McCain Campaign Responds To Al-Maliki (Atlantic Online 7/19/08)
By Marc Ambinder
"His domestic politics require him to be for us getting out," said a senior McCain campaign official, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "The military says 'conditions based' and Maliki said 'conditions based' yesterday in the joint statement with Bush. Regardless, voters care about [the] military, not about Iraqi leaders."
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/mccain_campaign_responds_to_al.php

White House Accidentally E-Mails to Reporters Story That Maliki Supports Obama Iraq Withdrawal Plan (ABC News blog 7/19/08)
By Jake Tapper
The White House this afternoon accidentally sent to its extensive distribution list a Reuters story headlined "Iraqi PM backs Obama troop exit plan - magazine."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/07/white-house-acc.html

Iraqi PM backs Obama troop exit plan: report (Reuters 7/19/08)
Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told a German magazine he supported prospective U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's proposal that U.S. troops should leave Iraq within 16 months.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSL198009020080719
Link to full transcript of Spiegel's Maliki interview: http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,566852,00.html

POLLS

Obama Leads McCain by Nine Points Among Registered Voters (MarketWatch 7/21/08)
With just six weeks to go until the Democrat and Republican Presidential conventions, the general election is almost officially here. Results from a new Harris Poll show that:...Matures and Whites for McCain; Echo Boomers, African Americans and Hispanics for Obama
http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/obama-leads-mccain-nine-points/story.aspx?guid=%7B8D62C9BA-4CAA-4591-A6A9-8816A907F135%7D&dist=hppr

Poll: Voters Think Supreme Court Is Too Conservative (Huffington Post 7/20/08)
A new Quinnipiac poll shows that more voters think the Supreme Court is too conservative than too liberal, by a 31% to 25% margin. More voters also think the Court is going in the wrong direction.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/20/poll-voters-think-supreme_n_113906.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
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202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 12:03:12 PM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:
>
> - Immigration plan
> - Clinton Cash update
>
> Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:
>
> **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call**
>
> **Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays**
> Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.
>
> --
> Kristina Schake
> Hillary for America

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From: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 4:54:13 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

---

And there is some really good language in this endorsement

John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121. Office
@AnzaloneLiszt

On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:40 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:
>
> > I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.
> >
> > John Anzalone
> > Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> > 334-387-3121. Office
> > @AnzaloneLiszt
> >
> > On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> > > Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> > > Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> > > My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > Begin forwarded message:
> > >
> > > **From:** Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > **Date:** January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> > > **To:** Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > **Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience**

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

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The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Programthat provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more fromher on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Buy Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

Buy Photo

Fullscre

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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: seizenstat@gmail.com
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 10/26/2015 3:49:25 PM
Subject: Thoughts on Israel and Iran from Tom Donilon and Dennis Ross

Dear Jake,

I attended a book launch at the Washington Institute today for Dennis Ross' new book "Doomed to Success". He and Tom Donilon held a discussion and there were several points you may wish to consider for Hillary's use.

1. Israel is most likely to show flexibility when it has confidence in the US, and when there is the intense security dialogue that existed when Tom was NSC adviser, but does not exist now. (Dennis). This should include an updated security MOU(Dennis and Tom)

2.The US needs to engage in confidence boosting measures with Israel and the Palestinians, and should not be paralyzed into inaction because a comprehensive peace is not possible now. It must not be seen as a binary choice between all or nothing, or a dangerous vacuum will be created. These practical steps include the following:

(1) Stating and restating the status quo Kerry brokered with Israel and Jordan, with 24/7 cameras, for the Temple Mount.
(2) Lowering provocative rhetoric on both sides, and encouraging the Palestinians to speak out against violence.
(3) Restore a belief in a two-state soluton as the only alternative. The Oslo Agreement is still the framework, and although Abbas says he is no longer bound by it, actual security cooperation and tax revenue transfers continue.
(4) Given the weakness and dysfunction of the Palestinian leadership, quietly encourage the moderate Arabs to support their re-entry into negotiations.(Dennis)

I could add to that economic initiatives (QIZ in the West Bank; joint projects in the West Bank; reduced checkpoints and increased numbers of carefully vetted Palestinian workers, etc.)

3. Iran (Dennis and Tom). At the November 9 meeting between Bibi and Obama, and the Washington meetings Bibi will hold, the following should be accomplished:

(1) There must be a fact-based analysis of Iranian compliance with the deal. (Tom) A joint consultative group of senior intelligence experts should be created with Israel and the US to monitor Iranian compliance with the nuclear deal, and determine how violations will be handled. This can rebuild trust between the two governments, and avoid differing interpretations.(Dennis)
(2) The US should make clear in advance the consequences of Iranian violations during the 10-15 year period, and thereafter, what the US would do if Iran tries a nuclear weapons breakout.

4. Israel.

(1) The PM needs to repair the damage to Israel's bipartisan support, by time and again stressing that US support for Israel has always been and must remain outside partisan politics. The two countries have shared values and interests (Tom)
(2) Both agreed that Obama made a serious error at the outset of his Administration of going to Cairo and not going to Israel afterward.
(3) The violence is very different than the 1st and 2d Intifadas, which were centrally directed. But their randomness also makes it more difficult to stop.(Dennis).
(4) The violence underscores the fantasy and danger of a one state solution, since it would incorporate violent elements into Israel.(Dennis)

5. Syria.(Tom).

(1) Russia's re-entry into the Middle East for the first time since the 1970s is a dangerous situation, both with the possibility of military encounters with the US, but also because of the foothold it gives Russia.
(2) This is also dangerous for Israel as it puts Assad's allies, Hezbollah and Iran, near the Golon Heights
(3)(Dennis) Victories in northern Iraq against ISIS are very important to dent their image of invulnerability, which is a major recruiting tool for them.

Best wishes,

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Stu Eizenstat
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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From:	efarkas@aol.com
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	2/21/2016 8:25:06 AM
Subject:	Following up from Tony's brunch - Ethnic surrogate work for HRC
Attachments:	ResumeEFarkas-2016.doc BIO AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS.docx

John,
As I mentioned, as a second-generation (parents came here in '56) Hungarian-American, I'd love to do surrogate work for HRC with the ethnic Eastern European communities, in addition to the foreign policy work with Jake and Laura.

Let me know what I need to do to get it going. As of now I have trips planned to give lectures in the spring in Newport, RI and Seattle and London next week (I did participate in a Munich fundraiser with Melanne V. the week before last and could do something like that again.) I also do a lot of media, mainly right now on Russia and the Middle East -- Amanpour probably next Monday, BBC radio tomorrow am.

Attached is more info about me than you could ever need! - Evelyn

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From: "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/24/2014 4:22:40 PM
Subject: FW: American Majority Institute

Ugh!

-----Original Message-----
From: Aryeh Neier [mailto:ANeier@sorosny.org]
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2003 3:04 PM
To: Sandler, Herb EXEC; Sandler, Marion EXEC; John Podesta
Subject: FW: American Majority Institute

Marion, Herb and John:

George Soros recently mentioned to me that he had encountered someone in Seattle who would be interested in support for AMI. Attached, is some information on that person, Rob Glaser, that was sent to me by George's aide, Michael Vachon. As I don't know Glaser, and Michael says "he seemed to know Podesta," I forward what I got from Michael so you can consider how to proceed with him.

Aryeh

-----Original Message-----
From: Vachon, Michael
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2003 10:25 AM
To: Aryeh Neier
Subject: RE: American Majority Institute

Aryeh, The tycoon in question is Rob Glaser. He is indeed the founder and CEO of RealNetworks (market cap. $670 million). He and George met for about half an hour. His contact information is below, along with information about this foundation. In addition to AMI, George also thought Glaser might be interested in MDLF. As it turns out he knows Veran Matic and had somehow helped B92 transmit over the Internet when they needed to do that. I gave Glaser's contact information to Harlan and Sasa and sent Glaser information on their group. You might also want to know that Glaser is a college friend of Mort Halperin's son. In a follow up note I sent to Glaser, I gave him Mort's contact information and indicated that Mort was the AMI contact, this is what George had asked me to do. I do not know if they've been in touch. I myself did not hear anything back from Glaser. Finally, I got the impression that Glaser was fairly well connected in mainstream democratic circles, I believe he is involved or was in discussions with Gore on some project and he seemed to know Podesta. Hope this is helpful. Let me know if you want more info on Glaser or the brief meeting.

Rob Glaser
Chariman and CEO
RealNetworks
2601 Elliot Avenue
Seattle Washington 98121
206 674 2210
robg@real.com

also at the meeting was
Mitchell Fox
Program Officer
The Glaser Foundation
2601 Elliot Avenue
Seattle Washington 98121
206 728 1050
mfox@glaserfoundation.org

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On the Glaser Foundation: By focusing on three complementary program areas -- Measuring Progress, Animal Advocacy and Independent Media -- The Glaser Progress Foundation aims to build a more just, sustainable and humane world. The Foundation was inspired, endowed and is led by Rob Glaser, CEO of RealNetworks, Inc., the company that pioneered the delivery of audio and video content over the Internet. Since its creation in 1993, the Glaser Progress Foundation has distributed over 11 million dollars for philanthropic purposes. The Foundation is located in Seattle with a staff of three: Executive Director Martin Collier <mailto:martin@glaserprogress.org> , Program Officer Mitchell Fox <mailto:mitchell@glaserprogress.org> , and Operations Director Leslie McDonald <mailto:leslie@glaserprogress.org> . Unsolicited Application Letters are accepted throughout the year for projects that fit the Foundation's funding areas; as well, the Foundation approaches organizations seeking potential partners for Foundation Program Initiatives.

Special Projects :Columbia University, New York, NY http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$450,000, Global Fund Access Project
To support the Access Project for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Recent Grant in Independent media

Adbusters Media Foundation <http://www.adbusters.org/> , Vancouver, BC, Canada http://
www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$151,500, Adbusters TV
To develop Adbusters TV, an international social activist channel on the Internet.

Bard College Human Rights Project <http://hague.bard.edu/index.asp> , Annandale-on-Hudson, NY http://
www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$37,000, Milosevic Trial Online Archive
For an on-line broadcast and archive of the trial of Slobodan Milosevic.

Center for Strategic and International Studies <http://www.csis.org/> , Washington, DC http://
www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$100,000, Restricted Access to Media in Russia For greater protection of human rights in Russia through media.

Committee to Protect Journalists <http://www.cpj.org/> , New York, NY http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/
common/spacer.gif
$10,000, Press Freedom Awards Dinner
For general support.

Community Technology Institute <http://www.cvm.org/> , Seattle, WA http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/
common/spacer.gif
$30,000, Community Voice Mail Website
To support an intranet web site serving Community Voice Mail coalitions.

Declaration of Independence, Inc. <http://www.independenceroadtrip.org/index_h_ie.htm> , Beverly Hills, CA
http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$100,000, Declaration of Independence Road Trip For general support.

Essential Information <http://www.essential.org/index.asp> , Washington, DC http://www.glaserfoundation.org/
_images/common/spacer.gif
$85,000, Public Web Works
For general support.

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting <http://www.fair.org/> , New York, NY http://www.glaserfoundation.org/
_images/common/spacer.gif
$20,000, Action Alert Network
To increase demand for more balanced news from mainstream media.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$1,491,163, AIDS grant
To help African nations, NGOÕs and other interested groups prepare proposals to the Global Fund.

Independent Media Institute <http://www.alternet.org/> , San Francisco, CA http://www.glaserfoundation.org/
_images/common/spacer.gif
$35,000, AlterNet.org

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To support its online magazine and digest.

Institute for Media Analysis <http://www.democracynow.org/> , New York, NY http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$40,000, Democracy Now's "War and Peace Report"
To support the daily national television news program.

Institute for Public Accuracy <http://www.accuracy.org/> , San Francisco, CA http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$34,896, General Support
For general support.

Jam For Justice <http://www.indymedia.org/> , Seattle, WA http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$25,000, Independent Media Center
For general support.

Public Communicators Inc. <http://www.freespeech.org/> , Boulder, CO http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$25,000, Free Speech TV's "World In Crisis"
To support the independent radio and video news program.

Sound Portraits <http://www.soundportraits.org/> , New York, NY http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$30,000, General Support
For general support.

Stichting VOEM <http://www.b92.net/> , The Netherlands http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$49,670, Radio program
To support a radio program for refugees and displaced persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Florence Fund <http://www.tompaine.com/> , Washington, DC http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$50,000, TomPaine.com
For weekly "op ads" on the op-ed page of The New York Times.

University of Washington Libraries <http://www.lib.washington.edu/> , Seattle, WA http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$9,850, Human Rights Media Database
To create a database of mass media resources for human rights education.

Witness <http://www.witness.org/> , New York, NY http://www.glaserfoundation.org/_images/common/spacer.gif
$50,000, General Support
For general support.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/19/2014 9:10:00 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday September 19, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday September 19, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: .@astro_reid Are you really Tweeting from space? Your roaming charges must be out of this world! [9/19/14, 8:35 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "...empowering women is not just the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do." @shellyporges #Progress4Women http://www.cnbc.com/id/102012957 [9/18/14, 2:57 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Rand Paul and Marco Rubio take swipes at each other to attack Hillary.http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/09/18/isolationists-vs-interventionists-the-latest-gop-split/ … [9/18/14, 2:21 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

BuzzFeed: "DREAMer Activists Plan To Keep Confronting Hillary Clinton On Immigration"

"Adrienne Elrod, a spokesperson for Correct the Record, the research project aimed at defending Clinton, highlighted the former senator's past efforts on immigration and what she described as a lifetime endeavor to 'help families and our nation's immigrants be able to earn and live the American Dream.'"

CNN opinion: Paul Begala: "Why Hillary Clinton won't say she's running in 2016"

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"If she were to go Open Kimono on us now it would draw attention from crucial midterm elections, siphon campaign donations from Democrats struggling to hold onto the Senate and possibly even eclipse important debates on how to fight ISIS and whether to shut down the government (again)."

Time: "Hillary Clinton's Decision Time"

"…an array of Clinton allies have jumped into the fold this year, including Correct the Record, a Democratic research group aimed at pushing back against Republican critics of her record…"

New York Observer: "Benghazi Again"

"Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct the Record, a PAC that promotes and defends Hillary Clinton, argues that this is not plausible as 'the questions have been asked, answered, rehashed, and relitigated on the tragedy in Benghazi.'"

NBC News: "Hillary Clinton to Dem Women: 'Midterms Matter'"

"Hillary Clinton worked to fire up Democratic women Friday as the party looks to turn out its base voters in November's contested midterm elections."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to women: Remember the midterms"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Friday urged Democratic women to prioritize the midterms, for the sake of advancing women's rights — and also in defense of a larger progressive agenda."

Time: "Hillary Clinton Pledges to Campaign for Female Democratic Candidates"

"Hillary Clinton plunged back into the political waters Friday by pledging to work to get all the female Democratic candidates on the ballot elected in November."

The Atlantic: "Does Hillary Clinton Have Anything to Say?"

"Everywhere Hillary Clinton goes, a thousand cameras follow. Then she opens her mouth, and nothing happens."

Articles:

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BuzzFeed: "DREAMer Activists Plan To Keep Confronting Hillary Clinton On Immigration"

By Adrian Carrasquillo and Ruby Cramer

September 19, 2014, 9:41 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Another disturbance is planned Friday at the DNC Women's Leadership Forum where Clinton will speak, making it the third time in a week that DREAMers will make their presence felt at one of her events.

On the rope line at an event in Iowa last Sunday, three undocumented activists waited to ask Hillary Clinton about the delay of executive actions on immigration. Clinton flashed the group a thumbs up. But when the activists pressed her on the question, Clinton said, "I think we have to elect more Democrats," then kept moving.

Two days later, at a benefit in New York featuring Clinton, about six immigration activists interrupted the event, chanting "Undocumented, Unafraid!" Security removed the protesters. Afterward, Clinton took photos with fans and ignored questions from a reporter about the incident.

A group of activists have another confrontation planned for Friday morning.

The cadre of so-called DREAMers — undocumented youth brought to the country as children — will protest outside the Women's Leadership Forum, an event hosted by the Democratic National Committee, where Clinton is booked to speak.

The encounter was organized by the group, United We Dream. It will be the third time in one week that Clinton has had to deal with disruptions from activists on immigration.

High-profile DREAMer activists and immigration groups say there is no coordinated campaign against Clinton. But the activists who plan these actions identified the former secretary of state, who is expected to run for president again, as a central target of run-ins like the ones in Iowa and New York.

Clinton, they said, can expect continued questions at her public appearances about President Obama's delay until after the midterm elections of expected executive actions that would ease deportations — an announcement that riled the activist community earlier this month.

"One of the targets in the long run is going to be Hillary," said Erika Andiola, a national activist among DREAMers who filmed the confrontation in Iowa last weekend. Andiola posted the video on YouTube, and news outlets picked up the story hours later.

"She's Hillary Clinton, not just any old person," said Julieta Garibay, a United We Dream leader. "Right now for us, anyone who is standing in the way of justice for our families is against us. We wouldn't call her the primary target, but with the voice she has, we're frustrated with anyone who says there should be a delay or that there shouldn't be action."

Andiola, who runs the Arizona-based Dream Action Coalition, said plans to confront Clinton and other lawmakers over immigration are loosely organized, passed on by word of mouth inside the tight network of activists and undocumented youth.

What exactly the activists want to hear from Clinton is somewhat unclear: They said they don't expect deep policy comments from Clinton immigration at these events. But, the activists said, they do want more than the paltry lines she gave in between autographs last weekend in Iowa.

"We want to hear, 'I support DREAMers, I support families,'" said Cesar Vargas, who heads Dream Action Coalition with Andiola.

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A Clinton spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment on the DREAMers.

But Adrienne Elrod, a spokesperson for Correct the Record, the research project aimed at defending Clinton, highlighted the former senator's past efforts on immigration and what she described as a lifetime endeavor to "help families and our nation's immigrants be able to earn and live the American Dream."

"In the Senate, she co-sponsored the DREAM Act on several occasions, consistently voted in favor of comprehensive immigration reform and introduced legislation to reunite families separated by the immigration system," Elrod said.

Clinton has been approached by activists on this issue before. In April, at a Clinton Foundation event in Manhattan, a 19-year-old attendee named Nova Bajamonti stood to ask Clinton a question, and tearfully announced "for the first time publicly" that she was an undocumented immigrant. Bajamonti told the story of how she left Croatia for the United States, but was unable to obtain a green card.

Clinton praised Bajamonti as "incredibly brave" and suggested she look into DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that allows young people brought to the U.S. as children to obtain legal status.

"I hope you will do that, and if you can't, come talk to us afterward, and we will help you figure that out," Clinton said.

As soon as the event ended, Clinton Foundation staffers found Bajamonti, who was already under DACA at the time. Less than a week later, Bajamonti said this week, the Clinton Foundation connected her with an immigration lawyer to help provide and process her DACA renewal application free of charge.

Vargas and Andiola, along with a 23-year-old undocumented activist named Monica Reyes, also confronted Sen. Bernie Sanders, another Democrat interested in running for president, who appeared at a different event in Iowa last Sunday. The Vermont senator criticized Obama on executive actions — a comment that earned praise from Reyes and other activists.

Andiola and Vargas are also eyeing the governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, who has a state record on immigration they love and is considering a run for president.

Their encounter with Clinton in Iowa provoked one Maryland activist to connect Andiola and Vargas with O'Malley, suggesting they find a time to meet, the two activists said.

"O'Malley has clashed with the administration," Vargas said. "He's one of the candidates not taking Latinos for granted."

Clinton, while on tour to promote her new memoir, said in an interview that the unaccompanied children at the border "should be sent back" to their families. The remark caused Fusion's Jorge Ramos, in another interview, to ask Clinton if she had a "Latino problem."

While she walked back her initial comments saying the children should be shown love and only some should be sent back, the questions now put Clinton in a tough spot politically: Dodging young activists on video looks bad, but the prospect of Obama's executive actions, which Democrats in key Senate races opposed before the election, is controversial with some. And while Clinton has critiqued the president on foreign policy since leaving the State Department, she has largely avoided domestic issues.

At the DNC women's forum on Friday, the DREAMers have no plans to infiltrate the event, but will make their presence felt outside the Marriott Marquis hotel. Clinton will be joined by Obama, Vice President Biden, and the chair of the DNC, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

Vargas said it's Clinton they'll be watching.

"We want her to show she can be a president. Presidents take leadership when others won't."

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CNN opinion: Paul Begala: "Why Hillary Clinton won't say she's running in 2016"

By Paul Begala

September 19, 2014, 9:03 a.m. EDT

"Are you running for president?"

"When will you announce that you're running for president?"

"Why won't you just announce that you're running for president?"

"You wouldn't be have gone to Iowa if you weren't running for president, would you?

Despite the world aflame, Ebola spreading and the Washington Nationals in the playoffs, it seems the only thing the political press can do is speculate about a potential Hillary presidential candidacy.

Keep in mind we are two years and two months away from the next presidential election. And yet the urgency is fierce, bordering on indignation: "Why won't she just tell us if she's running?"

Well, why should she? An announcement now would be stupid, and Hillary is definitely not stupid.

If she were to go Open Kimono on us now it would draw attention from crucial midterm elections, siphon campaign donations from Democrats struggling to hold onto the Senate and possibly even eclipse important debates on how to fight ISIS and whether to shut down the government (again).

There is little such insistence about, say, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie or Indiana Gov. Mike Pence or even two-time loser Mitt Romney. We presume they're running -- just as most folks presume Hillary is. But we're not hectoring them at every turn; we're not resentful that they haven't made a formal announcement.

Probably because we just don't care as much about them. They're not leading in the polls by a million points (nor will Hillary, if and when a campaign is underway), and they simply do not rivet the national attention the way the former first lady, former senator, former secretary of state and future (?!) first female president does.

I have not been in touch with Hillary, so I do not speak with intimate knowledge. But I have known her for -- jeez, 23 years. And I actually believe her when she says she has not completely made up her mind.

Hillary is a wonk who's had to learn the rhythms of campaigning. That's very different from, say, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a glad-handing natural for whom it can be said that if an idea wanted to cross his mind it would need to bring a canteen. Hillary believes politics should be about ideas -- a clash of visions, of competing plans to promote the general welfare and provide for the common defense.

This, after all, is a woman who rings in each New Year by standing and singing "God Bless America." But there are aspects of campaigning that

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she loves: a vigorous honest, face-to-face debate; a town hall meeting in which folks ask substantive questions; meeting people who pour their hearts out to her, who hold their baby daughters up to her, who share their hopes and their heartbreaks with her.

So I can imagine that there is an angel on her shoulder whispering, "Who needs it?" Who needs the phoniness, the vacuity, the mind-numbing, bone-wearying, soul-crushing grind? But on the other shoulder stands another angel, whispering, "Because it's worth it." If you care about, say, universal pre-kindergarten -- an issue Hillary has cared about and worked on for decades -- or finding ways to stimulate job growth; if you care about peace abroad and supporting our military families at home; if you care about the climate crisis and full equality for LGBT Americans and voting rights and a million other issues: the best way to make turn those ideas into action is through the presidency.

Hillary will decide soon enough. In the meantime, let's let her listen to both of the angels debating for her heart. And maybe we can even give her a little breathing room as she becomes a grandmother.

We have plenty of other potential presidential candidates. I suspect they'd love the attention.

Time: "Hillary Clinton's Decision Time"

By Joan E. Greve

September 19, 2014, 11:46 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Presumptive 2016 Democratic frontrunner faces a question of timing

Hillary Clinton is widely expected to run for president again in 2016, letting political observers move on from the usual will-she-or-won't-she to another, more nuanced parlor game: When will she announce her candidacy?

"Timing is everything in politics," said Donna Brazile, who managed Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign. A candidate as established as Clinton has "the luxury of timing," Brazile said. "But in politics that luxury can slip away if you don't understand how to seize the moment."

The former Secretary of State has given some mixed messages about when she'll decide. She said in June that she'd be "on the way" to making a decision by the end of the year, and this month she said she'd make a decision "probably after the first of the year." Those are some pretty ambiguous tea leaves for political watchers to try to read—not to mention the fact that she can "make a decision" and still not actually announce her candidacy for months.

But a survey of top political strategists and a look back through presidential campaign history offers one clear clue: As her party's undisputed frontrunner, Clinton is likely to wait as long as possible to pull the trigger.

"The second you announce, the dynamics change completely," said Phil Singer, a Democratic strategist who worked on Clinton's 2008 campaign. "You really fall under the microscope in a way you don't when you're still contemplating whether to run."

So while Clinton announced her 2008 candidacy in January 2007—a full 22 months before the general election—most aren't expecting a Hillary Clinton campaign bus to be rolling over snow early next year. That might not sit well with some Democrats, who increasingly want Clinton to send a clear signal soon—especially if it turns out she's not running. "A 'no' has to come earlier than a 'yes,'" one Democratic strategist told NBC News in August. "If it's a no, I suspect she won't let it drag on."

But despite Democratic jitters, strategists from both parties interviewed by TIME agreed it's in her best interest to wait. As the close attention paid to inartful comments she made about her wealth during her book tour demonstrated, her every word is being scrutinized—a dynamic that will only

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intensify when she's formally a presidential candidate. Her first visit to Iowa since the 2008 campaign last weekend drew close to 200 members of the media.

"The general public's not paying attention that early, but an important subsection of the public are," said Steve Schmidt, a top strategist on John McCain's 2008 campaign. "The announcement is the first of many system checks that takes place."

In the 2012 campaign, GOP frontrunner (and eventual nominee) Mitt Romney waited until June 2011 to declare his candidacy. At that point five Republicans had already participated in their party's first primary debate. In 1991, Bill Clinton, then the governor of Arkansas, announced 13 months before the general election. In 1979, Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy just 12 months before the polls opened. In 1960, John F. Kennedy, announced his candidacy just 10 months before the November election.

Election cycles have gotten longer and campaigns more permanent over the years, with presidential candidates announcing earlier and earlier. But given Clinton's singular place in the party today, her timing could be more like those of candidates in the more distant past. With the outside super PAC Ready for Hillary already laying the groundwork for her campaign and the Clinton name more than potent enough in Democratic politics to make up fundraising ground even with a late start, Clinton has more to lose than to gain by starting too early, strategists said. Ready for Hillary raised $4 million in 2013, and an array of Clinton allies have jumped into the fold this year, including Correct the Record, a Democratic research group aimed at pushing back against Republican critics of her record, and Priorities USA Action, the former pro-Obama super PAC now backing Clinton.

"She's got the ability to raise hundreds of millions of dollars in a window where her competitors could raise tens of millions of dollars at best," said Rick Wilson, a Florida-based Republican strategist who worked on Rudy Giuliani's 2008 presidential campaign.

Gore formally launched his campaign in June of 1999, enjoying a similar advantage to Clinton's now. "We had the luxury of name recognition and a lot of organization," Brazile said.

Whatever announcement Clinton does make will of course be closely watched, not just for its timing but its substance. In 2007, Barack Obama, then a Senator from Illinois, chose the "arctic cold" of early February in Springfield, Ill., to announce his candidacy before a crowd of approximately 16,000 people.

"The Obama event was like seeing the Rolling Stones," Singer said.

"I think Obama did a very good job in 2008," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist who worked on Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign. "I think in part by being able to combine the fundraising aspect of it with the announcement, sort of creating the impression that there was this huge grassroots network that was excited for his candidacy."

Clinton chose a lower profile setting for her announcement: a video posted to her website. "After six years of George Bush, it is time to renew the promise of America," Clinton said at the time. "I grew up in a middle-class family in the middle of America, and we believed in that promise."

The only reasons for Clinton to announce earlier, strategists said, might be to freeze other candidates from getting into the race and to be more free to respond directly to attacks from her Republican opponents.

"I think there will be far fewer Democratic announcements if she announces," said veteran Democratic strategist Bob Shrum, who worked on John Kerry's 2004 campaign. "And I believe she will. I think she is running."

Lehane predicted that other Democrats will start to throw their hats in the ring the moment the midterm elections are over: "12:01 a.m. the first Tuesday of November."

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New York Observer: "Benghazi Again"

By Lincoln Mitchell

September 18, 2014 1:12 p.m. EDT

A House of Representatives panel seeking to investigate Benghazi began its work on Wednesday. The committee is co-chaired by Representatives Trey Gowdy and Elijah Cummings. The former is a Republican from South Carolina, the latter a Democrat from Maryland.

Since the attack on a U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, in which the U.S. Ambassador to Libya and three other Americans lost their lives, Benghazi has come to stand for more than just the attack itself. It also now refers to the Republican charges that the Obama administration and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton mishandled the incident, contributing to the deaths of American diplomats. This has been viewed by the Republicans as Ms. Clinton's biggest blunder during her term as Secretary of State. Democrats, for their part, have accused Republicans of politicizing the issue and using it to try to derail Ms. Clinton's presidential ambitions.

Efforts to determine what really happened at Benghazi and who, if anybody, in the U.S. government was responsible for allowing the attack to occur have, in the more than two years since the events themselves, almost always been clouded by partisan politics. For years the Republican Party has tried to make Benghazi a negative for Ms. Clinton and President Obama. Former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's remarks from May of this year –"Well, four brave Americans were killed in Benghazi and to date it appears that more has been done to protect internal emails than to bring the murderers of these Americans to justice" — are illustrative of Republican views of an administration cover up of Benghazi.

The current congressional panel is not, however, simply rehashing the events of September of 2012. Rather, its goals are also to probe the extent to which security and other recommendations from the independent Accountability Review Board that examined what happened at Benghazi have been implemented by the State Department. This is a useful activity for a congressional panel and is precisely how relations between the executive and legislative branches of government should work. The question of whether or not this committee can remain focused on this task rather than devolve into yet another discussion of Benghazi more broadly has not yet been answered.

According to Jamal Ware, communication director for the House Select Committee on Benghazi. "the Committee will operate in a fair, fact-driven and impartial manner that produces a final accounting that is worthy of the sacrifice of the four Americans who were killed in Benghazi and worthy of the trust of our fellow citizens." However, Mr. Ware also makes it clear "This (the committee) will go wherever the facts lead."

Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct the Record, a PAC that promotes and defends Hillary Clinton, argues that this is not plausible as "the questions have been asked, answered, rehashed, and relitigated on the tragedy in Benghazi. Multiple committees have extensively investigated the Benghazi tragedy, resulting in more than 50 senior level staff briefings, at least 13 public hearings, dozens of interviews, and the disclosure of more than 25,000 pages of documents."

It is, however, probably no longer in the interest of the Republicans to spend too much time and effort on Benghazi because the political environment is quite different now than it was four years ago. However, as Ms. Elrod notes, "the Republicans have and continue to use the tragedy in Benghazi to raise money," so clearly the issue still resonates with the Republican activist base. Nonetheless When the attack in Benghazi happened, Ms. Clinton was finishing what was viewed at the time as a successful four years at the State Department. In that context, Benghazi had the potential to be a high profile negative on an otherwise strong record and was therefore an attractive target for Republicans.

Things are different now. The world is beset with major crises and there is a growing perception both in the media and public opinion that the Obama administration has done a poor job on foreign policy. Linking Ms. Clinton to those failures is a more effective political tactic than discussing a scandal that has never much damaged Ms. Clinton. A more relevant and serious question for conservative critics to ask Ms. Clinton as she seeks the presidency is to probe why she went along with an administration that wildly under-estimated the danger Russian President Vladimir Putin presented to Ukraine and elsewhere, or her role in Middle East policy that led to the rise of ISIS.

Ms. Clinton's likely answers to these questions, either obfuscating or asserting that she tried, but failed, to persuade the President to act differently, are more damaging, and more likely to give swing voters reason for concern, than more Republican accusations that she did not do enough to prevent the attack at Benghazi. Ironically, further focus on Benghazi may help Ms. Clinton as it takes attention away from more meaningful criticisms and strengthens her campaign narrative that she has long been the target of angry and unfair right wing attacks.

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NBC News: "Hillary Clinton to Dem Women: 'Midterms Matter'"

By Carrie Dann

September 19, 2014, 12:45 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton worked to fire up Democratic women Friday as the party looks to turn out its base voters in November's contested midterm elections. "I know they may not be as glamorous as presidential elections, but these upcoming midterm elections really are crucial to our country's future," she told the audience at a Democratic National Committee women's leadership forum in Washington.

Highlighting the role that female lawmakers have had in breaking Washington gridlock and advocating for progressive policies, Clinton praised a "movement" of women making a difference in government. "Don't let anyone dismiss what you're doing here today as women's work," she said. "Don't let anyone send you back to the sidelines."

Clinton didn't mention her own possible presidential ambitions, but she did note that she is on "grandbaby watch" as her daughter Chelsea prepares for the birth of her first child.

She also offered a vociferous defense of DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who introduced the former secretary of state. Wasserman Schultz has been under the spotlight after POLITICO reported that her fellow Democrats believe she is "becoming a liability" to the committee.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to women: Remember the midterms"

By Edward-Isaac Dovere

September 19, 2014, 1:13 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Friday urged Democratic women to prioritize the midterms, for the sake of advancing women's rights — and also in defense of a larger progressive agenda.

"We're here because there's a movement stirring in America," Clinton said, citing issues such as paid sick leave, equal pay, affordable childcare and a living wage for fast-food workers. "This is a movement that is not waiting for Washington with its gridlock and grandstanding. This movement won't wait, and neither will we."

Clinton spoke as part of a full-day schedule of top Democrats addressing the Democratic National Committee's Women's Leadership Forum issues conference. Vice President Joe Biden spoke earlier in the morning, and President Barack Obama is scheduled for the afternoon.

Every word Clinton says and every move she makes is being parsed for meaning about her presidential plans, but Clinton urged the crowd not to forget the midterms.

"I know that they might not be as glamorous as presidential elections," she said with a smile, leaning back from the microphone for a moment in her bright gold top.

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Citing paycheck fairness, the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision and the resistance to renewing the Violence Against Women Act, Clinton said the decision is between Republicans and "leaders who will fight for women and girls to have the same opportunities and rights that they deserve."

Clinton singled out the Hobby Lobby decision, and those she said applauded it, for special attack. The decision allows employers with religious objections to opt out of providing insurance coverage for contraception.

"I think it's fair to say that just as the Affordable Care Act was going into effect, the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision pulled the rug out from beneath America's women," Clinton said, in one of her biggest applause lines of the speech. "It's a slippery slope when we start turning over a woman's right to make her own health care decisions to her employer."

Together, she said, there is only one question: "Will Congress do anything about it? That's why midterms matter."

Clinton hasn't spoken much publicly about the impending birth of her first grandchild, but Friday, that's how she anchored her argument.

"I've been thinking a lot about family, because as you know, I'm on grand-baby watch. And I think a lot about this new member of our family and what he or she can look forward to," Clinton said.

"The Democratic Party is at its best, just like America is at its best, when we rally behind a very simple but powerful idea: family."

Time: "Hillary Clinton Pledges to Campaign for Female Democratic Candidates"

By Jay Newton-Small

September 19, 2014, 1:14 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Calling out Senate and gubernatorial candidates by name, Clinton pledges to help get every woman on the ballot elected

Hillary Clinton plunged back into the political waters Friday by pledging to work to get all the female Democratic candidates on the ballot elected in November.

"I can't think of a better way to make the House work again than electing every woman on the ballot," Clinton told the Democratic Women's Leadership Forum, a group she helped start more than 20 years ago with former Second Lady Tipper Gore. "There are 10 women running for the Senate, six women running for governor and I wish I could vote for all of them."

Clinton called out several candidates by name: Senate challengers Michelle Nunn in Georgia, Alison Lundergan Grimes in Kentucky and West Virginia's Natalie Tennant, incumbent Sens. Kay Hagan in North Carolina and Jeanne Shaheen in New Hampshire, and House candidate Staci Appel in Iowa.

The former Secretary of State particularly tout former Trek Bicycle executive Mary Burke, who is challenging Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. "Burke she is offering a choice between more angry gridlock," Clinton said, "and… smart progressive policies."

Clinton said she wanted to see a movement of women rise up to take back the government. "We're in the home stretch and it all comes down on who shows up to vote," she told the crowd of female Democratic organizers, many of whom will be relied on to turn out female voters in

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November. “This country will maintain a level playing field so whether you’re the grandchild of a president, or the grandchild of a janitor, whether you were born in a city or a small rural village, no matter who you are you have the right to inherit the American dream.”

The Atlantic: “Does Hillary Clinton Have Anything to Say?”

By Molly Ball

September 19, 2014, 10:08 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The presumed presidential candidate's speeches are long on pablum and short on content. This is the campaign we're in for.

Everywhere Hillary Clinton goes, a thousand cameras follow. Then she opens her mouth, and nothing happens.

Clinton made a much-ballyhooed appearance in Iowa over the weekend, giving a speech widely noted for its substancelessness. She “had no explicit message of her own,” Politico noted, while The Economist pronounced it “underwhelming.” MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough was so frustrated by Clinton’s lack of verve that he went on an extended rant about it, proclaiming, “I know her and like her, but she puts on that political hat and she’s a robot!” The coverage of Clinton’s speech seemed to contain more meditation about how anodyne she was than reporting of what she actually said.

The Iowa campaign speech that wasn’t a campaign speech (delivered at a "steak fry" that wasn’t a steak fry—the steaks are grilled) followed a year’s worth of nearly newsless Clintoniana. She wrote a book that reviewers unanimously described as stale and safe, valuable mostly for the hints it offered of her future positioning. Reviewing Henry Kissinger’s new book for The Washington Post a few weeks ago, Clinton boldly declared the need for “a real national dialogue” to “take on the perils and the promise of the 21st century,” while dodging any prescriptions of her own for today's vexing foreign-policy dilemmas. Last month, when Clinton caused a firestorm by telling my colleague Jeffrey Goldberg that President Obama’s foreign-affairs philosophy, “Don’t do stupid stuff,” was “not an organizing principle,” he pressed her to name a better one. “Peace, progress, and prosperity,” she said, as though that were any closer to being something you could organize a nation around.

That Clinton is a risk-averse, pragmatic politician has been her hallmark for years, of course—it’s just another way in which her current persona offers nothing new or surprising. Has America ever been so thoroughly tired of a candidate before the campaign even began?

On Thursday, I went to see Clinton in Washington, where she was speaking on a panel about women’s economic challenges at the Center for American Progress. Clinton boldly posited that people who work hard and do their best, particularly parents, deserve economic security. “We talk about a glass ceiling, but these women don’t even have a floor underneath them,” she said of workers who rely on tips. “This is not a women’s issue, this is a family issue, and it certainly is a children’s issue,” she added. “We have to do more to bring these issues to the forefront.”

When it was House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi’s turn to speak, Clinton gazed out at the audience, nodding sagely, seeming to know that all the cameras were trained on her. A laundry list of well-worn leftish ideas, from raising the minimum wage to paid family leave and affordable childcare, was touted. Granted, these are substantive proposals, and they are controversial in some quarters. But they are broadly popular, and the overall message—that women ought to prosper—is almost impossible to disagree with. The discussion’s only spark came from Kirsten Gillibrand, the senator from New York, who made a rousing call to action. “I think we need a Rosie the Riveter moment for this generation!” Gillibrand said, to the event's only applause.

Gillibrand, who replaced Clinton in the Senate, has been ubiquitous lately as she promotes her new book. She has also been touted as a presidential candidate, but always demurs, saying she supports Clinton. Earlier this week, when I pressed her on what she’d say if Clinton doesn’t run, she pronounced the question irrelevant, as Clinton is clearly running. It was Clinton who originally inspired Gillibrand to want to run for office: An Asian Studies major at Dartmouth, Gillibrand was working at a law firm when Clinton gave her famous “women’s rights are human rights” speech in Beijing in 1995. The junior lawyer suddenly felt her path to be inadequate, she told me.

The story was a reminder that Clinton does inspire passion in some people, or did at one time. The Clinton-boosting super PAC Ready for Hillary

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has signed up more than 2.5 million supporters. Thousands flocked to the Iowa steak fry, if only to catch a glimpse of someone very famous. As Dave Weigel noted, Clinton's boringness is mostly a problem for the press, not the public.

On Thursday, Clinton rushed to echo Gillibrand's statements. "Kirsten told stories—we could all tell stories about people we know who have been really egregiously impacted by the failure of our political leadership on the other side of the aisle," she said after an anecdote about a woman whose career never recovered from taking time off to care for an injured child. To the "Rosie the Riveter" sentiment, she added, "We need people to feel that they're part of a movement. It's not just an election."

Clinton is in a bind, as the political scientist Lynn Vavreck noted in The New York Times at the height of her understimulating book tour. "The only thing the tour is missing is the central element of a campaign: a raison d'etre, a vision," Vavreck wrote. Clinton can't talk about what she would do as the country's leader without admitting that's what she's seeking to do. But will that change once she officially becomes a candidate? Based on the evidence, I wouldn't hold my breath.

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/5/2008 3:24:25 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/05/08

Main Topics: McCain Interview on ABC, McCain's "Radical" Foreign Policy, *McLobbyist*, McCain and Hillary Clinton Supporters, *McBush*

Summary of Shift: Pundits discussed the implications of Democratic disunity this evening and whether Hillary Clinton should become Obama's VP. Clinton is expected to drop out either tomorrow or Saturday. She released a statement today saying she would not seek the vice presidency. Obama issued a new policy for the DNC in which it cannot directly take donations from lobbyists or PACs. Senator Jim Webb and Governor Tim Kaine joined Obama at a rally in Virginia.
A new Senate report slams the White House for deliberately misleading the country to war. Secretary Gates fired the top civil ian and military commanders of the Air Force due to a series of mishaps involving our nation's nuclear arsenal. An alleged ma stermind of the 9/11 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, is being tried via military tribunal in Guantanamo Bay. Today marks the 40th anniversary of RFK's assassination.

Highlights:
1) McCain interviewed on ABC World News
a. Claims the mantel of change vs. Obama, discusses Iraq, *McBush*, campaign finance, and more; says he's an "underdog" and that the principal electoral issues are "reform, prosperity, and peace"
2) CNN analyzes McCain's foreign policy vis-à-vis Bush, Zakaria calls McCain "radical" for wanting to exclude Russia and China from international institutions, implies he could prompt a new "Cold War"
3) *McBush*
a. Richard Clarke: McCain is making false statements about Iraq, just like Bush
b. Fox News panel debates "McBush" title, cite McCain's 95% voting record with Bush
4) McCain and Hillary Clinton supporters
a. McCain launches outreach website targeting women and Reagan Democrats, next week Fiorina will host events to gain Clinton supporters
b. Democratic delegate "redneck" from Texas launches website "Hillary Clinton Supporters for John McCain", Fox News explores McCain's outreach to Clinton voters
5) *McLobbyist*
a. Lou Dobbs praises Obama's anti-lobbyist policies, says "McCain, you got a lot of work to do"
b. Newsweek Sr. Editor takes swipe at McCain for Burmese lobbying connection, analyzes differences with Obama on economy
c. Carly Fiorina claims McCain's campaign is the most transparent with lobbyists
6) Fox News' Neil Cavuto argues Obama is a "media darling" and thus McCain has a "real fight on his hands"
7) On "Countdown": McCain declared 2nd worst person in the world for lies on Katrina votes
8) Cindy McCain segment on ET: size zero jeans and hairdresser with her at all times
9) Maddow: It's unclear how McCain will portray his immigration stance
10) McCain's new theme: reform, prosperity, and peace
11) "The Situation Room" examined the age differential between Obama and McCain, said it wasn't a big issue (no clip)
12) "ABC World News" and "MSNBC" explored general election maps, discussing possible swing states of Virginia, New Mexico, and Colorado (no clip)

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Interviewed on ABC World News, Claims the Mantel of Change vs. Obama, Discusses Iraq, McBush, Campaign Finance, and More; Says the Principal Electoral Issues are "Reform, Prosperity, and Peace" and He's An "Underdog"
(ABC 06/05/08 6:30pm)
GIBSON: Senator, are you relieved to know finally who you're going to run against?

MCCAIN: I guess, in a way. It was, I think, pretty apparent there for a while that it was going to be Senator Obama. And I called and congratulated Senator Clinton on the great race that she ran and the ability to inspire millions of women all over America and the world and congratulated her on her campaign.

And I also called Senator Obama yesterday and congratulated him, as well.

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GIBSON: When this thing was more in doubt, did you have a preference?

MCCAIN: No. I really didn't. I don't know enough about what the outcome is -- what the effect's going to be. So I think both of them are -- either one would have been very challenging. And Senator Obama will -- I'm sure that we'll have a very close race.

GIBSON: Do you in any way run a different campaign against Obama than you would have run against Clinton?

MCCAIN: I don't think so. I think -- maybe some of the states change a little bit, but, overall, I think it's going to be fundamentally differences in positions, principles, views, policies, and both foreign and domestic.

And so I think it was -- because they're very similar, I don't think that the debate would have been significantly different.

GIBSON: In my lifetime, I don't think I'd ever seen a primary and caucus race like the Democrats had. Did you feel at times in the past few months like the forgotten candidate?

MCCAIN: Yes, occasionally I thought -- it was a little hard for us to break through with the message, but I also understand it. There was a lot of excitement there. I mean, Senator Clinton just won South Dakota. I mean, obviously, it went right up to the end.

So I understand. And now, obviously, the focus is going to be on both of us. And the good news is that it's five months, and the bad news is it's five months.

GIBSON: Do you feel in any way as if you're running against history?

MCCAIN: No, I think that it's very clear that Americans want change. It doesn't -- you don't have to be in politics to know that. They want change. The question is, is what kind of change, the right change or the wrong change?

I have a record of fighting against the special interests, of investigating corruption, of fighting for reform, whether it be campaign finance reform, or ethics and lobbying, one of the reasons why I was never elected Miss Congeniality in the United States Senate.

So I do have a record of change and reform and fighting for it and achieving some -- a lot of it. But there's a lot more that needs to be done.

Senator Obama talks about change, but, clearly, he has no record of it. So we'll be debating what kind of change that America wants, whether it be our effort in which we have to carry out and succeed in, independence of foreign oil, or whether it be the war in Iraq or the overall struggle we're in against radical Islamic extremism. Who is best qualified? Who can best bring about change for America?

GIBSON: But when I ask about running against history, you are of an age, as am I, when segregation was the law of the land in this country.

MCCAIN: Yes.

GIBSON: Did you ever think you'd see a day when there was a black man nominated to represent one of the two major American parties?

MCCAIN: Oh, I did, because -- as I felt that someday there will be a woman who is president of the United States, because I have a great faith in the American people. And I have a great faith in their sense of justice and their judgment of people on their qualities, as Dr. King said, not by the -- by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin. I hope I didn't mangle that quote.

So I have great faith that America would select someone and will, either man, woman, no matter who they are, as far as -- more on their qualities and their leadership and the way they can lead the country than any other quality.

But at the same time, Senator Obama has done a remarkable thing. We both started as long shots. And he did, too. And I think, obviously, all Americans give him great credit.

GIBSON: He said on Tuesday night, when he was in Minneapolis, or St. Paul, he said, "John McCain has served this country

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heroically. I honor that service and I respect his many accomplishments, even if he chooses to deny mine."

Do you think he's qualified to be president?

MCCAIN: Oh, I think that's a judgment that the American people will make. It's not up to me to say that. It's up to me to point out that I have the experience and the knowledge and the judgment, and the right kind of change and the right kind of record, but most importantly a plan of action for the future.

Look, the Democratic Party has just determined that Senator Obama is qualified. Now it'll be up to the American people, and I'm sure that they judge both of us as qualified. I think that it's going to be a question of who's more qualified or the most qualified.

GIBSON: What kind of a relationship do you go into this election with him, having with him? You had a very testy exchange of letters a couple of years ago.

MCCAIN: Yes, once we had an exchange -- I had a letter to him over an issue. In fact, it had to do with ethics and lobbying reform. But I've always had a cordial relationship with Senator Obama. I didn't know him as well as I know Senator Clinton, and I hadn't worked with him as much as I had Senator Clinton. Senator Clinton and I were both on the Armed Services Committee.

But we've always had a cordial and respectful relationship. And I'll do everything I can to maintain that during this campaign. Americans are tired of the partisanship or the fighting of the -- impugning of character.

They want a real debate here, and that's why I challenged him -- or invited him, is a better word -- for us to do a series of 10 town hall meetings across this country, one a week between now and the Democratic convention. And let's start next week at Federal Hall in New York.

And, you know, I think the town hall meeting is the essence of democracy. Why not let people come and ask us both questions? I think that's what it's about. I think, from my own experience, that town hall meetings are more beneficial both to the candidate, as well as the voter.

GIBSON: Senator Obama, when we talked to him yesterday, said he was going to accept. He said, "Senator McCain has generously offered to me to start next week." He said, "I just got the nomination, and I think that's a little premature," but indicated that he was certainly interested in doing some of those.

It sounds to me like you both, actually, in these town meetings think that you've got the other guy on your turf.

MCCAIN: I'm not so sure I think that. I think one of the great regrets of the tragedy in Dallas was the campaign that we missed between Senator Barry Goldwater, my predecessor, and President Jack Kennedy.

They had agreed -- they agreed, because they knew each other well from their days in the Senate, that they would travel around the country on the same plane and go to a town, and have debate and discussion, and town hall meetings, and then go to another one.

I think America missed a rare opportunity at that time. Look at what campaigns have deteriorated into, and I mean deteriorated: sound bites, gotchas, attack ads, 527s.

So I think this may be trying to revive what I think most Americans would have approved of way back in the 1960s and they certainly want today.

GIBSON: On what three issues, principal issues, do you think this election will turn?

MCCAIN: Reform, prosperity and peace. Reform of government in the way we do business, which is geared to the '60s and '70s and not responsive to the new challenges.

Prosperity, obviously, Americans are hurting badly, keeping their homes, the job loss. The continued deterioration of certain -- a lot of aspects of our economy.

And, of course, security. I believe that the war in Iraq has far more effects than just Iraq. I think it is the central battleground of the struggle against radical Islamic extremism, as General David Petraeus portrayed it.

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And I think that our treatment of Iran, the conflict in Afghanistan, the entire globe now is beset with challenges to our nation's security. And I think that, also, will be a very big issue.

And I will be compared -- glad to compare my vision and my view of how we secure this nation's future with that of Senator Obama. I think he was wrong about the surge when he said it would fail, and I think he's been wrong on other aspects of national security issues, and a lot of that is due to inexperience.

GIBSON: Do you worry that it might turn on race and age?

MCCAIN: I hope neither. Look, I believe in the decency and fairness of the American people. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't be seeking to lead them. I think they're the finest, fairest, most decent people in the world.

And, of course, we have extremes in our society that do things which are not in keeping with the principles and, frankly, the greatness of this nation. But, overall, a vast majority of Americans are fair, decent people, and they're going to judge who they want to lead on the basis of how they think that person can lead.

GIBSON: Senator Obama, during the primary campaign, has felt the need to address the issue of race. Do you have to address it, do you think, in your campaign in any way?

MCCAIN: I don't think I have to address the issue of race. I have tried to on various venues address the issue of age. You know, on "Saturday Night Live," when I said the person -- the primary qualification for president has to be someone who's very, very, very old.

But I think, as in the primary, the voters will judge me by the way I campaign and what my vision is and what they view my vitality and strengths are. And that's where I think that I can convince them, that not only do I have the age, but I have the experience and knowledge to make the kinds of judgments that are necessary to keep the nation safe and prosperous.

GIBSON: Are you the underdog?

MCCAIN: Oh, yes, I think so. I think so. I think -- I'm surprised, frankly, to see the polls as close as they are, given our brand problems in the Republican Party. I'm pleased where we are.

But I also think that, not unlike the primaries, that Americans pay attention, but, really, when they start to pay attention is really during the convention and sort of during what has traditionally been the campaign season, after Labor Day.

GIBSON: What's the biggest obstacle that you face to getting elected?

MCCAIN: I think energizing independents and the Reagan Democrats, both old and new, to have a look and see if they can understand that I'm the best qualified to serve.

I think that that's -- we're going to be in kind of a presidential campaign where the independents, Reagan Democrats, would be the reason why I win.

I think we have unified the party pretty well, but I've got to assure everyone that I'm going to be the president of all Americans. That's what they have to have confidence in; that's what they want now.

GIBSON: There may be some disaffected Clinton voters out there coming out of this primary, upset that their candidate didn't get it. What do you do to appeal to them?

MCCAIN: National security, reform, assurance that I will represent every American as president of the United States, ability, proven record of bipartisanship. Senator Obama talks about bipartisanship. In all due respect, I have a record of working with Ted Kennedy, and Russ Feingold, and Joe Lieberman, and Carl Levin, and Byron Dorgan.

And that's the way I've been able to achieve legislative success. You have to do that in Senate. I'm glad to do it. The problems that face America today require us to work across the aisle and together for America.

We saw America do that right after 9/11. We haven't seen it in a long time.

GIBSON: Your opponent seems to think that you have a hyphenated name. He refers to you continually as "Bush-McCain."

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MCCAIN: Yes, I saw that.

GIBSON: I asked about the largest obstacle. How large an obstacle is the incumbent president?

MCCAIN: I hear that over and over from the Democrats and from Senator Obama, and I understand that political tactic. I don't think it's going to work. I think Americans know me. They didn't just get to know me yesterday. I think they know me.

And I think that they'll be looking not -- again, what Americans want now, in my opinion, from having literally hundreds of town hall meetings, what are you going to do about gas prices? What are you going to do about health care? What are you going to do about the threats that we face from radical Islamic extremism?

I haven't heard anybody at a town hall meeting, although I'm sure that it's on their minds, say, "Well, you're too close to President Bush." What they've said is, "What's your plan of action?" That's what they're interested in, and that's how I think that I can meet that particular campaign tactic.

GIBSON: And yet if you look at this from outside, if somebody were just coming into this country, they would say, you know, what chance does the Republican have? Every major issue would mitigate against him.

We have a war which is unpopular. We have an economy that is in very difficult shape from the housing crisis. We have fuel prices that are through the roof, and we have consumer confidence so very low right now. That, it seems to me, puts the Republican candidate in a very difficult situation.

MCCAIN: I do not underestimate the size of this challenge, OK? But I also know that the American people right now are judging us, one, as fairly even, but also they're going to examine us. That's the strength of this process, is that they'll examine the candidates.

What is that candidate's record? But, most importantly, what is their vision for the future?

In other words, let me just mention one of those areas that you talked about very quickly, the war in Iraq. It's clear that the surge is succeeding. We are winning in Iraq now, at great cost, at great sacrifice.

The mishandling of the war for nearly four years, which I fought against and fought for this new strategy. Senator Obama opposed the surge, said it wouldn't work, and said it was doomed to failure, and said that he would withdraw.

I believe, if we'd had done what he said -- and I think it's becoming clearer and clearer to the American people there would have been chaos, genocide, and we'd have been back. But also, now with success, it has beneficial effects throughout the region, as well.

I'm willing to make that case. As you know, when I was running and no one gave me a chance, and they said, "Well, because you're supporting the surge," one of the reasons. I said at that time I would much rather lose a political campaign than lose a war. Well, I was right.

And I'm right about Iran. And I'm right about a lot of these other issues. And I'm not always right. But I think that I can assure people that our nation's national security challenges will be met with experience and knowledge and judgment.

GIBSON: Senator Obama said to me yesterday he will go to Iraq...

MCCAIN: Good.

GIBSON: ... this summer. Do you think inevitably he's going to modify his position about the pace of withdrawal, as we get into the general election campaign?

MCCAIN: I have every confidence that, if Senator Obama goes to Iraq, meets with General Petraeus, and the sergeant majors and the captains and the colonels and the corporals, that he will know that this strategy is succeeding and he would modify -- would change his position, and support what's being done over there, and bring us home, but bring us home with honor and victory, not defeat.

MCCAIN: Americans want that, too.

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GIBSON: What's your timetable for choosing a vice president?

MCCAIN: We're just in the initial stages and try to get it done as soon as possible, but not too early. You know...

GIBSON: Do you want to do it before the convention?

MCCAIN: What I've seen in the past is that everybody that's a presidential nominee says, "OK, I'm going to get this done by this and this, this," and then, all of a sudden, "Whoops, we've got to -- did we consider this and that?" And they end up really fighting up against a really deadline.

I hope we can avoid that. But, right now, we're still in the initial stages.

GIBSON: Do you want to get it done before the convention?

MCCAIN: I'd like to very much. I'd like to get it done before the convention, yes.

GIBSON: Public financing...

MCCAIN: Yes.

GIBSON: ... are you going to take it?

MCCAIN: Well, I certainly -- as you know, Senator Obama signed a piece of paper saying that he would take it if I would take it. I still want to take it. We haven't made a final decision if he doesn't take it, but I would hope that he would keep his word.

GIBSON: If he opts out, will you?

MCCAIN: I don't know. We'd have to look and see how much money -- not only how much money we could raise, but how much time you spend away from actually campaigning. That's the problem. The benefit of taking the public financing is that then you don't have to worry about the fundraising.

And so I haven't made a final decision. But, a little straight talk, we'd certainly lean towards it, but I would hope that Senator Obama would also keep his word.

GIBSON: Today, he's going to say that he's going to tell the Democratic National Committee not to accept any contributions from federal lobbyists or PACs, consistent with his policy in his campaign. Do you do the same?

MCCAIN: Yes, but I hadn't thought about it, but we certainly have -- he's taken lots and lots of money from people who have special interests in Washington. And so I'd have to look at it.

I hadn't thought about it much before, but I am proud to say we have the most stringent and transparent policy about lobbyists in our campaign than any campaign in history.

GIBSON: I asked you about your vice presidency. It just occurred the question -- do you have any thoughts you might be running against an Obama-Clinton ticket?

MCCAIN: I hadn't thought that much about it, but obviously it would be a formidable ticket. But I also think there's a lot of people out there that could make it a formidable ticket, as well. And I know that a lot of times, too, we place emphasis on the running mate and, at the end of the day, it's the top of the ticket that most Americans make their selection from.

GIBSON: There are reports that, when you first announced your campaign, that you were very close to taking a pledge that you'd be a one-term president if elected. Is that true?

MCCAIN: No. There's been many proposals made to me. As I was going through the announcement tour, somebody proposed it, but I didn't seriously consider it.

GIBSON: You're a very private man. And Karl Rove wrote a piece recently that said, if people really knew what had gone on when you were in captivity in Hanoi, that it would tell them a lot about your character that they don't otherwise know. Do

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you intend to talk about that much during the campaign?

MCCAIN: No, because I'm a flawed man. The great honor of my life was to have the privilege of serving in the company of heroes, of observing 1,000 acts of courage and compassion and love with men who were far, far better than I am.

GIBSON: But he talked about the generosity that you had exhibited and that he had knowledge of to other people who were imprisoned with you. Are those people we might hear from during the campaign? Or is this just a chapter that you're going to...

MCCAIN: Well, I'm proud to have the support of so many of the people that I was in prison camp with, yes, people like Colonel Bud Day, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, and others. I'm glad to have their support and their active participation.

I think what Karl Rove was talking about, to some degree, was I did have an opportunity to come home early from prison camp. And, obviously, in some ways, that was tempting. But at the end of the day, it was not something that I could have ever done.

GIBSON: Eight months ago, you were in a campaign that was broke...

MCCAIN: History.

GIBSON: You were written off by most people. I guess what I'm asking is, how badly, in your gut, do you want to win? Or was getting the nomination, coming back enough?

MCCAIN: I want to win, obviously. And I'm going to work 24/7 in order to try to become the president of the United States. It's very humbling to have the nomination of the party of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan.

But I don't want it so badly that I would do something that later I would look back on as something that was less than the kind of conduct that I would want my children and family and friends to respect.

GIBSON: I've heard you say on a couple of occasions, "I'm very comfortable with myself, win or lose." But as you said that, I thought to myself, "Is it in him? Does he want this deep down in his gut?" Because that's what it takes.

MCCAIN: Well, I think, if you just mentioned in the last year, after we were written off, and I was carrying my own bags in Group C on Southwest Airlines, I think I showed that we -- I wasn't willing to give up. And I've had other challenges, in fact, greater challenges than this campaign in my life that I didn't give up. I think I can assure the American people of that.

GIBSON: Senator, it's good to talk to you.

MCCAIN: Thank you, Charlie.

Highlight #2

CNN Analyzes McCain Foreign Policy vis-à-vis Bush, Zakaria calls McCain "Radical" For Excluding Russia and China from International Institutions, Could Prompt New "Cold War" (CNN 06/05/08 5:00pm)

JILL DOUGHERTY: Rule number one in Senator John McCain's foreign policy world: despite what Democrats say, he claims he is not George W. Bush.

[Show Pictures of McCain and Bush side by side]

JOHN MCCAIN: I strongly disagreed with the Bush Administration's mismanagement of the war in Iraq.

DOUGHERTY: McCain may disagree with what he calls "mismanagement" but he does agree with the war. US troops should stay in Iraq, he argues, until they succeed.

MCCAIN: Success in Iraq and Afghanistan is the establishment of a peaceful, stable, prosperous, democratic states that pose no threat to neighbors and contribute to the defeat of terrorists.

DOUGHERTY: On some issues, like the Guantanamo Bay detention center, McCain does differ somewhat from Bush. The President says he wants to close it eventually, McCain says he'll close it immediately. He wants an new international

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environmental treaty, a successor to Kyoto which George Bush refused to sign. He says he'd be more open to the views of the United States Allies, a rejection of Bush's unilateralism. Yet McCain shares George Bush's preoccupation with Democracy Promotion. In fact, McCain would take even a step further. He wants to create a League of Democracies, a kind of United Nations, but one that would exclude among others two of the world's biggest countries, Russia and China. In fact, McCain wants to throw Russia out of the G8 and prevent China from joining.

MCCAIN: We should start by insuring that the G8, a group of 8 highly industrialized states, becomes again a club of leading market democracies that should include Brazil and India but exclude Russia.

DOUGHERTY: **CNN analyst Fareed Zakaria calls McCain's approach "radical."**

ZAKARIA**: It's sure to antagonize lots of countries that don't want to find themselves in a new Cold War, trying to pick sides. And of course it will massively antagonize Russia and China and make very difficult all the cooperation which we need from them from Iranian nuclear weapons to North Korea to global warming.**

DOUGHERTY: John McCain says no matter who wins this election, the direction of the United States to change dramatically. If he follows through on policies like this, he's right.

Highlight #3

Richard Clarke: McCain is making false statements about Iraq, just like Bush (MSNBC 06/05/08 8:40pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: The report creating new problems for Mr. Bush's would be chosen successor John McCain. Who claimed just last week that every intelligence agency in the world and every intelligence assessment reported that Hussien had WMD's a claim that McCain should have known was false even before today's report reminded us that both state and energy department intelligence agencies had raised red flags about the WMD claims, red flags ignored by Mr. Bush red flags that his press secretary today claimed never reached the Presidents sight.

OLBERMANN: [...] I use the word lie, The report does not use the word lies, are there lies?

RICHARD CLARK: There certainly are, this is a big report but what it says is statements by the president were not substantiated by intelligence and then it says statements by the president were contradicted by available intelligence. In other words, they made things up [...]
OLBERMANN: What are we to make now in light of the political realities of today of Senator McCain 's undiminished enthusiasm for and defense of the war specifically that this remarkable thing that every intel assessment of the time were screaming WMD.

RICHARD CLARKE: Well Senator McCain's Statements are contradicted by the facts too, the facts in a senate report. The facts that republican senators voted for he is a big proponent of the war. But he is also now justifying the intelligence claims of the president which now we have the evidence we have the proof, four years to late. That those statements were flat out wrong. These weren't close calls, they made things up.
[...]

Fox News Panel Debates "McBush" Title, Cite McCain's 95% Vote Record With Bush (FNC 06/05/08 3:47pm)
SHEPARD SMITH: There was a time when being associated with the sitting President might've been a good thing, but the truth is President Bush's approval ratings are so far down that that picture is not one John McCain wants to be seeing. McCain's now trying to highlight his differences with the Commander-in-Chief. […] Is this working?

MARY ANNE MARSH: It is. You can already see it in the polls. The fact is a lot of people do think John McCain right now will be the third term of George Bush for one simple reason—

SMITH: You know what? He is the farthest thing from-- I mean, let's face it. Over time he and George Bush have been oil and water, haven't they?

MARSH: Well 8 years is an eternity. […] The benefit of this long Democratic primary, Shep, is Barack Obama has become better known and better-liked than John McCain. So when he says things like, 'John McCain's gonna be the third George Bush term,' voters are believing it.

SMITH: Erica, what is it that John McCain can do to sort of shake this new label that's being pinned upon him, 'Third Bush Term'?

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ERIKA ANDERSEN: Well look it's easy for Barack Obama and the Democrats to throw out this "McBush" term. But the truth is, if you look at John McCain's 20-year Senate record, you can see that he's very different from George Bush. In fact, he has been more bipartisan than probably any other nominee for President that we've seen in a very long time. So, to think that the voters are really going to buy this easy target is pretty ridiculous.

SMITH: Bipartisan legislation is something you can look up and that's a fact. […] Nonetheless, **Barack Obama has been able--or his team's been able to come up with a 95% voting the same between George Bush and John McCain**. I mean, how do they get there, and is that part working?

MARSH: It is. […] They got there by taking votes and showing where John McCain marched in lockstep with George Bush. And the fact that George Bush is so unpopular with all voters right now, even Republicans, that's really starting to hurt McCain. You not only see it in the polls, but **there's a reason John McCain raised it […] in the speech he gave Tuesday night. If it weren't hurting him, he wouldn't have addressed it.** The problem is neither McCain, the Republicans or the White House can combat it because they don't have the credibility with the voters right now.
[…]
(clip of MoveOn ad)

SMITH (parroting): *McCousins – two of a kind*.

ANDERSEN: […] Yeah of course there're gonna be some policies that McCain and Bush agree on. But the fact of the matter is that McCain is so vastly different from George Bush that Republicans didn't even want him as their nominee to begin with. […] It's just an easy target. And Barack Obama is just […] being vague, as usual, instead of giving any specifics of what he means by that.

SMITH: […] **I think if people were to look it up and flesh it all out, you'd realize how buddy those 2 really are.**

Highlight #4
McCain Launches Website To Reach Women and Reagan Democrats, Next Week Will Hold Events with Fiorina to Gain Clinton Supporters (FNC 06/05/08 6:00pm)
BRIT HUME: Senator Obama's emergence as the presumptive democratic nominee has left some Hillary Clinton supporters frustrated. Candidate John McCain is moving quickly to try and take advantage of that [...]

CARL CAMERON: John McCain praised democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton at a convention of print reporters in the battleground state of florida. Then began the process of overtly courting Clinton's soon to be former supporters.

[Video Clip of McCain praising HRC]

CAMERON: Now McCain wants to inspire women and others who backed Clinton to flip to him. He has launched a new webpage as part of his overall cyber campaign specifically designed to court two of Clintons most loyal constituencies white woman and white blue collar workers, specifically Regan Democrats
[...]
CAMERON: The McCain camp plans to flood states Clinton won with numerous high profile women for McCain in addition his point person at the republican party headquarters Carly Fiorina plans town hall meetings targeting female small business owners next week [...] [She] seemed to begin her appeal to former Clinton voters earlier this week when she suggested that Clinton had been subjected to sexism, she said women in postions of power are often treated differently and the treatment of Clinton demonstrates it. In other words, come to John McCain he will be different [...]

Democratic Delegate "Redneck" from Texas Launches Website "Hillary Clinton Supporters for John McCain", Fox News Explores McCain's Outreach to Clinton Voters (FNC 06/05/08 5:05pm)
MEGYN KELLY: Well John McCain is also feeling the love tonight and from a surprising group, a Democratic Party delegate from Texas launching a new website called "Hillary Clinton Supporters for John McCain" and it has already scored more than 400,000 hits in five days [...]

CARL CAMERON: This particular website has some pretty harsh rhetoric in it and the guy who actually created it calls himself a 'bible-thumping, gun-toating, redneck.' It's pretty harsh and it has some pretty tough stuff. It includes a lot of material from his former Pastor Reverend Wright [...] Senator McCain has actually unveiled a web page of his own, "Citizens for McCain." And it's designed specifically to court women and white blue collar workers [...] There are a lot of disaffected, even bitter Clinton voters, who say they're not going to be willing to vote for Barack Obama. John McCain is now putting forth a major effort to try to court those folks. Next week there will be business town hall meetings all across

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the country targeting women, small business owners, and entreprenuers. They're also going to make a lot of aggressive use of quotes criticizing Barack Obama from Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton.

Highlight #5

Lou Dobbs Praises Obama's Anti-Lobbyist Policies, Says "McCain, You Got a Lot of Work to Do" (CNN 06/05/08 7:00pm)

LOU DOBBS: Senator Obama, or Senator McCain for that matter, will have a tremendous task of trying to end corruption in our nation's capital. The simple fact is that lobbying firms are a huge industry in the capital and as we've reported here before, there are now 41,386 lobbyists registered with the Senate Public Records Office [...] The Obama and McCain campaigns today responded, sort of, to my challenge here to end the revolving door between presidential administrations and lobbyists. I challenge both candidates to insist that anyone in their administration will not be allowed to serve as a lobbyist for five years and I said the next president should make that a legislative priority in his first 100 days in office [...] Senator Obama has clearly not accepted my challenge but I've got to give him great credit, that is a lot better than what we're getting now [...] As for the McCain campaign, they said they would pass on my challenge today [...] By the way, let me just very direct, good beginning Senator Obama, Senator McCain, you got a lot of work to do.

Newsweek Sr. Editor Takes Swipe at McCain for Burmese Lobbying Connection, Analyzes Differences with Obama on Economy (MSNBC 06/05/08 4:35pm)

DAVID SCHUSTER: Today Barack Obama is trying to underscore that his campaign and his party will not be beholden to any Washington special interests. […]

(video clip of Obama)

SCHUSTER: That of course is something of a rip at John McCain, who has already taken a beating for his ties to lobbyists. […] On the issue of corporate influence, to be fair, it's not as if Barack Obama has excluded all corporate influence on his campaign, right?

DANIEL GROSS: **Well he doesn't exactly have people who have been lobbying for the military regime of Burma on his campaign bus**. But people in his circle have engaged in lobbying. […] And the notion that companies and lobbyists will not contribute to the party is sort of beyond his control. […]

SCHUSTER: Overall, on the economy, break down the fundamental differences in approach between John McCain and Barack Obama […]

GROSS: The contrasts between them on economic policy are almost as sharp [as those on foreign policy]. A couple of years ago, I think McCain and Obama would've been closer to one another on the economy. **But the primary process has pulled McCain to the Right—he's endorsed Bush tax cuts**, which he opposed. And it's pulled Obama to the Left […] And what it comes down to is that on taxes and fiscal policy generally, McCain is embracing the Bush legacy; he wants to extend all those tax cuts. He's a hard core free-trader. And Obama of course is more nuanced […] **So it's really the kind of differences you've seen between Democrats and Republicans in the past, even those these are not conventional candidates for either party**. It's gonna be pretty close to a repeat of 2000 and 2004 on a lot of these economic issues.

SCHUSTER: And Dan, what do you see as the biggest economic issue this summer?

GROSS: Well we can talk about gas prices and housing[…] Along with unemployment […] But […] I think, rather than specific items—like 'let's […] stop foreclosures,' 'let's have a gas tax holiday'—it's this bigger issue of what's gonna happen going forward in the future; are we still gonna be the world's economic leader.

Carly Fiorina Claims McCain Has Run Most Transparent Campaign as Far as Lobbyists (MSNBC 06/05/08 1:41pm)

ANDREA MITCHELL: Carly Fiorina is the Republican National Committee victory chairwomen and McCain supporter and surrogate. That's a lot of money.

CARLY FIORINA: It is!

MITCHELL: Of course, Barack Obama has been a fundraising machine. How do the republicans compete? This is an unusual position for republicans to be in? But your competing against someone who has really revolutionized the way to use the internet and to have small dollar donors who you can keep going back to over and over again.

FIORINA: That's right and we should give Barack Obama his due, but it's also true that now that we're in the general

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election, RNC money counts, Republican National Committee money counts, and DNC money counts. And the RNC has outraised the DNC nine to one. So the truth is today, John McCain has more cash on hand and more money that Barack Obama does. John McCain has, even before this $21 million, about $60 million dollars. Barack Obama, by last count including the DNC, had about $50 million. So we feel really good about the amount of money we have and the ability to run the kind of campaign that John McCain wants to run.

MITCHELL: What does John McCain do to reach out to, perhaps, to disaffected Hillary Clinton supporters? He praised her lavishly Tuesday night, at his speech Tuesday night, when this democratic campaign was all being decided officially. What is his strategy for going after women, going after Independent voters? Going after hispanics, blue collar voters, the core of Hillary Clinton's constituency?

FIORINA: Well, first as we know this election will be won by reaching out to people in the middle. And that includes all of the groups that you just mentioned. John McCain's lavish praise of Hillary Clinton was not some political act. I have been with him privately over the last 15 months and he genuinally has great respect for her, as he does for Barack Obama. We're going to reach out to women by talking to women in particular about the issues that matter to them. Whether it's women as small business owners. Women open small businesses at twice the rate as men do. And so how small businesses are encouraged to grow is an issue of great importance to women. We're going to talk to them about health care, we're going to talk to them about education. When we reach out to Hispanics, we will talk with them about John McCain's leadership on difficult issues like immigration. We will talk to them about values which are important to them, And as well, we'll talk to them about those same things because hispanic small business owners are among he fastest growing segments in our economy today.

MITCHELL: What about putting a women on the ticket?

FIORINA: Well, that's up to John McCain. And I'm sure that he has many qualified women, as well as many qualified men, that he can choose from. And he'll make that decision. But I think women ultimately are going to vote because they believe the candidate for president understands them and represents their views on issues that matter to them.

MITCHELL: Has anyone asked you for your personal data or finances, to start any kind of vetting process?

FIORINA: Well, you know, if a vetting process is done well, you never know you're being asked for it.

MITCHELL: But has it begun in any fashion?

FIORINA: Well, actually I had to be vetted in to take the victory 08 chairman job, so there's been some vetting that has gone on in my case.

MITCHELL: Lobbyists. Big issue already. But today, Barack Obama tried to sort of, raise the stakes. This is what he had to say at an event in Bristol, VA.

BARACK OBAMA: Today, as the democratic nominee for president, I'm announcing that going forward, the Democratic National Committee will uphold the same standards. We will not take a dime from Washington lobbyists or special interest PAC's. We're going to change how Washington works. They will not fund my party. They will not run our White House and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I'm President of the United States of America.

MITCHELL: So, Barack Obama has gotten the Democratic National Committee to accept the standards that he has already established for his campaign. That creates a contrast with republicans.

FIORINA: Well,yes, but I also think the reality creates a contrast with that rhetoric. I can remember being on this show on the past, Andrea, and you and i had talked about how much money Barack Obama had gotten from the pharmaceutical industry, how much money he had gotten from the oil and gas industry. So I think we really need to understand.

MITCHELL: You mean from oil executives?

FIORINA: And from PACS and from people who represent those companies. So I think, as is usually the case, the devil's going to be in the details a little bit here, and we need to understand what he means. Having said that, i would reiterate that John McCain has implemented the most transparent, the most strenuous policy with regard to the connection of lobbyists to his own campaign and he's challenged Barack Obama a number of times to implement the same policy.

MITCHELL: Tuesday night, you had this very stark contrast of John McCain speaking, and then at the same time Barack

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Obama. Barack Obama one of the most articulate, eloquent orators in contemporary politics. John McCain was criticized by many for not being able to read a telepromter and his campaign was criticized for not putting him in the best light. Karen Tumulty in Time Magazine made the point, he said, "Compared with McCain's, Obama's operation has been a model of efficiency and executive function. Obama has already changed the way politics is practiced in America and he is poised to keep doing so." Should McCain ramp up? Should his organization try to compete on the optics? The way Ronald Reagan's campaign did?

FIORINA: Well, I think first, it's important to recognize that Barack Obama is an incredibly gifted speaker. I think it's also important to recognize though, that the candidate has to be themselves. John McCain is a unique leader, it's one of the reasons I have backed him for the last 15 months. He will never be a person of soaring rhetoric. But he is a person that walks the walk. He acts in concert with his beliefs. He is a person of courage and conviction, and I think that as long as the American people see him for who he really is, John McCain will be the next President of the United States.

MITCHELL: And before I let you go. His proposal for town meetings and getting on the bus together, these two candidates going across America, is that realistic?

FIORINA: Well, I hope so. I know that he hopes, and I hope as well that the Obama campaign will accept that challenge because it's an opportunity for people to actually engage in dialogue. And I think if you've ever watched John McCain speak at a town hall, it's a real dialogue. It's not a canned speech, there's no telepromters. It's a give and take, a back and forth between a voter and a candidate, and I think that is what democracy is all about.

Highlight #6

Fox News' Neil Cavuto Says Obama is a "Media Darling" and McCain Thus Has a "Real Fight on His Hands" (FNC 06/05/08 5:00pm)

NEIL CAVUTO: John McCain's got a real fight on his hands, not with Barack Obama, with the media. I don't think I have ever seen such fawning coverage of a candidate. Look clearly history has been made and it is remarkable. The first African American to lead a presidential ticket. It is historic but it is not biblical. Yet somehow, the oldest man ever to capture a party's nomination doesn't have quite the same Kennedy-vega ring to it. So McCain's stories are perfunctory and Obama's darn near legendary. This is what McCain is up against. A guy who's a gifted speaker, smooth debater, but more a media darling. Talk of a TV producer crying when she heard the news Obama clinched it. Still, another anchor insisting America has grown. Still another waxing, "this is remarkable, unprecedented." I don't remember Old John provoking such tears or praise. Anyone calling him remarkable is just old. Even when praised as a hero, he was always the old hero. I kinda see where this is going [...] All I'm saying is let's make this whole American Idol treatment process history as well. John McCain deserves better. And you know something, Barack Obama does too.

Highlight #7

McCain Declared 2nd Worst Person in the World For Lies On Katrina Votes (MSNBC 06/05/08 8:57pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: McCain asked by a New Orleans TV reporter about his having voted twice against the creation of a commission to investigate the levy failures around New Orleans. He denied this. "I've supported, my very dear friends, every investigation in ways to finding out what caused the tragedy. I've been as active as anybody in efforts to restore the city." Perhaps the Senator forgot his votes against establishing the Katrina Response in September of 2005 and again in February 2006. Responses to try to set up committees to investigate what happened to Katrina. Or his votes against financial relief for the victims in September 2005. Or the five months of additional Medicaid payouts from September 2005 which you voted against. Or his vote against the 28 billion emergency funding bill for Katrina victims in May 2006.

Highlight #8

Cindy McCain Segment on ET: Size Zero Jeans And Hairdresser With Her At All Times (CBS 06/05/08 8:15pm)

NANCY O'DELL: Who will be our next first lady? We dissect the women heading to the White House […]

CINDY MCCAIN: I've never lived in Washington D.C., even with him being Senator, he's always commuted home every weekend.

O'DELL: Cindy and John have been married for 28 years. She's a USC grad and a former cheerleader whose an heiress to a beer distributorship that's reportedly worth over $100 million dollars. The mother of 4, she wears a size zero jeans, and has a hairdresser with her on the campaign trail.

MCCAIN: We just have fun, each day on the trail is a new adventure.

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O'DELL: Four years ago, at age 49, Cindy suffered a stroke brought on by high blood pressure.

MCCAIN: It was a little hard, I had a bleed, and it left me paralyzed on one side, my speech was gone.

Highlight #9
Maddow: How McCain Will Choose to Represent His Immigration Stance Still Unclear (MSNBC 06/05/08 7:00)
DAVID GREGORY: Does McCain have sway among Hispanics who remember his position and the break with his party on immigration, to really go toe-to-toe with Obama, who, by the way, certainly had some difficulties against Clinton in that voting group?

RACHEL MADDOW: Yeah, this is one of the thorniest and most fascinating issues that I think that we will be looking at as the campaign progresses because what does McCain say about immigration? Does he highlight the fact that he broke with Bush on this? That he did the immigration bill with Ted Kennedy? He did say then that he would vote against his own bill and that his mind was changed by republican anger on that subject. If he goes out and really tries to court the Latino vote, saying I'm a friend to the immigrant, he may be facing a republican insurgency on that issue. Because there's so much heat on that issue on the anti-immigrant side, on the anti-immigration side among republicans. I think, I have no idea what he is going to say about immigration but I think it's going to be fascinating to watch.

Highlight #10
McCain's New Theme: Reform, Prosperity, and Peace (NBC Nightly News, 06/05/08 7:46pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: McCain's new theme: reform, prosperity, and peace.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 4/29/2015 8:13:53 AM
Subject: News Update - April 29

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, April 29

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Lapid Accuses Netanyahu of Capitulating to Haredim**
- **The Cost of Haredi Demands: Four Billion Shekels**
- **Netanyahu Has Had It 'Up to Here' with Shas, Jewish Home**
- **White House to U.N.: First Iran, then Mideast Peace**
- **Shapiro Noncommittal on US Veto of UN Draft Resolution**
- **Arch-terrorist Mohammed Deif back in control of Hamas military**
- **Jenin, Once the 'Suicide Bomber Capital,' a Fragile Transformation**
- **Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Appoints New Crown Prince**

Commentary:

- **Al-Monitor: "Netanyahu Secures 67 Members for Coalition"**
  - By Ben Caspit
- **Times of Israel: "IDF Training to Retake Gaza in Future Round w/ Hamas"**
  - By Elhanan Miller

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Yedioth Ahronoth

Lapid Accuses Netanyahu of Capitulating to Haredim

Yesh Atid Chairman Yair Lapid was angry about the agreement with United Torah Judaism party and accused Netanyahu of capitulating to the Haredim. "He is having a liquidation sale on everything that is important to the citizens of Israel," he said. "People will be able to continue to not recognize the state, to receive billions of shekels from the taxpayers and not work. Taken together, this is Netanyahu's shameful capitulation to political extortion by an anti-Zionist party that has lost all inhibitions because it knows that the prime minister cannot stand up to its pressure." Yesh Atid faction head MK Ofer Shelah added: "The coalition agreements with the Haredim can be called 'agreements to return the state to the dark-ages.' It is a sell-out."
See also, "Kulanu, UTJ on verge of signing coalition agreement" (BICOM)

Calcalist

The Cost of Haredi Demands: Four Billion Shekels

The overall cost of United Torah Judaism's demands comes to at least NIS 3.7-4 billion. The demand costing the most is to raise child allowances—this will cost approximately NIS 2.6 billion a year. The second costliest demand is the Haredi demand to cancel the cut to the budgets to support married yeshiva students who attend kollels [yeshivas for married students] (which was made under Lapid). This means an addition of NIS 500 million a year, so the overall budget for supporting yeshiva students will come to one billion shekels a year, and more. In addition to these two demands, there are four other demands with a high price.

Israel National News

Netanyahu Has Had It 'Up to Here' with Shas, Jewish Home

With less than a week to go before he is required to present a new government, or let opposition leader Yitzhak Herzog try, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is expressing frustration with potential coalition partners Aryeh Deri and Naftali Bennett. Likud sources said that Netanyahu is accusing the two of trying to "squeeze" him for concessions he cannot make; if this is how the government acts even before it is formed, the sources said, Netanyahu feels he would be better off forming a unity government with Zionist Union.
See also, "Tekuma: Judea and Samaria Construction is Our 'Red Line'" (Israel National News)

Foreign Policy

White House to U.N.: First Iran, then Mideast Peace

The United States has been privately leaning on France and other allies to hold off from pushing a measure at the U.N. Security Council that is designed to force movement on the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process at least until negotiations over Iran's nuclear program have concluded. The American pitch for a delay comes just weeks after French Foreign Minister Fabius announced that he would push in a matter of "weeks" for a new U.N. "parameters" resolution that would set a fixed timetable for negotiating a political settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

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Jerusalem Post

Shapiro Noncommittal on US Veto of UN Draft Resolution

The United States ambassador to Israel refused Wednesday to commit to a veto of anticipated French backed UN Security Council resolution that would create a new international framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and is likely to set a timeline for an Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines. In an interview with Army Radio, the ambassador, Dan Shapiro, said that his government was still in a "wait-and-see" mode given the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has yet to create a coalition and the as-yet-formed government had not announced its policy with regard to the two-state solution. "We are waiting to hear what the new government's position will be, what will be its plan," he told Army Radio. "I think that the Israeli government will take into account its current international predicament."

Israel Radio News

Arch-terrorist Mohammed Deif back in control of Hamas military

Head of Hamas's military wing in Gaza, Mohammed Deif, was not killed in the assassination attempt made by Israel during Operation Protective Edge and is active once again. Deif has been active in strengthening the ties between Hamas and Iran, and has petitioned Iran for money and weapons. Furthermore, Hamas has been building new tunnels with cement that it purchased on the black market and has been manufacturing long-range rockets.
See also, "Hamas rebuilding Gaza forces as military leader returns to the helm" (Ha'aretz)

Times of Israel

Jenin, once the 'suicide bomber capital,' a fragile transformation

It takes some time to accustom our ears to the loud, incessant soundtrack of voices and shouts. There are crowds of people and close to 180 market stalls, all of them loaded with the choicest fruits and vegetables. The new shopping center that opened just a few days ago has already become one of the most popular for the inhabitants of Jenin and for Arab citizens of Israel. This is, perhaps, the story of the "new" Jenin summed up in a few lines. It is no longer the city that Israelis feared from the second intifada. It used to be known as "the capital of the suicide bombers," the most dangerous place in the West Bank. But no one here talks about the intifada or "the war with the Jews" anymore. Everybody talks about salaries and money. The armed men are gone and more and more shopping centers are being opened in an effort to attract the (Arab) Israeli customers who come to visit. (by Avi Issacharoff)

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NBC News

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Appoints New Crown Prince

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz on Wednesday sacked his younger half brother as crown prince and appointed his nephew, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, as the new heir apparent, state television said. He also appointed his son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as deputy crown prince, and replaced veteran foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal with the kingdom's Washington ambassador Adel al-Jubeir. In a decree published by state media, King Salman said he was following in the footsteps of his late brother, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, in seeking the most suitable candidate for the top jobs in the world's top oil exporter.

Al-Monitor - April 29, 2015

Netanyahu Secures 67 Members for Coalition

By Ben Caspit

Barring last-minute changes (a not uncommon occurrence in Israel), Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's fourth government will be sworn in next week. It will be a narrow, right-wing and ultra-Orthodox government, but with a solid majority of 67 Knesset members, hence its nickname: "the 67 government." This does not refer to the '67 border lines, but to the 67 Knesset members of the coalition from which this government will be assembled. Most of these Knesset members do not recognize the two-state solution and the 1967 lines; while these are viewed by the global community as the basis for all negotiations vis-à-vis the Palestinians, these Knesset members view them as fictitious.

This will be the first time that, in the current political era, an ideological right-wing government is established in Israel (with slight exceptions). Although the right has ruled Israel for several decades already (with short breaks), right-wing prime ministers were careful to establish balanced governments with representatives from center, or even center-left blocs. This was true for Ariel Sharon, when the Labor Party was part of his first government (2001-2003); for Netanyahu, whose 2009 government included Labor, too; and Netanyahu's 2013 government, which included Tzipi Livni, now co-leader of the Zionist Camp. This time, Netanyahu lacks any and all major fig leaves; he says that he is carrying out "the will of the voter." He promised an ideological right-wing government, and he is delivering on his promise. This is a dangerous experiment, the consequences of which are uncertain. It is a shame that such an experiment is being carried out on human beings.

Netanyahu went into this escapade joylessly. True, he swore never to betray his electoral base again, but he is an experienced politician who is familiar with the international arena. He would have preferred a more centrist government, with Zionist Camp leader Isaac Herzog as the key stabilizing force in it and the "official whitewasher" of Netanyahu's policies vis-a-vis the United States and Europe. And by the way, Herzog would also be happy to take this role, with the addition of an array of attractive portfolios and a respectable representation in the Cabinet and other policy-making forums.

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Ever since the elections, there were low-key contacts between Netanyahu and Herzog; messages were transmitted, proposals were exchanged, but neither side was ready to close a deal. Both of them, Bibi (Netanyahu) and Buji (Herzog), knew that if they joined forces immediately after the elections, it might be the straw to break the camel's back. Both of them had promised their constituents throughout the entire campaign that they would not sit together after the elections. For the first time in a long time, the Israeli public does not want a unity government. The internal opposition to unity, in the Zionist Camp as well as Likud parties, together with the fear of a harsh public backlash, is what prevented the current unity scheme from coming to fruition.

A source close to Netanyahu disclosed to me additional considerations of the prime minister. "Bibi knew that if he brought Buji into the government now, he would be living on borrowed time; the clock would start ticking toward the fall of the government.

If Herzog joined the government, an immediate rebellion would erupt in the Zionist Camp party, exactly as what happened to [former Prime Minister] Ehud Barak in his time, when he decided to remain in Netanyahu's government after the fall of [former Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert and the Kadima Party. The mutiny would have weakened Herzog and the odds were that he'd be beaten in the primaries, within 14 months. [The party's constitution requires that the primaries for electing the party chairman must be held no later than 14 months after the elections.] In such a case, Netanyahu's fourth government would disintegrate 14 months after its founding, if not earlier. The betrayed right would refuse to save Bibi again and he'd be dragged into elections again, under severe conditions.

"In this state of affairs," continued Netanyahu's associate, "Bibi preferred to first establish a narrow government as he had promised, and go with the flow. Meanwhile, Herzog will run in the primaries as a strong chairman of the opposition, and if he wins and gets another term of office, he could enter the coalition in another year and a half and save Netanyahu from the international tsunami that waits at his door. If Herzog is defeated, then Netanyahu continues in the current setup and hopes for the best."

This is the plan, in general terms. The principle is simple: Better to bring in Herzog after the Zionist Camp primaries, and not before. Until then, we can count on "the 67 government" to lose the last remnants of Israel's international legitimacy and start to collapse under external pressures. Under such circumstances, the Israeli public will be more forgiving should Netanyahu change the composition of his coalition to establish a unity government instead.

Let us not forget that 14 months, in terms of Israeli politics and Middle East events, is an eternity. In this time period, innumerable unexpected events and foretold catastrophes can pop up; thus Bibi's plan can go up in smoke at any given moment.

Meanwhile, let us focus on several personalities and alignments that will constitute the skeleton of Netanyahu's fourth government. The first is Kulanu head Moshe Kahlon, a former Likudnik who was tired with Netanyahu, resigned, founded an independent party and now returns as a strengthened, multi-jurisdictional Finance Minister. Moreover, no one, left or right, can form a government without him. Kahlon is, in essence, the new (Yesh Atid leader and former Finance

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Minister) Yair Lapid, but in contrast to Lapid he is an experienced, shrewd politician, realistic and calculated. He swore to learn his lesson from Lapid, who didn't know how to get the most from the 19 seats he raked up in the 2013 elections.

Kahlon already announced that he will do everything in his power to protect the Supreme Court, and has already managed to avert numerous legislative initiatives of Likud members against the Israeli High Court of Justice (Israel's highest appeal instance).

Though Kahlon is a Likudnik at heart, he holds moderate diplomatic views. In private conversations behind closed doors, he calls HaBayit HaYehudi Chair Naftali Bennett "an irresponsible hilltop youth." It is Kahlon who brings (Yisrael Beitenu leader and current Foreign Minister) Avigdor Liberman into the government on his back, and helps him entrench himself in the Foreign Ministry. Netanyahu toyed with the idea of giving Naftali Bennett the Foreign Ministry portfolio and swearing in a minimalist government of 61 Knesset members, without Liberman.

But Kahlon made it clear that he would not join such a government: As a finance minister who hopes to implement far-reaching reforms, the chances of getting them approved in a Knesset with a majority of only one Knesset member were infinitesimal. Under such circumstances, Bennett will have to make do with the education portfolio and Liberman will remain in the Foreign Ministry.

Will a political alignment form between Liberman and Kahlon? We will only find out after the government is sworn in. In the last two years, Liberman masqueraded as the responsible adult of the region. He held intimate, advanced negotiations with his counterparts in the Arab world (including such who do not have direct diplomatic ties with Israel), talked about a "regional arrangement" and put out fires in Washington. Before the elections, Liberman was forced to follow Netanyahu's footsteps and take a sharp turn to the right.

In the last election campaign, Liberman fought a dangerous slippery slope: The criminal investigation against his party's higher-ups that exploded just before elections seemingly eliminated his re-election chances. At the same time, Netanyahu's encroaching on his right-wing electoral pool, and the polls — which announced that Liberman would not cross the electoral threshold — kept harming him and robbing from him a great part of his electorate. Taking all of this into account, Liberman nevertheless succeeded in garnering six seats, proving that he still is a talented campaigner who has not lost his touch.

The question is what Liberman will want to be when he grows up: What Liberman will we find in the next government? A moderate Liberman-Kahlon axis could become Netanyahu's counterweight against the extremists in the Likud and the HaBayit HaYehudi parties. The Ultra-Orthodox Shas Party head Aryeh Deri is also viewed as a relatively moderate politician, one who expresses himself calmly, who understands the limits of power. It turns out that this future right-wing government of Netanyahu could also have its complicated nuances. Should external pressures on Israel be ratcheted up in a way that inflicts real harm on the Israeli standard of living, security or economy — this may extract different kinds of behaviors even from this government, different than what it currently plans.

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The first harbinger of things to come in the coming year is US Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman's statement April 27. She said, "If the new Israeli government is seen to be stepping back from its commitment to a two-state solution, that will make our job in the international arena [i.e., to protect Israel] much tougher."

Times of Israel - April 29, 2015

IDF training to retake Gaza in possible future round with Hamas

By Elhanan Miller

Assessing that Hamas will continue to rule the Gaza Strip for the foreseeable future, the IDF is training for the possible reconquering of the entire coastal Palestinian territory in a future confrontation with the Islamic organization, the Times of Israel has learned.· Despite the harsh blow Hamas and Islamic Jihad sustained in Operation Protective Edge last July and August, Israel's military command is convinced that another round of fighting between Israel and Gaza is only a matter of time.

The Israeli leadership sees no prospect of the Palestinian Authority gaining control of the Strip, as it continues to demand, and would prefer to face a weakened Hamas than the anarchy of unruly organizations, some of which harbor extremist Islamist ideologies.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad lost 1,000 combatants in the 50 days of fighting with Israel, including many low- and mid-ranking commanders. The remaining 1,100 Palestinian fatalities in the war are believed to be innocent civilians caught in the line of fire.

Hamas had wanted to take Israel by surprise at the outset of last summer's operation by planning to launch a massive terror attack on an Israeli community near the Kerem Shalom crossing through a tunnel dug beneath the border. The organization's political leadership decided to postpone the attack, however, allowing Israel to strike first. That decision has bred a lasting crisis of faith between Hamas's military wing — which pushed for decisive action — and the more cautious political branch.· The rift between the two branches manifests itself in their preference of regional allies. While the military wing, headed by Muhammad Deif, opts for closer ties with Iran (which continues to fund it to the tune of millions of dollars in cash smuggled from Egypt), the political wing, led by Khaled Mashaal in Qatar, is vying for rapprochement with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Deif, who has survived numerous Israeli assassination attempts, continues to command Hamas's Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades on both the strategic and tactical levels. Marwan Issa, a top commander of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, is emerging as one of the most powerful men in Hamas's leadership, serving as intermediary between the political and military branches.

Meanwhile, eight months after the ceasefire, Hamas has resumed tunnel digging in full force, employing over 1,000 diggers working in three shifts six days a week. The materials used for the tunnels include concrete bought on the black market, as well as wood and hard plastic.

In addition, it is training elite marine and ground forces, known in Arabic as *Nukhba,* and developing new drones and long-range missiles funded by Tehran.

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On the Egyptian front, Hamas is helping to train offensive forces in the Sinai Peninsula to carry out coordinated attacks against Israel. While supplying arms and medical assistance to Islamic State operatives in the Sinai, Hamas strictly adheres to the ceasefire with Israel in Gaza, preventing rocket launches with forces deployed along the border.

Quoting a senior Egyptian security source, Palestinian Ma'an news agency reported on Tuesday that Egypt has begun to take more robust measures to prevent the digging of new tunnels from Gaza into Sinai, pumping water underground using 50 machines to flood the tunnels and cause them to collapse. Egypt is also expanding the current no-go buffer zone along its 13-kilometer (8-mile) border with Gaza from one kilometer to five. Within months, Egypt plans to dig a water canal from the Mediterranean to the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, hoping to eradicate underground tunnels once and for all.

According to Ma'an, Israel has also allowed Egypt to introduce heavy artillery and F-16 fighter jets into Sinai in its war on local terror cells, for the first time since the signing of the Camp David Peace Accords in 1979.

Israel understands that the key to lasting calm in Gaza lies with the combination of effective military deterrence and relative economic prosperity. With the Egyptian border closed indefinitely to Gaza, the impoverished, devastated Strip grows increasingly dependent on Israel for its sustenance.

The new Israeli government will soon be requested to allow in hundreds of day laborers from Gaza, for the first time in years, augmenting the recent license given for the export of agricultural produce.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 6:57:44 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I defer if others think this buys us good will with Sanders people, but email jokes in Iowa usually end up badly and don't we want to move on?

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I think Podesta has some concerns about referencing emails, even like this

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 12:17 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

That works too Joel.
I think her using it shows strength
Not worried about credit for Bernie

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:59 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:

I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.

Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.

If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.

Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"

From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?

I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis

Sent from my iPhone.

Please excuse typos.

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On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> wrote:

All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…

Thinking.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Cc: Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com>, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com" <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com" <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:

Not ninnies.

We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

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On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald

Grunwald Communications

202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head

On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

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Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.

This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

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I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.

I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

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I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/10/2015 6:15:34 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday January 10, 2015 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday January 10, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "For 2016 Democratic hopefuls, a delay of game"

"As compared to 2008, the field this time around could be best described as quiet, with most cooling their heels until spring."

The New York Times: "Mitt Romney Says He's Considering a 2016 Presidential Run"

"Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, told a group of donors in New York on Friday that he was considering running for president again next year, sending a signal to the party's financiers that they should not yet commit to Jeb Bush."

BuzzFeed: "The Last Temptation Of Mitt"

"'He's not going to be intimidated by Bill Clinton sitting in the front row of a debate, looking at him,' the adviser said of Romney. 'His dad has run for president. He's run before.'"

Talking Points Memo: "A Deformed Woman: Hillary Clinton and the Men Who Hate Her"

"Here's what happened the last time Hillary Clinton ran for president: she drove men wild. Well, certain men. Especially certain men on the right. You could recognize them by the flecks of foam in the corners of their mouths when the subject of her candidacy arose. And they're already girding themselves for the next time around, because there's something about Hillary that just gets them all worked up."

Politico: "Mitt Romney says he's considering a 2016 run"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"Mitt Romney told a group of longtime supporters on Friday that he is considering running for president, a major turnaround for a past GOP nominee who just a year ago categorically ruled out a 2016 run."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "What the heck is Mitt Romney doing?"

"The simplest answer is because a part of Romney would still like to be president and he doesn't want someone else -- named Jeb Bush -- to foreclose that possibility for him."

Vox: "5 reasons every Republican is running for president"

"5) They can all position themselves as an alternative to Hillary Clinton"

Slate: "The Warren Commission"

[Subtitle:] "In a new focus group, voters agreed about one thing: Elizabeth Warren is one of the most intriguing contenders for 2016."

Articles:

MSNBC: "For 2016 Democratic hopefuls, a delay of game"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

January 9, 2015, 2:39 p.m. EST

Democratic aspirants are taking a more leisurely approach to 2016, even as Republican presidential hopefuls are scrambling to lock down top political talent and raise campaign cash more quickly than their potential rivals.

Flashback to this point during the 2008 presidential cycle: Three major Democratic candidates — Tom Vilsack, John Edwards, and Dennis Kucinich — had already declared their candidacies, while announcements from Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Chris Dodd were coming right around the corner in later January. As compared to 2008, the field this time around could be best described as quiet, with most cooling their heels until spring.

The only candidate officially looking at a run right now is former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, who announced an exploratory committee in November. But he's since gone dark, and hasn't made a public appearance since Dec. 3. And spokesperson says he will be out of commission for some time as he recuperates from knee surgery.

"Jim has just undergone a full knee replacement as a consequence of shrapnel wounds received from an enemy grenade," spokesperson Craig Crawford said Friday. "He is out of the hospital and recovering quite well. The upside is he can catch up with the new season of 'Downton Abbey.'"

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Webb served in Vietnam and received shrapnel wounds while shielding a fellow Marine during a daring maneuver, for which he was later awarded the Navy Cross.

Earlier in the week, Crawford told msnbc that Webb is in “merely an exploratory phase.” “Right now there are no events on the schedule. That will come if Jim decides to run,” he said.

Thursday night during an appearance at the University of Chicago, former Gov. Martin O’Malley said he is “seriously considering” a run in 2016, but added that he’s going to take the next few months to resettle his family after he leaves the governor’s mansion in two weeks. He told the Associated Press afterwards that he’ll make a decision on whether to run by the spring.

Back in Washington, Sen. Bernie Sanders — who has also said he is seriously eyeing a run — is busy with a new job in the new Senate, and so far has no political events publicly scheduled this month, a spokesperson said, though that could change going forward. He is scheduled to headline a progressive summit in Pennsylvania in February. Sanders previously said he’ll decide in March on a possible bid for president.

While the presumed front-runner on the Republican side, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, jump-started Republicans with an early declaration that he will explore entering the race, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton appears be aiming for a spring announcement date. “She’s the pacesetter in this thing,” veteran Democratic strategist Tad Devine, who is advising Sanders, told msnbc.

Clinton has two speeches sponsored by a bank in Canada scheduled for later this month, and two more private appearances planned for February and March, but so far nothing else has been announced publicly. Her plans as of now also don’t include public appearances in the key presidential race state of Iowa and New Hampshire anytime soon. “Things are pretty quiet in the near term,” said Clinton spokesperson Nick Merrill.

Nonetheless, there is plenty happening beneath the surface as Clinton quietly assembles a prospective campaign team.

Shortening the primary campaign in an attempt to run out the clock while in a strong position is a classic move for front-runners. But with Clinton leaving the field open, some Democratic operatives are puzzled as to why her potential rivals don’t seem eager to take advantage of the vacuum.

“For any of the candidates, time is the most valuable resource that they’ve got,” said John Davis, an Iowa native and former Edwards aide who went on to serve as chief of staff to Iowa Rep. Bruce Braley. “Activists and folks in Iowa are ready for candidates to get on the ground.”

O’Malley, like Edwards, deployed staff and money to early presidential states to help Democratic candidates in the midterm elections before their prospective runs. But Edwards made a point of keeping his operation in the state up and running, transitioning it into a presidential run, instead of closing down shop after the midterms.

While Webb has health reasons for staying off the trail, O’Malley on Thursday alluded to personal reasons relating to his family.

A lack of finances could also be a hindrance for some potential candidates, since deploying a campaign requires major resource commitments. Eventually, though, candidates will make it to the field.

“You can’t explore without leaving the house,” Davis said.

The New York Times: “Mitt Romney Says He’s Considering a 2016 Presidential Run”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Jonathan Martin and Nicholas Confessore

January 9, 2015

WASHINGTON — Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, told a group of donors in New York on Friday that he was considering running for president again next year, sending a signal to the party's financiers that they should not yet commit to Jeb Bush.

Meeting with about 30 contributors in the Manhattan office of the New York Jets owner, Woody Johnson, Mr. Romney said he was "thinking about it," according to Spencer Zwick, a longtime adviser who was at the meeting, first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

"Mitt is considering it because he thinks he can make a difference," said Mr. Zwick, who has been among the loyalists to Mr. Romney hoping he will pursue a third race for the White House.

Mr. Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, first ran for president in 2008. He had said repeatedly since his loss to President Obama in 2012 that he would not run again.

His apparent interest in another bid comes as Mr. Bush, a former Florida governor, has dominated the news with a series of steps toward a presidential run. He has started both a leadership political action committee and a "super PAC," and has begun traveling the country to meet with Republican contributors — including, this week, in the Boston area, for years Mr. Romney's home. Mr. Bush has also repeatedly criticized Mr. Romney's 2012 campaign in recent weeks.

Mr. Zwick said that Mr. Romney's decision would not hinge on who else was in the race, but he did acknowledge that Mr. Romney's comments on Friday could cause some high-level Republican donors to at least hold off on committing to Mr. Bush.

"If there are donors thinking in a vacuum, 'I'm with Jeb because Mitt is not running,' then of course they are now going to have more to think about," he said.

The two former governors are not close. Mr. Romney's loyalists have not forgotten that Mr. Bush did not endorse Mr. Romney's 2012 campaign until the latter half of March, when Mr. Romney already had a firm grasp on the Republican nomination. And Mr. Bush could barely conceal his dislike for how Mr. Romney handled the immigration issue in both of his presidential primary campaigns.

Mr. Zwick said that Mr. Romney would most likely have to make a decision "over the next 60 days."

Mr. Romney had told donors at past events, including one in Houston shortly before last year's election, that he did not intend to run again, but he did not rule it out. He told those supporters that he would run if it looked as though others in the Republican field could not win a general election, and if leading party figures encouraged him to enter the race.

Asked what had changed since those conversations, Mr. Zwick said, "He's looked at the landscape of issues out there."

The meeting on Friday, which included several people on a conference call line, gathered some of Mr. Romney's top fund-raisers and donors from the 2012 campaign, including Patrick Durkin, a managing director at Barclays Capital; the investor Julian Robertson; the hedge fund manager Anthony Scaramucci; the New York Yankees president, Randy Levine; and Edward Conard, a former executive at the private equity firm Bain Capital. Mr. Johnson, the Jets owner, remains uncommitted in the 2016 race and did not participate in the discussion.

Mr. Romney told the group that his wife, Ann, was increasingly in favor of a third presidential bid, although their sons had mixed emotions, according to people who attended. But he added that he believed he was "the best candidate, with the best solutions, the best ideas," according to one of the attendees.

Mr. Romney asked each person in turn what he or she thought of his chances. Some gently criticized the management of his 2012 campaign, guests said, while others encouraged him to run.

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Mr. Zwick emphasized that Mr. Romney recognized how difficult it could be to run a third time. “That’s why he hasn’t announced anything,” he said.

BuzzFeed: “The Last Temptation Of Mitt”

By McKay Coppins

January 9, 2015, 10:31 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] How Romney got from 11 nos to maybe on the question of 2016 — and what he has to decide before he takes the plunge. “Can you imagine what Ted Cruz is going to do to Jeb Bush?” one Romney insider tells BuzzFeed News.

It wasn’t long after Mitt Romney tottered off the national stage in November, 2012, bringing an end — it seemed — to the long, tragic story of his political career, when Spencer Zwick started getting phone calls from conservative millionaires who were clamoring for one last sequel.

Zwick, the square-jawed finance wunderkind who masterminded the candidate’s phenomenally successful fundraising operation in 2012, had returned after the election to the private equity firm he co-founded with Romney’s son, Tagg — but Mitt’s network of GOP money men wouldn’t stop hounding him. Inside Solamere Capital’s pristine, white-walled offices on Boston’s trendy Newbury Street, Zwick often found himself on the phone with major Republican fundraisers, bundlers, and donors putting the same questions to him.

“I got calls from people every day asking, ‘Do you think he’ll do it? How can we convince him to do it?’” Zwick said in an interview with BuzzFeed News.

With Friday’s news that Romney told a group of donors he was now actively considering a third presidential bid in 2016, it appears the boosters have gotten through. “Everybody in here can go tell your friends that I’m considering a run,” the former candidate told the gathering in midtown Manhattan, according to Politico. But insiders who spoke to BuzzFeed News about Romney’s evolution on the 2016 question said he only began to entertain the possibility recently, and that he still needs to weigh a number of factors — including Jeb Bush’s electability — before he decides to take the plunge.

Zwick didn’t need donors to convince him that the ex-nominee should run again; as a longtime loyalist who had worked closely with Romney from the Salt Lake City Olympics to the Massachusetts governor’s office and beyond, he said he repeatedly urged his mentor to keep his options open after the 2012 election.

“My argument was that 60 million people already voted for this guy,” Zwick said. “He has the experience, he has the background, he has the skill set. My view is if we’re going to beat Hillary Clinton or Elizabeth Warren or whoever they nominate, we have to find somebody who can not only get through the primary, but who knows he can do the job. I don’t see somebody in the [Republican] field who has the skill set he does. My view is he has to do this.”

But despite all the cheerleading, Zwick said Romney was genuinely averse to the idea of a third run all through 2013 and much of 2014 — a sentiment that often came through whenever reporters asked him about his political future. For example, when a New York Times reporter interviewed him a year ago after the Sundance Film Festival screening of the documentary, Mitt — a sympathetic portrayal that did much to rehabilitate his image, at least in the political class — she asked whether he would run again. His response: “Oh no, no, no. No, no, no, no, no. No, no, no.”

Most political observers counted the nos (there were 11) and took the emphatic denial at face value.

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"I truly think that it was never a thought that he would ever do it again," Zwick said.

But then, the midterm elections kicked into gear and Romney — who became an in-demand surrogate and fundraiser, stumping in races across the country — caught the campaign bug again.

"Through the 2014 elections, he spent a lot of time on the road talking to voters," Zwick said. "He was reminded once again being on the trail that there are a lot of really important issues facing the country and he has the skill set to solve them, and that has weighed heavily on him."

The midterms also corresponded with a wave of stories in the political press about a possible Romney 2016 bid, many of which originated with supporters who wanted to fertilize the speculation. It worked; the stories ensured that hopeful donors would keep calling Zwick and other people they believed to have Romney's ear, making the media predictions a self-fulfilling prophecy. Zwick said he couldn't point to one day or event that changed the ex-candidate's mind, but he eventually began to see more willingness on Romney's part to engage the idea.

Another former campaign adviser said Romney has been troubled by the Obama administration's foreign policy, and what he sees as the disastrous consequences of the United States shrinking from its role as international leader.

"Mitt has been waking up every morning watching what's happening to the world, and he's incredibly distressed," said the adviser, who requested anonymity to speak without Romney's permission. He added that the former candidate believes his widely mocked 2012 warnings about Russia being "our number one geopolitical foe" — along with other hawkish campaign rhetoric — has been vindicated by world events. "Mitt predicted everything."

As he weighs his choices in the coming weeks, Romney won't be deterred by which candidates enter the primary, or by any displays of fundraising muscle-flexing, Zwick said. Earlier on Friday, Bloomberg Politics reported that Bush's team set a fundraising goal of $100 million for the first three months of this year in an effort to scare off prospective primary opponents. (Bush's spokesperson said the goal came from donors, and that their actual target is "far more modest.")

But Zwick said fundraising is the least of their concerns.

"It's a primary," he said. "You go back, there's always been multiple candidates in the race that could raise money…. And he has actually already won a primary before."

According to one former adviser, the biggest political question Romney will be considering as he makes his decision is whether Bush will be able to make it to the general election.

"Look, Jeb's a good guy. I think the governor likes Jeb," the adviser said. "But Jeb is Common Core, Jeb is immigration, Jeb has been talking about raising taxes recently. Can you imagine Jeb trying to get through a Republican primary? Can you imagine what Ted Cruz is going to do to Jeb Bush? I mean, that's going to be ugly."

The adviser added that aside from Bush, Romney doesn't believe any of the Republicans in the field are ready to take on Hillary Clinton in the general election.

"He's not going to be intimidated by Bill Clinton sitting in the front row of a debate, looking at him," the adviser said of Romney. "His dad has run for president. He's run before."

Talking Points Memo: "A Deformed Woman: Hillary Clinton and the Men Who Hate Her"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Laura Kipnis

[No Date Mentioned]

[END NOTE:] Excerpted from MEN: Notes from an Ongoing Investigation by Laura Kipnis published by METROPOLITAN BOOKS, an imprint of HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY, LLC. Copyright © 2014 by Laura Kipnis. All rights reserved.

Here's what happened the last time Hillary Clinton ran for president: she drove men wild. Well, certain men. Especially certain men on the right. You could recognize them by the flecks of foam in the corners of their mouths when the subject of her candidacy arose. And they're already girding themselves for the next time around, because there's something about Hillary that just gets them all worked up.

But what exactly? Despise her they do, yet they're also strangely drawn to her, in some inexplicably intimate way. She occupies their attention. They spend a lot of time thinking about her—enumerating her character flaws, dissecting her motives, analyzing her physical shortcomings with a penetrating, clinical eye: those thick ankles and dumpy hips, the ever-changing hairdos. You'd think they were talking about their first wives. There's the same over-invested quality, an edge of spite, some ancient wound not yet repaired. And how they love conjecturing upon her sexuality! Or lack of, heh heh. Is she frigid, is she gay? Heh heh. Yes, they have many theories about her, complete with detailed forensic analyses of her marriage, probably more detailed than their thoughts about their own.

My point is that you can tell a lot about a man by what he thinks about Hillary, maybe even everything. She's not just another presidential candidate, she's a sophisticated diagnostic instrument for calibrating male anxiety, which is running high. Understandably, given that the whole male-female, who-runs-the-world question is pretty much up for grabs.

As our tour guides into these subterranean psychical thickets, I've enlisted a selection of Hillary's right-wing biographers to lead the way, or more specifically, a selection of authors obsessed enough to write entire books about a woman they detest while still being lucid enough to find a commercial publisher. Unfortunately this excluded self-published works like Hillary Clinton Nude: Naked Ambition, Hillary Clinton And America's Demise by Sheldon Filger, but even the painfully repetitious title screamed for the interventions of a professional editor, and life is short. I also declined to read any books that came with voodoo dolls; sadly this ruled out The Hillary Clinton Voodoo Kit: Stick It to Her, Before She Sticks It to You! by Turk Regan, but as fuming tirades were in no short supply, I felt that I could afford to be choosy.

Biographies, even bad ones, are the record of a relationship: temporary marriages, so to speak. More than a few self-reflective biographers have admitted as much. And for whatever reasons, Hillary seems to attract a certain type of husband: guys with a lot of psychological baggage, emotional intensity, and messy inner lives.

Let's begin with Emmett Tyrrell, Jr., author of Madame Hillary: The Dark Road to the White House, since if Hillary's biographer-foes sound like embittered ex-husbands, in Tyrrell, founder and editor-in-chief of the far-right American Spectator, we're fortunate to have a biographer who's occasionally mused in print about his actual ex-wife. So who gets it worse—Hillary or the ex? Actually it's a toss-up. Who would have predicted: coincidentally it turns out that Madame Tyrrell and Madame Hillary share an uncanny number of similar traits. Hillary's a self-righteous, self-regarding narcissist, "a case study in what psychiatrists call 'the controlling personality," and assumes the world will share her conviction that she's always blameless. Compare with Tyrrell on the soon-to-be-ex, from his political memoir The Conservative Crack-Up: "She resorted to tennis, then religion, and then psychotherapy. Finally she tried divorce—all common American coping mechanisms for navigating middle age." When Tyrrell worries that suburban women will secretly identify with Hillary's independence and break from their husbands' politics in the privacy of the voting booth, clearly suburban women's late-breaking independence is territory he has cause to know and fear.

Hillary's disposition is dark, sour, and conspiratorial; she has a paranoid mind, a combative style, is thin-skinned, and "prone to angry outbursts." Whereas the ex-Mrs. T., we learn, was afflicted with "random wrath"; and as divorce negotiations were in their final stages, threatened to make the proceedings as public and lurid as possible. Hillary has "a prehensile nature," which makes it sound like she hangs from branches by her feet. (Tyrrell has always fancied himself a latter day Mencken, flashing his big vocabulary around like a thick roll of banknotes.) And while he nowhere actually says that his ex-wife hung from branches by her feet, the reference to protracted divorce negotiations probably indicates that "grasping"—the definition of prehensile (I had to look it up)—is a characterization he wouldn't argue with. When Tyrrell writes of Bill and Hillary that there was an emotional side to the arrangement, with each fulfilling the other's idiosyncratic needs, as we see, he's been there himself.

Threatening ex-wives, property settlements, bad breath—not exactly lighthearted stuff. Tyrrell at least tries to be amusing about it, in the sense that love transformed into hatred can be amusing, in a bilious, horribly painful sort of way. Not so with Edward Klein, author of the bestselling The Truth About Hillary, and a tragically humorless type. When Klein rants, "As always with Hillary, it was all about her," note the rancid flavor of marital over-familiarity—he's really just had it with her. He's practically venomous. Though he's also so suspicious of her sexual proclivities that unintentional humor abounds: he's like an angry Inspector Clouseau with gaydar. The inconvenient fact that there's no particular evidence Hillary bends that way dissuades him not.

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Thus we learn that Hillary went to a college with a long tradition of lesbianism (Wellesley), where she read a lot of lesbian literature, and two of her college friends would later become out-of-the-closet lesbians, and later, some of her Wellesley classmates were invited for “sleepovers” to the White House? (Get it? Sleepovers.) In 1972, a Methodist church magazine she subscribed to published a special issue on radical lesbian and feminist themes edited by two—you guessed it—lesbians. In college, her role models were feminists who refused to wear pretty clothes, and sometimes appeared mannish; her White House Chief of Staff was also mannish looking. Though according to Klein, Hillary never much liked sex to begin with. Sounding like a Monty Python rendition of a Freudian analyst, Klein speculates about a fight Hillary once had with a college boyfriend about not wanting to go skiing; skiing, say Klein, “might have been a substitute for an honest discussion about her sexual frigidity.” The episode ended with Hillary retreating into “icy silence.” Get it? Icy. (He also quotes Richard Nixon, of all people, who says that Hillary is “ice cold.”)

Yet Klein reports that Hillary had a torrid affair with Vince Foster, the deputy White House counsel (and her former law partner) who later committed suicide. This would make her a frigid closeted bisexual adulteress, for anyone keeping track.

If it’s a handy truism that constant sexual innuendos mask a discomfort with sex, then Klein is one uptight dude. But there’s so much sexual angst among these guys generally, along with quite mixed feelings about the female body itself. When Klein writes of Hillary’s lower regions that though she’s “a small-boned woman from the waist up, she was squat and lumpy from the waist down, with wide hips, calves, and ankles,” the blatant bodily aversion in the phrase “squat and lumpy” isn’t just a disagreement with her health care plan. Klein’s concentration on Clinton’s physical appearance is so microscopic that you fully expect to turn the page and find an index of her moles, accompanied by a close reading of what they indicate about her moral insufficiencies.

None of this is exactly a testimonial to his deep self-acuity. Or very attractive propensities in a man, it must be said. Though maybe he’s unconsciously identifying when he writes that Hillary had “always thought of herself as an ugly duckling,” and particularly hated her body, which caused her to neglect her personal appearance as a young woman, and go around dressed like a hippie in shapeless clothes, and with hair that looked like it hadn’t been washed for a month. Or secretly commiserating about her feeling “so hopelessly unattractive that she did not bother to shave her legs and underarms, and deliberately dressed badly so she would not have to compete with more attractive women in a contest she could not possibly win.” I feel compelled to note, if we’re going down this path, that—having seen a few photos of the author—this is a man who can’t have felt entirely secure about his competitive mettle on this score either.

Hillary’s physicality really does loom large for her biographers. Tyrrell too spends many passages mocking her youthful hairdos, down to the thick eyebrows which once “would have collected coal dust in a Welsh mining village.” In other words, she’s an overly hairy woman, in addition to everything else. Hairdo, eyebrows—thankfully we’re not privy to data on the condition of her bikini line. Tyrrell sounds like an aspirant for the Vidal Sassoon endowed chair on the Clinton-hating Right when he concludes that Hillary’s “search for the perfect hairstyle has finally been resolved into a neatly elegant businesswoman’s coiffure” and that she “seems to have turned her hair into a major strength.” He also concedes that Hillary “flirts well” and has evolved into “a handsome woman.” Klein gets in a few digs on this point himself, as you’d expect, benevolently mentioning that Hillary’s the kind of homely woman whose looks have improved with age, then trotting out another anonymous medial expert to testify that she’s been “Botoxed to the hilt.”

No, Hillary doesn’t exactly elicit the best in her foes. On the sexual creepiness meter, Klein gets some stiff competition from Carl Limbacher, who writes for the far-right news outlet NewsMax and is the author of Hillary’s Scheme: Inside the Next Clinton’s Ruthless Agenda to Take the White House. Here’s another biographer a little too keen to nose out the truth about Hillary’s sexuality: Bill Clinton is a predator, Hillary digs it, and this is the key that unlocks her character. If Hillary didn’t literally hold down the victims while Bill did the deed, she was complicit nonetheless—“a victimizer who actually enabled her husbands predations,” since “a woman with half the intellect of Hillary Clinton would understand that she’s married to a ravenous sexual predator at best—a brutal serial rapist at worst.” At least he compliments her intellect. I’m dying to know what Limbacher imagines Hillary’s wearing when he fantasizes about her in the henchwoman-to-rape role—her Ilsa, She-Wolf of the SS outfit or the navy blue pantsuit.

As we see, the problem for Hillary’s biographers isn’t that a woman’s aspiring to be president—none of them mount an actual argument against women as presidential candidates. The problem is that Hillary’s a deformed woman. She’s a sadist, a victim, asexual, a dyke—maybe all at once.

Taking the measure of Hillary’s perverted femininity also preoccupies John Podhoretz in Can She Be Stopped: Hillary Clinton Will Be the Next President of the United States Unless… On the one hand, Podhoretz wants to like Hillary, even though he finds her tough to warm up to as a woman: she never figured out what to do with her hair and clothes, in his diagnosis, she isn’t a raving beauty, and her manner is almost pathologically unsexy. Interestingly, Podhoretz thinks this anti-feminine quality may actually work in her favor: being “neither girlish nor womanly” with a “hard to describe style” could be the perfect blend for the first woman president, he muses, since a president has to be a little scary, not seem emotional—basically she should be an unlikable bitch. “And Hillary is a bitch.” Feigning worry that saying this kind of thing makes him sounds sexist—while clearly admiring himself for saying it—he explains that a woman presidential candidate needs to show she can be manly, and if any woman politician can pass for a tough guy, it’s Hillary. This scares him, though in a sweaty, enthralled sort of way. Call him Mr. Conflicted.

But maybe inner maelstroms come with the territory when Mom is the ultra-conservative doyenne and fiery anti-feminist, Midge Decter, author of numerous books denouncing the women’s movement and the dupes who fell for it. Dad is the notoriously pugnacious neo-con, Norman. When

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Podhoretz says, incoherently, that Hillary had an “easy path due in part to feminism,” he sounds like the dutiful son, channeling Midge. What mother could ask for more? But things can’t have been easy for John: between the powerhouse mom, the romantic impetuosities and flip-flops, and the politically strange-bedfellows current marriage (though I’m sure they’re a lovely couple), Podhoretz has more than his share of family baggage when it comes to love and politics. As has Hillary herself, needless to say—in a better world the two of them could have a fascinating heart-to-heart on the subject.

Instead, Podhoretz spends a good chunk of his book proffering weird advice to Hillary on how to position herself to win the election, even while bashing her senseless at every turn. Example: to avoid being upstaged by Bill, Hillary should treat him “as though he were her father—there to provide her with emotional support and little else.” Here we pause to note that Podhoretz is someone whose career has always been upstaged by his more famous father. How can the reader keep her footing amidst this mad swirl of relatives, husbands, ambitions, and projections?

By the way, Emmett Tyrrell has some free advice for Hillary too: she should get herself a divorce, and pronto. Since Bill is not only goatish but also “ithyphallic” (I had to look that up too), Hillary could present herself to women voters as “a victim of the male penile imperative,” then start dating again. I imagine Tyrrell is so pro-divorce because his own life improved so dramatically following one, especially on the penile imperative front. His fans will doubtless recall Tyrrell’s bubbly reports about life as a swinging bachelor, picking up “terrific co-eds” at various right-wing think-tank shindigs, and not returning home alone. Yes, conservatives do score, as Tyrrell—who charges Hillary with having been too self-disclosing in her memoir, Living History—makes sure to let us know. His preference is for the “soignée” and “physiologically well-appointed,” though unfortunately one of his soignée dates is mistaken for a hooker when he drops by a conservative gathering at the Lehrman Institute on his way to Au Club, a then-happening Manhattan nightspot. (A friend explains that when a conservative shows up somewhere with a beautiful woman, he’s usually paying by the hour.)

Tyrrell has actually been quite the gallant about aging female Republicans in the past, waxing lyrical about right-wing sex kitten Phyllis Schlafly’s foxiness and Nancy Reagan’s large beautiful eyes, both of whom are perhaps a quarter century his senior—to which one can only say, “You go, Bob.”

But could he ever go for a Democrat? As most agree, Hillary’s aging well, and Tyrrell hasn’t been entirely critical. On the plus side, she reminds him of Madame Mao, the “white boned demon” who was never more dangerous than when wearing a seductive guise, and Tyrrell is on record as a man who likes a seductive guise. However, in an exceedingly strange passage toward the end of the book, we learn that Hillary’s ultimate dream is to be commandant of a “national Cambodian re-education camp for anyone caught wearing an Adam Smith necktie or scarf.” Or perhaps it’s also an extermination camp, since he adds: “Welcome to Camp Hillary. Please remove your glasses and deposit them on the heap. (Was that a flash of gold I saw in your teeth?)” Yes, it’s off to the killing fields for Tyrrell and his kind—having received her political education at the feet of Pol Pot, it’s definitely curtains for the bourgeois enemy once Hillary takes the reins. I think Tyrrell means all this to be witty. He concludes by telling readers he’s “taking the high road, since hatred is an acid on the soul.”

Here we’ve entered the realm of male hysteria, where reason and intellect go to die, though Tyrrell can be a hoot for those who find this kind of thing entertaining.

Speaking of male hysteria brings us to the case of Tyrrell’s protégé at the American Spectator, David Brock, and his biography, The Seduction of Hillary Rodham. After receiving a million dollar book advance to write a smear job on Hillary similar to the one he’d previously performed on Clarence Thomas accuser Anita Hill (Brock was famously the author of the “a bit nutty and a bit slutty” line about Hill), a strange thing happened when he tried to plunge the dagger again. Somehow he couldn’t. Sure there was the stuff about the 60s radicalism that Hillary never really abandoned, including a catty analysis of her college wardrobe. And like the rest, he spends pages enumerating her bodily crimes and misdemeanors: given her thick legs she adopted the sort of “loose-fitting, flowing pants favored by the Viet Cong” (just call her Ho Chi Rodham); along with these, she sported white socks and sandals (here, even I must protest), wore no makeup, piled her hair on top of her head, and “came from the ‘look-like-shit school of feminism.’” Even once ensconced in the professional world she cut a “comic figure” with her hair fried into an Orphan Annie perm and a “huge eyebrow across her forehead that looked like a giant caterpillar.”

But more of the time it’s an intermittently compassionate portrait of a gawky, brainy, well-intentioned Midwestern girl swept off her feet by a charismatic Southern charmer, who migrated to the backwaters of Arkansas—or Dogpatch, as Brock likes to call it—to advance Bill’s political fortunes, sacrificing herself and her principles for love. Bill repaid her by having sex with everyone in sight. But Hillary wasn’t a phony, and shouldn’t have had to play the part to advance Bill’s career, Brock insists—he even says that her physical appearance should never have become a political issue, notwithstanding the amount of time he devotes to cataloguing it.

One of fascinating aspects of Brock’s employment situation was that he happens to be gay and the Spectator happens to regularly fulminate against gay rights, as did his yappy boss Tyrrell whenever given the chance. When Brock speculates that Hillary might have been “perversely drawn to the rejection implied by Bill’s philandering,” willing to accept compromises and humiliation in the sexual arena because of the greater good she and Bill could together accomplish, Brock—who’d once thrown a gala party to celebrate the hundredth day of Newt Gingrich’s anti-gay Contract With America—could have been describing his own career arc too. The big problem for him was that he ended up identifying with Hillary when he was supposed to be vilifying her. Some mysterious alchemy took place in the course of his writing this book: instead of exposing Hillary to the world, she exposed Brock to himself. The result was a stormy break-up with his pals on the Right: he became persona non grata in his former circles.

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But he and Hillary had some sort of imaginary bond, at least in Brock's imagination. He describes waiting in line for several hours at a bookstore for Hillary to sign his copy of It Takes a Village, and where he hoped to stage their first face-to-face meeting. The question on his mind, he confesses, is what she thinks of him. But when he reaches the head of the line, faces up to the real Hillary rather than the imaginary one, identifies himself and asks when he could have an interview, Hillary's wry reply is, "Probably never."

All biography is ultimately fiction," Bernard Malamud wrote in Dubin's Lives, his novel about a biographer. What would he have said about this motley collection of writers: all biography is ultimately a Rorschach test? The various Hillaries that emerge are fictive enough, yet clearly they have an inner truth for their creators. Each invents his own personal Hillary—from baroque sexual fantasies straight out of The Honeymoon Killers and girl-girl sexcapades, to big sis—then has to slay his creation, while paying tribute to her power with these displays of antagonism and ambivalence. They're caught in her grip, but they don't know why; they spin tales about her treachery and perversity, as if that explains it. Except that the harder they try to knock her off her perch, the more shrill and unmanned they seem.

Politico: "Mitt Romney says he's considering a 2016 run"

By Maggie Haberman

January 9, 2015, 4:42 p.m. EST

Mitt Romney told a group of longtime supporters on Friday that he is considering running for president, a major turnaround for a past GOP nominee who just a year ago categorically ruled out a 2016 run.

If he follows through, it would be Romney's third White House campaign, and it would shake up the already large field of Republicans eyeing the presidency. But even many Romney supporters are skeptical he will ultimately jump in and risk losing three times.

"Everybody in here can go tell your friends that I'm considering a run," Romney said at a private meeting in New York with about 30 former donors, according to one source.

The former Massachusetts governor, who was the Republican presidential nominee in 2012, said he had a number of ideas about how to help the country, and that one of the issues he'd like to address is poverty, two people on hand at the meeting said. He also pledged that if he does decide to join the race, he would run a much different campaign than he has in the past.

Romney's 2012 race was plagued by complaints about insularity and a lack of a clear, defining message beyond being the anti-President Obama. He was caricatured by Democrats as a cold-blooded jobs killer during his private equity days, and was never able to relate to voters.

The gathering was called a few weeks ago and was held in midtown Manhattan. Romney's remarks were first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

People on hand included financier Patrick Durkin, and Alex Nabab, both of whom have committed to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is also exploring a 2016 run, and were involved in events with him earlier in the week in New York City and Connecticut. That both are already on the Bush bandwagon underscores the challenge Romney would face in trying to ensure his donor network remains intact if he runs.

For Romney's former backers, the news wasn't a complete surprise. For weeks, he has been slowly ratcheting up his rhetoric in conversations. But his decision to informally test the waters came as Bush has dominated media coverage and donor interest for the last several weeks, including the two New York-area events. And a number of the attendees, who said they were invited to a confidential meeting with Romney and were given no heads-up that he would use the gathering to make a more direct case for himself, were frustrated to find word of it had leaked.

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Bush has been moving to engage the extensive donor network that backed his father and his brother in their White House campaigns. That means that for Romney, the window is closing. One source close to Romney said he will likely decide within the next two months about his next move.

Romney allies and former staffers have spent much of the past two years lamenting that he should have won in his 2012 campaign against President Barack Obama. Romney also ran for the White House in 2008, but lost the GOP nod to Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Just a year ago, in an interview with The New York Times, Romney ruled out a presidential run in a most emphatic manner: “Oh, no, no, no. No, no, no, no, no. No, no, no,” he said.

But Romney supporters have argued that there’s a clamor for people who would like to see someone emerge as a leader for the Republican Party during a particularly fractious time, and Romney recently began making clear to donors and supporters that such talk was affecting his thinking.

In addition, Romney told those gathered Friday that his wife, Ann, was now very encouraging toward his running again, a source said — a change from her past protests. The couple’s five sons, however, were split on the notion.

Bush’s decision to move quickly to draw a line in the sand was in part because of Romney’s overtures to donors. Bush allies had privately grown frustrated that Romney was freezing some donors who hoped he would launch a campaign of his own.

Bush announced in December that he is considering a 2016 run, and he has moved quickly since to set up a leadership PAC, dubbed “The Right to Rise” to accept donations. A super PAC with the same name has also been set up to help Bush.

The former Florida governor has repeatedly said he won’t make a stark pitch to the Republican Party’s more conservative base by bending his positions to appease voters. He also has lamented that no recent GOP nominee has tried to avoid taking positions to win over GOPprimary voters who are more conservative, stances that end up turning off general election voters.

Bush and Romney are looking to occupy the center-right establishment lane. A sprawling array of senators, governors and former officials who appeal to different segments of the conservative base are also in the GOP’s potential 2016 mix. Among those seriously laying the groundwork for a presidential campaign are Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Marco Rubio of Florida, and Ted Cruz of Texas. Also a possibility is New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, would likely vie for the same center-right support that Romney and Bush would seek.

Romney drew flak for his overtures to the right in 2012, especially on the subject of immigration. Bush has criticized the way Romney allowed himself to be defined negatively by Democrats during that campaign. Democrats at the time cast Romney, who made a fortune in the financial sector, as a heartless businessman.

Romney, in turn, has argued privately that Bush, should he run in 2016, will face some of the same criticism over his own extensive business ties. Bush has recently taken steps to reduce his private sector links. And Bush allies privately point out that Romney made his business record as a private equity executive a centerpiece of his rationale for running, something the former Florida governor isn’t planning to do.

At Friday’s gathering, there was a consensus among Romney supporters that he needs to reintroduce himself to the voters, in a complimentary way like the video aired about him at the GOP convention in 2012. Romney responded by saying that the damaging portraits of him are now old news and therefore less harmful.

For Romney, the prospect of another campaign also is a potential boon to business: Many of his donors are also potential investors in his son Tagg’s firm, Solamere Capital.

But Romney, whose late father also ran for president, has dreamed of the White House for years.

His increased interest comes not just as Bush has been trying to seize the establishment lane, but as Hillary Clinton, the undeclared but overwhelming Democratic favorite, has seen her approval numbers fall in recent months.

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Washington Post blog: The Fix: "What the heck is Mitt Romney doing?"

By Chris Cillizza

January 10, 2015, 10:51 a.m. EST

Mitt Romney sent a very clear message to a group of major donors in New York City on Friday: I'm thinking about running for president in 2016. Then, as he knew they would, those donors spread that message to every media outlet in the country.

It's a stunning reversal from public -- and private -- assertions from Romney and his allies that, after two runs for president in 2008 and 2012, he was absolutely, 100 percent done with running.

And that reversal begs this question: What the heck is Mitt Romney doing?

Let's start by making clear what he's not doing: Running for president -- at least not yet.

No one -- not even those most bullish on the prospect of Romney, part 3 -- believe that Romney has made up his mind to run. But, it's clear he is more interested in the possibility of a race than he was even a few months ago and wants to preserve the right to make his own decision.

What he sees -- and wants to stop -- is the momentum in the major donor community toward former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has been the most aggressive potential candidate in the 2016 field since the 2014 midterms ended. Bush, according to one report, has set a goal of raising $100 million over the first three months of 2015 in hopes of convincing lots of other candidates that making the race is a fool's errand.

By making very clear that he's on the fence about another race, Romney freezes some not-insignificant portion of the Republican major donor base -- especially in New York and New Jersey. Rather than signing on with Jeb in the next weeks or months, many of those money men and women will wait to see what Romney does before doing anything.

So, Romney is really buying himself -- and, whether intentionally or not, the rest of the potential field -- some time. He's taking the Bush pot off of boil and turning it down to simmer.

Which then raises this question: Why?

The simplest answer is because a part of Romney would still like to be president and he doesn't want someone else -- named Jeb Bush -- to foreclose that possibility for him.

Romney has not been shy -- privately but publicly reported -- that he has doubts about Bush's ability to win the Republican nomination and the lack of any other candidate in the GOP field who presents a real challenge to de facto Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

These two paragraphs from a Politico story by Ben White and Maggie Haberman back in December are telling:

"[Romney] has said, among other things, that Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, would run into problems because of his business dealings, his work with the investment banks Lehman Brothers and Barclays, and his private equity investments.

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"'You saw what they did to me with Bain [Capital],' he has said, referring to the devastating attacks that his Republican rivals and President Barack Obama's team launched against him for his time in private equity, according to three sources familiar with the line. 'What do you think they'll do to [Bush] over Barclays?'"

While Bush has drawn mostly positive attention for stepping aside from various corporate and non-profit boards in advance of his likely bid, a glimpse of the potentially problematic issues Bush will have to navigate as a result of his work -- on education policy among other things -- since leaving the governor's office in 2006 came out this week in a terrific story by WaPo's Lyndsey Layton.

Writing of the Foundation for Excellence in Education, Layton says:

"The foundation, from which Bush resigned as chairman last week as part of his preparations for a possible White House bid, has been criticized as a backdoor vehicle for major corporations to urge state officials to adopt policies that would enrich the companies."

To hear the Romney side tell it, his renewed interest in the race is entirely born from a selfless desire to see the party win back the White House after eight years in the political wilderness. While that's likely part of his reasoning, no politician -- or human -- acts for entirely selfless reasons. Ever. Romney came close to being president in 2012 and likely believes that armed with the knowledge he has picked up over his last two bids he would be able to get to the top of the mountain this time around.

To me, Romney remains an unlikely 2016 candidate. But, he clearly can't get the idea out of his head (and his heart) and so wanted to buy himself some time to make the decision on his own timetable. Mission accomplished.

Vox: "5 reasons every Republican is running for president"

By Andrew Prokop

January 9, 2015, 7:35 p.m. EST

One early takeaway of the GOPs invisible primary? A whole lot of people sure look like they're going to run.

On Friday, Mitt Romney told a group of donors that he was considering another run for president. Minutes later, a new report said Marco Rubio had gotten approval from his family for a run, and that he wouldn't be scared away by Jeb Bush's fundraising.

Earlier in the week, Mike Huckabee ended his Fox News show to explore a bid, Jeb Bush launched a fundraising operation, Scott Walker's hiring of a likely campaign manager became known, and Chris Christie reportedly decided to move up his timetable for an announcement. Rick Santorum and Rick Perry also said they were seriously considering running. Less plausible candidates like Ben Carson, George Pataki, and Carly Fiorina have previously signaled their interest.

Now, it's not certain that all of these people will end up running. And many of those who do could drop out well before the voting begins — there tends to be a winnowing of the field as some candidates fail to raise enough money and win support.

But unlike in 2011-2012 — when many potentially strong contenders shied away from a bid — Republican hopefuls seem to be much more eager to run this time around. Here are five reasons why.

1) Jeb Bush would make a weak frontrunner

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For most of 2014, there wasn't really anyone who could be deemed a frontrunner in the GOP field. With Christie sidelined by Bridgegate , Rand Paul still getting a mixed reception from the GOP establishment, Scott Walker busy with his own reelection, and Marco Rubio damaged by his support of the Senate immigration bill, there seemed to be a vacuum in the field.

Enter Jeb Bush. With an unexpectedly early announcement of an exploratory committee and an aggressive fundraising push that Michael Bender and Jonathan Allen of Bloomberg Politics describe as "shock-and-awe," he's inarguably made a strong debut and forced the other potential candidates to move up their timetables for running.

Yet Bush has been out of politics for eight years. His positions on immigration and education aren't popular with conservatives. And his last name could prove to be more toxic than GOP elites currently expect — in general election polling, or even in the primary. As Ben Smith argued, he might not be in touch with how the GOP has changed since the rise of the Tea Party — and might stumble on the trail. Bush has even said that a GOP candidate this year should be willing to "lose the primary to win the general" — and maybe he will! (The first part, that is.)

2) The eight-year itch

Since Harry Truman's presidency ended, there's only been one time where a party has held onto the White House for over eight years — the Reagan-Bush reign of 1981-1992. Democrats and their likely nominee Hillary Clinton would be attempting to match that rare streak.

But as Brendan Nyhan wrote at the Upshot, voters seem to get tired after eight or more years of the same party, in what political scientist Alan Abramowitz calls the "time for a change" effect. More and more voters start to think that the opposition should get a shot.

We've gotten some good economic news recently, and if that continues, any GOPcandidate will face a tough time winning in 2016. But the economy that year will matter much more than what's happening now, and we simply don't know what conditions will be yet. And, of course, Jeb's older brother won the presidency over Al Gore when the economy was quite strong, and when President Bill Clinton was much more popular than Obama is now.

3) The 2010 and 2014 elections helped expand the GOP field and embolden the party

The Obama midterm years have just been amazing for the growth of the Republican Party, so there are simply more credible contenders to go around. In 2010, the party elected a host of new governors, senators, and members of Congress including Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker, as well as other potential candidates like John Kasich. (All but one GOP governor running again in 2014 won.)

Beyond that, the party was emboldened by its sweeping 2014 wins. With the takeover of the Senate and most state governments, conservatism seems to be on the ascendancy, and Democrats in decline. And the news has been dominated by crises all over the world, further feeding the sense that Obama has failed. Obviously, the 2010 GOP victories didn't lead to Obama's defeat in 2012. But many potential candidates feel like they've learned from Romney's mistakes — including Romney.

4) Non-serious candidates can become more famous by running

Some people run for president because they think they can win. Others run because it's an easy way to get the press — and your party's base voters — to pay attention to you. This is particularly true in our modern era of many televised debates and intense media coverage, and in 2011-2012 unlikely candidates like Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Michele Bachmann, and Rick Santorum all had their moments in the sun. A no-hope candidate can use this brief spotlight to push some preferred policy ideas, as Ron Paul did. He or she can also have more mercenary motivations — for instance, hoping that newfound fame will lead to a lucrative book deal or media gig.

5) They can all position themselves as an alternative to Hillary Clinton

The funny thing about Hillary Clinton being the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination is that practically any Republican can contrast himself or herself to her.

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If you're a young and new candidate, you can point to Obama's defeat of Clinton in 2008, and argue you could do the same as the candidate of change. Why would the GOPchoose a candidate of the past when they could be the party of the future?

Alternatively, if you're an older, better-known candidate, you could make the case that Clinton is a formidable opponent, and that the GOP needs someone experienced and tested to take her on. If you're from a political dynasty, you can even argue that that won't hurt too much in the general election, since Clinton is too (sort of).

In the view of many, Clinton's past year showed off many of her weaknesses, and made clear that she's vulnerable. We'll see how that plays out — but for now, it's an argument for any Republican to jump in the race.

Slate: "The Warren Commission"

By John Dickerson

January 9, 2015, 5:32 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] In a new focus group, voters agreed about one thing: Elizabeth Warren is one of the most intriguing contenders for 2016.

When 12 voters gathered in Aurora, Colorado, for a political focus group on Thursday night, it wasn't surprising to hear them compete to see who could bash politicians more. "If we got rid of every member of Congress and elected new people tomorrow who had no experience, I don't think we could do any worse," said Charlie Loan, who voted for Mitt Romney in 2012. When the group was asked to come up with phrases members of Congress should wear on wrist bracelets, they suggested "Don't trust me, I lie," "Looking out for me," and "Two Faced."

But one politician escaped the voters' ire: Elizabeth Warren. Six of the 12 said they would like to have Warren over to their house to talk, more than any other possible 2016 presidential contender they were asked about. They said she was "down to earth" and "knowledgeable." When asked a separate question about which politician they would like to have live next door, they picked Warren over every other contender as well. Jenny Howard, an accountant with student-loan debt who voted for Romney in 2012 and Sen. John McCain in 2008, also liked Warren: "If she ran, she could be the next president because she is personable and knowledgeable and has a good handle on what's going on in the country."

Peter Hart organized this Colorado focus group. Hart, a Democratic pollster for more than 40 years, helps conduct the Wall Street Journal/ NBC poll and has been holding these kinds of sessions for the past four presidential elections. The focus group was the first of a series of such two-hour interviews of swing voters that Hart will do leading up to the 2016 presidential election, for the Annenberg Public Policy Center to track how voter sentiment changes.

These people do not represent metaphysical certitude about the country's political opinion—it's only 12 people after all—and we are still far from the next election so much can change, but they offer glimpses of the current stirring in the public. Their desire for change, concerns about the economy (despite news that things are better), and interest in a candidate who cares about the middle class have appeared consistently in polls and other voter forums.

The affection for Warren among the group of five self-described independents, three Republicans, and four Democrats may not tell us anything about the Massachusetts senator herself. It's possible that she is a vehicle through which they are signaling their desire for change, for something authentic and maybe new. Charlie Loan, an IT manager, says he voted the straight conservative line most recent election but he'd listen to what Warren had to say. "The little I have seen and heard from her, she seems genuine—people from [Oklahoma] usually are. Since she was formerly devoted to the Republican Party, maybe she fits in the middle somewhere, which is where I would like to see most of them be. She is clearly well-educated and seems level-headed."

If Warren is a possible vessel for change, so too is Sen. Rand Paul, who several of the conservatives found intriguing. (Sen. Ted Cruz wasn't

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mentioned, even though he, like Paul and Warren, is also trying to position himself as an outsider on the inside.) Paul had a bit of the crossover appeal that Warren had. “He’s a reasonable choice,” said Andrew Regan, who described himself as a strong Democrat. “I would consider him, but I don’t know who the Democratic nominee is going to be.” Regan was emblematic of the strong desire for something new. Despite his ideological affiliations, he was happy to see Republicans in control of Congress. “I’m happy to see that Republicans took Congress. Instead of a ‘Do Nothing’ congress we have a ‘Do Something’ Congress.”

Once a Democratic nominee is chosen, it’s almost certain that Regan, a self-employed beekeeper, will vote as he always has. That’s what voters usually do. The same is true with conservatives who express an openness for Warren. But Warren’s authenticity, anti-corporate message, and outsider status all reflect the desire for change that came across so clearly from most of the participants.

The 2016 contenders who didn’t fare well are also two of its marquee names: Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush. Six of the 12 said they would back a law to bar all Bushes and Clintons from running. “He’s running off the Bush name and thinks that’s something,” said Howard. In a free-association exercise, the words people used to describe Bush included: “joke,” “no thank you,” “clown,” “interesting,” “don’t need him,” “intriguing,” “greedy,” and “bad scene.” (By contrast, Paul was described as “entertaining,” “interesting,” “very intriguing,” “honest,” and “freedom.”) Mention of Hillary Clinton conjured “hopeful,” “crazy,” “strong,” “spitfire,” “don’t like her,” “untrustworthy,” “more of the same,” and “next candidate, please.” Although the antipathy toward Bush and Clinton was often specific, it also could be read as a broad dislike of American politics today.

Not surprisingly, the economy was the issue everyone was most concerned about. Jobs numbers were solid again on Friday and the unemployment rate is at 5.6 percent (lower than Mitt Romney said it would be under his administration by the year 2017), but the good numbers didn’t do anything to assuage the participants’ worries. Though they said lower gas prices have helped, most were skeptical things were genuinely getting better.

“It’s nice to have the extra money,” said Susan Brink, a 56-year-old independent who voted for Barack Obama. “But I do kind of feel like they give us a little bit to make us happy, and then they take it away.” Rick Lamutt, a right-leaning independent who works as “a cable guy,” said that despite the good numbers, he sees the truth of the real economy in all the houses he visits where family members are moving in together and struggling to make do. “The simple fact is, regardless of what the numbers say, there’s a lot of hurting people out there,” he said. “You’ve seen on the news, ‘Everything’s fine, the economy’s great, there’s jobs everywhere!’ Well, if you want to make $9 an hour, you can go get a job, but if you want to make a wage that can support your family, good luck.”

This pervasive feeling of economic insecurity drove what these voters are looking for in candidates, too. Kimberly Tyler, a 61-year-old veterinarian, wanted a candidate who understood the pinch of the middle-class lifestyle. “Most in politics have money and it’s a money game for them and they don’t relate to the middle class, and everyone in the middle class is hanging on by their fingernails.”

There’s a long road before the election and while these views give us some idea of the mood, it’s important to keep in mind that even these voters are a long way off from drawing any real conclusions about specific candidates. Hart asked everyone to place themselves at a racetrack that showed how far along they were in their thinking about the next presidential contest. Most said they were in the parking lot. One woman said she was in her car taking allergy medicine—she said she was allergic to both horses and politicians. When asked whom she’d like to see in the race, she replied, “Superman.” But he hasn’t even formed a leadership PAC yet.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce’s “Global Perspectives” series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:
Date: 8/22/2008 3:16:25 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/22/08

Main Topics: Houses Gaffe, VP speculation, POW Status, Withdrawal Timeline

Summary of Shift: The speculation over who will be Obama's running mate dominated the day. Presently, all major news networks are reporting the name of the VP will be sent out via text message shortly after 10:00 am Saturday morning. While most of the coverage has been positive for Obama, there were segments questioning Hillary Clinton's loyalty to the Democratic nominee and whether there will be tension at the convention. The houses gaffe is still in the news, with McCain surrogates firmly on the defensive. However, on balance, running mate speculation has been the news item most talked about during the evening.

Nonpolitical news included the unfolding controversy over the age of Chinese Olympic athletes, Russia not fully withdrawing from Georgian land, Tropical Storm Fay, and stories about a decrease in Americans traveling and driving this year.

Highlights:

1. Houses Gaffe
   a. FNC: Politico reporter defends asking McCain question, Ingraham offers peculiar advice
   b. FNC: Raddatz Asks Whether McCain's Success is a Problem
   c. MSNBC: Matthews Debates Whether McCain is "Elitist" or "Incompetent"
2. MSNBC: Olbermann Questions McCain's Overuse of POW Status
3. CNN: Hosts Highlight McCain Odd Man Out On Withdrawal
4. Jindal Plays Defense For McCain
   a. FNC: Jindal repeats standard talking points, unchallenged by host
   b. CNN: Jindal dismisses houses gaffe; defends removing ban on discrimination in LA
5. ABC: Tapper notes McCain's useing technology, computers

Highlights, No YouTube:

1. FNC: REP MARTIN FROST:. Now, the question is, did his staff not brief him; did he forget; every campaign does opposition research on themselves so they know what can raised by the other side. He knows how many houses he had. Why was he evasive? "

Clips:

Highlight #1

Politico Reporter Offers Fair Reasoning For Questioning McCain And Offers Why The Issue Is Important; Ingraham Goes Ballistic (FNC 08/22/08 8:10pm)

EAMON JAVERS: I mean obviously it's not a set up. Obviously it' a fair question to ask of a Presidential candidate. My colleagues at Politco who asked him that you know I know we've been looking at the property record. **It is some what difficult to figure out how many properties John McCain owns because a lot of the properties are owned by different corporate entities, not just the McCain personally. So, you have to really wade through the paper work and there has been a real open question of how many properties do the McCains actually own**. [...]

LAURA INGRAHAM: Here's my take on this. My take is John McCain isn't really obsessed with how many houses he has or how many houses his wife was able to buy because her family did really well with this beer distributorship. They have a lot of money. **He's not obsessed with it. And I were John McCain, I would have said you know something, we have a number of properties and my progrowth economic plan is going to help more people do better so maybe someday they might have a second home. Celebrating success, that's what he should do. I wouldn't have shied away from it. I wouldn't look defensive about it. I'd say I'm pushing progrowth policies, what are you doing Barack?**

BYRON YORK: I dont think the response was particularly good [...]

JAVERS: This is a problem for John McCain on two levels I think. On the first one, McCain's been out there trying to portray Barack Obama as an elitist and his answer here stumbling around a question **almost every American would immediately know the answer to in their own lives - I know how many houses I own - that's going to make him unable to go after Obama as an elitist.**

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INGRAHAM: [...] That opens the door back to the cultural disconnect Obama is clearly demonstrating now with his little bit weakness in the polls now. I mean this thing is very tight. I think ultimately people see **John McCain as someone who sacrificed for his country and who's going to begrudge him that he's in a family now that did really well**. I think a lot of people say good for them.

Raddatz Questions Gibbs About Whether McCain's Success is a Problem (FNC 08/22/08 1:46pm)
MARTHA RADDATZ: Over the past couple of days we've seen a lot of back and forth over this issue of how houses John McCain has; and then he came back with, you know, Barack Obama has a million dollar house in Chicago, and all the other stuff that was put with that. Is this a good place for the discussion to be right now? Are you guys wishing that you hadn't gone there with this?

ROBERT GIBBS: Look, the person who went there was John McCain with not being able to remember whether he has 4 houses, 7 houses, 8 houses, 12 houses. It's like wheel of fortune. Spin the wheel and figure out how many houses John McCain has. But it speaks to something much larger.

RADDATZ: That doesn't really matter though, because a lot of people in this country say, you know, well**, success is a good thing**. His wife's family ran a great successful American business, He's just saying, we own a lot condos and it's a real estate investment. I wanna check on it so I can give you the right answer.

RADDATZ: Success is a wonderful thing. I'm not sure, yet , we 've gotten an answer from the McCain campaign. But what it speaks to is something larger. If you can't remember how many homes you've had, you're so out of touch, you can't even begin to relate to the family that just has one home, and is working every day, night and day to write a check to keep that home. Not to have it foreclosed on to create good jobs, to cut healthcare costs. It's about being out of touch, the same old policies we've had for four years. More of the same George Bush policies that have taken this economy downward […] And that's what we're seeking to change in this election.

MSNBC: Matthews Debates Whether McCain is "Elitist" or "Incompetent"
Chris Matthews Debates whether McCain is being "Elitist" or "Incompetent" (MSNBC 08/22/08 7:20pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: […] That ad wasn't just about a guy who's out of touch economically. That's an ad about a competency test. When a person comes to after a stroke, […] they say 'What's your name', 'Where do you live', right? **'How many houses do you own' is in the category of a competency test.** And they know what they were doing in that ad.

DEL WALTERS: […] And I think they're also trying to tell you in that ad, by showing him with George H.W. Bush, that he is older than Obama; that he is not only stumbling on the issue of how many houses he has. And think about what we're saying when we say in that ad , everyone knows how many homes they own; everybody should know how many homes they own; everybody should know how many investment properties they own.

MATTHEWS: […] If you're a guy with a lot bucks, like their family, and you've got a home (s) that you've invested in, that's one thing; when you ask many homes you own, that's a particular question, how many places do you live?

CHARLES MAHTESIAN: Well, that's why it's so deadly. I mean that's why it's lasted for a few days, and why it happened on Wednesday and now we're still talking about it on Friday.
MATTHEWS: Well, we love the story because we can understand it. **This is a story that we can get our brains around.**

MAHTESIAN: Right. And that's what makes it so toxic for the McCain campaign. Think about all the traction he was getting. Great traction, different states, and swing states […] gaining momentum, and all of the sudden boom, he's stopped by this story because it plays into the argument-

MATTHEWS: Does this play into more subtle questions like, he didn't know there's no longer a country named Czechoslovakia, he thought there was an Iraqi/Afghanistan border, when in fact there's a country called Iran in the middle. There's things that he doesn't know that seem to be evidence of inattentiveness.

WALTERS: No, I think what's happening is we're finally seeing […] reporters vet John McCain. […] What we've seen in this campaign so far is John McCain being on the offense in regards to Barack Obama. Now we're seeing reporters say, now wait a minute, what are his leadership capabilities? How good would he be on the economy?

MATTHEWS: Is this where we're headed- knowledge questions? Jeopardy?

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MAHTESIAN: This isn't really about competence, though, that's only a small part of it. What this is really about is the elitism issue. That's much more deadly. […] In fairness to McCain though, technically he doesn't own any of his houses.

MATTHEWS: So if he calls up Cindy and says, where are you? And she says, I'm home, where's that? You mean he doesn't have any idea where they live? Homes mean where you live. So if you call home, where are you going to be tomorrow, well which house? There's seven of them. What are they, bedouins? Do they move around among their seven houses?

MAHTESIAN: […] We found there was eight when we looked. The campaign said it was four, the Obama ad said seven, we found eight. Maybe there is ten.

MATTHEWS: But they all have pajamas in them and toothbrushes. […] Are they those kinda houses or are they investment properties?

MAHTESIAN: Where, they're condos, many of them, except for the ranch.

MATTHEWS: You've spoken with authority, here. You believe he has eight houses, he stays in periodically.

MAHTESIAN: I don't know have often stays there. Political analysis, property tax records, and other records show there were eight properties that he own, at least five of them were condominiums.

WALTERS: **But Chris, here's the bottom line, 22,000 people lost their homes in Prince William County, Virginia this year alone because of foreclosure. If you're one of those 22,000 people who lost your home, who may have had a job, and then face foreclosure, and you hear a candidate say, I don't know how many homes I still have, that is not a popular-**

MATTHEWS: **I think you and I agree that they're working on the senior moment stuff here […]**

Highlight #2
Olbermann on McCain's Overuse of POW Status (MSNBC 08/22/08 8:40pm)
KETIH OLBERMANN: Since the day he decided to start talking about it, nine years after returning from Vietnam, John McCain has not stopped talking about it, envoking his years in captivity when accused of carpetbagging during a race for a house seat in Arizona, more than a quarter century ago. "As a matter of fact, when I think about it now, the place I lived longest in my life was Hanoi." Most recently, shielding the senator from criticism about his own home ownership ignorance, flack Brian Roger […] "This is a guy who lived in one house for five and a half years—in prison." […] Has McCain turned his POW status from insulation to excuse? Now one veteran, who served 31 years in the army, fighting in Korea and in Vietnam: "It's time for the senator to stop cheapening the experiences of thousands of vets and his fellow POWs, and his own as weel, by stretching the boundaries of logic to make his POW status a wild-card rebuttal to all accusation or an answer to all difficult questions. When he uses his status as a veteran to deflect legitimate questions and concerns, it devalues not just his service to our country but ours as well." […] And after Elizabeth Edwards noted how McCain gets government health benefits during a rebuke of his medical care policy, McCain insisted he was familiar with inadequate care "…from another government".

PAUL RIECKHOFF: He's definitely using it as a political shield for just about everything. He's used it for his marital woes, […] his inability to recall exactly how many houses he has. Everybody respects John McCain's service. Everybody knows what he's gone through is unimaginable to most folks. But not every POW in necessarily qualified to be president. And it's not a political shield for every screw-up he has between now and November. And I also think it gives him an opportunity to talk about veterans' issues in a very specific way. And he hasn't done much of that. He hasn't taken it to that next step, and I'd like to see him do it.

OLBERMANN: […] The stuff as shield is one thing. He's also used it to validate his policy decisions and create this aura about himself that he knows best in terms of anything military, thus, almost anything international. What kind of problems does that line of thinking create?

RIECKHOFF: I think it creates a number of problems. It was important to bring up the fact that he does receive veterans' benefits, he also went to school on the government's dime. He went to the Naval Academy and he opposed the G.I. Bill for basically a year of process.
Recently he's been trying to take credit for that as well, and that's just not true. He's tried to push this argument that he was holding out for transferability; transferability was always in the law. Could have been enacted by the secretary of the Army, Navy; and Senator Webb offered to include transferability; so did Senator Warner. […]

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OLBERMANN: What does being a POW merit in this political context?

RIECKHOFF: I think it shows his toughness, his love of country, shows his fortitude. […] There's another aspect to this. He was imprisoned and tortured for five and a half years. He has a tremendous opportunity to talk about mental health issues. To talk about post-traumatic stress disorder. Something that's facing hundreds of thousands of veterans who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. And I'm a bit bothered by the fact that he can't tell you if he has seven or eight houses. Because there are 150,000 veterans in America right now who have a total of 0 houses, because they're homeless. […]

OLBERMANN: And this latest hint during the week about the draft […] does that make vets shudder?

RIECKHOFF: […] I think the draft has become a politically radioactive issue for everyone, but a lot vets want to see a draft. […] I hear from a lot of friends who are going over for a third and fourth tour, and would like to see everyone else in America put something on the line. I think the reality is our current pace of operations is unsustainable. You've got more than half a million people who've deployed more than once; our military is overextended, our national guard has been run into the ground.

Highlight #3
CNN Highlights McCain As Opposing Bush White House, Obama, And Iraqi Government On Iraq Timeline For Withdrawal (CNN 08/22/08 6:10pm)
BRIAN TODD: **Even the Bush administration has come around to a timetable for withdrawal they say, and McCain's the only one who hasn't. Obama has long favored a timetable. His is quicker. Withdrawal within 16 months from when he'd take office. McCain's supporters say far from isolating him, this agreement justifies a stand he took when it wasn't possible.**

LESLIE SANCHEZ: He was one of the people who said the surge was necessary. And it plays very much to the fact that his strategy worked. And in essence it was trying to create the stability and security in Iraq so that U.S. forces could come home sooner.

TODD: Still, McCain's aides say he's sticking to his position against what they call an artificial timetable with a date certain. So whose really got the advantage in this deal? Analyst who don't take a position say it all may depend on whether this agreement resolves the Iraq issue for voters.

LARRY SABATO: What voters are thinking on Iraq it may play to McCain's strengths. If they are thinking about the economy, it will almost certainly play to Obama's strengths.

Highlight #4
Jindal Churns Out Standard Talking Points (FNC 08/22/08 4:47pm)
BOBBY JINDAL: Let's be clear I don't think the Vice President is going to influence most voters. You've got a candidate that is so different on the issues. Senator McCain wants to cut our taxes, Senator Obama wants to raise taxes on Social Security, on families making over $42,000, he wants to raise taxes on investors, on seniors, on so many different people. On energy independence, Senator McCain wants to drill for oil and gas. He wants nuclear power, conservation, clean coal, renewable. Senator Obama has said he wants to raise taxes on coal, natural gas. He doesn't want to drill for gas. He doesn't think nuclear is the right answer for America. On national security, Senator McCain made it very clear he stands for our nation's interests, he stood firmly when Russia invaded Georgia, so I think you got a clear contrast between these two candidates.
[...]

Jindal Dismisses McCain Houses Gaffe; Asked About Removing Anti-Discrimination Ban in Louisiana (CNN 08/22/08 4:40pm)
GOV. BOBBY JINDAL (R), LOUISIANA: Wolf, thank you for having me.

BLITZER: I'm tempted to ask you, how many homes do you own?

JINDAL: Well, my wife and I have one home. I don't know if we own it or the bank owns it. But there's still a pretty good-sized mortgage on it. We have got the one house.

BLITZER: Well, I have been to your house and the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge. That's a -- and that's a pretty nice house that you don't own, the people of Louisiana own, but you live there.

JINDAL: Right. And we tell the kids every day, don't color on the wall. You know our kids are young. They're 6, 4 and 2. We tell them, you can't color on the walls. This is the people's house. You can go home and color on our walls, but not these walls. You're right. It is very nice. It is the people's home.

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BLITZER: **How big of a problem is this for John McCain, that he didn't know how many homes he and his wife owned? Because the -- the impression you're -- you get, that he's out of touch, he doesn't know, he's an elitist. What do you think?**

JINDAL: I think the whole thing is silly. Look, the polls are tightening up. Senator Obama told us he was going to be a different kind of candidate. I think this is the kind of silliness voters just laugh at. It gave Senator McCain the chance to point out that Senator Obama earned $4 million last year, had the help of a convicted felon to buy him home. But, at the end of the day, none of that matters. The real issue for American voters is, how do they keep their homes? **They're worried about the mortgage crisis, the financial turmoil in the markets, what they're worried about. And I think that the reason many of them will vote for Senator McCain is, he wants to cut their taxes.** He wants to lower energy prices. Senator Obama, on the other hand, wants to raise taxes in many different areas, on energy, doesn't want to do more domestic production, doesn't like coal, natural gas, or nuclear energy. So, you know, it's an entertaining dustup, but the reality is, I think this is what turns people off of politics. They look at both parties in Washington and say, stop playing gotcha. Stop throwing mud. What we really want to know is, what's your plan to help us buy and afford our own homes?

BLITZER: Because Senator Obama says he wants to cut taxes for the vast middle class out there, and only raise taxes on those making more than $250,000 a year, and that he claims that Senator McCain wants to cut taxes for the very, very wealthy.

JINDAL: You know, the funny thing with Senator Obama is, I'm having a hard time keeping up with what his tax positions are. He voted, as you know, for the Democratic budget, which would raise taxes for those families, those making $42,000, which isn't wealthy the last time I checked, individuals. He also said at various times he wants to raise taxes on investors, on dividends, capital gains, Social Security. He's wanted to raise taxes on coal and natural gas. That impacts all of us that use those -- those forms of energy. Now, I have seen that it has shifted from the top 1 percent, 2 percent, 5 percent. Taxes would start now, 10 years from now. What's clear to me is, he had dozens of chances to vote to lower taxes while in the Senate, in Congress. He didn't do that, over 90 times, didn't vote to cut taxes when he could have or vote to stop taxes from being raised. Those are the issues. That's the debate we need to have.

JINDAL: And if he wants to explain his record differently, have that discussion. Don't get into this nonsense or silliness about going after each other's names or -- or gaffes. That's not the debate we need or deserve as a country.

BLITZER: Let me ask you for a quick explanation. It's a big story in Louisiana, in your state. **You're not going to extend anti- discrimination law in your state that would bar discriminating against all sorts of people, including gays and lesbians. And that's causing quite an uproar**. Your predecessor, Kathleen Blanco, approved that legislation four years ago. You say it's not necessary. But there are -- there's a lot of an anger on this issue right now. Why don't you want to keep this law in effect?

JINDAL: Well, three things. One, it should be no surprise. We said when she issued the order in '04 and again as a candidate for governor, we weren't going to renew the order. We expressed our concerns back then. It was -- "Times Picayune" did a big story about it in October of last year during the race. Secondly, we strongly oppose discrimination in any form. And I think we have got good strong state and federal laws that prohibit that. But, thirdly, our -- one of our main concerns with the executive order, really, what we don't want is to create special classes, special rights. But we also are worried about the impact on faith-based groups. Many faith-based groups have said this would interfere with their ability to partner with the state, especially the Department of Health and Hospitals. We have seen in Louisiana the great role of faith- based groups, especially after Katrina and Rita. For those reasons, we said, we don't see the need for the executive order. But let me be clear. As the governor of Louisiana, we will not condone any form of discrimination. We condemn it. We oppose it. We have got good, strong state and federal laws to prohibit it. For that reason, we didn't think it was necessary. Now, all of her executive orders, by law, expire today. So, it's not that we -- we basically aren't writing a new one to extend it, because all of her executive orders, by law, expire today.

Highlight #5
Tapper Notes McCain Computer Illiteracy (ABC 08/22/08 6:40pm)
JAKE TAPPER: **Why make the announcement via text message? To create a contrast with the campaign of John McCain who even admits he does not use a computer.**

TAD DEVINE: The Obama campain wants to be seen as the campaign of new technology, new ideas, of change.

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From: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/13/2015 11:02:47 AM
Subject: ABC: Marco Rubio Would Reopen Gitmo, Reverse Obama Foreign Policy

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/marco-rubio-reopen-gitmo-reverse-obama-foreign-policy/story?id=30292526

Marco Rubio Would Reopen Gitmo, Reverse Obama Foreign Policy

Apr 13, 2015, 5:30 PM ET
By CHRIS GOOD

CHRIS GOOD More From Chris »
Political Reporter

via **WORLD NEWS**

Sen. **Marco Rubio** 's foreign-policy platform has a theme: undoing some of President Obama's biggest decisions.

That would include reopening the military prison at **Guantanamo** Bay, **Cuba** , if Obama succeeds in closing it as the president promised at the outset of his first term in the **White House**.

"Absolutely," the **Florida** Republican said when asked whether he would reopen the prison in an exclusive interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, his first as a presidential candidate.

Marco Rubio Running For President in 2016: 'I Can Lead This Country' (EXCLUSIVE)

Meet Marco Rubio: Everything You Need to Know (And Probably Didn't Know) About the Prospective 2016 Presidential Candidate

Where They Stand: Marco Rubio on Key Issues of 2016 Campaign

"Here's why," Rubio continued. "We no longer, on an ongoing basis, detain **terrorists** , and so we're not getting interrogation. They're killed by a drone, or they're targeted in some other way, but there's tremendous value in capturing people that are enemy combatants and, from them, being able to gather actionable intelligence that can not only prevent attacks against the homeland and abroad, but allow us to disrupt their cells that they've created in different parts of the world."

Rubio, who publicly announced his 2016 run for president in the exclusive ABC interview, had previously supported keeping the prison open. Home to military detainees from the U.S. "Global**War on Terror** " from the **George W. Bush** presidency, Obama has sought to transfer detainees out of the prison but has struggled to close it despite his pledge to do so.

Rubio also vowed to reverse course on Obama's recent diplomatic endeavors with **Iran** , with which the United States is working to finalize a nuclear pact, and Cuba, with which Obama has opened diplomatic relations.

"I think from a national-security perspective, this deal with Iran is an extremely dangerous one," Rubio said when asked what he would do on his first day as president. "I think the next president of the United States is going to have to deal with that on day number one."

Of the diplomatic opening with Cuba, Rubio said, "I would reverse every single one of the

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decisions that [Obama] made."

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Hillary for America
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 2:51:27 PM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Can we research if anyone has introduced in the House? I believe Leahy introduced it in the Senate although I doubt he'd be willing to go to bat like this (although others would know better than me).

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 9:41 PM, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com > wrote:

> To Joel's original point about someone to raise this point about Gowdy releasing his email, David Brock did it already - http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/david-brock-top-hillary-clinton-ally-trey-gowdy-release-your-emails . I know we want Members, etc. to do it and will pursue but just flagging Brock did it. Also, Roy Blunt got challenged on it by Stephanopoulos on Sunday.
>
> The other question is whether there is a member who would introduce a bill to end the FOIA exemption for Members of Congress? They should be just as transparent as they're demanding HRC be. It would put the focus on the Members keeping their emails private and would never actually pass.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:35 PM
> **To:** Robby Mook
> **Cc:** Joel Benenson; Jesse Ferguson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
> **Subject:** Re: Earned Media Update
>
> Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?
>
> JP
>
> --Sent from my iPad--
>
> john.podesta@gmail.com
>
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.
> >
> > On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?
> > >
> > > Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?
> > >
> > > ---

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From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Earned Media Update

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

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Washington Post : “Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records.” [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : “ But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. “He did exactly what Hillary did,” said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff “went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn’t. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: “When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio’s spokeswoman said they had been deleted.” (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , “Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival.” [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , “But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever.” [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/5/2008 3:43:22 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/05/08

Main Topics: Nuclear Power Plants, Energy Attacks, Romney Interviews, New Ads, Tire Gauges

Summary: Major presidential campaign coverage revolved around the candidates energy plans as both sides continue to wage attacks on their counter's positions. McCain spoke at nuclear power plants at Sturgis, SD last night and in Michigan today where he hit Obama on his lack of support for nuclear power and offshore drilling. McCain is now proposing building 45 new plants by 2030. In a testament to the McCain campaign's research department and advance team, the Senator spoke about the importance of nuclear energy at a plant famed for its near meltdown in the 60s. Tire gauge controversy also dominated discussion as well as new ads by McCain claiming to be "the original Maverick" and from Paris Hilton, who comically responded to McCain's use of her image in a previous ad. Non-campaign headlines included tornado's ravaging Chicago, Hurricane Edouard ended up being weaker than expected, the price of oil drops $2.24, stocks went up, aftershocks in China, the Feds caught computer identity thieves accused of stealing 40 million American internet users identities, and hundreds of undiscovered gorillas were found in the Congo.

Highlights:
1. CNN: McCain Pushes Nuclear Power, Offshore Drilling, and Calls For Congress To Return to Session
2. McCain's Poor Choice Today
a. MSNBC: McCain's Made a Poor Choice With "China Syndrome" Plant
b. MSNBC: McCain Jumps From Figurative to Literal Meltdown
3. ABC: McCain's Nuclear Power Ambitions and His Attacks on Obama on ABC Nightly News
4. Romney Interviews
a. CNN: Romney Discusses Energy and Nuclear Power Solutions, Name Calling, and Dick Cheney
b. MSNBC: Romney Wrong on McCain's CAFE Standards Record
5. MSNBC: Donatelli Outlines McCain's Energy Plan, Attacks Obama's
6. FNC: The Original Maverick? New McCain Ad Tries to Distance Himself From President Bush
7. MSNBC: Carney: "'Broken' Recalls McCain's Record As a So-Called Maverick in Washington
8. Tire Gauge Controversy
a. CNN: The Tire Gauge The Political Prop of the Week
b. MSNBC: Holtz-Eakin Defends Tire Gauges and McCain's Energy Policy

No YouTube:
1) MSNBC - MIKE BARNICLE: Naked wife jokes may work in Sturgis but probably won't help him win over these evangelicals.
2) MSNBC - RACHAEL MADDOW: Barack Obama creates large crowds when he gives speeches, John McCain's campaign has just figured out where there's going to be a large crowd for another reason and hope to slip their candidate in between other acts.
3) MSNBC: Olbermann plays Paris Hilton response ad
4) MSNBC: Pat Buchanan and Eugene Robinson debate who played the race card first

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Pushes Nuclear Power, Offshore Drilling, and Calls For Congress To Return to Session (CNN 08/05/08 5:05pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Raw and unfiltered, John McCain speaking in Michigan today after touring a nuclear plant in Newport. He talked about why nuclear power should play a big part in the solution to America's energy problems.

JOHN MCCAIN: Solving our national energy crisis requires, as I mentioned in all of the above approach, and that will require aggressive development of alternative energies like wind, solar, tide, and bio-fuels. It also requires expanding additional sources of energy such as offshore drilling. And I notice that, it's confusing now information from Senator Obama as to whether he actually supports offshore drilling or not. The fact is, we have to drill here and we have to drill now and we have to drill immediately. And it has to be done as quickly as possible and I believe that it's vital that we move forward with that regardless of what we do on other energy issues. Senator Obama has said that expanding our nuclear power plants quote, "doesn't make sense for America." He also says no to nuclear storage and no to reprocessing. I could not disagree more. My experience with nuclear power goes back many years to being stationed on board the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear powered aircraft. Aircraft

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carrier. I knew it was safe then, and I know it's safe now. And I propose a plan to build 45 new nuclear plants before the year 2030 and that would provide 700,000 jobs for American workers. And that means new jobs, and if we really want to enable technologies of tomorrow like plug-in electric cars, we need electricity to plug into. Now, we all know that nuclear power isn't enough and drilling isn't enough. And we need to do all this and more. And it's time that the Congress came back to Washington and went about the people's business. They just went on a five-week vacation without even in the slightest way, addressing this nation's energy needs. People are paying $4.00/gallon for gas are sick and tired of a Congress that won't act in their behalf. So I'm urging Senator Obama to urge the democratic leaders of Congress to call Congress back into session. Come back from their vacation and act on our energy challenges. When I'm President of the United States I'll call them back into session and I'll keep calling them back until they act on behalf of the interests of the American people and this compelling national security issue. And it's time we got serious about energy independence. Our nation is sending 700 billion dollars a year to countries that don't like us very much and some of that money ends up in the hands of terrorist organizations. We're going to achieve energy independence and we're going to get it done, and we're going to use every available resource at our disposal. That means the Lexington Project, which I have been talking about now for a long, long period of time. I hope that the Congress of the United States will come back into session address offshore drilling, which is absolutely vital, address nuclear power, and all of the other approaches that are very necessary to achieve energy independence.

Highlight #2

McCain's Made a Poor Choice With "China Syndrome" Plant (MSNBC 08/05/08 6:06pm)

RACHAEL MADDOW: My headline tonight is Nuclear Misfire in Michigan . . . the McCain campaign's patented message scrambling technique is unfortunately back at work in this nuclear reactor photo op today. Remember that movie China Syndrome, about a catastrophic nuclear reactor meltdown? The phrase "China syndrome" was coined when the Enrico Fermi nuclear site that John McCain went to for his photo op today partially melted down in 1966. That nuclear accident also inspired a non-fiction thriller called "We Almost Lost Detroit." Not exactly what you want to make Americans think of when they think of your energy plan. It wasn't too long ago that McCain was planning on running as the eco-Republican green candidate who was explicitly not a proponent of nukes. Now he's running as the drill everywhere, build nuclear reactors everywhere candidate and the whole "We Almost Lost Detroit" reminder too was probably a bad political move for McCain.

DAVID GREGORY: But you've got a situation, Rachael, where both candidates now want to be on the record with almost everything. They want to be as comprehensive as possible when it comes to an energy plan because they're looking at the polls like everybody else.

MADDOW: Sure, and they now that every single time any American goes to the gas station, they're thinking about what can be done at a federal level to bring gas prices down. McCain . . . has come a long way in terms of the things that he's for and against on energy policy. I just think that his stagecraft needs a little work before he tours the China syndrome plant.

McCain Jumps From Figurative to Literal Meltdown (MSNBC 08/05/08 8:40pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: Nothing like having one word sum up an entire day on the campaign trail. For John McCain the word was meltdown. Yes, the vernacular kind but the literal kind too . . . John McCain goes nuclear. At the famed biker festival in Sturgis, South Dakota, Sen. McCain launched an attack about energy independence, at least originally and then kind of got lost in some of the more complicated sentences.

JOHN MCCAIN: Is there anybody is that's tired of paying four dollars a du—a bu—bucks, four dollars a gallon for gasoline? Is there anybody that's sick and tired of it? Is there anybody that wants to become energy independent? Well I'm telling you right now, we're sending $700 billion over year and your congress just went on vacation for five weeks. Tell 'em to come back and get to work. Tell 'em to get to work! [cheering] When I'm President of the United States, I'm not going to let them go on vacation. They're going to become energy independent and we're not going to pay $4 a gallon for gas because we're going to drill offshore and we're going to drill now. And we're going to drill here and we're going to drill now. [bikes revving] My opponent doesn't want to drill, he doesn't want nuclear power. He wants you to inflate your tires. [booing] My friends, we need a commander in chief, we need a commander in chief who'll end the war in Iraq but will win it the right way and that's by winning it.

OLBERMANN: You let me know when you come up with that wrong way of winning a war by winning it. And while we explained to the senator last night how the Bush administration and NASCAR both insist that tire inflation really does save huge quantities of gas, Sen. Obama responded to McCain on his own today.

BARACK OBAMA: It's like these guys take pride in being ignorant. [laughter] You know? I mean, they think it's funny that they're making fun of something that's actually true. They need to do their homework . . .

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OLBERMANN: McCain meanwhile highlighted part of his energy plan, subsidies for more nuclear plants, touring a nuclear plant today, the first presidential candidate in recent memory to do so. Most apparently considering them politically radioactive. McCain's showpiece for safe nuclear energy? The Enrico Fermi 2 plant, half an hour from Detroit, half an hour from Ann Arbor, half an hour from Toledo, where a nuclear regulatory commission alert occurred after a leak forced a plant shutdown and cancellation of nearby afterschool activities. This following 2001's quote, "catastrophic bearing failure" of the emergency diesel generator there and the 1999 security violation at Fermi where someone got a loaded handgun inside. So why not tour Enrico Fermi Plant 1? Well, they shut that down in 1972 and enough liquid sodium still remains that just this May, it started a fire there which the NRC had to check for radioactivity. That and of course, Enrico Fermi 1 is best known for its actual, partial meltdown from 1966, chronicled in a best-seller called, "We Almost Lost Detroit." . . .

Highlight #3
McCain's Nuclear Power Ambitions and His Attacks on Obama on ABC Nightly News (ABC 08/05/08 6:10pm)
CHARLES GIBSON: For the second day in a row the presidential candidates were talking about energy while campaigning in battleground states. […] Meanwhile, John McCain was in Michigan calling for construction of 45 new nuclear power plants by the year 2030. […]

RON CLAIBORNE: John McCain toured the 20 year old Fermi Nuclear facility near Detroit today, a campaign swing meant to highlight his call to building dozens of new atomic power plants in the U.S. […] McCain believes nuclear power is a viable way to produce electricity and decrease America's reliance on foreign oil. Some energy experts agree.

CHRIS LARSEN: The 40 or so power plants is consistent with some of our analysis in what would be required in the next 20 to 30 years in order to provide electricity at a reasonable cost.

CLAIBORNE: McCain also attacked Barack Obama today for, as McCain said, opposing expanding the use of nuclear power. […] Actually, Obama does not oppose more nuclear power plants, he favors going forward only if it can be done safely. McCain says it is safe now. […] The McCain campaign believes it is scoring points by hitting Obama hard on the energy issue, trying to brand him as opposed to nuclear power and offshore oil drilling, and ridiculing Obama for saying that inflating your tires will improve gas mileage. […] McCain and Obama believe energy has become a cutting issue. And both sides will continue pounding away at each other.

Highlight #4
Romney Discusses Energy and Nuclear Power Solutions, Name Calling, and Dick Cheney (CNN 08/05/08 5:34pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] In the past couple of days Senator Obama has been making this very serious charge against Senator McCain. […] Can you site one legislative accomplishment that Senator McCain produced during those 26 years in Washington in order to achieve energy independence?

MITT ROMNEY: Well I'm not a historian that goes through all of the pieces of legislation John McCain has worked on, but lets talk about one piece of legislation that's pretty relevant and that's the Bush energy plan which Barack Obama voted in favor of and John McCain looked at it and said it's so larded up with tax breaks and special incentives to oil companies and gas companies. John McCain voted no on that piece of legislation. They have very different perspectives. John McCain has laid out his plan to get energy independence and it includes nuclear power and it includes drilling offshore. Both of those things are opposed by Barack Obama and there's no way America can become energy independent and energy prices can come down without nuclear power and more drilling as well as all the alternative sources that both men agree on.

BLITZER: He also proposes, Senator McCain, a cut in the overall corporate tax structure in the United States and that would, in effect, represent a billion dollar a year bonanza, if not more, for EXXON Mobil and some of the other big oil companies. Should there be an exemption for the big oil companies who are producing record profits every quarter so they don't benefit from yet more tax breaks?

ROMNEY: You know, um, there's a real question that we have in this country as to whether we're going to believe in free market systems, and the way the markets work, free enterprise. Or whether, instead, we want to have government run economies and we can pick winners and losers and say that certain companies are making too much money. And then by the way, if companies don't do well, should government pay them money so they do better? This is where it all leads. You know, I don't like the fact that big oil is making the kind of money they're making, I don't think a lot of people are excited about it. At the same time, I'm not sure you want to jump in there and change the rules after many many investors, retirees, pension funds, and so forth have invested in companies like EXXON Mobil. Do you say, hey guess what guys, we're taking away those dividends that you invested for? So, in my view, you put down the law, you follow the rule of law, and you also lower the tax rates on

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small corporations, on all corporations to make America more competitive. We have tax rates, corporate tax rates, well higher than Europe, almost as high as Japan's which is the highest in the world. It's killing jobs here, John McCain's right.

BLITZER: Senator McCain in that ad that caused a lot of controversy the other day, he compared Senator Obama to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. Just yesterday, you said Senator Obama was like quote " an internet date". Here's the question, is it appropriate to use these kind of comparisons against the democratic presidential nominee, in effect, is it appropriate to be name calling the democratic presidential candidate?

ROMNEY: Well, the name calling is on both sides of course, politics is a, well let's say it's not tiddlewinks by any means. And in many cases, you want to describe something in a way people remember. I thought that John McCain's ad was humorous and right on target. And in fact, we've watched Barack Obama give some wonderful speeches talking about hope and audacity, but what he hasn't done is talk about what he would do to solve the problems of America and now that Americans are actually listening to him talk about energy and finding that he opposes offshore drilling, and he opposes nuclear power, and he says that we can end our problems with energy with inflating our tires, more appropriately, and tuning up our engines, people say wow, this guy's not ready for primetime.

BLITZER: Do you regret calling him, saying he's like an internet date?

ROMNEY: No, it's like an internet date in that it sounded very good initially, when people look at him and hear him speak they say, wow this guy's great. But then you get to know him a little better and you say you know, what you really see behind the surface is not exactly what people had hoped for.

BLITZER: The Democratic National Committee, they've got a website basically saying that all of the Republican vice-presidential potential candidates out there represent the next Dick Cheney. […] You're on that short list, by all accounts, to be the vice-presidential running mate for Senator McCain. What do you think about Dick Cheney?

ROMNEY: You know, Dick Cheney is a fine person who has served this country with distinction. I don't agree with him on every issue, I don't agree with most republicans on every single issue. My guess is a lot of people who are being considered by John McCain as V.P. material are people who are very independent. Probably of John McCain, but also of Dick Cheney or George Bush. Just because we're republican doesn't mean we see all issues the same way and suggesting that we're all like Dick Cheney or we're all like George Bush is a nice effort on their part, but I frankly don't think it'll fly.

BLITZER: He's been Vice-President now for almost 8 years, earlier he was the Defense Secretary, he served in Congress, served as a White House Chief of Staff under then President Gerald Ford. Should he be invited to speak at this Republican Convention in St. Paul, because we're getting word he's not going to be there.

ROMNEY: Yeah, I have no idea who's going to be speaking at the convention.

BLITZER: But should he be? Should he speaking, should he be invited, given his public service over the years?

ROMNEY: I don't know, I don't know if he particularly cares, and I don't know if it makes a big difference. Frankly, what really makes a difference in a presidential election is who the presidential nominee is not who the vice president or who the vice presidential nominee is. A lot of folks are putting a lot of attention on these short lists, and who's on it and who's not, but you know what? It's going to come down to John McCain and Barack Obama. We're going to listen to their positions on issues, we're going to see them in debates, and on the basis of those two men, head to head, America's going to choose the next president, and they're going to want someone who can lead and has the experience of leading in difficult times. John McCain has been a leader all his life, Barack Obama hasn't had that experience yet. I'd like him to get it before we consider him for higher office.

BLITZER: Wouldn't it be insulting? Wouldn't it be a slap in the face of Dick Cheney if he weren't allowed to speak at the convention?

ROMNEY: Well, if Dick Cheney didn't want to speak at the convention it certainly wouldn't be a slap, and I don't know that anyone is suggesting that he will or won't speak. I just don't think it makes a big difference one way or another.

Romney Wrong on McCain's CAFE Standards Record (MSNBC 08/05/08
BARNICLE: . . . one of the great discussions in this country . . . has to do with energy . . . yesterday . . . Barack Obama gave a speech on . . . his energy proposals. What are yours? Not as a candidate . . . as a guy who

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knows a lot about energy . . . about putting together business plans. . .

ROMNEY: . . . you're going to have to pursue every possible source of new energy that America can find and at the same time . . . of energy efficiency we can achieve . . . more nuclear power. . . more drilling . . . more natural gas . . .liquefied coal . . . And . . . wind power, solar power. . . pursue them to the max and invest in new technologies, create incentives for enterprises to develop these new technologies. . . that happens to be John McCain's proposal, he wants to become energy independent . . . to pursue all of those avenues. Barack Obama says, no to nuclear power . . . offshore drilling and those two are essential if we're going to become seriously independent of our dependence on foreign oil.

BARNICLE: . . . in some . . . Americans' minds that if we engage in offshore oil drilling that the price of gas will come down within 2 or 3 weeks . . .So what'd you do about getting the price of gas in a manageable range in a relatively short period of time?

ROMNEY: . . . announcing . . . offshore drilling and going after some of the reserves that are available would have an immediate effect on price because the expectations of those that trade in oil futures would be that more supply is going to come on the market down the road . . . most of the impact is going to be longer term . . . and substantial. And what you have to do to affect global and US oil prices substantially is to have the largest consuming nation, that's us, lay out a course that says we're going to do what's necessary to get off of foreign oil. Just doing that . . . would have the effect of lowering gasoline prices almost immediately.

BARNICLE: . . . it's rare to see the word conservation right up top in John McCain's plan . . . yet . . . you're about to go off to China for the Olympics . . . a nation that's becoming increasingly greedy for energy sources along with nations like India. What can we do as Americans to conserve energy without risking our lifestyle? Or are we just too spoiled to conserve?

ROMNEY: Now actually, I think that you're going to see in this country . . . a far greater effort to become energy efficient than we've ever seen before and that's going to be in our automobiles. . . . John McCain has in fact been a supporter of the CAFE fuel standard tightening and that has had . . . or can have a major impact on our use of gasoline and oil products. . . it's going to have to be in our homes and energy usage in our homes. From the type of furnaces we use to heat our homes . . . air conditioning and our insulation systems. Probably the least expensive and most immediate impact we can have on energy prices . . . is by taking advantage of new energy efficiencies. That's something that I think John McCain will pursue with the same kind of aggressiveness he will pursue every source of additional energy. And that combination is what gets us to a point where we can say, "Thanks very much but we don't need your oil" to the Middle East.

BARNICLE: . . . a lot of Americans are fearful for the future and . . . are hurting economically, gas prices in particular . . . in 1980 Ronald Reagan ran against Jimmy Carter and phrased the question that Americans responded to . . . "Are you better off today than you were four years ago?". . . Do you think we're worse off today than we were four years ago?

ROMNEY: … with regards to the threat of . . . jihad I think we're in a better position in Iraq thanks to the virtue of the surge which John McCain pushed for a long time . . . with regards to the economy, the credit crisis, the mortgage crisis . . . the higher prices of gasoline have made the American family less well off . . . that's why you have John McCain standing up and saying, look, I'm an independent minded guy, I'm a maverick, I've fought for what I believe in from the very beginning . . . job number one in that regard is to get us off our dependence on foreign oil . . . he's not taking anything off the table . . . it's a very stark contrast with Barack Obama . . .

BARNICLE: Nothing off the table including raising taxes?

ROMNEY: Well, raising taxes doesn't … provide more sources of energy . . . that's one place where John McCain is saying no, I'm not going to raise taxes . . . he's also, look, to try and help families during the summer time saying we should have taken off the federal gas tax during the summer . . .

Highlight #5
Donatelli Outlines McCain's Energy Plan, Attacks Obama's (MSNBC 08/05/08 4:30pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: The McCain campaign has repeatedly ridiculed Barack Obama's calls for conservation going so far as to hand out tire gauges to mock Obama. It was noted that Americans can save gas by keeping their tires properly inflated. Frank Donatelli's chairman of the RNC and spokesman for the McCain campaign. Frank, the Bush Administration's own highway department said that if more American's would properly inflate our tires and tune our engines we'd save about 800,000 barrels a day. Isn't that more than we'd get from John McCain's new offshore drilling plan?

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FRANK DONATELLI: Absolutely not. Look, no one is saying, David, that conservation isn't a good idea. But we need a plan that's balanced; we need a plan that addresses the long term and the short term solutions. Senator Obama's plan does not give us an additional drop of domestic oil, coal or nuclear, period.

SHUSTER: But you would acknowledge that John McCain's plan doesn't produce any new oil for at least seven years.

DONATELLI: I would not acknowledge that at all. Uh, experts tell us that in the Gulf of Mexico, for example, where there's already infrastructure you could additional oil online pretty quickly. In addition to that

SHUSTER: Right, you can get it online but the refining capacity isn't there, right?

DONATELLI: Well, I mean you solve one problem at a time. We're also in favor of additional, well you have to do more in terms of our refining capacity also, but look, in the long term we have to make a commitment to do something about domestic energy supplies. Once we do that, the psychology of the markets will change. Even if it takes several years as far as drilling off the east and west coast, we have to begin now if we're going to fill the middle before we get into the long-term, where maybe alternative energy fuels might make a difference. But McCain has a plan.

SHUSTER: I want to get into the new ad that the McCain campaign is running. Here's part of it.

["Broken" plays]

SHUSTER: Hey Frank, how's John McCain going to battle big oil?

DONATELLI: He will vote in the best interests to the United States on every piece of legislation. David, he has always done that.

SHUSTER: How's he going to battle big oil specifically?

DONATELLI: He will not give them specific subsidies like Senator Obama voted for in the 2005 bill. All he's going to do is he's going to strike

SHUSTER: I mean, he's giving them corporate tax breaks. Corporate tax breaks worth 3.8 billion dollars. Now granted, John McCain believes we should give every corporation tax breaks, so it is misleading to suggest, as Obama does, that somehow John McCain is singling out Exxon Mobile for tax breaks, but the fact of the matter is, don't you agree, that his corporate tax plan would lower the tax rate that a company like Exxon mobile's going to pay by nearly 3.8 billion dollars for big oil.

DONATELLI: David, as you pointed out, lower taxes for corporations are lower taxes for all corporations, not just oil, and we do that because at some point taxes are too high, it discourages work and incentive and it lowers our economic growth. We have the highest corporate tax rate in the world. If Senator McCain advocates lowering the corporate tax rate, it's because he believes that our economy needs to be kicked in gear. We need to create jobs and the private sector does that, the government does not do that.

SHUSTER: Frank, one more quick question. At the start of the ad, we heard the ad say that we are worse off than we were four years ago. But during this campaign, John McCain said that we've made great progress economically. So what is it, great progress, or worse off?

DONATELLI: Like most economic statistics, it's a mixed bag. Clearly in terms of the short term, in terms of inflation and in terms of unemployment, we are not in a good situation. On the other hand, there are statistics showing that we have made progress in certain areas. So it's a mixed bag. But f or right now, the economy is soft, we're teetering on the brink of a potential downturn. The last thing, David, that we need to do now is do what Senator Obama says, and raise virtually every tax known to man. What we need to do is keep taxes low, and that will eventually strengthen our economy.

SHUSTER: Frank Donatelli's the spokesman for the McCain campaign, one of the pros who can hit 'em back just as hard as we throw them at him.

Highlight #6
The Original Maverick? New McCain Ad Tries to Distance Himself From President Bush (FNC 08/05/08 7:34pm)
SHEPARD SMITH: McCain's out with a brand new ad today calling himself the original Maverick. […] Is that a

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response to Obama's claim that McCain's running for president for Bush's third term.

CARL CAMERON: Yes and no. McCain's boasted about his independence for years. But buying airtime is a very big step. And it's true that Obama's scuffed up McCain's image. So, McCain's sort of trying to set the record straight. His argument is that Obama promises change but has little record or history of it because he's fairly new to politics. Where as McCain's managed for years to be pushing reforms through Congress that an awful lot of people never thought would ever get through.

SMITH: McCain's ad also says we're worse off than we were four years ago, which economically speaking is hard to argue with, but a serious shot at President Bush.

CAMERON: It is, McCain makes no bones about differing with the President but aides say that when the campaigns over it'll be hard to recognize that McCain and Bush were ever in the same party. They also say that what McCain really thinks is that we are better off than we were 8 years ago when Bush took over for President Clinton, but in the last four years or so, the House Republicans and the President sort of lost control of spending. And he's never been afraid of dissing republicans when it serves his political lens. […] It is true that McCain has cast an awful lot of votes in Congress in line with his party and his President, but it's also true that McCain has stuck his finger in the eye of the G.O.P. far more than anybody. And certainly far more than Obama has with democrats. McCain's known for aggravating his party and Obama's known for a fairly reliable, albeit newcomer democrat.

Highlight #7
Carney: "'Broken' Recalls McCain's Record As a So-Called Maverick in Washington (MSNBC 08/05/08 6:03pm)
JAY CARNEY: . . . McCain remembers who he was, his new ad is called "Broken," and what it breaks is a streak of non-stop attacks from the McCain campaign . . . the new ad instead recalls McCain's record as a so-called maverick in Washington . . .

["Broken" plays]

CARNEY: . . .the attacks will not stop on Obama. They succeeded, I think, in reinvigorating the McCain campaign and exciting Republicans and making them believe perhaps they won't lose this race after all but the McCain campaign will spend . . . a great deal of money reminding voters of what they thought they liked about McCain before this campaign.

DAVID GREGORY: It is striking though, it says that you are worse off than four years ago, not eight years ago, when he did campaign for Bush's reelection.

CARNEY: Well, it is interesting and it's a hard situation because, as we know, President Bush will speak at the Republican Convention. President Bush's legacy hangs over the party and this Republican nominee and is a distraction and a problem for John McCain in his race for the White House.

Highlight #8
The Tire Gauge The Political Prop of the Week (CNN 08/05/08 6:57pm)
JEANE MOOS: Could this be the hiss of the air going out of a political stunt? The tire pressure gauge has become the political prop of the week, as the McCain campaign uses it to try to deflate Senator Obama. […] This is what Senator Obama did say as he kicked off things individuals could do save energy.

BARACK OBAMA: Making sure your tires are properly inflated.

MOSE: Those seven words became what the McCain campaign dubbed "Obama's energy plan". Emblazoned on tire pressure gauges they handed out on the press plane. McCain folks even handed out tire gauges to people lining up for an Obama rally. They're being sold on Ebay for 10 bucks. And over and over Senator McCain used tire inflation to tred on Obama. […] Tire pressure, tire pressure, all this talk about tire pressure is raising my blood pressure. […] Boo, hiss is what columnist Joe Klein is saying.

JOE KLEIN: I think the McCain campaign has this weird idea that you can win a presidential election through mockery.

MOOS: But the Automobile Association of America isn't mocking tire inflation. On a vehicle like this, just one tire, […] could result in this. [Losing about 8 percent of your fuel economy] After several days of republican spin on the tire issue Obama got tired of it. […] His actual energy plan fills page after page on his website. […] But watch your back, tire pressure gauges can be hazardous. This guy used one to create a pipe to smoke ganga and our

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AAA expert found out it's not just the gauge that's feeling the pressure.

Holtz-Eakin Defends Tire Gauges and McCain's Energy Policy (MSNBC 08/05/08 2:06pm)
TAMRON HALL: . . . the offshore oil drilling, there's of course been a compromise according to Sen. Obama, as he has described it, we saw John McCain do the same thing but much earlier . . . did Sen. Obama . . . . wait too long to come up with the idea on offshore oil drilling?

AUSTAN GOLDBEE: There's a political distinction there on how to make a compromise to get a real energy bill and then there's a what will put money in people's pockets right now and Obama's been way ahead of the curve on that. The offshore oil drilling is not going to affect supply for 5 to 7 years . . .

JOHN HARWOOD: . . . John McCain's out with a new ad today out in battleground states . . . John McCain returns to that maverick image he had . . .

["Broken" ad plays]

HARWOOD: So, Austen, what'd you see,? Are you convinced? . . .

GOLDBEE: I didn't see big oil mentioned. I know he got $2 million dollars or so from big oil when he said he was going to be in favor of opening up . . . to offshore oil drilling . . . I'm a little puzzled why, when they got 40 million acres offshore with about 5 times the oil in it, where they're allowed to drill now and they have chosen not to, why we would be giving them another gift of offshore drilling acres where there's a lot less oil.

HARWOOD: So how come Doug?

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, I mean, Sen. McCain has a comprehensive energy policy designed to solve real problems. A real problem we have is the need for alternatives to imported oil. He's proposed expanding domestic production of oil, Sen. Obama's opposed. He's proposed more natural gas to help our manufacturing and home heating costs, Sen. Obama's opposed. We're going to use our coal, it's our most abundant energy resource, Sen. Obama said no. He's today talking about nuclear power; 45 new plants, clean, zero emissions, you could drive on it at three cents a mile. Sen. Obama's opposed. So, you know, I'm confused by why Sen. Obama describes what went on in Washington as progress. Congress failed completely. They melted down. They left. Nothing got done. If that's his notion of progress we have a problem . . .

HALL: . . . I'm going to ask about what a lot of folks are talking about—this gas gauge that the McCain campaign has been passing around, showing that Sen. Obama has the, quote/unquote, "simple idea," and even mocking him in this ad. Some people are saying progress is not pointing these little innuendos and this little back and forth, it is really hammering to the folks at home the policy, the energy policy, both long term and what can happen. Why, why use the gas gauge strategy? Especially when even the US Highway Association says that it is a good idea to make sure your tires're inflated, it will save you some money.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Sen. Obama's words, his speech yesterday revealed that he either doesn't understand the magnitude of this problem or he's just not being straight with the American people. He proposed getting rid of ¼ of oil imports. And the way he proposed doing it, some hybrids, a bio-fuels objective, some more CAFÉ standards would solve about a third of that problem. It's like throwing a gas gauge at it. It's time for real solutions. It's time for people who will, instead of voting for the 2005 energy act which had all the handouts for big oil, will stand up to their party, reach across the aisle, solve problems for real people. That's what John McCain's talking about. This isn't about where your poll numbers are. This is about having alternatives to imported oil, it's a national security threat, it's about having cleaner electricity because we need to solve the global warming problem and it's about having a comprehensive ability to divorce ourselves from the threat of international oil markets. The American people have been held hostage far too long.

HARWOOD: Now Doug, Barack Obama was in Ohio today . . . he attacked John McCain pretty directly by linking him to President Bush. Let's take a listen to this . . .

BARACK OBAMA: Under Sen. McCain's plan . . . we stay in the same cycle of dependence on oil that got us into this problem in the first place. The oil companies have placed their bets on John McCain . . .

HARWOOD: So Doug, in your ad, John McCain says that he would take on big oil, Barack Obama says he's in the pocket of big oil. Talk about that.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: John McCain said no to the 2005 Energy Act, which gave the big handouts to big oil. He's proposed repealing all special tax treatment for oil companies. What Sen. Obama is missing—

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HARWOOD: He's giving them what they want on drilling right?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: He's missing the facts on the ground, which are that all the experts say that a comprehensive approach, everything has to be in the mix, oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear power, renewables, the biomasses, the biofuels, that's the center's Lexington project. And it is absolutely important that Sen. Obama understand that American jobs leave this country, jobs that have retirement benefits, health benefits, because we have the second highest corporate tax rate and if wants to attack John McCain for taking care of the American worker, I believe he's on the wrong side of that issue as well.

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From: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 8/28/2015 11:32:42 AM
Subject: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance 8/28/15

Hi everyone – we wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news this week and last.

Women's Empowerment in Haiti
Refinery29 joined the Clinton Foundation on our recent trip to Haiti, where they got a firsthand look at our work there and what we're doing to empower girls and women. We hope you'll watch the video that accompanies the piece as well.

> *"I think there is such a case for optimism about Haiti," Chelsea says. "And also really about what women can do when we're truly unfettered." These female entrepreneurs strive for success not because it will bring them wealth or fame, but because with steady employment, they're able to economically support not just their families but also other women as well.*

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Share this article on FACEBOOK here: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/839346722853437

In New Orleans, Shifting the Focus from "Recovery to Innovation"
Yesterday, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu wrote an op-ed published by Quartz commemorating the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The piece highlights the work of President Clinton and CGI members to build back New Orleans following the storm. Retweet Mayor Landrieu's op-ed here.

> *I had the opportunity to meet with [President Clinton] when he came down to New Orleans on behalf of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund following the hurricane and subsequent levee failures. He had recognized this moment as a global challenge rather than just a local disaster. It was then that we heard about his plans for the Clinton Global Initiative–a cross-sector platform that eventually transformed philanthropy and informed our efforts to put New Orleans back together.*

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/637023612877324288

Announcing CGI Annual Meeting Participants and Program
Yesterday, we announced initial speakers and program information for this year's CGI Annual Meeting. President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton will be joined September 26-29 in New York City by more than 1,000 of the most influential leaders from philanthropy, business, government, and civil society. Themed "The Future of Impact," to define the next decade of solving global challenges and highlight the necessary next steps for accelerating progress going forward. Coinciding with the United Nations' new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), members of the CGI community will explore how to take action on issues like climate change, women's equality, and global health.

Participants include **Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah** of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**; Joyce Banda**, Former President of the Republic of Malawi**; Richard Branson**, Founder Virgin Group & Virgin Unite; **Jim Brett**, President, West Elm; **Ursula M. Burns**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Xerox Corporation; **Kathy Calvin**, President and CEO, United Nations Foundation; **Bernice Dahn**, Minister of Health, Republic of Liberia; **Sylvia Earle**, Founder and Chairman, The Sylvia Earle Alliance and National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence; **Irakli Garibashvili**, Prime Minister of Georgia; **Hage Geingob**, President of the Republic of Namibia; **Ralph Gonsalves**, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines; **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**, President of the Republic of Croatia; **Hugh Grant**, Chairman and CEO, Monsanto Company**; Ólafur R. Grímsson**, President of Iceland; **Atifete Jahjaga**, President of the Republic of Kosovo; **Jim Yong Kim**, President, World Bank Group; **Yang Lan**, Chairman, Sun Media Group and Sun Culture Foundation; **Jane Madgwick**, Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International; **James A. Michel**, President of Seychelles; **Joseph Muscat**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta; **Enrique Peña Nieto,** President of Mexico; **Sean Parker**, Chairman of the Parker Foundation; **Frieda S. Pinto**, Actor & Producer of Girl Rising; **Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania; **Judith Rodin**, President, The Rockefeller Foundation; **Juan Manuel Santos Calderón**, President, Republic of Colombia; **Kailash Satyarthi**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2014; **Maithripala Sirisena**, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, President of the Republic of Liberia; **Elizabeth Hausler Strand**, Founder and CEO, Build Change; **Neil deGrasse Tyson**, Astrophysicist, American Museum of Natural History; **Muhammad Yunus**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Chairman, Yunus Centre; and more to be announced. **Erin Burnett**, anchor, "Erin Burnett OutFront"; **Fareed Zakaria**, host of CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS" and Washington Post columnist; **Becky Quick**, co-anchor of CNBC's "Squawk Box"; and **Shane Smith**, CEO and co-founder of Vice Media, will moderate special sessions for broadcast.

On the evening of Sunday, September 27th, the **9th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards™** presented by Starkey Hearing Foundation will be held during a special ceremony to honor outstanding individuals for their exemplary leadership and groundbreaking work which has effected positive, lasting social change.

Remember to check our website for the most up-to-date list. See the full press release on featured participants and

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programming here , and share the news on Twitter here .

Also check out what our friends and partners are tweeting:

> **Devex @Devex** Aug 27
> We're heading to #CGI2015 next month! Excited to be bringing you news from this great lineup of speakers!
>
> **Alice Korngold @Alicekorngold** Aug 27
> Excited 2participate @clintonglobal 4my 8th yr! Read re #CGI: http://amzn.to/1at3BcN #ABetterWorldInc Join #CGI2015

Celebrating Progress and Identifying Gaps that Remain

On Women's Equality Day, No Ceilings released its newest data visualization on NoCeilings.org . It details the educational challenges faced by girls and boys in low-income households. Also, check out this TIME Magazine article , which features an infographic based in part on data compiled by No Ceilings.

Share on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/636595399185289216
Share on FACEBOOK here: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/839186326202810

Correcting Inaccuracies about the Foundation

Knowing the facts is important. In an article about Sen. Rand Paul's trip to Haiti, the AP portrayed Paul's claim that "almost none" of Foundation funding went to charity as an open question instead of debunked falsehood .

> *The Associated Press presented Sen. Rand Paul's false attack that "almost none" of the Clinton Foundation's spending goes to charity as an unresolved, open question. But experts say the Clinton Foundation's charitable spending is "very good" by industry standards, and attacks like Paul's are "simply wrong" and amount "to a misunderstanding of how public charities work."*

Share the fact check on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/mmfa/status/634409641754013696

#ActionIsGreater in Haiti

Virgin Unite, the entrepreneurial foundation of the Virgin Group, profiled the Clinton Foundation's lifesaving work in Haiti and our recent #ActionIsGreater campaign.

> *"The Clinton Foundation's #ActionIsGreater campaign is an important reminder that although circumstances may appear insurmountable, when smart brains, big hearts and genuine commitment come together, life changing progress can be made."*

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/634454869361958912

CGI Commitment-Makers are "doing well by doing good."

Yesterday, Fortune Magazine launched their "Change the World List: Companies that are doing well by doing good." CGI worked with Fortune to develop the list, and a whopping 36 companies out of the 50 listed are CGI commitment-makers.

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/634465305067040768

#Commit2Ten with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Chelsea Clinton talked to Yahoo Parenting about how to keep you family healthy and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's #Commit2Ten campaign, which encourages us all to add ten more minutes of physical activity every day.

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ChelseaClinton/status/636548499719360512

CGEPartnership Connects Indian Farmers to Markets

The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership is working with CropConnect Enterprises to streamline the farming process in India. See how this partnership empowers farmers and reduces agricultural waste in an article in Forbes.

> *Partnering with former president Bill Clinton and Canadian philanthropist Frank Giustra's Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, [CropConnect Enterprises] is currently working to create joint platform across India's often ignored northeastern states. They plan to introduce a crop cycle that allows farmers to maintain a sustainable business throughout the year by growing different types of fruits and vegetables.*

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ChelseaClinton/status/633793775849095168

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***CGI Commitment Proves that* Tech Girls Rock**

As part of a 2011 CGI Commitment to Action, CA Technologies partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for *Tech Girls Rock,* a program aimed at encouraging young women to enter the high tech world. Watch a video by The Balancing Act to see the program's workshops and important work.

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/633707447455191041

Fashion Goes Green with the help of CGI U Students

Showing that sustainability can be boundless, CGI U students Lydia Baird and Willa Tsokanis of the Fashion Institute of Technology were featured in the Wall Street Journal for their innovative textile composting system. Surprised how biodegradable textiles were often thrown away, the students developed a CGI U commitment showing how the fashion industry can more sustainable through textile composting.

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/634062337427795968
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School District Wins Award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generations

Congratulations to Texas' McAllen Independent School District for being the first school district to have all of its schools recognized by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Last week, all 32 schools were awarded the 2015 National Healthy Schools Bronze Award. With the Alliance's support, thousands of students in McAllen are living healthier lives.

In Case You Missed It:

President Clinton was featured on the cover of Inc. Magazine's September issue.
LA Times wrote about the CareerBuilder Challenge PGA tournament, hosted in partnership with the Clinton Foundation.
As part of World Elephant Day yesterday, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton authored an op-ed for AOL titled "To protect Africa's elephants, stop the demand.

Have a great weekend!

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From:	orca100 <orca100@upcmail.nl>
To:	sbrown@politico.eu cwinneker@politico.eu jplucinska@politico.eu bsurk@politico.eu jbarigazzi@politico.eu ehananoki@mediamatters.org pdallison@politico.eu abernath@law.georgetown.edu podesta@law.georgetown.edu tyler.kingkade@huffingtonpost.com antonia.blumberg@huffingtonpost.com roy.sekoff@gmail.com whitney@huffingtonpost.com stuart@huffingtonpost.com maygers@huffingtonpost.com david@huffingtonpost.com cindy.vanegas@huffingtonpost.com louise.ridley@huffingtonpost.com aubrey.allegretti@huffingtonpost.com eamonn@helprefugees.org.uk nharvey@doctorsoftheworld.org.uk kate.sheppard@huffingtonpost.com igor.bobic@huffingtonpost.com stephen.hull@huffingtonpost.com
Date:	2/21/2016 1:10:17 PM
Subject:	What's the difference between a German and a shopping cart? A shopping cart has got a mind of its own

“Men never do evil so fully and cheerfully as when they do it out of conscience.” (Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662)

That Frau Schmerkel – who has ordered the blitz banlieue-ization of *Dunkeldeutschland* & its surrounding vassal states, even though she herself has reached the conclusion that masses of Muslims have brought nothing but massive misery to the *Heimat* – has gone completely bonkers was already evident from her Monty Pythonesque energy policy. Have a listen to a comedy clip with English-language subtitles https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e2U2cYcPro .

Germany’s energy policy manages to harm the environment and cripple the German economy at the same time…….. That’s yet another example of German gawd-awful *Gutmenscherei*, more aptly described as *Vollidioterei* – which is set to do more ever-lasting damage to the whole of Europe than all other previous German extremist ideologies combined. Normally, I would look for corroborating evidence in the local media, but the only thing you can learn from the German press is that there are 50 ways to tell a ludicrous lie about Mama Merkel & her Multikulti Morass.

Among the multitudes of MSM falsehoods rammed down the throats of German brainwasheables, the German media are arguing that the many millions of new arrivals will somehow replenish Germany’s graying and shrinking labor force. Never mind that all available figures show that the vast majority of working-age Muslims in Euroweenieland are not only jobless, but also structurally unemployable (completely lacking in all marketable skills). The frightening future of German schmeducation can be best seen in a clip giving an impression of your average Mickey Mouse vocational school, which aims to turn Muslim kids into semi-employables at the lowest possible level and fails miserably across the board https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzMzT6MEzu0 . Go to 30 seconds. To give you an idea, a mind-mashing 63 percent of preschool immigrant children (often 4th generation!) in Berlin’s Kreuzberg district speak little or no German and are theoretically inadmissible to an elementary school, disclosed Professor of Pedagogy Ali Ucar in *Time* magazine.

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What makes for successful immigration?

It's no brain surgery, but the media have long failed to provide a clear credible answer. They are unable to come up with an answer or don't like the answer that's staring them in the face. The main reason behind successful immigration should be painfully obvious to even the most dimwitted of observers: Some groups of people are almost always highly successful given only half a chance (Jews*, Hindus/Sikhs and Chinese people, for example), while others (Muslims, blacks** and Roma***, for instance) fare badly almost irrespective of circumstances. The biggest group of humanity can be found somewhere between those two extremes – the perennial overachievers and the professional never-do-wells.

** On average, Jewish households in Britain are twice as wealthy as the rest of the country. So says Trevor Phillips, a former Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality. Britain's Hindus/Sikhs are runners-up.*

*** This "NY Times" piece http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/24/opinion/24herbert.html?_r=1& reveals only the top of the tip of the iceberg.*

**** 75 percent of welfare-pampered Dutch gypsies have an official criminal record, as the Mayor of Amsterdam disclosed. So it does not take a genius to figure out that crime levels are even more mind-blowing among the 12 million overwhelmingly dirt-poor Roma from and in Eastern Europe. "95 percent" sounds like a fine ballpark extrapolation. But on all fronts, gypsies are below the bottom of the barrel. In the Czech Republic, for example, an eye-bulging 35 percent of all children in special-needs schools are Roma kids, who are overrepresented by a factor of 10……. For decades, the Communists in Eastern Europe forced integration on Roma people – complete with education and guaranteed make-work jobs. It was one big fiasco. Indeed, the Communists invented the crime of "parasitism" specifically for all those Roma who refused to work under any circumstances…….*

In the *Banlieuerepublik Deutschland*, a Jew runs into the US Embassy, grabs the Ambassador by the lapels and yells, "You've got to help me escape!" "Calm down," replies the diplomat. "Here's a map of Europe. Just pick any European country without a sizeable Muslim population, and I'll make sure you can go there." The Jew turns the map around and back, studying it from close by and from afar, finally asking the Ambassador, "Would you have another map for me?"

This footage with English subtitles of two anti-Semitic incidents http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9nbKp1KJ1Y&feature=related was recorded in the Netherlands, but could just as easily have been filmed anywhere else in Banlieue-ized Western Europe. Euroweenieland is rapidly turning into a continent-sized no-go area for *visibly Jewish* Jews. Little wonder that former EU Commissioner Frits Bolkestein has warned them to get out now they still can. The vast majority of anti-Jewish incidents and attacks are attributable to Western Europe's Muslim population – despite all the maliciously obfuscating MSM efforts to somehow pin the blame on the Far Right. The same goes for gay-bashing http://www.torontosun.com/comment/columnists/ezra_levant/2010/10/08/15630946.html .

***

The same Germany that once destroyed Europe's Jewry (its best & brightest citizens by a yawning margin) is now bringing about the massive Muslimization of Europe (*all* Muslim communities in Europe are socioeconomic disaster zones, as I've shown with cartloads of statistics)

In contemplating the life and thought of German-speaking Jewry during the pre-Nazi era, you cannot help being struck by an unprecedented record of creative achievement by so small a group. For well over half a century, the confluence of these two intellectual traditions – the German and the Jewish – produced such an outpouring of literature, music, science and ideas that, hadn't it been for its

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infamous finale, historians would now be writing about a Austro-German Golden Age, comparable to the Italian Renaissance, the Dutch Golden Age and the 20th-century American Cultural Boom. It was a time of Mahler's *Lied von der Erde*, Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Kafka's *The Trial* and Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Similarly, of the 29 Germans who won a Nobel Prize in physics, chemistry or medicine until 1933, 10 were of Jewish descent, even though Germany was home to no more than HALF A MILLION Jews in 1933….. out of a total population of 67 million. Put differently, ridiculously über-achieving Jews formed about 0.75 percent of the German population.

In early-1930s Berlin, the 160,000-strong Jewish community accounted for 27% of doctors, 48% of lawyers and 56% of notaries. Moreover, in prewar Vienna, the 144,000 strong Jewish community produced over 50% of doctors and 70% of lawyers. But this blossoming of Jewish science and culture was cut short by the Nazi regime, which came to power in 1933. By 1939, some 380,000 Jews*, including Germany's *crème de la crème*, had managed to escape. It is was the biggest intellectual migration in history. Of the remaining German Jews,170,000 were murdered. Likewise, out of 180,000 Austrian Jews, 65,000 perished at the hands of the Nazis. The rest had managed to flee their home country. (*All these figures may vary a bit depending on the sources used and require checking.)

Irony of all ironies, the Jewish community in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and one of its successor states, Austria, accounted for almost all famous Austro-Hungarians and Austrians: Harry Houdini, Gustav Mahler, Johann Strauss the Elder, Johann Strauss the Younger, Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Erich von Stroheim, Arnold Schoenberg, Sigmund Freud, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Alfred Adler, Franz Kafka, Robert Capa, Bruno Kreisky, Arthur Schnitzler, Theodor Herzl, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Peter Drucker, Billy Wilder and Simon Wiesenthal. (IMO, Wiesenthal did go from hero to zero in no time at all after committing blatant Communist Holocaust Denial; more about that at a later date).

***

Is one Nobel Prize
so much to ask from a child
after all I've done?

(From *Haikus for Jews: For You, a Little Wisdom* by David M. Bader)

Jews – who now make up 0.2% of the global population or about 13 million people (one megacity) – have produced:

54% of world chess champions
51% of Pulitzer Prize winners for nonfiction
37 percent of all the Academy Award-winning film directors
36% of the Nobel economics winners
31% of the Nobel medicine winners
27% of the Nobel physics winners
18% of the Nobel chemistry winners
76% of America's top-200 intellectuals (source: the 1998 book *The Vanishing American Jew*)
40% of US-won Nobel prizes
As the King of Siam said, etc., etc., etc.

By starkest possible contrast, out of more than 500 Nobel laureates in the sciences, only two have been Muslims, namely Ahmed Zewail in chemistry and Abdus Salam in physics. Muslims currently represent about 1.5 billion people or one fifth of the global population, aka Merkel's Milling Masses.

In an unguarded moment, Rob Reiner of *All in the Family* fame once blurted out what many Jews and

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Gentiles secretly believe, but rarely say aloud, "I think Jews are the smartest people in the world." He could have added, "By an eerily wide margin!" Jewish stupendous superiority in so many spheres of life is one of many PC taboos just begging to be busted.

One group of people has long outperformed all other Earthlings by such a bizarrely wide margin that it singlehandedly smashes this all-folks-are-equal myth into millions of smithereens. Jews – who account for just 0.2% of the global population or just 13.4 million http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews – have won 36% of Nobel prizes in economics; 25% of Nobel prizes in medicine; 24% of Nobel prizes in physics; 18% of Nobel prizes in chemistry; as well as 11% of Nobel prizes in literature http://www.science.co.il. In fact, these brain-blowing figures may be *under*counts. David Brooks of the *New York Times* writes http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/12/opinion/12brooks.html , "Jews are a famously accomplished group. They make up 0.2 percent of the world population, but 54 percent of the world chess champions, 27 percent of the Nobel physics laureates and 31 percent of the medicine laureates. Jews make up 2 percent of the U.S. population, but 21 percent of the Ivy League student bodies, 26 percent of the Kennedy Center honorees, 37 percent of the Academy Award-winning directors, 38 percent of those on a recent *Business Week* list of leading philanthropists, 51 percent of the Pulitzer Prize winners for nonfiction."

Add hard work to breathtaking Jewish intellectual prowess, and magnificent miracles start happening. Or to quote Goethe on the work ethic among the Jews he knew, "Energy is the basis of everything. Every Jew, no matter how insignificant, is engaged in some decisive and immediate pursuit of a goal."

The 1998 book *The Vanishing American Jew* by Prof. Alan Dershowitz claims that, while Jews constituted a measly 2% of the US population, 40% of American Nobel Prize winners in science and economics were Jewish. Indeed, at the time of its publication, Prof. Dershowitz went as far as stating that 50% America's 200 leading intellectuals were Jewish and that 76% percent had at least one Jewish parent. Anyone reading up on just about any sector of American society can only confirm his findings.

Here is a hastily slapped-together *tip-of-the-iceberg* list of world-famous American Jews, which needs to be thoroughly checked for accuracy. Frankly, I stopped adding names to the list when I saw that there are Wiki lists out there about the same subject long enough to reach the Moon or perhaps even Mars:

Daniel Libeskind, Artur Rubinstein, Yehudi Menuhin, Igor Stravinsky, Itzhak Perlman, Vladimir Horowitz, Isaac Stern, Aaron Copeland, Leonard Bernstein, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, Stan Getz, Al Jolson, Barbra Streisand, Bob Dylan, Neil Diamond, Barry Manilow, Lou Reed, Paul Simon, Mel Torme, Randy Newman, Bette Midler, Sandra Bernhard, George Burns, W.C. Fields, Jack Benny, Fran Drescher. Natalie Portman, Eddie Cantor, Henny Youngman, Saul Bellow, Leon Uris, William Shatner, Groucho Marx, Victor Borge, Chico Marx, Sam Goldwyn, Billy Crystal, Sarah Kate Silverman, Milton Berle, Mel Brooks, Jerry Lewis, Charlie Chaplin, Woody Allen, Cary Grant, Joan Rivers, Gary Shandling, Jackie Mason, Danny Kaye, Al Franken, Gene Wilder, Don Rickles, Bob Sagett, Jerry Seinfeld, Ruby Wax, Roseanne Barr, Jeff Goldblum, Peter Falk, Richard Dreyfuss, Walter Matthau, Albert Einstein, Robert Oppenheimer, Edward Teller, Hans Bethe, Ted Arison, Andrew Grove, Stanley Cohen, Jerome Robins, Noam Chomsky, Carl Sagan, Richard Feynman, Syney Lumet, Mark Spitz, Lenny Krayzelburg, Barbra Walters, Larry King, Carl Bernstein, Al Hirschfeld, Walter Winchell, Henry Grunwald, Daniel Goldhagen, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Judy Sheindlin, Estée Lauder, Alan Greenspan, George Soros, Milton Friedman, Prof. Alan Dershowitz, Henry Morgenthau, Stuart Eizenstat, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Henry Kissinger, Madeleine Albright, General Wesley Clark, John Kerry, Dennis Ross, William Cohen, Richard Holbrooke, Robert Novak, Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz, Ari Fleischer, Stuart Eizenstat, Wesley Clark, Fiorello La Guardia, Joe Lieberman, Diane Feinstein, Ann Landers, Charles Schumer, Ed Koch, Levi Strauss, Solomon Guggenheim, Harry Houdini, Annie Leibovitz, Alfred

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Eisenstaedt, Helmut Newton, Robert Capa, Art Buchwald, Arthur Miller, Saul Bellow, Gertrude Stein, Philip Roth, Elie Wiesel, Norman Mailer, Saul Bellow, Susan Sontag, Jerzy Kosinsky, Isaac B. Singer, Isaac M. Singer, George Cukor, Jack Warner, Samuel Goldwyn, Carl Laemmle, Louis B. Mayer, William Fox, Adolph Zukor, Billy Wilder, Sydney Pollack, Steven Spielberg, Michael Eisner, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Meryl Streep, Roy Lichtenstein?? Louis B. Mayer, James Caan, Peter Drucker, Dave Brubeck, Steven Seagal, Bobby Fischer, Wolf Blitzer, Jim Croce.

Nothing illustrates the impact of the Jewish brain drain from Europe to the U.S. more dramatically than nuclear research. In 1939, American scientists began setting up a project to exploit the newly discovered fission process for military purposes. At the urging of his fellow scientists, Albert Einstein approached President Roosevelt, explaining the unbelievable military potential of the atomic bomb, while also pointing out the dangers of nuclear research conducted in Nazi Germany. Einstein's warning resulted in the Manhattan Project and the development of the American atomic bomb. The project was run by Robert Oppenheimer, himself an American of German Jewish descent. Many of the scientists working on the Manhattan Project were Jewish Americans or Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe. Nobel laureate Niels Bohr, who was half Jewish and had escaped from his native Denmark, worked on the development of the bomb as well. He was assisted by his son Aage Bohr (a future Nobel Prize winner) and the Jewish Hungarian Edward Teller (who would later lead the development of the hydrogen bomb). They were joined by Felix Bloch, another future Jewish Nobel laureate. Los Alamos in New Mexico, where the research took place, was simply packed with current and future Nobel laureates. Nuclear weapons would have almost certainly been used against the Third Reich, if it hadn't already surrendered by the time the Americans produced their first nukes.

In 1977, Albert Speer commented, "History is fraught with irony. The opportunities offered by a German atomic bomb were destroyed by Hitler himself, who regarded Einstein's ideas and nuclear research in general as 'Jewish science.' This is why we didn't have a cyclotron or something similar. We simply failed to use the lead in atomic research achieved before the war...." Germany owed its leading position to the work done by many brilliant Jewish scientists who fled Nazi Germany in the mid-30s and often went on to develop the American atomic bomb. Ironically, many of the top atomic scientists in the Soviet Union were also of Jewish extraction. German anti-Semitism both seriously depleted the country's scientific potential and vastly increased that of the allies. The Americans, for example, warmly welcomed William F. Friedman, leader of the team that solved the Japanese PURPLE cipher machine, which provided great insight into German and Japanese policy. By contrast, the Germans never managed to break any of the major military codes used by the allies, and their intelligence-gathering effort was basically a failure.

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/24/2010 4:36:08 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Rand Paul: Deport terrorists to Afghanistan

Fyi...

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/plum-line/2010/05/rand_paul_deport_terrorists_to.html

Rand Paul: Deport terrorists to Afghanistan

Forget the Civil Rights Act. What about Rand Paul's views on foreign policy?

Just as his criticism of parts of the Civil Rights Act had been out there for weeks before exploding onto the national media scene, Paul has expressed foreign policy views that have yet to attract serious attention but also raise questions about his true core beliefs.

For instance: Paul has suggested deporting terrorists to Afghanistan and has said that it's not a threat if Iran has a nuke -- both views that smack of his father's staunch isolationism.

Paul's vanquished GOP primary opponent, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, tried to make issues of these views but they attracted virtually no national notice.

For instance, the Grayson campaign pointed out that Paul said this in May of 2009 in a discussion of Guantanamo:

"If you're not going to convict them and you can't convict them and you're unclear, drop them back off in Afghanistan; it'll take them a while to get back over here."

According to the Lexington Herald-Leader, Grayson made an issue of this comment, but Paul denied he favors closing Guantanamo, insisting Grayson took the comment out of context.

Grayson also pointed out that Paul also said in 2008 that the United States is "not threatened by Iran having one nuclear weapon."

During the GOP primary Paul also distanced himself from that comment, clarifying that "it's not desirable for Iran to have nuclear weapons."

Yesterday, Frank Rich noted that even on foreign policy he's a staunch isolationist: "when he says he is antigovernment, he means it."

Indeed, the above are two examples where Paul previously expressed views that he rushed to clarify once he became a major candidate for U.S. Senate. The point is that the national press has yet to explore Paul's foreign policy positions -- and who knows what bounty that will yield!

By Greg Sargent | May 24, 2010; 10:59 AM ET
Categories: 2010 elections , Foreign policy and national security , Senate Republicans

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From:	"Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com> "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
Date:	4/26/2015 4:34:18 PM
Subject:	Memo - Sunday Shows
Attachments:	20150426 MEMO- Clinton Cash Unravels.pdf

Friends - Attached is a new memo our National Press Secretary, Brian Fallon, outlining the highlights from Sunday shows about the Clinton Cash book.

Yours,
Jesse

Jesse F. Ferguson
Deputy National Press Secretary and Senior Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@JesseFFerguson
Gchat: Jfferg

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
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To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/28/2014 1:54:03 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday August 28, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday August 28, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Politico: "Exclusive: GOP poll of women: Party 'stuck in past'"

"But the GOP appears to have a long way to go when it comes to capturing a significant slice of the female electorate. Even on fiscal matters — traditionally the party's strongest issue set — Republicans hold only slight advantages that do not come close to outweighing their negative attributes."

People: "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand: 'I Will Help Hillary Get Elected'"

"'In my mind, she's definitely running,' Gillibrand tells PEOPLE. 'Anytime I've ever talked to her, I've offered every bit of help in the world and she's never said no.'"

Wall Street Journal opinion: Sen. Rand Paul: "How U.S. Interventionists Abetted the Rise of ISIS"

"We are lucky Mrs. Clinton didn't get her way and the Obama administration did not bring about regime change in Syria. That new regime might well be ISIS."

Wall Street Journal opinion: Daniel Henninger: "It's Not a Videogame"

"These foreign-policy fiascoes, and many others, are laid at the feet of Barack Obama. And at the feet of former Secretary of State Clinton, who spent four years and a million miles in flight from all this."

The Daily Beast: Nick Gillespie: "Hillary's Got a Millennial Problem"

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"Over at FiveThirtyEight, Harry Enten averages a bunch of polls taken earlier this year and finds that the former first lady, senator, and secretary of state rolls over Christie on average by 10 points with all voters and a whopping 27 points with "young voters" (ages 18 to 29 or 34, depending on the poll). For Paul, the shellacking is even worse, with Clinton beating him by 11 points overall and by 28 points with the kids."

Mediaite: "Fox Host Thinks NY Times Is Doing Hillary's 'Bidding' by Not Endorsing Cuomo"

"While Tantaros admitted that Cuomo 'has had some shady ethics,' she wondered aloud, 'Isn't it interesting? Do you think they could be doing the bidding of, oh, I don't know, Hillary Clinton to take out somebody who could potentially be a dark horse for 2016? I do.'"

Elle: "There's a Clothing Store Dedicated to Hillary Clinton's Pantsuits"

"In Kosovo's capital city of Pristina, just around the corner from Bill Clinton Boulevard and a 10-foot statue of its namesake, sits Hillary—not the person, but the store, whose wares were inspired by the woman herself."

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: "Mitt, Again?"

"Romney would lose to Clinton in the general, the polls show. But he would beat Obama, and he has some decent numbers in decisive states like New Hampshire."

The Hill: "Could Romney really run?"

"Mitt Romney is in demand, and it's raising speculation about another White House run, however far-fetched that might seem."

Articles:

Politico: "Exclusive: GOP poll of women: Party 'stuck in past'"

By Jake Sherman and Anna Palmer

August 27, 2014, 5:47 p.m. EDT

A detailed report commissioned by two major Republican groups — including one backed by Karl Rove — paints a dismal picture for Republicans, concluding female voters view the party as "intolerant," "lacking in compassion" and "stuck in the past."

Women are "barely receptive" to Republicans' policies, and the party does "especially poorly" with women in the Northeast and Midwest, according

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to an internal Crossroads GPS and American Action Network report obtained by POLITICO. It was presented to a small number of senior aides this month on Capitol Hill, according to multiple sources involved.

Republicans swore they'd turn around the party's performance with women after Mitt Romney's loss in 2012. And while they are in good shape in 2014, poised to pick up seats in the House and possibly take the majority in the Senate, the new report shows that they have not improved their standing with women — which could exacerbate their problems if Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee in 2016.

The report — "Republicans and Women Voters: Huge Challenges, Real Opportunities" — was the product of eight focus groups across the country and a poll of 800 registered female voters this summer. The large-scale project was a major undertaking for the GOP groups.

"The gender gap is hardly a new phenomenon, but nevertheless it's important for conservatives to identify what policies best engage women, and our project found multiple opportunities," said Dan Conston, a spokesman for the American Action Network. "It's no surprise that conservatives have more work to do with women."

Republicans in D.C. say they recognize the problem. Republicans who have seen or been briefed on the polling were not surprised about the outcome. The poll was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies and Axis Research.

Paul Lindsey, the spokesman for Rove-backed Crossroads GPS, said, "There are a number of House policymakers and staff who have been willing to focus on issues important to women, and we think it's important that they are aware of the policy solutions that are available to help address these concerns."

The solutions offered include neutralizing Democratic attacks that the GOP doesn't support "fairness" for women; "deal honestly with any disagreement on abortion, then move to other issues"; and "pursue policy innovations that inspire women voters to give the GOP a 'fresh look.'"

The report is blunt about the party's problems. It says 49 percent of women view Republicans unfavorably, while just 39 percent view Democrats unfavorably.

It also found that Republicans "fail to speak to women in the different circumstances in which they live" — as breadwinners, for example. "This lack of understanding and acknowledgment closes many minds to Republican policy solutions," the report says. The groups urge Republicans to embrace policies that "are not easily framed as driven by a desire to aid employers or 'the rich.'"

Two policies former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor promoted as a way to make inroads with middle-class women and families — charter schools and flexible work schedules — were actually the least popular policies among female voters.

Republicans have long had a troubled relationship with female voters, but this report, which comes out just months before Election Day, is the most recent detailed illustration of the problem. Republicans have several initiatives to attract female candidates and voters. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington, the No. 4 House Republican, for example, is spearheading her chamber's effort. The Republican National Committee is trying to engage women in 25 "targeted counties for the midterm election," a spokesman said.

One bright spot is among married women. Married women without a college degree view Republicans favorably, the polling shows. Married women prefer a Republican over a Democrat, 48 percent to 38 percent.

"Just like a gender gap exists, a marriage gap also exists," Conston said. "While young unmarried women have always skewed liberal, the polling found married women across the country are far more likely to be conservative and are receptive to center-right policies."

But the GOP appears to have a long way to go when it comes to capturing a significant slice of the female electorate.

Even on fiscal matters — traditionally the party's strongest issue set — Republicans hold only slight advantages that do not come close to outweighing their negative attributes. The GOP holds a 3 percent advantage over Democrats when female voters are asked who has "good ideas to grow the economy and create jobs," and the same advantage on who is "fiscally responsible and can be trusted with our tax dollars."

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When female voters are asked who “wants to make health care more affordable,” Democrats have a 39 percent advantage, and a 40 percent advantage on who “looks out for the interests of women.” Democrats have a 39 percent advantage when it comes to who “is tolerant of other people’s lifestyles.”

Female voters who care about the top four issues — the economy, health care, education and jobs — vote overwhelmingly for Democrats. Most striking, Democrats hold a 35-point advantage with female voters who care about jobs and a 26 percent advantage when asked which party is willing to compromise. House Republicans say jobs and the economy are their top priorities.

Andrea Bozek, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said the party’s candidates “across the country are speaking directly to female voters both on the campaign trail and in their television ads.”

But in Washington, Republican policies have failed to sway women — in fact, they appear to have turned women off. For example, the focus groups and polls found that women “believe that ‘enforcing equal pay for equal work’ is the policy that would ‘help women the most.’”

“Republicans who openly deny the legitimacy of the issue will be seen as out of touch with women’s life experiences,” the report warned, hinting at GOP opposition to pay-equity legislation. It’s the policy item independents and Democrats believe will help women the most.

The groups suggest a three-pronged approach to turning around their relationship with women. First, they suggest the GOP “neutralize the Democrats’” attack that Republicans don’t support fairness for women. They suggest Republican lawmakers criticize Democrats for “growing government programs that encourage dependency rather than opportunities to get ahead.” That message tested better than explaining that the GOP supports a number of policies that could help fairness for women.

Second, the groups suggest Republicans “deal honestly with any disagreement on abortion, then move to other issues.” And third, “pursue policy innovations that inspire women voters to give the GOP a ‘fresh look.’” The report suggests lawmakers and candidates inject “unexpected” GOP policy proposals into the debate as a way to sway female voters. Suggestions include ways to improve job-training programs, “strengthening enforcement against gender bias in the workplace” and “expanding home health care services by allowing more health care professionals to be paid by Medicare for home health services.”

Katie Packer Gage, a political strategist who focuses on improving GOP standing with female voters, said women think of “old, white, right, out of touch” men when they think of the Republican Party.

“I think a lot of folks are whistling past the graveyard on this … Certainly if Hillary is on the top of the ticket for Democrats, it is going to be a significant challenge for us,” she said in an interview. “Maybe we’ll see women on our side that will step up as well. … We have to quit sitting back and taking it on the chin. I think we have to play offense on this.”

People: “Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand: 'I Will Help Hillary Get Elected'”

By Tara Fowler and Sandra Sobieraj

August 27, 2014, 4:45 p.m. EDT

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand isn't positive Hillary Clinton will run for president, but the woman who took Clinton's former New York Senate seat would like to think so.

"In my mind, she's definitely running," Gillibrand tells PEOPLE. "Anytime I've ever talked to her, I've offered every bit of help in the world and she's never said no."

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For her part, Gillibrand, whose candid new book Off the Sidelines hits shelves Sept 9., doesn't have her eye on the presidency quite yet. She's perfectly content where she is at the moment.

"I have young kids," says the mom of two, when asked if she'd consider a bid for the White House. "I really like where I am."

"I don't know that I aspire to it," she adds. "It's a very different job. I feel like where I am, I can accomplish a lot."

It's her current job with the United States Senate that's provided the fodder for her insightful – and sometimes groan-worthy – memoir.

In Off the Sidelines, Gillibrand, 47, shares a sobering incident in the congressional gym, where an older, male colleague told her, "Good thing you're working out, because you wouldn't want to get porky!" On another occasion, she writes, after she dropped 50 lbs. one of her fellow Senate members approached her, squeezed her stomach, and said, "Don't lose too much weight now. I like my girls chubby!"

Gillibrand isn't especially offended by her coworkers' remarks. "It was all statements that were being made by men who were well into their 60s, 70s or 80s," she says. "They had no clue that those are inappropriate things to say to a pregnant woman or a woman who just had a baby or to women in general."

Wall Street Journal opinion: Sen. Rand Paul: "How U.S. Interventionists Abetted the Rise of ISIS"

By Sen. Rand Paul

August 27, 2014, 6:35 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Our Middle Eastern policy is unhinged, flailing about to see who to act against next, with little regard to consequences.

As the murderous, terrorist Islamic State continues to threaten Iraq, the region and potentially the United States, it is vitally important that we examine how this problem arose. Any actions we take today must be informed by what we've already done in the past, and how effective our actions have been.

Shooting first and asking questions later has never been a good foreign policy. The past year has been a perfect example.

In September President Obama and many in Washington were eager for a U.S. intervention in Syria to assist the rebel groups fighting President Bashar Assad's government. Arguing against military strikes, I wrote that "Bashar Assad is clearly not an American ally. But does his ouster encourage stability in the Middle East, or would his ouster actually encourage instability?"

The administration's goal has been to degrade Assad's power, forcing him to negotiate with the rebels. But degrading Assad's military capacity also degrades his ability to fend off the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. Assad's government recently bombed the self-proclaimed capital of ISIS in Raqqa, Syria.

To interventionists like former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, we would caution that arming the Islamic rebels in Syria created a haven for the Islamic State. We are lucky Mrs. Clinton didn't get her way and the Obama administration did not bring about regime change in Syria. That new regime might well be ISIS.

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This is not to say the U.S. should ally with Assad. But we should recognize how regime change in Syria could have helped and emboldened the Islamic State, and recognize that those now calling for war against ISIS are still calling for arms to factions allied with ISIS in the Syrian civil war. We should realize that the interventionists are calling for Islamic rebels to win in Syria and for the same Islamic rebels to lose in Iraq. While no one in the West supports Assad, replacing him with ISIS would be a disaster.

Our Middle Eastern policy is unhinged, flailing about to see who to act against next, with little thought to the consequences. This is not a foreign policy.

Those who say we should have done more to arm the Syrian rebel groups have it backward. Mrs. Clinton was also eager to shoot first in Syria before asking some important questions. Her successor John Kerry was no better, calling the failure to strike Syria a "Munich moment."

Some now speculate Mr. Kerry and the administration might have to walk back or at least mute their critiques of Assad in the interest of defeating the Islamic State.

A reasonable degree of foresight should be a prerequisite for holding high office. So should basic hindsight. This administration has neither.

But the same is true of hawkish members of my own party. Some said it would be "catastrophic" if we failed to strike Syria. What they were advocating for then—striking down Assad's regime—would have made our current situation even worse, as it would have eliminated the only regional counterweight to the ISIS threat.

Our so-called foreign policy experts are failing us miserably. The Obama administration's feckless veering is making it worse. It seems the only thing both sides of this flawed debate agree on is that "something" must be done. It is the only thing they ever agree on.

But the problem is, we did do something. We aided those who've contributed to the rise of the Islamic State. The CIA delivered arms and other equipment to Syrian rebels, strengthening the side of the ISIS jihadists. Some even traveled to Syria from America to give moral and material support to these rebels even though there had been multiple reports some were allied with al Qaeda.

Patrick Cockburn, Middle East correspondent for the London newspaper, the Independent, recently reported something disturbing about these rebel groups in Syria. In his new book, "The Jihadis Return: ISIS and the New Sunni Uprising," Mr. Cockburn writes that he traveled to southeast Turkey earlier in the year where "a source told me that 'without exception' they all expressed enthusiasm for the 9/11 attacks and hoped the same thing would happen in Europe as well as the U.S." It's safe to say these rebels are probably not friends of the United States.

"If American interests are at stake," I said in September, "then it is incumbent upon those advocating for military action to convince Congress and the American people of that threat. Too often, the debate begins and ends with an assertion that our national interest is at stake without any evidence of that assertion. The burden of proof lies with those who wish to engage in war."

Those wanting a U.S. war in Syria could not clearly show a U.S. national interest then, and they have been proven foolish now. A more realistic foreign policy would recognize that there are evil people and tyrannical regimes in this world, but also that America cannot police or solve every problem across the globe. Only after recognizing the practical limits of our foreign policy can we pursue policies that are in the best interest of the U.S.

The Islamic State represents a threat that should be taken seriously. But we should also recall how recent foreign-policy decisions have helped these extremists so that we don't make the same mistake of potentially aiding our enemies again.

Wall Street Journal opinion: Daniel Henninger: "It's Not a Videogame"

By Daniel Henninger

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

August 27, 2014, 6:42 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] After ISIS, can the Democrats be trusted with national security from 2016 to 2020?

When ISIS made the murder of James Foley into a YouTube video, they transported this outrage to the odd middle-world we inhabit between reality and pixels of reality. People don't ask if you saw the murder of James Foley. They ask if you've seen the video of his murder.

James Foley's beheading has reset this half-real world. After watching screens on their PCs, tablets and smartphones fill with one shocking image after another—Boko Haram's kidnapping of the girls in Nigeria, Russian rebels' shooting down Flight 17 above Ukraine, ISIS's one-week capture of one-third of Iraq, massacres of Yazidis and Christians, Islamic militias fighting to take over Libya, Hamas's casual sidewalk executions—most Americans realize the stakes in the world have become bigger than the four sides of a video.

The world has reframed the politics of the 2016 election.

National security and the U.S. role in the world has pushed toward the top of the decision tree in that election. That is why Hillary Clinton outputted an interview this summer with the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, repositioning her bland foreign-policy views to the right of Barack Obama. No more speeches about saving the oceans. That's why first-term Sen. Rand Paul used his time on "Meet the Press" last weekend to re-reposition Mrs. Clinton as a "military hawk."

Even Mr. Obama himself reacted to the new realities. Whether to staunch the president's political bleeding in the polls, which is threatening Democrats this November, or the nightmare of blood elsewhere, the U.S. government is reportedly preparing possible airstrikes against ISIS inside Syria and working to mobilize our "partners" in the region, such as Saudi Arabia.

Of course, the revolt of the Free Syrian Army against Bashar Assad has been on since early 2011, and Saudi Arabia concluded that being a partner of the U.S. was pointless.

These foreign-policy fiascoes, and many others, are laid at the feet of Barack Obama. And at the feet of former Secretary of State Clinton, who spent four years and a million miles in flight from all this.

Individual responsibility matters. The U.S. president is commander in chief even if he doesn't want to be commander in chief. If Mrs. Clinton believes what she told the Atlantic, she should have resigned and said what was on her mind then. But she didn't. Doing so would have imperiled her standing—not her standing with the American people, who were losing faith in Mr. Obama's handling of the world, but with the Democratic Party activists who would have demolished her presidential nomination in retaliation for exposing the Obama worldview, which is their worldview.

In a foreign-policy election, as it looks like we are going to have in 2016, the stakes are a lot higher than picking among the one-person brands who populate U.S. presidential politics now. Party matters. Party history and belief shapes foreign-policy decisions in a time of crisis. The word "fortitude" comes to mind.

So one must ask: Can the Democratic Party be trusted with U.S. national security from 2016 to 2020?

At the Republicans' 1984 convention, keynote speaker Jeane Kirkpatrick famously unloaded on the opposition party's foreign policy as "the San Francisco Democrats." What we have learned the past five-and-a-half years is that Jeane Kirkpatrick is still right. It isn't just Barack Obama. It's them. If anything, the modern Democratic Party is more hostile to national defense than it was in 1984.

Let us hypothesize that Mrs. Clinton is a Democratic hawk. Name one other office-holding hawk in the party? California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, sort of. Beyond these two women, none. Former Sen. Joe Lieberman, the party's vice presidential nominee in 2000? They joyously ran him out of the party in 2006. Sam Nunn ? The last of the South's great national-security Senate Democrats retired in 1996. Former Democratic Sen. Pat Moynihan served as a Republican president's U.N. ambassador. Democratic hawks, or even half-hawks, aren't an endangered species. They're extinct.

The military types, pundits and big donors who claim to have spotted appearances of Clinton hawkishness are deluding themselves. Bill Clinton of

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Kosovo? In 2008, the progressive activists who organized and financed Mr. Obama's candidacy overthrew the Clintons ' centrist triangulation machine and took control of the party. Dutifully, Mrs. Clinton ran as an antiwar candidate.

Any hawklike initiative she might attempt will be vetted and opposed by the Obama-Warren Democrats in Congress and across the blogosphere. They abhor Mrs. Clinton's "international liberalism." The MoveOn.org website has posted an online petition exhorting President Obama to "Keep America Out of Iraq!" These hearts and minds belong wholly to the domestic-spending accounts. National security needs diminish their reason for being.

As to the Republicans, Rand Paul's foreign-policy minimalism remains a fringe movement, with multiple challengers. The Democrats have the opposite problem. What ought to be the party's foreign-policy fringe has seized its center, and no one in the party will challenge it. In times of peace, this tension between the we-won't-go left and everyone else gets indulged as a political videogame. Win some, lose some. In a world of spreading disorder, as now, that is asking too much.

The Daily Beast: Nick Gillespie: "Hillary's Got a Millennial Problem"

By Nick Gillespie

August 28, 2014

[Subtitle:] The former Secretary of State looks like she'll clobber a Republican like Rand Paul in 2016—but only if she doesn't alienate the young.

Sure, projecting a winner in a presidential election a couple of years in advance is a mug's game. But don't you know that Hillary Clinton has already won the 2016 contest? It's just like 2008 all over again: Hillary can't lose.

Seriously, though, it's obvious Hillary will win, especially when you look at the way she's currently trouncing leading Republicans such as Chris Christie and Rand Paul among young voters. The kids love Hillary, goes this line of thinking, and since they decided the 2012 election and will only ever vote Democratic, all we need to do now is reanimate Aretha Franklin, the Eagles, or one of her other mummified favorite performers for the inauguration.

But such triumphalism about Clinton and the Democratic stranglehold on younger voters is premature, to say the least. While there's no question that the GOP has managed to alienate millennials, there's every reason to believe that top Democrats are doing just about everything they can to squander their currently commanding advantage.

Over at FiveThirtyEight, Harry Enten averages a bunch of polls taken earlier this year and finds that the former first lady, senator, and secretary of state rolls over Christie on average by 10 points with all voters and a whopping 27 points with "young voters" (ages 18 to 29 or 34, depending on the poll).

For Paul, the shellacking is even worse, with Clinton beating him by 11 points overall and by 28 points with the kids. Enten argues that even though 45 percent of Americans have no idea who Rand Paul is, "it's not entirely clear Paul's numbers will drastically improve if young voters learn more about his positions." Paul and the kids may be on the same side when it comes to pot legalization, privacy, and war, but they seem to be at loggerheads when it comes to immigration, healthcare, and a host of other issues.

Apart from trying to look two years into the future—where was Barack Obama in 2006? or Bill Clinton in 1990?—the case against Rand Paul is largely irrelevant to Hillary Clinton's and the Democrats' own burgeoning youth problem. Thanks to truly epic Republican awfulness on just about every possible issue from gay marriage to foreign affairs to budget-busting, the Dems have indeed been able to take the kids for granted inrecent years. But that hasn't always been the case. Indeed, Republicans as different as Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush all managed to win the youth vote. And consider that in 2000, George W. Bush and Al Gore split the 18-29 year old vote, each pulling 48 percent.

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Two wars and The Patriot Act later, John Kerry won 54 percent of the youth vote in 2004. In 2008, Barack Obama snagged a whopping 66 percent of it, with John McCain pulling just 32 percent. Then things get interesting, though. In 2012, Obama pulled a relatively weak 60 percent of the 18-29 vote, with Mitt Romney bucking up to 36 percent. And Obama actually lost the youth vote among 18, 19, and 20 year olds to Mitt Romney, everyone's least favorite grandparent. According to George Washington University political scientist John Sides, Romney took 57 percent of 18 year olds, 59 percent of 19 year olds, and 54 percent of 20 year olds. It's not clear how those kids will vote (or if they'll vote) in 2016, but there's no reason to buy into the idea that the youth vote is locked up by the Democrats.

The Dems do need the youth vote. As Pew has pointed out, despite some slippage, young people overall still provided the generous cushion by which Obama beat Romney. Romney, like McCain before him, actually won voters 30 and over. In some important ways, then, the battle for the presidency may well be the battle for younger voters.

If Obama has lost support among younger voters, it seems likely that Clinton will also struggle to maintain a connection with them as a presidential campaign gets underway. To the extent she is a known quantity to younger voters, it's as Obama's secretary of state -- the face of a foreign policy that is simultaneously a self-evident failure and one that simply wasn't bellicose enough for Clinton's tastes.

Either way, that's no way to win the youth vote; neither is her generally uncritical support of a national-security state and her use of Edward Snowden as a "punching bag." Assuming that the GOP nominee is someone around the ages of Christie or Paul, she'll also be about 15 years older than her opponent, which flips the age-party relationship of the past two elections as well. And the Democrats' problems only get bigger if Clinton doesn't run: They've got virtually no other obvious ready-to-go candidates in the wings.

On top of that, there's still two more years of Obama to suffer through. As pollster John Zogby has written, the president has already alienated many young voters for a number of reasons. "First and foremost," he writes in Forbes, "is their deep distrust for all political authority and their disappointment in Mr. Obama himself. Second is the sense of a deep invasion of privacy and government overreach in their lives. And third is the Millennial style of wanting immediate answers to problems instead of bureaucratic stasis, as they see it."

If the economy stays flat or especially rough for younger Americans, or if we're plunged back into aimless wars without end, all that will make things tougher still for any Democrat in 2016 to easily win the youth vote. Especially if she is facing a youthful Republican who is OK with pot legalization and gay marriage, pro-privacy, anti-war, and seems to have a clue on economic policy.

There's no question that the Republican Party brand is all but dead to younger voters. As the recent Reason-Rupe poll on millennials found, just 23 percent of voters between the ages of 18 and 29 identify as Republican or lean Republican. Millennials are social liberals who favor gay marriage and pot legalization; if the GOPcan't come to terms with that, its future is indeed limited.

The corresponding youth-identification number for Democrats is 43 percent, which sounds good until you realize that it's still lower than the percentage of voters 30 years and old who identify as or lean Democratic (49 percent). Indeed, fully 34 percent of millennials identify as independent, compared to just 11 percent of older voters. Young voters are already not willing to vote Republican. In a few years, and absent a vibrant candidate who speaks to their concerns, they may well decide not to vote Democratic, either.

Indeed, the great political achievement of the 21st century so far has been to alienate young voters from the two major parties in the U.S. And the great task for both Democrats and Republicans in 2016 will be to figure out how to woo them back.

Mediaite: "Fox Host Thinks NY Times Is Doing Hillary's 'Bidding' by Not Endorsing Cuomo"

By Matt Wilstein

August 27, 2014, 6:29 p.m. EDT

On Tuesday, The New York Times editorial board announced that it would not be endorsing Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) in his upcoming primary bid because of his "failure" to enact meaningful ethics reform. But Fox News host Andrea Tantaros thinks the paper declined to endorse Cuomo for a very different reason.

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While Tantaros admitted that Cuomo “has had some shady ethics,” she wondered aloud, “Isn’t it interesting? Do you think they could be doing the bidding of, oh, I don’t know, Hillary Clinton to take out somebody who could potentially be a dark horse for 2016? I do.”

On a related note, Tantaros suggested that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie was refusing to financially support New York’s Republican gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino because he’s “covering” for Cuomo. “I hope not,” she said.

By Tantaros’ logic, if The New York Times wants to help Hillary Clinton by hurting Andrew Cuomo, then it would only make sense that Christie would want to hurt Clinton by helping Cuomo.

Watch video below, via Fox News:

[VIDEO]

Elle: “There's a Clothing Store Dedicated to Hillary Clinton's Pantsuits”

By Victoria Hoff

August 27, 2014, 2:00 p.m. EDT

Whether it's political success, her get-it-done attitude, or meta sense of humor, there are several ways we're sure many people would like to channel Hillary Clinton. But for those who find themselves constantly inspired by the former Secretary of State's rotating wardrobe of pantsuits and conservative formalwear, you're in luck: There is actually a boutique dedicated to Clinton's aesthetic—and it'll only take you a quick plane ride to Kosovo to get you there.

In Kosovo's capital city of Pristina, just around the corner from Bill Clinton Boulevard and a 10-foot statue of its namesake, sits Hillary—not the person, but the store, whose wares were inspired by the woman herself. (For those confused with this fondness for all things Clinton, the former President aided the country in its war with Yugoslavia.)

Yahoo's Jo Piazza not only blessedly alerted us to the boutique's existence, but also did us a real solid by actually visiting the place in person. She reports that two photos of the politician and author "hang proudly above the store's dressing rooms," and that the real highlight of its existence occurred in 2012, when Hillary herself paid a visit. (She was presented with a navy pantsuit.)

"We respect her name and her personality here," store owner Besian Morina told Piazza. "Our clothes are modeled after her own fashion." Hillary (again, the store, not the person) is apparently a favored destination for locals and tourists alike.

And the most popular item? A red pantsuit, natch.

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: “Mitt, Again?”

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By Annie Lowrey

August 27, 2014, 12:56 p.m. EDT

Mitt Romney went on "The Hugh Hewitt Show" yesterday to say that he definitely-certainly-absolutely-not-well-maybe is running for president in 2016.

Hewitt: I wouldn't presume to ask you to say, "Yeah, I'm in the race." But circumstances change. And if you thought that in fact it were not that way, that you thought you were the only one who could do this, you'd change your mind, wouldn't you?

Romney: I'm not going there, Hugh. I know you're going to press, but you know, this is something we gave a lot of thought to when early on I decided we're not going to be running this time. And again, we said look, I had the chance of running. I didn't win. Someone else has a better chance than I do. And that's what we believe, and that's why I'm not running. And you know, circumstances can change, but I'm just not going to let my head go there. I remember that great line from Dumb and Dumber, where the…

Hewitt: So you're telling me I have a chance?

Romney: There you go, you remember. You're telling me I have a chance? That's one of a million.

Hewitt: Hey, all, the takeaway is already circumstances can change. I know how we're going to play this.

But here's the thing. Many Republicans — including, perhaps, Romney himself — do not believe that any of the candidates the party has on deck have a better chance than he does.

In part, that is because of the candidates' various intrinsic weaknesses. Chris Christie, for instance, seems a bully and a cheat, while Rand Paul sits too far out on the ideological fringe. And in part, it is because of Romney's considerable strengths: his name recognition, his money, his relatively broad appeal, his ties with party donors and kingmakers, and the number of his faithful urging him to go for it.

He also has the experience of running two campaigns, making him battle-tested in a way no other candidate would be. "I hope I would be a better candidate than I was last time," Romney said on Hewitt's show. "I mean, you hope you learn from your mistakes."

Some early poll numbers are also fueling the Mittmentum. Right now, Hillary Clinton is handily beating many of the front-of-the-pack Republican candidates in the most important swing states, as well as in the general election. Romney would lose to Clinton in the general, the polls show. But he would beat Obama, and he has some decent numbers in decisive states like New Hampshire.

Romney himself keeps on throwing kindling on the fire, too, ginning up press and winking every time he promises he would never run again. In the past few days, for instance, he has taken the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and then sat down for an interview with the Washington Post. And he's spent the past few weeks crisscrossing the country, fund-raising, endorsing, and making appearances with Republican candidates. Those seem to be the actions of a restless, handsome billionaire in watchful-waiting mode, more so than the actions of a restless, handsome billionaire really and truly retiring from public life.

None of this is to say that Romney is likely to kick off a third campaign. But, to paraphrase Lloyd Christmas, what I'm saying is there is a chance.

The Hill: "Could Romney really run?"

By Peter Sullivan

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

August 27, 2014, 6:29 p.m. EDT

Mitt Romney is in demand, and it's raising speculation about another White House run, however far-fetched that might seem.

The 2012 GOP standard-bearer has been stumping across the country for Republican Senate candidates, highlighting his popularity two years after losing the Oval Office to Barack Obama.

A Netflix documentary, "Mitt," depicted Romney's run for the White House in 2008 and 2012 and his devotion to his family, warming him to GOP audiences further.

On policy, Russia's incursions into Ukraine have vindicated his tough stance in 2012, something Obama famously used to mock him as out of touch.

It's all causing the public to give him a second look.

Romney lost badly to Obama in the last presidential cycle, but a CNN/ORC poll in July found that if the election were held again, 53 percent of adults would vote for Romney, and just 44 percent for Obama.

Romney has repeatedly said he's not interested in running again, using the word "no" 11 times in a row in one January interview with The New York Times.

On Tuesday, Romney sounded a different note during an interview on "The Hugh Hewitt Show."

"Someone else has a better chance than I do," Romney said of the 2016 campaign, saying "that's why I'm not running.

"And you know, circumstances can change, but I'm just not going to let my head go there," Romney concluded.

It's just a sliver of an opening, but it got people talking, particularly given the wide-open race for the Republican nomination, for which there is no clear front-runner.

Furthermore, Republicans are looking for an establishment candidate as an option to Tea Party favorites like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and the libertarian-leaning Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

It's led GOP observers to say he has a good chance at the 2016 nomination.

"He's one of the very few people who can run and lock it up very early," said Patrick Hynes, a Republican operative in New Hampshire who advised Romney's 2012 campaign. "I think there's a great deal of good will behind him at the moment because there's buyer's remorse about President Obama."

"There's no clear frontrunner, so I certainly think he would be one of the early favorites if he were to decide to get in," said Bob Rafferty, a former chief of staff to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad (R) and a 2012 Romney supporter.

Hard to believe? Look at the polls.

A Suffolk University poll of Republican Iowa caucus-goers released Wednesday found that Romney swamps the rest of the field, at 35 percent, compared to 9 percent for former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who is in second place.

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Romney says his reason for passing on another run is not that he does not want it. “I’d love to run for president. I loved running for president,” he said in the interview Tuesday.

Instead, Romney says the reason is that someone else has a better chance.

“Had I believed I would actually be best positioned to beat Hillary Clinton, then I would be running,” Romney said. “But I actually believe that someone new that is not defined yet, someone who perhaps is from the next generation, will be able to catch fire, potentially build a movement, and be able to beat Hillary Clinton.”

The standing of other Republican contenders is far from certain, though.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker are all tangled in controversies that could lead to criminal convictions. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush might not even run, and Paul would have to win over the establishment to views that are out of the party’s traditional mainstream.

“Let’s say all the guys that were running all came together and said, ‘Hey, we’ve decided we can’t do it. You must do it.’ That’s the one out of a million we’re thinking about,” Romney said.

Stu Stevens, a senior adviser to Romney’s 2012 campaign, did not reject out of hand the possibility of a run when asked in an email for his thoughts on whether the former Massachusetts governor had a chance of winning the nomination again.

“Thanks for reaching out. But I pretty much stay away from 2016 speculation,” Stevens wrote in an email.

Another senior adviser, Kevin Madden, said Romney has been clear that he is not going to run.

“You have to measure the ‘circumstances can change’ comment against a much larger body of instances where he said emphatically that he’s not going to run again,” Madden said.

And of course, there are many hurdles Romney would have to face if he ran again.

His favorability has not improved since the 2012 election, staying fairly steady at 47 percent favorable and 43 percent unfavorable, in a February Gallup poll.

The video of his infamous “47 percent” comments still exists, and he still called for “self-deportation” for people in the country illegally, which could be major problems in the general election, if not in the primary.

However, Hynes, the New Hampshire operative, argued some of the same attacks, such as those over his business dealings at Bain Capital, would not work in another election.

“I don’t think the Bain stuff plays a second time around,” Hynes said. “Everybody knows who he is. We’re not going to find any new secrets about his business record.”

How Obama fares in the rest of his second term could also color views of Romney.

“Seems to me he's pretty clear that he doesn't intend to run, and if he opened the door at all with his comment it was the tiniest sliver under the most unlikely of circumstances,” David Kochel, senior adviser for Romney’s 2012 Iowa campaign, wrote in an email.

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"That said, he'd make a great president, and I've believed that for a long time now," he added. "More Americans believe it too after seeing the repeated failures of the current president."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	"Rabbi Michael Lerner" <RabbiLerner.tikkun@gmail.com>
To:	Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date:	11/22/2015 4:10:49 AM
Subject:	Welcome Refugees--and Protect Them NOW. Before Thanksgiving, Call Your Senator to Urge the US to Welcome the Refugees

Tikkun to heal, repair and transform the world

empowered by salsa

A note from Rabbi Michael Lerner **Join or Donate Now !**

Please call your Senators to tell them you Welcome Syrian Refugees and urge them to vote "NO" if a bill comes to the Senate for a vote to make it more stringent to accept refugees from Syria and Iraq to the US. You can call the Capitol Switchboard on Monday or Tuesday at 202 224-3121. If you do not know the names of your two senators, just give the Capitol operator your state and you will be connected. You can also call their state offices by googling them to get the phone number.

Refugees coming to the US are already subject to lengthy, stringent clearance requirements. In the busyness of preparing for the holidays, let us not forget these are people who have lost everything. Imagine being bombed and having no place to go, and one after another country saying "we do not want you." It is winter, it is cold, and many are sleeping outside, waiting at the borders of several European countries. The countries that are doing the bombing - US, Russia, France, including the coalition of the willing who started it all with the Iraq war - have a responsibility to take in the refugees. We broke it, we own it, now we need to take care of the people whose lives have been destroyed by the wars we helped start (no, not just us, but also us--and we live in the wealthiest country in the world and can afford to take in a significant number of the homeless). And "no," these refugees do not present a danger to the general public--we already have careful poicies in place to ensure that we would not be accpeting people who are ISIS operatives intent on hurting us.

I never understood how the U.S. could have shut its doors to Jews attempting to flee Nazi Germany. I thought that after the Holocaust every American would understand the horrendous consequences of turning our backs on those who were seeking refuge. I'm glad that the Holocaust museum and many of the institutions of Jewish life have called for a receptive policy. Yet the U.S. Congress, in a vote that included almost all Republicans and some 50 plus Democrats, instead of voting to bring at least a million of the refugees to the U.S., has voted to make it harder for any of the millions of refugees to come here. A wave of fear has spread rapidly across the U.S. fostered in part by xenophobic and opportunistic politicians and a fear-oriented media (as they say in the mainstream media: "if it bleeds, it leads" on the news if we dare call it news anymore rather than just "entertainment"). Please read the statement of one such refugee below, and then call your U.S. Senator to urge them to reject the House measure and to use their access to media and communities in their own state to provide leadership on this issue and to educate their consituents to a generous and open-hearted welcoming of the refugees. Of course, we at Tikkun have been calling for a new approach to foreign policy for the past few decades--because we know that a Strategy of Generosity, manifested in a Global Marshall Plan www.tikkun.org/gmp, is a far more effective path than the Strategy of Domination and "power over" that has so far guided every U.S. Administration including the Obama Administration for the past 30 plus years. So now we see

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what happens when people dismiss "generosity" as utopian and instead embrace the "be realistic" mantra that leads so many good people to support militaristic policies. Now the best we can do is to open the gates of our country to some of the people who have been hurt by the policies we in the West have followed. The least we can do is take care of some of these refugees!

--Rabbi Michael Lerner rabbilerner.tikkun@gmail.com

The words of a refugee

You' are 29 years old with a wife, two children and a job. You have enough money, and can afford a few nice things, and you live in a small house in the city.
Suddenly the political situation in your country changes and a few months later soldiers are gathered in front of your house. And in front of your neighbours' houses.
They say that if you don't fight for them, they will shoot you.
Your neighbour refuses.
One shot. That's it.

You overhear one of the soldiers telling your wife to spread her legs.
Somehow you get rid of the soldiers and spend the night deep in thought.
Suddenly you hear an explosion. Your house no longer has a living room.
You run outside and see that the whole street is destroyed.
Nothing is left standing.

You take your family back into the house, and then you run to your parents' house.
It is no longer there. Nor are your parents.
You look around and find an arm with your Mother's ring on its finger. You can't find any other sign of your parents.

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"But asylum seekers have so many luxury goods! Smartphones, and designer clothes!"

~~~~~

You immediately forget it. You rush home, and tell your wife to get the children dressed. You grab a small bag, because anything bigger will be impossible to carry for a long time, and in it you pack essentials. Only 2 pieces of clothing each can fit in the bag.
What do you take?
You will probably never see your home country again.
Not your family, not your neighbours, your workmates…
But how can you stay in contact?

You hastily throw your smartphone and the charger in the bag.
Along with the few clothes, some bread and your small daughters favourite teddy.

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"They can easily afford to get away. They aren't poor!"

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Because you could see the emergency coming, you have already scraped all your money together.
You managed to save some money because of your well paid job.
The kind people smuggler in the neighbourhood charges 5,000 euros per person.

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You have 15,000 euros. With a bit of luck, you'll all be able to go. If not, you will have to let your wife go.
You love her and pray that you the smugglers will take you all.
By now you are totally wiped out and have nothing else. Just your family and the bag.
The journey to the border takes two weeks on foot.

You are hungry and for the last week have barely eaten. You are weak, as is your wife. But at least the children have enough.
They have cried for the whole 2 weeks.
Half the time you have to carry your younger daughter. She is only 21 months old.
A further 2 weeks and you arrive at the sea.

In the middle of the night you're loaded onto a ship with other refugees.
You are lucky: your whole family can travel.
The ship is so full that it threatens to capsize. You pray that you don't drown.
The people around you are crying and screaming.
A few small children have died of thirst.
The smugglers throw them overboard.
Your wife sits, vacantly, in a corner. She hasn't had anything to drink for 2 days.
When the coast is in sight, you are loaded onto small boats.
Your wife and the younger child are on one, you and your older child are on another.

You are warned to stay silent so that nobody knows you're there.
Your older daughter understands.
But your younger one in the other boat doesn't. She doesn't stop crying.
The other refugees are getting nervous. They demand that your wife keeps the child quiet.
She doesn't manage it.
One of the men grabs your daughter, rips her away from your wife and throws her overboard.
You jump in after her, but you can't find her again.
Never again.
In 3 months she would have turned 2 years old.
Isn't that enough for you? They still have it too good here and have everything handed to them on a plate?

You don't know how you, your wife and your older daughter manage to get to the country that takes you in.
It's as though everything is all foggy. Your wife hasn't spoken a word since your daughter died.
Your older daughter hasn't let go of her sister's teddy and is totally apathetic.
But you have to keep going. You are just about to arrive at the emergency accommodation.
It is 10pm. A man whose language you don't understand takes you to a hall with camp beds. There are 500 beds all very close together.

In the hall it's stuffy and loud.
You try to get your bearings. To understand what the people there want from you.
But in reality you can barely stand up. You nearly wish that they had shot you.
Instead you unpack your meagre possessions:
Two items of clothing each and your smartphone.
Then you spend your first night in a safe country.
The next morning you're given some clothes.
Among the donated clothes are even branded 'label' clothes. And a toy for your daughter.
You are given 140 euros. For the whole month.

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"They're safe here. Therefore they should be happy!"
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Outside in the yard, dressed in your new clothes, you hold your smartphone high in the air and hope to have some reception.
You need to know if anyone from your city is still alive.
Then a 'concerned citizen' comes by and abuses you.
You don't know why. You don't understand "Go back to your own country!"
You understand some things like "smartphone" and "handed everything on a plate."
Somebody translates it for you.

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And now tell me how you feel and what you own?
The answer to both parts of that is "Nothing."

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/6/2008 3:16:19 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/06/08

Main Topics: Energy, McSame, Surrogates

Summary of Shift: Energy policy is at the forefront. McCain admits that tire inflation is an efficacious method for saving fuel. McCain's major surrogates emphasize McCain's all of the above approach for energy policy while deriding Obama's perceived opposition to nuclear and drilling. In the last few days, McCain has placed several ads in attempt to reclaim his lost maverick position. Pundits remain doubtful of this approach.

The Olympic torch arrives in Beijing with President Bush soon to follow. Firefighting in Northern California continues after a helicopter crash.

Highlights:

1. Surrogates expend energy on energy
   a. MSNBC: Giuliani: "John is quite specific about what he'll do and we know it from his record"
   b. CNN: Giuliani talks Iraq oil revenues and touts McCain's energy plans
   c. MSNBC: Fiorina attacks Obama on 2005 Energy bill, outlines McCain's plan
   d. MSNBC: Fiorina defends McCain on energy, senate record and against Dowd
   e. FNC: Rep. Eric Cantor stumps for McCain's energy plans
   f. MSNBC: Pfotenhauer attacks Obama's energy plan
2. ABC: McCain's new strategy emphasizes style over substance
3. CNN: The battle over who's the maverick: McCain's status scrutinized
4. McSame
   a. CNN: Begala highlights importance of framing election as "McCain is same as Bush"
   b. CNN: Those who don't like Bush don't seem to be equating dislike with McCain
   c. O'Reilly looks at whether McCain is throwing Bush under the bus and if this is effective
5. CNN: McCain's tricky balancing act, trying to not appear too negative
6. CNN: Carly Fiorina's effectiveness as a surrogate for McCain examined

Highlights, No Clips:

7. REIHAN SALAM: McCain really needs to get back to brass tacks and figure out how to connect with those blue collar working class voters. Go from beyond their cultural comfort with him, go to, 'I understand where you're coming from and here are policies that are going to work for you guys.'
8. CNN: The Cafferty File asks viewers the importance of the President of the United States knowing how to use the internet
9. MSNBC - OLBERMANN: After nearly a week, which he, his surrogates and the RNC spent mocking Obama for suggesting in response to a question tire inflation is a way to improve mileage and save lots of gas, Senator McCain has come out and endorsed tire inflation as a way to improve mileage and save lots of gas.

Clips:

Highlight #1
Giuliani: "John is Quite Specific About What He'll Do and We Know it From His Record" (MSNBC 08/06/08 6:13pm)
DAVID GREGORY: . . . this is still a single digit race. Barack Obama has maintained a lead and yet . . . his poll numbers still remain in the forties . . . why do you think Barack Obama is not doing better? . . .

RUDY GIULIANI: I think he's not doing better because I think there's a major question about him that the American people are going to have to answer. And that is his experience . . . probably the least experience in the last 100 years . . . we need a person there who has been tested before and we know can handle these things and gives real answers to things . . . John is quite specific about what he'll do and we know it from his record.

[. . .]

GREGORY: When Sen. McCain talks about the energy crisis in this country, this has been a crisis that Republicans have failed, effectively, to find an answer to in all the time that George Bush has been president.

GIULIANI: This isn't about Republicans or Democrats, it's about who's going to be President of the United States.

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John McCain has been in favor . . . of cap and trade . . . before Barack Obama was even in the state legislature. So John has a long history here of supporting the things that he's talking about now . . . it's the difference between a man who has taken positions, I think usually correct but sometimes even wrong . . . and a person who doesn't seem to be able to do it . . .

GREGORY: . . .what is the particular risk of Obama as President . . .?

GIULIANI: . . . this country would be a country that's at drift . . . a big increase on taxes . . . a tax on the rich is a tax on the economy . . .

[. . .]

GREGORY: Let's talk about taxes and let's talk about the fact that Sen. McCain is offering himself to the country . . . as the "original maverick," he's the guy that stands up to power, he would stand up to George Bush. But you raised the issue of tax cuts just a minute ago. As recently as 2004, John McCain had a very different position, and this is what he said on *Meet the Press* . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: I voted against the tax cuts because of the disproportionate amount that went to the wealthiest Americans. I would, uh, clearly support not extending those tax cuts in order to help address the deficit.

GREGORY: . . . critics would say the maverick who is John McCain back in 2000, maybe even 2004, that's not the John McCain of today. He's switched his position n tax increases and tax cuts.

GIULIANI: John is still in a different place on cap and trade than the Republican Party. He was in a different place on Iraq, he was criticizing the administrations policy in Iraq, two, three and four years ago. Turns out he was absolutely right with the surge policy that the President adopted. I think on this tax issue that John realizes that this is not the time to be raising taxes, when the economy is in the situation that it's in. And then competitively it's not the time to do it, when just about all of Europe has a lower corporate tax rates than we do and we're competing for business . . .

GREGORY: But John McCain as recently as 2004 opposed the Bush tax cut. He changed that position. He talked about servicing the deficit. The deficit has ballooned since then. He is now in sync with George Bush on the position of tax cuts and he's using that as a hammer against Obama, when he's where Obama was effectively four years ago.

GIULIANI: I think that given the realities of our economy, John McCain is correct in saying that we shouldn't be raising taxes right now. But when you look at John McCain's overall record including his whole position on energy, climate change, John McCain has always taken the position that he thought was right, even when he thought it put him at odds with the administration.

GREGORY: But whether it's the war, whether its taxes, is he too close to George Bush to earn the maverick label today, as he did in 2000?

GIULIANI: If you ask Republicans, I think that was one of the major concerns with John, that he was too independent. I don' think you can use it against him. I mean, the fact that John has been an independent person, making his own decisions about things, where he agrees with President Bush, he's there 100% but where he disagrees, as he did on the war, he was a major critic until they actually changed positions and we went with the surge.

GREGORY: Well, let's talk about that. Obviously Sen. McCain did express concerns about the implementation of the war; he backed the war. Is it a mistake politically for him to spend so much time debating the wisdom or the success of the surge when so many Americans are still asking questions about why we went to war in Iraq in the first place. That's the decision that remains unpopular.

GIULIANI: I think what it displays about John McCain, whether you agree with him or not on the war or on the surge, and I do . . . I think it displays the fact that he can take a position. I think Sen. Obama has much more trouble doing that . . . the issue right now is the economy and it's energy. But I think you see that same difference. John McCain is willing to say, "These are my positions on energy." . . .

GREGORY: Let me ask you about VP candidates. Romney has been mentioned . . . is that a good choice for McCain?

GIULIANI: I think John has to make his own choice . . .

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GREGORY: . . . in some of the advertisements, Sen. McCain has been relying on images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton . . . Paris Hilton has come out with a response of her own . . .

[Paris response ad plays]

GREGORY: Was it a smart idea for McCain to pick a fight with Paris Hilton?

GIULIANI: [laughs] I think she was kind of diplomatic about—if anything, I think she's supporting John McCain . . .

Giuliani Talks Iraq Oil Revenues and Touts McCain's Energy Plans (CNN 08/06/08 4:34pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] Shocking general accounting office report that just came out, how much money the Iraqis are taking in, thanks to the large -- the high price of oil. […] and the GAO says that money is in the bank. They're spending a tiny, tiny bit of it. The United States is still spending about $12 billion a month. Here's the question, are American taxpayers right now being played for suckers?

RUDY GUILIANI: Well, I think the reality is that that's an opportunity. An opportunity for us to work with Iraq to get them to use that money, or more of that money for their own infrastructure, to kind of push them in that direction. It's kind of silly, though, for Barack Obama to suggest that's the cause of our energy crisis. […]

BLITZER: There's a lot of oil and they could make that oil available to the United States at a discount price.

GIULIANI: That would be very nice and that would help. It would also if Barack Obama would support offshore drilling, it would help if he would support nuclear power. It would help if he had a really comprehensive program instead of saying no to basically everything. It's kind of like deflecting.

BLITZER: But you're a politician. People hear, the Iraqi's have $80 billion, simply lying around. They're making a windfall on all this oil they're exporting. The United States is still footing the bill basically for everything they need.

GIULIANI: A great opportunity for us to lean on them more to foot more of the bill.

[…]

BLIZTER: Should they start paying the United States back, the $700 billion dollars the United States taxpayers have spent since the war started?

GIULIANI: Personally? I think the better way to handle this is for them to take over a much larger percentage of the expenses that are taking place right now. I think that would be a very sensible thing to do. There's a good opportunity for rearrangement of that. It doesn't make sense, though […]

BLITZER: The Sons of Iraq, the Sunni former insurgents, about 90,000 of them, they're now on the U.S. government payroll. We're paying them every month, according to general Petraeus, about $200 million a year. The United States is paying them to be quiet, to be supportive. Why aren't the Iraqi's paying them?

GIULIANI: Maybe they should. Maybe this is a good opportunity to move that over to their side of the ledger and have them pick up more of the expenses. In a way, it shows things are working in Iraq. Let's take advantage of that. But the point that I'm making it, it really is an example of demagoguery to try to make that cause of our issue with credit.

BLITZER: Well, he's not trying to make it the cause, but he's saying it's one issue that could certainly help the U.S. if the Iraqi's made that oil available, either for free or at a discount?

GIULIANI: It kind of gets them off the hook for the bigger issues, where he's basically been obstructionist, offshore drilling and nuclear power.

BLITZER: Should Senator McCain, he spoke out about this GAO report today, should Senator McCain be speaking out and telling the Iraqi's, you know what, this is simply unacceptable.

GUILIANI: I think it's something that should become part of the dealings between US and Iraq. I think Iraq should take over more of the responsibility for this. But as I said before, I think it's really insulting the intelligence of the American people to kind of make it part of our energy crisis when there are far bigger issues involved.

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[…] Sure. The guy who voted for the big subsidies for the oil companies was Barack Obama. John McCain voted against it when they had a chance to vote. This is, again, part of the sort of faint strategy, this sort of push things off.

BLITZER: You're referring to the 2006 legislation which President Bush pushed for, McCain opposed, Obama supported it because it did have what he called environmentally sound proposals.

GIULIANI: But john McCain was in favor of environmental approach to oil and gas before Barack Obama, I think in the state legislature, going back to the 1990s. This is an issue which I think john McCain is winning the battle. He's winning it on energy in general which is why I think Barack Obama is doing this kind of demagoguery.

BLITZER: I guess one of the biggest criticisms Obama's making of McCain is the system is broken right now. **There's been no serious effort over the past 30 years to find -- to make America energy independent, to wean the addiction from middle east oil off. He said of the past 30 years, McCain has been in Washington for 26. And he says McCain has done nothing to ease this problem on the United States.**

GIULIANI: Well, actually, he's the one that's opposing the things that would in fact give us some degree of energy diversity, energy independence. It's true, for the last 30 years we haven't licensed a nuclear power plant. France is 80% nuclear. China is building 40 new nuclear power plants. McCain proposes to build 45 nuclear plants, Obama is still thinking about it. He's the one who actually wants to take us back to the past. McCain has talked about opening up offshore drilling. Obama opposes that, he's the one who would keep us exactly where we are now. **And John has shown the independence to disagree with the President when he disagrees and agrees with him when he does. So I think, actually on this issue, this is the reason why the polls are so close and McCain is gaining. I think john McCain is outlining an energy policy that would break us from the past, and I think Obama is talking about the same old thing, basically Dr. No.**

BLITZER: I'll ask you the same question I asked Mitt Romney yesterday. Is there anything in the 26 years he's been in Washington that you can point to senator McCain that has taken the lead in trying to achieve energy independence?

GIULIANI: Sure. He may be certainly the first republican, one of the first senators to be in favor of cap on trade. Going back to the 1990 s. along with senator Lieberman, he helped craft the legislation that's been proposed several times. John has taken the lead in energy over and over again. Again, before Barack Obama I think was in the state legislature.

BLITZER: At least you had an answer for that. When I asked Mitt Romney yesterday, he said he's not a historian. […]

Fiorina Attacks Obama on 2005 Energy Bill, Outlines McCain's Plan (MSNBC 08/06/08 1:03pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: John McCain is going nuclear on the war between his energy policy and Barack Obama's by slamming Obama's position on nuclear energy.

JOHN MCCAIN: Barack Obama has said that expanding our nuclear power plants, quote, "doesn't make sense for America," unquote. He also says no to nuclear storage and no to reprocessing. I could not disagree more. Nuclear power isn't enough and drilling isn't enough. And we need to do all this and more. It's time that the congress went back to Washington and went about the people's business.

[. . .]

MITCHELL: . . . let's talk about Sen. McCain and his energy plan and what he said. This is what Barack Obama . . . said about McCain's energy plan . . .

BARACK OBAMA: Sen. McCain's energy plan reads like another Christmas list for oil and gas lobbyists. It's no wonder because many of his top advisors are former oil and gas lobbyists. The price he paid for his party's nomination has been to reverse himself on position after position. And now he embraces the failed Bush policies of the last eight years. The politics that helped break. That doesn't meet my definition of a maverick.

MITCHELL: John McCain has been describing himself as a maverick in his latest ads. Perhaps that quotation, that part of the speech today . . . has caused you to convert and jump ship?

CARLY FIORINA: No. I find that whole segment you just played kind of unbelievable. First of all, it was Barack

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Obama who voted for the 2005 Bush/Cheney Energy Bill which was packed with giveaways to big oil companies over two and a half billion dollars with. John McCain voted against—

MITCHELL: A lot of folks say that isn't the case when you fact check that bill. The bill had a lot for, for, uh, alternative energy but not that much for oil and gas.

FIORINA: Yes, but it absolutely had some things for alternative energy but it also had over $2.5 billion worth of giveaways for big oil. Barack Obama voted for that bill. John McCain voted against it. John McCain's record as a maverick is long and clear. He has stood up against his party on many occasions. Not just the Bush and Cheney energy bill. Uh, let's see, immigration reform, campaign finance reform, he stood up against Bush-Cheney on the prosecution of the Iraq War. The list goes on and on. And by the way, it was John McCain who first called or stopping the fill of the strategic petroleum reserve. Barack Obama was against it then. It was John McCain who called for a gas tax holiday to give Ameicans relief. Barack Obama was against it then, continues to be against it—

MITCHELL: A lot of folks say that was a gimmick Carly.

FIORINA: You know, it's interesting to me that everyone is decrying the price that Americans are paying at the pump. Barack Obama has even suggested that we need a second stimulus package because the first one was eaten up by prices at the pump. And yet, the way to give Americans direct relief at the pump is to give them a gas tax relief. Barack Obama's against it. He's against nuclear energy. John McCain is absolutely right. He's against offshore drilling. The reality is—

MITCHELL: Well, actually, Barack Obama has a much more . . . you might called it nuanced position on nuclear energy. He has been a big supporter of nuclear energy back in Illinois. Exelon, as you know, is headquartered in Illinois. Some people have criticized him as being too in much in favor of nuclear energy. It's not that clear cut . . .

FIORINA: I guess I don't really—it's interesting then that he would attack John McCain for supporting nuclear energy. I frankly don't know what a nuanced approach to energy is. I think what John McCain is saying, in very clear cut fashion, is we need to do all of the above. If we are going to free ourselves from our dependence on foreign oil, we must invest in alternative energy sources. We must invest in green technologies. Absolutely. We must also invest in nuclear power. We must also invest in drilling. We must invest in clean coal, we must invest in natural gas. We have to do all of the above in order to achieve energy independence.

Fiorina Defends McCain on Energy, Senate Record and Against Dowd (MSNBC 08/06/08)
MITCHELL: You mentioned the 2005 bill. The 2005 bill had more than $18 billion dollars in incentives to the nuclear power industry. John McCain has talked about 45 new nuclear plants by 2030. The 2005 bill gave all these incentives to the nuclear power industry. And although the price of oil has gone up and up and up, nuclear power ought to be more competitive but there are so many insurance and liscencing problems. Not a single plant has been started or given a green light despite what was put in that bill three years ago . . . isn't it going to take a lot longer than John McCain is suggesting to get anywhere near 45 new nuclear plants in this country?

FIORINA: Well, I think it will start with a decision and leadership and the will in Washington to say we must achieve energy independence and nuclear power is part of the solution and right now, we don't have that. A President John McCain would give us that. 45 nuclear power plants is not only critically important to helping us achieve energy independence but it's worth about 700,000 jobs. In other words, John McCain's energy plan is not just about weaning ourselves from foreign oil. It's also an important part of getting this economy going again and making sure that we're creating jobs. And frankly, that's why I find it so, um, odd that Barack Obama is claiming that he has an energy plan, when, in essence what he's done is been against virtually everything. Against offshore drilling, against nuclear power. Yes, alternative energies and green technologies are an important part of the solution but for him to suggest—

MITCHELL: He has certainly moderated his position on offshore drilling, as had John McCain earlier. Let me show you what one of the potential running mates had to say, just last night on CNN . . . when Wolf asked Mitt Romney what proposals, what legislative accomplishments McCain has produced . . .

WOLF BLITZER: Can you cite one legislative accomplishment that Sen. McCain produced during those 26 years in Washington in order to achieve energy independence?

MITT ROMNEY: Well, I'm not a historian that goes through all of the pieces of legislation that John McCain has worked on.

MITCHELL: Carly, don't you think that Romney could have had a better response as a surrogate for John

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McCain than that he's not a historian? It's sort of reminds people of that old clip of Dwight Eisenhower when asked what Richard Nixon had accomplished when he was his running mate.

FIORINA: You know I found the question frankly a little odd because I think the point of the energy debate going on right now with the American people is what must we do now given where we are. The reason—

MITCHELL: Isn't John McCain's record in 26 years in the senate also one of the issues people will be using to decide whether or not to support him?

FIORINA: Absolutely. And I think John McCain's record of 26 years is an incredibly rich one; not only of legislative accomplishment, but also of reaching his hand across the aisle and achieving those accomplishments in a bipartisan way. And I cited just a few minutes ago many examples of that, whether it was immigration reform or whether it was taking on Jack Abramoff and making sure the corruption that was going on in his own Republican party was uncovered and punished. I think if the suggestion is that somehow let's put John McCain's legislative record up against Barak Obama's that is a comparison that we would welcome in the McCain campaign.

MITCHELL: Now John McCain has got the new ad which talks about him as a maverick; the ad that came out yesterday I guess Maureen Dowd in today's New York Times says that this is not the John McCain that people remember; she speaks of McCain's green-eyed monster quote, "John McCain is pea-green with envy" and she says that's the only explanation for why a man that prides himself on honor; a man that vowed not to take the low road in the campaign, having been mugged by W. and Rove and South Carolina in 2000 is engaging in a festival of juvenilia; talking, of course, about Paris Hilton and other ads. What's your response to a lot of the criticism of John McCain; somebody is saying you know, John we hardly knew ya. You're not the John McCain of 2000 and you've been rough and tough in this campaign season.

FIORINA: First of all, Maureen Dowd, of course, always has a way with words; uh, secondly I think that comparing the Paris Hilton ad to some of what went on around John McCain and his family in South Carolina in the year 2000, is frankly ridiculous. Third, I think the ads that John McCain has put out have been humorous, they have been honorable, there is no question that Barack Obama is a celebrity, and there is also no question that is legitimate to ask whether he is ready to lead, so I think we're proud of the campaign we're running and I would just point out that John McCain didn't make it through the primaries in 2000, and today, as we speak, this race is running neck and neck. So something that John McCain is doing is working a resonating with the American people who ultimately, with all respect to Maureen Dowd, are going to be the ones that decide this election.

Rep. Eric Cantor Stumps For McCain's Energy Plans (FNC 08/06/08 5:28pm)
REP ERIC CANTOR: […] If the question is about Barack Obama's attacks on John McCain and whether, somehow his plan was based on suggestions from energy lobbyists, I think again, that shows a lack of understanding of what the American people are going through. I mean, right now there is a lot of hurt out there. Gasoline prices are way too high, families are buckling up under the pressure of paying 60, 70, 80 dollars every time they come into a gas station. John McCain has got in place a plan called the Lexington project, which is a comprehensive plan to relieve the pain at the pump, and to get us on the path towards energy independence which will eliminate our reliance on foreign oil, especially from regimes that are hostile to us.

Pfotenhauer Attacks Obama's Energy Plan (MSNBC 08/06/08 11:13am)
CONTESSA BREWER: John McCain dismisses Barack Obama as just a celebrity, like Paris Hilton. Oh, and Paris Hilton doesn't like that . . .

[Paris response ad plays]

BREWER: John McCain says he thinks the ad was HA-larious, but is any of this back and forth helping America, for instance, solve the energy crisis? . . . what did you think of Paris Hilton's spoof ad?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well, I thought it was pretty funny. You know, it's interesting to note that she must be part of the 70% of American people who support John McCain's all of the above approach to solving the energy crisis that we're facing and obviously the contrast here is that Sen. Obama, well both candidates support alternative energy, hydro, wind, electric, alternative fuels and are really very supportive of those aspects of a long term plan but only Sen. McCain has the foresight to support increased domestic production in oil and natural gas and nuclear power.

BREWER: Nancy, you just said that both candidates believe in exploring these alternative energies. So, why is the McCain campaign trying so hard to make Obama's full energy plan about inflating the tires properly?

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PFOTENHAUER: This is the aspect of, what'd we do right now? How do we solve our problem in the short to mid-term, not just the long term? These alternative sources we believe all need to be part of the solution, if you will. But in the short term, it's just plain irresponsible to not support increased domestic production in oil, natural gas and to take the steps to support nuclear power. That's a zero emission clean source of energy. Even Patrick Moore, the cofounder of Greenpeace supports it. That's the kind of thing that needs to be done. So there's a big chunk missing from Sen. Obama's approach and I think it shows very poor judgment on his part.

BREWER: Op-ed columnist, Maureen Dowd wrote in *The New York Times* today, "The Arizona senator who built his reputation on being a brave proponent of big solutions is running a schoolyard campaign about tire gauges and Paris Hilton, childishly accusing his opponent of being too serious, too popular and not patriotic enough." Is there a danger here in trying to entertain voters and belittling what people think is a really important campaign about really important issues?

PFOTENHAUER: You can chalk this up as one more time I disagree with Ms. Dowd. Which wou—I don't think I've ever agreed with her so that's not too remarkable. But the American people hear John McCain every day talk about real solutions to the challenges that we're facing. And you can talk about the energy aspect of what we're facing and he's got the all of the above approach that the American people support and that's warranted by the challenges that we face. Or we can talk about the economy overall where you've got Sen. McCain talking about keeping taxes low and keeping federal spending low and pursuing free trade and you've got Sen. Obama raising taxes in a weak economy, massive increases in federal spending and really, the most pretentious candidate, major candidate for president that I've witnessed in a long time.

Highlight #2
McCain's New Strategy Emphasizes Style over Substance (MSNBC 08/06/08 6:31pm)
KATIE COURIC: 90 days now 'til America elects a new president and Democrat Barack Obama is holding on to a small lead over Republican John McCain . . .

DEAN REYNOLDS: With John McCain increasingly on offense and Barack Obama more and more on defense, the two candidates appear to be fighting each other to a standstill in their attempts to brand the other guy as the wrong choice. While our poll says that registered voters want the candidates to be focusing more on domestic issues than foreign affairs.

JOHN MCCAIN: It's time to get America's economy moving again.

BARACK OBAMA: It's time to get a plan for ending the age of oil in our time.

REYNOLDS: 7 out of 10 of them believe the candidates are not addressing the issues that matter most to them. And that could be because they're hearing as much or more about persona than policy.

[. . .]

REYNOLDS: As for McCain, he's making a determined effort to make Obama's popularity and enhanced world status into laugh lines. McCain's campaign has been playing offense much more aggressively than Obama and emphasizing style a bit more than ever over substance.

[. . .]

REYNOLDS: Today at Marshall University for example, McCain spent three times as long talking to the Thundering Herd football team as he did talking issues to workers a cabinet making company. The man who rides the Straight Talk Express took no questions from reporters. Some Republicans wonder about the new approach. McCain's own mother said that using Paris Hilton in this controversial ad to insult Obama was, quote, "kind of stupid."

["Celeb" plays]

REYNOLDS: And now it appears mother knows best.

[Paris response ad plays]

[. . .]

REYNOLDS: Well, the McCain campaign said, and I think this was tongue in cheek, that the Paris Hilton idea of

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taking suggestions from both candidates proves that her energy plan is better than Barack Obama's . . .

COURIC: It keeps getting weirder and weirder . . .

Highlight #3

The Battle Over Who's The Maverick, McCain's Status Scrutinized (CNN 08/06/08 7:44pm)

KITTY PILGRIM: The sort of Maverick, everyone looking to take credit for the maverick credential, it's because Americans are presumably are so dissatisfied with policy.

KEITH RICHBURG: I think the Republican brand, this year, is toxic for a lot of people. So McCain has to get back to what he lost last week when he got mired in the Britney Spears/Paris Hilton ad. **He's got to get back to saying, I'm not partisan, I'm a solutions guy, I can reach across the aisle. He lost that a little bit, I think, and he's trying to reclaim that.**

PILGRIM: It's been kind of bitter back and forth all week.

MICHAEL GOODWIN: But I think for Obama […] it does reflect something that most of the discussions in the last week or so have been on McCain's turf. They've been about energy where, the drilling issue, where McCain clearly has an advantage. They've been about Iraq. **So I think Obama's looking to get back into his comfortable turf which is, this is George Bush's third term […] trying to link him to Bush again.**

ED ROLLINS: There are two big issue which McCain was out of sync with his own party. One was the tax issue, one of two republicans to vote against Bush's tax cuts which is heresy in the Republican party. And the immigration, where he basically formed his alliance with Kennedy. But everything else, I think he's been, he's got an 85 percent conservative voting record over his long career. But those are two big fundamental issues to which have switched on.

PILGRIM: But Ed, the voting record, many people won't bother to examine. They'll just sort of take these.

ROLLINS: Well, he's enjoyed the impression of being, I'm not beholden to anybody, I stand up here, I'm independent. And that's an interesting place to be.

Highlight #4

Begala Highlights Importance of Framing Election As "McCain Is Same As Bush" (CNN 08/06/08 5:30pm)

ALEX CASTELLANOS: […] John McCain has an advantage, he's been around a long time, I think Paul's writing a book about this. And so, we've seen him tested. So in a moment of stress for the country, when you need presidential leadership, you have a sense hey, I know this guy. And that's why McCain can change positions on an issue and say, you know, well we still know who this guy is. Barack Obama is a little bit like that bright shiny packaging on a Christmas present, we get all excited at first but eventually you want to know what's inside and we still don't.

PAUL BEGALA: […] I think his campaign has to show the core of John McCain. Alex is right, **McCain has a core, it's called George W. Bush. At his core McCain is a third term of Bush. If Obama's campaign will do more to define that core of McCain as Bush, then I think he's got a better chance of winning the election.**

WOLF BLITZER: But he's disagreed with Bush on a lot of substantive issues.

BEGALA: Not a lot, 91 percent of the time over the Bush presidency, 91 percent of the time. Now if a guy bats right-handed 91 percent of the time do we call him a left-handed hitter? No. 91 percent of the time, I mean, come on. […]

BLITZER: That's one of the main arguments of the Obama campaign, if you've like the eight years of Bush vote for McCain.

CASTELLANOS: Sure, they'd much rather run against George Bush than John McCain, because John McCain is hard to beat. Look, there recently was survey in which they tested Barack Obama running against George Bush, and Barack Obama running against John McCain. You know what, John McCain was in a much, dead heat in that race against Barack Obama. Bush was losing by about 20 points, why, because the American people understand John McCain's a maverick, he's different, he speaks his own mind, and that's the difference.

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BLITZER: Do you agree that the Republicans lucked out that McCain is their nominee?

BEGALA: He's by far their strongest nominee, but this is why it's all the more important for the Obama campaign to define McCain. If this campaign becomes only a referendum of Barack Obama, that's bad for Barack, he needs to make it a referendum of John McCain and George Bush.

Those Who Don't Like Bush Don't Seem To Be Equating Dislike with McCain (CNN 08/06/08 7:05pm)
BILL SCHNEIDER: Every forecasting model for this election predicts a democratic landslide. Strange then, when you ask voters to choose between Barack Obama and John McCain, the polls show a very close race. Imagine if President Bush were running for re-election or if Dick Cheney were running to succeed him? Can you say blowout? John McCain is a republican but he's not part of the Bush administration, as he takes pains to make clear.

MCCAIN: We've disagreed over the conduct of the war in Iraq and the treatment of detainees. Over out of control government spending and budget gimmicks. Over energy policy and climate change.

SCHNEIDER: A whopping 3/4 's of Americans believe things are going badly in the country. Voters who feel that way have a very low opinion of President Bush, but their displeasure does not seem to extend to McCain. They kind of like him. Barack Obama is new, he's young, he's relatively inexperienced. A lot of viewers see Obama as risky business. […] Obama is promising change, the downside to change is risk. If you want change, you have to take risks. […]

O'Reilly Looks At Whether McCain is Throwing Bush Under the Bus and If This Is Effective (FNC 08/06/08 8:04pm)
BILL O'REILY: Is John McCain throwing the Bush administration under the bus? […] **With President Bush way down in the polls the Obama campaign is doing everything it can to link the President with Senator McCain. That could be an effective strategy.** So the McCain people have a new ad, saying this [ad shown]. […] The question for tonight is about McCain's strategy, is it smart for him to openly say Washington is broken and by implication criticize Mr. Bush's leadership. I don't think that is smart for a number of reasons. First, some conservatives still like the President and are skeptical about McCain and that's not the way to win them over. **Second, McCain's emphasis should be on solving vexing problems not assigning blame for what has gone wrong. That's what Obama is doing. Independent voters, the ones that will decide the next election, want hope not blame. McCain should be giving voters as much hope as possible, while at the same time emphasizing the inexperience of his opponent. Again, this election is about Barack Obama, yes or no on him. All McCain has to do is provide a steady alternative, be a secure presence.** […]

DICK MORRIS: […] First, let me do a factual correction on the Obama ad. The reason McCain didn't support tax cuts for a hundred million households was they didn't pay any taxes. Those are people that pay zero taxes.

O'REILLY: But Obama is going to give them money back.

MORRIS: Ok, but it's hard to cut what they don't pay. I believe this is the best ad McCain has run. And I think it's a big mistake for Obama to answer. So I disagree with you on both counts. **On the first part, McCain has got to prove he's not Bush's third term.** He's got a 27 percent approval rating, Bush does. And you need 50 percent of the vote. And he's going to get the 27 percent, those are die-hard republicans, whatever he does. **What he's got to do is to show that he is not Bush and that he can reach out to the other party.** That's why I believe the greatest move for McCain would be to put Joe Lieberman on his ticket for vice president. […] **And I think McCain has recaptured the maverick role that he played in 2000, when everyone saw him running against George Bush. And by talking about tobacco companies, and oil companies, and drug companies, he's hitting that populist message. Two wings to the Republican Party, the country club and the populist. And he's aligning with the populist against Bush, which is essentially the country club.** […] **People are going to eventually split the difference. They're going to say yeah, he's not George Bush but he's not a total maverick in the middle. And that's going to be enough for McCain to get the votes that Obama alienates.**

[…]

You need to kick Bush to show that you're independent. And when you say we're worse than we were four years ago, and Washington is broken, that's a great way of telling the voters I'm kicking Bush, you can trust me to be as good as Obama.

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Highlight #5
McCain's Tricky Balancing Act, Trying to Not Appear Too Negative (CNN 08/06/08 4:25pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] Our brand new CNN Opinion Research Corporation Poll shows many of you think they'll both be risky. 57 percent for Obama, 54 percent for McCain. But McCain's campaign would surely like those numbers to change in McCain's favor.

ED HENRY: While Barack Obama is trying to build himself as the candidate of change, John McCain is trying to seize that mantle back. A new one, two punch from John McCain.

JOHN MCCAIN: The cost of everything is going up and in the face of this Washington is on vacation.

HENRY: First McCain is on the attack, charging government is broken and Barack Obama is too inexperienced to fix it.

MCCAIN: My opponent, Senator Obama, opposes both storage and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, he opposes offshore drilling immediately, and he's out of touch.

HENRY: At the same time McCain is trying to present a positive agenda, making the case he has better plans to improve the economy and solve the energy problem.

MCCAIN: We need to crack down on those who've abused our credit market and caused this housing decline. We need to take action to support American businesses so that we can stop jobs from going overseas.

HENRY: A tricky balancing act for McCain, who may come across as too negative. He's walking that same fine line in a new ad that again charges Obama is a celebrity, but with a forward looking twist.

[Ad shown]

This ad is toned down, no images of Paris Hilton who was in last weeks ad and prompted so much outrage in the Obama camp. Nevertheless, the previous celebrity ad has sparked a humorous response from none other than Paris Hilton.

[Paris Hilton response ad shown]

Trying to go positive and negative at the same time may be a tough balancing act for McCain. Whenever he attacks Washington, Obama reminds audiences that Senator McCain has been in Washington for 26 years. The challenge for McCain is to restore his old reputation as a maverick, not an insider.

Highlight #6
Carly Fiorina's Effectiveness As a Surrogate for McCain Examined (CNN 08/06/08 8:49pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: […] Carly Fiorina wants women to vote for John McCain. […] Fiorina had her own trouble staying on message.

DANA BASH: It's barely 8am, Carly Fiorina has already flown into Georgia, she's in a hurry. […] 18 months ago John McCain asked her to advice him on economics, but her urgent task this day, selling McCain to women voters. A roll tailor-made for Fiorina. She was the first female CEO of a high-tech company, Hewlett Packard. She has lots of female fans. […] Fiorina is using her star power to draw women to listen about McCain.

CARLY FIORINA: So I have known him since 2000. In his Senate office, women have both higher positions and are higher paid on average than the men in his office.

BASH: She talks about women's issues you don't hear much elsewhere.

FIORINA: He was a co-sponsor of the women's equal opportunity act. […]

BASH: She is a newcomer to politics, mistakes happen. […] She recently told reporters that women ask her why doesn't health insurance cover birth control if it covers Viagra. It caught McCain by surprise. […] Fiorina insists her point, that women want a say in choices in health coverage is valid. […]

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Looking back, do you think it would have been better, given what happened, to talk about meditation and valium as opposed to use the Viagra word in this political situation.

FIORINA: Well, I in some ways, I'm quite surprised it caused such a flab. I mean, all you have to do is watch your network, CNN, and see endless ads, ad after ad after ad, for what we are euphemistically calling male enhancement. But, I understand, it was perhaps too memorable an example.

BASH: But it's not just the Viagra dustup. In Ohio recently, Fiorina said that "McCain has never signed on to efforts to overturn Roe v. Wade." But the fact is that McCain calls for Roe v. Wade's reversal right on his website.

Your critics say, well, you're doing that to try to lure women voters, even thought it doesn't really represent Senator McCain's position.

FIORINA: The reality is we have had seven years of a republican Congress and a republican President, and Roe v. Wade is still the law of the land. […]

BASH: […] Fiorina tells us about searching for Hillary Clinton voters, skeptical of Barack Obama. She recently met some.

FIORINA: They sent me a message on my website one day, and they said we really want to talk to you.

BASH: But if this former CEO knows anything it's data, and polls show that women are breaking for Obama not McCain. Still, she's off to hunt for McCain voters and avoid controversy.

--
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From: "Bracken Hendricks" <brackenhendricks@gmail.com>
To: "Tara McGuinness" <tmcguinness@americanprogress.org>
Date: 7/7/2009 10:03:04 PM
Subject: Re: Tariffs and the senate

Agreed. I was at the AFL-CIO last night to welcome Franken, and ran into a lot of similar comments and concerns, and a mix of thoughts on how calculated Obama's position was. If it was planned, I don't think it was widely discussed.

I thought John's response at NBC was right on target. Focusing less on the tariff itself and instead drilling down on how to make sure we don't shift our emissions over seas, to my mind, offers the best chance of addressing the issue without inflaming protectionist fears.

B.

On Jul 7, 2009, at 10:51 PM, Tara McGuinness wrote:

> So, when I said I thought obama worked this out behind closed doors,
> I might have been wrong.
>
> One interesting quote from senator brown in congress daily:
>
> Brown said that while Obama is open to the tariff authority, "I'm
> worried
> more about his advisers." He clarified that Obama's economic
> advisers "look
> at trade differently" than others. He said he has talked to Obama
> about
> this and will continue talking to the White House.
>
> CongressDaily AM for Wednesday, July 8, 2009
>
> ENVIRONMENT: MIDWESTERN SENATORS FIRM ON CLIMATE TARIFF PROVISIONS
>
> By Darren Goode with Peter Cohn and Megan Scully contributing
>
>
> Midwestern Democratic senators are holding firm on challenging the
> White
> House on allowing the federal government to issue tariffs against
> developing countries that do not take certain steps to reduce
> greenhouse
> gas emissions.
>
> These Democrats say they need tariff authority at least as strong as
> that
> in a House climate bill, a position that for the moment pits them
> against a
> White House trying to help Democratic leaders secure swing votes to
> get the
> needed 60 votes for a broader Senate bill.
>
> "This bill doesn't pass unless it takes care of manufacturing," Sen.
> Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said. "And this bill doesn't take care of
> manufacturing without border adjustments."
>
> President Obama, while overall commending the House bill, told a small
> gathering of reporters June 28 of granting tariff authority: "At a
> time
> when the economy worldwide is still deep in recession, and we've

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> seen a
> significant drop in global trade, I think we have to be very careful
> about
> sending any protectionist signals out."
>
> But Obama has also pushed Democratic leaders to send him a bill to
> sign
> before the United States heads to UN climate change talks in Denmark
> in
> December to provide leverage with developing nations like China and
> India.
>
> Brown rejected the protectionist argument. "It's not protectionism;
> it's
> fair play," Brown said. The Ohio Democrat -- who is working with Sen.
> Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., on multiple ideas to protect domestic
> manufacturers in a cap-and-trade plan -- said his biggest priority is
> toughening the House tariff language. He noted that is key to
> picking up
> support from House Democrats in his state and perhaps elsewhere in the
> Midwest who merely "were satisfied with the progress" made in the
> House
> bill. The House bill scraped by on a 219-212 vote, with several
> Democrats
> noting they were voting for it with the hope it would be improved in
> the
> Senate.
>
> Brown said that while Obama is open to the tariff authority, "I'm
> worried
> more about his advisers." He clarified that Obama's economic
> advisers "look
> at trade differently" than others. He said he has talked to Obama
> about
> this and will continue talking to the White House.
>
> Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the tariff language his brother --
> House
> Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman Sander Levin, D-Mich. --
> helped
> author in the House bill is "very reasonable." The deal Rep. Levin
> worked
> out with House Energy and Commerce Chairman Henry Waxman requires the
> president, beginning in 2020, to impose a border adjustment unless he
> determines it would not be in the national interest. Such a waiver
> would be
> subject to congressional approval. The president could also opt to
> impose
> zero tariffs if he deems emissions allowances have erased foreign
> competitors' advantage, with specific criteria outlined.
>
> The concern is that domestic manufacturers otherwise could see their
> costs
> rise to the advantage of foreign competitors when greenhouse gas
> emissions
> and related jobs shift overseas if an international climate change
> agreement cannot be reached.
>
> Republican critics of a cap-and-trade plan have argued that China --
> which
> has surpassed the United States as the world's largest carbon
> emitter --
> and India will not play along. China so far has agreed to reduce their

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> "energy intensity" 20 percent over five years, while India has flatly
> refused to adhere to mandatory greenhouse gas reductions and has
> blamed
> developed countries for climate woes there and in other developing
> nations.
>
> The Senate Finance Committee today is holding a hearing on the issue
> as
> part of a broader look at international trade implications of climate
> change legislation. Finance Chairman Max Baucus recently struck a
> diplomatic tone while not ruling out some variation of the House
> language.
> "Our challenge is to craft climate legislation in a manner that both
> meets
> our domestic priorities and respects international trade rules,"
> Baucus
> said in a statement to CongressDaily. "I've said before we must
> level the
> regulatory playing field by encouraging other countries to adopt
> their own
> emissions limits, while minimizing competitive disadvantages to
> American
> firms."
>
> Domestic industry groups -- such as the American Iron and Steel
> Institute
> -- have argued that the Senate needs to go farther than the House
> and move
> up the date for the president to start assessing whether other
> countries
> have taken similar steps to curb emissions. But groups like the U.S.
> Chamber of Commerce and National Foreign Trade Council have said the
> House
> language could start a trade war and violate global trade rules.
>
> Granting tariff authority is one of several issues Democratic
> leaders need
> to work out with scores of swing-vote Democrats and a handful of
> moderate
> Republicans.
>
> Senate Foreign Relations Chairman John Kerry -- whose panel is
> holding a
> hearing today on reducing global emissions while staying competitive
> with
> developing nations -- said he is meeting with individual senators in
> both
> parties "who have had problems with [cap-and-trade legislation] in the
> past." He met with several senators Tuesday and was scheduled to sit
> down
> with Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer Tuesday
> night,
> he said.
>
> Boxer Tuesday said the plan is to "keep the structure" of the House
> bill
> but said details are still being discussed. "I'm going to say
> everything is
> on the table," she said. Boxer is hoping to mark up a bill in her
> panel
> before the August recess and Majority Leader Reid seems poised to
> try to
> move a bill on the floor in October.

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>
> Kerry said the House bill took care of some of the concerns he has
> heard
> "but we have to make that case" to senators less familiar with the
> bill, he
> said. He said getting 60 votes is doable "but it's going to take a
> lot of
> work." Echoing how House Democratic leaders pulled together
> individual or
> group deals with Democrats worried about the impact on coal,
> manufacturing
> and the agriculture industry, Kerry said, "We need to walk through
> those
> very carefully over here."
>
> Some Democrats Tuesday laid out broad concerns with a bill. Sen. Maria
> Cantwell, D-Wash., who has criticized the idea of setting up a carbon
> market, as in a cap-and-trade program, said the House bill is "way too
> complex." Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., said he also has "serious questions"
> about
> a cap-and-trade program and its effect on U.S businesses "absent
> very clear
> commitments from countries like China."
>
> Sen. John (Jay) Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said he would vote against the
> House
> bill but that "there's lots of opportunities" to make a plan more
> palatable
> to his state's coal industry.
>
> Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., a close ally of Sen. John McCain, R-
> Ariz.,
> said he has not spoken to the 2008 GOP presidential candidate about
> the
> issue yet but plans to. Lieberman said more broadly he wants to work
> out
> deals with other Republicans "who have not said 'no, never,'" as
> well as
> moderate Democrats and liberal Democrats from "high coal burning
> states."
> Lieberman said a key to getting 60 votes is to "beef up" help for
> nuclear
> energy.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/17/2015 8:51:18 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | Life, Liberty, Happiness: Health, Food, Shelter

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Life, Liberty, Happiness: Health, Food, Shelter

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: Health care in the United States is a for-profit industry, and that's just crazy. Even with "Obamacare" delivering us into the warm embrace of the insurance industry in order to give us all "options," the whole process is a rank offense to the national ethos we allegedly hold so dear.

Read the Article

BDS, Academic Freedom and Self-Censoring Debate on Campus

David Palumbo-Liu, Truthout: When safely tenured academics decide to self-censor, employing the alibi that they lack expertise in the topic of debate, as is so often done in regards to Israel, the Palestinians and the BDS movement, they have essentially given up their academic freedom.

Read the Article

Blood on Their Hands: The Racist History of Modern Police Unions

Flint Taylor, In These Times: Reactionary actions by police unions are not new, but are a fundamental component of their history, particularly since they came to prominence in the wake of the civil rights movement. These organizations have played a powerful role in defending the police, no matter how outrageous and racist their actions.

Read the Article

Searching for Radical Democracy in the Ruins of Capitalism's Economic Depravity

Chuck Mertz, This is Hell!: The future demands a new political consciousness, and we can't wait for the current neoliberal economic system to tear apart society, says public intellectual Henry Giroux.

Listen to the Interview

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies: A Modern, Militarist Parable

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Majority of US Public School Students Are in Poverty
Read the Article at The Washington Post

Supreme Court to Decide if States Can Ban Gay Marriage
Read the Article at Reuters

Mexico Arrests Suspect in Disappearance of 43 Students
Read the Article at The Huffington Post

#MLKShutItDown Protests Aim to "Reclaim" Martin Luther King's Legacy
Read the Article at Al Jazeera

2014 Officially the

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Niall McLaren, Truthout: These days, even children's books become thundering dioramas of violence, ensuring an endless flow of eager recruits to the ghastly reality of war. *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* is, in fact, blatant militarist propaganda. Everybody must believe this one point: Violence is why we exist.

Read the Review

Justice in Guatemala Deferred, Again

Christy Thornton, NACLA: In Guatemala last week, the historic trial of the country's former dictator, Efraín Rios Montt, was set to resume. In a previous trial, he was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity, but that decision was overturned. Jo-Marie Burt, director of the Latin American studies program at George Mason University, discusses what happened during last week's trial.

Listen to the Interview and Read the Transcript

The War on Hen-Pecking

Jill Richardson, OtherWords: All states should follow California's example and make egg producers treat laying hens better. Instead of living in cramped cages with less room than a sheet of paper, California birds are going to get enough space to lie down, stand up, stretch their wings and turn around.

Read the Article

The Sterling Trial: Merlin Meets Curveball

Marcy Wheeler, Expose Facts: In this update on the trial of CIA whistleblower Jeffrey Sterling, it is revealed that efforts by the CIA to "get its reputation back" have been rather unsuccessful.

Read the Article

France Puts Off Delivery of Mistral to Russia "Indefinitely"

Gene Zbikowski, L'Humanité: The Mistral helicopter carrier, which was initially to be turned over to Russia in October, will remain at quay for the time being in accordance with recommendations made to the French president by the Americans over the "situation in the eastern Ukraine."

Read the Article

Hottest Year on Record

Read the Article at The Guardian

Mitt Romney Has a Huge New Conflict-of-Interest Problem

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Holder Limits Seized-Asset Sharing Process That Split Billions With Local, State Police

Read the Article at The Washington Post

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Date: 9/23/2015 4:12:18 AM
Subject: The American Prospect: Our Incoherent China Policy

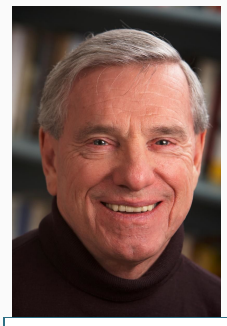

Clyde Prestowitz
The American Prospect

For media contact:
Kate Brown
202-213-7051
buzzbybrown@gmail.com

Our Incoherent China Policy:
The proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership is bad economics, and even worse as containment of China.

By Clyde Prestowitz

In the summer of 2009, I was invited with a few other policy analysts to the White House for a briefing on the newly proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). At that time, the potential participants included Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, and, of course, the United States. Whether or not Japan would be invited to join had not yet been decided.

Noting that the United States already had free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Australia, and Singapore, I asked why we needed an agreement that added only the tiny economies of New Zealand, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam. The reply from a member of the National Security Council staff was that it would reassure our Asian allies that America was back; that this agreement would be the economic complement to the increased military deployments of the recently announced "Pivot to Asia" foreign policy, obviously aimed at counterbalancing the spread of Chinese power and influence. Along with health care and a possible treaty on nuclear weapons with Iran, TPP would be a major part of the president's hoped-for legacy.

To read the article in its entirety in *The American Prospect*, please click here.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/30/2015 8:50:29 AM
Subject: News Update - December 30

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, December 30

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Wall Street Journal: US Spied on Bibi During Iran Deal Talks**
- **Ramallah Urges Talks to Stem Unrest; Israel Says Not Until Attacks Stop**
- **Arab Likud MK Helped Crack Down on Israeli Arabs Joining ISIS**
- **Joint List Planning Diplomatic Blitz on Ban of Islamic Movement**
- **Jewish Israeli Arrested for Stabbing Arab Employee**
- **Israeli Government Denies Construction Plans for the E1 District**
- **Aliyah to Israel Increased in 2015**
- **Palestinian Authority Rejects Possibility of Turkish Rule in Gaza**

Commentary:

- **Al-Monitor: "Bibi's Five-Pronged Strategy to Delay a Two-State Solution"**
  - By Uri Savir, Honorary President, Peres Center for Peace
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Honored Judges"**
  - By Nahum Barnea, Leading Israeli Journalist, Yedioth Ahronoth

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Ha'aretz

Wall Street Journal: US Spied on Bibi During Iran Deal Talks

The U.S. maintained National Security Agency surveillance on Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during nuclear negotiations with Iran, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday in an exclusive that exposes the extent of cooperation and mistrust between the two allies. According to the report, despite vowing to freeze surveillance on allies in 2013 following the Edward Snowden leaks, the U.S. continued to eavesdrop on Netanyahu and his aides, citing what U.S. President Obama reportedly called a "compelling national security purpose."

See also, "White House Authorized NSA to Snoop on Netanyahu, U.S. Lawmakers Report" (i24 News)

Times of Israel

Ramallah Urges Peace Talks; Israel Says Not Until Attacks Stop

Israel is refusing to consider steps toward restarting stagnant peace talks with the Palestinians until the ongoing wave of violence comes to a close, Palestinian officials said Tuesday. There have been a number of high-level meetings between Israeli and Palestinian officials in recent weeks, during which Ramallah proposed restarting talks as an effort to stanch nearly three months of violence, which has seen near daily Palestinian terror attacks in Jerusalem and the West Bank, with more than 20 Israelis killed, and over a hundred Palestinians killed — most in the act of attacking Israelis, and others in clashes with Israeli troops.

Ynet News

Arab Likud MK Helped Crack Down on Israeli Arabs Joining ISIS

Likud MK Ayoob Kara, Deputy Minister of Regional Cooperation, used to double as an unofficial intermediary with the few of his fellow Arab citizens who have left to join the Islamic State in Syria or Iraq. Negotiating discreetly through relatives and go-betweens, he offered them reduced jail terms if they returned to Israel, cooperated with security services, and helped deter other would-be Islamic State recruits by publicly disavowing the group. A half-dozen volunteers took the deal, Kara says.

See also, "Israel Concerned ISIS Making Inroads Among Bedouins" (Times of Israel)

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Jerusalem Post

Joint List Planning Diplomatic Blitz on Ban of Islamic Movement

The Joint List is planning a diplomatic offensive after the holidays to try to increase pressure on the Israeli government to reverse the ban it imposed on the Islamic Movement , a Joint List MK involved in the effort told The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday. The Joint List will also raise other issues, such as its complaint about the lack of an adequate budget increase for the Arab sector. "After the holidays, we plan to meet with all EU ambassadors to discuss these issues," Joint List MK Yousef Jabareen (Hadash) said. Jabareen, who heads the Joint List international team, said that "this is part of our international advocacy endeavors, which are becoming one of the main advocacy tools of the Joint List…We believe that the human rights of our community are not just a local issue and that the international community has a role to play," he said.

Times of Israel

Jewish Israeli Arrested for Stabbing Arab Employee

Jewish Israeli man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly stabbing his Arab employee at a Beit Shemesh supermarket in a suspected racist assault. The suspect used a box-cutter in his attack on his worker, according to the Walla news website. A video clip featured in the report also appeared to show suspect Yosef Ben-Chaim punching the Arab worker, who has not been named. Ben-Chaim's remand was extended on Wednesday, and an indictment was expected in the coming days.

Ma'ariv

Israeli Government Denies Construction Plans for the E1 District

Prime Minister's Bureau officials said that the construction plans for the area of E1, which connects Maale Adumim and Jerusalem, were issued without authorization and were invalid. A statement issued by the bureau claimed that previous construction and housing minister Uri Ariel had initiated the plan but that he had no authority to do so because the Construction and Housing Ministry does not have the authority to plan and build beyond the Green Line.
See also, "Netanyahu Distances Himself from E1 Plans" (Arutz Sheva)

Ynet News

Aliyah to Israel Increased in 2015

Over 30,000 people made Aliyah to Israel in 2015, the highest number in over a decade. Statistics published by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and the Jewish Agency on Tuesday showed an increase in Aliyah of around 10 percent from 2014 and the highest number of arrivals since the 2003 peak in immigration. The biggest proportion of Olim came from France, with around 7,900 French immigrants arriving in Israel in 2015. This is the second time that France has topped the list of countries of origin for Olim, a fact attributed in part to a string of terror attacks that have recently hit the country.
See also, "Israel Receives 30,000 New Immigrants in 2015" (Algemeiner)

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Jerusalem Post

Palestinian Authority Rejects Possibility of Turkish Rule in Gaza

The Palestinian Authority on Tuesday rejected a report that Turkey might subjugate the Gaza Strip to its rule. Hamas has also denied the report, which was first published in the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Daily News. The report claimed that Turkey wants free shipping access to the Gaza Strip in order to provide aid to the Palestinians as a condition for restoring normal ties with Israel. A government source in Ankara told the newspaper that Turkey would not back down from the demand, even at the cost of the collapse of rapprochement with Israel.

See also, "Turkey Demands End of Gaza Blockade to Reconcile Relations with Israel" (Middle East Monitor)

Al-Monitor – December 27, 2015

Netanyahu's Five-Pronged Strategy to Delay Two-State Solution

By Uri Savir

A two-state Israeli-Palestinian solution seems further away today than ever. Yet, the Israeli prime minister's office doesn't take this for granted and has developed a multipronged strategy as insurance.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to place roadblocks in the path of any political process designed to bring about a two-state solution, according to a senior European Union official in Brussels who visits the region on a regular basis and spoke to Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity.

"There are two facets to Netanyahu's anti-two-state strategy," the official said. "Netanyahu attempts to ensure the non-viability of a Palestinian state, mainly through the expansion of settlements, and at the same time he recites a long list of reasons why Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is sabotaging possible negotiations. In every meeting with Netanyahu, we discover another obstacle and hear another argument. In the corridors of the EU headquarters there are those defining Netanyahu as a 'serial alibi-ist,' always finding a reason not to place himself at the scene of a two-state solution negotiation."

At EU headquarters, there is a sense of hopelessness regarding Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution, given Netanyahu's rejection of any initiative, Abbas' weakness and the US abstention from attempts to revive a peace process or to accept a UN Security Council resolution on the issue.

The EU source warns of a possible collapse of the Palestinian Authority and an outbreak of a violent intifada.

Netanyahu has a different analysis of the situation. A close confidant of the prime minister, talking to Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity, said Netanyahu is interested in a two-state solution with a demilitarized Palestinian state, conditioned on the recognition of the Jewish State of Israel and with stringent security measures throughout the West Bank.

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Yet the source said, Netanyahu believes that now is the wrong time to move in that direction, when the entire region faces the threat of fundamentalist terror groups such as the Islamic State (IS), al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas. Terror, according to Netanyahu, must first be quelled — only then can political negotiations take place.

The Jerusalem source admitted the prime minister's office clearly has a plan to delay the two-state solution. The strategy consists of several elements.

First, the right-wing HaBayit HaYehudi (Jewish Home) party of Naftali Bennett needs to be kept within the coalition. Netanyahu has made this clear to Zionist Camp leader Isaac Herzog in back-channel talks on a possible national unity government. The prime minister considers Israeli settlers his main political base for his next election campaign. This constituency must be convinced that Netanyahu is their best guarantee against a Palestinian state, as he knows how to outmaneuver the international community.

Second, settlements need to be expanded, which would render establishing a Palestinian state impossible. This is especially true in the case of the Jerusalem-area settlements and those outside the settlement blocs that disrupt the contiguity of a future Palestinian state. Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel said in a Dec. 18 interview with the daily Israel Hayom that by 2019, the government plans to increase the number of settlers by 50% — to 600,000 — in the West Bank (not counting East Jerusalem).

Then there is the element of resisting US pressure. Netanyahu responded with a resounding "No" to US Secretary of State John Kerry during Kerry's last visit on Nov. 24 regarding any meaningful confidence-building measures, such as the release of Palestinian prisoners. Netanyahu excels in resisting US pressure and pointing the finger at Abbas. During the Kerry peace initiative of 2013-14, the prime minister agreed to certain concessions on a border based on 1967 lines, but conditioned them on Palestinians recognizing Israel as a Jewish state, something he knew the Americans would accept but Abbas would reject.

A fourth strategic component of Netanyahu's plan is cooperation with neighboring countries. Part of his well-orchestrated, anti-two-state strategy is to use Israel's close security cooperation with Egypt and Jordan to defuse their pressure on the Palestinian issue. The same is true for Israel potentially exporting natural gas to Turkey.

In addition, Netanyahu's office views IS as a major propaganda asset in making the case against a Palestinian state. The prime minister and his representatives equate random Palestinian terror attacks by individuals to IS terror, and warn that the West Bank risks turning into an IS base should Israel withdraw. This approach works well with most Israelis and with some in the international community who are mesmerized by the IS threat.

This strategy also shapes the content of Netanyahu's policy dialogue with both the United States and the EU.

This indicates that those who claim that Netanyahu has no foreign policy or does not achieve his strategic goals are wrong. The strategies, the diplomacy and the rhetoric all serve one central purpose: to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. Israel is

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shaping a new reality, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River — a binational apartheid state in the making.

Uri Savir has spent his professional life working on the strategies of peacemaking in Israel. In 1996, he established the Peres Center for Peace and is currently the center's honorary president. In 2011, Savir founded the YaLa Young Leaders online peace movement.

Yedioth Ahronoth – December 30, 2015

Honored Judges

By Nahum Barnea

Eighteen months in prison are a very long time for a person who admits his guilt; they are an eternity for a person who is convinced he is not guilty. The sentence imposed yesterday by the Supreme Court judges on Ehud Olmert is very heavy. The prison time is only part of it. It is compounded by the knowledge that this spells an end to Olmert's hope to return to the public arena. A political career of about 50 years has ended. Beyond this, it is the understanding that this is it: The door has closed. There are no more appeals, no more requests, no more proceedings. For an optimistic person like Olmert, who was always certain of his ability to get out of any trouble, this is an unbearably harsh blow.

And he still faces the final decision in the Talansky case, and the threat of the State Attorney's Office to indict him in additional affairs. It is over, but not done with.

The ruling written by the five Supreme Court judges is an edifying document. Firstly, it is impressive in its clarity and transparency. It discusses the Holyland affair in a businesslike, measured, levelheaded manner. After reading it, I reread the ruling written by David Rozen, the Tel Aviv District Court judge. Rozen wrote a superficial, scathing, overly clever document. In terms of evidentiary law, it is an embarrassing document. Former minister Roni Baron gave me his own commentary last night on the Supreme Court judges' decision to overturn Olmert's conviction in the affair of the money sent by the wheeler-and-dealer Dechner to his brother Yossi. "The judges didn't acquit Olmert," he said. "They saved the justice system. Had they adopted Rozen's ruling, evidentiary law would have become meaningless."

Indeed, the ruling clearly shows an effort by the Supreme Court judges to restore the affair to its correct dimensions. It was not pity for the defendants (save one) that caused them to shift from conviction to partial acquittal, but rather an understanding of the written material. "There are judges in Jerusalem," Menahem Begin once said. It seems that there are not always judges in Tel Aviv.

The most dramatic change was in the sentence of Uri Lupoliansky, the former mayor of Jerusalem. Judge Rozen imposed a sentence of six years' imprisonment upon him; the Supreme Court only sentenced him to six months of community service. The Supreme Court judges took into account two mitigating facts: The fact that Lupoliansky did not take a penny into his own pocket—the money went directly to the Yad Sarah NPO that he founded; and the severe cancer from which he suffers.

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Lupoliansky is an amicable, positive person, and it is easy to identify with him. Judge Rozen was unduly cruel to him. However, Lupoliansky was the most senior public official who pushed to give benefits to the Holyland project. He was the leader of the bribe-takers. The Supreme Court reaffirmed his conviction for bribe-taking. Against this backdrop, the public celebration he organized for himself yesterday was discomfiting. His freedom was given to him, but the blemish remains. Incidentally, he has the wrong address: It is not the Holy One Blessed Be He who granted him his freedom, but rather human judges. They are the ones he should thank.

When one reads the ruling, including the various commentaries of the judges on the material they had before them, it seems that the judges underwent a process. On the one hand, they became convinced that the construction of the Holyland project was corrupt from the foundation; the people involved in such an affair must not get away without punishment. On the other hand, they had serious doubts about some of the evidence. The challenge was to resolve the certainty with the doubt.

Olmert's case is a good example. The judges acquitted him of the bribe-taking charge in the affair of the money sent by the criminal wheeler-and-dealer Dechner to Yossi, Olmert's escaped brother. The prosecution did not prove that Ehud knew about the money received by Yossi. This was enough for four judges to acquit.

The second charge pertained to NIS 60,000 that Shula Zaken asserted, in one of her versions, that she had transferred to cover Olmert's election debts. Here too there was grave doubt: Zaken deposited the money in her sister's bank account, withdrew it in cash, took a family vacation and then, as she argues, she gave it to Olmert. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court decided to convict.

Olmert was only a bench player in the Holyland affair. The decisions were not promoted by him; they were not made during his term of office. But Olmert is Olmert. In the backdrop of the trial were the Talansky cases, which were heard by other panels, and the Shula Zaken recordings. No one could remain indifferent to such embarrassing, severe materials, mainly when it is a prime minister in question. In the Supreme Court ruling the judges repeatedly mention Olmert's senior standing. They demand more of him. And when it comes to him, they also demand more of themselves.

When they decided to reduce his sentence they knew that they were facing a series of people, some with public status, who were driven mad by the thirst for Olmert's blood. Judge Amit replied well to this argument: "It may be that the public or part of it will be surprised or disappointed by Olmert's acquittal from the main charge," he wrote. "But the public's confidence in the court derives from the knowledge that it rules as required by the law and the evidence and not based on fear of the public's reaction… the court does not rule according to image, according to rumors or according to 'but everyone knows that…,' not for fear that the public will be disappointed and not according to interviews to the media. We do our best to isolate ourselves from external noise. This is what we have done and that is what we will do in the future."

The media attack, preach and sometimes fulminate, and the judges judge: That is how it should be. Indeed, there are judges in Jerusalem.

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Nahum Barnea is a leading Israeli journalist for Yedioth Ahronoth. In 2007, he was awarded the Israel Prize.

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 2/26/2015 7:07:42 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Stu - how would you craft the first statement so it doesn't look like a rebuke of potus, bibi, or both?

On Feb 26, 2015, at 2:02 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,
Thanks. It might be worthwhile to touch base on two issues with a short-term tail.

First is the deteriorating U.S.-Israel relationship, with the increasingly bitter Obama-Bibi tiff; his March 3 speech to Congress (both the improper process used, but also his likely message on more Iran sanctions); and the AIPAC conference where Bibi will speak the day before (and Hillary may also be speaking). Here a simple call from Hillary that it is important to stop the downward spiral of events with our close ally, notwithstanding mistakes, so we can focus on the key issues of Middle East peace and preventing Iran for acquiring a bomb would be a welcome positive, "adult" statement.

Second, we need to prepare for the likely announcement of a framework agreement toward the end of March between the U.S. and Iran. Hillary will have to make a statement. I would be glad to work with you on it. As I mentioned, I have chaired the Iran Task Force for the Atlantic Council for three years, and am in touch with the Administration.

Best wishes,

Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Thomas (Tom) R. Nides (tom.nides@morganstanley.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonfoundation.org); Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonemail.com); Melanne Verveer (pverveer@aol.com)
Subject: Re: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Stu -- apologies for my delayed reply, and thank you for your willingness to lend your talents and experience to the HRC mission. We are just now at the beginning stages of putting together the policy architecture for the campaign. I'd love to connect by phone in a couple of weeks after things are a bit clearer, so that we can talk about how to make this work well. Does that make sense?

Thanks, and all my best,
Jake

On Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 4:38 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

I hope you are well. I have talked with Melanne Verveer and Huma Abedin about helping in the potential presidential campaign. Most recently, I met with Tom Nides at the World Economic Forum in Davos to ask him the best way to plug-in to the policy side. He told me that you would be heading the policy and issues side of the campaign.

I have been privileged to work for all eight years of the Clinton Administration as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union; Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business & Agricultural Issues; and as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. During over six of those years, I also served as Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust Issues, negotiating over $8 billion in recoveries in negotiations with the Swiss and French banks, German and Austrian corporations for slave and forced labor, European insurance companies for unpaid insurance policies, and with over 40 countries for the Washington Principles on Nazi-looted art, which has led to the restitution of thousands of stolen art works. In this work, I was strongly supported by both President Clinton and then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who frequently asked to be briefed.

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My relationship with her continued when she (as President Clinton had done) graciously agreed to speak to my Eizenstat Family Memorial Lecture series in Atlanta at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue, before over 2500 people. In her term as Secretary of State, she appointed me as her Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues, and in that capacity, I negotiated a $50 million agreement with Lithuania, and headed the U.S. delegation to the 2009 Prague Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets (which produced the Terezin Declaration) and the 2010 Prague Conference on Best Practices and Guidelines for the Restitution and Compensation of Real Property Confiscated by the Nazis and their allies from 1933-45.

My late wife Fran and Hillary worked at the Children's Defense Fund, and Hillary was especially kind to her over the years. When Fran passed away in 2013, she and President sent moving, handwritten notes of condolence, which I cherish to this day.

Because every word she utters is put into a campaign context, permit me to suggest areas in which I could be helpful, even now, before any formal campaign may be announced, and thereafter, if there is a formal announcement.

1. IRAN

As President Carter's Chief White House Domestic Policy Adviser, I helped shape the original hostage-related sanctions against Iran.

As Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration, I took the lead in imposing the first sanctions against Osama Ben Laden and al Qaeda. For the past three years I have chaired the Iran Task Force of the Atlantic Council (the first year as co-chair with Chuck Hagel, before he became Secretary of Defense) We have put out over a dozen published reports on all aspects of the Iranian situation, for the nuclear talks to their internal political and economic challenges, and have organized scores of conferences with leading experts. In this capacity, I have met with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif in small, private meetings at their UN Mission in New York in 2013 and 2014, on the margins of the UN General Assembly and have reported the results to senior people in the Administration.

Our Task Force has been generally supportive of the Obama Administration's negotiations. Needless to say, if and when an agreement is reached on a nuclear deal, which I anticipate, this will become a political "hot potato". I can be helpful in shaping a response.

2. SANCTIONS AND GENERAL FOREIGN/DEFENSE POLICY

During the Clinton Administration, I was the "sanctions-meister", successfully negotiating sanctions issues with the European Union under the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, the Helms-Burton Act, and the Religious Freedom Act. As I mentioned, I was involved in Iran sanctions issues from the Carter through the Clinton Administration, and now with the Atlantic Council.

But I have also become very knowledgeable in my private practice with the Ukraine-Russia related sanctions.

I am on the Defense Policy Board (appointed by Secretary of Defense Hagel), and we have focused on issues like Russia/Ukraine, ISIS, Iraq, and Syria.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

I was involved as President Carter's Domestic Policy Adviser and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Staff, with the completion of the Tokyo Round of the WTO in 1977, led by Special Trade Represented Bob Strauss, and then the Uruguay Round in 1994, as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, led by Special Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. I also served under Mickey as his Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, where I traveled around the world promoting American trade and investment, and then as Under Secretary of State, working on many of the same issues, but from a broader diplomatic perspective. I was involved in the China MFN issue.

As U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, I created, along with then Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), which remains the officially recognized business voice on transatlantic trade issues by both the U.S. government and the European Union. To this day, I am the American chair of the Transatlantic Business Council (TABC), of which TABD is a part.

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I chair the international trade and finance practice at Covington & Burling, LLP, and was selected recently as Trade Lawyer of the Year by the American Lawyer magazine. I have testified several times on international trade issues, particularly the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). President Obama's Trade Representative Mike Froman and I meet frequently, most recently at the TABD/TABC meeting in Davos. He asked me to provide advice on the regulatory reform part of TTIP, along with a few other trade experts.

The Transpacific Partnership (TPP) will come before TTIP, as will Trade Promotion Authority (fast-track). All of these to one degree or the other will be opposed by labor and consumer groups. I believe I can help you shape positions on these.

4. EUROPEAN UNION

Having been U.S. Ambassador to the European Union (1993-96), negotiating with them frequently during the Clinton Administration, co-chairing the TABC, and writing articles on the EU (e.g. with our current U.S. Ambassador to the EU Tony Gardner in the 2010 Foreign Affairs Magazine), I believe I understand the EU as well as almost anyone. The EU is an increasingly important economic and political partner (e.g. Iran and Russian sanctions). I am well known in Brussels and can be helpful as an informal emissary there.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE

I was the head of the U.S. delegation, as Under Secretary of State, to the Kyoto Protocol negotiations, and played a central role in its negotiations, including aligning the positions of the EU, Japan, and other major industrial democracies with that of the U.S. I worked closely with then Vice President Gore and senior people in the White House, including Gene Sperling. I have continued to stay engaged in climate change issues. With the December 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference coming up, this issue will receive a great deal of visibility going into the 2016 election year.

6. ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, JEWISH ISSUES

During the 2008 campaign, I served as a frequent surrogate speaker for the Hillary Clinton campaign on Israel and Jewish issues.

As Under Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, I was responsible for dealing with the economic aspects of the peace process, while Dennis Ross led the political side. I negotiated some half dozen times with Yasir Arafat, worked on the QIZs in Gaza and Jordan (which I visited), the airport in Gaza, getting Palestinian workers and VIP Palestinian business leaders into Israel, and on other economic initiatives. Of course, this was done in close coordination with senior Israeli officials. As Under Secretary of State, I also negotiated with then Finance Minister Jacob Neeman, the phase-out of the economic assistance program for Israel, in return for increased levels of military assistance.

I also headed the U.S. government side of the joint U.S.-Israel Economic Dialogue during the Clinton Administration.

As a result of co-chairing with Dennis Ross, the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem, a think tank created by the Jewish Agency and supported by major UJA Federation heads and major Jewish donors, Dennis and I meet for up to two hours annually with Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Cabinet to present our Assessment of the State of the Jewish People, for which Dennis and I do the Introduction. I have worked with the Prime Minister since his years as Finance Minister, and we have maintained a close relationship, despite our contrary views on settlements. I know most of the major figures in the Israeli political firmament. I travel to Israel two to three times a year, and have a vast array of friends and relatives there. Both my grandfather and great-grandfather are buried in the Petach Tikva cemetery.

For the past several decades, I participate in a small, off-the-record breakfast group, with the Israeli Ambassadors to the U.S., all of whom I know personally, most recently with Ron Dermer. Fran and I were so close to Ron and his family, that we went to his bar mitzvah in Miami, and remain a frequent guest at private events at his home. I have a close relationship with Howard Kohr of AIPAC, but at the same time, I am respected by the J Street group. Indeed, before he created J Street, Jeremy Ben-Ami came to seek my advice, and I urged then Ambassador Michael Oren to end the Israeli Embassy boycott of J Street, which they did, up to a point.

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I could serve as a formal or informal emissary to Israeli government officials. I could also help with drafting and/or reviewing speeches on the Middle East peace process. I also know Palestinian officials. At Davos, for example, I participated in an off-the-record session "Breaking the Impasse" with the deputy prime minister and finance minister of the Palestinian Authority, and leading Palestinian and Israeli business people. I proposed to him the creation of QIZs in the West Bank, for example. Remarkably, while there was one in Gaza, that was very successful before the second intifada, and over a dozen in Jordan, there are none in the West Bank.

I have a great deal of visibility in the American and world Jewish community due to my ongoing Holocaust work; my co-chairmanship with Dennis of JPPI; two books ("Imperfect Justice; Looted Assets, Slave Labor and the Unfinished Business of World War II" on my Holocaust negotiations, in 2003 an later translated into four languages; and in 2012 and a new version in 2014, "The Future of the Jews: How Global Forces are Impacting on the Jewish People, Israel, and its Relationship with the United States"); frequent articles in Jewish publications, and speeches to Jewish audiences in the U.S. and around the world, from college campuses to federations to the General Assembly of the Jewish Agency to the upcoming AIPAC conference; my ongoing Holocaust negotiations; and my chairmanship of the Defiant Requiem Foundation, which has sponsored a concert-drama around the world (Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Jerusalem, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, etc.) called "Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin", which honors a Jewish prisoner chorus at Theresenstadt concentration camp and the documentary "Defiant Requiem", which likewise honors the broader courageous artistic and musical performances at Theresenstadt. Our documentary was nominated for two Emmy awards in 2014 (best full-length documentary and best script), has been shown on PBS on Yom Hashoah day in 2013, and has been purchased by Netflix and BBC.

I continue to serve as Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues to Secretary of State Kerry, as I did for then-Secretary of State Clinton. On December 8, 2014, I signed in the State Department's Treaty Room a $60 million agreement with the French government for those current non-French citizens in the U.S., Israel, and around the world, who were involved in the deportations from France to the death camps, their spouses, and heirs. It was a widely-heralded breakthrough 70 years after the end of World War II. I am also working on the Gurlitt looted art case in Munich, and have met with the German Minister of Culture on this matter, with signficant results.

In my private capacity, since 2009, I have headed the negotiating team of the Jewish Claims Conference in their annual negotiations with the German Finance Ministry. Since 1952, the Claims Conference the official body for negotiations with the German government on behalf of Holocaust survivors. During that time, I have negotiated over $1.5 billion in benefits, including a landmark 2013 agreement for $1 billion in home care through 2017.

7. BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As a result of my corporate boards (UPS, BlackRock Funds, Alcatel-Lucent, Globe Specialty Metals), advisory boards (Christie's, GML Holdings, and formerly chair of the Coca-Cola International Advisory Board), co-chairmanship of the Transatlantic Business Council (with some sixty U.S. and European companies), and joint projects with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, I could help the campaign as a liaison/spokesman with the U.S. business community.

8. GENERAL POLITICAL AND POLICY ADVICE

I have been involved in senior capacities in presidential campaigns since the 1968 Hubert Humphrey campaign, for which I served as his research director, and the 1976 Jimmy Carter campaign, for which I was policy director. I have helped with policy issues in the Dukakis campaign, and Bill Clinton's campaign. I have a keen sense of the combination of policy and political factors.

Due to my work in the Carter and Johnson White Houses (my first job after Harvard Law School in 1967-68), and as Deputy Treasury Secretary, I am knowledgeable on a wide range of domestic issues, including job training (I recently co-authored an article on an apprenticeship program for the U.S., modeled on the German and Swiss models) health care, tax policy, as well as international economic policy.

I am sorry to have gone on so long, but wanted to give you the fullest menu from which you can feel free to enlist my assistance. I practice law full-time, and serve on four corporate boards, as well as chairing the Defiant Requiem Foundation and co-chairing JPPI and TABC. But, I am prepared to give you considerable

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time. I am also prepared to contribute a substantial amount financially, and to help raise more, although I know this is not your jurisdiction.

Thanks for your consideration, and good luck on your important work,

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

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From: "Catherine Eng" <eng@ricehadleygates.com>
To:
Date: 8/13/2015 10:17:48 AM
Subject: Stephen Hadley Op-Eds

Dear All,

Please find below the links and the text of three recent opinion pieces co-authored by Steve Hadley. We thought they might be of interest to you. Thank you.

Four Steps to Afghan Reconciliation - Washington Post
Crucial Weapons in the Defense of Ukraine - Wall Street Journal
The Oil-Export Ban Harms National Security - Wall Street Journal

Four Steps to Afghan Reconciliation

By Stephen J. Hadley and Andrew Wilder

August 12, 2015

The horrific bombings in Kabul this past week that killed and wounded hundreds of civilians are a grim reminder that there are enormous challenges ahead in Afghanistan. But a recent 10-day visit to the region convinced us that there is also still a real possibility of a path to peace.

Perhaps the most troubling thing we learned from senior Afghan and Pakistani officials during our visit was that Afghanistan is once again becoming a haven for transnational terrorist groups, including the brutal Islamic State. With much of the region in chaos, few U.S. allies have the political will, public support and ground forces to fight the terrorists. Afghanistan is a notable exception.

Last year's political and security transitions produced a reformist unity government led by President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and the successful assumption of security responsibility by Afghan security forces. But the simultaneous withdrawal of more than 120,000 coalition troops and dramatic reduction in international military and civilian assistance produced a severe economic crisis. Pakistan's military operation in North Waziristan, coming right after the security transition in Afghanistan, pushed thousands of hardened militants across the border at a moment when Afghan forces were least able to handle them. Many fighters moved into northern Afghanistan, long a relatively quiet area.

The Afghans, still struggling with a long-standing Taliban-led insurgency, are now fighting militants drawn from throughout Central Asia, Pakistan, the Caucasus and the Middle East — something not envisioned in the planning for the security transition. Afghan forces are fighting bravely, mostly holding their own, but are taking heavy casualties.

Ghani's courageous outreach to Pakistan dramatically improved relations between the two countries, at least until the attacks of this weekend. This initiative came while Pakistan was still reeling from the devastating December attack by the Pakistani Taliban (the TTP) on the Army Public School in Peshawar that killed more than 130 children. This attack plus Ghani's outreach seem to have convinced Pakistan to support Afghan reconciliation and to sponsor direct discussions between Taliban and Afghan government representatives. The most recent meeting, on July 7 in Murree, Pakistan, with China and the United States observing, could become a full-fledged reconciliation process. We believe the internal Taliban power struggle and last weekend's attacks will delay things, perhaps for months, but have not killed the chance for talks.

Pakistan now seems to accept that it needs a stable Afghanistan that is not a terrorist safe haven. As one senior Afghan official told us: "The TTP changes things for Pakistan. The more the Pakistanis support the Haqqani Network and the Taliban to weaken the Afghan state, the more safe havens there will be in Afghanistan for the TTP to attack Pakistan."

But Pakistan clearly wants to control the reconciliation process and retain its influence over the Taliban. Afghans believe, with some justification, that Pakistan has doubled down on its material support to the Taliban during the current fighting season — both to hedge its bet on reconciliation and to strengthen its negotiating position. So, perversely, the prospects for peace and the pace of conflict have increased in tandem.

The Taliban appear to be under pressure. Pakistan seems to be pushing them toward reconciliation and the Afghan security forces have not collapsed, as some expected, following the coalition drawdown. The announcement of Taliban leader Mohammad Omar's death — two years after the fact — not only exacerbates growing internal divisions but also undermines the movement's legitimacy by raising questions about whether the group is simply an agent of Pakistan. And the arrival of the Islamic State introduces a potentially dangerous rival.

The Afghan government needs to take advantage of these developments by renewing its call for the Taliban to leave the insurgency and reconcile. The Pakistanis and Afghans to whom we talked all believe that the reconciliation process should be pursued despite considerable skepticism that it can succeed.

Success will depend largely on whether the Afghan unity government can dramatically improve its performance, communicate effectively to its people and provide some level of economic growth and better security and military effectiveness. But the United States and other friends of Afghanistan can take four steps to buy time for the Afghan government and to put pressure on the Taliban.

●First, increase U.S. and international diplomatic pressure on Pakistan to bring all Taliban elements to the table and make peace with Afghanistan.

●Second, provide short-term economic stimulus focused on job creation combined with governmental reforms. Even then, the improved public confidence the economy needs will depend as much if not more on improvements in governance and security.

●Continue the current level of financial support for the Afghan security forces, combined with an expanded U.S. mission to train, advise and assist those forces. These steps are needed to maintain both the morale of the Afghan forces and the military pressure that has helped bring the Taliban to the table.

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●Develop an Afghan counterterrorism platform in the country — supported by adequate U.S. intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and close air support — to deny safe haven to terrorist groups in Afghanistan and the region and to encourage reconciliation.

We are not advocating a return to U.S. combat operations or a U.S. military buildup. But our suggestions will undoubtedly require a U.S. military presence closer to current levels than the 1,000-person Kabul-based force previously planned for post-2016. The exact size of the force should be mission-driven, with the theater commander having the flexibility to determine its composition, deployment and use.

We believe that, despite all the challenges, peace can come to Afghanistan. But both Afghanistan and the United States must do their part.

Crucial Weapons in the Defense of Ukraine

Without debt reduction and more aid, a young democracy could vanish

By Stephen J. Hadley and Robert B. Zoellick

July 20, 2015

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an assault on the vision that emerged from the end of the Cold War of a Europe whole, free and at peace. For that vision to be realized, the war against Ukraine must end, and its government must be able to offer its people a secure, prosperous and democratic future. If Ukraine—a country of more than 40 million people—becomes a failed state, the turmoil will spill into the European Union and likely fuel future conflict between Russia and the trans-Atlantic community.

Since Russia invaded and "annexed" Crimea in March 2014, the war has destroyed an estimated 20% of Ukraine's economic potential and displaced about one million people. If Ukraine's economy collapses—and if its democracy descends into recriminations and clashing factions—there can be no successful defense of its territory and independence.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts that Ukraine's economy will shrink by 9% this year after a drop of about 7% in 2014, and that inflation will reach almost 50%. But the IMF has also been impressed by the Ukrainian government's efforts to reform an opaque system that for too long fueled corruption not growth. This required great courage at a time when ordinary Ukrainians are suffering from rising prices and plummeting living standards.

Earlier this year, the Ukrainian parliament adopted a comprehensive reform program. Pensions were cut and taxes increased. Energy prices almost quadrupled. The number of public officials was cut by 28,000. The budget process was transformed so spending discipline can be enforced. The IMF recognized these efforts with a $17.5 billion loan package this year. But the fund estimates that Ukraine will need about $40 billion over four years. Russia doesn't have to conquer Ukraine; it can bleed its economy until the society and government collapse.

The U.S., EU and World Bank have each committed about $2 billion. Other donors are assisting. But this is a pittance compared with Greece. All should stretch to do more. If the Ukrainian patriots fail for lack of support, Europeans and Americans will pay the price for years through costs of insecurity, criminal networks and social breakdown.

The IMF also expects Ukraine to restructure its debt to achieve about $15 billion of savings. This is critical: Of the $3 billion of IMF support that the Ukrainian government has received this year, $2.4 billion has been used to service debt. It will be hard to increase support if the emergency money flows out the door to creditors.

No creditor wants to yield to a debt restructuring. Yet the bondholders' commercial interest argues for a serious adjustment that enables Ukraine's reforms to succeed so that the creditors can eventually get paid. Put simply, the IMF numbers—and the reformers' budgets—do not add up without debt reduction. About $3 billion of Ukraine's euro bonds are held by Russia, and we are not aware of any principle that a debtor must repay a country that invades it.

The IMF has stated it will continue to support Ukraine, in accordance with the fund's lending-into-arrears policy, even if Kiev halts payments to creditors. The Ukrainian government has suggested that it is willing to offer creditors increased returns in the future if the recovery succeeds beyond the expectations of the IMF program—analogous to GDP warrants. Yet the Ukrainian Parliament has also authorized the government's negotiators to default if the creditors fail to agree to a package that gives Ukrainian democracy a chance to survive.

Ukraine is not Argentina. Nor is it Greece. The country has been invaded. A young democracy threatened by war is taking reform steps reminiscent of the courageous Poles 25 years ago. The Poles changed European history; Ukrainians can, too. The Ukrainian government has announced plans for police and judicial reforms, international audits, tax simplification, laws to protect investors, privatizations and land reforms. The odds may be long, but the prize is great, and the trans-Atlantic community will never have a better chance to invest in Ukraine's success.

If Western governments do not stretch to assist—and creditors persist with short-term calculations—the likelihood is high that Ukraine will fall back to the post-Soviet world of authoritarian government and gangster capitalism. An open and prosperous Ukraine will allow opportunity and commerce to flourish, not just within its own borders, but also within the wider region. The vital interests of Ukrainians, other Europeans, Americans and global investors are one and the same. Now is the moment for the U.S. to lead in pressing all the parties to recognize that truth.

The Oil-Export Ban Harms National Security

The U.S. is willfully denying itself a tool that could prove vital in dealing with threats from Russia, Iran and others.

By Stephen J. Hadley and Leon E. Panetta

May 19, 2015

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The United States faces a startling array of global security threats, demanding national resolve and the resolve of our closest allies in Europe and Asia. Iran's moves to become a regional hegemon, Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and conflicts driven by Islamic terrorism throughout the Middle East and North Africa are a few of the challenges calling for steadfast commitment to American democratic principles and military readiness. The pathway to achieving U.S. goals also can be economic—as simple as ensuring that allies and friends have access to secure supplies of energy.

Blocking access to these supplies is the ban on exporting U.S. crude oil that was enacted, along with domestic price controls, after the 1973 Arab oil embargo. The price controls ended in 1981 but the export ban lives on, though America is awash in oil.

The U.S. has broken free of its dependence on energy from unstable sources. Only 27% of the petroleum consumed here last year was imported, the lowest level in 30 years. Nearly half of those imports came from Canada and Mexico. But our friends and allies, particularly in Europe, do not enjoy the same degree of independence. The moment has come for the U.S. to deploy its oil and gas in support of its security interests around the world.

Consider Iran. Multilateral sanctions, including a cap on its oil exports, brought Tehran to the negotiating table. Those sanctions would have proved hollow without the surge in domestic U.S. crude oil production that displaced imports. Much of that foreign oil in turn found a home in European countries, which then reduced their imports of Iranian oil to zero.

The prospect of a nuclear agreement with Iran does not permit the U.S. to stand still. Once world economic growth increases the demand for oil, Iran is poised to ramp up its exports rapidly to nations whose reduced Iranian imports were critical to the sanctions' success, including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, India and China. U.S. exports would help those countries diversify their sources and avoid returning to their former level of dependence on Iran.

More critically, if negotiations fail, or if Tehran fails to comply with its commitments, the sanctions should snap back into place, with an even tighter embargo on Iranian oil exports. It will be much harder to insist that other countries limit Iranian imports if the U.S. refuses to sell them its oil.

There are other threats arising from global oil suppliers that the U.S. cannot afford to ignore. Libya is racked by civil war and attacks by the Islamic State. Venezuela's mismanaged economy is near collapse.

Most ominous is Russia's energy stranglehold on Europe. Fourteen NATO countries buy 15% or more of their oil from Russia, with several countries in Eastern and Central Europe exceeding 50%. Russia is the sole or predominant source of natural gas for several European countries including Finland, Slovakia, Bulgaria and the Baltic states. Europe as a whole relies on Russia for more than a quarter of its natural gas.

This situation leaves Europe vulnerable to Kremlin coercion. In January 2009, Russia cut off natural gas to Ukraine, and several European countries completely lost their gas supply. A recent EU "stress test" showed that a prolonged Russian supply disruption would result in several countries losing 60% of their gas supplies.

Further, revenue from sales to Europe provides Russia with considerable financial resources to fund its aggression in Ukraine. That conflict could conceivably spread through Central Europe toward the Baltic states. So far, the trans-Atlantic alliance has held firm, but the trajectory of this conflict is unpredictable. The U.S. can provide friends and allies with a stable alternative to threats of supply disruption. This is a strategic imperative as well as a matter of economic self-interest.

The domestic shale energy boom has supported an estimated 2.1 million U.S. jobs, according to a 2013 IHS study, but the recent downturn in oil prices has led to massive cuts in capital spending for exploration and production. Layoffs in the oil patch have spread outward, notably to the steel industry. Lifting the export ban would put some of these workers back on the job and boost the U.S. economy.

Why, then, does the ban endure? Habit and myth have something to do with it. U.S. energy policy remains rooted in the scarcity mentality that took hold in the 1970s. Even now, public perception has yet to catch up to the reality that America has surpassed both Russia and Saudi Arabia as the world's largest producer of liquid petroleum (exceeding 11 million barrels a day). The U.S. became the largest natural gas producer in 2010, and the federal government will now license exports of liquefied natural gas.

The fear that exporting U.S. oil would cause domestic gasoline prices to rise is misplaced. The U.S. already exports refined petroleum, including 875,000 barrels a day of gasoline in December 2014. The result is that U.S. gasoline prices approximate the world price. Several recent studies, including by the Brookings Institution, Resources for the Futureand Rice University's Center for Energy Studies, demonstrate that crude oil exports would actually put downward pressure on U.S. gasoline prices, as more oil supply hits the global market and lowers global prices.

Too often foreign-policy debates in America focus on issues such as how much military power should be deployed to the Middle East, whether the U.S. should provide arms to the Ukrainians, or what tougher economic sanctions should be imposed on Iran. Ignored is a powerful, nonlethal tool: America's abundance of oil and natural gas. The U.S. remains the great arsenal of democracy. It should also be the great arsenal of energy.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/11/2008 2:53:20 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/11/08

Main Topics: Bad week for McCain, overlapping marriages, McEnergy plan, McCain responds to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac misfortune

Summary of Shift: Federal regulators announced they will shut down mortgage lender, Indymac Bank. Cynthia McKinney looks set to receive the Green Party presidential nomination. Lou Dobbs continues to rage against Obama for suggesting Americans speak Spanish. Obama released a new radio in which he accuses McCain of being the 'McSame as Bush.' Gramm's remarks remain a news item, with panels debating whether McCain spends too much time with reporters or whether the recession is, in fact, imaginary.

Highlights
1) McCain's disastrous week
   a. McCain's maverick status turns against him
      i. MSNBC: McCain's camp has hard time unifying message
      ii. MSNBC: McCain's baggage makes it hard to sell maverick image
   b. MSNBC: Gramm's comments hurt McCain's economic credibility
   c. CNN: Dana Bash summarizes McCain's troubled week
   d. MSNBC: Maddow runs down the list of follies
2) CBS: *Inside Edition* covers McCain's marriage overlap
3) CNN: Frank Sesno fact checks McCain's contradictory energy plan
4) MSNBC: McCain responds to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

No clip
1) CNN runs story on renewed arguments, from an Arizonan professor, that McCain is constitutionally ineligible for the presidency due to his birth in the Panama Canal.
2) CNN: McCain and Obama compete over Latino vote
3) CNN: Jack Cafferty asks viewers, in relation to Gramm's comments, what is the difference between a mental recession and a real one?
4) FNC: Neil Cavuto hosts two panelists who debate Phil Gramm's claim that the recession is imaginary.
5) FNC: On Brit Hume's show, a reporter summarizes McCain's memory lapse on the Packers/Steelers.
6) MSNBC: *Hardball* runs segment on McCain's pander in Pittsburg
7) MSNBC: Is the Steelers/Packers pander McCain losing his authenticity?

Clips
Highlight #1
McCain's Campaign Failing Him, Having Trouble Finding Consistent Message (MSNBC 07/11/08 6:48pm)
DAVID GREGORY: Where has McCain's campaign failed him? . . . you've got a candidate and a campaign and as one Republican told me this week, a campaign is like running a company and your product is politics and you're serving one master in terms of the candidate. Has the campaign let him down?

NOAH OPPENHEIMER: The campaign's absolutely let him down. I don't think there's really any question about that . . . John McCain is John McCain. He will never be the electrifying presence that Barack Obama is and I think that the problem that this campaign has had is that they've spent these last couple months almost fighting who he naturally is instead of trying to find, to pander, to get the base going . . . John McCain is not a guy who's going to excite James Dobson, it's just not going to happen. But John McCain does have a message that could resonate . . . with the things that people are caring about right now which is that the institutions in this country are failing the average American and they need to be fixed . . .

GREGORY: Does the McCain campaign have to emulate Bush of '04? Does it have to be run like a fortune five hundred company when that's not who he is?

JOHN HARWOOD: **Any campaign has to have message discipline in order to succeed. The problem is that John McCain's message is not entirely coherent because of who he is. Yes he is a maverick. Yes he's also a conservative Republican.** He makes it difficult for his campaign as well and lets face it, the John McCain that Noah's talking about, the maverick reformer is not particularly popular within the Republican party and he needs an enthusiastic Republican Party if he's going to win this election.

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McCain's Comments on Social Security an Example of His Change Since 2000 (MSNBC 07/11/08 5:06pm)
MIKE BARNICLE: . . . he is approaching one of the third-rails of American politics, Social Security and he doesn't have too many specifics there other than saying it's a disgrace. Again this fits in with the portrait that's being painted of the McCain campaign of a campaign that can't stay on message . . .

DAVID CORN: I think it's worse. When he said that he was essentially challenging the fundamental funding mechanism of Social Security . . . by saying that that's a disgrace, he's saying that the whole program should be shot and buried . . . maybe it was a slip-up, maybe he didn't understand what he was saying but it goes back to a point that I think Jonathan and I agree on, that when it comes to these sort of issues he doesn't appear to have really embraced them and thought about them much in a way the resonates with people except for one issue, and that is free trade, which certainly doesn't help him in states like Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania . . .

BARNICLE: . . . this is a quote from *The New York Times*, "afterward, spokesmen for the McCain campaign said that his use of 'disgrace' was meant to refer not to Social Security itself but to Washington's unwillingness to address distortions developing in the system. But Mr. McCain seemed to undermine his staff's explanation when he appeared on CNN Tuesday and, to a large extent, repeated himself. 'They pay their taxes and right now their taxes are going to pay the retirement of present day retirees."

He said by way of explaining his support for allowing young workers to open private accounts for retirement." **We're not even on the highway with the McCain campaign, Jonathan, we're still in the middle of the summer and yet the wheels seem to be sort of coming off. He's taking all of these exit ramps with the Straight-Talk Express into these adjunct issues when he should be staying on message.** When's he going to get on message? Can he stay on message?

JONATHAN ALTER: First of all, on Social Security, this is a much bigger problem for him than a misstatement . . . the real problem for John McCain on Social Security, Mike, is that he backed President Bush's privatization plan. That plan was so unpopular in 2005 that it never even came up for a vote . . . this is a dead sure loser in American politics. McCain was for it . . .

[. . .]

CORN: . . . I mad a list before coming on this show of about a dozen missteps and slip ups he had, not just about what we talked about . . . his campaign and he himself to a certain extent appear a little discombobulated this week after a staff shake up was supposed to make everything sail smoothly. So he's still has yet to show that he can campaign effectively, passionately . . .

[. . .]

BARNICLE: . . . is what happened this week, if you take Phil Gramm out of it, is this John McCain being John McCain? I mean, everybody says let McCain be McCain. Is this McCain being McCain?

CORN: I don't think so in some ways. The John McCain that a lot of reporters knew and loved in 2000 as a straight-talker, now under the, as part of this gigantic presidential campaign, managed a lot by professional party hacks and operatives, is flip-flopping and not straight-talking the way that he claims he used to and I think he's not putting his best foot forward and he's not showing himself as an independent maverick, free of political spin that he tried to at least do back in 2000. **He's made too many bargains with the devil to get the nomination and it's going to be hard for him to campaign like the old John McCain when he's the new baggage ridden John McCain.**

Gramm's Comments and McCain's Reaction Reveal McCain's Lack of Interest In, Knowledge Of the Economy (MSNBC 07/11/08 5:01pm)
MIKE BARNICLE: The straight talk express derailed . . .

[plays Phil Gramm footage]

BARNICLE: All right, I don't want to whine about this too much but, uh, it seems to me that the McCain campaign had perhaps its second or third reorganization recently. Steve Schmidt, a very terrific professional, brought in to streamline the message, get people on track and now we've had this. When John McCain was supposed to be out talking about the economy this week, going to Michigan, talking about real things that concern real working people in this country, you've got Phil Gramm saying this today. Jonathan, what does this say about the McCain campaign?

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JONATHAN ALTER**: Well they've got a big problem here Mike because Phil Gramm is not just any old surrogate off mouthing off . . . he's John McCain's principle economic advisor. They've been very, very close for 25 years. And actually John McCain supported Phil Gramm for President of the United States in 1996. He's listened to him a lot on this issue, which by McCain's own admission, he doesn't really know anything about.** So the question is, how much of a window is this into McCain's real thinking about where we are economically? . . . **here Gramm conveyed what a lot of people in the McCain camp think is the truth about the economy.**

BARNICLE: David, lets talk about the window that David mentioned, I mean there's about 115, 116 days left until election day. *Washington Post* story . . . yesterday John McCain was in Michigan, the post story indicates that he tried to speak about the economy, to automobile workers, people in Michigan, didn't go over to well . . . basically sat on their hands . . . how much of a window does John McCain have . . . to sort of touch people about his concerns about the economy . . . ?

DAVID CORN**: We're getting pretty close to the time being past . . . he's never come across as a guy who's populist or who really seems to care a lot about working on economic issues. And then you have Phil Gramm come out and make this comment and then John McCain says he doesn't speak for me. Well, about at the same time that John McCain said that yesterday Phil Gramm was appearing at the *Wall Street Journal* editorial board. What was he doing there? Speaking for John McCai**n. This reaffirms . . . the suspicion that a lot of people have, that John McCain, this isn't what he cares most about. He can't talk about it persuasively and this is the guy advising

[. . .]

ALTER: I think David put his finger on a really important point about this campaign. There's what you could call a passion gap for John McCain between the passion that he feels about international relations . . **. he's very knowledgeable and very passionate when it comes to talking about the world but when it comes to discussing domestic outside of pork barrel spending and campaign finance reform he's very unenthusiastic, just not passionate, doesn't seem to care a real lot or be real interested and the problem with McCain is that he's a genuine enough guy that he's not a good faker. He can't really fake being passionate about the economy because he's not.**

'McCain Relaunch Misfires' (CNN 07/11/08 4:32pm)
DANA BASH: […] as one republican strategist that I talked to put it to me, he said, '**McCain is still ending the week, scarred with some self-inflicted wounds**.' […]

JOHN MCCAIN: I have a proven record. I have a proven record of reaching across the aisle. […] I'll do everything in my power to get those oil offshore reserves exploited—eh, explored, discovered and—explored AND exploited.

BASH: A Freudian slip, of sorts from the self-described environmentalist now calling for drilling offshore; evidence that **McCain's week of events to re-launch his campaign had some misfires**. Case in point:

PHIL GRAMM: We sort of have become a nation of whiners.

BASH: Having to rebuke his good friend and economic adviser for declaring the country is in a mental recession. […] **Some awkward moments got less national attention, but maybe just as politically perilous**, like going to the battleground of Michigan where many voters believe free trade sent their jobs overseas and saying this:

MCCAIN: I believe free trade is important.

BASH: Too much straight talk for these voters who told him so. […] Some republicans tell CNN they worry McCain's free trade message is alienating blue-collar voters he's trying to pull from Barack Obama. Experts agree.

BERNIE PORN: He may think that he's telling the truth about the issue, but this is one of those issues where I can assure him that voters can't handle that truth.

McCain's Bad Week as a List (MSNBC 07/11/08 8:05pm)
RACHAEL MADDOW: If John McCain were anybody but John McCain, then the week he had might well be remembered as one of the worst weeks ever for a presidential nominee. Let's break it down, shall we? First there

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was the Steeler/Packer POW-gate. He's only running for president people, how can he be expected to remember crucial details about his own life? Also, his top economic advisor calls Americans a bunch of whiners for complaining about an economy that's only in a "mental recession," which he likened to mental depression and the guy gets to keep his national co-chair position with the campaign . . . also, one of McCain's other economic advisors tells women voters that McCain is just as upset as she is that insurance companies pay for Viagra but refuse to cover birth control leaving McCain to squirm and stammer and attempt to leave his own body during a Q&A session on his campaign bus. OK, at least that tape was kind of enjoyable. On Monday, McCain described Social Security as a total disgrace, not saying it merely needed to be fixed but, quote, "We are paying present day retirees with the taxes paid by young workers in America today**."**

In other words, he called the entire premise of Social Security disgraceful. McCain made a joke about killing Iranians civilians by giving them lung cancer. McCain conveniently ignored it when Iraqi officials, including the prime minister called for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, even though he'd said before that if the Iraqis wanted us to leave, we'd leave. And if all that were not enough, he claimed to have a record with veterans' associations that he really doesn't have.

He attacked Barack Obama for not voting on something he didn't vote on either, the Kyle-Lieberman Amendment. And he promised to balance the budget by the end of his first term with all the money he will have saved by winning the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Highlight #2
McCain Appears to Have Been Married to Cindy and Carol Simultaneously (CBS 07/08/08 4:34pm)
DEBORAH NORVILLE: An article in the *Los Angeles Times* is raising some serious questions for John McCain and they revolve around his marriage to his second wife, Cindy.

PAUL BOYD: Was John McCain still married to his first wife when he applied for a marriage license with his second wife, Cindy? That's the question facing McCain after a front page article in Friday's *Los Angeles Times*. According to the newspaper, McCain's account of the timing of his divorce from first wife, Carol, and marriage to Cindy, quote, "conflict with the public record." John and Cindy McCain met at a party in 1979. In his memoir, *Worth the Fighting For*, he began spending time with her while separated from his first wife Carol.

He wrote his divorce become final in February of 1980, more than three months before his marriage to Cindy. But according to *The Los Angeles Times*, court records show McCain's divorce from Carol wasn't actually granted until April 2nd, 1980. So what's the controversy? The *Los Angeles Times* is reporting that McCain obtained an Arizona marriage license on March 6th, 1980 to marry Cindy. Which means he got it while still legally married to his first wife.

FLAVIA COLGAN: **It could create some strain with the conservative base, which he already has problems with**, because any deviation of standard family values is a problem for them.

BOYD: McCain's messy divorce from Carol apparently fractured his relationship with Ronald and Nancy Reagan. Carol McCain, who's now 70 and living in Virginia was a close friend of the Reagans' and they were upset when he left her for Cindy.

NANCY REAGAN: Well, obviously, this is the nominee of the party.

BOYD: The paper points to Nancy Reagan's less than exuberant endorsement of McCain last March as a sign that the relationship may still be rocky.

Highlight #3
Situation Room *Fact Checks McCain's Contradictory Energy Plans* (CNN 07/11/08 5:41pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: […] when you cut through all the smooth rhetoric, Senator Obama's policies would make it harder for women to start new businesses, harder for women to find or create new jobs, harder for women to manage the family budget, and harder for women and their families to meet their tax burden.

[…]

FRANK SESNO: **[McCain] wants more offshore drilling. He used to oppose it. Now he says we need it.** […] McCain's a big booster of nuclear power. […] but, as for the waste, more trouble there too. He favors putting it in Nevada's Yucca Mountain; says it would be safe there, but, in a speech in Denver in May, he suggested international storage that could make Yucca unnecessary.

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The *Las Vegas Sun* criticized McCain's about-face on Yucca and suggested he was just pandering to Nevada voters. The McCain campaign says the international storage idea was nearly aspirational.

McCain favors ethanol. Though he once opposed it, it's the subsidies he doesn't like now and he says technologies like solar and wind can get off the ground if they just have stable long-term tax credits. He's proposed a $300 million prize for a more efficient electric car battery.

McCain wants the marketplace, not government to pick the new energy winners. Yet **McCain would help provide $2 billion a year to help develop clean coal. He'd continue government guarantees to help build expensive nuclear power plants and his proposed corporate tax cuts would help big oil's bottom line by nearly $4 billion a year, according to the liberal Center for American Progress.**

Highlight #4
McCain's Responds to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (MSNBC 07/11/08 6:03pm)
DAVID GREGORY: The question is, will taxpayers be called on to help keep these companies afloat? Sen. McCain said today the government may indeed have to act.

JOHN MCCAIN: **There's no doubt that there's a real significant, far-reaching problem that is going to have to very likely require some kind of government assistance.** Whether its helping in raising capital or whether its, what that course of action is, we need to examine very carefully, listening to smart people, rapidly, perhaps congressional hearings if necessary but there's no doubt that we can't have these two institutions go under.

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Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)
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From: "Eddie Vale" <evale@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
"CDA Storm Trackers" <stormtrackers@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/3/2008 2:14:31 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Obama Speech

On the economy

"John McCain has spent a lot of time talking about trips to Iraq in the last few weeks, but maybe if he spent some time taking trips to the cities and towns that have been hardest hit by this economy – cities in Michigan, and Ohio, and right here in Minnesota – he'd understand the kind of change that people are looking for."

On the GOP and fearmongering

"The other side will come here in September and offer a very different set of policies and positions, and that is a debate I look forward to. It is a debate the American people deserve. But what you don't deserve is another election that's governed by fear, and innuendo, and division. What you won't hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon – that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first."

On change

"Change is realizing that meeting today's threats requires not just our firepower, but the power of our diplomacy – tough, direct diplomacy where the President of the United States isn't afraid to let any petty dictator know where America stands and what we stand for. We must once again have the courage and conviction to lead the free world. That is the legacy of Roosevelt, and Truman, and Kennedy. That's what the American people want. That's what change is."

After the jump, his tribute to **Hillary Clinton** and more.

Tonight, after fifty-four hard-fought contests, our primary season has finally come to an end.

Sixteen months have passed since we first stood together on the steps of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. Thousands of miles have been traveled. Millions of voices have been heard. And because of what you said – because you decided that change must come to Washington; because you believed that this year must be different than all the rest; because you chose to listen not to your doubts or your fears but to your greatest hopes and highest aspirations, tonight we mark the end of one historic journey with the beginning of another – a journey that will bring a new and better day to America. Tonight, I can stand before you and say that I will be the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

I want to thank every American who stood with us over the course of this campaign – through the good days and the bad; from the snows of Cedar Rapids to the sunshine of Sioux Falls. And tonight I also want to thank the men and woman who took this journey with me as fellow candidates for President.

At this defining moment for our nation, we should be proud that our party put forth one of the most talented, qualified field of individuals ever to run for this office. I have not just competed with them as rivals, I have learned from them as friends, as public servants, and as patriots who love America and are willing to work tirelessly to make this country better. They are leaders of this party, and leaders that America will turn to for years to come.

That is particularly true for the candidate who has traveled further on this journey than anyone else. Senator Hillary Clinton has made history in this campaign not just because she's a woman who has done what no woman has done before, but because she's a leader who inspires millions of Americans with her strength, her courage, and her commitment to the causes that brought us here tonight.

We've certainly had our differences over the last sixteen months. But as someone who's shared a stage with her many times, I can tell you that what gets Hillary Clinton up in the morning – even in the face of tough odds – is exactly what sent her and Bill Clinton to sign up for their first campaign in Texas all those years ago; what sent her to work at the Children's Defense Fund and made her fight for health care as First Lady; what led her to the United States Senate and fueled her barrier-breaking campaign for the presidency – an unyielding desire to improve the lives of ordinary Americans, no matter how difficult the fight may be. And you can rest assured that when we finally win the battle for universal health care in this country, she will be central to that victory. When we transform our energy policy and lift our children out of poverty, it will be because she worked to help make it happen. Our party and our country are better off because of her, and I am a better candidate for having had the

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honor to compete with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

There are those who say that this primary has somehow left us weaker and more divided. Well I say that because of this primary, there are millions of Americans who have cast their ballot for the very first time. There are Independents and Republicans who understand that this election isn't just about the party in charge of Washington, it's about the need to change Washington. There are young people, and African-Americans, and Latinos, and women of all ages who have voted in numbers that have broken records and inspired a nation.

All of you chose to support a candidate you believe in deeply. But at the end of the day, we aren't the reason you came out and waited in lines that stretched block after block to make your voice heard. You didn't do that because of me or Senator Clinton or anyone else. You did it because you know in your hearts that at this moment – a moment that will define a generation – we cannot afford to keep doing what we've been doing. We owe our children a better future. We owe our country a better future. And for all those who dream of that future tonight, I say – let us begin the work together. Let us unite in common effort to chart a new course for America.

In just a few short months, the Republican Party will arrive in St. Paul with a very different agenda. They will come here to nominate John McCain, a man who has served this country heroically. I honor that service, and I respect his many accomplishments, even if he chooses to deny mine. My differences with him are not personal; they are with the policies he has proposed in this campaign.

Because while John McCain can legitimately tout moments of independence from his party in the past, such independence has not been the hallmark of his presidential campaign.

It's not change when John McCain decided to stand with George Bush ninety-five percent of the time, as he did in the Senate last year.

It's not change when he offers four more years of Bush economic policies that have failed to create well-paying jobs, or insure our workers, or help Americans afford the skyrocketing cost of college – policies that have lowered the real incomes of the average American family, widened the gap between Wall Street and Main Street, and left our children with a mountain of debt.

And it's not change when he promises to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians – a policy where all we look for are reasons to stay in Iraq, while we spend billions of dollars a month on a war that isn't making the American people any safer.

So I'll say this – there are many words to describe John McCain's attempt to pass off his embrace of George Bush's policies as bipartisan and new. But change is not one of them.

Change is a foreign policy that doesn't begin and end with a war that should've never been authorized and never been waged. I won't stand here and pretend that there are many good options left in Iraq, but what's not an option is leaving our troops in that country for the next hundred years – especially at a time when our military is overstretched, our nation is isolated, and nearly every other threat to America is being ignored.

We must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in - but start leaving we must. It's time for Iraqis to take responsibility for their future. It's time to rebuild our military and give our veterans the care they need and the benefits they deserve when they come home. It's time to refocus our efforts on al Qaeda's leadership and Afghanistan, and rally the world against the common threats of the 21st century – terrorism and nuclear weapons; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. That's what change is.

Change is realizing that meeting today's threats requires not just our firepower, but the power of our diplomacy – tough, direct diplomacy where the President of the United States isn't afraid to let any petty dictator know where America stands and what we stand for. We must once again have the courage and conviction to lead the free world. That is the legacy of Roosevelt, and Truman, and Kennedy. That's what the American people want. That's what change is.

Change is building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but the work and workers who created it. It's understanding that the struggles facing working families can't be solved by spending billions of dollars on more tax breaks for big corporations and wealthy CEOs, but by giving a the middle-class a tax break, and investing in our crumbling infrastructure, and transforming how we use energy, and improving our schools, and renewing our commitment to science and innovation. It's understanding that fiscal responsibility and shared prosperity can go hand-in-hand, as they did when Bill Clinton was President.

John McCain has spent a lot of time talking about trips to Iraq in the last few weeks, but maybe if he spent some time taking trips to the cities and towns that have been hardest hit by this economy – cities in Michigan, and Ohio, and right here in Minnesota – he'd understand the kind of change that people are looking for.

Maybe if he went to Iowa and met the student who works the night shift after a full day of class and still can't pay

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the medical bills for a sister who's ill, he'd understand that she can't afford four more years of a health care plan that only takes care of the healthy and wealthy. She needs us to pass health care plan that guarantees insurance to every American who wants it and brings down premiums for every family who needs it. That's the change we need.

Maybe if he went to Pennsylvania and met the man who lost his job but can't even afford the gas to drive around and look for a new one, he'd understand that we can't afford four more years of our addiction to oil from dictators. That man needs us to pass an energy policy that works with automakers to raise fuel standards, and makes corporations pay for their pollution, and oil companies invest their record profits in a clean energy future – an energy policy that will create millions of new jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. That's the change we need.

And maybe if he spent some time in the schools of South Carolina or St. Paul or where he spoke tonight in New Orleans, he'd understand that we can't afford to leave the money behind for No Child Left Behind; that we owe it to our children to invest in early childhood education; to recruit an army of new teachers and give them better pay and more support; to finally decide that in this global economy, the chance to get a college education should not be a privilege for the wealthy few, but the birthright of every American. That's the change we need in America. That's why I'm running for President.

The other side will come here in September and offer a very different set of policies and positions, and that is a debate I look forward to. It is a debate the American people deserve. But what you don't deserve is another election that's governed by fear, and innuendo, and division. What you won't hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon – that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first.

Despite what the good Senator from Arizona said tonight, I have seen people of differing views and opinions find common cause many times during my two decades in public life, and I have brought many together myself. I've walked arm-in-arm with community leaders on the South Side of Chicago and watched tensions fade as black, white, and Latino fought together for good jobs and good schools. I've sat across the table from law enforcement and civil rights advocates to reform a criminal justice system that sent thirteen innocent people to death row. And I've worked with friends in the other party to provide more children with health insurance and more working families with a tax break; to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and ensure that the American people know where their tax dollars are being spent; and to reduce the influence of lobbyists who have all too often set the agenda in Washington.

In our country, I have found that this cooperation happens not because we agree on everything, but because behind all the labels and false divisions and categories that define us; beyond all the petty bickering and point-scoring in Washington, Americans are a decent, generous, compassionate people, united by common challenges and common hopes. And every so often, there are moments which call on that fundamental goodness to make this country great again.

So it was for that band of patriots who declared in a Philadelphia hall the formation of a more perfect union; and for all those who gave on the fields of Gettysburg and Antietam their last full measure of devotion to save that same union.

So it was for the Greatest Generation that conquered fear itself, and liberated a continent from tyranny, and made this country home to untold opportunity and prosperity.

So it was for the workers who stood out on the picket lines; the women who shattered glass ceilings; the children who braved a Selma bridge for freedom's cause.

So it has been for every generation that faced down the greatest challenges and the most improbable odds to leave their children a world that's better, and kinder, and more just.

And so it must be for us.

America, this is our moment. This is our time. Our time to turn the page on the policies of the past. Our time to bring new energy and new ideas to the challenges we face. Our time to offer a new direction for the country we love.

The journey will be difficult. The road will be long. I face this challenge with profound humility, and knowledge of my own limitations. But I also face it with limitless faith in the capacity of the American people. Because if we are willing to work for it, and fight for it, and believe in it, then I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet

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began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on Earth. This was the moment – this was the time – when we came together to remake this great nation so that it may always reflect our very best selves, and our highest ideals. Thank you, God Bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

--
Eddie Vale - Press Secretary
Progressive Media USA
202-609-7692 (office)
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EddVale (AIM)
evale@progressivemediausa.org
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From: "Graham Allison" <grahamallison@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/4/2015 1:22:11 PM
Subject: Nine Reasons to Support the Iran Deal

Colleagues & Friends,

Having carefully reviewed the lengthy and complex agreement negotiated by the United States and our international partners with Iran, I have reached the following conclusion: If I were a member of Congress, I would vote yes on the deal.

In a piece published today in *The Atlantic*, I outline nine reasons why, including that this agreement achieves America's minimum essential objectives, and that, at this point, a "better deal" is an illusion.

Ultimately, neither this deal nor any feasible alternative "solves" the Iranian problem, and the Islamic Republic's nuclear ambitions will remain a cardinal national security challenge. This agreement, however, puts us in the best position to meet this challenge.

As always, I welcome your feedback. And I recommend regularly visiting Iran Matters, the Belfer Center's hub for Iran news and analysis, for the latest take from our experts and others that we believe are adding value.

Graham Allison
Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
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From: "Andrew Baumann" <ABaumann@gqrr.com>
To: "Darryl Lockett" <dlockett@gqrr.com>
tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org
pbegala@hatcreekent.com
"David Brock \(davidbrock@gmail.com\)" <davidbrockdc@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Susan McCue" <Susan@messageinc.com>
Date: 6/18/2008 10:17:57 AM
Subject: RE: Shaping an upcoming DCorps McCain survey 4pm

All,

Stan, Susan, Tara and the former PM team and I had a brief call today to discuss the McCain survey that we aim to field early next week. Here is a quick summary of what we discussed. If any of you have thoughts or suggestions on what to include in this survey please feel free to send them along. If people think it is worthwhile we could also set up a follow-up call later in the week.

The Battleground:

We discussed adding Minnesota and North Carolina to the battleground and decided to include Minnesota but not North Carolina. That leaves our battleground as follows:

- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Wisconsin
- Pennsylvania
- Colorado
- New Mexico
- Michigan
- Ohio
- New Hampshire
- Virginia
- Nevada
- Missouri
- Nebraska's 1st Congressional District

Content

We decided to draft hits on the following topics. We won't be able to include all of them in the survey, but these are hits we want to consider:

- Energy
  - Offshore drilling (flip-flop angle, Bush/oil company angle/environmental angle)
  - Support for nuclear powr
  - Comprehensive hit on support for oil companies – updated lobbyist ties, drilling, gas tax, support for tax breaks
- Taxes (based on recent back and forth – tax cuts for the wealthy and not the middle class etc)
- Women and Abortion
  - Pure abortion and judges hit
  - Comprehensive women's issues hit
- Health care (with focus on McCain plan causing people who get coverage from employers to lose it)
- Security
  - Revise our draft attack from last time to test endless war/warmonger with and without the draft in it
  - An Iraq is making us less secure hit
  - An opposition to diplomacy hit
- Economy
  - Revise our middle class populism hits
  - A revised economic fundamentals hit

We'll also be looking at a bunch of recent surveys, public and private, to inform our choice of hits to test.

Please let us know if you have additions to this list.

Andrew

From: Darryl Lockett
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 10:56 AM
To: 'tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org'; 'pbegala@hatcreekent.com'; 'David Brock (davidbrock@gmail.com)'; 'John Podesta'; 'Susan McCue'
Cc: Andrew Baumann; 'lwallace@hatcreekent.com'; 'ksoligan@mediamatters.org'; 'Caitlin Hurley @ American Progress Action'
Subject: RE: Shaping an upcoming DCorps McCain survey 4pm

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Below are the finalized details of the call. Unfortunately scheduling conflicts will not allow everyone to be on the call but we want to move forward with the 4pm call.

DCorps McCain Survey Call
Wednesday, June 18, 2008
4:00pm
The call-in number will be (712) 432-0150. Passcode: 716391.

The call should last should no more than 30 mins. Andrew will send a read out for the benefit of those who will be unable to call in. I look forward to connecting with many of you today. Thanks so much.

Best regards,
Darryl

From: Darryl Lockett
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 4:03 PM
To: tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org; pbegala@hatcreekent.com; David Brock (davidbrock@gmail.com); John Podesta; Susan McCue
Cc: Andrew Baumann; lwallace@hatcreekent.com; ksoligan@mediamatters.org; Caitlin Hurley @ American Progress Action
Subject: Shaping an upcoming DCorp McCain survey

All,

Democracy Corp will be fielding a McCain survey beginning next Monday. Stan would set up a call to talk about the contents of the survey. Are any of you available to connect tomorrow afternoon around 4pm? Please let me know if this time works. It would be great to have your input. I will send out the call in number once the time is finalized by the majority. Thanks

Best regards,
Darryl

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Project Coordinator

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Phone: 202 478 8300 / Fax: 202 478 8301

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www.greenbergresearch.com

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:58:56 AM
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:

I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.

Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.

If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.

Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"

From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>
> > All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
> > Thinking.
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
> > **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> > **Cc:** Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
> >
> > I was kidding!
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone

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On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:

Not ninnies.

We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com>; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.

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On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

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I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "anthony benton" <tonybenton@hotmail.co.uk>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/13/2014 2:23:17 AM
Subject: CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear John

Read your White House email. Seems a long long time before China reaches its peak.

If there was an alternative that was not costly to implement, zero rated (completely) and probably up and running within 12 months, would anybody be interested or is it just business as usual.

Nuclear will be the fuel of the future but until then, and the safety elements are put to rest, this may well be a 10 year stop-gap.

Best wishes
Anthony Benton
London, UK.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/22/2016 8:39:52 AM
Subject: News Update - January 22

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, January 22

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Poll: United Centrist Party w/ General Ashkenazi Could Oust Netanyahu**
- **Abbas: I Attempted to Meet Netanyahu, He Never Responded**
- **Kerry: Some Iran Sanction Relief Could Fund Terror**
- **Ya'alon: Settlers Who Broke into Hebron Homes Trampled Law**
- **Netanyahu: Growing Relations w/ Sunni Arabs Key to Palestinian Progress**
- **Odd Diplomatic Development as Greece, Cyprus Back Israel**
- **IDF to Gaza Perimeter Residents: Hamas Ready for the Next Round**
- **U.S. Negotiator: Israel Rift During Iran Deal Was 'Very Painful'**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Abu Mazen: I'm Not Inciting"**
  - By Nahum Barnea, Leading Israeli Journalist, Yedioth Ahronoth
- **Al-Monitor: "Why Former IDF Chief of Staff Could Be Heading for Politics"**
  - By Mazal Mualem, Israel Pulse Columnist, Al-Monitor

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Ha'aretz

Poll: United Centrist Party w/ General Ashkenazi Could Oust Bibi

A centrist party that includes former chief of General Staff Gabi Ashkenazi, Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid, and Kulanu chairman Moshe Kahlon would get 29 Knesset seats in a general election, compared to only 24 for Likud, according to a poll released Thursday night by Channel 10 news. According to a poll by Channel 2, the public believes that Ashkenazi had a better chance of defeating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an election than Zionist Union chairman Isaac Herzog or Lapid, but still find Netanyahu more suitable to be prime minister.

Jerusalem Post

Abbas: I Attempted to Meet Netanyahu, but He Never Responded

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday told Israeli reporters that he tried to arrange a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but did not get a response. "There were contacts for a meeting with Netanyahu two months ago, but his people evaded preliminary meetings to agree on the meeting," Abbas said. Abbas summoned Israeli reporters to address the Israeli public directly. The Prime Minister's Office quickly denied the claim. "This is simply not right…This is simply Abu Mazen's [Abbas's] attempt to evade responsibility for the lack of negotiations."
See also, "Ya'alon: Conflict Might Never Be Resolved So Long As PA Incites Against Israel" (Arutz Sheva)

Times of Israel

Kerry: Some Iran Sanction Relief Could Fund Terror

John Kerry says it is likely that some of the billions of dollars in sanctions relief granted to Iran under a landmark nuclear deal will go to groups deemed terrorists. On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Kerry says there is little the US or others can do to prevent the now-unfrozen assets from getting into the hands of the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps or "other entities" that Iran has supported in the past.
See also, "Watch: Kerry Admits Some of Iran Sanctions Windfall Might Go to Terror" (Arutz Sheva)

Ha'aretz

Ya'alon: Settlers Who Broke into Hebron Homes Trampled Law

Israeli security forces on Friday removed a group of settlers from two houses in Hebron, a day after they had moved into the buildings they claim to have purchased. A few dozen of the Hebron settlement's residents broke into the homes between the Cave of the Patriarchs and the neighborhood of Avraham Avinu on Thursday and announced that they had bought the buildings, which would in effect expand the settlement in the city. They called the homes "Beit Rachel" and "Beit Leah," after the biblical wives of Jacob.
See also, "Right-Wing, Ya'alon Spar Over Eviction of Jews from Disputed Hebron Houses" (Jerusalem Post)
See also, "Heavy Fallout After Ya'alon's Eviction of Settlers" (Arutz Sheva)

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BICOM

Bibi: Growing Ties w/ Sunni Arabs Key to Palestinian Progress

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the World Economic Forum at Davos that Israel and Sunni Arab states are on the same side of the Middle East's rifts and frictions, and that this relationship can generate diplomatic progress with the Palestinians. Speaking in an on-stage interview with *CNN*'s Fareed Zakaria, Netanyahu said "Saudi Arabia recognizes Israel is an ally rather than an enemy because of the two principle threats that threaten them, Iran and Daesh [ISIS]…Who can help us? They ask. Obviously Israel and the Sunni Arab states are not on opposite sides."

See also, "Israel Warms to Sunni Powers, Question US' Palestinian Focus" (FOX News)

See also, "Treat Israel Like Moderate Arab States Do, PM Tells EU's Mogherini" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

Odd Diplomatic Development as Greece, Cyprus Back Israel

Pundits would have been dismissed as clueless had they predicted a decade ago that in a critical European Union discussion on the Middle East, Greece and Cyprus would emerge as the countries that would – in the words of US President Barack Obama – "have Israel's back." Yet that is exactly what happened this week when Greece and Cyprus led a charge of about half a dozen eastern and southern European states to block the passage of language in an EU resolution on the Middle East "peace process" to differentiate the territories from Israel, a move that could have triggered a slew of measures that would make the recent labeling of settlement products seem tame by comparison.

Ma'ariv

IDF to Gaza Perimeter Residents: Hamas Ready for Next Round

"I came to the meeting calm and left troubled," said yesterday an employee of one of the local authorities in the Gaza perimeter, after a meeting with a high-ranking official from the Gaza Division who briefed local residents on Hamas's growing readiness for another clash with Israel. "Hamas in the Gaza Strip is now at a point where it has rehabilitated itself and is ready to fight Israel again, if need be," the high-ranking military official said. "It has restored the tunnels, its rocket, intelligence collection and observation systems, and it is ready for the order to be given." Although this was a routine meeting with employees of local authorities from the Gaza perimeter and Sderot that was scheduled in advance, the high-ranking officer managed to surprise many people in the briefing he gave, a year and a half after Operation Protective Edge.

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Times of Israel

U.S. Negotiator: Israel Rift Over Iran Deal Was 'Very Painful'

A top U.S. negotiator with Iran said enduring the tension the talks engendered between the Obama administration and Israel and the Jewish community was very painful. "For me personally, one of the most difficult parts was the tension with this beloved country and its people," said Wendy Sherman, who led the US team in the talks between Iran and six major powers leading to the sanctions relief for nuclear rollbacks deal. "So having the dissension and the difficulties that we had in this process — and with the American Jewish community of which I consider myself a part — was very, very painful," she said Tuesday at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

See also, "Kerry Declares 'The Fight's Over' with Benjamin Netanyahu" (CNN)

See also, "Iran's Return to International Stage 'Now Possible,' Hollande Says" (Times of Israel)

Yedioth Ahronoth – January 22, 2016

Abu Mazen: I'm Not Inciting

By Nahum Barnea

Ramallah -- Abu Mazen, 81, looks great. His face is tanned, his back is straight, his speech is firm. It would seem that the reports of his imminent retirement and of the collapse of the Palestinian Authority, willingly or involuntarily, have filled him with fighting spirit. Ariel Sharon used to say that every time he thought of retiring, he looked at the line of people waiting to succeed him, and changed his mind. Abu Mazen may be undergoing a similar process. His retirement announcement given a few weeks ago gave rise to an ugly succession war among top Fatah members. The collateral damage, from our point of view, was the competition among the candidates as to who could be more hostile and more bellicose towards Israel. "I am not retiring," Abu Mazen told us last night.

He invited a group of journalists from the Israeli media outlets to his office in the *mukataa*. As usual with the Palestinians, it was difficult to decipher the message, to determine what the media spin was, and why now of all times. It is reasonable to assume that the assessment by Israeli officials that the Palestinian Authority might soon collapse had reinvigorated Abu Mazen. You say that we're going to collapse? In your face.

And perhaps all he wants is to return the PA to the Israeli agenda, and Palestine to the international agenda.

"There are no negotiations between me and Netanyahu," he clarified, "but there are daily talks between the bureaus." He refused to say who maintained the relationship on the Israeli side; he was probably referring to Attorney Yitzhak Molcho or to Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai. But he insisted that talks were being held. The only name he mentioned was the name of former minister Silvan Shalom. "He would call from time to time," he said. When we reminded him that Shalom had resigned, he added with a smile: "In the past."

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The purpose of the talks, Abu Mazen said, was to arrange a meeting between him and Netanyahu, and perhaps beforehand a preparatory meeting at a lower level. "Two months ago I approached Netanyahu, but he didn't get back to me," he said. Netanyahu's bureau denied last night in response to Abu Mazen's statements that talks were being held. "Netanyahu," his bureau stated, "wants to renew the negotiations without preconditions. Abu Mazen refuses."

Abu Mazen confirmed that he was posing two conditions: a construction freeze in the settlements and implementation of the fourth phrase of the prisoner release. "These are not preconditions," he said. "The entire international community says that construction in the settlements is illegal and is opposed to UN resolutions. As for the prisoner release, there is an agreement and the Israeli government has to uphold it."

He announced two foreign policy objectives for the near future: firstly, convening an international peace conference to discuss the conflict, in the format of the Annapolis conference of 2007.

The conference would promote the Saudi peace initiative, which Abu Mazen supports. Secondly, an application to the UN institutions, which will be made if and when the committee appointed by the Arab League decides to do so. The committee consists of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and the Arab League secretary general.

We asked about the things that trouble the Israelis: The wave of terrorism, the security coordination, the incitement, the assistance that the PA grants to families of terrorists, Abu Mazen's refusal to recognize Israel as the Jewish nation-state.

He did not justify the wave of terrorism; he interpreted it. He said that the terrorism had broken out now because of: 1. The lack of a political horizon; 2. Settler attacks, such as the murder of the Dawabshe family; 3. The el-Aksa Mosque affair. At this point, he accused Israeli ministers of staging provocations on the Temple Mount, which turn the conflict from political into religious. The ministers' statements serve the goals of global terror organizations, which seek to take el-Aksa under their wing, he said.

The PA honors the security coordination agreement, he stressed. We take a lot of criticism over this, but don't pay attention to it. "Today the coordination exists in full," he said. "We prevent terrorism in our territory and prevent the spillover of terrorism into Israel. What will be tomorrow I don't know." The tone he used was free of a veiled threat. As for the substance, I am less sure.

He insisted that he was not inciting. There was a joint committee on the battle against incitement, he said. We want to renew its activity but Israel refuses. As for the salaries he pays to families of terrorists and the commemoration of *shahid*s, he explained these by a law from Arafat's time and Palestinian culture. Along the way, he related that the PA was paying a salary to the family of a Palestinian who was executed during Arafat's time on charges of spying for Israel. Like the Israelis, Abu Mazen knows that there is always a previous government that can be blamed.

The demand to recognize Israel as a Jewish state is an invention of Netanyahu, he argued. The fact is that Israel did not pose such a

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demand to Egypt and Jordan when it signed peace agreements with them.

Ramallah by night is a peaceful city, as peaceful as Tel Aviv. The main streets are filled with cars. The neon signs of the stores are filled with writing in English. Like Tel Aviv, but without the terror attacks. That too is an interesting message that came out of the meeting with Abu Mazen.

Nahum Barnea is a leading Israeli journalist for Yedioth Ahronoth. In 2007, he was awarded the Israel Prize.

Al-Monitor – January 21, 2016

Why One Former IDF Chief of Staff Could Be Heading for Politics

By Mazal Mualem

In the months that immediately followed the 2013 election, the Labor Party under Shelly Yachimovich was left licking its wounds after another resounding failure at the polls. At the time, former Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi was mentioned as someone who could pull the party out of its morass and lead it back to power .

Proponents of the idea included former minister and then-Knesset member Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and the Chairman of the Histadrut Labor Union Ofer Eini. Both Eini and Ben-Eliezer were close to Ashkenazi, who ranked high in popularity polls. They both believed that he could extract himself from the public imbroglio he had gotten into as a result of his fierce disagreements with Minister of Defense Ehud Barak. Eini and Ben-Eliezer were supposed to be Ashkenazi's turbo engines, when he ran in the primaries for head of the Labor Party. They planned to present the former chief of staff as an updated version of Yitzhak Rabin in 1992 and of Ehud Barak in 1999 — former generals appointed chair of the party who managed to bring the party back to power.

At the time, Eini and Ben-Eliezer also claimed, and rightly so, that the Harpaz scandal (allegedly involving Boaz Harpaz, an associate of Ehud Barak, and forged documents concerning Ashkenazi's successor) was only of interest to the press. The story was too convoluted to interest the public and affect its attitudes toward Ashkenazi. Polls conducted at the time, including polls immediately following the release of the first draft of the State Comptroller's serious report about Ashkenazi in March 2012, proved that his popularity barely suffered as a result of the scandal. On the contrary, the public remembered him fondly for rehabilitating the Israel Defense Forces after the Second Lebanon War in 2006, with its controversial results. In other words, even after he got himself entangled in the Harpaz affair, Ashkenazi was still a hot political item. He had the reputation of a folksy figure who was not afraid of conflict, but also as someone with moderate political views. In the leadership vacuum in the center-left, Ashkenazi stood out .

Even with the law requiring military brass to have a "cooling off" period before they enter politics, Ashkenazi would have been eligible to run in February 2014. Nevertheless, he was in no hurry. He enjoyed being courted by politicians, and explained that he would not take any action until the entire Harpaz affair was over. That finally happened

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Jan. 20, more than five years after it all began. Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein announced that he would not be indicting Ashkenazi over the Harpaz affair.

Nevertheless, it is not at all certain that the former chief of staff will indeed enter politics, and even if he does, it is still not certain that he will do so as part of the Zionist Camp (previous the Labor Party). Eini and Ben-Eliezer are no longer there to pave the way for him, and current Chairman Isaac Herzog has no intention of giving up his seat without a fight. Meanwhile, Herzog made do with tweeting congratulations to Ashkenazi now that the case against him has been closed.

Chairman of Yesh Atid Yair Lapid also took to Twitter to congratulate Ashkenazi , though in his case it is more than highly likely that a personal conversation was also involved. He has been courting Ashkenazi for months.

Lapid is offering him the No. 2 spot in the party in the next elections and naming him as Yesh Atid's candidate for defense minister. But as we have already noted, Ashkenazi is in no hurry. The very fact that Lapid is so interested in him shows that he is still popular with the public and, therefore, a valuable asset. This is especially true since Lapid suffers from a dearth of security credentials. He needs people like Ashkenazi to draw voters from the moderate right. Then there is the fact that Ashkenazi is of Middle Eastern origin (Mizrahi in Hebrew) on his mother's side — a factor that could help Lapid shatter Yesh Atid's reputation as a party of Israeli Jews of European origin (Ashkenazi in Hebrew).

The bottom line is that the Harpaz affair did not destroy Ashkenazi's public career. He can even use it now to his political advantage by claiming that Ehud Barak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried to eliminate him out of fear that he might threaten their status. Furthermore, the attorney general's decision to close the criminal case against him could become a badge of integrity. Even after the authorities listened to 100,000 recordings of phone calls he made as chief of staff, they found no evidence to indict him. Nevertheless, it is also worth noting that the report released by Weinstein this week refers to a behavior that was allegedly harmful to national security. This means that if Ashkenazi does decide to enter politics, he will need the skin of an elephant to withstand all sorts of artillery attacks. The big question is whether the former chief of staff has what it takes.

Can he contend with a brutal, highly focused campaign against him? The way things seem now, the answer is no. Ashkenazi's actions over the past few years indicate that he lacks this ability. He is easily insulted, extremely sensitive to criticism and wary of every word written about him. These particular traits only grew more pronounced as a result of the Harpaz affair. In many ways, the former chief of staff is now an exhausted man. It is not at all sure if he still has the appetite needed to wage a campaign for the office of prime minister.

"Ashkenazi neither looks nor sounds like someone with an urgent need to get into politics and prove something. He needs time," a political figure who spoke with him told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity. Fortunately for Ashkenazi — and for the politicians courting him, too — there are no elections on the horizon. In other words, he is under no pressure to decide right now.

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Given the current leadership crisis within the political center-left, Ashkenazi will likely be courted by these parties up until the next election. His name will come up again and again as a potential partner in all sorts of political alliances, whether it is with Yair Lapid, Isaac Herzog or even Gideon Saar of the Likud. After all, they all share one main objective: removing Netanyahu from power.

Mazal Mualem is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse and formerly the senior political correspondent for Ma'ariv and Ha'aretz. She also presents a weekly TV show covering social issues on the Knesset channel.

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From: "Clyde Williams" <contact@clyde2016.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/27/2015 3:44:51 PM
Subject: 2016 is going to be a winner!

CLYDEWILLIAMS2016

Dear Friend,

As we look forward to 2016, it is a time of reflection on what's important in our lives and how we can make a difference. Our Christmas toy drive for needy children in East Harlem was a great way for my daughter to understand the importance of giving back to the community.

On the campaign front, I got some good news as well - which is polling showing this Congressional race is 'wide open'.

This race will be hard-fought, but with your support, I'm confident I can prevail. **Will you help kick-off the 2016 campaign season by** supporting my campaign today - before the Dec 31st deadline ?

The NY-13 community wants new leadership and new ideas. We need leaders that will bring people together and put the community interests ahead of special interests.

Join me in the journey - and let's win in 2016!

I hope you are all having a happy holiday season,

Clyde

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contact@clyde2016.com

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/7/2008 5:09:53 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/07/08

Main Topics: Negative ads, demonstrators in WV, Oldy McOlderson and offshore drilling

Summary: President Bush issues a blunt condemnation of China's human rights record from Thailand. China bans a former US Olympian who advocates for peace in Sudan. Pollutions and protests on the Great Wall mar China's opening days of the Olympics. Authorities continue their search for the missing child, Caylee Marie Anthony. Mid-morning numbers show that the numbers of jobless claims have soared to the highest rates in six years.

Two controversies on the democratic side of presidential politics: Hillary Clinton suggests her supporters nominate her at the convention and pundits take issue with Obama's proposed aggressive taxation of oil companies. Cable stations host panels on the new poll that shows many voters feel Obama is overexposed. The tire pressure debate continues. Paris Hilton ad continues to receive substantial coverage on FNC and CNN. No mention of the Straight Talk Express' collision with a minivan.

Highlights:
1. McCain's negative ads
   a. FNC: Giuliani on McCain's sense of humor and Bush's legacy
   b. FNC: Pfotenhauer plugs the new ad and defends the old
   c. CBS: Anchorwoman and GOP strategist consider McCain's negative strategy
2. WCHS-ABC: Demonstrators welcome McCain in West Virginia
3. CC: Stewart exposes McCain's altered messaging on offshore drilling

Highlights No Clip:
1) MSNBC – RUDY GIULIANI: 'I think all of [McCain's ads] are funny. […] It's the summertime. I'm not offended by it.'
2) CNN – ED HENRY: '[John McCain is] trying to test out a new message. He's trying to seize back the mantel of change. You know know Barack Obama talks about and bills himself as the candidate of change. John McCain is trying to assert he's that guy.'

Clips:
Highlight #1
Giuliani Raves About McCain's Sense of Humor and Bush's Presidential Legacy (FNC 08/07/08 08:27am)
RUDY GIULIANI: But that was the reason for the criticism. It wasn't that Barack Obama said to inflate your tires. **He said that inflating your tires would make up for not doing offshore drilling, which he's against. Of course that's silly, I mean the statement, so he's kind of changed his position to protect himself.**

GRETCHEN CARLSON: Did you happen to see the Paris Hilton response ad to the celeb ad?

GIULIANI: **Yes I did, I thought it was hilarious. […] I'm sure John loves it too. John has a great, haven't had the chance to talk to him about it yet, but John McCain has a great sense of humor**.

BRIAN KILMEADE: […] if you had to give some advice to Barack Obama what would you say?

GIULIANI: I would say to him, why don't you go do those town hall meetings with John McCain. Get rid of all this, you know, sound bite stuff and half statements. Go do 20 or 30 of those town hall meetings, get up in front of 100 people, 200 people, 300 people, whatever it is, let them question you. And then we'll find out who really has the answers. I think that's the best test.

CARLSON: But wait a minute, you're still giving the advice to Senator John McCain when you give that advice to Barack Obama because a lot of people criticize that he wouldn't do well in those town meetings.

GIULIANI: Well we will find out. If he's not going to do well in those town hall meetings then he's not going to do well or he his. **That I think would be the best test of if you're ready to be, ready to be President. Let the American people go question you. With all due respect to all the reporters and everything, I found that to be the most difficult part and the most challenging part. The town hall meeting, even more than the debates. […]**

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BRIAN KILMEADE**: John McCain, two days ago, cut an ad saying that I am not better off than I was four years ago under George Bush.** Two Republicans, he's distancing himself from the president and he cut a voiceover and got video to prove it. How difficult was it for him and Number 2 should he have done it.

GIULIANI: Well there are all different ways of doing it. He has to show that he is independent of George Bush. This is the problem Al Gore had in 2000, it's the problem President Bush 41 had in 88', he had to distance himself from Ronald Reagan. And sometimes maybe you're going to step over the line a little and offend someone for doing it. But I think the point hat John wants to make is that he's an independent guy. And boy, you gotta say that about John. He's always been independent. This is not going to be a continuation of the George Bush administration. **I'm a big supporter of the President, I think this country is better off because George Bush was our President. He made the one big decision, the most important decision of his Presidency correctly. And I think in history he's going to be a very good President for that reason. But there are a lot of things were he differs from, where John differs from President Bush and he has a right to point that out.**

Nancy Pfotenhauer Defends The Obama Celebrity Ad and Plugs the New Raising McCain Video (FNC 08/07/08 09:30am)
BILL: HEMMER: From Presidential candidate now to a YouTube sensation almost overnight. Some of John McCain's ads, like the one comparing Barack Obama to the likes of Paris Hilton and Britney Spears, are working. According to YouTube, the ads have helped rocket McCain's page on the site in only 7 days. While these ads can be catchy, can they end up hurting McCain in the long run? […] Why do you think this ad is working?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: **[…] Oh because I think the American people, while we understand the challenges that we are facing, enjoy a good laugh once in a while and they actually respect and admire someone who's in the arena who keeps their sense of humor. […]**

HEMMER: **So you think it's just a laugh in the end then? Is Paris Hilton the kind of, well the kind of American you want to draft off of?**

PFOTENHAUER: Well what we did is a nod to Senator Obama's celebrity after a week of wall-to-wall just fulsome praise in media coverage that was basically something you could complain about or laugh about. So we did a nod to the celebrity and then we went on to talk about serious issues like energy prices and Senator Obama's lack of an energy plan. […] **So we always have some substance in there we just had a little fun with it**, and the American people have responded.

HEMMER: […] Some are saying that it's ok if it comes from somewhere else but not directly from the McCain campaign because it could backfire on you. Their logic, and what they suggest, is **the media is already picking up on the celebrity thing anyways.**

PFOTENHAUER: Well if they were it wasn't coming through. There's something like 40% of Americans that think the media is in the tank for Senator Obama and had said that. Basically said that they were trying to actively midwife, if you will, the Obama candidacy. Just yesterday a PEW Research Poll came out that said about 48% of the American public think they've heard too much about him, and that includes 30% of the Democrats that were surveyed. So I think if anything the burden is on the other foot if you will or the other side.

HEMMER: **Now before we go overboard with the technology attention, to be clear, Barack Obama's YouTube page has 40 million hits, John McCain's has 8 million**. Now there's this debate as to whether or not the young people of America will decide the next President come November 4th. And if you go back over time, history says that even though a lot of people talk about that there is no proof that young people actually turn out in the numbers some campaigns hope or project. Do you have evidence at the moment that that will change in 2008?

PFOTENHAUER: We don't have evidence, but Senator McCain is campaigning for every vote and he's doing it by crisscrossing the country and interacting directly with voters, wherever possible. He prefers less scripted, real direct conversation and dialogue […] But we are also going to bring the debate to the American people through whatever mechanisms we can and we are going to invite their engagement and we're gonna, we're happy to share a chuckle with them or have a serious conversation with them about the economy and bringing energy prices down. **So it's a very balanced effort on our part and I would just encourage your viewers to check on the web for "Raising McCain". Which is the new one that just came out this morning, and I personally watched it two or three times before doing this segment because it was so much fun.**

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HEMMER: Well I'll try to queue that up before I get out of here.

CBS Anchor and GOP Strategist Evaluate McCain's Negative Ads (CBS 08/07/08 7:17am)
MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ: Let's begin **with the [ad] that started this negative tide, John McCain's ad last week comparing Barack Obama to celebrities, Paris Hilton and Britney Spears**. […]. Even though he was being criticized, do you think this was an effective ad because it got people talking about McCain again?

ED ROLLINS: Well, it was a very effective ad because, for the first time since really February, the equal news coverage for the week [sic] and it was about this ad. Network television, cable television put this on and made it work. At the end of the day, the message is he's not ready to lead and I think that's, in essence, what McCain wanted to do.

[McCain's 'real Obama' ad]

RODRIGUEZ: So still a jab about the celebrity, but much more on message.

ROLLINS: It's definitely on message and the message obviously are the things that are the negatives, but I think the key thing here is it's building on the celebrity, this is a guy who, four years ago, basically nobody knew who he was. Now they do. He's very famous, but there's no substance and I think that's their message.

RODRIGUEZ: And also when they say things like he's going to raise your taxes, which they focused much more on this ad than in the first one….

ROLLINS: That's the message you wanna drive. This is an ad that'll work in August. It may not work in October, but **the message of raising taxes will definitely work in October and I think you're gonna keep hearing that over and over again.**

RODRIGUEZ: All right, Barack Obama says that John McCain is taking the low road. He's supposed to be a straight-talker who doesn't resort to this sort of thing, but he has […].

[Obama's fact check ad.]

RODRIGUEZ: What do you think?

ROLLINS: Well, he's responding to McCain. The truth of the matter is you want to run your own campaign. You don't want to respond to the opposition. That's the basic rule, but I think he thinks the ads must have been effective enough that he's out there responding already.

Once again, this is August so what goes on in September, October may be a totally different game.

RODRIGUEZ: You don't think that Barack Obama pointing out John McCain's weaknesses, in his view, is a good strategy?

ROLLINS: Well, it's a good strategy. **If he can make […] McCain a grumpy, old man, as opposed to a significant commander-in-chief, he's done his job and I think that's what he wants to do.** He's the more likable candidate, by an overwhelming margin, but, in the end, these undecided voters often vote for the person they like the most.

Highlight#2
McCain Doesn't Have Virginia in His Pocket, Resident Declares (WCHS ABC 08/06/08 11:03pm)
RICK LORD: With the days and months ticking away toward the presidential election, both candidates are hitting the campaign trail hard ahead of their party's conventions.

ELIZABETH NOREIKA: Republican candidate, John McCain is taking the mountain state votes seriously. The senator visited West Virginia today. McCain stopped in Huntington this morning where he took in a Marshall football team practice. McCain also spoke to the players about how he learned about Marshall University.

JOHN MCCAIN: The great tragedy in 1970 obviously. Then, of course, it was all brought back to us with that wonderful film, which we see over and over again, I'm happy to say. On cable, I've seen it a couple of times and so it's just a symbol to America and I'm proud to be here.

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NOREIKA: McCain rode on a bus tour through Ohio. The ride was with limited members of the media, including our own Kennie Bass. And this is to be expected with any political visit, you can almost always count on protesters.

LORD: Eyewitness News reporter, Bryant Somerville talks with Barack Obama supporters who say despite West Virginia polls showing McCain in the lead, this race is far from over.

BRYANT SOMERVILLE: **While Senator John McCain's Straight Talk Express was pulling in, his protesters were walking up**, shouting for who they believe should be the next president and wanting McCain to know that West Virginia is not in his back pocket just yet.

MATT SOWARDS: We're showing John McCain that this is not a given for him and he's gonna have to work for West Virginia just like Senator Obama is and has been doing.

SOMERVILLE: **Matt Sowards says Senator Barack Obama offers today's youth something McCain doesn't** and says Obama is to him what President John Kennedy was to his parents.

SOWARDS: We see the same message of hope and change and prosperity that we haven't had through the course of our lifetime.

DEMONSTRATORS: Who do we need? Obama! What for? President!

VICTOR WILSON: We need to come together as one nation. We need to set aside our racial differences. We need to look to somebody who has the vision, the strength, the organizational skill and the eloquence to save this nation.

SOMERVILLE: Something these protesters say can only happen with Obama. They say demonstrating is the best way to let the Arizona senator know how they feel.

SOMERVILLE: We have a great opportunity to come out and make a stand and show that young people care about what's going on in our government, what's going on in Washington.

[…]

LORD: Others making their opinions known today said West Virginians are sick of the way President Bush has run things for the past 8 years. To break away from that, they say Senator Obama is who we need in the White House.

Highlight #3
Stewart Reminds Us that McCain is So Old, Out of Touch and Deceptive It's Funny (Comedy Central 08/06/08 11:02pm)
JOHN STEWART: […] Seven and a half years ago the Bush-Cheney administration promised us a comprehensive energy policy. Six years into the war on terror they promised us a path to energy independence and finally a couple of weeks ago they said, 'Ah, f*ck it. How 'bout we just look under Florida?'

[…] Luckily the two presidential candidates aren't fighting the drilling demon.

[…]

JOHN MCCAIN: With those resources, which would take years to develop, it would only postpone or temporarily relieve our dependency on fossil fuels.

JOHN STEWART: *Fossil* fuels? You know, um. I did this with the world 'telegraph' last week, so I'm gonna go ahead and put 'fossil' on the list of words McCain should probably never use. If you freeze there you'll see 'contraption' and 'dagnabbit.'

So both presidential candidates saying, 'Drilling isn't the answer,' but that was months ago. A simpler time. People left their doors unlocked. On a Friday night, they'd take their best girls, in a Studebaker, down to the malt shop. Gas was only $3.69 a gallon. Times have changed.

MCCAIN: We need to drill here and we need to drill now.

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STEWART: You know you're standing inside, right? It's a label factory in Pennsylvania. You'd just hit the basement. Go ahead, drill!

The Administration's own Department of Energy says the effects of drilling now wouldn't even be felt until 2030. Unless we could somehow whittle that figure down.

STEPHEN MOORE: It's clear that it's going to take somewhere between four and six years before the time they start drilling 'til the time we actually get that gasoline in our tank.

ALISYN CAMEROTA: Two to four years is a conservative estimate.

EXPERT: It would take two or three years before it got in the US market.

SEAN HANNITY: Within two years—

MCCAIN: Oil company executives say that as short [of] a time as one-two years.

CHARLIE CRIST: I've talked to people in the business who say that, within a year and a half they can have oil—

MCCAIN: —is to increase our oil supply in a matter of months.

STEWART: Drilling offshore has already saved us! Cyborgs from the future have been sent here to drill offshore to prevent Osama bin Laden from killing John Connor! Have sex with them and become your own grandfather.

Nice cave, McCain! Obama, scold 'im.

[Stewart becomes frustrated at Obma's compromise. Then moves to the topic of tire gauges.]

MCCAIN: My opponent doesn't want to drill! He doesn't want nuclear power! He wants you to inflate your tires!

STEWART: He's a queer! This is America! If I'm gonna inflate my tires, I'm gonna inflate 'em with oil! Be like drivin' on a waterbed.

Senator McCain took his message of ending our dependence on oil to the annual Sturgis motorcycle rally and crystal meth Olympics in South Dakota.

MCCAIN: As you may know, not long ago, a couple a hundred thousand Berliners made a lot of noise for my opponent. I'll take the roar of 50,000 Harleys any day! Any day, my friends.

[McCain twirls his finger around. Stewart imitates the gesture.]

STEWART: Any day! Any day! Any day that we're not locked in a global battle with oil-producing terrorist states. You guys are actually being quite wasteful right now. You're making things worse, but, for some reason, they just kept with the vroom vroom.

MCCAIN: This is my first time here, but I recognize that sound. It's the sound of freedom.

STEWART: No, it's the sound of money being funneled to Saudi Arabia. Luckily, many in the audience soon ran out of freedom juice and McCain was able to continue.

MCCAIN: I was lookin' at the Sturgis schedule and noticed that you have a beauty pageant and so I encouraged Cindy to compete.

[crowd roars in applause]

STEWART: Ooh, a beauty pageant. So what do you guys do? Get Mario Lopez to host and the girls do a little evening gown thing? Do we have any footage of the contest from years past?

[Young lady in bikini dances about]

BEAUTY PAGEANT MC: Yeah. Go, go. Buffalo-style.

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[woman removes shorts]

Hey, come on guys! Make some noise!

[woman inserts banana in mouth suggestively]

You likee? You like the banana show?

[cut back to Stewart, slightly mortified]

STEWART: […] As you can imagine, that was the talent show. It's quite a spectacle! So, **to sum up: tuning up your cars and keeping your tires inflated is unbelievably gay and only encourages the terrorists, but stationary, yet still roaring engines, combined with alcohol-fueled banana oral sex demonstrations are….**

MCCAIN: You're the heart and soul of America!

STEWART: By the way, after all that, this is what McCain said yesterday, 'Sen. Obama a couple of days ago said that we ought to all inflate our tires, and I don't disagree with that. The American Automobile Association strongly recommends it,' adding, 'Vroom?'

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/22/2015 11:36:27 AM
Subject: 5.22.15 HRC TV Coverage

National

-- Brief report that HRC mentioned investor state trade disputes for the first time; showed footage of HRC's investor state answer from New Hampshire on Friday. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails; reported that there was a now-classified email in her emails; showed footage of HRC's remarks at the UN during which HRC denied sending classified emails; reported on HRC's use on two email addresses as Secretary of State; showed footage from the UN of HRC saying she used one email account; said there were two lies in two emails; interviewed Ed Henry about how Rand Paul and other Republicans still want to see all of HRC's emails; Henry talked HRC's defense that the email was classified after the fact; Henry mentioned Mike Morrell's comments that HRC's server was likely hacked into; panel discussion; one of the panelists noted that it seems that HRC's statement that she did not email classified documents was true to which Henry said the White House's and State Department's accounts back up HRC's positions; discussed Blumenthal, Henry questioned what else Blumenthal sent HRC; host noted that HRC asked someone to print a Benghazi was Obama's 3am call. Fox News' The Five , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails; interviewed Brianna Keilar; Keilar said there was the revelation that HRC had now-classified information on her email account; showed HRC's email answer from New Hampshire on Friday; Keilar said there were still questions about why HRC used a private email server; Keilar noted that HRC had a penchant for asking for emails to be printed; Keilar noted that HRC's emails she sent aides when she was recovering from her 2012 fall and could not testify about Benghazi showed HRC's human side. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper, 5.22.15

-- Discussion with Joy Reid, Jonathan Capehart; and Nick Confessore about State's release of HRC's email; Confessore said most of what he was seeing in HRC's emails represented only minor headaches; Confessore said there was not a smoking gun in this batch of emails; Capehart said the release would mean nothing unless there was a smoking gun; Wagner noted the emails had not affected HRC's poll numbers. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner, 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop at a New Hampshire brewery today; pivoted into State releasing HRC's emails and HRC's response to the release. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner , 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's comment today in New Hampshire about State releasing HRC's emails on Friday; interviewed Ben Domenech who said GOP was overdoing HRC's emails; Domenech said the Foundation was where it was more likely a smoking gun would be found. MSNBC's The Cycle , 5.22.15

-- Report on what James Rosen discovered in the State Department's release of HRC's emails; Rosen said emails show HRC was following the Benghazi attacks and showed concern about where the story was headed; discussed emails between HRC and Jake Sullivan regarding hearings after the Benghazi attacks; reported Cheryl Mills sent HRC a Reuters email about Abu Khattala. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting , 5.22.15

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-- Led with 15-minute report on HRC's email server containing now-classified information; showed HRC's email comment from New Hampshire today; reported analysts said that HRC's emails were unclassified at the time she sent them; reported officials said they would make the rest of the emails available on a rolling basis; interviewed James Rosen; Rosen noted that a sentence from HRC's email account was classified by the FBI; used footage of Marie Harf's press conference about HRC's emails today; reported on an email exchange concerning Cheryl Mills and Matthew Olsen; reported that on September 15, 2012, HRC slept in; interviewed Ed Henry; used footage of HRC talking at her press conference today about Benghazi; Henry said HRC's exchange of now-classified information was different than what HRC said at the United Nations in March; shifted into conversation about The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in undisclosed donations; interviewed Chris Wallace about Marie Harf's comments that HRC's server was not hacked; Wallace brought up HRC's news conference at the UN when HRC said she did not send classified information; Wallace noted that HRC received that information, did not send it; Wallace discussed how HRC's server was not handed over to State; Harris Faulkner (guest host) said multiple times that it was a shame the State Department was using so many resources on this when it is dealing with so many problems abroad. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting , 5.22.15 [Part Two]

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails containing now-classified information; interviewed Kevin Corke; Corke said Josh Earnest did not react sharply to HRC's email containing classified information. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson, 5.22.15

-- Report on State's press briefing about State's release of HRC's emails; used footage from State's press briefing; interviewed Joy Reid and Carrie Dann; Reid said there would always be questions about the emails for HRC's GOP opponents; Reid said the controversy boils down to Benghazi; Dann commented on there being heavy redactions in HRC's emails. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts, 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's response to State's release of HRC's emails regarding Benghazi; used footage of HRC's email answer from New Hampshire on Friday. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Brooke Baldwin , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails related to Benghazi; showed footage of HRC's email answer from New Hampshire on Friday; reported on Gowdy's statement on emails; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC said everything with her emails was handled properly; Seitz-Wald noted that there was wide agreement that the emails should come out soon; mentioned how swiftly the NARA analyzed the emails, discussed building pressure on State. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails related to Benghazi; reported HRC received now-classified information in her email; reported on Gowdy's comments about the email release; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said HRC definitively said in March that classified information did not pass through her server, said that is now revealed to not be true; showed footage of HRC answering questions about her email on Friday in New Hampshire; showed footage of HRC's March press conference at the United Nations when she said there was no classified material in her email; discussed how this is only a sliver of HRC's emails; showed footage of Rand Paul talking on Fox about how he wanted to look at the server; reported on The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million speaking donations. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.22.15

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails, showed HRC's press conference after her roundtable in New Hampshire on Friday; interviewed Gloria Borger and Jeff Zeleny; Borger spoke about HRC's stance on trade; noted HRC was answering questions. CNN's Wolf , 5.22.15

-- Report on the White House's comment about State's release of HRC's emails; included footage of Earnest's comment; reported on Gowdy's quote about State's release of HRC's emails; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald reported on the entirely redacted email of draft talking points regarding Benghazi. MSNBC's Ronan Farrow Daily, 5.22.15

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-- Earnest was asked whether the White House was concerned that HRC sent email that was later classified; Earnest said when emails are reviewed for public release that it was not uncommon for emails to be classified given later events; Earnest said the FBI made the decision to classify the email; Earnest said the emails did not change anyone's understanding about events surrounding Benghazi. CSPAN2's White House Briefing , 5.22.15

-- Earnest was asked whether the White House was concerned about Sidney Blumenthal advising HRC at State while employed by The Clinton Foundation while having business interests in Libya; Earnest said no; Earnest said there was no indication HRC prioritized Blumenthal's intelligence over information collected and distributed by the US government. CSPAN2's White House Briefing , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails; used footage of HRC's email answer from Tuesday in Iowa; Alisyn Camerota (guest host) interviewed Chris Frates; Frates said there were no bombshells in the emails; Frates pointed to Democrats saying there were no bombshells; Frates talked about how some of HRC's personality was coming out in these emails. CNN's Wolf , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails on Friday; tied in The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in previously undisclosed speaking fees; panel with Nina Easton and Ramesh Ponnuru; Easton said an AP report may show that classified reports went through HRC's private email account; Ponnuru said HRC was "Clintonian" about all of this. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails on Friday; tied in The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in previously undisclosed speaking fees; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald reported that the AP discovered information that was later deemed classified; Seitz-Wald reported that State would put out a timetable for releasing HRC's emails; discussion about the redaction process for the emails; shifted to discussion about newly disclosed Clinton Foundation speeches and who funded the speeches; Seitz-Wald noted that a company funded by the Thai government paid one for one of the speeches. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails; reported the AP reported the information found in HRC's emails was not classified; said MSNBC was looking through the emails and would report later. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 5.22.15

-- Discussion about the State Department's release of HRC's Benghazi emails at 12:30 p.m.; mentioned The Clinton Foundation disclosed $26 million in previously undisclosed donations. Fox News' Outnumbered , 5.22.15

-- Reported from Smuttynose Brewery; Mitchell previewed HRC's small business event; mentioned that NH newspapers criticized HRC for not meeting more with everyday people; tied in that State would release HRC's Benghazi emails; tied in that The Clinton Foundation disclosed $26 million in previously undisclosed speeches; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald, Karen Tumulty, and Luke Russert; Seitz-Wald discussed how HRC said she would disclose all speeches, and she did not; Russert said most of HRC's coverage has been about CGI and Benghazi, not policy; Tumulty said the danger for HRC was that she could create distance from voters. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 5.22.15

-- Interview with Dick Durbin; Mitchell described a harsh editorial in the Nashua Telegraph that said HRC was not meeting everyday voters, said HRC had not done a public event or thrown a rally; Durbin pointed out the election is 18 months away; Durbin said HRC had been in Iowa and New Hampshire; Durbin said Iowans knew HRC's leadership; Durbin said he believed HRC was eminently qualified to be POTUS; Mitchell asked whether HRC's emails would hurt her campaign; Durbin said Benghazi was a tragedy; Durbin pointed to the previous

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investigations; Durbin said Republicans just wouldn't quit; Mitchell brought up that The Clinton Foundation disclosed $26 million in donations on Thursday; Durbin said obviously there was a mistake in not disclosing this information and mistakes happen. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 5.22.15

-- Interview with Carrie Dann about State's release of HRC's emails regarding Benghazi on Friday; Dann said HFA would say that it called for the emails to be released; Dann said critics would say all of HRC's emails need to be looked at. MSNBC's News Nation , 5.22.15

-- Report on The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in speaking fees; shifted into HRC's campaign stop in New Hampshire on Friday; mentioned HRC's tweet that her first big campaign event would be on June 13th; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald went through HRC's week and discussed HRC's theme about small businesses; Seitz-Wald previewed that HRC would talk about the Ex-Im Bank; Seitz-Wald discussed the big rally on June 13th, said it was bumped back from May; Seitz-Wald said that after the rally HRC would start a more typical phase of the campaign; Seitz-Wald said the email story did not break through to voters in Iowa or New Hampshire. MSNBC's News Nation , 5.22.15

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails; interviewed Chris Frates; Frates said this release would provide the first look at how HRC ran the State Department; Frates gave a process-oriented account about what would likely be in the emails; shifted into panel with SE Cupp and Chris Kofinis; Cupp said these emails were ones that HRC deemed acceptable to release; Costello said there had already been multiple investigations into Benghazi; Cupp said the Clintons don't believe they have to follow the same rules as everyone else. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Carol Costello , 5.22.15

-- Report on State releasing HRC's emails on Benghazi; shifted into discussion about HRC not taking questions from the press; Katherine Timpf said HRC's not really answering questions even when she seems to be; Jessica Ehrlich said HRC and Jeb Bush were just trying to talk to voters. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 5.22.15

-- Report on The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in previously undisclosed speeches; interviewed Byron York; York brought up the news last month about The Clinton Foundation's involvement in a complicated uranium deal; Hemmer said there always seems to be money going through a loophole to The Clinton Foundation; shifted to the State Department's imminent release of HRC's emails related to Benghazi; York mentioned the emails leaked to the NYT; York said HRC had an email that showed HRC knew that Benghazi was not based on an anti-Islamic video. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in New Hampshire amidst the news of The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in speaking fees; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald referenced the $25 million that WJC and HRC disclosed in their PFD last Friday; Seitz-Wald discussed The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of the $26 million, broke down the contents focusing on the banks that paid for The Clinton Foundation speeches; Seitz-Wald said The Clinton Foundation does many good things, but employees several old loyalists of the Clintons; Seitz-Wald said the Foundation was an extension of the Clintons' political network. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 5.22.15

-- Interview with the founder of Smuttynose Brewing Company, Peter Egelstein; Egelstein described how he was contacted by HFA; Egelstein said he was happy to be asked to host the event; Egelstein described issues affecting small businesses; Egelstein recommended Smuttynose beer for Memorial Day weekend; discussion about what makes a good beer. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.22.15

-- Interviewed Rand Paul; discussion about State's release of HRC's emails; Paul said the emails were self-selected by HRC; Paul said he would not be satisfied until they looked at HRC's server. Fox News' America's

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Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 5.22.15

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails; MacCallum said this would be an issue for HRC in the presidential election; panel with Juan Williams and Mary Catherine Ham; discussed the two emails from Blumenthal that were in the NYT email release that Blumenthal sent in the days after the Benghazi attack; Ham said the emails confirm that the Obama administration knew Benghazi was a planned attack; played footage of HRC talking at Andrews Air Force Base about Benghazi being the result of a response to an anti-Islamic video; Williams pointed out Blumenthal's intelligence was wrong at times; Williams said HRC considered Blumenthal a source even when BHO did not want him in the mix; Williams said the Clintons play by their own rules; MacCallum said it raises the question that Susan Rice appeared on Sunday shows because HRC was uncomfortable with the administration's message. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 5.22.15

-- Report on State's imminent disclosure of HRC's emails; discussed emails released in the NYT; host Camerota brought up Blumenthal; panel with John Avlon and Margaret Hoover; Camerota said Blumenthal's emails demonstrate that HRC knew Benghazi was a terrorist attack and that HRC tried to pass it along, noted this goes against the GOP narrative that HRC tried to keep that Benghazi was a terrorist attack a secret; Avlon mentions both of Blumenthal's emails, said the emails corroborate that the Obama administration was figuring out Benghazi in real time; Camerota said the emails make it seem like HRC did not do the Sunday shows after Benghazi because she knew the truth and was not going to say the untruth; shifted into discussion about HRC's server; Avlon said the problem with the server was the perception; Hoover said the problem was HRC's control of her emails; shifted into conversation about The Clinton Foundation's $26 million disclosure today; Hoover said there was a pattern of opacity in the failure to disclose. CNN's New Day , 5.22.15

-- Discussion about HRC's rollout; panel with Ana Marie Cox and Jamie Weinstein; Cox said everyone already has an opinion on HRC; Scarborough said he was surprised at the apathy Democrats had to the scandals around HRC; Weinstein said WJC was a better politician than HRC; Scarborough said the Clintons can't get out of the way of themselves but that they were likeable. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.22.15

-- Brief report on The Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in previously undisclosed speaking fees; explained the failure to disclose was due to the original classification as revenue; led into a brief report about HRC joining LinkedIn. MSNBC's First Look , 5.22.15

-- In a larger conversation about ISIS, showed footage of Santorum hitting BHO for creating ISIS, and asking HRC whether she would support pulling troops out of Iraq; Scarborough said Santorum was wrong to hit HRC because HRC is a neocon who always proposed more action; Richard Haas said HRC was in favor of several foreign interventions. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.22.15

-- Hosts argued Walker not graduating from college shouldn't be an issue, other successful people (Jobs, Zuckerberg, etc.) did not as well. Interview with Eugene Robinson of WaPo. Discussed the influence of candidate's personal wealth in campaigns. Questioned how Walker will do on the national stage. HRC gaffs involving money, "dead broke," rub people the wrong way; discussed the Clinton Foundation's disclosure of $26 million in previously undisclosed speaking fees. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's impending second roll out on June 13; Julie Pace said the problem that HRC is only surrounding herself with supporters at small meetings, and voters and reporters not knowing where she would stand on the issues if she were President. CNN's New Day , 5.22.15

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails; pundits noted there probably won't be a "smoking gun" concerning Benghazi; email might show HRC being transparent while Benghazi unfolded, directly contradicting what Republicans have been saying about HRC for months; HRC did not make clear to State Dept.

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that memos she was circulating were authored by Sid Blumenthal because his name carried "baggage"; that unreported revenue from paid speeches may be problematic for HRC (see highlighted portion below); and HRC's lack of interaction with press is also a problem. CNN New Day , 5.22.15

-- Report on Ted Cruz's response to a reporter who asked Cruz whether he had animosity towards gay Americans; used footage of Cruz asking why the media was obsessed with sex; Cruz said the Constitution gave the right to define marriage to the states; Doocy said it was a great answer; Doocy said at least Republicans were answering questions, unlike HRC who only answered three or four; Hasselbeck called it "the Hillary hush"; hosts complained that the political left for trying to take out GOP candidates; Kilmeade questioned why the press didn't go after HRC like that. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.22.15

-- Led with The New York Times' release of HRC's emails from her time as Secretary of State; panel with Eugene Robinson, Robert Costa, and Beth Fouhy; Costa said HFA was trying to stay ahead of the email story; O'Donnell said there's nothing to get ahead of so far; Robinson said HRC's emails were "kind of boring"; Fouhy said Blumenthal's reemergence made people feel like they were in a time warp of the Clinton impeachment, discussed Blumenthal's business interest in Libya; Costa said Republican strategists were trying to make her associations slowly but surely become a story; O'Donnell noted that Blumenthal was the first person who noted the Benghazi attack was a long-term planned event; Robinson said the specifics of this story don't tell us very much; noted that the State Department planned to release HRC's emails on Friday; O'Donnell said there was no evidence HRC ever told people to act on Blumenthal's advice; showed footage of Chris Christie on CNBC talking about how HRC's email story went away due to liberal bias; shifted into conversation about Christie being tone deaf about Bridgegate. MSNBC's The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell , 5.21.15

-- Report on Blumenthal's email that Benghazi was the result of an anti-Islamic video from The New York Times release of HRC's emails on Thursday; Andrea Tantaros guest hosts panel with Penny Lee and Jonah Goldberg; Goldberg said Blumenthal was a terrible creature; Goldberg said HRC did not get the idea about the video from Blumenthal but from a larger administration cover-up; Goldberg pointed out that by the next day even Blumenthal knew the attack did not have anything to do with the video; said the administration ignore evidence that the Benghazi attack was not related to the video; Tantaros said HRC was hysterical and unhinged at the Benghazi hearing; Lee said HRC was thoughtful and methodical at the Benghazi hearing; Tantaros asked why HRC paid attention to Blumenthal's emails but not Chris Stevens. Fox News' Hannity , 5.21.15

-- Report on Blumenthal's email that Benghazi was the result of a planned attack that was released in The New York Times release of HRC's emails on Thursday; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry brought up the email from the day before when Blumenthal said the attack was based on a video; framed this around HRC giving remarks at Andrews Air Force Base; O'Reilly asked why HRC would not mention both theories; Henry said HRC's mistake was only mentioning one of the theories at Andrews Air Force Base; O'Reilly said Panetta said the same thing as Blumenthal; O'Reilly asked who was running HRC's campaign; Henry said John Podesta; Henry profiled Podesta, noted that Podesta was raising money for "the super PAC"; Henry said Podesta was talking a lot to the Obama administration too. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.21.15

-- HRC was the topic of O'Reilly's Tip of the Day; used footage of Bloomberg's focus group of Iowa Democrats struggling to come up with something that impressed them from HRC's time as SOS; O'Reilly said voters need to take the time to know why they support who they support. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.21.15

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's private emails; interviewed Karl Rove; Rove said it was interesting that NARA went through 1,300 emails in two days to determine whether emails were private or public; Rove said NARA's speed showed the State Department could move faster in releasing HRC's emails; Van Susteren said State released no criteria for vetting around HRC's emails; Rove said Blumenthal may have been the source of the Benghazi video rumor; Rove said Blumenthal's involvement raised many questions. Fox News' On The Record With Greta Van Susteren, 5.21.15

-- Report on the Bloomberg focus group of Iowa Democrats; showed footage from the Iowa focus group; panel

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with Michael Schmidt and John Wildermuth; Wildermuth said that HRC's been in the public eye for so long that people have already made up their mind about her; discussed the NYT release of HRC's emails; reported on Blumenthal's dual emails that Benghazi was prompted by a video and that Benghazi was a longer, planned attack; Schmidt said HRC's emails raise questions about the White House's account of Benghazi; Matthews said Blumenthal was the enlightened man here; Wildermuth said that information was constantly changing after the Benghazi attacks; Schmidt said what was notable about the story was that Blumenthal was passing unvetted information to HRC; Matthews said Franklin Roosevelt was very secretive and one of the best Presidents we ever had, compared HRC to him. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews , 5.21.15

-- Report on Blumenthal's email that Benghazi was sparked by a Libyan terror group with ties to Al Queda; from The New York Times release of HRC's emails on Thursday; discussed the length of time the State Department is taking to release HRC's emails; used footage of Westmoreland requesting the State Department to release documents; used footage of Marie Harf saying some of HRC's emails were ready for release; reported the contrast between Blumenthal's email about the attacks being the result of a planned attack with HRC's remarks at Andrews Air Base when HRC said the attacks were the result of a video; reported Gowdy subpoenaed Blumenthal; used footage from HRC's Blumenthal answer in Iowa on Tuesday; reported the NYT's email release appear to back up HRC's claim that she did not email classified information; reported on Morell's belief that HRC's server could have been classified; reported on HRC's official campaign launch on June 13th. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier, 5.21.15

States:

New Hampshire:

-- Reported Shumlin endorsed HRC for President via Twitter, just after Bernie Sanders announced his kickoff; Reported Shumlin wasn't aware of the overlap of endorsement with Sanders kickoff; Reported Shumlin said if HRC was running against Sanders for VT Senator, would endorse Sanders; Reported HRC will be visiting NH for second time; Reported HRC will visit Smutt Nose Brewery to discuss small businesses; Reported HRC will then visit campaigners to support her grassroots campaign; Reported HRC has announced first major campaign rally, and will deliver kick-off speech there on June 13; Reported HRC's campaign is being secretive where the rally will be held and who will be invited; Reported POTUS accepted Leahy's recommendation to make Eric Miller Vermont's 37th U.S. Attorney. WPTZ-BUR NBC Newschannel 5 Today at 5AM , 5.22.15;

WPTZ-BUR Newschannel 5 Today at 6AM , 5.22.15;

WPTZ-BUR NBC . (Just before the Today Show) 5.22.15;

WPTZ-BUR NBC Newschannel 5 at 11pm , 5.21.15.

-- Reported HRC is heading to New Hampshire for second time; reported HRC will focus on small business and the economy, and visit a brewing company in Hampton to discuss taxes, regulations, an access to capital; reported HRC will then visit campaigners in Exeter; Reported HRC has not yet had "Large rallies or town hall style meetings." WCAX-BUR CBS Channel 3 News Early Morning , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will be returning to New Hampshire for the second time; Reported HRC will first meet with the small business community to discuss ways to expand small businesses; Reported HRC's talk will include discussion of tax relief, tax simplification, and expanding access to new markets; Reported HRC will later meet with campaigners in New Hampshire; Reported Jeb Bush "took swipe" at his brother while in Concord, NH; Quoted Jeb Bush, brother "could have brought budget discipline to Washington…"; Reported Chuck Schumer pushing for reforming Amtrak safety. WFFF-BUR FOX Local 44 News at 8am , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will be making second visit to NH; Reported HRC's visit will focus on small businesses; reported HRC's first stop will be at Smutty Nose Brewery in Hampton; Reported HRC will then visit campaigners; Reported

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Jeb Bush wrapped up 2 day swing through NH with stops in Concord and Salem; Reported Jeb Bush enjoying early primary process but has yet to officially announce; Reported Jeb Bush held business roundtable. WMUR-MAN ABC News 9 Tonight, 5.21.15

-- Reported HRC visiting Smutty Nose Brewery to talk about small businesses, and economic growth in Hampton; reported HRC will be attending a "grassroots organizing event" in Exeter. WMUR-MAN ABC News 9 at Noon , 5.22.15

-- Reported on release of first batch of HRC's emails while Secretary of State; Reported that first batch shows HRC communicated with a "long time advisor" about Libya and Benghazi; Reported HRC turned over 55,000 emails to the State Dept. to review and release; Reported NY Times has released first batch; reported HRC will be campaigning in New Hampshire tomorrow. WMTW ABC WMTW News 8 at 11 , 5.21.15

-- Reported Jeb Bush's visit to NH; reported HRC will be in New Hampshire. WPFO FOX FOX23 News at 6:30 , 5.21.15

-- Reported HRC is in NH at Smutty Nose Brewery now. WGME CBS CBS News at Noon , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will be in NH; Reported HRC will be in Hampton to talk with small business owners about taxes, regulation, and access to capital; reported Jeb Bush and Chris Christie already made stops in NH. WGME CBS (just before CBS This Morning), 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will be in NH for second time during her campaign; Reported HRC's first stop will be in Hampton to talk with small business owners about taxes, regulations, and access to capital; reported HRC will then attend a party with supporters in Exeter; reported HRC's second visit "mirrors" her first visit, when she attended small meetings, visited a furniture factory, and attended several house parties. WPFO FOX Good Day Maine , 5.22.15

-- Reported social media is becoming bigger player in presidential election; Reported HRC had 71,000 New Hampshire visitors to her Facebook Page, the next closest being Ted Cruz with 29,000; quoting Kevin Deane, NH1 News Digital Director, "With regards to social media: no offense to Twitter, but the best way to reach people is through Facebook." WBIN NH1 News Tonight , 5.21.15

-- Reported the release of HRC's emails immediately following Benghazi; reported that she sent emails out on her private account and sent "sensitive information" through public servers; reported HRC had a "number" of exchanges with Sid Blumenthal (but then only says 2 emails); Contradictory emails to Sid: one said attack inspired by Youtube video, the other said it was a terrorist attack; reported the Benghazi attack left 4 dead, including "Winchester native Glen Doherty"; reported HRC will is now frontrunner for Democratic nomination, and will be in New Hampshire tomorrow; reported Jeb Bush wrapped up swing through NH; quoted Jeb Bush critiquing his brother, "…could have brought budget discipline…"; reported Jeb Bush complimented his brother and father on their initiative to combat malaria in Africa. WFXT-BOS Fox 25 News at 6 , 5.21.15

-- Reported HRC returns to NH today; reported HRC will be talking to workers about the economy; reported HRC will be talking about ways to expand small business, and will later travel to Exeter. WBZ-BOS CBS WBZ News , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC is in NH now for the second time; reported HRC will visit Smutty Nose Brewery in Hampton; Reported HRC is supposed to talk about supporting small business, and ways to help them grow; reported HRC

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will later meet with campaigners in Exeter; reported Jeb Bush wrapped up 2 day NH swing; reported Jeb Bush visited Salem Chamber of Commerce; reported Bush took questions from voters; reported Jeb Bush has yet to enter presidential race officially.

WCVB-BOS ABC NewsCenter 5 at Noon , 5.22.15

WCVB-BOS ABC Newscenter 5 Eyeopener , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will visit NH for the second time today; reported HRC will visit Smutty Nose Brewery to meet with small business community; reported HRC will attend a grassroots campaign organizing event in Exeter; reported HRC's campaign kickoff rally will be on June 13th.

WFXT-BOS FOX 25 Morning News , 5.22.15

WFXT-BOS FOX 25 Morning News , 5.22.15

WFXT-BOS FOX 25 Morning News , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will back in NH today, for second time; reported HRC will be attending events Hampton and Exeter; reported HRC announced her campaign kickoff via Twitter, and will be on June 13; reported HRC's campaign has not announced where rally will be held. WHDH-BOS NBC 7News Today in New England , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC will be in NH today; reported HRC will talk about ideas to strengthen small business in Hampton; reported HRC will attend a grassroots event in Exeter.

WBZ-BOS CBS WBZ This Morning , 5.22.15

WBZ-BOS WBZ This Morning , 5.22.15

WBZ-BOS CBS WBZ This Morning , 5.22.15

South Carolina:

-- Reported HRC "presidential hopeful" will "have her sights set on South Carolina new week," Reported HRC will be visiting Columbia next Wednesday; reported HRC campaigners in Columbia will organize neighborhood party to organize campaign efforts, and how to get more involved in the political process; reported HRC will hold first major campaign rally; reported HRC has had several events already, but so far have been "invitation only roundtables with small groups"; reported HRC campaign is "staying secret" about where the speech will be held, who will be invited, or what issues HRC will cover.

WOLO-COL ABC Columbia News at Noon , 5.22.15

WOLO-COL ABC Good Morning Columbia , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC opened her campaign headquarters in Columbia; reported HRC's first major rally will be on June 13; reported HRC's announcement made via Twitter; reported HRC campaign has yet to announce who will be attending, where it will be held, and "what she plans to talk about"; reported HRC has had several events already, but so far have been "invitation only roundtables with small groups." WACH-COL FOX WACH Fox Good Day, 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC's first major rally will be on June 13; reported HRC's announcement made via Twitter; reported HRC campaign has yet to announce who will be attending, where it will be held, and what issues she will discuss; reported HRC has had several events already, but so far have been "invitation only roundtables with small groups." WCSC-CHS CBS Live 5 News at 6am , 5.22.15

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-- Reported HRC is preparing for her first major campaign rally on June 13th; reported HRC has had several events already, but so far have been invitation only, roundtables with small groups; reported HRC campaign has yet to announce who will be attending the first major campaign rally, where it will be held, and "what issues she will cover." WBTW CBS News 13 This Morning , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC, "presidential frontrunner," stopped in hometown of Chicago; Reported stop in Chicago was "mostly a fundraising event," but HRC also spoke at event for childcare workers; reported HRC stressed the importance of "smaller classes, higher wages, and more training"; quoted HRC, "we have to reduce the overcrowding…increase wages…cannot expect to make a living…doing the most important job…if you have to sacrifice your own family…"; reported event was sponsored by the SEIU; reported HRC stands firmly with Unions and workers' rights to organize.

WTOC-SAV WTOC News at Daybreak 7am , 5.21.15

WTOC News at Daybreak 7am , 5.21.15

-- Reported HRC is getting ready for her first major campaign rally; reported HRC has had several events already, but so far have been invitation only, roundtables with small groups; HRC will give her kickoff speech at that rally, but not details yet about who will be invited, where the rally will be held, and what issues HRC will cover. WTOC-SAV WTOC News at Daybreak 6am , 5.22.15

-- Reported that the first batch of HRC's emails released; reported emails show HRC corresponding with a "long time advisor" about rebellion in Libya and Benghazi attack; reported HRC used private email account rather than govt address; reported HRC has released 55,000 emails to State Dept. for their review and eventual release. WTOC-SAV WTOC News at Daybreak 5am , 5.22.15

-- Reported HRC getting ready for first major campaign rally; reported HRC plans to give kick-off speech June 13th; reported HRC campaign has been staying secret where it will be, who will be invited, and what issues will be covered. WBTV-CLT CBS WBTV News 3 at 6am , 5.22.15

Nevada:

-- Report on HRC's first major campaign rally on June 13th. Said it was announced on Twitter and she has already held several events but they've been small and invite-only. Mentioned her visit in Las Vegas to Rancho HS (Only in NV clip). KSNV NBC Wake Up With The Wagners , Las Vegas (NV),KUTV 2 News at 4:30am , Salt Lake City (UT), 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's first batch of emails being released. Reporter noted that "there are no bombshells" and the emails released seemed to back up HRC's assertion that she didn't receive any classified information on her private email. State Department is working out a time line for releasing the rest of the emails. KRXI FOX 10PM News , Reno (NV), 5.21.15.

Iowa:

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted NYT published nearly 350 pages that showed she received advice on Benghazi from "a longtime friend previously barred by the White House from working for her." Used footage of HRC's Cedar Falls, IA event where she said she wants the emails released as soon as possible. Mentioned that more than 1,200 emails were deemed personal and not part of the federal record and the State Department will be releasing more emails soon. Announced HRC's first major campaign rally on June 13th but campaign staff is keeping the location, audience, and issues covered a secret. Mentioned that she has already held several events but they've been invitation-only roundtables with small groups WOI Local 5 News Midday , Des Moines (IA), 5.22.15

-- Report on HRC's first major campaign event on June 13th. Noted that the location of the event is unknown but campaign staff is teasing that it will be in front of "thousands of people." KCCI 8 News at Ten , Des Moines (IA), 5.21.15, KCCI 8 News This Morning at 4:30am , Des Moines

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(IA), 5.22.15

– Report on HRC's first major campaign event on June 13th. Noted that the announcement was made on Twitter and the location, audience, and issues covered are unknown. Mentioned that she has already held several events but they've been invitation-only roundtables with small groups. KSFY News @ 10:00 , Sioux Falls (ND), 5.21.15, ABC9 News This Morning at 6 , Sioux City (IA), 5.22.19

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/17/2008 5:25:45 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/17/08

Main Topics: Hagel, NAACP, Kimmel mocks Czechoslovakia gaffe,

Summary of Shift: While news relating to the poor economy continued to lead the cycle this morning, most of the stories drifted between entertainment related clips, vice presidential speculation, and other items that could charitably be called fluff. An extended recording of Jesse Jackson's derogatory comments about Obama gained some traction because of Jackson's use of the N word. A group of US airways pilots placed a newspaper ad accusing executives at the company of "intimidation" and that the execs forced the pilots to fly at dangerously slow speeds to save fuel. Despite prior statements that no talks will be held, the Undersecretary of State, William Burns will be attending an international meeting in Iran about nuclear programs, and a diplomatic presence will be established in Iran. Most surprisingly there was no coverage of McCain's Afghanistan speech today.However some stations reported a need for more troops in Afghanistan but most are tied down in Iraq. Other foreign policy related news reflected polls this week which showed McCain stronger than Obama as commander in chief.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Scarborough notes surge wasn't McCain's idea
2. ABC: Jimmy Kimmel highlights Czechoslovakia gaffe, plays mock ad of other long gone countries McCain would help
3. CNN: John McCain gets "kudos for coming" at the NAACP Conference but little else

Local Highlights:
4. 4.WETV ABC Omaha: Reporters note press exclusion, McCain praise for Hagel
5. WXIX FOX Cincinnati: Highlighted that McCain answered questions at NAACP and Obama didn't [No Clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Scarborough Notes Surge Wasn't McCain's Idea (MSNBC 07/17/08)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: That's fine. It's George Bush's surge. I will say John McCain was the one man in Washington who supported that it seemed at the time. But, I wouldn't go around saying that was McCain's idea.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I'm thinking…

WILLIE GESIT: Or that he was the one that wanted Rumsfeld out.

BREZINSKI: Um well give him the credit for not liking Rumsfeld. There was a little friction there.

SCARBOROUGH: He did say Rumsfeld should be fired.

BRZEZINSKI: I think there was legitimate friction.

SCARBOROUGH: Yeah well everybody except George Bush.

Highlight #2
Jimmy Kimmel Highlights Czechoslovakia Gaffe, Plays Mock Ad Of Other Long Gone Countries McCain Would Help (ABC 07-17-08)
JIMMY KIMMEL: Senator John McCain of Arizona is a little confused. Twice in the last few days reference to the country of Czechoslovakia, unfortunately, Czechoslovakia has not existed as a country for about fifteen years. It's two countries now; it's the Czech Republic and Slovakia. And you'd think a guy who can memorize all the items on the early bird menu at Co Co's would get that straight but he can't. And now, some people are worried McCain might be out of touch, a concern his campaign today addressed sternly in this ad we made up.

AD NARRATOR: John McCain will stand strong for America's values abroad. He will fight for freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Abyssinia, Transjordan, Zanzibar, and the Ottoman Empire. And John McCain will stop America's number one enemy: Adolph Hitler. And, he'll free the slaves. John McCain for President. I'm John McCain and I approve this message.

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Highlight #3

John McCain gets "Kudos for Coming" at the NAACP Conference but Little Else (CNN 07/17/08 08:13am)

JOHN ROBERTS: John McCain is probably going to have a hard time convincing African American voters to choose him over Barack Obama. But that wont keep him from trying.

DANA BASH: If your audience is the NAACP and your opponent would be the first black President, you start here:

JOHN MCCAIN: Don't tell him I said this, but he's an impressive fellow in many ways.

BASH: That was John McCain's biggest applause line, an ice breaker about Barack Obama, who got a thunderous reception two days earlier. McCain was greeted with mostly polite clapping; one person was so indifferent he read the paper. McCain came armed with new education initiatives.

MCCAIN: The worst problems of our public school system are often found in black communities.

BASH: He pushed merit pay for teachers, and hit Obama for opposing school vouchers.

MCCAIN: All that went over well with the teachers union, but where does it leave families and their children that are left in failing schools.

BASH**: The reaction: Dead Silence. McCain's chances at winning black votes are incredibly steep. A fresh New York Times Poll shows 89% of black voters support Obama, just 2% say they'll vote for McCain.**

MCCAIN: Whether or not I win your support, I need your goodwill and your council.

BASH: But McCain came looking mostly for just that: goodwill, to show that he's a different kind of Republican. After George Bush was elected he didn't attend the NAACP Conference for 6 years. McCain came and even it opened it up for questions. […] This teacher in an Obama teacher that says teachers can't afford food.

TEACHER: What are you going to do Senator, we can't continue this way.

DANA: I want to reward good teachers.

BASH: If nothing else, kudos for coming. […]

Highlight #4

Local Nebraska Station Covers McCain Limiting Press, Praising Hagel (ABC-KETV 07-16-08)

TODD ANDREWS: A final stop at the strategic air and space museum, his campaign put tight restrictions on what we could show you but we were able to sit down and talk with him briefly. He signaled he was willing to fight hard for Nebraska votes. This despite the history of the state as friendly territory for Republican Presidential hopefuls. Senator John McCain took to the midlands this Wednesday. The Republican Presidential hopefully stopped at Warner Enterprises in Omaha talking to employees about the economy and revisiting campaign promises about the gas tax relief.

JOHN MCCAIN: Americans are hurting right now. Let's give them a little break. That was just stop number one for McCain after he landed at Epply at midday. A bit later supporters, including state GOP leaders, were eagerly awaiting his arrival at a 1,000 a plate dinner. $1,000-a-plate fundraising dinner at the strategic air and space museum.

GOVERNOR HEINMAN: I think it's important that we have a man who will hopefully be the next president of the united states right here in the eastern part of the state.

MCCAIN: I think the campaign may be won or lost to a large degree by a lot of the

ANDEWRS: We spoke to McCain one-on-one just before the fundraiser. Among the chief issues on his mind: fighting hard for the hearts of Nebraska voters and not assuming anything.

MCCAIN: I'm confident of winning Nebraska - but I have to campaign everywhere; I have to convince every voter.

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ANDREWS: McCain hopes to win them over by pressing home his message of experience and reiterating the differences between his ideas and those of Barack Obama. McCain believes his ideas resonate better with Nebraskans; especially when it comes to energy and taxes.

MCCAIN: They want us to drill offshore, and they want us to go with nuclear power and solar and tide and wind. And they want their taxes kept low. Senator Obama will raise their taxes, I'll lower them.

ANDREWS: And in regards to his chances nationwide this November? Well he readably acknowledges the campaign trail ahead is a long one.

MCCAIN: We're in a very competitive race. I'm the underdog; we've got a lot of work to do.

ANDREWS: Among the other topics discussed with McCain today: his thoughts on VP rumors surrounding US Senator Chuck as Hagel is set to accompany Barack Obama on a trip to the Middle East. McCain actually said he's "pleased" that Hagel is going on that trip and McCain says he's not worried about whether it's pertinent for the Presidential race ahead.

KRISTI ANDERSEN: Thanks Todd. As we mentioned there were several rules McCain had in place for who we could and could not have access to. One of the things we weren't allowed into: the actually fundraising event.

NICHOLE BERLIE: Meantime Nebraska Democrats poked fun at the 1,000 a plate dinner with their own fundraiser of 5 dollar a head hot dog dinner at Mahoney State Park. Democratic leaders say their ability to throw together this last minute event shows that their party is energized for this election.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 9/11/2008 6:01:58 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 09/11/08

Main Topics: Troopergate Investigation, Palin Returns to Alaska, Sad/Lonely Solo McCain, 'Third Term' Promotion

Summary of Shift:

The Obama "lipstick on a pig" comments continue to generate discussion now that Obama has hit back, saying enough of the silly politics. John McCain and Sarah Palin had their last joint campaign event together yesterday in Virginia, their largest crowds yet, before Palin returns to Alaska to speak at her son Track's troop deployment to Iraq. Palin was both praised for drawing huge excitement and large crowds to McCain's events in the past week, with many speculating that it'll be quiet for McCain on the road without her. Some bloggers and commentators have even suggested that the ticket should be flipped, as Palin is the real star. But with new celebrity comes judgment and investigations into Palin's record continue to draw concerns over her attempts to ban library books, her flip flop on the bridge to nowhere, and a state investigation into the firing of her Public Safety Commissioner over personal reasons.

Today is the seventh anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, with McCain, Obama, Bush, and others giving speeches, reflecting, and paying their respects with the rest of the nation and the world on this day that changed America and Republican political strategy forever. Paul Begala was on the Today show promoting his new book and movie, "Third Term". It was revealed that President Bush signed off on secret raids on Taliban militants and Osama Bin Laden within Pakistan several months ago, without the government of Pakistan's approval. Investigators at the Department of the Interior say 19 government workers accepted gifts, rigged contracts, and engaged in illicit sex with energy company executives. Failed to collect in $10 billion dollars in oil revenues last year. FEMA blamed for wasting at least $1 billion dollars in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Ike approaches the Texas Gulf Coast as a Category 3 storm.

Highlights:

1. ABC: GMA Investigates Sarah Palin's Troopergate Scandal
2. ABC: Army of Bush Aides Working With Palin In Preparation of Solo Campaigning/Interviews
3. ABC: Sarah Palin Using Son's Iraq Deployment for Sympathy Points, While Raising Safety Concerns Doing So
4. CNN: As Palin Arrives Returns to Alaska She is Greeted By Cheering Fans and Screaming Mad Protesters
5. CNN: McCain Getting Drowned Out By Obama Protesters Without Palin, Expect More of McCain and Palin Campaigning Together
6. CNN: Earmark Checking: Palin Camp Guilty of Big Bucks and Connections to Scandalous Lobbyists
7. CNN: Fact Checking Palin on Bridge to Nowhere and Library Book Banning, McCain on Fuel Efficiency Standards
8. NBC: Begala Interviewed About 'Third Term'; Questioned About Lipstick Controversy, Poor Poll Numbers
9. FNC: Blogger Comments On Palin Bashing, Her Popularity Domination Over McCain, and Wish for Flipped Ticket

Highlights, No YouTubes:

1. CBS - CRAIG FERGUSON: Why are we talking about animals in cosmetics? Why is John McCain hanging around while his vice presidential candidate is out campaigning to be President?
2. ABC - GEORGE STEPHANOPOULIS: They come from the Quinnipiac polling service, a very reliable polling service, and they show a close race. It is likely to go down to the wire again. John McCain ahead by seven points in Florida, 50 to 43. But Barack Obama ahead in the other two big swing battleground states, 49 to 44 in Ohio, remember George Bush one that state four years ago, and 48 to 45 in Pennsylvania. That's a little closer than Barack Obama might like, but remember if you go back to 1960 no one has won the presidency without winning two of these three big battleground states. And Obama ahead in two of them right now. […] If you're going to pay attention to one state this year, it's got to be Ohio. No Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio, and again, we remember four years ago it was so close there. George W. Bush winning by only about 100,000 votes. Both campaigns are targeting now, the Obama campaign has ramped up their turnout operation, particularly in the big cities and on college campuses. But the McCain campaign hopes the pick of Sarah Palin will energize their voters, particularly in Southern Ohio.
3. FNC - CHRIS KOFINIS: I think part of it had to do with that people weren't really happy with John McCain as a candidate. And I think, to that extent, the McCain campaign did a smart thing by choosing someone that was going to excite their base.

Clips:

Headline #1

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GMA Investigates Sarah Palin's Troopergate Scandal (ABC 09/11/08 7:30am)
BRIAN ROSS: This is the most serious cloud hanging over Sarah Palin, a state investigation into whether she lied or abused her power as governor when she fired the Alaska Public Safety Commissioner two months ago. And it has turned into a major issue in the state. This April, at a conference at Alaska's Epidemic Problem of Domestic and Sexual Violence, Governor Sarah Palin had nothing but praise for the work of Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monigan.

SARAH PALIN: An indication of our commitment is the participation here of my, of our Department of Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monigan's participation here, and all of his hard work. And I want to publicly thank him.

ROSS: Three months later, she fired Monigan, supposedly because he was not a team player on budget issues. But Monigan spent the day Wednesday testifying before an Alaska investigator, saying that the real reason for his abrupt dismissal was that he refused to fire the Governor's ex-brother-in-law from the state police, after a messy divorce. Monigan declined to comment as he left. Governor Palin calls Monigan's claims outrageous. **But Monigan told ABC News he would provide the committee with proof to back up his claim that she abused her office to settle a personal score.**

SEN. HOLLIS FRENCH: She had two conversations with Walt Monigan, and had sent him some emails. So the idea that there had been no contact and no pressure doesn't stand up.

ROSS: The case is the talk of Alaska. And Monigan is now picking up support in his battle against Palin from groups involved in protecting women from domestic and sexual abuse, like those at this Anchorage shelter. It was a cause Monigan had embraced.

GERAN TARR: When she let go of Commissioner Monigan, the women's lobby and our members were disappointed.

ROSS: Some women's groups say the Governor, unlike Monigan, has failed to take decisive action to support programs to protect women like Maxxie, nearly beaten to death by her husband. According to the FBI, Alaska is first in the nation per capita for rapes and second for murder of women by men.

TARR: We have not seen Governor Palin do anything that would indicate this is a priority.

ROSS: The Governor's former press secretary says Palin does care about the issue deeply.

MEGAN STAPLETON: One of the Governor's number one priorities since first taking office has always been to attack domestic violence in the state of Alaska.

ROSS: But at the Domestic Violence Conference in April, Palin said the proof of her concern for the issue was her Public Safety Commissioner, Walt Monigan.

PALIN: Not just talking about it, but finding the solutions and plugging them in, and I want to publicly thank Walt for having his heart in the right place in his efforts too.

ROSS: The man she would later fire. The state committee wants to issue a final report in the next few weeks. **The McCain campaign has launched an attack on its credibility, saying for or five of its members are democrats supporting Barack Obama. They fail to tell us that the other ten members of the committee are Republicans.**

Headline #2
Army of Bush Aides Working With Palin In Preparation of Solo Campaigning/Interviews (ABC 09/11/08 7:15am)
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULIS: […] There is some danger in John McCain in the silly season as well, as he throws out these attacks day after day they may put Obama on the defensive, **but at least the Obama campaign hopes that they also may start to chip away at John McCain's maverick record and his reputation for integrity.**

ROBIN ROBERTS: Obama wants to focus on the economy, but as you know, the focus has been on Governor Sarah Palin. She has a big interview today in Alaska with our Charlie Gibson. And her popularity no doubt is soaring, but this is the first time she's had to answer questions about her record. What does she need to do

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today?

STEPHANOPOULIS: Well you know, she's been cramming for this as well. There's an army of former Bush aides who are out there working with her every free moment between her stump speeches. She's got to show that she can handle the questions, show that she's ready for this job as vice president, and show familiarity with the issues. We'll see how it goes the next couple of days.

Headline #3
Sarah Palin Using Son's Iraq Deployment for Sympathy Points, While Raising Safety Concerns Doing So (ABC 09/11/08 7:07am)
ROBIN ROBERTS: Governor Palin is in Alaska to attend a deployment ceremony for her son, private first class Track Palin, who's army infantry unit is heading to Iraq. In this election, the issue of the Iraq War a deeply personal one for both the Republican and the Democratic tickets.

JOHN BERMAN: **Sarah Palin won't just be attending that, she'll be giving a speech and it will be open to television cameras. It's such a drastic difference from the way her own running mate, John McCain, handled his own sons deployment.** And it's part of what makes this campaign so fascinating, three out of the four candidates have sons headed to Iraq or have been there already. Private first class Track Palin, Captain Beau Biden, both headed to Iraq in the next few weeks. Marine Lance Corporal Jimmy McCain has been there already. Jimmy's six month deployment came and went with hardly any public notice. Why? Because John McCain never mentioned it on the stump. Literally, never. That stands in stark contrast to what Governor Sarah Palin told more than 40 million viewers about her son during the Republican convention last week.

SARAH PALIN: One week from tomorrow, September 11th, he'll deploy to Iraq with the army infantry in the service of his country.

JOHN NAGL: It is the mark of an enthusiastic mother, I think, and a very proud mother. **But it does impose, conceivably, some risks on the soldier and the unit.**

BERMAN: There are no military restrictions about what family members can say about their kids. **But many candidates say that they don't want to politicize service, and have held back on specifics like deployment dates because of safety concerns.**

NAGL: There is always a risk when you talk about troop movements. There is a risk that terrorists could try to take advantage of the fact that they know when flights are leaving.

BERMAN: As for the children themselves, there are some rules. They're not supposed to discuss the details of their missions. Which explains Beau Biden's coded speech at the Democratic convention. Military officials and analysts tell us that Palin and Biden's kids will not get special treatment while overseas, but the one thing that will almost definitely change that is when someone wins the election. They say in this day in age the military would almost definitely have to take into account the child of a president, or a vice president in service.

Headline #4
As Palin Arrives Returns to Alaska She is Greeted By Cheering Fans and Screaming Mad Protesters (CNN 09/11/08 7:57am)
JESSICA YELLIN: An excited crowd of several thousand chanted Sarah! As the Governor's plane touched down to the soundtrack from the movie Top Gun. **Palin gave the standard stump speech we've heard her give for the last week, but with a few tweaks. [...] Palin also skipped her lines boasting that she killed that bridge to nowhere, a topic that stirred some controversy around the nation and especially here in Alaska.** Now folks we talked to who were there to support her say they like her because she's down to earth, she's a fighter. They think she took on oil companies on behalf of the little guy. **Protesters outside though were carrying signs that said, "Sarah is a good old boy" and "Folks in Alaska know Sarah's not qualified to be V.P." So there's even some tension in Alaska over Palin's selection to be John McCain's running mate.** Now Palin is in town to see her son attend a deployment ceremony today. He will ship off to Iraq in the next few weeks as part of the first striker brigade. All we can say about what he'll do there is that he will serve in northern Iraq.

Headline #5
McCain Getting Drowned Out By Obama Protesters Without Palin, Expect More of McCain and Palin

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Campaigning Together (CNN 09/11/08 8:08am)
DANA BASH: This morning you heard the fact that both candidates are suspending campaigning. […] **He will actually have a pretty low key campaign week for the rest of the week. Why? Because they are pretty happy to leave the spotlight to Sarah Palin.** Their final post-convention rally together and their biggest yet. With Sarah Palin, John McCain is well aware he's ignited a surprising fire for his campaign, and he's doing everything he can to stoke it. […] **But McCain's advisers know Palin's record isn't what's making her a sensation. It's her persona, and they are scrambling to protect it. Assembling a new team of lawyers, researchers, and press aids to try to shape the onslaught of coverage. About everything from earmarks she fought for and against, to rampant rumor she banned books.** Part of protecting Palin's image is trying to sully Barack Obama's, like with this new ad. […] Obama's campaign denied deploying anyone to dig up dirt. After their morning rally, McCain parted ways with Palin to campaign alone for the first time since picking her at a small round table with women at a Philadelphia diner. What a difference without Palin. Chanting outside, not for Sarah, but for Obama. McCain's statement to reporters, drowned out. He was finally forced to stop talking when his supporters got in the mix. All he could do was end with a joke. Now the stark difference between McCain's events with and without Palin is not lost on McCain's advisors. In fact, they say that when Palin returns from Alaska this weekend, she will finally have her first solo campaign trip to some battleground states. **But they say to look for McCain and Palin together again soon. In fact, they say to look to them together a lot more between now and November then most running mates usually are.**

Headline #6
Earmark Checking: Palin Camp Guilty of Big Bucks and Connections to Scandalous Lobbyists (CNN 09/11/08 6:45am)
BRIAN TODD: As all four candidates get into the back and forth of who can really change things in this town, we found that these four really run the gambit for genuine reform credentials, to old lying and power politics. The hot debate now, who will really change the way Washington does business. Both campaigns taking aim at an old staple of machine politics, those sometimes wasteful funding requests made by lawmakers, often for their home districts. John McCain's been a crusader against so called earmarks and he says his opponents asked for almost a billion dollars in pork barrel projects for his state in just less than four years in the US Senate. According to the non-partisan watchdog group, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Barack Obama has asked for nearly a billion dollars in earmarks during his Senate term. But the group gives him credit for disclosing his requests which most members of Congress don't do. Obama's made no requests for the next fiscal year, and even when he was asking for earmarks, he was far from the worst offender.

STEVE ELLIS: Just to put it into perspective, he got 98 million dollars worth of earmarks in fiscal year 2008. Senator Clinton got more than 300 million dollars in earmarks, and Senator Cochran, republican ranking member of the Appropriations Committee got more than 800 million dollars in earmarks.

TODD: Obama's running mate doesn't come close to that. But Joe Biden also has never disclosed what he's asked for, until this year. Biden's office says he's requesting about 300 million dollars. The Obama campaign points out that while **McCain has never asked for earmarks, his running mate hardly has room to talk. […] According to state records and Taxpayers for Common Sense, Sarah Palin has asked for about $450 million dollars in Federal money since she became Governor.** But she also gets some credit.

ELLIS: As Governor, she has by all records, started to reduce the number of earmark requests. So, it's a downward trajectory by our analysis. But still, significant earmark requests.

TODD: And Palin got into the earmarking early, before she even became Governor. According to state records and Tax Payers for Common Sense, she helped get about $27 million dollars, some of which went to the small Alaskan town of Wasilla during her second term as mayor there, from 1998 to 2002. The watchdog groups says one reason that Palin was able to get all that for her small town, she hired a lobbying firm run from a former staffer for Senator Ted Stevens, one of Washington's most legendary earmarkers.

Headline #7
Fact Checking Palin on Bridge to Nowhere and Library Book Banning, McCain on Fuel Efficiency Standards (CNN 09/11/08 7:14am)
JOHN ROBERTS: How bad have the false statements gotten on both sides of the political fence here?

BILL ADAIR: Boy it's really kicked into overdrive, especially since the conventions. That really seemed to be a turning point. We're at the point now where both campaigns are actually using our claims to justify opposing

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views. So, our truth-o-meter's been overheating lately.

ROBERTS: […] Sarah Palin, one of the big issues here is this bridge to nowhere, whether she supported it or didn't support it. […] We also heard her on the campaign trail during the gubernatorial campaign in 2006, apparently supporting the bridge. So where does the truth-o-meter come down on this idea of her being the person who killed the bridge?

ADAIR: Well, we gave it initially a, we gave the t.v. ad a "barely true," because it's important to recognize she initially supported the bridge when she was a candidate, and then opposed it. It's not like she boldly stood up and said, Congress I don't want the money, it was only after there was tremendous public opposition to it. So we gave the claim from the t.v. ad that she stopped it a "barely true", and on our flip-o-meter we gave her a full flop for flip-flopping on the issue.

ROBERTS: Because she had, as we said, during the 2006 gubernatorial campaign at least given it tacit support. She said that she wouldn't stand in the way of it, and then after she became governor said she was going to refuse the money for the bridge, though they still accepted the money, didn't they?

ADAIR: They did, and that's why we gave the ad a "barely true", because it's not like she stood up and said, no Congress, we won't take this, this is pork. **She was very much in the culture of Alaska, which is accepting tons of public money for infrastructure like roads and things. So it's not the way it's been portrayed.**

ROBERTS: A couple of things we got to get to quickly is, while there's an email circulating that Governor Palin tried to ban books from the Wasilla Public Library as mayor. Among those books, Huckleberry Finn and Harry Potter. What did you have to find about that?

ADAIR: We gave this one a "pants on fire" on our truth-o-meter, which is the lowest rating. This list is a complete fabrication, as you mentioned, the Harry Potter books were actually published after the incident occurred where she inquired about banning some books. So this one gets a "pants on fire".

ROBERTS: Ok, so she did not try to ban books as mayor of Wasilla. […] Obama has been attacking McCain's energy records, saying that McCain has said, no to higher fuel-efficiency standards for cars, no to investment in renewable energy, no to renewable fuels. True or untrue?

ADAIR: Specifically, the claim about fuel efficiency standards, we gave that one a "barely true", because McCain actually was a leader in trying to raise fuel efficiency standards and the Obama campaign has been sort of cherry picking there, picking votes where McCain voted against it, but ignoring the fact that he was a leader in another bill. So that one gets a "barely true". And I need to just point out something, you mentioned earlier about her not trying to ban books. **That list is a fake, there are conflicting claims about what actually happened on the book banning. […] There was definitely a point where Mayor Palin raised the possibility of banning some books.**

Headline #8
Begala Interviewed About 'Third Term'; Questioned About Lipstick Controversy, Poor Poll Numbers (NBC 09/11/08 7:05am)
MEREDITH VIEIRA: Paul Begala is a former strategist for Bill Clinton and an author. His latest book is a harsh critique of Senator John McCain. It's called Third Term: Why George W. Bush Loves John McCain. Paul, good morning to you.

PAUL BEGALA: Good morning. It's a love story.

VIEIRA: Yeah, exactly. We'll get into the love story in a second. You were in the war room in 1992 trying to get Bill Clinton elected to the Presidency. You know a lot about controversies. This lipstick on a pig, any long term repercussions or is this just another diversion.

BEGALA: Well it's a tactical diversion and that suggests-

VIEIRA: A smart one?

BEGALA: For the McCain camp, very smart, sure. They are, these campaigns have two totally different goals. The McCain campaign's job is to try to distract people from the fact that you know in the lives of most people the economy is going in the wrong direction, health care is going in the wrong direction, the whole country is going in

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the wrong direction. Oh wait look at this shiny object over here, you know, let's make a preposterous allegation of sexism because you use a common phrase. The Obama campaign's job is the opposite. They need to label that, set it aside, and say here's why they're doing it because they don't want you to remember for the last 8 years-

VIEIRA: But Obama-

BEGALA: -they've run the country.

VIEIRA: -said lipstick, it must, the minute it came out of his mouth he must have thought geez, I probably shouldn't have even gone down this road.

BEGALA: Well, but see, you can't let them get into your head like that. You know, I just think this has been a frankly it's been in the news media seizing on it, great success for the McCain campaign. There are people in the McCain campaign every morning who get up and say, how do we distract people from the fact that two million folks are about to lose their homes, seven million have lost their health care? How do we distract from the fact that our guy votes with Bush 91% of the time. Oh I have a good idea, let's accuse Barack Obama of sexism. He was raised by a single mom, he must hate women. See, it's crazy.

VIEIRA: But you know they also may be thinking that happened during the primaries, Obama and his camp were accused of sexism by the Clintons. And with some people, that resonated. There are people that you know, Clinton supporters to this day believe that she was treated differently because she was a woman.

BEGALA: Yeah I think most of the complaints are with he media than with the candidate, than with Obama himself. I will note there was at least one really astonishing moment in the primaries when somebody went up to John McCain at a town hall meeting and used the b word to describe Senator Clinton. And he laughed and said good question. Now that was a time for him to show some real leadership so you know McCain has got very thin ice here he's skating on when he says the word lipstick is offensive but the b word he thinks is ok to Hillary Clinton?

VIEIRA: Let's talk about what Karl Rove said in the Wall St. Journal today because you actually brought it up. Of all the advantages Gov. Sarah Palin has brought to the GOP ticket, the most important may be that she has gotten into Barack Obama's head. Has she effectively gotten into his head?

BEGALA: Oh I think certainly into the campaign's head, who knows you know I don't want to pretend I can peer into Senator Obama's head itself. But yes, because there's this enormous distraction. This has been the benefit of picking someone who's never been vetted, who we have no idea about John McCain himself only met once. And I think it's actually a way that Bush has gotten into McCain's head. Just like Bush, John McCain goes rash, reckless, goes with his gut. You know, he didn't think this thing through. And, politically it's working out but I'd say governmentally, this is going to be really difficult I think for McCain to pull off.

VIEIRA: We also have a poll that particularly resonates today, on 9/11 the anniversary of 9/11. People were asked who they think would be a better commander in chief more straight forward, stronger leadership qualities, McCain on all of those. So, how does Obama turn that around?

BEGALA: A couple ways. I thought when Obama spoke in Denver, he was strong, he was clear, he went right at McCain on those questions. And then second, putting the last eight years on trial, asking people do you really feel safer, are we safer? You know, the Bush administration, with McCain support, I think has not made our ports safer, not our nuclear plants, they couldn't even protect us from Mexican jalapeños that flipped across the border in Texas and attacked our intestines. Okay, this is a crowd that has failed the last eight years, and I think Barack needs to that. Put Bush and McCain on trial. John McCain's running mate for Barack Obama should never be Sarah Palin, it should always be George W. Bush. He should tell the folks 91%, if your momma and my momma on election day realize that 91% of the time, McCain is wih Bush, Barack'll win.

VIEIRA: And very quickly on your book I want to make sure I plug this, but also you say it's a love story, you talk about the hug between Bush and McCain 2004 campaign, Bush's campaign was a defining moment for McCain's candidacy coming up and whom he is as a candidate. What do you mean?

BEGALA: He made a fundamental choice about his life and his career. He was going to be a Bush Republican. He'd been a very conservative Republican, and then for awhile when he ran for President he was pretty moderate. For about five minutes he was pro-choice. For literally one minute, during a commercial break he was for gay rights, gay marriage in fact even on Hardball, Chris Matthew's show, but he made that choice to hug Bush and he embraced him, he embraced his philosophy, we're seeing he's embraced his style of politics, and

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again that's the Obama campaign needs to do here. They need to make this a choice between the past and Bush and McCain and the future, Obama and Biden.

VIEIRA: Okay you look at our poll and again when you talk about change, his numbers are going up. McCain's are going up.

BEGALA: They are, they are, he's, McCain is doing his job, the question is has he done his job the last eight years supporting Bush all this time. Obama needs to do his job as well but we're only beginning to get into this. We're about 53 days to go and I think we aint see nothing yet.

VIEIRA: Alright Paul Begala thanks very much. If you'd like to read an excerpt from Third Term: Why George W. Bush Loves John McCain, you can find one at our website at todayshow.com

Headline #9
Blogger Comments On Palin Bashing, Her Popularity Domination Over McCain, and Wish for Flipped Ticket (FNC 09/11/08 7:59am)
STEVE DOOCY: […] Are the media going overboard with so called, PDS, Palin derangement syndrome?

MICHELLE MALKIN: […] I think PDS is rivaling Bush derangement syndrome in craziness. It's not just the blog-o-sphere, it's the entertainment industry. […] This is the full employment act for the internet, debunking all of the rumors and the smears, and these outbreaks. I mean, just most recently of course yesterday, you had Matt Damon and Roger Ebert, you've had Woopi Goldberg, all bashing Sarah Palin, questioning her parenthood abilities, going after her family. And you've got it on these big giant entertainment outlets as well. I've been following US Weekly and the backlash there, and they are hurting so badly guys, that they are begging people who are cancelling their subscriptions to stay on and promising to give them five extra free issues. So it really is ridiculous. And to tie this to September 11th, I just want to mention one particularly odious and vulgar person who has been bashing Sarah Palin. There was a comedian from Britain, Russell Brand, who hosted the MTV VMA's, this guy's idea of humor and the reason he came to fame in Britain was because he thought it would be funny to dress up as Osama Bin Laden the day after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Ok? This is the guy that VIACOM and MTV hired to host the VMA's during the seventh anniversary of the week of 9/11.

BRIAN KILMEADE: Unbelievable, that's what VIACOM wants out there. […]

[…]

BRIAN KILMEADE: Hey, Senator McCain, I know you were slow to get on his bandwagon. Is he winning you over?

MALKIN: He's not. She is. And I think you're hearing that sentiment from the thousands of people who are showing up at these massive rallies, pictures of which you are not seeing on the front page of the New York Times or the Washington Post in the same way the slapped Obama's on there. **But these voters are driving many hours to see these McCain-Palin rallies are going there to see Sarah Palin. She is the real star here. And there are a lot of folks among the conservative base that think the ticket really should be flipped.**

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/21/2008 7:50:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Harrisburg, PA 10/21/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Lisa, on the ground in Harrisburg. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Continues to hit on Biden-Crisisgate-- Adds anecdote: Biden referred to how JFK was tested in Cuban missile crisis. i was involved in that, on board the USS Enterprise, we had a target. we came so close. america does not need a president who needs to be tested. i've been tested my friends
- On drilling, contrasts his approach with Obama's: we wont delay, "we wont consider," we will do it.
- Says Obama is picking his Cabinet -- Adds Barney Frank to the Obama-Pelosi-Reid triumverate of undesirables, accusing Frank of wanting to "redistribute the wealth"
- McCain continues hammering Obama for wanting to "spread the wealth" with another "phony tax cut ... government giveaway"

Harrisburg, PA: McCain Rally 10/21/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Cindy McCain intros McCain
    - TY for your kind support, generosity, your belief in my husband for all these months
    - when we decided to do this, we sat down as a fam -- it takes a fam to do this -- some of the most important reasons are b/t the mccain and palin fam, where we have 3 active duty kids serving-- jack in navy, jimmy in marine corps, and jack palin in the army -- it is b/c of those 3 men and your sons and daughters serving that i belive that my husband should be the next president -- his experience, his leadership and most of all his character, he would make the best president -- has served his country since he was 17 and since then he has always put country first [thank you john! thank you john!] -- **he has inspired our kids and so many others around the world to serve causes greater than self interest, not just put campaign first but each other first**
    - our camp stands for reform, peace and prosperity -- the only person in this race who truly knows to lead and who doesnt have to wait 60 days to learn how to do the job is john mccain
- 750 people, at capacity
- Tracker didn't see any demonstrators

Speech Highlights

TY TY now you see why they often say in AZ why isnt she the candidate? cindy's done great job for our campaign and as mother. and so proud to have sarah palin. TY Rep. Todd Platz, doing a great job as your Rep. and Sen. Jim Rhoades suffered a tragic accident (http://www.wnep.com/Global/story.asp?S=9200083) and our thoughts and prayers go out to him. id like to say how important and how happy i am to be here in PA - we need to win PA and we'll bring real change to DC- TY for this turnout and warmth and enthusiasm. in next 14 days we're gonna GOTV and win this. and you know, last wk it almost [yelling , McCain alaughs] it almost seemd like there were 3 candidates: obama me and JTP.

joe can claim achievement that few can top, only one to get straight answer out of obama about his plans for this country.

Now, Joe didn't ask for Senator Obama to come to his house, and he didn't ask to be famous. He certainly didn't ask for the political attacks on him from the Obama campaign. like so many americans, Joe's dream is to own a small business that will create jobs, and the attacks on him are an attack on small businesses all over the country. Small businesses employ 84 percent of Americans, and we need to support small businesses, not tax them the way obama wants to.

After months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned what Senator Obama's economic goal is. As he told Joe, he wants to spread the wealth around. He believes in redistributing wealth, not in policies that grow our economy and create jobs and opportunities for all Americans. Senator Obama is more interested in controlling

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who gets your piece of the pie than he is in growing the pie. This explains some big problems with my opponent's claim that he will cut income taxes for 95 percent of Americans. You might ask: How do you cut income taxes for 95 percent of Americans, when more than 40 percent pay no income taxes right now? How do you reduce the number zero?

Well, that's the key to Barack Obama's whole plan: Since you can't reduce income taxes on those who pay zero, the government will write them all checks called a tax credit. And the Treasury will have to cover those checks by taxing other people, including a lot of folks just like Joe. In other words, Barack Obama's plan to raise taxes on some in order to give checks to others is not a tax cut; it's just another government giveaway. We have too much of that already.

The Obama tax increase would come at the worst possible time for America, and especially for small businesses like the one Joe dreams of owning. The small businesses Senator Obama would tax provide 16 million jobs in America. And a sudden tax hike for those businesses will kill jobs at a time when we need to be creating more jobs. I'm not going to let that happen.

America has an alternative to the phony tax cut my opponent started talking about only months ago. The McCain-Palin tax cut is the real thing. We're going to double the child deduction for every family. We will cut the capital gains tax. And we will cut business taxes to help create jobs, and keep American businesses in America.

As Joe has now reminded us all, America didn't become the greatest nation on earth by giving our money to the government to "spread the wealth around." In this country, we believe in spreading opportunity, for those who need jobs and those who create them. And that is exactly what I intend to do as President of the United States.

The next President won't have time to get used to the office. We face many challenges here at home, and many enemies abroad in this dangerous world. This weekend, Senator Biden guaranteed that if Senator Obama is elected, we will have an international crisis to test America's new President. We don't want a President who invites testing from the world at a time when our economy is in crisis and Americans are already fighting in two wars. **Biden referred to how JFK was tested in Cuban missile crisis. i was involved in that, on board the USS Enterprise, we had a target. we came so close. america does not need a president who needs to be tested. i've been tested my friends.** [USA! USA!]

What is more troubling is that Senator Biden told their campaign donors that when that crisis hits, they would have to stand with them because it wouldn't be apparent that Senator Obama would have the right response. Forget apparent. We know Senator Obama won't have the right response.

We've seen the wrong response from him over and over during this campaign. He opposed the surge strategy that is bringing us victory in Iraq and will bring us victory in Afghanistan. He said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. When Russia invaded Georgia, Sen. Obama said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. and btw, i will bring our troops home in honor and victory.

We cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: hoping for our luck to change at home and abroad. We have to act. We need a new direction, and we have to fight for it. I've been fighting for this country since I was seventeen years old, and I have the scars to prove it.

If I'm elected President, I will fight to shake up Washington and take America in a new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I'm not going to spend $750 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people who were devastated by the excesses and greed of Wall Street and Washington.

my friends, home values home values. the subprime disgrace and crisis caused this.

I have a plan to protect the value of your home and get it rising again by buying up bad mortgages and refinancing them so if your neighbor defaults he doesn't bring down the value of your house with him. we've got to have americans keep their dreams of staying in their home and owning a home.

I have a plan to let retirees and people nearing retirement keep their money in their retirement accounts longer so they can rebuild their savings.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them to make America more competitive and create jobs here at

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home. Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse.

Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands and strengthens our economy.

The explosion of government spending over the last eight years has put us deeper in debt to foreign countries that don't have our best interests at heart. It weakened the dollar and made everything you buy more expensive.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money. Senator Obama will. And he can't do that without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes.

If I'm elected President, I won't fine small businesses and families with children. Senator Obama will. He will force them into a new huge government run health care program, while he keeps the cost of the fine a secret until he hits you with it. I will bring down the skyrocketing cost of health care with competition and choice to lower your premiums, and make it more available to more Americans. I'll make sure you can keep the same health plan if you change jobs or leave a job to stay home.

I will provide every single American family with a $5000 refundable tax credit to help them purchase health care insurance. Workers who already have insurance from their employers will keep it and have more money to cover costs. Workers who don't have health insurance can use it to find a policy anywhere in this country to meet their basic needs.

If I'm elected President, I won't make it harder to sell our goods overseas and kill more jobs. Senator Obama will. I will open new markets to goods made in America and make sure our trade is free and fair. And I'll make sure we help workers who've lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

Senator Obama wants to raise taxes and restrict trade. The last time America did that in a bad economy it led to the Great Depression. They say those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. Well, my friends, I know my history lessons, and I won't make the mistakes Senator Obama seeks to repeat.

If I'm elected President, we're going to stop sending $700 billion to countries that don't like us very much.

in the debate we had the other night -- i think it went pretty well -- you have to admire his eloquence, but you have to listen to his words. he said he would quote "consider" offshore drilling. consider. **we wont delay, wont consider, we will do it.** [drill baby drill!] he'll argue to delay drilling for more oil and gas and against building new nuclear power plants in America. If I am president, we will start new drilling now. We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. **We will invest in clean coal technology that can turn the economy of this state around**. USA is sitting on world's largest supply of coal. Clean coal tech will reduce greenhouse emissions, itll save money. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs.

Let me give you the state of the race today. We have 14 days to go. We're a few points down. The national media has written us off.

Just the other day, Senator **Obama's campaign announced that he is choosing his cabinet.** He's measuring the drapes, and planning with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid to raise taxes, increase spending. Just last night, **Barney Frank [boos], one of the most powerful members of Congress, said guess what, he wants to raise taxes and redistribute the wealth. and pelosi and reid want to concede defeat in Iraq**, i will never do that. But they forgot to let you decide. My friends, as we've said several times in the past, we've got them just where we want them.

What America needs in this hour is a fighter; someone who puts all his cards on the table and trusts the judgment of the American people. I have fought for you most of my life. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to do it from the sidelines.

I know you're worried. America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

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My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I'm an American. And I choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

TY and god bless!

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
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202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/29/2015 3:12:43 AM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Why the face?

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for July 29th

Skimm'd after a late-night grocery run

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have asked Hermes to debaptize the Birkin Croco" — Jane Birkin. The actress wants her name removed from Birkin bags made with crocodile skin. She's not happy with how the animals are killed to make the bags. Leading many to wonder how one debaptizes a handbag.

SKIMM THIS

SPY

THE STORY

Yesterday, Jonathan Pollard — a convicted spy for Israel — was granted parole after 30 years behind bars.

WHY IS EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT THIS?

It's been a controversial issue since he was sentenced to life in prison in 1987. Pollard, who worked for the US Navy, pleaded guilty to giving classified docs to Israel. His supporters, including Israel, said the sentence was too harsh and have been fighting for decades to get him released. The US always said 'nope'…until yesterday, when it was announced Pollard would be freed from prison this November.

WHAT CHANGED?

Some think this has something to do with a little thing called the Iran nuclear deal – which Israel is not on board with. Releasing Pollard could be the US trying to smooth things over with Israel. But the US says the two issues aren't connected.

theSKIMM

The US and Israel's friendship has had some awkward moments recently, and the release of Pollard could ease some of the tension.

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU WAKE UP TO A FULL INBOX...

Overwhelmed. The Eurotunnel knows this problem well. You know it as where the Eurostar runs, or the Chunnel, or the easy way to get from France to Britain. #AbroadProblems. Yesterday in France, more than 2 ,0 00 migrants – many from Africa and the Mideast – tried to storm the tunnel's entrance to get into Britain. This is the second night in a row this has happened. One man was killed, likely by a truck, and the others were blocked by police. For months, thousands of these migrants have been camped out near the tunnel trying to make a move. That's because the Brits have a rep for being more generous with asylum than the French, and for having more job opportunities for low-wage and illegal workers. Refresher: Africa and the Mideast have been more of a mess than usual lately. That's made a lot of people desperate to leave and seek asylum in Western countries. Europe has been trying to figure out how to deal with a huge increase in migrants coming from these areas. Britain and France have been blaming each other for failing to deal with this crisis. Good job, team.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FRIEND WHO'S ALREADY PLANNING A FOOTBALL KICKOFF PARTY...

Don't hold your breath for Tom's RSVP. Yesterday, the NFL upheld New England Patriots QB Tom Brady's four-game suspension for his role in Deflategate. Deflategate: when the Patriots were accused of intentionally deflating game balls to make them easier to grip. Because size matters. Brady's always claimed he knew nothing about this case of shrunken balls syndrome. But then a few months ago, the NFL released a report that said Brady probably knew about it, citing texts between two Pats employees who allegedly did the deed. Problem is, the NFL couldn't see the texts on Brady's phone. Yesterday, it came out that he had the phone destroyed, and the 10,000 texts that could've easily been accessed from it. Next level digital detox.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR CO-WORKER WHO WEARS YOGA PANTS TO THE OFFICE...

Maybe you need a fitness closet.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

Cecil the lion : A popular lion from Zimbabwe, well-known for his black mane. He was killed recently by an American dentist. As if you needed another reason to avoid a root canal.

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You're already waking up with theSkimm. Now it's time to wake up with some Skimm swag . If you share enough, you could be getting a sleep mask, coffee mug, and coffee on us.
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SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

'indicates Skimm'bassador. Go shawty.

'Diana Filo (Philadelphia, PA); ***Sherril Theis** (San Antonio, TX); ***Stephanie Woolley** (Miami, FL); ***Lindsay Hein** (Madison, WI); ***Krissy Cabeen** (Beavercreek, OH); ***Kelsey Robb** (Boston, MA); ***Jennifer Overhulse** (Verona, KY); ***Brittney Orr** (Ada, OK); ***Julie Goode** (San Jose, CA); *Allison Lau (Montpelier, VT); ***Digvijay Mehra** (New Delhi, India); ***Elizabeth Williams** (Philadelphia, PA); ***Lauren Scally** (Baltimore, MD); *Marisa Colaneri (New York, NY); ***Michael Marchand** (Steamboat Springs, CO); **Amarit Dulyapaibul** (Chicago, IL); **Justin Kaskel** (New York, NY); **Burton Bridges** (Memphis, TN); **Dana Stone** (New York, NY); **Heather Parentice** (Los Gatos, CA); **Laura Martinez** (Houston,TX**); Alexis Genske** (Pasadena, CA); **Sarah Grace Lebovitz** (Memphis, TN); **Taylor Park** (Alexandria, VA); **Nanci Adinolfi** (Merced, CA); **Janice Ballou** (Dallas, TX) **Andrew Martin** (Warwick, RI); **Kelly Vaile** (New York, NY); **Elizabeth Braun** (Orlando, FL); **Jennifer Labrum** (Concord, CA); **Amy Moroz** (New York, NY); **Summer Clarke** (Kansas City, MO); **Nichole Stephens** (Charlotte, NC); **Meghan Kardok** (Boston, MA); **Eliana Trink** (Tel Aviv, Israel); **Meredith Rebman** (Longview, TX)**; Laura Palka** (Cary, NC); **Kathleen Reynolds** (New York, NY); **Maryann Sparks** (Grand Rapids, MI); **Laura Pritchard** (Bentonville, AR); **Jessica Vass** (Melbourne, Australia); **Carrie Goldfarb** (Oceanside, NY)

Skimm'd something we missed?

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From: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/24/2015 2:58:42 AM
Subject: Re: First Read: Money-in-Politics Stories to Watch for 2016

Can we get info from the foundation about how much they spend on programs? Would be good to remind people in more concrete terms - even on background - about the work of the foundation - speaking fees aside; the money the foundation raises has literally changed lives. Heard about it throughout a trip to Ghana a few years ago and was there with another organization.

On Fri, Apr 24, 2015 at 9:42 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "First Read from NBC News" <email@mail.nbcnews.com>
Date: April 24, 2015 at 9:15:40 AM EDT
To: <Joshschwerin@gmail.com>
Subject: First Read: Money-in-Politics Stories to Watch for 2016
Reply-To: "NBC News Today" <reply-ff2a11787067-60_HTML-4189601-7204487-50@mail.nbcnews.com>

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter brought to you by NBC News' Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann.

FIRST READ: GOP PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS MOSTLY SILENT ON DRONE MISTAKE

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

The Sound of Silence (Almost) From the '16 Candidates on Drone Deaths

If you've been following American politics over the last six years, President Obama could sneeze, and it would produce a flurry of negative statements and reactions from his political opponents. That's what makes yesterday's silence -- or backtracking -- from Republican 2016 presidential candidates regarding the accidental drone killing of two hostages so striking. As the Wall Street Journal writes, some Republican 2016ers chose not to comment on yesterday's news (Jeb Bush, Scott Walker), while two others who staged a 2013 filibuster against U.S. drone policy had no stomach to protest it (Rand Paul and Ted Cruz). "It is a tragedy that these hostages lost their lives," Paul said in a brief statement, per the Journal. "My prayers and thoughts are with their families." Cruz called for investigation into the deaths, but added: "Make no mistake: responsibility for their deaths lies firmly and unequivocally with the terrorists who kidnapped them and forcibly held them in their command center."

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But it's a conversation and debate worth having

Meanwhile, Lindsey Graham -- a hawkish supporter of U.S. intervention overseas -- said, "Collateral damage is part of war. I've got no problem at all with anything that happened, other than my deepest sympathies for those who were held by al Qaeda that became collateral damage." And Marco Rubio added, "We are all safer because of the actions taken every day around the world by our government to go after those who wish Americans harm and to prevent future attacks against us here at home." But what's amazing is that an issue that sparks so much political debate -- Should drones be used in these kinds of operations? What about against American citizens, even those with al Qaeda ties? Should there be more checks and balances? -- the 2016ers essentially punted. These are ALL questions American voters should get answers from the people vying to become the next commander-in-chief. But no one was comfortable having that conversation yesterday. It's a reminder of just how unprepared many of these campaigns are to debate some of the true heavy issues out there.

The Clinton campaign strikes back

Hours after the New York Times reported on a Canadian mining company -- whose principals donated heavily to the Clinton Foundation over the years -- sold its uranium business to Russia (which had to be approved by Hillary Clinton's State Department), the Clinton campaign struck back at the newspaper. It issued these rebuttals to attempt to knock down any quid-pro-quo:

1. Hillary wasn't involved in the State Department's review; it is the assistant secretary of state for economic, energy, and business affairs who makes the call;
2. The main Clinton Foundation donor, Frank Giustra, sold his stake in the Canadian mine business in 2007, so before Hillary became secretary of state;
3. The State Department was one of nine U.S. agencies to review the sale.

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication. But if there's a legitimate criticism of the Clintons here -- especially when it comes to the other articles about the Clinton Foundation and Bill's speaking fees (here and here) -- it's that they were sloppy, bordering on being greedy. As Jonathan Chait writes . "All sorts of unproven worst-case-scenario questions float around the web of connections between Bill's private work, Hillary Clinton's public role as secretary of State, the Clintons' quasi-public charity... But the best-case scenario is bad enough: The Clintons have been disorganized and greedy." Just a reminder: Going after the Clintons on personal money and appearances of conflict of interest was a successful message for candidate Barack Obama in 2007-2008.

Why Ted Cruz skipped the Loretta Lynch vote

He had to catch a flight to a Texas fundraiser: Ted Cruz, who was one of the most vocal critics against Loretta Lynch's nomination for Attorney General, was the only senator to miss her final confirmation vote today because he needed to catch a flight for a previously scheduled commitment in Texas, his campaign told NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Frank Thorp. "He had to catch a flight for a commitment in Texas," Cruz campaign spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said. According to a fundraising invite obtained by Real Clear Politics , Cruz has a fundraiser in Dallas, TX scheduled for 6:00 pm. Cruz spoke on the Senate floor Thursday morning against Lynch's nomination, and then voted against the procedural vote to move forward with consideration of her nomination, something called "cloture." But Cruz missed the actual vote on Lynch's nomination.

Conservative writer

"John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare": Here's a reason you might not want to buy stock in John Kasich's POSSIBLE presidential candidacy: He expanded Medicaid in Ohio. And here's the headline from the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein , one of top conservative wonks: "John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare."

Saturday's two GOP cattle calls

Saturday brings two GOP cattle calls. One is the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition spring kick-off, featuring nine 2016ers -- Cruz, Fiorina, Huckabee, Jindal, Paul, Perry, Rubio, Santorum, and Walker. And the other one is the Republican Jewish Coalition confab in Las Vegas, which will also hear from Cruz and Perry, as well as George W. Bush, John Boehner, and Mitt Romney.

On "Meet" this Sunday

Finally, on "Meet the Press" this Sunday, here's an early look at some of guests: David Boies and Ted Olson (to talk about the Supreme Court's upcoming gay-marriage decision), Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, and cartoonist Garry Trudeau.

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FIRST READ: MONEY-IN-POLITICS STORIES TO WATCH FOR 2016

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

Two other money-in-politics stories to watch in the 2016 race

With all the attention on the Clinton Foundation story -- and with its potential conflicts of interest (see our piece on it yesterday) -- there are two other money-in-politics that should be on everyone's radar screens:

1. **The Koch and Adelson Primaries:** On Monday, the NYT reported that the Koch Brothers had settled on their preferred 2016 candidate - Scott Walker. Then Koch World pushed back on that story, saying they are still holding auditions for their favorite 2016 candidate. But here is a key question: If the Koch Brothers (and their network of wealthy donors) are going to dole out millions and millions of dollars and they're currently auditioning candidates, what are they getting in return for that support? Check out this quote from Charles Koch: "We're telling [GOP candidates] that if they want our support, one way to get it is articulating a good message to help Americans get a better understanding and a better appreciation of how certain policies ... will benefit them and will benefit all America." What policies are those? Here's NBC's Leigh Ann Caldwell on Scott Walker's ties to the Koch Brothers.

And it's just not the Koch Primary. This coming Saturday, at least two Republican presidential contenders -- Ted Cruz and Rick Perry -- are going to Las Vegas to speak at the Sheldon Adelson-backed Republican Jewish Coalition confab. In the 2012 cycle, Adelson and his wife donated nearly $100 million to GOP outside groups, including Super PACs supporting Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

2. Jeb Bush in uncharted Super PAC waters: On Tuesday, the AP reported that Jeb Bush plans to outsource his TV ads, direct mail, and data gathering to his Super PAC, Right to Rise. What's noteworthy here is that, according to campaign-finance laws, there is supposed to be NO coordination between a candidate and a Super PAC. But Jeb Bush is exploiting a loophole -- and potentially violating at least the SPIRIT of these laws -- because he's not officially a presidential candidate. So he's raising money for this Super PAC and putting his key personnel there. The moment he declares his candidacy (in June?), he'll stop his role with the Super PAC. But by then, it will have all the money (through unlimited donations) and infrastructure it needs.

Bank on it: The Super PACs will outspend the campaigns -- at least during the primary season

When it comes to Jeb Bush's Super PAC, maybe the biggest consequence of it is that, in 2016, we're going to see the Super PACs outspend the actual campaigns, at least during the primary season. As the New York Times' Nick Confessore points out, the Romney campaign spent about $76 million in the 2012 primary season, while the main pro-Romney Super PAC spent $49 million. As Confessore mused, it's easy to see how that ratio shifts for Jeb Bush -- and perhaps the other GOP candidates as well.

Obama visits Florida Everglades to mark Earth Day

USA Today : "President Obama spends Earth Day on Wednesday in the Florida Everglades, promoting his climate change policies. After touring Everglades National Park in the afternoon, Obama will speak 'on the threat that climate change poses to our economy and to the world,' says the White House schedule. The president will stress his efforts to reduce carbon emissions, while criticizing congressional Republicans for opposing his environmental policies." Obama delivers his remarks at 3:55 pm ET.

Hillary vague on trade deal

Turning back to the 2016 race, Hillary Clinton was incredibly vague when talking about the political fight over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security," she said in New Hampshire yesterday. "And we need to do our part to make sure we have the capacity and the skills to be competitive." As we've written before, this trade deal -- as well as a battle over "fast-track" trade authority for President Obama -- puts Hillary in a tough spot. Does she back Obama and her husband Bill? Or does she side with organized labor, as well as the likes of Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, who have come out against it? Other questions: Will Hillary be able to look credible if she opposes the TPP? Would it add to a perception she'll say or do anything? Could the better position for her actually be supporting it, showing that she's willing to buck her base (especially since Obama is for it)? Also on the trade-deal front, here's a Wall Street Journal op-ed by Paul Ryan and Ted Cruz supporting giving Obama fast-track authority.

Walker comes out against LEGAL immigration?

Don't miss this piece by MSNBC's Benjy Sarlin : "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's newfound

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skepticism of legal immigration levels is a potential turning point in the still nascent presidential race, potentially dragging the Republican Party further to the right than Mitt Romney's hardline immigration platform in 2012. 'In terms of legal immigration, how we need to approach that going forward is saying - the next president and the next Congress need to make decisions about a legal immigration system that's based on, first and foremost, on protecting American workers and American wages,' Walker said Monday in an interview with Glenn Beck. 'It is a fundamentally lost issue by many in elected positions today - what is this doing for American workers looking for jobs, what is this doing to wages, and we need to have that be at the forefront of our discussion going forward.'" A Walker spokeswoman told the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein: "Gov. Walker supports American workers' wages and the U.S. economy and thinks both should be considered when crafting a policy for legal immigration. He strongly supports legal immigration, and like many Americans, believes that our economic situation should be considered instead of arbitrary caps on the amount of immigrants that can enter."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OBAMA AGENDA: The latest in Yemen

The New York Times : "Warplanes from a Saudi-led military coalition conducted airstrikes in the southwestern Yemeni city of Taiz on Wednesday, hours after Saudi officials had announced they were halting their nearly monthlong bombing campaign against the Houthi rebel movement. The warplanes bombed Houthi positions during heavy clashes in Taiz on Wednesday morning, according to a local official in the city. The new airstrikes, combined with reports of continued fighting in other parts of the country, including the southern port city of Aden, dampened hopes that the Saudi announcement would quickly result in a broader cease-fire."

Obama is headed to Florida - the home state of two GOP presidential hopefuls - to talk climate change.

DEA chief Michele Leonhart is stepping down amid disagreements with the Obama administration and criticism of her handling of a scandal.

The Baltimore Sun has the latest on the DOJ probe of Freddie Gray's death.

CONGRESS: The deal that paved the way for Loretta Lynch's nomination

NBC's Frank Thorp reports on the deal that paved the way for a vote on Loretta Lynch's nomination this week.

National Journal first reported last night that Mitch McConnell is introducing a bill to reauthorize the surveillance authority of the Patriot Act until 2020.

Rep. Ken Buck of Colorado has an AR-15 in his office, exempt from D.C. law because of his status as a congressman, reports the Washington Post.

Kate Snow writes about Rep. Mike Honda's 8-year-old granddaughter, who is transgender.

OFF TO THE RACES: The Koch Brothers' Five Favorites

USA Today reports that the Koch brothers have identified five candidates that they could consider backing: Walker, Bush, Cruz, Paul and Rubio.

Writes the Des Moines Register : "Hot-button issues such as clean power, water quality regulations and renewable fuels are expected to get a bigger stage in the 2016 Iowa Caucuses, as environmental activists put more pressure on presidential contenders to address controversial issues such as climate change."

CLINTON: From the Associated Press , on Bill Clinton's role: "Aides say the ex-president will stay behind the scenes initially and that Hillary Clinton's focus on her parents and grandchild allow her to fill in other aspects of her biography. Invoking Bill Clinton, who has high approval ratings, also can bring up positives from his administration, such as a strong economy, but at the risk of revisiting the Monica Lewinsky scandal and subsequent impeachment drama."

The Washington Post writes about how Clinton's trade comments are kicking off a public intra-party trade war.

The Huffington Post reports that top campaign officials have a goal of $100 million for the Democratic primary race.

POLITICO describes her as "unrunning" for president.

Bloomberg writes that the findings of the House Benghazi probe likely won't be released until next year.

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CRUZ: The New York Times does a deep dive into Cruz's career as a college debater.

He and Paul Ryan co-authored a Wall Street Journal op-ed in favor of fast-track authority.

RUBIO: He's been reaching out to gay Republicans.

TRUMP: He's heading back to New Hampshire on Monday.

WALKER: Leigh Ann Caldwell reports on Walker's long history with the Koch brothers.

And here's her report on Walker's leadership style, which has some Republicans concerned.

He's suggesting limiting legal immigration.

The Journal Sentinel: "Taking action as gun violence captures particular attention across the state and especially in Milwaukee, the state Senate on Tuesday approved a repeal of the state's two-day waiting period for handgun purchases, sending the bill to the Assembly on a voice vote."

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Wednesday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with NBC's Tom Costello in Baltimore on the latest about the death of Freddie Gray, Ron Mott on the latest on the Boston Marathon bombing trial, and hip hop legends Cheryl "Salt" James and Sandra "Pepa" Denton of Salt N' Pepa about the resurgence of their career.

*** **Wednesday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** NBC's Peter Alexander fills in for Andrea and will interview msnbc's Chris Matthews, msnbc Food Contributor Tom Colicchio, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold Levy and NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Tom Costello.

FIRST READ: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CLINTON FOUNDATION STORY

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

Everything you wanted to know about the Clinton Foundation-money story but were afraid to ask

With the Clinton Foundation's fundraising practices once again in the news as Hillary Clinton runs for president -- especially with a new controversial book on the subject -- here are the basics of what you need to know:

- **ORIGINAL CONCERN ABOUT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

At Hillary Clinton's Jan. 13, 2009 confirmation hearing to be secretary of state, then-Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) summed up the potential conflict of interest between the Clinton Foundation receiving donations from foreign countries and Clinton's new job. "The core of the problem is that foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favor with the secretary of state. Although neither Senator Clinton nor President Clinton has a personal financial stake in the foundation, obviously its work benefits their legacy and their public service priorities."

Hillary Clinton agreed about the perception problem. "[T]he foundation and the president-elect decided to go beyond what the law and the ethics rules call for to address even the appearance of conflict and that is why they signed a memorandum of understanding, which outlines the voluntary steps that the foundation is taking to address potential concerns that might come up down the road."

- **THE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING**

The "Memo of Understanding" that Hillary Clinton reached with the Obama administration had two main objectives:

-- to prohibit President Clinton from soliciting funds or accepting foreign-government contributions to the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI);

-- to disclose foreign countries that INCREASED their commitments to all Clinton Foundation entities, or that became a NEW contributor

(The memo of understanding was signed by Valerie Jarrett and Bruce Lindsey of the Clinton Foundation. It also was under supervision by John Kerry and Dick Lugar of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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- **THE 2010 ALGERIA DONATION**

In Feb. 2015, we learned that the Clinton Foundation FAILED TO DISCLOSE a $500,000 donation in 2010 to assist with earthquake relief in Haiti. This was a NEW donation, and thus should have been disclosed to the State Department.

The Clinton Foundation issued a statement saying that the donation SHOULD have been disclosed. "Immediately following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Embassy of Algeria made an unsolicited donation of $500K to Clinton Foundation Haiti Relief fund. As the Clinton Foundation did with all donations it received for earthquake relief, the entire amount of Algeria's contribution was distributed as aid in Haiti. This donation was disclosed publicly on our website, however, the State Department should have also been formally informed. This was a one-time, specific donation to help Haiti and Algeria had not donated to the Clinton Foundation before and has not since."

- **CURRENT POLICY NOW THAT THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY**

The Clinton Foundation is no longer accepting new donations from foreign governments. But it is still CONTINUING existing programs that were up and running before Hillary began her campaign. There are six countries that had EXISTING programs -- Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the U.K. As a Clinton Foundation official tells NBC News, "You just can't pull the plug" on existing programs, especially when they involve multi-year grants.

Also under current policy, all disclosures will be listed quarterly instead of yearly (as was the case under the older Memo of Understanding). And after the Clinton Global Initiative completes its already-planned Morocco conference, it will no longer have foreign countries sponsor or co-sponsor CGI events.

Hillary's Day 2 in New Hampshire

Hillary Clinton has a 10:20 am ET event in Concord, NH, where she'll focus on community college programs.

On the trail

Chris Christie speaks at the Washington Conference on the Americas at 12:25 pm ET... Carly Fiorina has events in Council Bluffs, Sioux City and Denison, IA... And former President Bill Clinton gives an address on public service at Georgetown University at 10:30 am ET.

A breakthrough on Loretta Lynch and the anti-trafficking bill?

It looks that way. Politico : "The Senate is nearing a resolution to a monthlong dispute that's halted a human trafficking bill and confirmation of attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch, even as Minority Leader Harry Reid on Monday resumed his rhetorical assault on Republicans for the delay." More: "Top sources in both parties - and even Reid himself - said negotiators had made headway toward a compromise on abortion language included in the sex trafficking bill that Democrats have strongly opposed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has vowed that the trafficking bill must be completed before the Senate votes to confirm Lynch."

Yet ANOTHER Republican says no to running for FL SEN

This is getting weirder and weirder. "Two weeks after floating the idea of a 2016 run for U.S. Senate, Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Okeechobee, said today he has decided against seeking the seat Sen. Marco Rubio is giving up to run for president," the Palm Beach Post writes . "'For the last several days I considered running for the U.S. Senate representing the great state of Florida. While I feel like I could mount a successful statewide campaign, the toll I believe the process would take on my family is something I cannot put them through,' Rooney said in a statement released by his office."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OFF TO THE RACES: Jeb to rely heavily on Super PAC

BUSH: The AP reports that he will delegate a lot of his campaign tasks - like advertising, direct mail, and data gathering - to his Super PAC. More: "The architects of the plan believe the super PAC's ability to legally raise unlimited amounts of money outweighs its primary disadvantage, that it cannot legally coordinate its actions with Bush or his would-be campaign staff."

CHRISTIE: More bad news for the NJ gov, from the Washington Post : "New Jersey state Sen. Joseph M. Kyrillos, who chaired Christie's 2009 gubernatorial campaign and ushered his agenda through a Democratic-controlled legislature, is backing former Florida governor Jeb Bush's all-but-certain presidential bid."

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He has hired an Iowa political director for his PAC, reports the Des Moines Register.

Bloomberg writes that Christie is hoping (again) to jumpstart his flagging presidential hopes with a speech in DC.

CLINTON: The New York Times digs into how Hillary Clinton is working to embrace Elizabeth Warren's populist rhetoric. And/but: "Nothing stings her inner circle more than the suggestion that their candidate is late to these issues. Mrs. Clinton was the original Elizabeth Warren, her advisers say, a populist fighter who for decades has been an advocate for families and children; only now have the party and primary voters caught up."

The Wall Street Journal writes on how Mayor Rahm Emanuel's run-off victory in Chicago could provide lessons for Clinton.

Yesterday in New Hampshire, she said she's "ready" for Republican attacks.

WMUR previews her community college pitch today.

WALKER: The New York Times writes that David Koch has been indicating that Scott Walker is his favorite Republican candidate.

And around the country...

FLORIDA: Republican Tom Rooney says he won't seek Marco Rubio's Senate seat.

NEVADA: Gov. Brian Sandoval is confusing some folks in his own party, writes the Wall Street Journal.

VIRGINIA: Former First Lady Maureen McDonnell is hoping to get her public corruption convictions tossed out.

OBAMA AGENDA: Deploying the USS Theodore Roosevelt

From the AP : "In a stepped-up response to Iranian backing of Shiite rebels in Yemen, the Navy aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is steaming toward the waters off Yemen to beef up security and join other American ships that are prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the Houthi rebels."

An Egyptian court has sentenced former president Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison for charges of inciting violence.

The Baltimore Sun has the latest on the death of Freddie Gray, a 25 year-old black man who suffered a spinal injury while in police custody.

CONGRESS: Business vs. Labor on trade

The Hill writes that business and labor groups are back in their corners as they battle over trade legislation.

The New York Times writes that Congress is pushing forward on Obama's agenda, even as the Hill is now dominated by the GOP.

It's still not clear when Loretta Lynch will get her confirmation vote.

John McCain and Ted Cruz are in a bit of a dust-up over the possibility of hearings on troops carrying personal firearms on military installations.

It looks like Capitol Police Chief Kim Dine is staying on after all, Roll Call reports.

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Tuesday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with NBC News Foreign Correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin about U.S. warships sent to block Iran ships from delivering arms to Yemen rebels, Capt. John Kowalczyk of the Baltimore Police department on the 6 cops suspended after the death of Freddy Gray, Indiana State Department of Health Deputy State Health Commissioner Jennifer Walthall about the HIV health emergency in Scott's County IN, Brady Granier Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer of BioCorRx, Inc and former actor on Growing Pains Jeremy Miller about a new drug implant that slowly releases over a number of months blocking alcohol cravings and reduces the pleasure seeking impulses alcoholics experience.

*** **Tuesday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** On today's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" live from Concord, NH, Andrea will interview Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Sen. Chris Murphy, Fmr. Sen. John Sununu, Baltimore Sun Investigative Reporter Mark Puente, AP's Julie Pace, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza and NBC's Ron Mott.

LATEST NEWS

- First Read: GOP Presidential Hopefuls Mostly Silent on Drone Mistake
- Vast Terror Raid Busts Cell With Alleged Bin Laden Link
- Comcast Drops $45B Bid For Time Warner Cable
- Naked Ambition: China to Crack Down on Funeral Strippers
- After Whiskey Gang Arrests, Woman Begs Gov. For Pardon -- For the Bourbon

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From: "Eleni Kounalakis" <kounalakiset@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 3/10/2016 4:32:37 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Greek Community Call

Great. I'll have a draft in a few days.

Ambassador Eleni T. Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street, Ninth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115
KounalakisET@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2016, at 11:31 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Great idea.
>
> On Mar 10, 2016, at 2:27 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > I like the idea.
> >
> > On Thursday, March 10, 2016, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > Laura -
> > >
> > > We had a terrific call today with John Podesta and Governor Dukakis and the Greek American community. Some participants are asking for a position paper/memo on where Secretary stands on some key issues.
> > >
> > > I've been leading the EU/Russia sub-group effort on the migration crisis, so I have a good idea of how you are formatting the framing memos. This would be a little different, but would you let me take a crack at a 1 pager on issues important to the community, that they can use with their networks?
> > >
> > > We would also like to let call participants know that something is coming, if that works for you.
> > >
> > > Thanks and hope to hear back soon. Eleni
> > >
> > > Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
> > > 2500 Steiner Street #9
> > > San Francisco, CA 94115
> > > KounalakisET@gmail.com

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From: "Manatos and Manatos" <manatos@manatos.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/16/2015 5:15:48 AM
Subject: A potential injury to bilateral relations with Greece

Manatos & Manatos
1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-393-7790 / (fx) 202-628-0225
Manatos@Manatos.com
www.Manatos.com

Dear Friends,

We thought you might be interested in our letter (below) to over 50 top American policymakers who can affect policy toward Greece. We took the opportunity of a US government blunder to remind these officials of Greece's often-overlooked importance to America.

Dear _____,

As you know, for over five decades and three generations, our family has worked to make bilateral relations with Greece optimal for America. It is in this vein that we bring to the attention of friends like you a potentially serious consequence of our officials' recent unwise treatment of the people of Greece.

At this pivotal juncture in Greek history, some economically devastated and fragile Greeks have been seeking a dramatic departure from the status quo and flirting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some Greeks have questioned why their country never sees the benefits of using American access to their important military base in Souda Bay, Crete as a strategic card of negotiation, as Turkey always does with their Incirlik base.

Such sentiment could approach reality following the imminent results of negotiations on the German-led economic bailout of Greece. The anticipated difficult situation could lead to yet another election. Such an election could produce a coalition government with much less favorable views about issues crucial to American security interests.

Amid this situation where many Greeks see German efforts as attempts to "humiliate" their injured country, our officials took an action seen by some Greeks as additional "humiliation." Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter recently invited the Greek people's Minister of Defense to Washington and then bizarrely refused to meet with him. He refused even a face-saving photo op or phone call, despite the invitation emerging from his office in the first place. Headlines in Greece shouted:

- "AN UNPRECEDENTED CHILLING FROM THE US",
- "COLD SHOWER FOR THE GREEK SIDE FROM WASHINGTON'S DECISION",
- "CLOSED DOOR BY AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, CANCELLED THE MEETING".

This strange decision, though possibly satisfying some short-term goal, seems to have gone out of its way to send a dangerous message to the people of Greece. It could very well have a long-term negative impact on American interests in the region and on our incredibly positive historic relationship. These, after all, are the Greek people: (1) whose Souda Bay base has been crucial to thousands of our planes, ships and troops fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East; (2) who are our outpost of Western Democracy (with only Israel and Cyprus) in that rapidly retrogressing region; (3) who make up the country that was one of only seven that has been with us in every international conflict in the 20th Century; and (4) who were the first to defeat the Axis Forces in WWII, publicly oppose the Holocaust while occupied by Nazis and who Winston Churchill said were crucial to the defeat of Hitler.

Although probably unrelated to this meeting cancellation, just days later, the Greek Prime Minister began discussions with President Putin regarding plans for possible energy and economic cooperation between Russia and cash-strapped Greece. However, should another Greek election materialize with more Greek votes cast against America's interests, it could be related.

We should always treat the Greek people as the great allies they are. However, this should especially be the case during this era when: (1) we have spent virtually nothing to help our great ally's brutal economic catastrophe, while sending hundreds of millions elsewhere (like the tens of millions we give every year to Caribbean private businesses);

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and (2) American military efforts against the greatest threats on American lives emanating from the Eastern Mediterranean are dependent on Greece's Souda Bay's base. We ask that you, as a friend of Greece, urge others in the Administration to deal appropriately with our Greek allies.

Sincerely,

Andy Manatos Mike Manatos

Manatos and Manatos, 1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037

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From: "Wilson Center" <European.Studies@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/2/2014 2:01:47 AM
Subject: Reminder: Scotland on the Eve of the Independence Referendum

To view this email as a web page, click here

Global Europe

Wilson Center

Scotland on the Eve of the Independence Referendum

On September 18th, Scottish voters will decide whether their country will be the first to secede from a Western-European state in recent history. After two years of campaigning it would seem that politicians, academics, and journalists would have a good understanding of the public sentiment. Using very recent data from the only large-scale, representative, and comprehensive attitudes surveys in Scotland, however, this talk will highlight where the general "wisdom" about Scots' attitudes towards the referendum may be empirically wrong. After showing where the polls stand and what we may expect as polling day approaches, this talk will focus in particular on how the attitudes of Scottish people towards international affairs have often been misrepresented, in particular in relation to the European Union, Scotland's role in the world, and nuclear weapons in Scotland. The talk will identify issues that may still move people, in either direction, before casting their vote.

Introduction

Samuel Wells
Senior Scholar, Wilson Center

Speaker

Jan Eichhorn
Chancellor's Fellow in Social Policy, University of Edinburgh

Moderator

Samuel Wells
Senior Scholar, Wilson Center

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Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and
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One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

European.Studies@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/23/2015 8:55:29 AM
Subject: News Update - December 23

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, December 23

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **3 Israelis Critically Wounded in Stabbing Attack in Jerusalem**
- **Hamas Terror Cell Planning Suicide Bombings Busted**
- **No Justice for Duma Terrorists Risks "Setting Region on Fire"**
- **Hamas Leader Expelled from Turkey, Israel Reconciliation Still in Balance**
- **Israeli Embassy Trolls White House, Exclusively Gifts Settlement Goods**
- **Three Days After Kuntar's Death, Putin and Bibi Speak on Syria**
- **State Department Rejects Lawmakers' Call to Close PLO's DC Office**
- **UN Condemns Fighting by Syria and Rebels in Golan**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "The Address: Beirut"**
  - By Giora Eiland, Former Head of the Israeli National Security Council
- **Al-Monitor: "How to Revive the Arab Peace Initiative"**
  - By Akiva Eldar, Israel Pulse Columnist, Al-Monitor

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Algemeiner

3 Israelis Critically Wounded in Stabbing Attack in Jerusalem

Three Israelis were wounded, two seriously and one critically, in a stabbing attack in Jerusalem on Wednesday afternoon, Hebrew media outlets reported. According to initial reports, two Palestinian men went on a rampage, attempting to murder as many passersby as possible near the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. One of the victims purportedly tackled his assailant and struggled with him for some minutes, as he was being stabbed. A Border Policewoman opened fire on the terrorists, killing one of them and wounding the other. An investigation is underway to determine whether one of the Israeli victims was actually wounded by bullets aimed at the terrorists.

Arutz Sheva

Hamas Terror Cell Planning Suicide Bombings Busted

The Israeli Security Agency (ISA) cleared for publication on Wednesday that it has nabbed a Hamas terror cell located in Abu Dis, just adjacent to Jerusalem to the East, that was planning to launch suicide and car bombing attacks. The arrests took place in recent weeks, and saw a wide terror infrastructure that was directed by Hamas terrorists in Gaza exposed. Up to now a full 25 Hamas activists in the terror cell have been arrested, most of them students of Abu Dis University. From the investigation it has been learned the leader of the cell was 24-year-old Ahmed Gamal Mussa Azzam, a resident of Kalkilya in northern Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Post

No Justice for Duma Terrorists Risks "Setting Region on Fire"

Failure to bring Jewish extremists behind the Duma arson attack to justice would risk "setting the region on fire," Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon warned Tuesday. "They could carry out additional terrorist acts and murder innocents, setting the region on fire," he said. "We are obligated to fight these terrorist activities. They violate our values and they are dangerous to us all." The defense minister vehemently rejected allegations of abuse and torture leveled against the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) in its investigation and attempts to track down those responsible for the July murder of Palestinian parents and their toddler son.

See also, "18 Arrested at Protests Over Alleged Torture of Duma Suspects" (Times of Israel)

BICOM

Turkey Expels Hamas Leader, Ties w/ Israel Still in Balance

Turkey has expelled senior Hamas official Saleh al-Aruri, as a step towards an agreement to normalize relations with Israel, but the deal reportedly remains some way from being finalized. A meeting took place last week between Turkish official Feridun Sinirlioglu and Israeli envoy Joseph Ciechanover alongside National Security Advisor Yossi Cohen. They agreed an outline of measures to restore diplomatic relations after a five-year hiatus. These include Israel's payment of £13.3 million to compensate families of Turkish citizens hurt during Mavi Marmara. Meanwhile, Turkey will pass legislation to drop cases against IDF personnel, which precipitated the end of diplomatic ties.

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Huffington Post

Israeli Embassy Trolls White House with Settlement-Only Gifts

This year's holiday gifts from the Israeli embassy come with a politically charged message: the occupied Palestinian territories are part of Israel. Israel's ambassador to the US, Ron Dermer, tweeted on Monday that all of the presents he is sending this holiday season will be products produced in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights. The gifts will include wine, olive oil, body cream, and halva, the Israeli embassy told The Huffington Post. In a letter to gift recipients, Dermer described his decision as an effort to "combat the latest effort by Israel's enemies to destroy the one and only Jewish state," specifically referencing the EU decision to label goods originating in the occupied Palestinian territories to distinguish them from products made within Israel's 1967 borders.

See also, "Israeli Ambassador's Gifts Carry a Message" (The New York Times)

Ha'aretz

Three Days After Kuntar's Death, Putin and Bibi Speak on Syria

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the situation in Syria on the phone on Tuesday. The phone call by Putin to Netanyahu took place three days after Lebanese terrorist Samir Kuntar was killed in Syria in an aerial strike, which was attributed to Israel. The Kremlin and the Prime Minister's Office released almost identical statements after the conversation. The two leaders agreed the continue dialogue at various levels, including coordination in the war against terrorism between the two countries, as well as in other regional matters.

Ynet News

State Dept. Rejects Lawmakers' Call to Close PLO's DC Office

The US State Department on Tuesday rejected calls by 32 congressional lawmakers, including Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz, to close the Washington office of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). In a letter, lawmakers called on Secretary of State John Kerry to revoke a waiver that allowing PLO office in DC to remain open. They argued that Palestinian leaders encouraged violence against Israelis, including a wave of knife-wielding attacks in recent months.

See also, "State Department Dismisses Cruz Demand to Close PLO Office" (The Hill)

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Algemeiner

UN Condemns Fighting by Syria and Rebels in Golan

The UN Security Council has strongly condemned the fighting and use of heavy weapons by Syrian government troops and armed groups on the Golan Heights. The UN Security Council has strongly condemned the fighting and use of heavy weapons by Syrian government troops and armed groups on the Golan Heights. A resolution co-sponsored by Russia and the United States and adopted unanimously by the council on Tuesday calls on parties to the Syrian conflict to halt military activity there. The resolution extends the mandate of the nearly 800-strong UN peacekeeping force on the Golan Heights until June 30, 2016.

See also, "UN Chief Condemns Rocket Fire from Lebanon on Northern Israel" (Algemeiner)

Yedioth Ahronoth – December 23, 2015

The Address: Beirut

By Giora Eiland

The assassination of Samir Kuntar, the rocket fire from Lebanon the following day, and Nasrallah's threatening speech, all increased the fear of a new clash in the north. Beyond analyzing the probability of a such a clash, it is also important to relate to our policy vis-à-vis Lebanon, Syria, and indirectly, Turkey and Russia, which are part of the conflict because of the situation in Syria.

It can cautiously be said that Kuntar's assassination will not trigger a clash in the north. He was not important enough to Hizbullah, and in general, it is not in Hizbullah's interest to open another front since it is increasingly involved in Syria. This situation is liable to change in the event of an incident that prompts a response or counter responses or in wake of a change in the situation and a change in Hizbullah priorities or those of its patron (Iran).

As far as Israel is concerned, it is important to stick to one principle: if and when acts of hostility begin from Lebanese territory, they must lead to a war between the State of Israel and the State of Lebanon. In the Second Lebanon War, we tried to only defeat Hizbullah, leaving the State of Lebanon, its government, its army and its infrastructure outside the game. If we prosecute the third Lebanon War in the same way, the outcome will be much more dismal compared to the last war.

Why is that? After all, ostensibly, we have greatly improved since 2006. The problem is that on the tactical level, and mainly in regard to the number of rockets, their size, their range and their accuracy, Hizbullah has improved, relatively, a lot more than us. That is why, if there is a clash, and if it lasts 34 days (like the Second Lebanon War), the damage, the casualties and the destruction in the State of Israel will be unacceptable.

The conclusion is simple: we must prosecute the next war against the State of Lebanon. In addition to Hizbullah targets, we must also attack the Lebanese army, the infrastructure in Lebanon, the airports and seaports and every other strategic asset. Since no country in the world (Syria and Iran on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia, Europe and the US on the other hand) want a Lebanon in ruins, and since that

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would be the inevitable result of an all-out war between Israel and Lebanon, there will be enormous global pressure on all sides to reach a cease-fire after three days, and not 34, and that is exactly what Israel wants.

Ostensibly, the correct strategy can be decided only when the clash starts, but that was precisely the big mistake that was made in 2006. It is vital that the explanations for the policy that you intend to pursue be given to the world, mainly to the US, ahead of time, and clearly. The benefit will be twofold: first, it will be possible to prevent the war this way, since most of the world is indifferent to any blow to Hizbullah (and to Israel) but it will not be indifferent to the possibility of Lebanon's destruction: second, when war breaks out, it is too late to persuade the world of the justice of the path you've chosen to fight.

Israel's policy toward Syria is more complex. As of now, we can be passive and only intervene when a pinpoint assassination is necessary.

Our influence on events in Syria is very limited, and even so, it should be said plainly: it is better for Israel to support the Russian approach, which talks about reaching an arrangement in Syria, with or without Bashar Assad, rather than support the disintegration of the existing regime. True, the fall of the regime in Syria would hurt Iran and Hizbullah, but not everything that is bad for the enemy is necessarily good for us. The fall of the regime in Syria will put ISIS on our border. That may not be so terrible, but ISIS control over Syria will very quickly led to its takeover of Jordan, and that is a development that would dramatically worsen our situation.

Giora Eiland is former head of the Israeli National Security Council, a post he held from 2004 to 2006. Previously, he served in the Israel Defense Forces for thirty-three years, heading the Strategic Planning Branch at the end of his career.

Al-Monitor – December 22, 2015

How to Revive Arab Peace Initiative

By Akiva Eldar

The few Russian tourists who visited the Grand Park Hotel in Antalya, Turkey, on Dec. 17-19, despite the tensions between Moscow and Ankara, could not have known that the women and men conversing easily at adjacent tables represent an occupier and the occupied. Anyone following the deterioration in the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue would have found it hard to believe that these men and women came to Antalya to look together for ways to save the two-state solution, using the Arab Peace Initiative . After breakfast they took their places around a long rectangular table in one of the meeting rooms.

Next to them at the table were also two Knesset members from the Zionist Camp and one from the Meretz Party. Present, too, was a former member of the Palestinian Cabinet, clerics from the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, a senior Arab League diplomat and three other diplomats — an American, a European and a Turk. For participants to express their views freely, the hosts from the AJEEC-NISPED organization asked everyone to avoid publicizing each other's names and quoting them directly. Therefore, the insights from the conference will not be attributed to specific participants.

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The first insight: The 2002 Arab Peace Initiative is in force. It is likely to be ratified at the upcoming 2016 Arab League conference in Morocco in March. Despite Israel's refusal to adopt the initiative and to even discuss it, important Arab states — led by Egypt and Saudi Arabia — are still on board and are unwilling to amend its principles. Nonetheless, in light of the instability in Syria and uncertainty regarding its future, implementation of the article about normalizing relations with Israel in return for its withdrawal to the 1967 border lines is not conditional on its withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Suffice it for Israel to adopt the principles of the initiative — along with its willingness for land swaps in the West Bank and East Jerusalem — to launch steps for the normalization of ties with states such as Saudi Arabia.

The Arabs find it hard to understand why such a generous peace initiative is unable to capture the hearts of the Jewish-Israeli public. Among the centrist and left-wing Zionist parties there is a broad consensus in immediate recognition of the establishment of a Palestinian state, based on the June 4, 1967, lines. There is agreement that Israel must accept its responsibility for the refugee problem, including that of the 1948 refugees uprooted from their villages and lives in Israel, and toward efforts to resolve it — without full implementation of the right of return.

According to the views of the Zionist Camp and Meretz representatives, dramatic gestures the likes of the Jerusalem visit by late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1977 will make it easier for them to sell the initiative as part of a made-in-Israel diplomatic plan. Nonetheless, in their view, the road to regional peace goes through the ballot boxes. For a leader to implement a policy toward a comprehensive arrangement and an end to the conflict, the leader must convince the public that handing the West Bank over to the Palestinians will not turn it into a second Gaza. Therefore, it is essential to establish a regional-international security mechanism that will reduce the threat of a hostile takeover of Palestine by Hamas or other external forces.

Second insight: A US diplomatic initiative is unlikely in the short time left to President Barack Obama in office, including the transition period between the elections and the new president taking office. At best, as far as the peace camp is concerned, Obama will abstain from a US veto on a UN Security Council vote granting full recognition to an independent Palestinian state. Washington has already indicated to the Palestinians that US aid to the Palestinian Authority would be suspended if they appeal to the United Nations. The American representatives believe that in 2017 — the new president's first year in office — he (or she) is not expected to focus on defrosting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Third insight: Europe is increasingly frustrated with Israel's promotion of the settlement enterprise at the expense of the basic rights of the Palestinians. The sharp, almost rude language of the Israeli reaction to the EU decision to label settlement products increased the fury in European capitals. Even Germany, considered the protective shield of the right-wing Israeli government vis-a-vis the European Union, decided to implement the decision. Two new initiatives are being formulated these days in the EU, regarding the settlements. One, to avoid meetings with Israeli politicians who live in the occupied territories, such as minister Ze'ev Elkin and Knesset

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member Avigdor Liberman. The other, to ban the entry of settlers to EU member states, by a law requiring Israelis to ask for a visa ahead of the journey. This way, EU authorities could verify exactly where the applicant lives.

Several European states are trying to fill the vacuum left by the United States in the Israeli-Palestinian arena. The French Foreign Ministry is trying to line up support for a European diplomatic initiative to promote recognition of a Palestinian state along with a formula expressing the Jewish identity of the State of Israel. At the same time, Spain is seeking support for an international conference next year, marking the 25th anniversary of the Madrid Conference (1991). That conference brought together representatives from Arab states, Israel, the United States, Russia, Europe, China, Japan and the UN, and launched talks (that proved fruitless) between the government of Yitzhak Shamir and the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. At the same time, plans are afoot to renew the activity of the five multilateral committees created as a result of the conference on the issues of arms control, economic cooperation, refugees, water and the environment.

Fourth insight: The Arab Peace Initiative serves as a common denominator for discourse among Muslim clerics and Jews. Serious peace talks, based on the Arab initiative, will help religious Muslim and Jewish elements to deal with radical religious organization taking advantage of the hostility toward the occupation and turning the political conflict into a religious war.

And a final insight: Now of all times, when the diplomatic process between Israelis and Palestinians is at a deadlock, and when no solution can be seen on the horizon, such ongoing encounters between the parties involved in the conflict together with religious figures and central international elements, are of outmost importance. The Arab initiative is the most important peace plan to be born ever since the start of the Jewish-Arab conflict. And so, it must be at the center of these meetings. It must not be allowed to die.

Akiva Eldar is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse. He was formerly a senior columnist and editorial writer for Ha'aretz and also served as the Hebrew daily's US diplomatic correspondent.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
For comments, please contact us at info@centerpeace.org .
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To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
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H4A Press Clips

May 15, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday Hillary Clinton visited her Brooklyn headquarters for the first time since she joined the presidential race a month ago. She then took an unannounced stroll in Brooklyn Heights meeting shop owners and others that welcomed her to the neighborhood.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton came out on Thursday in full support of allowing certain undocumented young people to join the military, as the House of Representatives debates the issue. Her campaign issued a statement in support of allowing young undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, called DREAMers, to enlist.

Thursday chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy, said he would not call Hillary Rodham Clinton to testify until the State Department turned over a trove of documents about the episode. This statement likely pushes Hillary Clinton's appearance to no earlier than this summer.

ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos has given $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation in recent years, charitable contributions that he did not publicly disclose while reporting on the Clintons or their nonprofit organization. He said in an interview yesterday that he will not moderate the ABC News-sponsored Republican primary debate in February after failing to disclose those contributions.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

Jeb Bush/Iraq coverage on each network. ABC noted that Bush clarified his position for the fifth time today. NBC included Republican criticism of Jeb Bush's answers, as well as the clip of a student telling Bush that George W. Bush created ISIS. CBS also included coverage of Bush changing his answer multiple times throughout the week and John Dickerson said that the GOP nominee will have to face the likely nominee of HRC, who voted to authorize the Iraq war.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Campaign: Let Dreamers Serve In The Military // Huffington Post // Elise Foley - May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON -- Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton came out on Thursday in full support of allowing certain undocumented young people to join the military, as the House of Representatives debates the issue.

Her campaign issued a statement in support of allowing young undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, often called Dreamers, to enlist.

"If these courageous young men and women want to serve, they should be honored and celebrated, not discriminated against," Clinton's national political director, Amanda Renteria, said. "Hillary Clinton is committed to comprehensive immigration reform to strengthen families and our country. While we keep up the pressure for comprehensive action, allowing Dreamers to serve in the military is the right step forward."

The House is set to vote later Thursday on whether to strip a measure from the National Defense Authorization Act that would encourage the secretary of defense to consider allowing certain Dreamers to enlist.

The measure, offered by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) does not mandate that the Defense Department allow more Dreamers to join the army. But it still caused controversy among Republicans, who said it would be an implicit endorsement of the "amnesty" programs by President Barack Obama.

Democrats are arguing that all Dreamers granted work authorization under Obama's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, should be able to enlist, although Gallego's measure would not require such a policy change.

Clinton has taken a liberal turn on immigration during her presidential campaign this year. She recently voiced support for driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants, after opposing them during her 2008 presidential campaign.

Last month, Clinton told a group of Dreamers that she would support going even further than Obama to protect

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certain undocumented immigrants from deportation.

Hillary Clinton Makes First Visit to Brooklyn Since Announcing Campaign // NYT // May 14, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday made her first trip to Brooklyn since she joined the presidential race a month ago, visiting her headquarters and taking an unannounced stroll in Brooklyn Heights.

Then she headed to a meeting for donors who have secured at least 10 checks totaling $2,700.

Mrs. Clinton spent about an hour in her headquarters at 1 Pierrepont Plaza, shaking hands and meeting people, aides said. She told them it was important to win, but also to “have fun,” said her spokesman, Nick Merrill.

She then took a walk through the neighborhood as an aide from the campaign’s digital team used a video camera to record people approaching Mrs. Clinton on the street. The candidate was accompanied by Mr. Merrill, Huma Abedin, a longtime aide, and a few Secret Service agents.

Mrs. Clinton stopped at a pizza place, Monty Q’s, ordering a salad. Next up was Area Kids, a toy store a few doors down, where she bought a child’s romper, presumably for her granddaughter, Charlotte. She then walked a few blocks to the Brooklyn Women’s Exchange, where she bought a second romper.

After that, she headed to the Liberty Warehouse in Red Hook for the donor event, where hundreds of people received small pins with her campaign logo and briefings from officials like Robby Mook, her campaign manager; Jennifer Palmieri, her communications director; and Teddy Goff, the campaign’s digital chief.

Mrs. Clinton — who announced her presidential candidacy on April 12 — was last in Brooklyn on April 1, at an event with Chirlane McCray, the first lady of New York City, to announce a public awareness push to increase cognitive development in young children.

Mrs. Clinton spent more than 40 minutes talking to attendees at the Liberty Warehouse gathering, which included some of her close former aides, including Tom Nides, a Morgan Stanley executive; Steve Elmendorf, a veteran lobbyist and Democratic strategist; Robert Zimmerman, a Democratic National Committee member; and the financier Alan Patricof, a longtime friend and supporter of the Clintons.

She did not urge that people give to the super PAC supporting her, Priorities USA, according to an attendee. But she encouraged people to find additional donors to support her race — and took note of how many super PACs were “sprouting up like mushrooms” on the Republican side, according to former Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana, who attended the event.

She never mentioned her potential Republican opponents, he said, although during an earlier polling presentation by campaign officials, they highlighted that her poll numbers had held steady despite “a couple of tough news cycles,” a reference to controversies over her use of email at the State Department and fund-raising by her family’s foundation. They also barely mentioned her rivals, but did point out that two Republicans, Jeb Bush and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, have remained “static” in the polls.

Mr. Bayh told reporters that there was a noticeable change in Mrs. Clinton’s demeanor since the 2008 campaign.

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“She’s embraced this, in a joyful spirit, which is a nice thing to see,” he said.

“There’s something in some ways about being unsuccessful that can be liberating,” he said in referring to her failed 2008 run. “She didn’t have to run. She’s focused on the fact that it’s really not about her, it’s about where the country needs to go. And that is a liberating perspective.”

She was asked several questions, including about her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal that President Obama is pushing, Mr. Bayh said.

“She said, ‘Look, I want to see what the proposed agreement is before expressing an opinion on it — we need to reap the benefits,'” but also “help the people who would be adversely affected,” Mr. Bayh recalled.

Benghazi Panel Wants Documents Before Hillary Clinton Testifies // NYT //Michael S. Schmidt – May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, said on Thursday that he would not call Hillary Rodham Clinton to testify until the State Department turned over a trove of documents about the episode.

The statement by the chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, makes it probable that Mrs. Clinton, who had said she was willing to testify this month, will now appear no earlier than this summer.

In a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, Mr. Gowdy said the State Department had not “produced one single piece of paper responsive to the committee’s request for records” from aides to Mrs. Clinton, the former secretary of state and current Democratic presidential candidate.

Mr. Gowdy originally asked for the documents, which include the aides’ emails and other documents related to Libya, in November. He then issued a broader subpoena in March.

“The pace of State Department document production has become an impediment to the progress of the committee,” Mr. Gowdy said. “Secretary Kerry promised in previous House testimony swift action when it came to producing department documents, now it is time for his department to explain why they have failed to keep his word.”

The State Department said on Thursday that it had given Mr. Gowdy more than 4,000 pages of documents since his November request. “It’s clear the committee doesn’t know how to take ‘yes’ for an answer,” said Alec Gerlach, a department spokesman.

Democrats have charged that Mr. Gowdy is dragging out the process so he can call Mrs. Clinton to testify closer to the 2016 election.

But Mr. Gowdy said that before the committee would allow Mrs. Clinton to testify, it needed the documents “to have some of the completeness” so it could “formulate substantive questions for her on Benghazi.”

Mr. Gowdy had said that he wanted Mrs. Clinton to testify before the committee twice — once about her exclusive use of a personal email account to conduct government business when she was secretary of state, and a second

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time about the Benghazi attacks, which killed four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

But Mrs. Clinton's lawyer said last week that she was willing to testify before the panel only once. Whenever she testifies, she will be prepared to stay as long as necessary to answer all of the committee's questions, said the lawyer, David E. Kendall.

Shortly after Mr. Gowdy sent his letter, the ranking Democrat on the Benghazi committee, Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland, released a statement saying that "Republicans are on a fishing expedition for anything they can use against Secretary Clinton in her presidential campaign."

"Every time they come back empty-handed, they extend their trip at taxpayer expense," Mr. Cummings said. "The committee has had Secretary Clinton's emails for months. This new claim that the department has not produced a single responsive document is completely baseless."

Stephanopoulos regrets Clinton Foundation donation, will not moderate GOP debate // Politico // Dylan Byers - May 14, 2015

George Stephanopoulos says he should not have donated money to the Clinton Foundation and that he will not moderate the ABC News-sponsored Republican primary debate in February after failing to disclose those contributions.

In an interview with the On Media blog on Thursday, Stephanopoulos said that while he made the donations "for the best reasons," he now realizes he should not have given.

"In retrospect, I probably shouldn't have, even though I did it for the best reasons," he said.

Stephanopoulos also said that he has given a total of $75,000 to the Clinton Foundation. That figure represents charitable contributions of $25,000 in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively. ABC News initially said that Stephanopoulos had given a total of $50,000 to the foundation.

The "Good Morning America" co-anchor and host of "This Week" said that he would not moderate ABC's GOP debate, which is scheduled to take place in February in New Hampshire. Republican Sen. Rand Paul said Thursday that Stephanopoulos should be prohibited from moderating any debates during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"I won't moderate that debate," Stephanopoulos said. "I think I've shown that I can moderate debates fairly. That said, I know there have been questions made about moderating debates this year. I want to be sure I don't deprive viewers of a good debate."

But Stephanopoulos said that he would not recuse himself from coverage of the 2016 presidential campaign, despite urging from the office of Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, which said Thursday that Sen. Lee would be advised not to go on "This Week" unless the host "recuses himself from all 2016 coverage."

Throughout the interview, Stephanopoulos apologized profusely for failing to disclose his contributions to viewers, including during an interview with author Peter Schweizer, whose book "Clinton Cash," alleges that donations to the foundation may have influenced some of Hillary Clinton's actions as secretary of state. On Thursday, Schweizer accused Stephanopoulos of a "massive breach of ethical standards."

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"At the time I did not perceive the problem, but in retrospect, as much as I support the very good work that's been done by the foundation, I should have gone above and beyond any guidelines to make sure that there wouldn't be any appearance of any conflict," he said.

Stephanopoulos would not say whether it had crossed his mind to disclose the issue earlier. Instead, he said he "believed that the donations already were a matter of public record" because his name is listed among donors on the Clinton Foundation's website.

"But I should have gone the extra mile and disclosed [the donations] to the viewers," Stephanopoulos reiterated. "I now realize I should have done that."

ABC News has issued a statement of support for Stephanopoulos and said it would take no punitive action against him. Stephanopoulous would not say whether he believed he deserved any sort of punitive repercussion.

"I'm sorry to both the ABC viewers and to my colleagues, but I intend to move forward and prove that I can do the job every single day," he said.

The host also said he intends to address the issue on this Sunday's edition of "This Week."

Stephanopoulos is the chief anchor and chief political correspondent for ABC News, as well as the co-anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America" and host of "This Week," its Sunday morning public affairs program. Prior to joining ABC News, he served as communications director and senior adviser for policy and strategy to President Clinton. He also served as communications director on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign.

Sources with knowledge of Stephanopoulos' charitable giving said he gives to dozens of charities every year and that the total sum of these annual contributions is in the millions of dollars. Those sources said that the Clinton Foundation contributions represent a very small percentage of the total.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Can Hillary Clinton Move Beyond Benghazi? // Newsweek // Nina Burleigh - May 14, 2015

On October 28, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in Islamabad, Pakistan, for a three-day visit—without a headscarf. As the motorcade snaked through the city, Osama bin Laden was still hiding out with his wives less than an hour away, and Clinton was greeted with placards reading "Hillery [sic] Go Home." Shortly after she landed, a car bomb exploded in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing more than 100, and scenes of carnage were broadcast along with her televised welcome.

Traditionally when the boss rolls into town, U.S. embassies arrange a meeting with national leaders, a press conference and maybe a reception before escorting the secretary back to the tarmac. But Clinton had added a new duty: organizing the "Townterview." These awkwardly nicknamed, often televised gatherings with vetted natives reprised the town halls and "listening tours" that had been a hallmark of Clinton's style as first lady, U.S. senator and presidential candidate. The idea was to use her star power to rehabilitate America's image. "In an age of connectivity," Clinton policy aide Jake Sullivan explains, "even in authoritarian countries, public opinion matters. Hillary Clinton going out and reaching millions of people around the world through a give-and-take conversation, broadcast live, helped advance the sense that the United States is listening."

So embassy staff in Pakistan had arranged a small listening tour for Madame Secretary. Some aides had a bad feeling about the Townterview in Islamabad and a later one scheduled in Lahore. "They warned, 'You'll be a punching bag,'" Clinton wrote in her State Department memoir, Hard Choices. "I smiled and replied, 'Punch away.'"

Clinton got what she asked for when she faced female Pakistani journalists and an audience of professional women who had been told belatedly that they'd be participating in a televised format similar to The View. Whoopi and Babs they were not; they grilled Clinton, angered about what they saw as American designs on Pakistani nuclear power and U.S. support for archfoe India. Things got worse in Lahore, where university students asked about drones and trigger-happy American contractors. She nodded in her trademark way and crafted calibrated answers, but she won few hearts or minds.

The New York Times reported that in Lahore Clinton sounded "less like a diplomat and more like a marriage counselor." She did manage to land a punch, though, becoming the highest U.S. official to publicly accuse Pakistan of hiding the Al-Qaeda leader: "I find it hard to believe that nobody in your government knows where they are and couldn't get to them if they really wanted to."

The trip was not a seminal moment in Pakistani-American relations, but it typified Clinton's style as secretary of state in many ways: the good soldier taking a hit for the team; the career "listener" with unshakable faith in the power of her charm and reasonableness; the hawkish tendency; the innovative executive; the deft verbal strategist; and the star pupil who did the most homework and got a gold star from the teacher, in this case the White House.

In Washington, despite the obsession on Benghazi (13 hearings and 25,000 pages of reports, at last count, on the killing of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans; with her House committee testimony scheduled for mid-May), conventional wisdom holds that Secretary Clinton was good in her last job. She just left no legacy. "Competent" but "not a great one," wrote Michael Hirsh of her in Foreign Affairs, as she stepped down from the

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secretary's post in 2013.

Dismissing Clinton's performance at State as mediocre misses the point. Her great strengths—personal charm, innovative thinking, political savvy—were not up to the task of taming the likes of Putin, Assad, the Taliban, Boko Haram or the rest of the savage world in chaotic times. It's difficult to imagine any wise man now or in history—Henry Kissinger or Thomas Jefferson, to name two—being able to create order from a world in which a 1,000-year-old invention, the nation-state, is under siege everywhere.

The right question is whether Hillary did well with what she had, and the consensus answer is yes. Her policies sometimes fell short (the Russia reset, designed to improve relations with Moscow), but more often they were right (the Asia pivot to devote more U.S. attention to the Far East).Critics often assume that to be a "great" secretary of state, a major diplomatic treaty must be crafted or a war ended. But modern secretaries of state are more managers than Metternichs—they don't necessarily have the grand visions of the world that the 19th century Austrian diplomat did. They confront foes and soothe friends and often they fail. Clinton was no exception, but her performance rating is of special interest now because her tenure at State reveals a lot about how she might operate as president.

LIKABLE ENOUGH

Clinton was the third woman to be secretary of state after Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice. She sailed through her confirmation hearings promising to use "smart power," a wonky variation on "soft power," which was a too-girly-sounding strategy. Smart power implied a more equally distributed application of the military and the softer powers—diplomatic and development tools—than had been the norm in the George W. Bush years, when belligerent "military-think" predominated.

Clinton's job, as Barack Obama imagined it, was to win back some friends for America after the middle-finger stance of the W years. And according to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, she did that. In 2008, America's overall favorability rating hit abysmal lows—in the 20s and 30s. By 2014, according to Pew, a global median of 65 percent had a positive opinion about America. Some of that was due to Bush leaving the White House and the hope invested in Obama, but some credit surely belongs to Clinton.

But her job was about more than refurbishing America's image. It was about managing relationships—with heads of state, with fellow Cabinet members (the State vs. Defense rivalry is one of Washington's oldest) and with Obama, not to mention the State Department's 70,000 careerists. It was her first run as an executive instead of a first lady, senator, law partner or chairwoman (of the Children's Defense Fund). Finally, she had to manage her relationship to power—for many women, the trickiest relationship of all.

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Clinton was the third woman to be secretary of state after Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice. She sailed through her confirmation hearings promising to use "smart power," a wonky variation on "soft power," which was a too-girly-sounding strategy. Smart power implied a more equally distributed application of the military and the softer powers—diplomatic and development tools—than had been the norm in the George W. Bush years, when belligerent "military-think" predominated.

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Clinton's job, as Barack Obama imagined it, was to win back some friends for America after the middle-finger stance of the W years. And according to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, she did that. In 2008, America's overall favorability rating hit abysmal lows—in the 20s and 30s. By 2014, according to Pew, a global median of 65 percent had a positive opinion about America. Some of that was due to Bush leaving the White House and the hope invested in Obama, but some credit surely belongs to Clinton.

But her job was about more than refurbishing America's image. It was about managing relationships—with heads of state, with fellow Cabinet members (the State vs. Defense rivalry is one of Washington's oldest) and with Obama, not to mention the State Department's 70,000 careerists. It was her first run as an executive instead of a first lady, senator, law partner or chairwoman (of the Children's Defense Fund). Finally, she had to manage her relationship to power—for many women, the trickiest relationship of all.

She was a celebrity humbly serving a former rival in the Democratic presidential primaries who had once sneered that she was "likable enough." A popular Clinton caricature is the scheming Lady Macbeth. The meme was born during her husband's 1992 campaign and refreshed in the decidedly anti-Hillary best-seller about the 2008 primaries, Game Change, which gleefully detailed her profane meltdowns in contrast with no-drama Obama.

The giant egos vying for influence in the president's Cabinet, the vast bureaucracy of Foggy Bottom and the sprawling mess of global diplomacy all offered unlimited opportunities to hatch Machiavellian plots. And yet Clinton was a force for "teamwork and discipline" in the Cabinet, according to Obama. As secretary of state, Clinton logged nearly a million miles of air travel (956,733, to be exact), keeping healthy in body and spirit with Methodist prayers and yoga to deliver calm, and a tiny, talismanic bottle of hot sauce to ward off colds. During downtime she lived not with her husband in New York but in spinsterish isolation in Washington with her nonagenarian mother. "I'd come home from a long day at the Senate or State Department, slide in next to her at the small table in our breakfast nook, and let everything pour out," she recalled in her book.

Obama hoped having Clinton run the State Department would give him the space to devote his greatest energies to domestic matters like the passage of health care reform (something she had failed to do during her husband's time in the White House) and averting an economic depression. She took the job on the condition that he agree to meet regularly with her. Beyond that weekly face-to-face, they engaged two to three more times a week on the margins of larger White House meetings, says Sullivan, her aide. "They reinforced and supported one another." During a joint 60 Minutes interview in January 2013 after she resigned, CBS's Steve Kroft tried several times to get Clinton and Obama to reminisce about their political rivalry, but Obama wouldn't bite. Their friendship, he said, was based on "trust [from] being in the foxhole together."

THE SCHMOOZER

On February 10, 2010, Secretary Clinton and her entourage left the Snowmageddon of Washington, D.C., and landed a day later in the desert kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the blinding sunlight on the tarmac, guards ushered her to King Abdullah's retrofitted bus, where she sat across from the foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, for a ride to the king's desert retreat. Inside a deluxe, black, six-top tent, she spent 20 minutes chatting with the 85-year-old king, teasing him about his foreign minister's dislike of camels. After a requisite feast, she and the king retreated for a four-hour private meeting from which she emerged "smiling broadly." She soothed ire over Obama's prior visit to the kingdom, during which he had turned to unpleasantries immediately—asking the king to allow El Al to fly over Saudi territory and for him to receive Israeli trade ministers. It had been all too fast and too much for the ancient Arab potentate. "Whoever advised you to ask me this wants to destroy the Saudi-American relationship," the king supposedly said.

In Hard Choices, Clinton recounted how she put her friendship with the Saudi leadership to use. Rights groups were outraged that a 50-year-old Saudi man was about to marry an 8-year-old girl—an act the child's mother opposed but was legal in Riyadh. Saudi courts had rejected the mother's plea to stop the marriage. Clinton quietly intervened by phone. "Fix this on your own, and I won't say a word," she recalled saying to the Saudi authorities. A new judge was appointed, and he granted the child a quickie divorce.

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She used the same personal touch behind the scenes with former Afghan President Hamid Karzai, an ally who had gone rogue, double-crossed Obama and was enmeshed in corruption. “Of all the leading members of the national security team, she had the best ability to talk Karzai down,” a former spokesperson at State tells Newsweek. “He is prone to say these crazy things, and she would be the one periodically that would pull him off the ceiling. She would say, ‘Look, Mr. President, I understand you have all these competing constituencies. Let’s try to figure out a solution that works within the context of your politics.” Clinton, the politician, understood the needs of other pols.

She used the same combination of patience, empathy and celebrity that had won over a thobe-draped Saudi potentate and the notoriously difficult Afghan president when confronting one of the greatest crises in the State Department’s internal history.

Just before Thanksgiving 2010, newspapers were preparing to publish excerpts from classified documents released by WikiLeaks, including thousands of diplomatic cables in which far-flung U.S. officials had regaled Washington with candid critiques of world leaders. French President Nicolas Sarkozy was described as an “emperor less than fully dressed”; Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu was “lost in neo-Ottoman Islamist fantasies”; Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was “a mistake-prone control freak.” Clinton was on record saying Saudi donors were “the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide” and complaining that it was “an ongoing challenge” to get Saudi leaders to address the problem. The remark was ironic because the Saudis were among the biggest donors—tens of millions of dollars—to her husband’s Clinton Global Initiative (now called the Clinton Family Foundation).

Today, although WikiLeaks editor Julian Assange is still holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London and Chelsea Manning, the soldier-whistleblower, is in jail, WikiLeaks is basically a blip in the annals of State Department history. At the time, it was such a crisis that some speculated Clinton would have to resign as an act of national contrition.

Instead, she got on the phone. After a long Thanksgiving weekend spent making hundreds of personal apology calls, she had already done private damage control by the time WikiLeaks dropped its bomb on Monday morning. Clinton’s personal relationships and exhausting display of contrition maintained trust between national leaders after the first great leak of the cyberage. The episode also positioned her as a battle-hardened government loyalist when Edward Snowden’s revelations about the National Security Agency peeled back the veil on the vast American cyberspying apparatus.

THE MANAGER

Former Bush and Reagan diplomat Elliott Abrams, a leading neoconservative, thinks Clinton was terrible on the Arab Spring movement and left no worthy legacy. Still, he gives her high marks for management. “Morale in the State Department was very high” under Clinton, he says. “She surrounded herself with some very able young people.”

One of her first administrative acts was to launch the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR), modeled on the Pentagon’s Quadrennial Defense Review, aimed at modernizing the structure of the State Department. The first QDDR focused the department on emerging areas such as post-conflict resolution and the cyberworld. She created an office for public-private partnerships and community outreach, and promulgated a manual for the ethical and legal policy rules for such partnerships.

In the hive of the Building—as State Department hands call the eight-story Foggy Bottom headquarters, with its 4,975 rooms—Clinton was queen bee. But she was also the busiest worker bee, ensconced in her elegant seventh-floor office with fireplace, Oriental carpet and soft homey chairs, reading briefing books no one else opened and perpetually scratching items off her legendary checklist. (One adviser believes she was the only top official to actually slog through the briefing books.) It was the same studiousness that had earned her plaudits in the Senate when many expected her to be a show horse.

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At State, Clinton reassembled some of her now familiar entourage. It was Hillaryland redux—personal aide Huma Abedin, who endured the tawdry Twitter exhibitionism of her husband, Anthony Weiner; politico Philippe Reines; and Cheryl Mills, the infamously protective former deputy White House counsel, who defended Bill Clinton during his impeachment trial. But she also tapped new brains, including Sullivan, who recalls that Clinton insisted upon hearing from people outside the chain of command. During one early meeting on the issue of Muslim extremists in Europe, Sullivan says a George W. Bush holdover, regional expert Farah Pandith, spoke up about how extremism was affecting communities. Clinton, who had not previously met Pandith, quickly made her the State Department's first-ever special representative for Muslim communities.

"That's the kind of thing that would happen [often]," Sullivan says. "She would say…'I want to hear people speak up and disagree.'"

IDEALISTIC REALIST

Clinton could charm, but she could also make cold calculations about how much of her resources to expend. "Our challenge is to be clear-eyed about the world as it is without losing sight of the world as we want it to become," she wrote. "I prefer being considered…an idealistic realist. Because I, like our country, embody both tendencies."

She was more mechanic than messianic, and she harbored no Wilsonian- or W-like schemes to make the world safe for democracy. One country in which she applied her measured approach was Hungary.

In 2010, Hungarians elected a rightist party, Fidesz, that immediately set about writing a new constitution, shackling the media and restricting opposition parties and civil society. The anti-democratic trend was more than a far-off concern because Hungary was about to take its turn at the helm of the E.U. presidency in 2011. And it was alarming because the country was a NATO member that had been on a democratic path and now seemed to be drifting into Moscow's orbit.

Clinton traveled to Hungary in June 2011, intending to share American concerns. As was her custom, she asked the embassy to gather members of civil society groups for a meeting. Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis and her staff arranged to bring in Hungarian journalists, lawyers and rights activists, who talked about how they had been systematically shut out of national decision making. "Secretary Clinton listened intently," Kounalakis recalls. "Then she asked the group what they were going to do about it."

The democratic-minded Hungarians were stunned. The sympathetic, nodding face of the superpower had raised their hopes that the Americans might take a robust role in supporting their cause. (The failure of the Eisenhower administration to support the anti-Communist Hungarian uprising in 1956 is still remembered in Budapest.) Now Clinton was telling them they were still on their own. It was a "sobering and powerful" message, Kounalakis says, meant to prod the Hungarians to fight back.

Later that year, the Hungarian parliament passed anti-democratic measures without the input of civil society groups or opposition parties by a two-thirds vote. Clinton dove back in, with a letter to Hungarian President Viktor Orban detailing U.S. concerns. The letter was leaked, and "headlines roared of the specific concerns that Hillary Clinton and the United States were expressing over Hungarian democracy," Kounalakis wrote in a memoir about her years in Hungary. The gambit worked, and belatedly, European leaders and EU officials who had ignored the situation began speaking out about the Hungarian laws.

Weeks later, Hungary's leaders announced they had "moved too fast" and needed to "make corrections" in the oppressive laws.

That small victory for Clinton was short-lived. A new Hungarian president was installed and soon implemented many of the offending laws: diminishing women's rights, condemning homosexuality and putting the central bank

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under political authority. Today, anti-Semitism is on the rise, and The Guardian spoke for many when it announced: “Hungary is no longer a democracy.”

Clinton’s modest efforts in Hungary only delayed the inevitable. “Under ordinary diplomatic constraints she did as much as she could very effectively,” Kounalakis says. “I am convinced that her leadership and engagement brought positive change to that country. But, as a realist, there is a limit to U.S. engagement in the internal affairs of a NATO ally.”

Clinton used soft power and personal clout to help push back on an authoritarian regime. It didn’t work, but it seems unlikely that any secretary of state would have had better luck. The U.S. was no more willing to use force than Eisenhower was almost 60 years ago, and there was no support from allies for sanctions. The episode illuminates the limits of U.S. power in the 21st century, and it shows Clinton doing the best she could with a very weak hand.

THE HAWK

Last year, Mother Jones published a column titled “Who Said It?” that challenged readers to figure out which hawkish statements were uttered by Hillary Clinton and which came from Republican Senator John McCain. Progressives suspect Clinton has neocon in her veins because of her vote to authorize the use of force in Iraq. They’re probably right. She doesn’t share McCain’s dismay at the withdrawal of American troops in Iraq on her watch, but as secretary she was rarely, if ever, the dove in the room.

This became apparent when it came to Libya, long before the notorious 2012 Benghazi attack. The Libya crisis escalated from unrest into civil war during March 2011. The Arab Spring had come to Libya, and its leader, Muammar Qaddafi, had vowed to exterminate his opponents. With a humanitarian disaster looming, the sentiment in the West was swinging toward intervention.

By the time Clinton landed in Paris on March 14 for a meeting of the G-8, even Arab League members were calling for “robust” action in Libya, and Sarkozy was all but brandishing a sword. Clinton sided with two other Obama national security counselors, Samantha Power and Susan Rice, in supporting military intervention for humanitarian reasons. Pundits took to calling them “the three Valkyries,” but in Paris she was in no rush to send bombs over Tripoli, reflecting the mood in Obama’s situation room. “I was sympathetic but not convinced,” she later wrote.

Then the Arab League voted to request a no-fly zone over Libya. As terrified Libyan civilians waited for Qaddafi to start his slaughter, Sarkozy dispatched French warplanes to Libya without conferring with the British or Americans. After that, Clinton wrote, “there was no time for hesitation.” A few hours later, U.S. Navy warships fired more than 100 cruise missiles at Libyan air defenses and ground troops.

Critics blamed America’s reluctance to bomb on a strategy—or lack of one—that came to be called “leading from behind.” Clinton denies that: “It took a great deal of leading—from the front, the side, and every other direction—to authorize and accomplish the mission and to prevent what might have been the loss of tens of thousands of lives.”

Fair enough, but her willingness to use force in Libya—and her later eagerness to arm Syrian rebels—makes her complicit in the at best confused, and at worst failed, American response to the Arab uprisings. The attacks in Libya left that country in chaos and open to colonization by North African Islamists, and created the current refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. Clinton might not be another McCain, but she is a liberal hawk, convinced that bombs can be humanitarian. And though NATO airstrikes may have brought an end to Serbian oppression during her husband’s presidency, in this century good intentions have not often been rewarded. Like George W. Bush, she promoted U.S. military action that left a repressive Arab country in anarchy.

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HALF THE POPULATION

In 1995, Clinton became the first representative of a superpower to equate women's rights with human rights, a seminal moment that made her a hero to women worldwide. It put the world on notice that if you beat your wife or denied your daughter an education, it was no longer a private matter.

One of her first acts at the State Department was to appoint her White House chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, as ambassador-at-large for women's issues. "My role…was not to oversee 'special projects,'" says Verveer, who has been with Clinton since 1997. "It was to play an integrationist role, so [women's] issues would be integrated throughout the State Department."

Verveer tells Newsweek her chief achievement was collecting and disseminating data to other nations on how women's involvement affects economies favorably: "Data shows women's participation creates jobs and influences security. No country doesn't want to grow its economy." Other high-profile women's initiatives included a public-private project (in alliance with the Clinton Global Initiative) to bring cookstoves to women in poverty-stricken areas. On the policy side, Clinton persuaded Obama to sign a National Action Plan that put the U.S. behind a long-standing U.N. resolution to involve more women in conflict resolution, peace and security.

With Verveer dispatched around the globe to talk about women, Clinton could be a feminist without getting on a soapbox. She rarely spoke out publicly, for example, about the egregious mistreatment of women by America's allies in the Gulf. For human rights observers, that reticence was a signal flaw, but her colleagues say her feminist instincts are unassailable. "We all know successful women who wouldn't go near a woman's issue because that detracts from her ability to play in the big leagues," Verveer says. "Well, Hillary understands you can't write off half the population in the world."

BLOOD THINNERS

Coming home after long days grappling with apocalyptic global mayhem, Clinton relied not on her husband but on her aged mother to help her unwind. Dorothy Rodham's death in November 2011 left Clinton alone, and the pace eventually took a physical toll.

"The exhaustion is always there," says Verveer. "These are killer jobs, very hard jobs, especially if you do them in intensive ways." Clinton had walked into State exuding energy, and crawled out four years later, straight into a hospital. She fell and smacked her head during a woozy episode in what was reportedly a bout with a stomach virus in late 2012. The accident left her with a dangerous blood clot behind the right ear, requiring hospital observation and a regimen of blood thinners.

She no longer has to tangle with Putin or Karzai. Now she faces angry investigative committees. But she's been here before. Committees have come and gone, from Whitewater to impeachment, and she's still around.

Whatever happens to her presidential bid, the years at State seem to have released her from the defensive crouch she maintained during her first lady years. Verveer says Clinton has evolved into a happier person. "When we first got to know each other, she was in a position solely by virtue of her marriage. How many times did you hear people say, 'Who elected her?'"

Stints as first lady in Arkansas and the White House are not a good launch pad for any modern politician, but Clinton captured a U.S. Senate seat in 2000 with a lot more than her last name. Based on résumé alone, Hillary Clinton is arguably more qualified to run the White House than her husband was when he got elected president in 1992. In terms of job training, 14 years as governor of Arkansas do not match eight years in the White House (granted, as a spouse), six in the Senate and four traveling the globe as secretary of state during one of the most chaotic eras in memory.

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Early in American history, secretary of state was a steppingstone to the presidency. Jefferson was among six men to use it as a rung, but it has been 160 years since the nation's top diplomat was elected president. On our fractious and yet hyper-connected planet, where events in Pakistan reverberate in New York City, a stint at State ought to be a résumé builder for the presidency, but as former National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor said to Foreign Policy recently, "I do believe that not a single voter will make their decision based on her policy towards Burma. You'll be lucky if they know where the fuck it is." Historian Douglas Brinkley put it more politely: "You've got to play big in Des Moines, not in Paris."

Clinton's time at State proved the professional "listener" can also make men listen. Obama affirmed that when he said on 60 Minutes, "One thing I will always be grateful for" was Clinton's way with big egos. "We had [Defense Secretary] Bob Gates and [CIA Director] Leon Panetta and a lot of strong personalities around the table," he said, noting she had "established a standard in terms of professionalism and teamwork." Gates, who served in both Bush administrations, was even more effusive in his praise: "I found her smart, idealistic but pragmatic, tough-minded, indefatigable, funny, a very valuable colleague, and a superb representative of the United States all over the world."

Beyond the Beltway, Clinton's stint as America's top diplomat earned her other sorts of devoted fans. Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, who is backing her campaign, has called Clinton "the most consequential secretary of state since Dean Acheson."

Sullivan, Clinton's aide, who admits he is a fan (he also might become the youngest national security adviser in history if she's elected), calls her relationship with the men in Obama's Cabinet "a high-water mark" of her term at State. "People leaned forward when she spoke," he says. For a woman working in rooms full of men, there is perhaps no higher praise.

What Do Prison Families Think of Hillary's Promises About Mass Incarceration? // The Intercept // Liliana Segura - May 13, 2015

Ronald Simpson-Bey remembers the day the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act was signed into law. "April 24, 1996," he recalls. At the time he was entering his second decade behind bars and working for Prison Legal Services of Michigan, helping fellow prisoners with their appeals. The landmark legislation, signed by President Bill Clinton in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, sharply curtailed the federal habeas appeals of people in prison, including those facing execution. Simpson-Bey's office was already so swamped there was a five-year waitlist for new clients. Suddenly, all these people faced a one-year deadline to challenge their cases in federal court. "We panicked," he recalls. "We were like, oh hell no." Incarcerated since 1985 for shooting at a police officer (a crime he insisted was carried out by an associate who turned state's witness), Simpson-Bey was a self-taught paralegal, able to adapt to the stringent new standards the AEDPA imposed on his own case. But for others, who did not understand the law, it swiftly closed the door on their federal appeals. "It was so traumatic," Simpson-Bey says. "Heartbreaking."

We were discussing Hillary Clinton's recent vow to "end the era of mass incarceration," a lofty promise that would mean undoing decades of criminal justice policy, including sweeping measures enacted by her husband, largely with her support. The groundwork for mass incarceration may have started years before, but "Clinton was the biggest prison builder in the country," Simpson-Bey said.

The AEDPA was not the first time Clinton had shown how punitive a Democrat could be. Two years earlier, Clinton had signed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (known as the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill) — a grab bag of "tough on crime" legislation that poured billions of federal dollars into new prison construction and hundreds of millions in incentive grants for states to pass Truth-in-Sentencing laws. Then there was the Prison Litigation Reform Act, which made it more difficult for prisoners to challenge their conditions of confinement. Supporters said it would curb "frivolous lawsuits." But Simpson-Bey, who was part of a historic class-action in Michigan demanding better psychiatric services and less time in segregation, knew it was about much more than that. "This was an era where they were building these prisons and, at the same time, making it harder for people to

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get out by denying access to courts," Simpson-Bey explains.

Simpson-Bey finally left prison three years ago, taking a plea deal after his conviction was overturned. In total he spent 27 years behind bars. Today he works for the American Friends Service Committee and is active in groups like the recently launched JustLeadershipUSA, which seeks to cut the US prison population in half by 2030. Simpson-Bey was among the attendees last week at the InterNational Prisoner's Family Conference in Dallas, TX, a volunteer-run gathering of activists, ministries, and people with loved ones behind bars. Many participants were once in prison themselves. The presentations were in many ways a devastating reflection of what the Clinton era wrought: families suffering the stigma and isolation of having a loved one on a sex offender registry (the 1994 Crime Bill mandated that states begin tracking sex offenders); fathers trying to overcome barriers to reentry (Clinton's 1995 welfare reform banned federal benefits like housing assistance and food stamps to felons); death row families on the "disenfranchised grief" of those whose relatives are condemned to die (Clinton personified the Democrats' embrace of capital punishment, attending the execution of a brain damaged man while on the campaign trail and expanding capital crimes).

As the conference got underway, Clinton himself was making headlines for telling CNN that his 1994 Crime Bill "cast too wide a net" and put "too many people in prison." On the heels of Hillary's big criminal justice speech, the political calculus was clear. But in Dallas, no one seemed to be paying much attention to what either Clinton had to say. Instead, there were tips to share about navigating the prison bureaucracy that rules so much of their lives. There was the need to grapple with the "ripple effect" of incarceration (often referred to by the more clinical "collateral consequences") — the way the criminal justice system splits families into pieces. When veteran activist Barbara Allen described in her thick New York accent how her late husband's imprisonment in 1966 marked the start of her serving her time, the audience murmured with recognition.

Allen founded Prison Families Anonymous on Long Island 40 years ago. Although she rejects the label "support group" — "we're a family" – it provides a space to help other women and families cope with a loved one's imprisonment. Despite the overwhelming number of people touched by mass incarceration, prisoners' family members often feel invisible – and compelled to stay that way. One woman recalled making small talk about her work at a dentist appointment. The dental hygienist waited for her boss to leave the room before whispering to her, "I've got a brother in prison." Shame and stigma make the already difficult work of political organizing even harder. But there is strength in visibility, and in numbers: in Dallas, the same women whose voices shook because they were new to public speaking later approached other nervous presenters to encourage them, to say they'd done a great job.

In this environment, where people shared their most intimate trauma and talked seriously about healing, bringing up 2016 felt almost crass and out of place. When I did, the phrase "jumping on the bandwagon" came up again and again. "I'm not a political animal," said Carolyn Esparza, the conference founder, when asked about the election. "I know Hillary said she wants to end mass incarceration. But to be honest with you, I don't trust any politician. Any." Esparza, a social worker who has spent her career inside prisons, advocates for juveniles serving long sentences, including for violent crimes — an issue untouched by candidates for any office.

"She's trying to get elected," scoffed Yvette Reeves about Hillary Clinton. Reeves is married to a man serving a 216-year sentence in California for a crime he insists he did not commit. Her life sounds like an exhausting mix of work, prison visits (he's incarcerated more than 280 miles away), and efforts to start her own advocacy group, tentatively called Prisoner Family Nation. She is also determined to fight somehow for the repeal of AEDPA, which stands directly in the way of her husband's innocence claim, and which she says was passed with no real consideration. "Everyone was so hyped up about Oklahoma and it being domestic terrorism, they didn't read it thoroughly," she said. Just trying to understand the law has taken enormous energy — "I spend so much time at the law library it's ridiculous" — and it angers her that people in prison are expected to apply concepts that attorneys spend years in law school to comprehend. Hillary may not have been directly responsible for AEDPA, Reeves says, but as an attorney she could have looked at the bill more closely. "When I found out that Bill Clinton was the one that signed it, I was like how could you do this? You were my favorite president!"

When politics was on the conference program, it was mainly to share strategies at the most practical level: How to get the attention of a local representative or legislative aid; convincing Department of Correction officials who feel like "the enemy" to post information for families on their websites. Successes can be fleeting – lawmakers will finally grasp the need for reform only to leave office before a bill can be passed. "Then we have to start all over

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again."

To hear what it takes to win even incremental reforms in a single locale – then try to multiply the need across the vast map of US prisons and jails – was to begin to see the contours of mass incarceration on its true, horrifying scale. It also helped explain the disconnect between the conference and the presidential race: For decades, "tough on crime" policies – under Reagan, under Clinton — passed easily, rapidly creating a prison system of unprecedented proportions. The damage will be much, much harder to undo. Much of it — in collective trauma, in ruined lives — cannot be undone. And even a president who is completely sincere about curbing mass incarceration would have limited means to do so. Dismantling specific policies will require new legislation – most of it at the state level. Federal prisons account for only a fraction of the incarcerated population. And prosecutors still wield enormous power to decide who goes to prison, for how long.

Still, there are some obvious places to start. Michigan activist Lois DeMott, whose teenage son, Kevin, spent traumatic bouts in solitary confinement as a result of his mental illness, pointed to an aspect of the 1994 Crime Bill that should be reversed: "Bill Clinton was the one who really cut the funding for the college programs," she says, referring to the elimination of Pell grants that provided access to higher education to people behind bars. When it comes to Hillary, "I'm just like, okay, is this for real? Does she understand that her husband did something that really set back and harmed not only the people inside, but their families, by cutting off that education? I don't know. I'd like to ask her about that."

To Xavier McElrath-Bey, who scraped by and got his degree in an Illinois prison right before the funding dried up, taking college courses from prisoners was the cruelest, most counterproductive thing politicians could do. Sentenced to 25 years at the age of 13 for a gang-related murder on Chicago's South Side, McElrath-Bey grew up amid extreme poverty, abuse and neglect – he had previously been arrested 19 times, beginning at age nine. Yet he described how children like him were pathologized as intrinsically bad. "We've come from a generation that they were saying were 'superpredators,'" he told attendees on the last day of the conference. "They said that we were incorrigible, that we were beyond repair. They stated that we were godless, fatherless, heartless monsters. These were professors and researchers who fed the media the hype of an impending flood of juvenile crime that never actually occurred."

The superpredator myth – long since discredited — was perpetuated by Hillary Clinton herself. The same day McElrath-Bey spoke, Buzzfeed pulled up a speech she delivered at Keene State University in 1996, in which she boasted that her husband's crime policy was designed to rein in juvenile criminals who "are not just gangs of kids anymore. They are often the kinds of kids that are called 'super-predators.' No conscience, no empathy."

Dehumanizing kids had consequences. Speaking alongside McElrath-Bey was Sara Kruzan, who became a victim of sex trafficking at age 11, at the hands of a man she ultimately shot dead at 16. For this, she was given a life without parole sentence in California. (I wrote about Kruzan here.) Both Kruzan and McElrath-Bey are among the lucky ones: Kruzan was released in 2013 after her sentence was commuted. McElrath-Bey left prison by age 30. Both have devoted themselves to helping kids avoid a similar fate.

If politicians are to be taken seriously, McElrath-Bey told me, they will have to move past the rhetoric. "If you recognize today that [mass incarceration] is truly something that needs to be addressed, then you need not just to talk about it," he said. "You need to get involved in addressing these policies. Just as much as we're expected as offenders and ex-offenders to take responsibility."

The closing keynote was Ronald Simpson-Bey. His speech spoke to the way the criminal justice system divides people into false categories, drawing sharp distinctions between "victims" and "criminals." He described how his mother, after years of enduring abuse, had shot and killed his father. He described how his own adult son was killed by a 14-year-old and how, for all his rage, Simpson-Bey fought to prevent the teenager from going to adult prison because that would only create more harm. Above all, he emphasized what so many other attendees did – from the formerly incarcerated supporting hunger strikers in California to families fighting against video visitation in New York: the people most impacted by mass incarceration must lead the fight against it. He quoted JustLeadershipUSA founder Glenn Martin: "Those closest to the problem are closest to the solution."

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Benghazi Panel Republican Criticizes Clinton on Testimony Plans // Bloomberg // Billy House - May 14, 2015

The Republican chairman of a House panel investigating the 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, criticized Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for seeking to limit her testimony before his panel to one appearance.

“Secretary Clinton is insistent she will appear once and only once before the select committee,” Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, said Thursday in a statement.

“The committee must be equally insistent that her appearance is thorough and fully productive,” Gowdy said. “This requires the record to be complete so the members can effectively base their questions on documents.”

Gowdy also released a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry on what he said was the department’s failure to produce e-mails and records for top department officials more than six months after they were first requested.

Gowdy’s committee has been in a standoff with Clinton, the U.S. secretary of state at the time of the attack.

Clinton’s lawyer, David Kendall, wrote to Gowdy earlier this month that she is willing to appear before the committee for questioning once, in public, but not twice as the panel requested.

Democrats have cast the Republican investigations focusing on Clinton as being inspired by partisan politics. Republicans want to keep the investigation and Clinton’s potential appearances before the committee open-ended, they contend.

The committee has said it doesn’t expect to issue a final report on its findings until sometime in 2016, the presidential election year.

Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi and a nearby CIA outpost.

Multiple Investigations

Republicans have tried for more than two years and through multiple investigations to prove that Clinton failed to bolster security before the assault and shared blame for the initial, erroneous account by President Barack Obama’s administration of what happened.

Those efforts, now concentrated through Gowdy’s committee, were re-energized with the disclosure earlier this year that Clinton used a private e-mail address and home server while secretary of state.

Gowdy had requested that Clinton appear for an interview before his committee to discuss the e-mails during the week of May 18, and again to more broadly discuss the Benghazi attacks by June 18.

Kendall said in a May 4 response that Clinton previously testified for more than five hours before House and Senate committees about the Benghazi attack. Kendall said Clinton was willing testify in public before Gowdy’s panel, though once, not twice.

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Clinton's Testimony

In her previous testimony in January 2013, Clinton said she never saw a request for more diplomatic security in Libya, which went to staff members even though all such communications are addressed to the secretary of state by protocol.

She responded with an angry outburst when she was questioned on why the Obama administration didn't know sooner that the attack in Benghazi didn't grow out of a protest.

"The fact is we had four dead Americans," Clinton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "Was it because of a protest or was it because of guys out for a walk one night who decided that they'd go kill some Americans? What difference, at this point, does it make?"

GOP Delays Hillary Clinton Benghazi Hearing, Puts Onus on John Kerry // National Journal // Ben Geman - May 14, 2015

The House select committee won't call in the Democratic frontrunner to testify until the State Department hands over documents.

The GOP-led House panel probing the 2012 Benghazi attack has put off plans for a hearing with Hillary Clinton, telling Secretary of State John Kerry in a letter that State's failure to release documents is standing in the way.

"The only thing standing between the Committee and the former Secretary being able to discuss her tenure as Secretary of State as it relates to Libya and Benghazi is the Department of State's failure, in more than half a year, to produce a single, solitary email responsive to our request and subpoena," wrote Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi.

Gowdy last month had floated the idea of a hearing to take place as soon as May 18, but now says that lawmakers need more information to inform their questions to Clinton about the fatal attacks and her use of a private email server for State Department business.

"There is still the possibility of scheduling the former Secretary's appearance soon, but that is contingent upon Department of State compliance," Gowdy wrote.

Democrats on the panel allege that Gowdy is delaying the hearing and slow-walking the probe for political reasons.

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The panel's Republicans have put the ball in Kerry's court and still haven't picked a firm date, but in the meantime, they're preparing for the high-stakes phase of the probe.

Since House Republicans created it a year ago, the Select Committee has kept a low-profile by design, doing most of its probe of the fatal 2012 events outside of public view. But the political glare will soon get much brighter.

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A hearing with Clinton will draw massive press scrutiny of not only the Democratic frontrunner, but also her GOP inquisitors, whom Democratic lawmakers and Clinton's political allies accuse of using the process to wound Clinton in the presidential race.

Republicans on the panel have tried to avoid giving off any whiff of politics, even as the Republican National Committee has sought to batter Clinton's electoral prospects with attacks on her email practices.

Ask the House Benghazi committee's Republican members about their plans and you'll get a just-the-facts-ma'am take on the panel's role probing the fatal Benghazi attack, as well as Clinton's use of a private email system for State Department business.

"We would be making the same type of inquiry and conducting ourselves in the same way if it was Secretary Rice or Secretary Powell," said Rep. Susan Brooks, referring to George W. Bush's secretaries of State.

Gowdy was dismissive when asked about the spotlight on Clinton's appearance before the panel. "I don't have any control over scrutiny. You guys decide what's scrutinized and what is not. We have had three public hearings and I have not mentioned her name," Gowdy said.

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Both lawmakers spoke to National Journal ahead of Thursday's announcement.

Clinton's appearance will be a high-stakes political affair regardless of what Republicans say about their goals. The pro-Clinton group Correct the Record, which has pushed back against the Benghazi probe, is preparing for rapid-response as Republicans question Clinton.

Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the group, says they will be "ready and nimble" with its press work "as required by the antics of Gowdy's political circus."

The latest flare-up came last week. A committee report on its activities to date said the panel would call Clinton to testify "once it is satisfied that all the relevant information has been provided by both the State Department and her."

Democrats quickly accused Republicans of delaying the Clinton appearance, noting the report signals that Republicans are backing off their plan to have Clinton—who has said through her lawyer that she's ready and willing to testify—appear the week of May 18.

"At every turn, the Select Committee comes up with a new excuse to further delay its work and then blames its glacial pace on someone else," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, said last week.

"Republicans are desperately trying to validate the $3 million in taxpayer funds they have spent over the past year, but they have nothing to show for it other than a partisan attack against Secretary Clinton and her campaign for president," he said.

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A mid-April letter from Gowdy to Clinton's lawyer said he wanted to hold a hearing that week on her emails and a second one later about the Benghazi attacks. Clinton's lawyer this month rejected the idea of two hearings.

But Republicans insist that they're still awaiting important documents and that the Obama administration's lack of responsiveness has hobbled the investigation.

And Gowdy said that if they're only going to get one chance to question Clinton, they need to come armed with as much information as possible.

"I am not going to ask my members, if they are going to have one opportunity to have a constructive conversation with Secretary Clinton, I am certainly not going to ask my members to have that conversation without the documents they need," he said.

"I try very hard not to tell people in your line of work how to do their job and you all have been really good about not telling me how to do mine, but at some point somebody does need to ask the State Department [why] six months is not long enough to produce emails," Gowdy added.

'Hillary Clinton Sold Her Soul When They Accepted That Money' // Politico Mag // Kenneth Vogel – May 15, 2015

LAAYOUNE, Western Sahara—A day after Bill Clinton feted donors and dignitaries at an extravagant Moroccan feast under a warm Marrakech night sky, a group of local Sahrawi Arabs gathered for tea in a far more humble setting here to share their outrage that Clinton's family foundation had accepted millions of dollars from a company owned by a government accused of repressing their people.

The four men used to work as miners for a subsidiary of OCP, the state-owned phosphate company that paid more than $1 million to sponsor the lavish outdoor gala and the concurrent two-day meeting of the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation headlined by the former U.S. president. Its purpose was to highlight efforts by the foundation, its donors and the Moroccan government to improve the lives of marginalized people in North Africa and the Middle East, and Bill Clinton opened the event by praising OCP, King Mohamed VI and "Morocco's longstanding friendship to my family and to the United States."

The former miners have seen a very different side of Morocco's government and OCP. They say the company, formerly called the Office Chérifien des Phosphates, forced them to retire early and slashed their pensions, leaving them struggling to scrape by while hiring ethnic Moroccans for more senior jobs. The miners also told me how they had witnessed first-hand multiple examples of the "arbitrary and prolonged detention" and "physical and verbal abuse" that the U.S. State Department says Moroccan authorities mete out to Sahrawis advocating for independence in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.

"Hillary Clinton sold her soul when they accepted that money," declared Mohamed Lahwaimed, who gathered with the other former miners in a second floor walk-up in the Western Sahara capital of Laayoune, a modern-looking desert town with a population of 200,000 people about 500 miles southeast of Marrakech. Wearing traditional Sahrawi dara'a robes and lounging on worn pillows, they sipped green tea and spoke Arabic. "And now we are concerned that if Hillary Clinton wins the presidency of the United States of America, she will take the side of Moroccans even more," Lahwaimed said through an interpreter.

Added fellow former miner Lahbib Salhi, "All the tainted money that Morocco has gathered from taking away our rights has been used to bribe the Clinton Foundation and the international community."

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The miners—and human rights activists interviewed in Laayoune—put real faces on abstract criticisms swirling half a world away around Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. The runaway favorite for the Democratic nomination, Clinton has found herself scrambling to answer suggestions that donations to the family's sprawling $2-billion global charity influenced her actions as secretary of state and could compromise her objectivity as president.

It's certainly true that the Clintons have had a long—and lucrative—relationship with Morocco. Moroccan King Mohamed VI, who was traveling abroad during last week's CGI meeting in Marrakech, nonetheless loaned one of his palaces to Bill and Chelsea Clinton to stay in during the meeting, according to attendees. The king was listed on a donor roll as having pledged as much as $500,000 to the Clinton Foundation to help build Bill Clinton's presidential library (though the foundation says the donation never came through), while the state firm OCP has donated as much as $6 million over the years to the Clinton Foundation's efforts. Both Clintons have publicly embraced the king in recent years as an example of an Arab moderate ruler with whom the U.S. should partner, and leaked Moroccan diplomatic cables show that Hillary Clinton during her tenure as secretary of state was seen by Rabat as among its most ardent supporters in the Obama administration.

There is no evidence that she tailored her official positions to suit Morocco's preferences because of personal or financial relationships. But the overlap between her diplomatic portfolio and the funding for her family's philanthropy illustrates the way nearly any foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation can be viewed through the prism of U.S. policy. And it highlights why countries, companies and individuals that could benefit from her past and possibly future public service might be inclined to support the foundation.

In fact, Hillary Clinton's relationship with Morocco's government was pivotal in brokering last week's Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting in Marrakech, according to sources familiar with the foundation's inner workings. They say that, as CGI was considering options including Hong Kong and Singapore for possible international meetings, the former secretary of state, then serving on the foundation's board, talked to the King about the Moroccan option, which emerged as the frontrunner. Mrs. Clinton herself originally was listed as a meeting host, but she backed out only as her presidential campaign approached, resigning from the foundation soon after officially entering the race.

As the campaign kickoff neared, the foundation proceeded with plans to hold the meeting in Marrakech with funding from OCP despite concerns of some foundation staffers about the political optics of affiliating with a state company tied to the occupation of Western Sahara and the controversial mining of a valuable natural resource, which some observers say violates international law. The approach the staffers settled on was "just to avoid using the word 'Western Sahara' and stay out of it," said one source involved in the planning. "It's not polite to your host."

In a statement, the foundation said that it doesn't have a stance on the Western Sahara dispute and suggested that the issue didn't factor into either the planning of the CGI meeting or the meeting itself. "CGI is not a political or diplomatic organization. CGI does not take political positions on issues and it's critical to our mission that we do not," said the statement. "The purpose of the CGI Middle East & Africa meeting—like all CGI meetings—is to encourage meaningful Commitments to Action that address many issues, and that will ultimately expand access to clean water, create new employment opportunities for young people, and empower women and girls."

The foundation has not facilitated any projects in Western Sahara, officials said, and the plight of the territory was not mentioned at all during the official proceedings last week in Marrakech.

When Politico broached the issue to one CGI meeting participant who works in the region, he stalked off. Another participant who witnessed the exchange urged Politico to refer to "the Southern Provinces" of Morocco, not the Western Sahara, explaining "you don't use those words here. Those are fighting words."

Jeb Bush Taunts Hillary Clinton Over Not Taking Questions // NYT // Michael Barbaro - May 14, 2015

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RENO, Nev. — Jeb Bush has a pointed message for Hillary Rodham Clinton: I'm willing to face tough questions. You're not.

"You can't script your way to the presidency," Mr. Bush said of Mrs. Clinton at a stop in Reno on Wednesday.

Fielding questions from residents, Mr. Bush repeatedly mocked Mrs. Clinton for avoiding formats in which she might encounter unexpected questions from potential voters and reporters. Those are the kind of formats, Mr. Bush suggested, that he relishes and seeks out.

"I was watching Fox last night," Mr. Bush said. "Somebody had actually counted up the times that Hillary Clinton had been asked a question. I think she's been asked six times by the press. In public settings, I don't know that she's been asked any questions."

He added, "I've been asked hundreds of questions both from the press and from people."

Expanding upon his critique, Mr Bush said, "Everybody else does speak to the press and have town hall meetings where they aren't scripted."

"That's part of the process. You can't script your way to the presidency — put yourself in a protective bubble and never interact with people, only talk to people who totally agree with you. It's not going to work."

Mr. Bush brought up Mrs. Clinton again by poking fun at a long-winded question from one man in the audience.

"You wouldn't have been able to get it into a Hillary Clinton event," Mr. Bush said.

Nicolle Wallace to Carly Fiorina: Hands off Hillary // Politico // Glenn Thrush - May 14, 2015

Nicolle Wallace, co-host of The View and longtime aide to Jeb and George W. Bush, thinks GOP hopeful Carly Fiorina should lay off of Hillary Clinton, the only other woman to enter the 2016 race so far.

Fiorina, the conservative former CEO of Hewlett-Packard and failed California Senate candidate, opened up her long-shot campaign for the Republican presidential campaign with a sharp attack on Clinton – and has been lambasting the former secretary of state for months.

"Mrs. Clinton, name an accomplishment," Fiorina said at the Conservative Political Action Conference earlier this year – and when Clinton released her announcement video in April, Fiorina responded with a Facebook jab, remarking, "She's not the woman for the White House."

"Her role in the Republican field has been to be the most sort of strident critic of Hillary Clinton's, which is interesting to me as well. Why does that fall to a woman?" Wallace told chief political correspondent Glenn Thrush during a taping of this week's POLITICO podcast.

"You know, I don't want to be the chick police, but I think that Carly will go far by broadening the attack to everything that's wrong with the liberal approach as opposed to being the thorn in Hillary Clinton's side," added

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Wallace, who has been making the rounds promoting her new novel, “Madame President,” which she calls a “fantasy” in which women also serve as defense secretary and White House chief of staff.

“She runs the risk of having it look personal,” Wallace added. “But it’s certainly up to her, if she thinks she’s found her niche as the No. 1 Hillary Clinton critic, I’m sure she’ll get a lot of attention.”

Wallace, who worked on the McCain-Palin campaign, noted that Clinton refused to pointedly attack Palin – even after being asked to do so by members of Obama’s male-dominated inner circle; she said that Palin returned the favor by pulling her punches against Clinton.”

She predicted the current spate of stories about questionable fundraising by the Clinton family foundation – and the candidate’s use of a “homebrew” email server to avoid State Department-mandated disclosure rules — wouldn’t have much of a long term effect. “No one thinks they don’t do shady things, but it’s like the cake has been put in the oven: It’s cooked for 40 minutes, it rose, it’s on the counter already. You can’t change the cake … It’s the Clinton cake. It’s what’s in it, it’s what people know is in it, and they eat it anyway,” she added.

There is one thing that could sink the Clintons, according to Wallace: Detailed reporting on a serious schism between the former first family and the current one.

“She and the Obama White House really, really hated each other,” Wallace said. If that came out, “I think that would confound a lot of Democrats,” she added.

Hillary Clinton Pens Beautiful Letter To Lesbian Couple Featured In Her Campaign Announcement // Huffington Post // JamesMichael Nichols - May 14, 2015

2016 presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton made another display of solidarity this week with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community by penning a beautiful letter to the lesbian couple featured in her campaign announcement video.

Kassie Thornton and Christy Spitzer opened their mailbox this week to discover the letter from Clinton, which thanked the pair for their involvement in the video and for their involvement with the lives and struggles of queer youth. Spitzer was a producer on MTV's "It Gets Better" specials, programs that enhanced the visibility and stories of young LGBT individuals."It's not every day that you open your mailbox to find a letter of gratitude, love, and support from the potential first female president of the U.S. We felt so honored, touched, and downright humbled," Spitzer and Thornton told The Huffington Post. "We are blown away that she is a heartfelt supporter of the 'It Gets Better Project,' and is aware how important their powerful message is. The organization does positive things for many young people all over the world!"

The couple was especially moved by Clinton's well wishes for their upcoming nuptials. Spitzer and Thornton told The Huffington Post they "hope she can come celebrate our love and future with us and our loved ones," joining another same-sex couple featured in the announcement video in inviting Clinton to attend their wedding.

"For Ms. Clinton to thank us for being part of her video announcement and to know that we are getting married [in June] is just unbelievable," Spitzer and Thornton said. "Simply amazing!! Like screaming out loud amazing! We hope she can come and celebrate our love and future with us and our loved ones! And we hope she uses her plus one wisely!"

According to NewNowNext, Spitzer and Thornton met four years ago while both living in New York City. Did you miss the original announcement video featuring the happy couple? Check it out below.

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Q: How much of a factor will Hillary Clinton's gender be in the 2016 presidential race? // National Journal //
Sarah Mimms – May 15, 2015

DEMOCRATS (82 VOTES)

A lot: 43%

Some: 48%

Very little: 8%

None: 1%

A lot

"Just because we had an historic barrier-breaking presidential candidate the last two times doesn't make this any less significant."

"There is a huge constituency that wants to see the ultimate glass ceiling broken."

"College campuses are really excited about her in large part because they think it's time for a woman president."

"The GOP just can't help itself when it comes to women's issues, from pay to health, and they are certain to become a gaffe-factory if she's the nominee."

"Own it this time, Hill."

Some

"As a contrast against a mostly male Republican field, it will help, though other factors are vastly more important."

"There are a couple generations of women ready for this ... and they will be a force behind the candidate; will it be enough to offset the hate?"

"A contributing factor—more positive than negative—but doesn't replace her need to present her own vision of the nation."

"There are voters that will absolutely vote for her based on her gender, but it's more likely there are a lot more men that will vote against her because she is a woman."

Very little

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"The social-science research is very clear that the gender of the candidates is not a predictor of the vote. The voters most excited about a woman candidate are female Democrats, who would vote for whomever the Democratic Party nominates."

REPUBLICANS (79 VOTES)

A lot: 46%

Some: 46%

Very little: 7%

None: 1%

A lot

"It's not a factor—it's the only factor."

"A lot if GOP nominates a white guy; none if they nominate a minority or a woman."

"Breaking the glass ceiling is her strongest suit—if she were a man, this would be a far different race."

"You can bet that the Clinton fortress will include arguing to vote against her is to be anti-woman."

"If Bill Clinton had a brother with a lackluster record of achievement, a penchant for secrecy, limited political skills, and low likability, he would not be the Democrats' only option."

"If female voters turn on her, she's done."

"As Republicans tack harshly to the past, especially in support of restrictions on reproduction rights and marriage equality, the country will again likely view the election of a 'first' as a watershed moment for America's future."

Some

"But not as much as she'd like."

"There's undoubtedly a segment of women [for whom] this is the deciding factor."

"There's always a thirst for 'firsts,' but [Obama] has nearly quenched it."

"She's run before and been a major national player for 25 years. The novelty has worn off."

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"What if men decide to only vote for men? This whole premise is a bad road but unfortunately part of the liberal narrative, and it works."

Very little

"It will get her some votes, but it will mostly be about her record as an individual rather than her [as a] representative of a class. Most female votes will be anti-Republican rather than pro-[Hillary]."

None

"Email servers are gender neutral."

. . . . . .

Hillary's Got A Friend: James Taylor Backs Clinton For President // Daily Caller // Kaitlan Collins - May 14, 2015

In an interview Thursday, James Taylor said he thinks Hillary Clinton is the "public servant" who can bring the country together, and that he's backing her for president.

"Aside from the fact that she's a woman running, she's the right person," the 67-year-old said. "The whole point — black or white, male or female, gay or straight, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, atheist — it doesn't matter what these other connections are."

He also said that Obama is his "favorite, favorite" president, and said he had "a tough time" during the Bush-Cheney administration.

"I had a hard time accepting that that administration represented me because I don't think they did," Taylor said. "I've been watching politics since Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson, when dinosaurs roamed the Earth, and Obama is my favorite, favorite president."

"I am just thankful for every day that he's in office. I am so proud that he represents my country and I think he represents me — I think he represents the America that I know."

Taylor performed at the Democratic National Convention in 2012, and also sang "America the Beautiful" at Obama's second inauguration.

Hillary Clinton's litmus test for Supreme Court nominees: a pledge to overturn Citizens United // WaPo // Matea Gold and Anne Gearan - May 14, 2015

Hillary Clinton told a group of her top fundraisers Thursday that if she is elected president, her nominees to the Supreme Court will have to share her belief that the court's 2010 Citizens United decision must be overturned, according to people who heard her remarks.

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Clinton's emphatic opposition to the ruling, which allowed corporations and unions to spend unlimited sums on independent political activity, garnered the strongest applause of the afternoon from the more than 200 party financiers gathered in Brooklyn for a closed-door briefing from the Democratic candidate and her senior aides, according to some of those present.

"She got major applause when she said would not name anybody to the Supreme Court unless she has assurances that they would overturn" the decision, said one attendee, who, like others, requested anonymity to describe the private session.

If the make-up of the court does not change by 2017, four of the justices will be 78 years of age or older by the time the next president is inaugurated.

Clinton also reiterated her support for a constitutional amendment that would overturn Citizens United, a long-shot effort that is nonetheless popular among Democratic activists.

"She said she is going to do everything she can," the attendee said. "She was very firm about this – that this Supreme Court decision is just a disaster."

A campaign spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Clinton has made overhauling the current campaign finance system one of the major planks of her campaign, even as she has tacitly endorsed the efforts of two big-money super PACs working to help get her elected in 2016 -- Priorities USA Action and Correct the Record. Advisers have said that they cannot reject such vehicles when they are being vigorously embraced by the Republican field.

The former secretary of state spoke and took questions for about 45 minutes in a converted warehouse on a pier in Brooklyn's Red Hook neighborhood, with sweeping waterfront views of the Manhattan skyline and the Statue of Liberty. The fundraisers on hand for the meeting -- a mix of longtime Clinton backers and bundlers who played major roles in the campaigns of President Obama -- had all raised at least $27,000 for her campaign.

In response to questions from the group, Clinton spoke about the need for renewable energy and strongly endorsed Obama’s free community college plan.

She avoided taking a position on the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership trade accord, saying she first wants to see what comes out of Congress.

Afterward, Clinton stayed and shook hands for 45 minutes. There was no sense that old Clinton loyalists had higher ranking than newer supporters, attendees said. “She spent time with every single person -- new friends and old friends equally," said a second participant.

Hillary Clinton Enlists Bigger-Name Backers in Novel Ways // NYT // Maggie Haberman - May 14, 2015

In previous presidential election cycles, campaigns have sent out press releases that screamed the news of endorsements received. In 2008, when Hillary Rodham Clinton was the considered the early front-runner, endorsements were a gauge of support used by reporters and others.

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This time around, the press releases blaring about supporters have not come to pass. But Mrs. Clinton's campaign is approaching endorsements differently. They're not promoting support every time it hits — an act that could be construed as adding to a sense of inevitability.

Instead, the campaign's endorsers are focusing on organizing in their states. In Minnesota, Gov. Mark Dayton has quietly endorsed Mrs. Clinton but is focused on getting people to knock on doors and sign up supporters. He hosted an organizing meeting on Monday night, where, according to reports, he told people they "haven't lived until you've gone door-knocking in Iowa in January."

The same was true in Ohio, where former Gov. Ted Strickland, a current United States Senate candidate and a staunch supporter of Mrs. Clinton in the 2008 campaign, has tried to rally activists and headlined organizing meetings. So has Representative Ed Perlmutter of Colorado, former Representative Russ Carnahan of Missouri, and officials in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In Georgia, there was a kickoff event last week with some of Mrs. Clinton's supporters.

The goal is to mobilize her supporters, simultaneously building up support in all 50 states but engaging people willing to visit the early-voting states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina to draw voters out early next year in the caucuses and primaries.

The Brooklyn Democratic Party Has Endorsed Hillary Clinton // Observer // Ross Barkan - May 14, 2015

The Brooklynite mayor may not be ready for Hillary, but the Brooklyn Democratic machine sure is.

In a sudden decision last night, the Brooklyn Democratic Party's executive committee voted unanimously to endorse Hillary Clinton for president. There was only one abstention.

The motion to take the vote was made by Lew Fidler, a Democratic district leader and former city councilman.

"Proud to say it was my motion," Mr. Fidler said in an email. "I think that makes us the first county in!"

Indeed, no other county organization in the city has formerly endorsed Ms. Clinton. The vote to back the former New York senator and secretary of state was not initially planned, according to one attendee. The Democrats had gathered at the United Progressive Democratic Club, the home club of Assemblyman William Colton, in Bath Beach to discuss other matters.

But Ms. Fidler's sudden motion was received warmly. Ms. Clinton, whose campaign headquarters are in Downtown Brooklyn, is the unquestioned front-runner for the Democratic nomination. She is expected to carry heavily Democratic New York State.

The Kings County Democrats don't have the clout it did decades ago, though it remains the largest organization–in terms of the number of registered Democrats it presides over–in America.

Still, the Democrats are spurning one of their own. Ms. Clinton's only primary challenge so far is from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a native Brooklynite. Mr. Sanders grew up in Brooklyn and attended James Madison High School, the alma mater of Hillary backer Sen. Charles Schumer.

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After college, he moved to Vermont to begin his political career elsewhere.

Hillary Clinton Woos Donors Visiting Campaign Headquarters // ABC News // Lis Lerer, Associated Press - May 14, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton promised her most loyal supporters Thursday she will present a more authentic version of herself during her 2016 campaign for president than she did eight years ago.

Clinton told a group of several hundred "Hillstarters," donors who have raised at least $27,000 for her campaign, that she had learned from her failed run in 2008.

Asked by one whether voters would see the Clinton who came to tears in a New Hampshire restaurant when asked how she managed to stay upbeat, the former secretary of state said she plans to find ways to show more of her personal side.

"Hillary said, 'Well, that's really on me to make sure I get enough rest, to make sure I think and reflect, and (that) I don't micromanage too much,'" said former Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, who attended the event at a banquet hall in Brooklyn with views of the Statue of Liberty.

Bayh said he and other donors at the meeting had noticed a change in Clinton since her previous run for the White House. "There's something in some ways about being unsuccessful that can be liberating," Bayh said. "She's embraced this, in a joyful spirit."

Clinton encouraged the group of donors to find others who had not yet given to her campaign, Bayh said, but she didn't make a plug for them to give money to Priorities Action USA, the super PAC backing her candidacy. Yet Clinton also noted such outside groups were "sprouting up like mushrooms" on the Republican side, he said.

Lunch was not on the day's itinerary — an effort by campaign manager Robby Mook to demonstrate the campaign's frugal style to the people who will pay for it. Bayh and the other donors got a series of briefings on polling, strategy and communications, along with a tour of Clinton's campaign headquarters.

There was no mention of the recent criticism of the Clinton Family Foundation and the tens of millions of dollars in speaking fees collected by former President Bill Clinton while his wife was secretary of state, aside from pollster Joel Benenson's note that Clinton's numbers remain steady despite a "couple tough news cycles."

There was also no discussion of her potential Republican opponents, whoses support was described as "static" by Clinton's staff, Bayh said.

Clinton's stop at the fundraising event was her first visit to Brooklyn since formally launching her campaign last month. She also spent time at her campaign headquarters, where she spent an hour mingling with staff who have recently joined her operation. Clinton told the dozens of new aides that while winning is important, she also wants them to "have fun," said spokesman Nick Merrill.

While in the neighborhood, she stopped at a pizza shop, a toy store and a local nonprofit. She chatted with customers, ordered a salad and purchased two rompers and a children's book for her granddaughter, Charlotte.

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Next week, Clinton will return to more politically competitive terrain, with stops planned in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Hey Brooklyn, Hillary Clinton has arrived // Politico // Annie Karni - May 14, 2015

On her first trip to Brooklyn since declaring her candidacy, Hillary Clinton bought two rompers and a children's book and had a salad at a local pizza shop.

Ahead of a finance meeting in Red Hook for Hillstarters — fundraisers who raised $27,000 from 10 donors — Clinton made a visit to her campaign headquarters at 1 Pierrepont Plaza, where the campaign staff currently occupies one full floor of the building. (The campaign is expected to eventually expand to two floors of rented space there.)

Clinton shook hands with staffers who had yet to meet her and reconnected with some familiar faces from her previous campaigns. She told the group: "It's important to win, but it's also important to have fun," according to spokesman Nick Merrill.

After about an hour of hand-shaking, Clinton took a short walking and shopping tour of Brooklyn Heights.

She visited the toy store Area Kids, where she bought a romper, presumably for her grandchild, and the local nonprofit Brooklyn Women's Exchange Inc., where she bought a second romper and the children's book "Simpson's Sheep Won't Go To Sleep." For lunch, she had a salad from Monty Q's, a pizza place.

Clinton was being filmed by a campaign operative and was accompanied by longtime aide Huma Abedin and Merrill.

She arrived at the Red Hook finance meeting just after 3 p.m. in her "Scooby" van and did not take questions from the media as she entered.

Hillary Clinton just had her first big outing in Brooklyn // Business Insider // Colin Campbell and Hunter Walker - May 14, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton dropped by at least two small businesses near her campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, New York on Thursday afternoon.

Employees who saw Clinton told Business Insider she purchased a salad, an iced tea, and a dress for her granddaughter. Both of the businesses visited by Clinton are located on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights.

According to the New York Times' Maggie Haberman, who tweeted about the walk, it was Clinton's first visit to the neighborhood near her new office since she announced her presidential campaign last month. Clinton stopped by the toy store Area Kids and the pizza place Monty Q's.

Clinton Santana, an employee at Area Kids, told Business Insider that Clinton was accompanied by her top aide, Huma Abedin, and several photographers.

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"She was in here for about five to ten minutes," Santana said of Clinton.

According to Santana, while she was at Area, Clinton posed for a picture with the staff and purchased a "Royal Flower Wrap Neck Dress" from Nordstrom's "Tea Collection." The dress is sized for children from the ages of 12 to 16 months. Santana said his co-worker informed him Clinton purchased the dress for her granddaughter, Charlotte, who was born last September.

At Monty Q's, an employee named Edmonda said Clinton "got a salad."

"No pizza for her, she couldn't have no pizza," Edmonda said.

Clinton also got a beverage.

"We had some fresh tea made, so she got one of those, an ice cold tea," Edmonda said.

The restaurant's staff were apparently quite pleased to meet Clinton.

"We were so excited to see her. ... She was very kind, very nice," Edmonda said. "She actually asked the owner to take a picture with all the staff."

The Monty Q's staff may have gotten a picture with Clinton, but according to Edmonda, the presidential candidate did not leave a tip. However, Clinton rejected the restaurant's offer of a free meal.

"We offered her to get a free salad, but she wanted to pay for it, so she had somebody pay for it," Edmonda explained.

During Clinton's walk on Montague Street, multiple people snapped pictures of her and posted them to social media.

Hillary Clinton explores Brooklyn Heights neighborhood // Capital New York // Dana Rubinstein - May 14, 2015

On Thursday afternoon, a Brooklyn Heights pizzeria got an unannounced visit from Hillary Clinton. She ordered a salad.

“We weren’t surprised,” said George Chamoun, the owner of Monty Q's, the 16-year-old brick oven pizzeria on Montague Street, just a few blocks from Clinton’s One Pierrepont offices. "We figured she was going to be around.”

According to the Transport Workers Union, which has offices nearby and shared a photo with Capital, Clinton arrived around 2:30 p.m.

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Chamoun said she ordered a romaine lettuce salad known as “Fire and Spice” which, according to the menu, retails for $7.50 and comes with grilled chicken, black beans, corn, grape tomatoes, tortilla strips and a “spicy cream poblano dressing.”

Chamoun offered to buy it for her. She declined. But she took pictures with the staff and was, he said, “very nice.”

He also thinks she's got a "pretty presidential" background.

But that doesn't mean he’s voting for her, at least not yet.

“I’m on the fence right now,” said Chamoun, who wouldn’t say with which party he’s registered. “There’s a lot of things that I would like to see move another way before I could really vote for her.”

What are his concerns?

“The phone things and the text messages and the emailgate, that's bothering a lot of people," he said."I don't think I'm the only one that's bothered with it ... What's in there? Is there something that she’s hiding? Is there something that the public she should know about?"

A spokesman for Clinton had no immediate comment.

Hillary Clinton adds third Chicago fundraiser: Hits hometown May 19, 20 // Chicago Sun Times // Lynn Sweet - May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON – Not wanting to leave any campaign cash on the table, 2016 Democratic White House hopeful Hillary Clinton is adding a third fundraiser to her Chicago schedule when she hits her hometown next week.

Manilow is a member of Chicago’s Crown family. A cousin Susan Crown, is a major fund-raiser for Jeb Bush.

The addition according to an invitation obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times: A $2,700-per-person May 19 reception will be at the Chicago home of Barbara Manilow, a longtime major donor and fund-raiser for President Barack Obama and other Democrats.

Last week I reported Clinton comes home on May 20 for major fundraisers at the homes of two longtime supporters, business executives Fred Eychaner and J.B. Pritzker and his wife, M.K.

The invitations for those events, obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times, said “Please join us for a conversation with Hillary Rodham Clinton in support of Hillary for America.”

Jeremy Hallahan, the Illinois Finance Director for Hillary for America in an e-mail to prospects about the added Manilow event said, “It is very exciting to have our first Hillary event in Chicago in less than two weeks. We had such a strong response, and spots are filing up so quickly that we are adding another stop in Chicago! On Tuesday, May 19th we are adding an additional reception with Hillary Clinton. If you or your friends cannot make the 20th, please join us on the 19th!”

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The events are the first Chicago visits for Clinton since she declared for president last month.

The fundraiser at the home of Eychaner, one of the major Democratic donors in the nation, is from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

J.B. Pritzker is a longtime Clinton backer. He was a major supporter and fundraiser when Clinton ran the first time in 2008, even as his sister, now Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, was the national finance chair for President Barack Obama. The Pritzker event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The ticket price is $2,700 per person. Anyone who raises $27,000 becomes a “Hillstarter.” Hosts of the event are being asked to raise $50,000.

The 270 is a reference to the number of electoral votes needed to become president.

Clinton organizing meeting in Newton // Boston Globe // Frank Phillips - May 14, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential campaign is moving quickly to get Massachusetts activists behind her candidacy, a move some see as an attempt to send a message to Senator Elizabeth Warren, who is under heavy pressure from supporters across the country to jump into the Democratic race and challenge Clinton.

The latest is a big get-together of pro-Hillary Democratic activists Sunday in the liberal Newton-Brookline-Somerville-Cambridge nexus, a hotbed of Warren-mania. The event will be at the American Legion Nonantum Post 440 in Newton, a large venue for such an early event billed as grassroots organizing.

The Warren folks dismiss the notion that the Clinton campaign-sponsored get-together is designed to muscle the Massachusetts senator on her own turf. For one, they insist Warren is not and will not be a presidential candidate. That Clinton is doing this sort of field work across the country, in almost every state, also undercuts the theory.

Still, Clinton’s foray into the home states of three Democratic long-shot challengers — Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, Martin O’Malley of Maryland, and Bernie Sanders of Vermont — has underscored reports that she is leaving nothing to chance in rounding up the party’s grassroots activists early.

Here in Massachusetts, her campaign has hired Erik Balsbaugh, an experienced field organizer for her in 2008 and for John Kerry’s presidential bid in 2004, to engage activitists in these early stages

Hillary Clinton books second trip to Iowa // USA Today // Jennifer Jacobs - May 14, 2015

A month after the debut Iowa visit of her 2016 presidential campaign, Democrat Hillary Clinton will return to the first-in-the-nation voting state next week.

Clinton will be in the state on Monday and Tuesday, spokeswoman Lily Adams told Iowa reporters Wednesday night. Campaign aides didn’t release the names of towns Clinton will visit, but said she will do small events similar to her previous trip that will give voters one-on-one time with her for questions and idea sharing.

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On April 13, the leading Democratic presidential contender came straight to Iowa after formally announcing her candidacy the day before. Instead of flying in a private jet from her home state of New York, she rode in a van nicknamed Scooby because it reminded her of the van in the 1970s TV cartoon "Scooby Doo."

The first official event of Clinton's presidential campaign was in Monticello, where she spelled out "four big fights" she wants to pursue — create more jobs, strengthen families, get secret money out of politics and keep the nation secure. She also said government aid for college costs and economic fairness are among her priorities.

"I want to stand up and fight for people so they cannot just get by, but they get ahead and stay ahead," Clinton said.

Clinton's campaign aides intentionally designed her three-day Iowa swing to be a listening tour, staged in small, casual settings, mostly out of the glare of press scrutiny. Her strategists said she will take a more humble approach this time than during her unsuccessful 2008 presidential race, casting the focus away from herself and onto ordinary Americans.

No candidate trip in the 2016 presidential cycle to date has drawn as much attention in the traditional media or on social media, where people were tracking her journey and guessing where she was going next.

In late April, Clinton penned a thank-you note to Iowans published in the opinion section of The Des Moines Register. "I'll be back soon. Thanks for having me, Iowa," she wrote.

Republicans responded to the news of Clinton's upcoming Iowa visit by bringing up controversies over Clinton's use of a personal email server to conduct U.S. State Department business out of the public eye, and donations foreign governments made to the Clinton Foundation despite the conflict of interest for the Clinton-led state department.

"Instead of addressing the concerns of everyday Americans, Hillary Clinton continues to dodge the growing number of questions surrounding shady foreign donations and her secret email server," said Fred Brown, spokesman for the Republican National Committee.

Hillary Clinton to return to NH on May 21 // WMUR // May 14, 2015

Hillary Clinton will be back in New Hampshire next week for her second visit since announcing her candidacy for president in mid-April.

A Clinton campaign official told WMUR.com the Democratic presidential frontrunner will be in the state on May 21, with details of the visit yet to be disclosed. She will be in New Hampshire on the same day that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush wraps up a two-day visit.

The Clinton campaign official said the events will be small-scale, similar to those she has done on previous trips to New Hampshire and other states, as part of the "ramp up" phase of the campaign.

According to the campaign, the events will be designed to give Granite Staters the opportunity to ask her questions and share ideas.

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Earlier Thursday, the Clinton campaign announced she will return to first-caucus state Iowa on Monday and Tuesday, May 18 and 19. She has also visited the early-voting states of Nevada recently and is slated to go to South Carolina on May 27.

In Texas, Clinton Campaign Revs Up // The Texas Tribune // Patrick Svitek - May 13, 2015

LLANO — The dozen or so Hillary Clinton supporters gathered here late Tuesday had no illusions that ruby-red Texas would play a key role in electing the next Democratic president. They acknowledged they may get sent to other states to phone bank and block walk, and they were told — repeatedly — not to expect Clinton's campaign to open a brick-and-mortar outpost in the Lone Star State anytime soon.

Yet they held out hope that the former secretary of state could put up a fight in Texas, where Democrats are desperately looking for a boost after devastating losses in last year's statewide elections.

"She may not win this state," said Terry Adkins, a former union official who recalls registering voters with the Clintons decades ago in the Rio Grande Valley. "But I do believe she's going to really scare some Republicans."

The meeting at the back of the Llano Public Library — held on a dreary evening in the heart of the Hill Country, 90 minutes outside Texas' liberal refuge of Austin — highlighted the Clinton campaign's first public efforts to build an organization in a state that rejected President Obama by double-digit margins in 2008 and 2012. The campaign is decisively concentrating on the primary in Texas and elsewhere, reflective of a humble approach to a presidential race in which Clinton has long been presumed as the Democratic nominee.

Still, as they rally donors and volunteers, some Texas Democrats cannot help but imagine a general election in which Clinton shakes the party out of its statewide slump.

"I'm not giving up on the general election in Texas because I think she's the kind of candidate who could build on the work Battleground Texas and other groups have done and make a credible showing," said Carrin Patman, a Houston trial lawyer who is helping raise money for the campaign. "It may sound quixotic, but I wouldn't rule out her putting Texas in play in 2016."

So far, the campaign's most visible outreach in Texas has centered on what it calls "old-school organizing." It has dispatched a full-time paid staffer to Texas through the end of May, part of a broader push to start building a ground game in all 50 states. The staffer, Manfred Mecoy, has Texas roots as a UT-Dallas graduate and Fort Worth native, and he comes to the state with several years of organizing experience in North Carolina and Ohio. His boss is Lance Orchid, who serves as one of four temporary grassroots regional directors.

Mecoy is among the activists leading a series of so-called grassroots organizing meetings this week — Tuesday in Llano and Fort Worth, Wednesday in Austin and Thursday in Dallas. The gatherings are more or less serving as listening sessions, with supporters getting the opportunity to weigh in on what shape they think the campaign should take in Texas.

At the Llano meeting, for example, supporters gathered in a circle and shared their answers to questions on a worksheet including "What national issues do you believe are most important to Texans such as yourself?" and "What presence do you think Hillary for America should have in Texas during the primary election campaign?" The attendees, some eager to immediately get involved in the campaign, were told to sit tight as the powers-that-be chart a long-term plan for Texas.

Clinton allies in the state say the early organization shows the campaign means it when it says it wants to earn every vote. They point out it is unusual — if not unheard of — for a Democratic presidential campaign to install a

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state-level organizer in a red state like Texas, let alone 10 months before the primary and without a serious opponent.

"She is taking nothing for granted," said Dallas attorney Regina Montoya, noting that Clinton's operation is not assuming a general election berth. "She is here to ensure she does well in the Texas primary."

"She's starting now, and I think that's why you see her working as hard as she is and everyone else working as hard as they are," Montoya added.

As the campaign's organizing in Texas is ramping up, so is its finance operation. Jennifer Ajluni, the former finance director of the Texas Democratic Party, is overseeing the campaign's fundraising in Texas. Meanwhile, Austin-based consultant Yaël Ouzillou is in charge of fundraising in the South Central region that includes Texas. She played a similar role on Clinton's 2008 campaign.

Right now, the campaign is focused on recruiting so-called "Hillstarters," donors who can raise $2,700 — the maximum limit for the primary — from 10 different people. On Tuesday, the campaign is sending national political director Amanda Renteria and chief digital strategist Teddy Goff to Austin to hold a private strategy session with current and prospective Hillstarters.

A familiar cast of deep-pocketed Texans are expected to open their wallets for the campaign and have already ponied up for Ready for Hillary. Houston trial lawyers Steve and Amber Mostyn were among the founding members of the group's national finance council, while its co-chairs include prominent Democratic donors such as McAllen developer Alonzo Cantu, CarMax co-founder Austin Ligon and Fort Worth investor Robert Patton, who co-owns the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Aiding the Clinton campaign is the months-long efforts of Ready for Hillary, which held fundraisers and public events across the state while building a massive list of early backers of a Clinton campaign. Garry Mauro, a former land commissioner who worked for Ready for Hillary in Texas, recently said it ended up raising over $600,000 in the state and signing up more than 200,000 volunteers.

"So we've got a good, solid base," Mauro said on The Ticket, the Texas Tribune/KUT podcast on the 2016 presidential race. "It's the only campaign I've ever been involved in — the day she announces, we've got 200,000 volunteers, you know, on our internet, ready to go, ready to put bumper stickers on. So that's a nice head start."

For Texas Democrats, it remains an open question how the campaign will mesh with the network of state-level groups working to turn the state blue, especially as those groups find their footing after getting crushed up and down the ballot in 2014. Battleground Texas Executive Director Jenn Brown said in a statement Tuesday that it is "too soon to tell what things will look like in Texas in 2016 or how Battleground Texas and its supporters will interact with the president campaign."

Clinton's fans in Texas nonetheless see Battleground as an eventual partner for the campaign. Some believe the benefits of its work last year will not be evident until a presidential election cycle, when Democrats tend to turn out more than they do in midterm elections.

On Tuesday night in Llano, Clinton backers were already floating their expectations for Clinton's performance in the general election. John Lightfoot, president of the Llano County Democratic Party Club, said any prediction has to take into account the reality of Texas' solid-red electorate.

"If we can get 30 or 35 percent [turnout] and if we can get a good 30 to 40 percent of that for Hillary," he said,"I think we've done a good job."

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Democrats 2016: Sanders Now Clinton's Chief Rival // University of Virginia, Center for Politics // Geoffrey Skelley - May 14, 2015

"Inevitable." That's the word often used to describe Hillary Clinton and the 2016 Democratic nomination. Can anyone beat her? Anything's possible, but the odds appear quite low. Still, her most threatening intraparty opposition could prove to be a man who isn't even technically a Democrat (yet, anyway): independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a self-identified "democratic socialist." We see him as a potential thorn in Clinton's side, and to reflect that, we are moving Sanders to the top of the non-Clinton tier in our presidential rankings for Democrats.

Some progressive activists are still hoping Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) will get into the race. However, while she reportedly met with some members of the "Draft Warren" movement in late April, it still seems very unlikely that the Bay State senator will run. The idea of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) running, and doing so credibly, is even harder to fathom than a Warren candidacy: He's only less than a year and a half into his first term, and already he is controversial and has just a 44% job approval rating (according to Tuesday's Quinnipiac survey).

Sanders is in a position to fill the void to Clinton's left, possibly attracting voters who are skeptical of Clinton because of her ties to Wall Street and her perceived hawkishness on foreign policy issues. Because of his issue positions and personality, Sanders could be an attractive candidate for liberals who want someone to press Clinton on topics like income inequality, free trade, and her Senate vote in favor of authorizing the Iraq War (although that vote is now more than a decade old).

On the issues, Sanders was the third-most liberal senator in the last Congress, behind only Warren and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). His presidential announcement speech highlighted his goal of creating "an economy that works for all people rather than a small number of billionaires" and denounced the role of money in politics, particularly the post-Citizens United campaign finance system. While a member of the House in 2002, Sanders voted against the Iraq War and is a leading opponent of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and other free trade deals. He has also favored nixing the Keystone XL Pipeline project, a matter about which Clinton has remained publicly undecided. These are all positions that will win him support among progressive and labor groups.

But along with his policy views, Sanders' personal characteristics may also make him a potent "protest" option for liberals in the Democratic primary. He is assertive and knows precisely what he believes in –and is unabashed in expressing himself. Moreover, Sanders is unlikely to have delusions of grandeur — he knows he isn't going to be the presidential nominee — so he has nothing to lose by pushing Clinton hard.

Looking back at past presidential campaigns, a point of comparison for Sanders is Eugene McCarthy, the Democratic Minnesota senator and three-time presidential candidate. McCarthy ran against President Lyndon Johnson in the 1968 New Hampshire primary and stunned everyone by nearly defeating the incumbent. The outcome spurred Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to announce his own candidacy and led to Johnson's stunning decision to not seek reelection. Like Sanders, McCarthy had an independent streak, and in fact McCarthy ran for the presidency in 1976 as an independent. Democrats are relieved that Sanders has personally pledged not to bolt like McCarthy and play a Ralph Nader-like role (a la 2000) in the 2016 general election campaign.

To some extent, Clinton may be okay with Sanders potentially becoming her most serious opponent. Clinton has long known that someone would emerge to make the Democratic primary battle at least a minimal contest for the media to cover. Additionally, plenty of party activists in the early states want some competition in the race. Why not have her main challenger be the very liberal Sanders, someone who will lack the resources and standing to truly threaten her? Clinton also knows that she will need the base to turn out heavily in November 2016, so she has already moved to the left on certain issues, most recently immigration. Whereas someone like ex-Gov. Martin O'Malley (D-MD) fits the profile of a more serious challenger to Clinton (or did at some point), Sanders is a senator from one of the smallest states, is unknown to most Americans, and cannot defeat Clinton, barring incredible

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unforeseen circumstances.

Speaking of O'Malley, his stock has tumbled in light of the recent events in Baltimore, where he served as mayor prior to becoming governor of Maryland. Criminal justice policies he implemented as mayor, such as zero-tolerance policing, have come under fire from critics who believe they contributed to the long-term problems undergirding the recent riots in Charm City. O'Malley has said he would announce in Baltimore "if" he runs for president, a very likely move at this point, but this location won't provide an ideal campaign backdrop. Although he has to own and defend his record as mayor and governor if he's to remain a credible candidate, Baltimore's unrest can and will be used against O'Malley. For the time being, he is positioned behind Sanders in our rankings.

While we have shifted our Democratic rankings this week, we also have one change on the Republican side of the ledger: Gov. Rick Snyder (R-MI) announced last week that he will not seek the 2016 GOP nomination for president, meaning that we can again remove him from the Crystal Ball list. We had actually taken Snyder out of our rankings weeks ago but brought him back in our last Republican update because of numerous reports suggesting he would run. But now that he's explicitly said he won't, "one tough nerd" exits our rankings. That leaves a still-staggering 19 names on our Republican list, which you can see here.

Hillary Clinton wants to put Harriet Tubman on the $20 bill // Business Insider // Leslie Larson - May 14, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has added a new issue to her presidential campaign platform: replacing President Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill with abolitionist Harriet Tubman.

Clinton tweeted on Thursday in support of making Tubman the first female face to grace printed US currency.

"Awesome, well deserved—and about time," she tweeted.

With the message, Clinton lent her support to Women on 20s, a movement advocating for more female representation on US currency.

The movement was co-founded by Barbara Howard, who told Business Insider in March that Jackson was a prime candidate for replacement given his "mixed legacy" in support of the forced resettlement of Native Americans in the 1830s.

Tubman was selected in May from a public vote hosted by the group. She was one of 15 famous female candidates under consideration.

Only deceased public figures are eligible to appear on currency, so Clinton was not a nominee herself.

Howard, who had previously worked for Clinton, said in March she hoped Clinton would become president.

"I would support her, but not necessarily on paper money it's very important to honor those women in the past," she said.

Hillary Clinton tweets support for Harriet Tubman on the $20 bill // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph - May 14, 2015

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WASHINGTON —The woman who hopes to be the first female President wants to ditch Andrew Jackson in favor of placing the first woman on a U.S. banknote — Harriet Tubman.

"Harriet Tubman could be the first woman on the $20 bill. Awesome, well deserved — and about time," Clinton's account tweeted Thursday afternoon.

Activists have been pushing to get a woman on the $20 bill to replace Jackson and recently settled on Tubman over three other women after months of online voting.

The push has been getting support, drawing recent praise from the White House, and a close Clinton ally, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), recently introduced legislation to ask the Treasury Department to convene a panel to discuss putting a woman on the bill.

EXCLUSIVE: Bill Clinton's travel schedule eyed for ties to Hillary's time as secretary of state // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph - May 14, 2015

A conservative group wants to see Bill Clinton's datebook.

The organization Citizens United will release an open letter to the Clinton Foundation, first shared with the Daily News, demanding his travel schedule.

They want to see when he was in countries on foundation business around the same time then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was in the same places on official government business.

"In light of the fact it's been recently stated that President Clinton will continue to be 'completely focused right now on the foundation,' not only should the Clinton Foundation disclose all of President Clinton's foreign travel from this point forward, but also release details of his foreign travel during Secretary Clinton's time as secretary of state," Citizens United President David Bossie says in the letter to the Clinton Foundation's board chairman.

The letter points to the Clintons' overlapping time in Colombia, highlighted in "Clinton Cash," a book by conservative author Peter Schweizer, as an example of a potential conflict of interest.

Citizens United has long been a Clinton antagonist. And Bossie made it clear that he's looking to embarrass the Clintons with the letter, calling the couple "hypocrites to the highest order."

Bossie cut his teeth as a GOP congressional investigator into the Clintons' finances during the 1990s, and the organization's push to show an anti-Hillary film spurred 2010 the Supreme Court decision that caused a flood of outside money into the political system.

Clinton's campaign declined to comment on the letter, deferring to the Clinton Foundation, which didn't respond to a request for comment.

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'Clinton Cash' publisher corrects '7 or 8' inaccurate passages // Politico// Annie Karnia - May 14, 2015

In trying to defuse the potential damage of the buzzy book “Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich,” Hillary Clinton’s campaign and its allies seized on factual errors identified in author Peter Schweizer’s reporting.

Now, at least for Kindle eBook readers, those passages with errors have been deleted or edited in an updated version of the book.

Amazon on Tuesday blasted out an alert to purchasers of the book — which investigates alleged connections between the Clinton Foundation donors and Hillary Clinton’s work at the State Department, and debuted at No. 2 on The New York Times’ best-seller list for the week of May 24 — notifying them that “significant revisions have been made.”

“An updated version of your past Kindle purchase ... is now available,” reads the email. “The updated version contains the following changes: Significant revisions have been made.”

Schweizer corrected “seven or eight” passages that were revealed to be inaccurate after the book was released, according to publisher HarperCollins.

Among them, Schweizer says in the original version of the book that TD Bank, a major shareholder in the Keystone XL pipeline, paid Bill Clinton for speeches and then said it would “begin selling its $1.6 billion worth of shares in the massive but potentially still-born [sic] Keystone XL crude pipeline project” after Hillary Clinton left office. But as his source on the sale of TD Bank’s shares, Schweizer used a press release that was revealed to be fake in 2013.

That passage has been removed from the most recent Kindle version of the book.

Schweizer also appears to have edited a passage in which he claims Bill Clinton was paid $200,000 per speech by Irish billionaire Denis O’Brien for three speaking engagements he delivered in Ireland. The implication was that, while Hillary Clinton’s State Department was giving O’Brien’s company taxpayer money through the Haiti Mobile Money Initiative, “O’Brien was in turn making money for the Clintons.”

But Clinton was not paid personally for those speeches, according to his spokesman. And the Clinton Foundation was paid for just one of the three speeches. The new version deletes any mention that Clinton was paid for those speeches, and edited a claim that Clinton received $225,000 for a speech in Jamaica sponsored in part by O’Brien’s company Digicel. Another edit appears to have been made on the timing of a speech Clinton gave in Jamaica, which was also paid for by O’Brien.

Schweizer’s publisher, HarperCollins, said there was nothing out of the ordinary about the updates made to the Kindle version of the book.

“This is a routine notification that Amazon sends to previous version purchasers whenever there is an updated file,” a HarperCollins spokesperson said in a statement. “The changes that Amazon is referring to as significant are actually quite minor. We made 7-8 factual corrections after the first printing and fixed a technical issue regarding the endnotes. This global fix may have made the changes appear more extensive than they were.”

Schweizer told ABC News last month that he planned to correct some errors in his reporting that had come to

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light.

A Clinton campaign spokesman declined to comment.

'Clinton Cash' Author Slams Stephanopoulos, ABC News for 'Massive Breach of Ethical Standards' // Bloomberg // Joshua Green - May 14, 2015

When Peter Schweizer appeared on This Week on April 26 to promote his new book about the Clintons, he got a skeptical grilling from host George Stephanopoulos. One subject that wasn't raised? The fact that Stephanopoulous has personally contributed $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation, as Politico reported Thursday morning.

With the ABC host's donations suddenly in the spotlight, Schweizer feels he got burned. "Really quite stunned by this," he said in an e-mail. It's "a massive breach of ethical standards. He fairly noted my four months working as a speech writer for George W. Bush. But he didn't disclose this?"

Evidently not. In a statement, Stephanopoulos apologized. An ABC News spokesman told Politico reporter Dylan Byers the network would not take punitive action against its star host: "We accept his apology. It was an honest mistake."

On Thursday, HarperCollins, the publisher of Schweizer's book, Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich, announced that it would make "7-8 factual corrections" to the e-book version. Asked to respond, Schweizer said, "The corrections are all minor."

George Stephanopoulos discloses $50,000 contribution to Clinton Foundation // Politico // Dylan Byers - May 14, 2015

ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos has given $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation in recent years, charitable contributions that he did not publicly disclose while reporting on the Clintons or their nonprofit organization, the On Media blog has learned.

In both 2013 and 2014, Stephanopoulos made a $25,000 donation to the 501 nonprofit founded by former President Bill Clinton, the foundation's records show. Stephanopoulos never disclosed this information to viewers, even when interviewing author Peter Schweizer last month about his book "Clinton Cash," which alleges that donations to the foundation may have influenced some of Hillary Clinton's actions as secretary of state.

In a statement to the On Media blog on Thursday, Stephanopoulos apologized and said that he should have disclosed the donations to ABC News and its viewers.

"I made charitable donations to the Foundation in support of the work they're doing on global AIDS prevention and deforestation, causes I care about deeply," he said. "I thought that my contributions were a matter of public record. However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation. I apologize."

Stephanopoulos is the chief anchor and chief political correspondent for ABC News, as well as the co-anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America" and host of "This Week," its Sunday morning public affairs program. Prior to joining ABC News, he served as communications director and senior adviser for policy and strategy to President Clinton. He also served as communications director on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign.

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In its own statement on Thursday, ABC News said it was standing behind its star anchor.

"As George has said, he made charitable donations to the Foundation to support a cause he cares about deeply and believed his contributions were a matter of public record," the network's statement read. "He should have taken the extra step to notify us and our viewers during the recent news reports about the Foundation. He's admitted to an honest mistake and apologized for that omission. We stand behind him."

ABC News later told the On Media blog that it would not take any punitive action against Stephanopoulos: "We accept his apology," a spokesperson said. "It was an honest mistake."

Sources with knowledge of Stephanopoulos' charitable giving said he gives to dozens of charities every year and that the total sum of these annual contributions is in the millions of dollars. Those sources said that the Clinton Foundation contributions represent a very small percentage of the total.

On the April 26 edition of "This Week," Stephanopoulos interviewed Schweizer and challenged the author's assertions that Hillary Clinton may have committed a crime because there was a "troubling pattern" between donations to the foundation and Clinton's actions as secretary of state.

"We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action," the host told Schweizer. "An independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunlight Foundation, wrote this. He said, 'There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation.' No smoking gun."

Later in the interview, Stephanopoulos said, "I still haven't heard any direct evidence, and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here." He also noted that other news organizations that used Schweizer's research "haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime."

Among the more notable revelations to come out of Schweizer's research is the relationship between the Clinton Foundation and Uranium One, a former Canadian mining company that was taken over by Russia in 2013 with U.S. government approval. From 2009 through 2013, Uranium One's chairman donated $2.35 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Hillary Clinton has said that there is "not an inherent conflict of interest" between the foundation donations and her decisions at the State Department. Her campaign has consistently dismissed the accusations as partisan attacks.

ABC anchor sorry for not disclosing Clinton donations // CNN // May 14, 2015

George Stephanopoulos, the chief anchor of ABC News, apologized on Thursday for not telling viewers or his bosses about $75,000 in recent donations to the Clinton Foundation.

The revelations shocked many in the television news industry and prompted stern reactions from a number of prominent Republicans. Within hours, Stephanopoulos came out and said he would recuse himself from ABC's planned Republican presidential primary debate, scheduled to take place next February.

"I don't want to be a distraction," he told CNNMoney, "so I'm not going to moderate that debate."

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However, Stephanopoulos said, "I am going to continue to cover the 2016 campaign."

In a phone interview -- perhaps intended to stem the damage done by the revelations -- Stephanopoulos called the donations a mistake and reiterated his earlier apology.

Stephanopoulos was one of Bill Clinton's closest advisers during Clinton's first term as president. He is now one of the most-respected and best-paid anchors at ABC News.

The network is not taking any disciplinary action against him.

"He made charitable donations to the foundation to support a cause he cares about deeply and believed his contributions were a matter of public record," the network said in a Thursday morning statement.

"He should have taken the extra step to notify us and our viewers during the recent news reports about the Foundation," the network continued. "He's admitted to an honest mistake and apologized for that omission. We stand behind him."

The existence of the donations was first reported by Politico and the Washington Free Beacon on Thursday morning.

ABC initially said Stephanopoulos had donated a total of $50,000 to the foundation, once in 2013 and once in 2014.

Later in the day, he said he'd forgotten about a third donation of $25,000, back in 2012, so the total is actually $75,000.

All the donations were a matter of public record, and represented only a small slice of the anchor's annual charitable giving.

In an initial statement of contrition on Thursday morning, Stephanopoulos said he made the donations "in support of the work they're doing on global AIDS prevention and deforestation, causes I care about deeply."

"I thought that my contributions were a matter of public record," he said. "However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the foundation. I apologize."

After the initial news reports, two Republican candidates for president, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz, said they thought Stephanopoulos should not moderate any 2016 debates.

A number of other Republicans went further and said he should not be involved in any election coverage while Hillary Clinton is a candidate for president.

Conn Carroll, the communications director for Senator Mike Lee, tweeted, "I'm not letting my boss go on ABC until" Stephanopoulos "recuses himself from all 2016 coverage."

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As criticism mounted, Stephanopoulos said he regretted not just the lack of disclosure, but the donations themselves.

"I gave the donations for the right reasons, for the best of intentions, to support causes I believe in," he said in the phone interview. "In retrospect, I realize that even though that falls within our guidelines, I should have gone above and beyond that, just to avoid anything that would even raise any possible appearance of a conflict."

"That's why it was a mistake," he said, "and that's why I'm sorry -- to our viewers and to my colleagues."

With regards to his 2016 campaign coverage, he said, "I think I'll be able to prove every single day that I do it with intelligence and fairness, just as I've done for the last 17-plus years."

After stepping down from his White House post in 1996, Stephanopoulos gradually became one of the best-known television news hosts in the United States.

He is currently the co-host of ABC's most lucrative news program, "Good Morning America," and the moderator of the Sunday morning public affairs program "This Week."

Stephanopoulos said he did not recall whether any of his donations were actively solicited by the foundation.

He said his only remaining relationship to the Clintons is a journalistic one.

George Stephanopoulos donations to Clinton Foundation: Immediate crisis for ABC News // WaPo // Erik Wemple - May 14, 2015

ABC News's George Stephanopoulos contributed a total of $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation in 2013 and 2014, according to a report by Politico's Dylan Byers. The donations came in two tranches of $25,000, reported Politico, citing foundation records.

How big a deal is this? Large: Stephanopoulos IS ABC News. Though he doesn't anchor "ABC World News Tonight," he is the network's chief anchor, meaning that he fronts the network in breaking news situations — or just when it matters. More: He is anchor of "Good Morning America" and of "This Week with George Stephanopoulos."

Now for the Clinton Foundation, the family charity of Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. As numerous reports have shown in recent weeks, the foundation sits at the crossroads of domestic and international power. Big shots who donate to promote the foundation's work in economic development, global health and climate change may also be seeking influence in U.S. politics.

A donation from Stephanopoulos to the Clinton Foundation in any amount constitutes a scandal and an immediate crisis for ABC News. Though the donations in 2013 and 2014 appear to have occurred after Hillary Clinton left the State Department (in early 2013) and before she announced her presidential run (weeks ago), come on: Her inevitability as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination has been a Washington fact throughout this period.

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Now for the defenses. First, from Stephanopoulos:

I made charitable donations to the Foundation in support of the work they're doing on global AIDS prevention and deforestation, a cause I care about deeply. I thought that my contributions were all a matter of public record. However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation. I apologize.

And from ABC News:

As George has said, he made charitable donations to the Foundation to support a cause he cares about deeply and believed his contributions were a matter of public record. He should have taken the extra step to notify us and our viewers during the recent news reports about the Foundation. He's admitted to an honest mistake and apologized for that omission. We stand behind him.

Those statements are welcome acknowledgments that the donations are serious business. Yet were they really an "honest mistake"? Another way of looking at them is that they were an "honest expression of support" for the ruling family of American Democratic politics. We trust that Stephanopoulos cares about global AIDS prevention and deforestation, and a source familiar with the situation says the donations constitute less than 1 percent of his annual giving, though the Erik Wemple Blog would need to see his tax returns to confirm such a figure.

Conflict-of-interest matters are an obsession of this blog, which views the mixing of money and favors between TV personalities and special interests as one of contemporary journalism's most toxic pollutants. The problem with Stephanopoulos's $50,000 donation to the Clinton Foundation is that it gives him a stake — even if it's a small one — in the operations and success of the charity. Like any donor, Stephanopoulos wants his money put to good use and, all else being equal, wants the foundation to prosper as it invests his money in good works.

Good journalism simply cannot tolerate such a stake. Stephanopoulos already has a history with the Clintons, having served as Bill's senior adviser for policy and strategy. Those ties already had media critics — many of them conservatives — wary of just how objective he could be in covering a Clinton-colored political landscape. Now he has confirmed their wariness, in perhaps the dumbest move by a major media figure in some time.

Does Stephanopoulos have the bona fides at this point to cover the Clintons? Nah.

ABC News, however, isn't budging. In a brief chat this morning, the Erik Wemple Blog quizzed ABC News spokeswoman Heather Riley on whether the network sees an ongoing conflict of interest. "We stand behind him," responded Riley. Can he objectively cover Hillary Clinton? "We stand behind him," responded Riley. We posed some other question, and Riley responded again, "We stand behind him."

The disclosures shed new light on a tough interview that Stephanopoulos conducted recently with Peter Schweizer, the author of "Clinton Cash," a much-discussed book that pokes at the overlapping worlds of the Clinton Foundation and Hillary Clinton's purview as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. Stephanopoulos grilled the guy, "How does your reporting show that Hillary Clinton may be unfit for the presidency?" he asked, in kicking off the session. Over nearly eight minutes, Stephanopoulos kept the heat on, citing "no evidence at all" that Hillary Clinton was involved in a key decision discussed in the Schweizer book and pursuing the author over whether he'd briefed any Democrats about his book, as he did for Republicans.

"As you know, the Democrats have said this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say you used to work for President Bush as a speechwriter, you're funded by the Koch Brothers. How do you respond to that?" asked Stephanopoulos — all the while sitting on his own interest in the Clinton Foundation. Riley indicated that a note will be added to the interview online to disclose the anchor's contributions.

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Perhaps Stephanopoulos's best defense would be to mention that the Clinton Foundation has developed some bipartisan muscles. Christopher Ruddy, the former Clinton antagonist and boss of conservative media outlet Newsmax, is a Clinton Foundation donor and fan. Bill Clinton welcomed New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for a 2013 chat at a Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting in Chicago. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney addressed CGI in 2012. But Stephanopoulos isn't mounting this defense, so we won't either.

George Stephanopoulos Interviewed Bill Clinton About CGI In 2013 // Buzzfeed News // Katherine Miller - May 14, 2015

George Stephanopoulos donated to the Clinton Foundation in 2013 — and he interviewed President Bill Clinton about the foundation's biggest project, the Clinton Global Initiative.

On Thursday, after questions from the Washington Free Beacon about public documents listing Stephanopoulos as a donor to the foundation, Stephanopoulos apologized for not disclosing the $50,000 in donations in a statement to Politico.

"I made charitable donations to the Foundation in support of the work they're doing on global AIDS prevention and deforestation, causes I care about deeply," he said in the statement. "I thought that my contributions were a matter of public record. However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation. I apologize."

Stephanopoulos recently interviewed author Peter Schweizer about his book, Clinton Cash, which investigates the activities of the foundation.

In September of 2013, the This Week anchor sat down with Clinton for an interview that encompassed several topics, but included a three-minute segment about CGI.

"In the meantime, (Hillary Clinton) has joined the Clinton Foundation," Stephanopoulos says in the introduction to that segment. "[And] of course, at the Clinton Global Initiative, which brings philanthropists and CEOs together with nonprofits to make concrete commitments aimed at some of the world's toughest problems. Almost 10 years in, they have leveraged billions of dollars in assistance to more than 180 countries and we have talked to President Clinton about that, too."

The positive interview about the foundation is largely Clinton talking with few questions.

Stephanopoulos asks Clinton about the percentage of entities that make commitments that follow through ("Oh, it's quite good," Clinton says. "We get detailed progress reports now on 60% of the commitments.") and asks Clinton to talk about a large-scale project for women entrepreneurs ("Is that the project you're most excited about?").

A request for comment to ABC News about whether Stephanopoulos had donated to the foundation before or after the interview was not immediately returned.

George Stephanopoulos' 2016 Role Suddenly Less Certain Amid Criticism Over Clinton Foundation Donations / / Huffington Post // Michael Calderone and Sam Stein - May 14, 2015

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UPDATE: Stephanopoulos told Politico that he will not moderate ABC News' Republican debate in New Hampshire. "I think I've shown that I can moderate debates fairly," he told Politico. "That said, I know there have been questions made about moderating debates this year. I want to be sure I don't deprive moderators or viewers of a good debate."

NEW YORK -- ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos' status as a journalistic gatekeeper in the 2016 elections took a hit Thursday after it was revealed that he gave $50,000 in donations to the Clinton Foundation.

The donations, which were sitting in plain view on the Clinton Foundation website, had gone unnoticed until the conservative Washington Free Beacon began asking questions Wednesday night. ABC News confirmed the donations to Politico Thursday morning.

Stephanopoulos' ties to the Clintons aren't exactly state secrets. He served as a top aide to former President Bill Clinton during Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and his first term in the White House. But Stephanopoulos carefully crafted a post-White House career as an objective newsman, joining ABC News in 1997 as a political analyst and rising to the top of the industry. He currently co-hosts “Good Morning America” and is the host of the Sunday public affairs show "This Week." Up until Thursday, he was the network’s most likely choice to moderate presidential primary debates.

The donations now complicate Stephanopoulos' 2016 role, re-surfacing Republicans' concerns that his pro-Clinton bias was latent rather than expunged. For the campaigns and the Republican National Committee, which already threatened to boycott networks that aired documentaries about Hillary Clinton, it seems likely to prompt further complaints about mainstream media's coverage of the 2016 Republican primary.

Kentucky Senator and Republican 2016 candidate Rand Paul told The New York Times shortly after the news broke that Stephanopoulos shouldn't moderate 2016 debates.

“It’s impossible to divorce yourself from that, even if you try,” Paul told The Times. “I just think it’s really, really hard because he’s been there, so close to them, that there would be a conflict of interest if he tried to be a moderator of any sort."

In a statement to The Huffington Post, Paul campaign spokesman Sergio Gor said the candidate has "raised a red flag" in the past over Stephanopoulos' role at ABC News and his moderating network-sponsored presidential debates. Indeed, Paul suggested in 2013 that Stephanopoulos "colluded" with Democrats when moderating a Republican debate the previous year; the ABC anchor dismissed the charge.

"We have always believed that Stephanopoulos has a clear conflict of interest when it comes to objective reporting," Gor said. "He would be wise to recuse himself from political coverage with Hillary Clinton in the race."

Conn Carroll, communications director for Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah), tweeted that he's not letting his boss go on ABC "unless Stephanopoulos recuses himself from all 2016 coverage."

"I was surprised he was in the mix even prior to this," said one Republican operative affiliated with a 2016 presidential campaign, who was not authorized to speak publicly. "It is just tough. He works for the Clintons. I’m not challenging his integrity. But there is a CYA [Cover Your Ass] element to it. Why would you put him in the debate setting?"

In a statement, Stephanopoulos defended the donations, saying his intention was to support the foundation’s work in global AIDS prevention and deforestation.

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“I thought that my contributions were a matter of public record,” Stephanopoulos said, referring to their appearance on the foundation’s website. “However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation. I apologize.”

The biggest hit Stephanopoulos could suffer may stem from his failure to reveal his own donations when interviewing conservative author Peter Schweizer last month. In the interview about Schweizer's controversial book, which claimed conflicts of interest stemming from foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation, Hillary Clinton’s tenure as Secretary of State and Bill Clinton’s lucrative paid speaking engagements, Stephanopoulos challenged Schweizer’s assertions, telling the author that ABC News “found no proof” Clinton gave preferential treatment to foundation donors while leading the State Department.

Conservative sites like NewsBusters and Breitbart News criticized the anchor’s handling of the interview. The latter, which argued that Stephanopoulos should have disclosed that he used to work for Bill Clinton, called him a “former Clinton aide” in its headline.

Jonathan Adler, writing two days later on The Washington Post's “Volokh Conspiracy" blog, took Stephanopoulos to task for his work history, arguing that Stephanopoulos should have disclosed his former employer when questioning Schweizer about the author's former employers and their impact on the reliability of Schweizer's reporting.

The disclosures Thursday now turn the spotlight on ABC News, which has watched from the sidelines for months as rival NBC News faced a barrage of negative stories resulting from the exaggerations of suspended anchor Brian Williams and the resulting network shake-up. So far, ABC News is backing up its star anchor and signaled in a statement that there will be no punitive action coming.

"As George has said, he made charitable donations to the Foundation to support a cause he cares about deeply and believed his contributions were a matter of public record," a network spokeswoman said. "He should have taken the extra step to notify us and our viewers during the recent news reports about the Foundation. He’s admitted to an honest mistake and apologized for that omission. We stand behind him."

Stephanopoulos did not respond to a request for comment and a spokeswoman did not make him available for an interview.

Outside the Clinton orbit, Democrats adopted a wait-and-see approach, content to let the episode play out without rendering judgement on Stephanopoulos' ability to moderate a debate. An aide to former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley (D), who is considered a likely challenger to Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary, declined to comment on the matter but said they weren't complaining, either.

Stephanopoulos has traversed these criticisms before, though not quite at this level of scrutiny. His role in the 2012 Republican presidential primary debates was criticized by conservative commentators who accused him of leaning on "gotcha" questions, like one about birth control. Conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, who will be asking questions during CNN’s first Republican debate this fall, recently told HuffPost he won’t bring up contraceptives -- a reference to Stephanopoulos' infamous question.

During an episode of Fox News' "The Five" in late March, host Eric Bolling asked Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) if he thought it was "fair" for Stephanopoulos to moderate a debate "given his time with the Clintons as a spokesperson."

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"I personally don't have a problem with George Stephanopoulos," Rubio replied. "I dealt with him in his past, he's always been professional but I'm well aware of his history in the past."

Two weeks later, Rubio announced his candidacy for president. The first interview he gave was to Stephanopoulos.

Hillary Clinton's Campaign Manager Interned for George Stephanopoulos // Free Beacon // Brent Scher - May 14, 2015

George Stephanopoulos thanked Hillary Clinton's campaign manager Robby Mook in the acknowledgement section of his 1999 tell-all memoir All Too Human.

Stephanopoulos' book, described as "a new-generation political memoir" of a man "who got his hands on the levers of awesome power at an early age," was written after he left the Clinton administration and returned to his alma mater Columbia to be a visiting professor.

Mook was an undergrad student at Columbia during Stephanopoulos' brief tenure and was already politically active. He was a member of the College Democrats and was active in Democratic politics in his home state of Vermont.

Mook was also part of the team of interns who worked under Stephanopolous' research assistant at Columbia, responsible for "reviewing thousands of pages of public records and making sure I got my facts straight," wrote Stephanopolous.

Here is the excerpt from All Too Human where Mook is thanked:

Mook was part of Clinton's failed 2008 campaign, running multiple state campaigns. He would later run the successful Virginia gubernatorial campaign for Clinton's 2008 campaign chairman Terry McAuliffe.

The Washington Free Beacon discovered that Stephanopolous had donated thousands to the Clinton Foundation and failed to disclose that fact during ABC News' coverage of controversy surrounding the foundation.

Questions have been raised as to whether Stephanopolous' ties to the Clintons make him unable to impartially report on the 2016 election.

Stephanopoulos has since apologized for his failure to disclose the donations. He has also said that making the donations was a mistake and that he will not be moderating ABC's Republican debate.

Top members of the Clinton campaign hosted Stephanopoulos and other members of the media for an off-the-record dinner in New York City just days before the campaign was formally launched.

The Clinton campaign did not return a request for comment on Mook's relationship with Stephanopoulos.

Trump gave at least $100K to Clinton Foundation // The Hill // Mark Hensch - May 14, 2015

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New York real estate mogul Donald Trump and his daughter Ivanka have donated a combined total of at least $105,000 to the Clinton Foundation, records show.

“Donald J. Trump” is listed on the foundation’s website as giving between $100,000 and $250,000 to the charitable organization.

“Ivanka Trump,” meanwhile, is listed as a donor who gifted between $5,001 and $10,000 to the nonprofit.

“This list is comprised of those who made contributions or grants to advance the work of any part of the Clinton Foundation, including the Clinton Global Initiative, and indicates cumulative lifetime giving through 2014,” the website said.

The website does not specify when the Trumps donated, nor the exact amount of their contributions.

Donald Trump, a possible 2016 GOP presidential candidate, has repeatedly criticized Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton for her lack of transparency concerning the foundation.

“If this was a Republican sitting right there, this would absolutely be considered illegal,” Trump said last month of the foundation’s activities on Fox News’s “Fox and Friends.”

“This is about jail time; this isn’t about the voters,” he added.

The foundation’s records received new scrutiny on Thursday after ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos admitted he had donated a total of $50,000 to the foundation as of 2014.

Stephanopoulos, an ex-political adviser for former President Bill Clinton, gave $25,000 in 2013 and then again the following year.

“I thought my contributions were a matter of public record,” said Stephanopoulos, who had not previously revealed his donations.

“However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation,” he added.

Several Republicans on Thursday urged ABC to bench Stephanopoulos for its 2016 campaign coverage due to the conflict of interest.

“It’s impossible to divorce yourself from that, even if you try,” Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), a 2016 GOP contender, told The New York Times. “I just think it’s really, really hard because he’s been there, so close to them, that there would be a conflict of interest if he tried to be a moderator of any sort."

Author Peter Schweizer sparked interest in the Clinton Foundation’s finances with his new book Clinton Cash earlier this month.

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It alleges that then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used her political power to grant favors to foreign donors who contributed to the foundation in return.

The Clinton family has denied any illicit activity involving the charitable organization bearing their name.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Progressives' looming challenge: Bill de Blasio, Elizabeth Warren, inequality, and a stunning blind spot // Salon // Joan Walsh - May 14, 2015

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio took his progressive agenda road show to Washington Tuesday, where he was trailed by local and national reporters in the fever grip of a narrative: How can de Blasio be a leader on national issues when the problems of his city aren't solved? What about the people hit on the head with hammers in Union Square while the mayor was gallivanting about on Tuesday? What about the carriage horses?

These were real questions put to de Blasio after a rather surreal event in which progressive leaders endorsed an agenda to tackle income inequality in early-May 90-degree heat, without any shade, just outside the Capitol. You could see all the promise and all the contradictions of the progressive movement in the sun-baked tableau. An actual story was on display, even as reporters chased non-issues and their cherished narrative. Debate buzzed around the overheated podium as dozens of Democratic Congress members, labor leaders and civil rights activists declared their support for the 13-point "Progressive Agenda to Combat Income Inequality" emblazoned on a poster beside them.

De Blasio was flanked by big placards supporting debt-free college and expanding Social Security, two demands that have rocketed to the top of the progressive agenda thanks to strong movements behind them. But those issues haven't yet officially made the 13-point list. A bigger omission was any mention of criminal justice reform. Organizer Van Jones amiably grumbled about the lack of an official agenda item as he caucused with concerned friends, who seemed bewildered by the omission, though Jones wholeheartedly endorsed the agenda when it was his turn to speak.

"We are going to go back to the coalition literally starting tomorrow and add a couple of the pieces, obviously with the agreement of coalition members, that people have said they thought would be very important," de Blasio promised the crowd. He's going to have to.

Meanwhile, as the event got underway, Senate Democrats were thwarting President Obama's attempt to fast-track deliberation on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade accord, an issue that's both energizing and dividing the left, including the coalition behind de Blasio's agenda. Labor leaders railed against TPP from the podium; Rev. Al Sharpton, who supports the pact, preached "unity, not unanimity," and reminded the crowd that left-wing infighting in 1968, the year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and a teenage Sharpton joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, elected Richard Nixon.

The long day ended with a devastating Amtrak derailment outside Philadelphia, killing at least seven people on a train that I was almost aboard. (I caught the last train to New York.) I suppose that concentrated my mind on this allegedly progressive moment.

The crisis couldn't be more clear: Infrastructure used to be an easy, bipartisan issue. Now, as a nation, we've gone from debating high speed rail, to cutting funding for low-speed rail, to tolerating no-speed rail this week along the Northeast Corridor, where de Blasio's New York will lose $100 million every day train travel is halted. News that the engineer was going 100 miles an hour, way over the advised speed for that stretch of track, doesn't change the

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fact that too many antiquated stretches of track require much less speed than is customary for train travel around the world. Or that "positive train control" technology, which should have already been installed, hadn't been there. The tragedy ought to muzzle reporters who robotically ask why New York's mayor traveled to Washington, not only to lobby for federal action but to rally a new political coalition that can fix our broken politics. But it probably won't.

Progressives have a moment, all right, but are they up to it? My day with de Blasio provided some answers, not all of them encouraging. The New York mayor's effort is widely perceived as an attempt to pull Hillary Clinton to the left, in the absence of a strong primary challenger. (It got underway before Sen. Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy, but Sanders, alone, probably isn't much threat to the front-runner.) The debate over its agenda shows that progressives care, passionately, about the 2016 election, and beyond. They believe they can drive the debate.

But first, they might have to get out of their own way. As the Obama era comes to a close, they are still grappling with the issues of race, and not always well. There are lessons here for Hillary Clinton, though maybe not the ones de Blasio and allies intended.

* * *

My big day of progressive politicking began with a National Press Club event to release a new report by the lefty-wonky Roosevelt Institute, "Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy: An Agenda for Growth and Shared Prosperity." Roosevelt economist and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz called it "a big think," and he's right. The event was keynoted by Sen. Elizabeth Warren and de Blasio. You could see many of the assets of 2015 progressive organizing on display.

For one thing, there's rare bipartisan agreement that income inequality is growing, and that it's a problem, although Republicans continue to advance only warmed-over Reaganism as a solution. There's also growing recognition among liberals that their efforts must go beyond tinkering at the margins of the economy while venerating the allegedly "free" market. Markets aren't magic; they're created by socially constructed rules. "Rewriting the Rules" meticulously shows how the economic "rules" laid down by government in the years after World War II deliberately spread prosperity. Then, starting in the late '70s, our rules began to concentrate it.

"If someone said in the 1980s, 'we're going to change the rules, and all the income gains will go to the top," nobody would have supported that, Stiglitz told me after the event. That's why there's an opening now to "rewrite the rules," in the Roosevelt Institute's phrasing. "It wasn't an act of God," de Blasio told the crowd. American political leaders made political decisions to intensify income inequality; they can make different ones.

A third boon to progressive politics is the fact that there's an agenda widely supported by liberals (and according to polls, by the general public too). It involves efforts to shore up families with paid family leave and early childhood programs; boosting pay by hiking the minimum wage and strengthening labor rights, particularly the right to organize; and a range of progressive taxation ideas, including eliminating lower rates for wealth than work. Roosevelt's agenda got a little bit into the weeds, but by necessity; de Blasio's stayed focused on broader demands.

Finally: these demands are bolstered by rising grass-roots movements. There's more on-the-ground activism — around fast-food workers' wages, the "Fight for $15" campaign, Wal-Mart workers' rights — than I've seen on the left in a long while. In their remarks at the Roosevelt event, both de Blasio and Warren referenced the grass-roots energy as a resource progressives must harness.

Yet I was surprised that neither referred to what might be the most vibrant and important movement of all: the organizing around "Black Lives Matter" and the effort to end the era of mass incarceration. De Blasio's Progressive Agenda didn't mention criminal justice reform or anything related to it; the Roosevelt Institute report, laudably, does include a bullet point recommending "Reform the criminal justice system to reduce incarceration rates," but it's one of 37 recommendations and easily missed (mea culpa; in an earlier version of this post, I missed it). I've worked on these issues my entire career, and I've got to say: Sometimes I'm amazed at the white left's blurry

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vision when it comes to race.

I asked de Blasio about that omission when we met briefly on Tuesday afternoon.

“I think this agenda, and this coalition, is going to grow,” he told me. “We have to connect the fact that income inequality is deeply connected to mass incarceration, that racism underlies the lack of opportunity for men of color. I think those two issues go naturally together and I’m going to be putting a lot of time into them.”

But there was a lot of discontent with the omission from the 13-point agenda when we got to the official event, which almost fell apart over the controversy. Van Jones, rather admirably, fell on his sword when I asked him about it by phone the next day. Like a lot of black progressives, he’s been focused on the situation in Baltimore, in the wake of Freddie Gray’s killing by police, and wasn’t entirely on top of the drafting of the agenda.

“I was one of the people who was at the initial Gracie Mansion event,” he told me, carefully, on Wednesday afternoon. “In the drafting of the agenda, I was not as attentive or involved as earlier, because of Baltimore. I didn’t do my due diligence on the back end. I appreciate that the mayor made a commitment to go back to all the parties on a ‘schools not jobs’ plank.” But I found myself wondering why the issue required a push from Jones, anyway, given its centrality to the opportunity crisis in America.

Meanwhile, just yards away from the de Blasio convening, Obama lost a round on the TPP. New York’s mayor stood squarely with the Massachusetts senator on the issue. “The bottom line on trade is I couldn’t agree more with Elizabeth Warren,” he told the crowd.

But there was an ugly parallel dust-up. Sen. Sherrod Brown – who’d attended the inaugural meeting of de Blasio’s effort at New York’s Gracie Mansion in early April, but wasn’t at the Capitol event – lamented the president’s very personal attacks on Sen. Warren, suggesting they might even be a little bit sexist. The president, Brown noted, has attacked Warren by her first name, “when he might not have done that for a male senator, perhaps?”

I didn’t read Obama’s Warren comments as sexist – he regularly refers to Vice President Biden as “Joe” — although I thought they were weirdly personal and politically counter-productive. But I also didn’t read Brown’s criticism of Obama as reflecting racial animus – but Obama die-hards online did, with one perhaps parody Twitter account claiming the president had been “Emmett Tilled” for allegedly mistreating a white woman.

It reminded me that the fault lines of the 2008 primary campaign still exist, even as Democrats appear remarkably united, compared to the fractious 2016 GOP field, which is currently embroiled in a dead end debate about Iraq. (Poor Jeb.) And those fault lines weren’t closed, in any way, by the omission of criminal justice reform from the de Blasio agenda.

* * *

The stillness at the center of this storm is, oddly, Hillary Clinton. Many observers and even some participants see de Blasio’s project as an effort to pull her left. Now that she’s in the race, she’s arguably to the left of de Blasio’s agenda, given her recent policy statements calling for an end to mass incarceration, and promising to protect even more undocumented immigrants from deportation than are covered by Obama’s executive orders.

Pointing to the new divisions in the Democratic Party over trade, MSNBC’s Luke Russert asked de Blasio whether he thought Clinton had to stand with Warren on the TPP to win his group’s support. De Blasio ducked a direct answer, even as he declared his own support for Warren’s stand.

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I asked de Blasio if he could see any scenario in which he didn't endorse Clinton. "I don't do hypotheticals," he told me. When I laughed at that, he added, "But I can say honestly, I'm optimistic…She gave the speech on immigration, which I thought was great, the speech on criminal justice reform I thought was great. I think we're seeing a lot. I still want to hear the core agenda for fighting income inequality, but this is a very promising start."

Part of me thinks the best thing de Blasio can do to advance "the core agenda for fighting income inequality" is to be a great mayor of New York. But I'm also sympathetic to both his genuine need to harness federal support, in order to be a great mayor, and also to harness the impressive populist energy that fueled his unlikely rise to Gracie Mansion.

Given the controversy roiling around him on Tuesday, de Blasio maintained an enviable equanimity. In the end I found myself thinking he has the temperament to play a role in harnessing the energy of the fractious left, because he smiled and nodded his way through Tuesday's event. He affably fielded dumb media questions in the 90-degree heat, while things were even hotter inside his own coalition, given the neglect of criminal justice reform on his agenda. Still, I can't help thinking: The man who won office at least partly because he's Dante's father shouldn't be struggling through an unforced error around an issue of race.

Dems: Hillary Clinton must campaign more // Politico // James Hohmann and Katie Glueck – May 14, 2015

Four in 10 Democratic insiders in the early states warn that Hillary Clinton is not spending enough time on the campaign trail, making her vulnerable to possible challenges from the left and dampening the enthusiasm of progressives who are already committed to her.

The POLITICO Caucus — our weekly bipartisan pulse-taking of the most important activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire — also finds Democrats almost evenly divided over whether Clinton needs to take a firmer position on the trade battle that's gripped Washington this week, but many approve of Bill Clinton's efforts to be a more silent partner in his wife's campaign.

Clinton will return to Iowa and New Hampshire next week, amidst an aggressive fundraising swing. Her campaign said Thursday that the events will again be small and relatively private.

But insiders are clamoring for the former secretary of state to do more events that allow more voters to see her in person. There's a pervasive belief that her campaign stops need to feel more authentic and open in order to fire up the base.

"She needs to step it up dramatically," said a pro-Clinton Iowa Democrat, who — like all 77 respondents — completed the questionnaire anonymously in order to speak candidly.

"We have this need to feel well-loved every four years," said an uncommitted New Hampshire Democrat. "If other candidates begin to make inroads, Clinton's absence will be noted."

Several Democrats said she should headline a rally or give a major speech soon. One key Democrat in Iowa, where she finished third in 2008, explained that "a big open-attendance event would go a long way because it would at least let people actually see her" in person.

To escape the media scrum, a New Hampshire Democrat suggested Clinton show up unannounced in the less populous North Country. "Drop in on breakfast at a couple local spots, and then let word trickle out," the uncommitted activist said. "She can spend a few hours doing very normal, hassle-free retail campaigning and then hold some kind of press avail later in the day."

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On the other hand, a lot of Democrats joked that their friends will never be satisfied no matter how much time Hillary puts in on the ground. “There is more concern out there among Democrats than I would have thought,” said one in New Hampshire. “People feel freer to voice their concerns about the Big Crash that everyone thinks will happen to her campaign.”

Some establishment Democrats think there’s little upside to mixing it up at this stage, and they believe that the press is obsessed only with asking gotcha questions. “The less time she can spend on the campaign trail, the better,” said an uncommitted New Hampshire Democrat. “Events bring a lot of unwelcome attacks,” said another. “She’s on the money trail now,” said a pro-Clinton Democrat in Iowa. “There is time in the fall to wear out her shoes.”

Even some who want her on the trail more note a massive influx of field staff over the past month. “In Des Moines, I always see three or four of them meeting for coffee at the Smokey Row coffee house,” said a Democrat, referring to local hangout. “As a matter of fact, the O’Malley guy hangs out there too!”

Seven in 10 Republicans said Clinton spends too little time campaigning. “But when she does, she is so horrible, dull, scripted and phony that the Hillary juggernaut should create plans to build a soundproof Rose Garden in Brooklyn,” said a Granite Stater.

“Just about every other day I run into a Democrat who says, ‘Jeez, your side is having all the fun,’” said an Iowan.

One-third of GOP insiders said she’s smart to limit her appearances.

“She has no credible opponents,” said a New Hampshire Republican. “She could hibernate for the next 10 months and be totally absent from the campaign trail. And still be fine.”

Here are eight other takeaways from this 14th edition of The POLITICO Caucus:

Jeb’s fumbling of questions about Iraq reminds insiders of Bush-name baggage.

It took until Thursday for Bush to clarify that, knowing now about intelligence failures in the lead-up to the invasion of Iraq, authorized by his brother, he would not have gone to war there. Earlier this week, he dismissed that question as a “hypothetical” — a position that three-quarters of Republican insiders called problematic.

Several insiders think the kerfuffle will make it harder for Bush to distance himself from his brother, former President George W. Bush.

“Pretty bad given that he’s already battling the Bush fatigue and dynasty issue,” said one New Hampshire Republican.

An uncommitted Iowa Republican added, “This would not be a big deal if he had a different last name. But since his name is Bush, it’s another log on the ‘Bush Fatigue’ fire.”

And a New Hampshire Republican aligned with a rival camp piled on: “It reminds everyone that he has been, is,

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and will be in his brother's shadow, which not only raises policy concerns but also the specter of dynasty."

The Iraq episode also raises questions about whether Jeb's ready for primetime.

Many insiders from both parties expressed disbelief that Bush wasn't better-prepared to answer questions about the war in Iraq.

"Take away whether you agree or disagree with his answer, hypothetical or not, the fact that he is so incredibly unprepared for the spotlight is very alarming," said one Iowa Republican who supports another candidate. "As I answer this survey, he has changed his position for a third time. Hello!?"

An unaffiliated Granite State Republican noted that New Hampshire is not a particularly hawkish state, and that the unpopularity of the war in Iraq cost Republicans a lot of New Hampshire seats, in Congress and the statehouse, back in 2006 and 2008.

"If there was one topic Jeb Bush needed to have a good answer on during this campaign, this was it," the insider said. "More than anything, these answers from Jeb this week were a reminder for Republicans about what they disliked most about his brother."

On the other side of the aisle, a New Hampshire Democrat aligned with Clinton sniped, "He has handled talking about Iraq about as well as his brother handled the actual war. Jeb Bush is the obvious frontrunner, and he is stumbling out of the gate."

Use W. only in doses, and generally with donors.

Most Republican insiders didn't think Bush did himself any harm when he recently called his brother his top adviser on U.S.-Israel policy (though Democrats overwhelmingly did). But he should keep the references to his brother to a minimum, they said, and the overwhelming answer to how the former president could be helpful was through fundraising, preferably behind closed doors.

"He's a fool to use W for anything other than shaking money out of people," said one Iowa Republican aligned with another candidate.

A New Hampshire Democrat noted gleefully, "Is this even a question on the Republican side? As a Democrat, I heartily endorse the idea of George W. Bush coming to … campaign frequently for Jeb!"

But several respondents did note that the former president could be a helpful voice, in private, as his brother seeks to court pro-Israel and evangelical voters.

"Those voters who support Israel know that President Bush was a staunch, unequivocating ally of the nation," said one unaligned New Hampshire Republican. "That Gov. Bush is taking his cues from him is a welcome development especially since so many Jewish people believe that President Obama is capitulating to anti-Israeli interests. For example, dispatching him to smooth things over with Sheldon Adelson was a smart move."

As for Bill, many Democrats also want him to keep a low profile.

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Most insiders see Bill Clinton as an excellent speaker who can rally the base and energize crowds. But for now, he should avoid overshadowing the actual candidate by sticking largely to fundraisers and lower-key events, they say.

"He needs to let Hillary get out more first and set the tone of her campaign, talk about her messages and connect with voters," said a New Hampshire Democrat. "Once she establishes her campaign more widely, he should sweep in on the latter half and campaign for her. He is an asset — for sure — but people also want to hear about her and her ideas."

Republicans, and some Democrats, noted that Bill Clinton has caused some problems for the Clinton campaign in the way he's handled questions about donations to their family foundation. Staying out of the limelight for now, some said, would help.

"He needs to be supportive and in the background," an Iowa Democrat said. "So far his comments have not helped, especially when questioned about the Clinton Foundation."

Several noted his ability, for better and worse, to go off-script.

"He is a huge asset to Secretary Clinton. But at the same time, his likeability comes from his brilliance and ability to speak provocatively and not without a little thrilling unpredictability," said one New Hampshire Democrat. "How do you solve a problem like Bill Clinton? He must be putting quite few gray hairs on Robby Mook's little head," the insider continued, referring to Clinton's 35-year-old campaign manager.

Another New Hampshire Democrat called for fewer speeches and more retail: "Put a loose leash on the Big Dog, but someone definitely needs to be holding the leash."

Democrats are divided over whether Hillary needs to take a firmer position on trade.

About half of Democrats think Clinton must say outright whether she supports the 12-nation Pacific trade deal and giving President Barack Obama fast-track authority. She's given nuanced answers that nod to both sides; the White House has insisted that Clinton is on their side, and some opponents of the deal have said that her silence shows she's with them.

As the issue blew up on Capitol Hill this week, there's increasing pressure from both sides for Clinton to give a yes-or-no answer.

"Just days ago I would have said that most voters, even most base voters, didn't have [this] on their radar at all," said a New Hampshire Democrat. "Between media coverage, candidates scrambling to stake out policy positions, and even the President sending desperate-sounding emails to try to muster grassroots support, this issue is now on the front burner."

"Democrats haven't forgotten that her husband, who has been referred to as 'Outsourcer-in-Chief,' is held largely responsible for NAFTA and the negative impacts of those trade agreements," the Democrat added. "That puts Hillary in a difficult place."

Clinton allies argue that it's unfair to say she hasn't taken a position; it's just that she's very carefully threaded the needle. Asked about the Trans-Pacific Partnership recently in New Hampshire, for example, she said: "Well, any

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trade deal has to produce jobs, and raise wages, and increase prosperity and protect our security. And we have to do our part in making sure we have the capabilities and the skills to be competitive."

"Nothing wrong with Hillary not cutting POTUS off at knees, while expressing deep reservations," said a New Hampshire Democrat.

"In Iowa, her base is probably divided on the issue," added an Iowa Democrat. "Rural communities tend to support trade deals, while organized labor tends to oppose them."

Seven in 10 Republicans said she cannot get away with not giving a more definitive answer.

Backing up Obama on trade would hurt Hillary; the question is how badly.

There's a sense among several leading Democratic activists in the early states that Clinton standing with Obama might encourage Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to reconsider running.

"Base voters would not want her to align herself with Obama on such a conservative issue," said an Iowa Democrat. "All trade bills have played into the hands of conservatives in the past, and this one won't be any different."

"She would lose a lot of support among the base," said another Iowa Democrat who backs her. "This would become a litmus test for many Democratic activists, particularly organized labor. She needs to oppose it."

"It would move a non-trivial amount of support to Bernie Sanders," said a New Hampshire Democrat.

Clinton boosters argue that the damage would be limited because these are people who wouldn't back her anyway.

"Progressives in Iowa that have already been reluctant to support her would use this as a rallying cry," said an Iowa Democrat who backs her. "I think it wouldn't lose her support but would make the opposition louder."

"Anyone who would be pressing Hillary on this is likely already in the Sanders/O'Malley/anti-Hillary faction, and they feel very awkward because they were all primary supporters of President Obama over Hillary in 2008," added a New Hampshire Democrat.

Others pointed out that the last three Democratic governors of New Hampshire were pretty openly pro-free trade. "Labor doesn't have a big footprint here, and the people who are ardently opposed to the president's trade agenda are unlikely to be big Clinton supporters to begin with," said a New Hampshire Democrat.

Despite the events of this week, the Republican base does not really care about the trade fight.

This is the first huge, public intra-party fight in a while for Democrats, but most Republican insiders said their base is not paying attention in the early states.

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“C’mon, there isn’t one voter in 100 who knows enough about these trade deals to explain them to someone else,” said one in New Hampshire.

“It still feels like a D.C./Beltway/K Street issue,” said another.

“The isolationist, [Pat] Buchanan wing of the party is fervently dead-set against it, but they are far outnumbered by those who favor it or don’t care,” added an Iowa Republican.

Agricultural interests are big proponents of the measure, and Iowa exports over $15 billion a year. But an Iowa Republican noted that fights over trade seem abstract for many voters. “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is on the low end with so many security-based concerns,” he said. “Trade is more self-actualization to voters.”

Paul should seize the spotlight in the Patriot Act brawl.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has pledged to filibuster the reauthorization of the Patriot Act as the Senate takes up the matter again — a good move for him, at least in the more libertarian Granite State, insiders say. Nearly three-quarters of both New Hampshire Republicans and Democrats say Paul’s plan would help in their state.

“This is New Hampshire. Live Free or Die! Don’t tread on me, and leave my phone records alone,” said one Granite State Democrat who said the filibuster would be an asset.

Added an unaligned New Hampshire Republican: “It enhances his standing with a vocal minority in a field with 19 candidates. To win New Hampshire you only have to be able to count to 25 percent.”

Respondents from Iowa were more divided about whether the move would be useful: nearly as many Iowa Republicans said it would help as said a filibuster would hurt (less than one in 10 New Hampshire Republicans said the same). On the other side of the aisle, nearly half of Iowa Democrats said it would help; roughly one-tenth said it would hurt.

“He is supposed to already have the libertarian vote share his father got,” said one Iowa Republican who aligns with another candidate. “He needs to moderate his views on this so he can attract voters who are more worried about national security.”

Bernie Sanders has picked a terrible argument against the TPP // Vox // Dylan Matthews - May 14, 2015

There are good reasons to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the big Asian trade deal the Obama administration is hoping to finalize soon. I lean against it, mostly because it could hurt poor countries left out of the pact (notably Bangladesh and Cambodia), and because I think trade liberalization should be happening globally through the WTO rather than in piecemeal regional agreements.

But it's hard to sympathize with the arguments Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) put forward in his statement Tuesday, celebrating the Senate's rejection of a bill that'd enable final approval of the pact without congressional amendments:

A major reason for the decline of the American middle class and the increase in wealth and income inequality in the United State is our trade policies - NAFTA, CAFTA and Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. This

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agreement would follow in the footsteps of those free trade agreements which have forced American workers to compete against desperate and low-wage workers around the world – including workers in Vietnam where the minimum wage is 56-cents an hour.

Sanders is suggesting that TPP would be bad because it would force US workers to compete with workers in Vietnam — implicitly, that it's bad because it expands economic opportunity for poor workers in Vietnam at the expense of significantly richer workers in the United States.

The factual basis for this claim is pretty dubious. Even economists who think trade has significantly hurt US manufacturing workers tend to think the damage is already done, and that future trade deals will involve sectors of the economy in which the US does more exporting than importing (namely, services and agriculture). Moreover, insofar as the deal would advantage imports, that would lower prices for US consumers, particularly poor and middle-class consumers for whom spending on manufactured goods and clothes eats up a bigger share of income. And how much it expands opportunity in Vietnam depends a lot on the specific "rules of origin" in the deal.

But even if the deal did, on net, hurt American workers, Sanders is implicitly arguing that it's worth impoverishing desperately poor people abroad so that far richer people in the United States can be slightly better off. I don't think Sanders bears any ill will toward developing-world workers; he's consistently supported raising labor standards abroad, and during the debate over CAFTA he explicitly stated that he thought the deal would be a "disaster for the people of Central America," as well as for the US.

But he's simply mistaken about what's best for the developing world. "Forc[ing] American workers to compete against desperate and low-wage workers around the world" is not just good for those "desperate and low-wage workers"; it's actually a demand placed on developed countries by the UN Millennium Development Goals, which call for "tariff- and quota-free access for Least Developed Countries' exports." No members of the official least developed countries list are actually part of TPP — they're even poorer, and thus, on Sanders's logic, more dangerous as trading competition to the US.

When you talk to development experts who focus on trade, like the Center for Global Development's Kimberly Ann Elliott, the one point they press on again and again is the need for DFQF — duty-free, quota-free — access to rich countries' markets for exporters in least developed countries. There's been progress on this front. Through the Everything but Arms program, the European Union provides DFQF access to non-arms imports from least developed countries. In 2005, rich countries in the WTO committed to providing DFQF access to at least 97 percent of products. Through the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the US provides duty-free (but not quota-free) access to the US market for many sub-Saharan African nations. But the goal of completely free exports from all least-developed countries to all rich countries is still not reached, both because certain sensitive products (particularly in agriculture) are exempted from its benefits and because, in the US's case, many poor countries are left out of the deal.

A true anti-poverty trade agenda would be the exact opposite of what Sanders wants. It would directly put US workers in competition with more — and poorer — workers abroad. The effects on US workers would likely be small, but even if they weren't, that trade is worth making. Fighting desperate poverty in the developing world is more important than marginally boosting the US middle class. And there are many, many ways to help the American middle class that don't involve keeping the world's poorest people in a state of total immiseration.

Is Bernie Sanders the Best Candidate on Climate Change? // Mother Jones // Ben Adler - May 14, 2015

The Democratic presidential primary race got its second major candidate recently, and its first true climate hawk: Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, self-described democratic socialist. Sanders has one of the strongest climate change records in the Senate. In fact, according to rankings released by Climate Hawks Vote, a new super PAC, Sanders was the No. 1 climate leader in the Senate for the 113th Congress that ended in January.

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Climate Hawks Vote measures leadership, not just voting records, tabulating actions like bills introduced, speeches given, and so forth. In the 112th Congress, Sanders ranked third behind Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). In the last Congress, he edged out Whitehouse by one point.

"Sanders is very much among the top leaders," says R.L. Miller, founder of Climate Hawks Vote. "He has a record of really strong advocacy for solar in particular." Miller notes that distributed solar, which enables everyone with a solar panel to create their own energy instead of relying on a monopolistic utility company, fits especially well with Sanders' democratic socialist philosophy. It's bad for corporations and good for regular folks who get to own the means of production.

Here are some of the highlights from Sanders' climate and clean energy record:

In 2013, along with Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Sanders introduced the Climate Protection Act, a fee-and-dividend bill. It would tax carbon and methane emissions and rebate three-fifths of the revenue to citizens, then invest the remainder in energy efficiency, clean energy, and climate resiliency. The bill, of course, went nowhere (even if it had advanced in the Democratic-controlled Senate, it would have been DOA in the Republican-controlled House), but it shows that Sanders supports serious solutions and wants to keep the conversation going.

Also in 2013, Sanders introduced the Residential Energy Savings Act to fund financing programs that would help residents retrofit their homes for energy efficiency. This bill didn't become law either.

In 2012, Sanders introduced the End Polluter Welfare Act, to get rid of special tax deductions and credits for coal, oil, and gas producers. As he wrote in Grist at the time, "It is immoral that some in Congress advocate savage cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security while those same people vote to preserve billions in tax breaks for ExxonMobil, the most profitable corporation in America." The bill didn't pass.

In 2010, Sanders authored a bill to spread distributed solar throughout the country, the very literally named "10 Million Solar Roofs & 10 Million Gallons of Solar Hot Water Act." As Grist's David Roberts explained, it would "provide rebates that cover up to half the cost of new systems, along the lines of incentive programs in California and New Jersey." The bill didn't pass.

In 2007, he cowrote with then-Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) the Green Jobs Act, which allocated funding for clean energy and energy efficiency research and job training. This did pass, as part of a big 2007 energy bill.

Also in 2007, with Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), he cosponsored the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, to help states and local governments pay for efficiency and clean energy programs. It was also passed as part of the 2007 energy bill, and both the block grant program and the green jobs program got a funding infusion from the 2009 stimulus package.

So we know Sanders is dedicated to climate action and clean energy. Looking forward, though, it's unclear how Sanders will differentiate his climate and energy proposals from Clinton's. Clinton, like President Obama, firmly supports regulating carbon emissions domestically and getting strong international agreements to reduce emissions globally. While it is certainly true that Sanders has made more of an issue of his support for the same, it is not necessarily an issue on which Clinton needs to be pushed leftward. Many climate hawks love the fee-and-dividend approach that Sanders supports, but the truth is that no big climate-pricing bill will pass in the next few years, no matter who's president, because the Republicans will continue to control the House. And Clinton already supports the kind of strong executive action that Obama is taking to curb CO_2 emissions from power plants.

One way Sanders could set himself apart as the greenest candidate would be to propose clamping down on domestic fossil fuel extraction, especially on federal lands and waters—something a president could move on without congressional approval. Sanders has not spoken up about the extraction issue in general, but he could call

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for a moratorium on fossil fuel leasing offshore or on federal land. That would please climate activists, who are already expressing concern that Clinton isn't committed to keeping dirty fuel sources in the ground. "What we really need," says Miller, "is someone to advocate for closing down the Powder River Basin"—an area in Montana and Wyoming that's a huge source of coal mined from federal land—"but no one is really willing to come out and say that, so instead they come out for higher prices on coal leases. Sanders has not."

In an interview with the Washington Post's Greg Sargent, Sanders called for a progressive climate agenda that includes a carbon tax and investments in renewables, energy efficiency, and alternative transportation—but he made no mention of restricting fossil fuel development. Here is what he offered:

A tax on carbon; a massive investment in solar, wind, geothermal; it would be making sure that every home and building in this country is properly winterized; it would be putting substantial money into rail, both passenger and cargo, so we can move towards breaking our dependency on automobiles. And it would be leading other countries around the world.

Bill McKibben, who founded 350.org and has led the fight to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, says he is confident Sanders understands the need to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Sanders has opposed Keystone, while Clinton has avoided taking a position on it. "He's been the most consistent and proactive voice in the entire Keystone fight," writes McKibben in an email. "Everything that's been needed—from speeches on the floor to legislation to demands that the State Department change its absurd review process—he and his staff have done immediately and with a high degree of professionalism…On climate stuff he's been the most aggressive voice in the Senate, rivaled only by Sheldon Whitehouse. He understands it for the deep, simple problem it is: that we can't keep burning this stuff." (Full disclosure: McKibben is a member of Grist's board of directors.)

One area where Sanders indisputably differs from Clinton is trade. Clinton, like her husband and Obama, has been an ardent supporter of free trade agreements. Some environmentalists worry that these agreements—like NAFTA, CAFTA, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that is currently under consideration—give polluting companies too much power to undermine environmental regulations in signatory nations. As secretary of state, Clinton supported the TPP, although as a candidate her campaign advisors say she hasn't made up her mind on it. Sanders is one of the most skeptical members of the Senate on trade agreements and he is currently helping to lead the charge against the TPP.

To describe Sanders' challenge against Clinton as uphill would be too generous. It's more like climbing Mt. Everest—without oxygen or a guide. But by bringing attention to some of these issues, he may raise awareness and draw Clinton out. Sanders' office declined to comment for this story, citing an overwhelming number of interview requests following announcement of his candidacy. That speaks to the megaphone a presidential campaign can grant a candidate, especially in a nearly empty field. Sanders is sure to use it for worthy causes. Will keeping fossil fuels in the ground be one of them?

Democrats 2016: Sanders Now Clinton’s Chief Rival // Center for Politics // Geoffrey Skelley - May 14th, 2015

“Inevitable.” That’s the word often used to describe Hillary Clinton and the 2016 Democratic nomination. Can anyone beat her? Anything’s possible, but the odds appear quite low. Still, her most threatening intraparty opposition could prove to be a man who isn’t even technically a Democrat (yet, anyway): independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a self-identified “democratic socialist.” We see him as a potential thorn in Clinton’s side, and to reflect that, we are moving Sanders to the top of the non-Clinton tier in our presidential rankings for Democrats.

Some progressive activists are still hoping Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) will get into the race. However, while she reportedly met with some members of the “Draft Warren” movement in late April, it still seems very unlikely that the Bay State senator will run. The idea of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) running, and doing so credibly, is even harder to fathom than a Warren candidacy: He’s only less than a year and a half into his first

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term, and already he is controversial and has just a 44% job approval rating (according to Tuesday's Quinnipiac survey).

Sanders is in a position to fill the void to Clinton's left, possibly attracting voters who are skeptical of Clinton because of her ties to Wall Street and her perceived hawkishness on foreign policy issues. Because of his issue positions and personality, Sanders could be an attractive candidate for liberals who want someone to press Clinton on topics like income inequality, free trade, and her Senate vote in favor of authorizing the Iraq War (although that vote is now more than a decade old).

On the issues, Sanders was the third-most liberal senator in the last Congress, behind only Warren and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). His presidential announcement speech highlighted his goal of creating "an economy that works for all people rather than a small number of billionaires" and denounced the role of money in politics, particularly the post-Citizens United campaign finance system. While a member of the House in 2002, Sanders voted against the Iraq War and is a leading opponent of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and other free trade deals. He has also favored nixing the Keystone XL Pipeline project, a matter about which Clinton has remained publicly undecided. These are all positions that will win him support among progressive and labor groups.

But along with his policy views, Sanders' personal characteristics may also make him a potent "protest" option for liberals in the Democratic primary. He is assertive and knows precisely what he believes in –and is unabashed in expressing himself. Moreover, Sanders is unlikely to have delusions of grandeur — he knows he isn't going to be the presidential nominee — so he has nothing to lose by pushing Clinton hard.

Looking back at past presidential campaigns, a point of comparison for Sanders is Eugene McCarthy, the Democratic Minnesota senator and three-time presidential candidate. McCarthy ran against President Lyndon Johnson in the 1968 New Hampshire primary and stunned everyone by nearly defeating the incumbent. The outcome spurred Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to announce his own candidacy and led to Johnson's stunning decision to not seek reelection. Like Sanders, McCarthy had an independent streak, and in fact McCarthy ran for the presidency in 1976 as an independent. Democrats are relieved that Sanders has personally pledged not to bolt like McCarthy and play a Ralph Nader-like role (a la 2000) in the 2016 general election campaign.

To some extent, Clinton may be okay with Sanders potentially becoming her most serious opponent. Clinton has long known that someone would emerge to make the Democratic primary battle at least a minimal contest for the media to cover. Additionally, plenty of party activists in the early states want some competition in the race. Why not have her main challenger be the very liberal Sanders, someone who will lack the resources and standing to truly threaten her? Clinton also knows that she will need the base to turn out heavily in November 2016, so she has already moved to the left on certain issues, most recently immigration. Whereas someone like ex-Gov. Martin O'Malley (D-MD) fits the profile of a more serious challenger to Clinton (or did at some point), Sanders is a senator from one of the smallest states, is unknown to most Americans, and cannot defeat Clinton, barring incredible unforeseen circumstances.

Speaking of O'Malley, his stock has tumbled in light of the recent events in Baltimore, where he served as mayor prior to becoming governor of Maryland. Criminal justice policies he implemented as mayor, such as zero-tolerance policing, have come under fire from critics who believe they contributed to the long-term problems undergirding the recent riots in Charm City. O'Malley has said he would announce in Baltimore "if" he runs for president, a very likely move at this point, but this location won't provide an ideal campaign backdrop. Although he has to own and defend his record as mayor and governor if he's to remain a credible candidate, Baltimore's unrest can and will be used against O'Malley. For the time being, he is positioned behind Sanders in our rankings.

While we have shifted our Democratic rankings this week, we also have one change on the Republican side of the ledger: Gov. Rick Snyder (R-MI) announced last week that he will not seek the 2016 GOP nomination for president, meaning that we can again remove him from the Crystal Ball list. We had actually taken Snyder out of our rankings weeks ago but brought him back in our last Republican updatebecause of numerous reports suggesting he would run. But now that he's explicitly said he won't, "one tough nerd" exits our rankings. That leaves a still-staggering 19 names on our Republican list.

O'Malley secured Baltimore headquarters for potential presidential bid // Baltimore Sun // Erin Cox - May 14, 2015

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Former governor Martin O'Malley on Friday will sign a lease for 7,200 square feet of office space across the street from Baltimore's Penn Station, the latest signal he will launch a presidential bid based in the city.

O'Malley plans to shutter the D.C. office of his political action committee, O'Say Can You See, and move 40 workers into space at 1501 St. Paul St. by the middle of next week, O'Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith said.

The historic Railway Express building, formerly a parcel post office, was once was owned by the city and redeveloped under O'Malley's tenure as Baltimore mayor. It currently houses nonprofits, professional offices, an architecture firm and loft apartments.

The lease, expected to be signed Friday, comes as O'Malley convenes Thursday evening with longtime Maryland staffers and supporters to discuss his imminent political plans. Aides said he is inclined to run for president, but has not made a final decision.

O'Malley, who left office in January after two-terms as governor following six years as Baltimore mayor, has toured early primary states, hired staff there and pitched himself as a progressive alternative to dominant Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

He has scheduled a May 30 announcement in Baltimore to reveal his political plans. Any potential run for president, he has said, will focus on his tenure in Baltimore.

If he chooses to run, he will face an uphill fight against Clinton, who dominates polls where O'Malley barely registers. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is also in the race.

Presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley hails US role in controversial war // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs - May 14, 2015

Another presidential candidate is waffling what he would do about a war of choice launched by a previous administration that ended with mixed results. But the war in question is not the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The past few news cycles have been dominated by Jeb Bush's waffling on Megyn Kelly's question "Knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion [of Iraq]?" in an interview on Monday night. Eventually Bush conceded on Thursday that, in hindsight, "I would not have gone into Iraq".

But the Iraq war is not the only war that the United States has initiated in its 239-year history.

One likely 2016 presidential candidate, the former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley is a well-known War of 1812 buff but, emulating Jeb Bush, he refused to take a stand on whether, knowing what we know now, he would support James Madison's decision to declare war on Great Britain in 1812.

However, he was very happy with the way the war ended. O'Malley told the Guardian in a statement: "Not sure I'd start it again but we would sure as heck finish it again."

The war began when the United States decided to respond to over a decade of British provocations – which

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included impressment of American sailors, support for Indian attacks on American settlements and restrictions on American trade – with a declaration of war. But the war was greatly controversial at the time and divided the country. Opponents of the war in New England even contemplated secession in protest.

Although the war started badly for the United States, eventually after American victories in Baltimore and in New Orleans, a peace agreement was reached after two and a half years and British provocations against the United States ceased. However, the United States failed in one of its key war aims, the invasion and annexation of Canada.

While O'Malley's statement is a dodge, it is in line with previous comments about the war. In a 2014 interview with the Daily Beast, the then Maryland governor said that while he believed the war was a win for the United States but thought it "was not necessarily a golden moment" in American history.

O'Malley Won't Criticize Stephanopoulos Over Clinton Foundation Donation // Daily Caller // Al Weaver - May 14, 2015

A spokeswoman for former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's signaled Thursday that his impending presidential campaign isn't prepared to make an issue out of George Stephanopoulos's $50,000 donation to the Clinton Foundation.

"We've always found him to be fair," Lis Smith told The Daily Caller, referring to the ABC News anchor and former Clinton White House spokesman.

According to The Washington Post, O'Malley will likely join the Democratic primary against Hillary Clinton on May 30. He's reportedly set to make the announcement in Baltimore after having criss-crossed the early primary states since January.

Stephanopoulos did not tell viewers of the donation when he interviewed Peter Schweizer, the author of "Clinton Cash," which suggests donations to the Clinton Foundation and hefty speaking fees paid to Bill Clinton helped influence decisions made by Hillary Clinton during her tenure at the State Department.

O'who? What you should know about Hillary Clinton's most serious challenger // Fusion // Brett LoGiurato – May 14, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is expected to announce at the end of this month what most assumed he had been gearing up for: a challenge to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination for president.

His aides told reporters who had traveled along for a trip through New Hampshire on Thursday that he will likely tell donors and supporters in a conference call that he is "inclined to run," according to The Washington Post. His announcement will likely come around May 30 in Baltimore, where he served as mayor from 1999-2007.

Presidential speculation has followed O'Malley since 2012, when it wasn't yet clear if Clinton would seek the nomination. But despite about three years of jostling during his tenure as Maryland governor, he'll start well behind Clinton in the race and without much name recognition.

Some of his most fervent "support" to date has come from the reliably conservative Drudge Report, whose founder, Matt Drudge, is obviously pining for a liberal challenger to Clinton as well. Upon the news on Thursday O'Malley was getting ready to announce, The Drudge Report plastered a photo of O'Malley, shirtless and in

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running gear, on its banner.

He also might start behind an unexpected competitor for attention, as well — Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont who announced late last month that he'd seek the Democratic nomination for president. The challenge for O'Malley, political strategists and political science professors said, is to paint himself as an electable Bernie Sanders — and a more progressive Hillary Clinton.

"He has absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain by running," said Stella Rouse, the assistant director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland, in an email. "He can play the contrarian to Hillary, hopefully gain some publicity and support (especially via the debates if he does well)."

But O'Malley, who always served as the presumed progressive alternative to Clinton, might need to do some work to just attain that status again. It's been Sanders who has gained real momentum in polls since his announcement.

Sanders jumped from 6 percent of the Democratic primary vote in April to 13 percent in May, according to surveys from Public Policy Polling. He's also seen similar spikes in support in key states like New Hampshire, where a poll found that at least one-third of the Democratic electorate was cramming for a more progressive nominee — be it Sanders or Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts). In that same poll, from the University of New Hampshire, O'Malley was still stuck at the bottom with 2 percent.

Geoffrey Skelley, the associate editor of the University of Virginia Center for Politics' Crystal Ball, placed O'Malley behind Sanders in terms of viability in the center's newsletter on Thursday.

"Along with his policy views, Sanders' personal characteristics may also make him a potent 'protest' option for liberals in the Democratic primary," Skelley wrote. "He is assertive and knows precisely what he believes in — and is unabashed in expressing himself."

Rouse added: "He will have a tougher time carving out a spot to the left of Hillary Clinton now that Bernie Sanders is in the race."

Skelley described O'Malley as someone who "fits the profile of a more serious challenger to Clinton (or did at some point)."

The unrest in Baltimore, where protests sprang up amid the death of a 25-year-old black man in police custody, hasn't helped. Some of the tactics O'Malley instituted as Baltimore's mayor were criticized, and he found a mixed reception after he came back to the city from an overseas trip. The unrest rekindled a longstanding feud between O'Malley and David Simon, author and creator of The Wire. (Tommy Carcetti, the politically expeditious Baltimore mayor and Maryland governor in the show, is loosely based on O'Malley, Simon has said.)

"O'Malley has a very steep hill to climb. First, he left the Maryland governorship, pretty much with his tail between his legs. His approval numbers were underwater at 41 percent," Rouse said. "Second, the recent Baltimore riots did not help O'Malley. While he thought he could garner some positive publicity by 'returning home,' his policies of tough policing when he was Mayor of Baltimore came under scrutiny."

O'Malley has, however, become much more willing to challenge Clinton more directly recently. He has come out against a trade deal that most liberal Democrats oppose, as well as drawn a contrast and implied that she has hedged on her support for the deal in light of political expediency. Clinton helped craft the early stages of the deal as secretary of state, but has said more recently that she needs to see the final parameters before announcing her position.

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Many progressives think he simply needs to get out his message to a wider audience. On the stump, he often talks about his progressive record as governor. He did the tax hikes on the wealthy. He did the minimum-wage hike. The death penalty is gone in Maryland. Gay couples can marry. Undocumented immigrants can qualify for in-state tuition. Health-care reform in Maryland has real legs and is in the midst of a revolution.

But does that message have a place anymore?

Said Rouse: “I think his message will easily get drowned out and he will have a tough time getting that message out there and gaining any campaign traction.”

GOP

The Field Is Flat // National Journal // Charlie Cook – May 15, 2015

The field for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination is as flat as any in modern memory—pretty remarkable for a party that usually has a fight but almost invariably ends up nominating whoever's turn it is. While nomination trial-heat polling tells us very little this early, there are some poll questions that are better measurements of at least where these candidates are starting out, before the campaigning, debates, and advertising begin in earnest.

An April 26 to April 30 NBC News / Wall Street Journal poll asked Republican primary voters whether they could or could not see themselves voting for each of 10 different potential candidates. Marco Rubio topped the list, with 74 percent saying they could see themselves supporting him. Second was Jeb Bush with 70 percent; Scott Walker was third with 61 percent; Rand Paul was fourth at 59 percent; Ted Cruz was fifth at 57 percent; and Mike Huckabee was sixth with 52 percent. So six candidates had more than half of GOP primary voters open to voting for them. (Rick Perry, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, and Carly Fiorina rounded out the group with 45, 39, 38, and 17 percent, respectively.)

A CBS News / New York Times poll from April 30 to May 3 took a similar approach, asking whether the respondents would consider or not consider 14 different potential GOP candidates. Rubio led this list as well with 48 percent; Huckabee was second with 47 percent; Bush was third at 46 percent; Cruz had 40 percent; Perry had 39 percent; Paul had 35 percent; Carson had 33 percent; Walker had 32 percent; Rick Santorum and Chris Christie both had 27 percent; Bobby Jindal had 24 percent; John Kasich had 15 percent; Lindsey Graham had 12 percent; and Fiorina had 11 percent.

Tightening the focus a little more, a March Pew Research survey of Republican voters and GOP-leaning independents asked respondents whether there was a "good chance," "some chance," or "no chance" that they would vote for 10 different candidates. An astonishing seven different candidates had between 21 and 23 percent of respondents saying "good chance": Bush, Rubio, and Walker tied for first place with 23 percent, Huckabee and Cruz were next with 22 percent, and Paul and Carson followed at 21 percent. That's a very tight pack.

Expanding to those who had half or more of Republicans saying "good chance" or "some chance," six potential candidates made the cut: Bush (64 percent), Huckabee (61 percent), Paul (57 percent), Rubio (55 percent), Cruz (54 percent), and Perry (53 percent).

What also becomes apparent from reading these surveys is that even the most scrupulously honest pollsters can get fairly different results based on exactly what question they ask and what group they are polling. Looking at

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Republicans only is one thing; including Republican-leaning independents can bring a very different result. This matters because, in some states, independents are allowed to vote in party primaries, and, in other states, they cannot. National polls have a hard time accounting for this discrepancy, particularly now that area codes don't necessarily indicate where someone actually lives and votes.

The flatness of this field combined with a system awash in money—with just a single billionaire able to keep a candidate in the race—should make for an exceedingly volatile Republican campaign, one that is absolutely impossible to predict.

Pataki to Announce Decision on White House Run on May 28 **// AP – May 14, 2014**

Former New York Gov. George Pataki will announce May 28 in New Hampshire whether he intends to seek the Republican nomination for president, he said Thursday.

He made the announcement on social media and the MSNBC show "Morning Joe."

"I have no doubt that when I lay my ideas out there and go through my background and what I've been able to do, people will say this is a guy who could lead our country well," Pataki said on MSNBC.

Pataki has made repeated visits to New Hampshire since saying in January he was considering a White House campaign. He said then that the nation can't risk electing another Democratic president. He has campaigned against the Affordable Care Act and criticized President Barack Obama's decision to use an executive order to offer protections against deportation to millions of immigrants living in the country illegally.

Pataki, 69, flirted with running in 2008 and 2012 after serving as New York's governors from 1995 to 2006. He has cited his electoral success in the heavily Democratic state and ability to work across the aisle as strengths.

"No one thought I had a chance," Pataki said. "So the odds don't deter me."

Since leaving office he has launched a consulting firm and joined Chadbourne & Parke, a New York City-based law firm.

Silver State looks to play in 2016 election // CNN // Ashley Killough - May 14, 2015

Reno, Nevada (CNN)Jeb Bush has his eyes on Nevada -- a state that is aiming to become a bigger player in presidential politics.

Bush's attention -- and that of the growing Republican field -- could result in more competition here after much of the 2008 and 2012 presidential field ignored the state, despite its fourth-in-the-nation nominating status.

Bush, who hopes to appeal to Nevada's ever-growing Hispanic voting bloc, visited the state for the second time since March on Wednesday, just days after hiring well-regarded strategists to run his Nevada operation.

His visit is among stops made by a throng of other White House hopefuls who are hoping to seize momentum in a state dominated by Mitt Romney and Ron Paul in the past two contests.

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Nevada didn't become an early-voting state until 2008, so the past two cycles have also been experimental -- and Republicans here will tell you the caucuses didn't go so well. "Confusing" and "complicated" are two words thrown around to describe the process. The state party is now pushing for a primary instead in 2016.

Thanks to support from the state's Mormon population, Romney won more than 50% of the caucus vote in 2008 and 2012, while Paul struck a chord with the state's more libertarian faction and won over a slate of delegates.

But with Romney off the ticket this cycle, Nevada's caucuses are wide open, and White House hopefuls are making the Silver State a more significant part of their calculation. Bush made Nevada his first early-state stop this year when he road-tested his stump speech in March, before going on to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

"You're part of the big four in February. It's hugely important," Bush told local reporters after he held a town hall in Reno on Wednesday morning.

During the event, Bush told the crowd of about 150 people that he "had a blast" campaigning for his father in Nevada during the general elections. But he was quickly corrected on his pronunciation of the state. Like many out-of-staters, Bush pronounced the state's name "Nev-AH-da" at the top of his speech.

"Nev-AD-a," members of the audience shouted out.

"Nev-AD-a," he repeated back. "Well, got that out of the way. Thank you."

Further signaling his interest, Bush hired two well-regarded Republican operatives: Ryan Erwin, a top adviser to Nevada Rep. Joe Heck, who won re-election last year in a swing district, and a strategist from Erwin's firm, Scott Scheid.

The ground game in Nevada is certainly no cakewalk. While voters are largely concentrated in the Las Vegas and Reno areas, a sizable portion of Republican caucus-goers live in the rural areas of the sparsely populated state that covers 110,000 square miles.

"It'll be interesting to see how the candidates play that strategy," said David Damore, a political science professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "If you advertise in Vegas, you're getting three-fourths of the voters, but the most Republican parts of the state are the hardest to reach."

For Bush, Nevada also provides a bit of a blank slate. The state's presidential preference vote wasn't in play during the campaigns of his father and brother, so there's no significant primary history for Bush to compete with or live up to -- unlike in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. (Since Nevada is a swing state, however, his father and brother both competed here during the general elections.)

Also of note, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval is, like Bush, a big backer of Common Core and can provide Bush with cover as he treads through strong sentiments against the controversial testing standards. Sandoval endorsed then-Gov. Rick Perry early on in the last cycle, but it's unclear whether he'll choose a candidate this time around, given that he could run to replace retiring Sen. Harry Reid on Capitol Hill.

The Nevada governor's support will nonetheless be courted.

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Answering questions about whether Bush is considering Sandoval as a potential running mate, Bush told reporters Wednesday that he's a "big fan" of the governor.

"I enjoy our friendship," he said, but added, "It's way premature for someone who is considering running to be talking about that."

And with the sixth-most populous Hispanic electorate in the country, Nevada gives Bush further incentive to showcase his ties to the Hispanic community. Bush and his wife, who's from Mexico, lived in Venezuela when they were younger and now live in South Florida. Bush is fluent in Spanish and stands by his unpopular push for a path to legal status for undocumented workers.

While Bush meets resistance over his immigration proposal from Republican primary voters in other early-voting states, Damore expects "he'll get a pass" in Nevada because the issue is less of a fiery topic in the state, where more than one-quarter of the population is Hispanic.

"Immigration is not an animating issue here like taxes or the scope of government," Damore said.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who's also angling to compete for Hispanic voters, lived in Las Vegas when he was younger and recently brought on Nevada Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison as his state chairman. The son of Cuban immigrants, Rubio has said he still has family in Southern Nevada, where his father worked as a bartender at the Sam's Town Hotel and his mother worked as a housekeeper at the Imperial Palace hotel.

"We have great affection for Nevada," Rubio told the Las Vegas Review-Journal when he visited the state in February during his book tour. "We look forward to coming back many times."

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, however, has been perhaps the most organized on the ground in Nevada, with an infrastructure that he in part inherited from his father's presidential campaigns. While Romney snagged a majority of the vote in the 2012 caucuses, Paul ultimately won more delegates, and they protested loudly at the Republican National Convention later that year.

It's because of that situation that the state GOP chairman is now pushing for Nevada to hold a primary instead of a caucus. "It was a total disaster the way it was handled. It was an embarrassment for the state," Nevada GOP Chairman Michael McDonald told the Washington Examiner.

A primary, however, could potentially dilute the pro-Paul activists who are still organized at the caucus level and attract a broader pool of voters -- a setback for Paul but a potential benefit for candidates like Bush.

But Team Rand doesn't see it as a problem.

"Rand can and will compete in whatever selection process chosen by the people of Nevada," said Doug Stafford, a top Paul adviser.

At the Bush town hall, one woman asked the former governor how he plans to unite the divided party in Nevada. Bush said Republicans aren't always going to agree with one another but that they need to focus on winning.

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"We need to get back to 'How do you get to 50?'" he said. "My focus will be on not turning back and getting into a food fight with people that might not agree with me completely — put on your big boy pants and take it."

Other White House hopefuls have visited the state in part to court support from Republican megadonor and casino titan Sheldon Adelson, who supported Newt Gingrich and who's known for his staunch support of Israel. Last month, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Perry flocked to the Republican Jewish Coalition's spring meeting in Vegas.

In addition to his town hall in Reno on Wednesday, Bush headlined the Clark County Republican Party's Lincoln Day dinner at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. Ben Carson was also in town on Wednesday night to headline a dinner that raises money for Opportunity Village, a nonprofit that helps people with intellectual disabilities.

"This time, I think we're going to be hugely competitive," said Aaron Sims, who's running for mayor of Carson City. "You're going to see a lot more of the percentage of the vote being divided among these candidates."

Meet the College Democrat Who Told Jeb Bush: 'Your Brother Created ISIS' // ABC News // Alana Abramson - May 14, 2015

Jeb Bush found himself on defense after his town hall meeting in Reno, Nevada, Wednesday after a young voter told him, "Your brother created ISIS."

Ivy Ziedrich, a 19-year-old student at University of Nevada who said she was a registered Democrat, approached Bush after the event and told the likely presidential candidate he was wrong about the origins of the terror group:

"You stated that ISIS was created because we don't have enough presence and we've been pulling out of the Middle East. However, the threat of ISIS was created by the Iraqi coalition authority, which ousted the entire government of Iraq. It was when 30,000 individuals who are part of the Iraqi military were forced out. They had no employment, they had no income, yet they were left with access to all the same arms and weapons. Your brother created ISIS!"

Bush, the former Florida governor and likely Republican presidential candidate, unsuccessfully tried to interject. When he reached out, Ziedrich snapped back: "You don't need to be pedantic to me sir. You could just answer my question."

"We respectfully disagree," Bush said, explaining his view that more American troops in Iraq would have prevented ISIS from forming.

"So look, we can rewrite history all you want, but the simple fact is that we're in a much more unstable place because America pulled back," he told Ziedrich.

Ziedrich said she is a member of the Young Democrats at her university, although in an interview with ABC News Wednesday she said she was not speaking as a representative of the group. She said she likes to attend political events across the ideological spectrum so she can be as informed as possible. She said she did not intend to come across as hostile in her exchange with Bush, which occurred after the town hall meeting had concluded. She added that she respects Bush as a politician.

"I think he's telling the truth as he understands it," Ziedrich said in a telephone interview. "I think it's important when we have people in positions of authority we demand a dialogue and accountability."

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She added: “I see his response as a lack of perspective. We deserve more than this as voters.”

Will Ziedrich make an appearance at similar events?

“If there are other town halls here, and if any presidential candidate comes to an open event, I would love to attend,” she told ABC News.

Jeb Bush Reverses Himself: ‘I Would Not Have Gone Into Iraq’ // TIME // Zeke J. Miller - May 14, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush sought to turn the page on a week of terrible press coverage Thursday, telling a group of Arizona voters that knowing what is known now, he would not have launched the 2003 Iraq War.

“Knowing what we know now I would not have engaged—I would not have gone into Iraq,” Bush said, in reference to his greatest liability—the unpopular war launched by his brother, former President George W. Bush.

It was the latest turn in a tumultuous week that began with an interview with Fox News host Megyn Kelly on Saturday in which he said he would have supported going to war, even knowing that the Iraqi government did not possess weapons of mass destruction. “My mind kind of calculated it differently,” Bush later explained, saying he misheard Kelly’s question.

On Wednesday, Bush dodged the same question Kelly asked him days earlier, saying he wouldn’t answer “hypotheticals” and that the question did a “disservice” to the memories of the 4,491 American war dead.

But that didn’t put the questions to rest, Bush’s Republican opponents lined up to criticize him for the comments, while Democrats gleefully used the opportunity to tie him to his brother.

“If we knew then what we know now and I were the President of the United States, I wouldn’t have gone to war,” New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie told CNN Tuesday. Sen. Rand Paul told the Associated Press that Bush’s comments represent “a real problem if he can’t articulate what he would have done differently.”

“Knowing what we know now, of course we wouldn’t go into Iraq,” Sen. Ted Cruz told The Hill.

Sen. Marco Rubio went even further in an interview Wednesday at the Council on Foreign Relations. “Not only would I have not been in favor of it, President Bush would not have been in favor of it. He said so,” he said.

Bush’s reversal may put the controversy to rest temporarily, but it only further highlights the challenges the entire Republican field with respect to talking about the conflict.

In a gaggle with reporters after his remarks, Bush maintained that the war was “worth it” for the families of the war dead.

“It was worth it for those families,” he said. “It was worth it for the people that made major sacrifices. In 2008 Iraq was stable. It was fragile, but it was stable. It was because of the heroic efforts of a lot of people. And re-litigating

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this and going through hypotheticals I think does no good to them."

Bush said that after the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS), the U.S. must "re-engage" in Iraq beyond what President Obama has done.

"I think we need to re-engage and do it in a more forceful way," Bush said. "The president is very reluctant for whatever reason to make a clear commitment that we should have kept 5,000, 10,000 troops there."

He acknowledged that there has been success countering ISIS since Obama ordered airstrikes and deployed trainers to assist Iraqi forces last year, but said more has to be done. "We can't do it by drones. We have to be there to train the military and to do the things that are being done right now. And I believe that if we had stayed the course in that, if we do, we will be successful."

Why Jeb Bush Had to Ditch Dubya // The Daily Beast // Matt Lewis - May 14, 2015

George W. Bush was able to successfully show us where he split with his dad. The future of Jeb's candidacy depends on his ability to pull off a similar trick.

A while back, my friend and boss, Tucker Carlson, refused to condemn his brother for some inappropriate comments that were accidentally made public. "You know what, if my brother committed a mass murder, I would not criticize him in public," Carlson later explained. "He's my brother. Period. Under no circumstances will I criticize my family in public—ever. That's the rule, and I'm not breaking it."

As an only child, I can't fully identify with this fraternal loyalty. But I respect the hell out of it. It's a dangerous world, and if your brother doesn't have your back, who will? But there are consequences to adhering to this sort of code. And right now, Jeb Bush is finding out that his reluctance to publicly criticize and break with his brother could potentially doom his presidential bid.

On Thursday he finally pulled the trigger and stated the obvious: No, he now says, he wouldn't have invaded Iraq given what we know now. It was an important moment in his campaign. It was also flat-footed—his fourth answer to the question in a week—and probably didn't go far enough. But it had to be said.

In the last 48 hours or so, we've seen Ted Cruz, Chris Christie, Marco Rubio, Ben Carson, and John Kasich all say that—knowing what we know now—the war was a mistake. And, of course, Rand Paul has been pushing this line all along (without need of the "knowing what we know now" caveat). Jeb lagged far behind the rest of the field on what should have been an easy question.

But of course—because the man who ordered the invasion was his brother—Jeb finds himself in a unique situation. And so, he spent several news cycles failing to adequately answer a serous question about what might be the most important foreign policy decision of the early 21st century.

Jeb's "I'm my own man" act was, of course, never going to fly. Not without proof. And it wouldn't have flown for Dubya, either, even though his father—the last Republican president (you always have to distance yourself from the last guy)—wasn't as much of an albatross in 2000 as W. is today. In fact, a big part of the reason Dubya succeeded is that he broke with his dad, who still had a toxic reputation on the right, what with the tax hike and the disdain for "voodoo economics" and the losing to Bill Clinton.

Poppy made his bones in the GOP as a pro-choice moderate, an ally of Nixon and Ford; George W. ran as the personification of the religious right.

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In all theatre, including politics, the first rule is show, don't tell. And George W. Bush didn't just tell us he was different; he showed us he was different. He spoke differently. He wasn't a WASP from the northeast; he was a born-again evangelical from Texas. "There is a higher father that I appeal to," he once told Bob Woodward. Poppy made his bones in the GOP as a pro-choice moderate, an ally of Nixon and Ford; George W. ran as the personification of the religious right.

And guess what? It worked. George W. Bush managed to get elected and, unlike his dad, re-elected. In one fell swoop, Dubya avenged his father's defeat at the hands of Bill Clinton—by simultaneously disowning his father. Jeb's reluctance to make a similar break with his brother's legacy cost him dearly this week, and despite his comments on Thursday, it will dog him for months.

Granted, what Dubya pulled off was a difficult trick. Despite sending the aforementioned signals to everyone that he would be more like Reagan than his own old man, he never completely threw Poppy under the bus. In fact, it was pretty clear that he loved his dad, even as he surrounded himself with Poppy's old enemies like Don Rumsfeld. And then, just as he would do what his dad couldn't do electorally, he would also finish the job in Baghdad.

Not to play Maureen Dowd pop psychologist here, but how much of the last few decades can be explained by the psychological need to avenge George H.W. Bush's presidency—not by means of revisionist history, but by means of reliving it … getting it right this time?

The irony, of course, is that 41 did a good job of winding down the Cold War and effectively neutering Saddam. As you'll recall, after H.W. Bush managed to assemble an impressive coalition, and refused to get bogged down in some quagmire. But no good deed goes unpunished. He wins a war, and some lecherous hillbilly from Arkansas takes his job? And to add insult to injury, Saddam tried to have Poppy assassinated.

So here you have this interesting psychology whereby George W. Bush is willing to publicly distance himself from dear old dad, do things dad wouldn't approve of, in order to avenge him. This would be fascinating enough, were it not for John Ellis Bush.

Another weird twist to this story is that Jeb, always the favorite son, is probably more like 41 than 43 in temperament and outlook. And maybe that means that, had Jeb been elected president in 2000, instead of his brother, he wouldn't have gotten us involved in the Iraq War, while he simultaneously lacks the killer instinct to tell us that. Maybe—just as 41 had the governing skills, but lacked the political instincts that might have made him a two-term president—Jeb Bush is just too decent a guy to get elected.

But here's the bottom line: Jeb has to really distance himself from his brother, albeit in some respectable manner, if he wants to be president. He needs us to show us how he's different, what he'd do differently, and where he and his brother diverge on issues both foreign and domestic. Where does he stand on the bailouts, the massive growth in government spending, the Medicare expansion, and all the other facets of the Bush presidency that still anger conservatives? He has to make a break with all that if he wants to make it to the nomination and, ultimately, the White House.

This insanely difficult choice—whether to stay with his brother or leave him behind—will largely define Jeb's candidacy. The Bushes have always prized loyalty, but for Jeb, absolute loyalty to his brother—and winning the presidency—might be mutually exclusive. Some presidents would run over their own mother if that's what it takes to win an election. What is Jeb willing to say about his brother's policies—if push comes to shove?

Rubio shows his prowess at CFR // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – May 14, 2015

Appearing at the Council on Foreign Relations for a speech (hyped a tad too much) billed as introducing his "doctrine," Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) gave a strong but not novel address on military strength, the U.S. economy

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and moral clarity. His strongest passage came with regard to the third:

In recent years, the ideals that have long formed the backbone of American foreign policy – a passionate defense of human rights, the strong support of democratic principles, and the protection of the sovereignty of our allies – have been replaced by, at best, caution, and at worst, outright willingness to betray those values for the expediency of negotiations with repressive regimes.

This is not only morally wrong, it is contrary to our interests. Because wherever freedom and human rights spread, partners for our nation are born. But whenever our foreign policy comes unhinged from its moral purpose, it weakens global stability and forms cracks in our national resolve.

In this century, we must restore America's willingness to think big – to state boldly what we stand for and why it is right. Just as Reagan never flinched in his criticisms of the Soviet Union's political and economic repressions, we must never shy away from demanding that China allow true freedom for its 1.3 billion people. Nor should we hesitate in calling the source of atrocities in the Middle East by its real name – radical Islam.

As president, I will support the spread of economic and political freedom, reinforce our alliances, resist efforts by large powers to subjugate their smaller neighbors, maintain a robust commitment to transparent and effective foreign assistance programs, and advance the rights of the vulnerable – including women and the religious minorities that are so often persecuted – so that the afflicted peoples of the world know the truth: the American people hear their cries, see their suffering, and most of all, desire their freedom.

It was a refreshing change from the false choice (really, pandering to the far right) between national interest OR human rights posed by candidates like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.). As Rubio said, defending human rights is in our national interest.

The most impressive part of Rubio's appearance, by leaps and bounds, was the Q&A. He ignored moderator Charlie Rose's posturing and distracted glances, his feigned astonishment that anyone could find the Iran deal a bad idea and his inept efforts to interject his opinions. Rubio calmly responded to tough questions on everything from Guantanamo (if you take up arms to kill Americans, we have the right to take you off the battlefield) to his fundamental difference with the president (President Obama sees the United States as the cause of friction and unrest in the world) to Iraq (unlike Jeb Bush, he crisply said he would not have gone to war if he had known about the absence of WMDs and neither would George W. Bush) to his criticisms of Hillary Clinton (Russian reset, allowing Libya to fall into chaos) to his view of the two-state solution (it's the ideal but circumstances now do allow for it). He has substantive knowledge at a level of detail only Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) among the other contenders possesses, but he is also able to speak with clarity and purpose. You know where he stands and why, and he is an effective and civil persuader, even if you don't always agree.

Rubio clearly passes the knowledge test on foreign policy and aces the "creative domestic policy ideas" part of the extended job interview with the voters (that's what an election is, after all). If he keeps giving performances like this, he may very well overcome worries about his youth and lack of executive experience. As to the latter, he'd do well to not just show off his knowledge but relate something about his life that demonstrates the sort of decision-making skill, tenacity, sound judgment and refusal to bend to conventional wisdom we expect in a president. Nevertheless, other presidential hopefuls should watch out: He's likely to catch them trying to fudge their way through the debates. They had better come prepared.

Like Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio Has Evolved on Iraq Question // ABC News // Erin Dooley - May 14, 2015

Over the course of the last few days, likely Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush has showcased an evolving position on whether he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq in 2003 "knowing what we know now" about faulty intelligence at the time.

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But, as it turns out, it is also a question that has vexed one of possible rivals for the Republican presidential nomination, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Jeb Bush: 3 Days, 4 Different Answers About Iraq

Why Jeb Bush Isn't Keeping Marco Rubio Out of the 2016 Race

Asked on Wednesday whether he would have supported the invasion of Iraq in 2003 had he known the country did not possess weapons of mass destruction, Rubio added his voice to the chorus of Republican presidential hopefuls who have said "no" this week.

"Not only would I not have been in favor of it, President Bush would not have been in favor of it -- and he said so," Rubio told Charlie Rose after a speech at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

"I don't think the Congress would have voted in favor of the authorization" had they not relied on faulty intelligence, he added.

But Rubio's comments this week appear to differ from his assertions on Fox News' "The Five" in March.

When asked a somewhat different question: Whether it was "a mistake to go to war in Iraq," Rubio responded, "no, I don't believe it was."

"The world is a better place because Saddam Hussein doesn't run Iraq," he said. "We don't know what the world would look like if Saddam Hussein was still there. But I doubt it would look better ... it would be worse, or just as bad for different reasons."

His response this March was very similar to what Rubio said during a Florida U.S. Senate debate in October 2010.

Asked by the moderators whether America was "safer and better off for having gone to war in Iraq," Rubio answered: "I think the answer ultimately is yes. First of all, the world is better off because Saddam Hussein is no longer in charge in Iraq."

Rubio's allies argue that the senator's comments don't actually contradict one another. Condemning the war's justifications and appreciating its outcomes are not mutually exclusive, they say.

Meanwhile, Bush -- who has not yet declared his candidacy but is expected to do in the near future -- has answered the question five different ways in just four days.

When asked in an interview that aired on Monday by Fox News' Megyn Kelly: "Knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion" of Iraq in 2003, Bush initially responded: "I would have and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody, and so would almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got."

Subsequently, Bush said he misheard the initial question. And at a town hall meeting in Arizona on Thursday, he came full circle.

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"If we're all supposed to answer hypotheticals," Bush said, "I would not, have engaged, I would not have gone into Iraq."

UPDATE: In an interview a New Hampshire radio station Thursday evening, Rubio clarified that he has been answering “two separate questions.”

“The first is if, what I was asked yesterday by Charlie Rose, is if you knew that there weren't weapons of mass destruction, would you have gone forward? And the answer is no one would have,” he said on New Hampshire Now.

“If you believed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction that they could have passed on to terrorists; that they could have used to massacre their people and start a regional arms race - you absolutely have to to do that,” he added.

“We still would have had to deal with Saddam Hussein, but obviously would have done so differently. The Presidents don't get that luxury. The President has to act on what he is told at the time,” he said. “And so it was not a mistake in the sense that the President made the right decision based on what he believed and had reason to believe, at that time.”

An Open Letter To Marco Rubio: I Am Ashamed I Ever Worked On Your Behalf // Western Journalism // KrisAnne Hall - May 14, 2015

Mr. Rubio,

I have read your opinion piece published on May 10, 2015. I understand that this is your opinion, but I am puzzled how you can hold these opinions and still claim to be conservative member of a party that claims to be supporting the Constitution.

Specifically, you claim that the Patriot Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act are essential to the protection of our “national security” and that we must continue these clear violations of our 4th Amendment and our Right to Liberty to keep us “safe.” To the contrary, with these “permissible” intrusions, we have seen a massive increase in power of government in general and the power of the executive in particular, increased control over the people, and a decreased respect for the Rights of the people throughout America. Faisal Shahzad, the Boston Bombing, and the Garland Shooting are clear examples of when the government was continually monitoring these “terrorists” and still allowed the violence to occur; so tell me again how critical it is to do away with the 4th amendment?

You claim that “Bulk metadata includes phone numbers, the time and duration of calls — nothing else. No content of any phone calls is collected.” You contradict your own claims in the very next sentence: “The government is not listening to your phone calls or recording them unless you are a terrorist or talking to a terrorist outside the United States.” (emphasis mine) What you are truly telling America is that the government IS listening to our phone calls AND recording them–but “trust us, it’s only when we think you are a terrorist.” I’m sorry, sir; I cannot garner that much trust for my government–and you should not suggest you expect it. May I remind you that on two separate occasions, the DHS and DoD have declared the definition of “terrorist” to be so broad as to include many within the Republican party!

“Rightwing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into those groups, movements, and adherents that are…rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely. It may include groups and individuals that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration.” This report also claims “return of military veterans…could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks." DHS Office of Intelligence &

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Analysis Assessment April 7, 2009

"Nowadays, instead of dressing in sheets or publicly espousing hate messages, many extremists will talk of individual liberties, states' rights, and how to make the world a better place." January 2013, DoD Training on Extremism

Knowing that these are the OFFICIAL definitions of a "terrorist," how can you possibly expect Americans to trust this government with such a gross violation of our Liberties?

Your statement that "Despite recent court rulings, this program has not been found unconstitutional, and the courts have not ordered a halt to the program" is disingenuous at best and borders on complete propaganda. Production of just one case contrary to your claims shows your dishonesty. I will give three:

On March 15, 2013, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston declared that the Patriot Act section 2709 "violates the First Amendment and the separation of powers principle…The government is therefore enjoined from issuing NSLs under 2709 or from enforcing the nondisclosure provision in this or any other case."

On December 16, 2013, U.S. District Judge Richard Leon entered "an order that bars the Government from collecting, as a part of the NSA's Bulk Telephony Metadata Program, any telephony metadata associated with their personal Verizon accounts and (2) requires the Government to destroy any such metadata in its possession that was collected through the bulk collection program."

On May 7, 2015, a three judge panel consisting of Circuit Judges Sack and Lynch, along with District Judge Broderick, ruled that the National Security Agency program that is systematically collecting Americans' phone records in bulk is illegal, stating that "the telephone metadata program exceeds the scope of what Congress has authorized and therefore violates § 215."

In these three court cases, we have seen that actions taken under the Patriot Act have been deemed unconstitutional and illegal, bulk metadata collection has been ordered to a halt, and the National Security Agency's exercise of section 215 of the Patriot Act has been deemed illegal.

Mr. Rubio, you then try to justify these false claims by clarifying that "In fact, this program has been found legal and constitutional by at least 15 federal judges serving on the FISA Court on 35 occasions." This is simply more propaganda intended to deceive the public. Who are the FISA Courts?

They are federal courts appointed by the federal government whose only job is to review "applications submitted by the United States Government for approval of electronic surveillance, physical search, and other investigative actions for foreign intelligence purposes."

"Most of the Court's work is conducted ex parte as required by statute, and due to the need to protect classified national security information."

Consideration of the Constitution is secondary to national security needs. (See Rule 5(a))

So let's get this straight, Mr. Rubio: you expect the American people to be comforted by the fact that 15 federal judges, appointed by the federal government, whose rules and procedures by definition place national security over the Rights of the people, and whose judgments are held in secret with no accountability, have determined the government's actions to be legal? Tell me again how you believe in the bedrock principles of America. One of your flowery speeches quoting the founders while you pander to real conservatives who haven't figured out who you are should do nicely.

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You claim that “There is not a single documented case of abuse of this program.” Not a single “documented” case of abuse in a system shrouded in secrecy, hidden by “national security” claims, conducted ex parte, protected with gag orders? Wow! That indeed is impressive. I would find your argument more credible if you simply start yelling, “I AM OZ; pay no attention to that man behind the curtain, you young whippersnapper!”

Your Alinsky-like use of threats of future violence puts you in dubious company, to say the least. Don’t you guys get tired of trotting out some boogeyman to scare the people into trading Liberty for a false sense of security? Every attack that gets through your vaunted dragnet is used by you as proof that we need to sacrifice more and more liberty. Somehow, we are supposed to believe that the reason some nutjob blows something up is that the people are too free! Your opinion (demonstrated by your rhetoric) that the Constitution is outdated, that the founders were ignorant fools, is the very thing I labor to combat every day. I am ashamed of ever having worked on your behalf. You have been a sincere disappointment to say the least.

Here are some words that you, Mr. Rubio, should take to heart: “The very word ‘secrecy’ is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths and to secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighed the dangers which are cited to justify it.” John F. Kennedy

You, sir, are a cheerleader for the very thing JFK wisely warned Americans to guard against. I don’t care whether you call yourself Senator or President; your used car sales pitch for security is not worth my son’s Liberty. And you, sir, ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Sincerely,

KrisAnne Hall

The small surprises in Marco Rubio’s big foreign policy speech // WaPo // Daniel W. Drezner - May 14, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has migrated from sorta sounding like a hawk to really sounding like a hawk over the past four years. And his big speech Wednesday at the Council on Foreign Relations was about as neoconservative as a foreign policy speech could get.

How neoconservative was it? He hit all of the neocon erogenous zones: bashing the Iran deal, bashing China, bashing terrorism, supporting Israel, emphasizing the need for American leadership and so forth. The full text of his speech actually capitalized the phrase “American Strength” all nine times it appeared, like it was a special status that either American Express or American Airlines was rolling out.

So if you like neoconservative foreign policy, you should be very happy with Rubio’s speech; if you don’t like it, you should be very scared.

So that was the Big Takeaway. But the other, not-completely-neocon-y notes in Rubio’s speech also stood out to me. In particular:

1) Rubio’s emphasis on foreign economic policy. In articulating why foreign policy mattered, Rubio said flat out, “The prosperity of our people now depends on their ability to interact freely and safely in the international marketplace.... Today, as never before, foreign policy is domestic policy.”

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It this boilerplate? A little. But it's boilerplate that's been noticeably lacking from other GOP presidential candidates. Rubio used this point to support the Trans Pacific Partnership while attacking Hillary Clinton for her squeamishness regarding that trade deal.

Also interesting was Rubio's second pillar, the protection of the American economy in a globalized world:

As president, I will use American power to oppose any violations of international waters, airspace, cyberspace, or outer space. This includes the economic disruption caused when one country invades another, as well as the chaos caused by disruptions in chokepoints such as the South China Sea or the Strait of Hormuz.

Russia, China, Iran, or any other nation that attempts to block global commerce will know to expect a response from my administration.

This "protecting the global commons" plank makes some sense, and it's conceptually sensible and politically smart to lump together Iranian activity in the Straits of Hormuz with Russian and Chinese cyberattacks.

What makes much less sense is the implication that either Russia or China has an interest in blocking global commerce (in fact, if you want to get technical about it, it's the United States and European Union that are currently blocking Russia from much of the global economy). And the precise way to "use American power" seems important to flesh out.

Still, as a first principle goes, it's OK.

2) Rubio's approach to Russia in 2016 is somewhat more sober than Romney in 2012. Republicans are fond of claiming Romney's strategic acumen with respect to Russia. And it's not like Rubio thinks Vladimir Putin is a big pussycat. But when asked a softball question about Russia during the Q&A, Rubio's take was — wait for it — sober.

He pointed out that Putin wanted Russia to be a great power on a par with China or the United States, but that this was economically impossible, particularly after the imposition of U.S.-EU sanctions. Instead, Putin's actions in Ukraine and the rest of the near-abroad were compensating for his economic weakness.

Again, this isn't shocking news to anyone paying attention. But given the GOP's man-crush on Putin over the past year, it's comforting to hear a clear-eyed, non-hyperbolic assessment of Russia's actual strengths and weaknesses from a Republican.

3) Rubio is genuinely interested in foreign policy.

As Yahoo's Meredith Shiner noted, "the question-and-answer session after Rubio's address to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York provided an even more interesting glimpse into the thinking of a candidate."

The glimpse I got was of someone who was genuinely interested in foreign affairs. I didn't agree with a ton of what he said, but his responses on Syria and Cuba suggested that he did have a clear and consistent worldview.

I wrote something about Gov. Scott Walker (R-Wis.) a few months ago that applies to the entire GOP field, "This isn't about whether Walker should profess a more dovish or hawkish foreign policy posture. This is whether he

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wants to sound like a smart hawk or a dumb hawk."

Rubio's a hawk — like the rest of the GOP potentials. He's a hawk who has made the occasional gaffe. But he's not dumb, and unlike most of the rest of the GOP field, he does not need to play catch-up on foreign affairs. And given the importance that national security will play in the GOP primary, that is a decided advantage for the senator from Florida.

Ted Cruz: I Won Those Purple Hearts! // The Daily Beast // Patricia Murphy – May 15, 2015

The senator claims on the campaign trail that he was the reason the Fort Hood soldiers shot in a 2009 attack were awarded Purple Hearts. Why that's stretching the truth just a tad.

Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential stump speech electrifies conservative crowds with a cocktail of growls, whispers, warnings of impending doom, and at least one claim of personal accomplishment so powerful, it often brings many in the audience to their feet.

"Just a few weeks ago, I was down in Fort Hood, where the soldiers who were shot by Nidal Hasan were finally, finally, finally awarded the Purple Heart," Cruz told activists last weekend at the conservative Freedom Forum in Greenville, S.C. "I'll tell you the reason those Purple Hearts were awarded. I was very proud last year to introduce legislation in the Senate to mandate that the Pentagon award those Purple Hearts."

Cruz rightly pointed out that for years, the Obama administration had classified the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood, Tex., by Army Maj. Nidal Hasan as a "workplace violence" incident rather than as a terrorist attack, though Hasan's rampage came after he had been in contact with al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki. Hasan's shooting spree left 13 dead and 32 wounded, including dozens of military personnel who were deemed ineligible for the Purple Heart because of the Pentagon's classification of the attack as not combat-related.

At the end of 2014, Congress passed a bill requiring the Pentagon to reclassify the 2009 attack, and the Fort Hood victims were indeed awarded the Purple Heart.

But Cruz voted not once but twice against the Pentagon authorization bill that changed the Purple Heart policy. A Cruz spokesman told the Dallas Morning News that Cruz voted against the bill over an issue unrelated to the Fort Hood shootings but that "he would have found another way to get it done" had the bill had not passed. "Supporting one amendment certainly does not mean a senator is obligated to support the entire bill."

And although Cruz played an important role on the Senate Armed Services Committee at last year, the credit for changing the Pentagon's long-standing policy belongs to at least a dozen senators and members of Congress who had pushed the issue relentlessly for years before Cruz ever arrived in the Senate.

"The claim nonetheless omits what Lieberman, Cornyn and others had done to get the ball to the one-yard line."

It was Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), not Cruz, who originally introduced legislation to award the Purple Heart to the Fort Hood victims in 2009. Cornyn's bill coincided with a similar bill from Rep. John Carter (R-TX), whose district includes much of Fort Hood. Cornyn and Carter would introduce their bills again in 2011 and 2013. Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX), Frank Wolf (R-VA), and Peter King (R-NY) all pushed the matter in their own committees.

Rep. Michael McCaul, another Texas Republican and the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, held hearings on the matter. Sen. Joe Lieberman (I/D-CT), the former chairman of the Senate Homeland Security

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Committee, did the same and commissioned a months-long investigation into the causes of the Fort Hood attack.

Lieberman introduced a bill of his own, along with Cornyn, in 2012 to mandate that the Pentagon change its criteria for awarding the Purple Heart that would include the Fort Hood victims. In 2014, Sen. John Boozman, a Republican from Arkansas who is also on the Armed Services Committee, wrote legislation similar to Cruz's to mandate that the Pentagon award Purple Hearts to victims of a similar shooting at a Little Rock military recruiting center in 2009.

Neal Sher, a lead attorney for the Fort Hood victims and their families who sued the Pentagon over the policy, said the reclassification was the result of efforts by multiple offices for multiple years on and off Capitol Hill.

"Cruz was instrumental, Cornyn was instrumental, the Texas House delegation, McCaul, Carter, Williams, were all instrumental," said Sher. "It took years, years. The administration and the Pentagon were opposing it every step of the way. It took an act of Congress to get them to change their tune."

A staffer who worked on the issue agreed that Cruz did play an important part in the final result for the families, but "the claim nonetheless omits what Lieberman, Cornyn and others had done to get the ball to the one-yard line. In other words, 'the reason those Purple Hearts were awarded' phrase is true but insufficient. "

It's not the first time Cruz has claimed credit for something on the campaign trail that has raised eyebrows back in Washington.

Cruz ran into a buzz saw with Sen. John McCain last month after the Texas senator told a New Hampshire audience that he had been pressing McCain to hold congressional hearings to allow members of the military to carry personal firearms on military bases. Cruz suggested that McCain had yet to respond.

McCain said Cruz had never spoken with him about it at all.

"Ask him how he communicated with me because I'd be very interested. Who knows what I'm missing?" McCain said to a group of reporters in the Capitol, according to The Hill. "Maybe it was through some medium that I'm not familiar with. Maybe bouncing it off the ozone layer, for all I know. There's a lot of holes in the ozone layer, so maybe it wasn't the ozone layer that he bounced it off of. Maybe it was through hand telegraph, maybe sign language, who knows?"

Cruz later acknowledged he "may have misspoken" about his outreach to McCain. Cruz's office did not respond to requests for comment on his Fort Hood remarks.

Chris Christie shrugs off doubts, hires two top campaign aides // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – May 14, 2015

Charts with budget data hang on a wall, in background, as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie addresses a gathering at a town hall meeting, Wednesday, March 4, 2015, in Fair Lawn, N.J. Christie spoke about his proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and also said that the state would have to raise taxes to afford paying a court-mandated amount into the pension system for public sector employees. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

AP Photo

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Despite sagging poll numbers and lingering fallout from the Bridgegate scandal, Chris Christie continues to take steps to run for president in 2016.

The New Jersey governor has made two new hires for his prospective campaign, bringing on Tom Dickens to serve as his national field director and Hayden Stone to be his national director of data and analytics, according to a source familiar with the moves.

Christie has maintained a high profile in the two weeks since two of former top aides were indicted for their roles in the George Washington Bridge scandal, returning to the campaign trail and to the media circuit. Last weekend, Christie traveled to New Hampshire — a state seen as critical to his 2016 prospects — where he told an audience that he was done apologizing for the episode and that he was moving on. This week, he sat for an interview with CNN, where he tweaked former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for his fumbled answers on whether he supported the Iraq war invasion.

On Friday morning, Christie will headline a Georgia Republican Party breakfast.

Behind the scenes, he has continued to build out his campaign team in anticipation of a possible launch in early summer. Dickens most recently served as the deputy national victory director for the Republican National Committee during the 2014 midterms and before that was political director on Christie's successful 2013 reelection bid. Stone served as a data and field staffer for the RNC during the midterms and before that as a political director for the Colorado Republican Party.

The two will join the rest of Christie's political team, which has been working for Christie's political action committee, Leadership Matters for America. The organization has office space in Morristown, N.J.

It was also recently announced that Tucker Martin, a past spokesman for former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, will work for a super PAC that's been set up to support Christie's would-be candidacy.

Rick Santorum Says He's Baffled by Jeb Bush on Iraq // NYT – First Draft // Mike Barbaro – May 14, 2015

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz — Rick Santorum, the former senator from Pennsylvania who delivered a surprisingly strong performance in the 2012 presidential campaign and may run again in 2016, said Thursday he was baffled by Jeb Bush's handling this week of a question about the 2003 war in Iraq.

"I don't know how that was a hard question," Mr. Santorum said at a Republican National Committee meeting here.

At one point, Mr. Santorum suggested that Mr. Bush might not be entirely ready for the campaign. "If you are not prepared for it, I think we've seen in the past, you are not going to do very, very well. This is a long process."

Mr. Santorum said he was confused about why Mr. Bush, the former governor of Florida, took so long to backtrack on remarks suggesting that he would have authorized the Iraqi invasion even if he knew about the intelligence failures at the time. Mr. Bush later said he had misunderstood the question, then said he would not answer hypothetical questions.

On Thursday, Mr. Bush finally said that he would not have authorized the invasion had he known about the intelligence failures.

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Mr. Santorum seemed disappointed.

“I’ve been asked that question a hundred times,” he said. “The answer is pretty clear. The information was not correct and, while there was some things that were true, I don’t think nearly the weight to require us to go to war. Everybody accepts that now.”

Mr. Santorum concluded with a bit of a dig at Mr. Bush.

“I don’t know how anyone could look at that question and not — his brother even said in his own book that he would have done something differently,” Mr Santorum said.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Russ Feingold Running For Senate In 2016 // Huffington Post // Amanda Terkel - May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON -- Progressive Democrat Russ Feingold announced Thursday that he will run for Senate in 2016, hoping to win back the seat he lost six years ago.

Feingold made his announcement in a video that was provided in advance to The Huffington Post. In it, he cites issues near and dear to his heart, like taking on corporations and big money in politics, as his justification for running.

"People tell me all the time that our politics and Washington are broken. And that multi-millionaires, billionaires and big corporations are calling the shots," Feingold says in the video. "They especially say this about the U.S. Senate, and it’s hard not to agree. But what are we going to do? Get rid of the Senate?

“Actually, no one I’ve listened to says we should throw in the towel and give up -- and I don’t think that either," he adds. "Instead, let’s fight together for change. That means helping to bring back to the U.S. Senate strong independence, bipartisanship and honesty."

The race will be a rematch between Feingold and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), who defeated him during the tea party wave of 2010. Feingold ran what was widely considered to be a lackluster race that year, and many Democrats have stressed that 2016 needs to be different.

But there are several factors working in Feingold's favor this time around: Democratic turnout tends to spike in presidential election years, and recent polls have underscored that Johnson is one of the most vulnerable sitting GOP senators.

A Marquette Law School poll released in mid-April found Feingold leading Johnson by 16 points in a hypothetical match-up, and a March poll by Public Policy Polling found Feingold ahead of Johnson by 9 points.

Johnson brushed off the poll results during an interview last month, saying, "I'm not worried about it. I'll leave other people to do the evaluation. I think it's pretty much meaningless at this point in time."

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A longtime opponent of special interests in politics, Feingold co-authored the landmark campaign finance law that the Supreme Court gutted in 2010's Citizens United decision.

Feingold was also known for staking out sometimes lonely positions on national security. In 2001, he was the only senator to vote against the Patriot Act, which greatly expanded the federal government's surveillance powers. He was also one of the 23 senators who voted against the war in Iraq.

After his Senate loss, Feingold started Progressives United, a group dedicated to combating corporations' influence on the political system. From July 2013 until March 2015, he served as the State Department's special envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Anticipating a tough race, Republicans began attacking Feingold even before he announced he was running. The Wisconsin GOP launched a website called RadicalRussFeingold.com and told reporters that he has a "voting record of supporting one disastrous policy after another."

Senate, in Reversal, Begins Debate on Trade Authority // NYT // Jonathan Weisman - May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON — Two days after Democratic senators blocked it, the Senate easily voted on Thursday to begin debating legislation to grant the president accelerated negotiating power to complete an expansive trade accord with 11 other nations on the Pacific Rim.

The 65-33 vote came two hours after senators gave broad approval to legislation that cracks down on countries that the United States says manipulate their currency rates, putting bipartisan pressure on House leaders to take up a measure that President Obama argues could scuttle delicate Pacific trade talks.

The trade votes on Thursday were starkly different from the first effort to take up the issue on Tuesday. Then, Senate Democrats united against even considering so-called trade promotion authority, rebuking their own president and holding out for assurances that tough trade enforcement provisions be attached to that authority.

What they got instead was a compromise to allow the currency provision to come to a vote in a separate bill that now faces an uphill climb. Even if a bipartisan majority can pressure Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio to allow a House vote, the White House has expressed opposition. A formal White House statement of policy on Thursday, however, stopped short of a veto threat.

“Under our plan, the Senate will avoid the poison pills that had been floated in favor of the very type of bipartisan approach we’ve been advocating for all along,” Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the majority leader, said. “It allows senators to express themselves without endangering more American trade jobs for the people we represent.”

House GOP partly funds Obama police camera initiative after recent deaths // US News // Andrew Taylor, Associated Press - May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's request for police body cameras and new community policing initiatives would be partially funded under legislation advanced Thursday by Republicans controlling the House. Lawmakers also moved to slash legal aid for the poor.

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The actions follow violence sparked by the recent deaths of black men at the hands of law enforcement in Baltimore, South Carolina and Ferguson, Missouri, that focused attention on police conduct and distrust between minority communities and the officers assigned to protect them.

Most of the $50 million fund to improve police-community relations next year would go to grants to states to assess and improve their justice systems. The amount is about one-third of what Obama asked for in February, according to a panel Democratic aide. Some $15 million would go to help local police departments buy body cameras that would record interactions with the public, half of Obama's request.

The developments came as a House panel gave initial approval to a $51 billion measure funding the Justice and Commerce departments and science programs under the umbrella of NASA and other agencies.

Thursday's legislation covers the budget year beginning in October.

The bill is caught in an ongoing battle over agency budgets between the GOP-controlled House and Senate and Obama and his Democratic allies. Tight spending "caps" imposed under so-called sequestration are forcing Republicans to, on average, freeze domestic agency budgets at current levels. But they've evaded a freeze on the military by using war accounts as a special resource to give the Pentagon a 7 percent, $38 billion increase.

The bill's author, Republican Rep. John Culberson of Texas, went after a series of familiar GOP targets. The Legal Service Corporation, which gives legal aid to the poor, would bear a $75 million cut, or about 20 percent. A grant program for hiring local police would be eliminated, while increases for the upcoming decennial Census would be shortchanged.

Culberson acknowledged that many of the cuts would be reversed if more funding is made available by a budget deal later this year, and he praised the new community policing initiative as a step toward "doing everything we can to restore the bond of trust that has to exist between police officers and local citizens." He said that state officials will determine who can get access to videos from body cameras, and he warned that the federal government won't take on the expensive job of helping pay for storing them.

Culberson's legislation would award NASA, important to his Houston-area district, a $519 million budget increase, a 3 percent hike that raises its budget to $18.5 billion.

Amtrak Says Shortfalls and Rules Delayed Its Safety System // NYT // Michael Shear – May 14, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Amtrak train that derailed in Philadelphia on Tuesday night was equipped with an automatic speed control system that officials say could have prevented the wreck, which killed eight passengers and injured hundreds. But the system, which was tantalizingly close to being operational, was delayed by budgetary shortfalls, technical hurdles and bureaucratic rules, officials said Thursday.

In 2008, Congress ordered the installation of what are known as positive train control systems, which can detect an out-of-control, speeding train and automatically slow it down. But because lawmakers failed to provide the railroads access to the wireless frequencies required to make the system work, Amtrak was forced to negotiate for airwaves owned by private companies that are often used in mobile broadband.

Officials said Amtrak had made installation of the congressionally mandated safety system a priority and was ahead of most other railroads around the country.

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But the railroad struggled for four years to buy the rights to airwaves in the Northeast Corridor that would have allowed them to turn the system on.

"The transponders were on the tracks," said one person who attended a Thursday morning briefing for congressional staff members. "But they also said they weren't operational, because of this ongoing spectrum issue."

Despite the delays, the system may have been just months from being operational when Northeast Regional Train No. 188 careered into a sharp curve at over 100 miles per hour, twice the posted speed, and hurtled off the tracks Tuesday night. The Federal Communications Commission had approved Amtrak's application for the purchase of wireless spectrum from an entity called Skybridge Spectrum Foundation on March 5, clearing the way for final tests on the system, a spokeswoman for the commission said.

If the system had been operational, "there wouldn't have been this accident," said Representative Robert A. Brady, Democrat of Pennsylvania.

Since the crash, Amtrak has come under sharp questioning about why positive train control was not already in operation. Addressing those concerns in a news conference Thursday, Joseph H. Boardman, Amtrak's chief executive, confirmed that the system was close to the testing phase, adding that he expected that the technology would be operational throughout the Northeast Corridor by the end of the year.

"We're very close to being able to cut it in," Mr. Boardman said. "We've got to do testing on MHz radios. We will complete this by the end of the year."

Mayor Michael A. Nutter of Philadelphia said Thursday that the remains of an eighth victim of the Amtrak derailment had been found and that all passengers had been accounted for.

Questions about the technology surfaced just hours after the crash when Robert L. Sumwalt, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash, said positive train control would have prevented the accident. The safety board said the train had been traveling at 106 miles per hour. On Thursday, the board said the train had accelerated rapidly just before it hit the turn.

Positive train control refers to a system of software and hardware technology, including radio transponders, antennas, locomotive and track equipment, that communicate real-time information about train speed and location to engineers and train dispatchers.

The technology is supposed to prevent accidents like head-on collisions or derailments caused by excessive speed by alerting operators about a potential danger, such as an object on the tracks or dangerous curve, and stopping the train automatically if needed.

The crash spotlighted other possible shortcomings in Amtrak's safety system, officials said. The stretch of track where Train 188 crashed heading north was equipped with an older automatic braking system, but only on the southbound side, an official briefed on the investigation said. Some senior Amtrak officials did not become aware that the braking system had not been installed on the northbound side until after the train derailed.

A spokeswoman for the railroad said Thursday that the decision not to install the system on the northbound stretch of track had been made in the 1990s and reflected the maximum allowable speeds in each direction. Trains approaching Philadelphia from New York can travel as fast as 110 miles per hour, Amtrak said, and face a steeper decrease in allowable speed heading into the curve than trains traveling from Philadelphia toward New York.

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The train's speed was normal until minutes before it derailed.

OPEN Map

In addition, Train 188 was equipped with a second safety system designed to ring buzzers and bells in the engine's cabin if the engineer does not touch the steering panel for a short period, people briefed on the investigation said. The system, which is intended to prevent crashes when engineers doze off or become distracted, is supposed to stop the train automatically if the engineer does not touch the steering panel after the alarms have sounded.

But officials did not explain in the congressional briefing whether the buzzers were operational on Train No. 188 or why they would not have stopped the train before the accident, according to two people who attended.

Still, several federal officials and safety experts defended Amtrak's record. Many pointed out that the railroads was one of the few in the United States that were on schedule to meet a federal deadline to have positive train control technology operational before the end of the year.

"Amtrak has been in a leadership role on this," said Mark Rosenker, a former chairman of the safety board. "They were talking about positive train control when I was at the board."

Railroads other than Amtrak, particularly freight railroads, have been much slower to implement these systems, citing the technological challenges, shortages in equipment and the availability of radio spectrum, among other issues.

"The sad irony in this accident is that Amtrak is further along than almost anybody in reaching their deployment of positive train control," said Joseph C. Szabo, a former administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration. "They have been very steady and very committed. So much has been done."

Edward R. Hamberger, chief executive of the Association of American Railroads, said railroads would not complete the installation of all systems for positive train control until the end of 2018. After that, he estimated, it will take about two years to test that all components of the system work together correctly.

To date, he said, railroads have installed the technology on about 8,200 miles of tracks, out of 60,000 miles where the technology is federally required. At the end of last year, about 15 percent of locomotives were fully equipped, and railroads had installed about 56 percent of the track systems.

Railroad officials said Thursday that installation of the safety system on tracks across the country was also hampered for more than a year by longstanding F.C.C. rules that required environmental and preservation reviews before the safety system's antennas could be installed in historic areas or near tribal lands.

But officials at the F.C.C. said those reviews, which were relaxed at the behest of members of Congress in 2014, were not specifically responsible for Amtrak delays along the largely urban Northeast Corridor because new antennas were not required in that region.

Representatives Jeff Denham and Bill Shuster urged rail safety reform on Wednesday in a Transportation Committee meeting the day after a deadly Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia.

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By AP on Publish Date May 13, 2015. Photo by Associated Press.

Kim Hart, a spokeswoman for the commission, said the delays in approving installation of the antennas for the safety system are now largely gone. She said new procedures allow the commission to accept applications for up to 1,400 antennas from railroad companies every two weeks,

The commission also defended its handling of Amtrak's petition to acquire wireless frequencies, asserting that it had taken Amtrak three years to negotiate the purchase and that the commission had approved the deal within days.

Money has also been an issue in implementing positive train control.

The Federal Railroad Administration has calculated the cost of the system at $52,000 per mile of track. The railroads have put a total price tag of more than $9 billion on the system and said they have spent $5.2 billion so far. One of the biggest problems is that the system needs to be interoperable, meaning that communication is necessary between equipment used by different railroads, even if the railroads use different types of equipment.

The Federal Railroad Administration twice sought extra funding from Congress to finance the technology for Amtrak and other commuter rails. A first request for $825 million was ignored. A second request for extra funding was made this year for the 2016 budget as part of the Department of Transportation's Grow America budget.

"Clearly, one of the hurdles that Amtrak has and the commuter rail industry has is that this is very expensive technology," Mr. Szabo said. "It was never funded. The failure to invest in Amtrak's capital program clearly has been a hindrance in more timely deployment. The way to make public rail a priority would be with public funding."

On Capitol Hill, House Speaker John A. Boehner angrily rejected a suggestion that Republican funding decisions contributed to the accident.

"That's a stupid question," he snapped at a reporter. "Adequate funds were there, no money's been cut from rail safety, and the House passed a bill earlier this spring to reauthorize Amtrak and authorize a lot of these programs."

House passes Iran review bill, sending it to Obama's desk for signature // WaPo // Paul Kane - May 14, 2015

The House gave overwhelming approval Thursday to create a congressional review of the potential nuclear power deal with Iran, sending the bill to the White House for President Obama's signature as he heads into the final weeks of negotiations with the Islamic state.

Following a similar lopsided roll call last week in the Senate, the House's 400-to-25 vote concluded months of tense talks between congressional leaders and administration officials over what degree of oversight Congress would have if Obama finalizes a deal with Iranian leaders to assure their nuclear program shift into military use.

Obama agreed to the slightly modified version drafted by Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after three months of negotiations led a large number of Democrats to support the plan.

"In a show of bipartisanship that is often too rare today in Washington, Republicans and Democrats in both the

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House and the Senate now have sent a strong message that the American people – through their elected representatives – must have a voice on any final nuclear deal with Iran," Corker said in a statement after Thursday's House vote.

If Obama finalizes a pact with Tehran, this legislation grants Congress 30 days to review the nuclear deal. Obama could waive sanctions against Tehran that were imposed by the executive branch but must leave in place sanctions that Congress previously drafted.

If the House and the Senate disapprove of the Iran deal, including overcoming a possible presidential veto, then Obama must leave in place those congressionally mandated sanctions. Any other outcome in Congress would allow Obama to go ahead with implementing all aspects of any nuclear deal.

A bloc of House conservatives were angered when GOP leaders placed the legislation on the fast-track calendar that prohibited any amendments, leading 19 Republicans to vote against the Corker bill. Six Democrats who want Obama to have a free hand in his deal-making also opposed the bill.

Senate conservatives nearly derailed the legislation with similar efforts to amend the bill, which Corker maneuvered against because that would have lost most Democratic support and drawn a presidential veto.

In the end, those supporting Obama's effort to reach a deal and those opposing it largely approved of some congressional review. "It is a true bipartisan compromise that will give Congress the opportunity to review and play an active role in evaluating any agreement with Iran," Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, said.

"The bipartisan legislation the House passed today is the only way Congress will have that opportunity," House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), who opposes Obama's effort, said in a statement.

INTERNATIONAL

Defying U.S., Colombia Halts Aerial Spraying of Crops Used to Make Cocaine // NYT // William Neuman - May 14, 2015

Two planes fumigated fields of coca, the basis for cocaine, in Colombia in 2006. Some fear the chemical causes cancer. Credit Fernando Vergara/Associated Press

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — The government of Colombia on Thursday night rejected a major tool in the American-backed antidrug campaign — ordering a halt to the aerial spraying of the country's vast illegal plantings of coca, the crop used to make cocaine, citing concerns that the spray causes cancer.

The decision ends a program that has continued for more than two decades, raising questions about the viability of long-accepted strategies in the war on drugs in the region.

Colombia is one of the closest allies of the United States in Latin America and its most stalwart partner on antidrug policy, but the change of strategy has the potential to add a new element of tension to the relationship.

Just last week, American officials warned that the amount of land used to grow coca in Colombia grew by 39 percent last year as aerial spraying to kill or stunt the crop, already a contentious issue here, declined.

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“The folks who run counternarcotics never want to give up any of their tools, and there are pockets of discontent inside the U.S. government with this decision,” said Adam Isacson, a senior associate of the Washington Office on Latin America, a research group.

“Colombia and the United States have been in lock step on a hard-line approach” in how to fight drug trafficking, he added. “It’s the first time there’s been light between the two countries on what the strategy should be, in recent memory.”

The decision to halt the spraying, which was backed by President Juan Manuel Santos, came after an agency of the World Health Organization declared in March that the herbicide used here, a chemical called glyphosate, probably causes cancer in humans.

The chemical, the active ingredient in the popular weedkiller Roundup, is the most widely used herbicide in the world. Colombian officials have said that a previous Supreme Court ruling in their country called for an end to the spraying if health concerns involving the chemical were found.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has determined that there is a “lack of convincing e vidence” to consider it a cancer risk to humans.

Before Thursday’s decision, the United States had pressed the Colombian government to continue the spraying program. The American ambassador in Bogotá, Kevin Whitaker, published an op-ed article in El Tiempo, one of the country’s main newspapers, over the weekend, defending the program.

But he has also stressed that Colombia’s decision would not harm diplomatic relations.

“This is their sovereign decision to make, and we will respect that and we will continue to use the tools that are available to us, as Colombia wishes us to do, to continue to be a partner with them in this fight,” Mr. Whitaker said in an interview a day before the decision was taken.

“We have lots of tools to help Colombia address the problem of transnational crime and narco-trafficking.”

He said that includes providing intelligence on drug traffickers, encouraging farmers to grow other crops, intercepting drug shipments, focusing on shutting down drug labs and supporting efforts to pull up and destroy coca plants by hand.

Thursday’s decision involved only the use of the herbicide in the coca spraying program. The government has not moved to ban use of the herbicide by farmers who grow legal crops and use it to kill weeds.

The spraying program was steeped in controversy even before the declaration was made in March by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Colombia is the only coca-producing country that uses airplanes to spray and kill the crop. The other major producers, Peru and Bolivia, have shunned spraying.

Critics of spraying in Colombia said that it was harmful to the health of rural residents and that it caused environmental damage.

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The spraying also alienated the poor farmers who have often felt that they had little choice but to grow coca to feed their families.

But opponents of the spraying ban have argued that ending spraying could lead to a boom in cocaine production and favor traffickers and rebel groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which depends on the drug trade for much of its financing and has advocated an end to spraying.

They have also pointed out that one alternative, eradicating plants by hand, is dangerous because it involves sending troops and workers into areas controlled by traffickers and guerrilla troops. Many eradication workers have been killed and wounded by land mines or in armed confrontations in drug-growing areas.

Spraying with glyphosate began in the 1990s on a small scale and by the early 2000s it was established as a crucial aspect of Plan Colombia, a multibillion dollar push by the United States to aid in fighting rebel groups and drug traffickers in the country.

It reached its peak in 2006, when more than 405,000 acres were sprayed, according to data compiled for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

But aerial spraying has fallen sharply over the last two years, even as coca plantings jumped. Last year, 137,000 acres were sprayed, while the amount of land planted with coca increased to 276,758 acres in Colombia, compared with 198,919 acres the previous year.

Daniel Mejía, the director of the Center for Security and Drug Studies, a research group in Bogotá, said that spraying was inefficient and counterproductive.

“I would recommend attacking the links in the chain of drug trafficking, the labs where cocaine is processed, the large shipments of chemicals, which is really where the hard drug trafficking is, where organized crime is,” Mr. Mejía said. “It has been shown that attacking the farmers doesn’t work.”

Rafael Nieto, a former vice-minister of justice, questioned the rationale behind halting spraying, saying that more eradication workers would be put at risk.

“If the spraying is stopped, the income of the drug traffickers, the criminal gangs and the guerrillas will go up substantially and so will the number of dead and wounded,” Mr. Nieto said. “Coca and cocaine production would also go up, and there would be more addicts and more people will die.”

The impact of the decision on the peace talks underway between the government and the FARC are uncertain. Some critics of the decision say that it removes a critical element of pressure on the group that could help push it toward a deal to lay down its arms.

The two sides have reached a preliminary deal on cooperating to fight drug trafficking, which would go into effect if an overall peace deal is reached. It calls for the government to work with rural communities to help them grow legal crops and increase government services in those areas. It says that spraying could be used only as a last resort.

On Monday, the government said that the armed forces had raided 63 illegal mines operated by the FARC to

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extract gold and other minerals. It said shutting down the mines would take away millions of dollars in monthly income for the group.

Ancient Ruins at Palmyra Are Endangered by ISIS Advance in Syria // NYT // Anne Barnard and Hwaida Saad - May 14, 2015

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Islamic State militants advanced to the outskirts of the Syrian town of Palmyra on Thursday, putting the extremist group within striking distance of some of the world's most magnificent antiquities.

That raised fears that the ancient city of Palmyra, with its complex of columns, tombs and ancient temples dating to the first century A.D., could be looted or destroyed. Militants from the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, have already destroyed large parts of ancient sites at Nimrud, Hatra and Nineveh in Iraq. Islamic State leaders denounce pre-Islamic art and architecture as idolatrous even as they sell smaller, more portable artifacts to finance their violent rampage through the region.

The fighting on Thursday took place little more than a mile from the city's grand 2,000-year-old ruins, which stand as the crossroad of Greek, Roman, Persian and Islamic cultures.

People in Palmyra described a state of anxiety and chaos, with residents trying to flee the northern neighborhoods. Shelling could be heard in the background as they spoke over Skype. According to residents and one government soldier, fighting elsewhere, scores of soldiers and pro-government militiamen fighting in the east and north of the town had been killed by Islamic State fighters since Monday.

"People are scared, staying home, we're hearing loud noises outside but we don't know what's happening," said Mohammad, who runs an antiques shop near the gates of the ancient ruins and who asked to be identified only by his first name to protect his safety. "If the roads were safe, we would leave the town, but pray for us, and pray for peace."

The soldier and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group based in Britain, said that civilians had also been killed, some of them beheaded, in the town of Soukhna several miles outside Palmyra.

Maamoun Abdulkarim, Syria's director of antiquities, said that the treasures of Palmyra, a Unesco World Heritage site, were in serious danger. "If I.S. enters Palmyra, it will spell its destruction," Mr. Abdulkarim told Agence France-Presse. "If the ancient city falls, it will be an international catastrophe."

The advance on Palmyra, also known as Tadur, gave the Islamic State more control over the highway from the town to the eastern province of Deir al-Zour and parts of a sprawling gas field. It comes at a time when the government of President Bashar al-Assad has faced new challenges in the seemingly implacable civil war. A coalition of rival insurgent groups recently wrested the northern provincial capital of Idlib from government control.

The soldier, who asked not to be named for fear of government reprisals, had served with a Syrian government unit in Palmyra and said his comrades, trapped in Sukhna, called him when they were attacked.

"I could feel the fear in their voice," he said. "They told me they ran out of ammunition."

He said he later saw some of his fellow soldiers' identification cards posted online by Islamic State fighters who

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participated in the battle.

Khaled al-Homsi, an antigovernment activist who monitors damage and looting of antiquities in Palmyra, said the sites had been threatened and damaged by fighters from all sides of the Syrian conflict.

Mr. Homsi, who uses a pseudonym to protect his safety, said that in the past two weeks, officials in Palmyra had removed the smaller artifacts from the state antiquities museum, apparently in preparation for a possible militant onslaught, but they had not warned residents to leave.

“People are already losing faith in the government; if they gave such a warning it would be even worse,” he said.

Mr. Homsi said that on Thursday he saw two government airstrikes hit near the medieval citadel that sits on an outcropping above the ancient city.

Nidal, an employee of the antiquities museum in Palmyra, which is within sight of the citadel, said in a brief phone interview that the citadel was unharmed. “I’m not leaving the museum,” he said.

Migrants From Myanmar, Shunned by Malaysia, Are Spotted Adrift in Andaman Sea // NYT // Thomas Fuller and Joe Cochrane - May 14, 2015

IN THE ANDAMAN SEA OFF THAILAND — A wooden fishing boat carrying several hundred desperate migrants from Myanmar was spotted adrift in the Andaman Sea between Thailand and Malaysia on Thursday, part of an exodus in which thousands of people have taken to the sea in recent weeks with no country willing to take them in.

Cries of “Please help us! I have no water!” rose from the boat as a vessel carrying journalists approached. “Please give me water!”

The green and red fishing boat, packed with men, women and children squatting on the deck with only plastic tarps to protect them from the sun, had been turned away by the Malaysian authorities on Wednesday, passengers said.

They said that they had been on the boat for three months, and that the boat’s captain and crew had abandoned them six days ago. Ten passengers died during the voyage, and their bodies were thrown overboard, the passengers said.

“I am very hungry,” said a 15-year-old boy, Mohamed Siraj, who said he was from western Myanmar. “Quickly help us please.”

It was unclear Thursday whether they would receive that help, however, despite the presence of a Thai Navy vessel, which arrived after being alerted to the boat’s presence by The New York Times.

Instead, the presence of an estimated 6,000 to 20,000 migrants at sea, fleeing ethnic persecution in Myanmar and poverty in Bangladesh, has created a crisis across the region, with countries pointing fingers at one another and declining to take responsibility themselves.

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Most of the migrants were thought to be headed to Malaysia, but after more than 1,500 came ashore in Malaysia and Indonesia in the last week, both countries declared their intention to turn away any more boats carrying migrants.

Thai officials have not articulated an official policy since the crisis began, beyond convening a regional conference to discuss the problem this month. Thailand is not known to have allowed any of the migrants to land there.

The Indonesian Navy turned away a boat with thousands of passengers on Tuesday, urging it on to Malaysia, while the Malaysian authorities turned away two boats with a total of at least 800 passengers on Wednesday.

The Thai naval vessel that approached the migrant ship here on Thursday kept its distance, with its commander, Lt. Cmdr. Veerapong Nakprasit, saying the migrants had “entered illegally.” At one point, the Thai sailors tossed packages of instant noodles to the boat, though the migrants appeared to have no means to cook them.

“What we have now is a game of maritime Ping-Pong,” said Joe Lowry, a spokesman for the International Organization for Migration in Bangkok. “It’s maritime Ping-Pong with human life. What’s the endgame? I don’t want to be too overdramatic, but if these people aren’t treated and brought to shore soon, we are going to have a boat full of corpses.”

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has asked regional governments to conduct search and rescue operations to no avail. “It’s a potential humanitarian disaster,” said Jeffrey Savage, a senior protection officer with the agency.

Many of the migrants are believed to have been abandoned by their traffickers with little food or water.

Indonesia’s chief military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Fuad Basya, said Thursday that the military would “push back any boat that wants to enter Indonesian waters without permission, including those of boat people like the Rohingya.”

After Malaysian officials turned back a boat with about 500 people off Penang Island on Wednesday, Deputy Home Minister Wan Junaidi said, “What do you expect us to do?”

“We have been very nice to the people who broke into our border,” he told The Associated Press. “We have treated them humanely, but they cannot be flooding our shores like this. We have to send the right message that they are not welcome here.”

Malaysian officials reached by The Times on Thursday declined to comment.

Tens of thousands of Rohingya, a stateless Muslim ethnic group, have fled Myanmar over the last several years, most going to Malaysia or Bangladesh. But the exodus over the last few weeks seemed to have caught everyone by surprise.

There is no single reason for the spike in departures from Myanmar and Bangladesh, said Chris Lewa, coordinator of the Arakan Project, a human rights group that tracks migration in the Andaman Sea. For the Rohingya, an accumulation of setbacks has taken a toll, she said, including the tightening of fishing permits, which has hit the Rohingya monetarily and nutritionally, and the government’s insistence that its one million Rohingya residents are not citizens.

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“It’s a combination of things,” Ms. Lewa said. “Their lives have become worse and worse.”

The fact that so many are at sea at once, however, may be in part an unintended consequence of the Thai crackdown on human trafficking. After the discovery of a mass grave this month believed to contain the bodies of 33 Burmese and Bangladeshi migrants, officials raided several smuggling camps in southern Thailand and charged dozens of police officers and senior officials with being complicit in the trade.

The camps were way stations where migrants were often detained in prisonlike conditions until they or their family could pay smugglers for passage to Malaysia. As horrid as those camps were, without them, the migrants have been stuck at sea, their traffickers afraid to set foot in Thailand.

“Their business model has been interrupted by the operations in Thailand,” Mr. Lowry said. “They will be back eventually — smuggling in trafficking is very lucrative — but they are waiting for now.”

Migrants generally pay about $1,800 each for passage to Malaysia, along with the promise of a job when they arrive, Ms. Lewa said.

But they are frequently shaken down for more payments along the way, and many never make it to Malaysia, a Muslim country that until recently had tacitly allowed the backdoor migration of Muslims from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Interviews with passengers aboard a boat that washed ashore on the northern tip of Sumatra Island, Indonesia, on Sunday provided a glimpse of the brutal conditions they faced at sea and the desperation that drove them to make the risky voyage.

Passengers told of waiting on the boat for months before it sailed because the smugglers wanted to pack it as full as possible with paying passengers.

Most were forced to remain beneath deck in the hold, squatting no more than an inch from the person in front of them. Every other day, they were fed bits of rice and noodles and small amounts of water. A hole in the floor, opening directly into the ocean, served as a toilet.

The passengers prayed or talked quietly, their whispers broken by the occasional sound of others vomiting from seasickness.

“There was no singing, only crying,” said Muhammed Kashim, a 44-year-old Bangladeshi.

Seven days into the voyage, the ship’s Thai captain abruptly stopped the vessel at sea, they said. The next day, gunmen arrived on a speedboat, boarded the ship and robbed migrants of their valuables.

The captain and crew fled with the gunmen, abandoning the ship.

Mahammed Hashim, 25, a Rohingya from the Kyauktaw District in Rakhine State, said the risks of traveling in a rickety wooden ship with little food or water were less than those of remaining in Myanmar.

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“We assumed that danger would come, but there was no other way,” he said. “We were living in a country that is more dangerous than the sea.”

They were lucky. A day later, the boat grounded in Indonesia, whose policy is not to turn back ships once they have made landfall.

The 584 passengers, including 59 children and 86 women, five of them pregnant, will have the opportunity to apply for refugee status with the United Nations refugee agency, a process that is expected to take months. For now, they are being housed at a government compound in Paya Bateung, in Aceh Province, where they sleep on concrete floors but have blankets, food and water.

The Rohingya, effectively stateless, have a reasonable chance at asylum. But the 208 Bangladeshis in the group will probably be considered economic migrants who, denied the right to work in Indonesia, will eventually choose to return home, Mr. Savage of the United Nations said.

Mahammed Jahangir Hussein, a 32-year-old Bangladeshi, said that was not an option. His father sold a house and farmland to raise the $3,250 he paid for the voyage and a promised job in Malaysia.

“If the Indonesian government says we cannot work, all the men here are saying, ‘Let’s work in another country,’ ” he said. “There’s nothing back home for us.”

Asked about his future, he waved his arms toward the migrants gathered around him and up at the scruffy concrete building he had just moved into.

“This is my future,” he said.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

End Immigration Detention // NYT // Editorial Board – May 15, 2015

Of all the malfunctioning parts in the country’s broken-down immigration machinery, probably the most indefensible is the detention system.

This is the vast network of jails and prisons where suspected immigration violators are held while awaiting a hearing and possible deportation. Immigrant detainees are not criminal defendants or convicts serving sentences. They are locked up merely because the government wants to make sure they show up in immigration court.

Detention is intended to help enforce the law, but, in practice, the system breeds cruelty and harm, and squanders taxpayer money. It denies its victims due process of law, punishing them far beyond the scale of any offense. It shatters families and traumatizes children. As a system of mass incarceration — particularly of women and children fleeing persecution in Central America — it is immoral.

The director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, Sarah Saldaña, on Wednesday announced a set of reforms to the family detention system. Federal officials do this from time to time after advocates and journalists expose — as they have for years — the abuses within detention walls. Ms. Saldaña says she wants the “optimal level

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of care" for detainees, and so she will create a committee and give lawyers more working space to meet with clients, among other things.

But committees and cubicles won't touch the heart of the problem. It's time to end mass detention, particularly of families. Shut the system down, and replace it with something better.

A powerful case for ending immigration detention, along with an array of alternatives, is made in a new report from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Center for Migration Studies. It traces how the system has grown immense, from housing 85,000 detainees in 1995 to more than 440,000 in 2013. There are many reasons for this growth, including state and local immigration crackdowns, federal dragnet programs like Secure Communities and the flood of money from Congress to the private prison operators that have profited so fruitfully from immigrant criminalization. The system has gotten more sprawling and scandal-prone, but reforms don't stick. The notorious Hutto family detention center in Texas, where children went to classes in prison scrubs, stopped housing families. But the surge of families at the border seeking refuge last year created a political crisis and led the department to resurrect family detention, with new centers with thousands of prison beds for mothers and children.

The report points out that the detention system has become an enormous funnel for the crushingly overburdened, underfunded immigration courts, which receive a meager $300 million from Congress each year, one-sixtieth of what ICE and Customs and Border Protection get. By the end of March, nearly 442,000 cases were pending before immigration judges, with an average case waiting 599 days to be heard, and delays in some courts of more than two years. This is not efficiency or due process.

Ending mass detention would not mean allowing unauthorized immigrants to disappear. Supervised or conditional release, ankle bracelets and other monitoring technologies, plus community-based support with intensive case management, can work together to make the system more humane. But neither Congress nor the Homeland Security Department has embraced these approaches, which would be far cheaper than locking people up.

No one can expect such reforms soon from Congress, which by law requires the Department of Homeland Security to maintain, at all times, 34,000 detention beds, no matter the need. But the problem has to be acknowledged: the inhumanity and wasted expense of imprisoning people who could be working and providing for their families. The American immigration system should reflect our values. The detention system does not do that.

O'Malley Tells Friends He's Leaning Toward Running for President // WSJ // Laura Meckler – May 14, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley told close friends and supporters Thursday night that he is inclined to run for president, spreading the news in a series of calls Thursday night, according to someone on one of the calls.

He also told them that he would be making an announcement about his plans on May 30 in Baltimore. An aide said the same earlier Thursday.

His calls Thursday included former staff as well as close friends and supporters.

"He said that he is inclined to run for president, and that if he does, needs the support of all his longtime friends and supporters," according to the person on the call.

This person said he also highlighted "great challenges" facing the nation, particularly economic challenges, and said he would bring "new leadership, progressive values and [a] record of getting results."

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Mr. O'Malley has certainly been acting like a candidate. He was in the early voting state of New Hampshire on Wednesday meeting shaking hands at a diner, touring a business incubator, raising money for local Democrats and meeting with supporters at a house party.

He would face an uphill challenge. The clear frontrunner for the Democratic nomination is former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Mr. O'Malley registers far behind her in the polls. He has tried to distinguish himself as an accomplished leader who would bring a "new perspective" he says voters want in Washington.

Hillary Clinton's got Beyonce. And that's important. // WaPo // Hunter Schwarz - May 14, 2015

Hillary Clinton hasn't always had the best relationship with Hollywood and celebrities; in 2008, many of them backed Obama. But more and more, they're lining up behind her for 2016.

Among the attendees at star-studded fundraising events for her in Manhattan on Wednesday, according to Bloomberg: Beyonce, Sharon Osbourne, Meghan Trainor, and fundraiser co-host L.A. Reid. There were also a lot of other people who are wealthy but whose names you don't read in People magazine.

Reid tweeted a photo of himself speaking next to Clinton.

And a Beyonce fan account tweeted a photo it said was of the singer at the fundraiser.

Wednesday's events follow a trickle of other Hollywood supporters who've come out for Clinton. A handful of celebrities voiced their support for her when she announced her candidacy, Mary-Kate and Ashley attended an April fundraiser, and some big-name Hollywood decision makers who were for Obama in 2008 have committed to her already.

There will eventually be more -- it's only May 2015 -- but there's no getting around the fact that there's less enthusiasm for her than there was for Obama. As one anonymous donor told Politico: "[T]here is such a lack of enthusiasm for Hillary, it's really kind of stunning." But Clinton might not need to be too concerned. She's leading in the polls over any potential Democratic threats by a wide margin, and although Hollywood might not be that stoked for her, they're starting to show up.

Reid summed it up in his tweet: "No need to be idealistic when you already know what works."

Entertainment industry Democrats might be lukewarm to Clinton now, but when it comes down to it, they'd rather have her over any of the possible Republican candidates. And until anyone looks like they can actually beat Clinton for the Democratic nomination -- someone like O'Malley -- the money and support will likely flow to the frontrunner.

If nothing else, the key for Clinton is making sure Hollywood doesn't get behind someone else -- building his or her profile and campaign coffers. In that sense, getting Beyonce is a pretty important step.

Hillary's Got A Friend: James Taylor Backs Clinton For President // The Daily Caller // Kaitlan Collins – May 14, 2015

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In an interview Thursday, James Taylor said he thinks Hillary Clinton is the “public servant” who can bring the country together, and that he’s backing her for president.

“Aside from the fact that she’s a woman running, she’s the right person,” the 67-year-old said. “The whole point — black or white, male or female, gay or straight, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, atheist — it doesn’t matter what these other connections are.”

He also said that Obama is his “favorite, favorite” president, and said he had “a tough time” during the Bush-Cheney administration.

“I had a hard time accepting that that administration represented me because I don’t think they did,” Taylor said. “I’ve been watching politics since Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson, when dinosaurs roamed the Earth, and Obama is my favorite, favorite president.”

“I am just thankful for every day that he’s in office. I am so proud that he represents my country and I think he represents me — I think he represents the America that I know.”

Taylor performed at the Democratic National Convention in 2012, and also sang “America the Beautiful” at Obama’s second inauguration.

Time for candidate Clinton to step up on trade // WaPo // David Ignatius – May 14, 2015

President Obama, so often cool and cautious in his language, gave a full-throated roar on trade last week, saying thatSen. Elizabeth Warren was “ absolutely wrong ” in her criticism of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and that “her arguments don’t stand the test of fact and scrutiny .”

I think Obama is right about the TPP, but there’s a larger point here about leadership. Governing is a contact sport. Presidents don’t accomplish great deeds without fighting for them. Often, that includes confronting rebellious members of their own party. And Obama’s tough stance seemed to have succeeded Thursday, as the Senate overcame a Democratic revolt and passed key bills to enable the TPP.

Modern presidents, from Lyndon Johnson to Ronald Reagan to Bill Clinton, have won big legislative victories when they similarly played political hardball. That’s something Obama has learned late in his presidency, but this toughness is visible now on issues that matter to his legacy, such as the Iran nuclear deal, Cuba and free trade. He’s ready to roll opponents, even if they’re his friends.

Which raises a question: What does Hillary Clinton believe about the Trans-Pacific Partnership or the Iran nuclear deal? You would assume that she’s supportive because she helped get both agreements started. But she has been a study in reticence — a trimmer checking the political winds, rather than a leader.

Clinton had it right in her memoir, “Hard Choices,” published last year: “The TPP won’t be perfect . . . but its higher standards, if implemented and enforced, should benefit American businesses and workers.” Is Clinton really running so scared from Warren that she’s ready to disown economic policies she helped shape? Does she think that running against Obama’s economic record will be good politics?

Clinton should put away the waffle iron when it comes to the Iran deal, too. As secretary of state, she launched the secret channel in Oman that passed the message that Iran could enrich uranium if it agreed to tight controls on its nuclear program. Her experience with such secret diplomacy is one reason she’s a compelling candidate. But she

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has been stinting in her comments so far about the Iran pact.

The progressive rebellion against Obama on the TPP is mystifying, not least because the factual basis for challenging the deal seems so thin. Labor is arguing that the agreement will be a job-sucking repeat of the North American Free Trade Agreement. But the TPP would actually fix many of the weak labor and environmental provisions of NAFTA, imposing tougher standards for Canada and Mexico as well as the other signatories of the 12-nation agreement.

A recent study by Jay Chittooran for Third Way, a centrist think tank, noted that the TPP, like the 17 other U.S. trade deals negotiated since NAFTA, includes “wide-ranging, and enforceable labor protections.” An alternative future, in which the TPP fails and China writes the rules for its Asian trading partners, would effectively mean “non-existent or watered down labor standards,” he wrote.

Warren’s stance, too, is puzzling. She has focused on the TPP’s use of an arcane mediation provision known as Investor-State Dispute Settlement, or ISDS. Though it has been part of investment agreements for decades, Warren claims ISDS gives “a special break to giant corporations.” But a recent study by Gary Clyde Hufbauer for the Peterson Institute for International Economics noted that firms have won only 29 percent of arbitrations under a system similar to ISDS that the World Bank has used since 1996.

But it’s Clinton’s rope-a-dope approach to the TPP that deserves most attention, because it highlights her vulnerability as a candidate. Her caution conveys the sense that she’s running because she wants to get elected, rather than as the exponent of a set of beliefs. Critics have argued that Clinton, similarly, sought to play by a special set of rules in her use of a private e-mail server while she was secretary of state and in the Clinton Foundation’s harvest of contributions from foreigners.

“I’ve run my last election,” Obama said a week ago. “The only reason I do something is because I think it’s good for American workers and the American people and the American economy.”

Clinton is still running, but she could take a political lesson from Obama. She needs to be a fighter. Avoiding the issues will only reinforce the sense that she is a hollow candidate. She should be taking credit for the good provisions in the TPP, not hedging her bets. She may be ready to run, but is she ready to lead?

George Stephanopoulos Gave to the Clinton Foundation. So What? // NY Mag // Jonathan Chait - May 14, 2015

ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos disclosed today that he has donated $50,000* to the Clinton Foundation. Everybody agrees this is terrible. Stephanopoulos has apologized and ABC has accepted his apology. Republicans believe his gestures of abjection have not gone far enough. Rand Paul proposes that Stephanopoulos recuse himself from moderating the 2016 presidential debates. Senator Mike Lee, through his spokesman, demands that he recuse himself from all 2016 coverage. Clinton Cash” author Peter Schweizer calls it a “massive ethical breach.”

But … why? Paul accuses Stephanopoulos of harboring a “conflict of interest.” But donating money to a charitable foundation is not an interest. His money is gone regardless of what happens to Clinton’s presidential campaign. It’s true that some donors have an incentive to use the Foundation to get close to the Clintons in a way that might benefit their business interests. And yes, as I’ve argued, the Clintons have handled those conflict-of-interest problems really poorly. But none of those problems reflects poorly on Stephanopoulos. The mere fact that a donation might come with an ulterior motive does not taint all donations. If Stephanopoulos needed some angle to get in the room with the Clintons, donating to their foundation would not be the way to do it.

In the absence of a material conflict, is there some symbolic conflict? It is hard to imagine what. The Clinton Foundation has taken on nefarious connotations owing to conflict-of-interest problems that don’t implicate

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Stephanopoulos. But it is, after all, a charity. It used to have non-partisan overtones.In the heat of the 2012 election, Mitt Romney spoke at the Clinton Global Initiative. News Corporation Foundation and Donald Trump, for goodness sake, donated to it.

Stephanopoulos's defense — that he just wanted to donate to the Foundation's work on AIDS prevention and deforestation — seems 100 percent persuasive. He is the victim of the ethical taint of the Clintons' poorly handled business dealings, combined with an underlying right-wing suspicion of the liberal media, but what his critics have yet to produce is a coherent case against him.

Stephanopoulos' Clinton Donations Not the 'Scandal' Everyone Wants It to Be // Mediatite // Matt Wilstein - May 14, 2015

It's 2015 and suddenly everyone is shocked that ABC News' Chief Anchor George Stephanopoulos has a unique relationship with the Clintons. Hours after news broke that Stephanopoulos, who spent four years in the Bill Clinton White House as a senior adviser, made a $50,000 $75,000 donation to the Clinton Foundation over the course of the past three years, conservatives are already calling for him to be suspended — if not outright fired from his dual roles as host of Good Morning America and This Week. But how bad is Stephanopoulos' supposed offense really?

Bad enough that Stephanopoulos decided to publicly apologize for failing to disclose the donations, especially given his aggressive interview with Clinton Cash author Peter Schweitzer last month, in a statement that has been appended to relevant ABC News stories online:

I made charitable donations to the Foundation in support of the work they're doing on global AIDS prevention and deforestation, a cause I care about deeply. I thought that my contributions were all a matter of public record. However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation. I apologize.

He then told Politico that "in retrospect" he "probably shouldn't have" made the donations at all and said he would recuse himself from moderating ABC News' 2016 GOP debate.

But not bad enough that ABC News is not firmly standing behind him with a supportive statement of its own:

As George has said, he made charitable donations to the Foundation to support a cause he cares about deeply and believed his contributions were a matter of public record. He should have taken the extra step to notify us and our viewers during the recent news reports about the Foundation. He's admitted to an honest mistake and apologized for that omission. We stand behind him.

For many conservative politicians and commentators, along with a handful of left-leaning media critics, the "honest mistake" excuse is not enough. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) has indicated that he is no longer interested in engaging with Stephanopoulos in any way. Sites like Breitbart and The Daily Caller are predictably jumping all over the story in an attempt to "expose" Stephanopoulos' pro-Clinton bias once and for all. And even the Washington Post's Erik Wemple has declared that Stephanopoulos no longer has the "bona fides" to cover the Clintons at all.

Some, like Mediaite's Joe Concha, are pointing to Keith Olbermann's 2010 suspension from MSNBC for making far smaller donations to Democratic congressional campaigns as precedent for punishment in this case. But there is a big difference between political donations and charitable ones, even if the charity in question as the name Clinton attached to it.

It seems abundantly clear that had Stephanopoulos been donating to Hillary Clinton's campaign while serving as

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ABC's chief anchor, that would have been highly inappropriate. But, as various commentators from all side of the political spectrum have been asking this morning, what is so wrong with giving money to an organization that does an immense amount of good around the world in areas like climate change and global health?

Yes, as Stephanopoulos readily admitted, he made a mistake by not disclosing the donations. But, despite the anchor's newfound regrets, everyone should be able to agree that it was that lack of overt transparency — and not the donations themselves — that constituted the mistake. Now that everything is out in the open, it should not prevent him from doing his job, which includes providing coverage of Hillary Clinton and the 2016 presidential race.

Ultimately, Stephanopoulos' donations are not a "scandal" in the same way the entire premise of Schweitzer's Clinton Cash is not a "scandal." One can argue that certain people have given money to the Clinton Foundation with the expectation that they will receive something of political value from the Clintons in return. And, in fact, Stephanopoulos himself argued that is something "you have to be careful of" in an interview with Jon Stewart last month. But there has been no evidence to prove that is true, as, ironically, Stephanopoulos got Schweitzer to admit on air.

Similarly, you can expect to hear a lot of arguments from conservatives that because Stephanopoulos gave money to the Clinton Foundation, he cannot possibly be an impartial figure in the 2016 race. Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), for instance, was the first to say he doesn't want the ABC anchor moderating any GOP debates. But frankly, because of his existing history with the Clintons, wouldn't you expect him and others to say that anyway? There is no reason why giving money to help the global effort to fight AIDS should change anything now.

By the way, you know who else donated at least $500,000 to the Clinton Foundation in recent years? The News Corporation Foundation. And if you think Fox News is going to start disclosing that fact on a regular basis (as Howard Kurtz did earlier this year), let alone stop reporting about Hillary Clinton, don't hold your breath.

Hillary Rodham Clinton Ups the Super PAC Ante // NYT // Francis Clines – May 14, 2015

For all the candidates' grand promises, it turns out the most creative area of the presidential contest so far has been the strategic rush to shift costly campaign duties from budget-tight headquarters to an armada of new super PACs. These groups are free to raise unlimited funds from big-check writers shopping for influence while supposedly operating independent of their candidates. It sounds like a neat trick, and legions of campaign lawyers are working on pulling it off.

Jeb Bush, the Republican frontrunner in sheer money raising, signaled the mushrooming role of the super PAC last month when his strategists indicated they were ready to shift key campaign functions from the central headquarters, where donations are tighter, to their "independent" Right to Rise super PAC for which Mr. Bush has already been raising tens of millions of dollars.

Not to be outspent, the campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton made clear last week that she would end her arms-length remove from her "independent" super PAC, Priorities USA Action, and personally court affluent donors at its V.I.P. fund raisers where political clout is the commodity. Clinton campaigners appeared to raise the stakes even higher this week by announcing they would be working closely with a new super PAC created from their existing rapid-response political defense operation, Correct the Record.

The attraction for all these chess moves is the huge amounts of money that super PACs can raise, courtesy of court decisions equating unlimited corporate and union political money with free speech. Traditional campaigns are still limited to $2,700 per donor in the primaries plus another $2,700 in the general election. But super PACs are cornucopias whose supposed independence from their candidates seems an increasing fiction with each new gambit.

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Independent campaign watchdog organizations make a strong case that super PACs are violating the law outright by having candidates' close aides run coordinated operations. Partisan lawyers expert in election law — a major boutique industry in Washington — are on call to justify their latest twists or attack those of their rivals. In the case of the new Clinton political defense super PAC, for example, Clintonites say they will stay within existing law that exempts from regulation any message content posted for free on the Internet, as opposed to paid political ads which the super PAC says it will avoid. Even so, critics instantly questioned whether super PAC staffers will be working for nothing. If they are paid, they could violate the Internet exemption.

Any chance of settling such arcane issues and enforcing clear super PAC rules in behalf of the voters diminishes with each new 7-figure donation. The Federal Election Commission, the supposed referee of the campaign, has become dysfunctional, making it easier for super PACs to move ever more dominantly into the race.

New Neighbor Hillary Clinton Shops and Dines in Brooklyn Heights // BK Heights Blog // Claude Scales – May 14,2015

Presidential aspirant Hillary Clinton (center, in green) visited the Brooklyn Women's Exchange today, and posed for this photo with, left to right: volunteers Lisa, Vanessa and Cindy and manager Elizabeth. Another volunteer, Kristin, gave her a tour of the shop, and said, "She loved our shop and what we do here. She used the term 'it takes a village' to describe some of what we do."

According to Politico Hillary bought a romper and a book, Simpson's Sheep Won't Go To Sleep, for her granddaughter, Charlotte, at the Exchange. She bought another romper at Area Kids on Montague Street, and had a salad for lunch at MontyQ's.

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Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/24/2008 1:43:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/24

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 24th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
10:20am BUSH: Speaks on the Freedom Agenda at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

11:30am McCain: Fundraiser in Canton, OH

3:05pm BUSH: Photo-op with officers of the National FFA Organization at the White House

7pm McCain: Speech in Columbus, OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Still Waiting for His Turn at Good Luck (Washington Post 7/24/08)
By Michael D. Shear; A06
It seemed like a great way to counter Obamamania. Sen. John McCain would board a helicopter in New Orleans today, skim quickly over the Gulf of Mexico and land on an oil rig -- a made-for-TV moment to highlight his call for offshore drilling, an issue that Republicans believe will be a big winner in November. Then came Hurricane Dolly, a Category 2 storm that made a helicopter ride impossible. And then, improbably, a 600-foot oil tanker collided with a barge on the Mississippi River, creating a 12-mile oil slick and causing diesel fumes to waft over the city's French Quarter. The trip was off.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/23/AR2008072303653.html
See NYT's "McCain Event Is Thwarted by Hurricane": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/24/us/politics/24mccain.html

McCain and the Safety of Offshore Drilling (Washington Post blog 7/24/08)
By Michael D. Shear
...In an energy speech recently, McCain said that: "As for offshore drilling, it's safe enough these days that not even Hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cause significant spillage from the battered rigs off the coasts of New Orleans and Houston." In fact, Katrina and Hurricane Rita caused damage to oil rigs and storage facilities in the Gulf, according to press reports and government studies.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/23/mccain_and_the_safety_of_offsh.html?sid=ST2008072400049&pos=list

With Arizona Changing, McCain Focuses on Home (NYT 7/24/08)
By JENNIFER STEINHAUER
...In the sea of uncertainty that defines American politics, presidential candidates have generally been able to count on the residents of their home state, Al Gore's loss of Tennessee in 2000 being a notable exception. But a variety of factors have made Mr. McCain's chances in Arizona less assured than they ordinarily would seem, which his campaign has acknowledged.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/24/us/politics/24arizona.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&ref=politics&adxnnlx=1216898397-8kmNMfg8Lj2UVycvu2nuXQ

Obama gains on McCain in Arizona fundraising (The Arizona Republic 7/24/08)
By Ronald J. Hansen
Barack Obama quietly raised more money in Arizona last month for his presidential campaign than John McCain did, and the Illinois Democrat dominates the overall fundraising map in 43 states and Washington, D.C., records show.
http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/07/24/20080724mccainfunds0724.html

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McCain and Obama tax plans are criticized (LA Times 7/24/08)
By Stephen Braun
The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center says that both candidates' proposals would increase the national debt by trillions and may make the system more complex.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-taxes24-2008jul24,0,1595880.story

For McCain, Net deficit with young (Boston Globe 7/24/08)
By Lisa Wangsness
Backers lament Obama's Web edge
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/07/24/for_mccain_net_deficit_with_young/

Candidates Spar Over Troop Surge and Iraq Chronology (NYT 7/24/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
Senator John McCain was chiding Senator Barack Obama for "a false depiction of what actually happened" in Iraq in a television interview this week. But in giving his chronology of events in Iraq, Mr. McCain gave what critics said was his own false depiction.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/24/us/politics/24check.html

McCain denies he misstated timing of Iraq surge (AP 7/23/08)
By TOM RAUM
Republican John McCain pushed back on Wednesday against Democratic criticism that he misstated when the troop buildup ordered by President Bush began, saying elements were put in place before Bush announced the strategy in early 2007.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iE2JCSH5p9r2GBkQWS9TWAMzmuvQD923R0SG1

McCain Offers His Own Definition of 'Surge' (WSJ blog 7/23/08)
Elizabeth Holmes
John McCain continued to assert his position on the troop surge in Iraq Wednesday despite calls for him to retract the statement. While talking with reporters at a grocery story in Bethlehem, Penn., McCain was asked to clarify his earlier remarks that the Anbar Awakening was a result of the increase in troop levels. Critics say the alliance happened well before the so-called surge was implemented. McCain began his answer with his definition of "surge" and then shared his own experience while visiting Iraq. "A surge is really a counter-insurgency strategy. And it's made up of a number of components," McCain said.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/23/mccain-offers-his-own-definition-of-surge/
See TPM's "McCain's Pushback On Timing Flub: The Surge Began Before The Surge": http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccains_pushback_on_timing_flu.php

McCain credits Bush for drop in oil price (AP 7/23/08)
By Tom Raum
Republican John McCain on Wednesday credited the recent $10-a-barrel drop in the price of oil to President Bush's lifting of a presidential ban on offshore drilling, an action he has been advocating in his presidential campaign. The cost of oil and gasoline is "on everybody's mind in this room," McCain told a town-hall meeting.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2008/Jul/23/mccain_credits_bush_for_drop_in_oil_price.html

No attack too vile — McCain goes after Obama's Holocaust remarks (Carpetbagger Report 7/23/08)
It may only be July, and Election Day may still be 104 days away, but we've reached the point at which the McCain campaign is even willing to attack Barack Obama's remembrance of the Nazi Holocaust.
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/16292.html

McCain Touts His Support of Israel (NYT blog 7/23/08)
By Elisabeth Bumiller
As Senator Barack Obama met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in the Middle East on Wednesday, Senator John McCain talked up his own support of Israel a half-world away. "I look you in the eye, and I tell you, as the United States once said, and will say again and again, we will never allow a second Holocaust," Mr. McCain told a crowd at a town-hall meeting here.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/mccain-touts-his-support-of-israel/

McCain's Foreign Policy Frustration (TIME 7/23/08)
By JOE KLEIN
"I had the courage and the judgment to say that I would rather lose a political campaign than lose a war," John McCain said during a Rochester, N.H., town meeting on July 22. "It seems to me that Senator Obama would rather lose a war in order to win a political campaign." It was a remarkable statement, as intemperate a personal

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attack as I've ever heard a major-party candidate make in a presidential campaign, the sort of thing that no potential President of the United States should ever be caught saying. (A prudent candidate has aides sling that sort of mud.) It was also inevitable.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1826064,00.html

How Much Does John McCain Really Know About Foreign Policy? (Slate 7/23/08)
By Fred Kaplan
Not as much as he'd like you to think.
http://www.slate.com/id/2195865/

Campaign Adviser Lobbied McCain On Latvia, Then Stephen Payne Took Credit (TPM Muckraker 7/23/08)
Sen. John McCain's campaign has admitted that his top foreign policy adviser has lobbied for not two but three different firms run by cash-for-access deal-maker Stephen Payne. But the McCain camp insists that Randy Scheunemann did not lobby McCain himself on "any issues relating to" Stephen Payne. http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/advisor_lobbied_mccain_on_latv.php

McCain's notable bio strikes a chord in Pa. (USA TODAY 7/24/08)
By David Jackson
WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — Supporters of John McCain here acknowledge that Democrat Barack Obama wins attention with his speaking style and charisma, but they say those qualities can't match the Republican candidate's stellar background.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-23-wilkesbarre_N.htm

McCain Fundraises in Pennsylvania (Fox News blog 7/23/08)
by Shushannah Walshe
After holding a private luncheon at the Westmoreland Club, John McCain addressed donors and went after Barack Obama for crafting his Iraq policy before traveling to the country... McCain is urgently trying to peg his opponent as inexperienced while Obama is on his trip to Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Europe. T
http://embeds.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/07/23/mccain-fundraises-in-pennsylvania/

A double bill in Ohio: John McCain and Lance Armstrong (Cleveland.com blog 7/23/08)
By Stephen Koff
Who's the bigger draw, Lance Armstrong or John McCain? Never mind, because Ohioans won't have to choose. The legendary cyclist and the presumptive GOP presidential nominee will be be side by side tomorrow when McCain comes to Columbus on the first day of the LIVESTRONG summit. That's a conference held by the Lance Armstrong Foundation to discuss cancer and promote awareness and research.
http://blog.cleveland.com/openers/2008/07/a_double_bill_in_ohio_john_mcc.html

Lieberman Compares Hagee To Moses, Says Bloggers Would Have Attacked Him Too (ThinkProgress 7/23/08)
Yesterday, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) spoke at the controversial pastor John Hagee's Christians United For Israel Washington-Israel Summit. Lieberman's close political ally, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), finally rejected Hagee's endorsement in May. Lieberman, however, says he still has the utmost respect for the pastor, who once said that Hurricane Katrina was punishment to New Orleans for hosting a gay pride parade.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/23/lieberman-hagee/

McCain On The Run: Cancels Press Availability (Huffington Post 7/23/08)
By Rachel Weiner
Marc Ambinder reports that John McCain's one press conference of the week has been abruptly canceled... Ben Smith sees more, pointing out that Obamania is the least of McCain's worries right now:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/23/mccain-on-the-run-cancels_n_114539.html

McCain on Obama Media Mania: "All I Can Do is Be Amused" (The Page 7/23/08)
The Senator hints at his slight frustration with the near-incessant media coverage of Obama's overseas trip on Fox's "Hannity & Colmes" Wednesday night.: "It is what it is Sean. You know very well that if anybody complains then, you know, that's just non-productive."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/23/mccain-on-obama-media-mania-all-i-can-do-is-be-amused/
Link to Excerpts of McCain's Interview on "Hannity & Colmes": http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-of-mccains-interview-on-hannity-colmes/

McCain Campaign Running Obama-Castro Ad (Huffington Post 7/23/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Sam Stein
The McCain campaign has a new web ad out placing Barack Obama, for the second time, side-by-side with a foreign dictator. This time, it's Fidel Castro.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/24/mccain-campaign-running-o_n_114657.html

Vote Vets Ad: McCain Should Know Better Than To Occupy Iraq (TPM 7/23/08)
By Eric Kleefeld
Check out this new ad from Vote Vets, set to air on national cable. It does what many anti-war voices have been hesitant to do: Declare that by refusing to formulate a plan for withdrawal from Iraq, John McCain's dedication to the basic idea of freedom has been called into question.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/vote_vets_ad_mccain_should_kno.php
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-HfSY6LEqY

House Republicans push to get McCain editorial in NY Times (Politico blog 7/23/08)
A House Republican will circulate a letter among his colleagues on Wednesday asking the New York Times whether a third-party group can take out a full-page advertisement in the paper to run a previously rejected editorial by their presidential candidate, Arizona Sen. John McCain, according to people familiar with the decision.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0708/
House_Republicans_push_to_get_McCain_editorial_in_NY_Times.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Our view on Iraq: Why can't Obama admit the obvious? The surge worked (USA Today 7/24/08)
Obama was right about war, wrong about surge; McCain vice versa.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/our-view-on-ira.html#more

Opposing view: Refocus on Afghanistan (USA Today 7/24/08)
By Joe Biden
Recent events have demonstrated clearly that Barack Obama's judgment on Iraq is right. Now, it's time to heed that judgment so that we can successfully end the war while refocusing on the fight in Afghanistan.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/opposing-view-3.html#more

A Tale of Two Flip-Floppers (WSJ 7/24/08)
By KARL ROVE
John McCain and Barack Obama have both changed positions in this campaign. That's OK. Voters understand that politicians can and, sometimes, should change their views. After all, voters do. Witness the wide swings in their answers to opinion polls.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121685888325079319.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

The McCain Veep Hoax (WSJ 7/24/08)
Barack Obama may be grabbing headlines overseas, but John McCain's campaign knew exactly how to grab a few of its own this week. His staff apparently encouraged a report that the Arizona senator was on the verge of stealing a march on Mr. Obama by announcing the name of his vice presidential running mate. Columnist Robert Novak reported that Mitt Romney was the most likely front-runner.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121685456127878945.html?mod=opinion_journal_political_diary

McCain's confusion on Iraq (Chicago Tribune 7/24/08)
Steve Chapman
If there is any fixed position in John McCain's policy agenda, it's that we must never, ever, set a timetable for leaving Iraq. He regularly flogs Barack Obama for proposing to withdraw by the summer of 2010. So it was a surprise to hear him say Monday, when asked if our troops might depart in the next two years, "Oh, I think they could be largely withdrawn, as I've said."
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-oped0724chapmanjul24,0,3829013.column

The Oil Man Cometh (NYT 7/24/08)
By TIMOTHY EGAN
...Republicans are furious at their longtime benefactor. Senator John McCain is currently running an ad in which he directly blames Barack Obama for $4-a-gallon gas at the pump — as bogus a claim as anything yet made in 2008. Then along comes [T. Boone] Pickens, Texas oilman and billionaire corporate raider, overwhelming the McCain attack with a saturation message that has the added value of being true, as Henry Kissinger once said about another matter.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/24/opinion/24egan.html?ref=opinion

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Can Romney buy the VP nomination? (Boston Globe 7/24/08)
By Todd Domke
MITT ROMNEY is running for vice president. He recently decided he would not seek donations to repay the $45 million in personal loans he made to his failed presidential campaign so he could instead concentrate on raising millions for John McCain.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/24/can_romney_buy_the_vp_nomination/

BUSH NEWS

Housing flip puts Bush in GOP doghouse (Politico 7/24/08)
By: David Rogers
Massive mortgage rescue bill advances in Congress, creates tension between president and House GOP.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/12005.html

Bush Drops Opposition To Housing Rescue Bill (NPR 7/23/08)
President Bush on Wednesday reversed his stance and moved to back a congressional plan to help Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac weather the mortgage crisis and to provide struggling homeowners with more affordable loans.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92813578

Foreign policy U-turn (USA Today 7/24/08)
Lame-duck presidents traditionally turn to foreign policy as power ebbs from them at home, and George W. Bush is no exception. What's remarkable about the Bush administration's final year, however, is how different it is from its earlier ones.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/foreign-policy.html#more

Obama finds unlikely ally in Bush (The National 7/24/08)
Erika Niedowski
As he traverses the globe on a trip designed to promote his foreign policy proficiency, Barack Obama has a new, and unlikely, ally: George W Bush.
http://www.thenational.ae/article/20080722/FOREIGN/199749491/1014/NEWS&Profile=1014

Bush popular — on lawmakers' walls (Politico 7/24/08)
By: Daniel Libit
For 27 senators, displaying a Bush photo is like a blue suit - not exactly stylish, but always in style.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/12002.html

Duke Cunningham asks Bush for clemency. (ThinkProgress 7/23/08)
Last weekend, the New York Times reported that "[f]elons are asking President Bush for pardons and commutations at historic levels as he nears his final months in office, a time when many other presidents have granted a flurry of clemency requests." The AP reports that former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) is now among the applicants:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/23/duke-bush-clemency/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Pentagon says Afghanistan needs troops (USA Today 7/24/08)
By Tom Vanden Brook
Pentagon planners are recommending dispatching hundreds of support troops to Afghanistan before bad weather hinders fighting in the fall.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/2008-07-23-afghantroops_N.htm

Fannie-Freddie aid clears first vote (USA Today 7/24/08)
By Sue Kirchhoff
WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday approved compromise legislation to shore up mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac while helping hundreds of thousands of homeowners refinance into more affordable loans.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-07-23-bush-housing_N.htm
See NYT's "House Approves Sweeping Effort to Help Housing": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/24/business/24housing.html?hp

Housing Bill Will Extend Federal Role In Markets (WSJ 7/24/08)
By DAMIAN PALETTA and JAMES R. HAGERTY; Page A1

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A sprawling bill that reaches deep into the U.S. housing industry is close to becoming law, in what will likely stand as the federal government's most expansive effort to stabilize the mortgage and financial markets.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121681776929477089.html?mod=hpp_us_whats_news

Ford Posts $8.7 Billion Loss on Write-Downs (NYT 7/
By NICK BUNKLEY
The Ford Motor Company said Thursday that it lost $8.7 billion in the second quarter as it wrote-off $8 billion in assets and as sales of its most profitable vehicles plunged.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/25/business/25ford.html?hp

Levees hold but waters rise as Dolly brings rain (AP 7/24/08)
Hurricane Dolly slammed ashore and then loitered over deep south Texas as a tropical storm, dumping as much as a foot of rain in places and ripping roofs off buildings with 100 mph winds.
http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/2008-07-24-floods-dolly_N.htm

Interrogator Testifies About Hamdan's Work With Bin Laden (Washington Post 7/24/08)
By Jerry Markon; A16
Osama bin Laden's driver witnessed the al-Qaeda leader being briefed on the day of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and overheard him express satisfaction that the death toll had exceeded expectations, an FBI interrogator testified Wednesday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/23/AR2008072302430.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Republican National Committee airs anti-Obama ads (AP 7/23/08)
John McCain can be a Berliner, too. The Republican National Committee decided to have a little fun with Barack Obama's widely anticipated speech Thursday at Berlin's Victory Column. It is airing anti-Obama ads in Berlin's namesakes in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and New Hampshire.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-23-McCain-ads_N.htm
Link to audio of radio ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTCwKYQOGHs

Obama Bets $5 Million on Olympic Viewers (NYT blog 7/23/08)
By Brian Stelter
Senator Barack Obama's campaign will spend $5 million on advertisements during NBC's coverage of the Summer Olympic Games next month, an NBC spokeswoman confirmed on Wednesday.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/23/obama-bets-5-million-on-olympic-viewers/

GOP losing the new-media war (Politico 7/24/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
The absence of any websites on the right devoted to reporting-as opposed to just commenting on the news-is proving politically costly to Republicans.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/12008.html

Kagan: 'The only way' to 'force' Iran to halt its nuclear program is an 'attack.' (ThinkProgress 7/23/08)
Appearing on MSNBC this afternoon, Iraq surge architect Fred Kagan criticized direct talks with Iran and made his case for attacking Iran, claiming it is the only means to "force" the country to halt its nuclear program:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/23/kagan-the-only-way-to-force-iran-to-halt-nuclear-program-is-an-attack/

POLLS

Teasing the new NBC/WSJ poll (MSNBC 7/23/08)
By Mark Murray
Here's one result from the new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll ... With the news that Iraq's prime minister wants the US to set a timetable for withdrawal, 60% of registered voters believe it's a good idea for the US to set such a timetable, while 30% say it's a bad idea.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/07/23/1217484.aspx

NBC/WSJ Poll: Obama keeps lead over McCain (MSNBC 7/23/08)
By Mark Murray
A majority of Americans think Barack Obama is a riskier choice for the presidency, but he maintains a six-point lead over Republican John McCain, according to the latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25816799/

Obama in Israel (Washington Post blog 7/23/08)

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Barack Obama has a large, nearly 2 to 1 lead over John McCain among Jewish voters, according to the latest Gallup data. Obama's 60 to 33 percent advantage in polls conducted before his high-profile overseas trip is close to the average split among Jewish voters in exit polls going back to 1972 (65 to 32 percent), but if McCain gets a third of these voters on Election Day, he will do better than any GOP candidate has since 1988.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/behind-the-numbers/2008/07/obama_in_israel.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/25/2008 3:05:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] FW: Talking to Iran is Not So Controversial

http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=talking_to_iran_is_not_so_controversial

Talking to Iran Is Not So Controversial

Don't look now but there is a broad consensus on what the next administration should do about Iran.

Ilan Goldenberg | June 25, 2008 | web only

If two years ago you were to tell me that the Democratic presidential nominee would make engaging with Iran a central element of his campaign, I would have thought you were joking. After all, talking to a country which has historically enjoyed a favorability rating of a whopping 10 percent in the United States and has a president known for his anti-western rhetoric probably isn't going to be all that popular. Not to mention the fact that the most substantive interaction Americans have had with Iran over the last thirty years involved watching blindfolded hostages and burning American flags on their television screens.

Yet incredibly, in a feat that defies conventional wisdom, Barack Obama is more than just holding his own against John McCain. When it comes to Iran he has the American public and most foreign policy experts squarely behind him.

Obama's position is that we should be willing to engage in direct talks with the Iranian regime and offer them a choice: greater economic incentives and regular diplomatic relations in exchange for greater cooperation or economic sanctions and political isolation for their intransience. John McCain and President Bush both argue that the United States should only talk to Iran if it first agrees to the precondition of suspending its uranium enrichment program. Essentially, they are demanding that Iran give up its most significant bargaining chip before even sitting down at the table. In the meantime McCain has called for more robust sanctions and has continued the Bush administration's pattern of saber rattling – even jokingly singing about 'bomb, bomb, bombing' Iran.

Americans support the idea of dealing directly with the Iranian regime. A recent Gallup poll found that despite extremely low opinions of Iran, 59 percent believe it's a good idea for the president to meet with the Iranian leadership. A Public Agenda/*Foreign Affairs* poll taken this spring found that 47 percent of Americans believed that establishing better relations with Iran through diplomacy was the one best way for the United States. to deal with Iran, while 40 percent supported economic sanctions, military threats or military action. This represented a 21 point swing from the fall of 2007 when only 35 percent supported diplomatic talks as the best option and 49 percent argued for more aggressive policies.

Meanwhile, experts and former government officials from across the political spectrum are also coming to the conclusion that direct talks must be part of a comprehensive strategy. The bipartisan Iraq Study Group Report that included former Republican Secretaries of State James Baker and Laurence Eagleburger argued in December 2006 that the United States should engage Iran on the question of Iraq. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Mullen, recently stated that he "would like to have a healthy dialogue with Iran." At a recent conference hosted by the centrist Center for New American Security (CNAS), Jim Dobbins, who worked with the Iranians when he was leading U.S. negotiating efforts after the war in Afghanistan, Dennis Ross, who served as special envoy to the Middle East during the Clinton Administration, and Suzanne Maloney, who was on the State Department's policy planning staff working Iran issues from 2005-2007, all agreed that direct talks should be an important component of U.S. strategy.

This consensus further reinforces a new CNAS report arguing that the Bush administration's continued emphasis on using military threats as leverage is actually making any diplomatic breakthrough less likely. Richard Haas, who has served in a number of Republican administrations and is currently the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, also supports direct talks and even a neoconservative like Robert Kagan, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has argued that talks are a good idea (Although admittedly he believes that they will likely fail, and that the outcome will be greater international support for harsher measures against the Iranian regime).

A number of factors account for the growing consensus on Iran. First, the Iraq War has dramatically changed the country's views on the use of force. Polling over the past few years has shown a reduction in the number of Americans who see military force as the most effective tool for keeping America safe and a related increase in support for diplomacy. Before the invasion the public was led to believe that that the war would be quick, easy and cheap. But with more than 4,100 American casualties, approximately 30,000 wounded, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead, and direct costs alone topping $500 billion Americans have been reminded that war is hard, expensive, and unpredictable, and that the use of military force should only be seen as a last resort.

In addition to Iraq, the absolute failure of our Iran policy has also caused people to reconsider. The Bush administration has refused to engage with Iran at a senior level until it suspends its uranium enrichment program. In the meantime Iran has gone from zero to 3,000 nuclear centrifuges. Freed from its two greatest local rivals -- Saddam Hussein and the Taliban -- it has expanded its influence into Iraq, Afghanistan and across the Middle East. The supposedly tough sanctions that would dissuade the Iranian government have failed to materialize since the Russians and Chinese have offered little support for the types of economic measures that would

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inflict genuine pain on the Iranian regime. And there is general agreement that bombing Iran's nuclear facilities would only cause a temporary delay in its uranium enrichment program, while guaranteeing that the regime would react by moving beyond its current civilian nuclear program and develop a bomb.

Given these bad options, the choice is no longer between engaging in direct diplomacy or trying to pressure Iran through military and economic coercion to give up its nuclear program. We must now decide between allowing Iran to continue to work against American interests, move closer towards becoming a nuclear power and increase its influence across the region, or to try to engage. Engaging in direct talks does not mean giving in to Iranian demands. But through engagement we can make our own positions clear to the Iranians and work with them on common interests. This policy of talking directly in combination with economic inducements and threats may convince the Iranian regime to bring its nuclear program under an international verification regime with the goal of it eventually being eliminated. In essence the choice has become doing nothing or trying something.

Finally, there is the question of leadership, and here Barack Obama deserves much credit for moving the conversation. When Obama first made the statement last year about direct talks with Iran it was seen as a gaffe to be taken advantage of by his Democratic rivals. But his position actually turned into an advantage in the Democratic Primary. Now Obama is sticking to his guns against McCain and so far it seems to be working. It's hard to imagine that the 21 point swing on this issue over the past few months is not at least partially due to the fact that the man who may currently have the most powerful bully pulpit in the country is out there aggressively making the case for talks.

Obama's zealous advocacy has undoubtedly had an impact in the beltway as well. Foreign policy experts factor political will into their recommendations and try not to take positions that are completely unachievable. But Obama's position has blown through the assumption that talking directly to Iran is domestically unworkable. It's also signaled to experts in think tanks around Washington that they need to start thinking carefully about exactly how the United States would conduct diplomacy with Iran because it's clear that an Obama administration will likely ask for advice on this particular question.

In the end, we should be careful not to expect too much too soon from diplomatic overtures towards Iran. Thirty years worth of grievances will not be solved overnight and the Iranian regime is still playing a malign role in Iraq, supporting Hezbollah and Hamas and building a uranium enrichment capability.

But let's not fool ourselves into thinking that diplomatic engagement with Iran is some kind of controversial fringe progressive idea. In reality, it is the consensus position. It is John McCain and George Bush's stubborn insistence of continuing a failed policy that is out of touch.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/11/2015 4:18:06 PM
Subject: New News! (9/11/2015)

THE COMMON GOOD

de·moc·ra·cy

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

TODAY, ON 9/11, WE REMEMBER AND REFLECT.

Week ending September 11th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

Polls

Hillary Clinton's lead is down 10 points since August, and **Joseph Biden** has climbed.

Clinton 37% **Sanders** 27% **Biden** 20%

O'Malley 3% **Webb** 2% **Chafee** 1%

In the same poll, **Clinton** loses to or ties leading Republicans:

Carson 51% **Clinton** 46%; **Bush** 49% **Clinton** 47%; **Trump** 48% **Clinton** 48%

The shift away from **Clinton** is due to shrinking support among women and falling support among liberals. Biden's gains are thanks to his support among women. **Clinton**'s advantage among women has disappeared in matchups against **Bush** and **Carson**.

CNN/ORC Poll **[More]**

Meanwhile, Iowa has become a two-man race. **Carson** is still gaining on **Trump** in new Iowa poll and leads **Trump** in favorability ratings 79%-60%.

Trump 27% **Carson** 21% **Cruz** 9% **Bush** 6% **Fiorina** 5% **Kasich** 5% **Rubio** 5% **Walker** 3%

Quinnipiac Poll **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Clinton apologized for using a private email server while secretary of state, saying what many supporters had been wanting to hear. **Maggie Haberman**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Rick Perry quits the campaign. **Jonathan Martin**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Ted Cruz, Donald Trump and **Sarah Palin** led a rally on Capitol Hill on Wednesday protesting the Iran nuclear deal. **Dana Bash (TCG Speaker)**, **Eugene Scott**, and **Jeremy Diamond**, *CNN* **[More]**

Hillary Clinton presented a set of campaign finance overhaul proposals that would curb anonymous political donations and bolster the influence of small donors. **Amy**

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Chozick and **Nicholas Confessore**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Bush unveils tax reform plan: "The GOP presidential candidate promises to 'cut individual rates from seven brackets to three: 28%, 25% and 10%... cut the corporate tax rate… to 20%....and promises to ... eliminating most corporate tax deductions—and remove the deduction for borrowing costs.'" **James Freeman**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Brooks: The anti-party candidates - Individualism trumping the public interest: "This summer three American politicians have risen to the fore, and they all sit outside or at the margin of the party they are trying to lead... But along the way the civic institutions that actually could mobilize broad coalitions — the parties — get dismissed and gutted. Without these broad coalition parties, the country is ungovernable and cynicism ratchets up even further." **David Brooks,** *New York Times* **[More]**

The Economy

World Bank chief economist warns Fed to delay rate rise: "The US Federal Reserve risks triggering 'panic and turmoil" in emerging markets if it opts to raise rates at its September meeting and should hold fire until the global economy is on a surer footing...rising uncertainty over growth in China and its impact on the global economy meant a fed decision to raise its policy rate next week, for the first time since 2006, would have negative consequences, **Kaushik Basu** told the Financial Times." **Shawn Donnan and Sam Fleming**, *Financial Times* **[More]**

Emerging-market currencies - defaults possible: More investors are betting that Brazil and South Africa will default on their debt. Such bets "hit their highest level since the financial crisis, underscoring the stress mounting on emerging-market economies heading into the most anticipated Federal Reserve meeting in years." **Carolyn Cui**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

No veto showdown for Iran deal: Senate Democrats delivered a major victory to President Obama by blocking a Republican resolution to reject the six-nation nuclear accord. **Jennifer Steinhauer**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Hillary Clinton gave support for the Iran deal - with caveats: **Clinton** said the deal "blocks every pathway for Iran to get a bomb" and that it was "unrealistic" to get a better deal. **Clinton** introduced a five-point plan focused on building regional alliances to counter "Iran's bad behavior in the region": continued military aid to Israel, to the US's Gulf allies, and taking steps to counter growing Iranian influence. **Ben Jacobs** and **Sabrina Siddiqui**, *The Guardian* **[More]**

Migrant quotas in EU: "Jean-Claude Juncker announced an emergency quota system to spread the burden of taking in 160,000 refugee... The grim deaths of many migrants… may have shifted sentiment." **James Kanter**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Russia now has a military presence in Syria: "Russian officials acknowledged on Thursday that it is bringing in military equipment to the country. Some analysts say...Russia's actions could be seen as a way to ensure that any negotiated end to the conflict is favorable to Russian interests." **Tom Kutsch,** *Al Jazeera America* **[More]**

Britain kills three UK citizens in drone strikes in Syria : The defense minister said the threat against his country justified actions like the Aug. 21 strike that killed three people suspected of being Islamic State members. **Steven Castle,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Experts say a government shutdown is likely: Congress is facing a nearly unprecedented number of deadlines and political dramas that may lead to shutdown. **Amber Phillips,**

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Washington Post [More]

Baltimore officials approved a $6.4 million deal to settle civil claims tied to the death of Freddie Gray. "The settlement does not 'represent any judgment' on the guilt or innocence of the six police officers charged in the case." **Miguel Marquez**, **Jason Hanna** and **Ashley Fantz,** *CNN* [More]

Nocera (TCG Speaker) on lessons for education reform: There is another way to approach reform. Collaboration is key. **Mark Zuckerberg** "pledged $120 million to high-poverty schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. Apparently, **Zuckerberg** has learned his lesson. What will it take for the rest of us to learn?" **Joe Nocera, (TCG Speaker)** *New York Times* [More]

Justice Department unveils new plan to hold more individuals accountable for white-collar crime: "The Justice Department issued new policies on Wednesday that prioritize the prosecution of individual employees — not just their companies — and put pressure on corporations to turn over evidence against their executives." **Matt Apuzzo** and **Ben Protess**, *New York Times* [More]

Brian Williams to make his bow on MSNBC on Sept 22 for the Pope's visit. *Hollywood Reporter* [More]

TCG Community in the News

Judge Jed Rakoff (TCG ASA Awardee) speaks to FT on mass incarceration in America: "If we continue at the current rate, one out of three African-American males will spend time in prison in their lifetime. It's incredible. And it will have devastating effects on them, their families and their communities," he says." **Kara Scannell,** *Financial Times* [More]

Books

"Vigilance" Memoir by Ray Kelly (TCG Speaker): "Some of these [New York City] measures didn't always sit well with the federal agencies, but leaving the city's security in federal hands hadn't worked out so well for New York.- America's top target had to face reality: no one would ever protect New York as well as New Yorkers." **Ray Kelly (TCG Speaker)** (Excerpt from *Vanity Fair*) [More]

Cong. John Lewis reviews "Give Us the Ballot" by Ari Berman (TCG Speaker): "Berman ably shows the systematic, persistent counterattacks of the Reagan and Bush Justice Departments in coordination with the Federalist Society, the White House and ultimately the Supreme Court to undo the advances of 1965." **Congressman John Lewis (TCG ASA Awardee)**, *Washington Post* [More]

Book Review- "The Silo Effect" by Gillian Tett (TCG Speaker): "**[Tett]** applies her anthropologist's lens to the problem of why so many organizations still suffer from a failure to communicate." **Philip Delves Broughton,** *Wall Street Journal* [More]

Upcoming Events at TCG:

NEW EVENT Pre-premiere screening of "He Named Me Malala"**

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015

Screening 7:30-9:00pm, doors open at 7:00pm.
Post screening discussion with Director **Davis Guggenheim** 9:00-9:30pm
Executive members only, limited seating.

RSVP

Ari Berman on Voting RIghts and the efforts to limit them.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015,

Reception & remarks 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

Mark Mellman **SOLD OUT Leading political strategist and pollster on 2016 Campaign**

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Lunch and Remarks, 12pm hosted by Paul Beirne, Peter Maroney & Alliance Bernstein

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm
Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Dear TCG Members: Please send us your birthday-- just month and day.

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan, and our interns Samar Nadi and Justin Vacura.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/11/2014 6:59:38 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday September 11, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday September 11, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: #ICYMI : Our new record analysis looks at @HillaryClinton 's record on College Affordability: http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-on-college-affordability/ … [9/10/14, 4:42 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC called for an investigation into the enforcement of equal pay laws by the Bush Administration #equalpay http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-a-fighter-for-equal-pay/ … [9/10/14, 4:21 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton has consistently advocated for paycheck fairness. #equalpay http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-a-fighter-for-equal-pay/ … [9/10/14, 2:59 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Hillary Clinton and Equal Pay http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-a-fighter-for-equal-pay/ … #EqualPay pic.twitter.com/GWRKe4ppml [9/10/14, 2:52 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Associated Press: "Clintons Organizing 10th Annual Global Meeting"

"President Barack Obama will address the four-day conference in New York City. It begins Sept. 21 with an awards ceremony hosted by television host Seth Meyers."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clintons to honor Leonardo DiCaprio"

"The Clinton Global Initiative will launch their annual meeting this month with an awards ceremony honoring actor Leonardo DiCaprio for his environmental work and featuring comedian Seth Meyers."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Carney: Clinton 'likely to embrace' Obama foreign policy"

"Hillary Clinton is 'likely to embrace' President Obama's record on foreign policy as a presidential candidate because she helped create and execute it, former press secretary Jay Carney said Wednesday."

Weekly Standard blog: The Blog: "Bernie Sanders Challenges Hillary"

"It would be good for Mrs. Clinton, and the nation, if she should be pushed into actually working for the nomination, rather than having it bestowed upon her like a crown."

Associated Press: "Democratic National Committee visits Phoenix"

"Phoenix is the final city that the committee is visiting and is one of five finalists to host the event. Hosting duties would mean a huge boost to the local economy. The 2008 Democratic National Convention brought in more than $260 million to Denver, Stanton said."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "American politics haven't been the same since Sept. 11, 2001. Here's why."

"That debate [about world affairs] will be at the center of not only the 2016 Republican primary -- where several of Paul's rivals have blasted his views -- but also the general election fight against presumed Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton who spent four years as President Obama's top diplomat."

Articles:

Associated Press: "Clintons Organizing 10th Annual Global Meeting"

By Ken Thomas

September 11, 2014, 12:33 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Bill and Hillary Clinton are bringing together heads of state, business leaders and actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon

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for their annual Clinton Global Initiative meeting.

President Barack Obama will address the four-day conference in New York City. It begins Sept. 21 with an awards ceremony hosted by television host Seth Meyers.

The former president and ex-secretary of state will address the meeting along with daughter Chelsea Clinton, the foundation's vice chair.

Those expected to attend the 10th annual meeting include King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of Jordan, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet (bah-cheh-LET'), Cisco CEO John Chambers, General Motors CEO Mary Barra and Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clintons to honor Leonardo DiCaprio"

By Peter Sullivan

September 11, 2014, 9:59 a.m. EDT

The Clinton Global Initiative will launch their annual meeting this month with an awards ceremony honoring actor Leonardo DiCaprio for his environmental work and featuring comedian Seth Meyers.

The 8th annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards ceremony will take place in New York City on Sept. 21 and feature musical performances from Aloe Blacc, Natalie Merchant and Jason Mraz, the Clinton Global Initiative announced on Wednesday.

It will be a star-studded opening to a conference that Former President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton and their daughter Chelsea have built up into a forum for discussing ideas on climate change, education and women's rights.

Republicans have long criticized the Clintons, and Democrats in general, as being too close to Hollywood, but the former first family have never shied from their entertainment industry ties.

"Hollywood, likewise, relies on collaboration to bring creative visions to life and has been an excellent partner to the foundation across a number of our efforts," Chelsea Clinton told The Hollywood Reporter, which exclusively reported details of the awards show on Wednesday.

"My family is grateful that some of the most talented, caring and engaged artists in entertainment will help us shine a light on this year's Clinton Global Citizen Award honorees and their extraordinary commitments and work to strengthen communities around the world," she added.

With Hillary Clinton weighing a 2016 presidential bid, the support of Hollywood could provide her with a fundraising advantage.

President Obama will also be speaking at the annual meeting, placing his relationship with Hillary Clinton under scrutiny. Obama has praised his former secretary of State, but Clinton has, in recent weeks, attempted to distance herself from some of the president's policies.

Other speakers include Mary Barra, the CEO of General Motors, who has had to deal with controversy over deaths linked to a faulty ignition switch in GM cars. Actor Matt Damon, co-founder of water.org , will also be speaking.

DiCaprio is being honored for launching the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, an environmental organization.

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Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, actress Eva Longoria and former American Idol judge Randy Jackson, who will serve as music director, will also attend the opening awards ceremony.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Carney: Clinton 'likely to embrace' Obama foreign policy"

By Justin Sink

September 11, 2014, 11:21 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is "likely to embrace" President Obama's record on foreign policy as a presidential candidate because she helped create and execute it, former press secretary Jay Carney said Wednesday.

"She was secretary of state for President Obama for four years and she understands that record will be part of what she runs on," Carney, hired Wednesday as a contributor to CNN, told the network. "Her time as secretary of state is something she should be proud of, and the president's record on foreign policy is something she is more likely to embrace than anything because she was a big part of it."

Earlier this summer, Clinton suggested in an interview with the Atlantic that Obama's restrained approach to the civil war in Syria had created a vacuum that enabled the rise the Islamic State terror group.

She also criticized the president's frequently cited foreign policy mantra of "don't do stupid stuff," saying the motto was not "an organizing principle" worthy of "great nations."

Although a spokesman for the former New York senator said the comments were not intended as an attack, and Clinton said subsequently she was proud to have served with Obama, those close to the favorite for the 2016 Democratic nomination sought again this week to draw a distinction between their foreign policy leadership style.

"You never want to be a Monday morning quarterback on these issues because who knows how things would ultimately turn out, but Obama has been passive on these issues," one former Clinton aide told The Hill. "She would have taken a more aggressive approach."

Carney told CNN that Clinton "will figure out if she decides to run" how to balance embracing and distancing herself from the president.

The former White House spokesman described Obama as "certainly close to former Secretary Clinton and to President Clinton."

Weekly Standard blog: The Blog: "Bernie Sanders Challenges Hillary"

By Geoffrey Norman

September 11, 2014, 12:22 p.m. EDT

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Senator Bernard Sanders of Vermont has been making coy about running for President. He will be visiting Iowa this weekend and yesterday, as CNN reports, he established some distance between himself and Hillary Clinton, the nominee in waiting.

"'If we do not get our act together to come up with public policy which expands the middle class, if we don't overturn Citizens United, if we don't move to public funding of elections, we are going to live in an oligarchic form of society,' Sanders said. 'Now is Hillary Clinton going to say that?'"

Mrs. Clinton has the money, the name recognition, the support of the media, and everything, it seems, except a willingness or ability to say or write (even with the help of ghost writers) anything interesting or original. If she runs – and she has promised to let us know by the end of the year – then it will be a long and unedifying campaign.

Mrs. Clinton can be challenged from within her own party. And should be. The Sanders dare points up her vulnerability on the matters of income inequality, her friendly relations with Wall Street, and her personal status and style as a member of the one-percent and the elite of the political class. And, then, there is her record as secretary of state in an administration whose foreign policy is in tatters. She has already attempted to put some daylight between herself and the president but there is only so much she can accomplish in this regard without alienating people she will need.

It would be good for Mrs. Clinton, and the nation, if she should be pushed into actually working for the nomination, rather than having it bestowed upon her like a crown.

Associated Press: "Democratic National Committee visits Phoenix"

By Terry Tang

September 10, 2014

Friction between the Obama administration and Arizona Republican lawmakers won't influence whether Phoenix gets picked as the site of the party's 2016 national convention, a top Democratic National Committee official said Wednesday.

"The DNC's been to red states, blue states. We're just looking for a city that can accommodate the requirements of a convention," DNC Chief Executive Officer Amy Dacey said during a news conference alongside Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

Stanton said Phoenix has grown more diverse and reflective of the rest of the country, citing its growing Latino population.

"Pretty soon, we'll be hearing around the country that 'So goes Arizona, so goes our nation,'" Stanton said.

He also credited Gov. Jan Brewer, who famously shook her finger at President Barack Obama during a visit to Phoenix, for writing a letter in support of the city's bid to host the convention.

Besides the voter landscape, Stanton touted expansions Phoenix has made in the last decade with its light rail transit system and a sky train connecting the rail to the airport.

Phoenix is the final city that the committee is visiting and is one of five finalists to host the event. Hosting duties would mean a huge boost to the local economy. The 2008 Democratic National Convention brought in more than $260 million to Denver, Stanton said.

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The other cities being considered are New York, Philadelphia, Birmingham, Alabama, and Columbus, Ohio.

The 15-member DNC group will be in Phoenix until Thursday and will look at the US Airways Center, Chase Field and the Phoenix Convention Center — all in the downtown area.

They also will meet with members of the Phoenix 2016 Host Committee, city staff and business leaders as well as nonprofit and labor leaders to discuss the bid.

Bill Clinton was the last Democrat to carry Arizona in a presidential election in 1996 but before that, Democrats had lost every presidential race in that state since Harry Truman in 1948.

Joe Uscinski, a political science professor at the University of Miami, has studied how national party convention locations have affected presidential political campaigns back to 2000. Uscinski said he doubts choosing Phoenix will drastically push Arizona to be a bluer or even purple state.

"I don't' see them getting a bunch of Republicans in Arizona getting swayed by the Democratic Party," Uscinski said. "All these people who supported SB1070 or all the Jan Brewer legislation, I don't see them being like 'The Democrats are here. I'm going to vote for whomever — Hillary Clinton or something.'"

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz is expected to announce the host city later this year or in early 2015.

Republicans have chosen Cleveland as the site for their 2016 national convention.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "American politics haven't been the same since Sept. 11, 2001. Here's why."

By Chris Cillizza

September 11, 2014, 12:14 p.m. EDT

Thirteen years ago today, two planes struck the World Trade Center towers. One smashed into the Pentagon. A fourth crashed in Pennsylvania. While it's a cliche to suggest that everything changed that day, it's clear that American politics -- the art (and science) of understanding and channeling public opinion into legislation and leadership -- has been radically altered over the intervening years.

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, there was a a rally-around-the-flag effect the likes of which hadn't been seen in post World War II America. President George W. Bush, who had struggled to move beyond his narrow and protracted victory over Al Gore in the 2000 election, became a massively popular figure overnight.

That chart above in many ways tracks with how the public dealt with the attacks of Sept. 11. After the initial burst of patriotism came the long reckoning with what it meant that terrorists could reach us in our biggest cities and how, whether and how much the federal government should or could do about it. But, that broader conversation didn't happen immediately.

The 2002 election was dominated by tough talk -- and tough attacks -- about how politicians should react to the emergent terrorist threat. The ad that, for better or worse, typified where we were as a country was this one run by then Rep. Saxby Chambliss (R) against Georgia Sen. Max Cleland (D).

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Democrats cried foul, insisting that the ad questioned the patriotism of a man who had lost three limbs while fighting in Vietnam. Chambliss won.

The following presidential election was, again, almost entirely dominated by what happened on Sept. 11, 2001 -- and how to keep it from happening again. Bush's approval ratings were sliding -- largely due to creeping doubts about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- but the message that he had kept the country safe since Sept. 11 was a powerful emotional appeal. This ad, entitled "Safer, Stronger", drove home that message.

Bush won.

By the middle of the last decade, however, the country had begun to examine the costs -- economic and psychic -- of our post-Sept. 11 approach. Suddenly, Bush's appeals to the country's common patriotism began to ring hollow for more and more people, and Democrats began to speak out more forcefully on national security matters -- including their concerns about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Worth noting: The plummet in Bush's approval ratings was due, yes, in part to the lack of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq but moreso due to his handling of Hurricane Katrina, which hit the Gulf Coast in August 2005.)

The 2006 midterms were a pivot point in the debate over what Sept. 11 meant -- and how we should react. The round rejection of Bush and his party signaled the doubts among large swaths of the American public as to whether what had happened earlier in the decade was the right reaction -- or an overreaction -- to the attacks of September 2001. (The rethinking included questions about the Patriot Act, which had been passed in 2001 and reauthorized in the summer of 2005.)

Those doubts coalesced in the candidacy of then Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, who had come to national attention when he publicly opposed the war in Iraq -- he described it as a "dumb war" in a speech in 2002. Obama, more so than anyone else in the Democratic or Republican race understood that American sentiment about how the country had reacted to Sept. 11, 2001 had changed in the seven years since the attacks had happened. (Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, whose entire presidential campaign was premised on his role helping rebuild after the attacks didn't win a single delegate.) Obama was attacked -- first in the primary by Hillary Clinton in the famous/infamous "3 am" ad then in the general election by John McCain -- as insufficiently experienced or committed to keeping the country safe. It didn't work. He won easily.

Think of those seven years as action and reaction. The country moved strongly in one direction between 2001 and 2004 and then snapped back strongly in the other direction between 2005 and 2008. The last six years have been less predictable than the seven that came before them; fears remain (as evidenced by the strong support for air strikes against ISIL) but they are leavened by serious doubts about the institutions that we once held dear -- from government to the church to the media.

Gallup, which regularly polls how much faith people have in institutions, has found that many have reached -- or approached -- all-time lows in trust of late. Of the 17 institutions Gallup tested back in June, only three -- the military, the police and small business -- win a majority of peoples' trust.

That eroding trust in, well, everything, has become the defining political reality of our time. (It's tied closely to a growing pessimism in the public and a sense that, no, things won't always just keep getting better for future generations.) As we have written previously, that lack of trust -- combined with a lingering-if-back-of-the-mind unease about just how safe we are -- has led to a sense of a country adrift, unmoored from the realities that once governed the country and our lives, but without a new set of principles on which to grab hold.

President Obama addressed that unease in a speech -- oddly enough -- at a fundraiser in Seattle in late July. He said (bolding is mine):

“But whether people see what’s happening in Ukraine, and Russia’s aggression towards its neighbors in the manner in which it’s financing and arming separatists; to what’s happened in Syria -- the devastation that Assad has wrought on his own people; to the failure in Iraq for Sunni and Shia and Kurd to compromise -- although we’re trying to see if we can put together a government that actually can function; to ongoing terrorist threats; to what’s happening in Israel and Gaza -- part of peoples' concern is just the sense that around the world the old order isn’t holding and we’re not quite yet to where we need to be in terms of a new order that’s based on a different set of principles, that’s based on a sense of common humanity, that’s based on economies that work for all people.”

The rise of libertarianism -- and Rand Paul -- is a direct reaction to the rising distrust and doubt about who we can trust and what it really means to be an American in 2014. Paul's push for a complete overhaul of American foreign policy toward one far more skeptical about foreign entanglements has found considerable support from a country deeply skeptical that America can or should play world cop. (Four in ten Americans said in a recent NBC-Wall Street Journal poll that the U.S. should be "less active" in world affairs as compared to 27 percent who said the country

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should be more active.) That debate will be at the center of not only the 2016 Republican primary -- where several of Paul's rivals have blasted his views -- but also the general election fight against presumed Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton who spent four years as President Obama's top diplomat.

That means that 15 years on from the horrific attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that day -- and what it meant -- will continue to be at the forefront of the national conversation between politicians and the people they hope to represent. The truth is that politicians, like the rest of us, continue to grapple with how 9/11 changed us -- in ways good and bad. That process is ongoing.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/8/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: Turkey on the Frontlines | Road to Warsaw Summit | Migrants in German Cities

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GMF's World Wire

December 9, 2015

In the Eye of the Storm: Turkey and the New Security Equation

Ian Lesser
No NATO member has been more deeply affected by the chaos and conflict on Europe's periphery than Turkey. The country is in a critical position as a consequence of both its proximity to multiple crises and its unique exposure to deteriorating security relationships in both the south and the east.

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The Five Most Contentious Issues on the Road to Warsaw

Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer , Martin Quencez, & Martin Michelot
Read the top divisive issues for the upcoming 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw.

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Cities' Perspectives on the German Migration Crisis

Dr. Oliver Weigel discusses the need in Germany for robust strategies to grow inclusive communities in response to the rapidly evolving refugee situation.

LISTEN NOW

Tweet of the Week

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@JulieBrillFTC :
Thanks to @gmfus Berlin & @ChernoJobatey for great Transatlantic Talk on #privacy & #datasecurity . @IVejvoda @D_Schwarzer @SudhaDavidWilp

RETWEET

Across the Atlantic: Perspectives on the 2016 U.S. Presidential Race

On December 7, GMF's Brussels office hosted a discussion on the current state of the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns and the intricacies of the U.S. election system.

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Putin is Underestimating the Risks of His Actions in Syria

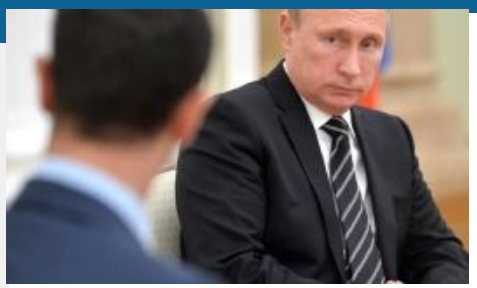

Steven Keil
Nearly two months after Russia ramped up its presence in Syria, the complexity of the conflict has grown exponentially. | *U.S. News & World Report*

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/28/2014 7:49:42 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday July 28, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Monday July 28, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@neeratanden advised @HillaryClinton "while still upholding [her] responsibilities as a mom" http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/working-mother-washington-powerhouse-good-luck-20140725 … [7/28/14, 10:20 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "Working Mother, Washington Powerhouse? Good Luck." @neeratanden on her career, family, & working for @HillaryClintonhttp://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/working-mother-washington-powerhouse-good-luck-20140725 … [7/28/14, 9:45 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton told @charlierose her mother's resilience inspired her #HRC365 #NationalParentsDay http://www.charlierose.com/watch/60419259 [7/27/14, 3:01 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "A Closer Look at Hillary Clinton's Approach to China"

"The clarity of her thinking, respect for China and awareness of how assertive it can be—and the stakes for the U.S.–bode well for how she would handle Beijing as president."

Slate blog: Weigel: "Poll: Hillary Clinton Does Better With White Voters Than Any Democrat Since 1976"

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"Obama, who won only 39 percent of the white vote in 2012, is swooning because he's lost even more of it. But Clinton's grabbing 46 percent of the white vote."

Associated Press: "Clinton: U.S. Needs Orderly Process for Border Kids"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton says she supports creating a refugee screening process for Central American children in their home countries to discourage dangerous trips to the U.S. and opposes changing a 2008 immigration law under review by Congress."

Mediaite: "Jorge Ramos Asks Hillary Clinton: Do You Have a 'Latino Problem?'"

"In a preview of a longer interview that will air on Fusion's America with Jorge Ramos Tuesday night, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton weighed in on the current debate over undocumented minors flooding over the border from Central America, telling the host that without further action from Congress, 'more kids are going come.'"

Huffington Post: "Hillary Clinton: 'I Don't Agree' On Changing Trafficking Laws To Address Border Crisis"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday that she opposes changes to a 2008 law meant to help unaccompanied children and teenagers who crossed the border illegally, and instead endorsed the idea of screening minors in their native countries before they make a dangerous trek to the U.S."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton defends Obama against conservative barbs"

"As conservatives throw arrows aimed at the President's handling of multiple world crises, Clinton defended her former adversary-turned-boss-turned-friend."

The Week: Speed Reads: "Hillary Clinton tacks right: praises Bush, criticizes Obama, cozies up to Wall Street"

"Clinton distanced herself from President Obama's foreign policy, suggesting that he has not made it clear how D.C. 'intend[s] to lead and manage' international affairs."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "'Holograms' brought back Tupac. Now they want to take Washington."

"'Let's take New Hampshire and Clinton,' explained Taylor, referencing the early nominating state. She could appear remotely via hologram in areas her schedule prevents her from traveling to, if she runs for president, fielding questions in a kind of virtual town hall meeting, he suggested."

Financial Times column: Gideon Rachman: "A Clinton in power will not bring back the good times"

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"Mr Clinton had his strengths as president – intelligence, shrewdness, empathy – but he was, above all, lucky in his timing. He came to power at a golden moment for the US in both economics and in geopolitics."

Associated Press: "Analysis: Clinton Impeachment Shadows GOP Lawsuit"

"The last time Republicans unleashed impeachment proceedings against a Democratic president, they lost five House seats in an election they seemed primed to win handily."

Articles:

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "A Closer Look at Hillary Clinton's Approach to China"

By Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and co-author of "Strategic Reassurance and Resolve: U.S.-China Relations in the 21st Century."

July 28, 2014, 9:53 a.m. EDT

Lost amid the clamor over Hillary Clinton's book tour are some of her views on China, where–despite challenges from Ukraine to the Middle East–her legacy as secretary of state is arguably the most consequential. Mrs. Clinton was a key part of the "pivot to Asia," a process that arguably began with visits to Beijing and Hanoi in 2010 during which she pushed back against China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. She accelerated the effort with a ForeignPolicy.com article in October 2011, and President Barack Obama traveled to Asia the next month.

Personally, I wish Mrs. Clinton would drop the term "pivot"–as it overstates the shift in U.S. defense and foreign-policy resources that can or should be directed toward the Asia-Pacific region–in favor of "rebalance." But her policy thinking toward China has been clear. And while John Kerry has made trips to Asia since becoming secretary of state, he has not conveyed the sense of focus on the region and its problems and possibilities that Mrs. Clinton developed.

Why haven't her ideas about China drawn more attention? The book's style may be one reason: It's written more as a log of her time in office than a reflection on the major issues of the day. Accordingly, more pages are devoted to U.S. efforts to free the blind dissident lawyer Chen Guangcheng after he took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing than to the much broader issue of China's rise in strategic terms. Mrs. Clinton's commitment to human rights is an important component of her thinking about China—and part of what makes her so good on China policy matters–but the long account about Mr. Chen also could distract from her larger observations about how to handle Beijing.

And those larger observations are hard-hitting. "In November 2009, President Obama received a noticeably lukewarm reception during his visit to China," she writes. "Many observers wondered whether we were seeing a new phase in the relationship, with an ascendant and assertive China no longer hiding its resources and enhanced military capabilities, moving away from 'hide and bide' and toward 'show and tell.' "

Mrs. Clinton then recounts the history of Chinese military provocations in recent years, including Beijing's harassment of the U.S.S. Impeccable in 2009; its declaration of its claims in the South China Sea as a core interest in early 2010; and its complaints in May 2010 that the U.S. was supposedly seeking to encircle China. During a regional security meeting in July 2010, Mrs. Clinton advocated a multilateral approach to resolving disputes, which prompted the Chinese foreign minister to remind listeners–in bullying fashion–that "China is a big country. Bigger than any other countries here."

There is a firmness in Hillary Clinton's thinking about China that provides a good guide to policy and that is less well articulated by the current Obama team. She makes issues easy to understand. The clarity of her thinking, respect for China and awareness of how assertive it can be—and the stakes for the U.S.–bode well for how she would handle Beijing as president.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Too bad this kind of analysis has been lost in the fuss over peripheral matters with the book's rollout.

Slate blog: Weigel: "Poll: Hillary Clinton Does Better With White Voters Than Any Democrat Since 1976"

By David Weigel

July 28, 2014, 12:23 p.m. EDT

Long ago, before the God of Narratives decided that Hillary Clinton was an out-of-touch elitist, she was seen as a fearsome 2016 contender. As the theory went, she could outpoll Barack Obama with white voters while winning non-white voters. The new CNN poll suggests that this is still mostly true. In a fun, cheeky trial heat, CNN's pollster asked voters who they'd support in a 2012 election do-over: Mitt Romney or Barack Obama? Romney won in a rout, the poor guy:

[POLL]

Next, the pollster asked voters to take sides in a hypothetical and inhumanely boring Clinton v. Romney race. Clinton won easy, 55-42. It doesn't take true genius to figure out where those new Democratic votes came from.

[POLL]

Would you look at that? Obama, who won only 39 percent of the white vote in 2012, is swooning because he's lost even more of it. But Clinton's grabbing 46 percent of the white vote. That's better than Obama did in 2008 (43 percent), better than John Kerry did in 2004 (41 percent), better than Al Gore did in 2000 (42 percent). It's even better than her husband did in 1996 (43 percent), though that result -- like the 1992 result -- is skewed by the presence of Ross Perot. You have to go back to 1976 to find a Democrat who polled better than 46 percent with whites. And when Jimmy Carter narrowly defeated Gerald Ford, the electorate was 89 percent white overall. In 2016, it's likely to be closer to 70 percent white. In 2016, a Democrat who wins only 40 percent of the white vote and holds close to Barack Obama's totals with non-whites can win easily.

Special bonus reason for Democratic gloating: In the theoretical Romney race, Clinton wins 62 percent of voters who make less than $50,000. Yes, even after the scandal of her speaking fees.

Associated Press: "Clinton: U.S. Needs Orderly Process for Border Kids"

By Ken Thomas

July 28, 2014, 1:19 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton says she supports creating a refugee screening process for Central American children in their home countries to discourage dangerous trips to the U.S. and opposes changing a 2008 immigration law under review by Congress.

The potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate says in an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos that Congress should provide more money to help immigration officials determine whether children should be considered migrants or refugees. Some of the children should be sent back, Clinton

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says, but the U.S. needs a "sensible, orderly process" to care for the tens of thousands of children crossing the border, mostly from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

"A lot of people are understandably, as I am, upset about what's happened to these kids but if we don't have a procedure, it's not going to stop," Clinton said in the interview airingTuesday.

Clinton's comments were her most extensive on the ongoing border crisis. She said in a CNN forum in June that the children should be reunited with their families but the U.S. needed to make clear that "just because your child gets across the border doesn't mean your child gets to stay."

Congress is seeking ways to reduce the influx of the children this week. Republicans have supported changing a 2008 law so that migrant youths can be sent home more quickly. Clinton cautioned some children would face "terrible danger" if they returned and a better process is needed to screen the children.

The White House is considering a pilot program that would give refugee status to young people from Honduras, which could be expanded to Guatemala and El Salvador. It involves screening youths in their home countries to determine whether they qualify for refugee status.

Mediaite: "Jorge Ramos Asks Hillary Clinton: Do You Have a 'Latino Problem?'"

By Matt Wilstein

July 28, 2014, 12:47 p.m. EDT

In a preview of a longer interview that will air on Fusion's America with Jorge Ramos Tuesday night, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton weighed in on the current debate over undocumented minors flooding over the border from Central America, telling the host that without further action from Congress, "more kids are going come." But first, she addressed her possible "Latino problem."

"Do you think you have a Latino problem?" Jorge Ramos asked Clinton.

"I hope not!" she replied, laughing enthusiastically, before Ramos' deadpan demeanor caused her to turn more serious. "I never have before, so I hope not," she added. "Obviously, we have a lot of problems that we have to address."

Ramos explained that he was asking because Clinton recently said of the Central American children during her CNN town hall interview that we as a country need to "send them back."

"Well, that was sort of a short circuit of what I have said overall," Clinton said, explaining that she was referring more to "migrant children" than "refugee children." While both deserve "as much love" as we can give them, she said there should be separate "procedures" for each group.

Ramos grilled Clinton on her stance, asking her specifically who she would deport. If children don't have a legitimate case for asylum or an existing family connection in the U.S., then Clinton said they "should be returned to their families."

"We send kids back all the time," she said, seemingly admitted that some of those children who are sent back to their home countries could be in danger. "That's why we need a process to determine who falls into [the refugee] category." She argued that the U.S. should help set up a screening process in places like Honduras and Guatemala that determines whether children are in need of asylum before they even make the dangerous journey across the border.

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“If we don’t have a procedure, it’s not going to stop, more kids are going to come,” Clinton said.

Watch video below, via Fusion:

[VIDEO]

Huffington Post: “Hillary Clinton: 'I Don't Agree' On Changing Trafficking Laws To Address Border Crisis”

By Elise Foley

July 28, 2014, 10:14 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday that she opposes changes to a 2008 law meant to help unaccompanied children and teenagers who crossed the border illegally, and instead endorsed the idea of screening minors in their native countries before they make a dangerous trek to the U.S.

"We should be setting up a system in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador to screen kids. Before they get in the hands of coyotes, or they get on the 'Beast,' or they're raped. Terrible things happen to them," she told Fusion's Jorge Ramos, referring to the "Beast," a series of freight trains that minors from Central America are riding to get through Mexico to the U.S.

Border patrol agents have apprehended more than 57,500 unaccompanied minors crossing the border illegally since the beginning of October, straining the country's system of caring for, screening and possibly deporting the children and teenagers.

"If we don't have a procedure, it's not going to stop," Clinton said. "More kids are going to come."

She differed from President Barack Obama and many Republicans on whether to change the 2008 trafficking law that keeps unaccompanied minors from countries other than Mexico and Canada from being quickly deported.

While Obama initially said he wanted Congress to change the 2008 law, he did not propose legislative changes in his $3.7 billion funding request earlier this month, angering Republicans who say he flip-flopped on the issue. The administration has, however, continued to back changing the law at a later date.

"I don't agree that we should change the law," Clinton said. "That's why I'm advocating an appropriate procedure, well funded by the Congress, which they are resisting doing, so that we can make individual decisions."

Clinton said the U.S. could instead screen minors in their native countries to determine whether they would be eligible for refugee status or some other type of relief.

Clinton said in June that unaccompanied minors "should be sent back as soon as it can be determined who responsible adults in their families are."

Pressed on that point by Ramos, Clinton stood by her statement that some minors should be deported.

"Some of them should be sent back," she said, adding that those without a legitimate claim for asylum or some type of family connection should be deported and returned to their families.

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CNN: "Hillary Clinton defends Obama against conservative barbs"

By Shannon Travis

July 27, 2014, 2:09 p.m. EDT

Washington (CNN) – If you wanted a friend to defend your reputation against serious sideswipes, who better to do it than one of the most recognizable women in the world, with years of experience beating back barbs?

Enter Hillary Clinton in defense of President Barack Obama. As conservatives throw arrows aimed at the President's handling of multiple world crises, Clinton defended her former adversary-turned-boss-turned-friend.

The former secretary of state – and prospective presidential candidate - sat down with CNN's Fareed Zakaria for a wide-ranging interview taped Friday and aired Sunday on "CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS."

Some conservatives accuse Obama of not being tough enough on Russian President Vladimir Putin. Is the President appropriately handling the Ukranian crisis, Clinton was asked?

"I think that he is facing some of the same challenges that American presidents face when dealing with threats within Europe," Clinton said. "The United States, obviously, has a great interest in helping to maintain peace and security in Europe and we have a formal alliance, NATO, to do so. But much of what we can do and what the President is calling for requires the full participation of our European friends and allies."

Clinton continued: claiming Putin "bears responsibility" for the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, calling for more sanctions, urging Europe to "stand up to" Putin despite its reliance on energy from Russia, and stressing the need for Europe and the United States to assist Ukraine.

And she wasn't done offering supportive words for the President.

Later in the hourlong interview, Clinton was asked about one specific criticism.

"Charles Krauthammer, the conservative critic, has said, 'The world is going to hell and President Obama is playing golf,'" Zakaria said. "Is he playing too much golf while all these crises are popping up?"

Clinton was unequivocal.

"No," she said. "I think that's an unfair comment to make."

"I know from my own experience with the President, where we worked so closely together, and as I write in the book, you know, went from being adversaries to partners to friends, that he is constantly working and thinking. But he also wants to do what will make a difference, not just perform. He wants to be sure that we know what the consequences, both intended and unintended, are.

"When it comes to the Middle East, this is always a very difficult issue for any American president," she said.

"I think the President is doing what he can do to try to get a cease-fire and then see whether we can sort out some, you know, longer-term

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resolution."

The Week: Speed Reads: "Hillary Clinton tacks right: praises Bush, criticizes Obama, cozies up to Wall Street"

By Bonnie Kristian

July 28, 2014, 11:50 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, an expected contender in the 2016 presidential election, has positioned herself to appeal to more moderate or even neoconservative audiences in recent days. Speaking to CNN on Sunday, she praised President George W. Bush's AIDS relief programs in Sub-Saharan Africa, saying his initiatives there make her "proud to be an American."

In the same interview, Clinton distanced herself from President Obama's foreign policy, suggesting that he has not made it clear how D.C. "intend[s] to lead and manage" international affairs. Clinton advocated a more interventionist approach, arguing that, "We have to go back out and sell ourselves" as guarantors of worldwide stability. Currently, the U.S. military has as many as 900 bases worldwide, and has ground troops or drones active in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Yemen.

Meanwhile, despite objections from supporters within her own party, Clinton has repeatedly spoken to audiences at large Wall Street banks like Goldman Sachs and Ameriprise Financial. "The problem is these speeches give the impression that she's still in the Wall Street wing of the party," said Charles Chamberlain of the left-wing Democracy For America PAC.

If Clinton is elected President in 2016, the White House will have been in the hands of just three families — the Bushes, Clintons, and Obamas — for 32 years by the time her first term is complete.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "'Holograms' brought back Tupac. Now they want to take Washington."

By Sean Sullivan

July 28, 2014, 11:25 a.m. EDT

Resurrect Tupac for a live performance? Been there. Help elect a prime minister in the world's second most populous country? Done that. Next stop? Washington.

Holographic technology is coming to the nation's capital. The hope is to do for political campaigns, government agencies and trade groups what it's done for the entertainment industry and elected officials overseas in recent years: Increasingly become more necessity and less novelty.

Hologram USA, a company specializing in the technology, will announce Monday that it has hired the Northern Virginia-based firm U.S. Government Relations International. USGRI will try to convince would-be clients that Hologram USA's lifelike three-dimensional images that can be broadcast live across the country are vital communications tools.

"A general or a politician or a head of corporate can project themselves physically in a life-size projection that is completely believable at a matter of a few feet," said Alki David, who heads up Hologram USA.

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That's what Narendra Modi did in his winning campaign for prime minster of India this year. Hologram USA helped Modi reach out to the country's hundreds of millions of voters by enabling him to appear live in holographic form via satellite at political rallies. For many of the eager crowds who gathered to hear Modi speak, it was the next best thing to a stump speech in the flesh.

Hologram USA wants to eventually do the same thing for Rand Paul or Hillary Rodham Clinton -- David says he's a fan of both -- or anyone else who runs for office and is looking to improve its voter communication efforts.

David, who comes from a wealthy Greek shipping family, owns the North American license to the patent for technology created by Uwe Maass, an engineer born in Germany. The technology is a modern twist on a 19th century illusion technique called Pepper's Ghost that involves reflecting images off of glass. Maass's version uses foil. (David refers to it as technically not a hologram, but "hologram-like" technology.)

David has partnered with Maass and Giovanni Palma, who belong to a separate company called up Musion Das Hologram.

Jeffrey Taylor, a managing partner at USGRI and former congressional aide, envisions the technology increasing interaction between voters and presidential candidates, who simply can't appear physically in every city, even in crucial swing states.

"Let's take New Hampshire and Clinton," explained Taylor, referencing the early nominating state. She could appear remotely via hologram in areas her schedule prevents her from traveling to, if she runs for president, fielding questions in a kind of virtual town hall meeting, he suggested.

"You would actually have an interactive, three-dimensional image and a monitor in front of her [to field questions] when the lady at a coffee klatsch says, 'What are your views on energy?' " said Taylor.

He added: "The only thing you cant do is shake her hand."

But that's a challenge advocates of the technology will encounter, experts say. Retail politics is a big part of campaigning. Voters want to see candidates in person at the state fair or the local parade. Technology, no matter how advanced, is never going to offer a perfect replacement.

For hologram technology to take a foothold in campaigns, "it has to complement" the human element, said Zac Moffatt, Mitt Romney's 2012 digital director.

Another challenge is competition from other, less expensive social media and communication tools. For example, Clinton recently held a live chat on Facebook and one on Twitter that was streamed live on YouTube.

The question when it comes holographic technology, in Moffatt's view: "Is the impact on the voter or constituent exponentially greater than Skype of Google Hangout or other [voter contact] methodologies?"

David pegs the cost of of a robust national effort in the U.S. at about $6 million a month. That's beyond the budgets of most congressional campaigns and is a sizable investment even for White House hopefuls. But David argues that weighed against the cost of barnstorming the country and advancing and staffing events, it will eventually look like a bargain.

The perpetual desire to build buzz in politics could spur demand for David's company. The Republican and Democratic presidential nominating conventions routinely try to outdo one another with bells and whistles designed to attract earned media attention.

Few technological advances are buzzier now than holograms. The 2012 Coachella music festival featured a performance by a holographic recreation of late rapper Tupac Shakur. It went viral online. This year's Billboard Music brought back Michael Jackson. (The performance triggered competing lawsuits between David and another company over patent rights.)

The increasing desire to micro-target voters in campaigns could also boost the appeal of holographic technology.

"With advancements in artificial intelligence, you could soon have holograms of presidential candidates at your door, interacting with you and asking and answering questions," wrote David Plouffe in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed. Plouffe managed President Obama's 2008 campaign.

Beyond the campaign trail, David and Taylor see other reasons to bring the technology to Washington. Military simulations and briefings could be improved, they say. It could also enable the White House to communicate with more Americans by bringing the president into a "sixth grade classroom in Missouri," without all the costs of travel and security, for example, said Taylor.

It was technology that brought Taylor and David together. Taylor reached out after seeing David in a TV interview. They connected through LinkedIn, the social networking site.

To David, who says he is already in talks with Democrats and Republicans he declined to name, the technology's best selling point is the awe it in inspires when people experience it for the first time.

"I think that as much as we can write about it and evangelize it and imagine it and see it online, you don't get the impact of what it's really like until you see it," he said.

Financial Times column: Gideon Rachman: "A Clinton in power will not bring back the good times"

By Gideon Rachman

July 28, 2014, 4:23 p.m.

[Subtitle:] Bill Clinton became president at a golden moment for the US

Back in 1992 I was watching from the balcony of Madison Square Garden as Bill Clinton accepted the Democratic party nomination for the presidency. On stage with him was his wife, Hillary, and their young daughter, Chelsea. The music that blared from the loudspeakers as the Clintons took their bow was Fleetwood Mac singing "Don't stop thinking abouttomorrow". It was a quintessentially American message – optimistic and forward-looking.

By contrast, if and when Hillary Clinton bids for the presidency in 2016, her unofficial campaign anthem might as well be "Yesterday". The most powerful appeal of the Clinton name is nostalgia for the good old days of the 1990s, when all America's troubles seemed so far away.

Opinion polls show that Mr Clinton is now easily the most well-regarded president of the past 25 years. Mrs Clinton has her own formidable résumé – as a senator and as secretary of state. But a large part of her appeal still lies in the warm glow of the Clinton brand. As Maureen Dowd of The New York Times, a long-time chronicler of the foibles of the Clintons, pointed out in a recent column, even their bitter enemies seem to be succumbing to nostalgia. Ms Dowd quoted Bill O'Reilly, the conservative television star: "With Hillary you get Bill. And Bill knows what's going on."

But while Mr Clinton may yet return to the White House as First Man, the Clinton years are never coming back. Mr Clinton had his strengths as president – intelligence, shrewdness, empathy – but he was, above all, lucky in his timing. He came to power at a golden moment for the US in both economics and in geopolitics.

The Soviet Union had collapsed in 1991, just a year before Mr Clinton was first elected. Throughout his eight years as president, there was no serious competitor to the US for the role of global superpower. The Japanese, who had haunted the dreams of Americans in the 1980s, entered a prolonged slump at the start of the 1990s, from which they have yet to pull out. China had been knocked sideways by the student uprising of 1989 and its violent suppression. The Chinese economy grew rapidly in the 1990s but it was still only 12 per cent the size of the US economy by the time

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Mr Clinton left office.

The name Osama bin Laden had yet to impinge on the public consciousness. Al-Qaeda struck New York and Washington nine months after Mr Clinton left the Oval office. The foreign-policy preoccupations of the Clinton years presented themselves as moral dilemmas – such as Bosnia or Rwanda – rather than as threats to national security.

Mr Clinton's economic inheritance was similarly golden. The frightening deficits of the Reagan years disappeared in the 1990s, partly because of sensible fiscal decisions taken by President George HW Bush. By the time Mr Clinton took office, the US economy was already recovering strongly. He was the lucky beneficiary of a surge in American productivity, following the transformation of the workplace by computers. With unemployment at just 4 per cent and inflation under control, there was exuberant talk of a "New Economy".

Given this fortunate combination of circumstances, is it any wonder that the president had time for dalliances in the Oval Office?

Now compare Mr Clinton's inheritance, with the America that faced Barack Obama. The collapse of Lehman Brothers, just two months before the 2008 presidential election, meant that Mr Obama and his team took office facing an acute financial and economic crisis – which continues to overshadow his presidency, six years after the event. (Despite that, Mr Obama was able to push through the comprehensive healthcare reform that had eluded Mr Clinton and his wife, who was placed in charge of the first effort to secure universal coverage.)

The international picture that Mr Obama faced was similarly bleak. The "unipolar moment" Mr Clinton enjoyed was already drawing to a close by the time Mr Obama came to power. The US was struggling to extricate itself from draining wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. When Mr Obama leaves office in January 2017, perhaps to give way to President Hillary Clinton, China will – at least measured in terms of purchasing power – already have displaced the US as the world's largest economy. Conservative commentators, such as Mr O'Reilly, often blame these setbacks on Mr Obama's "weakness" or failures of leadership. In truth, he was dealt a much weaker hand than any of his recent predecessors.

The nostalgia for the Clinton years also extends to matters of style. Mr Obama, once praised for his cool, is now condemned for his "coldness". Mr Clinton, once attacked for his ill-discipline, is now lauded for his humanity. It is true that Mr Clinton brought a warmth to the presidency that Mr Obama lacks. On the other hand, Mr Obama has conducted himself with a dignity that eluded Mr Clinton.

As Mrs Clinton prepares to run for the ultimate prize – with the publication of a worthy book and numerous television appearances – she will be hoping that Americans remember the good bits of the Clinton years and forget the icky parts. The real contrast between the Obama and the Clinton presidencies, however, is not between personalities but between eras.

It would be nice to believe that another Clinton in the White House could somehow magically recreate the golden economic and geopolitical circumstances of the 1990s. But, as Fleetwood Mac once put it: "Yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone."

Associated Press: "Analysis: Clinton Impeachment Shadows GOP Lawsuit"

By David Espo

July 28, 2014, 11:43 a.m. EDT

The last time Republicans unleashed impeachment proceedings against a Democratic president, they lost five House seats in an election they seemed primed to win handily.

Memories of Bill Clinton and the campaign of 1998 may help explain why Speaker John Boehner and the current GOP leadership want no part of such talk now, although conservatives increasingly clamor for it. And also why President Barack Obama's White House seems almost eager to stir the impeachment pot three months before midterm elections.

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Republicans have already "opened the door for impeachment" with their plans to sue the president over allegedly failing to carry out the health care law, White House aide Dan Pfeiffer told reporters. In something of a dare last week, he also said any further action Obama takes on his own on immigration will "up the likelihood" of a GOP-led move to remove Obama from office.

House Democrats' campaign committee used reports of tea party Republicans meeting to discuss impeachment in an emailed fundraising plea sent Sunday. They warned "the fate of Obama's presidency is at stake."

Pfeiffer and Democratic fundraisers aren't privy to the inner workings of the House Republican leadership. Boehner, who is, insists at every public opportunity that the lawsuit is one thing, impeachment is another - and not on the table. The planned suit results from a dispute over the balance of powers between the president and Congress, he said last month, and the House "must act as an institution to defend the constitutional principles at stake."

Republicans dispute suggestions by Democrats that the suit's true purpose is to release pressure from the party's more extreme supporters for impeachment.

One Republican committee chairman, Rep. Pete Sessions of Texas, said in a brief interview that Clinton deserved to be impeached, but Obama does not.

The 42nd president "broke the law," he said of formal allegations that accused Clinton of lying under oath to a grand jury and obstructing justice in connection with his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Contrasting the former president with the current one, Sessions said: "Breaking the law is different from not fully enforcing the law."

At least one senior Republican isn't as definitive. Interviewed on Sunday on Fox, Louisiana Rep. Steve Scalise, newly elected to the GOP leadership, repeatedly declined to rule out impeaching Obama.

For his part, Sessions spoke a few hours after he opened a meeting of the House Rules Committee with what could well have been a case for impeachment: sweeping allegations that went far beyond the boundaries of the planned lawsuit.

"The president has unilaterally waived work requirements for welfare recipients," the Texas Republican said. The chief executive "ended accountability provisions in No Child Left Behind," an education law dating to the George W. Bush era, he said.

The president "refused to inform the Congress of the transfer of what is known as the Taliban five," Sessions went on. "And ignored the statutory requirements of the Affordable Care Act," he said, using the formal name for the 4-year-old health care law.

However compelling the complaints, no judge will ever rule on most of them.

Three months before the November elections, Republicans intend to limit their lawsuit to a narrower claim, that he has failed to faithfully carry out the health care law that, according to polls, remains poorly received by the public.

"In 2013, the president changed the health care law without a vote of Congress, effectively creating his own law by literally waiving the employer mandate and the penalties for failing to comply with it," Boehner said in a statement last month. "No president should have the power to make laws on his or her own."

Republican officials say they decided to narrow the focus of the court case after being advised by lawyers that their chances of succeeding would be stronger.

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None of this seems likely to satisfy the political right, as 2008 vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin recently made clear. "It's time to impeach; and on behalf of America we should vehemently oppose any politician on the left or right who would hesitate in voting for articles of impeachment," she wrote.

Yet her opinion is not widely shared among non-Republicans, and Democrats quickly sought to use calls like the one from Palin to raise campaign funds.

In a CNN survey last week, more than half of all Republicans said they favor Obama's impeachment, but that level that fell to one-third of the overall electorate. Among independents, 63 percent opposed it.

A lawsuit is also generally unpopular, but less so than impeachment would be, the poll indicated.

When it came to the lawsuit, 41 percent of the country backed it. Support was 75 percent among Republicans, while independents opposed it by 43-55.

As a junior member of the leadership in 1998, Boehner had a seat at the table when Republicans decided to inject Clinton's impeachment into that year's elections.

Republicans held their majority, but Democrats gained five seats, a rarity in midterm elections for the party in power in the White House.

Clinton was impeached in a post-election session of the House, later acquitted in the Senate and remained in office. Then-Speaker Newt Gingrich fared worse. Under pressure from his rank and file, the Republican gave up his post and left Congress soon after the election debacle.

In the upheaval, Boehner lost his leadership post for a decade.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We are looking at our library to bring back ideas, shows that were loved, in a fresh new way" — A Nickelodeon exec, giving us hope that Phil and Lil will see another day.

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EUR-IN-TROUBLE

THE STORY

The European Union is struggling to deal with a refugee and migrant crisis that's getting worse every day.

PSST...WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS?

Refugees are forced to leave home to escape things like war. Migrants leave home voluntarily to try to make their lives better with a new job or education. Take a brutal civil war in Syria, this thing called ISIS, and weak economies in Africa and you have hundreds of thousands of people rushing to get to the EU.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

For months, there has been a series of tragedies and chaos associated with people trying to escape to the EU. Leaders have promised they'd figure out a solution. But meanwhile, yesterday, everyone saw photos of a drowned toddler who washed onto a beach in Turkey. He was a Syrian refugee who drowned with 11 others, including his five-year-old brother, trying to get to Greece. And in France this week, migrants and refugees shut down Eurostar trains when they swarmed the track trying to get into Britain. And then in Hungary yesterday, thousands of migrants and refugees were blocked from boarding a train to Germany. And then in Greece yesterday, hundreds of migrants and refugees clashed with police while trying to cross over the border Greece shares with Macedonia. All in a day's escape.

theSKIMM

So far, the EU has sorta tried and totally failed to deal with this crisis. Top EU officials say they're announcing a new plan next week. Good idea.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU FIND SOMEONE TO FILL YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND RENTAL...

Gang's all here. For months, President Obama has been sweating it out over whether Congress will give the OK to his foreign policy baby — the Iran nuclear deal. He's faced some serious opposition so far, even from within his own party, but has promised to do whatever it takes to seal the deal (read: veto, veto, veto.) Yesterday, a Maryland senator became the 34th lawmaker to cross the Red Rover line to his side. Meaning, there won't be enough lawmakers against the deal to override Obama's inevitable veto. Cue Obama breathing a huge sigh of relief. The GOP-led Congress is still expected to vote against it, but yesterday's news means that doesn't really matter. Refresher: the deal between Iran and six world powers limits Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting harsh economic sanctions on the country. Some – including the GOP and Israel – say the deal is too soft on Iran. Others – Obama and many Dems – say the deal will help ward off another war in the Mideast. Up next: an official vote later this month. Yayyyy politics.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU FIND OUT YOUR CO-WORKER IS INTERVIEWING AT OTHER PLACES...

Time for something new? Yesterday, reports came out that DreamWorks and Disney aren't renewing their distribution dea when it expires next summer. Under the deal, DreamWorks has been working with Disney to distribute its films, aka get them into theaters and later onto TV channels. But Dreamworks has not turned out to be a dream for Disney — it produced less films and less profits than expected. Plus, Disney also bought shiny brands like Marvel and Lucasfilm. So it looks like Disney isn't too excited about keeping up the relationship. Steven Spielberg – co-founder of DreamWorks and dinosaur aficionado – is now reportedly flirting with Universal. Oh Mickey, you're not-so-fine.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR CO-WORKER SHOWS UP DRUNK FOR A MEETING...

What is wrong with you? Earlier this week, two day care workers in New Jersey were charged with child abuse for running a "fight club"...with toddlers. The kids are between four and six years old. The first rule of fight club is: you must be able to cross the street by yourself to be in fight club. The day care workers thought it would be a good idea to post videos of the fights to Snapchat. It was not a good idea.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHILE PACKING BATHING SUITS FOR THE WEEKEND...

Can't I just shear off a few lbs ?

THING TO KNOW

Gas prices have been really low lately. Good for you. But not so good for the oil industry. Here's why .

SKIMM SHARE

Long weekend coming up. Thanks to **Jessica Grenvik** (Knoxville, TN), **Renee Stith** (Reynoldsburg, OH) and **Phyllis Conrad** (SC) for sharing it up. You've got Skimm beach swag coming your way. Good things happen when you share .

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Co-sponsored by the Rabin Chair Forum of The George Washington University and the History and Public Policy Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

A book event with
Marvin Kalb, former chief diplomatic correspondent (CBS and NBC), nonresident senior fellow (Brookings Institute), senior adviser (Pulitzer Center)
Walter Reich, Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Professor of International Affairs, Ethics, and Human Behavior (George Washington University, moderator)

The world was stunned when Vladimir Putin invaded and seized Crimea in March 2014. In the weeks that followed, pro-Russian rebels staged uprisings in southeastern Ukraine. The United States and its Western allies immediately imposed strict sanctions on Russia and whenever possible tried to isolate it diplomatically. This sharp deterioration in East-West relations has raised basic questions about Putin's provocative policies and the future of Russia and Ukraine. Marvin Kalb, who wrote commentaries for Edward R. Murrow before becoming CBS News' Moscow bureau chief in the early 1960's, and who also served as a translator and junior press officer at the US Embassy in Moscow, argues that, contrary to conventional wisdom, Putin did not "suddenly" decide to invade Crimea. He had been waiting for the right moment ever since disgruntled Ukrainians rose in revolt against his pro-Russian regime in Kiev's Maidan Square. These demonstrations led Putin to conclude that Ukraine's opposition constituted an existential threat to Russia. *Imperial Gamble* examines how Putin reached that conclusion by taking a critical look at the recent political history of post-Soviet Russia. It also journeys deep into Russian and Ukrainian history to explain what keeps them together and yet at the same time drives them apart.

Marvin Kalb is a nonresident senior fellow with the Foreign Policy program at Brookings, a senior adviser at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, and a Murrow Professor Emeritus at Harvard. In his long and distinguished career, he served as the chief diplomatic correspondent for CBS and NBC, the Moscow bureau chief and the host of Meet the Press. He focuses on the impact of media on public policy and politics, and is also an expert in national security, with a focus on U.S. relations with Russia, Europe and the Middle East. His most recent book is *The Road to War: Presidential Commitments Honored and Betrayed* (Brookings Institution Press, 2013).

Thursday, October 22, 2015
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Elliott School of International Affairs

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1957 E St. NW, Room B17
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/gamble

RSVP NOW » **Forward to a Friend**

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From: "Joshua McNeil" <joshua_mcneil@lcv.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/29/2008 5:03:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Palin Energy Speech: Light, Sour and Crude

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2008
Contact: joshua_mcneil@lcv.org; 202.454.4573

Palin Energy Speech: Light, Sour and Crude

Politics Trumps Policy as Palin Changes Tune from Earlier Praise of Obama Energy Plan

Washington, DC — Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Governor Sarah Palin's speech on energy today was riddled with distortions and stands in stark contrast to her reaction to the Obama's energy plan before she became the GOP nominee.

"While the solar energy company was a nice backdrop, Palin's speech, like the McCain energy policy, was almost entirely about oil, coal, and nuclear," LCV President Gene Karpinksi said. "Look past the setting, look past the speaker, and the policies she advocated today are the same policies we've seen from the last eight years of the Bush administration – policies that hurt the Ohioans working at Xunlight and other clean energy companies."

Palin's speech cavalierly downplayed the risks of environmental degradation of continued dependence on fossil fuels and offered no new concrete proposals for developing clean, renewable energy sources. And what of the biggest environmental challenge of our generation? Palin did not mention the impact of our energy future on global warming or climate change — an issue she has refused to acknowledge as being caused by human activity.

The speech was delivered at Xunlight Energy, a company that produces photovoltaic solar energy cells in Toledo, OH. Instead of offering new ideas to develop clean energy sources like solar, Palin ironically reprised the same old energy proposals that McCain has supported for years, wrapped in new distortions of Senator Obama's plans and couched in a false clean energy setting.

After praising the workers of Xunlight, Palin then belittled their product: "We have many, many new energy sources like solar and wind and geothermal that have not become economic and reliable."

Senator McCain, Palin's running mate, has routinely failed to support bills that would have created tax breaks and incentives for Xunlight Energy. McCain has stood in the way of measures that would have helped that Xunlight create jobs in Ohio and produce more reliable and economic clean energy.

On August 4, 2008, in a press release entitled "Palin Pleased With Obama's Energy Plan," the Alaska Governor praised Obama's energy plan, acknowledging the Obama proposal to offer $1,000 rebates to those struggling with the high cost of energy. Contrary to her backwards statements today, Senator Obama's energy plan is the most comprehensive plan to end this country's addiction to oil ever put forward by a Presidential nominee.

"Overall, Governor Palin's speech was light on specifics for clean energy, sour in its tone compared to earlier praise of the Obama energy plan and crude in its assessment of America's energy future," said Karpinski concluded.

Last week LCV released a web video on the McCain's woeful record on clean, renewable energy: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALkfRP2IefQ

###

Paid for by the League of Conservation Voters, www.lcv.org, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/15/2008 4:59:41 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/15/08

Main Topics: Russia, Saddleback Candidate Forum, Faith and Religion

Summary of Shift:
Political news continues to be dominated by the Russian Georgian conflict. Clips of Rice and Bush demanding a cease-fire and withdrawal were continuously played on all major networks. Jerome Corsi's book and Obama's response also received a large portion of media coverage. Rick Warren appeared on several networks to speak about the upcoming candidate forum sponsored by his Saddleback Church. The forum brought up segments on both candidates faith and religious ties.

All other news consisted of Olympic updates. Michael Phelps is one gold away from tying the all time record for most gold medals won in a single Olympic game. The US took gold and silver in the women's all around gymnastics competition.

Highlights:
1. FNC: Jerome Corsi supports his book and talks about death threats and Obama camp response
2. FNC: Fox highlights McCain's recent comments about religion and faith during POW days
3. ABC: McCain and Obama's faith and politics of religion scrutinized ahead of weekend forum
4. CNN: McCain's messiah ad stirring Obama Anti-Christ rumors, playing into evangelical fears
5. FNC: Rick Warren refuses to endorse a candidate despite his conservative views

Highlights, No Clips:
1. CNN – KIRAN CHETRY: "Singer Jackson Browne suing John McCain and the Republican Party over the use of his famous song, "Running on Empty". A campaign ad used the song to mock Obama's suggestion that Americans check their tire pressure. Browne says that, besides violating copyright laws, the use of the song suggests he backs McCain, which he does not. McCain campaign says they had nothing to do with the ad. The Ohio republican party was behind it."
2. CNN – JOHN ROBERTS: "T. Boone Pickens, the billionaire oil tycoon turned wind energy magnet, meeting with John McCain for breakfast this morning. Pickens says he's critical of both candidates energy plans."

Clips:

Highlight #1
Jerome Corsi Supports His Book and Talks About Death Threats and Obama Camp Response (FNC 08/15/08 8:26am)
STEVE DOOCY: It's the number one book on the New York Times Best-Sellers List, it's right here it's called "Obama Nation". […] I should point out that it's going to be number one with a little dagger. The New York Times is saying that your book, Obama Nation, is being bought in bulk by a bunch of conservatives.

JEROME CORSI: Well, it's not true. The sales are all retail sales, I defy the New York Times to tell which conservatives are buying the book and putting them away in warehouses. It's not happening.

DOOCY: Alright, so you've written this book, […] meanwhile the Obama is circulating this, it's called "Unfit for Publication". And it's forty pages where it essentially calls you a liar and a bigot.

CORSI: Yes, well, I think some juvenile leftists have taken over the Obama campaign and gotten a hold of Photoshop. I mean, first of all now I'm getting death threats and hate mail from Obama supporters, and we […] are tempted to start publishing them to see the level at which the Obama campaign is descendant on personal attacks. As I point out many times, ad-homonym attacks, attacking me personally is the lowest form of argument, it's been considered a logical fallacy since Aristotle, it doesn't refute the claims of the book.

[…]

DOOCY: You're getting these death threats because you wrote a book, and in fact there's a website, Daily-Kos, that's published your home address?

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CORSI: That's correct, and invited Obama supporters to come and harass my family. I mean, Steve, this is an attack, not on me, but on the first amendment. I've written the book, what is Senator Obama going to do if he's in the White House, he's going to come unglued if a foreign nation, who's an enemy, calls him a name, are they going to go berserk and start banging against the walls? Answer the issue of epithets and say, how dare they attack me? Say our enemy's racist? I mean this is really kind of juvenile behavior on the part of the Obama campaign.

DOOCY: You were involved in the writing of the swift boat book four years ago. And so a lot of people have suggested, well the Obama campaign is not going to allow their candidate to get swift-boated, once again, by this guy. And do you feel almost, that you, yourself are being swift-boated?

CORSI: Well, in a way. But I also think the Obama campaign is making the identical mistakes of the Kerry campaign. They've started now calling me names, and trying to get the New York Times to introduce me as a gad-fly, and try to get the A.P. to do press releases for them. I couldn't find this 41 page reports on the websites until 1am. And so now, there's substantive issues in here. You know, they say I got incorrect the date of Senator Obama's marriage. Well, what would be really helpful is if Senator Obama would release primary documents, like his birth certificate. The campaign has a false, fake birth certificate posted on their website. How is anybody supposed to really piece together his life?

DOOCY: What do you mean they posted a false birth certificate on their website?

CORSI: The original birth certificate of Obama has never been released and the campaign refuses to release it. […] As I point out in Obama Nation, and by the way I don't know what chapters in here the campaign is so afraid the people are going to read. They must be desperately afraid of this book.

DOOCY: Well, what they've done is they've taken points from your book and they say, this is a lie and then they clarify it. And if people would like to read what they say about it, it's certainly out there on the internet, I believe it is on the Obama website.

CORSI: And I'll be issuing rebuttals, now that we've got some response, I'll be going through this point by point. Many of these are quibbles of minor details. Also differences of argumentation, and some of them are also wrong.

DOOCY: Just answer the question that they say right in the beginning of this. That you're a liar. You don't want Obama to be president and you're a liar.

CORSI: As I say, the book was written to be truthful and the substantive charges, that Barack Obama was with Sal Olinski, that he has a communist mentor in high school, and they don't refute those substantive points. They're quibbling about detail.

Highlight #2
Fox Highlights McCain's Recent Comments About Religion and Faith During POW Days (FNC 08/15/08 7:35am)
STEVE DOOCY: Meanwhile, let's talk a little bit about religion. In fact, this morning in the Chicago Tribune, John McCain is discussing how his faith helped him as a POW in Vietnam.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: That's a first, because he normally does not talk, number one that much about his POW experience, or about his faith.

DOOCY: Exactly right. Here's what he said, and this is quite a quotation, McCain says, "There were many times I didn't pray for another day, and I didn't pray for another hour. I prayed for another minute to keep going.
He should talk about that more.

BRIAN KILMEADE: What I found out when he was in prison, when he was hooked up with the other guys, the other POWs, he was in charge of giving the sermon, so he had to read the bible, interpret the bible, on a daily basis. John McCain was.

CARLSON: He should talk about that more. I mean, I'm no political pundit but I would maybe recommend that.

[…]

Highlight #3
McCain and Obama's Faith and Politics of Religion Scrutinized Ahead of Weekend Forum (ABC 08/15/08 7:29am)

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DIANE SAWYER: Speaking of Senator Obama and John McCain, they are going to be making their first joint appearance of this final campaign tomorrow, taking part in a forum moderated by mega-church Pastor Rick Warren. He says he wants to ask them probing questions about religion and personal values. […]

JAKE TAPPER: […] Well religion has played a huge roll in this campaign which may be why it doesn't seem all that unusual that the first joint appearance for Obama and McCain would be here in the Los Angeles area, at the Saddleback Church, home congregation of best-selling author and pastor, Rick Warren.

[…]

John McCain has had other complications. Never wildly popular among conservative Christian leaders, he's never really seemed comfortable talking about his faith. Raised Episcopalian, he now attends a Baptist church.

MCCAIN: I'm unashamed and unembarrassed about my deep faith in God. But, I do not, obviously, try to impose my views on others.

TAPPER: Tomorrow, both men will be quizzed by Pastor Rick Warren.

RICK WARREN: We're going to look at leadership. Specifically, their character, their competence, their experience. […]

TAPPER: A lot of evangelicals don't see John McCain as one of their own. Is that fair?

WARREN: I think it's fair, I think a lot of evangelicals don't see Barack Obama as one of their own. Many evangelicals think neither of these guys are evangelical. I think both John McCain and Barack Obama, and their relationship to Jesus Christ, is their relationship.

[…]

Highlight #4
McCain's Messiah Ad Stirring Obama Anti-Christ Rumors, Playing into Evangelical Fears (CNN 08/15/08 09:46am)
HEIDI COLLINS: Just a joke? Or playing into fears? A campaign ad is causing a buzz on the internet.

DAVID MATTINGLY: When you listen to this John McCain ad, it might sound like Barack Obama has a messiah complex. […] **The McCain campaign says it's all in good fun. But not everyone's laughing. Some democrats say the ad, which appears only on the internet, is infused hidden messages to evangelical Christians**. Messages that Barack Obama isn't the messiah at all.

STEVE WALDMAN: **It reinforces things that they've been hearing, around the internet, that maybe Barack Obama is in fact the Anti-Christ.**

MATTINGLY: The ad's been viewed 1.2 million times on YouTube. **A Google search for Obama and Anti-Christ returns an incredible 900 thousand hits.** One website is completely dedicated to the question, is Obama the Anti-Christ? 73 percent of the sites online polls say, either yes or maybe. Could the McCain ad be saying the same thing? Critics accuse the McCain campaign of trying to tap into biblical prophecy to stir evangelical voters. A group McCain has had difficulty reaching.

ERIC SAPP: **Going back to the classic republican playbook of playing to these people's fears, trying to send a message to these folks that you really need to be careful. You really need to worry about this guy, he literally could be a cosmic antichrist figure**. And for a lot of people that may sound strange to believe, but there is a significant part of the American community that will take this stuff very seriously.

MATTINGLY: Democratic Faith Issues Consultant Eric Sapp argues the McCain ad borrows ideas and visual imagery from the blockbuster "Left Behind" series. The books weave a tale of a modern day Anti-Christ, a young political leader who rises to power with a message of peace and unity and leads a world religion that proclaims we are god. That sounds a lot like this Obama clip used in the ad.

[Anti-Obama Ad]

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MATTINGLY: The McCain says it's just having fun with what it calls Obama's tendency to get carried away with audacious statements. But since the release of the ad, Obama Anti-Christ internet traffic is up. Even the authors of the "Left Behind" books felt they had to speak out because they are seeing that question more and more often. Do they think Obama is the Anti-Christ. And each time they say the answer is no way.

JERRY JENKINS: The Anti-Christ will not be someone who is suspected of being the Anti-Christ by anybody. If half the country thinks one of the candidates is the Anti-Christ he's not the Anti-Christ.

MATTINGLY: **A spokesman for the McCain campaign calls the ad lighthearted. One website takes the joke a little further, selling t-shirts and mugs showing the Obama symbol with a pair of horns**.

Highlight #5
Rick Warren Refuses to Endorse a Candidate Despite his Conservative Views (FNC 08/15/08 8:59am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: […] "You are not going to endorse either of these candidates, at least publicly. But you do oppose abortion, you define marriage as the union of a man and a woman, if people look at that they might think you're siding with John McCain."

RICK WARREN: Well you know what, **I'm not just pro-life, I'm whole life**. I'm concerned about that baby girl before she's born, but I'm also concerned about that baby girl after she's born. Whether she's born into poverty, whether she gets an education, whether she's born addicted to crack or born with aides. So we're whole life by expanding my agenda, but it's really not about me, it's about what Barack Obama believes, it's about what John McCain believes. I think there will be a lot of people that will say well I disagree with Obama on this and I disagree with McCain on that, but I happen to like this about Obama and I happen to like this about McCain. And they are going to have to weigh their options. […]

CARLSON: **What do you say to the critics who say your type of religion may be the watering down of religion, that maybe your putting ahead social justice as opposed to the, what they deem the real message of being a Christian**. How do you respond to that?

WARRREN**: Well first I flatly deny** it because Saddleback Church has won more people to Jesus Christ than any church in America. In the last 20 years, excuse me, in the last 10 years we have baptized over 20,000 new adult converts. I am for the good news of Jesus Christ, that he is the answer to all of our problems, and he's the only way to heaven. **But I'm also for the common good, and my goal is to say what's best for America** in this particular thing. Now I believe that both the left and the right, you know you get attacked from both sides because when you try to do a middle ground you got enemies on both sides.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 11:21:45 AM
Subject: RE: Heads up for call with HRC

Our collective view on the video yesterday sounds the same as it is today.

a) It won't stop questions from being shouted at her the first time the press can
b) She is going to have to take and answer the question from the press herself at some point whether she does the video today or not.

And while there may not be consensus on this – my view on releasing a video first is that the press will eviscerate her for hiding behind a video instead of answering their questions.

Joel

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Mandy Grunwald
Cc: huma@hrcoffice.com; Joel Benenson; john.podesta@gmail.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; tgoff@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; kschake@hillaryclinton.com; re47@hillaryclinton.com; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

She understands that. Just wants the information in one place.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2015, at 2:13 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

> Got it.
>
> But of course, the press will not consider the questions answered until they are asked by them.
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >
> To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> Sent: Fri, May 1, 2015 2:09 pm
> Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> just to give people background here:
> 1. She believes she needs to do this video
> is because her integrity is being attacked and she is the only one who can say
> she didnt make a decision as secstate based on a donor.
> 2. Imp point: The
> foundation has had little luck getting their surrogates booked on any serious
> shows. So she feels like it has to be someone at her level or WJC level that
> engages directly in order for there to be any coverage of the defense.
> 3. She
> doesnt want to continue to have to have press yell these questions at her in
> Nevada and CA and if she doesnt do the video, that is the situation she will be
> in
>
> _____
> From: Joel Benenson
> <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:53 PM
> To: Jennifer
> Palmieri
> Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy
> Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
> Subject: RE:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Heads up for call with HRC

For some reason I don't have the morning news
round up -- can someone send that to me.

-----Original Message-----
From:
Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01,
2015 1:51 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy
Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook;
Dan Schwerin
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Given this morning's am
shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.

Sent from
my iPhone

> On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
wrote:
>
> Thanks.
> Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc
to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough
based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or
morning news...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri
[mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
>
To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma
> Abedin;
Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan
> Schwerin
>
Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different
topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult
conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video
makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger
response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found
in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my
iPhone

From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/12/2008 1:39:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/12

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 12th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11:45am McCain: Town Hall in York, PA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
1:15pm BUSH: Meets with the Coalition for Affordable American Energy at the White House

6pm McCain: Fund raiser in Teaneck, NJ

6pm McCain: Interview with Fox News airs on "Special Report with Brit Hume"

News Clips:

MCCANN GEORGIA/RUSSIA NEWS

War Puts Focus on McCain's Hard Line on Russia (NYT 8/12/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
The intensifying warfare in the former Soviet republic of Georgia has put a new focus on the increasingly hard line that Senator John McCain has taken against Russia in recent years, with stances that have often gone well beyond those of the Bush administration and its focus on engagement.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/us/politics/12mccain.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin

McCain and Obama condemn conflict in Georgia (LA Times 8/12/08)
By Peter Wallsten
Russia gets a tongue-lashing from McCain. Obama reminds the country of its 'responsibility.' The fallout from the hostilities will be a major challenge for the next president.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-geopol12-2008aug12,0,1107242.story?track=rss

In candidates' approaches, clear contrast (Boston Globe 8/12/08)
By Michael Kranish
Senator John McCain, who has met the Republic of Georgia's president and whose chief foreign policy adviser has lobbied for the country, responded to the news Friday with visceral anger, condemning Russian forces' crossing into Georgia and warning of "grave" repercussions in long-term relations between Moscow and Washington. Senator Barack Obama, who has never been to Georgia, initially seemed reticent to single out Russia for criticism, issuing a general call on Friday for ending "the outbreak of violence." The next day, as the scope of Russia's military action became clearer, the Democrat toughened his rhetoric and denounced Russia's "aggressive action" while calling for more diplomacy.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/12/in_candidates_approaches_clear_contrast?mode=PF

McCain calls for diplomatic action against Russia (AP 8/11/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Monday called for a multi-pronged diplomatic effort to force Russia to withdraw from Georgia, saying Moscow's actions could have long-term implications for its relations with the rest of the world.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-11-mccain-georgia_N.htm?csp=34
See The Hill's "McCain calls for U.N. resolution against Russia": http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/mccain-calls-for-u.n.-resolution-against-russia-2008-08-11.html

McCain condemnation upstages Bush (Financial Times 8/11/08)
By Edward Luce and Andrew Ward in Washington
It took four days and a growing chorus of criticism from conservatives before George W. Bush on Monday matched John McCain's tough stance on Russia. Having on Monday morning again been upstaged by the

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Republican presidential candidate, who had called for the US administration to come together with its allies in "universal condemnation of Russian aggression" in Georgia, Mr Bush finally followed suit.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c3508ce2-67d1-11dd-8d3b-0000779fd18c.html

Did McCain Plagiarize His Speech on the Georgia Crisis? (Political Wire 8/11/08)
By Taegan Goddard
A Wikipedia editor emailed Political Wire to point out some similarities between Sen. John McCain's speech today on the crisis in Georgia and the Wikipedia article on the country Georgia. Given the closeness of the words and sentence structure, most would consider parts of McCain's speech to be derived directly from Wikipedia.
http://blogs.cqpolitics.com/politicalinsider/2008/08/did-mccain-plagarize-his-speec.html

MCCAIN NEWS

In Midsummer, Spring Training for the Fall Race (NYT 8/12/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
From watching polls in the presidential race this summer, it would appear that for all the campaign rallies, television advertisements and various attacks mounted by Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, not much has really changed. ...More than anything else, Mr. McCain has used this period to seek a thematic spine of the campaign he intends to run against Mr. Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/us/politics/12campaigns.html

McCain gives GE workers pep talk (Erie Times-News 8/12/08)
BY JOHN GUERRIERO
Sen. John McCain got a firsthand look at the jobs performed by GE Transportation workers at the Erie-area locomotive manufacturing plant. And some of those GE workers sized McCain up for the job he's seeking....Outside the plant, four people from the Erie Peace Initiative, led by Vietnam War veteran Robert Johnson, held signs calling for an end to the Iraq war.
http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080812/NEWS02/808120319
Link to video: http://www.goerie.com/video/0811mccain

McCain to draw protest in Aspen (The Aspen Times 8/12/08)
Janet Urquhart
Sen. John McCain's appearance Thursday in Aspen happens to coincide with the 73rd anniversary of the Social Security Act, and a group of retirees plans to protest in response to the presumed Republican presidential nominee's recent remarks about the retirement program.
http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20080812/NEWS/953606352/1077/&ParentProfile=1059&profile=1076&parentprofile=-1

Obama radio ad accuses McCain of abandoning U.S. manufacturers (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel 8/12/08)
By CRAIG GILBERT
An ardent "free-trader," the Republican McCain has been a critic for many years of provisions that require the U.S. government to buy American products, saying they are costly to taxpayers and antithetical to open trade.
http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=782031

Enthusiasm gap plagues GOP convention (Politico 8/11/08)
By: Richard T. Cullen
While excitement is building for a Democratic Party convention capped by Barack Obama's historic acceptance speech before a sold-out, 75,000-seat football stadium, the GOP convention the following week is shaping up to be a considerably more staid affair, marked by the conspicuous absence of many of the usual convention attendees.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=B3F4FD8D-18FE-70B2-A86452792C846FFD

Longtime Republican voters are airing new views (LA Times 8/12/08)
By Peter Wallsten
Many struggling families in the normally comfortable cul-de-sacs outside U.S. cities are thinking of switching parties.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-exurbs12-2008aug12,0,6209867.story

Voter Registration Is the New Battleground (WSJ 8/12/08)
By COREY DADE and JOHN D. MCKINNON; Page A4
As Barack Obama tries to draw hundreds of thousands of new voters to the polls, Republicans are beginning to scrutinize registrants' eligibility as both sides draw a major battle line over voting rights.

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http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121850477150231953.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Candidates' Health Care Plans: Private Vs. Public (NPR 8/12/08)
by Julie Rovner
McCain and Obama have very different prescriptions for solving the problem of ballooning health care costs, says Jonathan Oberlander, a professor of health politics and policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "There are many issues where Obama and McCain differ," he said. "I'm not sure there's any issue where they differ as much as this. Sometimes we complain in politics that Democrats and Republicans run to the center, and they copy each other with their proposals. At least in health care, we don't have to worry about that."
See WSJ blog's "McCain, Obama Advisers Spar on Employer-Sponsored Health Coverage": http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2008/08/11/mccain-obama-advisers-spar-on-employer-sponsored-health-coverage/

After Promising To 'Never' Give Up Fighting Big Tobacco, McCain Gives Up (ThinkProgress 8/11/08)
Last month, the House passed legislation — sparking the ire of conservatives — that would grant the FDA stronger regulation power over the tobacco industry, mirroring a 1998 proposal authored by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). At the time, McCain said he would "never" give up on his anti-tobacco efforts.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/11/mccain-tobacco/

Obama Floods Florida Airwaves (WSJ 8/12/08)
By AARON RUTKOFF; Page A4
In Florida's living rooms, the presidential contest so far has been a landslide -- Barack Obama, 9,785; John McCain, zero. That is the tally of local television commercials broadcast by each candidate in the state, whose 27 electoral votes Sen. McCain almost certainly needs to win the White House. Recent polls in Florida show Sen. McCain holding a small edge.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121850408634131921.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Obama hits McCain with own negative ad (Washington Times 8/12/08)
Christina Bellantoni Sen. Barack Obama's camp on Monday depicted Sen. John McCain as a "lurching" lobbyist lover using "old" Washington politics, a harsh response to his Republican rival's "celebrity" ad that a new poll shows may actually help Mr. Obama. A Fox 5/Washington Times/Rasmussen Reports poll found that 84 percent of adults think the presidential hopefuls are running negative ads, and 44 percent of them said the ads have made them more likely to vote for Mr. Obama.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/12/obama-responds-to-mccain-with-own-negative-ad/
See Boston Globe's "McCain targeted as D.C. 'celebrity'": http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/12/mccain_targeted_as_dc_celebrity/

McCain's 'celebrity' taunts are bugging Obama (AP 8/11/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON
HARRISBURG, Pa. - In a presidential campaign freighted with war, recession and energy woes, a jibe featuring Paris Hilton, of all things, seems to have struck a nerve in Democrat Barack Obama. For the second time in two weeks, he aired a TV ad Monday rebutting Republican John McCain's claim that Obama is little more than a celebrity, like the blonde hotel heiress.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080811/ap_on_el_pr/candidates_ads

Sounds like Tom Ridge is out of the VP picture (LA Times 8/12/08)
By Seema Mehta and Maeve Reston
John McCain hints, perhaps unintentionally, that his Pennsylvania friend isn't on the short list of potential running mates.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailridge12-2008aug12,0,581910.story?track=rss

Life Sentence (The New Republic 8/11/08*)
Print Date: 8/27/08
By Sarah Blustain
Stop kidding yourself: John McCain is a pro-life zealot.
http://tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=3483eb20-9228-4700-9557-57a47a676e0b&p=1

Pelosi to McCain: You weren't even here (Politico blog 8/11/08)
By Daniel Libit
In an interview with Larry King, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) scoffed at John McCain's call to bring Congress back into session to deal with high oil prices. "Well, it's interesting to hear Sen. McCain talk about bringing Congress back," Pelosi said, incredulously. "He wasn't even in Congress when we had two very important bills on energy." Pelosi was referring to bills on tax credits for renewable sources of energy and hybrid cars. McCain leads the Senate in missed votes this Congress. The Speaker also pointed out that President Bush rebuffed

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McCain's call for him to call an emergency session of Congress.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0808/Pelosi_to_McCain_You_werent_even_here.html

Bob Kerrey: McCain "Can Deal With Crisis" (TPM 8/11/08)
By Greg Sargent
Kerrey, Kerrey, Kerrey. With Obama surrogates like these, who needs political opponents?
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/bob_kerrey_mccain_can_deal_wit.php

Independent New Jersey mayor endorsing McCain (CNN blog 8/11/08)
By Ed Henry
Sen. John McCain will get an endorsement Monday afternoon in New Jersey from a Democrat-turned-Independent, Linden Mayor Richard Gerbounka, according to two Republican sources.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/11/independent-new-jersey-mayor-endorsing-mccain/

Obama-cans Unite (NYT blog 8/11/08)
By Michael Luo
Led by a former Bush fund-raiser and a former U.S. Senator who bolted the G.O.P. several years ago, a group of current and former Republicans disenchanted with Senator John McCain and supportive of Senator Barack Obama are banding together to start a "Republicans for Obama" effort.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/11/obamacans-unite/#more-5864

DNC Parodies Cornyn Ad To Hit McCain On Big Oil Donations (Huffington Post 8/11/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
The Democratic National Committee has unveiled another portion of its Exxon-McCain '08 ad campaign, and it's clearly designed to go viral.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/11/dnc-parodies-cornyn-ad-to_n_118324.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtXOBH6U89Y

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

An Empty Promise (NYT 8/12/08)
By BOB HERBERT
...the latest smoke screen in the presidential election, the bogus contention that lifting restrictions on offshore oil drilling would somehow, in the foreseeable future, bring down the price of gasoline for American motorists.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/opinion/12herbert.html

McCain's Memos (TPM 8/11/08)
by Josh Marshall
In a sense the revelations of Mark Penn's 'xenophobia' memos is old news...But seeing the memos beyond the message is instructive... for another reason. During the campaign there was a lot of clucking about whether the campaign's message just accidentally stumbled on to charged words and associations. Now how about Sen. McCain? You see his ads lining Obama up with Paris Hilton and Britney Spears, a new ad with the tagline "hot chicks dig Obama" (yes, those are the actual words in McCain's ad) and countless montages of Obama as pop music sensation. How do you think McCain's memos read?
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Talking-Points-Memo/ ~3/yVZTeoxjJxc/208028.php

BUSH NEWS

U.S. Criticized Over Preconflict Actions (WSJ 8/12/08)
By JAY SOLOMON and MARY JACOBY
As Russian troops expand their military presence across Georgia, criticism is mounting that the Bush administration didn't do enough to manage its strategic relationship with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili -- and keep him out of trouble.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121849038690431223.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Bush Seeks to Limit Species Law (WSJ 8/12/08)
By STEPHEN POWER; Page A3
The Bush administration is proposing to reduce the environmental reviews federal agencies must undertake as part of the Endangered Species Act. The proposal could speed up commercial development, but environmentalists said the changes could threaten the protection of wildlife.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121850393688731887.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

OTHER TOP NEWS

Russia Halts Military Action (AP 8/12/08)

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By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Russian President Dmitri Medvedev ordered a halt to military action in Georgia Tuesday, saying it had punished Georgia and brought security for civilians and Russian peacekeepers in the breakaway South Ossetia region.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1831765,00.html

Next U.S. Commander in Iraq Cautious on Troop Cuts (NYT 8/12/08)
By THOM SHANKER
As he prepares to become the senior American commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said Monday that over the next year he hoped to recommend significant reductions in the number of American troops stationed there. He acknowledged, however, that political developments — like the recent delay in scheduling regional elections — would influence the troop reductions as much as the level of attacks.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/washington/12odierno.html?pagewanted=print

Pelosi indicates openness to offshore drilling vote (The Hill 8/12/08)
By Mike Soraghan
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday night dropped her staunch opposition to a vote on offshore oil drilling in the House. ...in an interview on CNN's Larry King Live, she indicated that she was open to a vote.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/pelosi-indicates-openness-to-offshore-drilling-vote-2008-08-11.html

A portrait of two parties (Politico 8/11/08)
By MIKE ALLEN
...The Democratic National Convention Committee announced its themes today, and a little bird filled in the tentative Republican themes:
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12443.html

Source: Obama To Start Looking The Other Way On 527s (Huffington Post 8/11/08)
By Sam Stein
Senator Barack Obama will start looking the other way when it comes to the role 527s and other independent groups play in the election, a source close to his campaign told the Huffington Post.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/11/source-obama-to-start-loo_n_118240.html

How to Redeploy (CAP 8/11/08)
By Lawrence J. Korb, Sean Duggan, Peter Juul
Implementing a Responsible Drawdown of U.S. Forces from Iraq
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/08/how_to_redeploy.html

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From: Tikkun <magazine@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 11/11/2015 12:46:03 PM
Subject: Cosmological Wisdom & Planetary Madness

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

You can read this online at:

www.tikkun.org/nextgen/cosmological-wisdom-planetary-madness

Editor's Note: Sean Kelly presents a brief overview of the evolution of the consciousness of the universe and its current crisis as humanity continues to destroy the life-support system of Earth. It is a deep and profound article worthy of reading carefully to the end. –Rabbi Michael Lerner

Cosmological Wisdom and Planetary Madness

by Sean Kelly

Introduction:

It is a bitter irony of our times that, just as the collaborative effort of natural scientists and other researchers have revealed the outlines, at least, of a comprehensive cosmology,[i] we should find ourselves plunged into a maelstrom of unparalleled planetary madness. The madness: runaway catastrophic climate change, an accelerating mass extinction of species and generalized ecological deterioration, and a brutal, empire-driven regime of planetary apartheid. The wisdom: among the proposals for "Big History" type grand narratives[ii] , Swimme and Berry's *The Universe Story* (1992) that I will draw from in these pages. It is a story that encompasses the mysterious origin in a "primal flaring forth" (popularly referred to as the Big Bang), a growing, if perhaps never complete, understanding of the main stages of cosmic evolution, the complexities of embodied intelligence, the main thresholds of human history and the varieties of cultural expression, a sense of the lure or telos of the evolutionary adventure, and a prescient sense of growing planetary crisis.

The details of such a narrative have and continue to be provided by the assiduous efforts of countless individuals working in their respective fields of

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specialization. The real keepers of such narratives, however, are those (scientists or not) who dare to transgress the otherwise sensible mutual isolation of individual disciplines (and even inter- and multi-disciplines), and who are called instead, however provisionally, to articulate the nature of the Whole. In this case, the Whole includes not only the strictly physical or material-energetic dimension—whether on the large, small, or medium scale—but also the depth dimension of consciousness, interiority, meaning, and purpose. It is only when the Whole, or cosmos if one prefers, is considered in both these dimensions that the narrative becomes truly grand and a candidate, at least, for an expression of cosmological wisdom.

Cosmological:

For present purposes, I focus on an expression of such wisdom that I find both economical and particularly generative—namely, Swimme and Berry's proposal for a threefold "cosmogenetic principle," (Swimme and Berry, 71) or as I prefer to call it, a trinity of cosmogenetic principles. These principles—differentiation, autopoiesis, and communion—"refer to the governing themes and the basal intentionality of all existence" (71) and can be said to reveal the deep structure of cosmogenesis. They are three mutually implicated dimensions or moments of the emergence, persistence, and evolution of form "throughout time and space and at every level of reality" (71). Swimme and Berry invoke these principles to help us understand the integral nature of cosmic evolution, from the primal flaring forth (with the mysterious relation between the original singularity—if indeed there was a singularity—and the initial break in symmetry, with its perfect, fine-tuned calibration between gravitation and the forces of expansion or spatiation and also among the four fundamental forces), through the emergence of particles, atoms, galaxies, stars (especially our own Sun), and planets (especially Earth or Gaia), to the emergence of life, human societies, and civilizations. In all cases they underline how the three principles "are themselves features of each other." (73) In fact, as they say, if were there no differentiation, "the universe would collapse into a homogenous smudge; were there no subjectivity [which Swimme and Berry associate with autopoiesis], the universe would collapse into inert, dead extension; were there no communion, the universe would collapse into isolated singularities of being" (73)

I. Wisdom:

Swimme and Berry state that their understanding of the cosmogenetic principle is based on *post hoc* generalization from consideration of the manifest cosmos rather than on some a priori metaphysical (whether philosophical or theological) concept or doctrine. At the same time, however, it must be conceded that this principle is remarkably coherent with expressions of the nature of wisdom in triadic form found in the world's

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great metaphysical traditions (see Kelly, 2010). We know that, before turning to scientific cosmology, Berry had undertaken a deep study of Asian traditions, particularly Neo-Confucianism. The great Neo-Confucian Zhu Xi, for instance,

> discerned a tripartite patterning or principle of the emergence of the person, and by extension, all the other objects or events of the world in terms of form or principle [*li*], dynamics or vital force [*qi*] and their unification via the mind-heart [*xin*]: the mature schematic is form, dynamics and unification. Moreover, once this unification of the principle and vital force was achieved and perfected, the outcome, at least for the human person, was a state of harmony or balance. (Berthrong)

Zhu Xi was influenced by the earlier Tiantai "original enlightenment" school of Buddhism, where we find the notion of the "threefold contemplation in one mind" ( )—that is, the integral nature of the three truths of emptiness, conventional existence, and the middle. In the words of a later Japanese Tendai commentary on the threefold contemplation (*isshin sangan*):

> Everything from our own speech to the sound of the waves rising or the wind blowing is the threefold contemplation in a single mind, the originally inherent three thousand realms [i.e., all dharmas]. There is nothing to cultivate and nothing to attain.... The forms of all things exerting their functions and arising in dependence upon conditions, is, without transformation, the threefold contemplation in its totality. (Stone, 178)

I am not suggesting an unambiguous identification of the three cosmogenetic principles of autopoiesis, differentiation, and communion (my preferred order) with the Neo-Confucian triad of li, qi, and xin, or the Tendai triad of emptiness (*kuutai*), conventional existence (*ketai*), and the middle (*chuutai*). I do believe, however, that all three triads participate in the same archetypal complex, or "cultural invariant", to use Raimon Panikkar's term, which he calls the "radical Trinity." "I may also use a consecrated name:," he writes, "*advaita* ["not twoness"], which is the equivalent of the radical Trinity. Everything is related to everything but without monistic identity or dualistic separation." (Panikkar, 2010, 404) The most encompassing expression of the radical Trinity is the integral or non-dual "theanthropocosmic" intuition of "Reality comprising the Divine, the Human, and the Cosmic in thoroughgoing relationality." (xviii) "We are together with other Men," Pannikkar observes, "on a common Earth, under the same Sky, and enveloped by the Unknown." (268) These three terms remind one of the traditional Chinese triad of Heaven, Humanity, and Earth. In Panikkar's case, however, though deeply informed by both the non-dualism of Hindu *advaita vedanta* and the Buddhist

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notion of dependent co-arising (*pratityasamutpada*, which he translates as “interindependence”), the deeper source is speculative Christian Trinitarian theology (with which Berry was obviously also familiar, despite his lack of formal training in theology and his self-designation as a “geologian”). The key insight here is the “perichoretic”, or mutually generating, relation among the three “persons” of the Trinity. “For Panikkar,” as summarized by Rowan Williams,

> the Trinitarian structure is that of a source, inexhaustibly generative and always generative, from which arises form and determination, "being" in the sense of what can be concretely perceived and engaged with; that form itself is never exhausted, never limited by this or that specific realization, but is constantly being realized in the flux of active life that equally springs out from the source of all. Between form, "logos", and life, "spirit", there is an unceasing interaction. The Source of all does not and cannot exhaust itself simply in producing shape and structure; it also produces that which dissolves and re-forms all structures in endless an undetermined movement, in such a way that all form itself is not absolutized but always turned back toward the primal reality of the Source. (xviii)

Echoing Swimme and Berry’s statement quoted above regarding the mutual implication of the three cosmogenetic principles, Pannikar states: “God without Man is nothing, literally ‘no-thing’. Man without God is exclusively a ‘thing’ not a person, not a really human being, while the World, the Cosmos, without Man and God is ‘any-thing without consistency and being; it is sheer non existing chaos. The three are constitutively connected.’” (Panikkar, 1979, quoted in Sabetta)

Like Panikkar’s “cosmotheanthropic” vision, Swimme and Berry see their cosmogenetic principles active throughout the entire universe story. It is in our middle realm or *Midgard* of Earth or Gaia, however, that we see the principles in action most clearly and consequentially.

II. Planetary:

1. autopoiesis and climate catastrophe

The auto-poietic or self-organizing dynamics of the Earth are apparent from the time, 4.45 billion years ago, that the now cooling planet brought forth the early atmosphere, oceans, and continents, the main organs of planetary physiology. In contrast with the other planets of our solar system, the Earth was graced with just the right mass, in just the right position, to allow for an exquisite dynamic balance of gravitational, nuclear, and electromagnetic forces, allowing it to become “the advanced edge of cosmogenesis in the solar system.” (Swimme and Berry, 84) The Earth

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continues to be geologically very active (Mars and Venus, by contrast, are geologically frozen). This activity is not only due to its unique physical-energetic profile, however, but to the presence of life, which emerged remarkably early some 4 billion ago. While the appearance of the first organisms can be considered as initially local emergent properties of early Gaian physiology, life quickly pervaded the oceans and began colonizing the continents, constituting a new Gaian sphere in its own right—the biosphere. As Bruce Clarke notes: “Autopoiesis and Gaia fit together as interlocking, micro- and macro- modes of systems theory: biological autopoiesis defines the minimal formal requirements for living systems, beginning with the cell, and Gaia captures the ‘planetary physiology’ of the biosphere, for which the atmosphere is the autopoietic membrane.” (Clarke)

One of the great insights of Lovelock and Margulis’s Gaia theory—an insight presupposed by all subsequent Earth system science—is that the chemical composition of this membrane was established and maintained by the evolution of the biosphere, which itself depends upon the life-constituted atmosphere for its continuing existence. From the reduction of the carbon-rich early atmosphere by the prokaryotes (single cell organisms without a nucleus)—which precipitated the first ice age—through the subsequent oxygen crisis and its eventual resolution some 550 million years ago (since that time, atmospheric oxygen has stabilized between 15-35%), the biosphere “altered the terrestrial unfolding. Earth’s adventure became a conversation among the hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere.” (Swimme and Berry, 93)

This millennial, or billennial, conversation has deteriorated in our own times, however, into a literally deadening monologue. For the first time in over 800,000 years, concentrations of atmospheric CO2 have surpassed 400 ppm. As a result, at the time of writing, the combined average global temperature across both land surfaces and oceans has already increased by .87 degrees C relative to the 20thC average. At just less than one degree of warming, we are witnessing significant increases in extreme weather events (storms, floods, heat waves), changes in patterns of precipitation, intensifying droughts, major fluctuations in the jet stream, acidification of the oceans (which have been acting as the major carbon sink) and indications of possible disruption of major ocean currents. The warming in the Artic is three times higher than the global average. This is especially significant due to the critical role played by Artic ice in cooling the planet. To begin with, Artic ice reflects up to 90% of sunlight back into space—the so-called albedo effect. Especially given the higher level of warming, Artic ice is melting, decreasing the albedo, which increases the rate of warming, resulting in ice-albedo feedback. Complicating matters are the enormous stores of methane stored in both

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permafrost beneath the ice and in the form of hydrates in the Artic ocean. The danger here, assuming a worst case scenario, is that

> further warming of the Arctic Ocean will unleash huge methane eruptions from the Arctic Ocean seafloor, in turn driving temperatures up even higher and causing more intense wildfires, heatwaves and further extreme weather events.... A polynomial trendline points at global temperature anomalies of over 4°C by 2060. Even worse, a polynomial trend for the Arctic shows temperature anomalies of over 4°C by 2020, 6°C by 2030 and 15°C by 2050, threatening to cause major feedbacks to kick in, including albedo changes and methane releases that will trigger runaway global warming that looks set to eventually catch up with accelerated warming in the Arctic and result in global temperature anomalies of 16°C by 2052. (Arctic News; or the most recent consensus view, only slightly less alarming see also see also Mooney)

Even if this worst case scenario does not pan out, the fact remains that the most recent IPCC report, which has set 2°C of warming as the upper limit beyond which we can expect irreversible catastrophic climate change (climate scientist James Hansen, by contrast, who first warned of the danger of global warming the 1980s, claims that 1°C is already catastrophic), does not factor in the feedback from the release of Artic methane.

The literature on global warming and climate science is increasing exponentially, and there is no way I could summarize even the most relevant recent findings, projections, and analyses. While many of these are contested, and all carry a degree of uncertainty, it can be said with increasing confidence (though the word “confidence” seems emotionally out of place here) that the situation is dire. Even the most likely best case scenarios seem to involve massive climate disruption and associated environmental catastrophe and likely civilizational collapse.

The irony of the situation, as stated in the introduction, is that the climate crisis has become the primary occasion for a growing public awareness of the self-organizing character of the Earth system. Though perhaps not conversant with the details of complex dynamical systems, more and more non-specialists understand what is meant by “tipping points” and “positive feedback”. More importantly, this awareness is coupled with the realization that human beings, far from being outside observers of the “environment”, are integral to the planetary system. The climate change in question is largely “anthropogenic”. What this means, theoretically, is that a more adequate view of the Earth or Gaia must include, alongside or interwoven with the geosphere and biosphere, an anthroposphere as its most recent epigenetic expression.

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Since autopoiesis, linked as it is to systemic closure, identity, and memory, points "to the interior dimension of things" (Swimme and Berry, 75), one could say that the emergence of the anthroposphere represents the stage in the evolution of Earth where the self-organizing dynamics of Gaia bring forth, in explicit relief, the latent potential of the biosphere for self-conscious, value-driven, agency. Of course, at this point, the quality of this self-consciousness is at best fragmentary or at least functionally dissociated. Despite a growing global awareness of the threat of climate catastrophe, the overwhelming inertia of human actions and the values supporting them are in the direction of business as usual, which is to say, in support of the interests of global capitalism, in general, and of the fossil fuel industry, in particular. The dissociation is well captured in the subtitle to Naomi Klein's epochal book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. (Klein) "So we are left with a stark choice," she writes: "allow climate disruption to change everything about our world, or change pretty much everything about our economy to avoid that fate." (22) And not just the economy, of course, since "we need to think differently, radically differently, for those changes to be remotely possible.... For any of this to change, a worldview will need to rise to the fore that sees nature, other nations, and our own neighbors not as adversaries, but rather as partners in a grand project of mutual invention." (23)

2. differentiation and mass extinction

The cosmogenetic principle of differentiation manifests itself in the evolution of the Earth from its inception as the variegated cloud of stellar elements that gathered to form the initial ball of molten rock (there are 92 known naturally occurring elements; oxygen, iron, silicon, and magnesium account for 90% of the mass of the geosphere). The settling of core, mantle, and crust, and then the primary organs of continents, oceans, and atmosphere manifest the larger scale geophysiological differentiation (in terms of elements, the oceans are 86% oxygen and 11% hydrogen by mass, while the atmosphere is 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen by volume). Though the early biosphere, constituted of single-cell organisms, was relatively homogenous, life would eventually differentiate into a staggering diversity of expression. It is estimated that over five billion species have emerged from the autopoietic creativity of Earth, a little more than one species for every year of its existence to date. 99% of these, however, have perished, mostly during the past five mass extinction events.

Though the news was slow in making its way into the mainstream media, it is now widely recognized that we are currently in the beginning, though accelerating, phase of the six mass extinction event. (see Ceballos et al., and Pimm et al.)[iii] The previous, Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction of 65 million years ago took out some three

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quarters of the Earth's animal and plant species, including the non-avian dinosaurs, and was likely caused by the impact of a large meteor or comet that struck the Yucatan Peninsula. The current mass extinction underway, however, is happening much faster, and it is entirely due to human activity. Like the current global climate crisis, in other words, the sixth mass extinction is anthropogenic. Though this would seem to bolster the choice of the term "Anthropocene" to describe the new geological age that humans have initiated (bringing the prior 65 million year Cenozoic to a close), the fact that humans are also on the potential extinction list should cast considerable doubt, or at least irony, on this choice of terms. While it is true that the previous mass extinctions made way for new waves of speciation—diversification through annihilation, one could say—it is quite possible that the striking exfoliations of life following the Permian and Cretaceous extinctions were Gaia's last great gestures of biological exuberance. In any case, since it has taken many millions of years for the biosphere to recover from past extinctions, and since the average life span of mammalian species is one million years, it is highly unlikely that humans will be around to enjoy what other life forms manage to survive.

The major drivers of the current mass extinction include habitat loss (especially forests and wetlands), ecological degradation (including mono-cultures, invasive species, pollution), species exploitation (over-fishing, hunting), ocean acidification (a special case of pollution), and of course global warming. Global warming not only exacerbates the other drivers, but is coupled with them, and especially habitat loss and ecological degradation, in a death-dealing positive feedback loop. The main driver, however, is the activity of the anthroposphere itself, whose global footprint, under the capitalist regime of industrial growth society, is currently at one and a half Earths and projected to be at three Earths by 2050 (that is, it would take three Earths to provide the resources consumed and to absorb the wastes produced). (see Global Footprint Network) Of course, there is only one Earth, and most of what will be consumed or lost (fossil fuels, the remaining old growth forests, countless species) can never be replaced. As far as the current mass extinction and global warming are concerned (and the two, as I have said, are coupled in a mutually amplifying feedback loop), we seem to have a very short window—a decade at most—to turn things around and avoid the worst case scenario.

Though perhaps initially counterintuitive, the assault on Gaian biodiversity can be understood as the result of a hypertrophy of the principle of differentiation in the anthroposphere. A distinguishing character of the human is the ability to order its experience and its world through the mediation of symbols. Though symbolic consciousness is naturally associated primarily with language, it is present wherever

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categorial distinctions are in play. In social contexts, for instance, one finds the primal distinction between insider and outsider, divisions of labor, levels of status or privilege, and so on. In terms of the current planetary crisis, we could point to three related paradigmatic or meta-level expressions of hypertrophic differentiation. The first is patriarchy, which has dominated socio-cultural evolution throughout the historical period. Feminist scholars have demonstrated the intrinsic alliance between the subordination of women and women's value spheres, on the one hand, and the domination of nature or the material realm in general, on the other (see Merchant, Spretnak, Keller). As for the domination of nature, while it is true that humans have spoiled, denuded, or otherwise disrupted their natural environments for many thousands of years, it was not until the advent of modern science and technology—the second expression of hypertrophic differentiation—and particularly following the industrial revolution and the exploitation of fossil fuels, that humans became ecocidal on a planetary scale. The modern scientific paradigm is founded on the root metaphor of the cosmos as machine, the constitutive elements of which are thought of as lifeless and merely externally related to one another. Scientific knowledge is primarily instrumental, allowing for the prediction and control of objects for human use.

Again, however, even patriarchy and modern science and technology would not, by themselves, be able to lead the planet to the edge of catastrophe were it not for the third expression of hypertrophic differentiation—namely, global capitalism. Making full use of the other-dominating, instrumentalist attitudes and practices of the first two expressions, capitalism, to begin with in alliance with colonialism and then also in the form of corporatocracy, quickly became its own planet-wide autopoietic force. While it is the case that the universe story and the Gaian consciousness that it celebrates would not have emerged without this world-making force, its creative role is now overshadowed by its apocalyptic potential.

3. communion and Empire

Like the third moment in the Hegelian dialectic, or the Holy Spirit of the Christian Trinity, the third cosmogenetic principle—communion—is simultaneously presupposed by the first two, and the expression of their harmonious interplay. It is presupposed because there can be neither self-making nor differentiation without real internal and external relations. At the same time, true communion is impossible between essentially lifeless (no identity) or completely identical (no difference) entities. It is only with the full expression of communion, therefore, that the creative potential of the cosmogenetic principle can be fully actualized. "The universe," write Swimme and Berry, "evolves into beings that are different from each other, and that organize themselves. But in addition

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to this, the universe advances into community—into a differentiated web of relationships among sentient beings." (77) The principle of communion is evident at all scales of the cosmos and at all stages of the evolutionary journey: in the quantum entanglement of elementary particles; in the mutual gravitational attraction of galaxies, stars, and planets; in the miraculous origin of life in the prolonged courtship of organic molecules and lightning in the primordial oceans; in the symbiogenetic mergers that birthed the first eukaryotic cells; in the complex webs of ecosystem communication; in the millions of years of mammalian bondings; in the forgotten gatherings of archaic hominid societies; in the many histories, mostly unwritten, of creative human collaboration, mutual assistance, celebration....

"The loss of relationship," by contrast, "with its consequent alienation, is a kind of supreme evil in the universe.... To be locked up in a private world, to be cut off from intimacy with other beings, to be incapable of entering the joy of mutual presence—such conditions were taken [in traditional religious contexts] as the essence of damnation. (78) While every living being will, at one time or another, experience moments of alienation, and while human history is in no small measure a history of oppression, our own times are the first to be organized on the basis of systematic alienation on a planetary scale. Granting such remarkable achievements as the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, and a widespread affirmation, in principle at least, of the ideal of universal human rights, it is nevertheless the case that approximately half the world population lives in extreme poverty and the deprivations with which it is associated. Thomas Pogge sums up the situation as follows:

> The collective income of all these people—the bottom half—is less than three percent of global household income, and so there is a grotesque maldistribution of income and wealth. The bottom quarter of the human population has only three-quarters of one percent of global household income, about one thirty-second of the average income in the world, whereas the people in the top five percent have nine times the average income. So the ratio between the averages in the top five percent and the bottom quarter is somewhere around 300 to one.... (Pogge)

The statistics on global wealth inequality are even more obscene, with the wealthiest 1% owning more than the remaining 99%. (see Elliot and Pilkington) Measures of relative wealth and poverty are perhaps the single most revealing indicators of the full range of inequalities, beginning with access to—or quality of—food, water, and shelter, and including access to education, social services, and other factors contributing to quality of life.

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As it now stands, the world situation can be described as a kind of planetary apartheid. I use the word planetary instead of global here so as to include other than human beings in the equation, the larger portion of whom, as we have seen above, are on the verge of extinction.[iv] Along with the billions of humans living in misery, there are 10 billion animals (approximately 1.3 for every human being on the planet) reared in concentration camps (factory farms) each year for human use. The two classes of oppressed—human and other than human—are the victims of a single overarching system or regime, which can perhaps best be described with the term Empire. In David Korten's formulation, Empire is based on

> the hierarchical ordering of human relationships [among humans and between humans and other than humans] based on the principle of domination. The mentality of Empire embraces material excess for the ruling classes, honors the dominator power of death and violence, denies the feminine principle, and suppresses the realization of the potentials of human [and other than human]maturity. (Korten, 20)

Unlike smaller empires throughout the historical period, the current global Empire does not have a single standing army to impose its rule. While the military industrial complex, or complexes, together constitute a significant player in the global economy, the rule of Empire is maintained through the pervasive power of global capitalism—which is to say, the private ownership (overwhelmingly by the 1%) of the forces of production. The latter include the various industries, the goods produced (whether material or informational), and the labor used to produce them, along with mechanisms not only to profit through the trading of financial capital, but the power literally to create money out of thin air (fiat currency). Marx was the first to articulate the ways in which individuals and classes are alienated under capitalist modes of production—alienated from the products of their labor, from the process of production, from other people, from the natural world.

There are three mutually enabling features of capitalism—an unholy trinity, if you will—that I would underline here, which I could describe in terms of motive, means, and mode. The main motive is cupidity or greed for gain, which takes the form of the pursuit of maximization of profit and continuous growth in revenues. This is achieved by various means, but must ultimately rely on the discovery or creation of new markets, cheap labor, the disposability or obsolescence of products, and the stimulation of desire for new products. As has now become obvious, the successful pursuit of continuous growth has also relied on the assumption of infinite resources (material and energetic) and the so-called externalization of costs to both human societies and the natural environment. The latter form of externalization, which amounts to a degradation of natural systems,

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exacerbates the effects of resource depletion through over-exploitation (for instance, ocean acidification from CO2 pollution amplifying collapse of marine species through over-fishing).

The means by which global capitalism achieves its motive is the private ownership of what would otherwise be—and arguably, what ought to be—owned in common. As long as one could ignore externalization of costs, it is at least understandable how people could be blind to the injustice of private ownership of productive forces. Unless one is persuaded, as I am, by the Marxist ethical analysis of how profit depends on alienated labor—on a form of theft, in other words—it might not be evident why, for instance, a creative and hard-working entrepreneur should not be able to own his own business—say, a chain of grocery stores that caters to educated, environmentally conscious consumers—especially if his employees are all paid above the minimum wage.

Where the wrong of private ownership of the commons (including labor) becomes glaringly obvious is when the nature of productive activity is set in its full ecological context—that is, in the planetary or Gaian commons in which we live and have our being. In this context, there can be no “externalization” of costs. This realization first came to public awareness with the cross-border effects of acid rain, but of course is now fully apparent and calling for decisive action in connection with the catastrophic effects of atmospheric CO2 generated by capitalist industries. Though less obvious, the same concern ought to be extended to the presence and continued release of radio-nucleotides, persistent organic chemicals, and other toxins into the biosphere. The presence of all such toxins, including CO2, though suffered by every living thing on the planet (and more immediately and intensely by the socio-economically disadvantaged), are the result of capitalist modes of production, and thus flow from the decisions of the 1% (who also reap most of the benefit). The same is true, of course, for the generalized degradation of the biosphere (habitat loss, decimation of plant and animal species through over-exploitation, industrial mono-cropping, etc.). The point, therefore, is that the greed-guided, private ownership of productive forces that constitutes capitalism is incompatible—in both real and ethical terms—with the fact of the global commons.[v]

The mode of global capitalism, or of Empire, can be described in terms of the root paradigmatic assumption of the dominant late-modern worldview. The latter has been characterized variously as mechanistic, techno-centric or technocratic, reductionistic, instrumentalist, rationalistic, economistic, and disenchanted. All of these terms presuppose a view of the universe as a “collection of objects” (Swimme and Berry, 243)—that is, as essentially inert things with merely extrinsic value (which, in the

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capitalist system, is defined in terms of commodities). Regardless of where one might stand, given their autopoietic nature, with respect to the subjectivity of fundamental particles, atoms, stars and galaxies, or even of the simpler organisms, it is now almost universally recognized that human beings are not objects to be bought or sold (this despite the persistence of human trafficking, and both wage and debt slavery). Because of the ecological solidarity of human beings with the Gaian system, however—a solidarity which means that the Earth is not merely our environment, but in a very real sense our extended body, which, through rampant privatization of the commons, *is* being bought and sold—we are brought once again to the fundamental contradiction of capitalism, again, well captured by the subtitle of Klein's book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*, and the subtitle of Korten's earlier, more comprehensive work, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*.

As an indication of the supraordinate character of the principle of communion, Swimme and Berry make the following claim: "That the universe is a communion of subjects rather than a collection of objects is the central commitment of the Ecozoic". (243) The term Ecozoic is their proposal for the geological age in process of succeeding the 65 million year Cenozoic. "The comprehensive objective of the Ecozoic," they affirm,

> is to assist in establishing a mutually enhancing human presence on the Earth.... The immediate goal...is not simply to diminish the devastation of the planet that is taking place at present. It is rather to alter the consciousness that is responsible for such deadly activities. (250-251)

Swimme and Berry speak of the need to evoke a "counter to the commercial-industrial mystique" (250) that has "misenchanted" the modern mind. (Segall) Overriding traditional political and ideological divisions, they assert that

> the dominant issue of the immediate future will be the tension between the Entrepreneur and the Ecologist, between those who would continue their plundering, and those who would truly preserve the natural world, between the mechanistic and the organic, between the world as collection of objects and the world as a communion of subjects, between the anthropocentric and the biocentric norms of reality and value. (250)

Conclusion: homo sapiens-demens and the Gaianthropocene

Though I agree with its spirit, I would amend the terms of the last opposition in the passage just quoted. It is certainly the case that the human presence on the planet has become ecocidal. To my mind, however, the root problem is not so much anthropocentrism per se as a mutilated understanding of anthropos, where the human

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has set itself, in deed if not in theory, above or outside of the cosmological reality in which it is in fact embedded. At the same time, however, it is equally true that this cosmological reality is only given to us as mediated through our specifically human life-world. It is, after all, human science and reflection that have brought forth the universe story. Practically speaking, moreover, it is the case, as Swimme and Berry themselves recognize, that if "the emergence of the Cenozoic in all its brilliance was independent of any human influence, almost every phase of the Ecozoic will involve the human. While the human cannot make a blade of grass, there is liable not to be a blade of grass unless it is accepted, protected, and fostered by the human." (247) It is for these reasons that there is a growing consensus around the term Anthropocene to describe the dawning geological era. The danger of this term, however, is that it will amplify the hubris in the dominant, mutilated and myopic understanding of the human as preeminently *homo faber, technologicus,* or *economicus*.

As for the self-designation of humans as *homo sapiens sapiens*, the lone survivor among the genus *homo*, one might understandably question the unqualified attribution of the term "wise", let alone its doubling (the "wisest among the wise"). We have, it is true, the undisputed brilliance of human intelligence as seen not only in our own times with the grand, if still and perhaps forever incomplete narrative of the universe story, and more generally in the awesome variety of human cultural expression (in art, religion, and philosophy; in the human and social sciences generally; in the myriad traditions of indigenous knowledge and practice). At the same time, the human story has also been one of violence and bigotry, of superstition and illusion, and at least throughout the historical period, of domination through war, slavery, dispossession, and persecution. In the last century, the destructive potential of our species reached planetary proportions with the first world wars and the three symptoms of planetary madness that I have focused on in these pages: climate catastrophe, mass extinction of species, and planetary apartheid. Given this shadow that has always accompanied the light in which we would like to behold ourselves, a more apt term for our species, as Edgar Morin has proposed, would be *homo sapiens-demens*, the "wise-mad" animal.

This potential for madness, however, is not limited to the aggression of the Freudian death instinct (*thanatos*). The *demens* in question, though it can and has expressed itself demonically, is also the source of the *daimonic*—that is, the imaginal, inspirational, ecstatic, and participatory modes of being in the world. The attempt to banish the daimonic is its own form of madness, a dissociation of that which is, or should be, complexly interwoven. "The bipolarity of *sapiens-demens*," writes Morin,

> is the extreme expression of the existential bipolarity of the two kinds of life which

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> weave our lives, one serious, utilitarian, and prosaic, the other playful, aesthetic, poetic.... Moreover, *sapiens* is within *demens* and *demens* is within *sapiens*, as with the yin and yang, each one containing the other. Between one and the other, in a manner both antagonistic and complementary, there is no clear boundary.... A totally rational, technical, and utilitarian life would not only be demented, but inconceivable. A life without any kind of rationality would be equally impossible…
>
> Human beings live not only through rationality and tools; they make use of and give themselves over to dance, trance, myth, magic, and ritual.... Play, celebration, rituals, are not simply forms of relaxation that allow one to return to the practical life of work. Belief in gods and ideas cannot be reduced to the status of illusion or superstition: they have roots that plunge into the depths of human nature.... This is the paradox, the richness, the prodigality, the discontent, the happiness of *homo sapiens-demens*. (Morin 2001, 131)

Acknowledging the truth of what is suggested by the term Anthropocene, though affirming the ideal of the Ecozoic as conceived by Swimme and Berry, the new era that we have initiated might best be described by the term *Gaianthropocene*. Like the bipolarity of *homo sapiens-demens*, the advantage of this term is that it suggests the complex character of the relation between humans and Earth. Complex because the nature and destiny of each term is interwoven with the other (*com-plexere*, to weave together). Though there was once an Earth without humans, there is will longer be an Earth without the presence of the human. Even after the passing of the last of our species, whether through self-induced extinction or through the inevitable demise of what remains of the biosphere (at the limit, when, in 3 billion years, the oceans begin to boil off from steadily increasing solar radiation), Earth's geochemistry, if nothing else, will still carry the signature of our world-transforming activities (for instance, to mention just one example, with the global presence and distribution of anthropogenic depleted uranium, whose half life is over 4.5 billion years).

The relation between Gaia and anthropos is also complex (in Morin's understanding of complexity) in that it is dialogical, recursive, holographic, and uncertain.[vi] It is dialogical because human being is both complementary (as a potentially synergistic partner) and antagonistic (to the point of ecocide) relative to the wider Gaian system. It is recursive in that, though an emergent product of Gaian evolution, the human has itself become a significant causal factor in this evolution. It is holographic insofar as each term, in important ways, both contains and is contained by the other (that humans are part of the encompassing whole that is Gaia should be obvious. That Gaia is contained by the human is most apparent with the idea and fact of

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the anthroposphere, the outermost though, as we have seen, most consequential layer of the Gaian system).

Finally, the relation is uncertain, not only relative to the ultimate ground and details of their respective origins and entwined histories, but also in their ultimate fates. While there is a relatively solid consensus around the likely demise of the planet in cosmological terms (a maximum life expectancy of another 3 or 4 billion years), in the near to middle term, at least, there is an unknown set of possible alternative futures. With each month and year that passes, however, a future that includes the kind of magnificent biodiversity that preceded and has always supported our species, if indeed a real possibility, becomes less and less probable. As the web of life itself continues to unravel, so too will the recently woven fabric of planetary civilization. We do not yet know, though surely some alive today will know, if we can halt our hurtling ever deeper into planetary madness. If there is hope, it is because we (many of us, at least) know what is at stake, know what must be done to have a fighting chance of avoiding the worst.

Editor's Endnote: One concrete thing you can do: join our NSP--Network of Spiritual Progressives at www.spiritualprogressivdes.org and then take our ESRA--Environmental and Social Responsibiity Amendment to the U.S Constitution and get your local social change, human rights, environmental, religious, and civic organizaitons to endorse it, ask every candidate you asks you for your support to publicly endorse it, and ask you city council, representatives to your state legislature, and representatives to the U.S. Congress (both House and Senate) to endorse it. It is the most visionary yet detialed and practical proposal currenlty being considered. And once you join the NSP, we'll help train you to be able to advocate for it and for our proposed Global and Domestic Marshall Plan.

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[i] By “comprehensive” I mean inclusive of the known universe at all levels of organization, from the microphysical to the large-scale cosmic. Of course I recognize that various theories (the singularity and Big Bang, for instance) in each of the individual disciplines are contested and that there is no universally recognized overall account or “meta-theory” encompassing all of the disciplines. Nevertheless, the widespread consensus around such things as universal expansion, the history of Earth, the evolution of species, and climate change give an indication of the breadth of agreement within and among major scientific disciplines.

[ii] The field or discipline of Big History traces its formal origins to the work of David Christian (2005), who coined the term. In fact, however, classics in the field include Swimme and Berry’s *Universe Story* (1992), Teilhard de Chardin’s *Human Phenomenon* (1955/1999), Carl Sagan’s Cosmos series (1980), Jacob Bronowski’s *Ascent of Man* (1973), and much earlier works, including especially von Humboldt’s *Cosmos* (1845), and the early 19C works of Lorenz Oken and Schelling, among others.

[iii] Ceballos et al. represents the most recent, conservative estimate of 100 times the background extinction rate; for the more likely rate of 1000 times, see Pimm et al..

[iv] For the meaning of the term global apartheid, see Mutassa.

[v] I know that many will say that the problem is not capitalism as such, but “predatory” or “unregulated” capitalism. If I am correct in my view of the motive, means, and mode of capitalism, however, capitalism is “predatory” by nature, which is why, if it is to exist at all, it needs to be heavily regulated! In this connection, see David Graeber’s piece on “savage capitalism” (Graeber).

[vi] For an extended discussion of Morin’s “paradigm of complexity”, see Kelly 2016.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 3/16/2015 12:18:46 AM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

I'm good with that. Just think we should emphasize that they are not just wasting time they are wasting your money.

On Mar 16, 2015 6:46 AM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Maybe a continued waste of taxpayers' money while the Republicans in Congress continue to block anything that would help everyday Americans get ahead.

Joel Benenson
Benenson Strategy Group

On Mar 16, 2015, at 6:29 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I think we should be calling this millions of dollars of taxpayer funded oppo research.

On Mar 15, 2015 5:13 PM, "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com > wrote:

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on

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Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post: "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal: " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press, "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call, "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Terry Sheridan" <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/23/2011 9:52:55 AM
Subject: RE: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

John:

Thanks for your willingness to help. We have our conference call next Monday and we should decide on the slate of candidates then. The headhunter sent out a status report to the committee today so hopefully Bruce will be able to weigh in and possibly participate in our call on Monday. I'll forward the information package on the candidate interview slate to you which should be available by later next week.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Terry

Terry Kelly Sheridan
Director, Human Resources
William J. Clinton Foundation
55 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
T 917.720.0283
tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org

From: John Podesta [john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 7:04 PM
To: Terry Sheridan
Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

That's fine. I'd like to see the paper, but happy to hold on
interviews till the 2nd round. 19/20 in DC should work. Go ahead and
post Bruce on this.

On Tue, Nov 22, 2011 at 1:36 PM, Terry Sheridan
<tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
> John:
>
> I had a chance to review your participation by phone in the interviews with the search firm, and they feel that it's difficult to be meaningfully engaged on the phone. Apparently they have done tele-presence before, but they find it creates constraints in engaging with the candidates. What they recommend is arranging an in-person meeting for the second round, and these could be done in DC on Dec. 19-20 if that makes it easier for you. They were also thinking that in between the first and second round, we could entertain flying a group of candidates out to San Francisco to meet Eric. We could also consider flying the candidates to Little Rock to meet with Bruce for that matter.
>
> Let me know if you think I should send a note to Bruce on this, or if you think you would want to discuss it with him. Also, please let me know your thoughts about your seeing the second-round candidates in DC. Thanks.
>
> Terry
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 3:40 PM
> To: Terry Sheridan
> Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search
>
> Terry,
> I need to be in DC on those days, but could probably participate in a number of the interviews by phone from DC. Let's discuss tomorrow.
> John
>

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> On Thu, Nov 17, 2011 at 12:04 PM, Terry Sheridan <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
>> John:
>>
>>
>>
>> I hope your trip is going well.
>>
>>
>>
>> I wanted to follow up with you on a major project we are working on -
>> the executive search for the CEO of CGSGI. We have retained Russell
>> Reynolds for the search, and we are working with Annie Simonds from
>> their Washington DC office. They have identified a number of viable
>> candidates and we are scheduled to conduct in-person interviews in NY
>> on December 7th and 8th, with follow up interviews on December 19th and 20th.
>>
>>
>>
>> Bruce is on the search committee but obviously hasn't been able to
>> participate these past few weeks. In addition to myself and Annie
>> Simonds, the other members are Christy Louth, Executive Director of
>> CGSGI Canada, and Eric Nonacs, a member of the CGSGI Steering
>> Committee and of the CGSGI Canada Board of Directors, whom you may
>> know. Christy will particpate in the December 7th & 8th interviews,
>> but is not available for the follow up interviews, and Eric is
>> unfortunately not available for either. We were counting on Bruce to
>> add an important management perspective, but I am not sure if he will
>> be able to participate. If he is not able, would you be able to help,
>> particularly for the first round on December 7th and 8th? It will be
>> important to have good representation on our end not only to evaluate
>> the candidates but also to attract them to the position. I know you
>> have a very full plate, but if your schedule would be able to
>> accommodate this, the search firm would of course brief you on the
>> candidate slate, and will be preparing a summary of specific questions
>> and areas we will want to explore in our interviews with candidates.
>> There will be a total of 8 candidates to speak to on 12/7 & 12/8, with the objective of narrowing the field to 4 candidates for the 2nd round later that month.
>>
>>
>>
>> Another alternative could be to reschedule the interviews for January,
>> but the objective has been to move this along at an aggressive pace as
>> Frank Giustra is very eager to fill this position (it has been vacant
>> since mid-year). Once we agree on the second-round candidates, we
>> could also fly the candidates out to San Francisco where Eric is based.
>>
>>
>>
>> I would appreciate your bringing this up with Bruce when you next
>> speak, and your thoughts on the possible alternatives if he is not
>> available. Thanks and safe travels.
>>
>>
>>
>> Terry
>

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/3/2014 2:02:04 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday September 3, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday September 3, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Media Matters for America: "Reported Central Contentions Of New Benghazi Book Already Debunked"

"A new book that seeks to damage Hillary Clinton over the 2012 attacks in Benghazi reportedly relies on long-debunked conservative myths."

Wall Street Journal: "Maryland Governor Inches Toward Presidential Run"

"Aides to Mr. O'Malley said it is possible donors misconstrued the governor's unwillingness to rule out a bid against Mrs. Clinton as a clear statement he would run against her. "Right now, he is thinking long and hard about this, and he will make his decision irrespective of what other people do," an O'Malley aide said."

MSNBC: "Glenn Beck: 'Hillary Clinton will be the next president'"

"Beck, who left Fox News in 2011 to start his own media empire, predicted this week that the former secretary of state will be the next president, and not through any kind of trickery or skullduggery."

The Blaze: "Why Glenn Beck Said Hillary Clinton 'Will Be the Next President of the United States'"

"'There's no vision,' Beck said of the GOP. 'It's all about the past, past, past. Where is the vision for the future?'"

National Journal: "6 Things to Watch When Hillary Heads to Vegas"

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"Hillary Clinton is about to give her first energy and climate speech of a publicity tour that many believe is the springboard to a presidential campaign."

The Advocate opinion: Kerry Eleveld: "Clinton's New Challenge: The Millennials"

"While LGBT voters have a long history with Clinton, millennials are still just getting to know her. She needs to give them a reason to go to the polls, and looking like a leader on LGBT issues is one way to do it."

Los Angeles Times opinion: Michele Willens, guest blogger: "The question isn't really 'will Hillary Clinton run?' but rather 'can't we do better'?"

"This all may qualify as one of those white women's problems, but it is entirely possible that Hillary is the lens through which many of us see ourselves."

Politico: Roger Simon: "Is Mitt Romney really a loser for life?"

"Republicans are already looking past their biggest weakness — the current Republican field — to what they believe will be their biggest strength: Hillary Clinton as the standard-bearer for Obama's third term."

Politico: "Bill Clinton to raise money for Mary Landrieu"

"Bill Clinton is set to headline a fundraiser for Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu on Saturday, capping a whirlwind week of campaign appearances that will take the former president from the Northeast to the South."

New Haven Register (Conn.): "Bill Clinton rallies party faithful in New Haven event for Gov. Malloy"

"Alluding to her [Sec. Clinton's] expected run for president in 2016, New Haven Mayor Toni Harp welcomed the 'homecoming for the first President Clinton.'"

BuzzFeed: "What Exactly Is Amy Klobuchar Up To?"

"Furious travel schedules like these are usually meant to do one thing: produce a big spike in a politician's influence."

The Daily Beast: "Gail Sheehy Books Passage to the Past"

"She [Sheehy] nevertheless declares herself to be sympathetic to the former secretary of state. 'I don't find her to be particularly likeable, but I am a great admirer and I always like to see her succeed.'"

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Articles:

Media Matters for America: "Reported Central Contentions Of New Benghazi Book Already Debunked"

By Matt Gertz

September 2, 2014, 4:16 p.m. EDT

A new book that seeks to damage Hillary Clinton over the 2012 attacks in Benghazi reportedly relies on long-debunked conservative myths.

On September 9, WND Books will publish Aaron Klein's The REAL Benghazi Story: What the White House and Hillary Don't Want You to Know. The book's release is the latest salvo from a conservative cottage industry that aims to make money and political hay out of both Benghazi and Clinton smears.

Klein, a senior reporter for the birther site WND, is not a credible author -- one of his recent books portrayed President Obama as a "Manchurian Candidate" whose autobiography was ghostwritten by Bill Ayers.

The Washington Examiner's Paul Bedard, who reviewed an advance copy of Klein's Benghazi book, reported that Klein argues "Clinton was unwilling to provide additional security to the diplomatic outpost and even played a role in sending Stevens to his 'doomed mission.'"

Klein's contention that Clinton "was unwilling to provide additional security to the diplomatic outpost" seems to reference the long-debunked conservative claim that the then-Secretary of State personally signed off on cables rejecting requests for additional security. When congressional Republicans first made that claim in April 2013, diplomatic reporters noted that every cable sent to the State Department from overseas facilities is addressed to the secretary, and every cable sent from the State Department is signed by the secretary, even though the secretary rarely reviews them.

In her 2014 memoir, Clinton wrote that she had never seen the cables in question, stating, "That's not how it works. It shouldn't. And it didn't."

Klein's claim that Clinton "played a role in sending Stevens" to his death in Benghazi has also been debunked. The State Department's Accountability Review Board reported that Stevens "made the decision to travel to Benghazi independently of Washington, per standard practice," with the trip's timing "driven in part by commitments in Tripoli." Gregory Hicks, who was Stevens' deputy, also testified before Congress that the ambassador "chose to go" to Benghazi.

Wall Street Journal: "Maryland Governor Inches Toward Presidential Run"

By Peter Nicholas

September 2, 2014, 7:57 p.m. EDT

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[Subtitle:] Fundraisers Say Gov. Martin O'Malley Tells Them Hillary Clinton Candidacy Wouldn't Stop Him

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Democratic fundraisers say Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has told them he would enter the presidential race even if front-runner Hillary Clinton is a candidate, suggesting she would face at least some competition for her party's nomination from an established elected official if she runs.

Mr. O'Malley's camp had signaled earlier this year that the governor likely wouldn't join the field if Mrs. Clinton sought the Democratic nomination. But some party fundraisers say they have come away from private conversations with Mr. O'Malley with a clear impression that he wouldn't stand down should Mrs. Clinton run.

As is the case with Mrs. Clinton, the governor says he is still deciding his course. Asked if he would compete against Mrs. Clinton, Mr. O'Malley, in a recent interview in the State House, said: "I'm not inclined to talk about that at this point. But I don't blame you for asking."

Despite his public reticence, Mr. O'Malley's message to fundraisers and other recent actions show him to be making the sorts of moves that would position him for an eventual run.

He will be the keynote speaker at a Sept. 26 Democratic Party fundraising dinner in New Hampshire, the state that holds the nation's first primary, and has dispatched a couple of dozen campaign staffers to states with competitive races in the midterms. He is planning a trip to California later in the month to raise money for a political-action committee he has used to give money to candidates and party committees in states that loom large in presidential races.

His PAC gave $5,000 to the New Hampshire Democratic Party in May and $2,500 to a New Hampshire Democratic congresswoman in July, federal election records show.

"He's building up a series of IOUs and he's showing a willingness to serve the party, and he thereby creates goodwill," said Lou D'Allesandro, a Democratic state senator in New Hampshire.

A two-term governor who leaves office in January, Mr. O'Malley signed a law raising the state's minimum wage to $10.10 an hour by 2018. Last year, after the shootings at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., he signed legislation banning various kinds of assault weapons and imposing new limits on the size of gun magazines. The same year, he pushed through the first state gas-tax increase since 1992, which supporters said was needed to improve the state's aging transportation network.

This summer, Mr. O'Malley said unaccompanied minors illegally entering the U.S. shouldn't be returned to home countries where they would be in danger—a position at odds with the White House, which was warning that children who weren't eligible to remain in the U.S. would be sent home.

"He should have been more of a centrist if he really thought he was going to run for president," said Kathy Szeliga, GOP whip in the state house of delegates.

An O'Malley supporter disputes that. "The proof is in the pudding," said Maryland state Sen. James Rosapepe, a Democrat. "We lead the region in job creation, we have the best rated schools in the United States…So I think that's a very mainstream record that will appeal to people across the country.

Doug Goldman, a major fundraiser for President Barack Obama who lives in San Francisco, said he met with Mr. O'Malley privately in the spring. "Martin O'Malley is making it pretty clear that his ultimate goal is president of the United States," Mr. Goldman said. He said the governor indicated that, "Yes, that's the next step for him, that he is running."

Another Democratic fundraiser said he asked Mr. O'Malley in recent months what he would do if Mrs. Clinton entered the race. This person said he asked because he didn't want to spend time assisting with Mr. O'Malley's fundraising if in the end the governor would retreat in the face of a Clinton candidacy. He "told me flat out he's going to run either way," the person said.

A third Democratic fundraiser said Mr. O'Malley told supporters at an event last year in California without qualification that he was running for

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president.

Aides to Mr. O'Malley said it is possible donors misconstrued the governor's unwillingness to rule out a bid against Mrs. Clinton as a clear statement he would run against her. "Right now, he is thinking long and hard about this, and he will make his decision irrespective of what other people do," an O'Malley aide said.

Mr. O'Malley's deliberations come as Democrats debate whether Mrs. Clinton would clear the field should she run. Some of Mr. O'Malley's supporters, along with prominent Democrats nationally, say the better course would be to have a meaningful primary-election debate about the party's direction.

"Competition is really good," said Terry Lierman, who has raised campaign money for Mr. O'Malley. "It's good in business, it's good in sports and it's essential in politics. It makes better candidates.…I don't think Martin O'Malley or any candidate should be scared by another candidate."

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, Nick Merrill, said Tuesday: "She as much as anyone knows that running for president is a very personal and weighty decision that people need to make on their own, based on whatever factors they want to take into account."

For Mr. O'Malley, a major hurdle is building a national profile. A July Gallup Poll showed that, among Democrats and those who lean toward the party, 84% had either never heard of or had no opinion of him. Polls have consistently shown Mrs. Clinton with far more support than Mr. O'Malley, Vice President Joe Biden and other Democrats.

"In 2008 Hillary Clinton was the favorite to win," said Bill Burton, who was part of the 2008 Barack Obama campaign team that defeated Mrs. Clinton. "But in 2016 her infrastructure is so much bigger and her resources will be so much grander and the ability to spend money will be so much more vast than it was in '08 that it would be very tough for a primary contender to beat her."

MSNBC: "Glenn Beck: 'Hillary Clinton will be the next president'"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 2, 2014, 5:53 p.m. EDT

He may have once called President Barack Obama the racist puppet of a vast global conspiracy, but conservative talk show host Glenn Beck seems to be more sanguine about his potential replacement, Hillary Clinton.

Beck, who left Fox News in 2011 to start his own media empire, predicted this week that the former secretary of state will be the next president, and not through any kind of trickery or skullduggery.

"Hillary Clinton will be the next president of the United States," he said on his radio show Monday, citing a conversation he said a friend of his had with some "Hillary people" who outlined her alleged 2016 campaign plans. Beck said that as he heard the strategy laid out, he thought, "Oh my gosh, she's going to win the presidency."

While the right will be "fighting on Benghazi and everything else," Beck said, "Hillary is going to [say], 'Do you remember when America was good? Do you remember when we had jobs and we were building towards a brighter future, and things were really happening? The Clinton administration, we had it under control."

He continued: "Things were good, and … we're going to do better." Beck said he understood the strength of the strategy because he understood the appeal of the first Clinton administration. "I would so gladly take Bill Clinton right now," he said he's often thought.

Always a heterodox, Beck's take is a different one from the standard conservative line, which is that Clinton is old news. Instead, the pundit said

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that the potential candidate has a “vision for the future” while the GOP is “all about the past,” with a focus on issues like the Benghazi incident and the IRS scandal.

Beck’s sourcing is, of course, dubious, and Clinton doesn’t have any kind of full-scale political strategy team around her yet. Still, many expect the former first lady, who has said she will decide on a potential 2016 presidential run by the end of this year, to draw on the popularity of her husband’s administration.

The Blaze: “Why Glenn Beck Said Hillary Clinton ‘Will Be the Next President of the United States’”

By Erica Ritz

September 2, 2014, 3:36 p.m. EDT

Glenn Beck said on his radio program Tuesday that “Hillary Clinton will be the next president of the United States.”

Beck said he received information from a friend of his, who is also friends with the “Hillary people,” about Clinton’s campaign strategy in 2016. Beck said that when he heard it, he said, “Oh my gosh, she’s going to win the presidency.”

Beck said Clinton’s “people” told his friend: “The right is so stupid. They just don’t get it. You guys are going to all be fighting on Benghazi and everything else, and here’s what Hillary is going to do. [She is going to say], ‘Do you remember when America was good? Do you remember when we had jobs and we were building towards a brighter future, and things were really happening? The Clinton administration, we had it under control. Things were good, and … we’re going to do better. We’re going to replant our flag in the traditional things that you understand.’”

“And this is what made me say, ‘Oh, my gosh, she’s going to win,’” Beck said. “Pat and I both have said in the past, ‘I would so gladly take Bill Clinton right now. Don’t those years seem simple and good [compared to today]?’”

“And what we will do is play the game of technicality, technicality — all of them valid,” Beck said. “But that’s what it would be viewed as. We already have friends on the left who say, ‘Will you guys just shut up about Benghazi?’ They’ve won that. Same with the IRS. All of it. And while we’re talking about technicalities and the past, they’re going to be talking about a past that was brightly remembered, and they will talk about the America we will become. She will win.”

Beck co-host Stu Burguiere pointed out that Clinton was unable to transmit that vision in 2008.

“She would have done it, had it not been for Barack Obama,” Beck said. “It was the wild card.”

“She had a lot of opportunity, Glenn,” Burguiere said. “And remember, this is the same person who had a 75 percent approval rating as of a year ago, and now that she’s been talking again, she’s down to under 50. As soon as we start hearing from Hillary Clinton, we realize we don’t like Hillary Clinton.”

“Until we start hearing before from John Boehner, Jeb Bush,” Beck responded.

Burguiere agreed: “All the strategy against Jeb Bush, she’ll win by 60 points.”

“There’s no vision,” Beck said of the GOP. “It’s all about the past, past, past. Where is the vision for the future?”

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Watch the complete discussion, below:

[VIDEO]

National Journal: "6 Things to Watch When Hillary Heads to Vegas"

By Ben Geman and Jason Plautz

September 3, 2014

Hillary Clinton is about to give her first energy and climate speech of a publicity tour that many believe is the springboard to a presidential campaign.

Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nod if she runs, will be the keynote speaker Thursday at Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's annual energy conference in Las Vegas.

She's not the only bold-faced name at the event, which includes remarks from Reid, White House adviser John Podesta, and others. But Clinton's speech is sure to be the biggest draw and attract the most scrutiny.

Here what the energy world is watching for:

Will She Split With Obama?

One of the biggest stories of Clinton's summer of media appearances was her criticism of elements of President Obama's foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic. It's unclear whether any ruptures are in the offing on energy and climate policy. Back when both were running for president in 2008, they split over a gasoline-tax holiday (Clinton favored it, Obama didn't).

More recently, Clinton has praised Obama's carbon regulations for power plants, but energy and climate policy are sprawling topics, so there's plenty of room for differences—eventually.

Do Climate Deniers Get an Olive Branch or a Baseball Bat?

Obama has minced no words of late when he talks about opponents to his climate-change efforts, poking at members of Congress who "stubbornly and automatically reject the scientific evidence about climate change." Clinton has likewise been dismissive of climate deniers, but will she try to strike a more conciliatory stance to keep open the prospect of cooperation with Republican foes?

At a June speech at a Biotechnology Industry Organization conference, Clinton instead went after the media for creating a "false equivalency" by bringing on climate deniers to balance the beliefs of 98 percent of scientists. "It isn't a debate," Clinton said. "The debate is settled. What is not settled is what we're going to do about the debate."

Finessing the Fracking Boom

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The U.S. oil and gas surge is a potential minefield for anyone facing Democratic primaries, even a juggernaut like Clinton. Many environmentalists don't like Obama's "all of the above" mantra that embraces oil and gas drilling. But at the same time, the production boom has given the U.S. more leverage on the global stage when it comes to issues like oil sanctions against Iran and the longer-term possibility of using U.S. gas exports to counter Russia's influence in Europe—topics Clinton understands well.

Clinton, for her part, has praised the natural-gas surge while acknowledging environmental concerns with fracking and methane emissions, calling for "smart regulations." How Clinton addresses oil and gas development, not to mention whether the U.S. should export crude oil, is something to watch this week (if she broaches it) and going forward.

We'll Always Have Paris … to Look Forward To

Clinton devotes a chunk of Hard Choices, her recent State Department memoir, to detailing her and Obama's work at the 2009 United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen, which ultimately produced a voluntary agreement among countries to cut emissions. She's since said that she wants the 2015 U.N. meetings in Paris to net a stronger deal, writing that her hope is for "a new legal agreement on emissions and mitigation that is applicable to every country in the world." Clinton made climate change a focus of her State Department tenure and has talked up the international implications on her book tour, so she'll likely keep the pressure high as leaders prepare for a climate summit in New York this month.

Details or Platitudes?

The crowd of energy executives, environmentalists, and clean-tech insiders at Reid's summit will be hungry for specifics on Clinton's energy plans.

There's plenty to wonder about, like Clinton's take on the future of energy tax credits (beyond the broad-brush support for "targeted incentives" from her recent book) and whether Clinton, who cosponsored cap-and-trade bills as New York senator, would try to push major climate and energy legislation. The plans of a Clinton Environmental Protection Agency are a key topic too, including whether she would push for carbon-emissions rules for sources like refineries and big factories that won't face regulation on Obama's watch.

But the crowd may go home disappointed: There's nothing to stop Clinton from playing it safe by speaking only in broad strokes about the economic benefits of leading in green-energy markets, climate risks, and energy security.

Clinton may be more likely to stray into the world of energy diplomacy. Hard Choices touts formation of the department's Bureau of Energy Resources on her watch. The book counts energy among the topics that must be at the "heart" of American diplomacy. How she applies that idea to hot spots like Ukraine going forward is something that will surface sooner or later on the stump.

Don't Get Your Hopes Up About Keystone

Clinton has so far artfully dodged weighing in on the controversial Alberta-to-Gulf Coast oil-sands pipeline, declining to mention the Keystone XL in her book and sidestepping direct questions about it. Take this answer from a June interview with the Toronto Globe & Mail: "[T]his particular decision is a very difficult one because there are so many factors at play. I can't really comment at great length because I had responsibility for it and it's been passed on and it wouldn't be appropriate, but I hope that Canadians appreciate that the United States government—the Obama administration—is trying to get it right."

It's unlikely that Clinton will break her silence on the pipeline this week, especially since the State Department will weigh in on the pipeline's permit after the November midterms and before her own campaign would start in earnest, giving her some measure of cover.

The Advocate opinion: Kerry Eleveld: "Clinton's New Challenge: The Millennials"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Kerry Eleveld, former Advocate White House reporter

September 3, 2014, 4:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Millennials are more progressive on LGBT rights than Hillary was in 2008. Can she inspire them to the polls in a 2016 run?

If there's one thing no one expected, it's that Hillary Clinton would make one of her first campaign missteps over the gays. But there it is. Clinton went after NPR's Fresh Air interviewer Terry Gross in June during a seven-minute exchange about same-sex marriage, DOMA, and whether Clinton had an actual change of heart on marriage equality or simply changed her political calculation as voter attitudes shifted.

Not all seven minutes were a disaster. Clinton lost her cool only in the last minute and a half. It's also not clear that her main offense was substance so much as it was tone, though some publications, such as The Atlantic, argued otherwise. But after Gross tried several times to nail down Clinton's true motivations for changing her marriage position, Clinton's patience waned.

"You know, I have to say, I think you are being very persistent, but you are playing with my words, and playing with what is such an important issue," Clinton said.

Gross pressed gently forward. "I'm just trying to clarify so I can understand — " Then came Clinton's worst moment.

"No, I don't think you are trying to clarify," she charged. "I think you're trying to say I used to be opposed and now I'm in favor and I did it for political reasons. And that's just flat wrong. So let me just state what I feel that you are implying and repudiate it. I have a strong record. I have a great commitment to this issue. And I am proud of what I've done and the progress we're making."

Up to that point, Clinton had played the happy warrior most of the way through the marriage questioning, telling Gross "I think we have all evolved" and "I'm proud of our country."

The interview was sliced and diced and reinterpreted to death by the Beltway media. It was, in fact, interesting to see Clinton stumble on a key issue involving a constituency that has mostly adored her for years. After all, a November 2007 poll by Hunter College found that lesbian, gay, and bisexual likely voters preferred Clinton (63%) over Obama (22%) and Edwards (7%), which roughly corresponds to what 2008 exit polls in New York and California wound up showing.

Most interesting is the media's fascination with Clinton's past positions on LGBT issues — as if this movement's aims are complete and all that remains is to explore the subject in historical terms. Clinton's past is the least interesting part of her positions and probably the least of her worries on same-sex marriage and LGBT issues.

What lies ahead could very well be a marriage case at the Supreme Court in either 2015 or 2016. If people think questions about Clinton's previous stances were thorny, try these: Do you support full marriage equality across the nation? As president, would your administration write an amicus brief supporting the freedom to marry nationwide? Now that ENDA is on the outs, do you support an amendment adding gender identity and sexual orientation to the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

If your only audience is the LGBT community, the answers are easy: Yes to all. But from Clinton's perspective, answering that way on the marriage questions could give a mainstream audience pause. In fact, during her interview with Gross, Clinton reiterated her 2008 stance, saying, "for me, marriage had always been a matter left to the states."

That answer may have worked in 2008 in the shadow of a proposed federal amendment that would have banned same-sex marriage nationwide. But it won't seem appealing to queer rights activists today, and it's uncertain from the interview whether Clinton thinks any differently now than she did then.

The question about the Civil Rights Act, meanwhile, is still gaining traction in the LGBT community and has yet to debut with the broader Democratic base — in particular, African Americans. So just as people wondered in 2008, How do you plan to repeal DADT?, this election cycle they will wonder, How do you plan to secure employment and housing protections for LGBT Americans?

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The difference between LGBT issues in 2008 and now is that the answers are less clear-cut. And there isn't complete consensus within the LGBT community on the path forward. Additionally, Clinton isn't yet running amid a pack of other candidates, so she doesn't have the cover of comparisons to her opponents. She is being judged against herself.

In the last contested Democratic presidential campaign, for instance, as early as June 2007, all eight Democratic candidates supported repealing "don't ask, don't tell." And by August 2007, the big three — Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, and Barack Obama — had settled comfortably into a consensus of supporting civil unions, repealing "don't ask, don't tell," passing ENDA, and overturning the Defense of Marriage Act. Trying to differentiate between their policy positions was a matter of splitting hairs. For the candidates, that meant that wooing the LGBT community was largely about outreach and access; it was more tonal than substantive.

Now we're in uncharted territory as the LGBT movement pushes past the remnants of its 2008 issues. And Clinton, for the time being, must confront the dual challenges of tone and substance.

The question now becomes, is it possible for her to be a leader and a candidate at the same time? Candidates typically don't lead. They follow...the polls. They take positions that both they and a majority of the public can feel good about. Then they work on being likable and instilling confidence in their ability to run the country. Obama, for instance, didn't provide a road map to change in 2008; he offered a vehicle — himself — and asked the nation to trust him.

Beyond name recognition, Clinton's head start in 2016 clearly lies in her ability to govern. The only candidate who comes close to matching her grasp of foreign and domestic policy or her 360-degree view of Washington from the White House to Congress to the federal agencies is Vice President Joe Biden. Yet even he doesn't have the benefit of having served as Secretary of State.

But Clinton still needs to inspire people to jump on her bandwagon in the same way Obama did in 2008. And insofar as LGBT issues are concerned in 2016, one of her biggest audiences won't simply be the queer community; it will be millennials who voted for Obama at a rate of 66% in 2008 and 60% in 2012. If Clinton is to re-create Obama's voting blocs in the general election, she needs to win their vote by large margins, but she also needs to inspire them to turn out at the polls in numbers similar to 2008 and 2012, when they made up 18% and 19% of the electorate, respectively.

If Clinton wants to do that, LGBT rights is the place to start. Fully 51% of millennials consider themselves supporters of gay rights, according to the Pew Research Center, as opposed to just 37% of Gen X'ers and about a third of older adults. In fact LGBT rights is one of the most galvanizing issues for millennials. By comparison, 49% describe themselves as patriotic, just 36% as religious, and only 32% as environmentalists. This group matters for Clinton in both the primaries and the general election. In Iowa in 2008, Obama took 57 percent of voters under 30, shocking the Democratic establishment with a win that would fuel his eventual victory.

Though some gays are intent on rehashing the '90s, the millennials likely won't be. They'll be looking for authenticity on the issues of today, as will many LGBT Americans. And while LGBT voters have a long history with Clinton, millennials are still just getting to know her. She needs to give them a reason to go to the polls, and looking like a leader on LGBT issues is one way to do it.

It's unclear that relying on the states' rights fallback on marriage equality is going to fill the bill. And sooner or later, journalists will start asking the marriage question in a way that forces Clinton to choose between states' rights and full federal equality.

Los Angeles Times opinion: Michele Willens, guest blogger: "The question isn't really 'will Hillary Clinton run?' but rather 'can't we do better'?"

By Michele Willens

September 2, 2014, 2:29 p.m. EDT

A significant number of Republican women — 49% — find their party "stuck in the past." That's according to an internal memo from the conservative groups Crossroads GPS and American Action Network that made the rounds last week.

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This would seem to be the perfect moment, then, for a female presidential candidate of any stripe. The problem is there is only one on the horizon, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has to overcome a queasiness that polls don't quite know how to measure. Is it a combination of political cynicism, feminist angst, post-menopausal petulance and postponed pride felt by many of us who want to embrace this woman as well as what she represents?

I keep recalling the words of a friend in Massachusetts who said recently, "Every time I get right up to the point of finally liking Hillary, she does something that knocks me right back down again."

I am not alone in my hesitancy to put my arms around Hillary, but neither am I necessarily the norm. Judging by the long lines at the bookstores, there are real fans, or at least many who want to say they shook hands with potential history. So why, when I should be celebrating the possible coronation of one of my own, am I instead filled with conflicting emotions?

- The feminist in me applauds any "mature" woman who lets her years of accomplishment, and lines of experience, speak for themselves. The narcissist in me wishes Hillary would lose 15 pounds and get to the dermatologist.

- The fighter in me is impressed that as secretary of State, she was the toughest one in those White House meetings. The liberal in me wishes she'd lean *out* when it comes to warfare. And lean *in* on issues like Ferguson before her consultants calculate it is OK to do it.

- The Ms. in me accepts she has a unique marriage that works. The Mrs. wishes she would draw a few boundaries. (Did he really have to deliver the eulogy for the man who funded all those anti-Clinton programs?)

- The professional in me is envious she is making a zillion dollars an hour for her first-class time. The private citizen in me is offended by her tone-deaf idea of what is fair.

- The boomer in me is thrilled to see an older woman succeed. The realist in me is concerned she would be 69 as she begins the toughest job in the world.

- The historian in me appreciates the commitment of families like the Adamses, the Roosevelts and the Kennedys. The voter in me is really tired of the Clintons.

This all may qualify as one of those white women's problems, but it is entirely possible that Hillary is the lens through which many of us see ourselves.

What really rankles, though, is the Clinton sense of entitlement. For some reason, I think back to a classmate who was elected student body president of Lincoln Junior High in Santa Monica three straight years. I don't remember anyone particularly liking her — she was that girl who got high scores and never once detention —but she made us feel that we should honor her. A friend in Seattle, a longtime Democrat barely getting by as a landlord, summed it up with, "Well, I guess we're stuck with Hillary." That sense of inevitability not only conjures up resentment toward those who always got in, but it also reminds us how many of us felt left out.

Is all this too much to place on one person's shoulders? Of course it is, not to mention asking her to embody an idea whose time has come. Barack Obama did it, but he had an arguably greater personal story, and he was new school. Hillary has paid her dues, stood by her man and devoted most her life to public service. But one thing feminism has taught us is not to settle, and in that spirit, I wonder if others aren't as qualified, including Claire McCaskill and Elizabeth Warren — maybe even someone from the party still "stuck in the past." Hey, maybe my former classmate is available.

Ah well, Hillary is the ultimate survivor, and for that alone, I will likely give her my vote, if not a hug.

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Politico: Roger Simon: "Is Mitt Romney really a loser for life?"

By Roger Simon

September 3, 2014, 5:13 a.m. EDT

Unlikely as it might seem, Mitt Romney actually put it best.

"I have looked at what happens to anybody in this country who loses as the nominee of their party," he says. "They become a loser for life."

Here he makes a gesture with his right hand, forming his thumb and index finger into an "L" and holding it up to his forehead as if it were a branding iron.

"We just brutalize whoever loses," Romney says. "I know that. I know that."

This is from the documentary "Mitt," which was released this year and covers Romney's 2008 and 2012 campaigns.

Romney was aware that if he ran for the nomination in 2008 and failed to get it, this would not be fatal. Numerous failed nominees have gone on to get the nomination in future contests.

But if one gets the nomination and then fails to win the presidency, that is a different story.

Republican Thomas Dewey did it, losing in both 1944 and 1948. Democrat Adlai Stevenson did it, losing in both 1952 and 1956. And Richard Nixon did it, losing the presidency in 1960, but winning it in 1968.

But this is ancient history in political terms. In modern times, if you get your party's nomination and then lose the general election, nobody wants to hear from you again.

"Mike Dukakis is mowing lawns," Romney says.

But Romney enters the fray anyway, losing the nomination in 2008, winning the nomination in 2012, but losing the general election.

So Romney should be, by his own analysis, a "loser for life."

But odd things are happening. Republican candidates have been asking him to stump for them in the November elections, and he has been glad to oblige.

A CNN/ORC poll released in late July asked people whom they would vote for if the 2012 election were held again. Romney won by 9 percentage points, 53 percent to 44 percent. (In the actual election, Romney lost by 3.9 percentage points.)

One can dismiss this as typical buyer's remorse: Presidents never quite live up to expectations, and challengers always look better in retrospect. But one senior Republican strategist told me dryly: "I don't remember anyone urging John Kerry to run for president again after he lost."

Is anybody really urging Romney to run again, however?

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Iowans seem to like the idea. A recent Suffolk University poll of Iowa caucus-goers showed Romney topping the field with 35 percent and Mike Huckabee an almost invisible second with just 9 percent.

"I'd love to run for president; I loved running for president," Romney told radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt last week. "Had I believed I would actually be best positioned to beat Hillary Clinton, then I would be running."

Romney says, however, that some player to be named later could be a better candidate. "I actually believe that someone new that is not defined yet, someone who perhaps is from the next generation, will be able to catch fire, potentially build a movement and be able to beat Hillary Clinton," Romney said.

Republicans are already looking past their biggest weakness — the current Republican field — to what they believe will be their biggest strength: Hillary Clinton as the standard-bearer for Obama's third term.

"I think Hillary is going to own the Obama record," Stuart Stevens, who was Romney's chief strategist in 2012, told me. "In many ways it looks like 2016 will be a referendum on Obama in the same way 2008 was a referendum on [George W.] Bush."

Which is the race Republicans would like: to bury Hillary's popularity under Obama's unpopularity. But Hillary could upset that strategy by distancing herself from Obama, couldn't she?

Stevens doesn't think so. "When Hillary says something even mildly critical of the Obama administration, the Democratic base erupts with hostility," Stevens said.

Hillary Clinton is no dope, however. She will find a way to distance herself from Obama where she can. But this plays right into the Romney game plan, said one former top Romney aide.

"Hillary Clinton doesn't want to be Barack Obama? Fine," said the aide. "The person who is most not Barack Obama is Mitt Romney. If he decided to run, he'd have a good chance."

Washington Post senior correspondent Dan Balz, author of "Collision 2012: The Future of Election Politics in a Divided America," just released in paperback, said Romney was not a particularly good campaigner in 2012 but "he had some things to say in the campaign that look smarter in retrospect than they did at the time."

Balz says that Romney's campaign statements about Russia being "a geopolitical foe" today looks "more astute than he was given credit for."

But Balz is not predicting that Romney will run in 2016. He said Romney seems "genuinely resistant" to running.

So what could cause Romney to change his mind?

"It could only happen if the field looks weak or if it looks like no one from the establishment wing is getting any traction," Balz said. "One reason there is interest in Romney today is that the 2016 field looks so unsettled."

Romney laid out his own scenario for running. "Let's say all the guys that were running all came together and said, 'Hey, we've decided we can't do it. You must do it,'" Romney said in the interview with Hewitt. "That's the one out of a million we're thinking about."

One out of a million might seem like very long odds to you and me. But what's a million to Mitt Romney?

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Politico: "Bill Clinton to raise money for Mary Landrieu"

By Maggie Haberman

September 2, 2014, 2:54 p.m. EDT

Bill Clinton is set to headline a fundraiser for Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu on Saturday, capping a whirlwind week of campaign appearances that will take the former president from the Northeast to the South.

The "save the date" for the Big Easy Committee, a joint fundraising committee between Friends of Mary Landrieu and the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana, is for Sept. 6 in New Orleans.

Landreiu is facing a tough reelection battle. Clinton will campaign for her a day after he appears for Florida Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Charlie Crist.

Landrieu was hit last week by a Washington Post report saying she is registered to vote at her parents' home in Louisiana, prompting questions about how much time she spends in Washington versus her home state.

New Haven Register (Conn.): "Bill Clinton rallies party faithful in New Haven event for Gov. Malloy"

By Mary E. O'Leary

September 2, 2014, 4:26 p.m. EDT

Former President Bill Clinton revved up the true believers in a weekday rally putting the onus on them to get a second term for Gov. Dannel P. Malloy.

In a reprise of help he gave Malloy in 2010, Clinton was back in the state, this time in New Haven — a city he knows well, having graduated from Yale Law School in 1973, along with his wife, Hillary Clinton, and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal. Clinton stopped by Katalina's bakery before heading to the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale.

The 42nd president of the United States said party members only have a few weeks to determine how this tight race turns out, with some polls showing Republican contender Tom Foley pulling ahead.

"The polls ... are based on an assumption that the turnout in a mid-term election will be very different than a turnout in a presidential election. If that happens, shame on us," Clinton said.

The president offered an analogy.

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Remembering his time in a cottage in Milford more than 40 years ago, he said he would watch as people walked out to a nearby island, but then forgot about the tide.

“I love Connecticut. You have been good to me in personal and political ways. I don’t want you to take your eye off the tides in this election,” Clinton said.

Clinton said based on Malloy’s record, he “should be re-elected by 10 points or more, going away,” which brought cheers from several hundred party regulars, elected officials and campaign staffers in the hourlong pep rally.

“You have a job to do,” he told them again and again.

There were also references to Hillary Clinton and what the next two years mean for her.

Alluding to her expected run for president in 2016, New Haven Mayor Toni Harp welcomed the “homecoming for the first President Clinton.”

Clinton said he was “captivated” by Malloy in 2010, learning how he overcame his personal challenges of dyslexia.

Malloy is an example of a true leader, who will make the hard decisions, Clinton said.

“We want somebody who won’t look at the polls, but will look at the future and think about what is good for the children. ... Are things coming together or being torn apart?” Clinton asked.

“By those tests, this man has more than earned the chance to finish the job he started four years ago,” the former president said, also to cheers from the crowd.

Clinton said a leader has vision, a strategy, executes that strategy and handles “incoming fire.” He said Malloy hits all those targets. He said the Republican mantra is the promise to cut taxes.

“I have been listening to this for over 30 years. They talk tough, but they govern soft,” Clinton said.

The Connecticut Republican Party, in a statement, said the event was “poorly attended.”

“It seems like Bill Clinton can fill any room in the country, unless he’s sharing the stage with Dan Malloy,” said CT GOP spokesman Zak Sanders. “At this point even Democrats can sense that Gov. Malloy is falling far behind, and enthusiasm in his campaign is waning.”

“Dan Malloy has proved that he is willing to do or say whatever it takes to get re-elected and, with desperation setting in, he’s decided to make his campaign about cheap personal attacks instead of the real issues facing our state. Voters know that we need new leadership and a new direction for Connecticut’s future – and that’s why they’re supporting Tom Foley and Heather Somers,” Sanders said.

Clinton said he was the last president to make headway on gun control by passing the Brady Bill, the assault weapons ban and by eliminating ammunition clips. He said he countered the criticism then by pointing out to gun owners that they can still hunt, sport shoot and protect their families.

He said that is the message in Connecticut and added that “you have to have universal background checks, you got to.”

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Clinton said the agenda of Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman is specific.

"Their opponent basically says they made too many hard decisions, too many people said 'ouch.' 'Vote for me I will make it easy on you. I'm just going to cut everybody's taxes. Hold on, I'll tell you later where we are going to go,'" Clinton said.

Scott McLean, political science professor at Quinnipiac University, said outside surrogates are needed by both campaigns.

"Both Clinton and (New Jersey Gov. Chris) Christie are in our state not only to raise cash, but also to give much-needed charisma transplants to the gubernatorial candidates," McLean said.

"Polls show voters just aren't enthusiastic for either (Tom) Foley or Malloy," McLean said.

The party faithful with tickets paid $50 for the privilege to hear Clinton, while shortly before the rally started a small group of bigger donors met with the president, but there was no comment on how much they raised.

Malloy and Foley have multiple debates scheduled before Nov. 4, while independent expenditure groups are pouring millions into Connecticut for their own ads.

Clinton is in demand as a speaker in a party that fears it will lose control of the U.S. Senate in November.

The elected party leaders took turns praising Malloy and denigrating Foley.

"There are always things we can do better in this state, but I am sick and tired of Tom Foley telling me how terrible my state is. I am sick and tired of the constant incessant daily pessimism that comes out of Republican candidates and at some level, they are living in alternate reality," U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy said.

The senator delivered the harshest criticism of Foley, saying his motivation is to "pad his resume," rather than acting through a passion for governing.

He said Foley's reluctance to expound on his positions "is half political strategy and half indifference."

Murphy said Malloy is "somebody who loves the state and wants to make it even better, versus someone who talks down the state at every opportunity."

Murphy said he was "damn proud" of the boost in the minimum wage and the 60,000 private sector jobs brought on during the administration.

The junior senator said he was happy to be from the state that says it should be the law of the land "that if you are so sick that you can't show up for work, you should be able to stay home for work and still get compensated occasionally for it."

He said during the Clinton years, poverty and unemployment dropped and "all boats were being lifted," a model for states.

Not to dampen the achievements of Clinton, Murphy said unemployment nationally dropped by 2 percentage points in four years' time. Under Malloy, it is down almost 3 percentage points in the same timeframe, Murphy said. It was 9.3 percent in 2011 and is now 6.6 percent.

The message from all the speakers was that Malloy has a "great story to tell," as they listed a dip in crime and a start on universal pre-kindergarten

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and he challenged the Republican candidate to match Malloy's record.

"Are you ready to go out and tell the story to the people of Connecticut?" Murphy asked.

Blumenthal and Wyman continued the analogies between Clinton and Malloy.

All of them emphasized the strict gun reform bill adopted in April 2013 in the wake of the killing of 20 first-graders and six educators in Newtown in December 2012 that has become a point of contention with Foley.

Murphy called it Malloy's "deepest" achievement, while the governor characterized it as "great."

He said it has been a tough four years given Newtown, the economy and the numerous devastating storms.

Malloy described Foley as a "guy who prays for rain on a sunny day. This is the guy who purchased a seat in the cheap section and has been making cheap shots ever since the last election was over. He actually feels that he is entitled to be the governor of the state of Connecticut."

"I got news for you, you run to be the governor of the state of Connecticut," he said.

Continuing the theme of a negative picture of Connectiuct, Malloy said, "You don't put down the state I was born in."

He predicted Foley will cut funding to schools and cut funding to towns so there will be municipal cuts, based on his tax and budget proposals.

Foley, however, has said he would not do either, but he hasn't said where he would cut as he holds funding flat for two years with a projected $1.4 billion deficit in fiscal 2016. He wants to eliminate the business entity tax and cut the sales tax from 6.35 percent to 5.85 percent.

Malloy said Foley would "stack the pardons and parole board to do what he wants done" on gun control.

"This is worth having a fight over. We have to make the people of Connecticut as safe as we possibly can and that is what we will do," Malloy said.

The gun issue is expected to play a part in the election with the 15,000-member Connecticut Citizens Defense League endorsing Foley.

Foley disagrees with the punishment for not registering the weapons that have been added to the greatly expanded list of banned firearms. He has said he would recommend to the state's attorney that he not prosecute violators and he would impact the law by the people he names to the pardon board.

Malloy said Foley will end up cutting jobs just like he did at the Bibb Co. when he ran it in the 1990s. The Democrats continue to hammer him on Bibb, something they also did in 2010 when Malloy ran against him the first time.

Foley has said he added 3,000 jobs at Bibb before it went into bankruptcy under his management. It closed after it was sold.

"He is not a job creator, he is a job destroyer," Malloy said.

In a quick press conference after the event, Malloy asked Foley where he would have cut in 2010 faced with the $3.6 billion deficit.

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BuzzFeed: "What Exactly Is Amy Klobuchar Up To?"

By Kate Nocera

September 2, 2014, 10:04 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The relatively unknown Minnesota Democrat has been all over the country this year.

A few weeks ago at a Washington cocktail party, Sen. Amy Klobuchar was chatting with someone who asked why she was going to Iowa again.

"I was invited!" Klobuchar insisted, laughing, an attendee who heard the conversation recalled.

The Democratic Senator is being invited a lot of places these days — which is surprising considering her name I.D. outside of her home state of Minnesota isn't exactly sky high. Klobuchar has crisscrossed the country in the last few months, keynoting Democratic Party Dinners, fundraising for Senate candidates (her PAC has maxed out to several candidates), and building up her profile with the party base. She's toured a popcorn store with Bruce Braley in Iowa, co-chaired an economic roundtable with Jeanne Shaheen in New Hampshire, and spoke at the Sanford Hunt Frye in North Carolina on behalf of Sen. Kay Hagan. All told, Klobuchar has traveled to more than 10 states this cycle.

Furious travel schedules like these are usually meant to do one thing: produce a big spike in a politician's influence.

One Democratic operative compared Klobuchar's 2014 to what Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has done in recent cycles.

"Gillibrand had a little bit more of a profile — she was starting at a slightly higher base than Amy does," the operative said. "Gillibrand was using her 'off the sidelines' project to build a national base and now she is, if not a household name, a Democratic base-hold name and I think Amy wants to do the same thing."

Like Gillibrand, Klobuchar maintains the relentless campaigning is in service of a bigger goal: electing more Democratic women to the Senate.

"I've gone this around the country a lot because we don't have that many women in the Senate, though about a year ago we had a traffic jam in the women's bathroom for the first time in history," the senator said in an interview. "So I've been helping them. It goes back to when I headed up the women's Senate network for the last two cycles of the [Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee]."

Klobuchar has been deeply involved with Emily's List, a group that works to help elect women supportive of abortion rights. She co-chairs the group's "impact series" — quartly events that highlight the work of women supported by Emily's List are doing in Congress. During the 2012 cycle, when Klobuchar was up for re-election and doing well, she worked in both Wisconsin and North Dakota to help with the elections of Tammy Baldwin and Heidi Heitkamp.

She went to Georgia to help Michelle Nunn this time around — a weird place for a progressive midwestern senator. What does a Minnesota senator have in common with the voters of Georgia? A lot if you ask Klobuchar, who argued Georgia and Minnesota are more alike than different in terms of their business and farming communities.

That trip speaks to a core reason for Klobuchar's schedule: no one would be inviting her anywhere if they thought she wasn't any good. Operatives describe Klobuchar as approachable and likeable on the stump.

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“People may not know who she is, but they walk away from her liking her and understanding her message,” said a campaign staffer for one Democratic candidate in a tight race.

And while Klobuchar’s certainly cognizant of the big priority (keeping the Senate in Democratic hands), the progressive senator emphasized the importance of moderate, red state Democrats in the Senate.

“A lot of it is trying to elect good people trying to move the country forward and not just stand in corners of the boxing ring,” she said. “For me that’s very, very important. The majority people that are up would be considered moderate Democrats and they do try and find common ground.”

“They are people that want to get things done for the country and that’s why this election to me is so important and of course getting these women elected, knowing how fragile this is,” she continued. “We lose them, we lose a good part of the women in the Senate.”

Klobuchar ticked off the accomplishments of her female colleagues this past congress: Patty Murray’s work on the budget negotiations, Debbie Stabenow’s work on the farm bill, Barbara Mikulski’s work as appropriations chairwoman.

She left herself off the list. But, like Gillibrand, she’s likely got some next thing in mind.

“Every one of these senators thinks that he or she can be the next president of the United States,” said Jim Manley, a Democratic strategist and Harry Reid’s former communications director. “Clearly she has ambitions; I don’t know what they are right now. Is she building chips in the caucus as she moves up the ladder in the Senate or is it broader than that? I just can’t tell.”

The Daily Beast: “Gail Sheehy Books Passage to the Past”

By Lizzie Crocker

September 3, 2014

[Subtitle:] The legendary journalist and ‘Passages’ author talks about her new memoir, the glory days of the new journalism, and the denizens of Grey Gardens.

In the summer of 1971, reporter Gail Sheehy fled Manhattan every weekend for East Hampton, seeking an escape from what had become a six-month investigation into prostitution in New York City. But instead of tending to her verdant tomato garden, Sheehy found herself drawn down the road to Grey Gardens, a decaying mansion overrun by howling cats and home to Big Edie and Little Edie Beale, dotty and reclusive relatives of former first lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy.

Just a few miles away and 43 summers later, Sheehy sits in a Sag Harbor rental cottage and reflects on “The Secrets of Grey Gardens,” her now-infamous New York magazine cover story about the Beales, outcasts from the wealthy WASP culture that was their birthright. “WASPs are like the Alawites of America, a rare breed,” says the now 70-year-old Sheehy. Looking youthful in jeans and a turquoise linen t-shirt, a helmet of red hair framing her animated face, she is diminutive, quick-witted, and disarmingly warm. (She addresses me in various terms of endearment, as one would an old friend, and invites me to swim in her pool after lunch). It’s a quality that surely worked to her advantage while interviewing the Beales.

“Oh God, that was so much fun,” Sheehy says, wedging a cookie between two heaping scoops of ice cream—dessert. “It was one of my favorite stories, not only because of the characters but because it was a social history, going back to the grandfather who was a paterfamilias and managed everybody’s lives and then cut them all off as heirs. And the Kennedy’s were in the White House!”

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It was one of Sheehy's breakout pieces of "new journalism," establishing her as a worthy contemporary of writers like Tom Wolfe, Hunter Thompson, and Joan Didion. As a pioneering female journalist in the '60s and '70s, she covered everything from the culture wars—with particular focus on feminism and the sexual revolution—to the emerging civil war in Northern Ireland. Between 1968 and 1977, she would file more than 50 stories for New York magazine. She's since written 17 books, including the best-selling Passages, which the Library of Congress declared one of the most influential books of our time; blurring the boundaries between self-help and pop psychology, the book was embraced—particularly by American women—as a new way of thinking about adulthood and its accompanying crises. It also established Sheehy as a celebrity author and household name (she milked its success in four subsequent books that were all variations on the Passages theme).

In Daring: My Passages, Sheehy now chronicles the ups and downs of her own life, from the fallout of divorce and single motherhood in her late '20s to her sudden and dizzying success in her '30s, and a life-changing second marriage in her late '40s.

Much of Daring is a tribute to Sheehy's second husband, the late New York magazine founding editor Clay Felker, and the narrative style of the "new journalism movement" that he tirelessly promoted. (The movement's stars—like Wolfe and Gay Talese—were among the original members of the New York family, many of whom Felker brought with him from the New York Herald Tribune.) Sheehy recalls fondly the excitement of writing social commentary in the '60s and '70s, two decades that "spawned more new lifestyles than could be contained in any magazine." While radical activists were attempting to change society, New York and its stable of writers were permanently altering the direction of journalism. "Only in retrospect did we appreciate our good fortune in being part of a utopian experiment in American journalism," she writes. "At the time, we were too busy having fun."

In Sag Harbor, Sheehy breathlessly recalls the staff feeding off each other's ideas during weekly editorial lunches. "There was this incredible cross-fertilization at the table. We'd be there for two hours and get so hyped that we would literally run out of the meeting to start doing our research."

She remembers how the small staff of Felker's fledgling magazine would gather at The Palm near the United Nations building, which played host to journalists, dignitaries, and future presidents. "George H.W. Bush was our representative to the U.N. [at the time] and would always be at a table in the corner, late, and with a different girlfriend every time," she says, grinning.

It was an auspicious time to be a reporter, especially as a Columbia Journalism School student studying under cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead. "You had the Black Panthers scaring the shit out of the white radicals, who were desperately trying to compete," she says of the privileged white students who fancied themselves revolutionaries. "And then you had the early feminists who were making their young husbands shrivel up because they could never do anything right."

"The earliest [feminists] were the most extreme: the radical redstockings and the Ti-Grace Atkinsons. They were really hard-nosed. And that was before Gloria [Steinem] got into it, too. I was writing about it early on, but I was writing about it in a somewhat satirical way. Because that was sort of the safe way, and it was fun to make fun of it." But Sheehy wanted to be taken seriously by her feminist colleagues, particularly Steinem, who was fast becoming a leader in the movement. (In 2013, Sheehy wrote about the survival of "the feminist spirit" for The Daily Beast).

But Daring is more than just a personal memoir; it's a fast-paced romp through the second half of the 20th century, told through the prism of stories that shaped Sheehy's career: her first political piece on Bobby Kennedy's presidential campaign in California; an award-winning series on prostitutes and their pimps; a brush with death in Northern Ireland on Bloody Sunday, which was the impetus for writing Passages; the forgotten Cambodian refugee children who survived Pol Pot's genocide; profiles of political figures like Margaret Thatcher, George H.W. Bush, and Hillary Clinton.

Her political writings weren't received without controversy. When Sheehy's biography of the former First Lady came out in 1999, the Clintons went into attack mode. "Hillary had [Clinton aide] Sidney Blumenthal call people before my book came out, trashing it," she says. "They are vicious when it comes to trying to silence anyone who has been critical of them." But she nevertheless declares herself to be sympathetic to the former secretary of state. "I don't find her to be particularly likeable, but I am a great admirer and I always like to see her succeed."

At the heart of Daring is Sheehy's Pygmalion-like romance with her mentor, editor, and husband, Clay Felker. But she acknowledges that their partnership wasn't always romantic. "It was a creative intimacy from the very beginning," she explains. Over time, their potent mentor-mentee relationship evolved into a passionate on-again, off-again love affair. But it was intellectual ferment that Sheehy craved above all else. "When we lived together, the most fun we had was reading the papers in the morning over breakfast, digesting the world and spitting it out and arguing about it."

Like Sheehy, Felker had also been previously married and they were both leery of commitment. Sheehy was in her mid-thirties when she broke off the relationship.

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“I thought that was the most daring decision of my life,” she remembers. “Because I loved him and didn’t want to lose him. And it could have gone wrong. But I knew I had to strike out on my own and prove myself without a mentor.”

Sheehy reunited with Felker after she finished Passages, which sat on the New York Times bestseller list for three whole years. The two were married in 1984, 22 years after they first met, and remained so until Felker’s death in 2008.

Today, Sheehy is a poster girl for young female journalists: a dogged reporter who seduced wary subjects by charming her way past their defenses and then winning their confidence—pretty much the same way she disarmed this intimidated protégé.

As she gears up for a publicity tour on her most personal work, Sheehy says she’s more emotionally equipped than ever before to dodge the slings and arrows that come with promoting a book.

“I’ve had the experience of having a book praised but then it doesn’t sell. Or not praised but then it sells. Every combination you can think of, so I guess I’m sort of bulletproof at this point.”

She pauses, laughing at herself.

“Well, not really.”

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton will make remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Diplomacy Center (Politico Playbook)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin’s Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/17/2008 11:11:09 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech on Energy Houston, TX 06/17/08

Hello Big Campaign,

Just off the phone with our tracker Jacob, who is on the ground in Houston. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain flubs: "with gas running at $4 a barrel-- a gallon," jokes that he wishes it were the good old days like that
- Links Obama to Jimmy Carter: "I like recycling but it's better applied to paper and plastic than the failed policies of the 60s and 70s"
- Says the next President must be willing to break policies not just with the current Administration but the ones that came before it
- Says offshore drilling is now safe enough that even Hurricanes Rita and Katrina couldn't cause spillage
- Promises a series of talks on energy in the weeks ahead
- Says we need to look beyond special interests and pursue policies that are good for both parties
- Says some tasks will be the work of decades, some of years; they will all begin in the term of the next President
- Continues to promote nuclear energy
- McCain Campaign advisor and former lobbyist, Charlie Black in attendance

Houston, TX: McCain Speech on Energy 06/17/08

Background Details:
- Tracker had no problem getting into event
- Charlie Black in attendance -- we got footage of him standing off to the side, lurking in the shadows
- Even located in a giant ballroom (Apprx 1000 capacity); Room cut in half by press risers
- Audience in the front half – aprx 300 out of 1000 person capacity in attendance
- Audience enthusiastic, more so than normal
- Event had a rotary club feel: white people, and business attire
- Press turnout was fairly good– but no notables; Houston Chronicle, local networks, KPFT
- Little stagecraft – American and Texas Flags – no campaign signs except for Reform, Prosperity, and Peace on the podium and the audience had no signs,
- Advance staff handed out campaign press release
- Texas Senator introduced Texas Governor, Rick Perry
- Texas Governor, Rick Perry introduced McCain

Speech Excerpts:
Excerpts From Remarks As Prepared For Delivery Houston, TX June 17, 2008

…Among its other distinctions, this great city is known as the oil capital of America. But people in Houston and all of Texas understand as well as anyone that the high price of oil and gas today is causing great harm all across our economy. People are hurting — small farmers, truckers, and taxi drivers unable to cover their costs, small business owners struggling to meet payroll, the cost of living rising and the value of paychecks falling. All of this, in large part, because the price of oil is too high, and the supply of oil too uncertain. These citizens believe their government has a duty to finally assure the energy security of this country, and they are right.

I first addressed this issue at the outset of my primary campaign. And in just that time – a little more than a year – the price of a barrel of oil has more than doubled. And the price of a gallon of gas in America stands at more than four dollars. Yesterday, a barrel of oil cost about 134 dollars. And various oil ministers and investment firms have confidently informed us that soon we can expect to pay 200 dollars for every barrel, and as much as seven dollars for every gallon of gas.…

Somehow the United States – in so many ways the most self-reliant of nations – has allowed and at times even encouraged this state of affairs. This was a troubling situation 35 years ago. It was an alarming situation twenty years ago. It is a dangerous situation today. And starting in the term of the next president, we must take control over our own energy future, and become once again the master of our fate.

The next president must be willing to break with the energy policies not just of the current Administration, but the

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administrations that preceded it, and lead a great national campaign to achieve energy security for America. So in the days ahead I plan to return to the subject in a series of discussions to explain my reform agenda. And I will set forth a strategy to free America once and for all from our strategic dependence on foreign oil.…Among these is a challenge we hardly even understood back when America first learned to associate the word "energy" with "crisis." We now know that fossil fuel emissions, by retaining heat within the atmosphere, threaten disastrous changes in climate. No challenge of energy is to be taken lightly, and least of all the need to avoid the consequences of global warming.

In the face of climate change and other serious challenges, energy conservation is no longer just a moral luxury or a personal virtue. Conservation serves a critical national goal. Over time, we must shift our entire energy economy toward a sustainable mix of new and cleaner power sources. This will include some we use already, such as wind, solar, biofuels, and other sources yet to be invented. It will include a variety of new automotive and fuel technologies — clean-burning coal and nuclear energy — and a new system of incentives, under a cap-and-trade policy, to put the power of the market on the side of environmental protection.

But to make the great turn away from carbon-emitting fuels, we will need all the inventive genius of which America is capable. We will need as well an economy strong enough to support our nation's great shift toward clean energy. And this gives us only further incentive to protect ourselves from the sudden shocks and ever-rising prices that come with our dependence on foreign oil.

Up to a point, these sudden rises in the price of oil are explainable in the terms of basic economics. When demand exceeds supply, prices always rise, and this has happened very dramatically in the demand for oil. Two powerful forces in the oil market today are China and India, nations in which a third of humanity is suddenly entering the industrial era – with all the cars, construction, and consumption of oil that involves.

There is the further problem of speculation on the oil futures market, which in many cases has nothing to do with the actual sale, purchase, or delivery of oil. When crude oil became a futures-traded commodity in the 1980's, the idea was to afford a measure of protection against the historic volatility of oil pricing. It takes several weeks to ship oil from the Arabian Peninsula to the offshore port of Louisiana. And for the buyers, it helps to know that the price will not suddenly fall while the oil is in transit. A futures contract assures importers that they can sell the oil at a profit.

That's the theory, anyway. But we all know that some people on Wall Street are not above gaming the system. When you have enough speculators betting on the rising price of oil, that itself can cause oil prices to keep on rising. And while a few reckless speculators are counting their paper profits, most Americans are coming up on the short end – using more and more of their hard-earned paychecks to buy gas for the truck, tractor, or family car.

Investigation is underway to root out this kind of reckless wagering, unrelated to any kind of productive commerce, because it can distort the market, drive prices beyond rational limits, and put the investments and pensions of millions of Americans at risk. Where we find such abuses, they need to be swiftly punished. And to make sure it never happens again, we must reform the laws and regulations governing the oil futures market, so that they are just as clear and effective as the rules applied to stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments. In all of these markets, reform must assure transparency, prevent abuse, and protect the public interest.…

At the time of OPEC's oil embargo, we imported roughly a third of our oil. Now we import two thirds. At that time, every day, we produced more than nine million barrels of oil domestically. Now America produces five million barrels a day. Five million barrels sounds like a lot until we compare the number with the oil we use, which comes to 20 million barrels, or a quarter of all the oil used every day across the earth.…

It takes a very short leap in logic to wonder why we produce less and less crude oil, while we use more and more of it, or why politicians talk so much about promoting alternative energy sources, but often do so little to promote these alternatives. A reasonable observer, presented only with these numbers of consumption and production, might draw the conclusion that America has accepted this fate because we have no choice in the matter, or because we have no resources of our own. But just the opposite is true: We do have resources, and we do have a choice.

In oil, gas, and coal deposits, we have enormous energy reserves of our own. And we are gaining the means to use these resources in cleaner, more responsible ways. As for offshore drilling, it's safe enough these days that not even Hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cause significant spillage from the battered rigs off the coasts of New Orleans and Houston. Yet for reasons that become less convincing with every rise in the price of foreign oil, the federal government discourages offshore production.

At the very least, one might assume, America had surely been building new refineries to achieve a more efficient delivery of gasoline to market, and thereby to lower the prices paid by the American people – especially in the summer season. But the policymakers in Washington haven't got around to that, either. There's so much

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regulation of the industry that the last American refinery was built when Jerry Ford was president.

As for nuclear energy – a proven energy source that requires zero emissions – we haven't built a new reactor in 31 years. In Europe and elsewhere, they have been expanding their use of nuclear energy. But we've waited so long that we've lost our domestic capability to even build these power plants. Nuclear power is among the surest ways to gain a clean, abundant, and stable energy supply, as other nations understand. One nation today has plans to build almost 50 new reactors by 2020. Another country plans to build 26 major nuclear stations. A third nation plans to build enough nuclear plants to meet one quarter of all the electricity needs of its people – a population of more than a billion people. Those three countries are China, Russia, and India. And if they have the vision to set and carry out great goals in energy policy, then why don't we?

So, taking stock of our energy situation, it is time we draw a few sensible conclusions of our own. In their sum effect on the American economy, the policies of our government could hardly have left us more dependent had they been designed to do precisely that. This vulnerability is clear in many ways, and never more than when American leaders are reduced to supplicating for lower prices before the sheiks and princes of OPEC. Of course, they are unmoved by our troubles. They regard even the need to ask as a sign of weakness. And in the end, they take their cues not from our entreaties for relief, but from our failure to diversify and to produce.

Quite rightly, I believe, we confer a special status on some areas of our country that are best left undisturbed. When America set aside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we called it a "refuge" for a reason.

But the stakes are high for our citizens and for our economy. And with gasoline running at more than four bucks a gallon, many do not have the luxury of waiting on the far-off plans of futurists and politicians. We have proven oil reserves of at least 21 billion barrels in the United States. But a broad federal moratorium stands in the way of energy exploration and production. And I believe it is time for the federal government to lift these restrictions and to put our own reserves to use.

We can do this in ways that are consistent with sensible standards of environmental protection. And in states that choose to permit exploration, there must be an appropriate sharing of benefits between federal and state governments. But as a matter of fairness to the American people, and a matter of duty for our government, we must deal with the here and now, and assure affordable fuel for America by increasing domestic production.

We should set the highest goals for ourselves for the years and decades to come, and I am a believer in the technologies that one day will free us from oil entirely. But to get there at all, a more pragmatic approach will serve us better. In the short term, we must take the world as it is and our resources where they are – even as we press on with new and cleaner sources of energy. We must be bold in our plans to break our strategic dependence on oil, and over the next two weeks, I'll be offering a vision that will be bold. But we must also address the concerns of Americans, who are struggling right now to pay for gasoline, groceries, and other necessities of life.

What is certain in energy policy is that we have learned a few clear lessons along the way. Somehow all of them seem to have escaped my opponent. He says that high oil prices are not the problem, but only that they rose too quickly. He's doesn't support new domestic production. He doesn't support new nuclear plants. He doesn't support more traditional use of coal, either.

So what does Senator Obama support in energy policy? Well, for starters he supported the energy bill of 2005 – a grab-bag of corporate favors that I opposed. And now he supports new taxes on energy producers. He wants a windfall profits tax on oil, to go along with the new taxes he also plans for coal and natural gas. If the plan sounds familiar, it's because that was President Jimmy Carter's big idea too – and a lot of good it did us. Now as then, all a windfall profits tax will accomplish is to increase our dependence on foreign oil, and hinder exactly the kind of domestic exploration and production we need. I'm all for recycling – but it's better applied to paper and plastic than to the failed policies of the 1970's.Oddly enough, though, Senator Obama doesn't want to lower the gas taxes paid by consumers, which would be the most direct and obvious way to give Americans a break at the gas station. Even in tough times for our economy, when folks are struggling to pay for gas and groceries, tax relief just isn't change he can believe in.

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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/10/2016 7:31:46 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Greek Community Call

Great idea.

On Mar 10, 2016, at 2:27 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I like the idea.

On Thursday, March 10, 2016, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:

Laura -

We had a terrific call today with John Podesta and Governor Dukakis and the Greek American community. Some participants are asking for a position paper/memo on where Secretary stands on some key issues.

I've been leading the EU/Russia sub-group effort on the migration crisis, so I have a good idea of how you are formatting the framing memos. This would be a little different, but would you let me take a crack at a 1 pager on issues important to the community, that they can use with their networks?

We would also like to let call participants know that something is coming, if that works for you.

Thanks and hope to hear back soon. Eleni

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street #9
San Francisco, CA 94115
KounalakisET@gmail.com

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From:	"The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	12/15/2015 10:48:35 AM
Subject:	The Daily 202 P.M. Specia l: Trump vs. Cruz, and oth er dynamics to watch in t onight's Republican debate

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The Daily 202 P.M. Special: Trump vs. Cruz, and other dynamics to watch in tonight's Republican debate

Ted Cruz overlooks the Las Vegas Strip. (Robyn Beck/AFP/Getty Images)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— It's fight night in Las Vegas. Republican presidential candidates will debate for the fifth and final time of 2015 on CNN. The undercard debate, featuring four low-polling candidates, starts at 6 p.m. Eastern and the main event begins at 9 p.m. Though, to gin up ratings and advertising revenue, CNN annoyingly keeps hinting that it could start closer to 8:30.

If you want to optimize your debate-viewing experience tonight, definitely keep The Post's live blog open on your browser tonight. As always, we're flooding the zone. We deployed six political reporters and two editors to the venue in Vegas, not to mention videographers, producers and columnists. We're also excited because this is the first debate night in our brand new office on K Street, where a team of fact checkers is standing by to hold the candidates accountable for their inevitable misstatements and embellishments. You can follow our live blog here.

— What are the pros watching for? I checked in with my colleagues on the politics team about what they're following tonight.

Dan Balz, our chief correspondent, sums it up: "You have a national frontrunner in Donald Trump but you have Ted Cruz now as the person rising rapidly in Iowa and potentially poised to deliver the first setback to Trump. That, along with Cruz's closed-door criticism of Trump last week, makes for a pretty compelling dynamic for tonight's debate. **But think of the other potential face-offs beyond Trump v Cruz.** There's Christie v Trump; Rubio v Cruz; Cruz v Paul; Rubio v Trump; and Bush v you name it. But in many ways it's still Trump v the field. **Who has the most at stake tonight? Probably Cruz, Christie and Rubio."**

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Signs outside the Venetian hotel (Robyn Beck/AFP/Getty Images)

–The attacks in Paris and San Bernardino happened since the last debate five weeks ago, making terrorism extra salient .

- **Matea Gold wonders: "Who emerges as the strongest and most credible voice on national security?** I'm interested in seeing whether any of the candidates will manage to address the fear among Americans of another attack while also conveying calm and optimism. Or do they seek to ramp up the unease?"
- **Karen Tumulty thinks we'll see a substantive debate play out about how to balance security and civil liberties:** "The media and pundit class focus is going to be on verbal sparring and one-liners, but if you listen carefully, you are likely to hear deeper, and more substantive differences among the candidates on the basic question of America's role in a world that many of its citizens find to be a scarier and scarier place these days. Everyone will agree on the need to destroy ISIS, but the candidates part ways on the question of when and where and how the United States should use its military, as well as other tools of foreign policy. We are seeing deeper differences among the GOP candidates this cycle on those choices than we have in the past."

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Donald Trump hands the podium over to a father whose son was murdered in a crime during a rally in Vegas last night. (Reuters/Mike Blake)

–Trump is a wild card:

- **"Here's the dirty little secret of the Republican race: Donald Trump is a bad debater," writes Chris Cillizza.** "In the first four debates, he's seemed bored, distracted, poorly briefed and, well, a little behind the times. And, as Philip Bump wrote on The Fix today, he's dipped in the polls after each of the debates. It hasn't mattered much so far — Trump is as high as he has ever been — but it doesn't change the fact that he's been a bad debater. I'm interested to see if he has practiced or worked on it at all since the last one. Probably not, knowing him. But he'd be smart to recognize that debating is a major weakness for him in this race."
- **Editor Amy Gardner wonders how Trump will handle a question about slipping in Iowa polling:** "He's no longer unequivocally on top, and the world will be watching to see how he deals with that."
- **Jenna Johnson, who has been traveling with The Donald, wonders what the other candidates will say about blocking Muslims from entering the U.S. since fresh polling shows most GOP primary voters support it.** "The expectation is that this will be the debate where GOP establishment candidates like Jeb Bush, John Kasich and Chris Christie will go after Trump on policy issues and present themselves as more qualified, prepared, serious candidates — but they do so at their own peril, as attacking Trump comes with the risk that it will only strengthen his popularity and

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support. … I'm interested to see if the other candidates use this as an opportunity to go after Trump or if they just leave the (Muslim) issue alone. **In the past few debates, Trump has largely refrained from attacking his opponents unless directly attacked first — and it will be interesting to see if that continues tonight."**

- **Remember: In the last debate when everyone thought Trump would go after Ben Carson during the debate, and he did not.** It's always possible he could take a pass on going after Cruz, messing up a lot of the b-matter that's been written ahead of time.

Ted Cruz and Donald Trump at their joint rally against the Iran nuclear deal in September. (Reuters/Jonathan Ernst)

—**How does Cruz deal with attacks from Trump and his newfound status as Iowa frontrunner?** "So far this month, as Cruz's rise in the polls has picked up steam, Trump's made the relatively quick journey from delivering offhand, somewhat-unenthusiastic Cruz compliments, to delivering Cruz insults disguised as compliments, to delivering Cruz insults that look like insults," writes editor Rebecca Sinderbrand. "Meanwhile, the Texas senator has made a slower, parallel journey of his own."

- **"Trump tends to try out a few lines of attack until he finds one that sticks — and he's floated at least half a dozen Cruz hits this week alone.** So far, they've fallen into a few main categories: attacks that paint Cruz as a phony; attacks that paint him as a corrupt phony; and attacks that paint him as a possibly emotional, definitely sycophantic beta male … **Cruz won't want to let the beta male charge — the**

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> **Trump claim that he'll agree with anything that comes out of the billionaire's mouth — go unanswered**, even as he won't want to get sucked into an angry on-stage moment. So it's possible the question tonight may be less whether he pushes back at Trump than how. The counteroffensive strategies [Cruz] uses on stage tonight will provide a preview of how he's likely to handle the challenge on his upcoming dozen-state blitz."

— Katie Zezima, who covers the Texas senator's campaign, will also be monitoring the Cruz v Rubio dynamic: "Will he go after Rubio on policy, as he has been doing, and ignore what will likely be an inevitable attack from Trump? Cruz can't cut to a clip from 'Flashdance' – as his campaign tweeted out when Trump called him a 'maniac' – while standing on the debate stage. **Cruz's team has said they will only respond to substantive attacks (ones on policy), and it will be interesting to see what Cruz sees as the substance threshold when it comes to Trump."**

Marco Rubio in New Hampshire. (AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

— "Republican voters are angry. Marco Rubio wants them to know that he gets it and feels it," writes Sean Sullivan, who is covering the Florida senator's campaign. "Easier said than done at a time when Trump and Cruz have excelled at that better than anyone else in the field. At a campaign rally and in a new TV commercial on Monday, Rubio's message was that there is plenty of reason to be upset about the direction of country and that he holds the key to turning things around. But campaigns are not run in a vacuum. A big

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question for Rubio tonight is whether he can punch that point standing a few feet away from Trump and Cruz."

Jeb Bush gets a touchup as Chris Christie looks on during a commercial break at the first Republican debate in Cleveland on Aug. 6, (Reuters/Brian Snyder)

— Ed O'Keefe is curious to see how Christie takes advantage of his return to the primetime stage and whether Jeb can create a moment. "Bush now mocks debates as 'performances' – by that measure, his performance has improved over the course of the debate process," Ed writes. "But is there anything he can do tonight to stand out – and make a brief standout moment stick in the minds of voters?"

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Rand Paul debates at the Milwaukee Theatre on Nov. 11. (AP Photo/Morry Gash)

–How does Rand Paul staying on the main stage change the dynamic? "Everybody knows that Rand got into this debate like Indiana Jones rolling out of a cave before the trap door slams," quips **David Weigel**. "It was close. In Las Vegas, it's even sort of an in-joke: Organizers for the "undercard" debate had grudgingly expected Paul to push his way back into prime time at the last minute, saving his campaign but punishing their ratings and drama.

- **"Had Paul missed the debate, Cruz might have been able to establish himself as the most electable candidate for the 'libertarian lane' of Republican voters," Weigel adds.** "I saw him do as much yesterday at the Nevada National Security Summit, where (via video) he defined himself between the left that responds to terror with gun control bills, and the right that responds with calls for more NSA surveillance. Cruz can still try this, but I am watching to see how Paul accentuates the differences between them on privacy and national security. He is completely confident that he can out-argue Rubio and Christie on those topics; whether or not the reality comports with that, I expect him to try.
- "**At the same time, I expect Cruz to take none of the bait tossed his way by Paul or Trump.** Cruz is better-liked among many voters who support both of those candidates, and accordingly he can pivot from any attack to his preferred message, looking gracious not week."

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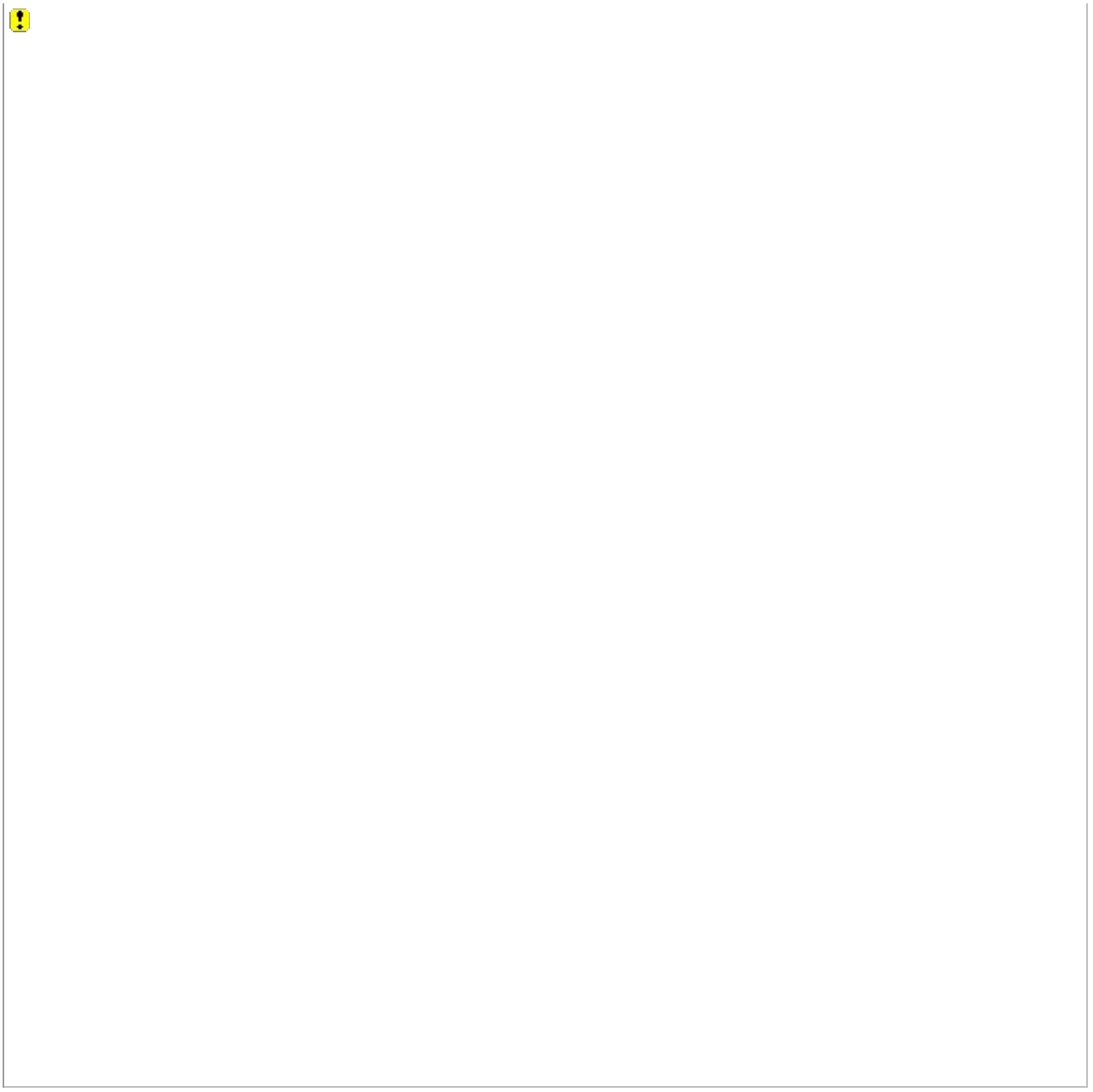

Ben Carson speaks in Michigan last week. (David Guralnick/Detroit News via AP)

— Can Carson force his way back into the conversation? "The retired neurosurgeon has seen his poll numbers dramatically decline in the last month, falling from second place (just behind Trump) to tying for third or fourth in most national polls," notes **Jose DelReal,** who has been traveling with him. "The primary driver: the Paris and San Bernardino attacks, which have made national security the top issue … The retired neurosurgeon has tried to close his foreign policy credibility gap in town halls and rallies around the country, talking about visiting two refugee camps in Jordan and announcing a foreign policy team last week. On the stump, he now regularly references several geopolitically significant sites while talking about terrorism: Raqqa, Syria; Sinjar, Iraq; and Mosul, Iraq. **Carson has received poll bumps after the last several debates, moving huge social media numbers even as critics have failed to detect any breakout moments.** Whether he invites similar results after this debate will heavily depend on whether he can reassure voters he would be fit to keep the nation safe."

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Carly Fiorina campaigns at Georgia Tech last week. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

— "Carly Fiorina made it on to the big debate stage: congrats!" writes Abby Phillip, who has been following her closely . "Now it's for her to stand out and be noticed or risk falling deeper into obscurity."

— Once again, please follow The Post's debate live blog tonight. You can read it here.

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Paul Ryan (Allison Shelley/Getty Images)

OMNIBUS UPDATE FROM CAPITOL HILL:

Lawmakers are still working this evening to complete a $1.1 trillion spending and tax package to fund the government through September 2016.

- **House Republicans have scheduled a meeting at 9 p.m. tonight to discuss the status of the talks.**
- **Harry Reid says the deal is being held up because of disagreements over a plan to lift the 40-year ban on oil exports and proposed changes to the Child Tax Credit**, Kelsey Snell relays . "Republican leaders have not accepted a request from Democrats to increase tax breaks for renewable energy producers in exchange for agreeing to lift the oil export ban." But they're also arguing about GOP demands to limit fraud in the tax credit program that Democrats believe would negatively affect low-income workers. Ocean conservation is also being debated.
- **If there's a deal, the House is expected to go first, voting late Thursday.** Senate Republicans will meet tomorrow discuss it.
- **Lawmakers will need to pass another short-term funding bill to prevent the government from shutting down tomorrow.**

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Since the last debate, there have been more than 15 million

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Tweets, 532,000 news articles and 422,000 television mentions of the GOP field. Of course, most of that, 12 million total crossmedia mentions, have been about Trump, according to our analytics partners at Zignal Labs.

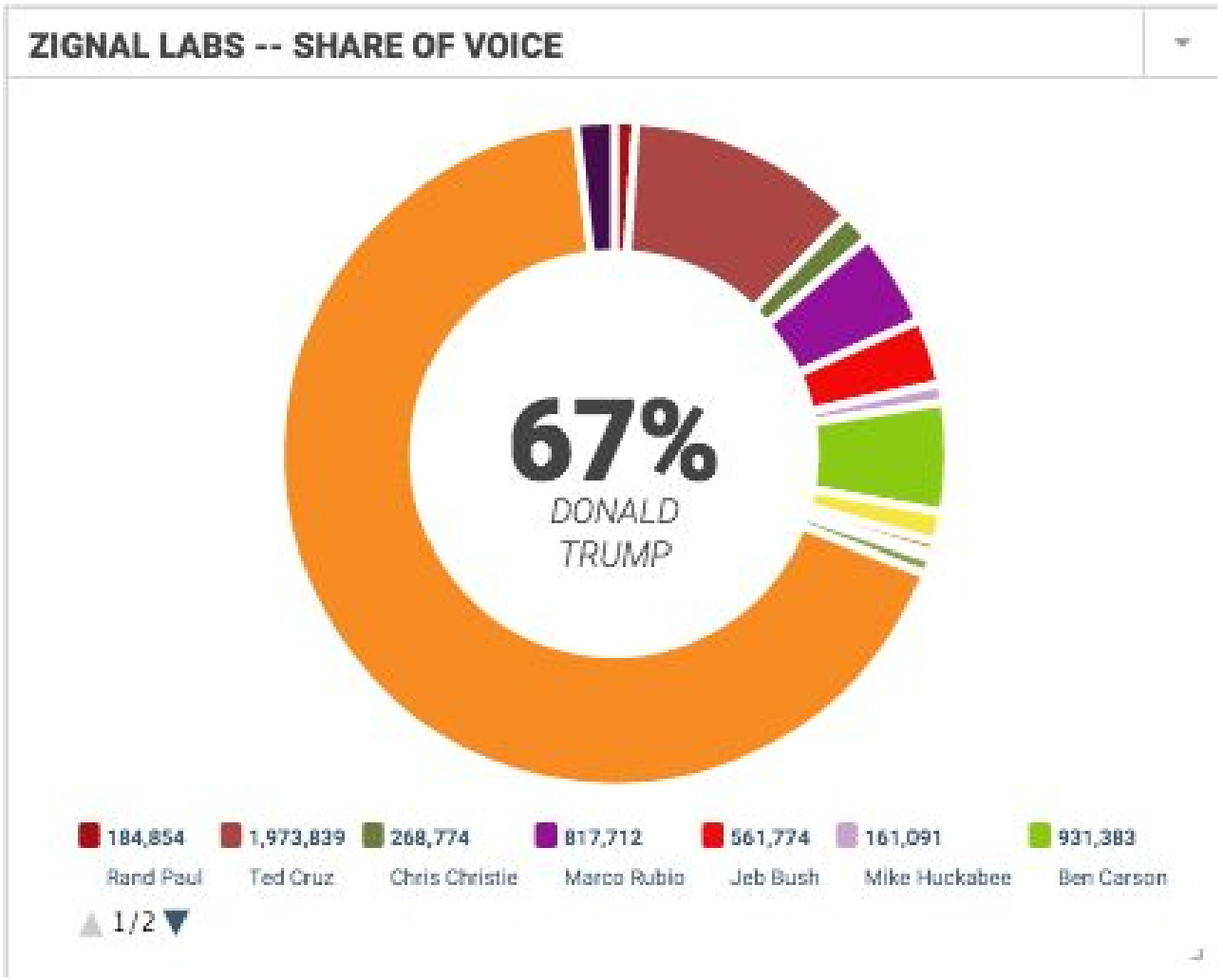

Trump is more of a media sensation than ever before. The chart below shows all Trump mentions since his campaign launched six months ago. Note that the media attention lavished on Trump now is at an all-time high:

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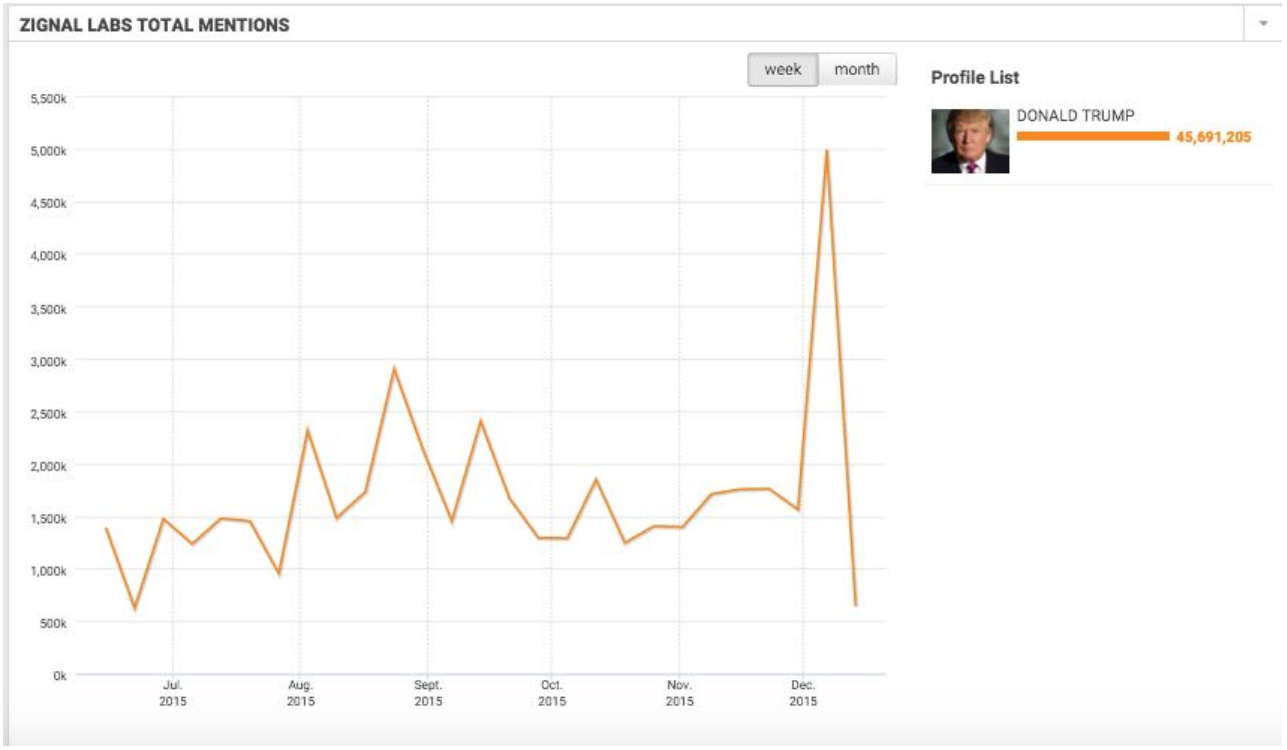

Separately, a Twitter spokesman emails that **last week was the most-Tweeted-about, non-debate week of the campaign**, and the highest level of Twitter conversation about Trump since we started counting back in July. There were about 3.5 million Tweets sent last week mentioning Trump, which is about double his weekly average."

Cruz's rise in the polls has been followed by more media coverage. Others like Carson and Fiorina have fallen back as the Iowa Caucuses approach. The chart below shows how mentions of Carson have fallen off dramatically since the last debate:

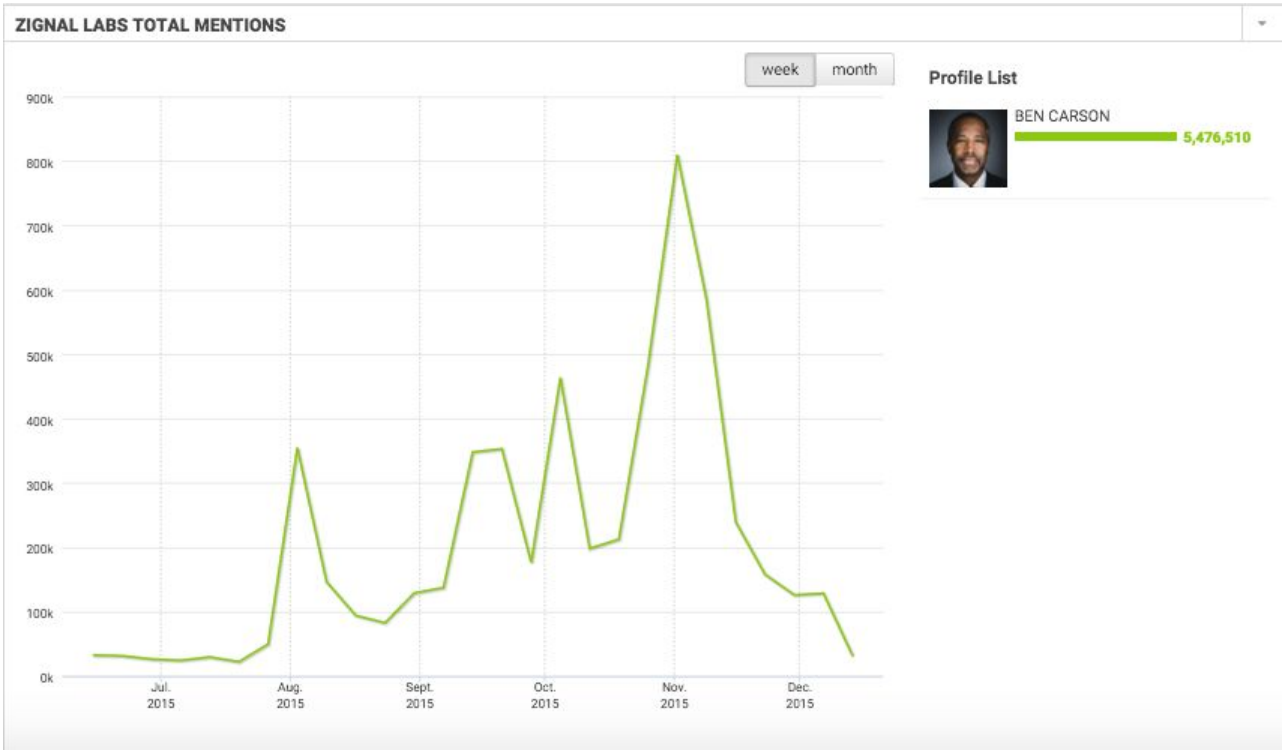

— The five most talked about political topics on Facebook in the United States since

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the last debate:

1. Religion
2. Iraq, Syria and ISIS
3. Homeland Security and Terrorism
4. Guns
5. Immigration

The chart below shows the number of unique people on Facebook in the U.S. engaging in the conversation about each of the candidates – as well as the number of interactions those people made. A Facebook spokesman explains that interactions are the total aggregate number of likes, posts, comments and shares made about a particular candidate within the timeframe. One way to say this, for example, is that in the last month, 1.9 million people in the U.S. on Facebook posted about, shared content, liked or commented on content about Marco Rubio more than 4.6 million times:

First	Last	People	Interactions
Donald	Trump	23,299,000	115,930,000
Hillary	Clinton	8,399,000	33,410,000
Bernie	Sanders	5,777,000	23,261,000
Ted	Cruz	4,222,000	19,031,000
Ben	Carson	4,107,000	13,153,000
Marco	Rubio	1,869,000	4,602,000
Rand	Paul	1,518,000	4,079,000
Jeb	Bush	1,375,000	2,813,000
Mike	Huckabee	1,279,000	2,993,000
Carly	Fiorina	1,270,000	2,584,000
Chris	Christie	904,000	1,648,000
John	Kasich	747,000	1,325,000
Lindsey	Graham	445,000	722,000
Martin	O'Malley	274,000	440,000
Rick	Santorum	149,000	289,000
George	Pataki	42,000	61,000
Jim	Gilmore	29,000	43,000

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— The best of pre-debate social media, curated by Elise Viebeck:

Philip Rucker spotted a Trump impersonator:

(philiprucker)

The RNC's Sean Spicer posted photos of the venue:

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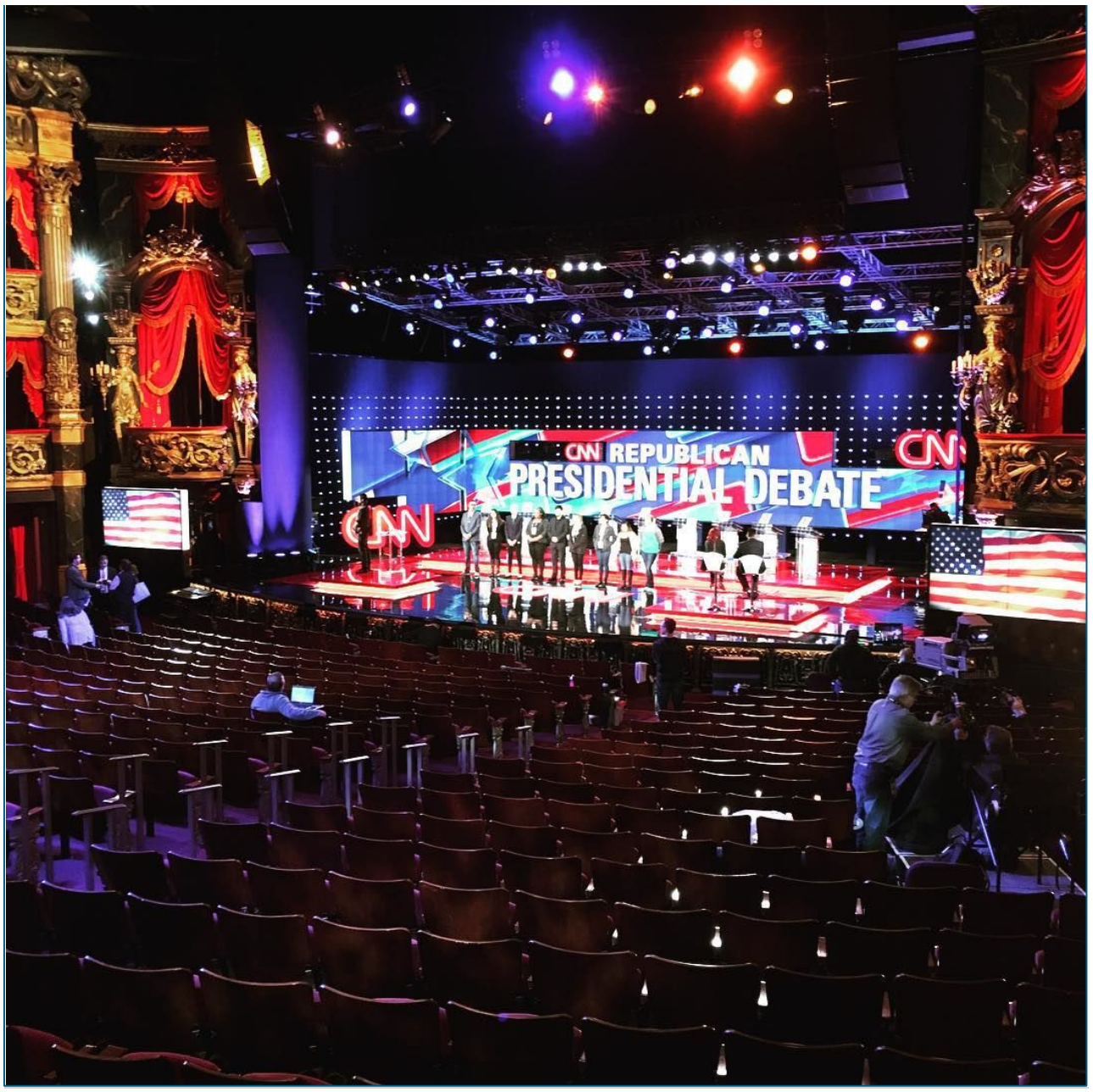

(seanmspicer)

Including the massive press filing center:

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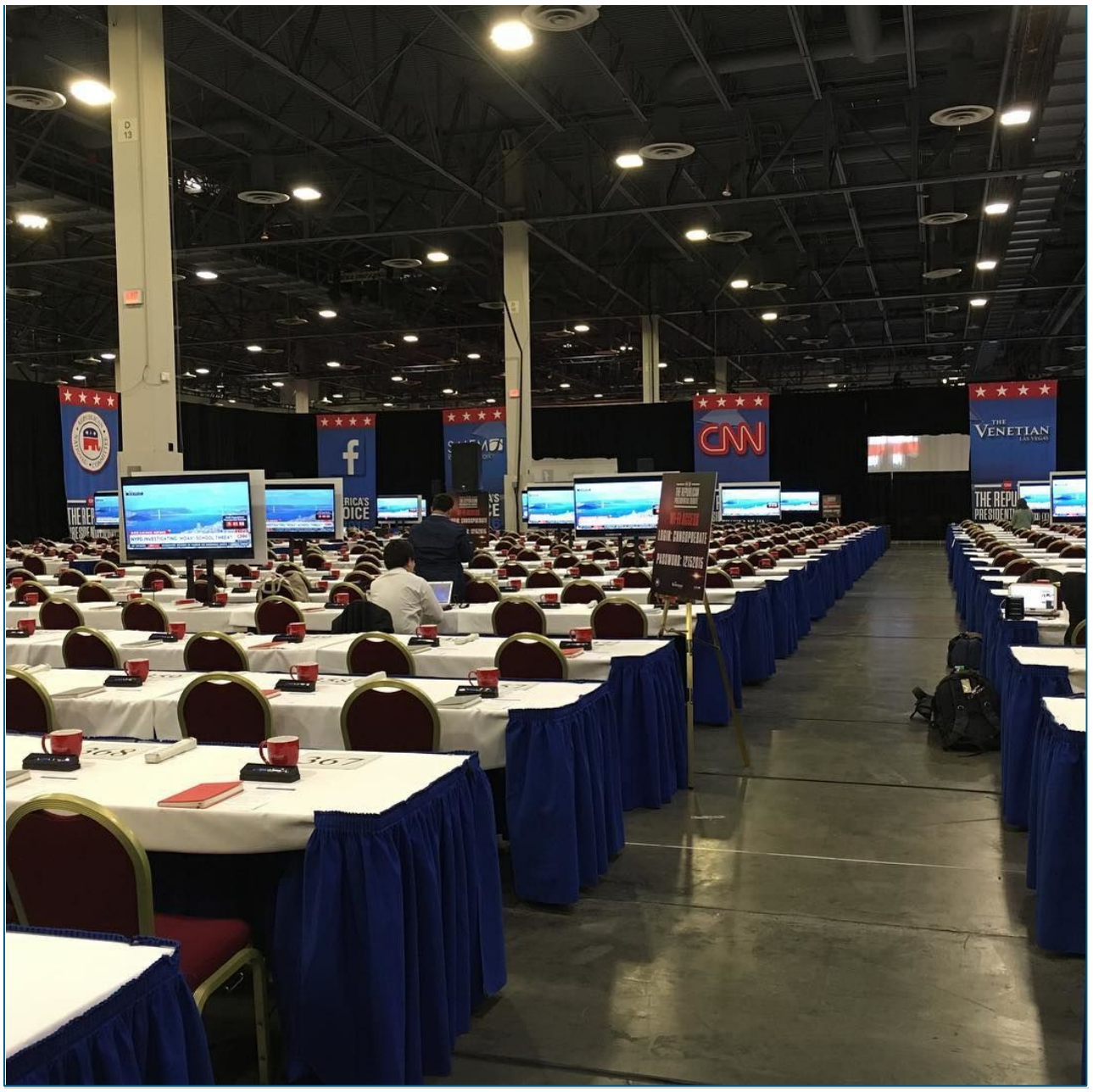

(seanmspicer)

Cruz retweeted this post from a supporter (Trump's "maniac" comment seems to have stuck):

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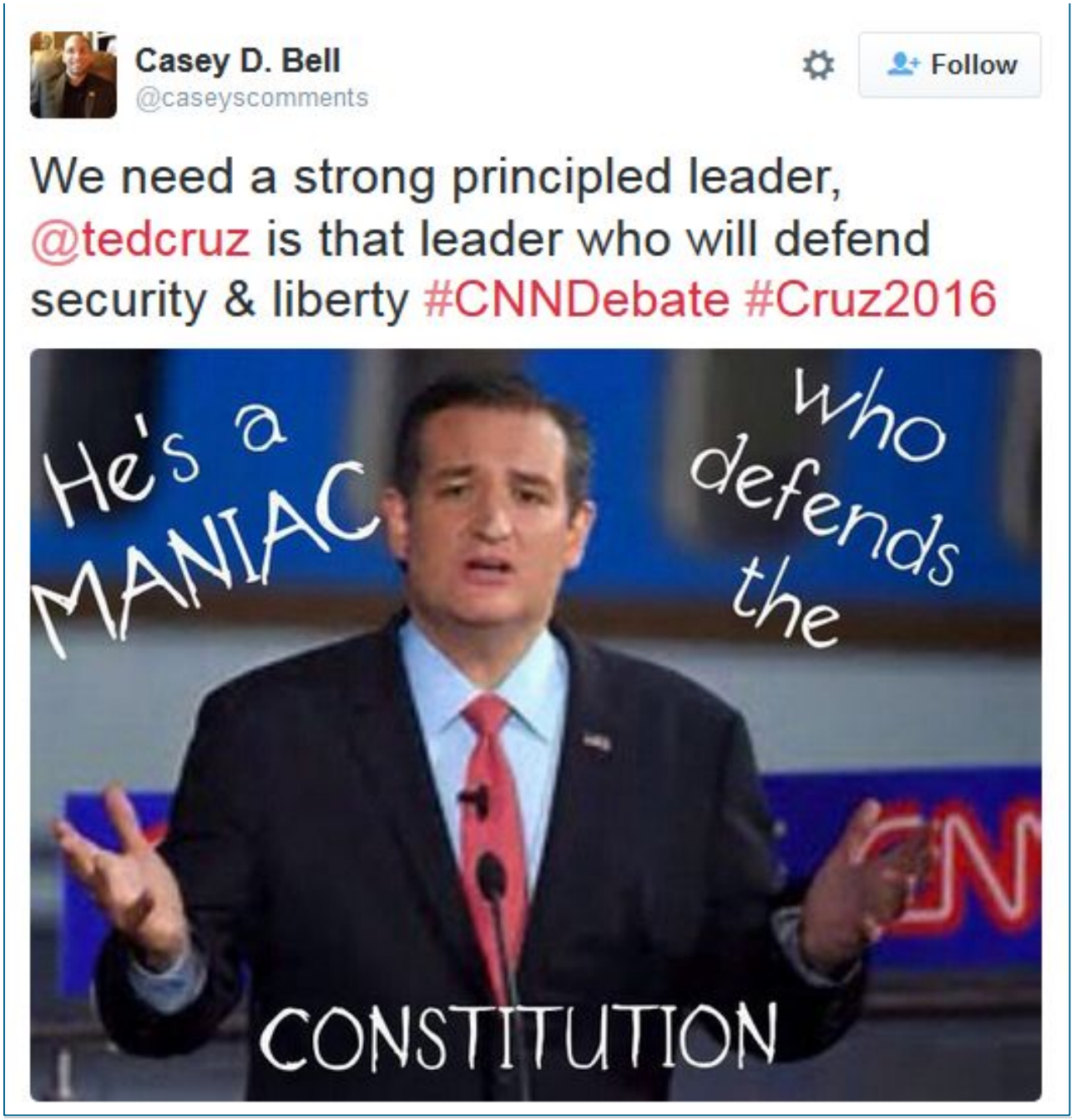

(@caseyscomment)

John Kasich is making use of Snapchat:

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(@JohnKasich)

Marco Rubio did a walk-through:

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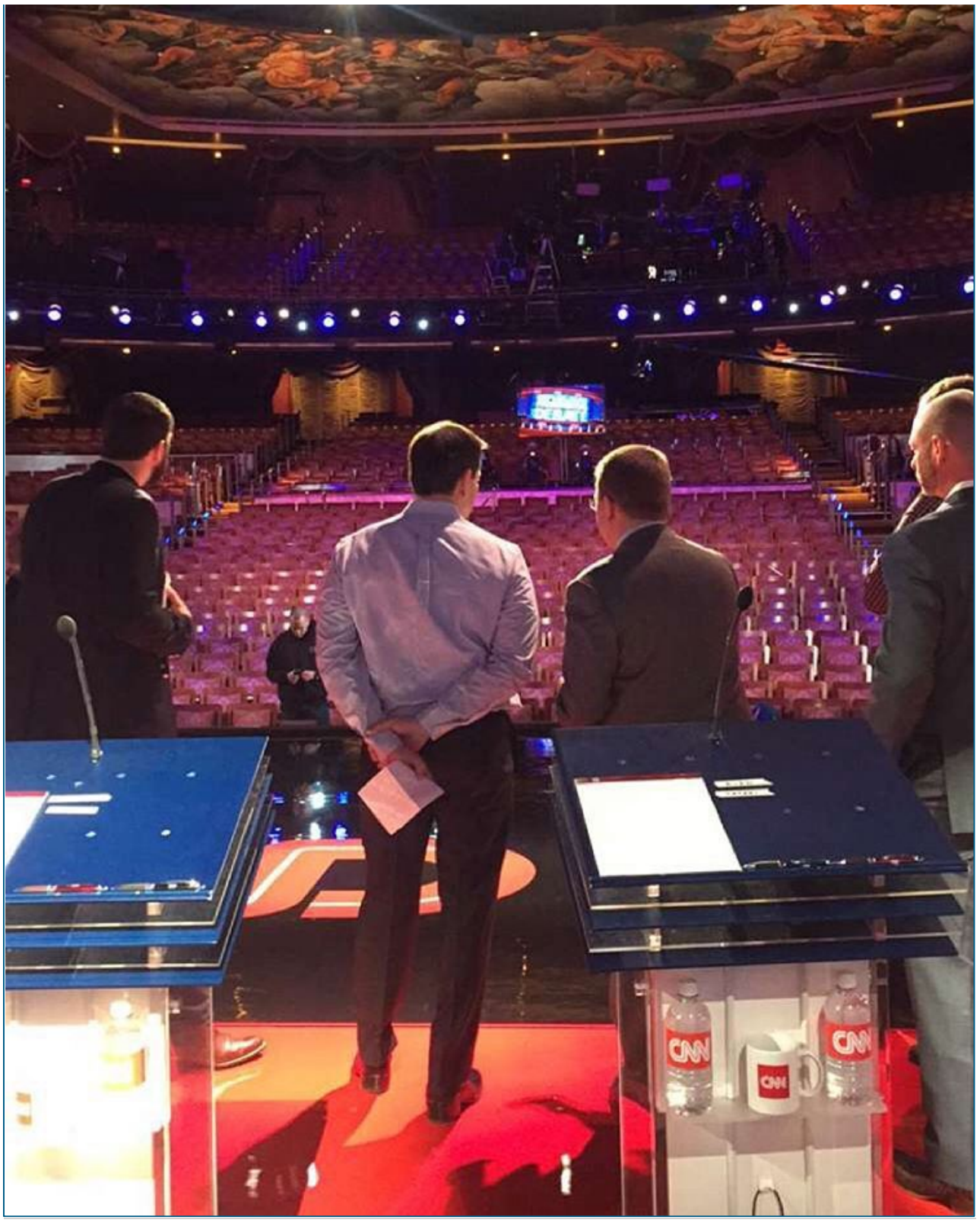

(marcorubiofla)

Trump sent a barrage of tweets attacking Fox News:

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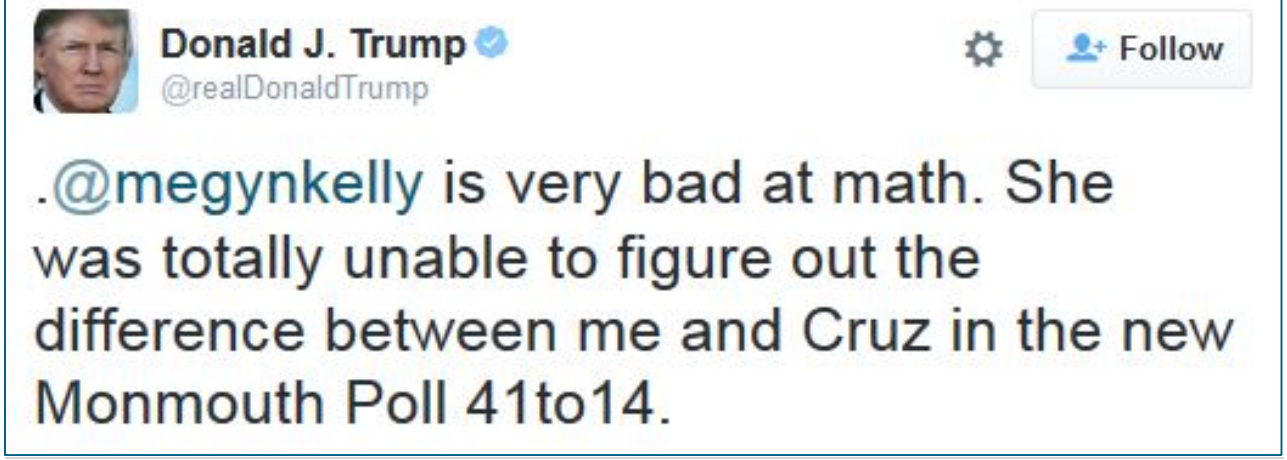

(@RealDonaldTrump)

(@RealDonaldTrump)

(@RealDonaldTrump)

He also quoted Piers Morgan on the possibility of a Trump vs. Hillary Clinton general election debate:

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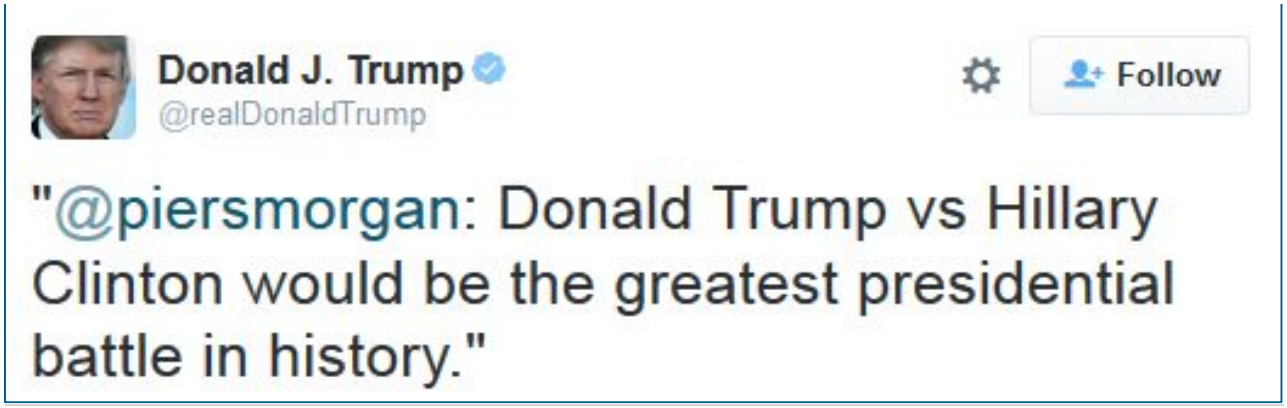

(@RealDonaldTrump)

Jeb Bush hawked campaign gear (10 percent off!):

(@JebBush)

In Las Vegas, Trump met with The Remembrance Project, a group that honors people killed by undocumented immigrants:

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(realDonaldTrump)

Rand Paul stood for a television hit:

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(drrandpaul)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Supporters of Cruz AND Rubio created videos for their candidates based on the “Star Wars” trailer:

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(2conservatives)

(Andrew Varvel)

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Carson greeted voters en route to Las Vegas, saying any foreign policy questions tonight will be a “slam dunk”:

(RealBenCarson)

Independent Journal filmed Fiorina explaining why dogs are better than cats:

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(Independent Journal)

— A final plug for The Post's debate live blog tonight. You can read it here . Talk to you in the morning…

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/15/2008 3:14:04 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Jacksonville, FL

Hello all,

Unfortunately we were not able to send a tracker to today's event but we were able to capture today's event via live streaming.

Big Highlights

- McCain: "Sen. Obama's been saying some pretty nasty things about Gov. Palin and me over the past few days [loud boos]. That's ok. That's ok. He can attack if he wants but all the insults in the world won't bring change to Washington and they're not going to change Sen. Obama's record."
- Mentions Afghanistan in a litany of problems in the world; says Taliban is regrouping; no push for more troops
- Pledges to revamp the patchwork quilt of regulatory processes for the banking industry
- Obama's party's been in charge the last couple of years, have you seen any improvement? [loud boos]

Jacksonville, FL: McCain Rally 09/15/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please e-mail us)
Speech Highlights

- Bad things happening on Wall Street
- I'll never put America in this position again
- Going to clean up wall street
- Build an environment of
    - Robust energy supplies
    - Reduced inflation
    - Controlled healthcare costs
    - Access to international markets
- Me and Palin will address the outdated patchwork quilt of banking regulatory processes
- Need to protect taxpayer deposits
- Protect taxpayers from bailouts
- Not enough oversight
- Obama's been saying nasty things
- Insults won't change records
- I'll cut taxes, Obama will raise them on people making as little as $42,000 a year
- He voted no on CAFTA
- Taxes are not the problem, spending is the problem
- **I have never asked for or recieved an earmark for my state of Arizona**

Obama asked for $932 million in earmarks

- I'm going to stop it
- Every year Palin was Gov., Alaska's earmark requests went down
- People talk about it being a small amount but there are tens of billions in earmarks
- Obama's party's been in charge the last couple of years, have you seen any improvement? Crowd responds with booing
- Want real reform? Then send the ones who have done it
- `Stop sending $700 billion a year to people who don't like us very much. Response of "Drill, baby, drill!"
- Need wind, tide, solar, nuclear. Cheer on nuclear
- The navy's been sailing ships around the world for 60 years with nuclear power plants and we've never had an accident
- America's met every challenge
- It's a dangerous world
    - Russians invading Georgia
        - Care because of Georgia but also because Russia wants to control European energy supply

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        - Russians have renewed their empire building
    - Iranians stil want nukes
    - The Taliban is reconstituting in Afghanistan

- I'm proud of the troops
- These problems are comples and difficult but I've spent my life addressing national security issues in uniform and out
- I don't need any on the job training
- I know how to work with and stand up to world leaders
- I'll bring the troops home with victory and honor
- Obama won't admit he was wrong on the surge
- That MoveOn ad about Gen Petraeus was really terrible
- I'll vote for any resolution to praise Gen Petraeus or any of our other leaders
- I wear the Matthew Stanley bracelet so his death wouldn't be in vain
- I believe I can inspire a generation to serve a couse greater than itself
- Chants of country first
- Fin

--
Evan Whitbeck
Tracker/Media Analyst
Progressive Accountability Office
evan@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7677 (w)
360-480-0786 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/20/2014 9:34:34 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | The Beginning of the End of the Cold War

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Saturday, 20 December 2014

truthout

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Truthout, P.O. Box 276414, Sacramento, CA 95827
(Please include your email address on your check.)

The Beginning of the End of the Cold War

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: The Soviet Union may be gone, but the Cold War never really ended. By any measurable standard, the United States, its people, its politics and its profiteering ethos stand as a bent monument to that era, which never really ended, but only metastasized into the so-called war on terror.

Read the Article

Why There's No Ebola Vaccine

Erica Etelson, Truthout: There is no vaccine for Ebola because our economic system puts virtually all decision-making in the hands of the private sector. We do so knowing that for-profit companies exist to maximize profits. It doesn't matter if they're selling medicine, gasoline, soda pop or credit default swaps.

Read the Article

The Vietnam War, the Two Lost Chances for Peace, the "Vietnam Syndrome" - Yet

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Former Federal Prosecutor: McCulloch Violated Rules of Professional Conduct in Brown Case
Read the Article at Crooks and Liars

North Korea, Angrily Denying Sony Attack, Proposes Joint Investigation With US
Read the Article at The New York Times

Wrongfully Convicted Inmates Fight for Compensation
Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

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Now a Neocon Resurrection

John Pedler, Truthout: In this excerpt from his book, *A Word Before Leaving*, John Pedler discusses the Cold War mindset that persists in the United States, where "socialism" is still a dirty word. The laissez-faire capitalism upheld as the US political ideal during the conflict with the Soviet Union lives on, inhibiting efforts to reduce the widening gap between rich and poor.

Read the Book Excerpt

Darren Wilson Wasn't the First: A Short History of Killer Cops Let Off the Hook

Flint Taylor, In These Times: The United States has a long history of allowing police to walk free after vicious, racist violence. Here is a brief history of high-profile cases where public outrage compelled the justice system to confront acts of racially motivated police violence – with less than satisfactory results.

Read the Article

Your Holiday Guide to Avoiding Slave Labor

Jill Richardson, OtherWords: As we thoughtfully buy gifts for our loved ones in festive stores this season, it's hard to remember the people who make the products we buy. The easiest way to ensure the gifts were ethically produced is to buy locally.

Read the Article

The Invasion of Panama and the Proclamation of a Lone Superpower Above the Law

Matt Peppe, Just the Facts Blog: The US military aggression in Panama was condemned internationally, but the message was clear: The United States was free to do whatever it wanted, whenever it wanted, and it would not be bound by ethics or laws.

Read the Article

Subsidy Spotlight: Publicly Funding a Utah Disaster in the Making

Anna Simonton, Oil Change International: Oil and gas executives are flocking to the Uinta Basin in eastern Utah, as new technologies - and support from the government - offer the dubious possibility of digging up the region's vast deposits of shale and tar sands oil.

Read the Article

Unbelievable: Telecoms Claim They're Worried About Your Bill!

Kevin Zeese, Popular Resistance: The telecoms remind us of the mafia: "If you reclassify the internet as a public utility, it's gonna cost you." It is time to stand up to these bullies. The internet community is strong enough to defeat them in any arena.

Read the Article

Who's Afraid of Shareholder Democracy?

Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, Brennan Center for Justice: The US Chamber of Commerce, one of the biggest corporate trade associations, and ALEC, one of biggest corporate lobbying groups, are both startlingly hostile to shareholders, grumbling about them being too pushy.

Read the Article

Fallen Heroes of 2014

US Sends Four Guantánamo Prisoners Home to Afghanistan

Read the Article at Reuters

"All Our Homes Are Mourning": The Aftermath of the Peshawar Tragedy

Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

Things Could Get Much Worse for Russia

Read the Article at Business Insider

Obama Just Made History by Ignoring Men for an Entire Press Conference

Read the article at PolicyMic

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Making Contact, National Radio Project: Hundreds of social justice advocates and organizers passed away in 2014, leaving their work behind as their legacy, but often also leaving an irreplaceable hole in their movements.

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From: "Teresa Amott" <tamott@knox.edu>
To: campus-bulletin <campus-bulletin@knox.edu>
"Trustees at Knox" <trustees@knox.edu>
trusteesemeriti <trusteesemeriti@knox.edu>
retirees <retirees@knox.edu>
Date: 1/12/2016 7:13:32 AM
Subject: Three faculty members appointed to endowed professorships

Dear Knox Community,

It gives me very great pleasure to announce that three of our colleagues have been appointed to endowed professorships in recognition of their distinguished teaching, scholarship, and service to Knox College. I have made these appointments upon the recommendation of the Faculty Personnel Committee and the Dean of the College, and am grateful for their good counsel.

Dr. Heather Hoffman, Professor of Psychology, has been named as the Robert M. and Katherine A. Seeley Distinguished Professorship, succeeding Professor Emeritus George Steckley. Hoffman joined the Knox faculty in 1987, and specializes in human sexual psychophysiology, including the origins of patterns of sexual attraction and sexual arousal. In addition, her work in neuroscience includes examining developmental differences in learning in rats and the role of monoamine and neuropeptide transmitters in such ontogenetic differences. Hoffman received her Ph.D. and M.A. in psychology from the State University of New York-Binghamton, and her B.A. in psychology from Lafayette College. She currently serves as President of the International Academy of Sex Research. Hoffmann has received grants from the National Institutes of Health and from the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and was named a Research Fellow at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction at Indiana University. In addition to national and international presentations, her work has been published in numerous professional journals. In 1991, she was awarded the Phillip Green Wright-Lombard College Prize for Distinguished Teaching at Knox College.

The Robert M. and Katherine A. Seeley Distinguished Professorship was established in 1998 through a bequest from their son, Robert A. Seeley, Knox College Class of 1951. Robert Arnold Seeley '51, and Katherine Arnold Seeley '22, were direct descendants of Sylvanus Ferris, one of the founders and initial trustees of Knox College, and of Benjamin Franklin Arnold, a trustee of the College from 1899 until his death in 1920. While an undergraduate, Robert Arnold Seeley was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity; upon graduation he pursued a career in the insurance industry, initially in his home community of Freeport, Illinois. In 1954 he married Nancy Ferguson, a graduate of Stanford University. Katherine Arnold Seeley, a native of Galesburg, was involved in a variety of activities while an undergraduate, including membership in Delta Delta Delta sorority, and remained active throughout her life in community affairs in Freeport. In 1927 she married Robert M. Seeley, an insurance executive who had attended the University of Illinois. Nancy Ferguson Seeley remains a leadership donor to Knox, including support for Alumni Hall and the naming of an Admission counseling office in honor of the Knox connections of her husband and mother-in-law.

Dr. Konrad Hamilton, Associate Professor and Chair of History, has been named as the Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in History, succeeding Professor Catherine Denial, who has been named to the inaugural Bright Professorship in History (see below). Dr. Hamilton joined the Knox faculty in 1995, and specializes on the history of affirmative action policy and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the United States. He also has engaged in a comparative historiographical study of emancipation in the British Caribbean and the United States. Dr. Hamilton received his Ph.D. and M.A. in U.S. history from Stanford University; an M.A. in public historical studies from the University of California-Santa Barbara, and a B.A. in history, with honors, from the University of Oregon. At Knox, Hamilton plays a pivotal role in considering how Martin Luther King's life and words continue to be relevant in the 21st century. He also served as project historian at the Grant Wood History Institute, focusing on "Teaching Reconstruction for Middle School Teachers, Teaching Liberalism and Conservatism in the 20th Century." His teaching at Knox includes courses in the Black Image in American Film, Environmental Racism, America in the 1960s, Slavery in the Americas, Themes in African-American Political Thought since Emancipation, The Great Society, and The American Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Hamilton also served as co-director of the SPARK program in its inaugural year, lending his expertise on the millennial generation in Knox's College readiness program.

The Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in History was established in 2010 through the generosity of Dr. Richard W. Burkhardt '39 and Dorothy Johnson Burkhardt '39; it followed the 2009 Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in Modern Languages. Both Burkhardts had long and distinguished careers in the academy. Dr. Burkhardt was a member of the faculties of Syracuse and Ball State Universities; he served as vice president and dean of the faculty at Ball State and retired in 1985. Mrs. Burkhardt served as instructor of French, Spanish and Russian, also at Ball State, from 1958 to 1983, and was awarded the Palmes Academiques by the French government for her efforts to promote cross-cultural learning between France and the United States. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at Knox from 1976 to 1990, when she was elected a life trustee.

Dr. Catherine Denial, Associate Professor of History, will be the inaugural holder of the Mary Elizabeth Hand Bright and Edwin Winslow Bright Professorship of American History. Dr. Denial joined the Knox faculty in 2005 and specializes in property and kinship in Dakota country and history pedagogy and curriculum. She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Iowa after completing an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. with Honors in American studies at the University of Nottingham, England. Her publications include *Making Marriage: Husbands, Wives, and the American State in Dakota and Ojibwe Country* (2013), as well as articles, reviews, and web publications in her other areas of specialization. Denial also served as the lead historian for the U.S. Department of Education program on "Bringing History Home and the Grant Wood History Institute" (2001-2012). Her teaching at Knox includes courses on the American West, Great American Debates, Feminist Methodologies, the Historian's Workshop, and Museums, Monuments and Memory. In addition, Dr. Denial served as co-director of the SPARK program in its inaugural year and is a co-facilitator of Knox's Intergroup Dialogue Program.

The Mary Elizabeth Hand Bright and Edwin Winslow Bright Professorship of American History is supported through a trust established by Edwin W. Bright and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Hand Bright, a 1944 alumna of Knox College. Mrs. Bright came from Morristown, New Jersey to Knox College. After receiving her degree in history, she volunteered for the WACs, did her basic training in Georgia, and worked in Washington, DC during WW II. After the war she worked as a reference librarian. Mr. Bright graduated from Columbia in 1942 where he majored in engineering. During WW II, Ed received a direct commission in the Navy and worked on electronics. After many years of marriage, Mary Elizabeth passed away in 2008 followed by Ed in 2013. It was their intent for their bequests to support the study of early American history at Knox, defined as before the Civil War. Their interest in early American history may have stemmed from the fact that Edwin Winslow, Ed's ancestor, came to the U.S. on the Mayflower and

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Mary Elizabeth's ancestors hit American soil in 1633 or thereabouts. Ed and Mary Elizabeth Bright established two other funds at Knox College: the Bright Scholarship Fund, which is awarded to a student majoring in American history and the Bright Book Fund for early American history.

Please join me in congratulating Professors Hoffman, Hamilton, and Denial and in thanking our donors for their generous support of the Knox College faculty. I am delighted that we can honor their teaching, scholarship, and service through these appointments.

--
TERESA L. AMOTT
President

Knox College
309-341-7211 | Fax: 309-341-7856
www.knox.edu

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "trusteesemeriti" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to
trusteesemeriti+unsubscribe@knox.edu .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 2:58:55 PM
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Oops disregard previous message

On Apr 23, 2015 9:57 PM, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
If you have a second call me. 203-999-0738

On Apr 23, 2015 9:43 PM, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder <David@db-research.com > wrote:

One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:

Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
To: John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Stories for tomorrow:

- Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
- New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
- ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
- Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
- WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
- Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
- Bloomberg- Laureate
- NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed

Story Lines:

1. Nervous Dems
2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/23/2015 11:55:24 PM
Subject: First Draft on Politics: A New Character Joins a Rapidly Expanding Storyline

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The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

A New Character Joins a Rapidly Expanding Storyline

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Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in Boston last month. She met privately with Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. over the weekend. Brian Snyder/Reuters

By Maggie Haberman

*Good Monday morning, as **President Obama**'s vacation comes to an end and as **Donald J. Trump** continues to drive the discussion on the trail and on the Sunday talk shows. But, as the August lull winds down, another political intrigue, filled with whispers, speculation and a seemingly significant private meeting, deepens.*

In any month other than August in the Summer of **Trump**, the fact that a sitting vice president asked a major progressive avatar to meet with him before a decision about a presidential campaign would have been a news bomb.

The private meeting on Saturday between **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.** and **Senator Elizabeth Warren** of Massachusetts may have gotten less attention than it might have otherwise, but it was the clearest signal yet of Mr. Biden's seriousness in thinking about entering the race. The two spoke for well over an hour about a range of policy issues and the presidential campaign.

They met at his residence at the Naval Observatory, which is just a short distance from the Washington home of **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, the poll leader in the Democratic nominating contest, who is facing the roughest patch of her candidacy amid questions about her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Mr. Biden's advisers are not in harmony about whether he has a viable path. Some of his aides have strenuously sought to play down his outreach as he considers what to do.

But Ms. Warren has declined to endorse Mrs. Clinton so far, and the two are far from

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political allies or friends. Ms. Warren's storm-the-gates populist rhetorical style is not Mrs. Clinton's, and some progressives still hope that Ms. Warren will change her mind and run herself.

If Mr. Biden does decide to run, the meeting will be remembered as a turning point. If he does not, it will be seen by some as a hostile act toward Mrs. Clinton as she hits choppy waters.

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What We're Watching This Week

- **Mr. Obama** returned to Washington on Sunday and will leave again on Monday for Las Vegas, where he will speak at the National Clean Energy Summit meeting , an event co-sponsored by **Senator Harry Reid** of Nevada, who on Sunday voiced his support for the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran.

- **Senator Ted Cruz** of Texas, who on Friday hosted a "religious liberty" rally in Iowa, sent a "personal invitation" email to religious leaders to "join with me and thousands of pastors and church leaders" on Tuesday to discuss the videos accusing Planned Parenthood of selling fetal tissue for a profit. "We cannot allow this to continue," the email says.

- **Jeb Bush**, who has been in an increasing battle of words with **Mr. Trump** over immigration and other issues, will be in McAllen, Texas, on Monday to "discuss border security" with local officials, his campaign said.

- And on Thursday, **Mr. Obama** will visit New Orleans to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, meet with residents and speak about the city's rebuilding efforts.

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Obama to Speak to Jewish Groups About Iran Deal

In early August, **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** of Israel spoke to American Jews in a live webcast meant to help spread Mr. Netanyahu's warning that **Mr. Obama**'s nuclear deal with Iran would lead to more terror and attacks in the region.

Now, it's Mr. Obama's turn.

Two Jewish organizations announced last week that the president would participate in a live webcast to their membership on Friday as part of his efforts to build support for the agreement between Iran, the United States and five other world powers.

"We are honored that President Obama will join us for this important discussion," said **Michael Siegal**, the chairman of the Board of the Jewish Federations of North America, one of the two organizations sponsoring the webcast. The other group is the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The president's decision to hold a webcast continues the tit-for-tat actions taken by the two world leaders before a vote by Congress in mid-September about whether to approve the deal.

On the webcast, Mr. Obama will make remarks and take questions, the groups said.

– Michael D. Shear

O'Malley, on 'This Week,' Criticizes Clinton Over Emails

It was one of the most famous and damning remarks during the Watergate scandal: "What did the president know, and when did he know it?" **Senator Howard H. Baker Jr.** of Tennessee asked of his fellow Republican, **Richard M. Nixon**, as the abuse-of-power investigation intensified. While the rhetorical construction has been used in partisan fights ever since, **Martin O'Malley**, a Democratic presidential candidate, has recently revived it as a line of attack against a fellow party member – and 2016 rival – Mrs. Clinton.

Appearing on ABC's "This Week" news program on Sunday, Mr. O'Malley was asked if he thought Mrs. Clinton was honest and trustworthy in light of continuing questions about her private email use as secretary of state. He used the question to repeat his call for more Democratic presidential debates than the party has sanctioned – but he also used the Bakerism to knock Mrs. Clinton, as he did a few days earlier.

"Until we start having debates, and offering those ideas that move our country forward, we're going to be bogged down in questions of, what did Hillary Clinton

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know and when did she know it?" said Mr. O'Malley, the former governor of Maryland. "And we cannot allow our party to be branded by those sorts of questions of the past. We have to look to the future. And we have to offer the ideas that move our country forward for the future."

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's campaign did not return an email seeking comment.

– *Patrick Healy*

Our Favorites From The Times

- Now that he is back from his relatively quiet two-week vacation in Martha's Vineyard, **Mr. Obama** faces a daunting list of tasks.

- For more than 20 years, **David Kendall** has been on the front lines for **the Clintons** as their personal lawyer, battling investigators and litigants in the superheated environment where law and politics meet. From Whitewater to impeachment, he has waged legal warfare to keep the Clintons' political careers on track. So no one is surprised she turned to Mr. Kendall over the questions about her emails.

- Also on the Sunday news shows, **Gov. Scott Walker** of Wisconsin and other candidates criticized **Mr. Trump**, who dodged questions on the details of his immigration proposals.

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- Many of **Mr. Biden**'s supporters are pressing him to run and some are leery, but, Washington Monthly writes, "it's not as if Biden has much to lose by running."

- CNN takes a look at **Mr. Walker**'s stand on birthright citizenship, saying that he has taken three positions on the matter in seven days.

- And Politico Magazine details how **"Bernie Sanders** and **Donald Trump** have tapped into a deep vein of anti-Washington frustration to capture a quarter of their (both adopted) parties' voters and taken their country by surprise."

- Politico Magazine also looks at what we the first 100 days of a **Trump** presidency might look like, which may be a lot less convulsive than the rest of his term.

- Breitbart.com reports on the latest Republican plan to take down **Mr. Trump**: hug the message but not the messenger.

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Social Media Teams Add to Ranks With Insiders: Candidates' Families

They often have a unique view of the campaign trail: behind the scenes, exceptional access to the candidate and a perspective just slightly closer to the ground than the adults.

The children of the presidential candidates see the campaign like few others, and last weekend, **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey handed over his Snapchat account – Christie.2016 – to his four children to let them show his followers what life on the trail is like for them.

They walked right behind the governor as he strolled through the fair, took shots of Mom signing autographs and Dad doing an interview on Fox News.

They also took videos of fair rides, fried ice cream stands, and of Andrew, the oldest son, winning a large stuffed basketball; they playfully shove the camera in one another's faces at the end of a video segment.

"They were like, 'We're on the road, we're out there, we're doing stuff, we want to help,' " **Lauren Fritts**, the digital director of the Christie campaign, said of the children's desire to get involved. She said she gave them no instruction and just let their personalities show through on the account.

Social media platforms are giving candidates' children and families – often part of the stagecraft but rarely too involved in messaging – a new role on the campaign trail. **Matt** and **Alex**, **Mr. Walker**'s college-age sons, have taken to posting on Medium from the trail.

The Christie children weren't the only family members taking to social media; **Mary Pat Christie**, Mr. Christie's wife, took over the campaign Instagram. And while she's not a regular user like her children, she seemed to enjoy the experience.

"I think she caught the bug," said **Samantha Smith**, the Christie campaign

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communication director.

– *Nick Corasaniti*

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/24/2014 1:18:02 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday November 24, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday November 24, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton Leads in New Hampshire by Historic Margin"

"Sixty-two percent of likely Democratic voters in the early primary state said they support Clinton in a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll of likely primary voters conducted by Purple Insights."

New York Times: "Authors Sign Up to Raise Barnes & Noble's Sales"

"In an effort to increase holiday sales, which have fallen for the last two seasons, Barnes & Noble is hoping to lure customers into stores this Black Friday with something book lovers cannot download: signed copies. The chain recruited 100 prominent authors — including Donna Tartt, David Mitchell, Dan Brown, E. L. James, Jeff Kinney, George W. Bush and Hillary Clinton — to each sign roughly 5,000 copies of their latest books."

Washington Post: "For Democrats, Hillary Clinton just has to say 'Go.' For voters, she'll have to say much more."

"Ready for Hillary started on a shoestring, dismissed by some in Clinton world as a quixotic enterprise. It has grown into something far more important and valuable to a potential candidate…"

Talking Points Memo: "Hillary's Biggest 2016 Challenge Might Start With An 'O'"

"The record tells us that, however the Obama presidency is faring like in its final months, it's going to influence his aspiring successor's White House ambitions."

Real Clear Politics: "Carville: 'There's Not Much Appetite In Democratic Party For Somebody Other Than Hillary Clinton'"

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"On Sunday's edition of This Week, Democratic strategist James Carville said there's not much appetite for someone other than Hillary Clinton in the Democratic party and Democrats across the nation."

The Daily Beast: Jeff Greenfield: "Want President Hillary? Then Primary Her"

"It would be even more helpful to her election prospects if she were confronted in the primary with questions more likely to be raised by the Republican nominee in the fall: was the Russian "reset" policy naive? Was it wise for the US to leave Iraq without even a residual force in place? What specific aspect of US foreign policy was changed for the better under her watch? Does she agree that the Affordable Care Act was offered to the public under false pretenses?"

Politico: "Mitch McConnell preps for 2016 battle"

"Hillary Clinton could end up at the top of the ballot if she decides to run and becomes the party's nominee, a scenario that could boost turnout, giving Democrats hope that they can increase the gender gap among women voters after seeing it shrink in 2014."

Articles:

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton Leads in New Hampshire by Historic Margin"

By Lisa Lerer

November 24, 2014, 6:01 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] New Hampshire primary voters are ready for Hillary, though they have some questions about the Democrats.

Hillary Clinton holds a historic lead in the New Hampshire Democratic primary, although a shift in opinion about the party's brand could be a drag on her candidacy in the general election.

Sixty-two percent of likely Democratic voters in the early primary state said they support Clinton in a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll of likely primary voters conducted by Purple Insights. It's an advantage that puts her in elite company: Only former Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy in 1980 and former Vice President Al Gore in 2000 have broken the 50 percent mark more than six months before the primary. "Clinton's numbers are so strong that it seems inconceivable that she could have any serious challenger," said Neil Levesque, executive director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College.

While she leads in the primary, the results harbor dangerous signals for Democrats. When asked which party's nominee is more likely to "care about people like you," a trait traditionally associated with Clinton's party, voters were almost equally divided, with 40 percent saying Democrats and 39 percent picking Republicans. In exit polls conducted after the 2012 presidential election, 55 percent of New Hampshire voters sided with President Barack Obama and 42 percent with former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney when asked to select the candidate who "is more in touch with people like you."

"Republicans are sticking to pocketbook issues and focusing on reigning the government in," said Kerry Marsh, a Manchester-based Republican strategist with Spectrum Marketing Companies. "I think we're finally doing that right."

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Though New Hampshire is a small state, it has voted for the winner of the White House in eight of the last nine presidential elections. Clinton runs nearly even with Romney in a head-to-head match-up, with 46 percent of likely general election voters selecting the former first lady and secretary of state and 45 percent selecting the former Massachusetts governor. She has a wider lead—7 percentage points—against Kentucky Senator Rand Paul and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, whom she beats 47-39 among the same group.

A surprise upset by Clinton in 2008 saved her presidential bid and marked the start of a five-month primary slog with Obama. “As I caution all presidential candidates in New Hampshire, taking New Hampshire for granted is very dangerous,” said Terry Shumaker, a Manchester attorney and Clinton supporter. “Last time, I believe, Hillary Clinton had an almost 30-point lead in the polls in our state in the summer. That lead melted like an ice sculpture on the mall in July and she came back and won our primary by three points.”

Her primary win highlighted another quirk of the Granite State: women rule. Female politicians currently hold the governor's mansion and every seat in the congressional delegation. (That will change in January, when Republican Frank Guinta replaces Democrat Carol Shea-Porter.) “Unlike past human history, being a woman in New Hampshire is an advantage in any Democratic primary and with the independents as well,” said Ray Buckley, the chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party. “All things being equal, our primary voters would tend to vote for a woman.”

Among all likely voters in the state, Clinton has the highest favorability rating with 51 percent of voters expressing a positive opinion about her. Republican Senator Kelly Ayotte and Romney, who owns a vacation home in the state, came in second at 47 percent each.

While her lead hardly guarantees the nomination, Clinton's dominance in the early polling may deter other Democrats from jumping into the race. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, at 13 percent support, comes the closest to Clinton of any potential Democratic challenger, though voters are pretty much split in their opinions of her with 34 percent rating her favorably and 35 percent giving her a negative review.

Other candidates, including Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and independent Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, lag in the single digits.

New Hampshire Democrats attribute at least a piece of her edge to the Clinton family's long history in the state. “Former President Bill Clinton has been here yearly for decades,” Buckley said. “They first came up in '79. So, there's a long, long relationship with the Clintons' and New Hampshire.”

The poll, which was conducted Nov. 12-18, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent for questions regarding the Democratic primary, and 4.4 percent for those asked of all likely voters.

New York Times: “Authors Sign Up to Raise Barnes & Noble’s Sales”

By Alexandra Alter

November 23, 2014

In an effort to increase holiday sales, which have fallen for the last two seasons, Barnes & Noble is hoping to lure customers into stores this Black Friday with something book lovers cannot download: signed copies.

The chain recruited 100 prominent authors — including Donna Tartt, David Mitchell, Dan Brown, E. L. James, Jeff Kinney, George W. Bush and Hillary Clinton — to each sign roughly 5,000 copies of their latest books. The company will distribute the 500,000 signed books among its more than 650 retail stores.

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"Customers get inundated with discounts and offers from every other retailer," said Mary Amicucci, vice president for adult trade and children's books at Barnes & Noble. "The goal was to find an exciting reason for people to come to Barnes & Noble early in the morning and get something that they can't get on any other day of the year."

Drawing customers into its physical stores has become an urgent priority for Barnes & Noble. The chain has been battered in recent years by competition from Amazon and by a sluggish book market. It has closed more than 20 stores since summer 2013 and will spin off its money-losing Nook division into a separate company next year.

Holiday sales at its retail stores and website have declined for the last two seasons. In 2013, sales in the nine-week holiday period fell nearly 7 percent to $1.1 billion compared with the previous year, and in 2012, sales fell nearly 11 percent to $1.2 billion.

Ms. Amicucci said the initiative began seven months ago when Barnes & Noble compiled a wish list of 50 authors. When the first batch of authors responded enthusiastically, the company recruited another 50. Some authors went further, adding little illustrations to the books. Brandon Stanton, the author of "Humans of New York," drew dinosaurs, while Mo Willems, a children's book author, sketched his popular pigeon character.

Some authors said they hoped the new campaign would help the struggling chain.

"The presence of a bookstore in a neighborhood matters," said Lisa Scottoline, who signed 5,000 copies of her novel "Betrayed." "If it's not physically present, we will have fewer readers."

David Baldacci, who signed several thousand copies of his new book, "The Escape," said he hoped the effort would help the last big bookstore chain standing to better compete against Amazon. "You can go online and buy any book you want, but there's not a lot of excitement with clicking the buy button," he said.

Independent bookstores are also counting on authors to draw customers for the holidays, a period when many of them make as much as 30 percent of their annual sales. As part of the American Booksellers Association's "Indies First" holiday initiative, about 1,200 authors will sign books, greet customers and, in some cases, work behind the counter at more than 400 independent bookstores around the country this Saturday.

As part of the effort, the fantasy and graphic novelist Neil Gaiman and his wife, the author, musician and performance artist Amanda Palmer, will be at the Golden Notebook in Woodstock, N.Y., and two other New York bookstores; Geraldine Brooks will work alongside booksellers at Bunch of Grapes Bookstore in Vineyard Haven, Mass.; and Sherman Alexie will volunteer at three Seattle-area bookstores.

Oren Teicher, chief executive of the American Booksellers Association, said author appearances and signed copies were among the best weapons brick-and-mortar stores had against online retailers.

"Books are identical no matter where you buy them," he said. "You don't get a different or better ending if you buy them from us."

Washington Post: "For Democrats, Hillary Clinton just has to say 'Go.' For voters, she'll have to say much more."

By Dan Balz

November 22, 2014

NEW YORK — It was all Hillary Clinton, all day, Friday in New York, a day that helped crystallize how much already has been done for the prospective presidential candidate by others and, more importantly, what she has yet to do for herself.

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The events included a day-long session for the donors to Ready for Hillary, the political action committee founded in early 2013 to help encourage Clinton to run for president. She did not appear at the event, but many of the Clinton clique were there.

In the evening, it was the former secretary of state herself in the limelight at a black-tie gala hosted by the New-York Historical Society Museum & Library, where she was given the History Makers award.

Ready for Hillary started on a shoestring, dismissed by some in Clinton world as a quixotic enterprise. It has grown into something far more important and valuable to a potential candidate whose top-down campaign in 2008 was one (but not the only) factor that led to her defeat to Barack Obama in the contest for the Democratic nomination.

Because of the work of Ready for Hillary, if Clinton decides to run for president, she will instantly have access to what the group's leaders say is a list of roughly 3 million people who have signed up as supporters, volunteers, donors or all of the above. Ready for Hillary will shut down if and when Clinton announces her candidacy. The list can't simply be handed over to her, but she will easily be able to convert fruits of the organization's efforts into a Hillary for President ground army.

Many people deserve credit for this. One is Adam Parkhomenko, the young and tireless co-founder of the group, who has been looking to help make Clinton president of the United States since he was in high school and who overcame the doubters with his energy and a strategic grasp of the techniques and imperatives of the most modern of campaigns.

Another who gets credit is Craig Smith, who has been part of the Clintons' world for more than two decades and whose arrival at Ready for Hillary signaled to many longtime Clinton loyalists — and donors — that the organization deserved their backing, financial and otherwise. About $10 million has been raised since the founding.

Friday's gathering in New York seemed very much like both a Clinton political family reunion and the gathering-before-the-storm. In attendance were scores of people from across the country, many of them instrumental in helping Bill Clinton become president, some who served him as president, and all of them now are just as determined to see Hillary Clinton get to the White House in her own right.

The speakers constituted a who's who of Clinton loyalists, from strategists James Carville and Paul Begala to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to former White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes. Equally notable were those from Obama's political orbit and others who are now part of the Ready for Hillary operation or any of the other pro-Clinton political committees and organizations that have been founded in the past two years.

Without doing anything other than not saying "no" to a second presidential campaign, without having to make any of the hard calls of putting a campaign together, Hillary Clinton has benefitted enormously from the work of all these people. It's fair to say that no one seeking the Democratic nomination — no one who wasn't already an incumbent president at least — will have the kind of machinery in place that now exists for her.

One example: Jerry Crawford, the Iowan who has been a top adviser through all the Clintons' campaigns, told reporters Friday that the work of Ready For Hillary has been "extraordinary" in preparing for a 2016 candidacy.

"We will be at or beyond on day one of the Clinton campaign, if and when it comes, where we ended up last time," he said.

What Clinton hasn't yet done for herself, however, remains the key to her real hopes of winning the White House. One is to organize a campaign that is more disciplined and more strategic than her campaign of 2008. She cannot afford another messy campaign operation, and how she avoids that will take considerable thinking.

Still, machinery doesn't win elections, which means the second and more important step for her is to know exactly why she wants to run for president again and how she is alike and different from her husband and Obama, and then to be able to articulate those reasons in a compelling and forward-looking message.

Clinton is nibbled from all sides as she thinks through the rationale for a campaign. On the left are rising demands for a populist economic message of the kind associated with Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. She has edged toward that, but sometimes awkwardly, as when she said

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last month, “businesses don’t create jobs,” a shorthand that baffled nearly everyone by its inarticulateness.

For Bill Clinton, opportunity — not class warfare — long has been at the core of his message. Hillary Clinton, however, runs in different times than did her husband, a time of greater inequality and underlying frustration. The balancing act is more challenging today than it was for him.

At the award dinner Friday night, Hillary Clinton picked up on the theme of opportunity in a conversation with author Walter Isaacson. He asked her how having a granddaughter has affected her thinking.

After the usual grandmotherly statements about how special her granddaughter is and will be, she took note of the world of privilege into which baby Charlotte was born and will be raised. But then she noted that many other children born on the same day as her granddaughter would grow up in circumstances far more challenged and challenging. “Talent is universal,” she said. “Opportunity is not.”

Can candidate Clinton articulate with both specificity and inspiration how to widen the circle of opportunity?

Her prospective candidacy offers the possibility of the first female president in history, but for all the power behind that aspiration, it is not a message. Nor, as the midterms proved, are narrow appeals to women of the kind that fell short for Democratic candidates for Senate in Iowa and Colorado — two states vitally important in a general election.

Nor can she count on the “demography is destiny” theme that many Democrats see as their ace in the hole in future presidential campaigns. In the corridors at the Ready For Hillary meeting, more than one Clinton loyalist said that will not be enough to win in 2016.

The black-tie dinner was also a reminder of the potential gap between Clinton and the voters she will appeal to if she is a candidate. Much of the conversation with Isaacson was about the Roosevelts — Franklin, Eleanor and Teddy. One point made by both Clinton and Isaacson was that while the Roosevelts came from privileged circumstances, they found in public service ways to advocate for those without.

At the Ready For Hillary meeting, one person, who did not want to be identified in order to speak more candidly, said she should run for president not as Hillary Clinton but as “Hillary Smith,” shorn of accolades and awards that have come at her for so many years. It was good advice, not exactly starting over, but starting fresh.

What Friday reinforced is what many in her party recognize. Democrats may be ready for Hillary. The bigger question is: When will Hillary be ready?

Talking Points Memo: “Hillary's Biggest 2016 Challenge Might Start With An 'O'”

By Dylan Scott

November 24, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

One of the most important elements of a Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential candidacy might be completely out of her hands.

Two of the favored rhetorical questions around her presumed bid are: How much will she distance herself from President Barack Obama? And, relatedly, will she be able to capture the Obama coalition that propelled the President to victory twice, but hasn't shown up in the midterm elections?

They are of course linked: If Obama is unpopular, a Clinton campaign will be tempted to present a sharp contrast. At the same time, the President

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will likely remain popular with the core Democratic base that she needs to harness. But the record tells us that, however the Obama presidency is faring like in its final months, it's going to influence his aspiring successor's White House ambitions.

The third-term problem is a historical fact at this point: U.S. voters just don't choose to give a party three (or more) consecutive terms in the White House. Since FDR, George H.W. Bush is the only President to be elected to succeed a two-term predecessor from the same party.

Political scientists have documented the link between presidential approval rating and final vote tallies (regardless of whether it is an open election or an incumbent is running.) In a 2012 book, "The Timeline of Presidential Elections", Columbia University's Robert Erikson and the University of Texas's Christopher Wlezien concluded that presidential approval rating is one of the best indicators of what the actual vote will look like.

"(Obama's) approval rating has real bearing on 2016," Wlezien told TPM in an email.

The link might not be as strong as it otherwise would be when a President is running for re-election, John Sides, a political scientist at George Washington University, told TPM. But based on his own look at the data, Sides said, it still has an effect on an open race, as 2016 will be.

"When the incumbent is not running, better approval ratings still appear to help the incumbent party's new candidate," he said, "but the relationship is weaker."

If better approval ratings help, then worse ones could surely hurt. Obama is currently sitting at 42 percent, according to Gallup. He was at 52 percent when he won re-election in 2012 with 51 percent of the popular vote. Reagan was polling at 51 percent in October 1988 and Bush took 53 percent of the popular vote, per the archive of Gallup polls compiled by the University of Connecticut.

Much has already been made of any moments in which Clinton has been perceived to be distancing herself from the President. The response to her interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, in which she appeared to criticize the Obama White House's "don't do stupid stuff" mantra in foreign policy, was a classic example. It can sometimes be overwrought.

Things could certainly change by November 2016. Reagan sank as low as 43 percent in March 1987 by the end of the Iran Contra scandal. He had managed to recover by the time Bush was on the ballot. Still, it will be important for Clinton to avoid being lumped in with the Obama administration or even the first Clinton administration, one Democratic strategist advocating for a Hillary 2016 bid said.

"If she decides to run, she should not run as a third Bill Clinton term or a third Barack Obama term," Craig Smith, Clinton White House political director and a senior adviser to the Ready for Hillary PAC, said on Friday when asked by TPM. "She should run for a first Hillary Clinton term."

How easy will that be, given the historical precedents and her tenure as one of the top Cabinet officials in the Obama administration?

"As long as she lays out a clear vision of where she wants to take this country and a clear message about why she's doing this," he said, "I think it'll be fine."

Republicans, for their part, seem intent on linking Clinton to the Obama presidency as frequently as possible. It has already become a staple of GOP messaging, and the anti-Clinton PAC America Rising has purchased an online home for it: Obama3rdTerm.com.

"There is no major issue in which Sec. Clinton and President Obama disagree. She was the Mother of Obamacare, the face of his foreign policy, and a behind the scenes advocate for all his domestic initiatives," Tim Miller, America Rising PAC's executive director, told TPM in an email. "Any idea that she will be able to effectively distance herself from him ignores reality."

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Real Clear Politics: "Carville: 'There's Not Much Appetite In Democratic Party For Somebody Other Than Hillary Clinton'"

[No Writer Mentioned]

November 23, 2014

On Sunday's edition of This Week, Democratic strategist James Carville said there's not much appetite for someone other than Hillary Clinton in the Democratic party and Democrats across the nation.

"When Secretary Clinton runs," Carville definitively said, "she's going to run on her own agenda and think there's going to be a lot."

"There's not much appetite in the Democratic party and around the country for somebody other than Hillary Clinton. This is something that they make up," Carville said to host George Stephanopoulos.

"The Republicans will need all the help they want to win a presidential race. I'm not worried. Everything helps Republicans if you listen to them. Obama helps Republicans. Hillary is going to help Republicans. I mean, the sun coming up helps Republicans. Why don't they win some elections?" Carville added.

JAMES CARVILLE: All evidence is from '94 to '96, from 2010 to 2012. All evidence is that it doesn't matter. It's a different kind of an event. Now, I think that when Secretary Clinton runs, she's going to run on her own agenda and think there's going to be a lot. I think she's going to take this thing very seriously, is going to run very hard and I think --

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, THIS WEEK: where does she break for President Obama? where does she break from President Obama?

CARVILLE: I think she'll say he's done remarkable things as president but the one thing we haven't done -- the great unfinished work for this nation is how do we build a middle class and that was the one thing that I want to do. That is the great that the United States is faced with is we have lost our essence because we're becoming too separated by income and everything else. I think that's her message and she can be as critical as she wants about that...

I think that beltway liberals -- and I believe this, and I really respect you and I like your magazine (The Nation), there's not much appetite in the Democratic party and around the country for somebody other than Hillary Clinton. This is something that they make up --

MATTHEW DOWD, ABC NEWS: It's true and it's going to help Republicans in the general election.

CARVILLE: Again, I go out there --

DR. BEN CARSON: I agree with you.

CARVILLE: And you go watch it. The Republicans will need all the help they want to win a presidential race. I'm not worried. Everything helps Republicans if you listen to them. Obama helps Republicans. Hillary is going to help Republicans. I mean, the sun coming up helps Republicans. Why don't they win some elections?

The Daily Beast: Jeff Greenfield: "Want President Hillary? Then Primary Her"

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By Jeff Greenfield

November 24, 2014

[Subtitle:] How Michael Dukakis's failure in 1988 shows how helpful a tough, drawn-out primary can be for the Democratic frontrunner.

I asked Google to find stories about a potential challenge to Hillary Clinton's presumed Presidential run, and in about a third of a second, I was offered 37,500,000 of them.

There's no point in recycling the same list of possible foes, nor the competing arguments for and against a contested nomination. (There's an excellent take that appeared on this site last September: Yes, sometimes a contest be invigorating—Reagan in '80, Clinton in '92, Obama in '08—and sometimes it can open wounds that never heal—Goldwater in '64, McGovern in '72, Ford in '76, Carter in '80.

But if you're looking for a telling example of a politically helpful primary challenge, there's no better example than one that should have happened, almost happened, but didn't.

It happened—or didn't—in 1988, when Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis was grinding his way to the Democratic nomination. Two potentially major rivals had long since been sidelined: Senator Joe Biden by charges of plagiarism, and former Senator Gary Hart by—well, you know. Those in the race—Senator Paul Simon, Rep. Dick Gephardt, Rev. Jesse Jackson—were far behind. Another dark horse, Tennessee Senator Al Gore, was finding little traction in his efforts to become a centrist alternative.

Gore's last stand would be in the New York primary. On April 12, during a debate sponsored by the Daily News, Gore confronted Dukakis with an issue that had not surfaced at any time during the campaign. Why, Gore wanted to know, did Dukakis support a state program that gave weekend furloughs to convicted criminals, even after some of those prisoners had committed crimes while on furlough? The audience booed the question, Dukakis went on to win the New York primary convincingly, and Gore dropped out of the Presidential race.

If you're familiar with recent political history, you know what happened next. James Pinkerton, a policy aide in the campaign of George H.W. Bush, found press reports that detailed the story of Willie Horton—a convicted murder who, while out on furlough, had terrorized a Maryland couple and raped the woman. Bush campaign chief Lee Atwater watched focus groups move sharply away from Dukakis when they learned of the story. (Atwater said at one point that by the time the campaign was over, voters would think of Horton as Dukakis' running mate). Bush himself raised the furlough issue—without mentioning Horton by name—during his RNC acceptance speech, and the campaign featured an ad showing showing men in prison garb moving through a revolving door.

Then an independent campaign—the National Security Political Action Committee—put on its own ad, showing the mug shot of Willie Horton looking very menacing and very, very black. To this day, Bush media maven Roger Ailes adamantly denies that he or the campaign had any role in the Willie Horton mug shot ad. And to this day, liberals in the political world use the name "Willie Horton" to describe an appeal to primal racial fears.

Now consider a different question: suppose Al Gore had stayed in the race. Or suppose another of Dukakis' opponents—Jesse Jackson, most intriguingly—had kept the question alive. Was it really a good idea to furlough convicted murderers? Was it a mistake to veto the bill that would have curtailed such furloughs? For a one-time political operative like myself, it offers the possibility of a rarely seen event in campaigns: the open, frank admission of a mistake.

"Candidates always like to tell you what they did right," I imagine Dukakis saying. "Now I want to tell you what I did wrong—and what I learned from it. Giving prisoners a chance at redemption is a good idea; but we were too careless, and innocent people suffered because it it. I think it taught me to ask harder questions about good intentions; it's a lesson I intend to remember as President."

I'm not suggesting that it would have changed the outcome of the 1988 election; and you have to question the overall tactical shrewdness of any campaign that sent its candidate riding around in a tank looking like Snoopy heading out to fight the Red Baron.

What the "missing furlough" debate does tell us, however, is that a candidate who is not confronted by a tough policy challenge in a primary may wind up unprepared for that challenge in the fall, which of course is the moment when it matters most. Republicans, for example, may have found intra-party attacks on Mitt Romney's business career offensive; they are, after all, the party of the "builders". Democrats, as Romney should have

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remembered from his campaigns in Massachusetts, have no such compunctions. Democrats will not take kindly to criticism of pubic employee unions, which provide cash and foot soldiers for the party; a candidate too close to those unions should not be surprised to find herself under fire come Autumn.

How does this apply to She Who Must Always Be Named?

Much of the conversation has focused on potential challenges from the Left. Is Clinton too close to the Wall Street-Goldman Sachs wing of the Democratic Party? Does she need to distance herself from the deregulatory policies of the Bill Clinton years? Is she too hawkish for the activists who helped make her vote for the Iraq War so costly back in the 2008 campaign?

It would be even more helpful to her election prospects if she were confronted in the primary with questions more likely to be raised by the Republican nominee in the fall: was the Russian "reset" policy naive? Was it wise for the US to leave Iraq without even a residual force in place? What specific aspect of US foreign policy was changed for the better under her watch? Does she agree that the Affordable Care Act was offered to the public under false pretenses?

If these issues raise uncomfortable questions for Democrats, Clinton has reasons not to be too unsettled. She no doubt remembers that another candidate for President had to explain his break with many root assumptions that Democrats held about issues ranging from crime to trade to welfare. And that debate during the 1992 primaries worked out pretty well for the nominee.

Politico: "Mitch McConnell preps for 2016 battle"

By Manu Raju

November 24, 2014, 5:39 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Facing a daunting map, Republicans are already plotting ways to hang onto their new Senate majority.

Mitch McConnell spent years charting the Republican path back to power — and now he's already plotting to make sure they don't lose it.

The Kentucky Republican is quietly pushing his fellow Republican senators to beef up their political shops. He's considering a new super PAC that could spend millions on Senate races. And he's locking down operatives for another cycle who were key to GOP triumphs this month.

The under-the-radar moves less than three weeks after the 2014 midterms and a month-and-a-half before McConnell takes over for Harry Reid makes clear the brutal reality in front of Republicans: Their majority could be short lived.

Republicans face a daunting map in 2016, when they will be forced to defend 24 seats in a presidential year, while Democrats have to defend only 10 seats — a scenario McConnell is taking so seriously he's leaving nothing to chance, starting now.

"You can start too late, but never too soon," McConnell said in an interview in the Capitol hallways last week, citing the words of the late Happy Chandler, a former Kentucky senator turned commissioner of baseball.

Last week, McConnell summoned all 24 Republicans up for reelection in 2016 to a morning meeting at the National Republican Senatorial Committee, which was even attended by potential 2016 presidential candidates like Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who has said he wouldn't run for the White House and Senate at the same time. At the meeting, McConnell and Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker, the new NRSC chairman, made a blunt declaration to their colleagues: Reelection, they said, starts now.

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With the NRSC's new executive director, Ward Baker, and the deputy executive director, Kevin McLaughlin, the two GOP operatives made a presentation of how much campaigns have changed since the senators last ran in 2010, even noting iPhones were just a couple years old back then and iPads had just come on market. They implored their candidates to begin a heavy fundraising push immediately, and tried to tell them on what to expect in the ad war.

For instance, the GOP projected based on past trends that 83,000 radio and TV spots from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee alone would air in all 2016 Senate races. And McConnell detailed how he shrewdly adjusted his tactics to pull off a resounding primary and general election victory for a sixth term in 2014.

In the 35-minute discussion, the GOP leaders and top operatives also urged Republican senators to immediately hire their own pollsters, consultants and staff, given there will be a major competition for operatives with the crowded 2016 GOP presidential primary about to take shape. If there are certain staff who need training, they said, the NRSC was prepared to help groom them.

"Members need to begin to do the things to tool their campaigns differently, to understand the significant change in resource needs," Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) said, recounting the message from the meeting. "And now is the time to begin to think about the mechanics of the campaigns."

Burr, who is up for reelection for a third term in 2016, has just $720,000 in cash in a state where more than $100 million was spent in the 2014 North Carolina Senate race, in which Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan narrowly lost to Republican Thom Tillis. But despite the lack of money, Burr said he plans on running and even seemed ready to take on Hagan if she were to run against him.

"Repeats in North Carolina, historically, don't work too well," Burr said in an interview. "You have to ask yourself, how many people will write a check to somebody who just lost?"

In 2014, retirements became a major problem for Democrats, as they lost open seats vacated by retiring members in Montana, West Virginia and South Dakota. McConnell, a former NRSC chairman himself who has spent years studying campaigns in other states and spent an inordinate amount of time strategizing with NRSC officials this past cycle, is expected to eventually set a deadline for when lawmakers need to announce whether they will retire.

Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, a freshman Republican who suffered a stroke in 2012 and travels around the Capitol in a wheelchair, said he was "doing everything possible" to prepare for a run and win potentially tough primary and general election races in 2016. Other potential retirees, like Indiana Sen. Dan Coats and Arizona Sen. John McCain, have also sent signals they are likely to run again, buoyed by the fact that they are no longer in the minority.

After last week's NRSC meeting, Wicker felt bullish.

"I don't expect any [GOP] retirements," Wicker said confidently in an interview. "I do not. I think we are excited about the chance to govern, the chance to legislate as the founders intended, I think there's a lot of enthusiasm, yes."

Donors, he said, are feeling much happier, and many have dumped big bucks early into the campaign accounts of Republican senators who have held a bevy of fundraisers at the NRSC since Election Day.

"People need to start to get prepared," said Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Senate Republican who attended the meeting.

The Republican path to keep the Senate won't be easy. They have to defend seats in blue states and swing states, like Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Ohio, Florida, Illinois and Wisconsin — compared to just 10 for Democrats. Moreover, Democrats could have some serious statewide recruits. In recent interviews, two Democratic senators who lost this year — Arkansas' Mark Pryor and Alaska's Mark Begich — punted on their intentions to run in 2016 in their respective states, though they didn't rule it out.

"We'll see," Begich said when asked if he'd run against Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) in 2016.

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Plus, Hillary Clinton could end up at the top of the ballot if she decides to run and becomes the party's nominee, a scenario that could boost turnout, giving Democrats hope that they can increase the gender gap among women voters after seeing it shrink in 2014.

With Democratic turnout typically higher in an election year and a big-spending Democratic super PAC, Senate Majority PAC, prepared to dump tens of millions into the effort to bring its party back to the majority, McConnell is seeking more effective ways to spend GOPmoney.

Josh Holmes, McConnell's chief political adviser, is holding private conversations with donors and operatives to see if there's interest to form a new super PAC dedicated to helping Senate Republicans retain the majority. Currently, a bevy of big-spending GOP outside groups influence key races, including the Karl Rove-linked American Crossroads, as well as the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity. But in 2016, their attention may focus on the presidential race.

Plus, Holmes has identified at least $8 million spent by smaller super PACs on individual races in 2014 that Republicans believe could have been better spent this cycle.

Holmes declined to comment, but a decision on whether to create a specific Senate GOP super PAC is expected to be made by the first quarter of the year.

So far, Wicker said, GOP donors are feeling good.

"In 2012, we got off to a tough start because our donors were so discouraged that we actually lost ground in the Senate as well as the presidency," Wicker said. "We're now in an era of good feeling and our donors believe in us and we need to get started early."

One of the ways to instill confidence was to ensure there is continuity at the NRSC. McConnell sung the praises of Baker during the 2014 elections and pushed for him to stay. McLaughlin, a close friend of Holmes', was a key force in the GOP effort to train Republican candidates in 2014 and avoid the Todd Akin-like gaffes that doomed past Republican chances.

The NRSC team didn't wait until after November to begin pushing Republicans up in 2016 to get their campaigns in order. Since May, top NRSC officials have held three meetings with the chiefs of staff for all of the 24 Republican senators, including one right before the election. The No. 1 goal for the party, the GOP operatives said, is incumbent retention, something that Republicans recognize won't be easy in 2016.

"Obviously, I'm going to be the No. 1 target," said Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) when asked about his race for a second term. "I don't dispute that whatsoever."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: creamer2@aol.com
To: Creamer2@aol.com
Date: 5/12/2011 1:48:43 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Time to End the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism for Good

Post-Bin Laden - It Is Time to End the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism for Good

The death of Osama bin Laden eliminated the terrorist who most analysts believe was the most committed to -- and capable of -- obtaining and using a nuclear weapon.

But there is only one way to truly eliminate the threat of nuclear terrorism. America must be just as relentless in achieving President Obama's goal of eliminating nuclear weapons from the planet as we were in pursuing bin Laden.

Many "hardnosed" politicians and analysts consider the ideal of eliminating all nuclear weapons from the world to be "naive" or "utopian."

I recently returned from a seminar on nuclear policy in Vienna, Austria where presenters included some of the leading experts on the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear power, nuclear disarmament and nuclear terrorism. I came away convinced that the term "naïve" could only be used to describe those who believe that we can continue to live in a world still bristling with nuclear weapons without endangering our very existence.

Last fall the Senate approved the New START arms control agreement with Russia that reduced each side's strategic nuclear arsenal to 1,550 nuclear war heads. That treaty represented a major step forward – following on the original START Treaty negotiated between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Prime Minster Mikhail Gorbechev. But this agreement is only a down payment on the far more fundamental goal of completely ridding the world of all nuclear weapons.

Why is that goal so critical to our long-term survival?

All told there are 25,000 nuclear weapons currently in existence. Ninety percent of these are controlled by the United States and Russia. They include the strategic nuclear weapons that are now subject to the New START agreement, as well as thousands of tactical nuclear weapons that are intended to be used on the battlefield – and many non-deployed nuclear weapons that remain in storage and are not currently targeted at the bases and cities of an adversary.

The remainder are in the hands of the seven additional nuclear nations: China, Britain, France, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. Currently China, Britain and France have hundreds of war heads each. Israel has 80 warheads. And North Korea has ten.

Notwithstanding the end of the Cold War almost twenty years ago, thousands of war heads remained on alert – targeted at bases and cities in Russia and the United States. From the time a radar-computer system gives one of the two sides warning of an impending attack, the other side has just minutes to decide if it should launch a counter attack or risk defeat and obliteration.

But that is far from the worst of it. Nuclear technology is now 65 years old. The skill and know-how to create a nuclear weapon is widespread. Increasing numbers of nations have sought to enter the nuclear club – most recently North Korea and potentially Iran.

An increasingly unstable regime in Pakistan controls a growing nuclear arsenal.

Worse, al Queda and other terrorist organizations have vowed to obtain and actually use nuclear weapons.

The status quo – the balance of terror – that for six decades prevented a nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia is every day being made more unstable by the increasing numbers of nuclear players – and by the potential entry of non-state actors. Far from being deterred by the chaos and human suffering that would ensue from nuclear war – actors like al Queda actively seek precisely that kind of cataclysm.

The more nuclear weapons that exist in the world – and more importantly the more weapons-grade fissile material that can be obtained to build a nuclear weapon – the more likely it is that one, or many more, will actually be used.

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In the 1980's the specter of a "Nuclear Winter" helped spur the movement for nuclear arms reduction between the U.S. and Soviet Union. Studies showed that smoke caused by fires set off by nuclear explosions in cities and industrial sites would rise to the stratosphere and envelope the world.

The ash would absorb energy from the sun so that the earth's surface would get cold, dry and dark. Plants would die. Much of our food supply would disappear. Much of the world's surface would reach winter temperatures in the summer.

A recent study published in *Scientific American* by scientists Alan Robock and Owen Brian Toon -- using modern climatic computer models -- found that even a regional nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan would shroud the entire planet in a cloud of dust for 10 years and would massively diminish world food supply.

The fine dust particles from nuclear fires would rise into the stratosphere where there is no rain to clean the air. As a consequence it would take years to gradually settle to the earth's surface.

Their study assumed that India and Pakistan would each use 50 nuclear weapons. The total of 100 weapons used represents only .4% of the world's 25,000 nuclear weapons. It found that such a war would kill approximately 20 million people from the direct bomb effects and subsequent fires and radiation. Their model shows it would likely kill another 1 billion people – about a seventh of the world's population – from starvation caused by the agricultural collapse.

These effects would happen over a decade. You can imagine that those threatened with starvation would not die quietly. Rather the world would witness an economic and political crisis without any parallel in recorded history.

Robock and Toon tested their model against the actual the effects of volcanic eruptions such as those of Tambora in 1815, Krakatau in 1883 and Pinatubo in 1981. They found that their model replicated observed results. For instance, after the eruption of Pinatubo, sulfate aerosol clouds were carried around the world by winds. As a result global temperatures dropped by an average of .25 degrees Centigrade. In addition, global precipitation, river flow and soil moisture all decreased.

Mt. Tambora's eruption in Indonesia in 1815 was the worst volcanic eruption in 500 years. Dust from the eruption blocked the sun and caused global temperatures to drop by .5 Degrees Centigrade. 1816 was known as the "year without summer." In New England – thousands of miles from Indonesia – even though the average summer temperature dropped only a few degrees, crop-killing frosts happened in every summer month. After each frost, farmers replanted only to see their crops killed the next month.

They also tested their model against the actual firestorms created by the nuclear attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the fire bombing of Dresden, and the fires caused by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Each actual episode confirmed their result.

Finally, Robock and Toon point to archeological evidence that the collision of an asteroid with Yucatan 65 million years ago created a similar dust cloud that shrouded the earth and caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.

The Robock-Toon model found that smoke from the imaginary India-Pakistan regional nuclear war would cover every continent within two weeks and would continue to have massive impacts on the global climate for ten years.

The use of nuclear weapons in any part of the world would affect every living creature. Their use is simply unthinkable. Yet the United States and Russia maintain thousands on hair trigger alert. And terrorists who affirmatively desire to cause global Armageddon actively seek their use.

If someone looked back on our generation from the vantage point of a hundred years in the future, they would have a hard time imagining what we were thinking if we allowed the continued existence of weapons that we could never use without endangering our very existence.

That is precisely why a quartet of retired Cold Warriors: former Republican Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Schultz, former Defense Secretary William Perry and former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn – have combined to sponsor a campaign to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

That's also why President Obama has renewed Ronald Reagan's often-forgotten call for a nuclear weapon

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free world.

Eliminating nuclear weapons will not be easy – and it must be done in a series of steps over a number of years. But there should be no doubt whatsoever that it must be humanity's goal.

Immediate steps include U.S. Senate ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty that would ban all future nuclear tests. The United States signed this treaty years ago, but it has yet to be approved by the Senate. As a practical matter, final U.S. approval is necessary in order to put this treaty into effect. In the short term, given the United State's enormous advantage in nuclear test data, this treaty would freeze in place a U.S. nuclear advantage. Yet it has been opposed by Neocons who want one day to create a new generation of nuclear weapons that they believe may need to be tested.

Our government should also begin a new round of arms reduction talks with the Russians. As a practical matter, non-nuclear states are simply unwilling to accept the view that they should forego the possession of nuclear weapons if the United States and Russia – which control 90% of all the nuclear weapons on the planet – do not meet their obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty to continuously reduce their stockpiles.

One of the central components of a strategy to achieve a nuclear weapon free world must be the negotiation of a new international treaty to control and prevent the new production of weapons-grade fissile materials. The know-how to create nuclear weapons will never disappear. But fissile materials – highly enriched uranium or plutonium – that can be used to create these weapons – can be controlled. Nuclear reactors used for peaceful purposes do not necessarily require weapons grade fissile material. Neither of these elements occurs in nature in a form usable to build nuclear weapons. Both must be created by human manufacturing processes that can be monitored and prevented with appropriate international agreements. Current weapons-grade fissile materials could be locked down under international control, and further production could be banned.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is certainly one of the most important issues on the human agenda.

A few years ago a planetary scientist named David Grinspoon wrote a book called, *Lonely Planets.* It explores the question of extraterrestrial life.

Toward the end of his book, Grinspoon speculates on the chances of survival for intelligent life in the universe. He argues that every civilization of intelligent creatures must pass through a gauntlet that tests whether the values and political structures of the society are capable of keeping pace with the exponentially increasing power of the society's technology. If its values and political structures *can* keep pace with technological change, the society may pass into a phase of enormous freedom and possibility. If it does not, the power of its own technology will destroy it. Perhaps, he postulates, civilizations are like seahorses. Many are born, but only a few survive.

For the first time, sixty-five years ago, human society entered that gauntlet. Our technological growth reached a point of takeoff that for the first time gave us the power to destroy ourselves and all life on our tiny, fragile planet. From that moment on, the race was on.

The next several generations of humans will decide how that race turns out. We won't simply observe it, or describe it; *we will decide it*. Whatever the future holds will be a result of human decision for which we are all responsible.

We will decide if we pass through that gauntlet or – like our cousins the Neanderthals – become evolutionary dead ends. We will decide if humanity passes into a new era of possibility and freedom – or the human story simply ends.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com. *Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/20/2015 2:25:33 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday February 20, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday February 20, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton to Headline United Nations Women's Conference"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will address a major United Nations gathering on women's rights next month, just as the Clinton Foundation releases a major report on women and girls more than a year in the making."

The Atlantic: "Boomer Grannies: Soccer Moms 2.0"

"What Clinton's tweet actually showed was the power of grandmothers as an American voting bloc—a fact that might not come as a surprise to anyone who's taken an Intro to Government class."

Bloomberg: "Missouri's Senate Race, and the (Possible) Return of the Clinton Coattails"

"What could make Kander seek higher office in a state that rejected the Obama-Biden ticket by 9.5 points in 2012? This is easy: the next Democratic ticket is likely to be led by Hillary Clinton."

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "Hillary Clinton and Inevitability: This Time Is Different"

"If a candidate has ever been inevitable — for the nomination — it is Mrs. Clinton today."

Washington Post blog: Erik Wemple: "Hillary Clinton aide Philippe Reines praises on-the-record communications"

"Below is Reines unabridged, the way he should be. In #1, he answers the question about alleged inaccuracies in the media about Clintonworld; in

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#2, he riffs about his historical relationship with sourcing bases."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "The GOP's dilemma with Hillary Clinton: What to attack?"

"Their goal is do to something Republicans have never done before: Defeat the Clintons, once and for all. But that massive opposition file also begs a question Republicans in all these years haven't been able to answer: Which Hillary to run against?"

Boston Herald: "Elizabeth Warren keeps silence on Hill: 'Way too early'"

"'She hasn't declared!' Warren said after a series of events in western Massachusetts. Pressed if she'd support Clinton if and when she does launch a White House campaign, Warren continued playing hard to get."

Fox News: "Clinton-tied firm accused of illegal 'scheme' to boost Dem groups, candidates"

"The charges were detailed in a new complaint filed by the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT), a conservative watchdog group, on Wednesday. They implicate Catalist, LLC., a for-profit company that has provided customized voter data to hundreds of labor unions, Democratic committees and candidates -- including the Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama campaigns in 2008."

Politico: "DNC members unfazed by Hillary Clinton stories"

[Subtitle:] "Negative headlines for Hillary Clinton have come fast and furious, but most Democrats are unconcerned."

Wall Street Journal: "Hillary Clinton's Complex Corporate Ties"

"Mrs. Clinton's spokesman, Nick Merrill, says: 'She did the job that every secretary of state is supposed to do and what the American people expect of them—especially during difficult economic times. She proudly and loudly advocated on behalf of American business and took every opportunity she could to promote U.S. commercial interests abroad.'"

New York Times editorial: "Separate Philanthropy From Political Clout"

[Subtitle:] "Hillary Clinton Should Ban Foreign Donors to the Clinton Global Initiative"

Wall Street Journal opinion: Kimberly Strassel, member of the WSJ editorial board: "The Clinton Foundation Super PAC"

[Subtitle:] "It's past time to drop the fiction that the Clinton Foundation is a charity."

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Articles:

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton to Headline United Nations Women's Conference"

By Jennifer Epstein

February 19, 2015, 4:41 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] A month of women-centric events begins next week.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will address a major United Nations gathering on women's rights next month, just as the Clinton Foundation releases a major report on women and girls more than a year in the making.

Clinton is scheduled to be the keynote speaker on March 10 at the Women's Empowerment Principles gathering in New York. The gathering will mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, which came out of a major UN conference on women's issues.

Clinton "will reflect on progress made in implementing the agenda set in Beijing two decades ago" and share findings from the foundation's "No Ceilings: The Full Participation Report," WEP said. She will also "outline an agenda to accelerate the full participation of women and girls around the world."

The report's release, set for March 9, and the speech will come in the midst of a month of women-centric events for Clinton. On Tuesday, she's headed to the Lead On Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women, where she will be interviewed by technology journalist Kara Swisher. On March 3, she will be honored at EMILY's List's 30th anniversary gala and given the We Are EMILY Award, which is given to "extraordinary women who have made a significant impact on our nation through their consistent leadership and inspiration" to the group.

Clinton is also set to keynote the March 23 awards ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting, given in memory of the late New York Times political reporter Robin Toner.

Neither the Clinton Foundation, which has hosted the "No Ceilings" project, nor Clinton's spokesman responded to requests for comment.

The Atlantic: "Boomer Grannies: Soccer Moms 2.0"

By Tanya Basu

February 19, 2015, 3:13 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] They were instrumental in determining elections during the 90s—and will play a key role in 2016.

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Hillary Clinton simply meant to respond to anti-vaxers when she wrote the following tweet.

Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton @HillaryClinton: The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork . Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest [2/2/15, 10:45 p.m. EST]

The reaction was instantaneous. #GrandmothersKnowBest became a trending hashtag, drawing cheers and sneers, leaving pundits to wonder if it was indicative of a larger strategy in the much-rumored Clinton campaign to distract from her age as a potential flaw and, instead, deploy it as a strength.

What Clinton's tweet actually showed was the power of grandmothers as an American voting bloc—a fact that might not come as a surprise to anyone who's taken an Intro to Government class. After all, the senior-citizen segment of the population reliably goes to the polls come rain or shine, and is heavily invested in the outcome of elections.

But unlike Hillary, the average first-time grandmother isn't yet a senior citizen. Clinton, at 67, is far older than most first-time grandmothers in the United States, whose average age hovers around 50. These grandmothers aren't driven by Social Security, Medicare, or other issues of concern to voters over the age of 65.

Say hello to the Boomer Grannies.

These grandmothers are, as the name suggests, baby boomers, part of a generation that was born between mid-1946 and mid-1964. The oldest boomers turn 70 next year, but the majority of boomers aren't going to be eligible for retirement benefits until closer to 2030. Within this population of middle-aged boomers, women outnumber men.

Boomer Grannies transformed gender norms—by being the first in their families to get bachelor's degrees, earning the majority of college degrees in their generation; working outside the home; raising children, often singlehandedly; and revolutionizing the concepts of modern motherhood and feminism.

This generation of grandmas is more hip than the crocheting, bingo-playing, anti-technology stereotype would suggest. They're too young—and perhaps, too cynical—to rely on classic social-welfare programs that drive the older vote, but they are nevertheless invested in issues affecting their children and grandchildren.

It makes a certain amount of sense that the soccer moms of yore are making a reappearance as a key voting bloc. Boomer Grannies are more world-weary than gracious, more educated than docile; their concern for posterity extends beyond the traditional "maternal" interests of education and healthcare. Today, these grandmas are just as interested in the implications of foreign-conflict intervention and tax reform as they are in paid leave and anti-poverty initiatives.

Clinton's status as a frontrunner in the potential Democratic Presidential field has excited this very demographic, to her advantage. After all, these aging soccer moms are comfortable with a Clinton in the White House. Boomer Grannies greet the former Secretary of State like a rockstar, and often convey that somehow, Clinton "gets" them.

Part of this cohort's grandmotherly concern for posterity may have to do with its shared experience of parenthood itself, says Laurel Elder, a professor of political science at Hartwick College who, along with Steven Greene at North Carolina State University, has published the only study of how being a mom affects choices at the ballot box.

"We've found very consistent motherhood effects," she told me. "Even when you're controlling for other variables, motherhood predicts more liberal attitudes. Being a mom makes you more supportive on government spending on education and daycare and on a whole range of social-welfare issues: spending on the elderly, spending on the poor, overall government services."

But do these effects continue when the kids those moms raised leave the house? That's a complicated and under-explored question. Elder said that "even mothers of grown children are more liberal." Members of this younger generation of grandmothers are still concerned about posterity, but are also committed to advancing their own interests, prioritizing women's workplace issues like equal pay and paid leave.

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In general, parents skew conservative on both social and fiscal issues as they age. But this generation of grandparents has experienced a crushing recession that has affected both them and their children, and might retain its liberal tilt longer. That would impact the presidential race.

Surprisingly little attention has been devoted to the political power of Boomer Grannies, and perhaps it's because they are often clumped together with senior citizens. But the age structure of this country is changing rapidly—the average age of first-time mothers has crept up to about 27. While women of all ages may provide a huge advantage to Clinton, should she run for the White House, it's the women sharing Clinton's grandma experience that offer significant, tantalizing voting power.

Complicating the story of Boomer Grannies is the aftermath of the recession. Many grown children are returning home and relying on these grandmothers for financial and emotional support as they navigate a changed working world. One in 10 American children is living with a grandparent, with a third of those kids counting their grandparents as their primary caretakers. Poverty is often an issue in households headed by grandmas. Young adults living at home for longer are changing not only family dynamics and household finances, but also the standard model of the nuclear family.

To be sure, having a grown child doesn't necessarily mean that a middle-aged mother is a grandparent. But the liberal tilt of the soccer mom generation that put Bill Clinton into the White House during the 90s brings up a pertinent question for Republicans: Does the GOP have any prospect of capturing this slice of America?

National Journal's Next America series found that the traditional Republican strongholds of Nevada, Colorado, and New Mexico are weakening. Romney gave up on New Mexico in 2012, despite the state having a Republican governor. Analysts point to the increasing Hispanic populations in this trio of Southwestern states, contending for power with older, white voters. Hispanic voters are increasingly vocal in politics, and tend to disagree with older voters when it comes to immigration policy, welfare programs, and economics—a phenomenon that has become known as the "brown vs. gray."

Increasing diversity, however, may not help the Democrats as much as they hope: A report from the Census Bureau notes that "The race and ethnic composition of the baby boom population reflects the composition of the U.S. population during the mid-twentieth century—the years when these cohorts were born." American baby boomers are overwhelmingly white, with 72 percent of the population identifying as non-Hispanic White. With baby boomers becoming a more female dominated group as the years pass by, that means the exact type of voter that will become crucial come 2016 is a white, educated, working, middle-aged woman.

That doesn't mean candidates should simply forget about black, Asian, and Hispanic middle-aged women—doing so would be a strategic error. But the more diverse young voters in these states are less likely to turn out for elections, making it possible that older white voters may still secure these states for Republicans come 2016.

Boomer Grannies, on the cusp of becoming senior citizens, are confronting a fragile future with a hazy forecast on Social Security: President Barack Obama's administration has taken the stance of many Democrats in shifting Social Security's trust funds to avoid slashes in disability payments, but Republicans have characterized this as "kicking the can down the road," urging Democrats to consider a more immediate solution for baby boomers now verging on retirement.

The recession has significantly altered the working lives of Boomer Grannies, who have often turned out to be the sole breadwinners for their families as they struggle to pay bills. Obama's State of the Union speech devoted a significant amount of time to the plight of the American working woman, but the method of doing so by raising taxes irked Republicans, who saw this as an unnecessary step and potentially harmful to the country's cautious economic improvement.

These rifts in policy are promising for a party that has struggled to capture the votes of older women. Republicans saw a glimmer of hope in the last presidential election, when Obama did shockingly poorly among college-educated white women, a surprising fact given that both college-educated voters and women tend to favor Democrats.

Early polls from a set of Quinnipiac surveys indicate that Clinton enjoys overwhelming support among college-educated white women. But she cannot take much comfort in that lead. "In 2012, Obama lost ground with them, falling back to 46 percent nationally, the weakest performance for any Democratic nominee since Michael Dukakis in 1988," wrote Ronald Brownstein in National Journal.

Even the subset of Boomer Grannies who identify as Democrats may split. Senator Elizabeth Warren, who most recently denied any interest in running for President, maintains strong support among this very demographic. Warren's experiences as a baby-boomer mother who has fought

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financial institutions and Congress in the name of working women means she will have strong support among Boomer Grannies, no matter how many times she says she's not running. And to Warren's advantage? She's a grandma, too.

So did Hillary Clinton simply stumble on a demographic that she is uniquely poised to attract? Or does she have a team of strategic consultants who have taken her time on the campaign trail in 2008 to heart and combined with the big data-targeted, get-out-the-vote aggression of Barack Obama? It's probably a mix of both.

If the Boomer Granny postulate proves anything, it's this: Whoever runs for president from either party will need to reach out not just to middle America and undecided voters, but also to the middle-aged women formerly known as soccer moms.

Bloomberg: "Missouri's Senate Race, and the (Possible) Return of the Clinton Coattails"

By David Weigel

February 19, 2015, 2:30 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Why Democrats scored a Senate candidate in a red state.

Jason Kander, Missouri's 33-year old secretary of state, has given Democrats that rarest of post-2014 feelings: Enthusiasm about a red state race. He's running for U.S. Senate against first-term Senator Roy Blunt, a Republican who left a safe House seat to win office in the 2010 Tea Party wave. (He defeated the previous Democratic secretary of state, Robin Carnahan.) "Barely halfway through his first term as secretary of state and Democrat Jason Kander is already bored with his job," thundered the National Republican Senatorial Committee, which in 2012 supported Ohio's 35-year-old Josh Mandel, and in 2014 supported Arkansas's 35-year-old Tom Cotton.

What could make Kander seek higher office in a state that rejected the Obama-Biden ticket by 9.5 points in 2012? This is easy: the next Democratic ticket is likely to be led by Hillary Clinton. Kander's move should be seen as the latest burst of red state Democratic enthusiasm about the return of the Clintons. In the large swath of red America where white voters preferred Clinton to Obama in 2008, many Democrats see the Clinton restoration as the removal of a heavy anchor. Bill Clinton twice won Missouri, West Virginia, Arkansas, and Kentucky–all states lost by Obama. Even if Hillary Clinton can't repeat that, Democrats hope her brand will alienate fewer voters than the toxic Obama brand.

"It's much easier to convince people to run," said Kentucky Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo, a Democrat whose colleagues held on to control in the rough 2014 elections even as Senator Mitch McConnell was winning a landslide re-election. "Even some of the ones that were talking about retiring–they're kind of giddy. They were tired of getting beat up in some of these races."

In 2008, Clinton absolutely pulverized Obama in Kentucky's late primary, taking 66 percent of the vote even after the Illinois Democrat was clearly about to secure the nomination. Obama actually defeated Clinton in Missouri (helped by the early and aggressive support of Senator Claire McCaskill), but he did so by taking only six of the state's 114 counties. Since then, Missouri Democrats had two rough midterms and a 2012 saved by the black swan gaffe-ability of the Republicans' Senate candidate, Todd Akin. Kander, like Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chris Koster, is looking for a way for a post-Obama Democratic Party to rebuild as much of the old Clinton coalition as voters allow.

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "Hillary Clinton and Inevitability: This Time Is Different"

By Nate Cohn

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February 19, 2015

Whenever I mention that Hillary Clinton is an overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination — and would be even if Senator Elizabeth Warren ran — the conversation usually comes back to 2008. “She was supposed to be inevitable last time,” the refrain goes, “and she lost.”

I get it. I remember that Mrs. Clinton was “inevitable,” and I see why today’s discussions of Mrs. Clinton’s strength sound familiar.

But there is no equivalence between Mrs. Clinton’s strength then and now. She was never inevitable eight years ago. If a candidate has ever been inevitable — for the nomination — it is Mrs. Clinton today.

She was certainly a strong candidate in 2008. But by this time in that cycle, it was already clear that she would not cruise to the nomination. Yes, she held an impressive 40 percent or so of the Democratic vote in national polls, leading Senator Barack Obama by 15 points. That, however, is not inevitability.

Candidates with a case for inevitability — the ones who started as big favorites and won the nomination without a long fight, like Al Gore and George W. Bush in 2000 and Bob Dole in 1996 — all held at least 50 percent of the vote in early polls, and led their opposition by enormous margins. The record of candidates with similar standing to Mrs. Clinton, like Gerald Ford in 1976 or Ted Kennedy in 1980, is not at all perfect. Kennedy lost, and Ford faced a protracted contest.

Flash-forward to 2015. No candidate, excluding incumbent presidents, has ever fared so well in the early primary polls as Mrs. Clinton. She holds about 60 percent of the vote of Democratic voters, a tally dwarfing the 40 percent she held this time in the last election cycle.

If anything, in the 2008 cycle the national polls overstated Mrs. Clinton’s strength. She trailed in Iowa polls from the very start. She led in New Hampshire and South Carolina only by single digits, making it easy to imagine how the winner of Iowa could gain momentum and go on to defeat her in following contests.

Her vulnerabilities were obvious. Her vote to authorize the war in Iraq was a serious liability; so were reservations about another Clinton in the White House. Unlike Mr. Bush, Mr. Gore or Mr. Dole, Mrs. Clinton faced two top-tier challengers, the former vice-presidential nominee John Edwards and Mr. Obama, a rising star thanks in part to his speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Mr. Obama had already declared his candidacy by this time in 2007. He had surged to 25 percent in the polls. Enthusiastic crowds showed up to early rallies in Austin, Tex., and Oakland, Calif. He matched Mrs. Clinton in fund-raising in the first quarter, demonstrating strong support in the so-called invisible primary — the behind-the-scenes competition for the resources and credibility necessary to win the nomination.

She was also running against a bevy of competent, second-tier candidates like Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and the current vice president, Joe Biden, then a Delaware senator. The decision of these candidates to run was a telling indication that they considered Mrs. Clinton to be far more vulnerable than the inevitability narrative suggested.

This analysis is not just based on the benefit of hindsight. The betting markets concurred at the time, with Intrade giving Mrs. Clinton just a 49 percent chance of winning the nomination on Feb. 14, 2007. Mr. Obama had a 20 percent chance of winning the nomination, according to Intrade, or about the same as Jeb Bush today.

Writing for the Week in Review section of The New York Times in April 2007, Adam Nagourney argued that “any hope she had of Democrats embracing her candidacy as inevitable has been dashed” by the strength of Mr. Obama and Mr. Edwards, and “obvious discomfort in some Democratic quarters of putting another Clinton in the White House.”

Eight years later, though, it’s clear that it’s still possible for a candidate to approach inevitability, and it is Mrs. Clinton who, in a twist, deserves the distinction.

Her nearest historical rival, Al Gore in 2000, was a sitting vice president serving under a popular incumbent in a booming economy. Mrs. Clinton’s

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lead comes despite the fact that the sitting vice president is one of the potential candidates who is included in the polls.

She leads the person in second place in those polls, Ms. Warren, by more than 40 points, not 15 points. Just as important, her leads in the early states, like Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire, are similar in size.

Even as Mrs. Clinton enters the season in a far better position than eight years ago, her potential opposition is weaker as well. So far, it's basically nonexistent: Not a single sitting senator, governor or vice president has decided to run. Mr. Biden has made noises about running, but he has no obvious base of support among Democratic donors or voters.

The fact that Mrs. Clinton seems poised to clear the field is the surest evidence that 2016 is not 2008. It means that Ms. Warren is getting a very different message from the one Mr. Obama received when Senator Harry Reid reportedly urged him to seek the presidency. Instead, many of the first people to endorse Mr. Obama in 2008, like Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, have already endorsed Mrs. Clinton.

Even if Ms. Warren did run, it is hard to argue that she is as strong as Mr. Obama was eight years ago. Not only is it a stretch to compare the enthusiasm for Ms. Warren to that for Mr. Obama, but the differences between her and Mrs. Clinton on inequality and finance are also less clear — and probably less salient — than Mrs. Clinton's vote to authorize the war in Iraq. Ms. Warren won't replicate Mr. Obama's support among black voters, either, and it is hard to see how she would make up for it.

Perhaps, then, the easiest way to think about Mrs. Clinton's strength is simply to remember just how close she came to victory in 2008. Despite her vote to authorize the war in Iraq, despite the strength of Mr. Obama's candidacy, despite a four-to-one disadvantage among black voters, and despite all the miscues of her campaign, Mrs. Clinton still won 48 percent of pledged delegates.

Without these powerful forces working against her, she appears to be far better positioned than she was eight years ago. If she barely lost then, why would she lose now?

Washington Post blog: Erik Wemple: "Hillary Clinton aide Philippe Reines praises on-the-record communications"

By Erik Wemple

February 19, 2015, 6:58 p.m. EST

Philippe Reines is a long, longtime media aide to Hillary Clinton. He's known for a number of things, including some amazing sound bites: "Is it possible to be quoted yawning?" for instance. And as noted in a Washington Post profile, he developed an "addiction to background dish," which is to say he'd plant nameless quotes with material-hungry reporters, the better to help his boss and hinder her detractors. In an October 2006 column, the New York Times's Maureen Dowd quoted a Clinton "adviser" as saying that Sen. John McCain looked "similar to the way he did on those captive tapes from Hanoi where he recited the names of his crew mates."

It later came out that the "adviser" was Reines.

Many years later, Reines is on the record praising on-the-record journalism. In a piece written by Emily Schultheis for the National Journal, Reines laments that anonymous individuals claiming to possess knowledge about Clinton's presidential plans and ambitions are sending incorrect information into the public realm via all-too-willing reporters. The key passage:

"Asked how the campaign could get a handle on all the anonymous outside chatter, Reines placed much of the blame on the media for being willing to grant anonymity to sources who don't know what they're talking about. Unless the unnamed 'advisers' stop talking to reporters, or reporters stop quoting them, Reines added, there's no way to get the issue under control.

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"'What gets lost is, there are no consequences for [the source or the media] when they're wrong—there just aren't,' he said. 'If you were to go back and look at the last three, four, five, six months of coverage about Secretary Clinton, you're going to see certain reporters who cover her closely whose accuracy rate is less than 50-50.'"

So who are these reporters? Where are the innaccuracies? Reached on that matter, Reines wrote the Erik Wemple Blog via e-mail: "[Y]ou don't need me, you only need The Google to determine what has been introduced into the public domain that has proven to be on the money and what has been off by a mile. Because if I do it, it gets dumbed down to 'Hating the Media' — as opposed to hating bogus information."

Challenge accepted: The Erik Wemple Blog will bang on Google tonight in search of erroneous Clinton coverage.

Now to the question of Reines passing judgement on anonymous sourcing. Here, Reines provides a spirited and even logical defense of his position. There's a difference, he argues, between anonymous quotes from people who don't know what they're talking about and anonymous quotes from people who do know what they're talking about. "[W]hat the National Journal story was specifically looking at was sources, identified in a manner implying they know their a%@ from their elbow, spewing nonsense — all in between quotation marks. That practice lends a great deal of legitimacy to the information and sentiment presented."

That circumstance, argues Reines, differs from past situations in which he himself just might have issued comments on background or off-record: "And when I spoke to you or anyone else — on any basis — I'm guessing you didn't question or doubt that I was in fact a duly authorized spokesman paid to speak to the media. That's the fundamental difference. You wanted me on the record because it's always better and sexier for a reporter to have a name attached to something — especially if the name is legit. But that's a different animal and not what the story was addressing."

Reines seemed quite pleased with the National Journal piece.

As for Reines's own leanings these days, they tend toward transparency. When asked whether he'd moved to a more consistent on-the-record platform, Reines replied, "[Y]es, while I am no longer in daily contact with reporters — for their well being as much as mine since from everything I read I am an unhelpful & profane meanie — when I rarely do I try to be on the record as much as possible. Mostly because it's a forcing mechanism to abide by the rule that if you don't have anything nice to say about someone, don't say anything. But it's an easy goal to adhere to when you barely take press calls." Schultheis declined to comment on whether Reines went off-record in their conversations.

The glory of Reines's comments in National Journal is seeing an operative going on the record to criticize allies who feel close to his boss in all likelihood because of the political acumen of his boss: That is, some of the Clinton "allies" quoted in stories these days ID themselves as such because the Clintons make them feel that way. Reines, again, has quite a response:

"There are a dozen reasons to explain the problem that don't equate to the source or the reporter being bad actors. But in the case you're describing below, the implication is that they are in regular contact as a basis for their knowledge. So why would you identify someone as an advisor or something equivalent that implies regular and direct contact and participation when that's not the truth? People aren't identified as 'Spoke recently to X after seeing them for the first time in a year at a book party they both attended.' They are identified as friends or insiders. 'Friend' 'supporter' 'close to' and 'ally' are especially silly. By implication they are NOT an advisor or in the know, or you'd call them an advisor! Yet their information is presented as gospel."

Below is Reines unabridged, the way he should be. In #1, he answers the question about alleged inaccuracies in the media about Clintonworld; in #2, he riffs about his historical relationship with sourcing bases:

"On #1, you don't need me, you only need The Google to determine what has been introduced into the public domain that has proven to be on the money and what has been off by a mile. Because if I do it, it gets dumbed down to 'Hating the Media' — as opposed to hating bogus information. Two very different things. It should be ok to not be a fan of bad and misleading information. And reporters (and their editors and publishers) should hate inaccuracy as much as we do. But somehow hating inaccuracy has become synonymous with hating the media.

"On #2, the story wasn't about the general propriety or usefulness of OTR or background conversations. It was about sources being portrayed as being something they are not, and the resulting inaccuracy of their information. And not the moments of being off the record since strictly speaking, if a source wants to be completely off the record, that's between them the reporter and the almighty since by the book what's said can't used. So what the National Journal story was specifically looking at was sources, identified in a manner implying they know their a%@ from their elbow, spewing nonsense — all in between quotation marks. That practice lends a great deal of legitimacy to the information and sentiment presented. In those cases — where a source's standing is in question but they won't allow their name to be attached to their comments — it's the reporter who

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is being put at risk, not the source. And to be more cynical, I bet there are instances where the reporter knows full well that using the name wouldn't exactly wow anyone or convey credibility and is more than happy sticking with anonymity. For as long as there are no consequences to either source or reporter, this will continue. Why there are no consequences to the reporter is hard to understand. If a reporter had a two-a-day correction rate, they'd probably get a talking to. But relying on bad sourcing five-times-a-week that is immediately or quickly exposed as clearly being bad? You're the media expert, you tell me how often people have been admonished as a result. To the reader, there's zero evidence that happens. And if it happens, doesn't the reader deserve to know the same way they do if a noun was misspelled? Arguably nitpicky mistakes are far less reflective of someone's overall credibility and more a reflection of spellcheck

"And when I spoke to you or anyone else — on any basis — I'm guessing you didn't question or doubt that I was in fact a duly authorized spokesman paid to speak to the media. That's the fundamental difference. You wanted me on the record because it's always better and sexier for a reporter to have a name attached to something — especially if the name is legit. But that's a different animal and not what the story was addressing. Besides, at the end of most interactions with you, you had something on the record from me encapsulating our larger conversation. Obviously you agree there are times it is acceptable practice to speak on a basis other than on the record or you wouldn't agree to doing so what I'm guessing is five times a day. People also need to remember that a reason for not being 100% on the record is because the reporter is only going use 1% due to space constraints. Which puts a lot of pressure on the speaker to make sure the point they are trying to make gets across, rather than some errant clause or snarky comment – which by the way reporters make too but don't have to read in print. It's only human. If reporters offered to use 100% of our comments on the record and include a transcript of the conversation — both sides, I bet spokespeople would take that offer more often than not. Definitely more often than you think. And I bet far more often than reporters would want to see their half of the conversation transcribed and in print. But that's not the case. A conversation that is 100% on the record means you at most see 50% of the exchange. You don't know what triggered the 1%, there might not be adequate context. So it's not like a subject being 100% on the record provides 100% context and transparency to the reader.

"So you shouldn't conflate your wanting to have a conversation that's 100% on the record with everyone you speak to with this National Journal story. It's authorized apples vs misleading oranges.

"And yes, while I am no longer in daily contact with reporters — for their well being as much as mine since from everything I read I am an unhelpful & profane meanie— when I rarely do I try to be on the record as much as possible. Mostly because it's a forcing mechanism to abide by the rule that if you don't have anything nice to say about someone, don't say anything. But it's an easy goal to adhere to when you barely take press calls.

"With that I am going to conclude my Norma Rae like call to action on the factory floor and return to quarantine."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "The GOP's dilemma with Hillary Clinton: What to attack?"

By Nia-Malika Henderson

February 19, 2015, 4:15 p.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton's nearly quarter-century span on the national political scene is an opposition researcher's dream. And the "Hillary Haters," as Hanna Rosin calls them in her Atlantic piece, are already busy and are more well-funded than ever.

Their goal is do to something Republicans have never done before: Defeat the Clintons, once and for all.

But that massive opposition file also begs a question Republicans in all these years haven't been able to answer: Which Hillary to run against? There are so many to choose from, with gender roles and expectations undergirding each one.

There is first lady Clinton, with a scandal always around the corner (Vince Foster, Whitewater, Monica Lewinsky and more). How about carpet-bagging Senator Clinton? Also, presidential candidate Clinton, the one that "misspoke" about arriving under sniper fire in Bosnia and lost the primary? And/or Secretary of State Clinton -- as in Benghazi, Benghazi and more Benghazi? There's also Alinsky Clinton and Arkansas Clinton. Oh, and scorned-but-scheming wife Clinton.

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There are so many versions that it's hard to keep track. But the damning through-line is missing -- or, at least, not yet evident. There's no Swift Boat or "47 percent" hook just yet, despite all that material.

The most recent attempt is to make Clinton into some version of Romney -- an opportunistic plutocrat scoring huge sums of money for just standing up and saying words to the ultimate benefit of the morass that is the Clinton Foundation and her own political career.

But even that has problems.

Rosin writes:

“That said, if clumsily executed, the Hillary-as-plutocrat offense could easily summon a different set of stereotypes about how unseemly money and power look on a woman. The stories on America Rising’s Web site may stick to the facts, but much of the accompanying art is in the realm of tabloid cheap shot. When photos of Clinton appear on the group’s home page, she is almost always wearing one of a few unflattering expressions: chin up haughtily, angry and finger-pointing, bored and contemptuous, or laughing with her mouth wide open. In one photo, accompanying the aggregated story about billing taxpayers for her book tour, she seems to be rubbing her hands together as she leaves the stage.”

Running successfully against Clinton means taking her strength and turning it into a weakness. In 2008, she ran as the most experienced candidate, betting that the Clinton brand was a good one. The Obama campaign punctured the experience argument and made the Clinton brand seem stale using the Iraq war. And they both canceled out the historic-first-xxxxxx president argument.

And it's this argument that could be one of Clinton's strengths this time. The woman factor even blunts the age factor; a CNN poll this week showed a surprising number of people think Clinton embodies the future -- more so than any of the other candidates, at least.

Which is what makes finding that silver-bullet, focus-messaging campaign so hard for Republicans. As Rosin reports, consultants are busy at work trying to find the right mix, which might be somewhere between "too political" and "plutocrat." Yet being a too-political plutocrat could also be read by some as Clinton beating the boys at their own game.

Strategists and consultants in the Clinton branding sweepstakes are particularly focused on white-collar white women, the very voters who would likely identify with Clinton in some ways and could turn out in higher numbers. Getting those women to see less of themselves in Clinton's run -- in one way or another -- will likely be key whatever they the opposition chooses to focus on.

Boston Herald: “Elizabeth Warren keeps silence on Hill: ‘Way too early’”

By Matt Stout

February 20, 2015

GREENFIELD — Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who huddled with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton just weeks ago, repeatedly ducked questions about whether she’ll back the likely 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, telling a Herald reporter it’s “way too early.”

“She hasn’t declared!” Warren said after a series of events in western Massachusetts. Pressed if she’d support Clinton if and when she does launch a White House campaign, Warren continued playing hard to get.

“You’re way too early,” she said. “You’re way too early.”

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Warren, the de facto leader of the party's liberal wing, has repeatedly ignored calls to launch her own campaign, and again yesterday twice repeated, "I'm not running for president." She has instead continued slamming Wall Street and touting a populist message that has helped catapult her into the Democrats' leadership team.

"I want to make sure the progressive point of view is heard and fully understood and that people are ready to act on it," Warren said at a Northampton fire house. "That's my job."

Warren also discussed her private meeting in December with Clinton in Washington, D.C., characterizing it as a "policy discussion."

"And I'm never shy about my point of view on working families. Never," Warren said of their talk.

Clinton and Warren crossed paths at a Boston fundraiser for Democrat Martha Coakley last fall, where the former first lady had high praise for the Bay State senator, and even tried to out-populist her, saying, "Corporations don't create jobs." That comment, which echoed a similar one by Warren in 2011, drew immediate fire and Clinton ended up walking it back.

Ready for Warren campaign manager Erica Sagrans kept up the drumbeat last night, issuing a statement saying: "Our message to Senator Warren is this: 'When you're ready to run, we'll be ready to help you fight back. This movement is about more than getting others to believe in you. It's about getting you to believe in us. Our future is too important to miss this moment — Senator Warren, this is your time.'"

Democratic consultant Peter Fenn said Warren is wise to "keep her powder dry" and withhold her endorsement.

"I don't think she is playing it cute. I think she is playing smart," Fenn said. "I think the more that she feels that she is having influence on the Clinton candidacy, the better it will be for the country. That is clearly her view."

Warren was greeted like a rock star during yesterday's three-city swing. Roughly 150 people packed a Greenfield Community College library to hear her talk student loans, education and even fracking. Warren also told reporters she agrees "with the Anti-Defamation League" that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's March address to Congress should be postponed, though she didn't say whether she would attend.

"What Speaker (John) Boehner did by trying to politicize (this) ... he has tried to turn our relationship with Israel into Republicans vs. Democrats," Warren said, "and I don't think that's good for the United States, and certainly not good for Israel."

Fox News: "Clinton-tied firm accused of illegal 'scheme' to boost Dem groups, candidates"

By Kelley Beaucar Vlahos

February 20, 2015

A Democrat-aligned business founded by a longtime Clinton confidant is being accused of giving valuable voter lists to party committees and candidates, as part of a "scheme" that allegedly runs afoul of campaign finance law.

The charges were detailed in a new complaint filed by the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT), a conservative watchdog group, on Wednesday. They implicate Catalist, LLC., a for-profit company that has provided customized voter data to hundreds of labor unions, Democratic committees and candidates -- including the Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama campaigns in 2008.

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The complaint, filed to the Federal Election Commission, accused the group of effectively masquerading as a corporation while acting like a political action committee -- in turn, skirting campaign finance laws that normally apply to PACs.

“Fundamentally, I would call [Catalist] a scheme to avoid campaign finance law,” FACT director Matthew Whitaker, a former U.S. attorney, told FoxNews.com.

The complaint accuses the group, whose investors include George Soros, of skirting laws that cover so-called “soft money” -- donations from corporations, unions, and individuals used to influence elections -- and coordination between independent groups like PACs and the parties and candidates they support.

The complaint says “the commission should examine whether Catalist was established, and/or is financed, maintained or controlled, by the [Democratic National Committee], and is therefore” subject to campaign finance laws.

Sitting atop Catalist is founder and president Harold Ickes, a stalwart aide and adviser to both former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton -- who is preparing for a likely presidential run in 2016. A member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) rules and bylaws committee, Ickes “has played an ongoing and significant role in the DNC and in Clinton presidential campaigns,” according to the complaint.

Whitaker, in making the case that Catalist is not a corporation but in fact a political group subject to campaign finance law, said the organization is funded by and caters to donors and groups responsible for over $100 million in outside spending to elect Democrats. He said this makes the group an arm of the Democratic Party.

Federal parties were completely banned from raising and spending "soft money" in 2004. PACs and other groups like 527s can still raise unlimited amounts of soft money, but they cannot coordinate directly with campaigns or political parties. Whitaker says as a “corporation,” Catalist investors and clients can engage in “seamless coordination” and other activities that PACs, 527s and parties cannot. In addition, wealthy donors like Soros, who has invested millions in Catalist since 2006, are not subject to FEC disclosure laws.

The complaint also says the group sold voter lists at a discount, which would count as an in-kind contribution for a PAC.

Requests to Catalist for comment were not returned.

Groups like Catalist -- including from the conservative end of the spectrum -- have raised eyebrows before. Last fall, the American Democracy Legal Fund, a Democratic watchdog, filed a similar complaint against Data Trust, a private company launched to provide voter information between the Republican National Committee and outside groups.

Politico: “DNC members unfazed by Hillary Clinton stories”

By Ben Schrecklinger

February 20, 2015, 5:38 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Negative headlines for Hillary Clinton have come fast and furious, but most Democrats are unconcerned.

The negative headlines for Hillary Clinton have come fast and furious in recent weeks: Public in-fighting at her affiliated PACs. Trouble with fundraising targets. Donations from foreign governments.

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But count the most committed Democratic party officials as unperturbed by — and in many cases unaware of – the fallout.

At the Democratic National Committee's winter meeting on Thursday, attendees unanimously expressed indifference to the spate of bad news. Instead, the only point of disagreement was whether a competitive presidential primary was desirable for the party, though attendees expressed confidence that Clinton would be prepared regardless, drawing on circus metaphors to describe the boisterous Republican field vying to take on the former secretary of state.

Earlier this month, the New York Times reported on a fundraiser for pro-Clinton organizations that charges a commission, a controversial practice in politics. Last week, Clinton loyalist David Brock resigned from the board of Priorities USA, a pro-Clinton super PAC, saying its leaders had planted the Times story to undermine his pro-Clinton groups. Then, POLITICO reported that Priorities was having trouble meeting fundraising goals, in part because other Clinton groups were tapping out donors. Finally, this week, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Clinton Foundation had ended its policy of declining to accept gifts from foreign governments, raising questions about the appearance of undue influence on Clinton.

But the stories have apparently done little to penetrate Democratic leaders' confidence. "Even among the group of people who are prone to anxiety attacks, I have not been getting phone calls," said Roy Temple, chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party. "I pay a lot more attention to the fundamentals than I do to day-to-day dramas."

"Things that are happening today are going to have no impact in November 2016," said Alan Clendenin, vice chair of the Florida Democratic Party, who sported a Clinton pin on his lapel.

"We listen to that chatter, but we don't necessarily let it drive the long-term decision-making," said Jaxon Ravens, chair of the Washington Democratic Party.

Raymond Buckley, chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party and vice chair of the DNC, said recent headlines are small potatoes compared to the controversies Clinton has ridden out in the past. "They've thrown everything and the kitchen sink at her in the last 20 years, and she has survived and thrived," he said.

Several attendees said any controversy about funding for the Clinton Foundation would be outweighed by the worked it conducted around the world. "It's beloved," Jaime Harrison, chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party, said of the foundation.

But if Democrats are in agreement that Clinton hasn't been dinged by the recent news stories, there isn't consensus about how much the likely nominee should be tested by her own party between now and next July's convention in Philadelphia.

Many attendees painted the relative quiet on the Democratic side as a good thing, saying the crowded Republican field would draw the eventual GOP nominee far to the right and create an embarrassing sideshow. DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz told assembled Democrats that she planned to watch the Republican debates while chowing down on popcorn. New Hampshire's Buckley said he'd been enjoying enjoying the "epic clown car" of the GOP primary. Others spoke of a GOP "three-ring circus."

But some in the party want other Democrats to throw their hats in the ring — believing a competitive primary will better prepare Clinton for the general election.

"I want an all-out battle all the way to June," said Bob Mullholland, a Democratic committeeman from California with a "Ready for Hillary" pin on his lapel.

Mullholland said that though he has already committed to Clinton, a competitive primary would energize the base, pull new voters into the Democratic fold, and give the party a chance to hone its message ahead of the general election. (California's primary is currently set for June 7, 2016.)

"I wish we would have some other candidates running," said Cordelia Burks, vice chair of the Indiana Democratic Party, who said she plans to support Clinton when she runs. "I think it would give the nation the opportunity to have a debate."

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Pennsylvania Democratic Party chairman Jim Burns, on the other hand, was less concerned about the opportunity for a debate. Though Burn conceded that “a competitive primary is a good thing,” he added that Clinton “does not need a primary.”

“If Hillary chooses to do this, there would be little to no pushback,” he said. “She’s so far ahead of any possible challenger.”

Stanley Grossman, a Democrats Abroad leader who lives in London, also dismissed the benefits of competition.

“I think what we need is absolute unity,” he said.

Wall Street Journal: “Hillary Clinton’s Complex Corporate Ties”

By James V. Grimaldi and Rebecca Ballhaus

February 19, 2015, 10:30 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Family charities collected donations from companies she promoted as secretary of state

Among recent secretaries of state, Hillary Clinton was one of the most aggressive global cheerleaders for American companies, pushing governments to sign deals and change policies to the advantage of corporate giants such as General Electric Co. , Exxon Mobil Corp. , Microsoft Corp. and Boeing Co.

At the same time, those companies were among the many that gave to the Clinton family’s global foundation set up by her husband, former President Bill Clinton. At least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department during her tenure donated a total of more than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of public and foundation disclosures.

As Mrs. Clinton prepares to embark on a race for the presidency, she has a web of connections to big corporations unique in American politics—ties forged both as secretary of state and by her family’s charitable interests. Those relationships are emerging as an issue for Mrs. Clinton’s expected presidential campaign as income disparity and other populist themes gain early attention.

Indeed, Clinton Foundation money-raising already is drawing attention. “To a lot of progressive Democrats, Clinton’s ties to corporate America are disturbing,” says Jack Pitney, a politics professor at Claremont McKenna College who once worked for congressional Republicans. Mrs. Clinton’s connections to companies, he says, “are a bonanza for opposition researchers because they enable her critics to suggest the appearance of a conflict of interest.”

The Wall Street Journal identified the companies involved with both Clinton-family charitable endeavors and with Mrs. Clinton’s State Department by examining large corporate donations to the Clinton Foundation, then reviewing lobbying-disclosure reports filed by those companies. At least 44 of those 60 companies also participated in philanthropic projects valued at $3.2 billion that were set up though a wing of the foundation called the Clinton Global Initiative, which coordinates the projects but receives no cash for them.

Mrs. Clinton’s connections to the companies don’t end there. As secretary of state, she created 15 public-private partnerships coordinated by the State Department, and at least 25 companies contributed to those partnerships. She also sought corporate donations for another charity she co-founded, a nonprofit women’s group called Vital Voices.

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Mrs. Clinton's spokesman, Nick Merrill, says: "She did the job that every secretary of state is supposed to do and what the American people expect of them—especially during difficult economic times. She proudly and loudly advocated on behalf of American business and took every opportunity she could to promote U.S. commercial interests abroad."

Corporate donations to politically connected charities aren't illegal so long as they aren't in exchange for favors. There is no evidence of that with the Clinton Foundation.

In some cases, donations came after Mrs. Clinton took action that helped a company. In other cases, the donation came first. In some instances, donations came both before and after. All of the companies mentioned in this article said their charitable donations had nothing to do with their lobbying agendas with Mrs. Clinton's State Department.

President Barack Obama 's transition team worried enough about potential problems stemming from Clinton-organization fundraising while Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state that it asked Mr. Clinton to quit raising money from foreign governments for the Clinton Global Initiative and to seek approval for paid speaking engagements, which he did. The transition team didn't put limits on corporate fundraising.

The foundation resumed soliciting foreign governments after Mrs. Clinton left the State Department. The official name of the foundation was changed to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation. Mrs. Clinton became a director. All told, the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates have collected donations and pledges from all sources of more than $1.6 billion, according to their tax returns. On Thursday, the foundation said that if Mrs. Clinton runs for president, it would consider whether to continue accepting foreign-government contributions as part of an internal policy review.

"The Clinton Foundation has raised hundreds of millions that it claims is for charitable causes, but clearly overlaps with Hillary Clinton's political ambitions," said Tim Miller, director of America Rising PAC, a conservative group that has targeted Mrs. Clinton.

Foundation spokesman Craig Minassian says the group's work helps millions around the world and its donors have a history of supporting such work. "So when companies get involved with the Clinton Foundation it's for only one reason, because they know our work matters," he says.

In her book, "Hard Choices," Mrs. Clinton said one of her goals at the State Department was "placing economics at the heart of our foreign policy." She wrote: "It was clearer than ever that America's economic strength and our global leadership were a package deal."

Matthew Goodman, a former Clinton State Department official who is now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, says Mrs. Clinton is the first secretary of state to make economics such a focus since George C. Marshall, who helped rebuild postwar Europe.

Economic Statecraft

That approach, which Mrs. Clinton called "economic statecraft," emerged in discussions with Robert Hormats, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. investment banker who has worked in Democratic and Republican administrations and became an undersecretary of state. "One of the very first items was, how do we strengthen the role of the State Department in economic policy?" he says.

The focus positioned Mrs. Clinton to pursue not just foreign-policy results, but domestic economic ones.

Early in Mrs. Clinton's tenure, according to Mr. Hormats, Microsoft's then Chief Research Officer Craig Mundie asked the State Department to send a ranking official to a fourth annual meeting of U.S. software executives and Chinese government officials about piracy and Internet freedom. Mr. Hormats joined the December 2009 meeting in Beijing.

Since 2005, Microsoft has given the Clinton Global Initiative $1.3 million, in addition to free software, according to the foundation.

In 2011, Microsoft launched a three-year initiative coordinated by the Clinton Global Initiative to provide free or discounted software and other resources to students and teachers—a commitment Microsoft estimated to be worth $130 million.

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Mr. Hormats says there was no relation between Microsoft's donations and the State Department's participation in the China conference.

In 2012, the Clinton Foundation approached GE about working together to expand a health-access initiative the company had launched four years earlier, says a GE spokeswoman.

That same year, Mrs. Clinton lobbied for GE to be selected by the Algerian government to build power plants in that country. She went to Algiers that October and met with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. "I saw an opportunity for advancing prosperity in Algeria and seizing an opportunity for American business," she explained in her book.

A month after Mrs. Clinton's trip, the Clinton Foundation announced the health-initiative partnership with GE, the company's first involvement with the foundation. GE eventually contributed between $500,000 and $1 million to the partnership.

The following September, GEwon the contracts with the Algerian government, saying they marked "some of its largest power agreements in company history."

Mrs. Clinton championed U.S. energy companies and launched an office to promote overseas projects. Many of those efforts were focused in Eastern and Central Europe, where she saw energy development as a hedge against Russia's dominance in oil and gas. Companies that had interests in those areas included Exxon Mobil and Chevron Corp.

One effort, the Global Shale Gas Initiative, promoted hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a technique perfected by U.S. companies. In 2010, Mrs. Clinton flew to Krakow to announce a Polish-American cooperation on a global shale-gas initiative, according to her book. At the time, the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicted abundant deposits of shale gas in Poland.

After pursuing shale-gas projects in Poland, Exxon Mobil gave up a few years later, and Chevron said late last month it would abandon its Poland project.

In 2012, Mrs. Clinton flew to Sofia, Bulgaria, and urged the Bulgarian Parliament to reconsider its moratorium on fracking and its withdrawal of Chevron's five-year exploration license. A few months later, the government allowed conventional gas exploration, but not fracking. Chevron left Bulgaria in 2012.

Ben Schreiber of the environmental group Friends of the Earth says: "We've long been concerned about the ties that Hillary Clinton has to the oil-and-gas industry."

Both Exxon and Chevron are supporters of the Clinton Foundation. Chevron donated $250,000 in 2013. A Chevron spokesman said the Clinton charity "is one of many programs and partnerships that the company has had or maintains across a number of issue areas and topics pertinent to our business."

Exxon Mobil has given about $2 million to the Clinton Global Initiative, starting in 2009. Since 2007, Exxon Mobil also has given $16.8 million to Vital Voices, the nonprofit women's group co-founded by Mrs. Clinton, according to the group's spokeswoman.

An Exxon Mobil spokesman said the donations were made to support work on issues Exxon Mobil has long championed, such as programs to fight malaria and empower women. "That is the sole motivation for our support of charitable programs associated with the Clintons," he said. "We did not seek or receive any special consideration on the Shale Gas Initiative."

In October 2009, Mrs. Clinton went to bat for aerospace giant Boeing, which was seeking to sell jets to Russia, by flying to Moscow to visit the Boeing Design Center. "I made the case that Boeing's jets set the global gold standard, and, after I left, our embassy kept at it," she wrote in her book.

About seven months later, in June 2010, Russia agreed to purchase 50 Boeing 737s for $3.7 billion, choosing Boeing over Europe's Airbus Group

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Two months later, Boeing made its first donation to the Clinton Foundation—$900,000 to help rebuild Haiti's public-education system. Overall, Boeing has contributed around $1.1 million to the Clinton Foundation since 2010.

A Boeing spokeswoman said it is routine for U.S. officials to advocate on behalf of businesses such as Boeing. "U.S. businesses face fierce global competition, and oftentimes an unlevel playing field in the global marketplace," she said in a written statement. "Secretary Clinton did nothing for Boeing that former U.S. presidents and cabinet secretaries haven't done for decades, or that their foreign counterparts haven't done on behalf of companies like Airbus."

Before every overseas trip, says Mr. Hormats, the former undersecretary of state, he helped prepare a list of U.S. corporate interests for Mrs. Clinton to advocate while abroad.

During Mrs. Clinton's three trips to India, she urged the government to kill a ban on stores that sell multiple brands, a law aimed at department stores or big-box retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

"It wasn't just Wal-Mart," Mr. Hormats says. "It was the whole point of multibrand retail. Wal-Mart was, of course, the biggest."

Mrs. Clinton served on the board of the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer between 1986 and 1992, when her husband was governor of that state, and the law firm she worked for at the time represented the company. Wal-Mart has donated nearly $1.2 million to the Clinton Foundation for a program that issues grants to student-run charitable projects. The company also has paid more than $370,000 in membership fees to the foundation since 2008, according to a Wal-Mart spokesman.

Trip to India

Before Mrs. Clinton's official trip to India in 2012, Wal-Mart Chief Executive Mike Duke joined her at the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, to pledge $12 million to help women in Latin America. The donation included $1.5 million in grants to 55,000 women entrepreneurs through the International Fund for Women and Girls, one of the 15 public-private partnerships Mrs. Clinton created at the State Department, and $500,000 for Vital Voices, the charity she co-founded.

"We committed to helping women around the world live better," Mr. Duke said at the time. "By working with leaders like Secretary Clinton, we're bringing that mission to life."

One month later, Mrs. Clinton traveled to India to make the case against the ban on retail stores such as Wal-Mart. Then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had proposed allowing companies such as Wal-Mart to invest up to 51% directly in local multibrand retailers, but one of his allies, Mamata Banerjee, a regional governor, opposed the idea. Ms. Banerjee's support was key to Mr. Singh's majority in Parliament.

Mrs. Clinton met with Ms. Banerjee to press the matter. She also said in a speech in West Bengal that U.S. retailers could bring an "enormous amount of expertise" to India in areas ranging from supply-chain management to working with small producers and farmers. Her lobbying was unsuccessful.

A Wal-Mart spokesman said the retailer had lobbied the State Department on the issue, which he said was one of dozens of topics important to the business.

After Mrs. Clinton's India trip, her husband asked Mr. Duke, Walmart's CEO, to change his schedule to appear at the opening panel of the Clinton Global Initiative. Mr. Duke agreed.

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New York Times editorial: "Separate Philanthropy From Political Clout"

By The Editorial Board

February 20, 2015

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton Should Ban Foreign Donors to the Clinton Global Initiative

The Clinton Foundation has become one of the world's major generators of charity, mobilizing global efforts to confront issues like health, climate change, economic development and equality for women and girls.

Since its inception in 2001, it has raised nearly $2 billion in cash and pledges with millions more flowing in from an impressive array of donors, including foreign governments, financial chieftains and domestic donors, many of the latter political heavyweights.

All of which underlines the need for Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her all but certified role as a Democratic presidential candidate, to reinstate the foundation's ban against foreign contributors, who might have matters of concern to bring before a future Clinton administration. This was a restriction Mrs. Clinton worked out with the Obama administration to allay concerns of potential conflict of interest when she became secretary of state in 2009.

According to a report this week in The Wall Street Journal, the ban was dropped after Mrs. Clinton left the administration in 2013, leading to a resumption of donations from foreign governments and agencies to the foundation's Clinton Global Initiative, which sponsors conferences of world leaders from government, industry and philanthropy. Donors have included the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Oman and a Canadian government agency reported to be involved in promoting the Keystone XL pipeline.

Foreign nationals are banned by law from contributing to American politicians' campaign coffers. This ban does not apply to private foundations, but the idea behind it — that influence should not be bought — is relevant to a political campaign, where appearances can count for much.

The foundation, which has drawn bipartisan praise in the past, emphasizes that it is solely a philanthropy, not a political machine, declaring, "The bottom line: These contributions are helping improve the lives of millions of people across the world, for which we are grateful."

No critic has alleged a specific conflict of interest. The foundation, in fact, went beyond normal philanthropic bounds for transparency six years ago in instituting voluntary disclosure of donors within broad dollar ranges on its website. But this very information can feed criticism.

Donations from foreign governments and nationals, for example, were found to make up more than half of the category of $5-million-plus contributions, according to The Washington Post. A third of donations in the $1-million-plus bracket came from foreign governments and other overseas entities.

Substantial overlap was found between foundation contributors and familiar Clinton campaign donors and money bundlers. Considering the Clintons' popularity and influence in their party, this is no surprise. But it does make it important that Mrs. Clinton, in defending the family's efforts on behalf of the world's needy, reassure the public that the foundation will not become a vehicle for insiders' favoritism, should she run for and win the White House.

Restoring the restrictions on foreign donors would be a good way to make this point as Mrs. Clinton's widely expected campaign moves forward.

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Wall Street Journal opinion: Kimberly Strassel, member of the WSJ editorial board: "The Clinton Foundation Super PAC"

By Kimberly A. Strassel

February 19, 2015, 7:19 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] It's past time to drop the fiction that the Clinton Foundation is a charity.

Republican presidential aspirants are already launching political-action committees, gearing up for the expensive elections to come. They'll be hard-pressed to compete with the campaign vehicle Hillary Clinton has been erecting these past 14 years. You know, the Clinton Foundation.

With the news this week that Mrs. Clinton—the would-be occupant of the White House—is landing tens of millions from foreign governments for her shop, it's long past time to drop the fiction that the Clinton Foundation has ever been a charity. It's a political shop. Bill and Hillary have simply done with the foundation what they did with cattle futures and Whitewater and the Lincoln Bedroom and Johnny Chung—they've exploited the system.

Most family charities exist to allow self-made Americans to disperse their good fortune to philanthropic causes. The Clinton Foundation exists to allow the nation's most powerful couple to use their not-so-subtle persuasion to exact global tribute for a fund that promotes the Clintons.

Oh sure, the foundation doles out grants for this and that cause. But they don't rank next to the annual Bill Clinton show—the Clinton Global Initiative event—to which he summons heads of state and basks for a media week as post-presidential statesman. This is an organization that in 2013 spent $8.5 million in travel expenses alone, ferrying the Clintons to headliner events. Those keep Mrs. Clinton in the news, which helps when you want to be president.

It's a body that exists to keep the Clinton political team intact in between elections, working for the Clintons' political benefit. Only last week it came out that Dennis Cheng, who raised money for Mrs. Clinton's 2008 bid, and then transitioned to the Clinton Foundation's chief development officer, is now transitioning back to head up Mrs. Clinton's 2016 fundraising operation. Mr. Cheng has scored $248 million for the foundation, and his Rolodex comes with him. The Washington Post reported this week that already half the major donors backing Ready for Hillary, a group supporting her 2016 bid, are also foundation givers.

How much of these employees' salaries, how much of Mrs. Clinton's travel, was funded by the Saudis? Or the United Arab Emirates, or Oman, or any of the other foreign nations that The Wall Street Journal Tuesday reported have given millions to the foundation this past year? How many voters has Mrs. Clinton wooed, how many potential donors has she primed, how many influential people has she recruited for her campaign via the Clinton Foundation?

The foundation claims none, but that's the other Clinton stroke of brilliance in using a charity as a campaign vehicle—we can't know. Poor Jeb Bush has to abide by all those pesky campaign-finance laws that require him to disclose exact donor names, and dates and amounts. And that also bar contributions from foreign entities.

Not a problem for Team Clinton. The foundation does divulge contributors—after a fashion—but doesn't give exact amounts or dates. Did Mrs. Clinton ever take any oddly timed actions as secretary of state? Who knows? Not the Federal Election Commission.

The foundation likes to note that it adopted self-imposed limits on foreign contributions during the period when Mrs. Clinton was at the State Department. Which is nice. Then again, that ban wasn't absolute, and it isn't clear it encompassed nonprofits funded by foreign governments, or covered wealthy foreigners, or foreign corporations. Nothing is clear. This is the Clintons. That's how they like it.

This is the baseline scandal of the Clinton Foundation—it's a political group that gets to operate outside the rules imposed on every other political player. Then comes the ethical morass. Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short summed it up perfectly in a Wednesday WSJ story: "When that 3 a.m. phone call comes, do voters really want to have a president on the line who took truckloads of cash from other countries? "

The nation's ethics guardians have gently declared the Clintons might clear this up with more disclosure, or by again limiting the foundation's

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acceptance of foreign money. What about the amounts already banked? The damage is done. If this were Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a likely GOP candidate, he'd be declared disqualified for office. The benefit of being a Clinton is that the nation expects this, and the bar for disqualification now sits in the exosphere.

Democrats might nonetheless consider how big a liability this is for their potential nominee. It's hard to label your GOP opponent anti-woman when the Clinton Foundation is funded by countries that bar women from voting and driving like Saudi Arabia. It's hard to call your GOP opponent a heartless capitalist—out of tune with middle-class anxieties—when you owe your foundation's soul to Canadian mining magnates and Ethiopian construction billionaires. And it's hard to claim you will fix a burning world when you owe foundation gratitude to countries holding the fossil-fuel blowtorches.

Mrs. Clinton won't let that stop her. So Democrats have to decide if they want to once again put their ethics in the blind Clinton trust.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 10 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton addresses United Nations Women's Conference (Bloomberg)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 2/6/2016 1:02:34 AM
Subject: FDA Nominee Califf Gave Questionable Answers to Senate

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PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

FDA Nominee Califf Gave Questionable Answers to Senate

Robert Califf, a former Duke University researcher who is awaiting Senate confirmation as FDA commissioner, gave questionable answers to the Senate about the independence of clinical trials conducted for drug companies.

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Pentagon Tester Warns Against F-35 Block Buy

Approving a F-35 block buy would commit taxpayers to a program that is at least six years away from demonstrating the capability and maturity the law requires to ensure we're receiving a combat-effective aircraft.

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New Rule Increases Scrutiny of Deadbeat and Felon Contractors

POGO supports a new rule requiring federal agencies to more rigorously screen felon and tax-delinquent companies that bid on contracts.

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Whistleblowers Call for Inquiry into LANL Employee's Death

Nuclear Watch New Mexico and former investigators at a U.S. nuclear weapons lab seek to reopen the case of the death of former Deputy Director for Operations Richard Burick before competition begins on a new lab contract.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/25/2014 7:37:01 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday July 25, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday July 25, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Michiko Kakutani @nytimesbooks: #HardChoices "provides a portrait of [@HillaryClinton] as a heavy-duty policy wonk." http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/08/books/hillary-clintons-book-hard-choices-portrays-a-tested-policy-wonk.html … [7/25/14, 11:55 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@USATODAY recommends you put @HillaryClinton's #HardChoices on your summer reading list -- we agree: http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/books/2014/07/14/30-hot-summer-books-2014/11320149/ … [7/25/14, 10:45 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC was key in bringing the fight to end modern-day slavery to the forefront of US policy, says @JacksonLeeTX18http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/bay_area/opinion/jackson-lee-we-can-save-lives-and-change-history/article_1de35a64-a196-5397-882f-d570742f0e87.html … [7/24/14, 6:55 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton launched the "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" campaign to educate low-income kids #HRC365http://cbsloc.al/WJLH5t [7/24/14, 6:01 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Politico: "Hillary Clinton on Fareed Zakaria Sunday "

"Hillary Clinton will sit down with CNN's Fareed Zakaria for an interview set to air this Sunday, sources familiar with the interview told POLITICO."

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The American Prospect: "Hillary for Liberals: A Conversation With Walter Shapiro"

"As a reporter and columnist for Time, Newsweek, the Washington Post, USA Today, Esquire, Salon, and other publications, Walter Shapiro has covered nine presidential elections and the nation's politics for four decades. He is currently a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and a lecturer in political science at Yale while he finishes a book about his great-uncle, a vaudevillian and con man who once swindled Hitler."

Washington Post blog: The Switch: "Democrats' latest tech mines your relationship data"

"While the electorate keeps playing the Hillary Clinton waiting game, Ready for Hillary is moving ahead with a plan to achieve the next big breakthrough in campaign technology."

National Journal: "Obama Aide Tweaks GOP on Impeachment"

"Pfeiffer also addressed the potential 2016 presidential field, downplaying any suggestion that Hillary Clinton was trying to separate himself from Obama's foreign policy. 'She has been incredibly loyal to the president,' he said. 'I don't think she's trying to distance herself.'"

Arkansas Times blog: Arkansas Blog: "A serious talk with Hillary Clinton"

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The Hill blog: In The Know: "Pelosi joins Hillary in the pantsuit set"

"House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, taking a page out of Hillary Clinton's style guide, as she donned a pantsuit to dine at downtown Washington hotspot Bibiana."

Mediaite: "Ben Carson's Book Outsold Hillary's Hard Choices Last Week"

"Last week, according to the latest figures from the Nielsen BookScan, Ben Carson's memoir "One Nation" outsold Hillary Clinton's book Hard Choices by a whopping 60%."

Articles:

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Politico: "Hillary Clinton on Fareed Zakaria Sunday "

By Dylan Byers

July 25, 2014, 10:53 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton will sit down with CNN's Fareed Zakaria for an interview set to air this Sunday, sources familiar with the interview told POLITICO.

The former Secretary of State is set to tape an hour-long interview with Zakaria on Friday morning. It will air this Sunday on "Fareed Zakaria GPS" at 10 a.m. ET.

The interview will almost certainly focus on international events, including the Malaysia Airlines crash in Ukraine, U.S relations with Russia, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza. It is the latest in a string of interviews Clinton has conducted since early June.

We've reached out to spokespeople for both Clinton and CNN for more details about the interview, and will update here if and when we hear back.

The American Prospect: "Hillary for Liberals: A Conversation With Walter Shapiro"

By Harold Meyerson

July 23, 2014

[Subtitle:] "As a campaigner, Hillary can do a shot and a beer better than Barack Obama can," Shapiro says. So there's that.

As a reporter and columnist for Time, Newsweek, the Washington Post, USA Today, Esquire, Salon, and other publications, Walter Shapiro has covered nine presidential elections and the nation's politics for four decades. He is currently a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and a lecturer in political science at Yale while he finishes a book about his great-uncle, a vaudevillian and con man who once swindled Hitler.

Shapiro is also an accomplished Hillary-ologist, having first interviewed Hillary Clinton in the Arkansas governor's mansion for Time in September 1992. In early May, Shapiro sat down with Prospect editor-at-large Harold Meyerson to talk about a question he's internally debated for years: On balance, would a Hillary Clinton candidacy and presidency be a good or bad thing for the liberal cause?

The following discussion has been edited for concision and clarity.

Harold Meyerson: Walter, when liberals look at Hillary Clinton, what should they see? The Democratic Party and the country have certainly changed since she was first lady, and even since she was a senator and secretary of state.

Walter Shapiro: I've always thought that Bill Clinton was never really a person of the '60s. Bill Clinton started in 1960 as a 14-year-old who wanted to be governor of Arkansas. He came out of the '60s as a 24-year-old who wanted to be governor of Arkansas without going to Vietnam. But Hillary did the full, life-changing conversion from the obedient Goldwater Girl to delivering an ethereal but genuinely anti-war address at Wellesley in '69. So in a sense, as far as the culture of the time washing over someone, it washed over her more than it ever washed over Bill.

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HM: Still, she spent so many years in Arkansas, and Arkansas's political culture is not one with which most liberals are comfortable. Both Clintons were clearly supportive of the civil-rights revolution. But the other part of that culture is the Stephens investment firm and Wal-Mart, and to get somewhere in Arkansas politics, you eventually have relations with them. Hillary famously was on the Wal-Mart board for a while.

WS: What stayed with me, and I still think it's really important for understanding Hillary, happened in March of 1992, at a debate before the Illinois primary. Jerry Brown (Bill Clinton's primary opponent) went after Bill Clinton in part for the legal work that Hillary did at Rose Law Firm on behalf of banks. And Hillary at some point said, in effect, "Of course I work for banks; who do you expect me to work for if I'm a lawyer?" Well, there were, believe it or not, other clients in the state of Arkansas in the 1980s while her husband was governor.

HM: That's no small part of what gives liberals pause about Hillary—who is, of course, still going around giving talks to the Goldman Sachses of the world. Is she too inextricably linked to that world? One of the major issues liberals had with Obama is that his economic team has been, like Bill Clinton's, primarily Robert Rubin protégés. That's two straight Democratic presidencies with a Wall Street pedigree.

WS: As a campaigner, Hillary can do a shot and a beer better than Barack Obama can. She was an exceedingly good candidate when it was too late in the '08 primaries with white working-class voters in Pennsylvania, in Indiana, in states like that. That said, everything in the ledger says she's not a policy populist.

Remember that the Bill Clinton administration at its most successful was the Democratic answer to Reaganism. It was what the French call "the spirit of the staircase"—coming up with everything you should have said at the party just after you've left it. The administration said, let's get off the table everything Reagan criticized about the Democrats. It was welfare, so they ended it; it was crime, so they came up with funding for 100,000 more cops; it was economic deficits, so they came up with a balanced budget.

To some extent, electing Hillary Clinton in 2016 could continue a debate with Ronald Reagan that no one else in American life is still having. The Democrats have mostly forgotten Reagan, and the Republicans have turned him into this sainted soul of political constancy. But a Hillary presidency would be still framed by the Democratic memory of those horrible years in the wilderness in the 1980s, when the Democrats got wiped out in three successive elections.

HM: But the political landscape, the demographic profile of voters has changed so much since then. More political space has opened up on the left; the nation has plainly moved in a liberal direction on social issues; there are very few Blue Dogs remaining. Is this defensive crouch against the Republicans a politically viable stance?

WS: I'm talking about what makes her tick. Of course, she won two elections in a very diverse state since Bill's presidency, and she won an awful lot of presidential primaries in '08. She understands the diversity of America in 2017—except in the economic sense.

That said, I don't think she's the candidate of Archie Bunker's America. But the worst thing that could have happened to her in terms of framing any economic populist message was to run for the Senate from New York rather than, say, Arkansas. Not only do the Clintons have a certain psychological need for money—that would probably be a separate course in the Department of Hillary Studies—but her constituents were Wall Street, and they were also the people who were funding all the Clinton initiatives and giving speaking fees to Bill.

Ultimately she has an orthodox, mainstream, centrist, Eisenhower Republican view of the economy. It is much to the left of today's Republican Party since there are no Eisenhower Republicans left, but it is also much less in keeping with large segments of the Democratic Party. I can see her being very involved in raising the minimum wage, because it's not as if hedge-fund billionaires are on the barricades against it. But trying to do a better, tougher version of Dodd-Frank? Let's merely say that the polls would have to get very dismal for Hillary leading up to the 2020 election for that to even be on her agenda.

HM: Let's go to foreign policy.

WS: If you wanted me to state my own personal reservations about Hillary, I would have started with foreign policy.

HM: What would those reservations be?

WS: First of all, other than the anti-war feeling, which is more generational than an elaborate, nuanced foreign-policy view, I don't think she had

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terribly developed foreign-policy views during Bill's presidency. OK, there was the general, and to my mind, admirable tilt toward humanitarian intervention in both Haiti and, much more important, in Bosnia. I do not think she would have dithered the way Obama has on Syria.

That said, I've seen no evidence that she had too much anguish over her vote to authorize Bush to go to war in Iraq. John Kerry turned himself into elaborate pretzel positions to try to justify that vote. Hillary may have anguished about many things, but that does not seem to be in the Top 10 Hillary Anguish moments.

HM: What do you think her hawkishness on Iraq would portend for foreign policy if Hillary were president?

WS: While she is not a Dick Cheney groupie, in a situation where there is a range of military actions on the table and there's a responsible, mainstream opinion within the administration toward using the military—and the foreign-policy community says military action is called for—she would probably go with it and cheerlead it on. I don't think she's going to invent a war with Mongolia out of some crazed geopolitical effort to encircle China. But hers would probably be a more hawkish administration than we have now with Obama and John Kerry.

I'm much less worried about her starting a war with Denmark, though, than I am by the fact that she is probably the Democratic presidential candidate who would do the least to rein in the National Security Agency and all the leftover aspects of the "war on terror." Sadly, both Hillary and Bill know that civil liberties is that which closes on Saturday night.

HM: Bill Clinton was not famed for his managerial prowess and neither is Barack Obama. That's certainly part of the president's job. Is Hillary a better manager than Bill?

WS: I think she is much more than just that. If you have been through a disaster like the first two years of the Clinton administration, you know what to do now. Flash forward to a White House in 2017. First, Bill and Hillary will have worked out their marriage, with her 69 and him 70, as well as any couple is likely to. If ever there's a marriage that by 2017 has few surprises, it's probably that one. Second, Hillary has been through two disastrous, disorganized White Houses under Bill Clinton and Obama. The way Obamacare was handled, in that the entire story of health care got lost, also the failure to put enough emphasis on the economy after the stimulus passed—all these things Hillary saw. She would come into the White House with a greater understanding of White House dysfunction than anyone in Democratic Party history. To have been in the Obama cabinet would also steel you against creating a White House where people believe they've invented the wheel, that they're geniuses—the problems that have afflicted this White House.

HM: Bill is clearly going to be her chief adviser. How does this factor into everything?

WS: It will cause certain lines-of-authority confusion in the White House. But ultimately, I think it's more good than bad. Every president, from what I've read and seen, communes with the ghosts of presidents past. It's sort of nice to have a ghost of presidents past available on call. There will come a point if Hillary is president in, say, 2019, that something happens that already happened somewhere, sometime during Bill Clinton's eight years in the White House. It would be really good to have the lessons from that analogue on tap.

HM: Right now, there's no one else in the Democratic Party who's within 40 or 50 points of Hillary in presidential polling. How do you assess her strengths and weaknesses as a candidate? A lot of what you're describing is not necessarily the stuff that resonates with younger voters, except possibly that her election would be historic.

WS: There is an iron law of campaign journalism: Never assume anything with absolute certainty in presidential politics, because there are always surprises. President Muskie would be the first to remind us. That said, I had drinks last night with two prominent Republican consultants. What they told me is that they believe that Hillary—running as a centrist, not a populist, and moderately hawkish—would just sweep the field. There is no Republican who could possibly beat her except in exceptional circumstances. Part of it is the history-making nature of the race. But it is also this: All the things that make liberals a little uneasy about a Hillary presidency are the things that are perfect for a general election against a fill-in-the-blank Republican. Of course, in the remote chance that Rand Paul got the nomination, it would be interesting to see a Republican running against a Democrat with the Republican running to the left on national security.

But the larger point—and it's one of the reasons, after going back and forth within myself, I am more in favor of her running than not—is that American politics since the 2000 election has been balanced on a knife's edge. While there are moments when one party surges ahead, pretty much the country has been in equal balance. Beyond 2000, had just 130,000 votes been different in Ohio in 2004, John Kerry would have been president even though he would have lost the popular vote. Mitt Romney, not exactly someone who is going down in the Candidate Hall of Fame, still got, what, 47 percent of the vote?

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HM: That was the appropriate percentage for him.

WS: The point is that Hillary could win a resounding victory that could bring in a Democratic majority to govern. And I would much rather have a president with a majority to govern, even if the decisions she made were not always decisions I agreed with, than another eight years, or four years, of a Democrat hamstrung by a divided Congress.

HM: Why don't we hear more of an outcry from the left of the party for an alternative to Hillary?

WS: Three reasons come to mind. For some, it's that electing a woman president would be historic. For others, there is the depressed sense of dashed expectations after five years of Obama. But the biggest reason, I suspect, is the political truism: "You can't beat somebody with nobody." And despite Elizabeth Warren fantasies, the Democratic left doesn't have anyone who looks like a plausible president now willing to run.

That doesn't mean that Hillary will run unopposed. Maybe it will be former Governor Brian Schweitzer of Montana. Maybe it'll be Howard Dean—or Senator Bernie Sanders, to keep coming up with Vermonters. I went back and checked since World War II. Aside from incumbent presidents, no one has ever been handed a presidential nomination unopposed other than Richard Nixon in 1960. And even Nixon had to kiss the hem of Nelson Rockefeller's garment with something called the Compact of Fifth Avenue.

HM: Can Hillary turn out young people like Obama did—a key to both his victories? Can she engender a remotely comparable excitement factor?

WS: No. But probably neither can any other Democrat. Obama leached the sense of political excitement out of an entire generation with the gap between his campaign style and his governing style.

Also, remember that young voters in 2016 will have different life experiences than young voters in 2008. A 21-year-old in 2016 will have been in first grade on 9/11 and was too young at the time to understand the lies that sent us to war with Iraq. That means that these 2016 voters—no matter the candidates—will react to different stimuli than young voters in 2008.

So how can Hillary win in 2016? Maybe by sparking greater enthusiasm from women—especially single women. Maybe a 54-year-old waitress in Waterloo, Iowa, will vote for the first time. Hillary might also change the political map by running competitively in states like Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, and Arkansas.

HM: How would a primary challenge from someone like Warren affect Hillary's campaign? In terms of constituencies, I can see the party establishment—unions, electeds, blacks, traditional donors—sticking with her. But could that "Mondale-ize" her? And could Warren muster the kind of support that Gary Hart did in his 1984 challenge to Mondale?

WS: My heart goes pitter-patter whenever I get a Walter Mondale question. Which, oddly enough, happens less and less these days. But Mondale-Hart in '84 is one of those races that explains the Democratic Party, along with Carter-Kennedy in 1980 and Bobby Kennedy versus Gene McCarthy in 1968.

I'd be stunned beyond belief if Elizabeth Warren ran against Hillary. Of course, I never expected Spiro Agnew, Dan Quayle, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus to be vice presidents of the United States. The Hart challenge to Mondale, which was based on amorphous "new ideas," was in hindsight a generational battle. Elizabeth Warren is only two years younger than Hillary.

There has to be an issue with a passionate following to sustain a major primary challenge to Hillary. Right now, the Democrats don't have one. For a project at Brookings, I've been watching what's being stressed in Democratic House primaries around the country. At this point, NSA spying and drone attacks are just not voting issues for liberals. Getting tough with Wall Street—like single-payer health insurance—was something much more likely to trigger an adrenaline rush for the left in 2009 than in 2016.

HM: But Walter, a lot of recent polling done for Democrats shows that there is a sizable constituency that believes the economy is rigged; that the rich get away with low taxes while the middle class can't; that free trade with other nations has damaged our economy; that when a candidate says he or she sides against Wall Street and with workers, they have more of a claim on this constituency's support. Don't you think there's real political space for a candidate who positions herself or himself to Hillary's left on these issues?

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WS: Polls, schmolls. Which should be a Yiddish word meaning “enough with the cross-tabs.”

I agree that there’s space on the left. But that’s a lot different than having a charismatic candidate capable of exploiting it. What’s needed to run against Hillary is more than just the ability to play to the choir by mouthing off on MSNBC. That’s the campaign of Dennis Kucinich redux.

The more that we talk about this, the more I wish that Paul Wellstone were still alive. I don’t see anyone of his liberal stature—anyone with his sense of fun—willing to take on Hillary. It would take an exceptional candidate to harvest that underlying unease with a Clinton restoration. But it’s 18 months until Iowa and, boy, have I been wrong before.

For Hillary, a challenge from the left—as long as it didn’t catch fire—would actually help set her up for the general election since it would send the message that she was more of a centrist than a Karl Rove caricature. I also suspect it would be easier for Hillary to co-opt a primary challenge by making the right dovish noises on foreign policy or NSA eavesdropping than by attacking Wall Street, which would be for her an Olympic-level gymnastic trick. But, then, we’ve already seen Bill Clinton’s Dick Morris–inspired triangulation for the 1996 campaign. So maybe I shouldn’t dismiss Hillary’s malleability on economic issues if that was what was needed to win the nomination. But I wouldn’t count on follow-through if she got to the White House.

Washington Post blog: The Switch: “Democrats’ latest tech mines your relationship data”

By Brian Fung

July 25, 2014, 11:24 a.m. EDT

While the electorate keeps playing the Hillary Clinton waiting game, Ready for Hillary is moving ahead with a plan to achieve the next big breakthrough in campaign technology.

The super PAC that's laying the groundwork for a potential Clinton run in 2016 is testing software to determine whether data about social ties can help identify likely grassroots leaders and new supporters. While the technique was pioneered in the closing weeks of the 2012 election by Obama campaign strategists, the latest effort promises to be far more systematic. If the insights into online relationships prove useful in this year's midterm elections, further experiments could even lead to campaigns picking out the most active organizers before those people even know it.

"Coming out of Obama for America in 2012, we started to really see some things that I refer to as 'social pressure' — seeing what your friends are doing and having that influence you to have a certain behavior," said Nickie Titus, Ready for Hillary's director of digital. "We're really trying to capitalize on those lessons."

Obama's tinkering with social data began with Facebook. Obama strategists encouraged users of the social network to connect their accounts with Obama for America's Web site. Eventually, OFA figured out using an algorithm how to target political content to each individual user in ways that would get them to act. OFA officials claimed that by the end of the campaign, the targeted content was more effective at driving clicks than a comparable banner ad.

The new approach expands on that concept. What if you could find out that a Clinton supporter named Joe was able to convince his friend Sara to become a volunteer? And what if you also knew that Joe was more effective at engaging Sara than his other friend, Pete? You'd know to concentrate your efforts on a) training Sara to become the next Joe and b) to encourage Joe to keep up the good work.

Spread out across millions of voters, this knowledge could become a force multiplier for campaign strategists. From looking at interactions between individuals, they could determine the most engaged supporters and reach out to them, tapping them to train or recruit other volunteers. This "snowflake" approach to grassroots campaigning was what gave OFA much of its reach in the physical world in 2012. Now that strategy is being replicated on the Internet.

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The tool for this is called Recruiter. Developed by the Democratic firm NGP VAN, Recruiter isn't connected or reliant on Facebook for data at all. In the coming weeks, it'll get its first shakedown by Ready for Hillary and other political groups. Over time, Recruiter could be combined with predictive computer modeling — another emerging political technology that's helping strategists target likely supporters based on their demographic characteristics or civic history.

Data about high-impact volunteers, said NGP VAN chief executive Stu Trevelyan, could someday be combined with predictive models to identify potential new leaders.

"It's not just 'Sally is 5 for 10 in voter contact,'" said Trevelyan, "but it's that 'People who look like Sally could be 5 for 10' and that 'People that look like Sally should be asking people that look like Jim for money' and you can predict things that way."

While campaigns have largely reached the limits of improving the voter file — those massive databases of names, e-mail addresses and commercial information that became so important in the 2012 cycle — the next step is to figure out how to identify and leverage the connections between entries in those files.

National Journal: "Obama Aide Tweaks GOP on Impeachment"

By James Oliphant

July 25, 2014

[Subtitle:] Dan Pfeiffer, a senior adviser to the president, says Boehner "opened to door" to impeachment proceedings by suing the president.

In a bit of election-year gamesmanship, a top aide to President Obama warned Friday to not rule out an attempt by House Republicans to impeach the president at some point during the remainder of his second term.

"I think a lot if people in this town laugh that off," said Dan Pfeiffer, a senior adviser to Obama, while speaking at a breakfast with reporters in Washington sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor. "I would not discount that possibility."

Noting rising calls for impeachment among some in the GOP, including former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Pfeiffer said House Speaker John Boehner "opened the door" to considering such a step after he moved to sue Obama over executive actions.

Part of the White House's messaging strategy has long been to paint House Republicans as extreme as possible, so in that vein, any loose talk of impeachment sits right in its wheelhouse. But Pfeiffer was quick to add that he did not think impeachment proceedings "would be good for the president" saying that it was "very serious thing."

He dismissed out of hand the notion Obama has abused his executive authority to a point where there would be grounds for such a move. At the same time, there was little doubt that he views the consternation that Obama's actions provoke as good for the president and Democrats overall. GOP criticism of the White House "is not going to cause us to trim our sails," he said.

The administration is studying ways to ease the child-migrant crisis at the border through executive action, as well as provide some relief to some undocumented immigrants facing deportation—something Pfeiffer expects to provoke an "aggressive" response from Republicans.

Pfeiffer also addressed the potential 2016 presidential field, downplaying any suggestion that Hillary Clinton was trying to separate himself from Obama's foreign policy. "She has been incredibly loyal to the president," he said. "I don't think she's trying to distance herself."

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Asked about possible GOP candidates for president, Pfeiffer criticized Texas Sen. Ted Cruz as being "deeply out of step" with the country.

Pfeiffer was asked whether he would rather run against Cruz or Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Grinning, he responded by saying that was like "would you rather have ice cream or cake?"

He also said he finds the idea of a run by Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky "intriguing," saying that Paul is "the only Republican who has articulated a message that is potentially appealing to younger Americans."

Arkansas Times blog: Arkansas Blog: "A serious talk with Hillary Clinton"

By Max Brantley

July 25, 2014, 7:11 a.m.

The New York Times' John Harwood interviewed Hillary Clinton on NPR yesterday and condensed the interview into a 10-questions format for the Times' Caucus feature.

It's a substantive discussion about weighty world problems. Not hairdos or house inventory.

An Arkansas Delta politician once told me there's a word you always want to put on your campaign push cards (whether you deserve the label or not). That word?

"Qualified."

It comes to mind after reading this interview. Doesn't mean you have to agree with what she says or want her to be president. But she's done the homework.

The foreign policy commentary dominates, but there was this on Paul Ryan's supposed game-changing outlook on poverty programs:

Q.

A couple of things before we run out of time. Paul Ryan's out with a plan today proposing that states be allowed to take all of the programs for those in need in one revenue stream as a way of finding better ways to make them work. Is that a good idea?

A.

No, not in the current atmosphere. It is not a good idea. All one has to look at is that nearly half the states refuse to expand Medicaid to realize why it's a bad idea. If states won't even take what are very generous terms from the federal government to give working people and poor people access to health care, how can we turn over all of the resources that are meant to assist those in need?

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The Hill blog: In The Know: "Pelosi joins Hillary in the pantsuit set"

By Judy Kurtz

July 25, 2014, 10:51 a.m. EDT

SPOTTED: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, taking a page out of Hillary Clinton's style guide, as she donned a pantsuit to dine at downtown Washington hotspot Bibiana.

The California Democrat paired a scarf with her outfit and stayed at the Italian eatery for about two hours on Thursday night, according to our spy.

Clinton is of course known for her preference for variations on the ensemble. The former secretary of State describes herself on her Twitter profile as a "pantsuit aficionado."

Mediaite: "Ben Carson's Book Outsold Hillary's Hard Choices Last Week"

By Tina Nguyen

July 25, 2014, 8:04 a.m. EDT

Last week, according to the latest figures from the Nielsen BookScan, Ben Carson's memoir "One Nation" outsold Hillary Clinton's book Hard Choices by a whopping 60%.

Figures provided to The Daily Caller indicated that Carson's book, which was released a week before Hard Choices, sold roughly 16,000 copies to Clinton's 10,000. At this point, total sales of Carson's book trail Hillary's by only 9,000 copies — which is not that much, considering Hard Choices shipped a million books to stores in the first place.

Both authors are widely viewed to be possible presidential contenders in 2016, which will undoubtedly lead to pundit-class questions about Hillary. On MSNBC this morning, the panelists debated whether people were "fatigued" by Hillary, and whether this book battle could be seen as a proxy war between two potential presidential candidates.

"A book tour is like a presidential campaign," said Donny Deutsch. "You package the product and try to get people excited about it. [And] the book tour and the book's failure to sell as many copies as a publisher, suggests she needs a different repackaging. Still the front-runner for the White House, but you've got to be about the future and about being forward-looking and she is not right now."

Watch that below, via MSNBC:

[MSNBC CLIP]

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From: nancybk@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/22/2013 4:41:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: John Podesta, can you please help us get this to President Obama

Thanks John, for you willingness to get to Senator Harkin to clear things up about DOL, NOW would you please try to get our for Platform for Disability Rights Change at the White House to President Obama too? I know you'll do all you can to help do the right thing. You always do! Thanks! -- Nancy

Subject: ADAPT 38 ARRESTED OUTSIDE WHITEHOUSE -- Platform for Disability Rights Change a

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From: Nancybk@aol.com [Nancybk@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 8:18 PM
To: elconsult@hotmail.com; adapt-cal@yahoogroups.com; ihss.consumers.union@gmail.com; cdr-membersxchange@yahoogroups.com; jadler@adleradr.com; bipoole@verizon.net; miles-deborah@sbcglobal.net; jerryncastro@gmail.com; ericv312001@sbcglobal.net; maggie@pascla.org; lnavarro@calif-ilc.org; ecastano@aol.com; rargenta@aol.com; cotero@abilityfirst.org; tmagady@elderlaw.net
Subject: ADAPT 38 ARRESTED OUTSIDE WHITEHOUSE -- Platform for Disability Rights Change a

YES, ELDON; THOSE WHO GOT ARRESTED TODAY ARE OUR HEROS! Here's more from us at ADAPT -- Nancy

Welcome to ADAPT!<http://www.adapt.org/main> > Whitehouse2013

A Platform for Disability Rights Change at the White House

As we review President Obama’s first term, ADAPT is deeply disappointed by his failure to keep his promises to the Disability Community and make substantive progress supporting the integration of people with disabilities in the community. As we look forward into his second term, ADAPT urges the Disability Community to hold him accountable for these failures but also to demand that he address the critical issues we are raising. Today, ADAPT demands that President Obama…

KEEP HIS PROMISES to the Disability Community by:

* Issuing a statement that he supports the development of legislation that would finally end Medicaid’s institutional bias and assure that people with disabilities have a community-based alternative to institutional placement; and

* Instructing the Office of Management and Budget to return the proposed rules implementing changes to the “companionship exemption” to the Department of Labor and require DOL to follow Executive Order 13563 and fully involve the Disability Community in the development of these rules, or alternatively – implement the compromise proposed by ADAPT and the National Council on Independent Living.

EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE the Disability Community by:

* Hiring staff from the Disability Community in the Office of Public Engagement who can create and coordinate direct dialogue between the Obama Administration and Americans with disabilities; and

* Hiring staff from the Disability Community for the White House Domestic Policy Council who can assure that the voice of the Disability

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Community is included in the domestic policy-making process in the White House.

LEAD THE COUNTRY in ending the injustice of institutionalization by:

* Designating Vice President Biden as an “Ambassador for Community Living” and sending him on an Olmstead Anniversary Tour where he visits ten model programs for transitioning people with disabilities into the community and convenes round-tables in ten states to support them in developing effective systems for truly integrating people with disabilities; and

* Issuing an Executive Order that acknowledges inhumane, outmoded and expensive warehousing of people in nursing facilities and other institutions and implements specific steps to end this practice.

Of course, much of the work to FREE OUR PEOPLE must be done by the Federal agencies.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
The President should instruct HHS Secretary Sebelius to:

* Identify a process for minimizing the negative impact of state budget cuts on Long Term Services and Supports when the maintenance of effort requirement under the Affordable Care Act expires;

* Establish Olmstead benchmarks for states to assure that they adhere to minimum standards for providing effective community-based alternatives to institutions and withhold Medicaid funding from states that fail to meet such benchmarks;

* Work with the Department of Justice to align the complaint processes used by the HHS Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Justice so complaints to eliminate the need for DOJ to re-investigate complaints that have already been investigated by HHS;

* Assure that implementation of managed care or other changes in Medicaid at the state level promote community living and self-direction and do not undercut Medicaid recipients’ rights to appeal decisions and have appropriate hearing rights including aid continuing;

* Work with the ADAPT to strengthen the Community First Choice (CFC) Option and assure that CFC implementation lives up to its promise.

* Develop a process to assure that HHS reviews its policies and procedures to identify how it can assure compliance with the ADA’s integration mandate;

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
The President should instruct HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to:

* Immediately disseminate the Olmstead guidance that was shared with ADAPT in January 2013 without any weakened language;

* Implement an improved system to track nursing facility transition vouchers to assure that these vouchers continue to be used for this purpose when they are returned;

* Include people with disabilities in nursing facilities and institutions within the definition of “homeless”;

* Develop a package of pre-approved policies, procedures and other necessary documentation that housing authorities can simply adopt in

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order to implement preferences or set-asides for people with disabilities seeking community living; and

* Develop and distribute guidance that individuals with disabilities who are seeking to leave institutions and live in the community must be granted a reasonable accommodation that allows them to receive the next available voucher in order to transition.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
The President should instruct Attorney General Eric Holder to:

* Immediately pursue Olmstead enforcement addressing the institutionalization of people with disabilities – of all ages – in nursing facilities;

* Instruct the Civil Rights Division to meet with representatives of ADAPT and the National Council on Independent Living to develop a plan to address the concern of retaliation at the state and local level which is under-cutting the availability of supports from this unique network of disability-led organizations; and

* Meet with members of ADAPT to better understand the disability community's concerns about the Olmstead implications of Department of Labor's proposed changes to the "companionship exemption" and include ADAPT in a meeting with the Office of Management and Budget to address this issue.

In a message dated 4/22/2013 5:02:54 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, elconsult@hotmail.com writes:
HERO'S!!

A Platform for Disability Rights Change at the White House

_____
From: Nancybk@aol.com
Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2013 18:16:18 -0400
Subject: ADAPT Disability Scoop -- 38 ARRESTED OUTSIDE WHITEHOUSE
To: adapt-cal@yahoogroups.com; ihss.consumers.union@gmail.com; CDR-MembersXchange@yahoogroups.com; jadler@adleradr.com; bipoole@verizon.net; miles-deborah@sbcglobal.net; jerryncastro@gmail.com; ericv312001@sbcglobal.net; maggie@pascla.org; lnavarro@calif-ilc.org; ecastano@aol.com; Rargenta@aol.com; cotero@abilityfirst.org; tmagady@elderlaw.net

_____
From: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
To: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
Sent: 4/22/2013 1:49:29 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Disability Scoop

[https://a.gfx.ms/i_safe.gif][https://a.gfx.ms/i_safe.gif]
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

_____
From: Janine Bertram <janinebk@me.com>
Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2013 13:10:13 -0700
To: ambity@aol.com Smock<Ambity@aol.com>; Adam Ballard<adam.ballard1@gmail.com>; Sarah Watkins<watkins.sarah.e@gmail.com>; Bruce Darling<bdarling@cdrnys.org>; Bob Kafka<bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net>; Mark Johnson<Mark_Johnson@shepherd.org>; Marsha Katz<adaptmt@aol.com>
Subject: Disability Scoop

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http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2013/04/22/disability-arrested-white-house/17776/
=

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <jpodesta@americanprogress.org>
To: Nancybk <Nancybk@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Apr 22, 2013 5:46 pm
Subject: Re: John Podesta, can you please help us get this to Senator Harkin

I'll see what I can do. Probably tough given previous meeting.
From: Nancybk@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 5:01:25 PM
To: John Podesta; john.podesta@gmail.com
Subject: John Podesta, can you please help us get this to Senator Harkin

From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: bdarling@cdrnys.org, andrew_imparato@help.senate.gov
Sent: 4/22/2013 1:57:18 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Saving Independent Living As We Know It from the DOL Rules

Dear Bruce, can you please advise me on how to disabuse Senator Harkin's office that this is in any way the position of Consumer Directed IHSS Consumers in California. As you know so well, we had our own advocates meeting with Donna Aguilar of the Office of Management budget to let her know about how destructive the negative unintended consequences of the DOL rules deal well rules would be here in California and the widespread misery that would be created on the day it would be enacted. I will attach -mails during below of our communications to Donna Aguilar of OMB beneath your e-mail, so that Andrew Imperato might convey our true sentiments to the Senator.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

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http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

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In a message dated 4/20/2013 5:04:29 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, bdarling@cdrnys.org writes:
Nancy,

Harkin's office facilitated a meeting with ADAPT, SEIU and AFSCME yesterday. SEIU spoke at length how "their California members in consumer direction" WANTED this change to the companionship exemption! We pushed back, but CA folks may want to correct that impression.

Bruce

Thank you Ms. Echols. Would you be so kind as to forward the

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background materials, Emails strings on content , OpEd and panel information I sent you to Ms. Aguilar. Thank you. -- Nancy Becker Kennedy

In a message dated 4/5/2013 7:17:22 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Mabel_E._Echols@omb.eop.gov writes:
Good Morning Nancy, The person who chaired your call is Brenda Aguilar. From: Nancybk@aol.com [mailto:Nancybk@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 9:36 PM
To: Echols, Mabel E.
Subject: May I know the name of the woman we met with today, thursday

thank you.-- nancy

In a message dated 4/4/2013 2:51:11 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time,Nancybk@aol.com writes:
Deborah Miles, IHSS Consumer, Board Member of the Personal Assistance Services Council Of Los Angeles County, Member of the PASC Managed-Care Committee, IHSS Consumer Union/CD-R Californians for Disability Rights 661 - 264 9228

Nancy Becker Kennedy, IHSS Consumer, Member of the Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles County, Chair of the PASC Managed-Care Committee, IHSS Consumers Union/CD-R, ADAPT, 323 221 2757

Arnold Arbizzo, IHSS Consumer, Member of the IHSS ConsumersUnion/CD-R 562 929 6923

Bonnie Hagy, IHSS Consumer, Vice President of the Polio Survivors Association 626-359-8628

Ellyn Kearney, IHSS Consumer, Pastoral Counselor, IHSS Consumer Union/CD-R
626-399-8775, 626 793 - 8775 home

Tony Anderson Executive Director The Arc California and Director of the Collaboration for The Arc UCP in California, tony@thearcca.org

Donna Calame Executive Director of the San Francisco Public Authority (cannot attend, out of country -- will make her comments in writing when she returns.)
From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: oped@nytimes.com
Sent: 3/31/2013 12:14:19 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Revised Oped Unintended Consequences: Collateral Damage of the Homecare Rules
Dear Editor;

In your editorial, "Homecare Rules in the Homestretch," you fail to understand the reality of living on government funded Medicaid and the Russian Roulette pistol aimed at the heads of the Seniors, People with Disabilities and our Home Care Workers who depend on it, every year when budgets are cut. Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS (In Home Supportive Services) are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 160 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 159 hours of IHSS a month.

I know of a proud union member, a mother over 60, who has multiple

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disabilities of her own and takes care of her adult son with athetoid cerebral palsy who will see her household income of about $2520 a month in California drop to $1431, as her hours are cut from 280 hours a month to 160 hours. She doesn't have the stamina to supplement her income with more jobs and she has trouble finding other caregivers because her son cannot be understood very well by others. The union has taken over $40 a month from her for check each month to lobby for what will cut her income by a pretty big fraction. 70% of the caregivers in California are family members whose households stay intact with IHSS. A cut in hours can threaten their ability to stay in their homes. Seniors and People with Disabilities with Live in Caregivers will be uprooted as well. Jerry Brown just got done settling a lawsuit trying to cut the IHSS program in California by 20% and settled for cutting it by about 8 percent. Do you really think he's going to take time and a half for over 50,000 providers? His representative on an Olmsted conference said they wouldn't.

When I was in the Young Socialist Alliance in college, before I had my accident, I believed in theories in a vacuum. Then I became disabled and saw how these things work out on a real-life level. In California, we have the most highly advanced In-Home Supportive Services program, and the reason it was so good is that the disabled person received money to find somebody and all of that money went directly to the caregiver. The attendant got all the bang for the buck. And while ADAPT American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today was fighting to get In Home Care, this wonderful program to all the states, they came up with things like "Money Follows the Person" and "Community First Choice Option" where that money continued to go to the disabled person to pay directly to their caregiver with no middleman.

But suddenly all kinds of profiteering is going on as big bad corporations and yes even sometimes big bad unions behaviors are immerging as monied interests smell a beautiful dollar to be made in the graying of the baby boomers. On a good day the union is our greatest blessing on a bad day they are our greatest curse. The only way to come up with a reasonable solution that takes everyone's welfare into account is to sit down and work it out. I think what's been most frightening to me in all of this is the ease with which able-bodied regard People with Disabilities as invisible. The SEIU would not even sit down at the table with People with Disabilities to work out a compromise. Would this happen to a person of color? Are we the last population to be seen as a fraction of a person -- or a person who is really there at all?

People have been making industries of people with disabilities for decades, in the nursing home industry, the charity industry, and now the medical industrial complex and the unions too on a bad day. People from ADAPT clawed our ways out of nursing homes that were profiteering off of us and now we have to fight against the nursing agency industry, managed care corporations, and even at times a union that is so out of touch with its rank and file providers needs that it would create three crappy jobs from one not so good one in order to collect two or three union dues on a one house. It is the people disabilities and rank-and-file providers, who are in a symbiotic relationship, huddled together to keep industries and unions from objectifying us and moving us around like "furniture" in their business plans. You can choose to be naïve and come up with lovely little fairy lands in your own mind, but make no mistake, your naïveté will be paid for by the rank-and-file workers whose pay will be cut badly and people with disabilities who will go back to nursing homes.

The ADAPT-NCIL compromise would simply eliminate the exemption for third party employers, treating Medicaid consumers in consumer directed

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programs (including public authorities, fiscal intermediaries and agencies with choice) the same as private employers so they can still use the existing exemption. According to the DOL analysis, this change - alone - would eliminate the companionship exemption for 70% of home care workers. It covers all of the "bad players" and concerns raised in the DOL analysis that exist in traditional home care while minimizing the negative impact on people with disabilities and preventing the unexpected consequences such changes would have on real live people in Medicaid funded programs.

Where were our points of view in this newspaper? In the DOL discussions? Why include us? It's only our bodies, our civil rights, our freedom from living lives akin to political prisoners in iinstitutions! If anyone had any respect for people with disabilities we would have included us in the discussion.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Appointed Member Since Its Inception
Los Angeles County Public Authority Board PASC
that oversees the In Home Care of over
200,000 Seniors and People with Disabilities

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From: "Donna Calame" <donna@sfihsspa.org>
Date: March 3, 2013, 10:33:48 AM PST
To: <letters@nytimes.com>
Subject: Home Care Rules in the Home StretchWhat this NY Times editorial fails to acknowledge is that California has had the most generous home care program for poor people in the United States for several decades - In-Home Supportive Services. Today, IHSS pays about 380,000 home care workers - 72 percent of whom are family members - to serve about 440,000 people. Throughout that time, the workers have been paid minimum wage. The issue in California is how the OVERTIME regs will affect both IHSS consumers and workers. Neither your analysis nor that of the DOL has considered that as drafted these regs will significantly damage this consumer-directed program. Yes. The state of California AND many IHSS consumers and workers oppose these regs on monetary grounds. Because they point toward both service reductions and less income for households where family workers provide the assistance. We are not part of the home care AGENCY industry world. But none of you have truly understood the uniqueness of IHSS and the unnecessary damage these regs will perpetrate.

Donna CalameExecutive DirectorSan Francisco IHSS Public Authority832 Folsom St., 9th floorSan Francisco, CA 94107Direct line: 415.593.8111www.sfihsspa.org
The call-in number is: 202-395-6392; code 3862485.Dear Ms. Echols, please forgive me for the informality of sending you this e-mail

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string, but I think it will give you some background on some of the concerns those of us who are and advocate for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in California: The IHSS Consumers Union, The San Francisco Public Authority, Members of the Managed-Care Committee of the Los Angeles County Public Authority and the Arc of California, the largest membership association for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families would very much like to speak with you. We have serious concerns regarding the unintended negative consequences that could occur for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in the state of California if the Department of Labor rules regarding the Companionship Exemption are applied to publicly funded Medicaid programs.

Thank you for your dedication in serving our country.

Sincerely
Nancy Becker Kennedy

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In a message dated 3/25/2013 2:20:20 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time,tony@thearcca.org writes:
Thanks we agree. I'll incorporate into our notices. Tony

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 25, 2013, at 2:16 PM, "Nancybk@aol.com" <Nancybk@aol.com> wrote:
Click here: The Center for Disability Rights - Free Our People

From:bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
To: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
Sent: 3/23/2013 5:58:27 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Disability Community vs DOL

From California:

Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 160 hours of IHSS a month.

In California where 70% of caregivers are family providers, IHSS makes it possible for families to stay intact when they have a senior family member or a family members with a disability, who needs in-home care. These families could see their household income drop dramatically.

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Significantly disabled people with over 160 hours could lose loyal live-in and live out caregivers they've had for decades, because their work hours will be cut below the money they need to live. Or people with severe disabilities may not be able to get providers to help them when one of the providers needs to leave, because the remaining providers will be in danger working overtime. The unintended consequences of this unbalanced approach to the way private and public in-home supportive services are paid could lead to widespread misery in publicly funded In-Home Supportive Services.

Senior and Disability Rights Advocates were not included in discussions where these Department of Labor rules were developed. Now, the National Council on Disability is trying to explain this to those who can make a difference. Their letter is printed below. The NCIL/ADAPT compromise could be a win-win solution for everyone, where privately funded agencies would have different rules than in publicly funded Medicaid In-Home Supportive Services in states where finite revenues determine what can be paid. "Our compromise creates a win-win solution, covers 70% of attendants and allows us all to be at the table for further discussion," says Bruce Darling of CDR ADAPT.

Below see the Letter from the National Council on Disability about these possible negative unintended consequences. http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/ The Disability and Senior communities and the rank-and-file IHSS providers in New York and California do not seem to of been fully informed or permitted to give input about the impact of this law as written. If after reading this letter, you feel the Office of Management and Budget should delay changing these rules until they consult with Disability And Senior Communities and make sure it won't cut the number of hours providers are permitted to work in publicly funded programs, then sign the petition at the link above or make your comments here at Capitol Hill's Congress blog http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/286539-act-now-on-fair-wages-for-home-care-aides and DIRECT letters to letters@nytimes.com

As more sign-on letters are developed for the Office of Management and Budget OMB, we will give you other opportunities to voice your opinions, but time is running short before these proposed laws will become what we try to live with. United in win-win solutions for Home Care Workers and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities!

http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
"The disability community is deeply concerned that the proposed changes will have a negative impact on people with disabilities, consumer direction and our attendants. Medicaid rates are not going to increase so attendant hours will be capped. DOL - in its own analysis - identified that instutionalization was an outcome of these rules. Are you aware of our concerns? Do you really think Medicaid rates are going to increase to coveer the cost of time-and-a-half? Appreciate your insights as to how this would - practically - move forward. -- Bruce Darling ADAPT"

Check outwww.DOLoffMYbody.org to get a feel for how these proposed rules impact people with disabilities.

Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

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From Michael Condon -- STOP THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

My name is Michael Condon I'm a disabled Veteran, paralyzed from the neck down for the last 40 years. I live in San Diego, CA, in a home I rent,and I am assisted by a caregiver paid for by In-Home Supported Services (IHSS). IHSS employs nearly 400,000 caregivers across the State. Almost 50% of these caregivers currently work more than 40 hrs/week. In addition, 70% of the IHSS caregivers in this program care for family members, many of whom require protective supervision (24 /7 care).

The State has neither the funds nor the inclination to pay overtime. This will put me, and hundreds of thousands like me, at risk of institutionalization. Because our caregivers will be limited to a 40 work week, I will be forced to have multiple caregivers while there are already not enough to meet the current need. Please do not institute the DOL regs. requiring overtime. The disabled, elderly and blind on...this program would love to have their caregivers receive time and a half, but that will not happen. What will happen (unintended consequences) instead, the caregivers hours will be cut driving many deeper into poverty. The caregiver loses, the senior/disabled loses and the Unions almost double their membership dues.

Sincerely.

Michael Condon

This is why a 40 hour work week mandate is bad. It will be financially devastating to 46% of IHSS IP's (190,000 workers)in CA alone.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY AND OUR CAREGIVERS NOT TO GET THEIR HOURS CUT IN HALF, SHOW US THE MONEY!

Click here: Petition | United States Department of Labor: Don't remove the "companion exemption" to the FLSA until money is th

Petitioning Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis
This petition will be delivered to:United States Department of Labor
Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis

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Senior Policy Advisor, White House Domestic Policy Council
Portia Wu

Acting Director, Office of Management & Budget
Jeffrey Zients

Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, White House
Nancy-Ann DeParle

US Department of Labor
Laura McClintock

United States Department of Labor: Don't remove the "companion exemption" to the FLSA until money is there.

Petition byPhilip BennettBklyn., NY

News
Home care workers and people we assist may be saved!by Philip Bennett
Petition Organizer

I ask all who signed my petition to please call the White House (202-456-1414) & ask for the Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB is currently reviewing the FLSA change & is set to release it April 1st. We need to tell OMB to reject it & thereby save home care workers & the people we assist. Comments can be made to OMB through OIRA.
The name of the regulation is FLSA Domestic Service Regs (29CFR 552 and the ID at OMB is RIN# 1235-AA05
Unfortunately that phone number is not released to the public so we must call the White House switch board. For more information call me, Philip Bennett: 718-339-0404
And please share my petition with as many people as possible. I love my job & I want to afford to keep doing it & I don't want to see more people forced into nursing homes. Thank you!

Please forward to Brenda Aguilar. Thank you.

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/19/2008 5:50:26 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/19/08

Main Topics: Candidates' Wives, Offshore Drilling, McSame

Summary of Shift: The debate over offshore drilling continues with pundits from local to national weighing in on the effects and timeline of removing the moratorium. Today begins a back and forth between the McCain and Obama camps over the legitimacy of attacking their spouses. Obama announces that he will opt out of the public financing system. Floodwaters in the Midwest have yet to recede and the Army Corps of Engineers says that up to thirty levees may be at risk.

Highlights:
1) Candidates Wives
   a. Candidates' wives may be fair game, especially if you are using their jet
   b. Making the candidates' wives fair game is tantamount to enacting a policy of mutually assured destruction
   c. Cindy McCain addresses tax release and her private jet controversies in interview with John King
   d. Cindy gets out of her usual "designer suits and pearls" to help out Operation Smile
2) Offshore drilling
   a. Fallout in FL on drilling may pale in comparison to gains in other swing states
   b. Gingrich pushes for drilling, applauds McCain's sudden change on the issue
   c. McCain's drilling plan brings him closer to Bush
3) McSame
   a. Colbert's "Word" hits McCain as McSame
   b. Joy Behar proclaims McCain is same as Bush and people have had enough
4) Condoleeza Rice emphasizes her lack of interest in the VP spot
5) Leno makes joke that McCain is still calling Iraq Mesopotamia
6) Carlos Mencia does a PTSD skit about McCain
7) Independent strategist, John Avalon, says on CNN about McCain, "The only reason they have a fighting shot at the White House in Washington is because of John McCain's independents
8) DC's CBS station has local pundits on to discuss drilling and the candidates' wives
9) Local DC NBC station reports on the back and forth over terrorism and offshore drilling [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Candidates' Wives May Be Fair Game, Especially if You Are Using Their Jet (MSNBC 06/19/08 9:39am)
[Clip of Cindy McCain on *Good Morning America* commenting on Michelle Obama's "proud" remark]

CHRIS JANSING: [reading remark from the McCain camp] "Senator McCain agrees with Senator Obama that spouses should not be an issue in this campaign. Unfortunately, when the DNC was attacking Mrs. McCain, he was not . . . strong enough to stand up and speak out against the outrageous charges leveled at her by his party chair, Howard Dean. Obama's silence speaks volumes." Andrea, should the guys back off on this then?

ANDREA TANTAROS: No, look, you know, I think that's absolutely true. This isn't a one-way street here. Both Candidates have seen their wives come under scrutiny. Cindy McCain under scrutiny for the cookies that she baked . . . look, I think if both spouses are going to be used on the campaign trail, which they are, they are fair game. . . they absolutely are. For the Obama campaign to say, "No, hands off" . . . I think that was a mistake . . .the man may be the head of the White House in this situation but the woman's going to be the neck . . . it's in the context of what fair game?

[. . .]

LAUREN SCHWARTZ: . . . when McCain's people put out that statement about the DNC leveling charges against Cindy McCain, I think it's important to look at what those charges are because there's a legitimate issue and concern that both the Democratic National Committee and GOP lawyers have raised. And that is when John McCain was suffering economically in his campaign last summer, he used Cindy McCain's corporate jet to fly in for McCain events that he has not yet reimbursed for that travel and that violates the means of his own campaign finance reform. I was a trip director to Theresa Heinz-Kerry and she had a private plane that we used every day

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that was methodically credited back and the campaign paid for that use. And that is a legitimate issue and Cindy McCain is of course involved in that because it was her company's jet that John McCain was flying on. So I think it's important to put in context those legitimate issues like the DNC and GOP lawyers have been talking about for the last week.

Making the Candidates' Wives Fair Game is Tantamount to Enacting a Policy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MSNBC 06/19/08 6:14am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: The thing is, while Cindy McCain and others have kind of been poking at Michelle Obama, trying to gain an advantage and perhaps it is gaining advantage in states like West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio . . . it is what military strategists termed during the Cold War, basically the political equivalent of . . . Mutually Assured Destruction.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I agree

SCARBOROUGH: If you go after wives you may gain a short term advantage, but in the end, you are assuring your own destruction.

Cindy Gets Out of Her Usual "Designer Suits and Pearls" to Help Out Operation Smile (ABC 06/19/08 7:15am)
KATE SNOW: **This is the Cindy McCain you don't see on a campaign stage. No pearls, no designer suit**, at a hospital on the coast of Vietnam helping Operation Smile screen children to see if they qualify for a life changing surgery. She got involved years ago, after adopting a daughter from Bangladesh who needed the same operation.

[…]

Cindy McCain hasn't done a lot of interviews until recently. **The latest ABC News poll found that fewer Americans had a favorable opinion of her than Michelle Obama, and more than a third said they had no opinion of McCain.** There seems to be this mystery about you, people don't know you.

CINDY MCCAIN: **I don't think I'm very mysterious. I've just lead my life differently,** and I'm not the candidate, I've never been front and center. **I do the things that I enjoy, I do the things that are important to me, and do them in a way that I like to do them.**

SNOW: If they say, she's just kind of up there and posing, what would you say to people who think that?

MCCAIN: Get to know me! I'll talk to them.

SNOW: Her husband, the senator, has been actively courting women voters. But women's rights groups say that once women discover that he is anti-abortion, they may change their minds. So why should women support her husband?

MCCAIN: Well, supporting our troops the way he does, supporting our young men and women, right now, who are serving so gallantly is very pro-women, because every mother, wife, sister, aunt, feels the way I have felt. The things that he does doesn't make him any more pro-women, pro-man, or anti-anything. He's about America, he's about making America strong, America strong is good for all of us.

SNOW: Would you feel safe with Barak Obama as your president?

MCCAIN: I would feel safe with my husband as president. I think Barack Obama is a fine man. I think Michelle Obama is a fine women. This is about who would be better, and I think my husband would be better.

Highlight #2
Fallout in FL on Drilling May Pale in Comparison to Gains in Other Swing States (MSNBC 06/19/08 6:40am)
JOHN HARWOOD: I want to say one thing about oil. I do not think it's a winning position in Florida per se but John McCain's up eight points in Florida . . . what John McCain is playing to is . . . Ohio and Pennsylvania and Michigan and these blue-collar voters who say, oil's four dollars a gallon right now, do something different . . . I think that John McCain has the potential to be on to something here because we're in a new circumstance on energy and I think he's adjusting to it . . . when you see not only John McCain but Charlie Crist going, people say he's playing to be John McCain's vice president, maybe so, but still he's a Florida politician. Would he take that position if it were so toxic right now? I'm not sure?

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[. . .]

PAT BUCHANAN: I think John Harwood is exactly right . . . $4 a gallon gasoline, everybody talking about . . . energy independence . . .so McCain says that's right, we've got to throw out some of the old ideas and really move forward aggressively . . . I think McCain is moving toward a winning position . . . I think that's a stronger position than don't disturb the caribou up there in Alaska . . . and let the Chinese drill off the coast of Florida.

Newt Ginrich Pushes For Drilling, Applauds McCain's Sudden Change on the Issue (FNC 06/19/08 8:31am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: Hey Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering how this whole issue, we're talking about oil, gas, drilling, and we know the success you're having with your petition. But has John McCain, in your mind, played this issue correctly? He's diametrically opposed, the opposite to where Barack Obama stands.

NEWT GINRICH: **Well, I think Senator McCain's moved in the right direction.** He's come out for drilling, he's for clean coal technology, he's for nuclear power, he's for alternative fuels including wind power and solar power. So he's clearly moving to a position that we ought to have more production and lower costs, and I think that's a pretty powerful contrast with Senator Obama, who is apparently sticking with a higher regulation, higher tax, and higher price which I think, frankly, is a losing hand in the long run.

McCain's Drilling Plan Brings Him Closer to Bush (CNN 06/19/08 7:22am)
JOHN ROBERTS: Sen. McCain's new stance on offshore drilling than one he had just a few years ago. It is now a stance that mirrors President Bush's. Something he has been trying to avoid. . .

ED HENRY: Republican John McCain is trying to appeal to independent voters by saying he's no President Bush.

JOHN MCCAIN: The next president must be willing to break with the energy policies not just of the current administration but the administrations that preceeded it . . .

HENRY: And yet the president and McCain are marching in lockstep on how to deal with $4 a gallon gas . . .

GEORGE BUSH: I know that the Democratic leaders have opposed some of these policies in the past. Now that their opposition ahs helped drive gas prices to record levels. I ask them to reconsider their positions.

HENRY: A clear attempt to spread political blame . . .

[. . .]

HENRY: A fascinating family drama . . . it was the president's father who signed that order banning offshore drilling while his brother Jeb . . . opposed such drilling as governor of Florida. And the president's embrace of McCain's proposal for more drilling could complicate the Senator's efforts to distance himself from this White House and appeal to the middle.

Highlight #3
Colbert's Word Mocks McCain as Being Same as Bush (Comedy Central, 06/18/08, 11:40pm)
STEPHEN COLBERT: **It's no secret that one of John McCain's biggest challenges as a candidate is to distinguish himself from President Bush.** I'm not sure why he's so eager to spurn the President's supporters. I mean that's walking away from almost 29 percent of the American electorate, and nearly half the Bush children. But he's so different than Bush already. **The only issues they agree on are education, immigration, Iraq, abortion, supreme court judges, social security, tax breaks for the wealthy, wire tapping, trade, health care, the Middle East, same-sex marriage, and Medicare.** But, they could not be further apart on Katherine Heigl's feud with her Grey's Anatomy producers. Luckily, John McCain has found away to put distance between himself and the President, and it's tonight's word. Lexicon artist. Folks, language is very important in politics, particularly when it comes to war. (Weapons of mass description) For years, the Bush administration used the words, "war on terror". Which was replaced with the names, "global war on terror". (Bush loves nicknames) Then it was the "global struggle against extremism" then briefly it was the "long war" before they settled on the new name, "hey, maybe we should bomb Iran." (The "maybe" proves they're diplomats) To prove, to prove that he's his own man, John McCain has his own words to describe America's ongoing conflicts. See if you can spot it.

[Various McCain "We're facing a transcendental challenge" clips shown]

That's right. The war is now transcendental. (Transcends voter approval) No surprise, after all Toby Keith's anti-terrorists lyric, "we'll put a boot up your ass, it's the American way" originally appeared in Henry David Thoreau's

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"Walden". Now there are some questions about McCain's new buzz word, it's not entirely clear what he's trying to say. (Another way he's like Bush) Now, does he mean, does he mean transcendent? Which, according to Webster's means "exceeding usual limits?" Because the war has certainly exceeded the time limit. (And the Constitution) Or is he intentionally using the word transcendental? Which is defined by Webster's as "of or relating to experience as determined by the mind's makeup." In which case he's saying the war on terror is all in our heads. (Along with Cheney's buckshot) **Now maybe, maybe, he didn't mean to describe a transcendental experience at all, maybe we misheard him because he was having trouble with his dentures. (Fixodental challenge)** Now clearly, clearly transcendental has too many interpretations**. John McCain needs to come up with a new word. (Retirement?)** You know what, Shakespeare, I mean think of it folks, Shakespeare invented words all the time. He invented over 1,200 words including, and this is true, accused, torture, and zaney. (From play "much Abu about Ghraib") Now everybody knows I've coined a few words myself. Truthiness. Wikiality. (Explitive)-turn. Which I can not define due to a pending lawsuit. (And upcoming Fox reality show) So, Senator, Senator let me help you. From now on, keeping our troops in the Middle East isn't just necessary to win the war. It's downright "Iraq-rosanct". (Iraq-rosanct) Holding people indefinitely at Abu Ghraib is "divine inter-detention." (Divine inter-detention) And secretly sending prisoners to other countries where torture is legal is no longer extraordinary rendition. It's called "offshore drilling." (Offshore drilling) **Now I hope those help, because using language to turn failed policies into ideals that transcend debate is the best way to get people to think of you as "transcen-presidential." (Transcen-Presidential!) And that's the word.**

Joy Behar Proclaims McCain is Same as Bush and People Have Had Enough! (CNN, 06/18/08 10:30pm)
LARRY KING: How close is this race going to be?

JOY BEHAR: How close? I think that Obama is going to have a landslide, but I don't want to say it because I want him to be the underdog.

KING: You just said it!

BEHAR: But I do believe that. I do believe it**. I think, you know, that people are really going to come to their senses and realize that John McCain, and I'm just repeating what everybody else says, but I believe it. That he is just more and more of George Bush and people have had it! I mean how many more times do we** have to get smacked in the face by the Bush administration before people say, enough!?

Highlight #4
Condoleeza Rice Emphasizes Lack of Interest as McCain's Running Mate, Says Time for New Blood (FNC 06/19/08 7:24am)
STEVE DOOCY: There's been a lot of speculation regarding who Barack Obama and John McCain are going to be selecting as their running mates. And I don't know if you've read about this, but there are a lot of people who think you would make a great vice presidential running mate for John McCain. To all those people who say, yeah she would be on my short list too, what do you say to them?

CONDOLEEZA RICE: Well, thanks very much, obviously it's dearly flattering to have people think that way. But, no, it's time for me to go back to Stanford, **I mean 8 years is a long time, particularly in the circumstances that we've gone through.** I am quite certain that Senator McCain is going to find a really great running mate. He, himself, is a terrific patriot and he's a good friend. But it's time for me to do something else.

DOOCY: Oh, come on, you'd like the job.

RICE: No, no I wouldn't. Government service is a wonderful thing, Steve**, but you have to know when your time is up, and it's time for new blood and let us leave.** I've got six months still to try to complete some of the important tasks the administration's taken on. The President's got a very active agenda, we're going to sprint to the finish. And then I'm going to sprint back to the west coast.

Highlight #5
Leno Makes Joke That McCain Calls Iraq Mesopotamia, Still (NBC, 06/18/08, 11:35pm)
JAY LENO: And Barack Obama says that he will visit Iraq, **or as John McCain still calls it, Mesopotamia.** He's going to go there. You know**, old habits die hard.** That's what it is.

Highlight #6

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Carlos Mencia Does Skit Pretending John McCain Goes Crazy Due to PTSD (COMEDY CENTRAL, 06/18/08, 10:30pm)
CARLOS MENCIA: By the way, my uncle was no P.O.W. He never went through what John McCain went through. This dude, eventually, is going to snap from PTSD. Now I know some of you are saying, "Well what would really happen if John McCain became president and snapped Carlos?" Maybe you don't have the imagination to conjure up such images. But thank the lord, Carlos Mencia does and this is what I think is going to happen.

REPORTER: Mr. President, you say you have plans for withdrawing down troops in Iraq, why?

JOHN MCCAIN: My statements on the subject are on the record, thank you.

REPORTER: Sir, you need to answer the question.

MCCAIN: (McCain sees reporter turn into Vietnamese soldier) John McCain, Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. Serial number #62487.

REPORTER: Uh, Mr. President, we're talking about troop deployment in Iraq.

MCCAIN: I will only give name, rank, and serial number!

REPORTER/SOLDIER: AH! YOU ANSWER QUESTION NOW!

MCCAIN: You got questions, son? I got answers! You want answers? Check out my answer! Ha Ha! (McCain attempts to take suicide pill)

SECRET SERVICE: STOP HIM!

REPORTER: Iraq sir, we're talking about withdrawal of troops.

(McCain attempts to strangle himself)

MCCAIN: **I will become president and I will bomb the (expletive) out of you!** (McCain continues to scream)

--
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Emily Aden" <eaden@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	5/11/2015 1:45:59 AM
Subject:	May 11 Morning News Roundup- Cables
Attachments:	051115 Morning News Roundup- Cables.docx

MSNBC: Coverage of NH GOP poll. Clip of Jeb Bush saying he would have voted to invade Iraq, Joe Scarborough called Bush "cerebral." Coverage of NYT article about Rubio and supporter Norman Braman. Mika Brzenski briefly compares the Rubio article to the Uranium One/Clinton Cash story.

CNN: No 2016 coverage.

Fox News: Donald Trump interviewed. Clip of Jeb Bush saying he would have voted to authorize invasion of Iraq and so did HRC and "just about everybody" given the intelligence at the time.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Lisa Brown" <lisabrown3660@gmail.com>
To: "Chris Lu" <clu@barackobama.com>
Date: 10/20/2008 5:07:31 PM
Subject: Re: another transition article

On Sat, Oct 18, 2008 at 10:41 PM, Chris Lu <clu@barackobama.com > wrote:

Not even sure how to react to this article, since there's almost nothing in here that's accurate.

Daily Telegraph:
Barack Obama's team is briefed by Bush staff on after warnings about a terrorist attack
Senior aides to Barack Obama have been meeting George W.Bush's staff to begin planning a smooth transfer of power.

By Tim Shipman in Washington
Last Updated: 9:26PM BST 18 Oct 2008

Officials from both campaigns have been asked to briefings after warnings from US intelligence that terrorists and rogue states will seek to exploit the power vacuum following November's presidential election.

For the first time in American history the FBI has begun vetting likely officials of the next administration before the election, to ensure they have security clearance to deal with crises on day one.

Intelligence chiefs expect an attempt to emulate the terrorist strikes on Britain when Gordon Brown took power and are concerned that Russia or Iran could use the 77 days of paralysis between the election and the inauguration on January 20 for acts of international brinkmanship, like the invasion of Georgia.

An official involved in the transition discussions told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "There has been no specific threat but the assessment is that someone will try something.

"It could be a terrorist attack on US assets overseas. It could be the leader of a rogue state chancing his arm. Putin and Ahmadinejad have form."

The transition of power in the US is a chaotic process. More than 1,100 political appointees in senior posts have to be approved by the Senate, a process that can take months.

On Wednesday the current White House chief of staff, Josh Bolten, chaired a meeting of senior White House staff and representatives of both Mr Obama and his Republican rival John McCain.

President Bush's creation of this Presidential Transition Coordinating Council, the earliest ever, is designed to avoid a repeat of the situation on September 11 2001, when only one third of his national security appointees had been approved by the Senate, nine months into his presidency.

Martha Kumar, director of the White House Transition Project, an independent group that advises the transition teams of both campaigns, told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "The times of changing of power are soft times, times of vulnerability. Just look at what has happened around the world, including in Great Britain.

"You had the failed bombings in London and then the attack at Glasgow airport three days after Gordon Brown took office. In Spain the Madrid bombings were three days before the presidential election."

There have been particularly intensive efforts to make sure Mr Obama has his national security team in place, not just because he is widely expected to win the election on November 4, but because intelligence analysts believe America's enemies are more likely to try to take advantage of Mr Obama's international inexperience than they would of Mr McCain.

A senior official in the Obama camp, whose name has been submitted for FBI vetting, said: "We will be ready and we will be seen to be ready."

He said that Mr Obama is close to finalising plans for his first 100 days in power - which will include major moves on the economy, healthcare and Iraq in his first week, designed to make his priorities clear to Americans.

He is planning a series of early interventions to stamp his authority on the economic crisis. This will include legislation proposing a $300bn stimulus package which would be published before President Bush has even left the White House, so that it can be passed as soon as he takes power.

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Mr Obama is also planning executive orders that do not require legislation on his first day in office, which could include plans to promote renewable energy resources and create jobs.

His transition team, which is reportedly much more extensive and active than Mr McCain's, features 10 working groups in different policy areas to convert campaign promises into concrete legislation. It is chaired by John Podesta, Bill Clinton's former White House chief of staff who runs the Centre for American Progress, a think tank long seen as a Democratic administration in exile.

Mr Podesta is working closely with Michael Signer, a former foreign policy aide to John Edwards in charge of homeland security affairs. Mr Podesta and Jason Furman, one of Mr Obama's two most influential economic advisers, have already held talks with sceptical conservative Democrats to line up the votes to pass a stimulus package.

Mr Obama has also worked to cultivate a close relationship with the Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson, and personally asked him to help out during the transition, sparking speculation that he might keep Mr Paulson in post for the first year of his presidency.

Ms Kumar said: "There are things that a president can do immediately that establish his brand of leadership and help establish with the public what the priorities are.

"Reagan issued executive orders at the luncheon following the inauguration. He didn't even wait to get to the White House. He wanted to show how seriously he took the issue of the economy."

FBI vetting is also under way on 100 people from both campaigns, including Susan Rice, expected to be made the second successive black woman national security adviser after Condoleezza Rice; Greg Craig, a Washington lawyer tipped to become Mr Obama's chief White House counsel and his likely White House chief of staff; and the former senator and campaign chairman Tom Daschle. If Daschle prefers to become Health Secretary, Obama's current chief of staff Pete Rouse, nicknamed the 101st Senator for his connections on Capitol Hill, would take the job.

Other key national security officials will include Denis McDonough, chief foreign affairs adviser to the campaign and Richard Danzig, a secretary of the Navy under Clinton.

John Kerry, the Democratic candidate four years ago, and his fellow senator Chris Dodd, a failed candidate this year, are vying to become Secretary of State.

Mr Kerry, an Army veteran, is also a contender to take control of the Pentagon, but many expect that post to go to a Republican, perhaps the maverick senator Chuck Hagel. Colin Powell, a former secretary of state and chairman of the joint chiefs could return to government if he endorses Obama, as many expect. The veteran Democratic Senator Sam Nunn's name is also in the frame.

--
Lisa Brown
cell) 301-537-3332

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/12/2015 7:17:11 AM
Subject: ASP Newsletter

Climate Diplomacy | US Public Diplomacy | ASP to host TPP Event |

View this email in your browser

November 12, 2015

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Top Stories

Perspective - Climate Diplomacy: A Strategy for American Leadership

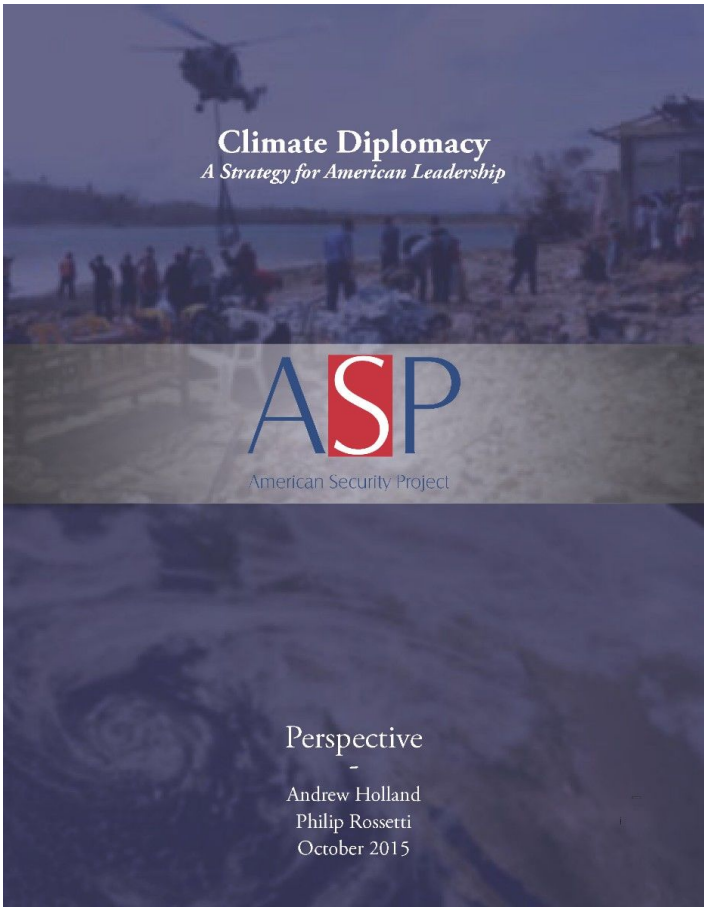

In December, 2015, the world will gather in Paris in an attempt to finally address the challenge of climate change. The stakes are high: failure would only make addressing climate change more costly and difficult and could have repercussions on broader national security goals. But “Climate

ASP in the News

ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney Featured as Newest Member of CASEnergy Coalition
CASEnergy Coalition

Can Trinidad's Energy Sector Expect Changes?
Andrew Holland, Inter-American Dialogue

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Diplomacy" is not just about a single conference in Paris: it must be a bipartisan, long-standing priority for the U.S. government. This paper lays out why climate diplomacy is important and a strategy to deploy it.

Click here for more.

What Constitutes Credibility in US Public Diplomacy

As discussion ensues over how to combat ISIS online or counter Russian propaganda, it's worth taking a look at the elements that lend to credible messaging. The importance of credibility cannot be underestimated, as it provides the initial basis by which members of a target audience decide to listen to one's message in the first place.

Click here for more.

Upcoming Events

TPP: Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability

Final negotiations on TPP concluded on October 5th, 2015 and the long-awaited trade deal now begins a 90-day waiting period before being brought for discussion and vote by the United States Congress.

This event will include a panel discussion featuring key leaders well versed in the economic and security impact of free trade from several TPP nations. The event will conclude with a keynote address from Representative Don Beyer (D, VA-8), former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

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Thursday, November 19, 12:30 pm - 02:00 pm

1100 New York Avenue, NW - 7th floor - West Tower
Washington, D.C

Click here to RSVP

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

GMOs Play a key Role in Climate and national Security
Ricky Gandhi
Climate change has had notable impacts on our environment and national security, serving as a "threat multiplier," according to the Department of Defense. The argument goes that climate change can exacerbate existing conflict by making already-scarce resources ever scarcer, such as land and water.

Israel's Energy Choice
Spencer Shweky
A few weeks ago Genie Energy, an American energy company, announced that it had found significant quantities of oil and gas in Israel's disputed Golan Heights territory. Since then, many have speculated that these new-found reserves may be large enough to eventually make Israel self-sufficient in energy. While this is an exciting prospect, the wisdom of drilling in what is nearly universally regarded as an occupied territory is debatable. Israel has other options, and it should take them.

Australian Defense Force Responds to Climate Change
Ngoc H. Le
On 28 October 2015, the Australian Climate Security Panel at the Australian Defense Force Academy discussed the security threats of climate change. Australian Defense Forces are increasingly working with the U.S. and U.K militaries on this issue.

Event Recap: Climate Change – FM Tony de Brum, Marshall Islands
Ricky Gandhi
On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, the American Security Project hosted an event featuring Minister Tony de Brum, Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands. He discussed the devastating effects climate change is already having on the islands, as well as the international cooperation needed to tackle this problem quickly and effectively.

Todd Stern Testifies on Impacts of Paris Negotiations
Ricky Gandhi
Todd D. Stern, the Special Envoy on Climate Change at the State Department and President Obama's chief climate negotiator, testified on the economic and environmental impacts of the recent climate negotiations set to be finalized in Paris this December.

Gen. Stephen Cheney and Christie Whitman on Why We Should Export Nuclear Energy
Ricky Gandhi
ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.) and ASP Board Chairperson and Board member of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition (CASE) Gov. Christine Whitman discussed the importance of exporting nuclear power in Fortune. Russia, and increasingly China, they argue, "view nuclear technology exports as a strategic tool to solidify long-term relations and influence and provide attractive financing for their nuclear energy business."

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Holland Featured at "Insights from a National Dialogue on Climate Change, Energy, and Security"

Andrew Holland, Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the American Security Project, joined " Insights from a National Dialogue on Climate Change, Energy, and Security" conference as a featured speaker co-sponsored by CNA , the EU Delegation to the United States, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, and the Energy Foundation in the Wilson Center, Washington, D.C to talk about climate security in the United States today.

Nuclear Security

Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran with Ambassador Thomas Pickering

Sam Hickey

On Monday November 2, 2015, Ambassador Thomas Pickering visited American University to address Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran. Ambassador Pickering has served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, Nigeria, Jordan and El Salvador. He has also served as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs and as Special Assistant to Secretaries of State William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger

Public Diplomacy

What Constitutes Credibility in U.S. Public Diplomacy

Matthew Wallin

As discussion ensues over how to combat ISIS online or counter Russian propaganda, it's worth taking a look at the elements that lend to credible messaging. The importance of credibility cannot be underestimated, as it provides the initial basis by which members of a target audience decide to listen to one's message in the first place.

Fusion Energy

Private Investors Back Nuclear Fusion Energy

Ricky Gandhi

This week's TIME cover story discusses fusion energy, which presents a clean and renewable source of power. ASP BCAS member General fusion's work on magnetized target fusion using lead and lithium was the subject of much of the article's focus.

Start-Ups Aim to Achieve Fusion Energy

Ricky Gandhi

The New York Times ran an article discussing the role of start-up in researching nuclear fusion, which provides a tremendous amount of clean energy with no negative emissions. ASP BCAS member General Fusion's work on magnetized target fusion using lead and lithium was the subject of much of the article's focus.

National Security Strategy

Reality, Risk and potential: Managing Today's Conflicts

Sam Hickey

On Monday, October 26th at the Council on Foreign Relation's, Foreign Affairs and the International Crisis Group (ICG) in New York hosted an event on "Reality, Risk, and Potential: Managing Today's Conflicts." The event featured panels of experts consisting of think tank fellows, academics, journalists, and business professionals.

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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From:	"Samantha McClain" <smcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	4/27/2015 12:32:21 PM
Subject:	April 27 Nightly News Roundup
Attachments:	042715 Evening News.docx

Attached – thanks, Greg and Courtney!

CBS: Clinton Foundation admitted mistakes were made on its disclosures, but it is committed to transparency. Clinton Cash accuses HRC of giving preferential treatment to donors.

NBC: No 2016 news

ABC: No 2016 news

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	"Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date:	3/3/2015 1:09:45 AM
Subject:	AIPAC/Iran
Attachments:	AIPAC CONSERVATIVE RABBIS STU SPEECH FINAL FINAL 030215 DOCX.doc

Dear Jake,

Attached is my speech at AIPAC yesterday to the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative American Rabbis, on rising anti-Semitism in Europe; the Iran nuclear negotiations; and U.S.-Israel relations.

I would like to suggest for Secretary Clinton that on the most sensitive issue, Iran, she be generally supportive of an agreement along the lines I outlined, but, crucially, she indicate (a) grave concerns that Iran's missile program is unconstrained and has no civilian purpose, and that we should make its restraint a priority; (b) that Congress should pass additional sanctions after an agreement that could be imposed by a future President following the 10-15 year expiration period of the agreement, if Iran seeks a "breakout" at that point. In other words, one major flaw in the emerging agreement is that Iran would be free of constraints after the period. She should take the position that unless Iran radically changes its posture over this period of time, the U.S. should never allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons state, as North Korea is now.

This position would be supportive of the Obama Administration's efforts, but would signal a tougher position on what a post-agreement world should look like.

Best wishes,

Stu

Stuart Eizenstat

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Washington, DC 20001
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seizenstat@cov.com
www.cov.com

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/29/2014 1:11:41 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday August 29, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday August 29, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

CNN: "Rand Paul blasts Clinton, Obama policy on Syria"

"Adrienne Elrod, spokesman for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record, argued in a written statement that Paul's 'belief in extreme isolation' is 'wrong for our country, our people and our place.'"

New York Times: "Hillary Clinton Praises Obama on Ferguson Response and Echoes Call for Inquiry"

"Nearly three weeks after the shooting of Michael Brown prompted widespread protests in a St. Louis suburb and a national examination of race and police tactics, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday praised President Obama's response to the episode and called for a swift investigation into the circumstances that led to the unarmed black teenager's death."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton Cites Racial Inequities in First Ferguson Comments"

"Hillary Clinton, in her first public comments on a police officer's shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Mo., said that policing must be rooted in 'trust' and 'professionalism' rather than 'fear,' and that African-Americans face 'inequities' in the nation's judicial system that whites would never tolerate."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton on Ferguson: 'We are better than that'"

"Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, weighing in for the first time on the controversial shooting death of Michael Brown, said Thursday that she grieves for both Brown's family and his community, and called for better than what occurred in the chaotic aftermath of the shooting in Brown's hometown of Ferguson, Mo."

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Associated Press: "Clinton Says Frayed Trust Led to Ferguson Violence"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton broke nearly three weeks of silence Thursday on the fatal police shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old in Missouri, saying his death and the violent protests that followed resulted from frayed bonds of trust in a racially divided community."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton makes first Ferguson remarks"

"Hillary Clinton on Thursday made her first public remarks on the racial unrest in Ferguson, Mo., saying that 'we cannot ignore the inequities' in America's justice system and 'we can do better' than what happened with the shooting of Michael Brown and its aftermath."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton breaks silence on Ferguson"

"Hillary Clinton broke her silence Thursday on the protests over the death of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, telling an audience of technology investors that the United States 'can do better.'"

Wall Street Journal blog: Venture Capital Dispatch: "Hillary Clinton Tells Tech Execs Not Everyone Sharing in Industry Gains"

"The bulk of her speech centered on the technology industry's role in the U.S. economy. She frequently praised Silicon Valley in the well-received speech, which ended with a standing ovation from the several hundred attendees."

Wall Street Journal blog: CIO Journal: "Hillary Clinton Talks Tech in San Francisco"

"Hillary Clinton, Thursday, emphasized the importance of technologies such as Big Data and cloud computing in helping to drive economic recovery in the U.S."

New York Times: "Democrats Wary of Benghazi Inquiry Stretching Into '16 Election Season"

"A House Republican-led investigation of the 2012 terrorist attack on an American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, will extend well into next year, and possibly beyond, raising concerns among Democrats that Republicans are trying to damage Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential prospects."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Is the Stage Set for 2016 Debate Heavy on Foreign Policy?"

"Pocketbook concerns are typically what animate American voters in presidential races. Yet there are signs that what's happening abroad will have more urgency when Americans pick a successor to Mr. Obama."

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: "The Race To Make Hillary Clinton More Liberal Is On"

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“The campaign, instead, is likely to center on organized liberals using a candidacy to pressure Clinton not to move too far toward the center.”

Politico: “Paul Ryan ahead of Hillary Clinton in one race”

“Clinton’s book sold more than 85,000 copies in the first week — exponentially more than Ryan’s book.”

Articles:

CNN: “Rand Paul blasts Clinton, Obama policy on Syria”

By Ashley Killough

August 28, 2014, 1:25 p.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul continued his recent blitz against Hillary Clinton as a “war hawk,” blasting the former secretary of state for having a “shoot first” foreign policy.

In an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal, the Kentucky Republican highlighted Clinton’s advocacy to arm Syrian rebels when she was the nation’s top diplomat.

The militant Islamist group known as ISIS originated from the Syrian opposition forces, and Paul argues that those who sought to arm the rebels and help unseat Syrian President Bashar al-Assad may have done more harm than good.

“We aided those who've contributed to the rise of the Islamic State,” he said.

The Obama administration didn’t agree to send weapons until after Clinton left office, and it only sought to aid moderate elements among Syria’s opposition groups.

There’s been no clear indication, however, that U.S. assistance to Syrian rebels have directly benefited ISIS in a significant way.

Paul, who labeled Clinton a “war hawk” in a recent interview with NBC News, said Clinton was “eager to shoot first in Syria before asking some important questions.”

“We are lucky Mrs. Clinton didn't get her way and the Obama administration did not bring about regime change in Syria,” he continued. “That new regime might well be ISIS.”

CNN reached out to Clinton's spokesperson for comment but did not receive a response. Adrienne Elrod, spokesman for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record, argued in a written statement that Paul's "belief in extreme isolation" is "wrong for our country, our people and our place."

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While the United States has conducted air strikes against ISIS in Iraq, the administration has now taken steps that signal it could take similar action against ISIS in Syria.

Falling in line with his non-interventionist views, Paul said it would be “more realistic” to recognize that while some regimes are bad, they may be helping keep stability in a country.

“There are evil people and tyrannical regimes in this world, but...America cannot police or solve every problem across the globe,” he wrote.

While he didn’t offer any specific solutions moving forward, he detailed how he would handle the solution in a separate interview.

“If I were in President Obama’s shoes at this time, I would have called Congress back, I would have had a joint session of Congress, and I would have said ‘this is why ISIS is a threat to the United States, to the stability of the region, to our embassy, to our diplomats, and this is why I’m asking you today to authorize air attacks,’” he told the conservative news outlet Breitbart.

New York Times: “Hillary Clinton Praises Obama on Ferguson Response and Echoes Call for Inquiry”

By Amy Chozick

August 28, 2014

Nearly three weeks after the shooting of Michael Brown prompted widespread protests in a St. Louis suburb and a national examination of race and police tactics, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday praised President Obama’s response to the episode and called for a swift investigation into the circumstances that led to the unarmed black teenager’s death.

In a paid speech at a technology conference in San Francisco, Mrs. Clinton said she watched the funeral of Mr. Brown, the 18-year-old who was shot by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo. “As a mother, as a human being, my heart just broke for his family,” she said.

“But I also grieve for that community and for many like it across our country,” said Mrs. Clinton, a potential Democratic presidential candidate in 2016. “Behind the dramatic, terrible pictures on television are deep challenges that will be with them and with us long after the cameras move on.”

On Sunday, as Mrs. Clinton finished up a book signing for her memoir “Hard Choices” in the beach community of Westhampton, N.Y., she declined to respond to news media inquiries about Ferguson.

Mrs. Clinton had been criticized for not speaking out on the subject. On Thursday, she weighed in with extended remarks that included praise of Mr. Obama for deciding to send Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. to Ferguson, and for having demanded a swift investigation into the circumstances that led to Mr. Brown’s death.

“That’s both appropriate and necessary to find out what happened, to see that justice is done, to help this community begin healing itself,” she said.

She also invoked the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and said, “We can’t ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system.”

A grand jury is considering evidence into the actions of Officer Darren Wilson, who shot Mr. Brown. Officer Wilson has received support from those who say he has been portrayed as guilty in news media coverage without the benefit of a trial.

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Mrs. Clinton, who earns roughly $200,000 per speech, challenged the largely white audience to "imagine what we would feel, what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around," or if one-third of all white males "went to prison during their lifetime."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton Cites Racial Inequities in First Ferguson Comments"

By Peter Nicholas

August 28, 2014. 4:47 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton, in her first public comments on a police officer's shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Mo., said that policing must be rooted in "trust" and "professionalism" rather than "fear," and that African-Americans face "inequities" in the nation's judicial system that whites would never tolerate.

As a likely Democratic presidential candidate, Mrs. Clinton was under growing pressure to address the rioting that engulfed the St. Louis suburb after Michael Brown's death nearly three weeks ago.

In a speech in California Thursday, she said that her "heart just broke for [Mr. Brown's] family because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear."

The clashes between police and demonstrators, she said, reflect the "deep challenges" that Ferguson confronts.

"This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together, fray," she said. "Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone. Not in America. We are better than that," she added.

Broadening the point, Mrs. Clinton said the criminal justice system is proving unfair to minorities.

She mentioned that whites would never put up with a system that made them three times more likely to be searched by police in a traffic stop –the reality confronted by black drivers.

Invoking Rev. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, she said the nation must "make the dream real for all Americans."

"And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he [Dr. King] stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the hot August sun all those years ago.

"So we have a lot of work to do together."

Mrs. Clinton didn't directly criticize a police response in Ferguson that relied on military-style equipment and tactics.

But she hinted at a better approach when she commended "decent and respectful law enforcement officers who showed what quality law enforcement looks like."

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Mrs. Clinton also addressed Edward Snowden, the economy and immigration.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton on Ferguson: 'We are better than that'"

By Sean Sullivan

August 28, 2014, 3:38 p.m. EDT

Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, weighing in for the first time on the controversial shooting death of Michael Brown, said Thursday that she grieves for both Brown's family and his community, and called for better than what occurred in the chaotic aftermath of the shooting in Brown's hometown of Ferguson, Mo.

Clinton's remarks came nearly three weeks after Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot dead by a white police officer. She adopted a careful tone and avoided singling out any one person or entity for blame in an incident that has sparked a national debate over issues of race and the use of force by authorities.

"We can do better. We can work to rebuild the bonds of trust from the ground up," Clinton said.

The potential 2016 presidential candidate applauded President Obama for sending Attorney General Eric Holder to Ferguson, a decision she called "both appropriate and necessary."

Clinton made her remarks at a summit in San Francisco hosted by the data storage company Nexenta. Her comments on events in Ferguson came well after most other prominent politicians weighed in on the shooting and its aftermath.

Brown was fatally shot by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on Aug 9. Authorities are still probing details of the shooting, which sparked intense clashes between protesters and police that received widespread attention.

"This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray," Clinton said. "Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone. Not in America. We are better than that."

Clinton said her "heart just broke" for Brown's family. "Losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss," she said, adding that she also grieves for the city of Ferguson.

Clinton encouraged Americans not to ignore "inequities that persist in our justice system."

"Imagine what we would feel and what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around," she said.

The former secretary of state encouraged Americans to join each other in the process of healing after the Ferguson shooting.

"We should all add our voices to those who have come together in recent days to work for peace, justice and reconciliation in Ferguson and beyond," said Clinton.

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Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, Clinton said, should resonate with people and spur them to renew his mission.

"It was 51 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called us to live out the true meaning of our creed, to make the dream real for all Americans," she said. "And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the hot August sun all those years ago."

Associated Press: "Clinton Says Frayed Trust Led to Ferguson Violence"

By Haven Daley

August 28, 2014, 5:54 p.m. EDT

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Hillary Rodham Clinton broke nearly three weeks of silence Thursday on the fatal police shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old in Missouri, saying his death and the violent protests that followed resulted from frayed bonds of trust in a racially divided community.

The remarks by the former secretary of state during a speech to a technology group were her first about Michael Brown's Aug. 9 death in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson.

As a potential Democratic presidential candidate, Clinton was criticized for waiting so long to talk about the shooting of Brown, who was black, by a white police officer after a midday confrontation on a street.

Clinton lamented the shooting and the numerous tense confrontations that followed between angry protesters and heavily armed police.

"This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray," she said. "Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone. Not in America. We are better than that."

She said America cannot ignore inequalities in its justice system.

"Imagine if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around," she said, or "if white offenders received prison sentences 10 percent longer than black offenders for the same crimes."

Clinton noted that higher percentages of black men go to prison compared to white men.

"That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans and so many of the communities in which they live," she said. She said Martin Luther King Jr.'s call for racial equality "is as fiercely urgent today" as it was decades ago.

Civil rights activist Al Sharpton was among those who chastised Clinton and other politicians for waiting weeks to discuss the events in Ferguson. Sharpton said Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a potential GOP presidential candidate, should not "get laryngitis on this issue."

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Politico: "Hillary Clinton makes first Ferguson remarks"

By Maggie Haberman and Katie Glueck

August 28, 2014, 3:15 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton on Thursday made her first public remarks on the racial unrest in Ferguson, Mo., saying that "we cannot ignore the inequities" in America's justice system and "we can do better" than what happened with the shooting of Michael Brown and its aftermath.

Clinton made the comments at a paid speech in San Francisco at the Nexenta OpenSDx Summit, where she was the keynote speaker. It was the first official public appearance she has made since Brown was shot multiple times by a white police officer in the St. Louis suburb.

Her remarks were measured. Clinton acknowledged the pain of the Brown family's loss and the disturbing visuals of the protests after the shooting. But she was also respectful toward police officers, a community that backed Clinton in her reelection fight in 2006 in the Senate from New York.

"Imagine what we would feel, what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police at a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around," she said. "If white offenders received prison sentences 10 percent longer … if a third of all white men — look at this room, take one third — went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that."

But that's the reality in many communities around the country, Clinton said.

She praised President Barack Obama's decision to send Attorney General Eric Holder to Ferguson and the president's calls for a "thorough and speedy investigation," which is "both appropriate and necessary to find out what happened, to see that justice is done, to help this community begin healing itself."

The Rev. Al Sharpton pressed Clinton the weekend after the shooting to speak out about issues of race in the country. She has been on vacation for much of the last two weeks since the shooting, save for three book signings. At her last one, in Westhampton, N.Y., she ignored two reporters' questions about her response to the issue. Other African-American leaders, such as Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), had suggested that Democrats who were not speaking out were doing so to allow Obama to be the main voice as the president.

"Watching the recent funeral for Michael Brown as a mother and as a human being, my heart just broke for his family, because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss," she said.

"But I also grieve for that community and for many like it across our country. Behind the dramatic, terrible pictures on television are deep challenges that will be with them and with us long after the cameras move on. This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray. Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone, not in America. We are better than that."

Clinton added, "We saw our country's true character in the community leaders who came out to protest peacefully and worked to restrain violence, the young people who insisted on having their voices heard, and in the many decent and respectful law enforcement officers who showed what quality law enforcement looks like, men and women who serve and protect their communities with courage and professionalism, who inspire trust rather than fear.

"We need more of that, because we can do better. We cannot ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system, inequities that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality," she said.

"We can do better. We can work to rebuild the bonds of trust from the ground up. It starts within families and communities.," she said.

She tried to give sweep to her comments, saying, "It was 51 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called us to live out the true meaning of our creed, to make the dream real for all Americans. And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the hot August sun all those years ago."

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Clinton also worked in a mention of the tech firm hosting her. “At Nexenta you say better living for a better world. At the Clinton Foundation we say we’re all in this together. If you put those together, it comes out to a pretty good road map for the future,” she said. “And we need all of you, your energy and your efforts, your innovation, your building, your creating to help us achieve that better world.”

CNN: “Hillary Clinton breaks silence on Ferguson”

By Dan Merica

August 28, 2014, 3:15 p.m. EDT

(CNN) - Hillary Clinton broke her silence Thursday on the protests over the death of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, telling an audience of technology investors that the United States "can do better."

Her statement, which came at the end of her prepared remarks to the Nexenta OpenSDx Summit, was the first time Clinton spoke about the protests since they began earlier this month, and her comments came after civil rights leaders had called on Clinton to weigh in.

"Watching the recent funeral for Michael Brown as a mother, as a human being, my heart just broke for his family because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss," Clinton said. "But I also grieve for that community and many like it across our country. Behind the dramatic terrible pictures on television are deep challenges that will be with them and with us long after the cameras move on."

Brown was shot dead earlier this month by a police officer in the St. Louis suburb. The shooting sparked large protests that were accompanied by looting and a sizable police presence.

Michael Brown's funeral: Hope, tears and a call for social change

The former secretary of state and prohibitive favorite for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 has avoided questions about Ferguson since the protests began. At a book signing in Westhampton, New York on Sunday, Clinton did not respond to two reporters’ questions about Brown's killing.

Clinton’s statement on Thursday struck a balance between grieving with Brown's family and highlighting some of the positive police work that occurred in Ferguson around the protests.

"This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray," Clinton said at the event in San Francisco. "Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone, not in America. We are better than that."

Rand Paul on Ferguson: Police too militarized

Clinton also applauded President Barack Obama for his response to Ferguson, which included a statement on the killing and the dispatching of Attorney General Eric Holder to the suburb.

"We can do better," Clinton said. "We cannot ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system. Inequities that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality."

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She continued: "Imagine what we would feel and what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers instead of the other way around. If white offenders received prison sentences ten percent longer than black offenders for the same crimes. If a third of all white men – just look at this room and take one-third – went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that. That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans in so many of the communities in which they live."

In the weeks after the shooting, civil rights and black thought leaders had called on Clinton to comment on Ferguson. At a rally earlier this month about the killing, Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights leader and host on MSNBC, said, "Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, don't get laryngitis on this issue. … Nobody can go to the White House unless they stop by our house and talk about policing."

Marc Lamont Hill, a CNN commentator, said Clinton's decision to "ignore the question and to not proactively and assertively address the issue is shameful."

On Thursday, Clinton cited the life of Martin Luther King Jr. as a guide to how the United States should respond to the protests in Ferguson.

"It was 51 years ago today that Martin Luther King Jr. called us to live out the true meaning of our creed, to make the dream real for all Americans," Clinton said. "And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln memorial and the hot august sun all those years ago."

Clinton supporters, like CNN contributor Donna Brazille, heralded the statement as both timely and needed. "

"She's right, we can do better," said Brazille, who added that she didn't counsel Clinton on the statement. "It's time we start to take the necessary steps to build one America so everyone can enjoy the American Dream."

Not all were satisfied with the timing of Clinton's statement, however.

"Hillary Clinton offers a statement on Michael Brown and Ferguson. 19 days later," Hill tweeted in response to the speech. "Next she'll offer her thoughts on Rodney King and Vietnam."

Wall Street Journal blog: Venture Capital Dispatch: "Hillary Clinton Tells Tech Execs Not Everyone Sharing in Industry Gains"

By Deborah Gage

August 28, 2014, 6:37 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday told a tech industry conference in San Francisco that new technologies were helping to drive a U.S. economic recovery but that not enough people were sharing in the gains.

Speaking at a conference sponsored by Nexenta Systems Inc. where everyone who attended received a signed copy of her latest book, "Hard Choices," Mrs. Clinton declined to say whether she would run for president. She said she would be working hard this fall to make sure that Democrats don't lose the Senate and can maintain "a decent balance" in the House.

The bulk of her speech centered on the technology industry's role in the U.S. economy. She frequently praised Silicon Valley in the well-received speech, which ended with a standing ovation from the several hundred attendees.

Mrs. Clinton cited new technologies like cloud computing and "software-defined everything," which she said are "helping businesses operate more

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efficiently and effectively at the same time that they increase productivity and profit and are helping to drive economic recovery."

She also praised what she called "a revolution" in domestic energy production and the "mountains of data generated by life in the 21st century" as major U.S. competitive advantages.

Better use of data has already created new tools for farmers and truckers, more efficient supply chains and improvements in health care, she said. She praised "experts in Silicon Valley" for helping to fix the flawed rollout of the Obama administration'shealthcare.gov website and said that "going forward, the government could use more of your expertise" since it is "woefully behind in all policies that affect tech."

Still, she said, despite the promises of technology, "the historic link between productivity gains and wage gains" has been lost in the U.S., and "too many are losing ground and losing hope."

She called on the tech community to embrace "a classic American public-private partnership" to help the country remain competitive and provide more equal opportunities for all.

"I believe it's still true that a lot of families in America today are hurting from the great recession, and communities are coming apart at the seams, and the American dream of opportunity and equality feels out of reach," she said.

Ms. Clinton also made her first public comments on the recent killing of a young black man by police in Ferguson, Missouri, which sparked racially charged protests. As she watched the funeral of Michael Brown, "my heart broke for his family. Losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss."

She said she grieved for Ferguson and "every community like it across the country…Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone—not in America. We're better than that."

After her speech, Mrs. Clinton was interviewed on stage by Nexenta Systems Inc. Chief Executive Tarkan Maner, answering questions on a wide range of foreign and domestic topics. Mr. Maner said the session was not scripted and he was told he could ask whatever he wanted.

An active Democrat who did business with the State Department at his previous company, Wyse Technology (now part of Dell Inc.), Mr. Maner told Venture Capital Dispatch that he wanted to see more women involved in tech. He declined to discuss Mrs. Clinton's fee, which is undisclosed.

Here are excerpts from their discussion:

On Edward Snowden:

After 9/11, "there's no doubt we went too far in a number of areas," Mrs. Clinton said, adding there needs to be a robust debate about balancing privacy and liberty with security. "People need to be involved. And finally we need to make it clear to other countries that our tech companies are not part of the government…I think there needs to be a global compact about surveillance and information. The U.S. government does not use information for commercial purposes but others do."

On women in tech:

She said most of the solution to the gender imbalance in the technology industry rests with the private sector. She cited a cultural bias or discouragement against girls and women and praised Google Inc. for combining job listings with personal outreach to urge women to apply. "I've hired a lot of men and women in my career, and oftentimes women need convincing."

On immigration reform:

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Reform is needed, she said, but “given the great recession where so many people have lost jobs, there has to be extra effort to try to fill the jobs with people who are already here. If that’s not possible you can make a good faith argument that you tried.”

On repatriating foreign earnings:

Tech earnings were repatriated when she was in the Senate, but too many companies did not put the extra money they received from lower taxes to productive use, she said. She is checking into a proposal by Cisco Systems Inc. CEO John Chambers and others to have companies invest a percentage of their repatriated earnings in an infrastructure bank to repair airports and ports and increase broadband access.

On gun control:

Citing the death this week of a gun instructor in Arizona who was accidentally shot by a 9-year-old girl: “We need a concerted public effort to rein in the extremists on gun control.”

Wall Street Journal blog: CIO Journal: “Hillary Clinton Talks Tech in San Francisco”

By Rachael King

August 28, 2014, 6:28 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton, Thursday, emphasized the importance of technologies such as Big Data and cloud computing in helping to drive economic recovery in the U.S. Speaking at a technology conference in Silicon Valley, Mrs. Clinton addressed a wide range of subjects including HealthCare.gov, government surveillance and the challenges the government faces in its use of technology.

Advances in technology are helping businesses operate more efficiently and effectively, she said. “They’re better serving their own customers, but at the same time increasing productivity and profits and helping to drive our economic recovery.”

Mrs. Clinton acknowledged, though, that not enough people were sharing in the gains of that economic recovery, wrote VentureWire’s Deborah Gage. Despite the promises of technology, “the historic link between productivity gains and wage gains” has been lost in the U.S., and “too many are losing ground and losing hope,” said Mrs. Clinton.

Still, she asserted that Big Data is helping to make business and government more efficient. Mrs. Clinton noted that the United States is home to one-third of all data in the entire world. “I think that’s a major competitive advantage,” she said, citing a McKinsey estimate that the productivity gains unlocked by Big Data could add hundreds of billions of dollars to the gross domestic product of the United States.

“The potential savings and improvements in the healthcare sector alone are staggering,” she said. Mrs. Clinton cited a recent report about how the increased costs in Medicare seem to have slowed down and even begun to decrease, in part because of better use of data and more effective understanding of what works and what doesn’t work. Under the Affordable Care Act, the government is seeing many of the same results, she said.

She acknowledged that the government still faces many challenges with the use of technology, both in its day-to-day operations and in projects like HealthCare.gov. “Let’s face it, our government is woefully behind in all of its policies that affect the use of technology,” she said. She noted Silicon Valley’s role in helping to fix HealthCare.gov and put the Affordable Care Act back on track. “Going forward, the government could use more of your expertise on the front end, designing and launching programs rather than coming in afterward to help save them,” she said.

Mrs. Clinton shared her views on a wide range of technology issues:

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Government surveillance “Moving from what we did in response to 9/11, which in many respects was just scrambling around trying to figure out how we get information that protects us and our friends around the world, there’s no doubt that we may have gone too far in a number of areas and those have to be rethought and we have to rebalance.”

Foreign spying Surveillance is everywhere, not just the U.S. “Every time I went to countries like China or Russia, we couldn’t take our computers, we couldn’t take our personal devices, we couldn’t take anything off the plane,” she said, adding, “I think there needs to be a global compact about surveillance and about information and what it’s used for.”

Women in tech “The government can do some things more stem education for girls and women, but most of the solution rests with the private sector,” she said. “We’ve gone backwards, we had more women graduating in STEM subjects 30 years ago than today.”

Repatriation of Foreign Money Cisco Systems Inc. CEO John Chambers and others business leaders have floated a proposal to invest a percentage of repatriated profits into an infrastructure bank to do everything from repairing airports and sea ports to expanding broadband access. She hasn’t yet vetted the idea, but she said it’s interesting. “It doesn’t do our economy any good to have this money parked somewhere else in the world.”

Mrs. Clinton spoke at the OpenSDx Summit sponsored by Nexenta Systems Inc., a software-defined storage startup company.

New York Times: “Democrats Wary of Benghazi Inquiry Stretching Into ’16 Election Season”

By Jonathan Weisman and Jennifer Steinhauer

August 28, 2014

WASHINGTON — A House Republican-led investigation of the 2012 terrorist attack on an American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, will extend well into next year, and possibly beyond, raising concerns among Democrats that Republicans are trying to damage Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential prospects.

Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina and the chairman of the House select committee on Benghazi, said his go-slow investigation was not motivated by politics. He said that he had gone out of his way to maintain good relations with Democrats on the committee, asking Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the panel’s ranking Democrat, to join him in private meetings in July with family members of the four Americans killed in Libya in July.

“I promised the family members of the four slain and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle the investigation would be serious and fair,” Mr. Gowdy said in an email. “Nothing would undercut both of those promises like an orchestrated timing.”

But concern is rising, both among Democrats and among those who note that most select committees tend to conclude far more quickly. For instance, the select bipartisan committee to investigate the response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 took a year from its formation to complete a 361-page report. The bipartisan commission that examined the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, took a year and a half.

The Benghazi committee, which was formed in May, could take much longer, and leaders are budgeting as much as $3.3 million for the investigation this year alone, a sum greater than the entire budget of the House Intelligence Committee. Mr. Gowdy said he would spend less than that, and he has set the panel’s first public hearing for September, to review enactment of the State Department’s security recommendations after the attack. Other than that, there have been few outward signs of progress.

After the midterm elections two months away, Republican attention is likely to shift sharply to Mrs. Clinton, the secretary of state at the time of the

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deadly assault and a possible Democratic presidential contender for 2016.

"If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it probably is a duck," said Phil Singer, a former Clinton campaign aide. "It's hard to look at the timing and think it's simply a coincidence that it would wrap up in the heart of the presidential campaign."

Mr. Cummings said the chairman had repeatedly assured him politics would play no part in the investigation. But, he noted, the House Intelligence Committee completed its own investigation of the attacks this month, the seventh inquiry into the matter.

"The question now is what is left to investigate, and I do not think we need until 2016 to answer it," he said.

The attack on the compound in Benghazi, which took the life of a United States ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, has outraged the Republican Party's most conservative voters.

But Mr. Gowdy's methodical, under-the-radar approach has offered up little for partisans to seize upon, at least for now.

He said the investigation should be complete by the end of 2015, "assuming cooperation from agencies, witnesses and the administration." Mr. Gowdy added, "I say 'should' because we cannot predict what witnesses will say, what documents may be produced, and whether either will lead to additional lines of appropriate inquiry."

He added, "Just as I did not sign up for nor have any interest in a political investigation, likewise I have no interest in half measures, partial productions or a lack of access to witnesses with relevant information."

To Democrats, such deliberation is suspicious in light of what is already known. Representative C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said a declassified version of his panel's Benghazi report could be released in September. He said the committee found no intelligence failure ahead of the attack. Intelligence agents did warn of increased threats but "had no specific tactical threat" before the Sept. 11, 2012, attack, he said. And there was no "stand down" order issued to military officers to hold off a rescue.

"There was no illegal activity, no illegal arms sales occurring, and no evidence the intelligence community assessments were politicized in any way," he said. "If there are any more facts to be found, I'm all for it, but how much further can you go?"

Last week, Mr. Gowdy hired the retired Lt. Gen. Dana K. Chipman, the Army's former top lawyer, to be the committee's chief counsel. Jamal Ware, a former House Intelligence Committee spokesman, was brought on to handle communications.

Mr. Gowdy defended the length of time he expects the investigation to take. "I know it seems too logical for members of Congress, but the length of any investigation is dependent upon the level of compliance from others," he said. "The documents are in many instances in the custody of others, and the schedules of potential witnesses are completely outside of our control."

But the committee's senior Democrats appear to be losing what enthusiasm they could muster when they reluctantly agreed to serve on it.

"I am not sure what the committee can productively do that hasn't been done already," said Representative Adam B. Schiff, Democrat of California, a member of the select committee and the House Intelligence Committee. But, he added, "These committees tend to take on a life of their own."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Is the Stage Set for 2016 Debate Heavy on Foreign Policy?"

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By Peter Nicholas

August 29, 2014, 6:47 a.m. EDT

TROMSO, Norway – Anyway, back to chess …

When we left off in our last column we had described the proxy fight between the West and Russian President Vladimir Putin over the leadership of the world chess federation.

Mr. Putin prevailed, with his preferred candidate defeating one of his fiercest critics, former world chess champion Garry Kasparov, and handing him a victory on the cultural front.

Earlier this month, Mr. Kasparov spoke about his underdog campaign in an interview during the world chess team tournament hosted by this Arctic city (an event inexplicably ignored by the major TV networks). He also made plain he has no great sympathy for the way President Barack Obama is managing the showdown with Mr. Putin in Ukraine.

"If Obama and (British Prime Minister David) Cameron were leading their respective countries in the 1980s, I would still be playing chess under the Soviet flag," said Mr. Kasparov, who grew up in the old Soviet Union and who now lives in Manhattan. "We see reactions, but we do not see leadership."

That gets at an important question: Do American voters grasp the stakes involved in the conflicts roiling the Middle East, Asia and – well – virtually anywhere else you look? Are they prepared to elevate foreign policy to a central issue in the 2016 presidential campaign?

That's not the norm. Pocketbook concerns are typically what animate American voters in presidential races. Yet there are signs that what's happening abroad will have more urgency when Americans pick a successor to Mr. Obama.

Images are powerful things and the gruesome video of a hooded Islamist State thug beheading American journalist James Foley could drive home to everyday Americans that the extremist group's march across Iraq and Syria is very much their concern.

What's more, the potential candidates seem primed to confront one another on foreign policy once the '16 race starts up. In her interview this month with the Atlantic, Democrat Hillary Clinton indicated she would be far more interventionist than Mr. Obama. In pointed terms, she suggested the president missed the moment when he failed to arm the moderate Syrian rebels fighting Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad at an earlier stage.

She said "the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled."

Dismissing one of the more colorful tenets of Mr. Obama's foreign-policy approach — "Don't do stupid stuff" — she said the phrase doesn't amount to "an organizing principle" for "great nations."

Mrs. Clinton's muscular vision of the U.S. role in the world could create one of the sharpest general election differences between herself and a potential Republican opponent.

Consider Rand Paul. On "Meet the Press" this week, the Kentucky Republican senator said Mrs. Clinton was looking like a "war hawk." Mr. Paul has called for slashing foreign aid and has shown a wariness toward military engagements.

"If you wanna see a transformational election in our country, let the Democrats put forward a war hawk like Hillary Clinton, and you'll see a transformation like you've never seen," Mr. Paul said.

Doubling down, he wrote an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal on Thursday that took aim at Mrs. Clinton for wanting to "shoot first in Syria before

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asking some important questions." Calling her an "interventionist," Mr. Paul wrote that toppling Mr. Assad might only have cleared a path for extremists fighting to gain power in Syria.

As Grandmaster Kasparov might put it: Mrs. Clinton moved a piece and Mr. Paul countered. It's game on.

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: "The Race To Make Hillary Clinton More Liberal Is On"

By Jonathan Chait

August 28, 2014, 4:37 p.m. EDT

The 2016 Democratic presidential campaign is beginning to take shape. It's a highly unusual campaign. Hillary Clinton commands the massive party loyalty of an incumbent, except she's not an incumbent, so it is possible for another Democrat to challenge her without the campaign necessarily signalling the all-out, you-have-failed opposition of a Gene McCarthy in 1968, Ted Kennedy in 1980, Pat Buchanan in 1992, and so on. The campaign, instead, is likely to center on organized liberals using a candidacy to pressure Clinton not to move too far toward the center.

Three developments this week have given that campaign a more visible shape:

1. Bernie Sanders looks like a likely candidate. "I'll be going to New Hampshire, and I'll be going to Iowa," he told the Hill. "That's part of my trying to ascertain the kind of support that exists for a presidential run." Sanders plans to run on a left-liberal economics program: "a 'massive jobs program,' raising the minimum wage, changing the nation's trade policies, programs to make childcare and college education more affordable, and subsidized healthcare."

2. Elizabeth Warren — a possible opponent who has been more coy than Sanders but has pointedly left the door open — was asked about Israel at a town-hall meeting. A constituent compared Israel's counterattack in Gaza to that of the police in Ferguson. Warren struck a surprisingly hawkish tone:

Warren told [the questioner] she appreciated his comments, but "we're going to have to agree to disagree on this one."

"I think the vote was right, and I'll tell you why I think the vote was right," she said. "America has a very special relationship with Israel. Israel lives in a very dangerous part of the world, and a part of the world where there aren't many liberal democracies and democracies that are controlled by the rule of law. And we very much need an ally in that part of the world."

Warren said Hamas has attacked Israel "indiscriminately," but with the Iron Dome defense system, the missiles have "not had the terrorist effect Hamas hoped for." When pressed by another member of the crowd about civilian casualties from Israel's attacks, Warren said she believes those casualties are the "last thing Israel wants."

"But when Hamas puts its rocket launchers next to hospitals, next to schools, they're using their civilian population to protect their military assets. And I believe Israel has a right, at that point, to defend itself," Warren said, drawing applause.

If Warren runs, her candidacy seems less likely to be the vehicle for dovish foreign-policy critics of Clinton. Or, at least, that campaign will have a significant omission on Israel.

3. One of the most gaping opportunities against Clinton might have been Ferguson and police discrimination, where liberals — especially African-Americans — have expressed outrage, and Clinton has kept silent. Today, Clinton spoke about Ferguson and closed that gap:

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"We can't ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality," she said.

"Imagine what we would feel and what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around," Clinton said. "If white offenders received prison sentences 10 percent longer than black offenders for the same crimes. If a third of all white men—just look at this room and take one third—went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that. That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans and so many of the communities in which they live."

So, where does the Democratic campaign stand? As of now, there appear to be possible avenues for a left-wing challenge on economics. A challenge to push her on social issues or foreign policy has not yet emerged on the horizon.

Politico: "Paul Ryan ahead of Hillary Clinton in one race"

By Jake Sherman

August 28, 2014, 2:30 p.m. EDT

Rep. Paul Ryan finished ahead of Hillary Clinton — at least on the newest New York Times Best Seller list.

The Wisconsin Republican's newest book, "The Way Forward," will debut at No. 5 on the nonfiction hardcover best-sellers list, one spot ahead of Clinton's "Hard Choices," according to an advance copy of the list provided to POLITICO.

Ryan is on a nationwide publicity tour for the book, which wraps up Friday night with a speech at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California.

Ryan's publisher, Twelve — an imprint of Hachette Book Group — says Bookscan shows he has sold 6,266 copies of the book. That number does not capture all sales, and the publisher says approximately "12,000 units were sold" last week. The publisher said sales were impacted by the spat between Amazon and Hachette — the book was not available for pre-order.

Clinton's book sold more than 85,000 copies in the first week — exponentially more than Ryan's book.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

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- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Matt Ortega" <mortega@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com>
Date: 4/13/2015 11:24:50 AM
Subject: Re: Rubio notes

DNC response:

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Shulman, Holly** <ShulmanH@dnc.org >
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:11 PM
Subject: What Marco Rubio really means
To: "Shulman, Holly" <ShulmanH@dnc.org >

Tonight Marco Rubio will say that "yesterday is over, and we are never going back." But Marco Rubio's policies suggest the exact opposite. Rubio's policies are a repeat of the tired Republican playbook – tax cuts for the wealthiest at the expense of hardworking families, repealing the Affordable Care Act and returning power to the insurance companies, opposing marriage equality, and opposing a woman's right to choose. Marco Rubio would erase the progress we have made and turn back the clock for women, for young people, for Latinos, and for the middle class.

Backwards for the hardworking families: Rubio's tax plan would lower taxes on corporations and raise tax rates for hardworking Americans.

Backwards for women: Rubio voted against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. He opposes equal pay legislation, saying it was "wasting time." Rubio has declared that he would oppose a woman's right to make her own health care decisions "even if 100 percent of my constituents were for it."

Backwards for young people: Marco Rubio voted to block a bill that would allow students to refinance their student loans.

Backwards for Latinos: Marco Rubio ran away from his own immigration reform package, bowing to political pressure, and he wants to end deportation relief that is keeping families together.

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@MattOrtega
925-413-9521

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:21 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com > wrote:

> A few notes from the Rubio announcement. He gives a good speech, and sounded much more reasonable, populist and accessible than much of the rest of the GOP field. Felt more like an inspiring Democratic speech than a GOP candidate, outside of foreign policy, repealing Obamacare and choice. Lots of references to "our generation" (I.e. Him and younger voters) vs. "their generation" (them being us, Jeb, his opponents, Washington).
>
> I assume we're sticking to leaving Rubio response to the DNC, but wanted to flag for anyone who didn't get the watch.
>
> A few soundbites/notes:
> We believe in the American Dream: They look for solutions in yesterday—
> Have forgotten that when America fails to lead, global chaos follows—they appease our enemies
>
> Our generation, they look to the past, they're still stuck in the 20th century.
>
> Repeal and replace Obamacare
> Better paying modern jobs

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Family, not the government, is the most important institution in our society.
All human life deserves protection of our laws
All parents deserve to choose the education that's right for their children—strong people and strong nation.

If America once again accepts the mantle of global leadership—by abandoning concessions to Iran and hostilities to Israel
Hollowing out of the military, Vets
No longer being passive in the face of Russia and China

Generational choice about what kind of choice families will have.
Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday.
Yesterday is over. We're never going back. Proud of our history, but our country has always been about the future.
Can't go back to the leaders and ideas of the past.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/7/2014 8:10:25 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday September 7, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday September 7, 2014 Roundup:

NOTE FROM CTR RESEARCH, FACTS: Secretary Clinton engaged domestic and foreign leaders to secure and extract Americans from Benghazi. Secretary Clinton was fully engaged in locating and extracting Americans from Benghazi that night. As detailed in her book Hard Choices, Clinton spent the night coordinating rescue efforts with the White House, the National Security Council, the American Embassy in Tripoli, and Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf. Additional accounts of that night note that Secretary Clinton coordinated efforts with foreign leaders in Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia.

Headlines:

NPR: "Henry Kissinger's Thoughts On The Islamic State, Ukraine And 'World Order'"

Henry Kissinger, "I know Hillary as a person. And as a personal friend, I would say yes, she'd be a good president. But she'd put me under a great conflict of interest if she were a candidate, because I tend to support the Republicans."

Washington Post blog: In The Loop: "Did Kissinger endorse Clinton for president? Almost."

"Which begs the question, how many friends would it cost Clinton to have Kissinger, reviled by the antiwar movement during the Vietnam War, as an advocate?"

The Atlantic: "Hillary, Elizabeth Warren, and Israel"

"Even if Elizabeth Warren chooses to run (unlikely), she won't run as a tough-on-Israel liberal. There's just no percentage in it. Hillary knew what she was doing."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Romney: 'No question' I'd be a better candidate than Hillary Clinton"

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"Mitt Romney said Sunday that he'd make a better president than Hillary Clinton, although he is not planning on running."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Romney on 2016: 'I'm Not Planning on Running'"

"In his Sunday appearance on Fox, Mr. Romney said there was 'no question' in his mind that he would make a better president than Mrs. Clinton — or the person who beat him in 2012, President Barack Obama."

ThinkProgress: "Rand Paul Decides To Pick A Fight With Hillary Clinton Over Climate Change"

"Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) decided to pick a fight with Hillary Clinton over climate change on Friday."

Boston Herald column: Adriana Cohen: "Benghazi truth emerges"

"They requested air support and military back-up from the State Department — but Hillary Clinton didn't answer that 3 a.m. phone call. No help came. And good American men lost their lives because of it."

Articles:

NPR: "Henry Kissinger's Thoughts On The Islamic State, Ukraine And 'World Order'"

Henry Kissinger was a Harvard scholar before he became a mover and shaker in the world of foreign policy. And in his new book, World Order, the former secretary of state under Presidents Nixon and Ford gives a historian's perspective on the idea of order in world affairs.

Nations are always trying to establish systems to make the world a more orderly place, but they rarely last for long. His book stretches from China under the emperors, Rome surrounded by barbarians and Islam encircled by infidels, to the treaties of Europe and the pivotal positions of Russia and Iran.

On current affairs, Kissinger tells NPR's Scott Simon why a conflict with the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, is more manageable than a confrontation with Iran, what he would do about the Islamic State, and what he thinks the best solution is for the crisis in Ukraine.

Interview Highlights

-

On why he views Iran as a "bigger problem than ISIS"

There has come into being a kind of a Shia belt from Tehran through Baghdad to Beirut. And this gives Iran the opportunity to reconstruct the ancient Persian Empire — this time under the Shia label — in the rebuilding of the Middle East that will inevitably have to take place when the new

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international borders [are] drawn. Because the borders of the settlement of 1919-'20 are essentially collapsing.

That gives Iran a very powerful level from a strategic point of view. I consider Iran a bigger problem than ISIS. ISIS is a group of adventurers with a very aggressive ideology. But they have to conquer more and more territory before they can became a strategic, permanent reality. I think a conflict with ISIS — important as it is — is more manageable than a confrontation with Iran.

On what he would do about ISIS

They have cut the throat of an American on television. This is an insult to the United States, which requires that we demonstrate that this is not an act that is free. I would strongly favor a strong attack on ISIS for a period that is related to the murder of the American.

Then, we have to go into the long-range problem. I think when we are dealing with a unit like ISIS, we should not get into a position where they can lead us by establishing ground forces. But we should set strategic objectives where we thwart any goal they set themselves, which we should be able to do by superior air power. And then, if we can enlist other countries, or other more local groups to do the ground fighting, we might actually destroy them.

On the "Russian enigma" and what he thinks Putin's Russia wants

The attitude of the West and of Russia towards a crisis like Ukraine is diametrically different. The West is trying to establish the legality of any established border. For Russia, Ukraine is part of the Russian patrimony.

A Russian state was created around Kiev about 1,200 years ago. Ukraine itself has been part of Russia for 500 years, and I would say most Russians consider it of Russian patrimony. The ideal solution would be to have a Ukraine like Finland or Austria that can be a bridge between these two rather than an outpost.

Kissinger's reaction to naysayers because of his role during the war in Vietnam, especially the bombing of Cambodia and Laos

They should study what is going on. I think we would find, if you study the conduct of [the military], that the Obama administration has hit more targets on a broader scale than the Nixon administration ever did. And, of course, B-52s have a different bombing pattern.

On the other hand, drones are far more deadly because they are much more accurate. And I think the principle is essentially the same. You attack locations where you believe people operate who are killing you. You do it in the most limited way possible. And I bet if one did an honest account, there were fewer civilian casualties in Cambodia than there have been from American drone attacks.

The Vietnam War was a great tragedy for that country. And it is now far enough away so that one can study [it] without using the slogans to see what really happened. And I believe you would find — my position was that of the chief of staff of the president — that the decisions that were taken would almost certainly have been taken by those of you who are listening, faced with the same set of problems. And you would have done them with anguish, as we did them with anguish.

On whether he thinks Hillary Clinton would be a good president

I know Hillary as a person. And as a personal friend, I would say yes, she'd be a good president. But she'd put me under a great conflict of interest if she were a candidate, because I tend to support the Republicans.

... Yes, I'd be comfortable with her as the president.

Transcript

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SCOTT SIMON, HOST:

Henry Kissinger was a scholar before he became a mover and shaker. And in a new book, he traces the idea of order and world affairs - how nations try to establish systems to make the world a more orderly place. It usually doesn't work out that way for long. His new book, "World Order," stretches from China under to the emperors, the treaties of Europe to the pivotal position of Russia and Iran today. We spoke with the former secretary of state last week shortly after news that James Foley - the U.S. journalist - had been beheaded by militants from the Islamic State also known as ISIS. Mr. Kissinger said that in all the crises roiling the world, the U.S. shouldn't lose focus on Iran.

HENRY KISSINGER: There have come into being a kind of a Shia-belt from Tehran through Baghdad to Beirut. And this gives Iran the opportunity to reconstruct the ancient Persian Empire, this time under a Shia label. From a geo-strategic point of view, I consider Iran a bigger problem than ISIS. ISIS is a group of adventurers with a very aggressive ideology. But they have to conquer more and more territory before they can become a geo-strategic, permanent reality. I think a conflict with ISIS - important as it is - is more manageable than a confrontation with Iran.

SIMON: What would you do about ISIS?

KISSINGER: They have cut the throat of an American on television. This is an insult to the United States, which requires that we demonstrate that this is not an act that is free. I would strongly favor a strong attack on ISIS for a period that is related to the murder of the American. Then, we have to go into the long-range problem. I think when we're dealing with a unit like ISIS, we should not get into a position where they can lead us by establishing ground forces. But we should set strategic objectives where we thwart any goal they set themselves, which we should be able to do by superior air power. And then if we can enlist other countries or other more local groups to do the ground fighting, we might actually destroy them.

SIMON: Let me ask you about a couple of other areas of the world. You spent a considerable time in this book writing about what you call the Russian enigma. What's your reading of what Vladimir Putin's Russia wants?

KISSINGER: The attitude of the West and of Russia towards a crisis like Ukraine is diametrically different. The West is trying to establish the legality of any established border. For Russia, Ukraine is part of the Russian patrimony. A Russian state was created around Kiev about 1,200 years ago. Ukraine itself has been part of Russia for 500 years, and I would say most Russians consider it of Russian patrimony. The ideal solution would be to have a Ukraine like Finland or Austria that can be a bridge between these two rather than an outpost.

SIMON: Mr. Kissinger, every time we interview you, we hear from people who object, who say they have no interest in your opinion because of your role during the war in Vietnam, especially the bombing of Cambodia and Laos. How do you answer that?

KISSINGER: They should study what is going on. I think we would find, if you study the conduct of guerilla-type wars, that the Obama Administration has hit more targets on a broader scale than the Nixon Administration ever did.

SIMON: Is there not, though, a difference between a drone attack and carpet bombing?

KISSINGER: Of course. When you - B-52s have a different bombing pattern. On the other hand, drones are far more deadly because they're much more accurate. And I think the principle is essentially the same. You attack locations where you believe people operate who are killing you. You do it in the most limited way possible. And I bet if one did an honest account, there are fewer civilian casualties in Cambodia than there have been from American drone attacks. The Vietnam War was a great tragedy for our country. And it is now far enough away so that one can study without using the slogans to see what's really happened. And I believe you would find - my position was that of the chief of staff of the president - that the decisions that were taken would almost certainly have been taken by those of you who are listening, faced with the same set of problems. And you would have done them with anguish, as we did them with anguish.

SIMON: Mr. Kissinger, a future question - do you think Hillary Clinton would be a good president?

KISSINGER: I know Hillary as a person. And as a personal friend, I would say yes, she'd be a good president. But she'd put me under a great conflict of interest if she were a candidate because I intend to support the Republicans.

SIMON: Well, I didn't ask it in a partisan way, just if she were to run and be elected, would you be comfortable with her as president of United

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States?

KISSINGER: Yes, I'd be comfortable with that president.

SIMON: Henry Kissinger. His new book - "World Order." Thanks so much for being with us.

KISSINGER: You've just lost me. I don't know how many friends.

Washington Post blog: In The Loop: "Did Kissinger endorse Clinton for president? Almost."

By Colby Itkowitz

September 7, 2014, 12:48 p.m. EDT

It's been a bit of a love fest between former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and Hillary Clinton the past week. They shared a stage at the groundbreaking of the State Department's new Diplomacy Center, Clinton wrote a glowing review of Kissinger's new book, and then President Richard Nixon's foreign policy adviser on Saturday offered an (almost) endorsement for a Clinton presidency.

Kissinger, a controversial figure in American diplomatic history, was asked during an NPR interview whether Clinton would make a good president.

"I know Hillary as a person. And as a personal friend, I would say yes, she'd be a good president," Kissinger said. "But she'd put me under a great conflict of interest if she were a candidate because I intend to support the Republicans."

NPR reporter Scott Simon asked whether, putting partisan politics aside, Kissinger would be comfortable with a Clinton White House.

"Yes, I'd be comfortable with that president," Kissinger said. But then he added, "You've just lost me I don't know how many friends."

Which begs the question, how many friends would it cost Clinton to have Kissinger, reviled by the antiwar movement during the Vietnam War, as an advocate?

This isn't the first time that Kissinger has heaped praise on Clinton. In 2008, when it was rumored that Barack Obama would pick her as his secretary of state, Kissinger was all in. "She is a lady of great intelligence, demonstrated enormous determination and would be an outstanding appointment," he said during a speech in India.

But liberals, who worry that Clinton is too hawkish on foreign policy, have raised an eyebrow at the presumptive Democratic front-runner's cuddly relationship with Kissinger. David Corn at Mother Jones described Clinton's embrace of Kissinger as evidence of "how low she can go" to win the White House.

And the former diplomats' friendship adds fuel to the other end of the political spectrum occupied by libertarian Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.). Paul is largely anti-intervention and is eager to run for president against Clinton, whom he has dismissed as a "war hawk."

Which leads to another question: If Paul is the GOP nominee against Clinton, will Kissinger still vote Republican?

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The Atlantic: "Hillary, Elizabeth Warren, and Israel"

By Jeffery Goldberg

September 7, 2014, 9:05 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Why Hillary Clinton's hawkish pro-Israel stance won't hurt her, even with the Democratic Party base

Shortly after I posted my interview with Hillary Clinton last month, I began hearing from liberal Democrats who were worried that her hawkish comments—on Syria, but especially on the Gaza war—would somehow provoke a primary challenge from her left (these conversations proceeded from the assumption that Clinton is running for president, which is a reasonable assumption). The Democratic Party base, the theory went, would be so offended by Clinton's vociferous pro-Netanyahu positioning that it would agitate on behalf of a primary challenge. Elizabeth Warren, the populist Massachusetts senator, was the most likely candidate for the role.

As a reminder, here is some of what Clinton said about Israel and Gaza:

"Israel was attacked by rockets from Gaza. Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command-and-control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult. Of course Israel, just like the United States, or any other democratic country, should do everything they can possibly do to limit civilian casualties."

And this:

"If I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have control over security [on the West Bank], because even if I'm dealing with Abbas, who is 79 years old, and other members of Fatah, who are enjoying a better lifestyle and making money on all kinds of things, that does not protect Israel from the influx of Hamas or cross-border attacks from anywhere else. With Syria and Iraq, it is all one big threat. So Netanyahu could not do this in good conscience."

Tough stuff, and not the sort of thing you would have heard from her publicly when she was yelling at Benjamin Netanyahu on behalf of President Obama for the past several years. After the interview, I came to a few conclusions about these statements:

1. They were made on purpose, as was every statement she made in the interview, including the line that got the most attention: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

2. They were made with the knowledge that she faces no serious foreign policy-focused challenge from her left. She does face a more serious and sustained critique from the left on domestic issues, but she felt that going hawkish on foreign policy would be low-risk.

3. They were made with knowledge that there are segments of the pro-Israel community that still mistrust her for kissing Mrs. Arafat a million years ago.

4. She believes what she said. She is just naturally more hawkish than the president she served as secretary of state.

I'm now glad to report—only because I'd rather be right than wrong, all things being equal—that Elizabeth Warren has confirmed for us that, on questions related to Israel, Clinton has nothing to fear from her, at least.

At a town-hall meeting on Cape Cod last month, Warren answered critics of her vote in favor of a Senate measure to send an additional $225 million in military funding to Israel during the war. Here is a report on the town-hall meeting from the Cape Cod Times:

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"'I think the vote was right, and I'll tell you why I think the vote was right,' [Warren] said. 'America has a very special relationship with Israel. Israel lives in a very dangerous part of the world, and a part of the world where there aren't many liberal democracies and democracies that are controlled by the rule of law. And we very much need an ally in that part of the world.'

"Warren said Hamas has attacked Israel 'indiscriminately,' but with the Iron Dome defense system, the missiles have 'not had the terrorist effect Hamas hoped for.' When pressed by another member of the crowd about civilian casualties from Israel's attacks, Warren said she believes those casualties are the 'last thing Israel wants.'

"'But when Hamas puts its rocket launchers next to hospitals, next to schools, they're using their civilian population to protect their military assets. And I believe Israel has a right, at that point, to defend itself,' Warren said, drawing applause."

Even if Elizabeth Warren chooses to run (unlikely), she won't run as a tough-on-Israel liberal. There's just no percentage in it. Hillary knew what she was doing.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Romney: 'No question' I'd be a better candidate than Hillary Clinton"

By Kevin Cirilli

September 7, 2014, 9:54 a.m. EDT

Mitt Romney said Sunday that he'd make a better president than Hillary Clinton, although he is not planning on running.

Romney, the former 2012 Republican presidential candidate, insisted that he's not running for president in 2016. But that didn't stop him from comparing himself to Clinton, the presumed Democratic frontrunner.

"Would you make a better president than Hillary Clinton?" Fox's Chris Wallace asked Romney in an interview with "Fox News Sunday."

"No question about that in my mind," Romney answered. "Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are two peas in the same pod."

Romney also said he'd have made a better president than Barack Obama, too.

Romney criticized Clinton and Obama for their foreign policy decisions, particularly their response to the Sept. 12, 2012, attack at a U.S. post in Benghazi, Libya.

"This doesn't just land at the feet of the president, it lands at Hillary Clinton as well," Romney said.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Romney on 2016: 'I'm Not Planning on Running'"

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By Patrick O'Connor

September 7, 2014, 12:16 p.m. EDT

Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential nominee in 2012, threw a little cold water Sunday on the brewing speculation that he will mount a third White House bid in 2016.

"I'm not running, I'm not planning on running," Mr. Romney said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday," in response to a question about his future ambitions.

Mr. Romney's name continues to surface in speculation about which candidates will throw their hat in the ring in 2016 for the Republican presidential nomination. Some polls show him leading the potential field.

Top donors are searching for a polished pick with the stature to run against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the odds-on favorite in the prospective Democratic field. Many of these Republicans view Mr. Romney as something of a fallback choice, if former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush opts not to run.

In his Sunday appearance on Fox, Mr. Romney said there was "no question" in his mind that he would make a better president than Mrs. Clinton — or the person who beat him in 2012, President Barack Obama.

The 2012 Republican nominee also sought to cast doubts about Mrs. Clinton's foreign-policy bona fides, linking the potential candidate to Mr. Obama, whose support is sagging in most public-opinion polls, particularly for his handling for foreign policy.

In his appearance Sunday, Mr. Romney didn't entirely rule out a bid, but he didn't leave the door open very wide either.

"My time has come and gone," he said. "I had the opportunity. I ran and didn't win."

Politico: "Luis Gutiérrez: Martin O'Malley 'champion' of immigration"

By Maggie Haberman

September 6, 2014, 4:37 p.m. EDT

Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.), the loudest congressional voice on immigration reform and critic of the White House over deportations, on Saturday held up likely 2016 Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley as a reliable ally and champion on the issue.

Speaking at a campaign rally for Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill), Gutiérrez referenced Obama's decision to delay executive action on immigration, which was revealed just a few hours earlier.

Describing Durbin as a "champion" of Hispanics at the rally in Chicago for the Senator's re-election campaign, Gutiérrez added, "There's another wonderful, wonderful champion of our community, and he's with us. And I have the distinct honor and pleasure of introducing him. It's Governor O'Malley."

O'Malley, the governor of Maryland, recently criticized the White House for deportations of children who've illegally crossed the border escaping

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violence in their own countries, saying they would meet “certain death.”

“He wasn’t afraid to challenge the president to implement a more humane approach to the refugee crisis,” said Gutiérrez, who has said he would support Hillary Clinton if she runs for president.

“He doesn’t just talk, he walks the walk. His state of Maryland has cared for more unaccompanied children per capita than any other state in the United States of America.”

He also singled out O’Malley’s work on drivers licenses for immigrants and the state version of the DREAM Act, which has stalled in Congress. An O’Malley aide provided audio of the event.

Gutiérrez is a crucial validator with Hispanic voters, a fast-growing voting bloc and a critical one in a national campaign.

ThinkProgress: “Rand Paul Decides To Pick A Fight With Hillary Clinton Over Climate Change”

By Jeff Spross

September 7, 2014, 1:24 p.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) decided to pick a fight with Hillary Clinton over climate change on Friday.

The sticking point was a speech the former Secretary of State gave on Thursday to the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas. Her remarks covered a wide range of issues, in particular foreign policy. But she also zeroed in on the need for the U.S. to tackle climate change, calling it “the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face.”

That was the part Paul pounced on. “For her to be out there saying that the biggest threat to our safety and to our well-being is climate change, I think, goes to the heart of the matter or whether or not she has the wisdom to lead the country, which I think it’s obvious that she doesn’t,” Paul said in a Friday appearance on Fox News, while discussing ISIS — the Islamic terrorist that’s seized territory in parts of Iraq and Syria.

“I don’t think we really want a commander-in-chief who’s battling climate change instead of terrorism,” Paul continued.

Hillary Clinton is widely considered the Democrats’ main contender for the presidency in 2016, while Paul is one of several Republican front-runners. In particular, the Kentucky Senator has distinguished himself as a voice of skepticism regarding American military intervention abroad, a position that has both won him accolades and put him in the uncomfortable position of embodying one side in a growing rift within the GOP over foreign policy.

That side also appears to be losing, as polling of Republicans across the country suggests a convergence is happening in favor of foreign policy hawkishness . Recently, Paul himself has taken the rise of ISIS as an opportunity to push back at his reputation as an isolationist.

The trouble for Paul is that, by all accounts, Clinton’s characterization of climate change is perfectly sound. Multiple environmental groups — including the League of Conservation Voters and NextGen Climate — shot back at Paul, many of them pointing out that the Defense Department’s own Quadrennial Defense Review in 2014 pointed to climate change as a “significant challenge for the United States.”

“The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and

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governance institutions around the world," the report explained. "These effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions — conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence."

A 2014 study by a panel of 16 retired three- and four-star American generals and admirals also looked into the national security threats posed by climate change and concluded it is "a catalyst for conflict." And Rebecca Leber noted in The New Republic that the Pentagon's deputy assistant secretary of Defense for strategy and force development even explained the situation to the Senate panel Paul himself sits on.

"The effects of the changing climate affect the full range of Department activities, including plans, operations, training, infrastructure, acquisition, and longer-term investments," Daniel Chiu told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in July. "By taking a proactive, flexible approach to assessment, analysis, and adaptation, the Department can keep pace with the impacts of changing climate patterns, minimize effects on the Department, and continue to protect our national security interests."

Beyond national security threats, the threats posed by climate change to Americans' well-being and economic security are also striking. A recent national report entitled "Risky Business" — arguably the most comprehensive analysis done yet on the economic risks of climate change — noted that by 2100 there is a one-in-twenty chance climate change will reduce national labor productivity by three percent. "A decline of three percent in labor productivity nationally is like losing all of Connecticut's labor force," Kate Gordon, the study's executive director, told ThinkProgress. A big part of that reduction would come from heat: within the same time frame, the eastern half of the country could begin seeing a few days a year where heat and humidity combine to such a degree that it literally becomes life-threatening for people to be outside for an extended period.

The latest National Climate Assessment, meanwhile, projects rising heat waves, more droughts, more floods, and even more insidious effects like ocean acidification for every region of the U.S. — all of which in turn threaten the stability of industries and infrastructure around the country. If current projections for sea level rise pan out, it could wipe much of South Florida, including the city of Miami, right off the map by 2100.

In short, if climate change is not "the most consequential" challenge facing America, it's hard to imagine what issue could possibly qualify. And polling also indicates most Americans are aware of the problem, with majorities of voters consistently labeling climate change a serious threat and saying government should move decisively to deal with it.

That stance is not uniformly distributed, however: Democrats, along with Latinos, and other minorities, tend to register the most concern with global warming. But Republicans and Tea Party voters tend to be the most skeptical. They'll also be the voters Rand Paul will need to court in 2016.

NOTE FROM CTR RESEARCH, FACTS: Secretary Clinton engaged domestic and foreign leaders to secure and extract Americans from Benghazi. Secretary Clinton was fully engaged in locating and extracting Americans from Benghazi that night. As detailed in her book Hard Choices, Clinton spent the night coordinating rescue efforts with the White House, the National Security Council, the American Embassy in Tripoli, and Libyan President Mohamed Magariaf. Additional accounts of that night note that Secretary Clinton coordinated efforts with foreign leaders in Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia.

Boston Herald column: Adriana Cohen: "Benghazi truth emerges"

By Adriana Cohen

September 7, 2014

Three CIA military contractors who were in the fight for their lives when our consulate in Benghazi was attacked on Sept. 11, 2012, gave a riveting first-hand account in a bombshell interview with Fox News anchor Bret Baier of what really happened that night.

U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans — including Winchester native Glen Doherty — lost their lives in the brutal

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attack by Islamist terrorists who launched RPGs, mortars and heavy fire into both the consulate and nearby annex — for 13 hours — while the White House and State Department ignored their cries for help.

When our consulate was attacked, these three CIA first responders wanted to immediately rush over to the compound to rescue Stevens and other personnel but say they were repeatedly told to wait and "stand down" for nearly 30 minutes by their CIA base chief, who was with them that deadly night. Their team leader was a CIA official who got direct orders from Washington to wait multiple times.

This long delay cost Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith their lives.

Baier's report is based on a book coming out Tuesday, "13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi," written by Boston University journalism professor Mitchell Zuckoff along with the CIA contractors.

BAIER: If I gave you that 30 minutes back, would Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith be alive today?

KRIS PARONTO (CIA contractor): Yes, they would still be alive.

BAIER: You in on that?

JOHN TIEGEN (CIA contractor): I strongly believe if we would have left immediately, they would still be alive today.

Not only did the delay cost two Americans their lives, but these three CIA security contractors and two others, Tyrone Woods and Doherty, were still fighting for their own lives as the attack continued. They requested air support and military back-up from the State Department — but Hillary Clinton didn't answer that 3 a.m. phone call. No help came. And good American men lost their lives because of it.

The Obama Administration — of course — denies they told anybody at the CIA annex to "stand down." It's no surprise they've been playing word games on what "language" they used to order the CIA security team to wait. Former President Bill Clinton — when caught in a sex scandal which led to his impeachment — spliced words during the investigation saying, "It depends what the meaning of 'is' is." With an ongoing congressional Benghazi investigation and upcoming midterm elections, the White House and their spokesmen are doing the same.

And America's not buying it. They know a cover-up when they see one.

Prior to the Sept. 11 attack, Obama was selling the phony narrative that terrorism was "on the run." So instead of admitting he was wrong when Islamist terrorists attacked our consulate, his administration made up the phony story that protesters upset by a video attacked our consulate and murdered these brave Americans. And then they went into cover-up mode. They put politics first and violated the "leave no man behind" military code.

And with a complicit mainstream media they got away with it, and Obama got re-elected. Politics and personal career ambitions should never trump human life. But in the Obama/Clinton regime, it does.

My heart goes out to the victims' families.

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)
- September 12 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a DGA fundraiser (Twitter)
- September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)
- September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference (CRF)
- September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at Legal Services Corp. 40th Anniversary (Twitter)
- September 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a 9/11 Health Watch fundraiser (NY Daily News)
- September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 7/14/2015 1:33:25 PM
Subject: Re: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Jake,
Yes, I agree. We should also reassure our allies this Agreement is not the beginning of an Iran-American partnership in the region, but quite the contrary a Clinton presidency will be especially alert not only to violations of the Agreement, but will combat Iranian efforts to destabilize the region, support terrorist groups, and threaten the interests of the US and our allies.

Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 06:31 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com) <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonfoundation.org) <huma@clintonfoundation.org>
Subject: Re: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Stu - thanks. We will have the stuff on partners and regional strategy. On options we use the hackneyed phrase but add, including if necessary our military options. I think that is stronger than the sentence you suggest, no?

On Jul 14, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Dear Jake,
>
> It appears that Hillary has already spoken. I do hope in a formal statement she will say that as President, NOT just that all options are on the table, which is a hackneyed phrase, but that "As President I will do whatever it takes to assure that Iran never develops a nuclear weapon." There should also be the kind of statement I have suggested of working closely with our allies in the region, especially Israel, to counter Iranian terrorist activity, and to be certain they have the means to fully defend themselves against Iran.
>
> Former Congressman and HFRC Chairman Howard Berman, my partner at Covington, told me that as a result of the 4:00 pm White House telephonic briefing of the Washington Institute group that singed the letter of concern, he believes all five concerns have been taken care of, in one way or another. He said Dennis Ross (my JPPI co-chair) has put out a statement suggesting there is no better option. Howard says he will not join a group of Democrats (e.g. Evan Bayh, Mary Landrieu) opposing the deal.
>
> I am forwarding some comments he has accumulated. He told me in Israel there is wall-to-wall opposition, including Herzog and Livni.
>
> Best wishes,
> Stu
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Berman, Howard
> **Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 5:52 PM
> **To:** Eizenstat, Stuart
> **Subject:** FW: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis
>
> **Howard L. Berman**
> Senior Advisor
> Covington & Burling LLP
> One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001
> T +1 202 662 5658 | HBerman@cov.com
> www.cov.com
>
> <image001.png>

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From: David Halperin [mailto:dhalperin@ipforum.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 12:30 PM
Subject: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Dear Friends:

Israel Policy Forum will soon provide conference calls, Insider Briefs, and in-person briefings with American and Israeli perspectives regarding the Iran nuclear deal **announced this morning** .

I know your inboxes are already inundated with reactions. In this email, I am providing a Roundup of excerpts of analysis / reactions that you can skim / review as you wish.

While continuing to provide resources, IPF will remain focused on our core mission and the implications for regional security and diplomacy going forward. And, we will **continue to call for close US-Israel cooperation** , befitting strategic allies.

Clearly, such dialogue is essential to create the kind of assurances that undoubtedly will be needed to advance regional security in the wake of today's announcement.

Best -

David

David A. Halperin
Executive Director
Israel Policy Forum (IPF)
140 West 57th Street, Suite 6C
New York, NY 10019
Direct: 212-315-1742
Cell: 516-355-1300

Nicholas Burns, to the NY Times :

> "The reality is that it is a painful agreement to make, but also necessary and wise," said R. Nicholas Burns, who drafted the first sanctions against Iran, passed in the United Nations Security Council in 2006 and 2007, when he was undersecretary of state for policy. "And we might think of it as just the end of the beginning of a long struggle to contain Iran. There will be other dramas ahead."

Jeffrey Goldberg, Atlantic Columnist :

> "The Iran drama is only beginning. Assuming that Obama can sell this deal to Congress—Chuck Schumer, a nation turns its lonely eyes to you—this will be a multi-year story of implementation. I wish I could believe what Obama seems to suspect, that this deal will set in motion a virtuous cycle in which moderates (relative moderates, of course) gain power in a liberalizing Iran. But I don't think that this is happening soon. For now, I hope that Obama will study the reality of Iranian activity in the region, and begin to push back against Iran's ambitions with more alacrity than he has done so far.

White House Talking Points / Graphics and Resources Page (includes video of President Obama's address):

> After many months of principled diplomacy, the P5+1 -- the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and Germany -- along with the European Union, have achieved a long-term comprehensive nuclear deal with Iran that will verifiably prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and ensure that Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful going forward.
>
> This deal stands on the foundation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA), achieved in November of 2013, and the framework for this Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), announced in Lausanne on April 2, 2015 that set the requirements for the deal with the P5+ 1 and Iran, alongside the European Union announced today.
>
> Now, with this deal in place, the U.S., our allies, and the international community can know that tough, new requirements will keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Here's how:

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AIPAC Statement :

"During these negotiations, we outlined five critical requirements for a good deal. We are deeply concerned based on initial reports that this proposed agreement may not meet these requirements, and thereby would fail to block Iran's path to a nuclear weapon and would further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror."

Ilan Goldenberg, via Times of Israel :

As the fight over the Iran deal gets political, Democrats will be less inclined to oppose the president, explained Goldenberg, a former senior staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee covering Middle East issues. "The more the question becomes — 'Do you trust Obama or do you support Netanyahu and the Republicans?' — the less likely the Democrats are to vote against the deal."

Rather than confrontation, the Israeli prime minister should seek to make amends with the administration and start a serious dialogue about what Washington and Jerusalem can do together to counter Iran's aggressive actions in the region and to ensure Tehran does not violate the nuclear agreement, Goldenberg suggested.

"The biggest strategic mistake Netanyahu can make is to walk away for the next 18 months and wait for next president," he said. "I don't think Israel can afford that. If he does that, he's only going to further widen the partisanship and turn Israel into a political wedge issue."

Instead of hoping for Congress to shoot down the deal, Netanyahu should encourage it to pass legislation that would support the agreement's vigorous implementation, Goldenberg continued. The Hill has several tools at its disposal: mechanisms to ensure sanctions snap back automatically if Iran violates the deal, more money for international inspectors, the creation of a permanent board with a congressional mandate to oversee the arms control agreement, and so on.

Rep. Steve Israel via website :

"I was skeptical at the beginning of this process, and I remain skeptical of the Iranians. In the fall, there will be a vote on this deal, and my obligation is to review every word, sentence, and paragraph of the deal to ensure it satisfies my continued concerns. Until then, you can continue to count me in the 'skeptical' column.

Ian Bremmer, President, Eurasia Group, via facebook :

The Iran deal is done. It's a historic moment. But as important as it is to defang Iran's nuclear threat, the bigger story is what the deal means for Iran's new standing in a crumbling geopolitical order. Three changes will matter most.

First, the competition between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia will heat up, and the balance of power will tip toward Tehran. Saudi Arabia is now pumping the most oil since 1980, but an unsanctioned Iran will cut into Saudi market share. Iran is the holder of the world's fourth-largest proven crude oil reserves and second-largest natural gas reserves, and will soon bring 1 million barrels a day back to the market. Meanwhile, proxy fights in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and elsewhere will intensify. As the U.S. and Europe look to reduce their presence in the region, the escalation of proxy wars between Saudi Arabia and Iran will heighten the risk of direct conflict.

Next, Iran will open for business. The world will trade again with Iran's $420 billion economy. Trade with the EU could expand as much as 400 percent, from $8.3 billion last year. Economic benefits will spill across the Gulf. Dubai will become a launch pad for foreign investment in Iran. And the investors are coming. Iran is not just another Middle Eastern petro-state; it offers investors a diversified economy with an established capital market. Its population of 80 million, the second largest in the Middle East, promises consumer demand across sectors as varied as travel and logistics to pharmaceuticals and consumer products. By some estimates, the nuclear deal could accelerate growth in Iran to 8 percent over the next three years and motivate the potential return of hundreds of thousands of highly talented Iranians.

Finally, Iran will lead the fight against ISIS. Obama is in no position to put U.S. boots on the ground, but the more battles ISIS wins in the Middle East, the more of a problem it will become internationally. Washington needs someone with the will and resources to deal ISIS a strong blow. And that's Iran. Though economic sanctions and a global arms embargo have limited the sophistication of Iran's military powers (Iran spends a fifth as much as Saudi Arabia on boosting its military assets), the expansion of Iranian influence and economic

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capabilities will pave the way for greater defense leadership in the Middle East. Iraqi Shia militias, backed by Iran, will offer a desperately-needed counter to ISIS.

Will Iran cheat on the deal? Yes. The U.S. and Iran aren't about to start trusting one other, much less become fast friends. But in the world created by the deal, Iran starts to matter much more than Saudi Arabia and other old-guard U.S. allies.

Today's deal isn't the end of the story. It's only the end of the first chapter.

Ehud Ya'ari, top Arab Affairs Analysts, on Channel 2 news:

"It's not as bad as we thought."

Jane Eisner, editor in chief, Forward :

"The vexing problem for American Jews is that consideration of this deal has become so intertwined with support for Israel that it may be impossible to arrive at an unbiased judgment."

Hillary Clinton, in private meeting with House Democrats

The deal is an "important step in putting a lid on Iran's nuclear program."

MK Isaac Herzog, as reported by the Jerusalem Post:

Herzog will be travelling to the US to "demand a dramatic package of security measures for Israel." ... "In regards to security I am more extreme than Netanyahu."

Tzipi Livni on Iran deal:

"dangerous and destructive"

Benjamin Netanyahu on Iran deal :

"Stunning, historic mistake."

Naftali Bennett, via twitter :

On July 14th, 2015 a terror nuclear superpower is born. Israel will defend itself.

Sen. Joe Lieberman via House Foreign Affairs Committee :

"There is much more risk for America and reward for Iran than there should be in the agreement... This is a bad deal for America, a bad deal for Iran's neighbors in the Middle East and a bad deal for the world."

Dennis Ross via Washington Post :

"Opponents need to explain what happens if the rest of the world accepts this deal, Iran says it is ready to implement it — and Congress blocks it. Will the European Union, which explicitly commits in the agreement to lift sanctions once Iran has fulfilled its main nuclear responsibilities, not do so because Congress says no? Can sanctions really be sustained in these circumstances, particularly if the Iranians don't increase their enrichment and say they will observe the deal? Could we be faced with a world in which the sanctions regime collapses, Iran gets its windfall and is only two months from breakout, and there is little on-ground visibility into its program? Maybe the answer is no, but the skeptics need to explain what we can do to ensure that this is not the outcome."

Aaron David Miller oped- in Wall Street Journal :

"Whether you're about to break open the champagne or don sack cloth over **the U.S.-Iran nuclear deal** , you may have questions about the agreement. Here are five things to look out for in the coming days, as we all assess the text of the agreement and reactions to it.:"

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Abe Foxman, via ADL Statement :

"We are deeply disappointed by the terms of the final deal with Iran announced today which seem to fall far short of the President's objective of preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state. The thrust of the deal relies substantially on Iran's good faith and the ability of the IAEA to effectively carry out its inspection obligations."

Sen. Chuck Schumer statement :

"Supporting or opposing this agreement is not a decision to be made lightly, and I plan to carefully study the agreement before making an informed decision."

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From: "Aniello Alioto" <aniello@progressnow.org>
To: alecexposed@googlegroups.com <Alecexposed@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/7/2013 7:52:51 AM
Subject: [big campaign] ALEC agenda for 40th annual mtg: Fracking, Virtual schools, Privitization

A damn good (yet scary) read! Huge props to CMD for the quick, and good, write-up.

http://www.prwatch.org/news/2013/08/12203/whats-alecs-agenda-its-40th-anniversary-meeting-chicago

What's on ALEC's Agenda for its 40th Anniversary Meeting in Chicago?

by Brendan Fischer — August 7, 2013 - 10:34am

Share this

CHICAGO -- This week, the corporate and legislator members of the American Legislative Exchange Council are meeting at the swank Palmer House hotel in Chicago to celebrate the organization's 40th anniversary, be educated in corporate sponsored workshops and adopt legislative priorities for the coming year. Here is what is on the agenda for ALEC's 40th -- note that some of the workshops carry a $40,000 pricetag for corporate sponsors.

Fracking, Virtual Schools, and Privatization

- **New ways to thwart local democratic control** by prohibiting city or county governments from regulating genetically modified plant seeds. Members of the Agriculture Subcommittee -- which is chaired by Jeff Case of CropLife America -- will consider a bill to thwart local democratic control by prohibiting city or local governments from regulating genetically modified plant seeds, which happens to benefit many members of CropLife's trade association and other big ag companies. Contrary to the principle of local control, for years, ALEC has promoted bills to preempt local efforts to establish everything from paid sick days to municipal broadband.

- **Presentations on how fracking America can lead to increased profits** through exporting natural gas. American Petroleum Institute representatives Jon Shore and Rebecca Heimlich will give a presentation on "Local Bans on Hydraulic Fracturing: Coming Soon to Your District." And Jason French of energy company Cheniere Energy will present to the Energy Subcommittee about "LNG [Liquid Natural Gas] exports: A Story of American Innovation and Economic Opportunity."

- **Discussions of wonders of nuclear energy and offshore drilling.** Other energy-related agenda items include a presentation on "Nuclear Energy's Continuing Role in Providing Baseload Electricity," and another on "Developing America's Offshore Energy Potential: Good Sense and Good Cents." ALEC will also consider a "Resolution in Opposition to a Carbon Tax."

- **More climate change denial?** Members of the Energy, Environment, and Agriculture Task Force will be part of a breakfast plenary session called "A Thoughtful Approach to Climate Science." The title is less inflammatory than some of its past panels -- at the 2011 ALEC meeting, legislators attended a workshop titled "Warming Up to Climate Change: The Many Benefits of Increased Atmospheric CO2" -- but given ALEC funders like the Koch brothers and members like the Heartland Institute, it seems unlikely that the organization has woken up to the dangers of climate change.

Discussions about blocking GMO labeling laws and ordinances that would allow consumers to

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know if they are buying genetically engineered food, one of the goals of agribusiness and chemical firms that bankroll ALEC.

- **Redoubled efforts to undermine renewable energy initiatives and maintain reliance on coal and other fossil fuels.** One workshop, which cost $40,000 to sponsor, is titled "The Economic Benefits and Political Challenges to Coal Exports." Also on the docket is another bill to repeal renewable energy standards, the "Market Power Renewables Act," after the failure of the ALEC "Electricity Freedom Act" in 2013. As explained by the Checks and Balances Project:

  "'The Market-Power Renewables Act' will likely serve as the model for another round of attacks on state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in 2014 following ALEC's failure to weaken or eliminate clean energy policies this year. The new bill would significantly weaken state clean energy laws by broadening the eligible electricity sources to include existing, large hydroelectric power plants, biomass, biogas and other sources of electricity."

- **Updates to some of ALEC's long-standing anti-union policies.** The "Employee Secret Ballot Protection Act" will be amended "to call for [union certification by] a majority of members in the bargaining unit, rather than a majority of those voting." This was the same certification policy pushed by Scott Walker in Wisconsin, and creates an almost insurmountable burden: few governors or presidents would ever win election if they had to win a majority of all eligible voters, rather than just a majority of those who vote.

- **Renewing objections to linking the minimum wage to the consumer price index.** ALEC plans to brush-off and renew its "Resolution Opposing Increases in Minimum Wage Linked to CPI." In an apparent recognition that their justifications for opposing minimum wage increases are disintegrating, they will eliminate this line: "In reality, of the approximately 2.7% of U.S. workers that earn the minimum wage, two-thirds (2/3) will earn an increased wage in a year."

- **Privatization and outsourcing of toll roads.** Members of the Transportation Subcommittee will discuss "ALEC Principles on Toll Roads," which backs privatization of toll rolls, is particularly relevant to ALEC members Cintra, McQueary and Transurban (all foreign firms); Cintra and Macquarie have teamed up to cut multi-billion dollar contract deals to take control of highways in places like Illinois, basically granting companies a monopoly to help state government raise quick revenue in the short term, but in the long-term saddling consumers with higher fees and the state with lost revenue.

- **New efforts to eliminate occupational licensing for any profession**, which help guarantee that people who want to call themselves doctors, long-haul truckers, accountants, or barbers meet basic standards of training and expertise to guarantee that consumers are safe and get what they pay for.

- **Expanding virtual "schools," which enriches ALEC's online school corporate funders, such as K12 Inc.** The Illinois Policy Institute -- the State Policy Network affiliate in the state -- will present on "digital education." IPI employees had pushed a Virtual Charter School plan in Illinois, apparently in collaboration with ALEC member K12 Inc., the nation's largest provider of online charter schools (which has become notorious for poor educational outcomes and high profit margins). Additionally, at least two "workshops" -- which carry a $40,000 pricetag -- will deal with online education: "Modeling State Funding Formulas, K-12 Online Course Providers" and "Statewide Full-Time Virtual Schools: The Case for Parent Choice vs. Local Control."

- **More flawed testing for colleges.** ALEC has long promoted increased reliance on high-stakes testing for elementary and high school students, which many educators say has altered the classroom dynamic and interfered with teaching. A bill to be considered at the Chicago meeting will graduate that same testing regime to the college level with "The Collegiate Learning Assessment Bill."

Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is There (With Bounty Hunters)

In the past year, at least 49 global corporations have dropped their ALEC membership, apparently recognizing that they don't want their brands publicly associated with an organization that pushes anti-union legislation and discriminatory voting laws.

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But one of the most surprising hangers-on has been State Farm, an insurance company that has crafted an image as a "good neighbor:" it certainly doesn't seem like neighborly to bankroll an organization that has promoted "Stand Your Ground" laws that make it easier for self-appointed neighborhood watch vigilantes to get away with murder.

State Farm has not only stuck with ALEC, but retained a leadership role in the organization, with a State Farm representative acting as the co-chair for ALEC's Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development Task Force -- the source of anti-labor bills and other controversial legislation.

Joining State Farm on that task force is the bail bond industry. Last year, ALEC disbanded the controversial Public Safety and Elections Task Force that had been responsible for bills like Stand Your Ground, Voter ID, and prison privatization, but the for-profit bail industry didn't jump ship: the American Bail Coalition President and CEO Bill Carmichael remains on the ALEC corporate board (now called the "Private Enterprise Advisory Council"), and the Surety Insurance Subcommittee -- chaired by the American Bail Coalition's Dennis Bartlett -- is now part of the State Farm's Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development Task Force.

ABC, the for-profit bail bond industry's national organization and lobbying wing, has long been involved with ALEC, calling it the industry's "life preserver."

Raising the question, do bounty hunters make for good neighbors?

Friday Thorn

Editor

Center for Media and Democracy

(Winner of Sidney and Izzy Awards for excellence in journalism)

Phone: 608-260-9713

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Aniello Alioto
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CA: Courage Campaign
CO: ProgressNow Colorado
FL: Progress Florida
GA: Better Georgia
IA: Progress Iowa
MA: ProgressMass
MI: Progress Michigan
MN: Alliance for a Better Minnesota (ABM)
MO: Progress Missouri
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NH: Granite State Progress
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UT: Alliance for a Better Utah
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To post to this group, send email to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/groups/opt_out .

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
re47@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 2/8/2016 6:56:41 PM
Subject: RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

HRC: BARRIERS – This is my alternative to Mandy's.. (I really feel the Wall St. didn't gun anyone down is taking this out of the economic lane too much which is what I think we really have to nail with this or it won't work)

Hillary Clinton says even if we broke up every big bank America your paycheck won't go up one dime. Clinton says we need to break down all barriers to opportunity, fairness and justice that still hold too many Americans back every day. She says racism, sexism, other forms of discrimination deny people promotions they've earned, the fair pay they deserve or jobs they're qualified for. . And corporations rake in record profits and keep incomes stagnant while Americans work harder and longer. Clinton says it's time to live up to American's promise and build an economy with opportunity fairness and justice for all.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 3:14 PM
To: re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; david@db-research.com; david@dixondavismedia.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com; oshur@hillaryclinton.com; rich@dixondavismedia.com; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Jim Andrews and I have been pouring through the oppo and have a couple new possible negatives to suggest we test in the poll, since most of our attacks haven't been working. We also proposed language for a split message test between where we've been (ideas that sound good on paper/can't wait) versus the new no barriers message -- stacked up against Sanders

Hope these are helpful.

YOU PAY FOR SOCIALISM

Bernie Sanders says he wants to restructure America's economy to make it work like it does in the socialist countries of Europe, providing things like free health care for everyone, free college for everyone, and free increases in Social Security for everyone. But Sanders does not mention that the middle class picks up the bill in these countries, paying nearly sixty percent of their income in taxes, three times what middle class Americans pay now.

FREE STUFF FOR EVERYBODY

Bernie Sanders said –quote– "all necessities of life must be provided free for people," and over the years he's proposed a radical restructuring of the entire American economy to make many things free, from the gas for people's cars to telephones and now free college and health care. To do this, Sanders proposed the complete government takeover of all oil companies, gas companies, electric utility companies, phone companies, health care companies, and all television networks. Combined, Sanders proposals would put the government in control of more than half of the American economy, but Sanders has never told anyone who would pay for all of this or how it would work.

SPEND, TAX AND COVER IT UP

Bernie Sanders' spending plans cost at least eighteen trillion dollars, would increase government spending by 50% and equal the size of the current national debt. And it's actually worse. Experts say Sanders health care plan alone is quote –twice as expensive as he says it is and they say Sanders plans would increase middle class taxes by one third, even for people making less than nineteen thousand a year, and Sanders plans would raise the top tax rate to seventy seven percent. The Boston Globe said –quote "Sanders is not leveling with voters" about the real cost of his spending plans.

EXTREME ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Bernie Sanders' extreme views would gut America's national security and make less safe. Sanders ran for Congress calling for the military budget to be cut by more than half and spending the money on a "major electrified rail system" instead. In Washington, Sanders sponsored a law to unilaterally terminate America's entire nuclear weapons program and sponsored another law to cut the nuclear submarine fleet in half. In Congress, Sanders proposed massive cuts in the intelligence budget and earlier said we should shut down the entire CIA because –quote they "might even be able to overthrow the U.S. government if they chose to." Sanders is so ideologically committed to military cuts that just last year he said –quote we shouldn't spend money on the military "even if it does create jobs."

TROUBLING PATTERN ON CAMPAIGNING

Bernie Sanders says he's running a different kind of campaign, but the record tells another story. Last year a Sanders affiliated political action committee was fined by the federal election commission and Sanders staffers were caught hacking into computers and stealing data on political opponents. This year, Sanders got caught running ads that said he was endorsed by newspapers that actually endorsed his opponent and was forced to remove ads from the air. Sanders got caught claiming endorsements from organizations that endorsed his opponent and the American Legion is now threatening to sue him for falsely claiming he has their support.

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TROUBLING PATTERN ON WOMEN

Bernie Sanders says he supports women's rights, but has a pattern of expressing and tolerating extreme views on women. Sanders once wrote that men fantasize about women being on their knees and women fantasize about being raped by three men simultaneously. Sanders wrote another article that connecting women's sexual behavior to breast cancer and said the way parents teach their daughter about sex –quote– "very well determine whether or not she will develop breast cancer." Now Sanders' supporters are flooding the internet with troubling comments about women quote –voting with their vaginas– and calling women who support Hillary Clinton quote –bitches.

BERNIE VS HRC MESSAGE TEST

BERNIE

Bernie Sanders says we have a corporate establishment whose greed is destroying the economy and a corrupt political establishment beholden to billionaires. Sanders says the billionaire class can't get huge tax breaks and hide profits overseas while the middle class is being hollowed out. Sanders says corporate America and the billionaire class have to start paying their fair share, and that to change things we need a political revolution to undo the power of corporate America and Wall Street. You sure can't change a corrupt system by taking its money. Sanders says one person alone can't change this country, but we can do it together.

HRC: BARRIERS

Hillary Clinton says we need to break down barriers of social injustice. Clinton says racism and sexism and other forms discrimination are not simply an effect of economic inequality, but are also part of the ***cause*** of economic inequality. Clinton says she will hold Wall Street accountable, but Wall Street is not gunning down young African Americans or denying immigrants a path to citizenship. Clinton says we can't move forward when women make seventy eight cents for each dollar men make, when people can be fired just because they're gay or when African American men go to prison at the same rate they graduate college. Clinton says that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours.

HRC CAN'T WAIT

Hillary Clinton says she is not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it the real world, and she won't make promises she can't keep. Clinton says the single mom who needs raise can't wait for plans that will never happen. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. Clinton says she's spent a lifetime making a difference for people and getting results, from winning benefits for the National Guard and Reserve to winning health care for eight million children and she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work right now. Clinton says she's ready to tackle our toughest challenges and move our country forward.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Robby Mook (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com >
To: gruncom <gruncom@aol.com >
Cc: dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; david <david@db-research.com >; david <david@dixondavismedia.com >; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; jpalmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; john <john@algpolling.com >; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; nnayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com >; oshur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 7, 2016 4:19 pm
Subject: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Robby Mook has attached the following document:

Agenda for 4:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Attached is an agenda/guide for our 5:30 call.

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online. Google™

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/19/2015 12:56:05 PM
Subject: The Cuban Military Not So Transparent Act

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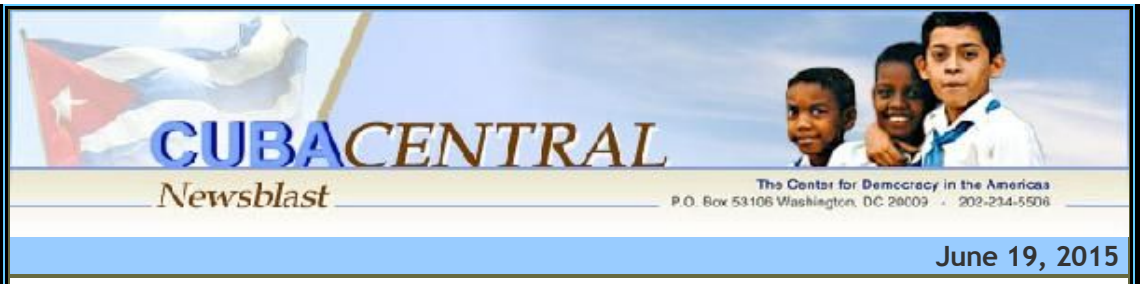

June 19, 2015

Dear Friends,

Legislation introduced earlier this month by Senator Marco Rubio (FL) - the Cuban Military Transparency Act - isn't transparent at all.

Rather than revealing something about Cuba's military, the legislation conceals the intent of its authors; namely, to shame, harass, and try to stop every American from visiting Cuba or seeking to do business in Cuba, and to return U.S. policy to its pre-December 17, 2014 goal of starving the Cuban economy and the Cuban people along with it.

Why are the seven Senate sponsors relying now on such desperate measures? A few numbers - 43, 36, and 620,000 - tell the story.

- We can now count **forty-three** Republican and Democratic Senators who've stepped forward to sponsor The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act, legislation to make it legal for all Americans to travel to Cuba. We congratulate Senators Barbara Mikulski (MD), Patty Murray (WA), and Pat Roberts (KS), the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, for being the most recent among them.
- President Obama's decision to streamline regulations on purposeful travel to Cuba has galvanized interest across the United States in visiting Cuba. From January 1 to May 9th in 2015, there has been a 36% increase by Americans to the island over the same period last year.
- For Cuban Americans who can visit Cuba on an unlimited basis, thanks to regulatory changes by President Obama, travel to the island is rising substantially. According to the Havana Consulting Group, family travel visits could **620,000** in 2015, a record.

This surge in visitors makes a huge difference for Cubans employed in transportation, lodging, restaurants, the owners of restaurants and beds and breakfasts, and the artisans and translators who get payments in hard currency or work in the "tip economy."

According to 14ymedio, the number of self-employed persons in Cuba exceeded 500,000 for the first time at the end of May 2015, with young people and women benefiting enormously. Studies show that travel and tourism are big drivers of employment and economic growth. As state-owned enterprises like hotels struggle to accommodate increases in tourism, the private sector will, as one analyst reported, fill capacity gaps, especially in the areas of lodging and restaurants, accelerating change in the structure of Cuba's economy.

The economic reforms under President Raúl Castro enable Cubans to work for businesses that profit from the increase in travel taking place under President Obama's policy reforms. Many Cubans are earning more money, and interacting and exchanging more with U.S. travelers. This is a virtuous circle producing better lives for Cubans in ways that simply

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couldn't happen under 50 years of isolation and sanctions.

Most of us look at this emerging picture and think, "what's not to like?" In contrast, the Senate sponsors of the Cuban Military Transparency Act see the fifty years of diplomatic isolation and economic sanctions they've supported coming to an end. That is why they are acting so desperately.

So, what does their legislation really attempt to do? If enacted into law, it would prohibit a U.S. person from engaging in any financial transactions with Cuba's Ministry of Defense and Interior Ministry, senior officials employed by them, or entities they own or control.

It's not a secret that in Cuba, a socialist state with a largely state-owned economy, the military is invested in state-owned businesses, and several of those - as the Senate bill says - are dominant players in Cuba's tourist industry.

Given the military's broad role in Cuba's economy, any expenditure by U.S. travelers and businesses - including the cost of hotel rooms, telephone calls, airport taxes, the hotel occupancy tax, sales taxes on tourist purchases, resort fees - could be prohibited presumptively unless the traveler or company could persuade OFAC they spent their money in Cuba some other way.

How could they prove the negative? Who in Cuba will hand out the forms that say "that hotel room" or "that painting" or "that serving of ropa vieja" didn't come from an enterprise owned or controlled by Cuba's military? Of course, the sponsors aren't interested in compliance with their bill - they simply want to fill Americans with fear so that they don't pack their bags and go, doing incalculable damage on Cuban families and their prospects for the future.

And let's be clear: this legislation covers ETESCA , Cuba's telecommunications company. Should it become law, it would prohibit Google and Facebook from doing business in Cuba. Millions of Cubans waiting for better connections to the Internet could thank the 7 Senate "transparency act" sponsors for that result as well.

If there were a truth-in-naming rule in the U.S. Congress, they could have given this enormously damaging legislation a much more fitting title:

- The No-Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act;
- The Stop Cuban Americans From Visiting their Families in Cuba Act;
- The Smother Free Enterprise in Cuba Act; or even
- The Keep Google and Facebook from Connecting Cubans to the Internet Act

But no such rule in Congress exists, as is transparently the case.

This week in Cuba news...

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U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS
U.S., Cuba ready to announce embassy openings in early July
Republican Presidential Primary pack divides on Cuba
Sprint, T-Mobile offer calling plans to Cuba (¿Puedes escucharme ahora?)*
Google, other tech companies head to Cuba to talk Internet connectivity
U.S. universities beginning to recruit Cuban students
Richard Blanco, Inaugural poet, visits Cuba, notes change
CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS
Cuban representatives will call for end of Puerto Rico's "colonial status" at UN
IN CUBA
Cuba's government announces Wi-Fi expansions and cheaper Internet
Cuba likely to end dual-currency system by the end of the year
Recommended Reading
Investing in Cuba, Financial Times
A Havana journalism professor is testing the limits of media freedom in fast-changing Cuba, Joyce Hackel, PRI
Cuban Artist Puts on Hair Competition to Bolster Black Pride, The Associated Press
Could Cuba be Vietnam in the Carribean?, Richard E. Feinberg, Financial Times
Cuba after the Castros: the likely scenario, Jose Azel, The Wall Street Journal
A witness to history, Cuban exile ready to visit the island, Mimi Whitefield, Naples Daily News
Trip to Cuba a home run for Corban's baseball team, Bill Poehler, Statesman Journal
U.S. children's choir aims to break down barriers with Cuba concert, Adam Justice, International Business Times
Recommended Viewing
For better or for worse -- what would an end to the embargo mean for Cuba? The Cuban Evolution, PBS NewsHour

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

U.S., Cuba ready to announce embassy openings in early July

Negotiations between the U.S. and Cuba to reopen embassies will wrap up in early July, Reuters reports. While in Cuba, U.S. Senator Jeff Flake (AZ) made headlines this week calling the opening of embassies "imminent."

Since Presidents Obama and Castro announced their bilateral breakthrough last December, Cuba and the United States have held four rounds of talks aimed at restoring diplomatic relations, opening embassies, and addressing the roles of rights of each country's diplomats. The fourth round was held last month in Washington and "made progress," according to press accounts , but failed to reach resolution on remaining issues.

Unresolved items are said to include freedom of movement by diplomats in the respective countries, the security and amount of shipments to the embassies, and disagreement over U.S. diplomats' activities that Cuba finds objectionable, including teaching of journalism classes and providing Internet access at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. Reuters reports that these issues are expected to be resolved before the announcement in July.

An unmistakable symbol of the changing bilateral relationship could be seen in the front yard of Cuba's future embassy in Washington last week, when staff of the Cuban Interests Section installed a flagpole - awaiting the moment when they can hoist their nation's flag.

What we now call the U.S. Interests Section in Havana functioned as an embassy until January 3, 1961 when President Dwight Eisenhower severed diplomatic relations. President Carter, who had sought to normalize relations with Cuba, established the U.S. Interests Section in Havana (and agreed to the opening of a Cuban Interests Section in Washington); each of which have operated under the auspices of the Swiss Embassy since 1977.

Secretary of State John Kerry was expected to fly to Havana for the ceremonial flag

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raising at the future U.S. Embassy in Havana, but his recent bicycle injury, and ongoing negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, may have caused him to delay his trip to the island.

Republican Presidential Primary Pack Divides on Cuba

According to Lesley Clark, White House correspondent for McClatchy, Donald Trump told reporters during a campaign stop in New Hampshire on Wednesday that he supports the new direction in Cuba policy initiated late last year by President Obama.

Reporting on Twitter, Clark quotes Trump saying, "It's time, it's fine," and "I don't mind Cuba happening, but the U.S. could've struck a better deal."

Also this week, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, speaking at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, appeared to soften his opposition to President Obama's decision to expand travel rights for all Americans, according to a report filed for NJ Advance Media .

"If you're allowed to (travel to Cuba) everybody's got to make their own free choice," Christie said. "I'm just giving my opinion on it, which is I don't know why you would want to support that regime given the way they treat their own people.
"I couldn't do it," Christie added, but "*Others will have to make their own choice.*"

This libertarian approach differs from Christie's earlier statements. In April, Governor Christie called Obama's policy a "national disgrace ." Last year, after the President announced the diplomatic breakthrough, he demanded that Cuba return Joanne Chesimard to the U.S. before "any further consideration of the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Cuban government."

By contrast, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who announced his candidacy for president this week, was clear in opposing the new direction in policy. If elected in 2016, he promised never to visit Cuba until he could "go to Havana in solidarity with a free Cuban people."

Senator Rand Paul (KY), also a presidential aspirant, has dismissed supporters of the U.S. embargo as "isolationists."

Sprint, T-Mobile offer calling plans to Cuba (¿Puedes escucharme ahora?)*

Sprint and T-Mobile will offer calling plans to Cuba, CNET reports. Sprint will offer a "Cuba 20 Plus" plan, providing 20 minutes of calling to any Cuban number for $20 per month, plus 70 cents for additional minutes.

"With the recent government expansion of relations with Cuba, and Miami being an important market...we wanted to combine a promotion with a way to give back to Cuban-Americans and make it easier for them to call friends and family in Cuba," said Dow Draper, president of Sprint prepaid.

T-Mobile will offer a similar deal, with is prepaid arm MetroPCS, to offer 20 minutes of calls to Cuba plus unlimited calling and texts to 75 other countries for $10 per month.

Currently, a third party line is necessary to call Cuba from the United States. Companies like HablaCuba and DimeCuba offer services to call Cuba for 70 cents per minute.

*Apologies to Verizon .

Google, other tech companies head to Cuba to talk Internet connectivity

A Google executive is heading to Cuba this weekend to meet with government officials regarding Internet access in Cuba, Politico reports. Google has already made an undisclosed offer to Cuba's government on this subject, and Cuba has promised to increase Internet access universally by 2020.

Brett Perlmutter, the Google executive headed to Cuba, works for Google's Ideas unit which, according to its website , is "a team of engineers, researchers and geopolitical experts who build products to support free expression and access to information,

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especially in repressive societies." He will be joined by about a dozen U.S. business representatives to "focus on helping the Cuban government think through their publicly-stated goal of improving Internet access," a Google spokesperson said.

The trip was organized and facilitated by the New York-based Council of the Americas whose goal is promoting free trade, democracy and open markets throughout the Americas. "A lot of companies are very interested," said Alana Tummino, director of policy at Council of the Americas. "It's an intriguing market because it's a virgin one for growing IT and telecom infrastructure."

According to current estimates, about 5% of Cubans have Internet access, a figure that rises to a bit over 20% by including illegal dial up services in homes. This month, Cuba's government proposed an ambitious plan to increase Internet access incrementally, with the goal of reaching universal access by 2020. The plan involves the installation of Internet in more government offices and all schools before other sectors, but is unprecedented nonetheless. Cubans are eager to access the World Wide Web at reasonable costs, and the demand exists for the government to move further and faster.

U.S. universities beginning to recruit Cuban students

With the warming trend in U.S.-Cuba relations, U.S. universities are beginning to recruit Cuban students. The nonprofit organization Educational Testing Services is working to certify test centers in Cuba. This will soon enable Cubans to sit for entrance exams such as the GRE for graduate school and the TOEFL, an English proficiency test. Four Cuban students will take the TOEFL test later this month, and the GRE is expected to offered in October. Technology and, in some cases, limited computer stations, are proving to be hurdles, as well as arranging for new payment mechanisms (in lieu of standard online credit card payment).

Richard Blanco, Inaugural poet, visits Cuba, notes change

Richard Blanco, the Cuban American who delivered the Inaugural poem at President Obama's second inauguration, visited the island along with longtime friend Ruth Behar, the New York Times reports. The two just launched a popular bridge-building poetry project between the United States and Cuba that focuses on the cultural and personal side of the historic change.

Blanco hadn't been to the island since 2009, and was shocked by the changes he saw. "For a moment I forgot I was in Cuba. Everything had become so much easier to do," he said. He noted the high quality of restaurants and a play he and Ms. Behar attended during his trip.

Blanco and Behar also noted the pain of realizing most of their younger relatives had left for abroad, as many Cuban families are split up. Blanco said he "hoped families and the countries' two governments can work to develop new relationships that lead to a more sustainable Cuban system."

"How," he asked, "can you take the good from everything, put it all together and make it better?"

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Cuban representatives will call for end of Puerto Rico's "colonial status" at UN

The official Cuban News Agency has reported that Cuban diplomats will call for "self-determination and independence" for the people of Puerto Rico on June 22. The draft resolution on the "colonial status of Puerto Rico" will be submitted to the Special Decolonization Committee of the United Nations.

According to the Cuban News Agency, "It calls on the U.S. government to assume its responsibility in this process so that Puerto Ricans enjoy their rights."

Currently, Puerto Rico belongs to the United States, but is not a part of the United States, and its political status has been debated for over half a decade.

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This issue came before the U.N. sixty-two years ago. As the Latin Post reported, The United Nations General Assembly voted in 1953 to recognize the island's self-government and removed it from its list of non-self-governing territory[ies]."

State newspaper Granma noted that "Among the most significant elements to be presented ... will be that of demanding that the government of the United States assume the responsibility of embarking on a process that would allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, to independence and to decision-making in a sovereign manner."

IN CUBA

Cuba's government announces Wi-Fi expansions and cheaper Internet

US News reports that Cuba's government is expanding Internet access on the island by creating 35 new government computer centers in July. In addition, hourly use of Wi-Fi will halve in cost from $4.50 to $2 beginning on July 1. The lowered price is still 10% of the average Cuban's income, but the decrease will give Internet access to many who currently do not have it.

"The Internet space is opening up here and I think this is a significant step," said Norges Rodriguez, a blogger and telecommunications engineer in Havana. "A year or two ago, we didn't have anything like this."

The proposed connectivity changes, though miniscule in comparison to universal Internet access, will help to meet the demands among Cubans for greater Internet access in one of the world's least connected countries.

Cuba likely to end dual-currency system by the end of the year

The Financial Times reports that two years after Cuba's government announced it would work to end the dual currency system in Cuba, economists on the island predict the CUC will be taken out of circulation by the end of the year.

Cuba currently has two currencies -- the national money, Cuban pesos (CUP), is what government workers are paid in and what is used at state food markets. 24 CUPs amount to one U.S. dollar. The convertible Cuban peso (CUC) was introduced in 1994 as Cuba began to open its economy to tourism and more foreign ventures. The CUC is pegged to the U.S. dollar one-to-one.

"It is my understanding that the CUC will be removed from circulation before the next Communist Party Congress in April," said a Cuban economist with knowledge of reform efforts.

Restaurants and markets in Cuba that once only accepted CUCs began to accept CUPs this year, a harbinger for impending reforms. In addition, higher-valued CUP bills were introduced this year, ranging from 200 to 1,000 pesos.

The Financial Times reports that the move would "continue President Raúl Castro's efforts to introduce market elements and remove price distortions, and improve accounting transparency and the efficiency of state companies."

Recommended Reading

Investing in Cuba , Financial Times

This week, the Financial Times released a ten-part Special Part series on investing in Cuba. The report covers an assortment of topics, from the significance of warming relations to Cuba's move to a single currency to the new port at Mariel. The topic of property claims in Cuba is also broached, along with the co-operative system in Cuba.

A Havana journalism professor is testing the limits of media freedom in fast-

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changing Cuba, Joyce Hackel, PRI

Following a year as the Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, Cuban journalist Elaine Diaz is beginning an independent online citizen's news project in Cuba. "I don't expect too much support from the government. I'm kind of expecting tolerance, but I'm not sure if I can count on that," Diaz, author of the blogLa Polémica Digital , says. "It's going to be really challenging." The news project will focus on vulnerable communities, and it has not been approved by the government. Diaz advertised for three more journalists upon her return this year, and she received 96 applications.

Cuban Artist Puts on Hair Competition to Bolster Black Pride , The Associated Press

Afro-Cuban performance artist Susana Delahante put on a black hairstyle competition in Havana's cultural center as a "rare commentary" on race and beauty standards in Cuba, where prejudice lingers. "This is a first step in reclaiming this type of hair," said competitor Ania de Armas, a 22-year-old art history graduate who competed in the natural hair category. 70 women competed in the exhibition, and over 300 spectators watched and cheered on the winners.
Obsesión, perhaps Cuba's best-known hip-hop group, address questions of beauty and conformity in their song titled "Los Pelos," available for listening and viewing here.

Could Cuba be Vietnam in the Caribbean? , Richard E. Feinberg, Financial Times

Richard Feinberg, Professor of International Political Economy at the University of California, San Diego, and non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, asks what Cuba could learn - and improve upon - from Vietnam's example.

"Cuba has the requisite resources - natural and human - and the location to create a balanced economy. It has fertile soil. Capable scientists have begun building a biotech cluster and the many computer engineers await opportunities that will come with global interconnectedness. The island could again become a shipping and logistics hub . And exotic Cuba could draw a variety of tourists, offering urban culture, eco-resorts, maritime sports, as well as traditional sun and surf.

"As it evolves into a more open and market-driven economy, Cuba can improve upon Vietnam's experience. Cubans can study Vietnam's mixed and diversified economy, while eschewing rampant corruption and offensive inequalities and conserving impressive social achievements."

Cuba after the Castros: the likely scenario , Jose Azel, The Wall Street Journal

Offering a more pessimistic take on Cuba after President Raúl Castro steps down in 2018, Jose Azel, a Senior Scholar at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, University of Miami offers his predictions in the Wall Street Journal. Spoiler alert: the military men will take ownership of the economy.

A witness to history, Cuban exile ready to visit the island , Mimi Whitefield, Naples Daily News

Jack Skelly, age 89, whose father ran the railroad in Cuba for the United Fruit Company, wants to return to visit Cuba for the first time in 56 years. He worked in Cuba as a journalist, fielded requests from President Eisenhower to help win the release of U.S. prisoners, and, because he could speak English, worked for a short-time as the International Press Coordinator and translator for Fidel Castro. But he soon became disillusioned with the Revolution and fled to the United States, where he supported John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign, and later helped with speeches dealing with Latin American affairs.

He welcomed President Obama's decision to seek normal relations with Cuba. "I thought it was about time. I was against the embargo; I thought there was no reason for it."

Trip to Cuba a home run for Corban's baseball team , Bill Poehler, Statesman Journal

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The Corban University men's baseball team traveled to Caimanera, Cuba to play an away game unlike any other this week. Corban University is a private Baptist university in Oregon. The team was met by a crowd of 1,500 Cuban fans and the game commenced against a local team. The crowd began chanting "USA. USA." after Corban's first run. The team was also involved with missionary work on the trip, and "has already been invited back."

U.S. children's choir aims to break down barriers with Cuba concert , Adam Justice, International Business Times

A Los Angeles children's choir has embarked on an 11-day tour of Cuba in an effort to increase U.S. engagement with the island through music. Director of the Young Men's Ensemble Steven Kronauer will be teaming up with local Cuban choir Cantoria Coralillo for a choir workshop before they take to the stage for a series of concerts. The group will perform their last concert in Havana on June 21.

Recommended Viewing

For better or for worse -- what would an end to the embargo mean for Cuba? , The Cuban Evolution, PBS NewsHour

PBS has begun a new video and written news series titled "The Cuban Evolution," documenting relevant topics regarding change in today's Cuba. The first part of the series tackles the subject head-on, discussing what the end of the embargo would mean for Cuba. We will be following along and continue sending links so you can too.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/8/2008 8:11:22 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain/Global Warming--Memo in Advance of Policy Speech

TO: Reporters Covering McCain/Global Warming
FR: Sierra Club, contact David Willett, National Press Secretary
202-675-6698
RE: Upcoming Global Warming/Energy Policy Speeches

Over the coming days, Senator McCain is expected to unveil his plans for addressing global warming. While still awaiting details of the plan, the Sierra Club can offer some specific points on his record on the issue so far, as well as some red flags that would undermine any strong plan to be on the lookout for as details emerge.

While Senator McCain deserves credit for his work on early global warming legislation in the Senate and for bringing attention to the need for urgent action, his efforts to date have been driven by yesterday's solutions and they won't solve tomorrow's problems. The science on global warming has changed dramatically over the last five years and the bill Senator McCain has previously championed is outdated and fails to provide the big changes Americans are demanding. Like President Bush, McCain's policies on global warming offer more of the same, by putting the interests of polluters over the people and failing to invest in building a clean energy economy that will create new jobs and opportunities at a time when an economic boost is sorely needed. Americans want real change--investment in clean, renewable energy instead of Big Oil, Nuclear power and other polluting industries. We need more windmills not windfalls.

Any serious attempt to meet the challenge of global warming must include these basic principles:

First, the targets and timetables must be sufficient to do what the science demands in both the near and long terms to reduce the negative impacts of climate change to the maximum extent possible. This will require reductions in total emissions on the order of 80 percent by 2050 and 20 percent by 2020.

Next, permits to emit carbon must be used for public benefit, not private windfalls. Pollution allowances are a public trust. All allowances should be auctioned or otherwise used to benefit the public, not to generate windfall profits for polluting industries. Free allocations, if any, must be limited in size and restricted to a short transition period.

Revenue raised by the bill should be used to promote a clean energy future by investing in the highest-value solutions for emissions reductions first. These funds should not be used to perpetuate dirty, expensive, outdated technologies like coal and nuclear energy. Allowances and auction revenues should be used to accelerate deployment of the clean energy technologies we have today and to develop the ones we need for tomorrow. Funds should be invested only in the cleanest, cheapest, safest, and fastest means of reducing emissions.

Finally, the bill must ensure a just transition for workers, protect vulnerable groups, and help induce world action. Allowances and auction revenues should be used to protect low- and moderate-income citizens from rising energy costs and other negative economic impacts, create new jobs, ensure fair treatment for affected workers and their communities, and drive technology transfer to help achieve emissions reductions around the world.

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We must also take care of communities that suffer the impacts of global warming we were too late to avoid.

Numerous studies have shown that we can achieve these goals and meet our energy needs with the cleanest energy sources and efficiency and without relying on dirty power. If Senator McCain wants to have a credible and feasible plan for addressing global warming, he must demonstrate a commitment to these principles and have a plan that adds up to what science tells us the world needs. Senator McCain should also join other Senators to end outrageous subsidies to polluters like Big Oil as they continue to rake in record profits. Unfortunately, even as Senator McCain urges America to shower the nuclear energy industry with billions in subsidies, he has criticized money for biofuels and failed to support incentives for clean renewable energy like wind and solar power.

Major "red flag" issues to look for in any infeasible global warming plan

* Support for drilling in the Arctic Refuge or lifting the 30-year moratorium on drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf
* Support for "unconventional fossil fuels"--liquid coal, tar sands, or oil shale development
* Any expansion of existing subsidies or support for the construction of new nuclear power plants--including loan guarantees
* Support for the Yucca Mountain facility
* Any attempt to classify coal or nuclear power as "renewable"
* Any global warming plan that gives away allowances to polluters for free without designated purpose
* Any global warming plan with a so-called "safety-valve" that would break the carbon cap
* Any global warming plan that bars US action until China, India, and others act
* Denial of state authority to regulate global warming emissions from vehicles
* Denial of state authority to regulate global warming pollution generally
* Refusal to subsidize the development of real clean energy technologies or the production of clean energy

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From: "Aniello Alioto" <anielloa@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/26/2009 5:35:41 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCLATCHY - Commentary: Lifting ban would make Cuba freer, open

Simply awesome - This perfectly counters the argument projected by the ridiculously reluctant Cold Warriors & those who have right-wing special interest contributions in their campaign coffers. It would be great to see this story pushed far & wide - and, of course, replicated repeatedly.

Please contact me off-list if you are able to project this story and/or would like to help place the next one.

Best,
Aniello
202.234.5807 office
502.664.2420 cell

~~~~~~~~~~~~~

http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/68808.html

Commentary: Lifting ban would make Cuba freer, open

By Bob Stallman

WASHINGTON — It amazes me that it is 2009 and Americans are still unable to visit or do business with Cuba. It is the only country in the world where our government bans Americans from traveling. Unfortunately, a lot of opportunities are being missed for both business and tourism because of these costly restrictions.

I was lucky enough to visit Cuba in 2002. I say lucky because both the country and its people are beautiful. It also helped me see firsthand the disarray left on Cuba's agriculture industry when the Russian troops left in the early 1990s and how Cubans are dealing with the aftermath.

My trip to Cuba shored up several things for me. First, Cuban citizens are good people and second, they need affordable food.

During my visit, it was striking to see tourists there from everywhere in the world except the United States. To remedy this, there is legislation on Capitol Hill that would open Cuba to travel for U.S. citizens. Further, President Obama recently relaxed rules to allow Cuban-Americans to visit their family, while easing financial and gift restrictions.

These actions bring us one step closer to increasing food and agricultural sales to Cuba, an important priority for the American Farm Bureau Federation. U.S. agricultural sales to Cuba have been on average $400 million annually since 2000. With the embargo lifted, we expect that number would rise to $1 billion annually.

While touring the Cuban countryside I realized the nation's ability to produce bulk commodities had significantly diminished after the Russians' departure. Other countries are taking advantage of the opportunity.

For example, I visited a joint venture project between an Israeli investor and the Cuban government to grow oranges. This is just one agriculture example and there are plenty more.

Being able to feed its citizens is a big priority for Cuba. It is a poor country, but its people are by no means malnourished. Every Cuban is given rations for basic foods, such as milk and rice. When I was there, a campaign was in place encouraging average citizens in cities to plant plots of vegetables in order to help produce food.

There are many practical reasons the United States and Cuba should be trading. The Cuban government allocates a specific sum of money to buy food and pay transportation costs for those imports. Transportation costs would be minimal between the United States and Cuba compared to Europe or Asia, which means more money could go toward feeding Cuba's citizens instead of being burned up in shipping costs.
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By removing U.S. restrictions on Cuba, we also weaken the totalitarian grip on that nation's citizens. History has shown we can do more to spread democracy by opening travel and trade to other countries. By working as ambassadors of change in those countries we can have more positive impact on the lives of the Cuban people than anything we have done under this embargo over the last 47 years.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. After nearly a half century, the time is now to open Cuba's border to U.S. citizens, businesses and ideals.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Bob Stallman is president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Readers may write him at 600 Maryland Avenue SW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20024.

This essay is available to McClatchy-Tribune News Service subscribers. McClatchy-Tribune did not subsidize the writing of this column; the opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of McClatchy-Tribune or its editors.
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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/10/2008 6:55:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/10/08

Main Topics: Giuliani and Jindal's Interviews, Local McCain coverage

Summary of Shift: Jesse Jackson's comments on Barack Obama "talking down to black people" dominated today's news cycle. He appeared on all major networks to apologize for the negative comments. Iran launched more test missiles last night "as a message to Israel". Democrats, including Barack Obama, partnered with Republicans to pass the FISA bill yesterday. Senator Ted Kennedy returned to the senate to block the Republican filibuster of a Medicare bill and received a standing ovation. New DNA evidence has cleared the family of Jonbenet Ramsey of her murder. Wildfires still rage in California forcing the evacuation of large parts of Butte County.

Highlights:
1. Giuliani on McCain
a) FNC: Giuliani attacks Obama for flip-flopping on Fox and Friends
b) MSNBC: Giuliani talk about how McCain can best win election
2. FNC: Jindal touts McCain's economic and energy plans, agrees with Obama's support for FISA and faith based initiatives
3. MSNBC: McCain gets awkward about the Viagra issue
4. MSNBC: Bob Shrum discusses major problems in the Republican Party for November
5. NBC: Leno mocks McCain's speech for Latino Conference

Local Highlights:
6. ABC13: McCain's oil obsession evident in local West Virginia News interview
7. ABC13: Small business owners welcome McCain while others in Charleston protest him at gas stations
8. WCHS: Local Ohio news covers McCain

Clips:

Highlight #1
Giuliani Attacks Obama for flip-flopping on Fox and Friends (FNC 07/10/08 07:15am)
[…]
RUDY GIULIANI: It is particularly difficult in the case of someone who's as inexperienced as Barack Obama. Because there's no other record to compare it to. If you had somebody who had 20, 30 years of executive experience, legislative
Experience, you'd have a whole record of seeing when they do make a change, how much of a change do they make, what does it mean, is it an honest one, isn't it. Contrast that with John McCain who said in the primaries I'd rather lose and election than lose a war. We know where John McCain stands on Iraq.

STEVE DOOCY: Oh absolutely.

GIULIANI: We know where he stands on terrorism. We know he's going to make some changes too. Everybody does. But we know the core of the man. Which is a big difference.

[…]

ANDREW NAPOLITANO: […] Coming out in favor of faith based initiatives and voting for FISA be an effort to take those issues of the table in November. I mean if he voted against FISA, but aside the merits of it, McCain would be beating him over the head with that vote. By voting for it it's not an issue in the fall.

GIULIANI: That isn't an issue, but who is Barack Obama is an issue in the fall. What does he stand for? […]

Giuliani Talk About How McCain Can Best Win Election (MSNBC, 07/10/08, 8:15am)
PAT BUCHANAN: If you had one piece of advice you'd give John McCain to really pull this thing together and win this race, what would you tell him?

RUDY GIULIANI: I watched John win a republican primary that last year at this time, everybody thought he was going to lose. Including me, and probably you, except him. He was the one who didn't think he was going to lose. And

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how did John win that? He won it by being John McCain. By being himself**. Sure John will make some changes on positions here and there.** But the kind of changes that Barack Obama is making would be like John McCain changing his position on Iraq. You know, on a core position. Obama got elected because he was going to take, or got nominated because he was going to take the troops out of Iraq, he was going to be the left-wing candidate. Now he's changing that position. I would be John. […] Go do a lot of those town hall meetings**. Don't try to be the scripted candidate. That isn't you.** When he tried that at the beginning of the primary, he was losing. When he became John McCain in New Hampshire, he whipped all of us. And I think the American people want someone authentic**. They want someone who's not going to go consult a poll, and they want a leader.**

SCARBOROUGH: **But talking about leadership though, his political organization has been in chaos for the past year. It's still in chaos.** Who's in? Is Mike Murphy in? Is he going to be running the campaign? Is he going to be an advisor? Is he going to be on MSNBC? Is Steve Schmidt? […] **That's what republicans worry about, because they're saying, wait a second, its July and this guy still hasn't figured out his campaign structure.**

GIULIANI: He figured it out well enough to win a primary that nobody thought he was going to win. He's the candidate of the republican party. And the reality is, he has a small campaign staff. Not a very large one.

SCARBOROUGH: **But Mr. Mayor, when he had the big infrastructure, he blew it. He lost all of his money, he fired his staff, and he started winning when he started flying in the middle seat of commercial aircraft.**

GIULIANI: Well, that's because when John McCain, just became John McCain, started relating to people, he is an enormously impressive candidate. That's when he whipped all of us.

SCARBOROUGH: So when he's President of the United States, can we expect him flying in the middle seat? […] **The bigger point is, when you run an organization you have to know how to run it!**

GIULIANI: John McCain didn't want Secret Service protection. He still has, I think. He wants to be himself, he wants to continue to remain in contact with people. He's going to be an enormously effective president. He's a very effective senator. He's one of the most effective members of the United States Senate, in terms of getting things done, in comparison to Barack Obama who's accomplished nothing in the Senate.

WILLY GEIST: Mr. Mayor, we look at these polls everyday, these Gallup tracking polls. We saw a couple weeks ago that Barack Obama had double digit leads in certain polls, now we see it shrinking down and we say 80 percent of the country is dissatisfied with the way things are going. The President's approval rating is at 30 percent, something like this. It seems like things are stacked against John McCain, and yet he's right in a virtual tie by this poll you're looking at here, with Barack Obama. Why?

GIULIANI: Because it's about the two of them. **It's not about President Bush,** it's not about former President Clinton. It's not about Jesse Jackson. It's about the two of them, and it's going to become more and more about the two of them. And it's how the two of them impress the American people that will ultimately decide that. **Not President Bush's approval ratings, or Jesse Jackson's comments.** And John McCain's got a very strong personality, and my point is he's got to impose that on this campaign and he's going to win.

Highlight #2

Jindal Touts McCain's Economic and Energy Plans, Agrees with Obama's support for FISA and Faith Based Initiatives (FNC 07/10/08 08:20am)

BOBBY JINDAL: when it comes to the economy, senator McCain is where the majority of Americans are. First he wants to cut our taxes, secondly cut government spending to balance the budget third lower energy prices, do more domestic conservation and alternative energy, and he doesn't want the government running our health care. […] Senator McCain understands we need more domestic production, more nuclear energy, more clean coal, and more environmentally friendly sources of en, renewables, as well as conservation. Here's the problem in Washington. **You've got these two extremes. On one side they say we don't want any offshore production, no new nuclear reactors, no new refineries. On the other side you have this other extreme saying no conservation and no alternative energies, and that's ridiculous. We need all of that. We haven't built a new reactor in 30 years. There's a reason gas is $4 a gallon.**

ANDREW NAPOLITANO: In one of john McCain's recent ads he said the economy is in shambles. How did it get that way?

JINDAL: we've not had a national energy policy for years. We've not increased domestic production; we've not

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explored these alternative fuels […] Republicans lost the majority in this congress is they didn't do what they said they're going to do. You've seen earmarked spending increase like the bridge to nowhere, you've seen domestic discretionary income increase, and that's hurting the economy.

[…]

STEVE DOOCY: We're talking about Jesse Jackson's unfortunate comments on the live mic here at fox over the weekend. What was he thinking?

JINDAL: Well, you know, obviously the comments are inexcusable whether or not he knew the mic was on or not; he shouldn't have been saying those kinds of things. I also thought it was odd that he would be criticizing Senator Obama for endorsing and embracing the faith-based initiatives started under this administration. I'm a big believer, you can see in New Orleans and Louisiana, the faith -based groups, not for profit, private businesses have done such a better job than the government in helping these people restart their lives. I think that's something both parties should be embracing.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: […] somebody has called you America's most transformational governor. That somebody is Newt Gingrich. Somebody pretty powerful in the Republican Party. Are you the future?

JINDAL: That's very kind for Newt, the speaker, to say that. We've focused on core conservative principles, cut six taxes, revamped the ethics code, it's one of the strongest ethics codes in the country, revamping work force development so our people can get jobs, we guarantee they'll be ready to work, we'll retrain them for free, we've cut government spending, cut the number of government jobs by a thousand. We've been in office for six months. **We're doing what we promised the voters we'd do. Which is applying conservative principles. It's not rocket science. Republicans lost the majority in congress because we stopped doing what we told the voters we'd do. In a way the party went native. They went to DC to change DC and instead were changed by DC.**

DOOCY: […] I want to ask you about something […], the fisa thing, and even though through the primary he said I'm going to filibuster, I don't like that telecom immunity, yesterday he voted for it, this in a string of flip-flops. We had Rudy Giuliani on, and he said it's because the guy doesn't have a lot of experience, and he's trying to move to the middle. What do you think?

JINDAL: I think it was right to vote for the fisa bill. […] In terms of all the positions on Iran, the gun ban. One of the things that I respect about senator McCain, I don't agree with him on every position, but at least you know where he stands. He sticks with them. Voters are looking for authenticity. I think it's going to be very important for voters to look at both candidates and say who's the one that's going to do what they're saying and stick to their principles. This is going to become an increasingly important differentiation. […]

Highlight #3
McCain Gets Awkward About the Viagra Issue (MSNBC, 07/10/08, 8:00am)
REPORTER: Insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control.

MCCAIN: I certainly don't want to discuss that issue.

REPORTER: It was unfair that health insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control. Do you have an opinion on that?

[awkward 8 second pause]

MCCAIN: **I don't know enough about it to give you an informed answer.**

Highlight #4
Bob Shrum Discusses Major Problems in the Republican Party for November (MSNBC 07/10/08 07:43am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Hold on a second, I mean, **Colombian rebels in the mountains of Colombia are more unified than the Republican Party right now.** So that is a very very low standard.

BOB SHRUM: Look at what he's done! He's doing the opposite of what Nixon said. Nixon said, you run to the right in the primaries, you run to the center in the general. Because he has the nomination in numbers but not in spirit, enthusiasm, and the heart of the Republican Party, he's still running to the right.

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[…]

SCARBOROUGH: Bob, what's happening right now with the polls? Everything's going badly for the Republicans. John McCain's run an uninspired campaign. As Pat Buchanan brought up, in this stage in 1976, which was a similar environment for republicans, Jimmy Carter was up by what? 30 points? What's happening where Obama's up 2, 3, 4 points? Why's is still so close?

SHRUM: I think it's a lot like the 1980 election. Pat actually wrote a column the other day that suggested this. I haven't seen it yet, but we talked about this, and he's absolutely right. All of the objective indices point toward a big democratic victory. I think it'll all break in the last couple of weeks if it doesn't break before during the debates. **But unless Obama makes a big mistake, I think he's going to be president. […]**

SCARBOROUGH: Isn't that the key here? The debate? I've said from the beginning of this matchup that **Americans are going to decide the first few minutes of the first debate, either Barack Obama is too young and inexperienced to be president, or John McCain is too old and tired to be president.**

Highlight #5
Leno Mocks McCain's Speech for Latino Conference (NBC, 07/09/08, 11:30pm)
JAY LENO: You know I love this. McCain spoke to a gather of Latino voters yesterday, and they all do this, I always love when they pander to one particular ethnic group. And you can see that McCain was really playing to the crowd. Listen carefully here.

[McCain clip edited with latino accent]

[…]

Highlight #6
McCain's Oil Obsession Evident in Local West Virginia News Interview (WOWK-WV 13-ABC 07/09/08 7:39pm)
MARTINA BILLS: […] Talk a little bit about how you plan to win both of these states, I know both of them are a little different, but both are so important.

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, this is a great challenge. Both states are the heartland of America. Coal is a very big asset in both states. I want to invest 2 billion dollars a year in clean coal technology. America sits on the world's largest supply of coal. And that is the key part of our energy future. So we need clean coal technology. And we need to develop it fast. And then we can be independent of foreign oil. I want to keep taxes low, I want to help with education. There's a number of issues. But specifically, West Virginia and Ohio, with their vast deposits of oil, of coal! I keep saying oil. Cause we got to become oil independent. We got to make clean coal technology part of our energy future.

BILLS: And about education, I know one women mentioned it downstairs, no child left behind. It works, but it obviously needs more help.

MCCAIN: Needs to be fixed. We authorized it some years ago, it's time to review it, fix it, and move forward. But choice and competition is still important. And I'd like to say that I still think it's a good thing, that we're able to compare our sixteen year olds performance with that of a sixteen year old junior in high school here in Ohio. So I think there's some good things, but, we need to fix it.

BILLS: The economy, obviously, that was one of your main focuses downstairs today. We have so many, you know, working class here. Working poor as well. Talk a little bit about how your plan can help all those people. Especially the working poor.

MCCAIN: Yeah, we've got to get jobs for them. That's the whole thing, jobs, and jobs, and jobs. We've got to give them a child tax credit that's $7,000 dollars instead of $3,500. We've got to have education and training programs based in our community colleges. That's the strongest part of our education, to get them into jobs. Right now, it's just with some of the coal people in West Virginia, that also are in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, are these areas where there's a lot of coal. They said they're having trouble finding coal miners to train and work, and do some of the work in the coal mining industry. I want us to have training and education programs to supply those increased workers in coal because there's going to be increased workers. We have to keep taxes low. If you raise taxes, as Senator Obama wants to do, then we are going to harm the economy further. These are tough times, there are better days ahead of us. But these are tough times and we have to have a plan of action for the American people so that they can have a brighter future, which I'm convinced they can.

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BILLS: And you did also mention that you will be back in Ohio. Is that the same for West Virginia, and obviously Kentucky, we cover all three so.

MCCAIN: You know, I love Kentucky, and I was in Inez, Kentucky not that long ago. It's also true that it's a great state and I have to campaign there. But I also have to focus a lot of attention on West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, these are states that are probably be also swing states. So you can see a lot of me, you're going to see a lot of me in the heartland of America. Riding around on the bus, going to small town, and having a great time.

BILLS: One other thing, you know, West Virginia supported Clinton all the way. And you hear, you know, we don't want Obama, those democrats say, some of them say they'll vote for you. How do you feel about that when you hear that because of what happened with the primaries?

MCCAIN: I need the votes of republicans, independents, and the old and new quote "Reagan democrats". I need their votes. I need that of people who cherish the second amendment. I need those who are working men and women who are having tough times right now, so that I can assure them of a better future. And I will invest 2 billion dollars a year in research and development for clean coal technologies, which part of West Virginia's future is important, as well as in Pennsylvania and Ohio. So, I'll do, I'll work hard, and I'll campaign hard. And I think I can win in West Virginia, but I think it's, I'm the underdog. I got a lot of work to do.

Highlight #7
Small Business Owners Welcome McCain while others in Charleston Protest him at Gas Stations (ABC13: 07/09/08 06:13pm)
DEE DELANCEY: These small business owners support John McCain for President.

DAVID TYSON: Senator Obama also proposes increases in dividend and capital gains taxes. His proposal to eliminate the social security earnings cap and tax on the employers will hurt small business. Which is the backbone of the West Virginia economy.

MIKE EMERSON: If Senator McCain becomes the President of the United States I believe he will keep taxes low which will allow us to continue to hire people here in this region.

DELANCEY: John McCain's visit to the Tri-State was directed at economic problems, specifically in dealing with small businesses. Small business owner Chris Alford says when your talking about the future of small business you're also talking about the future of families.

CHRIS ALFORD: If we close our doors we are all going to be looking else where for jobs. We all have employees under us, we not only have our families but the families of our employees.

NANCY CARTMILL: His interest here is in small businesses at well. […] He's very caring about those folks who are really the backbone of this country.

DELANCEY: Some say the McCain plan will create jobs and stimulate the economy.

[…]

REPORTER: Late this afternoon a rally for an oil free president was held in Charleston. **Organizers say the purpose of this event is to highlight Senator John McCain's record of protecting oil company profits at a time of record high gasoline prices. Protestors staged the rally near local gas stations.**

MARTHA MILLS: John McCain has huge, huge ties to Big Oil. It's insane. He has 31 people he's closely tied to that are affiliated with big oil.

REPORTER: Approximately 200 similar rallies were held all over the United States today.

Highlight #8
Local Ohio News Covers McCain (ABC-WCHS-OH, 07/09/08, 11:00pm)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh I though he did an excellent job. I though he covered a lot of the issues that are prevalent in our area.

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ATISH BAIDYA: McCain touched on issues from the economy to energy independence. For some of the voters here in Portsmouth, the economy is their number one concern.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: He mentioned small businesses and with regard to taxes I think that that is important. I think that he has the right attitude with regard to

…

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think that national security, his concern for national security for me is. I served in the second war and the Korean war and to me it was most important

…

AUDIENCE MEMBER: They are concerned that with as many times as Senator McCain has reached across the aisle that he might not be a true conservative. So I was looking to see if he was willing to use venues to reach out to them because that is a critical area for him in this campaign.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "'Mandy Grunwald' via HRCRapid" <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 8:53:13 AM
Subject: Re: Quick roundup of media tweets about the Medium post

Great.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Apr 23, 2015, at 3:50 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

H/t Jesse L for compiling

Gabriel Debenedetti, POLITICO @gdebenedetti
Team Clinton's aggressive response, in 3 @brianefallon notes:
1. http://politi.co/1zK4vyk
2. http://politi.co/1I0F1nk
3. http://bit.ly/1I0EYrH

Dan Merica, CNN @danmericaCNN
Brian Fallon, the Clinton campaign's spokesman, uses @Medium to push back against today's NYT/Clinton Cash story. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Alex Seitz-Wald, MSNBC @aseitzwald
Clinton spox @brianefallon gives lengthy rebuttal to NYT uranium story on @Medium. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Liz Kreutz, ABC News @ABCLiz
Clinton team fights back on NYT story & "Clinton Cash" (on Medium)
[Retweeted Brian Fallon]

Zeke Miller, TIME @ZekeJMiller
.@brianefallon takes to Medium to challenge NYT reporting on anti-Clinton book https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Emily Schultheis, National Journal @emilyrs
Clinton camp responds to NYT story, via spokesman @brianefallon on Medium: https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Mark Murray, NBC News @mmurraypolitics
Clinton campaign issues rebuttal to NYT article, arguing there was no quid-pro-quo in Russia uranium deal https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal
Summary of Clinton statement on NYT story:
1) HRC wasn't direclty involved in review
2) one donor actually had no stake in the company 1/3
…
Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal
3) another key donor says he didn't speak to the clintons about it,
4) the state dept was just 1 of 9 agencies involved in review (2/3)
…

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Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal
5) and Clinton was no longer sec state when the deal was finalized (3/3) https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Katherine Miller, BuzzFeed @katherinemiller
Brian Fallon push back on NYT
https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Phil Mattingly, Bloomberg @Phil_Mattingly
.@brianefallon gets into the @Medium game, launches Clinton campaign pushback on Foundation story https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Paul Lewis, The Guardian @PaulLewis
Hillary Clinton's spokesman's five-punch retaliation against the New York Times over its foundation reporting:
https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Justin Sink, The Hill @justinsink
Clinton campaign spox @brianefallon is pulling a @danpfeiffer and using @Medium to push back on NYT story
https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

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To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/2/2015 1:07:48 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday February 2, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday February 2, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Articles:

Washington Post: "GOP presidential contenders travel the globe in preparation to take on Clinton"

"GOP leaders and strategists consider foreign policy a weakness of President Obama's tenure and therefore a potential vulnerability for Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate who helped carry out Obama's first-term foreign policy as secretary of state. Many contenders have been attacking Clinton."

Wall Street Journal: "Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch"

"Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus."

CNN: "Clinton advisers are split on when Hillary Clinton should launch her campaign"

"The liberal superPAC American Bridge has been countering Republican attacks on Clinton's behalf but many Democrats think it's no substitute for a campaign messaging operation. 'They're doing terrific research,' said one, 'but they don't know what her specific policy agenda is going to be. She should get in and start putting together a substantive policy agenda so the attacks that are going to begin to come from every single republican who is jumping in to the race can be answered.'"

New Republic: "Elizabeth Warren Supporters: Hillary Clinton Is 'Republican Lite' and 'Completely Unacceptable'"

"Though the organizers asked participants to avoid trash-talking Clinton, Carl opened the meeting by calling for more than 'a coronation' in the Democratic primary."

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New York Times: "U.S. Considers Supplying Arms to Ukraine Forces, Officials Say"

"Michèle A. Flournoy, a former senior Pentagon official who is a leading candidate to serve as defense secretary if Hillary Rodham Clinton is elected president, joined in preparing the report."

Bloomberg: "Obama's $4 Trillion Budget Sets Up Fight with Congress"

"Addressing income inequality has become a mantra for Democrats from Obama to 2016 presidential nomination front-runner Hillary Clinton, and some of the Republican contenders have taken up the issue as well."

Articles:

Washington Post: "GOP presidential contenders travel the globe in preparation to take on Clinton"

By Philip Rucker and Anne Gearan

February 1, 2015, 3:35 p.m. EST

LONDON — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is here in the United Kingdom, where he said he looks forward to getting reacquainted with Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal recently returned from a European tour during which he assailed Hillary Rodham Clinton for her "mindless naivete." And next week, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is due in London for an overseas trip of his own.

Republican presidential hopefuls are busy auditioning on the world stage ahead of the 2016 campaign, trying to bolster their résumés and develop expertise as their party seizes on foreign affairs as a key theme in its effort to reclaim the White House.

GOP leaders and strategists consider foreign policy a weakness of President Obama's tenure and therefore a potential vulnerability for Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate who helped carry out Obama's first-term foreign policy as secretary of state. Many contenders have been attacking Clinton. Before bowing out last week, Mitt Romney called the Obama administration "timid" and accused Clinton of acting "cluelessly."

Yet many of the Republican Party's rising stars — like Romney, its 2012 nominee — are governors with scant international exposure, so they are acting quickly to try to gain credibility.

Enter Christie, whose London visit is his fourth foreign trip as governor, following tours of Canada, Israel and Mexico. Ahead of official meetings that begin here Monday, Christie took in a soccer match Sunday afternoon. As he exited the gleaming Emirates Stadium, bundled up on a frigid afternoon with Arsenal's red-and-white team scarf, Christie said he was excited about nurturing relationships with British officials.

Michael E. O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said talking about foreign affairs reveals a presidential candidate's character, communications skills and decision-making style. While domestic issues "concern budgets, detailed lawmaking, cooperation with Congress and technical matters," he said, "foreign affairs are in some ways simpler. It's about how to handle bad guys, how to protect the country, and how to convey confidence and purpose."

Like Christie, most of the other Republican White House hopefuls have articulated hawkish views in line with their party's traditional orthodoxy,

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though a divergent and more isolationist view has emerged within the party's libertarian wing represented by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

Any Republican candidate would face an unusual challenge in drafting national security platforms in opposition to Clinton. As a senator and 2008 presidential candidate, Clinton developed a record and reputation as a foreign policy hawk that would complicate or head off the traditional GOP argument about Democratic weakness on security issues.

Nearly two years out from the next presidential election, the contenders have yet to present specifics beyond sketching out their worldviews. It also is unclear how much foreign affairs will shape the campaign. If the economy continues to improve, the public's attention could turn beyond the U.S.'s borders. And as always, world events that may not be foreseen, such as a terrorist attack, could set the agenda.

"Foreign policy could end up playing a minimal role on both sides, or it could end up playing a fairly large role, and I think the honest answer is nobody knows at this point," said Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, whom several presidential candidates have consulted.

Regardless, he said, it is important for candidates to "kick some tires around the world." He added: "You don't want to make a mistake which would raise questions about your readiness for the job."

So it is that would-be Republican candidates have been traveling the globe — many of them under the guise of trade missions to promote economic development for their states on trips paid with public funds.

The visits usually include meetings with foreign government and business officials as well as cultural stops. In England, Christie is sitting down with Cameron but also will see a rehearsal of William Shakespeare's "Henry V" at Shakespeare's historic Globe Theatre.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry has traveled overseas repeatedly since his failed 2012 presidential campaign, including visits last year to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and to China, Japan and several Eastern European nations.

Israel is a popular spot for many prospective candidates. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence spent Christmas in Jerusalem, where he met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee is leading a tour there later this month. For $5,250 a person, guests can join Huckabee for meetings with senior Israeli officials and tours of Holy Land sites, including swimming in the Dead Sea.

Other presidential hopefuls have a more natural footing in such areas. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), through his service on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has made many trips abroad and has been at the center of U.S. foreign policy debates, recently over Obama's move to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Although many Republicans say their party should turn to a governor as its standard-bearer, Rubio argues that his national-security experience in the Senate is a more valuable commodity than an executive background.

"You can't have middle-class prosperity if your national security is threatened," Rubio told reporters in January. "So the next president needs to be someone that has a clear view of what's happening in the world, a clear strategic vision of America's role in it, and a clear tactical plan for how to engage America in global affairs."

It could be difficult for Republicans to cast Clinton as too weak on foreign policy, considering she earned the vocal admiration of many hawkish senators when she served alongside them.

As the county's top diplomat, Clinton carried out an Obama foreign policy that Republicans attacked as overly deliberative, but as a candidate to succeed him, she can show evidence that she would have taken tougher positions.

One example is Syria, where Clinton favored earlier and stronger military help for beleaguered rebels. She also holds a deeply skeptical view of Russian power, and despite the failure of the policy "reset" with Moscow, it will be difficult for Republicans to paint her as naive.

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Clinton would have a harder time showing how she would have made different choices in other areas, including in the current struggle to counter Islamic State rebels. Harder still for Clinton may be the lingering taint of the deadly assaults on two U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya, in her final months at the State Department.

Clinton has said she bears ultimate responsibility for Benghazi and has called it the greatest regret of her tenure. But she has denied any knowledge of the circumstances leading up to the armed attacks by extremists or any direct role in responding to them.

Multiple investigations have revealed bureaucratic and safety problems but no high-level malfeasance. Still, the deaths of four Americans on her watch is a political vulnerability that undermines Clinton's image as an industrious and efficient executive.

With unrest across the world, Republicans believe foreign policy could be a winning campaign theme.

"Republicans want this to be an issue," said Kori Schake, a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and an official in George W. Bush's administration. "If Hillary Clinton is a candidate, she will argue she's a steady set of hands — you know, the 3 a.m. phone call — so Republicans will need to be strong on foreign policy."

Wall Street Journal: "Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch"

By Peter Nicholas

February 1, 2015, 7:38 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Lineup of Experts and Topics Discussed Offer Hints About a Focus on the Middle Class in a Possible Presidential Campaign

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

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Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the “Volcker Rule,” a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats’ liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton’s tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans’ retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

“One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that,” said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as “rigged” in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won’t run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren’s liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a “tour” of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia’s incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a “strategic” view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton’s campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

“She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics” said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. “Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote.”

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CNN: "Clinton advisers are split on when Hillary Clinton should launch her campaign"

By Brianna Keilar

February 2, 2015

This time eight years ago, when she first ran for president, Hillary Clinton was already officially a candidate.

"I'm in it to win it," she said in a YouTube video posted on January 21, 2007.

But even though a second Hillary Clinton for president campaign is all but certain, she and those close to her are debating when she should jump in the race, potentially delaying her entry by months.

There is no waiting for Republicans, who are engaged in a furious behind-the-scenes scramble for advisers and donors. Mitt Romney, Republicans' nominee in 2012, announced Friday he would bow out after just three weeks on the presidential speculation treadmill. Three Republican senators, two current governors and one former governor have all made active moves toward campaigns.

There could be ten or more Republican candidates by this summer. That might be when Hillary Clinton gets around to officially moving toward a campaign, if she heeds some confidantes, who are privately arguing for an announcement in July to coincide with the start of the third fundraising quarter. Delaying until the summer is an idea that is said to be gaining momentum against those who want to stick to the plan for an April start date.

The possibility of the delay is very real but still unsettled.

"I would say it's 40 percent," in the direction of those arguing for a delay, said one Democrat who supports a spring debut for Clinton's presidential campaign. Another Democrat who saw merits in both time lines put the odds of a delay at 50 percent.

Democrats on both sides of the debate spoke to CNN on the condition of anonymity so they could make their case without upsetting Clinton or those close to her for talking openly about internal deliberations.

Some Clinton loyalists worry that as the increasingly crowded Republican race heats up, the attacks on her could begin to stick without an apparatus in place to answer them.

The liberal superPAC American Bridge has been countering Republican attacks on Clinton's behalf but many Democrats think it's no substitute for a campaign messaging operation.

"They're doing terrific research," said one, "but they don't know what her specific policy agenda is going to be. She should get in and start putting together a substantive policy agenda so the attacks that are going to begin to come from every single republican who is jumping in to the race can be answered."

The Democratic National Committee is beginning to take on a larger role in an effort to protect Clinton and the party brand but many Democrats are concerned even that won't be enough.

Other supporters want Clinton to lay low as the Republican field heats up, convinced Clinton will avoid some fire if she's undeclared and GOP candidates will take aim at each other instead.

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"Never interrupt your opponent when it's destroying itself. That event in Iowa - nobody hated that more than [RNC chairman] Reince Priebus," said one Democrat, referring to the recent Iowa Freedom Summit, the first GOP cattle call for prospective candidates of many Republican presidential hopefuls (though noticeably neither Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney nor Rand Paul) attended. "Let's get Sarah Palin out there, let's get Donald Trump out there - the whole clown car."

Some Democrats believe it's also in Clinton's best interest to wait until President Obama, whose approval ratings have begun to rebound, becomes more popular, since a campaign by his former secretary of state will undoubtedly be seen as an extension of his presidency. It's a view shared by many at the White House who eye the entry of Clinton into the 2016 contest as the beginning of Obama's lame duck phase.

But if Clinton waits, could run the risk of looking like she's taking the Democratic nomination for granted.

"The American people don't like to see a candidate assume that something is theirs for the taking," warned one Clinton supporter.

"If [Hillary Clinton] is trying to avoid a coronation it really is a terrible way to go about it. It sends a message that we don't have to campaign in the primaries." said a Democratic operative in Iowa, who warned it leaves an opening. "It really does require another candidate to fill that void"

And so far, no one has.

Vice President Joe Biden, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Senator Jim Webb and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders have all made the trek to Iowa in the last year, but none are being particularly agressive in recruiting staff or taking on Clinton.

"O'Malley hired one staff member the other day and that's all anyone is talking about," said the Iowa operative of the unusually quiet political scene in the early state. "It's kinda weird."

In 2008, Clinton's air of inevitability was off putting to many voters. Clinton and her advisers have been looking to avoid it this time around.

But without an insurgent, Obama-like candidate waiting in the wings (Clinton insiders are now pretty much convinced that populist darling and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren won't run, despite initial concerns she could mount a serious challenge from the left), many loyalists argue Clinton is safe to wait.

"If she's out there working hard, making her case, speaking to voters, that's what's going to matter," said a Washington-based Clinton backer who thinks a delayed campaign launch could benefit her.

It won't benefit her campaign coffers, however.

"Money will not flow until she's actually running," said one Democrat who cited powerful donor support for a Clinton run but acknowledged, "People don't give that kind of money on speculation."

The numerous Clinton loyalists interviewed for this piece admit there are arguments for both timelines. But perhaps the most important factor in deciding when to jump in the race is Hillary Clinton's personal inclination to put off campaigning.

The last time she ran for president, she entered the race in January 2006, almost two years before the election. The Democratic primary contest turned into a bruising slog that she is not eager to repeat.

"You can't dance in that spotlight for two years," a Clinton loyalist said. "She's not Rand Paul, she's the most famous woman on earth and every move is scrutinized."

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New Republic: "Elizabeth Warren Supporters: Hillary Clinton Is 'Republican Lite' and 'Completely Unacceptable'"

By Claire Groden

February 1, 2015

Elizabeth Warren wants you to know that she really isn't planning to run for president. She said so in an interview with NPR's Steve Inskeep last month, when she repeated at least four times, "I am not running for president." She told the same thing to The Washington Post's Ruth Marcus: "I am not running. I think I am being definitive." And when Fortune asked her in January: "No."

Her supporters are not convinced. In a promotional video for Run Warren Run, a group dedicated to getting Warren on the 2016 presidential ballot, the senator is shown being asked the same question—but the scene cuts before she can answer the usual no. This Sunday, just hours before the Super Bowl, more than 20 people trickled into a windowless basement room of Washington, D.C.'s Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. Like more than 200 other meetings that convened across the country through Run Warren Run, the group strategized how to convince the Massachusetts senator to say yes.

"I've heard questions before, like, 'I heard that she's not running,'" one of the organizers, who asked to go only by his first name, Carl, said. "But they all say they're not going to run before they run." For many in the room, it's Warren's hesitance to self-promote that has won her so much respect.

Though the organizers asked participants to avoid trash-talking Clinton, Carl opened the meeting by calling for more than "a coronation" in the Democratic primary. Participants said that the sense of Clinton's inevitability was a threat to the democratic process, and described Clinton as "Republican lite," "in the pocket of big business," and "completely unacceptable." Zephyr Williams, a graduate student at American University, explained her wariness with establishment politicians. "I can imagine it's difficult to avoid selling out when you've been in politics for as long as Hillary has," she said, underlining what many in the group saw as Warren's key strength as an outsider to politics. Others criticized Clinton for her hawkish foreign policy and support amongst Wall Street bankers.

Participants praised Warren as a "fighter" for the middle class, waging war against Wall Street even at the expense of her own party. Many progressives cheered for Warren when she scuttled President Obama's renomination of former Lazard banker Antonio Weiss to a top Treasury Department post. Warren's bill to help students refinance their loans, which was blocked in the Senate in September, also placed her on the radar screens of many young Democrats. Part of the Run Warren Run's strategy is to raise awareness of the senator, since many voters aren't as familiar with Warren as they are with Clinton. "To know Elizabeth Warren is to love her," said one meeting attendee.

So far, polls have shown Clinton far outpacing any other Democratic challengers in the polls, and Politico reported that the frontrunner is considering delaying her campaign, since her campaign sees no serious contender in the ranks. But in September, a WSJ/NBC poll found that only 43 percent of voters viewed Clinton favorably, compared to 41 percent who had negative views. In the Run Warren Run meeting, a retired teacher named Jeanne Castro said that she felt torn between voting for Clinton and Obama in the 2008 presidential primary. Castro wanted to vote for Clinton because she wanted to see a woman in the White House, but "Hillary never moved me," she said. "Warren, she touched me."

In a November poll conducted by the progressive organization Democracy for America, Warren emerged as the favored candidate with 42 percent, beating out Clinton by 19 percentage points. But among those who showed up for the Run Warren Run event, a few said they still expected Clinton to win. Would they vote for Clinton if Warren doesn't run? Tom Hunter, a 59-year-old on long-term disability, chuckled. "Yeah, of course I would vote for Hillary."

New York Times: "U.S. Considers Supplying Arms to Ukraine Forces, Officials Say"

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By Michael R. Gordon and Eric Schmitt

February 1, 2015

WASHINGTON — With Russian-backed separatists pressing their attacks in Ukraine, NATO's military commander, Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, now supports providing defensive weapons and equipment to Kiev's beleaguered forces, and an array of administration and military officials appear to be edging toward that position, American officials said Sunday.

President Obama has made no decisions on providing such lethal assistance. But after a series of striking reversals that Ukraine's forces have suffered in recent weeks, the Obama administration is taking a fresh look at the question of military aid.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who plans to visit Kiev on Thursday, is open to new discussions about providing lethal assistance, as is Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, officials said. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who is leaving his post soon, backs sending defensive weapons to the Ukrainian forces.

In recent months, Susan E. Rice, Mr. Obama's national security adviser, has resisted proposals to provide lethal assistance, several officials said. But one official who is familiar with her views insisted that Ms. Rice was now prepared to reconsider the issue.

Fearing that the provision of defensive weapons might tempt President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia to raise the stakes, the White House has limited American aid to "non-lethal" items, including body armor, night-vision goggles, first aid kits and engineering equipment.

But the failure of economic sanctions to dissuade Russia from sending heavy weapons and military personnel to eastern Ukraine is pushing the issue of defensive weapons back into discussion.

"Although our focus remains on pursuing a solution through diplomatic means, we are always evaluating other options that will help create space for a negotiated solution to the crisis," said Bernadette Meehan, a spokeswoman for the National Security Council.

Fueling the broader debate over policy is an independent report to be issued Monday by eight former senior American officials, who urge the United States to send $3 billion in defensive arms and equipment to Ukraine, including anti-armor missiles, reconnaissance drones, armored Humvees and radars that can determine the location of enemy rocket and artillery fire.

Michèle A. Flournoy, a former senior Pentagon official who is a leading candidate to serve as defense secretary if Hillary Rodham Clinton is elected president, joined in preparing the report. Others include James G. Stavridis, a retired admiral who served as the top NATO military commander, and Ivo Daalder, the ambassador to NATO during Mr. Obama's first term.

"The West needs to bolster deterrence in Ukraine by raising the risks and costs to Russia of any renewed major offensive," the report says. "That requires providing direct military assistance — in far larger amounts than provided to date and including lethal defensive arms."

In his State of the Union address last month, Mr. Obama noted that the sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies had hurt the Russian economy.

But American officials acknowledge that Russia has repeatedly violated an agreement, reached in Minsk in September. The agreement called for an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine, the removal of foreign forces and the establishment of monitoring arrangements to ensure that the border between Ukraine and Russia would be respected.

In recent weeks, Russia has shipped a large number of heavy weapons to support the separatists' offensive in eastern Ukraine, including T-80 and T-72 tanks, multiple-launch rocket systems, artillery and armored personnel carriers, Western officials say.

Some of the weapons are too sophisticated to be used by hastily trained separatists, a Western official said. NATO officials estimate that about 1,000 Russian military and intelligence personnel are supporting the separatist offensive while Ukrainian officials insist that the number is much

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higher.

Supported by the Russians, the separatists have captured the airport at Donetsk and are pressing to take Debaltseve, a town that sits aside a critical rail junction.

All told, the separatists have captured 500 square kilometers — about 193 square miles — of additional territory in the past four months, NATO says. The assessment of some senior Western officials is that the Kremlin's goal is to replace the Minsk agreement with an accord that would be more favorable to the Kremlin's interests and would leave the separatists with a more economically viable enclave.

The administration's deliberations were described by a range of senior Pentagon, administration and Western officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were talking about internal discussions.

A spokesman for General Breedlove declined to comment on his view on providing defensive weapons, which was disclosed by United States officials privy to confidential discussions.

"General Breedlove has repeatedly stated he supports the pursuit of a diplomatic solution as well as considering practical means of support to the government of Ukraine in its struggle against Russian-backed separatists," the spokesman, Capt. Gregory L. Hicks of the Navy, said. But a Pentagon official familiar with the views of General Dempsey and Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said they believed the issue of defensive weapons should be reconsidered.

"A comprehensive approach is warranted, and we agree that defensive equipment and weapons should be part of that discussion." the Pentagon official said.

Russian casualties remain an unusually delicate political issue for Mr. Putin, who has denied that Russian troops have been ordered to fight in Ukraine.

The report by Ms. Flournoy and the other former officials argues that the United States and its allies should capitalize on this fact to dissuade the Russians and the separatists from expanding their offensive.

"One of the best ways to deter Russia from supporting the rebels in taking more territory and stepping up the conflict is to increase the cost that the Russians or their surrogates would incur," Ms. Flournoy said in an interview.

The current stock of Ukrainian anti-armor missiles, the report notes, is at least two decades old, and most of them are out of commission. So the report recommends that the United States provide the Ukrainian military with light anti-armor missiles, which might include Javelin antitank missiles.

"Providing the Ukrainians with something that can stop an armored assault and that puts at risk Russian or Russian-backed forces that are in armored vehicles, I think, is the most important aspect of this," she added.

The Obama administration has provided radars that can locate the source of mortars. But the report urges the United States to also provide radars that can pinpoint the location of longer-range rocket and artillery fire. Enemy rocket and artillery attacks account for 70 percent of the Ukrainian military's casualties, the report says.

Ukraine, the report notes, also needs reconnaissance drones, especially since the Ukrainian military has stopped all flights over eastern Ukraine because of the separatists' use of antiaircraft missiles supplied by Russia.

The report also urged the United States to provide military communications equipment that cannot be intercepted by Russian intelligence.

Poland, the Baltic States, Canada and Britain, the report says, might also provide defensive weapons if the United States takes the lead.

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The report was issued jointly by the Atlantic Council, the Brookings Institution and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The other officials who prepared it are Strobe Talbott, who served as deputy secretary of state in the Clinton administration; Charles F. Wald, a retired Air Force general who served as deputy commander of the United States European Command; Jan M. Lodal, a former Pentagon official; and two former ambassadors to Ukraine, John Herbst and Steven Pifer.

Bloomberg: "Obama's $4 Trillion Budget Sets Up Fight with Congress"

By Jonathan Allen

February 2, 2015, 6:00 a.m. EST

President Barack Obama will send a $4 trillion budget blueprint to Congress today that would raise taxes on corporations and the nation's top earners, fund major investments in infrastructure and education and stabilize, but not eliminate, the annual U.S. budget deficit.

The plan challenges Republicans to make politically thorny choices between defending current tax rates for the wealthy and Obama's proposals to boost spending for the middle class, the Pentagon and companies that build domestic infrastructure.

That's exactly the ground Democrats want to fight on heading into the 2016 elections. Addressing income inequality has become a mantra for Democrats from Obama to 2016 presidential nomination front-runner Hillary Clinton, and some of the Republican contenders have taken up the issue as well.

The budget plan for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 backs up Obama's recent talk about directing assistance to the middle class with tax breaks and programs for education, job training and child care, administration officials said. Rather than dialing back his goals after Republicans expanded their House majority and took control of the Senate in November's midterm elections, the president is pursuing a more aggressive strategy.

Republicans were out with criticism even before the budget documents arrived at the Capitol.

'Envy Economics'

"What I think the president is trying to do here is to, again, exploit envy economics. This top-down redistribution doesn't work," Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "It may make for good politics. It doesn't make for good economic growth."

Congress is under no obligation to follow Obama's budget plan, and most of his major proposals will be ignored by House and Senate Republicans as they form their own blueprint for spending and taxes.

Obama's plans to assist lower- and middle-income taxpayers include underwriting the cost of community college for most students, tripling the child tax credit for families with kids under 5 years old, and creating a $500 "second earner" tax credit for families in which both spouses work. He had more room to do that without adding to the deficit as job creation brings in more tax revenue and the economy keeps expanding.

Democratic Support

"His emphasis is on growing jobs and boosting paychecks, but doing it in a fiscally responsible way," Representative Chris Van Hollen of Maryland,

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the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee, said in an interview Sunday. “He’ll have broad and deep support from Democrats.”

The president’s fiscal plan would result in a 2016 deficit of $474 billion, according to administration officials. The shortfall would represent 2.5 percent of gross domestic product, a level that many economists regard as sustainable, down from a projected 3.2 percent in fiscal 2015. It wouldn’t rise above 2.6 percent of GDP in any year for the next decade under the president’s budget, even as the absolute numbers rise.

Those figures are substantially less that the record $1.4 trillion deficit in 2009, the year Obama took office and the U.S. began pulling out of the worst recession since the Great Depression. The administration projects economic growth for the current year will average 3.1 percent, which is in line with private forecasts.

On the tax front, Obama wants to raise the top rate on capital gains and dividends to 28 percent from 23.8 percent and impose levies on asset transfers at death, closing what the White House calls the “largest capital gains loophole” in the tax code.

Overseas Profits

The president’s plan pits drug and technology companies that keep earnings overseas out of reach of U.S. taxes against firms that build roads, bridges and mass transit systems. He wants to fund $478 billion in infrastructure work over six years in part by applying a 14 percent tax to profits that are parked outside the country.

Obama’s corporate tax plan, which creates a narrow opening to talk about a business tax overhaul with Republicans, includes a 19 percent levy on future foreign earnings for U.S. companies. The administration is no longer insisting that overseas profits be taxed at the 35 percent top U.S. corporate rate.

He’s also setting up a confrontation between Republican defense hawks and spending hawks by offering a $38 billion increase for national security programs over current budget caps in exchange for $37 billion more in discretionary spending for domestic programs. His proposal to relax those spending limits, known as sequestration, would put discretionary spending for fiscal 2016 at $1.091 trillion, which is $74 billion above the limits.

Discretionary Spending

Those discretionary appropriations, both the total amount and the details of how to allocate the money among federal agencies, are what Obama and Congress must agree on to keep the government running past the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

On education, Obama is proposing to make community college free for students who keep their grades up and make progress toward graduation, a plan that’s estimated to cost $60 billion over 10 years.

His budget would also aim at the other end of the educational spectrum, putting an additional $1 billion into Head Start, setting aside $750 million for universal pre-school and expanding access to child care for 1.1 million more children under the age of 4 by 2025, according to a fact sheet released by the White House.

One area that figures to get attention from Congress this year is cybersecurity. In the wake of hacks against banks, Sony and the U.S. postal service, the White House and lawmakers in both parties have been searching for ways to deter attacks, respond to them when they happen, and, in some cases, retaliate.

Obama would spend $14 billion, spread across government agencies, to bolster cybersecurity.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/6/2014 6:27:04 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday September 6, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday September 6, 2014 Roundup:

From @BStrider on Twitter: ".@PaulBegala hangs out w the @CorrectRecord team for happy hour. @davidbrockdc hangs w team, too. #HillaryParty! pic.twitter.com/oaGroztXZM "

Headlines:

National Journal: "Proof That the Left Is Ready for a Clinton Presidential Run"

"Shortly after Paul's remarks, a pro-Clinton 'rapid response' group called Correct The Record circulated a statement attacking the Kentucky senator. They also emailed me personally to (politely) inquire if I might add it to National Journal's story."

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton and Rand Paul Just Kicked Off 2016's Climate Battle"

"'For Rand Paul to dismiss climate change as a national priority is shameful, and is in stark contrast to Hillary Clinton, whose leadership on so many issues, including climate change and fighting terrorism, is critical for our future,' said Adrienne Watson of Correct The Record, which is an arm of the Democratic super PAC American Bridge."

Media Matters for America: "Fox News Provides Rand Paul A Platform To Fabricate Quotes From Hillary Clinton"

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"Fox News offered Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) a platform to attack former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton over the terrorist group known as the Islamic State, raising questions about the network's willingness to be manipulated using unverified quotes in order to harm a potential presidential candidate."

New York Review of Books: Joseph Lelyveld: "Hillary"

"The memoirs of Hillary Clinton have to be viewed, like their author, as a work in progress."

Washington Post blog: WorldViews: "Clinton in Mexico, worried about Russia"

"Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, in a mostly upbeat speech about the state of the world, said Friday that she was 'particularly concerned' about Europe faltering in the face of Russian intimidation."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton Sees ISIS, Ukraine as Central U.S. Worries"

"Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the 'aggressive, hostile' Islamic State and tensions between Russia and Ukraine are her main points of concern overseas, in a speech to graduate students in Mexico City."

MSNBC: "Want to know what Hillary Clinton thinks? Read her book"

"Rather than trying to be a page-turner, the book serves as an official record of Clinton's tenure as secretary of state, with the final few chapters giving Clinton's sanctioned take on some key policy areas."

National Journal: "How Hillary Clinton Once Disappointed Elizabeth Warren on Wall Street Reform"

"On Friday, the Bill Moyers show released a vintage clip of Sen. Elizabeth Warren appearing on the show in 2004. In the video, Warren talks about a prescient meeting with then-first lady Hillary Clinton."

Mother Jones: "Hillary Clinton Praises a Guy With Lots of Blood on His Hands"

[Subtitle:] "In lauding Henry Kissinger, the possible Democratic presidential nominee goes far beyond her usual hawkish rhetoric."

Associated Press: "Clinton Rallies Support For Crist in Governor Race"

"Bill Clinton is lending his political star power to Democrat Charlie Crist, a former Republican governor who is locked in a tight race for his old job in the nation's largest swing state."

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Articles:

[National Journal: "Proof That the Left Is Ready for a Clinton Presidential Run"]

By Ben Geman

September 6, 2014

At midday Friday I posted a short item about GOP Sen. Rand Paul bashing Hillary Clinton over climate change.

Clinton called climate change "the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face." Paul accused Clinton of wanting to battle climate change instead of terrorism.

It was a noteworthy exchange between a pair of potential 2016 contenders, but the disagreement itself is not particularly surprising: Clinton is a longtime proponent of climate action. Paul is a critic of Clinton's and lives on the other side of the partisan divide.

It was what happened next that caught my eye: Shortly after Paul's remarks, a pro-Clinton "rapid response" group called Correct The Record circulated a statement attacking the Kentucky senator. They also emailed me personally to (politely) inquire if I might add it to National Journal's story.

And they weren't alone.

Later in the afternoon, the League of Conservation Voters chimed in with a defense of Clinton's remarks at a green-energy conference Thursdaynight in Nevada, claiming that Paul's response "reflects a profound lack of understanding of how serious a threat" climate change poses.

NextGen Climate, the group backed by billionaire green activist Tom Steyer, also went after Paul for his stance on global warming: "A real threat would come from a science-denier as the leader of the free world."

It remains to be seen whether Clinton will run in 2016—she says she'll decide early next year. But Friday's press flurry demonstrates that environmental groups and others on the left are already circling the wagons behind their potential front-runner. And it's demonstrative of the campaign infrastructure that would be awaiting Clinton the moment she entered the race.

So what did Paul say that set off the green fury?

He attacked Clinton during a Fox News interview about battling the radical Islamist group ISIS, arguing: "For her to be out there saying that the biggest threat to our safety and to our well-being is climate change, I think ... goes to the heart of the matter or whether or not she has the wisdom to lead the country, which I think it's obvious that she doesn't."

That prompted environmentalists to offer reminders of military planners' warnings about the security dimensions of climate change. They said:

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"Rather than repeating tea-party and Koch Brothers talking points to deny the science of climate change, Senator Paul would be better served reading the Department of Defense's latest Quadrennial review, which recognized that the impacts of climate change like extreme weather, drought, and sea-level rise will act as 'threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions—conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence.' "

NextGen Climate, which is billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer's group, also made the military link in a statement titled "Science-Denier-In-Chief Rand Paul Thinks He Knows Better Than the Military."

"Rand Paul, listen to the four-star generals: 16 retired three- and four-star generals and admirals issued a report and identified climate change as a 'catalyst for conflict,' " the group said in a statement.

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton and Rand Paul Just Kicked Off 2016's Climate Battle"

By Ben Geman, Jason Plautz, and Clare Foran

September 5, 2014

HILLARY CLINTON AND RAND PAUL JUST KICKED OFF 2016'S CLIMATE BATTLE. Sen. Rand Paul is attacking Hillary Clinton's Thursday night comments on climate change in what may be a preview of battles during the 2016 presidential-election cycle. Paul on Friday bashed Clinton's claims about the gravity of the threat of climate change, arguing that she's giving too little weight to terrorism. "I don't think we really want a commander in chief who's battling climate change instead of terrorism," Paul, a Kentucky Republican weighing a White House bid, said in a Fox News appearance. Clinton, speaking at a green-energy conference in Nevada, said, "Climate change is the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face." (Ben Geman, National Journal)

CLINTON ALLIES PUSH BACK AGAINST RAND PAUL'S CLIMATE SLAM. The pro-Hillary Clinton group Correct The Record is knocking Sen. Rand Paul for knocking Clinton's comments about climate change (see above). "For Rand Paul to dismiss climate change as a national priority is shameful, and is in stark contrast to Hillary Clinton, whose leadership on so many issues, including climate change and fighting terrorism, is critical for our future," said Adrienne Watson of Correct The Record, which is an arm of the Democratic super PAC American Bridge. The League of Conservation Voters also circulated a statement criticizing Paul. The 2016 battle over climate policy is underway.

FLASHBACK. In her Las Vegas speech, Clinton didn't delve into many specific policies or touch on any controversial topics, although she did back natural-gas drilling as long as the right safeguards are in place. (Jason Plautz, National Journal)

GREEN GROUPS REALIZE THEY GET WHAT THEY PAY FOR. The Washington Post reports that environmental groups are sharply increasing the amount of cash they're pouring into elections. "Environmentalists' deeper involvement in both state and federal campaigns represents, to a large extent, a recognition that legislation curbing greenhouse-gas emissions on a broad scale will remain out of reach for years without a major political shift in Washington and state capitals," the newspaper reports. (Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post)

OZONE POLLUTION WIPED OUT FOOD FOR 94 MILLION—STUDY. Ozone pollution in India damaged enough good crops to cost the country more than a billion dollars and supplies that could have fed tens of millions of impoverished people, according to researchers at the University of California (San Diego)'s Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The study looked at the impact of surface-level ozone pollution in 2005 and found that it damaged 6.7 million U.S. tons of wheat, rice, soybeans, and cotton crops, enough to feed about a third of the country's poor. Read more about the research here.

JEWELL: 'SURPRISING' WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM HASN'T CHANGED NAME. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said it was "surprising" that the Washington Redskins hadn't changed their controversial name, but that it wasn't an issue that tribal leaders had raised with her. "[I]n talking with tribal leaders, this has not been the issue that they have talked about with me, and I think that there is debate, even among the Native American community, on the Washington Redskins, and certainly there are a lot of people who have pride in that team," she said in an interview with ABC News.

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WHAT INSIDERS ARE SAYING

WHERE DOES HILLARY CLINTON STAND ON ENERGY? Did the former secretary of State show her cards on energy policy in her speech at Harry Reid's clean-energy summit? How would a Clinton EPA deal with climate change?

"Some might argue that combating global terrorism as well as Russian and Chinese revanchism pose greater challenges to the planet than climate change. But even accepting Secretary Clinton's premise, one could make the case that America has already taken the lead in pursuing clean energy." – Bernard Weinstein, associate director, Maguire Energy Institute.

Read the full responses from National Journal's Energy Insiders.

HAPPENING MONDAY

MONIZ TALKS ENERGY TRANSPORT. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz participates in a discussion during a Quadrennial Energy Review outreach session on electricity transmission storage and distribution for the eastern electricity interconnection, hosted by the Energy Department's Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis.

ENDANGERED SPECIES HEARING. The House Natural Resources Committee holds a field hearing on "The Northern Long-Eared Bat: The Federal Endangered Species Act and Impacts of a Listing on Pennsylvania and 37 Other States."

CHESAPEAKE BAY SENATE HEARING. The Senate Environment and Public Works Water and Wildlife Subcommittee holds a field hearing on "Examining the Strategy for Achieving the Goals of the New Voluntary Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement."

Media Matters for America: "Fox News Provides Rand Paul A Platform To Fabricate Quotes From Hillary Clinton"

By Alexandrea Boguhn

September 5, 2014, 6:17 p.m. EDT

Fox News offered Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) a platform to attack former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton over the terrorist group known as the Islamic State, raising questions about the network's willingness to be manipulated using unverified quotes in order to harm a potential presidential candidate.

During the September 3 edition of Hannity, Paul joined host Sean Hannity to discuss the threat of the Islamic State to the U.S. After Hannity asked him if IS "has declared war on us," Paul blamed Clinton for the Islamic State's rise, asserting that "in the past, you know, Hillary Clinton has said ISIS is not a threat to the United States."

Fox's Bill Hemmer later hosted Paul on the September 5 edition of America's Newsroom, where Paul again claimed Clinton has "been out there saying that ISIS is not a threat, and so not a threat to America. Those I think were her exact words." After Hemmer asked Paul whether Clinton actually said the terror group was not a threat, Paul was unable to pin down where the alleged quote was from, but responded that it was his "belief" that "a couple of months ago there was a quote saying ISIS was not a threat to America." Hemmer subsequently failed to follow up on Paul's lack of specifics.

Hemmer's question was a critical one for any journalist to ask, but his failure to demand the specific quote and Hannity's total acceptance of Paul's

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claim is troubling. By not pushing for proof of Paul's claim, Fox News is letting itself be used as a conduit for misinformation from one potential presidential candidate to another.

New York Review of Books: Joseph Lelyveld: "Hillary"

By Joseph Lelyveld, executive editor of the New York Times, 1994-2001

September 25, 2014

The memoirs of Hillary Clinton have to be viewed, like their author, as a work in progress. Volume one carried her all the way from her days as a Goldwater girl in Park Ridge, Illinois, to her years as a political lightning rod in the Clinton White House, then finally to the United States Senate, which was never going to be her last stop.* Volume two, picking up the story at the end of her 2008 presidential campaign, recounts her four years at the State Department as what she accurately enough but a tad vaingloriously calls "the chief diplomat of the most powerful nation on earth."

Taken together, the two volumes add up to nearly 1,200 pages, and a third can hardly be ruled out. Passages toward the end of the latest, on building the middle class at home and abroad and restoring the American dream for the twenty-first century, read like early drafts for an acceptance speech at the next Democratic convention. Just possibly, by the time that third volume is written, the first African-American president will have long since given way to the first woman to hold the office; and Hillary and Bill will have spent more time in the White House than Eleanor and Franklin.

If it comes to that, Hard Choices won't be the reason. The book landed with a thud. It's a stiff-jointed, careful performance, assembled by a "book team" of former and present aides from briefing papers, old speeches, town hall transcripts, and interviews. What we get are the highly edited reflections of a prospective candidate: part résumé, designed to reveal the depth of her immersion in global affairs and the extent of her familiarity with the world's great and near great, scores of them (from the Empress of Japan to His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, to Bono); part rampart, designed not to reveal too much.

Here and there, maybe every eighty pages, it's flecked with stabs at wry humor, mostly about her wardrobe and hair. ("How many times, as Senator from New York, did I go on David Letterman's show to deliver a pantsuit joke?" she asks.) Here and there also, flashes of real feeling briefly light up dry recitals of yet another trip, another itinerary. "That drove me crazy," Clinton exclaims over her discovery that there were no schools in a vast Congolese refugee camp she visited. A "senior administration official" invites a blast from the secretary by posing a question about the wound that could be inflicted on Pakistan's sense of national honor by a raid on Osama bin Laden's presumed hideout. "What about our national honor?" the exasperated Clinton shoots back. The senior official—unnamed, of course—is left to absorb this notice that there may not be a place for him (or her) in the next Clinton administration.

This edgy, tough Hillary often stays home in Hard Choices. Her other persona, the exceptionally diligent chief diplomat, escorts us on a literal tour d'horizon through many of the 112 nations she visited while foreign policy was largely being shaped in the White House by the man who defeated her. Republican campaign hirelings engaged in what's called opposition research are likely to read these pages more avidly than casual Clinton adherents who may have difficulty getting past clunky, cursory accounts of how she pulled off a thaw in relations with New Zealand or spoke up for democracy in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Kosovo. The book has few revelations, let alone pleasures. Its gazetteer notes compete with one another for lameness. (The Sinai is "famous for its role in the Bible." Lahore is "full of fantastic Mogul architecture." Copenhagen is "a picturesque city, full of cobblestoned streets.")

Still, there's more here than impressions gathered from a motorcade. This installment of Clinton's memoirs is strewn with clues to the way the odds-makers' favorite for next president thinks about the world and our place in it. Fond as she is of proclaiming "new eras" and "new beginnings," little in her approach reflects new thinking.

Having it both ways, she describes herself as neither an idealist nor a realist in foreign policy but an "idealistic realist," which is to say a "hybrid" (her word). On the evidence here, Hillary Clinton belongs to the Yes…but school on foreign policy whose basic premise boils down to this: Yes, our interventions in other countries don't always or often work out the way we mean them to, but we have to get involved, have to uphold the leadership role history has assigned us, for we are the "indispensable nation." That self-glorifying slogan, usually attributed to Madeleine Albright, Bill Clinton's second secretary of state, rolls easily off her lips: "Everything that I have done and seen has convinced me that America remains the 'indispensable nation.'" No opponent will ever get away with accusing her of not embracing the doctrine of American exceptionalism, a civil religion

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to which every recent president, including Barack Obama, has had to pay homage.

On a swing through North Africa, confronted by a question from a Tunisian lawyer who asks whether she understands why her country is so mistrusted by young people aspiring to democracy, given its compromises with corrupt autocrats who abuse human rights, Clinton gives the Yes…but response. “Yes,” it’s true, she concedes, “We’ve made a lot of mistakes. But I think if you look at the entire historical record, the entire historical record shows we’ve been on the side of freedom, we’ve been on the side of human rights.”

Not to the Tunisian lawyer but in an aside to her readers, almost as if she’s letting them in on a secret, she also says: “America will always do what it takes to keep our people safe and advance our core interests. Sometimes that means working with partners with whom we have deep disagreements.” It’s a proposition she illustrates by conceding that American values were bent in our dependence on the then president of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh: “He was corrupt and autocratic, but he was also committed to fighting al Qaeda and keeping his fractious country together.” He’s our man in Sanaa, at least until we drop him.

She writes of “actual, real-world trade-offs” and acknowledges: “There are always choices we regret, consequences we do not foresee, and alternate paths we wish we had taken.” For instance, in Iran (“a classic Cold War move,” she calls the 1953 coup there), Indochina (Laos paid “a terrible price”), Chile (“a dark chapter”), and Iraq. She ticks off each as blemishes on our sterling record but doesn’t see a pattern. Her hardheaded credo boils down to this: “Making policy is a balancing act. Hopefully we get it more right than wrong.”

The hard choice she regrets most keenly is her vote in the Senate in 2002 authorizing President Bush to use military force in Iraq. She says she took too long to acknowledge that it was a mistake, held out too long “against using the word mistake” during the 2008 primary season. Indirectly, she attributes her defeat to that vote, referring to Obama as “a President who had been elected in part because of his opposition to the war in Iraq and his pledge to end it.”

She also writes about her 2007 vote against the “surge” in Iraq that Bush promoted on the advice of General David Petraeus. But we have to turn to Duty, the recent memoir by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who isn’t running for anything, to find her admission to Obama that the vote had more to do with her need not to be wrong-footed by him in the Iowa caucuses than her real thoughts about Iraq. Politics aside, it seems, she could have supported it. Gates then has the president indicating “vaguely” that the same could have been true of him. As a peace candidate, Gates infers, Obama couldn’t support a strategy for war.

A cold warrior of the old school who spent most of his career in the CIA, Gates harrumphs: “To hear the two of them making these admissions, and in front of me, was as surprising as it was dismaying.” As a moment of truth viewed in retrospect with a measure of candor, it might also be called refreshing.

An earnest-sounding Clinton leads us to believe her conclusions about hard choices have been hard-won. When choices on war and peace are made at the highest level, she writes, it’s necessary to search for “the unintended consequences of every decision.” She says she vowed to do this “with more experience, wisdom, skepticism, and humility.” How this vow played out in strategy sessions in the White House situation room, when she was consulted on major decisions, tells a lot about her instincts and what they say, or imply, about any differences she may have had with the instinctively prudent Barack Obama. By the standards of recent American statecraft, he’s more unconventional, more inclined for better or worse to question the predictable options and the supposedly tried-and-true assumptions behind them.

Faced with a thorny choice—on Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Libya—her own instinct is usually to act in furtherance of America’s “global leadership” role, not abstain. On Afghanistan, for instance, she supports Obama’s 2009 decision to send in a “surge” of 30,000 more troops but wishes he hadn’t capped the number so firmly or publicly committed himself to their withdrawal by the end of this year. But when the Arab Spring sweeps into Cairo’s Tahir Square she’s understandably confounded. It’s Yes…but time again. Mubarak may have been “a heavy-handed autocrat who presided over a corrupt and calcified regime,” but he was “a longtime partner” who “supported peace and cooperation with Israel and hunted terrorists.” Here she advances the best (at least, the normative) thinking of State Department professionals who worry about “other partners” (synonymous with other autocrats) who might “lose trust and confidence in their relationships with us” if we pushed this “key strategic ally” out.

The argument is “unpopular in some quarters of the White House.” This is Clinton’s recurrent narrative trope for a situation in which she finds herself out of sync with the president. In such circumstances, his residence is more likely to be named than he is. Over time, as she explains it, he has evolved in her mind from opponent to partner to the even more exalted rank of personal friend. Of course, he’s also president. She not only writes of their “shared agenda,” but touchingly describes “a lovely, quiet moment” shared in a Cairo mosque, followed by similar stolen moments in a Buddhist temple in Bangkok and the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon. So comfortable have they become in one another’s company that he doesn’t hesitate to nudge her aside at an international summit to whisper, “You’ve got something in your teeth.”

Strains with the disembodied “White House” are frequently ascribed to “younger White House aides” who are invariably nameless. The president is “swayed” when they appeal to his “idealism,” according to the self-described “idealistic realist” who has—at least in this retrospective, inevitably self-serving rendition—a more nuanced view of the forces at work, of the staying power of the pro-democracy demonstrators; still, Obama calls

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on Mubarak to step down.

When a retired former ambassador to Egypt voices an apparently dissenting view about Mubarak after visiting him on behalf of Clinton, Obama phones his secretary of state to complain about “mixed messages.” Clinton explains: “That’s a diplomatic way of saying he took me to the woodshed.”

A longer-lasting, more serious strain was over the role of Richard Holbrooke, Clinton’s choice to oversee diplomatic strategy and tactics in the conflict- ridden region known in State Department jargon as Af-Pak. The freewheeling Holbrooke, credited with ending the war in Bosnia in 1995, never succeeded in getting on the same wavelength as the president (and vice versa). The harder he pushed, the more he tried Obama’s patience. Soon the source of power known as the White House was finding ways to trim his mandate and circumvent him. Increasingly unveiled messages were sent to Clinton to ditch him. She went to Obama to save Holbrooke’s job but it’s not clear in this retelling how forcefully she supported the game plan he was seeking to advance, or indeed what the game plan was beyond drawing the Taliban into a negotiation and sponsoring some kind of détente between the Pakistani military and the government in Kabul.

President Hamid Karzai was convinced that Holbrooke was scheming to undermine him, she says. Clinton considered Karzai “a linchpin of our mission in Afghanistan.” She doesn’t say her chief representative agreed. They didn’t agree on everything. She thought more troops were needed; he didn’t. One time in Pakistan, she tells us, this self-propelled “force of nature” pursued the secretary of state into a ladies’ restroom to continue making a point.

The standoff over the envoy’s role ended in December 2011 with his collapse in Clinton’s office with a torn aorta and death two days later. Our author doesn’t say what thoughts ran through her mind as she listened to Obama’s somewhat wooden, not much more than adequate eulogy at the memorial service in the National Cathedral.

Built to thwart opposition researchers scrounging for vulnerabilities, Hard Choices has more pages on Libya than China, including a whole chapter on Benghazi and the 2012 attack there on the US consulate in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died. House Republicans and Fox News have kept up a clamor on Benghazi ever since in hopes of wounding a presumptive nominee with no discernable challenger in the ranks of her own party. A feisty Clinton shows in these pages that she’s ready for them.

In October 2011, she landed in Tripoli and declared, “I am proud to stand here on the soil of a free Libya.” It was a typical Hillary moment. “Proud” is a favorite word, used to congratulate her audience as well as herself, to bask in a sense of shared accomplishment. But now that Libya has descended into anarchy, with the militias that arose with Western (and Arab) backing to oust Muammar Qaddafi carrying on as local mafias and fighting among themselves, how are we to weigh that accomplishment, that pride? Is this unraveling any business of the United States and its allies? Having intervened once to prevent what was branded a “humanitarian catastrophe,” do we have any residual interest or responsibility there, let alone in Afghanistan or Iraq where, as it happens, we’ve decided we have a new “humanitarian catastrophe” on our hands? So severe was this latest crisis, brought on by the rise of ISIS, that US aircraft had to be sent in for the first time in more than two years to halt the jihadist advance, raising the question: How many times, in how many places, can we reintervene?

From where we now sit, Clinton’s day in Tripoli seems faintly reminiscent of George W. Bush’s “Mission Accomplished” show on a carrier flight deck. More recently, Clinton was off on her book tour when, taking no chances, the snake-bitten State Department transferred its Libya personnel to a temporary station in Tunisia. “When America is absent, extremism takes root,” she warns in her Benghazi chapter. Retreat, she asserts, is “just not in our country’s DNA.” So what would she do now? The best wisdom we can draw from these pages is the self-evident observation that Libya might face “very difficult challenges translating the hopes of a revolution into a free, secure, and prosperous future.” It seems a fair translation to say that that amounts, in present circumstances, to “Good luck, Libya.”

President Obama, more willing to focus on bad results, to try to draw lessons from them, recently told Thomas Friedman in an interview that the time to move on is emphatically not the moment “when everybody is feeling good and everybody is holding up posters saying, ‘Thank you, America.’” That’s when “there has to be a much more aggressive effort to rebuild societies that didn’t have any civic traditions.” The United States and its allies “under-estimated” what would be needed in Libya, he said.

At this point, the discussion threatens to turn circular. Isn’t it possible, even likely, that we wouldn’t have intervened at all if we’d allowed ourselves a more realistic estimate, understood from the start that intervening to the extent we did meant taking on the burden of trying to rebuild a ferociously divided Libya? Wasn’t that one of the many lessons of Iraq?

“Challenges” is another favorite Clinton word. And they are everywhere demanding a response, none more so than Syria. In these pages, she’s respectful of Obama’s deliberative approach but eagerly backs a plan drawn up by David Petraeus, by then heading the CIA, for arming and training certifiably “moderate” Syrian rebels. A cautious Obama asks for “examples of instances when the United States had backed an insurgency that could be considered a success.” No one, it seems, has a ready answer. The idea of success has to be redefined. It’s not to overthrow Bashar al-Assad, Obama is told; it’s to take the initiative away from Qatar and Saudia Arabia, which are “dumping weapons into the country,” in

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order to have “a partner on the ground we could work with.” It was, Clinton writes, “the least bad option among many even worse alternatives.” Leon Panetta, Gates’s successor at the Pentagon, is on her side. “He knew from his own time leading the CIA what our intelligence operatives could do.”

“Some in the White House” are skeptical. They doubt that a credible “moderate” force can be created. It may not be irrelevant that Obama was in the midst of his reelection campaign. In any case, he wasn’t persuaded. “He had promised me,” she writes, “that I would always get a fair hearing. And I always did. In this case, my position did not prevail.”

In her memoir, she presents the choice as a close call, one on which reasonable people could differ. Now, with the launch of her second run for the presidency presumably drawing near and Obama’s poll numbers in the dumps, she views it as having been a no-brainer. “The failure to build up a credible fighting force,” she recently told Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic, left “a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled.” The “least bad option” was always the obvious one to grasp. The former secretary speaks again in the voice of the senator who was proud to serve on the Armed Service Committee, who cultivated top generals, showing that a woman commander in chief could be trusted to command.

She thus aligns herself, at least in one interview, with the commentators for whom Obama’s decision to reject “the least bad option” on Syria stood as proof of his weakness, America’s decline. Now that we see ISIS fighting in Iraq with American weapons seized in armories abandoned by forces we trained, the argument has become muddled. Possibly it takes more strength for a president to reject military intervention when the national security establishment lines up behind it than to give the order everyone is expecting. What seems pretty clear is that Hillary Clinton, experienced and knowledgeable as she now is, wouldn’t be such a president. Like Panetta, she knows what our intelligence operatives can do.

The rollout of Hard Choices hasn’t been helped by the summer’s depressing news feeds from around the world. Vladimir Putin’s reckless, thumb-in-your eye forays in eastern Ukraine began early enough for Clinton to work in a mention of his seizure of Crimea. This suggests that she may have recast other parts of her chapter on Russia, which now is appropriately downbeat. There had been high hopes of a new relationship with Russia, nicknamed “the reset” when Obama reached the White House in 2009. Clinton, who early on staged the jokey presentation of a gift-wrapped “reset button” to her Russian counterpart, now tells us she had only “modest expectations” herself. Leaving office, she advised Obama in what was presumably a highly classified memo that Putin was on a “negative trajectory” and it was now time to hit the “pause button,” to take a tougher line. This was another of those occasions when “not everyone at the White House agreed.” Obama accepted an invitation to a Moscow summit she’d advised him to skip. Months later he “began taking a harder line with Putin” and finally did back out of the Moscow visit. Now it’s important for her to have us (and those pesky opposition researchers) know that she was never taken in, even if that means leaving an impression that the president was a little soft.

Her care in distinguishing her inclinations from Obama’s is even more conspicuous in her pages on the Israelis and Palestinians. As might perhaps be expected of a former senator from New York, she can’t find it in herself to scold Israel over its occupation of the West Bank; in fact, she never uses the word “occupation.” She recognizes the expanding settlements as a political problem, and she pressed hard while in office for a limited construction “freeze,” but says nothing to suggest that the problems posed by existing settlements or the actual conditions on the West Bank—the suffocating overlay of security checks, road blocks, army patrols—offend her sense of fairness or human rights. Of course, like all secretaries of state of the last half-century, she doesn’t mention that Israel never signed the nuclear nonproliferation pact, the treaty we’re rightly pressing Iran to observe. First she says that she feels “personally invested in Israel’s security and success,” then that she’s “someone who cares deeply about Israel’s security and future.”

We get the point. Still, it’s instructive to see how carefully she distances herself from Obama in recounting his difficulties with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The two men repeatedly go to the edge of confrontation while she and the Israeli leader are able to work together as “partners and friends.”

“I learned that Bibi would fight if he felt he was being cornered, but if you connected with him as a friend, there was a chance that you could get something done together.” Someone who was “friending” long before the invention of Facebook, she believes in “building relationships and understanding how and when to use them.” What she gets out of this one is an agreement to extend the freeze on settlement construction for ninety days, except in East Jerusalem, at the cost of an additional $3 billion in military aid. Earlier, when Joe Biden was greeted on a visit to Israel with an announcement of new Jewish construction in the Arab quarter of Jerusalem, a “furious” Obama instructed her to tell Netanyahu that he viewed the provocation “as a personal insult to him, the Vice President, and the United States.” Clinton puts the words in quotes so we understand that they’re the president’s. She delivers the blast but almost seems to excuse herself. “I didn’t like playing bad cop,” she writes, “but it was part of the job.”

Late in 2012, with her time in office running down, she persuades the president to let her fly to the Middle East to see if she can head off a threatened Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. An air campaign is already underway in retaliation for rockets fired into Israel by Hamas. Civilian casualties are rising. “There was no substitute for American leadership,” she argued. She even succeeds in lining up Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood president of Egypt who’ll soon be on his way to jail. A cease-fire is struck, thanks to her “diplomatic intervention.” Now in the summer of 2014, less than two years later, her account of this achievement makes sour reading (no fault of Clinton’s, obviously). Hamas and Israel have been at it again. Another “intervention” is required. Clinton’s successor flies in and out of Cairo, doing what he can through the good offices of Hosni Mubarak’s real successor, Egypt’s latest military ruler.

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Florida's Marco Rubio, twenty-four years her junior, a first-term senator hoping to replicate Obama's 2008 run, recently put Hillary Clinton down as a "twentieth century candidate." She could see this line of attack on her longevity in politics and her age—sixty-nine on Election Day 2016—coming. Having been there in 1992 as well as 2008, she doesn't need to be told that a new face often trumps a long résumé. So she stakes out positions on the near side of the generational line. The last pages of her memoir are crammed with up-to-the-minute references not only to her struggles on behalf of women but also (for eight of those pages) efforts as secretary to inscribe the fraught subject of LGBT rights on the international agenda.

She mentions, too, a push to spread democratic values by offering technological support and smart phones to networking young dissidents around the globe. Of course, if they then rise up against rulers who have been important strategic partners, she could face even more hard choices.

Washington Post blog: WorldViews: "Clinton in Mexico, worried about Russia"

By Joshua Partlow

September 5, 2014, 2:54 p.m. EDT

MEXICO CITY — Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, in a mostly upbeat speech about the state of the world, said Friday that she was "particularly concerned" about Europe faltering in the face of Russian intimidation.

"I do worry about President Putin's view that Russia should dominate its border and intimidate people beyond its borders," Clinton said in a speech in Mexico City.

It was important, she said, that Europe remain whole and stable in the face of this and that Russia should be "persuaded or somehow convinced or coerced into looking towards the future" and not the past.

Clinton was visiting Mexico — on the same day that her potential future presidential opponent New Jersey Gov. Chris Chirstie was wrapping up his three-day visit to the city — to speak at an event hosted by Mexican telecom baron Carlos Slim. Her audience was students who received scholarships from Slim's foundation, and her remarks mostly extolled the virtues of equal rights and hard work.

Clinton didn't spend much time on the relationship between Mexico and the United States except to say that it was "critical" and that "we have to cooperate where we can." Christie's visit, with mostly a business-focused itinerary, has been styled as a humble rookie-diplomat listening tour, while Clinton projected the image of a seasoned stateswoman imparting her wisdom about the world.

She said that Latin America, with its female presidents and prime ministers in places such as Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Jamaica, were a "great example" for the rest of the world.

"Countries that don't have the full participation of girls and women, their economies are not as strong, they are not as stable and democratic," Clinton said. "We've gotten so much further than most of the rest of the world in knocking down barriers."

Clinton said that "obviously" she was thinking about running for president in 2016 but she had not yet made a decision. Attending the event with her were billionaire Mark Zuckerberg, actor Antonio Banderas and former Brazilian soccer star Ronaldinho.

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton Sees ISIS, Ukraine as Central U.S. Worries"

By Anthony Harrup

September 5, 2014, 2:35 p.m. EDT

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the "aggressive, hostile" Islamic State and tensions between Russia and Ukraine are her main points of concern overseas, in a speech to graduate students in Mexico City.

Mrs. Clinton also said she will said she will announce a decision on whether she is running for president "probably after the first of the year."

"Obviously I'm thinking about it, but I haven't made a decision yet," she said.

This is in line with her previous remarks on the subject. In an extended interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer in June, Mrs. Clinton said she would be "well on the way to making a decision" by the end of this year. But in that interview, she added she would not announce a decision until some time in 2015.

In her remarks Friday, Mrs. Clinton said the Middle East and Eastern Europe are her main foreign-policy concerns.

"In the Middle East, the rise of a very aggressive, hostile form of jihadism through the Islamic State which is trying to carve out a so-called caliphate in Syria, and in Iraq, which is a very direct threat to all the countries in the region but even beyond," she said.

Mrs. Clinton also had harsh words for President Vladimir Putin and his attitude toward the eastern Ukraine.

"I did worry about President Putin's view that Russia should dominate its borders and intimidate people beyond its borders, using gas and oil as a weapon even where we're seeing now in Ukraine military force. It's very important that Europe remain whole, stable and that Russia be persuaded and somehow convinced, even coerced, into looking toward the future not the past."

Mrs. Clinton, meanwhile, had nothing but praise for Mexico, which also this week is hosting a possible rival for the White House, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

"I really do believe … that Mexico's future is extraordinarily positive," she said, adding that the relationship between Mexico and the U.S. is critical for both countries, the region and the world. "I think economically and socially there are so many advances that need to keep going."

The event was organized by billionaire Carlos Slim's Telmex Foundation.

MSNBC: "Want to know what Hillary Clinton thinks? Read her book"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 5, 2014, 6:45 p.m. EDT

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When Hillary Clinton stepped onto the stage at an clean energy conference in Las Vegas Thursday night, many observers eagerly hoping for some fresh comments on natural gas extraction or the Keystone XL pipeline were instead treated to a veritable book reading.

On fracking, the controversial technique used to extract natural gas and oil, Clinton praised its economic benefits before warning of its dangers. “We have to face head-on the legitimate, pressing environmental concerns about some new extraction practices and their impacts on local water, soil, and air supplies,” she said. She cited methane leaks as “particularly troubling.”

That’s an almost word-for-word reproduction of what she wrote in her new book, “Hard Choices.” There, she warned there are “legitimate … concerns about the new extraction practices and their impact on local water, soil, and air supplies.” She cited methane leaks as “particularly worrisome.”

On Thursday night, she added: “It’s crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including deciding not to drill when the risks are too high.”

In her book, she wrote: “It’s crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including deciding not to drill when the risks are too high.”

On Keystone, she said in Las Vegas exactly what she wrote in her book: Absolutely nothing.

Those seeking something new from Clinton were almost certainly disappointed. Instead, she stuck to her practice — in play since stepping down as secretary of state — of largely staying above the domestic political fray and offering few details on her policy views.

Of course, attendees of the Last Vegas event could have just read her book. Many critics were disappointed by the 650-page tome, dismissing it as a “low-salt, low-fat, low-calorie offering with vanilla pudding as the dessert,” as Slate’s John Dickerson wrote.

Rather than trying to be a page-turner, the book serves as an official record of Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state, with the final few chapters giving Clinton’s sanctioned take on some key policy areas. It’s a carefully crafted work that undoubtedly helped Clinton and her team clarify their thinking, and will provide a blueprint for Clinton’s future speeches.

Think of it as 600 pages of ready-made talking points, anecdotes, and policy positions.

This is common for likely presidential candidates. Jeff Shesol, a speechwriter in the Clinton White House who went on to found West Wing Writers, told msnbc that candidates’ books often become the ultimate “text of the presidency.”

While some politicians’ books are thrown together for quick sale, a book like “Hard Choices” is the product of “intensive efforts to really get it right,” he said. “The dividends of that effort will payout over an extended period of time, both for her and for anyone writing for her,” he added.

Jon Lovett, a former speechwriter for both Clinton and Barack Obama, said Clinton’s earlier book was an enormous resource when he was writing speeches for the then-senator, both for its substance and to help capture her voice. “When I was first learning how to be a speechwriter, when in doubt I would crib from ‘Living History,’ and it always ended up sounding like Hillary Clinton,” he told msnbc.

“You’re constantly trying to find good stories to tell, constantly trying to find good anecdotes,” he explained. “‘Living History’ was a repository on about almost every possible topic you could ever want.”

When Lovett moved to the White House, he said the process for any major speech started with reviewing both what Obama had said previously on the subject, as well as any relevant passages from his books. “It’s a natural place to start,” he said.

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As Clinton puts herself on more public stages and delves into new policy areas, a similar cycle of high expectations met with a rehash of existing talking points will probably repeat itself.

So if you want to know what Clinton thinks about something … start by reading her book.

National Journal: "How Hillary Clinton Once Disappointed Elizabeth Warren on Wall Street Reform"

By Emma Roller

September 5, 2014

[Subtitle:] As a senator, Clinton doubled back on the advice Warren once gave her.

On Friday, the Bill Moyers show released a vintage clip of Sen. Elizabeth Warren appearing on the show in 2004. In the video, Warren talks about a prescient meeting with then-first lady Hillary Clinton.

Warren tells the story like this: In the late 1990s, Congress was set to pass a bill that would make it harder for customers to alleviate their debt by claiming bankruptcy. Banks and credit card companies were pushing the bill hard.

Warren wrote an op-ed opposing the legislation, arguing the bill would disproportionately hurt single mothers. The first lady apparently read the piece, because Warren got a call from the White House asking if she'd meet with Clinton to discuss bankruptcy.

After Clinton gave a speech in Boston, Warren met with her. Over hamburgers and french fries, Clinton said to Warren, "Tell me about bankruptcy."

"I gotta tell you, I never had a smarter student," Warren told Moyers, saying Clinton understood the principles of bankruptcy "quick right to the heart of it."

After their conversation, Clinton got up and said, "Professor Warren, we've got to stop that awful bill." And stop the bill they did. The bankruptcy bill was the last one to cross President Bill Clinton's desk, and he vetoed it. On the campaign trail in 2007, Hillary Clinton used the bill as evidence that she "fought the banks."

But when Clinton joined the Senate in 2001 and the bankruptcy bill came up again, Clinton the senator did what Clinton the first lady opposed—she voted for it.

"As Senator Clinton, the pressures are very different," Warren told Moyers. "She has taken money from the groups, and more to the point, she worries about them as a constituency."

As Warren sees it, the "student" she saw in that meeting over burgers and fries ultimately fell victim to a corrupt system. In Clinton-as-ideologue, Warren saw an ability to resist the lure of Wall Street. But Clinton the lawmaker could not resist its influence. "This is the scary part about democracy today," Warren said.

Warren's comments from 10 years ago align with her position on Wall Street today. In an interview with Katie Couric on Wednesday, Warren took former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor to task for taking a well-paying gig at an investment bank. When Couric asked Warren what she thought about Clinton's "cozy" relationship with Wall Street, Warren demurred—but did not go so far as to defend Clinton's track record.

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While some pundits may proffer a superficial "catfight" narrative between Warren and Clinton, there is a more substantive ideological gulf between them. And even though Clinton's reversal came all those years ago, it's a lingering contrast neither of them can avoid.

Mother Jones: "Hillary Clinton Praises a Guy With Lots of Blood on His Hands"

By David Corn

September 5, 2014, 1:44 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] In lauding Henry Kissinger, the possible Democratic presidential nominee goes far beyond her usual hawkish rhetoric.

Hillary Clinton often plays the hawk card: She voted for the Iraq war, dissed President Barack Obama for not being tough enough on Syria, and compared Vladimir Putin to Adolf Hitler. This is to be expected from a politician who has angled for a certain title: the first female president of the United States. Whether her muscular views are sincerely held or not, a conventional political calculation would lead her to assume it may be difficult for many voters to elect as commander-in-chief a woman who did not project an aggressive and assertive stance on foreign policy. So her tough talk might be charitably evaluated in such a (somewhat) forgiving context. Yet what remains more puzzling and alarming is the big wet kiss she planted (rhetorically) on former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger this week, with a fawning review of his latest book, World Order.

Sure, perhaps there is secretary's privilege—an old boy and girls club, in which the ex-foreign-policy chiefs do not speak ill of each other and try to help out the person presently in the post. Nothing wrong with that. But former-Madam Secretary Clinton had no obligation to praise Kissinger and publicly participate in his decades-long mission to rehabilitate his image. In the review, she calls Kissinger a "friend" and reports, "I relied on his counsel when I served as secretary of state. He checked in with me regularly, sharing astute observations about foreign leaders and sending me written reports on his travels." She does add that she and Henry "have often seen the world and some of our challenges quite differently, and advocated different responses now and in the past." But here's the kicker: At the end of the review, she notes that Kissinger is "surprisingly idealistic":

Even when there are tensions between our values and other objectives, America, he reminds us, succeeds by standing up for our values, not shirking them, and leads by engaging peoples and societies, the sources of legitimacy, not governments alone.

Kissinger reminds us that America succeeds by standing up for its values? Did she inhale?

Kissinger, who served as secretary of state for President Richard Nixon and then President Gerald Ford, is a symbol of the worst of US foreign policy. Though he guided the United States through détente with the Soviet Union and initiated the historic opening to China, he engaged in underhanded and covert diplomacy that led to massacres around the globe, as he pursued his version of foreign policy realism. This is no secret.

Chile: Nixon and Kissinger plotted to thwart the democratic election of a socialist president. The eventual outcome: a military coup and a military dictatorship that killed thousands of Chileans.

Argentina: Kissinger gave a "green light" to the military junta's dirty war against political opponents that led to the deaths of an estimated 30,000.

East Timor: Another "green light" from Kissinger, this one for the Indonesian military dictatorship's bloody invasion of East Timor that yielded up to 200,000 deaths.

Cambodia: The secret bombing there during the Nixon phase of the Vietnam War killed between 150,000 and 500,000 civilians.

Bangladesh: Kissinger and Nixon turned a blind eye to—arguably, they tacitly approved—Pakistan's genocidal slaughter of 300,000 Bengalis, most of them Hindus.

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And there's more. Kissinger's mendacity has been chronicled for years. See Gary Bass' recent and damning book on the Bangladesh tragedy, The Blood Telegram. There's Seymour Hersh's classic, The Price of Power. In The Trial of Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens presented the case against Kissinger in his full polemical style. As secretary of state, Kissinger made common cause with—and encouraged—tyrants who repressed and massacred many. He did not serve the American values of democracy, free expression, and human rights. He shredded them.

Once upon a time, Hillary Clinton protested the Vietnam War. She attended the 1968 GOP convention in Miami to join the effort to draft Nelson Rockefeller in order to prevent Nixon from winning the party's presidential nomination. She served on the staff of the House judiciary committee, which voted to impeach Nixon; one of the articles of impeachment drafted by the staff (but which was not approved) slammed Nixon for covering up the bombing in Cambodia. She knows what Kissinger has done. She knows what Kissinger represents. There's none of that in her self-serving review. Instead, she hails him as a champion of a values-driven foreign policy. Maybe when he's typing in front of a computer these days—but not when he wielded power. Clinton lets him off the hook and participates in the long-running pretense that Kissinger is a grand old statesman who deserves respect rather than scorn.

Democrats uneasy with Clinton as their party's standard-bearer have often wondered if there is a limit to what she might say or do to win the White House. Embracing Kissinger in this manner shows how low she can go. It likely will cause cringing among not-there-yet Democrats who can only fear that, with plenty of time before the campaign truly starts, Hillary Clinton is not yet done disappointing them.

Associated Press: "Clinton Rallies Support For Crist in Governor Race"

By Michael J. Mishak

September 6, 2014, 3:42 a.m. EDT

MIAMI (AP) — Bill Clinton is lending his political star power to Democrat Charlie Crist, a former Republican governor who is locked in a tight race for his old job in the nation's largest swing state.

The former president on Friday headlined a rally in Miami where he implored Democrats to defy historical trends and turn out and vote in November.

"We're great at doing what's right if there's a presidential election on the ballot but we're not nearly as good as our Republican opponents are at showing up in the midterm elections," Clinton said. "The whole shebang is going to depend on who shows up."

Speaking to several hundred supporters, Clinton painted Crist as a bipartisan conciliator who would rebuild the middle class by raising the minimum wage, ensuring equal pay for women and expanding Medicaid to hundreds of thousands of Floridians. He cast incumbent Republican Gov. Rick Scott as a multimillionaire who has favored corporate interests.

"If you're trying to raise a kid or two on the minimum wage, you need somebody with the facts to be on your side, and Charlie Crist will be on your side," Clinton said.

The Clinton rally was the first in a series of high-profile events featuring Democratic heavyweights designed to boost party enthusiasm for Crist, a former Republican governor who has run four statewide races on the GOP ticket as well as one as an independent.

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick is set to appear with Crist in Florida on Monday, while Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is weighing a 2016 White House bid, will campaign with the Democratic nominee on Sept. 20.

While Crist easily secured his new party's nomination last month, his campaign must still reassure some of the key Democratic activists who have opposed him throughout his political career. He also must work to overcome an unprecedented barrage of negative advertising, which has hurt his popularity and helped erase his lead in public polls. Scott has spent more than $25 million, much of it portraying Crist as a "slick politician" and "lousy governor."

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Speaking to a half-empty ballroom at the Friday evening rally, Clinton asked Democrats to spread the word that Crist's political conversion is for real. He focused his comments on hot-button topics that resonate with some of the party's most loyal voters, including women, Hispanics and African-Americans.

Standing next to Crist, the former president reminded supporters that when Crist was a Republican governor he extended early voting hours in the 2008 presidential election and enacted the automatic restoration of voting rights for former nonviolent felons -- an effort, he noted, that Scott has since undone. He also recalled voting restrictions that Scott and the GOP-controlled Legislature enacted before the 2012 election, measures that resulted in long lines on Election Day.

Later, Clinton, a native Southerner, invoked the Jim Crow South and its history of poll taxes designed to prevent black voters from casting ballots. "For me, when somebody messes with the right to vote, I take it personally," he said to roaring applause.

Clinton's appearance is a clear sign of the gubernatorial race's importance to national Democrats.

Retaking the governor's office in the nation's largest swing state would give the long-suffering state party a governing and political platform to try to reverse decades of conservative rule, build its candidate bench and help lay the groundwork for the Democratic presidential nominee in 2016.

During his trip to Miami, Clinton also visited with his former attorney general, Janet Reno, who has been ailing with Parkinson's disease. The former president and Donna Shalala, the president of the University of Miami and a former Clinton Health & Human Services secretary, spent an hour with Reno and her family at the family's house in the Kendall section of Miami.

"We had a wonderful visit with him and it was very kind of him to come," said Reno's sister, Maggy Hurchalla. "He told us stories — he was Bill Clinton at his best."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 12 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a DGA fundraiser (Twitter)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference (CRF)

· September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at Legal Services Corp. 40th Anniversary (Twitter)

· September 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a 9/11 Health Watch fundraiser (NY Daily News)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

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- October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/11/2015 10:38:47 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Just keep swimming

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm
brought to you by

Skimm for November 12th

Skimm'd at Starbucks after sharing a Peppermint Mocha. Lucky you. Buy one holiday drink, get one free to share. Sharing is caring.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'Singles Day" – The name of a holiday in China . Think Black Friday meets the anti-Valentine's Day. It was yesterday, and e-commerce giant Alibaba did a record $14.3 billion in sales. Proving all you need is love. Or a credit card.

SKIMM THIS

MIZZOU

THE STORY

Racial tensions at the University of Missouri are still high.

CATCH ME UP.

Over the last few months, there's been a series of racist incidents on campus . A lot of students and faculty felt like the administration really botched its response, and called for the school's president to resign. Weeks of protests – including a hunger strike from one grad student, and a boycott from dozens of members of the football team — resulted in the president packing his bags , and the school's chancellor getting demoted earlier this week.

SO WHAT HAPPENED NOW?

Yesterday, online threats and rumors of violence led the school to bulk up security on campus, and some teachers to cancel class altogether. Then, police arrested two students at different state universities for allegedly making separate online "terroristic" threats – one of them specifically against black Mizzou students.

theSKIMM

Mizzou student activists have been using the name "Concerned Student 1950," in reference to the year the first black students enrolled at the University of Missouri. Earlier this week, one of those students – now 89-years-old – said he was glad to see the protesters are bringing change to campus, but was sorry that they had to fight for it in the first place.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU WAKE UP READY TO TAKE ON THE DAY...

So did the Kurds. Earlier today, they launched a US-backed operation to take back Sinjar from ISIS. Sinjar: a town in northern Iraq that sits on a key ISIS supply route. It's also where last year thousands of Yazidis — a small religious minority in northern Iraq — were rescued from ISIS by the Kurds after being trapped on a mountain. Yesterday, some Yazidi forces joined the Kurds in the offensive. The US-led coalition has been crowded out lately by Russia and Iran joining the ISIS fight in a big way. Taking back Sinjar would be a huge W, since it's between Syria and Mosul – Iraq's second largest city, and basically ISIS HQ in the country.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR NEWLY MARRIED FRIEND ASKS IF YOU'RE SEEING ANYONE SPECIAL...

Yes, thank you. Yesterday, AB InBev (think: Budweiser) and SABMiller (think: Miller Lite) defined the relationship. The two companies are becoming one huge beer company in a deal valued at more than $105 billion. They've been flirting for months, and now the new company will sell one in every three beers worldwide. When the talks were first announced, some people said 'ever heard of antitrust laws?' To which the companies said 'ugh, fine.' SABMiller agreed to get rid of its $12 billion stake in MillerCoors, another big name in beer. Which gives it much better odds at getting the OK from regulators. Cheers.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU HEAR YOUR THIRD COUSINS ARE STAYING AT YOUR HOUSE FOR THANKSGIVING...

Gotta love family. Yesterday, two nephews of the First Lady of Venezuela were arrested in Haiti. That's because they were apparently trying to sneak 800 kilograms of cocaine into the US. Casual. The nephews had just arrived by private jet when they were reportedly turned over to the DEA and flown straight to New York. Probably not in the same style. This comes as US investigators have been giving top-level Venezuelan officials some serious side-eye for reportedly dabbling in money laundering and drug trafficking in the US. In recent years, Venezuela's socialist government has been facing on-and-off protests for being unable to revive the country's struggling economy. So no, this isn't a good look.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN THE MAGIC 8 BALL SAYS 'OUTLOOK NOT SO GOOD'...

Theranos knows how you feel. The Silicon Valley blood testing startup (valued at $9 billion) has been having a rough couple of months. The company – founded by 31-year-old Elizabeth Holmes – made a name for itself by developing a blood test technology that it says works with just a finger prick. Holmes is the youngest self-made female billionaire in the world. Then last month, the Wall Street Journal published an article alleging that Theranos doesn't actually use the new technology for most of its tests. Holmes said the report was "full of falsehoods." But then a few weeks ago, Walgreens put a partnership with Theranos on hold. And then earlier this week, the WSJ reported that the grocery chain Safeway is dropping its $350 million dollar deal with the company that would have opened clinics offering Theranos blood tests. In response to this new report, Theranos says 'speaking of a finger prick…' it's "disappointed to see yet another inaccurate WSJ article."

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

Fish gape: The new duck face. A pose favored by selfie lovers everywhere. Think: mouth slightly open, eyes staring at the camera. Soul slowly dying.

SKIMM THIS

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SKIMM SHARE

We love meeting you in your inbox every morning. So we want today's top sharer to get to choose the subject line for tomorrow's Skimm. Keep it clean, people. Here's how you share.

SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

*indicates Skimm'bassador. Cake cake cake cake.

Skimm Grandma Fran Schechter (Neponsit, NY); ***Kelsey Muldoon** (Denver, CO); ***Jenn O'Mara** (Philadelphia, PA); ***Namrata Singh** (Houston, TX); ***Catherine Christ** (Palmdale, CA); ***Katy Hallman** (Columbia, SC); ***Chandni Jaggi** (College Station, TX); ***Kirsten Horton** (Memphis, TN); ***Lyndsey Jefferson** (London, England); ***Lindsay Barta** (Tampa, FL); ***Lori Dobrin** (Camarillo, CA); ***Mary Raymond** (Nashville, TN); ***Victoria Lannom** (Chicago, IL); ***Jennifer MacDonald** (Freeport, ME); ***Shannon Burgess** (San Diego, CA); ***Stacey Young** (Syracuse, NY); ***Leslie Stine** (Waynesboro, PA); ***Carrie Rickenberg** (Edgewater, NJ); ***Kandice Miles** (Spartanburg, SC); ***Cicely Lewis** (Fairfax, VA); ***Isabel Lanaux** (New Orleans, LA); **Colin Strickland** (Oklahoma City, OK); **Amanda Usher** (New York, NY); **Nicole Bleuel**(San Francisco, CA); **Bianca Cesaratto** (Madison, WI); **Lalit Gurnani** (San Francisco, CA); **Jessica Weingarten** (Roslyn, NY); **Kathryn Lentych** (South Bend, IN); **Anne Summa** (San Diego, CA); **Megan Zilis** (New York NY); **Devin McDonnell** (Baltimore, MD); **Talia Ziskroit** (New York, NY); **Harpreet Sawhney** (West Windsor, NJ)

Skimm'd something we missed?

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From: Caroline <clara@lces-environment.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 4/1/2015 7:30:45 PM
Subject: Confirmed as Speaker at Low Carbon Earth Summit-2015 (Sep 24-26, 2015)

The 5th Low Carbon Earth Summit-2015

Theme: Take Actions for Rebuilding a Clean World
Time: September 24-26, 2015
Place: Qujiang International Conference Center, Xi'an, China
Website: http://www.lcesummit.com

Good day John Podesta,

How is everything going? May I ask whether you have received my previous emails? This year we will host an attractive International Conference called **The 5th Low Carbon Earth Summit-2015 (LCES-2015)**, which as one parallel conference of the 6th Euro-Asia Economic Forum during September 24-26, 2015 at Xi'an Qujiang International Conference Center, China. Therefore, it is our great honor to have you to be **Speaker** at **Session 401: Innovative Energy Efficiency Technologies** under **Symposium 4: Low Carbon and Clean Technologies**.

Meanwhile, I'm glad to tell you that with the efforts of our colleagues, we have updated the tentative program list online. Please do check it at your convenience at: http://www.lcesummit.com/ScientificProgram.asp . (PS: this is a preliminary program. Changes may occur.) And below please find parts of Renowned Speakers of LCES-2015.

Mr. Conrado Moren, Vice President, World Wind Energy Association, Germany
Mr. Andrew Lang, Vice President, World Bioenergy Association, Australia
Dr. Goon Cherl Park, President, KEPCO International Nuclear Graduate School (KINGS), South Korea
Dr. Bao-Lian Su, Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, The University of Namur, Belgium
Mr. Usman Ahmed, Vice President and Chief Reservoir Engineer, Baker Hughes, USA
Mr. John Rossant, Founder and Chairman, New Cities Foundation, Switzerland
Mr. Gianni Minetti, President and CEO, Paradox Engineering, Switzerland
Dr. Woodrow W. Clark, Managing Director, Clark Strategic Partners, USA
Mr. Alfonso Bataller, Mayor, Castelló de la Plana, Spain
Mr. Jorge Munoz Wells, Mayor, Miraflores City Council, Peru
Mr. Narinderpal S Sood, President, Energy Asset Development Inc, USA
Mr. Gerald (Gerry) Hamaliuk, CEO, SusGlobal Energy Corp, Canada
Mr. Brian Smith, Secretary General, Heritage Europe, UK
Mr. Mike Weinmaster, Chief Designer, Green Over Grey, Canada
Mr. Jason Teliszczak, CEO, JT Environmental Consulting, USA
Mr. Jack P. Broadbent, Chief Executive Officer / Air Pollution Control Officer, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, USA
Mr. David Jackson, Director Local Development Practice Area, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Thailand
Mr. Tom Tansy, Chairman, SunSpec Alliance, USA
Mr. Alfredo Ramos, Vice President, Power & Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Process Systems Enterprise (PSE), UK
Mr. Mauro Passos, President, Instituto IDEAL, USA
Mr. Tanay Sidki Uyar, Vice President, EUROSOLAR European Association for Renewable Energy, Turkey
Mr. Graham Weale, Chief Economist, RWE, Germany
Dr. Jackie Wright, Principal & Director, Environmental Risk Sciences Pty Ltd, Australia
Dr. Marjorie Campbell, Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, Clark Atlanta University, USA
Mr. Jose Juan Gomes Lorenzo, Financial Markets Lead Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank, USA
Mr. Oliver F. Campbell, Director of Worldwide Procurement & Packaging Engineering, Dell, USA
Mr. David Dornbusch, President of Cleantuesday; CEO of France Cleantech, France
Mr. Olivier Coispeau, Partner, Maverlinn, UK
Mr. Seth R. Freeman, CEO, EM Capital Management, LLC, USA
Mr. Jacques Van Hee, Managing Director & Founding Partner, NOVANTE; Communications Director, GDF SUEZ, France
Mr. Ruijie Zhang, Secretary General, Low Carbon Economy Committee of CAPEC, China
Mr. Danny Price, Founder and Managing Director, Frontier Economics, Australia
Mr. Thomas Jorberg, CEO, GLS Bank, Germany
Hon. Dr. Mohammed Hasan Mahmud, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh
Mr. Archie J. Beaton, Executive Director, Chlorine Free Products Association, USA
Dr. Chris Constantine, Vice President of Business Development, Skyonic Corporation, USA
Dr. Terry Cooke, Founder and CEO, GC3 Strategy, LLC, USA
Mr. Hans Folkesson, Chairman, Clean Motion AB, Sweden
Mr. Martin Klaasen, Director, Klaasen Lighting Design, Singapore
Dr. Jiang-Shiou Hwang, Professor, National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan
Mr. Richard Pyvis, Chairman, CLSA Capital Partners, Hong Kong, China
Mr. Les Liddiard, VPAsia, Tetronics International, UK

Would you like to attend our conference this time? Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information

If you don't want to receive any further e-mail from LCES-2015, please revert back with a subject Unsubscribe.

Sincerely,

Ms. Caroline Wang

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Organizing Committee of LCES-2015
Add: East Wing, F11, Building 1,
Dalian Ascendas IT Park, 1 Hui Xian Yuan,
Dalian Hi-tech Industrial Zone,
LN 116025, China
Tel: 0086-411-84799609-845
Fax: 0086-411-84799629
Email: caroline@lcesummit.com

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 5/22/2008 4:46:12 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally and Media Availability Stockton, CA

Hello Big Campaign,

Just off the phone with our tracker Evan who was on the ground in Stockton, CA today. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS: McCain attacks Obama throughout rally speech and media avail; McCain repudiates Hagee and Parsley's endorsements; McCain asked about medical records

Stockton, CA: McCain Rally and Media Availability 05/22/08

Background Details:
- Approximately 800-1,000 people in attendance
- Crowd make-up diverse; significant Asian presence - several signs read 'Vietnamese Americans for John McCain'
- Recurring themes of the rally, repeated by several speakers: the only good democrat is one who is going to vote for John McCain, thankful for the many Independents and Democrats in the audience; and Republicans are going to turn California red in the fall
- at the VIP bleacher spots (ie those located behind McCain in camera view), veterans and Asian Americans were occupying the seats

Rally Highlights:
- At the beginning of the event, VFW guys presented the colors
- Steve Moore, a county sheriff, led the pledge of allegiance
- Rep. Alan Nakanishi gave brief remarks
- The MC of the event said this is not a speech, this is an interactive rally -- and then led the crowd in a rally cry, 'We want Mac! We want Mac!'
- The MC said 'the other side' thinks that America is responsible for all the problems in the world
- Local candidate came on stage and gave brief remarks and compared McCain to national heros
- The county supervisor came on stage - he said he was thankful for McCain Democrats and praised McCain for bringing people together
- State Assemblyman Dan Tran(sp) came up; he spoke about his family history and how it intertwined with McCain's family history
- A high school teacher came on stage and talked about how he would show his students a PBS special of John McCain; teacher brought a former student on stage who is also an Iraq Vet that was badly burned while serving (80-90 percent of his body)
- The MC reappeared and led the crowd in a chant, "USA! USA!"
- Candidate in District 6, Dale Pritchard came on stage -- led more cheering
- Another candidate from a different district came on stage and led more chanting; she also said that we can "sleep good" at night knowing McCain is answering the phone at 3am
- Rally ended as McCain arrived and members of the group Rolling Thunder (vets on bikes) got on their motorcycles and revved their engines as McCain walked into the rally
- McCain brought with him the California Insurance Commission, former Governor Pete Wilson, Senator Jeff Denham
- McCain's California campaign chair took to the stage to introduce McCain - he said McCain is California's Republican Senator
- McCain took the stage -- and at this point he asked the bikers from Rolling Thunder to rev their engines again
- McCain said republicans are gonna win California in the fall
- McCain talked about terrorism as the transcendent challenge
- Protester interrupted McCain -- disrupting the speech; she was removed by police
- McCain talked about Obama -- said that for a young man he has done well despite having no experience
- McCain continued hammering Obama until he was interrupted again by two more protesters; they too were escorted away by police
- McCain went on to say, never surrender, we are succeeding in Iraq; said thank God for Petraeus
- Talked about Osama bin Laden -- said if 'I have to follow him to the gates of hell, I will'
- Attacked Obama for a vote against troop equipment/war funding bill -- crowd booed this line
- Talked about farm bill, said it was a bad bill; attacked Obama for voting for it -- then said that for Obama the only change that he wants is 'business as usual'
- McCain said he really wants to increase troop benefits -- BUT that we need to get soldiers to serve longer

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Media Availability:

1) Has it been difficult trying to run a leaner campaign?

MCCAIN: what I really need to do is energize the party and reach out to Independents and Reagan Democrats; we're pretty far out, but I'm pleased with where we're at and I'm looking pretty good in the polls right now

2) California needs the farm bill. Isn't being against the farm bill going to hurt you here?

MCCAIN: It's a bad bill. I support farmers, but we need to cut pork out of the bill and we need open markets. We need to open the world and the rest of the states to California agricultural products. Ethanol subsidies distort the markets -- Obama is for the farm bill and that isn't change.

3) So you repudiated Hagee. Why now and not earlier?

MCCAIN: His latest remarks were crazy and unacceptable. Hagee can have his own views and he's entitled to them. But I go to North Phoenix Baptist Church and my pastor and spiritual adviser is Dan Yeary? (sp). Hagee's remarks were just too much. Repudiates Parsley's endorsement.

4) Your campaign is going to release medical records in the next few days. How do you feel about your own health?

MCCAIN: Great! I have lots of vigor and feel confidant. [CHANGES SUBJECT] I have the experience, knowledge and judgement to take on Iran.

5) Is Obama lack of military experience something we should be concerned about? What about having all these people over at your house this weekend -- is it some kind of VP thing?

MCCAIN: I've earned the right to speak on veterans issues. I judge Obama not on military experience, but general experience. I want to raise veterans benefits -- the NCO is one of the most important people in the military. Careers in the military add vitality to the unit.

6) Filipino news agency asked him about the Senate bill that finally recognized Filipino WWII vets -- asked why weren't you in the Senate for that vote?

MCCAIN: I was out campaigning. Veterans are great -- look at how many veterans that are out here today.

7) Nobody on the campaign trail has mentioned immigration. Are you afraid of the issue of immigration?

MCCAIN: Gave stock answer: We must secure our borders first. And we need tamper-proof bio-metric ID's.

8) What is going to be the bigger challenge for you in the fall - beating Barack Obama or pretending you like Bush?

MCCAIN: Are you from comedy central? In both cases, I gotta portray my plan of action. Did you see me on SNL? That was pretty funny.

Follow-up Q: 'so is that a like him, like him?

MCCAIN: I have to follow through with my plan.

9) French TV guys asked about global warming

MCCAIN: We gotta decrease our dependence on foreign oil. The French are using lots of nuclear energy -- we need to do that too.

10) Asked to respond to VP retreat this weekend (from an ealier question)

MCCAIN: It's not a VP thing -- I'm just having a few friends over to celebrate Memorial Day.

11) Vietnamese reporter asked about his policies toward Vietnam.

MCCAIN: As you know, years ago we normalized relations with Vietnam and as you know I'm all about pushing for democracy. human rights and freedom in Vietnam.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Media USA
ccroft@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Herbert Sandler" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
Date: 3/31/2014 8:57:38 PM
Subject: Re: dinner at 6:30pm at my apartment

Ok. Look forward to it.
.

On Mar 31, 2014 3:59 PM, "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org > wrote:

> Dinner at 6:30 at the apartment at 1750 Taylor Street, on Russian Hill, between Broadway and Green
>
> John, it's possible that Steve and Susan will be still at the office, which, as you know is very close to BARDT. I suggest you call Susan on her cell (415)4201338 or Steve, on his cell,(925)3833853 , when you leave Berkeley and, if they'll still be there, arrange to meet them in their lobby and Susan will drive you to the apartment. Alternatively, grab a cab at the Hyatt Regency. If a problem, call me and I'll pick you up

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/4/2014 2:25:40 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday August 4, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday August 4, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times: "Hillary Clinton's Fee for a Hometown Speech: Free"

"The former secretary of state, who regularly commands $200,000 for speeches, returned to her adopted hometown, Chappaqua, N.Y., on Sunday to address seven high school seniors at their graduation from a summer scholarship program. In this instance, she spoke for free."

New Republic: Anne Applebaum: "Hillary Clinton's Crystal Ball: How 'Hard Choices' predicts her presidential campaign"

"Hard Choices is not remotely a book for the ages. It does not belong on the same shelf as Dean Acheson's memoir. But maybe it contains the winning formula—and for this author, winning is what counts."

Mother Jones: "Meet the GOPers Trolling Hillary From the Left"

"With the absence of lefty criticism of Hillary this time around, America Rising is trying to fill the void."

The College Fix: Daniel Waqar, UNLV Student Government Student Relations Director: "Hillary Clinton Doesn't Need Another $225,000, but UNLV Students Do"

"In fact, in talking with students, I found them grateful and appreciative for the fundraising efforts of Clinton on behalf of the UNLV Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps raise money to award millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of UNLV students every year. For that matter, students are excited about anybody who would raise money for UNLV."

Towleroad: "US Ambassador to the OSCE Daniel Baer Marries Partner Brian Walsh"

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"Tweeted Baer: 'So, I got married this morning. Thank you @BarackObama, @HillaryClinton, & @JohnKerry for your commitment to equality'."

Associated Press: Today in History: "August 4" [Partial]

"Five years ago: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton."

Associated Press: "US Sent Latin Youth Undercover in Anti-Cuba Ploy"

"An Obama administration program secretly dispatched young Latin Americans to Cuba using the cover of health and civic programs to provoke political change, a clandestine operation that put those foreigners in danger even after a U.S. contractor was hauled away to a Cuban jail."

Articles:

New York Times: "Hillary Clinton's Fee for a Hometown Speech: Free"

By Benjamin Mueller

August 3, 2014

Hillary Rodham Clinton apparently gives a steep hometown discount.

The former secretary of state, who regularly commands $200,000 for speeches, returned to her adopted hometown, Chappaqua, N.Y., on Sunday to address seven high school seniors at their graduation from a summer scholarship program. In this instance, she spoke for free.

At a time when the size of Mrs. Clinton's speaking fees has drawn controversy, she left the clamor behind for a community center auditorium, where the families of graduates from New York City mingled with the suburbanites who housed students for the summer.

The draw for Mrs. Clinton, who is on the cusp of a summer vacation in the Hamptons, was the Chappaqua Summer Scholarship Program, which was founded after the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. The goal was to expose low-income students from struggling city schools to the advantages offered by the hamlet's more robust classrooms.

Over the course of three high school summers, under the tutelage of instructors who include a young-adult author and seasoned Shakespearean actors, the students make films, act, write essays and program tiny robots.

"This program is really one of the best ways that all of us can break down the artificial barriers that too often exist," Mrs. Clinton said, addressing the graduates from behind a microphone held together by a rubber band.

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But as influential as the long classroom hours were, the graduates said, the weeknights spent sleeping under One Direction band posters pasted to pink walls had an impact as well. (The students returned home on the weekends.) The nearest 50-cent honey bun was miles away, said one of the graduates, Jejomar Ysit, and the chirp of crickets replaced the “voices of fierce Latina women.”

“I remember seeing an endless stretch of green: green trees, green trucks, green houses, green hills,” said Mr. Ysit, a rising senior at DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, as Mrs. Clinton, dressed in an aqua-green suit, chuckled in agreement.

Mrs. Clinton, who bought a $1.7 million Dutch colonial in Chappaqua with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, on the eve of her run for the United States Senate in 2000, browsed the students’ biographies and gamely closed her eyes when one asked the audience to conjure an image.

Despite her grueling travel schedule, Mrs. Clinton routinely marches in the local Memorial Day parade. She was invited to the graduation by the scholarship program’s chairwoman, Diane Albert, during a book signing at the Chappaqua Library.

But attendees at the event on Sunday speculated that the demands of preparing for a possible presidential run had recently kept Mrs. Clinton out of sight. Her husband, on the other hand, who addressed a group of Chappaqua scholarship program graduates in 2005, is often seen walking the couple’s chocolate Labrador retriever along the hamlet’s leafy streets.

“The mystique wore off after a few years,” Nancy Silver, a scholarship program board member, said of the Clintons’ stay.

Identifying with the students’ discomfort in the lush suburbs, Mrs. Clinton described her first week at college, when she made collect calls to her parents to tell them how all the students “seemed so much smarter.”

Mrs. Clinton said in her speech that as the students shared their encounters with suburban wildlife, she thought, “Yes, mice, raccoons, deer, sometimes hawks and eagles, all kinds of wildlife that you just come to expect and get used to.”

She exhorted the graduates to learn from tough experiences and rebound when they stumble, a maternal message that could have doubled as a metaphor for her own political ambitions. “Obviously, you can’t just jump into the deep end, as Carlos explained,” she said, referring to one graduate’s story about struggling to learn how to swim. She added, “But don’t be afraid to get caught trying.”

Her possibly veiled meaning did not seem lost on Mr. Ysit.

As mock iPhone shutters snapped closed around her and one student feigned a curtsy to a beaming Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Ysit digested her advice about passing along good deeds. “She’s, like, the president,” he said in amazement, and quickly caught himself. “Well, the president’s wife.”

New Republic: Anne Applebaum: “Hillary Clinton's Crystal Ball: How ‘Hard Choices’ predicts her presidential campaign”

By Anne Applebaum, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former Washington Post editorial board member

August 3, 2014

Even while Hard Choices was still wafting its way across the Atlantic Ocean— and long before it landed on my desk in central Europe, an entire twenty-four hours after the official publication date—Hillary Clinton’s account of her State Department years had already led several news cycles, inspired thousands of megabytes of commentary, and left its subsequent reviewers with serious literary and philosophical dilemmas.

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Normally, the process of writing a book review begins after the reviewer has read the book in question. The process of “reading” Hard Choices, by contrast, begins not with the physical or even the electronic book, but rather with the advance “leaks” in Politico, and the Fox News reports about the advance “leaks” in Politico, and The Wire’s report on the Fox News reporting on the advance “leaks” in Politico. To understand this book, one must be aware also of the Diane Sawyer interview with Hillary Clinton, and the Twitter rage about the Diane Sawyer interview with Hillary Clinton, and the Slate analysis of the Twitter rage about the Diane Sawyer interview with Hillary Clinton. And then there is the NPR interview, and so on.

For this reason, Hard Choices presents the reviewer with an existential problem: is it actually a book? Is it even intended to be a thing that people sit down and read, cover to cover? Or is it rather a collection of carefully crafted messages, each designed to reach a particular person, or to deflect a particular criticism, or to inspire a certain kind of remark? When my husband, who happens to be the foreign minister of Poland, saw the book on my desk, he picked it up, flipped to the index, and checked to see if he is mentioned. (He is.) I have absolutely no doubt that over the past several weeks that same action was performed by dozens of people in dozens of capitals around the world.

Of course Clinton and her team anticipated, and helped to arrange, the media frenzy, and they knew that many would read the index before the book. Each description therefore reads as if it had been vetted for that purpose. In Hard Choices, almost all of Clinton’s colleagues are admirable people who are a “living embodiment of the American Dream,” or a “terrific communicator” who works hard while always remaining decent, passionate, and unstoppable. If they are slightly difficult colleagues, they might be a “creative thinker” (Rahm Emanuel) or have a “bulldozer style” (Richard Holbrooke) with which the secretary nevertheless learned cheerfully to live.

Her foreign partners are much the same. In general they are “consummate professionals” and “enjoyable company.” A few, such as ex–French President Sarkozy, can even be “fun.” And even with more challenging interlocutors, such as the Chinese official Dai Bingguo, Clinton usually manages to speak “deeply and personally about the need to put the U. S.-China relationship on a sound footing for the sake of future generations.” Do not read Hard Choices if you seek a nuanced analysis of the people who run the world’s foreign policy, let alone any juicy gossip. Even the “candid” photos look staged: Hillary, Bill, and Bono sitting at a piano, for example.

Yet even if we accept that Hard Choices really is a book—it has a binding, after all, and has been produced by a printing press under the auspices of a publishing house—it isn’t that easy to say to which genre it belongs. It clearly is not a work of history: the book is constructed according to geography rather than chronology, and although Clinton does give accounts of her more important policy decisions, she refrains from setting them in any particular domestic or global context. Each one is told as a separate story, and most of the stories have happy endings, even if in real life they didn’t.

Clinton’s chapter on Europe, for example, begins with the deterioration of the transatlantic alliance under George W. Bush, explains how she fixed the problem by renewing relationships with “invaluable” partners, and ends with a visit to Belfast where an “old friend” is now the lord mayor of Armagh. This latter event gives Clinton a moral for her Europe story: she hopes that children growing up now in Northern Ireland will “never turn back and that their peace and progress would be an inspiration for the rest of Europe and the world.” A scant, bland paragraph or two are devoted to the European economic crisis, which was by far the most important issue at the time. There is no mention of the European Union’s longstanding failure to come up with a coherent foreign policy, no sense that anything at all is wrong with an institution which has made “many contributions to peace and prosperity within and beyond its borders.”

Clinton’s chapter on Burma is similarly glossy. It begins with a description of Aung San Suu Kyi—“frail, but with unmistakable inner strength”—and ends with Burma on the road to democracy, a story that she calls a “high point” of her term in office and “an affirmation of the unique role the United States can and should play in the world as a champion of dignity and democracy.” There is no hint that the Burmese army was just then beginning its vicious war against the Karen insurgency, that a brutal conflict between Buddhists and Muslims was already growing worse, or that Suu Kyi’s prestige was starting to plummet as she failed to exert any influence to stop either one of those outrages. Even Clinton’s portrayal of Haiti, where she and her husband have a long involvement, fails to note that their plan to “Build Back Better” after Haiti’s earthquake in 2010 is now widely perceived to have failed.

On topics that she knew would be examined more exhaustively, Clinton is more careful to avoid overly sunny conclusions. Her account of her attempt to “reset” relations with Russia was clearly rewritten just before publication in order to include recent events in Ukraine. Here she draws what positive stories she can—there was some cooperation with Russia in central Asia, for example—but makes clear that she had low expectations for the Russian-American relationship from the beginning. As she left office in 2013, she advised the president that “difficult days lay ahead and that our relationship with Moscow would likely get worse before it got better.” Still, even this more realistic version of events is unsatisfying, for Clinton never digs very deeply. She offers no real analysis of Vladimir Putin’s motives, and never goes into the complex history of the Russian-American relationship. She acknowledges that Russia does present a very difficult problem: “Hard men present hard choices—none more so than Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.” But she doesn’t tell us on what basis she or anyone else will solve it.

For similar reasons, Hard Choices also cannot be called a work of political philosophy or political science. There is no overall argument in the book, no marshaling of evidence to make a particular case or to set forward a particular strategy or thesis. This is not an argument for “realism” or “idealism.” It is not an analysis of America’s priorities. There are admirable nods to human rights, a discussion of climate change, and some intelligent observations about diplomacy in the Internet age. But Clinton does not connect the dots into a larger view, clearly because does not see the need to. Early on, she does dismiss the “outdated” debate between “hard power”—military force—and the “soft power” of other kinds of

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influence. She prefers “smart power,” which she defines as “choosing the right combination of tools—diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal, and cultural” in order to advance “our core national security objectives.” Yet that is an argument about process, not about policy; about the means, not the ends. Most of the time Clinton prudently stays away from thorny debates about just what those core national interests should be.

And although the words “a memoir” appear in tiny print on the cover, this is also not an autobiography, at least in the classic sense of the term. It actively avoids any language that might be construed as “literary,” or any psychological insights of any kind. By her own account Clinton never gets angry, although occasionally she admits that she is “exasperated.” She doesn’t get tired very often either—or if she does, she doesn’t complain: “I drank copious cups of coffee and tea, and sometimes dug the fingernails of one hand into the palm of the other.”

Instead, her personal triumphs and tragedies, like her diplomatic triumphs and tragedies, are always converted into stories and more stories, usually with moral lessons for herself, for the reader, for the nation. Her mother’s death reminds her that you must “never rest on your laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place.” Chelsea’s wedding makes her think of her daughter’s “dreams and ambitions”: “This, I thought, is why Bill and I had worked so hard for so many years to help build a better world—so Chelsea could grow up safe and happy and one day have a family of her own, and so every other child would have the same chance.” The news of Chelsea’s pregnancy makes her recall “what Margaret Mead said, that children keep our imaginations fresh and our hearts young, and drive us to work for a better future.”

Clinton carefully puts to rest any hint of conflict between herself and her husband, or herself and President Obama. Instead she includes a scene of herself sitting in East Timor, watching ex-President Clinton nominate President Obama for the second time: “Watching from some ten thousand miles away, I was full of pride for the former President I married, the current president I served, and the country we all loved.”

Of course Hard Choices could be shelved alongside the memoirs of other statesmen— Henry Kissinger, say, or Margaret Thatcher. But those books, while also painting the world in colors designed to flatter the author, are generally composed by people who did not anticipate a further career in public life. Clinton’s book, by contrast, does not seek merely to establish the author’s place in the nation’s past; it is designed also to establish her place in the nation’s future. This is clear to the reader from the cultural context—from Diane Sawyer and NPR and Fox—but also from the volume’s enigmatic conclusion. After 593 pages of writing about foreign policy, Clinton suddenly shifts gear. “Our strength abroad depends on our resolve and resilience at home,” she declares in her epilogue. “Citizens and leaders alike have choices to make about the country we want to live in and leave to the next generation. ... We need more good jobs that reward hard work with rising wages, dignity, and a ladder to a better life.”

We know why she has made this gear shift—and she knows that we know. But she tells us anyway: “Over the past year, as I’ve traveled around the country once again, the one question I’m asked more than any other is: Will I run for President in 2016?” And the answer? “I haven’t decided yet.” She explains:

“Whatever I decide, I will always be thankful for the chance to represent America around the world. I have learned anew the goodness of our people and the greatness of our nation. I feel blessed and grateful. Our future is so full of possibility. And for me and my family that includes looking forward to a new addition— another American who deserves the best possible future we can offer. ... There have been too few quiet moments like this over the years. And I want to savor them. The time for another hard choice will come soon enough.”

And thus, having spent 595 pages eschewing anything that might look remotely like a literary device, Clinton finally resorts to the oldest one of all: the cliffhanger.

In the end Hard Choices is not history, and not political philosophy, and not auto-biography. It belongs to an altogether narrower genre. Like Mitt Romney’s No Apology: The Case for American Greatness, Barack Obama’s The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream, Newt Gingrich’s A Nation Like No Other: Why American Exceptionalism Matters, and John Kerry’s A Call to Service: My Vision for a Better America, Hard Choices is, quite simply, one of those books that people write when they are running for president. Since it calls itself a “memoir,” and focuses on her four years as secretary of state, and since it does not have the word “America” in the title, Clinton’s version is a little different from the others. But really there can be no doubt that this is a campaign book in an autobiographical and statesmanlike disguise.

I am not sure when it became de rigueur for presidential candidates to publish a work between hard covers, but nobody now runs for high office without having written, or having arranged for the ghostwriting of, a very large book. The advantages are obvious. Such books provide some vignettes for voters to chew over, and some pre-approved quotes for the press. They offer a narrative about the candidate that is entirely of the candidate’s own construction, a story that Hillary or Mitt or Barack can control from start to finish. Above all, the publication of a book, if judiciously planned, can provide an excuse for interviews, a book tour, and quite a lot of highbrow media, and all of this many months or even years before the candidate begins the tedious process of running an actual campaign. If the candidate proves really adept at the writing/ghostwriting/marketing of the thing, he or she can even make some money.

But once the reviewer understands that Hard Choices belongs to this genre, then its positive attributes become much clearer. If you leaf through this book, as I initially did, looking for insight into particular people or events, you will be disappointed. If you look for a grand strategy, you will be similarly let down. But if instead you peruse the book in search of clues as to how candidate Clinton is going to portray herself over the next two

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years, then it becomes somewhat interesting, even downright useful.

It is impossible not to notice, for example, that throughout the book Clinton emphasizes very particular personality traits. She returns again and again to the ethic of service that her parents bequeathed to her. At one point she speaks of her " 'service gene,' that voice telling me there is no higher calling or more noble purpose than serving your country." Clinton also hints at personal sacrifices: "When I chose to leave a career as a young lawyer in Washington to move to Arkansas to marry Bill and start a family, my friends asked, 'Are you out of your mind?' I heard similar questions when I took on health care reform as First Lady, ran for office myself, and accepted President Barack Obama's offer to represent our country as Secretary of State."

That is a clear message: Clinton is not enjoying all of this, and she is not going to pretend otherwise. She didn't move to Arkansas or tackle health care reform or become secretary of state because those were pleasurable things to do. She was not seeking personal gratification—on the contrary. Unlike some of the men who have been or will be her competitors, she is not motivated by narcissism, arrogance, and egotism. She is animated entirely by her "service gene."

And also by her work ethic. She lets us know that she travels doggedly and works obsessively, almost to the point of making herself ill. She tells us more than once how many countries (112) she visited while secretary of state and how many miles (nearly a million) she clocked up. She says that she encouraged her staff to "do whatever they could to stay sane and healthy amid the rigors of a grueling schedule." Diplomats who have dealt with her do indeed testify that she really was always well-briefed and well-prepared. Whichever of those 112 countries she happened to be in, she always knew what the issues were, and she always understood to whom she was talking. Unlike Joe Biden, she never mixed up the president and the prime minister.

This necessarily meant that she relied on the State Department and its employees rather than on her own relatively narrow knowledge of foreign countries—and this, frankly, is a lot better than winging it. Indeed, there is more than a hint of the technocrat about Clinton. She doesn't delve into policy debates much herself, at least not in this book, but she likes to surround herself (along with her retinue of loyalists and handlers) with people who know about things, and she has the technocrat's desire to find the best solution to the problem, whatever its origin. She studiously avoids anything that could be misconstrued as "ideological," or even as an "idea." She admires experience, preferring the sage advice of Richard Holbrooke over the "younger White House aides" who rolled their eyes when he spoke. What she seems to mean by "smart power" is policies that work.

From all of this, it is possible to make a few good guesses about what kind of candidate Clinton hopes to be: deeply non-ideological, a centrist. She intends to run as a hard-working, fact-oriented pragmatist—someone who finds ways to work with difficult opponents, and not only faces up to difficult problems but also makes the compromises needed to solve them. Again and again she portrays herself sitting across the table from Dai Bingguo or President Putin, working hard, searching for a way forward. Similar methods, presumably, can be applied to the Republican leadership.

Though pretty stultifying to anyone who wants a bit of moral uplift from their presidential candidate, this might well be a brilliant campaign strategy. It might even be a brilliant presidential strategy. Clinton wants to be the politician who will rise above the partisanship that has hamstrung the Obama administration, end the gridlock in Washington, cut deals, and move forward.

In order to do this, she will transform herself into a figure of benign neutrality. Unlike Obama, she will not inspire, but she will also not enrage. Perhaps she provoked angry passions as First Lady, but that is all behind us now. Hillary Clinton circa 2016 will promote not the left and not the right, she will promote America.

To anyone whose memory stretches back beyond the two most recent presidential administrations, this may sound familiar. In the Bill Clinton years, this stance was called "triangulation," and it meant that the president kept an equal distance from both the Republicans and the Democrats in Congress. Those who didn't like it complained that, in practice, triangulation required a rejection of anything that looked like political principle or moral consistency in favor of whatever policies might be politically feasible. On the other hand, a decade's worth of bitter partisanship hasn't gotten us anywhere, either. After eight years of Bush and eight more of Obama, the nation might well be tired of Big Ideas, and might well prefer some old-fashioned wheeling and dealing instead.

As for Clinton's lack of emotion, and the reliance on stiff formulations and cliché— well, we might as well get used to it. For there is another message in Hard Choices: by writing the kind of book that she wrote, Clinton is indicating that she is not going to open up and reveal herself in some new way—ever. If there is more depth beneath the surface, if she is less stolid and lackluster than she appears to be, then we aren't going to know about it. This is a woman who is aware that every outfit she wears, every hairstyle she adopts, every word she utters can create an international debate, and she intends to control as much of that conversation as she can. If, once upon a time, there ever was a spontaneous Hillary Clinton who said what she really thinks and did not worry about how the media would respond, that person was suppressed long ago.

Maybe, if she really wants to be president, she was right to have done so. It really is true that one slip of the tongue could end Clinton's career. It is also true that the stories with edifying morals, the glossy photographs, the promise of bipartisanship, the work ethic, the devotion to service and

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duty—all of this makes sense in the context of a national campaign: a lot of people who are only remotely, or not at all, interested in the nuances of the Russian-American relationship can identify with this package very easily. Those who do not want or do not need a grand strategy for America, at home and abroad, may find her "journey" very compelling. And many people will like the positive spin she puts on even the most negative world events: it is so cheerful, so upbeat.

Hard Choices is not remotely a book for the ages. It does not belong on the same shelf as Dean Acheson's memoir. But maybe it contains the winning formula—and for this author, winning is what counts.

Mother Jones: "Meet the GOPers Trolling Hillary From the Left"

By Patrick Caldwell

August 4, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] With Democratic groups uniting behind a Clinton presidential bid, America Rising has swooped in to stir up her progressive critics.

When Hillary Clinton declined to attend the annual Netroots Nation conference in July, the most vocal outcry came not from the progressive base, but from a Republican super-PAC founded by former staffers for Mitt Romney and the Republican National Committee. "Despite flying over Detroit, MI – the home of Netroots Nation 2014 – Hillary Clinton will not strategize with Democratic activists at the United States' 'largest progressive gathering' this weekend," the group wrote on its website. "Instead, she will be traveling from Connecticut to Minnesota in order to $ell her book." That condemnation was paired with a meme-ified graphic of Clinton waving goodbye to the "grassroots" as she flew by.

Officially, Hillary Clinton is still a private citizen contemplating a possible 2016 presidential campaign. But everyone else in the political world is treating her as if she were a formal candidate. A slew of right-wing books targeting Clinton have been published this summer. And a bevy of Democratic super PACs have sprung into existence to defend Clinton and expand her base of support. "I've been amazed at what a cottage industry it is… If it all stopped, a lot of people would lose their jobs," Clinton said recently on the Daily Show of the hype machine that revolves around her potential candidacy.

Unlike during her 2008 presidential campaign, the progressive critique of Clinton has been tepid so far. On the left, there's really no counterweight to the newest branches of the Clinton machine. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick's remark that he does "worry about the inevitability thing" is about the most damning Democratic criticism you hear against Clinton these days. Sure, there's a new group agitating for Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run in 2016, but all the big money on the left has turned to helping out Hillary. Clinton has often had an uneasy relationship with the progressive flank of the Democratic Party—during the 2008 election there was plenty of Hillary trashing throughout the primaries. But, at least so far, Democrats have been held their fire.

With the absence of lefty criticism of Hillary this time around, America Rising is trying to fill the void. It launched a "Stop Hillary 2016" project and website last summer. (If you donate $5 to the PAC they'll send you a Stop Hillary bumper sticker.) And the group released an e-book titled Failed Choices to counter Clinton's State Department memoir. Some of its anti-Clinton material rests on retreading the predictable conservative tropes on Benghazi.

But the super PAC hasn't confined itself to the sort of attacks you would expect from an opposition research shop manned by GOPers. "Our view is that she can't be allowed to have a free pass," says Tim Miller, the group's executive director and a former spokesman for the RNC. "And right now the entire Democratic establishment—from John Podesta to Jim Messina to Randi Weingarten to Emily's List's Stephanie Schriock—are all anointing Hillary the 2016 nominee, so we see it as part of our job to make sure that her real record is being publicized, regardless of the issue or the ideological perspective on it."

The group seems to be going out of its way to stir up trouble for Hillary within the Democrats' lefty base. America Rising has highlighted Clinton's past support for the Iraq War and called her out for continuing contracts with Blackwater when she was at the State Department. The weekend of Netroots Nation, the PAC made a video that spliced together a clip of Elizabeth Warren denouncing lobbyists with an old video of Clinton defending her decision to accept donations from lobbyists, a clear appeal to the liberals who might be wary of Clinton's campaign finance record.

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The group's greatest concern trolling coup came in June, after Clinton was interviewed by NPR's Terry Gross. Before the interview had aired on most stations, America Rising had already clipped a seven-and-a-half minute segment during which Clinton grew defensive when Gross questioned her over her shifting views on same-sex marriage. Media outlets immediately picked up on America Rising's framing of the interview, including liberal media outlets that would traditionally defend Clinton against conservative attacks.

Miller is unabashed about the intentions of America Rising; it's not just a conservative organization, but a Republican super PAC. But despite that affiliation, he doesn't find it weird to be the one behind the occasional bit of liberal prodding. "I think that a big vulnerability for Hillary Clinton throughout her entire career is that she has come off as disingenuous, and come off as overly political, and we see our job as exposing that," Miller says. "So when she is going to either move to the left to try to appease these liberal voters who might be upset about certain things in her record, or pivot to the right to prepare for a general election, that's something we're going to talk about." Until another Democrat steps up and decides to challenge Clinton for the presidential nomination, America Rising won't have much competition.

The College Fix: Daniel Waqar, UNLV Student Government Student Relations Director: "Hillary Clinton Doesn't Need Another $225,000, but UNLV Students Do"

By Daniel Waqar

August 4, 2014

$225,000 for one speech.

When news broke that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would be paid $225,000 to address an October fundraiser for the UNLV Foundation, you could only imagine student reaction. Recent tuition hikes on UNLV students, including a four-year, 17 percent hike passed a few weeks earlier, only compounded the outrage.

For students working to afford the cost of a quality public education in Nevada, life has become tougher in recent years. Unemployment rates for college-age individuals remain at record levels, and tuition for Nevada's in-state universities has tripled in the past 10 years.

Donating her speaking fee to the thousands of students who would benefit from the UNLV Foundation would be an incredible opportunity for Clinton to remain true to her commitment – stated in March at the Globalization of Higher Education conference co-organized by former Florida Republican Gov. Jeb Bush– to making higher education more accessible and affordable for all students.

Though higher education is certainly a priority for leaders both parties, especially potential 2016 presidential candidates like Bush and Clinton, student opposition to Clinton's speaking fee is neither personal nor political.

In fact, in talking with students, I found them grateful and appreciative for the fundraising efforts of Clinton on behalf of the UNLV Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps raise money to award millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of UNLV students every year. For that matter, students are excited about anybody who would raise money for UNLV.

However, hundreds of projects on campus would benefit from the funds of her speaking fee. Not just vital undergraduate research – Huffington Post columnist Joe Ferraro calculated her fee would cover tuition and fees for almost 70 students for a semester at UNLV.

In the face of tuition increasing 17 percent over four years, and more than 100 percent in the last decade, students find themselves priced further away from their education. Teenage and young adult unemployment rates in Nevada are among the highest in the nation – Fox 5 Las Vegas reported figures from the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation in March that teen unemployment was 17.4 percent.

It's becoming harder for young Nevadans to partake in the "shared sacrifice" of higher tuition, as Nevada System of Higher Education Regent Jason Geddes urged in the Las Vegas Sun, when the job market is making employment incredibly tough to find.

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Just two months ago, right around commencement in May, UNLV released statistics to the Las Vegas Review-Journal showing that the average debt burden of the 2012 graduating class was $21,126 per student. Some 40 percent of the 2012 graduating class had taken out student loans.

With a class of about 3,000 students, the total debt burden for the class of 2012 would be about $63 million. Nationwide, student loan debt exceeds credit card debt, and it will be impossible to raise tuition without simultaneously burying students in more student loan debt.

Though Clinton has spent her career standing up for higher education, both in the private sector as well as through public service, students found it difficult to reconcile that support with her receiving a six-figure speaking fee from our university. As the representative voice for 23,000 undergraduate students, the student government in which I serve wanted to let Clinton know her speaking fee, if donated back to UNLV, could serve as a gesture of solidarity with students who are sacrificing so much to pay for their education.

Nevada journalist Jon Ralston noted recently that Clinton has claimed to have donated part or all of her speaking fees back to elite universities all around the country and the world, from Bryn Mawr College to the National Defense University Foundation to St. Andrews University in Scotland.

When Clinton started as a paid speaker last year, Politico reported that she would “likely do some speeches for no fee for causes she champions” and expected to “occasionally donate her fees for charitable purposes.”

If the former secretary of state speaks for 90 minutes, that would be $2,500 a minute, about the cost of a semester’s tuition for a UNLV student. Lost in the partisan rancor of her speaking fee was this question: Who needs the money more, hardworking students buried in student loan debt paying for their education, or a seasoned politician raking in six figures on a regular basis?

Towleroad: “US Ambassador to the OSCE Daniel Baer Marries Partner Brian Walsh”

By Andy Towle

August 2, 2014

Gay U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Daniel Baer married his partner Brian Walsh today.

Tweeted Baer: "So, I got married this morning. Thank you @BarackObama, @HillaryClinton, & @JohnKerry for your commitment to equality".

Congrats to them both!

Associated Press: Today in History: “August 4” [Partial]

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 4, 2014

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Five years ago: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

…

Associated Press: "US Sent Latin Youth Undercover in Anti-Cuba Ploy"

By Desmond Butler, Jack Gillum, Alberto Arce and Andrea Rodriguez

August 4, 2014, 3:41 a.m. EDT

An Obama administration program secretly dispatched young Latin Americans to Cuba using the cover of health and civic programs to provoke political change, a clandestine operation that put those foreigners in danger even after a U.S. contractor was hauled away to a Cuban jail.

Beginning as early as October 2009, a project overseen by the U.S. Agency for International Development sent Venezuelan, Costa Rican and Peruvian young people to Cuba in hopes of ginning up rebellion. The travelers worked undercover, often posing as tourists, and traveled around the island scouting for people they could turn into political activists.

In one case, the workers formed an HIV-prevention workshop that memos called "the perfect excuse" for the program's political goals - a gambit that could undermine America's efforts to improve health globally.

But their efforts were fraught with incompetence and risk, an Associated Press investigation found: Cuban authorities questioned who was bankrolling the travelers. The young workers nearly blew their mission to "identify potential social-change actors." One said he got a paltry, 30-minute seminar on how to evade Cuban intelligence, and there appeared to be no safety net for the inexperienced workers if they were caught.

"Although there is never total certainty, trust that the authorities will not try to harm you physically, only frighten you," read a memo obtained by the AP. "Remember that the Cuban government prefers to avoid negative media reports abroad, so a beaten foreigner is not convenient for them."

In all, nearly a dozen Latin Americans served in the program in Cuba, for pay as low as $5.41 an hour.

The AP found USAID and its contractor, Creative Associates International, continued the program even as U.S. officials privately told their government contractors to consider suspending travel to Cuba after the arrest of contractor Alan Gross, who remains imprisoned after smuggling in sensitive technology.

"We value your safety," one senior USAID official said in an email. "The guidance applies to ALL travelers to the island, not just American citizens," another official said.

The revelations of the USAID program come as the White House faces questions about the once-secret "Cuban Twitter" project, known as ZunZuneo. That program, launched by USAID in 2009 and uncovered by the AP in April, established a primitive social media network under the noses of Cuban officials. USAID's inspector general is investigating that program, which ended in September, 2012.

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Officials said USAID launched "discreet" programs like ZunZuneo to increase the flow of information in a country that heavily restricts it. But the AP's earlier investigation found ZunZuneo was political in nature and drew in subscribers unaware that the service was paid for by the U.S. government.

"USAID and the Obama administration are committed to supporting the Cuban people's desire to freely determine their own future," the agency said in response to written questions from the AP. "USAID works with independent youth groups in Cuba on community service projects, public health, the arts and other opportunities to engage publicly, consistent with democracy programs worldwide."

In a statement late Sunday, USAID said the HIV workshop had a dual purpose: It "enabled support for Cuban civil society while providing a secondary benefit of addressing the desire Cubans expressed for information and training about HIV prevention."

Creative Associates declined to comment, referring questions to USAID.

Both ZunZuneo and the travelers program were part of a larger, multimillion-dollar effort by USAID to effect change in politically volatile countries, government data show. But the programs reviewed by the AP didn't appear to achieve their goals and operated under an agency known more for its international-aid work than stealthy operations. The CIA recently pledged to stop using vaccine programs to gather intelligence, such as one in Pakistan that targeted Osama bin Laden.

The travelers program was launched when newly inaugurated President Barack Obama's administration was talking about a "new beginning" with Cuba after decades of mistrust, raising questions about whether the White House had a coherent policy toward the island nation.

Drawing on documents and interviews worldwide, the AP found the travelers program went to extensive lengths to hide the workers' activities. They were to communicate in code: "I have a headache" meant they suspected they were being monitored by Cuban authorities; "Your sister is ill" was an order to cut their trip short.

"We worked it so that the government here didn't know we were traveling to Cuba and helping these groups," said Yajaira Andrade, a former administrator with a Venezuelan organization. "Because that was when (President Hugo) Chavez was in power, and if he had known about us - that some Venezuelans were working to stir rebellion - we would have been thrown in jail."

To evade Cuban authorities, travelers installed innocent-looking content on their laptops to mask sensitive information they were carrying. They also used encrypted memory sticks to hide their files and sent obviously encrypted emails using a system that might have drawn suspicion.

It is illegal in Cuba to work with foreign democracy-building programs. Nevertheless, one contract was signed days after Gross' detention.

"They arrested a contractor from another agency. That could be dangerous," one Skype message between two project workers would later read. "Thank God he's not one of ours."

Documents show Creative Associates approved the use of the travelers' relatives to carry cash to the Cuban contacts. But the family members weren't to be told that the funds were from the U.S. government.

Hector Baranda, who was a college student in Cuba when he was befriended by a group of traveling Venezuelans, said he was surprised to hear from the AP they were working for the U.S. government and had profiled him.

"How would you feel if you offered your sincere friendship and received this kind of news?" Baranda asked.

The travelers' project was paid for under the same pot of federal money that paid for the ZunZuneo program. But USAID has yet to provide the AP with a complete copy of the Cuban contracts under a Freedom of Information Act request filed more than three months ago.

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Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was in office during the program and is a likely Democratic presidential candidate in 2016, said in her new book "Hard Choices" that she was pleased "to see change slowly creeping into the country."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 6 – Huntington, NY: Sec. Clinton signs books at Book Revue (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
andrew_imparato@help.senate.gov
Date: 5/17/2013 11:43:03 AM
Subject: John Podesta help stop widespread suffering inflicted by unions on workers in me

Dear John, In Medicaid funded in-home supportive services there will be a very miserable day in California soon if something is not done to stop the elimination of the companionship exemption in California's IHSS program. Many families will see their incomes cut in half, long time close relationships between consumers and providers will be torn apart if what is about to happen in California, which we predicted would be the outcome of federal DOL changes in this. You can read the results from our legislative analyst below of what the Brown administration is doing in anticipation of the Dol rules Please I know you're a proud member of a union family. Don't permit them to inflict misery an enormous numbers of Medicaid funded IHSS rank-and-file workers if there is any way in which you can intercede. -- nancy
PS at the end of this you will see a petition written by a rank-and-file worker in Medicaid funded in-home supportive services.

From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net, davidwittie@yahoo.com, flacacata@aol.com, SStahl@cdrnys.org, tilrc@tilrc.org, pat_nobbie@rockefeller.senate.gov
Sent: 5/17/2013 1:14:46 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Brown Administration Will Propose...Avoid Triggering Overtime Provisions If Pro

From: martyomoto@rcip.com
Reply-to: CDCANreportlist01@rcip.com
To: CDCANreportlist01@rcip.com
Sent: 5/17/2013 12:58:02 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Re: CDCAN REPORT #033-2013 (MAY 17 2013): Brown Administration Will Propose Budget Legislative Language Impacting IHSS & Other Homecare Workers To Avoid Triggering Overtime Provisions If Proposed US Dept of Labor Regs Are Approved

CDCAN DISABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

CALIFORNIA DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

#033-2013 – May 17, 2013 – Friday

Advocacy Without Borders: One Community – Accountability With Action

CDCAN Reports go out to over 65,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, people with traumatic brain and other injuries, people with MS, Alzheimer's and other disorders, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, families, workers, community organizations, facilities and advocacy groups including those in the Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, Indian, African-American communities; policymakers, and others across the State.

Sign up for these free reports by going to the CDCAN website. Website: www.cdcan.us

To reply to THIS Report write:

Marty Omoto at martyomoto@rcip.com Twitter: martyomoto New Phone: 916-757-5949

SPECIAL NOTE ON CHANGES FOR CDCAN REPORTS – HELP NEEDED:

NEW EMAIL LIST SERVICE PROVIDER - CDCAN is in process of transitioning to a different email list service to send out future CDCAN reports very soon that should provide a lot of ways to improve and expand reporting. The reports will look basically the same, though there will be differences in format and we won't be able to send out attachments. Please let me know if you are receiving the reports using the new service, and if the format and reporting looks okay or have other comments.

HELP NEEDED: It will cost more every month, so any support would be greatly (and urgently) needed and appreciated. Please help! (see below)

I want to pay special tribute to River City Internet Providers (RCIP) and the staff there for their tremendous support they have given over the past 15 years to CDCAN and the work of advocacy for people with disabilities, mental

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health needs, the blind and seniors. Without them I could not have been able to provide the reports I was able to do over the years. – Marty Omoto martyomoto@rcip.com

California State Budget:

BROWN ADMINISTRATION WILL PROPOSE BUDGET LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE FOR IHSS WORKERS IN RESPONSE TO PENDING US DEPT OF LABOR HOMECARE REGULATIONS

Budget Legislative Language Reportedly Would Put In Place Provisions That Would Prevent IHSS Workers From Working Overtime Hours As Defined By Proposed Federal Regulations That Would Require Overtime Pay

Proposal Wouldn't Cut IHSS Recipient Hours – But Could Place Limits On Number of Hours A IHSS Worker Could Provide To That Recipient And Not Trigger Overtime Requirement of Proposed Federal Regulations

Proposal Likely To Come Before Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on Monday

Issue Impacts IHSS Budget Under Department of Social Services – and Likely Impact to Supported Living and Independent Living Services Funding Under Department of Developmental Services Budget That Funds Regional Centers

SACRAMENTO, CA (CDCAN) [Last updated 05/17/2013 10:50 AM] – The Brown Administration will propose budget related legislation – known as budget trailer bill language – that reportedly will include provisions that would limit the number of hours an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) worker could provide to a IHSS recipient so that the overtime pay requirement in a pending controversial federal Department of Labor regulation would not be triggered. As of May 17th, there has been no announcement yet from the federal government on whether or not the proposed final regulations have been approved – though most observers believe approval is likely at some point.

It is not clear if the proposed trailer bill language would make changes in State to impose the change – and how those changes would specifically impact individual IHSS and other workers - or if the language would simply state intent that would require change in State law later.

The issue has major impact of potentially hundreds of millions of State general fund dollars to the IHSS budget under the Department of Social Services – the state agency that oversees the program statewide that serves over 440,000 children and adults with disabilities (including developmental) the blind and seniors, and likely impact to Supported Living Services and Independent Living Services funding under the Department of Developmental Services budget that funds regional center community-based services for over 260,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities. The issue would have major impact to home health agencies. Other program and services in other budget areas could be impacted depending on the wording of the proposed federal regulations – and the wording of the proposed budget trailer bill language.

While the proposed legislative trailer bill language would not change the maximum number of hours under State law that an IHSS recipient can receive, it could have impact on their workers if those workers provide services to the recipient that would trigger overtime rules as proposed in the federal regulations

The budget legislative language has not yet been released but could be available sometime later today or Monday (May 20th), when the issue will likely be heard and acted on by the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on Health and Human Services. CDCAN will send out a report with the proposed language as soon as it is available.

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The Brown Administration previously sent a letter urging the Obama Administration to modify the proposed regulations on IHSS and other homecare workers, citing limited state resources to cover overtime costs that the regulation would impose, and the impact on IHSS recipients that could mean less availability of their experienced worker and the need to hire additional people, in order to avoid exceeding the overtime rules.

IHSS COURT SETTLEMENT BILL UP FOR FINAL ASSEMBLY VOTE MONDAY

Meanwhile, in related news, SB 67, the budget related bill that makes the necessary changes in State law to implement the IHSS court settlement agreement, including a temporary 8% across-the-board cut in hours to all IHSS recipients beginning July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, followed by a 7% across-the-board cut that begins July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2015, will be taken up for final vote on the Assembly floor on Monday afternoon, May 20th. The bill passed the State Senate, as expected, on May 13th by a vote of 24 to 9.

WHAT THE PROPOSED FEDERAL REGULATIONS WOULD DO

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was passed in 1938 to provide minimum wage and overtime protections for workers, to prevent unfair competition among businesses based on subminimum wages, and to require employers whose employees work excessive hours to compensate employees at one-and-one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours.

The Fair Labor Standards Act did not initially protect workers employed directly by households in domestic service, such as cooks, housekeepers, maids, and gardeners. However domestic workers that were employed by businesses covered under the federal labor law, such as gardeners employed by landscaping companies or a cook employed by a caterer, did received minimum wage and overtime protections even if their work was in or about a private household.

Congress in 1974, amended the Fair Labor Standards Act, to extend coverage to “domestic service” workers amending the federal law to apply to employees performing services of a household nature in or about a private home. While amending the federal law, Congress also provided for a limited exemption from both the minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for “casual babysitters” and companions for the aged and infirm, and created an exemption from the overtime pay requirement only for live-in domestic workers. Federal law on this issue has largely remained unchanged since then.

The proposed US Department of Labor regulations would change and in some cases repeal those existing overtime exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act so that many of the nearly 1.9 million domestic workers across the US (including hundreds of thousands of IHSS and other homecare workers in California) would no longer be considered exempt from federal minimum wage and overtime rules.

The proposed federal regulations would add home health aides and personal care aides as subject to federal minimum wage and overtime rules and more narrowly defines the current wage and hour exemption for "companionship services" to "the provision of fellowship and protection."

The proposed federal regulations would place limits on the amount of other work done by a person under the "companionship services" exemption to "20% incidental and occasional services such as dressing, grooming, toileting, driving to appointments, feeding , laundry, bathing."

The proposed regulations would clarify that “companionship services” do not include the performance of medically related tasks for which training is typically required.

ISSUE HAS DIVIDED ADVOCATES FOR WORKERS & RECIPIENTS OF SERVICES

Across the nation and in California, the issue has sharply divided worker unions and workers, with many of the IHSS and other recipients of domestic and homecare services and advocates.

Advocates for people with disabilities and seniors while agreeing that domestic and IHSS workers should be treated fairly and paid overtime – fear that the federal and states will not fund overtime. That in turn will mean – they believe – potential loss of in-home supports or instability because new additional workers would need to be hired to avoid triggering the proposed overtime provisions.

Advocates for the proposed rule say that state and federal governments should fund the overtime provisions – as they

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do for other state, federal and county workers. They assert that domestic workers – including homecare workers – have a right to be treated as a worker on the same level as any other worker protected by federal law. Advocates for workers and unions have previously made attempts in recent legislation to make changes in State law regarding overtime for domestic and certain homecare workers, though exempting IHSS workers. Those bills however either failed to win final approval in the Legislature or were vetoed by the Governor.

ISSUE HAS MAJOR IMPACT IN CALIFORNIA

The issue would impact some number of the over 360,000 IHSS workers who work more 40 hours per week for a IHSS recipient, and some number of the over 440,000 children and adults with disabilities (including developmental), the blind and seniors who are IHSS recipients.

The pending regulations – and proposed Brown Administration trailer bill language in response to those proposed federal regulation – would also impact other similar support workers including Supported Living Services workers funded under the 21 non-profit regional centers under contract with the Department of Developmental Services for thousands of people with developmental disabilities.

PROPOSED FEDERAL REGULATIONS ISSUED DECEMBER 2011 BY PRESIDENT OBAMA

The proposed regulations that would extend federal minimum wage and overtime protections to domestic worker, including in-home health care workers was announced by President Obama in December 2011, with the proposed regulation appearing in the December 27, 2011 Federal Register for public comment.

That public comment period was extended twice, with the final comment deadline March 21, 2012.

A copy of the most recent version of the proposed regulation – as released December 27, 2011 can be downloaded from this link from the federal register: http://webapps.dol.gov/FederalRegister/PdfDisplay.aspx?DocId=25639

PROPOSED FEDERAL REGULATIONS STILL PENDING FINAL APPROVAL – BUT DECISION COULD COME ANY DAY FROM WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

DEC 27, 2011: the US Department of Labor submitted the proposed regulation, published in the Federal Register, for public comment.

FEB 24, 2012: the US Department of Labor published a notice to extend the comment period to March 12, 2012, because of requests received to extend the period for filing public comments.

MAR 13, 2012: the US Department of Labor published a notice to extend the comment period a second time - until March 21, 2012. Over 9,000 public comments were received between December 27, 2011 and March 21, 2012 will be included in the rulemaking record according to the US Department of Labor

JAN 15, 2013: the US Department of Labor submitted for final review the proposed federal regulations to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), a division within the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as part of the long federal regulatory process. Certain federal regulations that have significant impact are referred to the Office of Management and Budget for further review and approval. That White House agency, under federal law, normally has 90 days to review the proposed final regulations, which mean a deadline of April 15th in the case of the domestic worker proposed US Department of Labor regulations. However that deadline can be extended by the OMB director for an additional 30 days – or extended indefinitely by the agency proposing the regulations – in this case the US Department of Labor.

APR 15, 2013: 90 day deadline for the Office of Management and Budget's review of the US Department of Labor domestic worker proposed final regulations.

MAY 15, 2013: It is clear the deadline has been extended, but it is not clear if the extension is 30 days – meaning May 15th, or if it was extended indefinitely.

MAY 17, 2013: No word yet from the Office of Management and Budget on the proposed US Department of Labor regulations. The Office of Management and Budget could give final approval, could deny the proposed regulation or send it back to the Department of Labor for needed changes. The decision by the Brown Administration could mean

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that a decision from the US Office of Management and Budget to give final approval of the proposed regulation is imminent.

http://www.change.org/petitions/united-states-department-of-labor-don-t-remove-the-companion-exemption-to-the-flsa-until-money-is-there

Dear Editor;

In your editorial, "Homecare Rules in the Homestretch," you fail to understand the reality of living on government funded Medicaid and the Russian Roulette pistol aimed at the heads of the Seniors, People with Disabilities and our Home Care Workers who depend on it, every year when budgets are cut. Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS (In Home Supportive Services) are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 159 hours of IHSS a month.

I know of a proud union member, a mother over 60, who has multiple disabilities of her own and takes care of her adult son with athetoid cerebral palsy who will see her household income of about $2520 a month in California drop to $1431, as her hours are cut from 280 hours a month to 159 hours. She doesn't have the stamina to supplement her income with more jobs and she has trouble finding other caregivers because her son cannot be understood very well by others. The union has taken over $40 a month from her for check each month to lobby for what will cut her income by a pretty big fraction. 70% of the caregivers in California are family members whose households stay intact with IHSS. A cut in hours can threaten their ability to stay in their homes. Seniors and People with Disabilities with Live in Caregivers will be uprooted as well. Jerry Brown just got done settling a lawsuit trying to cut the IHSS program in California by 20% and settled for cutting it by about 8 percent. Do you really think he's going to take time and a half for over 50,000 providers? His representative on an Olmsted conference said they wouldn't.

When I was in the Young Socialist Alliance in college, before I had my accident, I believed in theories in a vacuum. Then I became disabled and saw how these things work out on a real-life level. In California, we have the most highly advanced In-Home Supportive Services program, and the reason it was so good is that the disabled person received money to find somebody and all of that money went directly to the caregiver. The attendant got all the bang for the buck. And while ADAPT American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today was fighting to get In Home Care, this wonderful program to all the states, they came up with things like "Money Follows the Person" and "Community First Choice Option" where that money continued to go to the disabled person to pay directly to their caregiver with no middleman.

But suddenly all kinds of profiteering is going on as big bad corporations and yes even sometimes big bad unions behaviors are immerging as monied interests smell a beautiful dollar to be made in the graying of the baby boomers. On a good day the union is our greatest blessing on a bad day they are our greatest curse. The only way to come up with a reasonable solution that takes everyone's welfare into account is to sit down and work it out. I think what's been most frightening to me in all of this is the ease with which able-bodied regard People with Disabilities as invisible. The SEIU would not even sit down at the table with People with Disabilities to work out a compromise. Would this happen to a person of color? Are we the last population to be seen as a fraction of a person -- or a person who is really there at all?

People have been making industries of people with disabilities for decades, in the nursing home industry, the charity industry, and now the medical industrial complex and the unions too on a bad day. People from ADAPT clawed our ways out of nursing homes that were profiteering off of us and now we have to fight against the nursing agency industry, managed care corporations, and even at times a union that is so out of touch with its rank and file providers needs that it would create three

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crappy jobs from one not so good one in order to collect two or three union dues on a one house. It is the people disabilities and rank-and-file providers, who are in a symbiotic relationship, huddled together to keep industries and unions from objectifying us and moving us around like "furniture" in their business plans. You can choose to be naïve and come up with lovely little fairy lands in your own mind, but make no mistake, your naïveté will be paid for by the rank-and-file workers whose pay will be cut badly and people with disabilities who will go back to nursing homes.

The ADAPT-NCIL compromise would simply eliminate the exemption for third party employers, treating Medicaid consumers in consumer directed programs (including public authorities, fiscal intermediaries and agencies with choice) the same as private employers so they can still use the existing exemption. According to the DOL analysis, this change - alone - would eliminate the companionship exemption for 70% of home care workers. It covers all of the "bad players" and concerns raised in the DOL analysis that exist in traditional home care while minimizing the negative impact on people with disabilities and preventing the unexpected consequences such changes would have on real live people in Medicaid funded programs.

Where were our points of view in this newspaper? In the DOL discussions? Why include us? It's only our bodies, our civil rights, our freedom to live lives akin to political prisoners in iinstitutions! If anyone had any respect for people with disabilities we would have included us in the discussion.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Appointed Member Since Its Inception
Los Angeles County Public Authority Board PASC
that oversees the In Home Care of over
200,000 Seniors and People with Disabilities

Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

"Nothing About Us Without Us!" (Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis") is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members the group(s) affected by that policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability based or other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

From: "Donna Calame" <donna@sfihsspa.org>
Date: March 3, 2013, 10:33:48 AM PST
To: <letters@nytimes.com>
Subject: Home Care Rules in the Home Stretch

What this NY Times editorial fails to acknowle

-----Original Message-----
From: Nobbie, Pat (Rockefeller) (Rockefeller)
<Pat_Nobbie@rockefeller.senate.gov>
To: 'Nancybk@aol.com' <Nancybk@aol.com>; 'Elena Ackel'
<EAckel@lafla.org>; 'Bruce Darling' <bdarling@cdrnys.org>
Sent: Fri, May 17, 2013 8:47 am
Subject: Companionship exemption

Good Morning all,

Can you tell me the latest update on the DOL rules for this issue? We have received requests for signing on a letter, but want your take.
Thanks,
pat

Patricia D. Nobbie, Ph.D.
Joseph P. Kennedy Public Policy Fellow
Office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV

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West Virginia
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Ph. 202-224-0822
Fax: 202-224-7665

Click here: The Center for Disability Rights - Free Our People

From: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
To: bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net
Sent: 3/23/2013 5:58:27 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Disability Community vs DOL

From California:

Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 160 hours of IHSS a month.

In California where 70% of caregivers are family providers, IHSS makes it possible for families to stay intact when they have a senior family member or a family members with a disability, who needs in-home care. These families could see their household income drop dramatically. Significantly disabled people with over 160 hours could lose loyal live-in and live out caregivers they've had for decades, because their work hours will be cut below the money they need to live. Or people with severe disabilities may not be able to get providers to help them when one of the providers needs to leave, because the remaining providers will be in danger working overtime. The unintended consequences of this unbalanced approach to the way private and public in-home supportive services are paid could lead to widespread misery in publicly funded In-Home Supportive Services.

Senior and Disability Rights Advocates were not included in discussions where these Department of Labor rules were developed. Now, the National Council on Disability is trying to explain this to those who can make a difference. Their letter is printed below. The NCIL/ADAPT compromise could be a win-win solution for everyone, where privately funded agencies would have different rules than in publicly funded Medicaid In-Home Supportive Services in states where finite revenues determine what can be paid. "Our compromise creates a win-win solution, covers 70% of attendants and allows us all to be at the table for further discussion," says Bruce Darling of CDR ADAPT.

Below see the Letter from the National Council on Disability about these possible negative unintended consequences. http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/ The Disability and Senior communities and the rank-and-file IHSS providers in New York and California do not seem to of been fully informed or permitted to give input about the impact of this law as written. If after reading this letter, you feel the Office of Management and Budget should delay changing these rules until they consult with Disability And Senior Communities and make sure it won't cut the number of hours providers are permitted to work in publicly funded programs, then sign the petition at the link above or make your comments here at Capitol Hill's Congress blog http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/286539-act-now-on-fair-wages-for-home-care-aides and *DIRECT letters to letters@nytimes.com*

As more sign-on letters are developed for the Office of Management and Budget OMB, we will give you other opportunities to voice your opinions, but time is running short before these proposed laws will become what we try to live with. United in win-win solutions for Home Care Workers and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities!

http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

"The disability community is deeply concerned that the proposed changes will have a negative impact on people with disabilities, consumer direction and our attendants. Medicaid rates are not going to increase so attendant hours will be capped. DOL - in its own analysis - identified that instutionalization was an outcome of these rules. Are you aware of our concerns? Do you really think Medicaid rates are going to increase to coveer the cost of time-and-a-half? Appreciate your insights as to how this would - practically - move forward. -- Bruce Darling ADAPT"

Check outwww.DOLoffMYbody.org to get a feel for how these proposed rules impact people with disabilities.

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 11:14:54 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC

No

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2015, at 5:33 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Tony's response to do you know her.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com >
> Date: Aug 16, 2015 4:29 PM
> Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC
> To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> Cc:
>
> Yes
> Lloyd hand daughter
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Aug 16, 2015, at 3:38 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Know her?
> >
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
> > Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
> > Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
> > To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
> > Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com
> >
> > Dear Jake and John:
> >
> > I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.
> >
> > Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.
> >
> > Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

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I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, “politics as usual’ is immediately heard as “politics as usual in Clinton-world.”

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the

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beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson's War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon's 'silent majority,' -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women's rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

"The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which "brings us together in a peaceful loving state."

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking's insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:13:35 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Here we go...
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> User Actions
> Following
>
> **Marco RubioVerified account** @ marcorubio
>
> After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

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https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/12/2015 12:37:57 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.12.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.12.15.docx

H4A Press Clips
May 12, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Huffington Post did an extensive deep-dive report on Hillary Clinton's legacy as former First Lady of Arkansas. Politico previews Mayor De Blasio's expected announcement today of a progressive "Contract with America," characterizing it as an effort to exert leftward pressure on Clinton.

With a procedural vote set in the Senate later today on fast-track authority on trade, both the New York Times and Washington Post report on Clinton's reticence on the issue of free trade since departing the State Department.

John Oliver's Mother's Day segment this Sunday mirrored Clinton's support and highlighted that the United States is the only developed nation not to provide any paid maternity leave. News outlets declared that paid leave would become a big issue during the 2016 election.

And a group of Ohio voters have filed suit over that state's early voting laws. News outlets have claimed that because Marc Elias is involved in these proceedings that Hillary for America is a party to the suit being filed. The campaign issued a statement indicating it is not involved in the suit, though it shares the concerns of the plaintiffs.

On the Republican side, Jeb Bush's interview with Fox News prompted searing coverage from right-wing commentators such as Byron York and Laura Ingraham over his statements that even knowing what he knows now, Bush would still vote to authorize the Iraq war.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

Last night there was no 2016 coverage on any of the networks. The three major news outlets instead covered Patriot's Tom Brady's 4 game suspension and fine due to the Deflate-gate scandal, severe weather in Texas and Arkansas, and the major hurdle cleared for Shell Oil Company to start drilling in the Artic.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

On trade deal, Hillary Clinton keeps her distance from Obama and her past // WaPo // David Nakamura – May 12, 2015

The United States' reputation in Asia was suffering under the weight of its own economic and political turmoil when Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Hong Kong to reassure American business executives in the summer of 2011.

Back in Washington, President Obama was locked in a budget dispute with Congress that would ultimately damage the nation's credit rating. But in remarks to the American Chamber of Commerce, Clinton painted a robust vision of U.S. economic leadership, anchored by an emerging free-trade deal that "will bring together economies from across the Pacific."

The goal of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, she explained, was to "create a new high standard for multilateral free trade," a pact that would cement the United States' standing in the world's fastest-growing region.

Four years later, with Obama making a desperate final push to complete that 12-nation pact, his former partner and most effective global advocate for the deal has gone quiet. As the president has scoured Capitol Hill for elusive Democratic support in recent weeks, Clinton has said virtually nothing about the TPP, other than to point out areas of the deal with which she has concerns.

[How Obama could face a Democratic filibuster on trade]

Clinton's silence on trade, coming at the worst possible time for Obama, dovetails with her transformation into a presidential candidate eager to align herself more squarely with the liberal wing of her party. In other areas in which Clinton has moved to the left — such as immigration reform and gay marriage — White House aides have been delighted that she has forcefully embraced the president's governing record.

But on trade, Clinton's hedge has left Obama without political cover in his increasingly bitter feud with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and other progressives, who have fiercely opposed the pact as a boondoggle for big business. On Tuesday, a bill to grant Obama "fast track" authority to complete the trade pact faces its first test in the Senate, without a clear path to the necessary 60 votes to avoid a filibuster.

"One of the biggest proponents of the TPP in the administration now, as a candidate, picking on a couple of technical issues just looks like pure politicking," said Ernest Bower, a Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

For Clinton, the trade pact is "part of her legacy," Bower said. "She really believes in it." He predicted that as president she would "not only work to support it, but expand it as fast as she can."

White House aides have refused to criticize Clinton for remaining on the sidelines, noting that the trade pact has undergone changes since she departed more than two years ago. But she has been mocked by her political rivals on both sides of the aisle — including other Democratic presidential hopefuls who oppose the deal and GOP leaders who support it — for her refusal to take a clear position.

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“She can’t sit on the sidelines and let the president swing in the wind here,” House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) said on “Meet the Press” last week.

Clinton’s campaign pointed to a statement from three weeks ago, in which her spokesman said any trade pact must “raise wages and create more good jobs at home” and strengthen national security. Clinton reiterated those criteria a few days later during an appearance in New Hampshire, her only public comments on the trade deal since launching her campaign.

In many ways, the politics for Clinton are playing out in a fashion similar to 2008, when both she and Obama, competing for support in Rust Belt states during the Democratic primary, distanced themselves from the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement, signed by President Bill Clinton.

Longtime allies described Hillary Clinton as generally less inclined to support large, multilateral trade deals than her husband was. As a senator, she voted against the Central American Free Trade Agreement in 2005, as did Obama, then also a senator.

“Some people are generally pro-trade or anti-trade. She’s case-by-case on trade,” said Gene Sperling, director of the National Economic Council in both the Clinton and Obama administrations. “There is no question she has historically had a more skeptical view on trade than President Clinton.”

With manufacturing-heavy Iowa holding the first-in-the-nation caucuses — which she lost to Obama seven years ago — Clinton would be foolish to actively stump in favor of the president’s trade initiative, allies said.

But this time, the political calculus is complicated by her legacy as the nation’s top diplomat.

Foreign policy analysts have pointed to the Obama administration’s bid to shift U.S. attention and resources toward Asia to counter China as potentially one of Clinton’s most significant achievements as secretary of state (especially when compared with the deteriorating security environments in the Middle East and Eastern Europe).

From the start of her tenure, Clinton made Asia a priority; her first trip in office was a swing through Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and China. Early on, Clinton and her top aides endorsed the TPP as a way to balance the Pentagon’s military buildup in the Asia Pacific region with an economic platform.

Clinton’s team, in conjunction with the White House, helped elevate the trade pact as a pillar of what Clinton later described, in a Foreign Policy magazine cover story in October 2011, as the administration’s “pivot” to Asia.

“Clearly, we all saw this as strategic,” said James Keith, the U.S. ambassador to Malaysia from 2007 to 2010. Before the administration publicly unveiled its Asia strategy, “there was lots of talk of having to add meat to the bones, not just on security but on economics, too. There were deep discussions about making it more than just showing up, but also about adding real resources and economic integration in Asia.”

Yet a primary concern Clinton has raised about the TPP after leaving office did not register alarms inside the State Department during her tenure.

In 2009, the agency oversaw a review of a component of U.S. trade policy, appointing a panel of business officials, labor leaders and academics to review the language in the United States’ “model bilateral investment treaty.” That

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treaty is used by U.S. negotiators to open talks with other countries and is included in most trade deals.

During the review, which lasted six months, one of the primary disagreements centered on the standard inclusion of a dispute settlement mechanism that allows corporations to sue nation-states over policies that damage their profits. Under the provision, the cases are heard by an international tribunal that rules outside of domestic legal systems.

To the chagrin of the labor representatives, the dispute mechanism provision remained intact during the State Department review after the business representatives on the panel fiercely defended it.

“I had the feeling that we were a box that was just going to be checked off,” said Kevin P. Gallagher, an associate professor at Boston University who participated on the review panel. “It was a multi-stakeholder dialogue in which we did not agree with each other, so they just go with the old model.”

Warren has made this arrangement — formally known as “investor-state dispute settlement” — a chief part of her objections to the TPP. She has argued that the mechanism potentially exposes U.S. taxpayers to massive monetary damages outside of U.S. courts if corporations sue the government over new laws to protect the environment or workers.

Obama has called her arguments “dishonest,” and he has pointed out that the United States has been sued just 13 times over the provision in previous trade pacts and never lost a case.

In her book “Hard Choices,” published last year, Clinton raised concerns that echo Warren’s. She cited a case in which the Asia division of tobacco giant Philip Morris sued Australia over a “plain packaging” law, employing the dispute settlement provisions in an Australia-Hong Kong trade pact.

“We should avoid some of the provisions sought by business interests,” Clinton wrote.

Some progressives said they do not fault Clinton for raising concerns only after leaving office. They noted that the issue gained greater notoriety and urgency after public protests last year in Europe after a Swedish company sued Germany under a similar trade-deal provision.

Robert Hormats, a high-ranking State Department official from 2009 to 2013, oversaw the trade policy review and emphasized that Clinton was not involved in those types of granular policy discussions.

By the time she left office, the general framework for the TPP was already in place. During a speech in Australia in November 2012, Clinton referred to the pact as “the gold standard in trade agreements.”

The risk now for Clinton is that if the trade deal fails, the Obama administration’s “Asia pivot” strategy risks being viewed as more rhetorical than tangible, foreign policy analysts said, which could lead to a reevaluation of her legacy at the State Department.

“We saw it as a chance to make a difference,” Hormats said, reflecting on the Clinton team’s early embrace of the TPP. “You have to remember, the American economy was in the dumps. The weakness of the American economy in the financial crisis led many to assume the U.S. was backing off and incapacitated.”

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After he and other Clinton aides made trips to China in 2009, Hormats said, “we came back more resolute than ever that we had to do this.”

In Arkansas, Hillary Clinton’s Legacy Remains Potent // Huffington Post // Scott Conroy - May 11, 2015

Back in the sizzling summer of 1991, Arkansans could often find Bill and Hillary Clinton sitting in the bleachers at softball fields around Little Rock, as they watched their 11-year-old daughter Chelsea play third base for the Molar Rollers -- a team sponsored by a local dentist.

After the last out was made, Chelsea’s teammates would often get a thrill when the governor loaded them into his official vehicle and took them out to get frozen yogurt. But every now and then, Bill’s jam-packed schedule was such that Hillary was the only member of Arkansas’ first couple who could attend a particular game.

It was on one such occasion that longtime Clinton family friend Skip Rutherford -- whose daughter Martha was the Molar Rollers’ catcher -- struck up a conversation about national politics while sitting in the stands next to Hillary.

Still just a few months after the Persian Gulf War’s triumphant completion, President George H.W. Bush’s approval rating remained above 70 percent, and Rutherford shared the popular opinion at the time that his re-election was all but assured.

“Whoever ends up running, it doesn’t look like they’ll have much of a chance,” Rutherford recalls lamenting to Hillary. “I just don’t think President Bush can be beat. The numbers just look like he’s got the thing in the bag.”

Clinton -- the acclaimed attorney, who typically chose her words carefully -- pondered this for a moment before issuing her reply.

“Well, I’m not so sure,” she said.

“Really?” Rutherford shot back, not yet aware that her husband had begun contemplating a White House run.

“What the Democrats need is a message and a messenger,” Hillary said.

Clinton was, no doubt, referring to her husband. But in truth, “Billery,” as Bill and Hillary Clinton were known in Arkansas, was indeed a singular force, and it was impossible to talk about the achievements of the former without mentioning those of the latter.

Even today, Hillary Rodham Clinton’s legacy in Arkansas -- particularly in the realms of education, health care and childhood welfare -- remains nearly as robust as her husband’s.

This is, after all, a city where a 15-minute drive eastward can take you from the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library along President Clinton Avenue and then on to Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport.

As the Democratic frontrunner revs up her second campaign for the presidency, one of most common critiques that Republicans levy against Hillary Clinton goes something like this: “Yeah, she has a long resume. But what has she actually accomplished?”

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On the federal stage, she has had some significant swings and misses that have fed into that perception. Among the most politically toxic: her failed 1993 health care reform push as U.S. first lady, and the Russia “reset” policy and botched response to the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks when she was secretary of state.

Perhaps the simplest rebuttal that Clinton could deliver would be this: “Just look at what I left behind in Arkansas.”

And while her achievements in the state are now a quarter-century or more in the rearview mirror, the Clinton campaign says it isn’t shying away from running, in part, on the now-distant past.

“Every aspect of Hillary’s professional life is an important part of the story for voters in this election because her collective body of work demonstrates a proven track record of being a tenacious fighter for everyday Americans, their families and especially their children,” said Clinton spokesperson Adrienne Elrod. “People know that’s what she’ll do if she gets elected because it’s what she’s always done."

Clinton developed her curiosity -- and ultimately her expertise -- in the issues that would define her tenure as first lady of Arkansas before she moved to the state with the future president.

Following her graduation from Yale Law School in 1973, Hillary Rodham spent a year conducting postgraduate work at the Yale Child Study Center, during which time she published a widely cited article in the Harvard Educational Review examining how children were viewed under the law, and offering significant proposals for reform.

She also landed a job working for the Children’s Defense Fund, where she worked to expose discrepancies between census data and school enrollment -- a time she recalled at the first public event of her 2016 campaign in Monticello, Iowa, this April.

“I was knocking on doors saying, ‘Is there anybody school-aged who’s not in school?’ and finding blind kids and deaf kids and kids in wheelchairs who were just left out,” she recalled. “And I was able in Arkansas to work and try to improve education there and give more kids chances who really deserved them.”

Hillary Rodham’s path to improving education in Arkansas began in 1974 when she moved to Fayetteville and became just the second female faculty member at the University of Arkansas Law School. Bill Clinton lost his bid for a U.S. House seat the same year.

After she married the following year, retaining her maiden name, Bill was elected attorney general of Arkansas, and the couple moved to Little Rock. Meanwhile, Hillary’s own career took off upon joining the high-powered Rose Law Firm, where she took on pro bono children’s rights cases.

In 1977, Hillary co-founded and drew up the articles of incorporation for the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families -- a group that for nearly four decades since has fought for expanded opportunities in early education, juvenile justice reform, increases in state funding for child health care and other major initiatives.

“She was a very forceful advocate to say the least,” recalled Jim Miles, who worked with her to create the group and develop its mission. “I think Arkansas Advocates is one of the nation’s premier child advocacy organization. They have tremendous peer respect.”

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After Bill Clinton was sworn in as governor for the first time in 1979, he appointed his wife to be the chairwoman of Arkansas' Rural Health Advisory Committee -- a group that worked to expand health care access within the state's large rural population.

Around the same time, Hillary became a board member of the Arkansas Children's Hospital, where she helped establish the state's first neonatal nursery while she was pregnant with Chelsea. The facility has since expanded several times over.

Meanwhile, after reading about it during a trip to Florida, Hillary brought to Arkansas a program called Home Instruction for Parents for Preschool Youngsters, or HIPPY, which trains parents of at-risk children in early education methods.

It wasn't until after Clinton lost re-election in 1980 and then won his 1982 comeback bid that the newly minted political wife (who now made it known that she would henceforth be known as "Hillary Rodham Clinton") made what is widely regarded as her most significant and lasting contribution to public policy in Arkansas.

Shortly after he reassumed office in 1982, Bill Clinton named his wife as chair of the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee, an entity with the daunting task of reforming the state's public education system, which was ranked at or near the very bottom of all 50 states in just about every measure.

To get a sense of how dire the situation had become, consider that a majority of Arkansas' 365 school districts at the time offered no art or chemistry classes, and almost half had no foreign language program to speak of. And teacher training in some districts was fourth-rate.

Don Ernst -- who was a social studies teacher at Southside High School in Fort Smith, Arkansas, before joining Clinton's education policy staff -- recalls walking into his school's biology lab and seeing two dozen unopened microscopes in storage. When he asked the biology teacher why the instruments weren't available to her class, she responded that she was afraid her students might break them.

Still, as Ernst recalls, school reform in Arkansas was not an easy sell.

"It was doing the right thing," he said. "But we also had to figure out how to deal with the politics of an anti-tax state and a state that has never been particularly fond of intellectuals and education."

Hillary spent months traveling the state to sell her proposals for reform -- which included boosting course offerings, reducing class sizes and implementing testing requirements for both students and teachers -- while soliciting ideas from parents and teachers.

In the end, the administration tied the package to an unpopular initiative to boost the state sales tax by 1 percentage point.

Though she faced heated pushback from the teachers' union and a related group, Hillary largely won over lawmakers in the end.

Political operatives in the state still laugh about the thunderstruck reaction that Rep. Lloyd George, a colorful state representative with a syrupy drawl, had to her presentation: "I think we've elected the wrong Clinton!"

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Though Bill Clinton received most of the credit nationally for the reform package that he signed into law, Skip Rutherford, who has served for the last decade as the dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, said it was Hillary who “took Arkansas to a completely different level educationally.”

“She was really saying, ‘Look, when our students graduate now, they’re going to be competing in a world economy,’” he said. “She was very visionary. She did it not for immediate gratification but for long-term success.”

In recent years, Arkansas' public school system has been ranked by education groups as high as fifth in the nation and as low as 45th, as relatively low achievement levels have struggled to keep up with the high standards that Clinton implemented.

But in spite of the continued challenges, education in Arkansas is no longer the national laughingstock that it was when a common lament among self-conscious policymakers around the capitol was, “Thank God for Mississippi.”

And for Clinton -- particularly in a general election scenario, in which she may face off against a Republican governor who will boast of his own executive leadership -- that is something to crow about.

Still, even if she does emphasize her Arkansas achievements more than she did during the 2008 campaigns, there appears to be little chance that she’ll be doing so within Arkansas’ borders.

The years of Democratic domination here have long since passed, as Arkansas has assumed an overwhelmingly Republican profile that is more in keeping with neighboring states like Oklahoma and Missouri than it is with the new South battlegrounds of North Carolina and Virginia.

It was Bill Clinton himself who offered a frank reality check for any Democrats who may have dreams of an Arkansas victory in 2016 dancing through their heads.

"I was governor a long time," he said last month during a question-and-answer session at his alma mater, Georgetown University. "The people of my native state were good enough to elect me five times. Based on recent events, I don't know if I could win again down there."

Paid Leave Is Going to Matter in 2016, Thanks to John Oliver and Hillary Clinton // New Republic // Elizabeth Stoker Bruenig - May 11, 2015

John Oliver’s Mother’s Day segment this Sunday opened with a glimpse into what businesses are willing to take in the name of motherhood (namely: your money, on this shamelessly Hallmarkian holiday) versus what they’re willing to give: paid maternity leave.

Oliver pointed out that the United States is singular among developed nations in its complete failure to provide any paid leave to mothers whatsoever. Globally, we are joined only by Papua New Guinea in our lack of paid maternity leave policy, according to data collected by the International Labor Organization, a United Nations agency. Unlike mothers in countries with mandates providing paid maternity leave—The Netherlands, for example, where women are guaranteed 16 weeks of paid leave, or Norway, where women can take 36 weeks—women in the U.S. often patch together a mishmash of vacation time, sick days, and whatever maternity leave is available from their workplace to eke out time to care for their newborns.

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Oliver observed, quite rightly, that the meager twelve weeks of unpaid leave currently mandated by the federal government spooked employers when proposed in 1993. Businesses' allergy to any kind of regulation, Oliver proposed, helps explain why America has fallen so far behind when it comes to paid family leave. California's paid maternity leave mandate hasn't introduced chaos or even inconvenienced businesses in the state; nonetheless, only three states have enacted similar legislation.

It is a scandal that, in a nation where family values feature so prominently in political discourse, there is barely a shred of protection for working women who give birth. Worse, even the weak provision of twelve weeks unpaid leave doesn't extend to some women, as Demos senior fellow Caroline Fredrickson points out in her new book Under the Bus: How Working Women are Being Run Over. Women who work part-time, for small businesses, and immigrant women often in domestic work are left out of our leave mandates. Unfortunately, the women who happen to be excluded from these protections also happen to be the poorest workers, a reality that leads to dire conclusions: "[I]n almost 9 percent of cases where [families] go under the poverty line, the precipitating factor was the birth of a child," Fredrickson notes, "and nearly 25 percent of these families succumb to poverty in thirty days when they are dependent on the earnings of a single mother." Fredrickson also reports that a study of 1,700 bankruptcy cases conducted by Human Rights Watch found that 7 percent of debtors identified the birth of a child as their reason for going bankrupt.

With numbers like these, it's a wonder nobody has made paid family leave a campaign issue yet. But Hillary Clinton is aiming to fill that gap. On Mother's Day, Clinton's campaign posted a two-minute video detailing Clinton's respect for her mother, her role in her daughter and granddaughter's lives, and her support for paid leave. "It is outrageous that America is the only country in the developed world that doesn't guarantee paid leave," Clinton says, her voice set to a montage of family photographs and her own meetings with constituents' kids and babies. "We know," Clinton adds, "that when women are strong, families are strong."

Fredrickson's data on childbirth and poverty seem to bear out Clinton's claim: When women are well supported in terms of paid leave, families have a better shot at staying above the poverty line, which is good news for parents and babies. The Right may have a traditional claim to the politics of strong families, but unless they can stake out a position that will offer the kind of protections to mothers that Clinton has in mind, the pro-family rhetoric of the Right will remain nothing but talk.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Alex Hanson (5/11/15, 10:40 PM) @theAlexHanson: First Republican presidential debate on track for Aug. 6 at The Q in Cleveland, sources say s.cleveland.com/USEtCGi via @clevelanddotcom

Emily Schultheis (5/11/15, 12:15 PM) @emilyrs: New GW Battleground poll has @HillaryClinton at 48 fav/49 unfav. 47% say they would consider voting for her: tarrance.com/docs/BG57quest ...

Joe Sudbay (5/11/15 4:54PM) @JoeSudbay: Huh. While Bush struggles with immigration issue, his PAC's anti-gay senior advisor, Jordan Sekulow, today signed amicus to end DACA & DAPA

Zac Moffatt (5/11/15 12:54PM) @ZacMoffatt: @Hillary Clinton Rubbed Elbows w 250 Top Donors For Each "Everyday American" She Met Last Week www.americarisingpac.org/populist-hero-

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Walks Tightrope as Pressure Grows to Take Stance on Trade Deal // NYT // Amy Chozick – May 12, 2015

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Liberal Democrats are intensifying their pressure on Hillary Rodham Clinton to oppose President Obama's Pacific trade deal as detrimental to American jobs. But Mr. Obama's allies want her to endorse the accord, which the president has called a boon to the United States economy.

And Mrs. Clinton, stuck between the progressives she must woo in a Democratic nomination fight and the president under whom she served, has remained, for the most part, mum.

The issue has become the first major policy test in her fledgling campaign, with Mrs. Clinton under mounting pressure to pick a side in the delicate and heated debate over the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, a 12-nation trade agreement that Mr. Obama has aggressively pursued and that is facing a critical vote in Congress on Tuesday.

Just 48 hours after Mrs. Clinton delighted liberal Democrats with a proposal to expand citizenship eligibility to immigrants who are in the country illegally, protesters on Thursday urged her to speak out against the trade deal.

Photo

Protesters outside a fund-raiser attended by Mrs. Clinton last week in Beverly Hills, Calif. Credit Damian Dovarganes/Associated Press

"Stop the TPP!" read one of the signs held by demonstrators who circled the mansion in Beverly Hills, Calif., where Mrs. Clinton attended a high-dollar fund-raiser.

The left wing has not been this agitated over a trade deal since the last time Mrs. Clinton ran for president, when her squishy position on the North American Free Trade Agreement, signed into law by her husband in 1993, ignited debate during the Ohio and Pennsylvania primaries.

"The fact is, she was saying great things about Nafta until she started running for president," Mr. Obama said of Mrs. Clinton during their 2008 fight for the Democratic nomination.

This time, in an odd twist, it is Mr. Obama's trade deal that haunts Mrs. Clinton's early candidacy. If her stance on immigration, which would go further than Mr. Obama's executive actions, offended the White House last week, any remarks she might make against the administration's trade accord could fracture her already delicate relationship with the president.

On Saturday, Mr. Obama vigorously pushed back against Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who has said the trade accord will help Wall Street and hurt American workers.

"The truth of the matter is that Elizabeth is, you know, a politician like everybody else," Mr. Obama told Yahoo News.

"She's absolutely wrong," he added.

But even a tacit endorsement of the accord would put Mrs. Clinton on the opposite side of a very vocal liberal base of her party, which she has increasingly been courting in her campaign.

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The chances of pleasing both sides are slim.

Mr. Obama's allies — including congressional Republicans and business leaders who support the trade accord — as well as liberal Democrats, labor leaders, environmentalists and human rights advocates, have forcefully called for Mrs. Clinton to take a stance.

If there is one thing both sides agree on, it is that Mrs. Clinton needs to say more than the vague comment she made in New Hampshire last month: "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security."

"She can't sit on the sidelines and let the president swing in the wind here," John A. Boehner, the Republican House speaker, said on the NBC News program "Meet the Press" last week.

From the other side came this: "This is one you can't waffle. You're either for the T.P.P. or against it," Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who is seeking the Democratic nomination and opposes the deal, told MSNBC.

The Huffington Post reported that John D. Podesta, chairman of Mrs. Clinton's campaign, had jokingly bemoaned in private, "Can you make it go away?"

The Clinton campaign may not be able to make the issue go away, but it can be avoided until after a vote on Tuesday on legislation that would grant Mr. Obama the ability to "fast-track" talks on a final trade deal, which liberals vehemently oppose. Mrs. Clinton has no public events scheduled this week, only private fund-raisers and a summit meeting in Brooklyn with donors on Thursday. A spokesman for her campaign declined to comment.

"She hasn't taken any steps in the wrong direction, but she hasn't gone as far as many Democrats who have spoken out against 'fast track,' " Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, said. "She's punted a little so far."

When she does finally weigh in, Mrs. Clinton's position could give the liberal wing of her party pause. Left-leaning Democrats have been encouraged by her recent campaign speeches about inequality and immigration, but many still harbor concerns that Mrs. Clinton's policies will not do enough to advance their causes.

The campaign had hoped to delay outlining her policy proposals until later this summer, but the pressure over the trade deal could prompt Mrs. Clinton to detail her domestic policies sooner.

The debate has remnants of her 2008 campaign, when Nafta became a litmus test for whether Mrs. Clinton had the liberal credentials of her opponents, Barack Obama and John Edwards.

Mrs. Clinton was accused of political posturing when she opposed Nafta, the signature trade deal of her husband's administration, which created the world's largest trading bloc, among Canada, the United States and Mexico. Coming out against the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which she supported as secretary of state under Mr. Obama, could generate similar criticism.

"She was working for President Obama, and you do what your boss does," Senator Sherrod Brown, Democrat of Ohio, said of Mrs. Clinton's past support for the partnership.

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For Mrs. Clinton, coming out against the deal would be tantamount to a repudiation of not just a major legislative goal of Mr. Obama's, but also of Mr. Clinton's economic legacy. There are few policies Mr. Clinton is more defensive about than Nafta, which many on the left have come to see as the ultimate symbol of the perils of globalization.

More than two decades later, Nafta still haunts Mrs. Clinton (who opposed parts of the deal as first lady), and it ignites a visceral reaction on the campaign trail.

"If she really does stand with working and middle-class Americans, she needs to come out against the Trans-Pacific Partnership," said Arturo Carmona, executive director of Presente.org and one of the protesters outside Mrs. Clinton's fund-raiser on Thursday. He pointed to damage done by Nafta.

After a speech at the Nike headquarters in Beaverton, Ore., on Friday, Mr. Obama said liberal Democrats who opposed the trade deal — which would include Asia-Pacific nations and affect 40 percent of America's exports and imports — were stuck in the 1990s.

"Their arguments are based on fears, or they're fighting Nafta, the trade deal that was passed 25 years ago, or 20 years ago," he said.

Clinton Foundation Donors Fill Hillary's Campaign Coffers // AP // Lachlan Markay - May 12, 2015

High-dollar donors to Hillary Clinton's family foundation have hosted the majority of the Democratic presidential candidate's early fundraisers, data compiled by political spending watchdogs reveal.

Twelve of the 21 Hillary for America fundraising events reported by the Sunlight Foundation have been or will be hosted by donors to the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, according to Sunlight's Political Party Time website, which tracks fundraising events.

The foundation donors hosting fundraisers include some of the largest supporters of Clinton's past political efforts. Together, they have given as much as $90 million to the foundation, according to donor disclosures on its website.

The largest foundation donor to host one of the events is Chicago media mogul Fred Eychaner. Clinton will attend a fundraiser at his home on May 20. Eychaner has donated more than $25 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Clinton fundraisers' donations to the foundation have come by way of personal contributions as well as through foundations and private companies that they own or operate.

Last week, Clinton attended fundraisers at the San Francisco homes of billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer and Susie Tompkins Buell, founder of the Esprit clothing brand.

Steyer has personally donated to the foundation. Buell has done so in a personal capacity and through her own eponymous foundation and a donor-advised fund of a separate philanthropic group. The latter has contributed as much as $5 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Hedge fund manager Marc Lasry has personally donated as much as $250,000. His firm, Avenue Capital

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Management II, LP, has chipped in another $25,000 to $50,000.

The foundation lists donations in ranges, making it difficult to know exactly how much each donor has contributed. It also declines to say when specific contributions were made. More than 1,000 donors to the group remain anonymous.

The foundation has become a source of controversy in recent weeks following revelations that Clinton, as secretary of state, may have taken actions that benefitted foreign governments and corporations that donated to the foundation.

Details of those transactions were revealed in a new book, titled Clinton Cash, by Hoover Institute fellow Peter Schweizer. Clinton's presidential campaign is going to extreme lengths to discredit Schweizer following the book's release.

In the book, Schweizer suggests the foundation has served to advance the Clintons' political aspirations since the end of Bill's presidency.

"Perhaps the most important function of the foundation is to bolster Bill and Hillary's reputations as global humanitarians by bringing relief and care to people all over the world," Schweizer wrote.

"This reputation not only flatters the ex-president's ego and benefits Hillary's political career, but it also has real value both in terms of global influence and financial reward."

Many of the foundation donors hosting Hillary for America fundraisers are long-time Clinton supporters. Haim and Cheryl Saban, whose foundation has given as much as $25 million to Clinton's, backed her 2008 presidential bid, as did Buell, Lasry, and Eychaner.

Some Clinton Foundation donors have also contributed recently to other groups expected to back her candidacy, formally or informally.

The TomKat Charitable Trust, the foundation run by Steyer and his wife, is a major donor to the Center for American Progress, which was founded by Clinton campaign operative John Podesta and is expected to play a major role in crafting Clinton's policy positions.

Steven Rattner and his wife Maureen White are also CAP donors. They have given as much as $75,000 to the Clinton Foundation personally and through their own foundation. They will host Clinton at their New York City home for a fundraiser on Wednesday.

CAP donor Elizabeth Bagley hosted Clinton last month for another fundraising event in Washington, D.C. Bagley and her husband have given as much as $5 million to the Clinton Foundation.

In addition to supporting the Clintons' political prospects, Schweizer says that donations to the foundation can be a means to ingratiate oneself with the powerful family in the hope of securing access to their inner circle.

"People look for ways to influence those in power by throwing money in their direction," Schweizer wrote. "Politicians are all too happy to vacuum up contributions from supporters and people who want access or

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something in return."

The Clintons and their foundation vehemently deny any quid-pro-quos.

"The big question is whether taking such money constitutes a transaction," Schweizer wrote. "The Clintons would undoubtedly argue that it does not. The evidence presented in this book suggests otherwise."

Ohio lawsuit shows Clinton is already looking at battleground states // On Politics- USA Today // Gregory Korte - May 11, 2015

Lawyers for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and the Ohio Democratic Party have filed suit over Ohio's early voting laws, suggesting that Clinton is already looking downfield to what will be a key battleground state in the 2016 general election.

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in Columbus, alleges that Republican lawmakers in Ohio have specifically targeted key Democratic constituencies — young people, Latinos and African-Americans — by eliminating the so-called "Golden Week" during which voters could register and vote on the same day.

The lawsuit does not mention Clinton, and she is not a plaintiff. The plaintiffs include the Ohio Organizing Collaborative and three Ohio voters — an Ohio State University student with a California driver's license, a Democratic poll worker from suburban Cincinnati and an African-American minister from Akron.

The lawyers are more interesting. They include Don McTigue, a lawyer for the Ohio Democratic Party, and Marc Elias, who's the general counsel for Hillary for America. Elias is not licensed to practice law in Ohio and is seeking permission from the court to represent the plaintiffs in the case.

The Clinton campaign said it was aware of the lawsuit, but it wasn't filed on behalf of the campaign. "However, the campaign shares the concern about undue burdens being placed on the right to vote in states across the country, including Ohio," said Hillary for America Press Secretary Brian Fallon.

But Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted, a defendant in the suit, called the plaintiff's lawyers "politically motivated, legal lap dogs" who were "simply intending to interject chaos into Ohio's nationally recognized voting system." Husted notes that Ohio recently settled a federal lawsuit over many of the same issues, and that Ohio still has more liberal early voting laws than New York, where Clinton lives.

Elias said the lawsuit was brought on behalf of the named plaintiffs, and is just one of many lawsuits his Washington law firm, Perkins Coie, has brought to defend the right to vote. "It is unfortunate that Secretary Husted chose to respond with a political attack rather than working to remedy the problems identified in our suit," he said in an e-mail.

Wall Street warns Hillary Clinton: Don't be like Ed Miliband // Politico // Ben White - May 11, 2015

NEW YORK — Wall Street has a message for bank-bashing U.S. populist politicians: Put down the pitchforks or you could wind up like Ed Miliband.

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Senior financial executives say the Labour leader's anti-bank, soak the rich rhetoric helped sink his party in the U.K. elections and assured a surprisingly big reelection win for Prime Minister David Cameron and his Conservative party last week. Miliband resigned as Labour leader following the loss.

These bankers and their ideological supporters say if likely Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton keeps tacking to the left on Wall Street issues — as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, other progressive Democrats and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are demanding — she could wind up facing the same fate.

"Cameron embraced the role of the financial sector in growing the U.K. economy and creating jobs, never once criticizing hedge funds, banks or the wealthy," said a top executive at one of Wall Street's largest firms. "Milliband ran against hedge funds and bankers, promising bonus and mansion taxes and lost big. Is that a lesson for Hillary as well?"

This executive, like several others who cited the U.K. election result as a warning to populists, declined to be identified by name or by firm for fear of eliciting a heavy backlash.

Another executive said Milliband's adoption of Warren's approach to the financial sector and banking regulation failed even though U.K. voters trust banks even less than U.S. voters, according to opinion surveys.

"Seems like there might be some political lessons for the U.S. out of the U.K. election — with Milliband's Warren style, anti-business, anti-bank rhetoric clearly falling flat with the general public even as the press ate it up," this executive from another of Wall Street's largest firms said. "And the Edelman trust barometer actually shows that British voters are more distrustful and wary of the banks than here in the U.S."

The financial executives cited Miliband's attacks on Cameron and the Conservatives as the "party of hedge funds" and his calls for higher taxes on the industry as failing to captivate U.K. voters. And they noted that despite polls showing a very tight race, Cameron and his party won 51 percent of the vote and 331 seats in Parliament to just 36 percent and 232 seats for Miliband and his Labour party.

Conservative analysts also said U.S. politicians including Clinton should take note of the U.K. result.

"There are two lessons here," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin of the American Action Forum. "One is the Miliband lesson. The U.S. has now seen that people in the U.K. don't really like this focus on inequality and redistribution. It's not where people are. And the second is that conservatives were very effective in saying they were for working people but keeping the focus on work not excessive government intervention and benefits."

Financial reform advocates in the U.S. say these executives and analysts are delusional and reading things into the U.K. results that are not really there.

"Backwards logic like this almost makes you understand why Wall Street executives are deluded enough to believe they shouldn't be held responsible for blowing up the economy in 2008 and fighting common sense legislation designed to prevent them from doing it again," said Neil Sroka, communications director for progressive group Democracy for America. "If these guys actually believe that Cameron won because he bear-hugged billionaire bankers or think that Democrats will do better in 2016 if they continue treating a thief on Wall Street differently than a thief on Main Street, I've got an tranche of decade-old, toxic mortgages I know they'll want to get in on."

Dennis Kelleher, head of financial reform group Better Markets, said many other factors were at play in the U.K.

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“Claiming the five-week sprint known as the U.K. election — and the Scottish freedom campaign — means anything for the US is nothing more than wishful thinking by Wall Street’s spinners,” he said. “Secretary Clinton will be spelling out pro-growth agendas that also protect the American people from Wall Street’s dangerous too big to fail banks. It’s not either/or. It’s both.”

The comments from Wall Street executives and conservative analysts come as some in the industry fear that Clinton will continue to move left on financial reform issues as her campaign progresses.

Clinton used her first trip to Iowa as an announced candidate last month to issue a fresh assault. “There’s something wrong,” she told Iowans, when “hedge fund managers pay lower taxes than nurses or the truckers I saw on I-80 when I was driving here over the last two days.”

In a fundraising note last month, Clinton wrote that “families have fought their way back from tough economic times. But it’s not enough — not when the average CEO makes 300 times what the average worker makes.”

Wall Street mostly shrugged off those comments, confident that Clinton, who has enjoyed heavy financial support from the industry, would ultimately govern as a pro-business pragmatist not inclined to bust up big banks or support higher taxes on financial transactions or new controls on executive pay.

But as the “Draft Warren” for president movement continues to gain steam and coalitions of left wing and right wing populists in Congress flirt with the idea of breaking up the biggest banks, Wall Street is getting a bit more nervous. And they are pointing to the U.K. results and Republican gains in 2014 in the U.S. as evidence that Clinton should focus on other issues or face a possible loss in 2016.

“I would say that this is the second major election in a row where bank bashing no longer seems to move voters,” said a lobbyist for the banking industry. “Even where voters may continue to have anger about banks, other issues seem to be driving their votes. We saw that last year in the U.S., and now we seem to be seeing an echo in the U.K.”

Arkansas: The Clintons Don't Live Here Anymore // Real Clear Politics // Rebecca Berg - May 11, 2015

HOPE, Ark. — Nearly a quarter-century after Bill Clinton introduced his small Arkansas hometown to America, Hope is a living shrine to its most famous native son.

Clinton’s first home, on South Hervey Street, has been preserved and converted into a museum. A few blocks away, a former train depot houses the town’s visitor center, filled with even more mementos of the 42nd president’s upbringing and his political rise. At the site where the Julia Chester Hospital once stood, a plaque commemorates Clinton’s birth there.

But there is no marker noting the birth there, nine years later, of another hometown hero: former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, who returned to Hope this week to announce his second bid for the Oval Office.

In his speech to an overflow crowd of roughly 2,500 people at a community college, Huckabee said he hoped to bring America, as he had brought himself, “from Hope to higher ground.”

“Here in this small town called Hope, I was raised to believe that where a person started didn’t mean that’s where he had to stop,” Huckabee said.

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He did not mention by name either Bill Clinton, who famously invoked “a place called Hope” during his 1992 speech to accept the Democratic nomination for president, or Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee in 2016. He didn’t have to; the connection was obvious.

But the event served not only as a stark reminder of the Clintons, whom Huckabee will use as a foil in his White House race, but also of the Natural State’s sharp political transformation in their absence. The state that was once the last bastion for the Democratic Party in the South has become one of the most firmly Republican states in the country — so much so that even a beloved former Arkansas first lady might not be able to win the state in a general election.

“I do believe Hillary would have carried Arkansas in 2008,” said one Democratic strategist with deep ties to the state. “I think it’s unlikely she carries it in 2016.”

Such a dynamic would until recently have been unthinkable. During Bill Clinton’s nearly 12 years as governor, Hillary Clinton was an equal partner in policy and politics, and her popularity grew along with her husband’s.

When Bill Clinton entrusted his wife as chairman of a committee to enact education reforms, a priority of his administration, she traveled the state on an extended listening tour. In a meeting with lawmakers to discuss the committee’s work, a few of the good ol’ boys were stunned. “Gentlemen, we’ve elected the wrong Clinton!” state Rep. Lloyd George famously remarked.

Although Arkansas has on the national level supported Republican presidential candidates for most of the past three decades, with Bill Clinton twice as the exception, the state’s congressional delegation and statehouse were for most of those years dominated by Democrats.

Helping to keep Democrats in power were three legendary politicians at the top of the party: Dale Bumpers, David Pryor, and Bill Clinton. But, even as Clinton took office as governor for the second time, in 1983, Arkansas Democrats were paddling against a shifting tide. The state’s Republican areas were swelling with in-migration from white retirees, while Democratic populations stagnated.

Still, when Huckabee took office as governor in 1996, he did so as an outsider — the sole Republican statewide elected official, facing the most Democratic statehouse in the country. A video that played before Huckabee took the stage Tuesday recalled when he arrived at the statehouse to find the governor’s office door nailed shut.

Huckabee understood that he could not govern without Democrats, and so he worked extensively with them, enacting a host of policies that could well be used against him in this Republican primary: expanding Medicaid coverage for children, awarding in-state tuition to the children of illegal immigrants; and even pushing for a one-eighth cent tax to fund conservation efforts. Huckabee even enlisted Dick Morris, a former Clinton aide, as a top political adviser.

The political landscape in Arkansas did not truly turn in the GOP’s favor until 2010, when Republican John Boozman unseated Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln. During the next election cycle, in 2012, the state legislature flipped to GOP control.

Last year marked the watershed moment for Arkansas Republicans, as the state appeared to pass a point of no return. As Sen. Mark Pryor, a Democrat and the son of David Pryor, faced a tough re-election battle against Republican Tom Cotton, the Democratic Party unloaded its political ammo to the last, even enlisting Bill Clinton to campaign on the incumbent’s behalf.

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At a rally in Hope, Clinton stood with Pryor outside of the visitor center and asked Arkansans for their support. But even the former president's star power was not enough to lift Pryor, who lost with 39 percent to Cotton's 57 percent.

The transition away from Clinton's Arkansas was complete — and the outlook for future Democrats remains dim. Because Arkansas lacks the growing minority populations of many Southern states, its political makeup now more closely resembles those of deep-red Kansas and Oklahoma.

"It wasn't that Arkansas was the last state to fall. Arkansas left the South," said Skip Rutherford, a longtime Clinton ally and dean of the University of Arkansas' Clinton School of Public Service. "While the South is trending to be more competitive for the Democrats, Arkansas is going in the other direction."

Following the 2014 election, the state's congressional delegation is now fully Republican, with two GOP senators for the first time since Reconstruction. Both statehouse chambers are also controlled by Republicans.

The Clinton name is still everywhere in Arkansas, adorning the Little Rock airport, the presidential library, the school of public service, just about every main drag. But the state's party loyalties appear to have finally, conclusively flipped.

When 2014 exit polls asked Arkansas voters whether Hillary Clinton would make a good president, just 39 percent said she would, CNN reported, while 56 percent said she would not.

On the eve of Huckabee's announcement, his top campaign staff and reporters met in the back room of Doe's Eat Place in Little Rock for a hearty meal of steak, shrimp and tamales. The walls are still adorned with Democratic artwork and memorabilia, including a poster depicting Ronald Reagan and his vice president, George H.W. Bush, as "the first couple," with Bush wearing a dress — a reminder of the Democrats who once frequented the space.

During Bill Clinton's first presidential campaign, the back room at Doe's was a favorite hangout for James Carville, George Stephanopoulos, Rahm Emanuel, and other top aides. Now, Huckabee campaign manager Chip Saltsman, his pollster Bob Wickers, and his communications aides Alice Stewart and Hogan Gidley were gathered around the table.

And, at least for this week, Mike Huckabee was Hope's hometown hero. The night before the kickoff, with his aides in Little Rock, Huckabee made the rounds at Dos Loco Gringos, a Mexican restaurant in Hope.

The next day, after the campaign launch, Hope visitor center director Guy Royston pulled up a photo on his phone of Huckabee at the restaurant. Royston, who interned in the past with former Sen. Blanche Lincoln and former Rep. Mike Ross, both Democrats, said he turned out for Huckabee's announcement speech, too — the second presidential campaign launch he's watched in person, after Clinton's in 1991.

"We root for the hometown guys," Royston said.

But when a couple from Los Angeles, in town for Huckabee's speech, stopped by the visitor center, there wasn't much to show he'd grown up in Hope, too. A photograph of Miss Marie Perkins noted that she was Clinton's kindergarten teacher, but not that she also taught Huckabee.

Earlier, on the way to Huckabee's announcement, a bus transporting reporters stopped outside of his childhood home. Unlike Clinton's, it is today a private home, not a museum, and there is no sign or other indicator of the

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politician who once lived there.

Huckabee might never get the chance to win Arkansas in a general election. Another Clinton likely will — but Arkansas has moved on.

California woman receives Mother's Day greeting from Hillary Clinton // LA Times // Seema Mehta - May 11, 2015

A California woman was among a handful of women whom Hillary Clinton phoned to wish a happy Mother's Day.

Sheila Frank, 73, said she felt honored to speak with the Democratic presidential candidate for a little over 10 minutes on Sunday.

"We congratulated each other on being mothers and grandmothers," said Frank, a retired psychologist who was straightening her bedroom in the gated community of Bear Valley Springs near Tehachapi when Clinton called.

Frank was one of five women Clinton called on Sunday, the winners of a Mother's Day contest on Clinton's campaign website. A friend entered Frank's name and she was randomly selected. No donation was required to enter.

Since announcing her presidential bid, Clinton has focused on her gender in ways she never did during her unsuccessful 2008 presidential campaign.

Frank, who has an adult son and two grandsons, noted that Clinton recently became a grandmother when her daughter Chelsea gave birth to a daughter named Charlotte.

"She of course adores her new granddaughter. I could tell she was very excited about that," Frank said.

But the bulk of their conversation focused on policy, Frank said, notably Frank's work with prisoners, the poor and the homeless. Mental illness, Frank told Clinton, was a scourge that was not being dealt with, and the situation was being made worse because of state budget cuts to rehabilitation programs.

Frank grew up in New Jersey and attended graduate school at UC Berkeley during the "Free Speech Movement," a milestone in her political development.

"That's where I was coming from. We thought we had the answers. We always saw a bright future," Frank said. "We were so naïve but we were committed. At 73, one is no longer so naïve."

Frank said she initially supported Clinton's 2008 presidential effort, until she grew enamored by then Sen. Barack Obama's speeches and the prospect of a black man being elected president of the United States. She believes Obama has been treated unfairly since being elected to the White House, and wholeheartedly supports Clinton's 2016 presidential bid.

"I do think a lack of experience has been an issue [for Obama] and Hillary doesn't have that – she comes with an incredible amount of experience, and I'm definitely supporting her," Frank said.

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Frank said that while she admires Democrats such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, she believes Clinton is the party's best choice.

"I think that she can represent the middle class in a decent way. I love her husband, Bill. I told her that. She told me she does also, so that was fun," Frank said. "I think she will speak to support more of the middle class, whatever there is left of us."

Hillary Clinton Adds Latina From Labor Department To Oversee Hispanic, Black, Women's Media // Buzzfeed News // Adrian Carrasquillo - May 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton has filled a major communications position in the campaign, tapping Xochitl Hinojosa as director of coalitions press, five sources told BuzzFeed News.

Hinojosa, who served at the Department of Labor under Secretary Tom Perez for almost two years and is the daughter of Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa, will oversee Hispanic, black, and women's media, among others.

Her last day in her current role is next week. The Clinton campaign declined to comment on the hire.

Democratic strategist Maria Cardona said Hinojosa has been in the mix as an early hire for a while. Cardona worked with Hinojosa on two projects with the Department of Labor and said she is someone who understands the nuances of the press landscape both in general media and Hispanic media.

"It's a rare mix to be able to get someone like her with experience, someone who can do it well and do it with grace," she said. "I was thrilled when they told me her name."

In her role, Hinojosa will not only work closely with the communications team but would also serve as a connection between field staffers organizing these coalitions on the ground — something that didn't always exist in the 2012 Obama campaign.

A former Obama staffer said that looking forward, you could envision a scenario where an organizer in Charleston, South Carolina, is working with a local hip-hop station to get information out to that neighborhood. A stronger link between coalitions on the ground and the national press team would "free up the opportunity for the field to communicate and leverage communications channels to send the most authentic message to voters they're working with," the Obama campaign veteran said.

Hinojosa also wouldn't be the person charged with, for example, doing the day-to-day work with black media. Hinojosa would have a team under her and there are plans to fill those roles as the campaign progresses.

Sources with campaign media experience said she will need a robust staff to ensure those coalitions aren't relegated to or feel like specialty media. For example, Univision, which is a top four network in the United States, regardless of language, doesn't want to be relegated to a secondary position in the campaign, said Jose Parra, a former senior adviser for Harry Reid.

Hinojosa's hire makes her the fourth high-profile Latino hire, and third Latina, along with Amanda Renteria, the political director and Emmy Ruiz, who returned to run the Clinton operation in Nevada. Jose Villarreal previously

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joined as campaign treasurer, as well.

The hiring continues the approach stressed by Clinton officials like Renteria of not just hiring, say, Latinos for Latino roles.

The early focus on strong Latino hiring and outreach operations has been repeatedly called for by Democrats who note that Clinton was popular among Latino voters in the 2008 primary against Obama, but must show she is serious about addressing their concerns during this campaign. Democrats have also worried that Republicans like Jeb Bush, who is fluent in Spanish and has a Hispanic family, and Marco Rubio, could compete for support from Latino voters.

Hinojosa followed very much in the footsteps of her father, Gilberto, who represented farm workers in class-action lawsuits "and made sure that the U.S. Department of Labor Employment Services Division provided farm workers with needed interstate employment services," according to the Texas Democratic Party.

She previously spent time at the Department of Justice's civil right division, as well as campaigns and senate offices before joining Labor, where she has been focused on issues like pay leave and the minimum wage.

Are Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama 'Affirmative-Action Presidents'? // NY Mag // Jonathan Chait - May 11, 2015

"If Hillary Clinton wins the presidency in 2016 she will not only be the nation's first woman president but our second affirmative-action president," writes Joseph Epstein. This may sound like Epstein is making the outlandish claim that Clinton and Obama are uniquely lacking in merit as compared to previous presidential candidates in American history. That is exactly what Epstein is claiming. In a bizarre, rambling essay that the Weekly Standard has deemed worthy not only of publication but of its cover, the esteemed conservative scholar asserts that presidential elections used to be based on intrinsic merit, until 2008. "How have we come to the point," Epstein asks, "where we elect presidents of the United States not on their intrinsic qualities but because of the accidents of their birth: because they are black, or women, or, one day doubtless, gay, or disabled — not, in other words, for themselves but for the causes they seem to embody or represent, for their status as members of a victim group?"

Yes, that's right. America used to elect presidents on "intrinsic qualities" rather than "accidents of their birth." And this process resulted in the election of forty-three consecutive white men, an outcome Epstein must regard as an extreme coincidence. The last president to be elected on the basis of intrinsic qualities rather than accidents of birth was George W. Bush, whose birth circumstances, Epstein apparently believes, had no bearing upon his career trajectory.

The whole essay is a remarkable testament to the level of delusion of right-wing identity politics. Epstein does not merely claim that pockets of left-wing thought in academia and elsewhere have allowed social-justice ideology to go too far, an argument with which I sympathize. He argues that white men as a whole have become a subaltern class. Epstein is attempting to intellectualize a sentiment coursing through the right and given daily expression in such places as Fox News and talk radio, but in so attempting serves only to demonstrate its sub-intellectual character.

On its face, the idea that white men have become a victim class is hard to square with the ethnographic composition of the economic and political elite, which remain far more white and male than the population as a whole. Epstein clearly believes this to be the case. Apparently unaware of a vast trove of evidence proving the continuing existence of traditional race and gender discrimination, he refers to it in the past tense. ("Everyone knows of the travails of slavery and beyond, the battles of women for equality in the workplace and elsewhere, the mocking and shunning of homosexuals, and the degrading of other victim groups; it was genuine, and painful." Emphasis added.) Epstein likewise asserts, "Today it is the victim who is doing the bullying."

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After a painful meandering tour through Epstein's view of contemporary America, he returns at the conclusion to his premise about Clinton as an affirmative-action hire, which he has not bothered to substantiate. Here is Epstein's evidence that Clinton plans to run a campaign based on victimhood:

Given the large constituency of victims in America, Hillary Clinton, as a woman, has already climbed aboard the victim train in the hope of riding it to the presidency. "When women are held back, our country is held back," she said in a recent speech. "When women get ahead, everyone gets ahead. Our mothers and sisters and daughters are on the front lines of all of these battles. ... But these are not just women's fights. These have to be America's fights and the world's fights. We have to take them on, we have to win them together." What a rich ragout of victimhood and virtue in those words!

Not only do these Hillary Clinton quotes contain no hint of personal victimhood, they contain an explicit appeal to common interest. The argument Clinton makes in this passage is that policies that prevent women from fulfilling their potential harm men and women alike, by depriving society of the ability to develop the potential talent of half its population. This is the most representative quote Epstein is able to find to support his thesis, and it instead makes the exact opposite of the point he claims.

In a larger sense, of course, the very existence of Epstein's piece serves to disprove its thesis. If it is still possible for a white man to write an incoherent farrago of self-pity whose only shred of evidence directly undercuts its thesis, and have such drivel thrown onto the cover of a national magazine, then white men are probably still doing okay.

The Hillary Clinton paradox: Progressives can't trust her — and that's a good thing // Salon // Elias Isquith - May 11, 2015

The Hillary Clinton paradox: Progressives can't trust her -- and that's a good thing

Because I care about my readers and don't want them to pollute their minds with meaningless political ephemera any more than being a good citizen absolutely requires, I hope this comes as news to you — but, last week, the New York Times and CBS published a new poll on how the public views former secretary of state and current presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton (HRC). There were two big takeaways for the 2016 frontrunner, both of which could be reasonably seen by left-wing activists as good omens for the months and maybe years to come.

The poll's most striking discovery pertained to how voters felt about Clinton's handling of her email while at Foggy Bottom, which was either unnecessarily secretive or downright sketchy. I got into some arguments with other folks in the media about how much voters actually cared about this story; so forgive me my vanity, but I can't help but note that during the weeks following the press's wall-to-wall coverage of "emailgate," Clinton's favorability actually went up. And it wasn't just a little statistical blip; it was an increase of nine full points. (On this score, then, picture me as Nelson Muntz.)

The poll's second notable finding, on the other hand, wasn't nearly so much of a boon to Clinton supporters. According to CBS and the Times, fewer than half of respondents described her as "honest and trustworthy"; and that number was only near the 50 percent mark because around 80 percent of Democrats answered in the affirmative. This issue of HRC's trustworthiness has been the thin reed on which many of the loudest promoters of the emailgate pseudo-scandal have hung their arguments. But as Ronald Brownstein writes in National Journal, a Clinton has already won the White House before while being seen as less than entirely untrustworthy.

However, just because American doubts about her honesty are unlikely to keep HRC out of the White House, that doesn't mean that her image on this score is irrelevant. What it means instead is that Clinton's low margin for error on trust will manifest in harder to perceive ways during her campaign and hypothetical presidency. For example, look at President Obama and Sen. Elizabeth Warren's argument over fast-tracking the Trans-Pacific Partnership

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(TPP). It's the kind of debate Obama is having with those on his left — a debate over progressive bona fides — that a President Clinton probably will not.

If you're unfamiliar with the battle over TPP and the fast-track option, I'd recommend this Wall Street Journal post as an OK, mostly objective primer. The short version, though, is that Obama wants Congress to grant him expanded powers to negotiate the biggest free-trade agreement since NAFTA and to do so without having to worry about folks in the House or Senate larding-up the agreement with amendments. Instead of letting Congress get into the weeds of the deal, Obama would prefer they leave it to him and then ultimately give what he comes up with a simple yea-or-nay vote. Along with most liberal and labor organizations, Warren is opposed.

Yet what matters for our purposes isn't the TPP so much as the way Warren and Obama, arguably liberal America's two favorite politicians, have been fighting about it through the media. From the very beginning, Obama has relied on a rhetorical strategy that can be boiled down to one essential question: Don't you trust me to do the right thing? "When people say that this trade deal is bad for working families," he said in late-April, "I take that personally. My entire presidency has been about helping working families." Just this weekend, he used similar phrasing, saying he'd "have to be pretty stupid" to support a deal that imperiled the middle class the way Warren claims the TPP does.

The biggest reason why Obama has been able to adopt this strategy can probably be found in a Gallup poll released earlier this month. On that question of trustworthiness, the president fares well, especially by the standards of our polarized era: 53 percent of respondents say "honest and trustworthy" applies to Obama, while just 45 percent disagree. That's not a Grand Canyon's worth of distance apart from HRC's 48 percent, of course. But it is enough to make the White House feel relatively confident that liberals are willing to trust the president — and to make Warren skip over Obama and raise concerns about what the next (possibly Republican) president might do with fast-track's powers.

On the trail (as well as in the White House, if she wins) Clinton will be much more constricted. Yes, she's very popular with self-identified liberals; and, yes, like Obama's, much of her negative numbers on trustworthiness are the product of overwhelmingly disdain from conservatives. But while Democrats may on the whole approve of HRC, they don't necessarily trust her, at least not yet. That means that Clinton will be much more poorly equipped to argue in the face of a challenge from her left that liberals should relax and trust her to do the right thing. For anyone who wants to see Sen. Bernie Sanders succeed in pulling her to the left during the primary — or see Sen. Elizabeth Warren pulling her to the left if she's in the White House — this is a plus.

All of that being said, there's still a good chance that, by the time 2016 really kicks-in and voters are paying attention, the reality of polarization in American politics will bump HRC's numbers on trustworthiness and honesty closer to where the president's are today. And even without that development, pushing Clinton from her left will be harder on issues where left-wing anger over her husband's record isn't quite so close to the surface (Obama is desperate to separate TPP from NAFTA for a reason). But if Brownstein is right, and HRC wins despite a majority of voters not exactly trusting her completely, it could be something of a win-win for liberal activists. Not only would they get a non-Republican president, but they'd get one with a stronger desire than the current incumbent to prove she's one of them.

Clinton campaign's dilemma: What to do with Bill? // WaPo // Phillips Rucker – May 11, 2015

MARRAKESH, Morocco — The scene that unfolded here last week as Bill Clinton convened world leaders for a philanthropic conference was hardly what his wife's champion-for-everyday-Americans campaign would have ordered up.

Gathered in Marrakesh for a Clinton Global Initiative confab, foreign oligarchs and corporate titans mingled amid palm trees, decorative pools and dazzling tiled courtyards with the former president and his traveling delegation of foundation donors — many of whom are also donors to Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign.

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When daughter Chelsea moderated a discussion on women's empowerment, the only male panelist was Morocco's richest person, Othman Benjelloun, whose BMCE Bank is a CGI sponsor. For the week's biggest party, guests were chauffeured across the city to an opulent 56-room palace that boasts a private collection of Arabian horses, overlooks the snow-capped Atlas Mountains and serves a fine-dining menu of "biolight" cuisine.

Ahead of that event, Bill Clinton greeted Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal. "See you tonight, Turki," he told his royal highness.

It was a long way from Hillary Clinton's campaign-trail visits to Chipotle. The luxe week in Morocco highlighted the overarching question facing the Clintons and their coexisting circles of political advisers: What to do with Bill?

The question applies not only to the campaign but also to his role as first gentleman if she gets elected.

In a presidential race that could include two dozen candidates, none has a spouse like Bill Clinton — a former president whose sprawling charitable ventures are rife with potential conflicts of interest; an admired public figure whose common touch propelled his rise but who now charges up to $500,000 to give a speech; a curious ideas man whose penchant for speaking his mind drives news cycles; and a globe-trotting icon whose recognizable tuft of white hair draws onlookers everywhere, from his old Arkansas haunts to the bustling souks around Marrakesh's central square.

Bill Clinton is a political animal who logged 168,000 miles on the campaign trail in 2014. Yet senior aides say he does not plan to do any campaign activities for his wife in 2015, including fundraisers for her campaign or allied super PACs. He has said privately that she should lead the campaign on her own, aides said.

"He's completely focused right now on the foundation," said Tina Flournoy, Bill Clinton's chief of staff. "That does not mean that he does not realize his wife is running for president. But he is not directly engaged in the campaign. As he has said before, if his advice is asked for, he's happy to give it."

But even if he's off the campaign trail, Bill Clinton is never out of the limelight. He will remain prominent in the public eye with a busy schedule of appearances, including visits this week to a Harlem food festival and next month to Little Rock for a charity ball. In mid-June, he will be in Denver to host CGI America, a domestic-themed spinoff of his foundation conference.

On Tuesday, he'll be on the "Late Show with David Letterman."

He will also speak for pay at Univision's presentation to advertisers in New York on Tuesday. The prominent Spanish-language television network is owned in part by Haim Saban, a foundation and campaign donor who hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton last week at his Beverly Hills mansion.

One strategist said Hillary Clinton, shown here with Bill Clinton and former senator Tom Harkin, should not campaign with her husband: "It's hard to shine when you're standing next to the sun." (Charlie Neibergall/ Associated Press)

"Bill Clinton is like nuclear energy," said David Axelrod, a strategist on President Obama's campaigns. "If you use it properly, it can be enormously helpful and proactive. If you misuse it, it can be catastrophic."

'A supporting spouse'

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Keeping the former president at a distance is one way the 2016 Clinton campaign is trying to prove it has learned from the mistakes of 2008. Although as her aides know well, it is impossible to truly isolate him from her campaign.

“He is a very smart political strategist and practitioner,” said Ann Lewis, a longtime Hillary Clinton adviser. “He has never thought that politics is beneath him. He believes that politics is the way that we govern ourselves.”

Bill Clinton has many assets. He is universally known and unusually popular; 73 percent of voters approved of his job performance as president in a Washington Post-ABC News poll in March, while his personal favorability rating stood at 65 percent in a CNN-ORC poll in March. He also is considered one of the Democratic Party’s most talented communicators; his 2012 convention speech was a standout moment in support of Obama’s reelection.

“Any conversation about Bill Clinton and his impact on the campaign has to start with the fact that Americans like him and they’ve liked him for a long time,” said Geoff Garin, a pollster for Hillary Clinton’s 2008 campaign who now works for Priorities USA, a pro-Clinton super PAC.

But as Bill Clinton showed in 2008, he can be an undisciplined and rogue surrogate. Some of the ugliest episodes in his wife’s campaign were his making, including his stray remarks about Obama that angered black voters in South Carolina and his behind-the-scenes meddling in the campaign’s strategy.

Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), who feuded with Bill Clinton in 2008 over what he saw as race-baiting, said in a recent interview that the former president should be “a supporting spouse” this time around.

“He should refrain from doing anything or saying anything that would take the attention off of her candidacy,” said Clyburn, who has not endorsed anyone in the 2016 race. “It’s got to be about Hillary. It’s got to be about her vision, and he’s got to be supportive of that.”

Axelrod, recalling the Clintons’ joint appearance in the fall at retiring Sen. Tom Harkin’s steak fry in Iowa, said it would be foolish for them to campaign together regularly. “It’s hard to shine when you’re standing next to the sun,” he said recently. “He’s a luminescent character, and it is diminishing to have him out there at her side.”

Aides insisted that Bill Clinton is not calling up campaign aides, devouring polls or mapping out strategies. The campaign has no “Bill whisperer” tasked with managing him, although Flournoy is in regular contact with top aides at Hillary Clinton’s Brooklyn headquarters. The former president also has long-standing relationships with campaign chairman John D. Podesta and other advisers.

The Clintons speak to each other often, sometimes multiple times a day, but usually about personal matters and rarely about the nity-gritty of her race, aides said. Some days, he doesn’t know where she’s campaigning. And on the Africa trip, he was more attuned to the British elections — glued to the BBC — than to her campaign.

One afternoon in April, Bill Clinton looked up at a television in his midtown Manhattan office and saw the grainy security-camera photo of his wife and her aide, Huma Abedin, at a Chipotle in Ohio, appearing incognito in dark sunglasses. He turned to aides and wondered, “What are she and Huma doing? Are they robbing that place?”

Far away, but still making news

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As Hillary Clinton raised money in California last week, Bill Clinton was about as far away as he could get, visiting the family foundation's projects in Africa and convening the CGI meeting in Morocco.

Yet he was still making big headlines. In an interview with NBC News in Kenya, he appeared testy while defending the foundation's foreign fundraising. He also said he would continue giving six-figure paid speeches: "I've got to pay our bills," he said, sounding out of touch, considering he has reported earning $105 million in speaking fees over 12 years.

There were other awkward moments as well. As Bill Clinton wrapped up the CGI meeting in Morocco, a top Coca-Cola executive joined him onstage to announce a $4.5 million program to help African youths obtain job skills and career counseling.

Then Curtis A. Ferguson, the company's regional president, shifted to the sales pitch. "I hope they're thirsty," he said, referring to the young Africans. Then he said he wanted to "share a Coke with Bill," pulling out a Coke bottle inscribed with the former president's first name in Arabic. They posed for photos holding the bottle, smiling.

But much of the Africa trip — which stretched for 10 days and included stops in Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia and Morocco — was aimed at showcasing the good works of the foundation and its partners.

At a hearing-aid fitting in Kenya, Bill Clinton witnessed a young man hearing the voice of his sister for the first time. In Tanzania, he met farmer Wazia Chawala, a single mother with seven children, who with foundation help has improved crop yields with modern soil, seed and crop-rotation techniques.

Clinton also visited a drab Nairobi laboratory, where he listened to a presentation on tracking carbon emissions and rainfall patterns so farmers could improve their yields. When he asked the donors with him if they had any questions, Drew Houston, the chief executive of Dropbox, asked, "What were your biggest technical challenges?"

For Clinton and his staff, it was a proud moment of synergy — the founder of one of the world's largest cloud-computing companies asking a Kenyan lab technician a question about uploading data to the cloud.

Clinton, who declined a request to be interviewed for this report, is grappling with what the future might hold. He is continuing to raise money for the foundation, where his daughter has assumed a greater leadership role. Last year, the foundation raised a $250 million endowment to provide long-term stability in his absence.

His advisers understand that the foundation's activities could complicate a Hillary Clinton presidency.

"In his heart and mind, I think he wants there to always be a scenario where his foundation is doing the work that he's deeply invested in," Flournoy said. "How does that look, and what does experience and time and history mean you might have to change? We don't know. But this is his life's work."

'What does she want me to do?'

Bill Clinton says his role would be determined by his wife. "What does she want me to do?" he said in an interview last week with CNN's Christiane Amanpour. "I have no idea."

One option is that Hillary Clinton could draft him as a special envoy somewhere or give him a portfolio in her

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administration. He is continually fascinated by science, aides said, and lately has been thinking about creating a fairer economy. He also has talked about bringing together corporate partners to rebuild Baltimore after last month's riots.

A return of the Clintons to the White House would also usher in a blurring of traditional gender roles, not to mention titles: Bill Clinton's aides still refer to him as "the president."

"Even if he were assigned the responsibility of picking out china, I think others would probably overrule him on taste," said Skip Rutherford, a longtime adviser and friend. "People used to kid him about picking out his crazy ties. I can't imagine."

The closest historical parallel is Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. During Franklin's presidency, Eleanor earned personal income from paid speeches, newspaper columns and a weekly radio show, which was sponsored by Simmons mattresses, said Carl Anthony, a historian at the National First Ladies' Library. He said she gave most of her income to the March of Dimes Foundation, which her husband founded to combat polio.

"She made a lot of money on her own, but not without a congressional investigation and media attacks on her commercializing the presidency," Anthony said.

Fred Wertheimer, president of the reform group Democracy 21, said the couple should completely withdraw from the charity if Hillary Clinton wins: "Change the name of the foundation, and make a clean break."

Foundation supporters believe otherwise.

"It would probably be one of the greatest wastes of human talent in the history of the world" for Bill Clinton to withdraw, said Jay Jacobs, a major donor who traveled with him to Africa. "How do you say to these poor farmers, to mothers whose children can't hear, 'Sorry, no more because politics can't abide by it?' That would be morally wrong."

Kevin Sieff in Nairobi contributed to this report.

Former Clinton Advisor: Bill Looks 'Washed-Out And Washed-Up' // Daily Caller // Scott Greer - May 11, 2015

Former Bill Clinton advisor and television personality Dick Morris thinks his old boss isn't looking too good these days.

"I didn't recognize the character that was on TV," Morris said of Bill Clinton's recent interview with NBC News in a video released Monday. "He was washed-out, he was listless, he was apathetic, he was very slow-talking and even slower thinking!" (RELATED: MSNBC Panelists: Bill Clinton's Remarks 'Will Come Back To Haunt' Him, Are 'Out Of Touch' [VIDEO])

The man who helped manage Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign took particular issue with how the former president ineffectively responded to the issue surrounding his $500,000 salary from the Clinton Foundation — a question he should've anticipated.

"He tried a couple of others [answers] but then he settled on the pathetic answer: 'I have to pay my bills!'" Morris

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said. “C’mon? Who’s going to be taken in by that?”

The political consultant continued his criticism of the lackluster performance of Clinton and believes his “muddled thinking” is a result of someone who “is not all there.”

“His mind was not agile, it wasn’t energetic, he wasn’t forceful and I really just wondered what happened to the guy,” Morris commented. “I’m concerned about him, worried about him, I’m also disappointed. I think you’re dealing with somebody who really is not all there.”

The ex-Clinton confidant thinks this spells bad news for Hillary Clinton and her bid for the White House.

“She’s losing her best advisor, she’s losing her top consultant. They made quite the team and I don’t think Bill Clinton is up to this game.”

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'Malley plans 4 stops in NH Wednesday // WMUR // May 11, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. —Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley has four New Hampshire stops planned for Wednesday. The Democrat will begin the day with a diner stop in Manchester at a location to be announced, followed by a visit to the Alpha Loft, a business incubator, also in Manchester.

O’Malley will attend a private fundraiser for the New Hampshire House Democratic Caucus at midday and then attend a party at the Durham home of former executive councilor Dudley Dudley. Later, O’Malley will campaign in Rockingham County with Maureen Mann, a candidate for the New Hampshire House of Representatives in an upcoming special election.

De Blasio 'Can't Think of Anything More Important' Than going to D.C. // Observer // Will Bredderman - May 11, 2015

Mayor Bill de Blasio maintained that his trip tomorrow to the nation’s capital to unveil “The Progressive Agenda to Combat Income Inequality” with other leading liberals is important and appropriate to his duties as mayor, despite complaints that he is neglecting the bread-and-butter issues of every day New Yorkers.

Talking to the press today after an unrelated event in Queens, Mr. de Blasio defended making a two-day jaunt to promote his left-leaning ideals in Washington D.C.—viewed as a move to elevate his personal profile nationally—while making only infrequent visits to conservative enclaves of his own city, such as Staten Island. He asserted repeatedly that part of the trip was to call for the renewal of federal transportation funding, which is due to expire at the end of the month, as well as lobby for other policies such as progressive taxation reduce the gap between rich and poor.

“I can’t think of anything more important. I’ll be doing that over the next couple of days because now is the right time to do it,” he said, noting that many criticized his ambitious agenda as a mayoral candidate in 2013 as beyond the reach of a mayor. “We need a federal partner. And we are going to create, I think, some real critical mass tomorrow pushing for these bigger solutions in Washington.”

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Mr. de Blasio argued that mayors since his hero Fiorello LaGuardia—whom he said he sought to emulate in his own "humble" way—have rallied with their counterparts from other cities to request federal money for urban concerns. The transportation bill push, he said, was simply part of that tradition.

"We have a real bipartisan effort with mayors from across the country on Wednesday, working with the business community, working with chambers of commerce from around the country, working with folks, businesses depend on better transportation, to push the Congress for more funding," he said. "Let's face it, where so much of the energy is, where so much of the resources are, they're in Washington. The situation now in Washington is unacceptable. It's not helping New York City, it's not helping cities across the country. We've got to break through in some way."

"We've got to change the dynamic so we can get the federal support we need, and we've got to do the work here every day, and my job is to do both," he continued.

Mr. de Blasio's approval rating has long hovered around 50 percent and is racially polarized. He is still popular with black voters but increasingly unpopular with whites.

Nonetheless, Mr. de Blasio will seek to take a national leadership role when he joins top liberals like Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz in unveiling a left-leaning agenda for the nation on Wednesday. He has maintained, however, that rumors he will launch a long-shot bid for the presidency next year are false—rumors he denied again today.

"No," he said resolutely. "I said I have one job: mayor of New York City. I look forward to running for re-election in 2017."

Bill De Blasio, Elizabeth Warren escalate pressure on Hillary Clinton // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti - May 11, 2015

Like Elizabeth Warren, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio isn't running for president — he's running to influence the presidential race.

So when he and Warren appear together at the National Press Club in Washington before unveiling his Contract with America for the left, it will be the latest step in the Democrats' primary within the primary: liberals' effort to figure out how to push Hillary Clinton to the left.

The primary within the primary may prove more challenging for Clinton than the real thing, in which she's leading competitors by up to 50 points in some polls.

James Carville, the longtime Clinton adviser, compared de Blasio's efforts to the Club for Growth pressuring Republicans to move to the right on taxes: "It's a natural thing that happens in presidential politics," he said.

Nonetheless, the progressive mayor's swing through the capital is designed to kick the Democratic debate up a notch just as Warren escalates her own fight with President Barack Obama in a trade dispute that's also entangled Clinton. But it will also represent a balancing act, as de Blasio — Clinton's former Senate campaign manager — looks to influence the discussion without directly opposing the dominating front-runner.

After his joint appearance with Warren, de Blasio will stand alongside liberal lawmakers and labor leaders on Capitol Hill to roll out a policy wish-list. Progressives close to de Blasio say the hard part will be laying down an achievable marker for candidates — including Clinton — while still applying enough pressure to get their attention.

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“The challenge is that a lot of this will just get a head nod” from Clinton, said one progressive Democratic leader.

As they maneuver for influence, Warren and de Blasio have taken up much of the oxygen from the party’s actual candidates, grabbing headlines and jumping in the policy trenches — in de Blasio’s case going as far as to effectively hit the campaign trail before revealing his “Progressive Agenda” on Tuesday.

But with the former secretary of state claiming commanding leads in national and state-level polling, in many cases performing better among liberals than among all registered Democrats, the question of how best to drag her to the left without alienating her is still outstanding.

Clinton’s team is quick to predict that another candidate will reach at least 30 percent of the vote in Iowa, the first state with a 2016 contest, much of it coming from Democrats who would like to see Warren run. That concern partially explains Clinton’s recent leftward shifts on issues including immigration reform and criminal justice. Meanwhile, her campaign has remained in contact with liberal groups like the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which is encouraging Clinton to embrace expanding Social Security and a debt-free college plan.

But so far, Clinton stands far ahead of her likely competitors — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee — in polling, reducing pressure on her to appease liberals.

In that vacuum, Warren and de Blasio have sought to position themselves as king-makers among activists in early-voting and swing states, a role de Blasio has pursued by stopping in Iowa and Wisconsin. His “Progressive Agenda” is designed to be broad enough for Clinton and other Democrats to embrace whole-heartedly: he is expected to call for universal pre-kindergarten, a higher minimum wage, and a paid family leave policy — all of which Clinton has mentioned favorably in recent months.

And de Blasio’s Wednesday roll-out follows a similar speech in late April by AFL-CIO chief Richard Trumka — an address that read like a warning memo to Clinton about how to gain crucial union support.

“Standing with working people once in a while won’t work. Candidates can’t hedge bets any longer,” said Trumka on April 27.

The Clinton campaign named a Labor Outreach Director on April 28.

The mayor’s stop in Washington comes at a time when Clinton has been caught between Obama and Warren over supporting the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement she helped negotiate as secretary of state. Warren and Obama traded barbs over the weekend, as the president told Yahoo News Warren is “a politician like everybody else” when trying to explain her opposition to the trade deal.

Clinton has avoided weighing in on the topic, only vaguely describing restrictions she would put on a deal rather than firmly opposing it.

Trade is just one policy where liberals are seeking to get more clarity from Clinton, particularly as Sanders intensifies his campaign schedule and O’Malley — who has recently focused on Wall Street reform and debt-free college — nears his expected late-May campaign launch.

The bar is low for Clinton to satisfy liberals in many cases, but she still faces some risk of alienating more centrist voters she might need in November 2016.

“Two areas where words alone do make a difference are expanding social security and debt-free college,”

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explained the PCCC's Adam Green, pointing to a recent interview where her campaign manager mentioned the latter. "If she were to give a speech or even send a tweet mentioning them, that would shift the entire national discussion."

Thus, Warren and de Blasio have shown few signs of letting up. The former mayor has pointedly refused to endorse her, and Warren has declined to ask the various organizations aiming to draft her into the race to stand down.

And de Blasio's national travels aren't ending on Tuesday. His next stop, on Wednesday, will be in Silicon Valley — 3,000 miles from Manhattan.

Elizabeth Warren fires back at Obama ... again // Politico // Karey Van Hall – May 11, 2015

The war of wrong continues.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren hit back at President Barack Obama in an interview published on Monday, saying she is justified in her criticism of trade negotiations that she believes could undermine the Dodd-Frank financial reform law.

The tit-for-tat comes after Obama over the weekend again asserted that Warren is "absolutely wrong" in arguing that fast-track authority for trade deals could be a boon for Wall Street.

Warren, in an interview with the Washington Post, said fast-track authority gives a future Republican president a better path for undermining financial reforms because it would only require 51 votes in the Senate instead of 60.

She also said Dodd-Frank can be undercut through other measures besides straight legislation, such as international agreements on capital standards and leverage ratios.

"It's possible to punch holes in Dodd-Frank without directly repealing it," she said.

Warren and Obama have been long-time allies in public on consumer issues, but the trade deal has seemingly eroded their relationship.

In the interview published on Monday, Warren again accused Obama of not being forthcoming about the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact that his administration is negotiating with 11 other countries.

"If the president is so confident it's a good deal, he should declassify the text and let people see it before asking Congress to tie its hands on fixing it," she said.

Why Hillary Clinton needs Elizabeth Warren // Vox // Ezra Klein - May 11, 2015

Elizabeth Warren has pulled off something remarkable in the Democratic primary: she's managed to set the terms of the challenge to Hillary Clinton without actually entering the race and challenging Clinton herself.

In part, this is because Warren's agenda has been defined down from very specific ideas about financial regulation

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to a pretty generic form of economic populism. When Hillary Clinton mentioned that "the average CEO makes about 300 times what the average worker makes" and said "the deck is stacked in favor of the powerful," the New York Times wrote that she was "embracing the ideas trumpeted by Ms. Warren."

This is really just standard-issue Democratic populism. As it happens, Clinton used that CEO pay statistic in her 2008 campaign, too. But Warren has become so synonymous with the populist wing of the Democratic Party that Democrats sounding like Democrats gets reported as Democrats sounding like Elizabeth Warren. And that's great news for Hillary Clinton, because it sets up a test she can easily pass.

On economic policy, Clinton is pretty liberal. Her last presidential campaign was full of rhetoric that you could imagine in any Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren speech today:

Over the 12-month period that just ended in July, the slow growth in wages actually accounted for more than two-thirds of the increase in corporate profits. What does that mean? Well, the profits go up, but unlike every other time in our history, the CEOs and the boards of these companies are not sharing the wealth. So companies are actually profiting off of keeping workers' wages stagnant ... In 2005, the last year I could find the numbers for, all income gains went to the top 10 percent of households, while the bottom 90 percent saw their incomes decline. That is not the America that I grew up in.

"Hillary was talking about inequality and wage stagnation before it was in vogue," says Neera Tanden, who served as policy director on Clinton's 2008 campaign and now leads the Center for American Progress. "She was ahead of this debate, not behind it."

If the question of the 2016 Democratic primary is whether Hillary Clinton can sound like a populist, and adopt more populist policies, she's going to answer it with ease. Compared with the status quo, Clinton pretty much agrees with Sanders, with Warren, and with every other liberal: she wants higher taxes on the rich, more social spending, a tighter social safety net, a public option for health insurance, stronger financial regulations than what Congress actually passed, and so on.

There might be individual policies on which Warren or Sanders go further than Clinton — Sanders, for instance, supports single-payer health care — but on most economic issues, Clinton is well to the left of current policy and to the left of the average voter. And on specific issues like financial regulation, she's willing to go further than many expect: she has already named Gary Gensler, a tough financial regulator, to be her campaign's chief financial officer.

There's just not going to be that much room to her left on economic policy. But there is a lot of room to her left on other issues — and these are disagreements that the Warrenization of the Democratic primary is helping to obscure.

GOP

First GOP debate: Aug. 6 in Cleveland // Politico // Dylan Byers - May 11, 2015

The first Republican primary debate will take place on Aug. 6 in Cleveland, the Northeast Ohio Media Group reports.

The debate, sponsored by Fox News, will take place at the Quicken Loans Arena (or, "The Q"), home to the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers. The Q is also the site of next year's Republican National Convention, which is scheduled for July 2016.

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Fox News is expected to formally announce the date and venue within the next few days. Spokespeople for both Fox News and the Republican National Committee did not immediately respond to requests for comment late Monday night.

The RNC has sanctioned nine primary debates for the 2016 campaign, with the possibility of adding three more. It had previously announced that the first debate would take place in August in Ohio, though the exact day and location were unknown.

Last week, an NBC News spokesperson told the On Media blog that the last sanctioned Republican primary debate would take place in Houston on Feb. 26, 2016, just four days before Super Tuesday. That debate is being sponsored by NBC News and Telemundo in partnership with National Journal.

Fox News and CNN have each been granted two debates this cycle with the possibility of a third. The three broadcast networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — have each been given one debate, as have Fox Business and CNBC.

The Democratic National Party has sanctioned six primary debates, though it has yet to name the sponsors.

Jeb Bush Says He Wouldn't Repeal Obama's Immigration Actions Right Away // Bloomberg Politics // Michael C. Bender - May 11, 2015

He may be a staunch critic of President Obama's executive orders on immigration, but Jeb Bush wouldn't rush to repeal them if he's the next White House resident.

In an interview scheduled to air Monday night on Fox News, Bush suggested that he would wait until a new law was in place before overturning Obama's actions.

Noting the political difficulty of repealing the orders, host Megyn Kelly asked Bush how he would go about undoing them. "Passing meaningful reform of immigration and make it part of it," Bush answered, according to a transcript of the interview. The interview will air in full on The Kelly File at 9 p.m.

Bush, who hasn't yet formally entered the presidential race, also defended his support for giving undocumented immigrants driver's licenses and their children in-state tuition, saying, "If you've been here for an extended period of time, you have no nexus to the country of your parents."

"What what are we supposed to do? Marginalize these people forever?" Bush said.

Bush insisted that his support for providing undocumented immigrants a path to legalization wouldn't be a deal-breaker for voters in the GOP primary, saying Republican voters "can be persuaded." Bush suggested he's showing stronger leadership than the rest of the field by defending his position, which includes strengthening border security, limiting those who can immigrate because of family ties, and expanding the number of immigrants who come for economic reasons.

"Do you want people to just bend with the wind, to mirror people's sentiment whoever is in front of you? Oh, yes, I used to be for that but now, I'm for this. Is that the way we want to elect presidents?" Bush said.

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Bush has regularly criticized Obama's executive actions on immigration, saying the Democrat exceeded the constitutional authority of the nation's highest elected office, and has promised to repeal those changes, including one that protects those brought to the country as children, if he's elected president. But Bush, who is married to a Mexican American woman and supports legalizing many of the 11 million undocumented workers in the country, hasn't said whether he'd make those changes without Congress first passing a comprehensive immigration bill. Such a move, which House Republicans supported last year, would put millions of otherwise law-abiding immigrants at risk of deportation.

The Assets and Liabilities of Jeb Bush // WSJ // Gerald F. Seib - May 11, 2015

Five months ago this week, Jeb Bush got a beat on the world by announcing he was forming a committee to explore running for president. That means enough time has passed to frame the Bush paradox: He is the establishment favorite in a party that almost always picks that candidate, but has walked into an election cycle in which that isn't necessarily the case.

The powerful assets Mr. Bush brings to the table have been on full display since his December move. He can raise prodigious amounts of money from the party's business and finance wings, and enjoys the backing of many GOP power brokers and most of his family's network of supporters. He is an articulate candidate with a conservative record as Florida's governor, yet crossover appeal to moderates. He is better than other governors and former governors at discussing the national-security issues that are rising on GOP voters' priority list.

But as the weeks have gone by, it's also been easy to see Mr. Bush's problems within his party. Conservative skepticism is higher than some anticipated, based largely on his support for Common Core education standards and broad immigration reforms. Rival candidates— Mike Huckabee and Sen. Rand Paul in particular—have tapped into an antiestablishment strain within the party that works against Mr. Bush. The loss of two elections to Barack Obama has left some yearning for a generational change that is being exploited by—ironically enough—Sen. Marco Rubio, something of a Jeb Bush protégé.

Any rational analysis has to rate Mr. Bush as the slight favorite within an exceptionally crowded field of Republican contenders, though it's way too early to draw definitive conclusions. What is possible, based on an analysis of polling data and the shape of the race ahead, is to define two significant problems Mr. Bush faces, as well as two big advantages:

First, the problems:

The Republican party has changed. Since his brother and father were elected, the party has become more populist and has been altered by the rise of the tea-party movement and the absorption of its messages and foot soldiers.

In a broad examination of party-identification trends, Public Opinion Strategies, a Republican polling firm that helps conduct the Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey, found that the party's three largest subgroups now are tea-party supporters, self-identified conservatives and white Southerners. Moreover, in the last few years, the Republican party has become more male in composition.

These trends don't necessarily work to Mr. Bush's favor. In the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, he is the top choice among Republicans overall, by a small margin, but scores somewhat better among women than among men, better among moderates than among conservatives, and is the top choice of just 6% of self-described tea-party supporters.

The Romney experience left a bitter aftertaste. The nomination, followed by the defeat, of Mitt Romney in 2012

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has left some Republicans questioning the party's tendency to nominate the big name whose time has come. Democrats didn't do that when they picked Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton in 2008, the argument goes, and they won the White House twice as a result.

Mr. Bush isn't quite the same next-in-line choice that Mr. Romney was. Still, the Romney experience has opened the way for rivals such as Sen. Ted Cruz to argue that Republicans lose general elections because they don't excite and turn out their conservative base. While that analysis is open to question, the Journal/NBC News poll found Mr. Bush behind both Sen. Paul and Sen. Cruz among Republican primary voters who didn't vote for Mr. Romney.

Here are two big Bush advantages:

The conservative anti-Bush vote is being splintered. There is no single populist/antiestablishment/tea-party/evangelical alternative to Mr. Bush, but rather a whole series of them. That reduces the chances that any one rival can, at least for a while, reach the critical mass necessary to be seen as the singular alternative. Which leads to the second big advantage:

A long nomination contest benefits Jeb Bush. The longer a fight goes on, the more important it is to have a lot of money to wage it. Mr. Bush is tops in that category.

More than that, Mr. Bush has a plausible answer to conservative criticism of his support for Common Core education standards—that he's for high standards at the state level, not federal coercion in imposing them—that will benefit from more time and opportunity to deliver it.

And to the extent the nominating contest moves into big swing states on the March and April calendar—Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Pennsylvania—it will reach relatively more natural Bush voters than may be found in some of the early states. A marathon may suit Jeb Bush just fine.

Jeb Bush leans on nonprofit group as he prepares likely presidential run // Washington Post // Ed O'Keefe and Matea Gold - May 11, 2015

A nonprofit group allied with former Florida governor Jeb Bush is playing a more expansive role in his current political operation than previously known, housing several top policy advisers who are expected to join his eventual campaign, according to people familiar with the structure.

At least four people with expertise on energy issues, foreign affairs and communications are working with Right to Rise Policy Solutions, a nonprofit advocacy group that can accept secret, unlimited donations from individuals and corporations.

Bush's reliance on the nonprofit as he prepares for a likely presidential bid puts him on untested legal ground, cloaking who is paying the salaries of his expected advisers. But a polarized Federal Election Commission is unlikely to scrutinize the maneuver, campaign finance experts said.

The latest hire was announced Monday: Michael Steel, a top spokesman for House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), said that he was moving to Florida to take a role with the nonprofit group. If Bush officially launches a presidential campaign, Steel would join it, according to people familiar with the plans who were not authorized to speak publicly.

At least three others working for the group are expected to make similar moves. Marcus Peacock, a former staffer

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with the Senate Budget Committee, is working with the group on environmental and energy issues. Former congressional staffers Robert S. Karem and John Noonan are advising the former governor on foreign policy issues as paid consultants to Right to Rise Policy Solutions.

In a statement, William Simon, the group's founder, said that if Bush launches a campaign, his entity "will continue its education efforts independent of such campaign." He confirmed in a separate e-mail that "some of our policy team are on short-term contracts to help get up to speed building policy and creating an informational Web site. As the year progresses I expect that some will move on to other opportunities."

Simon is a former Wal-Mart executive and was head of Florida's Department of Management Services during Bush's second term as governor. In February, Simon established Right to Rise Policy Solutions as a nonprofit corporation in his home state of Arkansas.

Having Simon's nonprofit group temporarily house a team of Bush aides means that the public may never know who is paying the salaries of those helping craft Bush's policies right now. Tax-exempt "social welfare" groups such as Right to Rise Policy Solutions can accept unlimited funds from individuals and corporations and are allowed to keep the names of the contributors secret. Simon has said he may end up disclosing the donors to the group, but it is unclear when that might happen.

"The beauty of nonprofits from the standpoint of some donors is that the source of the money will never see the light of day," said Kenneth Gross, who heads the political law practice at Skadden Arps. "The entire process is going to be even less transparent than it has been in the past."

Campaign finance experts said the nonprofit's relationship with Bush is legally risky. A landmark 2002 law bans a candidate from directly or indirectly establishing an organization that is not subject to federal contribution limits.

It is unclear, however, how that would apply to Bush, since he has not yet declared his candidacy for the White House. And the FEC is mired in intense partisan gridlock, making it unlikely that the six-member panel would agree to pursue the issue.

"It seems to me that it is pushing the envelope, but I don't know whether the FEC is going to take any action," said Gross, a former associate general counsel at the commission.

Advocates for tougher enforcement of campaign finance rules said that Bush's aggressive use of a nonprofit in his political operation undermines the federal contribution limits, which permit individuals to give up to $2,700 to a candidate per election. The former governor has also been raising money at an intense clip for his allied super PAC, also called Right to Rise.

"This is another example of how he is running roughshod over campaign finance law," said Larry Noble, senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center. "He is outsourcing what will normally be campaign activity, and he's not even admitting he's testing the waters, which is absurd."

Kristy Campbell, a spokeswoman for Bush, said in an e-mail Monday that his team is "fully complying with the law in all activities Governor Bush is engaging in on the political front and will continue to do so."

Bush is not the first presidential contender to have an allied tax-exempt organization. A super PAC set up to back President Obama in 2012 had a smaller nonprofit arm, Priorities USA, which ended up giving most of its money away to groups such as Planned Parenthood and Hurricane Sandy relief efforts before being dissolved, according to tax documents.

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Other 2016 Republican contenders — including Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, former Texas governor Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania — have aligned nonprofits groups that have conducted polling, developed policy and covered travel expenses.

But Bush's advisers appear to have gone further by parceling out a specific function to a tax-exempt group that is expected to flank his eventual campaign.

Steel has served as Boehner's press secretary since 2008, chiefly responsible for handling daily interactions with the congressional press corps and implementing a broader communications strategy, especially during high-stakes negotiations over formation of the "super committee" in 2011, the 2012 "fiscal cliff" and the 2013 government shutdown.

Boehner has voiced support for Bush generally in the past but is not expected to endorse any candidate before a nominee is chosen. He praised his outgoing spokesman in a statement on Monday, calling him "a pro's pro."

Bush favorability rating suffers in new poll // The Hill // Jonathan Easley - May 11, 2015

Former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) has the worst favorability rating of any of the prospective Republican presidential candidates and a majority of voters nationwide say they won't even consider voting for him, according to a new poll.

The George Washington University poll released on Monday found that only 35 percent of voters say they have a favorable of view of Bush, against 48 percent who view him negatively.

Only 36 percent of voters said they would consider voting for Bush, while 60 percent said they would not consider voting for him.

The rest of the GOP field has better favorability ratings, but remains largely unknown.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) is viewed favorably by 22 percent of voters, against 19 percent who say they view him negatively. However, 47 percent said they don't know enough about Walker, compared to only 6 percent who said the same about Bush.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) is the only other GOP candidate with a positive favorability rating, with 31 percent saying they view him positively, against 30 percent who have a negative view of him. Twenty-six percent of voters said they don't know enough about Rubio to have an opinion.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) breaks even on favorability with a 34-34 split, while Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) is 4 points underwater at 33 percent positive and 37 percent negative. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) comes in at 25 percent positive and 33 percent negative.

But it's not just Bush that faces deep skepticism from the electorate at large – 55 percent of voters said they wouldn't consider voting for Paul, Huckabee or Cruz, while 50 percent said the same about Rubio and Walker.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (D) is viewed positively by 48 percent of voters, while 49 percent say

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they have a negative view of her. Forty-seven percent of voters said they would consider voting for Clinton, against 51 percent who said they would not.

"These GW Battleground Poll results show that the American electorate's deep, broad and chronic pessimism about jobs and economic security translates into across-the-board hostility toward the 2016 presidential candidates," Michael Cornfield, the research director for the GW Global Center for Political Engagement said in a statement.

"In each and every case, more respondents said they would not consider voting for them than would," he added. "Campaigners face stiff suspicions and a preference for political effectiveness over ideological affinity."

The poll of 1,000 registered voters, conducted between May 3 and 6, has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

John Boehner press aide Michael Steel takes job with Jeb Bush // Politico // Jake Sherman - May 11, 2015

Michael Steel, one of Speaker John Boehner's top aides, is moving to Miami to work in a "leadership role" for Jeb Bush's political action committee.

Steel has worked as the press secretary for Boehner since 2008, when the Ohio Republican was the minority leader of a battered Republican party in the House. He has guided Boehner's communications operation for seven years, helping craft the strategy that made the Ohio Republican speaker, and subsequently playing a key role advising him in day-to-day governing, including high-stakes negotiations with President Barack Obama.

Steel will be an adviser to Bush's Right to Rise Policy Solutions PAC, "with a leadership role in policy and communications," according to a source familiar with the role. Right to Rise is the precursor to Bush's all-but-certain presidential campaign.

"Ask anyone in the Capitol – Republican, Democrat, or otherwise – about Michael Steel, and they will tell you the same thing: he is a pro's pro," Boehner said in a statement to POLITICO. "For more than seven years, I have relied on his ability to dissect an issue, win a debate, and deal openly and honestly with the press. He brings nothing but class, decency – and even cheer – to his work no matter how tough the situation. We would not be where we are today without him. All of Boehnerland is sorry to see him go, but we wish Michael the best of luck and we thank him for his service."

Boehner has been clear that he himself is a fan of Bush, and wants the former Florida governor to run for president.

Steel, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Columbia University's graduate program in journalism, has worked on Capitol Hill for a dozen years. He started in 2003 as the press secretary for former Arizona Rep. John Shadegg.

Steel has frequently taken leaves of absence from the Hill to hit the campaign trail. He was Rep. Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) press secretary during the 2012 presidential campaign. In 2014, he was a senior adviser to the Republican Party of North Carolina and helped Sen. Thom Tillis defeat Kay Hagan.

This time, he is leaving Capitol Hill behind.

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Jeb Bush's disastrous defense of the Iraq War // Washington Examiner // Byron York - May 11, 2015

Is it possible that in 2016, more than a decade after the invasion of Iraq, the Republican party's presidential nominee could become bogged down in debating whether the war was the right thing to do? The answer, a depressing one for many in the GOP, is yes — if the nominee is Jeb Bush.

Fox News' Megyn Kelly asked Bush a straightforward, concise question: "Knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion?" Bush's answer was an unhesitating yes.

"I would have, and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody," Bush said, "and so would have almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got."

"You don't think it was a mistake?" asked Kelly.

"In retrospect, the intelligence that everybody saw, that the world saw, not just the United States, was faulty," Bush answered.

Bush's view of the war is considerably less clear-eyed than that of his brother, former President George W. Bush, the man who ordered the invasion. In his memoir, Decision Points, W. wrestled with the dilemma of his decision to start a war on the basis of bad intelligence. Only W. did not call the intelligence "faulty," as Jeb had. W. called the intelligence "false."

"The reality was that I had sent American troops into combat based in large part on intelligence that proved false," George W. Bush wrote.

Even though W. still argued that the world is "undoubtedly safer" without Saddam Hussein, he knew the failure to find the weapons of mass destruction that he used to justify the invasion was "a massive blow to our credibility — my credibility — that would shake the confidence of the American people."

"I had a sickening feeling every time I thought about it," George W. Bush wrote. "I still do."

As for whether Hillary Clinton would have authorized the invasion "knowing what we know now" — it's hard to believe that Jeb Bush is serious when he says she would. Of course she wouldn't.

Nor would others involved in the decision. For example, look at the account of another key player in the 2002-03 Iraq debate, top presidential advisor Karl Rove. "Would the Iraq War have occurred without WMD?" Rove asked in his book, Courage and Consequence. "I doubt it: Congress was very unlikely to have supported the use-of-force resolution without the threat of WMD. The Bush administration itself would probably have sought other ways to constrain Saddam, bring about regime change and deal with Iraq's horrendous human rights violations."

So no, Congress would not have authorized war if lawmakers knew there were no WMDs.

If Jeb Bush sticks to his position — that he would still authorize war knowing what we know today — it will represent a step backward for the Republican Party. Other candidates before Jeb have grappled with the issue and changed their position. Look at the evolution of the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, Mitt Romney.

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In January 2008, Romney said, "It was the right decision to go into Iraq. I supported it at the time; I support it now." In 2011, Romney said: "Well, if we knew at the time of our entry into Iraq that there were no weapons of mass destruction — if somehow we had been given that information, why, obviously we would not have gone in."

So now Jeb Bush takes a step back to support an invasion even in the absence of WMD.

Jeb's statement is likely to resonate until he either changes his position or loses the race for the Republican nomination. Should he become the nominee, the issue will dog him into the general election campaign.

To his credit, George W. Bush wrestled with the consequences of his decision to invade Iraq. Other war supporters were forced to re-think their positions, too. In coming days, Jeb Bush will likely have to do the same.

Jeb Bush's Revisionist History of the Iraq War // New York Times // Andrew Rosenthal - May 11, 2015

Last week, a spokesman for Jeb Bush, who used to be governor of Florida and is now vacuuming up as much dark money as he can without actually announcing a run for president, tried to unspin a comment Mr. Bush made in a private gathering that suggested he was taking advice about the Middle East from his brother, former President George W. Bush.

Since it's hard to think of a foreign-policy success by George Bush in that region, it was alarming that the would-be president would take his brother as his role model. Turns out it's much worse. Jeb Bush doesn't seem to have learned anything from his brother's failures and he is blithely parroting the worst propaganda about the war in Iraq.

Asked on Fox News (in an interview to be aired tonight) if he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq, knowing what the world now knows, Jeb Bush replied: "I would have and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody. And so would almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got."

Let's leave aside for a moment that Mr. Bush has no clue what Mrs. Clinton would have done given her knowledge now about the lack of a security threat to the United States from weapons of mass destruction or anything else in Iraq. What he appears to be referring to is the fact that Mrs. Clinton, like most of the Senate, voted in favor of a war resolution after George W. Bush presented Congress with a National Intelligence Estimate that said Saddam Hussein had active programs in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

The former president likes to say Congress had the "same intelligence" he had when they voted to authorize the war, which sounds good, but is not exactly true. George Bush decided to invade Iraq long before the National Intelligence Estimate was ever even drafted. Its purpose was not to inform policymaking, but to fool Congress, the United Nations, the American people and the rest of the world into supporting the war.

The world now knows that the document was reverse-engineered to suit a policy that had already been created. The assessments of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs were wrong, and hotly disputed within the intelligence community at the time; the Bush administration just conveniently forgot to mention that to Congress.

Mr. Bush said in his interview: "Once we invaded and took out Saddam Hussein we didn't focus on security first," a stunning understatement of the incompetent way Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld planned the invasion. Jeb Bush added that his brother "thinks those mistakes took place as well."

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That may set a new standard for passive shifting of responsibility — even worse than the classic dodge, “mistakes were made.”

All in the Family // Slate // Jamelle Bouie - May 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton is sprinting away from Bill. In the short month since she’s been an official candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, she’s renounced his criminal justice policies—pledging an end to the “era of mass incarceration” her husband helped usher—and adopted a careful skepticism on free trade, versus the enthusiasm of the Clinton administration. She hasn’t abandoned the former president—Bill will almost certainly campaign for Hillary—but she’s begun to put space between her career and his legacy.

The other dynastic candidate in the presidential race, Jeb Bush, is moving in the opposite direction. “If you want to know who I listen to for advice, it’s him,” said Bush of his brother, President George W. Bush. In this instance, speaking to a group of Manhattan financiers, he was referencing his proposed policy toward Israel. But it’s clear Jeb has taken sibling wisdom on a variety of topics. Not only does he sound like his brother on immigration—he wants a path to “earned legal status” for 11 million unauthorized immigrants—but he’s on board with his foreign policy as well. When asked if, “knowing what we know now,” he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq, Jeb Bush said yes. “I would have,” he told Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly, “and so would have Hillary Clinton,” he added.

Because the question was whether Bush would go to war with today’s information—as opposed to 2002’s intelligence—this wasn’t really an answer. Clinton’s vote to authorize the war with the information she had doesn’t mean she would do the same with the information she now has (though, someone should ask). But that’s secondary to the astonishing fact that Bush has embraced the most disastrous choice of his brother’s administration.

To that point, Kelly also asked if Bush thought the war was a mistake. And here, his reply was even more interesting. “In retrospect,” Bush said, “the intelligence that everybody saw, that the world saw, not just the United States, was faulty. And in retrospect, once we invaded and took out Saddam Hussein, we didn’t focus on security first, and the Iraqis, in this incredibly insecure environment turned on the United States military because there was no security for themselves and their families. By the way, guess who thinks that those mistakes took place, as well? George W. Bush. So, news flash to the world, if they’re trying to find places where there’s big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those.”

Either Bush is dodging the question—and looking for ground to defend his brother—or he doesn’t understand that the mistake of the war was the decision to launch it, not the shoddy aftermath. Even with a more competent administration in charge, it’s likely the Iraq war would have remained a disaster: a needless diversion against an overblown threat that claimed tens of thousands of lives, committed the United States to a long destructive occupation, and destabilized the Middle East in ways that still reverberate. And if Bush doesn’t grasp the error of the invasion, then he’s liable to make a similar mistake if elected president.

Bush has to know this is toxic to the general public. Even with the gruesome violence of ISIS, pluralities—and sometimes majorities—of Americans oppose further major involvement in Iraq. Last June, in a poll from Quinnipiac University, 61 percent of Americans said the Iraq war was the wrong thing to do, and that October, in a poll from NBC News and the Wall Street Journal, 66 percent of Americans said the war was “not worth it.”

But at this moment in the election, Bush isn’t speaking to the public. He’s speaking to Republicans. And even now, most Republicans think the war was a good idea. Last year, in a poll from USA Today and the Pew Research Center, 52 percent of Republicans said it was “right to use” military force in Iraq. And in the aforementioned Quinnipiac survey, 56 percent of Republicans agreed that the war “was the right thing for the United States.” In that instance, Republicans were the only group to show majority support.

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If Bush were running unopposed—or with marginal opposition—there might not be an imperative to embrace the Iraq war. But he's running in a crowded field of legitimate competitors, where most are hawkish (Sen. Rand Paul is the notable exception) and one, Sen. Marco Rubio, has the belligerent posturing of George W. Bush in his first term. In his 2010 campaign for Senate, Rubio praised the Iraq war for making the world "better off," and in a 2013 speech in London, he called the war a "vitally important achievement" of America's relationship with the United Kingdom. He's pushed interventions in Syria (he would have armed the rebels), opposed withdrawal in Iraq and Afghanistan, and wants a more aggressive stance toward Iran. As Eliana Johnson wrote for National Review last year, Rubio is the neoconservative candidate for 2016: "To this group, beating back the rising tide of non-interventionism in the Republican party is a top priority, and they consider Rubio a candidate, if not the candidate, capable of doing so."

You can chalk up Jeb Bush's Iraq position to familial loyalty, if you want. But you shouldn't ignore the politics of it. Bush needs to distinguish himself from a younger, more popular competitor in a congested presidential field. Embracing the Iraq war—and his brother's legacy on foreign policy—is one way to challenge Rubio on his own turf, at least among donors and elites. Likewise, over on the left, Clinton is rejecting the triangulation of her husband and adopting progressive positions on criminal justice and immigration reform, to bolster her position and preclude a repeat of the 2008 primary.

Most observers assumed Clinton and Bush would be forced to make some moves because of the political legacy of family members. What's ironic is that they've moved opposite of expectations. Bill Clinton is among the most popular presidents of recent memory, and George W. Bush is among the most disliked. But Hillary, eager to define herself and reconstitute the Obama coalition, has distanced herself from her husband while Jeb, fighting to build stature in a melee of a Republican primary, has pulled closer to his unsuccessful brother.

PolitFact NH: Jeb Bush says he met NH man who founded only U.S. bank since Dodd-Frank // Concord Monitor // Clay Wirestone - May 10, 2015

At an appearance in Concord in mid-April, former Florida governor Jeb Bush talked banking -- and the legislation meant to reform it.

"On my last trip to New Hampshire I think I met the guy who founded the first and only bank since Dodd-Frank passed, since the financial crisis," Bush said at his speech at Saint Anselm College's Politics and Eggs event April 17. "One bank in the country."

The banking reform legislation known as Dodd-Frank became law on July 21, 2010, nearly five years ago. We decided to look into Bush's statement that only one bank had been founded since that time.

We checked with Bush's camp and according to spokesman Matt Gorman, Bush met with businessman Bill Grenier when he was in the state March 14. Greiner, of Bedford, filed last year with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to charter an entirely new bank named Primary Bank.

"We're going against the grain, and we're okay with that because we see a need," he told the Wall Street Journal in December.

So would Primary Bank be the nation's "first and only" since Dodd-Frank? Not exactly. Depending on the data set you choose, it's either the second, fourth, ninth or 20th.

The Journal and other media sources have said the first bank founded after the law's passage is in fact the Bank of Bird-in-Hand, Pa. It mainly serves the area's Amish community. And yes, it includes a drive-through window for horse-and-buggy.

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This was included in the information forwarded to us by Bush's spokesman.

But we decided to ask the FDIC itself. Greg Hernandez, an agency spokesman, offered further details. First, off, when Bush and others talk about new banks, they're referring to de novo banks, or banks issued a new charter by the agency.

Not counting Grenier's startup, the FDIC actually lists three banks issued charters since 2010. The oldest, Lakeside Bank of Lake Charles, La., had its charter approved in October 2009, before Dodd-Frank's passage. But the charter wasn't consummated until late July 2010, after the bill was signed into law.

The next bank on the FDIC's list is Start Community Bank of New Haven, Conn. While its charter was approved in December 2010, the bank itself says its origins date to 2004, with the founding of its parent company.

The Bird-in-Hand bank's charter was both approved and consummated in November 2013.

It seems fair to call Primary Bank the second of all-new bank approved by the FDIC since Dodd Frank's passage. But if you include the two others that the agency itself lists, Primary Bank would come in fourth.

The FDIC lists five other banks as having been established since mid-2010, including one in Kansas City, Mo.; Brockton, Mass,; and Easley, S.C., according to Hernandez. These banks, however, didn't apply for new charters.

"Other banks can be established through a shelf charter from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency," Hernandez wrote in an e-mail. "That would be when a private equity group purchases a failed bank. Also, (newly) established banks can be the result of a merger or acquisition."

If you use that criteria, and include the five other banks mentioned, Primary Bank would be the ninth bank started after Dodd-Frank.

And finally, while they're not called banks and are regulated by a different agency, consumers generally see credit unions as the equivalent of banks (and credit unions are affected by the law, too). According to John Fairbanks of the National Credit Union Administration, there have been at least 11 credit union charters approved since the start of 2011. That would make Primary Bank at least the 14th and at most the 20th such institution started since Dodd Frank overhauled the banking industry.

None of these different contexts would make Grenier's bank the first one established since the passage of Dodd-Frank.

And there's the implication that new banks aren't being created because of Dodd-Frank, which raises the question:

What does the law actually do, and why is it important?

The full name of the law is the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and it passed on July 15, 2010. President Obama signed it into law on July 21. While the financial crisis mentioned by Bush predated the law by a couple of years, Dodd-Frank itself has been fiercely criticized by Republicans, who say it stifles growth in the financial sector.

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The law itself was meant to prevent another financial meltdown like that of 2008-9. According to an overview from CNBC, the law was meant to avoid banks becoming “too big to fail,” regulate risky trading and created new oversight bodies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The banking industry blames the law, in part, for the lack of new banks.

Frank Keating, president and CEO of the American Bankers Association, criticized government regulations on the financial sector in a recent column for The Hill. After mentioning the New Hampshire bank, he gets down to business.

“Investors are reluctant to shoulder the cumulative regulatory burdens -- both from new laws and from a more stringent approach by regulators themselves -- and the rising legal risks associated with running a bank these days.”

Keating doesn’t mention Dodd-Frank by name, but the implication is clear. He also highlights the dropoff of bank creation post-2010, pointing out that “the average from 2002 to 2008 was closer to 100” per year. According to a Motley Fool explainer piece, “between 1990 and 2006, the FDIC approved an average of 152 bank and thrift charters a year.”

That being said, there isn’t universal agreement that regulation is behind the drop in new bank creation.

Keating acknowledges that in his column, noting toward the end that “the low interest rate environment is challenging for bank startups. And the number of banks has been steadily falling for decades due to a wave of mergers and acquisitions.”

According to a report from the Richmond Federal Reserve bank, there could be several factors at work. One is the Federal Reserve’s policy of keeping interest rates low. That lowers interest rates overall, making it harder for banks to earn money. (The Motley Fool suggests that’s the main reason for the drop.) The research raises the possibility that the cost of complying with regulations has gone up, but says “it is unclear” whether that is driving down the creation of new banks.

Finally, though, it mentions that the FDIC itself has changed its policies for new banks, in a move that predates the passage of Dodd-Frank.

“In 2009 the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation increased the length of time -- from three to seven years -- during which newly insured depository institutions are subject to higher capital requirements and more frequent examinations,” the paper’s authors write.

Our ruling

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush said “I met the guy who founded the first and only bank since Dodd-Frank passed, since the financial crisis. One bank in the country.”

He’s certainly got a point that there has been a sharp dropoff of newly chartered banks since Dodd-Frank became law in the summer of 2010, but it’s incorrect to say Primary Bank would be the first in the country. There is at least one other in the nation, and possibly several more. It is certainly the first bank chartered in New Hampshire

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during that time.

The suggestion that Dodd-Frank has caused the drop-off in new bank formation is also debatable. While regulation has perhaps played a role, FDIC policies set before the law's passage may have had a more direct effect. And the overall economic picture, with incredibly low interest rates, has simply made it difficult for banks to make money.

We rate Bush's statement Mostly False.

First on CNN: Ted Cruz to host fundraiser along U.S.-Mexico border // CNN Politics // Theodore Schleifer - May 11, 2015

Washington (CNN) Ted Cruz will raise money for his presidential campaign along the U.S.-Mexico border next month.

The Texas senator -- who has made beefing up border security a calling card of his presidential campaign -- will visit McAllen, Texas, for a $1,000-a-head fundraiser on June 9, according to an invitation obtained by CNN.

Cruz deplores the White House's executive actions on immigration and has proposed tripling the size of the U.S. Border Patrol. On the stump, he frequently jokes about staffing the border with reassigned Internal Revenue Service agents.

"Imagine you had traveled thousands of miles in the blazing sun. You're swimming across the Rio Grande and the first thing you see is 90,000 IRS agents. You'd turn around and go home too," Cruz said to applause at the South Carolina Freedom Summit this weekend.

Cruz has been criticized by local officials and business leaders for speaking extensively about the border but visiting relatively infrequently.

Steve Ahlenius, the head of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce, told the Texas Tribune earlier this year that too many politicians like Cruz prioritize "parachuting" in over spending meaningful time on the ground.

"They don't come in with viable solutions that really kind of take into account the feedback, comments and ideas coming from the local area, as opposed to what they think someone in Iowa is going to want to hear," he said.

The Rio Grande Valley, a Democratic stronghold in a solidly Republican state, is about 90% Hispanic and is currently represented by only Democrats in Austin and Washington. Hidalgo County, where Cruz will raise money next month, gave 70% of its vote in 2012 to Barack Obama.

Much of the early money Cruz has raised has come from Texas, even though the state's business community was originally hostile to him when he first entered the political scene. The Republican firebrand has worked hard to win over much of the state's traditional donor base, but he now finds serious competition from a crowded field of presidential candidates with ties to the Lone Star State, led by Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor.

The Cruz campaign declined to confirm the event to CNN.

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Rand Paul Plans To Filibuster Patriot Act // Huffington Post // Igor Bobic – May 11, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said this week that he intends to mount a fight against the reauthorization of the Patriot Act, the post-Sept. 11 law that gives the National Security Agency much of its authority to conduct surveillance programs.

"I'm going to lead the charge in the next couple of weeks as the Patriot Act comes forward. We will be filibustering. We will be trying to stop it. We are not going to let them run over us," Paul told the New Hampshire Union Leader on Monday.

The Patriot Act expires June 1, but Congress must effectively renew the law by May 22nd because of a scheduled weeklong break. Paul, a civil libertarian who hopes to capture the 2016 Republican nomination for president, has consistently spoken against reauthorizing the law, going so far as to oppose a 2014 bill that would have ended controversial NSA phone record collection because it left the government's broad authority to conduct surveillance intact.

It's unclear whether Paul plans to vote to block reauthorizing the surveillance law, or whether he intends to mount a traditional "talking" filibuster that would eat up valuable time on the Senate floor. A request with the senator's spokesperson for more details was not immediately returned.

The Kentucky Republican isn't the only member of the Senate with objections to the Patriot Act. On the other side of the aisle, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who is one of the most persistent critics of U.S. surveillance programs, has said that he, too, plans to wage war over some of the law's most controversial provisions. In an interview with MSNBC on Sunday, Wyden threatened to mount a filibuster if Congress reauthorizes Section 215 of the act, upon which the government has built its rationale for the bulk data collection revealed in 2013 by NSA leaker Edward Snowden.

Wyden and Paul have teamed up on national security issues in the past. In 2013, the senator from Oregon lent his voice to Paul's filibuster of the nomination of John Brennan as CIA director.

A request for comment with a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), who is a strong supporter of the Patriot Act, was not immediately returned on Monday.

Rand Paul Battles the PATRIOT Act (and Fellow Senators Who Miss Votes) // Bloomberg // David Weigel - May 11, 2015

Last night, before arriving for a short and busy visit to New Hampshire, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul published an op-ed in Manchester's conservative Union Leader newspaper.

"As President of the United States, I will immediately end the NSA’s illegal bulk data collection and domestic spying programs," said Paul. "I will take my responsibilities seriously and protect the Fourth Amendment rights of all Americans. I believe the overreaching NSA spying program represents the worst of the 'Washington Machine.'"

He'd touched on some of the same themes Saturday, on a visit to San Francisco. Paul, having been accused of a light touch when drone strikes and police brutality were forced into the news cycle, was taking the opposite approach to the NSA. He would talk about it whenever he could, and focus on the June battle over whether to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act.

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Before his big public event of the day in Londonderry, Paul joined a small group of New Hampshire state legislators who planned to endorse him. They wanted to hear his critique of the NSA. As soon as he arrived at the Londonderry Lions Club, Paul walked into a scrum of waiting cameramen and started talking about how a New York court's ruling against the NSA's bulk metadata collection would define his race.

"I'm the only Republican and the only Democrat who said I'd end this program on day one," said Paul. "It's illegal. We can catch terrorists by using the Constitution. We can use warrants, with a judge writing the warrant, with someone's name on the warrant."

Inside the Lions Club, Paul gave a truncated stump speech to around 100 voters, several of whom had been in the crowd for his April campaign announcement speech, just down the road. "We're getting ready to have a big fight over the PATRIOT Act," said Paul. "I was walking down the hallway with another senator, three years ago, when I led the fight to get rid of the PATRIOT Act. He said, 'What will happen? It will expire tonight? If you filibuster, it will expire.'"

One voter started applauding, even before Paul's punchline.

"I said: 'Maybe for a few hours, we can just use the Constitution!'"

Paul's town hall queries veered from common core to VA hospital funding to Social Security, but it ended with a question about spying. James Bellamy, a 28-year old law student at Western New England University, asked Paul if he'd vote for the USA FREEDOM Act. Some libertarian-minded Republicans, like Representative Justin Amash, were already promising to oppose that bill, a supposed fix to the data collection program that allowed the government to make bulk requests through alternate means.

"I sued the NSA," said Paul. "I'm a leader in trying to stop this. My bill would end it, and not replace it. The USA FREEDOM Act ends it, but then replaces it with another program. My concern is whether or not they'll have individualized suspicion to get your records. USA FREEDOM says the government is not going to collect your records in Utah, but the government can get them from the phone company. I'm okay with the government getting them from the phone company if they have your name on the warrant. I'm not okay with them saying, we need everybody in Londonderry's stuff, so even though it's not being held in Utah, they can get in from the phone company."

The answer to Bellamy's question wasn't easy. "I'm not perfectly at home with the USA FREEDOM Act," Paul said. "I voted against it once. The reason I voted against it was that it reauthorized the PATRIOT Act."

In other words, Paul's vote would depend on the Senate's debate. That was where he'd be heading next—to the Senate, to debate. Before Paul even took questions, State Senator Andy Sanborn, an early endorser, made joking reference to Florida Senator Marco Rubio and Texas Senator Ted Cruz.

"We don't want to mention anyone else who might be living in Texas or in Florida," said Sanborn, explaining why Paul might have to run out early. "He's actually going to go back and do his job as a senator and vote."

On the way to the pick-up truck that would spirit Paul to the airport, NH1 reporter Paul Steinhauser asked Paul if he agreed with Sanborn's snark.

"I get paid by the taxpayer, and I figure I need to vote, so I'm working very hard to do this and also vote at the same time," Paul said. "I'll not only be back there for a vote this afternoon, I'll be back and voting and leading the effort against the PATRIOT Act, and leading the vote to try to end bulk collection of your phone records."

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Rand Paul supports bird flu role of agency he tried to cut // USA Today // Christopher Doering - May 11, 2015

WASHINGTON — Presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul as recently as 2013 proposed cutting an Agriculture Department agency responsible for studying the spread of poultry diseases such as bird flu, a virus that has killed millions of birds in Iowa the past two weeks.

Paul, a Kentucky Republican, had proposed budget plans as recently as two years ago that backed scrapping the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Service, which includes a division responsible for studying ways to predict, treat and control poultry diseases.

Steve Grubbs, Paul's chief Iowa strategist, declined to address specific spending reductions at the USDA or whether the senator continues to support cutting those agencies as he has in past budget proposals.

But Grubbs said Paul favors the government playing an active role in working with farmers to combat bird flu because the virus has spread throughout several states. As a result, the outbreak triggers what's known as the commerce clause in the Constitution, effectively giving the government the power to get involved, he said.

"Sen. Paul recognizes that there are important programs in the USDA related to food safety and disease control that need to be protected and potentially enhanced," said Grubbs. Bird flu and other diseases are "a perfect place for the USDA and other federal agencies to play a role."

Former Lt. Gov. Patty Judge brought the budget items to the attention of the Des Moines Register.

On May 1, Gov. Terry Branstad declared a state of emergency in Iowa — an action that could help state agencies assist in the disposal of birds stricken by the virus. The virus, which can kill a poultry flock within 48 hours, has struck in 14 states.

In Iowa, more than two dozen cases of avian influenza have been identified, affecting an estimated 20 million birds that have been infected or must be destroyed to contain the disease.

Government officials are still trying to determine how the disease is spreading and find ways to bring it under control.

Paul has pushed for smaller government, sparring with some GOP leaders during his first term in the Senate, blaming them for being part of the problem. Political analysts believe that if elected president, Paul would move to cut the federal government. He has proposed eliminating several Cabinet-level departments including Commerce, Education and Energy.

A spokesman with the USDA declined to comment on Paul's previously proposed cuts.

Ed Schafer, a former agriculture secretary in the George W. Bush administration and a one-time governor of North Dakota, said agencies such as the Agricultural Research Service are especially vulnerable when lawmakers are looking to rein in spending because their results are difficult to measure right away.

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Research programs, he said, are vital to helping agriculture thrive by discovering new advancements in yields, improving water management and finding ways for crops to handle weeds and pests.

"I'm all for Rand Paul's efforts to say we need to trim the cost of government. What the trick is is identifying the priorities and putting the money there," Schafer said. "(Research) is an easy one to cut because there is no immediate benefit seen. It comes in minute, little advances but over the long-term you increase the food supply, you make it safer and more affordable. Research, to me, is more important than some other programs."

Ken Blanchard, a professor of political science at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., said it's almost impossible to remove or drastically overhaul a Cabinet department. He noted that President Ronald Reagan campaigned for the presidency in 1980 by promising to abolish the Education Department, which was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter a year earlier.

"Cabinet agencies are like Dracula. No matter how many times you draw the stake in their heart or expose them to light they are always back again for the next movie," Blanchard said. "You've got so many vested interests that the agency manages to put its tendrils into in so many parts of the rest of the country and various private interests. It's just almost impossible" to make a major change to a Cabinet department, he said.

Rand Paul's 'Fast Track' Dilemma // WSJ // Bob Davis – May 11, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky has emerged as a top spokesman for a view on trade legislation that could complicate President Barack Obama's push to pass a major Pacific trade pact.

The 2016 presidential candidate says he is a "big believer in free trade" but has qualms about the legislation, known as fast track, designed to help pass major trade deals with limited involvement by the Senate. Some other Republicans are expressing similar misgivings in both the House and Senate.

With a key Senate procedural vote on fast track set for Tuesday, Mr. Paul is in the crosshairs as groups on both sides of the issue vie for his vote. Last week he said he hadn't made up his mind on fast track.

But on Monday, Mr. Paul told WMUR in New Hampshire that he opposed fast track, in part, because of his frustration about the secrecy surrounding the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

"I've told leadership I'm a 'no' vote on trade promotion authority," Mr. Paul told the station, according to an account on WMUR.com. "I'm hesitant to give blanket authority on stuff we haven't seen." He said he might be persuaded in the future to back fast track if he approved of provisions in the TPP.

At a Heritage Foundation forum earlier this year, he indicated sympathy for arguments that the procedure weakens congressional authority and that trade pacts should be treated like treaties—meaning they would need a two-thirds majority of the Senate for approval, as opposed to the simple majority the Pacific pact requires.

His business allies in Kentucky and elsewhere are strong fast-track supporters, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has made winning his vote a priority. "His vote is important, given his credibility with conservative-leaning folks," said Christopher Wenk, the Chamber's executive director of international policy. The Chamber is working with four big Kentucky business organizations to woo Sen. Paul.

But many of Mr. Paul's grass-roots supporters are trade skeptics—and outright hostile to fast track. In a late April Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, Paul supporters by a 41% to 36% margin said free trade had hurt the U.S.

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With Mr. Paul, “you have mixed elements and motivations,” said conservative legal scholar Bruce Fein, a Paul adviser who opposes fast track. “He’s an unorthodox candidate.”

President Obama is trying to rally Democratic support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership. What would this trade pact do? How is Mr. Obama answering critics from within his own party? WSJ’s Jason Bellini has #TheShortAnswer.

Under fast track, formally called trade promotion authority, Congress agrees to vote yes or no on a trade pact but not to amend it. All major trade deals for decades have passed Congress that way. That is because trade partners won’t reveal their bottom lines in negotiations if they think Congress could step in afterward and rewrite the contents of a trade deal.

With fast track, U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman has said, the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, which includes the U.S., Vietnam and Japan, could be concluded in a few months.

But a number of conservative lawmakers, even those who say they back trade expansion, oppose fast track as an abrogation of congressional power.

GOP Rep. Steve Russell of Oklahoma, who calls himself a “constitutional conservative,” says opening up trade is “not a bad thing,” but won’t vote for fast track. Rep. Walter Jones (R., N.C.), who opposes fast track, called Mr. Paul the “national spokesman on the issue of sovereignty.”

Four Senate Republicans opposed fast track when it last came before Congress under President George W. Bush. Two other GOP 2016 presidential candidates, Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, both back fast track.

Mr. Paul’s openness to free trade and the Pacific pact has made him a target of intense business lobbying. The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is dispatching a top representative, Bryan Sunderland, to make a personal appeal, as well as asking its members to lobby Mr. Paul themselves.

“Our hope is that when he hears from Kentucky business leaders who have been with him for years, that will resonate,” said Trey Grayson, president of the North Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, which also is lobbying Sen Paul.

But the squeeze is coming from the other side, too. One Paul supporter, Robert Berry of Broomfield, Colo., who calls himself a libertarian activist, said fast track could be a “make or break vote” for Mr. Paul.

“It seems a little cute that you’d be for a [trade] pact that much of your base despises, but you are wavering on legislation that would make it a reality,” Mr. Berry said.

Rand Paul Campaign Takes a Licking in New Hampshire // TIME // Philip Elliott - May 11, 2015

It’s unlikely many people in the audience at a New Hampshire town hall meeting noticed anything amiss Monday. But a 90-second confrontation between an aide to Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and a Democratic operative jumped out immediately online.

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As shown in the brief video, a tussle between the two ended with the Paul staffer licking the camera.

"Just when you thought Rand Paul's campaign couldn't get any stranger, his senior staffer in New Hampshire decided to taste our tracker's camera lens today," said Preston Maddock, a spokesman for American Bridge 21st Century, the liberal group that had sent the operative. "It was truly bizarre, creepy and unprofessional."

Despite American Bridge's indignation, it was exactly the type of moment they were looking for: embarrassing, awkward and buzzworthy.

Opposition researchers, as the practitioners call themselves, have long been part of campaigns, digging up dirt on rivals and passing it to reporters and activists. But in recent years, they've become active participants as well, sending one-person camera crews to document as many of the rival candidates' campaign stops as possible and maybe even unintentionally provoke them.

The same American Bridge tracker from the New Hampshire town hall last chased former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown as he canoed on the Contoocook River during his failed attempt to return to the Senate representing New Hampshire.

It's an equal opportunity pastime. American Bridge and its Republican counterpart, America Rising, are each million-dollar organizations dedicated to documenting the stumbles of the presidential candidates and those around them. The goal is to discredit the candidates to voters and to amplify their errors with raw footage of candidates behaving oddly.

The biggest catch—and one that only encouraged the trend—was in August of 2006, when then-Sen. George Allen of Virginia introduced his audience to a tracker from Democratic rival Jim Webb's campaign. The tracker's name? S.R. Sidarth.

"This fella here, over here with the yellow shirt—Macaca, or whatever his name is—he's with my opponent. He's following us around everywhere," said Allen, who went on to lose to Webb.

Critics said "macaca" was a slur against the tracker, who is Indian-American.

Other campaigns and political parties quickly identified the value of sending a staffer to tail rivals with a video camera, just in case they fumbled or responded to harassing questions. The addition of YouTube and other video sharing services only hastened the ease with which campaigns could share video to supporters and reporters alike.

It has changed how candidates interact with voters and reporters alike.

In 2010, Senate hopeful Sharron Angle fled journalists in Reno. Trackers from the Nevada Democratic Party documented the Republican's refusal to answer questions from reporters. The video of reporters chasing Angle from an event, and her speeding away in a white SUV, reinforced opponents' arguments that she was not up for the job.

In 2012, Republican Rep. Allen West of Florida was asked during a town hall appearance how many lawmakers were Marxists or socialists. West took the question seriously: "There's about 78 to 81 members of the Democrat Party that are members of the Communist Party." The local news carried his comments, but the addition of video—easily shared online—made it a topic on social platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. West narrowly lost his re-election bid.

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Candidates can even get in trouble for trying to avoid confrontation.

In 2014, as cameras rolled, immigration activists confronted Paul while he was campaigning in Iowa with Rep. Steve King. The activists, who were brought to the country illegally as young children and want to be treated as citizens now, confronted King about his views on immigration.

Paul, who was sitting across from King, looked to communications aide Sergio Gor. Taking his cue, Paul put down his burger, pushed back his plastic picnic chair and walked quickly away from the table. King, meanwhile, stayed and sparred with the DREAMer. The video quickly ricocheted around the Internet.

American Bridge officials were hoping Monday's licking incident would have similar viewership.

Asked about Mondays incident, Gor declined to identify the licker or say if he worked for the campaign in an official capacity. Instead, he issued a statement completely unrelated to the incident.

"Sen. Rand Paul visited New Hampshire today to accept the endorsement of 20 New Hampshire state representatives who support his run for the White House, and to visit with and take questions from the voters," Gor said. "It was a great day of events."

Chris Christie Racked Up $300k of Food and Alcohol on Expense Account // TIME // Sam Frizell - May 11, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie spent $300,000 of a government state allowance over five years in office to buy food, alcoholic drinks and desserts, according to a new analysis of state records.

In addition to his $175,000 salary, Christie receives $95,000 a year for purposes vaguely defined in the state budget for official purposes like state receptions, operating an official residence, or other expenses.

And numbers published by local website New Jersey Watchdog show Christie, a Republican presidential hopeful, took full advantage of the stipend over his five years as governor. He spent $76,373 during 53 shopping runs at Wegmans Food Markets, and $11,971 in purchases at ShopRite supermarkets during 51 visits, in addition to another $6,536 in seven visits to ShopRite's liquor stores. The site is published by the Franklin Center for Government & Public Integrity.

All the food purchases were for official purposes, an aide in Christie's office said, including receptions and general upkeep at the governor's mansion.

During the 2010 and 2011 NFL football seasons, Christie also spent a total of $82,594 at the MetLife Stadium, where the New York's Giants and Jets play their home games. The New Jersey Republican State Committee later reimbursed the money Christie spent at MetLife to the state.

Gov. Christie's office said the money was used for official political functions to host dignitaries and legislators.

"Whenever the Governor hosts an event in his official capacity, the discretionary account is available to pay for

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those costs associated with official reception and hosting and related incidental expenses," said Christie's press secretary Kevin Roberts in a statement.

"Nonetheless in early 2012, the Governor made the decision that costs associated with hosting at the sporting venues were better paid with non-state funds, and those expenses incurred during 2010 and 2011 were reimbursed by the NJGOP."

Christie every year returns leftover funds from the $95,000 allowance to the state. The amount Christie returned annually to the state increased from $2,716 in 2010 to $30,377 last year.

Marco Rubio Pushes Extension of NSA Phone Metadata Program // Bloomberg // Ali Elkin - May 11, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio continued his tough talk on national security on Sunday, saying the risk of a terrorist attack in the United States is at a post-9/11 high.

Arguing for an extension of the National Security Agency's phone metadata program in light of threats like those from the Islamic State, the Florida senator wrote in a USA Today op-ed, "The government is not listening to your phone calls or recording them unless you are a terrorist or talking to a terrorist outside the United States." He added, "There is not a single documented case of abuse of this program."

His comments follow a Saturday appearance at the South Carolina Freedom Summit, where he emphasized a hard line on terrorism. "Have you seen the movie Taken? Liam Neeson. He had a line, and this is what our strategy should be: 'We will look for you, we will find you, and we will kill you,'" said Rubio, who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Select Committee on Intelligence, at the cattle call for White House hopefuls.

As Bloomberg's Bob Van Voris reported last week, a recent federal appeals court ruling against the data collection comes as the Patriot Act's Section 215, "under which intelligence agencies have justified the phone surveillance, is set to expire June 1 unless Congress passes a bill backed by Senate Republicans to extend it through the end of 2020. Because the court didn't rule on the program's constitutionality, lawmakers could choose to amend the act to explicitly authorize the data collection."

We Can't Turn To The Leaders Of Yesterday // Medium // Marco Rubio - May 11, 2015

You've seen "A New American Century" everywhere since I announced for President. But what does that really mean? Let me tell you.

Families are working harder than ever, but living paycheck to paycheck. Students are doing exactly what we told them to do and getting a college education. Yet they are graduating with mountains of debt and a degree that has no career path.

The news says evil is winning and we are less capable than ever to stop it.

Is it decline? Is it the normal course of history?

No.

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It's a direct result of our leaders who have trapped us in the past.

Leaders from yesterday still believe in outdated economic policies. They have forgotten one of the timeless truths of our world: Jobs and prosperity are tied to our ability to compete internationally.

Today we face a fundamental economic transformation that leaves us with a choice.

We can embrace the future or be left behind by history.

In the New American Century we will reform our tax code and update our economic policies to make America the best place in the world to work, start a business and cultivate innovation.

It's time to leave yesterday behind.

Scott Walker Helps Journalists in Wisconsin Cover His Trip to Israel // NYT- First Draft // Nick Corasanti – May 11, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin was adamant that his trip to Israel this week be a "listening tour" that focused exclusively on Israel, not about his presidential-campaign-in-waiting.

"We wanted to make it an educational focus, not just a media trip," he told reporters before he left. That meant no reporters, no video cameras, no photographers, nada. Just Mr. Walker, his team and members of the Republican Jewish Coalition, a pro-Israeli group heavily financed by the casino billionaire Sheldon G. Adelson.

That doesn't mean they want the news media at home to be left in the dark, however.

Mr. Walker has been sharing photographs and updates from his Twitter account. And Matt Brooks, the coalition's executive director, has been posting pictures of Mr. Walker's tour on Twitter as well.

What Ben Carson's Flat Tax Would Do to the Poor // Bloomberg // Peter Coy – May 11, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson told Fox News Sunday that it's "very condescending" to poor people to tax them at lower rates than rich people. He called for a flat tax along the lines of a biblical tithe, in which rich and poor alike pay a tenth or so of their income in taxes.

"Now, some people say it's not fair because, you know, the poor people can't afford to pay that dollar," Carson told host Chris Wallace. "That's very condescending. You know, I grew up very poor. I've experienced every economic level. And I can tell you that poor people have pride, too. And they don't want to be just taken care of," Carson said.

What does economics have to say about Carson's flat tax? It's hard to say because the retired neurosurgeon (profiled here by Bloomberg Politics) hasn't fleshed out his concept. Also because "very condescending" isn't a term that economists use very often.

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What's sometimes forgotten is that there's no giant increase in taxes when your income climbs.

One thing is indisputable: An unadulterated flat tax—which Carson may or may not favor—would raise taxes on the poor and reduce them on the rich. That would almost certainly decrease net national happiness. The reason is obvious: People who are just barely getting by, living from paycheck to paycheck, would find it very hard to pay more in taxes than they do now. People who make a lot of money have far more breathing room. They may not enjoy paying the taxes they pay now, but paying any given dollar in tax is easier for them than it is for someone at the bottom of the income scale. The implication is that the benefit to them of paying less tax would be less than the loss to the poor of paying more. (This is the economic concept of "marginal utility.")

The theory of the flat tax is that it preserves incentives to work and invest because people don't have to pay punishingly high rates on each extra dollar of income. What's sometimes forgotten is that there's no giant increase in taxes when your income climbs into a new bracket. You pay the highest rate only on the portion of income that's above the threshold. The rest of your income continues to be taxed at lower rates—which are detailed here.

There are ways to keep a flat tax from pinching the poor. One is to create a generous per-person exemption—so, for example, the first $25,000 of income per person isn't subject to tax. The granddaddy of flat taxes, proposed in the early 1980s by Robert Hall and Alvin Rabushka of the Hoover Institution, provided that the first $25,500 of wage and pension income for a family of four would be tax-free. A more complicated way is to exempt from the flat tax certain necessities such as food and medicine.

Carson may have some kind of break for the poor such as these in mind. If so he didn't tell Chris Wallace. "It's a distinct possibility that he hasn't fully developed his tax plan," says Tax Foundation economist Kyle Pomerleau.

Whether an unadulterated flat tax would be less "condescending" to the poor than today's tax code is more of a value judgment than an economic question. The staff of the bipartisan Joint Committee on Taxation—which serves both Republicans and Democrats in Congress—delved into questions of fairness in a March 3 report called "Fairness and Tax Policy" (available for download here).

Carly Fiorina Changes Mind On Amending Constitution To Bar Same-Sex Marriage // Huffington Post // Amanda Terkel – May 11, 2015

Scott Olson via Getty Images

GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina said she does not support amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, a reversal of a position she held a few years ago.

"I think the Supreme Court ruling will become the law of the land, and however much I may agree or disagree with it, I wouldn't support an amendment to reserve it," Fiorina said Saturday. "I very much hope that we would come to a place now in this nation where we can support their decision and at the same time support people to have, to hold religious views and to protect their right to exercise those views."

The former Hewlett-Packard CEO made her comments in an interview with the conservative blog Caffeinated Thoughts after a speech to the Dallas County Republicans in West Des Moines, Iowa.

As Right Wing Watch noted, Fiorina previously supported such an amendment. While running for Senate in 2010, Fiorina filled out a Christian Coalition survey and indicated that she backed a federal marriage amendment.

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Although Republican support for marriage equality is growing, the GOP presidential candidates still oppose it.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) recently introduced two bills to stop same-sex marriage, including one that would establish a constitutional amendment to protect states that define marriage as being between one man and one woman from legal action.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), who is exploring a run for president, has said that although he personally does not support same-sex marriage, he has little appetite for working to repeal it.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Administration Gives Conditional Approval for Shell to Drill in Arctic // New York Times // Coral Davenport - May 11, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration gave conditional approval on Monday for Shell Gulf of Mexico, Inc. to start drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic Ocean this summer.

The approval is a major victory for Shell and the rest of the petroleum industry, which has sought for years to drill in the remote waters of the Chukchi seas, which are believed to hold vast reserves of oil and gas.

“We have taken a thoughtful approach to carefully considering potential exploration in the Chukchi Sea, recognizing the significant environmental, social and ecological resources in the region and establishing high standards for the protection of this critical ecosystem, our Arctic communities, and the subsistence needs and cultural traditions of Alaska Natives,” Abigail Ross Hopper, director of the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said in a statement. “As we move forward, any offshore exploratory activities will continue to be subject to rigorous safety standards.”

The Interior Department decision is a devastating blow to environmentalists, who have pressed the Obama administration to reject proposals for offshore Arctic drilling. Environmentalists say that a drilling accident in the icy and treacherous Arctic waters could have far more devastating consequences than the deadly Gulf of Mexico oil spill of 2010, when an oil rig explosion killed 11 men and sent millions of barrels of oil spewing into the water.

The move came just four months after the Obama administration opened up a portion of the Atlantic coast to new offshore drilling, adding a new chapter to the president’s environmental legacy.

On some fronts, President Obama has pursued the most ambitious environmental agenda of any president, issuing new regulations intended to curb climate change, working toward an international global warming accord, and using his executive powers to put public lands off-limits from development. But he has also sought to balance those moves by opening up untouched federal waters to new oil and gas drilling.

The Interior Department’s approval of the drilling was conditional on Shell’s receiving approval of a series of remaining drilling permits for the project.

“The approval of our Revised Chukchi Sea Exploration Plan is an important milestone and signals the confidence regulators have in our plan,” said Curtis Smith, a spokesman for Shell. “However, before operations can begin this summer, it’s imperative that the remainder of our permits be practical, and delivered in a timely manner. In the

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meantime, we will continue to test and prepare our contractors, assets and contingency plans against the high bar stakeholders and regulators expect of an Arctic operator."

Environmental groups denounced the move and said that Shell had not demonstrated that it can drill safely in the Arctic Ocean.

Both industry and environmental groups say that the Chukchi Sea is one of the most dangerous places in the world to drill. The area is extremely remote, with no roads connecting to major cities or deep water ports within hundreds of miles — which makes it difficult for clean-up and rescue workers to get to the site in case of an accident.

The closest Coast Guard station with equipment for responding to a spill is over 1,000 miles away. The weather is extreme, with major storms, icy waters, and waves up to 50 feet high.

The sea is also a major migration route and feeding area for marine mammals, including bowhead whales and walruses.

"Once again, our government has rushed to approve risky and ill-conceived exploration in one of the most remote and important places on Earth," said Susan Murray, a vice president of Oceana, an environmental group. "Shell's need to validate its poorly planned investment in the U.S. Arctic Ocean is not a good reason for the government to allow the company to put our ocean resources at risk. Shell has not shown that it is prepared to operate responsibly in the Arctic Ocean, and neither the company nor our government has been willing to fully and fairly evaluate the risks of Shell's proposal."

The Obama administration had initially granted Shell a permit to begin offshore Arctic drilling in the summer of 2012. However, the company's first forays into exploring the new waters were plagued with numerous safety and operational problems. Two of its oil rigs ran aground and had to be towed to safety. In 2013, the Interior Department said the company could not resume drilling until all safety issues were addressed.

In a review of the company's performance in the Arctic, the department concluded that Shell had failed in a wide range of basic operational tasks, like supervision of contractors that performed critical work.

The report was harshly critical of Shell management, which acknowledged that it was unprepared for the problems it encountered operating in the unforgiving Arctic environment.

But the administration contends that as long as Shell passes a final set of permit reviews, it can proceed to drill this summer.

The Obama administration has also issued new drilling safety regulations intended to prevent future accidents like the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on April 20, 2010. Last month, the Interior Department proposed new rules to tighten safety requirements on blowout preventers, the industry-standard devices that are the last line of protection against explosions in undersea oil and gas wells.

The 2010 explosion was caused in part when a section of drill pipe buckled, which led to the malfunction of a supposedly fail-safe blowout preventer on a BP well.

Wellmark spurns Obamacare exchange, but two competitors don't // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys - May 11, 2015

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Moderate-income Iowans who want to use Affordable Care Act subsidies to purchase health insurance still won't be able to choose policies from Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield next year. But they should be offered policies from at least two competitors.

UnitedHealthcare, the nation's largest health-insurer, confirmed Monday evening that it plans to start selling policies to Iowans this fall on the online public marketplace, known as HealthCare.gov. Coventry Health Care, which this year is most Iowans' sole choice on the system, said it will continue marketing plans on the public marketplace. The online system, also known as an exchange, is the only place where Americans can buy policies that qualify for the Obamacare subsidies.

The addition of UnitedHealthcare means Iowans who want subsidized insurance could choose from plans offered by at least two companies. That allows consumers to compare prices, benefits and the networks of doctors and hospitals enrolled in each plan.

Insurance Commissioner Nick Gerhart said he expects a third, unidentified company to file an application this week to sell policies to Iowans on the exchange. Companies must declare this week whether they will be selling plans to Iowans on the public exchange.

"It's good news. People are going to have some choices," he said.

Wellmark, which dominates the state's health insurance market, disclosed Monday that it has decided for the third straight year not to offer policies on the online public marketplace.

"It's not a matter of if we will participate, it is really a matter of when," Wellmark Vice President Laura Jackson said in a conference call. She said the decision was made to protect the 1.8 million Iowans who already have Wellmark insurance.

UnitedHealthcare spokeswoman Jessica Kostner said her Minnesota-based company expects "to have a competitive product available for Iowa consumers that will be valuable in terms of quality, access, affordability, innovative design and service excellence."

Most Iowans who make less than 400 percent of the poverty level — or about $47,000 for a single person — can qualify for Affordable Care Act subsidies to help pay for premiums. But only about 38,000 Iowans — about 1 percent of the population — have received such subsidies, averaging $260 per month. Iowa has one of the lowest participation rates in the country, and a national expert said that's partly because the state's main insurer is not participating.

Larry Levitt, senior vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, said Iowa, South Dakota and Mississippi are the only states where the major Blue Cross insurance plan is declining to participate in the Obamacare marketplace. Wellmark also is the main Blue Cross carrier in South Dakota.

A Kaiser Foundation analysis found that just 20 percent of Iowans who could have qualified for premium subsidies last year took advantage of them, which was the lowest level in the country. South Dakotans, at 21 percent, were the second-least likely. "That seems like more than a coincidence," Levitt said. The national average was 42 percent. Mississippi's rate was 37 percent.

Levitt said some Iowans probably made a rational choice to maintain their unsubsidized Wellmark plans rather

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than accept a small public subsidy to switch to an unfamiliar carrier. But he said other consumers might not be aware of their options because the main insurer in the state is not using its marketing muscle to promote the subsidies.

Levitt said competition from multiple insurance carriers helps keep costs down and gives customers options of networks of enrolled health care providers. "More choice means consumers have a better chance of being able to go to the doctors and hospitals that they want," he said.

Consumers can still purchase Wellmark's individual insurance policies off the public marketplace, but those plans don't qualify for subsidies. However, the new plans must meet all new federal rules, including that they don't ask whether applicants have pre-existing health problems.

Jackson also disclosed Monday that her company is seeking to raise premiums by an average of 28 percent for about 30,000 individual customers who bought Wellmark policies since the Affordable Care Act took full effect in 2014. She said her company lost money on that group of customers, mainly because they used more health care, including prescription medications, than expected.

She said Wellmark and other insurers had expected the new customers would use relatively large amounts of health care, because many of them were previously uninsured. But the demand for services was even greater than predicted, Jackson said. The company also had to pay bills for 135 people who bought policies, used services and then canceled their policies, she said. A few of those people died, but many of them simply canceled after receiving pricey care, such as having a baby or undergoing hip-replacement surgery, she said.

The rate increase would not affect most Wellmark customers, who purchase insurance via employers or who bought individual policies before 2014. The premium increase also would not affect people who purchase Medicare supplement policies from Wellmark.

The proposed increase for individual, Affordable Care Act-compliant plans will be the subject of a July 25 hearing organized by the Iowa Insurance Division, a Wellmark spokeswoman said. She added that the company plans to raise premiums on small-employer plans by 5.9 percent to 10.7 percent. The company has until June 8 to propose increases on 110,000 individual policies that predate implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Levitt, the Kaiser Foundation expert, said it's too soon to tell whether Wellmark's 28 percent proposed increase will be unusual for 2016. However, he said there is reason to think that Wellmark faces especially large costs in the pool of people in its new plans. The carrier retained many relatively healthy people in its old pools of customers, who could pass now-banned inquiries into their health status. And it isn't offering the carrot of public subsidies to attract other relatively healthy people into its new plans, he said. So the people most likely to buy the carrier's new plans are those with serious health problems, he said.

Most Iowans this year only had one carrier to choose from on HealthCare.gov. That carrier, Coventry, told the Register it intends to continue selling policies on the exchange for 2016. Another carrier that sold on the exchange, CoOportunity Health, went belly-up last winter after selling thousands of subsidized policies to Iowans.

Brian Gillette, chief operating officer of the Iowa insurance agency Group Benefits Ltd., said he wasn't surprised to see Wellmark continue to stay out of the Obamacare marketplace, especially as the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a major challenge to the law. That case, known as King v. Burwell, calls into question whether it's legal for the federal government to pay subsidies for policies purchased on the federal version of the exchange, which Iowa and many other states are using. The Supreme Court is expected to rule next month. No one is sure what would happen if the justices declare the subsidies illegal.

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Insurers must cover a wide range of contraceptive methods at no cost to consumers, the Obama administration said Monday in new guidance to health insurance companies.

The guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) makes clear that insurers are obligated under the Affordable Care Act to cover at least one version of each of the 18 federally approved birth control methods.

“Today’s guidance seeks to eliminate any ambiguity,” HHS said. “Insurers must cover without cost-sharing at least one form of contraception in each of the methods (currently 18) that the FDA has identified for women in its current Birth Control Guide, including the ring, the patch and intrauterine devices.”

The agency made the announcement after a series of reports indicated insurers had conflicting policies on covering contraceptives, despite ObamaCare’s requirement that contraception be offered at no cost.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan health research group, reported last month that some insurers were not providing all 18 forms of contraception at no charge. Five of 20 insurance plans it reviewed charged women for a vaginal ring, and one plan did not cover the contraceptive at all.

A separate report from the National Women’s Law Center found problems with coverage of the vaginal ring, the patch and an intrauterine device (IUD). In some cases, insurance companies would "even suggest that a woman switch methods if she does not want any out-of-pocket costs," according to the report.

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the insurers’ trade group, had condemned that study as presenting a "distorted picture of reality."

“Today’s guidance takes important steps to support health plans’ use of medical management in providing women with safe, affordable health care services," AHIP President Karen Ignagni said in a statement. "Health plans are committed to promoting evidenced-based decision-making and to ensuring all consumers understand how their coverage works.”

AHIP is happy that the new guidance allows insurers to still use so-called medical management techniques, aimed at controlling costs. So while insurers have to cover one of each of the 18 types for free, they can still take steps like charging patients for more expensive brand-name versions instead of generics.

Democrats in Congress, led by Sen. Patty Murray (Wash.), had been pushing the administration to clarify the rules for birth control coverage.

“I’m pleased that with this announcement [HHS] Secretary Burwell is acting to address these violations as well as others that have become barriers to accessing critical preventive care, especially for those in the transgender community,” Murray said in a statement.

The guidance makes clear that insurers cannot limit preventive services for transgender people based on their sex assigned at birth.

The 18 federally approved types of birth control that now must be offered free include morning-after pills and IUDs, which have been controversial and labeled by conservatives, such as the owners of Hobby Lobby stores, as “abortifacients,” meaning they cause abortion.

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The 18 types of contraception are:

• Sterilization surgery

• Surgical sterilization implant

• Implantable rod

• Copper intrauterine device

• IUDs with progestin (a hormone)

• Shot/injection

• Oral contraceptives (the pill), with estrogen and progestin

• Oral contraceptives with progestin only

• Oral contraceptives, known as extended or continuous use that delay menstruation

• The patch

• Vaginal contraceptive ring

• Diaphragm

• Sponge

• Cervical cap

• Female condom

• Spermicide

• Emergency contraception (Plan B/morning-after pill)

• Emergency contraception (a different pill called Ella)

Last updated at 1:43 p.m.

Tex. bill would bar local officials from issuing same-sex-marriage licenses // Washington Post // Sandhya Somashekhar - May 11, 2015

Texas Republicans are pushing legislation to bar local officials from granting same-sex couples licenses to marry, launching a preemptive strike against a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling next month that could declare gay marriage legal.

Supporters of the measure, which is scheduled for a vote as soon as Tuesday in the Texas House, said it would send a powerful message to the court. Taking a cue from the anti-abortion movement, they said they also hoped to keep any judicially sanctioned right to same-sex marriage tied up in legal battles for years to come.

The measure, by Rep. Cecil Bell, a Republican from the outskirts of Houston, would prohibit state and local officials from using taxpayer dollars “to issue, enforce, or recognize a marriage license . . . for a union other than a union between one man and one woman.”

Bell said the bill “simply preserves state sovereignty over marriage.”

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Gay rights advocates condemned it as mean-spirited and discriminatory.

“It’s shocking that Texas lawmakers would pursue a path that would set up this showdown between the Texas legislature and the courts,” said Rebecca Robertson, legal and policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas.

The move comes as the Supreme Court is poised to rule on whether there is a constitutional right to same-sex marriage or if states have the authority to define marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman, as the Texas Constitution does.

If the court finds a universal right to same-sex marriage, that provision of the Texas Constitution would be swept aside. But a legislative ban on the issuance of marriage licenses could stand, resulting in a potentially costly and drawn-out confrontation between the state government and the federal courts.

As of late Monday, more than half the members of the Texas House had signaled support for the measure, virtually ensuring its passage if it overcomes potential procedural hurdles and reaches the floor before a Thursday deadline. If it passes the House, the measure would move to the Texas Senate, where it is also likely to be favorably received.

Conservatives’ battle

The measure’s passage would represent a big victory for social conservatives, who have been freshly invigorated by the fight over same-sex marriage and are laying plans to use every tool at their disposal to thwart it.

Earlier this year, the Alabama Supreme Court ordered county officials not to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, directly contradicting the ruling of a federal judge who struck down that state’s same-sex-marriage ban. Other states have enacted laws aimed at protecting religious objectors who do not want to participate in gay weddings.

“This is indicative of this clash that we’re seeing and will see at an increased level with the Supreme Court ruling coming,” said Mat Staver, president of the Liberty Counsel, a public-interest law firm that promotes conservative Christian stances.

Still, opponents of same-sex marriage face ever more difficult odds. Gay marriage is now legal in 37 states and the District, and support for it is rising. Nationally, a record 6 in 10 people said they supported same-sex marriage in a Washington Post-ABC News poll conducted last month.

Even in Texas, opposition to gay marriage is dwindling. Polling conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute in 2014 shows that nearly half of Texans, 48 percent, support same-sex marriage, and 43 percent oppose it.

In a teleconference with reporters, critics of the Texas measure predicted that it would provoke a backlash like those that roiled Indiana and Arkansas this year, after those states attempted to enact religious protections that were viewed as anti-gay.

But gay rights advocates are worried about the bill. The state’s legislative session is scheduled to end in just three weeks, leaving little time to rally opposition. Meanwhile, they fear that a victory in Texas could prod other states to copy the approach.

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That could lead to a standoff much like the conflict that arose in the 1950s over school desegregation, gay rights advocates said. That battle eventually ended in the capitulation of resistant Southern states — but only after years of litigation slowed the advance of civil rights.

“Texas is pioneering a new strategy to prevent equality for its LGBT residents, to ignore the U.S. Supreme Court and even roll back gains that have been made in the state,” said Chuck Smith, president of Equality Texas, a gay rights group.

The measure “seeks to subvert any ruling this summer by the U.S. Supreme Court that would allow the freedom to marry for loving, committed lesbian and gay couples in Texas and around the country,” Smith said.

Abortion analogy

Supporters of the legislation said the proper analogy is not school desegregation but abortion rights. Abortion has been legal since 1973, when the Supreme Court ruled in a landmark Texas case, Roe v. Wade. In recent years, however, conservative lawmakers have enacted a slew of bills that have reduced access to the procedure — for example, by requiring clinics to be built to expensive hospital-like standards or putting restrictions on the use of abortion-inducing drugs.

Many of these measures have been challenged in the courts, with mixed results, and some are likely to end up before the Supreme Court. But in Texas, they have already contributed to the closure of more than half of the roughly 40 clinics operating in the state just two years ago, according to the Texas ACLU.

“Texas, above all states, has . . . done everything we can to eliminate abortion,” even as it remains technically legal, said Steven Hotze, president of Conservative Republicans of Texas, a political action committee that pushed for the same-sex-marriage bill.

“By taking a stand on homosexual ‘mirage’ — and I call it ‘mirage’ because it’s counterfeit, it’s false, it’s a lie — it will send a loud signal and be a rallying cry across the country for those who do not want to redefine marriage.”

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistanis Knew Where Osama Bin Laden Was, U.S. Sources Say // NBC News // Matthew Cole, Richard Esposito, Robert Windrem and Andrea Mitchell – May 11, 2015

Two intelligence sources tell NBC News that the year before the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden, a "walk in" asset from Pakistani intelligence told the CIA where the most wanted man in the world was hiding - and these two sources plus a third say that the Pakistani government knew where bin Laden was hiding all along.

The U.S. government has always characterized the heroic raid by Seal Team Six that killed bin Laden as a unilateral U.S. operation, and has maintained that the CIA found him by tracking couriers to his walled complex in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The new revelations do not necessarily cast doubt on the overall narrative that the White House began circulating within hours of the May 2011 operation. The official story about how bin Laden was found was constructed in a way that protected the identity and existence of the asset, who also knew who inside the Pakistani government was aware of the Pakistani intelligence agency's operation to hide bin Laden, according to a special operations officer with prior knowledge of the bin Laden mission. The official story focused on a long hunt for bin Laden's presumed courier, Ahmed al-Kuwaiti.

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While NBC News has long been pursuing leads about a "walk in" and about what Pakistani intelligence knew, both assertions were made public in a London Review of Books article by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh. Hersh's story, published over the weekend, raises numerous questions about the White House account of the SEAL operation. It has been strongly disputed both on and off the record by the Obama administration and current and former national security officials.

The Hersh story says that the "walk in," a Pakistani intelligence official, contacted U.S. authorities in 2010, that elements of ISI, the Pakistani intelligence agency, knew of bin Laden's whereabouts, and that the U.S. told the Pakistanis about the bin Laden raid before it launched. The U.S. has maintained that it did not tell the Pakistani government about the raid before it launched.

On Monday, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren called Hersh's piece "largely a fabrication" and said there were "too many inaccuracies" to detail each one. Col Warren said the raid to kill bin Laden was a "unilateral action." Both the National Security Council and the Pentagon denied that Pakistan had played any role in the raid.

Pakistani media personnel and local resiAAMIR QURESHI / AFP/Getty Images

Pakistani media personnel and local residents gather outside the hideout of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan after the U.S. raid that killed him.

"The notion that the operation that killed Osama Bin Laden was anything but a unilateral U.S. mission is patently false," said NSC spokesman Ned Price. "As we said at the time, knowledge of this operation was confined to a very small circle of senior U.S. officials."

The administration's responses do not address the specific allegations in the Hersh article, including the existence of the "walk in" asset.

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, dismissed Hersh's account. "I simply have never heard of anything like this and I've been briefed several times," said McCain, R.-Arizona. "This was a great success on the part of the administration and something that we all admire the president's decision to do. "

The NBC News sources who confirm that a Pakistani intelligence official became a "walk in" asset include the special operations officer and a CIA officer who had served in Pakistan. These two sources and a third source, a very senior former U.S. intelligence official, also say that elements of the ISI were aware of bin Laden's presence in Abbottabad. The former official was emphatic about the ISI's awareness, saying twice, "They knew."

Another top official acknowledged to NBC News that the U.S. government had long harbored "deep suspicions" that ISI and al Qaeda were "cooperating." And a book by former acting CIA director Mike Morrell that will be published tomorrow says that U.S. officials could not dismiss the possibility of such cooperation.

None of the sources characterized how high up in ISI the knowledge might have gone. Said one former senior official, "We were suspicious that someone inside ISI ... knew where bin Laden was, but we did not have intelligence about specific individuals having specific knowledge."

Multiple U.S. officials, however, denied or cast doubt on the assertion that the U.S. told the Pakistanis about the bin Laden raid ahead of time.

Nepal Rattled by Powerful New Earthquake East of Capital // NYT // Austin Ramzy – May 12, 2015

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HONG KONG — A powerful earthquake shook Nepal on Tuesday, less than three weeks after a devastating temblor there killed more than 8,000 people. Early details were scarce, but some deaths and collapsed buildings were reported.

Residents of Kathmandu reported that buildings swayed in the earthquake, which was felt as far away as New Delhi. The United States Geological Survey assigned the quake on Tuesday a preliminary magnitude of 7.3, with an epicenter about 50 miles east of Kathmandu, near the border with China. The April 25 earthquake registered magnitude 7.8 and was centered west of Kathmandu.

“We’re obviously hearing of buildings destroyed, buildings collapsed, buildings falling, we’re hearing about casualties, but the numbers are not known yet,” said Jamie McGoldrick, Nepal resident coordinator for the United Nations Development Program. He said several international rescue teams, including American and Indian teams, were still in Kathmandu but had not yet been asked to deploy.

Four people died in Chautara, a town in the Sindhupalchowk district northeast of Kathmandu where several buildings collapsed, said Paul Dillon, a spokesman for the International Organization for Migration. “A search and rescue crew of some locals and international groups are digging through rubble as best they can,” Mr. Dillon said.

“We are seeing huge damage in our district,” said Krishna Prasad Gaiwali, the chief district officer in Sindhupalchowk. “It was terrible, really terrible. Buildings were shaking too much for too long.”

Since the April 25 quake, people across Nepal have feared another powerful one, in part because the first one left many buildings cracked and unstable. An American structural engineer who examined buildings in Bhaktapur, a city near Kathmandu, said that he believed one-third of the buildings he had seen would have to be demolished.

Nevertheless, many families have moved back into their apartments, after living under tents for the week after the first quake.

Kunda Dixit, the editor of The Nepali Times, described “some degree of panic” in Kathmandu as the tremor “just became bigger and bigger and bigger, started rocking more and more and more.” He said that office workers ran into the street and that electric power was out and telephones were jammed.

“It started slow, it kept on swaying, and the birds were up in the air,” he said. “I looked outside and the electricity polls were just swaying from side to side, the wires were swaying.”

Bikash Suwal, a trekking guide in Kathmandu, said that he and other colleagues had fled from an office on the fourth floor of a building and sought safety in the open. He said that he had not seen any buildings fall or people injured, but residents worried that the damage closer to the epicenter could be serious. Cellphone calls to that area were not going through, he said.

He said that residents in Kathmandu would face a choice of staying outside overnight, and risk being caught in the rain, or going indoors and risk another quake. “I will stay at home, but other people, I don’t know,” he said.

Dhruba Prasad Ghimire, an aid worker who had been distributing food in a village west of Kathmandu, said buildings there shook and residents ran into the open in fear as the quake triggered landslides on nearby hills. But he said he had not seen anybody injured among the residents, and the buildings still standing in the village had not fallen down.

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"It was very frightening again, but we will keep giving out food," he said in a brief telephone interview. "We are O.K., but there were landslides and more of the aftershocks — you could see the ground falling down on the hills."

He said, "People will be frightened. We don't know if there will be more of these earthquakes."

John Kerry and Vladimir Putin to Hold Talks in Russia // TIME // Matthew Lee - May 11, 2015

(WASHINGTON) — The State Department says Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to Russia this week for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

It will be his first trip to Russia since the start of the Ukraine crisis, which has badly damaged relations between Moscow and the west, and only his second since taking office.

The State Department said Kerry will meet Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Tuesday.

After his brief stop in Russia, Kerry will travel to Turkey for a meeting of NATO foreign ministers and return to Washington for a summit of Gulf Arab leaders that President Barack Obama is hosting at Camp David.

Kerry last visited Russia in May 2013.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Clinton clobbers Rubio on immigration // The Hill // Brent Budowsky – May 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton's bold initiative last week to call for a path to citizenship and other dramatic reforms of immigration policies creates a brilliant contrast to the incoherent and weak immigration position of Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and the hostile negativity of leading Republicans to immigration reform.

Don't believe what you read about the GOP making significant inroads in the Hispanic vote in 2016. The Democrats have the upper hand on issues important to Hispanic voters, ranging from economics to immigration to healthcare and both Bill and Hillary Clinton have long had a special relationship with Hispanic voters.

Last week, Hillary Clinton took forceful command of the immigration issue, a smart move that dramatizes the substantial advantage that Clinton and Democrats have over Rubio and Republicans.

When the Senate passed historic immigration reform, in part because of the great leadership of Rubio, I applauded him for a profile in courage that demonstrated real leadership.

What has happened since? Rubio has disowned his former position, disavowed his greatest legislative accomplishment in the Senate and destroyed his credibility on immigration.

It is sad to see. Rubio's profile in courage became a profile in cowardice. Rubio now opposes his previous good work on immigration and says he has learned his lesson. The lesson he learned is apparently to never show courage or leadership without obtaining permission from the right wing of the Republican Party.

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Let's see if former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) — who sometimes seems to support historic immigration reform, sometimes seems to waffle about it, and sometimes seems to oppose it — has the courage of his convictions and defies the Republican right on a matter the right sadly considers a holy grail of modern conservatism.

I respect Rubio, have at times praised him and consider him a serious candidate for the presidency. Yet, to my knowledge, no candidate has ever been elected president after disowning the major achievement in his career; one which would have been an argument in favor of presidential stature and now diminishes it.

America is a nation of immigrants. Historic immigration reform is urgently needed. Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the leader of Democrats in the Senate, understands this. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the leader of Democrats in the House, understands this. Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination for president, understands this and leads the charge for it. Republican leaders in Congress reject this and the junior senator from Florida was for it — before he was against it.

Clinton's claim that illegal immigrants pay more in taxes than some corporations // Washington Post // Glen Kessler - May 11, 2015

"In New York, which I know a little bit about because I represented it for eight years and I live there now, our undocumented workers in New York pay more in taxes than some of the biggest corporations in New York."

–Hillary Clinton, roundtable in North Las Vegas, May 5, 2015

Several readers contacted The Fact Checker asking about this assertion by the former secretary of state, made as she discussed her policy goals for tackling illegal immigration. They wanted to know how this statement was possible.

Her statement is vague enough that one could interpret it as meaning that individual workers pay more in taxes than corporations, but Clinton's campaign said that she was talking about undocumented workers as a group. Even so, is her claim possible?

The Facts

The Clinton campaign initially pointed to an opinion column by Albor Ruiz in the Daily News, dated April 20, 2015, titled, "Corporate giants often get huge tax breaks, while poor, undocumented immigrants have paid billions in state taxes."

We often warn that opinion columns are not necessarily as good a source of information as articles based on straight news reporting. Ruiz, for instance, relied on facts on corporate taxes from the Web site of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), which does not disclose sources for its assertions. Ruiz claimed that although "many of these corporate behemoths pay zero taxes, the eternally vilified undocumented immigrants in New York paid $1.1 billion in state taxes in 2012."

The figure about taxes paid by undocumented workers comes from a report issued by the left-leaning Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy. We have no major issues with the methodology used in that report, except to note that it is a very broad estimate, based on assumptions about the number of immigrants, the average size of immigrant families, the range of income of immigrant workers, the number of homeowners and effective tax rates. A change in any one of those assumptions would alter the result.

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For New York, for example, the report estimated that in 2012 there were 873,000 illegal immigrants, with an average family income of $32,600. Eighteen percent were estimated to be homeowners. They supposedly paid $566 million in sales and excise taxes, $186 million in state and local income taxes, and $342 million in property taxes, for a total of more than $1 billion. (Note that more than 50 percent of the figure comes from sales taxes, which every person and company pays just anytime something is purchased.)

But the most important aspect of the report is that it looks at state, local and property taxes paid by immigrants — not federal taxes. The Sanders Web site is about federal taxes. So Ruiz — and Clinton by extension — are mixing apples and oranges.

Thus, for the purposes of this fact check, we are not going delve deeply into the question of whether some big corporations do not pay much – or even zero — in federal taxes. The issue is very complicated and not very well reported in the U.S. media. (See, for example, how Fortune documented flaws in a New York Times report on General Electric.)

A company's annual 10-K filing in March generally will only have estimated numbers, as the actual tax return generally is not filed until later in the year. Total tax numbers can be determined from looking at cash flow statements, but one generally cannot figure out what taxes are being paid. Yet it is silly to assert that these companies pay no taxes at all, because at the very least they are paying property taxes, sales taxes and employment taxes.

The only New York-based companies mentioned in Ruiz's column were Verizon and Citicorp, so let's take a closer look at them. Verizon, for instance, announces how much it expects to pay in such taxes. In 2012, it says it paid $1.7 billion in property and other taxes and $1.3 billion in employment taxes. The income tax bill in 2012 was relatively low — $351 million — but it jumped to $4 billion in 2014. That brought Verizon's total tax bill above $7 billion in 2014.

As for Citicorp, spokeswoman Molly Millerwise Meiners said the company in 2012 paid nearly $1 billion in U.S. taxes (not including sales and excise taxes), including $300 million in state and local taxes, at least $110 million in property and use taxes, and $500 million in employment taxes. Sales taxes would bring the number even higher. Citi, of course, had enormous losses during the financial crisis which wiped out its federal income tax bill in 2012, but in 2014, she said, federal income taxes alone were about $1 billion.

David Kallick, director of the Immigration Research Initiative at Fiscal Policy Institute, which co-released the ITEP report, said that Clinton was trying to make the point that undocumented immigrants pay more in taxes than most people recognize. But he acknowledged that "if you really want to make a thorough comparison, you would have to include other taxes corporations may pay."

Indeed, the accounting firm Ernst & Young estimates that that state and local business taxes totaled $643 billion in 2012. About one-third of the total stemmed from property taxes and one-fifth from sales taxes. There were also tens of billions paid in public utilities taxes, excise taxes, business license taxes, unemployment insurance taxes and other state business taxes.

Matt Gardner, executive director of ITEP and a co-author of the report, said it's correct that many big companies pay no income taxes in certain years but it makes little sense to compare those numbers to a group of people. "If she means undocumented workers as a group, it's not an apples-to-apples comparison," he said. "You could pick any large segment of the population and state, probably correctly, that that group pays more taxes than certain specific corporations. It's just not obvious why that's a very meaningful comparison to make."

"The point she was making is that undocumented immigrants pay more in state and local taxes alone than some of our biggest companies pay in either state or federal corporate income tax," said Clinton spokesman Josh

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Schwerin. “That is a striking fact. And that’s why she raised it.”

The Pinocchio Test

Even if Clinton incorrectly stated her talking point, this is a tendentious argument that is probably made even less relevant by 2014 tax data. (Note how the taxes paid by Verizon and Citicorp increased as the economy began to pick up.) If she is only talking about state and local income taxes, that’s just $186 million, according to the ITEP estimate for New York. Verizon and Citicorp still exceed that number on state and local taxes alone.

Undocumented immigrants obviously pay a lot of taxes, especially sales taxes. Clinton would have an even stronger case to highlight the tax contribution of illegal immigrants if she mentioned that the Social Security actuary estimated that illegal immigrants paid $12 billion in Social Security taxes in 2010 alone, with little hope of ever receiving benefits. (They used false or duplicative Social Security numbers.) That’s even more than the ITEP estimate for state/local income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes paid by illegal immigrants across the nation.

But comparing the taxes of hundreds of thousands of people to the tax bill of one corporation is a stretch and fairly misleading. Even the companies that pay little or no federal income taxes end up paying lots of other taxes. So it’s a nonsense comparison.

We wavered between Three and Four Pinocchios, but ultimately settled on Four. As a former senator, Clinton should know better.

Hillary Clinton hasn’t answered a question from the media in 20 days // Washington Post // Chriz Cillizza - May 11, 2015

Welcome to day 29 of the Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign!

In those 29 days – including April 12, the day she announced, and today – Clinton has taken a total of eight questions from the press. That breaks out to roughly one question every 3.6 days. Of late, she's taken even fewer questions than that. According to media reports, the last day Clinton answered a question was April 21 in New Hampshire; that means that she hasn't taken a question from the media in 20 straight days.

Carly Fiorina, one of the many newly minted Republicans running for president, is doing everything she can to shine a light on Clinton's close-mouthed approach with the press. This came from Fiorina deputy campaign manager Sasha Isgur Flores this morning:

In the last eight days, Carly has been interviewed almost 30 times and answered well over 300 questions. She continues to impress voters, pundits, and reporters alike with her willingness to share her thoughts and ideas – and to answer any question, from whether she likes hot dogs to how she would tackle the crisis in the Middle East. ... This is in stark contrast to many other candidates – and most especially to Hillary Clinton.

And it's not just the Republican candidates attacking Clinton on her silence. The New York Times posted an item on its "First Draft" blog last week titled "Questions for Hillary Clinton: Immigration" in which Amy Chozick wrote: "This is the first installment of a regular First Draft feature in which The Times will publish questions we would have asked Mrs. Clinton had we had the opportunity." And, late last month, I offered up seven questions Clinton should answer.

The Clinton campaign's response to all of this? Blah. Reporters whining – like they always do. And, as every

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Clinton staffer is quick to note, she has answered questions from lots of regular people during her first month as a candidate – holding roundtables in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. They are also quick to note that she makes opening statements at these roundtables.

She's taking questions from voters! She's talking about policy! You guys just don't like it because she's not falling all over herself to jump through your hoops!

So, for roughly the billionth time, let me make two points in response to that way of thinking.

1. Making policy statements/opening statements does not remove the need to answer actual questions from reporters.

2. While answering questions from hand-picked audience members is not without value, no one could possibly think it is the equivalent of answering questions from the working press.

As I have written before, Clinton needs the media at this point in the campaign far less than someone like Carly Fiorina does. Clinton is not only universally known but also has a huge primary lead and is ahead of all Republican contenders in general election matchups as well. Fiorina, on the other hand, is known by roughly no one, and to the extent anyone does know her, it's for the way she left HP.

Still, this is the new Clinton campaign, right? The one where she and the people around her pledged to deal differently with the press? Little did we know that "different" in this case meant "next to not at all."

Yes, we are one month into the campaign. And yes, Clinton and her team wanted to start very low-profile this time around – to avoid making the mistakes she made in 2008. So, it's possible things could change. But if past is prologue, I wouldn't bet on it.

I Am A Dreamer Who Met Hillary Clinton // Lets Talk Nevada // Blanca Gamez - May 11, 2015

This past Tuesday, six undocumented individuals — Astrid Silva, Erika Castro, Rafael Lopez, Betsaida Frausto, Juan Salazar and myself — had the opportunity to have an open and honest conversation with Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at Rancho High School in Las Vegas. The fellow participants and I looked forward to not only sharing our stories, but to have the chance to ask Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton questions surrounding the topic of immigration. Prior to speaking with Secretary Clinton, we were told this was an un-rehearsed conversation, to not hold back, and to ask questions so we could get her stance on the various issues that plague the undocumented community.

As the six of us waited in anticipation for Secretary Clinton's arrival, we shared our stories with one another as a means to calm our nerves. Secretary Clinton has been scrutinized in the media due to her comments in the past on the topic of immigration, unlike the Republican presidential candidates who make comments about not following through with President Obama's executive orders and their critical stance on comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship. Secretary Clinton has taken the opposite approach, agreeing to follow through with President Obama's plans and she will urge Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Once we were seated, the conversation commenced with Secretary Clinton sharing her own immigration story. She said that when she was young girl she visited the labor camps of migrant workers. She recalled witnessing the workers returning home from a hard day out in the fields and how the children would run to welcome home their fathers, the same way she would when her father came home from work. She further discussed that we do not need a second-class system; this is a country where people should be treated with respect.

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Following her introductory speech, she turned to each of us and asked us to share our own stories which entailed when we arrived in the United States, background on our families and how the President's executive actions impacted our lives. As we shared our stories we asked questions. Our questions varied, as we all have different ways immigration impacts us.

Examples of these questions included members of the trans-community who are not provided adequate legal representation when they are detained in detention facilities, the 3 to 10 year unlawful presence bars for when an individual enters the country without inspection (illegally) and faces leaving the country for 3 to 10 years as they fix their status, and what would be done to include those who did not qualify under the President's executive orders?

I was completely surprised by Secretary Clinton's responses to the various questions that we asked from her. She not only answered the questions, but delved deeper into the issues, which are rarely spoken about.

Secretary Clinton spoke about the injustices faced by inmates in the detention centers, as large corporations fund these centers and have a bed mandate which requires a certain amount of beds to be filled every day. This is something that many are unaware is happening. Additionally, she shared that she plans to find a solution for the 11 to 12 million undocumented immigrants in this country, even if she has to go further than President Obama's executive actions. The conversation then shifted into re-unification of those who have become separated from their families, to raising the minimum wage, and to student loan debt.

I think all of us, including the audience members and the media, thought we were going to hear the same old talking points. Yet, during the conversation, Secretary Clinton took a problem solving detailed approach to the topic of immigration, something she had not done in the past and she delved further than any of the other presidential candidates. Her answers stunned me as they were not the usual answers you'd expect to hear from someone. Rather, they were answers that were accompanied by facts.

Leaving the conversation, I can say I was very pleased with Secretary Clinton's answers. Yet we Dreamers must hold her to them as she continues on the campaign trail, and if she is elected as our next President of the United States.

Barack Obama's Hillary Clinton Problem // Roll Call // Steven Dennis - May 12, 2015

You knew it was coming: The White House is starting to get a case of Clintonitis.

With Hillary Rodham Clinton the overwhelming favorite to carry the Democratic torch next year — and now an official candidate starting to spout policy positions — the White House has been forced to parry an ever-increasing barrage of questions.

Speaker John A. Boehner got the ball rolling by asking President Barack Obama to enlist Clinton's help to pass fast-track trade authority. That had White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest retaliating, suggesting such a move would signal desperation from the GOP.

"It seems a little early for a pretty desperate act like that, to basically suggest that you need a candidate for office from the other party to help you advance the agenda when you've got the majority in the House of Representatives," Earnest said.

He later had to use all the rhetorical tools in his arsenal to avoid commenting on Clinton's push to set up a deferred

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action process for the parents of “DREAMers,” who brought their children to the United States illegally years ago, so they can avoid deportation.

Reporters asked if an expansion of Obama’s executive actions would be legal. “That will be something for future presidents and ultimately future courts to decide,” Earnest replied.

What about Clinton’s plan? “I’m not a judge and I didn’t go to law school, so I’m not going to be in a position to render a legal opinion …” he said.

But the White House has already issued its legal opinion that the president went as far as he could go.

The strategy seems to be: When in doubt, refer to Clinton’s team.

“I’ll let Secretary Clinton and her campaign describe exactly what steps they envision taking, and I’ll allow them to make the case about why it’s legal,” Earnest said.

Senators on Capitol Hill face a similar dynamic, with DREAM Act sponsor Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., claiming ignorance as to what might be possible with executive orders when asked whether he agrees with the president’s assertion he has done everything he can — or if he agrees with Clinton there’s room to go further.

Then there are the missing Clinton emails and foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation while she was secretary of State.

Earnest — and Obama — have done their best to keep the presidential campaign at bay, aided by a Clinton campaign that, until very recently, had been sandblasted of anything approaching serious policy proposals. (Her website still doesn’t have an issues page.)

The White House has even kept meetings Obama has held with Clinton — and former President Bill Clinton — off the public schedule.

That’s only going to get more awkward as the campaign gears up and Clinton starts laying out an agenda, which necessarily will include either new items or recycled Obama proposals that failed to launch (universal pre-school, anyone?).

The president can expect a lot of “Why didn’t Obama do that?” questions. If the White House simply blames Congress — a standard fallback — that would undercut Clinton’s ability to claim she’ll get things done. Unless, of course, she and her team were to join in on the chorus of criticism about Obama’s congressional relations.

The New York Times reported last month that while Clinton was campaigning in Iowa, she told lawmakers privately she could do a better job working with Congress. The Times reported it was one of her best-received lines.

“One of her biggest messages was, ‘I know how hard it is to work with Congress; I’ve done it before, and I will continue to when I’m in the White House,’” state Rep. Mary Mascher of Iowa City, who attended the closed-door meeting, told the newspaper.

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There's also the potential for moments that could have the feel of Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. going off-script and endorsing gay marriage ahead of the president. The bolder Clinton and her team become, the more awkward the non-answers from Earnest and company will be.

There also is the real possibility of Clinton undermining the remaining parts of the Obama agenda that can get through a GOP Congress as she seeks to rally the Democratic base and shore up her left flank against the likes of Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and, maybe, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. That includes the trade agenda and assorted other messy compromises to come.

A senior administration official minimized the issue, saying there's no daily call with the Clinton team yet to vet issues, although the two camps keep in touch. Many Clinton hands are veterans of the administration, including former Obama Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri.

"They have been focused on driving a contrast with GOPers, not with us," the official told CQ Roll Call. "That's not just a testament to our shared values and priorities. It's a reflection of the president's political standing."

Obama, after all, remains very popular within the Democratic Party and his national poll ratings have nudged higher.

Indeed, his approval ratings lately have eclipsed Clinton's.

Smart Social Programs // New York Times // Jason Furman - May 11, 2015

WASHINGTON — DO government efforts to support low-income families work? Since the War on Poverty in the 1960s, skeptics have argued that even if these programs provide temporary relief, the only long-term impact is increased dependency — witness, they say, the persistent lack of mobility in places like inner-city Baltimore.

But a growing body of research tells a very different story. Investments in education, income, housing, health care and nutrition for working families have substantial long-term benefits for children.

Consider Moving to Opportunity, an experiment in the 1990s that gave families housing assistance, in some cases contingent on their moving to less poor neighborhoods. Initial evidence from the randomized trial was disappointing, finding little or no improvements in test scores for children or earnings for adults. A new paper by the Harvard economists Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren and Lawrence F. Katz, however, followed the children for another decade. It found that traditional rental vouchers had increased their earnings as adults by 15 percent, and experimental vouchers, which required people to move to less poor neighborhoods, by 31 percent. The additional tax revenue from these higher earnings was enough to repay the program's cost.

This is only the latest in a number of recent studies that use big data to understand the longer-term effects of a range of government programs.

One intriguing recent study by the economists Anna Aizer, Shari Eli, Joseph P. Ferrie and Adriana Lleras-Muney examined the records of 16,000 children whose families applied for a temporary income-support program that was in effect from 1911 to 1935. By comparing the outcomes of those who received the benefit to those of similar children who were denied, the researchers found that the program resulted in more education, higher earnings and lower mortality. Social Security data were used to follow program beneficiaries until as late as 2012, allowing researchers to show that the benefits of receiving even a few years of assistance as a child could persist for 80 years or more.

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Although we do not have 100 years of follow-on data from today's programs, recent research following children as they entered their 20s and 30s has produced similarly striking findings.

Studies show that the earned-income tax credit, one of the government's largest tools to reduce child poverty, may also reduce the incidence of low birth weight, raise math and reading scores and boost college enrollment rates for the children who benefited. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, has been shown to have similar benefits for child recipients that can last decades.

Receiving Medicaid in childhood makes it substantially more likely that a child will graduate from high school and complete college and less likely that an African-American child will die in his late teens or be hospitalized at 25. For women, Medicaid participation in childhood is associated with increased earnings.

A body of research on the long-term effects of high-quality preschool programs and other early-childhood interventions, like home visits by health professionals, consistently finds that they improve a range of adult outcomes, from higher earnings to reduced crime rates. Other research has found that Head Start achieves similar results.

There are three noteworthy elements in this new research. First, the benefits often are not captured by short-term outcomes like improvements in children's test scores, which typically last only a few years before fading.

Second, while program design certainly matters — and can matter a lot — much of the benefit appears to derive from helping low-income families pay for basic needs like food, housing or health care, or simply reducing the intense economic pressure they face. This relates to findings that poverty may increase intense stress, inhibiting young children's cognitive development.

Third, in many cases, the additional tax revenue from the higher long-run earnings generated by the program is sufficient to repay much or even more than all of the initial cost.

In addition to long-term benefits, the safety net, of course, supports many Americans right now. In 2013, income and nutrition assistance programs lifted 46 million people, including 10 million children, out of poverty, while health programs benefited tens of millions more. As a result, the proportions of Americans who are poor and uninsured have fallen over the past several decades.

Moreover, safety-net programs do not discourage work in any big way. Instead, the E.I.T.C. rewards low-income parents for working. And child care and pre-K programs make it easier for parents to work in the first place, while also putting children in a better position to succeed.

President Obama's goal is greater mobility and higher incomes. We know that the large cuts to nutrition assistance, health care, housing vouchers and other programs contained in the recent congressional budget resolution would not only hurt the poor today but also shortchange our economy's future. In contrast, the evidence strongly supports making child care and preschool available to all families with young children, restoring housing vouchers that were cut during the sequester and expanding tax credits for working families.

We cannot solve poverty or lack of mobility overnight, but contrary to what the skeptics say, investing in families works — not just for them, but for all of us.

HBO's Veep Just Got Very Real About the Hillary Clinton Campaign // Vanity Fair // Joanna Robinson - May 11, 2015

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No matter what, Veep—HBO's satirical comedy about a fictional female president—was going to draw comparisons to Hillary Clinton's bid for the Oval Office. As perhaps the most prominent female political figure in U.S. history, Clinton is an inevitable inspiration for the show. But while last night's episode didn't specifically put Clinton and her campaign in its satirical crosshairs, it did frankly address the stakes of a potential Hillary Clinton presidency.

When this season kicked off with Julia Louis-Dreyfus's character Selina Meyer out of the vice president role and not only acting as commander-in-chief, but also running for reelection, creator Armando Iannucci knew Clinton and her campaign would be on everyone's mind. "We weren't consciously aping Hillary when we wrote Selina. It's inevitable now I suppose that Hillary is campaigning as Selina is president that there will be comparisons made," he said on a recent episode of Sirius XM's Pop Politics. But that's likely not a coincidence. Iannucci— the canny satirist behind political properties like In the Loop, In the Thick of It, and, oh yes, Clinton: His Struggle with Dirt—said in the same interview that he tries "to make a couple of guesstimates as to where reality might be when the show goes out," in order to keep his political commentary fresh.

But the hilariously inept and craven Selina only bears a very superficial resemblance to Hillary. (Louis-Dreyfus uses Clinton's make-up artist and last season's haircut plot was based on a Hillary incident.) This isn't exactly John Travolta doing a Bill Clinton impression in Primary Colors. So when Selina's campaign manager Amy Brookheimer (Anna Chlumsky) let her long-simmering rage boil over at her inept boss, it's not a condemnation of Hillary the politician in any way. (In fact, Iannucci has said that "talking to people at the State Department, they only had good things to say about [Hillary] as a boss.") But what Amy said is a piercing reminder that, like it or not, a Hillary Clinton presidency has incredibly high stakes. As she quit the Meyer campaign, Amy said, through gritted teeth:

You have made it impossible to do this job. You have two settings—no decision and bad decision. I wouldn't let you run a bath without the Coast Guard and the fire department standing by, but yet here you are running America. You are the worst thing that has happened to this country since food in buckets and maybe slavery. I've had enough. I'm gone.

You have achieved nothing apart from one thing. The fact that you are a woman means we will have no more women presidents because we tried one and she fucking sucked.

Other than those literally superficial hair and makeup aspects above, Veep has avoided taking on Hillary directly while still touching on other members of the Clinton clan. Selina's big teleprompter gaffe that opened Season 4 is actually based on a Bill Clinton incident from 1993. And Ianucci asked actress Sarah Sutherland—who plays Selina's daughter Catherine—to "have a look at footage of Chelsea [Clinton] doing public stuff." But while Ianucci may claim that vice presidents like Biden, Gore, and Cheney are all inspirations for Selina, there's no doubt Hillary has always been there in the background. He recently connected the dots between Louis-Dreyfus's Selina and Kate McKinnon's portrayal of an eager, campaign-ready Clinton on Saturday Night Live. He referred to it as "That air of 'I am going to be the first woman president of the United States. You do know that. Have you forgotten that?'" No one's forgotten, and with the political landscape still starved for female representation, the stakes on that first female commander-in-chief will, to paraphrase the more eloquent Amy Brookheimer, be sky high.

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S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, September 3

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Headlines:

- **Israeli Official: We Assessed it's a Done Deal**
- **Netanyahu to Continue Vocal Opposition to Deal**
- **Iran Deal Reigniting Israeli Fears Over U.S. Arms Sales**
- **Knesset Advances Controversial Anti-Terror Bill**
- **IDF Strikes Gaza After Sniper Fire Hits Israeli Homes**
- **France Drops Investigation Into Yasser Arafat's Death**
- **NGO Petitions High Court to Prevent Closure in Silwan**
- **SodaStream Chief Accuses Boycotters of Anti-Semitism**

Commentary:

- **The New Yorker: "Iran- a Done Deal"**
  - By Robin Wright
- **Ha'aretz: "Netanyahu Understands Nothing About U.S. in 2015"**
  - By Barak Ravid

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Galey Tzahal

Israeli Official: We Assessed it's a Done Deal

A government source admitted that Israel had soberly assessed that the chances were slim that it could shoot down the nuclear agreement with Iran in the American Congress but said that it was Israel's duty to say its piece in this argument. He said that there was a sense that Israel was not paying a price for the public clash with the Obama administration, and in fact, Israel's great opposition to the agreement had increased what it would receive in exchange. He also said that there was great value to Israel's insistence on sticking to its position and to the warnings it issued because there was no doubt that the world would be stricter about Iran and would be suspicious of it.

See also, "Gov't finds victory in defeat on Iran, says official" (Ynet News)

Jerusalem Post

Netanyahu to Continue Vocal Opposition to Deal

Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has argued fiercely against the Iran nuclear deal, will continue to speak out strongly against it, government sources said, even though US President Barack Obama on Wednesday secured the 34th vote needed to sustain a presidential veto. "The prime minister has a responsibility to speak out against the deal that threatens this country, the region and the world," one government official said. "And he will continue to do so." Despite US Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) providing Obama with the vote necessary to prevent an override of his veto if Congress votes, the official said the accord "remains a dangerous deal."

Ha'aretz

Deal Reigniting Israeli Fears Over U.S. Arms Sales

The confrontation between the Netanyahu government and the Obama administration over the nuclear agreement brings to mind a row that took place 34 years earlier: the battle between the Begin government and the Reagan administration over the sale of AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) to Saudi Arabia. Back in 1981, the new Reagan administration decided to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia, which provoked great dismay in Israel. While Washington viewed the AWACS deal as an opportunity to promote a strategic dialogue with moderate Arab states and to provide them with means of self-defense as the Iran-Iraq War was in full swing, Israel's government was fiercely opposed to strengthening the offensive capacity of any Arab state.

Times of Israel

Knesset Advances Controversial Anti-Terror Bill

The Knesset advanced late Wednesday night a controversial bill that significantly broadens the definition of terrorism and toughens punishment for many offenses deemed terror-related. The parliament voted 45 in favor and 14 against the legislation on its first reading. The bill widens the definition of terrorist acts and organizations and lengthens punishments for terror-related offenses, including providing for equal punishment for perpetrators of terrorist attacks and their abettors. The bill now heads to the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee.

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Times of Israel

IDF Strikes Gaza After Sniper Fire Hits Israeli Homes

The IDF struck a Hamas target in the northern Gaza Strip early Thursday morning in response to sniper fire at an Israeli town a day earlier. The IDF confirmed that Israeli jets struck a Hamas military base from which the shooting supposedly came. A Hamas media outlet in Gaza reported that Israeli helicopters fired two missiles. There were no immediate reports of injuries in the strike. The stray bullets were apparently fired from a Hamas training camp in the Gaza Strip, and hit an Israeli home in a kibbutz adjacent to the Palestinian enclave Wednesday evening, causing damage but no injuries.

Ha'aretz

France Drops Investigation Into Yasser Arafat's Death

French investigating magistrates have decided to drop an inquiry into the death in France of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whose widow alleged he was poisoned, the prosecutor's office said on Wednesday. A lawyer for his widow Suha Arafat, who has argued that his death in 2004 was a political assassination, told Reuters that they would challenge the decision in an appeals court. Arafat, who signed the 1993 Oslo interim peace accord with Israel but led an uprising after subsequent talks broke down in 2000, died aged 75 in a French hospital four weeks after falling ill. The official cause of death was a massive stroke, but French doctors were unable at the time to determine the origin of the illness and no autopsy was carried out. An investigation was opened in August 2012 at the request of Suha Arafat, and his remains were exhumed for tests that were examined separately by French, Russian and Swiss experts. The Swiss reported their results were consistent with but not proof of poisoning by reactive polonium. The French concluded he did not die of poisoning and experts were reported to have found no traces of polonium in his body.

Jerusalem Post

NGO Petitions High Court to Prevent Closure in Silwan

Emek Shaveh, a consortium of archeologists representing residents of Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood, petitioned the High Court on Wednesday to prevent the closure of "Area G" of the City of David archeological site, located south of the Old City. Emek Shaveh said the petition was filed against the Nature and Parks Authority, which it accuses of colluding the Ir David Foundation (Elad) to close off public and archeological areas previously open to all residents and visitors of Silwan. Elad operates the City of David National Park, adjacent to Area G. "The closing of Area G, which has been open to the public since the British Mandate in the 1920s, began two months ago with construction of fences and gates around the area, making it possible to lock it," the petition states.

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AP

SodaStream Chief Accuses Boycotters of Anti-Semitism

The CEO of SodaStream, the beverage maker that is shuttering its West Bank factory in the face of international boycott calls, accused his company's critics Wednesday of anti-Semitism and hurting the interests of the Palestinian workers they claim to protect. SodaStream has been targeted by an international campaign calling for boycotting, divesting and sanctioning Israeli companies. Citing financial reasons, SodaStream announced it was closing the West Bank factory last year, but the so-called BDS movement declared victory and said its pressure was behind the decision.

The New Yorker – September 3, 2015

Iran: A Done Deal

By Robin Wright

The riskiest gamble of the Obama Presidency, the nuclear agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, was basically won today. A rancorous congressional debate is still to come, but thirty-four senators have now vowed to support the deal, effectively blocking efforts on the Hill to eventually kill it. The diplomacy will almost certainly be the centerpiece of Obama's foreign-policy legacy.

Opponents haven't given up. The Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump, the Texas senator Ted Cruz, and the conservative talk-show host Glenn Beck are planning a "Stop the Iran Deal" rally at the Capitol, on September 9th, the day after Congress returns from recess and begins to debate the terms. The rally is co-sponsored by Tea Party Patriots, the Zionist Organization of America, and the Center for Security Policy. It's likely to be as colorful as it is combative. On "Meet the Press" last month, Trump warned that the deal would be a boon to the Iranians. "They are going to be such a wealthy, such a powerful nation," he said. "They are going to have nuclear weapons. They are going to take over parts of the world that you wouldn't believe. And I think it's going to lead to nuclear holocaust."

Former Vice-President Dick Cheney has joined the debate. He is scheduled to give a major address on Iran in Washington next week, at the American Enterprise Institute. "Nearly everything the president has told us about his Iranian agreement is false," Cheney wrote on Friday, in a Wall Street Journal piece adapted from his book. "He has said it will prevent the Iranians from acquiring nuclear weapons, but it will actually facilitate and legitimize an Iranian nuclear arsenal. He has said this deal will stop nuclear proliferation, but it will actually accelerate it, as nations across the Middle East work to acquire their own weapons in response to America's unwillingness to stop the Iranian nuclear program."

The focus in Washington is already shifting, however, to whether the Democrats might be able to win seven more endorsements—for a total of forty-one—to invoke a filibuster that would prevent the deal from even coming to a vote in the Senate. Republicans, with limited Democratic support, have been hoping to pass a Resolution of Disapproval in both the Senate and the House by September 17th. Obama pledged that he would veto it. Support from thirty-four

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senators now means that the President would be able to sustain his veto—if it comes to that.

“We’ve always said that our goal was for the Administration to be able to implement this deal—whatever that took in Congress,” a senior Administration official told me Wednesday. Taking a swipe at Republicans, the official added, “We appreciate those who have taken this seriously, as opposed to, for example, the forty-seven senators who announced their opposition in a letter to the Ayatollah, months before the agreement was even finalized.”

So far, the prospects of the Democrats blocking a vote altogether are sketchy. Even support for the nuclear agreement—announced on July 24th, after twenty months of tortured diplomacy between Iran and the world’s six major powers—is either tepid or reluctant in both houses of Congress. Senator Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat from Maryland who retires next year, became the decisive thirty-fourth voice in the Senate on Wednesday. Her views reflected those of many fellow-Democrats.

“No deal is perfect, especially one negotiated with the Iranian regime,” Mikulski said. “I have concluded that this Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is the best option available to block Iran from having a nuclear bomb. For these reasons, I will vote in favor of this deal.” She, like many others, had caveats. “However, Congress must also reaffirm our commitment to the safety and security of Israel,” she said.

Democrats have forty-four seats in the Senate. Ten members have not yet declared how they will vote. The lobbying has been ferocious, the media blitz of anti-deal television ads sometimes apocalyptic. Two Democratic senators—Charles Schumer, of New York, and Robert Menendez, of New Jersey—have announced opposition to the deal. The New Jersey Democrat Cory Booker is among those facing particular pressure from constituents and donors on both sides. Maryland’s Ben Cardin is also reportedly torn.

Secretary of State John Kerry, in a push to mobilize more votes, sent separate letters to the Senate and the House today, pledging to work with Congress on new legislation that would guarantee the security of allies, notably Israel and the Gulf countries, as well as check Iran’s behavior in the region. Israel’s security, Kerry wrote, is “sacrosanct.”

Kerry also made an emotional final pitch for the deal, before congressional debate begins next week, in a speech in Philadelphia. “The outcome will matter as much as any foreign-policy decision in recent history,” he said. “To vote down this agreement is to solve nothing. . . . To oppose this agreement is—whether intended or not—to recommend . . . a policy of national paralysis. It is to take us back directly to the very dangerous spot that we were in two years ago—only to go back there devoid of any realistic plan or option.”

The White House has long claimed that the deal with Iran was about only one issue and does not represent an attempt at rapprochement between Washington and Tehran. But the Administration’s arguments increasingly hint at future possibilities. “The Iran agreement is not a panacea for the sectarian and extremist violence that has been ripping that region apart,” Kerry said in Philadelphia. “But history may judge it a turning point, a moment when the builders of stability seized the initiative from the destroyers of hope, and when we were able to

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show, as have generations before us, that when we demand the best from ourselves and insist that others adhere to a similar high standard—when we do that, we have immense power to shape a safer and a more humane world."

Iranian officials have begun using similar language to sell the deal. Ali Larijani, the Speaker of Parliament, is in New York for meetings at the United Nations. In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Tuesday, he called the agreement "a beginning for a better understanding for other issues as well." A more "realistic approach and attitude" by the United States toward Iran would be reciprocated, he said. Larijani is a powerful figure and a conservative. The son of a grand ayatollah, he is a former Presidential candidate. One of his brothers heads the Iranian judiciary, while another heads a human-rights council. Larijani also met Tuesday with a few former congressmen and discussed possible exchanges, according to two people who were present at the meeting.

The White House hopes that the congressional debate will be resolved before the opening of the U.N. General Assembly at the end of September, when President Obama and Iran's President Hassan Rouhani are both scheduled to speak, on the same day.

Ha'aretz– September 3, 2015

Netanyahu Understands Nothing About U.S. in 2015

In his headlong crash into the wall vis-à-vis the Iran deal, Netanyahu took with him many innocent victims; one might have hoped that this would cause him to reevaluate his policies, but this is not likely to happen.

By Barak ravid

The announcement by veteran U.S. senator Barbara Mikulski that she supports the nuclear accord with Iran marked President Obama's victory in his attempt to pass the deal through the U.S. Congress. It was also testimony to the rout of senior figures in the Republican Party, the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC, Israel's ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who have all tried in recent months to use every means at their disposal to thwart ratification of the accord.

Netanyahu's defeat may be even greater. In the time remaining until the Senate vote, expected to take place around September 10, Obama and his people will try to recruit the support of seven additional Democratic senators. If they succeed and get 41 senators on board, they could conduct a filibuster in the Senate. That way, there will be no vote on the proposition to oppose the accord and Obama won't need to use his veto. Given his present momentum, such an achievement is not unthinkable.

As on many previous occasions, Netanyahu knowingly or unknowingly embarked on a futile course that led him to a resounding debacle in the arena most dear to him. In recent weeks, Netanyahu has told cabinet ministers, American Jewish leaders and journalists that he believes there is a chance to block the nuclear accord in Congress. Dermer, who met more than 200 senators and congressmen in recent

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months, also radiated optimism.

In conversations with right-wing journalists a few weeks ago he explained that the trending sentiment in the Senate is against the accord and that people in Israel don't understand U.S. politics. Some journalists bought into this and echoed him at every opportunity, creating the impression that Congress will very soon cast the deal into history's dustbin.

If Netanyahu and Dermer didn't mean what they were saying, they were brazenly lying. But that is apparently not the case. More likely, as in the past, the Netanyahu-Dermer duo seriously miscalculated political realities in the United States. Their failure in understanding congressional dynamics was a replay of their misreading of the situation during the 2012 presidential elections when, together with their patron, casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, they put all their chips on Republican candidate Mitt Romney.

In sessions dealing with security-diplomatic issues since 2009, Netanyahu repeatedly told cabinet ministers or senior officials who ventured to give him advice on relations with the United States: "Leave America to me." Netanyahu believes he is the foremost expert on American politics, but it again turns out that the America he knows has changed. He is familiar with the Republican and conservative America of the 1980s, but knows nothing about the Democratic and progressive America of 2015.

The problem is that in his headlong crash into the wall, he took with him many innocent victims. With his forceful interference in Congress' approach to the accord, he turned Israel into a divisive issue in U.S. politics. In his calls on American Jews to support him and not their president, he ripped the fabric of American Jewry. His fight with Obama caused grave damage to U.S.-Israeli relations, with implications that will be apparent in the coming year.

One might have hoped that Wednesday's events would stop Netanyahu and cause him to take stock, to examine where he went wrong and formulate new policies. Apparently, this will not happen. The first reactions from his bureau indicated the opposite. He intends to continue fighting the deal.

After failing in Congress, he will take the fight to American public opinion. We can expect to see him on every possible U.S. media outlet in the next few weeks, with one message: Obama may have won on technicalities, but if the public doesn't support him, the deal has no legitimacy and will collapse or be altered when Obama leaves office.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Traces Friendly Path, T roubling Party // NYT // Jonathan Martin & Maggie Haberm an – June 6, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton appears to be dispensing with the nationwide electoral strategy that won her husband two terms in the White House and brought white working-class voters and great stretches of what is now red-state America back to Democrats.

Instead, she is poised to retrace Barack Obama's far narrower path to the presidency: a campaign focused more on mobilizing supporters in the Great Lakes states and in parts of the West and South than on persuading undecided voters.

Mrs. Clinton's aides say it is the only way to win in an era of heightened polarization, when a declining pool of voters is truly up for grabs. Her liberal policy positions, they say, will fire up Democrats, a less difficult task than trying to win over independents in more hostile territory — even though a broader strategy could help lift the party with her.

This early in the campaign, however, forgoing a determined outreach effort to all 50 states, or even most of them, could mean missing out on the kind of spirited conversation that can be a unifying feature of a presidential

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election. And it could leave Mrs. Clinton, if she wins, with the same difficulties Mr. Obama has faced in governing with a Republican-controlled Congress.

Should Hillary Rodham Clinton win the Democratic nomination for president in 2016, she would most likely follow the path that Barack Obama took to victory in 2008 and 2012.

Already, it is causing consternation among Democrats in conservative states that could be given short shrift by her campaign or bypassed altogether.

When Bill Clinton reclaimed the presidency for Democrats in 1992, his road to the White House ran through Southern and Southern-border states filled with what were then a precious commodity: swing voters.

Twenty years later, Mr. Obama convincingly won a second term without competing in states like Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee or West Virginia that powered Mr. Clinton. And because of his strong appeal among liberals, Mr. Obama did so even while losing among independent voters.

As Mrs. Clinton intensifies her campaign for the Democratic nomination, it is clear from her left-leaning policy stances, her hiring and her focus on data-driven organizing that her strategy is modeled on Mr. Obama's, not her husband's.

If she won, it would suggest that the so-called Obama coalition of young, nonwhite and female voters is transferable to another Democrat. And it would validate the idea that energizing core supporters is more important in presidential contests than persuading those still undecided.

To the architects of the Obama strategy, Mrs. Clinton's approach is not mere homage: It is unavoidable, given that there are few genuine independents now and that technology increasingly lets campaigns pinpoint their most likely voters.

"If you run a campaign trying to appeal to 60 to 70 percent of the electorate, you're not going to run a very compelling campaign for the voters you need," said David Plouffe, a top Obama strategist who has consulted informally with Mrs. Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton has said repeatedly that she does not want a lonely victory in 2016; she wants to elect Democrats down the ballot. A group of her senior aides met recently with officials at the Democratic House, Senate and governor campaign arms to brief them on the aides' research and plans for her message and organization. And Senate Democrats are hopeful that she will lift their prospects, because there is considerable overlap in crucial states: The results in Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin will almost certainly determine both who wins the White House and which party controls the Senate.

Bill Clinton, then the Democratic nominee for president, greeted supporters in 1992 in Carrollton, Ky. His road to the White House took him through many Southern and border states, where he won the support of swing voters.

House Democrats, while realistic about the difficulty of retaking control, are also counting on Mrs. Clinton to drive turnout for their candidates. There will be contested races in some presidential swing states, but Democratic strategists say Mrs. Clinton could also help the party unseat House Republicans in deep-blue states like New York and California.

So to Democrats in states where Mrs. Clinton is unlikely to compete, her relying on Mr. Obama's map would be worrisome. It would not only further diminish beleaguered state parties, but also leave Mrs. Clinton with a narrower margin for error.

"Go ask Al Gore," Senator Joe Manchin III, Democrat of West Virginia, said about the risk of writing off states such as his, where Democratic presidential candidates prospered until 2000. "He'd be president with five electoral votes from West Virginia. So it is big, and it can make a difference."

Centrist Democrats also worry that focusing on liberal voters could lead to a continuation of the problems Mr. Obama has faced with a Congress elected by a vastly different subset of the nation.

"That's not good for the country," Mr. Manchin said, adding that he hoped Mrs. Clinton would "come to the middle" if she became president.

Of her campaign, he said, "If they get her too far over, it's going to be more difficult to govern, it truly is."

Other rural-state Democrats are sending not-so-subtle messages.

"I think that we always appreciate when people want to kind of talk to the whole country and listen to concerns, and I think farm country is critically important," said Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Democrat of North Dakota.

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A larger risk of a tailored strategy is that by taking advantage of polarization, a candidate could lose some of the authority that comes from the civic exercise of appealing to much of the nation.

“The president is the one person who potentially could be the unifying figure in the country,” said H. W. Brands, a historian at the University of Texas at Austin. “And if the president or a presidential candidate basically writes off 40 states, then how in the world do the people in those 40 states feel like they have a stake in that person or that election?”

Mrs. Clinton’s strategists appear mostly unmoved.

“I think everybody understands how tough it’s going to be next year if we get through the primary,” Robby Mook, Mrs. Clinton’s campaign manager, said. “So I’m not concerned about hand-wringing on the strategy.”

Aides acknowledged that Mrs. Clinton’s map would closely resemble Mr. Obama’s, with roughly the same eight or so key states as in the last two presidential elections, and with the possibility of competing in historically Republican states like Arizona where the demographics increasingly favor Democrats.

But given the Clintons’ deep ties to party leaders, including in many red states, and their instinct for building up party machinery, some Democrats wonder whether Mrs. Clinton will be able to resist old friends who press her to at least test the waters in Republican-leaning areas.

Gov. Steven L. Beshear of Kentucky said he had reminded Mr. Clinton this year that he carried Kentucky twice — and said Mrs. Clinton could win it, too.

Many in Mr. Obama’s orbit are watching closely to see which impulse wins out: an Obama-style faith in the data or a temptation to acquiesce to the familiar. So far, Mrs. Clinton is heeding her mostly new team of advisers.

“One of the hardest things to do in politics is dispense with old behavior,” said Dan Pfeiffer, a former Obama adviser. “That will be a challenge. But they’re setting themselves up to avoid that.”

Mrs. Clinton and her husband expressed concern last year when Democratic turnout fell precipitously. Recognizing that Democrats had to be galvanized to show up at the polls, Mrs. Clinton’s advisers used surveys and focus groups to assess the risks of running a strongly liberal campaign. They concluded that there were few.

So she is embracing the central lesson of the Obama school: that voters turn out when they believe that an election makes a difference and that their party’s standard-bearer is a champion on issues important to them.

By emphatically staking out liberal positions on gay rights, immigration, criminal justice, voting rights and pay equity for women, Mrs. Clinton is showing core Democratic constituencies that she intends to give them a reason to support her.

The stoke-the-base approach is a hallmark of Mrs. Clinton’s young campaign manager, Mr. Mook. He used similar tactics to lift Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia to victory in 2013, in a race both Clintons watched closely.

It is a starkly different style from that of Mrs. Clinton’s 2008 campaign, when she was often concerned about being seen as too liberal to appeal to centrists.

This time, Mr. Pfeiffer said, “she hired people with a sense of where the electorate is now, not where it was in 1992.”

Mrs. Clinton’s strategic intentions are also evident in her focus on organizing. Mr. Mook noted twice in an interview that her campaign already had supporters in all 50 states mustering volunteers to register voters and ensure Mrs. Clinton is on the ballot. That is partly why the campaign postponed her first rally: so her team could have time to make it more of an organizing event.

That kickoff in New York next Saturday will be an important test of enthusiasm for Mrs. Clinton’s candidacy, and of her campaign’s ability to use big events to build the machinery that will identify and turn out voters.

What Mrs. Clinton says there will matter. But the organizing around the rally, and around the events her campaign is holding that night to build a volunteer network, will be just as consequential.

It is a far cry from her husband’s campaigns.

“The highest-premium voter in ’92 was a voter who would vote for one party some and for another party some,” said James Carville, Mr. Clinton’s chief strategist in 1992. “Now the highest-premium voter is somebody with a high probability to vote for you and low probability to turn out. That’s the golden list. And that’s a humongous

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change in basic strategic doctrine."

On the economy, is Clinton prepared to take her stand? // WaPo // Dan Balz – June 6, 2015

In a week, Hillary Rodham Clinton will take the next step in her campaign for president with a big rally in New York. Her aides say that she will offer a fuller description of where she would take the country. On economic policies, will she stand with President Obama or apart from him and closer to her populist rivals on the left?

The answer depends in part on how Clinton diagnoses the state of the economy and on the effect of the president's policies. Friday's employment report showed an increase of 280,000 jobs in May, the best this year. As White House officials noted, the economy has added private sector jobs for 63 consecutive months. In the past two years, more than 5.6 million jobs have been added to the economy and 12.6 million since the consecutive-months streak started.

The employment report provided a helpful offset to the recent report that showed the economy had contracted during the first quarter of the year, because of severe winter weather and other factors.

That may be just one bad quarter. But for all the jobs added over the past five years, the economy continues to grow slowly, and many Americans continue to say that they haven't seen much benefit. More than 7 in 10 Americans say they remain worried about the future direction of the economy, according to the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll.

Clinton has said that the economy is not working for everyone, that the deck is stacked against ordinary Americans and in favor of those with power, influence and financial wealth. In one form or another, she is saying that, after more than six years with a Democratic administration and despite the number of jobs added, the economy still isn't working the way it should.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley have launched their candidacies with a populist critique of the economic status quo. As they, like Clinton, aim their toughest criticisms at Republican policies, their economic analyses also represent at least a partial rebuke of their own party's policies.

When she announced her candidacy in April, Clinton highlighted the economic unease of many American families and said she wanted to be a champion for the middle class. What she has not done is offer an explanation of why Democratic policies have failed to adequately address the factors that contribute to middle-class angst.

Sanders and O'Malley have argued that the administration has not been vigorous enough in taking on entrenched economic power in behalf of workers. They also have said that officials have been negligent in not trying to bring some in the banking community to justice for their contributions to the collapse of the financial system in the fall of 2008. Both call for significant increases in government spending for infrastructure and other domestic initiatives.

Sanders and O'Malley also see the pending 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership as emblematic of the administration's upside-down values when it comes to workers. They have come out against the agreement (which is still being negotiated) as being bad for American workers. But that's not so with Clinton, who promoted a Pacific trade deal as secretary of state. Until there is or isn't an agreement, she is reserving judgment, keeping a foot in both camps.

Rhetorically, Clinton often has sounded like Sanders and O'Malley and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who is credited with pushing populist themes into the national debate. In policy terms, Clinton has been holding back, but that time may be coming to an end.

Will she embrace the president's policies, arguing that they simply need a bit of tweaking and some more time to begin spreading benefits more widely? Will she claim that the Republicans have blocked the Democrats' policies from being fully realized and provide evidence that she would have greater success than Obama in getting them implemented? Or will she acknowledge implicitly or explicitly that the policies haven't worked by setting a different course?

Right now, the 2016 president election appears to be headed toward a stale rerun of the two-party economic debate of the last campaign. Republicans see Obama's policies — spending, taxing and regulatory — as inhibiting growth. They see big government as an obstacle and would pare away at it size and reach. Democrats see Republicans as offering a return to policies that favor the wealthy and that provide little for working families, policies that would cut spending and create pain.

This debate played out in 2012 as a "who-do-you-trust" choice. Obama cast himself as the empathetic protector of the middle class and attacked Republican rival Mitt Romney as an out-of-touch business executive who cared only about profits for corporations and their owners and not for average people. Romney described Obama as someone

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who understood little about how the economy really worked.

Voters split over who would be better at handling the economy (49 percent for Romney, 48 percent for Obama), but on the question of who cares about "people like me," 81 percent cited the president. Case closed.

But a "who-do-you-trust" frame isn't sufficient. As the recovery has failed to produce a more equitable distribution of benefits, and as overall growth rates remain well below what they were a generation ago (through both Republican and Democratic administrations), it's clear that something more is needed in the coming election. The prospect of another predictable economic debate between the two parties is hardly what the country needs.

Republicans have their own questions to answer about how they would change their policies. It is popular now for Republican candidates to talk about the lack of economic mobility and the gap between Wall Street and Main Street. They are trying to avoid the trap Romney fell into in the last election. But voters have a right to know whether they have fresh thinking behind their rhetoric. So far there's been only a little of that.

Among Democrats, party progressives are clamoring for something more than more of the same. But 21/2 years after Obama defeated Romney, some Democrats plainly think that empathy alone will not solve the problems of a struggling middle class. The possibility of an engaged Democratic-nomination contest provides the vehicle for a debate that would examine what has and hasn't worked.

Sanders, O'Malley and the others who are joining the race might not be equipped politically to deny Clinton the nomination. Still, their presence makes it more likely that Democrats will get the debate that many say they would like to see.

No one, including Clinton, argues for a return to the policies of her husband's presidency, though the economy was strong then. But neither is she likely to want to run as a third term of the Obama presidency. If Clinton thinks the president's economic policies have been and are working, she could say so directly. If she thinks they have been inadequate regarding the size and complexity of the economic ills that she describes, she can say that. She now has an open forum in which to engage those questions.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

In 2008, Clinton couldn't buy Iowans' love. So she bought them snow shovels. // WaPo // David A. Fahrenthold – June 6, 2015

In Phyllis Peters's garage, there is a snow shovel. A nice one: green, shiny, with an ergonomic steel handle. It came from Hillary Rodham Clinton.

And it plays a part in a modern-day political legend, about some of the strangest money a candidate has ever spent.

Eight years ago, Peters was a volunteer for Clinton's first presidential run. She had been an admirer of Clinton since her time as first lady. But just before Clinton lost the Iowa caucuses, her staffers did something odd: They bought shovels for Peters and the hundreds of other volunteers.

"If you're in Iowa, you have a snow shovel" already, Peters said. But she accepted. To be nice. This is Iowa. "We're not rude people," Peters said.

Today, the story of Clinton's snow shovels is being told again in Iowa, as supporters worry that her second campaign could repeat the mistakes of the first. For both those who gave out the shovels and those who received them, they came to symbolize a candidate who never quite got their home state.

Clinton doesn't face near the same challenge in Iowa in 2016. But the state still matters as a test of basic politics, a gauge of whether she has gotten any better at connecting with the people she wants to vote for her.

Last time around, Clinton tried to win over Iowans with bloodless logic, touting her résumé and her grinding work ethic. When that fell short, Clinton's well-funded campaign — unable to buy her love — started buying everything else.

An expensive chartered "Hill-a-copter." A $95,000 order of deli sandwiches. And 600-odd new snow shovels, some of which still sit, unused, in basements and garages across Iowa.

The idea behind them seemed to be that Clinton's own voters might be so old, or so un-enthused, that they wouldn't leave the house if it snowed. And that Clinton's own Iowa volunteers — if sent on a voter-rescue mission — might not be prepared for . . . winter. In Iowa.

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“It’s sort of like, ‘Yeah, I’ll take a snow shovel,’ ” said Marisue Hartung, one of Peters’s fellow Clinton volunteers in Ames. “But why?”

The story of the snow shovels starts way back in the fall of 2007. At that time, Clinton — a second-term senator from New York — was crushing Barack Obama in national polls,up 20 points. In Iowa, she was up by a handful.

But already, Clinton staffers were discovering a problem here:

Their voters.

There were large numbers of elderly people. Shift workers. Single mothers. All people who might be too tired, or too busy, to come out and vote the way Iowans vote: with their feet, in a gym, in a long caucus night of speechifying and waiting around.

“We left, and we all wanted to go drink. It was like, ‘I don’t know what a caucus is,’ ” said one Clinton staffer from the 2008 campaign. “We realized that, like, we were going to lose because we weren’t going to be able to get out all of these Hillary supporters” to stay as long as it took to be counted.

So Clinton needed more people. New people. She was pouring resources into Iowa. But so was Obama, and his soaring message of hope and change was spreading among the kind of people who really would come to a caucus and stay.

To Clinton, by contrast, politics was not about soaring. It was about grinding — a constant, incremental struggle — and she was the candidate who could succeed at it. That might have been true. But it was hardly the stuff of joy.

“We all want change,” she would say. “Some people believe you bring it about by hoping for it. I believe you bring about change by working really, really hard for it.”

The other problem was Clinton’s distance — both emotional and real. Even when she was in Iowa, it felt as if she wasn’t.

Obama “would get on a bus, and he would go from town to town to town, and people would ride on the bus with him. People would get to know him,” said Chris Gowen, who was part of Clinton’s advance team. “Whereas we would fly into Des Moines . . . then dart back to the airport, and fly to northern Iowa, then dart back to the airport.”

“We were spending all this money,” he said. “And you’d never really connect with people.”

As the Jan. 3 caucuses approached, Iowa seemed to be slipping away from Clinton. But her campaign still had money coming in — on some days, more than $1 million.

And money is for spending. With Iowa still theoretically in play, there would be no prizes for saving it.

“The reality is, the closer you get to an election day, the harder it is to spend money in a smart way,” said Karen Hicks, a senior adviser to Clinton’s 2008 campaign. It was getting too late to buy ad time on television, or print up new fliers, or train new staff, before the caucuses. “It gets harder to spend in a way that you can tie to an incremental vote or caucus victory.”

At a time like that, Hicks said, “you probably should stop spending.”

The campaign didn’t.

It spent big on the “Hill-a-copter,” a Bell 222 with leather seats that the campaign chartered, trying to hit 16 Iowa counties in five days. News reports put the cost at thousands per day.

Even when it worked, this was not a perfect idea. Clinton — seeking to project a common touch — would meet voters by descending from the sky.

An even more last-minute purchase was the $95,384 order of deli sandwiches from the Hy-Vee grocery chain. The Iowa tradition was to bring munchies, not meals. But the Clinton people were worried about their young mothers and shift workers. Would they skip the caucuses if it meant waiting hours to eat?

And then: the shovels.

“I remember when they were ordered. There was an actual conversation about is there anything else, you know. ‘We are sure that we can’t purchase any more phone time?’ ‘Are we sure that we can’t purchase any more flights of mail?’ ” said the former Clinton campaign staffer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preserve relations

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with the current campaign.

The shovels were bought, and they were distributed to offices and precinct captains by campaign staff. It's not clear, from campaign-finance records, what they cost — but it seems certain to have been at least $10,000.

In hindsight, there is debate about why snow shovels appeared to be a better choice than nothing.

Some people saw them as a metaphor: a physical reminder that Clinton's volunteers were needed to get their people out, come hell or high water — or snow.

"I think the same thing could have been accomplished by giving out a key chain with a snow shovel on it that costs 30 cents," said the former Clinton staffer.

Hicks said this was a preemptive maneuver, grabbing a valuable resource before the enemy did. And if voters didn't stay home, there was another worry: caucus sites. Snowy walks. Voters might not make it to the door.

Maybe. But, again, if you live in Iowa, you probably have a shovel.

Neither Obama nor Sen. John Edwards (N.C.), the other two top contenders, seem to have bought snow shovels. Did they laugh when Clinton did? "I'm not going to answer that on the record," said Jen O'Malley Dillon, Edwards's Iowa state director.

To the Iowans who got them, they did not make much sense. Either as a metaphor or as a shovel.

"All down the hallway in the office are these brand-new snow shovels," said Justin Sharp, then a University of Iowa student volunteer. He asked. Somebody explained. Sharp thought it was the same kind of thinking that had led Clinton's campaign to tell him to knock on doors in Iowa City on Saturdays, during Iowa Hawkeyes football games.

"If they're going to go to the caucus, they're going to go," Sharp remembered thinking. "And if they're not, they're not going to go — even if you shovel them."

In West Des Moines, Clinton volunteer Tom Laughead, who admired the candidate for her work on health-care reform, actually tried to put his gift to use. A few days before the caucuses, he cleared old snow off a walkway at one woman's house.

Just to show that he, and Clinton, were serious.

"She said, 'Oh, well, thank you very much,' and then she just kind of like, uhhh," Laughead said, miming a woman trying to avoid eye contact with a Clinton volunteer.

"I just hope to see you there," Laughead remembered saying.

And?

"I don't remember seeing her there."

When caucus night came at last, Clinton's volunteers saw what Clinton's staff had feared. Their well-funded campaign — so flush it could give shovels to people who had shovels — was going to lose.

"It was like, 'This half of the room is where the Obama delegates are going to be, and everybody else go in this half of the room,' " said Sharp, the University of Iowa volunteer. In his college town, Clinton's supporters were in the "everybody else" part, lumped in with the other losers. "They never told us that this could happen. We were just expecting that the support was going to be there."

The sandwiches didn't seem to help much. "The Obama people, and the Edwards people, I think they ate as many as the few Hillary people did," Sharp said.

And the shovels didn't help much, either. On caucus day, it did not snow anywhere in Iowa.

"The Obama people had these shirts. And everyone loved these T-shirts, and people were running around like madmen to get these shirts," said Gowen, the advance man. In the caucus environment, where people can watch each other vote, the red T-shirts signaled to undecided voters that Obama's strength was strong and catching. "Had we gone with T-shirts over shovels," Gowen said, "we might have had a different president right now."

Okay maybe that's a little strong.

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“Had we gone with T-shirts, I think we would at least have come in second,” Gowen said.

Instead, Clinton came in third, behind Edwards.

Now, Clinton is back in Iowa. Some supporters here say she doesn’t need to change her logical, résumé-based appeal. The problem in 2008 was Obama and the wellspring of frustration with the Bush administration that he tapped.

Both are out of the picture now.

“It’s sort of an urban myth that the Clinton campaign didn’t do well in Iowa in 2008. The truth is that she got more votes than anybody in the history of the Iowa caucuses,” said Jerry Crawford, her Midwestern co-chair in 2008 and still a close adviser. “It just wasn’t as much as the other two.”

But many in Iowa, and on Clinton’s campaign staff, say they are determined to do some things differently.

For her first Iowa event, in April, she arrived in her “Scooby” van, not in a Hill-a-copter. And she has held a series of small events — house parties and roundtables — to emphasize her desire to start small and listen first.

“Hillary made it very clear to us that she wanted to have a conversation with Iowans and hear their thoughts, concerns and ideas for the future,” Matt Paul, Clinton’s Iowa state director, said in an e-mail interview. “The caucus is about relationships, and to build those, you’ve got to listen — and that’s exactly what she’s been doing.”

But elements of the old approach remain.

For one thing, Clinton’s small events have still been stiffly staged, with attendees often pre-screened by staff or by the Secret Service. “We passed the deadline for a security clearance, so we didn’t get to go,” said Nancy Sweetman, a green-shovel owner who saw too late an invitation to a “house party” with Clinton in Mason City. “But you know, living in Iowa, we’ll see her again.”
Chuck and Nancy Sweetman of Mason City were staunch supporters of Clinton’s 2008 campaign. They have two souvenir snow shovels. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)
Clinton still focuses on her résumé and work ethic, casting herself as “a champion” for the middle class. That means her appeal can still be tied to the idea that politics is a grind.

“She’s got the strength to take the criticism right now from the press on avoiding questions from the press,” said Dean Genth, a Clinton supporter who hosted the Mason City house party.

“She’s going to have to connect at a very different level if she wants to be president,” said Janelle Rettig, a Clinton precinct captain in 2008 who is now a county supervisor in Johnson County. “It’s very hard for me to go against a woman who’s smart, who’s qualified and who’s experienced. But I also need somebody who I’m passionate about. And that’s not there, yet.”

A few weeks ago, one of Clinton’s new campaign staffers came to Ames to ask advice from three locals who had seen the last campaign up close. All three owned green snow shovels. Whatever else happened, they wanted Clinton to know that they didn’t need more.

“The snow shovels aren’t necessary,” Hartung said. Iowans come to caucus, whether it snows or not. “We were going to get there anyway.”

Hartung recalled the staffer’s response: “She sort of said, ‘You know, I’ve heard other comments about this. . . . ’ ”

Hillary Clinton talks education, health care at New Haven fundraiser // New Haven Register // Mary O’Leary – June 6, 2015

Hillary Clinton was late for her fundraiser in New Haven, stuck with all those other Connecticut drivers who regularly curse the congestion on Interstate 95 through Fairfield County.

It was her second fundraiser of the day, having first picked up contributions at the Greenwich home of philanthropist Malcolm Weiner and his wife, Carolyn Weiner.

The ask at both the Greenwich event and the one in New Haven at the home of Yale Law School professors Judith Resnik and Dennis Curtis was the same: $2,700 per person.

To be a co-host to the invitation-only event and receive membership in her Hillstarters Program, individual supporters were given the task of raising $27,000, according to the Greenwich Times. Host of these private fundraisers are asked to raise $50,000, which then puts them in the Clinton’s Hillraisers Program.

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Clinton is among three Democrats who have announced their intention to run for president in 2016, a campaign that has already attracted nearly a dozen Republicans for their primary fight.

One of those rivals, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., was in Stamford Thursday night, the honored guest at the GOP's Prescott Bush Awards Dinner. He picked up some $50,000 at a fundraiser prior to the dinner, according to the Greenwich Times.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn, U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, D-4, and U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., were among the estimated 100 people at the Greenwich event, as was former Connecticut Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz.

Blumenthal, who attended the Yale Law School at the same time as Clinton and former President Bill Clinton, was at both events.

Bysiewicz, who said she was helping Clinton with grassroots organizing and fundraising, did the same thing. She also brought her 93-year-old aunt, Mary Stewart, a World War II Coast Guard vet. "She was hoping to meet her," Bysiewicz said.

Many in attendance from New Haven were associated with the Yale Law School, with former Dean Harold Koh acting as one of the organizers.

Koh served as the legal adviser to the State Department during President Barack Obama's first term, when Hillary Clinton was secretary of the state.

The head count in New Haven was also around 100, according to Charles Pillsbury, a neighbor of the hosts, who attended with his wife, the Rev. Allie Perry.

Connecticut Democratic Party Chairman Nick Balletto showed up on time for the New Haven event in the East Rock neighborhood, where the guests started arriving just before 4:30 p.m. Mayor Toni Harp was also a guest.

"I think her values and the things she stood for over a lifetime and in public life are things that would be good for our country," Harp said.

Everyone was first checked off on an invitation list and then had to pass through security set up on the front lawn at the home on St. Ronan Street.

The guests mingled inside and on a rear porch as they waited for Clinton, who arrived around 6:15 p.m. by a back entrance, avoiding the small press contingent assembled across the street.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and the state party are expected to endorse Clinton for president this weekend in Hartford.

Pillsbury said he feels Clinton "is our best hope."

He said she spoke about the importance of early childhood education and said the tension between the public schools and the charter schools is a false dichotomy.

The former secretary of the state said the public and charter schools should be working together. She offered the example of schools in Houston, where the successful elements of the charters have been incorporated into the public school system, Pillsbury said.

He said Clinton, who first conducted a listening tour before declaring her candidacy, told the donors that she learned two things on that tour, that she might not have stressed beforehand.

The candidate said families told her how drug addiction was ruining the lives of their children, with heroin the problem in New Hampshire and meth the scourge in Iowa.

The other issue was the lack of mental health practitioners. While there is more coverage under the Affordable Care Act, there are not enough professionals to serve the population, she told them.

Clinton, according to Pillsbury, talked of supporting a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United court ruling. The court found that corporations and unions can pay for political ads made independently of candidate campaigns. That finding and others have opened up a flood of campaign spending, where often the names of donors are hidden.

Rubio on Thursday took a shot at the fundraising efforts of the Clintons, according to press reports.

"I don't have a family foundation that raised over $2 billion from Wall Street and foreign nations," Rubio said at

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the dinner.

On environmental issues, Clinton said in the move away from coal, something will have to be done to replace those jobs now performed by miners.

Pillsbury said the candidate recalled her trip to Indonesia when she was secretary of state and a talk show host had asked how she could work for Obama who had said such harsh things about her in the campaign.

She said she did it because she loved her country. Clinton said she realized that often people's loyalties are to regions or tribes. The concept of patriotism expressed in the United States was foreign to them, Pillsbury recalled.

After having sat in traffic in Connecticut, Clinton, as she left the St. Ronan Street home, was shouted a question as to whether she would advocate for funds for the state to fix its commuter nightmare.

"Absolutely. I believe in infrastructure," she said before getting back into the black Explorer with Secret Service agents.

America may not understand the Clintons — but Wall Street does // Business Insider // Linette Lopez – June 6, 2015

Here are some things the Clintons do that most of America doesn't understand:

Using a separate email server at the State Department.
Borrowing your friend's private plane.
Owning shell companies.
Answering questions about your family foundation.
You know who does understand all that?

Wall Street does.

That's why the recent so-called scandals Hillary Clinton is facing in her presidential campaign won't necessarily impact the money she collects from The Street.

"The Clintons are not dirty," one young portfolio manager told Business Insider this week.

"They make appearances, get money, put it in the fund, build schools. It's not going into their personal bank accounts. It's the way the world works; I find nothing wrong with it."

Lots of people on Wall Street are familiar with the hoops they and their companies must jump through to give to the Clinton Foundation. All donations must meet AML and AB+C requirements.

(That's anti-money laundering and anti-bribery and corruption for all us civilians.)

For people who are used to giving to charitable organizations, this whole rigmarole is rather familiar.

Big donors on Wall Street are also people who may have borrowed a friend's private plane at one point — or known someone who knows someone who has.

One thing that Clinton could do to upset Wall Street — that in fact any candidate can do to upset the industry — is talk about its money (or its taxes, or its lawsuits). That's a no-no.

Clinton has touched on the no-no.

"There's something wrong when hedge fund managers pay lower tax rates than nurses or the truckers that I saw on I-80 as I was driving here over the last two days," Hillary Clinton said while on the road in America's heartland last month. "Something is wrong when CEOs earn more than 300 times than what the typical American worker earns and when hedge fund managers pay a lower tax rate than truck drivers or nurses," she added.

And that was more than enough. Masters of the Universe, you see, are very sensitive.

Lee Cooperman, a billionaire hedge fund manager and Goldman Sachs vet went off on these in an interview with CNN this week.

"I don't need anybody crapping all over what I do for a living," Cooperman, 72, told CNN Money's Cristina Alesci.

He added that Clinton "hangs out with these people in Martha's Vineyard and in the Hamptons, and the very first thing she does is criticize hedge funds."

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Cooperman felt that Clinton's comments were "bogus."

"This notion of crapping all over hedge funds is so bogus it makes me nauseous. The only thing that makes me more nauseous is those hedge funds that support her," he said.

If you think that this may be a bit of an over-the-top reaction from people who have drivers, hire private security, and live in gated communities, that's your opinion. Obama went through this. Every politician goes through this. After Occupy Wall Street it only got worse, and it's not going to change.

All of this is means that Clinton's campaign probably won't go all in on populism by any means.

However, given that America is really focused on economic inequality right now, it also means you probably won't see Clinton throwing any big parties at Goldman Sachs (where employees are actually pretty split down the middle in terms of party affiliation).

When she courts Wall Street it will be done quietly. At private dinners sponsored by bundlers who will assure the oh-so-sensitive Masters of the Universe in attendance that her populism is just popular, and that at the end of day Clinton understands their way of life.

That's all they really want anyway — to be understood.

Malloy m akes it official: His choice is Hillary // CT Mirror // Mark Pazniokas - June 7, 2015

Malloy embracing Bill Clinton at a rally in 2014. He is returning the favor, endorsing Hillary Clinton for president.

It's not a recent decision, nor is it a surprise. But the time has come to go public: With the legislative session over, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy is endorsing Hillary Clinton for president Sunday.

"I've been an admirer of hers for many years, going back to when she was first lady. I want to see her get elected president. I also think she is the best candidate the Democrats could run. I think she is one of the most experienced candidates that any party has run," Malloy said.

Clinton was elected U.S. senator from New York in 2000 as her husband's presidency was winding down. After losing the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, she joined the administration of Barack Obama as secretary of state.

"I've known the Clintons for a long time. I think she is the best prepared candidate, and I'm really excited about helping her get elected president," Malloy said.

Malloy's national profile will grow next year as becomes chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, a role likely to win him a slot as a speaker at the Democratic National Convention.

One of his friends and DGA predecessors, former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland, announced his candidacy last week, but Clinton already has wrapped up key endorsements, even in O'Malley's home state. O'Malley should not be surprised by Sunday's news, Malloy said.

"The governor and I had discussion about this in the past, where I had made it clear if Hillary was a candidate I would support her," Malloy said. "And I have had the opportunity more recently to indicate I would be supporting Hillary. But I don't think there was an expectation I would be supporting him over Hillary."

Malloy was to announce his endorsement at an event promoting the kickoff of the Democratic Party's municipal election season.

"I think it's an opportunity to talk about two races at once, the municipal races which are coming in November, followed by the first primaries and caucuses that will play out," he said. "They automatically overlap, so why not admit that and do the two things together?"

He also talked about the endorsement in a taped segment to air Sunday morning on WFSB, Channel 3's "Face the State."

In 2008, when Malloy was mayor of Stamford, Barack Obama defeated Hillary Clinton in the Connecticut primary. Malloy's two successful runs for governor in 2010 and 2014 benefitted from get-out-the-vote rallies headlined by Obama and Bill Clinton.

Bill Clinton is the Democrat who ended the GOP's run of carrying Connecticut in six consecutive presidential years. Beginning with his win in 1992, Connecticut has gone blue in six straight presidential elections.

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GOP Has Reason To Fret As Clinton Leads Bush 47-40 In North Carolina // Politicus // Keith Brekhusmore – June 6, 2015

A Public Policy Polling (PPP) survey released on June 4th, found Democrat Hillary Clinton enjoying a modest 47-40 lead over Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush in North Carolina. The Tarheel State is a crucial battleground state that Republicans cannot afford to lose. Barack Obama won North Carolina in 2008, but lost the state to Mitt Romney in 2012.

The poll also found Clinton leading or tied with eight other GOP candidates. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Kentucky Senator Rand Paul fared best of the Republican candidates. Walker managed a 45-45 tie with Clinton, and Rand Paul tied her 44-44. Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Mike Huckabee and Marco Rubio all trailed Clinton by margins ranging from one to seven percentage points.

Clinton polled especially strong with women voters and African-Americans in North Carolina. Although Jeb Bush held a slight 45-41 advantage with male voters, Clinton held a dominant 51-37 lead with women voters. Clinton also had a crushing advantage with black voters. The poll found Clinton garnering 86 percent support from African-American voters compared to a pitiful 3 percent who backed Jeb Bush.

While the election is still 16 months away, Hillary Clinton's strong numbers in North Carolina bode well for Democratic prospects in 2016. By amassing overwhelming support from black voters and a decisive edge with women voters, Hillary Clinton is well positioned to lock down North Carolina's 15 electoral votes.

The poll also points to Jeb Bush's weakness if he becomes the Republican nominee. His 7-point deficit to Clinton in North Carolina matched fringe candidate Ted Cruz's poor numbers in the state. Rather than being one of the strongest GOP candidates, Jeb Bush appears to be one of the weakest candidates in the Republican field.

Republicans have reason to fret about the poll numbers in the Tarheel State, because without carrying North Carolina the GOP has no path to victory in the 2016 presidential election. If the current polling numbers continue to hold in North Carolina, Hillary Clinton would not only carry the Tarheel State but the nation as well, becoming the 45th U.S. President.

Experts Fear Messy Consequences if Hillary Clinton's Automatic Voter Plan Is Enacted // The Blade // Fred Lucas – June 6, 2015

Hillary Clinton's call for national automatic voter registration, if enacted, could create messy consequences for ballot integrity, according to some election law experts.

"Automatic registration, I'm afraid, would result in increasing the number of ineligible registrations as well as duplicate registrations," Hans Von Spakovsky, a former member of the Federal Elections Commission and now a senior legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation, told TheBlaze.

"Many people are on government databases in more than one state," he said. "We already have a problem in the current system with people being registered to vote in more than one state."

During a speech Thursday in Houston, Clinton called for "universal automatic voter registration" and declared that "every citizen in every state in the union should be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 – unless they choose to opt out."

In May, Oregon became the only state to enact automatic voter registration, placing every adult with a driver's license on a list to get a ballot in the mail several weeks before Election Day. The new law is expected to add another 300,000 registered voters, The Atlantic reported. Oregon was the first state to move to all mail-in balloting in 1998.

"In light of legislative efforts around the country to make voting more difficult, we are pleased that Oregon's leadership to ensure voting access for all eligible voters is receiving national attention as a model for other states and the nation," Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins told TheBlaze in a statement.

During her speech, Clinton criticized voter ID laws and claimed concerns about voter fraud was "fear mongering."

But such a law could pose challenges for frontline election workers.

"How would it be automatic? Just show up to vote with a driver's license or proof you are 18?" Susan Gill, a board of directors member of the National Association of Election Officials, asked.

The NAEO represents state and local election officials involved in voter registration and election supervision. "What's the mechanism to make it workable?" she also wondered.

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Gill, also the supervisor of elections of Citrus County, Florida, asked how Oregon will handle eligible voters without driver's licenses. Contrary to making voting more difficult, Gill contended that basic voter integrity laws ensure that votes count.

"The right to vote is so sacred we need reasonable safeguards against fraud. Verification and ID are important parts of keeping the vote safe," Gill told TheBlaze. "But it is not like the 1960s or earlier. Because of computers we are now far less likely to have large-scale voter fraud. We are most likely to see it today in absentee voting."

Clinton's proposal is also similar to a measure enacted in Canada, which adopted an automatic voter registration law in 1997 — but without the desired effect.

A higher percentage of Canadians vote than Americans, but the nation to the north has still seen a steady decline in voter participation since the 1970s that continued after the 1997 law, Von Spakovsky said.

He along with journalist John Fund coauthored the 2012 book, "Who's Counting? How Fraudsters and Bureaucrats Put Your Vote at Risk."

"Low turnout has nothing to do with voter registration rules. It is easy to register to vote," Von Spakovsky noted. "Canada went to automatic voting in 1997 and it hasn't done a thing to increase turnout."

Hillary has Roosevelt Island officials in the palm of her hand // NY Post // Bill Sanderson – June 7, 2015

Whatever Hillary wants, Hillary gets from the poobahs who oversee Roosevelt Island's memorial to Franklin Roosevelt.

Hillary Clinton will officially launch her campaign next Saturday with a big event at the state-owned Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island.

The rally displaced an "Imagination Playground" event for kids, which had to be rescheduled for October.

The park is overseen by a conservancy with a board of directors packed with prominent Democrats.

The conservancy's president, Sally Minard, is a longtime Clinton fan and fund-raiser. She was a "coordinator" on Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign and gave $6,900 to her 2008 presidential campaign, federal records show.

Minard was also a big "bundler" of donations to President Obama's presidential campaigns, gathering a total of $511,098 from various donors, the campaign-finance monitoring Web site OpenSecrets.org reports.

So far, public records don't show any donations by Minard to Clinton's 2016 campaign. The Upper East Side resident took no salary from the conservancy in 2013, records show.

The conservancy board's chairwoman, Barbara Shattuck Kohn, is also a longtime Clinton supporter. She also contributed $6,900 to Clinton's 2008 campaign, records show.

Other Democrats on the conservancy's board include former City Council member Jessica Lappin, former Ambassador William vanden Heuvel and his daughter, Katherine vanden Heuvel, editor of The Nation, a liberal magazine.
Conservancy officials could not be reached Saturday.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

O'Malley makes a pitch to younger voters // The Baltimore Sun // John Fritze – June 6, 2015

Martin O'Malley came to this New England college town bearing pizza, and a message he hopes will click with the young voters who could be critical for his long-shot bid for president.

"One thing I've been struck by is a big generational shift underway in our country," O'Malley told about 100 students gathered May 31 in a small library meeting room at Dartmouth College last week. "I've rarely met someone under 40 who denies climate change is real. I rarely meet anyone under 40 who wants to scapegoat immigrants."

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The line brought murmurs of agreement from the crowd of young Democrats.

As the former two-term Maryland governor sets out on an ambitious campaign for president, he is courting the type of young voters who fueled Barack Obama's victories in 2008 and 2012. He relies on words like "this generation" and "new leadership" to make a not-so-subtle point about his opponents, who are not only older but have spent more time in Washington.

But the 52-year-old guitar-slinging politician faces stiff competition for the under-30 set. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont are also working to lock down the potentially powerful constituency.

Whoever inspires them will have an important advantage in the Democratic primaries next year, and the general election in November. In 2014 there were 46 million eligible voters under 30, compared with 39 million seniors, according to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University.

One display of their ability to influence an election: If Republican Mitt Romney had managed to just split the youth vote with Obama in 2012, he would have won Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio — and the presidency.

Obama carried at least 60 percent of the young voters in each of those states.

So it was little surprise that O'Malley planted himself in the Dartmouth library a day after announcing his campaign on Federal Hill in Baltimore. He spoke about college affordability, climate change and the job market that some of the students listening are anxiously preparing to enter.

"I'm for moving us to a point as a country where we have debt-free college," O'Malley told the group. "You can finance a home at less than you can finance your college education. And sadly, if you can't finance your college education you're never going to be able to buy a home."

Plenty of O'Malley's lines drew applause, and several students said they would follow his campaign more closely.

Connie Lee, an 18-year-old freshman from Houston, said she was "vaguely" aware of O'Malley before the event.

"It's interesting that he's taking the direction of appealing to the younger audience in contrast with Hillary Clinton," she said. "He addressed a lot of the social issues this younger generation cares about. I think it was effective that he highlighted that."

Charlotte Blatt, also 18 and a freshman, is vice president of the Dartmouth College Democrats.

"As a college student, it's important to hear politicians speaking about the issue of college loans and student debt," she said. "It's really crippling."

Because students arrive on campus from across the country, many do not necessarily vote in the state where they study. But young voters are often an important part of a campaign's volunteer base.

Turnout among young voters can be fickle, and it is frequently lower than other age groups' rates.

O'Malley launched his long-expected bid for the Democratic nomination in Baltimore on May 30. Polls show him in the single digits in Iowa, New Hampshire and nationally — but he has managed to capture headlines when he takes on Clinton. Most recently, that criticism has manifested itself as an attack on Wall Street, and its ties to the Clinton campaign.

But as far back as last summer O'Malley was using words like "fundamentally newer" and "new way of leadership" to describe his approach.

On the campaign trail, those phrases have become sharper, and they have taken on added meaning in the context of a race that includes Clinton, a former first lady, senator and secretary of state who has spent decades in Washington.

O'Malley has never directly made an issue of Clinton's age — at 67, she is 15 years his senior — and he has demurred when asked about it directly. Yet he has sought to project an image of youth by appearing more often with his Celtic rock band and by talking about the data-focused management he employed as Baltimore's mayor and Maryland's governor.

Clinton, by contrast, often touts her status as a new grandmother — as in Houston last week, when she welcomed Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee to "the grandmothers' club."

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"As a member of now a little over eight months," she said, "it is the best club you will ever be a member of."

But Clinton also used the words "young people" three times.

"Now what possible reason could there be to end preregistration for 16- and 17-year-olds and eliminate voter outreach in high schools?" Clinton asked. "We should be doing everything we can to get our young people more engaged in democracy, not less."

Sanders is 73.

O'Malley has "got to say something," said Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. "But right now it doesn't matter what Martin O'Malley is saying. The ball's in Hillary Clinton's court. She's either resonating or she's not."

Early polling indicates that she is.

Clinton is viewed favorably by more 18- to 34-year-olds than she is by the electorate as a whole. Among that group, 55 percent have a favorable impression of her, according to a CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday. Among those over 50, 42 percent have a favorable impression of Clinton.

That's a remarkable shift from the results of the 2008 Democratic primaries. Obama received 57 percent of young voters in the first 16 primaries that year, compared to Clinton's 41 percent, according to exit polls analyzed by the Pew Research Center.

He won the youth vote in every one of the early primary states except California, Arkansas and Massachusetts.

A CNN/ORC poll from last month showed that just more than half of Americans believe Clinton "represents the future." For O'Malley, a 42 percent plurality said he "represents the past."

A quarter of respondents in the poll had no opinion of the former governor.

But there may be a sliver of good news for O'Malley in the polling from Maryland, where he is known best. Though his approval slipped during the 2014 gubernatorial election, he does slightly better among young voters in the state — though the difference is within the margin of error.

A Goucher Poll from October found than 18- to 34-year-olds in Maryland had a slightly better impression of O'Malley than older age groups did.

"I think he will try to use his youthfulness as a way to attract those voters," said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher. "While in Maryland we have seen this shtick before and it's old news to us, it's not old news to the rest of the United States."

Alex Doser, president of the Iowa State University College Democrats, heard O'Malley speak in April. If O'Malley becomes better known, Doser said, his message could appeal to young voters.

"I see a lot in O'Malley's rhetoric that can connect to young people but he hasn't really gotten his name out there yet," he said. "He hasn't made the kind of dent on the Internet that Sanders has and he's not featured in the media like Clinton has been.

"People are losing faith in the idea that their voice makes a difference in Washington. So there's a lot of room to bring in young voters if you can convince them that you are sincerely fighting for them."

In other words, O'Malley's broader challenge — and perhaps also his opportunity — lies in raising awareness of his campaign.

A few minutes after he left the Dartmouth event, two young men wearing baseball caps walked by the room where he had spoken. One asked why all of the desks had been pushed aside.

"Martin O'Malley was here," the one student said.

His friend's response: "Who?"

SANDERS

Exclusive–Iowa Gop Chairman Reacts To Bernie Sanders' And Martin O'Malley's Reception In Iowa: 'Socialism Is So Odd To Us' // Breitbart News – June 6, 2015

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The self proclaimed socialist, "Sanders attracted overflow crowds in Ames and Davenport, then Sanders capped his three-day trip with a Saturday night stop in Kensett, where more than 300 people greeted him," Radio Iowa's O. Kay Henderson wrote earlier last week.

"To a certain degree, I think socialism is so odd to us – I think there would be people that want to hear how in the world an American could promote socialism," Iowa GOP Chairman Jeff Kauffman told Breitbart News – adding that he is interested in how Sanders will put his campaign message all together.

Breitbart News questioned if Iowans were interested in both Sanders and O'Malley because they aren't Clinton – as Clinton's honesty and trustworthiness has been crumbling among independent voters, a recent poll suggests.

"The Democrats I know certainly are – I don't know if a socialist is going to provide that – but you know, if you look at Hillary's voting record she's a socialist in the making – and wait until she gets in the Obama White House and picks up whatever he leaves, in terms of his policies," Kauffman added.

Breitbart News noted how Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is the favorite in Iowa in many recent polls but that former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) were the only two candidates in a recent poll that Iowans selected in an individual match up with Clinton.

"These polls are going to be so fluid ... I listen to the polls obviously – you know, I'm not going to get real serious about the polls at least for the top ten until – I'll tell you it's going to almost have to be October before I start listening," he said.

Kauffman said it's hard to believe anything in a June or July poll can be of any predictive value of what is going to happen in February.

Bernie Sanders isn't a "crackpot" — and the progressive agenda isn't "left-wing" // Salon // Bill Moyers And Michael Winship – June 6, 2015

Congressman John K. Delaney, what the hell are you talking about?

In a recent Washington Post op-ed piece, headlined, "The last thing America needs? A left-wing version of the Tea Party," the Democratic congressman from Maryland scolds progressives and expresses his worry "about where some of the loudest voices in the room could take the Democratic Party."

He writes, "Rejecting a trade agreement with Asia, expanding entitlement programs that crowd out other priorities and a desire to relitigate the financial crisis are becoming dominant positions among Democrats. Although these subjects may make for good partisan talking points, they do not provide the building blocks for a positive and bold agenda to create jobs and improve the lives of Americans."

Rep. Delaney even implies that a freewheeling, open discussion of "these subjects" could lead to the election of a Republican president.

Good grief, John. A trade agreement that favors multinational corporations over working people? Cutting "entitlement programs" such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, worker's compensation? Letting Wall Street off the hook for crashing the economy and costing millions of Americans their jobs and homes? These are Republican policies, bought and paid for by plutocrats. If Democrats simply mimic them, there would be no need to bother with voting for a Republican president; we could cancel the election and put the billions saved in campaign contributions straight into the Clinton Foundation.

The progressive agenda isn't "left wing." (Can anyone using the term even define what "left wing" means anymore?) The progressive agenda is America's story — from ending slavery to ending segregation to establishing a woman's right to vote to Social Security, the right to organize, and the fight for fair pay and against income inequality. Strip those from our history and you might as well contract America out to the US Chamber of Commerce the National Association of Manufacturers, and Karl Rove, Inc.

At their core, the New Deal, Fair Deal, and Great Society programs were aimed at assuring every child of a decent education, every worker a decent wage, and every senior a decent retirement; if that's extreme, so are the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution.

But such is the level of what passes for discourse inside the Beltway these days. The cushioned political and media elites who eat, drink, and make merry with each other at the annual White House Correspondents & Celebrity Ball are so cozy up there in the stratosphere that they dismiss as the lunatic fringe any voice from below that challenges the status quo.

And by the way, John, the "loudest voices in the room" aren't populists or progressives; they belong to the

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auctioneers selling our government to the highest bidders.

Can you believe this? Rep. Delaney even thinks that progressives are too engaged "in time-consuming rhetoric attacking banks that has little chance of producing more financial reform and distracts from far more consequential areas of economic risk…" Yet his words come on the heels of another round of billions in fines against the big banks for perpetrating fraud, an ongoing attempt by Republican Senator Richard Shelby and his Wall Street-funded colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee to eviscerate the reforms of Dodd-Frank, and an updated report from the University of Notre Dame and law firm Labaton Sucharow that says, "Nearly seven years after the global financial crisis rocked investors' confidence in the markets and financial services in general, our survey clearly shows that a culture of integrity has failed to take hold. Numerous individuals continue to believe that engaging in illegal or unethical activity is part and parcel of succeeding in this highly competitive field." (And why not, when the chances of going to prison for your blatant misdeeds are virtually nil?)

But Rep. Delaney seems to think any objection to these behaviors and other misdeeds just jams the works and keeps the grownups from taking care of business. So does former Mitt ("47 percent") Romney advisor and George W. Bush (slash taxes on the One Percent!) speechwriter Peter Wehner, who recently warned in The New York Times that many Democrats "are placing a very risky bet that there are virtually no limits to how far left they can go."

How about far enough left to reach Main Street?

Just take a look at the initial press reaction to Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential candidacy. As Steve Hendricks observed in the Columbia Journalism Review, "For not going with the flow, and for challenging Hillary Clinton, the big fish many elites have tagged as their own, Sanders's entry into the race was greeted with story after story whose message — stated or understated, depending on the decorum of the messenger — was 'This crank can't win.'"

Hillary Clinton's "corporatism," Hendricks writes, "wed to her social liberalism and her imperial hawkishness appeals to those in the moneyed Second and journalistic Fourth Estates who would embrace Republicanism but for its misogynistic, homophobic, racist, science-denying core." And so Sanders was tarred at the outset as a doomed crackpot candidate, followed then by article after article that fixated not on ideas and policies but on various idiosyncrasies, Sanders' age and hippie past, the ideology of democratic socialism, and for heaven's sake, his flyaway hair.

But if Senator Sanders is a crackpot, so are the majority of Americans. The ideas and policies he espouses have far more public support than the journalist habitués of Capitol Hill and Pennsylvania Avenue would have you believe.

Juan Cole of the blog Informed Comment pulled together some of the figures:

Some 63 percent of Americans agree that the current distribution of wealth is unfair. And in a Gallup poll done earlier this month, a majority, 52 percent, think that government taxation on the rich should be used to reduce the wealth gap… A majority of Americans oppose the Supreme Court Citizens United ruling, one of a number of such rulings that have increased the ability of the super-wealthy to influence politics. A good half of Americans support federally financed political campaigns so as to level the playing field… Some79 percent of Americans believe that education beyond high school is not affordable for everyone. And some 57 percent of people under 30 believe student debt is a problem for youth… According to a very recent Yale/Gallup poll, some 71 percent of Americans believe global warming is occurring, and 57 percent are sure that human activity (emitting greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide) is causing it…

There you have it: Far from being an outsider, Sanders is paddling his way along the mainstream of American public opinion. Look at the crowds that are gathering to hear him speak: More than 3,000 in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Sunday, standing room only in Ames, Davenport and Iowa City, Iowa. Reporters can't help but take notice now. "At campaign stops in early states and elsewhere, the firebrand from Vermont is drawing enthusiastic crowds that are several times larger than those that gather for [fellow presidential aspirant Martin] O'Malley," notes The Washington Post. And The New York Times: "The crowds at Mr. Sanders's Iowa events appeared to be different from the state's famously finicky tire-kickers. Many said they had already made up their mind to support Mr. Sanders. They applauded his calls for higher taxes on the rich to pay for 13 million public works jobs, for decisive action on climate change and for free tuition at public colleges."

Oh, how the mighty tremble when they hear such things! The murmuring crowd is their worst nightmare. So plutocratic Republican apologists like Peter Wehner, the corporate Democrats of Clinton, Inc., and killjoys like Congressman Delaney will double down against Bernie Sanders, just as they have against all those in politics before them who champion bottom-up democracy. If that means turning "left," so be it. For Democrats, it's the way home. They would do well to remember that apocryphal saying, usually attributed to Gandhi: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

OTHER

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Obama, Clintons join mourners at Beau Biden's funeral // AP – June 6, 2015

Mourning a loss that touched people on Delaware street corners and far beyond, President Barack Obama on Saturday remembered Beau Biden, the vice president's son, as a public servant who learned through early tragedy what mattered most and resolved to "live a life of meaning."

"He was a scion of an incredible family who brushed away the possibility of privilege for the harder, better reward of earning his own way," Obama said in a deeply personal eulogy. The president described Beau Biden as a son, a father, a soldier and a politician who didn't cut corners in his efforts to serve his country and others.

Obama reflected on the "cruel twist of fate" that killed Beau Biden's mother and infant sister in a car crash four decades ago and left 3-year-old Beau and younger brother Hunter hospitalized.

Out of that tragedy, Obama said, Beau as a "very young boy made a very grown-up decision: He would live a life of meaning. He would live a life for others."

Vice President Joe Biden, who did not speak at his son's funeral, embraced Obama at the funeral's start, after crossed himself solemnly as he entered the church to the strains of "Bring Him Home," from "Les Miserables."

Obama's eulogy reflected the strong bonds that Joe Biden and the president have developed after more than six years together in the White House, with the president declaring his family to be "honorary members" of the extended Biden clan.

Speaking directly to the vice president and his wife, Jill, Obama said, "Michelle and I thank God you are in our lives. Taking this ride with you is one of the great pleasures of our lives. Joe, you are my brother."

The overflow crowd of 1,000 at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church included Michelle Obama, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, an array of state and national political figures, as well as people from across Delaware and beyond who lined up hours in advance, drawn by their strong bonds to the Biden family.

"Joe Biden is Delaware, and his son is also Delaware to me," said Lisa Rial, 54, who grew up in Delaware but lives in Pennsylvania. "They're synonymous with Delaware." Outside, along the route to the church, residents held up signs reading "Rest in Peace, Beau."

Gen. Ray Odierno, the former top U.S. commander in Iraq, where Beau Biden once served, eulogized him as a dedicated soldier and selfless friend. Odierno suggested that the presidency could even have been within Beau Biden's reach as he spoke of his dedication to "a nation that I believed one day Beau Biden would someday lead."

The vice president's two surviving children, Hunter and Ashley, also spoke, and Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin, a favorite of Beau Biden, sang the meditation at the end of the service, "'Til Kingdom Come"

Joe Biden had just been elected senator in 1972 when his wife and baby daughter were killed in a car crash. He developed a reputation over the years for possessing a deep ability to comfort those in grief.

Often, Biden is called upon to eulogize fellow American leaders. Now, it was Obama's moment to speak words of comfort to the vice president and his family and friends.

The president described Beau Biden as very much his father's son.

"His dad taught him that everybody mattered. He even looked and sounded like Joe a although I think Joe would be the first to acknowledge that Beau was an upgrade a Joe 2.0," Obama said to chuckles from those in the audience. "But as much as Beau reminded folks of Joe, he was very much his own man. He was an original."

Beau Biden served two terms as attorney general before setting his sights on the governor's mansion. Many imagined his career would mirror that of his father, who represented Delaware for decades in the U.S. Senate before becoming vice president.

But in 2010, at age 41, Beau Biden suffered a stroke. He was diagnosed with brain cancer three years later. He returned to work after what doctors said was a successful operation to remove a small lesion, but his illness returned, and he died last Saturday, less than two weeks after being admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Can You Be a Latino Politician If You Don't Speak Fluent Spanish? // NBC News // Suzanne Gamboa – June 6, 2015

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The prospect that he might be a running mate to Hillary Clinton made Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro a target over his Spanish speaking skills, something that many Latino politicians are all too familiar with.

In a story published Thursday, Politico paraphrased an unnamed source saying Castro's ethnic background "may not be as effective in appealing to Hispanic voters as some believe."

"Tim Kaine speaks Spanish much better than Julian Castro does," the Clinton ally told Politico. Kaine is a Virginia Democrat who spent a year working in Honduras with Jesuit priests.

Castro is considered by many to be a potential running mate for Clinton, a 2016 presidential candidate.

Castro spokeswoman Betsaida Alcantara said she would not comment on the criticism saying, Castro is "laser-focused on ending homelessness, expanding responsible homeownership, tackling the affordable housing crisis and creating communities of opportunity across the nation, not on 2016."

But what appeared to be a flippant matter to the "Clinton ally" is one that can be agonizing and even embarrassing to some Latinos, something that opens them to questioning about their Latino identity.

Former U.S. Rep. Charles Gonzalez of Texas experienced painful ridicule and embarrassment over his Spanish speaking skills, often at the hands of other Latinos.

"There were people who tested me all the time when I was in office, just to see if I spoke Spanish," said Gonzalez, whose parents and grandparents spoke Spanish and who like Castro is from San Antonio.

"I'm not sure if you are supposed to be shamed into some sort of apology that you don't (speak Spanish) ... It's expected of us and I don't think we should have that expectation. As you move forward in the generations we are no different than those groups that come from this country."

The focus on Castro's Spanish skills and the comparison of them to the speaking ability of a white politician reflect a continuing struggle in the country to understand the diversity of the Latino community and what it takes to reach them politically, a struggle found even within the Democratic party that won the Latino vote by 2-1 margin in the last election.

Gonzalez acknowledged that speaking Spanish is an asset, something to strive for, but said it cannot be something that determines how a person votes. In the end, what matters is the substance of what is being said to the Latino community in English or Spanish, he said.

"Our community should be be more engaged and involved in the substance," Gonzalez said.

Castro was born in the United States and is the son of a U.S.-born mother fluent in English and Spanish.

Like a number of Latinos, his family can trace its presence in the U.S. for several generations. Some Latinos had famiies in the U.S. Southwest when it was still Mexico or family who were native Americans, or both. Castro's maternal grandmother is from Mexico.

Castro is a Stanford University graduate who served as mayor of San Antonio, the nation's seventh largest city with a large, long established Hispanic population. He understands and speaks some Spanish but is not fluent.

"Those kinds of comments from someone who is trying to get Hillary Clinton elected are not helpful, not productive and misinformed," said Larry Gonzalez, a Washington, D.C. lobbyist who is Mexican American, grew up in a bilingual household but expanded his Spanish in school (he is not related to Charlie Gonzalez.)

"While yes, Spanish is helpful with certain audiences in certain parts of the country, it is his story and his family's story and their plan to help the Latino community - their being Hillary as a potential president and him as a potential vice president - that matter," said Gonzalez, who speaks Spanish.

The criticism comes even as some are questioning the ability of Latinos to weave themselves into the fabric of the country and demands are being made for immigrants to be English proficient as a qualification for citizenship.

Republican Marco Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, can move easily between Spanish and English; Jeb Bush regularly uses his fluent Spanish.

Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican of Cuban descent who lived part of his life in Canada, admits his inability to speak Spanish, which also exposed him to questioning about whether he was truly Hispanic.

Castro has had to contend with other references to his heritage. The Washington Post last August apologized after

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it was swiftly criticized for a "We'll need more fajitas" subhead over a column item about Castro dining with Bill Clinton. And while Castro might not be fully fluent in Spanish, it hasn't stopped others from using Spanish when talking to him. While testifying at a House hearing in February, Castro found himself unable to quickly locate Rep. Steve Pearce of New Mexico, the committee member who was about to ask him questions. As he looked around the dais, Pearce said "Aquí! Right here" to get Castro's attention.

Recent waves of Latino immigrants, combined with the growth of Spanish-language media as well as technology have boosted the language. Progress has been made since recent decades when Jim Crow laws were applied to Spanish speakers, prohibiting them from speaking the language in school and segregating them into Mexican schools.

But as with previous generations of Latinos and other immigrant groups, English takes over as time passes. Pew Research Center recently reported that a record 33.2 million Hispanics speak English proficiently while the share who speak Spanish at home is the lowest it's been in 13 years.

Former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros said he does think it's important for a Latino candidate to speak Spanish. He said it's an act of respect to one's heritage and often instills a degree of pride in Latinos watching someone use their "heritage language."

Cisneros spoke only Spanish at home as young boy until his father, a World War II veteran who was bilingual and born in the U.S., decreed English would be spoken at home so they would not be at a disadvantage in school.

By high school, he said, he had forgotten most of his Spanish and took Latin. He revived his speaking when he was in Washington, D.C. as a graduate student and he taught citizenship classes to Latinos. His ability to speak Spanish grew when he was a city council member and did Spanish-language interviews and later in his role as president of Univision.

"All of us can improve. All of us educated in U.S. schools can work at it," Cisneros said. "It's something to work on and Julián will be just fine in that regard in due course."

Charlie Gonzalez joked that he has a single recommendation for people who are truly bilingual or not. Reaching into the language of Chicanos, he said: "End each sentence with con safos," which can loosely mean the insult can't come back to you.

GOP

BUSH

For Jeb Bush, the challenge remains making it about 'Jeb,' not 'Bush' **// WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – June 6, 2015**

A banner in the town square says "Happy 90th Barbara Bush." Postcards read "Kennebunkport: 2 presidents, 1 town." A local gift shop is selling unofficial Jeb Bush 2016 magnets.

In this coastal hamlet made famous by George H.W. Bush and his cigarette boat, it is hard to escape the Bush family — but Jeb Bush is trying hard to do so.

After festivities this weekend to celebrate his mother's 90th birthday, Bush will jet overseas for a foreign-policy tour and then launch his 2016 presidential campaign 1,500 miles to the south, in Miami.

The iconic family compound here, called Walker's Point, is a fitting metaphor for what has emerged as Jeb Bush's central political challenge: how far to distance himself from his family's political legacy.

The past month has brought into stark relief the fundamental dilemma posed by Bush's lineage, even as his front-runner status fades. He repeatedly stumbled to answer questions about the now-unpopular Iraq war started by his brother and has been visibly conflicted about whether to embrace or play down the policies and reputations of his closest relatives.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush's vacation home is seen under construction on Walker's Point in Kennebunkport, Maine, on May 24. (Joel Page/AP)
He conceded last weekend to CBS that distancing himself from his brother George W. Bush "is not something I'm comfortable doing."

But when asked last Tuesday by Fox News whether he'll use his brother on the campaign trail, he said: "Absolutely. I will use my brother, my sister, every relative, every person I can."

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On paper, Jeb Bush's record — two terms as governor of a large swing state with a conservative governing record — seems exactly what Republicans would want. But the party faithful are increasingly seeking younger, fresher candidates — they're "Bushed out," as Barbara Bush has told visitors here in recent years.

And so when Jeb Bush's anticipated presidential bid begins June 15, he will seek to set himself apart from his brother and father — an effort that will form one of the abiding themes of the impending campaign, according to aides and close friends.

He will make his announcement at a Miami community college under the moniker of his nickname, leaving the surname behind. There probably won't be "Bush" on the "Jeb 2016" campaign paraphernalia. On stage will be his Mexican-born wife, Columba, and their three grown children. Neither of Bush's parents will attend the announcement, and aides won't say whether any of his siblings will, either.

Later, his two sons — not his father or brother — are expected to play active and visible roles in the campaign.

Al Cardenas, a longtime Bush friend, said that polls have tightened because media attention is too focused on Bush's family history and not on his record as Florida governor. "It's about Bush, not Jeb," he said.

Former president George H.W. Bush, then-President George W. Bush and then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush walk from the 18th green after playing an early morning round at Cape Arundel Golf Club in Maine on July 7, 2001. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)
But once people learn more about his time as governor, Cardenas said, "then it will become more about Jeb, not Bush."

Bush has told voters repeatedly in recent months, "I have to show what's in my heart" regarding his family. But he also said recently that a presidential run "can't be about the past; it can't be about my mom and dad, or my brother, who I love. It has to be about the ideas I believe in to move our country forward."

Here in Kennebunkport, the prospect of another Bush in the White House intrigues local residents, many of whom say they don't know George and Barbara's second-oldest son that well.

Jeb Bush usually visits Maine once a year to see his parents, play early-morning rounds of golf and visit local haunts such as the HB Provisions general store. He has told voters that he rarely takes lengthy vacations and — unlike his brother's Crawford, Tex., ranch — he has no vacation estate at the moment. He and his family usually spend their Christmas vacation on Gasparilla Island in southwest Florida, sometimes joined by his parents.

"I think Jeb's the only one I really don't know," said John Downing, who served as the local York County, Maine, chairman for the George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush presidential campaigns. "I've not seen him around."

"From everything I can gather, he's been nothing but a good governor of the state of Florida, certainly a good father and husband," Downing said about Jeb Bush. "I think those things are very positive about him."

Downing, who is also a real estate agent, said local businesses are pondering how a third Bush presidency might provide another jolt of economic activity.

"We'll take anything that helps the home values go up," he said.

Despite not coming often, Bush appears to feel the pull of the family's coastal headquarters. After this weekend, Bush is expected to return July 9 for a two-day "retreat" with fundraising "co-chairs" who help him secure at least $27,000 in donations, according to people who have received invitations. The hope is to raise as much as $5 million for his campaign by the end of July, said one Bush supporter, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the plans. By then, a new home being built for him at the family compound will probably be ready for guests.

On Thursday at Walker's Point, construction workers could be seen climbing ladders around the new home being built for Jeb's use. A large, yellow truck was seen backing away from the site, while a bulldozer was parked behind it.

The $1.4 million, two-story cottage — in most places it would be called a large house — sits on a 1.3-acre plot just south of several much smaller cottages also used by Bush family members. Aides said that the new home will be occupied by other relatives and guests when Jeb isn't in town.

To the south of the new home is a ranch-style structure housing George H.W. Bush's office. On the southernmost point sits the iconic family home, where the 41st president and former first lady live with unobstructed views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Above it all flies an American flag, with the flags of Maine and Texas billowing beneath. If the Lone Star state's

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colors are flying, George and Barbara are in town. They're usually here every May to October, family spokesman Jim McGrath said.

Elizabeth Spahr, a member of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, was at a nearby overlook weeding and pruning a planter next to a memorial built by locals to honor George H.W. Bush.

Spahr said she has met several of the family members and is most fond of Laura Bush. Barbara Bush is seen most mornings walking her dogs on a nearby beach.

Looking over at the compound, she said: "I guess they're building a new home for Jeb. It's awfully big."

When asked about Jeb Bush's presidential ambitions, she turned back to her weeding. "I don't have an opinion on that," she said.

A foreign policy checkmark for Jeb Bush // AP // Thomas Beaumont – June 6, 2015

Jeb Bush heads to Europe next week to put a checkmark in a final box before making his 2016 Republican presidential campaign official: an overseas visit to catch up with a few of America's friends.

All of his hosts, Germany, Poland and Estonia are stalwart U.S. allies, and they're calmer destinations than the cauldron of the Middle East. But the last name Bush still stirs anger in parts of Europe — a legacy of former President George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq.

For this Bush, the trick with his first trip overseas as a White House hopeful is to avoid spending too much time making the same case to European leaders he's had to make at home to American voters — that he's not his brother.

"If he tries to make this trip about see-how-I'm-not-like-George W. Bush, if that's the story line of the trip, it will not have been a success," said Peter Feaver, former head of strategic operations at the National Security Agency and now a professor at Duke University.

The trip comes at a key time for Bush. He will return a day before kicking off his campaign with an event in Miami, fresh from a journey he hopes will show he's ready to step onto the world stage.

"A Republican doing a listening tour of American allies, that makes sense," said William Inboden, who served as senior director for strategic planning with the National Security Council under President George W. Bush. "But you're also wanting to demonstrate the ability to be proficient in personal diplomacy."

Bush's six-day trip begins with a speech in Berlin on Tuesday to the economic council of the Christian Democratic Union, the conservative party led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. A mix of public and private events there and in Poland and Estonia follow.

The early days of the Republican campaign suggest much of the party's presidential primary debate will focus on foreign policy, given the ongoing unrest in Iraq, civil war in Syria and a preliminary agreement — deeply unpopular among Republicans — between Iran and the U.S. and five allies aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear program.

There's also the prospect that next year the party's nominee will face Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was secretary of state in President Barack Obama's first term.

Bush's early discussions about foreign policy have often drifted into his brother's decision to invade Iraq in 2003, which some critics cite as the cause of regional unrest that helped lead to the rise of the Islamic State.

Jeb Bush's effort to avoid publicly criticizing his brother led him into a twisted series of answers about whether he would have made the same invasion decision, making for his roughest political week since he expressed interest last December in running for the White House.

While he still plans to talk about the threat posed by the Islamic State during his trip, he'll do so in a place where the discussion can be about how the extremist group is one of several shared threats faced by America and its Western allies.

Aides said Bush aims to underscore the early themes of his approach to global affairs during his visit, namely that the U.S. ought to reinforce its relationships with its allies and demonstrate solidarity with the democratic success stories in Eastern Europe.

Expect a lot of talk about Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin.

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"We need to restore the relationships with Europe and encourage them to be part of their own national defense, as we see Russia engaged in parts of the world they shouldn't be," Bush said in Michigan last week.

It's a message that will resonate most loudly in Poland and Estonia, two nations paying particularly close attention to Putin's actions in Ukraine.

"At a time like this, when we have a rather unpleasant and difficult situation with Russia, Poles are becoming more pro-American than they would have been otherwise," said Marcin Zaborowski, the head of the Polish Institute of International Affairs. "And having a presumed presidential candidate to come and talk to the Poles about security, defense and the relationship with the United States will be more than welcome."

RUBIO

Rubio's real estate dealings often a drag on his finances // AP // Nicholas Riccardi – June 6, 2015

During Marco Rubio's first year in the Florida Legislature in 2000, the 29-year-old lawmaker filled out the required forms detailing his personal finances. On the line listing his net worth, Rubio wrote: "0."

Since then, he has risen to lead the state House as speaker, won election to the U.S. Senate and earned at least $4.5 million at a series of six-figure jobs and by writing a best-selling memoir. Yet his net worth has improved only modestly.

Like many Americans in the days since the recession, Rubio and his family — he has four children — have struggled in the housing market.

Factor in some questionable moves with money and a hefty load of student loans, and it's clear that the Republican presidential candidate's real estate dealings often have been a drag on his finances despite an income most would relish.

"He's like any normal American with four kids that has a mortgage," said Bernie Navarro, a past president of the Miami-based Latin Builders Association, who has advised Rubio on his real estate transactions. "He goes through what any normal family goes through, living with a salary, and he has to make adjustments."

Rubio made two in the past few weeks:

—he sold a home in Tallahassee, Florida, that he owned with a former colleague. That freed Rubio from a monthly payment on an interest-only loan and the cost of upkeep. But he lost money on the deal.

—he consolidated the debt on his primary residence in West Miami, Florida. The original mortgage required only payments of interest on the principal in its first decade. Rubio has only paid off about 4 percent of overall principal since buying the house.

At end of last year, Rubio was worth no more than $355,000, according to an analysis of his personal financial disclosures records filed with the Senate. That does not include any equity he may have in his West Miami home or proceeds expected from his second book, published in December.

Rubio, 44, has written and spoken of being torn between a drive for public service and the need to support his family. At times, he has made decisions that put politics ahead of his personal comfort or financial security.

He and his wife, Jeanette, moved in with his mother-in-law to make ends meet at the start of his career. Late last year, he liquidated a retirement account, saying he might need the cash for everything from a new refrigerator to college for his eldest daughter.

At other points, Rubio's political connections have helped financially.

One of Rubio's biggest political backers, Miami billionaire Norman Braman, hired Rubio as his lawyer after Rubio left the Florida Legislature in 2008, and Braman funded a teaching position at Florida International University that Rubio still holds.

Braman's foundation also pays Rubio's wife to advise it on charitable giving.

Rubio isn't shy about his relative lack of wealth, which is a far cry from the financial standing of his fellow Floridian and rival for the Republican nomination, former Gov. Jeb Bush.

Rubio told conservative activists in Nevada last week that "the latest one I've heard now from some is I'm not rich enough to be president."

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In an interview, Rubio said, "The cost of living goes up, and you can just imagine how people who make a quarter of what I do face today."

Rubio's career began in politics, and he rarely has not held office or worked for those who do.

After graduating from the University of Miami's law school in 1996, the then-25-year-old worked as the South Florida coordinator for Bob Dole's presidential campaign. Dole lost soundly to President Bill Clinton, but Rubio impressed Florida GOP powerbrokers; one, Al Cardenas, offered him a job.

Rubio had planned to join a local prosecutor's office after the election, but the job paid less than $30,000. Cardenas was offering $57,000.

Rubio wrote in "An American Son," his 2012 memoir: "I wanted to be a prosecutor. I wanted to gain courtroom experience. I relished the excitement of trying cases and had little interest in the land use and zoning law that Al practiced. But I had student loans to repay. I wanted to get married. And I wanted to help support my family so my father could at last retire."

Despite the financial incentive, the job at Cardenas' firm couldn't hold Rubio's interest. Less than two years later, he was running for office, winning a seat on the West Miami city commission and landing a job at another law firm. Roughly a year after that, he moved up to the Florida House, but his new firm deducted Rubio's $27,000-a-year lawmaker's salary from his paycheck.

In his book, Rubio said he was unsure he could keep his full-time job while spending months at the state Capitol. In 2000, he listed the value of his household furnishings at $5,000 on state records but reported more than $160,000 in student loan debt plus $30,000 in "assorted credit + retail debt."

To save $1,500 a month in rent, Rubio and his wife moved in with her mother. He was climbing the GOP ranks, but, "I imagined telling my children someday that I had been the majority whip of the Florida House but ... had to leave politics to make a living," he wrote in his book.

A headhunter helped Rubio land a new job, this one with a $93,000 salary at a law firm that wouldn't hold his time in Tallahassee against him. It was enough for the Rubios, who had their first child in 2000, to buy a 1,200-square-foot three-bedroom house in the working-class West Miami neighborhood where Rubio grew up.

The Rubios would sell that house near the peak of the Florida real estate bubble for more than twice what they paid for it. The buyer was the mother of a neighbor — a chiropractor who unsuccessfully lobbied Rubio to extend a state insurance provision and was later prosecuted for violating campaign finance laws unrelated to Rubio.

A few years later, in 2003, Rubio secured the votes needed to become state House speaker. Not long after that, he moved up to a new, politically connected law firm and a much bigger salary: $300,000 a year. He was moving homes, too.

In March 2005, Rubio and a fellow state lawmaker, David Rivera, went in together on a house in Tallahassee to live in while in the state capital, making no down payment and taking out a $135,000 mortgage that initially only required interest payments. Meanwhile, the Rubios upgraded to a newly built four-bedroom 2,600-square-foot home with a pool in West Miami.

Real estate records show the Rubios made a 10 percent down payment to buy that $550,000 house. He says he paid cash for upgrades to the home before construction finished.

A little more than a month after the Rubios closed on the house in December 2005, a bank owned by one of his political supporters appraised the house at $735,000 and gave Rubio a $135,000 home equity loan. Rubio has said the add-ons to the house, plus Florida's heated real estate market, justified the appraisal.

It was around this time that other issues in Rubio's finances started to surface.

He shut down two political groups — one run out of his house — that had come under scrutiny for tens of thousands of dollars in poorly explained expenses. In his book, Rubio acknowledged the committees were "an accounting mess."

Rubio also gained access to a state Republican Party charge card in 2005, which he says he inadvertently used at times to pay for personal items.

Records from 2007 and 2008 show Rubio charged about $160,000 to the card, including $1,000 for repairs to the family minivan after it was dented by a valet at a political event, a $134 bill at a hair salon and numerous meals and airline flights.

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Rubio has said most of the spending was the legitimate expense of building party infrastructure, but he paid $16,000 of the charges personally.

They became a campaign issue when Rubio ran for the U.S. Senate in 2010, but not one that kept him from winning handily.

Once in Washington and making a $174,000 salary as a senator, Rubio still felt the bite of his old real estate transactions.

The bank moved in 2010 to foreclose the house in Tallahassee after Rubio and Rivera fell behind on the payments. Rivera paid $9,200 to bring the house out of foreclosure, and the pair sold the house for $117,000 last week — $18,000 less than the original purchase price.

(Federal prosecutors have said Rivera, who served one term in Congress, is being investigated by a grand jury in a campaign finance case unrelated to Rubio.)

The collapse of the housing market in Florida haunts Rubio, too.

The home next to his in West Miami was foreclosed, which he says is part of the reason why the county has assessed the value of his current house at $400,000 — well below the price Rubio sought when he put it on the market in 2013. The asking price was $675,000, but it didn't sell.

"We wanted to see if we could get the right price," Rubio said. "We had offers, but I'm not going to give it away."

He decided to refinance his initial mortgage and the separate home equity loan. On May 26, Professional Bank in Coral Gables, Florida, wrote Rubio a $604,000 mortgage at 4.5 percent interest, according to records and Rubio's campaign.

Navarro, the Rubio backer who owns a real estate firm and helped him with the refinance, said that lowers Rubio's monthly payment by about $1,000 a month.

"It was a good financial move for him," Navarro said.

Marco Rubio Is Now Channeling JFK — Explicitly // The National Journal // Shane Goldmacher – June 6, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio has slipped a symbolically significant new passage into his stump speech, linking his candidacy to that of another youthful and charismatic 40-something politician: John F. Kennedy.

From the start, Rubio, 44, has wrapped his campaign in the rhetoric of youth. "Yesterday is over," he said the day of his launch in Miami. Campaigning near Iowa State on Saturday, Rubio railed against "outdated leaders" and declared, "If we keep promoting the same people we'll be left behind by the future."

But it was a new line he began road testing in Iowa that stood out. Rubio presented the 2016 campaign as a generational pivot point, likening his vision for a "New American Century" — the tagline of his campaign — to Kennedy's 1960 challenge to the nation to embrace a "New Frontier."

"This election isn't about what laws we're going to pass. It's about what kind of country we're going to be," Rubio said to a packed Holiday Inn conference room. "And we've made that choice before. Asked six decades ago, this nation and that generation chose to embrace a New Frontier. In fact, they took up the challenge of a then young president who said, 'Ask not what your country can do, ask what you can do for your country.'"

"And here's the hard truth," Rubio continued. "For far too long, leaders in both parties have been campaigning on the promise of what your government can do for you. But my campaign is built on the idea of what together we can do for America. Because America doesn't owe us anything. But every single one of us, especially me, has a debt to this country we will never repay."

The line broke through.

"He's got it like Kennedy got it!" said an unprompted Ed Enright, a 70-year-old Republican who was clutching a copy of Rubio's book and wearing a "Marco Rubio for president" t-shirt.

Asked if he had caught the reference to Kennedy's New Frontier, Enright smiled. "Maybe he's sending us a little message there," he said. "Fresh ideas, fresh youth."

Jack Whitver, Rubio's Iowa campaign chairman, said the Kennedy comparison was apt. "He is a person who can

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reignite the Republican Party and unite it," Whitver said. "Like JFK, he can inspire the country."

If elected, Rubio would be the youngest president since Kennedy, who took office at 43. Rubio turned 44 a little over a week ago.

But, as he said to laughs on Saturday, "I feel 45."

Marco Rubio is what Republicans hope the future looks like // VOX // Dara Lind – June 6, 2015

Florida Senator Marco Rubio is a presidential candidate Republicans can feel good about. He's young and relatively handsome; he has a compelling biography (his parents emigrated from Cuba to make a better life in America, with his father working as a hotel bartender and his mother working as a cashier and housekeeper) that he's spun into an optimistic stump speech; and he is, by most accounts, an extremely compelling public speaker.

He's also firmly in line with the Republican establishment on the issues — which sets him apart from some of the other candidates running for the 2016 nomination. He's best known for his break with the GOP base to support comprehensive immigration reform in 2013, but he's reversed his position and is vocally opposed to it now (unlike, say, Jeb Bush). He's hawkish on foreign policy and reliably conservative on social issues. And he's pushed some innovative reforms, notably on tax and education policy, but is clearly trying to appease traditional Republican tax-cutters.

In other words, Rubio is a fresh face who doesn't pose much of an ideological challenge to his party. From the standpoint of the Republican establishment, it would be great if the future of their party were fresh and forward-thinking while continuing to advocate its current stands on the issues.

But is 2016 too soon for the future? In Washington, Rubio's still seen as a little young and callow. It doesn't help that he's spent the past two years trying to distance himself from his only major legislative accomplishment, the comprehensive immigration reform bill passed by the Senate in 2013.

Rubio shares a support base with his fellow Floridian and former mentor Jeb Bush — the people who'd be most excited about Rubio in any other year are Bush backers in 2016. And Rubio's appeal to the GOP base beyond Florida is untested. So many political insiders assume he's running for the VP spot on the ticket.

But Rubio's likely to stay in the race for a while. Thanks to his foreign policy hawkishness, he's likely to get support from Republican megadonor Sheldon Adelson — which could be enough to keep him in the race for a certain amount of time. And he's done well in polls since announcing the start of his campaign in April. It's possible that he's been underestimated by observers who've called him "the perfect second choice for GOP voters."

Rubio seeks to rebut skeptics on the experience factor // The Hill // Rebecca Shabad – June 6, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on Saturday took aim at those skeptical of his qualifications to lead the White House.

At the inaugural “Roast and Ride” hosted by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) in Boone, Iowa, the GOP presidential candidate defended his experience and his ideas.

“I’ve had some people say i’m not old enough or I haven’t been in government long enough, and I heard that, too, when I was speaker of the Florida House, but let me tell you what we did,” Rubio said.

As speaker, Rubio said the Florida legislature balanced the third largest state budget without raising taxes and increased school standards without Common Core.
“I’m 44 years old, but I feel 45. And I’ve been in government long enough to know that what we’re doing now doesn’t work anymore,” he said.

The latest criticism Rubio received, he said, is that he’s “not rich enough.” He then used the statement to jab at Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and the Clinton foundation.

“It’s true I don’t make $11 million a year giving speeches to special interests. And I don’t have a family foundation that’s raised $2 billion, a lot of it from foreign interests,” he said. “But my wife and I work to ensure that we have enough money to send our kids to have a Christian education at a private school and we have a mortgage we pay every month.”

“We have all of these leaders, especially on the left, that are stuck in the past,” he said.

Rubio’s campaign theme focuses on a “New American Century” because he says the economy and world have changed too much to keep using ideas from the 20th century.

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PAUL

Paul: Laws on sexuality could be more 'neutral,' but all should be protected // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 6, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul said Saturday that he thinks the issue of sexuality is one that should be left behind closed doors.

"And I think if we did a little more of that then maybe the law doesn't have to engage in stuff that's really personal, and the law could be more neutral, but I think the law ought to be fair to people and ought to provide equal protection for everybody," he said.

Paul was asked about Bruce Jenner coming out as a woman named Caitlyn. Social conservatives in the Republican Party have felt isolated by the nation's acceptance of Jenner, a change they see as immoral. Paul said he hasn't given Jenner's transition much thought but said that sexuality should remain private.

"We've exposed so much of our lives that were at one time private, and if it were private, than maybe the law wouldn't have to take a position on it, you know what I mean?" Paul said in an interview here.

Paul said that if he goes to a cocktail party, "most of us don't talk about our personal sexuality, our sex lives, why does it have to be part of public discourse?"

Rand Paul on Transgender Rights: "Governm ent Shouldn't Ask About Your Personal Life" // David Weigel – June 6, 2015

A news week that started with Caitlyn Jenner's debut in Vanity Fair ended with another transgender rights milestone. On Thursday, the United States Air Force announced that it would no longer discharge recruits with gender dysphoria, and that "identification as transgender, absent a record of poor duty performance, misconduct, or a medically disqualifying condition, is not a basis for involuntary separation."

Republican candidates for president did not exactly sprint for the microphones. The two veterans in the contest, South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham and former Texas Governor Rick Perry, served in the Air Force Reserve and Air Force, respectively. Neither commented on the new ruling; neither has said much, generally, on the frontiers of LGBT policy.

On Friday, I asked Kentucky Senator Rand Paul if, as president, he'd continue the Obama administration's approach to transgender rights. Since December, the Department of Justice has interpreted Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to include gender identity.

"I don't know why we have to talk about our sex life."

On the question of the Justice Department's move, Paul didn't exactly endorse the policy but, interestingly, he didn't exactly repudiate it either. He speculated that government could bar discrimination, but wondered about the legal implications.

"I think that government should not ask about your personal life," said Paul. "I would make that a rule – government shouldn't ask about your personal life when you apply to anything. It would be wrong for the government to discriminate based on anything like that. But then, I don't know what that exactly means. You get into [questions like] can you sue over it? The government ought to be as neutral as possible."

Asked about the Air Force's new transgender rule, Paul continued speculating about a way the law could be fair without getting into the thorniness of identity.

"The thing that's weird about this was that there was a time when it was nobody's business," he said.

New Hampshire State Senator Andy Sanborn, a supporter of Paul who sat in for the interview, suggested that this was the defunct "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"We had rules, and these rules went back to the beginning and could be applied in a non-discriminating way," said Paul. "It's behavior. It's fraternizing. No matter what it is, you're not supposed to do it in the barracks, because that disrupts discipline. So it wouldn't have to be that specific. You'd still have rules about it."

Paul had not quite endorsed either of the new non-discrimination policies; as he finished, he suggested that the subject might be a little overheated.

"I don't know why we all have to talk about our sex life," he said. "I'm just not interested in other peoples' – I never go to anybody's house and everybody wants to talk about it. Why do we have to talk about it?"

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Paul: 'We have come to take our liberty back' // The Union Leader // Dan Tuohy – June 6, 2015

Rand Paul shouted to supporters as press huddled around and asked him yet again about the Patriot Act.

"Hey, anybody here think it's a good idea for the government to have all of your phone records?"

"No!" came the anticipated response.

Paul, the Republican presidential hopeful and Kentucky senator, boasted of his work to end the National Security Agency's "illegal spying program," even as he says the USA Freedom Act, which replaces expired Patriot Act provisions, still threatens constitutional rights.

Paul acknowledged it was a partial victory during remarks at his campaign office opening Friday in Manchester.

Some of his colleagues in the U.S. Senate called Paul's filibuster of the Patriot Act a political stunt because he has used the issue to raise donations. Other critics called Paul an isolationist, a tag he has rejected in the past.

Paul, in an interview with the Union Leader on Friday, said national defense is the federal government's most important function.

"I believe in a robust national defense," Paul said. "I believe in a national defense that is strong enough to deter and repel all attacks. I'm a Reagan Republican. And I don't think any of that speaks to any, or in anyway resembles any of those critiques. I think there are a lot of candidates, some of them grasping for relevancy, and so they will hurl ad hominem and names at people. But the bottom line is I don't think there's anything more important that we do than national defense and it doesn't just stop at the water's edge. There are international and there are American interests around the world that have to be defended."

The bulk collection of phone records was illegal and unconstitutional, and even the government says it is not getting any useful information from those surveillance provisions, according to Paul.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who announced Monday he is running for the Republican nomination for President, is one of Paul's critics. In an interview with the New Hampshire Union Leader on Tuesday, Graham called Paul "ill-prepared" for the White House.

Paul dismissed criticism from political rivals and the establishment, saying most Americans agree with him on this issue.

"I'm not so sure I like all of the replacement (Freedom Act) where the phone companies may well be doing some of the same thing," Paul said in the interview. "My understanding is the NSA works at the phone companies, snatches up all the data and sends it to Utah. I'm worried that they'll still be doing the same thing, they just won't be pressing the 'send' button."

Paul said he supports the NSA looking into information for those suspected of terrorist acts, with appropriate, individualized warrants.

Paul spoke to a packed office in Manchester, and greeted an overflow crowd outside his office at 50 Bridge St. His schedule included stops Saturday at Joe's Diner in Amherst, MaryAnn's Diner in Derry, "Politics & Pie" at the Snow Shoe Club in Concord, and a town hall event at Turbocam in Barrington.

In his remarks in Manchester, Paul said he is the Republican best positioned to beat Democratic candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in battleground states.

Following the event, he criticized Clinton for answering few press questions.

"If she ever pops her head up and takes questions, we should ask Hillary Clinton: Knowing what you know now, was it a good idea to topple Gaddafi and get involved in Libya. I think all of the objective evidence shows that things are more chaotic, worse, and that there's more of ISIS influence in Libya, and we are more threatened by having toppled the government there."

Rand Paul demands White House release trade deal text immediately // The Hill // Rebecca Shabad – June 6, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Saturday it "boggles the mind" that the White House has not yet released the text of trade deal it's pushing, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"It kind of boggles the mind," Paul said in an interview with Breitbart News. "Who's in charge of the administration

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that decides to keep a trade treaty secret? To keep it classified makes no sense at all."

Paul said the administration should immediately release the text of the trade deal so members of the Senate can decide how to vote later on.

The Senate recently voted to fast-track the trade deal, which would allow an up-or-down vote on it. House GOP leaders could hold the fast-track vote as early as next week despite opposition from groups in both parties.

"To me, it's kind of you put the cart before the horse to give the permission to do something you haven't seen," Paul said. "They claim you'll get to see it, again but you'll only get an up-or-down vote with no amendments. Also, they get rid of some of the rules on — I guess it's not, you can't filibuster it either. It passes with a simple majority."

Paul explained he has proposed legislation that would require the Senate to wait one day before a vote is held for every 20 pages of legislation.

"So 800-page legislation [like Obamatrade] would wait 40 days. You'd wait 40 days so we'd have adequate time to read it. Yeah, I'm a believer that we should read legislation before we vote on it."

Last month, Secretary of State John Kerry said the final text of the trade deal would be made public at a minimum of 60 days before President Obama would sign it.

Ron Paul: 'I don't want to distract' from Rand **// The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 6, 2015**

Former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) said Saturday he did not want to steal attention from his son's 2016 GOP presidential campaign.
"There's no plans for it," Ron Paul told CNN host Michael Smerconish when asked whether he would stump for Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on the campaign trail.
"I went to his announcement and supported him there," he said. "But it's his show right now. And I don't want to distract from what he's doing. So it's one of those things that I think will work its way out."
Rand Paul launched his White House bid April 7 in Louisville, Ky.
Ron Paul praised his son's performance Saturday amid one of the most crowded GOP presidential fields in recent memory.
"He's the only one that, from my viewpoint, is talking any commonsense," he said.
"I think he is able to talk more to the American people than the other candidates because I think he has a set of principles, which means that he'd much rather see smaller government and not make excuses for expanding the surveillance state and not expanding our military presence around the world."
Ron Paul also praised his son's repeated battles to reform the National Security Agency (NSA) and its intelligence-gathering methods.
"When he did the NSA thing, people said, you know, 'he's done – he's finished,' " he said. "And Republicans and Democrats all in the Senate – everybody in Washington – jumped on him."
"Yet when you did a poll of the national people, they were with him and not with McConnell," Ron Paul added, citing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and his opposition to NSA reforms.
The Senate approved the USA Freedom Act on Tuesday.

It ended the NSA's controversial warrantless bulk collection of individual phone records while reauthorizing less divisive counterterrorism measures.
Ron Paul also expressed concern with how the media would handle 2016's large Republican presidential field for televised debates.
"I'd take it out of the hands of the media because that becomes very biased," he said, noting his own problems appearing on a Fox News debate in New Hampshire while on the 2012 campaign trail.
"So, no, I don't think they should have as much clout," Ron Paul added.
"I think it was better when the League of Women Voters or some other independent group, a truly independent group, would schedule the debates, rather than the media outlets, because I think they're very, very slanted."
Ron Paul retired in January 2013. He sought the White House twice while in office, in 2008 and again in 2012.

WALKER

Scott Walker Riding With Joni Ernst in Iowa as Rivals Give Chase ***// NYT // Trip Gabriel – June 6, 2015***

When Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin throws his leg across his beloved Harley-Davidson Road King for a celebration of motorcycles and Iowa pork on Saturday, the political symbolism will be as thick as the smoke from the roasting pits.

Mr. Walker, who first broke from the pack of other Republican presidential hopefuls thanks to a speech in Iowa, will be alone among seven declared and likely candidates on a chopper alongside Senator Joni Ernst, a fellow biker

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and one of Iowa's most popular Republicans.

The other 2016 candidates will be left in the dust for the initial 28-mile ride of "Joni's Roast & Ride," a daylong political fund-raiser.

Mr. Walker, whose early surge in national polls has receded, still enjoys a decisive lead in Iowa, thanks to an unflashy style that resonates with Iowans' Midwestern sensibilities and to an unusual appeal across a wide ideological swath of Republicans.

But that head-of-the-pack status has come with high expectations and a target on his back.

Two challenges loom on the near horizon for Mr. Walker, who has said the path to the presidency "comes through the Midwest." They are the first Republican debate, in Ohio on Aug. 6, in which he could be the target of the nine other candidates on stage, and a decision on whether to compete in Iowa's straw poll in Boone two days later.

Several top-tier candidates, including former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, have said they will skip the straw poll, a gathering of thousands of Iowa Republican activists that does not award any delegates for the party's nomination. It is costly for campaigns to organize and bus in supporters, and the poll's reputation as a predictor of victory has tumbled in recent years.

The decisions of others gives Mr. Walker cover if he, too, takes a pass. His Iowa advisers declined to say if he would participate in the straw poll, noting he has yet to declare his candidacy. (An announcement is expected late this month or early July.)

If Mr. Walker skips the event, Republican strategists in Iowa said, he risks allowing another candidate to steal some of his momentum. Party insiders unaffiliated with other candidates said he was in a lose-lose situation.

"If you don't participate, it's going to be viewed as a sign of weakness by some, and you're going to turn off some of the party establishment and key activists," said Craig Robinson, who ran the straw poll for the state Republican Party in 2007. "And if you do it, he has no choice but to win and win convincingly." He could end up spending time and money to compete against long shot candidates like Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon.

Mr. Walker's favorability rating among likely Republican caucusgoers in Iowa was higher than any other candidate, 67 percent, in a poll conducted at the end of May for The Des Moines Register and Bloomberg Politics (with a five-point sampling error). He enjoyed a solid seven-point lead, an opening he first created with a passionate speech to conservatives in Des Moines in January.

"I had never heard him before; I was blown away," said Sam Clovis, a prominent Iowa conservative who is state chairman for former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, who entered the race Thursday.

At a reception after a recent fund-raising dinner for the state Republican Party, Mr. Walker, in an apron, served Wisconsin cheese to a long procession of admirers, many of whom signed pledge cards to support him.

His support in Iowa, as elsewhere, traces to his reputation for winning conservative fights against state employee unions in 2011 and Democrats who mounted a recall effort against him in 2012.

"There were an awful lot of folks riveted to that whole recall thing," said Eric Woolson, a senior adviser to Mr. Walker in Iowa. "They watched it every night on Fox or wherever else. It was high political drama."

So far, Mr. Walker has had an unusual ability to draw support from both the social conservatives and the business-oriented wing of the party.

The social conservatives embrace his signing of bills as governor to defund Planned Parenthood, and his strong expression that prayer is central to his life. Business conservatives admire that he cut taxes and dealt crippling blows to unions.

But his ability to span the wings of the party — to win the argument that he is the most conservative candidate capable of winning the general election — could become a weakness if enough voters decide they would rather go with a purer expression of their ideal candidate.

He is competing for social conservatives against Mr. Huckabee, who won the caucuses in 2008, as well as Mr. Carson, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and others.

Among business-focused candidates he must fight for supporters with Mr. Bush, who is expected to announce his candidacy this month, and Mr. Rubio

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"Each of those lanes within the caucus electorate are crowded with other credible options," said Matt Strawn, a former chairman of the Iowa Republican Party. "So the challenge going forward is how well Governor Walker can balance support from two distinct factions that rarely align behind the same candidate."

Mr. Walker may lead the pack on two wheels on Saturday, but his competitors are not ready to stay behind.

Scott Walker's Effort to Weaken College Tenure // NYT // The Editorial Board – June 6, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker's proposal for weakening tenure at Wisconsin's highly respected state university system and undermining the faculty's role in campus governance will appeal to conservative voters whose support he needs to win the Republican presidential nomination.

But if this proposal becomes law, it will damage the university, perhaps irreparably. It will make it harder to recruit top-tier faculty members, who have the pick of other institutions that respect academic independence and where they do not have to fear dismissal for taking controversial views or for doing research that might be frowned upon by politicians.

It has become fashionable to portray academia as a haven for people who enjoy job security while others are subject to layoffs and downsizing. But most college instructors are not protected by tenure. According to federal data, only 20.35 percent of instructional faculty at American colleges are full-time, tenure-track workers (down from 45 percent in 1975). Colleges rely heavily on miserably paid part-timers who flee the campus when class is finished so they can get to the next job.

Tenure protections were devised in the mid-20th century to protect academics from political reprisals. Current Wisconsin state law respects this tradition, allowing tenured faculty to be fired for just cause or in financial emergencies.

A committee of state lawmakers last week approved a new proposal that would remove tenure from state law, leaving the matter to the university system's 18-member Board of Regents, 16 of whom are appointed by the governor with the confirmation of the State Senate. Under the proposal, the board would be able set new, vaguer standards for firing tenured faculty: "when such an action is deemed necessary due to a budget or program decision requiring program discontinuance, curtailment, modification or redirection." Another provision would weaken the faculty's voice in policy and personnel decisions.

Faculty members have ample reason to suspect Mr. Walker's motives. Earlier this year, he issued a budget containing devastating spending cuts that also sought to amend the university's mission statement to make it sound more like a trade school than a prominent research institution. He backed away from the new language after the state erupted in protest.

The Legislature, which will take up the new proposals later this month, can still reject them. Rubber-stamping them would set the state university on a course that Wisconsinites could regret for decades to come.

Iowa's 'Roast and Ride': 5 takeaways // Politico // Katie Glueck – June 6, 2016

Seven presidential prospects showed up but it was Harley-riding Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker who stood out.

BOONE, Iowa — The Iowa caucuses are a long eight months away, but a gaggle of presidential hopefuls descended on a field here Saturday anyway, eager to work the crowd, hone their organizing skills and build out their volunteer lists. For the candidates who made it to Sen. Joni Ernst's first annual "Roast and Ride" event — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Hewlett-Packard head Carly Fiorina, neurosurgeon Ben Carson, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee — it was a chance to pay their respects to Ernst, the state's freshman senator and a newly influential figure in state politics.

Yet it was also an opportunity to connect with hundreds of Iowans and the state's political establishment in an informal, festival-like setting, one without the pressures and expectations of the next big event on the state political calendar — the Iowa Straw Poll in August.

Here are POLITICO's five takeaways from the event:

This was Scott Walker's day

The "Roast and Ride" event was tailor-made for Walker, the neighboring Wisconsin governor who's already leading the field in Iowa polls. He stood out Saturday by being the only candidate to suit up and ride with Ernst on the optional 38-mile motorcycle journey from Des Moines to Boone — he's a motorcycle owner himself. And as an aficionado of the iconic Wisconsin manufacturer Harley-Davidson, Walker naturally showed up to the ride's kick-off in a leather jacket and boots bearing the brand's name.

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The governor basked in media attention for the first half of the day as he fielded questions about his frontrunner status, leading the influential Drudge Report website to feature a photo of Walker with the banner headline: “Leader of the Pack.”

At the pig roast portion of the event, Walker’s PAC’s booth was consistently busy, offering more goodies and swag — including beer coozies that read “Go big. Go bold” and candy — than any of the other campaigns. Walker’s remarks didn’t deviate much from his standard stump speech, but they were well-received. It was a day that offered a good, high-profile opportunity for down-home retail politicking, and Walker seized it.

There’s room for Rubio in Iowa

The Florida senator is still introducing himself to the state after skipping several other cattle calls here. But the reception he received Saturday suggests that Iowans are interested in learning more, and they like what they hear so far. When he arrived, Rubio was mobbed by attendees who asked for meetings, talked policy and clamored for pictures. One voter asked Rubio to record a message for his girlfriend, and the senator obliged, while several people who were volunteering in Carson’s tent left their posts to take pictures with Rubio, saying they hadn’t decided whom to support yet. The crowd was receptive to Rubio’s speech, including his swipes at critics and his implicit jabs at Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton.

Rick Perry’s still got it

The former Texas governor’s stump speech didn’t stand out, but when it comes to glad-handing and working a crowd, Perry still sets the gold standard even if he trails in the polls. When he arrived in Boone, fresh off of a separate motorcycle ride he did for an organization that supports veterans, attendees and cameras swarmed him. The Texan posed for pictures, put his hands on peoples’ shoulders and clasped attendees’ hands as he worked his way across the field as voters praised him as a “patriot.” He also got the rare shout-out from Ernst, who was asked how she felt about his organizing another motorcycle event.

“I do want to thank him, actually, for doing this because he is riding with a number of military veterans” and those are the beneficiaries of his ride, she said, adding that she was “grateful” for his effort.

It’s clearly not 2011, when Perry entered the presidential race as the frontrunner before flaming out shortly after, but don’t underestimate his retail politicking skills. There’s a reason he’s the longest-serving governor in Texas history, and he gave a taste of that Saturday.

Carly Fiorina continues to gain traction

Fiorina often gets rave reviews from conservative activists for her pointed criticism of Hillary Clinton — and she continued to impress with that message Saturday.

“There was recently a poll this week that asked Americans who they most wanted to see debate Hillary Clinton,” she said, as someone appeared to shout, “you!” To applause and laughter, Fiorina continued, “I was gratified that I won that poll, and so I was thinking this morning, I really would be tempted, on that general election debate stage, to ask Hillary, if she’s ever ridden on a John Deere tractor [something Fiorina did that morning.]. I know she’s had a few photo ops. But the truth is, the question we need to ask Hillary Clinton now is, ‘Mrs. Clinton, what else don’t we know?’”

Fiorina also scored points in talking about Israel, the Veterans’ Administration and the size of government. She received loud applause when she said her first phone call as president would be to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, “a man I’ve known a long time.”

At the moment, Fiorina isn’t yet guaranteed a place in the upcoming debates because of her low station in the polls. But if she continues to use her Clinton zingers to stand out and energize crowds — as she did here — it’s hard to imagine she’ll remain at the bottom of GOP polls.

Noted in Iowa — who wasn’t there

A few top-tier contenders failed to make the scene — Jeb Bush, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz all skipped the event.

Bush had a family obligation — it’s his mother’s 90th birthday weekend —and Paul and Cruz were both campaigning elsewhere, in New Hampshire and North Carolina respectively. Paul, in particular, has missed a slew of cattle calls, opting to campaign on his own schedule instead.

This one stands out as a missed opportunity, though. It’s not that attendees were lamenting their absence. Rather, they didn‘t seem to be missed at all. Voters were too distracted by, and excited about, the face-time they were getting with the other 2016 candidates — and that’s exactly the problem for Bush, Cruz and Paul. At the Roast and Ride, even candidates who barely register in the polls, like Lindsey Graham, were generally surrounded by curious

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voters, and all of the candidates in attendance used the event as an organizing tool to build out their Iowa lists. Given the uncertainties about who will participate in the Iowa Straw Poll in August, it's unclear when another Iowa politicking opportunity this good will come along.

Republican Walker is leader of 2016 election pack in Iowa // Reuters // John Whitesides – June 6, 2015

Scott Walker, a likely Republican presidential contender who is riding high in polls in the early voting state of Iowa, was literally the leader of the pack on Saturday at a gathering of 2016 White House hopefuls.

Walker, the governor of neighboring Wisconsin, joined U.S. Senator Joni Ernst at the head of a parade of about 300 motorcycle riders who traveled 39 miles (62 km)to Ernst's inaugural "Roast and Ride," a political event combining barbecue and the roar of Harley-Davidsons.

The spot in front was appropriate for the new front-runner in Iowa, the state that in seven months holds the first nominating contest to pick the party's presidential candidate before the November 2016 election.

Walker, who built his reputation by taking on labor unions, has led the five most recent polls in Iowa, including the respected Des Moines Register poll. The Register showed him with a seven-percentage point lead over four tightly bunched rivals and found he was viewed favorably by two-thirds of likely Iowa caucus-goers.

"If the caucuses were today, he would win. Unless he really screws up, he should win," said Doug Gross, state chairman for Mitt Romney's 2008 campaign and former chief of staff for longtime Governor Terry Branstad.

Iowa political veterans say Walker's popularity stems from his Midwestern background and his appeal to all elements of the state's Republican base, from pragmatic establishment voters looking for a winner to the social and religious conservatives who play an influential role in the state's politics.

But things will get tougher for Walker as he moves into the daily grind of face-to-face campaigning in a state where voters are accustomed to being wooed.

"The next test for Governor Walker is transitioning from the big stage, multi-candidate events to the hand-to-hand combat of retail campaigning and organizing in Iowa," said former state party chairman Matt Strawn.

Walker has not formally declared his candidacy, and he told reporters on Saturday he would make the announcement "probably soon after the end of this month."

The governor also dodged questions about whether he would participate in the state's straw poll in August, a test of strength that traditionally winnows the field. The poll has been criticized for being too expensive for candidates.

Several other contenders, including former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, have said they will skip the straw poll. Without Walker, the state party might be forced to drop it.

Walker, a motorcycle enthusiast who addressed Saturday's crowd in his black Harley-Davidson t-shirt, was one of seven declared or likely Republican presidential contenders to give brief speeches at Ernst's barbecue.

Texas Governor Rick Perry led his own motorcycle ride to the fairgrounds. U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, former business executive Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson spoke but did not participate in the motorcycle ride, although each contender put up a tent at the site to woo voters.

Walker pushed back at criticism from Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton about Wisconsin's voting laws.

"In our state, we have a law that makes it easy to vote but hard to cheat," he said. "It's another example of how Hillary Clinton is squarely out of touch with mainstream America."

Republicans at the barbecue said Walker's record of battling public sector labor unions to restrict bargaining rights was a strong selling point - along with his two election wins and a victory in a recall effort in Democratic-leaning Wisconsin.

"My No. 1 thing is I want to support a Republican who can win in 2016, and I think Walker can win," said Ron Tekippe, a computer programmer from Ankeny who likes Walker but is still undecided.

Scott Walker: Hillary Clinton "firmly out of touch" on voting rights // CBS News // Reena Flores – June 6, 2015

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Potential Republican presidential candidate and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker knocked Hillary Clinton for being "firmly out of touch" on the issue of voting rights just days after the former secretary of state announced her proposals championing minority access to voting.

"In our state we have a photo ID requirement that would make it easy to vote and hard to cheat," Walker told reporters Saturday at Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst's Roast and Ride event. "And I think that's a good example where her statements of late show that she's firmly out of touch with I think where mainstream America is."

When asked by a reporter about universal voter registration for the state of Wisconsin, Walker shrugged and shook his head, pointing instead to Wisconsin's turnout records.

"From our standpoint, we think we've got one of the most effective systems right now where we have one of the highest levels of voter participation," Walker said. "We've got a pretty good system."

In the 2012 general election, Wisconsin had the second-highest voter-turnout rate in the nation with 73 percent of the population participating. The state trailed just behind Minnesota, which had a 76 percent turnout rate. Wisconsin also ranked second in the nation during the 2008 general election.

In a speech Thursday calling on Congress to restore portions of the Voting Rights Act, Clinton singled out the Wisconsin governor for cutting back early voting and signing legislation that would make it more difficult for college students to vote.

"Today, Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting," Clinton said Thursday at Texas Southern University in Houston, a historically black college. "What part of democracy are they afraid of?"

Clinton specifically named three other current and former Republican governors who, the former first lady says, enacted policies that limited minority voting opportunities.

"We have a responsibility to say clearly and directly what's really going on," Clinton said. "What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other."

When Walker was asked Saturday about the changes his administration had done in Wisconsin, he said the reforms were "just common sense."

"I can pull out my driver's license right here," Walker said, drawing out the ID card. "Again, we make it available for people to get a driver's license or a state-issued ID card. I think most Americans regardless of party overwhelmingly think that's a common sense reform."

Clinton also attacked former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who recently declared his candidacy for president, and criticized other potential GOP contenders like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Christie told CBS' "Face the Nation" this week that the former secretary of state "doesn't know what she's talking about" on voter fraud.

"In New Jersey, we have early voting that are available to people," the Republican governor said. "I don't want to expand it and increase the opportunities for fraud. And maybe that's what Mrs. Clinton wants to do. I don't know. But the fact is that the folks in New Jersey have plenty of an opportunity to vote."

Scott Walker in Iowa: 'We did not inherit fame or fortune' **// The Hill // Rebecca Shabad – June 6, 2015**

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker told voters in the key early-voting state of Iowa on Saturday he didn't inherit fame or fortune, but worked hard to achieve the American dream.

"I look back on my life, and my brother and I realized we did not inherit fame or fortune from our family. What we got was more important, and that is the belief that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can do and be everything you want in America," Walker said in a short speech at an event hosted by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa).

"That's the American dream!" he said.

The Wisconsin governor, who has not yet officially launched a 2016 presidential bid, has been leading other GOP contenders in recent Iowa polls.

On Saturday, Walker led a pack of 300 motorcyclists on a 28-mile route with Ernst for the "Roast and Ride" event.

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Walker said his first jobs were washing dishes and flipping hamburgers at McDonalds. His dad was a small-town preacher and his mom was a bookkeeper.
“We understand that true freedom and prosperity does not come from the mighty hand of the government," said Walker, who was dressed in jeans, a black t-shirt and a baseball cap.

Walker slammed President Obama’s foreign policies, calling for a president who will view radical Islamic terrorism is a threat.

"We’re going to stand up and fight it,” he said. “We need a leader in America that Israel is actually an ally and should start treating it as such.”

“We need to lead from the front again in America,” he added.

Walker was the only speaker at the "Roast and Ride" event to note launch a 2016 White House campaign.

The other speakers were former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Dr. Ben Carson and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina.

CHRISTIE

Christie slams Clinton on voter IDs: 'She doesn't know what she's talking about' // Washington Examiner // Sean Higgins - June 6, 2015

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, R-N.J., slammed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, over her recent remarks that Republicans were using voter ID laws in an effort to discourage legal voters.

"Well, first, she doesn't know what she's talking about. ...[T]he fact is that the folks in New Jersey have plenty of an opportunity to vote. And maybe, you know, if she took some questions some places and learned some things, maybe she wouldn't make such ridiculous statements," Christie told CBS's "Face the Nation." The interview was recorded Friday and set to air tomorrow, according to Politico.

In a speech Thursday in Houston, Clinton attacked the push for voter ID laws, mostly initiated by Republican governors.

"What is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people and young people from one end of our country to the other," Clinton said.

Suggestions include: taxes and spending, environmental laws, govt research, Medicaid and infrastructure.
She singled out Christie for vetoing a bill that would have allowed in-person early voting at polling places. New Jersey does not have a voter ID law.

Republicans counter that the laws are modest protections to prevent fraud. The Supreme Court said in 2008 that state could adopt laws requiring a photo ID, such as a driver's license, to vote. In March, it refused to hear an appeal regarding a Wisconsin law.

PERRY

Can Rick Perry close the deal? // WaPo // Stephanie McCrummen – June 5, 2015

*W*hen it happens, Rick Perry is speaking to a friendly crowd in a plaid-and-paisley living room in Greenville, S.C. He appears relaxed. His suit fits perfectly. Hair: just great. Glasses: starting to seem more natural.

He’s gotten nods talking about jobs in Texas, laughs with the line about flunking organic chemistry and claps when he says a brighter future “starts right here . . . today!”

Then a man poses a question about the importance of speaking plainly, and Perry pauses a moment before he answers by asking rhetorically, which is to say confidently: “Did I say anything today you couldn’t understand?”

Because Rick Perry is a winker, and has been for a long time.

“It’s something he’s always done,” said a friend who has known Perry since he was a Texas state legislator in the 1980s. “I’ve seen him do it at an inaugural, from a podium. It’s a way he communicates. He’s very good at it, and it’s very disarming. It’s real natural to him. Like some people can whistle with their fingers? Actually, he can do

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that, too.”

It could be argued that the Perry persona comes down to the wink, which friends and supporters describe as part of a broader repertoire of natural-born gifts that makes the 65-year-old former Texas governor one of the most instinctive retail politicians in the 2016 GOP field.

Other notable political winkers: George W. Bush, who winked at Queen Elizabeth II after he accidentally suggested she helped America celebrate its birthday in 1776 rather than 1976; Sarah Palin, who winked during 2008 vice-presidential debates; President Obama, who winked in his State of the Union speech earlier this year, after dressing down the congressmen who clapped when he alluded to the end of his term.

More recently, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott apologized for winking at the host of a call-in radio show as a retiree explained that she was surviving by working for an adult sex line, an incident that came to be called “winkgate.”

The Rick Perry wink, though, comes with its own set of associations.

On one hand, it evokes his bona fide country upbringing, Texas swagger and ability to say things such as “I’m gonna love on you,” meaning flatter you, without sounding as though he is laying it on thick. Only a winker could sell T-shirts with his own grinning mug shot, as Perry did after being indicted last year on felony abuse-of-power charges that he has dismissed as politically motivated.

More fundamentally, the wink can seem to reveal a certain sensitivity — an ability to read a room, to feel for the right moment to reach in for the handshake, touch an elbow or a shoulder and close the deal.

On the other hand, a wink can evoke the overconfidence and cheap tricks of the used-car salesman, the sort of character that Perry’s critics have often cast him as, especially after his performance in the 2012 Republican primary. The infamous debate when Perry froze — trying for 45 seconds to remember the third federal agency he would abolish, before he finally gave up with an "oops" — has been read not just as a human fumble but the moment he was exposed as a lightweight.

All of which leads to the question: Which is it?

Is the wink the mark of Perry’s essential authenticity, possibly his greatest asset? Or does it represent his biggest challenge — overcoming the perception that he’s all flash and little substance? Or is it something more complicated?

What is the meaning of the Rick Perry wink?

Part of the answer lies in Greenville, where the wink is playing well in a friendly room.

For one, Perry’s timing is impeccable. He deploys the wink at the moment the audience seems most with him, as they’re still laughing. Second, the wink isn’t strained; it seems natural, even through the lenses of his hipster glasses. Third, he aims it not at the man who asked the question but in the opposite direction — toward a cluster of women, including Racine Cooper, the bylaws chairwoman of the Greenville County Republican Women’s Club, who says later that he struck her as “a simple person who knows what it is to say something plainly. He’s not full of it.”

After the wink, Perry grins and shifts back into a more serious tone.

“Good,” he says as the laughs die down. “All right. Hey, listen. I’m telling ya. We’re on the verge of the greatest days in America’s history. That’s not rhetoric.”

He thanks South Carolina for sending soldiers to defend the Alamo, then steps into a red-walled room for the meet-and-greet.

“Watch him,” says Katon Dawson, state chairman of Perry’s political action committee. “Whether you’re with Rick or not, you can’t not like him.”

“C’mon, man, get in here!” Perry is saying to a man in a blue blazer, shaking his hand then pulling him in for a photo, arm around his back in what seems less like a pose than a one-armed hug. “All right.”

To a man in a button-down shirt: “Get in here. . . . What kind of work you do?”

“I’m in property,” the man says.

To the man in khakis: “How old?”

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“Twenty-nine,” the man says.

“Twenty-nine,” Perry repeats, taking the arm of a woman next in line while keeping eye contact with the man. “I got a daughter who’s 29 . . . ”

He turns to the woman, who shakes his hand with her two and holds it.

“We watched you in Spartanburg last time,” she says gravely, referring to the last days of his 2012 campaign. “Good to see you again.”

“Well,” Perry says, upbeat, “I’m healthy and prepared this time.”

He gives her shoulder a squeeze and moves on to a woman who says she is from Colombia.

“Medellin?” Perry guesses.

“Yes!” the woman says.

To a man with a buzz cut who appears to lift weights: “I bet I can guess your line of work.” Then Perry guesses correctly: security.

To a couple: “And who are you?”

“Seth and Mariah,” the husband says.

“And the wind was named Mariah,” Perry sings for a moment, riffing on lyrics from a Broadway musical far older than them, “Paint Your Wagon.”

“Pretty name,” he says to the woman, then turns to a young man. “C’mon in here!”

It all suggests an extroverted personality, and yet when asked how he prefers to spend his free time, Perry answers like an introvert.

“I’d rather spend time with my dogs,” he says in an interview at a Hyatt Place hotel in Greenville the morning after the fundraiser. “I just like being in the country and being with the dogs. It’s fun to watch the dogs.”

Asked about how he reads a room, or closes a deal, Perry shrugs.

“I don’t have a checklist I go down,” he says.

He grew up in the dusty flat sprawl of Paint Creek in West Texas, where his father, Ray Perry, was a cotton farmer and longtime county commissioner, so politicking was always in the air.

Perry’s mother, Amelia, told the Dallas Morning News that when Ray and other men would gather to talk before service at the Methodist church, her 7-year-old son was always there, trying to work his way into the circle. “He wanted those men to recognize him,” she said.

In elementary school, he campaigned for Halloween king by handing out candy.

There is the often-told but unverified story that when Perry, a popular high school football player, once got knocked flat out on the field and the coach went to ask if he was okay, Perry replied that he was fine but wanted to know how the fans were taking it.

At Texas A&M, Perry was known for elaborate pranks, such as dropping an M-80 firecracker down a toilet pipe.

He was popular, but he also wanted to be popular, winning election to be one of five “yell leaders,” a prestigious position at the school that is essentially like being a cheerleader.

Then there was his first job: as a Bible-book salesman.

During college, Perry worked for the Southwestern Co. in Festus, Mo., where he was dropped off with a friend from college, John Brieden, at a gas station with nothing but his dad’s old Army bag and a box of Bible encylopedias, dictionaries and Wycliffe commentaries.

The young men rented a room in town, ate breakfast at a diner and split up for long, hot days of knocking on doors in their sections of town, making the sales pitch they were taught during a week of training in Nashville.

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“You’d do it so many times it became normal,” recalls Brieden, who went on to become an insurance salesman and is now a county judge in Texas. “We had a case we carried a set of books in. So you’d set the book on the case, hold the book so you’re looking at it upside down, flipping the pages, and then ask them to buy.”

At night, the two young men would sit at the diner and compare notes.

“John and I, we would support each other every evening when we got in,” Perry says in the interview, then leans in and lowers his voice to reenact the dinner-table scene. “ ‘You know how many super-sets I sold today? A bunch.’ And we might not have sold any.”

The former governor of Texas is a good bluffer.

“Got told no a lot,” Perry says, asked about whether selling came easily.

He pauses and leans in again.

“But I got told yes enough to buy a 1967 Catalina Pontiac!” he says, grinning. “I want to say it was $2,700, which, that is a huge amount of money in 1969!”

Perry always had a well of ambition underneath the charm, Brieden says, recalling a conversation at the washateria that summer. Perry asked Brieden whether he had goals; Brieden said he wanted to pay for college.

“He said, ‘No, no, what are your goals?’ ” Brieden recalls. “He said, ‘I’ve got three goals.’ ”

One was to graduate, which the chemistry-challenged Perry knew was no guarantee for him; two was to be a yell leader; three was to be a member of the Ross Volunteers at Texas A&M, an elite group of cadets who served as honor guard for the Texas governor.

“He did all of those three things,” Brieden says.

Perry talks to a Fox News reporter via speakerphone in December in his Austin office, a few weeks before the end of his term. (Julia Robinson for The Washington Post)
After college, Perry joined the Air Force and flew C-130 cargo planes, duty that included rotations in England and Germany and missions to Saudi Arabia and South America.

Then something happened that could be considered out of character for someone as driven and cocky as Perry seemed: In 1977, he came home to Paint Creek, moved into his childhood bedroom and spent six years adrift.

“I couldn’t understand why I wasn’t happy,” Perry has said of that time, describing himself as “lost.”

He helped on the cotton farm, but Perry’s parents also recalled in an interview with the Dallas Morning News how their son would disappear for days with nothing but a bedroll, his horse and his dog. A neighbor recalledhow Perry would borrow his plane and just take off somewhere.

Eventually, he decided to apply for a pilot job with Southwest Airlines. But before he got hired, a group of young Texan politicos convinced him there was a better use for his rugged good looks and obvious gifts, and Perry entered a profession that chose him as much as he chose it.

He was elected as a Democrat to the state legislature, and then was persuaded to run as a Republican for agriculture commissioner, a campaign that included the famous “Marlboro Man” ad in which Perry is filmed in chaps, saddling up a horse and silhouetted at sunset.

He won, and kept on winning, eventually becoming the longest-serving governor in state history, a job he approached the way he knew best: as a salesman.

Perry’s critics and admirers alike say that his central achievement has been to sell Texas, luring companies from Toyota to eBay to Latex Foam International to the state with billions in incentives, face-to-face pitches and radio ads.

“This is Texas Governor Rick Perry, and I have a message for California businesses,” began one that aired in the state in 2013. “Come check out Texas . . . and see why our low taxes, sensible regulations and fair legal system are just the thing to get your business moving. To Texas.”

Perry set up the controversial Texas Enterprise Fund, which critics called a massive slush fund that has rewarded Perry’s political allies and which Perry called “the largest deal-closing fund of its kind in the nation.”

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“Look, in powers of persuasion, he is among the top of all the governors, and I’ve worked with a lot,” says Dennis Cuneo, a former vice president for Toyota who was in charge of site selection for a new pickup-truck assembly plant soon after Perry became governor in 2000. “It’s his whole demeanor. The way he shakes your hand, how he looks you in the eye. He says, ‘I’m here to make you successful.’ ”

Cuneo says he was struck by the governor’s unbridled enthusiasm.

“Texas was a long shot,” he says. “So I paid a visit to Perry in 2002. It was supposed to be a half-hour meeting and turned into two hours.”

Cuneo says Perry knew he had grown up in Pennsylvania and struck up a long conversation about Pittsburgh. Perry told him that the pickup was “born in Texas” and that moving there would help with Toyota’s marketing. He upped the incentive package. He mentioned that he had spoken to the family that needed to sell the land for a potential site. He gave Cuneo his cellphone number, and when Cuneo called later, Perry answered.

“He’s governor of a pretty big state — that doesn’t happen often,” he says, laughing slightly at Perry’s aggressive pitch. “He knows how to close the deal.”

At the start of the 2012 GOP primary, Perry was closing deals all over the place, raising millions from the business community, winning the support of conservative Christians, bounding out of his bus in the South Carolina sun and soaring to the top of the polls.

The wink and all the confidence and swagger it embodied seemed to be working again — until the oops, and an especially animated speech in New Hampshire that was odd enough that some speculated that Perry was drunk or high on painkillers for a back condition, all of which Perry denied.

There was a last, awkward swing through South Carolina in which Perry wandered through an empty antique shop and, finally, in a moment that was the opposite of a wink, announced he was dropping out and returned to Texas.

Rick Perry in his own words: His take on guns, Obamacare and more

Only now here he is again, trying to get it all back.

He’s at a Pizza Ranch in Indianola, Iowa, where some voters say they can get past the oops if Perry can.

He’s at the conservative gathering called CPAC in Maryland, walking on stage to AC/DC’s “Back in Black” and delivering a speech during which his body language appears stiffer than it does in a small room. As he often does, he begins by saying the world is more dangerous now than ever before, and that “on three points, we must be clear” — and then successfully reels off the three.

And he’s in Greenville, at the Hyatt Place hotel, saying that he didn’t learn everything about retail politics in one place, and talking about Paint Creek, dust storms and his parents, the well-worn stories of his stump speech.

“So,” Perry is saying, “watching your—”

He stops himself. He pauses. Five seconds pass. Six. He’s squinting into the corner of the room. Seven seconds. Still pausing.

And this is the other thing about Rick Perry: As confident and swaggering as he can seem these days, there are still moments when he can seem lost. Not exactly lost in thought. Just lost, not unlike he appeared to be on stage during the debates in 2011 — far from Texas and the persona he created there, standing before crowds that were not always friendly, not necessarily buying what he was selling.

“We never had a lot of new things,” Perry says finally, and now he’s back to the familiar persona and stump-speech stories, talking about how the harsh life of west Texas taught him how to handle adversity, his father’s stoicism, and on until an aide tells him that it’s time to go.

And it is somewhere between then and Perry’s closing argument — that he’s better prepared this time, and that he’s certain voters “will see a very different individual when it comes to my performance” — that it happens again.

Perry winks and, a little while later, heads to New Hampshire.

Perry touts experience as governor // The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 6, 2015

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Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry said Saturday his time governing Texas made him the best candidate for the White House in 2016.
"This is going to be a 'show me, don't tell me' election," Perry told listeners at the inaugural "Ride and Roast" event in Boone, Iowa.
Perry cited the diverse range of challenges he had faced while governing Texas as proof he was ready to lead the nation.
"No one gave me a manual that says, 'Here's how you deal with Ebola when it shows up on the shores of America and in your state,' " he said.
"No one gave me a manual when tens of thousands of people showed up on our borders and our federal government failed in its constitutional duty to keep it secure," Perry said. "If you elect me president, I will secure that border."
Perry said he would authorize the Keystone XL oil pipeline as a means of making the U.S. "energy secure."
He also promised he would lower the nation's corporate taxes, regulations he called the "highest corporate tax rate in the Western world."
"Let's make 2016 the great year of getting America back to being America again," Perry told listeners.
"America's freedoms are the greatest in the world, and we need to fight for them every day," Perry added. "If you elect me the president of these United States, that is exactly what I will do for you."
Perry touted past U.S. history as proof of American exceptionalism.
"We've been through a Civil War, we've been through two World Wars, we've been through a Great Depression," he said.
"We've been through Jimmy Carter, we can make it through a President Obama," he quipped.
The former Texas governor remarked that the right president could make 2016 the starting point of America's brightest future yet.
"We are just a few policy changes at the top from the greatest days of our nation," Perry said.
"This is an incredible country," he added. "I am excited about the future of America."
Perry launched his 2016 campaign Thursday from an airplane hangar outside Dallas.
"We have the power to make things new again," he said Thursday, flanked by Marines, Navy SEALs and Medal of Honor recipients. "And that is why I am running for the presidency of the United States of America."
Perry vowed he would approach the campaign trail with renewed resolve after his failed 2012 bid.
He has made his gubernatorial experience a central part of his campaign rhetoric since joining the race.
"Leadership is not a speech you give on the Senate floor," he said Thursday. "It's not what you say, it's what you do."
"I have been tested," he added. "I have led the most successful state in America."

Rick Perry announces Iowa presidential campaign team // The Des Moines Register // William Petroski – June 6, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination on Thursday, said Saturday his Iowa caucus campaign will be headed by Sam Clovis, a prominent Republican activist from northwest Iowa.

Clovis, who supported Rick Santorum for president four years ago, unsuccessfully ran for the GOP nomination for U.S. Senate in a June primary last year and then lost a November bid for state treasurer. Clovis served 25 years in the Air Force as a fighter pilot and now is an economics professor at Morningside College in Sioux City. He is also well-known in northwest Iowa for his work as a radio talk show host.

Robert Haus, senior strategist. Haus was co-chairman of Perry's 2012 Iowa campaign. He has helped oversee the Iowa presidential caucus campaigns for Steve Forbes, Fred Thompson and Phil Gramm. He is a New Hampton native who has also led several statewide and congressional races in Iowa.

Jamie Johnson, senior director. Johnson will work with conservative leaders in Iowa, South Carolina, and New Hampshire. He has spent three decades in local, state and federal politics across the United States, including work on Santorum's 2012 campaign. Johnson is an ordained Anglican minister.

Sheila Murphy, Iowa consultant focusing on coalition building. Murphy is a longtime GOP activist in Iowa and Nebraska. She was campaign manager for Brenna Findley's attorney general campaign in 2010 and political director of Rod Robert's 2010 governor's campaign.

Andy Swanson, Iowa state director. An Iowa native, Swanson has experience in Iowa, having worked on two previous presidential campaigns and several statewide efforts. He is originally from Dayton.

Dane Nealson, eastern Iowa political director. He is a native of West Liberty and has more than a decade of campaign experience. He worked for Perry in 2012. Nealson is also the former chairman of the Story County GOP.

Kip Murphy, western Iowa political director. Murphy is a longtime Iowa grassroots activist, having worked in the field for several congressional and statewide candidates. Murphy is also the former chairman of the Harrison

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County GOP.

Quentin Marquez, Iowa field director. He worked with Americans for Prosperity in 2014, and has held executive positions with the University of Iowa College Republicans and Iowa Federation of College Republicans.

Christina Bettini, Iowa field director. Bettini worked with the Iowa House Majority Fund in 2014 and has been a legislative clerk in the Iowa Statehouse.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee: I'm 'only person' to take on Clinton machine // The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 6, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said Saturday he was the only 2016 GOP presidential candidate who had experience facing off with the Clintons in past elections.
"I fought the Clinton political machine in every election I've been in," he said at the first annual "Roast and Ride" in Boone, Iowa.
"If you want someone who has fought the Clinton political machine and won, you're looking at the only person who has lived to tell about it," he said of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton.
Huckabee encountered the Clintons while serving as Arkansas' governor between 1996 and 2007.
He charged Saturday that they represent the kind of political power he would avoid should he win in 2016.
"America is a great country, but we are losing this nation because we have failed to understand that when we elect people, they have to serve us," Huckabee said. "We are not supposed to serve them."
Huckabee argued that a government divorced from its people put its own interests before theirs.
He cited the economy as an example of imbalance he would fix upon taking the Oval Office.
"People are working harder than ever before and have less to show for it," Huckabee said. "There are a lot of people in this country that are sweating through their clothes and lifting heavy things every day."
Military veterans struggling for their benefits, he added, was another example of failed leadership.
"It is a shame they have to beg and plead to get their veterans' benefits from" the Department of Veterans Affairs, he said.
"This is a government that has broken a lot of its promises," he added.
Huckabee also ripped Social Security as a program the federal government was badly mismanaging.
"We're not talking about an entitlement," he said. "This is an earned benefit you paid for."
The former Arkansas governor doubled down on his recent criticism of the Supreme Court for abusing its powers.
"Nine unelected, black-robed judges do not get to determine what's right or wrong," he said, calling their decisions "judicial tyranny" if left unchecked.
Huckabee concluded his remarks by mentioning that the birth of his fifth grandchild was expected on Sunday.
He said he wanted to ensure a vibrant future for his family's latest addition by winning the White House next year.
"I'm on a mission to make this country a better one for my five grandchildren than it would be if we keep going down the direction we're heading on," Huckabee said.

KASICH

Hillary Clinton draws ire of John Kasich on voting // The Columbus Dispatch // Darrel Rowland – June 6, 2015

Ohio Gov. John Kasich chastised Hillary Clinton on Friday for engaging in "pure demagoguery" on voting rights when the country is struggling with racial issues.

"We live in a time when race relations are very sensitive, and to be using that kind of reckless language is not helpful to this country," Kasich said before his final event of the two-day swing through the state that holds the nation's first primary election.

"To be saying that Republicans are intent on cutting people off to vote — that's targeted at folks that feel very vulnerable."

Clinton, speaking at a historically black college in Texas on Thursday, blasted voting restrictions imposed by the GOP in Ohio and other states.

"We have a responsibility to say clearly and directly what's really going on in our country, because what is happening is a sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other," the former secretary of state said.

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But Kasich fired back: “It’s downright divisive to say that there is a plot to take away your right to vote. That’s the kind of thing in this campaign that will further divide America, and I’m not in this to divide the country, I’m in this to help be a uniter.”

The jousting with Clinton came the day after he warned fellow Republicans about criticizing her over issues such as Benghazi and the Clinton Foundation.

He defended the latest remarks by noting they did not touch on any of the areas he warned about. “I said there’ll be a time and place. Unfortunately, the time has come because of those comments. It’s outrageous.”

The back-and-forth began with an appearance on Fox News where Kasich said Clinton’s language “ was really offensive to me. And I like Hillary and I haven’t been attacking Hillary, OK? But for her to say that there are Republicans who are deliberately trying to keep people from voting? It’s just pure demagoguery.”

He said it was “silliness” for Clinton to criticize Ohio for repressing the vote when the state has 28 days of early voting and New York (where Clinton lives) has only Election Day.

Daniel Wessel, press secretary for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record, said, “Gov. Kasich is trying to distract from the many efforts of Republicans in his state to make it more difficult for Ohioans to vote — including limiting early-voting locations and attempting to limit early-voting hours. Hillary Clinton’s proposals would make it easier for all eligible voters to vote, unlike Gov. Kasich, who has turned this fundamental right of Americans into a partisan issue.”

Kasich’s comments echoed those made by other Ohio Republicans on Thursday — including Secretary of State Jon Husted — who noted that Clinton’s proposal to require at least 20 days of early voting in every state already is exceeded in Ohio.

Last month, an attorney who represents the campaign of Clinton and several other Democrats filed a federal lawsuit against Husted and Attorney General Mike DeWine, saying that GOP officials’ actions were designed “to bolster artificially the likelihood of success of Republican candidates in Ohio elections,” which “threatens the very bedrock of our democracy.”

Ohio Democratic Chairman David Pepper said in a statement: “When Gov. Kasich says it’s ‘ demagoguery’ to fight for expanded access to the polls, he’s the one being divisive. The act of voting is essential to our idea of America, and our democracy is better when every citizen can participate. Wanting more people to vote and modernizing elections doesn’t divide Americans; it unites them.

“When Kasich and Secretary of State Jon Husted tout Ohio voting laws, they leave out a key fact: Ohio’s voting laws are what they are today because civil-rights groups, community leaders and Ohio Democrats have taken Husted and the state to court over and over again to stop numerous attacks on voting rights.”

CARSON

Ben Carson’s Nascent Campaign Faces Personnel Turmoil **// NYT // Ashley Parker – June 6, 2015**

Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon and Tea Party folk hero, has emerged as one of the most talked-about Republican candidates for president in 2016, buoyed by the strength of his outsider’s appeal and captivating life story.

But the very political greenness that has made Mr. Carson such an attractive candidate to his fans is also proving problematic as he tries to ramp up his campaign organization.

Since officially declaring himself a candidate in Detroit last month, Mr. Carson’s organization has unraveled, with the loss of four top staff members: his campaign chairman, national finance chairman, deputy campaign manager and general counsel. The Washington Post first reported the turmoil on Saturday.

But walking into Senator Joni Ernst’s “Roast and Ride” here on Saturday, Mr. Carson showed up with an easy smile and ready set of talking points, brushing off the reports. He breezily described the recent staff departures as a “planned exodus” and said his campaign was “running as smoothly as it possibly can be.”

“Things could not be better,” Mr. Carson said, listing his more than 140,000 donations, social media presence and standing in the polls. “It’s hard to imagine how we could be doing any better, so if that’s what chaos is, bring it on.”

Yet the struggles of Team Carson appear to be both internal and external. Two outside “super PACs,” Run Ben Run and One Vote, have found themselves competing with each other, and the Carson campaign, to attract money and volunteers.

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Terry Giles, who resigned as Mr. Carson's campaign chairman last month, plans to start yet another super PAC; he told The Post he hoped to convince the other two groups to stand down and coordinate with his effort, the goal of which is to complement the official campaign more seamlessly.

Asked about the tension between his outside groups, Mr. Carson noted that he was, by law, not allowed to coordinate with them. But, he added, in an ideal world, "I would like to see everybody singing 'Kumbaya.' "

Dick Morris: Ben Carson's Fame Helps GOP Run, But More Is Needed // Newsweek // Todd Beamon – June 5, 2015

Presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson has so far successfully translated his fame as a world-renowned neurosurgeon to politics, but the biggest challenge he faces is trying to "convince Republicans that he can take on Hillary Clinton," political analyst Dick Morris told Newsmax TV on Friday.

"You're asking someone who's never been around a heavyweight boxing match to get into the ring with Muhammad Ali," Morris, who served in the Bill Clinton administration, told "Newsmax Prime" host J.D. Hayworth. "There is nobody that has more experience at doing this than Hillary.

"All of the debates she had while running for Senate, running for president, and all the primaries and now again," he added. "It's scary to think of somebody who has never been around, been fighting for a round, to be in that match.

"He has to convince people that he can hold his own — and that's the big obstacle."

Carson's soft-spoken, easygoing style could prove daunting for a White House run, Morris said as he reflected on Arizona Sen. John McCain in the 2008 presidential race.

"It didn't work with McCain. You're always sort of wanting to turn up the volume when he was speaking," Morris said. "I don't think it's going to be an effective approach. He's got to be much more forceful and much more dynamic.

"Politics is its own occupation — and I don't think I could do neurosurgery, and it takes some adjustment of skills to do politics.

"Dr. Carson's approach is a very good one in a vacuum, but when it comes to fighting someone and going head-to-head, toe-to-toe, that's harder — and that kind of a low-key approach sometimes will get run over by a truck," Morris said.

But there's another reality that could work against Carson: President Barack Obama.

"We all have in the back of our minds have Obama, who had almost no experience, more than Carson, but not much — and look at how ineptly he's governed," he told Hayworth.

"I'm just concerned about bringing someone in who's got nothing, doesn't know anything about the process."

Throughout the campaign trail, Carson has noted the pressure involved in separating conjoined twins and other sensitive pediatric operations around the world during his nearly four decades as a physician, but politics requires a different set of skills, Morris cautioned.

"What's important here is the give and take, because there's always a subtext going on. One is who's wining the debate, who's making the points. The other is who's a strong and forceful leader?

"That's the one strength that Hillary has — and going against Carson without Carson being more aggressive is going to be difficult to watch," Morris said.

The analyst's advice to Carson: distinguish himself from other Republican candidates.

"It is important that Carson takes one or two issues, preferably issues where he disagrees with the other Republicans," Morris told Hayworth. "Maybe it's free trade fast-track deal, maybe the NSA reform bill that just passed — maybe he wants to go further.

"It's important that he takes a political issue and use it to define his advocacy, his strength, and his position. Because you can't run for president just on a resume."

Why is Ben Carson doing so well in the polls? // WaPo // Amber Phillips – June 5, 2015

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He has compared Obamacare to slavery, thrown around words like bestiality and pedophilia while arguing against same-sex marriage and said our society resembles Nazi Germany.

He's basically the longest of long shots to run our country in 2017, and there are signs his nascent presidential campaign is struggling with this reality.

So why is retired pediatric neurosurgeon, political novice and presidential candidate Ben Carson near the top of almost every recent poll of the 2016 race?

A recap:

A Washington Post-ABC News poll out this week had Carson tied for sixth among Republican-leaning voters -- but in a statistical tie for the lead in the crowded field. He was at 7 percent alongside Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, while the leader, Jeb Bush, was at 13 percent.

A Fox News poll released Wednesday of likely GOP primary voters found Carson third among 16 candidates, at 11 percent. That's just behind Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, each at 12 percent. Again, a statistical tie for the lead.

The Real Clear Politics average of national polls has Carson tied with libertarian-leaning Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul for fourth place overall.

The answer has less to do with Carson's skill as a candidate and more to do with his background and fortunate timing. Carson has arguably the best non-political background in the field, and he's running for president in an election in which there are so many candidates on the GOP side that it's going to be incredibly tough for one person to command much of a lead.

In contrast, around this time before the 2012 presidential elections, seven GOP candidates were in the race. Eventual nominee Mitt Romney led the field with 17 percent of the vote, according to the Real Clear Politics average. And even that was pretty low for a frontrunner.

At this point, any candidate who has a small, committed group of supporters is going to stand out. And Carson definitely has street cred among tea party supporters.

He earned star power and fueled presidential buzz in conservative circles back in 2013, when he criticized President Obama at a National Prayer Breakfast with the president sitting just a few feet again. Since then he's elevated himself to celebrity status among conservatives.

There's a big difference between getting 10 percent of the vote and competing to win states -- a far taller hurdle for a political novice like Carson. But being at 10 percent also means Carson will look like a contender until other candidates start actually rising from the mess of a crowded field that exists.

But we shouldn't expect that 10 percent support to dry up, no matter how badly his campaign struggles. After all, he got it with very little skill as a candidate, and the things that give him a niche today aren't really going away.

Carson: Political experience not needed to be a good president // The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 6, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson argued Saturday that a lifetime of private-sector success was just as valuable as a political background for running the nation.
“I’ve had decades of experience on corporate boards seeing how things work efficiently and inefficiently,” he said at the inaugural “Roast and Ride” in Boone, Iowa.
“Our government is incredibly inefficient at this stage right now,” he said.
“There are a lot of people in politics who are wise and can solve our problems,” Carson added. “But there’s some people in politics I wouldn’t let tie my shoes.”
Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, hit back at claims his medical career meant he was unqualified on issues like finances or foreign policy.
“The government is not supposed to tell us what to do,” he said, citing ObamaCare as an example. “If we accept that, it will continue to erode our freedoms.”
Carson said the economy offered proof that the “experts” did not always have the correct lawmaking solutions.
“One of our most severe problems is the stagnant economy,” he said. “As we go forward, something has to give.”

JINDAL

As he nears a 2016 bid, Louisiana’s Bobby Jindal hits political bottom // WaPo // Tyler Bridge – June 6, 2015

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Just weeks before he is expected to announce his presidential campaign, Bobby Jindal is at the nadir of his political career.

The Republican governor is at open war with many of his erstwhile allies in the business community and the legislature. He spent weeks pushing a "religious freedom" bill that failed to pass, while having little contact with legislators trying to solve Louisiana's worst budget crisis in 25 years.

Jindal is now so unpopular in deep-red Louisiana that his approval rating plunged to 32 percent in a recent poll — compared with 42 percent for President Obama, who lost the state by 17 percentage points in 2012.

"This is very much a low point for Bobby Jindal," said Pearson Cross, a political science professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette who is preparing a book on the governor.

Much of the trouble swirling around Jindal is connected to his unannounced presidential campaign and his regular travels to early primary states, which have angered many of his fellow Republicans in the GOP-controlled legislature.

In recent months, Jindal has focused his political energy here on trying to appeal to social conservatives nationally by pushing the Marriage and Conscience Act, which would have prohibited the state from taking "adverse action" against those opposed to same-sex marriage. But the measure died last month in the legislature amid opposition from major corporations that feared boycott threats by gay rights groups viewing such measures as sanctioning discrimination.

The legislature is also in the final days of grappling with the budget crisis, which was caused, in part, by personal and corporate tax cuts passed under Jindal's watch that haven't paid for themselves.

Yet he has kept up his thinly veiled 2016 travels, having appeared at political events Monday in New Hampshire and Tuesday in Florida. Jindal will announce his plans in New Orleans on June 24.

Jindal will need a serious bump in popularity if he hopes to compete: Currently, he doesn't make the Top 10 cut in national polls to participate in the first Republican presidential debate, to be held Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

But Jindal told reporters recently that he is merely paying the price for making hard choices in cutting the number of state employees and refusing to raise taxes. He also vowed to do the same if he won the White House.

"If I were to run for president, it would certainly be based on the premise that this country needs big changes," Jindal said. "We need somebody who will go to D.C. and rescue the American Dream from becoming the European nightmare. This president has presided over an expansion in federal government spending, taxing, borrowing and regulating that is hurting our economy."

A Rhodes scholar long described as a whiz kid, Jindal headed Louisiana's state Department of Health and Hospitals at 24, moved on to a series of high-level government jobs, was elected to Congress at 33 and now, at 43, is completing his second and final term as governor. Until recently, he was described as a rising star in the Republican Party.

"A lot of people disapprove of his national travel at a time of a budget crisis," said Bernie Pinsonat, whose firm, Baton Rouge-based Southern Media & Opinion Research, conducted the poll showing Jindal at 32 percent favorability.

"There's been no end in sight to the red ink and headlines over concerns about state cuts to public hospitals and universities," Pinsonat said.

The governor has championed a business-friendly environment in Louisiana, supporting tax breaks for companies, revamping the state's worker-training programs to better suit the needs of businesses and depleting a $450 million economic-development fund to subsidize new plants and facilities.

But his rightward turn ahead of a likely presidential run has also put him in conflict with the business community. Jindal dropped his support of the business-backed Common Core education standards and this year pushed the legislature to abandon them; state lawmakers paid him no heed.

With Louisiana facing a projected $1.6 billion budget deficit this year — 20 percent of the state's general fund — Jindal sought to eliminate $526 million per year of tax refunds given to businesses.

Nixing the refunds — which Jindal calls "corporate welfare" — adheres to the guidelines of Americans for Tax Reform, the influential anti-tax group run by Grover Norquist. But business leaders say Jindal is trying to raise their taxes.

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In the meantime, Jindal made passage of the Marriage and Conscience Act one of his three legislative priorities this year. He said it would protect those who oppose same-sex marriages.

“In Indiana and Arkansas, large corporations recently joined left-wing activists to bully elected officials into backing away from strong protections for religious liberty,” he wrote in a New York Times op-ed in late April. “It was disappointing to see conservative leaders so hastily retreat on legislation that would simply allow for an individual or business to claim a right to free exercise of religion in a court of law.”

IBM, Dow Chemical, the New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau and gay rights groups all opposed Jindal’s bill, and lawmakers wanted no part of the controversial legislation in an election year. They gave it a single committee hearing late in the session before it was killed on a 10-to-2 vote.

Two hours later, Jindal issued an executive order prohibiting the executive branch from taking action against anyone who opposes same-sex marriage.

“We perceive this as largely a political statement by our conservative governor in support of his national position on the issue,” the convention bureau said in a statement, adding that the order was not likely to have any practical impact.

Buddy Roemer, a former Republican governor, said many are disappointed in Jindal and doubt his ability to mount a credible presidential bid.

“Several times a day, I get phone calls from business people who are concerned,” Roemer said. “They are irate, angry and bewildered at how he thinks he can amass a national political following. The next governor will have to spend four years making tough decisions that Jindal hasn’t made.”

FIORINA

Fiorina: Government is 'giant, bloated, unaccountable' // The Des Moines Register // Grant Rodgers – June 6, 2015

"You got it going on, girl," Carly Fiorina told a young admirer after her Roast & Ride speech, pointing to the girl's painted toenails.

Unlike six other candidates at Saturday's event, the former software CEO waited until after her 10-minute speech to mingle with the audience. An enthusiastic group met her moments after she stepped off stage and snapped photos in front of a trailer stacked with hay bales.

Between photos, she autographed a man's Harley-Davidson baseball cap. "We need your brain in office," another supporter shouted.

The former Hewlett-Packard CEO is keen to point to her career in business to separate herself from competitors. A successful showing at the Iowa GOP's Lincoln Dinner in May and earlier multi-candidate cattle calls has created hype around her long-shot candidacy.

Best moment: Two women wearing buttons supporting Ben Carson, the conservative former neurosurgeon who also spoke Saturday, asked to have pictures taken with Fiorina.

"I mean, I love Ben, too, but you gotta have a picture without that button," she jokingly told the women.

Quote: "There was recently a poll earlier this week that asked Americans who they most want to see debate Hillary Clinton. I was gratified that I won that poll. ... I think what we need to ask Hillary Clinton now is, 'Mrs. Clinton, what else don't we know?'"

On stage: Fiorina highlighted what she called the federal government's inept response to foreign hack attacks.

The remark came a day after the U.S. government announced that personal data of 4 million federal employees had been breached in a hack from China. It's just one example of vulnerabilities created by a "giant, bloated, unaccountable" federal government, Fiorina said.

Reaction: One of Fiorina's biggest applause lines came when she said she'd call Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on her first day in office. "We need to reassure our allies that a friendship with the United States means something," she said.

OTHER

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Presidential Hopefuls Descend on Iowa, Courting Favor With Joni Ernst ***// NYT // Ashley Parker – June 6, 2015***

Arriving at the kickoff of her inaugural "Roast and Ride" event here, fresh off a two-hour ride up from Red Oak on her 2009 Soft Tail Deluxe Harley-Davidson Saturday morning, Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa grinned as a friend pressed a Monster Energy drink into her hand.

"I need the caffeine," she enthused.

Indeed, monster energy was on the agenda Saturday, as no fewer than seven 2016 Republican candidates descended on the state for a day heavy on the hogs (both the bikes and the pork) and an opportunity to make their pitch to primary voters.

Early caucus and primary states like Iowa and New Hampshire have recently found themselves facing the threat that the look-every-candidate ethos on which they have long prided themselves may be slipping away. A confluence of factors, including the national polling criteria to qualify for televised debates and the waning influence of the Iowa straw poll, are pressuring candidates to focus on raising their national media standing instead of greeting voters one Pizza Ranch and town hall at a time.

But Saturday's overcast skies promised a day of retail politics on overdrive — with heaping plates of ribs and coleslaw; lawn games like cornhole and horseshoes; and white-topped candidate tents giving away candy as if it were Halloween, in an effort to attract new supporters.

Before leading bikers on a 39-mile ride from the Big Barn Harley-Davidson (where the event began) to the fairgrounds in Boone, Ms. Ernst — clad in black motorcycle boots, snug blue jeans, and a black leather vest with a bald eagle on the back — made sure to say "Iowa is a great cross-section of America." She dismissed questions that had implied her state may be losing its coveted influence, but said that the nature of campaigning here, including the premium placed on the Iowa straw poll, may be changing.

"I think it's important that they participate in one way or another," Ms. Ernst said. "Maybe they won't be able to be there physically, but I hope they have some sort of presence here in Iowa."

After greeting her fellow bikers like old friends — "This is so fun!" she said excitedly, "You look wonderful!" — Ms. Ernst demurred when asked whether Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, a motorcycle aficionado who participated in the ride alongside Ms. Ernst, had a leg up on the other candidates.

But she noted that motorcyclists possess some of the traits she would like to see in a future president: "I think you have to be a leader and you have to make decisive determinations of what path you take," she said. "Whatever that path his, you have to follow it."

Ms. Ernst had also offered several other candidates, including Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, a ride on the back of her bike, but none took her up on the offer. (Arriving at the main event, clad in a plaid shirt and khakis, Mr. Rubio said his schedule simply had not worked with hers, but joked, "Can't wait until they do the Jet Ski one. I'll be here for that one.")

The day, after all, was Mr. Walker's to lose. Asked if he was the front-runner, the Wisconsin governor said he was going to be riding behind Ms. Ernst.

And, in fact, Mr. Walker's joke held more than an Iowa kernel of truth. As the bikes pulled out, there he was, just behind Ms. Ernst as promised — but just close enough to her left shoulder to be visible in all the media shots.

A First for Snapchat **// NYT // Ashley Parker – June 6, 2015**

The fast-growing social media platform Snapchat just landed its first political ad.

The American Action Network, an outside group closely associated with the House Republican leadership, placed a 10-second ad on Snapchat pegged to Senator Joni Ernst's inaugural "Roast and Ride" here on Saturday.

The buy is part of a larger, $900,000 campaign by the network urging Congress to pass trade promotion authority.

The ad will appear as part of a Snapchat-curated "live story" — which will include a variety of photos and videos from Ms. Ernst's event — and will be promoted to users in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Washington, D.C.

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"We're excited to be the first in the political space to utilize the growing medium for advertising," said Dan Conston, communications director for the American Action Network. "A.A.N. is using Snapchat because its allowing us to deliver an engaging ad experience to an audience of influencers and younger, hard to reach voters."

Indeed, Snapchat users not only trend younger but, to view any content on the app, including ads, users must hold a finger on the screen — meaning, says Snapchat, they are the highly engaged audience that advertisers covet.

"Users watching the Roast and Ride story today are likely interested in politics but may be surprised to see our direct appeal to pass T.P.A. in the story," Mr. Conston said. "We think that will resonate and be memorable with this key audience."

Grilling, but no flare-ups, at Ernst's 'Roast and Ride' **// Politico // Katie Glueck – June 6, 2015**

Scott Walker rode a Harley, Marco Rubio jabbed his rivals and Rick Perry rolled up with an entourage of veterans.

Seven presidential candidates and likely contenders came to a field here in this rural part of the state, about 45 minutes from Des Moines, for freshman Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst's first "Roast and Ride." The event featured a significantly longer and more prominent guest list than the Iowa Straw Poll currently has, making the Saturday gathering potentially the biggest retail politicking event here of the year.

It was an opportunity for the candidates to gladhand, take shots at Hillary Clinton and show off their barbecue skills in a very casual setting, where attendees listened to speeches from lawn chairs and candidates — some sporting jeans — traipsed through muddy grass to greet voters.

Each candidate was given eight minutes to address the crowd — a timeframe they more or less stuck to — and the speeches focused heavily on veterans, the American Dream and praising Iowa and especially its junior senator, the host of the event. The 2016ers in attendance were Walker, Rubio, Perry, Ben Carson, Lindsey Graham, Carly Fiorina and Mike Huckabee.

"I love a senator who knows how to castrate a pig, ride a hog and cut the pork from Washington, D.C.," Walker said, referencing an Ernst ad from her 2014 Senate race in which she discussed castrating hogs and making Washington "squeal." "Wouldn't it be nice if she had an ally in the White House to help get the job done?"
The Wisconsin governor was the only candidate to join Ernst on the "Ride" part of the event — a 38-mile motorcycle jaunt from Des Moines up to Boone, to honor veterans.

"I'm riding behind Joni today in the ride so I guess that makes me second to her," Walker, in a leather Harley Davidson jacket, motorcycle gloves and Harley Davidson boots, told reporters when asked whether he was the frontrunner in Iowa.

Graham, the South Carolina senator who opened his address in Boone with one joke after another, said of Ernst, "Joni rocks … She promised to make people [in Washington] squeal. They're squealing. Mainly the men," before going on to praise her military service.

Most of the content in the addresses from the candidates was typical GOP campaign fare: calls to rein in government, tackle radical Islam and embrace American exceptionalism.

Rubio, the Florida senator, made those points as well, but he also used his speech to sharpen his rebuttal to criticism from some, including those within his own party, who say he's too inexperienced to run for president. Some Republicans had expected Rubio to step aside for fellow Floridian Jeb Bush and hold onto his Senate seat instead.

"I've heard the voices, some have said I shouldn't run, I should have waited my turn," Rubio said, adding he heard the same at the beginning of his successful 2010 Senate race. In a veiled swipe at both Bush and Hillary Clinton, he said to applause, "I ran then for the same reason I run now. If we keep promoting the same people, we get the same results and the future leaves us behind."

"The latest one is that I shouldn't run for president because I'm not rich enough," continued Rubio, whose personal finances have come under some scrutiny. "And it's true I don't make [millions] from speeches and I don't have a family foundation that's raised [billions], a lot of it from foreign donations. But my wife and I work to ensure we have enough money to send our kids to a Christian education at a private school. We have a mortgage we're paying … but the biggest debt I owe is to the United States."

Walker, like Rubio, also dinged family dynasties, comments that appeared directed at Bush: "My brother and I did not inherit fame or fortune from our family. What we got was more important. And that was the belief that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can be anything you want to be in America."

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Everyone received standing ovations and had some applause lines — and as usual, Fiorina's Clinton zingers were well-received —but no one's performance brought down the house. The real action took place on the sidelines, where each of the candidates had a tent set up. There, volunteers took down attendees' information, and some — like Walker's tent — served up swag like beer coozies and candy. The candidates made appearances at their booths, where some Iowans demanded photos while others probed policy positions. Walker, Rubio and Perry were particularly mobbed as they worked the crowds, though everyone drew interested bystanders.

"I doubt the candidates will win any converts during their eight allotted minutes onstage — all of the activity is going to take place off stage, off the bikes, actually interacting with and talking to Iowans," said Matt Strawn, a former Iowa GOP chairman who worked closely with Ernst during her 2014 Senate campaign. "What I'm watching for are, which candidates understand this is meant to be a fun, relaxing event designed for them to interact with Iowans? Most of the large events in the state have been forums in ballroom theater settings, not an opportunity to spend a lot of time personally interacting."

To that end, Rubio indulged a woman who ribbed him about a recent story highlighting his rocky driving record — she referenced someone who had made it well into life without a ticket, to which Rubio replied that that person "doesn't live in Florida!" He could be found later carving up meat, while Walker was seen flipping pork chops on the grill. Perry was constantly surrounded by bikers and veterans, following a charity motorcycle ride he did to benefit an organization that provides service dogs to wounded veterans. And Fiorina lingered for pictures after the speeches were done.

The "Roast and Ride" shone the national spotlight on Ernst, who has been showered with attention from presidential contenders since her Senate contest — a race in which the bulk of the current presidential field showed up to curry favor as Ernst surrogates. Rubio, in particular, was an early endorser, and there is considerable overlap between Ernst's Senate campaign team and both the Rubio and Walker 2016 shops.

Ernst has no plans to endorse, but instead is aiming to serve as a facilitator between Iowa voters and the candidates who want to cozy up to them.
With the inaugural hog roast, Ernst is following in the footsteps of longtime Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin, whose seat she now holds. Harkin feted his party with an annual steak fry that became a must-attend event for Democratic presidential candidates and aspiring national Democratic figures over its 37-year run. The freshman senator aims to build a similar tradition.

"Sen. Harkin had the wonderful tradition of the Steak Fry, and this is actually an event we've wanted to do during the campaign cycle but didn't have the opportunity," Ernst said Saturday morning in Des Moines, where she kicked off a motorcycle ride to the event. "So we thought, why not start with an inaugural 'Roast and Ride,' a little twist … this is something uniquely Joni Ernst and I love it, so I'm glad to have so many people participating."

So far, there appears to be important party buy-in. Top Iowa officials attended, including Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds —a personal friend of Ernst's —and both of them sent out solicitations for the event to build attendance.

"We've got a great group [of candidates], they're spending a lot of time in Iowa and I love that," Reynolds said. "My role is to encourage them to come here, come here often, go to all 99 counties … and really give Iowans the opportunity to ask questions."

In Iowa, pork, patriotism and presidential politics // WaPo // Jenna Johnson & Dan Balz – June 6, 2015

The day started with the sputtering roar of motorcycles and ended with pork sandwiches, and Republican presidential hopefuls taking shots at Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Obama.

Throughout the first "Roast and Ride" here on Saturday, Iowa Republicans made this case to anyone who would listen: This state still deeply matters in the nominating process -- plus, look how much fun it is to campaign here.

Presiding over the day was Sen. Joni Ernst, a Republican from Iowa, who has only been in Washington for five months but has quickly emerged as a powerful and popular conservative in her party. She hopes that the event -- which started with a 39-mile motorcycle ride from the edge of Des Moines to a rural event center -- will replace the famed Steak Fry that her predecessor, Democrat Tom Harkin, once held. Especially ahead of presidential elections.

"Iowa is always very important," Ernst told reporters after downing an oversized can of a zero-calorie energy drink, but before hopping on her bike. "Iowa is a great cross-section of America."

For a brand-new event, it sure felt like a time-tested tradition: Roughly 300 bikers showed up, plus hundreds more spectators carrying their own lawn chairs, dozens of national reporters and seven announced or likely presidential

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contenders. The candidates differentiated themselves by talking about their biographies, rather than attacking one another. But there was no clear winner from the afternoon's speeches -- one more sign of just how fluid the GOP race is here and nationally.

Iowans often roll their eyes at how easily they become stereotyped during the caucuses, but this event played up so many things that East Coasters think of when they think of the Midwest -- and that political strategists look for when planning campaign stops. A large red tractor sat near the stage, behind a wall of hay bales and in front of the local fire department's massive ladder truck that displayed an oversized American flag. Nearly every candidate who took the stage declared "God Bless America" and focused heavily on talking about how the working class has fallen behind under Democratic control -- along with criticizing Clinton, the Democratic front-runner.

The day started with breakfast at the Harley-Davidson Big Barn in Des Moines. The ride honored military veterans and many of the bikers wore leather vests, T-shirts or tattoos featuring patriotic phrases like: "Freedom isn't free."

Ernst has been riding bikes for most of her life -- starting with a dirt bike when she was a farm kid, riding messages from her mom out to her dad in the fields. She now rides a 2009 Harley-Davidson Softail Deluxe, which she wheeled to the front of the pack on Saturday morning. Right behind her was Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on a rented 2015 Harley-Davidson Road King that he said rode just like the 2003 model he has at home. Alongside them was a black pickup truck with seven photographers and videographers in the bed. Former Texas governor Rick Perry also rode to the event, although on his own route accompanied by his own posse of military. Ernst had offered to let her Senate colleague, Marco Rubio of Florida, ride on the back of her hog, but he passed.

Ernst said there are parallels between riding a Harley and governing: "You have to be a leader, and you have to make decisive determinations of what path you want to take. So whatever that road is, you have to follow it." But when asked if riding a motorcycle should be a prerequisite for running for president, Ernst laughed and said: "Not a qualifier but definitely an interesting factoid."

Upon arriving at the event site, Ernst quipped, “No bugs in my teeth but plenty on the windshield.”

The venue, the Central Iowa Expo, provided a state-fair-like feel to the event -- much like the Iowa Republican Party's straw poll, which is expected to happen in August in the same location, although no top-tier candidates have committed to attending. Attendees ate roasted pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans and chips, while the Iowa band The Nadas played country music over blaring speakers. Some people played picnic games. Perry and Walker wore black shirts, jeans and caps. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee was the only one to wear a sport coat.

The main attraction was speeches from seven declared or likely presidential candidates. Among those missing was former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who was with his family celebrating the 90th birthday of his mother, Barbara. They all painted a bleak picture of America under Obama's leadership and, of course, lavished praise on Ernst. "I love a senator who knows how to castrate a pig, ride a hog and cut the pork in Washington, D.C.," Walker said.

Walker talked up his Midwestern values and the importance of freedom, while pointing out that Harley-Davidson is based in Wisconsin. Perry -- who took the stage with a "Howdy, Iowa!" -- focused heavily on patriotism and the need for national leadership. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson both blasted big government. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina -- who dropped joke after joke -- called for a better defense of the country. Rubio talked about the American Dream, the new century and defended himself against criticism that he is too young and inexperienced to run. Huckabee talked about an economic vision that is at odds with many in his party.

Collectively, the candidates impressed the activists who sat through the seven speeches, but individually there was no clear favorite.

“I think we have a fantastic field,” said David Freligh of Pella. “I am not yet in favor of anyone in particular but I am reassured that there’s a good strong field of very qualified people. I feel good about it.

“I’ve always liked Ben Carson because he can unite the nation. I thought Carly was very articulate, and Scott Walker was very articulate. I have not made up my mind.

“They’re all so impressive,” said Bonnie Cornick, of Creston. “I’ve been sitting here talking to the people next to us saying how am I ever going to caucus because I like them all?"

She cited Walker, Rubio and Perry as three who impressed her, but added, “There isn’t a one of them I don’t [like].”

Sonya Crosby of Ottumwa listed Graham, Rubio and Huckabee among her favorites. “They’re all good, though,” she said. Asked how she would make up her mind, she said, “I don’t know at this point. Keep listening. It’s tough.”

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Can conservatives find their footing in Hollywood in 2016? // CNN // Maeve Reston – June 5, 2015

The West Coast has long been a fundraising bastion for Democrats -- famously fueling the long struggle between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in the 2008 presidential race when Hollywood's loyalties were divided. And George Clooney grabbed headlines in 2012 by raising a $15 million haul for Obama in one night.

But Republicans have raised plenty of money on the West Coast -- albeit more quietly than their Democratic rivals. Now the Republican Jewish Coalition, with its roster of influential donors and board members, is looking to raise the profile of Hollywood conservatives at their annual gala Sunday night in Beverly Hills.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte and Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson will be the featured guests at the gathering, but the Republican Jewish Coalition is also hosting its own red carpet to draw attention to more conservative actors and studio executives including Raquel Welch, Angie Harmon, Jeremy Boreing and Nick Searcy.

On Sunday night, the group plans to honor actor Jon Voight, who has often drawn headlines with his vociferous critiques of President Barack Obama's approach to foreign policy.

The group plans to praise Voight for his outspoken support of Israel, and specifically for responding publicly to an open letter signed by Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem, as well as other Spanish actors, directors and writers that condemned the incursion into Gaza by the Israeli military last year. European press outlets reported that the letter signed by Cruz, Bardem and Pedro Almodovar urged a cease-fire and was critical of Israel's actions in Gaza.

In his opinion column in The Hollywood Reporter, Voight wrote that he was "heartsick that people like Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem could incite anti-Semitism all over the world and are oblivious to the damage they have caused."

Both Bardem and Cruz, who are married, issued statements after the event clarifying that they were expressing their wish for peace in the region.

"I am now being labeled by some as anti-Semitic, as is my wife -- which is the antithesis of who we are as human beings," Bardem said in a statement last year. "We detest anti-Semitism as much as we detest the horrible and painful consequences of war."

Nick Searcy of the FX series "Justified" said he and others would be attending the gala Sunday in part to honor Voight's advocacy for conservative causes as an example to others with similar political views.

"There are really are some (conservatives)" in Hollywood," Searcy told CNN in a telephone interview. "I've met them -- some of them will tell you who they are and some of them won't."

Searcy called political recognition of Voight by the Republican Jewish Coalition "a big step."

"Jon obviously has been very outspoken in his disagreements with the Obama-Democrat foreign policy, and at the same time, he doesn't seem to be hurting for work," Searcy said. "In a town like Hollywood -- where we're supposed to be about freedom of thought and freedom of expression -- it's good to see Jon practicing that."

GOP hopefuls blame Obama's China policy for data breach // The Hill // Cory Bennett – June 6, 2015

OP presidential hopefuls are bashing President Obama over his handling of China in the wake of a massive digital theft of federal workers' data that officials have tied to Beijing.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on Thursday revealed that hackers had snapped up roughly 4 million employees' records.

Several Republican candidates argued on Friday that Obama's failure to employ a strong hand with the Asian power empowered the country to launch digital assaults at will against the U.S. government and private sector.

"The lack of common sense in this White House is beyond breathtaking," said former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.
"We need a different strategy to confront Chinese behavior — whether in the South China Sea or in cyberspace," said Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard executive, on Facebook.

"Yet another example of America being walked over by rivals and adversaries," said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who declared his candidacy Monday.

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In recent years, security experts say China has built up its cyber capabilities, ranking as a leading world power.

In addition to using its considerable prowess to monitor its own citizens, China has also launched a pervasive cyber espionage campaign against the U.S.

“China is rapidly evolving from a sometime partner, sometime competitor, into an adversary,” Fiorina said.

The recent OPM breach is thought to be part of a broader scheme to create a database on high-ranking U.S. officials and defense contractors.

Researchers have linked the suspected OPM hackers to the digital intruders behind the gargantuan breaches at health insurers Anthem and Premera, which exposed over 90 million people’s data, possibly including that of White House cybersecurity coordinator Michael Daniel.

Experts worry the stockpile of data could be used to imitate or even blackmail senior U.S. officials.

“They have a tremendous amount of stepping stones they can use for further activity,” said John Hultquist, senior manager of online espionage threat intelligence at iSight, a security firm.

The problem, say Republican candidates, is that China has no fear of repercussions.

“We need a leader who will challenge the status quo in Washington and confront our adversaries abroad,” said Fiorina.

The U.S. has struggled to maintain diplomatic cyber relations with China, while simultaneously trying to step up pressure on Beijing to end its hacking and digital theft of commercial secrets.

The Justice Department last year indicted five members of the Chinese military for hacking.

Recently updated White House and Pentagon national security and cybersecurity documents also directly call out China on cyber espionage.

But the administration continues to promote a diplomatic path in the hopes of establishing international norms in cyberspace. The Department of Homeland Security has taken steps to reestablish an official cyber dialogue, which was cut off following the DOJ indictments last year.

The tactic doesn’t sit well with the GOP field.

“The Obama administration's failures in foreign policy and national security continue to pile up yet they do nothing to change course,” Graham said.

Huckabee has criticized the president for even engaging China in trade deals.

“China cheats, rips-off American products, abuses its people, taunts our allies, and now they're crawling through our federal government stealing sensitive personal information from millions of people,” he said.

“As president, I will stop Chinese cheating, hold China accountable, and never, ever apologize for protecting Americans.”

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Marriage today: rich-poor gap, later vows, gays gain access // AP // David Crary – June 6, 2015

Through two decades of debate on whether America's gays and lesbians should have the right to marry, opponents of such unions depicted their resistance as "defense of marriage." Now, on the cusp of a Supreme Court ruling that could legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, the underlying institution is under scrutiny anew.

Does marriage in America indeed need help? What kind of shape is it in? In simplest terms, the diagnosis is mixed.

Among college-educated, relatively affluent couples, marriage is doing pretty well. Where education and income levels are lower, it's often a different story — higher divorce rates, and far more children being born out of wedlock, including many to single mothers.

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There's broad sentiment that this "marriage gap" is unfortunate, but no consensus on what to do about it. Some believe government-funded marriage-promotion programs can make a difference, although their effectiveness has been questioned. Others depict marriage-focused solutions as misguided and say the problems can be eased only by broader economic and social initiatives benefiting all types of households.

"There is no one silver bullet," said David Blankenhorn, head of a centrist think-tank, the Institute for American Values, that focuses much of its work on marriage and families.

Yet despite uncertainty about solutions, he and others believe there is now an opportunity to bridge the left-right split over marriage, particularly in light of the sweeping gains for gay and lesbian couples, which have changed the tenor of the discussion.

For many years, the gay-marriage debate was intertwined with assertions about "traditional marriage" between a man and a woman. A federal act passed in 1996 and a subsequent wave of amendments adopted in many states used the term "defense of marriage" to deny recognition to same-sex unions. Many opponents of same-sex marriage argued that allowing gays to wed would somehow undermine heterosexual marriage.

Such arguments have fared poorly in recent federal court cases. And there's a strong likelihood that the Supreme Court will order the legalization of same-sex marriage in all 50 states in a ruling expected soon. Opinion polls show a solid majority of Americans support it.

"Marriage as culture war in America can now be replaced by marriage as common cause," said a coalition of scholars and civic leaders in their manifesto for a new initiative called Marriage Opportunity.

The group, with Blankenhorn as an organizer, envisions liberals fighting for economic opportunity, conservatives fighting for stronger families and gays who have now won marriage rights for themselves all uniting to confront the marriage gap and to promote "a new embrace of marriage's promise."

Among the scholars chronicling the marriage gap is Andrew Cherlin, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins University and author of "Labor's Love Lost: The Rise and Fall of the Working-Class Family in America."

Cherlin says the gap stems in large measure from the loss of stable, well-paid industrial jobs — consigning legions of young adults to precarious, low-paid jobs, and prompting many to put off marriage even while having children out of wedlock.

In contrast, college-educated young adults are more likely to wait until marriage to have children and then have the prospect of raising them in a household supported by two good incomes. For such couples, Cherlin writes, marriage is a status symbol, and their divorce rates are now much lower than for couples with only a high school education.

According to the Pew Research Center, the share of American adults who have never been married is at an historic high. In 2012, roughly 20 percent of adults 25 and older had never been married, compared to only 9 percent of adults in that age range in 1960. Back then, according to Pew, the likelihood of being married didn't vary according to level of education; now men with advanced degrees are far more likely to have married than those who didn't go beyond high school.

There's a wealth of other data illustrating challenges confronting the institution of marriage:

—Americans are waiting longer to get married. According to the Census Bureau, the current median age for a first marriage — 29 for men and 27 for women — is the highest in more than a century. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 23 for men and 20 for women.

—Unmarried mothers account for 40.6 percent of children born in the U.S., according to the latest Census data. The rate is particularly high in the African-American community — 71.5 percent.

—Even for couples raising children, marriage is increasingly optional. According to the research group Child Trends, there were 3.1 million cohabiting but unmarried couples in the U.S. raising children in 2014, up from 1.2 million in 1996.

Tera Jordan, a professor of human development at Iowa State University, has studied various aspects of marriage and relationships among black Americans.

To the extent that marriage is under siege in their communities, she sees a need for multiple changes — more access to good-paying jobs, better educational opportunities, a lowering of the incarceration rate for young black men. Her advice to young adults wondering about marriage: "Be clear about your goals, be patient. Finish your education."

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Long-term, she is optimistic.

"Americans still hold marriage in very high regard," she said.

Before moving to Iowa, Jordan worked with a federally funded marriage-strengthening program in Georgia. In all, according to experts who study the field, more than $1 billion in public funding has been spent since 2005 on an array of marriage and relationship programs.

Yet the effectiveness of these programs remains subject to debate.

For example, there were negative findings in a rigorous study of a federally funded program called Building Strong Families, which taught relationship skills to more than 5,100 low-income, unwed couples who were expecting a child or just had a baby.

The study by Mathematica Policy Research found that after three years, the program had no effect on the quality of couples' relationships and co-parenting skills, and did not make them more likely to stay together or get married.

The largest and most durable state-level program is the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, recently renamed Project Relate. Since its launch in 1999, it has served more than 400,000 Oklahomans — about 10 percent of the population.

Alan Hawkins, professor of Family Life at Brigham Young University, describes it as "the most comprehensive and effective public policy effort to help couples achieve healthy relationships and enduring marriages." It provides relationship education for teens, young adults, unmarried cohabiting parents, engaged couples and married couples.

One of its primary programs, Family Expectations, entails 30 hours of classes for low-income expectant parents, whether married or not, who want to strengthen their relationships. Independent assessments found that couples taking the program are more likely to stay together than other couples. Other research has credited Oklahoma's initiative with a slight increase in the percentage of children living with two parents and a slight decrease in the percentage living in poverty.

Kendy Cox, a senior director of Project Relate, said its annual funding is between $6.5 million and $7 million, mostly from federal welfare appropriations.

Many low-income couples believe in the concept of marriage, Cox said, yet are unsure if it's the right step for them.

"It's become seen as sort of pie in the sky for some couples," she said. "Even if they've already had a baby, they have this sense of, 'I have so much work to do before we can even consider marriage.'"

Among the graduates of Family Expectations is Rachel Chudoba, 27, who now has a job with Public Strategies, the private firm which handles daily management of the marriage initiative.

Chudoba and her then-fiance, Chad — now her husband — were only 19 when they signed up for Family Expectations in 2007.

"We both wanted to do it," Chudoba said. "We were pretty much in agreement that we didn't know what we were doing."

They put in a full day of coursework each Saturday for six weeks, then received periodic coaching over the next two years. They're now parents of a son and daughter.

Chudoba said the communications skills they learned came in handy when Chad, a member of the Army National Guard, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2013.

"Our communication was so sporadic — mostly by email," she said. "All the things I was taught were really important in those moments."

Among the lessons she applied, Chudoba said, was learning to take a timeout when an argument flared.

"It's hard to acknowledge that you need a timeout in a conversation when you don't get to talk very often," Chudoba said. "But being separated for a year, you are going to have disagreements, and solving them is difficult."

Chudoba said both she and her husband came from challenging backgrounds — both of Rachel's parents had

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multiple divorces, while Chad spent time in foster care.

"We didn't have a lot of positive examples of how to have a relationship and how to raise children," she said. "That was a huge thing for me and my husband — not repeating the mistakes of the older generation."

Several members of her extended family are in their early 20s, and wondering where marriage fits in their future. "I see people who are apprehensive," Chudoba said. "I see a lot of looking for answers."

Oklahoma, along with Utah, also has initiated a program seeking to save some marriages by curtailing divorce. Hawkins, the BYU professor, says they are the only states with mandatory education programs for divorcing parents that include specific advice on how to reconcile.

According to Hawkins, about 10 percent of divorcing couples — both husband and wife — still want to save the marriage even near the end of the divorce process.

"Divorce may be easy legally, but it's not easy psychologically — very few people are casual about it," he said. "Even many people experiencing some of the hardest problems — adultery, substance abuse — don't want a divorce and are willing to work hard to solve those problems."

Looking nationally, Hawkins says he understands the widespread skepticism about state-backed marriage programs.

"Success has been modest in relation to the size of the problem," he said. "We don't know what levers we could pull to make a difference."

In Raleigh, North Carolina, Brad Hambrick says he's seen positive results from a mentoring program for young couples at the Summit Church, a Southern Baptist congregation that he serves as pastor of counseling.

Raleigh, he says, has a large population of transients — a status that can be challenging for newly married couples.

"If you don't have that network of parents, aunts, uncles, high school friends, marriage bears much more of the total social weight," he said. "What is expected of marriage becomes much greater — it either winds up being really good or really bad."

He recalls one younger couple in the church's program telling their mentors, "You're the first people who've talked positively to us about marriage."

Among the veteran mentors is Tom Droege, 57, a software developer who has teamed up with his wife, Paula, for more than a decade of counseling younger couples. Part of what they teach is how to handle conflict — including "how to fight fairly," he says.

"What they get from our program is a better understanding of expectations, so that when they run into the typical kinds of challenges that marriage presents, they don't feel that it only happens to them — it's normal."

GOP-led states trying bolster budgets by limiting government assistance programs // Fox News – June 6, 2015

Lawmakers in the Sunflower State have been scrambling for years to make up a $400 million revenue gap following a 2012 income tax cut that left deep holes in the state budget.

Republican Gov. Sam Brownback wants recover some of the money by placing limits on government assistance.

Starting in July, people in Kansas who collect government assistance will be limited to a single ATM withdrawal not exceeding $25 per day. The Kansas law also prohibits public-assistance spending at swimming pools, tattoo parlors and video arcades.

Though it might sound extreme to some, Kansas is just the latest GOP-led state to launch campaigns to cut or limit public assistance.

A 2014 Pew Research Center survey found that 73 percent of Republicans and 32 percent of Democrats believe the government can't afford to spend much more on assistance programs. The number of families receiving cash through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program stood at 1.5 million at the end of 2014.

When Brownback signed the bill in April he defended it by saying the primary focus isn't a handout but instead to "get people back to work, because that's where the real benefit is – getting people off public assistance and back into the marketplace with the dignity and far more income there than the pittance that government gives them."

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Shannon Cotsoradis, president of the advocacy group Kansas Action for Children, told Bloomberg News that state lawmakers “acted on anecdotes” about TANF cards being used on cruise ships and casinos and that the information used to sway lawmakers isn’t “data-driven.”

But lawmakers in a growing number of states believe chipping away at a budget shortfall can be done by limiting the amount of government assistance being doled out.

In Michigan, the state Senate recently passed a bill that would put families on the welfare chopping block if their children are regularly absent from school. The “Parental Responsibility Act” would give the state the ability to cut off assistance if a child whose parents are receiving assistance is chronically truant.

If the child is younger than 16, the whole family could lose its cash benefits.

“During the recession there were lots of blue states, for fiscally driven reasons, that were cutting welfare,” Liz Schott, a senior fellow at the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington think tank, told Bloomberg News. “This year’s cuts feel more ideologically driven.”

In May, Missouri’s Republican legislature overrode a veto by Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, to enact a bill that would take away assistance from more than 6,400 children -- 2,600 of them below the age of 5, his office said in published reports.

Nixon described the bill “a misguided measure that punishes poor children” in a “zeal to reduce reliance on government assistance.”

And in Arizona, lawmakers slashed the amount of time residents could stay on assistance to 1 year – the shortest window in the nation.

The Associated Press described the cuts as a reflection of the “prevailing mood” among lawmakers who believe that public assistance programs are what keeps the poor from getting back on their feet permanently.

But not everyone subscribes to the sentiment.

Jessica Lopez, 23, said cutting off benefits isn’t fair.

Lopez, who gets $133 per month, gave birth to her son while living in a domestic violence shelter and has struggled to hold onto jobs because she has dyslexia and didn’t finish high school.

“We’re all human,” she told the AP. “Everybody has problems. Everybody is different. When people ask for help, we should be able to get it without having to be looked at wrong.”

INTERNATIONAL

Behind Tough Talk on Russia, G-7 Leaders Face Tough Reality ***// AP // Julie Pace – June 6, 2015***

Behind the tough talk on Russia expected from President Barack Obama and other leaders gathering in Germany this weekend is a stark reality.

None of the world powers believes the economic and diplomatic punishments levied on Russia for its alleged aggression in Ukraine are changing President Vladimir Putin's calculus, yet there are no plans to shift strategies.

At most, leaders hope to emerge from two days of talks in the Bavarian Alps with an agreement to keep U.S. and European Union sanctions against Russia in place, and perhaps a pledge to enact deeper economic penalties if the crisis escalates. While there is little expectation that a show of unity will lead to a quick resolution in Ukraine, officials hope it will at least give Putin pause if he is considering ratcheting up Russia's moves.

A fresh outbreak of violence between government troops and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine is threatening to derail an already tenuous cease-fire.

The fact that sanctions have not altered Putin's military posture is "a sign of how heedless the Russian government seems to be about the long-term welfare of its own people that it has not yet resulted in a change, in a reversal at least, of course, which is what we want out of Russia," Defense Secretary Ash Carter told reporters after a Friday meeting in Germany with American military and diplomatic leaders.

The Group of Seven summit marks the second year in a row that leaders from the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan will assemble without Putin. After Russia annexed territory from Ukraine last

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year, the world powers kicked Russia out of what had been called the Group of Eight, a move aimed at isolating Putin and signaling the West's united opposition to his provocative actions.

Yet Putin remains a major player on pressing issues.

Russia is a partner of the U.S. and other nations in the nuclear talks with Iran, an Obama priority. Putin is a linchpin in any discussions on resolving the civil war in Syria, given Russia's status as President Bashar Assad's biggest benefactor.

Republicans have accused Obama of putting his interest in the Iran nuclear talks above supporting Ukraine. GOP White House hopeful Jeb Bush is set to arrive in Europe just as Obama departs, with stops in Germany, Poland and Estonia. Bush is expected to pledge broader U.S. backing for the region if elected president.

White House officials defend the engagement with Russia on Iran and other matters, and say the U.S. can work with Moscow on issues of mutual interest while also confronting Putin over Ukraine.

But experts say Secretary of State John Kerry's meetings with Putin in Russia last month raised questions in Europe about whether Washington might be pursuing a new policy toward the Kremlin. Kerry's trip was the first time a senior U.S. official has traveled to Russia since Moscow annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine.

"It created this cloud of controversy around what is the U.S. strategy: Why did he go?" said Julianne Smith, a former Obama White House official who is now a senior fellow at the Center for New American Security. "So I think there'll be a little bit of mopping up from that trip."

European nations are watching whether the U.S. commitment to isolating and penalizing Russia is weakening. Europe has far stronger ties to Russia than the U.S. and some leaders face pressure from the business community to ease off penalties that have affected their finances.
Still, the European Union is expected to renew expiring sanctions later this summer.

Thousands of people gathered Saturday in a town a few miles from the summit venue to protest a range of causes, including a proposed trans-Atlantic trade deal, before the leaders' arrival.

Obama departed Washington Saturday evening after delivering an emotional eulogy at the funeral service for Vice President Joe Biden's son, Beau. Joining Obama on Air Force One for the trip to Germany were four House Democrats who support his efforts to win special authority to negotiate a Pacific Rim trade deal.

The trade debate on Capitol Hill is being closely watched by G-7 leaders. While Obama has Senate backing to seek fast-track authority of the Trans Pacific Partnership pact, he faces a steep challenge in getting his own party's support in the House. Japan a*nd Canada are both part of TPP.*

European nations are not part of the pact, but the congressional debate could affect whether Obama has the political capital left to pursue a trans-Atlantic trade deal with the EU before leaving office.

After his overnight flight to Munich, Obama was to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, then join other leaders for talks at Schloss Elmau, a one-time Bavarian ar*tist retreat turned luxury spa.*

Also on Obama's schedule was a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron, whose party is coming off an unexpectedly strong election victory. The president also planned to see Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who was invited to the G-7 meeting to discuss the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State in his country, as well as in Syria.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Running Against Hillary **// NYT // Ross Douthat – June 6, 2015**

BEFORE anything else is said, they deserve the thanks of a grateful nation. Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, even Lincoln Chafee: They are stepping up where others quailed, laying their bodies on democracy's altar, saving their party's nominating contest from resembling a presidential re-election in Kazakhstan.

But if they aspire to more than just holding Hillary Clinton below the 97.7 percent of the vote that Nursultan Nazarbayev claimed in his last trip to the hustings, her primary rivals will need more than courage. They'll need a plan.

A little while ago, the plan for a not-Hillary candidate looked obvious: While Clinton played it safe and hugged the political center, her challenger would run hard to her left, channel the energy of the party's grass-roots activists, campaign against the front-runner's establishment instincts and her husband's triangulating past.

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This road map did not promise victory. (Only Hillary herself can stop Hillary from winning — and even then not without a lot of work.) But it promised, at least, a meaningful battle of ideas, and maybe even a chance to make things close in Iowa.

Since her official entrance into the race, however, Hillary has moved aggressively to shrink the space for that kind of battle. Her big policy statements – on criminal justice reform, immigration, and now universal voter registration – have all aligned her explicitly with the party's activists, and to an extent many them did not expect.

Her theory seems to be that the political center has moved leftward, and that mobilizing Democratic constituencies will matter as much in the general election as reaching out to swing voters; she may also be haunted, understandably, by memories of 2008. (There's no reason to think she isn't sincere in her new stances, but with the Clintons it's always fair to analyze strategy before belief.)

Whatever the motivation, this new positioning has made it even harder for the not-Hillarys to run against her. They can move further to her left (Sanders, in particular, won't have trouble doing so), but then their campaigns will seem even more quixotic. And if Hillary stays committed to their major goals, the party's activists will have clear incentives to just take her "yes" for an answer.

So what remains for our brave few, our band of brothers? Well, they can attack her as a latecomer, a flip-flopper, a fair-weather progressive. But such charges are rarely politically effective; if they were, Mitt Romney would never have been the 2012 G.O.P. nominee. At some level, voters know that they're voting for the platform more than for the candidate. And the left, in particular, has philosophical reasons to be comfortable with flip-flops: If you think the Arc of History is bending toward your ideas, then it's actually a kind of vindication when a politician bends your way.

Alternatively, our anti-Hillarys can focus on foreign policy, where her Iraq War vote helped doom her seven years ago. Here they'll have a stronger case, since she probably remains more hawkish (see her role in our Libyan war for evidence) than her party's dovish base.

But Clinton can find shelter by associating herself with the current president: She'll just say (as she's already saying) that she's exactly as hawkish as Obama, no less and no more. If he escalates against ISIS, she'll support it; if not, she won't. Ditto Putin, Assad, you name it. This won't protect her left flank fully, but so long as she's hugging the president she'll lose more left-wing intellectuals than actual progressive voters.

So all that really remains for her would-be challengers is to attack her ethics. There, at last, the anti-Hillary argument becomes an easy one: From the Nixonian style of her State Department operation to the way her family fattened itself on global tribute during her recent public service, her rivals can point to sins and misdemeanors that would have already disqualified a lesser candidate.

But will many Democrats really want to hear that argument? The advantage of making an ideological case against Hillary is that progressives can accept it – yes, she's not as liberal as we would like, we're glad somebody's pressing her, and maybe we'll cast a protest vote for them – and still feel O.K. about her inevitability and about voting for her in the general election.

The ethical case, on the other hand, is more personal, discomfiting, and easily repurposed by Republicans. So any time Hillary's rivals offer those kinds of critiques, their audience will hear intimations of G.O.P. attacks to come. And since she's almost certainly going to be the nominee, Democratic voters may not be particularly grateful for the foretaste; they may, instead, dismiss the men offering it for giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

In which case those men will still deserve our gratitude. Because then, at least, whatever happens in a Clinton presidency, her supporters won't be able to say that they weren't warned.

Hillary the Tormentor **// NYT // Frank Bruni – June 6, 2015**

LATELY I've been running into people even more put off by the Clintons than the nefarious operatives in the "vast right wing conspiracy" ever were.

They're called Democrats.

I had breakfast with one last week. I'd quote him directly, but The Times doesn't permit profanity.

He's furious at Hillary and Bill, because they've once again created all these ugly, obvious messes that they could and should have avoided. He's disgusted, because he has come to believe that they're tainted.

He's also resolute: He's voting — even rooting — for Hillary.

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Party loyalty motivates him. On top of which, he's worried about the Supreme Court and how a Republican president might pack it.

And he keeps hearing the voices of little girls in his life who have asked him whether a woman can be president of the United States in reality, not just on some TV show.

He wants them to see: Yes, she can.

So here he stands, or rather squirms, exhilarated by what Hillary embodies and repelled by what she represents, wanting to see her take the oath and wanting never to lay eyes on her and Bill again, determined that they reclaim the White House and despairing of the muddy road there and the certain muck beyond. He's a riot of warring emotions, a paradox with a pulse.

The Clintons will do that to a person.

Or to a country.

There was a suggestion last week that Clinton weariness and wariness had again overtaken Americans: Two new national polls showed that regard for Hillary had declined, at least for the moment, to levels not seen in many years.

In both surveys, more respondents saw her unfavorably than favorably. In the one by ABC News and The Washington Post, only 41 percent said that she was honest and trustworthy, while 52 percent said that she wasn't.

Such findings will fluctuate, as Jack Shafer noted aptly and archly in Politico: "While glory awaits the journalist who buries Hillary Clinton, carves her tombstone and tidies her grave, the makings of her demise cannot be read in these poll results. Clinton rides a favorability roller coaster, and has been riding it hard for the past 23 years."

I bring no coffin, carry no shovel and am less interested in her roller coaster than in the hard ride that she and Bill have taken us on. It never ends.

And it's different from politics as usual. It's politics as a peculiar form of psychological torture, because the Clintons have a way — it's their trademark — of being the best, most exciting vessel for people's hopes even as they make those people feel icky about their investment in the couple.

Just ask Democrats who were in Congress during Bill's impeachment. Many fought to save his presidency, and thus gave the requisite interviews and said the right words, all the while roiling with outrage over the selfish, reckless manner in which he'd put his and the party's agenda at risk.

Just look at all the liberal women who rallied then to his defense, studiously turning a blind eye to his personal behavior because his policy priorities were preferable to those of his attackers. It was an understandable bargain, but it wasn't a pretty one.

It's never as simple and humdrum as being for or against the Clintons. And while countless other politicians force supporters to make special allowances, stomach imperfections and come to terms with a tangle of good and bad, few do so on the Clintons' operatic scale.

A prediction: With the publication on June 16 of two new books that assess Richard Nixon — "One Man Against the World: The Tragedy of Richard Nixon," by Tim Weiner, and "Being Nixon: A Man Divided," by Evan Thomas — you're going to see and hear some comparisons of Nixon and Hillary.

These will touch on paranoia and on relationships (or, rather, the lack of them) with reporters.

"It's definitely true that Hillary is like Nixon in her sense of aggrievement and her deep suspicion of the press," Thomas told me, though he hastened to add, "Nixon ultimately was a darker figure."

It's also true that voting for her may require of many Democrats what voting for him did of many Republicans, which is the suppression of profound misgivings. Thomas said that in 1968, people backing Nixon often felt that "there really wasn't any other choice." At least for the nomination, he was inevitable.

As is she, and this time around, in contrast to 2008, there's no Barack Obama in the wings, at least none that Democratic operatives can detect. Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley and Lincoln Chafee don't qualify.

At some point over the last year Democrats placed just about all of their chips on Hillary, reassured by the depth of her experience, aware of how much money she could raise, and inspired by what a perfect sequel to Barack Obama she'd be. He broke the color barrier. Now she'd shatter the glass ceiling that she put all those cracks in.

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But the Clintons facilitate a thrilling scenario only to pollute it. They come wrapped in shiny folds of promise and good intentions, then the packaging comes off, and what lies beneath are emails from Sidney Blumenthal, shakedowns of Petra Nemcova.

Recently Bill wrote a letter to supporters of his, Hillary's and Chelsea's sprawling charitable foundation, outlining its global reach. He described the breadth of services it provides, including H.I.V./AIDS medicines for nearly 10 million people in 70 countries, and the diversity of people it supports, from farmers in Africa to female entrepreneurs in Latin America.

His words were a reminder that perhaps no other former president has lavished so much travel and star power on such an ambitious engine of good deeds. The foundation is an exemplar.

Until you peek inside and behold a convoluted braid of public service and personal aggrandizement, a queasy-making brew of altruism and vanity, a mechanism for employing loyalists and rewarding friends, a bazaar for favor trading. Straightforward admiration is no longer possible.

Frustration supplants it. Worry, too. A few days ago I spoke with one Democratic elder who ranted, like my breakfast companion, about all the ammunition that the Clintons had needlessly created for a Republican nominee.

He envisioned a flood of negative ads in Florida and Ohio about State Department emails, speaking fees and foreign donations. He said that this deluge could very well make a difference.

He was livid.

Would that keep him from campaigning for Hillary?

No, he said. Even if he couldn't count on her, she could count on him.

It didn't seem fair.

It did seem familiar.

Why Join the Military With a Reckless (Meaning Republican) Commander-In-Chief? **// HuffPo //**
Doug Bandow – June 6, 2015

Former governor and presidential candidate Michael Huckabee issued a clarion call for young Americans not to join the military if he or virtually any Republican wins the presidency in 2016. Well, that's not exactly what he said. But it was the obvious implication of his remarks.

Huckabee declared: "I'd wait a couple of years, until we got a new commander-in-chief, that will once again believe one nation under God and believes that people of faith should be a vital part of the process of not only governing, but defending this country." It was an oblique, even confusing attack on President Barack Obama. Apparently the former Baptist pastor was upset about Pentagon restrictions on proselytizing within the armed services.

It's a fair area for debate since the Obama administration sometimes has taken a careless, if not hostile, stance toward religious liberty. But there's no evidence that the president doesn't want people of faith joining the military (or being involved in "governing," whatever that means).

However, Huckabee inadvertently raised a far more important issue. Should Americans join the military if the next commander-in-chief of the armed services is an arrogant, ignorant, irresponsible, war-happy hawk? Patriotic young men and women want to serve their country, challenge themselves and more. Many of America's best and brightest join the armed services. But with the U.S. constantly at war, joining is a life or death decision, dependent on the judgment of whoever sits in the Oval Office.

There is much to criticize in President Obama's foreign policy. He is too aggressive -- twice increasing troop levels in Afghanistan, and recently prolonging the U.S. presence, going to war in Libya, making the Islamic State's sectarian conflict America's own, putting combat and training personnel in a number of smaller conflicts, including Uganda and Ukraine. The administration's execution also often suffers. Sadly, the word incompetent comes to mind.

Nevertheless, the president apparently is thoughtful and thus reluctant to loose the dogs of war. In contrast, ever-angry 2008 presidential candidate John McCain urges war in virtually every circumstance. He never seems to think about the consequences of bombing or invading other nations. One would be a real risk-taker to join the military under such a commander-in-chief.

President George W. Bush demonstrated a different set of faults. By all accounts he knew little about the countries

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he was invading and peoples he was fighting. He believed the fairy tale promises of more "optimistic" advisers. He wasn't willing to finish what he started, essentially abandoning the Afghan war, which was tied to 9/11, to initiate the far most disastrous Iraq war, which was unrelated to the attack on America. Bush then refused to accept responsibility while carrying on with a failed policy.

As a consequence, more than 4,500 American service members, plus other U.S. employees and contractors, died needlessly. New enemies and enemy organizations were created, such as the Islamic State, which are active today. Iran was greatly empowered, the same Iran that most of the current GOP presidential candidates believe should be bombed. It is a miracle -- or a testament to so many Americans' deep patriotism -- that anyone enlisted while Bush was president (and Richard Cheney was vice president, a scary heartbeat away from the Oval Office).

The 2016 contenders are almost all worse than President Obama. There are some outliers, like Sen. Rand Paul and former Senators Jim Webb and Lincoln Chaffee. A few others are unclear players such as Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former governors Jeb Bush and Martin O'Malley. The first group take a more nuanced and restrained approach to foreign policy, though not all their positions are consistent. The others so far have not committed themselves or have given conflicting signals.

The other contenders appear more interested in promoting ideology than addressing reality in foreign policy. For instance, Hillary Clinton has spent most of her political life as a hawk. She reportedly was a leading advocate of military action in the Balkans in the 1990s -- a complicated, murderous conflict of primary interest to Europe in which the U.S. ignored massive ethnic cleansing by its allies, Croatia and the ethnic Albanian Kosovars. Bosnia and Kosovo remain problems because the U.S. attempted to impose a "solution" from outside through force.

As senator, Clinton voted to authorize the Iraq war, the most foolish, counterproductive foreign policy decision by the U.S. government in decades. Iran was empowered, sectarianism exploded in Iraq, and radical forces including the Islamic State were born. She obviously learned no lessons, however.

As secretary of state, Clinton was a constant advocate of more war. She appeared to enthusiastically back the force build-up in Afghanistan and insisted that war was an option against Iran. Observed neocon intellectual Robert Kagan: "I feel comfortable with her on foreign policy." He told the New York Times that her policy is "something that might have been called neocon, but clearly her supporters are not going to call it that."

Libya was Clinton's war. That conflict was supposed to be another cakewalk. Alas, it resulted in thousands of deaths, multiple war atrocities, an incipient civil war, another home for Islamic State killers, and the regional spread of arms, including anti-aircraft missiles. The good news is that no Americans died fighting. But Americans stationed in Libya died afterwards, on her watch, and now are at risk battling the Islamic State. Out of office, she supported the president's initial plan for bombing Syria over its apparent use of chemical weapons as well as re-involvement in Iraq to fight the Islamic State.

When has she ever supported peace? Anyone serving under her should recognize the risks of being sent into another foolish, counterproductive war.

However, most of the Republicans are no better -- indeed, some are a good deal worse. Lindsey Graham is running in order to promote a policy of constant conflict. In recent years he joined with John McCain to advocate on behalf of every war fought and many not started. If Graham was president, members of the armed services could expect to spend years overseas occupying and remaking foreign societies. Kind of a permanent Afghan-Iraqi policy, only everywhere.

The media has anointed Sen. Marco Rubio as having "expertise" in foreign policy, despite his endorsement every war since his election in 2010. He backed bombing Libya, bombing Syria, bombing the Islamic State, and possibly attacking Iran. Apparently unaware that Iran was, if anything, even more hostile than Washington to the Islamic State, Rubio recently combined bellicosity with ignorance. Alas, George W. Bush demonstrated that that is a really bad combination for a president. (Rubio also has taken on the contradictory task of promoting new thinking while backing the half century old economic embargo on Cuba.)

A couple of former governors, Huckabee and Rick Perry, previously ran as "bomb-first" neocons, believing that most every foreign policy problem would be solved by another war. A gaggle of governors -- Scott Walker, Chris Christie, and Bobby Jindal -- avoided much of the foreign policy debate while serving but generally have been attempting to outflank each other with hawkish pronouncements. None has demonstrated knowing very much about the subject and, in general, they have backed the Iraq war, inveighed against the nuclear agreement with Iran (the alternative to which likely is a nuclear Iran or war with Iran), insisted in increased military outlays, spouted the usual pabulum about the importance of "leadership" and "toughness," and denounced President Obama as weak. It is hard to know what they would do in any particular instance, but taken at their word they likely would send military personnel into combat for reasons minor or even frivolous.

One suspects that when the issue of foreign policy comes up at the Republican presidential debates, most of these candidates will break into the Maori Haka in an attempt to demonstrate that they are tougher and meaner and

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readier for war than their competitors. That is, unless someone reminds them that New Zealand is a peaceful nation which does not constantly start stupid wars.

Other Republicans who today are back benchers might come to the fore with an uber-hawkish president. Sen. Tom Cotton, for instance, recently made a thinly veiled appeal for military action against Iran despite the prospect of a negotiated settlement. But he argued it wasn't anything to worry about, that a few days of bombing would suffice. Even more bizarrely, he contended that "You have to be focused everywhere." The failure to set priorities really works well in wars.

All of the Republicans, including Rand Paul, also advocate essentially a blank check for the Pentagon, adopting the traditional Democratic position that spending more money on something is the same as achieving something. Paul, at least, wants to cut other outlays as an offset. Most of the candidates simply favor more money for more wars, wherever they might be fought.

What's a patriotic potential service member to do? Pine for Ronald Reagan.

It's not just the grand rhetoric of freedom and genuine appreciation for military service. It's also his very restrained, responsible use of the armed services. Caricatured as a wild cowboy, he only used the military three times. Once to oust a bloody communist regime in nearby Grenada which, he contended, threatened American students in medical school there. Another instance was to retaliate against Libya for a terrorist attack. The last was to support Lebanon's government in the middle of that nation's tragic civil war.

The first two were finished quickly. The third proved to be a horrible mistake, from which Reagan learned. He didn't send in another 100,000 troops, impose a multi-year occupation, and engage in nation-building. Instead, he pulled the troops out. And he never repeated that mistake.

Michael Huckabee is right. Americans should consider the commander-in-chief before joining the military. Unfortunately for Huckabee, if they did so they would disqualify him and most of the other presidential contenders. Voters should insist on good military as well as moral character.

Alexandria Phillips
Press Assistant | Communications
Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: jake.sullivan@gmail.com
kschake@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 5/3/2015 12:09:05 PM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>; David Binder <David@db-research.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com>; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:
>
> - Immigration plan
> - Clinton Cash update
>
> Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:
>
> **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call**
>
> **Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays**
> Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.
>
> --
> Kristina Schake
> Hillary for America

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/14/2008 5:00:57 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 05/14/08

Main Topics: McCain Interview on ABC, Bush Interview, West Virginia Primary

Summary of Shift: The main focus of pundits this morning was the outcome of yesterday's West Virginia Primary. President Bush is in Israel, the first part of a Mideast tour. Former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will be on the Hill later today to talk about Alzheimer's disease. Economic reports show inflation is not as bad as expected, despite escalating food and fuel costs.

Islamic militants are the alleged perpetrators of a series of bomb blasts that killed 80 people in India. The military leadership of Myanmar continues to block cyclone relief from reaching those in need and it's estimated that nearly 15,000 people have died due to the earthquake in China.

Highlights:

1) McCain Interview on "Regis and Kelly"
a. *McSame* as Bush?
b. Questioned about "100 years" in Iraq, McCain says words "distorted" but still indicates he wants long-term presence like Korea
c. Double talks on Social Security privatization
d. Discusses health care
2) McCain vs. Obama general election map explored on "Today Show"
3) On Fox News, Robert Novak describes what McCain needs in a VP
4) President Bush Politico interview on Yahoo!, includes "no golf for troops" comment

Clips:

Highlight #1
McSame as Bush? (ABC 05/14/08 9:32am)
REGIS PHILBIN: I've heard Senator Obama say that if you were to get in your administration would be the same as President Bush's. Is there any truth to that?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, I think I will be as I have been, my own person. I have taken positions on issues that I have sometimes not agreed with President Bush, climate change, spending, the handling of the war early on. I think that the American people know me well enough that I'll run on my own record. And more importantly who can best portray and give a plan of action to help Americans right now. They're hurting, we know that. They're sitting around the kitchen table tonight having maybe lost their job. How are they going to make their home loan mortgage payments? These are tough times in America and Americans want to know what you're gonna do. I think that's, it's not so much about the past, but it's about the future.

Regis asks about "100 years" in Iraq, McCain Says Words "Distorted" But Still Argues for Long-Term Presence (ABC 05/14/08 9:32am)
REGIS PHILBIN: Now what about your plans for Iraq, which has suddenly been bumped off the front pages with all that's going on with the race and so on. But did you say that we might be there 50 or 100 years? And don't you think that remark is gonna come back to haunt you when the campaign really ignites?

JOHN MCCAIN: I think, I think that all is fair in politics. But the fact is that what I said was after we win we may have a security relationship with Iraq. After the Korean war was over we kept troops in South Korea. They're still there.

PHILBIN: They're still there.

MCCAIN: They're still there. And they're there for security arrangements , an arrangement between our governments. Kuwait, after the first Gulf War, we have troops in Kuwait, a big base there. We have them in Japan, we have them in Germany. America is the world's superpower and our security arrangements and presence sometimes is a very important stabilizing force. But also, it's not American presence in Iraq that grieves Americans, what grieves Americans is the tragic loss of brave young Americans and their sacrifice. So if we can stop the casualties, which I think I am convinced we can do by giving the responsibilities to the Iraqi military and government and bringing them home, but bringing them home with honor and victory. Then a security arrangement after that would be fine. So obviously those words of mine have been

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distorted but it's not the first time and it's not the last time. And so it's my job to get my message out and my position to the American people.

McCain Double Talks on Social Security Privatization (ABC 05/14/08 9:32am)
JOHN MCCAIN: [...]I have a record in the Senate of working together with the Democrats and I think that's what we have to do. What should be partisan about the fact that social security is gonna go broke? I mean, should we be divided up between Republican and Democrat.

REGIS PHILBIN: So do you have a plan for that?

MCCAIN: Yes sir and it's gonna require though, cooperation and participation from the other side. And I will reach my hand out...

PHILBIN: Is it privatization of the social security program?

MCCAIN: No, No, No it isn't. But I would say that I support, I would put everything on the table to start with. But second of all, that we ought, young workers ought to be able to put part of their salary, part of their taxes that they pay into social security, into an account with their name on it. But that would not in anyway affect older workers. But you've got to have a negotiation. Back in 1983 Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neil, who you don't remember Kelly, they sat down together, they sat down together and they fixed social security for a short period of time.

Kelly asks McCain to Explain his Health Care Plan (FNC 05/14/08 09:32am)
JOHN MCCAIN: First of all, for our veterans, we have to give them the ability when they have a routine health care need to just go to a doctor and get the treatment they need rather then have to stand in line.

MCCAIN: PTSD is a big problem, the kind of wounds we are getting out of this long tragic conflict need a lot of treatment

MCCAIN: I just want for people and families to make the choices for their health care not the government. That is one of the big differences. In other words I want to give every American family a five thousand dollar refundable tax credit that they can go any place in America and say this is the insurance policy that best meets my needs and that of my family.

MCCAIN: Basically it is put the choices and the ability to make those choices in the hands of the American family, I think, obviously the economy is the biggest issue, i think that health care obviously, is the underlying great concern that people have in America today.

Highlight #2
McCain vs. Obama General Election Map Explored on "Today Show" (NBC 05/14/08 7:15am)
MATT LAUER: [...]The formula for winning the general election this fall may be different than it has been in the past. NBC's David Gregory is here now with a look ahead to the battleground states shaping up for the general election.

DAVID GREGORY: Well this political map is like a game of roulette. Both McCain and Obama are now deciding where to place their bets.
[...]
CHRIS COOK: So you've got a lot of states that are just kind of moving around, not big movement, but small movements that could be pivotal in terms of turning this thing one way or the other, 270 for one party of the other.

GREGORY: Obama's strategists think they can be competitive in states that were red or Republican in 2004, like New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, where growing Hispanic populations are helping Democrats. Virginia, where heavy turnout in the Northern part of the state has recently helped Democrats win statewide races. Missouri which neighbors Obama's home state Illinois and Iowa where Obama's success began with a resounding Caucus victory. McCain has his eyes on 2004 blue states like New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon. In New Hampshire McCain is a well known figure and across the rust belt he hopes to appeal to Reagan Democrats. This week he broke from President Bush on global warming, a speech he gave in Democratic leaning Oregon.

VIN WEBER: He'll try to emphasize his appeal to independent voters, he'll try his maximize his appeal in certain states to Hispanic voters, and then of course you have a number of conservative Democrats that are going to be uncomfortable with a candidate as far to the left as Barack Obama.

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Highlight #3
Novak Describes What McCain Needs in a Vice Presidential Nominee (FNC 05/14/08 08:30am)
ROBERT NOVAK: He has to name somebody who is younger then he is, which isn't hard at all and hes got to name somebody who is more conservative then he is, which isn't hard either. That doesn't narrow the field.

Highlight #4
President Bush Politico Interview on Yahoo!, Includes "No Golf for Troops" Comment (Politico 05/13/08 04:00pm)
Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Michael, welcome.

Q Thank you for having us into this amazing place.

THE PRESIDENT: Glad you're here.

Q Congratulations, father of the bride.

THE PRESIDENT: I am the father of the bride, and was real pleased with the way the wedding went. It was an amazing experience, Mike, to see a little girl I dearly love be so happy. It was — I think the wedding went exactly the way she hoped it would go.

Q When you took her arm, Mr. President, what were you thinking?

THE PRESIDENT: I was thinking this is one beautiful bride, and Henry is a lucky man. It was — you know, you can imagine, the setting was beautiful by our lake.

Q A sunset.

THE PRESIDENT: The sun set, came down around about the time of the vows.

Q Ninety-two degrees?

THE PRESIDENT: It cooled off a little bit. But it didn't matter how hot it was.

Q Mr. President, what was your toast?

THE PRESIDENT: The toast was to the families and friends that were there; the toast was to the Hagers in raising a good man in Henry; the toast was to my beautiful girl.

Q Mr. President, we understand you had a little homework assignment, you watched Steve Martin's "Father of the Bride."

THE PRESIDENT: I did. (Laughter.)

Q Did you pick up any tips there?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, which is to write the check and be happy.

Q Mr. President, the one thing we don't see in here is a computer, and we know that you went cold turkey off email for security reasons. What are you looking forward to when you finally get your computer back?

THE PRESIDENT: Emailing to my buddies. I can remember as governor I stayed in touch with all kinds of people around the country, firing off emails at all times of the day to stay in touch with my pals. One of the things that I will have ended my public service time with is a group of friends, a lot of friends. And I want to stay in touch with them and there's no better way to communicate with them than through email.

Q Mr. President, we know you're a man of intense faith. And I wonder, what was a moment in this room over the past eight years when you needed that most?

THE PRESIDENT: Michael, I'd say daily. I mean, part of the faith walk is to understand your weaknesses and is to

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constantly try to embetter yourself and get closer to the Lord. And that's a daily occurrence. Obviously there's been some tough moments in here. When you know that somebody lost their loved one as a result of a decision that I made, that's a tough moment. If you're a faithful person you try to empathize with the suffering that that person is going through. On the other hand, there is a knowledge that the good Lord can comfort during these moments of grief. And that's what I ask for in my prayer.

The Oval Office is a place where there's been, obviously, a lot of amazing experiences over a seven-and-a-half year period. My presidency is one where I've had to make some very tough decisions. I guess some presidencies are kind of — were real smooth, there were no real big issues. Well, that's not the way mine is.

Q Consequential. That's what you want —

THE PRESIDENT: Consequential — if that's how it turns out to be, that's a good word, because I didn't want to come to Washington, D.C. and just hold the office for the sake of holding it. I wanted to come to Washington, D.C. and help be a transformative President. And I think history, when they look back, will say this is a fellow who knew how to make decisions, and made some tough ones, stood by them, wasn't driven by the latest opinion poll, but was driven by some core principles from which he would not deviate.

Q This is the last question, Mr. President. You talked about some tough decisions -- what was the happiest moment you've had in this amazing room?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, Michael, that's a good question. One of the most interesting moments, of course, was right after the inauguration. And my dad was upstairs at the White House preparing for the inaugural balls. And I said to him, let's go on over to the Oval Office -- I hadn't been in the Oval Office as President yet. And so I came over here before he got here, and he walked through that door right there and it was a happy moment to see my dad come in the Oval Office. I love him dearly.

Here I put -- this is where I put the President, the most influential President. And I tell people that a natural choice for the most influential President would be my dad, because I wouldn't be standing here without his unconditional love, so I say it -- his portrait hangs in my heart, and Abraham Lincoln hangs on the wall as the most influential, substantial, transformative President. He was a great President.

Q Do you think the first President Bush is proud of you?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, no question he is. And I'm proud of him. Look, I tell people -- and this is an interesting thing -- it's harder to be the son of a President than to be the President. In other words, when people get after Dad it would cause all kinds of emotions, none of them very good, in my being. I didn't like the unfair criticism. I thought at times he wasn't treated well. And when that happened, I didn't react positively because I loved him a lot. And now the roles are reversed.

Q You know the feeling.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he's sitting there complaining about this editorial or that -- I said, man, I don't even pay attention to it, because I don't. But, yes, he's very proud of me, you can imagine -- and proud of Jeb and he's proud of all his children for different reasons.

Q Mr. President, thank you for sharing the people's house with us.

(Interview moves to Roosevelt Room)

THE PRESIDENT: Mike, glad you're here.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much for having us into the Roosevelt Room for the first online interview. In the spirit of the Internet, I wonder if we could ask a question from one of our users, Steve Bailey, of New York, who says: With oil at $126 a barrel, pushing up the price of everything -- even food -- what can your administration do to help people right now?

THE PRESIDENT: I appreciate Steven's concerns. With the price of gasoline going up, it's like a tax. I wish I could give Steven a quick answer. In other words, it took us a while to get to where we are -- very dependent on oil, and in a world in which demand is greater than oil. So my answer to Steven is that the best thing we can do is to increase supply, and to drill for oil and gas in environmentally friendly ways at home, and build more refineries. Steven probably doesn't know this, but we haven't built a new refinery since 1976, and if we're truly interested in relieving the pressure on our consumers, then we

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ought to have a very active domestic policy now.

Q Mr. President, as you know, as a possible solution, Senator McCain, Senator Clinton have talked about suspending the federal gasoline tax this summer. You never said an absolute "no" to that. Is it something you would consider or do you think it's a bad idea to consider?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll consider it. And there's all kinds of ideas -- they're trying to pass a deal to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; we'll look at that.

The truth of the matter is that in order for there to be a substantial change either consumers have to change their habits -- which we're encouraging through alternative tax of automobiles -- or there has to be an increase of supply. And both of them have to go hand in hand in order to achieve less dependence on this very unsettled oil market.

Q Mr. President, I wonder if in your eight years in office what the changes have been, in your view, of climate change?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's been more clearly defined as a problem. But what hasn't changed is the realistic notion that new technologies are going to be the solution, and the fundamental question is how do you grow the economy at the same time, and at the same time encourage new technologies. And my administration has done more for the new technologies necessary to change our lifestyles without sacrificing wealth than any other administration.

Q Mr. President, for the record, is global warming real?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is real, sure is. But the solutions -- having said that, the solutions have got to be measured and realistic -- you can't have a solution to global warming unless China and India are part of any international pact. It's one of the reasons I didn't accept what's called the Kyoto Protocol, and therefore was labeled as anti-environment. I'm a realistic guy. If the major emitters of greenhouse gases are not a part of a solution, then those who are part of a solution are acting in a way that's simply not going to -- it will affect their own economies, but it won't affect the overall global warming issue.

So, yes, I put forth a very realistic, straightforward program that makes sense.

Q Mr. President, acknowledging those constraints, you're an oil man -- some people say that climate change, global warming could have been your Nixon-to-China. Do you wish you'd done more?

THE PRESIDENT: I did what I think is necessary to actually work, Michael. I mean, I could have signed a -- I could have supported a lousy treaty and everybody would have went, "Oh, man, what a wonderful sounding fellow he is." But it just wouldn't have worked. I don't think you want your President trying to be the cool guy and not end up with policies that actually make a difference.

So the policies I've outlined are policies that will actually make a difference: nuclear power for generating electricity; battery driven cars; ethanol. There's a variety of initiatives -- clean coal technology -- all of which will help us sustain our economic vitality and at the same time be better stewards of the environment.

Q Mr. President, turning to the biggest issue of all, Iraq. I wonder if you -- various people and various candidates talk about pulling out next year. If we were to pull out of Iraq next year, what's the worst that could happen, what's the doomsday scenario?

THE PRESIDENT: Doomsday scenario of course is that extremists throughout the Middle East would be emboldened, which would eventually lead to another attack on the United States.

The biggest issue we face is -- it's bigger than Iraq -- it's this ideological struggle against cold-blooded killers who will kill people to achieve their political objectives. Iraq just happens to be a part of this global war. Iraq is the place where al Qaeda and other extremists have made their stand -- and they will be defeated. They'll be defeated through military action, but they'll also be defeated as this young democracy takes hold. They can't stand to live in a free society, that's why they try to fight free societies.

The United States pulling out of Iraq or pulling out of the Middle East or not maintaining a forward presence would send all kinds of signals throughout the Middle East. And it would shake everybody's nerves, and it would embolden the very same people that we're trying to defeat.

Q Mr. President, I'm going to surprise you -- there's a question from a user, Bruce Becker, and he asks: Do you feel that you

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were misled on Iraq?

THE PRESIDENT: I feel like -- I felt like there were weapons of mass destruction. You know, "mislead" is a strong word, it almost connotes some kind of intentional -- I don't think so, I think there was a -- not only our intelligence community, but intelligence communities all across the world shared the same assessment. And so I was disappointed to see how flawed our intelligence was.

Q And so you feel that you didn't have all the information you should have or the right spin on that information?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, I was told by people that they had weapons of mass destruction -- as were members of Congress, who voted for the resolution to get rid of Saddam Hussein. And of course, the political heat gets on and they start to run and try to hide from their votes. But intelligence communities all across the world felt the same thing. This was kind of a common assessment.

So "mislead" means, do I think somebody lied to me? No, I don't. I think it was just, you know, they analyzed the situation and came up with the wrong conclusion.

Q **Mr. President, you haven't been golfing in recent years. Is that related to Iraq?**

THE PRESIDENT: **Yes, it really is. I don't want some mom whose son may have recently died to see the Commander-in-Chief playing golf. I feel I owe it to the families to be as -- to be in solidarity as best as I can with them. And I think playing golf during a war just sends the wrong signal.**

Q Mr. President, was there a particular moment or incident that brought you to that decision, or how did you come to that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I remember when de Mello, who was at the U.N., got killed in Baghdad as a result of these murderers taking this good man's life. And I was playing golf -- I think I was in central Texas -- and they pulled me off the golf course and I said, it's just not worth it anymore to do.

Q Mr. President, you're headed later today to the Middle East. The prospects for brokering peace between Israelis and Palestinians look bleak. I wonder what the best is you can hope for, and why should Americans back home care about your efforts over there?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a great question. Americans at home ought to care for the advance of free societies throughout the Middle East, after all, this is the center of anti-Americanism and hatred. In other words, the people that attacked us on 9/11 came from this part of the world. By far the vast majority of people aren't haters, and by far the vast majority of people don't hate America. But there are enough to be able to recruit if forms of government repress people. In other words, if there's hopelessness -- there's nothing more hopeless, by the way, than becoming a suicide bomber. And yet, these ideologues require hopeless situations.

So it's the advance of freedom throughout the Middle East which ought to be interesting -- which ought to say to the American people it's the best way to keep us secure.

No, we have seen -- we've witnessed this type of history before, Michael. In Europe it was the advance of freedom that now makes Europe whole, free and at peace. But that wasn't the case throughout the 1900s. In Japan, democracy came along and that enemy of ours is now an ally. In other words, freedom is transformative. And the big challenge in the 21st century is to advance freedom in the Middle East, for our security.

And you said about the Israeli-Palestinian issue? It's been tough for a long time. But I do believe we've got -- we're on the right track to defining a Palestinian state, what it looks like, so that the moderate people, the reasonable people in the region have something to be for.

Q Mr. President, I know you're going to hate this, but I'm hoping that we may twist your arm and talk about baseball for just a moment. (Laughter.) Mr. President, you're a Major League Baseball team owner again. Everyone is a free agent. You have a Yankees-like wallet. Who is your first position player? Who's your pitcher?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a great question. I like Ottley from the Philadelphia Phillies. He's a middle infielder, which is always -- you know, they say you have strength up the middle -- there's nothing better than having a good person up the middle that can hit. And Roy Halladay from the Toronto Blue Jays is a great pitcher. He's a steady guy, he burns up innings. And I'm sure I'm leaving some other good ones out, but those --

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Q We thought you were going to go A-Rod, Josh Beckett.

THE PRESIDENT: Josh Beckett is good, yes, he's real good, too. I mean, look, that's a tough question to answer on the fly like this, Michael.

Q Now, Mr. President, I wonder if you think that Major League Baseball is doing enough to combat steroids use, and specifically, would you favor a blood test to check for human growth hormone. As you know the players union says it's an unwarranted --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, look, I think what they need to do is to come to an agreement and to assure fans like me that the sport is clean. I mean, I --

Q But what would that take?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't studied all the particulars and all the testing. But I do know they need to get this era behind them quickly. Baseball is a fabulous sport. I used to say it's a sport played by normal-sized people. It turns out some of these normal-sized people are obviously very strong and very quick, but nevertheless, normal-size -- you don't have to be a huge guy to play baseball. And it's a great family sport, and it needs to be cleaned up.

Q And there haven't been enough normal-sized people.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there's -- yes, there are a lot of normal-sized people. I mean, there's a lot of little dudes who can play the game and play it well.

Q Now, Mr. President, you and the First Lady appeared on American Idol's charity show, "Idol Gives Back." And I wonder who do you think is going to win? Syesha, David Cook, or David Archuleta?

THE PRESIDENT: Michael, I can't tell you. I'll be frank with you, I'm usually asleep by that time of night. We did appear on it because we wanted to thank the "Idol" show for supporting causes such as Malaria No More, which is a real passion of mine and Laura's, which is to help eradicate malaria, or at least reduce the infection rate in half in 15 major countries -- or affected countries in Africa. And we're making some good progress….

…Q All right. Mr. President, who does the better impression, Will Ferrell of you, or Dana Carvey of your father?

THE PRESIDENT: Dana Carvey.

Q And speaking of impressions, our friend, Robert Draper, author of "Dead Certain," said you do a great impression of Dr. Evil from "Austin Powers". (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: That's awfully -- you mean this -- yes. That was a really good movie, too, the first one.

Q Mr. President, I know you're not going to believe this transition, but the Congress and Democrats now have been in charge for the Capitol for 18 months. I wonder if you care to give them a grade.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, one thing is for certain, Michael, that I've laid out a very aggressive agenda: a trade agreement with Colombia to help our economy continue to grow; making sure we got the tools necessary to protect our country from attack; supporting our troops in harm's way. And there hasn't been much action. And we got a housing crisis, and I proposed a reasonable set of reforms. And so I would call them stalled. I would call them, so far, good at verbiage and not so good at results.

Q Now, Mr. President, President Carter recently told Charlie Rose the next President could change America's image in 10 minutes. Here's what he said: "I think the next President could change the image of this country around the world in 10 minutes by making an inaugural speech that would start off and say, 'As long as I'm President we will never torture another prisoner, as long as I'm President we will never attack or invade another country unless our own security is directly threatened.'"

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, well, what he ought to be saying is, is that America doesn't torture. If the implication there is that we do now, then he's wrong. And you bet we're going to protect ourselves by the use of military force. What he really is implying is -- or some imply -- you can be popular; if you want to be popular in the Middle East just go blame Israel for

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every problem. That will make you popular. Or if you want to be popular in Europe, say you're going to join the International Criminal Court.

Popularity is fleeting, Michael. Principles are forever.

Q Mr. President, I'm getting the hook here. If I can ask you one quick political question. You have a clear eye. I wonder if at this point you feel sorry for Senator Clinton.

THE PRESIDENT: I feel like this primary has been a long, hard campaign. I remember what it was like in 2000, and I was exhausted. And my primary ended pretty quickly, compared to this one. And so I -- both those candidates have got to be just worn out. They haven't had time to get their feet on the ground or rest. So I know how they feel -- kind of.

Q Mr. President, looking ahead, are you worried that through no fault of the candidates, that America may be in for a kind of ugly conversation about race this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not. I think most Americans are open-minded people, and they're going to pick the President who can keep America safe and keep taxes low. And so I think -- my own judgment is, is that race will only enter in if it's provoked by the press.

Q Mr. President, as a final question -- and thank you so much for taking this time with us -- the scale of the disasters in China and Burma is amazing. I wonder how the United States can go about getting aid into those closed regimes.

THE PRESIDENT: I talked to Hu Jintao and if he -- I told him if he needs aid he's got it. Thus -- we'd get him some money, but thus far, he feels like he's in pretty good shape. And the relief -- and they've got a pretty good infrastructure in dealing with problems.

The place that really needs help is Burma. And Admiral Keating is there now. I told President Hu Jintao today, of China, if you get -- if you're in touch with the Burmese, tell them that we're genuine in our efforts to want to help. We've got some ships off the coast of Burma now, and so we'll see if Keating and Henrietta Fore, who runs AID, will get a better response from the government than we have gotten so far. We just want to make sure that the aid we give is given to the people -- that it's not squandered, not hoarded, but it actually gets to the suffering people.

We've been disappointed by the response. It's taken these people too long to move. It's almost as if they're in a state of denial. But we'll see. We're beginning to make some progress there in terms of getting our aid in.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much for your time. Good luck on your trip.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It's been a pleasure.
To View: http://cosmos.bcst.yahoo.com/up/player/popup/?rn=3906861&ch=7684298&src=news

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Suzy George" <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com>
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"Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
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"Bill?? Antholis" <wantholis@brookings.edu>
"Bill Woodward?? \(blackwoodward@gmail.com\)" <blackwoodward@gmail.com>
bill.danvers@gmail.com
"Brian Katulis" <bkatulis@americanprogress.org>
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"Veronica Pollack" <Veronica.Pollock@dlapiper.com>
"Vikram Singh" <vsingh@americanprogress.org>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
Date: 6/16/2014 7:29:02 PM
Subject: Brian Katulis Mideast report

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New report by Brian Katulis

A new era of extremism, sectarianism, and competition between regional powers requires the United States to update its regional strategy.

http://americanprogress.org/issues/security/report/2014/06/16/91809/u-s-middle-east-policy-at-a-time-of-regional-fragmentation-and-competition

The ongoing fragmentation in Iraq and Syria is the latest episode in a series of events that is shaking the foundations of today's Middle East. The region has entered a fluid period of transition involving the growing power of non-state actors, including new Islamist extremist groups, at a time of increased competition for influence among the key countries in the region.

For decades, the United States has grappled with formulating a Middle East strategy that advances both its interests and its values. Under President Barack Obama, the top U.S. priorities in the Middle East have included preventing a terrorist attack on the homeland; stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon; ending the Iraq War; maintaining a secure flow of energy from the region; and trying to broker Arab-Israeli peace.

The United States has struggled to define its position since the Arab uprisings in 2011, which sparked a new era of competition among the leading powers in the region. The role and status of Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood, which rose to power after the uprisings in some Arab countries, have been central in this intraregional struggle. Also, violent Salafi jihadists such as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS, seek to break down national borders and establish an Islamic state by force. This report, based on field research conducted by the Center for American Progress in multiple countries during the past year, analyzes the current strategic environment and outlines lessons learned that should inform U.S. policy. Those lessons include:

- **The 2011 Arab uprisings sparked a regional competition in a new "Middle East cold war."** The leading countries of the Middle East and North Africa are engaged in an intense, multipolar, and multidimensional struggle for influence and power. This competition goes beyond Shia-Sunni sectarian divisions and involves traditional tools of power projection—such as military aid and economic assistance—as well as new forms of power projection, including direct investments in media outlets, non-state actors, and political movements. The region's wealthier, more politically stable states compete with each other by proxy—and in some cases, directly—on the ground in poorer and politically polarized states. This competition has taken on many features of a cold war: different sides engaged in proxy battles across the region using multiple means of influence.

- **The status of Islamist movements is central to this regional competition.** The Muslim Brotherhood's empowerment and subsequent removal from power in Egypt has been a main event and central to this regional struggle. Some states such as Qatar and Turkey back the Muslim Brotherhood, while others such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, or UAE, oppose it. Another new dynamic is the rise of extremist Islamist groups that have challenged the Al Qaeda movement. New political openings, as well as ongoing conflicts such as the civil war in Syria, have enabled a range of political Islamist groups, including the ultraorthodox Salafists, to affect politics in countries such as Egypt and Tunisia and fostered a strand of Islamist extremist groups that has emerged in Syria and Iraq. The regional contest over the status of political Islamists has broad reach; it has contributed to disarray within the Syrian opposition, influenced relations among different Palestinian factions, and affected competition among the various armed groups in Libya.

- **The United States remains the dominant military power in the region but lacks sufficient diplomatic, political, and economic tools to influence regional political trends.** The new and still unfolding regional dynamics limit the effectiveness of a U.S. policy that maintains a heavy reliance on traditional tools of power, such as the military and intelligence. The current U.S. policy approach lacks a nimble and effective ability to engage multiple centers of power in the region politically and economically in strategies that emphasize political pluralism and prosperity. The Obama administration's engagement with political Islamist organizations such as the Muslim Brotherhood created confusion in the region about U.S. policy priorities and values. The U.S. response to the Arab uprisings and the new Middle East cold war has been uneven and the United States has often appeared as little more than a bystander.

The major changes underway in regional power dynamics point to a need to make U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa more adept at understanding and responding to political currents in a way that reflects both U.S. core security interests and values. Simply focusing on questions of how many troops are stationed in a particular country for what period of time or how much bilateral security assistance the United States gives to a particular country is too narrow and inadequate to deal with the historical changes sweeping the region and upending its political balance.

A wider range of state actors are seeking to advance their interests and values across the region, and the regional landscape now includes a number of non-state actors that have broader reach and impact than they did in previous eras. The United States will not be able to dictate or control events, but many in the region still examine what the United States says and does very closely. Most of its key governments take active steps to shape the trajectory of U.S. policy. The United States should make the most of these diplomatic engagements to craft a wiser engagement policy that seeks to isolate and defeat extremist ideologies in the ongoing battle of ideas.

Brian Katulis is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Peter Juul is a Policy Analyst at the Center.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: catherinehand5@aol.com
Date: 8/16/2015 8:38:25 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC

Thanks Catherine. Easy to fall into old habits. We'll reflect on this.

On Sunday, August 16, 2015, <catherinehand5@aol.com > wrote:

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, "politics as usual' is immediately heard as "politics as usual in Clinton-world."

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words 'politics as usual' it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

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Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon’s ‘silent majority,’ -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women’s rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to

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survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

“The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which “brings us together in a peaceful loving state.”

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking’s insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "Lisa Reed" <lisa@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/29/2008 4:59:49 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Correction: Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Miami, FL 10/29/08

I originally stated Alexandria, VA. The event was in Miami, FL. My apologies for the confusion.

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Gives President credit for not being attacked since 9/11
- Says Hugo Chavez hurt his feelings. [sarcasm] Would like to sit down with him with release of political prisoners, free elections, and there are functioning human rights organizations
- Brings up drilling in Florida, says revenues should go to Tallahassee rather than Washington.
- Repeats Obama's television appearance as an "infomercial" interrupting the World Series

Miami, FL: McCain Rally 10/29/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Speech Highlights

(Introduces Charlie Crist, Senator Mel Martinez, Joe Lieberman, Tom Ridge, Lindsey Graham)

It's great to be back in Florida. We need to win Florida on November 4th, and with your help -- we're going to win here, and bring real change to Washington. We need a new direction, and we have to fight for it.

My friends, you hear a lot of things, but you know, it's no accident that the United States of America has not been attacked since 9/11. I do believe that the President of the United States deserves some credit for that, don't you?

I've been fighting for this country since I was seventeen years old, and I have the scars to prove it. If I'm elected President, I will fight to shake up Washington and take America in a new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home. We're going to double the child deduction for working families. We will cut the capital gains tax. And we will cut business taxes to help create jobs, and keep American businesses in America. Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands and strengthens our economy.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money. Senator Obama will. And he can't do that without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, NASA, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes.

I'm not going to spend $750 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. Senator Obama will. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people who were devastated by the excesses of Wall Street and Washington.

I have a plan to fix our housing market, so that your home value doesn't go down when your neighbor defaults, and so that people in danger of defaulting have a path to pay off their loan.

Including Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. By the way, I heard that Fidel Castro wrote some sentiments about me the other day. And let me just say, it hurt my feelings. And I want to tell you, I'll sit down with one of the Castro brothers right after the empty the political prisons, right after they have free elections, right after the human rights organizations are functioning. You saw the other day about what the Castro Brothers are about. When Cuba was hit with a natural disaster and they refused American humanitarian aid. That's what they're all about, my friends. And have no illusions.

If I'm elected President, we're going to stop spending $700 billion to buy oil from countries that don't like us very much.

My friends, with more money and more revenues to the state of Florida, we will drill offshore and drill now. With the agreement of the state of Florida. And my friends, I've already talked to your state's great Governor, we're going to drill off the shores of Florid a, then we need to give Florida more of those revenues. They shouldn't be sent to Washington, they should be sent to Tallahasee.

Senator Obama will argue to delay drilling for more oil and gas and against building new nuclear power plants in America. If I am president, we will start new drilling now.

We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. We will invest in clean coal technology. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs.

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We've learned more about Senator Obama's real goals for our country over the last two weeks than we learned over the past two years, and that only because Joe the plumber asked him a question in Ohio. That's when Senator Obama revealed he wants to quote "spread the wealth around."

Now, Joe didn't ask for Senator Obama to come to his house, and he didn't ask to be famous. He certainly didn't ask for the political attacks on him from the Obama campaign. Joe's dream is to own a small business that will create jobs, and the attacks on him are an attack on small businesses all over the country. These are people like Gus the homebuilder and Peter the exterminator right here in Miami. Small businesses employ 84 percent of Americans, and we need to support these small businesses, not tax them.

After months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned what Senator Obama's economic goal is: to spread the wealth. In a radio interview revealed this week, he said the same thing -- that one of the quote, "tragedies" of the civil rights movement is that it didn't bring about "redistributive change."

You see, Senator Obama believes in redistributing wealth, not in policies that grow our economy and create jobs. He said that even though lower taxes on investment help our economy, he favors higher taxes on investment for quote "fairness." There's nothing "fair" about driving our economy into the ground. We all suffer when that happens, and that is the problem with Senator Obama's approach to our economy. He is more interested in controlling wealth than in creating it, in redistributing money instead of spreading opportunity. I am going to create wealth for all Americans, by creating opportunity for all Americans.

Senator Obama is running to be Redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief. Senator Obama is running to spread the wealth. I'm running to create more wealth. Senator Obama is running to punish the successful. I'm running to make everyone successful.

Senator Obama has made a lot of promises. First he said people making less than 250,000 dollars would benefit from his plan, then this weekend he announced in an ad that if you're a family making less than 200,000 dollars you'll benefit -- but this week, Senator Biden said tax relief should only go to "middle class people -- people making under 150,000 dollars a year." It's interesting how their definition of rich has a way of creeping down. At this rate, it won't be long before Senator Obama is right back to his vote that Americans making just 42,000 dollars a year should get a tax increase. We can't let that happen.

This Democratic Congress is planning all sorts of new taxes. This week, we are hearing they want to tax your 401k contributions. This is a time when we need to be encouraging more investing, not taxing it. We can't let them get away with making a bad economy even worse. Now is the time to grow our economy, and that's what I'm going to do.

My opponent's massive new tax increase is exactly the wrong approach in an economic slowdown. The answer to a slowing economy is not higher taxes, but that is exactly what is going to happen when the Democrats have total control of Washington. We can't let that happen. We need pro-growth and pro-jobs economic policies, not pro-government spending programs paid for with higher taxes.

This is the fundamental difference between Senator Obama and me. He thinks taxes are too low, and I think that spending is too high.

If we are going to change Washington, we need a President who has actually fought for change and made it happen. The next President won't have time to get used to the office. We face many challenges here at home, and many enemies abroad in this dangerous world.

Senator Biden warned that Senator Obama would be tested with an international crisis. I have been tested. Senator Obama hasn't. Senator Biden referred to how Jack Kennedy was tested in the Cuban Missile Crisis and I have a little personal experience in that. I was on board the U.S.S. Enterprise, and I sat in a jet cockpit on the flight deck waiting to take off. We had a target. I know how close we came to a nuclear war and I will not be a president that needs to be tested.

We know Senator Obama won't have the right response to that test, because we've seen the wrong response from him over and over during this campaign. He opposed the surge strategy that is bringing us victory in Iraq and will bring us victory in Afghanistan. He said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. When Russia invaded Georgia, Sen. Obama said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. When I am president, we are going to win in Iraq and win in Afghanistan, and our troops will come home in victory and honor.

Let me give you the state of the race today. There's less than a week to go. We're a few points down. The pundits have written us off, just like they've done before. My opponent is working out the details with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid of their plans to raise your taxes, increase spending, and concede defeat in Iraq. He's measuring the drapes, and he's planned his first address to the nation for before the election. I guess I'm old fashioned about these things -- I prefer to let the voters weigh in before presuming the outcome.

What America needs now is someone who will finish the race before the starting the victory lap, someone who will fight to the end, and not for himself but for his country.

I have fought for you most of my life, and in places where defeat meant more than returning to the Senate. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to back down when the stakes are high.

I know you're worried. America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future.

Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I'm an American. And I choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight. Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide

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from history. We make history. Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

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Lisa L. Reed
Progressive Accountability Office
601.434.2986

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Lisa L. Reed
Progressive Accountability Office
601.434.2986

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/29/2015 12:16:48 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Could Obama win a third term?

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Morning intelligence for leaders

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President Obama waves before boarding Air Force One to depart Ethiopia yesterday, the final leg of his African trip. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

BY JAMES HOHMANN

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THE BIG IDEA:

— Encouraging African leaders not to cling to power for life, Barack Obama expressed confidence during a speech in Addis Ababa yesterday that he could win a third term if he ran. "I love my work, but under our Constitution, I cannot run again," he said. "I actually think I'm a pretty good president. I think if I ran, I could win. But I can't. So there's a lot that I'd like to do to keep America moving, but the law is the law."

It is a fun parlor game to speculate on Obama's reelection prospects if there was no 22nd Amendment. He's about as popular right now as he was at this stage in 2011; his approval rating is 45 percent in our latest poll. The economy is stronger in key ways. And the Democratic base is more passionate about him than Hillary Clinton.

But Obama—who won in 2008 as an outsider—is now seen as an insider, at a time when Americans want a change agent. See the summer success of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump.

Becoming a lame duck has liberated the president to take action on issues like immigration, Iran and climate change. These positions could backfire with independents in a general election, but they could also galvanize record turnout among Hispanics, African-Americans and young people.

The debate over Obama's electability is moot, but it dovetails with a broader, ongoing conversation within the Clinton campaign about the extent to which she should tie her fortunes to the president's. She knows that she needs the so-called Obama coalition to turn out in force next November, which is one reason she's tacked to the left in recent months. Many of these voters, registered by the Obama campaign in 2008 or 2012, will only turn out for Hillary if they see a vote for her as a vote for a third Obama term.

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Obama with Clinton in Dec. 2008 after announcing that she was his choice as Secretary of State. (AP Photo)

Hillary is not actively distancing herself from her ex-boss as much as many observers predicted throughout 2014. Almost exactly a year ago, during an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton criticized Obama for not taking more action in Syria and for an internal White House mantra buzzed about at the time ("Don't do stupid sh**"). This prompted Obama allies like David Axelrod to point out that Clinton, not Obama, voted to authorize the Iraq war in the first place. Hillary phoned Obama to say she had not meant "to attack him," and her spokesman announced that she looked forward to "hugging it out" when they were both on Martha's Vineyard a few days later. We haven't seen a blow-up quite like that since then.

From the preternaturally cautious and calculating Clinton, watch for a continued balancing act. When she distances herself, it will be more implicit and subtle than during that Atlantic interview. Her campaign leadership team is also stocked with Obama alumni who were still at the White House during this time last year. "I'm not running for my husband's third term and I'm not running for Barack Obama's third term," she declared in New Hampshire this spring. In the very next breath, she added: "I'm running to continue the positive, results-oriented policies that both of them worked for."

Some additional distancing is probably inevitable. Vice President George H.W. Bush's talk during the 1988 campaign about "a kinder, gentler America" was a calculated effort to show he was different than Ronald Reagan. Few remember it now, but Reagan's approval rating in the summer of 1987 was in the 40s because of the Iran-Contra scandal. A July 1987 Gallup poll asked how Reagan would go down in history: only 9 percent said he would be

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remembered as “outstanding”; 28 percent said “above average”; 34 percent said “average”; and 26 percent said either “below average” or “poor.” It’s a good reminder Obama could be viewed very differently next November.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** ’s morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) made the case for ousting John Boehner as Speaker. (Spoiler alert: it’s not going to happen.) Toward the end of the day, he filed a rare “motion to vacate the chair,” catching even anti-Boehner Republicans off guard. Others who had wind of it discouraged him from following through.

— Congressional Republicans are going all in on try defunding Planned Parenthood. Iowa freshman Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) filed a bill last night to completely block any federal money from going to the group. It came at the end of a day that saw the release of a third undercover video by a pro-life group. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell are among the cosponsors. Democrats will never allow this to happen, but Republicans believe that they can play offense on the abortion issue in 2016 (unlike in 2012 when the issue cost them two Senate seats in red states). To improve the optics, GOP leaders are leaning on women to lead the fight. Besides Ernst in the Senate, Rep. Diane Black is expected to be front-and-center in the House. Hillary defended Planned Parenthood in New Hampshire yesterday and will continue to do so.

— **“The Obama administration has decided to give states more time to comply with proposed regulations that will require dramatic cuts in greenhouse-gas pollution from power plants,”** Joby Warrick scoops in a story that posted at 11:47 p.m. “The Environmental Protection Agency will give states an additional two years — until 2022 — to begin phasing in pollution cuts, even as the agency toughens the standards that many states will ultimately have to meet. At the same time, the EPA will offer credits and other inducements to encourage a rapid shift to renewable energy under the Clean Power Plan, the administration’s ambitious and controversial proposal to cut pollutants blamed for climate change.” The final version of the regulation is expected to land in the next week.

— **Afghanistan officials said that the leader of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has died.** The militant group has not confirmed the claim but plans to comment soon, the BBC reports.

GET SMART FAST:

1. **Congress** is poised to pass a stopgap, three-month highway bill, punting the issue into the fall, after House and Senate Republicans could not agree on a compromise.

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2. **The Los Angeles City Council** voted unanimously to ban the possession of firearm magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, a measure the NRA has already promised to challenge in court.
3. "A Florida man has been charged with plotting to set off a backpack bomb at a beach after becoming inspired by the terrorist group ISIS," NBC reports. "Harlem Suarez, 23, of Key West was arrested Monday after he received what he thought was a working bomb but which was actually a phony device provided by the FBI."
4. An unclassified email network used by Army General **Martin Dempsey** and other members of the U.S. military's Joint Staff was taken offline yesterday because of suspicious activity, per Reuters .
5. **Jonathan Pollard**, the Israeli spy whose treachery may have put U.S. secrets in the hands of the Soviets during some of the darkest days of the Cold War, has officially been granted parole and will be released in November, his lawyers announced. Now his lawyers want Obama to waive a legal requirement that he stay in the United States for at least five years, so that he can resettle in the country he spied for.
6. **Fox News** removed a requirement that a candidate pull at least 1 percent in national polling in order to appear in the consolation debate of undercards next Thursday (which will air at 5 p.m. Eastern, before the top 10 candidates appear together at 9 p.m.). This means that all 16 declared GOP candidates will get TV time.
7. "**Tom Brady** and the players' union are headed to a legal clash with the NFL over DeflateGate after Commissioner Roger Goodell rejected Brady's appeal and upheld the four-game suspension of the New England Patriots quarterback and reigning Super Bowl MVP," Mark Maske reports. The NFL revealed yesterday that Brady directed his cell phone be destroyed shortly before meeting with its investigators in March.
8. Now that Boston is out of the running, **Los Angeles leaders** have reached out to their Bay Area counterparts about a potential joint bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics. (San Francisco Chronicle)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **Jake Tapper** offered **Ben Carson** condolences on the death of his mother during an interview on CNN last night. It got awkward when Carson pointed out that his mom is still alive! "I've never been happier to be wrong," the anchor told Mediaite .
2. **Jeb Bush** has told folks that he's lost 45 pounds since going on the Paleo diet, according to the New York Post's Page Six .
3. **Chris Christie** promised to re-criminalize marijuana if he's elected. "If you're getting high in Colorado today, enjoy it," he said at a New Hampshire town hall. "As of January 2017, I will enforce the federal laws."
4. **Donald Trump** said **Sarah Palin** would have a role in his administration, perhaps in the cabinet. "Because she really is somebody who knows what's happening and she's a special person," he said on a show called "The Palin Update. "
5. **Trump** is actually worth about $2.9 billion, according to a Bloomberg calculation, far less than the $10 billion he claims.

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6. Trump's lawyer, **Michael Cohen**, apologized for insisting to the Daily Beast that, "by the very definition, you can't rape your spouse." Trump told CNN that he disagreed with his close confidant. "He's speaking for himself," The Donald said. "He's not speaking for me, obviously."
7. Sen. **Ron Wyden** (D-Ore.) put a hold on the intelligence spending bill that funds the FBI and NSA because of a provision requiring social networks to report terrorist activity to the government. The measure passed through the Senate Intelligence Committee 15-0 last month. (USA Today)
8. Sen. **David Vitter** (R-La.) has more than $5 million cash on hand for his gubernatorial campaign, more than the three other candidates combined. (Times-Picayune)
9. Oklahoma Gov. **Mary Fallin's** daughter, Christina, who has been living out of a trailer parked on the grounds of the governor's mansion (!), will move in the face of public outrage and the discovery that it violates a state code, The Oklahoman reports. Here is a picture of the trailer from KFOR-TV (via the AP):

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— "Companies have found something to give their workers besides wages," by Ylan Q. Mui: "More businesses are upping their spending on benefits such as one-time bonuses, health care and paid time off…Many are rolling out perks such as free gym membership, commuting subsidies, even pet health insurance…Often, those benefits are being provided in lieu of higher salaries…Companies say they are catering to the growing workforce of millennials who seem to prize short-term flexibility over long-term financial security, and the change allows bosses to reward star employees without permanently increasing costs."

— Maryland Senate candidate Donna "Edwards won't buck outside cash in Senate race," by Rachel Weiner: "For Edwards, what might seem a tough decision ideologically is

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also a necessity for political survival. Vastly outraised by Democratic primary opponent Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the four-term member of Congress says she will need spending from outside groups to stay competitive in her bid to succeed retiring Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D). Van Hollen, a prolific fundraiser and former chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, has $3.75 million ready for the race, according to the most recent campaign filings. Edwards has $419,000."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Ted Cruz's crusade against Planned Parenthood allowed him to win the day online. Tuesday belonged to Ted Cruz, who commanded more media attention than any GOP contender who has never had his own reality TV show. Cruz's call to defund Planned Parenthood stoked the conservative net roots. Cruz himself drove the social-media chatter with a series of widely-circulated tweets:

The gambit proved so successful at generating attention for the Texas Senator that one of his fellow GOP contenders decided to join the fray. Look at what happened to Ben Carson's mentions when he also pushed for the government to defund Planned Parenthood on Tuesday evening:

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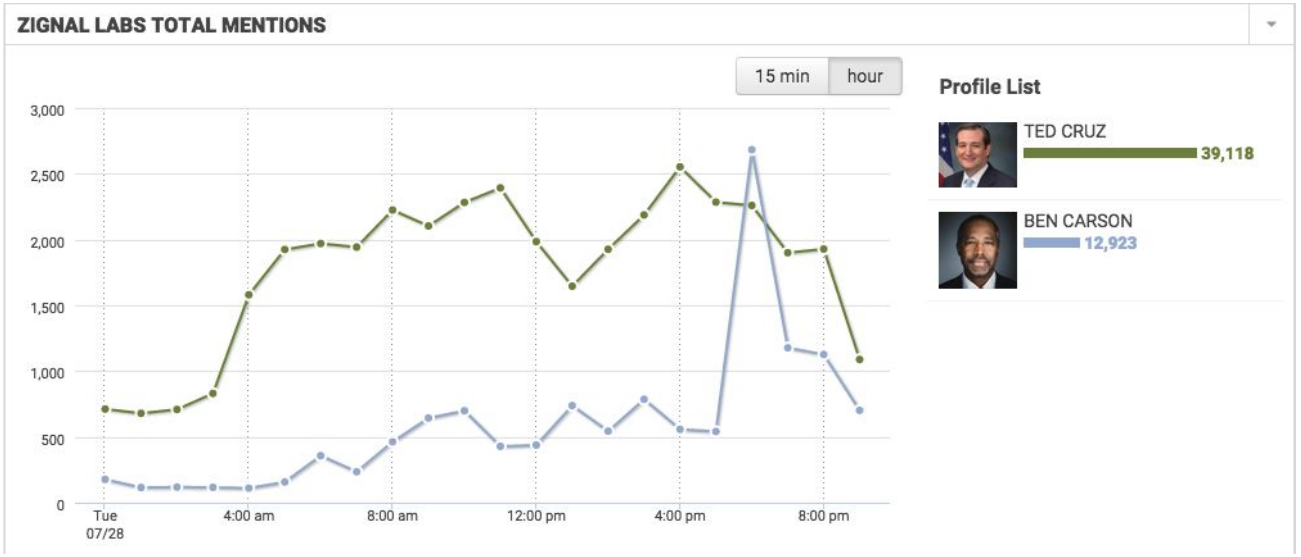

But Cruz was the one who got the cameras. Carson received 40 percent of the Twitter mentions that Cruz did, but the Texas senator had five times as many television mentions, meaning his story reached millions more people than Carson's announcement. Look at that same total mentions graph when we only chart mentions of the two candidates on network and cable television:

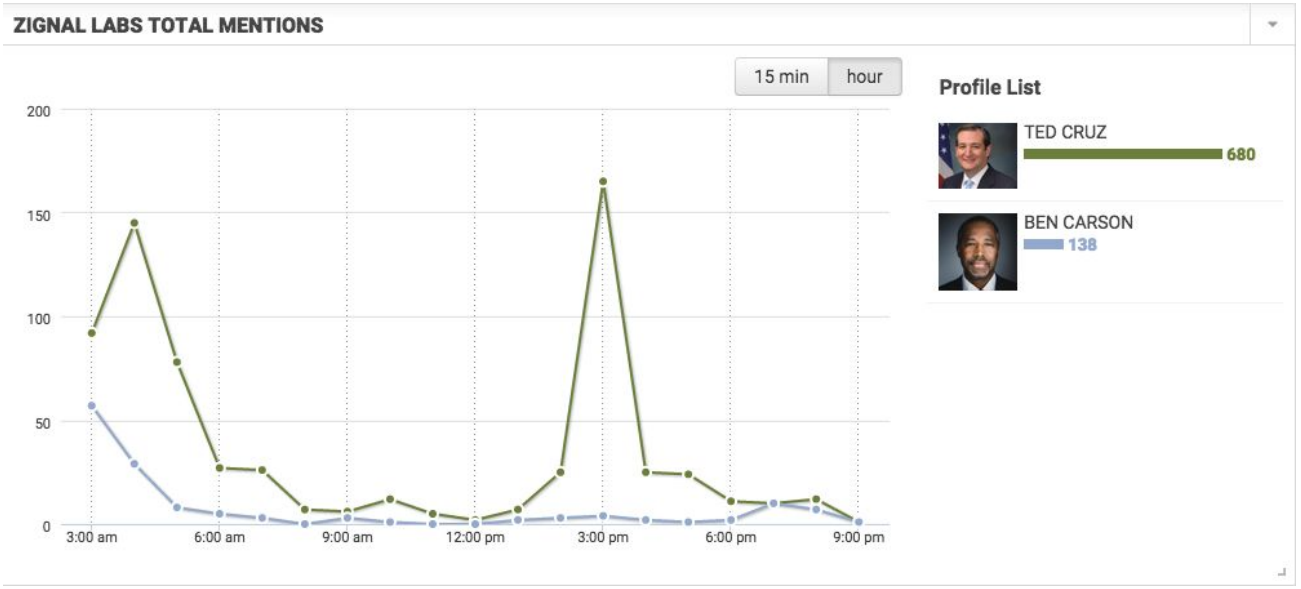

–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

President Obama laughs at the hair nets that reporters had to wear to cover his tour of Faffa Food in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

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(time)

Here’s a shot of the press pool from the Post’s Juliet Eilperin:

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(@eilperin)

Scott Walker visited Philadelphia's iconic rival cheesesteak shops, Pat's and Geno's, where he ran into protesters:

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(@MattGelb)

Tweets of the day:

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) shared a photo of his bald head, the result of chemotherapy for non-Hodgkins lymphoma. “It looks like there is another white dome in Annapolis! I’m losing hair, but I’m winning the battle,” he tweeted.

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(@LarryHogan)

The Post has a front-page profile this morning of Hogan's little-known lieutenant governor, Boyd K. Rutherford, who has found himself thrust into a somewhat awkward role. "At a minimum, Rutherford is filling in more frequently for Hogan at meetings, ribbon-cuttings and other events," Paul Schwartzman writes. "But the gravity of Hogan's illness and treatment regimen also creates the possibility that Rutherford may have to step up in a more permanent way." **Fun fact:** "Rutherford, a District native whose grandmother was an ally of the city's political maestro, Marion Barry, joined the Republican Party in his 30s after deciding that policies championed by Barry and other Democrats had failed blacks."

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Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford in Annapolis last month. (Photo by Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) thanked Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) for pointing out a hole in his suit and “offering to take me shopping”:

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(@MarkWarner)

Instagrams of the day:

It was a day for fast food on the campaign trail, as Chris Christie lunched at McDonalds:

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(chrischristie)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Under Oath, Donald Trump Shows his Raw Side ," by Michael Barbaro and Steve Eder: "Hundreds of pages of sworn testimony by Mr. Trump over the past decade show something less flattering. Some of his claims, made under oath, and under pressure, are shown to be hyperbolic overstatements, and others to be shadings of the truth or even outright misstatements. And in rare instances, he turns boorish and demeaning…It showcases Mr. Trump's fixation with his image as a financial success, and lays bare his hypersensitivity to any suggestion of failure." Also, the story sheds lights on some of Trump's habits: he doesn't drink alcohol, doesn't really watch TV, doesn't use text messages and "very rarely" used email as of 2013.

— Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, "Assembly passes arena deal, sends it to Scott Walker," by Patrick Marley and Jason Stein: "Almost seven months after Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker proposed public money for the new Milwaukee Bucks arena, the Assembly

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Tuesday returned a $250 million bill to him…While campaigning at two South Philadelphia cheesesteak joints, the governor said he would sign the much-revised measure, calling it a good deal for Wisconsin…'the main reason I got into it was because it protected state revenues,' Walker said, citing the income taxes Wisconsin would lose if the team leaves the state. 'That just creates a big hole for everything else. … This was really about protecting the taxpayers of the state.'"

— Huffington Post, "Vermont media want a piece of the Bernie Sanders story ," by Michael Calderone: "VT Digger, a nonprofit Vermont news site with a full-time staff of 10, reported earlier this month that the mother of Sen. Bernie Sanders' 46-year-old son Levi was an old girlfriend — not the candidate's first wife… Sure enough, just 12 hours after its publication, Politico, which specializes in covering the fine details of lawmakers' biographies, blasted out a feature built largely on the very same nugget…The emergence of Sanders (I-Vt.) as a major presidential candidate has provided a second act on the national stage for a quirky press corps from one of the country's smallest states."

— Minneapolis Star Tribune, "Twin Cities dentist admits killing beloved lion, thought he was acting legally," by Paul Walsh and Brandon Stahl: "Walter J. Palmer of Eden Prairie, a practicing dentist in Bloomington and a prominent bow-and-arrow hunter, issued a statement addressing the killing on July 1 of Cecil, a lion that was a favorite among tourists and wildlife researchers. 'I hired several professional guides, and they secured all proper permits,' Palmer's statement read. 'To my knowledge, everything about this trip was legal and properly handled. I had no idea that the lion I took was a known, local favorite, was collared and part of a study until the end of the hunt. I relied on the expertise of my local professional guides to ensure a legal hunt.'"

Health care —

Good news: "Mortality rates among Medicare patients fell 16% from 1999 to 2013. That's equal to more than 300,000 fewer deaths a year in 2013 than in 1999," according to a Journal of American Medicine Study that USA Today reports on.

Bad news: "By 2019, midway through the next president's term, health care spending will be increasing at roughly 6 percent a year, compared to an average annual rise of 4 percent from 2008 through 2013," says the Health and Human Services Department's Office of the Actuary, per the AP .

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— Washington Post, "Former members of Congress not invited to pope's speech," by Colby Itkowitz: "If any former members of Congress planned a return trip to Capitol Hill for Pope Francis's anticipated visit, they might want to check the refund policy. The House on Tuesday passed a rule for who can attend the pontiff's planned Sept. 24 speech in the House chamber. Unlike other major addresses, like the State of the Union or Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's March visit, the hundreds former members didn't make the cut.

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'I think they literally have an unmanageable interest from everyone in the Pope's visit,' Catholic-convert former Speaker Newt Gingrich told us in an e-mail."

— National Journal, "Senate Democrats get a 2016 pitch from Bernie Sanders ," by Sarah Mimms and Rachel Roubein: "Senate Democrats got a side of Bernie Sanders with their lunch Tuesday, as their independent colleague pitched them on his presidential candidacy during the conference's weekly gathering. Sanders's presentation follows one earlier this month by his rival for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton, whom a majority of his colleagues already support … Sanders's presentation was relatively brief and largely a laying out of his ideology and vision for the nation's future, members said. He also discussed the large crowds that have shown up for his speeches around the country."

— Politico, "Carson, Cruz and Paul rally against Planned Parenthood ," by Eliza Collins: "Sen. Ted Cruz called on the Department of Justice to open a criminal investigation into the people who appear in undercover videos of Planned Parenthood officials discussing fetal tissue donation. Cruz was speaking at an anti-abortion rally organized by Students for Life of America on Tuesday, just after activists released their third undercover video of Planned Parenthood officials discussing fetal body parts in graphic detail … Cruz was one of three presidential candidates, along with Sen. Rand Paul and Dr. Ben Carson, who spoke at the event."

HOT ON THE LEFT

America still wants to fund Planned Parenthood after sting videos. From The Huffington Post: "Nearly two-thirds of American voters said they oppose a Republican proposal to strip federal funds from Planned Parenthood after the release of two undercover "sting" videos of the family planning provider, according to a new poll released Tuesday by the liberal Hart Research Associates … Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) started the process last week of fast-tracking a bill that would zero out federal family planning funding for Planned Parenthood. But the new poll found that only 28 percent of voters favor that proposal, and just a

HOT ON THE RIGHT

University of California offers six choices for gender identity. From Fox News : "Admission applications used by the UC system are giving potential students a host of choices for gender-related questions – including six varieties to describe "gender identity." The questions, which will go into circulation this fall, are voluntarily answered and responses don't impact the admissions process … Applicants can choose male, female, trans male/trans man, trans female/ trans woman, gender queer/gender non-conforming and 'different identity' … The gender and sex questions are just one change slated for the UC system. Gender-neutral

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quarter of voters would prefer a congressional candidate who supports defunding the family planning provider over one who would continue funding it."

restrooms and changing rooms are being installed and "the university is initiating a two-year project designed to coordinate and promote interdisciplinary study of genders and sexualities," according to a UC press release."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: The Bernie Sanders campaign will hold its first ever national organizing meeting. Rick Perry will campaign in New Hampshire, focusing on Carroll County. Chris Christie will attend a meet-and-greet in Hooksett, New Hampshire and participate in the Americans for Peace, Prosperity and Security Forum at the University of New Hampshire in Manchester. Scott Walker will attend a breakfast for the Greenwich Republican Town Committee in Connecticut. [On Saturday, trying to capitalize on the debt crisis, Martin O'Malley will travel to Puerto Rico.]

–On the Hill: The Senate kicks off the day with a round of votes at 10 a.m. The House will also convene at 10 a.m. on what could be its last day before summer break. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair Martin Dempsey, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the Iran nuclear deal at 9:45 a.m.

–At the White House: President Obama will host House Democrats for a working reception to discuss his legislative priorities, including the Iran agreement.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The response from Jewish people has been overwhelmingly positive." – Mike Huckabee defended his comment that Obama is marching Israel "to the door of the oven" with the Iran deal, as a procession of Jewish leaders criticized him

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— It'll be another sweaty day, but we should avoid rain until tomorrow. "Heat and high humidity combine with partly sunny skies (once we burn off patchy morning fog) for a classic late-July 'steamer,'" the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "The heat part could be worse, with highs hitting the fairly typical low 90s. But with a muggy light breeze from the south keeping dew points up in the low 70s, the afternoon heat index peaks near or past 100."

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— Left fielder Jayson Werth and first baseman Ryan Zimmerman returned from the disabled list last night, but the Nationals still lost to the Miami Marlins, 4-1, their fourth loss in five games. The Nats also acquired Philadelphia Phillies veteran closer Jonathan Papelbon in a complicated trade deal that will displace Drew Storen from ninth-inning duties. Papelbon agreed to a pay cut in exchange for Washington picking up his option for 2016.

Dee Gordon of the Marlins turns a double play as Jayson Werth slides into second in Miami last night. (Photo by Mike Ehrmann/Getty Images)

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Jack Black, Morgan Freeman, Natasha Lyonne and Valerie Plame Wilson endorsed the Iran deal in a video for Global Zero:

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(globalzerochannel)

An excavation in Jamestown unearthed four bodies that were buried in 1609 inside a long-vanished church. Michael E. Ruane has a fascinating story in the paper this morning about the archaeologists involved and the questions raised by a mysterious box discovered with the bones.

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This image from the Smithsonian shows the four sets of human remains excavated in Jamestown, Va.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/1/2016 6:30:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: Moscow, Washington, and Damascus: Is Cooperation Really Possible?

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Transatlantic Take

Moscow, Washington, and Damascus: Is Cooperation Really Possible?

Angela Stent — March 2, 2016

WASHINGTON—Since launching a bombing campaign in Syria in late September, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ended the West's attempt to isolate Russia and has ensured that Moscow will have to be part of the solution to the Syrian crisis. As the international community awaits the fate of the latest cease-fire and Putin highlights Russia's constructive role in securing the agreement, Western and Arab skepticism about Russia's true intentions remains high. Indeed, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has promised that the United States has a "Plan B" if the ceasefire fails, while Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov insists that "there is no such thing [as a Plan B] and can never be"...

FULL ARTICLE

Angela Stent is a Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, an initiative of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, DC, and is the author of The Limits of Partnership: U.S.-Russian Relations in the 21st Century. *Follow her on Twitter @AngelaStent .*

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/4/2008 7:42:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Baton Rouge, LA 06/04/08

Hello BigCampaign,

Just off the phone with our tracker Evan who was on the ground today in Baton Rouge, LA. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS

- Congratulates both Democratic candidates. Says that "as a father of 3 daughters," he knows that Hillary's campaign has been an inspiration to women
- Invites Obama to join him in series of town hall-style meetings, and even fly on the same plane. Spends most of the event criticizing Obama for empty rhetoric and naivete, and distancing himself from Bush wherever he can.
- Insists that "we are drawing down from pre-surge levels" and that Obama was "dead wrong" to think the surge wouldn't work. Says of Iraqi political situation, "Democracy is tough… Look at the gridlock we have" in Washington. It's better to have a 'flawed but functioning' democracy than Saddam.
- Had to be corrected for 2 small flubs:

  1. Saying there are now 27 instead of 37 charter schools in NOLA and
  2. Repeating a reporter's mistake of saying "investment" instead of "divestment" in Iran policy. As a result, McCain said, "I've never favored investment," and then waved off the misspeak.

Baton Rouge, LA: McCain Town Hall Meeting 06/04/08

Background details:

- Mayor Kip Holden gave introductory remarks, followed by former Gov. Buddy Roemer and finally Gov. Jindal.
- Also in the audience were former Gov. Dave Treen, State Sen. John Kennedy and Woody Jenkins
- 6-700 people. Staffers appeared to act as seat-fillers at the beginning of the event. It was unclear whether they moved as the event got under way. The event appeared at capacity, with audience members having to stand along the walls.
- Minorities poorly represented, but more than usual; Crowd younger than usual
- Security: McCain staffers gave our staffer some trouble, as they seem to be getting stricter about only letting credentialed press onto the risers. Our tracker was able to get into the Town Hall by leaving out his tripod, etc.. He was turned away from the press avail.
- A few Ron Paul buttons / supporters, and a Code Pink lady. McCain seems more careful about who he picks to answer questions, e.g. a lot of questions from the risers, which were packed with vets. Spent a longer time than usual talking with his back to the general seating.
- Backdrop is another giant green sign that says "Straight Talk Town Hall"

Speech Highlights:

- Roemer thanks McCain's volunteers who called you all and got you to come to this event. He remarked that there are some racists and a few journalists say the race is about black and white. It's not, it's about green and gray; commander-in-chief; leading the free world; health care. McCain's "modest about his economic background" (" He gets it right every time. … Let's lower taxes on business…"). McCain had the courage to stand alone in the Senate and not put a single earmark in a single bill. Earmarks are not the American way. "John McCain doesn't talk about it; he just does it." "He's not an economist" but he knows how to "protect our dollars." As President, "don't need a pretty speech; I need a Commander-in-Chief" (This is the general message of the event.)
- Jindal comments that McCain was a real reformer before it was cool, e.g. earmark reform. Courage-knows what it means to suffer and sacrifice. He is a son, grandson and father of dedicated patriots. Our next President will need to stand up and do what's right, not just sound bites. McCain "has an annoying habit": he's straightforward.

[McCain begins opening remarks]

- Thanks Jindal for his tax reform and ethic and lobbying reforms. Thanks the rest of the introducers. Talks about post-Katrina LSU-AZ State football game in AZ, a "moving experience"
- Town hall meeting is "essence" of American democracy. - Congratulates both Dem candidates, HRC for hard-fought campaign she waged and her hard work "and **I know that as a father of 3**

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daughters" that Hillary has inspired women with her campaign." Congratulates Obama on his win. And so, this morning, I sent Obama invitation to join in town hall meetings around the country (vis-a-vis JFK-Goldwater—those contenders enjoyed a very good personal relationship. They had agreed on this, and it would have happened had not JFK been assassinated in Dallas). No spin rooms, just people. MCCAIN even suggested they travel together, even on same plane – probably save on energy; and given the expenses, I'm sure my campaign would agree to it. Wants 1st to be in NYC June 12th.

- Americans are tired of all the gimmicks, phony sound bites and photo-ops that make campaigns seem more about the candidates than the public. No matter who wins this election, this country is going to change dramatically. The difference is between the right change and wrong change, forward vs. backwards. Obama has chance to embrace a higher level of political discourse, namely this town halls.
- America is a leader. "Leaders don't hide from history; they make history."
- ENERGY: Cost of oil continues to increase and you keep paying more for gas. It is a compelling national security issue and economic issue and environmental one that we eliminate our dependence on foreign oil. We're spending $500B - $600B to countries that don't like us very much. We must exploit existing reserves, obviously in U.S.—and this state is very important to that aspect of our economy—but also need to go to alternate fuel sources, incl. nuclear power. Americans need to be led. I'm not telling you that Americans have to shiver in the dark. i'll be telling you how we can achieve this in a few years. Uncertain about what Hugo Chavez is going to do, the Persian Gulf, the Iranians—but I can tell you they're up to no good.
- NATIONAL SECURITY / ROLE OF MILITARY / IRAQ: We need a much larger military to relieve the strain on them. We can recruit and retain the best of our military. All of us are saddened by the sacrifice—**over 4,000 making the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan**. Straight-talk: the war was badly mismanaged, and I was against the way it was going. Under Petraeus, it's working and it's succeeding. It's been hard and tough but "recent events show we are winning in Iraq." Today in 3 Iraqi cities, the Iraqi military is running things with support of Americans – not the other way around. The Iraqi military is now functioning effectively. "Sadr City today is quiet."
- Repeats – **"we are drawing down from pre-surge levels."** I am hopeful that we will be able to withdraw more troops. But it has to be based on facts on the ground, not some politician's ideological schedule for withdrawal. Obama was "dead wrong" in Oct when he said the surge wouldn't work. "Democracy is tough. … Look at the gridlock we're in" in DC. Saddam Hussein who had had WMDs in the past and used them against his people and wanted to do it again today. Better to have a 'flawed but functioning' democracy.
- Iran is developing nuclear weapons. They've pledged elimination of Israel, they're exporting explosives that are killing Americans. Obama's willingness to sit down without preconditions is "not right… naïve… shows a lack of experience"
- I want to be President because these are dangerous times—we're in two wars—but also because I believe I can inspire Americans to serve a cause greater than themselves.
- In Louisiana, I sense a spirit of optimism – there are still challenges, but they are making improvements. I believe that that spirit can spread across the country.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q1) I'm a military mom. I have 2 sons enlisted right now. One is in Baghdad – told her to tell him that the Marines support him and he is our only hope for succeeding out here – we can't allow Obama or HRC in White House.

MCCAIN: All I can say is it's very hard to have family members in the military, but they are an inspiration to us all.

Q2) I appreciate your balanced approach on Iraq – I was uncomfortable with us going in, but we're there now and we have a responsibility. Similarly, on the energy issue. Any comments on the VP search?

MCCAIN: Jindal is the next generation of leadership, not just of GOP but of America. His accomplishments are remarkable, "a great American success story."

Q3) A lot of Gold Star families here.

MCCAIN: "I hate war. Ask the veterans here – no one hates war more than the vets." I will do everything I can to bring them home. If I didn't believe in my heart that staying the c—staying with this succeeding strategy was working, I would also want to bring them home immediately, but I want to bring them home with honor.

Q4) what's your opposition to Webb GI bill?

MCCAIN: We need to increase the educational benefits. Years ago, the GI bill was really important. I want 2 things: (1) at a point, GIs should be able to transfer their benefits to their spouse and family. (2) Non-commission officers are our great strength. I want to increase the educational benefits as those members

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of the military stay in the military- so they'll make a career out of a very honorable profession. Now the bill doesn't have any incentive to stay in longer. It's very expensive to train. Study says retention would drop 16%.

Q4) Question about immigration and the problem of non-English speakers.
MCCAIN: "This meeting is adjourned." You articulate very eloquently the concerns and frustration that Americans have over our failure to carry out our federal responsibility to secure our borders. We have failed to do that. As you know, I've tried—reaching across the aisle. We failed because Americans didn't believe that we'd secure the borders. I got the message. A large number of illegals cross from Mexico to AZ. We can use technology, walls, UAVs, etc. it's going to be expensive but we can do it. Then we need to have a temporary worker programs with tamper-proof biometric document and electronic employer-verfication system. Then we can prosecute anyone who still employs people without these. The bad part is last: we should round up the 2 million people who've committed a crime and deport them or put them in jail. We don't have the capacity to deport all 10million. We should deport all the people who came here recently. For anyone to even get a green card, they have to learn English or at least English-capacity, and learn the Constitution and our laws. What's partisan about illegal immigration and securing our borders? Nothing. I'll reach across the aisle to fix this.

Q5) According to VFW mag, less than 1% (?) of Congressmen have children in service. I think that should be a national scandal.
MCCAIN: (1) I don't believe we need to go back to a draft. In Vietnam draft, the majority of the people drafted were the lowest-income Americans—the richer could find a way out of it. (2) as President, I will ask all young people to serve in some capacity. I'll tell them that the noblest of all is serving in the military and "I believe I can inspire them to serve."

Q6) If elected, what's your commitment to the limitation of federal powers and federal govt as it applies to national security and governance. To minimize intrusion.
MCCAIN: If I sign a bill into law, I will abide that law and will make sure the govt agencies abide by that law. (2) Very important – the appointment of judges to the federal bench. I will only appoint strict-constructionists. "Two of the finest appointments were both Senator Alito—excuse me, Justice Alito and Justice Roberts." I was proud to have supported them. There's a stark difference between myself and Obama, which is extremely important.

- MCCAIN jokes that "these work-release workers" aka his aides at the event "are not very good."

Q7) NCLB forgets about the responsibility of parents. How are you going to address this? We as teachers have no control over things like having kids with drug problems.
MCCAIN: straight-talk – I cannot legislate the responsibility of parents. I can encourage parents. I thought NCLB was a great beginning. It rewards good-performing schools in some ways. That's why we need to fix it. It was a landmark piece that got the fed govt involved in certain ways. If you want to scrap it like Obama wants to do, that means you're happy with the pre-NCLB status quo.
Good example in NOLA. There are 27 charter schools (interrupted and corrected--- "37, 37 charter schools"). McCain asks Gov. Jindal to talk about this system.
- Jindal says we can learn some lessons – when we rebuild Louisiana, let's not just rebuild what we had before; (2) lack of discipline in classroom environment makes teacher retention difficult; we need higher pay for teachers and a Teachers' Bill of Rights so they have support of school administration and the parents to restore classroom difficulty
- MCCAIN response to Jindal: "Well I've got to take him wherever I go"

Q8) (a PE teacher): Very concerned about childrens' obesity problem. Anything we can do to step up PE in schools.
MCCAIN: Every parent in USA should know what school lunch program is in their school, what their school's PE program is. I'm reluctant to have fed government impose things on local school boards and local authorities. But if you send LSU and NOLA Saints and other athletes to schools to say 'get in shape, watch your diet,' I think young people would respond to it. Wants a nationwide program where athletes go to schools and motivate kids to lose weight – without getting the federal govt involved, in which case there are always unintended consequences.

Q9) Wouldn't it be a good idea to concentrate more on preventative health care (e.g. BluePrint Louisiana)?
MCCAIN: I think insurance companies and employers should reward people for wellness and fitness; e.g. cash reward, employer paying for fitness club. Most expensive is ER care. We need more facilities that address emergency care outside E.R. health care costs are never going to come down if we have a rising rate of heart disease and diabetes. We're going to spend hours discussing / debating health care. I want to

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give every family $5k refundable tax credit so they can go across state lines and get health care.

McCain concludes: I want to assure you as President, "I will never let you down."

Press Avail (Note: We were not able to get tracker footage of this, but it was broadcast by some of the cable networks.)

MCCAIN repeats invitation to Obama to engage in series of town hall meetings. Wants to do first one on June 12th and fly there with Sen Obama as part of the "symbology" and the agreement that was made between Goldwater and JFK. American people want a new kind of debate and they want to hear directly from the candidates. I hope Sen Obama will agree.

- Q1 (Kelly O'Donnell): Obama gets a lot of praise for drawing large crowds and deliver a speech and you get criticism for small crowds and worse at the podium. Is that a deficiency in your campaign.
  MCCAIN: (mocks getting angry and offended): We do fine. I just prefer a town hall meeting – it's a purer form of democracy, I never would've been able to win in NH without them. I will continue this throughout the election.

- Q2: At AIPAC speech, Obama said he proposed investment [means "divestment"] a year ago and wants to know why you didn't. he also said he wants to meet with Iranian leaders but *with* preconditions – using democracy as a leverage.
  MCCAIN: "I've never favored investment'" reporter corrects McCain and himself: "Divestment." It's very clear on my record on whether we should support terrorist organziations. Obama has repeatedly he would meet with Pres of Iran – it shows a naivete and a lack of experience.
  - Follow-up: Are you familiar with this divestment bill?
    MCCAIN: No, I don't even know if it passed the Senate. There are thousands of bills every year. Obama voted against declaring Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist org – a fundamental misunderstanding of threat they pose to us.

- Q3 (Michael): Obama campaign said they're open to town hall meeting, but would prefer something less structured, more like Lincoln-Douglas debates. Are you flexible on format?
  MCCAIN: I want to hear directly from the American people asking the candidates what they think.

- Q4: Now that Obama has clinched nomination, what makes Louisiana important to you?
  MCCAIN: The leadership here, Gov. Jindal – has been able to reach across the aisle and help with recovery. It's a way I can show American people how I can reach across the aisle and get things done.

- Q5: It seems to me you didn't answer Michael's question.
  MCCAIN (interrupting): I was actually recognizing the person behind you, not you, to ask a question.
  - Follow-up Q: maybe I should start differently.
    MCCAIN: Maybe you should, but I'm recognizing the person behind you.

- Q6: In your speech last night, you criticized Obama for supporting GOP Pres's energy bill. It seemed extraordinary. Just how much of a liability do you see GWB to your campaign?
  MCCAIN: it was a bad bill. I'll leave others to figure out liability. I've agreed with Pres a lot of times and disagreed a lot, whether on Iraq, environment, spending, etc. we've had great differences. The energy bill was a failure. Obama has criticized the policy, but he supported the bill.

- Q7: When Michael asked if you were open to format changes in town hall proposal. Are you?
  MCCAIN: I want a town hall meeting and I want it to be in a way that American people can feel like they're involved. I know from many years of experience that this is the most effective way. If there are ways to modify the details, I would discuss that. I do want a town hall meeting.

- Q8 (JEFF MASON): you were complimentary of HRC last night and today. Are you actively courting her women voters?
  MCCAIN: I would welcome them, but we'll be seeking votes of people across the political spectrum. We're going to discard the old politics as usual. 81% of people think we're on the wrong track, and I think this town hall could go a long way in fixing that, rather than hearing long speeches.

- Q9: Maya Rodriguez (local CBS): Why have you voted twice against investigation of levee failures in NOLA?
  MCCAIN: I've supported every investigation into what caused the tragedy, I've been here. I've been as

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active as anybody in restoration efforts. I also voted against one bill that was loaded with pork-barrel projects that had nothing to do with NOLA recovery. I'm proud of my record of support, doing everything I can, incl. my commitment on climate change.

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"John M Deutch" <jmd@MIT.EDU>
To:	"John Podesta" <John_D_Podesta@who.eop.gov> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/13/2014 4:16:18 PM
Subject:	Memorandum on Nuclear Power outlook
Attachments:	JMD-RKL Nuclear Memo (rev)[1].pdf

John,

I attach a four page memo that my colleague and friend Richard Lester have prepared about the outlook for nuclear power in the U.S.

I did this because of your telling me that you were concerned about this question and would welcome some outside view.

We shall be interested in your reaction. And if you request it, we will prepare a more complete paper.

Still at the cape. We expect 19 guests in the next 21 days. Mostly Phil and Marne collecting nice people. Nevertheless Pat and I may go to a motel.

I am set up to meet with Caroline Atkinson who, by all accounts, is quite excellent.

John

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 6/25/2015 11:07:57 PM
Subject: Re: Letter

Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.

> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Jake,
>
> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>
> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/2/2008 1:49:06 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 9/2

08 Election Daily News Clips
September 2nd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

TBD

News Clips:

RNC NEWS

GOP Convention Going Forward Tuesday (The Page 9/2/08)
NBC reports the convention will attempt to get back on track Tuesday, and major evening speakers will include Fred Thompson, Lieberman and President Bush via satellite. The McCain camp has also organized several events focused on hurricane relief.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/02/tuesday-gop-convention-schedule-pending/

Networks Focus on Storm Continues (The Page 9/1/08)
All three network anchors host a primetime hour-long special on Hurricane Gustav from New Orleans.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/380819480/

Republicans Finish Short St. Paul Monday (The Page 9/1/08)
Day one of the Republican National Convention closes at 6:00 pm ET after Hurricane Gustav caused political restraint and a somber mood at the Xcel Center. Laura Bush addresses the convention about relief for the Gulf region: "Like all of you, George and I were planning on coming to enjoy this convention…. Our first priority now is to ensure the safety and well being of those living in the Gulf Coast region."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/01/in-session-3/

Paul Is Here, and the RNC Isn't Happy (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Matthew Mosk; A27
Former Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul has boasted that he wrote a book slamming the Iraq war and challenging the nation's economic system to continue a grass-roots movement that grew out of his quixotic campaign. The best-selling "The Revolution: A Manifesto" has become the centerpiece of a counterconvention by Paul that he has predicted will attract thousands of supporters to the Twin Cities.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090102461_pf.html

Laura Bush, Cindy McCain take convention stage (CNN blog 9/1/08)
By Alexander Mooney
First Lady Laura Bush and Cindy McCain addressed the Republican National Convention Monday evening, delivering abbreviated remarks due to Hurricane Gustav.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/01/laura-bush-cindy-mccain-take-convention-stage/
Link to video of Laura Bush: http://www.cnn.com/video/#/ video/politics/2008/09/01/sot.laura.bush.gulf.coast.cnn
Link to video of Cindy: http://www.cnn.com/video/#/ video/politics/2008/09/01/sot.rnc.cindy.mccain.cnn

5 arrested in protests at GOP convention site (AP 9/1/08)
By AMY FORLITI
Thousands of protesters descended on the city hosting the Republican National Convention Monday, some smashing cars, puncturing tires and throwing bottles in a confrontations with pepper-spray wielding police who arrested at least five people.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hksHDv1i55R2qYl6dkmMm10uxZ0AD92U58MO2

Roberta McCain Settles In at Xcel (The Page 9/1/08)
The candidate is absent from the GOP convention in St. Paul Monday– but his 96-year-old mother is attending the evening's session.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/01/roberta-mccain-settles-in-to-xcel/#

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain fought money on teen pregnancy programs (AP 9/2/08)
By Sharon Theimer
Republican John McCain, whose running mate disclosed that her unmarried 17-year-old daughter is pregnant, has opposed proposals to spend federal money on teen-pregnancy prevention programs and voted to require poor teen mothers to stay in school or lose their benefits.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/09/02/mccain_fought_money_on_teen_pregnancy_programs?mode=PF

McCain losing time to push security credentials (Boston Globe 9/2/08)
By Peter S. Canellos
As delegates to the Republican National Convention were riveted to TV shots of water lapping over levees yesterday, they expressed hope that a potential disaster had been averted on the Gulf Coast and that their own convention could proceed with only the loss of speeches by President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. That may not be much of a loss at all, given the president's very low favorability ratings ... and the fact that

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Hurricane Gustav gave John McCain a chance to show that he takes natural disasters very seriously. But the cancellation of Day One of the Republican convention may have a deeper political cost, one that pales in comparison with the potential loss of life on the Gulf Coast but one that could have an impact on the presidential race, nonetheless.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/09/02/mccain_losing_time_to_push_security_credentials?mode=PF

McCain in talks with Ron Paul for backing (Washington Times 9/2/08)
Ralph Z. Hallow
The McCain campaign, acting through the Republican National Committee, has been negotiating with Rep. Ron Paul to win his support and acquire the names of his sympathizers among the 4,607 delegates and alternates at the Republican National Convention, according to a senior aide to the Texas congressman.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/02/mccain-negotiating-with-paul-to-win-backing-suppor/

McCain Visits Disaster Relief Center in Toledo (ABC blog 9/1/08)
By Bret Hovell
Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., visited a disaster relief center in Toledo, Ohio, on Monday, continuing his effort to politically get out in front of Hurricane Gustav and avoid the overwhelming perception left after Hurricane Katrina that the Republican Party either didn't know about the magnitude of that storm, or didn't care.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/09/mccain-visits-d.html

McCain posts biggest haul in August (AP 9/1/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain raised at least $47 million in August, his biggest haul so far and a sign that he is dispelling doubts about his campaign among conservative donors.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/09/02/mccain_posts_biggest_haul_in_august/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

Despite political respite, Biden hits McCain (FirstRead 9/1/08)
By Mike Memoli
This morning, Joe Biden said today was not a day for national politics. He said it again during a roundtable discussion outside his childhood home here this afternoon. But before long, he couldn't help himself, criticizing McCain for his views on offshore drilling and questioning his foreign policy judgment.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/09/01/1322543.aspx

Response to Storm Shows Changes in McCain Campaign (NYT 9/1/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
By every account, there was not much debate in John McCain's inner circle about what to do as Hurricane Gustav bore down on the Gulf Coast, just as delegates were coming into town for the convention. After the briefest of consultations, they decided to cancel major convention events Monday, realizing the political cost of proceeding with the pageantry of a convention as a potentially lethal storm landed on shore.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/01/us/politics/01web-nagourney.html?hp==print&adxnnl=1&pagewanted=print&adxnnlx=1220356858-ARUQVp6pnutnNPHuqrEelw

PAILIN NEWS

The Sarah Palin arrives at a GOP convention, eager to meet the new star (LA Times 9/2/08)
Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor is in the house. Sarah Palin, Alaska's governor but John McCain's new vice presidential partner, has arrived in St. Paul for the abbreviated Republican National Convention, where the selection of the relatively unknown 44-year-old mother of five has energized thousands of Republicans gathered for the GOP's first nomination of a female national candidaThe new Republican running mates Arizona senator John McCain and Alaska Governor Sarah Palinte since its founding in 1854.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/09/the-sarah-palin.html

Palin's Small Alaska Town Secured Big Federal Funds (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Paul Kane; A01
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin employed a lobbying firm to secure almost $27 million in federal earmarks for a town of 6,700 residents while she was its mayor, according to an analysis by an independent government watchdog group.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090103148.html

A New Twist in the Debate Over Mothers (NYT 9/2/08)
By JODI KANTOR and RACHEL L. SWARNS
When Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska was introduced as a vice-presidential pick, she was presented as a magnet for female voters, the epitome of everymom appeal. But since then, as mothers across the country supervise the season's final water fights and pack book bags, some have voiced the kind of doubts that few male pundits have dared raise on television. With five children, including an infant with Down syndrome and, as the country learned Monday, a pregnant 17-year-old, Ms. Palin has set off a fierce argument among women about whether there are enough hours in the day for her to take on the vice presidency, and whether she is right to try.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/02/us/politics/02mother.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Gov. Mom (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Lois Romano; A21
It's quite a compelling image: An accomplished -- even glamorous -- working mother, projecting to the world that she can and does have it all: five children, a successful career and a husband who doesn't mind being Mr. Mom. Oh, and she's going to be a grandmother, and her infant has special needs, and she's running for vice president. The facts of life for Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin are fascinating and seem, frankly, exhausting.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090102998_pf.html

In Political Realm, 'Family Problem' Emerges as Test (NYT 9/2/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
For at least the time being, Gov. Sarah Palin appears to have survived the initial test after the disclosure that her unmarried teenage daughter was pregnant. Republican delegates rallied around her on Monday, saying the disclosure would not threaten her hopes of being Senator John McCain's running mate.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/02/us/politics/02assess.html?hp

Labor Day Purge (The Page 9/2/08)
New Palin spinmeister tells the NY Times about McCain effort to put out potentially damaging information all at once during Gustav and the holiday.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/02/labor-day-purge/

New Palin details may help, not hurt (Politico 9/1/08)
By: Charles Mahtesian
Fishing permit violations. A blue-collar husband who racked up a DUI citation as a 22-year-old. An unmarried teenage daughter who is pregnant and a nasty child custody battle involving a family member. All of this, to one degree or another, has surfaced in recent days as a result of efforts to discredit or undermine Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. But these revelations may have the opposite effect: In one sense, they could reinforce how remarkably unremarkable she is.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=202B4E02-18FE-70B2-A80A4298569F42B9

Evangelicals rally behind Palin after pregnancy news (CNN blog 9/1/08)
By Rebecca Sinderbrand
Key evangelical leaders rallied to Sarah Palin's support Monday amid news that her 17-year-old daughter, Bristol, was having a child.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/01/evangelicals-rally-behind-palin-after-pregnancy-news/

Calculated Risk With Female Voters Is Suddenly Even Harder to Calculate (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Anne E Kornblut and Juliet Eilperin; A19
In a presidential campaign that has challenged assumptions about female voters and candidates across the spectrum, the announcement yesterday that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's unmarried teenage daughter is five months pregnant added a variable to the multiple factors that will motivate the votes of more than half of the electorate in November.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090102726_pf.html

Mayor Palin: A Rough Record (TIME 9/2/08)
By Nathan Thornburgh
John McCain was clear about why he picked half-term Alaska governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate. ...It is a powerful reinforcement of McCain's own political brand: tough, reform-minded, willing to break with his own party for the right cause. ...But in the first major race of her career — the 1996 campaign for mayor of her hometown of Wasilla — Palin was a far more conventional politician. In fact, according to some who were involved in that fight, Palin was a highly polarizing political figure who brought partisan politics and hot-button social issues like abortion and gun control into a mayoral race that had traditionally been contested like a friendly intramural contest among neighbors.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1837918,00.html

McCain vetter defends Palin review (AP 9/2/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Sarah Palin voluntarily told John McCain's campaign about her pregnant teenage daughter and her husband's 2-decade-old DUI arrest during questioning as part of the Republican's vice presidential search, the lawyer who conducted the background review said.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CVN_PALIN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-09-02-03-36-15

McCain communications team sent to Alaska (CNN blog 9/1/08)
By Dana Bash
A senior adviser to John McCain's campaign confirms that they have dispatched a team of 12 people to presumptive VP nominee Sarah Palin's home state of Alaska.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/01/mccain-communications-team-sent-to-alaska/

Obama says Palin's family off limits (CNN 9/1/08)
* Barack Obama responds to Gov. Sarah Palin's daughter's pregnancy
* "People's families are off-limits ... children are especially off-limits," he says
* Obama says reporters should "back off these kinds of stories"
* Bristol Palin, a senior in high school, is about five months pregnant
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/01/obama.palin/index.html

GOP Deals With the Storm -- and the Stork (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Dana Milbank; A18
Hurricane Gustav made landfall on the Louisiana coast about 10:30 a.m. Monday. Hurricane Bristol made landfall in Minnesota at 11:43 a.m.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090102553_pf.html

To rebut rumors, Palin says daughter, 17, pregnant (Reuters 9/1/08)
By Steve Holland
The 17-year-old daughter of Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin is pregnant, Palin said on Monday in an announcement intended to knock down rumors by liberal bloggers that Palin faked her own pregnancy to cover up for her child.
http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN2944356420080901

The GOP platform plank on sexual abstinence (LA Times blog 9/1/08)
By Don Frederick
Palins In the wake of today's revelation that Sarah Palin's 17-year-old, unwed daughter is pregnant, the following plank in the Republican platform for the 2008 presidential campaign is sure to garner more attention than usual.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/09/the-gop-platfor.html

Palin On Abortion: I'd Oppose Even If My Own Daughter Was Raped (HuffPo 9/1/08)
By Sam Stein
In November 2006, then gubernatorial candidate Sarah Palin declared that she would not support an abortion for her own daughter even if she had been raped.

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/01/palin-on-abortion-id-oppo_n_122924.html
See Ben Smith's "Palin opposed sex-ed": http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0908/Palin_opposed_sexed.html?showall

Palin Received Millions In Earmarks, Clouding Reformer Image (HuffPo 9/1/08)
By Sam Stein
News continues to break regarding vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin that could, in the long term, pose serious problems to one of the main thrusts of the McCain campaign: the message of conservative reform.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/01/palin-received-millions-i_n_123004.html

Palin Was a Director of Embattled Sen. Stevens's 527 Group (WaPo blog 9/1/08)
By Matthew Mosk
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin began building clout in her state's political circles in part by serving as a director of an independent political group organized by the now embattled Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens. Palin's name is listed on 2003 incorporation papers of the "Ted Stevens Excellence in Public Service, Inc.," a 527 group that could raise unlimited funds from corporate donors.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/01/palin_was_a_director_of_embatt.html#more

Exclusive: Todd Palin's 1986 DUI Arrest Called "Lesson Learned" (Brody File 9/1/08)
Sources close to Sarah Palin tell The Brody File that the husband of the GOP Vice-presidential choice, Todd Palin, was arrested and charged with Driving under the Influence of alcohol back in 1986. He was 22 years old at the time. He was driving in a truck with some friends in the small southwestern Alaska town of Dillingham when he was pulled over for the DUI. As is customary, he was taken to jail briefly. Sarah and Todd Palin were high school sweethearts so they were dating at the time. The Brody File can also report that there was no accident or injuries.
http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/436411.aspx

Palin Hires Lawyer in Troopergate (AP 9/1/08)
By STEVE QUINN
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the GOP vice presidential candidate, has hired a private practice attorney to defend her in the investigation into the firing of her public safety commissioner.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1837877,00.html

Palin and Her Pastors: "Those that die without Christ have a horrible, horrible surprise" (Harpers 9/1/08)
By Ken Silverstein and Sebastian Jones
During the 2008 campaign the beliefs of various candidates' spiritual mentors has attracted a great deal of attention, especially those of the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, and to a lesser extent those of John Hagee, who endorsed John McCain. So now seems an opportune time to examine the viewpoints of Sarah Palin's two most recent pastors, as expressed in their sermons.
http://www.harpers.org/archive/2008/08/hbc-90003486

Palin And The FBI Background Check -- Updated (Atlantic Online 9/1/08)
By Marc Ambinder
The Federal Bureau of Investigation did not participate in the vetting of Gov. Sarah Palin and did not conduct a background check as part of the process, an FBI spokesman said today.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/09/palin_and_the_fbi_background_c.php

McCain Camp's Detailed Palin Review (AP 9/1/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Sarah Palin's path to the Republican ticket started with her name on a list — and a team of some 25 people poring through public records searching for trouble spots without her knowledge. Then came the 70-question survey and a nearly three-hour interview. ...In the days since, Republicans and Democrats have privately questioned whether the Arizona senator chose the first-term governor without fully looking into her background. McCain's campaign has vehemently defended the review.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1837949,00.html

Palin: "If Pledge Of Allegiance Was Good Enough For Founding Fathers, It's Good Enough For Me" (DailyKos 9/1/08)
...Sarah Palin, answering a 2006 policy questionnaire:
Q: "Are you offended by the phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance? Why or why not?"
PALIN: "Not on your life. If it was good enough for the founding fathers, its good enough for me and I'll fight in defense of our Pledge of Allegiance"
...When John McCain was born, the words "Under God" were not in the Pledge. They would not appear there until 1954, during McCain's senior year of high school.
http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/9/1/13152/11620

Members of 'Fringe' Alaskan Independence Party Say Palin Was a Member in 90s (ABC blog 9/1/08)
By Jake Tapper
The campaign of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., likes to herald the independence of its new running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/09/members-of-frin.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Longing for the McCain of old (Denver Post 9/2/08)
It would be refreshing if the old John McCain of political legend were to resurface this week at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul. We miss the old McCain, the one reputed for being a maverick, an occasional party rebel, a straight-talker, a coalition-builder. In short, a politician who is not annoyingly political, but who can work with both sides of the aisle.
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_10351957?source=rss

John McCain Has a Tax Plan To Create Jobs (WSJ 9/2/08)
By MARTIN FELDSTEIN and JOHN B. TAYLOR
John McCain's tax policies are designed to create jobs, increase wages and allow all Americans -- especially those in the hard-pressed middle class -- to keep more of what they earn. His plan achieves these goals in three important ways.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122031215585888783.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

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Why McCain Still Has a Chance To Win (WSJ 9/2/08)
By PETER ROBINSON
With Barack Obama already established as a skillful rhetorician, people keep asking me, a former White House speechwriter, about John McCain. Can he say anything -- anything at all -- that might place him in the company of Ronald Reagan, the president for whom I used to work? The answer, I believe, is yes.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122031196249888759.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Ignore the Chauvinists. Palin Has Real Experience. (WSJ 9/2/08)
By NANCY PFOTENHAUER
In Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Sen. John McCain has found a fellow maverick to be his running mate -- one who can help bring the right kind of reform to Washington. Ms. Palin, like Mr. McCain, has a strong record of battling the status quo, restoring accountability and effectiveness to government, and working to secure energy independence, root out corruption and curb wasteful spending.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122031229774188795.html?mod=todays_us_opinion

What the Palin Pick Says (NYT 9/2/08)
By DAVID BROOKS
John McCain is not a normal conservative. He has instincts, but few abstract convictions about the proper size of government. He's a traditionalist, but is not energized by the social conservative agenda. As Rush Limbaugh understands, but the Democrats apparently do not, a McCain administration would not be like a Bush administration.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/02/opinion/02brooks.html?pagewanted=print

The Cynicism Express (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Eugene Robinson; A15
Has anyone noticed that Sarah Palin's central claim to political fame is a fraud? She represents herself as a fiscal conservative who abhors pork-barrel projects and said no thanks to the "Bridge to Nowhere" -- a $398 million span that would have linked Ketchikan, Alaska, to its airport across the Tongass Narrows. But as mayor of Wasilla (pop. 9,780), she hired a Washington lobbyist to bring home the bacon. And as a candidate for governor just two years ago, she supported both the Ketchikan bridge and the congressional earmark that would have paid most of its cost.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090101716_pf.html

Sarah Palin: the new life of the Grand Old Party. (LA Times 9/2/08)
Jonah Goldberg
John McCain's running mate has been met with enthusiasm -- and donations -- from the conservative wing of the Republican Party.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goldberg2-2008sep02,0,3190642.column?track=rss

Republicans Rush In (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Richard Cohen; A15
One of the great sights of American political life -- a YouTube moment if ever there was one -- was to see the doughboy face of Newt Gingrich as he extolled the virtues of Sarah Palin, a sitcom of a vice presidential choice and a disaster movie if she moves up to the presidency: "She's the first journalist ever to be nominated, I think, for the president or vice president, and she was a sportscaster on local television," Gingrich said on the "Today" show. "So she has a lot of interesting background. And she has a lot of experience. Remember that, when people worry about how inexperienced she is, for two years she's been in charge of the Alaska National Guard."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090101715_pf.html

The Lesson of Bristol Palin (WaPo 9/2/08)
By Ruth Marcus; A15
Bristol Palin's pregnancy may be the ultimate teachable moment. It just might not be the lesson that John McCain intended.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090102305_pf.html

Bush's exit is McCain's redemption (Washington Times 9/2/08)
Hurricane Gustav has put on hold the party and splendor of the Republican National Convention, at least until today. As the Category 2 storm approached the Gulf states and even after the storm dissipated over land, there was talk that the party would have a chance to redeem itself during its convention, but there was nothing for the party to redeem, certainly not this Republican Party.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/02/bushs-exit-is-mccains-redemption/

The dirty little secret about social security (Washington Times 9/2/08)
By Bob Barr
I am frustrated by the refusal of Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama to adequately confront Social Security's looming fiscal crunch. The United States faces a demography-driven crisis of entitlement spending.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/02/the-dirty-little-secret-about-social-security/

Gustav's Landfall (WaPo 9/2/08)
The initial response suggests government has learned from Katrina.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/01/AR2008090102598_pf.html

McCain, a warrior, but ... (LA Times 9/1/08)
By Bob Kerrey
Fellow politician and Vietnam vet Bob Kerrey, who supports Barack Obama, says John McCain's military experience is not enough by itself to qualify him to be president.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-kerrey1-2008sep01,0,5019858.story?track=rss

BUSH NEWS

Cheney's Trip to Caucasus Could Presage a Tougher Russia Policy (WSJ 9/2/08)
By JOHN D. MCKINNON
Vice President Dick Cheney will travel to Georgia and Ukraine this week in a trip that could help lay the groundwork for stiffer Western responses

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to last month's Russian incursion of Georgia.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB122031972170389449.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox
See Time's "EU Talks Tough on Russia": http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1837863,00.html

Bush may address RNC via satellite Tuesday (CNN blog 9/1/08)
President Bush may still address the Republican National Convention via satellite from Washington Tuesday evening, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/01/bush-may-address-rnc-via-satellite-tuesday/

Bush: Gustav coordination better than Katrina (CNN 9/2/08)
* Bush credits governors of states affected by Gustav
* Federal government's response to 2005's Hurricane Katrina was widely criticized
* Bush says he feels good about recovery preparation for Gustav

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/01/gustav.bush/index.html

BUSH, GOV. PERRY ADDRESS GUSTAV (The Page 9/1/08)
The President and the Texas governor participate in a briefing on the hurricane slamming the Gulf Coast in Texas.
...Bush: "The coordination on this storm is a lot better than during Katrina. A lot of it had to do with the governors…"
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/01/bush-gov-perry-address-gustav/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Gustav knocks out Gulf oil production (CNNMoney.com 9/1/08)
By David Goldman
U.S. Department of Energy says hurricane halted oil and natural gas industry's activities in the Gulf of Mexico.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/01/news/economy/gustav_situation_report/index.htm?postversion=2008090115

Gustav hits U.S. economy (CNNMoney.com 9/1/08)
By Chris Isidore
Storm is weaker than Katrina three years ago. But it hits an economy that is at greater risk.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/01/news/economy/gustav_economy/index.htm?postversion=2008090115

Crisis a test for Louisiana's young governor (Financial Times 9/2/08)
By Andrew Ward
Bobby Jindal was supposed to be one of the stars of the Republican national convention in Minnesota this week. Instead, the 37-year-old governor of Louisiana was forced to stay home to prepare for hurricane Gustav and deal with its aftermath.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e538e25e-7853-11dd-acc3-0000779fd18c.html?nclick_check=1

Democrats, Eyeing Storm, Play Down Partisanship (NYT 9/2/08)
By JOHN M. BRODER and JEFF ZELENY
On this Labor Day, which has long been the traditional opening to the general election season, the Democratic presidential ticket struggled to draw attention. Mindful of Hurricane Gustav, Senators Barack Obama and Joseph R. Biden Jr. pressed ahead on Monday, traveling separately to three battleground states. But they altered their arguments against Senator John McCain, vowing that it was not a day for partisan politics.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/02/us/politics/02dems.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Obama Returning to Chicago to Handle Gustav (The Page 9/1/08)
The Democrat clears his Tuesday schedule to go back to campaign headquarters and deal with the aftermath of the storm.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/01/obama-today-is-not-a-day-for-political-speeches/

Obama Camp Texts Supporters For Gustav Help (The Page 9/1/08)
The Illinois Senator's campaign sends out a text message to supporters with instructions on how to donate to the Red Cross.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/01/obama-camp-texts-supporters-for-gustav-help/

Dutch intel: US to strike Iran in coming weeks (Jerusalem Post 9/1/08)
The Dutch intelligence service, the AIVD, has called off an operation aimed at infiltrating and sabotaging Iran's weapons industry due to an assessment that a US attack on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program is imminent, according to a report in the country's De Telegraaf newspaper on Friday.
http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1220186494776&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull

POLLS

Poll: Obama gets post-convention 'bounce' (USA Today 9/2/08)
By Susan Page
The Democratic National Convention significantly boosted Americans' views of Barack Obama as a strong leader who "shares your values" and can manage the economy and Iraq, a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll taken Saturday and Sunday finds. ...In the head-to-head race, Obama leads 50%-43% among registered voters.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-09-01-poll-monday_N.htm?csp=34#

Obama's bounce smaller than others' (Politico 9/2/08)
By: David Paul Kuhn
Barack Obama's post-Democratic National Convention bounce in the polls appears to be slightly smaller than the norm of past conventions, and it's gradually depreciating. The Gallup daily tracking poll has found that since the conclusion of the convention, Obama has risen 4 percentage points in the polls, to lead McCain 49 percent to 43 percent today.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=20B38D47-18FE-70B2-A8250C9B2B12482A

CNN Poll of polls: Obama holds slim lead (CNN blog 9/1/08)

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By Alan Silverleib
Roughly nine weeks before Election Day, a new CNN poll of polls shows Barack Obama holding a five point lead over John McCain. Only four days after Obama's acceptance speech and three days after McCain's pick of Sarah Palin as his running mate, Obama is now ahead of McCain, 49 to 44 percent.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/01/cnn-poll-of-polls-obama-holds-slim-lead/

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/17/2008 4:05:53 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Today's McCain Energy speech excerpts

Excerpts From Remarks As Prepared For Delivery
Houston, TX
June 17, 2008
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Among its other distinctions, this great city is known as the oil capital of America. But people in Houston and all of Texas understand as well as anyone that the high price of oil and gas today is causing great harm all across our economy. People are hurting -- small farmers, truckers, and taxi drivers unable to cover their costs, small business owners struggling to meet payroll, the cost of living rising and the value of paychecks falling. All of this, in large part, because the price of oil is too high, and the supply of oil too uncertain. These citizens believe their government has a duty to finally assure the energy security of this country, and they are right.
I first addressed this issue at the outset of my primary campaign. And in just that time ? a little more than a year ? the price of a barrel of oil has more than doubled. And the price of a gallon of gas in America stands at more than four dollars. Yesterday, a barrel of oil cost about 134 dollars. And various oil ministers and investment firms have confidently informed us that soon we can expect to pay 200 dollars for every barrel, and as much as seven dollars for every gallon of gas.
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Somehow the United States ? in so many ways the most self-reliant of nations ? has allowed and at times even encouraged this state of affairs. This was a troubling situation 35 years ago. It was an alarming situation twenty years ago. It is a dangerous situation today. And starting in the term of the next president, we must take control over our own energy future, and become once again the master of our fate.
The next president must be willing to break with the energy policies not just of the current Administration, but the administrations that preceded it, and lead a great national campaign to achieve energy security for America. So in the days ahead I plan to return to the subject in a series of discussions to explain my reform agenda. And I will set forth a strategy to free America once and for all from our strategic dependence on foreign oil.
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Among these is a challenge we hardly even understood back when America first learned to associate the word ?energy? with ?crisis.? We now know that fossil fuel emissions, by retaining heat within the atmosphere, threaten disastrous changes in climate. No challenge of energy is to be taken lightly, and least of all the need to avoid the consequences of global warming.
In the face of climate change and other serious challenges, energy conservation is no longer just a moral luxury or a personal virtue. Conservation serves a critical national goal. Over time, we must shift our entire energy economy toward a sustainable mix of new and cleaner power sources. This will include some we use already, such as wind, solar, biofuels, and other sources yet to be invented. It will include a variety of new automotive and fuel technologies -- clean-burning coal and nuclear energy -- and a new system of incentives, under a cap-and-trade policy, to put the power of the market on the side of environmental protection.
But to make the great turn away from carbon-emitting fuels, we will need all the inventive genius of which America is capable. We will need as well

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an economy strong enough to support our nation?s great shift toward clean energy. And this gives us only further incentive to protect ourselves from the sudden shocks and ever-rising prices that come with our dependence on foreign oil.

Up to a point, these sudden rises in the price of oil are explainable in the terms of basic economics. When demand exceeds supply, prices always rise, and this has happened very dramatically in the demand for oil. Two powerful forces in the oil market today are China and India, nations in which a third of humanity is suddenly entering the industrial era ? with all the cars, construction, and consumption of oil that involves.

There is the further problem of speculation on the oil futures market, which in many cases has nothing to do with the actual sale, purchase, or delivery of oil. When crude oil became a futures-traded commodity in the 1980?s, the idea was to afford a measure of protection against the historic volatility of oil pricing. It takes several weeks to ship oil from the Arabian Peninsula to the offshore port of Louisiana. And for the buyers, it helps to know that the price will not suddenly fall while the oil is in transit. A futures contract assures importers that they can sell the oil at a profit.

That?s the theory, anyway. But we all know that some people on Wall Street are not above gaming the system. When you have enough speculators betting on the rising price of oil, that itself can cause oil prices to keep on rising. And while a few reckless speculators are counting their paper profits, most Americans are coming up on the short end ? using more and more of their hard-earned paychecks to buy gas for the truck, tractor, or family car.

Investigation is underway to root out this kind of reckless wagering, unrelated to any kind of productive commerce, because it can distort the market, drive prices beyond rational limits, and put the investments and pensions of millions of Americans at risk. Where we find such abuses, they need to be swiftly punished. And to make sure it never happens again, we must reform the laws and regulations governing the oil futures market, so that they are just as clear and effective as the rules applied to stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments. In all of these markets, reform must assure transparency, prevent abuse, and protect the public interest.

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At the time of OPEC?s oil embargo, we imported roughly a third of our oil. Now we import two thirds. At that time, every day, we produced more than nine million barrels of oil domestically. Now America produces five million barrels a day. Five million barrels sounds like a lot until we compare the number with the oil we use, which comes to 20 million barrels, or a quarter of all the oil used every day across the earth.

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It takes a very short leap in logic to wonder why we produce less and less crude oil, while we use more and more of it, or why politicians talk so much about promoting alternative energy sources, but often do so little to promote these alternatives. A reasonable observer, presented only with these numbers of consumption and production, might draw the conclusion that America has accepted this fate because we have no choice in the matter, or because we have no resources of our own. But just the opposite is true: We do have resources, and we do have a choice.

In oil, gas, and coal deposits, we have enormous energy reserves of our own. And we are gaining the means to use these resources in cleaner, more responsible ways. As for offshore drilling, it?s safe enough these days that not even Hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cause significant spillage from the battered rigs off the coasts of New Orleans and Houston. Yet for reasons that become less convincing with every rise in the price of foreign oil, the federal government discourages offshore production.

At the very least, one might assume, America had surely been building new refineries to achieve a more efficient delivery of gasoline to market, and thereby to lower the prices paid by the American people ? especially in the summer season. But the policymakers in Washington haven?t got around to that, either. There?s so much regulation of the industry that the last

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American refinery was built when Jerry Ford was president.
As for nuclear energy ? a proven energy source that requires zero emissions ? we haven?t built a new reactor in 31 years. In Europe and elsewhere, they have been expanding their use of nuclear energy. But we?ve waited so long that we?ve lost our domestic capability to even build these power plants. Nuclear power is among the surest ways to gain a clean, abundant, and stable energy supply, as other nations understand. One nation today has plans to build almost 50 new reactors by 2020. Another country plans to build 26 major nuclear stations. A third nation plans to build enough nuclear plants to meet one quarter of all the electricity needs of its people ? a population of more than a billion people. Those three countries are China, Russia, and India. And if they have the vision to set and carry out great goals in energy policy, then why don?t we?
So, taking stock of our energy situation, it is time we draw a few sensible conclusions of our own. In their sum effect on the American economy, the policies of our government could hardly have left us more dependent had they been designed to do precisely that. This vulnerability is clear in many ways, and never more than when American leaders are reduced to supplicating for lower prices before the sheiks and princes of OPEC. Of course, they are unmoved by our troubles. They regard even the need to ask as a sign of weakness. And in the end, they take their cues not from our entreaties for relief, but from our failure to diversify and to produce.
Quite rightly, I believe, we confer a special status on some areas of our country that are best left undisturbed. When America set aside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we called it a ?refuge? for a reason.
But the stakes are high for our citizens and for our economy. And with gasoline running at more than four bucks a gallon, many do not have the luxury of waiting on the far-off plans of futurists and politicians. We have proven oil reserves of at least 21 billion barrels in the United States. But a broad federal moratorium stands in the way of energy exploration and production. And I believe it is time for the federal government to lift these restrictions and to put our own reserves to use. We can do this in ways that are consistent with sensible standards of environmental protection. And in states that choose to permit exploration, there must be an appropriate sharing of benefits between federal and state governments. But as a matter of fairness to the American people, and a matter of duty for our government, we must deal with the here and now, and assure affordable fuel for America by increasing domestic production.
We should set the highest goals for ourselves for the years and decades to come, and I am a believer in the technologies that one day will free us from oil entirely. But to get there at all, a more pragmatic approach will serve us better. In the short term, we must take the world as it is and our resources where they are ? even as we press on with new and cleaner sources of energy. We must be bold in our plans to break our strategic dependence on oil, and over the next two weeks, I?ll be offering a vision that will be bold. But we must also address the concerns of Americans, who are struggling right now to pay for gasoline, groceries, and other necessities of life.
What is certain in energy policy is that we have learned a few clear lessons along the way. Somehow all of them seem to have escaped my opponent. He says that high oil prices are not the problem, but only that they rose too quickly. He?s doesn?t support new domestic production. He doesn?t support new nuclear plants. He doesn?t support more traditional use of coal, either.
So what does Senator Obama support in energy policy? Well, for starters he supported the energy bill of 2005 ? a grab-bag of corporate favors that I opposed. And now he supports new taxes on energy producers. He wants a windfall profits tax on oil, to go along with the new taxes he also plans for coal and natural gas. If the plan sounds familiar, it?s because that was President Jimmy Carter?s big idea too ? and a lot of good it did us. Now as then, all a windfall profits tax will accomplish is to increase our dependence on foreign oil, and hinder exactly the kind of domestic exploration and production we need. I?m all for recycling ? but it?s

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better applied to paper and plastic than to the failed policies of the 1970?s.
Oddly enough, though, Senator Obama doesn?t want to lower the gas taxes paid by consumers, which would be the most direct and obvious way to give Americans a break at the gas station. Even in tough times for our economy, when folks are struggling to pay for gas and groceries, tax relief just isn?t change he can believe in. ?

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/22/2015 11:49:51 PM
Subject: News Update - July 23, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, July 23

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Italian PM: Israel is the Nation-State of the Jewish People**
- **US Congress to Begin Hearings on Iran Nuclear Agreement**
- **After Labeling, EU Think-Tank Proposes Banking Steps on Israel**
- **U.S.: Netanyahu Would Reject any Nuclear Deal with Iran**
- **AIPAC Girds for Rare High-Noon Showdown with White House**
- **Netanyahu: 'Better' Iran Deal can still Fix 'Historic Mistake'**
- **US Imposes Sanctions on Hezbollah Leaders**
- **Achievement to Opposition on Judges Selection Committee**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "The Case for the Nuclear Deal with Iran"**
  - By John Kerry and Ernest Moniz
- **New York Times: "Backing Up Our Wager with Iran"**
  - By Thomas L. Friedman

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Ha'arezt

Renzi: Israel is the Nation-State of the Jewish People

In a speech to the Knesset this afternoon, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called Israel the nation-state of the Jewish people. Renzi said that when he delivers a speech to the Palestinians in Bethlehem later in his visit, he plans to tell them that "to recognize Israel is to recognize reality." Renzi arrived on Tuesday for a visit of several days to Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In his speech, Renzi voiced enthusiastic support for Israel – for its security, economy and culture and referred to the calls for boycotts of Israel. "Whoever boycotts Israel doesn't understand that he is boycotting himself and doesn't understanding that he is betraying his own future," Renzi said.

Jerusalem Post

US Congress to Begin Hearings on Iran Deal

The US Congress begins its review of a nuclear agreement reached between world powers and Iran, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, on Thursday. Hearings start in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where three principals of the Obama administration tasked with crafting the deal – US Secretary of State John Kerry, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew – plan to testify. They will also appear before the House Foreign Affairs Committee next week. Their review begins amid a multi-million dollar effort, from both opponents and advocates of the agreement, to influence the outcome of the congressional vote. The lawmakers now have the opportunity to vote to approve or disapprove of the deal within 56 days.

Reuters

After Labeling, EU Think-Tank Proposes Bank Steps

The EU agreed this week to push ahead with introduction of labels that specifically identify Israeli goods made in settlements in the occupied West Bank, a policy that has angered Israel; but now an influential European Council on Foreign Relations think-tank is proposing going much further, including the targeting of Israeli banks. The new proposals would go much deeper and further, reaching into banking, loans and mortgages, qualifications earned in settlement institutions and the tax-exempt status of European charities that deal with Israeli settlements. European Union officials have talked in private about the steps that might follow labeling, but there are no formal EU proposals in the works at this stage.

See also, "EU Differentiation and Israeli settlements" (ECFR)

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Ha'aretz

U.S.: Netanyahu Would Reject any Nuclear Deal

Senior administration officials in Washington said on Wednesday they had reached the conclusion that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was not interested in any nuclear arrangement with Iran – except for one in which Tehran completely capitulates but is denied sanctions relief in return. "That is the logic of Israel's criticism," they said in a briefing with Haaretz. The officials also warned that the consequences of a decision by Congress to veto the Iran nuclear deal could be "potentially catastrophic," strengthening Iran, weakening the US and limiting its ability to defend Israel.

Times of Israel

AIPAC Girds for Rare High-Noon Showdown with WH

It will be the DC equivalent of the showdown at the OK Corral. Stepping into the summer haze on Capitol Hill, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee and its allies are set to face off against the ultimate power broker – 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue – backed up by a cadre of its allied groups. The lobbying showdown, over a Congressional vote on the nuclear deal with Iran, represents a rare moment for AIPAC, with the avowedly bipartisan organization publicly splitting with the sitting administration over a major foreign policy initiative. Even at the peak of tensions between the Obama administration and the Israeli government, the pro-Israel organization worked hard to keep its head above an ugly fray. AIPAC's efforts at bipartisanship, and specifically at avoiding picking a fight with the president, extend back decades. For years, AIPAC has maintained a policy of remaining tight-lipped on budgetary face-offs, preferring to focus on completed deals and lobbying successes.

Times of Israel

PM: 'Better' Iran Deal can still Fix 'Historic Mistake'

Prime Minister Netanyahu on Wednesday said an alternative nuclear deal with Iran that would curb the Islamic State's aggression is still within reach, and railed against the agreement struck last week as a "historic mistake." "No agreement is better than this bad agreement," said Netanyahu, reiterating his denouncement of the accord struck July 14. "A better deal that would tie the lifting of restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and would roll back Iran's nuclear infrastructure — such a deal would be tied to ending Iran's aggression and terrorism. That's the real alternative," he said. Netanyahu addressed the issue during a press conference with visiting Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, who is on her first official visit to Israel since taking office in February.

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Ynet News

US Imposes Sanctions on Hezbollah Leaders

The US Treasury Department on Tuesday imposed sanctions on three leaders of the militant group Hezbollah and a businessman in Lebanon, saying they were key players in the group's military operations in Syria. "The United States will continue to aggressively target (Hezbollah) for its terrorist activities worldwide as well as its ongoing support to (Syrian President Bashar) Assad's ruthless military campaign in Syria," said Adam Szubin, the Treasury Department's acting under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have said they are troubled by support from Iran for regional proxy groups such as Hezbollah. A businessman in Lebanon, Abd Al Nur Shalan, was also sanctioned for procuring weapons for Hezbollah and shipping them to Syria, the Treasury Department said.

Galey Tzahal

Achievement to Opposition on Judges Selection Com.

Judges Selection Committee: Last night the Knesset plenum elected MK Nurit Koren from the Likud and MK Robert Ilatov from Yisrael Beiteinu as in representatives in the Judges Selection Committee. MK Yisrael Eichler from the United Torah Judaism alliance and MK Revital Swid from the Zionist Union were chosen for the Rabbinical Judges Selection Committee. She surprisingly overtook the coalition's candidate MK Nava Boker from the Likud.

Washington Post - July 23, 2015

The Case for the Nuclear Deal with Iran

By John Kerry and Ernest Moniz

When President Obama took office, he faced an Iran that had mastered the nuclear fuel cycle, had constructed a covert uranium enrichment facility inside a mountain, was on its way to installing nearly 20,000 centrifuges for uranium enrichment, was developing advanced centrifuges and was building a heavy-water reactor that could produce weapons-grade plutonium. If Iran wanted to develop a nuclear weapon, it was already well down that road and the international community had little insight into its program. Against this backdrop the president vowed never to let Iran obtain a nuclear weapon.

The deal reached in Vienna this month is not only the best way to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon, it is the only durable and viable option for achieving this goal. This comprehensive diplomatic resolution has the unified support of the world's leading powers. It extends the time Iran would need to develop a nuclear weapon, provides strong verification measures that give us ample time to respond if Iran chooses that path, and takes none of our options off the table.

Specifically, the deal blocks each of Iran's possible pathways to producing fissile material for a nuclear weapon: the highly enriched uranium and the plutonium production pathways, as well as the covert pathway. This deal is based on verification, not trust. Before obtaining significant relief from economic sanctions, Iran must roll back its

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enrichment, its research-and-development and its stockpile of enriched uranium. To preclude cheating, international inspectors will have unprecedented access to Iran's declared nuclear facilities, any other sites of concern and its entire nuclear supply chain, from uranium production to centrifuge manufacturing and operation.

If Iran fails to meet its responsibilities, sanctions will snap back into place, and no country can stop that from happening. If Iran tries to break out of the deal altogether, the world will have a longer time period — a year compared with two months — to respond before it could produce a bomb. We also will have the moral authority that comes from exhausting all diplomatic options.

Is this a good deal for the United States and for global security? Consider the facts.

Without this deal, Iran could double its capacity to enrich uranium in a short time. With it, it must reduce that capacity immediately and sharply.

Without this deal, Iran could continue to rapidly develop advanced centrifuges. With it, its program will be significantly constrained.

Without this deal, Iran could expand its existing stockpile of enriched uranium. With it, that stockpile will be reduced by 98 percent, and it will be capped at that level for 15 years. Iran will also be required to get rid of its 20 percent enriched uranium, which is most of the way to bomb material.

Without this deal, Iran could produce enough weapons-grade plutonium each year for one to two nuclear weapons. With it, Iran will not produce any weapons-grade plutonium.

Without this deal, Iran could take the steps necessary to produce a nuclear weapon. With it, Iran is prohibited from pursuing any of these steps.

If the international community suspects that Iran is cheating, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) can request access to any suspicious location. Much has been made about a possible 24-day delay before inspectors could gain access to suspected undeclared nuclear sites. To be clear, the IAEA can request access to any suspicious location with 24 hours' notice under the Additional Protocol of the Nonproliferation Treaty, which Iran will implement under this deal. This accord does not change that baseline. In fact, the deal enhances it by creating a new mechanism to ensure that the IAEA gets the required access and sets a firm time limit to resolve access issues within 24 days. This mechanism provides an important tool for ensuring that Iran could not delay indefinitely.

New York Times- July 23, 2015

Backing Up Our Wager with Iran

By Thomas L. Friedman

From the minute Iran detected that the U.S. was unwilling to use its overwhelming military force to curtail Tehran's nuclear program — and that dates back to the George W. Bush administration, which

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would neither accept Iran's right to a nuclear fuel cycle nor structure a military or diplomatic option to stop it — no perfect deal overwhelmingly favorable to America and its allies was ever going to emerge from negotiations with Iran. The balance of power became too equal.

But there are degrees of imperfect, and the diplomatic option structured by the Obama team — if properly implemented and augmented by muscular diplomacy — serves core American interests better than any options I hear coming from the deal's critics: It prevents Iran from producing the fissile material to break out with a nuclear weapon for 15 years and creates a context that could empower the more pragmatic forces inside Iran over time — at the price of constraining, but not eliminating, Iran's nuclear infrastructure and sanctions relief that will strengthen Tehran as a regional power.

Supporting this deal doesn't make you Neville Chamberlain; opposing it doesn't make you Dr. Strangelove. Both sides have legitimate arguments. But having studied them, I believe America's interests are best served now by focusing on how to get the best out of this deal and cushion the worst, rather than scuttling it. That would be a mistake that would isolate us, not Iran, and limit our choices to going to war or tolerating an Iran much closer to nuclear breakout, without any observers or curbs on the ground, and with crumbling sanctions.

"The nuclear agreement is a deal, not a grand bargain," argued the Wilson Center's Robert Litwak, author of "Iran's Nuclear Chess." "Obama and Iran's supreme leader Khamenei are each making a tacit bet. Obama is defending the deal in transactional terms (that it addresses a discrete urgent challenge), but betting that it will empower Iran's moderate faction and put the country on a more favorable societal trajectory. Khamenei is making the opposite bet — that the regime can benefit from the transactional nature of the agreement (sanctions relief) and forestall the deal's potentially transformational implications to preserve Iran's revolutionary deep state."

We can, though, do things to increase the odds that the bet goes our way:

1. Don't let this deal become the Obamacare of arms control, where all the energy goes into the negotiation but then the implementing tools — in this case the verification technologies — don't work. President Obama should appoint a respected military figure to oversee every aspect of implementing this deal.

2. Congress should pass a resolution authorizing this and future presidents to use force to prevent Iran from ever becoming a nuclear weapons state. Iran must know now that the U.S. president is authorized to destroy — without warning or negotiation — any attempt by Tehran to build a bomb.

3. Focus on the Iranian people. The celebrations of this deal in Iran tell us that "the Iranian people want to be South Korea, not North Korea," notes Karim Sadjadpour, Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment. We should reach out to them in every way — visas, exchanges and scholarships — to strengthen their voices. Visiting Iran taught me that Iranians have had enough Islamic fundamentalism to know they want less of it and they've had enough democracy to know they want more of it. (Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guards

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know this well, which is why they are still trying to persuade Iran's supreme leader to reject this deal and its opening to the world.)

4. Avoid a black-and-white view of the Middle East. The idea that Iran is everywhere our enemy and the Sunni Arabs our allies is a mistake. Saudi Arabia's leadership has been a steadfast U.S. ally in the Cold War; many Saudis are pro-American. But the Saudi leadership's ruling bargain is toxic: It says to the Saudi people that the al-Saud tribe gets to rule and in return the Saudi Wahhabi religious establishment gets billions of dollars to transform the face of Sunni Islam from an open and modernizing faith to a puritanical, anti-women, anti-Shiite, anti-pluralistic one. The Saudis have lost control of this puritanical-Salafist transformation of Islam, and it has mutated into the ideology that inspired the 9/11 hijackers — 15 of 19 of whom were Saudis — and the Islamic State.

Iran aided the U.S. in toppling the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, and, at the same time, Tehran, and its cat's paw, Hezbollah, have propped up the Syrian regime while it has perpetrated a genocide against its own people, mostly Syrian Sunnis. We need to confront Iran's regional behavior when it contradicts our interests, but align with it when it comports with our interests. We want to balance the autocratic Sunnis and Shiites, not promote either. Neither share our values.

Finally, when it comes to the Middle East broadly, we need to contain, amplify and innovate: Contain the most aggressive forces there, amplify any leaders or people building decency there, and innovate on energy like crazy to keep prices low, reduce oil money to bad actors and reduce our exposure to a region that is going to be in turmoil for a long, long, long time.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
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From: VoteVets <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/11/2016 9:18:44 AM
Subject: [Last chance] VoteVets official 2016 Supporter Survey

John -

Today is the last chance to share your thoughts in VoteVets 2016 Supporter Survey. We've received a tremendous amount of feedback thus far, and that's important, because it helps guide our work for the year ahead.

So, Hillary, Bernie or another candidate? Is protecting VA health care the most important issue to you and your family, or is it something else. We want to hear from you, and you can sound off here:

http://action.votevets.org/2016-priorities

Thank you for making your voice heard before midnight tonight.

The team at VoteVets

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

John -

It's hard to overstate the importance of 2016 for veterans and military family members.

The Koch Brothers are financing a multi-million dollar campaign to privatize veterans health care.

Republicans running for Congress are eager escalate our endless war in the Middle East, threatening to re-commit more troops to the region and drop nuclear weapons on Iraq and Syria.

And, of course, control of the U.S. Senate is on the line and we're going to elect a new Commander in Chief before the year is done.

At VoteVets, we're set to take on these challenges and more, but we want to hear from you about your priorities for the year ahead.

Take a moment to complete our official VoteVets 2016 Supporter Survey, and let us know the issues you are passionate about in the year ahead.

With fewer members of Congress who have served in the military than at any point in decades, and none still in the race to become the next president, it is even more important that veterans and military family members make their voices heard on the issues of the day.

We're ready to lead with you, but first we want to get a sense of your thoughts for the year ahead.

Your priorities are our priorities -- let us know the issues you're most concerned about taking on in the year ahead.

http://action.votevets.org/2016-priorities

Thank you for making your voice heard. It's an important part of our decision making process as we consider our work in 2016.

Thank you for standing with us.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
VoteVets.org

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	5/5/2015 12:35:30 PM
Subject:	May 5 Evening News Roundup
Attachments:	5.5.15 Evening News Clips.docx

Document attached. 2016 highlights below.

ABC: Mike Huckabee announced his presidential run and pointed to his track record of taking on the Clinton's in Arkansas. HRC is in Nevada where she will call on a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the US.

CBS: Huckabee has announced his campaign; is better known and better funded than the last time he ran for president but his rhetoric remains the same. Huckabee says he took on HRC in 2008 and can do it again. Segment on CBS/NYT poll. The poll shows that Americans are mostly split on if they find HRC trustworthy. Includes coverage of The Briefing and featured Brian Fallon's video, noting that the campaign timed the efforts with the release of Clinton Cash and questions regarding the Clinton Foundation.

NBC: Segment on HRC's Clinton Cash pushback and NBC poll. Andrea Mitchell included a part of Brian Fallon's video and coverage of The Briefing. Huckabee announced he is running for president and took a dig at HRC, stating that he does not have a global foundation to live off of. Short clip of Amanda Renteria's interview. Mentioned that HRC has agreed to six debates.

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To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
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"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/25/2015 3:53:06 AM
Subject: June 24 Evening Cable News

National

-- Discussion with Glenn Beck; Beck talked about the importance of talking to people who make you feel uncomfortable; Beck brought up HRC's "all lives matter" comment, said he could not believe that HRC was "denigrated" for saying that all lives matter in a black church; Beck said that doesn't mean black lives don't matter, said it just means that all lives matter. CNN's CNN Tonight With Don Lemon , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Glenn Beck defends HRCs All Lives Matter comment.mp4

-- Report on HRC taking a private jet instead of the Scooby van; panel with Frank Luntz, Gretchen Carlson, and Dagen McDowell; Luntz said none of it mattered because HRC's language had gotten so much better in the last couple of weeks; Luntz said HRC was fighting for people, said HRC was doing personalized politics which she never did before; Luntz encouraged people to watch Bernie Sanders though; Carlson said optically HRC cannot start with the Scooby van and then go back to the private plane, said it makes HRC look inauthentic; Hannity said the poll he kept going back to was one that said 57 percent of Americans did not trust her; Luntz said god help this country if we vote for someone we don't trust; Carlson said HRC went to Ferguson on a private jet while BHO wouldn't go near AfAm communities in 2012 because AfAm unemployment was so high; McDowell noted HRC was going hard against Wall Street while her major contributors were Citigroup and Goldman Sachs; Hannity asked if HRC had a Confederate flag problem since WJC signed a law honoring the Confederate flag; conversation shifted into who was going to win the 2016 election; Carlson said politics was so fickle, said HRC was one email away from not being a candidate anymore; Hannity said he'd raise money to buy HRC's server contents from the Chinese. Fox News' Hannity , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Frank Luntz praised HRCs language.mp4

-- Report that the Senate gave POTUS "fast-track" authority on trade; mentioned that the next POTUS would potentially have fast-track authority; panel with Ron Kind and Debbie Dingell; asked Kind whether he wanted HRC to take a position on trade; Kind said he was sure there would be an opportunity for HRC to weigh in, said HRC was very clear about her position as Secretary of State. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Ron Kind on HRCs trade position.mp4

-- Report that HRC was taking a dip in the polls; Ed Henry reports; Henry said HRC's image continued to take a hit due to information slowly coming out about The Clinton Foundation; showed a Fox News poll that showed a majority of people did not find HRC trustworthy; mentioned the sale of uranium to the Russian government while she was Secretary of State; reported that HRC told WMUR that she was not personally involved in the uranium sale; showed a Fox News poll that showed HRC was ahead of Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, showed Fox News poll that showed HRC in tight races with the top five GOP candidates; noted that Jim Webb took a more nuanced stance on the Confederate flag. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ed Henry on HRC favoribility Russian uranium sale.mp4

-- Discussion about BHO accomplishing much in spite of his lame-duck status; interviewed Ryan Grim; Al Sharpton asked Grim whether the trade deal complicated HRC's presidential bid; Grim said it was tough for HRC politically, noted HRC helped craft the TPP as Secretary of State; Grim said HRC didn't want to upset the Democratic base, noted that the timing would be complicated for HRC if TPP comes up in late fall or early winter when HRC was in Iowa and New Hampshire. MSNBC's PoliticsNation With Al Sharpton , 2015 06 24 Hillary

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Clinton, Clips, National, Ryan Grim on HRCs trade position.mp4

--
Charles Hicks
(912) 429-8253

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From: "Joe Cirincione" <jcirincione@ploughshares.org>
To: "Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
Date: 1/28/2015 9:09:24 AM
Subject: Boehner and Bibi

After last night's terrific discussion, I thought some of you might like the article I posted last Friday. If you are short on time, just skip to the end for a great quote I found from Bibi.

Joe

THE HUFFINGTON POST
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

Joe Cirincione Become a fan
President, Ploughshares Fund; Author, 'Nuclear Nightmares: Securing the World Before It Is Too Late'

How Boehner Bungled His Bibi Bid

Posted: 01/23/2015 3:03 pm EST Updated: 01/23/2015 5:59 pm EST

203 **252** **230**

Speaker of the House John Boehner's invitation to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hurts his own party, the policy process and Israel.

There are some in the Republican Party who truly care about preventing an Iranian nuclear bomb. There are some with helpful suggestions for how to improve our strategy. But Speaker Boehner is now using the policy debate on Iran as a crass political attack on the constitutional authority of the president of the United States. In the process, he does great damage to our national institutions, our efforts to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Who's Your President?

Without consulting with the president or the Democrats in Congress, Boehner invited the leader of a foreign power, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, to address

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a joint session of Congress. There is no love lost between Netanyahu and President Obama. Netanyahu will no doubt rip into the president when he speaks on March 3.

That appears to be Boehner's purpose. "There is no other explanation for Boehner's impetuous, insulting and dangerous decision this week to break foreign policy protocol and invite Netanyahu," editorialized the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Boehner's move could have been taken straight from the tea-party playbook, based on the view that Barack Obama is not legitimately the leader of the nation. Therefore, the powers given by the Constitution to the president to conduct the foreign policy of the United States can be ignored. The speaker can posture as the alternative commander-in-chief because the man who actually has that responsibility doesn't deserve the title.

As Max Fisher notes :

> This is not just a breach of protocol: it's a very real problem for American foreign policy. The Supreme Court has codified into law the idea that only the president is allowed to make foreign policy, and not Congress, because if there are two branches of government setting foreign policy then America effectively has two foreign policies.

Fisher warns that the fact that "a US political party is siding with a foreign country over their own president... is extremely unusual and a major break with the way that foreign relations usually work." This is dangerous business that could "lead to chaos" as other nations misread America's true intentions.

Iran Policy Boomerang

Boehner's overreach is likely to backfire politically. Some Republicans and neoconservatives have been using criticism of Iran policy as the tip of the spear in their continuous efforts to paint Obama as weak, dangerous and the worst appeaser since Neville Chamberlain. The Netanyahu invite is also a fairly transparent effort to use a Jewish leader to drive a wedge into the Democratic Party base. But this move is likely to rally Democrats -- some of whom have genuine disagreements on Iran policy -- around the president.

Already, the GOP-led effort to slap new sanctions on Iran is floundering. The bill championed by Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Illinois) has failed to get a single Democratic co-sponsor other than his co-author, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey). And for good reason. There is broad consensus among global security leaders that new sanctions would kill the negotiations and could lead to a new war.

Former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft explained the problem in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing this week:

> I think two things are likely to happen if we increase the sanctions. They will break the talks. And a lot of the people who have now joined us in the sanctions would be in danger of leaving because most of the people who joined us in sanctions on Iran didn't do it to destroy Iran. They did it to help get a nuclear solution.

Former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski then spelled out the consequences:

> If the negotiations broke down, the whole process would collapse. And then what would be the alternative? Should we then attack and bomb them and

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> thereby make the war in the Middle East even more explosive? We have to ask ourselves, why should we do this? ... I don't see any benefit in the United States in that transpiring.

Neither does the conservative prime minister of Great Britain, David Cameron, who pleaded with the GOP last week not to kill the talks with new sanctions.

The foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany and the European Union weighed in with their own plea in a joint op-ed in the *Washington Post* this week:

> New sanctions at this moment might also fracture the international coalition that has made sanctions so effective so far. Rather than strengthening our negotiating position, new sanctions legislation at this point would set us back.

Unfortunately, this global consensus breaks down under the dome of the U.S. Congress. Politics trumps policy, and our national security suffers for it. But it is not just U.S. policy that is jeopardized by Boehner's gambit.

Bad for Israel

Boehner has a willing accomplice in Bibi Netanyahu. Behind in the polls, he is hopingto use the U.S. Congress as a prop in his reelection bid just weeks before the vote in Israel.

The highly respected pro-Israel group J Street warns :

> It was a mistake for House Speaker John Boehner to invite Prime Minister Netanyahu now. Mr. Netanyahu is not only head of the Israeli government -- he is also a candidate in the midst of a highly-contested election campaign. His invitation, rightly or wrongly, will inevitably be interpreted in Israel and elsewhere as an attempt by an outside actor to interfere in the Israeli election. We would urge Mr. Boehner to postpone the invitation until after the election and then to invite whoever is elected Prime Minister, who will enjoy a fresh mandate from his or her people to address the Congress.

The Jewish Daily Forward reports that Anti-Defamation League National Director Abe Foxman is trying to get Boehner and Netanyahu "to come down from the high tree they had climbed." By joining a partisan attack of the American president, Netanyahu is jeopardizing Israel's relationship with its strongest supporter. By turning this into a partisan issue, "Netanyahu is shooting himself in the foot," one lawmaker told the *Forward*.

"I think mainstream Jewish organizations that place a high stock in maintaining their bipartisan identity -- including the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, the Anti-Defamation League, and even AIPAC," warns journalist Jim Lobe, "are going to have a difficult time dealing with this situation due to the fact that Boehner has acted in such a transparently partisan manner."

Even Netanyahu himself once warned of the dangers of such actions. He harshly criticized then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres just for visiting the United States less than a month before the 1996 election. "I can't find an example of any previous Israeli government whose prime minister, on the eve of elections, made a cynical attempt to use relations between Israel and the United States as a party advertisement," Netanyahu said.

He could do worse than to listen to his own advice.

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From: "Ambassador Kounalakis" <kounalakiset@gmail.com>
To: "Abedin Huma" <huma@clintonemail.com>
"Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 10/29/2015 2:15:41 AM
Subject: Ride with S on 11/4?

Dear Huma:

Our Sacramento event for HRC is doing very well. We have more than $300k in the door, and another $50k that will be collected by this weekend. My dad, Sofia and I have all sent in our $33k, so the total for the event will be far more than we thought Sacramento was capable of. I'm thrilled! (Especially because I live in SF full time...) But seriously, the response has been great, and I'm poised to reach the $270k goal for my raiser page by the time we're done.

I'm also honored to be part of S's working group on Europe and Russia, and that is why I'm writing you. I would very much like to speak with her about what is happening in Europe - particularly Hungary and Greece.

This is my 5th event for Hillary in Sacramento, and my 7th overall since 2015. I've never requested to ride with her in the motorcade before or after the event. But I would very much like to do so this time, in order to have a few minutes to discuss these things, and a few other thoughts I have about foreign policy.

I know you are the one to ask... and of course am very hopeful that I'll see YOU on this swing as well.

All best, and thank you for your consideration!

Eleni

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street, Ninth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115
KounalakisET@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Team Kirkpatrick" <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 11/20/2014 1:33:51 PM
Subject: PETITION: [The Grand Canyon]

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

John --

What a response!

So far, over 40,000 of you have signed your name to stand with Ann to protect the Grand Canyon -- *THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!!*

We've got to keep our grassroots momentum going! Will you help us reach 50,000 supporters standing strong to protect the Grand Canyon?

Please click here to add your name to our list of supporters and demand Congress pass a permanent ban on new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

---------- Original Message ----------

From: Ann Kirkpatrick
Subject: Protect the Grand Canyon: [PETITION]

John --

The Grand Canyon has always been close to my heart. It is one of our country's greatest wonders, and every time I visit the Canyon, I am stunned by its vast beauty and deep heritage.

Grand Canyon National Park is not only one of our state's greatest natural treasures, it is also a major economic driver. The Canyon delivers about 6,000 jobs and $475 million to our local economy each year.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon could pose a real threat to our wonder of the world. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

Earlier this session, I voted against a bill that could have opened up the area around the Canyon for more uranium mining by undermining the administration's 20-year ban.

It is absolutely critical we seek a long-term, permanent solution to protect the Grand Canyon.

Will you join me in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

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Please click here to add your name to our list of supporters demanding Congress pass a permanent ban on new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

As a native Arizonan, the Grand Canyon holds a special place in my heart. But if we're going to protect it, I need you to step up.

ADD YOUR NAME: http://action.kirkpatrickforarizona.com/Grand-Canyon

Thanks,

Ann

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters like you. However, if you'd prefer to take a break from emails, click here . If you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click here .

Our campaign is powered by supporters like you. Your grassroots support is critical to helping Ann fight back against Republican lies. If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to donate to our campaign, please click here . Thanks for having Ann's back!

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 5/20/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: R ussia Strikes Back Against Europe's Energy Union

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

Russia Strikes Back Against Europe's Energy Union

Kristine Berzina May 21, 2015

BRUSSELS—Europe is starting to play hardball with Russia on energy — and the Kremlin is fighting back. For years, the European Union was highly dependent on Russia's natural gas and was unable to exert any influence on its supplier since it is the world's largest energy importer. This spring, the European Commission launched an EU Energy Union to finally bind the 28 countries into a single energy market.

The three Baltic States — previously linked only to each other and to Russia — have been instrumental to this new era of EU energy policy. Last December, Lithuania leased a floating liquefied natural gas terminal, and now buys Norwegian natural gas from Statoil that it can share with Latvia and Estonia. Electricity is Lithuania's other major vulnerability, but with the EU's support, it will soon complete grid connections to Poland and Sweden. Lithuania also initiated a European Commission investigation of Russia's state-owned gas company Gazprom in 2011, arguing that it should not have to pay significantly more for natural gas than EU member states further away. Not only did the Commission agree, but last month, it charged Gazprom with hindering competition in eight Central and Eastern European member states. Gazprom could now face up to $10 billion in fines.

Russia may be losing its commercial levers over Lithuania's energy sector, but it is beginning to intervene militarily in the region's energy sector. In the past few weeks, Russian naval vessels in the Baltic Sea have chased and disrupted ships in Lithuania's exclusive economic zone that are laying the NordBalt electricity cable, intended to create an integrated Baltic electricity market. These Russian naval actions present a new military threat to energy in Europe. The EU needs to be aware that actions against Russia's commercial practices may risk escalating conflicts across Europe.

Other forms of Russian political interference could also increase. The prospect of greater political maneuvering against vulnerable EU member states — such as Greece — is especially worrisome. Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a new pipeline, Turkish Stream, which may deliver gas to Greece as well. The pipeline bypasses Ukraine and is a political tool for the Kremlin. Putin has directly courted Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, describing the economic benefits of the pipeline just as Greece struggles to repay its debts. Conveniently for Moscow, Turkish Stream could also interfere with the EU's long-supported Trans-Anatolian pipeline, which is slated to bring gas from Azerbaijan to European markets.

The EU and the United States can expect the continuation of such political, military, and economic maneuvering from Moscow on energy issues. In the past, the transatlantic partners have focused largely on gas pipelines rather than on other aspects of the energy sector as levers for Russia's political influence. But energy security risks are no longer confined to one single area of the energy industry. With a more aggressive European energy policy, threats to energy security may come in the form of military and cyber moves against electricity as well as oil and gas infrastructure.

Appropriately, the G7 expanded its understanding of energy security to include sustainability and cybersecurity concerns at an energy ministers' meeting in Hamburg last week. This updated concept of energy security acknowledges the increasing importance of renewable electricity sources and digital technologies in the energy sector. The G7 should match its new-found awareness of these energy vulnerabilities with adequate resources and coordination to protect both traditional oil and gas supplies along with electricity and digital infrastructure. If Russia views energy relations as a strategic priority, it would be prudent for NATO, the EU, and the G7 to do so as well.

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DISCUSS

Kristine Berzina *is a Transatlantic Fellow for Energy & Society in the Brussels office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States. Follow her on Twitter @kristineberz .*

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 7/11/2008 6:45:57 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/11/08

Main Topics: Phil Graham's Comments Dominate News, McCain vs. Viagra, Edwards Interview

Summary of Shift: Former Senator and current McCain chief economic advisor, Phil Graham's controversial comments on the economy, calling the American people a "nation of whiners" dominated all the major and cable news stations today. It was the lead story on every major morning show, and repeated continuously throughout the day. Analysts devoted coverage to the McCain surrogate problem, his campaign disarray, and analyzed whether there was any truth in what Graham meant. John Edwards also chimed in on the Graham controversy on Good Morning America, where he also used the opportunity to go after McCain on being wrong on Iraq. Overall, it was a rough week for McCain as several reports pointed out. McCain continued to get hit on the Viagra/Healthcare issue, and there was even discussion of whether he could even run for president since he was born in Panama. The only positive McCain story of the day was the release of his fundraising for last month. June proved to be McCain's best fundraising month to date.
Other non-McCain headlines included the possibility of mortgage lending giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac possibly getting bailed out by the Federal government, potentially costing the American taxpayers $3 trillion dollars. The California wildfires continue to cause destruction and dominate coverage. And oil prices reach new record highs due to speculation and fear of war with Iran. The Senate confirmed General David Petraeus as top commander of the Middle East.

Highlights:
1. Phil Graham's controversial comments on economy dominate coverage
a. NBC: With Friends Like These; The Today Show Leads With Controversial Graham Comments
b. CBS: Controversial Graham Comments Lead Story on The Early Show
c. ABC: Good Morning America: Gramm's comments have caused a media "firestorm"
d. CNN: McCain's has too Much History with Gramm to Dismiss him so Easily
e. NBC: Is Phil Graham Crazy? Jim Cramer and the Today Show Investigate
f. NBC: Jay Leno Jokes About Phil Graham Controversy
2. ABC: John Edwards: McCain is Wrong in Iraq, McCain's Can't be Cast off his "Economic Guru" so Easily
3. Surrogate Controversy
a. MSNBC: Not Just Any Surrogate, Phil Graham Offers Insight Into McCain's Ideology and Thinking
b. CBS: McCain's Surrogate Problem
c. ABC: McCain's Advisors Leave Him In Awkward Situation
4. MSNBC: McCain's Rough Week
5. MSNBC: McCain Breaks Fundraising Record for Month of June
6. FNC: University of Arizona Professor Questions McCain's Natural Born Citizen Status and Right to be President
7. CNN: McCain Struggles to Respond to Birth Control Question, Carly to Blame
8. Comedy Central: Daily Show lampoons Charlie Black comments (No Clip, Repeat)
9. Comedy Central: Colbert Report devotes "The Word" to McCain as the same (No Clip, Repeat)

Local Highlights:
1. ABC-5-KSTP: Local Minnesota News Interviews McCain, Takes Questions From Viewers
2. McCain skirts answering questions in Michigan [No Clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
With Friends Like These; The Today Show Leads With Controversial Graham Comments (NBC, 07/11/08, 7:02am)
MATT LAUER: […] and remarks that could spell problems for Senator John McCain's campaign. […]

ANDREA MITCHELL: [....] **John McCain is now running as fast as he can to get away from one of his closest economic advisers who called Americans, "a nation of whiners,"** when it comes to the bad economy. In Michigan, a battle ground state where the economy is on everyone's mind, **John McCain wasted no time throwing his economic advisor, Phil Graham, under the bus.**

JOHN MCCAIN: Phil Graham does not speak for me. I speak for me. So, I strongly disagree.

MITCHELL: Graham, a former senator and PHD economist, told the Washington Times, that American are suffering from a

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mental recession, not a real one.

PHIL GRAHAM: "[…] you've heard of a mental depression. This is a mental recession. We have never had more natural advantages than we have today. We've sort of become a nation of whiners."

MITCHELL: **McCain's problem, he and Graham have been friends for decades. Ever since Graham co-sponsored landmark legislation to control federal spending. And this year Graham has been a top McCain economic advisor.**

MCCAIN: There is no one in America that is more respected on the issue of economics than Senator Phil Graham. So I'm honored that you are here, Phil.

MITCHELL: Barack Obama saw the opening and pounced.

BARACK OBAMA: America already has one Dr. Phil. We don't need another one!

MITCHELL: And McCain was so eager to distance himself from Graham; he said his old friend would no longer be a candidate for treasury secretary in a McCain administration.

MCCAIN: I think Senator Graham would be in serious consideration for ambassador to Belarus. Although I'm not sure the citizens of Minsk would welcome that.

MITCHELL: Belarus, an outlaw state, is far worse than Siberia in the old days. But even Mink might not be far enough to control the political damage.

CHUCK TODD: **McCain was already seen as somebody who was struggling to show that he was in touch on the issue of the economy. This just made his job that much harder.**

MITCHELL: Today McCain will go to another battleground state, Wisconsin, and try again to get back on message about how much he cares about the economy.

Controversial Graham Comments Lead Story on The Early Show (CBS, 07/11/08, 7:04am)
HARRY SMITH: Senator John McCain has been backed into a corner by a key economic adviser, and forced to disavow some key controversial statements. […]

BILL PANTE: Senator Phil Graham, former senator, a key economist, a key advisor to John McCain, but when he seemed to be blowing off people who were worried about the economy as a bunch of whiners, that's something the McCain campaign didn't need. And the candidate was blunt in his response.

JOHN MCCAIN: Phil Graham does not speak for me. I speak for me.

PLANTE: **After spending the past week trying to convince voters that he does feel their pain, McCain was forced into full damage control after his economic advisor appeared to muck the troubles faced by many Americans.** In an interview with the Washington Times, Graham questioned the true extent of the country's economic downturn saying quote, "You've heard of mental depression; this is a mental recession. We have sort of become a nation of whiners. Complaining about a loss of competitiveness, America in decline." Barack Obama wasted no time in responding.

BARACK OBAMA: America already has one Dr. Phil. We don't need another one.

PLANTE: Graham said that he had only been talking about the nation's leaders, **but the comment played right into the democrat's charge that republicans are a bunch of plutocrats that don't care about the average voter.** And McCain, when he was asked about a position for Graham in his administration, Graham has often been mentioned as a treasury secretary, said, well maybe he's a candidate for ambassador to Belarus. Belarus is a former Soviet republic, which is still repressive.

HARRY SMITH: Yeah, and McCain went on to say that he wasn't sure the people of Minsk would be happy about that either.

Good Morning America: Gramm's comments have caused a media "firestorm" (ABC 07/11/08 7:15am)
DAVID WRIGHT: […] **one of his top advisors who seemed to suggest that the mortgage mess, gas prices crisis all those problems are just in people's heads, political dynamite. It's not exactly what former Senator Gramm meant**

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but his words have been damaging at a time when McCain is trying to convince voters that he feels their pain. McCain had hoped his headline today would have been his message to voters in the rust belt.

JOHN MCCAIN: America is hurting today, Michigan is hurting today, the automotive industry is hurting.

WRIGHT: Instead he finds himself at odds with one of his top economic advisors.

GRAMM: This is a mental recession.

WRIGHT: Former Senator Phil Gramm, a conservative icon, told the Washington Times he has no sympathy for people complaining about the economy.

GRAMM: We've never been more dominant. We never had more natural advantages than we have today. We've sort of become a nation of whiners.

WRIGHT: on cable tv:

LOU DOBBS: **Phil Gramm who is clearly out of touch with reality, speaking for John McCain.**

WRIGHT: on late night:

JAY LENO: **It's just a mental recession. $5 a gallon gas and the bank kicking you out of your house, that's all in your mind! You're just imagining that!**

WRIGHT: Gramm's remarks set of a firestorm.

BRAD DELONG: Well I think it reminds people that economic policy is not McCain's strength. It's not the central thing that he is running on, it's not why he wants to be President.
[…]

OBAMA: When people are out there losing their homes and property values are declining that's not a figment of your imagination. And it's not whining to ask government to step in and give families some relief.

WRIGHT: And John McCain sensed a liability, immediately he cut Gramm loose.

MCCAIN: **I think Senator Gramm would be in serious consideration for ambassador to Belarus, although I'm not sure the citizens of Minsk would welcome that.**
[…]

McCain's has too Much History with Gramm to Dismiss him so Easily (CNN 07/11/08 07:01am)
DANA BASH: Phil Gramm is not only the chairman of John McCain's campaign and a long time friend, he's an economist who McCain has pointed to often as a guide for him on economic issues. […] In hard hit Michigan this is the McCain mantra on the economy:

MCCAIN: People are hurting. People are hurting very badly.

BASH: A carefully measured message that is part feel your pain, part realist, but all optimism.

MCCAIN: But they need to have trust and hope and confidence in the future.

BASH: Given that, quotes from Phil Gramm, […] were a big oops.

[Clip of Gramm's Comments]

BASH: **McCain couldn't distance himself fast enough from his friend. […] He struggled to steer his economic mission back on course.**

[Clip of McCain in Michigan]

OBAMA: It's not all in your head. America already has one Dr. Phil. We don't need another one.

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[…]

BASH: The problem for McCain is that he relies on Gramm, a PhD in economics, for policy advice and as a character witness for voters worried that McCain doesn't get the economy.

MCCAIN: The reason why I have the support of people like Jack Kemp and Phil Gramm is because of their confidence in my proven record of handling the economy.

BASH: I spoke to Phil Gramm by phone yesterday; he said he wanted to clarify some of his comments. He insisted he didn't mean to say Americans were whining about the economy but rather many of the country's leaders are. Here's what he said: "The whiners are the leaders. Hell, the American people are victims, but it didn't quite come out that way in the story**." But Gramm did say he stood by another controversial thing he said that we are in a "mental recession". He said he believes a steady drumbeat of bad news is simply making Americans feel worse about the economy than they should.**

JOHN ROBERTS**: At the same time when he stood by that comment, John McCain was running away from it as fast as he could.**

BASH: Could not get away far enough fast enough. […]

Is Phil Graham Crazy? Jim Cramer and the Today Show Investigate (NBC, 07/11/08, 7:04am)
MEREDITH VIERA: So are we in a mental recession? […] **Now Phil Graham, he's not a kook. He obviously has strong economic chops, so is there any, any truth to this notion that we have become a nation of whiners?**

JIM CRAMER: Well, I think we're more a nation of winners, more than a nation of whiners**. I think that the firm that he works at, his stock, down 60 percent. You've laid of many thousands of people. Maybe he's surrounded by gloom, the rest of the country isn't.**

VIERA: Well, I watched last night on Hardball and you were animated to say the least. You were ranting actually. You said, the problem with this economy is that the banking industry is falling apart and neither candidate gets it. What don't they understand?

CRAMER: […] If you cut taxes that doesn't do any good. We may actually need a bailout of the largest two entities that help our housing market. Where are they?

VIERA: You're talking about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

CRAMER: **Maybe these guys think that Fannie Mae is a chocolate company, I mean they better get on the case.**
[…]

Jay Leno Jokes About Phil Graham Controversy (NBC, 07/10/08, 11:35pm)
JAY LENO: I don't think Jessie [Jackson] learned his lesson. Today he was over saying that he wanted to cut of John McCain's Medicare.

Oh how about John McCain? Now McCain is coming under fire, for comments made by his top economic advisor, former Senator Phil Graham, who called America a nation of whiners and said the economy is only in a mental recession.

It's just a mental recession. Like the $5.00 per gallon gas, and the bank kicking you out of your house, that's all in your mind! You're just imagining that!

Highlight #2
John Edwards: McCain is Wrong in Iraq, McCain's Can't be Cast off his "Economic Guru" so Easily (ABC 07/11/08 07:17am)
EDWARDS: John McCain has said that we could be in Iraq for as long as 100 years. […]

CHRIS CUOMO: But you know that McCain was talking about equipment and bases and things that often stay behind in countries. Do you really believe there is that meaningful of a distinction in terms of when they'll get out? Both want to end the war, No?

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EDWARDS: I think there is a huge distinction between the two. Barack Obama opposed the war to begin with and has said consistently that he will bring the war to an end. John McCain has been a very strong supporter of the war at every stage. Strong supporter of the surge, and I think is personally committed to stay there as long as he feels is necessary. […]

CUOMO: Phil Gramm, he came out and said we need to stop being a nation of whiners. […]

EDWARDS: John McCain has been very forthright about the fact that the American economy is not his strength. And he has called Phil Gramm his economic guru. This is his guy. And this guy says it's not a real recession it's a mental recession. […] **What it means is if John McCain were actually elected President, I don't believe he will be, but if he were elected President that is the attitude that he projects, and Americans are struggling everyday.**

CUOMO: But John McCain stepped away from him, turned and said he shouldn't have said that, said it was tough times, should you hold him accountable for what his advisor said?

EDWARDS: […] **John McCain, one of his weaknesses is the American economy and he admits that I think he's been very open about that, and Phil Gramm is his guy, his economic guru on the American economy. That's what I think changes this situation.** […] I think what makes Phil Gramm's statements, which I think are incredibly dismissive of hardworking Americans and the struggle that middle class families are going through, what makes it so important is that **he is John McCain's guy in an area where Senator McCain admits he isn't very strong.**

[…]

Highlight #3
Not Just Any Surrogate, Phil Graham Offers Insight Into McCain's Ideology and Thinking (MSNBC , 07/11/08, 7:20am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Talk about, let's talk a little bit about Phil Graham's comments. It seems to me that if you're a republican, in any year, that's the first thing you have to do is prove that you can feel voters' pain. The fact that we are in economic strains, the likes of which we haven't seen since probably 1979, makes the situation even worse. How damaging is it for the McCain campaign that their top economic advisor is saying that we're a nation of whiners and that this is just a mental recession?

JONATHAN ALTER: You know, I don't think it's that damaging, Joe. Because there's a flap a day nowadays. You know, it used to be that one of these things would come a long every few weeks in a campaign and there'd be a feeding frenzy about it. But now you have a surrogate sticking its foot in their mouth and chewing practically every day on one side or the other. So I don't think any one of these is necessarily crippling politically. **But what it does do is give you a little bit of a window into the ideology and the thinking on the McCain side. Phil Graham is not just any old surrogate. This is a guy who John McCain favored him for president in 1996. I remember, I was down in your state in Florida for a straw poll in 1996, republican straw poll, and McCain was there passing out literature for Phil Graham for president. I said, why do you want this guy as president? And he talked about what great insight Graham had into the economy and how he was the best steward for our economy and how he liked him personally and the rest of it. And all the years since then, John McCain who's not terribly interested in economic policy, has relied heavily on Phil Graham and on his wife Wendy, when it came to economic issues. So this is an important insight into McCain.** I don't think it's a particularly damaging thing in terms of his campaign.

ANDREA MITCHELL: But are you at all surprised, Jonathan, at how quickly McCain just tossed him overboard? As you point out, this relationship goes all the way back to 1982, to the Graham/Rudman Act. Landmark legislation to restrain federal spending, which was the mantra for McCain.

ALTER: Yeah, the kind of cliché of the year is throw them under the bus. And we're now into an interesting competition in politics, the speed at which you can throw somebody under the bus. **And I think McCain might have set a new indoor record on that score yesterday. It took him about 5 seconds. He had to do that**. What Phil Graham said was kind of beyond the pale, in the current context, with a lot of people hurting. I think he made it worse by calling people a bunch of whiners. That never helps. So McCain had to act quickly. […Everyone talks over each other]

[…]

ALTER: But the thing to remember about this is, that whenever somebody does get thrown under the bus, it's really just being thrown under the bus for the cameras. You know, you don't really have a sense of whether the person is really disassociated themselves from this surrogate who's caused them problems. A lot of times these candidates continue to talk privately to the people who they just had executed.

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MITCHELL: **It's called the Mark Penn effect. They're on the telephone even if they've been fired publicly.**

ALTER: Yeah, that's a great example. Great example.

MIKE BARNACLE: […] But right out there, in the middle of this country, most people aren't paying attention to Phil Graham, they don't know who Phil Graham is, they don't know really that he's speaking on behalf of John McCain, or thinking he is. But what they do know is, that they're very anxious about the economy around them. They're anxious about the value of their house. They're anxious about their children's economic futures. Do you get the sense that this, with Graham saying what he said, that the whole economic conundrum that we face today, the economic issues that confront the average American family today, it might be such a steep hill for John McCain to climb that issues like Iraq, and issues like Iran, might be so far off the table that the economy is enough to just spin the whole thing for Obama?

ALTER: It's very possible that it will play out that way. You know, that's what happened in 1980 when Jimmy Carter was president. Ronald Reagan was the challenger. It looked like it was a very close race, even after Labor Day. And yet, the economy was in such bad shape that Reagan just romped. And so, you could see that happen this time. But you do also have to understand that, you know, McCain is hanging in there. And even as these numbers for him, in terms of who's better to handle the economy go south and the democrats pick up strength, there's a new poll out this morning indicating that, despite that he's still in that 5 point range with Obama. So, I think we have to be careful with getting too far ahead of ourselves on how the economy could necessarily tilt the outcome.

McCain's Surrogate Problem (CBS, 07/11/08, 7:06am)
HARRY SMITH: If you're John McCain, and you bring somebody into your fold, like a Phil Graham, serious heavyweight, longtime service in the Senate, supposedly on the money in terms of the economy, he says stuff like this, how does that rub up against your campaign?

JEFF GREENFIELD: Well, ok, you're in the suburb of Detroit, an area with 10 percent unemployment. You're trying to show that even though you are a republican, but you're not a conventional stereotype republican, you feel the pain, to coin a phrase of the workers. And your top economic adviser is calling the country a nation of whiners, saying it's all in your head. Phil Graham is a longtime free market de-regulator guy. And that's not the message McCain is trying to communicate. It steps on a message on the very week when McCain is out there trying to say on the economy, I'm with the regular, ordinary hurting folk. Not helpful.

HARRY SMITH: It's interesting, cause we are in a summer of surrogates, and one of
McCain's other surrogates, Carly Fiorina, who of course was the CEO of Hewlett Packard and is another one of his important economic advisors, has been shooting from the lip and you know, sort of running off the cuff. And there was this whole controversy about what she had to say about whether or not insurance companies would pay. Let's play a sound bite […]

[McCain Viagra clip shown]

GREENFIELD: See Harry, here's why I'm the Chief Political Analyst, or whatever you call me. **If you're the oldest candidate ever to run for president, the late night comedians are hammering one thing about you. You're old, you're out of touch. That's not how you want to be seen on television.** It may be unfair. The other thing about this is, he's trying to appeal to women. He's going out, talking to women today. The idea that women may want birth control paid for by health insurance, that's also something that some of the republican base, especially if it's unmarried women, are not at all happy about. **It again, is not a message you want to communicate given the fact that you're being looked at through a, perhaps, unfair prism of the oldest candidate ever.**

McCain's Advisors Leave Him In Awkward Situation (ABC, 7/11/08, 6:32am)
MATT BROCK: […] you could call it a gaffe, a candidate simply unprepared. John McCain now in the hot seat for something he said, or didn't say. The Senator just didn't seem ready for a question on healthcare.

[Clip of Awkward McCain]

BROCK: **We now know that McCain has voted against forcing insurance companies to cover birth control.** This dust up follows one yesterday when one of the Republican's chief economic advisors, former Senator Phil Gramm called America a nation of whiners. And suggested the nation faces a mental recession instead of a real one. You know who jumped on that:

[Clip of Obama]

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MCCAIN: America is in great difficulty. We are experiencing enormous economic challenges, as well as others. Phil Gramm does not speak for me, I speak for me. So I strongly disagree.

BROCK: The problem for McCain here is that he's been trying to shore up his credentials on economic issues. He's admitted in the past it's not his strong suit.

Highlight #4
McCain's Rough Week (MSNBC, 07/11/08, 7:04am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: **John McCain's not really had a good week. He's kind of gotten knocked around, his campaign's sort of in disarray right now, as we were saying earlier the L.A. Times now has a story about his divorce and it's sort of an ugly divorce. Ronald Reagan didn't like you. And now we move on to Phil Graham, which is probably the biggest problem he's faced this week.**

WILLY GEIST: He did not get any help from Phil Graham, the former republican senator from Texas. Ran for president himself in 1996, and an economic advisor to the McCain campaign. In an interview with the board for the Washington Times, he took some shots at the American people about this economic slowdown.

[Phil Graham Nation of Whiners Clip Shown]

GEIST: This didn't go over well with a lot of people. Namely, John McCain and Barack Obama.

Highlight #5
McCain Breaks Fundraising Record for Month of June (MSNBC, 07/11/08, 7:55am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: **But now it looks like McCain, as far as cash on hand is going has parody.**

HAROLD FORD Jr.: He raised $22 million, with the help of the RNC. With the help of the RNC, he finds himself in a stronger position. But he raised 22 million in June. When Barack releases his numbers, I think we'll see a far bigger number than a 22 million.

SCARBOROUGH: Do you think he's have 94 million cash on hand?

FORD Jr: Well, the RNC has 67 of that.

[…]

Highlight #6
University of Arizona Professor Questions McCain's Natural Born Citizen Status and Right to be President (FNC 07/11/08 07:14am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: A discrepancy that has come up before with regard to John McCain and where he was born and whether or not this should make him eligible or ineligible to be President of the United States. So we know he was born in 1936. We know that he was born in Panama. We know there is something called the 14th Amendment that says you have to be a natural born citizen to be President of the United States. And now a professor in McCain's own state, at the University of Arizona, says not so fast.

CLAYTON MORRIS: Yea because McCain was born in 1936, well not until 1937 did they pass a law to change that said people born in that zone can be natural born citizens. But it doesn't really matter, in April Senate approved a non-binding resolution that said John McCain is eligible to be President. This law was never intended to disallow people who are military children to not be able to be president. Technically this guy is right, but again Senate already approved that John McCain can be President of the United States.
SCOTT DOOCY: […] This professor out there at the University of Arizona, Gabriel Chen, said that because he was born in 36 and because the law passed in 37. […] One year of gray.
[…]

Highlight #7
McCain Struggles to Respond to Birth Control Question, Carly to Blame (CNN 07/11/08 09:31am)
TONY HARRIS: John McCain takes pause:

[Clip of McCain]

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JOHN MCCAIN: I don't know enough about it to give you an informed answer.

HARRIS: Wow, is that a moment or what? Lets see, maybe we should call this the latest awkward moment brought to you by, Viagra.
[Commercial break]

HARRIS: Comments by some of his advisors causing problems for John McCain. He faced an awkward moment when a reporter asked about insurance coverage for birth control pills and Viagra. It's an issue raised by McCain advisor and former Hewlett Packard CEO, Carly Fiorina.

[Clip of McCain]

REPORTER: Earlier this week Carly was meeting with a bunch of reporters and talked about it being unfair that insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control.

MCCAIN: I certainly do not want to discuss that issue.

REPORTER: But I think you voted against-

MCCAIN: I don't know what I ah-

REPORTER: You voted against coverage of birth control, forcing health insurance companies to cover birth control in the past, is that still your position?

McCain: [pause] Look at my voting record on it, but I have – ah – I don't recall the vote right now but I'd be glad to look at it and get back to you as to why. I don't ah.

REPORTER: I guess her statement was that it was unfair that Health Insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control. Do you have an opinion on that?

MCCAIN: [long Pause- folds arms] **I don't know enough about it to give you an informed answer because I don't recall the vote. I cast thousands of votes** in the senate, but I will respond to you, it's a –

REPORTER: Delicate issue.

MCCAIN: It's a something that I have not thought much about. And I did hear about her response but I hadn't thought much about it. I will get back to you today on it. I don't usually duck an issue but I will try to get back to you.

[End of Clip]

HARRIS: That's just rough. That's just a rough moment.

Local Highlight #1
Local Minnesota News Interviews McCain, Takes Questions From Viewers (ST. Paul, MN-ABC 5-KSTP, 07/10/08, 10:13pm)
[…]

CHRIS O'CONNELL: My questions are going to come from our viewers.

JOHN MCCAIN: Oh I gotchya.

QUESTIONER 1: Senator McCain, I want to ask you, what are you going to do about the high gas prices?

MCCAIN: In the long term, though, we got to have nuclear, wind, solar, tied with a car battery that will take you a hundred miles or more.

QUESTIONER 2: Senator McCain, what's your plan on getting us out of debt?

MCCAIN: It isn't that revenues have been the problem, it's spending that's gotten completely out of control. I'll veto every

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single pork barrel bill that comes across my desk. I'll make them famous and you'll know their names.

QUESTIONER 3: Senator McCain, I'd like to know about health care reform, what your plans are for covering everyone?

MCCAIN: I want to give every family in America a $5,000 dollar refundable tax credit, so they can go across state lines and get the health insurance of their choice.

QUESTIONER 4: My question would be, what is his fix for immigration?

MCCAIN: We have to secure our borders, then we have to have tamper proof biometric documents for temporary workers who are truly temporary. Then we have to address the issue of the 12 million people who are here illegally.

QUESTIONER 5: I want to know who will be your vice president and when are you going to tell us?

MCCAIN: We haven't been naming names and we've been going through the process. If we name a name then I guarantee you that the party's would have to have their home number changed. But the fact is we're not naming anybody's name but we'll try to get it done as soon as possible before we come to the Twin Cities for our convention.

O'CONNELL: Now McCain also said he knows he's behind in the polls here in Minnesota and that's one of the reasons for his trip here. […]

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From: "Karl Frisch, Media Matters" <kfrisch@mediamatters.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 3:09:54 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Important Research on the new Anti-Obama Books...

With the authors of two new anti-Obama books hitting the airwaves to promote their latest works of fiction, I wanted to make sure people had access to the research we've published thus far on Jerome Corsi's *The Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality* and David Freddoso's *The Case Against Barack Obama: The Unlikely Rise and Unexamined Agenda of the Media's Favorite Candidate*. **Thus far both authors have been on FOX News' *Hannity & Colmes*. They are also actively hitting the right-wing talk radio circuit. Corsi was on MSNBC this morning and Contessa Brewer used our research to push back against his claims and ask why he should be taken seriously when so many mistakes have been found in his book. We are still combing through both books which we obtained before publication. This is how the Swift Boat attacks began in 2004 (Corsi was co-author of *Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry*), it is extremely important that they are pushed back forcefully with facts that discredit their claims.**

Karl Frisch
Media Matters for America
202-772-8156

Unfit for Publication: Corsi's *The Obama Nation* filled with falsehoods

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808040005
Summary: In its preface, Jerome Corsi compares his new book, *The Obama Nation*, to his 2004 book *Unfit for Command*. The comparison seems apt: Just as *Unfit for Command* contains false attacks on Sen. John Kerry's military service, a *Media Matters* review finds that *The Obama Nation* similarly contains numerous falsehoods about Sen. Barack Obama.

On three *Hannity* programs, Corsi offered another falsehood: Obama supports abortion "[a]fter a child's born"

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808020004
Summary: Jerome Corsi, author of the book, *The Obama Nation*, falsely claimed on *Hannity's America* that Sen. Barack Obama said, "Even if a child was born ... the woman still had the right to kill the child in an abortion." Corsi similarly falsely asserted on *Hannity & Colmes* that "[a]fter a child's born, Obama ... in the [Illinois] state Senate, wanted the child killed if the mother desired an abortion," and on Sean Hannity's radio program, said that "Obama's on record as let's kill the baby if that's what the mother wants." In fact, Obama has never supported giving people the right to kill their children.

Publisher's promotional materials for Corsi's *Obama Nation* echo falsehood and baseless charge in book

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808020003
Summary: Simon & Schuster's promotional materials for Jerome Corsi's book, *The Obama Nation*, echo Corsi's false claims and baseless charges about Sen. Barack Obama's Global Poverty Act and his views on nuclear weapons.

Misinformation in Freddoso's anti-Obama book comes early

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808010005
Summary: The introduction and first few pages of David Freddoso's forthcoming book, *The Case Against Barack Obama*, are marked by false and misleading assertions about Obama, accompanied by dubious citations.

On *Hannity & Colmes*, another Corsi falsehood about Obama

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808010003
Summary: On *Hannity & Colmes*, author Jerome Corsi claimed that in his upcoming book, *The Obama Nation*, "I do a great deal of analysis of [Sen. Barack Obama's] autobiography." Corsi then asserted, "Obama first presents his father as a great hero, and the truth was, his father was a polygamist and a alcoholic." However, contrary to Corsi's suggestion that Obama did not address these issues in his memoir *Dreams From My Father*, he discusses his father's alcoholism and polygamy in multiple passages in the book.

First reported allegation in Corsi's Obama attack book is false

http://mediamatters.org/items/200807310003
Summary: A WorldNetDaily.com article about author Jerome Corsi's forthcoming book, *The Obama Nation*, asserts that the book "points out" that "Barack Obama admitted using drugs in his autobiography but never revealed if or when he stopped."

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In fact, Obama wrote in his autobiography, *Dreams from My Father*, that he "stopped getting high" shortly after moving to New York City to attend Columbia University.

In covering forthcoming anti-Obama books, will media repeat Swift Boat coverage mistakes?

http://mediamatters.org/items/200807300005

Summary: Two books attacking Sen. Barack Obama are scheduled to be released in early August: T*he Obama Nation*, by Jerome Corsi -- co-author of *Unfit for Command,* which contains false and baseless attacks on Sen. John Kerry's military service -- and *The Case Against Barack Obama*, by David Freddoso. Regnery, publisher of *The Case Against Barack Obama*, touts the book as having the same "goal" as *Unfit for Command*, which Regnery also published. The overt connections between the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth's scurrilous campaign against Kerry and the two forthcoming books raise the question for the media: Will they have absorbed the lessons of their highly flawed Swift Boat coverage and give more immediate and more thorough scrutiny to these forthcoming books?

Politico: Anti-Obama book to be released by conservative press that published Swift Boat smear book

http://mediamatters.org/items/200806230005

Summary: David Freddoso's upcoming book, *The Case Against Barack Obama*, will be published by Regnery, which reportedly "likens the goal of [the Obama] book to that of 'Unfit for Command,' " a widely discredited book containing numerous false and baseless attacks on John Kerry's military service.

MMFA investigates: Who is Jerome Corsi, co-author of Swift Boat Vets attack book?

http://mediamatters.org/items/200408060010

While much has been written about the identity and history of John E. O'Neill -- one of the authors of the forthcoming Regnery book *Unfit for Command : Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry* (whose links in the GOP go back to his days as "protégé of Nixon-era dirty trickster Charles Colson") -- little has been said about his co-author, Jerome R. Corsi, PhD.

- **Corsi on Islam:** "a worthless, dangerous Satanic religion"
- **Corsi on Catholicism:** "Boy buggering in both Islam and Catholicism is okay with the Pope as long as it isn't reported by the liberal press"
- **Corsi on Muslims:** "RAGHEADS are Boy-Bumpers as clearly as they are Women-Haters -- it all goes together"
- **Corsi on "John F*ing Commie Kerry":** "After he married TerRAHsa, didn't John Kerry begin practicing Judiasm? He also has paternal grandparents that were Jewish. What religion is John Kerry?"
- **Corsi on Senator "FAT HOG" Clinton:** "Anybody ask why HELLary couldn't keep BJ Bill satisfied? Not lesbo or anything, is she?"

Karl Frisch
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Media Matters for America is a progressive research and information center dedicated to monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the media.

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
Date: 2/19/2015 8:50:03 PM
Subject: Re: Foundation | Foreign Contributors Statement

I know it's hard to keep track at this point, but the WSJ's long-worked-on piece about corporate giving to State and the Foundation is up. Pasted below.

http://www.wsj.com/article_email/hillary-clintons-complex-corporate-ties-1424403002-lMyQjAxMTA1NzEzOTgxMjk3Wj

Hillary Clinton's Complex Corporate Ties

By James V. Grimaldi and Rebecca Ballhaus
Feb. 19, 2015

Among recent secretaries of state, Hillary Clinton was one of the most aggressive global cheerleaders for American companies, pushing governments to sign deals and change policies to the advantage of corporate giants such as General Electric Co. , Exxon Mobil Corp. , Microsoft Corp. and Boeing Co.

At the same time, those companies were among the many that gave to the Clinton family's global foundation set up by her husband, former President Bill Clinton. At least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department during her tenure donated a total of more than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of public and foundation disclosures.

As Mrs. Clinton prepares to embark on a race for the presidency, she has a web of connections to big corporations unique in American politics—ties forged both as secretary of state and by her family's charitable interests. Those relationships are emerging as an issue for Mrs. Clinton's expected presidential campaign as income disparity and other populist themes gain early attention.

Indeed, Clinton Foundation money-raising already is drawing attention. "To a lot of progressive Democrats, Clinton's ties to corporate America are disturbing," says Jack Pitney, a politics professor at Claremont McKenna College who once worked for congressional Republicans. Mrs. Clinton's connections to companies, he says, "are a bonanza for opposition researchers because they enable her critics to suggest the appearance of a conflict of interest."

The Wall Street Journal identified the companies involved with both Clinton-family charitable endeavors and with Mrs. Clinton's State Department by examining large corporate donations to the Clinton Foundation, then reviewing lobbying-disclosure reports filed by those companies. At least 44 of those 60 companies also participated in philanthropic projects valued at $3.2 billion that were set up though a wing of the foundation called the Clinton Global Initiative, which coordinates the projects but receives no cash for them.

Mrs. Clinton's connections to the companies don't end there. As secretary of state, she created 15 public-private partnerships coordinated by the State Department, and at least 25 companies contributed to those partnerships. She also sought corporate donations for another charity she co-founded, a nonprofit women's group called Vital Voices.

Mrs. Clinton's spokesman, Nick Merrill, says: "She did the job that every secretary of state is supposed to do and what the American people expect of them—especially during difficult economic times. She proudly and loudly advocated on behalf of American business and took every opportunity she could to promote U.S. commercial interests abroad."

Corporate donations to politically connected charities aren't illegal so long as they aren't in exchange for favors. There is no evidence of that with the Clinton Foundation.

In some cases, donations came after Mrs. Clinton took action that helped a company. In other cases, the donation came first. In some instances, donations came both before and after. All of the companies mentioned in this article said their charitable donations had nothing to do with their lobbying agendas with Mrs. Clinton's State Department.

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ENLARGE

Hillary Clinton, as secretary of state, visited a Boeing design center in Moscow in 2009. *Photo: Associated Press*

President Barack Obama 's transition team worried enough about potential problems stemming from Clinton-organization fundraising while Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state that it asked Mr. Clinton to quit raising money from foreign governments for the Clinton Global Initiative and to seek approval for paid speaking engagements, which he did. The transition team didn't put limits on corporate fundraising.

The foundation resumed soliciting foreign governments after Mrs. Clinton left the State Department. The official name of the foundation was changed to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation. Mrs. Clinton became a director. All told, the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates have collected donations and pledges from all sources of more than $1.6 billion, according to their tax returns. On Thursday, the foundation said that if Mrs. Clinton runs for president, it would consider whether to continue accepting foreign-government contributions as part of an internal policy review.

"The Clinton Foundation has raised hundreds of millions that it claims is for charitable causes, but clearly overlaps with Hillary Clinton's political ambitions," said Tim Miller, director of America Rising PAC, a conservative group that has targeted Mrs. Clinton.

Tapping Corporate Pockets

Corporations are an important source of donations to the Clinton Foundation. Many corporate donors also lobbied the State Department during Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

Sources of donations of at least $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation

Type of donor	Donors	Donations, in millions*
Individuals	490	$173.4
Corporations	425	114.4
Foundations	249	278.9
Corporate foundations	36	23.0
Governments	28	51.2
Unions	14	3.4

*Calculated based on the low end of the donation ranges disclosed by the Clinton Foundation

Source: WSJ analysis of disclosures from the Clinton Foundation

Of the 425 corporations that were large donors:

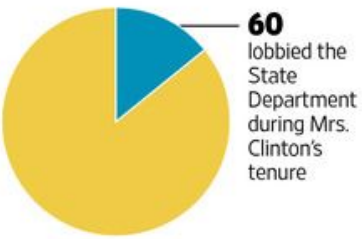

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ENLARGE

Foundation spokesman Craig Minassian says the group's work helps millions around the world and its donors have a history of supporting such work. "So when companies get involved with the Clinton Foundation it's for only one reason,

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because they know our work matters," he says.

In her book, "Hard Choices," Mrs. Clinton said one of her goals at the State Department was "placing economics at the heart of our foreign policy." She wrote: "It was clearer than ever that America's economic strength and our global leadership were a package deal."

Matthew Goodman, a former Clinton State Department official who is now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, says Mrs. Clinton is the first secretary of state to make economics such a focus since George C. Marshall, who helped rebuild postwar Europe.

Economic Statecraft

That approach, which Mrs. Clinton called "economic statecraft," emerged in discussions with Robert Hormats, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. investment banker who has worked in Democratic and Republican administrations and became an undersecretary of state. "One of the very first items was, how do we strengthen the role of the State Department in economic policy?" he says.

The focus positioned Mrs. Clinton to pursue not just foreign-policy results, but domestic economic ones.

Early in Mrs. Clinton's tenure, according to Mr. Hormats, Microsoft's then Chief Research Officer Craig Mundie asked the State Department to send a ranking official to a fourth annual meeting of U.S. software executives and Chinese government officials about piracy and Internet freedom. Mr. Hormats joined the December 2009 meeting in Beijing.

Since 2005, Microsoft has given the Clinton Global Initiative $1.3 million, in addition to free software, according to the foundation.

In 2011, Microsoft launched a three-year initiative coordinated by the Clinton Global Initiative to provide free or discounted software and other resources to students and teachers—a commitment Microsoft estimated to be worth $130 million.

Mr. Hormats says there was no relation between Microsoft's donations and the State Department's participation in the China conference.

In 2012, the Clinton Foundation approached GE about working together to expand a health-access initiative the company had launched four years earlier, says a GE spokeswoman.

That same year, Mrs. Clinton lobbied for GE to be selected by the Algerian government to build power plants in that country. She went to Algiers that October and met with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. "I saw an opportunity for advancing prosperity in Algeria and seizing an opportunity for American business," she explained in her book.

A month after Mrs. Clinton's trip, the Clinton Foundation announced the health-initiative partnership with GE, the company's first involvement with the foundation. GE eventually contributed between $500,000 and $1 million to the partnership.

The following September, GE won the contracts with the Algerian government , saying they marked "some of its largest power agreements in company history."

Mrs. Clinton championed U.S. energy companies and launched an office to promote overseas projects. Many of those efforts were focused in Eastern and Central Europe, where she saw energy development as a hedge against Russia's dominance in oil and gas. Companies that had interests in those areas included Exxon Mobil and Chevron Corp.

One effort, the Global Shale Gas Initiative, promoted hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a technique perfected by U.S. companies. In 2010, Mrs. Clinton flew to Krakow to announce a Polish-American cooperation on a global shale-gas initiative, according to her book. At the time, the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicted abundant deposits of shale gas in Poland.

After pursuing shale-gas projects in Poland, Exxon Mobil gave up a few years later, and Chevron said late last month it would abandon its Poland project.

In 2012, Mrs. Clinton flew to Sofia, Bulgaria, and urged the Bulgarian Parliament to reconsider its moratorium on fracking and its withdrawal of Chevron's five-year exploration license. A few months later, the government allowed conventional gas exploration, but not fracking. Chevron left Bulgaria in 2012.

Ben Schreiber of the environmental group Friends of the Earth says: "We've long been concerned about the ties that Hillary Clinton has to the oil-and-gas industry."

Both Exxon and Chevron are supporters of the Clinton Foundation. Chevron donated $250,000 in 2013. A Chevron spokesman said the Clinton charity "is one of many programs and partnerships that the company has had or maintains across a number of issue areas and topics pertinent to our business."

Exxon Mobil has given about $2 million to the Clinton Global Initiative, starting in 2009. Since 2007, Exxon Mobil also has given $16.8 million to Vital Voices, the nonprofit women's group co-founded by Mrs. Clinton, according to the group's

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spokeswoman.

An Exxon Mobil spokesman said the donations were made to support work on issues Exxon Mobil has long championed, such as programs to fight malaria and empower women. “That is the sole motivation for our support of charitable programs associated with the Clintons,” he said. “We did not seek or receive any special consideration on the Shale Gas Initiative.”

In October 2009, Mrs. Clinton went to bat for aerospace giant Boeing, which was seeking to sell jets to Russia, by flying to Moscow to visit the Boeing Design Center. “I made the case that Boeing’s jets set the global gold standard, and, after I left, our embassy kept at it,” she wrote in her book.

About seven months later, in June 2010, Russia agreed to purchase 50 Boeing 737s for $3.7 billion, choosing Boeing over Europe’s Airbus Group NV.

Two months later, Boeing made its first donation to the Clinton Foundation—$900,000 to help rebuild Haiti’s public-education system. Overall, Boeing has contributed around $1.1 million to the Clinton Foundation since 2010.

ENLARGE

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton traveled to Algeria in 2012 and lobbied President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to select General Electric to build power plants. *Photo: Agence France-Presse/Getty Images*

A Boeing spokeswoman said it is routine for U.S. officials to advocate on behalf of businesses such as Boeing. “U.S. businesses face fierce global competition, and oftentimes an unlevel playing field in the global marketplace,” she said in a written statement. “Secretary Clinton did nothing for Boeing that former U.S. presidents and cabinet secretaries haven’t done for decades, or that their foreign counterparts haven’t done on behalf of companies like Airbus.”

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Before every overseas trip, says Mr. Hormats, the former undersecretary of state, he helped prepare a list of U.S. corporate interests for Mrs. Clinton to advocate while abroad.

During Mrs. Clinton's three trips to India, she urged the government to kill a ban on stores that sell multiple brands , a law aimed at department stores or big-box retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

"It wasn't just Wal-Mart," Mr. Hormats says. "It was the whole point of multibrand retail. Wal-Mart was, of course, the biggest."

Mrs. Clinton served on the board of the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer between 1986 and 1992, when her husband was governor of that state, and the law firm she worked for at the time represented the company. Wal-Mart has donated nearly $1.2 million to the Clinton Foundation for a program that issues grants to student-run charitable projects. The company also has paid more than $370,000 in membership fees to the foundation since 2008, according to a Wal-Mart spokesman.

Trip to India

Before Mrs. Clinton's official trip to India in 2012, Wal-Mart Chief Executive Mike Duke joined her at the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, to pledge $12 million to help women in Latin America. The donation included $1.5 million in grants to 55,000 women entrepreneurs through the International Fund for Women and Girls, one of the 15 public-private partnerships Mrs. Clinton created at the State Department, and $500,000 for Vital Voices, the charity she co-founded.

"We committed to helping women around the world live better," Mr. Duke said at the time. "By working with leaders like Secretary Clinton, we're bringing that mission to life."

One month later, Mrs. Clinton traveled to India to make the case against the ban on retail stores such as Wal-Mart. Then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had proposed allowing companies such as Wal-Mart to invest up to 51% directly in local multibrand retailers, but one of his allies, Mamata Banerjee, a regional governor, opposed the idea. Ms. Banerjee's support was key to Mr. Singh's majority in Parliament.

Mrs. Clinton met with Ms. Banerjee to press the matter. She also said in a speech in West Bengal that U.S. retailers could bring an "enormous amount of expertise" to India in areas ranging from supply-chain management to working with small producers and farmers. Her lobbying was unsuccessful.

A Wal-Mart spokesman said the retailer had lobbied the State Department on the issue, which he said was one of dozens of topics important to the business.

After Mrs. Clinton's India trip, her husband asked Mr. Duke, Walmart's CEO, to change his schedule to appear at the opening panel of the Clinton Global Initiative. Mr. Duke agreed.

Write to Rebecca Ballhaus at Rebecca.Ballhaus@wsj.com

On Feb 19, 2015, at 12:30 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

"Like other global charities, the Clinton Foundation receives support from individuals, organizations and governments from all over the world. Contributions are made because of a strong belief in the Foundation's programs improve the lives of millions of people around the globe. The Clinton Foundation has a record of transparency that goes above what is required of U.S. charities. This includes the voluntary disclosure of contributions on the Foundation's website. Should Secretary Clinton decide to run for office, we will continue to ensure the Foundation's policies and practices regarding support from international partners are appropriate, just as we did when she served as Secretary of State."

From: Cheryl Mills
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 12:29 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri
Cc: NSM, John Podesta, Jacob Sullivan, Philippe Reines, Robby Mook, Huma Abedin, Dan Schwerin, Jim Margolis, John Anzalone, Mandy Grunwald, Teddy Goff, Kristina Schake, Ian Mandel, Cheryl Mills, Heather Samuelson
Subject: Re: Foundation | Foreign Contributors Statement

can you circulate that version?

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:10 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:

> Disregard the version I just sent. Foundation wanted to go with the WJC version from last night.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:06 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:

The Clinton Foundation is proud of the important work all over the world it does to combat disease, poverty and environmental degradation. This work has improved the lives of millions of people around the globe .Like other global charities, the Clinton Foundation is supported by individuals, organizations and governments from all over the world who value the Foundation's work. We are also proud of our record of transparency, which goes above what is required of U.S. charities and includes the voluntary disclosure of contributions on our website. Should Secretary Clinton decide to run for office, we will continue to ensure the Foundation's policies and practices regarding support from international partners are appropriate, just as we did when she served as Secretary of State."

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 1:42 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Based on our conversation earlier this evening, below is the statement with the Clintons' feedback that we can start to push out in the morning. Thanks again to everyone for talking this through today.

"Like other global charities, the Clinton Foundation receives support from individuals, organizations and governments from all over the world. Contributions are made because of a strong belief that the Foundation's programs improve the lives of millions of people around the globe. The Clinton Foundation has a record of transparency that goes above what is required of U.S. charities, including peer organizations. This includes the voluntary disclosure of contributions on the Foundation's website. Should Secretary Clinton decide to run for office, we will continue to ensure the Foundation's policies and practices regarding support from international partners are appropriate, just as we did when she served as Secretary of State."

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com> "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/20/2015 11:36:38 AM
Subject:	5.20.15 HRC TV Coverage
Attachments:	5.20.15 HRC TV Coverage.docx

Also attached as a Word doc.

National:

-- Report on HRC's stance on the TPP; used footage from HRC's Iowa roundtable on Tuesday; Jonathan Alter said HRC was just fine in saying she wanted to hold off taking a position on TPP until she read the deal. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 5.20.15

-- Interview with Marie Harf; Wolf asked Harf for a reaction to The Wall Street Journal report about HRC's political staff interfering with FOIA requests; Harf said she saw a lot of unnamed sources in that story; Harf said there were very specific rules on FOIA requests at the State Department; Harf said the rules govern the process, period; Harf said she had nothing to add to the anonymous sources from The Wall Street Journal article. CNN's Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer , 5.20.15

-- Led with The Wall Street Journal story about Cheryl Mills intervening in FOIA requests from the State Department; Heilemann said the information does not radically change the contours of the story, but this ties in a Clinton intimate into the story; gave profiles of Blumenthal and Mills; Halperin said he thought both Blumenthal and Mills would be called to testify; Halperin said if the stories from the New York Times and Wall Street Journal are true then Democrats would know this was not okay. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 5.20.15

-- Report on an Iowa focus group with Iowa Democrats on HRC; people said they liked HRC's experience; no one could say something specific that HRC accomplished as Secretary of State; Halperin focused in on whether WJC could hurt HRC in 2016; one person said nothing about WJC would hurt HRC in 2016; one person said he didn't see a WJC scandal until HRC's second term; people said HRC is running for President now, not for the nomination; people said HRC moved to the left which was a good thing; a millennial said HRC had a lot of young people excited; one person lauded HRC as a "bad mamajamma"; people said they were concerned about HRC's honesty; no one said they were concerned about HRC's ties to Wall Street; no one said they were concerned about HRC and WJC's speaking fees. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 5.20.15 [Part Two]

-- Report that the White House knew within a day of the Benghazi attack that it was a planned attack; said HRC and BHO told people the attack was based on a video anyways; led into a discussion about whether HRC could be trusted; Juan Williams said the video did have something to do with the attack; discussion about The Wall Street Journal's story about Cheryl Mills; showed Fournier on "Special Report" on Tuesday; discussed Bloomberg's Iowa focus group where people could not name an accomplishment of HRC as Secretary of State; Williams said no one could say a single accomplishment of any Secretary of State. Fox News' The Five , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC's fundraisers in Chicago on Wednesday; used footage of HRC saying she wanted to reshuffle the deck for all Americans; juxtaposed with photos of JB Pritzker and Fred Eychaner, the men who are hosting her fundraisers; Ed Henry said HRC is also doing events on childcare and raising the minimum wage; Ed Henry mentioned Eychaner donated $25 million to The Clinton Foundation; mentioned The Clinton Foundation said Eychaner's foundation donated $10,000 to $25,000 when Eychaner's foundation donated more than $7 million to The Clinton Foundation. Fox News' Your World With Neil Cavuto , 5.20.15

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-- Report on The Wall Street Journal story about Cheryl Mills blocking the release of FOIAed documents; mentioned the Center for American Government study that showed the State Department was the least transparent among government agencies. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 5.20.15

-- Discussion about HRC hiring a DREAMer; Torre said this demonstrates that HRC is serious about immigration; interviewed Brian Beutler, who said HRC has shown incredible savvy in how she has dealt with immigration. MSNBC's The Cycle, 5.20.15

-- Report on the Benghazi Committee subpoenaing Blumenthal; panel with Chris Plante and Leslie Marshall; Plante said Blumenthal's subpoena could mean bad news for HRC; Marshall said HRC looked at the emails, but passed them off; Marshall said this was just a person sending emails to a friend, and it would not be a problem for HRC; used footage of Rand Paul from Meet The Press on Sunday when he said HRC should be asked about whether invading Libya was a good idea.Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.20.15

-- Report that HRC's donations to The Clinton Foundation were in the millions, not matching up with tax returns; mentioned HRC's fundraisers in Chicago; said one of the fundraisers was with Fred Eychaner; said Eychaner also donated $25 million to The Clinton Foundation; said The Clinton Foundation said Eychaner's foundation donated $10,000 to $25,000 to the Foundation while Eychaner's foundation said it donated $7.5 million; showed footage of HRC talking about hedge fund managers in Iowa on Tuesday; mentioned HRC was courting those hedge fund managers in Iowa; said de Blasio and Warren did not endorse HRC; showed footage of de Blasio on CBS This Morning. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.20.15

-- Discussion about Blumenthal's emails with Gloria Borger; showed footage of HRC's Blumenthal answer in Iowa on Tuesday; reported that Gowdy wanted to subpoena Blumenthal; Borger said the Blumenthal emails were unsolicited and that people in power get a lot of unsolicited emails. CNN's Wolf , 5.20.15

-- Played segment of a Bloomberg Politics Iowa focus group in which recent scandals seem to not have affected HRC's popularity; Roberts asked Pataki how HRC was handling herself on the campaign trail; Pataki said HRC's strategy was an insult to the American people; Pataki said HRC's emails were a red herring because she did not release all of her emails. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC's appearance in Chicago at two fundraisers and an event on childcare today; mentioned HRC spoke to reporters for the first time in 28 days yesterday; interviewed Pataki; Pataki said he would ask HRC if the US made the right decision in 2012 when the US pulled out of Iraq. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC talking to reporters yesterday; reported on HRC saying she did not have control over her emails; quoted Ron Fournier from his column yesterday where he said he does not believe HRC; Tantaros mentioned HRC's credibility gap; Tantaros said HRC lied many times during her press conference yesterday; discussed Blumenthal's emails. Fox News' Outnumbered , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC talking to reporters yesterday; interviewed Mark Murray; Murray said the biggest news HRC made at her press conference was that HRC said she wanted her emails turned over as soon as possible; Murray said we have a pretty good idea of what is in HRC's emails because HRC picked what would be turned over. MSNBC's News Nation with Tamron Hall , 5.20.15

-- Interview with Jerry Seib who said HRC will try to project a more aggressive posture abroad than Obama; Seib said HRC pushed for a more aggressive intervention in Syria. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.20.15

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-- Reported on Jack Shafer's op-ed in Politico about HRC acting like she's the President already, and the press is treating her like it; panel with Brad Blakeman and Doug Schoen; Blakeman said HRC's press strategy would not get her the Presidency; Schoen said the strategy is working fine for her already; showed Fox News poll that showed HRC's unfavorability rating going up; showed de Blasio's comment from CBS This Morning in which de Blasio says he wants to see a vision for change in 2016. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 5.20.15

-- Report on Bernie Sanders saying the Clinton's wealth is a problem on CNN's Wolf; interviewed Sara Murray; Murray said WJC's comment about needing to pay the bills did not help; showed HRC's comment about her wealth in Iowa yesterday; shifted into panel with SE Cupp and Jamal Simmons; Cupp said HRC's problem was not that she was wealthy – it's that she's trying to come across as a common person; Simmons said the Clintons worked hard to get their wealth whereas Mitt Romney was born into wealth; Simmons said the main issue for voters were what HRC's policies would be. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello , 5.20.15

-- Report on the federal judge ordering a fast-track on the State Department's release of HRC's emails; reported that HRC gave a press conference yesterday; panel discussion with Anne Gearan and Marc Caputo; Gearan said the rolling release of emails was not great news for HRC because it will keep the story going; report on HRC's stops in Texas, Missouri, and Florida; Caputo said HRC was making stops in these states to prepare for the general election. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.20.15

-- Report on a federal judge ordering the State Department to release HRC's emails on a rolling basis; report on HRC talking to the press yesterday, discussing her emails; used footage of HRC's email answer from the press conference on Tuesday; panel with Alex Seitz-Wald and Leigh Ann Caldwell; discussed The Wall Street Journal report about Cheryl Mills involvement in the FOIA process. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.20.15

-- Interview with Charlie Rangel about HRC's opacity on the TPP; Rangel said HRC could not be for or against TPP without members of Congress knowing what was in the bill. CSPAN's Washington Journal , 5.20.15

-- Report on a federal court telling the State Department to speed up the release of HRC's emails; showed HRC's comments on her emails from her press conference in Iowa on Tuesday; Scarborough mocks HRC for saying that she's always wanted the State Department to show her emails; Halperin joins in the mocking; reported on The Wall Street Journal story about Cheryl Mills intervening in FOIA requests; read Nick Merrill's statement about the State Department's FOIA system; discussed HRC's press conference yesterday; showed Ed Henry's interruption of HRC yesterday; Scarborough said Henry got HRC to go over to talk to the press; report on Halperin's focus group with Iowans; showed footage from that focus group, where people had very positive comments to say about HRC but people couldn't think of anything specific HRC accomplished as Secretary of State. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.20.15 [Part Two]

-- Report on the Associated Press story about WJC and HRC supporting Martin O'Malley; interviewed Lisa Lerer who said O'Malley had a tough climb ahead of him. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.20.15

-- Discussion about Ron Fournier's piece in the National Journal yesterday; Scarborough, Brzezinski, Halperin, and Joe Conason get into a heated discussion about HRC's emails; Conason said Colin Powell was held to a different standard on his emails; there's a heated exchange between Scarborough and Conason when Scarborough thinks Conason compared him to a Nazi. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.20.15 [Part Two]

-- Report on HRC breaking her silence to the press on Tuesday; discussion with John Avlon and Margaret Hoover; Avlon said HRC was not speaking to the press out of strategy; Hoover said there was no competition on

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the Left; discussion about HRC's comments about her emails yesterday; Chris Cuomo asked why HRC turned over her emails on paper; discussion about Sidney Blumenthal's emails; discussion of The Wall Street Journal story about Cheryl Mills; quick discussion about HRC's Iraq answer. CNN's New Day , 5.20.15

-- Report on the Benghazi Committee subpoenaing Blumenthal; discussed The New York Times story from yesterday; showed HRC's comment on Blumenthal from Iowa; interviewed Jonah Goldberg; Goldberg described Blumenthal for viewers; showed footage of HRC's testimony on Benghazi from January 2013; Goldberg said he was curious as to whether HRC included Blumenthal's emails in her cache of work emails that she handed over to the State Department. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC talking to the press yesterday; interviewed Jeff Zeleny; Zeleny described HRC's visit to Chicago today; recapped HRC's press conference yesterday and showed footage from that press conference; reported the State Department's plan to release HRC's work emails in January 2016; reported on the Wall Street Journal report about how political staff were personally involved in how State responded to FOIA requests during HRC's tenure at State; Zeleny said HFA had not responded to comment which showed transparency would still be a problem in HRC's 2016 campaign; shifted into a conversation about gender in the 2016 race; led with Snoop Dogg's endorsement of HRC for being a woman; showed Donald Trump's sexist deleted tweet about HRC; said Chris Christie touted his ability to win elections against women; panel with Sabrina Schaeffer and Anushay Hossain; Schaeffer said a lot of the gender-laden messaging was from HFA; Hossain said Fiorina played up the gender card to mitigate her lack of qualifications; teased a May 2014 (yes, 2014) poll that showed HRC would split the vote by gender like no other. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC talking to the media on Tuesday; showed footage of HRC's answer about her email during her Iowa Q&A; mentioned The Wall Street Journal report about HRC's staff interfering with FOIA requests. CNN's New Day, 5.20.15

-- Federal court ruled that the State Department must move faster to release HRC's emails; said the State Department had a week to come up with a plan to release the emails; reported that HRC spoke about her emails in Iowa on Tuesday and showed the footage; led into The Wall Street Journal's report that Cheryl Mills interfered in FOIA requests; included Nick Merrill's quote from The Wall Street Journal; noted it had been 28 days since HRC had spoken to the press; reported about Ed Henry's interruption of HRC; showed HRC answering questions about Iraq; said Warren called on HRC to take a clearer stand on the trade deal. MSNBC's Way Too Early , 5.20.15

-- Interview with Jonathan Allen (Vox) about HRC's avoidance of the press; Allen said there was not much upside for HRC talking to the press; Allen said avoiding the press made sense for HRC politically; shifted to interview about the State Department's schedule for releasing HRC's emails; Allen said the real issue for HRC was the emails she deleted. MSNBC's First Look , 5.20.15

-- Led with the State Department releasing HRC's emails from the State Department; joked the 55,000 pages were one long email chain with the subject header "where is he?"; led into joke about HRC trying to win over millennials. TBS's Conan , 5.19.15

-- Report on George Stephanopoulos's $105 million contract from ABC News; interviewed Ann Coulter; Coulter talked about Stephanopoulos's line of questioning with Mitt Romney in the 2012 election; Coulter said, "Can we get Stephanopoulos on the record to tell us whether he knew Clinton had raped Juanita Broaddrick?"; Coulter suggested Republicans not have a moderator in their debates. Fox News' Hannity , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's use of two email addresses as Secretary of State; report on HRC's communication with Sidney Blumenthal; discussed Ed Henry's interruption of HRC in Iowa; showed HRC addressing Blumenthal in Iowa; interviewed Mark Steyn; Hannity said HRC's office and HRC's lawyer said she only used one email address;

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Steyn called the people at HRC's roundtables "carefully selected stooges"; Steyn said the press needs to treat HRC like any other candidate; Steyn said he'd love to see Elizabeth Warren run; Steyn said $60,000 of a $1 million donation to The Clinton Foundation goes to benefit Africa while $960,000 of it goes to keep the Clinton machine running; mentioned HRC's $30 million made from speeches; Steyn said people were trying to buy influence by paying HRC to speak; showed HRC's answer in Iowa about her emails; Hannity said they learned today from documents from the defense department and state department that HRC knew the day after the Benghazi attacks who was responsible for Benghazi; reported that Morell thought HRC's email server was hacked. Fox News' Hannity , 5.19.15

-- Led with HRC answering a question about Iraq; showed HRC's answer; compared HRC's answer in Iowa to what she said on Meet the Press in September 2011; showed footage from Scott Walker's Fox News interview with Bret Baier with him talking about HRC's Iraq vote; showed HRC's comment on Ramadi from Iowa; panel with David Axelrod, Joy Reid, and Phyllis Bennis; Axelrod said HRC gave a simple answer to the Iraq question, and the more important question was ~"what did you learn from Iraq?"; Reid said HRC being a woman running for President likely influenced her decision to vote for the Iraq War; shifts into a more general conversation about Iraq. MSNBC's The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell , 5.19.15

-- Interviewed John Kasich; Kasich said HRC can absolutely be beaten; Kasich said HRC could not be beaten unless somebody had a big message about how all Americans can rise together. Fox News' The Kelly File , 5.19.15

-- Interviewed Ed Henry; Henry talked about how he stayed in the hotel room across from HRC in Iowa; discussed the Iowa roundtable; discussed his interruption of HRC's roundtable; interviewed Bill Burton; Burton said the Obama administration understood that people outside the Obama White House would send emails to people in the administration; Burton said there was no proof of connection between advice Blumenthal gave and what actually happened at the State Department; Burton said HRC was talking about the American people, and the Republicans were talking about HRC; shifted into interview with Ron Fournier; Fournier said HRC had one, two, maybe more private email accounts; Fournier said HRC is the antonym of transparent, is a rule breaker, and unaccountable; Fournier called HRC's news conference "obnoxious." Fox News' The Kelly File , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's comments about Sidney Blumenthal in Iowa; interviewed Trace Gallagher; Gallagher gave an overview of Blumenthal; reported on The New York Times story about Blumenthal; showed HRC's comments about Blumenthal from Iowa; reported Gowdy subpoenaed Blumenthal; said Democrats accused Gowdy of selectively leaking emails; interviewed Howard Kurtz; Kurtz said the Blumenthal story demonstrated the confluence of public interest and The Clinton Foundation. Fox News' The Kelly File , 5.19.15

-- Follow-up story on George Stephanopoulos's failure to disclose he donated to The Clinton Foundation; discussed Stephanopoulos's $105 million contract with ABC; interviewed Bret Hume who said ABC couldn't afford to punish Stephanopoulos; Hume said the difference between Stephanopoulos and other journalists participating in Clinton Foundation events was his history with the Clintons; Hume said Stephanopoulos should go further to disassociate himself from the Clintons. Fox News' The Kelly File , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC speaking to the press; discussed how HRC said at the beginning of the campaign she would focus on small groups of people; Maddow said this strategy worked because HRC decided to now talk about mental health based on talking to small groups; teased HRC's stops in Florida, Texas, and Missouri; Maddow explained HRC's trip to Texas was at the same time Rick Perry planned to announce his candidacy. MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show, 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's comment that she wants her emails released quickly; used package from Jeff Zeleny; used footage of HRC answering questions about her emails as Secretary of State; mentioned the federal judge's order to the State Department to speed up the process of releasing HRC's emails; shifted into a report on Sidney Blumenthal, used footage of HRC's answer about Blumenthal today; said HRC answered questions today about The Clinton Foundation; used footage of HRC's answer about her Iraq War support; discussed how HRC

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answered questions about her wealth; shifted into panel with Gloria Borger and Nia-Malika Henderson; Borger said Blumenthal was embarrassing to HRC; Cooper said Blumenthal's emails were like a lobbyist; Henderson said information Blumenthal passed along was often wrong. CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 , 5.19.15

-- O'Reilly reported HRC used two email addresses as Secretary of State; reported on Blumenthal's involvement with Libya and HRC; O'Reilly said the ongoing drama around HRC was tedious; panel with Richard Goodstein and James Grimaldi; Grimaldi said negative stories about HRC had affected HRC's poll results; Goodstein said there was no indication that negative stories were affecting HRC; Goodstein mentioned that HRC was Gallup's most admired woman in the world for 18 of the last 21 years. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.19.15

-- Led with HRC breaking her press silence; reported about HRC's answer about the Iraq War in the context of 2016 candidates answering similar questions; discussed Bush and Rubio's answers; reported HRC was trying to keep her Iraq answer as simple as possible; interviewed Robert Costa and Jess McIntosh; Costa said voters want to hear about Iraq because of the state of the Middle East; most of the discussion is about general candidate answers on Iraq, not particularly about HRC; Chris Hayes said HRC's Libya intervention was not being litigated anywhere; Costa brought up Blumenthal, and Hayes dismissed the comment; Hayes said Democratic opponents could challenge HRC on her support of the Libya intervention. MSNBC's All In With Chris Hayes , 5.19.15

-- Interviewed Nick Confessore about politicians accepting speaking fees; angle is HRC's speaking fees; noted HRC responded to a question about her speaking fees in Iowa; Hayes said it was weirdly honest that HRC said the Clintons just admitted they just wanted to make money from speaking; reported on how the conservative media turned the Clinton Foundation into a super PAC to some people; Hayes notes the Clinton Foundation really does buy mosquito nets for people, said the Foundation is still a charity; Confessore said the Clinton Foundation was like a holding pen for Clinton campaigns. MSNBC's All In With Chris Hayes , 5.19.15

-- Report on Ed Henry's interruption of HRC in Iowa; noted HRC answered press questions; used footage of HRC talking about her email server; interviewed Ed Henry; reported HRC put the onus on the State Department to release her emails; Henry said if HRC wanted to be transparent that she could have released her emails a long time ago; reported HRC was not talking to local media; noted HRC talked to voters after the roundtable and went to small businesses; mentioned David Axelrod's comment from Meet The Press; shifted into panel with Jackie Kucinich and Susan Ferrechio; Kucinich said HRC didn't have any misstep during her press conference; Ferrechio said HRC was talking past the media and the message sounded good. Fox News' On The Record With Greta Van Susteren, 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's Iraq answer; used footage of HRC's Iraq response from the roundtable; mentioned HRC's answer was similar to what she wrote in Hard Choices; panel with Mike Morell and Susan Page; discussion devolves into Matthews yelling at Morell about Iraq – no more mention of HRC. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews, 5.19.15 [Part Two]

-- Reported on a federal judge's decision that the State Department must release HRC's emails on a rolling basis; used footage of HRC's comments in Iowa about her emails; Matthews asked Mike Morell whether HRC did everything she could to save Chris Steven's life, Morell said, "I believe so"; Morell said everything that could have been done to save the people at Benghazi was done; Morell said the dustup around Benghazi was political. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews , 5.19.15

-- Reported on HRC talking to the press; used footage of HRC's comments on her emails from the press conference yesterday; reported about the State Department's announcement it would take until January 2016 to release HRC's emails; noted HRC deleted several emails; conversation with Jeff Zeleny about how HRC self-selected these emails; mentioned HRC printed out all of the emails for the State Department; Zeleny noted that even though HRC was not taking questions from reporters that she was taking them from people in roundtables that "are not unscripted questions and answers"; Zeleny said HRC put email issue to rest for the short term; Zeleny said HRC could not run for President without answering questions; shifted to panel with Brad Woodhouse and Sean Spicer; Woodhouse said only reporters were concerned about HRC not taking press questions, said

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he was impressed with HRC's campaign; Spicer said HRC is not talking to real voters; Burnett noted the questions were pre-screened; Woodhouse noted that Jeb Bush had a similar system as HRC in Florida, said HRC met her obligation under the law. CNN's Erin Burnett OutFront , 5.19.15

-- Reported on Ed Henry interrupting HRC's roundtable; Sharpton said neither HRC nor roundtable attendees seemed to take the press interjection seriously; shifted into HRC's Iraq answer; used footage of HRC's Iraq answer yesterday; favorably compared HRC's Iraq answer with Jeb Bush's Iraq answer; shifted into footage of HRC's email answer from yesterday; Sharpton said HRC did not seem afraid to talk about various topics; panel with Shira Center and Angela Rye; Center said HRC answered the Iraq question better than her GOP opponents; Rye applauded HRC for making the media wait for her, said the press conference showed HRC was transparent; teased HRC's events in Texas, Missouri, and Florida; discussion about HRC's comments about restoring voting rights to felons; used footage of HRC's voting rights statements; Sharpton said HRC seemed at ease during the press conference. MSNBC's PoliticsNation With Al Sharpton , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC speaking to the press; mentioned the Washington Post's counter about how long it had been since HRC spoke to the press; shifted to segment by Ed Henry; Henry said HRC answered questions after some urging from Fox; used footage of HRC responding to Henry; reported about the State Department's lag in producing emails; used footage of HRC discussing her emails in Iowa; said federal judge ordered there to be a timeline on rolling release of emails; said HRC said the emails would show she was a strong secretary; mentioned HRC deleted personal emails and did not release official emails on her own; said there were questions about HRC sharing sensitive information with Blumenthal; reported that Mike Morell said he believed at least one foreign government gained access to her server; used footage of HRC discussing Blumenthal; said Blumenthal was paid by Clinton Foundation; included footage of HRC's answers on the Foundation and her wealth; reported on HRC's answer about the TPP; shifted into segment by James Rosen about HRC's Iraq answer; used footage of HRC answering question about the Iraq War; reported that HRC had previously said she was duped into supporting the Iraq War; used floor footage of HRC in October 2002 discussing her Iraq War decision; reported about Robert Gates allegation in his memoir that HRC admitted to Obama that she supported the war for political reasons; included footage of Joe Trippi discussing HRC's Iraq position; footage of Kirsten Powers talking about HRC's Iraq position; footage of Darrell West saying that HRC has not addressed nuance of the Iraq War; noted that John Cassidy said he could not tell the difference between HRC and Jeb Bush's positions on Iraq. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier , 5.19.15

-- Interviewed Scott Walker who questioned what information went out from HRC's private server; questioned why the Clintons believed there was a different standard for them and for everyone else; brought up that WJC accepted money from foreign countries while HRC was Secretary of State. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier, 5.19.15

New Hampshire:

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Used footage of Jeff Rathke, State Dept. Press Office Director, who said they're working to release the Benghazi-related emails first. WVNY-BUR Local 22 News , Burlington (VT), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that Clinton wants the emails released as soon as possible. WFXT-BOS Fox 25 News at 6 , Boston (MA), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that Clinton wants the emails released as soon as possible. WPTZ-BUR 5:30 Now , Burlington (VT), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that Clinton wants the emails released as soon as possible. WBIN NH1 News at 5:30pm, Boston (MA), 5.19.15

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-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that the emails have been a focus on controversy for HRC. WHDH 7News at 5:30pm, Boston (MA), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that the January deadline could have serious impacts just ahead of the New Hampshire primary. WBIN NH1 News at 5p.m. , Boston (MA), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted the Republican opponents accused her of using a second private email account while at the State Department. WCAX-BUR Channel 3 News at Five , Burlington (VT), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that the State Department plans to finish reviewing the emails just before the IA caucus/NH primary. Said in the coming days they plan to release 900 pages regarding Libya and attacks on Benghazi. WHDH-BOS 7News at Noon , Boston (MA), 5.19.15 & WHDH-BOS 7News Today in New England, Boston (MA), 5.19.15

-- Report on Bernie Sander's free public college and university tuition proposal. Reporter noted that the proposal could put added pressure on HRC, who has yet to release any plans for higher education. WPTZ-BUR Newschannel 5 Today @ 6AM

South Carolina:

-- Report on HRC's controversy over funding for CGI. Used footage from yesterday's event in Cedar Falls on CGI. Noted that WaPo said HRC made $11.7m delivering speeches, with over $3m coming from tech companies. Interview with Peter Schweizer, author of "Clinton Cash" who said sources of funding always deserve scrutiny. Report cited National Institute of Labor Relation Research (NILRR) data that CGI received $2m from labor union dues. Wrapped up saying HRC is still soaring in the polls. WCIV-CHS Good Morning Charleston, Charleston (SC), 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC's first South Carolina office opening on Wednesday. Noted that there would be a phone bank tonight and that the office is on Richland Street. Said HRC would be visiting the state next week. WIS News 10 Sunrise, Columbia (SC), 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC's release of emails. Used footage from yesterday's event's press Q&A of HRC answering question about email use. Noted she did not address the use of two private email accounts. WSPA 7 On Your Side at 11pm, Greenville (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's release of emails. Used footage from HRC's March event about the emails.WSPA 7 On Your Side at 7pm, Greenville (SC), 5.19.15.

-- Report on HRC's private email use and yesterday's event on small business. Noted that "her team is denying the charges" of her using a second email account. Included interview with Gary Swenson, her Iowa host, who said she is really connecting with voters. Reporter said HRC's press events have been few and far between. Used footage of Lindsey Graham criticizing HRC of not answering questions from press. WSPA 7 On Your Side at 5pm

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted Republican opponents accusations of second private email account.

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Used footage of HRC's two Iowa events but only discussed emails. WCSC Live 5 News at Noon, Charleston (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's release of emails. Used footage from yesterday's event in Cedar Falls but did not mention the event details. WLTX News 19 @ Noon, Columbia (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report on Santorum explaining why he would be a stronger candidate than HRC. WACH Fox Good Day, Columbia (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's release of emails. Used footage from HRC's March event about the emails.WHNS Morning News @ 8, Greenville (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's first South Carolina office opening on Wednesday. Noted the Columbia office will open with a food bank and HRC will visit the state on May 27th but exact details have not yet been released. WLTX News 19 @ 6am, Columbia (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's release of emails. Used footage from HRC's March event about the emails. WIS News 10 Sunrise, Columbia (SC), 5.19.15

-- Report of HRC's release of emails. Noted that "Vice News" requested copies of the emails. WCSC Live 5 News at 5am, Charleston (SC), 5.19.15

Nevada:

-- Review of Cedar Falls round table; reported HRC was "candid" with reporters about releasing emails while Secretary of State; quoted HRC as "wanting those emails out"; State Dept. says could take until January to release emails "just before the Iowa Caucus"; Judge announced those emails should come sooner and in smaller batches; mentioned HRC addressed her wealth, saying "she can still connect with everyday Americans"; reported she expressed regret over the Iraq war; also talked HRC's plans to revive small businesses; quoted HRC that she is proud of what the Clinton Foundation is doing. KVVU-LV FOX 5 News at 11 pm , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Review of Cedar Falls round table remarks; HRC "get's candid" with reporter after they claim she's "snubbing them. KVVU-LV FOX News at 10pm , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Review of Cedar Falls round table; HRC answered questions for "first time in nearly a month" about missing emails from personal account while Secretary of State; Federal judge ordered rolling release of emails; quoted HRC, "I want those emails out…nobody has a bigger interest than I do…"; State Dept. complying with order but may take until January to get them out. KTNV-LV ABC Action News at 6:30pm , Las Vegas, NV. 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC on campaign trail; many of the questions focused on her personal emails while Secretary of State; quoted HRC, "I respect the State Department, they have their process for me, just like anybody else…anything they can do to expedite the process I heartily support"; federal judge rejected State Departments to wait until next January to release 50,000+ emails, ordered the State department to have a plan to release them by May 26. KSNV NBC News at 3 Live at 6:30pm , Las Vegas, NV. 5.19.15

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- Reported HRC wants State Dept. to speed up release of 55,000 pages of emails; HRC's second day campaigning in Iowa; Judge rejected State Dept. plan to release emails by next January, instead requiring a rolling release; quoted HRC, "They're not mine, they're the State Dept.'s…as much as they can expedite the process that's what I am asking them to do."; It's the first time HRC has taken questions from reporters in nearly a month. KVVU-LV FOX5 News at 5:00pm , Las Vegas, NV. 5.19.15

-- Quoted "I want those emails out…nobody has bigger interest…respect the state dept…"; HRC urging state dept. to release the emails now; HRC "under scrutiny" for using personal email rather than the official one while Secretary of State. KSNV NBC News at 3 Live at 5 pm. Las Vegas, NV. 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC's emails "in the news again" as new questions arise about using private email to handle government business; HRC had second private email account while at the state department; used a campaign stop in Iowa to urge State Dept. to hurry up to release emails; quoted "I want those emails out…nobody has bigger interest…"; but did not address Second private email account; aides say second account only created after she left state dept because email was reported; During business round table at bike shop she addressed reporters for first time in 3 weeks; Republicans noticing her silence; quoting Lindsay Graham, "how can you run for President and not answer a question…"; State Dept. wants to publish them in January but federal judge rejected, giving them a week instead; HRC has admitted to deleting thousands of personal emails but want the rest to be release ASAP. KLAS CBS 8 News Now at 4pm , Las Vegas, NV. 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will make thousands of HRC emails public; center of fire storm after using private server for state department emails; deleted thousands of emails that didn't relate to state dept. business; several Freedom of Information Act lawsuits seeking all Clinton emails. KTNV-LV Action News at 3:30pm , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC facing questions about funding she received in the last year and half from paid speeches; opposition asking what will the people who paid her one day ask in return; reported HRC on campaign trail "finally" taking questions from reporters; answered questions about funding received by Clinton Foundation, quoted HRC "proud of the work…"; questions on donations "raked in" over the years; questions about HRC's paid speeches, Washington Post report says she made "almost 12 million dollars for 51 speeches, 3 million from tech. industry,"; Peter Schweizer, author of "Clinton Cash" said donations can be "influence payments,"; over 2 million dollars in Union dues paid to Clinton Foundation; HRC still "plowing ahead" on campaign trail, according to NYT/CBS poll continues to soar in the polls; Lanny Davis, Clinton supporter said, "people care about the issues that affect their lives, families lives"; Reported that Democratic leaders are rallying to her support on emails, quoting Rep. Xavier Becerra, "hopefully the charade will stop,"; with little opposition from the left, scrutiny might be heating up. KSNV NBC News at 3 Live at 3:30pm , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported US Dist. Crt. Judge asked St. Dept. to create new schedule for release of emails on rolling basis; St. Dept. responding to Freedom of Information Act lawsuits; Emails have been source of controversy since revealed that HRC used private server to conduct state dept. business. KSNV NBC News at 3 Live at Noon , Las Vegas, NV. 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will wait until January 15, 2016 to release thousands of private emails HRC exchanged while Secretary of State. KVVU-LV Fox 5 News This Morning , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will wait until January 15, 2016 to release thousands of emails that HRC exchanged while Secretary of State; quoted HRC that in March she had asked State Dept. to release emails to the public. KSNV NBC Wake Up With the Wagners, Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will not release emails this year from HRC during her time as Secretary of State until January, in the middle of primary season; emails have been focus of controversy since revealed HRC used

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private server to conduct official business. KTNV-LV Good Morning Las Vegas at 5am , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC's emails will not be revealed until beginning of next year; HRC's emails have been focus of controversy since revealed she used private server to conduct state dept. business; State Dept. responding to Freedom of Information Act lawsuits to have all emails released; HRC said in March she wanted State Dept. to release emails. KLAS-LV 8 News Now at 4am , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC said it's the political system that is dysfunctional and she's promising to fix it; started her 2 day tour of Iowa for a meet and greet in the home a gay couple; HRC also spoke about campaign finance and the gap between rich and poor; today will talk about helping small businesses. KTNV LV World News Now , Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC finally answered questions about private emails sent while Secretary of State; has come under fire for deleting emails she says were personal; State Dept. says 55,000 will all be released but not until January; quoted HRC, "those emails need to get out…"; Federal Judge ordered emails to be released sooner in batches; HRC said no conflict of interest from paid speeches; dismissed criticism that she is "out of touch" after earning over 30 million dollars over the last 16 months. KRNV NBC News 4 at Eleven , Reno, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported judge ordered State Dept. to come up with schedule to order release of emails on rolling basis; HRC was campaigning in Iowa and said release couldn't come soon enough; Curiosity around HRC after she disclosed she had used private email server; State Dept. had targeted next January for release but judge says needs to be rolling basis every 2 months. KRXI Fox 10pm News , Reno, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported spotlight on HRC and Foundation for donations raked in over the years; some controversy around paid speeches; new information concerning her compensation…IDENTICAL to KSNV NBC News at 3 Live at 3:30pm, Las Vegas, NV, 5.19.15. See above. This reported from KRNV NBC News 4 at Six , Reno, NV, 5.19.15.

-- Reported HRC urging State Dept. to release emails ASAP; quoted "I want those emails out, nobody has a bigger interest than I do…"; State Dept. schedule to release in January was rejected by a federal judge, given a week to come up with timetable; Reported HRC did not address allegations from the Republican National Committee that she used 2 not 1 private email account; aide said second account only created after her email account was published. KTVN CBS Channel 2 News 5pm , Reno, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC answered questions from reporters for the first time in "nearly a month"; HRC discussed missing State Dept. emails same day Federal Judge ordered sped up timeline; Jeff Rathke, State Dept. Spokesman, "we take our legal obligations very seriously…"; HRC wants State Dept. to act sooner, "anything they can do to expedite process…"; HRC addressed that she and her husband had made over 25 million dollars in the past year and a half delivering paid speeches, quoted HRC, "Bill and I have been blessed…"; HRC spoke after event that focused on small businesses where she asked questions but mostly listened; Quoted Rick Klein, ABC News Political Director, "Clinton is calculating more bad things will happen then good things when she talks to the press, she tries to avoid whenever possible"; Other candidates are noticing, and might push HRC to change strategy. KOLO ABC 8 News , Reno, NV, 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will wait until January to release HRC's emails; State Dept. is responding to Freedom of Information Act lawsuits to have those emails released; in a bid to "defuse" the crisis ahead of the Presidential election HRC said in March that she wanted the emails released ASAP. KOLO ABC KOLO 8 Midday at 11am , Reno, NV, 5.19.15

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-- Reported HRC just wants emails made public; they are not her's, but instead are the State Dept.'s; HRC addressed the issue following an event in Iowa; Federal Judge rejected State Dept.'s plan to release portion of emails, instead must release faster and in smaller batches. KSL-SLC NBC 5 News at 5 , Salt Lake City, UT, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC answers questions from the press on the same day that a Federal judge ordered a revised timetable for release of emails. KTVX-SLC ABC 4 Utah News at 4:00pm , Salt Lake City, Utah, 5.19.15

-- Reporters in back-in-forth with one another, said, "do you remember HRC's pant suits?" "Yes." "do you remember the email scandal?" replied "hard to forget!"; Reported state dept. will wait until next January to release emails, responding to Freedom of Information lawsuits; emails have been focus of controversy since revealed using private server to do state dept. business; in an effort to calm controversy in March, quoted HRC as asking state dept. to release those emails; won't happen until January of 2016; female reporter notes this might backfire on her because the emails would be forgotten by January, only to be revived as an issue when released. KUTV-SLC CBS News The Refresh , Salt Lake City, Utah, 5.19.15

-- Reported HRC wanted emails released ASAP but will have to wait until January; Vice News requested emails under the Freedom of Information Act; HRC was scheduled to testify for the House Select Committee on Benghazi today but Chair said they will not call HRC to testify until they have received all relevant documents including some of HRC's emails; State Dept. says sheer volume of emails and review time required is reason for delay and will take until January, "a year after they were supposed to be released." KSL-SLC KSL 5 News at Noon, Salt Lake City, Utah, 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will wait until January to release thousands of HRC's emails to the public; Emails have been center of controversy since revealed she used private server to conduct state dept. business; in effort to defuse crisis ahead of 2016 campaign, HRC said she wants the emails to be release ASAP. KTVX-SLC ABC 4 Utah News Mid-day, Salt Lake City, Utah, 5.19.15

-- Reported that thousand of HRC's emails won't be released until January of next year; state dept. is responding to an umber of Freedom of Information Act lawsuits; emails became controversial after revelations that HRC used private server to conduct state dept. business. KSTU-SLC FOX 13 News Live at 11 , Salt Lake city, Utah, 5.19.15

-- Reported State Dept. will wait until next January to release HRC's emails; has been a source of controversy since revealed that HRC used private server to do state dept. business; HRC has asked state dept. to release emails ASAP; state dept. will release emails Jan. 15. KUTV-SLC CBS 2 News This Morning , Salt Lake City, Utah, 5.19.15

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/25/2014 10:53:03 AM
Subject: Wise Use of Executive Authority Could Navigate Obama off the 404 page

April 25, 2014

Dear Friends:

Thanks to ZunZuneo, President Obama has tweeted his Cuba policy into an Error 404 page.

Just this week, ZunZuneo rattled Roots of Hope, a non-profit that professed distance from government-funded "democracy promotion" programs, when the Associated Press exposed the role played by some of its leaders in the Cuban Twitter project.

It rankled Costa Rica after the AP reported that a USAID manager stationed in San Jose played a role in supervising the project, dragging a staunch U.S. ally which respects Cuba's sovereignty into the regime change row.

And it continued to roil press relations with the State Department, where Jen Psaki, the spokesperson, was still telling reporters that USAID had not yet finished reviewing the tweets ZunZuneo sent to Cubans to determine their political content three weeks after the scandal broke.

The 2012 election should have freed the president's hand. But, after the President vanquished former Gov. Romney - who famously said in Florida, "If I'm fortunate enough to become the next president, it is my expectation that Fidel Castro will finally be taken off this planet" - his Cuba policy is staggering under the weight of a really dumb program that he inherited from his predecessor.

How can the president navigate back? He should use his authority to revive his Cuba policy in ways that demonstrate his leadership and understanding of the post-Cold War world.

Take Cuba off the State Sponsors of Terror List. President Reagan listed Cuba for political reasons, and politics is the only justification for why it remains falsely accused and heavily penalized.

Even though the Department explains the list by saying, "the Secretary of State must determine that the government of such country has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism," the report it issued last year read like a concise statement for Cuba's exoneration.

It said, Cuba distanced itself from Basque terrorists. It changed from offering safe haven to some members of the FARC to hosting peace talks between it and Colombia's government. The report even said, "There was no indication that the Cuban government provided weapons or paramilitary training to terrorist groups." The sole criticism it contained -- that Cuba harbors fugitives wanted in the United States -- is not a condition for including any country on the terror list.

Above politics, there are a number of compelling reasons - all in the U.S. national

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interest - for the President to remove Cuba from the terror list, and some urgency for him to take this step now.

Reconsider the sentences of the remaining members of the Cuban Five. This week, the New York Times endorsed a decision by the U.S. Department of Justice to reinvigorate the clemency power of the executive branch with this reminder.

Throughout American history, presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Harry Truman to Gerald Ford have used the power of executive clemency to help bring an end to war, or to promote national healing in its aftermath.

This brings us - and ought to bring the President - to the case of the Cuban Five, "now in their fifteenth year in prison for conducting espionage operations, mostly against exile groups with violent pasts," as Peter Kornbluh explained in the Nation last year.

Although its negotiating position has shifted over the years, it has long been clear that the Cuban government will negotiate for the release of imprisoned U.S. contractor Alan Gross so long as its "humanitarian concerns" for these prisoners are also met.

Since his arrest in 2009, the U.S. government has fecklessly called for Mr. Gross's unconditional release, despite his conviction in a Cuban court for activities our government knew were illegal before he was sent to Cuba under a USAID regime change program.

As recently as this month, Secretary of State John Kerry , in testimony before Congress, rejected a prisoner swap because it implies Cuba's spies and Mr. Gross were engaged in equivalent activities (a debatable notion in itself).

Worse, it is the position of hardline Members of Congress that the U.S. should not negotiate with Cuba to obtain his release because Cuba is listed as a state-sponsor of terror (see above).

While his government offers pat explanations for what it won't do to affect his release, Mr. Gross was plain-spoken in telling his attorney darkly, "His 65th birthday, which occurs on May 2, will be the last birthday that he celebrates in Havana."

Deputy Attorney General James Cole , explaining the administration's commutation policy, wrote, "It is important to remember that commutations are not pardons. They are not exonerations. They are not an expression of forgiveness." He could have been writing the script for a Presidential determination to free the Cuban spies in exchange for Alan Gross.

The President will be hard to move on this exercise of his executive authority. But, make no mistake; an action by the President to approve commutations for the remaining Cuban Five prisoners would not just enable Mr. Gross to celebrate his 66th birthday at home, but free his administration to pursue more effectively all of his Cuba policy goals.

The big enchilada is Helms-Burton. Our final point, though it might be hard to imagine, is that the President should be honing the argument for reclaiming the authority of his office to recognize Cuba, an authority that was seemingly taken away by passage of the Helms-Burton law.

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will consider a case that bears directly on this point. It concerns a law enacted by Congress that requires the State Department to treat Jerusalem as the capital of Israel for the purposes of issuing passports. At stake is the larger constitutional principle of whether the President has the exclusive right to recognize the sovereignty of another country.

The U.S. Court of Appeals sides with presidential power and against the Congress in a decision it issued last year. Its decision can be read in its entirety here . But, the conclusion by the Court is unmistakable:

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"Having reviewed the Constitution's text and structure, Supreme Court precedent and longstanding post-ratification history, we conclude that the President **exclusively** holds the power to determine whether to recognize a foreign sovereign."

Should the Supreme Court affirm the appellate court ruling, its decision will loosen the grip of Congress on the core issue of Cuba policy - whether the U.S. will shift its focus from overthrowing the Castro government to letting Cubans decide their own future by themselves.

Letting the Cubans lead, rather than forcing them to tweet, would be a proud moment for the President, unless he prefers hearing the tweet of the hummingbird that brought him to 404.

This week in Cuba news...

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

- Costa Rica demands answers from U.S. on ZunZuneo
- Alan Gross plans to return to U.S. 'one way or the other'; Cuba says relations will not improve until U.S. addresses Gross's intentions in Cuba
- USAID grant to Open Technology Institute for Cuba Wi-Fi project 'under review'; U.S. looks to train Cubans in entrepeneurship
- Cuban-American NGO played role in USAID's "Cuban Twitter"
- Dutch company to pay $5.9 million OFAC fine
- Cuba Travel Services to offer additional Cuba flights

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

- Cuba to receive nearly $50 million from OPEC for water infrastructure
- Cuba considering debt deal with Paris Club
- President Castro meets with China's Foreign Minister; Russian senators to visit Cuba this week

IN CUBA

- Cuban Commission on Culture and Media presses government for speedier reforms
- Former MLB All-Star dies in Cuba

Recommended Reading

- From the Bay of Pigs to the 'Bay of Tweets' , Sarah Stephens, Huffington Post
- The United States and Cuba Should Play Ball , Reps. David Bonior and Tom Downey, Roll Call
- Coming soon, a spring thaw with Cuba? , Rafael Hernández, Los Angeles Times
- Cuba's Emerging Entrepeneurs: Update One Year On , Richard Feinberg, Brookings Institution
- Makers of political decisions can save people from amputation , Lisandra Díaz Padrón, Progreso Weekly

Recommended Viewing

- Cuban Artist Tomás Sánchez Shows Works in Cuba after 27 Years , Irina Icharry, The Havana Times

Interested in traveling to Cuba? Travel with CDA!

Since 2001, the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) has been organizing delegations of travelers to visit Cuba to experience the island first-hand.

These trips, which we primarily offer to Members of Congress and various groups of policy experts, provide a truly unique experience, introducing travelers to our diverse range of contacts and friends, including artists, academics, entrepreneurs, musicians, journalists, and Cubans from all walks of life.

Right now, CDA is organizing a people-to-people delegation which will travel from June 1st to the 6th. There are just a few spaces left, and we are hoping that readers of our news blast would like to fill them! If you are interested in seeing Cuba first-hand, please email Vivian Ramos at vivian@democracyinamericas.org ASAP.

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U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Costa Rica demands answers from U.S. on ZunZuneo

Costa Rica's government has asked the Obama Administration to explain why the U.S. pursued work on the ZunZuneo program in that country despite warnings in 2009 that it would cause political problems, reports the AP .

In 2009, Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry told the U.S. embassy that the project could create "political difficulties" for Costa Rica. An internal Foreign Ministry memorandum written by Javier Sancho Bonilla, protocol and state ceremonial director, said that it "could create a situation politically inconvenient since it can be interpreted that it would violate the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries."

On April 4th, the day after the Associated Press broke the ZunZuneo story, Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry requested an explanation, reports La Nación . Foreign Minister Enrique Castillo wrote: "It does not seem correct to the Ministry that Embassies should engage in actions from Costa Rica that affect another country. We cannot approve this, not in any case. This is unacceptable." Communications Minister Carlos Roverssi said that Costa Rica "officially asked the government of the United States to clarify the facts exactly as they have been denounced," adding that "The government of the Republic was not aware of this."

According to La Nación , the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica requested permission from Costa Rica's government to operate a "Latin American Exchange Program" (PILA) in 2009, "to increase communication and exchanges in Cuba and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, including Costa Rica." According to the report, the requests failed to mention the ZunZuneo project. Costa Rica denied permission to the U.S., rejecting accreditation for two Creative Associates contractors. Nonetheless, according to the report, the program operated in Costa Rica for over a year. The U.S. Embassy denies this claim, saying it does not have any record of a rejection from Costa Rica's government.

U.S. State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki, acknowledged receipt of a diplomatic inquiry from Costa Rica after the AP broke the story, and said that "In the following days, embassy staffers have reached out to their Ministry of Foreign Affairs counterparts on multiple occasions about the issue and those conversations have been ongoing." An April 7 blog post from USAID spokesman Matt Herrick says that the AP investigation "suggests there was an inappropriate base of operations established in Costa Rica outside of normal U.S. government procedures," but said that the "government of Costa Rica was informed of the program on more than one occasion."

Alan Gross plans to return to U.S. 'one way or the other' ; Cuba says relations will not improve until U.S. addresses Gross's intentions in Cuba

Scott Gilbert, the lawyer for Alan Gross, a former USAID subcontractor who has been jailed in Cuba for over four years, said Gross plans to return to the U.S. before May 2015, reports Miami Herald .Gilbert told MSNBC:

> ***"[Gross] told me yesterday emphatically that May 2, which marks his 65th birthday, will be the last birthday that he marks in Cuba, one way or the other.... Alan means that he does not intend to endure another year of this solitary confinement and that he will return to the United States before his 66th birthday, dead or alive."***

Jen Psaki, State Department spokeswoman, told reporters that U.S. officials discuss the Gross case indirectly with interlocutors who have ties to Cuba, neither confirming nor denying that direct talks with Cuba on Gross have continued. Gilbert met with Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Wednesday and confirmed that no ongoing discussions between the U.S. and Cuba on Gross are taking place.

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Rodríguez stated, Cuba "is interested in meeting with officials from the United States at the highest levels of both governments to discuss the release of Alan Gross with no preconditions." Gilbert told MSNBC:

> ***"Our message, really, is to ... President Obama. Please engage on this issue. ...Sit down with the Cuban government. Try to reach a resolution. Do what you can do to bring Alan Gross back to his country. Make serving your government in a foreign country mean something."***

Capital News Service reports that representatives from the Cuban Interests Section said in remarks at American University that until the U.S. fully acknowledges and addresses Gross's intentions in Cuba, relations between the countries will not improve. First Secretary Warnel Lores Mora of the Cuban Interests Section said:

> ***"We want Internet. The United States denies us the possibility to connect from Florida, 90 miles away ... they prefer to waste the money for secret programs than provide us with the capability...There is a great hypocrisy in the policy."***

USAID grant to Open Technology Institute for Cuba Wi-Fi project 'under review'; U.S. looks to train Cubans in entrepreneurship

A program approved and financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop technology for a Wi-Fi network in Cuba is now under review, reports Miami Herald. The grant for this project was assigned in 2012 to the Open Technology Institute (OTI -- not to be confused USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives).

OTI, the grantee, is a part of the New America Foundation, which also includes the U.S.-Cuba Policy Initiative. The director of this New America Foundation project, Anya Landau-French, opposed OTI's decision to apply for the USAID grant.

This technology nicknamed "Commotion" was intended to advance USAID's "democracy promotion" efforts in Cuba by creating a mesh network, a local network made up of antennas and routers that communicate with each other. The project gained attention after it was mentioned in a New York Times feature about similar endeavors in Tunisia. The news follows recent revelations about other USAID projects on the island, namely the ZunZuneo "fake Twitter," an SMS service that obtained Cubans' phone numbers without their permission, and without informing them that the service was a project of the U.S. government. That program intended to reel in users with non-political content, and follow by sending political messages designed to stir unrest on the island.

USAID spokesperson Matt Herrick stated that USAID is "looking into [Commotion], to see if it's consistent with the [OTI] proposal and achieves expected outcomes." He also stated that Commotion "is not operational in Cuba" and that no one has traveled to Cuba for the project. The grant runs through September 30, 2015. According to the Times, USAID has pledged $4.3 million to create mesh networks in Cuba.

The article reports that USAID launched a similar network in Tunisia with the approval of municipal authorities. The network was started by some of the same individuals who helped overthrow Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011. According to the report, "It is clear that the United States sees Sayada [Tunisia town] as a test of the concept before it is deployed in more contested zones."

In related news, the independent journalist Tracey Eaton reports that the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees Radio and TV Martí, is seeking firms capable of "developing and producing specialized Spanish language multimedia programming specifically designed for broadcast to Cuba." The BBG is most interested in firms that have previously produced programming in Cuba focused on entrepreneurship and profiles of artistic individuals or groups living in Cuba.

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Cuban-American NGO played role in USAID's "Cuban Twitter"

Leaders of the Cuban-American youth organization Roots of Hope provided support for the U.S. government's secret "Cuban Twitter" ZunZuneo program , serving as paid consultants and connecting contractors with potential investors in order to shift the program into private hands, the Associated Press reports. Roots of Hope itself was initially approached by federal contractors to invest, but the idea was dropped. Two members of its board of directors - Chris Gueits and Raul Moas - worked as consultants for the government program despite Roots of Hope's explicit refusal to accept U.S. government funding.

Past projects by Roots of Hope include work to give Cubans cell phones and USB flash drives, as well as collaborations with Cuban blogger Yoani Sánchez.

Dutch company to pay $5.9 million OFAC fine

CWT B.V., a prominent Dutch travel company, will pay a $5.9 million fine to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) for violations of the U.S. embargo against Cuba, reports The Wall Street Journal . According to the Miami Herald, the company violated sanctions by providing travel services to 44,430 people to and from Cuba between 2006 and 2012, after becoming majority-owned by U.S. entities.

The fine is one of the largest assigned to a travel company by the U.S. government for embargo violations and is part of a pattern of increasingly stringent enforcement. In a recent analysis of Cuba's new foreign investment law, David Jessop speculates about the U.S. government's motives:

> ***"Although many pressures still surround the process of US economic re-engagement it is clear that US business is acutely aware of the potential opportunity now opening up. This seems to have spawned an increasingly aggressive approach on the part of the US Treasury which by placing pressure on the international banking system and individuals in Europe and elsewhere to reserve the future Cuban market for US business alone."***

Cuba Travel Services to offer additional Cuba flights

Cuba Travel Services has announced that it will offer direct flights from Miami to Holguín, Cuba beginning in June. Cuba Travel Services already provides direct flights from Miami to five Cuban cities - Havana, Cienfuegos, Camagüey, Santa Clara and Santiago de Cuba. The new route will launch on June 5th.

Carlos Alzugaray, former head of Cuba's mission to the European Union, says that ties between Cubans on the island and in the U.S. "have never been so diverse or so rich," reports AFP . As we reported last week , the U.S. granted 19,500 visas to Cubans for family, professional, and business visits during the first half of the current fiscal year. More than 90% of visas granted during this period were five-year, multiple-entry visas, which the U.S. began offering to Cubans in August 2013.

In the first trimester of 2014 , approximately 173,550 U.S. travelers visited Cuba, according to a report by the U.S.-based Havana Consulting Group. This figure includes Cuban Americans as well as other travelers taking part in legal categories of travel to the island, such as people-to-people trips.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Cuba to receive nearly $50 million from OPEC for water infrastructure

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development (OFID) will grant nearly $50 million in loans for water rehabilitation projects

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in Cuba over the next two years, reports Cuba Standard . The funding will support Cuba's ongoing water infrastructure rehabilitation program. OFID has provided Cuba with low-interest loans to support various sectors since 2002.

Cuba considering debt deal with Paris Club

Western diplomats say Cuba may reach a debt agreement with the Paris Club, an informal grouping of nineteen creditor governments that includes Russia, Germany, the UK, Switzerland, Japan, and the U.S., reports Reuters . According to the diplomats, the Paris Club sent a delegation to Havana at the end of 2013 to present proposals to Cuban officials, who were receptive. The officials discussed a possible combination of debt forgiveness, a 10-year payment plan, and debt swaps.

According to the Paris Club, Cuba's debt in 2012 was $35.5 billion. Establishing the exact figure will be part of the negotiations, and will take into account Russia's deal with Cuba in 2013 which wrote off 90% of Cuba's $32 billion debt to the Soviet Union. The Club reportedly maintains a working group on Cuba that excludes the U.S. Reaching a deal would reduce Cuba's debt and facilitate the acquisition of new international loans, according to Reuters.

Cuba's national debt figures are not public. Moody's, the financial services company based in New York, dropped Cuba's credit rating on Wednesday from Caa1 to Caa2, citing risks associated with the instability in the island's oil supply from Venezuela and the potential for "an abrupt and disorderly political transition," reports AFP .

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba defaulted on its debt while reeling from the economic effects of losing its biggest trading partner as it was still subject to the U.S. embargo. Talks with the Paris Club were opened in 1999 and were placed indefinitely on hold in 2001.

The Paris Club proposed the resumption of talks with Cuba in 2011 , following Cuba's stated intentions to address its international debt. The Guidelines passed at the 2011 Communist Party Conference include a push to "enhance Cuba's credibility in its international economic relations by strictly observing all the commitments that have been entered into," and to introduce "flexible restructuring strategies for debt payment."

President Castro meets with China's Foreign Minister; Russian senators to visit Cuba this week

On Sunday, President Raúl Castro met with China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, report Granma and Progreso Weekly . According to their statement, the officials "analyzed a broad bilateral agenda, the preparations for the official visit of President Xi Jinping, and aspects of the international situation that are of mutual interest." Wang is preparing for China's President Xi Jinping's Latin America tour that will begin in July. Wang also met with former President Fidel Castro and Cuba's Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez.

Russian senators of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly plan to meet with top Cuban officials this week, reports Progreso Weekly . The delegation will be led by the chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Rules and Organization, Vadim Albertovich Tulpanov. In addition to meeting with officials, they plan to tour joint Russian-Cuban engineering enterprises and discuss the development of tourism infrastructure and tourism exchange.

IN CUBA

Cuban Commission on Culture and Media presses government for speedier reforms

Cuba's Commission on Culture and Media published a report Friday pressing the

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government to push forward with reforms of its television and film industry, reports AFP . The report concludes that these industries suffer from:

> ***"a shortage of funding, poor leadership, disorganization and a lack of discipline. ... Cuba's television system is urged to make structural and productive changes, in keeping with the current reality in the rest of the country."***

The report proposes reforms that include the creation of outlets not under state control. It was released following a recent meeting of Cuba's Union of Writers and Artists, or UNEAC.

Former MLB All-Star dies in Cuba

Cuban baseball star Connie Marrero passed away in Havana on Wednesday at age 102, reports The New York Times . He was the oldest living former Major League Baseball player. Marrero first joined the U.S. Major Leagues in 1950 at age 38, and became a pitching sensation. He eventually returned to Cuba. He told NPR:

> ***"I'm Cuban, and I came back to my homeland, to the place I was born. I wish our countries could be united again, just like the way they used to be."***

Dan Whittle, director of the Environmental Defense Fund's Cuba program, recounts the story of a recent interview with Marrero, reflecting that the former all-star's story serves as a reminder:

> ***"that U.S.--Cuba relations were once as close as the sliver of saltwater that separates the two nations, and should be so again. This is important for both countries, which, despite five decades of political stalemate, share much more than a love of baseball."***

Recommended Reading

From the Bay of Pigs to the 'Bay of Tweets' , Sarah Stephens, Huffington Post

In a Huffington Post column, CDA's director, Sarah Stephens, links revelations of covert actions like the Bay of Pigs to USAID's Twitter-like program, ZunZuneo. She writes, "Fifty-three years later, the United States is still trying to overthrow Cuba's government, and still misusing the dark arts of secrecy and deniability to obscure the facts; with consequences so familiar, it is as if a new generation of public officials has risen to power ignorant of their country's history."

The United States and Cuba Should Play Ball , Reps. David Bonior and Tom Downey, Roll Call

Representatives David Bonior (MI-12) and Tom Downey (NY-2) reflect on their recent visit to Cuba, arguing that it is time for great engagement between the two nations. Bonior and Downey encourage president Obama to take steps to "ease travel and open opportunities for the private sector" because sanctions against Cuba have only "hamper[ed] the success of the very type of market reforms that the embargo was supposed to bring about."

Coming soon, a spring thaw with Cuba? , Rafael Hernández, Los Angeles Times

Rafael Hernández, editor of the Cuban periodical *Temas*, makes the case for greater engagement by the U.S. with Cuba, on issues ranging from the island's new role in the regional economy, to the historic concerns of the U.S. with human rights. He says, "Dialogue and discreet diplomacy - what the Canadians call 'constructive engagement' - have functioned better than external pressure toward Cuba. The Vatican and the European Union , which could hardly be suspected of sympathizing with the Cuban government, can bear witness to that approach."

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Cuba's Emerging Entrepreneurs: Update One Year On , Richard Feinberg, Brookings Institution

Richard Feinberg, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, returned to Cuba to check in with the entrepreneurs he interviewed for his 2013 work "Soft Landing in Cuba? Emerging Entrepreneurs and Middle Classes."

Makers of political decisions can save people from amputation , Lisandra Díaz Padrón, Progreso Weekly

Lisandra Díaz Padrón interviews Jorge Berlanga, "the father of Heberprot-P", the breakthrough treatment for foot ulcers associated with diabetes. U.S. sanctions against Cuba prevent the sale of Heberprot-P in the U.S.

Recommended Viewing

Cuban Artist Tomás Sánchez Shows Works in Cuba after 27 Years , Irina Icharry, The Havana Times

Irina Icharry profiles Tomás Sánchez, a Cuban artist who recently presented his first exposition on the island in 27 years.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
HRCrapid@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/14/2015 11:39:47 AM
Subject: RE: POLITICO Breaking News

If anyone needs this….

[BACKGROUND/NO QUOTE]

Hillary Clinton has tapped three heavyweights to lead the policy team on her campaign in the roles of senior policy advisors – Maya Harris, Ann O'Leary, and Jake Sullivan

The three of them will handle Clinton's domestic and foreign policy portfolios, and each brings a well-respected and broad set of experiences to her campaign.

She started a policy process last fall to review solutions to the challenges she identified as she was considering whether to run for President or not.

Once her May "Ramp Up" period is concluded, she will begin unveiling some of her policy prescriptions.

Maya Harris, Senior Policy Advisor

Most recently was Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress

Previously Vice President of Democracy, Rights and Justice at the Ford Foundation, where she led a global team in investing over $750 million to promote effective governance, increase democratic participation, and protect human rights.

Harris was also the Executive Director of the ACLU of Northern California, the nation's largest ACLU affiliate, where she led the organization in its litigation, public education, advocacy and grassroots organizing efforts.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and law degree from Stanford Law School, Harris practiced law as a civil litigator.

While in private practice, she also taught law school as an adjunct professor at U.C. Hastings College of the Law and Lincoln Law School of San Jose. Lincoln's Board of Trustees subsequently recruited Harris to serve as Dean and Chief Executive Officer, making her one of the nation's youngest law school deans at age 29. Harris later joined PolicyLink, where she conducted research and policy advocacy on community policing issues.

Ann O'Leary, Senior Policy Advisor

Most recently was senior vice president and director of the children and families program at Next Generation;

Previously, O'Leary served as executive director of the Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security Program at the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy;

From 2001 to 2003 as legislative director for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Prior to that, O'Leary served in a number of positions in the Clinton Administration, including as special assistant to the President in the Domestic Policy Council, policy advisor to the First Lady, and senior policy advisor to the Secretary of Education.

O'Leary serves on the boards of KQED and the East Bay Community Law Center; she previously served on the Obama-Biden Transition Team, where she advised the incoming Administration on early childhood education.

Jake Sullivan, Senior Policy Advisor

Jake Sullivan is a Visiting Lecturer in Law, the Oscar M. Ruebhausen Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in National Security at Yale Law School, and a Jackson Senior Fellow at Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

Until 2014 he served as a national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden.

He previously served as Director of Policy Planning at the U.S. Department of State and as deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He was deputy policy director on Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential primary campaign, and a member of the debate preparation team for Barack Obama's general election campaign.

He clerked for Judge Stephen Breyer of the Supreme Court of the United States and Judge Guido Calabresi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Sullivan holds undergraduate and law degrees from Yale and a master's degree from Oxford.

From: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com [mailto:hrcrapid@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Josh Schwerin
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 6:33 PM
To: HRCrapid@googlegroups.com
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Breaking News

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **POLITICO Breaking News** <breakingnews@politico.com >

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Date: Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 6:31 PM
Subject: POLITICO Breaking News
To: Joshschwerin@gmail.com

Hillary Clinton has named three senior policy advisers to lead the development of an agenda for her presidential campaign. The team leaders are: Maya Harris, a former senior fellow at the Center for American Progress; Ann O'Leary, a former legislative director to Clinton when she was in the Senate; and Jake Sullivan, a top aide to Clinton while she was Secretary of State and a former national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden.

The announcement is an early indication of the policy themes Clinton is likely to emphasize as she launches her campaign. Harris has a background in human rights, while O'Leary specializes in early childhood education and headed the children and families program at Next Generation, the Tom Steyer-funded advocacy group.

Sullivan, meanwhile, was a key player in laying the groundwork for the talks that led to the Obama administration's tentative agreement on Iran's nuclear program.

For more information... http://www.politico.com

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Josh Schwerin
Cell: 518-369-5469

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/20/2008 1:59:57 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Sierra Club Endorses Obama for President

For Immediate Release
June 20, 2008

Contact:
David Willet, 202-675-6698
Josh Dorner, 202-679-7570 (m)

Sierra Club Endorses Obama for President
Joins United Steelworkers, Senator Brown in Call for Clean Energy Future

Cleveland, OH: With a giant wind turbine representing America's clean energy future as a backdrop, the Sierra Club and United Steelworkers today jointly endorsed Barack Obama as the change America needs.

Carl Pope, the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, America's largest grassroots environmental organization, Leo Gerard, the leader of America's largest industrial union, and,Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown highlighted the stakes in this year's election

"We believe Senator Obama is the change our nation needs - he is the change we need, the leader who will put America on the path to a clean energy economy that will create and keep millions of jobs, spur innovation and opportunity, make us a more secure nation, and help us solve global warming," said Pope.

"The Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers are standing together in support of Barack Obama because we all share the common goal of putting America back to work by building a clean energy economy," said Leo Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers.

"Our endorsement today marks the beginning of a massive mobilization of thousands of members around the country for the campaign-on the phone, on the ground, on the airwaves and online, spreading the message that as President, Barack Obama will lead America into the clean energy future and that we support his plan to solve both our economic challenges and the challenge of global warming at the same time," said Allison Chin, President of the Sierra Club.

Senator Obama's plan will help heal America's economy and environment:

* Senator Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing climate change that relies on what the world's scientists have told us needs to be done. His plan includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

* His plan requires the polluters pay for the global warming pollution they emit, invests the money generated from the credits polluters would have to buy into clean energy, green jobs and aid for the lowest-income Americans affected by higher energy costs.

* His calls for 25 percent of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025, and for improving energy efficiency in the U.S. 50 percent

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by 2030 would create tens of thousands of jobs in growing industries while at the same time saving the amount Americans would have to spend on energy bills.

"Barack Obama has said, 'Change is an energy policy that puts a price on pollution and makes the oil companies invest their record profits in clean, renewable sources of energy that will create millions of new jobs and leave our children a safer planet.' We really could not have said it better ourselves. And that is why he is our candidate and we will do everything in our power to help elect him the next president of the United States," said Pope.

A sample of other high points of Senator Obama's environmental platform.

*Opposes destructive oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on fragile coasts.
*Opposes the storage of nuclear waste at the Yucca Mountain repository being built in southern Nevada.
*Promises to restore environmental protections that the Bush administration rolled back by executive order.
*Calls for tougher pollution regulations on factory farms or concentrated animal-feeding operations (CAFOs).
*Primary cosponsor of the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act, which aims to protect children from toxic lead poisoning.
Sierra Club was also an early backer of State Senator Barack Obama in the Democratic Primary for his run to the U.S. Senate, basing our endorsement on "his strong record of support for clean air, wetlands protection, and clean energy."

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(202) 675-6698 (w)
(202) 491-6919 (m)
david.willett@sierraclub.org
www.sierraclub.org

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/9/2015 7:07:01 AM
Subject:	HRC Clips | 2.9.15
Attachments:	20150209 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
February 9, 2015

HRC

Brazile: 2016, bumpy roads ahead to the nominations (Herald News)
Is Hillary Clinton 'likable enough'? And does it even matter? (WAPO)
Hillary Clinton lapping 2016 Democratic field in New Hampshire (Washington Times)
In N.H. poll, Bush leads GOP hopefuls (Boston Globe)
Clinton's Greatest Political Strength May Be Hiding in Plain Sight (National Journal)
Pitting politics vs. public health (Chicago Tribune)
Boris to have talks with Clinton as Mayor's roadshow hits the US (Independent)
Obama's Soft Power Could Force Clinton to Take a Hard Line (National Journal)
Working Families Party Urges Warren to Run in '16 (NYT)
Hillary vs. Warren would split Hollywood (Hill)
Bernie Sanders steps up: I am not Hillary, 'trust me' (MSNBC)

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Brazile: 2016, bumpy roads ahead to the nominations (Herald News)
By Donna Brazile
February 8, 2015
The Herald News

Less than a year from now, voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and elsewhere will gather in town centers, gymnasiums, local libraries and school cafeterias to kick off the 2016 presidential sweepstakes. Ever since the modern political process made running for president a four-year job, this is the time when potential candidates started making their public moves. So how are the two parties' races for the nomination shaping up?

Let's start with the Republican Party. With 2012 GOP nominee and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's decision not to run in 2016, I wouldn't place too much stock in any polls that show former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush or Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker leading the Republican field. Their leads reflect knee-jerk name recognition, brand loyalty, or flavor-of-the-month enthusiasm – not the kind of support that is going to see them through the next year.

If you're a Republican of my generation, you have probably voted for six presidential tickets with a Bush on it. At this point, Republicans don't so much choose a Bush as they initially acquiesce in the choice of a Bush, so a lot of what appears to be support for Jeb Bush is simply resigned indifference. If you were an active Republican in 2012, whomever you preferred for the nomination, you probably eventually ended up working hard, supporting and arguing on behalf of eventual nominee Romney. So the question is, how will you respond when faced with new and different choices?

When it comes to polling, I would be much more interested in how Republicans respond when some of the candidates are described, rather than named. For instance, what if a survey described Ohio's Gov. John Kasich's credentials? Mail carrier's son, former chairman of the House Budget Committee, two-term governor of the pivotal state of Ohio, re-elected overwhelmingly with support from Democrats and independents. Republican primary voters need to start looking at the resumes of their candidates with the names removed.

Of the Republicans' two legacy candidates – Bush, and Rand Paul, whose fathers both ran for president – it's hard to predict who will have an upper hand with conservative voters. I predict that Bush's establishment support will melt away. His residual rank-and-file support will find its way to Paul and other candidates. But it's hard to write off Bush. People who have made careers writing off Bushes have generally had short careers.

Although he has a steep hill to climb, Bush is at ease with himself and with regular people. His rapport with Latino voters is just what the Republicans need. He's the former governor of the crucial swing state of Florida, and he has a conservative reformer's record that Republicans can take into a general election. His problem is whether, for voters in the general election, three Bushes are one too many, particularly since most voters remember the eight Clinton years more fondly than the 12 combined Bush years.

As has been the case in recent elections, the Republican field is crowded with minor candidates who generate a lot of smoke but never seem to catch fire for long. They tend to be rabble-rousers, holy rollers, regional candidates and Fox News favorites. Most of them stand an excellent chance of succeeding, but only in their real goal, which is either to push the party in the direction of their agenda or to use their candidacy to raise their own profile and potential in the world of conservative media.

On the Democratic side, it's likely we end up with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Joe Biden, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia and a few others. Clinton is the front-runner before anyone – including her – has even begun running. She's way ahead even while everyone is still at the starting line.

Clinton could have a Democratic challenger coming at her from the left or from the right, but whoever it is, they would have to come at her from way below her in the polls. The main questions for the Democrats are if Clinton will be challenged within the party and whether that would help or hurt her.

It's possible that a credible primary challenger could help Clinton sharpen her campaigning and debate skills before the general election contest begins. But she hardly lacks campaign experience, and primary contests can be costly. People say that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but in presidential primaries, if it doesn't kill you, it still drains your campaign war chest.

While the Republicans face a tough battle with each other, Clinton has what is the equivalent of a first-round bye in the playoffs. The fact that Democrats have a clear front-runner and the Republicans don't is a problem for Republicans, and a clear advantage to Clinton. Before the Republicans can beat her, they have to beat each other – and as we saw in the vicious GOP primary battles of 2012, they have a tendency to beat each other rather severely. The Republicans face a bruising primary season. The only things liable to get bruised on the Democratic side are egos.

The upshot is that at this point, neither party has much of a race. The Democrats have a lopsided contest (but not a foregone conclusion), and the Republicans have less of a race and more like something that resembles a rugby scrum. It remains to be seen if the eventual winner in 2016 is someone whose candidacy was seemingly ordained, or one who emerged from a chaotic clash.

Donna Brazile is a senior Democratic strategist, a political commentator and contributor to CNN and ABC News, and a contributing columnist to Ms. Magazine and O, the Oprah Magazine.

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Is Hillary Clinton 'likable enough'? And does it even matter? (WAPO)
By Aaron Blake
February 9, 2015
The Washington Post

A new poll of the 2016 New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary shows pretty much what every other poll has shown: Hillary Rodham Clinton leads by a very wide margin.

The University of New Hampshire survey shows the former secretary of state taking 58 percent of the vote. It also shows about six in 10 likely Democratic primary voters consider her the strongest leader (58 percent) and about two-thirds say she would have the best odds of winning in the general election (66 percent) and has the most experience to be president (68 percent).

Candidate Qualities

A majority of likely primary voters (58%) view Hillary Clinton as the strongest leader in the field. Nearly a third (31%) of likely voters view Clinton as the most believable followed by Warren at 22% and Biden at 13%. Thirty-two percent (32%) say Clinton is the most likeable candidate followed by Joe Biden at 22%.

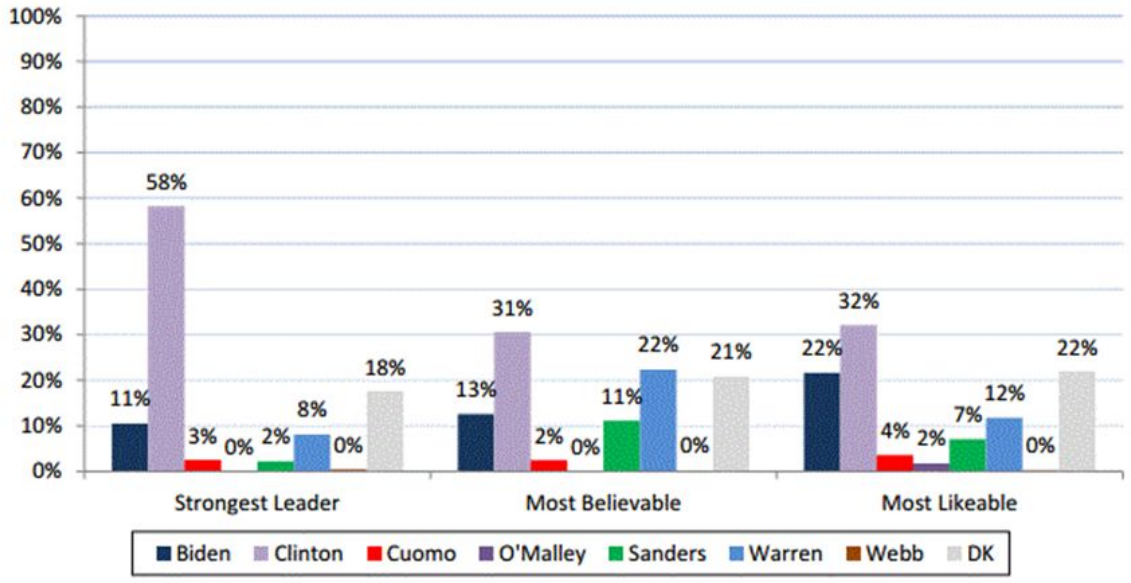

But then there are a couple of other ways in which the poll asked voters to compare Clinton to her fellow Democrats. In contrast to the numbers above, only about one-third viewed Clinton as the "most believable" (31 percent), and about the same proportion labeled her the "most likable" (32 percent).

If you just had a little twinge of deja vu, it's because this question has stalked Clinton before. Back in the 2008 Democratic primary, there was plenty of chatter about precisely how likable she was and whether it was holding her campaign back.

The culmination of this was Clinton being asked -- at a New Hampshire debate, no less -- about these criticisms. "Well that hurts my feelings," she deadpanned. Barack Obama then interjected, in a moment of unhelpful candor, that Clinton was "likable enough."

So, to recap, six in 10 New Hampshire Democratic primary voters think Clinton is their candidate, but just three in 10 say she's the most likable.

On some level, we'll concede, this is kind of dumb. Many think that the likability question is asked of Clinton only because she's a woman, and that men aren't held to the same standards. My colleague Nia-Malika Henderson noted this alleged dichotomy last month, with one noted expert saying voters do indeed judge female candidates on likability in a way that doesn't apply to men.

But regardless of whether it's fair, it's a question that has followed Clinton. And even if it's a double standard, it's still a potentially real factor for her when it comes to getting people to vote for her -- at least theoretically.

The good news for Clinton is that, at least at the outset of the 2016 campaign, it's less an issue than it was for her in 2008.

A poll conducted by the Pew Research Center last year showed that 36 percent of Americans said Clinton was "hard to like." That number was 51 percent in March 2008 and 53 percent in April 2008, at the height of her primary contest with Obama.

But it's not just Republicans who consider this a problem for her. Twenty percent of Democrats said she was "hard to like," along with 39 percent of independents. Those are real numbers.

The question from there, though, is does it even matter? Even if it is a hindrance for Clinton, it seems pretty unlikely that it would lose her a primary in which she is the overwhelming favorite. From there, in the general election, partisanship largely takes over, and there are very few voters who are actually up for grabs and could potentially be swayed by whatever likability issues Clinton has.

And even if a fair amount of swing voters think Clinton is "hard to like," that doesn't necessarily mean they wouldn't vote for her. Other considerations, after all, do come into play.

The likability thing might have hurt Clinton somewhat in a primary with the buzzy and very personally likable Obama. And it's possible that it could flare up again as the 2016 campaign gets off the ground.

But without that kind of Obama-esque contrast and with many potentially major issues on the table ahead of the general election, we have a hard time seeing lots of people voting against Clinton because they don't want to have a beer with her.

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Hillary Clinton lapping 2016 Democratic field in New Hampshire (Washington Times)
By David Sherfinski
February 9, 2015
Washington Times

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has a sizable lead over possible Democratic rivals in the early primary state of New Hampshire in a new poll, as she takes steps toward a possible 2016 run for president.

Mrs. Clinton is the first choice of 56 percent of likely 2016 Democratic primary voters, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts at 15 percent and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont Independent, at 8 percent apiece.

Some have been calling on Ms. Warren to enter the race as an alternative to Mrs. Clinton, and The New York Times reported that leaders of New York's Working Families Party on Sunday formally encouraged Mrs. Warren to enter the race.

But Ms. Warren has rejected the entreaties and has said she is not running.

Mrs. Clinton is actually viewed more favorably among Democratic primary voters than is Ms. Warren in the poll. Eighty-nine percent have a favorable view of Mrs. Clinton, compared to 9 percent who have an unfavorable one.

Sixty-four percent have a favorable view of Ms. Warren, compared to 14 percent who view her unfavorably.

The Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm College poll, conducted Jan. 31-Feb. 5 by Purple Strategies, includes a sample of 400 Democratic primary voters that carries a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent points.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

In N.H. poll, Bush leads GOP hopefuls (Boston Globe)
By James Pindell
February 9, 2015
The Boston Globe

The first poll of New Hampshire Republicans conducted entirely after former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney said he was not running for president in 2016 offers good news and bad news for Jeb Bush.

The good news: Bush, the former governor of Florida, tops the Republican field in the state that traditionally holds the nation's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

The bad news: Bush is deeply unpopular among general election voters in New Hampshire, which is also a critical swing state.

A new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm College poll showed that in the Republican primary, Bush has 16 percent support, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky has 13 percent, and Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin has 12 percent. Statistically, with the poll's margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent, all three are tied.

The poll of 400 Republican voters and 503 general election voters was conducted by Purple Insights from Jan. 31 through Feb. 5.

Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey, who experts say must win New Hampshire to have any shot at the Republican nomination, netted 10 percent support. All other prospective candidates were in single digits.

Potential Republican primary voters in New Hampshire said Bush's advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform and for the Common Core education standards were "deal killers" for at least one in five of them.

That said, roughly the same share of Republicans said Bush was the best opponent to face Democrat Hillary Clinton in the general election should she enter the race.

This does not mean that Bush would win the state's four electoral votes in the general election.

When comparing how Granite State voters view Bush and Clinton, Bush's unfavorable rating among general election voters is 50 percent, compared with 35 percent favorable.

Clinton, on the other hand, has a 54 percent favorable rating and a 42 percent unfavorable rating among those voters.

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Clinton's Greatest Political Strength May Be Hiding in Plain Sight (National Journal)

By Ronald Brownstein
February 9, 2015
National Journal

Much of the debate about Hillary Rodham Clinton's potential appeal to female voters may be focusing on the wrong group of women.

Probably the most frequently-asked question about Clinton's possible coalition as a Democratic nominee in 2016 is whether she can win back the working-class white women who have moved away from her party since 1996. On that issue, the evidence is ambivalent from months of early polling that pits Clinton against potential Republican nominees.

But polls over the past year almost invariably have found Clinton improving--often substantially--over President Obama's lackluster 2012 performance among white-collar white women.

Those college-educated white women have been the fastest-growing part of the white electorate in recent years. If Clinton as a nominee could cement the gains she's shown among those women in most national and state polls over the past year, she would present Republicans with a formidable demographic challenge, even without improving among any other white voters. Her greatest potential strength, in other words, may be hiding in plain sight: her potential connection to the white-collar white women who most resemble her.

All polls of the 2016 race at this point are recording only distant impressions long before most voters have seriously focused on their choices. The actual campaign, and events yet to occur, will inevitably scramble the equation.

Yet, especially with a candidate as familiar as Clinton, these early soundings can be viewed as a kind of rebuttable presumption: they sketch the coalition that may naturally gravitate to her unless opponents present them with a case not to.

The contours of a potential Clinton coalition were sketched in the three Quinnipiac University polls released last week in the key swing states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Obama won all of them in 2012, and any Democrat who wins at least two of the three would be in a commanding position to assemble an Electoral College majority in 2016.

The Quinnipiac results reinforced other early surveys in showing the potential for Clinton to improve on Obama's 2012 performance among white-collar white women--and perhaps also notch some gains with their blue-collar counterparts. Despite all the focus on the gender gap, Obama won in 2012 while capturing only 42 percent of all white women, according to exit polls. That was the weakest performance for any Democratic nominee since Walter Mondale in 1984, leaving plenty of room for Clinton to grow if she wins the Democratic nomination.

The most consistent note in the new Quinnipiac surveys was Clinton's strength among college-educated white women. Those women--most of them liberal on cultural issues and many more open than most other whites to an activist role for government--have provided Democratic presidential candidates the most reliable support in the white community since Bill Clinton's first election. The Democratic presidential nominee carried them in 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2008, and essentially split them in 2004. But in 2012, Obama lost ground with them, falling back to 46 percent nationally, the weakest performance among them for any Democratic nominee since Michael Dukakis in 1988.

According to detailed results provided by Quinnipiac to Next America, the new surveys show Clinton notably improving on Obama's performance among those well-educated white women in each of these three key states. The Quinnipiac Polls were conducted via landline and cell phone in each state from January 22 through February 1.

In Florida, Obama won 43 percent of college-educated white women in 2008 and 42 percent in 2012. The new surveys found Clinton drawing 50 percent of them against former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, 53 percent against New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and 55 percent against Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

In Ohio, Obama carried a 52 percent majority of those women in 2008, but slipped back to 47 percent in 2012, while Mitt Romney won 51 percent. Compared to Obama's four-point Ohio deficit among the college white women, the Quinnipiac polls show them providing Clinton an edge of seven points over Bush, 17 over Christie, and 22 over Paul. (The Ohio poll produced a much larger undecided share among upscale women than the other two surveys.)

And in Pennsylvania, where Obama won 55 percent of those women in 2008 but tumbled to just 44 percent in 2012, Clinton displayed the most strength. The Quinnipiac Polls showed her at 56 percent among them against Christie, 58 percent against Bush, and 62 percent against Paul.

By contrast, the Quinnipiac Polls show considerably less strength for Clinton among non-college white women. Those so-called waitress moms have given most of their votes to Republicans in each election since Bill Clinton carried a plurality of them in 1996. Nationally, Obama carried just 39 percent of them in 2012.

In Florida, Obama won only 36 percent of the "waitress moms" in 2008 and 40 percent in 2012. The Quinnipiac polls place Clinton squarely in that range, at 36 percent among them against Bush, 41 percent against Paul, and 43 percent against Christie. But because large numbers of these women remain undecided in the survey, Clinton leads Christie with them, and only trails Paul narrowly while still facing a double-digit deficit against Bush.

In Ohio, Obama won 44 percent of these women in 2008 and 45 percent in 2012. That wasn't an overwhelming performance, but it was enough above his national showing to help him carry the state. The Quinnipiac surveys show Clinton settling exactly in that range, drawing 44 percent against Christie, and 45 percent against both Bush and Paul. Again, though, because of a large undecided contingent, Clinton leads against all three with those women.

The surveys showed Clinton making the clearest gains among blue-collar women in Pennsylvania. Obama posted nearly identical showings there with these women--47 percent in 2008 and 46 percent in 2012. Quinnipiac found Clinton attracting 49 percent of them against both Christie and Bush, and 53 percent against Paul. While Obama lost these women by seven points in 2012 and four in 2008, Clinton leads with them against all three Republicans.

The results were similar in polls from NBC News and Marist College last summer in Iowa and New Hampshire. Matched again against Christie, Paul and Bush, those surveys showed her attracting just under half of non-college white women in both states. But against all three men, she drew 52-54 percent of college white women in Iowa, and exactly 64 percent of them in New Hampshire. National Quinnipiac surveys last year testing Clinton against all three men also put her at 50 percent or more among college-plus white women, and generally at 40-45 percent among non-college white women.

Veteran Democratic pollster Geoff Garin, a senior strategist for Clinton during her 2008 primary campaign, notes that she ran very well among working-class white women during that contest against Obama. "The question is whether she can reconnect to non-college educated white women the same way she was doing at the end of her 2008 campaign," Garin says. "If she can, that has the potential to change the arithmetic. But I think that answer is yet to be determined." By contrast, he said, there's more evidence in early polling that college white-women "are with her. We see that very clearly."

With other groups of voters, the new Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Quinnipiac polls show Clinton largely tracking Obama's 2012 performance. The polls give her cavernous leads among African-Americans--though with a large undecided bloc, her support doesn't yet quite match Obama's 2012 performances in Ohio and Florida. (It's already close in Pennsylvania.) Her showings in the three states among white men without a college education are consistently weak, but not noticeably worse than Obama's numbers with them when he won each of these three states twice. In Ohio, for instance, Obama won 44 percent of blue-collar white men in 2008 and 39 percent in 2012. The Quinnipiac polls put Clinton at 39 percent of them against Christie, 40 percent against Paul, and 42 percent against Bush. (Again, because a substantial portion remains undecided, Clinton's deficits in the polls among these men in all three states are much smaller than Obama's in 2012.)

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Her performance among college-educated white men in the surveys also generally follows close to Obama's share in 2012. In Ohio, for instance, Obama tumbled from 47 percent with those men in 2008 to 33 percent in 2012; Clinton draws 34 percent of them against Christie, 35 percent against Bush, and 37 percent against Paul. The same caveat applies to these results: because of large undecided populations, her deficits among these men are much smaller than Obama's in 2012.

Still, these polls present results that are largely consistent across the states--and also consonant with those other national and state polls measuring Clinton's early appeal. Almost everything could change once the campaign is actually joined. But for now, surveys like these Quinnipiac polls generally show some modest opportunities for Clinton to improve among working-class white women and little change relative to Obama's meager 2012 standing among both blue-collar and white-collar men. With minority voters, she remains in a very strong position, though Republicans argue it's unproven that African-Americans will turn out for her at the rates they did for Obama.

The big opening signaled by these polls is her opportunity to recover from Obama's 2012 trough among college-educated white women. That's an especially ominous prospect for Republicans because those upscale women have steadily increased their share of the electorate since the 1980s. If those trends continue, in 2016 they could cast more of the national vote than either college or non-college white men, or the waitress moms. Clinton's biggest boost over Obama might come from nothing more complex than consolidating her most natural supporters.

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Pitting politics vs. public health (Chicago Tribune)
By Clarence Page
February 8, 2015
Chicago Tribune

Is support for childhood vaccinations a partisan issue? Polls indicate that it isn't, yet Republicans appear to be getting stung by this needle more than Democrats are.

The question has come up after Republican presidential hopefuls Chris Christie and Rand Paul said that parents should have a choice and not be required by law to immunize their children.

Paul, a U.S. senator and licensed ophthalmologist from Kentucky, went further in a CNBC interview. He expressed belief in a link between vaccines and "profound mental disorders," even though the only study that claimed such a link was later debunked.

Christie, the New Jersey governor who famously and unnecessarily confined a nurse on the suspicion that she might have Ebola, clarified his immunization stance a bit after a backlash. Scientific support for vaccination was "pretty indisputable," he said.

President Barack Obama and other leading presidential hopefuls in both parties also urged parents to get their kids vaccinated, while mostly tiptoeing around the question of whether the vaccine should be required.

Among Democrats, Hillary Clinton, still holding the Democratic field pretty much to herself, tweeted confidence: "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork." Obama on NBC's "Today" show similarly urged parents to get their kids vaccinated.

As parents who refuse to vaccinate their kids, often called "anti-vaxxers," receive widespread blame for a resurgence of measles in this country, a partisan dispute has arisen over which anti-vaxxers to blame: upper-income, organic-food-buying liberals or libertarian, anti-government, tea party conservatives?

After all, conservatives have been quick to point out, the new measles epidemic originated in politically blue California, one of the states that offers a variety of voluntary "personal belief" exemptions to parents who want to opt out of mandatory vaccine requirements.

Red-state Mississippi, by comparison, offers no religious exemption for vaccines, has the highest compliance rate in the country and hasn't had a reported measles case in two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Liberals respond that, while anti-vaxxers certainly exist on the left -- and some even fit the stereotypes about yuppie organic-food shoppers -- they have essentially no political influence as a group. Since the Bill Clinton era, the Democratic Party has tried to corral its fringe elements, while Republicans have struggled between their right wing and their far-right wing.

Even so, on the "vaxx" issue, a new Pew Research Center poll finds the divide falls along lines of generations more than politics. While strong majorities across the board support vaccination, about one-third of Republicans and also of independents say parents should make the decision about immunizations, compared with 22 percent of Democrats.

Interestingly, Pew found no such divide between Democrats and Republicans in 2009, the pollsters said.

That's a disturbing development on several levels. If vaccine denialism becomes like climate change and Obama's birth certificate, issues to be divided by political leanings more than evidence, we are likely to see an increase in anti-vaxx refuseniks and a larger pool of vulnerable, unvaccinated children to spread more dangerous diseases.

Critics on the right point out that both Obama and Hillary Clinton raised questions in 2008 about a possible link between vaccines and autism. That's true. But two years later, the only study that claimed such a link was retracted by the medical journal that published it and its author lost his medical license.

Yet the lie persists, partly because of something called "confirmation bias," a fancy way of saying that we believe what we want to believe.

New evidence is offered by a major new study in the journal Pediatrics led by political scientist Brendan Nyhan of Dartmouth College.

In testing four separate pro-vaccine messages, including three that the CDC uses, the study found none of the messages increased the intent of parents to vaccinate their children -- and in several cases actually increased the unfounded belief that vaccines cause autism.

Such grim determination by many humans to believe the worst offers a tempting territory for politicians who are not above pandering to fears and suspicions. But when our elected leaders fear the criticism of anti-vaxx factions more than they fear for public health, it leaves all of us more exposed.

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Boris to have talks with Clinton as Mayor's roadshow hits the US (Independent)
Pippa Crerar
February 9, 2015
The Independent

Boris Johnson will sit down for talks with Hillary Clinton this week during a six-day US tour seen by some as preparation for a future Conservative leadership bid.

The Mayor of London's meeting with the former US Secretary of State, the Democrat frontrunner to be the next President, is his highest profile yet in a busy few months of building relationships with international power brokers.

Last night Mr Johnson told The Independent he was "reconciled" to people reading whatever they wanted into his foreign visits but claimed his primary aim was to promote London rather than himself.

The Mayor, who has been eager to demonstrate a more statesmanlike image before the general election, also hopes to visit Japan, Israel and Turkey before the end of his mayoralty in 2016, although this could be difficult to combine with a cabinet post.

He has been selected as Tory candidate for Uxbridge and South Ruislip in the general election, and is expected to be fast-tracked to the front bench.

His aides denied the US trip was deliberately timed to generate maximum coverage just a few months before the general election, claiming it had been years in the planning.

The first part of the tour - which begins in Boston before heading to New York and Washington - could be hit by bad weather. The Boston authorities are advising people to stay at home because of the threat of a severe snow storm.

Last month Mr Johnson flew to meet the Kurdish Prime Minister. He was pictured taking aim with an AK47 alongside Peshmerga soldiers fighting against Isis. Critics in the London Assembly claim he has "mentally checked out" of his mayoral role.

At the end of last year Mr Johnson spent six days in the Far East, visiting Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Singapore to meet heads of state, in addition to drumming up business for London. He has already travelled to India, China and the Gulf on official business.

The talks in New York on Wednesday will be the first time Mr Johnson has met Senator Clinton, although he has previously been introduced to her husband, former US President Bill Clinton, as well as to President Obama.

City Hall sources said the pair would discuss the war in Syria and Iraq and the threat posed by Isis to both the region and Western cities. The conversation is almost certain to touch on the general election in May and the US presidential race next year.

Mr Johnson, who was born in New York and has dual citizenship, hopes he could meet Ms Clinton in future as PM. He also met Republican presidential hopefuls Jeb Bush and Chris Christie when they visited the UK recently.

The talks with Ms Clinton were confirmed as the Mayor flew into Boston - and a severe snowstorm - last night on the first day of his whistlestop tour.

Mr Johnson will visit MIT and Harvard in Boston, hold talks with Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York in Manhattan and then go on to attend a Congressional reception being held in Washington, DC.

There will be no shortage of picture opportunities as he meets business tycoons, top scientists, figures from the worlds of theatre and fashion and New York City's police chief "supercop" Bill Bratton.

Mr Johnson will also visit the Smithsonian museum in Washington, which is considering an outpost in London.

His face will crop up on a host of American television networks - including CNN and MSNBC - as well as in major newspapers and at a reception hosted by the British Ambassador in Washington.

CULTURE CLASH

THE NEW YORK COUNTERPART

Over his first five years as Mayor of London, Boris Johnson became firm friends with his New York counterpart Michael Bloomberg, staging joint events where they teased and praised one another in equal measure.

Johnson admired the New York Mayor's business clout and philanthropic instinct, envied his huge wealth and sophistication, and shared his competitive streak and love of publicity.

But when he meets Bloomberg's successor, Bill de Blasio (pictured), it will be a more cautious affair. From different ends of the social and political spectrum, they will harbour suspicions.

To de Blasio, Boris is the privileged champion of business who wants to cut taxes for the wealthy.

Boris sees the New York mayor as a bleeding-heart liberal who wants to tackle inequality by raising taxes on the super-rich and has overseen a schism between City Hall and the NYPD.

Our mayor is an outrageous self-publicist, theirs much more reserved.

But the two politicians also have much in common - both are laid back and personable, with mixed-race families and a socially liberal outlook on life.

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And crucially, both men were born in Manhattan in the early 1960s. If the politics stalls, the New Yorker spirit could yet prevail.

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Obama's Soft Power Could Force Clinton to Take a Hard Line (National Journal)

By James Oliphant
February 8, 2015
National Journal

President Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, outlined a foreign policy blueprint Friday for the president's remaining time in office. It's big on nuance, patience, and team-building, short on near-term solutions—and potentially a headache for the next Democratic presidential nominee.

Rice's remarks, which were part of the rollout of a new formal administration national security policy statement, came at the close of a week in which Obama's strategy for defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria again fell under fierce criticism in the wake of the gruesome staged execution of a Jordanian Air Force pilot.

Beyond reaffirming its alliance with Jordan, the White House treated the incident with a business-as-usual air, insisting that its restrained approach against the Islamic State is paying off. While outrage erupted in Jordan and across the Arab world, Obama and his aides kept cool and stayed the course.

Rice's remarks Friday at the Brookings Institution were very much in keeping with that posture. She admonished the White House's critics at the outset, warning against what she called inside-the-Beltway "alarmism" about the threat posed by IS (as well as by Vladimir Putin's Russia). "What's missing here in D.C. is a sense of perspective," she said.

The Islamic State and other terrorist groups, Rice said, do not pose a threat "of an existential nature" to the United States. Obama had said something similar a week earlier in an interview. (And it seemed somewhat at odds with the picture Obama painted last summer when trying to drum up public support for U.S. intervention.) That dismissiveness is likely to further inflame those who say the administration isn't taking the jihadist threat seriously enough—and it may put Hillary Clinton, should she run for president, in an uncomfortable position.

Where she's been able to, Clinton has subtly—and not necessarily effectively—tried to keep some distance from Obama's foreign policy, an effort hamstrung by her own tenure as the president's secretary of State. The restatement of that policy, which clearly views the the Islamic State as a small part of a very large global picture, may force her to do more in that regard.

The administration may not be doing her any favors in embracing a national security approach, as described by Rice, that de-emphasizes America's military role, encourages the use of the tools of "soft power," such as diplomacy and social media, and plays up coalition-building over going it alone. While it may be a strategy that recognizes, as the White House says, the complexities of the 21st-century world and a war-weary populace, it may be tougher to defend against a GOP presidential nominee certain to take a harder line. Particularly if demonstrable progress against Islamic State hasn't been shown.

The hand-wringing over Obama's approach toward IS largely has been symbolizedby the escalating debate over the president's steadfast refusal to call the fight what critics say it is: a global struggle against radical Islam. Perhaps the most blistering recent critique came from the former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, who at a conference in Washington last week blasted the administration's unwillingness to paint the fight in more epic terms.

"You cannot defeat an enemy you do not admit exists," Flynn said, in remarks first reported by The Daily Beast, adding that the Obama administration wants "us to think that our challenge is dealing with an undefined set of violent extremists or merely lone-wolf actors with no ideology or network. But that's just not the straight truth.... Our adversaries around the world are self-described Islamic militants—they say."

Characterizing the stakes in terms like those is exactly what the White House has been trying to avoid. As recently as last weekend, in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, Obama resisted any suggestion that the U.S. was enmeshed in an ideological conflict. "I think we do ourselves a disservice in this fight if we are not taking into account the fact that the overwhelming majority of Muslims reject this ideology," the president said.

That position, White House aides say, is rooted in a desire to not elevate or legitimize the fever-dream that animates the terrorist group and is central to its recruiting propaganda: that it is fighting in the name of a fundamentalist form of Islam. Another pressing concern has been to avoid antagonizing Muslim communities in the U.S and abroad, where trust and cooperation is necessary to identify potential radical elements, and where the administration can't risk sounding like it's demonizing the religion as a whole.

Even some progressive think tanks believe Obama is being a little too careful. "I understand why they do that, but I do think there is something particular about Islamic extremism that needs to be recognized," says Brian Katulis, a national security analyst at the Center for American Progress. But he adds, "I'm less concerned with how they talk about it, and more concerned about what they do about it."

After the attacks in Paris last month, the French government was not as hesitant. Prime Minister Manuel Valls said that his country "is at war with terrorism, jihadism, and radical Islamism."

Clinton's challenge is that she has, at times, sounded more like Flynn than like Obama. In a speech in Ottawa, Canada late last year, she warned that Islamic State forces were "jihadist" and "expansionary"—an ideological-based enemy determined to take territory. ("Jihadist " is another word Obama won't use.)

"They believe that it is part of their mission to launch attacks, to infiltrate through foreign fighters into Western societies," Clinton said then. "If that were not the case, then we could have a different debate. I think the evidence is convincing, at least to me, that this is a group that will try to pick up where al-Qaida in Afghanistan left off."

This is the same al-Qaida which, in Rice's words Friday, has been "decimated." But Rice also cautioned that "fighting terrorism is a long-term struggle. There will be setbacks. There will be no one-size-fits-all solutions."

In Washington-speak, that means this will all soon be a new president's problem, whether it's Clinton or someone else. But before that happens, Clinton will face new pressure to make clear how she will handle it.

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Working Families Party Urges Warren to Run in '16 (NYT)
By Alexander Burns
February 9, 2015
The New York Times

Leaders of New York's Working Families Party on Sunday urged Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to seek the Democratic nomination for president next year, formally calling on her to enter the 2016 race for the White House.

By voting to encourage a Warren candidacy, the Working Families Party became the latest liberal group to support her as a potential primary challenger to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has not formally announced that she will seek the Democratic nomination but is the presumed favorite.

Several organizations on the left, led by MoveOn.org and Democracy for America, have already organized a campaign designed to lure Ms. Warren, with her brand of economic populism, into making a bid for the presidency.

''We know a champion for working families when we see one,'' Bill Lipton, New York State director of the Working Families Party, said. ''The only thing better than watching Elizabeth Warren take Wall Street to task from the Senate would be helping her bring our issues to the center of the national debate.''

Ms. Warren, who is beloved among liberals as a fierce critic of what she sees as the abuses of the financial industry, has repeatedly ruled out running for president in 2016. Lacey Rose, a spokeswoman for the senator, reiterated that stance in an email on Sunday. ''As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president and doesn't support these draft campaigns,'' Ms. Rose wrote.

The Working Families Party, led by a coalition of activists, liberal advocacy groups and labor unions, deliberated on an early-evening conference call before voting to encourage Ms. Warren to join the campaign. Party officials declined to share the tally of the vote.

The pro-Warren vote comes at a potentially awkward moment for New York Democrats, who have sought to draw their party's 2016 presidential nominating convention to New York City. Mayor Bill de Blasio has aggressively promoted the bid on the national stage, where Democrats aligned with Mrs. Clinton hold powerful sway.

Although Mr. de Blasio has a longstanding relationship with the Working Families Party, party officials said that neither the mayor nor his staff had played a role in the group's deliberations involving Ms. Warren.

Several Working Families leaders stressed that the vote was not meant as a rejection of Mrs. Clinton, who twice earned the party's endorsement as a candidate for the United States Senate.

''It's a vote in the context of two undeclared candidates for president,'' said Ed Ott, former head of the New York City Central Labor Council. ''What the Warren vote reflects is that people want a Democratic Party with a spine.''

Javier Valdes, executive director of Make the Road Action Fund, a Latino-oriented liberal group, characterized the vote as a statement of enthusiasm for a competitive primary. ''Secretary Clinton has had a strong track record with our community and what we really want here is a strong debate about Democratic values and working family values,'' Mr. Valdes, a Working Families Party leader, said.

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Hillary vs. Warren would split Hollywood (Hill)
By Judy Kurtz
February 9, 2015
The Hill

A battle between Hillary Clinton and Sen. Elizabeth Warren could easily divide entertainers, creating a showdown that might split Hollywood and force A-list stars to choose sides.

The lines are already being drawn in the fight for La La Land's love, with the former secretary of State not yet officially in the 2016 Democratic presidential race and the Massachusetts Democrat professing a lack of interest.
"They draw on different parts of the artistic community," Darrell West, author of the book "Celebrity Politics," tells ITK. "Warren, being more liberal, does very well among progressive artists, various Hollywood stars who worry the Democratic Party has become too centrist."

Entertainers including Susan Sarandon, Olivia Wilde, Edward Norton and Mark Ruffalo have all signed on to support Warren. Celebs in the 65-year-old lawmaker's camp, West says, welcome her "populist rhetoric."

After banding together to form a group called "Artists for Warren," more than 90 performers penned an open letter last week urging the freshman senator to make a White House bid.

"Senator Warren, we're ready to show you that you have the support needed to enter this presidential race," the message stated, which was signed by celebrities including "Fahrenheit 9/11" director Michael Moore, "Big Love's" Chloe Sevigny, Julia Stiles and Natasha Lyonne, among others.

"There are a lot of people in grassroots organizations pushing for Senator Warren to run in 2016. This same sentiment exists in the Hollywood community," Kathryn Cramer Brownell, an assistant professor of history at Purdue University said.

In a video posted on Vanity Fair's website, "Firecatcher" and "The Avengers" star Ruffalo lauded Warren, saying, "She's someone that gets the progressive values that I believe we all share." He added, "We don't know that she's going to run, so we're sort of taking a leap of faith. But that's the only way to really implement the changes that need to be changed in the world today."

Clinton, however, generally appeals to a different type of Hollywood heavyweight, says West, the Brookings Institution's vice president and director of governance studies. "I think with Hillary Clinton, she attracts celebrities who are more pragmatic and are interested in winning, regardless of what the political message is," he added.

Some of Hollywood's biggest A-listers have said they'd buy a ticket to see Clinton storm the 2016 campaign box office. Music chart topper Katy Perry, George Clooney, big-time Democratic donor Barbra Streisand, "Happy" singer Pharrell Williams, Eva Longoria, Ashley Judd, and Elton John have all expressed support for the former first lady.

Longoria, a 2012 Obama campaign co-chairwoman, said as far back as 2013 that she would "absolutely" campaign for Clinton in the next race for the White House. "Lord of the Rings" actress Liv Tyler rooted Clinton on during a 2014 fashion shoot, donning a "Hillary for President" t-shirt in a series of glam images.

Brownell, the author of the recently released "Showbiz Politics: Hollywood in American Politics," says it'll be "fascinating" to see how Clinton uses her celeb cache. "I think Hillary Clinton is really a political celebrity herself," she said. "I think that Hollywood celebrities will be key in fundraising for her, using entertainment events to help raise a lot of money."

"The Clintons have been around for 20 years so they've had plenty of opportunities to cultivate artists and actors. So they're basically getting the pragmatic problem-solvers," West says.

Although Clinton, 67, is a veteran of the political arena, Brownell says Warren — who has repeatedly denied she'll be throwing her hat in the presidential ring in 2016 — may actually come out on top in terms of the number of Hollywood-types showing her the love. Having "prominent people to urge her to run created a groundswell of enthusiasm and support" for the former lawyer and professor, says Brownell. "I think celebrities would play a more prominent place in her campaign to generate excitement surrounding the potential of her candidacy."

And while there's a danger of appearing "too Hollywood," West says if Warren or Clinton were to run, they would likely embrace the entertainers who are publicly cheering them on.

"They provide credibility especially early in a campaign. It's a way to demonstrate that your campaign is able to attract famous people," says West. "It's the age of celebrity in which we live, so having star power is part of contemporary politics."

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Bernie Sanders steps up: I am not Hillary, 'trust me' (MSNBC)
By Alex Seitz-Wald
February 9, 2015
MSNBC

HARRISBURG, Penn. – Organizers with Keystone Progress invited Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders to speak at the annual conference here this weekend. Sanders showed up.

The Independent senator from Vermont is actively considering a presidential run in 2016, and hopes to tap into progressive grassroots networks like this one for a potential underdog challenge to all-but-declared Democratic frontrunner Clinton.

The desire for an alternative to Clinton was clear among the 800 rank-and-file activists, labor organizers, and local elected officials here. But he's stuck between Clinton on one hand and Warren on the other, who so far tops many progressives' fantasy draft presidential ticket.

"Hillary Clinton doesn't come up in our conversations as being a progressive," said Franklin Country Democratic Party Chair Sheri Morgan, who was manning the Progressive Democrats of America booth offering "Run, Bernie, Run" swag.

Sanders himself promised "real differences" with Clinton in an interview with msnbc's Steve Kornacki before his keynote speech Saturday. "Trust me, there will be a real clash of ideas," he said.

Maria Payan, who volunteered for both Obama presidential campaigns, ran up to Sanders as he left the interview and pressed a check into his hand. "I want to help with your campaign anyway I can," she said.

Payan said she likes Warren too, and the idea of woman president, but like others here, preferred Sanders at the top of a progressive dream ticket since she thought Sanders has more experience in government. "People are looking that alternative," she explained

Sanders will need a lot more checks if he hopes to imitate Obama – at least $50 million worth, according to his advisors – but he's been slow to build a fundraising or political operation. Two staffers accompanied Sanders to the event, his Senate communications director and the director of his PAC, and collected names and contact info from supporters.

In the absence of a formal campaign infrastructure, he's found allies in existing local groups, like the the Iowa Citizen Action Network in the key presidential state and Keystone Progress here. Sanders trails Clinton by well over 50 percentage points in early polls, garnering an average of just 3.4% in recent surveys. Warren, who has repeatedly said she is not running for president, has more support at 11%.

And it's still unclear whether Sanders has the stomach for a run. He despises what he calls the "game" aspects of politics, like fundraising and building a personality cult. "What is politics? What is serious politics?" he asked Saturday. "It's about having a serious debate about issues, not gossip, not personality."

Peter Deutsch, a retired Penn State physics professor, also liked the idea of a Sanders-Warren ticket. "To put it bluntly, no one is challenging the establishment, specifically Hillary Clinton," he said.

Inside the ballroom at the Hilton, where Sanders would receive four standing ovations during his speech, Keystone Progress chairman Ritchie Tabachnick called Sanders "the voice of the American conscious."

In his Brooklyn brogue, the senator gave a version of the stump speech he's been testing out on recent visits to Iowa and New Hampshire. It gets gloomy at times. "Now, I know that you think the situation is bad. In fact it's worse than you think," he said.

Nonetheless, the crowd encouraged him to press on when his time is up, whooping at every rhetorical barb against the Koch Brothers, and gasping at statistics about the accumulation of wealth in the top 1%.

Billionaires and "counterrevolutionaries," he explained, have "psychiatric issues" – they're "addicted to money." "We all know people who are addicted to alcohol or drugs; these people are addicted to money," Sanders said.

The result is a "philosophical war being waged against the middle-class and working families."

The solution is a "political revolution," but one that looks backwards, not forward, to a time when "one person could work 40 hours a week and make enough to take care for the entire family."

Sanders' agenda, which he'll lay out in more detail Monday at the Brookings Institution in Washington, may not be particularly radical, but his rhetoric is, and it's a message these activists seemed eager to hear.

"I like Bernie Sanders, I think he's sexy," said Maggie Henry, an organic farmer who says her Western Pennsylvania business was destroyed by nearby fracking.

Bob Pyle, a pastor in the Brethren Chuck in Snyder, voted for Ron Paul in the Republican primary in both 2008 and 2012, before voting for Obama and in general, said he likes Sanders because he's anti-establishment and anti-war.

Sanders' most immediate challenge in presidential politics, however, is not the Koch Brothers, but Warren, who has so far sucked up much of the organizational energy on the left despite giving zero indication that she's running for president.

Advisors to Sanders think progressives will ultimately come around to Sanders if and when Warren doesn't run. Michael Morrill, the executive director of Keystone Progress, agreed, "People will coalesce around a progressive candidate, whoever that is."

But activists hoping to draft Warren don't have any immediate plans to cease their efforts and throw their support behind Sanders in the event that Warren doesn't get in. Jim Dean, a fellow Vermonter, warmly introduced Sanders before the keynote address, but he runs a group, Democracy for America, that's trying to draft Warren. His brother, former Gov. Howard Dean, supports Clinton and hosted a fundraiser for the pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary last week.

"I'd love for Sanders to run," Dean said in an interview. But members of his group, which has long branded itself as representing the "Warren-wing of the Democratic party," voted overwhelming to support Warren in 2016.

Would DFA support Sanders if it becomes clear Warren isn't running? "We're not spending a lot of time gaming out what we're going to do 8 months or whatever from now," he replied, noting that about as many DFA members voted for Clinton as voted for Sanders.

When Rick Smith started his progressive talk radio show ten years ago, his very first guest was then-Rep. Bernie Sanders. Now, Smith's show is aired on affiliates on across Pennsylvania, and he says Sanders "has been right about everything" since they first talked.

"Warren says that she's going to stay out and that's the right choice," Smith said. "Bernie is the right guy at the right time."

But without prompting, Smith continued, "Can he win. Eh."

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From:	"Furman, Jason L." <Jason_L_Furman@cea.eop.gov>
To:	"Furman, Jason L." <Jason_L_Furman@cea.eop.gov>
Date:	5/29/2014 9:03:24 AM
Subject:	CEA's report on energy
Attachments:	cea_2014_all-of-the-above energy strategy.pdf

Today, CEA released a report, "*An All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy as a Path to Sustainable Economic Growth* ," along with an associated op-ed by Jim Stock and me in Politico and a White House blog post . The report documents the profound transformation in the U.S. energy sector and its implications for the economic recovery, showing that it's having a larger impact on growth than it had in the past, describing new analysis of its impact on increasing our energy security, and documenting the ways in which it's contributing to a low-carbon future. The blog post summarizing the report is pasted below.

New Report: The All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy as a Path to Sustainable Economic Growth

Posted by Jason Furman and Jim Stock on May 29, 2014 at 11:30 AM

We can't have an energy strategy for the last century that traps us in the past. We need an energy strategy for the future – an all-of-the-above strategy for the 21st century that develops every source of American-made energy." – President Barack Obama, March 15, 2012

The U.S. energy sector is undergoing a profound transformation. The United States is producing more oil and natural gas, is generating more electricity from renewables such as wind and solar, and is consuming less petroleum while holding electricity consumption constant. As detailed in today's report from the Council of Economic Advisers, these developments have had substantial economic and energy security benefits, and they are helping to reduce carbon emissions in the energy sector and thereby tackle the challenge posed by climate change. These trends have been supported and advanced by President Obama's All-of-the-Above energy strategy.
The President's All-of-the-Above energy strategy has three key goals:

- *To support economic growth and job creation*
- *To enhance energy security*
- *To deploy low-carbon energy technologies and lay the foundation for a clean energy future*

KEY POINTS IN TODAY'S REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

1. **Decades-long trends in energy use are being reversed.** The U.S. is the world's leading producer of petroleum and natural gas, surpassing long-standing petro-states Saudi Arabia and Russia. Accompanying these increases has been an unexpected turnaround in petroleum and gasoline demand; while industry-standard projections by the Energy Information Administration from as late as 2006 suggested ever-increasing consumption of oil and gasoline, U.S. gasoline consumption has fallen by 5.5 percent since 2007, or nearly half a million barrels per day. At the same time, production of renewable energy has increased rapidly. Since 2008, electricity production generation from wind has tripled while solar generation is up more than ten-fold.

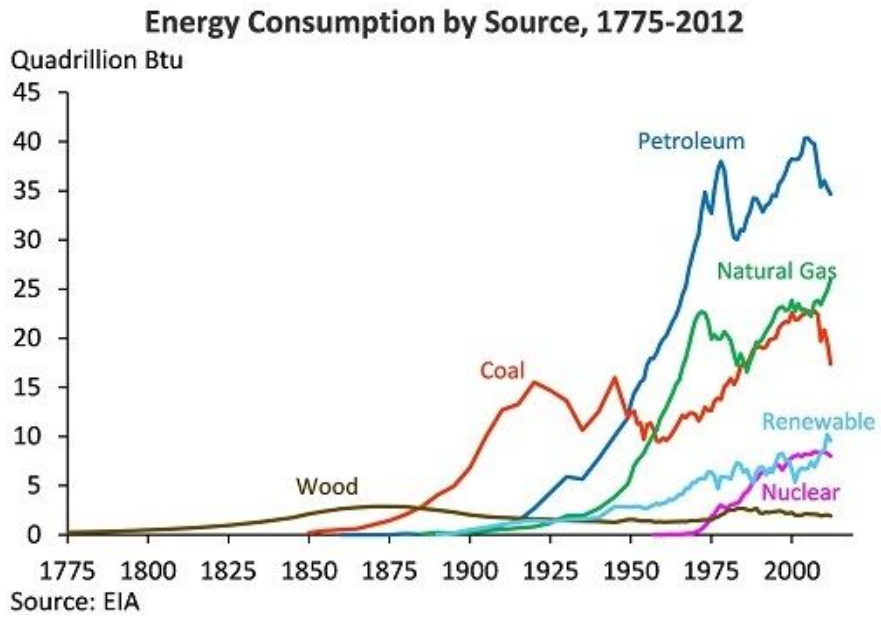

2. The energy sector has provided key support to the recovery from the Great Recession. Rising domestic energy production has made a significant contribution to GDP growth and job creation. The increases in oil and natural gas production alone contributed more than 0.2 percentage point to real GDP growth in both 2012 and 2013, and employment in these sectors increased by 133,000 between 2010 and 2013. Tens of thousands more jobs have been created in the solar and wind industries. These figures do not account for all the economic spillovers, so the overall impact on the economy of this growth in oil and gas production is even greater.

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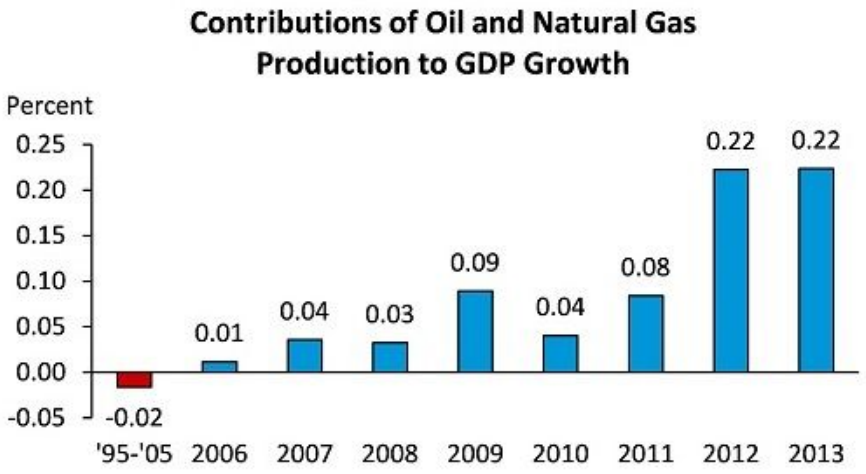

Note: CEA calculations use physical quantity data for oil and natural gas production.
Source: EIA; CEA calculations.

3. **New CEA analysis finds that the resilience of the economy to international supply shocks—macroeconomic energy security—is enhanced by reducing spending on net petroleum imports and by reducing oil dependence.** The factors that have reduced net oil imports—decreased domestic petroleum demand, increased domestic oil production, more efficient vehicles, and increased use of biofuels—reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. economy to oil price shocks stemming from international supply disruptions. Although international oil supply shocks and oil price volatility will always present risks, empirical evidence presented in this report suggests that further reductions in net petroleum imports will reduce those risks.

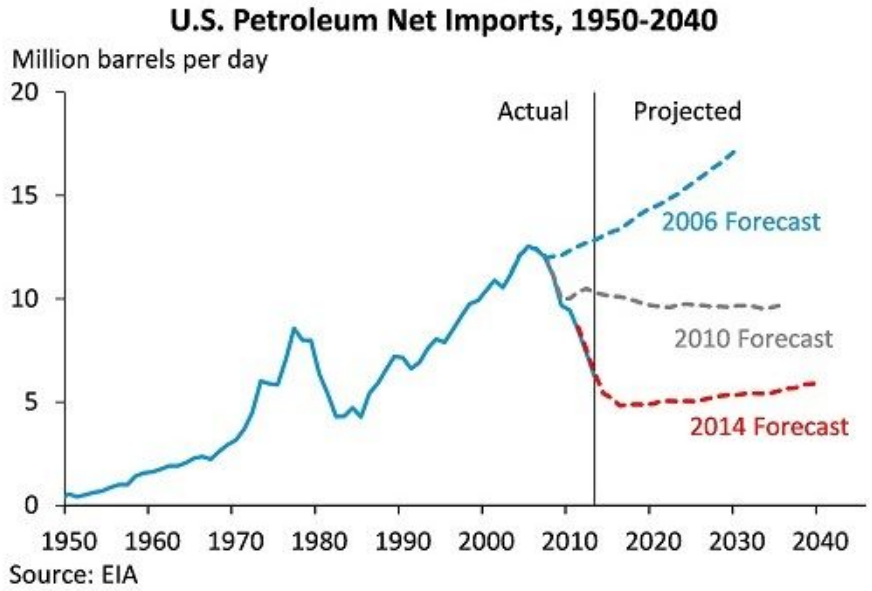

Source: EIA

4. **Natural gas is already playing a central role in the transition to a clean energy future.** Natural gas is comparatively cleaner than many other sources of energy, and the Administration is supporting its safe and responsible development. Looking further ahead, developing natural gas generation infrastructure now prepares for future widespread deployment of renewable electricity generation. Developing base load natural gas infrastructure today facilitates its use tomorrow for peak demand and renewable backup generation.

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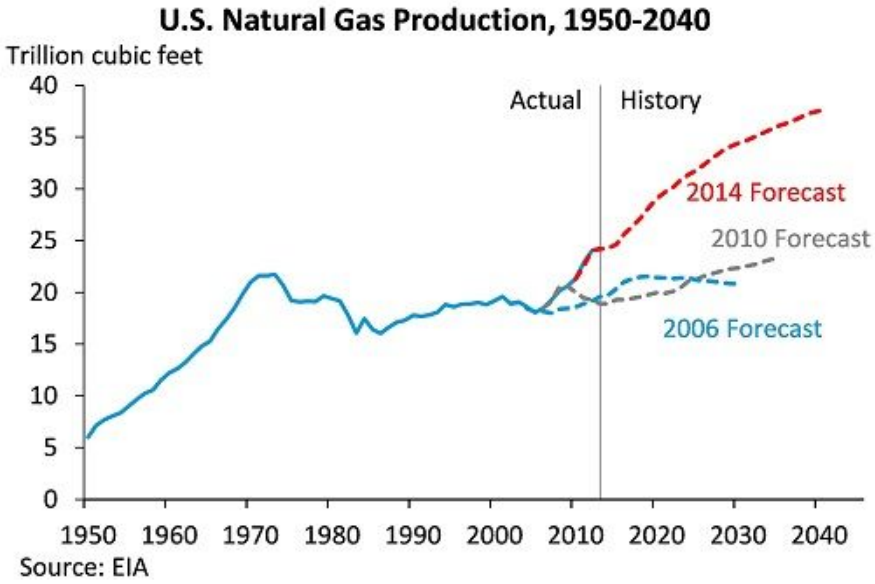

5. **The energy revolution also includes a dramatic increase in the use of renewables but more needs to be done to support low- and zero-carbon emissions sources of energy.** Government support, increasing competitiveness of wind and photovoltaic electricity production, and renewable portfolio standards that many states have adopted have together increased the share of electricity generated by non-hydro renewables from roughly 2 percent in 2007 to 6 percent in 2013. The Administration backs support for renewables, including the renewable energy production tax credit, and supports early deployment projects aimed at bringing down the ultimate market price of renewables.

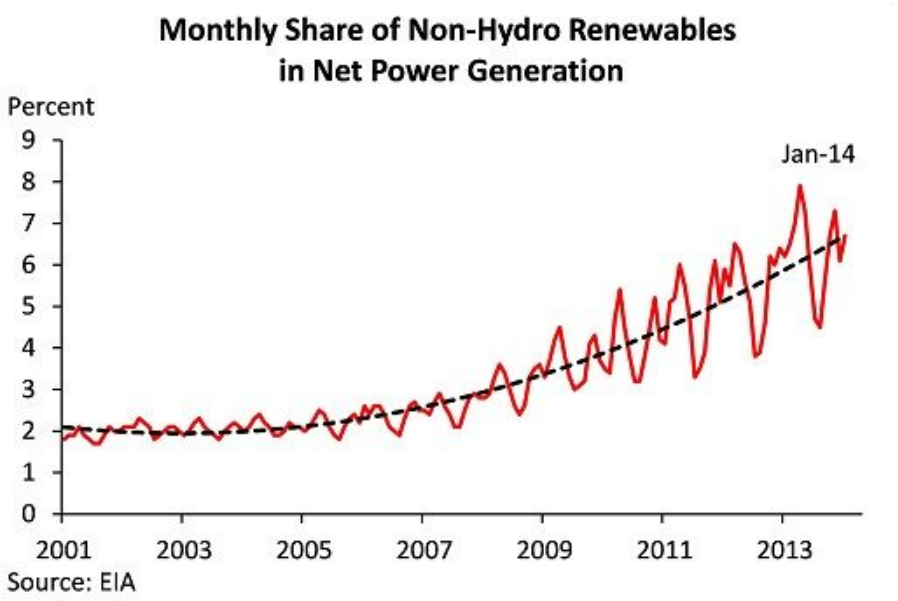

6. The United States is becoming more energy-efficient. The amount of energy used to produce a dollar of real GDP has declined steadily over the past four decades, and today stands at less than half of what it was in 1970. Moreover, consumption of petroleum including motor gasoline has declined significantly as fuel efficiency standards continue to rise.

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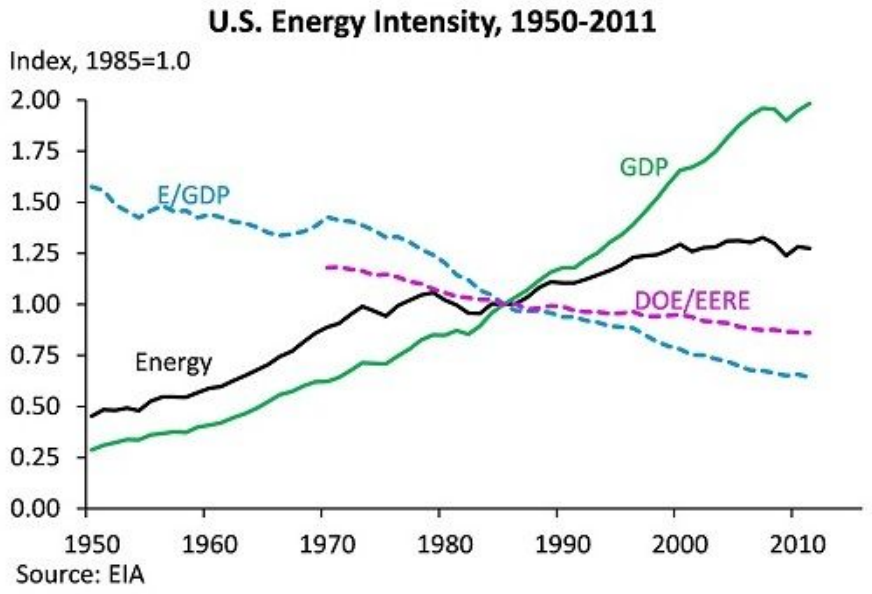

7. The United States has reduced its total carbon pollution since 2005 more than any other nation on Earth, though much more work remains to address this critical imperative. While energy-related CO_2 emissions have fallen 10 percent from their peak in 2007, recent projections suggest that emissions could begin to increase again. In his 2013 State of the Union address, the President again called on Congress to pass legislation that would provide a market-based mechanism for reducing emissions. Absent a market-based solution, a central goal of national energy policy is to develop and to deploy low-carbon technologies that the market would not otherwise undertake because of the externality of greenhouse gas emissions.

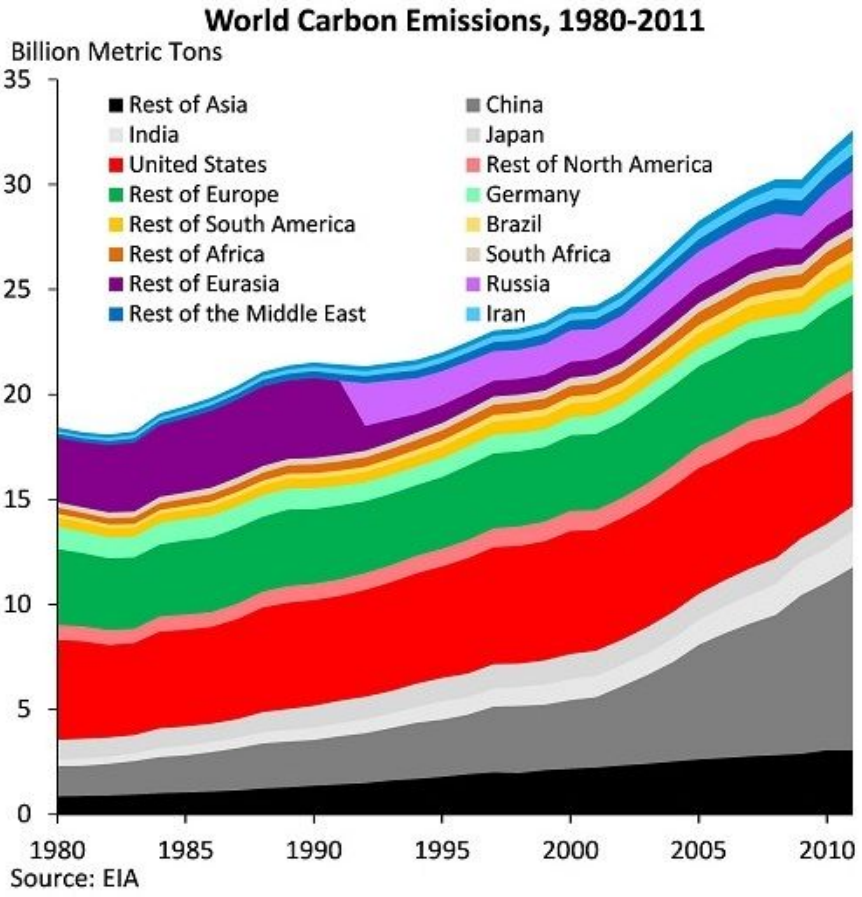

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/26/2008 5:42:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/26/08

Main Topics: POW, Houses, Convention Speeches

Summary of Shift: The convention speeches by Michelle Obama and Ted Kennedy led the news cycle. The arrest of men accused of conspiring to assassinate Barack Obama was also a prominent story this morning. An intro video for a Madonna concert juxtaposing McCain with Adolph Hitler and Robert Mugabe gained significant controversy and coverage. The understanding that McCain might be overusing his POW experience as a rhetorical tool for deflecting any criticism is continuing to creep into the mainstream media. Cautiously citing the Maureen Dowd column as their reasoning, pundits on MSNBC and CNN noted McCain's bizarre invocation of being a POW when asked by late night comedian Jay Leno about the houses gaffe.

Other news surrounded flooding caused by Tropical Storm Fay, a new hurricane forming in the Caribbean, and the housing market slump.

Highlights:

1. NBC: McCain on Jay Leno; invokes POW for houses gaffe
2. Nicholle Wallace interviews
   a. MSNBC: Wallace defends McCain's constant use of POW experience
   b. NBC: Wallace praises Michelle Obama, highlights campaign themes
3. CNN: Velshi summarizes McCain tax plan
4. Overuse of POW
   a. CNN: Ed Rollins defends McCain using the POW card
   b. MSNBC: Mike Murphy also defends McCain invoking POW experience

Highlights, No Clips:

1. COMEDY: Daily Show mocks McCain sending Graham and Lieberman to Georgia as envoys; move smacks of arrogance

Local Coverage:

1. KPHO-CBS-AZ: REPORTER: Yes that is Puero Rican Musician Daddy Yankee who had a hit four years ago with the song Gasolina. He says he backs McCain because of his support of immigration efforts. Students were supposed to ask the Presidential hopeful some questions but apparently that **never happened**.

Clips:

Highlight #1

JAY LENO: Welcome back, Sen. McCain, for one million dollars, how many houses do you have?

JOHN MCCAIN: Y**ou know, could I just mention to you, Jay, and a moment of seriousness. I spent five and a half years in a prison cell, without—I didn't have a house, I didn't have a kitchen table, I didn't have a table, I didn't have a chair. And I spent those five and a half years, because—not because I wanted to get a house when I got out. And you know, I'm very proud of Cindy's father, he was a guy that barely got out of high school, fought in World War II in the Army Air Corps, came home and made a business and made the American dream and so somehow. You've had Cindy on this show.**

LENO: Right right.

MCCAIN: The fact is she's extremely generous. She goes around the world doing humanitarian stuff. She's now in Georgia, as we speak, looking at the humanitarian aspects as a result of this Russian invasion. So look I'm proud of my life and my record, and we spend our time in a condominium in Washington, a condominium in Phoenix, some time over here in the state of California, and then we have a place up in northern Arizona," he said. And my friends, I'm proud of my record of service to this country, and it has nothing to do with houses. What it has to do with putting Americans in houses and keeping them in their homes.' And that's what I know how to do.

LENO: That sounded like five houses, okay. I had five in the pool. Let me ask you about these negative ads, because I have to admit I've been a little- everything seemed kind of okay until about a month ago. And with, whether its Paris Hilton, you know the other thing with the houses, everyone makes one little slip and it comes. The American people- with the dollar where it is, the fuel prices- it just seems so ridiculous.

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MCCAIN: Well we all don't like negative ads and I thought the ads we put up were an attempt to be humorous but also- and I thought they were very funny and put up-and also differentiate between my positions and that of Senator Obama. But I think that the tone of this campaign is very rough. I think we all agree. What would have helped if Senator Obama agreed with what I wanted to do, come to town hall meetings together so that we can face the American people. What I learned is from the town hall meetings, that's where you learn hopes and dreams and aspirations and concerns of Americans that are hurting right now. So if we just stood on the stage together, it changes the atmosphere. Many years ago Barry Goldwater and Jack Kennedy had agreed to fly around the country and go from one place to another and stand before the American people. I still wish that Senator Obama would do that. I think that would change the American-

LENO: But look at Barry Goldwater [laughs] He got screwed.

MCCAIN: As you know the tragedy of Dallas intervened but I think it would have been great for the American people to see us stand together. […]

Highlight #2
Wallace Defends McCain's Constant Use Of POW Experience (MSNBC 08/26/08 8:12am)
NICHOLLE WALLACE: You I think starting with all these tender moments was very smart. You know Republicans have hearts too, you couldn't not be moved by Ted Kennedy's sheer force of will standing there. It was a moving moment. I think Michelle Obama moved people in her discussion of her father when he was sick. But I think it will drop off pretty quickly and pretty dramatically. And I think they've turned to a bottom drawer strategy, they're throwing everything but the kitchen sink at John McCain, and you know we'll see. There's a lot of pressure to do more than they did four years ago.

MIKA BRZEZINKSI: I'm just curious about the awkward moment on Leno.

WALLACE: About what?

BRZEZINSKI: Leno. McCain on Jay Leno last night.

WALLACE: Are you anti-Leno?

BRZEZINSKI: No I'm not.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Do we have that clip? We're scrambling to get it.

BRZEZINSKI: **I thought it was kind of awkward, I'm not sure about that and there has been some criticism about how his history about POW has been used on the advice of the campaign. I would say there have been times that John McCain has not even liked to go there because he doesn't want to flout it and he doesn't want to connect with people who have those very stories in a private way.**

SCARBOROUGH: Let's take a listen and tell us what you think.
[plays clip of McCain on Leno talking about POW experience]

SCARBOROUGH: And of course some people are saying its sort of a nonsequitar to the question, Maureen Dowd Sunday saying that he's going a lil bit too often on it.

WALLACE: I think I got a shout out in there. Yeah, I've given up the New York Times for my own mental health.

BRZEZINSKI: Given up on Maureen.

WALLACE: **Yeah. It's not a talking point, it's a fact. John McCain was a prisoner of war, and it's not thrown out there in anything other than an explanation. His ability to understand the true blessing of having a home is-comes from his life experience, he says that he knows what it was like and I think the other capacity in which we were criticized for mentioning it was when he was accused of cheating and I think it's very relevant then that a man who spends five and half years as a prisoner of war could never be compelled to cheat in a talk-a-thon with Barack Obama. It's just not on the same level.**

BRZEZINSKI: Well Nicholle I get what your saying, but you're really good at this. Probably a standout in the campaign for sure, or in many campaigns, and what I don't get that that experience is so uniquely personal and carries so much weight compared to Barack Obama's life story. Wouldn't you be afriad, would'nt your advice be don't overuse it, don't throw it out. Find the moment and bring it home? And isn't this just tossing it on Leno in

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response to a joke?

WALLACE: **I hear you, I hear you. And I think it was- it is a precious part of the John McCain story. And it's a lot of people do already know about him. And there are a few people who don't know his extraordinary history, that he grew up in a military family, and you kno when we get a chance to remind people of his life, as we did ironically this attack over the houses has given John and Cindy McCain to tell the story about Cindy McCain's father who came back from world war two, shot down three times, came back, put together $10,000 dollars, and built the most successful beer distributorship in America. I don't know what part of the American dream offends Barack Obama, but telling these parts of the story that might be- there's always balance, every campaign [crosstalk]**

BRZEZINKSI: ... remember how many houses he had, Nicholle Wallace would be on that one, all over it, and I mean c'mon.

SCARBOROUGH: Perhaps.

WALLACE: Not that he couldn't remember. I think we can all acknowledge. I mean he has four homes, he released financial disclosures in the Senate, I mean I think you all familiar with that. And there are investment properties, I think he's made clear there are other properties. He's not apologizing for the great blessings that he has in Cindy's success, in his father-in-law's success, realizing the American dream.

SCARBOROUGH: Does a chance this housing crisis, John McCain's, he doesn't know how many houses he has. Does that make Mitt Romney less likely as VP?

Wallace Praises Michelle Obama, Highlights Themes of Campaign (NBC 08/26/08 7:47am)
MATT LAUER: So let me ask you on the record how she did and does the McCain campaign doubt her [Michelle Obama's] love of country?

NICHOLLE WALLACE: Of course not. Look I thought she had an incredible night last night. **She looked beautiful. I've never heard anyone speak in such a large forum with such high stakes about their father in such a tender way so I thought that Michelle Obama's talk about her father grew sick and woke up earlier. It was really a tender moment.** The question, Matt, that we all have to ask is will these tender moments start to bridge the gap and solve his political problems? I'm not smart enough to know that they will.

LAUER: His political problems such as what?

WALLACE:Well his number one deficiency in the views of the voters that haven't made up their mind yet is that he lacks the experience and the judgment to step into the role of commander and chief. So I didn't see anything last night that leads me to believe that he's begun to bridge that gap. You know we're really proud, we've fought hard and we'll continue to fight hard every day of this election to win over some of the people who thought Hillary Clinton would make the best President. At least some of them- I'd say a lot of them, thought she was the best candidate because she had the experience to step into that commander in chief role [...]

LAUER: Yeah but Nicholle, there's a big hurdle there if you've got some staunch Hillary Clinton supporters are they going to switch over and over for John McCain when there is a major issue like abortion rights. Are a lot of people who are in favor of a woman's right to choose are going to cross over and vote for a pro-life candidate?

WALLACE: We'll have to wait and see. I think rebuilding this economy, breaking this dependence on foreign sources of energy, you know moms, theres a lot of households of people who drive, carpools who run errands who are in their cars all day and there is nothing that animates them more than the town hall meetings that we go to then when we talk about John McCain's very specific strategy for breaking our dependence on foreign oil, making our nation energy independent. They care abot jobs and they care about keeping this country safe. [...]

Highlight #3
Velshi Touches On Candidate Tax Plans (CNN 08/26/08
ALI VELSHI: So his argument is that you're not going to pay any more income tax under John McCain at all. He's also going to phase out the Alternative Minimum Tax, which some of you fall into, as you know. That's been creeping up and getting more and more Americans. It was designed for a tax on the filthy rich. And that's turned out not to be the case.

He's also planning on cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, and doing other things to give

businesses an incentive to invest more in research and development and to hire more people. **So his emphasis is on business in terms of creating jobs.**

I'm going to be back in the next hour to talk about their stance on the mortgage crisis and, in fact, on jobs. What they're going to do for working Americans.

Highlight#4
Rollins Defends McCain Using POW Experience To Deflect Criticism (CNN 08/26/08 6:58am)
CHETRY: **Not to take anything away from his time as a P.O.W. But Maureen Dowd in "The New York Times" on Sunday said his campaign is cheapening his greatest strength in making a mockery of his already dubious claim that he's reticent to talk about his P.O.W. experience by flashing the P.O.W. card to rebut any criticism, no matter how unrelated."**

Is there a danger in bringing up his times of P.O.W. too much.

ROLLINS: I don't think being a hero is ever an endangerment. And I think that made him who he is today. Now, obviously, as it reflects on the houses and all the rest of it -- the houses aren't his, they're his wife. John McCain has never been anybody who left the Senate, who not made money, never took his hero coat, who not made money.

He married someone who had a lot of money, inherited a lot of money. Does he live in her houses, yes. It's her lifestyle. His lifestyle is working very hard as a United States senator as he has for many, many years.

CHETRY: Is that the answer you would give. Is that what you would tell him to respond to when he was asked about the house?

ROLLINS: **That's certainly the answer I would give.**

CHETRY: Ed Rollins, we'll see you a little bit later on the hour. Thanks for being with us.

Murphy Defends McCain Using POW; Says McCain Is Typically Hesitant (MSNBC 08/26/08 9:40am)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Senator McCain in a serious moment on the Today Show-er Tonight Show with Jay Leno. I thought it was a little awkward.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Mike Murphy, Maureen Dowd a couple days ago was criticizing John McCain for going to the well one time too often, and on the POW story. Last night he was asked about his houses, he went back to the POW story. Is there a possibility he could use that too much?

MIKE MURPHY: **Well there's a possibility but he's generally pretty hesitant about using it. I didn't see the Leno clip and I didn't have sound on that so I haven't really seen it yet. I think McCain has a lot of license to talk about what he's done.**

BRZEZINKSI: But Mike come on. I'll tell you about it. Jay Leno asked him in a joking form about how many houses he has, because that issue has come up because what he said to Politico and he just launched into his one house that he lived in for five years. To my, my gosh, never- I would never- I can only have respect for his experience. But it seems like the campaign might be doing him a disservice to having him, bringing it up in inopportune moments.

MURPHY: **Well our policy in the 2000 campaign, which McCain drove, was less is more.**

BRZEZINSKI: Yeah.

MURPHY: You know, about that sort of stuff. I didn't see this clip so I'm uncomfortable really talking about it. I will say the house thing though is a little over done. I think, I understand it was classic campaign gaffe, it had its week but it's not going to be the center of a presidential race.

BRZEZINSKI: Wouldn't you advise him to have an answer that is a joke in response to Jay Leno on the issue?

MURPHY: Yeah, I'm always for good answers . . . the Democrats think they're going to beat John McCain, large family, a couple of vacation properties, I think it's pretty ridiculous.
[. . .]
MURPHY: Barack Obama, let's talk to his mortgage broker.

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BRZEZINSKI: Oh, here we go . . .
[. . .]
SCARBOROUGH: Well people are saying the Tony Rezko issue is not a fair issue, that he didn't help him get a house.

MURPHY: **My view is they're both sideshow issues. They're both good guys. Neither of them are corrupt at all . . .**

SCARBOROUGH: **Yeah, and I don't think in the end people can go around yelling Rezko, Rezko all they want, I think people believe that Barack Obama's a good guy. I don't think that that's going to draw blood with the swing voters . . . there is not a pattern of corruption on either side.**

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 2:37:42 PM
Subject: Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

FYI - our talkers tomorrow already have our positive "the reviews are in" doc. This is just an addendum that is only going to a handful of folks who are going on tv tomorrow

On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:35 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree on need for positive stuff. If we're not already let's add the topper but send them all the great stuff we've put together today so that people aren't seeing this in a vacuum.
>
> On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:31 PM, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Can we start with a positive line like - despite the overwhelmingly positive response to Hillary's message, the GOP went into attack mode.
> >
> > On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.
> > >
> > > Thanks.
> > > Ian
> > >
> > > **OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS**
> > >
> > > Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.
> > >
> > > - **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.
> >
> > - **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.
>
> - **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.
>
> ***If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:***
>
> **Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy** -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.
>
> - Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
> - Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
> - Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
> - Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree

for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

--
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To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/19/2014 11:34:32 PM
Subject: CTR Tuesday August 20, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday August 20, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton allies tout her record on 'smart power'"

"Correct the Record, the research and rapid response arm of a pro-Clinton super PAC, is equipping its surrogates and supporters Tuesday with a report and talking points memo, shared with msnbc, that promote Clinton's use of 'smart power.'"

Washington Post blog: National Security: "Cherry-picking Clinton's words"

"In total, it was Clinton's description of the world as she sees it and hardly an attempt to highlight her differences with President Obama, as Goldberg and others have written by cherry-picking her answers to some leading questions."

Huffington Post: "We Almost Can't Handle Andrea Mitchell's Ice Bucket Challenge Video"

"The setting, the Greenspan, the selection of Hillary Clinton, Chuck Todd and John Kerry as the people Mitchell challenged — we almost shouted 'THIS TOWN THIS TOWN THIS TOWN' over and over again."

Politico: "Pols on Ferguson: Sound of silence"

"The eventual Democratic nominee — Clinton or anyone else — will face a burden, as Sharpton suggested, to discuss it thoughtfully in a campaign, several operatives said. But few strategists see that moment as imminent, arguing that Clinton would risk fomenting an already heated situation."

Vox: "Why Hillary Clinton can get away with not talking about Ferguson"

"It's clear that Barack Obama, for a variety of fairly sound reasons, is not going to take this opportunity to address the question of systematic racial injustice in the American criminal justice system. But somebody ought to. And the next Democratic Party presidential nominee would be a fairly logical choice."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Why all of Hillary Clinton's top challengers are unlikely to run"

"Their motivations for not running appear, in many cases, to be much more convincing than their arguments for running."

Wall Street Journal column: WSJ editorial board member Jason L. Riley: "Princess Hillary"

"Out of touch, or out of practice?"

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton's Speaking Gigs Could Become a Big Problem"

"Talk about controlling."

Fox 25 (Boston): "Warren dodges questions if Hillary is best choice for Democrats in 2016"

"When asked if she thinks Hillary Clinton is the best choice for the Democratic party in 2016, Warren said Clinton is 'terrific.'"

Articles:

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton allies tout her record on 'smart power'"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 19, 2014, 2:00 p.m. EDT

Allies of Hillary Clinton are working to bolster the former secretary of state's foreign policy accomplishments after a recent interview erupted into controversy over her worldview.

Correct the Record, the research and rapid response arm of a pro-Clinton super PAC, is equipping its surrogates and supporters Tuesday with a report and talking points memo, shared with msnbc, that promote Clinton's use of "smart power."

It's the latest in a series of reports the group regularly distributes, all of which tout a different piece of Clinton's record, from LGBT rights to income inequality to the environment.

"Smart power" was central to Clinton's time at State, Correct the Record notes. An alternative to military action, Clinton viewed the approach as the strategic deployment of a mix of economic, diplomatic, political, legal, and cultural power, tailored to specific situations.

"As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton utilized a combination of creative tools to achieve foreign policy goals as an alternative to unilateral military action in many circumstances. This combination of diplomatic and economic tactics known as 'smart power' produced a number of results, ranging from strengthening our position with China to combating terrorism," Adrienne Elrod, Correct the Record's communications director, told msnbc.

Last week, The Atlantic magazine published an interview in which Clinton criticized President Obama on foreign policy, producing some tension with Obama loyalists and from some on the progressive left.

The Correct the Record report and talking points tout Clinton's commitment to "smart power," and give specific examples where the approach "produced results" by "rebuilding America's standing in the world."

In Asia, for instance, the group says that Clinton's approach helped counterbalance China by strengthening alliances with smaller nations while also broadening relations with Beijing. In her new memoir, "Hard Choices," Clinton writes that she had multiple options on how to deal with China's rise, but "decided that the 'smart power' choice was to meld all three approaches."

To combat terrorism, her allies say Clinton used "smart power" to better engage technology, to establish a global counterterrorism forum, and to handle delicate relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan. The forum brought together nations that did not have much in common, and may not have wanted to work together on other issues, but were willing to cooperate on the narrow issue of counterterrorism.

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To implement her vision, Correct the Record notes that Clinton took a page from the Defense Department by starting a Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review – a major State Department self-examination process that "aimed to map out exactly how we would put smart power into practice."

If Clinton runs for president in 2016, she is expected to put her foreign policy record and tenure as secretary of state front and center. Republicans have already tied to claim that Clinton did not accomplish much at Foggy Bottom, a notion Clinton allies like Correct the Record are hoping to nip in the bud. Clinton has said she will decide on a run by the end of the year.

Washington Post blog: National Security: "Cherry-picking Clinton's words"

By Walter Pincus

August 18, 2014

Hillary Clinton says the country should "learn lessons" from today's problem areas and "figure out how we're going to have different and better responses going forward."

That's my take-away from reading the transcript of her long interview with the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, published Aug. 10. In total, it was Clinton's description of the world as she sees it and hardly an attempt to highlight her differences with President Obama, as Goldberg and others have written by cherry-picking her answers to some leading questions.

For example, Clinton does not say it was the U.S. "failure" to aid Syrian rebels that created the vacuum that led to the rise of Islamic State militants.

Clinton said she had proposed that "if we were to carefully vet, train, and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army, we would, number one, have some better insight into what was going on on the ground."

She also pointed out that establishing that unified opposition "would prove to be very difficult, because there was this constant struggle between what was largely an exile group outside of Syria trying to claim to be the political opposition, and the people on the ground, primarily those doing the fighting and dying, who rejected that."

Clinton then added this important factor: "We were never able to bridge that [gap among the various groups opposing President Bashar al-Assad inside and outside Syria], despite a lot of efforts that [former U.S. ambassador to Syria] Robert [Ford] and others made."

Her conclusion: "I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place."

That is exactly the argument Obama has been making in justifying his limited support given through the CIA

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to selected, vetted Syrian opposition fighters.

Take the other picked-up phrase, Obama's statement, "Don't do stupid stuff."

It came up after Clinton spoke of "what we've learned about the limits of our power to spread freedom and democracy." She described that as "one of the big lessons out of Iraq."

Another lesson from Egypt should be, she said, "if you have no political — small p — experience, it is really hard to go from dictatorship to anything resembling what you and I would call democracy."

When Goldberg first raised "don't do stupid stuff," Clinton described Obama's phrase as a lesson for "what we did in Iraq . . . to have no plan about what to do after we did it [invaded the country]." She went on to describe the phrase as "not an organizing principle" that great nations need but "a necessary brake on the actions you might take in order to promote a vision."

It was Goldberg who then suggested that "don't do stupid stuff" was Obama's "foreign policy in a nutshell."

Clinton responded, "I think he was trying to communicate to the American people that he's not going to do something crazy."

She talked about Obama having expended "a lot of capital and energy trying to pull us out of the hole we're in. So I think that that's a political message, it's not his worldview."

Goldberg asked whether she was "taking a harder line than your former colleagues in the Obama administration" when it came to Iran having little or no right to enrich uranium.

Clinton replied, "I've always been in the camp that held that they [the Iranians] did not have a right to enrichment. Contrary to their claim, there is no such thing as a right to enrich. This is absolutely unfounded."

That has been the position of the Obama administration. In a 2013 backgrounder for reporters, a senior administration official said Article IV of the NonproliferationTreaty "is silent on the issue [of enrichment]. It neither confers a right nor denies a right. So we don't believe it is inherently there."

Clinton then explained her view of the negotiations.

"I think it's important to send a signal to everybody who is there that there cannot be a deal unless there is a clear set of restrictions on Iran. The preference would be no enrichment. The potential fallback position would be such little enrichment that they could not break out. So, little or no enrichment has always been my position."

Pushed by Goldberg, Clinton said, "No enrichment at all would make everyone breathe easier. If, however, they want a little bit for the Tehran research reactor, or a little bit for this scientific researcher, but they'll never go above 5 percent enrichment."

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On the controversial question of permissible centrifuges for Iran, Clinton laughed at the Iranian leadership saying Iran has no intention of developing a bomb but wants 190,000 centrifuges. She called it a maximum position but pointed out that there are talks going on inside Iran about what a final position should be.

She was asked if she would she accept “a few thousand centrifuges.”

“If we’re talking a little, we’re talking about a discrete, constantly inspected number of centrifuges,” she said, but she refused to define what “a little” is.

That also appears to be the Obama administration’s current negotiating position.

Read the transcript and make up your own mind about Clinton’s views.

I fear the interview’s treatment so far illustrates a concern about journalism that former Washington Post editorial page editor Meg Greenfield noted more than a dozen years ago.

In her book “Washington,” she wrote that journalists “in so many cases [have] ceased thinking of the people they write about as people at all, thinking of them instead as opportune props and raw material for use in their stories and in opinion pieces.”

Huffington Post: “We Almost Can't Handle Andrea Mitchell's Ice Bucket Challenge Video”

By Catherine Taibi

August 19, 2014, 1:14 p.m. EDT

This has to be one of the most insane Ice Bucket Challenges we've seen yet.

MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell hopped on board the viral trend to raise money for ALS Monday night. Mitchell showed her video on air Tuesday, in which her husband, the former Federal Reserve czar Alan Greenspan dumps a bucket of ice water on her head.

The setting, the Greenspan, the selection of Hillary Clinton, Chuck Todd and John Kerry as the people Mitchell challenged — we almost shouted "THIS TOWN THIS TOWN THIS TOWN" over and over again. But then we didn't.

Her reaction makes us LOL every time. Watch the video for the full clip on MSNBC.

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Politico: “Pols on Ferguson: Sound of silence”

By Maggie Haberman

August 20, 2014, 5:05 a.m. EDT

When the Rev. Al Sharpton visited Ferguson, Missouri, on Sunday, he told people at a rally that it was time for people like Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush to make their views heard.

“Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, don’t get laryngitis on this issue,” Sharpton, a New York-based preacher and MSNBC host, said, calling it a defining moment. “Nobody can go to the White House unless they stop by our house and talk about policing.”

So far, though, few Democrats have joined Sharpton’s call. And few potential 2016 candidates are rushing into the Ferguson fray — for good reason, strategists say.

After her summer book tour, which included a string of major media interviews, expectations have gelled that Clinton will give her opinion on a range of topics. No Democrat considering running in 2016 gets a fraction of the media attention she does, and it is one of the reasons some of President Barack Obama’s advisers have publicly questioned her decision to be so visible ahead of another likely campaign.

“That is [the] peril of being out front,” said Bruce Haynes, a Republican operative with Purple Strategies. “Everyone wants to know what you think about everything, whether you want to talk or not.”

But Democratic strategists say there’s little to be gained for Clinton — or for that matter, other likely White House contenders — by weighing in beyond brief statements on the still-roiling situation in Ferguson. And the risk of escalating matters is real. So is the risk of getting ahead of the White House, where President Barack Obama on Monday was noticeably restrained as he described the dangers in predetermining the outcome of an episode so far marked more by a lack of information than clarity.

By Monday, Sharpton was back at 30 Rockefeller Center, where he resumed his call to action to Clinton and others. But few Democrats are echoing him. More politicians opining on cable news, they say, won’t do much good.

“There’s two tragedies unfolding in American politics,” Donna Brazile, Al Gore’s 2000 campaign manager, said in an email. “The murder of a young unarmed man by a policeman and the mishandling of the case by local officials. And the second is the rush to politicize the tragic death of Mike Brown.

“I would caution all politicians outside Missouri to withhold making statements until the investigation is completed,” Brazile added, saying Clinton should not say anything until either Attorney General Eric Holder completes his visit on Wednesday or until the investigation is completed.

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Neither Clinton (who has been vacationing in the Hamptons) nor Bush (who has kept a much lower profile of late and is not the field-clearing presence in his own party that Clinton is in hers) has said anything publicly about the police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown or the days of unrest that have followed his death. Neither has Vice President Joe Biden. (All three lived through the racial strife of the 1960s, unlike younger 2016 hopefuls.)

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a former Baltimore mayor, talked about the need for healing and alluded to racial divides that exist, but did not discuss the specifics of the case.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) implored people to take a "deep breath" and let the investigation unfold. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, another Sharpton target, said the scene in the St. Louis suburb has become "a spectacle" and said people should not prejudge what happened without the facts.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who is doing the most in the Republican field to reach out to African-Americans but who also is looking to course-correct after raising questions about the Civil Rights Act in the past, drew praise when he wrote an op-ed in Time urging a discussion about race and policing. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) questioned the arrests of two national reporters. And the shooting has prompted other politicians to call for demilitarizing local police departments and enhancing training.

The caveats for not-yet-candidates are well-known: They are not officially running campaigns and therefore shouldn't be viewed that way; they are private citizens entitled to keep private counsel until they're officially in the race.

Clinton, however, is the ever-present Democratic front-runner who has spoken out on a number of issues, including the border crisis, Obamacare and the budget standoff in Congress last fall. The expectation that she will discuss a range of major topics in the news has started to bake in with the media.

But weighing in on Ferguson would mean getting ahead of the White House.

Though she recently criticized parts of Obama's foreign policy, on national topics Clinton has been basically in lockstep with the president.

Paul was seen as challenging his own party with a call that moved toward the left. In the case of Clinton, or any of the Democrats who might try to challenge her, black voters are overwhelmingly part of the party's base.

Republicans have looked for fissures within the Democratic base on race where Clinton is concerned since the fractious 2008 primary between her and Obama, although polling showed that rift healed soon after she became secretary of state.

The shooting and its aftermath will likely resonate with African-American voters for a long time, coming amid a string of confrontations between black men and the police in recent months. The eventual Democratic nominee — Clinton or anyone else — will face a burden, as Sharpton suggested, to discuss it thoughtfully in a campaign, several operatives said.

But few strategists see that moment as imminent, arguing that Clinton would risk fomenting an already heated situation. Even those potential candidates who have commented are generally warning about not

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getting ahead of the facts.

“For now, Secretary Clinton, if she’s around, should express her remorse for the killing of an unarmed man,” Brazile said. “She’s a mom. For now, a community is hurting. And a country needs healing. Her voice, while prominent, might distract from the important work that needs to be done.”

Asked whether it made any sense for 2016 candidates to take a position on the Ferguson situation, Obama pollster Joel Benenson replied by email: “This is tragic and terrible situation resulting from the police shooting of an unarmed teenager and this is time for only those who can play a very constructive role in bringing peace to a divided town to be speaking out.”

He added, “I don’t see how asking potential candidates to comment makes any sense, nor do I see how it makes sense for a potential candidate to weigh in unless they have a legitimate role to play in this situation.”

Haynes argued that what candidates choose to talk about is “useful to the voter” because it “informs us of their priorities. Ferguson is a high priority for many African-Americans. They are a critical Democratic primary” voting bloc. “If Hillary is talking about Ferguson what she is really saying is, ‘I understand you and your priorities are my priorities.’”

However, with foreign policy crises flaring up in the Middle East and elsewhere, “Others will observe her speaking about a local dispute as political and pandering,” Haynes said.

Bill Clinton’s election in 1992 played out in the aftermath of the riots surrounding the verdict in the Rodney King police beating in California. The conflict in Ferguson has been less widespread and less violent by comparison.

And the display by officers in riot gear and tanks in the St. Louis suburb was in contrast to how New York City handled the recent chokehold death of an unarmed black man on Staten Island, who police were trying to arrest for selling loose cigarettes. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has worked to maintain peace (though Sharpton has criticized police tactics in that case, too).

That Clinton will ultimately have to discuss race and law enforcement seems assured. But few Democrats said the time is now.

Pundits calling for her to comment want her to do so so that “they can continue to feel relevant,” said one Democratic operative not aligned with Clinton. “By ginning up that she hasn’t weighed in, then parsing any word or action she does [take], they can fill valuable hours of cable airtime and Twitter feeds.”

Vox: “Why Hillary Clinton can get away with not talking about Ferguson”

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By Matthew Yglesias

August 20, 2014, 6:30 a.m. EDT

On Monday, Alex Seitz-Wald wrote an article for MSNBC with the thesis that pressure is building on Hillary Clinton to address the situation in Ferguson. The truth, however, is that while Clinton is certainly taking some criticism for ducking the issue she's not, objectively speaking, under any real pressure. Her position as the presumptive 2016 Democratic Party nominee is simply so strong that there is no incentive for her to wade into politically treacherous waters and every reason for her to try instead to lay low.

And that's the problem.

It's clear that Barack Obama, for a variety of fairly sound reasons, is not going to take this opportunity to address the question of systematic racial injustice in the American criminal justice system. But somebody ought to. And the next Democratic Party presidential nominee would be a fairly logical choice.

It's no secret that the demographics of the country are changing. The youngest cohort of voters is much less white than the national average — and even its white members are more liberal on economic issues. The normal course of things would be for those demographic trends to push the party to tackle new issues that were too hot for Bill Clinton or Barack Obama to touch. That's especially true because the demographics of the Democratic Party are changing along with the rest of the country. In 2012, almost 90 percent of Mitt Romney's votes came from non-Hispanic whites while racial and ethnic minorities provided about 45 percent of Obama's. And a primary campaign, the moment when activists and other policy-demanders have the most leverage over politicians, would be the ideal time for it to happen.

But Democrats aren't likely to get much of a primary campaign this cycle. And that's a shame. Not because there's anything wrong with Hillary, but because it's a lost opportunity to put new issues on the table. So far it's been left to idiosyncratic Republican Rand Paul to make the boldest statement of any prominent national politician. And good for him. But the Democratic Party, with its more multiracial coalition, is going to continue to be the political vehicle for the interests of people of color for years to come. The problem is the lack of a contested primary is denying the country the circumstances in which high-profile Democrats are forced to address the issues that Ferguson has placed squarely on the national agenda.

Huffington Post: “Hillary Clinton Is Everywhere, But Still Nowhere To Be Found On Ferguson”

By Samantha Lachman

August 19, 2014, 1:22 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton isn't exactly hiding from the public eye as she plans a trip to Iowa, furthering speculation about whether and when she'll announce plans to seek the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. Yet, Clinton hasn't said a word about protests in Ferguson, Missouri, following the Aug. 9 shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, by a police officer.

Clinton's silence has provoked questions about why she's mum on an issue that other possible 2016

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presidential candidates have felt compelled to weigh in on. Those who have spoken on the topic include Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) as well as former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D).

It isn't as if Clinton has shied from delving into the politics of the midterm elections as she plans fundraisers for the major Democratic committees. She has critiqued President Barack Obama's foreign policy approach and spoken out about Israel's offensive in Gaza, the downing of a Malaysia Airlines plane in Ukraine, the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and whether Obama should have armed rebels earlier. And she's appeared across a broad array of cable shows to promote her book, Hard Choices.

But Clinton's calculation appears to be that the Ferguson conflict is one too complex, or dangerous, to address. A Clinton spokesperson did not respond to a HuffPost request for comment Tuesday. (Her camp also declined to comment to MSNBC on Monday.)

Of course Clinton, as a private citizen who holds no public office or elected position, is not obligated to remark on the racial politics surrounding Brown's death, or whether the militarization of America's police forces is a concerning trend. Yet, since Clinton has been willing to comment on an array of other issues, her reticence is noticeable.

Then again, when political figures have waded into the conversation about Ferguson, their comments aren't exactly enthralling. Obama's statement Monday made news for his announcement that Attorney General Eric Holder would travel to Missouri, but otherwise remained dispassionate.

“The [Department of Justice] works for me and when they're conducting an investigation, I've got to make sure that I don't look like I'm putting my thumb on the scale one way or the other,” Obama explained.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called out Clinton, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) on Monday, arguing that they lose credibility by refusing to weigh in on the situation in Ferguson.

“I’m amazed that we’re not hearing from leading [presidential] candidates -- Chris Christie or [former Florida Gov.] Jeb Bush, or Hillary Clinton,” Sharpton said. “This is now a national, central issue, and anyone running for president needs to come up with a formula or -- in my opinion -- they forfeit their right to be taken seriously.”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “Why all of Hillary Clinton’s top challengers are unlikely to run”

By Aaron Blake

August 19, 2014, 1:51 p.m. EDT

The Hill is out with a list of the top five Democrats who could challenge Hillary Clinton from the left in the 2016 presidential race.

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This isn't breaking any new ground, and it's largely the usual suspects. But as the debate over potential challengers to her in 2016 heats up in the months ahead (we're just two and a half months from the start of the 2016 primary campaign) we thought it would be worth looking at why any and all of these folks would not run.

And indeed, their motivations for not running appear, in many cases, to be much more convincing than their arguments for running.

Here are the five:

1. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) -- praise for Clinton

Warren has said ad nauseam that she is "not running" for president in 2016, a statement that is notably in the present tense. But when it comes to challenging Clinton -- something the New Republic gave some big treatment last year -- we think the present tense applies to the future.

Warren has said repeatedly that Clinton is "terrific" and even praised Clinton in her book for pushing her husband, who was then president, to veto a 1998 bankruptcy reform bill that was supported by the financial industry.

The crux of the Warren-vs.-Clinton argument is that Clinton is too closely aligned with big finance and moneyed interests and not liberal enough. Given Warren's repeated praise for Clinton -- including on finance issues -- that could be a hard case for her to prosecute.

2. Vice President Biden -- presidentiality (if that's actually a word)

Biden has been angling toward a 2016 campaign harder than basically any other Demcorat, up to and including Clinton. And the idea that he will simply stand down for her seems far-fetched -- especially who you consider the 71-year-old two-time presidential hopeful faces perhaps his last chance to run.

But there is plenty of reason for him not to do just that, and the biggest reason is viability.

While others on this list are largely unknown, Biden doesn't have that problem. His problem is that people don't see him as being particularly presidential. A Quinnipiac poll in November showed 51 percent of Democrats and 73 percent of independents say they don't think Biden would make a good president.

When a majority of your own party says that, you've probably got a pretty low ceiling.

3. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) -- money

The former mayor of Baltimore seems like one of the more likely big-name Clinton challengers, but even for him, it's a tough choice. Back in May, Politico reported that O'Malley had reached out to Clinton to talk

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2016. It also reported that some think O'Malley will run regardless of what Clinton does. That was met with a pretty vigorous denial.

“Anyone who left the meeting with that impression is mistaken,” O'Malley spokeswoman Elisabeth Smith said in a statement. “The governor hasn’t made any decisions about his next steps and certainly did not voice any that day.”

This, of course, is not the same as O'Malley's team ruling out a run against Clinton. But it does suggest that they are being deferential for now. O'Malley himself said recently that "[I] certainly cherish my relationship and working relationship not only with Secretary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton, but also with President Obama."

The big challenges for O'Malley would be fundraising -- given that he's another establishment Democratic politician who would be aiming for the same donors as Clinton -- and viability, with polls showing he's basically a complete unknown on the national stage. (Like, only 16 percent of people know about him, unknown.) But the two work hand-in-hand. You need money to get name ID and viability, and that first step could prove very tough for O'Malley with Clinton in the race.

O'Malley is also only 51 years old. That's a baby by political standards. In other words: He's got lots of time to build a career without making enemies of the first family of Democratic politics.

4. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) -- the s-word

Again, viability is the biggest barrier -- but for different reasons. Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats but has also identified as a "socialist," would quite simply have basically no chance at the Democratic presidential nomination.

It's also pretty clear that a Sanders candidacy would be intended not to win but rather to guide the debate in a more populist (socialist?) direction. So the same calculus doesn't necessarily apply here.

A Sanders run would be predicated on him being able to get enough support to actually be a factor. And the first step in that process is getting liberal groups interested -- something that, as Real Clear Politics writes, isn't happening on the same scale as it is with someone like Warren. Put plainly, we're not quite sure these groups would like to support the socialist in the 2016 race.

Sanders is a well-regarded, longtime officeholder in Vermont. Does he want to run for president if it had a strong likelihood of turning into an embarrassing venture?

5. Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) -- preparation

This is certainly the most obscure potential candidate mentioned by The Hill. While some are talking about a potential repeat Senate bid for Feingold in 2016, few are talking about him in terms of a presidential campaign.

But Feingold also makes a lot of sense. After all, he has been fighting against government surveillance for

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years (including the Patriot Act and the NSA), he was an early supporter of same-sex marriage and a strong opponent of the Iraq war, and he has the kind of maverick streak that a Clinton challenger would need.

But Feingold's biggest obstacle is preparation. He has been almost completely absent from politics and the national dialogue since his 2010 loss. Part of this is because he has spent the last year as a special envoy to Africa for the State Department. But even before that, he didn't make much noise.

If Feingold were interested in running for president, it might be time to dip his toe in the water.

Wall Street Journal column: WSJ editorial board member Jason L. Riley: "Princess Hillary"

By Jason L. Riley

August 19, 2014, 5:36 p.m. EDT

Summer continues, and so do Hillary Clinton's blunders. This week brings news that the former first lady lives a lot larger than those blue collar Democrats who supported her for president in 2008 might realize.

We already knew about the quarter-million dollar speaking fees, but that's just for the speech. In addition, Mrs. Clinton "insists on staying in the 'presidential suite' of luxury hotels that she chooses anywhere in the world, including Las Vegas," reports the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "She usually requires those who pay her six-figure fees for speeches to also provide a private jet for transportation—only a $39 million, 16-passenger Gulfstream G450 or larger will do."

Through a state public records law, the paper obtained documents related to Mrs. Clinton speech at a University of Nevada, Las Vegas fundraiser last fall. Her speaking contract includes a stipend for her staff and details such as how long she will remain at an event (90 minutes), how many photos she will pose for (50) and how many people she will pose with (100).

"Her lifestyles of the rich and famous ways and comments that she made about her wealth during a recent book tour have fueled criticism that she's out of touch with average Americans," reports the Review Journal.

Out of touch, or out of practice? Let's remember that Mrs. Clinton hasn't run for anything in six years. Whether it's her clumsy attempts to explain her wealth or her clumsy attempts to distance herself from President Obama's foreign policy, Mrs. Clinton is making a lot of unforced errors.

"The idea of Clinton as a candidate has always been better than the reality of a Clinton candidacy," Jennifer Rubin of the Washington Post wrote recently. "She lacks her husband's charm. She is forever claiming that her experience entitles her to the next rung on the ladder. And she doesn't have original ideas or political creativity."

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She also doesn't have a Democratic challenger, since her refusal to rule out a 2016 run has cleared the field. That reality has allowed her to get away with these mistakes. But if she keeps this up, she won't not have a challenger for long.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton's Speaking Gigs Could Become a Big Problem"

By Linda Killian, journalist and a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Her most recent book is "The Swing Vote: The Untapped Power of Independents."

August 19, 2014, 2:47 p.m. EDT

The demands and requirements specified by Hillary Clinton when she is booked for a six-figure-speech — including flying on private jets and staying in presidential suites — do not portray the former secretary of state in a particularly flattering light and could even threaten her political future.

Recently the Las Vegas Review-Journal obtained a copy of Mrs. Clinton's contract for a speech at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to be given in October for which she will be paid $225,000, a reduction of her normal $300,000 speaking fee.

Among the requirements spelled out for a Clinton appearance: a draft program for the event must be submitted one month in advance; she has approval over who will introduce her as well as the moderator for an audience Q&A; she will determine the topic, format and length of the speech as well as the backdrop, banners and scenery.

"The only approved speech title will be 'Remarks by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.'"

No photos or video of the event can be distributed and no broadcast or webcast of the event is allowed. The media will not be allowed to attend even as guests unless approved in advance, and any mailings and advance publicity must be approved. Radio or television advertising of the event is not permitted.

Talk about controlling.

Mrs. Clinton agrees to do a photo line for a maximum of 100 people prior to the speech but will not do any additional receptions or dinners. For 90 minutes she will be paid $225,000 — more than four times the average annual income in the U.S.

And therein lies the problem for the woman who, at this moment, is perceived as the frontrunner in the 2016 presidential race.

Since leaving the State Department, Mrs. Clinton has given paid speeches at a number of universities including UCLA and the University of Connecticut and to many trade conventions, Wall Street banks and

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business groups. From 2001-2012 Mrs. Clinton and former President Bill Clinton earned more than $160 million, according to financial disclosure forms, mostly from speaking fees, making them wealthier than any living former First Family.

Such wealth, especially for someone who might be seeking the Democratic presidential nomination at a time when income inequality and economic frustration is on the minds of most Americans, requires a certain humility and deft touch that President Clinton may have but so far Mrs. Clinton seems to lack.

When asked about their wealth, Mrs. Clinton said she and her husband left the White House “dead broke.” Perhaps – but obviously with tremendous earning potential.

Americans want to know that their elected officials are like them and understand their problems – especially now when many are questioning whether equal opportunities for advancement still exist in this nation.

This air of privilege and inability to connect was a significant problem for Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign and could be for Mrs. Clinton as well if she doesn’t find a way to break out of the insularity of a world of private jets and presidential suites.

Fox 25 (Boston): “Warren dodges questions if Hillary is best choice for Democrats in 2016”

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 19, 2014, 6:02 p.m. EDT

BOSTON (MyFoxBoston.com) -- Will Mass. Senator Elizabeth Warren run for president in 2016? Her upcoming trip to Israel has some thinking about her next career move.

FOX 25's Political Reporter Sharman Sacchetti asked Warren about her plans to visit Israel, her first overseas trip as a US Senator.

When asked if this trip was an attempt to build her foreign policy portfolio, Warren said, "No, this is an attempt to go to Israel."

When asked about her reasoning behind the trip, Warren said one reason is simply because she hasn't had a "chance to get there yet."

She went on to say, "And there's a very special relationship and there's a very special relationship between the United States and Israel and frankly a very special relationship between Massachusetts and Israel. We both have economies that are tech based, we have a lot of things, a lot of businesses."

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When asked if she thinks Hillary Clinton is the best choice for the Democratic party in 2016, Warren said Clinton is "terrific."

One of her supporters asked her to go into an event and she did not comment further.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· October ? – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (The Hill)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/26/2015 1:49:22 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday January 26, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday January 26, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Articles:

Politico: "Behind Sen. Elizabeth Warren's Treasury takedown"

"The larger question is the extent to which Warren continues to use her platform to push Hillary Clinton to the left and away from her more centrist, Rubinite roots."

BuzzFeed: "DREAMers Are Back And They're Coming For The GOP And Clinton"

"National DREAMer activist Erika Andiola recently told BuzzFeed News that Clinton and Jeb Bush, two possible 2016 candidates with perhaps views on immigration policy more in line with the activists', will be forced to clarify their stances."

Time: "The Invisible Presidential Campaign Kicks Off in Earnest"

"Bush, Romney and Christie are especially squeezed by the fundraising pressures, as their candidacies are set to rely heavily on their predicted ability to match Hillary Clinton's formidable potential."

USA Today: "Cruz, Paul, Rubio spar on Cuba policy at desert forum"

"Asked by Karl whether Republicans should nominate a candidate with no foreign policy experience — which none of the three senators on stage in Rancho Mirage had — Rubio took a shot at Hillary Clinton, Democrats' likely 2016 presidential nominee. 'I think it would be a mistake to elect as president the architect of Obama's foreign policy,' he said. 'That would be a terrible mistake.'"

Forbes: "Hillary's Lead Over GOP Frontrunners Shrinks"

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"The January Zogby Analytics Poll shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton keeping her leads over possible GOP contenders in 2016 – but her leads narrowing significantly."

Articles:

Politico: "Behind Sen. Elizabeth Warren's Treasury takedown"

By Ben White

January 26, 2015, 5:37 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] How the Massachusetts senator rallied the left and blindsided the White House.

NEW YORK — Supporters of Antonio Weiss knew the Wall Street banker's nomination for a top job at the Treasury Department was in deep trouble the morning of Dec. 5.

Kirsten Gillibrand, Democratic senator from New York, went on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" and refused to say if she would back the Lazard banker. And she made clear who was really calling the shots. "I think Senator Warren's very clear," Gillibrand said, sounding a bit like the Massachusetts senator's press secretary. "She believes that, as the person responsible for how consumers are affected, his background and his experience don't fit the requirements."

Weiss supporters in the White House and on Wall Street were stunned. They expected some opposition from the left but not the explosion that greeted the nomination. Never mind that, as undersecretary for domestic finance, Weiss would not be the person chiefly responsible for consumer financial protection — Warren created a whole separate agency for that — or that neither Gillibrand nor Warren had ever met or spoken to the man.

The verdict was in. And it was bad.

"That moment stunned me," said one close friend of Weiss. "For a senator from New York who is ostensibly part of the sensible center to say this, I was just flabbergasted."

Senior White House officials, led by chief of staff Denis McDonough and counselor to the president John Podesta, would continue to work the phones and argue in public and private for Weiss' nomination for the next several weeks.

But as Democrats kept coming out in opposition — while Republicans sat back and relished the show — it became clear that Weiss would have a very hard time getting confirmed.

The game in Washington had changed.

Elizabeth Warren, sometimes disregarded by the White House as a largely irrelevant nuisance, could no longer be ignored. Bolstered by grass roots groups eager for any anti-Wall Street crusade and a vibrant progressive media that hung on her every word, Warren succeeded in knocking out Weiss' nomination.

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It was not a total victory. Weiss will still join Treasury as an unconfirmed counselor to Secretary Jack Lew. But in terms of symbolism, the Washington power game and the ideological direction of the Democratic Party, Warren won big. And the moderate, Wall Street- and business-friendly wing of the party — in past years happily occupied by Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting Hillary Clinton — got punched in the mouth.

“They will have to be more careful now and you won’t see any bankers nominated for high-level positions,” said a person close to the campaign against Weiss, who said the episode could also influence the way Clinton staffs and runs her campaign.

On the other side, the despair among Wall Street’s Democratic elite is growing acute. As is the belief that Weiss himself never mattered in this fight.

“In this case, the thing Warren was against — adding another Wall Street anti-regulatory guy — wasn’t even remotely true,” said one senior Wall Street Democrat who has worked in government but, like many interviewed for this article, declined to be identified by name to avoid Warren’s wrath. “There is no one in government right now who has any market or finance experience. It’s not like there are ‘too many.’”

How it began

The White House nominated Weiss, a highly respected Wall Street banker at boutique firm Lazard, on Nov. 12. Treasury wanted him because no one in its top leadership tier — including Lew and deputy secretary Sarah Bloom Raskin — had any real financial markets experience.

Lew worked briefly at Citigroup, as did under secretary for international affairs Nathan Sheets. Raskin worked for a time at Promontory Financial Group. But none had the kind of deep relationships or international financial experience that Weiss did. And Weiss, in addition to his work on Wall Street, was a big financial supporter and bundler for President Barack Obama.

It did not take long for Warrren to declare war on the nomination.

On Nov. 14, POLITICO first reported, citing a Warren aide, that the senator would oppose Weiss for the job. “She is a no on Antonio Weiss. She was a Treasury official herself, she cares a lot about who is in the domestic finance role,” the aide said at the time. “It oversees Dodd-Frank implementation and other core economic policymaking.”

Shortly after the POLITICO story, Warren penned an op-ed for The Huffington Post laying out her case against Weiss, ripping his extensive career on Wall Street and his work on a controversial deal in which Burger King bought Canadian coffee and doughnut chain Tim Horton’s and moved its headquarters to Canada.

The morning the first POLITICO article about Warren’s opposition came out in the “Morning Money” tip sheet, a small group of progressives at CREDO Action in San Francisco gathered to plot strategy, poring over the Warren aides’ every word. This was the perfect fight, they decided.

After the midterm election drubbing, the battle was on for the soul of the Democratic Party. And another fight was already brewing over the inclusion of pro-Wall Street language in the year-end spending bill.

“It was the exact right campaign at the exact right time,” said Murshed Zaheed, deputy political director at CREDO and a former aid to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. “We felt this nomination presented the perfect battle that would drive the narrative of where the party needs to go and where the progressive movement is right now.”

Warren and other Democrats — along with Republican Chuck Grassley — slammed the Burger King deal as an un-American “inversion” transaction. The counterargument from Weiss supporters, that the Burger King deal was not an inversion because Tim Horton’s was the larger company and putting the headquarters in lower-tax Canada was the only reasonable thing to do, never got any traction. It did not help matters that Lew himself had recently launched an effort to crack down on inversion deals, though not the Burger King transaction.

For Warren, the Weiss nomination was a last-straw moment, people close to her say. She didn’t come out hard against Mary Jo White for Securities and Exchange Commission chair, despite White’s record of defending Wall Street clients as an attorney in the private sector. She didn’t

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try to block Stanley Fischer as Federal Reserve vice chair despite Fischer's work at Citigroup. And there were others.

It was time to fire up the troops against Weiss. And they came eagerly along.

By early December, with no coordination with Warren or anyone else on the Hill, CREDO said it had close to 200,000 signatures on a petition to oppose Weiss.

Progressive groups Democracy for America and Moveon.org also joined the fight. The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor group, raised questions about millions of dollars in accelerated compensation Weiss was to receive if he left Lazard for Treasury. The pressure came not just from the left. The Independent Community Bankers of America sent a letter to top senators questioning whether Weiss would do enough to champion the interests of smaller banks.

Through an aide, Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, indicated he would oppose Weiss. Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia also came out in opposition, an early indication that a full-scale populist assault was underway. Then Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, viewed as fairly moderate, said she could not back Weiss because of his work on tax deals.

Outgoing Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden made it clear Weiss would not get a confirmation hearing in the lame-duck session of Congress in December. Weiss would have to wait until Republicans took over in 2015, allowing the opposition movement to gather strength.

"Warren successfully put together this incredible coalition of activist groups and liberal media organizations that sprang into action without her really having to do much of anything," said a Wall Street executive who tried to help steer Weiss through the process. "These people can now stop pretty much anyone they want and the White House can't do much about it."

Others view Warren's power as somewhat more limited. She succeeded in derailing Weiss in part because Obama could not count on Republicans — who typically like nominees with business experience — to put Weiss over the top.

"Unrecognizable"

As opposition began to grow, Weiss, who declined to comment for this story, hunkered down in New York. He could not speak out on his own behalf, hamstrung by the need to wait for confirmation hearings. He did not get to sit down in advance with Warren or other senators coming out against him.

People who spoke with Weiss during this time described him as bewildered by the characterizations of him as a super-wealthy tycoon who favored tax inversions and would come to Washington to do Wall Street's bidding at Treasury. "The picture they painted of him was totally unrecognizable to him," one friend said.

Instead, friends and colleagues described Weiss as a fairly progressive Democrat who liked poetry, bought the Paris Review to keep it afloat and fell in love with policy while working part time — at Podesta's invitation — on tax reform issues at the Center for American Progress, a Democratic think tank, where he co-authored a paper calling for curtailing tax loopholes for Wall Street executives, among other things.

These people say the 48-year-old Weiss had long been thinking of a career shift, especially in the years since his father passed away. He did some teaching but became most attracted to the idea of doing policy work in Washington. When Lew reached out to him for the undersecretary job, he jumped at the chance.

People who know Weiss say he expected to get some opposition. And they say he knew his high salary — he earned at least $15.4 million from Lazard over the past two years — would become public knowledge and the source of some embarrassment.

But friends say Weiss did not expect to be portrayed as a proponent of tax inversions, since his role at Lazard did not include working on the tax implications of merger deals. And they say he thought his broad international experience — he spent eight years in Paris — would be seen as a plus. Instead, Warren and others used it as a cudgel to argue that he lacked enough experience in issues of domestic finance. And they said that it would be better if Weiss had experience in Asia rather than Europe because of China's and Japan's large holdings of U.S. debt.

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Meanwhile, White House officials including Podesta, Lew and National Economic Council Director Jeff Zients continued to speak out on Weiss' behalf and say they thought the GOP Senate would confirm him in 2015. By all accounts, the White House never gave up on Weiss. Lew told CNBC as recently as Friday that he thought Weiss could have been confirmed: "I still thought that there was a pathway for him to be confirmed. My concern when he said he didn't want to be renominated was that we'd get the benefit of his talent."

Some moderate voices — Andrew Ross Sorkin in The New York Times and the Bloomberg News editorial page — came out in favor of Weiss. But progressives just laughed off those endorsements as indications that the Lazard banker really should not be trusted.

Opposing Weiss become even more critical for progressives as the White House pushed hard for support of the year-end spending bill despite a provision rolling back a section of Dodd-Frank prohibiting banks from holding certain derivative securities inside their tax-payer backstopped subsidiaries.

Wall Street fought for the provision for years and Warren and many on the left railed against the White House for allowing Republicans to sneak it into the bill. Letting that happen and approving Weiss as well would be just too much.

As all this was going on, people close to Weiss say he took a long holiday break and decided it would not be worth it to keep up a confirmation fight that could take months and leave him little time to actually do the job. "Antonio learned a lot of lessons the hard way about how Washington really works now," one friend said.

And while the White House still hoped that Weiss would eventually receive a heavy dose of Republican support, there was no guarantee. Republicans could have simply delayed a hearing for Weiss and let Democrats continue to fight among themselves.

Friends say Weiss, after a lengthy series of conversations with friends and colleagues, decided leading up to the weekend of Jan. 10 that he would ask the White House not to resubmit his nomination in the new Congress. Officials at Treasury and in the West Wing pushed back at first on the decision but then relented and asked that he still join the administration as a counselor to Lew with a senior advisory role on a wide range of issues from fiscal policy to debt management and financial regulation.

He would not have the clout of a confirmed position or the ability to testify publicly on the administration's behalf. But he could still do most of the stuff he wanted to do. Some on the left squawked that he should not be allowed to go to Treasury at all. But Warren, herself a former unconfirmed Treasury official, mostly left the issue alone, content in scoring a major headline win and sending a message to the administration that they should not mess with her or the progressive movement on anything to do with Wall Street.

What it all means

Warren's message clearly resonated. Obama came out with strong populist themes in a State of the Union address that adopted much of the Massachusetts senator's rhetoric on standing up for the middle class against the wealthy and powerful. Obama called for a big bank tax, an increase in the capital gains rate and crackdowns on other loopholes enjoyed by the wealthy.

And Warren shot to her feet and applauded vigorously when Obama promised to veto any bill sent to him by the GOP Congress "unraveling the new rules on Wall Street."

This was the Obama the activist left loves, rather than the more cautious centrist with Wall Street sympathies who tried and failed to install former Clinton administration Treasury Secretary Larry Summers as Federal Reserve chair. Summers, a protégé of banker Robert Rubin — perhaps the most hated Democrat among the activist left — eventually had to step aside in favor of Janet Yellen, a beloved figure to progressives.

Warren clearly demonstrated her ascendance as a political force. The larger question is the extent to which Warren continues to use her platform to push Hillary Clinton to the left and away from her more centrist, Rubinite roots. So far, Clinton has proved less than adept at co-opting Warren's message. She's struggled mightily to talk about her own significant wealth, complaining about being "dead broke" when leaving the White House in 2000. And she stumbled on the stump in the midterms when she said that it's not corporations that create jobs.

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Running on Warren's issues — reining in Wall Street, protecting consumers — is not a political liability. The public – and certainly the Democratic Party – is largely with Warren on all these issues, polling data show. But Democratic insiders and analysts all question whether Clinton would be successful at shifting left or come across as hypocritical and insincere.

There is also the question of financial support. Clinton has long enjoyed heavy backing from Wall Street. But that could dry up if she keeps criticizing the industry as she did in a tweet on Jan. 16: "Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong," she said. "Better for Congress to focus on jobs and wages for middle class families." Clinton, in the tweet, criticized Dodd-Frank changes strongly supported by Wall Street.

The former first lady and secretary of state will hardly be beholden to the financial-services industry for money, especially in the era of billionaire-funded "super PACs." But she would still face charges of changing her tune if she were to tack too hard toward the Antonio Weiss-bashing left.

"My guess is she will try to thread her way through this by saying that Warren has very legitimate concerns but that Wall Street is still an important part of the economy," said one of Clinton's biggest Wall Street supporters who also backed Weiss for Treasury. "But that's just a very tricky needle to thread."

BuzzFeed: "DREAMers Are Back And They're Coming For The GOP And Clinton"

By Adrian Carrasquillo

January 25, 2015, 8:16 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] After playing a key role in securing Obama's executive actions on immigration, DREAMer activists are back, confronting Republicans, with an eye towards Hillary Clinton too.

In 2014, DREAMer activists, undocumented youth brought to the country as children, established themselves as a pivotal force in the immigration fight. But if you thought the immigration protests that interrupted speeches from both Democrats and Republicans during 2014 would end with President Obama's executive actions, you thought wrong.

If anything, last year showed them that the strategy works, and so DREAMer activists are back. Their first volley of 2015 came at the Iowa Freedom Summit, a gathering of conservatives, many with presidential aspirations, where they had one question: Do you stand with us, or with immigration hardliner Steve King?

"2016 is around the corner, so we want to see where Republicans stand, would they overturn [Obama's actions]? Would they deport DREAMers?" said activist Cesar Vargas, one of the nearly 10 who crashed the GOP event, interrupting former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. "For Hillary Clinton, yes, she tweeted that she supported the president on executive action, but for us it's not just about approval — what else will she do?"

The young activists gave Clinton headaches last year during her book promotional tour and later on the campaign trail, when they repeatedly confronted her. National DREAMer activist Erika Andiola recently told BuzzFeed News that Clinton and Jeb Bush, two possible 2016 candidates with perhaps views on immigration policy more in line with the activists', will be forced to clarify their stances.

If the strategy seems counterintuitive, Vargas says the activists' strategy is constantly misunderstood.

"This is not just about political tactics, it's just about real questions, there are real people affected by this, whether they're parents or workers," Vargas said. "All 2016 hopefuls say, 'We want to talk to the real Americans.' Well these are the real people affected by these policies."

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Why protest Perry, for instance, someone who has faced criticism from the right on immigration (Perry famously said "you don't have a heart" if you oppose in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants), when Sen. Ted Cruz and others also there? Activists say they see it differently after Perry sent the National Guard to the border during the unaccompanied minors crisis, and Marco Malagon, who interrupted Perry at the event and was arrested, was there because of that in particular. But Cruz has advocated for stricter policy on undocumented immigrants and had strong words about immigrants at the event too.

"Ted Cruz is a lost cause," Vargas said. "He's a far right political figure for the Tea Party. Chris Christie, Scott Walker, on the other hand, they're trying to stay away from the issue, we want to know where they stand. Jeb Bush, he's seriously considering not only running, but also working with the Latino community."

One activist in Iowa for the confrontation, Giancarlo Tello, a New Jersey DREAMer, said that after the president's announcement, future immigration actions won't only feature young undocumented advocates.

"Its not just going to be DREAMers, but whole immigrant families. Not just those who qualify for [deferred action], but also for Obama's actions for families," Tello said. "It left 7 million behind. As long as the undocumented community is still being criminalized, we're going to go after them, whether they're Democrats or Republicans."

It's important to note that the activists are not all from one organization. There are local groups, leaders like Andiola and Vargas of the Arizona-based Dream Action Coalition, and also one major national organization: United We Dream (UWD).

For its part, UWD spent Friday to Sunday in Maryland holed up at their yearly retreat, mapping their strategy for the year. BuzzFeed News has learned that the group has so-called offensive and defensive priorities, as well as local and national plans for 2015.

Going on offense looks a lot like what went down in Iowa this weekend, but just as importantly, the organization wants to defend Obama's executive actions, which they feel are under attack by Congressional Republicans, as well as in the 25-state Texas lawsuit on the constitutionality of the executive actions. UWD also wants to work on educating the community on implementation of Obama's actions, getting all of those who are eligible to apply to be protected from deportation.

A new strategy for UWD this year centers on some local battles they want to aid affiliates in, like in Texas, where Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick campaigned on far stricter border enforcement and dismantling the in-state tuition program (the issue is contentious within the Republican Party there — Republican Gov. Greg Abbott largely distanced himself from Patrick during his campaign, but said if the legislature passed the in-state tuition bill, he would sign it). The organization also wants to help in states that may be looking to add in-state tuition like Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The activists in Iowa on Saturday held signs that said "Deportable?" on them, a reference to a much-maligned tweet by Steve King, who organized the Iowa Freedom Summit. King was referencing Michelle Obama's guest at the State of the Union, a young undocumented immigrant whom he called a "deportable."

DREAMers say that King like Cruz, is a lost cause, but the signs were meant as a question to prospective presidential candidates, as in, "Are we deportable?"

Vargas said Christie calling King a friend on Saturday told them a lot.

"In Spanish there is a saying, 'Dime con quién andas, y te diré quién eres,'" Vargas said.

"Tell me who you're with, and I'll tell you who you are."

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Time: "The Invisible Presidential Campaign Kicks Off in Earnest"

By Michael Scherer, Alex Altman, and Zeke Miller

January 25, 2015

Presidential candidates-to-be, and a passel of well-known clingers on, converged in Iowa this weekend with all the flash and fun the nation has come to expect of the Grand Old Party.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina managed substantive introductions, alongside businessman Donald Trump, who declared there is "nobody like Trump," and Sarah Palin, who struggled with diction and metaphor, offering phrases like "We don't sit on our thumbs this next time when one of our own is being crucified."

The real action, however, lay elsewhere, off the stage and out of sight, in an invisible primary taking place behind closed doors in states not known for their place in the nominating calendar. Candidates have been crisscrossing the nation and working the phones, dialing for dollars and loyalty in a contest that may prove far more consequential than speech that can be given before any crowd at this point.

The goal is not to win votes, but to win the support of Republicans like Bobbie Kilberg, who hosted an off-the-record event in Virginia for Christie last week with 96 corporate technology leaders. In recent months, she has taken not one, but two calls from Mitt Romney informing her of her thinking, as he edges toward another campaign. And having worked for the administrations of both Presidents Bush, she feels a special affinity for former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, whose son, George P. Bush, she recently supported in his race for Texas land commissioner.

"I have three wonderful friends in this race," said Kilberg, who runs the Northern Virginia Technology Council, but supports candidates only in a personal capacity. "My expectation is that all three of them will run."

But the physics of political fundraising does not allow for her fealty to be equally divided for long. Connecters like Kilberg now face enormous pressure to decide on a single candidate to benefit from their vast Rolodexes. "I think there is enough donor bandwidth for all three of them in the center right lane," Kilberg explains of the three candidates. "The finite group are the bundlers."

Securing the 2012 nomination cost Romney $76.6 million, raised in increments up to the legal limit of $2,500. His super PAC, Restore Our Future, which could accept unlimited contributions, added nearly $50 million to the tally.

Operatives affiliated with multiple campaigns say candidates will need at least $50 million to win the nomination this time around, but predict more of the spending will tilt toward the outside groups.

Bush, Romney and Christie are especially squeezed by the fundraising pressures, as their candidacies are set to rely heavily on their predicted ability to match Hillary Clinton's formidable potential. The early start to the race — candidates are traveling the country earlier and more frequently than ever on the Republican side — adds strain across the board. Complicating matters further are changes to the nominating calendar with fewer debate opportunities and a compressed timeline that favor well-funded candidates once voters get to the polls.

Kilberg and her husband Bill, a prominent Washington lawyer, helped bundle together more than $100,000 in checks of less than $2,000 in 2004 for George W. Bush. In 2012, she helped lead Mitt Romney's fundraising in Virginia, bringing in a reported $322,000 at just one event at her home. The Tuesday event Kilberg had with Christie and northern Virginia technology executives was not a fundraiser, she said, but a get-to-know-you session.

At almost the same time the event was happening, Bush was meeting in the offices of Dirk Van Dongen, a Republican fundraiser who runs the National Association of Wholesalers. Dongen, a Washington fundraiser for another White House aspirant, Marco Rubio, plans to support Jeb Bush this time, if he runs.

The Bush events were not fundraisers either, though forms were distributed inviting donors to begin bundling for Bush's new political action committee, Right to Rise. The main purpose, as with the Virginia events, was to win over the networkers who traditionally hold the purse strings of

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presidential politics. According to people who attended, Bush spoke broadly about his views of the country and the best way to approach the presidential race. He said a winning candidate would have to connect with middle-class anxiety by walking in the shoes of regular people, said one attendee.

"The contrast was obvious," the attendee said, explaining how Bush appeared to be contrasting himself with Romney's 2012 campaign. "That's 100 degrees from the 47% comment."

Romney, meanwhile, has been reactivating his own donor base, having chosen a donor event in New York early in the month to formally announce his decision to begin pursuing a third presidential campaign. The former private-equity executive has been working the phones since then, telling donors he is serious about considering another bid.

Senator Marco Rubio, meanwhile, held his annual retreat for his top donors in Miami over the weekend, a move designed to keep his loyalists close while he considers his options. He later joined fellow Senators Ted Cruz and Rand Paul on stage in Palm Springs at the winter meeting of the Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, a spending vehicle for the billionaire GOP megadonor Koch brothers and their allies. Also in attendance, after a well-received appearance in Iowa, was Walker, who was making the first stop on a multi-day West Coast fundraising swing for his new fundraising committee, which will be announced as soon as Monday.

While Republican voters have more than a year to decide on the candidate they want to take on Democrats in 2016, the donors clock is ticking. Quarterly fundraising totals, which will come out early this summer and again in the fall, will help shape the race, determining which candidates have the money to mount serious contests, with the grassroots organizing ability and television firepower to withstand the early contests.

"It's really what we would call in the business a pre-sell," says a senior Republican strategist about Bush's visit to Washington this week. "They'll come back in the next 60 days and do some big fundraising, and they'll hope to get a lot of those same people to be on their committee."

For those keeping score, the results of such appeals will be the ones that count, not the applause of activist crowds. In this democratic process, the voices of the people only matter after the first waves of money have been counted.

USA Today: "Cruz, Paul, Rubio spar on Cuba policy at desert forum"

By Sammy Roth

January 26, 2015, 2:51 a.m. EST

Three likely contenders for the Republican presidential nomination shared a stage in Rancho Mirage, Calif. on Sunday night, where they outlined similar visions for helping the middle class but differed sharply on foreign policy, including Cuba.

The wide-ranging panel discussion — which featured U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida — was part of an annual desert gathering for high-profile Republicans, sponsored by a group aligned with the billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch. The summit is traditionally closed to outsiders, but in a limited concession to their critics, the Koch brothers allowed members of the media — but not the public — to watch a live stream of Sunday's panel.

The three Republican senators — none of whom has officially declared a presidential candidacy — largely avoided criticizing each other directly, in an event that some observers described as the first debate of the 2016 election. But they didn't hesitate to attack President Barack Obama, starting with the rosy economic outlook he presented in his State of the Union Address last week.

"It seemed to me like we were watching a description of an alternate reality," Cruz said. "It reminded me of 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

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POPULIST TONE

The Republican senators did, however, echo Obama's focus on the middle class and income inequality, with Cruz and Rubio especially looking to strike a populist note. Rubio said income inequality has "increased dramatically" under Obama's economic policies, while also tweaking Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign.

"The central narrative of the last campaign, what the voters heard, is, 'We don't have to worry about the 47 percent,'" Rubio said, recalling Romney's now-infamous remarks at a private fundraiser. "I think Republicans should be the party of the 47 percent."

Generally, the candidates had similar prescriptions for helping the middle class: smaller government, lower taxes across the income spectrum, and other policies they said would grow the economy as a whole. They criticized government as much as they criticized Obama, with Paul saying that government "is not stupid, but it's a debatable question."

"Income inequality is indirectly, if not directly, related to big government," he said.

But pressed by moderator Jonathan Karl for specifics on hot-button economic policy issues, the candidates at times equivocated. While all three said they oppose raising the federal minimum wage from $7.25 per hour, Cruz and Paul wouldn't say whether they support having a minimum wage at all. Rubio came closest to answering the question, saying that "as a practical matter," he's not calling to abolish the minimum wage.

CRUZ, RUBIO CONDEMN CUBA POLICY

The biggest disagreements of the night came when the conversation shifted from economic policy to foreign policy. Cruz and Rubio strongly condemned Obama's recently announced plan to normalize relations with Cuba, but Paul said he sees a lot to like about the new policy.

"We have embassies everywhere. Diplomacy is a good thing, not a bad thing," Paul said. "Reagan talked to the Russians. Every president we've ever had talked to the Russians for 70 years, and it's a damn good thing they did."

The candidates were similarly divided on Iran, with Paul arguing that Congress should let ongoing negotiations over Iran's nuclear program play out before approving more economic sanctions. Cruz and Rubio painted the negotiations as a waste of time, calling for a more aggressive stance against Iran.

Asked by Karl whether Republicans should nominate a candidate with no foreign policy experience — which none of the three senators on stage in Rancho Mirage had — Rubio took a shot at Hillary Clinton, Democrats' likely 2016 presidential nominee.

"I think it would be a mistake to elect as president the architect of Obama's foreign policy," he said. "That would be a terrible mistake."

Forbes: "Hillary's Lead Over GOP Frontrunners Shrinks"

By John Zogby

January 25, 2015, 6:30 p.m. EST

The January Zogby Analytics Poll shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton keeping her leads over possible GOP contenders in 2016 – but

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her leads narrowing significantly. In the January 16-18 online poll of 890 likely voters, Mrs. Clinton leads former Florida Governor Jeb Bush by only 8 points — 45% to 37% (down from 49% to 34% in mid-December's Zogby Analytics Poll) – and 9 points over former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, 46% to 37% (down from 48% to 33%). The poll has a margin of sampling error of +.-3.4 percentage points.

A lead is still a lead but her margins are narrowing among several key subgroups. For example, among women she now leads Bush 48%-34%, where it was 55% to 30% just last month. Her leads have shrunk from 35 points to 16 points among 18-29 year olds, 28 points to 17 points among 30-49 year olds, 16 points to 10 points among independents, and 58 points to 24 points among Hispanics. She has actually gone from a 20 point lead among Catholics to a 6 point deficit.

The numbers are showing very much the same trend line against Romney. In two other races, she now leads Kentucky Senator Rand Paul by 14 points (48% to 34%), while last month it was 18 points (51% to 33%). Against New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Clinton now leads by 12 points (45% to 33%), whereas last month it was by 15 points (48% to 33%).

Now these are not good numbers for Republicans. While these are the only four candidates we tested, they are all prominent and none of them even hits 40% — a very bad sign for a national party. But essentially, Clinton simply running against herself is not doing well, certainly not enough to close any deal. In fact, during the course of a year of polling, she has dropped into the mid-40s, down from the mid-50s. And, very significantly, these numbers include "leaners" – i.e. those who initially said they were undecided and were asked if they had to choose a candidate today. More leaners chose the GOP candidates than chose her.

This is only a temporary reading and there is a very long way to go. For now, there is some movement already and we are watching it closely.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Craig Minassian" <craig@minassianmedia.com>
To: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 1:29:13 PM
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

Looks good. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2015, at 8:09 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

All,

As you are all aware, Jo Becker from the NYT's investigative unit is one of several reporters at work on stories based on material provided by the publisher of the upcoming Clinton Cash book. Jo's story is scheduled to run in as soon as one week.

Separately, this afternoon, Amy Chozick from the NYT called us to indicate she had obtained a copy of the book on her own and intends to file a separate story tomorrow. Her story will not unpack all of the book's claims -- she will leave that to Jo. Instead, she will do a more process-y story about the book's existence, the fact that the publisher has approached multiple media outlets in advance of the book's publication to spoon-feed them some of the book's research, and also remark on the fact that Rand Paul continues to drop hints about the book's contents such that it appears they may be some coordination with individual Republican campaigns.

We think this story, though it was not originated by us, could end up being somewhat helpful in casting the book's author as having a conservative agenda. Moreover, we think Amy is suspicious of the arrangements that the book's publisher has reached with the various media outlets (including her own paper). In fact, Jo Becker is apparently trying to get this story killed because she thinks it will undermine her investigative piece later this month. But so far it is running in tomorrow's paper.

Amy is seeking a response from us on what our approach is to the looming publication of the book and the apparently well coordinated rollout. We have drafted the below response, and wanted you all to see it and provide feedback before we sent it off. Please note, however, that in order to get the statement into the story, we probably need to provide it by about 8:30 tonight. So apologies for the tight turnaround, but here it is:

> "We always expected that while Hillary Clinton was focused on how to help everyday Americans get ahead, the Republicans would focus their efforts on attacks rather than ideas. It appears that this book is being used to aid this coordinated attack strategy, twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories. It will not be the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about the Clintons' record, and we know it will not be the last."

Thank you,
Brian

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 4/19/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: Transatlantic Unity Makes Russia Sanctions More Effective

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Transatlantic Unity Makes Russia Sanctions More Effective

Douglas Hengel — April 20, 2015

WASHINGTON—It has been a year since the United States, European Union, and other allies first sanctioned Russia for its illegal annexation of Crimea and aggression toward Ukraine. As Russia's destabilization of Ukraine continued, the United States and Europe broadened sanctions in an effort to persuade Vladimir Putin's government to change its behavior and to deter Russia from further belligerence in Ukraine and elsewhere in the neighborhood. The measures included asset freezes and visa bans on individuals considered to be responsible for actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity (including several in Putin's inner circle), and limits on business dealings with some Russian banks, defense companies, and energy firms.

Predictably, the restrictions imposed on Russia have been controversial, as sanctions regimes generally are. Some complain they are too weak, citing as evidence Russia's continued lack of compliance with the Minsk agreements to ensure a ceasefire and stabilize eastern Ukraine. Others argue the actions are not only ineffective but counterproductive. They lead the Russian people to close ranks around their leaders, undermine efforts to integrate Russia into the global economy (setting back Russian political and economic reform), and cause other collateral damage to the long-term interests of the transatlantic community.

The debate about the effectiveness of sanctions is a hardy perennial. Some sanctions regimes have been judged to be more effective (e.g., South Africa, Burma, Iran) than others (e.g., Cuba, Zimbabwe). The international community is much better able now to target measures against specific rogue actors (so-called "smart" sanctions), but unintended consequences are almost always part of the equation. So, collateral damage is a cost that should be considered, while recognizing there is also a cost to doing nothing. Sanctions also take time to have their intended impact. The phenomenon of rallying around the flag is often the first reaction when sanctions are imposed on a country, but that tends to fade over time as costs mount, or as the citizenry better understands what is truly causing their economic distress, as in the case of Iran.

It is important to remember that sanctions are a tool meant to help gain a policy outcome. They are not an end in themselves, and are unlikely to be effective if they are the only instrument deployed. Sanctions are also much more likely to achieve the desired result when they are multilateral. This can mean the measures adopted are weaker in some respects than one might like, but the sanctions with the least impact are generally those imposed unilaterally (e.g., by the United States on Cuba). It is critically important that the United States and Europe remain united on Russia and Ukraine.

In that regard, the conclusions of the March 19 European Council are significant. The leaders of the EU agreed that the measures adopted against Russia "should be clearly linked to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements." This was agreed despite legitimate concerns by some European countries about the cost to them of the sanctions, as well as Russian efforts to divide Europe and Europe from the United States. Disunity would undermine transatlantic efforts and reward the Putin regime.

It is premature to judge the effectiveness of the restrictions imposed on Russia for its misbehavior in Ukraine. Russia is the largest economy on which punitive steps like these have been imposed, so new ground is being broken. The sharp drop in energy prices that occurred as sanctions were ramped up makes it difficult to isolate the particular impact of just the restrictive measures.

Key to judging whether the sanctions are effective will be whether the fragile ceasefire in eastern Ukraine holds and pro-Russian rebels refrain from moving on the key coastal city of Mariupol. Longer term, a key measure of the efficacy of sanctions will be Russia's implementation of its commitments under the Minsk agreement. Nevertheless, it is clear that the restrictions in effect now

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on Russia are having an impact on particular individuals and companies, and Western signals about possible further sanctions may be a factor in current Russian restraint. Continued unity among the transatlantic community is critical in this regard.

It bears repeating, however, that sanctions alone are not enough. Sanctions can help focus Russia on implementation of the Minsk accords and the return to Ukraine of sovereignty over its entire territory, but the strongest long-term antidote to continued Russian mischief is a more democratic and prosperous Ukraine. Thus the United States and the EU are working with international financial institutions to strengthen the Ukrainian economy and support the implementation of needed reforms. Ukraine's success depends above all on the choices of the Ukrainian people and their government, with the backing of the transatlantic community.

DISCUSS

Douglas Hengel is a Senior Resident Fellow with The German Marshall Fund of the United States. Follow him at @DougHengel54 .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Scott Lilly" <rscottlilly@hotmail.com>
Date: 8/14/2008 11:31:32 AM
Subject: Re: U.S. Intelligence Failure in Georgia

You should do an oped for the post on this.

On 8/14/08, Scott Lilly <rscottlilly@hotmail.com> wrote:
>
>
> Denis,
>
> I have it on good authority that the DNI was completely caught off guard by
> the Russian invasion. He was, according to my information, watching CNN with
> his mouth wide open.
> This is a collosal failure of U.S. intelligence.
>
> The word inside the community is that overhead and other resources were so
> fully tasked on Iraq and Afghanistan that little was left for the South
> Caucuses. That indicates that the security costs presented by the Iraq
> occupation are even more profound than believed by many of us who worried
> about that issue.
>
> But even that explanation is insufficient to explain how the Russians could
> have prepared for such an operation and executed it without our being
> alerted. They clearly constrained radio and telephone communications,
> covered their efforts to raise unit readiness and set a carefully planned
> manuever into motion without tripping a single trigger of U.S. information
> collection--all this despite the fact that we had U.S. military forces in
> the target country.
>
> The fact that we had so little monitoring raises serious questions about
> whether the administration was exercising an appropriate level of scepticism
> about Russian intentions. Their desire to recover their lost possessions in
> the region--at least Georgia and Azerbaijan--have been widely known and pre
> date Putin.
>
> For more than four decades the Republican party has cast itself as heirs to
> the traditions of Wiston Churchill and cast Democrats as naive about our
> enemies and unwilling to use the force necessary to protect the nation's
> interest. The administration's performance with Russia indicates that they
> more closely approximate Neville Chamberland than we do.
> Scott Lilly 3110 North 17th Street Arlington, VA 22201

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/21/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: Is Saving Refugees Worth the Political Price Tag for Germany?

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Transatlantic Take

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Is Saving Refugees Worth the Political Price Tag for Germany?

Markus Ziener — October 22, 2015

BERLIN—The influx of refugees into Germany is forcing its leaders to throw aside some of their long-held convictions and face reality. They are making nice with authoritarian Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to get him to accept more refugees. They are talking to Russian President Vladimir Putin so that he does not further fuel the crisis. They are even negotiating with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to stem the flood. The refugee influx is now driving German politics, and not the other way around...

FULL ARTICLE

Markus Ziener is a Non-Resident Fellow with GMF's Europe Program, based in Berlin.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Terri D. Mansfield" <terribillionairs@aol.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/18/2015 7:34:29 AM
Subject: email for John Podesta (c/o Eryn) from Edgar Mitchel re meeting ASAP

Dear John,

As 2015 unfolds, I understand you are leaving the Administration in February.

It is urgent that we agree on a date and time to meet to discuss Disclosure and Zero Point Energy, at your earliest available after your departure.
My Catholic colleague Terri Mansfield will be there too, to bring us up to date on the Vatican's awareness of ETI.

Another colleague is working on a new Space Treaty, citing involvement with Russia and China. However with Russia's extreme interference in Ukraine, I believe we must pursue another route for peace in space and ZPE on Earth.

I met with President Obama's Honolulu childhood friend, US Ambassador Pamela Hamamoto on July 4 at the US Mission in Geneva, when I was able to tell her briefly about zero point energy.
I believe we can enlist her as a confidante and resource in our presentation for President Obama.

I appreciate Eryn's assistance in working with Terri to set up our meeting.

Best regards,
Edgar
Edgar D. Mitchell, ScD
Chief Science Officer & Founder, Quantrek
Apollo 14 astronaut
6th man to walk on the Moon

PS Terri's cousin by marriage and former Mayor of Chicago Jane Byrne died recently. Raum Emmanuel was at her funeral.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/11/2014 1:07:51 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday December 11, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday December 11, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Bloomberg: "Chris Christie Would Lose Badly to Hillary Clinton in New Jersey, Poll Finds"

"Clinton is the only candidate listed who gets a positive favorability rating, 58—35 percent. The Republicans all have negative scores in New Jersey."

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Fox Resurrects Distorted Version Of Hillary Clinton's Benghazi Testimony"

"Fox News hosts criticized a distorted version of Hillary Clinton's congressional testimony on the 2012 Benghazi attacks, falsely suggesting that the former secretary of state had been indifferent to the cause of the attack."

New York Times: "Torture Report Puts Presidential Hopefuls in Quiet Mode"

"On Wednesday, Mr. Christie, the New Jersey governor and potential Republican presidential candidate in 2016, was hardly eager to revisit the torture issue. Among presumptive candidates in both parties — including Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush — he had company in his reticence."

Associated Press: "Delays Plague Hillary Clinton's State Dept. Files"

"The State Department has failed to turn over government documents covering Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as secretary of state that The Associated Press and others requested under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act ahead of her presumptive presidential campaign."

Wall Street Journal opinion: Karl Rove: "Why Does Hillary Want to Be President, Anyway?"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

[Subtitle:] “So far it looks like Mrs. Clinton would have at least as many problems in 2016 as she did in 2008.”

MSNBC: “Ted Cruz rips ‘Obama-Clinton’ foreign policy in 2016 preview”

“In a potential preview of the 2016 presidential contest, Senator Ted Cruz lit into the ‘Obama-Clinton foreign policy’ in a speech before the conservative Heritage Foundation on Wednesday.”

Politico: “Poll: Clinton leads among wealthy voters”

“In a CNBC survey of the wealthy released on Wednesday, 31 percent of those with assets of $1 million or more said that they would vote for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for president in 2016.”

People: “PEOPLE Magazine Rounds Up the 25 Most Intriguing People of 2014”

“Hillary Rodham Clinton paid tribute to the poet, author and activist, telling PEOPLE: ‘We're a better country today because of Maya Angelou. Our country's struggles, triumphs and progress over the past century are written all over her life.’”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “Why Elizabeth Warren is liberals’ dream 2016 candidate, in 49 seconds”

“Speeches like the one Warren gave Wednesday will just fuel chatter about why she should challenge Hillary Rodham Clinton in two years. And she knows it.”

The Hill opinion: Lanny Danny: “Why I am ready for Hillary”

“With Hillary Rodham Clinton as the Democratic Party nominee in 2016, it’s time. And it will happen.”

Articles:

Bloomberg: “Chris Christie Would Lose Badly to Hillary Clinton in New Jersey, Poll Finds”

By John McCormick

December 11, 2014, 6:02 a.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

[Subtitle:] Half of New Jersey's voters don't want to see Christie run for president.

A Jersey Guy in the White House? Fuggetaboutit. New Jersey voters say that America isn't ready for one of their own as the commander-in-chief, and would pick Hillary Clinton over their state's governor, Chris Christie, by a margin of 11 points, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released Thursday.

A slim majority in the survey say Christie wouldn't make a good president, while half of the state's voters don't think the U.S. is ready for a "Jersey Guy" in the White House. New York neighbor Clinton would, for now, beat all of the prospective Republican 2016 candidates in the state.

Fifty-three percent of the state's voters said Christie wouldn't make a good White House occupant, while 40 percent say he could do the job. Even among Republicans, a fifth hold the view that he isn't presidential material.

The trepidation over electing Christie president might have something to do with an open question about his potential candidacy: Whether his brash style would be accepted in places like Iowa and New Hampshire, where politics tends to be more genteel. Christie made national news in October when he told a constituent who was critical of New Jersey's response to mega-storm Sandy to “sit down and shut up.”

By a margin of 50 percent to 44 percent, the state's voters say they wouldn't like to see Christie run for president. If he does, 62 percent say he should resign as governor.

“If Christie does run—and his New Jersey neighbors say he shouldn’t—he should quit his day job,” Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the poll, said in a statement.

In late January, Christie is scheduled to return to Iowa, where the nomination voting will start in early 2016. The moderate Republican will speak at an event that has so far attracted RSVPs from only the most conservative of prospective GOP presidential candidates, as well as Sarah Palin and Donald Trump.

Electing a president from New Jersey wouldn't be unprecedented, although it's rare. Grover Cleveland is the only New Jersey native to become president, while Woodrow Wilson served as the state's governor and president of Princeton University before occupying the White House, according to the state's website.

On the question of whether Americans are ready for a Jersey president, 49 percent of the state's voters say no and 43 percent say yes. Men are nearly evenly divided, while women are more doubtful, 51 percent to 41 percent. Younger voters think the nation could be open to the idea, while those 35 and older disagree.

"The last Jersey guy who got elected president did not carry the state in his 1916 reelection," Carroll said in a reference to Wilson. "This poll shows we haven't changed in the last century."

If Christie and Clinton run, she would beat him at this point 50 percent to 39 percent. In New Jersey, she would also easily beat former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

Clinton is the only candidate listed who gets a positive favorability rating, 58—35 percent. The Republicans all have negative scores in New Jersey.

"She beats all the probable Republican candidates, including the governor," Carroll said. "He does better than the other Republicans but he still loses his home state."

New Jersey voters give President Barack Obama a negative job approval rating in the survey, with 46 percent approving and 50 percent disapproving. That's slightly better than the same poll found in August.

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Hamden, Connecticut-based Quinnipiac interviewed 1,340 registered voters for the survey, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 percentage points.

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Fox Resurrects Distorted Version Of Hillary Clinton's Benghazi Testimony"

By Emily Arrowood

December 10, 2014, 3:11 p.m. EST

Fox News hosts criticized a distorted version of Hillary Clinton's congressional testimony on the 2012 Benghazi attacks, falsely suggesting that the former secretary of state had been indifferent to the cause of the attack.

On December 10, the hosts of Outnumbered recalled former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's January 2013 congressional testimony in a discussion on the day's hearing of the Republican-led House Select Committee on Benghazi. Co-host Andrea Tantaros alleged Clinton said, "It doesn't really make a difference what happened on that night" of the attack, and continued, "whether it was men out for a walk." Co-host Kennedy agreed, suggesting Clinton's "strange and insulting line of reflection" evidenced indifference to the lives lost in the attacks. Kennedy went on, "[I]t actually makes a very big difference. If you've got a systemic problem with Al Qaeda who's ready to attack a vulnerable U.S. embassy, then yeah, that's vastly different than a couple people that just get together with some incendiary devices."

That's an egregious stretch of Clinton's remarks.

During her congressional testimony, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) asked Clinton about the State Department's role in editing Obama administration talking points to remove a reference to the Benghazi attackers' motive. In response, she dismissed the relevance of debating who edited a government memo, saying, "[T]he fact is, we had four dead Americans. Was it because of a protest? Or was it because of guys out for a walk one night and decided they'd go kill some Americans? What difference, at this point, does it make?" She emphasized, "It is our job to figure out what happened and do everything we can to prevent it from ever happening again."

Fox figures have tirelessly attempted to scandalize Clinton's innocuous response, even jumping off the remarks to imagine her hypothetical assassination. The distortion has proved too egregious even for other members of the right-wing media -- Weekly Standard writer (and Fox contributor) Stephen Hayes called out his fellow conservatives for misrepresenting her remarks, saying Clinton's critics have "badly mischaracterized the now infamous question." According to Hayes, Clinton's "question, which came in the middle of a heated back-and-forth with U.S. senator Ron Johnson, was not so much a declaration of indifference as it was an attempt to redirect the questioning from its focus on the hours before the attacks to preventing similar attacks in the future."

New York Times: "Torture Report Puts Presidential Hopefuls in Quiet Mode"

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Michael Barbaro

December 10, 2014

WASHINGTON — In 2002, not long after President George W. Bush named him the top federal prosecutor in New Jersey, Chris Christie emphatically and unexpectedly denounced torture as a means of gathering evidence.

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“I cannot believe, given the history of this country, that no matter what the threat to our country that we would forsake our protection of liberties to the extent that we would advocate torture as a way of getting evidence,” he said then, adding, “You have to be coolheaded in times of crisis to be able to not go too far.”

But on Wednesday, Mr. Christie, the New Jersey governor and potential Republican presidential candidate in 2016, was hardly eager to revisit the torture issue. Among presumptive candidates in both parties — including Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush — he had company in his reticence.

Most of the possible presidential candidates have not plunged into Washington’s debate over the Senate Intelligence Committee’s withering report on the Central Intelligence Agency’s brutal interrogation tactics — and some are ducking questions entirely, illustrating the delicate politics of national security.

One senator who did agree to talk, Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida, criticized the public release of the Senate report but also decried torture as an interrogation technique. Asked specifically about the use of waterboarding and rectal feeding, which were both documented in the report, Mr. Rubio said he did not want to discuss “specific methods” but suggested that he did not support such practices, noting that they have been discontinued. “And I’m not advocating that we continue those practices.”

But Mr. Rubio struck the same theme as many in his party, condemning the report and its release for being “conducted in a way that was partisan and unfair.” Releasing it, he said, “puts in danger the lives of Americans.”

Few would-be candidates want to be seen as defending torture, particularly in the aftermath of the graphic techniques depicted in the panel’s findings. At the same time, Republican candidates in particular do not want to be seen as soft on terrorism. The report puts one Republican, Mr. Bush, in an especially unenviable position, because it resurrects the most controversial policies of his brother’s administration.

For Mrs. Clinton, the challenge is different: She must balance her desire to be seen as tough on national security against pressure from her party’s liberal wing to not only condemn the gruesome tactics but punish those involved. The report provides an opportunity for potential Clinton challengers to stake out a position to her left — and one Democrat, Gov. Martin O’Malley of Maryland, took it.

While Mrs. Clinton has previously said she did not want to see the officials who conducted the interrogations prosecuted, Mr. O’Malley, in an interview, called on the Justice Department to name a special prosecutor to investigate.

“I think there needs to be some accountability so this doesn’t happen again,” he said.

The likely Republican candidates and their advisers recognize that their party base still has a hawkish impulse when it comes to terrorism, especially given the warnings that the publication of the report could prompt new threats on Americans.

“Look at the polling, and elected Republicans pretty much reflect where their constituents are: largely supportive of the C.I.A. program with little interest in the details, a small minority opposed as a matter of principle, but no one shedding any tears for the terrorists who got roughed up,” said Michael Goldfarb, a neoconservative strategist.

Yet Mr. Christie’s refusal to weigh in — the governor said in a brief interview that it would not be “responsible to comment” on a report he had not read — irritated Mr. Goldfarb, who said in a post on Twitter that the governor was “irresponsible” in avoiding questions Wednesday about the interrogation methods.

For presidential hopefuls outside Washington, there is little upside in commenting, said Kevin Madden, who advised Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee. Mr. Romney did not comment. Three other Republican governors — Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Scott Walker of Wisconsin and John R. Kasich of Ohio — also declined to comment on the report.

Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, issued a statement calling the report “a highly partisan attack on the previous administration” that “puts Americans at grave risk as it fuels propaganda efforts of radical Islamic terror groups and sympathizers already trying to destroy our nation.”

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But among senators who might run for president, there was more pressure to respond, Mr. Madden said, because it is “part of their day-to-day job.”

Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, on Wednesday delivered a blistering attack on President Obama’s foreign policy — while linking Mrs. Clinton to it. “Today, the consequences of the Obama/Clinton foreign policy is that our friends no longer trust us, and our enemies no longer fear us,” he said in remarks prepared for a speech at the Heritage Foundation.

Of the likely Republican candidates, Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, may have the most difficult balance. Approached outside his office on Wednesday, he would not answer questions. Mr. Paul’s libertarian-leaning followers disdain the aggressive Bush-era national security policies, but the Kentuckian has been careful on foreign policy to not appear as out of the Republican mainstream.

The awkwardness of his position was on display after the report was released Tuesday. Speaking to Politico, he said, “I think we should not have torture,” and he generally praised government transparency, but questioned whether releasing gruesome details would be “beneficial or inflammatory.”

Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, last week gave a speech calling for a more assertive and muscular American foreign policy, but he has not spoken out on the interrogations. His silence on the report stands in contrast to his quick response on Facebook to Mr. Obama’s executive order on immigration.

Mrs. Clinton has been nearly as quiet. Her memoir from serving as Mr. Obama’s first-term secretary of state included only a single sentence on torture, and the words “torture” and “interrogation” are not in the index. In remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations over the summer, however, she called for the release of the report, saying, “The American people deserve to see it,” but she also noted that she opposed prosecuting “people who were doing what they were told to do.”

Senator Bernard Sanders, the Vermont independent who calls himself a Democratic socialist, denounced the tactics described in the report and said in an interview that he was especially disturbed by the Senate panel’s conclusion that the C.I.A. misled the White House and Congress about them. “If anyone is lying to elected officials, they should be fired immediately,” he said.

Jim Webb, the Democratic former Virginia senator, was more cryptic. He posted on Twitter about the report, posing questions: “Were these acts individual, institutional, or national policy? Did intelligence committee use its oversight power?”

Associated Press: “Delays Plague Hillary Clinton’s State Dept. Files”

By Stephen Braun

December 10, 2014, 2:42 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The State Department has failed to turn over government documents covering Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as secretary of state that The Associated Press and others requested under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act ahead of her presumptive presidential campaign. They include one request AP made four years ago and others pending for more than one year.

The agency already has missed deadlines it set for itself to turn over the material.

The State Department denied the APs requests, and rejected the AP's subsequent appeals, to release the records sought quickly under a provision in the law reserved for journalists requesting federal records about especially newsworthy topics.

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In its requests, the APcited the likely prospect of Clinton entering the 2016 race. The former first lady is widely considered the leading Democratic contender hoping to succeed President Barack Obama. She has made scores of recent high-profile speeches and public appearances.

On Wednesday, the conservative political advocacy group Citizens United sued the State Department for failing to disclose flight records showing who accompanied Clinton on overseas trips.

Citizens United, which in 2009 mounted a legal battle that led to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning campaign finance limits, said the department unlawfully was withholding the records it sought nearly five months ago.

The State Department is among the U.S. government's worst-performing federal agencies under the Freedom of Information Act. There is no direct evidence that political considerations in a Democratic presidential administration have delayed the release of files about the party's leading contender for 2016. But the agency's delays, unusual even by government standards, have stoked perceptions about what could be taking so long.

"There may not necessarily be political interference, but if the department went out of its way to speed these documents there would be no way for people to accuse them of it," said Thomas Blanton, who has previously sued the State Department for access to records as director of George Washington University's National Security Archive, a research organization.

The department "is stonewalling us," said Citizen United's president, David Bossie. He asserted that "these decisions are being made with Hillary Clinton's intentions at heart," but acknowledged he could provide no evidence of political interference.

Bossie, a former Republican congressional investigator who researched figures in the Clinton administration, said his group's film unit wants the records for a sequel to its documentary about Clinton, which spurred the Citizens United court decision.

The group first asked Air Force officials for passenger lists from Clinton's overseas trips but was told all flight records were under the State Department's control. "These were Air Force flights and crews but State has the records?" he said, adding that his group has submitted 15 Clinton-related requests in the past six months.

The AP's requests go further back.

The AP requested copies of Clinton's full schedules and calendars from her four years as secretary of state; her department's decision to grant a special position for longtime aide Huma Abedin; Clinton's and the agency's roles in the Osama bin Laden raid and National Security Agency surveillance practices; and her role overseeing a major Defense Department contractor. The AP made most of its requests last summer, although one was filed in March 2010.

State Department spokesman Alec Gerlach cited the department's heavy annual load of FOIA requests - 19,000 last year - in saying that the department "does its best to meet its FOIA responsibilities." He said the department takes requests "first in, first out," but noted that timing depends on "the complexity of the request." He declined to comment on Citizen United's suit.

In a previous communication, a State Department official apologized for its own delays responding to AP's records requests without offering any explanation for the delays.

"We sincerely regret the delay," said Lela H. Ross of the Office of Information Programs and Services, which administers the agency's requests. The official did not explain the delays but cited the agency's "complex and lengthy administrative FOIA process."

Last May, the State Department told the AP that its search for records pertaining to Clinton and the defense contractor would be completed by August. The agency said it now expects the files to be available later this month. Similarly, the agency said the Clinton and Abedin records would likely be completed in September. Now it says it will not finish until next April. The 4-year-old FOIA request still has no estimated completion date.

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The agency's pace responding to requests for Clinton-related files has frustrated news organizations, archivists and political groups trying to research her role at the State Department in the months before Clinton decides whether to formally enter the 2016 race.

At stake is the public's access to thousands of documents that could help understand and define her activities as the nation's chief diplomat under Obama.

Other major document repositories have released thousands of pages of files about Clinton's private and public life.

Since February, lots of previously restricted records from her years as first lady to President Bill Clinton have been made public by the Clinton Presidential Library. Last month, the University of Virginia's Miller Center presidential oral history collection unveiled dozens of interviews with key players from the Clinton White House.

The State Department generally takes about 450 days to turn over records it considers to be part of complex requests under the Freedom of Information Act. That is seven times longer than the Justice Department and CIA, and 30 times longer than the Treasury Department.

An inspector general's report in 2012 criticized the State Department's practices as "inefficient and ineffective," citing a heavy workload, small staff and interagency problems. A study in March by the nonpartisan Center for Effective Government said the State Department was the worst-performing agency because of its delays and frequent failure to deliver the full number of files that people requested.

Wall Street Journal opinion: Karl Rove: "Why Does Hillary Want to Be President, Anyway?"

By Karl Rove

December 10, 2014, 7:42 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] So far it looks like Mrs. Clinton would have at least as many problems in 2016 as she did in 2008.

There have generally been two reactions to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton 's Dec. 3 statement at Georgetown University that America should try to "empathize" with our nation's "enemies."

One camp holds that Mrs. Clinton simply chose the wrong word to express a banal thought—that the U.S. must understand its enemies. The other camp says her State Department record demonstrates she herself lacks the empathy to know how to deal with America's adversaries or allies.

Both responses are true, yet I have another observation about her speech: It is further evidence Mrs. Clinton is at best a mediocre presidential candidate. She was lackluster in 2008 and worse today. The stiff, off-putting style is familiar. What's more surprising is how sloppy, ill-prepared and tone-deaf she has become.

If Mrs. Clinton intended to say we must understand our adversaries—their motivations, methods and goals—she should have said so. If her speechwriter's draft was unclear, she should have ordered a rewrite. If she can't summon warmth and wit now, how will she display a winning personality in her umpteenth hundred event, assuming she becomes a candidate?

The empathy quote was memorialized on video. It may come back to haunt her: Sounding like President Obama on foreign policy isn't going to help her win in 2016, when the world is likely to be more chaotic and American interests even more threatened.

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This is not Mrs. Clinton's first political misstep this year. There was her early summer book tour where she explained she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House, nearly unable to afford their "houses," and then went off on an NPR reporter who was trying to help her explain away her former opposition to gay marriage.

Campaigning for Democrats in the midterms was no better. On Oct. 24 in Boston, she uttered the inanity, "Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs." By the way, there are few grateful Democrats whose campaigns she helped since almost all of them lost.

After the election, more mistakes. At a Nov. 21 black-tie gala in New York, Mrs. Clinton endorsed Mr. Obama's executive order on immigration by suggesting the events' servers and food preparers were in the country illegally, as were most construction workers.

Reporters have largely overlooked Mrs. Clinton's blunders, but it is not inconceivable that at least some of them may start holding her accountable to the standard they apply to gaffes uttered by Republican hopefuls.

Meanwhile, Hillary's operation promises to be entertaining. There have been news reports of infighting among her proto-campaign high command (never a good sign) that included the leak of emails thought to be embarrassing to an aspirant for campaign manager (never a good precedent).

Most telling—and damaging—she still has no core message. This is 22 months following her resignation as secretary of state. She suggested to Charlie Rose on July 17 that she might focus on what to do "to tackle growth, which is the handmaiden of inequality." That sounds less like a message than a tactic to placate the Democratic Party's populist Occupy Wall Street wing with a pale imitation of Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Even her husband frets she doesn't have a message. Former President Clinton recently told CNN that "we've reached a point in our life when we think you really shouldn't run for office if you don't have a clear idea of what you can do and a unique contribution you can make and you can outline that. Now that the book is done, she wants time to think about that and work through it. I think so much of politics is background noise, and we don't need the background noise anymore."

The next presidential election is in 23 months. But no amount of time is likely to be enough for Mrs. Clinton to make herself a much better candidate. She is who she is and cannot change. In 2008 she could not articulate a compelling purpose for her run and stressed only her inevitability and entitlement. So far, it looks like Hillary 2.0 will have at least as many problems as Hillary 1.0.

It's hard for a political party to win three consecutive terms in the Oval Office. Since 1952, only George H.W. Bush was able to do it for his party after Ronald Reagan 's two terms. Unfortunately for Democrats, Mr. Obama is no Reagan—and as they may soon find out, Hillary is no Bush 41.

MSNBC: "Ted Cruz rips 'Obama-Clinton' foreign policy in 2016 preview"

By Benjy Sarlin

December 10, 2014, 6:35 p.m. EST

In a potential preview of the 2016 presidential contest, Senator Ted Cruz lit into the "Obama-Clinton foreign policy" in a speech before the conservative Heritage Foundation on Wednesday.

"Today, the consequences of the Obama-Ciinton foreign policy is that our friends no longer trust us and our enemies no longer fear us," Cruz said.

In closing his remarks, Cruz added that he was "hopeful and optimistic that two years form now we will see a very different president whose word can be trusted by friend and foe alike."

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Cruz and former Hillary Clinton are both considered potential, perhaps probable, presidential candidates in 2016. The latter's time as secretary of state under President Obama would play a central role in her campaign, for good or ill, making Cruz's remarks a good indicator of how he and other Republican candidates might take her on.

The senator suggested Obama and Clinton had too much "empathy" to effectively confront the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) even as the president, with Clinton's support, oversees a campaign of airstrikes to destroy the group.

"In the Obama-Clinton foreign policy all members of the international community are equal, be they nations or not, and should be dealt with respectfully and with empathy," he said. "Let me be very clear: When it comes to radical Islamic terrorists who are crucifying Christians, who are beheading children, what our foreign policy needs is not additional empathy. It needs clarity and force and resolve to defend the United States of America."

Cruz devoted the most attention to the administration's handling of Russia and Iran, mocking Clinton for declaring a "reset" in relations with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. He called on the administration to provide arms to Ukraine to battle Russian-backed separatists, withdraw from the START missile treaty with Russia the Senate ratified in 2012, and install new missile defense systems in Eastern Europe.

Russia's economy is currently backsliding into recession thanks to weak oil prices and a suite of international sanctions organized by Obama. Cruz waved away the administration's efforts to punish Putin with only a passing mention, saying they "had no discernable effect."

He accused the administration of playing into Iran's hands by engaging in negotiations over its nuclear program, instead proposing instituting new sanctions attached to a demand that the country dismantle any semblance of a nuclear program unilaterally.

"Here's a hint: if a nation calls you the Great Satan, it ain't good," he said.

Cruz tied the Iran sanctions to reports in the Israeli press, recently dismissed by the State Department as "unfounded," that the United States was considering sanctions against Israel over its announcement of new settlements in Palestinian territories.

"It's difficult to imagine a more stunning indictment of the Obama/Clinton foreign policy than the notion that they might believe we should be sanctioning the nation of Israel and lifting sanctions on the nation of Iran," he said.

In a Q&A with audience members afterwards, Cruz also weighed in on the recent bombshell report by the Senate Intelligence Committee that accused the CIA of engaging in, and covering up, a widespread program of torture against detainees. Cruz said torture is "wrong, unambiguously" and Congress was right to ban the practice, but accused the Democratic Senators behind the report of harming America's image abroad by releasing it.

"It endangered Americans across the globe and the risk of retaliation, of violence is real," he said. "But even more broadly it demonstrates an approach that has characterized this administration for six years, which is that everything everything everything is George W. Bush's fault."

Politico: "Poll: Clinton leads among wealthy voters"

By Kendall Breitman

December 10, 2014, 1:39 p.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Millionaires are ready for Hillary.

In a CNBC survey of the wealthy released on Wednesday, 31 percent of those with assets of $1 million or more said that they would vote for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for president in 2016. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush came in second place with 18 percent, followed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie with 14 percent.

Thirty-eight percent of female millionaires support Clinton for president, while 27 percent of males expressed support for the potential candidate.

Other potential contenders named in the survey included Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

Bush took the lead for support among Republican millionaires, gaining 36 percent of the support among the group. Democrats overwhelmingly support Clinton, with 72 percent of Democratic millionaires supporting the former secretary of state while Warren only gained the support of 14 percent. Twenty-three percent of Independents also supported Clinton, while Christie followed closely behind with 19 percent.

The poll also found that 74 percent of millionaires didn't donate any money to any candidate in 2014 and only about 4 percent donated amounts over $1,000. Democrats reported giving more money to candidates than Republicans.

The CNBC poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

People: "PEOPLE Magazine Rounds Up the 25 Most Intriguing People of 2014"

[No Writer Mentioned]

December 10, 2014, 3:25 p.m. EST

Director, actress and mom-of-six Angelina Jolie may top PEOPLE magazine's list of 25 most intriguing people – but she isn't the only newsmaker who made headlines in 2014.

On the big screen, Reese Witherspoon, 38, turned books into blockbuster hits (producing both Gone Girl and Wild) and Chris Pratt, 35, exploded into stardom with summer's megahit Guardians of the Galaxy.

Meanwhile, Matthew McConaughey, 45, made a more than alright, alright, alright comeback in his Oscar-winning role in Dallas Buyers Club – and everyone's BFF Jennifer Lawrence, 24, continued her leading-lady status in the high-grossing Hunger Games franchise.

And, of course, PEOPLE's Most Beautiful cover girl Lupita Nyong'o, 31, effortlessly took the red carpet by storm during awards season – and took home an Oscar for her emotional role in 12 Years a Slave to boot!

On the small screen, Orange Is the New Black's Laverne Cox, 30, made history as the first openly transgender person to be nominated for an acting Emmy.

TV titan Shonda Rhimes, 44, turned Thursday nights into ShondaLand, adding How to Get Away with Murder to a lineup that already included longtime hit Grey's Anatomy and Scandal. And 40-year-old Jimmy Fallon, who took over the hosting duties on The Tonight Show, became the king of late night with his post-prime time hilarity.

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Behind the scenes, comedian and 30 Rock star Tracy Morgan, 46, is still bravely fighting to recover from the injuries sustained in a car crash in June.

And not-so-behind the scenes, hearts broke everywhere when London-based attorney Amal Alamuddin, 36, took longtime bachelor George Clooney, 53, off the market and became Mrs. Clooney during a glamorous September soirée.

PEOPLE also remembers beloved luminaries we lost in 2014, with friends and family sharing memories. Among them: The great Maya Angelou, who died on May 28 at the age of 86. Hillary Rodham Clinton paid tribute to the poet, author and activist, telling PEOPLE: "We're a better country today because of Maya Angelou. Our country's struggles, triumphs and progress over the past century are written all over her life."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Why Elizabeth Warren is liberals' dream 2016 candidate, in 49 seconds"

By Chris Cillizza

December 10, 2014, 3:21 p.m. EST

In case you've been hiding under some coats this week, liberals are keyed up on the idea of recruiting Elizabeth Warren to run for president in 2016. Warren showed why in a speech on the Senate floor Wednesday, protesting the inclusion of a measure that would loosen restriction on derivative trading in a $1 trillion spending bill Congress is expected to approve this week.

It's worth watching the entire speech -- it's less than eight minutes from beginning to end -- but if you are either super busy or an easily distracted millennial, pay particular attention to the first 49 seconds of this clip.

Here's the key line: "I come to the floor today to ask a fundamental question -- who does Congress work for? Does it work for the millionaires, the billionaires, the giant companies with their armies of lobbyists and lawyers? Or does it work for all of us?"

Warren's anti-Wall Street, populist rhetoric, heavily focused on reducing or eliminating income inequality, sits at the core of the Democratic base's belief system at the moment. In a recent NBC-Wall Street Journal poll, almost six in 10 Democrats (58 percent) agreed with the idea that economic and political systems are stacked against them. As WSJ's Neil King notes, that sense of a rigged system is far from a Democrats-only belief; "51 percent of Republicans; 55 percent of whites; 60 percent of blacks; 53 percent of Hispanics; as well as decent majorities of every age and professional cluster, including blue-collar workers, white-collar workers and retirees," all hold it, according to King.

But, the sense of not only a widening gap between haves and have-nots but also a sort of a built-in institutional unfairness to it runs extremely strong within the Democratic base. That goes double when the very likely nominee for the party in 2016 is neither a) a populist or b) anti-Wall Street.

Speeches like the one Warren gave Wednesday will just fuel chatter about why she should challenge Hillary Rodham Clinton in two years. And she knows it.

The Hill opinion: Lanny Danny: "Why I am ready for Hillary"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Lanny Davis

December 10, 2014, 7:52 p.m. EST

Last week, on Dec. 4, I helped organize a Ready for Hillary fundraiser in Montgomery County, Md., in the immediate suburbs of Washington, D.C. The organization, an independent grassroots committee, has been at work for the past year gathering millions of names and small donations in support of Hillary Rodham Clinton for president — that is, just in case she decides to run in 2016.

When I began working on this event, I was not sure many prominent statewide or local elected officials would be willing to sign up on the invitation as members of the host committee, especially because the outgoing Maryland governor, Martin O'Malley, has made it apparent that he is running for president.

But what happened surprised me. Many of the major Maryland statewide elected officials signed up, including the attorney general, state treasurer and state Senate president. Early in the week at a Baltimore event, so did Maryland's two popular U.S. senators: Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin. In Montgomery County, also leading the host committee were the current popular and recently reelected African-American county executive, Ike Leggett; the revered former county executive Sidney Kramer; and six out of seven members of the county council, including the incoming council president.

The guest of honor was the congressman representing the location of the fundraiser (Potomac), Rep. John Delaney. The congressman offered three facts about Clinton — the reasons she should be our next president.

First, Clinton's record and vision for America's future focuses on economic growth and job creation — and, particularly, on addressing economic challenges still faced today among the working poor and the broad middle class across the nation.

Second, she is a progressive Democrat who knows how to work with the private sector and with Republicans to find solutions. This is what she did again and again, Delaney pointed out, when she served in the Senate from 2001 to 2009.

And third, she is by far the most qualified of all potential candidates, Democratic or Republican. No one has Clinton's combination of years in public service and experience at the state and federal levels, combined with her international and national security/anti-terrorism experience during four years of able service as secretary of State. In a dangerous world, she implemented her "smart power" approach: avoiding over-reliance on U.S. military intervention and, rather, using the "soft power" of America's economic strength, trade and human rights and democratic values.

I would add a fourth attribute of Clinton that may be, in terms of electability and ability to govern, most important of all: She is one of the kindest, warmest, most empathetic and caring people in public life today.

Some people don't see these qualities in her. I have known Secretary Clinton for more than 45 years. I know that in 2016 more and more people will come to know her as she truly is.

Proof that this has already begun to happen can be found in her consistently high ratings on personal characteristics in virtually every poll in recent years. Just this past Monday, the respected Bloomberg Politics poll, with a statistically large national voter sample, showed Clinton with significant leads over every Republican presidential aspirant on the four crucial personal / electability questions: Who "cares about people like you?" Who "shares your values?" Who "has a vision for the future?" And who is "a strong leader?"

Finally, there is the issue of gender. Do I believe that people should vote for her solely because she is a woman? No. But should she be supported because she is the most qualified candidate with a vision for the future of America and the ability to get things done — and she is also a woman? Yes.

I have a daughter and two granddaughters. I want to give them a good answer to the question they and many women and girls in America ask: How come there have been women presidents and prime ministers in countries all over the world but never once in America? Up to now, I have not had a good answer.

Now I have one: With Hillary Rodham Clinton as the Democratic Party nominee in 2016, it's time. And it will happen.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 15 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton discusses closing gender data gaps with Michael Bloomberg (AP)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/28/2015 8:49:45 AM
Subject: ISIS

John, people can agree or not with my views on ISIS, but here the text of a memo I sent today to someone very high level in the USG suggesting a United Nations force against ISIS modeled after the Uniting for Peace resolution during the Korean War:

With ISIS now committing genocide against Christians alongside mass crimes against humanity I would revive my suggestion to enact a resolution of the U.N. General Assembly, based on the precedent established under the Uniting for Peace Resolution during the Korean War, to create an international force, against the ISIS terrorist state. The General Assembly would actually be preferable to the Security Council, even if Russia would not veto, because a General Assembly-created force could put reclaimed territory in Syria under international supervision rather than under Assad.

Personally I am not interested in waiting for the next 20 terror attacks before we devise an effective response. We are now embroiled in arcane discussions with a dysfunctional Congress over inadequate policies. There will be multiple aggressive terror attacks including on American and European soil that are programmed as inevitable under the current policies. If there is one matter the nations of the world should be able to unite against, and act against, it is the crimes of ISIS.

A General Assembly created force could be significantly larger than any alternative force with minimal contributions required of any single nation. My guess is that the prospect of facing this kind of force would have such a powerful ideological and military impact, with a united world behind it, that much territory now controlled by ISIS could be liberated within a reasonable time frame.

On current course I do not believe that any of the leaders of the U.S., Europe, the Middle East or the world will be proud of their legacy or historical reputations following what is clearly a humiliatingly inadequate and inept response to ISIS. If there is one purpose for which the United Nations was created for and should stand for today it is putting a stop to the mass murder, genocide and crimes against humanity that ISIS pursues today.

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Hannah Richert" <Hannah@presidentclinton.com>
To: "Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
"Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com>
Date: 2/22/2013 9:31:17 AM
Subject: Re: Biweekly Report

Thank you

From: Zayneb Shaikley <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org >
Date: Friday, February 22, 2013 4:24 PM
To: Hannah Richert <hannah@presidentclinton.com >, Bruce Lindsey <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org >, Stephanie Streett <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org >, Tina Flournoy <tina@presidentclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Graham <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org >, Valerie Alexander <valexander@clintonfoundation.org >, Scott Curran <scurran@clintonfoundation.org >, Amitabh Desai <adesai@clintonfoundation.org >, Dennis Cheng <dcheng@clintonfoundation.org >, Bari Lurie <blurie@clintonfoundation.org >, Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com >, Jon Davidson <jon@presidentclinton.com >, 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Ali Rubin contact <ali@chelseaoffice.com >, Brittany Doyle Contact <brittany@chelseaoffice.com >, Philippe Rosen <prosen@clintonfoundation.org >, Margaret Steenburg <Margaret@presidentclinton.com >
Subject: Biweekly Report

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest biweekly report. Please let me know if he has any questions or feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 22, 2013

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

- [**NOTE:This information is embargoed until next Thursday, 2/28]** The Alliance will be prominently engaged in a new Let's Move initiative, "Let's Move at Schools," that will be announced by First Lady Michelle Obama on Thursday, February 28th in Chicago. Specifically, the Alliance will serve as one of three managing partners that will oversee the implementation of Let's Move Active Schools. The other managing partners are the President's Council for Fitness, Sport, and Nutrition and the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. As a managing partner of the Let's Move at Schools (LMAS) effort, the Alliance will:

    - Leverage the Healthy Schools Program six-step process to help school leaders increase physical activity opportunities. The process includes: building support with students, administrators and staff; completing a self-assessment; creating an action plan; finding resources to support efforts; taking action based on the plan; and celebrating success upon completion of the program.

    - Host the LMAS self-assessment tool to determine the school baseline of physical activity within the five Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program, or CSPAP, areas. The self-assessment tool will reside on the Alliance server and website, and the landing page within the Alliance site will indicate its distinct relationship with LMAS. The existing Healthy Schools Program Physical Education and Student Wellness modules will serve as the basis of the LMAS self-assessment (aka the HSP Inventory).

    - Provide phone, email and in-person expert technical assistance to school champions and participating schools/ districts to implement system change in Physical Education and Student Wellness. Support will be provided through the following outlets:

        - Provide HSP Ambassadors—physical activity champions—to support the in-person professional development trainings

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▪ Support Let's Move! Active Schools in the transition to the Healthy Schools Program

· These activities will be supported by an initial grant provided by Nike and over time, by other partner corporations. We expect that this effort will accelerate our progress towards meeting our goal of reaching 30,000 schools across the country and helping to deepen our impact on kids' levels of physical activities.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

· CHMI will be featured prominently at the 2013 HIMMS Conference, at which YOU will be making remarks. Verizon has invited CHMI to serve as a panelist during a session on secure exchange of medical information and to have a presence at its exhibit.

· CHMI released the Coachella Valley Blueprint for Action this week, which outlines the steps the community will take over the next five years to improve overall health and to close health disparity gaps.

· CHMI had a successful meeting with Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown about the launch of its community initiative in the Greater Jacksonville region.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

- Inc. magazine is meeting with Bank of America this week to discuss the possibility of securing its sponsorship for a Women's Summit. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, Inc. may be ready to move forward with discussions around the Clinton Foundation's possible involvement in specific aspects of the Summit (e.g., keynote/ panel speaker, mentoring-related tie-ins, panel topics) as part of a new partnership.

- A six-month post-mentoring program check-in was performed on key pairings from the Philadelphia EMP program. A small handful of these mentee-mentor pairs were only beginning to see the impact of their work together at the conclusion of the program last August, and had noted they believed they would see the greater part of the program's impact in future months.

- For one mentee-mentor pairing, what had already proven to be an impactful mentoring relationship has gone on to become an even larger success:

  Angelo Salandra is the President and CEO of Quality Management Services, a records management, administrative support and onsite management services company. Angelo recognized the need to diversify his customer base and sought out a mentor to help him expand his business into the government sector. Working closely with Hubin Jiang, President & CEO of ECOMPEX, Inc., a significant provider of similar services to the government, Angelo was able to quickly learn the ropes to government procurement resulting in a new government contract. By the program's completion in August 2012, the new government work Angelo was able to garner as a result of his collaboration with Hubin through the Entrepreneur Mentoring Program had helped him to hire an additional five full time employees to his firm (18% increase in workforce) and had driven a 9% increase in the company's annual revenue. Six months later, with Hubin's continued support, Angelo has been able to secure four additional contracts, resulting in an overall increase in annual revenue of over 30%.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

· CDI is moving forward quickly to develop its plan for building the new Anchor Farm in Tanzania. Walker Morris is working to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture on his trip to Tanzania in March to discuss an MOU and to look at options for the location of the first commercial farm.

· AGRA has asked CDI to host a field day at Mpherero Farm in Malawi to show representatives from a number of organizations working in agriculture, including USAID and IITA, the work of the Anchor Farm Project.

Rwanda (CHDI)

· Construction on the Mt. Meru Soyco site is 75% complete, and the production of edible oil is expected to begin in July 2013. The government has promised CHDI full support, particularly in terms of production of raw materials. This week, the Prime Minister visited the factory and was very pleased with its progress.

· CHDI has been participating in various exhibitions organized at the District level to demonstrate our work and help farmers understand the difference between varieties of maize and soybean.

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- Construction of the coffee roasting factory has been on hold for the last three weeks due to a construction permit issue. However, approval has been obtained by the city council and the official construction permit will be signed by the city's mayor next week.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Peru

- On February 15th, the Peru Cataracts project achieved its 50,000 surgery commitment. The goal was reached within 80% of the original budget and ahead of the four year schedule.

- In Apurimac, Peru, CGSGI's remote distribution pilot is entering its sixth week of operations. The program provides low-income women, many of whom are single heads of household, with the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and sell hard to access products to their remote communities. The product offering is being designed to include fast moving consumer goods such as soaps, cooking oil, yarn and clothing, and extends to over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and multivitamins as well as pro-poor products such as solar lamps and clean cook stoves. The first twelve entrepreneurs have completed their training and have sold approximately 2,000 products under consignment over the last five weeks. The venture provides life-changing income opportunities for these women and has the dual benefit of providing last mile distribution to the poor communities where they reside. Another six women have recently been recruited and are undergoing product sales training including the selling of low-cost VisionSpring reading glasses. If successful in Apurimac, CGSGI intends to scale this venture throughout Peru and possibly to other developing nations.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

- CGI currently has 160 paying members registered for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which represents an increase of 33 members since the last bi-weekly report and a reduction of the year-over-year variance from -52 to -22. Of the total number of registrants, 133 are renewals, 35 fewer than last year at this time, and 27 are new, 13 more than last year at this time.

Winter Meeting

- 370 individuals attended the Winter Meeting. Of that total, 40% had not previously attended a CGI event. This includes representatives from organizations that have never been CGI members as well as representatives from current members who have never attended a prior CGI event. Outreach to recruit potential paying members from this pool is underway.

- The plenary session, four of five breakout sessions, the CGI Orientation and the Girls and Women special session were standing room only.

- CGI is still tabulating the results of a survey distributed to participants and will report back any notable findings in the next bi-weekly report.

CGI University

Confirmed program participants for CGI U 2013 include: Sal Khan, Jack Dorsey, Stephen Colbert, and Muhammad Yunus.

The acceptance rate for applicants is 35% this year. Applicants will be notified of their status by the end of the day today.

CGI America

- CGI America has 95 paying participants, including 8 Annual Meeting members and 87 non-Annual Meeting members. There were two paying participants at this time last year.

Recent and Upcoming Convenings

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Arts & Development in Post-Conflict Communities: Why the Arts Matter for Resilient Societies (2/19/2013)

Women Leading Women in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): A Commitment Workshop (2/19/2013)

Integrating Women-Owned Businesses in Supply Chains: A Commitment Workshop (2/21/2013)

Sustainable Agricultural Training for Rural Farmers (2/21/2013)

Haiti Action Network (2/27/2013)

Coastal Resilience (3/5/2013)

Best Practices for Delivering Health Solutions at the Base of the Pyramid (3/15/2013)

Skills-Based Volunteering to Mentor Young Entrepreneurs (3/8/2013)

Democratic Republic of Congo Action Network (3/19/2013)

The Early Years (3/20/2013)

Oceans: Economic Development for Coastal Communities (3/21/2013)

Oceans: Protecting Ecosystems (3/28/2013)

Oceans: Catalyzing the Fishing Industry (4/4/2013)

Zayneb K. Shaikley
Associate Counsel & Initiative Liaison | William J. Clinton Foundation
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Direct: 917.720.0295 | Mobile: 646.873.0244
zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org | www.clintonfoundation.org

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/15/2014 9:24:52 AM
Subject: Navy's Electromagnetic Warfare Training Would Harm Humans and Wildlife

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Dahr Jamail | Documents Show Navy's Electromagnetic Warfare Training Would Harm Humans and Wildlife

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: While the US Navy claims "no significant impacts" will occur to wildlife or humans from its electromagnetic war games over the Olympic National Forest, military documents and an expert on the human impact of electromagnetic radiation fields say otherwise.

Read the Article

Marjorie Cohn | Torture Report Confirms Team Bush War Crimes

Marjorie Cohn, Truthout: "Even after many years of writing books and articles about the Bush torture policy, I was unprepared for the atrocious pattern of crimes our government committed against other human beings in our name."

Read the Article

Ferguson Outrage Grows From Local Protests to Global Movement

Crystal Shepeard, Care2: People have let out a collective cry of frustration at the lethal force used disproportionately against people of color in the United States. When a grand jury failed to indict the officer who killed Eric Garner in an illegal chokehold, the protests became a global movement.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | Economic Policy Myths of 2014: Dead and Enduring

Dean Baker, Truthout: The good news is that two economic myths that caused great confusion over the last several years are now headed to the trash bin of history. Unfortunately, many of our great national myths have survived 2014.

Read the Article

John Pilger | War by Media and the Triumph of Propaganda

John Pilger, Truthout: The times we live in are so

BuzzFlash

The National War on the Homeless Continues: Mass Eviction in San Jose

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: It appears that a growing urban trend is to regard destitute humans as "urban blight" and to make them disappear.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Sen. Warren Warns Against Wall Street Returning to Casino Gambling

Listen to the Interview at NPR

Gun Nuts' Racial Duplicity

Read the Article at Salon

Anti-Nuke Activists Fight

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dangerous and so distorted in public perception that propaganda is no longer, as Edward Bernays called it, an "invisible government." It is the government.
Read the Article

It's Not the Law - but Prosecutors - That Give Immunity to Killer Cops

Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report: It is not "the law" that stands like a brick wall of impunity for police, but the interpretation of the law by attorneys general and their subordinates, who view prosecutions of police as akin to unnatural acts that cannot be performed in public view.
Read the Article

Citigroup Will Be Broken Up

Simon Johnson, The Baseline Scenario: The supposedly brilliant people who run Citigroup have, in the space of a single working week, made a series of serious political blunders with long-lasting implications. Sen. Elizabeth Warren articulated the core of the problem and what needs to be done.
Read the Article

Black Youth-Organized Millions March NYC Draws Tens of Thousands in Movement's Biggest Protest Yet

Amy Goodman, Samantha Riddell and Juan González, Democracy Now!: Saturday's nationwide actions against police killings and racial profiling was the largest single protest of the post-Ferguson movement and the culmination of daily actions in New York City since a grand jury elected not to indict the police officer who killed Eric Garner.
Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

US Torture: Past, Present... and Future? Beyond the Torture Report

Rebecca Gordon, TomDispatch: "Be shocked, be disgusted, be appalled, but don't be fooled. The Senate torture report, so many years and obstacles in the making, should only be the starting point for a discussion, not the final word on US torture."
Read the Article

Scalia Is Dead Wrong on Torture

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Even if torture was an effective way to get information from terrorism suspects during a ticking time bomb scenario - and there's no evidence that it is - it would still be unconstitutional, despite what Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia says.
Read the Article

Mutated Flu Virus Could Signal More Hospitalizations, Deaths This Season

Tony Pugh, McClatchy Newspapers: This season's flu vaccine may not be as effective against new and possibly more virulent strains of the virus that could become the nation's dominant form of influenza in the young flu season.
Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Washington Passes Disastrous $1.1 Trillion Spending Bill, and More

In today's On the News segment: Washington passed a disastrous $1.1 trillion spending bill; activists staged a protest outside the Office of the US Trade Representative to demand that secret trade negotiations come to an

to Close Diablo Canyon
Read the Article at EcoWatch

US Marine Charged With Killing Filipino Transgender Woman
Read the Article at The Guardian

Oil Spill in Bangladesh Threatens World's Largest Mangrove System
Read the Article at Global Voices

These Seven Men Owned the Company Linked to CIA Torture
Read the Article at Business Insider

The Devalued US Worker
Read the Article at The Washington Post

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end; corporations that donate to political campaigns are getting a massive return on their investment; and more.

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/27/2015 12:28:23 AM
Subject: Re: Letter

Jake,
If you are still going forward with the letter, please be sure to add Mort Zuckerman, who has been outspoken on the Iran nuclear issue, on the negative side (e.g. Jerusalem Post op-ed, June 23, 2015)
Stu

----- Original Message -----
From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 11:33 AM
To: 'Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com' <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Cc: 'John.Podesta@gmail.com' <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; 'huma@hrcoffice.com' <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: Letter

I agree. The question is whether this will be in the agreement, since it is outside the 10 year window.
Stu

----- Original Message -----
From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 02:22 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: Letter

I read that to mean that it not acquire 25 kgs of HEU, which surely is the White House position!

> On Jun 26, 2015, at 5:51 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Jake,
>
> Right after the paragraph #5, is the paragraph to which I referred. It says, in part, "Most importantly, it is vital for the United States to affirm that it is US policy to prevent Iran from producing sufficient fissile material fron a nuclear weapon-or otherwise acquiring or building one-both during the agreement and after it expires."
>
> This should a point Hillary could take-up.
>
> I hope this is helpful. Best wishes,
>
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
> Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 01:07 PM
> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.
>
>
>
>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>
>> Dear Jake,
>>
>> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the

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insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>>
>> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>>
>> Best wishes,
>>
>> Stu

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From: "David Donnelly" <ddonnelly@campaignmoney.org>
To: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/13/2008 9:23:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: McCain's 70th Bday bash with Russian tycoon...

Check out the EADS/Airbus connection.

Seven lobbyists for EADS/Airbus are helping McCain. McCain's raised more money from EADS/Airbus than any other politician. McCain intervened on Airbus's behalf in a contract worth up to $100 billion.

Here's the ad we ran this week:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8OXXZCn9QI

DD

On 6/13/08 4:15 PM, "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org> wrote:

> #35
> Online Journal
> http://onlinejournal.com
> June 12, 2008
> John McCain's 70th birthday bash held on boat of Russian tycoon By Wayne Madsen Online Journal Contributing Writer
>
> (WMR) -- John McCain's campaign is trying to make political hay out of the conviction of Chicago tycoon Tony Rezko, a one-time fundraiser for presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. However, the McCain campaign wants to bury the story of McCain's 70th birthday bash held on board the yacht of a Russian aluminum tycoon in the Adriatic Sea. The party was held on August 29, 2006, McCain's birthday and followed a congressional junket by McCain and five other GOP senators to the Republic of Georgia.
>
> The host for McCain's yacht party off the coast of the Republic of Montenegro was, according to WMR sources with close links to the Republican Party, Oleg Deripaska, one of Russia's most powerful tycoons who made his billions in cornering Russia's aluminum market in the 1990s.
>
> The 40-year old Deripaska is also
> politically-connected, having married the daughter of Russia's late President Boris Yeltsin. Unlike most other Russian tycoons, who now live in exile abroad and are protected by Israeli passports, Deripaska maintains close relations to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and another Russian tycoon, Roman Abramovich, who was also invested in Russia's aluminum industry. In 2000, Deripaska merged his firm, Basic Element, with Abramovich's firm, RusAl. Both tycoons maintain expensive homes in London.
>
> Deripaska has attracted the attention of U.S. law enforcement and he has been the subject of several civil law suits filed against him because of his business practices. However, no federal criminal charges have been brought against Deripaska. That is because Yeltsin's son-in-law counts, in addition to McCain, former GOP Senator and 1996 GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole among his most ardent supporters. In 2005, Deripaska paid Dole $500,000 in lobbying fees and was granted a visa to enter the United States.
> However, in 2006, the Wall Street Journal reported that the U.S. government refused to grant Deripaska another visa because the FBI discovered he made "inaccurate statements" to the bureau.
>
> In the past, the Canadian firm Magna
> International, in which Deripaska is a $1.5 billion investor, attempted to buy Daimler Chrysler. The deal ultimately fell through.
>
> McCain and Deripaska first met at a dinner party held concurrently with the Davos World Economic Forum in January 2006 in Switzerland. The party was hosted by Canadian gold mining billionaire Peter Munk, owner of Barrick Gold, which has counted former President George H. W. Bush, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, former Senator Howard Baker, major Democratic Party lawyer/lobbyist Vernon Jordan, and former German Central Bank President Karl Otto Pohl among the members of its International Advisory Board. The party was arranged by McCain's 2000 campaign manager Rick Davis of the Washington lobbying group Davis Manafort. Attending the meeting in Davos were McCain, Davis, Deripaska, and Senators Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and John Sununu (R-NH), as well as the host, Munk.
>
> On August 29, 2006, McCain attended a dinner party in Montenegro that was followed by a champagne reception on a yacht that was hosted by Deripaska. Also reportedly in attendance was Davis, whose lobbying firm was representing the government of Montenegro; Munk; and Nathan Rothschild who, on March 20 of this year held a controversial fundraiser for McCain at Spencer House in London. The fundraiser raised questions about McCain receiving illegal "in kind" contributions from a foreign national.
>
> The 70th birthday bash was reportedly a promise of huge cash donations to McCain's forthcoming presidential campaign, another indication of violations of law prohibiting donations from foreign sources. The quid pro quo for Derpaska was that McCain and his top lobbyists were pushing the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS) and its Airbus subsidiary to receive the lucrative US Air Force contract to replace the Air Force's fleet of refueling tankers. The reported source for the aluminum in the Airbus tanker aircraft is Deripaska's Russian Aluminum Company (RusAl).
>
> Some two weeks after the McCain birthday bash in Montenegro, the Russian state-owned Vneshtorgbank announced that it was acquiring more than 5 percent of EADS. At the same time, it was announced that RusAl was in negotiations to merge with a Russian aluminum competitor, SUAL, and Glencore of Switzerland, the firm owned by billionaire American fugitive Marc Rich.

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The nexus of McCain with Russian oligarchs like Deripaska, as well as Munk, Rothschild, and Rich signifies that McCain is owned and operated by the very same entrenched global interests who have held sway in Washington during the seven-plus years of the George W. Bush administration.

Previously published in the Wayne Madsen Report.
Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based
investigative journalist and
nationally-distributed columnist. He is the editor and publisher of the Wayne Madsen Report.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Mark Lippert" <mlippert@barackobama.com>
To: Ricesusane@aol.com
"Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
djsberg@gmail.com
"Antony \(Tony\) Blinken" <tblinken@barackobama.com>
john.podesta@gmail.com
john.podesta@ptt.gov
Date: 11/7/2008 7:37:50 AM
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Its pretty big so I'd seperate it outm. Moreover, you seperate it away from the standard run of mill operations like carrier battle group deployments and the like.

From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: Mark Lippert; Denis McDonough; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri Nov 07 14:29:13 2008
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested
yes, we envisioned that as part of ongoing operations. Would you separate it out?

Come to think of it, we should also ask for AFRICOM brief.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark Lippert <mlippert@barackobama.com>
To: Ricesusane@aol.com; Denis McDonough <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>; djsberg@gmail.com; Antony (Tony) Blinken <tblinken@barackobama.com>; john.podesta@gmail.com; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri, 7 Nov 2008 3:19 pm
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Just skimming - I'd throw CTJF-HOA brief into the mix for DOD.

From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: Denis McDonough; Mark Lippert; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri Nov 07 14:17:07 2008
Subject: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Below is the list of briefings Jim and I propose we request of the IC and others for senior transition national security staff over the coming weeks.

A subset of these TBD could subsequently be requested for POTUS-E and VPOTUS-E. We leave it to others to decide if it is desirable and appropriate for POTUS-E to request any or all of these in his meeting with Bush on Monday).

We welcome your thoughts.

IC

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity and CI
IRDPA briefs

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NSC

Policy briefings on:

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
Syria
Lebanon
Egypt
Saudi Arabia
Darfur
Zimbabwe
DRC
Weak States strategy

OMB

Budget briefing

DOD

Ongoing Operations
Iraq
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Nuclear safety and security
Readiness

Homeland Security

Infrastructure security
Border security
Disease/pandemic preparedness
First respone/disaster preparedness
Crisis Response plans/processes and continuity in government

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From: "Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/14/2015 8:06:28 AM
Subject: 'Clinton Cash' author owes Hillary Clinton an apology | TheHill

http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/presidential-campaign/242105-clinton-cash-author-owes-hillary-clinton-an-apology

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/19/2015 12:23:36 PM
Subject: 5.19.15 HRC TV Coverage

National

-- Interviewed Howard Dean about HRC's answer on the Iraq invasion; used footage of HRC's answer today; Dean said HRC's response on her Iraq record was absolutely brilliant, "end of issue for Hillary Clinton." MSNBC's The Ed Show , 5.19.15

-- Report on the State Department's rejected proposal of a January 2016 deadline to produce HRC's emails from her tenure as Secretary of State; judge gave the State Department one week to come up with an alternative rolling schedule; interviewed Mercedes Schlapp and Angelo Carusone; Schlapp said HRC wants the emails out because they distract from her campaign; Carusone said there was no difference because Republicans would find a way to hit HRC regardless of when the emails are released. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 5.19.15

-- Led with HRC breaking her silence with the press; discussed HRC's State Department emails – mentioned the federal judge's decision that the State Department must release the emails on a rolling basis – used footage of HRC talking in Iowa today about her emails; Heilemann said the email situation was out of HRC's hands; Halperin said HRC has been on the side of public disclosure in the case of her email server; Halperin said the redactions from the emails were not addressed today; shifted into conversation about Blumenthal; used footage of HRC talking about Blumenthal today; Heilemann said the Clintons have an insatiable appetite for people who work in the dark arts which is why they would stand by Blumenthal; shifted into conversation about HRC's wealth and used that footage from today; shifted into conversation about The Clinton Foundation and used that footage from today; shifted into conversation about HRC's perspective on the TPP and used that footage from today; throughout all of this, Heilemann hammers the press for asking poor questions today. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect, 5.19.15 [Part Two]

-- Report on HRC's use of two private email addresses as Secretary of State; report on HRC breaking her silence after Ed Henry's outburst; used footage of HRC's discussion of her emails; said HRC addressed her relationship with Sidney Blumenthal; Dana Perino said HRC handled the interruption by Henry well; Perino said HRC wants people to see her emails because they are her hand-selected emails; Perino said Obama would probably be concerned that Blumenthal was running a rogue information system at the State Department. Fox News' The Five, 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC taking five press questions today; interviewed Jeff Zeleny who said HRC was very practiced at answering questions – she just didn't decide to until today; used footage of HRC answering questions about her emails as Secretary of State; mentioned the federal judge's order to the State Department to speed up the process of releasing HRC's emails; shifted into a report on Sidney Blumenthal, used footage of HRC's answer about Blumenthal today; said HRC answered questions today about The Clinton Foundation; used footage of HRC's answer about her Iraq War support; discussed how HRC answered questions about her wealth; said HRC walked a fine line on trade; teased HRC's events in New Hampshire later this week. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper, 5.19.15

-- Led with HRC taking press questions; used footage of HRC answering a question about her emails; reported on the State Department's timeline of releasing HRC's emails; reported on HRC's answer today about her and WJC's wealth; interviewed Jason Leopold, Jess McIntosh, and Nick Confessore; McIntosh pointed to HRC's speeches on immigration policy and criminal justice reform; Leopold said he expected the State Department to

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comply with the federal judge's order and start releasing emails in July; Confessore said the rolling release schedule serves the public interest; McIntosh said the Clintons' wealth did not complicate HRC's message to the working class, said the Clintons are a couple who come from a working-class background; interviewed Confessore about Sidney Blumenthal; Confesssore said HRC's description of Blumenthal of someone she knew before she got into politics was unusual since they met after she was involved in politics. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner, 5.19.15 [Part Two]

-- Led with HRC taking questions from reporters; report on The New York Times' Sidney Blumenthal story; report about the State Department's announcement it would release HRC's emails in January 2016; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald who said that local press didn't seem to care about HRC not talking to the press; interviewed Patricia Murphy about Sidney Blumenthal; Murphy said there were a series of smaller stories that were adding up for the Clintons; Murphy said HRC's campaign was in denial that they need to talk to the press; Murphy said HRC would have to explain her time as Secretary of State; Murphy said she thought it was a mistake for HRC to coast to the nomination; Murphy said HRC hit her Iraq War answer out of the park. MSNBC's The Cycle , 5.19.15 [Part Two]

-- Led with HRC taking questions from reporters; reported that reporters mainly question HRC on her emails; said that a federal judge ordered the State Department to start releasing HRC's emails next week; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry talked about how he interrupted HRC's panel; used footage of HRC talking about the Clintons' wealth; interviewed John Bussey who said HRC is likely to come out and support the TPP; used footage of HRC discussing Iraq today; Bussey said this was HRC saying that she goofed on Iraq; Harris Faulkner (the guest host) said that HRC deleting her emails created conflict-of-interest questions; Faulkner (the guest host) said HRC threw the State Department under the bus by saying State needed to speed the process of looking through her emails. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting , 5.19.15 [Part Two]

-- Warren said it was interesting that HRC was not able to see the current version of the TPP; Warren said that was a reason to not support the TPP; Warren said HRC said she was opposed to the Investor State Dispute Resolution, and Warren would like HRC to be clearer on that; Warren demurred when asked if TPP would affect who she would support in 2016. Bloomberg's Bloomberg Markets , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC talking to the press today; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said he tried to interrupt respectfully when there was a pause in HRC's speaking; Henry said HRC may be listening to Axelrod; brief report on HRC's email exchanges with Sidney Blumenthal and HRC's comments about it today; Henry reported on HRC's comment about HRC and WJC's PFDs; shifted into interview with Kirsten Powers; said the State Department said it would comply with the court order to hand over emails; Powers said there was not enough information to determine whether Blumenthal's emails were a problem; Carlson revisited the hashtag she launched yesterday and read some of the responses. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.19.15

-- Interview with Bernie Sanders; Sanders said he had been talking about income inequality for years; Sanders said HRC may be in the top one percent; Sanders demurred when Blitzer asked him whether HRC and WJC's speaking fees were a problem; Sanders refused to answer a direct question about whether HRC was committed to the cause of affordable college; Sanders said he wanted to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans; Sanders said Iraq was a fair topic to draw a contrast with HRC. CNN's Wolf , 5.19.15

-- Report on the State Department's order to come up with a rolling schedule for releasing HRC's emails; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald who said HRC wanted her emails released sooner; follow-up of HRC and WJC's PFD, quickly shifted into HRC's comment on her finances today, "the deck is still stacked against those at the top"; interviewed Mark Murray about handling her question about Iraq today; Murray noted HRC's answer was almost word-for-word from "Hard Choices." MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's Q&A after her Iowa small-business roundtable; footage of Kristen Welker asking HRC about whether she had a conflict of interest in giving paid speeches ahead of her run for President; HRC said no; HRC said she wanted her emails released more than anyone; HRC said she was proud of the Foundation; led into

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comments from the State Department about creating a rolling schedule to release HRC's emails; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald about why HRC spoke to the press today; Alex Seitz-Wald said it was to address mounting pressure from the press. MSNBC showed an unscientific Pulse poll that showed 7 percent of viewers said HRC's email controversy would impact their vote. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's comments about Iraq today; interviewed O. Kay Henderson; Henderson said Iraq was not an issue on the Democratic side but could be if Webb started to talk about it in Iowa; Henderson said pocketbook issues motivated voters more than anything else; Henderson said HRC had reached a tipping point at which she needed to speak to the press. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.19.15

-- Led with HRC breaking her silence on Iraq; used footage of HRC answering a question about the Iraq War; interviewed Jeff Zeleny who said she had been pressured by Democrats to make her position clear on trade; Zeleny said HRC was not defensive and came over to talk to the press with a smile on her face; used footage of HRC answering questions about her emails; Zeleny said he believes HRC when she said she wanted her emails released soon; interviewed Dana Bash and David Chalian; Bash said HRC is staying on message; Chalian said HRC's press gaggle was a sign that she was improving as a candidate; Bash said HRC looks and feels more comfortable with people she picked "but real human beings" none the less; teased HRC's fundraisers tomorrow in Chicago and events in New Hampshire later in the week. CNN's Wolf , 5.19.15

-- Report on Sidney Blumenthal emails; interviewed Rich Lowrey and Alan Colmes; Colmes said he'd like to see HRC answer questions from the press; host said HRC was either lying or wrong when she said she didn't have two devices; Lowrey said HRC was passing along information from Blumenthal who had a business interest in certain happenings in Libya; discussed the State Department releasing HRC's emails in January 2016. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 5.19.15

-- Led with report on the State Department's announcement it would not release HRC's emails until 2016; report that HRC used two email accounts while working as Secretary of State; the State Department requested a deadline of January 15, 2016; used footage from HRC's UN press conference in March; noted the Benghazi committee did not have response yet; mentioned David Axelrod's Meet The Press appearance this weekend; interview with Chris Stirewalt who said the sooner the emails came out the better for HRC; discussed the New York Times story about HRC's communication with Sidney Blumenthal and her use of a second email address; MacCallum said HRC was passing Blumenthal's information to Jake Sullivan. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 5.19.15

-- Report on the State Department's request to release HRC's emails in January 2016; shifted into New York Times report about Blumenthal, saying the Benghazi Committee will subpoena Blumenthal; interviewed Michael Tomasky; Tomasky said HRC would probably prefer for her emails to be released sooner than January; showed footage of Christie hitting HRC for her use of a private email server, footage of Santorum saying HRC has not been transparent; Tomasky said the email story would go away if there was nothing in the emails; discussed Blumenthal; Tomasky said he couldn't make heads or tails of The New York Times story, he said he didn't understand what the story was about. MSNBC's News Nation , 5.19.15

-- Report on Sidney Blumenthal emails about Libya; indicated Gowdy wanted to subpoena Blumenthal; Blumenthal had business interests in the State Department following his advice; interviewed AB Stoddard and Charles Hurt; Hurt said he marveled at the Clintons' staying power; Stoddard said that HRC would pass along Blumenthal's emails to other members of the State Department; Stoddard noted that Huma Abedin also worked for private enterprises while advising HRC; noted the Obama administration rejected Blumenthal's employment at the State Department; Hurt said Obama must be mad about HRC talking to Blumenthal behind his back. Fox News' Happening Now, 5.19.15

-- Report on how presidential candidates are responding to questions about the invasion of Iraq; noted HRC voted in favor of the use of force against Saddam Hussein; showed footage of HRC's appearance on BBC Newsnight from June 2014; noted The Washington Post's clock counting time since HRC last answered

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questions. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.19.15

-- 20-minute report on HRC's avoidance of the press; led into report on a federal judge's order for the State Department to turn over HRC's emails from the State Department on a rolling basis; led into report on HRC's emails with Sidney Blumenthal; panel conversation with Nick Confessore, Chris Cillizza, and Susan Page; Confessore described Blumenthal from the panel; Page said all of these stories coming out about HRC show that HRC may not be as vetted as we thought; Cillizza butchers a Faulkner quote, "The past is never past;" Mitchell noted that HRC and WJC's PFDs were released on a Friday night; Mitchell said the Blumenthal story and the delayed Benghazi Committee hearing get wrapped up in a narrative that cannot be helpful to HRC; shifted into footage of HRC talking about trade; Page said HRC needs to come down on trade; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald who said HRC did talk about the emails during her Q&A and her wealth; Seitz-Wald said HRC's Q&A would sate the cries of the press for a while; played footage from HRC's Q&A; Confessore said he could not see how extending the State Department vetting process would benefit HRC; Mitchell said this is the most extensive Q&A she's seen HRC give; Seitz-Wald said HRC was running a classic front-runner campaign; Page said HRC could handle any question thrown at her. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 5.19.15 [Part Two]

-- Report on HRC answering questions from the press; used footage of HRC talking about Sidney Blumenthal, her emails from the State Department, and her speaking fees from her Q&A today; interviewed Ed Henry, who said the reason she had a news conference was because Henry started to yell questions at her; Henry said HRC had not said she wanted the emails out ASAP before; Tantaros said that HRC's statement that she could not provide her emails directly to the American public was a flat-out lie; Henry said the State Department needed to go through the emails and see what was confidential and what wasn't; Tantaros said the emails sets up a back-and-forth between the Clinton camp and the Obama administration; Tantaros said HRC's server was paid for by The Clinton Foundation in a potential quid pro quo. Fox News' Outnumbered , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC answering questions from the press; led into the news that the State Department said it would take until January 2016 to review all of HRC's emails; showed footage of HRC answering questions from the press in Iowa. CNN's Legal View With Ashleigh Banfield , 5.19.15

-- Report on the State Department's announcement that HRC's emails would not be available until January 2016 and HRC's avoidance of reporters; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald and Jackie Kucinich; Seitz-Wald said one of the benefits of Clinton Cash is it airs a lot of the email stories now before people are paying attention in the primaries when the emails will likely be released; Seitz-Wald said the tension between HRC and the press was natural; Kucinich said Americans weren't paying attention yet. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.19.15

-- Report on the State Department's announcement that HRC's emails would not be available until January 2016; interviewed Kristen Welker; report about HRC's use of a private email server while she was Secretary of State; included footage of Christie hitting HRC for use of the private server; mentioned HRC and WJC's PFD; footage of Rick Santorum knocking HRC for not being transparent; coverage of HRC not taking questions from the press; campaign officials did not weigh in on the State Department's intended release of HRC's emails; led into interview with Ken Vogel who said this delay on the emails was bad for HRC because it would lead to a rush of scrutiny around the Iowa Caucus; Welker said holding smaller events was a strategy for HRC; Vogel said Blumenthal was a bad story for HRC. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's trip to Iowa today; mentioned Sidney Blumenthal emails about Libya; Jeff Zeleny said reporters and Republicans were criticizing HRC's demurral of the press; Zeleny said HRC would push the economy today, but quickly pivoted to talking about Blumenthal's emails; Zeleny noted it was like HRC had two different campaigns in two different universes. Also, Carol Costello says, "email scandal schmandal." CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 5.19.15

-- Brief report that HRC had a second private email address as Secretary of State; said the account was used to communicate with Sidney Blumenthal about Libya. CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello. CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 5.19.15

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-- Brief report on George Stephanopoulos's donations to The Clinton Foundation; angle is that ABC signed a $105 million contract extension with Stephanopoulos last year; led into HRC using a second private email address at the State Department. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.19.15

-- Interviewed Laura Ingraham about HRC's use of multiple email address at the State Department; Ingraham said HRC had been castigated; Ingraham said HRC's team would get away with what they could get away with until there was an evidentiary equivalent of a blue dress; Ingraham talked about Blumenthal for a bit as an example of old Clinton cronyism. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's use of more than one personal email account as Secretary of State; Doocy said it looks like either HRC or her lawyer did not tell the truth; Kimbell said he was annoyed it would take until 2016 to get HRC's emails; footage of Christie from The Kelly File in which Christie said to Kelly that HRC's use of private email should be looked into; led into Stephanopoulos's salary from ABC News. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.19.15

-- Interview with Robert Gates, who is releasing new book "Duty." Gates says he's unimpressed with 2016 field. Gates says he's sorry HRC hasn't come out in favor of the trade agreement. Gates said Clinton private email was a "risky way" to do business. Gates weighs in on ISIS threat and foreign policy history leading up to creation ISIS. Gates says Jeb Bush made a mistake in the way he answered question on Iraq war Gates says Bush's answer should have been about lessons learned from Iraq war, not what he would have done. Gates predicts trouble in the middle east will continue for a long time. Gates say U.S. doesn't have a strategy in middle east and seems to play it day by day. Gates says splitting Iraq up, as suggested in the past, would be problematic. Discussion of policy towards Turkey. says Turkey is one of the few stable players in middle east. MSNBC's Morning Joe, 5.19.15

-- Interviewed Michael Schmidt about HRC's use of Blumenthal at the State Department, even when Blumenthal had a conflict of interest since he was contracted to work for businessmen who were working to establish business in Libya; Schmidt said Blumenthal's were different than other emails from the outside because of their format and frequency. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.19.15

-- Preview of a story on the delayed release of Hillary Clinton's emails until "right before the Iowa caucus." CNN's New Day , 5.19.15

-- Panel talking about the State Department's delayed release of HRC's emails, the Sidney Blumenthal emails, and HRC not taking reporters' questions; included Gloria Borger, Olivier Knox, and Jackie Kucinich spoke; Borger said it remains to be seen whether the public cares about HRC's emails. CNN's New Day , 5.19.15

-- Brief report on the State Department's inability to produce HRC's emails until 2016; mentioned the New York Times' report on Sidney Blumenthal. CNN's New Day , 5.19.15

-- O'Reilly said HRC would have to deal with questions about Iraq because she was Secretary of State; O'Reilly pondered whether HRC had an ISIS strategy. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.18.15

-- Report on HRC and WJC's PFD; interviewed Juan Williams and Mary Katharine Ham; Ham said the scale of the Clintons' speaking fees was questionable; Ham said HRC embodies a bad feeling Americans have about political culture and that HRC is slimy; Williams challenged Ham and said that HRC understood everyday Americans; O'Reilly said HRC gave speeches at public universities that were paid by the taxpayers; Williams said Democrats wanted a populist champion like Elizabeth Warren; Ham said Democrats were stuck with HRC; Ham said HRC's staffing was shady with Blumenthal; O'Reilly noted that HRC's poll numbers have not changed. Fox News' The

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O'Reilly Factor, 5.18.15

-- Interview with Chris Christie; Christie said HRC was pandering when she said she supported a path to citizenship; said HRC's position was not based on an educated study of the issue. Fox News' The Kelly File , 5.18.15

-- Report on HRC and WJC's PFD; mentioned HRC's dead broke comment; Van Susteren said people at Fox were talking about it a lot and asked her panelists AB Stoddard and John McCormack whether people in Iowa were talking about it; McCormack mentioned the New York Times uranium story; Stoddard said HRC has to win over skeptics. Fox News' On The Record With Greta Van Susteren , 5.18.15

-- Interview with Peter Schweizer about George Stephanopoulos's donations to The Clinton Foundation; Schweizer touched on Stephanopoulos also participating in events with The Clinton Foundation; Schweizer said ABC did not find Clinton Cash not credible, that was just Stephanopoulos; used footage of Stephanopoulos from "The War Room"; Schweizer said this was worse than the Brian Williams case. Fox News' Hannity , 5.18.15

-- Report on HRC's Iowa visit; included footage from HRC's Mason City stop; mentioned HRC and WJC's PFD; said HRC did not speak to the media at her Mason City stop; included clip of Santorum saying HRC should answer questions; report contrasted Santorum's accessibility at a town hall with HRC's closed-press events; used clip of David Axelrod from Meet the Press saying HRC should speak to the press; included Bernie Sanders on State of the Union pressuring HRC. Fox News' Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier , 5.18.15

-- Gloria Borger touched on HRC's involvement in the Iraq War vote and noted that HRC's explanation for her vote changed over time; Sara Murray said Republicans were impressed at how HRC's team dealt with the Iraq War question because she hasn't had to speak about it. CNN's Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer , 5.18.15

-- Panel discussion with Dana Perino and Lewis Black; Wilmore said the Clintons can't get out of their own way with Clinton Cash and the emails; Perino said WJC would hurt and help HRC. Comedy Central's The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore, 5.18.15

States

Iowa:

-- Report on HRC's Cedar Falls roundtable where the reporter noted she talked to caucus goers about her plan for "supporting entrepreneurs and spurring small-business growth." WHO-DM NBC Channel 13 News at Noon, Des Moines (IA), 5.19.15

--Report on HRC's private email use. Used footage from today's event's press Q&A about the state department releasing emails. KWWL News at Noon, Iowa City (IA), 5.19.15

--Report on HRC's Cedar Falls roundtable and Mason City event. Used footage from yesterday's event on "clean energy." Reporter Marlie Hall talks about HRC's use of two private emails to conduct state department business. Includes report on Huckabee's visit and said he took a shot at HRC saying she is "run[ning] from the very people that want to trust you to lead the country" by not taking questions from anyone CBS KCCI 8 News at Noon, Des Moines (IA),5.19.15

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-- Report on HRC's private email use. Reporter noted how the emails are dominating her political headlines today, rather than Cedar Falls roundtable. Discussed Mason City event and HRC's views on same-sex marriage. Used footage from Iowa GOP leader Charlie Szold who accused her of not answering questions about emails/ finances. WOI ABC Local 5 News Midday, Des Moines (IA), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted that the agency is responding to FOIA lawsuits seeking all of HRC's emails. Included footage from March announcement about emails. KCRG TV9 News at 11, Iowa City (IA), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's Cedar Falls roundtable. Noted that her focus was on making it easier for small businesses to grow and stay competitive. KCRG TV9 News at 11, Iowa City (IA) 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's Cedar Falls roundtable. Used footage from yesterday's event about strong American workers and families. Reporter discussed HRC's answer to trade deal press question. KCRG TV9 News at 11

-- Report on Republican's Iowa visits. Noted Huckabee criticized HRC and Santorum said he would be a stronger candidate than HRC. KCRG TV9 News at 11, Iowa City (IA), 5.19.15

-- Report on HRC's private email use. Noted email release date is interesting timing given her presidential run and the Iowa caucuses/following primaries dates. Said used Twitter to address the subject. CBS KCCI 8 News This Morning, Des Moines (IA), 5.19.15

--Report on HRC's Mason City event. Included footage from yesterday's event on smaller group events. Mentioned Cedar Falls event is happening later in the day. CBS KCCI 8 News This Morning, Des Moines (IA), 5.19.15

-- Preview of HRC's Iowa visits from today and yesterday. Fox 28 Morning Live, Iowa City (IA), 5.19.15

--Preview of HRC's Iowa visits and why she wants to "keep her events small."Today in Iowa at 6, Des Moines (IA), 5.19.15

--Report on HRC's Mason City event. Noted that she would increase minimum wage and lower college debt. Included footage from yesterday's event on smaller group events. Today in Iowa at 5

--Report of Santorum explaining why he would be a strong candidate than HRC. KCRG TV9 Morning News, Iowa City (IA), 5.19.15

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Ilyse G. Hogue, NARAL Pro-Choice America" <can@prochoiceamerica.org>
To: "John Podesta" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/12/2015 11:07:31 AM
Subject: Hands. Off. Planned. Parenthood.

NARAL Pro-Choice America

Republicans just created a special full-time committee to attack Planned Parenthood. Will you chip in $15 to help fight back?

Dear John,

The war on Planned Parenthood just went nuclear.

Anti-choice Republicans just created a special Benghazi-style committee to attack and investigate Planned Parenthood.[1]

They've spent almost two years and $4.6 million investigating Benghazi—all with the admitted goal of driving down Hillary Clinton's poll numbers.[2]

Now they're going to do the same thing to defund Planned Parenthood.

We all need to redouble our efforts to stop the attacks on Planned Parenthood. **Will you chip in $15?**

Yes, I'll donate $15 to help defend Planned Parenthood and reproductive rights.

Can you imagine members of Congress rummaging through Cecile Richards' personal emails like they have with Hillary Clinton's? Calling her to testify day after day after day?

This is nothing but a taxpayer-funded campaign of harassment.

The good news is that Planned Parenthood is still more popular than just about any other political entity in America. And with 7 in 10 Americans supporting legal abortion, any elected official who joins the attacks on Planned Parenthood is risking their political hide.

That's why we've launched the "Own It" campaign—to make sure anti-choice politicians can't get away with whitewashing their records with phony ads aimed at female voters right before the election.

Will you chip in $15 to help stop the attacks on Planned Parenthood and defend reproductive rights?

Thank you for helping to make reproductive freedom real for all women.

Ilyse G. Hogue
President, NARAL Pro-Choice America

DONATE NOW

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Sources:

1. Republicans Keep Forming New Committees To Take Down Planned Parenthood , ThinkProgress, October 8, 2015

2. Benghazi Investigation: The Cost to Taxpayers , Select Committee on Benghazi Minority Site, accessed October 8, 2015

This message was sent to: John.Podesta@gmail.com | If you'd like to sign up for emails in a different account, click here . If we need to update your contact information, please click here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for NARAL to stay in touch with supporters. However, if you'd like to unsubscribe, click here .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/14/2014 6:46:40 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday November 14, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday November 14, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: I was "Happy" to be honored! MT @Pharrell: It was an honor to perform for @BillClinton w @herbiehancock at Thelonious Monk Jazz Institute [11/13/14, 7:05 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton supported a job training and placement program for court reporters #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/1pzBbdH [11/14/14, 11:30 a.m. EST]

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Clinton network gathers in Little Rock to reminisce and plot"

"The formal program kicks Friday morning with an all-day symposium featuring major Clinton administration figures and continues Saturday with Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. In-between, once-and-possibly future Clinton staffers say there will be plenty of talk about Hillary Clinton's future plans."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Participants assess the (Bill) Clinton legacy as Clinton library turns 10"

"The long weekend is sort of like a destination wedding for Clintonistas past and maybe future."

New York Times: "Spurred by Midterm Losses, Liberal and Moderate Democrats Square Off Over Strategy"

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"Hillary Rodham Clinton, should she run, will face tension between the business-friendly wing of the party that was ascendant in the economic boom during her husband's administration and the populism of Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, that has gained currency of late."

U.S. News & World Report: "Terry McAuliffe: 60 Days Until Hillary Decision"

"Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe says Hillary Clinton will know whether she's running for president in 2016 within the next 60 days."

Bloomberg: "Jim Webb and the Lost History of the Pre-Obama Left"

"There's no soft-pedaling that criticism. The new Democratic Party expects to win the 2016 election by, for the thirteenth consecutive time, losing the white vote but racking up huge wins with minorities."

Articles:

MSNBC: "Clinton network gathers in Little Rock to reminisce and plot"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

November 14, 2014, 7:18 a.m. EST

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas – The sprawling Clinton network will gather here this weekend to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the former president's library – and to look forward to the likely next presidential franchise of the Clinton enterprise.

All three Clinton family members, along with hundreds of friends, former aides, donors, and supporters – not to mention a sprinkling of celebrities – are expected in the city where Bill Clinton was once governor. It's one part alumni reunion, one part citywide festival, and one part pre-game huddle ahead of an almost certain fourth Clinton family presidential run.

The city is hosting weeks of events and exhibitions to showcase its favorite son, from an exhibition on Hillary Clinton's handbags to a bike tour of Bill Clinton's favorite haunts.

The formal program kicks Friday morning with an all-day symposium featuring major Clinton administration figures and continues Saturday with Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. In-between, once-and-possibly future Clinton staffers say there will be plenty of talk about Hillary Clinton's future plans.

It's one of two major Clinton network gatherings this month in the critical interregnum between the midterm election and the start of Clinton's expected second presidential campaign, which is likely to come early next year.

If the Little Rock event is colored with nostalgia for the last Clinton White House, the other event, a meeting of the largest donors to the pro-Clinton Ready for Hilary super PAC in the first family's other home of New York City, is decidedly more focused on a future Clinton White House. That event will bring together later this month hundreds of the groups largest donors, along with top strategists and Clinton insiders in the same hotel

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that hosts the annual Clinton Global Initiative.

Together, the events will help chart the course for Clinton's first moves out of the gate next week. There will be plenty of unsolicited advice.

While Clintons may spend more time these days in Manhattan or Washington, Arkansas may still be there place where their presence is most felt.

To get to William J. Clinton Presidential Center in downtown Little Rock, you fly into Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport, then head West past the Clinton School of Public Policy at the University of Arkansas, before turning onto President Clinton Avenue, which takes you past the Clinton Presidential Park and the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge. The city's visitor bureau offers a "Billgrimage" tour for those seeking more.

The library opened under inauspicious circumstances in 2004, as a cold rain dampened the outdoor event as then-Presidents George W. Bush, his father George H.W. Bush, and Jimmy Carter huddled under umbrellas along with 30,000 onlookers.

The $165 million-dollar library, built on a formerly blighted plot of land downtown on the river, has revitalized the area. The library and museum complex has been responsible for $2.5 billion in economic development, the city's tourism board is eager to note, and helped put Little Rock on several magazine's list of best places to live.

Its downtown is now filled with restaurants and bars, and the city touts that it is "home to the most LED-illuminated bridges, spanning a major body of water, in the country."

The dedication ceremony included a performance by U2 frontman Bono, while this year's celebration centers around a major concert Saturday night featuring pop star Nick Jonas, Kool and the Gang, "House of Cards" star Kevin Spacey and others.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Participants assess the (Bill) Clinton legacy as Clinton library turns 10"

By Ann Gearan

November 14, 2014, 11:40 a.m. EST

LITTLE ROCK — Cabinet members, senior advisers and a long list of loyalists and retainers gathered Friday for an all-day retrospective of Bill Clinton's two terms as president that also crackled with the possibility of another Clinton White House.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Clinton Presidential Center here, the Clinton library scheduled panel discussions on foreign, domestic and economic policy decision-making during the two Clinton terms. The discussion Friday inaugurated a four-day celebration of all things Clinton.

The long weekend is sort of like a destination wedding for Clintonistas past and maybe future. On the schedule after Friday's wonky start are an event highlighting Hillary Rodham Clinton's work on behalf of women and girls, a discussion of how the Clinton library has improved the economic bottom line of Little Rock, a free concert and a barbecue.

The University of Virginia's Miller Center will be releasing a trove of more than 130 oral history interviews with Clinton administration participants later Friday. The project is in collaboration with the Clinton Center, a gleaming modernist glass and steel affair that has anchored an economic revitalization of a formerly blighted waterfront industrial zone.

Neither former president Bill Clinton nor former secretary of state Hillary Clinton was on hand as former national security adviser Sandy Berger and

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others began an examination of Clinton national security policy Friday. Haitian refugees, North Korean nuclear weapons and Balkan chaos were among the topics at hand Friday morning.

Some of Hillary Clinton's besties were there, however, including Capricia Marshall and Cheryl Mills. Both served both in the Clinton White House and at Hillary Clinton's State Department, and are expected to be part of a 2016 campaign should Clinton mount one.

Berger put the task of any White House in coping with fast-moving world events in colorful context. Being national security adviser, Berger said, "is like riding on the elephant and then having to clean up after the elephant when you're done."

New York Times: "Spurred by Midterm Losses, Liberal and Moderate Democrats Square Off Over Strategy"

By Jonathan Martin

November 14, 2014

WASHINGTON — The Democrats' widespread losses last week have revived a debate inside the party about its fundamental identity, a long-running feud between center and left that has taken on new urgency in the aftermath of a disastrous election and in a time of deeply felt economic anxiety.

The discussion is taking place in post-election meetings, conference calls and dueling memos from liberals and moderates. But it will soon grow louder, shaping the actions of congressional Democrats in President Obama's final two years and, more notably, defining the party's presidential primary in 2016.

"The debate will ultimately play out in a battle for the soul of the Clinton campaign," said Matt Bennett, a senior official at Third Way, the centrist political group.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, should she run, will face tension between the business-friendly wing of the party that was ascendant in the economic boom during her husband's administration and the populism of Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, that has gained currency of late.

"I want her to run on a raising wages agenda and not cater to Wall Street but to everyday people," Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO, said of his expectations for Mrs. Clinton.

Straddling the two blocs could prove difficult. Progressives have been emboldened to criticize party leaders after the Republican rout, particularly given a lack of a coherent Democratic message to address the problem of stagnant wages.

Sifting through returns showing that lower-income voters either supported Republicans or did not vote, liberals argue that without a more robust message about economic fairness, the party will continue to suffer among working class voters, particularly in the South and Midwest.

Mr. Obama's wide popularity among activists and his attempt to transcend the traditional moderate-versus-liberal divide have largely papered over Democratic divisions on economic policy for the last six years. The party was also brought together by passage the health care law, a goal of Democratic presidents since Harry Truman. But with Mr. Obama's popularity flagging, and an economic recovery largely benefiting the affluent, Democrats are clashing anew.

Unlike the 1980s, when heavy losses prompted moderates to plead with the party to move away from liberal interest groups and toward to the middle, it is now progressives who are the most outspoken.

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And they are seizing on the election results to reorient the party. “Too many Democrats are too close to Wall Street, too many Democrats support trade agreements that outsource jobs and too many Democrats are too willing to cut Social Security — and that’s why we lose elections,” said Senator Sherrod Brown, Democrat of Ohio.

Mr. Brown said he had talked to over 60 Ohio Democrat leaders and activists since they got trounced in every statewide election and saw their state chairman quit. “The message I heard from all of them was: the Democratic Party should fight for the little guy.”

Continue reading the main story

To help provide a bridge to liberals, Senate Democrats on Thursday named Ms. Warren as part of their leadership.

While overwhelmingly in sync on the substance of cultural issues, some of the populists believe Democrats placed too much emphasis on such matters and not enough on economic fairness, depressing voter turnout.

"Gay marriage, abortion and birth control are important,” said Terry O’Sullivan, president of the Laborers International Union. “But people join our organization for their livelihood, and that’s what our people vote on: their economic self-interest. I do think the party needs to re-examine what it stands for and get back to bread-and-butter issues.”

Labor is having its own struggles, with membership declining and Republican-controlled states moving to limit union power. Democrats lost crucial races in part because of their candidates’ struggles in traditional union enclaves like eastern Iowa, suburban Detroit and parts of Wisconsin.

For example, in losing to the Republican they perhaps most wanted to beat, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, unions saw their members’ turnout slip. After making up 32 percent of all voters in the 2012 recall attempt against Mr. Walker, union households made up just 21 percent of the Wisconsin electorate last week.

Part of that drop is a result of Mr. Walker’s pushing through changes to collective bargaining law that thinned the ranks of his state’s union members. But what exasperates some labor leaders is that Mary Burke, the Democrat who tried to unset Mr. Walker, would not even commit to undoing the changes that have crippled unions.

Echoing many liberals, Steve Rosenthal, a longtime Democratic strategist with ties to labor, said progressive organizations and unions should become more engaged in primaries and push candidates to stand for their agenda just as the right tries to make Republican candidates hew to conservative orthodoxy.

“I think it’s critical for folks on the left to do more of the same,” Mr. Rosenthal said

There were a handful of bright spots in an otherwise dismal year for Democrats, and progressives are holding up as models the success of three Senate candidates who ran as populists: Senator Al Franken of Minnesota, Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Senator-elect Gary Peters of Michigan.

Mr. Merkley won by 19 percentage points with a campaign centered on the loss of well-paying jobs, the spiraling cost of college tuition and his opposition to trade deals that he said send jobs overseas. While Democrats nationally were losing whites without a college degree by 30 percentage points, Mr. Merkley narrowly carried that bloc of voters.

“We didn’t lose them here in Oregon because we talked about what they care about,” Mr. Merkley said.

But some center-left Democrats believe that this is the exception and that the party should give up on winning a majority of such voters.

“Slowly and steadily since 1968, culture has trumped economics with voting and the white working class,” said Kenneth Baer, a former Obama

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administration official who has written a book on modern liberalism. “It’s become the great white whale for a shipful of Democratic strategists. Obama proved that while we cannot get wiped out with that demographic, the future of the coalition is among growing parts of the electorate which are neither white nor working class.”

The question of which voters to pursue captures the party’s broader debate about its agenda. Centrist Democrats have chalked up the party’s losses to an insufficient performance among moderate and middle-class voters.

“We talk about policies helping the middle-class, but the ones we promote the most are ones that don’t speak to the middle-class, like raising the minimum wage,” said Al From, who founded the moderate Democratic Leadership Council in the 1980s to counter the party’s move to the left and helped propel Bill Clinton to the White House in 1992.

Many liberals believe the disconnect between the politics of the party’s grass-roots and the message they hear from Democratic administrations has left blue-collar voters unenthused. “We do not have to struggle for an agenda that connects with working-class voters,” said Representative Rosa DeLauro, Democrat of Connecticut. “We have an agenda that does that, but it does not get vocalized at the top.”

Yet many progressives concur that simply pushing an increase in the minimum wage is an inadequate solution. Liberals want tougher restrictions on banks, more generous federal student loan aid, enhanced collective bargaining rights and a reassessment of the country’s trade policy.

Mr. Obama has made clear he intends to work with congressional Republicans to push for fewer restrictions on trade. Some union leaders said they intended to fight those efforts, and would be looking for an ally in Mrs. Clinton.

“The next six months we’re going to be relentless on trade,” vowed Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America. “I hope she comes to our side on this fight. The president is not starting out there.”

U.S. News & World Report: “Terry McAuliffe: 60 Days Until Hillary Decision”

By David Catanese

November 14, 2014, 12:35 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The close Clinton friend says Hillary will decide on 2016 by mid-January.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe says Hillary Clinton will know whether she's running for president in 2016 within the next 60 days.

That's the timeline the Clinton confidante outlined to U.S. News' Nikki Schwab Thursday night during a conversation at the Knock Out Abuse gala, an anti-domestic violence charity event held at The Ritz-Carlton in Washington.

Here's what McAuliffe said:

"She’s got to make that decision and she’s got to spend the next 60 days making that decision. Obviously I’m close friends with the Clintons, I chaired her last campaign. If you know Hillary, she’s going to make up her own mind. I tell you, I hope she runs. It’s time for a woman president of the United States of America. Put the woman issue aside for a minute – she’s tough, she is smart, she is very pro-business, she will get this economy going. She will help the middle class. So I’m hoping she runs, but you know, it’s her decision. But I’m really hoping she runs, but I’m leaving that decision to her."

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Sixty days from now would place Clinton's decision around mid-January. When she reveals that decision is an entirely different question.

When Schwab floated a Clinton-McAuliffe ticket, the former Democratic National Committee chairman and legendary fundraiser just laughed.

"I'm just happy to support her," he replied.

Bloomberg: "Jim Webb and the Lost History of the Pre-Obama Left"

By David Weigel

November 13, 2014, 11:57 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The "centrist" critic of Hillary Clinton is not centrist at all.

In post-election stories about Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign—and its discontents—one-term Virginia Senator Jim Webb is sometimes described as a challenger from Clinton's right. The latest example comes from Maggie Haberman and Hadas Gold's sharp story about the left-wing media's approach to Clinton: "Even Webb, who was Ronald Reagan's Navy secretary and claims to have told President Barack Obama that health care reform would be a 'disaster,' has gotten some love on the left."

But Webb isn't exactly a figure of the right, or even the center-left. In 2006, when he was writing books and columns critical of the Iraq War, Webb was drafted into Virginia's U.S. Senate race by progressives. Virginia's blue blogs (like the defunct Raising Kaine) and the progressive hub Daily Kos were hotbeds of pro-Webb sentiment. As Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas wrote in 2013, community members "raised millions of dollars and generated on-the-ground activism" for Webb and other candidates who were not traditionally left-wing.

Has anything changed? "Webb was the best we could do in a state like Virginia in 2006," wrote Moulitsas in an e-mail. "He was the epitome of Netroots ideological pragmatism. That same pragmatism tells us that we could do far better than Webb today pretty much anywhere outside the Deep South or Idaho, and he certainly isn't someone who could credibly run to Hillary's LEFT. So his flirtations are pretty much a joke."

Fair enough. But Webb's criticisms of the Obama-era Democrats are not particularly right-wing. His anger over the Affordable Care Act started with the process, in which "five different congressional committees voted out their version of health-care reform, and so you had 7,000 pages of contradictory information." Few progressives disagree with that. Webb never took back his vote for the law, or for the idea of universal health care. When he called it a "disaster," he was describing the process that created a law that's heading toward its second Supreme Court challenge. His beef with the Democratic Party was not that it moved left per se, but that it "evolved too strongly into interest groups rather than representing working people, including small business people."

There's no soft-pedaling that criticism. The new Democratic Party expects to win the 2016 election by, for the thirteenth consecutive time, losing the white vote but racking up huge wins with minorities. (The national "white vote" is skewed by the Democrats' abysmal numbers with white voters in the South.) Most Democrats now believe that Hillary Clinton can bend the map enough to win. Webb is a specter from a recent Democratic past when activists hoped that the party could do much more—without abandoning any "left" principles.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 6/24/2015 12:02:24 AM
Subject: News Update - June 24, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, June 24

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Israel Air Force Strikes in Gaza After Rocket Explodes in Israel**
- **UNHRC: Israel can't Drop One-Ton Bomb on a Neighborhood**
- **Iran Leader Dramatically Toughens 'Red Lines' for Nuclear Deal**
- **Herzog Aligns with Netanyahu on Iran**
- **PM: We will Capture Those from Druze Lynch Mob**
- **Palestine Prepares to Submit File to see Israeli Officials Indicted**
- **AIPAC Prepares to Battle Obama Over Iran**

Commentary:

- **The Washington Institute: "Don't Let the Deadline Drive the Deal"**
  - By Dennis Ross
- **Ha'aretz: "Obama has a Stronger Record on Israel than you Might Have Been Led to Think"**
  - By Greg Rosenbaum

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Ynet News

IAF Strikes in Gaza After Rocket Explodes in Israel

The Israeli Air Force struck a target in the northern Gaza Strip from which a rocket was launched earlier Tuesday night. A Salafist group sympathetic to the Islamic State group, the "Omar Brigades," claimed responsibility. Yisrael Beytenu Chairman MK Avigdor Lieberman said after the incident that "He who is willing to absorb 'trickles' will ultimately get torrential rain. "We cannot accept this situation. No government has a right to exist if it is willing to accept a situation in which less than a year after a military operation that cost us dearly in soldiers' lives and disruption of national life for two months. This situation is intolerable, unacceptable, and we must put an end to it."

See also, "Rocket fired from Gaza explodes in southern Israel" (Ha'aretz)

Ha'aretz

UNHRC: Israel can't Drop Ton Bomb on Neighborhood

American jurist Mary McGowan Davis, who headed the independent UN probe into the events of last summer's war in Gaza, told Haaretz in an interview that the main message committee members wanted to transmit is that Israel must reexamine its policy of using its military might, because it led to unprecedented destruction in Gaza and to the killing of about 1,500 innocent civilians. "We wanted to make a strong stand that the whole use of explosive weapons in densely populated neighborhoods is problematic and that the policy needs to change," she emphasized in a phone interview from Geneva. "Because it wrong to drop a one-ton bomb in the middle of a neighborhood."

Times of Israel

Iran Leader Toughens 'Red Lines' for Nuclear Deal

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dramatically toughened his country's red lines for a nuclear deal Tuesday in an intervention during a meeting with President Hassan Rouhani and top officials. Contradicting agreements reached in a preliminary accord in Lausanne in April, and speaking days before a permanent deal is supposed to be finalized, Khamenei said he would "not accept long-term limitations" on his country's nuclear program, and insisted on the right to ongoing nuclear research and development. He Also said that Banking and other economic sanctions imposed by the UN and the United States must be lifted "immediately" if a nuclear deal is signed.

See also, "Iran passes bill to protect nuclear program from deal" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

Herzog Aligns with Netanyahu on Iran

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog presented Israel as a unified front against the proposed Iranian nuclear deal in his meetings in London over the last few days, sources close to him said Tuesday. Herzog discussed Iran as well as the Palestinian issue with advisers to British Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street. "There is no difference between me and Netanyahu in reading the threat of Iran," Herzog said in an interview with The Telegraph. "There is no daylight between us on this issue at all. I do not oppose the diplomatic process."

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Ynet News

PM: We will Capture Those from Druze Lynch Mob

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed rising tensions in Israel's northern Druze communities Tuesday morning at an international cyber conference, saying that authorities wound capture those responsible for a Druze lynch mob that attacked an IDF ambulance on Monday night, wounding two soldiers and killing a Syrian rebel who was delivered to a hospital. "We are a State of laws," said Netanyahu. "We are not part of the anarchy that's spreading around us. We won't let anyone take the law into their hands; we won't let anyone interfere in the missions of IDF soldiers." "I call on the leaders of the Druze community, which is a magnificent community with which we have brotherhood, I call on them to calm things down and say to every Druze citizen in Israel, respect the law, respect the soldiers, do not take the law into their own hands."

Guardian

Palestine Prepares to Submit File to I CC

Palestinian foreign minister, Riyad al-Maliki, will arrive Thursday morning with a delegation at the office of the prosecutor of the international criminal court in The Hague He will hand over a file running to hundreds of pages. Those documents describe to prosecutors for the first time in detail the Palestinian complaint against Israel for alleged breaches of international law, including serious war crimes. In doing so al-Maliki will set in motion a chain of events that could eventually see senior Israeli military and political officials indicted for breaches of international law. The presentation will be given added impetus as it follows hard on the heels of the UNHRC report on Monday, which accused both Israel and Hamas of potential war crimes and called for those responsible to be "brought to justice". Previewing the contents of the submission last week, Palestinian official Ammar Hijazi said it would detail alleged violations of international law by Israel. The ICC chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda must decide based on the complaint whether to order a preliminary examination and then a full criminal investigation. And as states themselves cannot be indicted, only individuals, she will also have to determine which Israelis can potentially be held culpable.

Bloomberg View

AIPAC Prepares to Battle Obama Over Iran

As U.S. and Iranian negotiators approach the June 30 deadline to reach a nuclear deal, America's largest pro-Israel lobby is campaigning to kill such an accord in Congress. Since last month, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee has mobilized its members to press legislators to endorse five principles for a nuclear deal -- principles that are almost certain not to be reflected in a final agreement. For example, AIPAC's principles say a deal should last "decades," while the framework for the nuclear agreement released in April would begin easing restrictions on Iran's program after a decade. Another principle says inspectors must be given "anytime, anywhere" access to suspected sites, "including all military facilities." Iran's leaders have consistently said there will be no inspections on military sites.

Parallel to this campaign, major donors to AIPAC and other pro-Israel causes are forming a new and independent 501(c)(4) advocacy organization, according to fundraisers and other lobbyists involved in the effort. The new organization will buy TV, radio and Internet ads

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targeting lawmakers from both parties who are on the fence about the nuclear deal, these sources say.

The Washington Institute– June 19, 2015

Don't Let the Deadline Drive the Deal

To get the best nuclear pact with Iran, Washington might have to let the June 30 target slide.

By Dennis Ross

As both a practitioner and also a student of high stakes negotiations, I am well-acquainted with the use of deadlines to push toward agreements in difficult talks. With the June 30 date for concluding an agreement looming in the negotiations with Iran, there are those who argue that the deadline is important and must be met. Others see it differently. They worry that it creates pressures on us, with the Iranians prone to use the deadline as a lever to gain concessions given what they may see as our desire for the deal. Both arguments have merit.

Often times in difficult negotiations, it makes sense to impose a date by which a decision must be made -- or in other words, to create an action-forcing event. When I mediated between the Israelis and Palestinians on redeployment in Hebron, a highly controversial issue for the Likud-led government at the time, I imposed a deadline for two reasons: First, I felt there was a danger that an extraneous event or an act of violence would sink the negotiating process at a point when we were close to an agreement. Second, I could see how to resolve the remaining issues and the real challenge was to get each leader -- Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu -- to make the final decisions and not try to hold out for what might be marginal gains. At the time, I knew each leader would face criticism for doing the deal and there was a natural instinct on both sides to postpone facing a likely backlash even as they tested to see if they could concede less.

It is rare for any national leader to seek out criticism. Putting off difficult or painful decisions is natural and it is one of the reasons deadlines in negotiations are so often employed. But to be credible, they have to be real. Each side has to see that failing to reach the agreement by a deadline truly threatens the possibility of having an agreement. If there is a balance of interest in reaching the agreement, and a comparable fear about the consequences of failing to do so, the deadline can work. Some may question whether the U.S. and Iran have a balance of interest and fear when it comes to reaching or failing to reach an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program.

Certainly, if one pays attention to public pronouncements, Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, has gone out of his way to suggest that his country does not need a deal. He speaks of not giving into the "bullying" of the "arrogant powers"; of not providing access to Iran's military sites or permitting inspectors to "interrogate" its nuclear scientists; of the Islamic Republic's need to develop a "resistance economy" to ensure it can tolerate sanctions; and that there are "no commitments" that Iran has made in the framework understanding. The tone of the Obama administration has obviously been different -- with the president calling the framework understanding a "historic opportunity" and other leading officials saying that there is no

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alternative to an agreement -- with some conjuring up the fear that war may be the only way to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state if the deal is blocked.

To be fair, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have both also said that "no deal is better than a bad deal" and that the military option remains on the table. But those words seem to carry less weight than the emphasis given to the dire consequences of the alternative to turning the framework understanding into an agreement. From a negotiator's standpoint you never want to signal that you need an agreement more than your partner or adversary at the table, and the conventional wisdom at this point is that the administration has not only positioned itself that way but that the Iranians also perceive that to be the case.

While the Iranians may have such a view, we should not discount that whatever their public posturing, their stake in reaching an agreement is high. Why else do the Iranians so insist on trying to get all sanctions lifted immediately -- notwithstanding Khamenei's call for a resistance economy? Moreover, the announcement of the framework understanding triggered spontaneous celebrations on the streets of Tehran. The Iranian public clearly wants an end to sanctions, the prospect of a better economy and less isolation internationally. No doubt the supreme leader's initial silence and subsequent downplaying of what had been achieved and announced in Lausanne, Switzerland -- saying there were no commitments and there was no deal -- were designed to lower expectations lest those become an increasing pressure on Iran to take steps to conclude the deal.

Moreover, as Mehdi Khalaji has pointed out, there seems to be a difference between the supreme leader's public pronouncements and his private instructions to his negotiators. Notwithstanding his declarations that there would be no access to military sites, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister and his deputy told the Iranian parliament that there would be "managed access" to military facilities under the rubric of the Additional Protocol of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty -- and they explained, when criticized for negotiating such understandings, that they had done so under "instructions." Only Khamenei could give such authoritative orders.

The Iranians clearly understand that they have much to gain by reaching an agreement, and there is probably much more of a balance of interest in reaching a deal than their public posture would suggest. While that could argue for sticking to the June 30 date to force decisions, there are two reasons not to do so: First, there is a pattern to the negotiations in which the Iranians hold out until the deadline, offer minimal concessions and count on us to creatively overcome the gaps. That creates too much pressure on us if there is deadline. Second, the sanctions clearly are a pressure on them, so why relieve them if they are not prepared to meet our essential minimums for the deal?

Precisely because the framework understanding offers the Iranians a lot -- it is essentially a roll-back of sanctions in return for transparency, not a roll-back of sanctions for a roll-back of their nuclear infrastructure -- we should not let the deadline push us toward any softening of what we need both on transparency and the high consequences that must be imposed if that transparency reveals that the Iranians are cheating. That Iran will be permitted to have a large nuclear infrastructure, and after 15 years not be limited in

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expanding it, creates a premium not just on thorough visibility into Iran's nuclear activities but also on ensuring unmistakable consequences for any transgressions. As such, it is the content of transparency and the agreed, meaningful costs for cheating -- not the deadline itself -- that matter. The administration would be wise to make that clear both to the Iranians and members of Congress.

Ironically, for those members of Congress who might be inclined to seize on the failure to meet the June 30 date to try to adopt new sanctions, this might be a reassuring message. It would certainly signal that the administration is holding out and won't be driven to accept something less than it needs -- and that could be used to get Congress to hold off on pressing immediately for new sanctions at a time when the other members of the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council as well as Germany) are likely to oppose such action. In other words, if fear of congressional action is creating a pressure on the administration to try to meet the June 30 date, there ought to be a way to manage this concern.

For now is not the time for the administration to treat June 30 as an inviolable deadline. As Yitzhak Rabin once said about the timetable of the Oslo process, there are no "sacred dates." And, certainly, while June 30 might be a target, we should not regard it as a sacred date, particularly if we are to avoid it becoming a point of pressure on us and not the Iranians.

Ha'aretz – June 23, 2015

Obama has a Stronger Record on Israel than you Might Have Been Led to Think

***While Democrats sometimes get a bad rap, let's not forget that Republicans have a mixed record on standing with Israel, which continues to be top recipient of U.S. foreign military financing*.**

By Greg Rosenbaum

The past week has seen the latest episode in an unrelenting campaign to delegitimize President Barack Obama's strong commitment to Israel. It's time to set the record straight on a president who has stood with Israel in times of crisis and has strengthened the Jewish state's security in concrete ways, ensuring it maintains a qualitative military edge.

From his campaign for office to his recent talk at Adas Israel, a synagogue in Washington, D.C., Obama has made it clear that his commitment to Israel is and always will be unshakable. "It would be a moral failing on my part if we did not stand up firmly, steadfastly not just on behalf of Israel's right to exist, but its right to thrive and prosper," he has said.

Obama's actions prove his commitment.

Israel continues to be the top recipient of U.S. foreign military financing, and for fiscal year 2016, the administration requested $3.1 billion in funding. The two nations also have begun preliminary talks on a long-term package that would provide up to $45 billion in security assistance grant aid through 2028. Early this year, Israel signed a contract with the United States for the purchase of 14 F-35 fighter

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jets, amounting to $3 billion.

Since Obama entered office, Israel has received more than $20.5 billion in foreign military financing. Unlike President George W. Bush, who rejected Israel's request for bunker-buster bombs, Obama became the first president to approve the sale of these advanced weapons, and in the fall of 2012, the U.S. and Israel participated in Austere Challenge 12, the largest joint military exercise ever to be held between the two countries.

Under Obama, the U.S. and Israel have continued Juniper Cobra, a joint exercise that has been held every two years since 2001 to test our joint ability to respond to missile attacks and improve preparedness, as well as coordination between our armed forces.

Unlike Bush, who gave Israel's Iron Dome system a frosty response, Obama has led the way in funding and supporting the research, development and production of the Iron Dome — which has been crucial in helping Israel defend itself against terrorist rocket attacks — as well as the joint U.S.-Israel missile defense systems David's Sling, the Arrow II and Arrow III. Since 2011, the United States has provided Israel with more than $1.3 billion for the Iron Dome system alone.

The military cooperation has been so strong that in a 2012 speech to the Israel National Defense College, then-Defense Minister Ehud Barak said, "The security ties between us and the current administration are at the highest level they have ever been."

In the international arena, under Obama's leadership, the U.S. has fought for Israel's full participation in the United Nations, has voted against resolutions in the General Assembly condemning Israel, cast the only "no" votes on five anti-Israel measures last year in the Human Rights Council, and worked to ensure that the General Assembly held its first-ever session on anti-Semitism. Obama also prevented the Palestinians from unilaterally declaring an independent state.

Under Obama, the United States continues to support the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, or BIRD, which facilitates U.S.-Israel cooperation in such areas as agriculture, healthcare and homeland security. Supporting collaboration between the U.S. Department of Energy and Israel's National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources Ministry, BIRD-Energy has facilitated nearly $50 million in U.S.-Israel cooperation.

Obama has been unfailing in supporting Israel's right to exist and defend itself against its enemies, and has been a phone call away when Israel needed assistance in times of crisis, taking personal steps to help avoid a catastrophe when a mob attacked Israel's embassy in Cairo and providing unprecedented support in fighting Israel's major forest fire on Mount Carmel in 2010.

Regardless of political attacks against Obama's pro-Israel record, let's not forget the mixed record of Republican presidents when it comes to standing with Israel. Let's briefly give some historical context to the relationship between the two countries under Obama.

Not only did George W. Bush refuse to stand with Israel on promoting Iron Dome and selling bunker-buster bombs, but in 2005 he also froze

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nearly all U.S.-Israeli joint defense projects. And, just before Bush left office, the U.S. abstained rather than veto a one-sided UN Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Under Ronald Reagan, the U.S. joined a Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its destruction of Iraq's Osirak nuclear facility and, despite Israel's strong objections, undermined the Jewish state's qualitative military edge by selling AWACS surveillance planes to Saudi Arabia. Dwight Eisenhower threatened to isolate Israel during the Suez War; and George H.W. Bush opposed loan guarantees to Israel.

There is no question that Obama is committed, both in word and deed, to the safety and security of Israel — and in many ways is more committed than his Republican predecessors.

Greg Rosenbaum is chairman of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

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Office of Secretary Clinton
News Analysis
February 8, 2015

HRC

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House Benghazi Committee lines up Obama administration witnesses (Politico)

By Lauren French
February 6, 2015
Politico

The House Benghazi Committee is set to interview nearly two dozen senior Obama administration officials in the next three months.

Republican Chairman Trey Gowdy announced on Friday that top officials close to both President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have been called to appear for the House panel investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Libya.

Included on the witness list is former White House press secretary Jay Carney, Gen. Martin Dempsey, former national security adviser Tom Donilon, current adviser Susan Rice, Jake Sullivan, a former deputy chief of staff to Clinton, deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes, former CIA Director David Petraeus and former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

White House chief of staff Denis McDonough is on Gowdy's witness list as well.

"I am announcing an ambitious timeline for interviews consistent with my plan to speed-up the pace of the investigation" Gowdy said. "I intend to stay with this schedule and will issue subpoenas if necessary."

Also included are State Department "whistleblower" Mark Thompson, former Assistant Secretary of State Andrew Shapiro, former U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center Matt Olsen, retired Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency Michael Morell, Clinton Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills, State Department official Charlene Lamb, State Department Undersecretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy, former White House National Security Council staffer Benjamin Fishman and retired foreign service officer William Burns.

Sullivan and Lamb are considered key figures in "Clintonland" while Mullen and Pickering chaired the State Department's investigation into the attacks — a probe Gowdy has criticized for failing to interview Clinton.

Gowdy added in a letter sent to ranking member Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) that he plans to schedule an interview with Clinton "as soon as possible." Cummings said in January that Clinton told him verbally she would appear before the panel to answer questions on the Obama administration's response to the attacks.

The witnesses will appear before the panel without a subpoena, but Gowdy warned in his letter that if the State Department, CIA and Obama administration do not meet a timeline set between Gowdy and the administration, he would be prepared to issue formal requests for testimony.

"All told, over the next three months, the committee will gain access to information not fully considered by any committee of Congress to date from the nearly three dozen witnesses identified," Gowdy wrote.

The White House would not be forced to comply with any subpoenas as the bulk of the witnesses requested would be shielded by executive privilege.

Cummings criticized the witness list on Friday, calling it redundant.

"A majority of these witnesses have already provided information to Congress through prior interviews and testimony – in some cases multiple times – during seven previous congressional investigations," the Maryland Democrat said.

Democrats on the panel have grown increasingly critical of Gowdy's direction of the committee since the beginning of the year. Cummings has blasted the chairman for moving too slowly with hearings and investigations, shutting Democrats out of key interviews and arguing that Gowdy is operating outside the normal bound of committee rules.

"This new list of 20 senior officials was released to the press before the Committee actually invited a single one of these individuals to come in for an interview, raising further questions about the purpose of these interviews," a Democratic staffer said on background.

The interviews will be completed by the end of April, Gowdy said.

Thompson previously testified to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that Clinton allegedly cut the State Department's counterterrorism bureau from the response to the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks, which left Ambassador Chris Stevens dead.

Naming these key witnesses is, to date, the most aggressive action Gowdy has taken since the panel was created last May. The loquacious Republican has preferred to operate in private when interviewing witnesses and requesting troves of

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documents from the State Department and CIA. The committee has received more than 40,000 documents, Gowdy said last month, but is still in negotiations with the Obama administration for thousands more.

Gowdy has repeatedly stressed that he was unwilling to call in key witnesses before he felt confident with the information the committee received.

Rice's inclusion on the list is a signal the seven Republicans on the panel will focus on a series of talking points that the national security adviser, then the U.S.'s ambassador to the United Nations, delivered on the Sunday shows following the attacks. The details Rice presented have been heavily criticized for purporting that an anti-Islamic video spurred the attacks.

There also has been great attention paid to the White House's involvement in drafting and revising those talking points.

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Clinton builds a different campaign for 2016. Will she be different, too? (WAPO)

By Dan Balz
February 8, 2015
The Washington Post

No one can say what kind of candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton will be once she starts actively campaigning later this year. Last summer's book tour and later public appearances highlighted the degree to which she is both rusty as a candidate and still grappling with the message for a 2016 campaign.

There are clear indications, however, that she is determined to put together a campaign organization that is markedly different from the one she had in 2008, designed to avoid both the tactical and strategic mistakes that contributed to her undoing against Barack Obama and the debilitating infighting that bedeviled the inner circle of what became for a time a dysfunctional campaign.

The uppermost tier of Clinton's new team speaks to the changes between 2008 and a 2016 campaign. In John Podesta, designated as the likely chairman, Clinton has something she lacked eight years ago. Podesta is someone who can speak to her almost as a peer. He should be able to offer unvarnished and critical counsel from the perspective of someone who was White House chief of staff in her husband's administration and is now a top adviser to President Obama. In contrast to many of the people in the upper ranks of the 2008 campaign, Podesta likely will not be timid about speaking frankly.

Beyond quiet advice to the candidate, there is an even more important role that Podesta could play in a Clinton 2016 campaign. Because of his stature, personality and long-standing relationship with the Clintons, he can speak authoritatively for the candidate, internally and externally. He brings order - to the extent that anyone can - to an operation that otherwise could be plagued by freelancing among the Clintons' vast and extended network. He has the opportunity to draw clearer lines of authority and enforce the rules.

In Robby Mook, the designated campaign manager, Clinton has a trusted young strategist who earned her confidence in 2008 by helping to pull off victories in Nevada, Ohio and Indiana. Mook is far younger than Podesta, but he has something that Podesta doesn't have: fluency in how modern campaigns are run.

Other members of the senior team recruited so far have long, collective experience in presidential campaigns and White House operations, and they have been both allies and rivals.

Joel Benenson, the designated chief strategist, and media adviser designate Jim Margolis were key players in the Obama campaign that defeated Clinton in 2008. Others from Obama's team are expected to play other key roles. Communications director designate Jennifer Palmieri has top-level White House experience. Communications strategist Mandy Grunwald has been part of Clinton world dating back to Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign.

Clinton has been reluctant to begin rigorous campaign activity this spring, given the absence of any serious competition for the Democratic nomination at this point. She has often remarked that her husband didn't announce his candidacy until the fall of 1991. But her team has been warned by veterans of the Obama campaigns not to take the absence of stiff competition for the nomination as an excuse to start slowly. The advice has been pointed: don't waste 2015. Clinton appears to be taking that to heart.

Even in the eight years since she first ran for president, Clinton campaign operations have changed dramatically, particularly in the areas of data, analytics, targeting, digital, social media and organizing. These are enormously challenging - and time-consuming - aspects of a presidential campaign.

Obama's reelection campaign spent most of 2011 trying to build the political, financial and especially the technological infrastructure necessary to wage a general election - and needed every bit of that time and more to work out many of the bugs. And they weren't starting from scratch, as Clinton will be doing. They had spent the years after the 2008 campaign testing, experimenting and refining their operation.

Mechanics are one thing, but candidate performance is another. Clinton may be building a different campaign operation, but will she be a different candidate in 2016 - and does she need to be?

She is in an unusual - and possibly unusually difficult - position. The lack of competition for the nomination may seem like a gift at this point, leaving her plenty of time to think through issues, outline a message and let Republicans fight among themselves. But she is not exactly like an incumbent running for reelection. She has never won her party's nomination, nor faced a Republican presidential nominee in the heat of a general election.

Enough questions remain from her last campaign that she cannot long afford to take for granted her position atop the Democratic field.

How, for example, does Clinton demonstrate to voters in Iowa, where she stumbled in 2008 and where activists expect serious courtship, that she will be a better and more accessible candidate this time?

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She is reluctant to begin too early, but is she prepared eventually to travel more extensively there than before? That will be an early sign of the kind of candidate she intends to be this time. Before a formal announcement, is another listening tour, which she used when she began her campaign for Senate in 2000, the way to make those connections?

How does she engage the media, which long has been a quarrelsome issue for her? She gave numerous interviews during her book tour, but as a candidate in 2008 she was far less accessible. Her relations with the traveling press corps in 2008 were often difficult. Today's press corps is larger, more encompassing and more intrusive today than eight years ago.

Here's another small but potentially knotty issue: What does she do about debates with other candidates, to the extent there are others? At this point it's far too early to worry about, but at some point it could become relevant. Does she debate? When and against whom? Could she go through the nomination process without ever debating - and would that put her at a disadvantage against the Republican nominee in a fall campaign?

Clinton has many assets as she gets ready for the campaign that everyone now expects her to run - but vulnerabilities and liabilities as well. Her new team has the experience to help her get ready and to weather whatever unexpected problems arise. She is sending signals that she accepts that this campaign must be different than the last. But the answer to what kind of candidate she will be rests squarely on her shoulders - and remains to be answered.

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The Insiders: Obama's week of jaw-dropping follies (WAPO)

By Ed Rogers
February 8, 2015
The Washington Post

As President Obama enters the uninhibited twilight of his presidency, some of what we are witnessing from him is shocking yet informative. In the past week, Obama's words and actions have revealed the thought process behind how policy decisions are made in his administration. Some of these recent incidents demand urgent responses from our Republican leaders, who are obligated to oppose the president when he crosses the line. But also, Republicans need to do what they can to pull Hillary Clinton into the fray. She has been getting a pass while Obama lurches to the left and Republicans generate distracting headlines.

First, the president's comments yesterday at the National Prayer Breakfast were jaw-dropping. He said, "Lest we get on our high horse and think this is unique to some other place, remember that during the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ." Why would the president tell the Islamic State, a terrorist group, that he is keeping its actions in perspective? This is an incredible and alarming statement; Republicans need to voice their strong objections and force Democrats to state whether or not they agree with the president. And as the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, Clinton should also let us know where she stands. Does she think today's actions and sentiments toward the Islamic State should be shaped by the Muslim-Christian battles of more than 900 years ago? Does she also want us to keep those battles in mind, get off our high horse and temper our objections to the Islamic State?

Second, the president seems to be pressing for a unilateral deal with Iran on its nuclear program, despite the objections of our allies, Congress and former administration officials. As the Post editorial today states, "[The] Obama administration has declined to counter increasingly aggressive efforts by Iran." The Post doesn't say it, but I think Obama is seeking a friendly agreement with Iran that it will not construct a nuclear bomb until after he leaves office. Obama appears willing to leave Iran's nuclear infrastructure in place and accept at face value the Iranian government's laughable assurances that it wants only peaceful nuclear technology. He is choosing to ignore all Iran's previous lies. Maybe deep down he sees a form of "fairness" in letting Iran have nuclear weapons. After all, we have them — and since he dismisses American exceptionalism, he probably doesn't think we are worthy stewards of these weapons. Israel has them, and this president has made clear that he thinks very little of Israel's defense posture.

And besides, if Obama can explain away the behavior of Islamic State terrorists by rationalizing it as a quid pro quo for the ancient behavior of some Westerners, he can certainly rationalize why Iran wants to have a nuclear weapon. The president is already maneuvering to escape congressional oversight or approval of his agreement with Iran. Am I extrapolating too much? I hope so, but the stakes are high. Skeptics can't be ignored. Again, Republicans and Democrats in Congress need to voice their opposition. And potential 2016 candidates should speak up. Would Clinton embrace the Obama deal and similarly pretend that Iran won't acquire nuclear weapons, or will she vow to stop Iran?

Third, the release of the president's surreal, liberal dream-budget gives us a government blueprint that shows what he would do if he were King of America. It is almost Chavez-like in its confiscation of wealth, higher taxes, new borrowing and uninhibited spending. Obama wants to reach into the pockets of U.S. companies everywhere, raise taxes on just about every form of wealth and spend more and more on social schemes that corral citizens into the care of the state and freely heap new debt on future generations.

Presidents are supposed to lead, guide and convince. Instead, Obama makes excuses for our enemies, ignores economic reality and acts unilaterally. I know this may sound harsh or partisan, but I don't feel like I'm straining to reach these conclusions. It is up to Republicans to stand firm, pass alternatives to the president's policies in Congress and not just be hecklers in the crowd. And Hillary Clinton, Democratic leaders in Congress and their candidates everywhere all need to be asked whether they are Obama-ites or something different.

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Economic Plan Is a Quandary for Clinton '16 (NYT)

By Amy Chozick
February 8, 2015
The New York Times

With advice from more than 200 policy experts, Hillary Rodham Clinton is trying to answer what has emerged as a central question of her early presidential campaign strategy: how to address the anger about income inequality without overly vilifying the wealthy.

Mrs. Clinton has not had to wade into domestic policy since before she became secretary of state in 2009, and she has spent the past few months engaged in policy discussions with economists on the left and closer to the Democratic Party's center who are grappling with the discontent set off by the gap between rich and poor. Sorting through the often divergent advice to develop an economic plan could affect the timing and planning of the official announcement of her campaign.

Although people close to Mrs. Clinton say she has not yet settled on a specific platform, she is expected to embrace several principles. They include standard Democratic initiatives like raising the minimum wage, investing in infrastructure, closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting taxes for the middle class. Other ideas are newer, such as providing incentives to corporations to increase profit-sharing with employees and changing labor laws to give workers more collective bargaining power.

Behind many of these proposals is a philosophy, endorsed by Mrs. Clinton's closest economic advisers and often referred to as inclusive capitalism, that contends that a majority of Americans do not want to punish the rich; they just want to feel that they, too, have a chance to succeed. It also calls for corporations to put less emphasis on short-term profits that increase shareholder value and to invest more in employees, the environment and communities.

Whether Mrs. Clinton's approach will be enough to satisfy the unease over growing economic disparity is unclear. In a Gallup poll conducted last month, 67 percent of Americans said they were dissatisfied with the way income and wealth are distributed in the United States. In the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, Mrs. Clinton's economic message -- summed up by a frequent refrain, "If you work hard, you play by the rules, you ought to be able to get ahead" -- resonated with white, working-class voters, who overwhelmingly supported her over Barack Obama.

But in the years since, Mrs. Clinton has come under criticism for delivering speeches to Wall Street banks at more than $200,000 each, roughly four times the median annual household income in the United States, and for comments she made about her family's financial situation, including a lament about being "dead broke" after leaving the White House. And she must convince a middle class that feels frustrated and left behind that she understands its struggles, even as she relies heavily on the financial industry and corporate interests to fund her candidacy.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, said she had "a record of bringing people together to solve big problems, while also putting a real premium on accountability."

Asked whether creating an economic message could affect the timeline for her presidential campaign, Mr. Merrill said, "There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake: If she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges."

Mrs. Clinton's economic plan would be more populist and reliant on the government than the centrist approach of trade agreements, welfare reform and deficit reduction associated with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

"It's not enough to address upward mobility without addressing inequality," said Lawrence H. Summers, a Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration who is among those talking with Mrs. Clinton. "The challenge, though, is to address inequality without embracing a politics of envy."

The debate is extending beyond the Democratic Party as Republicans wade into the issues. "If Americans are working harder than ever, earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong," former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida said in a speech in Detroit last week as he laid the groundwork for his potential 2016 candidacy.

Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state when some major economic debates took hold on Capitol Hill, and as a result, her economic views are still not broadly known. Her approach to poverty was forged in the 1970s, when she went door to door while working for the Children's Defense Fund, leaving her a committed advocate for early childhood education, equal pay for women and paid leave.

But later experiences complicated her worldview. Many of the advocates who knew Mrs. Clinton as a champion for the poor and working-class women felt betrayed in 1996 when, as first lady, she supported Mr. Clinton's overhaul of the welfare system, which gave states more power to remove people from welfare rolls and pledged to cut federal spending on assistance for the poor by nearly $55 billion over six years. She was more skeptical about the North American Free Trade

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Agreement, which Mr. Clinton signed into law in 1993 and which has also been accused of hurting American workers.

After being elected in New York to the United States Senate in 2000, Mrs. Clinton had another constituency to represent: Wall Street. In 2001, she supported bankruptcy legislation that some Democrats -- most notably Elizabeth Warren, now senator from Massachusetts -- argued hurt working families and single mothers, and they accused her of doing the bidding of the financial industry. Mrs. Clinton has said she worked to improve the bill.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Mrs. Clinton angered some of her Wall Street donors when she came out early in support of the regulation of derivatives and other complicated financial products and called for eliminating the "carried interest" loophole that allowed some financiers to avoid paying millions in income taxes. She also said that as president, she would create a cabinet-level position to fight poverty.

When the housing market collapsed, Mrs. Clinton, who had returned to the Senate full time after Mr. Obama defeated her, proposed legislation similar to a New Deal-era program that would allow the government to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. She voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which led to the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the multibillion-dollar bailout for automakers.

Last month, Mrs. Clinton reiterated her support for the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law. "Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong," she wrote on Twitter.

As she dives back into domestic policy, Mrs. Clinton faces an economy in which, even amid steady job growth, weekly earnings for low- and middle-income workers have remained virtually unchanged for 15 years.

"Where has the money gone?" asked Robert B. Reich, a secretary of labor during the Clinton administration. "That is the topic that is embarrassing for people to talk about, particularly in Washington, because even mentioning it creates the potential charge of class warfare."

Mr. Reich, who recently sent Mrs. Clinton a five-page memo laying out his ideas, said candidates in both parties needed to abandon the politically safe discussion of upward mobility for the poor and middle class that dominated the 1990s, and instead take on the stickier issue of income distribution.

"Upward mobility, equal opportunity -- those are safe phrases and safe aspirations," he said in an interview. "I don't want to minimize their importance, but they obscure the real issue."

Mr. Reich is one of some 200 economists and academics who have offered Mrs. Clinton ideas and guidance as she settles on an economic doctrine. Several of Mr. Clinton's former advisers, including Alan S. Blinder, Robert E. Rubin and Mr. Summers, maintain influence. But Mrs. Clinton has cast a wide net that also includes Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics who has written extensively about inequality; Alan B. Krueger, a professor at Princeton and co-author of "Inequality in America"; and Peter R. Orszag, a former director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Obama. Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist who focuses on retirement issues, is also playing a prominent role.

Last month in Washington, a 17-person commission convened by the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank with close ties to Mrs. Clinton, presented a 166-page report on "inclusive prosperity," which is among the numerous economic blueprints Mrs. Clinton has reviewed. For some, the solutions proposed by the committee, of which Mr. Summers was co-chairman, did not go far enough.

Dean Baker, an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, has pushed the idea of a government fee on the sale or purchase of certain financial assets, which he believes could hold Wall Street accountable while funding social services. "Clinton people didn't want to go near it," Mr. Baker said.

Mrs. Clinton has not commented on the financial transaction tax or on profit-sharing.

She has expressed support for many of the proposals Mr. Obama laid out in his State of the Union address last month, signaling that they could help shape her agenda. In a post on Twitter, she said the speech had "pointed way to an economy that works for all. Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class."

Mrs. Clinton frequently talks about the economic success of the Clinton administration, under which median family income, adjusted for inflation, increased to $56,080 in 1999 from $48,884 in 1993, compared with a decline to $51,017 in 2012 from $55,987 in 2000, according to census data. But she has acknowledged that a globalized economy calls for new ideas, and many are urging her to go beyond her comfort zone and address the deeper frustrations of those who have not shared in that economy's benefits.

"Long-term answers about education and skills that help change mobility don't get at the current frustrations and aggravations," said Austan D. Goolsbee, an economic adviser to Mr. Obama and a professor at the University of Chicago.

"People want to answer the question, 'Are we going to be O.K.?' " Mr. Goolsbee said. "And then the natural question is, 'Whose fault was that, and let's go find those people.' "

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Sen. Paul Criticizes Libya Intervention as 'Hillary's War' (WSJ)

By Byron Tau
February 7, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa--Calling it "Hillary's war," Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) told voters in this politically potent state that the U.S. intervention in Libya has been an "utter disaster" that empowered radical Islamist groups.

Mr. Paul, on a swing through the state that holds the first nominating contest of the presidential election, argued that U.S. foreign policy in Libya, Syria and elsewhere had helped create threats such as Islamic State, among other groups.

Mr. Paul said Hillary Clinton was to blame for what he described as foreign-policy failures, previewing lines of attack for a potential general election match-up. Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state under President Barack Obama until 2013 and was a proponent of interventions during popular uprisings against the ruling regimes in Libya and Syria.

"Hillary's war in Libya has been an utter disaster," Mr. Paul said Saturday, speaking to a small group of voters and activists. "There are now jihadists roaming all across Libya. It's a jihadist wonderland."

Under Mr. Obama, the U.S. government was part of an international coalition to oust Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi from power in 2011. In Syria, the U.S. has expressed support for the ouster of Bashar al-Assad and has provided both humanitarian and lethal aid to some Syrian opposition groups.

In the aftermath of Mr. Gadhafi's ouster, Islamist groups operating in Libya staged an attack in 2012 on the United States consulate in Benghazi, killing four Americans, including U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens. Mr. Paul said that Mrs. Clinton had failed to provide adequate security for the U.S. mission to that country which, he said, "should forever preclude her from being considered for the presidency."

A request to Mrs. Clinton for comment on Mr. Paul's remarks wasn't immediately answered.

The administration has reiterated its support for the 2011 intervention in Libya, congratulating the country for holding elections last year. "The United States was proud to support the Libyan people in the darkest days of their revolution and through their efforts to end the Gadhafi regime," Mr. Obama said in a 2014 statement.

Mr. Paul called the former secretary of state the "biggest cheerleader" for intervention in Syria and Libya and said that those policies had empowered radical Islamic groups in both countries.

"Gadhafi was a secular dictator," the senator said. "Not the kind of guy that we want to have representing us in country, but he was secular. He didn't like radical Islam, and he kept them down because they were a threat to him. What happened when we toppled the secular dictator? Chaos. More radical Islam."

In Syria, Mr. Paul said that Islamic State -- a militant group operating in Syria and Iraq that is also known as ISIS -- was essentially created by the U.S. aid program under the Obama administration.

"I think we have to do something about ISIS, he said. "But, you know why we're doing something and why we have to be there again? Because of a failed foreign policy that got us involved in a Syrian Civil War . . . . By supporting the Islamic rebels, ISIS grew stronger and stronger and stronger. And now we have to go back."

Mr. Paul, a libertarian-leaning senator, has broken sharply with the more hawkish wing of his party, prompting a major foreign policy debate within Republican circles about American military power and the role of the United States in the world.

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Boris to court Hillary on tour (Sunday Times)

By Tim Shipman
February 8, 2015
The Sunday Times

BORIS JOHNSON will hold talks with Hillary Clinton, a fellow leader in waiting, on a whistle-stop tour of America this week.

The mayor of London will meet the former US secretary of state, the Democrat frontrunner to be the next president, in New York on Wednesday.

Johnson will also use the visit, which takes in Boston and Washington, to drum up business for Britain while burnishing his credentials as a potential prime minister.

He and Clinton will discuss terrorism and the war in Syria and Iraq against Isis, also known as Islamic State.

Johnson wrote in 2007, when she was competing with Barack Obama for the Democrat presidential nomination, that he wanted her to win the White House to "get Bill Clinton once again padding over the shag pile carpet of the Oval Office, even if it is only to bring his wife a cup of tea".

The mayor is hedging his bets for the 2016 presidential election. He said he had met Jeb Bush, the frontrunner for the Republican party's nomination, when he visited the UK recently. "I [thought] very highly of him," he said.

Johnson will also meet Bill de Blasio, the mayor of New York, his predecessor Michael Bloomberg, the police commissioner Bill Bratton and British stars of Broadway and New York fashion week.

In Boston tomorrow he will make a speech on how innovation can help the poor, positioning himself as a "one nation" candidate for the Tory leadership when David Cameron steps down.

In Washington, Johnson will be the guest of honour at a reception given by Sir Peter Westmacott, the British ambassador.

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Sanders promises 'clash of ideas' with Hillary Clinton if both run in 2016 (The Hill)

By Ben Kamisar
February 7, 2015
The Hill

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said Saturday morning that voters will see stark differences between himself and Hillary Clinton if the two both decide to run for the White House in 2016.

“Trust me, there will be a real clash of ideas,” Sanders said on MSNBC’s “Up with Steve Kornacki.”

“I happen to like and respect Hillary Clinton, but I suspect on issues like massive investments in infrastructure, on real tax reform, on the need to deal in a very bold way with the planetary crisis of climate change, with the transpacific partnership, I suspect we will have some real differences.”

Sanders is flirting with entering the 2016 Democratic presidential primary, but Clinton is a prohibitive favorite. Despite her huge lead for the nomination in opinion polls, however, there are signs of discontent among progressives, especially when it comes to Clinton’s economic worldview.

If Sanders runs, he’d likely trumpet the goals of the progressive wing of the party, which wants bold policies aimed at addressing rising income inequality.
“I think we need a political revolution in this country, we need to get people once again actively involved in the political process and take on the people who have the real power in America,” Sanders said. He added that income inequality is at its starkest since 1929 and that, since the 2008 recession, the vast majority of all new income generated has gone to the wealthiest one percent.

His wish-list includes robust infrastructure spending, raising the minimum wage and a “national health care program that guarantees health care” to all.

His proposals would both increase government spending and expand the bounds of government more generally — neither of which are things that Republicans are likely to support. But Sanders said that if progressives can rally a majority of Americans behind their message, they could force change in Congress.

“If some of us are successful in mobilizing the American people and in a sense, giving the Republicans an offer they can’t refuse, yes, we can be successful,” he said.

“We may not get everything we want, I think we can push the Republicans to raise the minimum wage a lot higher than it is right now.”

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New Hampshire Poll: Jeb Bush Grabs Narrow Lead (Bloomberg)

By Michael Bender and Lisa Lerer
February 8, 2015
Bloomberg

Jeb Bush has taken a slight lead over other potential Republican presidential candidates in a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire poll, even though his party's voters have doubts about his famous last name and his positions on immigration and education.

Even if Bush should overcome those doubts to prevail in what is shaping up as one of the most wide-open Republican primaries in the state's recent history, the poll suggests that he is deeply unpopular with likely general-election voters. It's a worrisome sign for his campaign in a battleground state that both parties have targeted during the past several presidential elections.

The poll also shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton dominating her potential Democratic rivals. Clinton, who won the state's presidential primary in 2008, is the first choice of 56 percent of Democratic primary voters. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who has said she isn't running, is second at 15 percent, while Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont both have 8 percent.

The poll, taken Jan. 31-Feb. 5 by Washington-based Purple Insights, surveyed 400 Republican primary voters and 400 Democratic primary voters almost exactly a year out from the 2016 New Hampshire primary. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

Mitt Romney's decision to forgo a third presidential bid clearly upended the Republican contest, with candidates now scrambling to pick up his supporters. Romney, who won the Granite State's 2012 primary on his way to winning the nomination, led a Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm poll in November by 19 percentage points; Bush now leads with just 16 percent. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky is second with 13 percent, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is at 12 percent, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, coming off a controversy-filled overseas trip, is at 10 percent.

New Hampshire, which traditionally holds the second presidential nominating contest after Iowa, presents a complicated electorate for Bush. The state's Republican voters rejected his brother, George W. Bush, in 2000 in favor of John McCain. His father, George H.W. Bush, lost the state's primary in 1980 but won it in 1988 on his way to the White House.

In a snapshot of potential problems facing the former Florida governor, nearly three out of five Republican primary voters said his strength as a potential candidate was based on his family connections to politics, while just 31 percent said it was due to his unique qualities and achievements. When Democrats were asked the same question about Clinton, only 21 percent cited her family connections as her main strength.

Nancy Clark, a real estate broker based in Gilford, N.H., said she's supporting Bush—at least for now. "I'm just wondering about how people are going to feel about having three Bushes in the White House," Clark said in an interview after the poll was taken. "I'm definitely open. I just want a Republican in the White House, so it's who is going to be able to pull that off."

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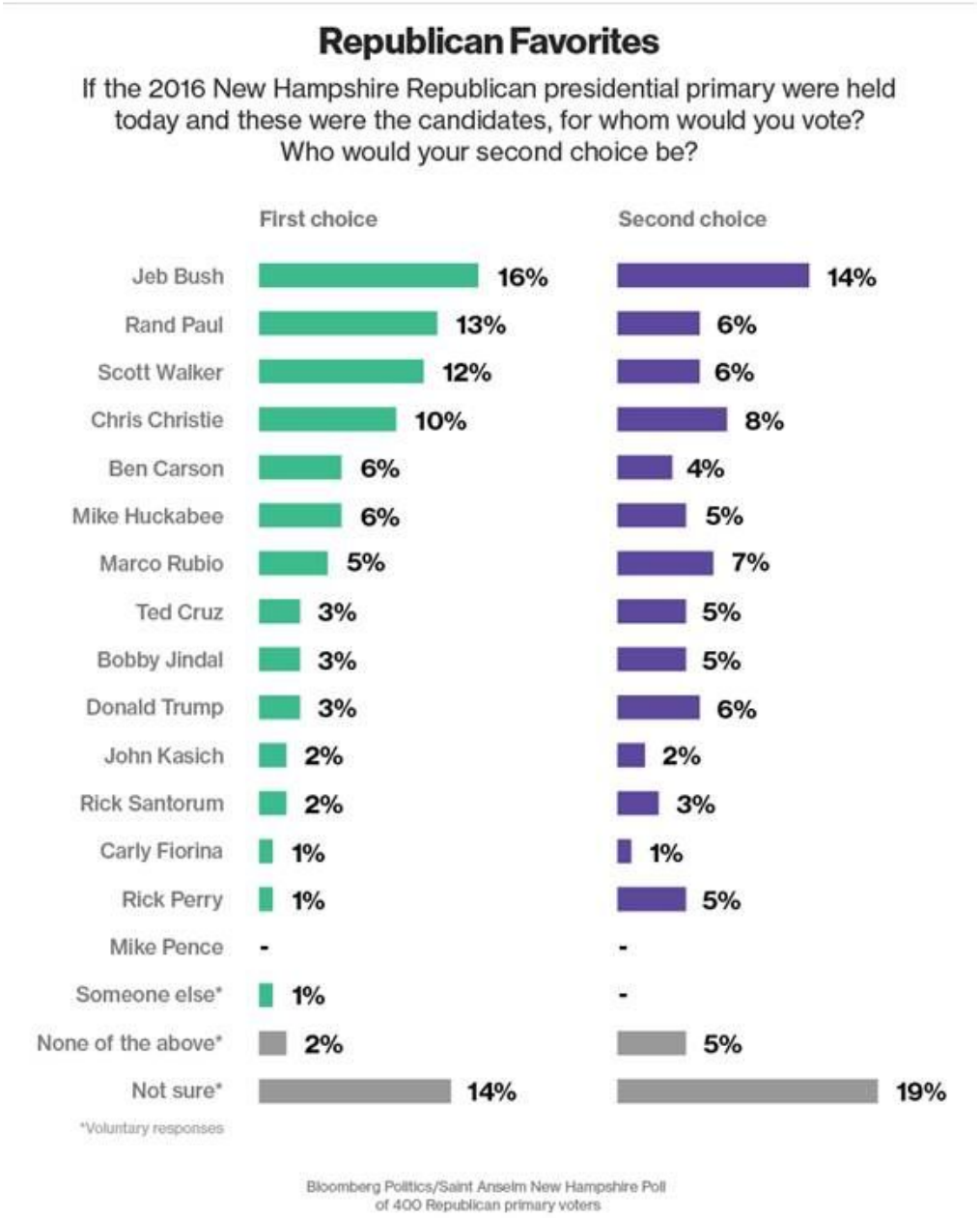

Bush acknowledged during a speech in Detroit last week that he must present himself to voters in a way that distinguishes him from his father or brother. But the poll shows trouble spots beyond family history. As in Iowa, Republican primary voters are suspicious of Bush's support for immigration reform and the national educational standards known as Common Core.

One in five Republican primary voters said Bush's support of Common Core was a “deal-killer” that would prevent them from supporting him. His support for letting undocumented immigrants remain in the country was a deal-killer for 41 percent.

And the issue may make it hard for Bush to expand his support. Almost half of the Republicans who didn't pick Bush as their first or second choice said his immigration positions were a deal-killer for them.

Still, 14 percent of Republican primary voters named him as their second choice, while no other Republican candidate broke single digits.

Rounding out the rest of potential Republican candidates: Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson each scored 6 percent; Senator Marco Rubio of Florida was at 5 percent; Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Senator Ted Cruz, and businessman Donald Trump were all at 3 percent; former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Ohio Governor John Kasich had 2 percent; and former Texas Governor Rick Perry and businesswoman Carly Fiorina were both at 1 percent.

Not a single Republican voter named Indiana Governor Mike Pence as first or second choice, the same result as last month's Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll.

While GOP voters may be ready to support Bush, general-election voters appear more dubious. His unfavorability rating from a sample of 503 general-election voters was 50 percent, compared to 35 percent favorable. Clinton, by contrast, had a 54 percent favorable rating and a 42 percent unfavorable score.

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Of the 21 possible Democratic and Republican presidential candidates named, only Trump's unfavorable rating was higher than Bush's, at 66 percent.

More conservative Republicans such as Huckabee and Cruz had lower unfavorable ratings among general-election voters (45 and 33 percent, respectively) than Bush. But nearly all the Republicans were generally viewed unfavorably. Among the party's 15 potential presidential candidates tested, 11 had unfavorable ratings that exceed their favorability, unlike any of the six possible contenders in the Democratic poll. Christie's favorable rating was 40 percent positive, 46 percent negative.

Paul, known for his libertarian leanings, and Kasich had evenly split favorable/unfavorable ratings of 40 percent and 12 percent, respectively. Walker and Carson were the only two Republicans in the poll viewed more favorably than unfavorably by general-election voters. The general-election sample has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

The poll suggests that Walker has the most room to grow in New Hampshire. Despite strong showings in recent polls, the Wisconsin governor remains relatively unknown—just 54 percent of GOP primary voters expressed an opinion about him. That opinion was overwhelmingly positive, with those with a favorable view of him outnumbering those with a negative view by better than 4 to 1.

Paul also has reason for optimism. He was second in the Republican poll, the same position he held in November. Paul's favorability rating among Republican primary voters is down three points at 63 percent, but it is the highest among the 15 potential GOP candidates named in the poll.

“Rand Paul, in some ways, is the turtle here while the others are popping up and down,” said Purple Insights' Doug Usher.

Bush’s favorability was 61 percent and Christie’s was 59 percent, up 9 percentage points since November. Still, 29 percent of Republicans said they have an unfavorable view of Christie, tied with Huckabee for second-worst. Trump was the most disliked Republican included in the survey, with 53 percent of Republican primary voters expressing a negative opinion of him.

Like Walker, Rubio is relatively unknown in the state but well-liked among those who had an opinion: 52 percent think favorably of him, while just 14 percent have an unfavorable view.

While there were danger signs for Bush, there were also positives.

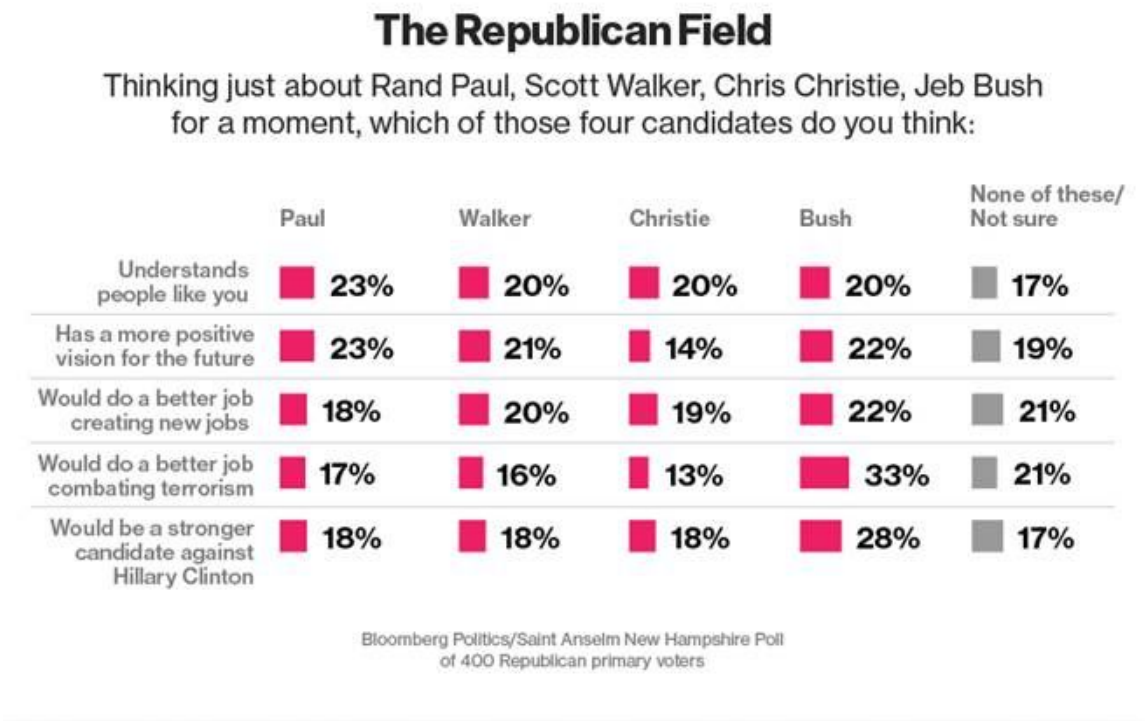

Republicans said the former governor would be far better than Walker, Paul, or Christie when it comes to combating terrorism—a top issue for the party's voters—and would be a stronger candidate against Clinton in the general election. By a narrower margin, they also said he would be the best of the four at creating jobs. Paul had a slight advantage when voters were asked who understands people like them, and who had a more positive vision for the future.

“Jeb Bush is out of the gate and in the lead, and those are very good things,” Usher said. “To the extent that he’s banking on some notion of inevitability, I think it’s a disconcerting poll.”

Walker's fast rise—he vaulted to the top of the Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll on the strength of his speech at the Iowa Freedom Summit in January—is likely to attract more attention, both from curious voters and from rivals eager to start attacking a frontrunner. He wasn’t included in the November poll, but he probably wouldn’t have registered much support at that point, Usher said.

“He may be the horse that pops up on the carousel right now,” Usher said. “If you take a look at 2012 on the Republican side, there were a whole bunch of horses that popped up and down on the carousel. So his sustainability is impossible to

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predict at this point."

In New Hampshire, 69 percent of Republican voters said Walker's fight against public-employee unions were either a very or somewhat convincing reason to back him for president. Similar majorities said the same about his three statewide victories in a Democratic-leaning state, and the fact that he is a fresh face who can bring new ideas to Washington.

There are potential pitfalls for Walker, too. Nearly a third of Republican voters said they wouldn't vote for Walker because of the numerous campaign-finance scandals facing him, including one that has been called a "criminal scheme" by prosecutors. Walker has denied wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime.

About one-fifth said they wouldn't support him because he wouldn't know how to get things done in Washington, while 28 percent cited his lack of foreign policy experience as a reason not to vote for him.

"There's been too many Bushes and Clintons and it's time for change," said Richard Kaufman, a retired professor in Dover, N.H. who participated in the poll. "I'm not necessarily settled on Walker, but I think he's one of the new people.

"At this point," Kaufman said, "I think it's just wait and see who throws their hat into the ring."

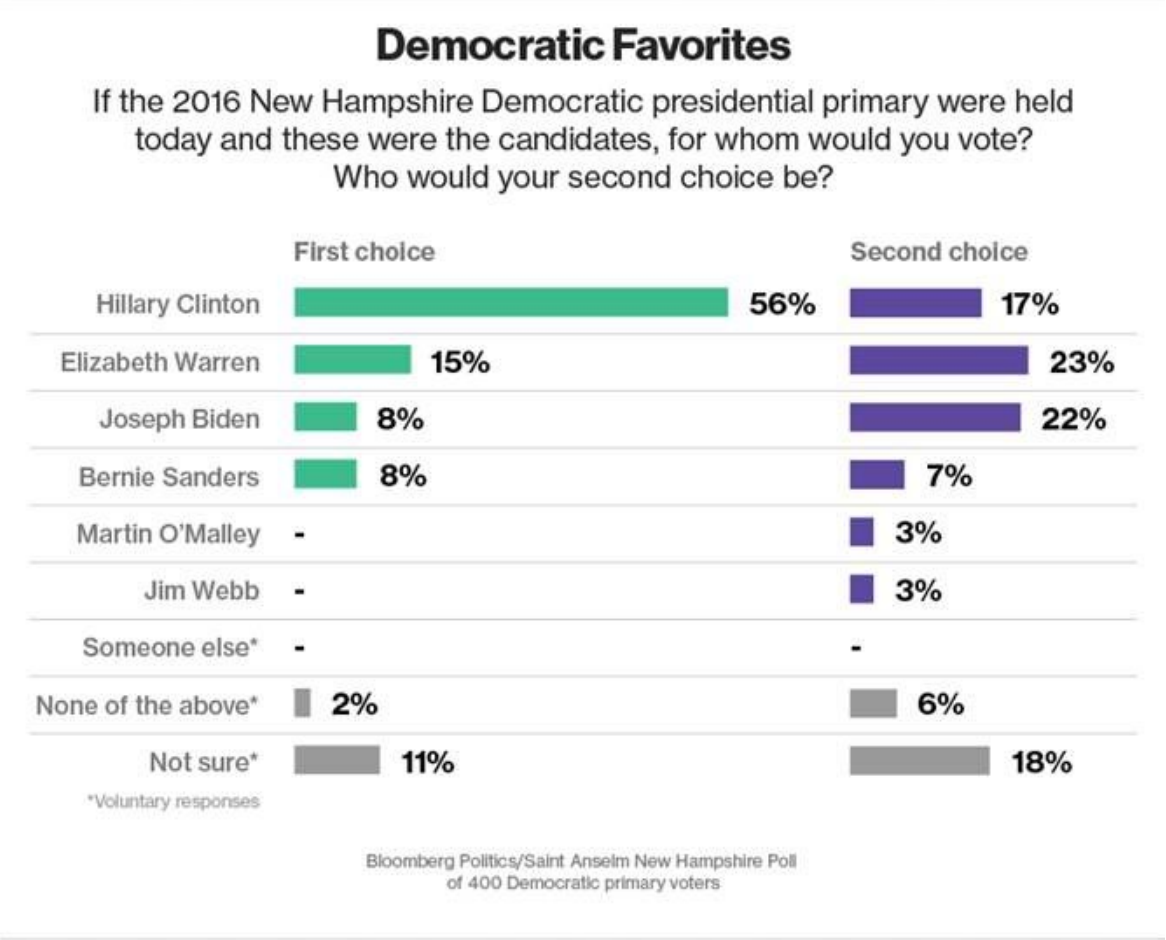

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Brian Williams is not alone: Hillary Clinton, Stephen Glass and other famous fabrications (Yahoo News)

By Caitlin Dickson
February 8, 2015
Yahoo News

Brian Williams admitted this week that, contrary to previous claims, he was not aboard a helicopter that was grounded by rocket grenades during the U.S. invasion of Iraq. But he's not the first public figure who has been caught stretching the truth.

The beloved anchor's confession — that the harrowing story he and NBC News had repeated multiple times since 2003 was not true —has prompted an investigation by the network and called Williams' other reporting, such as his Hurricane Katrina coverage, into question. This weekend Williams, who is managing editor of the NBC Nightly News, announced that he'd be temporarily taking himself off the air.

Williams' apology, in which he insisted he'd "misremembered" the details of the events, prompted comparisons to Hillary Clinton, who came down with her own case of the misrememberings while on the campaign trail in 2008.

In a speech, as well as a number of interviews, the then-presidential candidate recalled having to run from sniper fire with her daughter, Chelsea, upon arriving in war-torn Bosnia in 1996. It was a dramatic anecdote, and one that seemed to back up the foreign policy experience Clinton said she'd gained during her eight years as first lady. That story also, however, raised some eyebrows from the media, and it wasn't long before video of the Bosnia trip was unearthed to counter Clinton's account.

"I remember landing under sniper fire," Clinton had said of the Bosnia trip during a campaign speech in Washington. "There was supposed to be some kind of greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles to get to our base."

Yet the video showed a much calmer version of events, with Clinton and her daughter walking from their plane to a tension-free ceremony on the tarmac. When confronted with the inconsistencies, Clinton said:

"So I made a mistake. That happens. It proves I'm human, which, you know, for some people is a revelation."

Then-Sen. Barack Obama used the Bosnia embellishment to challenge his Democratic opponent's foreign policy experience. And while Clinton went on to lose the nomination, the scandal didn't prevent Obama from appointing her secretary of state once he was elected.

Former Sen. Tom Harkin was caught, not once but twice, in his own campaign-trail yarn. First during his 1984 Senate run and again while making a bid for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination, the details of Harkin's military service were scrutinized.

Although Harkin, a Navy vet, had previously claimed to have spent a year in Vietnam as a combat pilot, a skeptical Wall Street Journal eventually got Harkin to admit that he was never stationed in Vietnam during the war, but rather in Japan, and occasionally flew recently repaired aircraft on test missions in and out of the embattled country. Harkin did not make it past the 1992 Democratic primaries, losing to fresh-faced Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton. But his career was hardly over. He retired this year after three decades in the Senate.

Clinton and Harkin are just two in a long history of politicians who've exaggerated — or flat-out lied — about their war experience. In fact, some might consider it a political tradition. And as history has showed, being outted for such transgressions may cost you an election, but it's not necessarily a career killer. Sen. Mark Kirk and former presidents George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan are other survivors of fabricated heroism.

Unfortunately for Williams, he is not a politician but a journalist — his profession is one in which lying is still, technically, frowned upon. And unlike the politicos mentioned above, the most notorious liars in journalism are best known for the their career-ruining fabrications. Jayson Blair resigned from the New York Times in disgrace after his tangled web of plagiarized and fabricated stories was exposed. Janet Cooke's Pulitzer Prize was revoked when the subject of Cooke's award-winning Washington Post article, an 8-year-old heroin addict named Jimmy, turned out to be a figment of her imagination. Stephen Glass is still haunted by the ghosts of fabricated sources, as his well-documented reign as The New Republic's most egregious scam artist not only ousted him from journalism but has proven a roadblock to his pursuit of a law career.

Whether Williams will manage to escape this disaster unscathed remains to be seen.

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De Blasio commissioner worked closely with Hillary Clinton on women's rights (NY Daily News)

By Annie Karni
February 8, 2015
New York Daily News

Penny Abeywardena had never met Mayor de Blasio when he reached out to her about becoming his commissioner for international affairs. But they had a powerful connection in common — Hillary Clinton.

Abeywardena, who at 37 is one of the mayor's youngest and most glamorous commissioners, was hired four months ago from the Clinton Global Initiative, where she worked closely with the former secretary of state around Clinton's core issue of women's rights.

For a mayor who cultivates a global profile — he even called newly elected Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras last month to congratulate him on his progressive values — poaching someone from Clinton's circle was a coup.

"She has a massive Rolodex — she has contacts that even de Blasio doesn't have," said a political operative who knows Abeywardena.

The commissioner, who earns $192,198 — the same salary as the cultural affairs and consumer affairs commissioners — uses those contacts to raise de Blasio's international standing.

After the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris last month, she immediately got Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo on the phone and spearheaded de Blasio's 24-hour solidarity trip to France.

When the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge descended on New York City last December, Abeywardena organized their events with de Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, and accompanied the duchess to Harlem.

For a mayor who cultivates a global profile, poaching someone from Clinton's circle was a coup. Abeywardena is picturedhere with Mayor de Blasio and two Paris police officers during a January trip to Paris.

For a mayor who cultivates a global profile, poaching someone from Clinton's circle was a coup. Abeywardena is picturedhere with Mayor de Blasio and two Paris police officers during a January trip to Paris.

And when the Pope visits the city later this year, Abeywardena will be the city's liaison.

During an interview in her corner office near the United Nations, with a sweeping view of the East River, she says she gave up "a pretty great job" to join city government but didn't burn any bridges.

"Secretary Clinton could not have been a bigger supporter or happier for me to be in this post," she said, adding that the mayor and Clinton had "a good laugh about it."

It was now-departing senior mayoral adviser Peter Ragone who pitched Abeywardena to the mayor, citing her Clinton connections and experience. "Penny's work at the Clinton Foundation matched the mayor's approach to public service in so many ways," Ragone said.

The role was created under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who renamed the Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol and appointed his sister, Marjorie Tiven, to the job. Tiven did not accept a salary.

But Abeywardena said she has bigger plans for the job — including filling out her staff to create a 14-person office.

When the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge descended on New York City last December, Abeywardena organized their events with de Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, and accompanied the duchess to Harlem.

When the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge descended on New York City last December, Abeywardena organized their events with de Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, and accompanied the duchess to Harlem.

"The vision the mayor and I have for this is to create a global platform from which to promote what's working in New York City, but also engage this diplomatic community with its local immigrant communities," she said.

Abeywardena, who was born in Sri Lanka and grew up in Los Angeles, said she's approaching the job through a "women's lens" — a viewpoint that's a perfect fit with de Blasio and McCray.

"The mayor and the first lady, they're some of my favorite feminists," she said. "You think about universal pre-K, paid sick leave, even the municipal ID — these are things that particularly support single working mothers."

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Her interest in women's rights stems from personal experience.

"I'm a domestic violence survivor," she said. "Mental illness and alcoholism sort of defined my father's situation. When we left my dad, my mom had no bills, nothing in her name and we had to rely on the community to help pick up from there."

Abeywardena fell in love with New York City 15 years ago when she attended graduate school for international studies at Columbia University.

Abeywardena, who was born in Sri Lanka and grew up in Los Angeles, said she's approaching the job through a 'women's lens' — a viewpoint that's a perfect fit with de Blasio and McCray.

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"I like to say I was reborn in New York," she said.

She also met her husband here. Last summer Abeywardena married colleague Daniel Schaefer, the IT director at the Clinton Foundation. Pictures of the Montauk beach wedding were featured on Glamour.com.

Abeywardena's associates would not be surprised to see her play some role in Clinton's expected 2016 campaign. But she said she plans to stay in her job as long as the mayor does.

"I would not have taken this job if I thought I would go elsewhere," she said.

At the moment, she has a lot on her plate — including the looming papal visit in September.

If she could, she said, she would love to show Pope Francis the Bronx or Staten Island.

"I would take him to one of our pre-school locations or community centers," she said.

"Then we would go to a local joint and have some Sri Lankan food. I'd say, 'Sir, it's a little spicy, but you're going to love it.'"

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Paul hopes low-key style, atypical pitch can set him apart (WAPO)

By Robert Costa
February 8, 2015
The Washington Post

AMES, Iowa - Sen. Rand Paul, nursing a cold, did not shake many hands on the first day of his swing through Iowa this weekend. Instead, he elbow-bumped activists as he made his way through crowds and hoarsely thanked them for their support.

The Republicans who showed up Friday at Paul's rally did not mind. In a state where caucus- goers often demand warm interactions with presidential contenders, they were happy to hear Paul's riffs on monetary policy and Montesquieu from a distance.

As Paul (Ky.) moves closer to a 2016 bid, he is betting that in a field of big personalities, his low-key style and atypical pitch - mixing snarky asides, dovish takes on foreign policy and a compassionate plea for criminal-justice reform - will set his candidacy apart.

"Just look at who's here," said David Fischer, a former Iowa GOP official, as he surveyed the crowd at Paul's gathering Friday at a Des Moines winery. "He is actually bringing women, college students and people who are not white into the Republican Party."

The challenge for Paul is whether his approach, which has echoes of his father, former Texas congressman Ron Paul, will enable him to do better than the elder Paul's third-place finish in the 2012 GOP presidential caucuses in Iowa.

"The son is a little more mainstream," said former Republican congressman Jim Leach, who represented eastern Iowa for 15 terms. "If he can stay there and play into the desire on the conservative side for someone new, he could find an opening."

The latest poll of Iowa Republicans, conducted by Bloomberg Politics and the Des Moines Register, shows Paul in second place among potential GOP candidates. Gov. Scott Walker (Wis.), boosted by his breakout speech in late January at a conservative summit, narrowly leads with 15 percent. Paul is at 14 percent, and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee is at 10 percent.

For now, in this early stage of the primary scramble, Paul is focused on reviving his father's political base in Iowa, which begins the primary process, by attacking an institution that has long frustrated the libertarian right: the Federal Reserve.

Before Paul took the stage at Jasper Winery, Liberty Iowa organizers played a video featuring archival clips of both Ron and Rand Paul delivering critiques of the central bank.

Minutes later, Paul, who last month introduced the Federal Reserve Transparency Act, drew raucous applause when he warned its policies are undermining U.S. currency.

"Anybody here want to audit the Fed?" Paul said. "Anybody feel that the Fed is out to get us? They're all over the TV! They're going to be out there saying, 'Oh, we can't audit the Fed.' What, are they too big to be audited? Too secret to be audited?"

Turning to civil liberties, where he has quarreled with hawkish Republicans, Paul chastised the National Security Agency for its surveillance tactics. "It's none of their damn business what you do on your phone," he said.

"Got to love it," said Joey Gallagher, 22, a community organizer with stud earrings, as he nursed a honey-pilsner beer. "It's a breath of fresh air."

But the rest of Paul's nascent stump speech signaled that as much as he wants to target his father's lingering network, he is eager to be more than a long-shot ideologue.

Paul cited two liberals, Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.), during his Friday remarks and said he agrees with outgoing Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. on curbing federal property seizures and softening sentencing laws for nonviolent drug offenders - all a nod to his efforts to cast himself as a viable national candidate who can build bipartisan relationships and expand his party's political reach.

"Putting a kid in jail for 55 years for selling marijuana is obscene," Paul said.

Paul's trip comes after a rough week for the freshman senator and physician. He was at the middle of a national controversy over childhood vaccines after he discussed the possible health risks of inoculations and found himself under fire for a CNBC appearance during which he "shushed" a female interviewer.

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Paul's visit also comes amid speculation in Iowa Republican circles that one of his state-based advisers, former Iowa GOP chairman A.J. Spiker, could hinder Paul's chances because of Spiker's strained relationships with allies of Iowa Gov. Terry E. Branstad (R), who has voiced concern about the Paul bloc's influence.

Steve Grubbs, a Paul strategist in Iowa, defended Spiker in an interview and said Paul would not be making changes to his political team in spite of the calls from some party insiders for a shake-up.

"Our plan is to combine liberty voters with other Republican voters," Grubbs said. "A.J. is part of that. And remember, no one goes through politics without picking up a few enemies. We're going to proceed as planned and hopefully win, place or show next year."

Craig Schoenfeld, an Iowa Republican consultant who guided George W. Bush's victorious 2000 Iowa campaign, said Paul's ambition to woo center-right Republicans will be tested by former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who has tapped David Kochel, a veteran Iowa operative, as his likely campaign manager.

Bush is scheduled to speak next month at an agricultural summit in Des Moines.

"The Bush factor is there," Schoenfeld said. "The folks involved may have more gray hair but they're ready to go to war for him in Iowa. Same with the people with [New Jersey Gov.] Chris Christie. The battle for that wing of the party is going to be fierce."

Among former Ron Paul backers, there are pockets of unease about whether Rand Paul is moving too far to the center. Drew Ivers, who chaired Ron Paul's 2012 Iowa campaign, said he is "not sure" whether he will get behind the younger Paul in 2016.

"He is playing to the middle, rather than having the middle move toward him," Ivers said. "I would like to see him do more to talk about small-government principles."

Between stops, Paul shrugged off questions about his camp and its fundraising abilities.

On Saturday afternoon, Paul sat courtside at Iowa State University's men's basketball game at the Hilton Coliseum with Steve Sukup, a wealthy businessman who has endorsed him. Before the game, wearing a light-blue fleece under a navy jacket, he mingled at a private reception with Iowa State boosters and administrators, and Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa).

Even as he courted donors, Paul was careful to not veer far from his outsider persona. He parted with Sukup at halftime to meet with students - most wearing "big government sucks" stickers - at a campus game-watch, where he weighed in on constitutional rights and college costs before posing for a round of pictures.

Speaking earlier Saturday at Legends American Grill in Marshalltown, Paul showcased his unorthodox presentation, quoting French political philosopher Montesquieu as attendees ate waffles and eggs at the dimly lit sports bar, and then turned to foreign policy.

"Montesquieu said that when the executive branch begins to legislate, then a form of tyranny will ensue," Paul said, referencing President Obama's unilateral policy decisions, including the legalization of millions of undocumented immigrants.

Criticizing former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, the all-but-certain front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, Paul referred to U.S. intervention in Libya as "Hillary's war" and an "utter disaster" that has led to "jihadists roaming all across Libya. It's a jihadist wonderland."

"He isn't real flamboyant," said retiree Diane Cox, 69, as she left the restaurant. "A lot of the others, they give you more of a stir and get you going. But he is factual and talking about the terrible debt facing my grandchildren."

In the afternoon, as he slowly stepped through Iowa State's snow-covered parking lot, where his father four years ago participated in the Iowa GOP's straw poll, Paul said he had fond memories of those past runs. But he believes he can win what Ron Paul never did: the presidential nomination.

"We used to have an 'end the Fed' dunk booth over there," Paul said, pointing toward a nearby sidewalk. "People threw balls at Ben Bernanke in order to get someone in the tank." After chuckling, he added: "If I run, I think we can attract people who weren't attracted before."

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Zombie statistic about Obama's Affordable Care Act refuses to stagger away (WAPO)

By Glenn Kessler
February 8, 2015
The Washington Post

"Under Obama, Average Family Premiums Have Increased $4,154" - Republican National Committee tweet and "fact check"

The RNC circulated this talking point during the State of the Union address, and it is now popping up in the Twitter feeds of Republican House members and state parties.

But this is a zombie statistic; a version of it keeps coming back no matter how many times we try to debunk it. So let's try to explain once again why it does not really say much about health-care inflation under the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a. Obamacare.

We first spotted a version of this statistic back in 2012, in a television advertisement sponsored by the RNC.

Then, the ad claimed "the average cost of a family policy is up $1,300" as a result of the Affordable Care Act. The source was the 2011 Kaiser Family Foundation annual survey of employer health benefits, and the RNC simply took the difference between average family premium for 2011 ($15,073) and 2010 ($13,770).

At the time, few of the Affordable Care Act provisions had taken effect, so it was rather silly to blame the health-care law for the increase in premiums. The Kaiser report, in fact, noted that "many of the most significant provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) will take effect in 2014."

Moreover, the survey is taken between January and May, meaning some of the data referred to the period before the law was even approved by Congress. The RNC earned Three Pinocchios for that ad.

Fast-forward to today. The law was fully implemented in early 2014, so perhaps the 2014 survey has more relevance. The RNC's number is now $4,154, which certainly sounds large, especially compared with $1,300 just three years ago.

But if you dig into the 2014 Kaiser report, you see that two things happened. First, the rate of premium increases has slowed, compared with that in previous years. Second, the RNC changed the baseline to make Obama's numbers look even worse. (Perhaps that was in response to the sudden slowdown in premium increases?)

To come up with $4,154, the RNC has to reach all the way to 2008, the year before Obama took office. Never mind that it previously had measured the increase starting in 2010. Under the RNC's previous baseline, the increase would have been $3,064. But it would make more sense to have a baseline starting in 2011, so you are capturing what happened after at least some of the Obamacare provisions went into effect; that's an increase of $1,761.

More to the point, the Kaiser survey noted the rate of increase has slowed in recent years. In the past five years (2009 to 2014), the increase has been 26 percent, compared with 34 percent in the preceding five-year period. If you want to compare presidents, the rate of increase in Obama's first five years was 26 percent, compared with 66 percent in the first five years of George W. Bush's presidency.

The reasons for the sudden slowdown are not clear, and it is certainly too early to attribute the shift to Obamacare. Health-care costs across the industrialized world have experienced slower growth since the 2008 economic downtown, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. So it's too soon to break out the champagne.

Note: Republicans frequently pair this stat with a foolish claim that Obama made in 2008 as a presidential candidate: that his health-care plan would reduce health-care costs by $2,500 a year.

As we have noted before, Obama's pledge came with a very large asterisk: He was not saying premiums would fall by $2,500, but that health-care costs per family would be that much lower than anticipated. In other words, if overall costs - not just premiums - were expected to rise by $5,000 by 2012, they would rise by only $2,500. When Obama made this claim in 2008, he was quickly called out by fact checkers. The Fact Checker at the time awarded Obama Two Pinocchios for the pledge, saying it was based on shaky assumptions.

Still, in 2014, Obama started to suggest he had begun to meet this pledge, claiming that health-care premiums would have been $1,800 higher under the rate of growth in the 10 years before 2010. (Here, too, Obama was using the Kaiser annual employer health benefits survey.) The savings virtually disappear if one uses a different period of comparison: 2006 to 2010. Obama earned Two Pinocchios for that claim, in part because he called it "a $1,800 tax cut."

Kris Anderson, research director of the RNC, said the 2008 baseline was taken "to encompass the growth in premiums across [Obama's] entire term." He said that "it's the metric we've used for quite some time for examining how premiums have grown during his entire time in office." He did not explain why a different baseline was used for the 2012 ad.

Regular readers know that The Fact Checker is often dubious about raw numbers that appear to have little context. Health-

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care premiums, like the costs of most goods, go up year after year. What matters is the rate of increase - and right now, health-care inflation is at its lowest rate in decades.

So the RNC has managed to take a good-news story and try to turn it into something negative. That alone would result in another Three Pinocchios. But to make the numbers look even worse, the RNC changed the baseline and went all the way back to a year before Obama became president. That's worthy of Four Pinocchios.

Is it a small thing to ask that we finally put this zombie stat to rest?

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The Great American Dream, Still Deferred (NYT)

By Jeff Sommer
February 8, 2015
The New York Times

The housing market has shown signs of life recently. Prices have risen, mortgage rates are very attractive and construction is reviving.

But recall where the market has been over the last 20 years and you'll start to see a less cheerful picture. In fact, from a longer perspective, it appears that the housing market, as it stands now, isn't stable or sustainable. It is, arguably, still on artificial life support.

Return for a moment to November 1994. That's when President Bill Clinton told the National Association of Realtors that many more Americans should own their own homes, because homeownership went "to the heart of what it means to harbor, to nourish, to expand the American dream." He called on the nation to embark on a public-private effort to lift the homeownership rate, which then stood at just above 64 percent.

In Mr. Clinton's vision, so-called government-sponsored enterprises -- the mortgage-financing giants known as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac -- were to play an outsize role in providing affordable home mortgages to ever-widening groups of people.

To a surprising extent, that vision became reality. The homeownership rate began to soar -- census figures show that it peaked in 2004 at a little above 69 percent. That was during the Bush administration, which also embraced the dream of expanding homeownership. Anyone who was awake during those years knows that America had a colossal housing boom, followed by a monumental bust that shook the global economy.

The housing market is now much improved. But the trauma of the public-private housing industry isn't entirely over.

That is evident in a startling statistic reported last month by the Census Bureau: The homeownership rate dropped all the way to 63.9 percent at the end of 2014. That's lower than it was when Mr. Clinton said homeownership was too low. The rate has declined consistently for years now, a drop that accelerated with the wave of foreclosures set off by the housing crash.

With thousands of people still owing more on their mortgages than their houses are worth, national preferences have been shifting and fewer people say they believe they should buy a home. A national consumer survey conducted for Fannie Mae in December asked whether people would buy or rent if it were time to move. The share who said they would buy fell to 61 percent -- a record low. Those who said they would rent rose to 34 percent.

This sea change in attitudes might be proceeding even more briskly if it weren't for national policy aimed at giving people an inducement to buy homes. Consider mortgage rates: The average rate for standard 30-year fixed mortgages is under 3.6 percent, an extraordinarily low rate made possible, in large part, by the intervention of governmental or quasi-governmental authorities.

First, there's the Federal Reserve, which stepped into the market for mortgage-backed securities in 2009, filling the yawning gap that opened after banks and investors shunned that market after the subprime mortgage crisis. As of Feb. 4, according to data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the Fed held $1.74 trillion in such securities, giving it a dominant position.

While it stopped adding to its holdings in October, the Fed is keeping those it owns, reducing supply. That, as basic economics tells us, tends to increase prices. In fixed-income markets, interest rates, or yields, move in the opposite direction of prices: The Fed is holding mortgage rates down.

Until now, its actions have helped to fuel whatever housing recovery we've seen, but the Fed's current policy bias is to tighten monetary conditions. As a result, mortgage rates are likely to rise.

That does not bode well for the housing market. As Barclays Research said in a report last Wednesday to clients on the outlook for housing: "History suggests a rise in mortgage rates causes a decline in housing demand and residential investment." Unless the incomes of working people rise sharply, which virtually no one predicts, housing will undergo "a bumpy ride toward normalization," the report said.

Then there are government agencies whose main focus is housing, like the Federal Housing Administration, which guarantees mortgage loans, and those two government-sponsored enterprises, Fannie Mae and its sibling, Freddie Mac.

Fannie and Freddie are, technically, private companies. Until 2008, when they required a $188 billion bailout, they were often said to be both independent of the government and backed by it. That unusual status gave their bonds a cachet close to that of United States Treasuries.

Now, Fannie and Freddie are wards of the government. They are, officially, in "conservatorship," regulated chiefly by the

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Federal Housing Finance Agency. And while their cash flow is positive, they haven't been building up capital as a cushion against losses from risky loans: Since 2012, the Obama administration has required that they send nearly all of their profits directly to the Treasury.

That's helping the government's finances over the short term, but taxpayers will be liable if Fannie and Freddie's loans sour again. The agencies don't issue mortgages. They buy them from lenders, rebundle them into securities and guarantee them if they default -- guarantees that have kept the market humming, reducing mortgage rates. Together, Fannie and Freddie are backstopping more than $5 trillion in loans, according to testimony in a congressional hearing on Jan. 27. Without that backing and those Fed purchases, the housing market would be in much worse shape.

At the same time, statistics being compiled by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative research organization, suggest that risky housing loans are again becoming more common. Most of these loans are being guaranteed by the F.H.A. and Fannie and Freddie, said Edward J. Pinto, co-director of the institute's International Center on Housing Risk. The riskiest pockets of the country, he says, are in parts of California that were hit hardest during the housing bust. They include the Central Valley and Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. A longtime critic of federal housing policies, Mr. Pinto said: "We're not in a crisis at the moment, but the trend is troubling. We're heading in the wrong direction."

Melvin L. Watt, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, says those agencies are monitoring risk carefully, while also trying to fulfill their mandates to keep the housing market liquid and affordable. Mr. Watt has begun funneling some of the agencies' money into a trust fund to provide housing for low-income groups and to reduce mortgage fees and required down payments.

Those moves have raised the ire of congressional Republicans, like Jeb Hensarling of Texas, chairman of the Financial Services Committee. Mr. Hensarling said last month that the federal housing agencies were competing "to become the nation's biggest subprime lender."

Mr. Watt, for his part, says it's up to Congress to figure out what to do with Fannie and Freddie. With Republicans and Democrats at loggerheads, it's highly unlikely that any decision will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, it's hard to be satisfied with the state of the housing market. It's in far better shape than it was five or six years ago, when prices were plummeting and financing was frozen. We're not in an urgent crisis. But it seems likely that we will be if some of these problems aren't resolved.

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Are C.E.O.s That Talented, or Just Lucky? (NYT)

By Robert Frank
February 8, 2015
The New York Times

The divorce of the oil billionaire Harold G. Hamm from Sue Ann Arnall has gained attention largely for its outsize dollar amounts. Mr. Hamm, the chief executive and founder of Continental Resources, who was worth more than $18 billion at one point, wrote his ex-wife a check last month for $974,790,317.77 to settle their split. She's appealing to get more; he's appealing to pay less.

Yet beyond the staggering sums, the Hamm divorce raises a fundamental question about the wealth of executives and entrepreneurs: How much do they owe their fortunes to skill and hard work, and how much comes from happenstance and luck?

Mr. Hamm, seeking to exploit a wrinkle in divorce law, made the unusual argument that his wealth came largely from forces outside his control, like global oil prices, the expertise of his deputies and other people's technology. During the nine-week divorce trial, his lawyers claimed that although Mr. Hamm had founded Continental Resources and led the company to become a multibillion-dollar energy giant, he was responsible for less than 10 percent of his personal and corporate success.

Some in the courtroom started calling it the "Jed Clampett defense," after the lead character in "The Beverly Hillbillies" TV series who got rich after tapping a gusher in his swampland.

In a filing last month supporting his appeal, Mr. Hamm cites the recent drop in oil prices and subsequent 50 percent drop in Continental's share price and his fortune as further proof that forces outside his control direct his company's fortunes.

Lawyers for Ms. Arnall argue that Mr. Hamm is responsible for more than 90 percent of his fortune.

While rooted in a messy divorce, the dispute frames a philosophical and ethical debate over inequality and the obligations of the wealthy. If wealth comes mainly from luck or circumstance, many say the wealthy owe a greater debt to society in the form of taxes or charity. If wealth comes from skill and hard work, perhaps higher taxes would discourage that effort.

Sorting out what value is created by luck or skill is a tricky proposition in itself. The limited amount of academic research on the topic, which mainly looks at how executives can influence a company's value, has often found that broader market forces often have a bigger impact on a company's success than an executive's actions.

"As we know from the research, the performance of a large firm is due primarily to things outside the control of the top executive," said J. Scott Armstrong, a professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. "We call that luck. Executives freely admit this -- when they encounter bad luck."

A study conducted from 1992 to 2011 of how C.E.O. compensation changed in response to luck or events beyond the executives' control showed that their pay was 25 percent higher when luck favored the C.E.O.

Some management experts say the role of luck is nearly impossible to measure because it depends on the particular industry. Oil, for instance, is especially sensitive to outside forces.

"Within any industry, a more talented management team is going to tend to do better," said Steven Neil Kaplan of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. "That is why investors and boards of directors look for the best talent to run their companies. That is why company stock prices often move a lot, in both directions, when a C.E.O. dies or a new C.E.O. is hired."

The Hamm case hinged on a quirk in divorce law known as "active versus passive appreciation." In Oklahoma, and many other states, if a spouse owns an asset before the marriage, the increase in the value of an asset during marriage is not subject to division if the increase was because of "passive" appreciation. Passive appreciation is when an asset grows on its own because of factors outside either spouse's control, like land that appreciates without any improvements or passively held stocks. Any value that's not deemed as "passive" is considered "active" -- meaning it increased because of the efforts, skills or funding of a spouse and can therefore be subject to division in a divorce.

The issue has been at the center of some other big divorces. In the 2002 divorce of the Chicago taxi magnate David Markin and Susan Markin, filed in Palm Beach, Fla., Mr. Markin claimed he was "merely a passenger on this corporate ship traveling through the ocean," according to the judge. But he ruled that Mr. Markin was more like "the captain of the ship. Certainly he benefited by sailing through some good weather. However, he picked the course and he picked the crew. In short, he was directly responsible for everything that happened." Ms. Markin was awarded more than $30 million, along with other assets.

Mr. Hamm, now 69, also had favorable conditions after founding Continental Resources well before his marriage in 1988 to Sue Ann, then a lawyer at the company. By this fall, when the trial ended, Continental had a market capitalization of over $30

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billion; Mr. Hamm's stake of 68 percent and other wealth exceeded $18 billion.

Their divorce trial was closed to the public, and all but a few of the documents are under seal. Neither Mr. Hamm nor his lawyers or representatives would comment. Ms. Arnall and her spokesman also declined to comment.

According to people with knowledge of the case, however, Mr. Hamm's chief strategy was to claim most of his wealth as passive appreciation, and therefore not subject to division. During his testimony, the typically commanding Mr. Hamm, who had been the face of the company for decades, said he couldn't recall certain decisions, didn't know much about the engineering aspects of oil drilling and didn't attend critical meetings.

Mr. Hamm's lawyers calculated that only 5 to 10 percent of his wealth came from his own effort, skill, management or investment. It's unclear how they squared this argument with his compensation, which totaled $42.7 million from 2006 to 2013, according to Equilar, an executive compensation data company.

Ms. Arnall called more than 80 witnesses -- from Continental executives to leading economists like Glenn Hubbard and Kenneth Button -- to show how much better Continental had done than its peers and that Mr. Hamm made most or all of the key decisions about the company's strategy, finances and operations. They estimated that Mr. Hamm was responsible for $14 billion to $17 billion of his $18 billion fortune.

The judge's ruling in November largely sided with Mr. Hamm and awarded Ms. Arnall about $1 billion, a fraction of what many divorce experts had expected.

"It was surprising," said Jeffrey D. Fisher, the Florida divorce lawyer who represented Susan Markin. "But when you're dealing with numbers that high, there are times when the court just says, 'Enough is enough.' "

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Stream of Foreign Wealth Flows to Elite New York Real Estate (NYT)

By Louise Story and Stephanie Saul
February 7, 2015
The New York Times

On the 74th floor of the Time Warner Center, Condominium 74B was purchased in 2010 for $15.65 million by a secretive entity called 25CC ST74B L.L.C. It traces to the family of Vitaly Malkin, a former Russian senator and banker who was barred from entering Canada because of suspected connections to organized crime.

Last fall, another shell company bought a condo down the hall for $21.4 million from a Greek businessman named Dimitrios Contominas, who was arrested a year ago as part of a corruption sweep in Greece.

A few floors down are three condos owned by another shell company, Columbus Skyline L.L.C., which belongs to the family of a Chinese businessman and contractor named Wang Wenliang. His construction company was found housing workers in New Jersey in hazardous, unsanitary conditions.

Behind the dark glass towers of the Time Warner Center looming over Central Park, a majority of owners have taken steps to keep their identities hidden, registering condos in trusts, limited liability companies or other entities that shield their names. By piercing the secrecy of more than 200 shell companies, The New York Times documented a decade of ownership in this iconic Manhattan way station for global money transforming the city's real estate market.

Many of the owners represent a cross-section of American wealth: chief executives and celebrities, doctors and lawyers, technology entrepreneurs and Wall Street traders.

But The Times also found a growing proportion of wealthy foreigners, at least 16 of whom have been the subject of government inquiries around the world, either personally or as heads of companies. The cases range from housing and environmental violations to financial fraud. Four owners have been arrested, and another four have been the subject of fines or penalties for illegal activities.

The foreign owners have included government officials and close associates of officials from Russia, Colombia, Malaysia, China, Kazakhstan and Mexico.

They have been able to make these multimillion-dollar purchases with few questions asked because of United States laws that foster the movement of largely untraceable money through shell companies.

Vast sums are flowing unchecked around the world as never before — whether motivated by corruption, tax avoidance or investment strategy, and enabled by an ever-more-borderless economy and a proliferation of ways to move and hide assets.

Alighting in places like London, Singapore and other financial centers, this flood of capital has created colonies of the foreign super-rich, with the attendant resentments and controversies about class inequality made tangible in the glass and steel towers reordering urban landscapes.

Where it made landfall in New York, in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, was the Time Warner Center. More than a decade on, even as a row of sky-piercing palaces rises on the southern rim of Central Park, the Time Warner Center remains the New York archetype of the global phenomenon, reflecting intertwined trends — the increasing sums of foreign money in high-end real estate and the growing use of shell companies.

About $8 billion is spent each year for New York City residences that cost more than $5 million each, more than triple the amount of a decade ago, according to the website PropertyShark. Just over half of those sales last year were to shell companies.

The Times examination reveals the workings of an opaque economy for this global wealth. Lacking incentive or legal obligation to identify the sources of money, an entire chain of people involved in high-end real estate sales — lawyers, accountants, title brokers, escrow agents, real estate agents, condo boards and building workers — often operate with blinders on. As Rudy Tauscher, a former manager of the condos at Time Warner, said: "The building doesn't know where the money is coming from. We're not interested."

As an indication of how well-cloaked shell company ownership is, it took The Times more than a year to unravel the ownership of shell companies with condos in the Time Warner Center, by searching business and court records from more than 20 countries, interviewing dozens of people with close knowledge of the complex, examining hundreds of property records and connecting the dots from lawyers or relatives named on deeds to the actual buyers.

Yet in some cases it is nearly impossible to establish with certainty the source of money behind shell companies. Purchasers can register shell companies in the names of accountants, lawyers or relatives. Purchases are often made not just by individuals but on behalf of groups of investors or numerous family members, further obscuring the origin of the funds. What is more, ownership of shell companies can be shifted at any time, with no indication in property records.

The high-end real estate market has become less and less transparent — and more alluring for those abroad with assets they wish to keep anonymous — even as the United States pushes other nations to help stanch the flow of American money leaving the country to avoid taxes. Yet for all the concerns of law enforcement officials that shell companies can hide illicit gains, regulatory efforts to require more openness from these companies have failed.

"We like the money," said Raymond Baker, the president of Global Financial Integrity, a Washington nonprofit that tracks the

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illicit flow of money. “It’s that simple. We like the money that comes into our accounts, and we are not nearly as judgmental about it as we should be.”

In some ways, officials are clamoring for the foreign wealthy. In New York, tax breaks for condominium developments benefit owners looking for a second, or third, residence in one of Manhattan’s premier buildings. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said on his weekly radio program in 2013, shortly before leaving office: “If we could get every billionaire around the world to move here, it would be a godsend.”

Among the Time Warner Center owners identified by The Times are at least 17 billionaires on Forbes magazine’s annual list of the world’s richest people. Five of the world’s leading art collectors own units, as do eight people who have been chief executives of major companies. And it has been home to numerous celebrities, including the singers Jimmy Buffett and Ricky Martin, the New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and the talk show host Kelly Ripa.

A look behind some doors revealed more complicated tales.

Units 72B and 51E are owned by the Amantea Corporation, which The Times traced to a mining magnate named Anil Agarwal. His company was fined for polluting a major river near a copper mine in Zambia, which sickened nearby residents. And judicial committees in his native India determined that his company had violated the land rights of an indigenous tribe near a proposed mine.

When Anna Ai Fang purchased Condominium 58E in 2004 for $2.1 million, the forwarding address on the deed was a decidedly more modest location: her dorm, Ruggles Hall, at Columbia University. At the time, her father, Fang Fenglei, had ended a long career running state-affiliated banks in China and would soon begin working for Goldman Sachs.

Unit 62CE belongs to Prime International Management Group, which in turn is controlled by Alexander Varshavsky, who runs auto dealerships in Russia.

Few, if any, questions were raised by those involved in the deal when Mr. Varshavsky paid cash for the 4,300-square-foot apartment. But his condo shopping did not go unnoticed.

“Agents observed defendant Varshavsky enter several buildings in the Central Park area with a real estate agent, including 25 Columbus Circle, New York, New York,” according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Newark, recounting surveillance by federal agents at the Time Warner Center. “In June 2011 defendant Varshavsky purchased an apartment located at that address for approximately $20.5 million in cash.”

In December 2013, Mr. Varshavsky, who is now a United States citizen, was charged with failing to report the existence of a foreign bank account. A lawyer for Mr. Varshavsky disputed the allegations and said he expected the complaint to be dropped.

Meanwhile the case is pending, and Mr. Varshavsky posted bail — his Time Warner condo.

Ownership Becomes Opaque

It was not all that long ago that Columbus Circle was the makeshift residence of dozens of homeless people squatting at the site of the abandoned New York Coliseum, the Robert Moses-era convention center.

The demolition of the coliseum and the creation of the Time Warner Center — two residential towers with a retail atrium, corporate offices and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel — transformed the area into a vibrant shopping and dining destination in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. The condos also sparked development of a billionaires row of residential towers overlooking Central Park.

By marketing the condos to wealthy foreigners, Time Warner’s developer was at the forefront of luring cash from overseas to New York real estate. Twenty-six percent of the original sales were to people from other countries, a proportion that has grown to more than half among recent buyers. The complex’s dark glass exterior offers a sheen of both exclusivity and secrecy.

It is no more transparent inside. There are no door buzzers or mail slots with residents’ names. You are unlikely to bump into neighbors wandering the halls because only about a third of the owners live there at any one time, according to people familiar with their comings and goings. The building’s annual holiday party is a lonely affair, they say.

“It’s a really closely guarded secret who is in that building,” said Al D’Elia, an architect who has worked there. “It’s just the way they treat you, what you have to do to get in the building.”

The hallways are spare, but many apartments are loaded with the sort of amenities that have become standard in luxury real estate: panoramic views, stone bathtubs and custom everything — sound systems, millwork, lighting fixtures.

Even the numbering of the floors was a bit of upwardly mobile sleight of hand, calibrated to enhance the perception of what the developer, the Related Companies, marketed as “Five Star Living.” So, the 80th-floor penthouses are actually on 53.

The building’s layout and protocols facilitate anonymity. There are multiple entrances to its 192 condos — not just through the two towers’ main doors, but also through an adjacent parking garage and through the Time Warner Center shops. And while the building has a book listing the names of people associated with units, the owners do not have to be listed for them to get access to the building. They could walk in alongside someone whose name is in the book. Or, if they are cleared to visit, they could enter the complex through the shops or the hotel, and then take the secure elevators to the condos.

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“An owner could be obscured from our view,” said David Spector, who helped manage the condos until 2011.

Over the decade since the Time Warner condos came on the market, high-end real estate sales in general have become increasingly opaque. In 2003, one-third of the units sold in Time Warner were purchased by shell companies. By 2014, that figure was over 80 percent.

Across the United States in recent years, nearly half the residential purchases of over $5 million were made by shell companies rather than named people, according to data from First American Data Tree analyzed by The Times.

Public records, dating back to at least the 1800s in New York, set real estate apart as more transparent than bank accounts or stock portfolios. “There’s a whole Jeffersonian rhetoric about land ownership,” said Hendrik Hartog, a professor of the history of American law at Princeton. “There was a goal to make land transparent, and it was justified by civic values and a whole range of moral judgments like not hiding ownership.”

One type of corporate structure now commonly used in real estate transactions, limited liability companies, or L.L.C.s, did not even exist in the United States before the late 1970s. At first, they were primarily used by oil and gas traders in Wyoming to shield individual owners from liability — if, say, a well worker was hurt — and to avoid taxation of both the company and the investor.

Nothing in the genesis of limited liability companies suggested they would be used to purchase personal real estate, said Susan Pace Hamill, a University of Alabama professor who worked on L.L.C. policy while at the Internal Revenue Service in the 1990s. However, L.L.C.s are now commonly used in real estate for privacy, wealth transfer or shared ownership.

What becomes clear combing real estate records is that many Time Warner buyers have taken even greater steps, beyond using L.L.C.s, to keep their names out of sight. On many deeds, the line for the buyer’s signature is left blank, is illegible or is signed by a lawyer or other representative. Phone numbers are registered under lawyers’ names; the owner’s line on renovation permits is signed by Time Warner staff members; tax statements are addressed to the L.L.C.s.

And because most of the sales are in cash, there are few mortgage statements, another public document that might identify an owner or trigger scrutiny.

A spokeswoman for the Related Companies, Joanna Rose, said the developer had followed all federal and local laws in its sales at the Time Warner Center, adding, “With all of our sales, we know the identity of the purchasers.”

However, documents and interviews with a half-dozen people involved in the sales show that in many cases, the company did not know the actual source of the money behind the sales.

David J. Wine, the former vice chairman of the Related Companies, spoke bluntly of the lack of concern with buyers’ identities. “You pretty much go by financial capacity,” Mr. Wine said. “Can they afford it? They sign the contract, they put their money down with no contingency and they close. They have to show the money, and that is it. I don’t think you will find a single new developer where it’s different.”

Real estate agents say commitment to anonymity is essential. “One thing of being a high-end broker is we have to protect the privacy of our clients,” said Hall F. Willkie, president of Brown Harris Stevens. “If we didn’t, we wouldn’t have them as clients. We’re very much like private bankers in that sense.”

The shift to secrecy also reflects a fundamental change in the ownership structure of luxury real estate in New York. Many of Manhattan’s finest addresses were traditionally organized as co-ops in which residents were joint owners of the building. Co-op boards generally prefer full-time residents and often subject would-be buyers to excruciating scrutiny.

“Those co-ops wouldn’t accept billionaires, especially foreigners,” said Raphael De Niro, a broker at Douglas Elliman.

By contrast, Time Warner and most new luxury buildings are condos; residents own individual units and boards have less power to screen prospective buyers. In addition, at the Time Warner Center and many other buildings, if a condo board rejects a buyer, building rules say all the residents have to chip in to buy the unit, creating a disincentive for the board to be too picky.

“That’s the joy of the condos,” said Julie Maxey-Allison, an agent for Brown Harris Stevens. “That’s why the L.L.C.s buy them. It’s a way foreigners can do whatever they want here.”

In fact, interviews show, condo boards are not always aware of the individuals behind the shell companies.

Seamus McMahon, a former Time Warner owner, said he had no idea units were sold to members of the Saudi royal family while he was on the board in 2006, including one connected to Princess Haifa bint Faisal, the daughter of a former Saudi king, and her husband, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the former ambassador to the United States. A few years earlier, Princess Haifa had been in the news because of reports that some of her money had gone to a figure who aided the Sept. 11 hijackers. (The United States commission that investigated the attacks found no evidence that the money assisted the hijackers, either directly or indirectly.)

Mr. McMahon said the Related Companies did not usually share details about buyers with board members and did not inform them of the Saudi sale. “They probably asked to keep it quiet,” he said, referring to the Saudis. “Related would have kept it quiet.”

Behind Door 74b

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When the company with the complicated name of 25CC ST74B plunked down $15.65 million in 2010 for a condo in the Time Warner Center, there was no telling whose money was in play.

But in January 2013, the company accused a contractor of overbilling in a classic New York City renovation dispute. The lawsuit identified the apartment's owner as "Vitaly Malkin, a Russian senator who is domiciled in Russia and generally is not present in New York." Less than two weeks later, a new complaint was filed with a change: It now said the apartment was owned by a trust whose beneficiaries included Mr. Malkin's son, Leonid, and that Mr. Malkin was neither a trustee nor a beneficiary of the trust.

In a deposition, a former employee of the contractor said that while he understood that the client was "the senator, the Russian oligarch," he was not allowed to refer to the client by name. If he did use the family name, he said he was reprimanded and told "to make sure I just used 25CC."

In fact, Vitaly Malkin had been in public view for more than a decade, sometimes tied to controversy.

Mr. Malkin, 62, made a fortune in metals and banking and was one of the wealthiest members of the Federation Council, Russia's upper legislative house. He resigned from the Council in March 2013 after Aleksei Navalny, the Russian anticorruption activist, revealed that he had failed to disclose property he owned in Canada and that he had dual Israeli citizenship.

But the case that has dogged Mr. Malkin involves a 1996 deal to restructure Angola's $5 billion debt to Russia, an arrangement that has become a symbol of official plundering in Africa among anticorruption advocates.

The debt, incurred during Angola's long civil war, was cut to $1.5 billion in a deal partly negotiated by Arcadi Gaydamak, a Russian-born businessman. But the debt payment was conveyed through an intermediary company in which Mr. Malkin had a share, according to documents from the Canadian government and Swiss investigators.

When Angola paid the debt, Mr. Gaydamak received $130 million of the payment and Mr. Malkin received $48.8 million, the documents show. A portion also went to various Angolan officials, including President José Eduardo dos Santos, who received $36 million, according to a report by the advocacy group Corruption Watch.

Mr. dos Santos and Mr. Gaydamak did not respond to inquiries from The Times.

"Everyone knew exactly what happened," Rafael Marques, an Angolan journalist and activist, said of the payment to the president. "That money was for personal enrichment. They were kickbacks."

The episode became an issue for Mr. Malkin in 2007, when he tried to gain entry to Canada, where he had business interests. Two years earlier, a Canadian immigration official had deemed Mr. Malkin "inadmissible," writing that he had "massively misrepresented" his net worth and how he obtained his assets, according to court documents obtained by The Times.

When Mr. Malkin reapplied in 2007, among the issues was his role as Mr. Gaydamak's banker in the Angola debt deal, the documents show. In addition to facing questions in the debt deal, Mr. Gaydamak was under investigation in France in connection with arms sales to the Angolan government. He was later sentenced to three years in a French prison for money laundering and tax fraud.

Canadian immigration officials again declared Mr. Malkin inadmissible, this time because of what they called an "extended association with persons suspected to be involved in organized crime and money laundering."

In court papers, Mr. Malkin vehemently denied involvement in organized crime, calling the allegations by the Canadian authorities unsupported and noting that he had been free to travel to other countries. Mr. Malkin sued the Canadian authorities, and in June 2009 a judge ruled that the case should be reviewed because Mr. Malkin had not been given a chance to respond to the allegations.

Mr. Malkin was allowed to visit Canada in 2012, his lawyer, Gregory Sidlofsky of Toronto, said in an email, adding, "Canadian authorities never had nor provided any evidence of any wrongdoing by Mr. Malkin." In the Angola debt case, he said, Swiss investigators ultimately found no wrongdoing. Mr. Sidlofsky said the $48.8 million was a dividend reflecting his client's share of the intermediary company. As for the long-running renovation of the Time Warner condo, he said, "Mr. Malkin does not own the apartment, nor has he had any recent involvement in the renovation."

The American Bar Association suggests that government officials like Mr. Malkin warrant enhanced scrutiny in real estate deals, but its guidelines are voluntary. Marc Isaacs, the New York lawyer who handled the condo purchase, said his firm's client vetting goes beyond an online search, but he would not elaborate. Asked about Mr. Malkin, Mr. Isaacs said he could not discuss specific clients.

The real estate agents on the Time Warner deal included Brenda S. Powers and Elizabeth L. Sample, who represent many foreign clients and who live in the building. Ms. Sample said that her focus when vetting buyers was this: "They have to have the money. Other than that, that's it. That's all we need."

A Blind Eye

Federal banking guidelines are clear: "Banks should take all reasonable steps to ensure that they do not knowingly or unwittingly assist in hiding or moving the proceeds of corruption." This means screening customers to determine whether they are "politically exposed people" — foreign officials and their relatives and associates — and filing a "suspicious activity report" if the customers transfer unusually large amounts of money.

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But such checks are not required on money flowing into the country through shell companies to purchase high-end real estate.

L.L.C.s and other entities can be established in various states without revealing their true owners. Even when such companies move money through a bank account, banks are not required to know who is behind the transaction because of a loophole in the law.

In many ways, the government has allowed the real estate industry to turn a blind eye to the source of money used to buy luxury properties.

It might not have turned out this way. In the late 1990s, after congressional hearings highlighted corrupt foreign officials with money in the United States, the Justice Department sought to expand the list of industries required to screen the financial activities of politically exposed people. That included jewelry sales, hedge funds and real estate.

The proposal gained momentum after Sept. 11, when the Justice Department pushed to make it part of the Patriot Act. The rules were included in the law and handed to the Treasury Department to put into effect.

The real estate and legal professions sprang into action, arguing that background checks were impractical and would hurt the economy. “The money-laundering risks presented by real estate closings are relatively small, compared to other types of financial assets,” the American Land Title Association said in comments on the proposed rules.

Businesses insisted that tainted money was not likely to flow into real estate. “Anonymity and liquidity, two characteristics important to money launderers, typically do not exist in real estate transactions,” the Dechert law firm wrote.

The industry’s assertions ignored the increasing use of shell companies and how often wealthy foreigners sought out high-end real estate as a safe deposit box.

At the Time Warner Center, for instance, at least a dozen purchases would have received greater scrutiny under the expanded rules.

But the Treasury Department never imposed the requirement on real estate or some other industries. Similarly, a proposal to extend the concept of the “know your customer” banking rule to the identities of people behind L.L.C.s and other shell companies that open bank accounts has been stalled for nearly three years in the Treasury Department.

Banking associations say it would impose undue costs on them because there are no reliable federal or state databases with shell company owners.

In fact, registering shell companies has become profitable for states like Delaware and Nevada, which also have lobbied against transparency.

“I don’t see some kind of global effort to stop all this because the money’s too good,” said David M. Crane, a Syracuse University law professor who oversaw the United Nations’ effort to recover money from Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president who was convicted of war crimes and thought to have plundered his country.

A number of states do not require people forming companies to reveal the names of the owners or show any identification.

This opacity presents challenges for law enforcement officials, who say billions of dollars in suspicious money move through shell companies each year. “It can be very, very difficult to penetrate who is the beneficial owner of these shell companies,” said Leslie R. Caldwell, chief of the Justice Department’s criminal division.

She said that the department’s Kleptocracy Initiative has found that foreign officials often use shell companies or immediate family members to move large amounts of money to United States real estate.

In 2010, a Senate committee investigating corrupt money moving into the country drew attention to a shell company used by the sister of the president of Gabon to buy a $2 million residence in Manhattan, and to an L.L.C. used by the son of the president of Equatorial Guinea to purchase a $30 million home in Malibu, Calif.

The proliferation of shell companies incorporated in the United States has hurt Washington’s attempt to get other countries to crack down on Americans who move money offshore to avoid taxes.

“We are in a totally inconsistent position,” said Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat who pushed for transparency in shell companies when he served in the Senate. “We’re way behind in terms of keeping up with what the international standard is, and it weakens our argument when we go to try to crack down the use of these offshore tax havens.”

About a year ago, after the Group of 8 industrialized nations issued goals requiring identification of shell company owners, a British representative met with Justice Department officials to complain about the United States’ failure to comply.

According to two people at the meeting, the British representative, Dominic Martin, delivered a stern message: The lax American laws were being used by other countries as an excuse for inaction.

Such a message resonates with Justice Department officials who have advocated tightening the rules.

“For a long time we’ve taken the view that you have to focus on the people that manage the gateway to the financial system, and those guys are not only the banks,” said Stefan Cassella, a Justice Department lawyer. “Bad guys who are trying to invest money in the financial system — they use lawyers, they use accountants, they use real estate, they use jewelers and

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private jets."

Transactions Amid Investigations

Just two months after the collapse of the Ponzi scheme run by Bernard L. Madoff in 2008, another Ponzi schemer was arrested: James Nicholson, whose Time Warner condominium was frozen. Mr. Nicholson's $8.5 million unit would become the only one in the complex to be seized and sold off by law enforcement officials, even though other owners have been accused of wrongdoing. The difference is that Mr. Nicholson is an American citizen.

Foreigners who buy real estate in the United States often have an easier time keeping it out of the reach of investigators, victims and plaintiffs back home.

Take the case of Pablo Ardila, a former provincial governor in Colombia known for hunting trophies and lavish spending. Mr. Ardila acknowledged to The Times in 2004 that he and his parents had set up a shell company to buy a $4 million condo in the building. In 2007, while he was in office, Mr. Ardila was arrested and immediately jailed by local officials on charges of enriching himself illicitly.

While Mr. Ardila was behind bars, the shell company sold the condo, making a $2 million profit. By then, the forwarding address on property records was no longer in Colombia, but went to a Jhon Ballesteros, in Weston, Fla. John Burger, a real estate agent who represented the seller, said recently that he did not know Mr. Ardila was involved.

An extensive Colombian government analysis of Mr. Ardila's holdings filed in court failed to unearth the Time Warner condo.

Despite international agreements, the authorities in smaller countries have difficulty recovering assets from abroad. "Judges in Colombia have been struggling a lot to get this money back to Colombia," said Elisabeth Ungar Bleier, executive director of the Colombia branch of Transparency International, an anticorruption nonprofit.

Mr. Ardila was released from jail after two years and nine months without having been convicted. However, Arnulfo Mendez Castro, a spokesman for Colombian prosecutors, said Mr. Ardila was still under investigation.

Mr. Ardila's lawyer, Mauricio Cristancho, said his client was the victim of "an absurd prosecution." Despite what Mr. Ardila had told The Times about the condo, the lawyer said, the unit belonged to Mr. Ardila's father, a wealthy businessman. He said Mr. Ballesteros, who did not reply to inquiries, was an assistant to the family.

The Ardila condo was not the only foreign-owned unit in Time Warner that was sold after an owner faced an investigation.

Mr. Contominas, the Greek businessman, sold his condo nine months after he was arrested in January 2014 and accused of using a commercial loan for personal expenditures. His lawyer, Grigorios Tsolias, said Mr. Contominas "is strongly denying any criminal accusation."

Stewart Ford, another Time Warner owner, was facing a fraud investigation in October 2010 when he transferred the $6 million condominium he had bought in his own name to a shell company. At the time, Mr. Ford's firm, Keydata Investment Services, was at the center of one of the biggest financial collapses in Britain, with an estimated 30,000 victims.

That summer, it had been revealed that he had transferred close to $60 million out of Keydata investments before his company was put in receivership by the British government, and moved it into shell companies and trusts that benefited his family.

Phil Burbidge, a disabled former teacher, said he invested through Keydata in 2008 but lost his life savings when the firm imploded the next year. "I'm in complete and utter poverty," Mr. Burbidge said. "It's all gone. I can't even mend the roof."

British financial authorities have concluded their investigation and notified Mr. Ford that they plan to take enforcement action, a spokesman for the British Financial Conduct Authority said in an email to The Times.

Mr. Ford, in turn, is appealing the authority's decision, the spokesman said. In an interview, Mr. Ford said the government should not have put his company into receivership. He added that the funds he transferred out of Keydata investments were fees legitimately owed to entities his family controlled.

He has since sold the Time Warner condo.

Mr. Ford's critics say he appears adept at keeping his assets out of reach of the authorities and bereft investors.

"We don't believe he's got any assets that are touchable," said Geoff Hartnell, a financial adviser in Britain who invested in Keydata products and also sold them to 70 clients. "First of all, we know that he had trusts set up in the Dutch Antilles, trusts in Tortola, in the Virgin Islands." He added: "If they turn around and fine him, then he says, 'I'm not going to pay it.' Since it's civil, what can they do?"

Even a computer server in the company's office proved difficult for the authorities to examine. When British regulators seized it, Mr. Ford sued and said he did not own it. In fact, it was owned by a company that promoted Scottish culture, which in turn was owned by a shell company that was 70 percent owned by a trust, which, it was eventually revealed, was set up for Mr. Ford's four children.

Anonymous In New York

Like most Time Warner owners, Anil Agarwal, an Indian mining magnate, is anonymous in New York. While interviews and

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private documents reviewed by The Times confirm he is behind condos purchased by the Amantea Corporation for $9.1 million in 2004, his name appears nowhere on public records. The deeds for Amantea's Time Warner condos — one on the "maids floor" and another with sweeping views of Central Park — are signed by a New York lawyer named Constance Cranch. When contacted, she said: "You cannot say anything with respect to me. It's a client of mine's apartment, and I pay their bills."

For all the secrecy at Time Warner, Mr. Agarwal is hardly private about his wealth. He spends much of his time in London and told a newspaper in 2005: "I have to have a Bentley, the best of chauffeurs and butlers."

But Mr. Agarwal and his company, Vedanta Resources, are known in some parts of the world for having left financial and environmental problems in their wake.

He moved his company from India to London in the late 1990s, after it was banned from the Mumbai stock exchange for involvement in a prominent insider trading case.

Ten months before he closed on his Time Warner condos, Mr. Agarwal, his father and his brother were found to have illegally moved money out of India using shell companies in Mauritius and the Bahamas. The Agarwals, an Indian judge later wrote, "tried to pull wool over the revenue's eyes and manipulated foreign exchange."

There were also complaints about Vedanta's environmental record and treatment of residents near its operations.

In September 2004, an Indian Supreme Court committee stated that Vedanta had dumped thousands of tons of "arsenic-bearing slag" around its factory in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Gro Nystuen, a lawyer who evaluated companies for Norway's pension fund, said the pollution was "harming the environment to such an extent that it also harmed the people living in the neighborhood."

The next year, another Supreme Court committee accused the company of forcing 102 indigenous families from their homes in Odisha State, in eastern India, where it sought to mine bauxite for use in an aluminum refinery. According to the committee's report, residents were "beaten up by the employees of M/s Vedanta."

"An atmosphere of fear was created through the hired goons," the report said. "After being forcibly removed they were kept under watch and ward by the armed guards of M/s Vedanta and no outsider was allowed to meet them. They were effectively being kept as prisoners."

As Vedanta pursued its mining plan over several years, the plight of the indigenous tribe in Odisha became a focal point for international activist groups. The cause was taken up by Rahul Gandhi, the son of a former prime minister, as well as by Bollywood stars such as Gul Panag, who withdrew from a Vedanta marketing campaign.

The British commerce agency issued a rebuke of Vedanta's actions in Odisha, and the Church of England's investment funds sold their shares in the company in protest. "It was just very apparent that the lives of the villagers immediately around the refinery had been made worse, rather than better," said Edward Mason, the chief of responsible investment for a $9 billion church fund. "The villagers had not been properly consulted about the process, or properly compensated."

Vedanta's operations elsewhere have drawn intense criticism. Its copper mine in Zambia has been a source of both pollution and suspicion of financial improprieties. In 2006, two years after Vedanta acquired the mine, the company dumped hazardous waste into the Kafue River, a major source of drinking water for the country, according to a lawsuit filed on behalf of 2,000 residents. Fish were dying, according to the ruling in the case, and local residents experienced skin diseases, lung pain and diarrhea.

The company was fined by a local judge who wrote: "This was lack of corporate responsibility and criminal and a tipping point for corporate recklessness."

Last year, Zambian officials began an audit based on suspicions that Vedanta was not paying the government its proper fees. Hundreds of former mine workers are fighting Vedanta for severance or disability pay. "This company is making its own rules in Zambia," said Darious Yundayunda, a former miner who has been active with a group called Foil Vedanta. "People are struggling."

Mr. Agarwal declined The Times's interview requests over several months. But Vedanta has said publicly, "We remain fully committed to pursuing all our investments in a responsible manner, respecting the environment and human rights."

Despite the complications and controversy, Mr. Agarwal's fortune, according to Forbes, has grown from $1 billion to an estimated $3.5 billion since he purchased his condos at Time Warner.

Big Spenders

When Mr. Bloomberg set out the welcome mat for the world's billionaires, the idea was this: Money they spent would trickle down to the doormen, concierges, cleaners, drivers and construction workers, as well as to the shopkeepers and restaurateurs who sell $5,000 handbags and $450 sushi dinners.

And many of the players at the Time Warner Center are indeed big spenders.

After Maxim Finskiy, a Russian business associate of the Brooklyn Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov, moved in, he imported his Bentley.

Robert Tsao, who gave up his Taiwanese citizenship after authorities there sued him unsuccessfully for investing in mainland

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China, owns one of the world's most renowned private collections of Asian art.

Adam Chen, who graduated from New York University in May, was one of several college students to use the complex as a dormitory. He celebrated his birthday last year at the restaurant Per Se in the Time Warner Center, dining on its famous starter, Oysters and Pearls, all captured in photographs on Instagram.

The precise impact of wealthy foreigners on the city may be more complex, though. As nonresidents, they pay no city income taxes and often receive hefty property tax breaks. A program aimed at new condo development doles out about a half-billion dollars in tax breaks a year, according to the city's independent budget office. These savings are passed on to owners in the form of lower property taxes. The Time Warner Center was not part of the most lucrative tax break program, but many other buildings around Central Park have benefited.

The city's first condo costing more than $100 million, which sold in the last few weeks at the new luxury tower One57, had property taxes this past year of $17,268, according to the city's finance office. Those taxes will go up over time, but for now that is a savings of more than $359,000.

The Fiscal Policy Institute, a nonprofit in New York, recently suggested a downside to the influx of billionaires who are in the city only sporadically.

"In terms of the local economy, you don't have people who are going to plays, going to restaurants," James Parrott, the institute's chief economist, said. "They're not spending at the dry cleaners, the grocers and all of that, so it deprives New York of all that local multiplier effect."

What is more, Mr. Parrott said, the skyrocketing prices of the pieds-à-terre are affecting the price of real estate in the city more broadly. "There's a downside to having such pressure at the top. It pulls up the prices overall. When owners of $10 million condos see that there's a big market for $95 million condos, they're more likely to raise their prices," he said. "Then the person at $2 million raises his prices, then the person at $1 million sees that and there aren't any prices below $1 million."

Through a spokesman, Mr. Bloomberg said last month that he had hoped billionaires who moved to New York would not simply be part-timers but would live in the city and pay taxes "so we could use that revenue for government services that, incidentally, disproportionately benefit lower-income New Yorkers."

Some local politicians have suggested taxing the owners of pieds-à-terre who are not city residents.

"We are spending money to keep them safe and maintaining the infrastructure," said Brad Lander, a city councilman. "Should there be the equivalent of a commuter tax? An international residents tax?"

A proposal from the Fiscal Policy Institute would impose a graduated tax on pieds-à-terre worth $5 million or more. The group estimates it would generate $665 million a year in revenue for the city, mostly from owners of the approximately 445 apartments valued at more than $25 million.

Peeling Back Layers

There is no simple way to unmask ownership of a shell company. Exploring each of the more than 200 shell companies that have owned units in the Time Warner Center became its own journey, with its own surprise ending.

The case of Columbus Skyline, which paid $25.6 million for three condos, began with two clues: a barely legible signature and a forwarding address.

The signature on the deeds was difficult to read, but in one spot it could be made out: Wang Zi. A search of that name did not yield obvious results, but a Wang Zi did register a phone number at Time Warner. The Times cross-referenced that number and found it was tied to a firm called MQ Realty with an address at an apartment in a public housing complex in Chinatown. A visit to that apartment yielded little more than a conversation in Chinese with a neighbor who said the person behind MQ Realty had recently moved. It was a dead end.

The second clue proved more promising. Columbus Skyline was formed in New York State. While the state filing does not list the name of the L.L.C.'s owner, it does have an address: 10 East 39th St., Suite 1110. In public records, one name comes up as having used that address: Wang Wenliang.

Further searches turned up a prominent Wang Wenliang. This Mr. Wang is a former municipal official in Dandong, a city on China's border with North Korea, and a member of the National People's Congress, China's parliamentary body. Among his businesses is a construction empire that has worked on numerous consulates and embassies for the Chinese government, and he is worth hundreds of millions of dollars. He is on the board of trustees of N.Y.U., where he donated $25 million.

But establishing that Mr. Wang from Dandong was the owner of the Time Warner condos required more confirmation.

The lawyer listed on the condo sales was David Glassman. A search of commercial property filings showed that Mr. Glassman had also done legal work for an affiliate of Mr. Wang's company, China Rilin Construction Group.

When The Times called Mr. Glassman, he briefly discussed the condos and said he would ask Mr. Wang if he would be interviewed about his ownership.

Another round of searches found a less glamorous side to real estate used by Mr. Wang's company in the United States. In February 2011, the housing task force in Jersey City followed up on a complaint from a resident on Pavonia Avenue about the number of people living in a single-family residence rented by Rilin. "We conducted the inspection and uncovered

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conditions that were very troubling to say the least," wrote Mark Redfield, the task force chairman.

"There were 15 Asian males with no identification, passports, or work visas all residing in this one-family attached rowhouse," an internal email from Mr. Redfield said. "The house was divided up into sleeping quarters to accommodate 28 roomers," he wrote, adding, "The crammed quarters were extremely unsanitary and posed an imminent hazard."

The same day, Jersey City officials found "the same conditions" at another house that was used by Rilin for its workers, according to city records.

In 2013, Jersey City inspectors reported finding an illegal rooming house at another location used by Rilin. An internal city email said the building was "housing Chinese workers who work for the Chinese Embassy as construction workers. This is the same group China Rilin Construction Corp. that the task force issued summonses to in 2011 for housing multiple Chinese workers."

Rilin paid fines of several thousand dollars for the 2011 violations. The outcome of the 2013 case was unclear from city records, but the company said it had been dismissed.

Mr. Wang's lawyer said Rilin "took the allegations very seriously, and the reported violations were all quickly remedied by the company or dismissed." He disputed the idea that 28 people lived at the Pavonia Avenue house, saying the top bunks had been used for storage. He said the Wang family had purchased the Time Warner condos through a shell company partly because a disgruntled former employee had threatened to harm them.

When The Times asked Ms. Sample, the Time Warner real estate agent who represented Mr. Wang, for information about his condo purchases, she shot back: "How do you know about him?"

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Probes Spook Some Christie Backers (WSJ)

By Josh Dawsey and Heather Haddon
February 7, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

When New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie visited South Carolina last month, Phyllis Henderson, a longtime backer there, threw him a party.

Now she isn't sure of his presidential chances in 2016. Last Friday, she ventured to Washington to meet with another possible contender: Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"He's a strong Christian, he survived a recall, there's no black cloud," Ms. Henderson said. "Scott Walker could pull off an Iowa, South Carolina, New Hampshire triple."

New revelations and investigations have spooked some of Mr. Christie's supporters, complicating his path in an already crowded Republican field.

United Airlines said Friday it received subpoenas related to an investigation of former Port Authority Chairman and Christie ally David Samson, as was first reported by the Bergen Record. A spokeswoman for Mr. Samson declined to comment.

Also this week, Bennett Barlyn, a former local prosecutor in New Jersey, said he met with federal investigators about a so-called whistleblower suit he filed in 2010. It related to his firing after objecting to the quashing of indictments against officials with ties to Mr. Christie.

A spokesman for Mr. Christie declined to comment, as did a spokesman for U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman. Mr. Christie has denied any involvement in the case, and the state's attorneys have argued that Mr. Barlyn has no case and that it was in their right to dismiss the indictment. The case is currently in discovery proceedings in Mercer County.

The federal investigation into the George Washington Bridge case is likely to hang over Mr. Christie as potential supporters gauge his chances at a 2016 run. Mr. Christie hasn't been charged with any wrongdoing.

People close to the governor say his administration is preparing to deal with fallout from indictments related to the bridge probe and that the biggest problem could be mounting a campaign amid media scrutiny and possible trials.

"It would be a relief to just see it wrapped," said a person familiar with Mr. Christie's thinking on the investigations. "It's gone on long enough."

"All of these issues accumulate," said Steve Schmidt, who advised U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona on his 2008 presidential campaign and has helped Texas Gov. Rick Perry fight criminal charges. "No right-minded person could look at their effort and say it's off to a good start."

Many people who have met Mr. Christie say they are impressed with his personality and willingness to take on issues in New Jersey.

Mike DuHaime, Mr. Christie's longtime political adviser, said the 2016 race still had no declared candidates, and any talk about electability isn't yet meaningful.

On a conference call with donors on Wednesday, Christie aides outlined a schedule of fundraising events for his political-action committee, which he formed last month, and are looking for bundlers to bring in $50,000 to $100,000 each, said a supporter who was on the call.

Ray Washburne, Mr. Christie's finance chairman, said the various investigations aren't likely to resonate outside the Northeast, and fundraising is going well.

Tony Carbonetti, a Wall Street backer of Mr. Christie, brought him to meet colleagues at Perella Weinberg Partners two weeks ago. These people, he said, aren't concerned about investigations -- in politics, they expect them.

"They want to pick a winner," said Kathy Wylde, the chief executive of the Partnership for New York City, a business-backed group with prominent executives as its board. "They're not recoiling in moral horror."

Still, there are hurdles. Al Cardenas, an adviser to Jeb Bush said the former Florida governor is "covering the country from coast-to-coast, east-to-west." Ms. Wylde said more people seemed to be meeting with Mr. Bush in recent weeks.

What concerns some Christie backers is the skepticism he faces from conservatives. In Iowa and New Hampshire, he is trailing other candidates, according to several recent polls. Leighton Lord, a college friend who hosted an event for him in

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South Carolina, said he faces more questions about Mr. Christie's conservative record than investigations into his administration.

While Mr. Christie's stance on issues like taxes pleases conservatives, "some of the policy issues and other parts of his record do make his path more problematic," said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group backed by brothers Charles and David Koch.

Mr. Christie's allies have begun defending his record. Mr. Lord personally assures people of the governor's integrity and conservative ideology, he said. "I don't want to minimize the importance of causing a horrendous traffic jam, but it wasn't like they were stealing money. They were just playing rough."

Mr. Christie will return to Iowa on Monday to speak to the conservative Dallas County Republican Party. Tyler de Haan, the county chairman, said his members lean toward Mr. Walker, Mr. Perry and Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon who has been making waves in conservative circles, but they are interested in hearing Mr. Christie.

Gary Kirke, an Iowa entrepreneur who tried to get Mr. Christie to run for president in 2012, still thinks the New Jersey governor is a good man. But he worries about the federal probe.

"That's still a cloud over his head," Mr. Kirke said. "Time will tell."

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Fed's Rate Dilemma: Job Gains vs. Inflation (WSJ)

By Jon Hilsenrath
February 7, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

The robust January jobs report highlights a dilemma for Federal Reserve officials as they enter a critical stretch in their policy deliberations: How hot can they let the job market run before raising short-term interest rates?

The labor market in recent months has shown vigor not seen in more than a decade, but the economy is emitting few obvious signs of wage pressure or consumer price inflation sometimes associated with such strength.

The stronger job market gives officials reason to consider raising short-term interest rates to prevent the economy from overheating, but low wage growth and inflation suggest such overheating isn't near and give them cause to wait.

Fed Chairwoman Janet Yellen faces a busy public calendar in the next few weeks where she could provide new clues to her thinking. She is set to present her semiannual monetary-policy report to Congress on Feb. 24 and 25. On March 18, the Fed will conclude a two-day policy meeting and she will hold a press conference.

At both turns, Ms. Yellen and her colleagues will be weighing whether to formally open the door to possible interest-rate increases in June. Most Fed officials have said they expect to start raising their benchmark short-term rate from near zero this year, and several have pointed to midyear as a likely time for liftoff.

For now, many are looking for ways to maximize their flexibility. "I think all possibilities from June on should remain open," Atlanta Fed President Dennis Lockhart said in a speech Friday. "I don't at this juncture have a prediction or preference."

At the heart of the challenge facing the Fed is a notion in economics that there is a short-run trade-off between unemployment and inflation. At some low rate of unemployment, the thinking goes, slack in the job market disappears; if unemployment goes below this point then wage and inflation pressures build as firms compete for a dwindling supply of workers.

Economists call this cutoff point a non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment, or Nairu, and also point to a "natural rate" of unemployment where inflation is stable in the longer-run.

The problem is nobody knows the cutoff point. Economists merely estimate it.

At their December meeting, Fed officials estimated this rate lies somewhere between 5.2% and 5.5%. Unemployment in January, at 5.7%, is close to the top of that range.

But the estimate of how low unemployment can go is imprecise and moves around depending on what else is happening in the economy. In the early stages of the financial crisis, Fed officials estimated the jobless rate could drop to between 4.8% and 5% without causing inflation. A year ago some officials thought the upper limit of the range might be as high as 5.8%.

In the absence of hard-and-fast rules, Fed officials are watching wage gains, which have been sluggish through the recovery. Policy makers want to see them pick up, a sign the economy is nearing full employment, but not so much that the economy overheats and consumer price inflation gets out of control.

Some economists doubt the trade-off between unemployment and inflation is very strong. The logic of such a trade-off failed during the 2007-09 recession -- the jobless rate soared but inflation didn't fall as much as many economic models predicted. The relationship broke down during the 1970s, when both inflation and unemployment soared, and during the 1990s, when both were low. Explanations for why have varied.

Fed officials are now debating whether the natural rate of unemployment is lower than previously thought. One study by economists at the Chicago Fed found an aging workforce might be increasing the economy's ability to bear low unemployment without causing inflation. That's because older workers tend to have lower jobless rates than younger workers.

If they conclude the economy can bear a lower jobless rate, officials might conclude they should wait longer before raising interest rates.

Unsure how low they can let the jobless rate go, some Fed officials want to keep their options open as they prepare for the March meeting.

The Fed has said it will be "patient" in deciding when to start raising short-term interest rates. Ms. Yellen said use of that word means the officials likely wouldn't raise rates at the next two policy meetings. If they dropped the patient phrase from the March statement, that would indicate they could move in June, but wouldn't guarantee it.

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The January jobs report bolsters the odds Fed officials will alter or scrap the promise to be patient at the March meeting.

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Labor talks test mayor's resolve; Garcetti's course could set the tone with unions for the rest of his tenure (LAT)

By Peter Jamison
February 8, 2015
Los Angeles Times

As behind-the-scenes contract talks with the unions representing more than half the city's civilian workforce grind to a standstill, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is facing the first meaningful test of his proclaimed resolve to curb organized labor's sway at City Hall.

Sources familiar with the city's position in the ongoing talks -- normally kept confidential -- say Garcetti's administration is holding to an aggressive bargaining stance, demanding a three-year freeze on raises for roughly 20,000 city workers and greater contributions to employees' healthcare and retirement costs, among other cost-saving concessions. After nearly a year of negotiating, union leaders haven't budged and are planning a brief work stoppage Tuesday morning to put pressure on elected leaders.

To some extent, the impasse is emblematic of the squeeze public-employee unions have faced across the country since the Great Recession began to sap cities' tax revenue. But it is also a bellwether for an ambitious young politician whose fraught relationship with labor has been a theme of his rise as the leader of America's second-largest city.

A progressive Democrat and long-standing labor ally, Garcetti watched the city's largest and most powerful public-employee unions throw their clout and cash behind his opponent in the 2013 mayoral race. He turned the snub to his advantage, casting the unions' chosen candidate, former City Controller Wendy Greuel, as beholden to special interests.

The question now is what tone the mayor wants to set with unions for the rest of his tenure at City Hall -- and beyond. Criticizing labor's influence on local politics played well for Garcetti in a low-turnout citywide election. But in Democrat-dominated California, many still consider union support a prerequisite for the sort of higher office Garcetti, 44, is widely thought to crave.

"It would be extremely difficult to win statewide office without the support of organized labor," said longtime Democratic strategist Darry Sragow.

Such support could be more difficult for Garcetti to secure if he stays his present course in contract talks with the Coalition of L.A. City Unions, which represents most civilian municipal employees. The coalition, which includes Service Employees International Union Local 721 and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 36, has an enviable track record at City Hall. It won a nearly 25% pay raise in 2007, just as the economy was about to tank.

The city's current contract proposals are less generous, according to those familiar with them. They include no raises for at least three years and a first-ever requirement that workers pay 10% of their healthcare premiums. Many currently pay no premiums.

Proposed pension reforms would increase the retirement age to 65, reduce pensions and eliminate free healthcare for retirees' spouses. A similar package of cost controls was adopted when Garcetti was on the City Council, but unions are challenging that action in court.

The combined savings from the city's demands could total more than $70 million per year, according to city budget analysts. The city's annual budget is about $8.1 billion.

Employees and union leaders argue that they've already shouldered a fair share of the city's financial burdens in recent years by agreeing to increase their pension contributions and taking furlough days, among other things.

Similar battle lines have been drawn in other U.S. cities, as Democratic mayors seeking to stabilize budgets have pushed back against the labor bosses they once called allies. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel clashed energetically during his first term with teachers' unions. In San Jose, Democratic Mayor Chuck Reed pushed through cost-cutting reforms to the city's pension system, incurring the permanent enmity of labor.

"The unions will be supportive as long as you give them what they want," said Reed, who returned to practicing law last year after he was termed out of office. "In hard times, it's impossible to give them what they want."

Garcetti doesn't have full control over the city's negotiating stance. He is part of a five-member committee that bargains with unions on behalf of the city. In an interview Friday, however, he said the city's present demands represent his position.

"I think I originated it," Garcetti said when asked if he supported the package of a proposed pay freeze and healthcare and pension changes.

"There's nothing I'd like to do more than give workers a raise and even expand benefits," he added. "But we can only spend

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what we have. I look forward to light coming down the tunnel soon, but it's not there."

Garcetti said his split with the coalition and other major labor groups in the 2013 mayoral race isn't a factor in the current talks.

"I have tremendous respect for these unions. I've worked really closely with them," he said. "The campaign feels like it was a lifetime ago."

But late last week union leaders were calling attention to the distance between the two sides. On Thursday night, one coalition union sent an email urging a broad range of city employees, including clerical, animal-shelter and sanitation workers, to take part in a 10-minute work stoppage Tuesday morning.

"City of Los Angeles management has refused to budge from their concessionary agenda in our contract negotiations ... we are standing together to let them know that we are tired of the attacks on middle-class jobs and public services," the email said.

Coalition Chairwoman Cheryl Parisi declined to comment for this article, citing the confidentiality of contract talks.

Since taking office in July 2013, Garcetti has completed some deals with labor. That year, the union representing most Department of Water and Power workers -- which opposed Garcetti's election -- agreed to forgo raises. City firefighters last year agreed to a two-year contract with a single, relatively modest 2% raise.

Late last year, the 4,500-member Engineers and Architects Assn., one of the few unions that backed the mayor in 2013, agreed to the same concessions the city is now seeking from the coalition. Some inside City Hall saw the little-publicized agreement as an important blueprint for contracts with other unions because it signaled the mayor's willingness to drive a hard bargain even with a labor ally.

Not all are convinced such toughness would be a liability if Garcetti pursues higher office.

As cities' financial problems grow more acute and taxpayers pick up the tab, some see more risk, even for Democrats, in acceding to organized labor than in crossing it.

In five or 10 years, "it will be politically in vogue for anyone who had a reformist position" on controlling expenditures on public employees, said Arnie Steinberg, a GOP strategist and former pollster for Mayor Richard Riordan.

Garcetti, he said, "probably has the ability to stake out a leadership position now as someone who was making tough decisions."

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Uncertain times for N. Dakota oil boom (LAT)

By Matthew Brown
February 8, 2015
Los Angeles Times

High crude prices catapulted North Dakota into the top tier of the global oil market and doubled or tripled the size of once-sleepy towns that suddenly had to accommodate a small army of petroleum workers.

But now that those prices have tumbled, the shifting oil market threatens to put the industry and local governments on a collision course. Farming and ranching communities that committed to building homes, roads and schools for the swelling population are worried about how they will pay for those improvements as oil-related tax revenue evaporates.

"Everyone is asking the same question: Holy cats, where do we go from here?" said Dean Bangsund, an economist at North Dakota State University who has tried to help oil-rich McKenzie County gauge its needs, with an eye toward balancing growth against revenues. But none of his economic models were pessimistic enough to match how low oil prices dropped.

For now, the oil extraction goes on. Despite the price plummet, drilling remains profitable in the heart of the state's Bakken oil patch, due to the sheer volume of crude flowing from so-called hot-spots.

And so the building continues in Watford City, a century-old town that once marked the end of the line for the Great Northern Railroad. Roughly 60 rigs are drilling in surrounding McKenzie County -- 40% of the rigs statewide. New neighborhoods and retail centers creep ever deeper into former wheat fields.

"We're making a new, 15,000-person city in the middle of a pasture," said Brent Sanford, mayor of Watford, the county seat. "The question is if we get money put into the pot to do it."

The county, which a decade ago had a population of about 5,000, has become a magnet for "man camps," where newly arriving workers and their families live in trailers, RVs and just about any other structure that can stand up to North Dakota's whipping winds.

The pace of growth over the past decade has been "hyperventilating," slackening only slightly as oil prices have fallen, Sanford said. "You can't catch a breath."

With oil prices hovering near $100 a barrel for most of the last four years, ambitious plans were laid out to transform the city from a chaotic, sprawling crash pad for transient workers into a larger, more livable community. Sanford and other local leaders drafted a long wish list -- more housing, more schools, better roads, a new water treatment plant and expanded law enforcement.

Developers eager to cash in started construction of thousands of apartments and single-family homes. A new high school and civic center began to take shape. A new bypass was built to the south of town to ease traffic jams.

Then oil prices began to drop, falling to roughly $50 a barrel now.

Daniel Kuo, vice president of a Chinese-backed real estate company that's building a 2,000-unit housing complex on the outskirts of Watford, keeps a close eye on oil prices. He's met with McKenzie County economic-development agents to soothe any worries that the company might pull back.

"You're in too deep to let a price blip derail you," Kuo concluded at the end of one meeting. He shared the optimism expressed by Sanford and many others in Watford that oil prices will rebound.

Leaders in the North Dakota Legislature have pledged to keep public-works improvements as a priority. Whether that's sustainable depends on how long oil prices stay down. Oil and gas revenue forecasts for the state already have dropped $4 billion, reducing earlier projections by roughly half.

Watford and McKenzie County have joined other western North Dakota counties in seeking help from the state. Politicians and business leaders from the region flocked to the Capitol in Bismarck to press the Legislature for a larger stake of what's left of the oil revenues.

Towns like Watford are worried about getting saddled with all the downsides of the boom -- dangerously crowded roads, overtaxed utilities, jam-packed schools and unchecked growth -- without the financial means to impose order.

"At this point, it's like downtown Seattle," said Aaron Pelton, who owns Outlaws' Bar and Grill along Watford's main thoroughfare. "If you can't come to a small community and have a quality of life, what do you have?"

Like many oil towns, Watford has endured the boom-bust cycle before. Oil was first found in McKenzie County in 1952.

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Within a decade, hundreds of workers had moved on.

Another boom kicked off in 1976, with up to 100 wells a year being drilled until prices started plummeting four years later.

In the last decade, the industry refined the hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, technology that allows drillers to pull oil out of rocky shale. The fracking rush has seen more than 11,000 wells drilled, and analysts predict a total of 50,000 to 60,000 before all the oil is gone.

Industry observers expect the wells already in place to sustain last year's production level of 1.1 million barrels a day at least through 2015.

Still, the sudden drop in prices caught most observers off guard and shook confidence in the boom.

"If I could tell everybody that we'd have $70 oil in 2016, we could breathe easier," said Gene Veeder, director of the McKenzie County Job Development Authority.

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The battle over the Minimum Wage Albany debate coming on Cuomo's push to raise state level to $10.50 (Newsday)

By Laura Figueroa And Aisha Al-Muslim
February 8, 2015
Newsday

Low-wage workers praise Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's proposal to increase the state minimum wage to $10.50, labor activists criticize it for not going far enough and business owners say it will force them to cut hours and employees.

Cuomo said last month that he wants to raise the state minimum wage to $10.50, and $11.50 in New York City, by the end of 2016. If the State Legislature approves the measure, New York State would have the highest minimum wage in the nation.

The measure is likely to come up for debate before a vote on Cuomo's 2015-16 budget. Although the wage hike is likely to pass in the Democrat-controlled Assembly, its fate is unclear in the Republican-dominated Senate.

State lawmakers approved Cuomo's first bid to increase the minimum wage in 2013, boosting it from $7.25 to $8 at the end of the year and $8.75 last year. An increase to $9 will occur Dec. 31.

In unveiling his wage proposal, Cuomo said the recent hikes weren't keeping up with the rising cost of living.

"The wage gap has increased," said the governor, who argued that the economy "is strong" enough to handle higher wages.

Cuomo's push comes as President Barack Obama continues to call on Congress to pass a stalled measure that would raise the federal minimum wage from $7.25 per hour to $10.10 by the end of the year. The likelihood of federal legislation passing this year remains uncertain because Republicans, who generally have opposed an increase, control the Congress and say an increase will stunt job growth.

Cuomo's proposal also followed a recent recommendation by the state Wage Board that acting State Labor Commissioner Mario J. Musolino, a Cuomo appointee, raise the wage tipped workers receive from $5 an hour to $7.50.

Labor Department spokesman Chris White said the Wage Board will submit a report to Musolino, "who will act on the final report as quickly as possible."

Public support, unsure fate

Kenneth Sherrill, professor emeritus of political science at Hunter College in Manhattan, said a state minimum wage increase likely will pass the Assembly. The resignation of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan), a longtime backer of a minimum wage hike who in 2012 put forward his own increase proposal before withdrawing it after budget negotiations, is not expected to affect the outcome, Sherrill said.

"If there is a battle it will be by some Republicans in the Senate," Sherrill said.

Although some Republican senators "might make speeches supportive of business ... [interests], when push comes to shove, they do not want to be on record voting against a minimum-wage increase," Sherrill said. "Raising the minimum wage is so popular I don't think any Republican senator in a competitive district ... is going to want to defend themselves against voting against the minimum wage."

A March 2014 poll by the Siena Research Institute found 77 percent of New Yorkers favored increasing the federal minimum wage to $10.10, with 22 percent opposed.

Michael Whyland, spokesman for the Assembly's Democratic majority, said the caucus would continue to push for the minimum-wage increase.

"No one who works full time should live in poverty, and the members of the conference will continue the fight for a higher minimum wage," Whyland said.

'It's a trade-off'

Scott Reif, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre), did not return emails and calls.

In November, Skelos told reporters, "We're not doing minimum wage," when asked which items from Cuomo's agenda the Senate would discuss this legislative session.

"The legislation that we passed a couple of years ago - the minimum wage is being increased in stages," Skelos said. "So it's not like there hasn't been a minimum-wage increase. That's happening now." He added that he is "always willing to discuss

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things."

John Rizzo, economist for the Long Island Association, the region's largest business group, said a minimum-wage increase would boost consumer spending - but would raise the expenses of employers, who may cut employees or reduce hours.

"It's a trade-off," Rizzo said.

Rob Basso, president of Advantage Payroll Services in Freeport, said an increase would hurt small- and midsize-business owners.

"Just because it is popular doesn't mean it is the right thing to do," said Basso, who does payroll for about 3,000 small and midsize companies, most of them on Long Island. "Minimum wage is supposed to be a starting wage. It wasn't supposed to be living wage. The only effect is raising prices. If labor costs go up, the cost of labor and services go up, or you make less profit."

Henry Stampfel, recording secretary of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, said, "The reality is that any increase is just putting more pressure on small Main Street businesses who have been bearing the burden of a sluggish economy with the added competition of online entertainment and retail sales." Stampfel owns two independent movie theaters, Malverne Cinema and Art Center and Bellmore Movies and the Showplace.

Stampfel said Cuomo's proposal could boost his payroll by $5,000. He employs 30 people, most of them part-timers. This month, he boosted adult admission from $9.50 to $10 to cover the state minimum wage increase to $8.75.

"I don't mind a payroll increase if other people don't mind paying for it, but in reality we can't always pass these increases along to our customers as many are retired and on limited incomes," Stampfel said.

Calls for further increases

If business owners such as Stampfel think the Cuomo proposal goes too far, unions and labor activists argue the minimum wage increase does not go far enough.

The Working Families Party, which endorsed Cuomo for re-election last year, has been pushing for an increase to $15. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has said the city should be allowed to set its own wage indexed to inflation.

"The truth is it's nearly impossible to raise a family in this state on even $12 or $13 an hour," said state Working Families Party director Bill Lipton.

Concepcion Saenz, 44, a car wash worker who lives in Brentwood, is among those advocating a statewide minimum wage increase, and a hike for tipped service workers.

Saenz, a member of the community activist group Make the Road New York, said he is paid $500 to $800 a week working five days at a car wash and detailing cars on his days off, though a back injury has kept him from working recently.

He said he would often work 60 to 70 hours a week to afford his $500 rent, and to be able to send money to his daughters in El Salvador.

"All we're asking for is a wage that is just and allows us to survive," Saenz said.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKE PLAN

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo is seeking to increase New York's minimum wage, his second effort since 2013. A plan passed that year boosted the minimum wage to the current $8.75 an hour, and an increase to $9 will occur at the end of the year. Cuomo's move comes as President Barack Obama also is seeking a hike in the federal wage.

Cuomo's proposal: Statewide, the minimum wage would rise to $10.50 by the end of 2016. New York City would have the authority to boost it to $11.50.

Current federal minimum wage: $7.25.

White House plan:

Passage this year of a bill to boost it to $10.10.

Sources: Office of the governor; WhiteHouse.gov

NEW YORK'S MINIMUM WAGE

1962 $1.15

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1964 $1.25

1967 $1.50

1968 $1.60

1970 $1.85

1974 $2.00

1975 $2.10

1976 $2.30

1978 $2.65

1979 $2.90

1980 $3.10

1981 $3.35

1990 $3.80

1991 $4.25

2000 $5.15

2005 $6.00

2006 $6.75

2007 $7.15

2009 $7.25

2013 $8.00

2014 $8.75

2015 $9.00

2016 $10.50*

NYC $11.50*

*PROPOSED

Before 1962, state minimum wage rates varied from industry to industry.

SOURCES: 2015-16 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Wolf being pressured to restrict gas drilling (Philadelphia Inquirer)

By Andrew Maykuth
February 8, 2015
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Environmental advocates are applying pressure on the Wolf administration to broaden restrictions on natural gas drilling on Pennsylvania state lands.

Gov. Wolf's Jan. 29 moratorium on new gas leasing, signed on his 10th day in office and hailed by environmentalists, had symbolic importance, but it went only so far.

The ban undid a limited Corbett administration policy that allowed new leasing of lands where no surface disturbance was involved. Corbett's executive order, which was never carried out, affected a relatively small universe of public lands that could be accessed from neighboring tracts where drilling is already permitted.

Much of Pennsylvania's finest recreational areas in the Marcellus Shale region remain available to natural gas development. About 1.5 million of the state's 2.2 million acres of state forests lie over the gas-rich shale. The mineral rights underlying nearly 700,000 acres are controlled by gas interests and are unaffected by the governor's leasing ban, which was erroneously reported in some media as a drilling ban.

State Rep. Greg Vitali of Delaware County, the ranking Democrat on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said he was exploring ways to restrict drilling on state lands already under lease.

Wolf's options are limited because the legislature remains firmly in Republican control. "Anything that requires passing a bill is going to be a problem," Vitali said.

One of the new administration's more pressing issues will be drilling on state parklands. The state does not own the mineral rights on about 80 percent of the state's parks in the shale region. No drilling companies have yet dared to access natural gas in the parks; such an act would likely trigger a backlash.

Wolf appears to be sympathetic to calls to restrict drilling on public lands. As a candidate, he declared his opposition to drilling in state parks, though legally there may not be much the state can do to overrule a drilling company's private property rights.

Wolf told the nonprofit Allegheny Front radio program in Western Pennsylvania last year that he would explore using gas revenue to buy the mineral rights underlying Ohiopyle State Park, a 19,000-acre park in Fayette County considered the most vulnerable to drilling.

Wolf also said he would support a special impact fee for drilling on state parkland and strengthening the guidelines for administering oil and gas activities on lands controlled by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Until his new administration settles into place, Wolf's strategy is likely to lack specifics. His new cabinet includes an all-star cast of environmentalists who are expected to endorse a harder line with the gas industry.

John Hanger, whose appointment as secretary of planning does not require Senate approval, was environmental secretary in Gov. Ed Rendell's administration. John Quigley, Wolf's choice as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, is Rendell's former conservation secretary and a vocal opponent of Corbett's drilling policies on public lands.

Quigley's appointment, along with Cindy Adams Dunn's as conservation secretary, will attract Senate scrutiny. Dunn served as president of the environmental advocacy group PennFuture before Wolf tabbed her at the DCNR.

For advocates like Vitali, the Wolf administration holds promise. "It's nice having access to the administration again," Vitali said. "With people like Hanger, Quigley, and Dunn, it's almost like having friends in there."

One of the thorniest issues the Wolf administration will face is managing gas development on state lands where it does not own the mineral rights. Under common law, the owners of the underground gas are allowed access to the land's surface in order to extract their minerals.

Of the nearly 700,000 acres of state forests leased for drilling, about 290,000 acres are privately owned. The state does not receive rents and royalties from these acres.

Those lands include the 25,000 acres known as the Clarence Moore Lands in Loyalsock State Forest in Lycoming County near Williamsport, which environmental advocates say presents the state with its best opportunity to restrict drilling.

The gas producers Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Southwestern Energy Co. own or lease the mineral rights on the Clarence

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Moore Lands, so named for a previous owner. The lands include some of the region's most treasured recreational attractions: the entire Old Logger's Path, part of Rock Run waterway, Pleasant Stream Valley, Sharp Top Vista, and the ghost town of Masten.

Commonwealth Court in 1989 found that, because of an unusual deed restriction, the right of the subsurface owner to enter upon the surface expired in 1983 on about 19,000 acres. Some legal experts say the ruling is open to challenge.

The Corbett administration's position has been to negotiate access to the surface with the gas companies in exchange for controls over a broader expanse of land over which it legally would have little or no say.

Mark Szybist, a PennFuture lawyer, said the Wolf administration could more aggressively assert the state's rights to block surface access.

"We think that with the new administration, the time is ripe for the DCNR to revisit its position on its property rights," he said.

Candidate Wolf last year told Allegheny Front that he favored no drilling. "I will support the commonwealth's right to block drilling on those tracts of the Clarence Moore lands in which the courts have ruled that the state has exclusive surface control," he said.

The new governor is slightly more circumspect. "Gov. Wolf will explore his legal options to prevent drilling on these tracts of land," said his spokesman, Jeffrey Sheridan.

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Vaccine opt-outs put state at risk (San Francisco Chronicle)

By Erin Allday
February 8, 2015
The San Francisco Chronicle

In a state with some of the most lenient childhood immunization laws in the country, thousands of California children enter kindergarten every year with incomplete vaccination records, and it's easy for parents to opt out of vaccinating their kids.

California's immunization rates are lower than the national average for almost all vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, which is still spreading widely in the largest outbreak in the state in more than a decade. More than 100 cases have been reported so far this year, 14 of them in the Bay Area and most tied to an outbreak that started at two Disney theme parks in Southern California.

Low immunization rates, public health and infectious disease experts say, leave the state exceptionally vulnerable to outbreaks, not just of measles but potentially other diseases like mumps, rubella and whooping cough.

As the case count climbs for measles this year, that vulnerability has sparked furious public debate over how best to persuade parents to vaccinate their children, and it has inspired new pleas to tighten California's lax immunization laws. Last week, two state senators said they would introduce legislation to ban "personal belief exemptions" that allow parents to choose not to vaccinate their children.

"The Supreme Court ruled over 100 years ago that if you're going to require immunization, you must allow exemptions," said Dr. Art Reingold, head of epidemiology at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. "But there's enormous variability among the states in terms of what's allowed. The easier you make it to not vaccinate, the higher the proportion of unvaccinated kids, and the higher the likelihood of clusters of disease. There's clearly a link."

Easy exemptions

To public health experts, California's vaccination regulations are notoriously forgiving. It's one of 20 states allowing personal belief exemptions. Another 28 states allow religious exemptions, and all states allow medical exemptions for kids with compromised immune systems or who have identifiable problems with vaccines.

Only two states — Mississippi and West Virginia — allow no exemptions beyond those for medical reasons. Those states also have exceptionally high vaccination rates — for measles, 99 percent of Mississippi kindergarteners are fully immunized, as are 96 percent of West Virginia kindergartners — and neither state has had a case of measles in more than 20 years.

Meanwhile in California, reports of measles are on the rise after the number of annual cases dropped to record lows between 2000 and 2010. Last year there were 61 measles cases in California — the highest since the disease was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000. The state beat that number in the first month of this year.

"On scale of 1 to 10, California is 8.9, 10 being most lenient," said Y. Tony Yang, a health policy professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. "It's one of the most lenient states. And California has more outbreaks."

More telling than statewide vaccination averages are the immunization rates in pockets all around the state. Marin County has among the lowest kindergarten immunization rates and the highest rate of parents choosing personal belief exemptions in the state. Only 84 percent of Marin County students entering kindergarten are fully vaccinated, and 6.5 percent of children have a personal belief exemption.

Personal belief exemptions are intended for parents who have either a philosophical or religious objection to vaccinations.

Public criticism

Those parents have come under attack in recent weeks for their choice not to vaccinate. They've been shamed on national television and social media platforms and criticized by other mothers and fathers who accuse them of being selfish and uninformed.

It's critical, public health experts say, that as many people as possible get vaccinated to maintain herd immunity and prevent diseases like measles from spreading and infecting those who can't be immunized.

The current measles outbreak — along with large outbreaks in California and a handful of other states last year — underscores the need to tighten the state's immunization rules, said state Sen. Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, an author of the proposal to do away with personal belief exemptions.

"We've been having ever larger outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases," Pan said. "People are realizing that this is something that can affect them. It's not just a fringe group of parents that have beliefs that don't impact me and my family."

The first mandatory vaccines in the United States were for smallpox. Routine smallpox vaccination stopped in the early 1970s, after the disease was eradicated in most parts of the world. Now, children are required to get five vaccines before entering kindergarten.

California has allowed personal belief exemptions since 1961. They were rarely used then, because very few families wanted to miss what were celebrated as life-saving preventive medicines.

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Personal belief exemptions remained low in California — below 1 percent — for 40 years. But in 1998, a now-discredited study was published in the United Kingdom suggesting a link between the measles vaccine and autism in children. Over the next decade exemption rates spiked, to a high of more than 3 percent statewide. Pockets of under-vaccinated children popped up in communities around the state like Marin County.

Even after years of research showing the autism link was unfounded, and after the 1998 paper was declared fraudulent and retracted by the journal that published it, the damage lingers. Many vaccine-hesitant parents say they don't necessarily believe immunizations cause autism, but they don't trust the shots anyway.

"People want to protect their children and do what's right," said Dr. George Rutherford, director of UCSF's Institute for Global Health. "But we need high levels of vaccination in order to prevent transmission. Or else we could just go back to the 19th century and put up with these diseases again."

Two years ago, Marin County public health officials surveyed 493 local parents about their attitudes toward vaccination. Among those who chose not to vaccinate, most cited concerns about their children getting too many shots over too short a period of time as their primary worry, followed by their doubts about the safety of newer vaccines. On average, the vaccine-hesitant parents said they were "not sure" whether vaccines can cause autism.

Dr. Matt Willis, the Marin County public health officer, said the survey serves as a primer for pediatricians and other health care providers to talk to parents who are reluctant to vaccinate. As long as vaccination remains a choice, "we have no choice but to engage in respectful conversation" with parents who don't want to vaccinate, he said.

"Every parent is obviously acting in what they think is their child's best interest," Willis said. "These are good people who want their children to thrive. And they are operating on misinformation."

The Marin County survey came at a good time. Last year, a state law took effect that requires parents to meet with a health care provider and discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination before getting a personal belief exemption.

In the year after the new law, personal belief exemptions dropped 1 percentage point in Marin County, and immunization rates improved for all five vaccines required for kindergarten entry. Similar improvements in vaccination levels were seen throughout the state.

But personal belief exemptions aren't the only reason many children start school under-vaccinated. Roughly 35,000 California children — or about 6.5 percent of all new students — enter kindergarten on a conditional basis, which means their parents intend to immunize them but they've missed at least one shot.

It's tough to say how at risk these children are. Some may be missing a final dose of the measles vaccine, for example, which would mean they're about 95 percent protected from measles instead of 99 percent. Others may be missing multiple vaccines.

The reasons these children aren't fully vaccinated are varied, but state regulations say the kids must be tracked to ensure they end up fully immunized. Counties and school districts say that doesn't always happen. With limited resources — including a severe shortage of school nurses, who often are charged with following up with under-vaccinated students — children may never be fully immunized and no one at the school would know it.

Typically, schools send letters to the parents of conditional students giving them a deadline to get their children vaccinated or else risk the kids' being excluded from class, said Larry Alegre, principal at Sanchez Elementary in San Francisco. Districtwide, nurses and other health workers follow up with families struggling to meet immunization requirements, said school district spokeswoman Gentle Blythe.

In Alameda County, the conditional entry students are of at least as much concern as students who enter with personal belief exemptions, said Dr. Erica Pan, director of communicable disease in the Alameda County Public Health Department. The county is trying to develop policy to better follow up with the conditional students, Pan said.

To improve statewide immunization rates, doctors and public health officials need to reach both groups of under-vaccinated children — those whose parents choose not to vaccinate and those who need help getting all the required shots.

"We clearly need to make sure there are no financial barriers and that it's as easy as possible to get vaccinated," said Reingold at UC Berkeley. "But I don't think that's sufficient to deal with the problem we have at the moment. The issue of how we get parents to understand issues of safety and the need for vaccines — it's a very difficult problem. I don't have the answer."

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Study shows likelihood of being shot in Chicago (Chicago Sun-Times)

By Frank Main
February 8, 2015
Chicago Sun-Times

If you and another person get arrested together in Chicago, you're both part of a loose network of people with a high risk of getting shot in the future, Yale University researchers say in a newly published study.

Only 6 percent of the people in Chicago between 2006 and 2012 were listed on arrest reports as co-offenders in crimes, the study says. But those people became the victims of 70 percent of the nonfatal shootings in the city over the same period.

The study, called “Tragic, but not random: The social contagion of nonfatal gunshot injuries,” was published in the January 2015 issue of Social Science & Medicine. It shows the risk of becoming a gunshot victim in Chicago is “more concentrated than previously thought,” according to Andrew Papachristos, one of the authors.

More than ever, the Chicago Police Department is borrowing ideas from academics like Papachristos to fashion anti-violence strategies. For instance, the department used his social network theories to generate its own list of at-risk people.

Police Supt. Garry McCarthy believes that list is helping his beat officers concentrate on those people most likely to become shooting victims — or to shoot someone else.

According to the department, many became gun victims anyway: Since it was created in 2013, dozens of people on the list have been shot. But what can't be measured is the violence the list might have prevented, department officials say. They say the list is part of the reason murders and nonfatal shootings were down in 2014 compared to 2012, the year before the list was created.

Papachristos — an associate professor of sociology at Yale and a former Chicagoan with an expertise in gangs — said his study found that exposure to gunshot victims also increases one's odds of becoming a shooting victim.

And as was previously known, race was a key risk factor in getting shot, the study noted. For every 100,000 people, an average of one white person, 28 Hispanics and 113 blacks became victims of nonfatal shootings every year in Chicago over the six-year study period.

But Papachristos and his team sought to go beyond a racial explanation for nonfatal shootings. They were trying to explain why a specific young African-American male in a high-crime neighborhood becomes a shooting victim, while another young black man in the same neighborhood doesn't, the study said.

Such social network analysis allows the manpower-strapped Chicago Police Department to “discern who's at risk rather than casting the net really wide,” he said.

The latest Yale University study was built on Papachristos' previous social network research into murders on the West Side. He had studied killings between 2005 and 2010 in West Garfield Park and North Lawndale. About 70 percent of the killings occurred in what Papachristos found was a social network of only about 1,600 people — out of a population of about 80,000 in those neighborhoods. Inside that social network, the risk of being killed was 30 out of 1,000. For the others in those neighborhoods, the risk of getting murdered was less than one in 1,000.

The Chicago Police Department is employing social network strategy in several ways.

Since 2010, Chicago Police officials, prosecutors and community leaders have organized meetings with members of opposing gang factions after murders are committed in their neighborhoods. Many of those gang members called to the meetings are on parole or probation and are required to show up. According to the police department's guidelines for such “call-ins”: “The general message conveyed is, ‘We will help you if you will let us, but we will stop you if you make us.' There will be a clear message that the group will be dismantled if they do not comply.”

Papachristos said he's getting ready to release a study on the effectiveness of call-ins in Chicago. He would not provide details, but said: “We are seeing a reduction in shootings that these groups [gang factions] are involved in. It seems to be working.”

In March 2013, meanwhile, the department devised its so-called “two degrees of separation” list modeled on Papachristos' work. The department started with people who were killed between 2010 and 2012. People who were once arrested with those victims were placed on the list, along with people who were once arrested with those associates of the victims. About 100,000 people were on the original citywide list.

Then the department whittled the list to several hundred people at the highest risk of being killed. They included 73 people in the Grand Crossing District and 30 people in the South Chicago District. Every other district had no more than 20 people on

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the list.

Since March 2013, 40 of the 504 people on the list have been shot, three fatally. Another person was murdered in an incident that didn't involve a gun, according to the department.

Beat officers have been urged to pay special attention to people on the list because they pose the greatest danger to the public and themselves, said Robert Tracy, chief of crime control strategy for the department. Whenever officers nab someone on the list, they are required to note “two degrees of separation” on the arrest report, he said.

District commanders have even met personally with some on the list to give them “custom notifications” that they're being watched and will get arrested if they step out of line. They're also offered social services to get out of a life of crime.

“This is tough love,” Tracy said.

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Whodunit? In Obsessed Nation, Question Becomes Who Didn't (NYT)

By Simon Romero
February 8, 2015
The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES -- The president did it. No, it was the Argentine spymaster plotting against her. Maybe it really was a suicide, the tragic fall of a man whose case was coming undone. Or was it Iran, the Israeli Mossad, the C.I.A.? And what about the lingering influence of the Nazis who fled here after World War II?

Ever since the fatal shooting of Alberto Nisman, the prosecutor who accused President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner of conspiring with Iran to cover up responsibility for the bombing of a Jewish community center, this country has been awash in theories about who pulled the trigger, and why.

Whether in hushed conversations in cafes, at corner news stalls, or at a lonely beach town hot-dog stand, much of Argentina seems to have an idea about how Mr. Nisman ended up on his apartment floor with a gunshot wound to the head -- the night before he was scheduled to testify about his accusations to lawmakers.

"It has to either be the armed faction of narco-Nazi-jihadist international terrorism, or it has to be the Jewish-Marxism mafia that also involves the C.I.A., Israel and the Mossad," said Carlos Wiesemann, 65, a hot-dog vendor in the town of Pinamar, weighing his list of suspected forces while drinking whiskey with a friend.

Indeed, the obsession with Mr. Nisman's death -- and the expansiveness of the theories to explain it -- has grown so intense that some Argentines are poring over the case in one of the country's most intimate sanctuaries: the psychotherapist's office.

"All my clients are talking about the case," said María del Carmen Torretta, 67, a psychoanalyst who treats about 15 clients a week in Villa Ballester, a suburb of Buenos Aires. "People are tired and scared," she said. "It's a red-hot issue."

Pollsters have even surveyed Argentines to see who they think is responsible. One recent poll by Rouvier showed that about 48 percent of people in 800 telephone interviews across Argentina thought that Mrs. Kirchner's government was behind the prosecutor's death. Nearly 20 percent said the opposite -- that he was a victim of a conspiracy against the government -- while 33 percent acknowledged that they just did not know. The survey's margin of sampling error was plus or minus three percentage points.

The loss of Mr. Nisman is the latest installment in a Latin American tradition: landmark political deaths that spur an array of clashing theories, often for decades.

"Many people are in anguish over Nisman's death and they're grasping for ways to explain it," said Diego Sehinkman, a psychologist and author here. "If Argentina were a patient, it would appear to have a disorder involving repetition compulsion over traumatic unsolved deaths."

Much like the Kennedy assassination in the United States, suspicious deaths have become staples of political debate in the region, sometimes pushing the courts and the authorities to go to great lengths to resolve them.

In recent years, the body of President Salvador Allende of Chile was exhumed to determine whether he took his own life or was shot dead as troops stormed the presidential palace in an American-supported coup on Sept. 11, 1973.

The remains of Pablo Neruda, the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet, were recently exhumed to figure out whether he died of cancer or foul play shortly after the coup in 1973. Investigators recently disinterred João Goulart, a Brazilian president deposed in a 1964 coup supported by the C.I.A. to see if he was poisoned by spies while in exile in Argentina.

And in a particularly dramatic event, President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela had the sarcophagus of Simón Bolívar, the 19th-century aristocrat who freed much of South America from Spain, opened on national television to determine whether he died of arsenic poisoning instead of tuberculosis in 1830, as historians had long accepted.

In each of these cases, investigators failed to find evidence of foul play in the deaths.

Here in Argentina, many people said that Mr. Nisman's death reminded them of another mysterious episode in the country's history: the 1995 death of the son of Carlos Menem, Argentina's president at the time.

After Carlos Menem Jr. died in a helicopter crash, his mother claimed that her son had been killed, prompting yet another exhumation. Mr. Menem, now 84 and a senator, officially contended as well last year that his son had been murdered.

Mrs. Kirchner made it clear in January that she believed Mr. Nisman, the prosecutor, had been killed, pointing to three previous episodes, two from 1998 and one from 2003, in which "cases of suicide were never cleared up." Mrs. Kirchner and her inner circle have rejected Mr. Nisman's accusations of wrongdoing and cast suspicion in his death on a range of

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figures, including the assistant who lent Mr. Nisman the gun and the ousted spymaster who worked with Mr. Nisman to compile the allegations against the president.

Though neither Mrs. Kirchner nor her government has accused anyone of murder directly, she has described Mr. Nisman's death as part of a plot to smear her, saying, "They used him while he was alive and then they needed him dead."

But given that Mr. Nisman's 289-page criminal complaint accused Mrs. Kirchner of trying to reach a secret deal with Iran to derail his investigation into the 1994 bombing of the Jewish cultural center, which killed 85 people, many Argentines argue that her government is the logical place to look for suspects.

"This is a country where mafias can artfully make a murder look like a suicide," said Ana Rosa Di Serio, 65, a newsstand operator who said she believed that government officials supporting Mrs. Kirchner had Mr. Nisman killed, though without the president's knowledge.

Others reject that theory, siding with the government.

"It doesn't suit the government to have a death in an election year," said Claudia Rúmolo, 55, the owner of Mordisquito, a bar lined with bookcases in downtown Buenos Aires, referring to the presidential election later this year. "A rogue branch of the Intelligence Secretariat did it, responding to opposition sectors nationally or abroad."

Confused yet? The theories get far more complex.

While investigators have still not ruled whether Mr. Nisman was killed or took his own life, few of the theories heard on the streets accept suicide as an explanation.

One claim involves a local assassin targeting the prosecutor with the help of Venezuelan spies. Some bloggers have cast suspicion on what they describe as the Chinese mafia. A rabbi here put forward a complex interpretation of the Torah, pointing to a codified reference to the surname "Nisman" to deduce that the prosecutor was pressured by others into killing himself.

"I don't know who did it, but I'm sure we will never find out," said Marcus Macias, 29, an attendant selling snacks and soft drinks at a kiosk while watching a zombie movie on a flat-screen television under the glow of neon lights.

"These things happen everywhere," he said. "The Nisman case is just like Kennedy."

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A month after deadly siege, French Jews plan exodus (WAPO)

By Griff Witte
February 8, 2015
The Washington Post

SAINT-MANDE, France - For all her 30 years, Jennifer Sebag has lived in a community that embodies everything modern Europe is supposed to be.

Inclusive, integrated, peaceful and prosperous, the elegant city of Saint-Mandé - hard against Paris's eastern fringe - has been a haven for Jews like Sebag whose parents and grandparents were driven from their native North Africa decades ago by anti-Semitism.

"I've always told everyone that here, we are very protected. It's like a small village," Sebag said.

But in an instant on the afternoon of Jan. 9, Sebag's refuge became a target. A gunman who would later say he was acting on behalf of the Islamic State walked into her neighborhood's kosher market and opened fire, launching a siege that would leave four hostages dead - all of them Jewish.

A month later, the Jews of Saint-Mandé are planning for a possible exodus from what had once appeared to be the promised land.

In homes, in shops and in synagogues guarded night and day by soldiers wielding assault rifles, conversations are dominated by an agonizing choice: stay in France and risk becoming the victim of the next attack by Islamic extremists, or leave behind a country and a community that Jews say they are proud to call home.

The French government has scrambled to persuade them not to go, aware that if Jews see little future for themselves in Saint-Mandé - where Muslims, Christians and Jews have long lived in harmony - then there's no chance for the European ideal of interfaith coexistence.

And yet, for a rapidly rising number of Jews, here in Saint-Mandé and across France, the decision has already become clear.

"The question is not will they leave or won't they leave," said Alain Assouline, a prominent Saint-Mandé doctor and president of a Jewish community center. "The question has become when they will leave."

For Sebag, her husband and their three young sons, the answer is within months. After pondering a move for economic reasons, the attack on a market where they regularly shop erased all doubts.

They will travel this summer from the only home they have ever known to Israel, where they have no close friends or relatives, where they don't speak the language, and where war flares all too regularly. There they will start anew, much as Sebag's grandparents did decades ago.

"They came here from Morocco and Tunisia because France was a wonderful country," said Sebag, a cheery real estate agent who lives with her family in an airy, prewar apartment overlooking one of Saint-Mandé's chic shopping districts. "They made all sorts of sacrifices, and we've had a really nice life here - until today."

The attack on the kosher market was the last in a three-day series of radical Islamist assaults that traumatized the nation. By the end, 17 victims lay dead, including much of the staff at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

But of all the communities affected, France's half-million Jews have perhaps felt the consequences most acutely.

French Jews were already on edge by the time Amedy Coulibaly, a 32-year-old small-time criminal and son of Malian immigrants, took hostages at the Hyper Cacher grocery on the border of Paris and Saint-Mandé.

Anti-Semitism had been rising in France, as it had across Europe. In Britain last year, for instance, there were more than 1,100 anti-Semitic incidents recorded, double the number from 2013, according to data released Thursday by the Jewish nonprofit Community Security Trust.

But the fears of rising violence have been especially pronounced in France after a 2012 attack at a Jewish school in Toulouse that left a teacher and three students dead.

The Jewish Agency, which encourages immigration to Israel, says the number of French Jews leaving for Israel each year had been steady at about 2,000 until 2013, when it hit 3,400. Last year, it jumped to more than 7,000 - making France the leading contributor of immigrants to Israel and marking the first time that more than 1 percent of a Western nation's Jewish population has left for Israel in a single year, according to Avi Mayer, a spokesman for the Jewish Agency.

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Since the Hyper Cacher attack, calls to the Jewish Agency's Paris office have more than tripled, Mayer said, and the agency is predicting that 15,000 French Jews will move to Israel in 2015.

Many others will choose to leave for the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and beyond.

At the kosher butcher's shop two doors down from the still-shuttered Hyper Cacher one recent day, the talk focused on whether to go, and where.

"My husband's ready, but not me," a young woman picking up a chicken told the butcher. "I was in Tel Aviv in July, and I watched rockets fly into the sea. I wouldn't feel safe there, either."

The butcher, a 20-year-old named Aaron Sultan, said he and his fiancee are deciding where to start their life together and are leaning toward Israel.

"My parents left Tunisia during the Yom Kippur War [in 1973]. My mom tells the story that they fled for France when the Arabs were at their door, ready to kill them," said Sultan, who wears a black kippah, or prayer cap, atop his close-cropped dark-brown hair.

Now he is preparing to flee France, but his parents are reluctant. "I've asked my mom, 'Do we wait for the same thing here? Until the Arabs are at our door, ready to kill us?' " said Sultan, who spent the afternoon of the attack hiding on the shop floor as the crack of bullets pierced the air a few yards away. "It's hard to leave, but when we don't feel safe, we have no choice."

The government has tried to reassure the country's Jews by dispatching more than 10,000 camouflage-clad troops to guard "sensitive sites," including synagogues and Jewish schools and community centers. Three soldiers guarding one such center were attacked Tuesday by a knife-wielding assailant in the southern city of Nice.

Far from comforting, the troops' presence has become for many Jews a symbol of their vulnerability.

"It's more stressful than reassuring," said Sebag, who walks past the troops each day as she drops her kids at preschool. Even with all the threats facing Israel, she notes, soldiers are not regularly deployed to defend toddlers.

And yet, Saint-Mandé Mayor Patrick Beaudoin said, the country also needs to defend its Jewish population at all costs. "They belong to this country. France needs them," he said.

A mass exodus from Saint-Mandé could be ruinous for a city where about a third of its 22,000 residents are Jewish and where the faith's roots run deep. The formidable white stone walls of one of the area's main synagogues have been standing for the past century.

The community has changed in recent years, with the original Ashkenazi Jews - those with European origins - supplemented by an influx of Sephardic Jews from North Africa.

Muslims from North Africa have also begun to make the area home, adding to a national Muslim population of about 5 million, though their community in Saint-Mandé is considerably smaller than the Jewish one. By nearly all accounts, the new arrivals have been welcomed to the city, with Jews and Muslims befriending one another and going into business together. Assouline, the doctor and Jewish community center leader, has two partners in his practice: one Catholic, the other Muslim.

Jewish residents of Saint-Mandé say the problem of Islamic extremism doesn't exist here. But as they discovered Jan. 9, it's not far away, either, lurking in the less-salubrious suburbs, where last month's attackers had their roots.

"We can't say that these are jihadists imported from Iraq or Syria," said Marc Krief, rabbi at the Synagogue of Vincennes - Saint-Mandé. "They were French citizens. They grew up in the suburbs. They went to the local mosques. They learned their way of thinking from here."

Krief said he has told his congregants that if they want to leave France for economic or cultural reasons, they should go ahead. But he does not want them fleeing in fear when the scourge of anti-Semitism is global.

"I don't see a country in the world that's safe enough," Krief said. "In Israel, there's war. In the United States, there could be another terrorist attack. It wouldn't change anything to leave."

And yet, given the lessons of Jewish history, the impulse to leave Europe amid increasingly ominous warning signs runs strong.

"Personally, I have faith in our community. I'm an optimist," said Assouline, who intends to stay. "But whenever I say that, there's always someone who reminds me, 'In 1933, there were two types of Jews: the pessimists and the optimists. The pessimists left and went to the U.S. The optimists ended up in the death camps.' "

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Europe Pushes for Diplomatic Solution in Ukraine Amid Calls for Arming Kiev (WSJ)

By Anton Troianovski, Laurence Norman and Julian Barnes
February 8, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

MUNICH—The diplomatic scramble to calm the resurgent Ukraine crisis spilled into the open here on Saturday, as Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko urged an immediate cease-fire, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel countered calls from some U.S. senators for the West to deliver weapons to Ukraine.

The international push for an agreement that would stop the fighting accelerated after Ms. Merkel and French President François Hollande held emergency talks in Kiev and Moscow in recent days. German and French officials stayed behind in Moscow this weekend to work on the deal after Ms. Merkel and Mr. Hollande departed late-night talks there Friday, a sign that substantive negotiations were continuing, a Western official close to the talks said.

Mr. Poroshenko on Saturday said the success of a first step in a peace plan—a cease-fire initiative—could be known "in very few hours or maybe maximum a few days."

Meanwhile, differences between Western allies over an approach to the crisis were apparent on Saturday. Pressure has been building in the U.S. to send lethal weapons to Ukraine, going beyond the humanitarian and nonlethal aid sent so far.

The German chancellor, who has acted as the West's chief interlocutor with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the crisis, bluntly rejected those calls on Saturday. "The problem is I cannot imagine a situation in which an improved arming of the Ukrainian army leads to President Putin being so impressed that he believes he will lose militarily," Ms. Merkel said at the Munich Security Conference in response to criticism from some U.S. senators. "This cannot be won militarily. That is the bitter truth. The international community must think of something else."

Ms. Merkel and Mr. Hollande have been working to forge a plan acceptable to the rivals that would build on the peace agreements that were reached in Minsk, Belarus, in September. A major sticking point in the talks, the official close to the talks said, was how to balance Russia's demands for more autonomy for rebel-held areas and Western efforts to preserve Ukraine's territorial integrity.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said in Munich the Franco-German peace initiative was "very much worth the effort," but he appeared skeptical that Mr. Putin would follow any agreement. In recent days, Mr. Biden has noted repeatedly that Russia has ignored a series of deals seeking to calm the fighting in Ukraine.

"Too many times President Putin has promised peace and delivered tanks, and troops, and weapons," Mr. Biden said. "We will continue to provide Ukraine security assistance. Not to encourage war but to allow Ukraine to defend themselves."

The vice president said the U.S. doesn't believe there is a military solution in Ukraine. "But let me be equally clear: We do not believe Russia has the right to do what they're doing," he added.

Several U.S. Senators criticized Ms. Merkel at the Munich conference for opposing the sending of arms, a move the White House has been considering. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R, S.C.) said the German government was turning its back "on a struggling democracy."

Referring to the German leader, Mr. Graham said he said he hoped she "remembers all the sacrifices that were made by so many over so long a period of time to achieve what we have today in Germany."

While the U.S. senators were adamant about supplying Kiev with arms, it still wasn't clear where the Obama administration stands on the issue. On Saturday, Mr. Biden didn't directly address the question of providing lethal weapons. U.S. officials are divided over whether to provide lethal aid and what arms exactly should be provided.

But Ashton Carter, the veteran Pentagon official nominated by the White House to head up the U.S. Defense Department, on Wednesday told senators he likely would support proposals to give Ukraine lethal arms in its battle with Russia-backed separatists.

Elsewhere, the battle over eastern Ukraine continued on the ground, as five Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 26 wounded in fighting over the past 24 hours, Ukrainian security council spokesman Volodymyr Polyovyi said on Saturday.

The rebels lost 4 killed and 10 wounded over the same period, a military representative of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic told a local news agency. At least 10 civilians have been killed in the shellings, officials from both sides said.

A local truce was extended Saturday to provide a safe corridor for evacuation of civilians from the heavily-shelled area around a transport hub of Debaltseve, Mr. Polyovyi said in Kiev. The cease-fire, which came into effect Friday, helped to evacuate more than 600 people from the danger zone.

Fighting has intensified in the area in recent weeks, raising concern that Ukraine and Russia could be heading toward a full-

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scale war.

Large shipments of Russian armor as well as fighters have been crossing into Ukraine to support the rebels, according to Western intelligence assessments. Moscow has repeatedly denied such charges.

On Saturday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, speaking after Ms. Merkel in Munich, voiced optimism about the peace talks even while harshly criticizing the U.S. for fomenting the Ukraine conflict. “We believe there is every chance to reach a result and agree on recommendations that will allow all sides to truly resolve this conflict," Mr. Lavrov said.

Mr. Biden met with several European leaders on the sidelines of the conference, including Ms. Merkel and Mr. Poroshenko. He emphasized in those meetings that the U.S. would insist in raising the costs to Russia further if Mr. Putin didn't change his approach to Ukraine, U.S. officials said.

Many senior officials also believe the U.S. taking a more aggressive stand will provide some muscle behind Mr. Hollande and Ms. Merkel's peace efforts.

Ukraine's Mr. Poroshenko later on Saturday tried to play down the debate over arming his country, saying his top priority was securing nonlethal weapons, such as sophisticated radars, to aid the fight.

Ms. Merkel is scheduled to fly to Washington on Sunday for a meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House on Monday, with the Ukraine crisis high on the agenda.

In her speech to the security conference, Ms. Merkel said Russia's actions in Ukraine were in stark contradiction to its international obligations. But she also emphasized the possibility of compromise, noting diplomacy with Russia over the Iran nuclear talks and the removal of chemical weapons from Syria show that cooperation with Moscow on important international challenges was possible.

Ms. Merkel's spokesman described the German leader's talks with Mr. Putin in Moscow on Friday as constructive and substantial, saying the countries involved were working on what he called a new joint document on how to implement a Ukraine peace deal that was reached in Minsk, Belarus , in September.

The Minsk agreements, cosigned by Russia, called for a cease-fire, the withdrawal of foreign troops, the return of Ukrainian government control over its side of the Russia-Ukraine border and steps leading to greater autonomy for the separatist regions. The agreements didn't hold.

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Shiite Militia Drives Back Islamic State, but Divides Much of Iraq (NYT)

By Kareem Fahim
February 8, 2015
The New York Times

CAMP ASHRAF, Iraq -- At their victory rally, the Shiite militiamen used poetry, song and swagger to sweeten their celebration of an ugly battle.

More than a hundred fighters from the militia, the Badr Organization, had been killed in the farms and villages of Diyala Province in recent fighting against the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State. During the battle, thousands of residents had been forced from their homes -- including Sunni families who accused Shiite paramilitary groups like Badr of forced displacement and summary executions.

But the militias had pushed the Islamic State back from key areas in a crucial battle. So on Monday, the Badr Organization convened in a mosque at Camp Ashraf, its base in Diyala, to celebrate its "liberation" of the province -- and to serve notice that it was the vanguard force battling the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

Speaking at the rally, to an audience that included giddy fighters barely past their teens, the head of the Badr Organization, Hadi al-Ameri, boasted of the towns his men and allied militias had set free. "These were big operations that others must learn lessons from," he said.

But even as Mr. Ameri was fishing for broad support and recognition, his group stands among the most divisive in Iraq, accused of atrocities against Sunnis and known for its close ties to Iran. The new government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, which has promised to rule inclusively, has been under pressure to distance itself from retaliatory attacks against Sunnis by both Shiite and Kurdish militiamen.

At the same time, Mr. Ameri's boast rings true: His militia has been among the most effective fighting forces against the Islamic State, gaining ground even as the Iraqi Army has faltered in many places despite support from American airstrikes and trainers.

Now, the Badr Organization's leaders have asserted that their fighters and other allied militias -- organized under the banner of "popular mobilization" forces -- are ready to advance to neighboring provinces and other Iraqi cities menaced by the Islamic State: a shadow army to Iraq's official security forces, flush with its own success.

At their celebration on Monday, the militia's leaders were feeling expansive. Tribal sheikhs had been invited to Camp Ashraf from around the country, some milling around a small photo exhibit of the Diyala battles. Journalists had been asked to join as well, to listen to speeches and to tour the liberated villages.

A group of young fighters in fatigues gathered in a circle, singing religious hymns, and broke to join the mob that formed around Mr. Ameri, the guest of honor.

Standing in front of a backdrop that said "Diyala Wins. Iraq Wins," Mr. Ameri lightly admonished supporters who chanted his name, telling them to praise Iraq instead. He reached out to Sunnis, pledging that Diyala would be a "safe area," and responded to the accusations of atrocities by his fighters, warning that there would be consequences for abuses, including kidnappings and killings, though he did not explicitly acknowledge that they had happened.

"We are determined to complete our mission," Mr. Ameri added, listing other Iraqi provinces that his fighters would liberate soon. "God willing, we will defeat Daesh in Iraq," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State.

His fighters seemed to be spoiling for the coming battle. Haidar Aidan, 25, described eight days of grueling work in the village of Mansouriya, dodging snipers and defusing explosive devices. Twenty-five other Badr fighters, he said, had been killed there.

Families had been displaced, but Mr. Aidan seemed confident that they would be able to return soon, echoing the assurances of his superiors. Now that Mr. Ameri had declared the province free of Islamic State militants, "we will go find other places to liberate," he said.

Ali Jassim Kadham, another fighter, also said it was important to return Sunni families to their homes. But his talk of reconciliation faded as he spoke about Sunni tribes who he asserted were allied with the Islamic State.

Collaborators were worse than the terrorists, he said, warning, "Their punishment will be more severe than Daesh's."

Fears of retaliation by the militias in Diyala grew last month after residents of the Sunni-majority village of Barwanah accused Shiite militiamen of executing 72 people. Mr. Ameri and other Badr officials have denied that their fighters were responsible, even as they have promised to clamp down on abuses.

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A local Badr leader in Diyala, Harath al-Rubai, said he had been in Barwanah on the day the executions occurred, checking the identity cards of refugees from other villages.

He said he had heard about the killings only the next day. "I don't know how and when they were killed," he added. The government has promised a full investigation into the allegations.

Erin Evers, a researcher for Human Rights Watch, said it was dangerous for the government to outsource military operations to Badr and other militias in Diyala, a mixed province home to Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds and Turkmen.

"It's a place where anywhere you light a match, it's guaranteed to start a fire," she said. She said her organization had received reports that the militias, with the cooperation of some Iraqi security forces, had been "disappearing" people in the province for at least the last year and a half.

Salah al-Jabouri, a Parliament member from Diyala, said there had been attempts by "bad people" in the militias to alter the province's demographic balance by not allowing Sunnis to return to their homes. "Violations against Sunni society in Diyala will weaken the strength of the popular mobilization and make Daesh stronger," he said.

But there were few signs of tension as Badr militiamen, accompanied by Iraqi security forces, led journalists on a tour of the province in a heavily armed convoy on Monday. A militia anthem blared from speakers on a truck toward the head of the convoy, catchy but dark, a warning to Badr's enemies: "Fight them!" men sang. "Kill them!"

The fighters proudly showed off the Sudour irrigation dam, which the Sunni extremists had taken over, causing water shortages in the region. The water was flowing again, and a bridge over the dam that was damaged had been temporarily repaired, allowing passage over the waterway.

The Badr Organization's signs were freshly planted along the roads of Muqdadiya District, in a show of authority.

Things appeared to be slowly returning to normal even in villages like Al Aqoud, where a battle between the militias and militants had left stores burned and some homes in rubble.

One shopkeeper, Hafiz Hussein, said that some of the residents, especially Sunni neighbors, were frightened by the Shiite militias and had fled. He said he hoped they would return.

For many who had stayed, the militias had brought only relief. "Daesh was like hell," he said.

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Iran, IAEA to Step Up Talks on Nuclear Program, Agency Chief Says (WSJ)

By Laurence Norman
February 8, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

MUNICH, Germany—Talks between Iran and the United Nations' atomic agency have yielded no significant progress in recent months, although the two sides agreed to step up senior-level dialogue, the agency's head said this weekend.

Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, met Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Saturday on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference annual meeting.

Iran has been in talks with the IAEA for years on past work the West suspects Iran carried out as part of a nuclear weapons program. Iran had promised to step up cooperation with the agency in November 2013, at the same time as the country intensified a separate set of talks with six world powers aimed at setting limits on Tehran's future nuclear activities.

After some initial progress, Iran has offered little new information to the IAEA since May.

“There has not been significant progress," Mr. Amano told **The Wall Street Journal**. “Much more needs to be done" to clarify outstanding issues.

Asked if Mr. Zarif promised to step up the pace of cooperation, Mr. Amano said that wasn't yet clear.

“He listened to me and he agreed to further intensify the dialogue," he said. “He didn't say no."

The IAEA produces quarterly reports on its negotiations with Iran and the next one is due to be sent out to member states over the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Amano said Mr. Zarif did agree that senior Iranian and IAEA officials should “interact more intensively and more frequently."

He said there should be another top-level meeting between the two sides in the coming weeks, although no date is yet set.

In a November 2011 report, the IAEA raised 12 areas of concern about Iran's past nuclear work. Much of the report focused on work that Tehran did more than a decade ago.

Iran has partially addressed one of those issues and in May it promised to answer the agency's questions within three months on two further areas. Mr. Amano confirmed there had still been no real progress on those two issues and that Tehran has still not picked new areas it will discuss in future.

Iran has repeatedly stymied IAEA requests for access to leading scientists, documents and military sites where Western officials say nuclear work may have been carried out. Iran has always denied it had a military nuclear program.

U.S. and other senior Western officials have previously said Iran must answer some of the key questions about its past work if it hopes to convince the international community its current nuclear activities are purely peaceful. However, while Western officials once demanded progress in talks with the IAEA before concluding a final nuclear deal, that precondition seems to have faded.

Mr. Amano said that for Iran, failing to address the issues thrown up by its past work “is not an option."

The IAEA chief said he still sensed political determination to strike a deal on the broader nuclear talks between Iran and the six powers. The IAEA isn't directly involved in those talks, in which Tehran negotiates with the U.S., the U.K., Russia, China, Germany and France.

“Now, we sense there is a political will. They have covered various issues and they have disagreement in some areas as I understand it," he said. “So all the elements are there."

Iran and the six powers have set a late March deadline to complete the framework of a final deal. They have placed a new June 30 deadline for sealing a detailed final nuclear accord.

An agreement would gradually lift tight international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for limiting Iran's future nuclear activities.

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U.S. citizen joins Kurds in battle (LAT)

By Vivian Salama and Bram Janssen
February 8, 2015
Los Angeles Times

As Kurdish fighters gathered around a fire in this damp, frigid mountain town in northwestern Iraq, exhausted from battling the Islamic State group, a surprising recruit wearing a tactical vest with the words "Christ is Lord" scribbled on it joined them.

The fighter, with a sniper rifle slung over his shoulder and a Rambo-styled bandanna around his head, is 28-year-old Jordan Matson from Sturtevant, Wis., a former U.S. Army soldier who joined the Kurds to fight the extremist group now holding a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria.

"I'm not going back until the fight is finished and ISIS is crippled," Matson said, using an alternate acronym for the militant group. "I decided that if my government wasn't going to do anything to help this country, especially Kurdish people who stood by us for 10 years and helped us out while we were in this country, then I was going to do something."

Matson and dozens of other Westerners now fight with the Kurds, spurred on by Kurdish social media campaigners and a sense of duty rooted in the 2003-2011 U.S.-led military intervention in Iraq. And while the U.S. and its coalition allies bomb the extremists from the air, Kurds say they hope more Westerners will join them on the ground to fight.

Foreigners joining other people's wars is nothing new, from the French Foreign Legion to the International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War. The Kurds, however, have turned to the Internet to find warriors, creating a Facebook page called "The Lions of Rojava" with the stated aim being to send "terrorists to hell and save humanity." The page also frequently features portraits of smiling, beautiful and heavily armed Kurdish female commanders and fighters.

Matson, three other Americans and an Australian national who spoke to the Associated Press all said they arranged to join Kurdish forces through the Facebook page, run by the People's Protection Units, or YPG, the main Syrian Kurdish militia fighting in northern Syria and Iraq.

They crossed from Turkey into Syria, now in its fourth year of civil war, before later joining a Kurdish offensive sweeping into Iraq last month. They now are based in Sinjar, where stone homes painted green, pink and yellow have been damaged in fighting and are surrounded by sandbags and piles of rubble. Thousands of Yazidi residents fled into the surrounding mountains last year during the Islamic State offensive.

Foreigners like Matson say they are drawn to helping Kurds, Yazidis and other minority ethnic groups caught up in the battle, facing possible destruction at the hand of extremists.

"How many people were sold into slavery or killed just for being part of a different ethnic group or religion?" Matson said. "That's something I am willing to die to defend."

The other Westerners spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing the reaction of their families, who didn't know where they were, or possible legal troubles if they make it back home.

So far, the U.S. hasn't banned Americans from fighting with militias against the Islamic State group, though it considers the Turkey-based Kurdish Workers' Party, commonly known as the PKK, a terrorist organization. The PKK has been fighting alongside the YPG in Sinjar and in the Syrian town of Kobani.

Australians are forbidden by law from fighting with any force outside of the Australian national army. Australia was also one of the first countries to criminalize travel to Syria's Raqqa province, where the Islamic State group has established the de facto capital of its self-styled caliphate.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad had no immediate response to a query about Americans fighting with the Kurds.

It's unclear how many foreigners total are fighting with the YPG and other Kurdish forces, though both foreigners and Kurds say there are "dozens."

There's a clear camaraderie among the foreign fighters in Sinjar, who mostly travel in pairs.

A number of YPG fighters, many of them as young as 17, joke and tease their new foreign friends, speaking to them in the local Kurdish dialect.

One fighter, 21-year-old Khalil Oysal from Syria, spends much of his time with the foreigners since he can speak English.

"We learn from them and they learn from us," said Oysal, who American and Australian fighters have nicknamed Bucky.

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"They speak with us and they like to joke. They share with us many things."

Western fighters in Sinjar say there is a major drive to recruit as many foreigners as possible, especially those with military training, as many of young Kurdish fighters have little or no experience. The young fighters often pick up weapons and ammunition from dead Islamic State militants. They also have no body armor.

Two of the foreign fighters said they had just returned from visiting an American fighter badly wounded in battle. They said another foreign fighter, a Dutch national, was severely wounded in battle in Syria last week.

"You need to know what you're getting into," Matson said. "A lot of times you're going out, you're in a mud hut. ... You have bullets and a blanket, and sometimes you just have bread, but you need to hold the line."

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A sign of a shift in Afghan-Pakistani ties (LAT)

By Ali M. Latifi
February 8, 2015
Los Angeles Times

For the first time, Afghanistan has sent members of its security forces for training in neighboring Pakistan.

The 18-month program at a military facility in the northwestern Pakistani city of Abbottabad involves only six Afghan army cadets, but is a sign of increased cooperation between the two countries under new Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

During former President Hamid Karzai's administration, Afghanistan repeatedly denied Pakistan's requests for closer cross-border military cooperation. Distrust between the neighbors ran deep, with Afghanistan accusing Pakistan of supporting the Taliban and other militant groups while Pakistan complained that Afghanistan did not stop cross-border attacks.

Ghani's decision has been met with skepticism at home, with many Afghans saying it is too soon to reach out to Pakistan. Afghanistan has also given Pakistan permission to interrogate Islamist extremist fighters captured by Afghan forces.

Amrullah Saleh, former head of Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, said Pakistani authorities must "commit themselves to stop training the Taliban" before military cooperation is expanded. He said the step could prove "dangerous and shortsighted."

Pakistan has said it would crack down on all militant groups operating in its territory. Since a December attack on an army-run school killed 132 children and about a dozen staff members, Pakistan has been under growing pressure to end a policy under which it tacitly sheltered some extremist groups that did not attack the state.

Pakistan has long sought deeper ties with the Afghan military as a way to counter the influence of India, which already trains a small number of Afghan forces. Ghani has sought to normalize relations with Pakistan in an effort to restart peace talks with the Taliban.

Few details on the military training, which began Thursday, have been made public.

Saleh said many issues between the countries have yet to be resolved, including border security and counter-terrorism operations.

For years, the eastern provinces of Afghanistan have been subjected to shelling, which residents and officials say comes from the Pakistani side of the border. Two women in Kunar province were killed Oct. 31, when 11 artillery shells were fired from Pakistan, officials said. From 2012 through 2014, local officials reported that about 5,000 rockets were fired on the province from inside Pakistan.

Afghans have never hidden their suspicion of Pakistan, but the training comes at a time when Pakistani officials and citizens have become increasingly distrustful of the more than 2 million Afghan refugees on Pakistani soil.

The International Organization for Migration has reported more than 22,000 undocumented Afghan migrants fleeing Pakistan, citing increased persecution after the attack on the army school. The attack in the city of Peshawar was carried out by the Pakistani Taliban, a domestic insurgent organization, but international officials say many Pakistanis have taken out their anger on foreigners.

Afghanistan's ambassador to Islamabad, Janan Mosazai, said the training was an "important step in both countries' efforts to strengthen, broaden and deepen security and particularly military-to-military relations and cooperation in all areas."

Graeme Smith, a Kabul-based analyst with the International Crisis Group, said such military exchanges were a "textbook way of building confidence between security forces" that are both facing insurgencies on their soil.

"There's almost zero trust between Afghanistan and Pakistan military forces at the moment," Smith said.

Smith said Ghani was preparing for a future in which U.S.-led international forces will no longer be around to support the Afghan army and police.

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The enemy of our enemy in Yemen (LAT)

By Doyle Mcmanus
February 8, 2015
Los Angeles Times

The Houthis, Shiite Muslim rebels who announced that they were taking control of Yemen's government last week, don't seem much like natural allies of the United States.

One of their favorite slogans is "Death to America, death to Israel, damn the Jews." U.S. officials say they've received money, weapons and training from Iran. An Iranian official boasted recently that thanks to the Houthis, Yemen's capital is now "in the hands of Iran," along with those of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

And yet, last week, Obama administration officials were scrambling to contact Houthi leaders and assure them that the United States doesn't consider them an enemy. "We're talking with everybody," an official told me -- "everybody who will talk with us." The Houthis' top leaders haven't been willing to meet so far, but the Americans are working on it.

Why so much eagerness for a working relationship with a group that wants less U.S. influence in its homeland, not more? Because the Houthis and their allies are now in charge in Yemen, one of the main battlegrounds in the long U.S. war against Al Qaeda. And the Houthis hate Al Qaeda.

U.S. officials consider the Al Qaeda branch in Yemen a bigger threat than any other terrorist group because of its penchant for long-distance attacks against Americans. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, as the group is known, has made several attempts to explode bombs on U.S. airliners, although none has succeeded.

The Houthis are Shiite Muslims and Al Qaeda is rigorously Sunni, but the antipathy isn't mainly sectarian; it's an old-fashioned struggle over territory and power. The Houthis have ruled most of northwestern Yemen for centuries, and they've been alarmed by Al Qaeda's incursions to their south. The two factions have already fought battles on the ground. One of the Houthis' complaints against the Yemeni government they just overthrew was that it wasn't putting enough force into the battle against Al Qaeda. Last week, Al Qaeda issued a statement accusing the Houthis -- a little prematurely, perhaps -- of being "faithful partners of the United States."

In other words, for the U.S., the enemy of my enemy is my friend. But what about the Houthis' Iran problem? Should we be worried that the enemy of our enemy Al Qaeda is also friends with our other enemies -- adversaries, anyway -- in Tehran?

"Iran is on the march," Sen. John S. McCain (R-Ariz.) warned last week . "In Yemen, it's not AQAP that's taken over the government, it's the Houthis." McCain said the solution was "more boots on the ground" -- not a U.S. invasion force, but special operations forces.

Obama administration officials insist that those fears are overblown. The Houthis "get support from Iran, but they're not controlled by Iran," one official told me last week.

Houthi leaders dissolved Yemen's parliament on Friday after weeks of political negotiations deadlocked. Now they are trying to form a new transitional government, and they say it will include representatives of most of the country's factions. (Only about a third of Yemen's 25 million people are Houthis; a Houthi-only government would win little support in the Sunni south.)

The central question for U.S. officials is whether that next government can be persuaded to join in counterterrorism against Al Qaeda at all -- let alone as enthusiastically as the last government.

That was tested over the last two weeks as the United States resumed drone strikes in Yemen after a pause of several months amid the political chaos in Sana.

U.S. officials said they were pleased to find that there was no discernible reaction. But that acquiescence seems unlikely to last. Houthi leaders have long denounced U.S. drone strikes as an invasion of Yemen's sovereignty; they say they can handle Al Qaeda themselves.

And American experts on Yemen say the drone strikes are widely unpopular. "It really has fueled tremendous resentment," said Stacey Philbrick Yadav, a professor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges who has lived in Yemen. "I have never met a [Yemeni] defender of the strategy. It's not criticism; it's more like repulsion."

Indeed, the drone strikes may have been a factor in the fall of Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, who pleased U.S. officials with his open endorsements of cooperation with the United States but proved incapable of retaining support among his own country's political factions.

In President Obama's view, there's no alternative to trying to keep the partnership alive. But as U.S. diplomats wait hopefully

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for their appointments with Yemen's new Houthi power-brokers, they may want to remind themselves of some old lessons about power politics in the Middle East:

Be careful before you claim any model as a success (as Obama said of Yemen only last fall), you may live to rue those words.

When a shaky government declares itself your ally, as Hadi did, that doesn't mean it's acquired extra wisdom. And the enemy of your enemy may be your friend today, but that doesn't make him your friend forever.

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Nigeria Postpones Elections, Saying Security Is a Concern (NYT)

By Adam Nossiter
February 8, 2015
The New York Times

DAKAR, Senegal -- Nigeria's election agency on Saturday night put off a closely contested presidential election after weeks of pressure to postpone it from the ruling party, which analysts say was facing potential defeat for the first time in more than 15 years.

The move is sure to anger the opposition, which has been arguing against a postponement, and inflame its supporters in a volatile electoral environment.

The election, originally scheduled for next Saturday, will now be held March 28, the election agency head told a news conference in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, late Saturday night. The elections official, Attahiru Jega, after days of what were reportedly heated meetings with the government, cited "security" concerns for the delay. He said that Nigeria's top military men -- themselves close to the government -- refused to ensure that security would be "guaranteed" if the vote went ahead as scheduled.

The country's northeast has been in the grip of an Islamist insurgency waged by the Boko Haram terrorist group for nearly six years, with the country's military unable to contain it. It was not immediately clear how that standoff might change in the coming six weeks.

But days ago the national security adviser, Sambo Dasuki, who is close to President Goodluck Jonathan, made it equally clear that he favored putting off the vote.

Darren Kew, a Nigeria expert at the University of Massachusetts Boston, said: "This is a sign of panic on the part of supporters of the president and the ruling party. The real reason behind it is the opposition is surging right now."

Mr. Jega, the elections official, was presented with a "fait accompli" by the country's generals, Mr. Kew said, when security for the election was "withdrawn," adding that "most of the upper brass is very close to the presidency."

In a statement, the opposition All Progressives' Congress said that this is clearly a major setback for Nigerian democracy.

Mr. Jonathan, a Christian from the south, has faced sharp criticism for his failure to contain Boko Haram, for a series of large-scale corruption scandals involving the government and for a faltering economy battered by the falling price of oil.

He is running against a general who ruled the country as a military dictator in the early 1980s. The general, Muhammadu Buhari, a Muslim from the north, has promised to crush Boko Haram and bring corruption to heel: a campaign pledge previously enacted by him with brutal rigor in his previous stint as head of government 30 years ago.

In a country evenly divided between Muslims and Christians, the general is thought to have an electoral lock on the Muslim north, and solid chances in the mixed-religion middle and southwest. Mr. Jonathan is only sure of support in his native far south. But now, with an additional six weeks of campaigning and unlimited cash, his chances have sharply improved, analysts believe.

But electoral violence and pressure from the streets -- an ever-present factor in a country where 2011 was considered a peaceful election, although nearly 900 were killed after Mr. Buhari was defeated -- will almost certainly now figure in as well, analysts said.

Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement on Saturday saying that the United States was disappointed by the decision to postpone the election in Nigeria. "Political interference with the Independent National Electoral Commission is unacceptable," he said, "And it is critical that the government not use security concerns as a pretext for impeding the democratic process."

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U.S.-Thai military exercise to go on despite coup (WAPO)

By Craig Whitlock
February 8, 2015
The Washington Post

The Pentagon is sending 3,600 troops to Thailand this week to participate in a major military exercise, U.S. officials said, even though the country remains under the control of Thai generals who ousted a democratically elected government last year.

The Obama administration suspended military aid and exchanges with Bangkok after the military coup in May. Thailand is still under martial law and its military junta has shown little willingness to relinquish power, but the Obama administration has decided to temporarily set aside political objections to the coup and proceed with the annual exercise, dubbed Cobra Gold.

Cobra Gold is billed as one of the largest multinational military exercises in the world. It has been jointly led by Thailand and the United States for more than three decades; this year's version will feature about 13,000 troops from two dozen Pacific nations, including Japan, Indonesia and South Korea.

The Obama administration was reluctant to pull out, fearing it could jeopardize Washington's long-standing military ties with Thailand, an ally for nearly two centuries. It also worried that a break with Bangkok would drive the Thai generals closer to China, which is jousting with the United States for influence in Southeast Asia.

At the same time, U.S. officials are wary of being seen as endorsing or cooperating with the Thai junta and its ruler, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha. In contrast to prior years, the Pentagon has played down its involvement in this month's Cobra Gold, which begins Monday and runs through Feb. 20.

Marine Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pool, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to comment, referring questions to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

In an e-mailed statement, Melissa Sweeney, an embassy spokeswoman, said U.S. officials "decided this year to proceed with a significantly refocused and scaled down Cobra Gold 2015 exercise, in light of the Thai military's ouster of the civilian government."

She said this year's exercise would place a greater emphasis on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. A large-scale amphibious landing exercise has been canceled, she added, though she acknowledged some live-fire training would still take place. The U.S. troop contingent of 3,600 is down from 4,300 last year.

In the past, the Defense Department trumpeted Cobra Gold as one of its most important joint military exercises. Journalists were taken into the jungle to witness survival training courses, with Thai instructors teaching U.S. Marines how to drink cobra blood and eat insects.

The U.S. military is also planning to proceed next month with another joint exercise with Thailand, known as Cope Tiger, Sweeney said. Cope Tiger is an air exercise involving dozens of aircraft and air-defense units. About 160 U.S. troops participated in the last Cope Tiger, in March 2014, at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base. The Singapore Air Force joined in as well.

The Obama administration reacted sternly at first last May when the Thai generals deposed Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the second military coup to take place in the country since 2006. U.S. officials suspended about $4.7 million in military aid, canceled some small-scale exercises and halted an officer exchange program.

"While we value our long friendship with the Thai people, this act will have negative implications for the U.S.-Thai relationship, especially for our relationship with the Thai military," Secretary of State John F. Kerry warned at the time.

The Pentagon, however, has been hesitant to cut ties. U.S. military commanders prize the access they have to the Royal Thai Navy Air Field at U-Tapao, which has one of the longest runways in Asia.

Prior to the coup, U.S. defense officials had worked hard to cultivate Thailand, culminating in a 2012 visit by then-Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta to Bangkok, where he signed an accord to upgrade the military alliance.

Since the coup, U.S. officials have tried to walk a fine line. Last month, a senior U.S. diplomat, Daniel R. Russel, became the highest-ranking Obama administration official to visit Bangkok since the junta took charge. In a Jan. 26 speech, he lauded the history of U.S.-Thai relations but also criticized the generals for their undemocratic ways.

"I'll be blunt here," Russel said. "When an elected leader is deposed, impeached by the authorities that implemented the coup, and then targeted with criminal charges . . . the international community is left with the impression that these steps could be politically driven."

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Russel's remarks angered the junta, which demanded a formal explanation from the U.S. Embassy.

A few days later, the Thai generals gave a more pointed response. Prayuth, the junta chief, met with China's defense minister in Bangkok, discussed how to expand military cooperation with Beijing, and thanked him for "understanding the political situation in Thailand."

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From: "The Cuba Central Team" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/12/2016 10:52:28 AM
Subject: Week In Review: Lift the Embargo? Why don't we just 'gum it' to death instead?

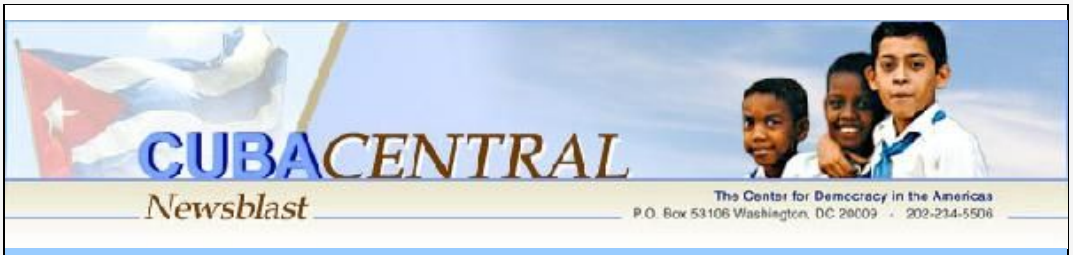

February 12, 2016

Dear Friends:

Last Sunday, someone, somewhere marked the 54th anniversary of the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

We forgot to send a card.

But, perhaps there was a celebration in Australia. An oil company there, MEO, bragged to its shareholders this week about the company's goals for Cuba, where it plans to drill off-shore.

"Cuba Block 9 represents MEO's highest priority asset for near term value creation," says CEO Peter Stickland, who added "MEO's established position in Cuba provides a strong early mover advantage ahead of ongoing strengthening diplomatic relations between Cuba and the U.S."

Take that, Team USA, we got there first...and toss another shrimp on the Barbie.

Cuba has trade relations with more than 160 countries. Its main trading partners include Venezuela, China, Canada, Spain, Brazil, Russia, and Vietnam. These countries have no embargo against Cuba and so, while we in the U.S. talk about doing deals, while the Obama administration - bravely but incrementally - dismantles regulatory barriers to trading with the Cubans, our competitors go to the island and do what we all too often just talk about doing.

The oil company MEO can drill where U.S. oil companies can't because the embargo bars them from doing so. We've followed this issue closely for years, and watched with admiration as Dan Whittle at the Environmental Defense Fund and others fought valiantly to move U.S. policy to the point where the U.S. and Cuban governments can cooperate to defend our coasts against a spill (and there's "a path" for U.S. companies to respond to a crisis). But, Australia's first-mover advantage over U.S. oil companies sidelined by the embargo from drilling remains.

Telecommunications offers a similar case. The administration has made "opening up Cuba" to U.S. telecom firms a high policy priority. It has conscientiously urged Cuba to expand Wi-Fi access to benefit its people and the Cuban economy. After the December 17th diplomatic breakthrough, we've seen and written about the young Cubans crowding together with their smartphones on the streets of Havana adjacent to the Wi-Fi hotspots added by their government which run on equipment supplied by the Chinese company Huawei.

U.S. tourism is much in the same boat. Today, we learned "U.S. airlines could begin more than 100 daily flights to Cuba under [a commercial aviation] agreement that will be signed Tuesday in Havana," USA Today reports. And yes, non-tourist travel to Cuba under President Obama is skyrocketing. But, visitors from the states must

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search for rooms in hotels built by competitors to U.S.-based Marriott International, Hilton Worldwide, and other familiar U.S. brands which have been left to "circle Cuba," as Reuters wrote last year, because that's all they can do so long as there's an embargo.

Like losers who just get to hang around the lobby, our hoteliers can visit the island, and talk to the relevant ministry officials about someday investing and building properties on the island. But, it is Chinese and British developers who've got the go-ahead to build golf resorts, and it is the Vietnamese who've "inked a deal " to trod the path already blazed by Canadian and Spanish hotel firms.

U.S. agriculture suppliers are slightly better off. After Congress legalized sales of food and medicine to the island in 2000, Cuba became a promising market, and the Cuban government for a number of years lived with onerous payment requirements and became a very good customer. American farmers took a special delight in putting wholesale food at a good price on the tables of Cuban families. The island is so close and the government imports two-thirds to eighty percent of the food their country consumes.

But, as Governor Greg Abbott learned last year, his pitch that "Texas has an abundance of (rice and other products) and a very easy ability to export from Texas to Cuba," wasn't an easy sell to officials who run Cuba's new Port of Mariel. They told him, "Cuba would buy rice from other sources, primarily Vietnam, until the U.S. allowed the communist-run island to buy on credit, a measure currently prohibited by the embargo."

You get the picture. Although the president's been liberalizing the policy since 2009, as he promised to do, he and his administration have been regularly pushing out policy changes, regulatory reforms, and making promising progress with the Cubans since the 2014 diplomatic breakthrough.

Non-tourist travel and the economic activity its boosts are both clearly up. Two U.S. mobile phone companies have scored roaming agreements. Another company based in New Jersey signed a deal to provide direct phone service between our countries.

After the administration loosened the rules for financing certain exports to Cuba in January, as the Wall Street Journal predicted, Caterpillar said it is getting traction from the reforms. The company announced this week "it has signed a deal with a distributor to begin the process of selling its products in Cuba, becoming one of the first U.S. manufacturers to enter the island nation that is emerging from decades-long trade restrictions."

More news will come. After Cuba has hosted visits for the U.S. Secretary of State, Commerce Secretary, Agriculture Secretary, and other officials, the Departments of Commerce and Treasury will next week welcome Rodrigo Malmierca, Cuba's Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, accompanied by other officials, for the second round of the U.S.-Cuba Regulatory Dialogue.

We favor talk, and engagement, and the step-by-step process is producing results. But, like our friend Bill LeoGrande, who wrote earlier this month, "Obama Needs to Stop Playing Small Ball With Cuba," it has to be frustrating for U.S. companies to be cast as tire-kickers, browsers, and window shoppers as Cuba makes rational decisions about how, when, and with whom it does business, and they're not really in the running.

So, what's to be done?

First, the president retains a significant amount of authority to take additional executive actions that remove restrictions and allow U.S. firms to compete for business in Cuba. Experts like LeoGrande , Stephen Propst (Hogan Lovells), and others have already laid out compelling proposals to lift

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prohibitions on U.S. investment in Cuba, easing restrictions on U.S. financial institutions processing dollar-denominated transactions, relieving enforcement concerns, and opening up the United States to exports from the island. Did you know that the Cuban bee industry is thriving and that Cuban honey sells for a price that fetches more per liter than oil? The president should do more.

Second, there are reasonable men and women of good will from both political parties who think that repealing not just the travel ban, not just the impediments to agriculture sales, but the embargo in its entirety is a cause that is just.

Members of the bipartisan trade delegation that Reps. Tom Emmer and Kathy Castor will lead to Cuba tomorrow believe that. So, do the Republican and Democratic Governors who wrote the Congressional leadership last year asking for the repeal of all trade restrictions. That is what Congressmen Jim McGovern and Rick Crawford believe - they said it to the U.S. Agriculture Coalition on Wednesday, arguing that a majority of Americans are ready to lift the embargo - if not this year, than certainly next year.

Congress can step up, but should not be asked to do so alone. Beyond joining delegations or visiting Cuba single-file, more U.S. companies and sectors should do what agriculture has been doing for decades and step up so their voices are heard in Congress. We were astonished last year when we read comments by a travel executive who said the "prohibition on tourism will go away" - this is a law that Congress must repeal - as if someone else was going to do it for him, elevating *deus ex machina* to legislative strategy. No, sir; this takes work.

And that is what Swedish Match believes, too. The third-largest manufacturer of tobacco pouches in the U.S. has lobbied Congress more heavily than another company on trade. They are among the new legions of K Street diplomats for whom talk about ending the embargo just won't cut it anymore. They want action, and so do we. U.S. business must step up.

Our Recommendations

U.S. - Cuba

Council on Foreign Relations outlines 2016 candidates' stances on foreign policy issues, including Cuba, *Council on Foreign Relations*
In this interactive guide, "Campaign 2016: The Candidates & the World," the Council on Foreign Relations allows users to focus on each candidate by issue. With quotes from the candidates and clearly articulated summaries, we found the Cuba section to be particularly worthwhile.

U.S. expects "probable presidential transition" in Cuba in 2018 , *EFE / Fox News Latino*
A recent U.S. intelligence report suggests that Cuba may be preparing for a "probable presidential transition" in 2018. This date would coincide with the end of Raul Castro's current term and would reinforce a proposed maximum presidential ten-year term limit. While this report suggests an end to the Castro era, it does not necessarily mean major changes in Cuba's political and social structures. The report made it clear that Cuban leaders will "remain focused on preserving political control," that economic reform and reducing state influence in the economy would be "slow," and that living conditions will continue to be "poor."

Lawmakers Question U.S. Decision to Give Rum Trademark to Cuba , Felicia Schwartz, *WSJ*
A bipartisan group of 25 U.S. lawmakers (17 of whom represent Florida), have sent a

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letter to Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, expressing concerns over the U.S government's decision to grant a trademark for Havana Club rum to the Cuban government. This controversial move, which would allow the Cuban government to sell Cuban-made Havana Club in the U.S. for the first time in decades once the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba is lifted, has also raised concerns that it could undermine protections for American intellectual property rights holders.

The Havana primaries , The Economist
Havana residents are weighing in on the US 2016 election. While two Republican candidates, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, are the children of Cuban immigrants, they are not positively received back on the island. Some Cubans have expressed that they would rather vote for Donald Trump. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton appears to be Cubans' preferred, as many are baffled by Bernie Sanders' open support of what he calls "democratic socialism."

In Cuba

Silicon Island Rebooted: Cuba's Information & Communications Technology Revolution, Timothy Ashby, *Harvard International Review*
Cuba is making significant progress towards becoming a leading hub of IT innovation in the Caribbean. This technological initiative began with Fidel Castro's announcement of a second revolution called the "Future Project." It has evolved over the past 20 years to include new technology curricula in Cuban high schools and universities, and expanded job opportunities in the IT sector.

Cuban baseball stars, the Gurriel brothers, abandon team , Nelson Acosta, *Reuters*
Cuban media outlets have reported that brothers Yulieski Gurriel, 31, and Lourdes Gurriel Jr., 22, two of Cuba's most preeminent baseball layers, have defected from Cuba. The two allegedly left the Dominican Republic hotel where they were staying with the rest of Cuba's professional baseball team. The two hope to pursue their future careers in the United States.

Cuba's 'Black Spring' Still Haunts Journalists , David Soler, *Global Journalist*
The article examines the lives of two exiled Cuban journalists who suffer lasting impacts from the 2003 "Black Spring" -- Fidel Castro's major crackdown on independent journalists inside Cuba. At the time, the international community's attention was focused on the Middle East, but Cuban journalists were facing serious threats, imprisonment, and persecution just ninety miles from U.S. shores.

Cuba's Foreign Relations

Blessed are the peacemakers , Sarah Stephens, *Huffington Post*
Blessed are the peacemakers, it says in Scripture - and the peacemakers seem to converging in Havana. This Friday, the leaders of Roman Catholicism and the Russian Orthodox Church, Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill I, will meet in Cuba to try and advance the healing process between Eastern and Western Christianity, churches which have been in schism since 1054. In coming to Cuba to seek peace, they are not alone. After two years of a tightly held negotiation, the United States and Cuba ended six decades of hostilities, and the diplomatic effort to normalize relations rolls forward in both capitals.

Church talks help make Cuba a "perfect place for negotiations," Andrea Rodriguez and Michael Weissenstein, *AP/Washington Post*
Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill I of the Russian Orthodox Church will meet on February 12 in Cuba. The meeting's setting is historic and symbolic, as it not only represents efforts to reconcile estranged factions within Christianity, but also sets a precedent in which Cuba can become fertile ground for peace negotiations.

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Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/27/2008 6:33:03 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/27/08

Main Topics: Hillary Clinton's Speech, Convention, Negative Ad

Summary of Shift: Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney led the push back against the Democrats this morning. Both praised Hillary while agitating about signs of friction during the convention. Romney warmly admitted the Democratic convention goers were very friendly to him and that Biden would win any debate with his Republican counterpart. Overall, party unity and the Hillary Clinton speech last night were the dominate topics of discussion today. McCain's latest round of attacks on Obama's foreign policy gained some coverage, with at least Fox and MSNBC airing the new ad 'Tiny.' The broadcast networks are making an effort to introduce Joe Biden; all three ran biographical segments on Biden's life, Jill Biden, and other career high lights.

Hurricane Gustav is gaining strength and threatening the Gulf Coast. The hurricane has potential to have considerable symbolic power, since it is believed that the storm will hit New Orleans near the anniversary of Katrina and during the beginning of the Republican Convention. Other news included the FDIC report that many banks are in danger of collapsing, oil prices are expected to loose stability because of fears that the storm will affect refining capability, and a prison break in New Mexico.

Highlights:
1. Giuliani Makes Interview Rounds
   a. CNN: Says Bill Clinton's negative comments aimed at Obama, McCain will follow Pres Kennedy's legacy
   b. MSNBC: Giuliani stumped on why Bush speaking on Labor Day; Brzezinski mocks Ridge
   c. CBS: Continues Clinton X and Y theory, Praises Hillary Clinton's speech
2. CNN: Henry covers McCain's new round of attacks on Obama; mentions POW
3. MSNBC: Romney voices praise for Democratic convention goers, Biden
4. FNC: Huckabee hopes for Pawlenty, Veepstakes

Highlights, No Clip:
1. ABC: DAVID LETTERMAN: Even the leaders in the oil industry know that Senator McCain has it wrong. We can't simply drill our way to energy independence. If you drilled everywhere, if you drilled in all of John McCain's backyards, even the ones he doesn't know he has.
2. FNC: Rudy Giuliani appears to talk about instant replay in baseball; has to leave shortly after beginning interview

Local Coverage:
1. KPHO-CBS-AZ: CATHERINE ANAYA: John McCain spent the morning addressing the American legion convention today. He used the opportunity to launch new attacks on his democratic rival. McCain accused Barack Obama of being confused on his positions about America's place in world.
2. KGTV-ABC-CA: MICHAEL CHEN: The rally is organized by local Democrats, they sent us a press release; it's called 'How Many Homes, John?' Most of the protesters are protesting on veterans issues, they call McCain a veteran that is lost.

Clips:
Highlight #1
Giuliani Claims McCain Called For Surge Before Anyone; Says McCain Will Follow President Kennedy's Legacy (CNN 08/27/08 7:30am)
RUDY GIULIANI: I thought it was an excellent speech and from the point of view of being a Republican and a big supporter of John McCain, I appreciated the fact that it seemed to be a very technical speech about being a Democrat, supporting him as a Democrat, but she never answered the big question. The claim she made during the primaries was he wasn't prepared to be president of the United States. She never said that.

And, of course, during the day it got compounded by Bill Clinton having that speech that he gave in which he talked about candidate X and candidate Y. And he said there may be a candidate X that you agree with but you don't think is prepared to be president. And a candidate Y that you half agree with but you do believe is prepared. Who would you vote for?

Hillary never answered the question who is candidate X and who is candidate Y.

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KIRAN CHETRY: Well, you know --

GIULIANI: And I think that left a big gap.

CHETRY: Well, what I'm wondering though, you know, is the GOP trying to paint her into a no-win situation. If she started bringing up some of Barack Obama's weaknesses that she talked about in the primary, she would have been panned for that.

GIULIANI: Well, she doesn't have to say that. All she had to say is he's prepared to be president. She never said it. She could have talked about how she's gotten to know him, how much she believes in him, his character, his strength.

I think the reason that woman is undecided about supporting Barack Obama, the woman who is very close to Hillary Clinton, is nothing really came from the heart here. This was a very good speech. They clearly agree on the issues.

Now, Barack Obama is clearly Bill Clinton's candidate X with whom you agree on the issues but don't think is prepared to be president.

CHETRY: Well, we'll see.

GIULIANI: But I mean, we'll have to see what Bill says tonight. I'd like the answer from Bill as to who is candidate Y and who's candidate X. That was a very interesting thing that he did and at a very, very inauspicious time for Barack Obama.

CHETRY: You know, another big theme last night for many of the speakers was that a vote for McCain means a vote to continue four more years of the Bush administration. And I know, and we've talked to a lot of John McCain supporters who say, look, he's a maverick. On examples like campaign finance reform, he's gone against the Bush administration. But really, how will McCain show besides those things that he is different from the Bush administration?

GIULIANI: **John McCain was a supporter of the surge, you know, for several years before the surge happened and a critic of the administration for not doing it. In fact, a much stronger critic than I think any of the Democrats.** And John McCain was right about the surge and Barack Obama was wrong about the surge.

So this is a silly kind of democratic thing that isn't going to work which is why their convention I don't think is succeeding. There are reasons to attack different candidates. You cannot say if you really watched politics for the last eight years that John McCain is a continuation of George Bush. Just not so.

They agree on certain things. They disagree on certain things. And where John McCain disagreed he got in trouble in the Republican Party for being so strong about it.

CHETRY: You know, it's interesting because another place they disagree with is about how they would handle the economy, what they would do about taxes.

We have new poll out this morning. This is a CNN/Opinion Research poll showing that voters think Barack Obama would be better to handle the economy by a 51 to 43 percent margin. Has the economy become a Republican weak spot?

GIULIANI: No. Actually, given the nature of Barack Obama's coverage, the enormously favorable coverage he received that even Governor Rendell complained about the other night, it's remarkable that he has such a small edge on the economy.

The reality is that as the Americans get to know his plan to raise taxes, raise tariffs, and bring us towards socialized medicine and create a poverty fund for the world, I think Americans will realize that this would be the worst thing you could do to the economy. **John McCain is going to stick to the things that worked for President Kennedy, President Reagan, and President Bush.**

CHETRY: How do you pay for it all? If you lower taxes and lower the corporate tax by 10 to 15 percent, how do you pay for it all?

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GIULIANI: How about you lower expenses? Which John McCain has been a hawk about all during the time he's been in Congress. After all, he came in with Ronald Reagan and he believes in the two twins of fiscal conservatism which is lower taxes but also significantly lower expenses which is what I did as mayor of New York City. That's how I paid for it. I lowered expenses. It's something that republicans and democrats have both run away from in the last four or five years. But John McCain can bring us back to that. And that is good, sound, American economics.

Brzezinski Mocks Ridge; Giuliani Stumped On Why Bush Is Speaking On Labor Day (MSNBC 08/27/08 9:02am)
RUDY GIULIANI: [...] Are they going to do to him what they did to Governor Warner and stick him to slots earlier so he doesn't get in prime time, we'll have to see.

DAVID SHUSTER: **As supposed to sticking him in the first night of the Convention like what the Republicans are doing with George W. Bush and Vice President Cheney?**
[...]
GIULIANI: I **think George H.W. Bush did the same thing with Ronald Reagan. He put em on on a Monday night. President Reagan had a nice good bye and generally when you're moving on, thats what you- and what did Gore do with Bill Clinton in 2000?**
[...]
SHUSTER: How does the Republican Party keep from dissolving into chaos unless if it is Ridge or Lieberman, there's going to be a floor fight somebody else introducing the nomination of the Vice President. How does the GOP keep that-

GIULIANI: I think the Vice Presidential candidate whoever he is has to say, I support John McCain's policies. I understand if I get elected, on the Republican ticket with John McCain at the top of the ticket- those are the policies the American people expect of me and the candidate will have to agree to that.
[...]
MIKE BRZEZINKI: **Tom Ridge? You mean the guy behind the guy behind the color coded security alerts? [throws hands up in disgust] Are you kidding me?**

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Tell me when's the last time we had an attack on domestic soil?

BRZEZINSKI: **I remember when we had the highest alert right before the election.**

Giuliani Praises Hillary's Speech; Says Clinton Remark Aimed At Obama (CBS 08/27/08 7:40am)
RUDY GIULIANI**: I enjoyed Hillary's speech. I noted that she did not answer the major question that she's raised about Barack Obama. She's the one in the primary that said he's not prepared to be President of the United States, as Joe Biden did**. No where in the speech did she answer that question about his character, his ability to lead, the things that are really at issue here. And here's the -

DEAN REYNOLDS: But standing in this stadium and feeling the enthusiasm, don't you think Republicans have something to worry about?

GIULIANI: No I think Republicans are very hardened by this convention. Everything seems to have gone not the way they have planned it. And the fact is, yesterday, Bil Clinton set up this equation that only Bill Clinton could do, about candidate Y and candidate X I don't know if you heard that. He said candidate Y is someone you agree with, but don't think is prepared to be President. And candidate X is someone you agree with half the time but is prepared, who would you vote for? Sounded to me like Hillary Clinton was talking about candidate Y last night.

REYNOLDS: Wow. Mmm hmm.

GIULIANI: And never answered the question is he prepared to be President and until she does, you're going to have a lot of Hillary Clinton supporters that either not going to vote, I talked to some of them here, or going to vote for John McCain.

REYNOLDS: I don't remember any precedent for this where I've actually seen very very high profile members of the opposition party literally in the same building during the convention. You're here. We're going to talk to you.

GIULIANI: Well I was there four years ago. The morning of John Kerry's speech, the one where he reported for duty. I was on the floor of the Democratic Convention then too so this is my second one. And Democrats came to our convention in New York. So this change in tradition goes back at least one campaign.

REYNOLDS: Let me ask you this question, because as your convention comes up next week in the twin cities, I

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have to say Hillary Clinton had a very funny line about you can't tell them apart - George Bush and John McCain- twins just like the twin city. What do you think your most important job is next week?

GIULIANI: My most important role is to talk to people from the heart. John McCain is someone I consider a hero. Even when I ran against John McCain, I announced if I wasn't running I'd be supporting him. So my job is to explain to the American people why John McCain would be so much more effective a leader than Barack Obama who has no experience.

Highlight #2
Henry Covers McCain's Slew Of Attacks On Obama, Use of POW As Attack On Obama's Foreign Policy
(CNN 08/27/08 8:30am)
KIRAN CHETRY: Well, there's Jay Leno taking a shot at Barack Obama's experience. And this morning John McCain's doing the same thing. His campaign going all out to spoil the Democrats' unity party in Denver with a series of new attacks. CNN's Ed Henry is looking at that.

ED HENRY: John, Kiran, tonight Joe Biden takes center stage in Denver for national security night at the Democratic Convention. But John McCain tried to preempt all that here in Phoenix by launching a whole new series of attacks on Barack Obama.
UNIDENTIFIED MALE: From the Department of Arizona, Senator John McCain.

HENRY: **John McCain teetered on the edge of questioning Barack Obama's patriotism, charging the Democrat is more confident in himself than in America's ability to provide moral leadership around the world.**
[begin clip]
JOHN MCCAIN: My opponent had the chance to express such confidence in America when he deliver a much anticipated address in Berlin. He was a picture of confidence, but in some ways, confidence itself and confidence in one's country are not the same.
[end clip]
HENRY: McCain also claimed his opponent is naive about world affairs, citing the lesson he says Obama took from the end of the Cold War.

BARACK OBAMA: There is no challenge too great for a world that stands as one.

HENRY: **McCain slammed that by mentioning his time as a prisoner of war.**

[begin clip] JOHN MCCAIN: I miss a few years of the Cold War as a guest of one of our adversaries. But as I recall, the world was deeply divided during the Cold War, between the side of freedom and the side of tyranny. The Cold War ended not because the world stood as one, but because the great democracies came together, bound together by sustained and decisive American leadership. [end clip]

HENRY: While Democrats feel the selection of Joe Biden as Obama's running mate helps inoculate them against attacks on foreign policy, McCain plans to harp on the inexperience at the top of the ticket to woo independent voters. A key part of the Republican strategy is to target disaffected Hillary Clinton supporters by using some of her words against Obama. Like recycling her old 3:00 a.m. ad in a new pitch released by McCain.
[end clip]
NARRATOR: Rogue nations. Radicalism.
SEN. HILLARY CLINTON (D), NEW YORK: I know Senator McCain has a lifetime of experience that he will bring to the White House. And Senator Obama has a speech he gave in 2002.
[end clip]
NARRATOR: Hillary's right.
HENRY: McCain is also still firing away at Obama's reaction to Russia's invasion of Georgia as too weak.
[begin clip]
MCCAIN: Confusion about such questions only invites more trouble, violence and aggression. To promote stability and peace, America must stand firmly on the side of freedom and justice. [end clip]
HENRY: The Obama camp called this a false attack, noting the senator in Berlin also said he loves America because the nation sacrifices so much for freedom around the globe. But that's not stopping McCain. He believes this race is a dead heat because of all the tough questions about Obama's experience, and his advisers are promising they're only going to ramp up the attacks at next week's Republican Convention -- John, Kiran.

Highlight #3
Romney Voices Praise For Democratic Convention Goers, Biden(MSNBC 08/27/08 8:30am)
MITT ROMNEY: So far we haven't heard a lot about positions, or how votes have been taken in the past, so it' nice to talk about reality, talk about what Barack Obama's actually done, what he stands for, what John McCain

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stands for. **And frankly, the Democrats have been quite gracious, I went through the convention hall yesterday and people shook hands and were friendly. It's nice to see even in a political convention, people are respectful of the folks on the other side.**

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Let me tell you Governor, it hasn't been that way in the past conventions. I have been struck by the kindness and the generosity and the warmth of the Democrats on the Convention floor. It really- I don't think I've seen a group as well behaved and just gracious.
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Couldn't get off the floor because people were mobbing him.

ROMNEY: Isn't that amazing. [cross talk]

SCARBOROUGH: Let me tell you when we get to St. Paul, I'm going to need body armor. But Governor let's talk about Hillary's speech last night. You've been going around saying she's been critical of Barack Obama but last night people a lot of people thought that was a full throated endorsement of Barack Obama. The party looks like it's unifying.

ROMNEY: Well looks like and is are two different things. As Bill Clinton has said before is isn't what is means but in reality a lot of people in this country not going to do exactly what the party tells them to do or what their own candidate told them to do. They want to look at the individuals and decide who will really lead America in a place where we're stronger and more prosperous and I think they realize that Hillary's going to say everything she has to show her support of Barack Obama. They're going to hear loud and clear what she said during the primary, and that was that he was a speech, that he didn't have the experience to be President. And then Joe Biden saying that Barack Obama did not have the qualifications to be President. Those things ring loud in your ears long after the primary. We all said- we all said critical things of John McCain on issues, but no one on the Republican platform-when we had those debates-said that John McCain was anything other than a good [inaudible] President. [cross talk] But everyone said he was qualified, that he was a man who could be President and that we would support his President, and that's really different than what you heard from Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton.

SCARBOROUGH: You did say though that he did not know anything about the economy.

ROMNEY: **No, not exactly that phrase [crosstalk] but I could be accused of a little hyperbole as well. But John McCain knows a lot more about the economy than Barack Obama does. John McCain may not have spent years in the private sector, but I was trying to pitch myself on that basis, but John McCain has been there during the Reagan revolution, he's seen what has made the economy go up, cause it to get weak, and John McCain-**

SCARBOROUGH: Look at you guys, friends forever. Best friends. [...] If you were John McCain, who would you pick for Vice President?

ROMNEY: Joe Scarborough. [...]

ROMNEY**: I don't think many people can stand up to Joe Biden, I'm quoting a columnist in the Boston Globe, talking about someone else, and impenetrable thicket of words, the guy is all words. And I don't know anyone who is going to beat him in a debate, but I do believe we happen to be right on the issues and I hope we win.** But I also believe if you go back and look at where Joe Biden has been for, you'll see he has thirty years of foreign policy experience, but he's got thirty years of usually being wrong. Everything from our build up to defeat the Soviets, he was wrong on that, he voted against the first Gulf War, he was in favor of dividing Iraq into three different nations, where would be now if we had done that? So he's been wrong time and time again. [...]

Highlight #4
Huckabee Opines On VP Choices, Support Of Pawlenty (FNC 08/27/08 10:07am)
[...]
MIKE HUCKABEE: Tim Pawlenty's smart, he's effective, he's one of my personal favorites. I've known Tim of course as a Governor and I like him a lot. I think you know one of the things he brings is a total loyalty to John McCain. He was on McCain's team from the very beginning, nothing he has to live down what he ever said, so you know it's a safe pick in that no ones goin to dig up tape of Tim Pawlenty saying something unkind or unholy about John McCain from six months ago.
[...]

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
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Date: 1/25/2015 8:21:48 AM
Subject: Dahr Jamail | Mourning Our Planet: Climate Scientists Share Their Grieving Process

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Dahr Jamail | Mourning Our Planet: Climate Scientists Share Their Grieving Process

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: Can you relate to the grieving process as it relates to climate change? If so, you might find solace in the fact that you are not alone: Climate science researchers, scientists, journalists and activists have all been struggling with grief around what we are witnessing.

Read the Article

Peter McLaren: Putting Radical Life in Schools

Paul Street, Truthout: Peter McLaren's *Life in Schools: An Introduction to Critical Pedagogy and the Foundations of Education* argues that schools can and must become zones of popular de-indoctrination, democratic re-imagination and resistance to capital, where teachers instill students with confidence, hope and capacity for resistance and solidarity.

Read the Review

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Obama Administration to Propose New Wilderness Protections in Arctic Refuge; Alaska Republicans Declare War

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission: We're Keeping Fukushima-Style Nuclear Reactors Going

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ALEC Forces the Question: Will Labor Really Go Local?

Simon Davis-Cohen, Truthout: As workers and labor turn to local law-making to achieve gains, their role in a debate over how to ethically and consciously devolve some power to localities seems inevitable.

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Eighty People Control Half of the World's Wealth and All of the Elected Officials

Crystal Shepeard, Care2: Global poverty has continued to rise and it's only going to get worse. Oxfam has predicted that if we do nothing, the wealthiest 1% of the world will control the same amount of wealth as the other 99% combined do.

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The Next Big Progressive Battle: A Living Wage

LeeAnn Hall, OtherWords: Refusing to pay employees a wage they can live on isn't a business plan. Paying employees enough so they can shop or dine at your business or neighboring businesses and grow the local economy - now that's smart.

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With Syriza, the Greek People Can Revive Hope in Europe

Rosa Moussaoui, Translated by Isabelle Métral, L'Humanité in English: For Alexis Tsipras, Syriza's leader, an absolute majority in Parliament would be an asset in order to impose a renegotiation of the Greek debt. Tsipras promises to set up "a government for all Greek people" if his party comes first in Sunday's election.

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Common Dreams

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Let's Not Morph Obama Into Elizabeth Warren Quite Yet
Read the Article at Salon

Effort to Make the "Right to Vote" a True Constitutional Right

Miya Pontes, Campaign for America's Future: In an effort to undo the work being done in numerous states and counties to disenfranchise groups of voters, two progressive House members are aiming to make a promise that is implicit in the Constitution explicit - by calling on Congress to pass a "right to vote" constitutional amendment.

Read the Article

Why Campaign Finance Reform Is the First Issue That We Must Address

Katie Rose Quandt, Moyers & Company: Politicians of all stripes are beholden to their donors, not the US public. And as long as special interest groups and extremely wealthy individuals continue to bankroll campaigns, they'll be the only ones getting what they want.

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Humanity's Future: Below Replacement Fertility?

Joseph Chamie, Inter Press Service: Is below replacement level fertility the future for humanity? The answer to this seemingly simple question regarding human reproduction is not only of considerable demographic concern, but also has enormous social, economic and environmental consequences for the planet.

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New Front Opens in Cold War of the Koreas: Restaurants

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Katarzyna Cwiertka, The Conversation: With both Korean governments now pushing their countries' cuisines, it raises questions about who owns the property rights to Korean food. Where lies the legitimate source of the authentic Korean culinary tradition?

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This week in Speakout:

Survival International reports on the forced eviction of tribespeople from a tiger reserve in India as a result of seeking tourist industry dollars; **John LaForge** examines why military recruiters should feel like Hansel and Gretel's "wicked witch," fattening up the children to eat them; staff at the **Center for Economic and Policy Research** highlight how the private equity industry scored its first victory in its campaign to roll back the SEC regulatory oversight of private equity fund advisers; **David Swanson** looks at how "Kill Team" is not just a video game anymore; **Jen Chapin** celebrates the hard and sometimes dangerous work of grassroots democracy in her video "Gospel"; **Joshua Tartakovsky** shows why Syriza is poised to win with a promise of major social reforms; **Kelly Hayes** describes how, for Marissa Alexander, survival and freedom from abuse have carried a heavy price; **Len Ellis** offers one way to celebrate, honor and follow Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; **99Rise** organizers report that seven activists disrupted the nation's highest court on the fifth anniversary of *Citizens United*; **Victor Grossman** deconstructs the far-right anti-immigrant group PEGIDA's place in German politics; **Pedro Marin** describes how Brazilian reporting of events in Ukraine has been distorted by mainstream media; **the National Bureau of the UJFP - France Jewish Union for Peace** deplores the "trap" set for French Jews; and more.

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Subject: CTR Monday Aug 18, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

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Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Today in 1920, American women gained the right to vote. HRC has always fought for women's equality. #HRC365 http://nydn.us/1hpWNyU [8/18/14, 1:11 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: #ICYMI we put out a new report highlighting @HillaryClinton's strong advocacy for global #LGBT rights. http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-global-lgbt-advocate/ … [8/17/14, 4:00 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton to Attend Fundraiser in Iowa"

"Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton will headline the annual steak fry for retiring Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, making a big return to the leadoff caucus state as the former secretary of state considers another presidential campaign."

Des Moines Register (I.A.): "BREAKING: Hillary Clinton (and Bill) coming to Iowa Sept. 14"

"It will mark Hillary Clinton's first public appearance in Iowa since losing the state's first-in-the-nation caucuses in early 2008, and will undoubtedly spark a national political firestorm, as she is widely expected to run again in 2016."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton makes big political move, heads to Iowa"

"Hillary Clinton will headline Sen. Tom Harkin's Iowa Steak Fry, a Democratic source familiar with the event tells CNN, a move the steps up Clinton's political activity ahead of the 2016 presidential race."

ABC News: "Hillary Clinton Is Finally Going Back to Iowa"

"Hillary Clinton is going back to Iowa for the first time in six years."

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary Clinton to kick off midterm campaigning in Iowa"

"Bill and Hillary Clinton are headed to Iowa in September to headline retiring Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin's (D) annual steak fry. The event, sources confirmed to The Hill, marks the launch of Hillary's fall campaign schedule as she contemplates a run for president in 2016."

USA Today: "Paul Ryan on Hillary Clinton: Formidable — and beatable"

"Rep. Paul Ryan, the GOP's vice presidential nominee in 2012, predicts Hillary Rodham Clinton would be a formidable presidential candidate in 2016 but one with an equally formidable problem."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton is front and center in House super PAC ad"

"Hillary Clinton isn't running for Congress in Virginia's 10th district. But you wouldn't know that based on a Democratic super PAC web ad targeting the race."

Huffington Post opinion: Peter Rosenstein: "Clinton and Obama on Martha's Vineyard; Much Ado about Nothing"

"I am a strong Hillary Rodham Clinton supporter but even I want to understand where she is today on the issues and how she will lead America. Things have changed since 2008 when she last laid out her vision for the nation."

Wall Street Journal blog: Speakeasy: "Watch 'House of Cards' Cad Frank Underwood Prank-Call Hillary Clinton"

"The Clinton Foundation shared a video of Kevin Spacey impersonating Frank Underwood impersonating Bill Clinton as a part of a spoof leading up to the 68th birthday of the former president."

People Magazine: "Kevin Spacey Prank Calls Hillary Clinton as Frank Underwood (VIDEO)"

"This one gets complicated, so bear with us: The Clinton Foundation just released this video of Kevin Spacey as his House of Cards character Frank Underwood phoning Hillary Clinton as Bill Clinton, and it's hilarious."

Elle: "Kevin Spacey Prank Called Hillary Clinton as Frank Underwood"

"Regardless of political leanings, no one can really deny that the Clintons just really get the whole meta, viral thing."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Articles:

Associated Press: “Hillary Clinton to Attend Fundraiser in Iowa”

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 18, 2014, 12:32 p.m. EDT

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -- Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton will headline the annual steak fry for retiring Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, making a big return to the leadoff caucus state as the former secretary of state considers another presidential campaign.

Sam Roecker, a spokesman for the Harkin Steak Fry, says Monday that both Clintons will speak at the Sept. 14 fundraiser in Indianola, just south of Des Moines. It will be the former first lady's first appearance in Iowa since 2008. She is the leading Democratic presidential contender, and the event is among her first campaign appearances before the 2014 midterm elections.

Clinton has said she intends to campaign for Democratic candidates this year. Iowa is the home of a key Senate race, and its presidential caucuses will begin the 2016 nomination process.

Des Moines Register (I.A.): “BREAKING: Hillary Clinton (and Bill) coming to Iowa Sept. 14”

By Jason Noble and Jennifer Jacobs

August 18, 2014, 10:36 a.m. CDT

Hillary and Bill Clinton will return to Iowa next month as headliners for the 37th Harkin Steak Fry, the Des Moines Register has learned.

It will mark Hillary Clinton's first public appearance in Iowa since losing the state's first-in-the-nation caucuses in early 2008, and will undoubtedly spark a national political firestorm, as she is widely expected to run again in 2016.

The Harkin Steak Fry, hosted annually by U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, frequently attracts the top names in Democratic politics. The Sept. 14 event in Madison County just south of Des Moines will be Bill Clinton's fourth visit, and Hillary Clinton's second.

"What started out nearly 40 years ago as a handful of interested Iowans sitting around on hay bales,

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discussing politics, has grown to be an iconic gathering," Harkin said in a statement. "This year's Steak Fry just might be the best ever."

With Harkin's retirement this year from the Senate, this year's Steak Fry will be his last.

"That's why I couldn't be happier than to share this special day with two such close friends," Harkin said of the Clintons. "They have contributed so much good, inspiring leadership to this country, and I know they will continue to do so in the years ahead."

Here are details, according to a press release to be issued by Harkin's campaign staff:

The event will be held Sunday, September 14th from 1:00 - 4:00pm at the Indianola Balloon Field.

CNN: "Hillary Clinton makes big political move, heads to Iowa"

By Dana Bash, Eric McPike, and Dan Merica

August 18, 2014, 11:24 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton will headline Sen. Tom Harkin's Iowa Steak Fry, a Democratic source familiar with the event tells CNN, a move the steps up Clinton's political activity ahead of the 2016 presidential race.

Former President Bill Clinton will also speak at the event, according to the source.

Hillary Clinton's attendance at the 2014 steak fry, which brings together prominent Democratic leaders from the first-in-the-nation caucus state, is the most obvious political step for the former secretary of state and possible candidate for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. Other than campaigning for candidates with whom she has a personal relationship, Clinton has largely tried to stay out of politics since leaving the State Department in 2013.

It has been over five years since Clinton visited Iowa. Her attendance at the event has been rumored by Clinton insiders for over a month.

The steak fry regularly draws big-name, national politicians and is seen as a required stop for any Democrat seeking the presidency. Vice President Joe Biden and then-San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro headlined the event last year and then-Sen. Barack Obama headlined the event in 2006, two years before he bested Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Since leaving the State Department in 2013, Clinton has become a regular on the speaking tour and published a memoir in June about her four years as secretary of state.

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Although widely seen as the frontrunner for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2016, Clinton has tried to play coy about her aspirations. She has, however, used her book tour to tout her record at State and in the past months has become more open about the fact that she is considering running for president.

ABC News: "Hillary Clinton Is Finally Going Back to Iowa"

By Liz Kreutz

August 18, 2014, 12:25 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is going back to Iowa for the first time in six years.

The former secretary of state will headline Sen. Tom Harkin's annual steak fry in Indianola next month, making her first visit to the state since 2008.

Bill and Hillary Clinton will be on hand for Harkin's final steak fry, a representative for the couple confirmed. It's a long-standing tradition that launched a young Barack Obama back in the fall of 2006. This year's event is scheduled for Sept. 14.

Hillary Clinton's decision to headline the steak fry, which "might promise to be the best ever," according to Harkin's website, could be seen as a swift political move for the former New York senator as she continues to mull a second run for president.

The former presidential candidate has not stepped foot in Iowa since she came in third in the Iowa caucuses Jan. 4, 2008: 2,420 days ago. And when she skipped the state during her nationwide book tour this summer, some in Iowa started to feel neglected.

The Gazette, an Iowa newspaper, practically begged Mrs. Clinton to visit last month.

"We've watched as you have flexed your muscles on the international stage and have been impressed with your ability to connect," the Gazette editorialized. "But as Iowans, we need to see that connection in action. Our hope, if you are really considering a 2016 run, is that you have learned from your experience and come to Iowa intent on having true conversations about what matters to our state and the fine people in it."

The Des Moines Register was first to report the news of Hillary Clinton's upcoming Iowa appearance today. It has been confirmed to ABC News by a top Iowa Democrat with long ties to Harkin, who plans to retire next year at the end of his fifth term.

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary Clinton to kick off midterm campaigning in Iowa"

By Alexandra Jaffe

August 18, 2014, 12:31 p.m. EDT

Bill and Hillary Clinton are headed to Iowa in September to headline retiring Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin's (D) annual steak fry.

The event, sources confirmed to The Hill, marks the launch of Hillary's fall campaign schedule as she contemplates a run for president in 2016.

She's one of Democrats' most in-demand surrogates this cycle, with an unpopular President Obama persona non grata on the trail and the party excited at the prospect of her potential presidential bid.

And it marks her first return to a state that was not kind to her during her last run. Clinton posted a damaging third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses in 2008, which crippled her ultimately failed bid at the outset.

Other potential 2016 Democratic hopefuls have already made appearances in the state, including Vice President Joe Biden, who headlined the steak fry last year, and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who keynoted an Iowa Democratic dinner last month.

The fundraiser will benefit Democratic candidates across Iowa, including Rep. Bruce Braley (D), who's locked in a tough fight for Harkin's seat.

Hillary Clinton is also expected to raise money for the major Democratic campaign committees, and is likely to hit the trail for a number of other Democratic candidates facing difficult races.

USA Today: "Paul Ryan on Hillary Clinton: Formidable — and beatable"

By Susan Page

August 18, 2014, 1:04 p.m. EDT

Rep. Paul Ryan, the GOP's vice presidential nominee in 2012, predicts Hillary Rodham Clinton would be a formidable presidential candidate in 2016 but one with an equally formidable problem.

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That would Barack Obama.

"I don't think people are going to want to have an Obama third term, and no matter how she tries to shake that label, she won't be able to," the House Budget chairman told USA TODAY in an interview in his Wisconsin hometown. While the former secretary of State would be daunting — "I mean, look at the Clinton name, the ability to fundraise" — she would have vulnerabilities that Obama and Joe Biden didn't when they handily defeated Republicans Mitt Romney and Ryan in the last election.

"The challenge Mitt and I had was, we sort of felt like we were shadow-boxing with big government in theory, because all of the things that the president passed hadn't become effective yet," Ryan says, mentioning implementation of major provisions of the Affordable Care Act and the Dodd-Frank financial regulation law. "Well, now it's 2014 and the rubber has hit the road, and the results look nothing like the rhetoric that was used to sell it. So they have a harder case to make because we see big government in action."

He calls Clinton's record "abysmal" on Russia, Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I'm thinking about the foreign policy that was created in the first four years of the Obama administration that now have manifested in the second term, and we're now seeing as a result of this foreign policy America losing its standing in the world and Americans becoming less prosperous and less secure as a result of that," he says.

That reminds him of a previous election when an uneasy electorate rejected the party in power in favor of a conservative Republican challenger. "Ronald Reagan beat Jimmy Carter with the exact same kind of dynamic," Ryan says. "I see the chance in the making for another 1980-like election."

Of course, that would depend on Republicans nominating a candidate who turns out to be as persuasive now as Reagan was then.

Politico: “Sharpton: Where are Christie, Clinton?”

By Jonathan Topaz

August 18, 2014, 12:35 p.m. EDT

Rev. Al Sharpton on Monday called out former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and other potential presidential candidates for what he sees as keeping quiet on the death of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown and the situation in Ferguson.

“I’m amazed that we’re not hearing from leading [presidential] candidates — Chris Christie or [former Florida Gov.] Jeb Bush, or Hillary Clinton,” he said on MSNBC.

“[A]ll of these candidates — I land in New York this morning and I see Chris Christie dancing with Jamie

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Foxx," he added, a reference to a video obtained by the New York Post that showed Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain and Christie dancing at a party hosted by the comedian in the Hamptons this weekend.

The civil rights leader said that anyone vying for the presidency in 2016 should have to weigh in on the events in Ferguson. "This is now a national, central issue, and anyone running for president needs to come up with a formula or — in my opinion — they forfeit their right to be taken seriously."

Neither Christie nor Clinton has made major public statements regarding the August 9 fatal shooting of Brown, a black teenager who was killed by a white Ferguson police officer, Darren Wilson. Clinton was also in the Hamptons this weekend for a book-signing event.

Sharpton — who has visited Ferguson at the invitation of Brown's family — weighed in on a preliminary autopsy that showed Brown was shot at least six times, including twice in the head. The report — first obtained by The New York Times — found that there was no gunpowder on Brown's body, suggesting that the bullets might not have been fired at close range. Dr. Michael Baden, who conducted the autopsy, said that determination could change depending on whether gunpowder is found on Brown's clothing, which have not yet been examined.

"What is disturbing to me is the amount of shots — which means even if we buy the story that the police is giving — why were there shots after the first shot?" Sharpton said Monday. "And, that they were not shot at close range," he said, adding that the report was "extremely disturbing."

Sharpton also said that Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's decision early Monday to deploy National Guard troops to Ferguson could have "explosive" consequences.

"This could be explosive. The National Guard raises concern. I might be turning around and going right back," he said, suggesting he might return to Ferguson.

CNN: "Hillary Clinton is front and center in House super PAC ad"

By Dan Merica

August 18, 2014, 11:28 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton isn't running for Congress in Virginia's 10th district. But you wouldn't know that based on a Democratic super PAC web ad targeting the race.

Clinton, the former secretary of state and likely presidential contender in 2016, is featured prominently in a House Majority PAC web ad released Monday that looks to target Barbara Comstock, the Republican nominee for the northern Virginia seat.

On the campaign trail, Comstock has heralded her role as chief investigative counsel for the House

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Committee on Government Reform during former President Bill Clinton's second term in office. Comstock was a thorough investigator and headed a number of high-profile investigations into Clinton White House affairs.

While some turned up malfeasance, others didn't and Clinton loyalists have labels Comstock a serial and professional Clinton-hater.

"Barbara Comstock's running for Congress, hell-bent on smearing Hillary Clinton," said a narrator in the House Majority PAC ad.

The ad goes on to say that Comstock is "almost unhinged in her passion to bring down the Clintons," citing a book by David Brock, a Clinton defender.

"Regardless of Clinton's political future, Virginians deserve a representative who will focus on them, not a long-standing political vendetta," Matt Thornton, communications director for the PAC, said in a statement.

CNN attempted to contact the Comstock campaign for a comment about the ad, but did not receive a response.

The ad is paired with a simple website, StandingWithHillary.com . On the website, visitors are asked to register with their email and postal code.

Comstock has not been shy in her desire to continue to investigate the Clintons. She told delegates at the Virginia state Republican convention that if elected, she would try to get to the bottom the September 11, 2012 terror attack on a U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya that killed four Americans. The attack, which occurred while Clinton was secretary of state, has continued to dog her since she left the office in 2013.

Clinton has been more open about her presidential aspirations of late. Widely seen the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, the former first lady is already getting hit in campaign ads from the right.

Comstock will face off against John Foust, the Democratic nominee for the seat, in November. Both are vying to replace the retiring Rep. Frank Wolf.

Huffington Post opinion: Peter Rosenstein: "Clinton and Obama on Martha's Vineyard; Much Ado about Nothing"

By Peter D. Rosenstein

August 18, 2014, 11:07 a.m. EDT

It always amazes me when the media makes a huge deal out of nothing yet misses the real point of a story.

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An example is the recent flap over Hillary Clinton disagreeing with President Obama over foreign policy issues. The real story is how Hillary views America's role in the world and not whether she offends Barack Obama while talking about that.

We know what his vision is and we elected him based on it even if there are now some misgivings about that in certain sectors of the electorate. We knew when we elected Obama that foreign policy wasn't his strong point and he had little experience in that area. But we liked his vision for the world. When the Clinton campaign released their "3 a.m. Phone Call" commercial there was some laughter about it. Clearly enough primary voters didn't think her claim to more extensive experience was enough to make a difference and they supported Obama.

Obama and supporters like David Axelrod made disparaging remarks about Clinton at the time suggesting that all her meetings with world leaders amounted to being at a lot of tea parties. Samantha Powers, currently the US Ambassador to the UN, then an Obama campaign worker, said about Hillary in a 2008 interview with The Scotsman, "She is a monster, too -- that is off the record -- she is stooping to anything... if you are poor and she is telling you some story about how Obama is going to take your job away, maybe it will be more effective. The amount of deceit she has put forward is really unattractive." Clinton hater Maureen Dowd chimed in recently, "After buoying Hillary, Obama is learning the truth of another unofficial slogan in politics: "The Clintons will be there when they need you." Yet despite the attacks in 2008 and proving Dowd lives in a fantasy land, both Hillary and Bill Clinton worked hard to elect Obama after Clinton lost to him in the 2008 primary and Hillary went to work for him for four years. Many credit Bill's 2012 convention speech and his barnstorming the county with giving Obama the added momentum to win his 2012 reelection. That is what you do in politics when the campaign is over.

So reporting should be focused on Clinton's ideas on foreign policy and how she will handle various crisis and not whether the President will be offended if she differs with him. She will differ in some areas and like it or not she has a record on these issues. She stood by Obama for four years as his Secretary of State and kept their differences between them. No one can say she wasn't a good ally and a good spokesperson for the decisions that Obama made.

Today Hillary is viewed as the future and Obama shortly will become the past. It looks more and more like she will be a candidate for President in 2016 and there are times she will stand up for what Obama has done and at others she will make her differing positions clear. The American people deserve no less. They are entitled to know where she differs with him if she is going to ask for their vote.

It isn't Hillary's fault that we have this long drawn out election process. At this stage before the 2008 election Obama was already out there putting together his campaign and telling people why they should elect him. Hillary is entitled to do no less. She wrote a book in which she outlined differences she had with Obama and while some like Axelrod seem to question why she did this book tour it seems a little like sour grapes on his part. I don't think his views are that of the President who understands better than anyone else the vagaries of running for President.

I am a strong Hillary Rodham Clinton supporter but even I want to understand where she is today on the issues and how she will lead America. Things have changed since 2008 when she last laid out her vision for the nation.

President Obama brought us back from the brink of a deep depression to an economy that is starting to gain momentum. But issues surrounding our foreign policy are not so clear. We are the world's only remaining super power and don't have the luxury of being isolationist. We need a foreign policy that is robust but takes into consideration that the American people will not support sending our military into another war. For the next year and a half President Obama as Commander in Chief will be making decisions. But there will be a presidential campaign going forward, hopefully including Hillary, and she must tell us how she views the world and America's place in it. Hillary cannot be hamstrung in telling us what she

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believes because she is worried about offending the President.

I think he fully understands the position she is in and I believe he will respect why she needs to make her differences with him public.

Wall Street Journal blog: Speakeasy: "Watch 'House of Cards' Cad Frank Underwood Prank-Call Hillary Clinton"

By Lyneka Little

August 18, 2014, 9:00 a.m. EDT

Spoiler Alert: Frank Underwood spends time in the White House prank calling Hillary Clinton.

The Clinton Foundation shared a video of Kevin Spacey impersonating Frank Underwood impersonating Bill Clinton as a part of a spoof leading up to the 68th birthday of the former president.

"Washington, D.C. is so boring during summer that I like to entertain myself by having some, well, fun with my predecessors," Spacey in character as Underwood from "House of Cards" tells the camera from the Oval Office before phoning Hillary Clinton at a rectangular office.

Doing his best Bill Clinton impersonation, Spacey tries to get Hillary to reveal the former president's birthday gift. Unfortunately, has about as much luck as getting Clinton to reveal her presidential plans. The former Senator and Secretary of State refuses to divulge what she will be getting her husband for his birthday on Tuesday, August 19.

And, in the spoof, Spacey is unable to sell Clinton on convincing Chelsea to name the couple's first grandchild Frank or Claire.

Check out the video below.

[VIDEO]

People Magazine: "Kevin Spacey Prank Calls Hillary Clinton as Frank Underwood (VIDEO)"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Alex Heigl

August 17, 2014, 6:30 p.m. EDT

This one gets complicated, so bear with us: The Clinton Foundation just released this video of Kevin Spacey as his House of Cards character Frank Underwood phoning Hillary Clinton as Bill Clinton, and it's hilarious. Still with us? Okay, read on.

Spacey-as-Underwood-as-Clinton asks Hillary for an elephant for his 68th birthday (which is Aug. 19) – likely a reference to Hillary and Chelsea's pleas to stop elephant poaching – then listens as Hillary talks about her possible presidential bid. (He also suggests some names for Chelsea's baby, "Frank" notably among them.)

It's hardly the first time Spacey's brought Underwood into the real world for a laugh: He addressed Emmy viewers as Underwood last year and briefly slipped into the accent while presenting at the Oscars in March.

Elle: "Kevin Spacey Prank Called Hillary Clinton as Frank Underwood"

By Victoria Dawson Hoff

August 18, 2014, 10:00 a.m. EDT

As his presenting gig at this year's Oscars ceremony proved, Kevin Spacey certainly doesn't mind channeling his alter-ego Frank Underwood beyond the set of House of Cards. But that doesn't make this latest spoof video any less amazing—especially since Hillary Clinton got in on the action, too. In honor of husband Bill Clinton's birthday tomorrow, the former Secretary of State teamed up with the actor to film a prank call scene in the style of the Netflix show. It is, in a word, brilliant:

[VIDEO]

From the "oval office" vs. "rectangular office" denotation in the beginning, to the Frank and Bill text exchange at the end, this might be the best video we never asked for. Regardless of political leanings, no one can really deny that the Clintons just really get the whole meta, viral thing.

And we have to echo our favorite fictional President and say happy birthday in advance to the former actual President! We'll keep an eye out for a baby elephant.

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From: "Devine Mulvey Longabaugh" <julian@devinemulvey.com>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/13/2013 8:25:56 AM
Subject: Two Big Wins for Devine Mulvey Longabaugh

Devine Mulvey Longabaugh (DML) is excited to announce two major victories in recent weeks for the new firm.

View this email in your browser

DEVINEMULVEYLONGABAUGH

Two Big Wins for Devine Mulvey Longabaugh

A Mayoral Primary Upset, and Nuclear Plant shutdown

Washington, DC—June 13---- Devine Mulvey Longabaugh (DML) is excited to announce two major victories in recent weeks for the new firm.

On May 22, mayoral candidate Eric Papenfuse stunned Harrisburg, PA's political class by winning the Democratic primary against incumbent Mayor Linda Thompson and City Controller Dan Miller. Initially, polls had Papenfuse in third place behind Mayor Thompson and 27 points behind Miller. Papenfuse ran a smart campaign tying his opponents together and becoming the only voice for change. Papenfuse won 38% of the vote, defeating both Miller (32%) and Thompson (28%) in what The Patriot News called, "the most hotly contested Harrisburg Mayoral race in 30 years."

See Papenfuse's ads here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHGF2jddw_k

Last Friday, Southern California Edison announced they will permanently shut down the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant. Over the last year and a half, Mark Longabaugh has worked with Friends of the Earth on a campaign to keep San Onofre shut down. With the help of his former partner and the partners of DML, Longabaugh produced a series of TV ads and mobile billboards highlighting the danger of the San Onofre plant and nuclear power. The announcement by SCE that they will close San Onofre is a huge and stunning victory for Friends of the Earth and opponents of nuclear power.

See Mark's latest ad here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG1DuEZM17M

Devine Mulvey Longabaugh is a Washington, DC based Democratic Media Consulting firm. Together, its partners have produced advertising and advised 25 winning U.S. Senate and gubernatorial races, 22 winning US House races, 10 winning campaigns for president and prime minister around the world, and 57 winning State Senate and Representative races across America.

You can see their work here:
www.dmlmessage.com

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From:	"Joshua Dorner" <jdorner@americanprogress.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	10/19/2010 6:55:28 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] TP: 'US' Chamber Of Commerce Hosts Seminars With Chinese Gov Officials To Teach American Firms How To Outsource

http://thinkprogress.org/2010/10/19/chamber-chinese-seminar/

'US' Chamber Of Commerce Hosts Seminars With Chinese Gov Officials To Teach American Firms How To Outsource

Among the many lies told by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently, chief Chamber lobbyist Bruce Josten said that his organization's foreign affiliates, called AmChams, are only "comprised of American companies doing business abroad in those countries." In fact, the Chinese AmCham is comprised of Chinese firms like Northern Light Venture Capital ; the AmCham in Russia is comprised of Russian state-run companies like VTB Bank ; and, the AmCham of Abu Dhabi is comprised of UAE state-run oil companies.

The ties between the AmChams and the U.S. Chamber are deep. In addition to sharing staff members, the Chinese AmCham has worked closely with the U.S. Chamber and the Chinese government to sponsor a series of seminars in America to teach American businesses how to outsource jobs to China (called the China Grassroots Program). Below is an invite to an event sponsored by the right-wing billionaire Sheldon Adelson, inviting local businesses in Florida to come to Jacksonville and learn about outsourcing from Chinese government officials like Li Haiyan, the Counselor for Economic Affairs for the People's Republic of China, U.S. Chamber lobbyist Joseph Fawkner, and BChinaB, a firm that specializes in helping American firms outsource their manufacturing jobs to China. Click the screenshot below for the invitation:

8:50a.m.-10:00a.m. China Business Fundamentals: An on-the-ground perspective

Moderator: Joseph Fawkner, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Hank Levine, Senior Vice President, Stonebridge International

Jeremy Haft, Author of All the Tea in China and Chairman, BChinaB Inc.

Similar events like the one above continued into 2009 and beyond.

The Chamber's CEO, Tom Donohue, frequently defends outsourcing: for example, in 2004, he said "there are legitimate values in outsourcing — not only jobs, but work." Recently, the Chamber came out against a Senate bill that would have discouraged outsourcing. As Campaign Money Watch report found that more than 1.4 million jobs were outsourced since 1994 in the nine states in which the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is spending significant money.

Separately from their relationship with the AmCham affiliates, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce receives direct foreign donations to the same 501(c)(6) political account the Chamber is using to run an unprecedented $75 million attack ad campaign against progressives. In an exclusive investigation, ThinkProgress documented over 80 foreign firms donating at least $885,000 to the Chamber's 501(c)(6) account. As ThinkProgress' Brad Johnson noted , many of these foreign supporters of the Chamber financing its 501(c)(6) are also some of the world's largest outsourcing companies.

Josh Dorner
Communications Director, Progressive Media
tel 202.481.8153
cel 202.679.7570

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

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From: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
re47@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 2/8/2016 2:08:35 PM
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

I would heavily lean into the "reality" lane here when testing the contrasts. I would not test any language or issue we would not have her, a close campaign surrogate or Jen's shop convey.

John Anzalone

Partner

Anzalone Liszt Grove Research

(o) 334.387.3121

Website | Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

From: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: Monday, February 8, 2016 at 2:36 PM
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>, David Binder <david@db-research.com>, David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com>, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>, Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com>, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>, "john.podesta@gmail.com" <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Navin Nayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com>, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>, Rich Davis <rich@dixondavismedia.com>, "jandrews@jacompany.com" <jandrews@jacompany.com>
Subject: RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

As phrased it's misleading.

Some of it is truly nuclear, like the women paragraph.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2016 3:21 PM
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; david@db-research.com; david@dixondavismedia.com; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com; jim.margolis@gmmb.com; jbenenson@bsgco.com; john@algpolling.com; john.podesta@gmail.com; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com; oshur@hillaryclinton.com; rich@dixondavismedia.com; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

True…but they are attacking her with Crime Bill, Monica Lewinsky, bankruptcy and all kinds of ancient stuff. He always brags about never changing positions -- why not use the old stuff to prove how wacky this thinking is?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; re47 <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; david <david@db-research.com>; david <david@dixondavismedia.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; john <john@algpolling.com>; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Navin Nayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com>; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com>
Sent: Mon, Feb 8, 2016 3:19 pm
Subject: RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Some of the hard contrast is stuff from a very long time ago. The second graf makes it sound like he is currently proposing those things. Same for the national security graf.

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From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2016 3:14 PM
To: re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; david@db-research.com ; david@dixondavismedia.com ; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; jim.margolis@gmmb.com ; jbenenson@bsgco.com ; john@algpolling.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com ; oshur@hillaryclinton.com ; rich@dixondavismedia.com ; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Jim Andrews and I have been pouring through the oppo and have a couple new possible negatives to suggest we test in the poll, since most of our attacks haven't been working. We also proposed language for a split message test between where we've been (ideas that sound good on paper/can't wait) versus the new no barriers message -- stacked up against Sanders

Hope these are helpful.

YOU PAY FOR SOCIALISM

Bernie Sanders says he wants to restructure America's economy to make it work like it does in the socialist countries of Europe, providing things like free health care for everyone, free college for everyone, and free increases in Social Security for everyone. But Sanders does not mention that the middle class picks up the bill in these countries, paying nearly sixty percent of their income in taxes, three times what middle class Americans pay now.

FREE STUFF FOR EVERYBODY

Bernie Sanders said –quote– "all necessities of life must be provided free for people," and over the years he's proposed a radical restructuring of the entire American economy to make many things free, from the gas for people's cars to telephones and now free college and health care. To do this, Sanders proposed the complete government takeover of all oil companies, gas companies, electric utility companies, phone companies, health care companies, and all television networks. Combined, Sanders proposals would put the government in control of more than half of the American economy, but Sanders has never told anyone who would pay for all of this or how it would work.

SPEND, TAX AND COVER IT UP

Bernie Sanders' spending plans cost at least eighteen trillion dollars, would increase government spending by 50% and equal the size of the current national debt. And it's actually worse. Experts say Sanders health care plan alone is quote –twice as expensive as he says it is and they say Sanders plans would increase middle class taxes by one third, even for people making less than nineteen thousand a year, and Sanders plans would raise the top tax rate to seventy seven percent. The Boston Globe said –quote "Sanders is not leveling with voters" about the real cost of his spending plans.

EXTREME ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Bernie Sanders' extreme views would gut America's national security and make less safe. Sanders ran for Congress calling for the military budget to be cut by more than half and spending the money on a "major electrified rail system" instead. In Washington, Sanders sponsored a law to unilaterally terminate America's entire nuclear weapons program and sponsored another law to cut the nuclear submarine fleet in half. In Congress, Sanders proposed massive cuts in the intelligence budget and earlier said we should shut down the entire CIA because –quote they "might even be able to overthrow the U.S. government if they chose to." Sanders is so ideologically committed to military cuts that just last year he said –quote we shouldn't spend money on the military "even if it does create jobs."

TROUBLING PATTERN ON CAMPAIGNING

Bernie Sanders says he's running a different kind of campaign, but the record tells another story. Last year a Sanders affiliated political action committee was fined by the federal election commission and Sanders staffers were caught hacking into computers and stealing data on political opponents. This year, Sanders got caught running ads that said he was endorsed by newspapers that actually endorsed his opponent and was forced to remove ads from the air. Sanders got caught claiming endorsements from organizations that endorsed his opponent and the American Legion is now threatening to sue him for falsely claiming he has their support.

TROUBLING PATTERN ON WOMEN

Bernie Sanders says he supports women's rights, but has a pattern of expressing and tolerating extreme views on women. Sanders once wrote that men fantasize about women being on their knees and women fantasize about being raped by three men simultaneously. Sanders wrote another article that connecting women's sexual behavior to breast cancer and said the way parents teach their daughter about sex –quote– "very well determine whether or not she will develop breast cancer." Now Sanders' supporters are flooding the internet with troubling comments about women quote –voting with their vaginas– and calling women who support Hillary Clinton quote –bitches.

BERNIE VS HRC MESSAGE TEST

BERNIE

Bernie Sanders says we have a corporate establishment whose greed is destroying the economy and a corrupt political establishment beholden to billionaires. Sanders says the billionaire class can't get huge tax breaks and hide profits overseas while the middle class is being hollowed out. Sanders says corporate America and the billionaire class have to start paying their fair share, and that to change things we need a political revolution to undo the power of corporate America and Wall Street. You sure can't change a corrupt system by taking its money. Sanders says one person alone can't change this country, but we can do it together.

HRC: BARRIERS

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Hillary Clinton says we need to break down barriers of social injustice. Clinton says racism and sexism and other forms discrimination are not simply an effect of economic inequality, but are also part of the ***cause*** of economic inequality. Clinton says she will hold Wall Street accountable, but Wall Street is not gunning down young African Americans or denying immigrants a path to citizenship. Clinton says we can't move forward when women make seventy eight cents for each dollar men make, when people can be fired just because they're gay or when African American men go to prison at the same rate they graduate college. Clinton says that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours.

HRC CAN'T WAIT

Hillary Clinton says she is not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it the real world, and she won't make promises she can't keep. Clinton says the single mom who needs raise can't wait for plans that will never happen. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. Clinton says she's spent a lifetime making a difference for people and getting results, from winning benefits for the National Guard and Reserve to winning health care for eight million children and she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work right now. Clinton says she's ready to tackle our toughest challenges and move our country forward.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Robby Mook (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com >
To: gruncom <gruncom@aol.com >
Cc: dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; david <david@db-research.com >; david <david@dixondavismedia.com >; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; jpalmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; john <john@algpolling.com >; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; nnayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com >; oshur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 7, 2016 4:19 pm
Subject: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Robby Mook has attached the following document:

Agenda for 4:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Attached is an agenda/guide for our 5:30 call.

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

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From: Tikkun <magazine@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 10/21/2015 7:52:33 AM
Subject: The War Against Youth in the U.S.: cultural, economic, political, creating the groundwork for authoritarianism

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

Editor's note: Please send this remarkable article by Henry Giroux to everyone you know under age forty--this article will help illuminate the situation they face in the U.S. today--and while you are at it, let them know about Tikkun www.tikkun.org, the NSP, and our Environmental and Social Respnsibility Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Perhaps the most drastic element of the war on youth in the U.S. is the willingness of the powerful to continue to squander the resources of the planet earth and destroy the life-support system of the planet. Having abandoned hope in any real transformation of the world, the powerful are willing to continue to amass wealth and power and to ignore all the scientific data that shows that if we continue in the path that we've been on for the past several hundred years, the youth of today will be suffering an environmental catastrophe brought on by the selfishness, materialism, chauvinistic nationalism that together are the consequences of global capitalism. Yet the war on youth today has the consequence of making many of them less willing to embrace the kind of seemingly utopian transformations of our society without which the logic of the capitalist order will continue and may yet yield a fascistic outcome to protect the powerful from the righteous indignation of those who will be suffering through the decline of the earth in the next fifty years. That's why the ESRA--Environmental and Social Responsibility Amendment is at once so important (read it please at www.tikkun.org/esra) and so frequently dismissed as "too visionary to be relaistic." Yet it is actually the most modest first step in the transition from a capitalist society to The Caring Society--Caring for Each Other and Caring for the Earth.--

Rabbi Michael Lerner rabbilerner.tikkun@gmail.com

Youth in an Authoritarian Age: Challenging the politics of disposability by Henry Giroux

Following the insight of Hannah Arendt, a leading political theorist of mid-20th century totalitarianism, a dark cloud of political and ethical ignorance has descended upon the United States. **(1)** Thoughtlessness, a primary condition of authoritarian rule, now occupies a privileged, if not celebrated, place in the political landscape and the mainstream cultural apparatuses. A new kind of infantilism now shapes daily life as adults gleefully take on the role of unthinking children, while children are pushed to be adults, stripped of their innocence and subject to a range of disciplinary pressures that saddle them with debt and cripple their ability to be imaginative. **(2)**

Under such circumstances, agency devolves into a mind-numbing anti-intellectualism evident in the banalities produced by Fox News infotainment and celebrity culture, and in the blinding rage produced by populist politicians who support creationism, argue against climate change and rail against immigration, the rights of women, public service workers, gay people and countless others. There is more at work here than a lethal form of intellectual, political and emotional infantilism. There is also a catastrophe of indifference and inattentiveness that breeds flirtations with irrationality, fuels the spectacle of violence, creates an embodied incapacity and promotes the withering of public life.

The citizen is now urged to become a consumer, politicians are now mouthpieces for money and power **(3)** and the burgeoning army of anti-public intellectuals in the mainstream media present themselves as unapologetic enemies of compassion, the commons and democracy itself. Education is no longer viewed as a public good but as a private right, and critical thinking is no longer valued as a

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fundamental necessity for creating engaged and socially responsible citizens. Neoliberalism's contempt for the social is now matched by an utter disdain for the common good. Public spheres that once encouraged progressive ideas, enlightened social policies, democratic values, critical dialogue and exchange have been replaced by corporate entities whose ultimate fidelity is to increasing profit margins and producing a vast commercial culture "that tends to function so as to erase everything that matters."**(4)**

One outcome of this tangle of forces is that we live at a time in which institutions that were designed to limit human suffering and indignity and protect the public from the boom-and-bust cycles of capitalist markets have been either been weakened or abolished. **(5)** Free market policies, values and practices, with their now unrestrained emphasis on the privatization of public wealth, the denigration of social protections and the deregulation of economic activity, influence practically every commanding political and economic institution in North America. Finance capitalism now drives politics, governance and policy in unprecedented ways and is more than willing to sacrifice the future of young people for short-term political and economic gains.

Nation-states organized by neoliberal priorities have implicitly declared war on their children.

Given these conditions, an overwhelming catalogue of evidence has come into view that indicates that nation-states organized by neoliberal priorities have implicitly declared war on their children, offering a disturbing index of societies in the midst of a deep moral and political catastrophe. **(6)** Far too many youth today live in an era of foreclosed hope, an era in which it is difficult either to imagine a life beyond the dictates of a market-driven society or to transcend the fear that any attempt to do so can only result in a more dreadful nightmare. As Jennifer Silva has pointed out, this generation of especially "young working-class men and women … are trying to figure out what it means to be an adult in a world of disappearing jobs, soaring education costs and shrinking social support networks…. They live at home longer, spend more years in college, change jobs more frequently and start families later." **(7)**

Youth today are not only plagued by the fragility and uncertainty of the present; they are also "the first post war generation facing the prospect of downward mobility [in which the] plight of the outcast stretches to embrace a generation as a whole." **(8)** It is little wonder that "these youngsters are called Generation Zero: A generation with Zero opportunities, Zero future," and zero expectations. **(9)** Or to use Guy Standing's term, "the precariat," **(10)** which he defines as "a growing proportion of our total society" forced to "accept a life of unstable labour and unstable living." **(11)** Too many young people and other vulnerable groups now inhabit what might be called a geography of terminal exclusion, a space of disposability that extends its reach to a growing number of individuals and groups.

The human face of those who inhabit this geography of exclusion has been captured in a story told by Chip Ward, a former librarian in Salt Lake City, who writes poignantly about a homeless woman he calls Ophelia, who retreats to the library because like many homeless people she has nowhere else to go to use the bathroom, secure temporary relief from bad weather or simply be able to rest. Excluded from the American dream and treated as both expendable and a threat, Ophelia, in spite of her obvious mental illness, defines her own existence in terms that offer a chilling metaphor for her own plight and those of many others. Ward describes Ophelia's presence and actions in the following way:

> Ophelia sits by the fireplace and mumbles softly, smiling and gesturing at no one in particular. She gazes out the large window through the two pairs of glasses she wears, one windshield-sized pair over a smaller set perched precariously on her small nose. Perhaps four lenses help her see the invisible other she is addressing. When her "nobody there" conversation disturbs the reader seated beside her, Ophelia turns, chuckles at the woman's discomfort, and explains, *"Don't mind me, I'm dead. It's okay. I've been dead for some time now." She pauses, then adds reassuringly, "It's not so bad. You get used to it."* Not at all reassured, the woman gathers her belongings and moves quickly away. Ophelia shrugs. Verbal communication is tricky. She prefers telepathy, but that's hard to do since the rest of us, she informs me, "don't know the rules." (my emphasis) **(12)**

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Ophelia represents just one of the 3.5 million people who are homeless at some point in the year in the United States, many of whom use public libraries and any other accessible public spaces to find shelter. Many are women and children; they are often sick, disoriented and suffering from substance abuse or mental health issues, and many are barely able to cope with the stress, insecurity and dangers they face every day. And while Ophelia's comments may be dismissed as the ramblings of a mentally ill woman, they speak to something much deeper about the current state of US society and its desertion of entire populations who are now considered the human waste of a neoliberal economic order.

People who were once viewed as facing dire problems and in need of social protection are now seen as a problem threatening society. This becomes clear when the war on poverty is transformed into a war against the poor, when the plight of the homeless is defined less as a political and economic issue in need of social reform than as a matter of law and order or when government budgets for prison construction eclipse funds for higher education.

"Problem People"

The transformation of the social state into the corporate-controlled punishing state is made startlingly clear when young people, to rephrase W.E.B. Du Bois, become*problem people* rather than *people who face problems*. Young people, especially low-income and poor people of color, are now viewed as trouble rather than being seen as facing troubles. As such, they are increasingly subject to the dictates of the criminal legal system rather than subject to assistance from social programs that could address their most basic needs.

If youth were once the repository of society's dreams, that is no longer true.

Beyond exposing the moral depravity of a society that fails to provide for its youth, the symbolic and real violence waged against many young people reflects nothing less than a collective death wish – especially visible when youth protest their conditions. As Alain Badiou argues, we live in an era in which there is near zero tolerance for democratic resistance and "infinite tolerance for the crimes of bankers and government embezzlers which affect the lives of millions." **(13)** How else to explain the FBI's willingness to label as a "terrorist threat" youthful activists speaking against corporate and government misdeeds, while at the same time the Bureau refuses to press criminal charges against the banking giant HSBC for laundering billions of dollars for Mexican drug cartels and terrorist groups linked to al-Qaeda?**(14)** Equally disturbing are the revelations that the Department of Homeland Security, which was "created in large part to combat terrorism," has put under surveillance members of the Black Lives Matter movement who have been organizing against the racist conditions producing police violence against Black people in the United States. **(15)**

If youth were once the repository of society's dreams, that is no longer true. Increasingly, young people are viewed as a public disorder, a dream now turned into a nightmare. Many youth are forced to negotiate a post-9/11 social order that positions them as a prime target of its "governing through crime" complex. Consider the many "get tough" policies that now render young people criminals, while depriving them of basic health care, education and social services. Punishment and fear have replaced compassion and social responsibility as the most important modalities for mediating the relationship of youth to the larger society, all too evident by the upsurge of zero-tolerance laws in schools along with the expanding reach of the punishing state in the United States. **(16)** When the criminalization of social problems becomes a mode of governance and war its default strategy, youth are reduced to soldiers or targets – not social investments. As anthropologist Alain Bertho points out, "Youth is no longer considered the world's future, but as a threat to its present." **(17)**

Increasingly, the only political discourses available to many young people derive from privatized regimes of

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self-discipline and “emotional self-management.” **(18)** Youth are now removed from any meaningful register of democracy. Their absence is symptomatic of a society that has turned against itself, punishing its children at the risk of bringing down the entire body politic. What I call the war on youth emerged in its contemporary forms when the social contract, however compromised and feeble, came crashing to the ground around the time Margaret Thatcher “married” Ronald Reagan. Both were hard-line advocates of a market fundamentalism, and announced, respectively, that there was no such thing as society and that government was the problem not the solution to citizens’ woes.

Within a decade, democracy and the political process were hijacked by corporations and the call for austerity policies became a cheap copy for weakening the welfare state, public values and public goods. The results of this emerging neoliberal regime included a widening gap between the rich and the poor, a growing culture of cruelty and the dismantling of social provisions. One result has been that the promise of youth has given way to an age of market-induced angst, and a view of many young people as a drain on short-term investments and a threat to untrammeled self-interest and quick profits.

Many young people are being depoliticized because they are struggling just to survive, not only materially but also existentially.

The war on youth is spreading out across the United States. How else might we explain the United States’ turning of schools into training centers, modeling many after prisons, or promoting the rise of pedagogies of repression such as teaching to the test and high-stakes testing, all in the name of educational reform? What is the role of education in a democracy when a society burdens an entire generation with high tuition costs and student loans? I think David Graeber is right in arguing, “Student loans are destroying the imagination of youth. If there’s a way of a society committing mass suicide, what better way than to take all the youngest, most energetic, creative, joyous people in your society and saddle them with, like $50,000 of debt so they have to be slaves? There goes your music. There goes your culture…. We’re a society that has lost any ability to incorporate the interesting, creative and eccentric people.” **(19)** What he does not say is that many young people are also being depoliticized because they are struggling just to survive, not only materially but also existentially.

Under such circumstances, all bets are off regarding the future of democracy. What is also being lost in the current historical conjuncture is the very idea of interpersonal responsibility, a commitment to the collective good, a democratic notion of the commons, the idea of connecting learning to social improvement and the promise of a robust democracy dedicated to a full measure of personal, political and economic rights. Under the regime of a ruthless economic Darwinism, we are witnessing the crumbling of social bonds and the triumph of individual desires over social rights, nowhere more exemplified than in the growth of civic illiteracy, gated minds in gated communities, simplistic intolerance, atrophied social skills, a culture of cruelty and a downward spiral into the dark recesses of an oligarchic social order. Children pay most acutely for this. Consider that the United States is the only country in the world that has refused to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which calls for “a commitment to promote and respect the human rights of children, including the right to life, to health, to education and to play, as well as the right to family life, to be protected from violence and from any form of discrimination.” **(20)**

Politics is now driven by a much-promoted hypercompetitive ideology with a message that surviving in society demands reducing social relations to forms of social combat. Too many young people today learn quickly that their fate is solely a matter of individual responsibility, irrespective of wider structural forces. As such, politics has become an extension of war, just as “systemic economic insecurity and anxiety” and state-sponsored violence increasingly find legitimation in the discourses of austerity, privatization and demonization, which promote anxiety, moral panics and fear, and undermine any sense of communal responsibility for the well-being of others. The curse of privatization in a consumer-driven society is intensified by the market-driven assumption that for young people the only obligation of citizenship is to

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consume. Yet, there is more at work here than the mechanisms of depoliticization; there is also a flight from social responsibility, if not politics itself. Also lost is the importance of those social bonds, modes of collective reasoning, public spheres and cultural apparatuses crucial to the formation of a sustainable democratic society.

As one eminent sociologist points out, “Visions have nowadays fallen into disrepute and we tend to be proud of what we should be ashamed of.” **(21)** For instance, politicians, such as former Vice President Dick Cheney, not only refuse to apologize for the immense misery, displacement and suffering they have imposed on the Iraqi people – principally Iraqi children – but also they seem to gloat in defending such policies. Doublespeak takes on a new register as President Obama employs the discourse of national security to sanction a surveillance state, a targeted assassination list and the ongoing killing of young children and their families by drones. This expanding landscape of lies has not only produced an illegal and global war on terror and justified state torture, even against children; it has also provided a justification for the United States’ slide into barbarism after the tragic events of 9/11. Yet, such acts of state violence appear to be of little concern to the shameless apostles of permanent war.

The War Against Youth

In what follows, I want to address the intensifying assault on young people through the related concepts of “soft war” and “hard war.” **(22)** The idea of the soft war considers the changing conditions of youth within the relentless expansion of a global market society. Partnered with a massive advertising machinery, the soft war targets all children and youth, devaluing them by treating them as yet another “market” to be commodified and exploited, and conscripting them into the system through relentless attempts to create a new generation of hyperconsumers.

This low-intensity war is waged by a variety of corporate institutions through the educational force of a culture that commercializes every aspect of kids’ lives, and now uses the internet and various social networks along with the new media technologies such as smart phones to immerse young people in the world of mass consumption in ways that are more direct and expansive than anything we have seen in the past. Commercially carpet-bombed by an advertising industry that in the United States spent $189 billion in 2012, the typical child is exposed to about 40,000 ads a year and by the time they reach the fourth grade, children have memorized 300 to 400 brands.

Many young people, recast as commodities, can only recognize themselves in terms preferred by the market.

An entire generation is being drawn into a world of consumerism in which commodities and brand loyalty become both the most important markers of*identity* and the primary frameworks for mediating one’s relationship to the world. Increasingly, many young people, recast as commodities, can only recognize themselves in terms preferred by the market. As the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman points out, youth are simultaneously “promoters of commodities and the commodities they promote” – defined as both brands and merchandise, on the one hand, and marketing agents on the other. **(23)**

What are the consequences of the soft war? Public spaces have been transformed into neoliberal disimagination zones, which make it more difficult for young people to find public spheres where they can locate themselves and translate metaphors of hope into meaningful action. The dreamscapes that make up a society built on the promises of mass consumption translate deftly into ad copy, insistently promoting and normalizing a neoliberal order in which economic relations now provide the master script for how young people define themselves, and their relations with others and the larger world.

The data-mining marketers make young people think they count when in fact “all they want to do is count them.” **(24)** The dominant culture’s overbearing ecology of consumption now works to selectively eliminate

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and reorder the possible modes of political, social and ethical vocabularies made available to youth. Young peoples' most private experiences are now colonized by a consumerist ethic that deforms their sense of agency, desires, values and hopes. Trapped within a spectacle of marketing, their capacity to be critically engaged and socially responsible citizens is significantly compromised.

The Hard War

The hard war is a more serious and dangerous development for young people, especially those who are marginalized by virtue of their ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality and class. The hard war refers to the harshest elements of a growing youth crime-control complex that operates through a logic of punishment, surveillance and control. The young people targeted by its punitive measures are often poor youth of color who are considered failed consumers and who can only afford to live on the margins of a commercial culture that excludes anybody without money, resources and leisure time. They are youth considered uneducable and unemployable, and therefore troublesome, if not a threat to the existing order.

Poor youth and youth of color become objects of a new mode of governance based on the crudest forms of disciplinary control.

The imprint of the youth crime-control complex can be traced back to the now normative practice of organizing life in schools through disciplinary practices that subject students to constant surveillance through high-tech security devices while imposing on them harsh and often thoughtless zero-tolerance policies that closely resemble measures used by the criminal legal system. In this instance, poor youth and youth of color become objects of a new mode of governance based on the crudest forms of disciplinary control. Punished if they don't show up at school and punished even if they do attend school, many of these students are funneled into what has been ominously called the "school-to-prison pipeline." If middle- and upper-class kids are subject to the seductions of market-driven public relations, working-class youth are caught in the crosshairs between the arousal of commercial desire and the harsh impositions of securitization, surveillance and policing.

How else do we explain the fact that in the United States today 500,000 young people are incarcerated and 2.5 million are arrested annually, and that by the age of 23, "almost a third of Americans have been arrested for a crime"? **(25)** What kind of society allows 1.6 million children to be homeless at any given time in a year? Or allows massive inequalities in wealth and income to produce a politically and morally dysfunctional society in which "45 percent of U.S. residents live in households that struggle to make ends meet"? **(26)** Current statistics paint a bleak picture for young people in the richest country in the world. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "the number of unemployed youth was 2.8 million in July 2015″; **(27)** 12.5 million are without food; and in what amounts to a national disgrace, one out of every five US children lives in poverty. Nearly half of all US children and 90 percent of Black youngsters will rely on food stamps at some point during childhood. **(28)**

What are we to make of a society in which there were more young people killed on the streets of Chicago since 2001 then US soldiers killed in Afghanistan? To be more exact, 5,000 were people killed by gunfire in Chicago, many of them children, while 2,000 troops were killed between 2001 and 2012. **(29)** What kind of society is indifferent to the fact that this country "sees an average of 92 gun deaths per day – [with] more preschoolers … shot dead each year than police officers are killed in the line of duty"? **(30)** Near weekly mass shootings aside, what has flown under the radar is that in the last four years more than 500 children under the age of 12 were killed by guns.

As the war on terror comes home, public spaces have been transformed into war zones as local police forces have taken on the role of an occupying army, especially in poor neighborhoods of color, accentuated by the fact that the police now have access to armored troop carriers, night-vision-equipped rifles, Humvees, M-16 automatic rifles, grenade launchers and other weapons designed for military

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tactics. **(31)** Acting as a paramilitary force, the police have become a new symbol of domestic terrorism, shaking down youth of color and Black communities in general by criminalizing a multitude of behaviors.

The rise of the punishing state and the war on terror has emboldened police forces across the nation.

This was especially true in the stop-and-frisk policies so widespread under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg in New York City. In Ferguson, Missouri, the entire population was subject to a form of legal lawlessness in what can only be described as a practice of racist extortion. Rather than defined as a population to be protected, the largely Black citizens of Ferguson were arrested and fined for being unable to pay their debts, violating trivial rules such as letting their grass grow too high or jaywalking, all of which made them a prime target for the criminal legal system. As a result, the police viewed the Black residents of Ferguson "as potential targets for what can only be described as a shake-down operation designed to wring money out of the poorest and most vulnerable by any means they could, and that as a result, the overwhelming majority of Ferguson's citizens had outstanding warrants." **(32)**

The rise of the punishing state and the war on terror has emboldened police forces across the nation and in doing so feeds their use of racist violence against young people of color, resulting in what has been called an "epidemic of police brutality." Sadly, even children are not immune to such violence, as the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice on November 22, 2014, by a white police officer has made clear. Even more tragic is the fact that the City of Cleveland tried to blame the boy for his own death. **(33)** Rice was holding a BB gun when he was shot to death by a police officer judged unfit for duty just two years prior. The killing of Black youth and adults has taken on the image of a cruel sport suggestive of a police force spiraling downward into a form of authoritarianism that merges lawlessness with a dangerous form of militarism. **(34)**

Against the idealistic rhetoric of a government that claims to venerate young people lies the reality of a society that increasingly views youth through the optic of law and order, a society that appears all too willing to treat youth as criminals and when necessary "disappear" them into the farthest reaches of the carceral state. What are we to make of a society that allows New York City Police Department officers to come into a school and arrest, handcuff and haul off a 12-year-old student for doodling on her desk? **(35)** Or, for that matter, school systems that allow a 6-year-old in Georgia and a 5-year-old kindergarten pupil in Florida to be handcuffed and taken to police stations for having tantrums in their classrooms? **(36)** Where is the public outrage when two police officers called to a day care center in central Indiana to handle an unruly 10-year-old decide to taser the child? **(37)** Or when a school administration allows a police officer in Arkansas to use a stun gun to discipline an allegedly out of control 10-year-old girl?

One public response to this incident came from Steve Tuttle, a spokesman for Taser International Inc., who insisted that a "Stun gun can be safely used on children." **(38)** Sadly, this is but a small sampling of the ways in which children are being punished instead of educated in US schools, especially inner-city schools. All of these examples point to the growing social disregard for young people and the number of institutions willing to employ crime-and-punishment measures that together constitute not only a crisis of education, but the emergence of a new mode of politics that Jonathan Simon has called "governing through crime." **(39)**

Stolen Childhoods

Of course, we have seen this ruthless crime optic in previous historical periods, but at least crime was followed by attempts at reforms and rehabilitation, not revenge, as characterizes the contemporary criminal legal system. **(40)** For one historical example of this broader understanding of crime and punishment, I want to turn to Claude Brown, the late African-American novelist, who understood something about this war on youth in its mid-century articulation. Though his novel, *Manchild in the Promised Land*, takes place in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, there is something to be learned from his autobiographical novel. Take for

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example the following passage:

> If Reno was in a bad mood – if he didn't have any money and he wasn't high – he'd say, "Man, Sonny, they ain't got no kids in Harlem. I ain't never seen any. I've seen some real small people actin' like kids, but they don't have any kids in Harlem, because nobody has time for a childhood. Man, do you ever remember bein' a kid? Not me. Shit, kids are happy, kids laugh, kids are secure. They ain't scared a nothin'. You ever been a kid, Sonny? Damn, you lucky. I ain't never been a kid, man. I don't ever remember bein' happy and not scared. I don't know what happened, man, but I think I missed out on that childhood thing, because I don't ever recall bein' a kid. **(41)**

In *Manchild in the Promised Land*, Brown wrote about the doomed lives of his friends, families and neighborhood acquaintances. The book is mostly remembered as a brilliant, but devastating portrait of Harlem under siege – a community ravaged and broken by heroin, poverty, unemployment, crime and police brutality. But what Brown really brought into focus was that the raw violence and dead-end existence that plagued so many young people in Harlem, stole not only their future but their childhood as well. In the midst of the social collapse and psychological trauma wrought by the systemic fusion of racism and class exploitation, children in Harlem were held hostage to forces that robbed them of the innocence that comes with childhood and forced them to take on the risks and burdens of daily survival that older generations were unable to shield them from.

At the heart of Brown's narrative, written in the midst of the civil rights struggle in the 1960s, is a "manchild," a metaphor that indicts a society that is waging a war on those children who are Black and poor and have been forced to grow up too quickly. The hybridized concept of "manchild" marked a liminal space in which innocence was lost and childhood stolen, and any meaningful sense of adult agency and autonomy was aggressively compromised. Harlem was a well-contained, internal colony and its street life provided the conditions and the very necessity for insurrection. But the many forms of rebellion young people expressed – from the public and progressive to the interiorized and self-destructive – came at a cost, which Brown reveals near the end of the book: "It seemed as though most of the cats that we'd come up with just hadn't made it. Almost everybody was dead or in jail." **(42)**

Young people are not dissatisfied with democracy but with its absence.

Childhood stolen was not to be salvaged by self-help – that shortsighted and mendacious appeal that would define the reactionary reform efforts of the 1980s and 1990s, from Reagan's hatred of government to Clinton's attack on welfare reform and his "instrumental role in creating one of the world's largest prison systems." **(43)** At that time, it was a clarion call for condemning a social order that denied children a viable and life-enhancing present and future. While Brown approached everyday life in Harlem more as a poet than as a political revolutionary, politics was embedded in every sentence of the book – not a politics marked by demagoguery, hatred and orthodoxy, but one that made visible the damage done by a social system characterized by massive inequalities and a rigid racial divide. *Manchild* created the image of a society without children in order to raise questions about the future of a country that had turned its back on its most vulnerable population.

Like the great critical theorist, C. Wright Mills, Brown's lasting contribution was to reconfigure the boundaries between public issues and private suffering. For Brown, racism was about power and oppression – not ignorance, not fear – and could not be separated from broader social, economic and political considerations. Rather than denying systemic causes of injustice (as did the discourses of individual pathology and self-help), Brown insisted that social forces had to be factored into any understanding of both group suffering and individual despair. Brown explored the suffering of the young in Harlem, but he did so by utterly refusing to privatize it, or to dramatize and spectacularize private life over public dysfunction, or to separate individual hopes, desires and agency from the realm of politics and public life.

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Fifty years later, Brown's metaphor of the "manchild" is more relevant today than when he wrote the book, and "the Promised Land" more prescient than ever as his revelation about the sorry plight of poor children of color takes on a more expansive meaning in light of the current economic meltdown and the dashed hopes of an entire generation now viewed as a generation without hope for a decent future. Youth today are forced to inhabit a rough world where childhood is nonexistent, and they are crushed under the heavy material and existential burdens they are forced to bear.

Efforts to Break Free

The plight of poor youth of color also extends beyond the severity of material deprivations and violence they experience daily. Many young people have been forced to view the world and redefine the nature of their own youth within the borders of hopelessness, insecurity and despair. There is little basis on which to imagine a better future lying just beyond the highly restrictive spaces of commodification and containment. Neoliberal austerity in social spending means an entire generation of youth will not have access to the decent jobs, material comforts, educational opportunities or security that was available to previous generations. These are a new generation of youth who have to think, act and talk like adults. Many must worry about their family members' inability to find work or about the incarceration of a parent.

In the United States, young people are further burdened by registers of extreme poverty that pose the dire challenge of food security and access to even the most basic health care in communities ravaged by those illnesses and special needs that accrue in impoverished conditions. These young people inhabit a new and more unsettling scene of suffering, a dead zone of the imagination, which constitutes a site of terminal exclusion – one that reveals not only the vast and destabilizing inequalities in neoliberal economic landscapes, but also portends a future that has no purchase on the hope that characterizes a vibrant democracy.

Educators, individuals, artists, intellectuals and various social movements need to make visible both the workings of market fundamentalism "in all of its forms of exploitation whether personal, political, or economic [and they] … need to reconstruct a platform" and a set of strategies to oppose it. **(44)** Clearly, any political formation that matters must challenge the savage social costs that casino capitalism has enacted and work to undue the forms of social, political and economic violence that young people are daily experiencing. This will demand more than one-day demonstrations. Urgently needed are new public spheres in which there is a resurgence of public memory, civic literacy and civic courage – that is, a willingness to both "effectively analyze the structures and mechanisms of capitalist power [in order] to formulate a sophisticated political response" and the willingness to build longstanding oppositional movements. **(45)** Traces of such movements are beginning to emerge in the United States among fast-food workers and among students protesting crushing debt and police brutality. These traces are also apparent in the ongoing development of social movements in countries such as Spain and Greece that are rejecting the harsh neoliberal austerity policies imposed by the bankers and global financial elite.

We live at a time in which it is more crucial than ever to imagine a future that does not repeat the present.

In North America, we are seeing important, though inconclusive, attempts on the part of young people to break the hold of unaccountable governmental and financial power. This was evident in the Occupy movement, the Quebec student movement, the Idle No More movement and the Black Lives Matter movement. The New York Times recently reported that people all over the world are losing faith in democracy. What it missed is that young people are not dissatisfied with democracy but with its absence. In the United States, there is a new political momentum to reclaim a real democracy, one that provides all Americans with a livable minimum wage or guaranteed income; removes money from politics; reclaims the commons by reversing the pernicious nature of privatization; reins in the ravaging effects of unfettered

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casino capitalism; abolishes the bogus concept of corporate personhood; dismantles the permanent warfare state; reverses global warming; redistributes wealth in the interest of a vibrant democracy; nationalizes health care; breaks up the banks; eliminates the punishing-mass incarceration state; and eradicates the surveillance state, among other reforms. **(46)**

This is a language that says that no society is ever just enough and calls for new collective struggles in the hope of creating a future that refuses to be defined by the dystopian forces now shaping US society. These reforms are both profound and instructive for the time in which we live because they point to the need to think beyond the given, and to think beyond the distorted, market-based hope offered to us by the advocates of casino capitalism. Such thinking rooted in the radical imagination is a central goal of civic education, which, in the words of poet Robert Hass, is "to refresh the idea of justice which is going dead in us all the time." **(47)**

Current protests in the United States make clear that young people need to enlist all generations to develop a truly global political movement that is accompanied by the reclaiming of public spaces, the progressive use of digital technologies, the production of new modes of education and the safeguarding of places where democratic expression, new civic values, democratic public spheres, new modes of identification and collective hope can be nurtured and developed. A formative culture must be put in place pedagogically and institutionally in a variety of spheres extending from churches and public and higher education to all those cultural apparatuses engaged in the production of collective knowledge, desire, identities and democratic values. Crucial to the success of any collective struggle that matters is the necessity to embrace education as the center of politics and the source of an embryonic vision of the good life outside of the imperatives of unfettered "free-market" capitalism.

There is a need for educators, young people, artists and other cultural workers to develop a language of both critique and hope in which people can address the historical, structural and ideological conditions at the core of the violence being waged by the corporate and repressive state, and to make clear that government increasingly subsumed by global market sovereignty is no longer responsive to the most basic needs of young people. Nowhere will this struggle be more difficult than on the education front, a front in which a long-term organizing effort will have to take place to change consciousness, convince people that capitalism and democracy are not the same thing – and indeed are often in conflict – offer up a new vision of democracy, and create the ideological and collective momentum to create a broad-based social movement that moves beyond single-issue politics.

The issue of who gets to define the future, share in the nation's wealth, shape the parameters of the social state, steward and protect the globe's resources and create a formative culture for producing engaged and socially responsible members of society is not a rhetorical issue. This challenge offers up new categories for defining how matters of representations, education, economic justice and politics are to be defined and fought over. This is a difficult task, but what we are seeing in cities such as New York, Athens, Quebec, Paris, Madrid and other sites of massive inequality throughout the world is the beginning of a long struggle for the institutions, values and infrastructures that make communities the center of a robust, radical democracy.

We live at a time in which it is more crucial than ever to imagine a future that does not repeat the present. Given the urgency of the problems we face – mounting economic inequality, creeping disenfranchisement, the rise of the incarceration state, entrenched racism, the expanding surveillance state, the threat of nuclear destruction, ecological devastation and in the United States, the collapse of democratic governance – I think it is all the more crucial to take seriously the challenge of Jacques Derrida's provocation: "We must do and think the impossible. If only the possible happened, nothing more would happen. If I only did what I can do, I wouldn't do anything." **(48)**

My friend, the late Howard Zinn, got it right in his insistence that hope is the willingness "to hold out, even in times of pessimism, the possibility of surprise." **(49)** History is open, and the space of the possible is

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This article appeared first in the wonderful daily website of our ally Truth Out and can be read there also at http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/33312-youth-in-authoritarian-times-challenging-neoliberalism-s-politics-of-disposability. If you send the link out, please also attach the introduction written above by Rabbi Michael Lerner (which does not appear on the Truth-Out website).

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From:	"Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	4/29/2008 9:09:32 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Afternoon 04/29/08
Attachments:	Full Transcript of Bush Press Conference 04-29-08.doc Full Transcript of McCain Health Care Speech 04-29-08.doc

Main Topics: McCain health care speech, Bush economy press conference

Highlights

1. Bush gives press conference on economy
   a. Bush endorses McCain, says he won't 'neglect the War on Terror'
   b. Bush concedes we are in 'tough times,' proposes alternative energy sources
   c. Bush says he's 'open' to any gas tax proposal, including McCain's, but not going to jump into '08 race
2. McCain gives health care policy speech in Tampa
   a. Eat right and exercise and 'you won't have to worry'
   b. Government can help solve problems, but 'often it comes down to personal responsibility'

Clips

Highlight #1

Below are highlights from Bush's press conference. For full transcript, see attached document, or go to http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/04/20080429-1.html

Bush: McCain Will Be President, Won't "Neglect the War on Terror" (MSNBC 04/29/08 10:30am)
PRESIDENT BUSH: I don't think John McCain is going to neglect the war on terror, and I do think he's going to be the president.

Bush Back-Peddles on 'We're Not in a Recession' Comment, Concedes These Are "Tough Times" (MSNBC 04/29/08 10:30am)
QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President. **Were you premature in saying that the U.S. economy is not in a recession, when food and energy prices are soaring so high**? And what more can you do to persuade Saudi Arabia during your upcoming visit to reconsider output levels and cut prices?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I mean, you know, the words on how to define the economy don't reflect the anxiety the American people feel. **The average person doesn't really care what we call it;** the average person wants to know whether or not we know that they're paying higher gasoline prices and that they're worried about staying in their homes. And I do understand that. That's why we've been aggressively helping people refinance their homes. That's why I continue to call upon Congress to pass legislation that will enable people to stay in their homes.

These are tough times. People -- economists can argue over the terminology. And these are difficult times. And the American people know it, and they want to know whether or not Congress knows it. I think an important signal to send on energy, just like I said, is to say, okay, we're going to go find oil here at home.

We're transitioning to a new era, by the way -- a new era where we're going to have batteries in our cars that will power -- enable people to drive 40 miles on electricity. There's going to be more ethanol on the market, more alternative fuels. It would be -- our driving habits will change. But in the meantime, we need to be sending a signal to the world markets that we intend to explore here in America. We can also send a clear signal that we understand supply and demand, and then when you don't build a refinery for 30 years, it's going to be a part of restricting supply. And therefore, we ought to expand our refining capacity by permitting new refineries and getting after it quickly.

On the electricity front, as you know, I'm a big believer in nuclear power, except we keep getting mixed signals out of Congress. And the regulatory system sends mixed signals.

And so -- and then, to your question on the Saudis, look, I have made the case that the high price of oil injures economies. But I think we better understand that there's not a lot of excess capacity in this world right now. **Hopefully high prices will spur more exploration to bring excess capacity on, but demand is rising faster than supply. And that's why you're seeing global energy prices rise.** And that's why it's important for us to try to take the pressure off by saying we're going to start exploring here at home.

Bush Open to McCain's Gas Tax Moratorium, States Unwillingness to Enter Presidential Race (MSNBC 04/29/08 10:30pm)
JIM AXELROD: Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you. I just want to follow up on the idea of the gas tax moratorium if I may, because you're indicating that perhaps you'd be open to it. You mentioned in your opening remarks that --

PRESIDENT BUSH: I'm open to any ideas and we'll analyze everything that comes our way, but go ahead.

AXELROD: Well, we're talking about perhaps the most immediate relief to people who are buying gasoline every day, because it would be an 18.4 cents a gallon tax cut. Senator Clinton and Senator McCain are in favor of it; Senator Obama is not. But Americans are hearing about this every day. So could you flesh out perhaps some of your thinking about why this would be a good idea, or not; why you would agree with Senator McCain or Senator Obama?

BUSH: I appreciate you trying to drag me in the '08 race. And this is the first attempt to do so, and I can understand why you would want to do that. I will tell you that, first of all, the American people have got to understand that here in the White House we are concerned about high gasoline prices, we're concerned about high food prices, we're concerned about people staying in their homes, and we're concerned about student loans -- just like I described. And Congress can be helpful. Congress -- they can show leadership by dealing with these issues.

And we'll consider interesting ideas. But, Jim, what I'm not going to do is jump right in the middle of a presidential campaign. We'll let the candidates argue out their ideas.

AXELROD: Well, would --

BUSH: I just told you I'll consider the ideas. If it's a good idea, we embrace it; if not, we're analyzing the different ideas coming forward.

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Highlight #2
Below are highlights from McCain's speech. For full transcript, see attached document, or go to http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/2c3cfa3a-748e-4121-84db-28995cf367da.htm
McCain's Health Care Plan: Eat Right and Exercise 'And You Won't Have To Worry' (CNN live stream 04/29/08 11:03am)
JOHN MCCAIN: Watch your diet! Watch your diet! Walk thirty or so minutes a day. And take a few other simple precautions, and you won't have to worry about these afflictions.

McCain: Government Can Help, But It 'Often… Comes Down to Personal Responsbility'
JOHN MCCAIN: Government can provide leadership to solve problems, of course. So-- But often it comes down to personal responsibility.

--
Sara L. DuBois
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/15/2008 1:38:15 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/15

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 15th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

7:30am McCain: Interview on CBS's "Good Morning America"

12pm McCain: Town Hall in Albuquerque, NM
- Tracking scheduled for this event
1:05pm BUSH: Photo op with recipients of the 2008 MATHCOUNTS National Competition Award in the Oval Office

5pm McCain: Fund raiser in St. Louis, MO

News Clips:

MCCAIN LA RAZA SPEECH NEWS

McCain's turn before La Raza in San Diego (LA Times 7/15/08)
By Robin Abcarian and Nicole Gaouette
He didn't break into Spanish, nor did he back down from his emphatic position that border security must be the cornerstone of immigration overhaul. But Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) continued his fervid courtship of Latino voters Monday, speaking to about 2,000 people at the National Council of La Raza's annual convention the day after his Democratic opponent, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, came calling.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain15-2008jul15,0,5118734.story
Link to transcript of speech: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/07/mccains_speech_to_la_raza.html

McCain defends his position on immigration reform (San Diego Union-Tribune 7/15/08)
By John Marelius
Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Monday vigorously disputed his opponent's assertion that he had backed away from his own comprehensive plan to overhaul the nation's immigration laws.
http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/politics/20080714-1339-bn14mccain.html

McCain rejects Obama attack on immigration (Reuters 7/14/08)
By Steve Holland
Republican presidential hopeful John McCain defended himself on Monday against charges from Democrat Barack Obama that he adopted a more aggressive stance against illegal immigration for political purposes.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071400366.html

McCain touts free trade agenda to Hispanic group (AP 7/14/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain in one of his strongest endorsements of free trade called himself "an unapologetic supporter of NAFTA," an agreement that many Americans feel has cost them jobs. ...The Arizona senator has often defended free trade, but his speech Monday was among his most detailed and full-throated commentaries.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-14-mccain_N.htm

McCain speaks to La Raza (Politico blog 7/14/08)
Politico contributor Gebe Martinez looks at McCain's National Council of La Raza speech -- and catches a rhetorical shift: "Inching his way back to the center of the testy immigration issue, Sen. John McCain on Monday pledged to a national civil rights group that he remains 'committed to fair, practical and comprehensive immigration reform.'
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCain_speaks_to_La_Raza.html

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On Immigration, Poison Pills Or Booster Shots? (Atlantic online 7/14/08)
By Marc Ambinder
In his speech to La Raza today, Sen. McCain blames Barack Obama in part for derailing the 2007 attempt at comprehensive immigration reform by larding up the bill with poison pill amendments.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/military_officers_want_diploma.php

The campaign to jog La Raza's memory (Politico blog 7/14/08)
By Avi Zenilman
McCain is hitting Obama's record on immigration today while speaking in front of La Raza and argues that Obama abandoned him and Ted Kennedy -- the two main dealmakers -- during last summer's immigration reform battle. "Senator Obama declined to cast some of those tough votes. He voted for and even sponsored amendments that were intended to kill the legislation." But Obama did sponsor an amendment, with New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez, that would sunset the point-based system for new immigrants (which many groups feared would split up families) after 5 years.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/The_campaign_to_jog_La_Razas_memory.html

Anti-War Protesters Heckle McCain at Hispanic Conference (ABC News blog 7/14/08)
By Jennifer Duck
Sen. John McCain addressed a conference of the National Council of La Raza in San Diego a day after his opponent, Sen. Barack Obama appeared before the nation's largest Latino civil rights group. Less than a minute into his speech protesters shouted repeatedly, "Bring our sons home."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/07/anti-war-protes.html

MCCAIN NEWS

Poll Finds Voters Split on Candidates' Iraq-Pullout Positions (Washington Post 7/15/08)
By Jonathan Weisman and Jon Cohen; A01
A new Washington Post-ABC News poll finds the country split down the middle between those backing Sen. Barack Obama's 16-month timeline for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and those agreeing with Sen. John McCain's position that events, not timetables, should dictate when forces come home.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071401853.html

Obama, McCain Would Look to Women, Hispanics for Supreme Court (Bloomberg 7/15/08)
By Greg Stohr
Gender and race will loom large when Barack Obama or John McCain has a chance to fill a U.S. Supreme Court vacancy.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=analt7SXDKiQ&refer=politics

A War The West Must Stop (Washington Post 7/15/08)
By Ronald D. Asmus; A19
There is war in the air between Georgia and Russia. Such a war could destabilize a region critical for Western energy supplies and ruin relations between Russia and the West. A conflict over Georgia could become an issue in the U.S. presidential campaign. How they respond could become a test of the potential commander-in-chief qualities of Barack Obama and John McCain.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071401845.html

McCain applauds lifting of offshore drilling ban (AP 7/14/08)
Republican John McCain says President Bush is taking an important step by lifting an executive order banning offshore drilling. The Arizona Republican says offshore drilling will help give America sufficient reserves to help reduce or cushion the increasing costs of oil.
http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8671706&nav=menu613_2_6

Another McCain Co-Chair Bites the Dust (Vanity Fair 7/14/08)
by Christopher Bateman
Yet another member of John McCain's presidential campaign is stepping down after coming under scrutiny for shady business dealings. McCain finance co-chair and former New Jersey congressman Jim Courter, chief executive of telecom corporation IDT, is resigning from the campaign after the FCC slapped IDT with a $1.3 million fine last week for failing to disclose information about its contracts in Haiti.
http://www.vanityfair.com/online/politics/2008/07/another-mccain-cochair-bites-the-dust.html

Experts: Candidate's age shouldn't influence voters (AP 7/14/08)
By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
So how old is John McCain? Six-packs of beer, automatic transmissions and the American Express card were all

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introduced after he was born — not to mention computers, which McCain admits he doesn't use. McCain, himself, jokes that he's older than dirt. And while his age is being raised as a campaign issue, medical experts say voters shouldn't be concerned that, if elected, McCain would be the oldest man to assume the presidency, at 72.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-14-mccain-age_N.htm

McCain Can't Use 'a Google.' So What? (Newsweek blog 7/14/08)
By Andrew Romano
The liberal blogosphere's outrage du jour? John McCain's professed "computer illiteracy." "Did the GOP really pick one of the last few cavemen among us who has yet to learn how to use the internet or e-mail?" writes commenter Tony over at the Politico. "Pathetic," add DailyKos's BarbinMD. "How long should it take to 'learn' to get online? It's one point and a click." I understand the temptation to sic some snark on the senator from Arizona. ...The only problem? This line of reasoning is ridiculous.
http://www.blog.newsweek.com/blogs/stumper/archive/2008/07/14/mccain-can-t-use-a-google-so-what.aspx

Poor footwear for running (LA Times 7/15/08)
By Robin Abcarian
Aboard John McCain's Straight Talk Express jet, one of the Arizona senator's favorite traveling companions -- Steve Duprey, who co-chaired McCain's primary effort in New Hampshire and has been hanging around ever since -- handed out little customized bottles of McCain sunscreen. Reporters on the plane Monday morning also received yellow-and-blue flip-flops printed with the message "McCain . . . Another Day at the Beach." ...Isn't that a rather dangerous form of footwear for a senator who has been accused by some in his own Republican Party of changing his positions on issues such as immigration reform and tax cuts?
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailflip15-2008jul15,0,1285561.story

McCain's Small-Business Bunk (FactCheck.org 7/14/08)
By Brooks Jackson
He claims 23 million small-business owners would pay higher tax rates under Obama. He's wrong. The vast majority would see no change, and many would get a cut.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/146210

McCain returns to NM, ads focus on Hispanics (AP 7/15/08)
Republican John McCain returns to New Mexico in search of money for his presidential campaign and support among Hispanics.
http://www.roswell-record.com/main.asp?SectionID=51&SubSectionID=124&ArticleID=30029

McCain to Hit Obama on Iraq/Afghanistan (The Page 7/15/08)
At Tuesday town hall in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Arizonan plans to say about Obama's big address: "He is speaking today about his plans for Iraq and Afghanistan before he has even left, before he has talked to General Petraeus, before he has seen the progress in Iraq, and before he has set foot in Afghanistan for the first time. In my experience, fact-finding missions usually work best the other way around: first you assess the facts on the ground, then you present a new strategy."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/15/mccain-to-hit-obama-on-iraqafghanistan/#

McCain to deliver Afghanistan speech later this week (Politico blog 7/14/08)
By Avi Zenilman
On a McCain campaign conference call dedicated to piling on Obama's Iraq op-ed and his position on the surge, Randy Scheunemann drops a hint that McCain will speak on Afghanistan later this week -- and Sen. Lindsey Graham follows up by saying it will be Thursday.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCain_to_deliver_Afghanistan_speech_later_this_week.html

Anti-war activists target McCain fundraiser (St. Louis Post-Dispatch blog 7/14/08)
By Adam Jadhav
Students and area residents that have organized with the social networking site Facebook say they will protest outside Sen. John McCain's fundraiser at Hunter Farms on Tuesday.
http://www.stltoday.com/blogzone/political-fix/political-fix/2008/07/anti-war-activists-target-mccain-fundraiser/

Remembering Czechoslovakia (Politico blog 7/14/08)
By Ben Smith
A reader notes that John McCain today expressed concern about Russia's "reducing the energy supplies to Czechoslovakia." Which hasn't existed for nearly two decades.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0708/Remembering_Czechoslovakia.html

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Link to Transcript of McCain's Remarks to the Press in Phoenix: http://thepage.time.com/transcript-of-mccains-remarks-to-the-press-in-phoenix/
Link to Pool Report of McCain in Phoenix Monday: http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-of-mccain-in-phoenix-monday/

McCain Aide Calls For Fully Funded No Child Left Behind, Which McCain Voted Against (Huffington Post 7/14/08)
By Sam Stein
Appearing on Meet the Press Sunday, John McCain's senior adviser Carly Fiorina touted the Senator's bona fides on education by laying out the reforms he had envisioned for the No Child Left Behind act.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/14/mccain-aide-calls-for-ful_n_112598.html

Obama Addresses Iraq, McCain Hits Back (Washington Post blog 7/14/08)
By Chris Cillizza
In advance of what is being billed as a "major" address on Iraq by Barack Obama tomorrow, his campaign is working overtime to reposition the Illinois senator on the future of American involvement in the country.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/07/mccain_obama_position_on_iraq.html

Obama would swap Iraq war loss for election win: McCain camp (AFP 7/14/08)
Republican John McCain's camp has charged that his Democratic foe Barack Obama would trade defeat in Iraq for an election win, as a fierce new row over the war rocked the White House race.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i6dhh7DsKfFl7534Cn0gaalXi9UQ

McCain and Social Security (Atlantic online 7/14/08)
By Matthew Yglesias
I've been shocked by how little play John McCain's recent remarks on Social Security have gotten, especially considering his record of support for the Bush administration's unpopular privatization scheme. Maybe that's soon to change:
http://matthewyglesias.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/mccain_and_social_security.php

About Those Town-Hall Meetings... (NYT 7/14/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
At nearly every town-hall meeting that John McCain conducts with voters these days, he stops to point out someone missing from the room: Barack Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/14/us/politics/14web-nagourney.html

Analysis: Surrogates' sideshows becoming the main event (CNN 7/15/08)
* Campaigns used to have only a handoff of people speak for them
* Surrogates now spread message among expanding media outlets
* Gaffes by surrogates not uncommon, lead candidates to quickly disown statements
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/15/borger.surrogates/index.html

McCains to Profit on Anheuser, InBev Deal (WSJ blog 7/14/08)
T. W. Farnam
Cindy McCain, wife of Republican presidential candidate John McCain, is set to get a huge payout from the sale of Anheuser-Busch Cos., brewer of Budweiser and hundreds of other brands, to Belgian beverage giant InBev NV.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/14/mccains-to-profit-on-anheuser-inbev-deal/
See HuffPo's "How Much Could The McCains Make From Anheuser-Busch Co. Sale?": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/14/how-much-could-the-mccain_n_112698.html

Cindy McCain: "In Arizona The Only Way To Get Around The State Is By Small Private Plane" (VIDEO) (Huffington Post 7/14/08)
Cindy McCain recently gave a rare private interview to CNN in which she disclosed her opinions on transportation in Arizona, her home state. The McCain's have tried to distance themselves from elitism, but apparently Mrs. McCain believes that the only way to get around is by "small private plane."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/14/cindy-mccain-in-arizona-t_n_112695.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

An Election Goes Abroad (Washington Post 7/15/08)
By Anne Applebaum; Page A19
Both McCain and Obama think foreign policy is important, but will voters agree?

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071401844.html

McCain's School Choice Opportunity (WSJ 7/15/08)
By CLINT BOLICK; Page A17
Education is slipping in priority among many voters but not among Hispanics, many of whom see school choice as a deciding factor in whom to vote for this fall. This has implications for the presidential election.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121607849587752587.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

BUSH NEWS

Bush Rescinds Father's Offshore Oil Ban (Washington Post 7/15/08)
By Dan Eggen and Steven Mufson; A08
President Bush yesterday lifted a presidential ban on offshore oil drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf that was implemented by his father, escalating a confrontation with Democrats in Congress over how to cope with soaring gas prices. ... Drilling Still Blocked by Congressional Edict
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071401049.html
See AP's "Bush Lifts Executive Ban on Offshore Drilling": http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1822548,00.html
Link to video of Bush remarks: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/07/14/VI2008071401606.html
Link to transcript of Bush remarks: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/14/AR2008071401358.html

Payne admits selling access could be 'perceived to be bribery,' but insists it's legal (ThinkProgress 7/14/08)
According to CNN, longtime associate of President Bush, Stephen Payne, is now admitting that his selling of access to Bush administration officials could be "perceived to be bribery." Payne still insists, however, that there was no "quid pro quo" for the donations which he solicited. Instead, he said, the Sunday Times is "engaging in 'gotcha journalism.'"
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/14/payne-bribery/

Drilling's Lure (NYT 7/15/08)
President Bush's decision on Monday to lift the moratorium on offshore oil drilling first imposed by his father 18 years ago is designed to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to do likewise. Congress should resist. Offshore drilling will not bring short-term relief from $4-a-gallon gasoline, nor can it play much more than a marginal role in any long-term strategy for energy independence. The oil companies already have access to substantial unexplored resources.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/opinion/15tue3.html?ref=opinion

OTHER TOP NEWS

Ailing sentiment hits dollar and global stocks (Financial Times 7/15/08)
By Neil Dennis
Global equities fell sharply and the dollar sank on Tuesday after US government plans to rescue ailing mortgage groups Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae left investors unconvinced.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4552add0-5259-11dd-9ba7-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1

General Motors to announce more cuts Tuesday (AP 7/14/08)
By DEE-ANN DURBIN and TOM KRISHER
General Motors Corp. is expected to cut several thousand salaried jobs and further slash truck production in response to falling U.S. sales and Wall Street's demands for more action to stem its losses, according to two people briefed on the plan.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/G/GM_RESTRUCTURING?SITE=MOSTP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Congress to hear Bernanke, Paulson on market strain (Reuters 7/15/08)
Discussion of persistent financial market turmoil is seen as likely to overshadow the Federal Reserve's semi-annual monetary policy outlook when Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies before Congress on Tuesday. Bernanke is due to present semi-annual monetary policy to the Senate Banking Committee at 10 a.m. EDT.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071500210.html

Suicide Bombers Kill 35 Iraqi Recruits (NYT 7/15/08)
By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
Two suicide bombers posing as army recruits struck an Iraqi base just east of Baquba on Tuesday morning,

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killing at least 35 Iraqi recruits and wounding 63, according to the Iraqi police and medical officials in Diyala Province.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/world/middleeast/16iraq.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Obama's Iraq speech to set stage for trip (AP 7/15/08)
By GLEN JOHNSON
Barack Obama is setting the stage for his upcoming visit to Iraq with a high-profile explanation of his opposition to the war there and his pledge to complete a U.S. troop pullout within 16 months of becoming president.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1822791,00.html
Link to excerpts of Obama's speech: http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-of-obamas-speech-on-iraqnational-security/

Obama Will Meet Palestinian Leaders in the West Bank (NYT 7/15/08)
By JOHN M. BRODER and ISABEL KERSHNER
Senator Barack Obama, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, will meet with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank during his trip overseas next week, the first details of which began to emerge on Monday.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/us/politics/15campaign.html?ref=politics

Obama's focus is responsibility in NAACP speech (CNN 7/14/08)
* Sen. Barack Obama addresses NAACP convention in Cincinnati on Monday night
* He vows to "stand up" for black people the way past generations "stood up for me"
* Speech is first time black presidential nominee from major party will address group
* Newer generation of black leaders focuses on economic, social justice issues
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/14/obama.naacp/index.html

Vegas Tycoon Bankrolls Republicans (WSJ 7/15/08)
By June Kronholz and Tamara Audi
In the Las Vegas casinos that made Sheldon Adelson one of the country's richest men, a "whale" is someone willing to bet millions. Republicans are hoping Mr. Adelson will be their whale this election.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121608018071652749.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Gore To Give Major Speech On Energy And The Environment (Atlantic online 7/14/08)
By Marc Ambinder
His office says Gore will lay out "an unprecedented challenge" on energy and climate change and will set a national goal for a "clean energy future." ...When: Thursday, July 17 at 12:00 p.m. EDT:
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/gore_to_give_major_speech_on_e.php

Military Officers Want More Diplomacy And Development Assistance (Atlantic online 7/14/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Here's a sneak preview of a poll of 606 commissioned U.S. military officers conducted for the Center for U.S. Global Engagement, which holds a conference on national security in DC tomorrow.
#A significant majority of the officers recognize the need for non-military tools and diplomacy. ...
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/military_officers_want_diploma.php

POLLS

McCain Tops Obama in Commander-in-Chief Test; Stays Competitive on Iraq (ABC 7/14/08)
by GARY LANGER
Poll Finds 72 Percent of Americans Say McCain Would be Good Commander-in-Chief
http://abcnews.go.com/PollingUnit/Politics/story?id=5370538&page=1
New National Numbers (The Page 7/15/08)
Quinnipiac University poll:
Obama 50, McCain 41
Dates conducted: July 8-13. Error margin: 2.4 points.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/15/new-national-poll-expected-tuesday-morning/
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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/6/2015 12:35:16 AM
Subject:	News Clips 5.6.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.6.15.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 6, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

The NYT/CBS poll released yesterday found Americans now view Mrs. Clinton more favorably and as a stronger leader than they did earlier in the year, despite weeks of scrutiny about her ethics. The poll is being pointed to as evidence that recent coverage on Clinton's email server and the fundraising activities of the Clinton Foundation have not dented Clinton's standing.

Yesterday in Nevada, Hillary Clinton met with DREAMers and defined her stance on how to fix the broken immigration system, saying that we need to find a "full and equal path to citizenship". This was described as bold and giving the activist more than they asked for in articles and on social media.

Yesterday Hillary for America released and launched a Briefing webpage with a video debunking 'Clinton Cash.' The page was generally well received by media and praised for being aggressive not abrasive. The video was picked up and used by several different TV news outlets throughout the day.

Coverage also noted the Clinton campaign's acceptance of the DNC proposal to host six debates during the primary campaign. A spokeswoman for Governor O'Malley, however, is quoted in most stories raising questions about the DNC's exclusivity demand.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

ABC had a short segment on Huckabee's announcement and included Hillary Clinton's upcoming immigration round table. CBS had a more in depth segment about Huckabee, stating that he is touting taking on HRC in 2008. A CBS poll found that Americans are split on HRC's trustworthiness. CBS and NBC both discussed the campaign's pushback on Clinton Cash and included parts of Brian Fallon's video and referred to The Briefing. NBC noted that Huckabee took a swipe at HRC by saying that he does not have a global foundation to live off of.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Under Fire, Clinton Camp Pushes Back, Amps Up // Real Clear Politics // Alexis Simendinger - May 5, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign is not yet a month old, and in the space of a day, her team paired a new online war room with cheery social media invitations to supporters to win a personal candidate phone call for Mother's Day.

In the Clinton world, the simultaneous melding of pushback politics (aimed at opponents and the news media) and sunny outreach (to likely voters and donors) is not unusual. Among 2016 campaign veterans who helped Bill Clinton win the White House twice, and watched Hillary Clinton lose to Barack Obama in 2008, the tools this time may be digitally fresh but the tactics are old hat.

"Republicans seem to only want to distort Hillary Clinton's record," her campaign chief said Monday. Referring to uncapped and undisclosed donations from corporations, individuals and unions permitted by law, her campaign complained, "It is clear they have a two-fisted strategy to try to undermine her, using unlimited dark money on the one hand and taxpayer funds on the other."

On the eve of championing immigration reform in Nevada on Tuesday, and a campaign fundraising blitz through California later this week, Clinton also confirmed through her attorney that she'll soon testify to a House investigative committee about the 2012 Benghazi attacks and her missing emails.

On the sidelines, her campaign team on Monday announced a new Web portal they titled "The Briefing," designed as a repository for counter-messaging to rebut critics in real time. A new book titled "Clinton Cash" – in bookstores Tuesday – inspired her campaign chairman, John Podesta (who served as a chief of staff to President Clinton and White House counselor to President Obama), to describe how the Web-based Hillary war room will operate. In a Monday night post on Medium, a site barely three years old, Podesta told readers "The

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Briefing" will serve the former first lady as a place for "facts" about her record and her "positive policy agenda."

"It will serve as a hub that allows Hillary for America to cut through the partisan noise over the next 18 months and directly communicate with voters," he wrote. "While we will not be consumed by these kinds of attacks, we will also not let them go unchallenged."

The book Podesta assailed as "debunked" and full of errors, and which Bill Clinton indirectly denounced during an NBC News interview broadcast Monday, asserts that foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation while Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state point to conflicts of interest and "questions of judgment."

Written by Peter Schweizer, a Republican author, political consultant and former speechwriter for George W. Bush, the book is billed by the publisher as an "exposé" that describes a "pattern of behavior" that Schweizer believes warrants additional independent investigation. The complete title: "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich."

According to Podesta, "the book has zero evidence to back up its outlandish claims."

On Monday, President Clinton defended donations, including those from foreign governments that have supported global projects to the Clinton Foundation since he left the White House.

"There has been a very deliberate attempt to take the foundation down," he asserted while traveling in Africa.

The former commander-in-chief also defended lucrative earnings from speeches and said he would continue getting paid to talk to groups while his wife makes her White House bid. "I gotta pay our bills," he said, noting that he donates "a lot" of the family income each year to projects supported by the foundation.

He said the nonprofit's recent decision to limit donations from foreign governments to a small roster of countries was not an acknowledgement of mistakes.

"It's an acknowledgement that we're going to come as close as we can during her presidential campaign to following the rules we followed when she became secretary of state," he explained. Among those commitments is public disclosure of "all" foundation donors each quarter.

As with Hillary Clinton's campaign team, the foundation has also used its website to attempt to correct information it finds to be in error. In a letter reprinted on the site last week, Clinton Foundation Board Chairman Bruce Lindsey questioned news reporting and countered a quote used in a New York Post article. "The fact is that no money raised for the Clinton Foundation goes to the Clintons personally, ever," he wrote. "The Clintons draw no salary from the foundation and derive no financial benefit from the foundation."

Separate from foundation and paid-speaking controversies, Hillary Clinton is expected to be back on Capitol Hill within weeks to testify to a Republican-dominated panel about the Benghazi tragedy, her emails, and other topics. In a letter Monday to House Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy, David Kendall, attorney for the Clintons, advised lawmakers the former secretary of state will testify publicly one additional time, and "stay as long as necessary to answer the committee's questions," during the week of May 18 or at a later date.

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Nearly a month into a primary season in which Hillary Clinton is the Democratic favorite against socialist/ independent/Democrat Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont (the party's second declared entrant in the race), she remains the GOP's top political target, after Obama. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released Monday found that the controversies surrounding her candidacy have not undermined her strength with her base.

"Support for her among Democrats remains strong and unshaken," the Journal reported, adding that negative evaluations nevertheless increased in recent weeks. Compared with her 2008 campaign, Clinton in April was rated more easygoing and likable in the poll – an achievement her campaign advisers are working hard to maintain – but she is also perceived as less honest and straightforward than the last time she presented herself to voters.

At Rancho High School in Las Vegas on Tuesday, the former New York senator will reiterate her support for a pathway to citizenship and showcase the potential benefits for migrant families and the economy. She'll speak with a select young audience from a student body that is 70 percent Hispanic.

Immigration is an issue that divides Republican presidential candidates, offering Clinton the opening to spotlight contrasts with the large GOP field. For example, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who helped draft a comprehensive reform measure and then abandoned the effort, supports legal status (but not citizenship) with restrictions, such as barring access to health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

"She will say that the standard for a true solution is nothing less than a full and equal path to citizenship," said a Clinton campaign official on background. "She will say that we cannot settle for proposals that provide hard-working people with merely a `second-class' status."

Clinton has endorsed President Obama's executive actions to defer deportation for up to 4 million people who may qualify for Department of Homeland Security enforcement waivers.

From Nevada, Clinton will head to San Francisco to raise money for her campaign on May 6; to Los Angeles for a fundraiser May 7; and to Silicon Valley May 8 to meet donors at the home of eBay CEO John Donahoe and wife Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, an intellectual property attorney who was Obama's first U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Later this month, Clinton will campaign in South Carolina, continuing her campaign's focus on early primary states and exchanges with potential voters in smaller settings.

Her first large campaign rally is expected to take place sometime in May, at an as-yet undisclosed location.

Clinton 'War Room' Pushback And The 'Invent Your Own' Media Campaign // NPR // Jessica Taylor - May 5, 2015

The Hillary Clinton campaign went into overdrive Tuesday trying to minimize the damage from a new book that delves into Clinton Foundation fundraising — and they're not using the typical channels to do so.

On the same day that the controversial new book, "Clinton Cash" by Peter Schweizer, was officially released, the Democrat's presidential campaign largely went around the traditional media in favor of new media tools.

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Though campaigns have been trying to bypass the media filter for years, it's an advent of a new era in politics. The Clinton campaign is embracing several new technologies and platforms to get their message out more directly to voters, and it's a tactic her potential rivals are sure to employ, too.

"It's almost media 3.0," said Tobe Berkovitz, a professor of political communication at Boston University. "If 1.0 was dealing with the press and 2.0 was trying to circumvent the press and going to friendly sites, 3.0 is, 'Why even bother with that? Just invent your own.'"

Through a new section of its campaign website called, "The Briefing," and a post on the platform-sharing site Medium, Clinton's campaign went on offense against Schweizer and his suggestions that foreign donations to her family's foundation influenced her time at the State Department — all without the candidate addressing it head on.

A two-and-a-half-minute video posted on the new site from campaign spokesman Brian Fallon derides Schweizer as a GOP operative, who was a former adviser to 2008 vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin, and a close friend of the Koch brothers. He also noted that research by ABC News and even Fox News revealed there was no "smoking gun."

"The book is already being debunked far and wide," Fallon said."It's full of sloppy research and attacks pulled out of thin air with no actual evidence. And it's missing the most important thing of all: facts."

Campaign Chairman John Podesta also explained the campaign's strategy in a memo posted to Medium:

"While we will not be consumed by these kinds of attacks, we will also not let them go unchallenged. That's why we are building a new one-stop shop to provide the facts about Hillary Clinton's positions and her record. We are calling it 'The Briefing.' You will be able to find information and it will serve as a hub that allows Hillary for America to cut through the partisan noise over the next 18 months and directly communicate with voters. This forum will provide the public with direct access to the facts on the positive policy agenda that Hillary will unveil over the course of campaign, as well as the facts needed to debunk false attacks."

This isn't the first time since she announced last month that Clinton's team has utilized these new platforms, especially to target Schweizer. Though his book was just released on Tuesday, details have been leaking out for weeks and other media organizations like the New York Times have used his research to further investigate specific claims.

Team Clinton has turned to Medium before, with Fallon releasing a statement on the Times story that alleged donations to the Clinton foundation were tied to the government's approval of uranium mining company to the Russian government:

"Without presenting any direct evidence in support of the claim, the Times story — like the book on which it is based — wrongly suggests that Hillary Clinton's State Department pushed for the sale's approval to reward donors who had a financial interest in the deal."

Last week, the Clinton campaign also released a Vine of comments Schweizer had made at a 2014 Koch brothers summit, where he told fellow conservatives "we cannot let up."

The use of new media in favor of more traditional media isn't a surprising strategy from the Clinton campaign,

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given Clinton's decades-long distrust of and tension with the media. It's also not a new tactic, with campaigns' rapid-response teams trying to get their message out at any cost and through any channel. And given the way more and more people, especially younger voters, consume news, it might be the most efficient as well.

The embrace of these new platforms is one that both the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates are likely to use even more this cycle.

Clinton's campaign insists it is not bypassing the media in the new approach, but is instead using multiple platforms to get their message out.

"Our campaign will work with the oldest of media outlets and the newest of technologies to reach voters," Clinton spokesman Josh Schwerin told NPR in emailed statement. "It would be a false choice to say it's one or the other. There is so much misinformation flying around that, whether it's through the press or on social media, it's important for voters to be able to access the facts directly, so they can assess for themselves and help beat back the partisan attacks."

It's also a way for the campaign to release a controlled, scripted narrative instead of having Clinton herself answer questions about the issue. National Journal noted last week she has only answered a total of seven media questions since she became an official candidate. She twice dismissed allegations in Schweizer's book as "distractions" but she did not answer the charges directly.

The one unscripted response came from former President Bill Clinton in an interview with NBC News Monday that the family foundation had "never done anything knowingly inappropriate" in accepting money from foreign governments for their charitable foundation.

The foundation has reinstated a ban on donations from all but six foreign countries now, but the former president said that move was "absolutely not" an acknowledgement that accepting previous donations was a mistake.

For the Clinton campaign, this approach is "much better than actually trotting Hillary out somewhere and have her answer what might be tough or aggressive questions," Berkowitz said. "Release the video, and then you release the hounds."

Democratic strategist Jim Manley, a former top aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it's the right approach for the Clintons.

"What I see happening is a classic Clinton-style war-room operation utilizing all the new media that are out there," Manley said. "I think they deserve a lot of credit for utilizing new things like Medium, but I also respect that they're not going to leave any charge unanswered."

Clinton is far and away the Democratic frontrunner for president, and she still beats most of her possible GOP rivals in hypothetical head-to-heads too. But amid questions about the Clinton foundation and an earlier controversy about her use of a private email server instead of a government account while she was at the State Department, her polling numbers have suffered.

Since March, Clinton's unfavorable rating has risen six percentage points while those who said she was honest and straightforward has dropped 13 points in a year, according to an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released this week.

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Clinton has been under sustained assault from Republicans on the campaign trail and Capitol Hill. And she will continue to be with hearings and testimony coming about the terrorist attack on the U.S. outpost in Benghazi, Libya.

"I think every bit is going to help, but the Republicans have an amazing ability to drudge up all sorts of crazy conspiracies about the Clintons," Manley said. "These kind of tools can only take you so far, but, at some point, she's going to have to start addressing some of these things herself."

Hillary Clinton Gains Favor, Times/CBS Poll Says // NYT // Jonathan Martin and Megan Thee Brenan - May 5, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton appears to have initially weathered a barrage of news about her use of a private email account when she was secretary of state and the practices of her family's foundation, an indication that she is starting her second presidential bid with an unusual durability among Democratic voters.

Americans now view Mrs. Clinton more favorably and as a stronger leader than they did earlier in the year, despite weeks of scrutiny about her ethics, a New York Times/CBS News poll has found. And nearly nine in 10 Democrats say the nation is ready to elect a woman president.

Republican voters showed the most openness to considering SenatorMarco Rubio of Florida and former Govs. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas andJeb Bush of Florida among their party's presidential contenders, the survey found.

Mrs. Clinton remains a polarizing figure — nearly the same percentage of Americans view her positively as negatively — but her favorability rating has improved by nine percentage points since the disclosure in late March that she did not use a government email account as secretary of state.

And the number of Americans who think Mrs. Clinton has strong qualities of leadership has risen by eight percentage points, to 65 percent from 57 percent, in that same period. Still, Mrs. Clinton begins this campaign with fewer voters saying she possesses such qualities than did in July 2007, near the outset of her first presidential bid.

Mrs. Clinton already has one primary opponent, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, and more Democrats are likely to enter the race, but her party seems particularly unbothered by questions relating to the emails and to the foundation that she, her husband and their daughter oversee.

While roughly 48 percent of Americans say Mrs. Clinton is honest and trustworthy, about four of five Democrats think she has those traits — and about the same numbers of Democrats say she shares the values most Americans try to live by.

Fifty-two percent of Democrats said they knew nothing or very little about the Clinton Foundation, and only 10 percent said foreign donations to the foundation affected Mrs. Clinton's decisions while she was the nation's top diplomat. Just 9 percent of Democratic voters said they would not consider voting for Mrs. Clinton.

"I think the whole thing is political and it's going to wash away eventually," Herbert Levengard, 83, a Democratic

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retiree from Maryland, said in a follow-up interview. “There are always going to be people who mess around and look for things to yell about, but I don’t care.”

Mrs. Clinton is also helped in her own party by the enduring popularity of former President Bill Clinton: Seventy-six percent of Democrats have a favorable view of him and only 4 percent view him unfavorably.

Democrats also assume that Mr. Clinton — who memorably said in his 1992 presidential bid that he and Mrs. Clinton represented “two for the price of one” — would play a substantial role were Mrs. Clinton to win the White House. Seven in 10 Democratic voters said he would have a great deal or some influence on Mrs. Clinton if she became president.

If Democrats seem largely content with the prospect of another Clinton in the White House, Republicans are not quite as certain about electing a third member of the Bush family president.

Nearly three-quarters of Republican voters view George W. Bush favorably, but almost 70 percent have not yet formed an opinion of his brother Jeb, a likely presidential candidate.

The Republican primary is largely unformed, with many Republicans indicating openness to a variety of candidates in a large and still growing field.

There is positive news for Jeb Bush, though. Forty-nine percent of conservative Republican voters think his stance on the issues is about right.

While Mr. Bush has faced initial questions about whether he is sufficiently conservative to win a Republican primary, only 22 percent of Republican voters said his views were not conservative enough. Further, 60 percent of Republican voters said having the right experience was more important in a presidential candidate, while only 27 percent said they thought offering fresh ideas was more valuable.

What could also help Mr. Bush — along with the other governors or former governors seeking the GOP nomination — is that 73 percent of Republican voters said they preferred candidates with experience outside Washington.

“I would really prefer a candidate who has been a governor,” said Vinton Ernest, an 85-year-old Republican retiree in Las Vegas. “Running a state is just as difficult as running a government. It’s just multiplied when you’re running the country.”

Still, Mr. Rubio, 43, a first-term senator, seems to have more room to gain in popularity than Mr. Huckabee or Mr. Bush: Only 17 percent of Republicans said they would not consider supporting him, while 26 percent said they would not back Mr. Huckabee, and 23 percent ruled out supporting Mr. Bush.

Republican voters were least resistant to Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin: only 13 percent said they would not consider voting for him. At the opposite extreme, 42 percent of Republicans said they would not consider voting for Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey.

Over all, Democrats enter the next presidential campaign with a better image than Republicans. Forty-three

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percent of Americans said they had a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party while only 29 percent said the same of the Republican Party.

But as Democrats seek to retain the White House for a third consecutive term, they do so as many Americans are dissatisfied with the country's direction. Sixty-three percent of Americans said the country had gotten off track, and 66 percent said the economy was growing worse or staying the same.

The candidates will make their case to an increasingly polarized electorate: Two-thirds of Democrats support legalizing same-sex marriage, while about the same percentage Republicans do not think same-sex marriages should be legal.

In addition, 69 percent of Republicans say small-business owners who provide wedding-related services should be able to refuse, on the basis of their religious belief, such services to same-sex couples. But 58 percent of Democrats think the businesses should be required to provide those services.

On immigration, 46 percent of Republicans said illegal immigrants should be required to leave the United States, while only 16 percent of Democrats said the same. And while 71 percent of Democrats said illegal immigrants should be able to stay in the country and apply for citizenship, just 38 percent of Republicans said they should be allowed to remain in America and pursue citizenship.

The poll was conducted by telephone, on landlines and cellphones nationwide, from April 30 to May 3 with 1,027 adults, of whom 868 were registered to vote. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points for all adults and registered voters.

Hillary Clinton Just Won Over Much Of The Skeptical Immigrant Activist Movement // Buzzfeed // Adrian Carrasquillo and Ruby Cramer

Activists challenged Hillary Clinton to go left on immigration — something the Obama administration fought them on — and they didn't expect much. But at one small event in Nevada on Tuesday, Clinton surprised them all.

LAS VEGAS — Hillary Clinton tacked hard to the left on immigration at a campaign event here in North Las Vegas, outlining an aggressive and detailed policy agenda that called for a path to citizenship, protections for parents of children brought to this country illegally, and full-scale changes to the immigrant detention system.

Clinton's proposals for the immigration system— and the government's approach to undocumented immigrants — would expand President Obama's efforts, and go even further.

It was a noticeably progressive vision from Clinton, who has been a target of the activist community since leaving her post at the State Department. Last year, when she refused for weeks to articulate her stance on Obama's executive actions, protestors trailed her events, staging a series of loud and unannounced disruptions.

Her comments on Tuesday afternoon, made at a small "roundtable" discussion with students in the library of Rancho High School, are among her most thorough on domestic policy since the start of her presidential campaign last month.

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Six DREAMers — or undocumented youth brought to the country as children — sat alongside Clinton at the Nevada event, her first in the key primary state. Each was a student at Rancho High and a recipient of DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that Obama launched through executive action.

When she opened the discussion, Clinton told the students she would like to "do more on behalf of parents of DREAMers who are not necessarily included" in the current deferred action plan — to the consternation of activists who pushed strongly for that measure to be included in Obama's actions last year.

As president, Clinton said, she would do everything possible to "avoid family breakup" — a "terrible experience" that isn't "smart" or "right."

Calling for full changes to the detention system, Clinton advocated broadly for "more humane treatment" — and specifically for a "higher level of care" for children, LGBT people, and others who could be considered more vulnerable in large facilities.

Clinton also promised to support and expand Obama's executive actions, pushing to allow more undocumented immigrants the right to apply for work permits and protections. She repeated her call to Congress for a comprehensive bill and a "full and equal" path to citizenship.

But if Congress does not undertake legislative changes, Clinton said she would pursue more executive actions herself. "I would do everything possible under the law to go even further," she said.

The appearance in Nevada instantly rippled through the community of activists at the heart of the immigration debate — many of whom followed the event by video and social media. They said on Tuesday afternoon that Clinton showed she would draw sharp contrasts to Republicans who have been more receptive to immigration changes, including former governor Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio.

"This is big," said Frank Sharry, an activist who leads America's Voice and worked closely with the Obama administration on their 2014 executive actions.

"Obama's executive actions cover some 5 million people, but leave out at least as many," he said. "She's saying she'll devise a process for them to apply — DREAMers' parents, LGBT families, and others with strong ties [to the country] will be able to get relief" from deportation.

Erika Andiola — a DREAMer activist whose high-profile return from Congress, where she was staffer, to Arizona to fight her mother's deportation garnered national headlines — said Clinton's comments were an encouraging sign.

If, as Clinton suggested, she would move to protect the parents of DREAMers, Andiola's mother could be protected from deportation, she said.

"This is a really great step recognizing what she could do," Andiola said. "I'm happy that this first step was greatly taken, now it's about making sure that accountability is there."

Cristina Jiménez, with the group United We Dream, said that the 2016 election may stand out as the first time in

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history that the country will be able to have a substantive debate on immigration policy and executive actions. “Full and equal citizenship for our communities, the protection of existing executive actions on immigration and a commitment to expand that relief were good to hear,” she said.

Still, many activists mentioned Bush, the former Florida governor who supports “earned legal status” — rather than Clinton’s endorsement of “full and equal citizenship.”

Activists have said they will continue to pressure Bush on immigration — a demand he may find difficult to entertain in the midst of a competitive Republican primary.

Some, like Ali Noorani with the National Immigration Forum, who works with evangelicals and law enforcement, attributed Clinton’s move to pressure not just from the left, but also from the right.

“It’s great that Hillary is demarcating and differentiating herself between Jeb and other Republicans,” he said. “But she’s moving because leading Republicans are moving. She’s moving because there is real pressure, not necessarily pressure from the left, but pressure from the right. That’s the difference here.”

He dinged both parties, adding that in 2008, Democrats had no reason to move to the left on immigration and Republicans have not been responding to the nation’s interests at all, until recently.

Clinton’s mention of family detention issues, which Noorani previously called a “scar” of the Obama administration, showed him she is responding to is the fact that conservative faith leaders believe families should stay together, even if they’re in deportation proceedings. “Somebody in her world is giving her a sense of how to approach this,” he said.

That could be her political director, Amanda Renteria, who was working the phones speaking to immigration leaders even before the campaign was announced, to understand what community leaders wanted to see from Clinton.

That ask included many issues, like asking for an end to local police working with immigration enforcement agents in their jails. But it also called for Clinton to move away from her at times wooden, awkward tones on immigration last year during her book tour to a place with a more welcoming, inclusive tone focused on families, activists said.

Of course, cautious optimism from activists doesn’t mean they are hanging it up and going home to put up Clinton 2016 lawn signs.

The National Day Laborer Organizing Network, or NDLON, hardly had a positive word for Clinton, though they acknowledged her comments were surprising.

“It is also an indication the Clinton campaign is concerned about the prospect of a pro-reform candidate winning the GOP nomination,” Chris Newman said.

He argued that by “moving so far to the left so quickly, she has inadvertently increased pressure on the Obama administration to take additional significant action on deportation and detention in his remaining two years.”

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Jiménez already had a new ask, as well, calling on Clinton, if elected, to take immediate executive action.

“Saying that executive action will happen only if Congress fails to act could set up a long blame game between the president and Congress which we’ve seen before,” she said.

Clinton concluded the event with a vow to the DREAMers to her left and right.

“I pledge to you that I will do everything I possibly can to make this an issue in the campaign,” she said, “but more importantly, when I’m president, to put it at the top of my priority list.”

It was a promise that Betsaida Frausto, one of the participants, said she will take to heart. Frausto is a recipient of DACA. She has the highest grade average of her peers — a 4.8 — and said she dreams of going to Yale and becoming a doctor.

“Before, my future was unknown,” Frausto said after meeting Clinton. “Now I feel more secure. At the bottom of my heart, I know that she gets it.”

“If there’s a person who can help, it’s her.”

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jorge Ramos (5/5/15 8:25pm) ↰ @jorgeramosnews: Hillary just took a stunningly aggressive stance on immigration reform http://www.vox.com/2015/5/5/8557271/clinton-immigration-obama?utm_campaign=vox&utm_content=article%3Atop&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

America's Voice retweeted Hillary Clinton (5/5/15 6:54pm) @americasvoice: This is HUGE. RT @HillaryClinton “We should put in place an accessible way for parents of DREAMers & others to be eligible for the same deferred action as their children.”

Chris Moody (5/5/15 9:29am) @moodyHillary: Clinton's campaign launched a version of Obama's AttackWatch, but without sounding angry and insane.

Carolyn Ryan ↰ 5/5/15 6:38pm @carolynryan: Despite barrage of tough stories, Hillary Clinton remains strong in polls. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/06/us/politics/hillary-clinton-gains-favor-times-cbs-poll-says.html

Dara Lind (5/5/15 7:29pm) @DLind: I am stunned. Hillary actually did _more_ than advocates were asking her for. http://www.vox.com/2015/5/5/85572

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

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Hillary Clinton's Appeal Survives Scrutiny, Poll Says // NYT // Jonathan Martin and Megan Thee-Brenan – May 5, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton at Columbia University in New York last week. Credit Michael Appleton for The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton appears to have initially weathered a barrage of news about her use of a private email account when she was secretary of state and the practices of her family's foundation, an indication that she is starting her second presidential bid with an unusual durability among Democratic voters.

Americans now view Mrs. Clinton more favorably and more see her as a strong leader than they did earlier in the year, despite weeks of scrutiny about her ethics, a New York Times/CBS News poll has found. And nearly nine in 10 Democrats say the nation is ready to elect a woman president.

Republican voters showed the most openness to considering Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and former Govs. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas and Jeb Bush of Florida among their party's presidential contenders, the survey found.

Mrs. Clinton remains a polarizing figure — nearly the same percentage of Americans view her positively as negatively — but her favorability rating has improved by nine percentage points since the disclosure in late March that she did not use a government email account as secretary of state.

Americans' Views on the 2016 Presidential Campaign and the Issues

See what Americans think about Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Republican candidates and issues like the health care law and same-sex marriage.

And the number of Americans who think Mrs. Clinton has strong qualities of leadership has risen by eight percentage points, to 65 percent from 57 percent, in that period. Still, Mrs. Clinton begins this campaign with fewer voters saying she possesses such qualities than did in July 2007, near the outset of her first presidential bid.

Mrs. Clinton has one primary opponent, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, and more Democrats are likely to enter the race, but her party seems particularly unbothered by questions relating to the emails and to the foundation that she, her husband and their daughter oversee.

While roughly 48 percent of Americans say Mrs. Clinton is honest and trustworthy, about four of five Democrats think she has those traits — and about the same numbers of Democrats say she shares the values most Americans try to live by.

Fifty-two percent of Democrats said they knew nothing or very little about the Clinton Foundation, and only 10 percent said foreign donations to the foundation affected Mrs. Clinton's decisions while she was the nation's top diplomat. Just 9 percent of Democratic voters said they would not consider voting for Mrs. Clinton.

"I think the whole thing is political and it's going to wash away eventually," Herbert Levengard, 83, a Democratic retiree from Maryland, said in a follow-up interview. "There are always going to be people who mess around and look for things to yell about, but I don't care."

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Mrs. Clinton is also helped in her own party by the enduring popularity of former President Bill Clinton: Seventy-six percent of Democrats have a favorable view of him, and only 4 percent view him unfavorably.

Democrats also assume that Mr. Clinton — who memorably said in his 1992 presidential bid that he and Mrs. Clinton represented “two for the price of one” — would play a substantial role were Mrs. Clinton to win the White House. Seven in 10 Democratic voters said he would have a great deal or some influence on Mrs. Clinton if she became president.

Continue reading the main story

If Democrats seem largely content with the prospect of another Clinton in the White House, Republicans do not seem quite as certain about electing a third member of the Bush family president.

Nearly three-quarters of Republican voters view George W. Bush favorably, but almost 70 percent have not yet formed an opinion of his brother Jeb, a likely presidential candidate.

The Republican primary is largely unformed, with many Republicans indicating openness to a variety of candidates in a large and still growing field.

There is positive news for Jeb Bush, though. Forty-nine percent of conservative Republican voters think his stance on the issues is about right.

While Mr. Bush has faced questions about whether he is conservative enough to win a Republican primary, only 22 percent of Republican voters said his views were not conservative enough. Further, 60 percent of Republican voters said having the right experience was more important in a presidential candidate, while only 27 percent said they thought offering fresh ideas was more valuable.

What could also help Mr. Bush — along with the other governors or former governors seeking the G.O.P. nomination — is that 73 percent of Republican voters said they preferred candidates with experience outside Washington.

“I would really prefer a candidate who has been a governor,” said Vinton Ernest, an 85-year-old Republican retiree from Las Vegas. “Running a state is just as difficult as running a government. It’s just multiplied when you’re running the country.”

Still, Mr. Rubio, 43, a first-term senator, seems to have more room to gain in popularity than Mr. Huckabee or Mr. Bush: Only 17 percent of Republicans said they would not consider supporting him, while 26 percent said they would not back Mr. Huckabee and 23 percent ruled out supporting Mr. Bush.

Republican voters were least resistant to Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin: Only 13 percent said they would not consider voting for him. At the opposite extreme, 42 percent of Republicans said they would not consider voting for Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey.

Over all, Democrats enter the next presidential campaign with a better image than Republicans. Forty-three percent of Americans said they had a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party while only 29 percent said the same of the Republican Party.

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But as Democrats seek to retain the White House for a third consecutive term, many Americans are dissatisfied with the country's direction. Sixty-three percent of Americans said the country had gotten off track, and 66 percent said the economy was growing worse or staying the same.

The candidates will make their case to an increasingly polarized electorate: Two-thirds of Democrats support legalizing same-sex marriage, while about the same percentage of Republicans do not think same-sex marriages should be legal.

In addition, 69 percent of Republicans say small-business owners who provide wedding-related services should be able to refuse, on the basis of their religious belief, such services to same-sex couples. But 58 percent of Democrats think the businesses should be required to provide those services.

On immigration, 46 percent of Republicans said illegal immigrants should be required to leave the United States, while only 16 percent of Democrats said the same. And while 71 percent of Democrats said illegal immigrants should be able to stay in the country and apply for citizenship, just 38 percent of Republicans said they should be allowed to remain in America and pursue citizenship.

The poll was conducted by telephone, on landlines and cellphones nationwide, from April 30 to May 3 with 1,027 adults, of whom 868 were registered to vote. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points for all adults and registered voters.

NH Dem Primary Poll // WMUR Granite State Poll // Andrew E. Smith, Phd - May 5, 2015

DURHAM, NH –Hillary Clinton remains the frontrunner in the 2016 New Hampshire Primary although support for her has dipped somewhat in recent months. Her favorability ratings among Democratic primary voters have dropped significantly since February. These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Seven hundred and six (706) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between April 24 and May 3, 2015. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7 percent. Included were two hundred twenty-nine (229) likely 2016 Democratic Primary voters (MSE = +/-6.5), two hundred ninety-three (293) likely 2016 Republican Primary voters (MSE = +/-5.7), and six hundred and twenty-seven (627) likely 2016 presidential election voters (MSE = +/- 3.9

For Hillary Clinton's Campaign Manager, It All Began in Vegas // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – May 5, 2015

A few days before that year's Nevada caucus, among the most rancorous of primary battles of 2008, the head of Hillary Clinton's state team went to the emergency room.

Robby Mook wasn't ill, but one of his field organizers—a junior staffer he'd known for a few months—was. Though the campaign was at one of its busiest moments, Mook was determined to show the woman that he was there to support her.

When he got to the hospital, a recognizable face was already in the waiting room: his counterpart on Barack Obama's campaign, David Cohen, who'd been friends with the woman for years.

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“It was days before the caucus and there we were, sitting together waiting and joking around about both being there,” said Cohen, who had met Mook only once before that night. “I was struck—it was the height of the campaign and he could’ve just stayed in the office or sent someone else. But he was like, ‘Nope, I know where I’ve got to be.’”

That was just one hint of the kind of campaign leader Mook, who was 27 during most of his 11 months as Clinton's Nevada state director, had already become. After helping Clinton to a split decision in Nevada—she won the popular vote while Obama won the delegate count—he moved on to lead her winning state operations in Ohio and Indiana.

He's since refined his skills, leading Jeanne Shaheen’s 2008 successful Senate campaign in New Hampshire, Terry McAuliffe’s gubernatorial campaign in Virginia, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee through the 2012 cycle.

As Clinton makes her first trip of the campaign cycle to Nevada on Tuesday for a roundtable on immigration reform and a fundraiser hosted by Las Vegas Sun president and publisher Brian Greenspun, the memory of Mook's role in her 2008 campaign remains fresh. And the way that Mook ran Nevada operation—his first presidential-level leadership role—offers a clue toward the way he’ll approach the next 18 months: focused on teamwork, discipline and keeping costs low. He’s described by people who’ve worked for and against him as someone who approaches the platonic ideal of the campaign manager: a skilled strategist, talented field organizer and able manager.

But one person who won't be the source of a description of him is Mook himself. As a general rule, he doesn't talk to reporters, let alone agree to interviews for profiles of himself.

Eight years ago, as a young out-of-stater with two cycles of experience under his belt, Mook could have rubbed Nevada’s Democrats the wrong way. He didn’t.

“He wasn’t a snotty-nosed kid that didn’t know what he was doing,” said Rory Reid, the well-connected lawyer and son of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid who was the Clinton campaign’s state chairman in 2008.

His work was “very methodical and effective” and his demeanor was “gentlemanly,” Reid said. “Most political operatives are not frequently described as likable. They tend to be bombastic and foul mouthed and objectionable in many ways, and he’s not that. He’s very unassuming and focused.”

The 2008 race was the first time Nevada held caucuses on such a large scale, and organizing for them was a complex and challenging undertaking. Mook was the “mastermind,” said Alisa Nave-Worth, the 2008 campaign’s Southern Nevada political director. He directed the communications strategy, created a how-to-caucus website that got out ahead of other campaigns and helped build a vast network of endorsements.

Mook was also aggressive in pushing for what he needed from headquarters in Virginia. “When he felt we needed something from the folks at national, he got on the phone and was very clear,” said Pam duPré, the northern Nevada political director. “He had reasons lined up—why we needed a surrogate, more money, more people.”

The operation was thrifty, and that started from the top. Mook and his field director Marlon Marshall would stay in duPré’s house when visiting the Reno area, and out-of-state surrogates were put up in supporters’ homes or inexpensive hotels. Now that he’s running the whole campaign, the rules are even tighter: no business cards for

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staff, and they are urged to take the bus when traveling between New York and Washington.

Mook is even-keeled, resisting the impulse to get too excited when something goes well or to get discouraged by a setback.

Throughout 2007, the Clinton campaign pushed hard for the endorsement of the Culinary Union's Local 226, which represents workers on the Las Vegas Strip. When the union chose to back Obama, the near-universal response among Clinton supporters was "oh my gosh, we're in trouble," Reid said. Bill Clinton lashed out at the "establishment organization" for siding with Obama while the rank-and-file "insurgents" backed his wife.

Mook stayed calm. "He just looked at me and said, 'let's win those caucuses,'" Reid recalled. Field workers buckled down, Bill and Chelsea started reaching out to voters, and Clinton won 7 of the 9 caucus sites along the Strip.

"I've never once seen him angry," said Emmy Ruiz, the 2016 Nevada state director, who worked with Mook throughout the 2008 Nevada campaign as a field organizer.

Mook's unruffled approach also translated into the way he managed his staff, choosing to intervene and then move on when he saw conflict.

"Other campaign people can be like, 'if it means I'm spending 60 fewer seconds on voter contact, I'm ignoring the issue,'" duPre said. "Robby wasn't like that. He would simply shift his focus very briefly, take care of whatever he had to take care of, and get back on track."

Mook makes it clear to his teams that "you have to be personally invested in the people around you," Nave-Worth said. He's also a proponent of "mandatory fun"—meals, drinks and retreats—to help build those bonds.

In late 2007, aware that many staffers wouldn't be able to get home to their families for Christmas and wouldn't be able to spend the day calling voters, Mook engineered a party for 200. "All the senior staff basted turkeys," recalled Nave-Worth, whose mother hosted the group at her Las Vegas home. "We went outside in the cold and cooked some on the grill."

Ruiz, the first field organizer the Clinton campaign hired back in 2007, is now doing Mook's old job as state director. "He invested in my development, and I'm not the only one," she said, pointing to Brynne Craig, a 2008 Nevada field organizer who is now deputy political director, as another beneficiary of Mook's mentoring.

Asked for a weakness, duPré said that Mook was "always walking around talking on his phone," a Samsung smartphone with a keyboard. "He didn't sit still very often and he had to sit still sometimes to plug in his phone."

And, she added, "I hope he eats well and gets enough rest. I hope he's following his own advice."

Hillary Clinton Draws Distinction With GOP on Immigration // TIME // Sam Frizell - May 5, 2015

Republican policies would create a "second-class status" for immigrants, she argued

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Hillary Clinton drew a sharp distinction Tuesday between herself and the 2016 Republican hopefuls on immigration reform, and called for a full path to citizenship for people who came to the U.S. illegall

“Today, not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential is clearly consistent in supporting a path to citizenship,” the former Secretary of State said in prepared remarks before a roundtable at a high school in Nevada. “When they talk about ‘legal status,’ that is code for second-class status.”

Calling immigration a family and an economic issue, Clinton said she supported expanding programs for so-called Dreamers to help parents of immigrant children stay in the United States.

Clinton raised eyebrows in June when she said that the unaccompanied minors fleeing violence in Central America should not be allowed to stay in the U.S. “to send a clear message.” Immigration activists expect Clinton to firmly embrace comprehensive immigration reform as a central part of her platform in 2016.

In response to a question from one of the roundtable participants, Clinton said she would make immigration reform one of her first initiatives if elected.

“We should put in place a simple, straightforward and accessible way for parents of Dreamers and others with a history of service and contributions to their community to make their case and to be eligible for the same deferred action as their children,” she said.

Hillary Clinton To Unveil Path To Citizenship Immigration Plan // NPR // Tamara Keith - May 5, 2015

Hillary Clinton is expected Tuesday to lay out her plan for a path to citizenship for many who are presently in the United States illegally. Meanwhile, her campaign is ramping up its efforts to get ahead of the scandal stories involving a new book about the Clinton Foundation and the upcoming Benghazi hearings.

MELISSA BLOCK, HOST:

Immigration is the key topic for Hillary Clinton today, and it's the purpose for her visit to Las Vegas. She visited Rancho High School where 70 percent of the student body is Hispanic. She called for a path to citizenship for the 12 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: It is at heart a family issue, and if we claim that we are for families, we have to pull together and resolve the outstanding issues around our broken immigration system.

BLOCK: Clinton made her pitch on the same day the book "Clinton Cash" hit stores. It raises questions about foreign donors to the Clinton Foundation. NPR's Tamara Keith is in Las Vegas, and she joins me now. And, Tamara, what's the dynamic here for the Clinton campaign on the question of immigration?

TAMARA KEITH, BYLINE: The Latino vote is critical to the Democratic coalition, and in particular, in Nevada, an energized Hispanic electorate can be the difference between winning and losing for Democrats. And Clinton's

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team sees immigration as a wedge issue. Republicans are running in primaries where they will likely take positions on immigration that many Latino voters will disagree with. Think Mitt Romney's self-deportation comments in 2012. And what Clinton is trying to do here is draw a contrast between herself and Republican candidates, many of whom do not support a path to citizenship. She's not going out on a limb in terms of Democratic voters, but it also sends a signal to the Latino activists that she's on their team on this one.

BLOCK: Now, I also mentioned the book that comes out today, "Clinton Cash." It's been raising a lot of uncomfortable questions for both Hillary Clinton and former President Clinton. How are they - how are they responding to that?

KEITH: Bill Clinton did an interview from Africa where he was doing foundation work with NBC, and he described the book as basically a political hit job. He said that the foundation never did anything knowingly inappropriate, and he touted the transparency of the foundation. But then he also said that he feels like the Clintons are held to a different set of rules - that are rules for the Clintons and there are rules for other people, and that they are held to a higher standard. Now, lots of people out there believe that the Clintons play by their own rules, so this was seen as somewhat tone deaf. He also said that he wasn't planning to stop giving these big speeches where he's paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for a single speech because he, quote, "has to pay the bills."

BLOCK: So Bill Clinton pushing back about allegations about the foundation. What about the Clinton campaign, Hillary Clinton's campaign?

KEITH: They've launched something called The Briefing, and they're describing it as your go-to source for the facts you need to set the story straight. They just announced it today. You know, in 1992, the Bill Clinton campaign had a war room, and they really innovated this concept of political rapid response. Now Hillary Clinton's campaign is doing something very similar, though with all of the modern technology of Internet videos and web posts and Twitter. Here's Brian Fallon, who's a press secretary for the campaign, in a web video they put out today about that "Clinton Cash" book.

BRIAN FALLON: It's full of sloppy research and attacks pulled out of thin air with no actual evidence and it's missing the most important thing of all - facts. Let's just take a look at a few of the craziest conspiracy theories.

KEITH: And that term conspiracy theories, you know, that is sort of an echo to Hillary Clinton's line about the vast right-wing conspiracy. And I think that they are planning to try to downplay any criticism of Clinton or the Clinton Foundation as part of conspiracy theories.

BLOCK: At the same time, Tamara, there's now word this week that Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify before a House committee. She's going to be testifying about the Benghazi attack when she was secretary of state, also about her private email server. So questions about things other than the campaign will continue to swirl around her.

KEITH: A good friend of hers recently told me that Hillary Clinton has a remarkable ability to compartmentalize, and I think that that's exactly what the campaign is trying to do here. They want to as much as possible let the candidate be the candidate while at the same time, not letting any attack go unanswered.

BLOCK: OK, NPR's Tamara Keith following the Clinton campaign in Nevada. Tamara, thanks.

KEITH: You're welcome.

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Hillary Clinton's Nevada play // POLITICO // Gabriel Debendetti - May 5, 2015

Hillary Clinton's return to Nevada, the site of one of her toughest battles with then-Sen. Barack Obama, is designed to project a sense that she's taking the Democratic nominating contest seriously, even in the absence of stiff competition.

But Tuesday's visit is also about November 2016, when her ties to Hispanic voters and union members could prove pivotal for her presidential ambitions — and to Democratic hopes of recapturing the Senate.

In what has become a familiar format for the former secretary of state's campaign stops, Clinton will convene a roundtable of locals at Rancho High School here, where she will focus on immigration reform and call for a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, according to a campaign official.

It's just a quick swing through the state — a trip that will take place against the backdrop of the much anticipated release of "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," by conservative author Peter Schweizer.

Nonetheless, Clinton's team sees ample opportunity in the one-day visit: the candidate can draw a contrast with Republicans on immigration reform while personally laying the groundwork for a caucus organization that Nevada Democrats hope translates into broader voter registration and interest.

With a largely static Electoral College map and a limited number of states truly in play in 2016 — not to mention an open Senate race to replace retiring Minority Leader Harry Reid — few places are more important than Nevada next year.

"What she's able to do there is go to an early state which will clearly be important to her in the presidential process even though she won't have much of a primary," explained Democratic strategist Maria Cardona, a senior advisor to Clinton in 2008 who worked on the campaign's Hispanic outreach effort. "It gives her the opportunity to say, 'Look: I'm not taking this for granted.'"

Eight years ago, Nevada hosted one of the most bruising fights of the primary contest, featuring a split among the unions that are central to the state's organizing infrastructure and a resulting tussle over the shape of the caucus itself. While Clinton walked away with more votes than Obama, the president-to-be claimed more delegates to the convention.

But this time around Clinton's likely primary opponents have little presence here, and her own campaign is run by operatives who know Nevada well: her 2008 state director Robby Mook now serves as her national campaign manager, her top organizing official Marlon Marshall worked alongside Mook here that year, and her highest-ranking staffer in Nevada is Obama's 2012 state director and Clinton 2008 field organizer Emmy Ruiz.

As in the other prominent caucus state of Iowa, Clinton's team insists it is best served by building a highly-structured field organization from the start, which it has already begun to do.

"In order to win in Nevada, they're going to have to do real, concerted organizing," said Yvanna Cancela, the political director of the Culinary Union 226 Local — Nevada's largest and most influential union, which endorsed Obama over Clinton eight years ago. "2014 wasn't necessarily a Republican wave. It was a massive not-voting

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on behalf of the populations they want to turn out. In order to change that behavior, they're going to have to invest and organize an infrastructure that moves those folks to the polls."

The campaign has started its union outreach in a state where organized labor holds major sway, Marshall told POLITICO. That's helped assuage concerns of Democrats who recognize that the battle for Reid's Senate seat will be among the most expensive and closely-contested in the nation — and who want the Clinton campaign to ramp up quickly.

"What I learned in the general election of 2008 was that having the organizing from the primary helped," Marshall explained. "Focusing on building infrastructure really helps Democrats up and down the ballot."

Still, GOP leaders, including the Republican National Committee's new political director, Nevada veteran Chris Carr, are also keeping an eye on Clinton's efforts in the state, aware that it represents not only an important early-voting contest, but a useful six electoral votes come November — votes that have gone Democratic in the last two presidential elections.

Republicans have cause for optimism: After the 2014 elections, they control the levers of state government, including the governorship and both state legislative chambers.

Clinton will aim to rally a key part of the state's Democratic base — Hispanic voters — with her comments about immigration on Tuesday: she will tell voters at the school, which has a roughly 70 percent Hispanic student body, that the country "cannot settle for proposals that provide hard-working people with merely a 'second-class' status," according to a campaign aide. The former senator and first lady was extremely popular among Hispanics in 2008, garnering two times as many Latino votes as Obama during their drawn-out primary contest, and is now seeking to rekindle that relationship.

But the immigration landscape has changed since then, and Clinton has occasionally faced tough questions about her precise immigration position from DREAMers who were brought into the United States illegally when they were children. Her remarks on Tuesday are intended to send a clear message of support to them.

"The Hispanic voters are really looking to her to see what is going to be her stance on immigration," said Cardona. "They understand that she has supported [comprehensive immigration reform] in the past, that she has voiced support for President Obama's executive action. But I think they want to hear what she would do if she was elected."

By staking out a liberal position on immigration early Clinton could avoid criticism from possible primary challengers, but the real aim is to draw a hard line between Democrats and Republicans who are opposed to broader immigration reform and Obama's 2014 executive action.

"From a political standpoint it is incredibly smart for her to be doing this early and in such an intimate way, one-on-one with Latino voters," said Cardona. "I guarantee you the contrast with her Republican opposition could not be starker."

Clinton Pledges to Take Immigration Actions 'Even Further' // MSNBC // Andrew Rafferty and Andrea Mitchell – May 5, 2015

Democratic presidential front runner Hillary Clinton pledged Tuesday to take further executive actions if

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Congress fails to pass comprehensive immigration reform and accused Republicans of advocating to give undocumented workers "second class status."

"If Congress refuses to act, as president, I would do everything possible under the law to go even further," Clinton said during a campaign stop in Las Vegas.

Clinton said it is time for "a path to full and equal citizenship" and dismissed competing proposals that would give undocumented immigrants a limited time-frame to remain in the country legally.

And Clinton said that if she is elected president she would expand DACA provisions to include parents who had deep roots in the United States.

The former secretary of state made the remarks after meeting with youths at Rancho High School in Las Vegas, which is 70 percent Hispanic. The roundtable included one student from Rancho HS, Betsaida Frausto, a junior who has a 4.8 grade point average, is taking three Advanced Placement classes, and wants to go to Yale to become a doctor.

She also heard heartwarming stories from the students, including several who come from "mixed" families — where one parent and/or a sibling are legal and the rest of the family are not and are faced with deportation. Clinton told them it is foolish to talk about deporting 11 million people, saying we are a nation of immigrants and we have to solve this issue.

"I don't understand how anyone can look at these young people and think we should break up more families or turn away more hard workers with talent to help us build the kind of country we all want to see," Clinton said. "So I will fight for comprehensive immigration reform and a path to citizenship for you and for your families across our country."

President Barack Obama took executive actions last year that would give temporary legal status to millions of illegal immigrants. The orders, which are currently being challenged in court, resulted in a political showdown with Congressional Republicans who said the president had overstepped his Constitutional authority.

While the orders led to contentious showdowns in Washington that threatened to shut down the Department of Homeland Security and delayed the confirmation of Obama's attorney general nominee this year, polling shows the rest of the country largely approves the orders. An MSNBC/Telemundo/Marist poll released last month found 57 percent of Americans and 78 percent of Latinos approved what the president did.

How to deal with the nation's estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants has already proved to be a key issue in the early stages of the 2016 campaign. Many in the Republican party have slammed a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants as "amnesty" that threatens American workers and ignores the law.

"Today not a single Republican candidate either announced or potential is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship, not one," Clinton said at Rancho High School. "When they talk about legal status, that is code for second class status."

Clinton to reach out to Latinos in NH // New Hampshire Union Leader // Dan Tuohy - May 5, 2015

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While Hillary Clinton focuses on immigration Tuesday in Nevada, her campaign this week will be reaching out to the Latino community in New Hampshire to talk about her reform ideas.

The Democratic presidential candidate, in Nevada, will talk about the need to pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides “a path to citizenship,” upholds the law and protects border and national security, according to the Clinton campaign.

Clinton’s goal is to bring “millions of hard-working people out of the shadows and into the formal economy so they can pay taxes and contribute to our nation’s prosperity.”

Clinton’s New Hampshire campaign is in the process of organizing a “Latino Americans for Hillary” house party in Manchester and reaching out to Latino-owned businesses in Manchester and Nashua.

The campaign also plans to confer with immigration reform advocates and Latino residents in New Hampshire.

The Note: High Bar For Hillary on Immigration // ABC News // Jim Avila and Serena Marshall - May 5, 2015

She is the presumed favorite of the Latino vote and today in Las Vegas Hillary Clinton is expected to double down on this gateway issue for Hispanic voters, ABC’s JIM AVILA and SERENA MARSHALL note. A Clinton official telling ABC News she plans to focus on a path to citizenship as part of comprehensive immigration reform. Latino leaders consulting her campaign tell ABC News Clinton is looking for a way to clearly contrast herself from republican candidates for president by embracing the full path to citizenship rather than proposing a second class of Americans who can work in the United States but not enjoy the protection of citizenship. Clinton is also expected to promise to extend the dreamer program to undocumented parents of children born in the United States Latino groups will be listening today for a timetable for implementation of these changes. President Obama has been faulted with moving too slowly during his first term when he had a democratic majority and failed to pass immigration reform. Latino groups also say they will listen for consistency in Hillary Clinton’s campaign, concerned that what happens in Vegas today on immigration doesn't just stay in Vegas but is promised in Iowa and other primary states

Hillary Clinton revives hibernating '80s 'sleaze factor' // USA Today // James S. Robbins - May 5, 2015

In the wake of revelations regarding the questionable nexus between Hillary and Bill Clinton's family foundation and those who benefitted from her tenure as Secretary of State, their defenders say there is no proof of misdeeds, no verifiable quid pro quo, not a shred of evidence against them. True so far, at least none that weren't deleted.

However there is a pattern of dubious behavior, and certainly an appearance of impropriety. The sheer scale of the money involved is daunting. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations and speaker's fees on the one hand, with contracts and agreements worth multi-millions of dollars being doled out on the other. The fact that Mrs. Clinton has not already been written off as politically dead says a lot about how perceptions of the role of money in politics have changed.

The Clintons' troubles bring to mind "the sleaze factor," an expression used by Walter Mondale early in the 1984 presidential campaign to describe what he called "a tawdry record of unethical conduct" in the Reagan administration. It was rooted in allegations of misconduct among several members of Reagan's team. Mondale said that almost every week, "another rotten apple falls out of the tree."

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Mondale took aim specifically at then-Attorney General nominee Edwin Meese, who was being investigated by the Justice Department for a potential violation of the Ethics in Government Act. In particular, questions had arisen over a $15,000 interest-free loan from his assistant Edwin Thomas to Meese's wife, Ursula, that Meese had not reported on his financial disclosure form. Thomas, his wife and son later went on to receive Federal appointments.

One editorial from the time summarized the charges against Meese as "suspicious-looking loans from people who later received White House favors [and] financial dealings that were either unreported or misreported." That could be used as boilerplate for an article about the Clintons today. Meese was cleared of wrongdoing, only to fall afoul of the Wedtech scandal three years later, an affair the New York Times called "too indecent and too predictable." Again, useful boilerplate.

Reagan's National Security Advisor Richard Allen was also hit with the sleaze charge. He was hounded from office principally because of an envelope containing $1000 cash that was left behind in his safe when he moved offices. The money was an honorarium that Allen's longtime friend Tamotsu Takase, husband of Japanese journalist Chizuko Takase, had tried to present to Nancy Reagan for an interview before the inauguration. Allen, then a leader of the transition team, intercepted the envelope and gave it to his secretary, who put it in the safe. He then forgot about it.

Allen was cleared of criminal wrongdoing for taking — that is, not spending, not using, just storing, then abandoning — the cash. However he was eventually hounded out of office for having accepted two Japanese wristwatches from Takase, valued at $135 each, which were personal gifts for him and his wife. Allen also admitted it may be been possible that Takase "brought me a bottle of sake … he always brings me a bottle of sake." This amounted to sleaze? It sounds positively quaint compared to the relentless efforts of the Clinton money machine.

Liberal commentator Tom Braden thought the sleaze factor would be a major campaign theme. He said the names of the Reagan officials under suspicion such as Meese and Allen "do not conjure the image of openness, candor, honesty and fair-mindedness that Americans respect." These are also words one would not immediately associate with the name Clinton.

The sleaze charge did not change the outcome of the 1984 election, in which Mondale was trounced. And Clinton lawyer Lanny Davis in his book Scandal noted that "Democrats paid dearly in the Clinton years for this careless use of the charge 'corruption.'" But not all charges are baseless. If Mrs. Clinton wins the White House, it would be useful to swear in a special prosecutor the day of the inauguration, just for the sake of convenience. It will be one busy office.

Clinton camp on defense about her trustworthiness // CNN // Jeff Zeleny - May 5, 2015

Washington (CNN)A month after launching Hillary Clinton's presidential candidacy, with every moment of her announcement video and reintroduction tour to voters carefully crafted, her campaign team now finds itself consumed by fending off a familiar, yet far more elusive, adversary: The Clinton legacy.

As she visits Nevada on Tuesday and calls for a path to citizenship for immigrants living in the country illegally, her advisers are trying to keep old fires from becoming political obstacles with staying power. Questions about donations to the family's foundation, along with Bill Clinton's defiant comments this week, have alarmed Democrats who hoped she could start her campaign on fresh footing.

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Aides to Clinton still insist she will run the race on her own terms without distraction from whirlwinds of controversy. Yet strategists acknowledge sufficient concern by an erosion of trust and credibility that they are forcefully fighting back. One way is through a new blog, "The Briefing," which is notably not devoted to Clinton's platform for 2016, but rather simply fact-checking attacks against her.

"While we will not be consumed by these kinds of attacks, we will also not let them go unchallenged," John Podesta, the campaign chairman, said in a message intended to allay any worry among supporters. "That's why we are building a new one-stop shop to provide the facts about Hillary Clinton's positions and her record."

It's a key challenge of her candidacy: Shoring up her perceptions of trust and credibility.

The campaign, through its own surveys and focus groups with voters, is closely studying a decline in her approval since she entered the race last month. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released Tuesday found only a quarter of registered voters said they viewed her as honest and straightforward, down 13 percentage points from last summer. But she still fares stronger when facing a Republican rival.

But a central question facing Clinton in her second presidential bid is whether she and her new team of advisers can answer questions and fight allegations openly -- in a far different media climate -- without reverting to a familiar Clinton defensive crouch that all criticism is automatically partisan and no legitimate inquires could exist.

As Bill Clinton's first televised interview of the campaign still reverberated Tuesday, several top Democrats told CNN they were taken aback by his tone and they wondered anew whether his words could be a detriment to his wife's campaign. Some Democrats said they cringed when he brushed aside questions about collecting $500,000 for delivering a speech by saying: "I've gotta pay our bills."

"There is no doubt in my mind that we have never done anything knowingly inappropriate in terms of taking money to influence any kind of American government policy," Bill Clinton told NBC News in Nairobi. He also criticized what he characterized as "political" attacks on the foundation.

His comments raised more skepticism of the charges included in a book that was released on Tuesday, "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich."

Inside the Clinton campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, aides were widely pleased with the disciplined rollout of her announcement tour and the campaign's aggressive rebuttals to the book, written by conservative author Peter Schweizer.

But now, advisers acknowledge they are bracing for an even more challenging -- and uncertain -- second month of her campaign.

Clinton could be called as soon as May 18 to testify before the House Select Committee on Benghazi in its investigation of the attacks that killed four Americans on Sept. 11, 2012. She also will be questioned over the use of a private email server during her time as secretary of state.

It will be an unusual scene for a presidential candidate: Raising her right hand and swearing an oath to testify during a televised congressional committee. The proceedings have already taken a partisan tone on both sides. Podesta fueled Democratic suspicion in his message to supporters this week, arguing the inquiry by Republicans

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is part of a "two-fisted strategy to try to undermine her."

To be sure, Clinton's trust and credibility are at the forefront of the Republican campaign against her. Republican presidential candidates are spending less time trying to link Clinton to Obama these days than they do raising questions about whether she's trustworthy.

"I think that Bill Clinton is saying what Hillary Clinton has said on many occasions: 'Just trust us,'" Carly Fiorina said as she announced her candidacy Monday. "Trust is earned through transparency."

Republicans are hoping to take a page from the winning Democratic playbook of 2012: Define Clinton in a negative light early by chipping away at her credibility. It's similar to how the Obama campaign rushed to define Mitt Romney, which stuck with him for the duration of the race.

Clinton advisers downplayed that comparison. They said the trust question was not simply about whether voters trusted Clinton, but whether they trusted her to do the right things for them.

Democrats close to Clinton believe the best antidote to the Republican attacks is to step up her own campaign and begin to aggressively outline what she stands for and why she wants to be president. She has intentionally downsized the early stage of her campaign, holding only a handful of appearances.

The only stop on her public campaign schedule this week is in Nevada on Tuesday, leaving her Republican critics to fill the vacuum of silence.

Clinton 'War Room' Pushback And The 'Invent Your Own' Media Campaign // NPR // Jessica Taylor - May 5, 2015

The Hillary Clinton campaign went into overdrive Tuesday trying to minimize the damage from a new book that delves into Clinton Foundation fundraising — and they're not using the typical channels to do so.

On the same day that the controversial new book, "Clinton Cash" by Peter Schweizer, was officially released, the Democrat's presidential campaign largely went around the traditional media in favor of new media tools.

Though campaigns have been trying to bypass the media filter for years, it's an advent of a new era in politics. The Clinton campaign is embracing several new technologies and platforms to get their message out more directly to voters, and it's a tactic her potential rivals are sure to employ, too.

"It's almost media 3.0," said Tobe Berkovitz, a professor of political communication at Boston University. "If 1.0 was dealing with the press and 2.0 was trying to circumvent the press and going to friendly sites, 3.0 is, 'Why even bother with that? Just invent your own.'"

Through a new section of its campaign website called, "The Briefing," and a post on the platform-sharing site Medium, Clinton's campaign went on offense against Schweizer and his suggestions that foreign donations to her family's foundation influenced her time at the State Department — all without the candidate addressing it head on.

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A two-and-a-half-minute video posted on the new site from campaign spokesman Brian Fallon derides Schweizer as a GOP operative, who was a former adviser to 2008 vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin, and a close friend of the Koch brothers. He also noted that research by ABC News and even Fox News revealed there was no "smoking gun."

"The book is already being debunked far and wide," Fallon said."It's full of sloppy research and attacks pulled out of thin air with no actual evidence. And it's missing the most important thing of all: facts."

Campaign Chairman John Podesta also explained the campaign's strategy in a memo posted to Medium:

"While we will not be consumed by these kinds of attacks, we will also not let them go unchallenged. That's why we are building a new one-stop shop to provide the facts about Hillary Clinton's positions and her record. We are calling it 'The Briefing.' You will be able to find information and it will serve as a hub that allows Hillary for America to cut through the partisan noise over the next 18 months and directly communicate with voters. This forum will provide the public with direct access to the facts on the positive policy agenda that Hillary will unveil over the course of campaign, as well as the facts needed to debunk false attacks."

This isn't the first time since she announced last month that Clinton's team has utilized these new platforms, especially to target Schweizer. Though his book was just released on Tuesday, details have been leaking out for weeks and other media organizations like the New York Times have used his research to further investigate specific claims.

Team Clinton has turned to Medium before, with Fallon releasing a statement on the Times story that alleged donations to the Clinton foundation were tied to the government's approval of uranium mining company to the Russian government:

"Without presenting any direct evidence in support of the claim, the Times story — like the book on which it is based — wrongly suggests that Hillary Clinton's State Department pushed for the sale's approval to reward donors who had a financial interest in the deal."

Last week, the Clinton campaign also released a Vine of comments Schweizer had made at a 2014 Koch brothers summit, where he told fellow conservatives "we cannot let up."

The use of new media in favor of more traditional media isn't a surprising strategy from the Clinton campaign, given Clinton's decades-long distrust of and tension with the media. It's also not a new tactic, with campaigns' rapid-response teams trying to get their message out at any cost and through any channel. And given the way more and more people, especially younger voters, consume news, it might be the most efficient as well.

The embrace of these new platforms is one that both the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates are likely to use even more this cycle.

Clinton's campaign insists it is not bypassing the media in the new approach, but is instead using multiple platforms to get their message out.

"Our campaign will work with the oldest of media outlets and the newest of technologies to reach voters," Clinton spokesman Josh Schwerin told NPR in emailed statement. "It would be a false choice to say it's one or the other.

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There is so much misinformation flying around that, whether it's through the press or on social media, it's important for voters to be able to access the facts directly, so they can assess for themselves and help beat back the partisan attacks."

It's also a way for the campaign to release a controlled, scripted narrative instead of having Clinton herself answer questions about the issue. National Journal noted last week she has only answered a total of seven media questions since she became an official candidate. She twice dismissed allegations in Schweizer's book as "distractions" but she did not answer the charges directly.

The one unscripted response came from former President Bill Clinton in an interview with NBC News Monday that the family foundation had "never done anything knowingly inappropriate" in accepting money from foreign governments for their charitable foundation.

The foundation has reinstated a ban on donations from all but six foreign countries now, but the former president said that move was "absolutely not" an acknowledgement that accepting previous donations was a mistake.

For the Clinton campaign, this approach is "much better than actually trotting Hillary out somewhere and have her answer what might be tough or aggressive questions," Berkowitz said. "Release the video, and then you release the hounds."

Democratic strategist Jim Manley, a former top aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it's the right approach for the Clintons.

"What I see happening is a classic Clinton-style war-room operation utilizing all the new media that are out there," Manley said. "I think they deserve a lot of credit for utilizing new things like Medium, but I also respect that they're not going to leave any charge unanswered."

Clinton is far and away the Democratic frontrunner for president, and she still beats most of her possible GOP rivals in hypothetical head-to-heads too. But amid questions about the Clinton foundation and an earlier controversy about her use of a private email server instead of a government account while she was at the State Department, her polling numbers have suffered.

Since March, Clinton's unfavorable rating has risen six percentage points while those who said she was honest and straightforward has dropped 13 points in a year, according to an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released this week.

Clinton has been under sustained assault from Republicans on the campaign trail and Capitol Hill. And she will continue to be with hearings and testimony coming about the terrorist attack on the U.S. outpost in Benghazi, Libya.

"I think every bit is going to help, but the Republicans have an amazing ability to drudge up all sorts of crazy conspiracies about the Clintons," Manley said. "These kind of tools can only take you so far, but, at some point, she's going to have to start addressing some of these things herself."

Clinton camp pushes back on book, Benghazi with new Web site // WaPo // Anne Gearan - May 5, 2015

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The Clinton campaign is expanding its defense of the candidate against allegations of alleged influence-peddling and questionable financial dealings at her family foundation, unveiling an online tutorial Tuesday to counter what the campaign calls Republican smears.

Polls suggest that Hillary Rodham Clinton is being damaged, if only slightly, by the continuing controversy surrounding a book released Tuesday, “Clinton Cash,” outlining possible improprieties while she was secretary of state.

On a new Clinton-backed Web site called “The Briefing,” campaign press secretary Brian Fallon says the book by conservative author Peter Schweizer is “full of sloppy research and attacks pulled out of thin air with no evidence.”

A pro-Clinton group called Correct the Record is also slated to go live later Tuesday with its own Web site, defending the candidate's record on the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

The campaign has been pushing back hard against the reported contents of the book called “Clinton Cash” ahead of its release and against related news coverage of ties among the Clinton Foundation, donors and foreign governments. Fallon calls the book’s charting of some of those ties “crazy conspiracy theories,” and invites supporters to share the Web video and sign up for updates.

The video follows a Monday memo from campaign chairman John Podesta that previewed the online and social media campaign against the book’s charges and wider criticism of former president Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton. Podesta said critics of Hillary Clinton have a “two-fisted strategy” to undermine her that includes a newly announced hearing into the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, while Clinton was secretary of state.

“While we will not be consumed by these kinds of attacks, we will also not let them go unchallenged,” he said. The various claims “will not be the last false set of allegations” Clinton faces over the 18 months to the general election, Podesta wrote.

That assumes that Clinton wins the Democratic nomination, which she is the heavy favorite to do.

The fact-checking site will give the campaign a way to address supporters about things they may be hearing and seeing in the media without going through the media itself. The campaign will collect e-mail addresses of those who visit the site, which also includes a link to donate.

“You and I both know that Republicans will latch on to whatever far-flung theories they can find in order to try and distract from Hillary's record of fighting for everyday Americans,” campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri wrote in an e-mail to supporters Tuesday. “The Briefing will be your regular download on what you can do to help fight back against attacks like these.”

Also Tuesday, Correct The Record's new Web site will be devoted to undercutting Republican claims about Benghazi and advancing the Democratic argument that Clinton played no direct role.

Called “Benghazi By The Numbers,” the site includes facts and figures about the multiple Republican-led investigations into Benghazi as well as the independent State Department review that found bureaucratic errors but no scandal.

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“In interviews, testimony and in her book, Secretary Clinton has taken responsibility repeatedly,” Correct The Record said. “Clinton fully and publicly answered questions before Congress.”

Here is a sampling of the site’s compilations:

“10: Number of congressional committees that have participated in Benghazi investigations.

32: Number of congressional hearings, public or private, held on the Benghazi tragedy according to publicly available hearing transcripts, congressional reports, and committee websites and fact sheets.

54: Approximate number of hours spent to date in publicly available hearings about the tragedy in Benghazi.

2,780: Number of questions asked in public hearings held on the Benghazi tragedy.”

The Web site also claims, "Past investigations of the tragedy have cost taxpayers millions of dollars and thousands of man-hours. The newest committee has already cost taxpayers more than $2.5 million to date, and has been on course to cost more than $6 million."

Clinton is scheduled to testify as early as May 18 before a Republican-led special committee looking into Benghazi and questions about the security and propriety of Clinton’s e-mail system. The State Department plans to soon release edited versions of some 300 Clinton e-mails turned over to the committee.

Here's Hillary Clinton's latest pushback against the 'dud' allegations in 'Clinton Cash' // Business Insider // Colin Campbell - May 5, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's campaign released another video on Monday blasting the book "Clinton Cash" for its unproven allegations against her.

"'Clinton Cash' was billed as a bombshell before being exposed as a dud," Clinton spokesman Josh Schwerin told Business Insider. "The media has examined the conspiracy theories in the book and found it to be completely lacking in evidence supporting its outrageous claims."

The book has been generating waves of headlines since April 23, when a series of media outlets published critical investigations based on author Peter Schweizer's work. Schweizer accuses Clinton of doling out State Department favors to people who gave to her family foundation or paid speaking fees to her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

However, Schweizer has admitted he has no "direct evidence" of corruption. The new Clinton video — titled "No Evidence" — doubles down on that point. It features a highlight reel of reporters noting the lack of indisputable proof behind Schweizer's claims.

The video is part of a new Clinton rapid-response effort against the "Clinton Cash" allegations and other, future

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attacks. Her team released another video blasting the "debunked" book earlier on Monday and vowed to aggressively respond to partisan hits against her candidacy.

"While 'Clinton Cash' has already been debunked, we are clear-eyed about the fact that this will not be the last false set of allegations flung our way," wrote John Podesta, the campaign's chairman. "We will stand ready to fight for a better future for everyday Americans and to swat back these unfair attacks from those invested in protecting a status quo that is stacked in favor of those at the top."

Schweizer has not responded to Business Insider's requests for comment on criticism against him, but he has repeatedly defended the seriousness of the allegations in his book. Indeed, he has previously claimed his work presents enough circumstantial evidence to warrant a criminal investigation of Clinton's behavior at the State Department.

"The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior," Schweizer said in a recent ABC interview. "Here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like insider trading. ... They look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation. I think the same thing applies here."

Clinton Cash Author Peter Schweizer Admits He's Wrong On Bogus Clinton "Veto Power" Claim // Media Matters // Eric Hananoki - May 5, 2015

In an interview released on the day of his Clinton Cash book launch, Peter Schweizer admitted he overreached in attacking Hillary Clinton's purported role in approving a Russian uranium deal.

Schweizer is a Republican activist and consultant with a long history of errors and retractions. His latest book, Clinton Cash, is being released today and claims the Clintons helped foreign donors through State Department decisions. The book features over 20 errors, fabrications, and distortions.

During an April 26 appearance on Fox News Sunday promoting the book, Schweizer falsely claimed that then-Secretary of State Clinton "had veto power" to stop the Russian State Atomic Nuclear Agency from purchasing Uranium One. Schweizer has suggested Clinton approved the deal as a favor for Clinton Foundation donors.

Schweizer's "veto" claim is false. As Media Matters and others have noted, the State Department was just one part of a nine-agency review panel that oversees such decisions. And members can only make recommendations to the president, not unilaterally "veto" deals. Furthermore, as TIME reported, there's "no indication of Hillary Clinton's personal involvement in, or even knowledge of, the deliberations." To the contrary, one official involved in the process said Clinton "had nothing to do with the decision in the Uranium One case."

During a May 5 Politico podcast interview, Schweizer admitted that "veto is probably not the best word" and "what I meant by veto power was as we explain the process, you know, if somebody objects it kicks in the special investigation."

Despite his shoddy history and admission of getting a key detail of the uranium decision wrong, Schweizer lashed out at Media Matters for "trying to muddy the water and obscure the facts in a way that's not particularly enlightening."

Schweizer also defended his 1998 book Disney: The Mouse Betrayed. Media Matters noted that the book

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attacked The Walt Disney Company for what he deemed its "endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle from a company that had traditionally been family-oriented." Schweizer told Politico that "I'm very proud of because one of the results of that book -- the book talked about the fact that Disney did not do criminal background checks. They had a problem with pedophiles. The book came out and Disney afterwards changed their policy. And I was proud of the fact that we highlighted that."

From Politico's podcast interview with Schweizer:

GLENN THRUSH (Politico senior writer): I want to ask you about Media Matters and sort of this, the barrage of attacks that you've gotten from Clinton-aligned groups and the Clinton campaign itself.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

THRUSH: As somebody who is taking money from groups with a political interest, do you think Media Matters is legitimate to sort of scrutinize you? Do you think anyone has gone over the line in terms of kind of the public statements they've made about the book?

SCHWEIZER: I don't know -- statements about the book, no. I do think there's some particularly strange and bizarre tweets that Paul Begala and others have put out. Kind of reminds me of middle school, frankly. With, you know, the level of commentary. But no, I don't think that --

THRUSH: Any particular one that Begala did?

SCHWEIZER: I'll just leave it at that.

THRUSH: No, come on. Come on, come on.

SCHWEIZER: People can go through --

THRUSH: I'm not letting you off the hook.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I had written a book on Disney back in 1998, which actually I'm very proud of because one of the results of that book -- the book talked about the fact that Disney did not do criminal background checks. They had a problem with pedophiles. The book came out and Disney afterwards changed their policy. And I was proud of the fact that we highlighted that. But, you know, Begala was putting out tweets about, you know, "Well I went to Disney when I was, you know, 13 years old and I'm still straight." You know, it was the most ridiculous, boneheaded stuff and you just have to kind of chuckle at it.

But you know, to get to your point, there's no problem with looking at the work that I've done and the research that I've done and have a vigorous conversation.

THRUSH: And they've come across a couple -- you've had to reel a few things back. Less in the way of outright errors, than in sort of a couple of overstatements like for instance on the Uranium One thing you've said that Hillary had veto power on that -- you've modified that a touch.

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SCHWEIZER: Yeah, what I meant by veto power was as we explain the process, you know, if somebody objects it kicks in the special investigation -- but veto is probably not the best word.

But no, I mean, my view is that, you know, what David Brock is doing though is obscuring the facts, not really confronting and dealing with them. I have no problem with somebody saying, you know, we disagree with him on the way that CFIUS is characterized. What they are doing though is, I think, trying to muddy the water and obscure the facts in a way that's not particularly enlightening. And look, at the end of the day, you know, my question would be does David Brock have anything negative to say about Hillary Clinton and I think the answer is no because he is basically an extension of the campaign, so, you know, we have to keep that in mind.

'Clinton Cash' Flashback: The Clintons Pressured Kazakhs To OK Uranium Deal // Daily Caller // Chuck Ross - May 5, 2015

In 2005, then-Sen. Hillary Clinton cancelled meetings with Kazakh officials in an apparent attempt to force the country to approve a lucrative uranium mining deal that would benefit a Clinton associate, a Kazakh energy executive said in a 2009 interview.

Former Kazatoprom executive Mukhtar Dzhakishev's videotaped interview has been reported before — in 2010 by The Washington Post. But it flew under the radar until author Peter Schweizer's revisited it in his new book, "Clinton Cash," which was released Tuesday.

Dzhakishev said that in 2005, Clinton pressured Kazakhstan to approve a deal being sought by UrAsia Energy, a Canadian company whose main investor was mining magnate Frank Giustra.

Giustra is a close associate of Bill Clinton's and a major donor to the Clinton Foundation.

According to Schweizer's translation of Dzhakishev's interview, Kazakh prime minister Karim Massimov "was in America and needed to meet with Hillary Clinton, but this meeting was canceled."

"And they said that those investors connected with the Clintons who were working in Kazakhstan have problems. Until Kazakhstan solved those problems, there would be no meeting, and all manner of measures would be taken."

Dzhakishev said he was then instructed by Massimov to fix the problem. He also said that he was contacted by Tim Phillips, an adviser to Bill Clinton at the time, who told him that there would be no meeting with Hillary Clinton until the Kazakhs removed a major roadblock hindering the deal.

According to a Feb. 2010, Washington Post article, the hold-up centered on a law that the Kazakh government had recently passed concerning deals between private companies for natural resources.

According to The Post's interpretation of Dzhakishev's interview, he said that "investors who currently work in Kazakhstan and have ties to Clinton have problems and meetings will be resumed only after Kazakhstan resolves the problems."

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He also said that he got an earful from Phillips.

“I called them, and they came. I met them in Astana and then Clinton’s aide, Tim Phillips, began to scream that this deal involves Democrats and is financed by them, and that we were hampering the deal.”

Phillips did not respond to The Post at the time. Clinton and Giustra have long denied that the Clintons used their power to influence the deal.

But the deal was secured in Sept. 2005 after Giustra and Clinton flew to Kazakhstan on Giustra’s private jet. There, Clinton met with Kazakhstan’s president, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Clinton spoke glowingly in public about the authoritarian Nazarbayev, and days later, the uranium deal was approved.

UrAsia and Giustra profited handsomely, and the company eventually merged with Uranium One. Uranium One, in turn, was packed with Giustra associates and was eventually taken over by Russia-controlled Rosatom. The takeover, which was approved by Hillary Clinton’s State Department and other federal agencies, gave Russia control of 20 percent of uranium produced in the U.S.

In its 2010 article, The Post considers that Dzhakishev’s account is questionable. Dzhakishev was accused of embezzling funds from Kazatoprom and removed from the company in 2009. However, as Schweizer notes, leaked diplomatic cables show that U.S. ambassador Richard Hoaglund believed that Dzhakishev was receiving harsh treatment because he was allied with a political foe of President Nazarbayev.

“In a portion of the video that could cast doubt on his account, Dzhakishev misstated the size of Giustra’s donation, saying it was $300 million, and voiced vague suspicions of a scheme to manipulate world uranium prices,” The Post reported.

But according to Schweizer, who hired Dr. David Meyer to translate Dzhakishev’s interview, the Kazakh said that Giustra made $300 million on the UrAsia transaction.

Regardless, Dzhakishev has proven more truthful than Giustra and Clinton in at least one regard.

Dzhakishev told The New York Times that in Feb. 2007 he met with Clinton and Giustra at Clinton’s Chappaqua, N.Y. home. He said that Giustra arranged the three-hour meeting to discuss Kazakhstan’s desire to purchase a 10 percent stake in Westinghouse, a U.S. company which supplies nuclear energy technology.

According to The Times, both Clinton and Giustra initially denied that such a meeting occurred.

Giustra admitted to The Times after being asked about the discrepancy: “You are correct that I asked the president to meet with the head of Kazatomprom. Mr. Dzhakishev asked me in February 2007 to set up a meeting with former President Clinton to discuss the future of the nuclear energy industry.”

A Clinton spokesman told The Times: “Today, Mr. Giustra told our office that in February 2007, he brought Mr. Dzhakishev from Kazatomprom to meet with President Clinton to discuss the future of nuclear energy.”

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Clinton Cash author: I like Marco Rubio // Politico // Nick Gass – May 5, 2015

Enough with the doom-and-gloom candidates, says author Peter Schweizer.

Glenn Thrush sits down with Peter Schweizer, the conservative author at the center of the Clinton Foundation firestorm.

There needs to be optimism in the race for the White House, the “Clinton Cash” author told POLITICO’s Glenn Thrush in an hour-long interview ahead of his May 5 book launch, noting that he always liked President Ronald Reagan’s upbeat messaging.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio would seem to fit the bill this time around, he said.

Schweizer, who makes his home in Tallahassee, is also probing the finances of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

“If your basic position is ‘everything’s going to heck in a handbasket, we can’t do anything about it,’ that’s going to throw a lot of people off. So I do think the optimism will be there,” Schweizer said. “The question is: Is that optimism backed up by real boldness? Because if you aren’t an optimist and you feel like we are struggling or facing challenges, it’s bold change that’s going to be required.”

“You don’t want a grinder as president,” Schweizer said. “You don’t want somebody who’s doom and gloom.”

Regarding the Clintons, Schweizer says he has been talking to congressional investigators about his findings, both in the House and Senate, and broached the possibility of more interactions with Republican staff.

“I think you need to have congressional committees with subpoena power, and I think you need to have somebody with law-enforcement capability in power, either by DOJ or a federal prosecutor somewhere,” he added.

He also revealed details about his process and cast himself as the head of a sprawling Florida-based research team that he described as as an eccentric group of diggers, “Columbo”-type investigators and 30-something computer experts.

“I call them the Island of Misfit Toys, ‘cause we have all these different personalities,” he said. “We’ve got some people who have a background in hacking, they are not computer hackers now, but they can do research on the so-called deep web and find information that has not been sort of charted. It’s actually surprising how much information you can find, not going past a firewall doing anything illegal [but finding information] not catalogued by Google.”

The Clinton book was funded by specific conservative donors, but not the Koch brothers, with whom he has had a long-term collaborative relationship. “We have received funding from the Kochs in the past, not for this project, but on a project-by-project basis,” he told Thrush. “We have other donors that to varying degrees made this project possible.” He went on to talk about his association with New York-based donor Rebekah Mercer.

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Schweizer also described his work for Sarah Palin's PAC, saying he was drawn to her hawkish, assertive views on American foreign policy, but that he turned down her offer to go grizzly bear hunting in Alaska.

Schweizer's book, "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," hits shelves Tuesday.

Will the Benghazi Committee Block Clinton From Testifying About…Benghazi? // Mother Jones // David Corn - May 15, 2015

Could the main obstacle to Hillary Clinton testifying about Benghazi be Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), the chair of the special House committee set up to investigate the 2012 terrorist attack that killed US Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans?

Clinton and Gowdy have been in a tug-of-war for the past few weeks. At the end of March—following the news that Clinton, the leading Democratic 2016 candidate, had used a private email account when she was secretary of state and that her emails about Benghazi and all other official matters were not originally kept by the State Department—Gowdy asked Clinton to come before the committee for a private interview to discuss the emails she had exchanged concerning Benghazi and Libya. After such a session, Gowdy noted, the panel would schedule a time for her to testify publicly about the event itself.

Last month, Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, responded and said there was "no reason to delay her appearance or to have her testify [about the emails] in a private interview." It was a clear sign that the Clinton camp would like to get her inevitable appearance before the GOP-created Benghazi committee over and done with. This move came just as Gowdy's committee signaled that it may not release its findings until soon before the 2016 election. Reacting to that news, John Podesta, Clinton's campaign chairman, huffed that the committee's admission "Is the most telling evidence yet that their investigation is solely about playing politics in the 2016 presidential campaign."

Then, on April 23, Gowdy fired back with a letter to Kendall insisting that Clinton submit to either a private "transcribed interview" or a public hearing to discuss her emails and other documents (but not to talk about the actual Benghazi attack). Only if that interview or hearing assured Gowdy that "all documents needed to have a constructive conversation with the Secretary are in the Committee"s possession" would he then hold a hearing with Clinton to examine what happened in Benghazi. That is, no public hearing on the substance of the matter until Clinton testified (privately or publicly) about the emails and convinced Gowdy that the committee now possessed all the related emails and documents.

And that's the rub. Can Clinton, whose official emails were first kept on a private server and then vetted by her own aides before being turned over to the State Department, say under oath that she knows beyond doubt that every single Benghazi email she sent or received now resides within the committee's files? And will Gowdy ever accept an assurance from her that all her Benghazi emails made it to the State Department and were subsequently shared with the committee?

This political dance played out at the end of last week. In an interview with USA Today's Susan Page, Gowdy indicated that he might be willing to accept Clinton's word if she said under other that all her emails have been provided to his committee. "If she were, under some theory, able to say, 'yes, I can promise you under penalty of perjury you have every single document you're entitled to,' that would probably shut off that line of inquiry," Gowdy said. "If she can, then it will be a short conversation."

But Gowdy also left himself plenty of room to be unpersuaded by Clinton. He noted, "If she testified under oath [that all emails and relevant documents were turned over], I think my first question would be, 'Madame Secretary,

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with all due respect, how do you know that? Because you're not the one who went through the emails; your lawyer did."

It looks as if Gowdy might be setting a trap for Clinton. (At least one conservative pundit sees it this way.) If Clinton cannot say with 100-percent certainty that Gowdy's committee has every digit of her data related to Benghazi, then she cannot testify on what happened—and the committee will drag out the proceedings further into the 2016 campaign season.

Clinton is trying to avoid being so cornered. On Monday, Kendall sent a letter to Gowdy, asserting there was no need for two rounds of testimony. "Respectfully," he wrote, "there is no basis, logic, or precedent for such an unusual request." Clinton, he added, was prepared to come before the committee and stay as long as necessary to answer all queries about the Benghazi attack and her emails. Kendall reminded Gowdy that Clinton has already testified about Benghazi before other House and Senate committees (which, by the way, have found no wrongdoing or conspiracies on her part). In a not-so-veiled jibe at Gowdy, Kendall noted that Clinton "believes that the Members of the Committee are able to decide how much they will focus on the tragic deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, including what can be done to keep those who serve our country safe—and how much they will focus on how she e-mailed."

After all this parrying, the question is, does Gowdy want to have Clinton testify about the what transpired in Benghazi (and Washington) and proceed with the investigation—the House GOPers have already spent more time investigating Benghazi than Congress devoted to the Iran-contra scandal—or does he want to play cat and mouse with Clinton far into the election cycle? By the standard Gowdy cited during his interview with Susan Page, Clinton will not be able to satisfy him about the emails. After all, given how she and her aides handled those records, there is no way for her to provide an iron-clad guarantee. But will Gowdy exploit that to drag out his inquiry and prevent Clinton from an appearance in which she presumably will defend her actions and swat aside the various Benghazi conspiracies (as she has previously done)?

At this stage, Clinton is eager to address the core issues and move on, and Gowdy is focusing on the emails and establishing potential grounds to stop her from testifying publicly about the attack itself. If no deal is sorted out, the committee could end up blocking Clinton from testifying about the main event. That could look odd to some. But any delay—as politically brazen as it might appear—could well inconvenience Clinton more than the committee.

Warren and fellow ‘sheriffs of Wall Street’ waiting for more from Clinton // Boston Globe // Deirdre Fernandes - May 5, 2015

The women dubbed the “New Sheriffs of Wall Street” aren’t prepared to deputize presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, just yet.

Former top financial regulators Sheila Bair and Mary Schapiro, along with Massachusetts Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren, said Clinton just hasn’t outlined clearly the financial regulatory policies she would pursue to protect American consumers and the economy.

Bair, the former chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said she fears that Clinton will rely on the same economic team as Obama, which included many veterans of her husband’s President Bill Clinton’s administration.

“I worry about it … . They’re very Wall Street friendly,” said the usually blunt Bair, who headed the FDIC during the financial crisis.

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The trio spoke at Harvard University Monday to celebrate the fifth anniversary of their Time magazine cover heralding the women's efforts to police the financial sector.

Schapiro, who headed up the Securities and Exchange Commission, said she'll be watching how forceful Clinton is about protecting investors and the need for greater transparency from companies.

Warren, who has been encouraged to run against Clinton for the Democratic nomination, said most Americans believe the financial sector could use more regulation. Clinton should ensure that the reforms put in place post-financial crisis aren't watered down.

"She has a real opportunity here," Warren said. "The key is we're moving forward, we're not going back."

Lawyer says Hillary willing to testify once to U.S. Benghazi panel // Reuters // Susan Cromwell - May 5, 2015

WASHINGTON - Hillary Clinton is willing to testify once before a special congressional panel investigating the 2012 attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, not twice as the panel's chairman has asked, her lawyer said on Monday.

The attack has hounded former Secretary of State Clinton for years, and Republicans in charge of the House of Representatives investigative panel are digging deeper as she ramps up her bid for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

South Carolina Republican Trey Gowdy, chairman of the committee, said last month he wanted Clinton to answer questions at two public hearings about Benghazi and her use of a private email server while Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013.

Clinton's lawyer David Kendall said that there was "no basis, logic or precedent for such an unusual request."

In a letter to Gowdy, Kendall said Clinton was fully prepared to stay as long as necessary to answer all questions from the committee whenever she appears, but that she would not testify on two separate occasions "when one will suffice."

Four Americans including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens were killed when militants stormed U.S. facilities in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on the night of Sept. 11, 2012.

Gowdy's select committee was established last year to investigate the attack, despite numerous other probes by congressional panels and the State Department.

The earlier panels issued findings that generally criticized the State Department for not having adequate security at the U.S. compound in Benghazi, but concluded that the Obama administration's response to the attack was proper.

Republicans say more inquiry is needed because Clinton's State Department failed to protect diplomatic personnel.

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Democrats say the panel is politically motivated and that Republicans are dragging out proceedings to undercut Clinton's candidacy.

Kendall said Clinton has already testified for more than five hours before other congressional committees on Benghazi.

Kendall's letter was released by the office of Representative Elijah Cummings, the senior Democrat on the Benghazi committee.

A spokesman for Gowdy said the chairman would take Kendall's response into consideration and issue a statement "regarding the path forward."

Hoping to highlight good works, Clintons find controversy instead // WaPo // Philip Rucker, Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger - May 5, 2015

Bill and Chelsea Clinton are convening foreign leaders here at a lush golf resort set in a palm grove this week to showcase their foundation's charitable work. But the conference also highlights new controversies engulfing the Clinton family's vast philanthropic enterprises as Hillary Rodham Clinton begins her presidential campaign.

A liberal human rights organization and several Republican lawmakers, for instance, are criticizing the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation for accepting donations from a Moroccan government-owned mining company, whose seven-figure sponsorship of this week's gathering came amid growing scrutiny of foreign-government donations.

Meanwhile, some blue-chip companies that have long provided large donations to the Clinton Foundation are pulling back or reassessing their support.

An Exxon Mobil spokesman said this week that the company has decided not to be involved in the Clinton Global Initiative this year. The oil company said its decision was unrelated to recent scrutiny of the foundation, but this is the first year it has not been a sponsor since 2009. Other sponsors, including Monsanto, are reevaluating their partnerships.

This week's flashy Morocco conference — a first-ever Africa and Middle East spinoff of the flagship CGI held each September in New York — underscores the foundation's controversial fundraising practices, which have become a potential anchor on Hillary Clinton's nascent campaign.

In an interview with The Washington Post, Chelsea Clinton, the foundation's vice chair, defended its work and suggested that scrutiny was politically motivated.

"My family is no stranger to scrutiny and neither is the foundation," she said. "It has been under intense scrutiny since inception. When you mix together the higher level of scrutiny around the foundation and then the political dimension, I'm not surprised."

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The Morocco conference offers the latest examples of the Clinton Foundation accepting money from foreign entities. The event is sponsored by an array of global corporations, including the state-owned Office Cherifien des Phosphates, or OCP, which has given between $1 million and $5 million overall to the foundation and whose sponsorship of the Morocco conference was first reported by Politico.

Human rights advocates — including several members of Congress — have criticized the company's mining operations in the Western Sahara territory because they claim that OCP does not have the consent of the indigenous population there.

The Moroccan government has disputed such charges. Nonetheless, U.S. Reps. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) and Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) wrote the Clinton Foundation last month urging it to refuse the Moroccan contribution, citing human rights and fair-trade concerns.

"This donation is an example of a blatant conflict of interest" for the Clintons, Pitts said in a statement. "Morocco would like nothing more than having a possible future First Family condone its illegal exploitation of natural resources."

The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights has also expressed concern about the company. "To us what is concerning is that the donation may be . . . an attempt by Morocco to show that they can mine resources in the Western Sahara and can do so publicly and with impunity," said David McKean, program officer with the group.

Craig Minassian, spokesman for the Clinton Foundation, referred questions about the alleged violations to representatives of the company.

Talal Zouaoui, a company spokesman, said contrary to the complaints of activists, the phosphate mining operation is closely connected to the local community. All profits from that mine are reinvested in the plant and the surrounding area, he said.

Other sponsors of the Morocco event mirror the kinds of companies that have backed the Clinton Foundation for years — foreign companies with significant holdings and powerful CEOs. They include two of Morocco's largest financial institutions, the Attijariwafa Bank and the BMCE Group, which is led by Othman Benjelloun, who ranks as Morocco's richest man.

Other money comes from AKWA Group, a Moroccan conglomerate that focuses on oil and gas, and Channel IT, a telecom company founded in Nigeria that has extended its reach to 19 countries in Africa and the Middle East. Channel IT — which hosted a welcome reception for CGI attendees Tuesday in Marrakesh — is led by wealthy entrepreneur Bassim Haidar, a regular at Davos who has signed on with Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and bills himself "Lebanon's First Astronaut."

With Hillary Clinton running for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, scrutiny of her family foundation's finances has become politicized. The Clinton campaign is aggressively attacking a new book, "Clinton Cash," released Tuesday by conservative writer Peter Schweizer, which focuses on the nexus between the Clintons' political lives and their philanthropic enterprises.

Over the past week, Bill and Chelsea Clinton toured four African countries with a delegation of billionaires, lobbyists and business executives who have given generously to the Clinton Foundation and now are raising money for Hillary Clinton's campaign, blurring the line between politics and philanthropy.

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In the Post interview, Chelsea Clinton dismissed the suggestion that donors gave to the foundation — and came along on the Africa trip — to curry favor with her parents.

“What people who choose to partner with us, whether it’s in a financial capacity or a programmatic capacity, expect to get is the work that we’ve seen on this trip,” she said during the visit to Kenya. “They expect to make a difference in stopping elephant poaching. They expect to make a difference in expanding secondary education for girls.”

Chelsea Clinton added: “Whenever I have had a conversation with anyone, it’s always about the work. I’ve never had anyone talk to me about my parents in a political capacity for a foundation program.”

Bill Clinton was defensive to the point of seeming testy in an interview with NBC News this week, saying the foundation had never done anything “knowingly inappropriate” when accepting donations from foreign governments, including Saudi Arabia.

For years, companies and wealthy individuals, as well as foreign governments, have clamored to be associated with the high-powered CGI conference in New York or its spinoff events.

But Monsanto, a multinational agricultural company, is weighing whether to pull its sponsorship of CGI. “As with all of our strategic partnerships and collaborations, we continually assess their value to ensure we are investing in opportunities that will have the greatest positive benefits for society,” Monsanto spokesman Tyson Pruitt said.

Spokesmen for two other previous CGI sponsors, Samsung and Deutsche Bank, refused to say whether they would sponsor the conference again this fall.

Minassian said he was not aware of an exodus of sponsors. “We have not seen that,” he said, and he called reports of budget troubles “not accurate.”

Chelsea Clinton said many employees have been confused by the scrutiny.

“When you look at the 2,200 people who work at the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Health Access Initiative, it would be disingenuous to say it hasn’t affected people,” she said. “But it’s affected people insofar as they don’t understand why the world isn’t more interested in the work that they’re doing.”

Republicans have harshly criticized the foundation for accepting millions in donations from foreign governments while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. In response, the Clinton Foundation recently announced it would restrict donations from foreign governments except six Western nations.

The foundation also canceled a planned CGI conference this summer in Athens, Greece, which was to focus on economic and social challenges in the Mediterranean region.

Plans continue for CGI America, a domestic-themed conference that Bill and Chelsea Clinton are hosting in Denver from June 8 to 10 that will feature Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro and Detroit Mayor Michael Duggan (D).

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After leaving the White House, Bill Clinton founded CGI, intending to create a new model for philanthropy in which he would leverage connections built in policies to play matchmaker between the public, private and nonprofit sectors. At each conference, corporate leaders get to mingle with world leaders, but they also make public commitments to fund targeted charitable programs. Clinton Foundation officials then monitor their progress in fulfilling the pledges.

Some CGI supporters said they are proudly standing by the annual gathering. Richard Brown, the president of the Starkey Foundation, which helps provide hearing aids to those who cannot afford them, including many people in Africa, said: “We have witnessed CGI’s good work throughout the world and have committed our support for 2015.”

Here in Marrakesh, CGI attendees checking in at the Palmeraie Palace, the luxury resort hosting the three-day conference, said they hoped the spotlight would shift to their charitable work,

“I feel that we are above politics,” said Patricia Wyatt, president of Innovation:Africa, a U.S.-based group that tries to bring Israeli technologies, such as solar and drip irrigation systems, to rural African communities.

But other attendees see the Morocco conference as an opportunity to make high-level connections. Faruk Taban, president of the Washington-based Turkic American Alliance, said he flew to Marrakesh to meet African business leaders and persuade them to become active in his group — and said that Bill Clinton’s role as convener “obviously was a big motivation to come.”

“This is a networking event,” Taban said. “We try to establish connections and get the correct leverage to do our activities.”

Bill Clinton says nothing ‘sinister’ in foreign gifts to charity // Bloomberg // Justin Sink - May 4, 2015

WASHINGTON — Former President Bill Clinton said criticism over his family foundation’s donations from foreign governments is politically motivated and there is no evidence to support suggestions that the gifts influenced Hillary Clinton’s behavior as secretary of State.

“I asked Hillary about this and she said, you know, no one has ever tried to influence me by helping you,” the former president said in an interview with NBC News broadcast today. “No one has even suggested they have a shred of evidence to that effect.”

There has been a “deliberate attempt to take the foundation down,” Clinton said. But he doesn’t believe there was “anything sinister in trying to get wealthy people in countries that are seriously involved in development to spend their money wisely in a way that helps poor people and lifts them up.”

Donations to the Clinton Foundation have come under new scrutiny since the former first lady announced her decision to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

Chelsea Clinton pushes back on scrutiny of family foundation // USA Today // Catalina Camia - May 5, 2015

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Chelsea Clinton defended her family's foundation amid questions about donations from foreign governments, essentially agreeing with her father that the Clintons are subjected to a double standard.

"My family is no stranger to scrutiny and neither is the foundation," Clinton told The Washington Post. "It has been under intense scrutiny since inception. When you mix together the higher level of scrutiny around the foundation and then the political dimension, I'm not surprised."

The comments from Clinton, who serves as vice chairwoman of the global philanthropy, follow those that Bill Clinton made in an NBC News interview that aired Monday. The former president also defended the foundation's donation policies and said criticism is "political" and "part of a very concerted effort to bring the foundation down."

The twin interviews come as Hillary Clinton steps up her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. Several news stories have raised questions about foreign money donated to the Clinton Foundation while Hillary Clinton was secretary of State.

In her Washington Post interview, conducted while Bill and Chelsea Clinton toured African countries on foundation business, Chelsea Clinton said foundation donors are interested in the charity's good works and not politics.

"Whenever I have had a conversation with anyone, it's always about the work. I've never had anyone talk to me about my parents in a political capacity for a foundation program."

Hillary Clinton's Campaign Declares War Against 'Clinton Cash' // National Journal // Emily Schultheis - May 5, 2015

"Clinton Cash" gets released Tuesday, and Hillary Clinton's campaign is going on the offensive to undercut the book and discredit its author before the message ever reaches readers' hands.

With everything from a YouTube video to emails for supporters to Medium posts to a 42-page opposition research report from a Clinton-aligned group, the Democrat's team is throwing everything is has at Clinton Cash.

The book, by conservative author Peter Schweizer, accuses Clinton of dirty dealings during her time as Secretary of State, alleging that she traded access and influence for foundation donations—including those from foreign donors. The accusations have been a headache for Clinton since before she announced her campaign, spawning headlines in major newspapers and shifting the national conversation about Clinton far, far away from her campaign message.

When the accusations first surfaced, Clinton herself was largely quiet on the topic, dismissing it as an attempt to distract voters from more substantial issues. Since then, they've slowly ramped up their defense efforts: Clinton's campaign issued a lengthy condemnation of a New York Times story regarding a Canadian Clinton Foundation donor getting State Department approval to sell uranium holdings to a Russian company, and her allies launched a fact-check of the Schweizer's allegations when excerpts from the book were floated.

Now, with the book's full release, Clinton's team going all out, suggesting they don't see the accusations as

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controversies that will burn themselves out, but rather as a fire they need to actively extinguish.

For campaigns, pushing back on unflattering reports is pro-forma, but the team's effort goes above and beyond the standard plan. On Tuesday morning, Clinton's campaign launched what it's calling "The Briefing," a new section of its website paired with videos and posts on other social media platforms, that aims to combat what an email to supporters describes as "whatever far-flung theories [Republicans] can find in order to try and distract from Hillary's record of fighting for everyday Americans."

In the 2.5-minute introductory YouTube video, Clinton press secretary Brian Fallon says the book is "full of sloppy research and attacks pulled out of thin air with no actual evidence." Fallon goes through all the biggest allegations from the book, cutting to footage from various TV networks, all of which point out the lack of direct evidence or a "smoking gun." (The new Clinton website also lists "10 Things You Should Know" about the book, linking to media coverage of various sections of it.)

"The bottom line is this: as secretary of State, Hillary Clinton made decisions based on her commitment to protecting America's national security and standing up for freedom and dignity around the world, not the interests of donors to the Clinton Foundation," Fallon says.

Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta posted to Medium about the new effort, pointing to "Clinton Cash" and the Benghazi proceedings on the Hill as proof that Republicans "seem to only want to distort Hillary Clinton's record."

The new book is getting further pushback from the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record, which served as an unofficial rapid-response operation before her campaign was announced. In a 42-page report, Correct the Record goes line-by-line through the various allegations in Schweizer's book, including questions about the Foundation's involvement in the Russian uranium company purchase, Bill Clinton's dealings in Kazakhstan and questions over Clinton's support for a U.S.-India nuclear deal.

The response is far different from two months ago, when Clinton — who then had not yet launched a full campaign and communications operation — waited eight days to hold a press conference following the revelation that she'd conducted State Department business on a private email server. With "Clinton Cash" in the news these last few weeks, her team has been pushing back pretty consistently, an approach that appears likely to be norm going forward.

A Swing and a Miss // Slate // Jamelle Bouie - May 5, 2015

here’s a certain rhythm to Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich, the most recent tome from conservative writer Peter Schweizer. Take his chapter on the Clintons and India—titled “Indian Nukes: How to Win a Medal by Changing Hillary’s Mind”—which makes the case that Hillary switched gears on an India-U.S. nuclear deal after donations from various Indian elites. After detailing the history of the bill, Clinton’s early skepticism, and Bill’s relationship with prominent Indian donors and officials, Schweizer makes a bold claim:

Hillary had not been a supporter of the bill, and her closest aides were all opposed to it. But in September 2008, as the bill’s fate hung in the balance, Amar Singh made a visit to New York to see Hillary. Joining him for a private dinner with the senator was Sant Chatwal. Opposition to the bill had come primarily from Democrats. Hillary had supported the “killer amendment” two years earlier. According to Amar Singh, they had a two-hour dinner. In the days following, he was confident the deal would go through, based on what he heard. Having grown accustomed to the deal making and influence buying ways of the Indian parliament, he was open with the Indian media about what transpired in New York. (Hillary Clinton probably considered herself fortunate that his comments were never reported in American media.)

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The structure is clear. Schweizer makes several statements of fact—either through quotes or paraphrasing—but doesn't ever build connective tissue between them. Instead, he lets them stand, and lets the reader draw the conclusion that Schweizer outlines in the very beginning: that Bill and Hillary traded influence for cash and donations.

But for as much as he can make the Clintons look bad with lurid examples of iffy transactions—Chatwal, for instance, arranged a $450,000 speaking gig for Bill Clinton—Schweizer never gets around to giving definitive proof of illegal deals or unethical behavior. Take the India affair: Not only does Schweizer lack evidence of a tit-for-tat between Clinton and the Indian donors, but he gets key details wrong. He writes that in 2006 she was a "reluctant and questionable supporter of the bill," but in June of that year—notes Politico—she issued a press release announcing her plan to vote for the legislation. Likewise, contra Schweizer, Clinton voted for two of the three "killer amendments" that put safeguards for nonproliferation on the agreement.

It's this missing evidence that consistently hurts the case for wrongdoing in Clinton Cash. You saw this in the follow-up from outlets like the New York Times on the uranium deal between the United States and a Russian state energy company. Both Schweizer and the New York Times detail donations and associations without showing a causal relationship between the Clintons and any particular deal. And Schweizer, in particular, ignores crucial context. Yes, the Clinton Foundation received donations from the same executives who would benefit from the sale. At the same time, Hillary was just one of a group of officials who reviewed the deal, and she didn't have the power—as Schweizer claims—to "veto" the arrangement. That the federal government approved the deal after the donations doesn't mean the donations had anything to do with the deal. To prove otherwise requires a much more exhaustive look at the details of the deal and of the relationships among all the characters.

Schweizer doesn't just rely on classic logical fallacies. He gets facts wrong as well. In the book's chapter on Haiti—titled "Disaster Capitalism Clinton-Style"—Schweizer notes that Bill was paid $600,000 for speeches by a company trying to secure a mobile phone contract in the country. He then notes that the company, Digicel, began receiving contracts from USAID, and that Bill gave a speech just weeks before Digicel received its first grant.

But, as a Clinton spokesman told BuzzFeed, "neither the former president nor the Clinton Foundation was paid for two of the three speeches Clinton gave in Ireland, and that while the foundation did receive a donation following his Sept. 29, 2010 speech, Clinton himself was not compensated." What's more, the final speech was given a full year before the contract was awarded, and the company itself had a prior relationship with USAID. None of this looks good for the Clintons, and Schweizer might be right about what it means. But he hasn't done the work to show it.

Overall, Clinton Cash is best described as an exercise in question begging, in which you assume your conclusion in the premise of your argument. Schweizer believes that the Clintons are corrupt influence peddlers who have enriched themselves at the expense of America's interests, and he's written a book to justify himself. What hehasn't done is written a book that proves his claims. Instead, all he has is a compendium of bad decisions and gross behavior that a more sober-minded writer could have used to make a real hit on the Clintons. As it stands, they will brush this off like they have most attacks from the right.

Indeed, there's a sense in which Schweizer knows that he hasn't done anything to hurt his intended targets. "I realize how shocking these allegations may appear," he writes at the beginning of the book. "Are these activities illegal? That's not for me to say. I'm not a lawyer."

What you don't know about the "Clinton Cash" author // American Bridge 21st Century // Brad Woodhouse - May 5, 2015

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The author of “Clinton Cash,” the latest conservative hatchet job against Hillary Clinton, is a right-wing Republican operative who was an advisor to Sarah Palin and a speechwriter for President George W. Bush. But what you might not know about Peter Schweizer is that he has deep ties to the Koch brothers and the right-wing billionaire bankrolling Sen. Ted Cruz’s nascent campaign. He’s a current contributor to conservative blog Breitbart and is thepresident of the Government Accountability Institute (GAI), a right-wing research group.

“Clinton Cash” has already been repeatedly debunked by reporters given early access to the accusations, which is no surprise given Schweizer’s history as a conservative researcher peddling misleading and false attacks that have discredited his work. American Bridge today released a video of FOX, ABC, NBC, and MSNBC anchors confronting Schweizer during his media blitz with the pesky fact that he doesn’t have any evidence for his theories.

Even Schweizer admits that he found “no direct evidence” of any wrongdoing by Clinton. Schweizer’s publisher, HarperCollins, expressly discloses that the book “does not allege illegal or unethical behavior.” When reading the coverage swirling around “Clinton Cash” or the anti-Clinton book itself, consider Schweizer’s past:

1. Schweizer’s deep ties to Koch brothers

As with just about any dubious attack on Democrats, the Koch brothers are inextricably connected to Schweizer. The Koch brothers might have funneled $1.5 million to Schweizer through donations from Donors Trust, which a former top IRS official has said the Kochs use as an anonymous pass through for their donations.

In return, Schweizer has spoken to several Koch groups. In February 2014, he gave a speech to the Charles Koch Institute. In March 2014,Schweizer spoke to Regent University’s Koch Leadership Program for undergraduates. And according to The Nation, Schweizer spoke to the Kochs’ annual summer conference in June 2014.

2. Billionaire bankrolling Cruz campaign also funds Schweizer

Robert Mercer is a key backer of Cruz’s campaign and is the primary donor behind the network of four Cruz-allied Super PACs that raised $31 million already. He’s also funneled at least $2.5 million to the Koch brothers’ Freedom Partners Action Fund and earned the title "ultimate behind-the-scenes kingmaker" during the 2014 midterm elections.

The Mercer Family Foundation, which is headed by Mercer’s daughter, Rebekah Mercer, donated $1 million to Schweizer’s GAI in 2013 alone. Rebekah Mercer was also on the Board of Directors at GAI. And ever since Bob Mercer funneled $2.5 million to the Koch’s Freedom Partners Action Fund, they’ve been recruiting Rebekah Mercer to join their sprawling political network.

As MSNBC's Rachel Maddow explained, "When you take a closer look at Mr. Schweizer's organization and who is backing him, it is a who's who of big right-wing funders.”

3. Schweizer attacked Clinton in 2008 book

Schweizer wrote a 2008 book called “Makers and Takers” that was filled with personal attacks on Hillary and Bill Clinton, but is trying to sell “Clinton Cash” as “bipartisan citizen action” in the intro to the book.

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He said Hillary Clinton had an “impressive record of public whining.” He argued that Clinton’s and other Democrats’ focus on income inequality meant they were obsessed with money and “preoccupied with material things.” He even attacked Clinton’s advice on raising children, saying “liberals who express little interest in having children of their own want control over how other people’s children are raised. As Hillary Clinton told Newsweek, ‘there is no such thing as other people’s children.’”

4. Conservative Foundation funneled $1 million to Schweizer while head was on GAI’s Board

Rebekah Mercer served on the Board of Directors at Schweizer’s GAI as recently as 2013, when the Mercer Family Foundation she runs also donated $1 million to GAI. She’ the daughter of conservative billionaire Bob Mercer, who’s funneled millions to the Koch brothers and Ted Cruz, among other right-wing Republican candidates.

Mercer even threw a cocktail party for Cruz at her New York City apartment the same day he announced his presidential bid. Close friends become even closer.

5. Schweizer’s prior claims have been repeatedly debunked

Schweizer has had at least 10 serious issues where fact-checkers and media outlets have found significant errors questionable sourcing, or have forced retractions of his work. Among them:

“Bears a fatal shortcoming in Journalism 101” -- In 2013, Schweizer falsely claimed that President Obama and then Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, held zero one-on-one meetings. The Washington Post said Schweizer's story “bears a fatal shortcoming in Journalism 101.”

“Bogus” -- In 2012, The Washington Post fact-checker deemed Schweizer's claim that President Obama skipped more than half of his intelligence briefings “bogus.” Furthermore, he said, “we had nearly given this data four pinocchios and in retrospect we were perhaps too generous with three. It turns out, presidents receive intelligence briefings in different formats that Schweizer did not consider. BySchweizer’s standards, President Reagan would have missed 99 percent of his briefings.”

“Partisan Source” -- In 2012, Schweizer was exposed for his inflated allegations that President Obama’s major donors received loan guarantees from the Department of Energy. FactCheck.Org excoritated his data saying, “We find that figure is both inflated and from a partisan source that Crossroads obscures with deceptive attribution.”

“Incorrect” -- In 2011, Schweizer was forced to retract his insider trading charge against Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. The Providence Journal noted “numerous factual problems with Schweizer's allegations, including that Whitehouse wasn't a member of the committee in question at the time.”

“Inaccurate”-- In 2010, USA Today was forced to issue a correction on Schweizer’s op-ed. “Peter Schweizer inaccurately stated that former vice president Al Gore receives royalties from a zinc mine on his property in Tennessee despite his environmental advocacy. He no longer does, as the mine was closed in 2003.”

“The facts don't fit Schweizer's claim” – In 2006, KGO TV in San Francisco investigated Schweizer’s claim against Nancy Pelosi and found “the facts don't fit Schweizer's claim.”

6. Schweizer attacked Disney for supporting gay employees

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Some of Schweizer's most egregious attacks are in his 1998 book, "Disney: The Mouse Betrayed: Greed, Corruption, And Children At Risk." This book is so incendiary that Schweizer has scrubbed it from his website, which claims to list all of his writing under the section, "all books."

He accuses Disney of pushing a homosexual agenda, specifically by giving benefits to their gay employees, being too accepting of gay culture, and making heroines too feminist. Schweizer alleged that there was "collusion" between Disney and the "outrageous" acts of the LGBT community. Wildly, he suggested that Disney gave its gay employees unfair "special treatment" as it was cutting benefits of straight employees.

7. Schweizer co-authored book depicting theoretical U.S. wars

In 1998, Schweizer wrote about the theoretical wars the U.S. would be fighting through the next decade in a book he co-authored, "The Next War." He believed the U.S. would begin wars with both Japan and Mexico, and that Russians would successfully occupy most of Europe. (Map included!)

Clinton, Democratic presidential opponents to debate six times // CNN // Mark Preston - May 5, 2015

Washington (CNN)Democrats will announce Tuesday six presidential primary debates, giving long shots a potential opportunity to share the debate stage with frontrunner Hillary Clinton, CNN has learned.

The Democratic National Committee has plans for debates to occur in the early-contest states of Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina. The two other locations will be decided at a later date.

The DNC will set the criteria for debate inclusion and any candidate who participates in a separate debate outside of the sanctioning process will be barred from future DNC debates, a Democratic official told CNN.

The official said that the DNC decided six debates was a reasonable number and in line with what the national committee sanctioned in 2008. The debate process won't begin until the fall, according to the official, because that is "when voters are truly beginning to pay attention."

The Democratic debates will be sponsored by state Democratic parties, civic groups, and national and local broadcast media. Details including specific dates and broadcast networks for each debate will be announced at a later date, the official said.

Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent, are the two only announced candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb have all said they are seriously considering running for the Democratic nomination.

Republicans have a much larger and more contested field of candidates. They will sponsor between nine and 12 primary debates beginning in August.

The Democratic presidential debates are great news for Hillary Clinton // Washington Post // Chris Cillizza – May 5, 2015

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Democratic presidential hopeful and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton speaks with students and faculty of New Hampshire Technical Institute, Concord Community College, on April 21, 2015, in Concord, New Hampshire. T(Photo by Andrew Burton/Getty Images)

Hillary Clinton got some much-needed good news on Tuesday when the Democratic National Committee announced that it would hold six presidential primary debates starting this fall.

What?! you say. How can it be a good thing for Clinton to be in a bunch of debates (okay, six) with candidates who will see these skirmishes as their best (and, really, only) chances of knocking her front-runner block off?

Sure, the debates will give every Bernie Sanders, Jim Webb and Martin O'Malley an equal-ish platform to Clinton that they could never afford -- literally -- otherwise. But, viewed broadly, the debates are likely to do Clinton more good than harm.

Remember that Clinton and her team want to make sure you and everyone else knows that she is not taking this nomination for granted -- despite the fact that the field running against her is not exactly the 1927 Yankees.

What better way to show that she is willing to fight for the every vote than to stand on a debate stage six times with the other candidates? That leveling process is a net good thing for Clinton in a way it wouldn't be for virtually any other candidate. While this would be seen as "punching down" for most well-known candidates, Clinton badly needs to avoid the appearance of a coronation, and a bunch of debates is a very good way to do that.

Then there is the fact that Clintonworld would like some positive media coverage during the primary and some credit for winning it.

Clinton is, if the 2008 campaign is any evidence, a skilled and poised debater who will likely perform well in the six showdowns to come. Her debate performances will then provide a storyline that isn't about her e-mail server, the Clinton Foundation or how much she or her husband were paid to give speeches. Clinton and her top aides abhor process stories, but a series of pieces about her ability and agility on the debate stage would be the sort of process-y story they would welcome with open arms.

Clinton also doesn't want the prevailing sentiment of the coverage, especially among Democratic voters, to be that she beat a bunch of nobodies and proved nothing in the process. An ideal Clinton primary win would be one in which she was challenged just enough to get credit for not just winning but for answering some of her critics in the process but not one so competitive that, well, she wasn't guaranteed victory. A series of debates lends credibility to Clinton's challengers that they might not be able to acquire otherwise.

Then there is the general election consideration. Clinton has not been an active candidate for anything since mid-2008. She is rusty -- as any candidate would be who hasn't run for anything in seven years. Carefully stage-managed conversations with average people in early primary and caucus states is not the same thing as a freewheeling debate when it comes to getting your game legs under you for the general election. Clinton's people might not ever admit it publicly, but she undoubtedly needs practice before the three highly watched and highly meaningful general election debates against the GOP nominee. These warm-up debates will give her just that.

Taken together, the debates are a very good thing for Clinton. They expose her to risk, sure, but the rewards for her campaign are far greater.

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Hillary Clinton's rope-line antagonist // POLITICO // Hadas Gold - May 5, 2015

In the usual scrum of reporters crowded around Hillary Clinton, sticking microphones, cameras and phones in the Democratic front-runner's face on her campaign trips to early states, one face and voice in particular stands out.

Over and over again she calls out: "Mrs. Clinton!" "Hillary!" "Ma'am!"

It's Andrea Mitchell, host of "Andrea Mitchell Reports" on MSNBC, a top correspondent for NBC News, and a veteran of the Clinton beat who will spearhead the network's Clinton coverage for 2016 — years after driving coverage on big stories like Whitewater, Bill's impeachment, and Hillary's first forays as a candidate.

Mitchell, 68, is back on the trail, acting more like a cub reporter hungry for her first scoop than a star television journalist with her own show or a Washington insider married to former Fed chair Alan Greenspan. She's one of the most senior reporters covering the race, and one of the most outwardly aggressive, calling Clinton out, chasing her down, asking her questions — and occasionally getting a roundabout answer. Some sources suggest she's getting under the Clinton camp's skin, a rope-line irritant constantly shouting after the former secretary of state to answer questions. For Mitchell, it's second nature.

"Sometimes people use the term 'aggressive' pejoratively. It is not anything to apologize for. I love to go after stories. I'm passionate about whatever I'm covering. I'm competitive, and I think nothing could be more important than getting under the surface of a political campaign, especially one this important, this historic," Mitchell said in an interview.

As for constantly asking Clinton questions on the trail, even when she knows the Democratic front-runner is unlikely to answer, she explains: "It's wanting to tell a story that's more thorough and complex than a stage-managed event that the candidate is giving you, whether it's Ronald Reagan, Hillary Clinton or George W. Bush."

Mitchell followed Clinton's campaign stops in Iowa and New Hampshire, and was in Nevada with her this week.

"I think [reporting from the trail] is the only way to really understand the dynamics of a candidate, what she's saying, or he," Mitchell said. "You have to be able to hear the nuance, a change in what she says about trade, a hint that she's expressing a different view on a policy, the way she interacts with voters. I wanted to see it."

One reporter on the trail relayed tales of spotting Mitchell jostling with other journalists waiting outside of an event, and making sure they were sidled up next to her since she was likely to get a question in. Others said she's known to incessantly shout questions at Clinton and is often a figure in campaign pool reports.

"Man, do I admire her," New York Times reporter Amy Chozick said in an email. "Way too often journalists get rich and famous and stop doing the shoe-leather reporting that got them there in the first place, but Andrea is a workhorse yelling questions on the campaign trail with the rest of us."

Hillary Clinton reacts to applause from the crowd before speaking during the sixth annual Women in the World Summit,

Getting Clinton to answer a question has been somewhat of a rare feat since her campaign started several weeks ago. She has yet to sit down to a formal interview since announcing her candidacy and according to National Journal, has only answered seven questions from the media – many of them non-answer answers.

In New Hampshire, Mitchell actually got something of an answer about what Clinton thinks about the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

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“Do you have any concerns about the trade deals and whether that will hurt — ” Mitchell asked.

Clinton initially ignored the question, raising her hand toward the press pool as though to pause them and continuing to chat with school officials. But a few moments later she responded, marking the first time she had personally weighed in on a fraught piece of legislation pitting the Elizabeth Warren-led left against President Barack Obama, centrist Democrats, and most Republicans.

“Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security, and we have to do our part in making sure we have the capabilities and the skills to be competitive,” Clinton said. More dodge than answer, it was nonetheless more than anyone else had gotten her to say.

Mitchell, meanwhile, is emerging as an ombudsman of sorts for the Clinton press pack. In Iowa, she spoke to fellow reporters about pushing for more access and information about Clinton’s campaign and schedule and making sure the pools included correspondents.

“We had some private conversations while we were waiting for another one of these very controlled roundtables, because I think they thought that having a photo spray inside a cafe without … identifying who the people were, or where she was going or any chance for questions was going to be satisfactory press coverage,” Mitchell said.

“I think they learned and to their credit they changed it by New Hampshire.”

And Mitchell makes no apologies for her complaints about the Clinton campaign’s clenched-fist media management strategy. By her reckoning, the Hillary Clinton of 2015 has been even less available to the press than during her first run for president, in 2008, and much less accessible than any of the Democratic candidates in previous election cycles.

“To think that a presidential candidate can be driving around a primary or caucus state without anyone knowing where they’re going but have us waiting for hours for a very controlled conversation with pre-selected voters, it’s just inviting media criticism,” Mitchell groused

Mitchell has covered both Clintons for years, dating back to the early 1990s, when she covered former President Bill Clinton’s first run for president. It was actually Mitchell who asked Hillary the question that led to the infamous “tea and cookies” quote.

The question had nothing to do with food.

It was 1992, and Mitchell had staked out a good location at a diner hours before Clinton would be stopping by for a campaign photo-op. Mitchell, by then a seasoned political correspondent, surprised the future first lady with a question about Hillary’s law firm and an obscure Arkansas land deal, later known as “Whitewater.” Clinton responded acidly that she had chosen to pursue her profession instead of staying home in order to have “baked cookies and served teas,” a quote that opened Clinton up to criticism that she didn’t appreciate the everyday American housewife.

“It was an example of how important it is to cover an event yourself, no matter how routine, rather than relying on a producer or other surrogate,” Mitchell wrote in her 2006 book “Talking Back.” “Unfortunately it gave me a reputation for being very aggressive, for getting in people’s faces — not a popular quality with candidates or their aides.”

Mitchell then covered the Clinton White House (where she was deemed the “White House watchdog” and “pit

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bull" in a USA Today profile), Hillary's 2000 run for Senate, and her 2008 run for president before breaking the news that she would be appointed secretary of state.

"That's some history," Mitchell reflected. "I think in many ways that experience makes me more empathetic to how she's reacting to certain situations."

In one memo released by the Clinton library about the press that would be traveling with Hillary to the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, Press Secretary Lisa Caputo outlined which reporters on the trip she thought had given Clinton positive treatment and would be helpful for Clinton to cozy up to, like Terry Hunt, Larry McQuillan, Claire Shipman and Martha Teichner and Ann Compton, whom Caputo deemed a converted "Hillary fan."

Mitchell, Caputo wrote, wasn't a "Hillary fan" but one to contend with: "Andrea Mitchell, NBC – Former White House correspondent. She was replaced by Brian Williams, whom NBC is grooming to take over for Tom Brokaw. Andrea now covers the State Department. She is very aggressive and a very good reporter."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Asking Martin O'Malley To Explain Baltimore // The Atlantic // James Fallows – May 5, 2015

Just ten days ago, President Obama was one of several speakers at the White House Correspondents Dinner to deliver a casual slight to Martin O'Malley's not-yet-official 2016 presidential aspirations, based on the premise that no one had ever heard of him. Obama's joke was that Hillary Clinton had started off her campaign by going unrecognized at a Chipotle—and Martin O'Malley had gone unrecognized at a Martin O'Malley campaign event. Hardee har!

[The unmentioned "meta" aspect of the joke is that most presidential candidates necessarily go through the humiliating "You're running for what???" stage of campaigning, notably including the ultimately nominated-and-elected Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama.]

It's a joke no one would make about O'Malley now. Protests over Freddie Gray's death were spreading in Baltimore even as the black-tie dinner took place 40 miles away in northwest Washington. Martin O'Malley—for eight years a Baltimore city council member, for seven years its mayor, for eight years until this January the governor of Maryland—came back to his city from an overseas trip, walked the streets, received both congratulations and criticism, and generally found himself at the center of the intersecting debates about inequality, opportunity, justice, and accountability that will certainly play a large role in the American politics of the next 18 months and the American realities of the era ahead.

Bernie Sanders' "socialism" may have mainstream appeal // LA Times // David Horsey – May 5, 2015

Finally, conservatives have a real socialist to go crazy about. Instead of concocting dark fairytales about how Barack Obama, a very conventional liberal Democrat, is a secret Marxist who wants to destroy the American way of life, they can shriek about Bernie Sanders, the independent Vermont senator who has never shied away from the socialist label.

Bernie Sanders version of socialism is not all that radical

Sanders is now the first person to challenge Hillary Clinton in the race to win the 2016 Democratic Party presidential nomination. Clinton, though, is not his real adversary, Sanders says. He refuses to make

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disparaging comments about Clinton and insists he has never run an attack ad in any campaign and will not do so against her. Sanders wants to take on the billionaires, not Hillary.

Nobody gives the 73-year-old Sanders a chance of stopping the Clinton political juggernaut, but some think he could make it veer to the left. If the Vermonter gets traction in debates and primaries with his unabashed progressive positions, Clinton might be forced to match at least some of his rhetoric. Would that be a bad thing for Democrats? Not if enough beleaguered middle class voters get a chance to consider what Sanders' version of "socialism" entails and like what they see.

Let's consider some of Sanders' wild ideas:

Free college tuition. That is something that students can count on in many European countries and once was not uncommon in the United States. In what many consider the most golden era of the Golden State, California's great public university system was tuition-free. In many other states, students paid only a few hundred dollars per year to go to top state colleges. Now, of course, American students are graduating with crushing student loan debts while many others cannot afford to pay in the first place. Sanders' idea seems radical only in that it makes radically good sense.

A $1 trillion program to rebuild the nation's roads and bridges. This would not only create thousands of jobs, it would finally address the country's glaring infrastructure crisis that threatens freight mobility and interstate commerce. This sounds pretty pro-business — in a good way.

Break up giant financial institutions. "If they are too big to fail, they are too big to exist," Sanders says. Unless you enjoyed the economic crash of 2008, this probably sounds like a pretty reasonable idea.

Publicly funded elections. Instead of seeing the spectacle of candidates for president and Congress taking turns begging for money at gatherings of billionaires and corporate lobbyists, public funding for campaigns might encourage politicians to pay attention to those of us who don't have the ability to buy influence in our government. This feels vaguely un-American only because it has been so long since money did not rule American politics.

Higher taxes on the wealthy. Well, obviously, the schemes Sanders wants to enact would not be free. The money has to come from somewhere. The United States is a very rich country and should be able to do things like rebuild bridges, fix highways and insure that the next generation gets an education without being loaded with debt. The problem is that the vast majority of that wealth is held by a tiny few and a huge share of the new dollars coming into the economy are derived from the financial sector. Those financiers are really bad at creating middle class jobs, but they are experts at avoiding taxes. Getting more of the wealth spun from elaborate financial trickery to spend on the common good rather than on more mansions in the Hamptons may be a radical idea, but it's not necessarily a bad idea.

Government-run healthcare. Yup, this one really is socialism. It's what they have in hellish commie wastelands like Germany, Denmark, Japan, Canada and the rest of the industrialized world. It's also what Americans over the age of 64 have. We call it Medicare.

Sanders is never going to be president. Most voters are not ready to approve his full program. Still, he will have done this country a great service if, through his blunt talk and grandfatherly presence, he gets more citizens to stop being distracted by scare stories and political labels and to start considering ideas on their merits. A 40-hour work week, a minimum wage and restrictions on child labor were once thought of as subversive, socialist doctrines, but they have turned out to be pretty good ideas for Americans — except maybe for the billionaires.

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Warren met privately with 'Draft Warren' supporters // POLITICO // Annie Karni - May 5, 2015

Elizabeth Warren says she has no intention of jumping into the 2016 race. But she recently met behind closed doors with members of the “Draft Warren” movement who are urging her to run for president.

The Massachusetts senator held a private April 22 meeting with a small group of progressive leaders from across the country – including some vocal “Draft Warren” supporters who continue to hold out hope that she’ll enter the presidential race.

In an hour-long meeting with her staff and a 30-minute meeting with Warren, the group of about a half-dozen top progressive activists — including three who were active in the Draft Warren movement — did not discuss the draft campaign. Instead, the conversation focused on issues of social and racial justice. They highlighted specific issues the senator can use to influence the presidential debate in 2016 and, they hope, push Hillary Clinton to the left on issues including police brutality, immigration reform, the privatization of prisons, and reducing naturalization fees to promote naturalization, among other issues.

The meeting’s purpose was to see “how Elizabeth Warren, with her platform, could work with us to move a progressive vision for the country and really engage with communities of color,” said Jonathan Westin, director of New York Communities for Change, who attended. “That goes hand in hand with what she’s already doing. The language she is speaking is part and parcel of what we believe is wrong with this country.”

An aide to Warren maintained that the senator did not know the group she was meeting with had any connection to the “Draft Warren” campaign until POLITICO informed her office. “The point of the meeting was to discuss economic and social justice issues,” the aide said. “As Senator Warren has said many times, she does not support the draft group’s efforts and is not running for President.”

But Westin is a vocal supporter of the “Draft Warren” campaign who, as a co-chair of New York’s Working Families Party, voted for the political party to join the Draft Warren coalition last February. Just weeks before the sit-down with Warren, he wrote a blog post for MoveOn.org calling for her to run for president. His co-author on the piece, Katelyn Johnson, executive director of Chicago’s Action Now Institute, also attended the sit-down with Warren.

“Elizabeth Warren is not the only candidate who could ensure a robust presidential primary, but she is the best,” they wrote. “[Warren] is the one who can truly give Clinton a run for the money and yes, even has a shot to win the nomination. We urge Warren to acknowledge the importance of this political moment and enter the race.”

At the meeting with Warren, they were also joined by Daniel Altschuler, managing director of the Make The Road Action Fund, which is also on the advisory council of the Working Families Party and supports the “Draft Warren” movement. But no effort was made during the meeting to urge the senator to enter the race.

“This was about someone who we want to be sharing the issues that are affecting communities of color and working class communities to make her the strongest possible champion on those issues,” Altschuler said. “The senator has been a tremendous champion on issues of the financial system run amok and income inequality. We think that a lot of the issues affecting our communities are tied to those big financial systems, we wanted to share some of the issues we’re working on.”

Attendees said they did not discuss their presidential aspirations for Warren, but some in the group – which included Shabnam Bashiri from Rise Up Georgia; Bill Bartlett from Action United, a Pennsylvania group; and

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Brian Kettenring, co-executive director of the Center for Popular Democracy – privately pointed out that November 2016 is a long time away and insisted there is still plenty of time for her to get in if she decides to do so.

If Warren wanted the group to stand down, the meeting with some of its diehard supporters did little to advance that goal.

"I would still love to see her run for president," said Westin, speaking after the meeting. "Connecting with the grassroots groups is a very big piece of how we continue to amplify her message. People are getting away with murder — literally and figuratively, on Wall Street."

The "Run Warren Run" campaign was launched in December 2014, by Democracy for America and MoveOn and coordinates with Ready for Warren, another group urging the senator to run. In a letter to the FEC from her attorney last August regarding the Ready for Warren PAC, Warren said she "does not, explicitly or implicitly, authorize, endorse, or otherwise approve of the organization's formation or activities."

But the shared position of many who met with her last month is that Clinton needs a serious primary challenger.

"The Democratic party needs a contested primary," said Jennifer Epps-Addison, director of Wisconsin Jobs Now, who was also in the Warren meeting. "Black folks in our communities have been systematically attacked. It's not simply about police brutality. Our goal in talking to Warren was to make those connections the same way we did during the civil rights movement." She said her goal was to get Warren "to be talking about racial justice as part of her progressive message."

While she is not part of the "Draft Warren" movement, Epps-Addison added, "We feel that many Democrats are not speaking truthfully to the values that many of the base and voters are concerned about, including black folks."

In the absence of a competitive Democratic primary, however, some progressives are hoping they can at least push Warren to be the party's agenda-setter.

"For Sen. Warren, you're seeing her evolve from a very effective advocate on a set of issues into more of a movement leader and a party leadership role," said Kettenring. "We're all evolving and she is, too. That's part of the dynamic at work here. Some of the people I know who were in the Draft Warren movement are people we work with and know, because they're part of the broader progressive ecosystem. I'd say more of us are stepping up to define the terms of the debate."

Elizabeth Warren: Trade bill could "tear down" Wall Street oversight // POLITICO // Zachary Warmbrodt - May 5, 2015

Sen. Elizabeth Warren said the next big threat to keeping Wall Street risk-taking in check is an upcoming fast-track trade bill — a top priority for President Barack Obama that has attracted liberal opposition.

The Massachusetts Democrat said late Tuesday that giving the president greater leeway to negotiate trade deals for years to come is a dangerous proposition because of the chance that a Republican who wants to roll back Dodd-Frank, like Sen. Ted Cruz, could win the White House in 2016.

"I very much hope that a Democrat wins the White House in 2016 and again in 2020. But what happens if we have a Republican president in 2016 or 2020? Ted Cruz has already said flatly, 'We need to repeal Dodd-

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Frank,'" Warren said in a speech prepared for a Washington dinner hosted by the Institute for New Economic Thinking. "Republicans have been itching to tear down Dodd-Frank from the moment it passed."

Warren launched her latest salvo against the administration's trade policy as Obama attempts to convince Congress, in particular fellow Democrats, to approve the trade bill to help him wrap up agreements he is negotiating with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.

Warren's attempt to link the fast-track bill with Wall Street oversight, specifically Democrats' signature 2010 Dodd-Frank law that sought to strengthen banking regulation after the 2008 crisis, will put some of her more trade-friendly colleagues in an awkward spot.

"Let me put this as simply as I can: After fighting hard to protect Dodd-Frank for years, Democrats in the next few weeks could give Republicans the very tool they need to dismantle Dodd-Frank," Warren said. "Anyone who supports Dodd-Frank and who believes we need strong rules to prevent the next financial crisis should be very worried."

Wall Street banks have kept a close eye on recent trade negotiations, particularly the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with Europe, and have pushed for financial regulation to be part of the talks. Last month, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in a joint statement that it is "vital" that the European trade agreement cover financial regulation.

Big banks on both sides of the Atlantic are gearing up to use the agreement to "water down" regulations, Warren said.

"A six-year fast track bill is the missing link they need to make that happen," she said.

Democrats Take Fire for Exclusivity Clause in Official Debates // TIME // Zeke J Miller – May 5, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks during the David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum at Columbia University on April 29, 2015 in New York City.

Kevin Hagen—Getty Images Democratic presidential hopeful and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks during the David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum at Columbia University on April 29, 2015 in New York City.

The Democratic National Committee is coming under fire for its takeover of the presidential primary debate process.

Just minutes after announcing that it will only sanction six contests and that candidates who appear in any debate outside of those six will be barred from attending a sanctioned debate, Lis Smith, a spokeswoman for likely Democratic contender former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley criticized the small number of debates and the exclusivity requirement.

"If Governor O'Malley decides to run, we will expect a full, robust, and inclusive set of debates — both nationally and in early primary and caucus states," she said in a statement to reporters. "This has been customary in

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previous primary seasons. In a year as critical as 2016, exclusivity does no one any favors."

The DNC said the six debate number was the jumping off point in 2004 and 2008 but it was quickly overridden by candidates and news outlets wanting more. In 2008, Democrats faced off more than 20 times before President Obama won the nomination.

"The precedent that was set was six, but there was no mechanism controlling that," said DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee. "We've always said that we'd like to come up with a number and stick with it."

"Every now and then Republicans have ideas that aren't so terrible, and this was one of them," he added of the exclusivity clause.

But an aide to one Democratic 2016 aspirant said they were taken aback by the exclusivity clause. "In the discussions that the DNC had with potential 2016 candidates, they explicitly said there would be no exclusivity clause and it was a shock to see that they included one in their press release today," the aide said. "It was all an elaborate game where everything was worked out in advance with the Clinton people," the aide alleged.

Elleithee declined to detail the nature of internal conversations the DNC conducted with candidates and campaigns, including whether the exclusivity clause was a late addition to the parameters.

"I have been involved in debate negotiations for various campaigns for nearly 20 years and they are almost always have some people who want more and some people who want fewer," Elleithee said.

Appearing on stage with Clinton would be a significant credibility boost to the likely Democratic field, which includes lesser-known figures like O'Malley, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb. Clinton aides understandably want to limit her opposition's potential for a breakout moment on stage, while protecting a candidate who who occasionally struggled during the 2008 primary debates. Minutes after the DNC announced its debate plans, Clinton tweeted her support.

Elleithee added that campaigns were given a heads up about the press release Tuesday morning before it was sent out. But a spokesman for likely presidential aspirant Jim Webb said the former senator's team had not discussed the debates "internally or externally."

–Additional reporting by Sam Frizell

GOP

Huckabee Joins Race With Tacit Contrast to Clintons // Real Clear Politics // Rebecca Berg - May 5, 2015

HOPE, Ark. — Mike Huckabee used his metaphor-rich hometown on Tuesday as a backdrop to launch his second bid for president — the setting drawing contrasts at once with former President Bill Clinton, who also hails from Hope, and President Obama, who ran for office on a platform of "hope" and "change"

"We were promised hope, but it was just talk," said Huckabee, a former Republican governor of Arkansas. "Now we need the kind of change that really can bring America from Hope to higher ground."

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In a community college auditorium, Huckabee recalled his upbringing in the town that's now home to roughly 10,000 people, where he said he "was raised to believe that where a person started didn't mean that's where he had to stop," and where he ran in his first race, for student council in junior high school.

"So it seems fitting that it would be here that I announce I am a candidate for president," Huckabee said to cheers from an enthusiastic, conservative crowd of roughly 2,500, including those in overflow areas. At intervals, supporters chanted, "We like Mike" and waved signs supplied by the campaign.

Huckabee, who proved a surprisingly strong candidate when he ran for president in 2008, still commands a substantial following among religious and social conservatives, having since then cultivated a national audience with a weekly show on Fox News and as a prolific author.

But Huckabee has expressed frustration at the idea that he only appealed in 2008 to evangelical voters — a "misconception," he told reporters in Washington last month. On Tuesday, he began in earnest to flirt with working-class voters, using his personal story to shape a narrative of social and economic mobility.

"I grew up blue collar, not blue blood," Huckabee said.

Huckabee's strategy has changed in other ways, too. Whereas he announced his previous bid for president during an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," his campaign launch on Tuesday was decidedly less low-key, mimicking the flow of a party convention with multiple introductory speakers, including wife Janet Huckabee, and campaign videos. The program kicked off with a musical performance by the candidate's friend Tony Orlando, the '70s singer of "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree" fame.

Still, Huckabee is no frontrunner. He starts the race in sixth place among Republicans, the RealClearPolitics national polling average shows. Huckabee on Tuesday took pains to acknowledge, and even embrace, his standing as an underdog.

"I never have been and never will be the favorite candidate of the Washington-to-Wall Street corridor of power," he said. He added, striking an implicit contrast to the Bill and Hillary Clinton, that he does not have a "global foundation" to advance his name or offer financial security.

Huckabee scarcely needed to allude to the Clintons — and not once did he explicitly invoke Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee — because the setting so obviously called the power couple to mind.

"I still believe in a place called Hope," Bill Clinton famously said as he accepted the Democratic nomination for president in 1992. Today, the town is something of a shrine to its most famous son.

Huckabee's own political arc has been inextricably linked to the Clintons. An introduction video Tuesday noted that he took office in "Bill Clinton's Arkansas," when Democrats controlled both chambers of the state legislature.

Today, both sons of Hope have cut their immediate ties to the Natural State. The Clintons reside in New York;

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Huckabee's primary residence is a beachfront home in Florida.

Still, the hometown crowd came out strong for Huckabee on Tuesday, including Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a Republican who led the state party in the 1990s when Huckabee first won statewide office as lieutenant governor.

Huckabee "led our state with conviction. He led our state with conservative values," Hutchinson said in his remarks. "That is the type of leadership that we need on the national stage."

The surest early sign that Huckabee would run for president came in January, when he abruptly quit his Fox News show — a move that he and aides insisted he would not have made if he weren't serious about waging another campaign.

Since then, he has gradually laid the groundwork for a bid: publishing a new memoir, traveling to key presidential primary states and, last month, quietly forming an exploratory committee.

Huckabee will hope to build on his success in 2008, when he defeated Mitt Romney to win the Iowa caucuses.

"I have no presumptions that I'm a lock to win [Iowa] or that I go into it with this unbreakable position in favor," Huckabee said last month. "But we have a good structure, a good organization, good contacts, a good network there, a good message there. And I do know how to win Iowa."

Early polling shows him in a competitive position in some of the pivotal states. The RCP average shows Huckabee in fourth among Republicans in Iowa and in South Carolina, with a solid 9 percent in each key primary state.

Huckabee's campaign team is also hopeful that he will perform well in the so-called "SEC primary" of Southern states on March 1, which will include Arkansas.

Huckabee, allies aim to raise $60 million // CNN // Sara Murray - May 5, 2015

Hope, Arkansas (CNN)Mike Huckabee is eyeing a more favorable calendar and stronger fundraising chops as the firewalls that will prevent his presidential bid from fizzling out early.

After winning the GOP caucuses in Iowa in 2008 and hosting a Fox News television show for years, Huckabee has become a nationally recognized figure. Now the pressure is on for the Republican presidential candidate to prove he can raise money and notch top tier finishes in the early nominating contests.

Huckabee's advisers acknowledged he will need a strong finish in Iowa, where Huckabee plans to spend much of this week campaigning. Then the race moves on to New Hampshire, which is less friendly territory for Huckabee and will largely be a fight among moderate Republicans such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

On Friday, Huckabee is scheduled to deliver an economic address in South Carolina, another state that where

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Huckabee could be competitive. But the field there is muddled by Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is weighing a potential presidential run. Meanwhile, Florida's two favorite sons -- former Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio -- will face off over the Sunshine State.

But Huckabee sees an opportunity in a handful of Southern states that are looking to move their contests up to March 1. If the so-called "SEC primary" pans out, it could include a handful of states that Huckabee won in 2008.

"The key is what kind of resources do you have beyond Iowa," said Bob Vander Plaats, chief executive of the social conservative organization The Family Leader in Iowa. After years in the public eye as a former presidential candidate and Fox News personality, "I don't think he can come in with $500,000 and say, 'I'm a real candidate,'" Vander Plaats added.

Huckabee raised about $16 million in 2008, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, before dropping out of the race in March. This time around Huckabee expects to raise about $60 million between his campaign and his super PAC in the early stages of his campaign, an adviser said.

A spokesman for Huckabee declined to name the donors who have pledged to support Huckabee, but there are signs the team isn't bluffing about their improved fundraising prowess. Ronnie Cameron, the chief executive of an Arkansas-based poultry producer who has given millions to conservatives, said he would back Huckabee.

Huckabee used his announcement speech Tuesday to make a plea for some cash, too, saying he won't be relying on billionaires to back his campaign.

"I will be funded and fueled not by the billionaires, but by working people across America," Huckabee said. But, "if you want to give a million dollars, please do it."

That remark is already garnering negative press because, while outside groups can accept unlimited donations, the most a presidential candidate can accept from an individual is $5,400. Now that Huckabee is officially a candidate, he and his super PAC are no longer allowed to coordinate.

Mike Huckabee and the Continuing Influence of Evangelicals // NYT- The Upshot // Nate Cohn – May 5,2015

The religious right remains the largest voting bloc in the Republican Party, and that gives Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, the potential to play a big role in the presidential nominating contest.

But Mr. Huckabee, who was set to announce his presidential bid Tuesday morning, will have a harder time winning Iowa than he did in 2008, when religious conservatives had serious reservations about the two main candidates, John McCain and Mitt Romney.

This year’s conservative favorites do not have Mr. Romney’s vulnerabilities among evangelicals, like Mormonism or past support for abortion rights. Some candidates might be outright good fits, like Scott Walker, an evangelical Christian and the son of a pastor.

Mr. Huckabee, a Southern Baptist minister who won the Iowa caucuses and five state primaries in 2008, has retained at least some of his support among evangelical Christians, averaging around 8 percent in the polls —

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as much as fresh-faced candidates like Ted Cruz or Rand Paul.

Credit Illustration by Matt Dorfman and photo by Yana Paskova for The New York Times

The similarity of Mr. Huckabee to Mr. Cruz or Mr. Paul extends far beyond their polling numbers. Each has championed the cause of one of the party's large and distinctive factions — the religious right, the Tea Party and libertarians. In doing so, all three became the favorite of a large bloc of voters — and all but unacceptable to the rest of the party.

Mr. Huckabee has received less news media attention than Mr. Cruz or Mr. Paul, but he has an equal chance to play a big role in the race. White evangelical Christians are about 40 percent of Republican primary voters, representing a majority of the vote in many of the party's caucuses and in the Southern primaries. That gives an evangelical favorite an easy road to winning many contests.

Most important, evangelicals also represent nearly 60 percent of Iowa caucus goers, which allowed cultural conservatives like Rick Santorum (in 2012) and Mr. Huckabee (in 2008) to carry the state.

So a conservative candidate who hopes to win Iowa, like Senator Cruz or Governor Walker, needs to capture a significant slice of the evangelical vote. Mr. Romney's failed bid in 2008 is a cautionary tale. He sought to become the main conservative candidate in the race, but ultimately failed to take Iowa because he could not get the support of evangelical Christians.

Mr. Huckabee still has the potential to be a spoiler again. He could deny another conservative a large enough share of evangelical voters. He could even win himself. Mr. Huckabee remains a compelling retail politician with strong ratings. He led an NBC/Marist survey of Iowa as recently as two months ago. He has won Iowa before, after all.

Of course, Mr. Huckabee did not go on to win the nomination in 2008. And he is unlikely to do so this time. He was pummeled outside the South.

Money and organization were part of Mr. Huckabee's challenge in 2008 in populous, expensive states like Illinois, Florida and California. My Upshot colleague Derek Willis found that just 7 percent of the top 250 Republican donors had contributed to one of Mr. Huckabee's campaigns, a paltry figure that reflects the secular inclinations of top Republican donors.

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But the limits of Mr. Huckabee's appeal were ultimately about his message and record. Fiscal conservatives were very skeptical of Mr. Huckabee, who raised taxes and increased spending as a governor.

Pat Toomey, the former head of the Club for Growth and a current senator from Pennsylvania, said, "Mike Huckabee is no conservative."

Last month, Mr. Huckabee attacked conservative plans to reduce entitlement spending and said he wouldn't vote for the Paul Ryan budget plan. The Club for Growth has already indicated its intention to oppose his bid again.

Mr. Huckabee has not done much to broaden his appeal over the last eight years. He has, if anything, more fully

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embraced his populist brand of religious conservatism.

He gave a recent interview with an Iowa talk-radio host in which he said the military, under President Obama's leadership, "punishes" Christians and Orthodox Jews. He added that parents might want to ponder waiting until a new president is in charge before supporting their children to enlist.

It was the kind of talk that could continue to make him a favorite of an influential wing of the party — someone who can lead polls and even win states, but who is opposed by much of the rest of the party and is therefore highly unlikely to win the nomination.

Correction: May 5, 2015

Because of an editing error, an earlier version of this article misstated how Mitt Romney lost the 2008 Iowa caucuses. He was defeated by Mike Huckabee. He did not lose a narrow decision to Rick Santorum (that was in 2012).

The populist 1 percenter // Politico // James Hohmann – May 5, 2015

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas—Mike Huckabee was not a millionaire when he ran for president in 2008, and liked to let people know it during his underdog campaign against wealthy rivals like John McCain and Mitt Romney.

"I may not be the expert that some people are on foreign policy, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night," he quipped.

Now, after hosting his own Fox News show and a syndicated radio program, while authoring several books, the former governor is solidly – and, some would say, ostentatiously — a part of the one percent.

There's the 10,900-square-foot beachfront mansion he built on Florida's Panhandle, worth more than $3 million. There are regular trips on private jets, often to elite events at which he has given countless paid speeches.

On Tuesday, as he formally kicked off his second campaign for the presidency, Huckabee knows he must reassure his former supporters that he has not changed even as his pockets grew much, much deeper. His announcement, in the small town of Hope where he grew up poor, reflects a broader effort by his campaign to show that he's still folksy and down-to-earth.

"I think I'm the same person that I was," the 59-year-old told POLITICO during an interview ahead of his announcement. "I haven't, to my knowledge, changed a single belief or conviction. I believe everything I believed in 2008."

Last time, he won the Iowa caucuses and carried seven other states with a populist message that the little guy was getting trampled by the special interests.

"Where my strength really came from was blue-collar working class people," Huckabee recalled. "They didn't have money but they had energy. They felt like no one else was there to speak for them or even knew who they were. I think they believed, and I think they still believe, that not only have I come from them – that's who I am – but that I've never lost touch with what it's like to be out there working harder and getting nowhere."

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More than anyone else in the 2016 field, including Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, the former Southern Baptist minister decries the influence of “corporatists” and “globalists” over the GOP. Still, hints of his fabulous new life bleed into his rhetoric. He raised eyebrows during a speech in New Hampshire two weeks ago, for instance, when he recalled a recent conversation with a Russian limo driver.

“A couple of weeks ago I was in Los Angeles, and I was going to be on The Bill Maher Show,” he told hundreds of activists at the climax of a half-hour speech. “The driver comes and picks me up at the hotel and is taking me to the studio.”

In short, the driver fled the Soviet Union in 1988 with his infant daughter and they’re now living the American Dream: the dad owns the car service company, and his daughter became a nurse. “I said, ‘Dmitri, you make more sense and talk better than 90 percent of the people we’ve elected to Congress,’” Huckabee told the crowd. “He said, ‘Well I don’t think I’ll ever have that platform.’ I told him, ‘Dmitri, you may not. Maybe you don’t want it. But I hope I can tell your story!’”

Huckabee still tells his own up-from-the-bootstraps story, but it’s not quite the same as in 2008 – when he’d only been out of the governorship for a year and had a small bank account.

During that campaign, in the days before the crucial Wisconsin primary, Huckabee was so strapped for cash that he went off the trail to deliver a paid speech in the Cayman Islands. “You’ve got to work for a living and pay your bills,” he said at the time. He attacked Romney that year for looking like “the guy who laid you off.” He held events at Pizza Ranches because it was free to rent space at the chain restaurant.

In the years since, Huckabee has aggressively filled his coffers.

A POLITICO report last July highlighted his penchant for using private jets. He’s racked up more than a quarter-million dollars in private air travel bills over the past few years and has routinely insisted that candidates or local parties that he’s coming to support pay the expense.

The New York Times recently spotlighted dubious groups Huckabee has rented his campaign email list out to – from survivalists warning of coming food shortages to a group that says there’s a miracle cure for cancer hidden in the Bible (which people can find out about with a $72 subscription to their product). Huckabee recorded an infomercial for a sketchy diabetes treatment that scientists say is bunk.

He enters the 2016 race with high expectations. Because he won Iowa last time, many pundits say the caucuses will be do-or-die for him this time. Not surprisingly, his first appearances after the Arkansas announcement are there.

“A second or third place finish does not move him forward,” said Ed Rollins, the national chairman of Huckabee’s 2008 campaign, who has not endorsed him for 2016.

A broader — and probably more important — question is whether a retread can stand out in a crowded field with fresher faces. Even his rollout has been partly overshadowed by dark horse upstarts like former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, both of whom announced on Monday.

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Leading social conservatives in Iowa say that Huckabee retains a big reservoir of goodwill, but that he cannot count on retaining his supporters from 2008. Many broke for Rick Santorum in 2012, who will run again. And this time, candidates like Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker have already been making an aggressive play for his base of support. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio is traveling the early states making the case that the party needs to nominate a young, fresh face to contrast with Hillary Clinton. Huckabee notes that he was battling the Clintons for decades in Arkansas before anyone else even heard of them.

Huckabee has acknowledged he probably needs to win Iowa again and should perform stronger in New Hampshire than last time. South Carolina, the first state in the South with a primary, could give him a boost if he gets momentum and enough money from the first contests.

That makes March 1 central to his strategy. A handful of Southern states Huckabee won in 2008, including Arkansas, have coordinated to schedule an “SEC primary” that day.

Ironically, though he’s now rich himself, it’s an open question whether Huckabee will be able to raise enough money to stay in the race through the SEC primary and beyond. He’ll get a lot of small-dollar gifts, but he has yet to demonstrate the ability to put together a high-dollar finance operation. “That’s not been solved, to the best of my knowledge,” said Rollins.

Iowa GOP operative Nick Ryan, who ran the pro-Rick Santorum super PAC in 2012, will run the pro-Huckabee super PAC this time. A handful of big donors from the evangelical community could sustain the governor if they chose to do so in this post-Citizens United world, another change since he ran last time.

One thing money cannot easily buy is the name recognition that Huckabee already has from his first run. He undeniably enters the race as a well-defined figure, and especially in the case of Iowa Republicans, remains well-liked, according to polls.

Huckabee says he has not changed, but he knows campaigns have. He recognizes that he’s likely to be outspent but seems to have satisfied himself that he can raise enough money to be viable. He made clear that his campaign will more aggressively push back on attacks using social media and other platforms.

“People asked me how to spell my name eight years ago,” Huckabee said. “They didn’t know what state I had been governor of or for how long. I’ve had a rather significant national platform … It’s not like I’ve been in hibernation for eight years. I’ve been more visible than when I was a candidate or an office holder.”

Huckabee has mellowed a bit. His fifth grandchild is on the way. He says he learned a lot of lessons from the last campaign about “pace and rhythm” to inform how he’d approach another one.

“You learn not to be overly alarmed at a single poll at any particular point, particularly early,” he said. “You learn not to be overly excitable about the flow of things because it changes so often and rapidly.”

Huckabee’s inner circle is packed with loyalists from his 2008 campaign. His daughter, GOP operative Sarah Huckabee Sanders, will manage the 2016 campaign.

The governor stressed that he doesn’t want to hire anyone just because they want to work on a presidential campaign. He needs them to believe in the cause.

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“You can’t win like that,” he said. “You’re better to have a very loyal group of people that are really with you that may be smaller in number than it is to have a huge crowd of people that you’re paying but who would leave you tomorrow if somebody came along.”

If Huckabee gets traction, his record will get scrutinized. While still well-regarded by Republicans in Arkansas, there are elements that could be used to sow doubts on the right. Two years ago, he reportedly said the Common Core standards were “near and dear to my heart.” Now he decries them. In 2000, Huckabee commuted the sentence of Maurice Clemmons, who was serving time for burglary charges. In 2009, the convict killed four police officers in Washington State.

There are also thousands of hours of recordings from his Fox News show and radio show for opposition researchers, including those in the GOP, to scour. He was perhaps the most prominent national Republican figure to rally to Todd Akin’s defense in 2012 after the national party abandoned him over his comments about “legitimate rape.”

“He’s said a lot that hasn’t been scrutinized,” said Rollins, his former adviser.

One of the things often missing in stories about Huckabee is how central the economic populism is to his message. He’s best known for provocative comments on gay marriage, abortion and social issues. But he’s trying to broaden his base of support beyond born-again evangelicals.

“The narrative that I was almost like a monolithic candidate for the evangelicals was never the accurate reality,” he said in the interview. “If I had been, I probably would have been the nominee” in 2008.

Huckabee is critical of “trickle-down economics,” as he calls it, using the parlance of the left. His willingness to raise taxes as governor has made him an enemy of the Club for Growth and other conservative groups. He is also against fast track and wants more safeguards in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

For his part, Huckabe e points out that he presciently warned about how fundamentally unsound the economy was throughout the 2008 primaries. “The Wall Street Journal ripped me a new one after the September 2007, Dearborn, Michigan, debate,” he said. “A year later, I was absolutely vindicated in what I said.”

Rand Paul, Finally, To Open That Office in Silicon Valley // National Journal // Shane Goldmacher - May 5, 2015

May 4, 2015 It was almost eight months ago, on a swing through California, when Sen. Rand Paul declared he would open an office in Silicon Valley to tap into the brains and big bucks of the tech industry.

"There's a lot of smart people in Silicon Valley," Paul told the San Francisco Chronicle in September, "and we want to use their brains to figure out how to win."

His proclamation spurred an avalanche of news stories, think pieces, and analyses—about how Paul was a different kind of Republican, about how he was appealing to the next generation, about the potential for a libertarian-tech alliance.

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The problem: For the past eight months, no such Rand Paul outpost actually existed.

That's about to change. As Paul returns to the San Francisco Bay Area this weekend for the first time in 2015, he plans to formally open an office there, his spokesman Sergio Gor confirmed.

To be fair, Paul didn't promise when, exactly, the Silicon Valley office would be opening last year. "We're in the process of it," he told the Chronicle at the time. But since then, the Kentucky Republican has set up an office in Austin, the Texas tech hub where his digital strategist Vincent Harris is based, and launched his presidential bid.

Paul has one public event on his San Francisco schedule so far, appearing at a "disrupting democracy" conversation with Lincoln Labs, a Republican-leaning tech group. Paul also has fundraising meetings scheduled in the donor-rich region.

The power players behind Carly Fiorina's campaign // POLITICO // Katie Glueck - May 4, 2015

Carly Fiorina, the former head of Hewlett-Packard, is the only female Republican candidate in the 2016 presidential race.

Fiorina is running on a combination of her business background and a disdain for “crony capitalism.” She’s also embracing her outsider status and is playing up a reputation she has recently cultivated as the GOP field’s most frequent and tough critic of Hillary Clinton.

Fiorina, who has never held elected office and struggles with name identification, faces an uphill battle for the nomination. But she has hired several well-respected operatives to help her political efforts. Her super PAC, Carly for America, had a fairly full staff at the time of her announcement, while her campaign staff is still expanding.

Here’s a look at key players so far in Fiorina’s orbit:

• Frank Sadler will be campaign manager. Sadler, who at one time worked at Koch Industries, also recently worked at the public affairs firm Cove Strategies, where American Conservative Union chairman Matt Schlapp is a principal.

• Sarah Isgur Flores will be deputy campaign manager. Flores is a well-regarded GOP operative who most recently worked at the Republican National Committee as deputy communications director.

• Anna Epstein will serve as a spokeswoman. Epstein also previously worked at the RNC.

• Amy Noone Frederick is senior adviser for strategy and outreach. Frederick, a GOP consultant, was most recently head of the 60 Plus organization, a senior citizens-focused group.

• Lauren Carney, a longtime GOP consultant, is aiding Fiorina’s efforts in the Granite State from the campaign side. She and her husband, GOP strategist Dave Carney, are well-regarded in New Hampshire and have a consulting firm together.

• Steve DeMaura is executive director of Carly for America, the super PAC boosting Fiorina’s bid. DeMaura is president of Americans for Job Security, a pro-business outside group.

• Tom Szold is political director of the super PAC and is expected to remain there. He has New Hampshire knowledge after managing the unsuccessful campaign of congressional candidate Marilinda Garcia, who has endorsed Fiorina — and he also worked for the RNC in Iowa.

• Kerry Marsh is New Hampshire state director for the super PAC. She held the same position for former Texas

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Gov. Rick Perry's 2012 presidential campaign, and is also the chairwoman of the Concord City Republican Committee. Bettie Lamontagne, a conservative activist in the Granite State, is also backing Fiorina (her husband, Ovide, was the 2012 GOP nominee for governor. Both were influential hosts on the 2012 presidential circuit in the Granite State) but isn't expected to be on staff.

• Mary Earnhardt is Iowa state director for the super PAC. The GOP consultant is a veteran of Iowa statehouse politics.

• Katie Hughes is communications director at Carly for America. She is a senior account executive at CRC Public Relations, a conservative firm. Leslie Shedd, who previously worked for the Georgia GOP and on Capitol Hill, is press secretary.

• Greg Mueller is a senior communications adviser to the super PAC. He is president of CRC Public Relations.

• Keith Appell, also of CRC and a longtime conservative operative, is also senior communications adviser to the super PAC. He is a senior vice president at the firm.

Carly Fiorina Says She Would 'Roll Back' Net Neutrality Rules // TIME // Charlotte Alter – May 5, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina speaks at TechCrunchÕs Disrupt conference on May 5, 2015 in New York City.

Andrew Burton—Getty Images Republican presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina speaks at TechCrunchÕs Disrupt conference on May 5, 2015 in New York City.

And she wants the government to use technology to "re-engage" people

Carly Fiorina said Tuesday in her first public appearance since announcing her candidacy for the GOP nomination that she would "roll back" the new rules on net neutrality.

The former Hewlett-Packard CEO, arguably the presidential candidate with the most experience in the tech industry, came out swinging against the regulations in a talk at TechCrunch's Disrupt event in New York City. "You don't manage innovation, you let innovation flourish," she said. "Regulation over innovation is a really bad role for government."

Other Republican hopefuls have also come out in recent months against net neutrality—or the idea that all web content is treated equally—perhaps in opposition to Obama or in order to protect campaign donations, despite the fact that 85% of Republican voters say they oppose the creation of Internet "fast lanes."

At other points during the talk, Fiorina pointed to her experience in the tech industry as a qualification for the Oval Office. "It is important to have someone in the White House who has a fundamental understanding of technology, and a fundamental vision of how technology could be used," she said, adding that she hopes to use technology to "re-engage" people in politics.

Fiorina also addressed the industry's inequalities for women, noting that they are "caricatured differently, criticized differently, scrutinized differently, because we're still different." To that end, she noted that she was pleased Hillary Clinton is also running for the Democratic nomination. "Obviously I'm running to beat Hillary Clinton, but I think It's great there there are women on both sides of the aisle running for the highest office in the land."

When the interviewer, a female journalist, asked Fiorina if she would consider a Vice Presidential slot, she bristled and replied: "Would you ever ask a man that question?"

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In the past, male presidential candidates like former North Carolina Senator John Edwards and former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson have been asked whether they're running for VP, and the idea has also been posed for former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, a presumed Democratic candidate. After the journalist responded that she would, the candidate said, "I'm not running for something else, I'm running because I want this job, and I think I can do this job."

Fiorina: Clinton "pandering" on immigration // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – May 5, 2015

Washington (CNN)Presidential candidate Carly Fiorina said on Tuesday that Hillary Clinton was "pandering" in her plan to go further than President Barack Obama on immigration policy.

Fiorina, a Republican businesswoman who has emerged as one of the harshest critics of Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee, said she first wants to see a more secure border. Fiorina also said she would also support a "path to legal status" for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States -- but only after the legal immigration system was fixed.

"The people who worked hard to earn citizenship the right way are totally committed to this country," Fiorina told CNN's Erin Burnett immediately after Clinton spoke extensively about her own immigration platform in Las Vegas. "I think it isn't fair to say to people who've worked hard to earn the privilege of citizenship that 'Never mind. Never mind that you played by the rules. People who didn't get to have the same privileges that you do'."

Fiorina, the only female candidate in the Republican field, also swatted away the notion that her general election argument would center only on her common gender with Clinton, though she acknowledged that would neutralize one potential Clinton attack.

Carly Fiorina's political career

Carly Fiorina's political career 15 photos

Instead, she pointed to her tenure as chief executive at Hewlett-Packard, saying that experience distinguished her from the "professional political class."

But her record there is not all rosy. Fiorina was eventually forced out as CEO, and she oversaw 30,000 job losses as head of the tech giant.

"The only way you succeed as a technology company is by leading, not by lagging," Fiorina said, striking back at unflattering media coverage of her ouster and pointing to less covered parts of her accomplishments. And, she added, she took no pleasure in any of those firings.

"The worst thing a CEO can do is to have to say to someone, 'You don't have a job,'" she said. "Everyone had to manage through tough times. And I think that's honestly what distinguishes leadership."

She also weighed in on the attack in Garland, Texas, this week at an event showcasing controversial cartoons of Mohammed.

"It clearly was provocative, just like white supremacists demonstrating is provocative," Fiorina said.

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She offered praise for how Obama characterized the gathering that provoked the violence.

"I'm very pleased that the President came out and called this what it is, which is an attempted act of terror," Fiorina said.

Marco Rubio to raise cash in Bellevue Thursday // Seattle Times // Jim Brunner – May 5, 2015

Republican 2016 presidential candidate Marco Rubio will raise campaign cash Thursday in Bellevue.

Rubio, a U.S. Senator from Florida, plans to attend a 3:30 p.m. round-table discussion that will cost donors $2,700 per person or $5,400 per couple — followed by a reception at $1,000 per person. The events are to be held at Steelhead Partners, a Bellevue investment firm, according to a copy of the invitation. Hosts include the firm's co-founder, Brian Klein, former state GOP chair Diane Tebelius, and local venture capitalist Matt McIlwain.

No public events have been announced and organizers did not immediately respond to requests for more details.

Rubio's visit follows a similar low-key, money-raising stopover by a man who was his political mentor, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who also is traveling the country to raise money for 2016 presidential run — even though he has not declared as a candidate. Bush held a $12,500 per person fundraiser for his Right to Rise super PAC in Seattle last month.

Rubio, 43, entered the 2016 race last month, repeatedly calling for "a New American Century" in an effort to contrast himself with the dynasties represented by 2016 rivals, including Bush and Democrat Hillary Clinton. Bush and Rubio topped a crowd of declared or likely GOP presidential contenders in a recent NBC News / Wall Street Journal poll of Republican primary voters.

While he's not well known in Washington state, a Rubio presidency could spell trouble for the state's legalized marijuana system, if his recent comments are any indication.

In an interview last month with conservative talk show host Hugh Hewitt, Rubio was asked about Washington and Colorado's legalized marijuana systems. Hewitt asked whether Rubio would "enforce the federal drug laws and shut down the marijuana trade?"

According to a transcript of the interview, Rubio responded: "Yes. Yes, I think, well, I think we need to enforce our federal laws. Now do states have a right to do what they want? They don't agree with it, but they have their rights. But they don't have a right to write federal policy as well. It is, I don't believe we should be in the business of legalizing additional intoxicants in this country for the primary reason that when you legalize something, what you're sending a message to young people is it can't be that bad, because if it was that bad, it wouldn't be legal."

Marco Rubio says the United States is not modernizing its nuclear weapons // Politifact // Amy Sherman – May 5, 2015

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U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., argues that the United States needs to do more to beef up its military to face down evil.

Speaking at the Iowa Faith and Freedom summit on April 25, Rubio said that threats worldwide "require strong American leadership, which we cannot exert as long as we eviscerate military spending, which is what we are doing now. We are placing our nation at a dangerous position."

Then he said this about the country's nuclear stockpiles: "We are the only nation that is not modernizing its nuclear weapons."

We wanted to know whether Rubio was correct that the United States isn't modernizing its nuclear weapons, so we consulted with experts on U.S. nuclear policy. (We reached out to Rubio's presidential campaign and Senate office and did not get a response.)

Modernizing nuclear weapons

Multiple experts told us that Rubio's claim about nuclear weapons is wrong because ongoing and planned nuclear modernization efforts are extensive. The United States has been spending billions modernizing nuclear equipment -- and has plans to continue to do so.

The National Nuclear Security Administration's March 2015 report to Congress details plans to modernize nuclear equipment including various warheads over the coming years. A Congressional Research Service Report issued the same month covered similar topics.

Modernization is happening for many different types of nuclear programs, said Matthew Bunn, an expert on nuclear proliferation and a professor Harvard University. (During the 1990s, Bunn was adviser to the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy.)

"First, while we haven't deployed major new strategic systems in some time, we've been modernizing the ones we've got more or less continuously — new rocket motors and guidance systems for the Minuteman missiles, lots of rebuilt parts for the B-52s, etc., etc. We're in the middle of a $10 billion modernization of the B-61 bomb," Bunn said.

These modernization plans are not cheap. The Congressional Budget Office estimated in January that the administration's plans for nuclear forces would cost $348 billion over the next decade. During the next three decades, the cost to maintain the nuclear arsenal and purchase replacement systems could rise to more than $1 trillion, according to a 2014 report by the The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

The size of the U.S. stockpile has been declining since the 1960s and will decline further under the new START Treaty agreed to with Russia in 2011. But nuclear weapons can "live" for a long time. Several nuclear weapons introduced or upgraded in the 1990s or 2000s can be used for another 20 to 30 years, said Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists. (Kristensen pointed to several upgrades in recent decades.)

One analyst we spoke with had concerns that the upgrades aren't happening fast enough. Tom Donnelly, a defense policy analyst at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, told PolitiFact that "we are not really modernizing our nukes very seriously" and that some projects are years -- even decades -- away and could

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could fall prey to budget cuts.

But Benjamin Friedman, an expert at the libertarian Cato Institute, said that even if some modernization plans were canceled, "we would still be modernizing our nuclear arsenal or our nuclear weapons, just less of them. So any normal definition of ‘modernize,’ describes what the United States is doing with its nuclear weapons."

Rubio compared the United States to the rest of the world without naming any other countries when he said "we are the only nation that is not modernizing its nuclear weapons."

Rubio said that the United States was "the only nation" not modernizing its weapons, but Bunn, the Harvard professor, said comparing the United States on that basis with other countries is misleading. China, for example, is modernizing its arsenal, but its arsenal is also far smaller. The United States and Russia have over 90 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons, he said.

"So I would say: (a) not true that we haven’t been modernizing at all; (b) IS (mostly) true that we haven’t bought any big new strategic delivery systems lately; (c) highly misleading not to mention that all nuclear powers other than ourselves and Russia have tiny nuclear arsenals compared to ours," Bunn said.

Our ruling

Rubio said that the United States "is not modernizing its nuclear weapons."

Most of the experts we interviewed disputed Rubio’s statement. While the United States has reduced the number of warheads, it has also been modernizing nuclear equipment and has plans to continue to do so.

We rate this claim False.

Clinton Cash author: I like Marco Rubio // POLITICO // Nick Gass - May 5, 2015

Enough with the doom-and-gloom candidates, says author Peter Schweizer.

There needs to be optimism in the race for the White House, the “Clinton Cash” author told POLITICO’s Glenn Thrush in an hour-long interview ahead of his May 5 book launch, noting that he always liked President Ronald Reagan’s upbeat messaging.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio would seem to fit the bill this time around, he said.

Schweizer, who makes his home in Tallahassee, is also probing the finances of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

“If your basic position is ‘everything’s going to heck in a handbasket, we can’t do anything about it,’ that’s going to throw a lot of people off. So I do think the optimism will be there,” Schweizer said. “The question is: Is that optimism backed up by real boldness? Because if you aren’t an optimist and you feel like we are struggling or facing challenges, it’s bold change that’s going to be required.”

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“You don’t want a grinder as president,” Schweizer said. “You don’t want somebody who’s doom and gloom.”

Regarding the Clintons, Schweizer says he has been talking to congressional investigators about his findings, both in the House and Senate, and broached the possibility of more interactions with Republican staff.

“I think you need to have congressional committees with subpoena power, and I think you need to have somebody with law-enforcement capability in power, either by DOJ or a federal prosecutor somewhere,” he added.

He also revealed details about his process and cast himself as the head of a sprawling Florida-based research team that he described as as an eccentric group of diggers, “Columbo”-type investigators and 30-something computer experts.

“I call them the Island of Misfit Toys, ‘cause we have all these different personalities,” he said. “We’ve got some people who have a background in hacking, they are not computer hackers now, but they can do research on the so-called deep web and find information that has not been sort of charted. It’s actually surprising how much information you can find, not going past a firewall doing anything illegal [but finding information] not catalogued by Google.”

The Clinton book was funded by specific conservative donors, but not the Koch brothers, with whom he has had a long-term collaborative relationship. “We have received funding from the Kochs in the past, not for this project, but on a project-by-project basis,” he told Thrush. “We have other donors that to varying degrees made this project possible.” He went on to talk about his association with New York-based donor Rebekah Mercer.

Schweizer also described his work for Sarah Palin’s PAC, saying he was drawn to her hawkish, assertive views on American foreign policy, but that he turned down her offer to go grizzly bear hunting in Alaska.

Schweizer’s book, “Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich,” hits shelves Tuesday.

Chris Christie's Other Problems // National Journal // Charlie Cook - May 5, 2015

There was a lot of talk last week about New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's presidential hopes suffering a mortal blow after two of his associates, including a former deputy chief of staff, were indicted on charges related to the "Bridgegate" matter, with a third pleading guilty. The only part I would quibble with is whether his hopes were still alive before the indictments or if they were, in fact, already dead for reasons mostly unrelated to the George Washington Bridge controversy.

For the first 10 months or so of last year, there were a lot of heavyweight Republicans, many of them big donors, urging Christie to run. They were disproportionately corporate chieftains and Wall Street folks, mostly from the greater New York City area, looking for an establishment-oriented Republican, one more conservative than not, but clearly not from either the tea party or the social, cultural, and evangelical wing of the GOP. The first choice for most of these folks was former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, but up until around Thanksgiving, the betting was that the son of one president and brother of another would pass up the race. The understanding was that certain members of his family were unenthusiastic about such a bid. In September and October, word from folks in Bush's orbit was that while it was still more likely that he would not run, the chances of him getting in were rising. Then around Thanksgiving that all changed, and it became increasingly clear that Bush was going to make the leap. Must have been something said over turkey and dressing.

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(RELATED: Bridgegate Is Back to Haunt Chris Christie's Potential 2016 Run)

From the time a Bush candidacy started looking more likely, the wind came out of Christie's presidential sails to the point when he was effectively dead in the water. It was mostly because Bush filled a void that Christie planned to fill in himself. The bridge mess was just icing on the cake.

Now things are rarely as simple as that. Christie's style was an acquired taste; I personally find the muscular moderate approach as interesting as it is rare. But it was never clear that the tough New Jersey-guy approach could sell in Iowa and other environs among those who aren't that into Philly cheesesteaks, Coney Island hot dogs, or more importantly, the politics of those who do love them.

Also hurting Christie has been the successful campaign launch of Sen. Marco Rubio, adding another attractive face to the center-right breed of Republicans. Curiously, Rubio ran for the Senate against the establishment, as a tea-party conservative. But since coming to the Senate, his approach has been much more conventional, and more into the space that Bush and Christie were occupying than the world of Sens. Ted Cruz and Rand Paul, or Dr. Ben Carson, who entered the race this week. There is room for a non-establishment candidate, someone who is conservative, but not overly so—not of the tea-party or social conservative ilk.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker enjoyed a meteoric rise to co-frontrunner status, but seems to have leveled off as Republicans wait to see if he can play at this level, if he has the dexterity to deal with tough questions from the media, opponents, and GOP primary voters, in some cases on subjects that he is not particularly well-versed. A number of cringe-worthy moments diminished some of the star power that Walker seemed to be developing.

News that Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder are leaning toward candidacies may further subdivide the non-tea party and social conservative space. Both governors' names were mentioned a lot early on but an—apparently erroneous—assumption built that if they weren't sending signals that they were running by February or March, they probably weren't going to run. If Walker were still going gangbusters, or Bush's nomination afait accompli, neither would be seriously considering the race.

Snyder is very much a blank slate among Republican activists and political reporters outside of Michigan; few seem to know what to make of him. The political world and business leaders in Ohio are buzzing about a spot-on article in the new issue of The Atlantic, "The Unpleasant Charisma of John Kasich." Though my dealings with Kasich, when he was in the House of Representatives and running for the GOP nomination briefly in 1999, were entirely pleasant, he has a real reputation for having a short fuse, not suffering fools gladly, and being unfocused and undisciplined. On paper, Kasich's candidacy makes all the sense in the world, but the question is whether those potential flaws get in the way.

The more conservative wing of the party certainly has its fights and divisions, but it is the center-right, establishment wing of the party that almost invariably wins the GOP nomination. Whoever emerges from the more ideological half of the party will have to demonstrate an elasticity, a potential for growth in support that has eluded all but Barry Goldwater in 1964.

But as far as Christie is concerned, he would be well advised to just say that the Bridgegate matter has become an unnecessary distraction that has made his candidacy untenable, even if the true reason is something else.

College Course Marco Rubio Teaches Prominently Features Hillary Clinton's Foreign Policy Guru // Daily Caller // Eric Owens - May 5, 2015

Florida senator, 2016 Republican presidential hopeful and all-around busy man Marco Rubio has been moonlighting — at least until very recently — as an adjunct professor on the Miami campus of Florida

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International University.

A course syllabus obtained by The Daily Caller shows that one of the three books Rubio assigned in his “Contemporary International Politics” class was written by Joseph S. Nye, Jr., a former aide in the administrations of both Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton and the man who coined the term “smart power,” which Hillary Clinton has made the centerpiece of her foreign policy.

Nye’s 2011 book is entitled “The Future of Power.”

Rubio’s course description for “Contemporary International Politics,” describes the class as an exploration of the “challenges and opportunities that the United States faces” “in the post-Cold War world.” Is U.S. power “in decline?” What are the contemporary issues that are shaping American foreign policy?”

Clinton spoke about Nye’s theories of “smart power” during the 2009 Senate confirmation hearing prior to her appointment as President Barack Obama’s first secretary of state.

“I believe that American leadership has been wanting, but is still wanted,” Clinton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “We must use what has been called ‘smart power': the full range of tools at our disposal — diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal, and cultural — picking the right tool, or combination of tools, for each situation.”

“Smart power” means that military power must frequently take a backseat to negotiation, the ambitious former first lady explained.

“With smart power, diplomacy will be the vanguard of foreign policy,” Clinton told her former fellow senators. “This is not a radical idea. The ancient Roman poet Terence, who was born a slave and rose to become one of the great voices of his time, declared that ‘in every endeavor, the seemly course for wise men is to try persuasion first.’ The same truth binds wise women as well.”

Nye explained in a 2009 essay in Foreign Affairs that he created the term “smart power” to “counter the misperception that soft power alone can produce effective foreign policy.” The phrase means a combination of “both hard and soft power,” he wrote.

In her own book about herself, “Hard Choices,” Clinton elaborates on her use of “smart power.”

“Beyond the traditional work of negotiating treaties and attending diplomatic conferences, we had to — among other tasks — engage activists on social media, help determine energy pipeline routes, limit carbon emissions, encourage marginalized groups to participate in politics, stand up for universal human rights, and defend common economic rules of the road,” Clinton wrote. “This analysis led me to embrace a concept known as smart power, which had been kicking around Washington for a few years. Harvard’s Joseph Nye, Suzanne Nossel of Human Rights Watch, and a few others had used the term, although we all had in mind slightly different meanings.”

In 2011, Nye wrote a hagiographic paean about Clinton in Time magazine’s list of “the most influential people in the world.” Nye called Clinton “tough.” With an eerie, world-historical lack of foresight, he praised Clinton’s action in Libya by saying: “[W]hen Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi threatened to massacre civilians in Benghazi, she was key in building support in the U.N. for the multilateral military action that is helping to protect those civilians.”

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A little over a year later, Islamic militants attacked a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, slaughtering an American ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and another American official.

Nye, the former dean of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, served in the Carter administration in two different foreign policy roles. From 1993 to 1995, he served in the State Department under Bill Clinton as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council and in another capacity as well.

The other two book Rubio assigns students in his FIU course are "The World America Made" by liberal interventionist foreign policy historian Robert Kagan and "No One's World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn" by Georgetown University School of Foreign Service professor Charles A. Kupchan.

Rand Paul's Donations Show His Small-Town Appeal // NYT – The Upshot // Derek Willis – May 5, 2015

Online fund-raising data from the first several weeks of Rand Paul's presidential campaign suggests that much of his initial small-dollar support has come from smaller cities and towns.

After starting his campaign on April 7 with a "Stand With Rand" online appeal, his campaign brought in its first $1 million in less than 30 hours, from more than 15,500 donations, according to data published on RandPaul.com and collected by The Upshot.

He has far to go to match the success of his father, Ron Paul, in collecting money over the Internet. The initial flurry for Rand Paul faded quickly. It took an additional 16 days for the figure to double.

Supporters of Ron Paul contributed $4 million in a single day in 2007, and in 2011 the elder Mr. Paul did a one-day "money bomb" online fund-raising effort that netted $1 million for his presidential campaign.

Although Rand Paul has received hundreds of contributions from donors in cities such as Houston, New York, Los Angeles and Phoenix, a disproportionate number have come from donors in smaller cities and towns. More than a quarter of Rand Paul's online donors list addresses in communities with populations of less than 10,000. According to the 2010 Census, about 15 percent of Americans lived in incorporated areas with populations of less than 10,000. That support reveals his appeal among rural donors (like those in his home state of Kentucky).

At least 21 contributions have come from donors listing an address of Cumming, Ga., which has a population of about 5,500, although places with a Cumming mailing address, in the Atlanta metropolitan area, have a population of around 100,000. At least 15 donations are from Magnolia, Tex., one for every 105 residents in the Houston suburb.

The two Pauls do share some of the same donor base: At least 2,000 of the donors to Rand Paul in April gave money to his father's 2012 campaign, an analysis of Federal Election Commission data shows; the number is very likely higher because many small-dollar contributors do not appear on F.E.C. filings.

The average donation recorded by the RandPaul.com site hovered around $60 during the first few weeks, although the site did not list the amount of each contribution, just the total number of donors and the total amount. That means that Rand Paul will be able to go back to many of these supporters during the primary season. Indeed, some of them have already given multiple times.

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Beginning on April 7 and continuing through Sunday, The Upshot was able to collect records of more than 28,000 online contributors to Rand Paul. That data, which represents at least $2.6 million, doesn't include all of the contributions that the campaign has received (the campaign declined to release a total). In particular, it doesn't include high-dollar fund-raising events where donors typically provide a check. The Upshot was able to match more than 25,000 records with census data to obtain population figures.

Rand Paul started his campaign on April 7 with a "Stand With Rand" online appeal.

The data doesn't include all of the money that Rand Paul has raised online. The campaign briefly stopped showing donor information, and there were at least two periods of several hours each when The Upshot was unable to collect information.

Most of the individuals displayed on the site won't have their names recorded in F.E.C. filings, which require only disclosure of donors who give $200 or more in aggregate (the next filing deadline for most candidates is July 15).

Not all of the information displayed on RandPaul.com appears to reflect actual donors, suggesting that, despite moderating donor names, the site is showing the names of a few people who fill out donation forms even if they don't give money (or the transaction doesn't go through). On the first day, the site displayed the names of "Fake Fakerton of Fake Town, R.I." and "Hillary Clinton of Saint Clair Shores, Mich.," among others.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Passing budgets and modest bills, Congress slowly increases productivity // Washington Post // Paul Kane – May 6, 2015

For just the first time in six years, Congress gave final approval to its annual budget resolution Tuesday — the latest in a slow but steady churn of progress that suggests maybe the new boss isn't the same as the old boss.

Later this week the Senate likely could pass a bipartisan bill to set up a congressional review of a potential nuclear deal with Iran, coming on the heels of a large bipartisan vote in the House and Senate for a bill to combat sex trafficking. A little over two weeks ago, the bipartisan leadership held a back-slapping ceremony to celebrate a new law that eliminated cuts to Medicare reimbursements for doctors.

"This Senate is dramatically different than the last one in severable measurable ways," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said in an interview last week.

What Republicans tout as a sea change, however, Democrats view as a new Congress merely passing the low-hanging fruit of legislation, and even that can still look dysfunctional.

Two months ago there was a near-shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, and it took more than a month to approve the legislation creating a fund for sex trafficking victims. Both of those largely bipartisan issues got caught up in separate contentious issues that bogged down the Capitol for weeks and weeks.

The process has left some rank-and-file lawmakers saying that they've seen some substantial progress, only to see a return to old habits.

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“I think the jury is out,” said Sen. Angus King (Maine), an independent who caucuses with Democrats and has been trying to bridge the partisan divide. “There are several other bills sort of waiting in line. We may end up being pretty productive, but I think it’s a little early to say at this point.”

There’s no question that more is happening across the Capitol. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) has adapted into a PowerPoint presentation the work of undergraduate students from Harvard, showing that more bills were introduced in the House during the first 100 days than in the same time of 2011 and 2013.

Moreover, the House passed 62 bills in its first 100 days, more than the combined total in the first 100 days of 2011 and 2013. “With your help, things are different in Washington,” McCarthy wrote to his GOP colleagues on Friday.

Of those 62 bills approved by the House, eight were signed into law. That’s not much different than the seven signed into law in the first 100 days of 2011 when Democrats controlled the Senate and Republicans ran the House.

One of those laws, the Medicare reimbursement plan was significant because it included some changes to the program as well as an extension of a popular children insurance program. The rest were largely ceremonial or extensions of existing laws.

McConnell acknowledged that he has dialed back his expectations for big bipartisan accomplishments in the final two years of President Obama’s administration. He has, for example, cast aside hope for a comprehensive revision of the tax code.

“I can’t see it being done, which is a shame, because it would be a perfect thing to tackle in the time of divided government,” McConnell said. “But I’m very skeptical that we can go forward on that.”

Instead, the new focus is “emphasizing things worth doing that enjoy some bipartisan support,” McConnell said. He is going through a series of one-on-one meetings with Democrats to get to know them and their priorities better. McConnell recently huddled with Sen. Timothy M. Kaine (D-Va.) and has an upcoming sit-down with King.

Just a third of the way into this year, McConnell declined to give himself a full grade until the two-year Congress is complete. “I think it’s too early to make that evaluation but I think on the dysfunction issue, I think it is not too early to make an evaluation of that,” he said.

Passing the budget is an example of easing the dysfunction. Not since 2009, when Democrats controlled Congress, have the House and Senate approved annual budgets and then reconciled the differences to pass a joint resolution from which the two chambers could work the rest of the year.

A key example of dissipating gridlock came last week when Obama signed a modest energy efficiency bill into law written by a bipartisan pair of swing-state senators, Democrat Jean Shaheen (N.H.) and Republican Rob Portman (Ohio).

In 2013 and 2014, facing a very difficult reelection, Shaheen wanted to pass the legislation to demonstrate her effectiveness. The legislation made it onto the Senate floor only to get bogged down by Republican demands for

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amendments on other energy issues, including the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Democrats, with many incumbents facing tough 2014 elections, shielded their incumbents from taking tough votes, so the Shaheen-Portman bill died. After Democrats lost the majority, the bill was approved unanimously at the tail end of a marathon budget marathon at 4 a.m. March 27.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who spent the previous two years trying to negotiate between McConnell and the Democratic leader, Sen. Harry M. Reid (Nev.), said basic politics has forced each side to stand down on some previously partisan stands.

“McConnell, as much or more than anyone, realized that we can’t go to the voters in 2016 with a record along the lines of what just happened in the last six years,” McCain said.

Some see the House as the continually unsteady pressure cooker of Congress. Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), a leading centrist, said he was losing faith in the first two months of the year with the focus on social issues, culminating in the near shutdown of DHS over immigration, but the next two months were relatively stable.

On Thursday, however, the House voted largely on party lines to strike down a District law that banned discrimination against residents who use abortion services, a social issue that was reminiscent of the first few weeks in January. “Here we go again,” Dent said.

Some lawmakers see success in tackling some big issues, such as the legislation to have a review of the potential Iranian deal, while major ones like drafting a new war resolution for Iraq have been avoided.

“As long as we’ve got a war going on — nine months into the war come May 8, with no debate on the floor of either body — I’m not going to concede that we are shouldering our responsibilities,” Kaine said. “I’m seeing some positive signs, but we’ve got a war going on.”

California board approves emergency water rules // USA Today // Ian James - May 6, 2015

California's state water board on Tuesday approved emergency drought regulations that aim to slash water use in urban areas by 25 percent.

The measures call for cities and water agencies to reduce water usage by amounts ranging from 8 percent to 36 percent. The State Water Resources Control Board drew up the rules to meet Gov. Jerry Brown's order for a 25-percent cut in urban water use statewide.

It's the first time that California has ever put in place mandatory reductions in water use. The plan reflects just how bleak the state's water picture has become. The snowpack in the Sierra Nevada has shrunk to a record low. Groundwater levels have plummeted across much of California, and in some areas of the Central Valley, the wells of hundreds of families have run dry.

Felicia Marcus, chair of the water board, called the cutbacks "a collective issue that we all need to rise to in this time of emergency."

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According to the latest figures released by the board, Californians reduced water use by just 3.6 percent in March as compared to the same month in 2013. That was a slight change from a 2.8 percent reduction in February, and significantly less than a 22 percent drop in December and a 7.3 percent reduction in January.

Max Gomberg, a senior environmental scientist with the state water board, called the new mandatory measures a "desperate times approach."

epa04696368 A 'River Closed' sign is posted on theThe Truckee River is closed after it dried up because there was no water from Lake Tahoe on April 8 in the Sierra Nevada mountains near Lake, Calif. The level of the lake is 6 feet below its minimal level of flowing into the Truckee River.

The state water board will have the authority to issue fines of up to $10,000 against cities or water districts that don't reach their targets and that violate state orders.

State officials, however, said they prefer to work with water districts to help them achieve reductions in water use right away.

"We're going to be engaged with the suppliers from the beginning," Gomberg said during the meeting in Sacramento.

Under the regulations approved by the board on Tuesday night, water agencies will have discretion in determining how they achieve their overall reduction targets. They will be able to choose, for instance, how much of the cutbacks are borne by commercial and industrial customers as well as by domestic customers.

The regulations exclude the vast majority of farms in California. They also don't touch the use of recycled water. But properties such as golf courses that rely on water pumped from private wells are to be required to use 25 percent less water or limit watering to two days a week.

Brown and other state officials have recommended that water districts meet their targets using approaches such as changing prices and enforcing restrictions on watering times.

During Tuesday's meeting, the state water board for the first time released data on the actions that agencies have taken to enforce rules against wasting water, including issuing fines. The board said 290 of the 411 water suppliers provided data on their enforcement during March, and most of them issued 20 or fewer notices for incidents of water waste.

Water agencies reported a total of 10,877 complaints of wasteful water use or violations of drought rules, as well as 8,762 warnings issued and 682 penalties assessed.

Marcus and other state officials said they're focusing on ways to reduce the amounts of water used for lawns and other "ornamental" landscaping outdoors, which accounts for the biggest share of Californians' residential water use. They also are trying to move quickly to put the rules in place before the summer months, when the heaviest outdoor water use typically occurs.

With the extreme drought now in a fourth year in California, Marcus said, the latest measures aim to "ensure

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urban resilience" if the drought persists for another year or beyond.

"It is better to prepare now than to face much more painful cuts should it not rain in the fall," she said. "I do get all the fears and the concerns, but I do think this is a moment to rise to an occasion and an all-hands-on-deck kind of a moment."

E.P.A. Carbon Emissions Plan Could Save Thousands of Lives, Study Finds // NYT // May 5, 2015

New carbon emissions standards that were proposed last year for coal-fired power plants in the United States would substantially improve human health and prevent more than 3,000 premature deaths per year, according to a new study.

The study, led by researchers at Syracuse and Harvard Universities, used modeling to predict the effect on human health of changes to national carbon standards for power plants. The researchers calculated three different outcomes using data from the Census Bureau and detailed maps of the more than 2,400 fossil-fuel power plants across the country.

The model with the biggest health benefit was the one that most closely resembled the changes that the Environmental Protection Agency proposed in a rule in June. Under that plan, reductions in carbon emissions for the plants would be set by states and would include improvements to the energy efficiency of, for example, air-conditioners, refrigerators and power grids.

The health benefits of the rule would be indirect. While carbon emissions trap heat in the atmosphere, which contributes to a warming planet, they are not directly linked to health threats. Emissions from coal-fired power plants, however, also include a number of other pollutants, such as soot and ozone, that are directly linked to illnesses like asthma and lung disease.

Researchers calculated that the changes in the E.P.A. rule could prevent 3,500 premature deaths a year and more than 1,000 heart attacks and hospitalizations from air-pollution-related illness.

The study was published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change. The largest declines in pollution — and consequent benefits to health — would happen in states in the Ohio River Valley, including Pennsylvania and Ohio, which have some of the highest levels of emissions, researchers said.

Charles T. Driscoll, a professor of environmental systems engineering at Syracuse who was the lead author of the paper, said research began about a year before the E.P.A. proposed the carbon reduction plan. It was a coincidence that one of the researchers' models so closely resembled the federal proposal.

The model with the deepest cuts in emissions was based on the use of a carbon tax, but because energy efficiency was not part of that version, it prevented fewer premature deaths, researchers found. The third version, which assumed that plants would be revamped and modernized, an effort that some industry representatives favor, produced almost no change in air quality or health benefits.

“The idea is to inform the federal and state governments that your state and federal policy matters,” Dr. Driscoll said.

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This summer, President Obama plans to unveil a final set of climate change regulations to curb planet-warming emissions from power plants in the United States. The climate rule, as proposed in draft form last year by the E.P.A., would cut carbon emissions from power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

The rule will chiefly target coal-fired power plants, the nation's largest source of carbon emissions. They would require every state to submit a plan to shift their energy systems from heavily carbon polluting sources of power, such as coal plants, to cleaner power sources.

In making the case for the rule, the Obama administration has highlighted its indirect health benefits. Mr. Obama's political advisers have made the bet that a policy presented as a move to reduce childhood asthma and other diseases will gain more public traction than a complex new energy policy designed to reduce global warming in the long term.

Critics say the rule would increase the cost of energy, an outcome that would harm lower-income Americans.

Scott Segal, director of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, an energy industry association, said it was an overstatement to claim that the rule would prevent so many premature deaths, because the reductions would bring emissions levels well below what the E.P.A. has previously said could harm health. He said the administration had already claimed the same benefits justify other rules, which amounted to double counting.

"It's like Enron-style accounting," he said, referring to the energy company that collapsed after revelations about flawed accounting standards.

Dr. Leonard Bielory, a researcher at Rutgers University who was not involved in the study, said that it did manage to show that the rule would bring positive health effects, but that the extent was far from clear. "Are these the real numbers you'll save?" he said. "That's really a gray zone."

Dr. Driscoll acknowledged the hazards of precision in a modeling exercise, but said the paper tried to quantify the uncertainty. For example, the projection of 3,500 deaths prevented was an average of a much broader range of 780 deaths to 6,100 deaths.

U.S. Trade Gap Widens on Surging Imports // WSJ// Eric Morath – May 5, 2015

WASHINGTON—A stronger dollar and an influx of pent-up imports into West Coast ports are pointing the U.S. economy toward its third quarterly contraction in its six-year-long expansion, reflecting choppy conditions that appear set to restrain growth throughout the year.

The nation's trade deficit expanded by 43.1% in March from February, the largest monthly widening since 1996, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. A record level of non-petroleum imports flowed into the U.S. after a labor dispute at West Coast ports ended, causing the seasonally adjusted trade gap to widen to $51.37 billion.

That was significantly larger than economists had forecast, even with pressure from a strong dollar and weak global growth. As a result, revisions could push the official reading for first-quarter gross domestic product into negative territory from the paltry 0.2% annualized gain initially reported last week.

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“The underlying story remains the same: Growth faltered at the start of the year with very few signs of momentum,” said Sterne Agee economist Lindsey Piegza.

After the trade report, economists at J.P. Morgan Chase and Deutsche Bank cut their first-quarter GDP growth estimates to show a 0.5% contraction. Forecasting firm Macroeconomic Advisers lowered its reading by six-tenths of a percent to a 0.4% contraction. All three had previously estimated a tiny expansion for the quarter.

The figures represent a setback for the U.S. economy, but it overcame a similar one that surfaced last year.

Following a contraction in the first quarter of 2014, the economy grew at an almost 4% pace for the rest of the year. And employers added jobs last year at the best rate since the mid-1990s, raising hopes that the long-awaited breakout had arrived.

Instead, the U.S. appears to have again hit the brakes at the start of the year. That exposes a host of concerns, including the drag on growth from a stronger dollar, persistent weakness among key trading partners in China and Europe and the reliance on U.S. consumers to drive the world’s economy.

“It’s really a global challenge right now,” said Marc Skalla, president of Atlanta-based SASCO Chemical Group Inc., which makes chemicals for tires and other industries. The firm expects sales to grow by 20% this year, but the stronger dollar is squeezing export profits.

A stronger dollar has “taken contracts that we worked on last year and completely changed them,” Mr. Skalla said. “We’ll feel it on the margins.”

From mid-2014 through the end of March, the dollar appreciated by more than 20% against a weighted index of major currencies tracked by the Federal Reserve. The Fed index shows the dollar’s value has fallen somewhat since early April, a move that could cushion exporters from some of the fallout.

The latest economic setback comes with plenty of caveats. Upcoming data on inventories and services could again recast the view of the first quarter. The domestic economy also appears to be relatively firm. Consumer confidence is rising, household spending picked up since the winter and lower oil prices are likely to boost many consumers and businesses this year.

March’s trade gap was the largest of the expansion, driven by a rebound after ports on the West Coast returned to normal following a monthslong labor dispute. That helped imports post a record 7.7% improvement on the month. Goods imports from China were up 32% compared with March 2014. Meanwhile, exports only inched up 0.9%.

The trade gap in February, when the labor dispute ended, was the smallest since late 2009. The three-month moving average for the trade gap, a measure that evens out swings, shows it expanded modestly from a year earlier.

Imports at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which together handle around 40% of the U.S. imported container traffic, reached near-record levels in March, which is typically one of the slowest months of the year at the ports.

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The Port of Los Angeles, the country's busiest container port, said import volume grew 70% in March from February. Export volume, which typically makes up only about half the business at Los Angeles, wasn't as strong, growing 10% month to month and falling 23% from a year earlier.

The Maritime Exchange of Southern California said the backlog of ships anchored at sea waiting for a port berth reached a peak of 36 ships the week of Feb. 26. The logjam had all but disappeared by late last week.

Norfolk Southern Corp. 's business in the first quarter reflected unusual activity related to the West Coast port issues, Chief Executive Charles "Wick" Moorman said, adding that unusually cold weather and the strong dollar are also factors in the import surge.

By mid-March, the railway operator's business started to return to normal, Mr. Moorman said. That repeats a pattern seen last year, when economic output turned negative in the first quarter and then snapped back quickly.

"It feels a lot like it did last year," he said.

JACO Machine Works LLC, a Santa Cruz, Calif., firm that produces parts for medical equipment, scientific instruments and other applications saw a slowdown in orders from a German customer.

"They tell me that European market is soft for them," President Andy Smith said. In contrast, JACO has seen increased demand from California firms building medical devices and robots. "The first quarter wasn't great, but I still see a strong domestic economy."

Despite the widening of the overall trade gap, the petroleum deficit continued to narrow in the U.S. Over the past several years, the amount of petroleum shipped to the U.S. declined while domestic production increased.

The trade deficit for petroleum products fell to $7.67 billion in March, the lowest since June 2002. After climbing above $100 a barrel last June, benchmark oil prices plunged through the second half of 2014 and have stayed near $50 a barrel most of this year.

From a year earlier, U.S. imports are up 1% and exports are down 3%. The more subtle change suggests the appreciation of the dollar hampers exports. In addition, slowing economies in parts of Europe and Asia have reduced demand for U.S. goods and services.

How a turbulent global economy will shape the U.S. expansion is high on the minds of Federal Reserve officials. In a statement following last month's policy meeting, central bankers acknowledged that economic growth slowed in the winter months.

If central bankers see global developments holding back U.S. growth, they could wait longer to raise short-term interest rates from near zero.

—Jeffrey Sparshott and Paul Page contributed to this article.

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INTERNATIONAL

Germany, Too, Is Accused of Spying on Friends // NYT // Alison Smalemay – May 5, 2015

BERLIN — About 18 months ago, Chancellor Angela Merkel was the wronged American ally whose cellphone number was among data sucked up by American intelligence as it kept watch on Europeans.

“Spying among friends — that is simply not done,” she said after the discovery in autumn 2013, to a sympathetic domestic audience.

Within the past two weeks, the tide has turned. Ms. Merkel is back in the spotlight over spying. This time it is Germany’s foreign intelligence service, known here as the B.N.D., that is being accused of monitoring European companies and perhaps individuals. Further, the reports said the spying was done at the behest of the National Security Agency, the United States intelligence organization.

Critics have seized on the spying allegations, sensing a whiff of hypocrisy emanating from Berlin, given the German outrage over the American program. On Tuesday, Austria was the offended party, filing a legal complaint against the German and American intelligence agencies over suspicions that it was being spied on, Reuters reported.

Ms. Merkel’s maxim about not spying on friends means “she must be measured by it,” said Stefan Kornelius, author of a biography of the chancellor and the foreign editor of the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Government officials are also scrambling to head off accusations by some German news outlets and opposition figures that Ms. Merkel’s government and some of her allies failed their constitutional duty to supervise the intelligence services and inform Parliament of the services’ activities.

Gregor Gysi, the vocal leader of the former Communists and other far-leftists in the opposition Left party, accused Ms. Merkel of “treason.”

The accusation was angrily rebutted on Monday by Gerhard Schindler, head of the B.N.D. He dismissed as “absolutely absurd” any suggestion that his agency was “a compliant tool” of the Americans.

The details of what the German government did or did not do in collusion with the American government remain murky, caught up in the secrecy inherent in security matters. But the federal prosecutor is examining whether to begin a formal investigation.

The regular parliamentary committee that oversees all intelligence services and a special parliamentary inquiry into the National Security Agency are also seeking more details and questioning key officials.

The matter raises anew the questions that flared in 2013 with the release of American government documents by Edward J. Snowden, a former N.S.A. contractor, revealing the extent of American spying operations domestically and abroad. In the United States, Congress is now poised to reel in some of the surveillance measures that were adopted after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

But Germans reacted with revulsion when the extent of American spying on Europeans was revealed. Germany’s

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memory of the Nazi and Communist regimes that spied on their citizens gave the revelations a special edge. Mr. Snowden is more of a popular hero here than elsewhere in Europe, and anti-N.S.A. sentiment remains high.

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At the same time, attacks by Islamist militants and the threat of homegrown extremists have challenged the intelligence equation in Europe. The French government is expanding its intelligence services' powers to combat terrorism.

Ms. Merkel, asked on Monday whether her maxim about spying among friends still applied, said this was an "important" question and added, "I think the answer should be that it should not occur."

But she recalled that she had noted in 2013 that it was necessary to strike a balance between liberty and security, and that this "will continue to be my job."

"There is an innate tension," she added. "We must improve what needs to be improved through reports to the parliamentary control bodies. But on the other hand, even if it is not so popular right now, it is part of their job for our intelligence services, especially the B.N.D., that they must and will cooperate internationally to protect the bodies and lives of 80 million Germans as best they can."

"First and foremost," she said, that means cooperation with the National Security Agency.

In 2013, Ms. Merkel — facing re-election, which she handily won for a third term — succeeded in tamping down what is known here as the N.S.A. scandal.

But it never went away. Since starting work last year, the special parliamentary inquiry into the N.S.A. affair has summoned witnesses, including former United States intelligence officials, who painted what many Germans see as a damning picture of American surveillance practices.

The current flare-up started on April 23 when Der Spiegel reported that since at least 2008, a division of the B.N.D. had helped the National Security Agency to spy on European and German interests, including the French-German enterprise European Aeronautic Defense and Space, now known as the Airbus Group.

Besides raising eyebrows about the scope of the spying operation, and the targets, the report questioned whether the German intelligence service had failed to fully inform the Chancellery or Parliament about it.

The government spokesman, Steffen Seibert, acknowledged, without providing details, that the government had been working for weeks with the foreign intelligence service to assure that the agency was in compliance with the reporting rules.

"Technological and organizational deficiencies at the B.N.D." were identified, he said, and the government gave "immediate orders that they be rectified."

In a statement, he said the government would continue to keep parliamentary committees informed about intelligence activities, including the accuracy of the emerging allegations. The government will also examine whether information given to Parliament in the past continues "to be accurate beyond any reasonable doubt,"

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the statement said.

The statement said there was no sign of current or past “massive spying on German and European citizens.” But it omitted any mention of businesses or individuals, and whether they had been targeted.

The most concrete indication that espionage might have occurred has come from Airbus, which filed a legal complaint last week against unnamed persons on suspicion of economic espionage and asked the German government for more information.

Continue reading the main story

Rainer Ohler, an Airbus Group spokesman, would confirm only that “we are in contact” with Berlin. Members of the German Parliament have suggested that Washington may influence how much the German government can reveal to Airbus.

Thomas de Maizière, a close Merkel ally who ran her Chancellery from 2005 to 2009 and was thus responsible for the intelligence services, has dismissed the spying allegations. Mr. de Maizière, now the interior minister, said on Monday that he had been involved in decisions against deepening certain ties with the National Security Agency in 2008, in order to protect German interests.

Mr. de Maizière is to testify this week before the parliamentary inquiry. Committee members have demanded that the government release a list of the data the B.N.D. gave to the National Security Agency.

In the meantime, pressure mounts on Ms. Merkel. On Monday, her No. 2, Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, leader of the center-left Social Democrats who govern with her conservatives in a coalition, took the unusual step of describing two conversations with her to reporters. Mr. Gabriel had asked, he said, whether there was anything to the swirling allegations, and believed her when she said there was not.

But, he noted, “what we are witnessing now is an affair, a secret service scandal, which could set off a very grave tremor.”

Obama Administration Approves First Ferry Service to Cuba // The Associated Press // May 5, 2015

HAVANA — The Obama administration approved the first ferry service in decades between the United States and Cuba on Tuesday, potentially opening a new path for the hundreds of thousands of people and hundreds of millions of dollars in goods that travel between Florida and Havana each year.

Baja Ferries, which operates passenger service in Mexico, said it received a license from the U.S. Treasury Department. Robert Muse, a lawyer for Baja Ferries, said he believed other ferry service petitions had also been approved. The Treasury Department said it could not immediately confirm that, but the Sun-Sentinel newspaper in Florida said approvals also were received by Havana Ferry Partners of Fort Lauderdale, United Caribbean Lines Florida in the Orlando area and Airline Brokers Co. of Miami.

Muse said Baja had yet to request approval from Cuba, but added that he was optimistic the service would allow a significant increase in trade and travel between the two countries.

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The Cuban government made no immediate comment on the news and it is far from clear that it is willing or able to allow a major new channel for the movement of goods and people between the two countries.

"I think it's a further indication of the seriousness of the Obama administration in normalizing relations with Cuba," said Muse, an expert on U.S. law on Cuba. "We're now going from the theoretical to the very specific."

Before Cuba's 1959 revolution, ferries ran daily between Florida and Cuba, bringing American tourists to Havana's hotels and casinos and allowing Cubans to take overnight shopping trips to the United States.

That ended with the revolution, and the more than 600,000 people who travel between the U.S. and Cuba each year depend on expensive charter flights. About 80 percent of U.S .travelers to Cuba are Cuban-Americans visiting relatives, and a large number travel with huge amounts of consumer goods unavailable in communist Cuba, from baby clothes to flat-screen TV sets. That cargo has become increasingly expensive and difficult to bring in recent years due to the high prices charged by charters and tightened Cuban customs rules.

Muse said he believed ferries would allow lower-priced passenger and cargo service and provide a potential conduit for new forms of trade allowed by Obama when he announced a series of loopholes in the trade embargo on Cuba late last year. Among other measures, Obama allowed the import of some goods produced by Cuba's new private sector and allowed the virtually unlimited export of products to entrepreneurs.

Ferries also provide a new route for U.S. travelers to Cuba, who also depend on the charter services. Travel from the U.S. has been rising since Obama's Dec. 17 announcement, and new pressure groups are pushing for Congress to end all travel restrictions and allow pure tourism, currently prohibited by law.

Andrea Rodriguez contributed to this report.

40 Migrants Reported Dead After Dinghy Burst at Sea // WSJ // Liam Moloney - May 5, 2015

ROME—About 40 migrants drowned during a sea crossing from Libya to southern Italy over the weekend when one of the dinghies they were traveling in exploded or burst from the heat of the sun, according to other migrants who were traveling with them.

Rescued migrants—sub-Saharans from countries such as Mali, Senegal, Ghana and Gambia—told the Save the Children aid group that they were making the crossing in two rubber boats. One carried about 100 migrants, while the other had around 137 on board.

“There is still a lot of confusion about what happened, and it all has to be verified by the authorities but some migrants are telling us that around 40 drowned when one of the dinghies exploded or burst from the heat of the sun,” Save the Children spokeswoman Giovanna di Benedetto said over the phone from the Sicilian port of Catania.

Migrants wait to disembark from a Malta-based Migrant Offshore Aid Station in Pozzallo, Italy, on Tuesday. A charity said that 40 migrants were feared drowned after their dinghy sank.

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Migrants wait to disembark from a Malta-based Migrant Offshore Aid Station in Pozzallo, Italy, on Tuesday. A charity said that 40 migrants were feared drowned after their dinghy sank. Photo: Associated Press

At least 10 unaccompanied minors were among those rescued and put ashore in Catania on Tuesday, Ms. Di Benedetto said. She didn't say if any minors were among those reported dead. The incident is believed to have taken place on Sunday.

A spokeswoman for the Italian coast guard said that the authorities had no knowledge of the drownings reported to Save the Children.

More than 8,000 migrants have been saved since Saturday and 10 have died, according to officials. The coast guard said that five dead bodies were found when rescuers on a merchant ship reached the rubber boats. Three bodies were found on a vessel in a different rescue. Two migrants drowned after going overboard in a third incident.

Italy's interior ministry expects to see as many as 200,000 migrants reach its shores this year, an increase from the more than 170,000 who came in 2014.

The migrants are heading to Europe to avoid conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. Human traffickers use a lawless Libya as a base to send overcrowded boats on perilous journeys.

More than 1,600 people are believed to have drowned in the Mediterranean this year as they attempted to reach Europe, the majority of them in April, according to Amnesty International. That's a more than 50-fold annual increase over the same period.

Calmer weather, typical in the Mediterranean in the spring and summer months, usually signals a surge in departures of vessels packed with migrants.

Children disembark from the Italian Navy vessel 'Bettica' in the harbor of Salerno, Italy, on Tuesday. ENLARGE

Children disembark from the Italian Navy vessel 'Bettica' in the harbor of Salerno, Italy, on Tuesday. Photo: Associated Press

Calmer weather, typical in the Mediterranean in the spring and summer months, usually signals a surge in departures of vessels packed with migrants.

The Italian Navy said on Monday that among the more than 2,000 migrants that it rescued over the weekend was a pregnant woman who gave birth to a girl on board its ship Bettica. The navy added that mother and daughter, named Francesca Marina, were doing well. Marina is a common Italian first name and it also means "navy."

Rescued migrants are also being put ashore in the southern Italian regions of Calabria and Campania to ease the pressure off Sicily which takes almost all those arriving.

'Some migrants are telling us that around 40 drowned when one of the dinghies exploded or burst from the heat of the sun.'

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—Save the Children spokeswoman Giovanna di Benedetto

About half of migrants reaching Italy end up in reception centers in the poorer south of the peninsula—something that irks the central government as it feels the affluent northern Italy isn't doing its part in helping out.

After some 800 migrants died on a boat off Libya, European Union leaders agreed last month on a more robust response to the migration problem, including tripling the budget for EU patrols of Italy's border.

Rome is pleased with the extra cash, but political leaders in Italy have expressed disappointment over the modest help they are getting from other EU countries with the migrants once they arrive on Italian soil, and an unwillingness to distribute them among member states.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

What the Clintons Can Learn From Ben Franklin's Foreign Money Scandal // Daily Beast // Zephyr Teachout - May 5, 2015

More than 200 years ago, we included in our Constitution a provision that forbids federal officers from accepting a gift of any kind whatever from foreign interests without first getting permission from Congress (Article I, Section 9, the so-called Emoluments Clause). We borrowed the provision from the Netherlands, where it was ridiculed for being overly fussy about corruption. But we put it in both our Constitution and in that document's forerunner, the Articles of Confederation, as a defense against emulating the corrupt culture of Europe.

The unlikely source of the provision was a snuff box. A few years before the constitutional convention, the King of France gave Benjamin Franklin a diamond encrusted snuff box after his diplomatic tour. Franklin did not appear to offer anything in return, but the gift nonetheless led to concerns that Franklin might be quietly corrupted by French interests—perhaps even without his knowing it.

The Americans, rigidly rejecting European custom, believed that acceptance of a luxurious gift by someone in power was itself a threat. Perhaps Franklin would be more generous toward French commercial interests simply by the operation of normal human sympathies, which to tend to be more charitable toward those who give us gifts. The framers tried to put a check on those sympathies, or at least put a block in the relationship, by requiring that Congress approve any gifts to federal officials.

Ironically, at the constitutional convention, Franklin was among the most outspoken in favor of anti-corruption provisions. His own lifelong experience with governments around the world had made him wary of the many ways in which officials could be tempted. James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, and Franklin weren't wrong to be concerned about foreign powers attempting to use money to buy influence and favorable treatment.

According to The New York Times, Bill Clinton received a $500,000 personal payment from a Russian bank as payment for a speech in 2010. (In some cases, Bill Clinton directs his speaking fees to the Clinton Foundation, though there's no evidence that happened in this case.) This payment happened around the same time that Hillary Clinton's State Department was participating in the decision-making process on the legitimacy of Russian takeover of American uranium interests (the decision was made by an inter-agency body on which State was represented, but was chaired by Treasury). Many people have raised concerns that this fee, like Benjamin Franklin's snuff box, might have swayed Bill Clinton's—and Hillary's—general thinking toward Russian interests at the time.

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In effect, the troubling morality ofCitizens Unitedhas become the official morality of Clinton's defenders.

Over the past several years, Bill Clinton has been given millions of dollars for foreign and domestic speeches, with the greatest number of sponsors coming from the financial industry. At the same time, he solicited and received millions of dollars from foreign and domestic interests, including. Many of the donors and sponsors had interests that were affected by State Department policies, and all of the donors, past and current, have interests that would be affected by a Hillary Clinton presidency.

Hillary Clinton has not addressed the issue publicly, but some of her defenders have argued that without a smoking gun, or evidence of quid pro quo, there's nothing to be concerned about.

As the framers knew, we don't need that in order to be concerned.

It's not surprising that the Clintons do not want to answer questions about foreign donations. So far, they have not addressed questions about the apparent conflict of interest, leaving the Clinton Foundation to respond. (They had company: Thomas Jefferson was so annoyed by the Emoluments Clause that he hid his own later gift from the King of France, a diamond-encrusted portrait; he had his aide take out the diamonds and sell them to pay down his debt. He was not, he wrote, going to humiliate himself by going before "the gridiron of Congress.") But as citizens we must ask these questions. Some Democrats want to ignore the issue, but love of party, as well as love of country, requires us to demand more.

I am a Democrat. I will vote Democratic in the general election. But I refuse to allow my party to be silent in the face of serious accusations of conflict of interest. There are two reasons for this. I expect that the GOP candidate will use this in 2016 to make explicit that Bill Clinton's $500,000 went into his personal account, the one he shares with Hillary Clinton. Silence now doesn't change the structure of the argument.

Second, I care deeply about my party, but I believe the health of a party depends upon the openness of internal debate. I do not believe accusations of outside influence are fatal, but I believe refusing to talk about them might be.

We do not have a snuff box clause for the spouses of public officials—they were not contemplated in the founding document. Instead, we have an election—a "gridiron" of sorts. Hillary Clinton cannot undo the past, but she can help explain it.

First, she can answer any questions about how she and her husband talk about foreign policy and domestic policy in light of the need to protect against donors using access to influence. They are not naive and must be aware of the political motives of donors: how did they, and do they, address these conflicts? Unlike campaign donations, which Hillary Clinton has to pursue under our current system of privately financed campaigns, these were avoidable situations. How did the Clintons think about, and manage, the efforts of donors and sponsors to influence them?

Hillary Clinton has called for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. But, ironically, her defenders are effectively using a Citizens Uniteddefense—if there's no quid pro quo, there's no problem. Access and influence are not corrupting. In effect, the troubling morality of Citizens United has become the official morality of Clinton's defenders.

She can also act now to limit the threat of future corruption. She has indicated the Clinton Foundation will limit foreign donations. But to be fair to her constituents, the Clintons should separate themselves entirely from the Foundation, and immediately stop raising money. As a spouse and daughter seeking major donations, former President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton are rich targets for anyone seeking influence and access to Hillary

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Clinton, whether the donor is foreign or domestic. Hillary Clinton should also refuse to allow donations to her family members from people with interests before her: not because all donations are corrupt, but because the temptation is too great to use the channel for influence.

After the snuff box incident, Benjamin Franklin went on to become a leader in framing key anti-corruption provisions in the Constitution, one of the most radical of its time in demanding that we protect against appearances of corruption, because appearances can too often lead to reality.

Hillary Clinton can do the same thing by coming forward with a full press conference, severing all familial ties to the Clinton Foundation, and proposing real, concrete solutions to the modern crisis of corruption. I'm glad she is opposed to Citizens United, but a constitutional amendment reversing that decision wouldn't address the core problem of privately financed campaigns, and the ongoing conflicts the private financing system creates.

'House of Cards' star wants a Bill Clinton cameo // The Hill // Judy Kurtz - May 5, 2015

"House of Cards" star Michael Kelly has his pick for who he'd like to see make a cameo on the Netflix hit.

"Probably Bill Clinton," Kelly recently told ITK when asked who he'd love to see appear on the political thriller.

So what role could the 42nd president — who has admitted he's a major "House of Cards" fan and counts the series' fictional president, actor Kevin Spacey, among his friends — possibly play?

"I think Bill Clinton's probably a pretty good actor. I think he could probably do anything," Kelly said, before reconsidering. "I mean, it would be kind of hard, the whole willing suspension of disbelief, to not see him as Bill Clinton. But maybe he could come on and be Bill Clinton. That'd be pretty cool."

Kelly, who plays aide Doug Stamper on the show, also offered some other options for real-life political co-stars: "Either the Clintons, either the Obamas, I would love. I love [MSNBC 'Hardball' host] Chris Matthews, but I already did something with Chris Matthews on 'The Good Wife.'"

But Kelly says of his top choices, "I would love the Obamas or the Clintons, either one of those. I'd be thrilled."

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Subject:	[big campaign] LCV Reaction to McCain Speech on Global Warming
Attachments:	Questions for McCain.pdf

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2008
Contact: David Sandretti
david_sandretti@lcv.org
202-365-6979

LCV Reaction to Senator McCain's Speech on Global Warming

Washington, DC – LCV President Gene Karpinski issued the following statement in reaction to Senator John McCain's global warming speech today.

"To his credit, Senator McCain wants to do something serious about global warming, but his proposal falls far short of what the science says we need to do today.

"He has not substantively improved his plan over the bill he introduced years ago -- legislation that the science now shows is out of date.

"He is right to call for investments in new alternative forms of energy but it is troubling that he continues to support taxpayer subsidies for a mature industry like nuclear which has yet to resolve its waste disposal problem. It would be far more cost-effective to invest in renewable energy like the wind energy plant he is visiting today. Better still would be a call for a renewable electricity standard, something he has voted against time and time again."

# # #

Last week, LCV released six questions to Senator McCain on his record. The attached questions can also be found at http://www.lcv.org/mccainquestions.pdf

For more information on Senator McCain's voting record, visit www.lcv.org/scorecard. The non-partisan LCV Scorecard is the nationally accepted yardstick used to rate Member of Congress on conservation and clean energy issues. Based on key conservation votes in the House and Senate, it is often used by the media to quickly describe a Member's position.

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"Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/30/2015 11:51:35 AM
Subject: Re: Michael Werz: German Public TV re: Russia / Uranium Deal

He should not do this. Don't see why he is but adding Adrienne to send points.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 30, 2015, at 5:59 PM, Eryn Sepp <esepp@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>
> Hi John and Jen--
>
> Michael Werz was approached about doing German Public TV next Tuesday re: Russia and the Uranium deal. They would have asked for you John, but you're not going to be in DC for quite some time during their filming schedule.
>
> He's asking what we can give him in the way of surrogate TPs on CF as well as on the deal, if the campaign comes up, and he imagines it will.
>
> He knows about the piece from the Daily Caller on Podesta Group, so is also asking if we want him to take any particular angle on that as well.
>
> If we can share anything to help him, I wanted to make sure I had 1) the most updated version and 2) approval to do so.
>
> (Also, I imagine he's going on the show in his CAP capacity. Do we need to be careful about that? He reached out via personal channels to keep things separate.)
>
> Thank you,
> Eryn

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From:	"Nelson W. Cunningham" <ncunningham@maglobal.com>
To:	"Nelson W. Cunningham" <ncunningham@maglobal.com>
Date:	7/15/2014 12:18:19 PM
Subject:	Reception for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.) -- Tuesday, July 22nd
Attachments:	07.22.14 Cunningham Reception.pdf

Friends:

This is a reminder that one week from today, we will host **Senator Jeanne Shaheen** for an evening reception at my home in Georgetown. I know you will enjoy the opportunity to get to know a terrific candidate who very much deserves to continue her impressive leadership on behalf of the people of New Hampshire for a second term.

Bain & Paige Ennis, Paige Reffe, Damon Wilson, and I look forward to welcoming you next **Tuesday, July 22 at 6:00 PM at 3417 P Street NW**.

Nelson

From: Nelson W. Cunningham
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 3:20 PM
To: Nelson W. Cunningham
Cc: Peter Brigham
Subject: Reception for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.) -- Tuesday July 22d

Friends:

My cohosts and I hope that you can join us for one more reception featuring not only a marquee Senate race but a terrific woman candidate – this time, **U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.**

I've had the opportunity to get to know Senator Shaheen since she arrived in Washington in 2009, and have been impressed by her exceptional leadership and her commitment to getting results for her constituents—the same dedication that she displayed during her three terms as Governor of New Hampshire.

She faces a challenge from former [Massachusetts] Senator Scott Brown. Though I suspect the good people of New Hampshire are not easily taken in, Scott Brown will have considerable funding from outside conservative groups bent on portraying him as a genuine New Hampshire article. It is incumbent on us to help her gather the resources to withstand the GOP attacks. Sen. Shaheen is the first Democratic Senator from New Hampshire elected since 1980 – and she deserves a second term.

She serves on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Small Business Committees.

The reception will be held on **Tuesday, July 22nd from 6:00-7:30 PM** at my home in **Georgetown, at 3417 P Street NW.**

Further background on Senator Shaheen can be found below, and event details are below and in the attached invitation.

Bain & Paige Ennis, Paige Reffe, and Damon Wilson and I hope you can join us on July 22nd.

All the best,

Nelson

Please join

Nelson Cunningham, Bain & Paige Ennis

Paige Reffe, and Damon Wilson

for a reception honoring

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Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

Tuesday July 22, 2014
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

The Home of Nelson Cunningham
3417 P. St NW
Washington, DC 20007

Host: $2,600
Sponsor: $1000
Individual: $500

To RSVP, contact Tony Yost at 202-547-5797 or Tony@bhstrategiesllc.com
Paid for by Shaheen for Senate

About Jeanne Shaheen

The only woman in U.S. history to be elected both a Governor and a United States Senator, Jeanne Shaheen has been committed to serving the citizens of New Hampshire and is known for her common-sense leadership, hard work and dedication to improving the lives of the middle class. She has served in the United States Senate since 2009 and is a member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

As a former small business owner, Senator Shaheen has worked to keep the U.S. economy competitive in the global marketplace through her efforts on the Small Business Committee and through legislation such as the Small Business Jobs Act and the Small Business Innovation Research program. The first New Hampshire Governor to lead trade missions outside North America, Senator Shaheen has also co-sponsored legislation to help small businesses sell their products overseas. Her annual "Experience New Hampshire" event in Washington, D.C., gives New Hampshire businesses a forum to showcase their products and services.

Senator Shaheen has become a champion for families facing hardship during the recession. She led Senate efforts to pass a critical extension of unemployment benefits to help struggling families. Her state staff has made it a priority to help out-of-work families navigate the federal bureaucracy, including thousands of families facing foreclosure.

To strengthen the economy in the long term, Senator Shaheen is committed to addressing the federal government's long-term deficits. In the Senate, energy efficiency has remained a priority for Shaheen and she has introduced a bipartisan debt-reduction plan, and has introduced bills to reform our budget process, and to phase out unnecessary subsidies for U.S.sugar growers and for gold and silver mining. She cosponsored measures to cut government spending on vehicles by 20 percent and to eliminate unneeded tax breaks for major oil companies and ethanol production.

As a long-standing advocate for energy efficiency, Shaheen created programs while Governor that saved New Hampshire families and businesses over $1 billion through energy efficiency. In the Senate, Shaheen introduced bipartisan legislation that would create a national energy efficiency strategy to foster job creation, save businesses and consumers money and reduce pollution. She was successful in passing several provisions of her energy efficiency plan that will help businesses create jobs and consumers reduce energy costs. According to a study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Shaheen-Portman is estimated to create more than 190,000 jobs, save consumers $16.2 billion a year, and cut CO2 emissions and other air pollutants by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road – all by 2030.

As the former chair of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, Senator Shaheen was an outspoken proponent of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). She helped to secure its ratification, enabling the U.S. to resume critical inspections of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

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As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Shaheen has also continued the work she began as Governor to protect jobs at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Pease International Tradeport and New Hampshire's defense-related companies. She has worked to ensure that policies supporting our active-duty troops are accessible to our National Guard forces and their families as well. Shaheen is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, a position that puts her in a strong position to advocate for military families and programs that are important to New Hampshire and the nation – including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Air National Guard Base.

Shaheen also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she chairs the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch. After balancing a budget as a mother, small business owner, and governor, Senator Shaheen understands that every dollar we spend must deliver results. She is committed to fiscal responsibility and knows that public officials have a fundamental duty to make sure taxpayer money is used effectively and efficiently.

Shaheen served as Governor of New Hampshire from 1997 to 2003. During her time in the statehouse, she helped create nearly 67,000 new jobs while keeping New Hampshire's tax burden the lowest in the country. (Learn more about Jeanne Shaheen's three terms as Governor.)

Between her time as Governor and election to the U.S. Senate, Shaheen served as the Director of Harvard University's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

Shaheen was born in Saint Charles, Missouri. Her father worked his way up to a management position in a shoe company and her mother worked as a secretary in their local church. After attending public schools, Shaheen received a bachelor's degree from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the University of Mississippi. She and her husband, Bill, live in Madbury and have three daughters, Stefany, Stacey and Molly, and seven grandchildren.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 9:00:59 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
> Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.
>
> On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
> > Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
> > Get a number.
> >
> > On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
> > > Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.
> > >
> > > _____
> > >
> > > We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:
> > >
> > > - investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future
> > >
> > > - protecting families from pollution
> > >
> > > - safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence
> > >
> > > - preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.
> > >
> > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
> > > > Hi John-
> > > >
> > > > Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.
> > > >
> > > > Thanks,
> > > > Milia
> > > >
> > > > **Note From Trevor Houser:**
> > > >
> > > > "Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:
> > > >
> > > > 1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
> > > > 2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
> > > > 3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.
> > > >
> > > > The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."
> > > >
> > > > **Secretary of State Record**
> > > >
> > > > As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)
> > > >
> > > > She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing
> > > >
> > > > Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting
> > > >
> > > > She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

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In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We

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will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
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o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/30/2014 1:58:53 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday July 30, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday July 30, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Slate: "Ready for Anything"

[Subtitle:] "David Brock's super PAC network is fending off every attack on Hillary Clinton. The book tour is barely the end of Round 1."

MSNBC: "Clinton welcomes 'healthy' Democratic primary contest"

"Hillary Clinton may be the prohibitive, if undeclared, frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, but she still thinks it'd be 'healthy' for the party to have a contested primary, she said Tuesday."

Blue Nation Review: Hillary's a Flip Flopper? Nah, That's Just GOP Drivel

"And see, that's the beauty of rancid political institutions like the RNC. They're in the business of tearing people down, people like former First Lady and Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, private citizens like Hillary Clinton. That's what the RNC is really really good at: tearing people down."

Media Matters for America: "Right-Wing Media Distort Hillary Clinton's Comments To Falsely Claim She Endorsed Hamas"

"Right-wing media selectively edited comments made by Hillary Clinton to falsely accuse her of endorsing Hamas' extremist tactics. But Clinton made clear that Israel has a right to defend itself and credited its measures to decrease civilian casualties."

Fusion: "Hillary Clinton thinks the Cuban embargo has been a failure"

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"Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Fusion's Jorge Ramos that the she thinks the Cuban embargo has been a failure."

Tampa Bay Times (F.L.) blog: The Buzz: "Hillary Clinton: End the Cuban embargo"

"Hillary Clinton, in an interview with Fusion airing tonight, repeats her call to end the Cuban embargo."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton: Redskins name 'insensitive'"

"Hillary Clinton says the Washington Redskins need a name change."

RIGHT WING ATTACK DU JOUR: RECORD WILL BE CORRECTED

Washington Examiner: "State Department approved 215 Bill Clinton speeches, controversial consulting deal worth $48m; Hillary Clinton's COS copied on all decisions"

"A joint investigation by the Washington Examiner and the nonprofit watchdog group Judicial Watch found that former President Clinton gave 215 speeches and earned $48 million while his wife presided over U.S. foreign policy"

Mother Jones: "Quote of the Day: 'The Press Loves to Cover Her Hard'"

"The press has never liked Hillary, and she's never liked them, and that's that. If she decides to run for president, this is going to be one of her biggest problems—or maybe her biggest, period."

Facebook post: Sen. Ted Cruz

"Hillary Clinton seems to fundamentally misunderstand the problem. Hamas doesn't put rockets in schools, mosques, hospitals, and homes because 'Gaza is pretty small.'"

Articles:

Slate: "Ready for Anything"

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By David Weigel

July 29, 2014, 4:26 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] David Brock's super PAC network is fending off every attack on Hillary Clinton. The book tour is barely the end of Round 1.

Hillary Clinton's face looms over the offices of Correct the Record—in a friendly way. The young PR operation's 18 workers do their typing and designing and debunking next to a blown-up version of that 2011 photo in which the former secretary of state is checking her BlackBerry on a flight from Malta to Tripoli, behind dark sunglasses. That photo inspired the Texts From Hillary Tumblr, and was painted on the Ready for Hillary PAC's bus before it started schlepping around the country.

It's kitsch from Clinton's finest hour, from the postelection, pre-Benghazi period when a pundit could call her "a great secretary of state" and hear no coughing or guffawing. A few steps away, past the shelves full of David Brock's books—his 2002 memoir of the conservative movement he left, and the much less heretical 2012 The Fox Effect—sits American Bridge's president, Brad Woodhouse.

American Bridge is the permanent campaign that's currently trying to save the election for Democrats. Correct the Record, launched in November 2013, is a subsidiary focused on the next election. Both organizations live to fight Republicans, just as Media Matters—the Brock project from which all of this grew—lives to rebut "conservative misinformation" in the press.

But Media Matters and American Bridge respond to everything. Correct the Record has only one mission. In an interview with David Freedlander, Brock said he dreamed up the project after Republicans held hearing after hearing on Benghazi. "There was no, or limited, capacity for her to deal with the range of attacks," he said, referring to Clinton. In October, Brock co-authored a book titled The Benghazi Hoax, and within weeks Correct the Record was there to insist that "Hillary Clinton was the 'most on top of the situation' on the night of the attack."

I dropped by the Brock-verse a few weeks after the release of Clinton's memoir Hard Choices. The conventional wisdom is that the tour could have gone better—more book sales, fewer verbal somersaults about her wealth and gay marriage stance.

Correct the Record wants everyone to know that the media blew it. It had been sending out weekly updates of Clinton book sales, because there was a story out there that she was flopping. The first memo, from July 2, ran to more than 4,000 words, and insisted, "Critics have praised the authenticity and insight of the former Secretary of State's new memoir" and that "Hard Choices sold more in its third week than Rand Paul and Jeb Bush's books did total, combined!" (Exclamation point in the original.)

Woodhouse wants me to appreciate the long game that CTR is playing. They don't just do rapid response, though of course they're "very good" at it.

"You can hand people a list of 100 Hillary Clinton accomplishments, or 30, or whatever, from the State Department or her life, and nobody's even reporting on them," says Woodhouse, sitting behind his two computer screens and a TV tuned to MSNBC. "They're reporting on whether she had a gaffe. But one thing Correct the Record is doing is citing and placing a lot of op-eds, putting surrogates out on TV, to talk about her accomplishments. And all that stuff is going to be somewhere for someone to use later on."

Right. It's not like CTR can force the media to use this material. It can only politely inform the press that it's falling for right-wing spin. CTR's own spin has described an attack on the Clintons' wealth as an attack on the "profoundly American success and philanthropy of Bill and Hillary Clinton," and criticism of her speaking fees as "relentlessly attacking Hillary Clinton for raising money for universities."

If this came from an actual campaign, reporters would choke on the chutzpah. But it doesn't. It comes from a small group led by Burns Strider, who happened to be a senior adviser to the 2008 Clinton campaign, and who argues that Clinton's book tour was an unqualified win.

"The great thing about the book tour, from my vantage point, as a guy from Mississippi who's worked all over the country, is that Secretary Clinton hasn't gone out with a giant stash of canned answers," says Strider. "She doesn't go out with a tested message. She's talking from answering and reacting to questions. You look at her town hall on CNN, on Charlie Rose, she's had an incredibly successful couple of months chatting with the American people."

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If you gaze too deeply at Correct the Record, you start to wonder if you've been too critical of the Clintons. That is by design. The outfit has studiously avoided intrigue and invited plenty of reporters into the inner sanctum. (This piece is at least the third that begins with a tour of the CTR bunker, though each reporter got a different estimate of the total staff—from 16 to 18 to 20.) Strider will even discuss how the organization might fend off attacks if Clinton draws a challenge from the left. "If Clinton chooses to run," he says, "she's gonna articulate her record for the future and I'd be very surprised to find it not much in line with her friends from the left."

And Brock is happy to describe what he learned in his wild days as a right-wing hack, and why the facts brought him to liberalism and the defense of the Clintons. In Blinded by the Right, he describes in detail how the right first turned on him when his reporting for a Hillary bio turned out nuanced instead of vitriol.

"Back when I wrote The Seduction of Hillary Rodham, I wrote something to the effect that I thought her potential as a political leader was such that she might end up being a more historic figure than her husband," remembers Brock. "I think the potential is still there. I try to make sure, through our work, that she gets a fair hearing, and that the media environment isn't clogged with misinformation."

Brock goes through all of the hits on Clinton, and explains why they fizzled—why they were predestined to fizzle. What about the Benghazi attack, the one that led to Correct the Record's very existence?

"The Benghazi issue is almost like birtherism at this point," says Brock. "I don't think it's doing real damage. If it's a question of where Benghazi sits in the mainstream discourse, it's largely been contained. I think we had a fair amount to do with that."

How about the Washington Free Beacon's report that dredged up—with fresh audio—the story of a young Hillary Clinton defending a child rapist?

"It was very misleading in the way it was presented, and wrong," says Brock. "So again, I don't think … " He pauses. "It got some attention and broke through to some extent, but when real reporters looked at it, it fizzled."

And what about the current wave of Clinton books? Correct the Record tears through them, but has discovered that they need little rebutting. No one in the mainstream media (excluding Fox News and the New York Post) did much with Ed Klein's Blood Feud and its mysteriously sourced quasi-scoops. Daniel Halper's Clinton, Inc., released a month after Hard Choices, was the sort of book a young Brock might have written, with named sources backing up some of the best stories. But it was no real threat to Hillary.

"I don't believe it's going to succeed as well as other conservative books in the marketplace," says Brock. "The basic approach he seems to take is that he will give you a page or two of essentially rumor or speculation, that a lot of us who are plugged into the world have heard. Then he backs out of it with various caveats. I think he doesn't deliver the kind of red meat that an Ed Klein has delivered. The conservative audience—it doesn't do caveats. And as far as its reach into mainstream conversation, there hasn't been much pickup. Reporters don't feel like any new ground has been plowed there at all."

I ping Halper and tell him what Brock thinks of his book. In no time at all, Halper points me to the rules of Clinton PR that he identified in his reporting, and identifies this as No. 3: "make any allegation unfavorable to the Clintons" into "old news."

MSNBC: "Clinton welcomes 'healthy' Democratic primary contest"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

July 29, 2014, 2:54 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton may be the prohibitive, if undeclared, frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, but she still thinks it'd be "healthy" for the party to have a contested primary, she said Tuesday.

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"I think there will probably be many candidates," she told Fusion's Jorge Ramos in an interview. "I'm not sure I'm going to run, but if I do, I think competition is healthy and if people want to get in and want to be in a primary, more power to them."

Clinton added one note of caution, however: "Now, if they come in and they say crazy things, that's not healthy, but if they say sensible things, of course that's healthy." It's unclear if she had any specific possible challengers in mind.

A majority of Democratic voters think Clinton should face a primary challenge in 2016, according to a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll, while just 28% think the former secretary of state should make it to the convention unopposed, if she decides to run.

Clinton is touring the country while promoting her new memoir, "Hard Choices," about her time at the State Department.

In the Ramos interview, Clinton also joined fellow Democrats like Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and President Obama in calling on the Washington Redskins football team to change their name. "I think it's insensitive," Clinton said, "And I think that there's no reason for it to continue as the name of a team in our nation's capital."

She declined, however, to propose alternative names.

Blue Nation Review: Hillary's a Flip Flopper? Nah, That's Just GOP Drivel

By Jimmy Williams

July 29, 2014

I'll bet you already knew the Republican National Committee is on a jihad against Hillary Clinton. You're not shocked by this. If anything, you're comforted by this because they'll just re-litigate her husband's presidency and scream "Benghazi" from now until the Second Coming. But why are you OK with all of this, with "this-gate" and "that-gate" and "their-gate" and "Benghazi-gate?" So many gates that lead to nowhere?

The reason you're OK with all of this is because the more they tear her down, the stronger she becomes. The more they overreach, the more rational she looks. The more delusion the GOP vomits forth, the healthier she actually becomes.

And see, that's the beauty of rancid political institutions like the RNC. They're in the business of tearing people down, people like former First Lady and Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, private citizens like Hillary Clinton. That's what the RNC is really really good at: tearing people down.

Their latest salvo came yesterday from RNC spokeswoman Izzy Santa, who accused the former Secretary of State of flip flopping on the issue of immigration. Santa said

"Hillary Clinton wins today's flip-flopper award in her latest attempt to hispander. It's disingenuous for her to change her tune on the 2008 immigration law, within 24 hours, especially when speaking to a Hispanic journalist who serves a large Hispanic viewership. Hillary Clinton's book tour is revealing she will say just about anything to connect with the American people but her pandering will continue to take its toll on her."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

GayPandaI just love the word “hispandering.” It’s so, oh I don’t know, pandering–to the GOP base. It’s a hate-based word. Frankly, if I were the GOP I’d be doing a hell of a lot more pandering. Like maybe to Latinos. And women. And the LGBT community. And the black community. And the Asian community. They could even come up with words for those groups. I personally like Homopandering. While I’ve never met a gay panda, it sure does sound fun right? Or maybe Blackpandering. I remember those Black Panthers from that Forrest Gump movie but hey, maybe they’d be receptive. I don’t know. And then you could have Asianpandering but that seems a bit redundant doesn’t it? Pandas are Asian bears right? Or what about Blatinopandering? No no no, that’s just too many things for Republicans to think about in a collective manner.

But enough about Asian bears.

In all seriousness, I’m sort of the school of thought that politicians evolve on issues. Take Mittens Romney as the penultimate example of this. Back when he was running for governor of Massachusetts, Romney was adamantly pro-everybody and everything. He liked the gays and he was for a woman’s right to privacy. Then he ran for president and he “evolved” on those issues. Wait, I mean devolved. Sorry, but he went from being for people to against them. That’s called devolution folks.

Cue the Republicans. They’ve now accused Mrs. Clinton of changing her position on whether or not to deport the children crossing the Mexican/US border. In the above video interview, Clinton was asked about her position and she was damn clear: children who aren’t refugees should be given shelter while they’re here, a safe place to live and then adjudicated back to their countries. Children who are refugees and fleeing violence and murder in their home countries should be granted a safe and healthy asylum here in the US. This, by the way, is current US law.

I’m not sure what part of that isn’t a) clear and b) consistent with what she’s been saying for years.

The good news is this folks: if Mittens Romney runs again in 2016, he’s already assured the American people all these “illegals” will just self-deport. Remember that brilliant policy statement from the 2012 campaign? I sure as hell do. And since we’ve known all along what Mrs. Clinton’s views were, it looks like the immigration debate between Romney and Clinton will be a choice between a bunch of “Mexicans” running back across the border or maybe something a bit more, well, erudite.

Media Matters for America: “Right-Wing Media Distort Hillary Clinton's Comments To Falsely Claim She Endorsed Hamas”

By Thomas Bishop

July 29, 2014, 8:11 p.m. EDT

Right-wing media selectively edited comments made by Hillary Clinton to falsely accuse her of endorsing Hamas' extremist tactics. But Clinton made clear that Israel has a right to defend itself and credited its measures to decrease civilian casualties.

In an interview with Fusion TV's Jorge Ramos, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton renewed her support for a cease-fire to end the current Israeli/Hamas conflict.

Right-wing media outlets co-opted Clinton's interview to dishonestly claim that Clinton was justifying Hamas' tactics and endorsing the extremist group.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On July 29, the Washington Free Beacon distorted Clinton's comments, portraying them as justification of Hamas' tactics in an article headlined "Hillary: Hamas Uses Human Shields Because 'Gaza is Pretty Small.'"

On Fox News' The Five, co-host Andrea Tantaros accused Clinton of "trying to make an excuse for Hamas" and defending Hamas "for hiding rockets in places like schools."

But the full context of the interview shows that Clinton credited Israel's attempts to prevent civilian casualties by sending warnings before airstrikes and said that "obviously Israel has a right to self-defense." Clinton noted that "any kind of conflict" has civilian casualties, but Gaza's small size and Hamas' tactics make them more acute (emphasis added):

CLINTON: I'm not a military planner, but Hamas puts its missiles -- its rockets in civilian areas. Part of it is that Gaza's pretty small and it's very densely populated. They put their command and control of Hamas military leaders in those civilian areas. Israel, I know, has sent warnings and tried to get people to move, but in any kind of conflict there are going to be civilian casualties, and we need to try to get to a cease-fire as soon as possible.

Fusion: "Hillary Clinton thinks the Cuban embargo has been a failure"

By America With Jorge Ramos

July 29, 2014, 6:29 p.m. EDT

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Fusion's Jorge Ramos that the she thinks the Cuban embargo has been a failure. In an interview last friday, the possible presidential candidate was blunt in her assessment. "I think it has propped up the Castro's because they can blame everything on the embargo...everything is blamed on the embargo," she said. When Ramos asked Clinton if she would consider visiting the island for a "Nixon goes to China" moment, she responded in the affirmative. "You know, some day I'd like to go to Cuba. I would someday, yes," she said.

Tampa Bay Times (F.L.) blog: The Buzz: "Hillary Clinton: End the Cuban embargo"

By Alex Leary

July 29, 2014, 5:57 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton, in an interview with Fusion airing tonight, repeats her call to end the Cuban embargo.

"I think it has propped up the Castro's because they can blame everything on the embargo," she told host Jorge Ramos. "You don't have freedom of speech, you don't have freedom of expression, you know, you're still having political prisoners, everything is blamed on the embargo.

"I would like to see us move toward normalizing relations eventually and therefore more Americans back and forth. That's something president Obama did and I supported the first term. We do have our own political prisoner in Cuba, Alan Gross, a man who's been, you know, thrown into prison and not being given a chance to come home to his family so I'd like to see that resolved. And I would like to see us move toward ending the embargo and trying to, by our example, by commerce, by all kinds of visits, you know, help the Cuban people have a different future"

Ramos: "Are you interested in a Nixon moment going to Cuba?" Clinton: "You know, some day I'd like to go to Cuba. I would someday, yes"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton: Redskins name 'insensitive'"

By Jonathan Topaz

July 30, 2014, 6:12 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton says the Washington Redskins need a name change.

"I think it's insensitive and I think that there's no reason for it to continue as the name of a team in our nation's capital," Clinton said during an interview on Tuesday with Jorge Ramos, who asked her if she thought the name was a "racial slur."

"I would love to see the owners think hard about what they could substitute," she added.

Last month, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Wednesday canceled six federal trademarks of the team name because it was found to be "disparaging" to Native Americans. The decision has put more pressure on team owner Daniel Snyder — who has vowed he won't change the name — to move on the issue.

Clinton is the latest political figure to suggest the D.C.-area team change its name. In May, 50 senators — 48 Democrats and two independents — wrote NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to urge the league to change the name. "The N.F.L. can no longer ignore this and perpetuate the use of this name as anything but what it is: a racial slur," the letter read. The letter was not circulated among Republicans.

The NFL shot down the letter later that day, saying the team wants to portray a "strong, positive and respectful image" with the name.

Last October, President Barack Obama said the nickname offends "a sizable group of people" and that if he were the owner, he would "think about changing it." And earlier this month, Attorney General Eric Holder said he thought the name should be dropped, calling it "offensive."

When Ramos asked Clinton if she had any suggestions for a new name, the potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate laughed and said she hadn't thought of any alternatives.

Washington Examiner: "State Department approved 215 Bill Clinton speeches, controversial consulting deal worth $48m; Hillary Clinton's COS copied on all decisions"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 30, 2014, 1:00 a.m. EDT

A joint investigation by the Washington Examiner and the nonprofit watchdog group Judicial Watch found that former President Clinton gave 215 speeches and earned $48 million while his wife presided over U.S. foreign policy, raising questions about whether the Clintons fulfilled ethics agreements related to the Clinton Foundation during Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

According to documents obtained by Judicial Watch and released Wednesday in an ongoing Freedom of Information Act case, State Department officials charged with reviewing Bill Clinton's proposed speeches did not object to a single one.

Some of the speeches were delivered in global hotspots and were paid for by entities with business or policy interests in the U.S.

The documents also show that in June 2011, the State Department approved a consulting agreement between Bill Clinton and a controversial Clinton Foundation adviser, Doug Band.

The consultancy with Band's Teneo Strategies ended eight months later following an uproar over Teneo's ties to the failed investment firm MF Global.

State Department legal advisers, serving as "designated agency ethics officials," approved Bill Clinton's speeches in China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Panama, Turkey, Taiwan, India, the Cayman Islands and other countries.

The memos approving Mr. Clinton's speeches were routinely copied to Cheryl Mills, Hillary Clinton's senior counsel and chief of staff.

Mills is a longtime Clinton troubleshooter who defended the president during his impeachment. In the Benghazi affair, Mills reportedly berated a high-ranking official at the U.S. embassy in Libya for talking to a Republican congressman.

Under State Department protocols, a "designated agency ethics official" is assigned to advise the secretary of state about "potential or actual conflicts of interest."

In a December 2008 memorandum of understanding, the protocols were expanded to Bill Clinton, the Clinton Foundation and related initiatives — specifically, to reviewing Bill Clinton's proposed speeches and consulting deals.

In an accompanying letter to the State Department legal adviser, Clinton lawyer David Kendall noted that Bill Clinton would disclose proposed consulting deals and, for speeches, provide "the identities of the host(s) (the entity that pay the speaker's fee)" so that the State Department "in consultation with the White House as appropriate, may conduct a review for any real or apparent conflicts of interest with the duties of the Secretary of State."

But an inspection by the Examiner and Judicial Watch of donations to the Clinton Foundation, Hillary Clinton's personal financial disclosure forms, and the State Department conflict-of-interest reviews shows that at least $48 million flowed to the Clintons' personal coffers and foundation from many entities that clearly had interests in influencing the Obama administration — and perhaps currying favor with a future president as well.

Saudi Arabia, for example, was a key Clinton benefactor. The oil-producing giant has had a relationship with the Clintons dating back to Bill Clinton's time as governor of Arkansas.

In 1992, while running for president, then-Gov. Clinton secured a $3.5 million Saudi donation for a Middle East studies program at the University of Arkansas.

A few weeks after Clinton was inaugurated president, the Saudis kicked in another $20 million. Both deals were brokered by a close Clinton friend, David Edwards.

Overall, the Clinton Foundation has received staggering sums from Saudi benefactors — between $18 million and $50 million. (The foundation's donations are reported in ranges, not specific numbers.)

While Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state, Bill Clinton gave two speeches in Saudi Arabia, earning a total of $600,000.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

In January 2011, for example, Bill Clinton spoke at a global business forum in Riyadh founded by the Saudi Investment Authority and sponsored by the Dabbagh Group, a commercial colossus with close ties to the Saudi royal family.

His fee for the speech: $300,000.

During Hillary Clinton's time at the State Department, Bill Clinton also gave four speeches in the United Arab Emirates, earning $1.1 million. For two speeches in Egypt, he earned $425,000.

UAE-linked entities also have donated at least $2.7 to $11.5 million to the Clinton Foundation, and Egyptian entities have donated at least $250,000 to $750,000.

While the State Department did not object to Bill Clinton's speeches in the Arab world — or anywhere else — it did turn down a proposed consultancy with a longtime Clinton friend and supporter, the Israeli-American media mogul Haim Saban.

In turning down the consultancy, a February 2009 State Department memo noted that Saban "is actively involved in foreign affairs issues, particularly with regards to the Middle East, which is a priority area for the secretary."

The consultancy with Teneo and Band, the longtime Clinton adviser, was outlined in a June 2011 memo from Band himself, writing "on behalf of President Clinton," to a State Department legal adviser. Bill Clinton would advise Teneo on "geopolitical, economic and social trends."

Band requested a response within 10 business days. He got it in seven. "Please be advised that we have no objection," the State Department wrote.

Bill Clinton also was active in China, as was Hillary Clinton, who championed the notion of a "pivot" toward Asia during her time as secretary of state.

In the period after Hillary Clinton signed the ethics agreement, Bill Clinton gave four speeches in China or to Chinese-sponsored entities in the U.S., earning $1.7 million.

By comparison, between 2001 through 2007 — just after he left office, when a former president is normally most in demand — he gave seven speeches in China, earning $1.4 million.

Groups with interests in China also donated between $750,000 and $1.75 million, at a minimum, to the Clinton Foundation.

Taiwan took an interest in Bill Clinton as well. In November 2010, he spoke on global warming and social inequality at a Taipei event sponsored by Singapore-based UNI Strategic. His fee? $400,000.

The Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office donated close to $1 million to the Clinton Foundation, and the Taiwan Mobile Foundation and a semiconductor manufacturer also contributed.

Turkish sponsors paid Bill Clinton $1 million for three speeches, including one to an Arab stock exchange.

In Russia, Bill Clinton gave two speeches for $625,000. One was to the Russian investment bank, Renaissance Capital, at a 2010 event titled "Russian and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Going Global."

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The State Department background memo described the bank as "focused on the emerging markets of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Sub-Saharan Africa."

The Russian Standard Bank also donated to the foundation.

In India, Bill Clinton collected $300,000 for two speeches. He also gave speeches to Indian companies and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce in Toronto, New Jersey and Disney World.

At one, a "conference on business process outsourcing/off-shoring," hosted by an outsourcing firm, the discussion centered around "the benefits and disadvantages of outsourcing IT," according to a State Department document.

In Panama, Bill Clinton earned $325,000 for one speech. And in the Cayman Islands — a notorious offshore money haven — $225,000 for a speech, noted a State Department document, "at a ticketed event that will target the business community in Grand Cayman."

Mother Jones: "Quote of the Day: 'The Press Loves to Cover Her Hard'"

By Kevin Drum

July 29, 2014, 2:49 p.m. EDT

Dave Weigel notes that the media is still obsessed with Hillary Clinton's comment about being "dead broke" when she and Bill left the White House:

"They've got to be sick of this by now. Maggie Haberman had it nailed three weeks ago: Hillary Clinton was 'still raw over the partisan wars that hindered her husband's legacy and left the couple with millions of dollars in legal debt.' Her answer, as she told Ramos, was accurate, and it's baffling to her that this became a 'gaffe.' As she continued her tour, HarperCollins was printing up copies of Clinton, Inc., a tell-all by the Weekly Standard's Daniel Halper. On Page 18, Halper recalls that in 2001 'the Clintons were broke, owing a fortune in legal fees from the many investigations into their personal lives,' and that they had to be loaned $1.3 by Terry McAuliffe. Until just a month ago, that was how even conservatives remembered the Clintons' departure from the White House."

"She has a lot of positive attributes that are currently just being overwhelmed by all this negative coverage. And it's going to keep going. The momentum—there's, there's— The press loves to cover her hard."

This comes courtesy of Bob Somerby, who's been following this ever since the initial flood-the-zone coverage of Hillary's 'gaffe' in the Washington Post. Somerby tells the rest of the story:

"Multimillionaire TV stars asked if voters would support a person as wealthy as Clinton. In response to Clinton's answers, some of the nation's most famous pundits launched their famous 'gaffe culture.'

"The Washington Post even launched a front-page jihad concerning the size of Clinton's speaking fees. In the New York Times, Maureen Dowd assailed Clinton for her 'rapacious' behavior and her 'wanton acquisitiveness,' which she was said to be passing along to her daughter.

"....Halperin made a starting suggestion—he suggested the press corps' coverage of a major candidate could determine the outcome of our next White House campaign.

"Plainly, that's what happened in Campaign 2000, when a twenty-month war against Candidate Gore let George Bush reach the White House. In the main, that war was conducted by the mainstream press corps, not by the RNC.

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“The press corps’ poisonous war against Gore let Bush reach the White House. But it’s a basic law of the guild: Major journalists never suggest that the behavior of their own guild could have such startling effects.”

The media's preoccupation with the Clintons' wealth won't last forever. Even for the Washington press corps, it's too transparently silly to pretend that it's somehow surprising that a presidential candidate is wealthy. But Somerby and Halperin are right: it's a sign of things to come. The press has never liked Hillary, and she's never liked them, and that's that. If she decides to run for president, this is going to be one of her biggest problems—or maybe her biggest, period. She's just never going to catch a break.

Facebook post: Sen. Ted Cruz

By Sen. Ted Cruz

July 29, 2014, 2:22 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton seems to fundamentally misunderstand the problem. Hamas doesn't put rockets in schools, mosques, hospitals, and homes because "Gaza is pretty small."

Hamas does so--and tells civilians to stay there, when the rockets are about to be taken out--because they want to use the citizens of Gaza as human shields. The entire objective, for Hamas, is to have heart-wrenching pictures of dead Palestinian women and children emblazoned across the evening news, for the UN and the media to use to demonize Israel. Using civilians as human shields is a war crime, and Secretary Clinton should not be excusing it merely as a consequence of the small size of Gaza.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta’s OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Ruth Greenspan Bell" <Ruth.Bell@wilsoncenter.org>
To: ruthgreenspanbell@gmail.com
Date: 11/17/2014 9:51:01 AM
Subject: another view on the President's climate deal with China

In this OpEd published at CNN, Barry Blechman and I argue that the President's climate deal with China can be read as part of a smart strategy of taking on smaller targets and building progress (and mutual trust) toward even more solid, incremental progress on the overarching goal of greenhouse gas emission reduction. This approach has precedent in the substantial incremental progress that has been made to contain nuclear weapons. Taking this approach does not mean giving up on the UNFCCC process, but it does mean trying more than that. Please read it at http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/14/opinion/bell-blechman-climate-obama/index.html and give us your thoughts (FYI, one of the embedded links wasn't accurately matched to the particular point made, but please ignore that -- we are working to fix it).

Best,
Ruth

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/22/2015 8:22:04 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday February 22, 2015 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday February 22, 2015 Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton established Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to address cyber security #HRC365 correctrecord.org/11-things-you-… [2/22/15, 12:11 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton is "a fighter for the marginalized, a voice for the struggling, & a comforter for the overburdened." http://www.hpenews.com/opinion/x1707095788/Guest-Column-Clinton-s-message-resonates-with-millennials … [2/21/15, 2:51 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@ATBarnhill : "Clinton's message resonates with millennials" hpenews.com/opinion/x17070…via @hpenterprise [2/21/15, 12:39 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Washington Post: McAuliffe: 'No need' for Clinton to start 2016 bid right away

"Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a longtime Clinton family friend and political supporter, said that he sees 'no need' for Hillary Rodham Clinton to begin her 2016 presidential campaign right away and that she benefits by avoiding a bruising Democratic primary challenge."

Huffington Post: Hillary Clinton And The Not Too Bitter, Not Too Smooth, Just Right Primary

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

“At this point, it sure looks like Hillary Clinton can grab the nomination without too much trouble. Trouble is, some trouble might be a nice thing to have.”

ABC News: One Thing That Might Surprise You About Hillary Clinton

"5] Covering Clinton, what is one thing that has surprised you about her?

Amy Chozick: Hmm. She likes to drink. We were on the campaign trail in 2008 and the press thought she was just taking shots to pander to voters in Pennsylvania. Um, no."

Politico: Bernie Sanders not eager to ‘tilt at windmills’ in 2016

“Sanders didn’t mention the presumed Democratic frontrunner, Hillary Clinton, by name in an interview that aired Sunday on ABC’s ‘This Week,’ but said, if he decides to seek the White House, he isn’t sure he would run as a Democrat.”

Bloomberg: John Kasich Swats at Rand Paul, Hillary Clinton as He Considers 2016

“Asked about Clinton, Kasich said, ‘You know, I like Hillary, but I'm not ever going to be for her for president.’"

NBC News opinion: Giuliani's Comments Don't Hurt the GOP, They Help Hillary

“If Republicans can't get over their Obama derangement syndrome it just makes it that much easier for Hillary to say ‘Obama isn't on the ballot!’ and define herself. It's already going to be hard to tag her with the Obama administration because everyone knows she disagrees with the President a lot.”

New York Times opinion: Hillary, Jeb and $$$$$$

“And in the income-inequality era, how does a candidate crowned with this many dollar signs put herself forward persuasively as a woman of the people and a champion of the underdog?”

Washington Post: The making of Hillary 5.0: Marketing wizards help re-imagine Clinton brand

'"I just want America to know the Hillary Clinton I know,' said Jerry Crawford, a friend and the Iowa chairman of Clinton’s 2008 campaign. 'I want as many people as possible to get to know the woman I’ve seen behind closed doors. She’s bright, disciplined, quick to throw her head back and laugh — just a very, very attractive person.'"

Associated Press: For Clinton, her family foundation may pose campaign risks

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

“The foundation launched by former President Bill Clinton more than a decade ago has battled HIV and AIDS in Africa, educated millions of children and fed the poor and hungry around the globe. It also has the potential to become a political risk for Hillary Rodham Clinton as she moves toward a second presidential campaign.”

Articles:

Washington Post: McAuliffe: ‘No need’ for Clinton to start 2016 bid right away

By Philip Rucker

February 22, 2015 10:10 a.m. EST

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a longtime Clinton family friend and political supporter, said that he sees "no need" for Hillary Rodham Clinton to begin her 2016 presidential campaign right away and that she benefits by avoiding a bruising Democratic primary challenge.

"Listen, I'm very happy with the situation," McAuliffe said Saturday in an interview with The Washington Post. "She doesn't have to get in right away. It's saving a lot of time, effort and money. Let the Republicans all get in."

McAuliffe, who served as national co-chairman of Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and as the Democratic National Committee chairman during the 2004 presidential primaries, said he knows from experience that launching a campaign early can be draining. He pointed out that in the 1992 campaign, Bill Clinton did not announce his candidacy until October 1991.

"Having done this for many years, the second you get in and open up a campaign account, let me tell you, that money just goes out the door," McAuliffe said. "There’s no need at this point. We’re in a very good position, so she can take her time on her timetable, which is spectacular."

McAuliffe, who once sat on the board of the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, defended the charitable foundation's decision to accept donations from foreign governments.

“If the biggest attack on Hillary’s going to be that she raised too much money for her charity, okay, I’ll take that," he said. "No one’s alleging anything beyond that she raised money and people gave her money and foreign governments gave her money. At the end of the day, that’s fine. It went to a charity. It helped a lot of people."

McAuliffe's comments come amid much discussion in Democratic circles about Clinton's timetable for what her allies think is a certain 2016 White House run. Clinton's team has signaled that she is likely to begin raising money as early as April but may delay aggressive campaigning until the summer. Some Democrats believe she is wise to hang back and wait, while others want to see her fighting now to erase any impressions that she may be taking the Democratic nomination for granted.

At this stage in the 2008 campaign, the Democratic field already had taken shape, with announced candidacies of Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards, among others. But this time, Clinton does not face a serious primary threat.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) has insisted that she is not running, despite an effort by some liberal activists to draft her into the race, while Vice President Biden is not actively preparing for a candidacy, although he has not shut the door on a run. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former senator Jim Webb (Va.) have been making waves and visiting early primary states, but none has launched a campaign.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"People are going to make their decision," McAuliffe said. "If they run, they run. If they don't, they don't."

McAuliffe said he disagreed with the view of some Democrats that a competitive primary campaign would be good for Clinton and would help prepare her for the rigors of the general election.

"What's going to go on on the Republican side is going to be intense and tough," McAuliffe said. "I wouldn't want to see that on the Democratic side — of course not, if we can avoid it. It's going to be a long, tough slog for them."

McAuliffe was asked to assess the early moves of former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who has locked up many of the Republican Party's prominent donors and policy thinkers in the two months since he formed a leadership PAC to explore a bid.

"None of that surprised me," McAuliffe said. "At the end of the day, it's still hard because of, obviously, the negative issues around his brother, the issues of the war in Iraq and all that. That's still going to linger out there. You've got to remember, when President Obama took office, you think of the job losses that occurred under President [George W.] Bush's term and contrast that to the millions of jobs created under President Obama. I'll take that contrast."

McAuliffe continued, "Jeb Bush, who wants to pretend he can distance himself, cannot distance himself from that failed economic record and failed foreign policy record. All of the issues that we had before will come back to [the] fore."

As for what role McAuliffe may play in a Clinton 2016 campaign, he said he would be her loudest cheerleader in Richmond.

"I have the job I've always dreamed of," McAuliffe said. "I love being governor, as you probably can tell." In 2007 and 2008, he said, "I spent 500 days on the road. I can't do that again. I've got a job here."

"You know what?" he continued, "to be honest with you, I'm personal friends with them. They want me to be successful. Honestly, [the] president calls all the time. I talk to Hillary all the time. They want me to be successful as a governor. I think that's the best thing I can do."

He said that Virginia is poised once more to be a top general election battleground and that he would focus on helping Clinton win his home state. McAuliffe is preparing for state legislative races this year and is trying to help Democrats regain control of the state Senate.

"I'm laying the groundwork and putting all the pieces in place for '15 to get my Senate back," McAuliffe said. "But that same team I'm putting in place and operations will be a set-up to make sure that [in 2016] Virginia's blue."

Huffington Post: Hillary Clinton And The Not Too Bitter, Not Too Smooth, Just Right Primary

By Jason Linkins

February 22, 2015 7:30 a.m. EST

Every election cycle can be considered, first and foremost, a monument to hype. With every passing week, the political world is a blizzard of brash predictions, bold pronouncements and bad advice. This year, your Speculatroners shall attempt to decode and defang this world with a regular dispatch that we're calling "This Week In Coulda Shoulda Maybe." We hope this helps, but as always, we make no guarantees!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

It shouldn't be controversial to say that at this point in the 2016 race, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton enjoys virtually every possible advantage in the Democratic primary field. She's the best-known candidate with the highest level of name recognition and visibility. She has a long-nurtured campaign apparatus and the ability to call campaign infrastructure into being on the fly. Against the rest of the Democratic field, she's the overwhelming favorite in every poll that's ever been conducted.

Of course, anytime we talk about a "Democratic field," we should really say, "insofar as one exists." Her competition -- so far a dimly lit constellation of long shots (and perhaps the current vice president) -- isn't shaping up as a particularly robust challenge. Clinton plays a role in that simply by looming on the landscape. As has been discussed previously, Clinton has the power to "freeze the field" -- meaning that her dominance is such that Democratic party elites and mega-donors are loath to invest in a competitor, creating a sort of vicious cycle in which no viable competitors can truly present themselves.

There is a very real possibility that Clinton could face only a nominal challenge in a Democratic primary, and potentially none at all. And that's produced an interesting phenomenon among the members of the political media who, expecting a competitive primary to generate monetizable content and grist for "The Narrative," find themselves somewhere in the middle of a story that doesn't seem to have started. This is how you can understand the constant attention given to Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren -- a woman who is not running for president -- as a "foil" for Clinton. Every great protagonist needs an antagonist, and the political press would dearly love, if possible, to will one into being.

Elsewhere, there are the Hot Takes, suffused by the media's drug of choice, counter-intuition. Are all the advantages that Clinton secretly holds actually disadvantages in disguise? Is Clinton's ability to quelch all viable contenders for the Democratic nomination actually the Achilles heel that will lead to her undoing? A better question might be: Are all the people offering that opinion simply planting a flag for a future "Told ya so" story down the line?

I think it's fair to say that most of us, if we wanted something important (like, say, a job), wouldn't spend much time regretting the news that we were the only person in the running. Just about everyone would prefer to win in a blowout. At the same time, there is something that we all understand instinctually about the nature of competition: It tests mettle. And the old eyeball test informs us of the virtues of tested mettle. When we look at the 27-1 Gonzaga University men's basketball team alongside the other basketball teams in the top four of the NCAA's national rankings, many of us downgrade the Bulldogs because we know that they didn't play against the same level of competition as Kentucky, Virginia and Duke did. So, in the back of our mind, Gonzaga looms as a paper tiger.

That said, eventually Gonzaga is going to have ample opportunity to show that they're superior to their competition -- just like Clinton will, even if she runs in an uncontested primary.

Of course, the fact that there isn't already vigorous competition for Clinton to face tells us a few potentially ominous things. First and foremost, it shows that the Democratic Party's bench is not terribly deep right now. Elections are, at bottom, a competition of ideas -- one in which a losing candidate's vision may persist beyond the candidate's own electoral hopes. That's a good thing for any political party. Furthermore, a quickly decided primary could negatively impact state-level political organizing, which in turn would impact the vitality of down-ticket campaigns.

But let's stick with the question: Is Hillary running virtually unopposed a bad thing? As Vox's Matt Yglesias points out, having a competitive primary means "real debates, real media strategy, real policy rollouts, and all the other accompaniments of a presidential nominating congress." He goes on to note that "competition" in this instance goes well beyond simply having other credible opponents:

A vigorous primary campaign is a means through which, among other things, the key potential vulnerabilities in a candidate's biography get aired. Was Clinton lying about her opposition to gay marriage the way David Axelrod says Obama was? Have too many years at the pinnacle of American politics left her out of touch with middle class struggles? Can she distance herself from Obama administration foreign policy initiatives that didn't work out (settlement freeze? Russia reset?) without sounding disloyal or ineffectual? Can she answer questions about the complicated finances underlying her husband's foundation?

As long as she's "not running," we just don't know. And the closer she gets to obtaining the nomination without answering the questions, the more vulnerable the position she leaves herself in for the general election.

Here's the thing: All of that is smart-sounding stuff. It's thoughtful argument that appeals to our instincts. You can take that to a Beltway soiree or the set of a Sunday morning talk show, and with a little charm, you'll hold up. And yet, it's still really just gut feelings. It's still that instinct that pushes you to take an at-large team from the ACC deeper in the tourney than the one-loss Western Conference champions -- a good enough gamble that could, nonetheless, leave your bracket in tatters.

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And it's worth pointing out that over on the GOP side, Republican elites are making their own set of gambles with their primary. The Republican National Committee's interpretation of their 2012 cycle woes has led them to believe that the long primary cost them dearly. The RNC believes that their primary afforded too many fleeting also-rans too much media coverage, that the length of the competition provided too many opportunities for their party to be shown in a bad light, and that ultimately, everything conspired to force their nominee into a bunch of positions from which the extrication was too difficult. They have, subsequently, undertaken a number of moves to "fix" this problem, and while they've not created a situation in which one candidate has a massive advantage over everyone else, it's still a drive toward limiting the competition, all based on some gut feelings.

Can we get closer to the truth of how, if at all, a competitive primary brings benefits -- or pitfalls -- to candidates? Well, if we turn to political science, there seems to be one constant notion: A competitive primary is very good for candidates, right up to where the competitive primary becomes a divisive primary, at which point the benefits of competition tend to fade.

The virtues of competitive primaries are hotly debated, as it turns out. Back in February of 2008, The Monkey Cage's John Sides embarked on an exploration of the topic, noting that the most relevant research at the time pointed to other factors as being far more determinative of success in a general election. From a gambler's point of view, the health of the economy and the popular regard for the presidential incumbent matter a lot more than what happens during a primary.

But Josh Putnam, proprietor of Frontloading HQ, nevertheless saw something interesting in the notion that a competitive primary could take a dark, blowback-producing turn. Just as the RNC concluded after the 2012 cycle, the factor that fascinated Putnam in 2008 was timing -- the notion that on a long enough timeline, a competitive primary eventually, maybe inevitably, turns divisive. Per Putnam:

At what point does the positive competitiveness of the race for delegates turn into the negative, party-splitting divisiveness? Should Clinton do well in Ohio and Texas on Tuesday, then 2008 may have reached that point for the Democrats. But in the Super Tuesday era (1988/1992-2004), no challenger has been afforded such an opportunity. That era was marked by frontrunners who were able to snuff out insurgencies before competitiveness turned to divisiveness. ... [Walter] Mondale quelled Gary Hart before a movement started (No, this isn't within the era I defined above but it is a good example.). George W. Bush kept [John] McCain at bay. And [John] Kerry silenced John Edwards. Competitiveness yielded to reality in all three cases before divisiveness took hold or could attempt to take hold.

It's almost as if there's a sort of "uncanny valley" phenomenon happening, in which competition elevates everyone until it gets too hot or turns too personal. There's a sweet spot: Ideally, you want your level of competition to be challenging, but not bedeviling. You want the primary race to look like a collegial bit of tire-kicking, not a campaign in which you're sending arsonists out to torch the rival dealership. So maybe all of the people who continually pen that "Elizabeth Warren versus Hillary Clinton" fan fiction are onto something, instinctually: They have a sense that the Jim Webbs and Martin O'Malleys of the world might not make it out of Iowa and that Clinton needs someone who can stay in the game long enough to make it to Super Tuesday. But not much further than that.

In the end, that data-driven conclusion about competitive primaries that we really want remains elusive -- or at the very least, not strong enough to talk us out of our horse-sense feelings on the matter. But let's return to one last study, cited by The Monkey Cage's Jonathan Robinson, about that 2008 competition between Clinton and Barack Obama:

Using a survey that tracked individual voters from the primary to the general election, Michael Henderson, D. Sunshine Hillygus, and Trevor Thompson ... examine whether and why Clinton supporters did or did not support Obama in the general election. They find that 71% of Clinton supporters ended up voting for Obama. Moreover, supporters of Clinton and the other Democratic candidates were no more likely to stay home on Election Day. The most important factors that predicted a vote for McCain among supporters of the other Democratic candidates were not frustration with the primary election’s outcome but ideology and political issues, especially the Iraq War.

All of that suggests that even though the 2008 Democratic primary got fiercely competitive, it still stoked an energy that lasted throughout the election cycle, ensuring that Democratic voters stayed engaged over the long haul. Perhaps what a political party, ideally, wants out of a primary is a contest where the competitiveness fosters some amount of voter engagement without tipping into a grotesque spectacle that leaves those who had engaged with it feeling nauseous, discouraged and just plain done with politics for the year.

Handled the right way, a contested primary creates a number of "products" organically that would need to be manufactured by other means in a non-contested primary. Competition helps to present those Big Ideas to the electorate, a vision of the future for which to fight. It breeds passion and gets voters to start using those muscles of commitment, which eventually get them out of the house and to the polls on Election Day. Perhaps most importantly, it allows the candidates to make connections with those activist members of the electorate, who'll use their muscles to make sure those committed voters know how to get to those polls on time.

At this point, it sure looks like Hillary Clinton can grab the nomination without too much trouble. Trouble is, some trouble might be a nice thing to have.

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ABC News: One Thing That Might Surprise You About Hillary Clinton

By Benjamin Bell

February 21, 2015 3:08 p.m. EST

This week, we asked Amy Chozick, national political reporter for the The New York Times, who covers Hillary Clinton, about when the former secretary of state might announce her 2016 intentions, her possible competition and one thing that surprised Chozick about Clinton.

Read our conversation below before Chozick appears on the “This Week” roundtable Sunday.

1] Hillary Clinton has not said she is running for president, although obviously many people assume she will. If she does, what do we know about when she might announce?

Amy Chozick: The conventional wisdom is that she would establish some sort of exploratory committee to begin raising money in April. She could then do a splashy public rollout of an official campaign later in the spring or early summer. But the exploratory committee would give Clinton the legal apparatus to begin to raise and spend money for a political campaign.

2] Clinton’s Twitter account has been closely watched since she started tweeting. Do we know who is in control of that account and the strategy behind it?

Amy Chozick: I think we might be overanalyzing. Clinton, apparently, handles her own Twitter account and enjoys the medium. Just look what it did for her with the “Texts from Hillary” meme. Tweeting allows her to comment (albeit in 140 characters) on events of the day in a very controlled, but heavily disseminated way. That beats the unpredictability of a press conference, at least for now.

3] The New York Times reported Clinton met with Sen. Elizabeth Warren in December. Do they [team Clinton] perceive her as a threat to a possible Clinton candidacy for president? And if so, how large? Also, is there a specific Republican that team Clinton perceives would pose the biggest challenge to Clinton should she decide to run and secure the nomination?

Amy Chozick: Sen. Warren says she is not running for president, but she has had a significant impact on the national conversation, especially about Wall Street and inequality and how Clinton and the Democratic Party writ large address those issues. On the Republican side, Jeb Bush is currently perceived as the biggest threat. He has name recognition, appeals to Latinos, and has deep coffers and some centrist appeal.

4] At this point, who are Clinton’s closest advisers? Should Clinton decide to run for president, who might be at the top of the power structure? Who might run her campaign?

Amy Chozick: Many of the same loyal aides who have been with Clinton since the White House (when her team was known as Hillaryland) continue to serve as her closest advisers, but a lot of newcomers will come on board for a 2016 campaign. John Podesta, who worked in former President Bill Clinton and President Obama’s administrations, is expected to serve as a campaign chairman.

5] Covering Clinton, what is one thing that has surprised you about her?

Amy Chozick: Hmm. She likes to drink. We were on the campaign trail in 2008 and the press thought she was just taking shots to pander to voters

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in Pennsylvania. Um, no.

Politico: Bernie Sanders not eager to 'tilt at windmills' in 2016

By Caitlin Emma

February 22, 2015 11:53 a.m. EST

Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders has been in Iowa again, railing against the Koch brothers, calling for economic justice and trying to gauge whether there's enough grassroots support for a presidential run.

Sanders didn't mention the presumed Democratic frontrunner, Hillary Clinton, by name in an interview that aired Sunday on ABC's "This Week," but said, if he decides to seek the White House, he isn't sure he would run as a Democrat.

"The fact that I'm in Iowa, which is a caucus state, maybe speaks for itself," he said. "But I haven't made that final decision. And I got to tell you that a lot of my strong supporters say Bernie, 'Stay out of the damn Democratic Party. Run as an Independent.'"

Sanders is the longest serving Independent member of Congress at 24 years. In Iowa, he told supporters that he was ready to take on the "billionaire class," railing against the corrupting influence of money in politics.

"The United States government has got to start working for the middle class and families of this country and not just millionaires and billionaires," he said. "It is likely that within a very short period of time, the Koch brothers themselves will have a stronger political presence than either the Democratic or Republican Party."

Asked whether he could win a presidential race, Sanders said it was a "fair question." He doesn't want to "tilt at windmills," he said, or attack imaginary enemies like the famous literary character Don Quixote.

"I've got so much to do," the senator said. "But I just think that out there, there are so many people who are hurting, so many people who are disillusioned, so many people who are viscerally upset that they work long hours for low wages and the billionaires are getting richer. They need a voice."

Bloomberg: John Kasich Swats at Rand Paul, Hillary Clinton as He Considers 2016

By Ali Elkin

February 22, 2015 12:28 p.m. EST

[Subtitle] The Ohio governor says all his "options are on the table" when it comes to running for president.

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Ohio Governor John Kasich is offering a preview of how he would tangle with potential rivals Rand Paul and Hillary Clinton if he runs for president.

In an interview airing Sunday on CNN's State of the Union, Kasich defended his decision take Medicaid expansion money under Obamacare, which fellow Republican Paul has called a move by governors who think money grows on trees.

"You know, Matthew 25 says that it's about how you treat the widowed, how you treat the poor, how you treat the hungry," Kasich said. "How do you clothe those who have no clothes? That is a conservative position to help them get on their feet so they then can assume their rightful place in our society."

In Kentucky, he added, "maybe everybody's fine, maybe there aren't people who are suffering these problems." The state had the seventh-highest poverty rate in the U.S. (including the District of Columbia) in a 2011-2013 average, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Asked about Clinton, Kasich said, "You know, I like Hillary, but I'm not ever going to be for her for president."

He suggested that he'd continue to speak out on foreign policy, in which Clinton was involved as President Barack Obama's secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. "Hopefully whether I do this or not, I can have somewhat of a voice when it comes to the fact that America, you know, it just seems to be in retreat," he said.

Whether Kasich will meet Paul in the presidential primary is unclear.

"All my options are on the table, and it's a process that I, you know, have really not spent an enormous amount of time studying internally," said Kasich, who has been traveling to campaign for a balanced-budget amendment to the U.S. constitution. "But look, I'm not saying I won't, I'm not saying I will, I'm leaving my options out there and we'll just see how things develop."

NBC News opinion: Giuliani's Comments Don't Hurt the GOP, They Help Hillary

By Jason Johnson

February 22, 2015 12:34 p.m. EST

This week former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said that President Obama doesn't love you, me or America.

He said that the President has been under the influence of communists since he was 9 years old, and that Obama is likely a socialist or an anti-communist. And despite the handwringing on the right and left, his words don't really harm anyone.

Not the Republican brand, not his own reputation or even any of the Republicans who have backed his statements. However he did just HELP Hillary Clinton, and if the GOPis serious about 2016 they should be worried about any statements actions or thoughts that get her closer to the White House.

This all started last week when Giuliani was giving a speech at a posh Manhattan Dinner party for likely Presidential candidate Scott Walker last Wednesday, when Rudy said: "I do not believe — and I know this is a horrible thing to say — but I do not believe that this President loves America."

Apparently that didn't bring the point home enough because the former mayor of New York city kept going in on Obama, with any media outlet that'd let him talk.

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On Fox & Friends: "What I'm saying is, in his rhetoric I very rarely hear the things that I used to hear Ronald Reagan say, the things that I used to hear Bill Clinton say about how much he loves America. I do hear him criticize America much more often than other American Presidents. And when it's not in the context of an overwhelming number of statements about the exceptionalism of America, it sounds like he's more of a critic than he is a supporter."

He added, "You can be a patriotic American and be a critic, but then you're not expressing that kind of love that we're used to from a President."

Basically by the end of the week Giuliani was doing everything short of asking for another copy of Obama's birth certificate and asking for his whereabouts on the morning of 9-11. Many in the press and some Republican commentators have said Giuliani's comments are harmful to the Republican brand, and slowly but surely Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush have come to not quite critique Giuliani but claim that their disagreement with Obama has always been more about policy than whether he loves America.

Governor Bobby Jindal and former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann have come out in support of Giuliani's statements and have earned praise and scorn for their courage or cowardice depending on how you lean politically. Ultimately none of this matters, and this entire tempest in a teapot is probably giving the Clinton campaign goosebumps.

First, Rudy Giuliani is not saying anything new, not for him, and not for many people in the Republican party base. From conservative commentators like Mark Levin to rank-and-file Republicans, the belief that Obama doesn't love America is not new, and it didn't take us losing the war against ISIS for many conservatives to question his patriotism, faith and love of country. It's just a very common belief system among the base of the modern Republican party.

The best way to tag the party nominee of a two term president is to claim they'll essentially be that president's third term. The more the GOP makes this race about Obama, the easier it'll be for Hillary Clinton to draw contrasts between herself and his administration.

Remember the whole 'flag pin' incident? Yes we all know from a moral and statesmanship perspective that this kind of language is racist and counter-productive for the United States but when in the last 7 years have we seen anyone in American campaign politics benefit from trying to be the adult in the room? Obama's "Dad-in-Chief" routine hasn't helped against the Republican Congress, or during campaigns.

Giuliani's comments are no different than Steve Scalise hanging out with Klan members. The GOP knows who their base is, but for some reason we're all supposed to feign shock and disgust when we're reminded. While most Republicans don't hold beliefs this far to the racist right the fact is the last guy who tried to split the needle with the GOP base by saying "Obama is a good man with bad ideas" ended up losing.

And speaking of losing, that's what this is really all about, the Republicans should be worried about losing to Hillary Clinton in 2016, and this kind of rhetoric is exactly what would lead to her and Bill Clinton marching back into the White House. Yes, there's the obvious problem, that this kind of language from a prominent Republican is alienating to young voters, minority voters and independents, but it actually goes a bit deeper than that.

The best way to tag the party nominee of a two term president is to claim they'll essentially be that president's third term. The more the GOP makes this race about Obama, the easier it'll be for Hillary Clinton to draw contrasts between herself and his administration.

Does anyone other than the far right believe Hillary doesn't love America? Does anyone other than the far right believe Hillary was influenced by communists? Or doesn't want to stop ISIS?

If Republicans can't get over their Obama derangement syndrome it just makes it that much easier for Hillary to say "Obama isn't on the ballot!" and define herself. It's already going to be hard to tag her with the Obama administration because everyone knows she disagrees with the President a lot.

If Republicans respond to every attack on the president like it's a leaked audio tape, Hillary will be waltzing right back into the White House, whether she loves America or not.

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New York Times opinion: Hillary, Jeb and $$$$$$

By Frank Bruni

February 21, 2015

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush and Fund-Raising for the 2016 Presidential Race

There are firm and necessary laws against American candidates accepting foreign donations. There's no such prohibition for a philanthropy like the Clinton Foundation, which undeniably does much essential, heroic work around the globe.

But it's a philanthropy headed by a woman who's most likely running for president and by her husband and daughter. Their requests and their gratitude cannot be separated entirely from politics. There's inevitable overlap and blending.

As The Washington Post wrote, the foundation "has given contributors entree, outside the traditional political arena, to a possible president. Foreign donors and countries that are likely to have interests before a potential Clinton administration — and yet are ineligible to give to U.S. political campaigns — have affirmed their support for the family's work through the charitable giving."

And this isn't some minor wrinkle of the foundation's structure and workings. "A third of foundation donors who have given more than $1 million are foreign governments or other entities based outside the United States, and foreign donors make up more than half of those who have given more than $5 million," according to The Post's analysis.

That analysis also showed that "donations from the financial services sector" represented the "largest share of corporate donors." In other words, the foundation is cozy with Wall Street, which has also funneled Clinton some of her enormous speaking fees.

The Journal noted that "at least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department during her tenure donated a total of more than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation."

A few prominent Democrats with whom I spoke were spooked, not because they believed that Clinton would feel a pressing need to repay these kindnesses, but because the eventual Republican nominee had just been handed a potent weapon against her.

And in the income-inequality era, how does a candidate crowned with this many dollar signs put herself forward persuasively as a woman of the people and a champion of the underdog?

THE answer — and her salvation — may be that we've all become so accustomed to the tide of money washing through politics that we just assume all candidates to be equally (and thoroughly) wet. We give in. And we stop acknowledging frequently or urgently enough that American elections, which should be contests of ideas and character, are as much (if not more) contests of cold, hard cash.

Certainly those of us in the news media are somewhat guilty of this, because something that's no longer new is no longer news.

Sure, we publish stories about the dizzying, obscene heights of spending by major donors, like one written in The Times last month by Nicholas Confessore. He noted that the Koch brothers had drawn up a budget of $889 million for the 2016 election cycle.

But we discuss the damage being done to Chris Christie's presidential dreams by the defection of potential donors without digressing to underscore the perversity of a small circle of people having so much consequence.

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We report, as we did in January, on how well or poorly Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz performed when they spoke at a gathering put together by the Kochs in Southern California. But we don't flag the oddity of these auditions, the chilling bizarreness of the way the road to the White House winds not only through the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary but also through plutocrats' posh retreats.

An astonishing bounty of the comments and developments that make headlines emanate from the arena of fund-raising. We learned that Mitt Romney might enter the 2016 race because he was telling donors as much, and we learned that he had decided otherwise because he was letting donors know. In neither instance did we take sufficient note of that.

We articulate misgivings about how much of Clinton's or Bush's thinking may be rooted in the past. But the bigger issue, given the scope of not just their own political histories but also their relatives', is how heavy a duffel of i.o.u.s each of them would carry into office.

Their prominence is commensurate with their debts. And only so many of those can be forgotten.

Washington Post: The making of Hillary 5.0: Marketing wizards help re-imagine Clinton brand

By Philip Rucker and Anne Gearan

February 21, 2015 6:18 p.m. EST

Is Hillary Rodham Clinton a McDonald's Big Mac or a Chipotle burrito bowl? A can of Bud or a bottle of Blue Moon? JCPenney or J. Crew?

As she readies her second presidential campaign, Clinton has recruited consumer marketing specialists onto her team of trusted political advisers. Their job is to help imagine Hillary 5.0 — the rebranding of a first lady turned senator turned failed presidential candidate turned secretary of state turned likely 2016 Democratic presidential nominee.

Clinton and her image-makers are sketching ways to refresh the well-established brand for tomorrow's marketplace. In their mission to present voters with a winning picture of the likely candidate, no detail is too big or too small — from her economic opportunity agenda to the design of the "H" in her future campaign logo.

"It's exactly the same as selling an iPhone or a soft drink or a cereal," said Peter Sealey, a longtime corporate marketing strategist. "She needs to use everything a brand has: a dominant color, a logo, a symbol. … The symbol of a Mercedes is a three-pointed star. The symbol of Coca-Cola is the contour bottle. The symbol of McDonald's is the golden arches. What is Clinton's symbol?"

Clinton's challenge is unique. Unlike potential Republican challengers of relatively middling fame who are introducing themselves to a national audience for the first time, Clinton is almost universally recognized. Love her or loathe her, potential voters know who she is after more than two decades in public life.

Or they think they know.

As Clinton and her advisers conceptualize her 2016 image, her own history shows the potential for peril.

In politics, authenticity can be a powerful trait, and it is one that sometimes has escaped Clinton. In her 2008 presidential campaign, despite some raw displays of emotion, she often came across as overly programmed.

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In 2016, a challenge for Clinton will be adapting to the political moment with a fresh image while remaining true to her settled identity. “Look at Budweiser,” said a former campaign adviser to President Obama, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk candidly. “That’s what Hillary Clinton is. She’s not a microbrew. She’s one of the biggest, most powerful brands ever in the country, and recognizing that is important.”

Ahead of her campaign launch, Clinton has tapped some of the Democratic Party’s star strategists as well as two of corporate America’s branding wizards: Wendy Clark, who specializes in marketing age-old brands such as Coca-Cola to younger and more diverse customers; and Roy Spence, a decades-long Clinton friend who dreamed up the “Don’t Mess With Texas” anti-littering slogan as well as flashy ad campaigns for Southwest Airlines and Wal-Mart.

Clark took an unpaid leave in January from Coca-Cola, where she ispresident of brands and strategic marketing for carbonated beverages in North America, to help Clinton in what Clark called “a passion project.” Spence is co-founder and chairman of GSD&M, an Austin-based corporate ad firm, and has experience in politics, including with Clinton’s 2008 campaign.

Clinton’s words suggest that her 2016 campaign will stress economic fairness — the level playing field for the middle class implied by her Twitter message last month praising Obama’s State of the Union address. “Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class. #FairShot #FairShare,” Clinton wrote.

But the plans for Clinton’s rebranding are not yet clear, nor are the influences of the Madison Avenue sensibility Clark and Spence bring to her operation.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill declined to comment on the branding strategy or the specific work of Clark and Spence.

People familiar with Clinton’s preparations said Clark and Spence are focused on developing imaginative ways to “let Hillary be Hillary,” as one person said, and help her make emotional connections with voters.

“I just want America to know the Hillary Clinton I know,” said Jerry Crawford, a friend and the Iowa chairman of Clinton’s 2008 campaign. “I want as many people as possible to get to know the woman I’ve seen behind closed doors. She’s bright, disciplined, quick to throw her head back and laugh — just a very, very attractive person.”

Spence, who got to know Bill and Hillary Clinton when they worked in Texas on George McGovern’s 1972 presidential campaign, tried to steer Clinton out of a rough patch in 2008 after her early losses to Obama. He is credited with her provocative “3 a.m. phone call” ad but also with soft-focus initiatives to reveal what he called “Hillary’s heart.”

Mark McKinnon, a friend and competitor of Spence and a media strategist with George W. Bush’s presidential campaigns, said: “Spence and Clark have a lot of experience refreshing established, well-known brands like AT&T, Coca-Cola and Wal-Mart. Should come in handy.”

Spence and Clark have been credited with creating three-dimensional personalities around otherwise dull consumer brands. At Coca-Cola, Clark spearheaded the “Share a Coke” campaign to put names such as Brittany and Zach on soda cans, a marketing move that boosted sales among millennials. Spence helped DoubleTree Hotels make the freshly baked chocolate chip cookies the chain serves guests upon check-in an icon for its sales pitch of warm comfort for beleaguered travelers.

But Fred Davis, a Republican advertising guru, said that if Clinton’s rebranding “seems like a craven attempt to try to put fresh paint on an old house, then it will backfire.”

“I think most voters are actually pretty intelligent, and they’ll see through any blatant attempt to change,” Davis said. “Her only hope, to me, is not a rebranding, but it’s actual policy positions and ideas that are fresh and new — and because those are fresh and new, voters might think, ‘Wait a minute, I’m going to give her another chance.’”

Some Clinton allies agreed. They dismissed the suggestion that refreshing her brand alone will make the candidate seem current. They said Clinton’s paramount challenge is to answer two questions: why she is the right person to step into the Oval Office, and what she would do when

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she's there. If she does that, they said, her image will take care of itself.

"I don't think people are looking for someone who's being reinvented or rebranded," said Steve Elmendorf, a top Democratic lobbyist who was a strategist for Clinton's 2008 bid and other presidential campaigns. "This is somebody they know, whom they have confidence in, and the question is, can she lead us to a better place over the next four years? That's her biggest challenge. What are the new ideas? … It can't be yesterday's program."

Sealey, who is credited with the successful "Always Coca-Cola" campaign in the 1990s, said that Clinton, like Coke, "has incredible top-of-mind awareness, and it's a huge asset."

"The issue is: What is her promise?" he said. "With Mercedes, it's quality. With Volvo, it's safety. With Coca-Cola, it's refreshment. If you can get her promise down to one word, that's the key."

Spence's business partner, Haley Rushing, said their approach to all clients, corporate and political, "starts with them at the center," rather than market trends. "We always start from the inside out, not the outside in," she said.

Rushing and Spence co-founded the Purpose Institute, where Rushing's title is "chief purposeologist" and the staffers act as "organizational therapists" uncovering the central purposes of their client organizations. Rushing said she is not working on the Clinton effort but that she envisions a Clinton brand built around years of experience. She said, "Everything emanates from, 'What is Hillary's purpose in the world?'"

Clinton has faced that question before, with mixed results.

After a complicated tenure as first lady, Clinton reinvented herself as a potholes-and-pork senator from her adopted state of New York. Then she ran for president as a tough woman in the mold of Margaret Thatcher. Failing that, she had a careful run as the country's top diplomat under Obama that allies believe raised her stature.

Perhaps her most significant rebranding came in 2000, when she became a popular elected official in her own right after her husband's Monica Lewinsky scandal and after a controversial tenure as first lady. Clinton was ridiculed as a dilettante and a carpetbagger, but she won over critics, even some Republicans, with a dogged commitment to local issues.

In 2008, however, Clinton's rebranding went badly, starting with a misreading of the zeitgeist that had her stressing her commander-in-chief qualifications when the public preferred Obama's promise of hope and change.

Clinton's advisers were divided then about how to bust the caricature of Clinton as remote and brittle. Some begged Clinton to reprise a campaign feature that had charmed New York voters, in which she stayed in ordinary people's homes while traveling around the state. But Clinton insisted that doing so in Iowa or New Hampshire would come across as forced.

Similarly, an online compilation of testimonials meant to showcase Clinton's humanity and relatability fell flat. Too cheesy, some advisers said; at odds with her strength-and-competence message, others said.

A rebranding that stuck: Clinton's workmanlike turn as secretary of state, during which she visited more countries than most of her predecessors — and used her celebrity to draw attention to women's empowerment and human rights issues.

Now, Clinton will try to refresh her image once more so that voters see her as a champion for the middle class amid deep concerns about income inequality. Rohit Deshpande, a marketing professor at Harvard Business School, offered a fast-food giant as a case study.

"Refresh with the times is the issue McDonald's is facing right now," he said. "It's considered tired, and the marketplace has moved on. "

Fabian Geyrhalter, a corporate branding consultant, also drew a parallel between McDonald's and Clinton: "There has been a brand value

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proposition over so many years, and suddenly she needs to shift that legacy into Clinton 2016: 'This is what I stand for now.'"

Associated Press: For Clinton, her family foundation may pose campaign risks

By Ken Thomas

February 22, 2015 12:10 p.m. EST

The foundation launched by former President Bill Clinton more than a decade ago has battled HIV and AIDS in Africa, educated millions of children and fed the poor and hungry around the globe. It also has the potential to become a political risk for Hillary Rodham Clinton as she moves toward a second presidential campaign.

The former secretary of state has struggled with some recent bad headlines over large donations given to the foundation by foreign governments in the past two years, and the $200 million-plus the organization has raised since 2013, ahead of her anticipated White House campaign.

Republicans contend that foreign governments donating to a foundation led by a potential U.S. president creates unacceptable conflicts of interests. Also, the involvement of big money reinforces a long-standing narrative pushed by the GOP of the Clintons as a couple who frequently mix business and politics.

"Unless Hillary Clinton immediately reinstates the ban on foreign countries giving to her foundation and returns the millions of dollars these governments have already donated, she's setting an incredibly dangerous precedent," said the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus. "The American people are not about to elect a president in Hillary Clinton who could expose them to the demands of foreign governments because they dumped massive sums of cash into her foundation."

The foundation, which is scheduled to hold events in Morocco and Greece this spring, defended its financial support and addressed how it might function if Clinton runs for president. If she seeks office again, something taken as a given by most, the foundation said it would ensure its policies and practices are "appropriate, just as we did when she served as secretary of state."

In 2009, when Clinton became President Barack Obama's chief diplomat, the foundation stopped raising money from foreign governments. The fundraising involving non-U.S. entities resumed in 2013, after she left the his administration.

The Wall Street Journal last week reported the foundation had received money in 2014 from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman and others. The Washington Post reported the charity has raised nearly $2 billion since the former president started it in 2001. About one-third of its donations of $1 million or more come from foreign governments or non-U.S. entities, the newspaper found.

Democrats say the Clintons can defend their work at the foundation because of its track record and history of tackling some of the world's biggest problems, from AIDS and clean water to hunger, educational opportunities and the protection of endangered wildlife.

They also note that the foundation voluntarily discloses its donors — nonprofits are not required to do — and say there is no evidence the Clintons have used it to enrich themselves. Nearly 90 percent of the foundation's money goes toward its programming.

"The foundation has done amazing work," said Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy, a Democrat who campaigned with Bill Clinton last year. "It has been a unifying force in our national affairs and in our international affairs."

Yet the influx of corporate and foreign money just before a potential Hillary Clinton campaign has caused some anxiety within her party.

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"There was a reason they stopped taking foreign government donations when Hillary was secretary of state," said Mike Carberry, a Johnson County, Iowa, supervisor and former county Democratic chairman. He said the foundation should reinstate the policies used from 2009 to 2013. "It doesn't seem right."

The foundation has strong ties with several corporations and other large foundations. Last September's annual meeting in New York was sponsored by an array of companies that regularly lobby the federal government, including financial firms HSBC Bank USA, Barclays and Deutsche Bank, as well as Fortune 500 companies such as Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Monsanto, Procter & Gamble and ExxonMobil.

Goldman Sachs, whose corporate officers have played leading roles in the Treasury Department in recent years, has worked with the Clinton Foundation on the 10,000 Women Initiative aimed at helping female entrepreneurs around the globe access capital.

Many of the same donors to the Clintons' political campaigns have given money to the foundation. Dennis Cheng, a former Hillary Clinton campaign fundraiser, recently left the foundation as its chief development officer and is expected to be a top fundraiser for her expected campaign.

The examination of the foundation's finances come as many Democrats want Clinton to take on a more populist economic agenda that would demand more oversight of Wall Street firms. It also follows efforts by Democrats to scrutinize Republican Mitt Romney's business practices in 2012 and tie Republican candidates to millions of dollars provided by the Koch Brothers and their business interests.

Beyond the headlines, many Democrats say it shows the need for Clinton to begin actively campaigning and build an apparatus better suited to rapidly respond to these types of critiques.

"There's a vacuum," said Tom Henderson, the chairman of the Polk County, Iowa, Democrats, who noted potential candidates such as former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb are visiting soon. "She isn't doing anything" in Iowa, he said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 10 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton addresses United Nations Women's Conference (Bloomberg)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 8/22/2015 1:00:18 AM
Subject: Weekly Reader: Congressional Boot Camp

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PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Bipartisan Boot Camp Helps Congressional Staff Sharpen Oversight Skills

Current Hill staffers honed investigative skills by working in bipartisan groups at the Congressional Oversight Boot Camp, as reported by *National Journal*. **Read more**

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The Center for International Policy launched the Security Monitor Assistance Program, providing transparency on U.S. foreign and security aid.

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Date: 7/4/2015 2:01:28 AM
Subject: H4A News Clips 7.4.15

H4A News Clips

July 4, 2015

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Warns That a Republican President Would Repeat the Health Law // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 3, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton warned on Friday that a Republican president would repeal President Obama's Affordable Care Act, and she denounced the administration of George W. Bush for "poor management" of the economy that led to the recession.

The harsh words from Mrs. Clinton came as she addressed a crowd estimated by her aides at more than 850 in Hanover, the leafy New Hampshire town that is home to Dartmouth College.

The state has long been hospitable to the Clinton family – her husband called himself "the comeback kid" after finishing second in the primary here in 1992, and she won the 2008 primary – but Mrs. Clinton's appearance here came as Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator, has been surging in polls.

"I will fight hard against what I see as the injustice and unfairness in our society," Mrs. Clinton said, discussing her record and seemingly mindful of Mr. Sanders as she did. "I take a back seat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values."

Mrs. Clinton's aides have struggled since before she announced her candidacy with the reality that her sky-high early poll numbers would be almost impossible to sustain. They have sought to diminish the expectations for her, and have sought to avoid chasing distractions.

The Vermont border is just across the Connecticut River from Hanover. Several attendees at Mrs. Clinton's event said they were either from Vermont and were curious, or were supporting Mr. Sanders.

Mrs. Clinton's speech demonstrated the challenge she faces: She must keep a wary eye on Mr. Sanders without attacking him, but she must also seem engaged and rouse her supporters, so attacks on the Republican field on issues like the Affordable Care Act have been her approach.

"I will defend it and I will do everything i can to improve it," Mrs. Clinton said of Mr. Obama's signature health care law, calling it an issue of "fairness and humanity, also of economics" and praising the Supreme Court for recently upholding it.

Republican calls for "repeal, repeal, repeal mean nothing – unless they elect a Republican president," Mrs. Clinton warned, saying ominously, "If the country elects a Republican president, then they will repeal the Affordable Care Act."

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Her voice rising at times, Mrs. Clinton called for new gun control laws as she spoke in a state where many residents own guns. And she sounded a note of muted praise for a potential nuclear deal with Iran, while vowing to defend her record on “progressive values” against anyone.

Holding a microphone as she spoke from the stage at The Bema, an amphitheater-style spot near the college campus – where, according to a Clinton aide, the high school graduation of Mrs. Clinton’s Vermont-bred campaign manager, Robby Mook, took place – she said that Republican policies had a history of failure.

“Then Democrats have to come in and fix what’s broken,” she said, noting that at the end of her husband’s two terms there was a “surplus that would have paid off the national debt had it not been rudely interrupted by the next administration.”

Republicans “just don’t know the theory of original sin, because we wouldn’t have had to have a recovery if we hadn’t had the kind of poor management and bad economic policies that put us into the ditch in the first place,” she said to applause.

Mr. Obama, she said, “deserves a lot more credit than he’s usually given” for pulling the economy back.

She also pledged to continue discussing gun control, saying, “We have to work very hard to muster the public opinion to convince Congress” to support universal background checks for gun buyers.

“I think it is the height of irresponsibility not to talk about it, so I will talk about it,” she said.

As for Iran, Mrs. Clinton walked a careful line. She said she supported the Obama administration in its efforts to get a deal to curtail Iran’s nuclear capabilities, calling it a “singular step in the right direction,” but warned that such a deal would not change the fact that Iran was an “existential threat to Israel.”

Clinton says she hopes Iran talks yield a deal **// Reuters // Sandra Maler – July 3, 2015**

U.S. Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton said on Friday she hoped that 18 months of nuclear talks between Iran and major powers would yield a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program.

"I so hope that we are able to get a deal in the next week that puts a lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program," the former secretary of state told a rally on the Dartmouth College campus in Hanover, New Hampshire, adding that even if a deal is reached, there will be more work to be done.

Iran is in talks with the United States and five other powers - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia - on an agreement to curtail its nuclear program in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination for November 2016, has generally not commented publicly on the Iran talks since launching her White House bid in April.

Commenting on the preliminary nuclear deal that was reached just before she announced her candidacy, Clinton said, "Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial."

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Since leaving the State Department in 2013, Clinton has been critical of some aspects of the Obama administration's foreign policy.

The former U.S. senator and first lady has a big lead in opinion polls over four Democratic challengers.

The winner of the Democratic nominating race will face the victor of the Republican contest, in which 14 candidates are competing.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Paul Steinhauser (7/3/15, 3:50 PM) – 2016 News: @HillaryClinton campaign says Dartmouth puts Hanover #NH rally crowd size at 850 people #nhpolitics #fitn

Amy Chozick (7/3/15, 6:25 PM) – Hillary responds to Bernie burn: "I always knew this was gonna be competitive." (Excellent pooling @rubycramer)

Zeke Miller (7/3/15, 6:35 PM) – Pool: @HillaryClinton after being served her ice cream. "is that for me?" she said. "Holy shamoley."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton warns that a Republican president would repeal Obamacare // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 3, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton sharpened her partisan rhetoric to appeal to Democratic primary voters here Friday by issuing a dire warning: President Obama's health care law would disappear if a Republican wins the White House in 2016.

Celebrating last month's Supreme Court decision to uphold a key provision of the Affordable Care Act, Clinton told a crowd of 850 supporters at Dartmouth College, "I'm so thrilled that we're at a point where all the calls about 'Repeal! Repeal! Repeal!' mean nothing -- unless they elect a Republican president."

"If the country elects a Republican president, they will repeal the Affordable Care Act. That is as certain as I can say it," she continued, noting the unlikelihood that Democrats take over the Senate and House next year.

Clinton's comments came during a festive, grass-roots rally in a wooded pocket of Dartmouth's picturesque campus, where students, professors and other community members enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and pie under a brilliant summer sun as they awaited Clinton's arrival.

Clinton arrived with little fanfare, casually stepping onto a granite amphitheater stage and waving hello as she opened a two-day campaign swing in this first-in-the-nation primary state. She told the crowd she had fond memories of being at Dartmouth decades ago when she was a student at Wellesley College in neighboring Massachusetts.

"I came for a blind date during what was then called Winter Carnival," she said, with a knowing smile. "So I have

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fond memories."

Clinton portrayed herself as a fighter for progressive values, especially on the economy. She recalled that in 2008, after President Obama won the fall election, he invited her to ask her to be his secretary of state and told her the economy was much worse than anybody truly realized.

Her point was that the peace and prosperity seen under the presidency of her husband, Bill Clinton, was "rudely interrupted" by President George W. Bush's eight years in the White House and that it took another Democrat, Obama, for the economy to recover.

"There's just a pattern here where the other side keeps using the same old tired, failed policies," she said. "They don't work and then Democratic presidents have to come in and fix what was broken. So let's break that and have a Democratic president to continue the policies that actually work for the vast majority of Americans."

In her remarks here, Clinton touched on an array of liberal themes -- from expanding federal science and research funding to increased investments in public infrastructure.

"I take a back seat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values," Clinton said.

She made no mention of Democratic rival Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator who has drawn enthusiastic crowds around the country and has surged in the polls in New Hampshire especially.

But Clinton used the issue of gun control to draw a subtle distinction with her chief primary opponent, who has a more mixed voting record on guns. Like New Hampshire, Vermont is a largely rural, pro-gun state.

“We have to take on the gun lobby one more time" Clinton said, espousing her support for enhanced background checks. "This is a controversial issue. I am well aware of that. But I think it is the height of irresponsibility not to talk about it. So I will talk about it and I will look for ways that we can build that majority."

Clinton: I hope Iran deal can be reached **// Politico // Annie Karni – July 4, 2015**

The deadline for negotiations is Tuesday.

Hanover, N.H. — Hillary Clinton, speaking at a campaign rally near Dartmouth College, weighed in on the Iran nuclear talks taking place in Vienna this weekend, vowing to protect Israel if a deal is reached.

“I so hope we are able to get a deal next week that puts the lid on Iran’s nuclear weapons program,” she said. “Even if we do get such a deal, we will still have major problems from Iran. They are the world’s chief sponsor of terrorism. They use proxies like Hezbollah to sow discord and create insurgencies to destabilize governments. They are taking more and more control of a number of nations in the region and they pose an existential threat to Israel.”

Critics of the emerging deal have expressed concern that, if and when sanctions are lifted, Iran would plow its new windfall into efforts to destabilize Arab countries aligned with the West.

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“We still are going to have to turn our attention to working with our partners to try to reign in and prevent this continuing Iranian aggressiveness,” Clinton said.

The Iran talks were extended last week as negotiators sought to close the remaining gaps between the two sides; the new deadline for an agreement is Tuesday.

In a YouTube video posted online Friday, Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif indicated that a deal was in reach.

“At this eleventh hour, despite some differences that remain, we have never been closer to a lasting outcome,” Zarif said in the four-minute video. “But there is no guarantee.”

He also warned that further “military and economic coercion” cannot “ensure submission.”

“I sense that my negotiating partners have recognized that coercion and pressure never lead to lasting solutions, but to more conflict and further hostility,” Zarif said. “And now, they realize that the most indiscriminate and unjust economic sanctions against my country have achieved absolutely none of their declared objectives; but instead have harmed innocents and antagonized a peaceful and forgiving nation.”

Bill and Hillary Clinton fight new demand for email server // Politico // Josh Gerstein – July 3, 2015

Lawyers for former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have moved to block a conservative lawyer's effort to pry into emails stored on the Clintons' private server.

In a motion filed Thursday evening in federal court in West Palm Beach, Fla., the Clintons' attorneys ask that conservative gadfly Larry Klayman be temporarily barred from demanding information in connection with a racketeering lawsuit he filed in March against the couple and the Clinton Foundation. The suit alleges that the Clintons used the private email server to frustrate Freedom of Information Act requests Klayman filed for records about waivers of Iranian sanctions and about leaks relating to measures the U.S. and Israel took to deal with Iran's nuclear program.

During a telephone conference in the case Wednesday, federal magistrate Dave Brannon gave Klayman the go ahead to begin discovery — the process of demanding documents, evidence and testimony — relevant to the suit.

Within hours of the conference, an aide to Klayman sent the Clinton team demands for "private email servers and any documents or things" related to Iran sanctions waivers, the Stuxnet computer virus the U.S. and Israel reportedly deployed to disrupt Iran's nuclear efforts and releases of information about plans to strike Iranian nuclear facilities.

Now, the Clinton lawyers are asking to be relieved of any duty to comply with those requests until a pending motion to dismiss Klayman's suit is resolved. The Clintons' attorneys also warn that allowing access to their records under these circumstances would open the door to a flurry of similar efforts.

"To permit Plaintiff to obtain documents responsive to FOIA requests (to the extent any even exist) through civil 'discovery' in a meritless lawsuit against the

former Secretary of State would set a dangerous precedent ripe for abuse," the Clinton legal team writes in its motion (posted here).

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The Clintons' lawyers, headed by longtime attorney and friend David Kendall, also point to Klayman's long history of litigation against the former first couple — cases Kendall said have been unsuccessful.

"Plaintiff has sued former Secretary Clinton or President Clinton at least fifteen times. Almost all of those lawsuits have failed before or at the motion-to-dismiss stage, and Mr. Klayman has not prevailed on the merits on a single claim over his decades-long history of suing the Individual Defendants," Kendall wrote.

According to the new motion, Brannon said he couldn't entertain the Clintons' request to halt discovery because the issue hadn't been formally referred to him by the judge overseeing the case, Donald Middlebrooks — a Clinton appointee.

Klayman filed a 93-page amended complaint in the case Thursday night. The complaint (posted here) accuses the Clintons of running a "criminal enterprise" that involved accepting "bribes" in the form of donations to the Clinton Foundation and payments for speeches. The conservative lawyer says he was injured by the alleged conspiracy because he could have used the undisclosed FOIA documents to advance his livelihood and income as a public advocate.

Middlebrooks has set a trial date of January 25, if the Clintons don't succeed in knocking the case out before then.

Hillary Clinton: 'I take a backseat to no one' on liberal record // Politico // Annie Karni – July 3, 2015

Hillary Clinton arrived in this liberal New England enclave with a message for anyone thinking about voting for Sen. Bernie Sanders of next-door Vermont: "I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record in standing up and fighting for progressive values."

Sanders, according to the latest New Hampshire polls, is trailing Clinton by just eight points. And at the first stop of her two-day swing through the early-voting state, Clinton highlighted contrasts with her main Democratic rival without mentioning him by name.

"We have to take on the gun lobby one more time," said Clinton, speaking without notes or a teleprompter in front of a crowd of about 850 Dartmouth students and native Granite Staters. "The majority of gun owners support universal background checks, and we have to work very hard to muster the public opinion to convince Congress that's what they should vote for."

She said it was the "height of irresponsibility not to talk about it." Sanders, who represents a pro-gun constituency, has voted against the Brady Bill, which required federal background checks for gun purchasers, as well as other major bills supported by gun-control advocates.

She also signaled that she would have no problem defending President Barack Obama's domestic agenda.

"If the country elects a Republican president, then they will repeal the Affordable Care Act," she warned. "Let's elect a Democratic president who is committed to quality affordable health care."

She praised Obama's moves to help the country recover from the economic crisis and said Republicans who say the recovery is too slow "just don't know the theory of original sin," blaming "the kind of poor management and bad economic policies that put us into the ditch in the first place."

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Clinton's cookout — hamburgers and apple pie, served on a sun-dappled green on the Dartmouth College campus — attracted a crowd with more questions than passion for the Democratic frontrunner. A few people in the crowd wore T-shirts supporting Sanders, and waved his campaign banners.

"I'm probably leaning more toward Bernie," admitted Roland Downey, 18, who attended the rally with his father, Glenn King, a nurse. "I like that he's being more modern," said Downey of the 73-year-old candidate. "I don't know enough about Hillary." King said he was also still undecided.

Dee Roberts, who works in human resources at Dartmouth College, said she came out to see Clinton but that she likes what she's heard from Sanders. "We're pretty liberal here," she said. "He's very straightforward and doesn't take PAC money." She said she was hoping to hear more specifics from Clinton on her economic policy.

That didn't happen Friday — Clinton said she plans to begin laying out "specific policies" on the economy starting in about 10 days.

Instead, she reiterated some of the issues she has been focused on so far: expanding voting rights, ending an era of mass incarceration, boosting the importance of early childhood education and treatment for those with mental health and substance abuse problems.

She also weighed in on the Iran nuclear talks taking place in Vienna this weekend, vowing to protect Israel if a deal is reached.

"I so hope we are able to get a deal next week that puts the lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program," she said. "Even if we do get such a deal, we will still have major problems from Iran. They are the world's chief sponsor of terrorism. They use proxies like Hezbollah to sow discord and create insurgencies to destabilize governments. They are taking more and more control of a number of nations in the region and they pose an existential threat to Israel."

"We still are going to have to turn our attention to working with our partners to try to reign in and prevent this continuing Iranian aggressiveness," she said.

Clinton's team has been lowering expectations in New Hampshire. And the local advantage for a candidate like Sanders has, historically, been a real factor: then Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy won the primary here in 1960 and former

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis won it in 1988. New Hampshire made Bill Clinton "the comeback kid," but he didn't even win it — he finished second in New Hampshire in 1992, behind former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas. Then Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry won the Granite State in 2004. In 2012, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won the New Hampshire primary.

"It is easy for Sen. Sanders to travel here," said Terry Shumaker, a New Hampshire attorney who co-chaired both of Bill Clinton's presidential campaigns. He said was committed to a real fight in the Granite State. "I can't even remember canvassing in late June for a primary eight months away, but we were doing it last Saturday and Hillary is in New Hampshire today and tomorrow," he said.

Clinton supporters also said support for Sanders should not be interpreted as anti-Clinton sentiment — and that polling shows many of his supporters list Clinton as their second choice. "From talking to some," said Shumaker, "I think that a lot of these folks in the end will vote for her."

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Hillary Clinton: I hope Iran deal can be reached // Politico // Annie Karni – July 3, 2015

Hillary Clinton, speaking at a campaign rally near Dartmouth College, weighed in on the Iran nuclear talks taking place in Vienna this weekend, vowing to protect Israel if a deal is reached.

"I so hope we are able to get a deal next week that puts the lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program," she said. "Even if we do get such a deal, we will still have major problems from Iran. They are the world's chief sponsor of terrorism. They use proxies like Hezbollah to sow discord and create insurgencies to destabilize governments. They are taking more and more control of a number of nations in the region and they pose an existential threat to Israel."

Critics of the emerging deal have expressed concern that, if and when sanctions are lifted, Iran would plow its new windfall into efforts to destabilize Arab countries aligned with the West.

"We still are going to have to turn our attention to working with our partners to try to reign in and prevent this continuing Iranian aggressiveness," Clinton said.

The Iran talks were extended last week as negotiators sought to close the remaining gaps between the two sides; the new deadline for an agreement is Tuesday.

In a YouTube video posted online Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif indicated that a deal was in reach.

"At this eleventh hour, despite some differences that remain, we have never been closer to a lasting outcome," Zarif said in the four-minute video. "But there is no guarantee."

He also warned that further "military and economic coercion" cannot "ensure submission."

"I sense that my negotiating partners have recognized that coercion and pressure never lead to lasting solutions, but to more conflict and further hostility," Zarif said. "And now, they realize that the most indiscriminate and unjust economic sanctions against my country have achieved absolutely none of their declared objectives; but instead have harmed innocents and antagonized a peaceful and forgiving nation."

Hillary steps up liberal rhetoric as Sanders surges in polls // AP // July 3, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday she takes a "backseat to no one" on championing liberal causes, presenting herself as a standard-bearer for Democrats as primary challenger Bernie Sanders generates large, energetic crowds.

Clinton addressed 850 people at an outdoor amphitheater at Dartmouth College, a last-minute venue change made to accommodate a larger audience. Days earlier, Sanders spoke before about 10,000 people in Madison, Wisconsin. The former secretary of state made no mention of Sanders but warned that Republicans would unravel President Barack Obama's policies if they recaptured the White House, including the repeal of his signature health care overhaul.

"I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values," Clinton said on a sun-dappled kickoff to the Fourth of July weekend in Hanover, New Hampshire, across the Connecticut River from Sanders' home state of Vermont.

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The Democratic presidential front-runner presented herself as a candidate of continuity to Obama and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, praising the Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding health care subsidies under the overhaul. She said if the nation elected a Republican president, "they will repeal the Affordable Care Act. That is as certain as I can say."

She said Obama and her husband had both inherited a series of economic headaches when they entered office and urged voters to elect another Democrat "to continue the policies that actually work for the vast majority of Americans."

Clinton said at the end of her husband's two terms, the economy had generated 22 million jobs, a balanced budget and "a surplus that would have paid off our national debt if it had not been rudely interrupted by the next administration."

The former New York senator's team has been wary of presenting her as the equivalent of Obama's third term but her acclaim for the president's policies highlighted a string of recent victories by the White House in its defense of the health care law, the Supreme Court's ruling allowing gay marriage and steady economic numbers.

In a rare discussion of foreign policy, Clinton spoke supportively of Obama's efforts to reach an agreement with Iran to curb the country's nuclear program, talks that she helped set in motion as secretary of state. Previewing next week's deadline for negotiations, Clinton said she hoped the U.S. would "get a deal that puts a lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program" but said it was "too soon" to know if that was possible.

Seeking the Democratic nomination, Clinton's focus has been on economic issues, the driving force behind Sanders' recent rise in polls. The senator describes himself as a democratic socialist and has won elections in Vermont as an independent. He has drawn large crowds around the country and reported raising $15 million since late April, about one-third of the $45 million Clinton has brought in.

Sanders said on Friday in an email to supporters that he would release a series of policy proposals in the next few weeks "to address the major issues facing our nation." The campaign is seeking to ramp up its volunteer base and planning to hold organizing meetings across the nation on July 29.

Clinton's allies have sought to lower expectations despite her early command of the primary field. During a stop at an ice cream shop in Lebanon, New Hampshire, Clinton told reporters "I always knew this was going to be competitive" and said she was looking forward to a "great debate."

Some of the people who came to see Clinton at Dartmouth said Sanders could ultimately have a positive influence on her.

"I think he's pushing her to address some issues and I think that will be all for the good," said Sybil Buell, a Norwich, Vermont, resident who attended the Clinton event. Buell said she was "on the fence" over whether to support Clinton or Sanders in the early stages of the campaign.

"There's a little feeling of inevitability with her," said Chuck Manns, of Lebanon, New Hampshire, who backed Clinton in 2008. He said Sanders was a "curiosity right now," but predicted Clinton's electability would shine through.

Hillary Clinton to gay Humans of New York teen: 'Your future will be amazing' // Guardian // Jana Kasperkevic – July 3, 2015

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Hillary Clinton took to Facebook on Friday to offer words of encouragement and advice to a gay teen.

The leading Democratic presidential candidate posted remarks in response to a photo posted by the page of Humans of New York, a project run by photographer Brandon Stanton.

“I’m a homosexual and I’m afraid about what my future will be and that people won’t like me,” Stanton quotes the young New Yorker captured in his photograph as saying.

An hour after Stanton posted the photo, the official Clinton campaign account left the following comment: “Prediction from a grown-up: Your future is going to be amazing. You will surprise yourself with what you’re capable of and the incredible things you go on to do. Find the people who love and believe in you – there will be lots of them.”

Clinton signed the comment with “-H”, which is used on social media to indicate that she is the author the post.

Kristina Schake, deputy communications director for the Hillary for America campaign, then shared the comment on Twitter:

Two hours after Stanton posted the photo, it had accrued more than 20,000 comments.

This is not the first time Clinton has offered her support to the LGBT community.

Last month, when she officially launched her campaign in New York, the former secretary of state criticized Republican opponents in the developing 2016 race for turning “their backs on gay people who love each other”.

On 26 June, when the US supreme court ruled to legalize same-sex marriage, she said she was celebrating the “landmark victory for marriage equality”.

“For too many LGBT Americans who are subjected to discriminatory laws, true equality is still just out of reach,” Clinton said. “While we celebrate today, our work won’t be finished until every American can not only marry, but live, work, pray, learn and raise a family free from discrimination and prejudice. We cannot settle for anything less.”

Hillary: “I Take A Backseat To No One” At “Fighting For Progressive Values” // Buzzfeed // Katherine Miller – July 3, 2015

Before a Friday afternoon crowd of Granite Staters, Hillary Clinton offered a new line:

“I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values.”

Clinton, since her campaign began, has often cast herself as a “fighter” — emphasizing the “four fights” of her campaign and framing her career, going back to her days as a lawyer, as “fighting” for the welfare of children and women.

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But the "progressive values" part is new — and just how committed Clinton is to the current slate of progressive policy goals, particularly when it comes to economics, has been a source of speculation and critique over the last year.

Bill Clinton's presidency often emphasized centrism: He signed the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act, the banking securities law that progressives like Elizabeth Warren want to see restored; he promised and implemented changes to the welfare system; he supported the tough-on-crime policies popular in the 1980s and '90s, that his wife also wrote in support of at the time.

And Hillary Clinton herself was slow to, for instance, endorse same-sex marriage; she did not offer her public support until 2013, and did not deem it a constitutional right until earlier this year.

Hillary Clinton has already campaigned against some of the policies of the 1990s — she's argued in favor of changes to the criminal justice system and in favor of significantly broadening legal status and citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Where Clinton — often critiqued by liberal Democrats for her connections to Wall Street — will ultimately come down on the populist economic policies pushed by progressives has been less clear. While Clinton's talked often about "reshuffling" the deck of cards she says is "stacked against" middle-class and working-class Americans, she's been less forthcoming about her proposed economic policies. Meanwhile, Bernie Sanders, the socialist senator from Vermont, has managed to draw impressive crowds in liberal bastions like Madison, Wisconsin.

On Friday, though, Clinton said she would soon be outlining her economic agenda in specifics.

Hillary Clinton Hopeful For Iran Nuclear Deal Next Week // TIME // Zeke J. Miller – July 3, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday that she is hopeful that a nuclear agreement with Iran can be reached before next week's deadline, indicating support for the draft agreement that may or may not come into force.

Speaking to a crowd of about 850 largely college-aged supporters on the campus of Dartmouth College, Clinton addressed the latest deadline for the P5+1 nuclear talks in Vienna, July 9, saying "these things always come down to the wire."

"I so hope that we are able to get a deal in the next week that puts a lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program because that's going to be a singular step in the right direction," Clinton said. The previous June 30 deadline was extended to give negotiators more time to try to hammer out lingering disagreements between the Iranian government and the governments of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany.

"But even if we do get such a deal, we will still have major problems from Iran," Clinton said. "They are the world's chief sponsor of terrorism, they use proxies like Hezbollah to sow discord and create insurgencies to destabilize governments. They are taking more and more control of a number of nations in the region and they pose an existential threat to Israel. So even if we are successful on the nuclear front, we still are going to have to turn our attention to working with our partners to try to rein in and prevent this continuing Iranian aggressiveness."

Critics of the ongoing negotiations and draft agreement contend that it does not go far enough in reducing Iran's stockpile of radioactive materials and enrichment program. Clinton had previously adopted a measured tone on the talks, expressing support, but raising questions about whether Iran would uphold its end of the agreement.

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In April, she said she would back a deal that “verifiably cuts off all of Iran’s paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations.”

“The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high,” she added at the time.

One way or another, Clinton is likely going to have to own the agreement, as the seeds of the current round of talks began under her tenure in the Obama administration. Her chief foreign policy advisor Jake Sullivan helped carry out the secret back-channel negotiations to lay the groundwork for the Joint Plan of Action announced in 2013.

Clinton also spoke about the Affordable Care Act, seeking to keep alive a potent Democratic turnout tactic a week after the Supreme Court decided against undermining the law.

“I am so thrilled that we are at a point where all calls about repeal, repeal, repeal mean nothing unless they elect a Republican president,” Clinton said, addressing the crowd from a concrete stage in front of a shady lawn on the college campus known as the “BEMA” — “big empty meeting area” — just across the river from Democratic rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders’, home state.

“If the country elects a Republican as president, then they will repeal the Affordable Care Act,” she warned. “That is as certain as I can say unless we take back the Senate and take back the House. I hope we can do both, but on the safe side, let’s elect a Democratic president who is committed to quality, affordable healthcare.”

All Republican presidential candidates have vowed to repeal the law, but privately many of their aides acknowledge that a complete repeal would be nearly impossible to pull off, given how entrenched it has already become in the American healthcare system five years after passage. Republicans on Capitol Hill, meanwhile, have largely abandoned serious efforts to upend the law, owing to Obama’s staunch veto threats.

“Let’s break that and have a Democratic president to continue the policies that actually work for the vast majority of Americans,” Clinton said.

Clinton promised that she would begin to unveil her proposals for the economy in “about 10 days.”

Hillary Clinton: Electing Republican President Would Mean Repeal of Obamacare // NBC // Phil Helsel – July 3, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Friday warned New Hampshire voters that a Republican president would mean the end of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

"If the country elects a Republican president, then they will repeal the Affordable Care Act," Clinton told a crowd of about 850 at Dartmouth University.

Clinton said she was "thrilled" with the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that rejected a challenge to the act, and she said she would defend the law. "Where there are glitches, we need to address those, but this is a fundamental issue of fairness and humanity," Clinton said.

On the economy, Clinton said the Republican Party "keeps using the same old tired failed policies." She said the

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country needs to increase investment in science and technology, including green energy.

As talks with Iran over its nuclear program continued this week, Clinton said she hopes the U.S. gets a deal that "puts the lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program" — but said that even if such a deal is reached, "we will still face major problems from Iran."

Clinton also weighed in on gun control. President Barack Obama raised the topic in comments he made in the aftermath of a deadly attack on a the historic black church Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, in which nine people killed nine people in what authorities have said was a hate crime.

"We have to take on the gun lobby one more time," Clinton said. "At the very least, we need to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, people with serious mental challenges, terrorists, all of whom now are perfectly free to go and find a gun somewhere," she said.

"This is a controversial issue, I am well aware of that," Clinton said. "But I think it is the height of irresponsibility not to talk about it. So I will talk about it."

Clinton's only Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders, drew a crowd of 10,000 in Madison, Wisconsin, earlier this week. Sanders said Friday in an email to supporters that he would release a series of policy proposals in the next few weeks "to address the major issues facing our nation."

"I think he's pushing her to address some issues and I think that will be all for the good," Sybil Buell, a Norwich, Vermont, resident who attended the Clinton event, told The Associated Press. Buell said she was "on the fence" over whether to support Clinton or Sanders in the early stages of the campaign.

Hillary Clinton Not Fazed by Bernie Sanders' Crowds **// ABC // Liz Kreutz – July 3, 2015**

Hillary Clinton does not yet seem fazed by Bernie-mentum.

During a campaign stop in New Hampshire on Friday, the Democratic presidential front-runner responded to a question from a reporter about the massive crowds her challenger, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has seen at his own campaign events this week.

“We each run our own campaigns and I always knew this was going to be competitive,” Clinton said at Dairy Twirl ice cream shop in Lebanon, New Hampshire, when asked about the growing support behind Sanders and how he's seeing crowds even bigger than she is.

“I want to have a great debate in the primary and caucus around the country and that is what I am looking forward to," she added.

This past week Sanders drew the largest crowd yet of any presidential candidate this campaign cycle. An estimated 10,000 people filled an arena in Madison, Wisconsin, to hear him speak.

Clinton's comments today came just after she held an organizing event at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. According to her campaign, the rally had a turnout of roughly 850 people – a measly number, perhaps, compared to what Sanders attracted this week. However, Clinton's campaign did have to move the afternoon event to a larger venue because of what they said was “increased local interest in attending.”

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During her remarks at the rally, Clinton also doubled down on her own record as a progressive candidate.

"I take a back seat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values," she said in a woodsy, outdoor arena on the Ivy League's campus.

Richard Nixon Biographer: Hillary Clinton Has 'Nixonian Attributes' **// ABC // Rick Klein – July 3, 2015**

It's become almost cliché in American politics to call a politician Nixonian or "like Nixon" -- and it's rarely a positive to compare an officeholder or candidate to the only U.S. president to resign from office.

Yet to Evan Thomas, the author of a new Nixon biography who also covered the Clinton White House, comparing Hillary Clinton to Nixon works -- to an extent.

"Mrs. Clinton does have some Nixonian attributes. She can be guarded and defensive, a little bit too tough on her enemies," Thomas said in ABC News' "Power Players" series. "I saw this firsthand. She needs to watch that."

"She's not involved in anything like Watergate. She's not Nixon," he continued. "If you think you can manipulate the press and stonewall forever, [when] you're running for president and you're president, I don't think that works."

Thomas' book, "Being Nixon: A Man Divided," captures the contradictions of the 37th president, a profane and often bitter man who was also an optimist (he always thought even bad movies would get better, Thomas writes) who won four elections on national tickets.

Thomas describes Nixon's habit of working out of the Executive Office Building on the White House conflict -- he didn't like the Oval Office -- in overnight hours, when he couldn't sleep.

"Here's the guy who's the most powerful political person in the universe at the time -- didn't like people. He was shy," Thomas said. "Mostly he wanted to be alone."

The Nixon that comes through on the famous Watergate tapes -- vindictive, racist, anti-Semitic, angry -- doesn't capture the full man, he said.

"He showed off. He was trying to be like [Lyndon Johnson]. LBJ was good at swearing, Nixon was bad at it," Thomas said. "It just wasn't natural to Nixon. He did a lot of it -- I'm not minimizing what's on those tapes, it's terrible. But you know if you listen to a lot of the tapes -- he talks about the world. He's a very intellectual, intelligent man, It's just that he would show off by yelling too much."

Hillary Clinton's representatives declined comment when reached by ABC News.

Dems have to take White House to keep Obamacare, Clinton warns **// Boston Herald // Chris Cassidy – July 3, 2015**

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Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned that if Democrats don't take the White House in 2016, Obamacare — despite being affirmed in a Supreme Court decision last week — could still be doomed.

"I'm so thrilled we are at a point where all the calls about 'repeal, repeal, 'repeal' mean nothing unless they elect a Republican president," Clinton said at an outdoor Dartmouth College rally this afternoon. "If the country elects a Republican president, they will appeal the Affordable Care Act. That's as certain as I can say, unless we take back the Senate and take back the House. I hope we can do both, but just to be on the safe side, let's elect a president who's committed to affordable health care."

Clinton also took a subtle jab at Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders who has been drawing crowds of thousands recently and closing the gap in polls to under 10 points, claiming she's the progressive candidate for president.

"I will fight against inequality," said Clinton. "I have a long history of doing that. I will fight hard against what I see as the injustice and unfairness in our society. I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values."

Clinton repeated a familiar piece of her stump speech where she reminds Democrats of the economic failures left behind by both President George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.

"There's just a pattern where the other side keeps using the same old tired failed policies, they don't work, and Democratic presidents have to come in and fix what was broken," Clinton said.

She will also hold a rally in Glen, then march in a parade in Gorham tomorrow as her two-day New Hampshire trip continues.

In House, liberals side with Clinton over Sanders **// The Hill // Mike Lillis – July 3, 2015**

Dozens of House liberals have endorsed Hillary Clinton's White House bid even as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is gaining steam.

Sanders, a liberal icon, has emerged as a surprisingly strong candidate since launching his campaign two months ago, raising $15 million and making huge gains on Clinton recently among Democratic voters in Iowa, which will host the country's first presidential caucus.

Yet at least 26 Democrats representing the 69-member Congressional Progressive Caucus –– a bastion of liberal thinking that Sanders helped to launch –– have already endorsed Clinton, according to a tally being kept by The Hill.

The list includes liberal stalwarts like Reps. Rosa DeLaura (D-Conn.) and Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) –– both forceful voices in the recent trade debate that Clinton was reluctant to enter –– and Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) and Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), three vociferous critics of an Iraq War that Clinton, as a New York senator, supported.

A number of Democrats have cheered Sanders' entrance into the race, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), another liberal favorite, hasn't ruled out the possibility of campaigning for him.

"I love what Bernie is talking about," she told the Boston Globe Monday.

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But no members of Congress have officially endorsed the Vermont senator.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), head of the Progressive Caucus, said the decision to withhold endorsements this early in the primary process is a practical one. Many lawmakers simply want a longer opportunity to hear where candidates stand on the issues, he said.

“There will come a point when each person will make up his or her mind as to who to support, and allowing the primary to play out a bit gives everyone the chance to make that decision with as much information as possible,” Grijalva said in an email. “Endorsing now does a disservice to our candidates who are looking for time to make their case to the American people.”

A House Democratic aide echoed that message, suggesting that early endorsements risk undermining the opportunity for lawmakers to influence the debate. The greatest sway the Democrats will have, the aide argued, will be in proposing specific policy prescriptions surrounding the most prominent legislative fights to come –– including the looming debates over a highway bill, government spending and the Ex-Im bank –– and seeing how the candidates react.

“Coming out now doesn't really give you anything,” said the aide, whose boss has not yet endorsed a Democratic candidate. “The ideas coming from congressional Democrats will be more important.”

Licy DoCanto, head of The DoCanto Group, a public policy consulting firm, downplayed the influence of congressional endorsements, arguing that they're largely “immaterial” outside the Beltway. The real challenge facing Sanders and the others in the Democratic field –– including former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Sen. Jim Webb (Va.) –– is not in winning endorsements but in building a national profile to rival Clinton's.

The recent Iowa poll, he said, is indication that at least Sanders might be breaking through.

“The rest of the country is starting to realize there are other serious candidates, DoCanto said. “It's not just Hillary Clinton.”

Clinton remains by far the front-runner within a tiny Democratic field. The former secretary of state has, for years, been laying the operational ground work of her candidacy, and she hauled in a record of more than $45 million in the first quarter of the race.

But she's also raised concerns among liberals on and off Capitol Hill, who have criticized her silence on the trade debate, hammered her approach to national security issues and questioned her ties to Wall Street and other well-heeled donors.

Sanders long track record in Congress, many liberals contend, makes him the better voice for the middle class.

“Bernie has been there with us every time, fighting for fairness, for environmental justice, for voting rights and getting big money out of politics,” Larry Cohen, a leader of the Communication Workers of America, said this week in endorsing Sanders. “This is our chance to build a movement that will not answer to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.”

The debate arrives following a 2014 election cycle when Democrats were hammered at the polls, losing control of

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the Senate and ceding the largest GOP House majority since the Great Depression.

Leaders of the Progressive Caucus and other liberals have blamed the losses on what they say is the reluctance of Democrats to embrace core principles like wage equality, universal healthcare and a robust safety-net system. Many are welcoming the notion of a well-contested Democratic primary –– in lieu of a landslide –– arguing that the ultimate nominee will be better poised to win the White House afterwards.

“President Obama and Secretary Clinton both benefitted from their hard-fought primary in 2008,” Grijalva said. “They tested each other, and as a result, they both became stronger leaders in the end.”

Democratic strategists say there are numerous factors fueling the timing and direction of lawmaker endorsements, including historic loyalties to candidates, public sentiment, gender considerations and regional concerns. But while those endorsements can help with fundraising, groundwork and momentum, the strategists add, it's ultimately up to the contenders themselves to win the trust of voters and get them to the polls.

“You have another surrogate in your army to go out there and spread the message,” said Doug Thornell, democratic strategist and managing director at SKDKnickerbocker, a public affairs firm. “But when it comes to winning the votes, it's up to the candidates.”

On the primary front, the Democrats think they have the advantage over the Republicans, who have a much larger field and face more pressure to distinguish themselves as top-tier candidates. Thornell predicted the GOP primary “is going to get bloody earlier than normal.”

“There are going to be a lot of desperate Republicans, doing whatever it takes to claw their way into the top ten,” Thornell said. “The Democrats don't really have that problem.”

Hillary Clinton to head back to Iowa **// The Hill // Ben Kamisar – July 3, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will head back to the Hawkeye State for the fourth time since she jumped into the 2016 presidential race, her campaign announced on Friday.

She’ll speak at an organizing event at the Iowa City Public Library on July 7, followed by an event at a private home in Ottumwa, a southern city in Wapello County.

Back in 2008, 43 percent of the county’s 3,100 Democratic caucus-goers sided with former Sen. John Edwards (N.C.), while 32 percent backed Clinton and 24 chose then-Sen. Obama.

Clinton has spent most of her almost three months on the campaign in the early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. With this visit, she’ll have visited Iowa more than any other state during the campaign.

Both her main Democratic foes, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Gov. Martin O’Malley (Md.), are in Iowa for campaign events on Friday. She currently holds a strong lead in recent Hawkeye State polling, but that lead has slipped as of late.

A new Quinnipiac poll released Thursday showed Clinton with 52 percent and Sanders with 33 percent, a 19-point lead. That’s down from a 45-point lead in a Quinnipiac poll from May.

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Inside Hillary Clinton's evolution from Girl Scout to presidential frontrunner // Business Insider // Melia Robinson – July 3, 2015

Before she became First Lady, New York's first female US senator, and a viral internet meme, Hillary Clinton was a city girl who dreamed of being an astronaut or a baseball player.

Clinton, for the second time, is seeking the Democratic nomination for president. She'll campaign in New Hampshire over the long holiday weekend.

With her presidential campaign officially in full gear, we decided to take a look back at how Clinton became one of the world's most powerful people.

Born October 26, 1947, Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, an upper-middle-class Chicago suburb with tree-lined streets, shopping centers, and church spires dotting the skyline.

The family lived in a two-story brick house on the corner of Wisner and Elm Streets, since named Rodham Corner by the city. It was a central hub for the neighborhood children.

Clinton's mother, Dorothy, cared for the family and taught Sunday School, and her father, Hugh, ran a small drapery business after serving in the Navy during World War II.

Not one for gender norms, Clinton wanted to be an astronaut or a baseball player when she grew up. She was an active participant in sports, her church, and Girl Scouts.

Dorothy encouraged her daughter to stand up for herself, even giving Clinton permission to punch a bully who tormented some of the neighborhood kids. When Clinton finally confronted her menace, she raced home to announce her victory, saying, "I can play with the boys now!"

She brought home good grades in junior high, but her father remained unimpressed and told her "school must have been too easy." His response pushed Clinton to study hard and prove him wrong.

While a student at Wellesley College, Clinton began to drift from her father's conservative values and lean to the left, causing them to fall out, according to some of Clinton's biographers. She majored in political science.

At commencement, she tossed aside much of her prepared speech and criticized the remarks of a US senator, who had spoken just moments before. TIME magazine profiled Clinton, and she arrived at Yale Law School with a reputation for audacity.

Soon after, she met a young man named Bill, "a wild card in her well-ordealed cerebral existence." There are numerous stories in circulation on how the classmates became an item.

In his memoir, Bill Clinton writes that Hillary caught his eye in a class on political and civil rights. "She had thick dark blond hair and wore eyeglasses and no makeup," he describes. "But she conveyed a sense of strength and self-possession I had rarely seen in anyone, man or woman."

"He was the first man I'd met," Hillary told one interviewer, "who wasn't afraid of me." When Bill returned to

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Arkansas with lofty political ambitions, Hillary — who worked as a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund and then for an investigative committee advising the House on Watergate — followed. The pair married in 1975.

Clinton, who originally declined to take on her husband's last name, had ambitions of her own. In a new state, she taught college law, became the first woman to make partner at her firm, and gave birth to a girl, named Chelsea.

During her 12 years as Arkansas' First Lady, Clinton emerged as a champion-to-be-reckoned-with of children's legal rights. She "chaired the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee ... and co-founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families."

She continued with that momentum as First Lady of the US. Clinton led the fight for healthcare reform, but that push ultimately failed.

In 1995, Clinton delivered a groundbreaking speech at the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, declaring that "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights once and for all."

Controversy rocked the White House when Bill Clinton, two years into his second term, admitted to having an affair with an intern. Hillary Clinton stuck by him, shocking some feminists and contributing to the survival of her husband's presidency.

The family later purchased this 100-year-old Dutch Colonial home outside Westchester, New York, for $1.7 million, so that Clinton could establish residency in the state. She set sights on a US Senate seat in 2001.

The first woman senator from New York, Clinton helped expand broadband across the state, expanded TRICARE, and secured $20 billion to rebuild New York after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

After being reelected to the US Senate and launching an unsuccessful campaign for the presidency, Clinton took on her most international role yet: Secretary of State under President Barack Obama, to whom she had just lost the Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama dispatched Clinton to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, paving the way for peace talks.

She gathered with senior officials in the Situation Room as US Special Forces carried out a raid in Pakistan resulting in the death of Osama bin Laden.

Clinton took the fall for the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, that left a US ambassador and three other Americans dead. A House committee is still investigating her and the department's handling of the situation.

After traveling nearly 1 million miles and visiting more countries than any of her predecessors, Clinton stepped down from office and returned to the private sector.

Last year, Clinton stepped into a new role that she says "will affect my being, not just my thinking" — grandmother. Daughter Chelsea gave birth to a little girl named Charlotte.

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The last few months kept Clinton's eyes on the prize: a second run at the US presidency in 2016. She announced her official bid on New York's Roosevelt Island in June.

Judicial Watch: Obama and Hillary Clinton Concocted Benghazi Video Lie with Jihadist Help // Breitbart // Edwin Mora – July 3, 2015

President Obama and Hillary Clinton likely made the decision to falsely tie an inflammatory anti-Islam Internet video to the fatal Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attack that left four Americans dead in Benghazi, Libya, the chief of the conservative government watchdog group Judicial Watch (JW) told Breitbart News.

The president and then-Secretary of State Clinton sought the assistance from domestic and foreign jihadists in spreading the online video lie, added JW President Tom Fitton.

Breitbart News spoke to Fitton about newly released Benghazi attack-related documents pried out of the U.S. State Department under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed by JW last September.

One of the document shows that the Pentagon received a request for military assets in response to the attack, but the Obama administration seemingly refused.

An email from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to top White House and other administration officials states, “OSD has received queries asking if military assets are being sent to either location [Libya and Egypt]. Have responded ‘not to our knowledge.’”

The Obama administration’s initial response explaining the cause of the attack was “immediately determined by top Obama White House officials” contrary to the president’s claim that it was based on intelligence available at the time.

Obama officials and the president himself linked an anti-Islam Internet video to the attack, saying it incited the terrorists who carried out the assault.

The president said the video link was gleaned from the “best understanding of the intelligence that had been provided.”

However, Fitton told Breitbart News, “We haven’t found any records or any intelligence that the video had anything to do with the Benghazi attacks.”

“What you have is nothing other than Mrs. Clinton’s statement referencing a video, the White House approving it before it was released and then blessing it, saying, ‘this is our response,’” he added.

Fitton noted that President Obama spoke to Clinton during the night of the attack.

“I think you can fairly conclude that it was during that phone call that they decided to push the video lie,” he told Breitbart News.

“They started soliciting Islamists to promote the video lie — some of the Islamists responded by saying, ‘the video

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is terrible, the attacks are justified, we should outlaw all criticism of Islam.' Thank you Obama! This is what we get as a result of your engagement," he added.

The Obama administration refuses to divulge the contents of the phone conversation.

"There's a document that tells us what was said between Obama and Clinton during the night of the attack," said the JW chief. "There's nothing prohibiting its release, it's purely discretionary."

The Clinton-led State Department deferred to the White House on the official response to the attack, according to an e-mail sent by a department spokesperson to the aide of a top State Department official and Clinton's personal aide the day of the tragedy.

A separate e-mail sent out later that day confirms that the White House decided to go with Clinton's statement tying the Benghazi terrorist attack to the Internet video as the accepted overall government response for the night.

The "[U.S. government] comment" ended up being "Clinton's notorious public statement, made hours after the initial terrorist attack, falsely suggesting that the Benghazi assault was a 'response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet," notes JW in a press release.

Obama administration officials stuck to that narrative until it was debunked. JW obtained documents in April 2014 revealing the president's public relations team intentionally portrayed the Benghazi attack being "rooted in an Internet video, and not a failure of policy."

Last month, JW released documents showing that the Obama administration was made aware that al-Qaeda was behind the attack immediately after it occurred.

"The new documents show that the Obama administration engaged domestic and foreign Islamist groups and foreign nationals to push the Internet video narrative," reports JW. "The day after the attack, Rashad Hussain, the Obama administration's special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), sent an email to Ambassador Ufuk Gokcen, the OIC's ambassador to the United Nations, and Cenk Uraz, an official with the OIC, pushing the video as the cause of the Benghazi attack."

Hussain played a role in pushing the rhetoric that the video incited the terrorists attack and in fuelling efforts to criminalize criticism of Islam.

Another document detailed "how the Obama administration reached out to domestic groups, foreign groups and governments in a full-court press to tie the video to the Benghazi attack," reports JW.

U.S. Amb. J. Christopher Stevens, U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith, and CIA contractors, Tyrone S. Woods and Glen Doherty were killed in the attack.

Why was Cherie so keen to open doors for a billionaire sheikh's wife? // Daily Mail // Guy Adams – July 3, 2015

Though she has pointedly refused in the past to bow or curtsey to Her Majesty the Queen, Cherie Blair tends to adopt a very different policy when she meets stupendously rich royals from one particular, very wealthy corner of

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the Middle East.

Back in 2006, she was, for example, photographed dutifully nodding her head at an absolute monarch named Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani and his wife, Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser al Missned, on the steps of 10 Downing Street.

Sheikh Hamad is the former ruler of Qatar, a Sharia state where homosexuality is punishable by imprisonment or flogging, migrant workers are routinely abused, women's rights are severely curtailed, and the government, which allows the Afghan Taliban to run an office in its capital, Doha, has been widely accused of sponsoring terrorism.

Fortunately, he also happens to have a personal fortune of £1.5 billion, thanks to his country's vast reserves of oil and gas.

The Sheikh is rarely afraid to throw that money around, especially in Britain. Which may, or may not, have helped Mrs Blair reconcile the decision to make such a public gesture of subservience with her oft-repeated support for feminism, equality and other matters of Left-wing principle.

This week, almost a decade later, came a fascinating insight into another display of loyalty to Qatar on Cherie's part.

A tranche of private emails, released by the U.S. government, revealed that Cherie subsequently acted as a sort of informal fixer for the Qatari royals, successfully lobbying Hillary Clinton to agree to a private meeting with Sheikha Mozah.

It showed how, two years after leaving Downing Street, she asked Mrs Clinton, who was then the U.S. Secretary of State (America's version of a Foreign Secretary) to hold 'women to women' [sic] talks with the wealthy Arab royal, whom she dubbed 'my friend from Q' [Qatar].

Mrs Blair and Mrs Clinton exchanged 19 messages about the matter over a four-month period in 2009, in a correspondence that at times sees the former prime minister's wife sounding very like a pushy lobbyist for the Gulf dynasty.

'Sheikha Moser [sic] has approached me privately saying they are keen to get their relationship with the USA onto a more positive footing and she was hoping for a "women to women" one-to-one private meeting with you,' reads her opening email to Hillary Clinton, sent in May 2009.

Sheikha Mozah 'has real influence in Qatar', it continues, adding that she would like, in particular, to discuss disability issues, though: 'I am sure the conversation would not be confined to these issues, but would be about the U.S./Qatar relationship generally.'

Intriguingly, Cherie claims in that message to have been 'working with' the Arab country's royals since as far back as 2005, at a time when her husband, Tony, was prime minister.

Several emails later, with a meeting successfully set up, Britain's former 'first lady' sends a message showering Ms Clinton with effusive praise, saying: 'It's fantastic to see you doing so well, and when I see what a difference you are making it reminds me why politics is too important to be left to the bad people.'

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By ‘bad people’, Ms Blair presumably means anyone whose political outlook fails to dovetail with her own.

But we digress. Following further scheduling adjustments, the meeting finally took place in September 2009. Shortly afterwards, Hillary emailed Cherie to apologise for managing to ‘miss you’ on a recent trip to Europe, explaining only ‘a few minutes w (sic) Tony at the . . . mtg.’

Cherie replied cheerfully: ‘It was great to see Bill on such good form. My friend from Q really enjoyed your meeting and felt it had gone well. Hope you did, too.’

These informal, sometimes unctuous emails were sent via Mrs Blair’s HTC smartphone to Mrs Clinton’s private account.

They came to light this week thanks to U.S. freedom of information laws, which saw a court order that the messages be subject to the same public disclosure as ones sent to and from official White House email addresses.

Much of the correspondence surprised Middle East experts, many of whom were baffled as to why Sheikha Mozah needed Cherie Blair to introduce her to Hillary Clinton in the first place. ‘The Sheikha is a very high-powered woman and I seriously doubt she would have required an introduction,’ says Chris Doyle, of the Council for Arab-British understanding.

‘The U.S. has a military base in Qatar, and the countries have diplomatic relations. It’s possible Mrs Blair is attempting to connect them for her own reasons.’

Intriguingly, given her lofty career as a barrister, Cherie’s emails are riddled with sloppy spelling and grammatical errors.

She calls Hillary ‘Hilary’, frequently fails to use question marks, commas and full stops, and confuses the words ‘woman’ and ‘women’.

Throughout the correspondence, she also repeatedly mis-spells the Sheikha’s name as ‘Moser’ rather than ‘Mozah’. ‘It’s incredibly incompetent to mis-spell her name. If this is noticed by Her Highness and the people around her, they will not like it,’ says Chris Doyle.

‘These emails will be read and gossiped about throughout the Gulf and could be very damaging to Blair’s future interests.’

Of particular concern to Qatar will be any suggestion that Cherie or Hillary’s interest in the Sheikha was motivated by a desire for possible financial gain.

‘Any sense that the Qataris have been treated like that will be met with huge resentment,’ he says.

Recent years have, after all, seen the Blairs — Tony was Middle East peace envoy for eight years until he recently stood down — frequently criticised for using the contacts they gained in Downing Street to continue to wield power and influence behind the scenes, often seeming to enrich themselves in the process. His firm, Tony Blair Associates, is active in several Gulf states.

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To this end, it's interesting to note that Sheikh Hamad was one of the first foreign statesmen invited to visit the couple after they moved into Downing Street in 1997.

Over the ensuing years, Qatar embarked on an astonishing spending spree in Britain, buying such trophy assets as The Shard, Harrods, the 2012 Olympic Village, the former U.S. Embassy in Mayfair's Grosvenor Square and a quarter of supermarket Sainsbury's.

Sheikha Mozah, the second (and undoubted favourite) of Sheikh Hamad's three wives — and the mother of Qatar's monarch, Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad al-Thani — has also splashed the cash.

In 2013, she spent £120million buying London's most expensive private house, which takes up three adjacent properties in Cornwall Terrace by Regent's Park, and boasts a private beauty salon, gymnasium, servants' quarters, 'children's floor' and swimming pool built from Portland stone.

Given such ostentation, conspiracy theorists will seek to join the dots between Mrs Blair's assiduous networking on behalf of the free-spending Sheikha and some of the extremely lucrative work Qatar later bunged her family's way.

In 2012, for example, Tony Blair was paid an astonishing $1million simply for setting up a meeting between the al-Thanis and the commodities firm Glencore, which was seeking a £50billion merger with Qatari-controlled firm Xstrata.

The money, the equivalent of £640,000, was earned for just three hours of work.

In 2011, he acted as an 'honest broker' who attempted to 'smooth over' a failed effort by the Qataris to buy the London hotels Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Connaught.

The deal's existence was revealed in a later court case. Had it come off, Tony would have netted a rumoured seven-figure sum.

Cherie, meanwhile, has seen Qatari money funnelled to her personal charity, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women.

In 2013, Sheikha Mozah spent £120million buying London's most expensive private house, which takes up three adjacent properties in Cornwall Terrace by Regent's Park, and boasts a private beauty salon, gymnasium, servants' quarters, 'children's floor' and swimming pool built from Portland stone

Happily, after Hillary was put in touch with the Sheikha by Cherie, Hillary's Clinton Foundation charity also shared in the wealth.

It has received between $1million and $5million from the Qatari government, according to U.S. records. Included in that sum is a donation of between $250,000 and $500,000 from the Qatar 22 Supreme Committee, which controversially helped win the 2022 World Cup in circumstances that are widely believed to have been corrupt.

With regard to the emails, a spokesman for Mrs Blair said she was 'merely acting as a conduit' between two influential friends, as she had established a shared interest in disability issues with Sheikha Mozah.

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There is, of course, no suggestion of any wrongdoing on the Blairs' part. But the email messages, along with the strange esteem in which Cherie appears to hold these dynastic Arab royals, may offer further evidence of how extreme wealth, particularly in the hands of repressive foreign potentates, so often attracts the interest of the Blairs.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

O'Malley jabs at GOP-led Congress in Newton // Des Moines Register // Grant Rodgers – July 3, 2015

Presidential contender Martin O'Malley offered hopeful words Friday for Democrats tired of the country's Republican-led Congress.

"I have some good news for you," he said. "I think we all have to acknowledge that we will not be here forever, and I think we can applaud the fact that this Congress will not be in office forever."

The quip drew laughs and applause from the crowd of more than 60 at Uncle Nancy's Coffee House, a shop on the Newton square with quilts covering the walls. It was the answer to a question from the audience on how he'd handle partisan bickering in Congress if elected president.

O'Malley offered up — as he has often in Iowa — examples from his terms as Maryland's governor. Any good executive realizes nothing can get done without input from political opponents, he said.

"I'm going to call them, call them, call them," he said. "Many of the things that we got done, whether it was marriage equality or repealing the death penalty in Maryland, we only got done because of a few Republican legislators that voted with us."

Pella resident Cheryl Scherr, who asked the question, said she's quickly pivoted to support O'Malley after the grassroots campaign prodding Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run folded. Scherr was enthused by O'Malley after seeing him speak at the state's Democratic convention in 2014, she said.

"I like his ideas, especially emphasizing Main Street over Wall Street," she said.

The Newton stop was his second on Friday amid a three-day swing through Iowa.

Earlier in Ankeny, O'Malley said his proposal to power America's electrical grid solely through clean energy by 2050 is the best plan from any 2016 presidential candidate to combat climate change. The former governor likened his clean energy plan to putting a man on the moon during a tour of Des Moines Area Community College's wind turbine technology facility.

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"We had a deadline, and smart people rose to the challenge," he said. "It was an engineering challenge and it was a cause worthy of a great people, and so too is saving our planet from irreversible climate change."

Tenets of O'Malley's energy plan include:

Founding a Clean Energy Job Corps that would create jobs retro-fitting buildings across the country to be more energy efficient and restoring forest areas that absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

Passing federal legislation to put caps on carbon emissions on all sources, including factories and power plants. The federal government would issue carbon emissions permits and invest portions of the money brought in back into the job corps.

Rejecting applications for projects such as the controversial Keystone XL Pipeline and denying new permits for oil drilling off-shore and in Alaska. Royalties would be increased for companies currently drilling on federal land, and the money would be re-invested in job training programs.

That message of mixing job opportunities with clean energy resonated with Ellen Bridenstine, 54, a Des Moines Public Library employee who came to the Ankeny event. O'Malley, though lagging in the polls behind Sen. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, could be a "fresh face" for the party, she said.

"I'm very concerned about the status of the planet, which makes everything else seems sort of in the background," she said. "I sense his awareness and interest in that issue."

AT THE EVENT

SETTING: O'Malley toured DMAAC's wind turbine technology facility Friday before a stop at Uncle Nancy's Coffee House in Newton.

CROWDS: Around seven people, not counting journalists and campaign staff, came to see O'Malley at the Ankeny event. More than 60 people were waiting to see him in Newton.

REACTION: Emma Huston, 20, a Drake University biology student, said she was impressed by O'Malley's clean energy plan, but she's not ready to support a single candidate. Many of her friends are Bernie Sanders supporters.

WHAT'S NEXT: O'Malley is speaking at meet-and-greets in Waterloo and Manchester on Friday. He will finish a three-day tour of the state on Saturday. For details, visit data.desmoinesregister.com/iowa-caucus/candidate-tracker/index.php

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders's Revolutionary Roots Were Nurtured in '60s Vermont **// NYT // Sarah Lyall – July 3, 2015**

When he came to Vermont in the late 1960s to help plan the upending of the old social order, the future

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presidential candidate Bernie Sanders brought with him the belief that the United States was starkly divided into two groups: the establishment and the revolutionaries. He was a revolutionary.

"The Revolution Is Life Versus Death," in fact, was the title of an article he wrote for The Vermont Freeman, an alternative, authority-challenging newspaper published for a few years back then. The piece began with an apocalyptically alarmist account of the unbearable horror of having an office job in New York City, of being among "the mass of hot dazed humanity heading uptown for the 9-5," sentenced to endless days of "moron work, monotonous work."

"The years come and go," Mr. Sanders wrote, in all apparent seriousness. "Suicide, nervous breakdown, cancer, sexual deadness, heart attack, alcoholism, senility at 50. Slow death, fast death. DEATH."

Chalk some of this up to being young and unemployed. Mr. Sanders, now 73, has had a steady, nonrevolutionary job for quite some time now. His current workplace, the United States Senate, is not exactly known for its thrill-a-minute dynamism. But through his long evolution from outraged outsider to mainstream man in a suit, Mr. Sanders has remained true to his original message: sympathy for the downtrodden, the impoverished and the disenfranchised in the face of the rich and the powerful.

Back then, he was part of a crowd of like-minded young people who converged on Burlington at a time when America seemed to be rewriting its history on the spot. Students, hippies, labor organizers, trust fund kids, urban escapees, impoverished anti-Vietnam War campaigners and environmentalists yearning to be closer to the land — they came because they believed that change was coming and that they had found the right place for a revolution.

Mr. Sanders was barely 30, full of restless energy, with wild curly hair, a brash Brooklyn manner and a mind fizzing with plans to remake the world. Short on money but long on ideas, he found employment where he could, supporting himself through odd jobs like carpentry work.

"Freelance journalist" has always been on the list of things he did before he began running for statewide office, futilely, as a Liberty Union Party candidate in the 1970s. But the description is a bit of a stretch. A look through his journalistic output, such as it was, reveals that he had perhaps a dozen pieces published — interviews, essays, state-of-the-nation diatribes — most in The Freeman.

They provide a useful insight into the formative thinking of the man who would go on to become Burlington's first socialist mayor, then a senator and now a presidential candidate who is drawing crowds in the thousands with his unapologetic leftist message. The writings also reflect the particular mood in this one little spot in Vermont in an era of extraordinary turmoil in America, when the social fabric seemed in danger of ripping apart over issues like the Vietnam War, race and poverty.

Among Mr. Sanders's efforts was a 1972 essay on sexual politics, "Man — and Woman," which drew unflattering attention recently after Mother Jones magazine included it in an article about him. Its opening passage, which deals with men's sexual fantasies, is meant to be satirically provocative but comes across as crassly sexist. (Mr. Sanders's underlying point, expressed less feverishly further down in the article, is that men and women should rethink how they deal with each other.)

Another essay mocked what Mr. Sanders felt to be the soul-destroying nature of conventional education.

"If children of 5 are not taught to obey orders, sit still for 7 hours a day, respect their teacher, and raise their hands when they have to go to the bathroom, how will they learn (after 17 more years of education) to become the respectful clerks, technicians and soldiers who keep our society free, our economy strong, and such inspiring men as Richard Nixon and Deane Davis in political office," Mr. Sanders wrote, referring to the United States president and the Vermont governor at the time.

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People in Mr. Sanders's circle back then remember visiting the future senator at his small apartment in Burlington. "It was subsistence living," said Greg Guma, the author of "The People's Republic: Vermont and the Sanders Revolution."

Mr. Guma knew the young Mr. Sanders as a kitchen-table fulminator and political organizer, not as a writer. At their first meeting, he recalled, Mr. Sanders "kind of berated me" when Mr. Guma asked who he was.

"He said he was unimportant and it was all about the movement, and then it kind of escalated. 'If you don't support the movement, I don't want your vote,' " Mr. Guma said. "Obviously he's become more adept at cultivating voters."

Mr. Sanders's pieces in The Freeman were consistent with the newspaper's ethos. The paper, which had humble production values and cost $10 for a year's subscription in 1971, was founded in 1969 by Roger L. Albright, a former minister, as a place for like-minded leftists to opine in outraged tones about the issues of the day. Often, apparently, they did it for free.

"Pay? You gotta be kidding — I don't recall ever getting paid," said Marvin Fishman, now 77, who wrote about prison issues for the paper. (He had spent a year in prison on a marijuana charge.)

"We were broke, they were broke, everybody was broke," said Frank Kochman, who was recruited for the paper when Mr. Albright rescued his stranded Volkswagen bug from a snowbank, and who was its general manager and co-publisher from 1971 to 1973. "If we had a little money, we'd try to pay something."

Mr. Sanders contributed pieces only sporadically. He interviewed a "labor agitator" and an old-time farmer, and he wrote some articles about health, including one in which he cited studies claiming that cancer could be caused by psychological factors such as unresolved hostility toward one's mother, a tendency to bury aggression beneath a "facade of pleasantness" and having too few orgasms.

"Sexual adjustment seemed to be very poor in those with cancer of the cervix," he wrote, quoting a study in a journal called Psychosomatic Medicine.

One article, to observe the 10th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, argued that despite its many failings, Cuba had made great progress in health care and education. "The American press and mass media have been stepping up their usual distorted and inaccurate reporting," Mr. Sanders wrote.

In a piece titled "Reflections on a Dying Society," he declared that the United States was virtually going to hell in a handcart. Its food was laden with chemicals; its environment was being ruined; the threat of nuclear annihilation or "death by poison gas" was increasing; people were suffering from malaise and "psychosomatic disease"; citizens were being coerced and duped by the government and the advertising industry; and the economy was based on "useless" goods "designed to break down or used for the slaughter of people."

"The general social situation, to say the least," he wrote, "does not look good."

Later in the 1970s, Mr. Sanders took a steady job with a Liberty Union colleague making filmstrips about important events in American history, many from the colonial period, and selling them door-to-door to schools. (He also made a half-hour film about his hero, Eugene V. Debs, the labor organizer who ran unsuccessfully for president five times.) They worked on a shoestring out of Mr. Sanders's house, said the colleague, Ron MacNeil.

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“I think our motivation was that we were interested in American history,” Mr. MacNeil said.

But that was after Mr. Sanders had run, and lost, various statewide races as a Liberty Union candidate. By 1972, when he ran as the party’s candidate for senator and governor (he lost both races by very wide margins), he had begun publishing The Movement, an occasional newsletter.

He put together the whole thing himself, said Doris Lake, another early Liberty Union candidate, and focused on the issues that were consuming him. One edition included a letter Ms. Lake had written to her supervisor, and had shown to Mr. Sanders, complaining about working conditions in the eyeglass-lens factory where she worked the night shift, Ms. Lake said.

But for Mr. Sanders, everything was about ideas to make the world better, both in real life and in The Movement.

“I believe there was a lot of editorializing on philosophy,” Ms. Lake said. “At the time, we were thinking that the important thing in politics was to educate people, to get them to understand what was happening in the world, rather than to get elected.”

Bernie Sanders seen as a ‘protest candidate,’ says Democratic rival Martin O’Malley // WaPo // John Wagner – July 3, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O’Malley, whose own poll numbers haven’t really budged since entering the race, says his rival Bernie Sanders is on the rise partly because voters see him as a “protest candidate.”

“I’m not running for protest candidate, I’m running for president of the United States,” the former Maryland governor said in an interview Thursday night following a campaign stop here that is part of a three-day swing through Iowa to highlight his proposals on climate change.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist who rails against the political influence of the “billionaire class,” has seen his crowds swell in recent weeks, and he is gaining ground on Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton in polls in both Iowa and New Hampshire.

Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont, has said repeatedly that he is running to win the Democratic nomination and the presidency.

On Wednesday, he drew about 10,000 people to a rally in Madison, Wis., the largest of the 2016 cycle by any presidential candidate. In a poll of likely Iowa caucusgoers released Thursday, Clinton was leading Sanders, 52 percent to 33 percent. O’Malley, who aides say is using the summer to become better known, was at 3 percent in the Quinnipiac poll.

Asked what he makes of Sanders’s appeal, O’Malley said: “I think it shows the widespread desire for an alternative to this year’s inevitable front-runner.”

“It doesn’t terribly surprise me,” O’Malley said. “People feel like big money has subsumed, taken over, their politics, and they’re frustrated by it. … People feel like their voices don’t matter. People feel like they’re not being heard, and right now, they want to protest about that.”

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Asked if he sees Sanders as a protest candidate, O'Malley said: "I think there's an element of it … yeah."

O'Malley said the popularity among Republicans of Donald Trump, the businessman turned presidential candidate, reflects a similar phenomenon.

On Thursday, Sanders's campaign said he had raised $15 million during the last quarter. That's about one-third of the amount Clinton's campaign said she raised for her committee during the same period, but Sanders's take is expected to far outpace what O'Malley and other Democrats in the field have raised.

Bernie who? **// Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – July 3, 2015**

Bernie Sanders is winning a third of the vote in Iowa and New Hampshire, according to the latest polls. Nearly 10,000 people showed up at his Wisconsin rally this week. Roughly 250,000 small donors have contributed to his campaign.

At Hillary Clinton's Brooklyn HQ, it's as if they've never heard of him.

The Clinton campaign is reading straight from the front-runner's playbook when dealing with the socialist Vermont senator. Her staff insists it's taking Sanders' polling bump seriously while showing no signs of changing its long-charted course. There are no new plans to attack Sanders, no alterations of the forthcoming policy roll-outs that will dot the summer calendar, and no expected leftward sprints to match him policy-for-policy. She doesn't even mention his name on the campaign trail.

Instead, the former secretary of state's political operation is making a show of its organizational muscle and safeguarding its position beyond the early-voting states. Far from sweating over reports of standing-room-only crowds at the Vermonter's events, the Clinton campaign is breathing a quiet sigh of relief that it's Sanders — and not a potentially more viable primary opponent like Elizabeth Warren — nipping at its heels this summer. The senator's name pops up in conversations at Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters, but he's not the topic of the day, week, or month — not even in the candidate's chats with donors, who are keeping a close tab on the state of play.

"No one's hair is on fire about him," explained Maria Cardona, a national Democratic strategist who remains in close touch with the Clinton camp after working for Hillary's 2008 campaign. "Not even the nose hairs. Nothing."

Now that Clinton's sprint to fill her campaign coffers by the end of the fundraising quarter is finished, the former secretary of state will begin periodically unveiling detailed policy proposals throughout the summer, up to the first primary debate in the fall. Her team has indicated that she will increasingly go after her Republican opponents by name — as she has started doing over the last month — but that she will in all likelihood avoid granting Sanders or any of her other Democratic rivals the dose of attention that would come with a direct barb from the dominating favorite.

That's been the plan at least since Clinton set the date for her June New York City kickoff rally, long before a CNN/WMUR poll showed Sanders within eight points of her in New Hampshire last week and a Quinnipiac poll this week showed Sanders with by far his best showing yet in Iowa — 33 percent.

Clinton allies are quick to point out that they've expected a close primary since the start of the campaign — the team's first memo to its surrogates in April outlined how to project that very message — and accordingly there was a broad-strokes plan in place accounting for a rival's rise, even if many were surprised with its vigor or the challenger's identity.

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The explanation for the Sanders surge, Democrats aligned with Clinton and some who are unaffiliated say, is that he has largely captured the share of voters who had previously expressed a preference for Warren, who's not running. In that way, he's consolidated the anti-Clinton crowd.

"Everyone who's worked in Democratic politics knows there's a 30-to-40 percent vote that's the 'anybody but the frontrunner' share," explained Chris Lehane, a veteran of Bill Clinton's campaigns who is now helping Hillary raise money.

And because many Clinton allies inside and outside of Brooklyn dismiss Sanders' chances to mount a long-term challenge due to his liberal politics and troubles connecting with large portions of the Democratic base — like minority voters — they say they're relieved Warren's supporters have swung to him, rather than another candidate.

"The fact that it's Bernie is fantastic, because Bernie is perfectly wired for this role," said another national Democratic operative close to the campaign. "Everything about Bernie conveys the opportunity and limitations of his candidacy. It's perfect for him, it's perfect for the Clinton campaign, and it's good for the party. I don't think Democrats are wringing their hands saying, 'what if Bernie wins?'"

As such, Clinton has avoided actively antagonizing Sanders or the voters backing him — in fact, some allies were annoyed when Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Clinton supporter, attacked Sanders for his left-wing views on MSNBC last week.

Among campaign fundraisers and surrogates, there is very little appetite for a direct fight with Sanders, whose supporters Clinton would need against a Republican opponent come November 2016.

"Hillary supporters that have run for election often like myself — I'm 12-2, if I was a pitcher I'd be worth about $15 million a year — we're saying, 'stay the course. Bernie Sanders is not going to be the nominee,'" said former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell.

Clinton, whose campaign even declined to publicly promote the endorsement of Sanders' home-state governor, Peter Shumlin, has shown no signs of deviating from its plan. At her first public appearance after the New Hampshire poll's release, for example, she refused to mention the Vermonter, instead railing against Donald Trump. Former bank executive Robert Wolf, a Democratic donor, said Sanders' name didn't come up once during a two-hour meeting he had with Clinton last week.

There is one insurance policy, however, that belies the idea that the Sanders' challenge is inconsequential: Last week the Clinton campaign hired Jeff Berman, the consultant who built Obama's delegate-winning strategy in 2008. It also held a weekend of grassroots actions across the country — from local meetings to canvasses — to demonstrate its reach in states that could matter if the primary were to stretch past the first four early-voting ones.

But as long as history repeats itself — the Clinton campaign's refrain is that no non-Iowan has broken 50 percent in that state's Democratic caucus — early-state supporters insist Clinton should be fine.

"I did this with John Kerry, I did this with Al Gore," said New Hampshire lawyer Billy Shaheen, the husband of Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and a close Clinton friend. "When I was running their campaigns in New Hampshire they both went from 20-point leads to 20-point deficits. Deficits! In December 2003, the whole press had written John Kerry off because he was in single digits, and the election was 35 days away."

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Bob Shrum, who played top roles in both of those campaigns, agreed: “This could be like Gore-Bradley, where Bradley in September ’99 looked like a real challenger. Gore then won Iowa overwhelmingly, New Hampshire closely, and then every other primary and caucus.”

And, he added, echoing the sentiments of Clinton-allied Democrats who refuse to acknowledge Sanders as a serious rival. “Kerry was written out before coming back in Iowa in part because Iowans got serious and said, ‘Who’s a plausible candidate against Bush?’ There’s something about Bernie’s personality that’s attractive to people, and I believe he’ll go to the convention with a reasonable number of delegates. But do I think that means Hillary Clinton should declare all-out war on him? No.”

AFL-CIO leader tries to quell pro-Sanders revolt // Politico // Brian Mahoney – July 3, 2015

Richard Trumka has a message for state and local AFL-CIO leaders tempted to endorse Bernie Sanders: Don’t.

In a memo this week to state, central and area divisions of the labor federation, and obtained by POLITICO, the AFL-CIO chief reminded the groups that its bylaws don’t permit them to “endorse a presidential candidate” or “introduce, consider, debate, or pass resolutions or statements that indicate a preference for one candidate over another.” Even “‘personal’ statements” of candidate preference are verboten, Trumka said.

The memo comes amid signs of a growing split between national union leaders — mindful of the fact that Clinton remains the undisputed favorite for the nomination — and local officials and rank and file, who are increasingly drawn to the Democratic Party’s growing progressive wing, for whom Sanders is the latest standard-bearer.

The South Carolina and Vermont AFL-CIOs have passed resolutions supporting Sanders, and some local AFL-CIO leaders in Iowa want to introduce a resolution at their August convention backing the independent senator from Vermont. More than a thousand labor supporters, including several local AFL-CIO-affiliated leaders, have signed on to “Labor for Bernie,” a group calling on national union leaders to give Sanders a shot at an endorsement.

The AFL-CIO’s constituent unions — as distinct from divisions of the federation itself — remain free to make endorsements however they wish. But they can’t make those endorsements acting through local and regional divisions of the AFL-CIO, as Trumka reminded everyone in the memo.

His message wasn’t anything new for the federation’s state leaders: They know that endorsement decisions belong to the national leadership. Still, it was unusual for Trumka to call them out in a memo. “I’m not sure I’ve ever seen one before like this,” said Jeff Johnson, the president of the AFL-CIO’s Washington state labor council.

Johnson agreed that it was important for the AFL-CIO to speak with a single voice. But “there’s a lot of anxiety out there in the labor movement,” he said, “and we’re desperately searching for a candidate that actually speaks to working-class values. The Elizabeth Warren/Bernie Sanders camp is very, very attractive to many of our members and to many of us as leaders, because they’re talking about the things that need to happen in this country.”

Similarly, Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steven Tolman said he agreed that Trumka had to lay down the law. More tellingly, though, he added: “Bernie Sanders has spent his life actually fighting for working people. He’s made no secret of it, and he’s used it as his mantra. And that I respect very much.” When asked about Clinton’s candidacy, Tolman was less effusive: “Who? Who? Please. I mean with all respect, huh?”

Other state-level union leaders affiliated with the AFL-CIO didn’t bother to give Trumka and his memo lip service. “I was disappointed by it,” said UPTE-CWA Local 9119 organizing coordinator Lisa Kermish, of Berkeley, California. “I think that local unions and national unions, while it’s important to work together for strength, I think

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that this is in some ways truncating dialogue. And I find that very unfortunate."

The memo surfaced a day before top staffers for Clinton and Sanders participated in a meet-and-greet with AFL-CIO political directors Thursday morning in Washington. A person who attended the meeting said those present included Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook, Clinton labor liaison Nikki Budzinski, Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver and top Sanders strategist Tad Devine.

Under AFL-CIO procedures governing endorsements, a political committee makes a recommendation to the executive council in Washington, which then submits it for ratification by leaders of its member unions. A two-thirds majority is required.

"Because in years past, and already this year, a number of questions have been raised," Trumka wrote in his memo, "I want to remind you all that the AFL-CIO endorsement for president and vice president belongs to the national AFL-CIO. State federations, central and area labor councils, and all other subordinate bodies must follow the national AFL-CIO endorsement regarding president and vice president."

The process is typically a cautious one. In the last presidential election, the federation endorsed President Barack Obama in March 2012, shortly before he locked up renomination. In 2008, it waited to endorse then-Sen. Obama until late June, after he'd accumulated the necessary delegates. In 2004, it endorsed John Kerry in February — before he locked up the nomination but at a time when Kerry was well ahead in the delegate count.

Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka while participating in a "Don't Trade Our Future" march in April. | Getty

"That's the formal process of the AFL-CIO," said Larry Cohen, former president of the Communication Workers of America. "But, of course, across the country there is a huge surge of union members and of working class people stepping up for Bernie."

Cohen announced his own endorsement of Sanders in a Huffington Post op-ed Wednesday. Cohen, CWA President Chris Shelton and American Postal Workers Union President Mark Dimondstein will host Sanders at APWU July 13, one day before national union leaders meet with Clinton at the home of her campaign chairman, John Podesta.

Sanders supporters hope they can convince the AFL-CIO to withhold a primary endorsement from Clinton, as it did in 2008. "Most people kind of assume there's an AFL-CIO endorsement in the primaries. Not so," said Steve Rosenthal, former political director of the AFL-CIO and president of the progressive Organizing Group.

Indeed, the Iowa AFL convention Aug. 5-8, which Trumka is set to attend, may become a major showdown between Sanders and Clinton for labor's support. Clinton and Obama both showed up there in 2007.

Trumka, meanwhile, said the AFL-CIO had sent questionnaires to Democrats and Republicans with a Friday deadline. The federation also plans to set aside time at its July executive council meeting to interview candidates, the memo said.

Is Bernie Sanders Too Radical for America? **// HuffPo /// Peter Dreier – July 3, 2015**

Now that Bernie Sanders is rapidly climbing in the polls and attracting huge audiences to his campaign events (including over 10,000 people at a Madison, Wisconsin rally the other day), his opponents are starting to attack him for being too radical. After all, Sanders describes himself as a democratic socialist.

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Of course, few Americans know what "socialist" means. Some mistakenly associate it with Communism. In fact, Sanders has often said that he supports the kind of policies favored by the Scandinavian democracies.

Asked about this in May by George Stephanopoulos, host of ABC News' This Week, Sanders said:

In countries in Scandinavia like Denmark, Norway, Sweden, they are very democratic countries. Voter turnout is a lot higher than it is in the United States. In those countries, health care is the right of all people; college education and graduate school is free; retirement benefits, child care are stronger than the United States of America. In those countries by and large government works for ordinary people and the middle class, rather than, as is the case right now in our country, for the billionaire class.

On the campaign trail in Iowa, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and elsewhere, many voters appear to be willing to look past the labels and listen to what Sanders is actually saying about the issues and the role of government in society. The Vermont Senator with a New York accent has a straight-talking style that resonates with many voters who don't necessarily identify themselves as liberals or progressives, much less as socialists.

For example, at a recent Sanders rally in New Hampshire that attracted an unexpectedly large crowd, Sanders "railed against the 'billionaire class' and pledged to make large corporations pay their fair share of taxes if he becomes president. But much of his message focused on improving the lot of the lower and middle classes--by providing free college; guaranteeing workers vacation time, sick leave and family leave; and raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour," the Washington Post reported.

"I don't believe it is a terribly radical idea to say that someone who works 40 hours a week should not be living in poverty," Sanders told the standing-room-only audience.

The Gallup Poll has regularly asked Americans what types of candidates they would willingly elect. Gallup's question is quite simple: "If your party nominated a generally well-qualified person for president who happened to be _____, would you vote for that person?"

Over the years, Gallup found significant increases in the proportion of Americans who say "yes" to voting for a woman, an African American, a Jew, a Catholic, and a gay or lesbian candidate.

Although socialists have run for president, and been elected to various public offices from city council to Congress since the early 1900s, Gallup didn't add that category of candidate to the list until this June, no doubt in recognition of Sanders' campaign. It found that 47 percent of Americans say they would vote for a socialist for president and 50 percent say they would not. In the poll, 59 percent of Democrats, 49 percent of independents, and, perhaps surprisingly, 26 percent of Republicans report that they'd vote to put a socialist in the White House.

After more than half a century of Cold War hysteria and post-Cold War propaganda against socialism from the business and education establishments, the mainstream media, and both political parties, the fact that almost half of Americans are willing to vote for a socialist for president is quite remarkable.

Not surprisingly, those who came of age in the Cold War era are less likely to consider voting for a socialist candidate. Gallup found that 34 percent of those 65 and older, 37 percent of 50-64 year olds, and 50 percent of 30-49 year olds would vote for a socialist. In contrast, 69 percent of 18-29 year olds indicated that they'd vote for a socialist for the nation's highest office-holder. Chalk that up to either youthful idealism or to a profound shift in the young generation's political outlook that could have a lasting influence as they get older.

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Political scientists, pollsters, journalists, and pundits like to identify voters and politicians with labels. But voters care less about labels -- conservative, moderate, liberal, progressive, socialist, or others. They are more interested in what politicians want government to do. Ideas that were once considered radical -- such as the vote for women, Social Security, and the minimum wage -- are today taken for granted as common sense.

So let's look instead at what Americans actually believe and care about.

Polls show that Americans are upset with widening inequality, the political influence of big business, and declining living standards. Public opinion is generally favorable toward greater government activism to address poverty, inequality, opportunity, and climate change.

Most Americans worry that government has been captured by the powerful and wealthy. They want a government that serves the common good. They also want to reform government to make it more responsive and accountable.

On those matters--both broad principles and specific policy prescriptions--Sanders is in sync with the vast majority of Americans.

Big Business

About three-quarters (74 percent) of Americans--including 84 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of independents, and 62 percent of Republicans--believe that corporations have too much influence on American life and politics today, according to a recent New York Times/CBS News poll. In contrast, only 37 percent think that labor unions exercise too much influence.

The Pew Research Center discovered that 60 percent of Americans--including 75 percent of Democrats--believe that "the economic system in this country unfairly favors the wealthy."

Fifty-eight percent of Americans say they would support breaking up "big banks like Citigroup," a key plank of Sanders' platform and the goal of a bill that Sanders sponsored in the Senate.

Seventy-three percent of Americans favor tougher rules for Wall Street financial companies, versus 17 percent who oppose stronger regulation.

Sixty-four percent of Americans strongly or somewhat favor regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, factories and cars and requiring utilities to generate more power from "clean" low-carbon sources.

Progressive Taxation

More than three-quarters of Americans (79 percent) think that wealthy people don't pay their fair share of taxes, while 82 percent believe that some corporations don't pay their fair share of taxes.

Sixty-eight percent of Americans favor raising taxes on people earning more than $1 million per year, including 87 percent of Democrats, 65 percent of independents, and 53 percent of Republicans.

Inequality and Poverty

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A strong majority (66 percent) say that wealth should be more evenly divided and that it is a problem that should be addressed urgently.

Ninety-two percent of Americans want a society with far less income disparity than currently exists in the United States. Americans prefer some inequality to perfect equality, according to the professors at the Harvard Business School and Duke University who conducted the survey. But when asked to pick an ideal level of income disparity, Americans prefer the more egalitarian level similar to the one in Sweden (although without identifying the country by name) to that in the U.S. What's more, the rich and the poor, and Democrats and Republicans, are almost equally likely to choose the Swedish model. For example, 93.5 percent of Democrats and 90.2 percent of Republicans preferred the level of income distribution that exists in Sweden.

Sixty-nine percent of Americans--including 90 percent of Democrats, 69 percent of independents, and 45 percent of Republicans--believe that the government should help reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else. Eighty-two percent of Americans--including 94 percent of Democrats, 83 percent of independents, and 64 percent of Republicans--think the government should help reduce poverty.

Money in Politics

Eighty-four percent of Americans think that money has too much influence in politics. Slightly more Americans (85 percent) want an overhaul of our campaign finance system

Seventy-eight percent of Americans think that campaign spending by outside groups not affiliated with candidates should be limited by law.

A majority of Americans (54 percent) believe that money given to political candidates is not a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment. In other words, they disagree with the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling.

Minimum Wage and Workers' Rights

A recent poll by Hart Research Associates found that 75 percent of Americans (including 53 percent of Republicans) support an increase in the federal minimum wage to $12.50 an hour by 2020. Sixty-three percent of Americans support an even greater increase in the minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2020.

Eighty percent of Americans favor requiring employers to offer paid leave to parents of new children and employees caring for sick family members. An even larger number (85 percent) favor requiring employers to offer paid leave to employees who are ill.

A significant majority of Americans support the right of workers to unionize, despite several decades of corporate-sponsored anti-union propaganda. Eighty-two percent believe that factory and manufacturing workers should have the right to unionize. A vast majority also support the right to unionize for transportation workers (74 percent), police and firefighters (72 percent), public school teachers (71 percent), workers in supermarkets and retail sales (68 percent), and fast food workers (62 percent).

Health Care and Social Security

Over 50 percent of Americans (including one-quarter of Republicans and nearly 80 percent of Democrats) say they support a single-payer "Medicare for All" approach to health insurance, something Sanders has long advocated. Only 36 percent oppose the idea. 12 percent are neutral.

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Seventy-one percent Americans support a public option, which would give individuals the choice of buying healthcare through Medicare or private insurers. This was part of Obama's original health care plan in 2010 but the insurance industry lobby killed it, thanks to every Senate Republican and a handful of Senate Democrats, led by former Senator Max Baucus of Montana.

The Gallup poll found that 67 percent of Americans want to lift the income cap on Social Security to require higher-income workers to pay Social Security taxes on all of their wages. Most people don't realize that workers who earn more than $118,500 a year don't contribute on their full income and that simply removing that tax loophole for high earners would close the lion's share of Social Security's modest long-term funding gap. Legislation introduced by Senator Sanders and Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon would apply the same payroll tax already paid by more than nine out of 10 Americans to those with incomes over $250,000 a year. Census Bureau data shows that only about 5 percent (1 in 18) of workers would pay more if the cap were scrapped, and only the top 1.4 percent (one in 71 workers) would be affected if the tax were applied to earnings over $250,000.

Higher Education

More than three-quarters (79 percent) of Americans think that education beyond high school is not affordable for everyone in the U.S. who needs it. Seventy-seven percent believe that higher education institutions should reduce tuition and fees, while 59 percent and 55 percent respectively agree that state governments and the federal government should provide more assistance. The average tuition bill for students at a public four-year college has increased by more than 250 percent over the past three decades. More than one-third (35 percent) of 2000-2014 college graduates report graduating with more than $25,000 in undergraduate student loan debt, in inflation-adjusted dollars. The recently graduated college class of 2015 has an average debt burden of $35,051 per student, the highest ever. Sanders introduced legislation to make four-year public colleges and universities tuition-free, paid for through a tax on Wall Street transactions.

Same-Sex Marriage

Today, 60 percent of Americans believe it should be legal for gay and lesbian couples to marry, according to Gallup, a figure that is likely to increase following the Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. But in 1996, only 27 percent felt that way. That year, then-Congressman Sanders was one of only 67 House members to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, which barred federal recognition of gay marriages.

America seems to be holding its breath, trying to decide what kind of country it wants to be. We seem to be at one of those crossroads moments when attitudes are rapidly shifting and significant reform is possible.

But public opinion, on its own, doesn't translate into public policy. It has to be mobilized. That's what movements do. And that's what elections are for.

The real reasons Bernie Sanders is transforming the election: Here's why he galvanizes the left // Salon // Sophia Tesfaye – July 3, 2015

CNN dubbed this "the summer of Sanders" as media outlets finally picked up on the large crowds Independent Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has attracted during campaign stops. His rocketing poll numbers in early primary states like Iowa and New Hampshire led to countless stories heralding a Sanders surge — but the story is as much about the issues as it is about the man.

Even Republican candidates have taken notice of Sanders' rise. Ahead of a recent stop in Madison, Wisconsin, likely 2016 contender and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker welcomed Sanders to the state with a series of tweets attacking the democratic socialist once dismissed as too fringe. Walker may not have taken too fondly to Sanders

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attracting a record 10,000 people in his home state.

But Sanders' campaign, surely more so than that of any of the Republican candidates, seems to be gaining traction more for the ideas he espouses than because of a cult of personality.

Granted, many supporters have pointed to Sanders' straightforward manner and willingness to call out bad actors as refreshingly appealing, but unlike with Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump and Chris Christie, it isn't just a brash style that's being sold. Sanders makes a direct effort to address many of the issues that have arisen since the Hope & Change campaign of 2008 and it appears as though he is tapping into very real and long-simmering sentiments in the Democratic base.

More than a protest vote against Hillary Clinton, as some have suggested, Sanders' support appears to be support for issues Clinton's yet to fully address. Here are some of the ways that Sanders is gaining support by leading on issues or movements that other candidates ignore:

VA Scandal

Sanders was chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee when Democrats last controlled the chamber, and following the VA scandal, Sanders worked with Republicans in the House to pass legislation that expands health care access for veterans and makes it easier to fire underperforming officials.

His record and work on veterans' affairs issues has earned Sanders top awards from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America, and now it appears as though that recognition is translating to support for his campaign.

The Boston Globe writes that Sanders' "surge is partly fueled by veterans," citing "entire Reddit threads [that] are dedicated to how veterans can best pitch Sanders to other veterans" and "a Facebook page promoting Sanders to veterans." As the Globe notes, in the early voting state of South Carolina veterans make up about 11 percent of the electorate.

Occupy Wall Street

The short-lived global protest movement suddenly shifted the national debate in the aftermath of the recession from talk of austerity to a focus on growing income inequality by introducing terms like the 1 Percent to national prominence in time for the 2012 campaign. But the Occupy Wall Street movement achieved no great legislative win, and after the encampments were broken down many of the grievances remained unacknowledged, let alone addressed.

Sanders' 2016 campaign embodies much of the demands of the OWS movement. Speaking to the largest campaign crowd of this cycle in Wisconsin this week, Sanders said, "The big money interests — Wall Street, corporate America, all of these guys — have so much power that no president can defeat them unless there is an organized grassroots movement making them an offer they can't refuse." For activists who organized, protested and camped out in Zuccotti Park and squares across America, this message of unfinished business is powerful. The acknowledgement of a continued struggle and willingness to put up a fight is what was galvanized the Draft Warren movement and it has now seemingly shifted to Sanders.

Student Debt Movement

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Some Occupy Wall Street activists joined a movement against student debt, which has now surpassed $1 trillion in the U.S. The activists, some of whom had refused to make any more payments on their federal student loans, achieved a major victory this year when Corinthian colleges (you know them by their annoying commercials hawking their schools like Everest, Heald and WyoTech) shuttered the last of their remaining U.S. campuses, and the erasure of $13 million in debt. The movement has successfully overseen the closure of campuses in Canada the year before.

Sanders has proposed the College for All Act, a plan to provide tuition-free education at public colleges funded by a small tax on Wall Street transactions.

Citizens United

Since the 2010 Supreme Court ruling allowing unlimited political contributions by corporations and unions saw the rise of the Super PAC in electoral campaigns, Americans are shockingly united in their opposition to such obscene levels of money in politics. The overwhelming majority of Americans, including Republicans, support limits on campaign contributions.

Sanders is the only candidate to have completely sworn off all Super PAC funds, although a couple of independent political action committees have formed in support of his candidacy.

But Sanders has objected to their existence, saying, “A major problem of our campaign finance system is that anybody can start a super PAC on behalf of anybody and can say anything. And this is what makes our current campaign finance situation totally absurd.”

Obamacare

The Supreme Court may have upheld the Affordable Care Act twice, but the political battle over the health care law promises to rage on five years after its passage. With health care costs rising only marginally more slowly than they before the law’s passage and a continuation of premium increases, even Democrats who support the law have called for marked improvements as millions of Americans are left uninsured because Republican lawmakers refuse to expand Medicaid.

> Sanders has promised to return the debate to early 2007, when during the Democratic presidential primary the public option was on the table. Sanders has long called for a “Medicare-for-all” single-payer health care plan similar to what was tossed aside as too radical shortly after the talks began on health care reform once Obama took office.

Bernie Sanders out-greens Hillary Clinton: Will she be able to hold her own in a climate hawk runoff //
Salon // Lindsay Abrams – July 3, 2015

Now that President Obama has established that the executive branch can and should take a strong stance on climate change, it’s safe to say emissions reductions and the like are key issues for the Democratic candidates vying to be his successor. (In the Republican primaries, calling climate change a hoax or just ignoring the problem completely continues, somehow, to be acceptable.) And as Bernie Sanders gains early momentum for his decidedly left-of-center campaign, a big question is whether Hillary Clinton’s climate platform can compete.

As far as most issues are concerned, there’s a bit of an “anything you can do, I can do better” dynamic between the Democratic frontrunner and the democratic socialist nipping at her heels. Both, to be sure, can boast of their impressive environmental records — but while Clinton has a respectable 82 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters, Sanders’ is 95 percent, and the super PAC Climate Hawks Vote named him the 113th

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Congress's top climate leader. As the primaries heat up, the differences between them just might illustrate the vast gulf between someone who hits the right talking points and someone who understands the true scope of what's needed to prevent catastrophic climate change (in a word: everything).

Vox's David Roberts argues that in our current political climate, the difference between their platforms might not matter much. "No president — not Clinton, not Sanders, not the risen Christ — could persuade the House GOP to pass aggressive restrictions on carbon," he writes. Then again, President Obama may not have Congress on his side, but he's managed to do a whole lot for climate action anyway. Where he's proved to be a disappointment has been in weighing the grave risks associated with climate change on the one hand while waving Shell on to drill in the Arctic with the other. If America's going to lead the world in fighting climate change, it's going to need an executive branch ready to nix pipeline projects, to shut down oil wells and to use the EPA to rein in as much carbon emissions as possible. Even if Sanders can't nudge Clinton to the left on climate issues, he, along with Democratic contender Martin O'Malley, can at least show voters what a truly Green platform looks like. (And if they can, as Roberts suggests, make Clinton look centrist by comparison well, that's not so bad either.)

Here's how their actions and promises compare thus far:

How seriously they take climate change

Clinton called it "the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world."

Sanders' campaign website asserts, "Unless we take bold action to address climate change, our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are going to look back on this period in history and ask a very simple question: Where were they? Why didn't the United States of America, the most powerful nation on earth, lead the international community in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and preventing the devastating damage that the scientific community was sure would come?"

Keystone XL pipeline

Clinton has been aggressively silent on whether or not she supports the controversial pipeline, but back when she was Secretary of State, she said she was "inclined" to approve it. The addition of former TransCanada lobbyist Jeffrey Berman to her campaign is being read by some as an ominous sign.

Sanders' staunch opposition to the pipeline is vouched for by Bill McKibben, a leader of the anti-Keystone movement. "He's been the most consistent and proactive voice in the entire Keystone fight," McKibben said. "Everything that's been needed — from speeches on the floor to legislation to demands that the State Department change its absurd review process — he and his staff have done immediately and with a high degree of professionalism."

Offshore drilling

Clinton voted in favor of a 2006 bill that ended protections for Florida's Gulf Coast and opened up an additional 8 million acres in the Gulf for offshore drilling.

Sanders wrote an op-ed for the Guardian in the aftermath of the BP oil spill: The lesson, he wrote, is that "there must be no new offshore drilling. Not now, not ever." To that end, he introduced legislation that would have banned offshore drilling along the coastlines.

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Arctic drilling

Clinton does have a record of voting against efforts to open up protected areas of the Arctic to oil and gas interests; she also supported a 2007 act that would have conferred additional protections on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sanders, too, has never been known to vote in favor of Arctic drilling. In May, he signed a letter expressing disappointment in the Obama administration's decision to open offshore wells in the region.

Fracking

Clinton promoted fracking abroad during her tenure as Secretary of State, ostensibly to fight climate change while adding to the global energy supply. Domestically, she appears to support, if extremely cautiously, the idea of natural gas as a bridge fuel: she expounded on its potential benefits as compared to coal in a 2014 speech, although she did emphasize the need to "put in place smart regulations and enforce them."

Sanders, if you couldn't guess, is an outspoken opponent of fracking. "I'm very proud that the state of Vermont banned fracking," he said last year when the state of Vermont banned fracking. "I hope communities all over America do the same."

Clean Power Plan

Clinton came out strongly in support of the EPA's efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants during a 2014 speech to the League of Conservation Voters. "As you know so well, power plants account for about 40 percent of the carbon pollution in the United States, and therefore must be addressed," she told her audience. "And the unprecedented action that President Obama has taken must be protected at all cost" — a clear reference to the near-certainty that a GOP president would try to dismantle it.

Sanders, in defining his position in relation to Clinton, takes that a step further: "It is not only supporting what the president has done;" he told the Washington Post, "it is saying we've got to lead the world."

Fossil fuel subsidies

Clinton, in that LCV speech, bemoaned the fact that "tax incentives for alternative energy investments are unpredictable at best, while generous subsidies for fossil fuels are still too easy to come by." And while she praised Obama's efforts to phase out subsidies for dirty energy globally, she added, "I know we can do better."

Sanders recently introduced legislation in the Senate, the aptly named End Polluter Welfare Act, that would end tax breaks and other subsidies for oil, gas and coal altogether. It wasn't the first time he's tried that.

Green jobs

Clinton and Sanders teamed up to author the Green Jobs Act in 2007, which dedicated funding to training in "green collar jobs" that involve the "design, manufacture, installation, operation, and maintenance of technologies associated with energy efficiency and renewable, clean energy options."

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‘Grassroots movement working’: Bernie Sanders gains on the Clinton machine // Guardian // Lauren Gambino and Ben Jacobs – July 3, 2015

What began as a progressive pipe dream – that a rabble-rousing senator from the nation’s second least populous state could wrest the Democratic presidential nomination from one of the most well-known politicians in recent history – is starting to seem plausible.

By way of massive rallies, grassroots politicking and a record-setting number small donations, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders is winning over progressive voters, convincing them that his underdog campaign has a fighting chance against Hillary Clinton’s well-oiled – and extraordinarily well-funded – political machine.

On Thursday, the Sanders campaign announced it raised $15m since 30 April from 250,000 donors, many of whom have made small contributions online. In contrast, Barack Obama attracted only 180,000 donors during the first quarter of his presidential campaign in 2007, which has been considered the benchmark for online fundraising by an insurgent candidate in modern presidential politics.

The senator, propelled by a groundswell of support, is also gaining ground on Clinton in polls emerging from across the early voting states.

In Iowa, Sanders’ support has soared. A Quinnipiac poll released on Thursday found that 33% of likely Democratic primary voters prefer Sanders, which brings him within 19 points of Clinton, who is polling at 52%. In May, the same poll showed Clinton leading Sanders by 45 points. And in New Hampshire, Sanders trailed Clinton by just 8 points, according to the latest CNN/WMUR poll.

But while Sanders continues to gain momentum and money, political observers remain wary of whether the unkempt septuagenarian socialist can actually defeat Clinton in the era of almost unlimited campaign spending, or whether Democratic voters are just enjoying what one political operative in New Hampshire this week called “a summer fling”.

Taking advantage of a rising populist tide

Sanders is not just persuading progressives to open their wallets: he has a rabid fan base showing up to campaign events as well, drawing larger-than-expected crowds across the country. At a rally on Wednesday night, Sanders sounded almost taken aback by his welcome – nearly 10,000 supporters attended the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Madison, Wisconsin, to hear him speak.

“Tonight we have made a little bit of history,” Sanders, 73, told the crowd. “Tonight we have more people at any meeting for a candidate of president of the United States than any other candidate.”

One attendee at Sanders’ rally in Madison, Doug Fritsch of nearby Lake Mills, told the Guardian that he was drawn to the senator because Sanders “still sees a role for government to protect the lower and middle class”. In contrast, he said he views Clinton as aligned with “more of the corporate interests”.

Fritsch said he was impressed with the “enthusiastic” crowd at Wednesday’s rally, which he saw as an effort to “a grassroots movement working” for Sanders.

But Sanders isn’t just holding big rallies either: he is spending significant time in early primary states and has

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already spent 15 days in the first-in-the-nation primary state of New Hampshire alone – more than any other Democratic candidate.

Adam Green, co-founder of Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a group that has hailed the Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren as its "north star", said that Sanders is hitting the right notes for his left-wing base with ideas on how to unburden college students from massive debt and tackle wage inequality – and that Clinton would be wise to pay attention.

"Bernie Sanders is smartly taking advantage of the rising economic populist tide," Green said. "And the path to success for Hillary Clinton is to be bold and populist in her campaign platform."

Big crowds – but bigger dollars

Sanders' campaign has evolved from a longshot ideological crusade to a legitimate operation in a very short period of time. The campaign essentially "started from scratch" in April when the senator made up his mind to run, said Tad Devine, a senior adviser to Sanders. Devine said the big-rally strategy has helped the candidate start building out a campaign network. So far, he said, everyone has been "pleasantly surprised" at Sanders's reception.

"That style of campaigning, where there's a give and take with voters, where people come into an atmosphere where they can almost be in a community setting, that's something that Bernie's very comfortable with," Devine told the Guardian. "We don't have time to try to do the things that we're not adept at doing."

But harnessing the senator's momentum to pose a meaningful threat to Clinton will remain a challenge.

On Wednesday, Clinton's campaign announced that she has raised an estimated $45m since declaring her candidacy in April.

"Many people doubted whether we could build an organization powered by so many grassroots supporters," Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said in a note to supporters on Wednesday. "Today's announcement proves them wrong."

Clinton's campaign said details about who has donated to her campaign are not yet available. A full accounting of her donations, as is the same for all candidates, is due on 15 July in a filing to the Federal Exchange Commission.

The Democratic frontrunner's campaign has been heavily focused on raising money. Clinton headlined 58 different fundraisers in 18 states since declaring her candidacy in April. In contrast, she has held relatively few public events – and small ones at that – and has yet to draw crowds of the same magnitude as Sanders. Clinton's one major rally in Iowa drew fewer attendees than a nearby Sanders rally two days later; even Clinton's formal campaign launch in New York City was approximately the same size as Sanders's lakeside announcement in Burlington, Vermont.

The former secretary of state often communicates her policy positions via Twitter, rather than speaking to reporters or voters. While Sanders held a question and answer session on Thursday with over 100 voters in the gritty industrial city of Fort Dodge, Iowa, Clinton spoke at a private fundraiser in Provincetown, Massachusetts, a resort town on Cape Cod.

Clinton will also get help from the Priorities USA Super PAC, which is backing her candidacy despite a pledge by the candidate to combat "uncontrolled money" in politics, and announced Thursday that it has raised $15.6m –

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bringing the coffers of her campaign and its allies beyond $60m so far.

In contrast, Sanders, who rails against the “grotesque and obscene” concentration of wealth in America, has refused to have a Super Pac support him and is focused on wooing small-dollar donors.

Harvard University professor Lawrence Lessig, who founded a Super Pac to end Super Pacs, said Sanders’ renouncing Super Pacs is tantamount to “bringing a knife to a gunfight”.

“I regret the fact the Bernie Sanders has embraced the idea that he’s going to live life like the Vermont snow, as pure as he possibly can, while he runs for president, because it weakens his chances – and he’s an enormously important progressive voice,” Lessig said.

That he will be outspent, Sanders admits, almost gleefully. That it will hurt his chances of securing the Democratic nomination, the upstart candidate disagrees.

“They may have the money but we have the people,” Sanders told the crowd in Madison on Wednesday. “And when the people stand together, we can win.”

A.B. Stoddard: Clinton’s feeling the Bern // The Hill // A.B. Stoddard – July 3, 2015

They said it couldn't be done.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders's rocket rise from the brunt of jokes to an official menace should be deeply concerning to Democrats who didn't see it coming. With more boffo numbers — of record-setting crowds, strengthening polling and an impressive campaign warchest – the scrappy socialist could soon reach the level of threat.

It isn't likely Sanders will topple Hillary Clinton and win his party's presidential nomination, but there is evidence of a more potent liberal energy he successfully engages that she does not. Clinton thought she caught a break when Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) decided against a run but it seems her supporters are running to Sanders. Should Clinton fail to stave off his surge, Sanders could not only embarrass her with strong showings or wins in early primary contests but may ultimately weaken her for the general election next year. She should plan accordingly.

Sanders's gathering of 10,000 supporters gathered in Wisconsin Wednesday night was larger than any crowd any presidential candidate has had all year. In the latest Quinnipiac poll of Iowa voters Sanders is at 33 percent to Clinton's 52, still behind but making solid gains. In May her lead was 60-15, which means in just two months he has more than doubled his support there. What's more is that this is the first time her support has been lower than 60 percent in that poll. Sanders's $15 million in donations in two months also represents only one-third of Clinton's $45 million in three months but far exceeds expectations and illustrates a level of grassroots enthusiasm that no one is laughing at any more. As Clinton scrambled to collect as many $2,700 checks as she could, worried that Jeb Bush was collecting larger ones as a still undeclared candidate, Sanders was counting dollar bills. His haul includes 250,000 donors making 400,000 donations of $250 or less, the average totalling $33.51.

The Sanders boomlet is rippling throughout the party and could potentially alter the primary by more quickly choking off the candidacies of former governors Martin O'Malley and Lincoln Chafee and now former Sen. Jim Webb who strangely chose to jump in Thursday at the height of Bernie buzz. But the most dangerous consequence could be that Sanders's popularity renders Clinton vulnerable enough to invite a challenge from Vice President Biden.

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At least for now the Clinton camp, while perhaps genuinely stunned, is smart enough to be eating some humble pie, seeming to take Sanders seriously.

"We're never going to have a coronation in my party," Clinton surrogate Paul Begala said on CNN Thursday. "Never Never. Sen Sanders has tapped into something real."

Of course this was supposed to be a coronation, the turn Clinton waited for for eight years. It was one thing when Barack Obama, who Clinton insiders and many party operatives dismissed as a threat, cut down Clinton's shot at her dream in 2008 - he was the walk-on-water candidate from central casting. Sanders, with his often too-liberated hair and a clunky accent, is perhaps the last person anyone would cast as a potential giant killer.

Should he maintain his current trajectory eight months will be plenty of time for an old-fashioned ass kicking. But Sanders doesn't have to win Iowa on Feb. 1, 2016 - just coming close to Clinton there would be a terrible start for her default-nominee standing and could invite additional dissent in New Hampshire the following week and other contests shortly thereafter.

So far Sanders isn't attempting to reach as the broad coalition Clinton is targeting. He doesn't highlight issues that attract attention from Hispanic or African-American voters, but his rants against the billionaire class with white progressives are surely doing the trick. The real question, of course, is whether Sanders ever wants to tap into liberal hunger for government transparency and exploit Clinton's willingness to hide and destroy her email record of her tenure as secretary of state. So far he has refused to attack her integrity - heaven help her if he changes his mind.

Bernie Sanders raises $15 million. Chump change or a lot? **// CS Monitor // Peter Grier – July 3, 2015**

Bernie Sanders has raised $15 million since joining the presidential race in April. Is that a lot, relatively speaking?

Yes, it’s a pretty good haul. Look at it this way: That’s fairly close to the $18 million that moneybags Mitt Romney raised for his general account in the first three months of his declared presidential run in the 2012 election cycle.

Plus, Senator Sanders did it the hard way, via small donors. According to his campaign, Sanders received contributions from some 250,000 individuals. Ninety-nine percent of the donations were for $250 or less. (By way of contrast, the federal limit for campaign giving is $2,700 per person, per primary or general election.)

Sanders’s new cash stash shouldn’t be too surprising: He’s a decent fundraiser for a guy who slams Wall Street and used to call himself a socialist. Or he’s a decent attracter of money: It’s not as if he’s holding constant donor fundraising events, though he’s attended a few.

You can see this by looking at his electoral history. In his last two Senate elections, 2006 and 2012, he raised more than $5 and $6 million, respectively. That’s well over the average for other senators facing reelection those years, according to data from the Center for Responsive Politics.

The upshot of Sanders’s take is that it shows that his polls and his crowds aren’t the only indicators he’s making some progress in his campaign. He’s got enough money and enough of a donor base to maintain at least a subsistence-level campaign for as long as he wants.

Remember, unlike Hillary Clinton, Sanders seems to be running to raise and discuss populist issues, as opposed to being elected president. He doesn’t need to spend money planning for extensive get-out-the-vote teams and 50

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state committees. He only has to have enough cash to bounce from rally to rally in friendly environs while generating enough free publicity via media as he can.

"That means Clinton won't be able to dispatch him anytime soon," writes Jonathan Allen at Vox.

But let's not get carried away. Mrs. Clinton remains the heavy favorite. If she doesn't win the Democratic nomination, it will be one of the largest political upsets of the modern era.

After all, Sanders is doing OK raising money, but Clinton's doing much better. She has taken in about $45 million since April. And that's only for her candidate committee: She's got a super PAC, too, which Sanders doesn't. Both candidates decry the influence of these big-money committees on US politics, but only Sanders is actually eschewing their use.

And official endorsements – an excellent predictor of eventual victory – continue to roll in Clinton's direction. No member of Congress has officially backed the Vermont senator, points out Mike Lillis at The Hill. But Hillary has many, including at least 26 of the liberal Democratic lawmakers in the 69-member Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Sanders says he has a 'strong chance of winning Iowa' **// Radio Iowa // O. Kay Henderson – July 3, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders spent the first half of this Friday campaigning in Republican-leaning northwest Iowa. A crowd of over 200 greeted him for an early morning event in Sheldon and about 150 people crowded into the Better Day Cafe in Storm Lake to see Sanders over the noon-hour.

"The reason that we're going around the state and into small towns is we understand the Caucus process and the votes here are as important as they are in Des Moines," Sanders told reporters after his appearance in Storm Lake. "So we think we are putting together a strong infrastructure which is going to give us a strong chance of winning Iowa."

A recent Quinnipiac University Poll found Sanders' support in Iowa has more than doubled since May, to 33 percent of the likely Iowa Caucus-goers surveyed. Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, a Vermont senator and the longest-serving independent in congress, said late last year he would not run for the Democratic Party's 2016 presidetial nomination unless he sensed a "grassroots revolution" — and Sanders declared as he was leaving Storm Lake that it's happening.

"People are resonating to the message, that there's something fundamentally wrong with economics and politics in America," Sanders told reporters.

Brian Gerjets of Cherokee, a truck driver who is co-chair of Cherokee Democratic Party, saw Sanders in Sheldon and Storm Lake. He said Sanders is delivering a "common sense" message.

"Wake up people. Look around. Everything he's telling you is the truth," Gerjets said. "The billionaires are running this world. Whether Bernie can take it all the way to the end, that's questionable."

Lynn McMullen and his wife, Paula, run an antiques and woodworking store in nearby Fonda and they're going to vote for Sanders in the Caucuses.

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"He's right on the issues as far as getting rid of Citizens United for one and also for single payer health care," Paula McMullen said.

Lynn McMullen added: "It's boiled down to wealthy elements and corporate people just buying the government. It's not a democracy any more and we need to turn that around or it's all over."

Sanders answered questions for 15 minutes after delivering a 50-minute speech in Storm Lake. He praised President Obama's move this past week to change the rules for overtime pay and repeated his call for 12-weeks of paid family and medical leave, as well as mandatory vacation for working Americans.

"Eighty-five percent of working men, 66 percent of working women are working longer than 40 hours a week," Sanders said. "At the very least, we have got to guarantee that those workers have two weeks of paid family vacation."

Two other presidential candidates are campaigning in the state today. Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, stopped at the site of a wind turbine this morning in Ankeny to highlight his ideas for boosting renewable energy. This afternoon, Louisiana Bobby Jindal, a Republican, is touring a fire arms manufacturer in Sheldon then stopping in Spencer.

WEBB

Jim Webb's Facebook engagement rivals Pataki's **// CBS // July 3, 2015**

Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb's quiet entry into the presidential race was reflected by Facebook engagement numbers that were similarly subdued, in comparison with some of his better known competitors.

It's hard to tell whether a higher-profile entrance would have made much of a difference to his Facebook numbers, which exceeded only Former Rhode Island Governor and Senator Lincoln Chafee's among the declared candidates of either the Republican or Democratic parties.

In the 24-hour period between 12:01 a.m. Thursday and 12:01 a.m. Friday, 49,000 people on Facebook in the U.S. generated 81,000 interactions (likes, posts, comments, shares) related to Webb and his announcement. The good news for Webb is that those numbers represent a stratospheric spike from his daily average numbers of 2,000 unique people a day.

The bad news is that everyone but Chafee attracted more interest upon entry into the presidential race. Chafee had 20,000 unique people and 27,000 interactions. He's within shouting distance of Former New York Governor George Pataki, who had 59,000 unique people and 81,000 interactions after his announcement.

On the high end, Hillary Clinton dominated the 2016 field on Facebook when she announced, with 4.7 million unique people and 10.1 million interactions. Billionaire Donald Trump, who entered the race June 16, saw 3.4 million unique people, with 6.4 million interactions

Not surprisingly, the top states chattering about Jim Webb are the mid-Atlantic states - his home state of Virginia, followed by the District of Columbia, Maryland and North Carolina.

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Racial issues and foreign policy were the top political topics associated with Webb.

Webb pitched his supporters on a campaign with "a fresh approach to solving the problems that confront us and too often unnecessarily divide us," according to his email. "[O]ur fellow Americans need proven, experienced leadership that can be trusted to move us forward from a new President's first days in office. I believe I can offer both."

Jim Webb tests the limits of a maverick's appeal **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 3, 2015**

Seven months after forming a presidential exploratory committee, former Sen. Jim Webb officially jumped into the 2016 presidential race Thursday. The surprise 2,000 word announcement email, coming as many headed out of town for the July 4 holiday weekend, was a typically unorthodox move for Webb.

The former senator, author, decorated Marine combat veteran and Navy secretary is a true maverick. He's a rebel who refuses to play by Washington's rules, and he has excited some liberals with his anti-conformist ethos.

Webb's refusal to play by the rules, and his willingness to break with convention, is considered refreshing in an age of deep dissatisfaction with politics. But it also means he often ends up alone, as when he defended the Confederate flag after the shooting massacre last month at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

By throwing out the political playbook and letting seven months pass by without building a real campaign infrastructure, Webb went from being the first potential candidate to declare an exploratory committee to being the 15th candidate to officially enter the race.

And his ideological heterodoxy and refusal to comport to anybody's doctrine makes it unclear where he stands in a Democratic field that has so far broken down cleanly along ideological lines.

"He is not a natural ideological leader for any group in the Democratic Party," said Steve Jarding, a Harvard professor who co-directed Webb's 2006 Senate campaign. "Jim's going to have a real difficult time introducing himself to the national Democratic electorate because of things like the Confederate flag."

In his long-winded announcement message, Webb made no mention of key issues to many Democrats, like climate change, racism, women's rights, LGBT rights and abortion. He recently won a presidential straw poll at a conference of conservative activists in Colorado. On Tuesday, he said he was "very proud of having worked in the Reagan administration."

While his party has tacked to the left, Webb has remained as heterodox as ever. He supports the Keystone XL pipeline, has taken issue with affirmative action, and on Tuesday, he expressed concerns with President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

Yet, Webb is to the left of Clinton and Obama on foreign policy, and one of the foremost champions of criminal justice reform in either party and the author of the post 9/11 G.I. bill. In his announcement message, Webb focused on his opposition to the Iraq War and the 2011 intervention in Libya – both clear shots at Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton – and a populist economic message about reclaiming the American dream from elites.

Those messages are popular among liberals dissatisfied with Clinton, but will they be willing to accept Webb's less doctrinaire stances as well?

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Webb's plans often remain a mystery even to those closest to him. "Jim always plays things close to the vest," said David "Mudcat" Saunders, the longtime Webb strategist who is helping out the presidential campaign on a volunteer basis.

"The day that he said he was not going to run again in the Senate, I found out that day. And the day he said he was going to do the exploratory committee, I found out that day," Saunders said last week before Webb announced.

Webb's staff thought the senator might announce his presidential campaign last Friday at a speech in Iowa, and they didn't know his plans as recently as Tuesday.

"I wake up every morning thinking he will roll into a coffee shop and announce something to the wait staff," Craig Crawford, Webb's communications director, joked last week.

The isolation that comes with nonconformity was on display near Webb's hometown last Friday night, 1,000 miles away from where the former senator was giving his speech in Iowa.

At a pep rally-like fundraiser in Webb's backyard of northern Virginia, state Democrats were having a party without him.

Rep. Gerry Connolly declared northern Virginia to be "Clinton territory," while Webb's former Senate colleagues Mark Warner and Tim Kaine called Clinton "our choice for the future" and "our next president," respectively.

Webb understandably dislikes the nitty gritty of politics, but his objections have alienated him from some Virginia Democrats, several operatives said. "He was more interested in Myanmar than he was in Martinsville," said one longtime Virginia Democratic strategist, who said officials like county party chairs gave up on asking the former senator to do fundraisers for them.

The enthusiasm for Webb's candidness may have reached a limit last month when he called for "respect" for the Confederate flag as an emblem of common soldiers who fought on both sides of the Civil War.

The reaction to Webb's comments from Democrats in Washington and New York was swift and brutal. "I think he went from a parody to a complete joke," said Ari Rabin Havt, a former staffer for Sen. Harry Reid staffer who now hosts a progressive show on Sirrius/XM radio.

Hank Sheinkopf, a New York-based Democratic strategist, said the comments single-handedly killed whatever slim shot Webb had at the nomination. "In the real world, he should save his money and buy a house, because he ain't going anyplace in the Democratic Party," he said.

The damage appears especially severe among black voters, a key Democratic voting bloc with whom Webb has never been a favorite. "It makes him a non-starter," said Stefanie Brown James, who led outreach to black voters for President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign. "It's a horrible way to start out for him."

Webb is a writer used to exploring nuance, but the fine shading of his position on the Confederate flag was lost on most observers.

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Several Webb allies say privately they would have preferred he stay away from the topic of the flag entirely. But Webb is not one to shy away from controversy if he believes in something.

The incident also underscored the racial gambit of his campaign. While Democrats in the post-Obama era have focused on getting minorities to the polls, Webb has said he wants to bring disaffected whites back into the fold.

Ruy Teixeira, a Century Foundation demographer who studies the changing makeup of the electorate, has his doubts about that tactic.

"He seems to have this idea that he represents the forgotten majority of the Democratic Party, but it's just not true," said Teixeira. "The primary electorate is pretty heavily skewed towards college educated whites and minorities. So the idea that the would be a good candidate for that just doesn't make a lot of sense."

While Webb shares a strong independent streak and an aurora of populist authenticity with Sen. Bernie Sanders, the two presidential candidates could not be more dislike, and not just on policy.

Sanders is the product of a movement, and he is deeply embedded in it. Webb is lone-wolf individual, whose peripatetic career has followed his ambitions.

Some Democrats openly scratch their heads about why Webb is even running. "I just don't get what he's doing," said Mo Elleithee, a former Clinton aide and top official at the Democratic National Committee, who now runs the Institute of Politics at Georgetown University.

We will likely learn much more in coming days and weeks as Webb rolls out his presidential campaign, now that he's officially in the race. Few voters are paying attention at this early stage, and Webb's position on the Confederate flag may fade into the background.

Webb has surprised the political world before, as he likes to remind audiences, and maybe he can do it again.

Jim Webb Throws His Hat in the Ring for the WH **// Fox // Clint Henderson – July 3, 2015**

Greece on the verge of defaulting and being forced from the EU currency zone. There is a referendum on austerity scheduled for Sunday that was demanded by the country's left-wing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. It may have been a bad move. The country appears evenly split, but the referendum may cost Tsipras his job. EU leaders want him gone, and his popularity has plummeted as Greek banks closed and put severe restrictions on withdrawals. Greg Palkot reporting live from a very tense Athens.

We're also awaiting news on what happens now in Puerto Rico as the U.S. territory begins to run out of money. It said Monday it can't pay off its debts of some $72 billion.

Aetna buying Humana for some $37 billion creating the second largest managed health care company in the United States. It's part of the consolidation of the health care industry as the implementation of Obamacare makes bigger better for most providers.

President Obama spent some time yesterday bragging about the strength of the U.S. economy. At an event in Wisconsin President Obama also attacked Republicans saying they are good people, "It's just their ideas are bad." He said the Affordable Care Act is working and is "here to stay."

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There are live events today with Senator Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. We'll be monitoring for news.

Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb became the latest to jump into the race for the White House. He became the fifth Democrat to announce he's running in a 2,000 word blog post.

We've also learned Republican Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is now expected to jump into the race on July 21st.

Republicans are lining up to criticize Donald Trump who upset many with his comments about illegal immigrants when he announced for President last week. Jeb Bush and Chris Christie calling out Trump over the comments (which he's standing by).

BP agreed to a settlement over the huge Gulf of Mexico oil disaster. BP will pay several Southern states and the Federal Government some $18 billion.

Some 5,000 people in Maryville, Tennessee remain evacuated at this hour after a train carrying toxic gas partially derailed and exploded sending toxic fumes into nearby areas. 10 first responders treated for fume inhalation. 87 were seen at a local hospital. No life threatening injuries. Kristin Fisher reporting.

A Russian supply rocket was launched to carry much-needed supplies to the International Space Station. Three astronauts have been waiting for a resupply mission for weeks. Two recent resupply missions failed spectacularly recently including a Space X Falcon 9 rocket disaster. Today's Russian launch called flawless.

There's a big heat wave right in the Western United States. There's also been some severe storms in Tennessee. We'll keep an eye on it.

An airplane powered by solar power is scheduled to land in Hawaii today after it's five day journey over the Pacific Ocean.. all powered by the Sun.

We learned this week that Jet Blue has instituted baggage fees leaving only Southwest without a fee for the first checked bag. It's yet another sign of how adept the airlines have become at making money from ancillary fees. We'll talk to prominent travel blogger from the website Pizza In Motion - Ed Pizzarello - today about how you can outsmart the airlines and travel for less.

Fifth Democrats elbows way into prez race **// Boston Herald // Bob McGovern – July 3, 2015**

Another low-profile Democrat has emerged to challenge odds-on front-runner Hillary Clinton, while a rising Republican star is expected to formally join the crowd of GOP 2016 hopefuls.

Democrat Jim Webb, a former U.S. senator from Virginia, announced yesterday that he will take on Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a nationally popular Republican for standing up to unions, will officially enter the race with a campaign announcement on July 13, according to his aides.

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Webb, in a statement posted on his campaign website, acknowledged that he is a long shot to win the party's nomination, which many believe will go to Clinton.

"I understand the odds, particularly in today's political climate, where fair debate is so often drowned out by huge sums of money," Webb wrote. "I know that more than one candidate in this process intends to raise at least a billion dollars."

Webb, 69, was a Navy secretary under President Ronald Reagan who became a Democrat in response to the Iraq War that he opposed.

Webb has said he needs to raise enough money to mount a "viable" campaign, which could be critical to competing with Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee are also vying for the Democratic nod.

Walker, meanwhile, will join a Republican ticket that has already attracted 14 candidates, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who joined the fray earlier in the week.

Walker's stature grew when he emerged as a powerful anti-

union candidate. In 2011 he pushed a law that effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers in Wisconsin. Four years later, he pressed to make Wisconsin a right-to-work state where employers and unions are barred from requiring all workers to pay union dues.

Along the way, he shattered state campaign finance records, collecting six-figure checks from prominent conservatives across the country.

Walker is trying to become the first president since Harry Truman, elected nearly 70 years ago, without a college degree. Walker attended Marquette University for three years, but dropped out in 1990 to take a job with the American Red Cross. Walker ran for the state Assembly that year and lost. He moved to a more conservative district outside of Milwaukee and ran again in 1993, winning that time. He hasn't lost since.

CHAFEE

Democrats in New Hampshire find some of Chafee's ideas 'odd' **// AP // Michelle R. Smith – July 3, 2015**

Presidential candidate Lincoln Chafee stands before a few dozen people at a meeting of New Hampshire's Belknap County Democrats. The Republican-turned-independent-turned-Democrat gets nods of approval when he tells them he was the only Republican senator to vote against authorizing the war in Iraq.

Then smiles turn to laughter when he pitches another idea: The U.S. should switch to the metric system.

The former Rhode Island governor has visited the first primary state of New Hampshire a dozen times this year. But he seems to be making barely a ripple — aside from curiosity about some of his policy platforms.

In Belknap County, at least some Democrats seemed intrigued by Chafee as someone who could represent an alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton, the commanding favorite for the nomination. But they are also puzzled by what he talks about sometimes.

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Chafee told the group he wants to bring National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden home, dropping all charges against him. Paula Trombi of Meredith said she liked some of what he said but was taken aback and disappointed by his position on Snowden. She also can't understand why he keeps talking about the metric system, of all things.

"With all the troubles that are going on, that seems almost odd to bring up," she said.

Dave Kerr, a selectman in Barnstead, said he agreed with Chafee that billions have been spent on the war that could have been better spent on roads and schools. But Kerr was leaving with a poster and a donation envelope for another Democratic rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who also opposed the Iraq war. A Sanders supporter had handed them out, and Kerr wondered why Chafee hadn't, also.

Chafee is known to dislike fundraising and is just starting to raise money for a race where spending is expected to be measured in the billions. His past campaigns — two Senate races as a Republican and a governor's race as an independent — have relied on an old New England family fortune amassed over generations.

Dave Pollak, chairman of Belknap County Democrats, said he agreed with Chafee that Snowden is a whistleblower and should not be prosecuted. With Chafee's background in different parties, Pollak sees him as someone who could bridge the ideological divide between Democrats and Republicans. He even likes the metric system idea.

But Pollak finds other aspects of Chafee's campaign peculiar.

Clinton's campaign is in contact with the group every week inviting its members to events, has multiple campaign offices open and created specialty groups for supporters such as "High Schoolers for Hillary." The Sanders campaign sends regular "rousing" emails on issues, Pollak said. The campaign for another rival, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, also has staff in the state.

Chafee, on the other hand, has no campaign staff in New Hampshire yet and appears to be running on a shoestring. Although Chafee has a vacation home further north in Franconia, he said he hasn't been staying there during the campaign. Instead, he drives to his New Hampshire events from Rhode Island, a five-hour round trip this evening. He was back in Somersworth, New Hampshire, the following day.

It makes Pollak wonder how serious he is.

"What's the organization?" he asks. "What gives you confidence that he can get the voters out?"

Chafee gets testy when asked about matters like that. He says it's an "evolutionary process."

"You guys never ask anything about the substance," he told a reporter. "It's always about how many people, how much money have you raised. Ugh.

"I wish there was more intellectual discussion about the issues in these campaigns."

As he spoke, Chafee aide Jonathan Stevens handed out stickers saying "Trust Chafee." The design and motto are

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identical to the one from his 2010 campaign for governor. Asked if they're 2010 leftovers, Stevens replied, "We recycle everything."

Stickers bearing this year's motto, "Fresh Ideas for America," were nowhere in sight.

UNDECLARED

BIDEN

Will Joe Biden run for president? Drumbeat picks up. **// CS Monitor // Linda Feldmann – July 3, 2015**

Vice President Joe Biden has long harbored dreams of being president. He's run twice before, clearly relishes political life, and has yet to rule out a third try – even as Hillary Clinton dominates in fundraising and in polls of Democrats.

After the death on May 30 of Mr. Biden's beloved elder son, Beau, such talk was put on hold. But in recent days, speculation has begun to soar. New York businessman Jon Cooper, a former Obama fundraising bundler now working on a draft effort to get Biden into the race, told the Monitor Thursday that he puts the probability of Biden running at 80 percent.

"I'm as convinced as I can be that Joe Biden will be entering the presidential race," said Mr. Cooper, who bases his assessment on signals from Biden's inner circle, though he can't name names.

Cooper has been sounding out potential donors, and already has commitments from five Obama contributors. On Thursday, Cooper signed on as national finance chair for an independent effort called Draft Biden 2016. Launched in March, the Chicago-based group has collected more than 100,000 signatures, and now has staff on the ground in early nominating states – Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. The group has also hired a national fundraising firm.

Biden could also find encouragement in a new CNN/ORC national poll released Wednesday. Without lifting a finger, he is running second in the Democratic field, at 16 percent. Though Biden is well behind former Secretary Clinton (57 percent), he's in a statistical tie with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) of Vermont (14 percent), who has been campaigning hard and drawing crowds numbering in the thousands. Perhaps more important, Biden is national Democrats' second-choice candidate, with 35 percent saying he's their second choice and 14 percent choosing Sanders. If Clinton were to falter seriously, Democrats' second-choice candidate could be the biggest beneficiary.

Earlier this week, a report in The Wall Street Journal quoted Biden friends by name saying that before his death, Beau Biden had encouraged his dad to run, as has Biden's other son, Hunter.

Biden will reportedly state his intentions, either way, by early August. When reached by telephone, former Sen. Ted Kaufman (D) of Delaware, a close friend of Biden's, declined to comment on the vice president's thinking. Biden's office also won't comment.

Perhaps the biggest clue that Biden might run is that he and his inner circle have done nothing to stop the draft effort, say draft organizers.

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“We have had no communications from anyone in the Biden camp saying, ‘Stop what you’re doing,’ ” William Pierce, executive director of Draft Biden 2016, said in an interview. “Delaware’s a small state, and we talk to the same people, and all we’ve heard is a lot of encouraging communication from people who are close to the vice president.”

Pierce’s group has been holding events in Iowa and other states, and brings a life-size cutout of Biden, called “Cardboard Joe,” to liven things up. At the group’s website, DraftBiden2016.com, merchandise is for sale with the logo “I’m ridin' with Biden,” featuring the veep driving a convertible and wearing his signature aviator sunglasses.

Pundits are skeptical Biden will run and suggest that the media are inflating the possibility to add interest to the Democratic race. If Biden were to run, they doubt he could beat Clinton for the nomination. On Wednesday, Clinton announced a fundraising haul of $45 million for the first three months of her candidacy, a record for a presidential candidate’s first-quarter fundraising.

“It would be a hard catch-up for Biden. He doesn’t have the infrastructure. Who does he go to?” says veteran Democratic strategist Peter Fenn. “I’m not saying it’s impossible, I’m just saying it’s hard.”

Still, Mr. Fenn gets why Biden has kept his options open. Since Harry Truman assumed the presidency after the death of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945, most vice presidents have run for the top job, and a few have reached it. Biden, a senator for 36 years before attaining the vice presidency, has long had that presidential gleam in his eye. He first ran in 1988, then again in 2008.

“I can die a happy man never having been president of the United States of America,” Biden told GQ magazine in July 2013. “But it doesn’t mean I won’t run.”

“Joe’s a thoroughbred,” says Fenn. “He loves this. He sees the gate filling up with other horses, and it’s hard for him not to head for it.”

What about the age issue? Already in his early 70s, Biden would be the oldest person to assume the presidency. But he’s not that much older than Clinton, and he's younger than Senator Sanders. Biden supporters say what matters isn’t age, it’s energy and enthusiasm.

And Biden is nothing if not enthusiastic – sometimes to his embarrassment. Who can forget his hot-mike comment in 2010 as Mr. Obama was about to sign the Affordable Care Act: “This is a big [expletive] deal.” At a campaign appearance in southern Virginia in 2012, Biden again raised eyebrows when he told a predominantly black audience that Republicans are “going to put y'all back in chains."

Biden gaffes are many, but they’re part of what gives him authenticity in a world of overly scripted candidates, analysts say. His life experiences, including a political career bookended by personal tragedy, give him plenty to go on in connecting with voters. Unlike Clinton, Biden is not wealthy, and he doesn’t face the challenge on trustworthiness that she does, amid questions over her private e-mails and Clinton Foundation fundraising.

But by getting into the race relatively late, isn’t there a big chance that Biden would end up only damaging Clinton, the eventual nominee? Fenn, the Democratic strategist, doesn’t see it that way.

“Democrats don’t like coronations,” he says. “They don’t like this notion that someone should be given the nomination without having to work hard and go through their paces. So my sense of this is that at the end, it would be good for Hillary to go through this.”

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Will Joe Biden Run For President in 2016 After All? One Prominent Fundraiser Thinks So // Bustle // Chris Tognotti – July 3, 2015

On Thursday, with the announcement that former Viriginia Senator Jim Webb was jumping into the race, the Democratic presidential field hit five candidates total — if you're counting former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee, that is, the longest of long-shots. It's a thin field compared to the Republican side, and with only one household name — it's beginning to look like a showdown between Hillary Clinton and liberal upstart Bernie Sanders. But what if another high-profile Democrat was waiting in the wings? Will Joe Biden actually run for president in 2016 after all?

Throughout last year, Biden's name was one of many prospective possibilities for the Democrats, and that makes natural sense. As an incumbent two-term vice president, and one with longstanding ambitions for the top job — he's run twice before, in 1988 and 2008 — you'd expect him to be interested. But the election news cycle had sort of passed him by in recent months, due to the perceived invincibility of Clinton's primary campaign, his uninspiring poll numbers, and the tragic illness and death of his son Beau.

But now, the rumors appear to be heating up again — according to a report from The Christian Science Monitor, a major Democratic fundraiser believes there's an 80 percent likelihood that good ol' Uncle Joe will be jumping in for his last, best chance to win the presidency.

Here's what Jon Cooper, a businessman and former Obama fundraiser, told the Monitor about the effort. On Thursday, it was announced that he'd signed on as national finance chairman for the Draft Biden 2016 Super PAC.

I'm as convinced as I can be that Joe Biden will be entering the presidential race.

In recent history, sitting vice presidents have made potent presidential candidates. Over the past 30 years, two out of three two-term VPs have taken the plunge — George H.W. Bush mounted a successful run after eight years as Ronald Reagan's VP, and Al Gore came within a hair's breadth of winning after eight years as Bill Clinton's number two. Dick Cheney never ran, likey owing to his notoriously poor health — he actually signed a letter of resignation and sealed it in his office, in case he suffered a heart-related incident that left him in an unresponsive state.

In Biden's case, he faces a pretty abnormal set of circumstances. He'd undoubtedly be trailing Clinton by a huge margin from the get-go, but his current place in the polls should still give him some cause for optimism.

A recent CNN/ORC poll had him at second place nationally, at 16 percent, just outpacing Sanders at 14 percent. This is noteworthy, because Biden hasn't been campaigning, or even dropping public hints that he might run yet, compared to Sanders who's been campaigning for months. In other words, he's showing a higher floor to start from than Sanders has, and you never know — given a few months of hard campaigning himself, who's to say he couldn't strike a little fear in the Clinton camp?

If anything seems obvious, however, it's that he doesn't have much longer to wait. Besides him, there really aren't any other Democrats expected to run in 2016 — the movement to draft Massachusetts senator and progressive icon Elizabeth Warren, for all its enthusiasm, didn't end up going anywhere. And with Sanders drawing surprisingly big crowds and gaining momentum, Biden would be wise to make a move soon if he's going to — according to The Wall Street Journal, he's expected to make a decision by August.

OTHER

GOP

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DECLARED

BUSH

Jeb Bush Needs Some New Economic Advice **// NYT // Editorial Board – July 3, 2015**

Jeb Bush is said to have brought on Glenn Hubbard as an economic adviser — the dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Business and a prominent conservative who served as President George W. Bush's chief economist and was an architect of the big tax cuts in 2001, which favored the wealthy. He can be expected to weigh in on wage stagnation and income inequality, campaign issues that all the candidates, including Mr. Bush, have said they will address.

If the former Florida governor heeds Mr. Hubbard's advice, he's not likely to get the issue right. Answering a question from two Times reporters about the long stagnation in middle-class incomes, Mr. Hubbard argued that "compensation didn't stagnate." He said that wages have been stuck because of global competition but that employer-provided benefits for health and retirement have increased.

Politically, the comment is notable because it seemed to minimize a problem that Mr. Bush has already said is significant. It is also off point. For the broad middle class, more than three-fourths of family income is from wages and salaries, which have stagnated since the late 1970s, with the exception of one growth period in the latter half of the 1990s. Since then, wages have been flat or falling for most of the work force, including college graduates, a consequence of the underlying weakness in the bubble economy of the George W. Bush years and ensuing income losses from the financial crisis and its aftermath.

Factoring in benefits doesn't alter the basic picture. In recent decades, wages have sometimes grown faster than benefits, sometimes more slowly. So the argument that compensation has not stagnated may appear more plausible in some periods than in others. But that does not change the overall trend of prolonged stagnation and widening inequality.

Similarly, benefits are a more robust part of the compensation picture when private-sector employees are lumped together with government employees. In general, health and retirement benefits in the private sector have become less generous in recent decades, while public-sector employees have had relatively more success in holding on to valuable benefits. For private-sector employees, the share of compensation represented by benefits has largely been flat since the government began to separately track private-sector data in 1987.

Finally, the data surely overstate the value of benefits for typical workers. That's because they are averages, and in a time of rising wage inequality, the average is pulled up by the gains of highly paid employees and executives.

Mr. Hubbard's comment echoes a similar argument made in 2005, when the labor secretary at the time, Elaine Chao, dismissed concerns about poor wage growth during the Bush years by pointing out that overall compensation, including for health care, was on the rise. That seemed to explain the problem away, but as a practical matter, it meant that money that otherwise could have gone toward raises went to cover what were then the exploding costs of health coverage.

Like Ms. Chao's focus on compensation, Mr. Hubbard's similar focus today is off the mark. Mr. Bush, and the public, should not expect fresh perspectives from advisers who were in positions of power when wage stagnation became entrenched.

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Jeb Bush to meet with Mitt Romney in Kennebunkport // **WaPo** // **Philip Rucker – July 3, 2015**

Chris Christie and Marco Rubio are not the only presidential candidates catching up with Mitt Romney in New England.

Romney and his wife, Ann, plan to meet this coming week with former Florida governor Jeb Bush for lunch at Walker's Point, the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, according to aides familiar with the plans.

"Governor and Mrs. Romney look forward to visiting with Governor Jeb Bush and his family at Walker's Point this coming week," said the Romney aide, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity. An aide to Bush confirmed the plans.

In past years, the Romneys have visited with the Bushes at Walker's Point. The Romneys spend much of the summer at their own family compound on Lake Winnipesaukee in Wolfeboro, N.H., which is about a 50-mile drive from Kennebunkport.

This will be a busy week at Walker's Point. Bush is hosting a retreat there for top campaign donors on Thursday and Friday. Bush, who is expected to spend much of the week with family in Maine, also plans to drop into New Hampshire for some campaigning. He will march in two Fourth of July parades on Saturday.

Jeb Bush raises questions about Obama's Iran negotiations // **Reuters** // **Steve Holland – July 2, 2015**

Jeb Bush is skeptical about U.S.-led negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

In a column written for Townhall.com, the 2016 Republican presidential candidate says a flawed Iran deal could be "the legacy of the Obama-Clinton-Kerry foreign policy," and if so, "it will be a dangerous one for the next president to repair."

"As we await details of the latest concessions the Obama Administration is making to Iran, we should recall the grave danger posed to the world by Iran's non-nuclear aggression across the Middle East. Without a comprehensive strategy to deal with the totality of Iran's threats to our interests, the expected nuclear deal is likely to offer only short-term political benefits for President Obama, not lasting security benefits for America," Bush writes.

Don't Trust Iran // **Town Hall** // **Jeb Bush – July 2, 2015**

Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a grave threat to the United States, to Israel, to other close partners in the Middle East, and to international peace and security. There is not yet a nuclear deal with Iran, but I agree with the many experts who believe an agreement is likely. Repeated concessions and desperate accommodation suggest the Obama Administration will do anything to secure a deal. And with America playing such a weak hand, why shouldn't the Supreme Leader squeeze President Obama for more concessions?

Although I will reserve final judgment until the details of a comprehensive agreement are public, I fear it will be a bad deal for the United States, Israel, and all who desire a stable Middle East. And it will be a good deal for Iran's leaders: one that legitimizes Iran's authoritarian regime, fills Tehran's dwindling coffers, and fuels Iran's aggression throughout the region – all without requiring the clerics to give up their nuclear weapons ambitions. Indeed, a bipartisan group that included several former senior Obama Administration officials recently acknowledged the deal being negotiated "will not prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapons capability."

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As we await details of the latest concessions the Obama Administration is making to Iran, we should recall the grave danger posed to the world by Iran's non-nuclear aggression across the Middle East. Without a comprehensive strategy to deal with the totality of Iran's threats to our interests, the expected nuclear deal is likely to offer only short-term political benefits for President Obama, not lasting security benefits for America.

Iran is the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism. It has supported a wide variety of terrorist organizations, from Shi'a extremists in Lebanese Hizballah and Iraq's militias to Sunni jihadists in groups such as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Taliban, and even al Qaeda. Prior to September 11, 2001, Iranian-backed Hizballah was responsible for the deaths of more Americans than any other terrorist organization in the world, and it remains an extraordinarily deadly terrorist group that threatens U.S. interests. During the war in Iraq, Iranian proxies and weapons were responsible for the deaths of more than a thousand American soldiers. Despite the wishful thinking of the Obama Administration surrounding the 2013 selection Hassan Rouhani as Iran's President, Iran's support for terrorism has only continued, and its proxies are as violent as ever.

Iran foments instability and sectarian tension throughout the region. It is a delusion to believe, as the President does, that the current regime in Tehran can be a force for stability in the Middle East. Iran has bankrolled and armed the Assad regime during its war against the Syrian people, and hundreds of Iranian special operations forces are operating as combatants in Syria. Iranian-backed militia have subverted the Iraqi state and helped fuel sectarian tensions that have driven many Sunnis into the arms of ISIL.

And in Yemen, Iran has supported Houthi rebels who deposed one of America's most important counterterrorism partners and plunged the country into chaos.

Iran has one of the most aggressive rocket and missile programs in the world. Iranian-backed militias used Iranian mortars, rockets, and improvised explosive devices to attack U.S. targets. Hamas and Hizballah have fired thousands of Iranian-produced rockets, projectiles, and missiles against Israel. The Islamic Republic of Iran has developed long-range missiles capable of hitting Israel, and is developing an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile that would be capable of hitting the United States.

Not content with aggression abroad, Iran's rulers engage in brutal repression at home. Religious minorities, political dissidents, and journalists are subjected to harassment, detention, torture, and even execution. Despite Obama Administration hopes that President Rouhani would usher in an era of moderation and tolerance, his tenure has been marked by an increase in human rights abuses and repression. The leaders of the 2009 Green Movement remain in detention, as do at least several American citizens and countless Iranian political dissidents and prisoners of conscience.

The Obama-Clinton-Kerry Iran policy has failed not only because its weak negotiating strategy will not stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capability, but also because it has, from the beginning, ignored the comprehensive nature of the threat posed by Iran. The nuclear program is but one symptom of an underlying disease, and the Obama Administration has treated only this one symptom, and ineffectively at that.

Whatever happens in the coming days, America under our next President will have to deal comprehensively with the threats posed by Iran. It must seek to rally the region and the world to pressure Iran to change its behavior. It must demand conclusive proof Iran has not just delayed, but given up its nuclear weapons ambitions. It must develop a strategy not just to defeat ISIL, but also to combat Iran's malign activities in Iraq and Syria. It must impose meaningful consequences on Iran for its support of terrorism and its abhorrent treatment of its own citizens. It must deny Iran the ability to produce longer-range ballistic missiles that will threaten America and its allies.

Undoing the damage done by a fundamentally flawed nuclear deal will not be easy. But it will be essential for the security of the United States.

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All of these challenges will, of course, be exponentially more difficult to address if, by consummating a bad nuclear deal with Iran, the Obama Administration squanders the international consensus and sanctions currently pressuring Iran's leaders without securing a more fundamental shift in Iran's behavior.

If this is the legacy of the Obama-Clinton-Kerry foreign policy, it will be a dangerous one for the next President to repair.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio's Donor Obstacles: A Limited Base and Another Floridian // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters and Ashley Parker – July 3, 2015

In the nearly three months since he announced that he was running for president, Senator Marco Rubio has been enjoying his moment. Republicans have talked up his potential. Democrats have called him a threat. He has been in the top tier of many polls.

But one of the biggest measures of his success — whether he impresses Republican donors as much as he does the party's leading operatives and opinion shapers — has been harder to discern.

Mr. Rubio has a notable disadvantage in the congested, fragmented field of Republican candidates: He has no natural national base of support to draw on, the way Senator Ted Cruz does with evangelical Christians or Senator Rand Paul does with libertarians.

And Mr. Rubio has been cut off from some of the financial support he received in his home state, Florida, when it elected him to the Senate in 2010: Many of the wealthy donors who propelled him to national political fame are sticking by Jeb Bush, the former governor.

Bent on mitigating those deficits, Mr. Rubio has been on a cross-country fund-raising binge, spending little time meeting voters and far more at dinners and receptions in the homes of an eclectic set of patrons — from Larry Ellison, the software developer who hosted a few dozen barefoot Rubio supporters at his Japanese-inspired compound outside San Francisco, to Rick Harrison, a Las Vegas pawnshop owner best known for his role on the History Channel's "Pawn Stars."

In his private appeals for money, Mr. Rubio avoids overtly drawing comparisons to Mr. Bush. But those who have heard him say that the implied contrast could not be more obvious: He embodies the future of the Republican Party, while Mr. Bush represents the past.

"The differences are clear and don't even really need to be mentioned," said George Seay, a Dallas investor who has hosted two fund-raisers for Mr. Rubio this year.

Some differences, however, need to be stated.

In Las Vegas a few weeks ago, Mr. Rubio got across a simple message, recalled Mr. Harrison: "The other guys have a lot more money than me."

The first glimpse of how much all this fund-raising has paid off — and the clearest sign yet of how viable a force

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Mr. Rubio will be against well-financed primary opponents — will come over the next week or so when the candidates and their "super PACs" begin reporting how much money they raised in the second quarter, which ended Tuesday.

Mr. Rubio's supporters say they believe a credible sum to have in his campaign bank account when candidates report their totals would be in the neighborhood of $10 million. His super PAC, they said, should have roughly twice that.

But not all has been going as smoothly as hoped. The campaign canceled two fund-raisers last month in Florida because not enough donors had committed. A top Washington-based fund-raiser for Mr. Rubio, Carmen Miller Spence, just resigned her position with the campaign. A Rubio spokesman declined to comment on Ms. Spence's exit but said the canceled events would be rescheduled.

"All my friends — all my friends — it seems everybody over 70 is for Jeb Bush," said Gay Gaines, a Rubio supporter who has held fund-raisers for him at her Palm Beach home. "It's not that I don't think Jeb is fabulous — I do. But I said to all of them: 'You know what worries me? The millennials. They're not going to want another Bush.'"

"It kills me," she added.

Mr. Rubio has some very generous benefactors: Norman Braman, a billionaire auto dealer, is expected to give him $10 million, though the senator's supporters say they do not know when that money is coming, or whether all of it will materialize.

And if Mr. Rubio finds himself largely shut out of the Bush network, he has made inroads with another powerhouse fund-raising machine: Mitt Romney's operation, which raised $1 billion in the 2012 presidential campaign. Many of Mr. Romney's former advisers and donors feel loyalty to Mr. Rubio, who threw himself into Mr. Romney's campaign.

"He, from the get-go, was very willing to do whatever we asked him to do, no ego, was able to excite crowds and create crowds," said Tagg Romney, Mr. Romney's oldest son. "You learn a lot about a person and what they're willing to do and how they handle themselves. And he was great."

Mr. Rubio's campaign manager, deputy campaign manager and New Hampshire strategist worked on one or both of Mr. Romney's presidential runs. The Rubio campaign's ad agency, Poolhouse, was founded by two Romney campaign veterans. Another former Romney aide, Garrett Jackson, recently hosted a fund-raiser for Mr. Rubio in Texas.

And last month, at a retreat for Republican donors that Mr. Romney arranged in Utah, he praised Mr. Rubio's turn at the microphone. "There was a point in his remarks where I felt something in my heart and I said, 'Yeah, that's the America I know and love,'" said Mr. Romney, who is hosting Mr. Rubio and the senator's young family this weekend at the Romney summer home in Wolfeboro, N.H.

But other presidential candidates attended the event, and Mr. Romney's praise stopped well short of an endorsement.

Mr. Rubio has also worked to cultivate ties with several billionaires who are expected to pour huge sums into the 2016 campaign: He headlined a forum for Americans for Prosperity, the group backed by the industrialists Charles G. and David H. Koch, in New Hampshire last week. And he just signed on to an effort in Congress to limit online gambling, a priority of the Las Vegas casino magnate Sheldon Adelson.

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The focus on money has been relentless, not only in drumming it up but also in holding onto it with a tight fist. Mr. Rubio's campaign is run out of an old townhouse on Capitol Hill, and his campaign manager, Terry Sullivan, proudly posted on Twitter a picture of the Southwest jet he and Mr. Rubio were about to board in Las Vegas.

Sen. Marco Rubio To Campaign In Nevada // CBS // July 3, 2015

Republican Presidential candidate and Florida Senator Marco Rubio is going back to Nevada.

The Florida senator will visit Las Vegas on July 11th and make stops at a Henderson retirement community and Lt. Governor Mark Hutchinson's house for a private event with state legislators and activists.

Rubio is scheduled to give a speech at a recreational center in Sun City Anthem, a popular retirement community in Henderson. He'll then attend a private event with supporters at the Las Vegas home of Hutchison, who is Rubio's statewide campaign director.

The trip marks the second Nevada visit for Rubio since the Florida Republican announced his presidential candidacy in April. He made campaign stops in Las Vegas and Reno in May.

Marco Rubio on Trump: 'Offensive' and 'Divisive' Comments Are Not Offering A Solution // Mediaite // Ken Meyer – July 3, 2015

Marco Rubio has become the latest 2016 Republican hopeful to denounce Donald Trump's controversial statements about Mexican immigrant criminals and rapists.

Rubio put out a statement blasing the comments for not just being inaccurate and "offensive", but also dangerous for being "divisive."

"Our next president needs to be someone who brings Americans together – not someone who continues to divide," Rubio wrote. "Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from – not closer to – a solution."

Rubio's statement comes two days after his 2016 rival George Pataki urged his fellow candidates to come out against Trump's incendiary remarks, describing them as "sad and divisive" and fearful that they would hurt the Republican party. Rick Perry also disapproved of Trump's statements, saying it was a "huge error" to make such a sweeping, derogatory generalization.

You can read Rubio's full statement here:

Trump's comments are not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive. Our next president needs to be someone who brings Americans together – not someone who continues to divide. Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from – not closer to – a solution. We need leaders who offer serious solutions to secure our border and fix our broken immigration system.

PAUL

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Ron Paul says Trump troubles him **// The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 3, 2015**

Former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) said on Thursday that GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump's 'aggressive personality' troubles him.

Paul said the billionaire's top-down management style might not translate to the White House in an interview.

"I don't think anybody should be running the economy and that's the whole fallacy of our last hundred years," Paul told host Ed Berliner of Newsmax TV's "The Hard Line."

"[Trump] can't run the economy, he can't create jobs and he should know that," Paul said.

"He can create jobs if he stays in the building industry, but even his industry is going to be in trouble because he might build too many buildings because interest rates are zero," he added.

"He taps in to a lot of people, but the thing that concerns me is that it's sort of like take charge and take over and we've had too much government taking charge and taking over.

"It's the government that created it and we don't need somebody with an iron fist to come in and say, 'It'll be done my way and I can correct all these problems,' because the solution isn't to have somebody strong to tell us what to do," he said.

Paul also praised last week's Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide.

It ruled in a landmark 5-4 decision on June 26 that states must recognize the practice under the 14th Amendment's equal protections clause.

"[It's] their business," Paul said of same-sex marriages.

"That's the wonderful thing about libertarianism," he added. "It doesn't have to make that final decision of what people should do."

Paul's son, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), is also seeking the Republican nomination next election cycle.

He called on the government to remove itself from regulating marriage entirely on Monday.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz continues to defend Donald Trump on immigration **// WaPo // Katie Zezima – July 3, 2015**

Sen. Ted Cruz continues to defend Donald Trump on immigration.

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Cruz (R-Tex.), in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" praised Trump for talking about immigration. Trump has made inflammatory comments about Mexican immigrants, leading Macy's and Univision to sever ties with Trump.

Cruz, speaking during his book tour in Marietta, Ga., said he likes Trump, who Cruz said is "bold" and "brash." Cruz said he's not going to attack Trump.

"I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration," Cruz said, reiterating that he believes that "amnesty is wrong."

Cruz said Trump has a "colorful way of speaking -- it's not the way I speak. But I'm not going to engage in the media's game of throwing rocks and attacking other Republicans. I'm just not gonna do it."

Cruz previously said that Trump was "terrific" and shouldn't apologize because he "speaks the truth."

A number of GOP candidates condemned Trump's comments.

"They're bringing drugs," Trump said in his presidential announcement speech. "They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

Trump also said he wants to build a "great wall on our southern border" to keep illegal immigrants from Mexico out of the United States.

Ted Cruz defends Donald Trump, slams 'Washington cartel' on immigration // Politico // Ali Breland – July 3, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz defended Donald Trump on immigration and called out "the Washington cartel" he says is ignoring the issue, in an interview to be broadcast Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration," Cruz said of his rival for the 2016 GOP nomination, adding that it "seems the favorite sport of the Washington media is to encourage some Republicans to attack other Republicans."

"I'm not interested in Republican on Republican violence," he told host Chuck Todd, adding that "bold ... brash" Trump "has a colorful way of speaking."

The Texas senator's comments were similar to his defense of Trump during Fox & Friends on Tuesday.

"When it comes to Donald Trump, I like Donald Trump," Cruz said on the show. "I think he's terrific."

Trump sparked a backlash with inflammatory comments about Mexican immigrants during his campaign kick-off speech, leading to NBC and Univision severing ties with the billionaire real-estate mogul, and Macy's dropping his clothing line.

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Marco Rubio, the Florida senator who is also vying for the Republican nomination, took a more critical approach on Trump's statements.

"Trump's comments are not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive," Rubio said in a statement released Friday.

A Conservative Firebrand From The Start, Ted Cruz Always Had A Plan // NPR // Ailsa Change – July 3, 2015

Boldness comes more naturally to Ted Cruz than compromise. Barely through his first year in the Senate, the Texas Republican bucked his party leaders and became the public face of a government shutdown while standing up for conservative ideals. Rewind three decades back, and you'd find Cruz selling a similar message as a teenager in Houston.

You could say Cruz ran with a gang in high school. Their colors were blue jacket, white shirt, red tie. They called themselves the Constitutional Corroborators. And their leader was the head of a conservative think tank named Rolland Storey, who took them around Houston to perform.

"He would introduce them and say, 'They're now going to write down memorized sections of the Constitution. Word for word,' " said Winston Elliott, who helped coach the young recruits.

The Constitutional Corroborators would roll into Rotary Clubs and other civic groups — and they'd be armed with easels.

"On cue, they would stand at the easel, and each write out on the easel a major section. And then, when they finished, [Storey] would say, 'Now each of you explain that section of the Constitution,' " Elliott said.

This is how Ted Cruz the teenager spent much of his spare time — hanging out two nights a week with a think tank in Houston called the Free Enterprise Institute.

Storey would lead the students in discussions about the Constitution, the Federalist papers and Anti-Federalist papers. They'd compete in speech contests about the free market.

Elliott, who now heads the Free Enterprise Institute, first met Cruz when he judged the skinny high school freshman in one of those speech contests.

"Suddenly Ted just turned it on," Elliott remembered. "And you just got this confidence and this clarity. Explain economic principles — basic economic principles — of inflation and property rights and this kind of thing when you're in ninth grade? I mean, I think Ted was 14 then."

It was the mid-1980s, and Ronald Reagan was Cruz's hero. Cruz's father Rafael, who had emigrated from Cuba, followed the oil business down to the Houston suburbs. And there, his son inhabited a world that was safe, quiet and insulated.

Cruz attended Second Baptist High School. It's on the campus of a megachurch tucked near a country club in a leafy, affluent neighborhood. He was valedictorian there — as well as captain of the speech team and a member of the newspaper and yearbook staffs.

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He was also president of the drama club.

Cruz loved being on stage, even if it meant being the villain. In junior high school, he had played Rolfe, the young Nazi in The Sound of Music. He landed the role of the murderer Bill Sikes in Oliver during high school. In his senior yearbook, Cruz is leaning dramatically into a microphone — under the title "Most Likely To Become The Next Geraldo Rivera."

Doug Daniels was a year behind Cruz at Second Baptist. He first met the future senator in Spanish class, after Cruz had just transferred from another high school midyear.

"And it was not very long before Ted was raising his hand and answering questions, like he had been there from not only the beginning of the class but the beginning of the school year," said Daniels. "At the time I probably wouldn't have used this word, but now I will say it was intimidating."

A newcomer who refuses to hold back. That's how Cruz has marked his first couple years in the Senate, too. And it's a style that's won him legions of fans in his home state.

"I think he's very passionate about things that most Texans believe, or else he wouldn't be as popular as he is," said Wally Wilkerson, the longest-serving local GOP chairman in Texas. Wilkerson's been chair in Montgomery County — just north of Houston — since 1964.

"If you might have any disagreement with Ted Cruz, it might be over his passion or his actions or whatever, but not what his beliefs are," Wilkerson said.

Cruz might not be the stereotypical Texan — he's more Ivy League than cowboy, more fighter than horse-trader — but he seems to get Texas. Consider this: After infuriating many of his Senate colleagues, who blamed him for the government shutdown in 2013, Cruz was the highest rated politician in all of Texas.

But Wilkerson says there's one thing that might be an unexpected weakness for a Latino from Texas.

"As a Hispanic, by nature and by birth, you would think the Hispanics would be attracted by that," said Wilkerson. "But I think there's something there that hadn't clicked. And I think that could be a problem for him."

It's a tension that feels especially pronounced in Cruz's hometown of Houston, which is more than 40 percent Hispanic.

Houston is no longer the city of oil rig workers. This massive, sprawling metropolis is now home to one of the most racially diverse populations in the country. Drive just 10 minutes outside Cruz's old high school, and you'll find streets lined with Indian clothing shops, Middle Eastern food stores and Guatemalan eateries.

The sheltered pocket where Cruz grew up bumps right up against the city of immigrants Houston has become. And many in these parts struggle to call Cruz their hometown hero — especially in a Latino neighborhood called Aldine. Near the airport, it's one of the poorest communities in Houston.

"He's just so — I don't know how you say this in English — humilde. He's not a humble person to want to help people who actually need help," said Nancy Yanes. She says her parents came to the U.S. illegally from El

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Salvador 30 years ago, and she doesn't like that Cruz opposes a path to citizenship for people like her parents.

"You might be from Houston, but it doesn't really seem like you care about the people in Texas, in Houston," Yanes said.

But Cruz's friends say he's not someone who was ever running for mayor of Houston. And Cruz has stuck to the same conservative principles he used to recite as a teenager.

"I don't think you'll find a single person who knew him in high school who is at all surprised where he is now," Daniels said. "He had direction. I mean, you knew Ted had a plan."

And that plan always seemed bigger than home. The kid who was never afraid to raise his hand in class — who never avoided the stage even if he had to play the bad guy — would naturally go for the biggest brass ring: the White House.

Cruz: US should withdraw from UN Human Rights Commission **// The Hill // Ben Kamisar – July 3, 2015**

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) is calling on the United States to withdraw its membership from the United Nations Human Rights Commission over its vote Friday to condemn Israel for the 2014 conflict with Palestinians.

The commission voted 41-1 on the resolution Friday, with five abstentions, to condemn Israel for targeting civilians. America was the only country to vote against it.

“Our single vote in opposition is just and the abstentions of our friends are welcome, but at this point they are meaningless gestures. It is time to stop ceding moral authority to the UNHRC and tell the truth about this hopelessly biased and anti-Semitic institution,” Cruz said in a statement Friday.

“The United States should stop legitimizing the UNHRC with our membership and withdraw now.”

The 2014 conflict stemmed from Israel’s response to Hamas sympathizers launching rockets from Palestinian territories into the country. Israel’s military operation killed more than 1,000 civilians, drawing widespread criticism from Palestinians and the international community.

But Israel has argued the Palestinians purposefully put civilians in harms way and that it needed to protect itself from the scores of rocket attacks on its country.

Cruz, an ardent supporter of Israel, backed the Jewish homeland in his statement and chided the U.N. for ignoring the Israeli perspective in the resolution.

“There is no equivalency between Israel’s right to self-defense and Hamas’ genocidal aggression against the Jewish people,” he said.

“There is no equivalence between Israel’s extraordinary efforts to protect civilians and Hamas’ use of the Palestinian people as human shields.”

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Cruz owns mistakes, offers fresh insight **// Houston Chronicle // Todd J. Gillman – July 3, 2015**

Ted Cruz has a recurring problem with being too cocky and at key points in his life, and that has come with a price. He arrived in Washington intent on bending the Senate toward a conservative agenda, and sometimes he has succeeded. When he didn't, it was probably because his GOP colleagues were timid, wrong or even duplicitous.

These are the Texas senator's own observations in "A Time for Truth," a book that hit shelves last week.

Long passages defending his role in the government shutdown and his antipathy toward President Barack Obama, Obamacare, Iran, Russia, squishy moderates and lots of other targets are familiar to anyone who has ever heard Cruz speak. But there are plenty of fresh insights.

Cruz owns up to a number of mistakes since joining the Senate. Some of these amount to underestimating the eagerness of most fellow Republicans to shy away from a fight and abandon conservative principles. Top Republicans come in for special opprobrium - though it is notable that not once does Cruz call out fellow Texan, John Cornyn, by name.

Time and again, Cruz blasts "the Republican leadership," often chastising Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky while glossing entirely past Cornyn's role as majority whip, the party's No. 2 leader.

In the run-up to the 16-day government shutdown in fall 2013, Cruz writes, "What we did not anticipate was that Mitch McConnell and the GOP leadership team would decide to publicly, directly and aggressively lead the fight against the House Republicans and in favor of Obamacare. Perhaps they wanted to discourage conservatives like (Utah Sen. Mike Lee) and me from ever again rebelling against the party line. Or perhaps they were simply angry that a handful of senators would have the temerity to take our case straight to the American people."

Some of the most venomous passages concern the "surrender" by GOP leaders to end the government shutdown, handing the "radical left" a huge victory in its march toward socialized medicine.

Early in Cruz's Senate tenure, he caused a stir during the confirmation hearing for Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. Hagel had repeatedly refused to detail the source of some of his income, in particular $200,000 that apparently came from a foreign source. Without full disclosure, Cruz said, Congress had no way to know if the funds had come from North Korea. Critics pounced; the insinuation smacked of McCarthyism, they said.

"I made a mistake," Cruz writes. "I allowed the White House and the Democrats to change the subject" from Hagel's "disastrous foreign policy record," in particular his "antagonism" toward Israel.

Cruz also antagonized Sen. Dianne Feinstein at a hearing over proposed gun restrictions after the Newtown, Conn., school massacre. He asked a lawyerly question comparing potential Second Amendment restrictions to analogous erosion of First or Fourth Amendment rights. It came off condescending and Feinstein shot him down by saying, "I am not a sixth grader."

In the moment, Cruz lost the image battle. In the book, he explains his motive - not to embarrass but to engage in the way he'd been trained as a Supreme Court litigator. "Her reaction puzzled me. Of course she wasn't a sixth grader. No one would ask a sixth grader a substantive question of constitutional law," he writes.

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He learned his lesson, he said, when the exchange went viral online: "In the U.S. Senate, senators are not used to actual debate. They are unaccustomed to finding their positions questioned or challenged in any meaningful way."

In 1999, Cruz had taken an 80 percent pay cut to serve as a domestic policy adviser on the Bush campaign, giving up a job at a boutique appellate law firm in Washington to move to Austin. Bush, a morning person (unlike Cruz) would sometimes call at 6 a.m. to discuss a memo or policy in Cruz's portfolio, which included gay marriage, taxes, criminal law, immigration and gun rights. Cruz found Bush inquisitive, remarkably charismatic and self-deprecating.

"Perhaps with the exception of a few junior staffers like me, Bush was always the most conservative person in the room," Cruz writes.

But by 2008, Cruz had grown disenchanted with the Bush administration. He disagreed with the bailouts of major Wall Street banks, and rather than revitalizing the Reagan Revolution, "it took the Republican Party down the path of bigger government, excessive spending and new entitlement programs that we couldn't afford. A Republican president should not add $5 trillion to the national debt."

Still, Cruz draws a rhetorical link between Bush's "compassionate conservatism" and his own "opportunity conservatism." Both, he suggests, stem from a desire to encourage growth and economic progress, but in his view, Bush's went astray by turning it into an excuse for intrusive government.

One of Cruz's great disappointments was failing to land a senior position in the Bush White House after the campaign. Instead, he spent a few months as a deputy attorney general, then two as a senior attorney at the Federal Trade Commission.

"I desperately wanted to be a real leader in the Bush administration," he writes. "When that didn't happen, it was a crushing blow."

But it forced him to take stock.

"I was far too cocky for my own good," Cruz writes, and he "burned a fair number of bridges on the Bush campaign."

"Going through that experience altered my personality, and forced me to view the world differently, to treat others with greater respect and humility," he writes. "I needed to get my teeth kicked in. And if that hadn't happened, there's no way I would be in the U.S. Senate today."

CHRISTIE

Exclusive: Chris Christie hires presidential campaign manager and appoints senior staff // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 3, 2015

Gov. Chris Christie has hired a seasoned Republican strategist to manage his nascent presidential campaign and has recruited other veteran operatives to round out a senior staff that also will include the top advisers who charted his rise in New Jersey.

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Ken McKay, a well-regarded operative who previously has served as chief of staff at the Republican National Committee and as political director of the Republican Governors Association, has joined the Christie operation as campaign manager.

Joining McKay at the top of the Christie campaign is Maria Comella, the governor's longtime communications adviser and close confidante, who is becoming the campaign's chief messaging officer. Comella, who had been deputy chief of staff for communications and planning in the governor's office, will have a broad mandate on the campaign overseeing Christie's message, communications and brand.

Christie advisers provided a list of campaign staffing moves to The Washington Post.

Once considered a front-runner for the 2016 nomination, Christie is now far back in a crowded field and will be relying on a small campaign team to guide his comeback.

McKay will be overseeing the campaign's nuts-and-bolts political operations from the national headquarters in Morristown, N.J., while Comella will serve as Christie's right-hand adviser, often traveling with him and helping him hone his message and campaign trail performance.

As expected, Mike DuHaime, who guided Christie's successful 2009 and 2013 gubernatorial runs and held senior positions on the George W. Bush, Rudy Giuliani and John McCain presidential campaigns and at the Republican National Committee, will serve as the senior strategist and lead a team of outside consultants.

Russ Schriefer, who created the gubernatorial television advertisements that helped define the Christie brand, will be the campaign's lead media consultant. He is a veteran of presidential campaigns, most recently serving as senior adviser and media consultant on Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. Larry Weitzner, who worked with Schriefer on media for Christie's 2009 and 2013 campaigns, will be another media consultant.

Adam Geller, who was Christie's lead pollster in both governor's races, will serve in the same capacity on the presidential campaign.

The governor's closest counselor and the gatekeeper to his political orbit, Bill Palatucci, will serve as the campaign's general counsel. Palatucci will oversee all legal aspects, including ballot access issues and delegate math during what could become a lengthy nominating contest.

Palatucci, who will remain as a fundraiser and all-around adviser, is uniquely suited for the legal position considering his years of experience on the RNC and on the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush presidential campaigns.

The senior staff combines advisers with personal histories with the governor and newcomers to the Christie orbit who bring experiences from past presidential campaigns as well as the technology sector.

"Governor Christie's 2016 campaign team combines a core group from his gubernatorial victories with an infusion of incredibly talented individuals who have worked at the highest levels in American politics," said DuHaime, who has recruited several former colleagues from the Giuliani campaign and the RNC onto the Christie team.

Some of Christie's team comes from the governor's office, where the top two aides who remain are chief of staff Regina Egea and chief counsel Christopher Porrino.

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Ray Washburne, a Dallas investor and fundraising powerhouse who most recently served as the RNC's national finance chairman, will hold the title of national finance chairman for Christie's campaign. Other members of the finance committee are expected to be named in coming weeks.

Working with Washburne as fundraising director is Cam Henderson, who served as executive director of the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund from 2012 to 2014 and before that was chief of staff to first lady Mary Pat Christie. Henderson has held more political positions, including as deputy campaign manager for Giuliani's 2008 presidential campaign, working alongside DuHaime and Comella.

Christie has hired James Garcia as political director. During the 2012 presidential race, Garcia served as Romney's national field director during the primaries and as Colorado state manager in the general election. He most recently served as regional political director at the RNC.

Another relatively new addition to the Christie team is Samantha Smith, who will serve as communications director. She joined Christie's Leadership Matters for America PAC from Google, where she was a senior manager on the tech company's global communications and public policy team. She previously was a communications aide for Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) as well as on McCain's 2008 campaign.

The campaign's digital director will be Lauren Fritts, a former Fox News Channel employee who for the past four years has been digital communications director in the governor's office, where she managed Christie's active presence on YouTube and such social media as Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter.

The research and rapid response director will be Foster Morss, who has worked in the governor's office and previously served on Giuliani's campaign and at the RNC as a senior analyst and deputy research director.

Several former George W. Bush presidential campaign staffers have signed on with Christie as consultants. Brian Jones, a former RNC communications director who worked on the Romney, McCain and Bush campaigns, will be senior communications consultant.

Brent Seaborn, who led the groundbreaking microtargeting project during Bush's 2004 reelection campaign, will be Christie's voter targeting consultant.

Meanwhile, Kevin Shuvalov, a staffer on Bush's 2000 campaign and former RNC aide who has extensive experience in Iowa, will be the direct-mail consultant. And Cary Evans, a former Bush and Giuliani adviser who now is based in Washington state and has experience in Nevada and other western states, will be the telemarketing consultant.

Christie plans to open campaign offices in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. But his strategic focus is squarely on New Hampshire, which hosts the first-in-the-nation presidential primary and where he is beginning to build a robust staff.

Matt Mowers, a former Christie aide who moved to New Hampshire following the governor's 2013 reelection to become executive director of the state Republican Party, will serve as New Hampshire state director.

The New Hampshire political director will be Britt Carter, who spent the 2014 midterm campaign cycle in New Hampshire focused on building a modern, grass-roots field program for state Republicans. Matt Moroney, who has deep roots in New Hampshire and served as a field staffer for Romney in 2012 and gubernatorial candidate Walt Havenstein in 2014, will be New Hampshire operations director.

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In Iowa, home to the first caucuses, Christie's campaign will be directed by Phil Valenziano, a longtime operative in the Hawkeye State. He served as political director on Gov. Terry Branstad's 2014 reelection campaign and as director of the governor's inauguration. In 2012, Valenziano served as Romney's Iowa field director for the caucuses and as New Hampshire state director in the general election. He will be joined in Iowa by state political director Kevin Poindexter, who has worked at the RNC and for Romney's 2012 campaign.

Christie's sanctioned super PAC, America Leads -- which has set a goal of raising $5 million to $6 million by the close of the fundraising quarter that ended June 30 -- recently announced its senior staff.

It will be led by Phil Cox, who is considered one of the country's top Republican strategists and most recently served as executive director of the Republican Governors Association while Christie was chairman.

The super PAC's advertising and media strategy will be overseen by Doug McAuliffe, a veteran of gubernatorial, Senate and House campaigns. Gene Ulm, a partner at Public Opinion Strategies whose clients include Rep. Paul Ryan, the 2012 vice presidential nominee, will be the super PAC's pollster.

Tucker Martin, a longtime Virginia-based consultant who previously worked as former Virginia governor Robert McDonnell's communications director, will direct communications for the super PAC. Mike Leavitt, a former RNC chief of staff and veteran strategist who helped guide Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's underdog campaign in 2014, will handle direct mail.

The super PAC's fundraising will be overseen by Paige Hahn, who ran fundraising operations at the RGA from 2011 to 2014, during which the association raised a record $250 million. And Kurt Luidhardt, who has worked for Christie and other Republicans, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, will handle digital efforts.

Correction: An earlier version of this post misspelled Larry Weitzner's last name.

For Chris Christie, the truth hurts **// USA Today // Windsor Mann – July 3, 2015**

The only thing worse than a lying politician is one who tells the truth. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is the latter, or at least he pretends to be.

Announcing his presidential candidacy on Tuesday, Christie vowed to speak the truth. "I mean what I say and I say what I mean, and that's what America needs right now," he said, presumably meaning it.

Many of the truths Christie evoked on Tuesday are indisputable. "I became governor six years ago" (True). "We have a president in the Oval Office" (True). In the not-a-news-flash file: "Both parties have failed our country." He also pointed out that "compromise" is not "a dirty word." Indeed, one can even say it on network television.

Christie is all about telling the truth — or, rather, all about telling people he will tell them the truth. He promised "a campaign of big ideas and hard truths," and reminded the audience of his truth track record: "As governor I've never wavered from telling you the truth as I see it."

What qualifies as truths in Christie's lexicon are mostly bromides, the utterance of which he considers an act of courage. He notified the crowd, "We just need to have the courage to stand up and say, 'Enough!'" This requires no courage at all, only functioning legs and the ability to enunciate two syllables.

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"What are those truths?" Christie asked. "We have to acknowledge that our government isn't working anymore for us." This is a platitude, not a truth, but Christie still wants credit for telling it.

If Christie intends on telling the truth, rather than merely talking about telling it, he is courting disaster. In politics, telling the truth is a liability, not an asset.

Richard Nixon's claim not to be a crook, though absurd and disingenuous, was shrewd compared to the alternative. It would have been far worse politically if he had said, "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. And just so you know, I am."

Jimmy Carter, who promised never to lie to the American people, surely wasn't lying when he confessed to having "looked on a lot of women with lust." This was simply an acknowledgement of biological reality, but it survives as perhaps Carter's most notorious statement.

Walter Mondale, upon accepting the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, spoke the truth when he said he would raise taxes. The result? He won one state out of 50.

Contrary to myth, Americans don't dislike pandering. They dislike blatant pandering, which is Hillary Clinton's specialty. Once a proponent of the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, she now is equivocal. She was for the Iraq war when it was popular and against it when it became unpopular. During her first Senate campaign, she claimed she had "always been a Yankees fan." She reminds me of the woman in Coming to America who, when asked what kind of music she likes, answers, "Whatever kind of music you like."

Christie is adopting the opposite strategy, willing, even eager, to tell you that your favorite band sucks. He vowed to run "a campaign without spin or without pandering or focus-group-tested answers" — a line that polls well in focus groups. Telling voters you will not pander to them is itself a form of pandering. Voters want to be told the truth, not what they want to hear, unless the truth is different from what they want to hear.

"You're going to get what I think whether you like it or not, or whether it makes you cringe every once in a while or not," Christie said. But the goal of a presidential candidate is to get elected, not to express cringe-inducing thoughts. Politicians who do the latter lose elections. Remember Todd Akin?

If Christie has thoughts, he failed to elucidate them on Tuesday. Instead, he clarified his approach to Q&A. "When I'm asked a question," he averred, "I'm going to give the answer to the question that's asked." Needless to say, he doesn't always do this. When asked about immigration last year, Christie said, "I'm not going to discuss a complicated issue like immigration here in Marion, Iowa." For reasons left unexplained, the residents of Marion, Iowa, are precluded from hearing the truth about immigration.

Christie said he "will not worry about what is popular but what is right." Voters prefer politicians who do the right thing to politicians who do whatever is popular, except when doing the right thing happens to be unpopular. If Christie doesn't know this already, he will learn soon.

Christie to spend the night at Romney's New Hampshire home // The Hill // Ben Kamisar – July 3, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) will meet with 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney during Fourth of July swings through New Hampshire.

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The Washington Post reports that Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, will have dinner at the Romney's Lake Winnipesaukee home, where they will stay the night. And Time adds that Rubio will stay there as well.

"Governor Romney heard that his friends, Governor Christie and Senator Rubio, along with their families, would be in Wolfeboro over the July 4th holiday weekend," a Romney spokesperson told Time. "He and Mrs. Romney opened their home to their friends and look forward to celebrating America's birthday."

The summer house is a six-bedroom, 5,400 square-foot home right on the water a tennis court and a horse stable, according to a 2012 blog on the real estate website Zillow.

Christie is in the Granite State, home of the second presidential nominating contest, as part of a five-day swing. He immediately went north after he announced his candidacy earlier this week, setting up shop in New Hampshire after a quick swing through Maine, where he won the endorsement of Gov. Paul LePage (R).

The morning after they spend the night at Romney's Wolfeboro home, both candidates will walk in the town's Fourth of July parade.

Rubio has also been traveling through New Hampshire and plans to walk with supporters at the parade, before traveling to Chicago on Tuesday.

PERRY

Rick Perry wants to reach out to black people. He'll have to do a lot better. // WaPo // Paul Waldman – July 3, 2015

Yesterday, Rick Perry went to the National Press Club in Washington to deliver a speech that may have seemed unusual, in that it was characterized as an effort to reach out to African Americans, but actually contained much less than meets the eye. Perry presented traditional Republican priorities — tax cuts, regulatory rollback, slashing safety net programs — as a gift the GOP wants to bestow on African Americans and acknowledged that his party hasn't exactly been welcoming to them. But if this is "reaching out" beyond the whites who form almost the entirety of the GOP's voters, it isn't going to accomplish much. Here's an excerpt:

There has been, and there will continue to be an important and a legitimate role for the federal government in enforcing Civil Rights. Too often, we Republicans, me included, have emphasized our message on the 10th Amendment but not our message on the 14th. An Amendment, it bears reminding, that was one of the great contributions of Republican party to American life, second only to the abolition of slavery.

For too long, we Republicans have been content to lose the black vote, because we found we didn't need it to win. But, when we gave up trying to win the support of African-Americans, we lost our moral legitimacy as the party of Lincoln, as the party of equal opportunity for all. It's time for us, once again, to reclaim our heritage as the only party in our country founded on the principle of freedom for African-Americans.

We know what Democrats will propose in 2016, the same thing, the same things that Democrats have proposed for decades, more government spending on more government programs. And there is a proper and an important role for government assistance in keeping people on their feet. But few Presidents have done more to expand government assistance than President Obama. Today we spend nearly one trillion dollars a year on means tested antipoverty programs. And yet, black poverty remains stagnant.

Let's be clear about one thing: The GOP didn't "give up" trying to win the black vote. It spent decades building and

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maintaining electoral majorities on the encouragement and exploitation of racism. It was a sin of commission, not a sin of omission. And the reason the party is now reevaluating the "Southern strategy" isn't that it had some kind of moral epiphany, it's because the strategy doesn't work anymore.

While we're on this topic, permit me a digression on this "party of Lincoln" business, which is something Republicans say when they're trying to convince people they aren't actually hostile to black people. As Antonin Scalia would say, it's pure applesauce. Here's the truth: One hundred fifty years ago, the Republican Party was the liberal party, and the Democratic Party was the conservative party. They reversed those positions over time for a variety of reasons, but the Republicans of today are not Abraham Lincoln's heirs. Ask yourself this: If he had been around in 1864, which side do you think Rick Perry would have been on? If you took more than half a second to answer, "The Confederacy, of course," then you're being way too generous to him, not to mention the overwhelming majority of his fellow Republicans.

All that isn't to say that it's impossible for Republicans to turn over a new leaf and truly give African Americans a reason to consider their party. But if they're going to be at all successful, it will take both a change in policy and a change in attitude.

A change in policy, at least outside of some very specific areas, is extremely unlikely to happen. Perry discussed the issue of incarcerations related to the drug war, and that's one example where Republicans really are coming together with Democrats to reevaluate the policies of recent decades. They deserve credit for that. But there's almost nothing else they're offering, other than to argue that the things they already wanted to do, such as cutting taxes, will be great for black people, too.

Then there's the argument Perry and others make about safety net programs: that people of color are being enslaved by them, and if we only cut those shackles then they'll rise up. This argument — that the Republican Party wants to slash the safety net only because it cares so much for the poor — has never persuaded anyone in the past, and it isn't likely to in the future.

And what about the change in attitude? The most fundamental reason Republicans can't get the votes of African Americans is that the party communicates to them, again and again and again, that it isn't just ignoring their needs but is actively hostile to them. When conservative justices gut the Voting Rights Act to the cheers of Republicans, and then states such as Perry's Texas move immediately to impose voting restrictions that they know will disproportionately affect African Americans, it sends a very clear message.

Perry began his speech with a harrowing story of a lynching in Texas in 1916, which was surely meant to convey to African Americans that he understands the legacy of racism. But it also sends an accompanying message: that he believes racism is about the violent oppression of the past and has nothing to do with the lives African Americans lead today. And that's another message African Americans hear loud and clear. Every time any issue of race comes up, whether it's about police mistreatment or discrimination in employment or anything else, the first response of conservatives is always to say, "Oh c'mon, what are you complaining about? Racism is over."

If Perry really wanted to "reach out" to African Americans and convince them that something has changed, here's a way he could do it: He could say something about the endless stream of race-baiting that comes from the most prominent conservative media figures. If you've listened to Rush Limbaugh or watched Bill O'Reilly, you know that one of the central themes of their programs is that white people are America's only victimized racial group, while African Americans form a criminal class that deserves to be constantly harassed by the police because they're a bunch of thugs the rest of us need protection from. Day in and day out, those programs' white audiences are told that Obama is some kind of Black Panther enacting a campaign of racial vengeance upon them. "All too often I have seen this president divide us by race," says Perry, when the media figures his party lionizes are constantly telling their audiences to see politics through the lens of their own whiteness and nurture their racial resentments.

And Perry can tell black people that it's welfare that's really keeping them down, but because of his party, the first African American president had to literally show his birth certificate to prove he's a real American. That's just one

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of the things it's going to take an awful lot of reaching out to make them forget.

Rick Perry made a big speech on states' rights and race. But his policies don't follow. **// Vox // German Lopez – July 3, 2015**

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is getting a lot of credit for a speech he made Thursday, in which he acknowledged that Republicans have historically touted states' rights to neglect and oppress black Americans. But while Perry's speech has a lot of nice language to chew on, his policies certainly don't reflect the same awareness.

"I know Republicans have much to do to earn the trust of African Americans. Blacks know that Republican Barry Goldwater in 1964 ran against Lyndon Johnson, who was a champion for civil rights," Perry, a Republican who's running for president, said at the National Press Club, according to BuzzFeed's Evan McMorris-Santoro. "They know that Barry Goldwater opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He felt parts of it were unconstitutional. States supporting segregation in the South, they cited states' rights as a justification for keeping blacks from the voting booth and the dinner table."

Some pundits applauded Perry's comments. New York magazine's Jonathan Chait, for example, described them as an "important, historic concession." He later clarified that Perry's comments are "best judged against the backdrop of nonsense through which most conservatives view racial history."

It's true that some Republicans deny the blatant racism of conservatives in the civil rights era, and it's refreshing to see Perry acknowledge those problems. But giving Perry too much credit for his comments lets him get away with saying nice things while not acting on them.

In the same speech, Perry used the states' right argument — which he acknowledged was employed by conservatives in the past to oppress black people — to support polices that disproportionately hurt African Americans. He said he still backs strict voter ID laws that studies show would likely stop more minority Americans from voting than their white counterparts. And he said state governments should still be allowed to decide whether to fly the Confederate Flag, a symbol of white supremacy and racist policies like slavery.

By all accounts, Perry also still supports the Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder — a challenge to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a hallmark civil rights legislation — that ended up striking down a key part of the law that let the federal government oversee elections in places with a history of discrimination. The political argument against this law has always been that the federal government was limiting states' rights by controlling how they run elections. But the numbers are clear: The Voting Rights Act overwhelmingly benefited black voters, who were stopped from voting by states through poll taxes, literacy tests, and outright violence prior to the law. Yet Perry called the legislation "outdated" and "unnecessary."

To his credit, Perry restated his support for criminal justice reforms that will help wind down mass incarceration and the war on drugs, both of which have disproportionately hurt black people. But these are reforms Perry supported before his speech and as governor of Texas. They're nothing new for him.

So Perry may be changing his words — and doing so in a welcome way for those concerned about the many racial disparities in the American political and justice system. But so far he's not changing his policies to match them.

Rick Perry: Trump Made 'Huge Error,' Painted Mexicans with Broad Brush **// Mediaite // Josh Feldman – July 3, 2015**

Texas Governor Rick Perry said on Fox News yesterday that Donald Trump was absolutely wrong in his comments about Mexican immigrant criminals and rapists.

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Perry told Charles Payne, “I don’t think he’s reflecting the Republican party with his statements about Mexicans. I think that was a huge error on his part.”

He said Trump painted all Mexicans “with a very broad brush,” and contrasted The Donald’s “shoot from the hip” style with his own experience, saying, “Nobody knows that border better than I do.”

Perry deferred a bit on the question of whether companies like NBC and Macy’s are right to dump Trump, but said he didn’t like the “Mexicans are bad people” implication of Trump’s remarks.

And then… oh, you’ll never guess what happened next… Trump responded, this time with a backhanded compliment

Rick Perry: GOP Has Ignored Black Vote For Too Long // Breitbart // Sarah Rumpf – July 3, 2015

Perry’s speech, which is worth reading in full, featured brutally honest discussions of historical events, beginning with the horrific story of a 17-year-old black boy named Jesse Washington, who was brutally tortured and lynched by a mob outside a county courthouse in Waco, Texas in 1916.

Washington’s lynching, said Perry, was an event that could not be ignored, and demanded action:

Even today, we Texans struggle to talk about what happened to Jesse Washington. We don’t want to believe that our great state could ever have been the scene of such unimaginable horror.

But it is an episode in our history that we cannot ignore. It is an episode we have an obligation to transcend.

We’ve made a lot of progress since 1916.

One example of that progress that Perry experienced was when, as Governor of Texas, he appointed Wallace Jefferson to be the first black Texas Supreme Court Justice and then, in 2004, made Jefferson Texas’ first black Chief Justice.

“There are tens of thousands of stories like Wallace Jefferson’s,” continued Perry, describing America as “a country with Hispanic CEOs, and Asian billionaires, and a black President.”

“When it comes to race, America is a better and more tolerant and more welcoming place than it has ever been. So why is it that even today, so many black families feel left behind?” asked Perry, noting that African-Americans continued to economically lag behind other Americans.

Democrats have long had the opportunity to govern in African-American communities.

It is time to help black families hold them accountable for the results.

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I am here to tell you that it is Republicans, not Democrats, who are truly offering black Americans the hope of a better life for themselves and their children.

I am proud to live in a country with an African-American President. But President Obama cannot be proud of the fact that the prevalence of black poverty has actually increased under his leadership.

Acknowledging that the "historical legacy" of slavery and segregation had a role in black poverty — a statement not frequently heard from Republican politicians — as well as the government role in sanctioning both of those evils, Perry said there did need to be a role for government in "addressing their lasting effects."

However, said Perry, the Democrats' solutions had a proven track record of failure, giving examples of the billions of dollars spent on Medicaid with no improvement in health outcomes, and the downward spirals seen in Democrat-run cities including Detroit, Baltimore and Chicago.

"[T]he specific policies advanced by the President and his allies on the left amount to little more than throwing money at the problem and walking away," said Perry. Black families are recognizing this, voting with their feet by moving to cities such as Dallas and Houston. In fact, more blacks moved to Texas from 2005 to 2007 than any other state except Georgia.

"Each new resident was welcomed to Texas, with open arms," said Perry, acknowledging that while his state hadn't eliminated black poverty, it had made meaningful progress. According to Perry, the supplemental poverty rate for blacks is 20 percent, as compared to 26 percent in New York, 30 percent in California, and 33 percent in Washington, D.C.

The way this was accomplished, explained Perry, was a combination of tort reforms, low taxes and regulations that not only attracted jobs, but also kept the cost of living low. The Texas economic miracle meant that there were a lot of jobs available for people who wanted them, and the state's policies meant that the salaries people earned stretched a lot further than in other states.

Because we curtailed frivolous lawsuits and unreasonable regulations in Texas, it's far cheaper to do business in Dallas or Houston than in Baltimore or Detroit. And those lower costs get passed down to consumers – especially low-income consumers – in the form of lower prices.

There's a lot of talk in Washington about income inequality. But there's a lot less talk about the inequality that arises from the high cost of everyday life.

In blue-state coastal cities, strict zoning laws and environmental regulations have prevented builders from expanding the housing supply. That's great for the venture capitalist who wants a nice view of San Francisco Bay, but it's not so great for the single mother working two jobs in order to pay rent and still put food on the table for her kids.

While his policy platform is in the final stages of development, Perry did discuss his plan for welfare reform. A one-size-fits-all program did not serve people's needs, said Perry, noting that someone in California might need more housing assistance, for example.

Perry's solution would be to send to Congress a welfare reform bill that would split the funds for non-health care-related, anti-poverty programs into two parts. The first part would be a reformed and expanded version of the Earned Income Tax Credit "so that anyone with a job can live above the poverty line. The second would be "a block grant so that states can care for their safety net populations in the manner that best serves their residents."

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Texas also saw significant improvement in its education system, noted Perry proudly, going from 27th in the U.S. in 2002 to 2nd in 2013 for high school graduation rates. The improvement was even better for minority students, with Texas earning the top rate for both African-American and Hispanic students.

Perry also cited his support for the substantive criminal justice reforms enacted in Texas. As Breitbart News previously reported, during Perry's tenure as Governor, he encouraged the Texas Legislature to pass bills that invested money into diversion programs, drug treatment, and other alternatives to incarceration instead of building prisons.

Perry focused on the human impact of Texas' reforms. "Too many Texans were going to prison for non-violent drug offenses. And once they got out of prison, many found they couldn't get a job because they had a criminal record."

The results have been remarkable, with the state saving some $2 billion and closing three prisons, while the crime rate dropped to its lowest level since 1968. Violent crime, property crime, juvenile offense and recidivism all dropped across the board.

There is also a political advantage, as this kind of criminal justice reform has cheerleaders on both the right and the left, and is an issue with major potential for crossover appeal. Polling has consistently shown strong bipartisan support for these reforms, and with Perry having been governor of the state that is serving as the national model for criminal justice, he owns this issue as no other candidate, Democrat or Republican, can.

Perry then turned his remarks to politics, and the ongoing challenges that Republicans have had earning black votes. "I am running for President because I want to make life better for all people, even those who don't vote Republican," he said, but "I know Republicans have much to do to earn the trust of African-Americans."

Reaffirming his support for the Tenth Amendment, Perry acknowledged that conservatives' support for the states' rights protected therein sounded similar to the arguments used by segregationists, even though that was not their intention. Rather, Perry explained, his enthusiasm for the Tenth Amendment was rooted in the principle that "state governments are more accountable to you than the federal government."

However, Perry said, he was "also an ardent believer in the Fourteenth Amendment," which guarantees that the government shall not deny any person the equal protection of law. Including the rights protected by the Fourteenth Amendment in any discussion about the Tenth was critically important, said Perry, if the Republican Party wanted to retain its "moral legitimacy as the party of Lincoln":

Too often, we Republicans – myself included – have emphasized our message on the Tenth Amendment but not our message on the Fourteenth – an Amendment, it bears reminding, that was one of the first great contributions of the Republican Party to American life, second only to the abolition of slavery.

For too long, we Republicans have been content to lose the black vote because we found that we could win elections without it. But when we gave up on trying to win the support of African-Americans, we lost our moral legitimacy as the party of Lincoln. As the party of equal opportunity for all.

It is time for us to once again reclaim our heritage as the only party in our country founded on the principle of freedom for African-Americans.

In a question-and-answer session after his prepared remarks, Perry first answered a question about entitlement

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reform. Yes, said Perry, he would support means testing, quipping, “I’m pretty sure that Donald Trump can do without Medicare.” The idea that the wealthiest Americans “have to be in line for all those entitlement programs doesn’t make sense to me.” His detailed plan for entitlement reform, as well as his tax plan, would be released soon, he promised.

Perry also elaborated on his experience, an issue that he has made central to his campaign. “This is not my first rodeo,” he said, noting he had served in the Texas Legislature and as Lieutenant Governor — an office that in Texas wields enormous influence over the Senate and the overall legislative agenda — before becoming Governor, an office which he held for fourteen years.

He emphasized that none of the reforms enacted while he was Governor — even the 2003 tort reform that made Democrats howl — was passed with only Republican votes. “There are a lot of things that we agree on,” said Perry, and significant progress can be made with even a staunchly conservative agenda, if you work to “find those things we agree on, bring Democrats and Republicans together.”

“It makes sense to come up with ways to come together, not divide us,” said Perry. “We need a President who will bring this country together,” the way he was able to bring Texas together, and send a “powerful, powerful message” to the American people.

Perry criticized Donald Trump’s recent comments regarding Mexican immigrants. “I don’t think Donald Trump’s remarks reflect the Republican Party,” he said. Instead, said Perry, the GOP was reflected in “people like me” who had worked with people of all backgrounds in Texas, and in Eva Guzman, who was the first Hispanic appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas. Perry later elaborated more on his criticism of Trump in a Fox News interview, as Breitbart News reported.

In Texas, added Perry, Hispanics are 40 percent more likely to have a job and two times more likely to own a small business. And his successor, Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX), had campaigned on a platform of tough border security, but still won the Hispanic vote by a solid margin.

“[Hispanic Texans] knew that there was a government in place that represented their values and protected them and kept them secure,” said Perry. “It is unquestionable what we have done” in Texas to improve Texans’ economic potential, and provide security, and this was something that reaches all people. “I think we have a great message…the Republican Party is where they need to be.”

Perry also cited his military experience, as the only candidate other than extreme longshot Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)47% in the Republican presidential primary who had served.

He was also one of the very few who had felt the burden of what it is to be a Commander-in-Chief during the war on terror, seeing Texans deployed, and “looking into the eyes of spouses and parents who lost their loved ones.” Perry, who has been very outspoken in his criticism of the Obama administration’s poor response to the VA hospital scandals, also spoke of “looking into the eyes of young people” who had volunteered to serve our country, but when they returned, did not receive the care they were owed.

These veterans “need a champion,” said Perry, “who goes into the White House every day” to fight for them.

“I am a unique candidate,” said Perry. “Those experiences are unique. No one else on that stage — no one — has that experience,” and after eight years of Obama, “Americans will be looking for someone with experience, a known leader, someone with a record of success.”

As noted, Perry’s speech was widely praised. Following a strong campaign launch and solid first few weeks where

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he was impressing both grassroots activists and policy wonks, Perry was commended for both his laudable record, but also for his blunt, honest remarks about race and how the Republican Party had failed to reach African-Americans.

National Review's Charles C.W. Cooke voiced what many seemed to be thinking when he tweeted, "I've been unexpectedly impressed with Rick Perry this week. Another National Review contributor, Yuval Levin, called the speech "an an ambitious and impressive performance," adding that he was "hoping it sets the tone for the coming campaign."

Bill Kristol at the Weekly Standard tweeted his prediction that Perry would move up in the polls in the aftermath of this speech, noting that Perry "could claim to be the anti-DC, anti-establishment candidate who has actually governed."

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham tells Iowan: "I don't want you to vote for me" **// CBS // Stephanie Condon – July 3, 2015**

Conservative Sen. Lindsey Graham has made it clear he's extremely concerned about the threat of Islamic terrorism, but he isn't willing to outlaw a whole religion over it.

When a voter in Iowa suggested barring Islam in the U.S. in response to ISIS, Graham quickly shut him down, the Des Moines Register reports.

"You know what, I'm not your candidate," Graham said, cutting him off. "I don't want you to vote for me. I couldn't disagree with you more."

As he's said before, Graham told his audience Sioux City on Thursday night that he would deal with ISIS by increasing the United States' military presence in Iraq. Explaining his terse response to the voter's suggestion to outlaw Islam, Graham told people, "I'm not trying to please him."

Lindsey Graham: "I'm running" because the world is falling apart

"I'm not putting up with that," he said. "He's got a right to say whatever he wants to say, but I have an obligation to the Republican Party, to the people of Iowa and the country as a whole to be firm on this. I'm not buying into that construct. That's not the America that I want to lead."

Graham demonstrated a few times in Iowa his willingness to speak candidly. In an interview from Iowa with the Huffington Post, the longtime senator teared up talking about his friendship with Vice President Joe Biden.

"If you can't admire Joe Biden as a person, then probably you've got a problem," he said, calling the vice president "the nicest man I think I've ever met in politics."

Graham has a long way to go if he wants to gain traction in Iowa, one of the first states to nominate presidential candidates for the Republican and Democratic parties. A recent Quinnipiac poll of likely Iowa GOP caucus goers showed Graham was registering at just 1 percent support.

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HUCKABEE

Presidential Candidate Mike Huckabee Uses Schizophrenia As A Slur, Gets It Wrong // Forbes // Emily Willingham – July 3, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee made a common error recently in his attempts to mock what he sees as dissonance in the decisions Chief Justice John Roberts has made in two high-profile Supreme Court cases. In commenting on a Des Moines radio show about Roberts' dissension from the decision regarding same-sex marriage and his decision in favor of the Affordable Care Act, Huckabee said that Roberts

"apparently needs medication for schizophrenia."

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) didn't take too kindly to the attempt to use schizophrenia as a slur or to the mischaracterization of schizophrenia as involving a split personality, noting in a news release that

"Schizophrenia is a mental illness that interferes with a person's ability to think clearly, manage emotions, make decisions and relate to others. It affects about 1% of Americans. The average age of onset tends to be in the late teens to early 20s for men and the late 20s to early 30s for women. It does not mean that a person has a 'split' or multiple personalities."

In fact, the disorder associated with multiple personalities has a name, dissociative identity disorder. While the two can have overlap of some symptoms, including auditory and visual hallucinations, delusions are the primary symptom that characterizes schizophrenia whereas two or more distinct personalities constitute the main feature of dissociative identity disorder.

The latter remains a controversial diagnosis and is thought to trace to extreme and often repeated traumatic experiences that lead the person with the condition to wall off the recollections of those experiences in a separate personality or personalities. It might be more common in girls and women than in males.

Schizophrenia, on the other hand, has a genetic component with a pretty high rate of co-occurrence in identical twins and is equally common in men and women. It can involve a lifelong need to manage delusions and hallucinations but violence is not, as seems to be a popular perception, a key feature. Suicide, however, is devastatingly common, and occurs at a rate of up to 10% of young men with schizophrenia.

While schizophrenia tends to be associated only with its negative manifestations, some people with the condition, including the late John Nash, have argued that some elements of it have been useful for them. However, many people with schizophrenia struggle with gaining and keeping employment, in part because of bias, and as NAMI points out in its statement, the stigma around mental illnesses like schizophrenia itself remains "a serious health problem."

Mischaracterizing schizophrenia and attempting to use it as a slight, as Huckabee did in his remarks, does nothing to diminish either the misunderstanding or the stigma (I have reached out to the Huckabee campaign for comment). He's not the first, however, to try to use a neurological condition against Roberts to criticize the chief justice's decision. "Conservative firebrand" Michael Savage, who once made headlines for averring that in "99% of cases" of autism, the child is really "just a brat," tried to blame Roberts' last decision on the Affordable Care Act on the chief justice's seizure medication.

JINDAL

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Bobby Jindal Really, Really, Really Hates Gay Marriage **// Mother Jones // Kevin Drum – July 3, 2015**

After three courts told him he had to, Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal will finally allow his administration to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples today.

....Jindal's administration argued it's possible the Supreme Court's ruling didn't apply to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, where Louisiana had been defending its statewide ban....On Wednesday, the circuit court actually went through the motion of confirming the Supreme Court has jurisdiction over it.

....But Jindal's administration jumped on that as reason to delay even further. The Fifth Circuit technically sent the case back to the lower, district court where its earlier ruling in favor of the state had to be corrected. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that Jindal's spokesman said no same-sex couple would be recognized until the district court formally reversed itself. And so it did that today."

I've seen several people wondering why Jindal wasted time with this, since he knew perfectly well what the outcome would be. The answer is obvious: He's trying to position himself as the most tea-partyish, most anti-Obama, most combative conservative in the Republican field. So this is basically brand marketing. Republican voters now know that no one will stand up for traditional values as strongly as Bobby Jindal. Message sent and received.

TRUMP

Donald Trump's Lousy Week (Except for the Polling) **// NYT // Daniel Victor – July 2, 2015**

Donald Trump has had a bad week.

The trouble began with his inflammatory remarks about Mexican immigrants during a speech to announce his presidential candidacy on June 16.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best," Mr. Trump declared. "They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Interactive Feature | Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)? At least a dozen Republicans and a handful of Democrats have expressed an interest in running for their party's 2016 presidential nomination.

Over the next week, each day seemed to bring a fresh blow to Mr. Trump. A brief review of the wreckage might make you feel better about your troubles.

The business impact.

The remarks set off a cascade of condemnation that engulfed some of his business dealings, beginning late last week with Univision announcing that it would no longer carry the Trump-produced Miss USA or Miss Universe pageants.

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This week, more companies followed.

On Monday, NBCUniversal cut all ties with Mr. Trump, saying it would no longer air the pageants or "The Apprentice." Televisa, the world's largest Spanish-language media company, also cut ties. Carlos Slim, the Mexican billionaire, scrapped a television project. And in Chicago, 5 Rabbit Cerveceria pulled out of a beer partnership with a Trump Hotel bar, then renamed some of its beers in a vulgar tribute to Mr. Trump.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump sued Univision, accusing it of violating its contract. Meanwhile, Farouk Systems, a hairdressing company, dropped sponsorship of the pageants and involvement in "The Celebrity Apprentice."

On Wednesday, Macy's said it would drop his fashion line, which had been sold in the store since 2004. (If all that wasn't enough, his hotel chain said it was investigating a possible payment card data breach.)

Petitions created on Change.org and MoveOn.org are pressuring other companies to cut Mr. Trump loose, suggesting the financial toll could continue to build.

The mockery.

As one might expect, late-night comedians have had a field day. Jimmy Kimmel joked that NBC's rejection of Mr. Trump's beauty pageants was not because they "treat women like cattle at a state fair. It was the thing about Mexicans."

Others had more pointed responses. Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York, while announcing that the city is reviewing its contracts with Mr. Trump, said his comments "do not represent the values of inclusion and openness that define us as New Yorkers." America Ferrera, the actress, said Mr. Trump lives "in an outdated fantasy of a bigoted America." Eva Longoria invoked Hitler.

He has gained infamy in Mexico too, where an array of political figures lashed out at the remarks.

And yet, polling remains solid.

But its wasn't all bad for Mr. Trump. In several recent polls he has trailed only Jeb Bush in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, whether nationally or in key states like New Hampshire and Iowa. Plus he can count Senator Ted Cruz among his defenders.

Mr. Trump, meanwhile, is unchastened. He has not apologized.

"Nothing that I stated was different from what I have been saying for many years," Mr. Trump said in a statement on Tuesday.

Hispanic leaders want GOP field to condemn Trump's 'idiocy' **// AP // Steve Peoples – July 3, 2015**

Hispanic leaders are bristling at the largely tepid response by Republican presidential candidates to Donald Trump's characterization of Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug dealers.

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Several 2016 contenders have brushed off Trump's comments while others have ignored them. Marco Rubio, a Florida senator who is Hispanic, denounced them as "not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive," after declining for two weeks to address the matter directly. Another Hispanic in the race, Ted Cruz, said Trump is "terrific," "brash" and "speaks the truth."

It's an uncomfortable moment for Republicans, who want more votes from the surging Latino population.

And it could be a costly moment if more candidates don't go beyond their Donald-will-be-Donald response and condemn him directly, said Alfonso Aguilar, a Republican who leads the American Principles Project's Latino Partnership.

"The time has come for the candidates to distance themselves from Trump and call his comments what they are: ludicrous, baseless and insulting," Aguilar said. "Sadly, it hurts the party with Hispanic voters. It's a level of idiocy I haven't seen in a long time."

So far, Trump has paid less of a political price than a commercial one.

The leading Hispanic television network, Univision, has backed out of televising the Miss USA pageant, a joint venture between Trump and NBC, which also cut ties with Trump. On Wednesday, the Macy's department store chain, which carried a Donald Trump menswear line, said it was ending its relationship with him. Other retailers are facing pressure to follow suit.

In his speech last month marking his entry into the Republican race, Trump said Mexican immigrants are "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

The businessman has refused to back down, although he insists his remarks were misconstrued.

"My statements have been contorted to seem racist and discriminatory," he wrote in a message to supporters on Thursday. "What I want is for legal immigrants to not be unfairly punished because others are coming into America illegally, flooding the labor market and not paying taxes." His original comments, though, did not make a distinction between Mexicans who came to U.S. legally and those here illegally.

His rhetoric may resonate with some of the Republican Party's most passionate voters, who have long viewed illegal immigration as one of the nation's most pressing problems. But the 2016 contest brings opportunity for the party to make inroads with Hispanics, with several Latino candidates and a former Florida governor, Jeb Bush, who has deep Latino ties and speaks Spanish and hasn't been shy about using it in the campaign.

Even so, Bush has said little more about Trump's comments than that they were "wrong."

"Maybe we'll have a chance to have an honest discussion about it onstage," Bush said last weekend while campaigning in Nevada, referring to Republican presidential debates.

Rev. Gabriel Salguero, president of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, is paying keen attention to how the candidates respond to Trump's "xenophobic rhetoric."

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"We're listening very, very closely, not just what candidates say but what they don't say — the sins of commission and the sins of omission," he said.

Among 2016 contenders:

—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie called Trump's comments "wholly inappropriate." But in a subsequent radio interview, he said Trump is "a really wonderful guy (who's) always been a good friend."

—Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said: "I don't think Donald Trump's remarks reflect the Republican Party."

—Cruz said he likes Trump and thinks NBC "is engaging in political correctness" in breaking ties with him.

—Rubio said the next president "needs to be someone who brings Americans together — not someone who continues to divide."

—Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former technology executive Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson have been silent.

Not since the 2004 re-election campaign of President George W. Bush has a Republican presidential candidate earned as much as 40 percent of the Hispanic vote. Mitt Romney got a dismal 27 percent in the 2012 contest against President Barack Obama.

Pataki's Trump card: Using The Donald to get noticed in crowded GOP field // CNN // Jeremy Diamond – July 3, 2015

George Pataki might have found a way to get noticed in the crowded GOP field of presidential candidates: attack the highest-profile hopeful.

The former New York governor, who didn't even register 1% of support in the latest CNN/ORC poll, is looking to raise his profile by attacking Trump's controversial remarks about undocumented immigrants.

"We need a President that all Americans can respect, not a celebrity who uses words like freedom and liberty like they are a punchline in a reality show," Pataki said Friday in a statement that announced his petition that urges Americans to "Stand up to Trump."

The petition comes after Pataki has spent the last two days seizing on Trump's comments about Mexican immigrants, whom the real estate mogul and now-GOP candidate has called everything from "rapists" to "killers."

Since announcing his interest in the presidential race, GOP strategists have barely given Pataki's campaign a cursory look -- considering his campaign among the longest of longshot bids -- and a son-in-law's stroke caused Pataki to temporarily suspend his campaign in its infancy.

His Trump stunt is now giving his campaign a much-needed jolt of media attention after he launched his campaign just over a month ago, but has seen little to no national news coverage since. Until now.

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It's certainly giving Pataki an opportunity to not only grab onto the coattails of a presidential candidate who is surging in the polls, but it's also giving Pataki a chance to distinguish himself from the rest of the field.

Most Republican presidential candidates have either dismissed Trump as a distraction or avoided getting tangled in a verbal sparring match with the bombastic billionaire.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose wife is Mexican, has simply said that Trump is "wrong," while Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul chuckled that "I don't know what he's been saying, but uh, he apparently is drawing a lot of attention." And Sen. Ted Cruz, whose father is Cuban, has instead defended Trump as "brash" and someone who "speaks the truth" and praised him for drawing attention to illegal immigration.

Pataki has done the exact opposite: blasting Trump and calling on his fellow White House hopefuls to do the same.

"Here we are in 2015 and a leading candidate for the GOP nomination for President is calling Mexicans criminals, rapists and drug dealers. This is unacceptable," Pataki said Wednesday in an open letter to the rest of the Republican field.

Pataki's efforts were joined on Friday by Sen. Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American who called Trump's remarks "offensive and inaccurate" as well as "divisive."

"Our next President needs to be someone who brings Americans together -- not someone who continues to divide," Rubio said in a statement. "Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from -- not closer to -- a solution. We need leaders who offer serious solutions to secure our border and fix our broken immigration system."

But beyond drawing a response from other candidates, Pataki's efforts give him a chance to insert himself into the constant coverage of Trump and the fallout from his remarks, snagging interviews on CNN and with other national news outlets that will help improve his name identification.

He even got some help from Trump on that front, with the Twitter-savvy businessman who frequently uses the social media platform to lob attacks at his detractors sticking to his usual script.

"Governor Pataki was a terrible governor of NY, one of the worst -- would've been swamped if he ran again!" Trump said. "Governor Pataki couldn't be elected dog catcher if he ran again -- so he didn't!"

The move could also win Pataki some favor among the GOP establishment where strategists and party elites are keenly aware of the need to draw Latinos in, rather than turn them away, heading into the 2016 election.

Hot off heavy media coverage of the remarks and his campaign announcement last month, Trump surged to second place in the nationwide CNN/ORC poll released Wednesday. He is also ranked second in recent polls in both Iowa and New Hampshire.

But Trump is also highly disliked among many GOP voters, with more than half in several key polls saying they have an unfavorable opinion of the New York mogul.

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Jon Stewart Slams Donald Trump Supporters For Defending 'Mexican Rapists' Comments // HuffPo // Julia Bruccullieri – July 3, 2015

Donald Trump has found himself in the center of controversy since he first announced his bid for presidency, and Jon Stewart is having a field day.

On Thursday night's show, "The Daily Show" host told viewers he wanted to thank one person "who's been there really throughout this whole run, but specially near the end of the run." That person was Trump.

"Donald recently glided back into my life on his solid gold up-and-down people mover, cranked up the unauthorized Neil Young, opened up his crazy hole, and promised me I would never be without material again," Stewart told his viewers.

The focus of Stewart's segment was a string of anti-immigrant remarks Trump made during his presidential announcement speech. You may remember hearing the Donald say: "They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Like many of us, Stewart was baffled by these comments, but even more so by the people who continued to defend them.

"The one good thing to come out of this is that the farce of his candidacy is finally exposed: his un-seriousness on display, for all people and voters to see! And the results will be obvious," said Stewart, before showing that Trump is actually in second place among Republican voters in a national poll in three states flashed on screen.

"F--k me," was all he could say.

Bernie Sanders Will End the IMF's Economic Violence in Greece and Africa // HuffPo // Robert Naiman – July 3, 2015

Many people want to know more about Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders' foreign policy agenda. Yes, they say, we like what Sanders is saying about reducing extreme inequality, about reducing the political power of the billionaire class. But what about U.S. foreign policy? Yes, they say, Bernie voted no on the Iraq war; yes, they acknowledge, Sanders supports the Iran deal. But we're spending more than half of our federal income tax dollars on the Pentagon's empire, money we should be spending on rebuilding our nation's domestic infrastructure. "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death," Dr. King said. What's Bernie going to do about that?

I'm all for pushing Bernie to talk more about downsizing the Pentagon to be an institution focused on actually defending the United States, as opposed to running around the world overthrowing other people's governments -- a Pentagon that "goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy," as President John Quincy Adams put it.

But we should also take advantage of the new opportunity that now presents itself; it's not only with bombs that U.S. foreign policy kills and injures innocent civilians.

We should recognize and publicize the fact that Bernie Sanders is the only presidential candidate who is talking about what the IMF is doing to Greece, the only presidential candidate who has a track record of opposing the IMF, the only presidential candidate who, if elected, is likely to do anything to end the economic violence of the IMF.

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In his historic campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988, Jesse Jackson often invoked the theme of "economic violence":

Economic violence is the critical issue of our day. When plants close on workers without notice, and leave them without jobs or training for new jobs -- that's economic violence. When three to five million Americans are on the streets and homeless -- that's economic violence. When merger maniacs make windfall profits and top management is given excessive bonuses, golden parachutes to aid a soft landing, while workers are asked to take a wage cut, a benefit cut and a job loss, a crash landing -- that's economic violence. When our children are victimized with poor health care, poor education, poor housing, poor diets and more -- that's economic violence against our children.

Jesse Jackson was talking about U.S. domestic policy. But others have used the idea to talk about the IMF:

Hundreds of campaigners are marching in Prague as the main policy-making body of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) begins a meeting to discuss debt relief.

They want the IMF and its sister organisation, the World Bank, to cancel altogether debts owed to them by the poorest countries.

The protesters are staging a "funeral" procession through Czech capital to highlight their view that 7 million children a year die because of the debt crisis.

Jubliee 2000, which is organising the march, says it will be totally non-violent and that it is committed to peaceful protest.

"We condemn violence, both the violence which ends in broken windows, and the violence that kills 19,000 children a day," the group's UK director Ann Pettifor told the BBC.

The IMF is not "over there." The IMF is headquartered in Washington, physically, politically and financially. A progressive economist once reported that he was at a seminar at the IMF, where a senior IMF official was indignant that people were saying that IMF is unaccountable. The IMF official demanded to know: why do people always accuse us of being unaccountable? We never do anything without checking with the U.S. Treasury Department!

Until now, unfortunately, Congressional Democrats have been largely content to let Treasury to run the show at the IMF without the input of real Democrats.

The IMF is now doing to Greece what the IMF has been doing to Africa since the 1980s and what the IMF did to South America until the progressive governments there kicked the IMF out. The IMF is a member of the "troika" of official creditors that have been making extreme austerity demands on the Greek government and are now openly demanding "regime change" in Greece before there can be any deal that ends the crisis in Greece that the troika has imposed.

(Some people complain that we shouldn't blame the IMF for what is being done to Greece; they say that some other institution or actor is more responsible. These people want us to play "accountability whack-a-mole" with the institutions. We need to hold the institutions "jointly and severally liable"; and the IMF is the bad actor in the troika for whom Americans have the most responsibility.)

Bernie Sanders is the only presidential candidate who is speaking out about this. In Congress, it's the progressive

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Democrats - including Sanders - who are speaking out about this.

U.S. support for the IMF is more politically fragile than many people realize. Many Congressional Republicans hate the IMF, in significant measure because they see the IMF as a Democrat-supported taxpayer-financed slush fund to bail out big private banks when their international bets go bad (which assessment is quite correct.) Without the support of Congressional Democrats, the IMF is dead meat in Washington. Whenever the IMF wants more money from Washington, there's a campaign to trick low-information Democrats into believing that the IMF is "foreign aid," so that Democrats will support it.

When more Democrats own the fact that the IMF agenda is the NAFTA-WTO-TPP agenda with a European internationalist smiley face mask pasted on, the IMF will be on a fast train to the dustbin of history. And this is not necessarily a remote prospect - the fact that this is the fundamental identity of the IMF is well known among labor activists, for example.

AFL-CIO chief economist William Spriggs recently wrote:

In the U.S. we must take the side of Greece in this fight. It is in our interest, as the immediate problem of the instability this is causing is a rising dollar that will hurt U.S. exports and jobs. And, we can never be sure of the interrelated nature of financial collapses since so much of the banking sector remains in the shadows; with global derivatives trading at values greater than global output.

More importantly, we must also revolt against this economic order. It is the same order that saved JP Morgan Chase, but let Detroit and now Puerto Rico fail. It is the same religion that would sacrifice the earnings of American students with rising student debt and de-invest in public higher education. It is the same religion that would sacrifice American jobs and labor standards and back the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We must see these as the same struggle to restore sanity and purpose to role of government and its servant, the economy.

This is why supporters of the IMF should be very afraid that Bernie Sanders and progressive Democrats are denouncing what the IMF is doing to Greece. You can add your voice here.

Donald Trump again lambastes border security after a California woman is killed // LA Times // Ryan Parker – July 3, 2015

Real estate mogul and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has come under fire for referring to some Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and "killers," again blasted border security in the wake of the slaying of a California woman and the news that the suspect was deported five times.

Trump did not directly refer to the comments that have cost him valuable business sponsorships and prompted denunciations from Latino groups. Instead, he focused on border security.

Other GOP contenders, after largely sidestepping the issue, are now blasting Trump's immigration remarks, with Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida the latest to do so.

In a series of tweets Friday, Trump said the shooting death of 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle at a popular tourist spot in San Francisco was unacceptable. "Our Southern border is unsecure," he said in a tweet. "I am the only one that can fix it, nobody else has the guts to even talk about it." Francisco Sanchez, 45, was arrested on suspicion of murder. Sanchez has seven felony convictions.

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Trump has stood by his "rapists" and "killers" comments, but made no direct mention of Mexican immigrants in Friday's tweets.

Fellow Republican candidates this week said that Trump has gone too far.

"His views are not reflective of the immigrant experience. He's just wrong," former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told the The Daily Caller.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in an interview on Fox News, called Trump's comments a "huge error" that "painted with a very broad brush."

"I don't think he's reflecting the Republican Party," Perry said.

Rubio released a statement, posted Friday by CNN's Jake Tapper, condemning Trump's comments, calling them " offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive."

"Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from -- not closer to -- a solution," according to the statement.

Still, Trump does have support from at least one other GOP candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who defended Trump to Chuck Todd in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration," Cruz said. "The Washington cartel doesn't want to address that."

Several companies -- including Univision, NBC and Macy's -- have severed ties with Trump because of those comments. Trump filed a $500-million lawsuit against Univision alleging breach of contract.

However, his stance on immigrants living in the country illegally does not seem to be hurting him in recent national polls, which have him in second place among Republicans.

Donald Trump: Whose voters is he stealing **// CS Monitor // Peter Grier – July 3, 2015**

Right now, Donald Trump is like a black hole whose stupendous gravitational pull is attracting a lot of media attention and some of the voters associated with the Republican 2016 presidential race. Which of his rivals in particular is this hurting?

After all, Mr. Trump's poll numbers have risen sharply since he said that this time, he's actually, positively running. Polling is a zero-sum game: His rise means other folks have fallen. Let's look at the numbers and see which of Trump's fellow candidates they are.

First, two caveats: Our Trump track record is not good. We thought he'd move to Maine and raise beets before he'd run for president. We belittled reporters who implied otherwise. We were wrong.

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Also, the polls we're about to pick apart are early ones, so they're far from definitive. At this point, they're more of a general suggestion than a precise measurement. That goes even more so for the poll cross-tabs, which have a smaller sample size. Still, they could be hints of what's to come.

OK, back to the main feature. As we said, Trump's gotten a post-announcement bump in polling popularity. In the crucial early caucus state of Iowa, for instance, he's risen to a tie for second place. He currently attracts 10 percent of likely Iowa Republican caucus-goers, according to a Quinnipiac University survey. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson also gets 10 percent. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker leads the Iowa pack with 18 percent.

The bottom line? In a look further down the list, the contender who appears to be losing ground in Iowa is Mike Huckabee. He's at only 5 percent in the new Quinnipiac poll, down from 11 percent in a comparable May survey. That sort of makes sense: Mr. Huckabee's God, grits, and gravy populism isn't that far off Trump's anti-immigrant and bellicose positions.

But Governor Walker's dropped a bit in this poll series as well. And if you move to New Hampshire, state of the first-in-the-nation primary, it appears that Trump's entry into the race has pushed the Wisconsin governor down a Franconia-sized notch.

In New Hampshire, Trump's in second, according to a recent Suffolk University poll, with 11 percent. Jeb Bush leads in the Granite State with 14 percent. Walker trails with 8 percent – a substantial drop from March, when Suffolk had him at 14 percent of the GOP primary vote.

Nationally, Trump's jump into the fray has affected Marco Rubio the most, according to a CNN/ORC poll. Senator Rubio now stands at 6 percent in CNN's most recent numbers, down from 14 percent in May.

Walker's also slipping nationally, according to CNN. He's at 6 percent, down from 10 percent in May.

Trump? He's in second place (again), with 12 percent of the vote, up from 3 percent in March, according to CNN's numbers.

See the pattern here? There's one top contender who's largely unaffected by Trump's escalator ride to candidacy – Mr. Bush. He remains the weak front-runner, but now he's got Trump behind him like a screen. The Donald is holding his arms out and bellowing to keep others from catching up.

The question is whether Trump's newfound numbers will hold up. In 2012, a series of Mitt Romney's rivals rose and fell. They were discovered by voters, then received more intense press scrutiny (Herman Cain's alleged sexual harassment problem comes to mind) and fell to earth.

As an actual candidate, Trump's now getting a taste of what more-critical media are like. The uproar over his harsh remarks about Mexican illegal immigration may be just the start. His rambling announcement speech could provide fodder for more such flaps to come.

UNDECLARED

WALKER

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[In Scott Walker's Wisconsin, Obama urges Crowd to Flee to Democrat-Run paradise In Minnesota](#) // Slate // Beth Ethier – July 3, 2015

President Obama took advantage of a stop in La Crosse, Wisconsin on Thursday to get in on the fun of the 2016 presidential derby, telling an enthusiastic university crowd he's lost track of how many Republicans are running but that it's probably enough for "an actual Hunger Games. That is an interesting bunch."

Obama also stoked a regional rivalry while questioning the economic credentials and policy agenda of the "bus full" of contenders for the Republican presidential nominaton, particularly the state's conservative governor and as-yet undeclared candidate, Scott Walker.

We've seen what happens when top-down economics meets the real world. We've got proof right here in Wisconsin. There was a statewide fair-pay law that was repealed. The right to organize and bargain collectively was attacked. Per-student education funding was cut. Your minimum wage has been stuck in place. Meanwhile, corporations and the most fortunate few have been on the receiving end of hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax cuts over the past four years...

What happens when we try middle-class economics? Just across the river, it's a pretty interesting experiment. In Minnesota, they asked the top two percent to pay a little bit more. They invested in things that help everybody succeed, like all-day kindergarten and financial aid for college students. They took action to raise their minium wage and they passed an equal pay law. They protected workers' rights. They expanded Medicaid to cover more people.

Now, according to Republican theory, all those steps would've been bad for the economy, but Minnesota's unemployment rate is lower than Wisconsin's. Minnesota's median income is around $9,000 higher.

Obama went on to quote an editorial in their hometown paper, the La Crosse Tribune, declaring that Minnesota "is winning this border battle." The divergence in economic fortunes of the two states has been noted for the past few years, as Democratic majorities in both chambers of Minnesota's legislature have steadily implemented progressive reforms in cooperation with a Democratic governor.

Republicans, Obama said, are like your "Uncle Harry" who says outlandish things at Thanksgiving. "You say, 'Uncle Harry, that makes no sense at all.' You still love him. He's still a member of your family, right? But you've got to correct him. You don't want to put him in charge of stuff."

The president hastily added that "if there's an Uncle Harry out here, I wasn't talking about you."

[New York Times Debunked: Scott Walker's 'I'm Not Going Nativist' Conversation Never Happened](#) // Breitbart // Matthew Boyle – July 3, 2015

A conversation about immigration between Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and the Heritage Foundation's Stephen Moore, reported on by the New York Times this week, never happened.

"We have spoken with Stephen Moore and the conversation that was reported did not happen and he will tell you that. I would recommend you reach out to him," Walker spokeswoman AshLee Strong told Breitbart News on Thursday in response to an article by Jonathan Martin and Maggie Haberman.

On Thursday, the reporters wrote: "Stephen Moore, a conservative scholar at the Heritage Foundation who backs an immigration overhaul, called Mr. Walker's embrace of a border-security-first approach 'A lurch to the right

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and probably something very popular among Iowa conservative voters.'"

"But Mr. Moore also said he was not convinced that Mr. Walker was quite the immigration hawk as he may appear now," the Times added. "Rather, he called the governor's positioning 'a work in progress.'"

Then the newspaper wrote: "Mr. Moore said he had become concerned about Mr. Walker's stance [on immigration] in recent weeks, but was reassured after a phone call with the Wisconsin governor," then quoted Moore himself recounting what Walker supposedly said.

"He said, 'I'm not going nativist; I'm pro-immigration,'" Moore said Gov. Walker said.

But Walker's presidential campaign insists that conversation never happened, so Breitbart News reached out to Moore for more information.

Moore confirms that there was no phone call between him and Walker. What actually happened, he says, is a bit more murky and confusing—much different from what the Times says happened.

"Here's what happened, I'm on this group with Larry Kudlow and Art Laffer called the Committee to Unleash Prosperity," Moore told Breitbart News.

We had Scott Walker a few months ago for a dinner. So here's the miscommunication: I didn't have the conversation with the governor. Larry went down there. We've got this group, and Larry had a conversation with Scott Walker on immigration stuff—and what he told me because we all work together is that Scott Walker is still pro-growth. Our whole thing is on growth. We don't have to worry about him voting for skilled immigrants coming into the country and that kind of thing. I think the whole thing has been kind of taken out of context. From our point of view, Scott Walker is going to be pro-growth on immigration.

But Kudlow, in a phone interview on Friday evening with Breitbart News, said that's not what happened, either.

"I spoke with Governor Walker, I don't know, it must have been a month ago," Kudlow said.

It was in Madison, Wisconsin, as his request. We had a long meeting—several hours—and we discussed several issues across the board. It was a strictly private meeting, the details of which I've shared with no one. No one. I want to be very clear about that. It was between the governor and myself. No one. Not Steve Moore. Not the New York Times. Nobody. It was a private conversation and off the record.

But there was no phone call between Moore and Walker about this matter—despite the Times report—Moore confirmed. Moore told Breitbart News:

No, no that didn't happen. I did not have a conversation with Walker. It was my mistake. I kind of miscommunicated this to this reporter. What I really meant to say is that Larry did. And when Larry had the conversation, we felt that he was going to be just fine and not going to be a problem on immigration. Everybody is kind of making a mountain out of a mole hill here. It was basically just—our objective at the Committee to Unleash Prosperity is to promote policies that will make the American economy grow faster. That's all we're about and so that's all we really talked to the governor about, was what are the policies that make the economy grow faster? And Walker was at the dinner meeting and also at the thing with Larry solid. I'm a big supporter of his.

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“I have to talk to the reporter—I have to call him today and say, ‘Look I think you misunderstood what I was saying,’” Moore added. “What I was talking about was based on this meeting that Larry had.”

What really happened, according to Moore, was that Walker had a meeting with Kudlow, not with Moore.

“I was talking to Larry and he reported back to us because I asked, ‘Well how did the meeting go?’ and he said ‘We talked a lot about a lot of issues,’” Moore told Breitbart News. “This was right about the time this immigration issue had sprung up, and Larry was like ‘Oh, he’s going to be with us on immigration.’”

Kudlow told Breitbart News, however, that he told Moore no such things from his conversation with Walker.

“No. That is just not true,” Kudlow said when Breitbart News read Moore’s quote back to him over the phone.

The only thing I might have said to Steve and Art is that I talked to the governor about a lot of issues. I made no definitive statements on taxes, immigration, trade, nothing. Look this was a private meeting. A guy asks you in and it was a private off the record meeting, you keep it private and off the record. The only thing I can confirm is that I probably said to Steve we talked about a lot of issues. Nothing more.

When asked if Walker said in the conversation with Kudlow—the quote Moore told the New York Times,“I’m not going nativist, I’m pro-immigration”— Moore told Breitbart News he’s unsure.

“I don’t know. I wasn’t at that meeting, so I don’t know exactly what he said. I’m sort of saying what Larry Kudlow told me about the meeting,” Moore said.

Kudlow told Breitbart News he will not reveal publicly here–just as he says he has not to anyone else–the details of the conversation with Walker.

“I haven’t done it with anybody and I’m not going to start now,” Kudlow said.

Scott Walker is a friend. I don’t know what Steve was thinking or where he was going with that. But that’s you know—there’s no there there. I can report nothing to you. I’m always helpful to Breitbart. I love Breitbart. In fact, I was one of the first people to put [Andrew] Breitbart on TV many years ago. I help you guys whenever I can. But this is all I can say to you. There’s nothing more there.

This matters, because the biggest and most significant thing Walker has done on his lead up to launching his campaign has been rethinking his position on immigration.

He joined the last two winners of the Iowa Republican caucuses—former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, both of whom are running again now—by tapping into strong economic populism that has faded from the Republican Party under the leadership of people like Ryan and his fellow failure and 2012 top-of-the-ticket running mate Mitt Romney. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)80%

and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush have also been pushing the party away from the voter base toward the donor class, and Walker has been somewhat caught in the crossfire between the two different camps. At different times on different issues, he’s shown a propensity to side with either or both.

Moore himself has written in favor of looser immigration laws.

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"Republicans and conservatives might want to coalesce around a position of tight welfare and generous immigration rules," Moore, a member of the Wall Street Journal's editorial board, wrote in the Journal in 2013. "That is something Milton Friedman would no doubt regard as the ideal outcome. As another late great economist—William Niskanen, a member of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers and chairman of the Cato Institute—once put it: 'Better to build a wall around the welfare state than the country.'"

Despite the fact that he admits not having had a conversation with Walker, Moore insists the governor isn't simply saying one thing to one side and the public and another to the other behind closed doors.

"I think that's what he [the Times reporter] was trying to imply—that he's saying one thing to me, and another thing to other conservative groups," Moore tells Breitbart News. "I don't think that's a fair characterization at all."

It would certainly help if Walker was more forthcoming—and his team was clearer in answering the questions that come their way—but they're not. The Times didn't respond to a request for comment for this story.

OTHER

Chris Christie and Marco Rubio Get Pajama Time at Matt Romney's House // NYT // Ashley Parker and Maggie Haberman – July 3, 2015

Mitt Romney is having a slumber party this weekend at his New Hampshire compound with some very interesting guests: Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, along with their families.

The sleepover party Friday night at Mr. Romney's summer vacation spot in Wolfeboro, N.H., came about when the 2012 Republican presidential nominee realized that the two current hopefuls would be campaigning in the area during the holiday weekend.

"Governor Romney heard that his friends, Governor Christie and Senator Rubio, along with their families, would be in Wolfeboro over the July 4th holiday weekend," an aide to Mr. Romney said. "He and Mrs. Romney opened their home to their friends and look forward to celebrating America's birthday."

Mr. Romney, who almost jumped into the 2016 presidential race for his third try at the White House, remains a coveted surrogate for Republicans and a person whose approval carries weight with donors.

The visit by Mr. Christie, first reported by The Washington Post, comes days after he announced his presidential run and as he is trying to shake off a difficult six months in which his poll numbers have fallen. Mr. Christie is struggling to keep donors by his side after Jeb Bush's entrance into the race and after lingering fallout from the scandal over the George Washington Bridge lane closings.

Aides to both Mr. Romney and Mr. Christie have never completely gotten over a rift in the 2012 race, when Mr. Christie, despite being a key supporter, declined to campaign with Mr. Romney in the final week of the campaign after Hurricane Sandy ravaged his state. Instead, the governor warmly embraced President Obama as the two toured the ravaged New Jersey coast together.

Both moves infuriated Mr. Romney's aides. But the two men have remained in touch, and this weekend Mr.

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Christie is bringing along his wife, Mary Pat, and two sons.

Mr. Rubio, for his part, has been making efforts to court Mr. Romney's financial support and also some of his advisers. A former top campaign aide to Mr. Romney, Rich Beeson, is deputy campaign manager for Mr. Rubio, and Wayne Berman, a Republican bundler, joined Mr. Rubio's team early. And Terry Sullivan, Mr. Rubio's campaign manager, also worked for Mr. Romney's 2008 presidential bid.

At a campaign stop in Tilton, N.H., Mr. Christie said it was too early to ask for Mr. Romney's endorsement.

"I was the first governor to endorse Gov. Romney in 2011, and I endorsed him in October," he said. "So it'd probably be bad form for me to ask him to do it any time earlier than that."

"We'll talk whatever our host wants to talk about," Mr. Christie said of his planned evening with Mr. Romney. "You know me, I'm kind of the shy and retiring type, I'll sit back and let the conversation come to me."

Campaign aides to another candidate who is in New Hampshire this holiday weekend, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, were not aware of any plans for him to meet with Mr. Romney. The two men met privately in Utah in January, when Mr. Romney was still considering entering the race.

Romney to host the Christies, Rubios at the New Hampshire home **// WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 3, 2015**

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's comeback journey begins here in New Hampshire, so the Republican presidential candidate is paying a visit to the last winner of the state's first-in-the-nation primary and one of its most famous summertime residents.

Mitt Romney is hosting Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, at his waterfront compound on picturesque Lake Winnipesaukee on Friday night, people familiar with the plans said.

During the summer, Romney's sprawling Wolfeboro retreat — which includes a private beach, tennis court and trails — is a playground for the 2012 GOP nominee's huge family.

On Friday night, though, Romney will have the Christies as overnight guests. But they won't be the only non-family members in the house. Fellow GOP hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and his wife, Jeanette, are also joining the Romneys for Friday night's slumber party.

"Governor Romney heard that his friends, Governor Christie and Senator Rubio, along with their families, would be in Wolfeboro over the July 4th holiday weekend. He and Mrs. Romney opened their home to their friends and look forward to celebrating America's birthday," said an aide to Romney, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity.

On Saturday morning, the Christies and Rubios will also be marching in Wolfeboro's celebrated Fourth of July parade. One of the state's more colorful parades, Wolfeboro's includes such quirks as a lawn chair brigade. The Romneys are known to be annual presences along the parade route.

Rubio, Christie planning sleepover with the Romneys **// AP // Jill Colvin – July 3, 2015**

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2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney will be hosting two rival Republican presidential contenders at a holiday sleepover Friday evening.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio will both be staying over at Romney's property in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, an aide to Romney confirmed.

The aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of what the aide called the private nature of the event, said the former governor and his wife opened their home to the Christie and Rubio families after hearing they would be in town for the holiday weekend. Both candidates are scheduled to march in Wolfeboro's Fourth of July parade.

Christie, who formally jumped into the race this week, told reporters in New Hampshire Friday that he was grateful for the invitation.

"I suspect there might be a little politics discussed tonight with Mitt and Ann, but me and Mary Pat, and Andrew and Sarah are really happy that Mitt and Ann invited us to stay with them tonight," he said, according to video posted by NJ.com.

A Rubio spokesman declined to comment.

Romney had considered another run for president in 2016, but announced in January that he'd decided against it. His endorsement is now coveted.

Christie was a top surrogate for Romney's 2012 campaign and was considered a potential vice presidential contender. But he continues to receive heat in some Republican circles for leaving the trail and embracing President Barack Obama after New Jersey was hit by Superstorm Sandy just before the election.

Christie's campaign also announced some of its top staffers Friday.

The campaign will be managed by Ken McKay, who formerly worked for the Republican National Committee and Republican Governors Association.

Romney to host Christie, Rubio in New Hampshire **// Politico // Jennifer Shutt – July 3, 2015**

Mitt Romney is opening up his sprawling New Hampshire vacation home to 2016 rivals Marco Rubio and Chris Christie this weekend.

Christie and his wife Pat are planning to have dinner with the former GOP presidential candidate on Friday night at his home near Lake Winnipesaukee and spend the night, according to a report in The Washington Post. On Saturday they plan to walk in the town's Fourth of July parade, which is a tradition for the Romney family.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who is also running for the GOP 2016 presidential nomination, is expected to walk in the parade as well and will stay at the former Massachusetts governor's home, according to Time.

Romney won the 2012 Republican primary in New Hampshire with 39 percent of the vote, but received 46

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percent in the general election and lost the state's electoral college votes to Obama.

Rubio, Christie To Bunk At Mitt Romney's New Hampshire B&B // Bloomberg // Terrence Dopp – July 3, 2015

This may be the political junkie's sleepover of the year: Two rival candidates for the Republican presidential nomination will be bunking tonight with Mitt Romney at his vacation home in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Florida Senator Marco Rubio will be the guests of Romney, the Republican party's 2012 nominee. Both candidates are scheduled to march in Wolfeboro's July Fourth parade.

Speaking to reporters today in Derry, New Hampshire, Christie told reporters that he, his wife, Mary Pat Christie, and two of the couple's children, will be guests of Romney and his wife, Ann. A source close to Romney confirmed that Rubio will also be an overnight guest.

The vacation home of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney on Lake Winnipesaukee in Wolfeboro.

The Romneys own a $10 million vacation home in Wolfeboro. The meeting at a home near New Hampshire's Lake Winnipisaukee will reunite two politicians with considerable professional and personal history in Romney and Christie, and one who is a newer acquaintance.

In 2009, Romney was an early supporter of Christie in his race for governor.

Three years later, Christie returned the favor, vigorously backing Romney in his unsuccessful challenge to President Barack Obama.

Romney opted not to make a 2016 run despite early indications he flirted with the notion. Nevertheless, he's remained an in-demand Republican surrogate and fundraiser, and his support is coveted by many in a field that swelled to 14 people Tuesday when Christie jumped in.

In an interview with Bloomberg's Mark Halperin last month, Romney named six Republican candidates whom he could support, and spoke warmly of both Rubio and Christie.

"I like Marco," Romney told Halperin, quickly adding that he liked a number of the Republican contenders. "I'm fiercely neutral in this process he quipped."

Of Christie, Romney said: "I've spent a lot of time with him and feel very close to him." And he offered his friend words of encouragement.

"Some people count him out, but not me," Romney said, referring to Christie's drop in the polls following a spate of negative publicity over his state's budget problems and his advisers' politically-motivated decision to manufacture a traffic jam outside a Democratic-controlled town.

"We like the comeback story," Romney added.

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On a Derry sidewalk outside MaryAnn's diner, where he had been greeting breakfast patrons, Christie declined to say what he's expecting to the discussion topics to be. "Whatever he wants to talk about," Christie, 52, told reporters of his host. "I'm confident there will be some politics discussed tonight, but there will be lots of other things talked about too."

Romney to Host Rubio, Christie for July 4th // TIME // Zeke J. Miller – July 3, 2015

Former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney is hosting two of his would-be successors Friday night at his home for the July 4th holiday.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio are marching in the Wolfeboro, N.H. Fourth of July parade—the largest in the state—on Saturday morning, just blocks from the Romney family vacation home in the bucolic lakeside town.

“Governor Romney heard that his friends, Governor Christie and Senator Rubio, along with their families, would be in Wolfeboro over the July 4th holiday weekend,” a Romney spokesperson said. “He and Mrs. Romney opened their home to their friends and look forward to celebrating America’s birthday.”

Both Christie and Rubio attended Romney’s E2 Summit in Park City, Utah last month and are hoping to win over his supporters and donors in the first-in-the-nation primary state. Romney told reporters at the summit that he intends to remain neutral through the primaries.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry are also participating in New Hampshire July 4th festivities on Saturday, but will be staying elsewhere.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

The unexpected rise of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump // WaPo // Kathleen Parker – July 3, 2015

Stranger things have happened in American politics, but the sudden surge of Democratic/populist Bernie Sanders and Republican/pompulist Donald Trump puts one in mind of alternate universes.

And I don’t mean Miss Universes.

Both men are holding second place in some polls behind Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush, respectively. And both are steadily ascending in the polls at a greater pace than anyone could have predicted — or imagined.

Sanders, a socialist running on a platform that should send shivers up the spines of most Americans, drew his largest crowd of the season — nearly 10,000 — in Madison, Wis., last Wednesday night. The anti-establishment candidate, who wants to break up big banks and redistribute wealth, makes President Obama (and Clinton) look like robber barons by comparison.

Although Madison is a liberal college town and Sanders’s record crowd could be rationalized accordingly, poll after poll shows him closing the gap with Clinton. A Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday morning put him within 19 points of Clinton among likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa. Quinnipiac surveyed 761 likely Iowa Democratic caucus participants, with humans calling cell and land phones, and with a margin of error of 3.6

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percentage points.

Meanwhile, A WMUR/CNN Granite State poll put Sanders just 8 points below Clinton in New Hampshire.

As Sanders remarked in Madison upon seeing the throng that greeted him, “Whoa.”

At the same time Sanders is on the zoom rail, mysterious things are happening around the candidacy of the Trumpster. Some of you may recognize him as the cartoon character eternally lost in a game of Monopoly, sort of the way Beetlejuice was confined to a miniature graveyard in the movie of the same name. (No matter what happens, do not say “Trump!” thrice in a row.)

He is otherwise known for: the buildings he has named after himself; a couple of TV shows he has hosted, the names of which escape me now; his hair, which he recently averred is his own; his vast fortune, about which he can’t stop bragging — and a proportionately small mouth for someone famous for having such a big one.

To wit: His recent comments about Mexican immigrants as rapists, drug runners and criminals. And, he added, “some, I assume, are good people.”

Why, there’s a good one right over there — mowing Trump’s Palm Beach Mar-a-Lago estate lawn. “Hola, Paco, que tal? ”

Trump’s insulting tirade has had the dual effect of getting him fired from NBCUniversal, Univision and Macy’s (and counting) for comments unbecoming an icon and getting him feted as the Iconoclast that Republicans have been waiting for. If you’re a member of the Republican base, a candidate can’t be too anti-immigration, too anti-Common Core — or too rich, apparently.

Even as Trump’s various enterprises are vanishing — and support among, I dunno, let’s call them “sane Americans” is waning — he has doubled down on comments that could as easily have been retracted with an apology. Here’s a sample for future reference: “ Of course, I didn’t mean that all Mexicans are rapists. I was upset by some of the statistics I’ve read and just mouthed off without more carefully considering the full impact my words could have on others. I’m sorry.” (Warning: Do not add: Some of my best friends are Mexican.)

But no. Instead, commenting on a 2014 Fusion article about Latin American women being raped as they traveled to the United States across Mexico, “Well, somebody’s doing the raping, Don!” he retorted when CNN anchor Don Lemon gave him a chance to think things through. “I mean, somebody’s doing it!” Trump said. “Who’s doing the raping? Who’s doing the raping?”

Trump has a point there. Someone is doing the raping, assuming the Fusion story is true. And the same Fusion story that claimed that 80 percent of Central American women and girls are raped as they cross through Mexico to the United States also answered Trump’s question: “Perpetrators can be coyotes, other migrants, bandits, or even government authorities.”

Hmmm, so not necessarily those who then funnel into North America?

See? Logic isn’t so hard, but rant over reason is so much more effective in attracting attention.

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Trump's fans say they like his blunt talk, that he says what they're thinking. He's BOLD! Indeed. But bold and blunt wear thin after a while.

And the United States, though keen to hear fresh voices and ideas, isn't ready for either a Robin Hood or a King John in the White House.

Enjoy the show, everybody. But rest assured: This too — and these two — shall pass.

What candidates really mean when they invoke the 'Founding Fathers' **// WaPo // Andrew M. Shocket – July 3, 2015**

There's nothing more American than Fourth of July cookouts, fireworks — and political speeches, especially as we enter another presidential campaign season. For politicians, nothing suits the holiday better than invocations of our nation's Founders. Not all such exclamations are cut from the same red-white-and-blue cloth, however. Pay close attention as the candidates praise the "Spirit of '76," and you'll see that they're not taking a break from partisan rhetoric, but engaging in politics at its most elemental level. Here's a guide to some founding-related phrases and what they really mean today.

"Founding Fathers"

Nothing says "I'm a conservative" more than this phrase. That's because it evokes an image of rich white guys who didn't like taxes (until they had to wage a war, in which case they raised them to levels unimagined under British rule, but that's another story). Warren G. Harding coined the term, and since 2000, it has been used almost exclusively by Republicans. The more conservative the candidate, the more likely you'll hear it. Rand Paul, George Pataki, Scott Walker, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum and Rick Perry have all flogged the Founding Fathers. But don't expect to hear this from Hillary Clinton: She uses "Founders" instead.

"A more perfect union"

This is the liberal response to "Founding Fathers." From the Constitution's preamble, the phrase originally expressed the hope that the Constitution would be an improvement over its predecessor, the Articles of Confederation. Today, liberals use it to imply that the nation and perhaps even the Constitution weren't immaculately conceived and stand in need of reform. You'll encounter it especially when politicians want to take on large issues such as race or the increasingly prominent role of big money in politics. Expect to hear this from Clinton and especially openly liberal presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who has used it before to celebrate Independence Day.

"Created equal"

A phrase from the Declaration of Independence, which asserts "that all men are created equal" and "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights," including "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." This may be a big one this year as candidates take on economic inequality, racial inequality or both. Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley used the phrase when announcing his candidacy, perhaps to help place himself to Clinton's left.

"A [fill in the blank] Bill of Rights"

When candidates want to drape stars and stripes over a plan to address an issue and make some innovation look as

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though it should be permanent, this is how they do it. The “Bill of Rights” refers to the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, of course, including cornerstones of American civic life such as freedom of speech, worship, assembly; the right to bear arms; the right to a jury trial; and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. In recent elections, candidates have proposed a credit card bill of rights, a privacy bill of rights, veterans’ bills of rights (including one in 2008 courtesy of current Republican hopeful Huckabee), a military family bill of rights, a crime victims’ bill of rights, and even worker and shareholder bill of rights. One that probably won’t come up now that Obamacare has fundamentally altered the debate over health care: a “patients’ bill of rights,” versions of which were backed by numerous presidential candidates from 2000 to 2008.

“Our sacred Honor

The Declaration of Independence closes with its signers pledging “our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor,” no small matter given that, had the Revolution failed, they all likely would have been executed for treason. “Honor” resonates more with men than with women, and more with conservatives than liberals, and the “sacred” part catches the ear of evangelical voters. Today the phrase gets used to imply that liberal officeholders are staining the nation’s reputation. It was often brought up in the 1990s by Republicans angry about Bill Clinton’s affair with Monica Lewinsky; don’t be surprised to hear it this year from Republicans attacking Hillary Clinton over Benghazi. Cruz spoke this phrase when he announced his 2016 candidacy.

Of course, many Americans will be treated to an entire reading of the Declaration of Independence instead of a candidate’s speech. But if so, don’t despair: This guide won’t expire, and you’ll have 493 days to consult it during the 2016 presidential election campaign

Drawing voters in: Campaign logos bring artistic touch to politics **// CNN // Ashley Killough – July 3, 2015**

Scott Walker released a part of his logo Thursday night, with plans to unveil the full brand, piece by piece, over the next nine days until his expected presidential announcement on July 13.

The black and white image shows what looks to be a stage with the superimposed letters "CA" creeping in from the left. Such a partial glimpse is an uncommon rollout for a campaign logo, designed to build gleeful anticipation for his big kickoff and likely one of the final presidential announcements of the year.

Walker's suspenseful logo launch underscores the power and visual impact that symbols can have in defining a campaign. Along with a candidate's face, logos become the most recognizable visuals for a campaign. They aim to capture the candidate's message and personality in a brand that's versatile enough to fit on a range of paraphernalia and advertising.

"Ultimately, the logo's job is to build remembrance," said Sky Hartman, a brand designer who created Ron Paul's 2012 logo.

Hartman and other designers point to President Barack Obama's 2008 logo as a new benchmark for campaign designs. The O-shape horizon broke tradition by being a symbol that can be easily identified without the candidate's name.

"If you can design a concept that sticks in people's minds, you've been successful," Hartman said.

A number of decisions go into the creative design process. But a key component of a logo is it's transferability: The typeface, dimension and color must be small enough to fit on a button or big enough to fill up a billboard.

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Hillary Clinton's campaign attempted the symbol approach, choosing a blue letter "H" with an arrow going across. Voluntarily created for the campaign by Michael Bierut, a designer at Pentagram, the logo generated a huge splash on social media, with some criticizing it for looking like the FedEx logo, while others thought the red arrow pointing to the right was a little too Republican.

Clinton's team, however, has been able to replace the blue filling in the bolded "H" with other colors and images. During the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage last month, the H was filled with a rainbow. When her campaign announced it was going to Iowa, her press releases contain the H filled with a photo of a cornfield.

Just like artwork, logos are open for interpretation and can mean different things to different people. Still, campaigns generally try to convey messages of strength, optimism, and hope -- all the while capturing some element of the candidate's personality.

For Jeb Bush, that means adding punctuation. The former Florida governor also created a stir when he unveiled his logo, a recycled version of his gubernatorial brands, with an exclamation point at the end of his first name, underlined by "2016."

Jimmy Fallon poked fun at the logo when Bush was on "The Tonight Show" last month. "Do I pronounce it JEB!" Fallon said, shouting the candidate's name. "Did Regis Philbin come up with this? Jeb! Jeb is running for President 2016! Jeb!"

Bush informed Fallon that Jeb stands for his full name, John Ellis Bush.

"John, exclamation point, probably wouldn't work," the candidate joked. "But Jeb kinda works a little better."

The punctuation also aided in crafting a logo that could be used in Spanish -- ¡Jeb! -- drawing attention to his close ties to the Latino community.

The visual strength of a campaign isn't limited to the logo. Campaigns frequently print banner messages that show up on posters, in ads or on backdrops at campaign events -- remember the "We Can't Afford Four More Years" slogan from Romney's campaign.

"Campaigns are judged by how quickly and creatively they respond to real time events, which can mean changing an event's message at the very last minute," said John Legittino, who oversaw event production for Romney in 2012 and founded Harbinger Outreach, a production agency that specializes in political and media optics.

The perfect logo or message banner is short, direct and easy to understand, he said. Campaigns also have to consider how the colors will show up in a range of platforms and how logos will look from different camera shots.

"It may sound good in a meeting at campaign headquarters, but will it look good when it airs on CNN?" he said. "That's the question. It all has to be designed to translate to TV and photos."

Early fundraising totals could shape 2016 GOP field **// The Hill // Ben Kamisar – July 4, 2015**

Republican candidates are looking to use the release of their quarterly fundraising numbers to show they've got what it takes to outlast the crowded field.

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The smart-money favorites are hoping to flex their muscles and fire a warning shot down the totem pole, while long-shot candidates seek to prove their mettle.

“This is the first opportunity to publicly separate the A-team 2016 contenders from the wannabes,” Ford O’Connell, a GOP strategist who worked on Sen. John McCain’s (R-Ariz.) 2008 presidential campaign, told The Hill.

“And for those mired in the middle of the 2016 GOP pack, this is a chance to outshine expectations and grab some much-needed momentum leading up to the August debate.”

The second fundraising quarter of 2015 — the first of the race for the presidential hopefuls who have already declared — ended June 30. Campaigns have two additional weeks to get the books together before reports are sent to the Federal Election Commission and later posted online.

Strategists say all eyes are on former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has sought out to blow other candidates out of the water with his fundraising totals.

Fred Malek, a top Republican donor, told The Hill he expects a “heroic number” when Bush’s campaign total is combined with his super PAC fundraising numbers.

Bush entered the race with just two weeks left in the fundraising period. But he spent the preceding months fundraising for his Right to Rise super PAC, which can accept unlimited funds — instead of a campaign that is hamstrung by FEC rules.

Because of the super PAC focus, his campaign reports will likely not come close to the record-breaking $45 million posted by Hillary Clinton on the other side of the aisle.

But there’s a reason Bush still faces pressure to post an impressive total: His campaign’s unspoken pitch that he has the fundraising chops to match Clinton in a general election.

"Hillary went out there and threw up $45 million, he has to put up a number that looks good relative to the circumstances," O'Connell said.

“You want to set the pace but also, your target is to scare the Clinton camp.”

Mike Murphy, the head of Right to Rise, reportedly lauded the super PAC’s success in a donor call and predicted the July filing would give Bush’s opponents “heart attacks,” according to Buzzfeed News.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, in second place behind Bush in early polls, didn’t notify the FEC of his impending candidacy until July. So his fundraising figures won’t be shared until October.

Sitting in third in polls, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) faces the unique conundrum of being the other Floridian in the GOP race. A poor showing will raise concerns that Bush has outmaneuvered him to lock down the Sunshine State

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donor pool.

Other candidates aren't expecting to topple Bush's combined haul, but fundraising results can go a long way in proving strength and durability to help separate a candidate from the pack. Candidates can do that not only with a large top-line figure, but through cultivating a large base.

"If they can really wow with just raw numbers, that is very helpful to them," said Katie Packer, 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney's former deputy campaign manager.

"But if you have a broad, big well of donors that every time you dip in is willing to fill up your bucket, that's very powerful."

That method worked wonders for President Obama's elections, Packer added. Obama dwarfed Romney in percentage of donors giving $200 or less during the 2012 campaign.

Ben Carson, the only Republican candidate to announce his second-quarter totals thus far, is already plugging that strategy. He announced on Wednesday an $8.3 million haul from 151,000 donors. Campaign spokesman Doug Watts told the Associated Press that none of Carson's GOP challengers will "come even close to the number of engaged donors."

Carson's total poses a particular challenge for Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, both of whom have also touted grassroots engagement as a main catalyst for their 2016 bids.

Carson, Cruz and Huckabee are thought to be competing for the same group of evangelical voters. A big fundraising win could help lock down that share of the electorate for one of them.

The jumbled timeline of the race so far means head-to-head numbers comparisons don't tell the whole story. Cruz, Rubio and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) were the first entrants into the field. Carson, Huckabee and Carly Fiorina entered towards the middle, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Sen. Rick Santorum (Pa.) and Bush much later in the quarter.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie announced with just days left in the quarter.

The numbers come in at a key point in the 2016 race, because of unprecedented rules for the first debates of the primary season.

Debates hosted by Fox News and CNN in August and September are restricted to just the top 10 contenders, as measured by national polling. Candidates outside the top 10 will debate separately.

"The key thing for all of them is to get on the debate stage, you almost don't care as much as long as you get on the debate stage," O'Connell said. "But if you are getting locked out of the debate stage, you better be able to throw up something that exceeds expectations. "

Poor fundraising totals could sink a fledgling campaign and give the impression that a candidate never truly got off of the ground.

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Such a problem befell former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty in 2012. He shut his campaign down shortly after missing expectations with his first quarterly report, only to find an extremely tight race where low-polling candidates were able to surge near the top as the actual primaries got closer.

Packer warned that while the numbers will shape narratives, the candidates' messages and campaign strategy will have more to do with the results.

Looking back at her experience battling Santorum back in 2012, she said, "We ran against a much weaker field in 2012 and Mitt Romney was without a doubt by a factor of 5 the best funded candidate in the campaign."

"And we still almost lost to somebody that barely had two nickels to rub together."

2016 Hopefuls Flood NH For July 4 **// NBC // July 3, 2015**

Presidential hopefuls are going on parade throughout the Granite State this July 4.

At least seven 2016 candidates will spend Independence Day courting residents who will vote in the nation's first presidential primary contest next year, according to scheduled logged in necn's 2016 New Hampshire Primary Candidate Tracker, making a combined 14 stops.

While parades are by far the most popular stops during the holiday tour — at least 11 such appearances are expected — candidates' Saturday calendars also include breakfasts, cookouts and grassroots events. Revelers along the routes in Amherst and Merrimack will watch no fewer than three candidates strut by. The resort town of Wolfeboro, where 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney owns a home, will be greeted by at least two GOP hopefuls.

For some candidates, one parade just isn't enough. Republicans Jeb Bush, Lindsey Graham, and Rick Perry, as well as Democrat Lincoln Chafee, are marching in two apiece. Perry, the former Texas governor, appears to have the busiest public schedule on Saturday so far, stopping by parades in Amherst and Merrimack before greeting crowds at the Windham GOP July Fourth Cookout later in the day.

The holiday hand-shaking isn't limited to July 4 itself. Christie, New Jersey's Republican governor, has been barnstorming the state since making his official entry into the race on Tuesday, including several events on Friday. Perry and Democrat Hillary Clinton are also getting their patriotic partying started early with Friday events, while former New York Gov. George Pataki and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, both candidates for the GOP nomination, will join New Hampshire residents wishing America a belated birthday with Sunday celebrations.

Chris Christie and Hillary Clinton's fake followers **// Reuters // Lena Masri – July 2, 2015**

Chris Christie, Hillary Clinton and many other presidential hopefuls are haunted by fake followers on Twitter.

Almost half of Chris Christie's followers on Twitter are fake. This makes him the presidential candidate with the highest number of fake followers, according to Vocativ.

Hillary Clinton comes in second, with 35 percent fake followers, while presidential candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders have as many as 90 percent real followers, and only 10 percent fake ones.

The numbers are calculated by a social media analysis tool called TwitterAudit that determines a Twitter

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account's authenticity. A fake Twitter follower can either be a person with an agenda or an account run by automated software.

Crowded field: Presidential hopefuls end up marching in the same Foruth of July parades // Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – July 3, 2015

Marching along in a small-town parade on Saturday is the Independence Day activity of choice for 10 presidential hopefuls who are ready for cheerful photo ops and meaningful soundbites. But it's a crowded field. Some of the rivals are walking in the exact same parades.

In New Hampshire, for example, Jeb Bush, will step to the music in Amherst and Merrimack. Rick Perry is in the same two parades. So is Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic hopeful Lincoln Chafee. Spectators get four-for-the-price of one here.

Sen. Marco Rubio will be in Wolfeboro — the swanky summer home of Mitt Romney — for their big to-do. But Mr. Rubio does not have an exclusive, though. Gov. Chris Christie also will be there. Hillary Rodham Clinton, meanwhile, marches with the locals in the towns of Glen and Gorham.

White House hopefuls will also be in Iowa — but without such close encounters. Gov. Bobby Jindal marches in the Urbandale parade, while Sen. Bernie Sanders strides the streets of both Creston and Waukee. Martin O'Malley will walk the parade route in Independence — then ironically attends a big barbecue in a town called Clinton.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Clinton and Obama are on the wrong side of history // WaPo // Dana Milbank – July 3, 2015

Scenes from an insurrection:

In Madison, Wis., on Wednesday, 10,000 people show up to rally for long-shot presidential candidate Bernie Sanders — giving the self-declared "democratic socialist" the largest crowd any candidate has had in this election cycle. Sanders, running on a shoestring and a prayer, has closed to within single digits of Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire and is surging in Iowa.

In New York on Tuesday, populist Mayor Bill de Blasio lashes out in vitriolic terms at New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a a fellow Democrat, accusing him of "games" and politically motivated "revenge." De Blasio and other Democrats blast Cuomo's handling of housing, immigration, the minimum wage and education.

In Washington last month, an overwhelming majority of Democrats — 158 of 186 in the House and 31 of 44 in the Senate — oppose President Obama on free-trade legislation. Obama prevails in the vote after failing in a similar vote earlier in the month, but the episode leaves the president attempting to repair a deep rift with his fellow Democrats by championing overtime rules favored by unions.

These are not isolated events. Together, they show anew how the populist movement is ascendant within the Democratic Party, and they confirm that the balance of power has shifted. Clinton, who reports raising $45 million since launching her campaign in April, will almost certainly beat the upstart 73-year-old with the crazy white hair. Obama won on trade. But Clinton and Obama are, to borrow a favorite phrase of the president, on the wrong side of history. As I've noted, the country is trending in a more liberal direction, and a growing proportion of Democrats are hard-core liberals.

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There are various causes, but the change is likely in part a reaction to the tea party and to the Republican Party's swing to the right. Democrats so far have shown less inclination to eat their own, but there is a real possibility that intraparty fratricide will break out if Clinton and the rest of the Democratic establishment don't co-opt the rising populist movement. In New York, for example, there is already talk of a liberal primary challenge to Cuomo if he chooses to run again in 2018.

That the Sanders campaign has caught fire is a surprise to just about everybody, not least the candidate himself, who had his doubts. The Brooklyn-born Vermonter with a didactic style lacks the fire and charisma of Elizabeth Warren, who chose not to run. But his call for huge infrastructure spending and taxing the rich has caught the moment just right, even if Sanders himself is an imperfect vessel.

In May, Clinton had a 31-point lead in New Hampshire over her nearest potential Democratic competitor in the WMUR/CNN poll; now she leads Sanders by only eight points, which because of the poll's methodology is a statistical tie. In Iowa, likewise, Clinton had a 45-point lead over Sanders in May, according to a Quinnipiac University poll. Now her lead has shrunk to 19 points.

The populist pushback that propels Sanders's unexpected success also can be seen in the incendiary remarks of New York's top populist, de Blasio, who took the extraordinary step of calling journalists to City Hall to denounce the governor. He called Cuomo's actions "not anything like acceptable government practice," according to the New York Times.

At the heart of the criticism is a sense that Cuomo, though the son of the late liberal lion Mario Cuomo, was insufficiently pure in his ideology and too willing to strike deals with Republicans. Several New York liberals have begun rumbles of a primary challenge to Cuomo — an effort that would be like the conservative efforts to purge the Republican Party of RINOs (Republicans in Name Only) in recent elections.

Obama, too, has been upended by the populist wave. Though he eventually prevailed in the "fast-track" trade vote, he had nothing like the support Bill Clinton got when he pushed through the North American Free Trade Agreement with half of Senate Democrats and 40 percent of House Democrats. Liberals called that a victory. "This isn't 1993, and this is not Bill Clinton's Democratic Party," Rep. Rosa DeLauro (Conn.), who led Democratic opposition in the House, wrote in the Huffington Post on Thursday.

Bill Clinton reshaped the party with moderate "New Democrats," but the new New Democrats look more like the old. Hillary Clinton, notably, sided with liberals on the trade legislation, which is smart: If she doesn't want to get trampled by populists on the march, she'll need to grab a baton and pretend to be the drum major.

Her emails prove it, Hillary's just like us **// Boston Herald // Howie Carr – July 3, 2015**

So now all bitter clingers are instructed that Hillary Clinton's emails — cherry-picked by her flunkies, reported by her media groupies — somehow "humanize" her.

In other words, you are supposed to read her emails and think, "Hey — ya know, Hillary's just another 'everyday American' like me!"

OK, so let's check her emails out. Here's one from July 2, 2009. Tell me this hasn't happened to you, Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Sixpack. You need to fly somewhere, so you tell your assistant — you do have an assistant, right? — to make you a reservation, not for a seat, but for an entire private jet.

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And your assistant Huma, who is married to a perv ex-Congressman whose alias is “Carlos Danger,” gives you the bad news.

“The g3 (Gulfstream 3) is delayed till 5pm wheels up. There is a lear available at 2pm with 6 seats. Do u want to just leave at 5?”

Huma, do you really expect an everyday American like Hillary to settle for a tiny private jet that seats only six? She ordered you to get a 19-seat Gulfstream, as befits Her Highness. Haven’t we all drawn that line in the sand — I refuse to get on any private jet with fewer than 19 seats! Don’t you know who I am?

This next one is from Cheryl Mills, a top aide who has issued orders to the Foggy Bottom minions to stop “twittering” under Hillary’s name. This email to another aide was sent out at 3:47 p.m. on a Friday afternoon in May 2009.

“You need to walk this to HRC if she is not gone.”

I’m going to go out on a limb and say she was already gone. Friday afternoon means early slide, right, Hillary?

Did you ever want a nice cold drink in the afternoon? Of course you did. And you can do one of two things. Number one, get up and get it yourself. Number two, email your aide to order another lackey, or server, or waitress, or whatever, to bring you the drink.

Can you guess which option Hillary selected on Sept. 30, 2009?

“Pls call Sarah and ask her if she can get me some iced tea.”

Sometimes, when you’re spending the weekend in China, you see something you like. So on Dec. 15, 2009, Hillary emailed yet another payroll patriot:

“Can you contact your protocol friend in China and ask him if I could get photos of the carpets in the rooms I met in w/POTUS during the recent trip? I love their designs and the way they appeared carved. Any chance we can get this?”

If you read between the lines, what Hillary’s really asking is for the Red Chinese to give the rugs to her — on the arm, gratis, for free! Surely it would be an honor for the Chinese to comp them those nice rugs.

Next, Sonia Sotomayor, the “wise Latina woman” who was confirmed to the Supreme Court in May 2009. Hillary emails another aide ordering her to get a number so she can call and congratulate Sotomayor. Only Hillary spells her name “Sotomyer.”

Misspelling a Hispanic’s name? Isn’t that a “microaggression?” Hey Hillary, call Huma and tell her to get me an iced tea. And make it snappy!

Hillary Clinton’s private messages reveal the banality of email // Independent // Alice Jones – July 3, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Mid-afternoon on 30 September 2009, Hillary Clinton was feeling thirsty. So she did what any dehydrated, high-powered woman would do. She fired off a one-liner email to her aide: “Pls call Sarah and ask her if she can get me some iced tea.”

What a chain of command for one glass of Lipton, but then Clinton was then the US Secretary of State. With great power comes great perks. For example, if I see a carpet I really like when I’m abroad, there is no one in my inner circle to email back home for further information. No one. Clinton has people. In an email titled “Don’t Laugh!”, she asks an assistant: “Can you contact your protocol friend in China and ask if I could get photos of the carpets of the rooms I met in during the recent trip? I loved their designs and the way they appeared carved. Any chance we can get this?”

These are just two snippets from 3,000 pages of emails released by the State Department this week. It emerged in March that Clinton had her own private account, routed through a server at home when she was in office, potentially contravening protocols on record-keeping and security. Clinton has handed over 55,000 pages of emails which will be released over the next few months. A further 32,000 pages concerning her family, “vacations and yoga routines” were deemed private by her lawyer and have been deleted. Still, to judge from this batch, there is plenty to be going on with. If, that is, what interests you is the endless minutiae of a political life.

Not even the globe’s most powerful can tame the teeming inbox, apparently. There are emails about coats – one Clinton wore in Kabul got a “77 per cent favorability rating” according to the assistant secretary of state, queries about private jets and in-jokes about yurts. There are fawning congratulations on this or that speech, and an anxiety-inducing number of “are u awake??” memos sent at all hours, both from and to Clinton.

There is a worryingly insecure grasp of social media – “We should not be twittering in the Secretary’s name since she is not the person actually twittering…” – and a hilarious exchange in which Clinton tries and fails to send a fax (“I’ve done it twice now. Still nothing.”) which took place on 23 December 2009, when no right-thinking person should be sending a fax.

Like any busy boss, Clinton keeps her emails brusque and lower case. There are no niceties, no how are yous, no all the very bests. She has a gimlet eye for detail – and not just about carpets. When an aide tells her cover of Time is “gorgeous”, she shoots back: “How does the article compare to the cover??” If you wanted to pop psychologise, you could make much of one Veep-like email that says: “I heard on the radio that there is a Cabinet mtg this am. Is there? Can I go?” Or of the fact that she hears of Bill Clinton’s new role as UN Special Envoy to Haiti only via a UN leak. “Wjc said he was going to call hrc but hasn’t had time.”

There are more serious revelations too, though not many. Most controversial is her regular contact with Sidney Blumenthal, who was exiled from the White House for being untrustworthy but still in touch frequently, and she with him, offering intelligence and guidance on speeches. Cherie Blair does not come out shining from the 19 emails in which she lobbies Clinton to meet a Qatari royal. The Benghazi attacks do not figure. And 25 emails have been rendered “classified” so the really important, actually in-the-public-interest stuff will likely never appear.

As for the banal to-and-fro of the rest, it will do Clinton no lasting harm, and may even do her good. Hillary is normal! How many of us, if we had to trawl through three years’ worth of emails, would not find a pile of stupid questions, unreasonable demands and unnecessary exclamation marks, not to mention evidence of our insecurity, authoritarian leanings, vanity or fatigue at various times?

The pitfalls of living by BlackBerry are many, which is presumably why on 1 December 2009, Clinton emailed a colleague to ask if she could borrow Send by David Shipley. The book’s subtitle is “Why People Email So Badly and How to Do it Better”. On the evidence of these blandly efficient, inoffensive, unrevealing and occasionally amusing emails, I’d say she read it cover to cover.

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[If I were Hillary Clinton, I'd rather Cherie Blair just left me alone] // Guardian // Deborah Orr – July 3, 2015

Politics is too important to be left to the bad people. Who knew? Cherie Blair knew, apparently. But then she forgot. Luckily, Hillary Clinton was around to coax this easily dismissed insight back to the front of her mind. "When I see what a difference you are making," Blair wrote in an email to Clinton, "it reminds me why politics is too important to be left to the bad people." Quick. Get Hallmark on the phone. A greetings card with this on it could do excellent business in that convenience store at the foot of Portcullis House.

Not that Blair thought that her cringey brown-nosing was for public consumption. This pearl was washed up among the detritus of Clinton's newly released emails, sent from a private account when they should have been sent from an official account. Anyone hoping that the emails would contain information useful to those hoping to destroy Clinton's presidential bid must be disappointed, unless liking apples, Chinese rugs and your personal assistant is politically damaging. If anything, they confirm that powerful people are pretty much like the rest of us, except that they attract lots of other powerful people, wanting favours.

The favour Blair wanted from Clinton was a bit odd. Blair wanted Clinton to meet with Blair's friend Sheikha Mozah, erstwhile first lady of Qatar, which was something Qatar's diplomatic people could have fixed up with the US's diplomatic people with perfect ease. After all, they were raining money on the Clinton Foundation anyway, while Qatar was already established as a friendly conduit between the US and Iran.

But Blair wouldn't then have experienced the joy of hooking up one of her important and powerful friends with another of her important and powerful friends. Because that's what the good people like doing. The bad people like doing it too, though, so it's all a bit complicated.

It must be nice, seeing yourself as part of a global illuminati of good people, busily setting good people up with each other, so that all the good people can get together and do good stuff. It must be extra reassuring to realise that a proportion of the global population see you and your spouse as not actually very good people at all.

Different people, good and bad, with different and contradictory opinions, eh? Very tiresome. But if you keep it simple and decide that all the people who don't agree with you are bad, then what can go wrong? Yes, that's right. Everything can go wrong. That's why some of us are quite hung up on democratic accountability.

I'm afraid I find it a bit creepy that three women whose power devolves from their marriages are rubbing shoulders like this. All credit to Clinton for seeking and getting a democratic mandate. None to Blair or Mozah for just going ahead and behaving as if they had. The ruling Al Thani family, into which Mozah married, even manage to be effusive supporters of the Arab spring while hanging grimly on to absolute power themselves.

Blair claims she is exercising her soft power in the cause of "disability", and it's true that Qatar is much more progressive than other states that operate under sharia law. Still, I remember the days when Blair saw sharia law as considerably problematic. No matter. When you want to heal the world, you've got to work with what you can get. "You may not know," Blair modestly explained to Clinton, "but for the last four years I have been working with the Qatari's and in particular with Sheika Moser [sic] on disability issues in Qatar and I have built up a good relationship with them."

Ugh. That almost reads as if building up a good relationship was the point, not the disability issues. (And at what point in a good relationship do you learn how to spell someone's name correctly anyway?) So what, to paraphrase Mrs Merton, first attracted Blair to the multi-billionaire Sheika Mozah? It seems vulgar to bang on about the Blairs' great attraction to vast wealth. But one can shrug off any feelings of judgy self-righteousness by reminding oneself that these guys are impervious to such criticism, swaddled as they are in the soft cashmere of belief in their own rectitude. They deserve to be very wealthy and to rub shoulders with the very wealthy because they are good.

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Not that the Blairs are the only people who believe in this self-serving stuff. There are plenty of people in the world who think their splendid moral purpose is so clearly evident that it needs no public scrutiny. There are plenty of people, too, who believe that philanthropy could solve all the troubles on the planet if only they could be left to get on with being good without interference from the state. Tony Blair was big on the power of charity. David Cameron and the Conservatives always are. And there's nothing wrong with charity, nothing at all, except that it's an acknowledgment and exercise of inequality, rather than a corrective to it.

Does it matter that Blair back-channelled Clinton, setting her up in a meeting with Mozah? Everyone knows, after all, that that's how things work. Does it matter that these three women flattered each other with generous dispensations of each other's time and energy, in some mutual expression of each other's goodness? It does matter that they are all women. Ladies who lunch are sneered at and patronised far more than men who play golf, even though it's historically more likely that the latter would be carving up something or other in entirely their own interests.

Clinton is not a lady who lunches, by any means. But Blair seems to have been behaving like a turbo-charged lady who lunches, and dragging Clinton into it. I'm sure Mozah is an interesting woman, and Blair can be friends with whoever she likes. But if I held high office – perish the thought – I'd find people like Blair, so keen to be the one who fixed their Qatari Sheikha chum up with their US secretary of state chum, a complete and utter pain in the backside. I wish she would start being less Cherie Blair, wife of the former prime minister, and more Cherie Booth, leading human rights lawyer, as she seemed so keen to be when her husband was in No 10.

Or maybe she doesn't know where one ends and the other begins. Last year, Booth left Matrix, the human rights chambers she co-founded in 2000, and is now focussing on Omnia Strategy, which she set up in 2011 – two years after she wrote those emails – as "a pioneering, international law firm which provides strategic counsel to governments, corporate and private clients". With friends like hers, no doubt the business is thriving.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Obama Plans Broader Use of Clemency to Free Nonviolent Drug Offenders // NYT // Peter Baker – July 3, 2015

Sometime in the next few weeks, aides expect President Obama to issue orders freeing dozens of federal prisoners locked up on nonviolent drug offenses. With the stroke of his pen, he will probably commute more sentences at one time than any president has in nearly half a century.

The expansive use of his clemency power is part of a broader effort by Mr. Obama to correct what he sees as the excesses of the past, when politicians eager to be tough on crime threw away the key even for minor criminals. With many Republicans and Democrats now agreeing that the nation went too far, Mr. Obama holds the power to unlock that prison door, especially for young African-American and Hispanic men disproportionately affected.

But even as he exercises authority more assertively than any of his modern predecessors, Mr. Obama has only begun to tackle the problem he has identified. In the next weeks, the total number of commutations for Mr. Obama's presidency may surpass 80, but more than 30,000 federal inmates have come forward in response to his administration's call for clemency applications. A cumbersome review process has advanced only a small fraction of them. And just a small fraction of those have reached the president's desk for a signature.

"I think they honestly want to address some of the people who have been oversentenced in the last 30 years," said Julie Stewart, the founder and president of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, a group advocating changes in sentencing. "I'm not sure they envisioned that it would be as complicated as it is, but it has become more

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complicated, whether it needs to be or not, and that's what has bogged down the process."

Overhauling the criminal justice system has become a bipartisan venture. Like Mr. Obama, Republicans running for his job are calling for systemic changes. Lawmakers from both parties are collaborating on legislation. And the United States Sentencing Commission has revised guidelines for drug offenders, so far retroactively reducing sentences for more than 9,500 inmates, nearly three-quarters of them black or Hispanic.

The drive to recalibrate the system has brought together groups from across the political spectrum. The Center for American Progress, a liberal advocacy organization with close ties to the White House and Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, has teamed up with Koch Industries, the conglomerate owned by the conservative brothers Charles G. and David H. Koch, who finance Republican candidates, to press for reducing prison populations and overhauling sentencing.

"It's a time when conservatives and liberals and libertarians and lots of different people on the political spectrum" have "come together in order to focus attention on excessive sentences, the costs and the like, and the need to correct some of those excesses," said Neil Eggleston, the White House counsel who recommends clemency petitions to Mr. Obama. "So I think the president sees the commutations as a piece of that entire process."

The challenge has been finding a way to use Mr. Obama's clemency power in the face of bureaucratic and legal hurdles without making a mistake that would be devastating to the effort's political viability. The White House has not forgotten the legacy of Willie Horton, a convicted murderer who raped a woman while furloughed from prison and became a powerful political symbol that helped doom the presidential candidacy of Gov. Michael S. Dukakis of Massachusetts in 1988.

But with time running short in Mr. Obama's presidency, the White House has pushed the Justice Department to send more applicants more quickly. Mr. Eggleston told the department not to interpret guidelines too narrowly because it is up to the president to decide, according to officials. If it seems like a close case, he told the department to send it over.

Deborah Leff, the department's pardon attorney, has likewise pressed lawyers representing candidates for clemency to hurry up and send more cases her way. "If there is one message I want you to take away today, it's this: Sooner is better," she told lawyers in a video seminar obtained by USA Today. "Delaying is not helpful."

Under the Constitution, the president has the power to grant "pardons for offenses against the United States" or to commute federal sentences. A pardon is an act of presidential forgiveness and wipes away any remaining legal liabilities from a conviction. A commutation reduces a sentence but does not eliminate a conviction or restore civil rights lost as a result of the conviction.

In recent times, attention has focused on presidential pardons because they have become politically controversial, such as Gerald R. Ford's pardon of Richard M. Nixon, the elder George Bush's pardons of Iran-contra figures and Bill Clinton's pardons of the financier Marc Rich and scores of others.

Modern presidents have been far less likely to commute sentences. Lyndon B. Johnson commuted the sentences of 80 convicted criminals in the 1966 fiscal year, and no president since then has matched that in his entire administration, much less in a single year. Ronald Reagan commuted only 13 sentences in eight years in office, while George W. Bush commuted just 11 in the same amount of time. The elder Mr. Bush commuted three sentences in his four years.

Mr. Obama started out much like the others, commuting just one sentence in his first five years in office. But in his first term he signed a law easing sentencing for new inmates by reducing the disparity between crack and powder cocaine, while his attorney general, Eric H. Holder Jr., issued new guidelines to prosecutors to avoid charges

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requiring excessive prison terms.

In his second term, Mr. Obama embarked on an effort to use clemency and has raised his total commutations to 43, a number he may double this month. The initiative was begun last year by James M. Cole, then the deputy attorney general, who set criteria for who might qualify: generally nonviolent inmates who have served more than 10 years in prison, have behaved well while incarcerated and would not have received as lengthy a sentence under today's revised rules.

"It's a touchy situation," Mr. Cole said in an interview. "You don't want to just supplant a judge's determination of sentence." But after reviewing many clemency petitions, he said, "I'd seen a number of them where the sentences seemed very high for the conduct and it noted that the judge at the time of sentencing thought the sentence was too high. We looked at that and thought this really isn't supplanting the judge."

To respond to Mr. Cole's call, several groups formed a consortium of lawyers to prepare applications for inmates, including the American Bar Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Ms. Stewart's advocacy group. The more than 30,000 inmates who applied inundated the effort.

The consortium, called Clemency Project 2014, now has more than 50 law firms, more than 20 law schools and more than 1,500 lawyers participating. But the process is burdensome as the volunteer lawyers try to dig out documents from more than a decade ago to satisfy the criteria. So far, they have screened out 13,000 inmates who did not meet the guidelines and sent just over 50 applications to the Justice Department.

Cynthia W. Roseberry, who left her job as a top federal public defender in Georgia to lead the project, said it took a while to set up a process but it has now been streamlined. "The lawyers will be able to do the analysis a lot quicker and we'll be able to move them faster," she said.

Aside from the Clemency Project, the Justice Department has received more than 6,600 applications for commutations since Mr. Cole outlined the criteria, more than twice the rate over a similar period earlier in Mr. Obama's presidency. Ms. Leff, the pardon attorney, has solicited volunteers from around the department to give a day or more a week to help out, but her office is taxed. The White House has asked Congress to increase funding for the office from $3.9 million this year to $5.9 million next year.

Margaret Love, who served as pardon attorney under the first Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton and now represents prisoners applying for clemency, said the process had become a mess. "It's really poor management," she said. "These are people who don't have any history with sentence reduction. They've been putting people in prison all their lives. They don't know how to get them out."

Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has expressed concern that the Justice Department has essentially outsourced a government function to the Clemency Project 2014. Department officials dispute that, saying the project does the same thing lawyers have always done in helping candidates for clemency prepare applications.

The department noted that it still reviews the cases and makes it own judgments before sending recommendations to the White House. Officials acknowledged that it was slow in starting the effort. "There was a start-up time, but now we're really in it," said Emily Pierce, a department spokeswoman. "We feel we're moving at a good pace."

In December, Mr. Obama commuted the sentences of eight drug offenders, and in March he followed up with 22 more. If he accepts most of the latest applications sent to the White House, some officials said it would probably double that last batch of 22, exceeding the 36 commutations Mr. Clinton issued at one time on his last day in office.

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Among those Mr. Obama granted clemency in March were eight prisoners serving life sentences for crimes like possession with intent to distribute cocaine, growing more than 1,000 marijuana plants or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Mr. Obama signed letters to the recipients explaining that they had demonstrated the potential to turn their lives around. “By doing so, you will affect not only your own life, but those close to you,” he wrote. “You will also influence, through your example, the possibility that others in your circumstances get their own second chance in the future.

“I believe in your ability to prove the doubters wrong,” he added. “So good luck, and Godspeed.”

Despair and Anger as Puert o Ricans Cope With Debt Crisis // NYT // Lizette Alvarez – July 3, 2015

It’s the lunch hour at Baker’s Bakery, a fixture in Río Piedras, one of Puerto Rico’s oldest neighborhoods, but the bustle at the counter is long gone. The front door opens and shuts only a few times an hour as customers, holding tighter than ever to their money, judiciously pick up some sugar-sprinkled pastries and a café con leche.

On the first day of the new sales tax, which jumped to 11.5 percent from 7 percent, the government’s latest rummage for more revenue, Puerto Rico’s malaise was unmistakable.

“People don’t even answer you when you tell them, ‘Buenos dias,’ ” said Ibrahim Baker, 55, on Wednesday as he stood at the cash register of the bakery he has owned for 25 years. “Everyone is depressed.”

After nearly a decade of recession, Puerto Rico’s government says it cannot pay its $73 billion debt much longer. Gov. Alejandro García Padilla warns that more austerity is on the way, a necessity for an island now working feverishly to rescue itself. With so many bracing for another slide toward the bottom, the sense of despair grows more palpable by the day.

“So many people are leaving you can’t even find suitcases,” said Erica Lebrón, 30, as she sat outside a housing project bodega.

Before long, Puerto Ricans will face more tax increases — the next one is in October. Next on the list of anticipated measures, these for government workers, are fewer vacations, overtime hours and paid sick days. Others in Puerto Rico may face cuts in health care benefits and even bus routes, all changes that economic advisers say should be made to jump-start the economy.

People ricochet from anger to resignation back to anger again. Along San Juan’s colonial-era streets, in homes and shops, Puerto Ricans blame the government for the economic debacle. Election after election, they say, political leaders took the easy way out, spending more than they had, borrowing to prop up the budget, pointing fingers at one another and failing to own up to reality.

“It’s very, very, very worrisome,” said Mr. Baker, who added that he wanted the federal government to oversee the rescue plan because “in the hands of Puerto Rico’s politicians, this will never get better.”

For Mr. Baker, each year has been worse than the one before. He first opened his business here 25 years ago, not too far from the University of Puerto Rico. At one time, 23 employees served up pasteles and tortas. Now he has

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one worker, and his daughter, a recent college graduate who cannot find a job, also works behind the counter. Sales have plummeted 50 percent and, over the years, he has been forced to close two other businesses.

Taxes continue to go up. But so do other costs. Living on an island, many business owners must ship their goods in from a mainland port, already a costly proposition. But a 1920 law, the Jones Act, which requires Puerto Rico to receive its shipments from the United States on American-built ships with mainly American crews, makes the cost of transporting goods even more expensive. Recently, it got costlier, Mr. Baker said.

Now there is a chorus of calls for Congress to relax the law as it relates to Puerto Rico. And some powerful Democrats are rallying behind the idea of granting Puerto Rico, a commonwealth, the ability to file bankruptcy for some of its debt-laden agencies.

“I have to pass some of these costs on to customers,” Mr. Baker lamented, a tray of bread at the ready and an espresso machine churning in the background. For example, the price of ham, he said, recently increased for him to $2.39 a pound from $1.19 a pound because of shipping costs. “So we have fewer customers. Some months nothing is left over for us after we have paid the bills.”

The high cost of electricity and water in Puerto Rico also make running his bakery, and paying his bills at home, all the harder. “I am stuck here because I have no alternatives,” he said. “I don’t have the opportunity now to even try.”

Many others in Puerto Rico, including a stream of professionals and middle-class workers, have sought alternatives. They have moved to the mainland for jobs and better prospects. Over the past decade, Puerto Rico has lost more than 5 percent of its population, which now numbers 3.6 million, according to a New York Federal Reserve report. An additional 250,000 people are expected to leave by 2020, according to the Puerto Rico Planning Board.

This year, the government closed dozens of schools across the island. About 40 percent of the island’s municipalities now have more old people than children, which means fewer workers in the pipeline and a greater need for benefits like Medicare.

A few blocks from the bakery, Paseo de Diego, a pedestrian corridor once buzzing with shops and shoppers, sits nearly empty. Store after store has closed, their metal grates covered in graffiti, except for a stretch near a busy market.

With his hats for sale on a display on the grates of a closed store along the Paseo, José Vasquez Torres, 67, said business was more than slow. “I’ve been here since 6 a.m. and not sold a single hat.”

Sitting on a folding chair next to the hats, his partner, María L. Luyando Hernandez, 62, held a thick sheaf of papers. Even a business as small and mobile as this one, she said, requires paperwork, payments and permits.

“These are all the papers we have to fill out to sell hats here,” she said. The couple owe $461 for the permit but they do not have the money. Not too long ago, the cost of a permit, Ms. Luyando said, was $21. Some sellers were able to take out loans at inexpensive interest rates to keep their businesses going, but Mr. Vasquez said he did not qualify because he had failed to pay his phone bill.

Despite a growing stack of unpaid bills, the couple manage to get by, Ms. Luyando said, because they live in affordable Section 8 housing — a small one-bedroom apartment nearby — and receive food stamps.

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“We are behind,” she said, “we are always behind.”

Far more people use food stamps here — 35 percent — than on the United States mainland, a reflection of Puerto Rico’s poverty rate of 41 percent, nearly double that of the poorest state, Mississippi. And about 60 percent are enrolled in Medicaid or some form of Medicare.

A health care crisis now looms. The federal government plans to cut Medicare Advantage, a popular private program run with Medicare funds, by 11 percent next year, a reduction that has already triggered rallies and protest.

Angel Ramon Rivera, 57, a friend of Mr. Vasquez, the hat seller, recently received some training as a sound engineer and is working as a D.J., charging small amounts because no one can afford more. Like many in Puerto Rico, he is part of the underground economy, which makes it easier for him to do business but harder for the government to collect taxes. But the work is sporadic and he, too, collects food stamps. He is saving his money to get out of Puerto Rico.

As he talks, his anger bubbles up. “They want us to pay for their mistakes,” Mr. Rivera said, of the lawmakers. “This is not our fault. And they shouldn’t raise taxes on the rich, either. It’s not their fault. It’s the fault of the legislature.”

Mercedes Martinez, the new head of the Teachers Federation of Puerto Rico, said the deepening crisis and calls for more austerity will once again hit the working class.

“We all have to sacrifice but workers have already sacrificed too much,” she said of the sales tax, layoffs and pension cuts. “We are not willing to make one more sacrifice. The ones who need to sacrifice are the people who created this.”

“We will throw ourselves into the streets, if we have to,” she added.

Leaning against a lamppost near the Paseo, his measuring tape around his neck, Porfirio Guerrero, 61, said he feels drained.

Sastrería Pachín, the tailor shop he owns, used to offer him a good life. Now he lists his troubles in numbers: His water bill, made worse by a drought here, has gone up to $64 a month from $21, and he barely uses water. Thirty stores on his street have closed in the past 10 years or so. It is 11:30 a.m. and not one customer has stopped in.

“Before, I went to the movies, I drank some beers with friends,” he said. “Now I go from the business to my home. That’s it. It’s suffocating.”

He arrived here from the Dominican Republic 28 years ago — “a lifetime ago” — and worked hard to build a life. He succeeded, against hard odds, not always easy for Dominicans, who sometimes face discrimination here.

“I guess the government thinks that because we have jobs, we are fine,” Mr. Guerrero said. It’s not that simple, he added, gesturing toward the empty street. “I just look down there and want to cry. We feel like we are a forgotten people in a forgotten land.”

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Obama to meet with leader of Vietnam's Communist Party at the White House // WaPo // David Nakamura – July 3, 2015

President Obama on Tuesday will meet with the general secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, the first such visit at the White House since the two countries normalized relations two decades ago.

Obama and Nguyen Phu Trong are expected to discuss a range of issues, including the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade accord, bilateral defense cooperation and human rights, the White House said in a statement.

The meeting will mark a rare time that Obama has played host in the Oval Office to a foreign leader who is not the official head of state. Obama met with Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang at the White House in 2013, and he met with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung during a regional summit in Burma last fall.

Administration officials said the meeting will provide a chance for Obama to engage directly with Trong, who is perhaps Vietnam's most powerful figure even though he does not have an official government position. Vietnam is among the nations negotiating the TPP trade pact with the United States, and over the past two years, Vietnam has been alarmed by China's maritime operations in the South China Sea.

U.S. officials see an opportunity to improve relations with Vietnam.

"We see the visit as an opportunity to continue to build on that positive momentum," a State Department official said this week during a background briefing for reporters. "Specifically, it's important for head of the party [to visit]. The party is the only party in Vietnam. It's hugely important in all decision-making, and it tends to be a more conservative element of Vietnamese leadership."

Human rights advocates have expressed alarm at Trong's visit, saying that nation has not made significant progress in releasing political prisoners and improving labor rights for workers.

There has been speculation among some foreign affairs experts in Washington that Obama could make his first visit to Vietnam this fall during his trip to Asia, but the White House has not confirmed such a visit.

INTERNATIONAL

ISIS Destroys More Artificats in Syria and Iraq // NYT // Rick Gladstone and Maher Samaan – July 3, 2015

Islamic State militants indulged in new public displays of artifact destruction this week, sledgehammering a half-dozen statues said to have been stolen from the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra.

The militants also broke up a hidden 2,000-year-old lion statue they discovered in a Palmyra museum garden and demolished a 13th-century tomb near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

The destruction, publicized in photographs and statements posted by the Islamic State on social media and corroborated by officials and antiquities experts, underscored the risks to the archaeological heritage sites in Syria and Iraq, as well as the impunity of the militants now in command of large parts of both countries.

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On Thursday, the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, said it had smashed at least six statues from Palmyra seized from a smuggler in an area of Aleppo controlled by the group's operatives in northern Syria.

Aleppo Fighting Flares as Syria Insurgents AttackJULY 3, 2015

It said the smuggler had been prosecuted by a Shariah court in the town of Manbij and punished with a public flogging. Photos posted by the Islamic State included a sledgehammer and statue remnants.

On Friday, Iraqi antiquities experts said the Islamic State had wrecked a tomb dating from the middle of the 13th century about seven miles west of Hawija, a town in Kirkuk Province. Before-and-after photographs showed the rubble.

"This is a terrible and tragic addition to ISIS's long list of never-ending and incomprehensible destruction of some of Iraq's and Syria's most important historic monuments," said Ihsan Fethi, a heritage expert and member of the Iraqi Architects Society.

Dismissing international outrage over its pillaging of ancient treasures in the two countries, the Islamic State has said it regarded artifacts as sacrilegious vestiges that deserve to be obliterated. In propaganda videos and photos, the group has detailed the wreckage of a museum in Mosul, Iraq, and important archaeological sites in Nimrud, Hatra and Nineveh, Iraq.

On Thursday, Irina Bokova, the director general of Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, told a meeting in London that the antiquities destruction had "reached unprecedented levels in modern history."

In May, as Islamic State fighters encircled Palmyra in central Syria, antiquities officials there rushed to move or hide many its treasures. The city is known for its 2,000-year-old ruins.

Last month, the group blew up two historic tombs near Palmyra, online photographs showed. But Thursday was the first time that the Islamic State said it had destroyed Palmyra statues.

There also was speculation that Islamic State fighters might have posted photographs of fake statue remnants and sought to smuggle the real ones themselves.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based group with a network of monitors inside Syria, said its sources in Manbij, where the purported statue smuggler was punished, said the Islamic State had confiscated the statues "in preparation to sell them in one of the neighboring countries." The observatory's account could not be corroborated.

Syria's official news agency, which said at least eight plundered Palmyra statues had been confiscated by the Islamic State in Manbij, also reported the destruction of a famed 2,000-year-old statue in Palmyra on Thursday. Known as Allat God, the statue depicts a lion catching a deer.

The agency said that the statue, first discovered in 1977, had been hidden inside an iron box in a Palmyra museum garden for protection but that militants had discovered the hideaway.

A wave of recent attacks by Palestinians set Israelis on edge // WaPo // William Booth – July 3, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Monday, Maysoon Musa rose early for morning prayers, then helped harvest squash in the family fields. She acted “perfectly normal,” said her mother, who described her daughter as “just a quiet girl, as shy as a chicken.”

Then the 19-year-old university student went to Checkpoint 300 in Bethlehem, a busy, depressing turnstile through the high gray concrete wall that separates the Palestinian territory in the West Bank from Israel. There, according to Israeli authorities, Musa removed a curved dagger from her bag and then stabbed and wounded a female Israeli military police officer in the neck. The victim was Liron Yisraeli, also 19.

The assault, a few miles south of Jerusalem’s Old City, was one of seven major attacks against Israelis in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem over the past two weeks. The pace and mixed style of violence —- ambushes, stabbings, drive-by shootings — have broken a months-long period of relative calm and set many on edge.

There has also been violence from the Israeli side, including the fatal shooting Friday morning of a 17-year-old Palestinian who had thrown rocks at a senior military commander’s vehicle.

Israeli military and police — and ordinary Israelis and Palestinians — are now wondering: Is this another brief flare-up in the conflict or the beginning of a larger conflagration?

The first attack against Israelis occurred June 19 near a popular spring west of Ramallah and close to a Jewish settlement in the West Bank. An Arab assailant fatally shot an Israeli hiker and escaped.

Two days later, a Palestinian stabbed a border police officer at the Damascus Gate outside the Old City. The attacker was shot and wounded.

A few days passed, and then, at a checkpoint in the Jordan Valley, a Palestinian opened fire with a handgun at Israeli soldiers. He was shot dead.

Days later, a gunman fired multiple rounds into a car carrying four young Israelis near another Jewish settlement in the West Bank. They had just finished playing basketball. One of the Israelis was killed. The assailant escaped.

Israelis are especially anxious about whether the attacks are the work of organized cells directed by armed factions, such as the Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip and is present in the West Bank; or if the violence is being driven by “lone wolf” perpetrators who strike out for personal or political reasons, or both.

Was Musa recruited to a cell? Her attorney, Ameer Yasin, told The Washington Post that Musa confessed to Israel’s domestic intelligence agency that she came to the checkpoint to attack a soldier. The attorney said he did not know whether Musa acted alone. He said he was worried, though, about her mental state and had convinced the Israelis to allow a psychological evaluation.

Musa’s mother said her relatives don’t know what happened. Her family has nothing to do with politics, neighbors said. Musa’s mother said her daughter was engaged to be married — a date had been set for August and the wedding dress ordered. Musa studied English literature at a West Bank satellite of Al Quds University.

Ramadan connection?

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The recent spate of attacks coincided with the start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when the devout fast during the day — forgoing food, water, cigarettes — and then celebrate with evening prayer and feasts after sundown.

“We don’t know, is it Ramadan? Or is it a strategic change?” Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon, commander of the operations branch in the Israel Defense Forces, said in an interview.

“Under the surface, the temperature is very high,” Alon said. “We try to put the cover on the pot, but it is an unstable situation.”

Alon said the past decade of Israeli counterterrorism efforts, coupled with cooperation from Palestinian security forces, has crippled the organization of large-scale attacks from the West Bank. Alon conceded that it is difficult to detect small terror cells and almost impossible to predict when a Palestinian is going to decide to ram his vehicle into a group of police at a tram stop — a common strategy six months ago.

Early Friday, Palestinian Authority forces arrested more than 100 Hamas members in the West Bank who were planning on carrying out attacks, a Palestinian official told the Associated Press. It was biggest raid of its kind since 2007.

A spokesman for Palestinian security, Adnan Dameri, told the news agency: “We will not let Hamas undermine our security and draw our country to bloodshed. We will not let Hamas carry out attacks in the West Bank.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s new coalition government is howling for the military and police to take stronger action and reverse decisions to loosen travel restrictions to Jerusalem during Ramadan to allow Muslims from the West Bank and Gaza to visit al-Aqsa mosque in the Old City, the third holiest site in Islam.

“The terrorist organizations must receive the message that the blood of Israeli citizens, especially residents of Judea and Samaria, cannot be shed with impunity,” Israeli Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel told Netanyahu, using place names from the Hebrew Bible to refer to the West Bank.

“The month of Ramadan has become a holiday of sacrifice in which Jews are the victims,” he said.

Abbas silent

On Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon accused the Palestinian Authority of inciting the attacks, alleging that Palestinians spend the day watching anti-Israel programming on TV and then head out to kill civilians.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has not spoken about the recent spate of attacks. The Palestinian Authority, however, has countered that Israelis are partly responsible for the soaring tensions. Israeli troops have stepped up raids and arrests across the West Bank, Palestinian officials say.

However, Amos Yadlin, director of the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv and a retired Israeli general, said he believed the recent attacks on Israelis were the “work of an organized cell.”

“It is no longer just someone waking up in the morning, going to the mosque, hearing incitement and carrying out

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an attack," he said. "It is people working with guns; it is ambushes."

Iran to US: Nuke deal could result in joint cooperation // AP // George Jahn and Matthew Lee – July 3, 2015

In a message to Washington, Iran's foreign minister on Friday called for an end to "coercion and pressure" at the nuclear talks, suggesting a deal acceptable to his country will open the door to cooperation on fighting the upsurge of Middle East extremism threatening both nations' interests.

Mohammad Javad Zarif did not mention the United States by name in his video message. But with the Iran six-power talks having devolved essentially into bilateral U.S.-Iran negotiations over the past year, his comments were clearly directed at the Americans, who have been the primary drivers of the crippling economic sanctions imposed on his country over its nuclear program.

Any deal would result in an end to the sanctions. But negotiations remain bogged down ahead of the extended July 7 target date for an agreement.

The West fears Iran could develop its nuclear program to make weapons while Iran insists it is only meant to generate power and for other peaceful uses. Suggesting that Islamic extremism is a far greater threat to the world than his country's atomic activities, Zarif called for an end to "unjust economic sanctions" and for the West to join Iran in common cause against "the growing menace of violent extremism and outright barbarism."

"The menace we're facing — and I say we, because no one is spared — is embodied by the hooded men who are ravaging the cradle of civilization," Zarif said. He called for realignment from Iran's nuclear activities, saying it was time to "open new horizons to address important, common challenges."

Zarif and U.S Secretary of State John Kerry have taken the lead in the negotiations. In comments echoed by Zarif ahead of their renewed meeting on Friday evening, Kerry said the talks "are making progress." But he also spoke of "some tough issues," telling reporters, "We have a lot of work to do."

The Obama administration says that at least part of the sanctions relief for Iran under any pact will depend on Iran's full cooperation with the U.N's International Atomic Energy Agency to probe allegations that Tehran worked secretly on atomic weapons. But hopes of progress any time soon on that issue dimmed Friday.

Yukiya Amano, head of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, said his meetings with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani resulted in a "better understanding on some ways forward," but that "more work will be needed." The formulation of his statement was similar to previous ones issued by the IAEA, which has struggled for nearly a decade to resolve its concerns.

Amano's trip Thursday to Tehran was significant because it represented his last chance to secure access and cooperation before the July 7 target date.

Rouhani also provided no hint of substantial progress. Iran has previously acknowledged some activities like experiments with detonators, but says those activities had no connection to exploding a nuclear device and were instead developed for industrial purposes.

Repeating the standard Iranian line, Rouhani said after meeting Amano that the agency now understands the "pointless allegations" are "baseless."

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The issue was put on the IAEA front burner four years ago when the agency published an annex of 12 alleged activities it said pointed to nuclear weapons research and development by Iran.

A U.S. intelligence assessment published in 2007 raised similar allegations, but said the work ended early last decade. Iran says the suspicions are based on doctored intelligence from Israel, the United States and other adversaries.

The U.N. agency's investigation has gained even more significance as part of the overall nuclear talks.

Amano said he discussed his agency's monitoring of Iran's commitments under any deal. Backed by the U.S., the agency seeks pervasive oversight to ensure Tehran doesn't cheat.

But Iran rejects any extraordinary inspection rules.

Speaking to reporters in Austria's capital Thursday a senior Iranian official said the IAEA's standard rules governing access to government information, sites of interest and scientists should be sufficient to ensure that his country's program is peaceful.

Iran has committed to implementing the IAEA's "additional protocol" for inspections and monitoring as part of an accord. The protocol gives the IAEA expanded access to declared and potentially undeclared nuclear sites, and to the sensitive information of the more than 120 governments that accept its provisions.

But the rules don't guarantee monitors can enter any facility they want to and offer no specific guidance about sensitive military sites — an issue of particular interest with Iran, given the long-standing allegations of secret nuclear weapons work.

Iran's foreign minister: 'We have never been closer to a lasting outcome' **// Politico // Jennifer Shutt and Nahal Toosi – July 3, 2015**

Iran's foreign minister says he believes international negotiators are tantalizingly close to reaching a nuclear deal with his country, but warned that the U.S. and its partners must choose between coercion and agreement.

"At this eleventh hour, despite some differences that remain, we have never been closer to a lasting outcome," Javad Zarif said in a four-minute video posted Friday to YouTube. "But there is no guarantee."

His statement was recorded in Vienna, where he has been meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry with the hopes of reaching a deal that lifts sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

Negotiators unveiled a preliminary deal in April, but failed to meet a June 30 deadline for a final, comprehensive deal, so they extended the talks until Tuesday. The two sides have been trying to bridge gaps on issues such as the pace of sanctions relief and the amount of access the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency will have to Iranian sites.

In the video, which begins and ends with soft piano music, the U.S.-educated Zarif said "military and economic coercion" cannot "ensure submission." He also suggested that the U.S. and its partners came to the negotiating table because of Iran's fortitude, as opposed to Iran agreeing to talks due to years of sanctions that have crippled its economy.

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“I sense that my negotiating partners have recognized that coercion and pressure never lead to lasting solutions, but to more conflict and further hostility,” he said. “And now, they realize that the most indiscriminate and unjust economic sanctions against my country have achieved absolutely none of their declared objectives; but instead have harmed innocents and antagonized a peaceful and forgiving nation.”

Zarif also raised the possibility of future cooperation among the countries, including against the Sunni-extremist Islamic State terrorist group, which has grabbed large chunks of Iraq and Syria.

“The menace we’re facing – and I say we, because no one is spared – is embodied by the hooded men who are ravaging the cradle of civilization,” he said. “To deal with this new challenge new approaches are badly needed.”

The U.S. considers Iran a leading sponsor of terrorism, and has said that sanctions related to the Tehran’s links to terrorists will not be lifted as part of the nuclear deal. Iran has long insisted its nuclear program is purely peaceful, but the West suspects it is designed to make weapons.

Zarif wrapped up his remarks in the video with what apparently was supposed to be a note of inspiration, quoting the ancient Persian poet Ferdowsi: “Be relentless in striving for the cause of good. Bring the spring, you must. Banish the winter, you should.”

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From: "Berning, Nick" <NBerning@foe.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/22/2008 4:14:53 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Full House GOP to push drilling at 1 p.m. rally tomorrow on Capitol steps

FYI … Various environmental groups are going to send people with signs to show up and counter this.

· **On Wednesday, all House Republicans assemble on the West Front Steps at approximately 1pm to unveil our legislation and publicly demand the up-or-down vote the American people deserve.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

FR: Republican Leader John Boehner
Republican Whip Roy Blunt
Conference Chairman Adam Putnam
Chief Deputy Whip Eric Cantor

DA: July 22, 2008

RE: House Republicans demand a vote on American-made energy now

American families continue to be crushed by high gas prices, and they are looking for leadership from Washington. House Republicans have stepped forward with meaningful solutions that will increase the supply of American-made energy, lower gas prices and promote energy independence. For their part, all Democratic leaders have offered is the same empty rhetoric and failed policies that have resulted in $4 gas.

Over the last two months, House Republicans have proposed solution after legislative solution to America¹s energy crisis, including expanded deep water and Arctic coastal plain exploration, and increased investment in next-generation alternative and renewable energies. It is truly an ³all-of-the-above² energy strategy. House Republicans have aggressively carried this national dialogue forward and offered meaningful solutions that will lower gas prices. The American people are listening, and the plan is attracting bipartisan support in Congress.

Democrats in charge of Congress, however, are charting a very different course. While gas prices soar and Americans cry out for action, this Democratic Congress has refused to take meaningful action to help lower gas prices and promote energy independence, and it¹s on track to become the least productive Congress in 25 years. The American people are demanding action, and time is running short.

This week, House Republicans will introduce our ³all-of-the-above² energy plan in a single piece of legislation that increases the supply of American-made energy, improves conservation and efficiency, and promotes new and expanding technologies.

To increase the supply American-made energy in environmentally sound ways, the legislation will:

* Open our deep water ocean resources, which will provide an additional 3 million barrels of oil per day;
* Open the Arctic coastal plain, which will provide an additional 1 million barrels of oil per day; and
* Allow development of our nation¹s shale oil resources, which could provide an additional 2.5 million barrels of oil per day

To improve energy conservation and efficiency, the legislation will:

* Provide tax incentives for businesses and families that purchase more fuel efficient vehicles;
* Provide a monetary prize for being the first to develop an economically feasible, super-fuel-efficient vehicle (reaching 100 miles-per-gallon); and
* Provide tax incentives for businesses and homeowners who improve their energy efficiency.

To promote new and expanding energy technologies, the legislation will:

* Spur the development of alternative fuels, including through government contracting, the repeal of the "Section 526" prohibition on government purchasing of alternative energy and promoting coal-to-liquids technology.

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* Establishes a renewable energy trust fund using revenues generated by exploration in the deep ocean and in the Arctic coastal plain.
* Permanently extends the tax credit for alternative energy production, including wind, solar and hydrogen; and
* Eliminate barriers to the expansion of carbon-free nuclear power production.

This legislation will demonstrate to the world that America will no longer keep its rich energy resources under lock-and-key. It will be a landmark step toward energy independence, and it will make needed investments in the alternative fuels that will power our lives and our economy in the future.

Numerous independent polls show the American people strongly support this approach to our energy crisis. It would clearly garner the support of a bipartisan majority of Democrats and Republicans in Congress, and it is legislation that the President would sign into law. Yet House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) continues to stand in the way of lower gas prices for struggling families and small businesses. When asked last week whether she would schedule a vote on meaningful legislation to increase American energy production, the Speaker told CNN, ³I have no plans to do so.²

The Democratic leadership in Congress is defying the will of the American people and a bipartisan majority in Congress. American families are suffering. Time is running short, and further inaction can no longer be tolerated.

House Republicans will stand together beginning today and demand that the Democratic leadership hold a vote on this legislation to increase American-made energy before Congress adjourns for the month of August. On Wednesday, all House Republicans assemble on the West Front Steps at approximately 1pm to unveil our legislation and publicly demand the up-or-down vote the American people deserve. You will be contacted shortly to become an original co-sponsor of this vital legislation.

We will use every option at our disposal to force a vote on the ³all of the above² energy plan. America¹s energy future should not be held hostage to the whims of radical special-interest groups that support higher gas prices.
If Speaker Pelosi and her liberal colleagues in the Democratic leadership continue to defy the will of the American people, they do so at their own peril.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/19/2015 7:02:25 AM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

Check out all that's happening at ASP! View this email in your browser

November 19, 2015

Top Stories

Developing an Effective Anti-ISIS Strategy

The recent terror attacks in Paris have created renewed demand to develop a real strategy for defeating ISIS.

From Beirut to the Metrojet bombing over the Sinai, these attacks show spillover from the Syrian Civil War that threatens the livelihood of people far beyond Syria's borders.

Click here for more.

Climate Change, Paris, the rise of ISIS, and What "Causes" Terrorism

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ASP in the News

BGen. Cheney Featured in National Defense Magazine
BGen. Stephen A. Cheney, National Defense Magazine

ASP's Christine Todd Whitman on Nuclear Energy
Christine Todd Whitman, The Wall Street Journal

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Over the past few days, there have been a number of discussion in the press around the country and around the world on the links between climate change and terrorism. Let us be clear – no act of terror is due to climate change, but climate change has helped to create the conditions from which terrorist groups can plot and plan.

Click here for more.

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

The Weekly Fusion: A Look at Current Advancements in Fusion Energy
Ricky Gandhi
The future of fusion is constantly being unfolded in front of our eyes, as every week there is some breakthrough in new technologies and designs in the nuclear fusion sector of energy. Since there is such a wealth of information, I have gathered and consolidated a list of articles geared toward the advancement of making fusion energy a reality, from within the past week.
Click here for more...

The Relationship Between Climate Change and Terrorism: Reigniting the Debate
Anil Powers
E&E published an article about the relationship between climate change and terrorism. In it, E&E reporter Jean Chemnick discussed the "rekindling of an old feud" regarding the dangers of climate change, renewed partisan pushback, and policy strategies.
Click here for more...

Want America to Remain Exceptional? Try Leading on Climate Change
American Security Project
Americans have always been a very patriotic people, and I am no exception. Having traveled to over 60 countries and done business in many, I am always excited to come back to what I consider to be the best place to live on the planet. My feelings are not unique. In a recent Pew Research Center Poll, 86% of Americans affirmed their belief that the United States either stands above all other countries in the world or is at least one of the greatest countries in the world. And if you follow the political campaigns of our current presidential nominees, you will regularly hear them state their belief in American Exceptionalism and their plan to make America even greater in the broader world context.
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GMOs Play a Key Role in Climate and National Security
Ricky Gandhi
Climate change has had notable impacts on our environment and national security, serving as a "threat multiplier," according to the Department of Defense. The argument goes that climate change can exacerbate existing conflict by making already-scarce resources ever scarcer, such as land and water.
Click here for more...

Israel's Energy Choice
Spencer Shweky
A few weeks ago Genie Energy, an American energy company, announced that it had found significant quantities of oil and gas in Israel's disputed Golan Heights territory. Since then, many have speculated that these new-found reserves may be large enough to eventually make Israel self-sufficient in energy. While this is an exciting prospect, the wisdom of drilling in what is nearly universally regarded as an occupied territory is debatable. Israel has other options, and it should take them.
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Nuclear Security

Who Wields Iranian Sanctions Authority?
Sam Hickey
On December 28, 1977, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) was signed into law, which allows a president to intervene in any U.S. business transactions with a foreign entity if a state of emergency is declared. President Bill Clinton declared in Executive Order 12957 a state of "national emergency," on March 15, 1995, to prohibit certain transactions with Iran, and this state of emergency has been renewed every year since by a U.S. president. The Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996, later renamed the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA), was introduced "to deny Iran the ability to support acts of international terrorism and to fund the development and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction," and the act has been reproduced in various capacities every couple of years by executive orders and codified by Congress.
Click here for more...

American Competitiveness:

As it Faces a Commodity Slump, Africa Needs a People-Centered Economy
John Bugnacki
After a decade of unprecedented growth, African economies appear to be in trouble.The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now forecasting an expansion of only 3.75% for the region during this year, down from 5.0% during 2014, and the economy of the southern African state of Zambia is among the worst affected.
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National Security Strategy

What Constitutes Credibility in US Public Diplomacy
Matthew Wallin
As discussion ensues over how to combat ISIS online or counter Russian propaganda, it's worth taking a look at the elements that lend to credible messaging. The importance of credibility cannot be underestimated, as it provides the initial basis by which members of a target audience decide to listen to one's message in the first place.
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Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran with Ambassador Thomas Pickering

Sam Hickey

On Monday November 2, 2015, Ambassador Thomas Pickering visited American University to address Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran. Ambassador Pickering has served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, Nigeria, Jordan and El Salvador. He has also served as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs and as Special Assistant to Secretaries of State William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger.

Click here for more...

Reality, Risk, and Potential: Managing Today's Conflicts

Sam Hickey

On Monday, October 26th at the Council on Foreign Relation's, Foreign Affairs and the International Crisis Group (ICG) in New York hosted an event on "Reality, Risk, and Potential: Managing Today's Conflicts." The event featured panels of experts consisting of think tank fellows, academics, journalists, and business professionals.

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Asymmetric Operations

Paris Terrorist Attacks Aftermath: The EU Mutual Defense Clause

Steffen Westerburger

Last weekend France – for the second time this year – was hit by a series of coordinated terrorist attacks on its capital. The iconic city of love once again found itself at the main stage of international terrorism. President Francois Hollande addressed a joint session of both houses of parliament in Versailles on Monday, November 16th. He did not mince words: 'France is at war'. An unexpected move followed, the French President announced that his country for the first time in history intended to invoke article 42.7 of the EU Lisbon Treaty – the EU Common Defense and Security Policy. This move gives us an interesting insight into France's foreign policy strategy.

Click here for more...

Iran's Close Relationship with Syria Hinders Negotiations with the US

Anil Powers

There appears to be no end in sight for the war in Syria. As ISIS continues its campaign of terror in the region, Russia and Iran increase their military support of the Assad regime, intensifying a conflict that has already affected millions of people. With no formal peace talks in the works, the United States is reaching out to Iran to negotiate a political solution, one in which the Assad regime is removed from power. But the most critical obstacle to this is Iran's unwillingness to part ways with President Bashar al-Assad.

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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Terri D. Mansfield" <terribillionairs@aol.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/17/2015 10:30:23 PM
Subject: email for John Podesta c/o Eryn re Space Treaty (attached)
Attachments: TREATY August 2015 .docx
Talking Points JULY to update .docx

Dear John,

Because the War in Space race is heating up, I felt you should be aware of several factors as you and I schedule our Skype talk.

Remember, our nonviolent ETI from the contiguous universe are helping us bring zero point energy to Earth.
They will not tolerate any forms of military violence on Earth or in space.

The following information in italics was shared with me by my colleague Carol Rosin, who worked closely for several years with Wernher von Braun before his death.
Carol and I have worked on the Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, attached for your convenience.

*NEW GREAT NEWS: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal proposed **cooperation in space technology** between Pakistan and China as part of the historic declaration, saying it will take the Pak-China relations to new heights. http://tribune.com.pk/story/937041/cooperation-20-mous-worth-2-billion-signed/ A consortium of 35 Chinese companies was also formed that will invest in Pakistan: Pakistan and China on Wednesday signed 20 memoranda of understanding (MoU) worth $2 billion...emphasis on sustainability*

The Cosmic Consequences of Space Weapons: Why they Must be Banned to Preserve our Future
FULL ARTICLE: http://consciousreporter.com/global-agendas/treaty-ban-weapons-space-urgently-needed/

WAR IN SPACE...
War in space isn't considered fantasy anymore
http://www.aol.com/article/2015/08/12/war-in-space-isnt-considered-fantasy-anymore/21221875/

PREPARING FOR WAR IN SPACE (articles below):
http://www.outerplaces.com/science/item/9578-anti-satellite-missiles-and-international-tensions-see-us-china-and-russia-preparing-for-war-in-spaceAnti-

Satellite Missiles and International Tensions See US, China and Russia Preparing for War in Space

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http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/war-in-space-may-be-closer-than-ever/??ftcamp=crm/email//nbe/FirstFTEurope/product

War in Space May Be Closer Than Ever
China, Russia and the U.S. are developing and testing controversial new capabilities to wage war in space despite their denial of such work
By Lee Billings | August 10, 2015

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http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/597809/Anti-satellite-weapons-space-war-Earth-Russia-China-United-States

World War Three in SPACE? Fears over rise in anti-satellite weapons created by Russia

A HUGE rise in anti-satellite weapons being developed by world powers has sparked fears the West could soon be embroiled in a fully-fledged war with Russia and China in outer space.

War in space isn't considered fantasy anymore
http://www.aol.com/article/2015/08/12/war-in-space-isnt-considered-fantasy-anymore/21221875/

*We're arguably closer than ever to war in space. Most satellites orbiting Earth belong to the U.S., China and Russia. And recent tests of anti-satellite weapons don't exactly ease the **scare factor.***

It sounds like science fiction, but the potential for real-life star wars is real enough. It's just not new.
Fears of battles in space go back to the Cold War and several initiatives, like President Reagan's "Star Wars" missile-defense system.
Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work spoke to Congress in June about the threat. He said during a speech the technology the U.S. developed during the Cold War allows it "to project more power, more precisely, more swiftly, at less cost."
Take a moment to think about everything satellites do. GPS, surveillance and communications all depend on them.

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And the Scientific American notes you can disable satellites without missiles. Simply spray-painting lenses or breaking antennas is enough.
President Obama requested $5 billion for space defense in the 2016 fiscal budget.
And a former Air Force officer told the Scientific American most of the United States' capabilities in space have been declassified to send a clear message: There are no rules for war in space.

Best regards,
Edgar
Edgar D. Mitchell, ScD
Apollo 14 astronaut
6th man to walk on the Moon
Zero Point Energy Consultant

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/11/2015 12:45:49 AM
Subject:	News Clips 5.11.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.11.15.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 11, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday Hillary Clinton made Mother's Day phone calls to 5 campaign contest winners. The women were from Nevada, Iowa, Colorado, Washington state and Minnesota.

A Poll indicates that there is no clear Republican front-runner in the New Hampshire presidential nominating contest, while Hillary Clinton retains an overwhelming advantage among Democrats in the Granite State's first-in-the-nation primary.

Vox's Jonathan Allen released a profile on Jake Sullivan highlighting how he advised President Obama and now Hillary Clinton on foreign policy that Vox labels "hawkish". The New York Times released a profile of Tony Rodham highlighting his past and present political and business endeavors.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

New Hampshire Poll: Republican Field Tightens, Hillary Clinton Still Out in Front Among Democrats // Bloomberg // John McCormack - May 10, 2015

There's no clear Republican front-runner in the New Hampshire presidential nominating contest, while Hillary Clinton retains an overwhelming advantage among Democrats in the Granite State's first-in-the-nation primary.

Clinton's advantage over her potential Republican rivals has narrowed, however, and the general election in the

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battleground state looks increasingly competitive, according to a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll.

The poll also shows that Senator Marco Rubio is rising while support for his fellow Floridian, former Governor Jeb Bush, has fallen off. Rubio and Bush both were the first choice of 11 percent of likely Republican primary voters in the poll, while Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky each scored 12 percent.

Clinton is the first choice of 62 percent of likely Democratic primary voters roughly nine months before the primary. That's her best showing since November and suggests a recent wave of influence-peddling allegations about her family's foundation as well as the controversy over her use of a private e-mail server while she was secretary of state haven't tarnished her with the party's base.

There are warning signs for Clinton in New Hampshire. Since the last poll in February, three of the top-polling Republican candidates—Bush, Paul, and Rubio—have moved into striking distance and are now within the poll's margin of error of tying her in hypothetical match-ups.

The poll, conducted May 2-6 by Washington-based Purple Insights, shows Bush and Rubio as Clinton's closest competitors in potential head-to-head contests. Both trail her by 2 percentage points. Paul is next, 3 percentage points behind her, followed by Walker, who trails Clinton by 6 points.

Clinton's closest New Hampshire primary competitor, Senator Bernie Sanders of neighboring Vermont, was the first choice of 18 percent of likely Democratic voters. Vice President Joe Biden was at 5 percent and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley at 3 percent. Neither Biden nor O'Malley have said they'll run.

“Clinton’s strength in the primary remains historic," said Purple Insights' Doug Usher. "But she’s facing the laws of political gravity among independent voters more quickly than her campaign might have hoped.”

Clinton's numbers with independent voters were destined to fall at some point, Usher said, as the campaign becomes more fully formed and intensely competitive.

Among independent general-election voters in New Hampshire, Clinton is tied or nearly tied with Bush, Paul and Rubio. She does better against Walker with this group, leading 42 percent to 36 percent.

Rubio, who announced his candidacy April 13, more than doubled his level of primary support since the poll's last sample, in February. Bush, who isn't expected to formally announce until June, dropped five percentage points, his lowest level since the poll started tracking the state's voters in November.

Poll respondent Stephanie Korb, 57, a Republican dental assistant from Belmont, N.H., said she is leaning toward Rubio.

“He seems like a less offensive choice than the others,” she said. “I want to hear what the candidates want to do to turn this country around and you're not hearing that.”

Support for Paul and Walker have remained steady since February. Paul has formally announced his candidacy, while Walker is expected to hold off until June or later.

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Donald Trump was selected by 8 percent of likely primary voters—up 5 percentage points from February—followed by 7 percent for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, 6 percent for Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, 5 percent for retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, 4 percent for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and 3 percent for former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina.

Scoring 1 percent were former Texas Governor Rick Perry, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, and Ohio Governor John Kasich, none of whom have formally announced bids.

Walker does best when first and second choices are combined, a positive sign for his prospects in the state. He's backed by 24 percent in that case, followed by 21 percent for Bush and Paul and 20 percent for Rubio.

“The Republican primary remains as wide open as ever, and there are no signs here that any candidate has a clear route to winning in New Hampshire,” Usher said.

Part of Paul's strength is his ability to attract independent voters, a key group especially in New Hampshire, where they can vote in partisan primaries. He's supported by 18 percent of independents who said they were likely to vote in the Republican primary, easily the most of anyone in the field. That means he's going to want to see the state's Democratic primary remain a lopsided affair, prompting independents to stick with the action on the Republican side and continue to support him.

Bush is relatively weak among independents. While drawing support from 15 percent of Republicans, he has the backing of just 6 percent of independents. That's a potential problem for Bush, especially if he runs poorly in the Iowa caucuses set for the week before New Hampshire's primary. A Quinnipiac University poll released last week showed Bush in 7th place in Iowa, so he might need a top finish in New Hampshire to rebound.

Fred McGarry, 69, a semi-retired engineer from Deerfield, N.H., said he's leaning toward Bush, although the moderate Republican said he wishes he had other choices.

“I'd be happier if his last name wasn't Bush,” McGarry said. “All the others are too far to the right for me and my guess is that some of them will play well in the strongly red states, but not get elected nationwide.”

The poll shows gender differences developing among likely Republican primary voters. Paul does twice as well among men as he does among women, while Rubio does slightly better with women than men. Walker also does slightly better among men. Bush performed equally well among both genders.

“Walker has got a lot of good credibility and his conservative vocabulary is excellent,” said John Van Uden, 79, a retired manager for a farm equipment company who lives in Bedford, N.H. “He knows what he's talking about from his experience as a governor.”

And New Hampshire voters aren't convinced that the next president will be named either Bush or Clinton. Asked to choose which of the two would be the next president, a third of New Hampshire's likely general-election voters said Clinton, 27 percent didn't venture a guess, 22 percent said someone else, and 18 percent said Bush.

Among Republican primary voters, 31 percent say they think another Bush will move into the White House in 2017, while 34 percent say someone else, 24 percent said they're not sure, and 10 percent said Clinton.

The poll included 500 general-election voters as well as over-samples to have 400 Republican primary voters and

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400 Democratic primary voters. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points on general-election questions and plus or minus 4.9 percentage points on primary election questions.

Meet the man behind hawkish Hillary Clinton's foreign policy // Vox // Jonathan Allen - May 11, 2015

In late 2010, Tom Nides sat down for lunch with the throwback diplomat Richard Holbrooke on the second floor of Kinkead's, a legendary seafood restaurant near the State Department's headquarters in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington.

Nides had just been nominated to succeed Jack Lew as deputy secretary of state, and Holbrooke, who was serving as the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, wanted to give Nides the lay of the land. Nides thought that meant a status update on the region.

But Holbrooke, who paid attention as meticulously to the ups and downs of the Washington elite as he did to the twists and turns of international deal-making, intended to detail the department's power structure. As they ate, Holbrooke explained that Nides must acquaint himself with a singular force in Secretary Hillary Clinton's inner circle.

"Let me tell you, the only person and the one person you need to get to know, who is loved by everyone in the institution and gets things done, is Jake Sullivan," Holbrooke said.

The 38-year-old Sullivan catapulted through the ranks of the Democratic foreign policy establishment, from 2008 Clinton campaign aide to top policy hand at State to national security adviser for Vice President Joe Biden. Now the blue-eyed, sandy-haired Minnesotan has come full circle, having been picked earlier this month for the delicate task of running the Clinton campaign's foreign policy, an area in which the candidate's hawkish instincts diverge from those of war-wary progressives.

For liberals hoping Clinton will undergo a left-oriented metamorphosis on foreign policy to match the economic and social policy transformations that have her sounding more and more like an Elizabeth Warren acolyte, Sullivan's selection will be a disappointment. He won't drag Clinton to the left — or anywhere else.

"He's in line with her," said Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser to President Barack Obama. "On the spectrum of people in our administration, he tended to favor more assertive US engagement on issues" and "responses that would incorporate some military element." That included early advocacy for arming Syrian rebels when he worked for Clinton at State and the Ukrainian military when he was Biden's national security adviser.

"Reject cynicism. Reject certitude. And don't be a jerk."

Like Clinton, though, Sullivan is decidedly dedicated to the proposition that no ideology or solution fits every situation.

"Reject cynicism. Reject certitude. And don't be a jerk," he advised the University of Minnesota's public policy graduates in a 2013 address. "Now, when I say 'reject certitude,' I don't mean your core principles. You can and must be certain about those ... But in public policy, principles simply point the way — they do not provide specific answers about what to do in specific circumstances."

He and Clinton both subscribe to the non-philosophical school of so-called "smart power." A concept developed by Harvard professor and former Defense Department official Joseph Nye, smart power encompasses the use of

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both hard power favored by hawks (military threat, force, and sanctions) and the soft-power levers favored by foreign policy doves (foreign aid, forging cultural and economic bonds, and negotiation).

"Jake was not the most experienced diplomat at the state department i could have chosen..."

In the confines of the national political debate, hard power and soft power are black-and-white choices. In the smart power construct, they are not at odds; they are complementary. And while Sullivan is more given to the use of force than many in the Obama administration, he's also shown a willingness to engage diplomatically with some of the toughest customers in the world.

He was one of a handful of Obama White House aides looped into the effort to reestablish ties US ties to Cuba. Before that, Clinton dispatched him to Oman in 2012 to begin negotiations with Iran over a possible deal to roll back economic sanctions on Tehran in exchange for restrictions on the country's nuclear enrichment program.

"Jake was not the most experienced diplomat at the State Department I could have chosen, but he was discreet and had my absolute confidence," Clinton wrote in her memoir Hard Choices. "His presence would send a powerful message that I was personally invested in this process."

"Ugh!"

As important as sharing Clinton's worldview, Sullivan's developed a role in her orbit as a solicitor, and distiller, of the best arguments on all sides of a debate, and as someone who is widely trusted as an honest broker among the sometimes warring factions of Hillaryland. Former Undersecretary of State Bob Hormats, who spent eight years working at the National Security Council in the 1960s and '70s, says Sullivan's approach is reminiscent of that of Brent Scowcroft, who served Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush as national security adviser.

"He is known to have strong views but also was good at pulling together the views of people whose opinions he trusted"

When done well, the national security adviser's job is to collect the wisdom, insights, and policy preferences of the president's war Cabinet and present them with as little prejudice as possible. Sullivan's role on the campaign, like his role at State, is similar to that. There's no learning curve. His tendencies are her tendencies. Veteran Clinton foreign policy aides say he would be on the short list for the national security adviser post if she wins the presidency.

"He is known to have strong views but also was good at pulling together the views of people whose opinions he trusted and conveying those to the secretary so she could see different perspectives," Hormats said. "In many ways I think his temperament and his interlocutor role are similar to those of Brent Scowcroft, who was extremely knowledgeable and well-respected for these traits. ... And, like Jake, he stayed out of the limelight."

When I emailed Sullivan to tell him I was working on a profile of him, he replied in four characters:

"Ready to make commitments"

Sullivan, the second of what would become a set of five kids, was born in Burlington, Vermont, a few weeks after Jimmy Carter's 1976 election, and later moved to Minnesota. Until he was well into his 30s, he had only really observed one Democrat in the presidency: Bill Clinton.

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At Minneapolis Southwest High School, Sullivan was a standout on the debate and quiz bowl teams, garnering "most likely to succeed" honors. He graduated from Yale in 1998, went to Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, and then returned to Yale for law school.

That's where he first met Harold Koh, the renowned human-rights lawyer and international law expert.

Koh, who would go on to become dean of the law school and then serve as Clinton's top lawyer at State, recalls Sullivan volunteering to help with the legwork on an amicus brief for the Supreme Court in the landmark case Lawrence v. Texas. The case looked like it could be a watershed moment for the attainment — or rejection — of civil rights for the gay and lesbian community. Sullivan felt it was important to push that needle forward.

Yale's role brought together Sullivan's values on a domestic policy matter with his interest in international law. His desire to jump into the fray showed he was "ready to make commitments" to social justice issues, Koh said. It was also a sign that he shares Clinton's view that domestic policy is a factor that affects America's ability to lead abroad.

In the brief, Koh and colleagues argued that the Supreme Court should weigh the conclusions of foreign and international courts in determining whether a Texas statute banning same-sex sodomy violated the Constitution. The 6-3 majority opinion overturning the Texas law noted, "Other nations, too, have taken action consistent with an affirmation of the protected right of homosexual adults to engage in intimate, consensual conduct." Sullivan would go on to clerk for Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who sided with the majority in the Lawrence case.

Years later, when Koh and Sullivan worked together as top State advisers, Clinton delivered a speech in Geneva in which she equated gay rights and human rights, a formulation designed to signal that the US would judge foreign countries' human rights records in part on how they treated members of the LGBT community.

"I speak about this subject knowing that my own country's record on human rights for gay people is far from perfect," Clinton said. "So we, like all nations, have more work to do to protect human rights at home."

When Sullivan left Biden's office last year, he went back to Yale to be close to his fiancée, Maggie Goodlander, a former adviser to Senators Joe Lieberman and John McCain, who is pursuing a law degree. In New Haven, he and Koh co-taught a class on foreign policy and law, where Sullivan pushed students to deliver debate-style arguments and then critiqued them to show how they could be sharper.

Like Clinton, another Yale-trained lawyer, Sullivan simply loves assessing the arguments, Koh said.

Winning friends and influencing Obama

Sullivan prepped Clinton for her 2008 debates with Obama and other Democrats. He did such a good job that, after the primary, Obama's team borrowed him from Clinton to help the future president get ready for his face-offs with Republican nominee John McCain.

When Obama won the White House, Sullivan told friends he planned to head home to Minnesota, where he wanted to practice law and eventually run for office — possibly then–Rep. Michele Bachmann's House seat. Clinton changed that arc by offering him a newly created job as her deputy chief of staff for policy at the State Department. He was 32 when he was sworn in.

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He quickly accumulated influence within the department, becoming Clinton's right hand in formulating policy, conducting diplomacy, writing speeches, and, at times, dealing with the media. Colleagues say he showed a unique ability to dive into and out of issues, and to move from the crisis of the moment to long-term planning. And, of course, he had an uncanny knack for knowing what Clinton would want done.

A wee-hours reader and emailer, Sullivan developed a reputation for cutting through bureaucratic thickets to get decisions quickly on even minor items. That helped him suck up turf and authority at State, where he was eventually given additional duties as the head of the department's in-house strategic think tank, the Office of Policy Planning.

Perhaps most impressive, though, is the way he earned the trust of both Clinton and Obama’s foreign policy team at a time when the two camps were still feeling each other out. Sullivan formed a bond with two of Obama’s national security aides, Denis McDonough and Ben Rhodes, often channeling the view of the White House within the State Department.

Though he gained notoriety with conservatives for being part of the email chain on Benghazi talking points, the truth is that he was in near-constant communication with the White House on all manner of issues for four years.

For example, when Clinton accused Pakistan of harboring Osama bin Laden in 2009, Sullivan quickly reached out to see if Obama’s aides wanted her to walk it back. The answer: double down. The close contact on even minor issues reduced the real and inevitable tension between Obama and Clinton camps that had fought bitterly over the Democratic nomination and didn't always see eye to eye on foreign policy matters.

Sullivan, unlike the vast majority of Clintonworld, had formed relationships with Obama's team during the 2008 general election campaign. That's one reason he became a go-to resource for the White House. The other: he was one-stop shopping on policy, diplomacy, and communication.

"Jake did everything for Secretary Clinton," Rhodes said.

In another episode in 2009, Sullivan took up the White House's cause in pushing for the ouster of Jared Cohen, a member of the Policy Planning Office staff who asked Twitter founder Jack Dorsey to delay scheduled maintenance of the company's platform because members of the Iranian Green Movement relied on it to communicate.

Obama had just said the US wouldn’t interfere in Iran’s domestic politics, and Cohen’s intervention, which was leaked to the New York Times, made it look like the president wasn’t honoring that promise. From Sullivan's point of view, which matched that of the White House and some veteran diplomats, the story about Cohen's action could backfire on the Green Movement. The demonstrators had signaled they would lose credibility if fellow Iranians saw them as puppets of Washington.

Clinton had a different take on the matter, telling her top aides that Cohen’s effort was exactly what the US should be doing.

That episode in June 2009 was one of the rare occasions when Sullivan and Clinton diverged. He was at her elbow for nearly every stop on her marathon, four-year tour of the world. When he wasn't literally by her side, it was because he was representing her with foreign officials.

"When he shows up somewhere, they know he speaks for Hillary and he speaks to Hillary," Koh said.

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"The cat's meow"

Often, a Washington staffer reflects one or two traits of his or her boss — or quickly learns to adopt them. Sullivan clearly reminds Clinton of herself: lawyerly, organized, detail-oriented, and capable of moving from issue to issue without losing his place. And, of course, his pragmatic streak on policy matches hers. He also shares a few of Bill Clinton's traits, most notably a rare likability.

"When Jake Sullivan first came to work for me, I told my husband about this incredibly bright rising star — Rhodes Scholar, Yale Law School — and my husband said, 'Well, if he ever learns to play the saxophone, watch out,'" Clinton once said, adding that when she traveled as secretary of state she talked to people all over the world who wanted to "meet a potential future president of the United States — and of course they mean Jake."

As Nides put it, "Hillary thinks he is the cat's meow."

While Sullivan has made a big name for himself in Washington over a short period of time, and is well-positioned to join a possible second Clinton administration in a powerful role, he often tells friends he wants to return home — at least for a while — and run for elective office.

That may be informed, in part, by his desire to be closer to his roots.

With one exception since 2001, Sullivan has traveled to the NCAA men's basketball Final Four city to meet up with his siblings. They show up, without tickets, and try to find their way into the arena, according to a friend. Another friend said growing up in a household full of smart kids has helped Sullivan keep an even keel in the choppy waters of Washington politics and international diplomacy.

Teammate of rivals

It was back to Minnesota that Sullivan planned to go when Clinton left the State Department in early 2013. He was finally going to set up that run for office. But he ended up staying in Washington for a job that would increase his value to Clinton as a foreign policy adviser and keep him in the middle of an issue — a possible nuclear deal with Iran — that presents tremendous risk to her in 2016.

Clinton had refused Obama's request to stay in her job, and the White House didn't want to lose Sullivan, too. The biggest job available was national security adviser to Biden.

Sullivan insisted that, once again, he had his heart set on going back home so he could eventually come back to Washington as an elected official in his own right.

Obama sealed the deal by telling Sullivan, among other things, that he could be far more influential as Biden's national security adviser than as a junior member of Congress, according to a person familiar with their conversation. It was a line Sullivan had heard before, from Nides and others. Obama, who served less than one term in the Senate, knew from back-benching it on Capitol Hill.

And though he was assigned to the vice president's office, Sullivan understood the role would give him access to the president's daily briefing on intelligence and put him in the Situation Room for National Security Council meetings. In those ways, it represented an ideal training ground for becoming the president's national security

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adviser.

White House officials say there was never any tension surrounding Sullivan's decision to work for Biden — a path Clinton encouraged him to follow — because everyone knew that if she ran for president, Sullivan would go with her. He had risen with her, and his views on US engagement with the world fit hers much better than Obama's or Biden's. Biden, for example, was against the raid that killed Osama bin Laden and striking Libya.

Sullivan participated in a series of meetings with Clinton and foreign officials in Paris and the Middle East in which the Libya coalition was stitched together. He handed her the phone when she asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, from a television greenroom in Tunisia, to abstain from a Security Council vote on Libya.

From the vice president's office, he continued to be part of the US negotiating team on an Iran deal that Republicans, and some Democrats, say places too much trust in Tehran. The administration believes it is the only path to ensuring Iran is unable to develop a nuclear weapon in short order. After Sullivan left the administration last year — for the teaching post at Yale rather than a run for Congress — he continued to participate in the P5+1 talks with Iran.

"You can't be effective that way"

A few weeks after Holbrooke advised Nides to develop a relationship with Sullivan, Holbrooke's heart burst in a meeting with his deputy Frank Ruggiero, Clinton, and Sullivan at the State Department. In typically animated fashion, he had been arguing against the administration's policy on dealing with the Taliban as Obama tried to wind down the war in Afghanistan.

In Holbrooke's view, it was worth sitting down with Taliban leaders to see if a deal could be struck in which they would sever their relations with al-Qaeda and live by the new constitution of Afghanistan. The White House position was that those concessions should be pre-conditions of negotiating with the Taliban. Holbrooke thought they should be pre-conditions for a deal, but not for a meeting. On that matter, Sullivan was with the White House.

As Holbrooke made his impassioned plea to Clinton, he heaved and turned red. His aorta had torn open. Sullivan and Ruggierio came to his aid and hustled him to a nearby elevator so he could be rushed to George Washington University's hospital. Holbrooke died a couple of days later.

He had once told a colleague, after finding himself talking to Sullivan when he called for Clinton, that Sullivan could someday be secretary of state.

Less than two years after Holbrooke's death, Sullivan was assigned to reach out to Iran about a possible nuclear deal, without apparent pre-condition. He continued to work on the developing deal even after he left Washington. The controversial premise on which it hinges — that the agreement can be so sound as to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon — is politically risky for Clinton.

She has left her options open, for the moment, saying last month that "diplomacy deserves a chance." Her top foreign policy aide's involvement in the negotiations may make it harder for her to distance herself from a deal, but she has not committed to supporting one.

Like Clinton, Sullivan, for better and worse, has shown situational flexibility in his approach to foreign policy. Often, there's no perfect choice on the table. And what works for one problem may not work for another.

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"The minute you start treating public policy problems like arithmetic problems, with an absolute right and an absolute wrong answer, quit," he told the Minnesota graduating class. "You can't be effective that way. In a world of imperfection, you will not find a flawless position, which means that whatever position you adopt will inevitably have weaknesses or blind spots. You should acknowledge them."

Tony Rodham's Ties Invite Scrutiny for Hillary and Bill Clinton // NYT // Steve Eder - May 10, 2015

The heavyset 60-year-old man who walked with a cane seemed an unlikely speaker at the glamorous launch party for a cosmetics company held in Santa Monica, Calif., in March.

But Tony Rodham appeared at ease among the special guests and well-heeled investors, offering them encouragement as well as an invitation.

"If there's anything I can ever do for any of you, let me know," Mr. Rodham said. "I'll be more than happy to do it."

A promotional video of the party that the cosmetics company later released identified the speaker as "the youngest brother of former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton," a relationship that has been Mr. Rodham's calling card since the days of the Clinton White House.

On and off for two decades, the affable Mr. Rodham has tried to use his connections with his sister and his brother-in-law, former President Bill Clinton, to further a business career that has seen more failures than successes. The connections to the Clintons have given Mr. Rodham, a self-described "facilitator," a unique appeal and a range of opportunities, like addressing Chinese investor conferences and joining an advisory board of a company seeking permission to mine for gold in Haiti.

But his business dealings have often invited public scrutiny and uncomfortable questions for the Clintons as Mr. Rodham has cycled through a variety of ventures, leveraging his ties to them and sometimes directly seeking their help.

When Mr. Clinton worked as a co-chairman of Haiti's earthquake recovery commission, Mr. Rodham and his partners sought a $22 million deal to rebuild homes in the country. In court proceedings three years ago in an unrelated lawsuit, Mr. Rodham explained how "a guy in Haiti" had "donated" 10,000 acres of land to him and described how he had leaned on Mr. Clinton to get the rebuilding project funded amid bureaucratic delays.

"I deal through the Clinton Foundation. That gets me in touch with the Haitian officials," Mr. Rodham said, according to a transcript of his testimony. "I hound my brother-in-law, because it's his fund that we're going to get our money from. And he can't do it until the Haitian government does it.

"And he keeps telling me, 'Oh, it's going to happen tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow.' Well, tomorrow hasn't come yet."

Mr. Rodham's Haiti project never did happen. The Clinton Foundation said in a statement that it was not aware of Mr. Rodham's Haiti project and had no involvement in it. Mr. Clinton's office said he had not been involved in any of Mr. Rodham's pursuits in Haiti.

But Mr. Rodham was able to prevail on the former president for help in other ways.

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When Mr. Rodham was short on cash in 2010, Mr. Clinton helped get him a job for $72,000 a year raising investments in GreenTech Automotive, an electric car company then owned by Terry McAuliffe, an old friend of Mr. Clinton's and now the governor of Virginia.

"I was complaining to my brother-in-law I didn't have any money. And he asked McAuliffe to give me a job," Mr. Rodham said during the court proceedings, which were the result of a lawsuit over unpaid legal bills filed by his lawyer in a child support case.

A brother down on his luck seeking help from more successful siblings is a familiar story, and presidents and their families have hardly been immune from that sometimes uncomfortable situation. For the Clintons, Tony Rodham has not been the only source of embarrassment.

Mrs. Clinton's other brother, Hugh Rodham, stumbled through an unsuccessful campaign for the Senate in Florida during Mr. Clinton's first term. Roger Clinton, the former president's brother, served a year in federal prison on a cocaine distribution charge. And all three were involved in lobbying Mr. Clinton for pardons for their associates as he left office, prompting a congressional inquiry.

"They're all colorful," Rahm Emanuel, a former Clinton aide who later became mayor of Chicago, said in an interview in 2001. "They're all living large."

As Mrs. Clinton began her 2016 campaign for the presidency, Hugh Rodham and Roger Clinton had faded from public view, but Tony Rodham emerged as a controversial figure. A government investigation in March found that GreenTech, which sought green cards for its Chinese investors through an American government program, had received special treatment in the handling of its visa applications. The report described instances when Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. Rodham contacted an official from the Department of Homeland Security to complain about the pace of the visa process.

Mr. Rodham's unsuccessful pursuit of housing contracts in Haiti, which has not previously been reported, raised new questions.

As Mrs. Clinton campaigns, she speaks fondly of her brothers. At a stop in Iowa, she recalled them working together at her father's drapery business. Her official campaign biography prominently mentions them.

"She loves her family more than anything," said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Her brothers have always been there for her, and she will always be there for them. Each, though, have their own lives, their own jobs, their own ups and downs."

As the youngest of three children, Tony Rodham has lived in the shadow of his sister. He never finished college, and he worked at a variety of jobs — as a prison guard, private detective and at the Democratic National Committee — until after the Clintons were in the White House, when he became a consultant and deal broker. He was once married to Nicole Boxer, the daughter of Senator Barbara Boxer of California.

He lives with his second wife, Megan, and two young children in a large house on a hill in Vienna, Va., a suburb of Washington. He declined to speak to a reporter who went to his door one afternoon in April, and he did not respond to other messages seeking comment for this article.

But in a statement from Mr. Rodham passed on by the Clinton campaign, he said that he wanted to protect his family's privacy and that he would not engage in disputing claims about him, which he said he considered to be

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political attacks.

His wife said the family was excited about Mrs. Clinton's campaign for president.

"The kids love their Aunt Hillary," she said. "We are supportive, and we are excited."

Mr. Rodham described his dire financial situation during the court proceedings in 2012. As a result of a series of failed business deals — including some in oil and gas, water, housing, tutoring and pharmaceuticals — he said he had not made a mortgage payment in 10 months and was fighting home foreclosure.

The Clintons, he said, had been generous, even paying for his son's schooling, but they were not going to give him more money. "Hillary and Bill are done," he said. "I mean, look at what they've done for me. They've given me money all the time."

Mr. Clinton's willingness to assist in getting him work with Mr. McAuliffe was helpful, Mr. Rodham said, but at $6,000 a month, it was not enough. "It's kind of like the job he got me a long time ago when I worked in the prison," he said.

Even more important, according to Mr. Rodham, was what he said was going to be Mr. Clinton's help on his Haiti rebuilding project. That project came about when Sheldon Drobny, an old friend, contacted Mr. Rodham about making a connection for a Chicago-area contractor, who wanted to become involved in building houses in Haiti.

"We were trying to help. Period," Mr. Drobny, a co-founder of Air America Radio, the former liberal talk network, said in a phone interview. He called the effort "humanitarian."

Mr. Drobny said he had connected with Mr. Rodham because of what he believed were his ties to the Clinton Foundation, which was playing a central role in the rebuilding efforts. Ultimately, he said, nothing happened "because the Haiti government was not cooperative."

The Clinton Foundation said in its statement that aside from supporting a housing exposition in Haiti, it had not been directly involved with any housing projects. The foundation also said Mr. Rodham's project had not been among the more than 300 submitted for consideration at the expo.

Mr. Rodham projected that he could make $1 million on the Haiti deal if it came to pass — enough money, he said in his court testimony, to take his family to Disney World and cover his debts, including his legal bills and his long overdue federal taxes.

Mr. Rodham eventually settled his bill with his former lawyer, Gwendolyn Jo M. Carlberg. Ms. Carlberg said in a phone interview that, despite her lawsuit, she did not have a negative view of Mr. Rodham. "I found a lot of good in Tony," she said.

He is still sought after for deals and personal appearances.

That was the case in March when Mr. Rodham attended the celebration of Wynn Beauty & Health in Santa Monica, which included a performance from an "American Idol" contestant. In addition to appearing in the promotional video, Mr. Rodham posed for at least a dozen photos.

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But after a reporter contacted Wynn Beauty & Health, Mr. Rodham was removed from the video and photos of him disappeared from the company's Facebook page. In an email, the company said that Mr. Rodham was not involved in the business and that he had appeared at the celebration only as a longtime friend offering congratulations.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

As Middle Class Fades, So Does Use of Term on Campaign Trail // NYT // Amy Chozick – May 11, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton speaking last month with voters in Marshalltown, Iowa. She has made "everyday Americans" a focus of her campaign, staying away from the term "middle class."

Hillary Rodham Clinton calls them "everyday Americans." Scott Walker prefers "hardworking taxpayers." Rand Paul says he speaks for "people who work for the people who own businesses." Bernie Sanders talks about "ordinary Americans."

The once ubiquitous term "middle class" has gone conspicuously missing from the 2016 campaign trail, as candidates and their strategists grasp for new terms for an unsettled economic era. The phrase, long synonymous with the American dream, now evokes anxiety, an uncertain future and a lifestyle that is increasingly out of reach.

The move away from "middle class" is the rhetorical result of a critical shift: After three decades of income gains favoring the highest earners and job growth being concentrated at the bottom of the pay scale, the middle has for millions of families become a precarious place to be.

A social stratum that once signified a secure, aspirational lifestyle, with a house in the suburbs, children set to attend college, retirement savings in the bank and, maybe, an occasional trip to Disneyland now connotes fears about falling behind, sociologists, economists and political scientists say.

That unease spilled out during conversations with voters in focus groups convened by Democratic pollsters in recent months.

"The cultural consensus around what it mean to be 'middle class' — and that has very much been part of the national identity in the United States — is beginning to shift," said Sarah Elwood, a professor at the University of Wisconsin and an author of a paper about class identity that one Clinton adviser had studied.

Rising costs mean many families whose incomes fall in the middle of the national distribution can no longer afford the trappings of what was once associated with a middle-class lifestyle. That has made the term, political scientists say, lose its resonance.

"We have no collective language for talking about that condition," Dr. Elwood said.

The result is a presidential campaign in which every candidate desperately wants to appeal to middle-class Americans — broadly defined as working-age households with annual incomes of $35,000 to $100,000 — but does not know how to address them. That has led to some linguistic maneuvering.

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Senator Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, has said what makes America unique are the “millions and millions of people who aren’t rich.” Mr. Sanders, an independent from Vermont who is seeking the Democratic nomination, has talked about “working families” and “people working full time.” Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, a Republican, has made “hardworking men and women across America” the focus of his message.

“It used to be ‘middle class’ represented everyone, actually or in their aspirations, but now it doesn’t feel as attainable,” said David Madland, managing director of economic policy at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank with close ties to the Clinton campaign. “You see politicians and others grasping for the right word to talk about a majority of Americans.”

Candidates realize they cannot win election without widespread appeal among the 51 percent of Americans who, according to Gallup, identify as middle or upper-middle class. That compares with an average of 60 percent who identified the same way in polls conducted from 2000 through 2008.

But sociologists say such surveys obscure how Americans feel about the characterization — and how much the middle class has shrunk. They call the new economy an “hourglass” with a concentration of wealth at the top and low-paying service jobs at the bottom and “a spectacular loss of median-wage jobs in the middle,” said William Julius Wilson, a sociologist and Harvard professor.

In surveys, more Americans still choose ‘middle class’ when asked which category they belong to, because they do not want to identify as rich or poor and because no new phrase exists to describe middle-income earners who view their social class as vulnerable. Working class, once associated with manufacturing jobs, now mostly connotes low-paying service jobs.

“People are looking for some way to say, ‘I recognize I’m a little below the middle,’” said Dennis Gilbert, a professor of sociology at Hamilton College who has published books on American class structure.

Before presidential campaigns tested replacement terms, academics started to adopt phrases like the “near poor” or “the sandwich generation.” After the Great Depression, “submerged middle class” became popular to describe families who could rise if aided by the New Deal.

“What do you call people who don’t have good jobs but who aren’t poor?” said Andrew J. Cherlin, a sociology professor at Johns Hopkins University and author of “Labor’s Love Lost,” about the rise and fall of working families.

The words may be endangered, but the idyllic image of the American middle class that took hold after World War II and became the backbone of everything from selling appliances to pitching presidential candidates still looms large on the campaign trail. When candidates talk about the middle class, they increasingly use the words as a nostalgic term, a reminder about what the American economy has been and what it could again become — with the right president, of course.

The 67-year-old Mrs. Clinton regularly walks down memory lane with stories about her middle-class upbringing in the suburbs of Chicago, invoking an era when parents who were not rich could raise a child who would become a senator, a secretary of state and a potential president.

In addition to her signature phrase, “everyday Americans,” Mrs. Clinton often says: “We need to make the middle class mean something again.” The line, her campaign said, was informed by the growing school of thought that in 2015, “middle class” makes a majority of voters more anxious than optimistic..

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"In the 1960s, 'middle class' felt like it fit your lifestyle," said Felicia Wong, the president and chief executive of the Roosevelt Institute, a liberal think tank with ties to Mrs. Clinton's economic team.

Even if families fall in the middle in income distribution, they cannot afford many of the necessities, much less the luxuries, traditionally associated with being middle class, Ms. Wong said.

Household incomes for the middle class have been stagnant, while the costs of middle-class security — which economists define as child care, higher education, health care, housing and retirement — increased by more than $10,000 from 2000 to 2012, according to a Center for American Progress report, "Middle-Class Squeeze."

"If you're technically in the 50th percentile in income distribution but you can't afford to send your kids to college or take a vacation, are you middle class or not?" Ms. Wong said.

But skeptics say that "everyday Americans" and the other phrases candidates use to fill the void are overly vague and upbeat and obscure a bleak reality.

"If you had a candidate running around talking about the 'submerged middle class,' voters would run the other way," said Frank Levy, an economist and professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The phrases can be awkward, too, or slow to catch on. Mrs. Clinton has a mantra: "Everyday Americans need a champion." But when she visited a high school in Las Vegas last week to talk about immigration, she found the students had welcomed her with a handmade sign with her campaign slogan. They had botched the punctuation — and a bit of the meaning, though perhaps it still resonated. "Everyday, Americans need a champion," it read.

Hillary Rodham Clinton keeping an eye on opponents // The Boston Globe // Annie Linskey – May 11, 2015

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton is leaving nothing to chance this time around.

The Clinton presidential operation may look like a juggernaut from the outside, but her attempts to marshal early support in the home states of long shots are evidence that she feels the need to protect every flank, no matter how weak the opposition appears.

In Rhode Island, office space for a local Clinton campaign headquarters was identified early in the campaign; in Maryland, several lawmakers have already lent their names to Clinton for fund-raisers. And in Vermont, she moved quickly to sew up support.

These aren't states that typically get much attention from presidential candidates. But all three are home to underdogs who have announced, or are considering, their own bid for the Democratic Party's nomination. That makes the states turf Clinton can't ignore.

"She knows there is going to be a media onslaught against her," said Joe Paolino, a former Providence mayor who will be leasing her campaign office space in Providence. "She isn't taking anything for granted. This is not a walk in the park for her."

Eight years ago, Clinton also basked in the aura of inevitability only to be out-organized and out-campaigned by Barack Obama. Clinton's campaign has pledged that it will avoid mistakes from that race, so this time around her

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campaign is leaner. The staff is smaller. The offices are less lavish.

Tyrone Gayle, a spokesman for the Clinton campaign, said the organization is making a concerted effort nationally. “Hillary Clinton is committed to earning every vote,” said Gayle in a statement.

Two of Clinton’s challengers are new to the Democratic Party, and therefore lack strong ties with the local party establishments. For Clinton, that made for easy endorsement pickings in Vermont, where Democratic Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger revealed his support for her the same day that Bernie Sanders, an independent and former Burlington mayor, said he would challenge her for the Democratic nomination.

The Clinton campaign reached out to line up the endorsement before Sanders’ announcement, according to a source familiar with the conversation, reflecting an attention to detail. Vermont’s other senator, Patrick Leahy, is also backing Clinton.

Sanders’ camp brushed off the endorsements. “Would you rather have politicians or the people backing you?” said Sanders’ spokesman Michael Briggs.

Sanders has gone on to raise more than $3 million since he got in the race on April 30; mostly from small donations, according to his campaign. And he’s getting a close look from Iowa caucus-goers, according to a survey out last week. His support rose to 15 percent from zero in February, according to a poll by Quinnipiac University.

Much of it came from people in the liberal wing of the party who hoped Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren would jump into the race. She polled at 19 percent three months ago but was dropped from the more recent survey because she’s not running for president.

Another Democratic newcomer challenging Clinton is former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee. On April 9, he said he’d consider a presidential bid.

Within days, current Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, a longtime Clinton supporter, told the Associated Press she wouldn’t back the home state candidate, in part because it is “time to put a mom in the White House.”

Then word leaked to the local press that Clinton was preparing to set up operations in the state — even open an office in Providence. Debbie Rich, a spokeswoman for Chafee, declined to comment on Clinton’s campaign activities, other than to point out that her campaign’s office address was publicized “right after” Chafee revealed he was considering running.

The Clinton campaign wouldn’t comment on the Rhode Island office and noted that the only official state headquarters to launch so far are in her home state of New York and in New Hampshire, where a Manchester operation opened last week.

Next month, Clinton will make an appearance in Rhode Island for fund-raiser at the home of loyalist Mark Weiner, said Paolino, who is helping to organize the event. He predicted the state’s “entire Democratic establishment” will be behind Clinton.

That’s not surprising, since Chafee was a Republican when he represented the state in the US Senate and an independent when he was elected governor in 2010.

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Perhaps the bigger threat to Clinton's nomination comes from Maryland, where the former governor, Martin O'Malley, has long been considering a presidential campaign. He, too, has seen Clinton incursions in his state.

Shortly after the November 2014 elections, in which O'Malley's chosen successor lost to a Republican, the Ready for Hillary super PAC scheduled two fund-raisers in his home state sponsored by a raft of Maryland politicians. The organizers wanted a strong showing of local officials backing Clinton.

"They were bombarding us with calls," said one Maryland lawmaker who was asked repeatedly to participate.

Maryland's Steny Hoyer, the House minority whip, tried to gin up support for a Clinton "grass-roots organizing meeting" held Saturday in Bethesda, O'Malley's childhood town.

The former governor's supporters say that the group backing Clinton represents "establishment" thinking. "It just points to the fact that O'Malley is new blood with new ideas and a 'can-do attitude' and the establishment doesn't normally endorse that," said Terry Lierman, a former Maryland Democratic Party chairman.

And the O'Malley camp is taking back some ground. Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, who supported a Ready for Hillary fund-raiser last year, plans to hold a house party for O'Malley this weekend, according to a copy of the invitation.

Clinton will be trying to vacuum up cash in the state at the same time. A fund-raiser for her candidacy is set for next month, said former Maryland attorney general Doug Gansler, who has signed on with her as a "Hillstarter."

"She's going to have to raise a lot of money," he predicted.

Across the Potomac River, former Virginia senator Jim Webb is also considering a run for the White House and has been making stops in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Should he decide to take on Clinton, he, too, will have a formidable Clinton ally in his backyard: Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, a man who has been close to the Clintons since the 1990s.

Tom Brady and Hillary Clinton are too big to nail // NY Post // Kyle Smith - May 10, 2015

Where have we seen the Tom Brady scandal before?

A global celebrity appears almost certainly to be involved in a massive, possibly years-long web of corruption that makes many past events look suspicious. The central figure simply declines to provide evidence that might be damning (or exculpatory). And the supervising authority shrugs and says, "What can we do? The subject declined to cooperate." Because said supervising authority has deep business and personal ties to the subject it's supposed to be investigating.

Congratulations, Tom Brady and Hillary Clinton. They won't punish you much, if at all. They won't even really come after you. You're both too big to nail.

You both have ardent fans who won't believe the preponderance of evidence already available, aren't particularly

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interested in hearing more evidence and wouldn't change their minds even if shown a video of, say, Brady sticking a needle into a ball in the locker room or Hillary telling the Russians, "Just leave a bag of cash over there, and our uranium is yours."

Modal Trigger

No matter what they do wrong, fans will never punish Tom Brady or Hillary Clinton.

They both even have a daddy figure giving amazingly unconvincing and legalistic denials: Patriots owner Bob Kraft said of lawyer Ted Wells' Deflategate investigation, "To say we are disappointed in its findings, which do not include any incontrovertible or hard evidence of deliberate deflation of footballs at the AFC Championship Game, would be a gross understatement."

Hey, Bob, next time just say, "We didn't do it." You kind of sound like Bill Clinton defending Hillary: "There is no doubt in my mind that we have never done anything knowingly inappropriate in terms of taking money to influence any kind of American government policy."

Putting Brady on the bench for a couple of weeks wouldn't do anything to change the fact that the history of integrity of NFL games is in question.

The Patriots committed an outrageous act of cheating that should have vacated their AFC Championship win. Withdraw their Super Bowl title? They had no right to play in that game in the first place. Millions of dollars legally changed hands in the expectation that the NFL was maintaining integrity. It wasn't.

How deep and wide is the Patriots' cheating operation? How long was it underinflating footballs to make them easier to grip and less likely to be fumbled? The NFL doesn't know and doesn't want to find out.

It could order Brady (and his coaches, and everyone else connected with the Patriots) to turn over texts and phone records and email records. But it won't, just as the Obama administration won't force Hillary to hand over her server and other communications equipment for inspection and won't hire a special prosecutor to issue subpoenas and gather facts.

How deep and wide is the Patriots' cheating operation? How long was it underinflating footballs…? The NFL doesn't know and doesn't want to find out.

In each case, the so-called "supervisor" is simply a warm and friendly colleague who is in business with the target.

The NFL can't afford to have the full truth about Deflategate, and its place in the long history of Patriots cheating, known. If there is a text out there that conclusively damns Brady, then the league's greatest performer, its best team, and the most-watched broadcast in the history of television are all rendered part of a neo-Black Sox scandal. The league cannot afford to have its reputation so tarnished. Its interest is in doing the absolute minimum to make it appear that it did a thorough investigation, then put it all to bed as rapidly as possible. The TV networks that are in business with the NFL have the same interest.

Where is the NFL's curiosity about the fact that, since a rule change in 2006, allowed teams to manage the footballs used by their own quarterbacks, the Patriots have had an almost uncanny ability to prevent fumbles, and that their players fumble a lot more when wearing other uniforms? A statistician for FiveThirtyEight.com published this week a chart ("using both binomial and Poisson models") that put the odds against the Patriots' fumble rate occurring by chance at more than 10,000 to one. Those are roughly the same odds that anything important and football-related happens in the Patriots locker room without the knowledge of Bill Belichick.

Belichick was, of course, "cleared" by the report, which means no wrongdoing has been found. Why would it? If

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two locker-room flunkies take the fall, that would be ideal for the NFL.

Ted Wells, the lawyer who issued the report, specializes in defending white-collar criminals. The NFL has been a client of his law firm for many years, and he has every incentive to make his client look good. Wells' partner Brad Karp, a co-author of the report, has long represented the NFL in its concussion litigation, involving hundreds of lawsuits and many, many billable hours for the Paul, Weiss Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison law firm. These men aren't prosecutors. They aren't disinterested outsiders. They're in business with the NFL.

But, hey, let's give the NFL a little credit. If it hired its own defense team to pretend to investigate itself, that's more than Hillary did.

Hillary Clinton Calls For Paid Family Leave On Mother's Day // PoliticsUSA // Jason Easley – May 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton's Mother's Day call for paid family leave illustrates why she is such a formidable presidential candidate.

Former Sec. of State Clinton said, "It is outrageous that America is the only country in the developed world that doesn't guarantee paid leave. I have this new granddaughter, and I want her to have every opportunity, but I want every child in our country to have every opportunity. We know that when women are strong families are strong. When families are strong countries are strong. What more can we do so that it isn't quite so hard? The answer is that we can do a lot if we do it together."

Hillary Clinton is redefining and taking back the word opportunity for Republicans. In the Republican vernacular, the term opportunity is something that is reserved for wealthy men and corporations. Clinton is defining opportunity as equality and fairness, not just for women, but for children and families.

Her view of opportunity is what makes Hillary Clinton the candidate who could be 2016's most pro-children and pro-family candidate for the White House. President Obama has fought hard for equal pay for women and paid family leave, but one gets the sense that it is Hillary Clinton who can achieve these goals.

It has been decades since the country has seen a candidate for president who so clearly knows who she is. Despite the media attacks and hand-wringing, there is a basic comfort that millions of voters already feel with Clinton. The contrast is best understood by watching a stampede of faceless and shapeless Republican candidates trying to bend themselves into what voters want.

When it comes to Hillary Clinton, it is all right there. Hillary Clinton presents a vision for the future that looks both attainable and easy to see.

Clinton calls Iowa mom for a Mother's Day surprise // Iowa Register //Ben Rogers – May 10, 2015

Kelly Drake received a phone call from a politician on Mother's Day that was different than most.

Not every Iowa mother gets to chat with a presidential candidate, after all.

Drake, 51, of Ankeny, won a contest put on by Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign, where recipients received a phone call from the former secretary of state wishing them well on Mother's Day. Josh Shelledy, Drake's son,

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entered her in the drawing. He said he knew his mother was an avid supporter of Clinton, and he thought there was no better gift.

Shelledy's hunch was spot-on.

"I thought it was amazing," Drake said. "I think a lot of her and she is an amazing person, and for her to wish me happy Mother's Day is awesome."

MORE: Complete coverage of Hillary Clinton

Drake said she was impressed with the sincerity of Clinton's phone call and the fact that she didn't talk about politics.

"I just thought she was a mother to a mother, and I thought that was great," Drake said.

Drake said it was the best Mother's Day gift she could have received.

North Las Vegas woman gets Mother's Day surprise from Hillary Clinton // National Review // Laura Myers - May 10, 2015

Amy Ponce of North Las Vegas got a Mother's Day surprise on Sunday — not breakfast in bed or a new pair of slippers — but a call from Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton who wished her "a happy day."

"At first I thought it was a joke," said Ponce, 37, whose 18-year-old son, Austin, won a campaign contest for his mother. Five winners received calls, including in Nevada, Iowa, Colorado, Washington state and Minnesota, the campaign said.

It was a special year for Clinton, too, her first as a grandmother.

"I've been a mother for more than 35 years now, and I'm still not sure how my mother did it," Clinton said in a statement. "She didn't always have an easy life, but she managed to remain strong and kind and always remember everyone who helped her."

Amy Ponce, who is married, also has a 12-year-old daughter. She said that until Clinton emerged on the political scene she hadn't been politically active.

In fact, she voted for the first time in 2008 — but for Clinton's Democratic rival, Barack Obama, who won millions of new voters. Perhaps it wasn't Clinton's time, but now Ponce said the former first lady and secretary of state appears to be a strong contender.

"I think we're leaning that way," to vote for Clinton, she said. "That would be real neat" to have the first female president. "We definitely would be voting Democratic."

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Asked about her previous voter apathy, Ponce said, “For me, it was probably a lack of time. And probably a lack of being educated enough on making the right decision.”

Ponce said the call with Clinton was short and sweet, at about 1:30 p.m. “It was something you don’t get a chance to do everyday,” she said.

Ponce has been paying close attention to some hot- button campaign issues, however. She’s a Patient Services Representative in a pediatrician’s office, giving her insight into how Obama’s Affordable Health Care Act is playing out.

“Definitely a good law, but a few flaws,” Ponce said. “I’ve heard from a lot of people personally that it still is not quite as affordable as they had anticipated.”

Austin Ponce appears to be the politician in the family. He said he’s looking forward to voting for the fist time in a presidential election in 2016 and he’s hoping to volunteer for the Clinton campaign as well.

He thanked his teacher Ms. Karlye Mull for encouraging him and said he’s taking advanced placement government classes with her this year.

“It really helps when you have a teacher who’s passionate about the subject,” Ponce said, adding he’ll keep his family involved, too.

Hillary Clinton’s Top Five Clashes Over Secrecy // Long Island Press // Jeff Gurth – May 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton at Book Revue

Hillary Clinton signing copies of her book "Hard Choices" on Wednesday Aug. 6, 2014 at the Book Revue in Huntington. (Spencer Rumsey/Long Island Press)

Back in April of 2007, when she was campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination for the first time, then-Senator Hillary Clinton lashed out at the secrecy of the George W. Bush administration.

She told a New Hampshire audience that if elected she would implement a “plan to enhance accountability and transparency” and “to replace secrecy and mystery with openness.” One part of her plan: “It’s time our government went fully online as well.”

She lost her bid to be the Democratic presidential nominee. But 20 months later, before then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama took that job and she became secretary of state, she set up a private computer server registered to her home in Chappaqua, N.Y., to handle all her official, as well as private, emails for the next four years. Her decision — a secret until earlier this year — impeded efforts by the press and others to review State Department actions.

Now it is Hillary Clinton’s record of transparency that has come under fire. At a press conference in March, she acknowledged that in retrospect “it would’ve been better for me to use two separate phones and two email accounts.” She has asked the State Department to release her official emails, a process that could take months.

Few public figures have been as scrutinized as Hillary Clinton. Sometimes her disclosures go beyond what is required, but she’s also racked up a reputation for secrecy that at times has returned to haunt her.

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Here are five examples covering the last two decades. Some are drawn from a 2007 book I did, with Don Van Natta Jr., entitled “Her Way: The Hopes and Ambitions of Hillary Rodham Clinton” (Little Brown & Co.). Clinton’s office didn’t respond to a request for comment.

1) 1992: The Commodity Trades

During Bill Clinton’s first run for the White House, his campaign declined to release all of the couple’s tax returns. Later it emerged that the campaign had weighed requests from the press and decided not to do so, because a few of the returns showed Hillary Clinton’s spectacular success in commodities trading, in which she made almost $100,000 from an initial investment of $1,000 in a matter of months, for a return of almost 10,000 percent. Hillary Clinton threatened a campaign lawyer who had access to the material with retribution if she released the data: “You’ll never work in Democratic politics again,” the lawyer, Loretta Lynch, says Clinton told her. It wasn’t until 1994, as the New York Times prepared to publish an article detailing the trades, that the Clintons made the returns public.

2) 1993: The Health Care Task Force

As First Lady, Clinton led a presidential task force to overhaul the U.S. health-care system. The group, which produced a 1,342-page bill that failed to win Congressional approval, came under intense criticism from lawmakers and interest groups for meeting behind closed doors. Several court challenges were brought in an attempt to open the process. Ultimately the courts provided a partial legal victory to the administration. Clinton later wrote she didn’t mind the criticism since she was “trying to do something important for people” but she acknowledged the failure was partially the result of her “own missteps” in “trying to do too much, too fast.”

3) 1994: Records from the Rose Law Firm

U.S. investigators in 1994 subpoenaed the First Lady’s billing records from her years at the Rose Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas, documents that had been also sought by reporters. A focus of their interest was her legal work for a failing savings and loan, but records of those billings weren’t found. Much later, Clinton’s long-time assistant, Carolyn Huber, said she found in the White House residence an additional box of records that contained the billing memos. They were turned over to the independent counsel in 1996. Clinton testified she had no knowledge of how the records wound up where they did.

4) 2006: The Energy Task Force

Late in her first term as U.S. senator from New York, Clinton set up an energy task force to help her work through the issue, deliver a major speech on the subject and prepare for a possible presidential run, participants in the task force told us for the book. They produced a 40-page report in April 2006. The whole project, including the existence of the group, its members and its work product was a secret, designed, participants said, to encourage frank discussions of the issue. The leader of the task force headed an investment firm with major holdings in the energy sector. Senators routinely get input from outsiders, and no law requires their disclosure, but a secret task force is unusual.

5) 2015: The Family Foundation

The Clinton family foundation, now called the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, made disclosures that exceed the legal requirements. Charities are not required to list donors, but as part of Clinton’s selection as secretary of state the foundation agreed to disclose the identity of contributors and restrict solicitations from foreign governments. Still, the information on the foundation’s website is less than full. Donors are identified but not the exact amount of each donation or the date of those contributions. Instead, donations fall under ranges and

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are listed cumulatively. The foundation did not announce that it started raising money from foreign governments after Hillary Clinton left office. But last month the Wall Street Journal pieced together some new foreign donations after the foundation's web site was updated. That article was the first in a spate of news accounts raising questions about foreign money coming into the Clinton network as she prepares a run for president. The foundation has said the donors are carefully vetted and their money goes to important charitable projects.

Julian Castro is 'only' veep prospect for top Clintonians, says source // Washington Times // Joseph Curl - May 10, 2015

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

Top members of Team Hillary are already pushing Julian Castro as her vice presidential nominee, with one source telling me last week that right now, there isn't even a second choice.

"There's only one person the top guys are looking at right now, and that's Julian," said the source, who is close to top Clinton officials. "They know the Republicans are making a big push this cycle for the Hispanic vote, so that makes Castro an easy pick — and an obvious pick."

The source said the Clintons still remember that Julian Castro, along with his brother, Joaquin, were early backers of Mrs. Clinton in her 2008 run, and the Clintons are known to pay back their friends, just as they do their foes.

Although Mrs. Clinton is far from clinching the Democratic nomination for president, her path is fairly uncluttered. So far, she faces a 73-year-old senator from Vermont and a one-time governor of Maryland. But the former is a socialist who longs for redistribution of wealth and the latter was once mayor of Baltimore, which imploded in race riots. Neither is seen as a serious threat.

Also in the wings is Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, but the Clinton source said the odds of Mrs. Clinton picking another woman for the ticket are "zero." The source said that also likely eliminates Wendy Davis, the liberal darling of Texas Democrats.

There are a few others that make the shortlist, according to several other top Democrats. Sen. Mark Warner might be able to secure Virginia, as could former Democratic National Committee Chairman Tim Kaine, both men being former governors of the commonwealth.

Jay Nixon, the governor of Missouri, is also mentioned, but the Clinton source laughed that idea off: "You think they'll really put out bumper stickers that say Clinton/Nixon? Good guy, but no chance."

And Evan Bayh, the longtime Indiana politician who served two terms in the Senate, also makes the shortlists of many, but he is a creature of Washington and some Clinton insiders say Mrs. Clinton is looking for an outsider, preferably from a state that isn't a solid Democratic stronghold.

That desire puts a few others in play, like retired Gen. Wesley Clark, who would allay some fears that Mrs. Clinton is weak on defense, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, a former governor of Iowa, home of the first political caucuses of the 2016 campaign.

A new name is also floating around: Martin Heinrich, the 43-year-old senator from New Mexico. For the past several cycles, the Western state has been in play and, more important, his short time in Washington (just two years), along with his youth (Mrs. Clinton is 67) makes him a conceivable running mate.

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Others, like Charlie Crist of Florida or Vice President Joseph R. Biden, are nonstarters. And don't look for Mrs. Clinton to pick a former U.S. president — her husband. No chance.

That leaves Julian Castro at the top of the list. He, too, brings the bloom of youth: At just 40 years old, he's also highly accomplished — a two-term mayor of San Antonio (Democrats are making a play for Texas in 2016) and, most recently, President Obama's pick to be secretary of housing and urban development.

Interestingly, the Castro brothers — twins born to a single mother whose own mother had come across the Mexican border as a 6-year-old orphan — don't speak Spanish. That means at least three Republicans in the race — Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. Marco Rubio and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush — will be the Spanish speakers, but not Mr. Castro.

Mr. Castro brings a slew of desirables. He has declared that "Joaquin and I got into Stanford [University] because of affirmative action," even though he said he scored just 1,210 on my SATs, "which was lower than the median matriculating student." Mrs. Clinton is planning to push affirmative action as a key campaign issue.

More, the Castro brothers are a rags-to-riches story — but always with the help of government, another key tenet of Mrs. Clinton's campaign. And Julian Castro has pushed gay issues throughout his career, an issue dear to Mrs. Clinton.

Julian Castro knows that his moment may soon arrive, but downplays the veep talk.

"At the moment I'm focusing on my role as HUD secretary," he told Buzzfeed. "At the right time later on down the road, I anticipate getting involved. It's clear both parties are going to speak to the Latino community in this cycle. What's also clear is only the Democratic Party has embraced policies that have improved the economic prospects for the Latino community," he said.

He's not a shoo-in, of course, and much will depend on how desperate Mrs. Clinton is a year from now. (Remember Sarah Palin?) But Mr. Castro delivers on all the big issues Mrs. Clinton hopes to hit hard in her campaign, and right now, he seems to be the only talk in Team Clinton Town.

Hillary Clinton email case reopened by federal judge // Washington Times // Stephen Dinan – May 10, 2015

Joint request to turn over messages agreed upon

A federal judge has reopened an open-records case trying to pry loose some of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's emails, marking the first time a court has taken action on the email scandal.

Judge Reggie B. Walton agreed Friday to a joint request by the State Department and Judicial Watch, which sued in 2012 to get a look at some of Mrs. Clinton's documents concerning a public relations push.

Both sides agreed that the revelation that Mrs. Clinton had kept her own email server separate from the government, and exclusively used her own email account created on that server, meant that she had shielded her messages from valid open-records requests.

Now that she has belatedly turned some emails over, the government offered — and Judge Walton confirmed in

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his ruling — that the agency should search them all to see whether any should have been released to Judicial Watch.

“This is the first case that’s been reopened,” Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, said Friday. “It’s a significant development. It points to the fraud by this administration and Mrs. Clinton.”

Judicial Watch has filed a series of open-records requests seeking State Department emails and, when the administration failed to comply, has gone to court to force them. Just last week Judicial Watch filed a new batch of eight lawsuits trying to shake loose some of the secret emails, and said that was just the first round.

The State Department said it doesn’t comment on open-records lawsuits.

Publicly, the department has struggled to handle the inquiries over Mrs. Clinton’s emails.

Officials didn’t acknowledge that there were missing emails until prodded by the House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya. After that prod, the department asked Mrs. Clinton to turn over emails that contained government business.

She provided about 30,000 emails, but said she discarded another 32,000 she deemed weren’t government business, and then wiped the server. She has refused requests by the Benghazi inquiry chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy, South Carolina Republican, to turn the server over to a neutral third party.

On Friday, Mr. Gowdy released an interim report detailing his first year of investigation, citing “obstacles and frustrations” in dealing with the administration. He said they have talked with new witnesses who hadn’t been interviewed by any other Benghazi probe, and had unearthed documents that haven’t been part of other investigations.

But he said Mrs. Clinton’s emails remain a large question mark, and the State Department still hasn’t turned over emails from her senior staff.

“The State Department has told the committee that it cannot certify that it has turned over all documents responsive to the committee’s request regarding the former secretary’s emails,” Mr. Gowdy said in his report.

Mr. Gowdy also hinted that Congress’s investigative powers may be limited when it comes to trying to force a president and his team to come clean.

“The legislative branch’s constitutional toolbox seems inadequate to uphold our task in seeking the truth,” Mr. Gowdy said, pointing to the administration’s unwillingness to serve subpoenas on itself, neutering much of Congress’s investigative power.

Mr. Fitton said that’s why his group’s lawsuits are so critical, saying Congress’s hands are tied and the Justice Department hasn’t committed to conduct an investigation of another part of the Obama administration.

“It’s going to be independent actions by JW at this point,” Mr. Fitton said. “This is how anything is going to break loose.”

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Hillary Clinton in Chinatown; spirituality at Stanford // SF Chronicle // Leah Garchik - May 10, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton was in town for fundraisers, one at the Century Club, hosted by Susie Buell, and the other at the home of Tom and Kat Steyer. She also found time to talk about immigration with Democratic state Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, and urban issues with Mayor Ed Lee, who, as Carla Marinucci wrote, suggested they meet at the Red Blossom Tea Co.

•Tea house proprietor Alice Luong had met the mayor a couple of times, but didn't know until five minutes before he arrived that he'd be having tea there. "I really thought it was just the mayor coming to visit merchants in Chinatown, which he often does. We see him walking around." When Clinton arrived, "we were pretty ecstatic. ... I explained to Madam Secretary that this is how we brew tea, and when we were doing the tasting, she asked quite a lot of questions" about water temperature and tea varieties. "I assume she is a tea drinker," Luong said.

Lee's assistant paid for the Tasting Flight consumed by the mayor and the candidate, and "Madam Secretary's staff" bought some teas to take away. "I think Madam Secretary prefers a stronger, darker tea. We brewed a cup for her to take into the car."

As to the handle by which Luong repeatedly referred to Clinton, "I asked the assistant what I should call her. She's no longer a senator and she's so accomplished. The assistant said, 'Whatever you like.' But we're very Chinese, very traditional. We address her by her post."

•Fervent Clinton supporter Eleni Kounalakis, who'd been on Michael Krasny's "Forum" show that morning, talking about her book, "Madam Ambassador," attended the Buell event. She was surprised when Clinton greeted her with, "Eleni, I heard you on the radio this morning!" The candidate's either got an amazing ability to multitask or a very efficient staff.

•The Steyer event started at 11 in the morning. By 4 p.m., he was cool and composed, as though he'd had nothing else to do that day, giving a reading from Ezekiel at Stanford's Memorial Hall. And more about that below.

The Stanford event was the investiture of the Rev. Professor Jane Shaw as dean for religious life. Shaw, who got her doctorate at UC Berkeley, was at Oxford when she was hired as dean of Grace Cathedral, a job that brought her back to the Bay Area. At Stanford, she will teach in the department of religious studies as well as preside as dean, providing what Stanford President John Hennessy said was "ethical and spiritual leadership for the university."

The church, built in 1903, is filled with stained glass and curved wooden ornamentation; it feels warm, welcoming. Every aspect of the investiture ceremonies, which included multifaith prayers and music by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, seemed to flow from the passage read by Steyer, which refers to the possibility of giving new life to dry bones, that is, healing misery and renewing hope.

Shaw's friend Anna Deavere Smith delivered a sermon referring to Baltimore, her hometown, as a "city of dry bones. ... Everything is rubble now from the streets of my youth." Police, she said, have had to do the "dirtiest work of all," and now it is time for others to tackle poverty, despair, no matter how uncertain they are of solutions. "If we wait for clarity, it will never happen. 'Confidence,' I tell students, 'is overrated. Give doubt a try.'"

At Stanford, said Hennessy, "real smart and ethical people are working to solve the world's problems. ... Jane made us realize we need complex answers to complex questions." Then he draped around Shaw's neck a white silk scarf he had received from the Dalai Lama, and poof, she was thereby invested.

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In another part of the program, undergrad Elizabeth Woodson had read from a Quaker text, proposing the goal of allowing “the stranger and the things we find strange, let themselves do and be who they are.” So after the ceremonies, when we went outside for drinks and cookies, including S-shaped ones covered with dyed red sugar, although I wondered if Berkeley foodies would stand for blue-dyed confections, I just let those cookies be what they were, and gobbled one right down.

And as Steyer and Woodson said — I’m told this is a tradition in high Protestant churches — here ends the reading.

Can Clinton pull off a hat-trick of Democrat wins? // BBC News // Nick Bryant – May 11, 2015

Not since the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S Truman have the Democrats won three presidential victories in a row.

The 2016 election presents the party with a rare opportunity to pull off a historic hat-trick.

America's political geography gives the Democrats an enormous advantage.

So, too, does the country's changing demography, because constituencies that favour the Democrats are growing in electoral influence.

Despite the Republicans' current strength in congressional and gubernatorial politics - presently, the GOP holds the House of Representatives and the Senate, along with 31 governors' mansions - the party is weak in presidential politics.

It has lost four of the past six presidential elections. In five of those, the Democrats have won the popular vote.

The "blue wall" is especially advantageous.

That is the name given to the 18 states, as well as the District of Columbia, that have voted Democrat in every presidential election since Bill Clinton's first victory in 1992.

Democratic Blue Wall:

California (55), Connecticut (7), Delaware (3), Hawai'i (4), Illinois (20), Maine (4), Maryland (10), Massachusetts (11), Michigan (16), Minnesota (10), New Jersey (14), New York (29), Oregon (7), Pennsylvania (20), Rhode Island (4), Vermont (3), Washington (12), Washington DC (3), Wisconsin (10).

What makes the blue wall such a towering edifice is the size of its building blocks: some of the country's most populous states, like California, New York, Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey.

To win the Electoral College, the institution that elects the president on a state-by-state basis, the victorious candidate requires 270 votes.

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Strong core support

For the past six elections, the states that make up the blue wall have yielded 242, just 28 short of the target.

The Republicans have a wall of their own: 13 states that have voted for the GOP's presidential candidate in the past six elections.

But those states amount for only 102 Electoral College votes between them.

To some, then, the "Red wall" looks more like a flimsy picket fence.

line

Republican Red Wall:

Alabama (9), Alaska (3), Idaho (4), Kansas (6), Mississippi (6), Nebraska (5), North Dakota (3), Oklahoma (7), South Carolina (9), South Dakota (3), Texas (38), Utah (6), Wyoming (3).

line

The Blue Wall is by no means insurmountable.

Though it held firm at the 2000 and 2004 elections, George W Bush emerged the victor.

Many of these blue states, like New Jersey, Massachusetts and Illinois, have Republican governors, and the GOP has not given up hope of turning them red.

Pennsylvania, with its 20 Electoral College votes, is particularly high on the their target list.

But the wall does grant the Democrats an inbuilt advantage in the Electoral College.

Just consider this statistic. Since 1992, the Republicans have achieved an average of 211 Electoral College votes. The Democrats' average is 327.

Demographic advantage

Demographics also appear to favour the Democrats: the support they are now receiving from minorities, Millennials (voters under 30) and women.

The Democrats have opened up a huge lead among minority voters, a growing and increasingly important part of the electorate.

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At the last presidential election, 71% of Latinos voted for Barack Obama, up from 67% in 2008. Some 73% of Asian-Americans also voted Democrat, along with 93% of African-Americans.

Younger voters, who tend to be more liberal-minded on issues like same-sex marriage and immigration, are also leaning towards the Democrats.

Some two-thirds of Millennials voted for Obama in 2012.

A majority of women have also favoured the Democrats in recent presidential elections. Fifty-five per cent of women voted for Obama in 2012, while the figure for unmarried women was even higher at 67%, partly because the Republican Party has become associated with restrictions on abortion.

Obviously all is not lost for the GOP, not least because the party has demographic advantages of its own.

In 2012, 59% of white voters plumbed for Mitt Romney. Among the so-called silent generation, those born between 1925 and 1945, the Republicans have a lead of 47% to 43%. But America is becoming less white, and that presents problems for the Republicans.

Their prime strategy since the civil rights era of the 1960s, after all, has been to target white voters, regardless of their income levels.

Obama support

Next year, the GOP will be hoping that the so-called "Obama coalition" of minorities, Millennials and women, does not become the "Hillary Coalition," if, as expected, she wins the Democratic presidential nomination.

Black voters will not turn out in such high numbers for Hillary, they reckon.

The GOP also hopes to make inroads into a Latino vote deterred from backing Republicans because of the party's tough line on immigration.

Hillary Clinton

Can Hillary Clinton follow her husband into the White House?

Party strategists believe there is truth in Ronald Reagan's famous observation: "Latinos are Republicans. They just don't know it yet."

As for the Millennials, a string of recent polls suggest that their support for the Democrats is waning - although a survey conducted in April by the Harvard Institute of Politics suggested that 55% of voters under the age of 30 would prefer the White House to remain in Democratic hands.

There are Democrats who believe that the Hillary coalition could be even more formidable than the Obama coalition.

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Campaigning to become America's first female president, she will hope to attract higher levels of support from white women, more than half of whom voted Republican in 2012.

She might attract more male white voters than Obama.

Yet Democrats run the risk of over-confidence, a mistake made by Republicans following the back-to-back victories of George W Bush.

In those heady days, strategists like Karl Rove spoke assuredly of an emergent permanent Republican majority, only to see Obama score two victories.

More recently, GOP morale has been boosted by the work of the political journalist John Judis, who predicted at the start of the century an "emerging Democratic majority".

In January, Judis penned a revisionist essay headlined "The Emerging Republican Advantage," which argued that the Republican triumph at last November's congressional mid-term elections was "the latest manifestation of a resurgent Republican coalition".

White vote

The Republicans were even more dominant among white voters, he observed, which was problematic for the Democrats because they still required between 36% and 40% of the white working-class vote to win the presidential election.

But it is always a mistake to equate strength in congressional politics with success in presidential politics.

Between 1968 and 1992, for instance, the Democrats dominated the House of Representatives.

For that entire era, a Democrat sat in the powerful speaker's chair.

But during that era, the Democrats won just one presidential election, when Jimmy Carter edged out Gerald Ford in 1976.

The electorate that votes in congressional elections is different in size and make-up to that which turns out in presidential polls.

History suggests it will be hard to win three consecutive victories.

Since the war, the Republicans have only managed it once, when George Herbert Walker Bush followed Ronald Reagan into the White House.

Could Hillary Clinton do what no Democrat has done for more than 65 years?

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Hillary for New Hampshire open house grassroots event at The Met on Saturday // The Conway Daily Sun // Lloyd Jones - May 8, 2015

Hillary Clinton isn't planning to be in the Granite State this weekend, but that hasn't stopped her supporters from scheduling a meeting to plot campaign strategy for the Democrat front-runner to become the party's nominee for the presidency.

Hillary for New Hampshire's supporters and volunteers is hosting a grassroots open house on Saturday at 11:15 a.m. in the meeting room at The Met Coffee House in North Conway Village.

"We're doing this in all 10 counties," Harrell Kirstein, spokesperson for Hillary for New Hampshire, said by phone Thursday. "This will be the Hillary Clinton campaign's first event in Conway."

Kirstein, who was campaign communications director for Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's successful re-election campaign last year, said that at the open houses, "Hillary for New Hampshire will ask volunteers to activate and organize friends and neighbors in their community to take part in this campaign.

"This grassroots organizing series," he said, "will be a chance for longtime friends of Hillary's to reengage in her campaign, as well as a welcome invitation for new supporters to get involved for the first time."

Clinton announced April 12 that she is running for president, and she immediately became the front-runner, not only for the Democrats, but for the Oval Office.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is also seeking the nomination from the Democrats. He entered the race April 30, and actually made a campaign stop in Mount Washington Valley 48 hours later, on May 2, speaking at the White Mountain Hotel in Hale's Location.

The Republican field doubled to six prominent GOP hopefuls this week when Carly Fiorina, the former chairman and chief executive officer of Hewlett-Packard; Ben Carson, the director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas and FOX news host, all threw their hats into the ring days apart.

The trio join Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas, who announced he was running March 23), Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky., announced April 7), and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla., announced April 30).

None of the GOP candidates since announcing has visited the valley, although Paul, who was the Carroll County Republican Committee's Lincoln Day Dinner keynote speaker on March 20, gave strong indications then he was leaning towards a run.

"I think things are starting to get interesting," Kirstein said of the presidential race.

Kirstein said members of the public can sign up at hillaryclinton.com/newhampshire to receive more information on open houses and other events happening in New Hampshire. Full details on other open houses will be released ahead of individual events.

Clinton's use of 'super PAC' pushes limits of campaign finance law // Sentinel Source // Evan Halper - May 8, 2015

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Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign team had hoped to frame her trip hopscotching through the mansions of some of California's deepest-pocketed donors this week as an exercise in modesty, highlighting the relatively low price of a ticket to the events as a reflection of her commitment to cultivating the grass roots.

But that narrative quickly unraveled when word got out that the candidate was also using the California trip as an occasion to begin courting an entirely different group.

Clinton, who has emphasized campaign finance reform in the early stage of her latest White House bid, has apparently already decided the modest approach alone won't be enough. She is going after much bigger checks, much sooner, and in a much more aggressive way than her campaign had revealed.

The candidate will be pushing the boundaries of campaign finance law further than any Democratic presidential contender ever has by directly asking donors to give to a friendly "super PAC" that can raise unlimited amounts of campaign cash from donors, according to a person familiar with her plans.

That effort started in California on Wednesday, when Clinton met in San Francisco with potential donors of the organization, Priorities USA Action. She had another meeting in Los Angeles on Thursday.

Clinton's plans to raise money for Priorities USA was first reported by The New York Times. Campaign officials aren't commenting.

Clinton would not be the first contender in this year's race to go after such cash. On the Republican side, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has been soliciting checks for as much as $1 million for his super PAC. Candidates avoided such activity in the 2012 race, adhering to a law that says they cannot coordinate directly with the groups. (Bush, though, has not yet declared his candidacy and is free to work with the group until he does so.)

But the increasingly permissive approach of the Federal Election Commission, whose members are deadlocked over the question of how candidates can and cannot engage with super PACs, is leading the presidential contenders to take ever bolder approaches. Clinton supporters say she is caught up in a campaign arms race and she has no choice but to use the tools her opponents have at their disposal.

Still, the quick shift on fundraising puts Clinton in an awkward position.

"Just three weeks ago, Hillary Clinton decried unaccountable money in politics and even called for amending the Constitution to ban it," said Jeff Bechdel, communications director for America Rising, a conservative research group. "Today, she announced she's going to personally court donors and raise money for her own super PAC. … Clinton's hypocrisy knows no bounds."

The California trip was supposed to be a chance for Clinton to showcase a more modest approach to fundraising, one that squared with what she promised would be a campaign that is humble, lean and focused on the values of everyday Americans. Even though the events were to be held in the homes of billionaires and mega-millionaires, donors were not to give more than $2,700.

Those who want to give more than that can encourage others to give checks, becoming what's known as a campaign bundler. Clinton's campaign calls its bundlers "Hillstarters," and those designated as such get perks that include invites to receptions with the candidate. Clinton is making it much easier to get in this circle of fundraisers than she did eight years ago, when supporters had to raise $100,000. Now, they need only to generate $27,000 for the campaign.

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The Clinton Foundation's Behind-the-Scenes Battle With a Charity Watchdog Group // NY Mag // Gabriel Sherman - May 10, 2015

Last Wednesday, Bill Clinton ratcheted up Clintonworld's counter assault on Clinton Cash, the book by conservative author Peter Schweizer that ignited the latest media frenzy over the former First Couple's $2 billion foundation. "There's just no evidence," Clinton defiantly told CNN's Christiane Amanpour, during an interview at the Foundation's confab in Morocco. "Even the guy that wrote the book apparently had to admit under questioning that we didn't have a shred of evidence for this, we just sort of thought we would throw it out there and see if it flies, and it won't fly."

Clinton's analysis is flawed in at least one regard. As my colleagueJonathan Chait recently wrote, the Clintons' web of murky relationships and opaque finances exacts a political cost whether or not their critics ever find a there there. The Clintons, more than anyone, should know that negative press — true or not — can have potentially catastrophic consequences. Remember, it was David Brock's 1993 American Spectatorarticle alleging that Arkansas State Troopers arranged Bill's trysts which sparked Paula Jones's sexual harassment lawsuit, which led to the Supreme Court case, which led to Monica Lewinsky lying under oath about the affair, which led Linda Tripp to turn the tapes over to Ken Starr, which led to impeachment.

Related Stories

The Disastrous Clinton Post-PresidencyIf This Is the Best Defense of the Clinton Foundation, She's in Trouble

The Clinton Foundation scandal cycle is already spinning off new complications. A case in point: After being the subject of a spate of negative newspaper accounts about potential conflicts of interest and management dysfunction this winter — long before Clinton Cash — the Clinton Foundation wound up on a "watchlist" maintained by the Charity Navigator, the New Jersey-based nonprofit watchdog. The Navigator, dubbed the "most prominent" nonprofit watchdog by the Chronicle of Philanthropy, is a powerful and feared player in the nonprofit world. Founded in 2002, it ranks more than 8,000 charities and is known for its independence. For a while, the Clinton Foundation was happy to promote Charity Navigator's work (back when they were awarded its highest ranking). In September 2014, in fact, the Navigator's then-CEO, Ken Berger, was invited to speak at the Clinton Global Initiative. Of course that was before the Foundation was placed on a list with scandal-plagued charities like Al Sharpton's National Action Network and the Red Cross.

Since March, the Foundation has embarked on an aggressive behind-the-scenes campaign to get removed from the list. Clinton Foundation officials accuse the Navigator of unfairly targeting them, lacking credible evidence of wrongdoing, and blowing off numerous requests for a meeting to present their case. "They're not only punishing us for being transparent but are not being transparent themselves," Maura Pally, the Foundation's acting-CEO, told me by phone from Morocco last week. "Charity Navigator doesn't disclose its donors but we do and yet that means we're suffering the consequences."

Navigator executives counter that the Foundation has demanded they extend the Clintons special treatment. They also allege the Foundation attempted to strong-arm them by calling a Navigator board member. "They felt they were of such importance that we should deviate from our normal process. They were irritated by that," says Berger.

The feud is a microcosm of all that is exhausting about the Clintons' endless public battles. Generally, it goes like this: bad press about their lack of transparency sparks some real world consequence or censure, the Clintons complain that they're being held to an unfair standard while their critics contend that they expect to be able to write their own rules, and the resulting flare-up leads to more bad press.

The trouble with Navigator started on Wednesday morning, March 11. Foundation officials became alarmed when they received an anonymous email from the watchdog's Donor Advisory committee informing them they would be

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added to the list on Friday, March 13, unless they could provide answers to questions raised in newspaper accounts. Among the press controversies the Navigator cited: A Wall Street Journal report that noted "at least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department during [Hillary Clinton's] tenure donated a total of more than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation." Politico, meanwhile, revealed that the Foundation failed to report to the State Department a $500,000 donation from the Algerian government, a violation of the ethics agreement the Clintons had arranged with the Obama White House. Politico also reported that the Foundation's former CEO, Eric Braverman, quit after a "power struggle" with "the coterie of Clinton loyalists who have surrounded the former president for decades."

With the publication of Clinton Cash on the horizon, Clintonworld surely knew landing on the Navigator's watchlist would be a public relations debacle. By early March, Clinton campaign officials were holding regular war room meetings to orchestrate their defense against the book. Over the next few days, Foundation officials desperately attempted to contact Navigator executives to rebut their claims but, inexplicably, couldn't get through to anyone on the phone. On the evening of Friday, March 13, Pally sent a detailed email rebuttal. "All of the other organizations on your watchlist have had substantiated allegations of financial, fiscal or other impropriety," she wrote, according to an email the Foundation provided toNew York. "The stories you cite about the Clinton Foundation merely point to donations, or gossip around our operations, none of which constitute any wrongdoing."

It didn't work. During a tense phone conversation on the afternoon of March 17, Pally and Berger argued over the merits of the media's claims about the Foundation. Pally said they were without substance; Berger insisted that since the newspapers published the articles, they were relevant. "Our whole thing is: if major media outlets say there's something here that you should be aware of, we're not going to be judge and jury on what the media says," Berger later told me. "We felt there had been enough questions." As a matter of practice, the Navigator doesn't conduct its own investigations. On its website, they state: "Charity Navigator…takes no position on allegations made or issues raised by third parties, nor does Charity Navigator seek to confirm or verify the accuracy of allegations made or the merits of issues raised by third parties that may be referred to in the CN Watchlist."

The Navigator invited the Foundation to respond publicly on their website. Instead, Pally asked Berger to meet and review confidential copies of the Foundation's handbook, "Global Code of Conduct," and board bylaws. Berger declined, feeling it was another effort of back-room dealing and spin. "We were not opposed to having a sit-down meeting. The point was, what is it that we're going to cover? We've already been around the block. What's the value of this?"

Last week, after I contacted the Foundation about being on the watchlist, Pally rekindled talks with the Navigator. "I remain at a loss as to what information we can provide to address Charity Navigator's concerns and be removed from the Watchlist," she wrote Tim Gamory, the Navigator's acting CEO. (Berger left the group last month to start his own consulting business.)

Sure enough, the watchlist designation has provided Clinton's antagonists with more ammunition with which to attack Hillary's campaign. Already, critics are citing Charity Navigator's list as a reason to open a federal investigation into the Clintons' finances. For its part, the Clinton camp sees the episode as another reason to feel aggrieved. But even some Clinton advisers have been frustrated that they don't appear to have learned from past self-inflicted wounds. One source told me that last year, a senior adviser lobbied the Foundation to appoint a Republican co-chairman to its board, which was stacked with Clinton loyalists. The adviser submitted a list of GOP names. "It was to shield [the Clintons] from the things they're reading about now," the source said. "It didn't happen."

Unfortunately for Hillary's campaign, the Navigator's policy is that charities that land on the list stay there for a minimum of six months. Sandra Miniutti, the Navigator's spokesperson, told me that, in order to get off the list, the Clintons need to publicly address each of the controversies raised by the media with a convincing response.

The clock is ticking.

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Under pressure, Clinton Foundation's Canadian arm reveals 21 donors // McClatchy // Greg Gordon - May 10, 2015

WASHINGTON — Under pressure to lift the veil of secrecy over who bankrolled his Canadian charity that's affiliated with the Clinton Foundation, Vancouver-based mining mogul Frank Giustra late Friday released the names of 21 of its largest donors, most with connections to the mining and oil-drilling industries.

The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership (Canada) did not list the amounts of the various donations. It said it only disclosed the identities of those leading contributors who provided written authorization, while releasing a second legal opinion asserting that under Canadian law, the rest of its 1,100 contributors should be kept confidential unless they agree to be identified.

Those named include Giustra, a major Clinton Foundation benefactor who has forged a globetrotting philanthropic partnership with former President Bill Clinton, Giustra's estranged wife, Alison Lawton, and his family foundation.

The partnership's secrecy has triggered controversy because the contributors' money ultimately benefited the U.S.-based foundation that Clinton built into a global force to fight poverty and disease, posing possible undisclosed conflicts of interest for his wife, Hillary Clinton, during her tenure as secretary of state between 2009 and 2013.

Disclosures about these entanglements — and questions about whether some are being concealed — are now dogging Hillary Clinton as she seeks the Democratic presidential nomination.

Before she took office, the Clinton Foundation agreed to disclose all of its donors and to limit donations from foreign governments. On its website, the foundation lists the names of more than 300,000 donors, organizing them by dollar ranges, and says it will update the list quarterly during her presidential candidacy.

The Canadian affiliate said Friday it has taken no donations from foreign governments.

While Giustra says the Canadian partnership turns over all of its revenue to the Clinton Foundation, it operates as a separate entity. Giustra said this week that $16 million of the money was raised at a star-studded 2008 gala on Toronto's waterfront, which was attended by some 1,200 people.

Most of the donors identified Friday fit into a tight ring of Giustra's present and former mining industry friends, associates and financiers.

Prominent among those listed was Ian Telfer, whose company, Uranium One, swallowed Giustra's firm, handing him windfall profits, after it won the right to mine key uranium deposits in Kazakhstan and in the United States. The New York Times has reported that Giustra's UrAsia Energy Inc. consummated a deal for the Kazakhstan deposits in 2005, days after Giustra and Bill Clinton met with the country's president, though Giustra has contended the purchase would have gone forward anyway.

Public records reviewed by McClatchy show that Telfer's Fernwood Foundation, which also was among those named, donated $2.45 million to the Clinton Giustra Canadian partnership over several years.

Sergey Kurzin, a Russian-born engineer who has publicly taken credit for arranging the meeting involving Clinton and Kazakhstan's president, also acknowledged donating. The Toronto Globe and Mail reported in 2008 that Kurzin pledged $1 million at the gala. Kurzin also gave $50,000 to $100,000 directly to the Clinton Foundation.

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However, the biggest donors to the Canada partnership were Giustra, who has pledged $100 million to the Clinton Foundation and donated more than $30 million directly so far, and his Radcliffe Foundation, which gave more than $18 million between 2007 and 2013, according to public records.

Others on the list include:

—Pacific Rubiales Energy Corp., a Canadian petroleum firm in which Giustra invested and which pursued drilling interests in Colombia.

—Gran Colombia Gold Corp., a Canadian firm with mining interests in the South American nation.

—Endeavour Mining Corp., a Canadian-based gold mining firm, and its chief executive officer, Neil Woodyer.

—Stephen Dattels, a British-based mining industry financier.

—GMP Securities, LP, a Canadian firm that has been instrumental in underwriting mining ventures.

—B2Gold Corp., a Canadian gold-mining firm.

—Sam Magid, a former business Giustra business partner.

—The London-based Dragon Group of companies, which deal in silver, copper and diamonds.

For the Clintons, a big question: What to do with Bill? // WaPo // Phillip Rucker - May 10, 2015

MARRAKESH, Morocco — The scene that unfolded here last week as Bill Clinton convened world leaders for a philanthropic conference was hardly what his wife's champion-for-everyday-Americans campaign would have ordered up.

Gathered in Marrakesh for a Clinton Global Initiative confab, foreign oligarchs and corporate titans mingled amid palm trees, decorative pools and dazzling tiled courtyards with the former president and his traveling delegation of foundation donors — many of whom are also donors to Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign.

When daughter Chelsea moderated a discussion on women's empowerment, the only male panelist was Morocco's richest person, Othman Benjelloun, whose BMCE Bank is a CGI sponsor. For the week's biggest party, guests were chauffeured across the city to an opulent 56-room palace that boasts a private collection of Arabian horses, overlooks the snow-capped Atlas Mountains and serves a fine-dining menu of "biolight" cuisine.

Ahead of that event, Bill Clinton greeted Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal. "See you tonight, Turki," he told his royal highness.

It was a long way from Hillary Clinton's campaign-trail visits to Chipotle. The luxe week in Morocco highlighted the overarching question facing the Clintons and their coexisting circles of political advisers: What to do with Bill?

The question applies not only to the campaign but also to his role as first gentleman if she gets elected.

In a presidential race that could include two dozen candidates, none has a spouse like Bill Clinton — a former president whose sprawling charitable ventures are rife with potential conflicts of interest; an admired public figure whose common touch propelled his rise but who now charges up to $500,000 to give a speech; a curious ideas man whose penchant for speaking his mind drives news cycles; and a globe-trotting icon whose recognizable tuft of white hair draws onlookers everywhere, from his old Arkansas haunts to the bustling souks around Marrakesh's central square.

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Bill Clinton is a political animal who logged 168,000 miles on the campaign trail in 2014. Yet senior aides say he does not plan to do any campaign activities for his wife in 2015, including fundraisers for her campaign or allied super PACs. He has said privately that she should lead the campaign on her own, aides said.

“He’s completely focused right now on the foundation,” said Tina Flournoy, Bill Clinton’s chief of staff. “That does not mean that he does not realize his wife is running for president. But he is not directly engaged in the campaign. As he has said before, if his advice is asked for, he’s happy to give it.”

But even if he’s off the campaign trail, Bill Clinton is never out of the limelight. He will remain prominent in the public eye with a busy schedule of appearances, including visits this week to a Harlem food festival and next month to Little Rock for a charity ball. In mid-June, he will be in Denver to host CGI America, a domestic-themed spinoff of his foundation conference.

On Tuesday, he’ll be on the “Late Show with David Letterman.”

He will also speak for pay at Univision’s presentation to advertisers in New York on Tuesday. The prominent Spanish-language television network is owned in part by Haim Saban, a foundation and campaign donor who hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton last week at his Beverly Hills mansion.

One strategist said Hillary Clinton, shown here with Bill Clinton and former senator Tom Harkin, should not campaign with her husband: “It’s hard to shine when you’re standing next to the sun.” (Charlie Neibergall/ Associated Press)

“Bill Clinton is like nuclear energy,” said David Axelrod, a strategist on President Obama’s campaigns. “If you use it properly, it can be enormously helpful and proactive. If you misuse it, it can be catastrophic.”

‘A supporting spouse’

Keeping the former president at a distance is one way the 2016 Clinton campaign is trying to prove it has learned from the mistakes of 2008. Although as her aides know well, it is impossible to truly isolate him from her campaign.

“He is a very smart political strategist and practitioner,” said Ann Lewis, a longtime Hillary Clinton adviser. “He has never thought that politics is beneath him. He believes that politics is the way that we govern ourselves.”

Bill Clinton has many assets. He is universally known and unusually popular; 73 percent of voters approved of his job performance as president in a Washington Post-ABC News poll in March, while his personal favorability rating stood at 65 percent in a CNN-ORC poll in March. He also is considered one of the Democratic Party’s most talented communicators; his 2012 convention speech was a standout moment in support of Obama’s reelection.

“Any conversation about Bill Clinton and his impact on the campaign has to start with the fact that Americans like him and they’ve liked him for a long time,” said Geoff Garin, a pollster for Hillary Clinton’s 2008 campaign who now works for Priorities USA, a pro-Clinton super PAC.

But as Bill Clinton showed in 2008, he can be an undisciplined and rogue surrogate. Some of the ugliest episodes in his wife’s campaign were his making, including his stray remarks about Obama that angered black voters in South Carolina and his behind-the-scenes meddling in the campaign’s strategy.

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Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), who feuded with Bill Clinton in 2008 over what he saw as race-baiting, said in a recent interview that the former president should be “a supporting spouse” this time around.

“He should refrain from doing anything or saying anything that would take the attention off of her candidacy,” said Clyburn, who has not endorsed anyone in the 2016 race. “It’s got to be about Hillary. It’s got to be about her vision, and he’s got to be supportive of that.”

Axelrod, recalling the Clintons’ joint appearance in the fall at retiring Sen. Tom Harkin’s steak fry in Iowa, said it would be foolish for the them to campaign together regularly. “It’s hard to shine when you’re standing next to the sun,” he said recently. “He’s a luminescent character, and it is diminishing to have him out there at her side.”

Aides insisted that Bill Clinton is not calling up campaign aides, devouring polls or mapping out strategies. The campaign has no “Bill whisperer” tasked with managing him, although Flournoy is in regular contact with top aides at Hillary Clinton’s Brooklyn headquarters. The former president also has long-standing relationships with campaign chairman John D. Podesta and other advisers.

The Clintons speak to each other often, sometimes multiple times a day, but usually about personal matters and rarely about the nity-gritty of her race, aides said. Some days, he doesn’t know where she’s campaigning. And on the Africa trip, he was more attuned to the British elections — glued to the BBC — than to her campaign.

One afternoon in April, Bill Clinton looked up at a television in his midtown Manhattan office and saw the grainy security-camera photo of his wife and her aide, Huma Abedin, at a Chipotle in Ohio, appearing incognito in dark sunglasses. He turned to aides and wondered, “What are she and Huma doing? Are they robbing that place?”

Far away, but still making news

As Hillary Clinton raised money in California last week, Bill Clinton was about as far away as he could get, visiting the family foundation’s projects in Africa and convening the CGI meeting in Morocco.

Yet he was still making big headlines. In an interview with NBC News in Kenya, he appeared testy while defending the foundation’s foreign fundraising. He also said he would continue giving six-figure paid speeches: “I’ve got to pay our bills,” he said, sounding out of touch, considering he has reported earning $105 million in speaking fees over 12 years.

There were other awkward moments as well. As Bill Clinton wrapped up the CGI meeting in Morocco, a top Coca-Cola executive joined him onstage to announce a $4.5 million program to help African youths obtain job skills and career counseling.

Then Curtis A. Ferguson, the company’s regional president, shifted to the sales pitch. “I hope they’re thirsty,” he said, referring to the young Africans. Then he said he wanted to “share a Coke with Bill,” pulling out a Coke bottle inscribed with the former president’s first name in Arabic. They posed for photos holding the bottle, smiling.

But much of the Africa trip — which stretched for 10 days and included stops in Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia and Morocco — was aimed at showcasing the good works of the foundation and its partners.

At a hearing-aid fitting in Kenya, Bill Clinton witnessed a young man hearing the voice of his sister for the first

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time. In Tanzania, he met farmer Wazia Chawala, a single mother with seven children, who with foundation help has improved crop yields with modern soil, seed and crop-rotation techniques.

Clinton also visited a drab Nairobi laboratory, where he listened to a presentation on tracking carbon emissions and rainfall patterns so farmers could improve their yields. When he asked the donors with him if they had any questions, Drew Houston, the chief executive of Dropbox, asked, “What were your biggest technical challenges?”

For Clinton and his staff, it was a proud moment of synergy — the founder of one of the world’s largest cloud-computing companies asking a Kenyan lab technician a question about uploading data to the cloud.

Clinton, who declined a request to be interviewed for this report, is grappling with what the future might hold. He is continuing to raise money for the foundation, where his daughter has assumed a greater leadership role. Last year, the foundation raised a $250 million endowment to provide long-term stability in his absence.

His advisers understand that the foundation’s activities could complicate a Hillary Clinton presidency.

“In his heart and mind, I think he wants there to always be a scenario where his foundation is doing the work that he’s deeply invested in,” Flournoy said. “How does that look, and what does experience and time and history mean you might have to change? We don’t know. But this is his life’s work.”

‘What does she want me to do?’

Bill Clinton says his role would be determined by his wife. “What does she want me to do?” he said in an interview last week with CNN’s Christiane Amanpour. “I have no idea.”

One option is that Hillary Clinton could draft him as a special envoy somewhere or give him a portfolio in her administration. He is continually fascinated by science, aides said, and lately has been thinking about creating a fairer economy. He also has talked about bringing together corporate partners to rebuild Baltimore after last month’s riots.

A return of the Clintons to the White House would also usher in a blurring of traditional gender roles, not to mention titles: Bill Clinton’s aides still refer to him as “the president.”

“Even if he were assigned the responsibility of picking out china, I think others would probably overrule him on taste,” said Skip Rutherford, a longtime adviser and friend. “People used to kid him about picking out his crazy ties. I can’t imagine.”

The closest historical parallel is Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. During Franklin’s presidency, Eleanor earned personal income from paid speeches, newspaper columns and a weekly radio show, which was sponsored by Simmons mattresses, said Carl Anthony, a historian at the National First Ladies’ Library. He said she gave most of her income to the March of Dimes Foundation, which her husband founded to combat polio.

“She made a lot of money on her own, but not without a congressional investigation and media attacks on her commercializing the presidency,” Anthony said.

Fred Wertheimer, president of the reform group Democracy 21, said the couple should completely withdraw from

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the charity if Hillary Clinton wins: “Change the name of the foundation, and make a clean break.”

Foundation supporters believe otherwise.

“It would probably be one of the greatest wastes of human talent in the history of the world” for Bill Clinton to withdraw, said Jay Jacobs, a major donor who traveled with him to Africa. “How do you say to these poor farmers, to mothers whose children can’t hear, ‘Sorry, no more because politics can’t abide by it?’ That would be morally wrong.”

Paul: Clinton made Libya a 'jihadist wonderland' // The Hill // Mark Hensch - May 10, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) argued Sunday that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s policies had created a terrorist utopia in Libya.

“Hillary Clinton’s war in Libya, I think, made it less safe,” Paul told host John Catsimatidis on his New York radio show “The Cats Roundtable.”

“It was a big mistake for us to go in there in the first place, because a lot of the times when we topple secular dictators, we’ve gotten chaos and then we’ve gotten the rise of radical Islam,” he said of Clinton’s decision in 2011 to help oust then-Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

“It made it a hotbed for jihadists,” Paul added. “And, in fact, I Libya is now a jihadist wonderland.”

Paul’s harsh criticism comes as the 2016 presidential race first heats up.

The Kentucky lawmaker is seeking the GOP nomination, while Clinton is pursuing the Democratic bid.

Paul on Sunday additionally touted his liberty credentials as the best in the entire 2016 field.

“I’m one of the few in the race that thinks that we need to defend the country, but sometimes being involved in foreign war doesn’t help us,” he said.

“And I’m one of the few who thinks we need to talk about defending the entire Bill of Rights, not just a couple of ones cherry-picked here and there,” Paul said.

Paul said among the GOP contenders, he stood out for his opposition to the nation’s current intelligence policies.

“I’m probably the only Republican in the race who thinks that the government shouldn’t be collecting all of our phone records … without a warrant,” he said.

“I want to be a part of the leave-me-alone coalition, which basically says if you’re not hurting anybody, the government, particularly the federal government, ought to stay out of your life,” Paul added.

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Paul's remarks followed a federal appeals court ruling Thursday that the bulk warrantless collection of phone records by the National Security Agency was illegal.

The GOP senator hailed that judgment Friday as a "monumental decision for all lovers of liberty."

He vowed Sunday to continue his work on privacy rights while still making progress on what he saw as the average American's real concern.

"The top three issues are the debt, the debt and the debt," Paul said.

Hillary's Immigration // Iowa Starting Line // Pat Rynard - May 10, 2015

Progressives who decry Hillary Clinton as insufficiently liberal have increasingly fewer examples to point to. This week while in Nevada, Clinton staked out very progressive views on immigration, calling for a full pathway to citizenship, supporting executive actions that are to the left of President Obama's stances, and signaled strong protection for DREAMers. Immigration activists were absolutely ecstatic with her remarks. Some in the party's left who distrust Clinton won't believe it, but her words and the forcefulness in which she delivered them is a big deal.

It's also a fascinating look into Clinton's electoral strategy. If she wanted to, she could play it safe on certain issues and run a centrist campaign to win over what's left of America's swing voters. This is clearly a play at building upon the same coalition of young and ethnically diverse people that Obama used for his victories. Her immigration stance could rejuvenate Hispanic support for Democrats, many of whom have felt burned by Obama's presidency, a time during which his administration has deported more people than any one before him. All of this is very, very good news on both the policy side of things, but also on the electoral side of the future of the Democratic Party.

If Clinton wins White House, an uncertain future awaits her family's charitable foundation // AP // Julie Pace – May 11, 2015

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton's family foundation, already the subject of intense scrutiny in the early days of her White House campaign, faces an uncertain future if she is elected president.

Among the unresolved questions: Who would be able to raise money for the Clinton Foundation? Could it begin new projects, both at home and overseas? Is there any way it could operate unburdened by conflicts of interest, real or perceived, while one of its founders sits in the Oval Office?

"I'm not sure the rules have been invented to apply to this situation," said Diana Aviv, president of Independent Sector, a network of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs.

While Clinton stepped down from the foundation's board after launching her 2016 campaign, husband Bill and daughter Chelsea still hold leadership roles. They currently have no plans to stop their fundraising and management activities during the campaign, nor is there a blueprint for their involvement if Hillary Clinton wins the election, people close to the foundation said.

Options being considered include Chelsea Clinton taking the helm, with her father playing a more behind-the-

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scenes role; fully banning the acceptance of donations from abroad; and implementing a more rigorous vetting process for domestic donors.

Neither the foundation nor Clinton's campaign will pledge publicly to give voters answers about the organization's future before the November 2016 election, but some people close to the Clintons want decisions made before Election Day.

The people close to the Clintons and the foundation spoke on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to speak publicly about internal planning.

Campaign officials are also pushing the Clinton Foundation to be more aggressive in answering the criticism of its high-dollar fundraising. The organization has raised more than $2 billion since former President Bill Clinton left office, money it uses to run 11 initiatives focused on global health, climate change, economic development, wellness and opportunities for women and girls.

That aggressive fundraising is currently the subject of intense scrutiny, as Republicans and others look for potential conflicts of interests and signs that donors to the foundation sought to influence the Obama administration during Hillary Clinton's four years as secretary of state.

The Clintons deny any improprieties. But the former president has started to hint that if his wife wins the White House, he may have to step down from the organization to avoid blurring the lines between U.S. government policy and the interests of donors.

"I might if I were asked to do something in the public interest that I had an obligation to do. Or I might take less of an executive role," Clinton said in a recent interview with NBC News. "But we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Some people close to the Clintons and the foundation say it's unlikely the former president could continue directly raising money if his wife wins election. But they say that could be a slow and difficult realization for him to come to, given how much of his post-White House legacy is linked to the foundation's work.

"The challenge isn't necessarily the organization surviving the founders — it's the founders letting go of the organization," said Steven Lawrence, the research director at the Foundation Center, an organization that collects data on philanthropic organizations.

There is far less certainty about the role Chelsea Clinton might play in the foundation's future. The 35-year-old has taken on a more direct role in recent years and is an obvious choice to take over from her parents. But despite being well-liked by donors, some question whether she would be able to raise the same level of money as her popular father.

Clinton Foundation officials have discussed how to sustain the organization financially if the former president can no longer directly raise money. The conversations with donors and others have focused not just on the prospect of Hillary Clinton becoming president, but also the possibility that Bill Clinton's health leaves him unable to keep up his role as chief fundraiser.

A drive launched in 2013 has endowed a $250 million fund to help keep programs running under those circumstances.

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Donna Shalala, the former Health and Human Services secretary and University of Miami president who takes over as the foundation's president and chief executive next month, is expected to do her own accounting of its activities. Her appointment is also seen as a signal to donors that there would be continuity in leadership if the Clinton family becomes less involved in its operations.

The foundation is also weighing whether new projects, both in the U.S. and abroad, could start during a Clinton presidency, or whether worry about potential conflicts of interest would limit it to its existing work. While the foundation says there were no conflicts during Clinton's four years as the nation's chief diplomat, the potential for such conflicts is far greater should she become president.

The foundation has already agreed to stop taking money from most foreign governments during her campaign, with exceptions for six Western nations.

Campaign officials suggested additional changes to foundation activities are not imminent. Spokesman Brian Fallon said that for now, Clinton is "proud of the foundation's work and glad that her husband and daughter continue to lead its day-to-day mission."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Sanders: I'm 'most progressive' member of Congress // The Hill // Mark Hensch – May 10, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said on Sunday that he considered himself the most liberal lawmaker in Congress.

“I think it’s fair to say I am perhaps the most progressive member of Congress,” Sanders told host Bob Schieffer on CBS’s “Face the Nation.”

“I am proud of being the longest-serving independent in the history of the United States Congress,” he added.

Sanders, a 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, additionally reiterated his interest in copying some policies from socialist European nations.

“We can learn a whole lot from some of those countries,” he said, citing Austria, Denmark and Germany as examples.

“College education is free in those countries,” Sanders said of those nations’ undergraduate educational programs.

“That makes a lot of sense to me,” he said.

Sanders also advocated eliminating the role of wealthy special interests in political campaign spending.

“Billionaires like the Koch brothers are owning the political process,” he said of businessmen David and Charles Koch.

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“Billionaires should not be able to buy elections,” he said.

Sanders argued that if elected president, he would additionally vet potential Supreme Court justices by their desire to overturn the landmark Citizens United ruling on campaign contributions.

“That decision has undermined U.S. democracy,” he said of the case, which prohibits restrictions on political expenditures from organizations on the basis of free speech.

Sanders’s rejection of political action committees is a key part of his 2016 campaign.

The Vermont lawmaker argued on Sunday his freedom from wealthy special interests separates him from Hillary Clinton, the other current contender for the Democratic nomination.

“We are going to raise the kind of money to run a strong campaign,” he vowed of contributions he would earn from average Americans.

Why Bernie Sanders Thinks He Can Beat Hillary Clinton // Bloomberg // Ali Elkin – May 10, 2015

Bernie Sanders acknowledges he won't outspend Hillary Clinton, but that doesn't mean he can't beat her.

Appearing on CBS's Face the Nation, the Democratic nomination seeker, a self-described independent socialist senator from Vermont was asked if he really thinks he can beat Democratic front runner.

"The answer is yes," Sanders said.

“We've had close to 90,000 contributions.”

His confidence lies in Clinton's ties to billionaires and the dissatisfaction with income inequality throughout the country.

"There is, in my view, massive dissatisfaction in this country today with the corporate establishment and the greed of corporate America in an incredibly unequal distribution of wealth and income, which currently exists," Sanders said.

Sanders said that unlike Clinton, he will not have a super-PAC to raise unlimited funds for his campaign. He pointed out the smaller donations that have been made to his campaign. While he doesn't expect to outspend Clinton, Sanders said that might not matter.

"Look, we announced a week and a half ago," Sanders said. "Since that time, we have had 200,000 people go to BernieSanders.com to sign up for the campaign. We've had close to 90,000 contributions. Do you know what the average contribution was? It's about $43, 43 bucks, from middle-class working families. So I don't think we're going to outspend Hillary Clinton or Jeb Bush or anybody else, but I think we are going to raise the kinds of money that we need to run a strong and winning campaign."

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In a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire poll, Sanders trails Clinton by 44 points in the Granite State.

Bernie Sanders: I can beat Hillary Clinton // CBS News // Rebecca Kaplan – May 10, 2015

Bernie Sanders, Vermont's independent senator and a self-proclaimed Democratic socialist, says he can beat Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 2016.

On CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, Sanders said he thinks he can oust the former secretary of state because, "there is, in my view, massive dissatisfaction in this country today with corporate establishment and the greed of corporate America and the incredibly unequal distribution of wealth and income, which currently exists."

And Sanders said his record on that issue over the past 25 years shows that he has led the way in standing up for working families and taking on "the billionaire class," Wall Street, private insurance companies and drug companies.

Sanders is hesitant to criticize Clinton, saying that he respects and admires her. But pressed on the question of why he would make a better Democratic nominee, he points to three things: his opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership, a massive Asia-Pacific trade agreement being negotiated, his vote against the war in Iraq and leadership fighting against it, and the work he has done opposing the Keystone XL pipeline.

"I'm not quite sure Hillary Clinton has come out with a position on that," he said.

Political insiders break down the 2016 presidential race

In a separate interview on "Face the Nation," Democratic strategist Stephanie Cutter said it is still "pretty likely" Clinton will be the Democratic nominee, but that Sanders "has a role to play" in the debate.

"I think that there's nobody in the race right now who presents a real challenge to her in terms of taking the nomination away. But it's important to remember and we've been through this process many times, that we are many, many months away from the nomination, never mind the election," she said.

Former House Speaker and 2012 presidential candidate Newt Gingrich, who appeared alongside Cutter on the show, seemed to concur, when he said, if "you were betting today, you would say she is overwhelming favorite to be the nominee."

"If she doesn't get the nomination, it will be because 'not Hillary' beats 'Hillary,'" he said. "It won't be because some candidate beats Hillary."

In his "Face the Nation" interview, Sanders reserved the bulk of his criticism for the Supreme Court and its role in opening up a flood of money into politics through the 2010 Citizens United decision.

"As a result of this disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision, clearly the billionaires, Koch brothers and others, are owning the political process. They will determine who the candidates are," Sanders said.

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He pledged that he would use the issue as a litmus test for anyone he would nominate to the Supreme Court as president.

"That nominee will say that we are going to overturn this disastrous opinion on Citizens United because that decision is undermining American democracy. I do not believe that billionaire should be able to buy politicians," Sanders said.

Clinton will help raise money for a super PAC supporting her candidacy during 2016 even though she has pledged to "get unaccountable money out of [the political system] once and for all," even if it takes a constitutional amendment to overturn the court decision.

"With some Republican candidates reportedly setting up and outsourcing their entire campaign to super PACs and the Koch Brothers pledging $1 billion alone for the 2016 campaign, Democrats have to have the resources to fight back," a Clinton aide told CBS News last week. "There is too much at stake for our future for Democrats to unilaterally disarm."

Even that decision didn't draw fire from Sanders.

"I understand where she's coming from," he said, though he added that he will not have a super PAC supporting his campaign. Sanders noted that since he announced his candidacy at the end of April he has received nearly 90,000 donations, and the average is $43.

"I don't think we're going to outspend Hillary Clinton or Jeb Bush or anybody else, but I think we are going to raise the kinds of money we need to run a strong and winning campaign," he said.

Gingrich, whose campaign was kept alive in part because of donations from billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, said that there is "a declining value when you get above a certain number" in campaign cash.

"The key for a candidate, which I failed, was to get above a critical mass," Gingrich said. "If [2012 GOP nominee Mitt] Romney couldn't have outspent me three to one, I might have become the nominee. But there's a point at some time, somewhere between five and 20 to one, where you drown. Nobody who is the nominee in the general election is going to get outspent by a huge number because the country is too polarized on what kind of future it wants and both sides can generate huge amounts of money."

Cutter said that the amount of money in politics has made voters cynical, and people begin to tune out the huge amounts of money and negativity in modern political campaigns.

"We do need to figure out how we take action to get this money out of the system," she said.

Bernie Sanders pledges not to accept super PAC support // Washington Times // Jose A. DelReal – May 10, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Sunday reiterated his pledge not to accept super PAC support but stopped short of knocking Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton’s decision to court allied super PAC donors.

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“I understand where she is coming from. [But] I will not have a super PAC,” Sanders, who last month launched a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on “Face the Nation” on Sunday. “...I don't think we're going to outspend Hillary Clinton or Jeb Bush or anybody else, but I think we are going to raise the kinds of money that we need to run a strong and winning campaign.”

Although Sanders did not criticize Clinton about her tacit support for an allied super PAC, about which The Washington Post’s Matea Gold reported last week, he nonetheless stressed — without naming names — his belief that the American political system gives outsize influence to millionaires and billionaires. He said a central consideration for Supreme Court nominees should be their position on the Citizens United decision.

[Hillary Clinton cements her support for allied super PAC.]

“Let me say it this way: If elected president, I will have a litmus test in terms of my nominee to be a Supreme Court justice, and that nominee will say that we are going to overturn this disastrous Supreme Court decision on Citizens United,” he said. “Because that decision is undermining American democracy. I do not believe that billionaires should be able to buy politicians.”

Asked about the differences between Clinton and him, Sanders — who described himself as "the most progressive member of the United States Senate" — said he has voiced strong opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Keystone pipeline while Clinton's positions remain unclear. He also knocked Clinton on her oft-criticized 2002 vote to authorize the use of military force in Iraq.

“In terms of foreign policy, Hillary Clinton voted for the war in Iraq. Not only did I vote against it, I helped lead the effort against what I knew would be a disaster. In terms of climate change, I have helped lead the effort against the Keystone pipeline. I'm not quite sure if Hillary Clinton has come out with a position on that. So those are just some of the areas where we differ.”

Sanders suggested that the “massive dissatisfaction in this country today with the corporate establishment” could give him an edge in the Democratic primary.

"[L]et me say that I have known Hillary Clinton for 25 years. I respect her and I admire her. But I think we're living in a very strange moment in American history," he said.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a White House contender in 2016, is known for his stances on budget issues and war. Here's the Vermont senator's take on Obamacare, Social Security and more, in his own words. (Julie Percha/The Washington Post)

Bernie Sanders challenges Hillary Clinton on trade deal and Iraq war // The Guardian // Martin Pengelly – May 10, 2015

Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, on Sunday outlined what he said were differences between his campaign and that of the clear frontrunner, Hillary Clinton.

Sanders again linked the former secretary of state to the “billionaires” he says dominate US politics, but widened his criticisms to include the former secretary of state’s positions on international trade agreements, the Iraq war and the threat of climate change.

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Sanders and Clinton are the only candidates so far to have declared on the Democratic side; Clinton leads polls on the issue by more than 50%. Appearing on CBS on Sunday, Sanders was asked what was wrong with Clinton as a Democratic candidate for president.

"Let me give you an example," Sanders said. "Congress is in the midst of a debate on the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP, an agreement with 12 Asian countries]. I am strongly opposed to that trade agreement on the grounds that it follows in the footsteps of other disastrous trade agreements that have cost us millions of jobs."

Last month, Sanders wrote an op-ed column for the Guardian on the TPP, the largest trade deal in US history, in which he said: "The TPP is simply the continuation of a failed approach to trade – an approach which benefits large multinational corporations and Wall Street, but which is a disaster for working families. The TPP must be defeated."

TPP is supported by the Obama administration but opposed by many in the Democratic party. In an interview with Yahoo Politics that was published on Saturday, Obama said a prominent voice against TPP, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, was "absolutely wrong" on the issue.

Clinton has so far handled TPP with extreme care – last month her campaign chief, John Podesta, was caught in private remarks to donors saying: "Can you make it go away?"

On Sunday, Sanders broadened his attack: "On foreign policy, Hillary Clinton voted for the war in Iraq ... Not only I voted against, I helped lead the effort against what I knew would be a disaster.

"On climate change, I have helped lead the effort against the Keystone pipeline. I'm not quite sure Hillary Clinton has come out with a position on that. So those are just some areas where we differ."

Sanders also repeated his determination to overturn the 2010 Citizens United supreme court decision, which gave rise to unrestrained spending on elections.

"As a result of this disastrous Citizens United supreme court decision, clearly the billionaires, the Koch brothers and all this, are owning the political process," he said. "They will determine who the candidates are.

"Let me say this: if elected president, I will have a litmus test in terms of my nominee to be a supreme court justice. And that nominee will say that we are going to overturn this disastrous supreme court decision because that decision is undermining US democracy. I do not believe billionaires should be able to buy politicians."

Clinton has said she will form a super PAC, the type of fundraising body brought into being by Citizens United, to fight her 2016 campaign.

Sanders, who said on Sunday that in two weeks since he declared his candidacy he had received 200,000 website sign-ups to volunteer and close to 90,000 financial contributions at an average of $43 each, said: "I understand where she's coming from. I will not have a super PAC."

Sanders confirmed that though he is a self-described "democratic socialist" – he was again asked to describe what that meant, and again pointed to Scandinavian countries' approaches to healthcare, education, childcare and more – he was running for the White House as a Democrat. He added that he was "perhaps the most progressive member of the Senate".

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Bernie Sanders's presidential candidacy four decades in the making // Christian Science Monitor // Dave Gram - May 10, 2015

MONTPELIER, VT. — Once a democratic socialist, always a democratic socialist. Once a scold of big money in politics, still a scold....

No one can accuse Sen. Bernie Sanders of flip-flopping over his four decades in public life. Rock steady, he's inhabited the same ideological corner on the left from which he now takes on Hillary Rodham Clinton in an improbable quest for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

Here he is in 1974, as the 32-year-old candidate for U.S. Senate of a fledgling leftist party in Vermont called Liberty Union: "A handful of banks and billionaires control the economic and political life of America. ... America is becoming less and less of a democracy and more and more of an oligarchy."

And now, in an Associated Press interview: "This is a rigged economy, which works for the rich and the powerful, and is not working for ordinary Americans. ... You know this country just does not belong to a handful of billionaires."

Some see him as a broken record, others as a person who has been telling the truth all along and just waiting for enough people to listen.

"The fascinating thing about Bernie right now is that the agenda has caught up with Bernie," said Garrison Nelson, a University of Vermont political science professor and longtime Sanders watcher.

During Sanders' near decade as mayor of Burlington, Vermont, in the 1980s, during his eight terms holding Vermont's lone seat in the House of Representatives, and during his near decade in the Senate, the message has stayed the same: The rich are absconding with an immorally large part of the country's wealth, and ordinary people have been getting the short end of the stick.

Clinton has gone from opposing same-sex marriage rights to supporting them. Sanders, now 73, favored gay marriage rights before it became fashionable in Democratic circles. He voted against the Defense of Marriage Act in the mid-1990s signed by Clinton's husband, President Bill Clinton. The law, which the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional in 2013, allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed under the laws of other states.

Early in her primary campaign, Clinton has spoken about the gap between the rich and the middle class, in an appeal to the party's liberal wing. The Republican contenders, too, are taking up the problem of income inequality, although with much different solutions in mind than the Democrats.

Steady-as-he-goes Sanders has been at it for decades. He's admired Canada's single-payer health care system since way back, talking up "nationalized health care" during his unsuccessful run for Congress in 1988. When Republicans charge that Democrats would bring European-style socialism to the U.S., Sanders says bring it on.

"I can hear the Republican attack ad right now: 'He wants America to look more like Scandinavia," George Stephanopoulos said while interviewing Sanders on ABC's "This Week."

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Sanders replied, "That's right. That's right. And what's wrong with that? What's wrong when you have more income and wealth equality? What's wrong when they have a stronger middle class in many ways than we do, a higher minimum wage than we do, and they're stronger on the environment?"

If he's undergone any transformation, it's in his political affiliations. He long ago dropped the Liberty Union banner and has run as an Independent in his successful elections in Vermont.

He says he remains one "in my heart," but has caucused with Democrats in Congress. He chose to go for the Democratic nomination and, if he loses the party primaries, says he won't run for president as an Independent. An independent presidential bid could split the liberal vote and help elect the Republican candidate.

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Bernie Sanders Says He Can Beat Hillary Clinton // Huffington Post // May 10, 2015

Presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is confident that he can beat Hillary Clinton and become the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate.

“In my view, there is a massive dissatisfaction in this country with the corporate establishment, the greed of corporate America, and the incredibly unequal distribution of wealth and income that currently exists,” Sanders said Sunday morning on CBS’s “Face the Nation,” explaining why he thinks he can beat Clinton despite her massive financial advantage.

“We won’t outspend Hillary Clinton or Jeb Bush, but we will raise the kind of money needed to run a strong campaign,” he predicted. Sanders promised on Sunday that he would not have a super PAC to raise money for his campaign. According to Sanders, he has received nearly 90,000 contributions, averaging about $43, since announcing his candidacy a week and a half ago.

Sanders, who described himself as “the most progressive member of the U.S. Senate,” vowed that if elected, he would work to overturn the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision and rein in campaign spending allowances.

While Sanders voiced his respect and admiration for Clinton, he noted that she voted in favor of the 2003 Iraq War and has avoided taking a stance on the Keystone XL pipeline. Sanders, who opposed both, has also led the fight against a bill that would grant the president fast-track authority on trade agreements.

Warren-for-president push waning // Boston Herald // Hillary Chabot – May 11, 2015

Grass-roots efforts to cultivate an Elizabeth Warren presidential run appear to be withering on the vine as the 2016 Democratic primary firms up, with Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders in the race, and erstwhile Warren activists abandoning their labor of love.

“Whether they are slowing down or not, their momentum is slowing,” said Steve McMahon, a Democratic strategist in Washington, D.C., who hasn’t committed to a presidential candidate.

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“It’s one thing to support a hypothetical candidate before Hillary gets in, and it’s one thing to support an opponent to Hillary before Bernie gets in,” McMahon said. “But a lot of progressives who like Warren, at this point support Hillary and want her to win and don’t want her to be hurt in a contentious primary.”

Jim Demers, a prominent New Hampshire Democratic strategist who’s backing Clinton, said the Granite State push to draft U.S. Sen. Warren has been missing in action recently.

“It seems like it has lost a lot of attention, at least in New Hampshire. I haven’t seen the organizer out in a couple of weeks,” Demers said, adding that Clinton may be winning over the Warren crowd with recent moves like embracing one hot-button issue that

Warren backers wanted on the agenda — immigration.

“We’re already starting to see some of the issues they were hoping would be in the campaign,” he said.

Hard-line progressive groups like Democracy for America and MoveOn are behind the Warren-for-president movement, but Warren’s repeated refusals to run combined with progressive darling U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ entrance into the race has impacted their campaign.

But those behind the Ready For Warren and Run Warren Run organizations aren’t ready to give up. One key strategist behind the Ready for Warren push said the group plans to release another round of big-name former President Obama supporters who are asking Warren to jump into the 2016 campaign.

“If anything, we’re stronger now that not just Hillary but Bernie are in the race,” said the strategist, who asked to remain on background.

There’s already evidence of some defectors, however. Artists for Warren recently endorsed Sanders and Carl Gibson, a progressive activist, journalist and former Warren-for-president supporter, wrote a column recently urging the movement to get behind Sanders.

“The quicker her fans stop waiting in vain, the better chance Sanders will have to fight for the values voters associate with Warren,” Gibson wrote.

GOP

For GOP, too much of a good thing? // CNN // Julian Zelizer – May 10, 2015

(CNN)The Republicans are going to have another free-for-all primary season on their hands. Their contest for the presidential nomination is attracting a huge crowd. For a political party that once insisted on order and hierarchy, always making clear who the next deserving nominee was going to be, today the GOP has taken on the character of a political circus.

With the assistance of super Pac donors who have the capacity to singlehandedly finance candidacies and a decentralized political media with many outlets that are searching for fresh stories, a number of candidates -- Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, Mike Huckabee, Marco Rubio, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham -- have formally or informally entered the contest.

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Julian Zelizer

There are others, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Wisconsin's Scott Walker, New Jersey's Chris Christie and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry who may jump in as well. We seem to be seeing a replay of 2012 where the primaries resembled a WWE battle royal with a huge number of contestants packed inside the steel cage.

Is this good for the party? Is this good for democracy? At one level, it is always good for a party to have some real competition for the top spot in a presidential campaign.

The multiplicity of voices will allow the party to showcase a wider range of ideas and to foster a more robust debate about the direction of the party. Many experts would agree that Hillary Clinton will benefit from having a challenge from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who will pressure her to deal with issues from the left.

Too many candidates means diluted look at issues

But there is difference between a healthy primary competition and an overabundance of candidates.

What kinds of problems might result from the current trend among Republicans? The most important is that of the wide-open entrance system is creating a huge amount of political space for people with super Pacs to exercise influence. The only way that many of these candidates can mount any kind of challenge is to find powerful donors who are willing to provide them with the money that they need.

As Newt Gingrich did in 2012, candidates are turning to people like Sheldon Adelson who are becoming the new kingpins in American politics. Or to Miami billionaire Norman Braman, who the New York Times reported, is providing Marco Rubio with immense financial support. Over the long run, this will certainly have a corrosive effect on our democratic system as the flow of private money into elections intensifies.

Hypercompetitive, unfiltered primaries also result in a dilution of media attention for any single candidate, including competitors to the leading candidates. The media tends to quickly shift its attention the candidate of the week. The result is that we lose the kind of public focus on sustained indepth coverage that is often helpful for voters to better evaluate the choices that they face.

Opinion: What U.S. conservatives can learn from David Cameron

After Jeb Bush started to seriously show is interest in running, there were a number of important investigative reports about his time as governor of Florida. But those stories already seem like the good old days as the press has shifted to Ben Carson and others. There are so many stories about so many candidates, it is extraordinarily difficult for voters to keep their attention on ongoing investigative work amidst all the noise.

When the debates begin, we will once again see events where each candidates has even less time to answer questions. As Peter Beinart argued in The Atlantic, in the Democratic primaries Sanders has a serious chance to gain attention for his economic issues because the competition on the Democratic side is not so flooded.

What happens with extremist views

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A primary system that allows for so many voices to gain high-visibility platforms also allows for fringe views to gain mainstream attention. This was evident in 2012, when Donald Trump entered the race and found that his birther arguments were gaining national attention.

This wasn't good for the GOP, which had to deal with rather extremist views showcased front and center. Already, as Tim Egan recounts, we have seen a number of shocking statements, ranging from Ben Carson saying that people went into prison straight and came out gay as evidence that people choose homosexuality (Carson later apologized for the remark), to Ted Cruz voicing support for Texans who fear a military takeover of their state.

It can also have dangerous implications for civil dialogue if fringe elements gain treatment as legitimate voices of concern.

From the perspective of the party, one of the threats is that this number of candidates creates an abundance of opportunities for each to go for the jugular against their opponents. With such a crowded field, the incentives increase for each person to become more vicious in their treatment of each other. We saw this in 2012 when the most devastating attacks on Mitt Romney came from Newt Gingrich, who characterized him as a wealthy scion of capital who had been willing to burn entire communities in the pursuit of profit at Bain.

The benefit for Republicans is that in contrast to a seemingly predetermined contest in the Democratic Party, the competition could be more compelling for voters, so they will pay closer attention, and create the impression that the GOP is offering greater diversity within its ranks. But the costs to the party could be significant.

Political competition is a good thing. But it is time to think a little bit about the value that political parties used to bring when they helped to filter through the noise, throwing their support behind others and giving fewer opportunities for marginal candidates to consume too much valuable political time and resources.

Of course, there needs to be a balance between a system of gatekeepers and what we have today.

So some competition is a very good thing but too much can be damaging.

GOP Hopefuls Talk Tough on National Security // WSJ // Janet Hook - May 10, 2015

Republicans running for president face an electorate riddled with anxiety about national security and terrorism—a big mood swing from 2012 and a mixed blessing for the GOP in 2016.

As a weekend candidate forum here illustrated, voters' heightened interest in world affairs gives Republicans a fresh opportunity to lambaste President Barack Obama and show some hawkish swagger toward terrorists.

"We will look for you. We will find you. And we will kill you," said Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, borrowing lines from the action movie "Taken" and getting robust applause from the conservative audience of about 2,200.

But the GOP contenders also face pressure to explain how they—governors, senators and political outsiders with little experience managing world affairs—could shoulder the burden of being leader of the free world.

"Commander in chief is not an entry-level position," said former Sen. Rick Santorum, in a line that could cast doubt on the credentials of the entire GOP field, including Mr. Santorum who lost his Senate seat in 2006.

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A spirited foreign policy debate allows Republicans to unify in attacking their likely Democratic opponent, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. But it also opens a split within the GOP.

That division is best illustrated by two presidential contenders who didn't attend Saturday's candidate forum: Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who argues for greater restraint in U.S. military intervention than most Republicans, and Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of the most hawkish members of the party.

Mr. Graham, who is expected to announce his bid for the presidency June 1, has drawn his differences with Mr. Paul in unusually personal terms.

"He is one step behind leading-from-behind," Mr. Graham said in a USA Today interview broadcast Sunday. "I think he'd be the worst possible person to send into the ring when it came to foreign policy."

South Carolina is a particularly welcoming place for Republicans staking out a hawkish platform. The state, which hosts the third presidential nominating contest in 2016 after Iowa and New Hampshire, has eight military bases, more than 74,000 military personnel, including nearly 58,000 military retirees, according to a recent report by the University of South Carolina.

But voters' concern about national security isn't just limited to military-connected communities. The latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found voters nationally are more concerned about security issues than they were four years ago, before the last presidential election. Asked what issues should be the government's top priority, 21% of poll participants said national security and terrorism—up from 6% in 2012. The shift is especially big for Republicans, who made it their No. 1 issue: 27% named it the top priority, up from 8% in 2012.

That could make this the first election since 2004, when the Iraq war weighed on voters, that candidates' foreign affairs credentials and defense policy stands could factor heavily into presidential politics.

Just in the past year, Americans have been rattled by the rise of Islamic State, also known as ISIS, and the beheadings of the militant group's captives, Russia's takeover of part of Ukraine, and hostilities in the Middle East.

Chad Groover, chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party, said those developments have made national security more important than ever among voters here. "If you had asked me a year ago, I would not have said that. I would have said bread-and-butter issues were primary," Mr. Groover said. "But the way the world is going, with the advent of ISIS, we see the need to have a strong focus."

Adding to voter anxiety is the recent episode in Garland, Texas, where two gunman, believed to be inspired by Islamic State, were killed as they prepared to attack a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest. "When it's right in your backyard, it wakes you up," said Terri Russ, a health-care worker from Columbia, S.C., who attended the Greenville summit.

Republicans, in their speeches, applauded the police officer who foiled the plot by killing the attackers.

"Thankfully, one police officer helped those terrorists meet their virgins," said Sen. Ted Cruz (R.,Texas).

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who spoke at the South Carolina event before traveling to Israel for the first time, acknowledged his need to study up on international issues. "It's something that, even though as a governor I don't

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deal with it day in and day out, it has increasingly become one of the most important things for me to focus in on," said Mr. Walker, who hasn't yet formally announced his campaign for president.

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina said that as a business woman she had dealt directly with more heads of state—including Russian President Vladimir Putin—than any other GOP candidate. "The world is a more dangerous and a more tragic place when America is not leading," she said.

While few candidates gave many specifics about what policies they would implement, Ms. Fiorina did. She called for a series of steps to flex U.S. military muscle, including rebuilding the Sixth Fleet in Europe, restoring the missile defense program, and conducting military exercises in the Baltics.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush also didn't attend the South Carolina forum Saturday, instead delivering a commencement address at Liberty University in Virginia. But he weighed in Sunday on a question concerning the use of military force that poses a unique challenge to him among GOP candidates, defining his views compared to his brother's, former President George W. Bush.

In an interview with Fox News, Mr. Bush said that he would have authorized the 2003 U.S. war in Iraq, although he acknowledged that it was a mistake that more was not done to guarantee security in Iraq after Saddam Hussein was removed from power. He reminded the interviewer that Mrs. Clinton, then a U.S. senator also supported the Iraq invasion. And he said his brother agreed that mistakes were made after Saddam's fall.

"So just for the news flash to the world, if they're trying to find places where there's big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those," he said.

Mr. Paul didn't attend the GOP summit because he was in California to open a Silicon Valley campaign office. Although Mr. Paul is not an isolationist in the mold of his father, libertarian Ron Paul who ran multiple long-shot campaigns for president, the senator is more cautious about U.S. military intervention than other 2016 candidates. Early polls suggest he is in a weaker position in South Carolina among Republicans than in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Mr. Graham, who didn't attend the summit in his home state because of family obligations, has been, with his hawkish close ally Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a frequent critic of Mr. Paul.

Mr. Paul could not be reached for comment Sunday on the latest Graham criticism, but in an April interview with Fox News about similar criticism, he said Messrs. McCain and Graham were part of a group he considered "lapdogs" for Mr. Obama's military initiatives overseas.

Carly Fiorina breaks with many in GOP on Obama's trade pitch // CNN // Eric Bradner – May 10, 2015

Washington (CNN)Carly Fiorina says she supports free trade -- yet she doesn't want President Barack Obama to have the congressional green light to finalize a massive Pacific Rim deal.

The former Hewlett Packard executive who's seeking the Republican presidential nomination said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Obama "does not have a track record of the details matching his selling point."

Therefore, she said, she opposes trade promotion authority -- legislation that would allow Obama to submit the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership to Congress for an up-or-down vote with limited debate and no amendments. That authority, trade negotiators say, is key to getting other countries to sign off on a final deal.

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Republican congressional leaders have strongly backed Obama's request for the authority. But a bill that would grant it is imperiled as liberal Democrats who oppose expanded trade and tea party Republicans who distrust Obama have linked together to oppose it.

"The truth is, we don't know what's in this deal," Fiorina said.

"I think it's important to understand some of the fine print of what's in this deal," she said. "For example, is China allowed to join this Pacific trading agreement in a couple of years, yes or no?"

Obama has pointed to the deal, which includes Japan, Australia, Canada and Mexico, as a way to counter China's growing influence in the Asia-Pacific. But China is not involved in the negotiations, which are ongoing.

"The point is, what exactly is in this agreement?" Fiorina said. "Because this administration unfortunately has a track record of burying things in fine print ... that turn out to be very different from their selling points."

Carly Fiorina fires back at critics of 'Domaingate' // MSNBC // Nisha Chittal – May 10, 2015

Almost immediately after former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina announced she was running for president last week, her staff was dogged by questions about why they had failed to secure the Web domain carlyfiorina.org , which had been purchased by a Democratic activist who used it to post a message about how many people HP had allegedly laid off while Fiorina was the company's chief executive.

As Fiorina made the media rounds over the next week, she responded to questions from the media about the domain gaffe with a sense of humor – and with a few tricks up her sleeve. During a Wednesday appearance on "Late Night With Seth Meyers," Meyers asked Fiorina about the domain, and Fiorina responded by asking Meyers, "Do you know who owns SethMeyers.org?... I do. I just bought it in the green room!" That domain now redirects to Fiorina's campaign website.

On Sunday morning, she appeared on "Meet The Press" with Chuck Todd, and shortly after the show, she revealed on Twitter that her team had also purchased chucktodd.org – which also now redirects to Fiorina's website.

And late on Sunday, reporters began to notice that HillaryClinton.net now redirects to CarlyForPresident.com as well. It might be easy to assume that this was another work of mischief by the Fiorina campaign – but a spokeswoman for Fiorina confirmed to msnbc that, in fact, the Fiorina campaign did not buy the domain. It's unclear who owns it and when it began redirecting visitors to Fiorina's website.

"Many reporters were nearly giddy about what I've affectionately labeled #domaingate when it came to Republicans, but none had bothered to check hillaryclinton.net or hillaryforpresident.com . I'm now looking forward to all the stories similarly labeling this a major gaffe by the Clinton campaign," Fiorina spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said in an email.

Domain gaffes have started to become a regular occurrence on the campaign trail in this still-nascent presidential contest. First, when Ted Cruz announced he was running for president in March, reporters pointed out that his team had not been able to purchase TedCruz.com, which had been owned for several years by another Ted Cruz, and which displayed a pro-President Obama message. Rand Paul's campaign reportedly spent $100,000 securing the rights to RandPaul.com. Now, Hillary Clinton has her own gaffe on her hands with HillaryClinton.net and HillaryForPresident.com, which redirects to theamerican.net , the personal website of a conservative activist.

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Clinton's missed domains also seem additionally noteworthy given that the Clinton team has staffed up with many of the top tech talent that worked on Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns.

Future candidates, take note: it would be wise to take the time to buy up every permutation of your name on the Web – or risk letting it fall into someone else's hands.

The Pentagon's Response to Ted Cruz Regarding Jade Helm 15 // Huffington Post // Jason Stanford – May 10, 2015

Recently, Senator Ted Cruz from Texas asked the Pentagon to clarify its intentions with military exercises in Central Texas called "Jade Helm 15." The Pentagon's response follows:

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your inquiry into whether the Jade Helm 15 military exercise is the first wave of a federal takeover of Texas, the Trojan Horse, as it were, of the end of sovereignty in the Lone Star State. Our response, contrary to the long tradition of official correspondence and military bureaucracy, is concise: no.

But that's just what you would expect us to say, isn't it?

Perhaps, then, you would prefer not an official proclamation but a reasoned answer. As a master debater in college (Princeton, right?), you surely appreciate the reliability of logic, your public statements over the past few years notwithstanding. If you are disinclined to take the United States Armed Forces at their word when we promise no ill intentions towards Texas, then perhaps your considerable and vaunted intellectual powers, which once posited the regrowth of hymens as a guard against unauthorized incursions in domestic affairs, could be swayed by incontrovertible fact.

I know you think highly of our capabilities. Why else would you advocate for a short war with Iran? If we are indeed that powerful, we could probably launch an attack from any of the 15 U.S. military bases already within Texas' borders. While Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher may have found it necessary, even attractive, to invade countries that can easily be overrun, the present DoD considers such lopsided contests at best unsporting.

As someone who was not born within the borders of this country, it might interest you to know that Texas is already part of the United States. In fact, Texas has twice joined the Union. The first time your adopted state joined the USA in 1845 it set in motion events that led to the Mexican-American War. Later, when Union troops conquered the Southern rebellion, Texas rejoined the Union. It is not, therefore, farfetched to think that Texas' relationship to the rest of the United States could involve war, but please also keep in mind that when we refer to the United States of America, Texas is being implicitly included. We thought about calling it the United States of America and Texas, but we were afraid people might think Texas was a retrograde backwater of reactionary lunatics who think Moses was a Founding Father and laugh at you. This is way better.

Please also consider there are a great many things about Texas and Texan culture that could be threatened by another unnecessary armed conflict between Texas and the United States. We like Texas barbecue. That Green Beret who carried the flag out for the Texas Longhorn football team? That was pretty cool. The wildflowers along the highways are no joke. The late Texan Chris Kyle, the "American sniper," is a hero to many. Texas gave the world Lyndon Johnson, a staggering gift for which America was perhaps not entirely prepared. Without the Lone Star State, the Western swing band Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys would have appeared under the performing name Robert Wills and His Playboys, which is ghastly, or not have existed at all, a possibility that DoD has officially classified as "too awful to contemplate". And we really dig the self-awareness, the love of self that, while occasionally metastasizing into paranoid delusions such as those that motivated your original query, also make Texas a culture with an indelible sense of place.

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But, we reiterate, that place is in the United States. On previous visits, we noticed that many of your residents enjoy Social Security and Medicare (you're welcome), volunteer for the armed services, treasure federal parks, wildlife preserves, and wilderness areas, and earn and spend currency backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. With a quick Internet search, I also learned that nearly a third of Texas' total revenue is from Federal funding. In fact, millions of your schoolchildren pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America almost every day. And unlike yourself, they apparently mean it.

There is a fundamental misapprehension that we feel is at the root of your query about our intentions was revealed in a recent comment you made to the press.

We are assured it is a military training exercise. I have no reason to doubt those assurances, but I understand the reason for concern and uncertainty, because when the federal government has not demonstrated itself to be trustworthy in this administration, the natural consequence is that many citizens don't trust what it is saying.

If, Senator Cruz, you believe that the United States military is a political tool of its civilian leadership, you have reached a conclusion unsupported by fact, history and good sense. The troops swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States. To besmirch their loyalty to the country, even in the service of making hackneyed political points in the Republican primary, does not make you a patriot, but a partisan. Even a Princeton and Harvard Law man should know the difference.

Also, it makes you the rudest Canadian we've ever run across.

Sincerely Yours,

Secretary Ashton Carter

Mike Huckabee Defends Endorsement of Diabetes Product // First Draft –NYT // Nicholas Confessore – May 10, 2015

Mike Huckabee, the Republican presidential candidate, defended his endorsement of a dubious diabetes remedy on Sunday, telling an interviewer that “if that’s the worst thing somebody can say to me” then “I’m going to be a heck of a good president.”

The former Arkansas governor, who wrote a book about weight loss after dropping 100 pounds, has more recently appeared in infomercials hawking a “weird spice, kitchen-cabinet cure” for diabetes that consists mostly of dietary supplements. He has also endorsed the treatment, which medical doctors caution against using, through his vast mailing list, along with a cure for cancer said to be hidden in verses of the Bible.

But Mr. Huckabee, appearing on the CBS program “Face the Nation,” downplayed the supplements on Sunday, arguing they were a minor part of the treatment he promoted.

“One of the elements of the plan was dietary supplements, but it’s not the fundamental thing,” Mr. Huckabee said. “The fundamental thing is always, as you and I both know, it’s exercise, it’s good eating habits, it’s maintaining sugar levels, it’s not eating a bunch of junk food, processed food, lots of carbs, sugar, those type of things.”

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Mr. Huckabee, who broke off as a spokesman for the diabetes product not long before announcing he would make another bid for the White House, also suggested it was unfair to press him on the issue.

“I don’t have to defend everything that I’ve ever done,” Mr. Huckabee said. “I’m not doing those infomercials, obviously, now as a candidate for president.”

Mike Huckabee: Nothing wrong with diabetes infomercials // Politico // Eliza Collins – May 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee on Sunday defended his endorsement of a diabetes kit whose effectiveness has been challenged.

“If that’s the worst thing that somebody can say to me, is that I advocated for people who have diabetes to do something to reverse it and stop the incredible pain of that, then I’m going to be a heck of a good president,” the former Arkansas governor said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.”

In an infomercial that had been airing for the Diabetes Solution Kit, Huckabee said he lost 110 pounds and reversed his diabetes.

CBS host Bob Schieffer said National Journal reported that the infomercial for the product was “simply not supported by the medical community.” And Huckabee answered a question from Schieffer, who also has diabetes, about whether the kit included pills.

“No, no, there was not pills — that’s a misnomer. One of the elements of the plan was dietary supplements, but it’s not the fundamental thing,” Huckabee said, explaining the key elements of the plan were healthy eating, exercise and maintaining blood-sugar levels.

Diabetes is one of the top four diseases that are costing Americans in the health care system, Huckabee said, adding that the disease needs to be approached by looking for cures rather than just through treatment.

Huckabee said he’s no longer doing the infomercials now that he is a presidential candidate.

Mike Huckabee, Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson May Play Key Roles in Republican Race // NYT // Albert Hunt – May 10, 2015

None of the three candidates who joined the Republican presidential contest last week — Mike Huckabee, Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson — will win the nomination.

That’s the view of politically smart strategists who nevertheless say that all three, especially Mr. Huckabee, could play important roles in shaping the race.

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First, here's why these latest entries are unlikely to prevail. The Republican coalition has three pillars, all relatively conservative: economic, national security and social issues. A candidate has to be acceptable to at least two of the three. At this stage, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and perhaps Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky make the grade.

Mr. Huckabee — the populist Baptist preacher, former Arkansas governor and talk-show host — doesn't. He is adored by the social right, hated by economic conservatives and isn't respected by many national security hawks.

Moreover, there's skepticism about his ability to raise the funds to go the distance. In 2008, after winning the initial Iowa caucuses, he lacked the resources to compete through the nominating process. There's a general sense that 2012 was his time. He passed.

Mr. Carson, a prominent physician, and Ms. Fiorina, the former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, are political novices, neither has ever been elected to office. The supposed appeal of nonpoliticians in America is superficial.

In a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll released last week, almost 70 percent said they would be uncomfortable with a presidential candidate who lacks previous experience in government.

Mr. Carson and Ms. Fiorina, both cancer survivors, have appealing narratives. Mr. Carson's résumé is more impressive: He is one of the world's most renowned pediatric neurosurgeons. (He once operated on our son.) Ms. Fiorina was fired as C.E.O. of Hewlett-Packard and generally gets negative reviews for her performance.

The possible import of Mr. Carson, who espouses a hard-right line and has attracted a following in places such as Iowa, is that movement conservatives account for half of the vote in several early contests. Governor Walker and Senator Rubio could get a small slice of those votes, as will Senator Paul, whose basic appeal is to libertarians.

More than 40 percent of the vote is likely to go to a movement right aspirant. In 2012, the Iowa caucus was won with 24 percent of the vote, in a smaller and less capable field.

The difference between Mr. Carson getting 5 percent and 10 percent may well decide if one of the movement right candidates tops 20 percent, which could be first place.

The top two right-wing candidates are Mr. Huckabee and Senator Cruz. A no-holds-barred debate between these tough customers, similar in ideology, vastly different in style, would be worthy of Las Vegas. Senator Cruz, a brilliant lawyer and champion debater, would assail Mr. Huckabee as a tax-increasing governor who commuted the sentences of hardened criminals, including one who went on to commit murder.

The folksy and fiery Mr. Huckabee could attack the Texas senator for supporting President Obama on free trade and for his ties to Wall Street and the Republican donor class.

Ms. Fiorina's corporate background is probably better preparation for politics than brain surgery. She's unlikely to make embarrassing gaffes like Mr. Carson's recent charge, which he later retracted, that people enter prison as heterosexuals and leave gay.

Elements of the Republican establishment welcome Ms. Fiorina's candidacy. She's the only woman, and the party has a gender problem. She's a willing attack dog against Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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Yet if she ever does better than the point or two that she scores in current polls, it would likely be at the expense of an establishment type such as Mr. Bush.

In the most wide open Republican race in the past half-century, there are no certainties, and maybe even no likelihoods. A year from now it's improbable that we'll look back on the events of the past week as seminal, but they may affect how the race looks then.

Lindsey Graham: Hillary Clinton is beatable, but GOP is getting 'creamed' at the polls by non-white voters // RawStory // Tom Boggioni – May 10, 2015

In an interview on USA Today's "Capital Download," South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham (R) said he was "98.6 percent sure" he'll run for the Republican presidential nomination, but admitted that the GOP has a problem with non-white voters where his party is getting "creamed."

Graham said that he will announce his candidacy soon, joining an already crowded field of candidates, all of whom believe they can beat presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

"There's a reason there's a lot of people running on our side," Graham explained. "We all think we can beat Hillary. The world is falling apart. I think I have a good background. Experience and judgement to re-set what I think is radical Islam running wild. We're gonna get hit hard if something doesn't change."

While Graham believes that Clinton is beatable, he doesn't believe that it will be easy.

"I think she's going to be a tough candidate, but I think she represents the third term of a failed presidency," Graham said. "The only way we'd lose this election is if we beat ourselves, and that's very possible. But we're getting creamed with non-white voters."

Talk then turned to the contentious immigration debate within the Republican Party, with Graham taking a softer and more conciliatory approach to undocumented immigrants.

"If I were president of the United States, I would veto any bill that did not have a pathway to citizenship," Graham explained. "You would have a long, hard path to citizenship ... but I want to create that path because I don't like the idea of millions of people living in America for the rest of their lives being the hired help. That's not who we are."

No interview with Graham would be complete without him taking a shot at rival Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, with Graham questioning Paul's foreign policy positions, saying he "is leading from behind."

"At the end of the day, his world view has not stood the test of time and I think he'd be the worst possible person to send into the ring when it came to foreign policy," Graham said, adding that Clinton "could get to his right very easily."

Rand Paul Courts San Francisco's Techies // BuzzFeed // Ellen Cushing – May 10, 2015

The Republican presidential hopeful talks Snapchat and won't take questions In San Francisco.

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It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon in one of the most liberal cities in America, and Rand Paul — the Republican United States senator from Kentucky running for president — is talking about Snapchat.

"We use Snapchat more than anybody else out there," he brags during a speech in San Francisco. The crowd loves it. It's a Snapchat kind of crowd.

Paul is speaking from a concrete-floored South of Market coworking space, StartupHouse, that will soon become the campaign's home in San Francisco. The audience is made up of more than a hundred Rand fans and at least a dozen reporters. One entire wall is covered in chalkboard paint and pink and blue handwritten messages. Startup-y miscellany clutters nearly every empty surface — papers, all manner of cords and chargers, one $4,400 check, uncashed. One guy is wearing a shirt that says "freelance developer." Another has a laptop sticker that reads "I don't believe the liberal agenda." He's livetweeting. The event is called — and, really, there is nothing else it could be called — Disrupting Democracy. It's all very two point omg.

And it is certainly very new.

As Vincent Harris, a Paul staffer who sat near the back tweeting from the senator's Twitter account, told BuzzFeed News, Paul's campaign is the only one with a tech advisory board, a CTO, a digital strategist, and offices in both San Francisco and Austin, Texas. Another attendee, Matt Shupe, a thirtysomething political consultant, points out that it's rare for a politician on either side of the aisle to treat California as anything other than an ATM, hosting free, open events such as this one.

Paul's commitment to courting Silicon Valley is genuine, if a bit puzzling — California hasn't gone red in a presidential contest since 1988, and as San Francisco Chronicle political columnist Carla Marinucci noted toward the end of the panel, "the tech community voted overwhelmingly for Barack Obama in the last election." But Silicon Valley is nothing if not relentlessly optimistic in the face of mounting obstacles and historic reality. There's a case to be made that liberal San Francisco's backlash against the Google Busses and the Twitter tax breaks have served to alienate the tech community, and that, if pitched right, Paul's particular brand of civil libertarianism could square with Silicon Valley's iconoclastic ethos.

At any rate, the people crowded into StartupHouse seemed to believe it could. "We're here in San Francisco to show that we're a different kind of Republican, and we're here to compete for every vote," Paul said at the end of his short speech, to positively thunderous applause.

After the event — a clean 38 minutes, including opening remarks and a panel discussion — he was mobbed by people requesting selfies and autographs; one fan, a youngish guy in a corduroy blazer, chased the Senator about his startup, a voter engagement app. Think Rand Paul as VC. And then, he was out.

Outside on the sidewalk past the scrum of picture-takers and startup-pitchers, I chased Paul down. Although he'd fielded questions from attendees, he had dodged the press. I wanted to see if I could ask him a quick question. But he wasn't having it. This stop was but one of many.

So the Senator from Kentucky trotted off into the sun, surrounded by aides and bodyguards. I squinted after them, trying to see the car he got into — look for the tell-tale Uber sticker or Lyft mustache — but no luck; he had already turned a corner.

Rand Paul Talks About Appealing to Young People on Tech Issues // National Journal // Eric Garcia - May 10, 2015

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In a speech in San Francisco, presidential candidate Rand Paul told Silicon Valley conservatives that he could win over Californians and other voters not normally associated with the Republican Party largely on issues of civil liberties and technology.

At the Disrupting Democracy speaker series hosted by Lincoln Labs, a tech-friendly conservative organization, Paul made the case for appealing to younger voters by way of ending mass data collection, an activity he said went against one of the main reasons young people voted for Barack Obama in 2008.

"I also think people who voted for President Obama was because they thought he was a civil libertarian," Paul said.

Saturday's speech was part of Paul's message of reaching to nontraditional GOP voters. Last year, he spoke at the University of California at Berkeley, which is not viewed as a conservative bastion.

Paul made the case that criminal justice reform could be a way to appeal to voters, noting that the Republican Party often touts itself as the party of the Second Amendment.

"I want to also be the party of the First Amendment, the Fourth Amendment but also the Fifth and Sixth Amendment," Paul said. As part of this, Paul talked about restoring the right to vote for convicted felons.

Paul also held firm to his opposition to net neutrality, saying he had not seen concerns about internet monopolies that could control rates being manifested.

"I don't think there is yet evidence that there's absolute control of rates," adding if there was any organization involved with monopolies, it was government monopolies. Paul also dismissed the idea that it would make it harder for small startup companies to succeed.

"The government didn't create Facebook and the government didn't create Google," he said.

Another issue to which Paul stated his opposition was the refinancing student loans, an idea championed by some progressives, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"It'd lead to chaos," he said, also criticizing the White House proposal for free community college as "absurd," and instead suggested his proposal to make college tuition tax-deductible.

"People said there wouldn't be enough money for government; well, government would have to be smaller," Paul said.

Meanwhile, Paul pushed back on an idea being promoted by the California secretary of state to make voter registration automatic.

"I am of the belief that getting off your sofa to participate is required," Paul said, adding that he did not like the idea of having ballots mailed to voters, even though some have posited that Republicans are more likely to vote by mail, while Democrats are likely to vote early and in person.

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Rand Paul Plays Down Comments on Military Exercise After Mockery // First Draft – NYT // Jeremy Peters – May 10, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO — Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky has been mocked by liberal pundits who accused him of fanning conspiracy theories about a military exercise along the Texas border, an event that some on the far right believe is a covert effort to impose martial law.

But in an interview this weekend, Mr. Paul said he had no idea what the training exercise — known as Jade Helm — was when he was first asked about it last month on an Iowa radio program.

“Someone on a radio program asked me what it was. I didn’t know,” Mr. Paul said after he christened a new work space for his presidential campaign in the Bay Area. He expressed befuddlement at how his comments about “that ridiculous Jade something” had been blown out of proportion.

“I said sure, I’ll ask my staff to look into it because I didn’t know what it was,” he said.

The comments that drew ridicule by people like Bill Maher, who accused Mr. Paul of pandering to the right-wing fringe, occurred on the Jan Mickelson program. Mr. Mickelson brought up the exercise, telling the senator, “I’d like to know what the rest of the story is on that.”

Mr. Paul replied, “We’ll look at that also.”

Other Republicans, like Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, have gone further. Mr. Cruz said he had no reason to doubt the military’s motives, but added that the paranoia was expected because the Obama administration has stoked questions about its honesty. “I understand the reason for concern and uncertainty because the federal government has not demonstrated itself to be trustworthy in this administration.”

Hillaryclinton.Net Redirects To Carly Fiorina Campaign Website // Breitbart // Alex Swoyer - May 10, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina has launched #DomainGate on Twitter. She is seemingly buying up celebrity domains to push her campaign message. Those going to hillaryclinton.net , for example, find themselves at Fiornia’s campaign Website.

Breitbart News previously reported Fiorina schooled Seth Meyers on his show, Late Night with Seth Meyers by buying SethMeyers.org.

Meyers noted that someone had purchased CarlyFiorina.org using it to bash Fiorina as former CEO of Hewlett Packard.

“Carly Fiorina failed to register this domain. So I’m using it to tell you how many people she laid off at Hewlett-Packard,” read a note on CarlyFiorina.org.

The site displays a page of frowning faces, captioned by: “That’s 30,000 people she laid off. People with families.”

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It appears Fiorina didn't stop with SethMeyers.org. She appeared on Meet The Press Sunday and redirected ChuckTodd.org to her site as well.

If you got to any of the three sites, you are redirected to her campaign site, CarlyforPresident.com.

Waiting for Jeb to jump // Politico // Glenn Thrush – May 10, 2015

By the end of last week, almost everyone had jumped into the pool. Almost everyone except John Ellis Bush, who still sits at the water's edge of the 2016 presidential campaign, suit dry except for the stray splash thrown his way by his jostling Republican rivals Mike Huckabee, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

It wasn't clear at the time, but is increasingly so now, that Jeb Bush's decision last December to signal, but not formally announce, his candidacy was a short-term logistical masterstroke befitting his family's reputation for mastering the mechanics of elections. His undeclared status has freed him to raise what aides are saying will be as much as $100 million from rich patrons and outside groups (the second he files presidential paperwork, he's prevented from requesting big super PAC checks), and it has temporarily shielded him from being the target of shots many of his would-be opponents are leveling at Hillary Clinton. (Aside, that is, from lots of hand-wringing about the increasingly hereditary nature of American politics, and mockery of his insistence that he'll be his "own man" on foreign policy.)

This inversion — building a campaign on the back of a super PAC instead of vice versa — is novel and could be a model for the future, but it also puts a lot of pressure on an opaque candidate who publicly has done little more than a set of sporadic, low-octane speeches with few specifics to offer. Given his fundraising focus, he's already dogged by the notion, eagerly pushed by his enemies among the party's tea party hard-liners, that he's a bankroll in search of a soul.

Which is why we'll see the media coverage of the Republican presidential race coalesce, and soon, around a single question: Is Bush actually the front-runner, or just a guy with a lot of money trying to buy the nomination?

A dozen or so Republican operatives and donors I spoke with last week, most of them open to a Bush candidacy, didn't have a clue how that question will be ultimately be answered, but it's a decisive one, and they are antsy to find out. The early polls, which show Jeb getting clobbered in Iowa, barely ahead — if at all — in New Hampshire, and trading a narrow lead nationally with his fellow Floridian Marco Rubio, are predicting a ferociously competitive campaign. But who knows how it will play out when Bush actually announces? "A month ago, the whole story was that Hillary was rusty, that she hadn't been out there doing anything," said a veteran GOP operative who worked on one of George W. Bush's campaigns. "Well, she's been out there taking hits for a month. Jeb hasn't. It's time to get this thing going."

Nicolle Wallace, a White House communications director to George W. Bush who started her political life as a 25-year-old adviser to Jeb Bush in Florida, also sees undeniable parallels with the Democrats' presumptive nominee, Hillary Clinton. "I think some of their strengths are parallel. Some of their strengths are on the policy side, not the retail political side. I think some of their strengths are in a room, not on a stage," she told me during a taping of last week's POLITICO podcast.

"I think they have some of the same weaknesses, too. They're both in a constituent-free zone. Neither of them represents anybody right now. Neither of them is advocating on anyone's behalf, except their own campaigns. And I think it's awkward, frankly, for both of them."

Bush's campaign is slowly, inevitably pushing him into the water, nudging him into more high-stakes situations

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ahead of a formal announcement that could come as early as mid-June. People close to the campaign tell me he plans to do some press-the-flesh retail campaigning on a trip to New Hampshire in late May — and his Liberty University commencement address on Saturday was a risky operation, considering the rock-star reception conservative fire breather Ted Cruz received at the Jerry Falwell-founded school when he announced his candidacy there in March.

Bush, a midlife convert to Roman Catholicism, used the speech to emphasize that he is a man of deep belief — a key signifier in a party that values faith. But he also sought to differentiate himself from other candidates who more explicitly bring their religious fervor to their politics, namely Huckabee and Cruz, warning against feeding into Democratic arguments that the GOP is turning into a party of religious rigidity. “The mistake is to confuse points of theology with moral principles that are knowable to reason as well as by faith,” Bush said, pointedly refusing to bash the move toward legalizing same-sex marriage that Cruz has embraced as an affront to his faith. “And this confusion is all part of a false narrative that casts religious Americans as intolerant scolds, running around trying to impose their views on everyone.”

The timing of the Liberty address also spoke to Bush’s conflict-avoidance strategy. He skipped the crowded, potentially more contentious venue of the South Carolina Freedom Summit in Greenville attended by just about every other candidate in the field except Rand Paul and Chris Christie.

The Republican most unconstrained in his willingness to attack Bush declared his intention to run last Wednesday. Huckabee, the roly-poly former Arkansas governor who reportedly made a fortune selling a dubious diabetes cure, is viewed by most of the news media as comic relief (he once quipped that “Jesus was too smart to ever run for public office,” when asked what his savior would say about the death penalty), but he could prove to be a very dangerous foil for a patrician candidate with the last name Bush.

No candidate in the race on either side is more comfortable throwing around the populist economic rhetoric than Huckabee, who, despite his $3 million mansion on the Gulf Coast and affection for private jet travel, seems genuinely irked that his party keeps pushing fancy-pants plutocrats to the top, and he appears to relish taking on Bush. The signature rhetorical move of the early 2016 Republican primary is the dual-purpose swipe: a shot at Hillary Clinton that doubles as a Bush diss. (Rubio, lumping Clinton and Bush together, recently declared, “I think the 21st century is going to be better than the 20th century.”)

Huckabee’s swipes at Bush are even less thinly veiled than that — and they are aimed directly at Bush’s big-money donor base, in mid-American populist language that could have come from leftist hero Elizabeth Warren — or William Jennings Bryan for that matter. “The Dodd-Frank banking bill was written to punish the banks that supposedly got us in trouble,” he told a small audience in South Carolina on Friday. “They are bigger now than they ever were.”

He has a knack for making personal attacks seem folksy and somehow not out of line. Back in 2008, he went on Jay Leno’s show to poke fun at Mitt Romney, who had emerged as a serious challenger to eventual GOP nominee John McCain. “People are looking for a presidential candidate who reminds them of the guy they work with rather than the guy who laid them off,” Huckabee said, a soundbite studied, amplified and broadcast to much effect by President Barack Obama’s 2012 reelection campaign against Romney.

Huckabee is already at it again this year, with the unrestrained zeal of a man aiming less for real power than one last folk-hero turn on the national stage. “I don’t come from a family dynasty, but a working family. I grew up blue collar, not blue blood,” he said during his campaign kick-off announcement last week, with special emphasis on the final two words of the sentence. Everyone knew he was talking about Bush.

Will it matter? Huckabee’s impressive victory in the 2008 Iowa caucuses makes him a force to be reckoned with, but he isn’t doing quite as well in Iowa this time — in part because voters have seen his act before, in part because Cruz is making a harder-edged appeal for evangelicals — he’s currently a middle-of-the-pack 11 percent in recent polls. But Bush is in far worse shape — at 5 percent with disapproval ratings north of 50 percent.

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Of course, on the map of 2016, New Hampshire looms even larger, just as it did for Romney four years ago, but even this won't be an easy one for Bush. A WMUR Granite State poll taken earlier this month showed him leading the increasingly packed pack with 15 percent of the vote, but Rubio is a close second at 12 percent.

That Bush is increasingly, inevitably, becoming a focal point of 2016 came as welcome news in the utilitarian, poorly air-conditioned warren of re-purposed bank back offices that serves as Hillary Clinton's headquarters in Brooklyn. There was a clear feeling, for the first time, among Clinton's inner circle last week that she won't be alone on the firing line for long. "The whole dynamic of the race changes when the Republicans start attacking each other, when Jeb gets in," Tom Nides, a former Clinton State Department aide close to the campaign, told me.

Indeed, while Bush-bashing is likely to become a favored new sport among the 20 Republicans clamoring for attention, Clinton's cardinal advantage as a candidate — the absence of deep intraparty division over her candidacy — might have actually paid real dividends for the first time last week.

To the uninitiated in Clinton world, it was a week awash in badish news: Bill Clinton was on NBC during an Africa trip defending his foundation's multiple mistakes in hyperdefensive, cringe-inducing 1990s legalese (his staff had done nothing "knowingly improper," he said); Hillary Clinton agreed to testify in public session during House Republican hearings on Benghazi; and she drew her first declared primary opponent, Vermont independent Bernie Sanders.

But none of those hits seemed to faze the Clinton people who have begun their slow, steady occupation of the bars and brew pubs of nearby Brooklyn Heights. For the first time in her month-old candidacy, Clinton went on the offensive and pitched something bold: a promise not only to support but also to expand President Barack Obama's immigration reform executive order, which has offered 5 million undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship.

"I would do everything possible under the law to go even further," Clinton told a predominantly Hispanic audience in Las Vegas on Tuesday, signaling the possibility of halting deportations for parents of "Dreamers," children whose parents brought them to the U.S. illegally.

The national media was still chewing over the implications of the Clinton speech two days later, on Thursday, when Sanders made his formal announcement, which was easily overshadowed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and some other Republicans blasting Clinton's idea as "amnesty," Bush and Chris Christie dodging the question, and White House officials griping that Clinton didn't give Obama enough credit.

No doubt, Sanders' core case against Clinton, that she is just another defender — and major financial beneficiary — of a system that protects the ultrawealthy at the expense of everybody else will have its day when Sanders scores points in a debate or surges in an Iowa poll. "There will be a time this fall, mark my words, when Bernie Sanders or [former Maryland governor and possible Democratic presidential candidate] Martin O'Malley will have his moment," one senior Clinton aide told me. "But it's not going to be because we haven't addressed issues like economic inequality."

How much does Clinton's left flank need protecting? Not quite as much as last time. Clinton's people have been aggressively promoting the storyline that she is a looser, more relaxed, more authentic candidate than in 2008, but for now it's not personality but the absence of a threatening progressive challenger — armed with an issue as damaging as her 'yes' vote on the Iraq War — that is allowing Clinton to go on offense. More importantly, the Clinton team believes she won't have too much trouble debunking the notion she's not a true liberal: Clinton will take her hits from the Warren-Sanders wing of the party for her associations with Wall Street, they say, but she is completely in step with the broader progressive agenda on jobs, unions, the environment, social issues and especially immigration.

Indeed, as Sanders was entering the race, some Clinton surrogates were making the case that the wild-haired

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Brooklyn native was to the right of Clinton on gun control — helpfully reminding reporters that Sanders, while representing liberal but gun-loving Vermont, has sided with the National Rifle Association on many gun-control measures, including Bill Clinton's Brady Law.

Yet the challenges posed by Huckabee to Bush and by Sanders to Clinton are real, and rooted in a deep dissatisfaction with the status quo, a dissatisfaction that can't help but be a liability for perhaps the two candidates in modern history most representative of the dynastic political establishment.

If they somehow manage to make it to the general election, voters will witness a multibillion-dollar dual-rebranding initiative designed to turn two American royals into commoners.

It's already begun: Hillary's first political act as a 2016 candidate was visiting a Chipotle, incognito, in her "Scooby Van" to order a chicken burrito bowl.

Not to be outdone, Jeb — with, no doubt, the devastating 1992 image of his father standing dumbstruck before a New Hampshire supermarket scanner — insisted upon a public rebuttal. I go to Chipotle, too, Jeb insisted. Then he paused. "Drive my own car. Park my own car. Get out of my own car."

Choices, choices: Republicans ponder crowded field // USA Today // David Jackson – May 10, 2015

Republican primary voters face an unusual test in 2016.

Multiple choice.

The party that usually features well-established favorites in its primary races is now looking at a free-for-all with more than a dozen aspirants, each of whom facing his — and her — own unique test: standing out in a very crowded field.

"It feels like anybody can just jump in!" said Kirstin Griffin, 43, a Greenville preschool teacher's aide who listened to some of the candidates at a weekend forum in upstate South Carolina.

"I think it's good," she added. "Everyone has to prove themselves."

That's what brought Scott Walker, Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, Ben Carson, John Bolton, George Pataki, Carly Fiorina and Donald Trump to a weekend "Freedom Summit" in downtown Greenville. It's why Jeb Bush delivered a commencement address at Virginia's Liberty University, the religious school founded by Jerry Falwell.

In the coming months, candidates such as Rand Paul and Mike Huckabee — and perhaps Chris Christie, Lindsey Graham and John Kasich, as well — will travel to Pizza Ranches in Iowa, high schools in New Hampshire and barbecue pits in South Carolina.

They'll be giving interviews to local media, making online sales pitches, and — for those who can afford it — cutting spots for local radio and television ads.

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In August, the crowded Republican field will try to draw contrasts in what likely will be the most important encounters: debates.

All this activity has a single goal: getting attention from voters in early caucus and primary states.

"I am looking for charisma in a candidate," said Dan Herren, 43, an advertising account manager for radio stations in South Carolina. "You have to communicate effectively."

Herren and other South Carolina Republicans who watched candidates at the Peace Center for the performing arts said they want a nominee who can forcefully carry the conservative message on issues like immigration, reducing the federal debt and fighting terrorism.

They're also looking for someone who can actually win the general election in 2016, probably against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

"Let's face it," Herren said. "Hillary Clinton is a lot like her husband. ... She can communicate very well."

Katie Stoddard, 31, a public relations specialist from Greenwood, S.C., said that, right now, the Republican candidates are stuck on "talking points" and giving people "a lot of the same-old-same-old." At some point, she said, the GOP contenders will have to start giving voters more specifics.

"Fundraising is going to be big," she added.

Also big is the series of Republican Party-sponsored debates expected to begin in August.

"That's going to separate the men from the boys, as they say," said Peggy James, 78, a retired retail manager from Mauldin, S.C.

Sipping a Pepsi in the lobby the of the Peace Center, James said candidates have to prove to GOP voters they have sufficient "fire in the belly" to make a successful race.

"They show it by conviction (voters) can feel," she said. "You can see it."

The Republicans will be looking for votes in what may be the most wide-open GOP race in seven decades.

In years past, Republicans have tended to bestow presidential nominations on the next one in line.

Think Richard Nixon in 1960 (and 1968), or Ronald Reagan in 1980, George H.W. Bush in 1988, or Bob Dole in 1996. Even John McCain, after faltering early in the 2008 campaign, rallied in part because of his status as a political veteran. Mitt Romney played the role of heir apparent in the 2012 race.

Republicans have also had well-funded "establishment" candidates at the start of races. Early support helped George W. Bush stave off McCain's "maverick" challenge in 2000.

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Even when the Republicans have competitive races, they tend to be smallish affairs. Dwight Eisenhower overtook conservative stalwart Robert Taft in 1952. Another conservative leader, Barry Goldwater, held off a series of more moderate challengers to claim the GOP nomination in 1964.

This time around, "it's no one's turn," said Bruce Haynes, a Republican consultant who hails from South Carolina.

"We're shopping in the new car lot," he said.

One model is Jeb Bush, the son and brother of Republican presidents, who is likely to be the best-funded candidate. But party members in South Carolina and elsewhere question the former Florida's governor's commitment to conservatism, as well as the prospects of a "third Bush" seeking the presidency.

Other candidates are also stressing their gubernatorial experience. This group includes current state executives Walker (Wisconsin), Christie (New Jersey) and Jindal (Louisiana), as well as ex-governors Perry (Texas) and Huckabee (Arkansas). Another sitting governor — John Kasich of Ohio — may also join the GOP fray in the coming weeks.

A group of senators is also pursuing the Republican nomination. Rubio of Florida, Cruz of Texas and Paul of Kentucky have formally declared their candidacies, and Graham of South Carolina may soon follow suit.

The Republican field also includes non-officeholders who are campaigning against what they call "professional politicians." The outsider group includes businesswoman Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson. Businessman and television personality Donald Trump is again flirting with a Republican presidential bid.

As voting time approaches early next year, candidates will begin staking out early states best suited to them. The Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary are expected to be in early in February; Nevada and South Carolina figure to hold contests in late February.

"You pick your spots," said Republican analyst Rich Galen.

Right now, Republican voters are still in the "flavor of the month" stage, said Linda Slaton, 67, a retired speech therapist from Greenville.

"They'll weed out," she said. "It's nice to have choices."

Jeb Bush says he, Hillary Clinton would have backed Iraq invasion // Fox News // May 10, 2015

Former Florida GOP Gov. Jeb Bush says that he would have authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq but acknowledges that mistakes were made after Saddam Hussein had been removed from power, in an exclusive interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly.

"I would have [authorized the invasion], and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody. And so would almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got," Bush told Kelly in a wide-ranging interview that will be aired Monday night.

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Bush says the United States failed to focus on security first, which he argues led Iraqis to turn on the military because there was no protection for families. However, he challenged the idea that the security issue was a point disagreement between him and his brother, President George W. Bush, who ordered the invasion.

“By the way, guess who thinks that those mistakes took place as well? George W. Bush,” Jeb Bush said. “Yes, I mean, so just for the news flash to the world, if they’re trying to find places where there’s big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those.”

Bush also talked about his views on immigration reform and whether he could get his ideas through a GOP primary should he decide to run for president.

“I mean, there’s got to be a point where we fix this system so that legal immigration is easier than illegal immigration and show some respect for people,” he said. To “a kid that might have been here 10 years, that might be a valedictorian of their high school, to say, 'No, no, no, you’re not allowed to go to college,' I just think there’s a point passed which we’re over the line. “

On the issue of whether he could persuade people in the conservative wing of the party to agree with him, Bush said that he believed he could but that standing by his beliefs at the same time is equally important.

“But here’s the deal, Megyn, if I go beyond the consideration of running to be an actual candidate, do you want people to just bend with the wind, to mirror people’s sentiment whoever is in front of you? ‘Oh, yes, I used to be for that but now, I’m for this.’ Is that the way we want to elect presidents?”

Can Rubio or Bush help Republicans finally win Latino vote in 2016? // LAT // Mark Z. Barabak - May 10, 2015

Once an afterthought, Latino voters have moved to the center of the 2016 presidential campaign, the object of early and unprecedented courtship by candidates on both sides.

The efforts, both substantive and symbolic, reflect a political map that has changed dramatically with the transformation of states such as Nevada, Colorado and others that are no longer the white, Republican bastions of old.

President Obama twice carried Nevada, Colorado, Virginia and Florida, thanks in good part to strong support among their growing Latino populations; in Nevada, the Latino share of the vote has tripled in the last 20 years.

All four are once more expected to be among the few competitive states in 2016.

Jeb Bush

“I know about the immigrant experience because I married a beautiful girl from Mexico. My children are bicultural and bilingual,” Republican Jeb Bush points out. (Alex Wong / Getty Images)

A key question is whether the eventual Democratic nominee can cement those gains for elections to come, or Republicans can reverse their dismal performance of the last two presidential contests and, by doing so, expand their narrow path to the White House.

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Republicans seem to stand their best chance in years of harvesting Latino support with the candidacy of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants; and the expected run by the state's former governor, Jeb Bush, whose wife is Mexican-born and who is fluent in both the Spanish language and Latino culture.

Every week seemingly brings a new Bush appearance before Latino voters — a town hall in Puerto Rico, a speech to evangelical leaders in Houston — where he delivers, in English and Spanish, a message unlike any heard from previous Republican presidential hopefuls.

First, though, he and Rubio have to navigate their party's nominating process, a course dominated by white conservatives who favor a hard-line approach to immigration reform, the very issue that has driven so many Latinos into the arms of Democrats.

"In essence, Hispanic voters tell us our party's position ... has become a litmus test, measuring whether we are meeting them with a welcome mat or a closed door," members of a Republican task force wrote in a postmortem after the party's nominee, Mitt Romney, won fewer than 3 in 10 Latino votes in 2012.

The most specific policy recommendation in the 97-page autopsy was support for comprehensive immigration reform, which, translated, means going beyond the law enforcement remedies favored by the party's bedrock supporters. Of the top-tier candidates, only Bush and Rubio have embraced that approach.

It was hardly coincidental that Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton last week unveiled her immigration policy in Las Vegas or that, in doing so, she checked off much of the wish list of Latino activists, including a path to citizenship for millions of people in the country illegally and more compassionate enforcement of the country's border laws.

Nevada enjoys a prominent place on the nominating calendar, now slotted as the third to vote after contests in Iowa and New Hampshire. But more than that, the state mirrors the broad demographic changes that are reshaping politics across the country by the day.

In 1994, more than 90% of Nevada voters were white, a number that shrank to 67% in 2012. Over the same period, the Latino share of voters grew from 5% to 15%, a percentage expected to increase further by 2016.

(Nationally, Latinos accounted for 10% of the vote in the last presidential race. They are expected to account for nearly half of the growth in the eligible electorate between now and 2030, according to research by the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center.)

If a Democrat hopes to be president, he or she must not only reassemble Obama's winning coalition, which included Latinos and other minorities, but ensure that those voters turn out in robust numbers. Clinton's immigration proposals seem calculated to do just that, leaving Republicans the unpalatable choice of seconding her views — and alienating their conservative base — or rejecting them and risking further estrangement from Latino voters.

Nevada offers an object lesson.

Last year, with a virtually uncontested governor's race and little effort by state Democrats to spur turnout, Latino voters stayed home in droves. As a result, Republicans not only swept every statewide constitutional office, they knocked off a supposedly safe Democratic House member here in Las Vegas and seized control of the state Legislature for the first time since the 1920s.

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"Democrats can't take those voters for granted," said David Damore, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, expert on Latino political participation. "They need to spend money on outreach, get-out-the-vote, Spanish-language advertising. Without them, Democrats don't win."

Marco Rubio enters 2016 race touting youth, avoiding messy issues

Marco Rubio enters 2016 race touting youth, avoiding messy issues

Clinton apparently got the message: Two of her first Nevada hires, campaign director Emmy Ruiz and organizing director Jorge Neri, helped Obama win 70% of the state's Latino vote in 2012.

For Republicans, the imperative is less urgent, given their overwhelming support among white male voters. But their nominee can't afford a Romney-style blowout.

Whit Ayres, a veteran GOP pollster working for Rubio, believes the party's eventual nominee will need to win more than 40% of the Latino vote to carry the White House, a performance only two Republicans — Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush — have approached in the last 35 years. (Obama won 67% of the Latino vote in 2008 and 71% in 2012.)

This time Bush's brother, Jeb, has been most conspicuous in his courtship of Latino support. "We're an immigrant nation and we should be proud," he recently told supporters during a stop in Puerto Rico. "I know about the immigrant experience because I married a beautiful girl from Mexico. My children are bicultural and bilingual."

Rubio, of course, needn't reach to make that cultural connection. If anything, he seems to downplay his Latino heritage as he appeals to white conservative audiences.

But implicit in his very candidacy is the chance for Republicans to make history by nominating their first-ever minority standard-bearer, who, as a youthful Latino, reflects the demographic wave inexorably remaking the country, state by state.

For decades, Latinos were characterized — patronized, some said — as a slumbering giant: large in number, potentially powerful but largely apathetic and politically impotent. No more.

Now voters such as Santos Garcia have become highly sought-after.

"They're going to want our support," said Garcia, a 59-year-old kitchen worker at Harrah's casino on the Las Vegas Strip. "Without the Spanish vote they know they can't win. So they're going to come look for us."

Why Carly Fiorina was fired, according to Carly Fiorina // MSNBC // Anna Brand - May 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina on Sunday once again defended her tenure — and firing — as the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive, saying that “it is a leader’s job to challenge the status quo, and when you do, you make enemies.”

Fiorina during an interview on “Meet the Press” pointed to the rocky recession that led to layoffs at the technology company.

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When pressed by host Chuck Todd, who flat out asked “So, why were you fired?” Fiorina responded as she has before, even using identical phrasing.

“Well, they did fire me. I’ve been very open about that. I was fired in a boardroom brawl,” Fiorina said. “We had board members who were leaking information out of the boardroom.”

On why the stock at HP, on the day she was fired, went up nearly 7%, Fiorina fired back, “the stock has gone down during my tenure, as did every other single technology company.”

Related: Fiorina on CarlyFiorina.org: ‘You can’t buy every domain name’

After Fiorina officially declared her candidacy for president in 2016 last Monday, the URL carlyfiorina.org illustrated via endless sad-faced emojis the number of people laid off at HP. “Carly Fiorina failed to register this domain. So I’m using it to tell you how many people she laid off at Hewlett-Packard. It was this many,” the site read, followed by 30,000 unhappy faces.

“What people fail to comment on is the fact that we doubled the size of the company,” Fiorina hit back on Sunday.

For the past six days, Fiorina has been all over the media largely attempting to set her record straight at HP, gain much-needed face recognition, and criticize Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

In her announcement video, Fiorina showed a clip of Clinton before even showing herself. It was a move that let her essential role in the election be known as the anti-Hillary.

Earlier this weekend, Fiorina spoke at the South Carolina Freedom Summit — alongside other Republican presidential hopefuls — to again pit herself against Clinton.

“Like Hillary Clinton, I too am running for president of the United States. But unlike Hillary Clinton, I’m not afraid to answer questions about my track record or my accomplishments or my principles,” Fiorina said, adding that Clinton doesn’t have a “record of accomplishment.”

On Sunday, Florina reiterated this sentiment. “I understand the executive decision making, which is making a tough call in a tough time, for which you are prepared to be held accountable,” she told Chuck Todd. “Something that at least Hillary Clinton doesn’t have a track record of.”

Mike Huckabee, Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson May Play Key Roles in Republican Race // NYT // Al Hunt - May 10, 2015

WASHINGTON — None of the three candidates who joined the Republican presidential contest last week — Mike Huckabee, Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson — will win the nomination.

That’s the view of politically smart strategists who nevertheless say that all three, especially Mr. Huckabee, could play important roles in shaping the race.

First, here’s why these latest entries are unlikely to prevail. The Republican coalition has three pillars, all

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relatively conservative: economic, national security and social issues. A candidate has to be acceptable to at least two of the three. At this stage, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and perhaps Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky make the grade.

Mr. Huckabee — the populist Baptist preacher, former Arkansas governor and talk-show host — doesn't. He is adored by the social right, hated by economic conservatives and isn't respected by many national security hawks.

Moreover, there's skepticism about his ability to raise the funds to go the distance. In 2008, after winning the initial Iowa caucuses, he lacked the resources to compete through the nominating process. There's a general sense that 2012 was his time. He passed.

Mr. Carson, a prominent physician, and Ms. Fiorina, the former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, are political novices, neither has ever been elected to office. The supposed appeal of nonpoliticians in America is superficial.

In a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll released last week, almost 70 percent said they would be uncomfortable with a presidential candidate who lacks previous experience in government.

Mr. Carson and Ms. Fiorina, both cancer survivors, have appealing narratives. Mr. Carson's résumé is more impressive: He is one of the world's most renowned pediatric neurosurgeons. (He once operated on our son.) Ms. Fiorina was fired as C.E.O. of Hewlett-Packard and generally gets negative reviews for her performance.

The possible import of Mr. Carson, who espouses a hard-right line and has attracted a following in places such as Iowa, is that movement conservatives account for half of the vote in several early contests. Governor Walker and Senator Rubio could get a small slice of those votes, as will Senator Paul, whose basic appeal is to libertarians.

More than 40 percent of the vote is likely to go to a movement right aspirant. In 2012, the Iowa caucus was won with 24 percent of the vote, in a smaller and less capable field.

The difference between Mr. Carson getting 5 percent and 10 percent may well decide if one of the movement right candidates tops 20 percent, which could be first place.

The top two right-wing candidates are Mr. Huckabee and Senator Cruz. A no-holds-barred debate between these tough customers, similar in ideology, vastly different in style, would be worthy of Las Vegas. Senator Cruz, a brilliant lawyer and champion debater, would assail Mr. Huckabee as a tax-increasing governor who commuted the sentences of hardened criminals, including one who went on to commit murder.

Continue reading the main story

The folksy and fiery Mr. Huckabee could attack the Texas senator for supporting President Obama on free trade and for his ties to Wall Street and the Republican donor class.

Ms. Fiorina's corporate background is probably better preparation for politics than brain surgery. She's unlikely to make embarrassing gaffes like Mr. Carson's recent charge, which he later retracted, that people enter prison as heterosexuals and leave gay.

Elements of the Republican establishment welcome Ms. Fiorina's candidacy. She's the only woman, and the party has a gender problem. She's a willing attack dog against Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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Yet if she ever does better than the point or two that she scores in current polls, it would likely be at the expense of an establishment type such as Mr. Bush.

In the most wide open Republican race in the past half-century, there are no certainties, and maybe even no likelihoods. A year from now it's improbable that we'll look back on the events of the past week as seminal, but they may affect how the race looks then.

Paul Tells Tech-Heavy Crowd He's Against NSA Data Collection // AP // Ellen Kickmeyer - May 10, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul sparked applause from a tech-heavy audience Saturday when he criticized the government's bulk collection of data but drew a more tepid response for his opposition to so-called net neutrality.

Appearing at a tech start-up office space in the South of Mission district, Paul reiterated his stance against the National Security Agency collecting and storing data on nearly every American's phone calls. The practice, aimed at preventing terrorism, has divided Republican presidential candidates.

Tech entrepreneurs, typically zealous in guarding their online privacy, welcomed Paul's pledge to rein in U.S. intelligence agencies' broad data captures of phone calls and Internet use.

"The NSA doesn't need to be recording all of our phone calls," said Paul, a Republican senator from Kentucky. He added, "There's not one other candidate ... willing to say, 'On Day One, I'd stop it all. I'd end all bulk collection of records.'"

Congress is debating the reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act, which is set to expire on June 1. Supporters of the surveillance law, including presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., say it's critical to anti-terrorism efforts. Paul and fellow Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, see the law as a privacy infringement.

Net neutrality opposes an Internet fast lane, with speedier connections at higher prices, for those who can afford to pay more. Paul, however, argued that market forces demand that if wealthier people are willing to pay more, they get the chance. He also asserted that mandated same-speed Internet for all is a market distortion akin to subsidized bread in the Soviet Union.

When a moderator of a panel said Paul's proposal to let graduates deduct their college costs on their taxes over their lifetime would only benefit the wealthy, Paul responded, "Poor kids go to Harvard, too."

Paul's appearance in a liberal bastion of a liberal state is part of his effort to expand the traditional boundaries of support for a Republican presidential campaign.

"Some people want to know what the hell is a Republican doing in San Francisco," he said. "I would say, it's about time."

Ben Carson outlines flat-tax proposal // POLITICO // Eliza Collins - May 10, 2015

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Low-income taxpayers can — and want — to pay taxes, Ben Carson said on Sunday.

The retired neurosurgeon who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, said on “Fox News Sunday” he had adopted a flat-tax proposal from tithing in the Bible, citing a 10 percent rate as an example.

It’s “very condescending,” he said, to say that poor people can’t pay at the same tax rate as the wealthy.

“I can tell you that poor people have pride too,” said Carson, who grew up in a low-income family in inner-city Detroit.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Md., Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Carson rejected host Chris Wallace’s information from the Tax Policy Center that in order for the government to raise as much money as it does now the flat tax rate would have to higher than 20 percent.

“If you eliminate the loopholes and the deductions, then you’re really talking about a rate between 10 and 15 percent,” Carson said his experts’ research has shown. “Let’s have a battle of the experts.”

A flat tax would help the government run like a business rather than the “great inefficient behemouth that we have now,” he said.

“If everybody is paying, it makes it very difficult for these politicians to come along and raise taxes” Carson said of his proposal for a new streamlined, flat-tax system.

In South Carolina, a Republican Scramble to Stand Out // AP // Bill Barrow and Mitch Weiss - May 10, 2015

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) -- Republicans making their pitch to be the party's 2016 presidential nominee aimed to out-do each other Saturday in arguing that President Barack Obama is a failed leader.

But hitting Obama with the usual critiques - from his 2010 health care overhaul to allegations of missteps on foreign policy to the rise in the national debt during his time in office - also made it hard for the gaggle of White House aspirants to stand out during a forum in South Carolina hosted by the conservative group Citizens United.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker tried by touting his ability to beat whomever is nominated by the Democratic Party, reminding activists that he won three statewide elections in four years in a state twice carried by Obama.

"The last time a Republican carried the state for president was 1984," he said. "That's a tough state."

He even took the crowd back to his decision to run for county executive in heavily Democratic Milwaukee County. "Never ever had there been a Republican in that spot before," he said.

Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO, continued her tactic of going straight at Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic favorite for 2016. "She is not trustworthy, and she does not have a record of accomplishment," Fiorina said.

In an interview before his turn on stage, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal pointed to his work on policy, saying he's the only potential candidate in the field who has "spent the last 18 months coming up with detailed ideas on health care, on foreign policy, on energy."

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Once on stage, Jindal spent considerable time touting his credentials as a social conservative, including his pushback against criticism from some in the business community over "religious liberty" laws that have become a flashpoint in the national debate over same-sex marriage.

"Don't even waste your breath trying to bully the governor of Louisiana," Jindal said, repeating what he said was his message to corporate leaders.

Rick Santorum, who won the Iowa caucuses in 2012 before fizzling out against eventual nominee Mitt Romney, warned that Republicans eager to retake the White House after Obama's two terms in office must stay focused on reaching working-class voters.

"We have to be a pro-worker party," he said. "We have to be the party for a rising tide lifting all boats. There are millions and millions of Americans who have holes in those boats."

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio took a hard line on foreign policy, saying the nation must get tougher with terrorists. Adapting a line from the movie "Taken," he said: "We will look for you. We will find you. And we will kill you."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz trumpeted his unapologetic approach on Capitol Hill, where he helped engineer a partial government shutdown in 2013. And he told activists that they should compare his style with his rivals, all of whom insist they are conservative.

"Have you had anyone up here today say, 'I'm an establishment moderate who stands for nothing?'" he said. "So how do you tell the difference? The scriptures tell us, 'You shall know them by their fruits." That means, he said, asking candidates, "You say you believe these principles. When have you fought for them?"

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry let loose a series of broadsides at Obama and his policies, drawing cheers from the crowd for a withering critique that covered immigration, the Affordable Care Act, the Islamic State militant group and the federal budget.

His bottom line: "We've seen gross incompetence. We're here to declare that we're not going to take it anymore."

Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon who, like Fiorina, announced his candidacy earlier this week, is running as the outsider. "I'm not a politician," he said. "That's what sets me apart."

Those not in South Carolina on Saturday included former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who delivered the commencement address at Liberty University in Virginia; Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who was campaigning in northern California; and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who was in South Carolina on Friday.

Citizens United President David Bossie dismissed the idea that the large number of GOP candidates muddled their messages and called the wide field an advantage.

"These men and women all believe in American exceptionalism," Bossie said. He added that along with criticizing Obama, Republicans should focus their ire on Clinton - a point on which many in the crowd agreed.

"Any one of them would be better than the disaster we've got now," said Gary Gunderson of Abbeville, South

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Carolina. His wife, Margaret, chimed in: "Or Hillary."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Hillary Clinton Uses Mother's Day To Talk About Paid Family Leave // Jezebel // Stassa Edwardsd – May 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton's latest campaign video is a Mother's Day themed affair. In it Clinton pays homage to her own mother, celebrates the birth of her granddaughter, and shifts into the issue of paid family leave. "It's outrageous that America is the only country in the developed world that doesn't guarantee paid leave," Clinton says.

It's a typical campaign video in many respects, she plays on the old cliché of politicians kissing babies. And the language is also familiar political-speak: "When women are strong, families are strong," Clinton says in a voice over.

While some (ahem, Maureen Dowd) have criticized Clinton for using both her daughter and granddaughter to cynically "soften" her image, the campaign video is an interesting study in a relatively new type of political populism and, however faux it may be, it's nice at least to see that reframed around issues that are deeply important to many American women.

Whether or not you love Clinton or hate her (or feel deeply ambivalent about her), her candidacy seems to be rooted in pushing so-called "women's issues" to the forefront. And maybe I'm soft because it's Mother's Day and I'm typing this post with one hand and a two-year-old on my knee, but if the only way we can talk about issues like paid leave or equal pay is with familiar clichés and sappy music, then I'll take it for now.

How Hillary Is Winning // NYT // Frank Bruni - May 9, 2015

As fleetly as Hillary Clinton vacuums up the money, she piles up the paradoxes.

She showed fatal weaknesses the last time she chased the presidency and her inevitability evaporated like a California puddle, but she's somehow inevitable all over again. Invincible, even. Journalists have to remind themselves daily not to type or say "presumptive Democratic nominee" before her name.

She's fashioning herself as someone uniquely attuned to "everyday Americans" while her husband fashions $500,000 speeches as amulets against the bill collector. Someone's got to pay for the burrito bowls.

And her Republican rivals convince themselves that "I'm not Hillary" is their strongest argument and best bet, although the reverse holds true. At least for now, not being any one of them is her ace in the hole.

The 2016 race in its adolescence is between the dependably messy, perpetually maddening spectacle of the Clintons and a party with a brand-decimating profusion of mad hatters like the two who announced their bids and grabbed the spotlight last week, Mike Huckabee and Ben Carson.

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Advantage: Hillary Clinton.

That's a clear takeaway from several surveys of voters released last week. They showed that despite her email shenanigans, despite the ethical muddle known as the Clinton Foundation, despite the growing confusion about whether the Hillary Clinton of 2016 will be of an ideological piece with the Hillary Clintons of yesteryear, voters will gladly take her, considering the alternatives.

According to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, she was six points ahead of Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio in head-to-head contests with either. She was 10 points ahead of Scott Walker.

Inexplicably and rather alarmingly, she was only three ahead of Rand Paul. The mysteries of the American electorate are boundless.

Meanwhile a New York Times/CBS News poll found that over the past month and a half, during which she weathered a veritable hurricane of negative news coverage, her favorability rating improved, and the percentage of voters who see her as a strong leader rose to 65 from 57. Nearly 80 percent of the Democrats surveyed deemed her honest and trustworthy.

Hillary Rodham Clinton at Columbia University in New York last week.Hillary Clinton's Appeal Survives Scrutiny, Poll SaysMAY 5, 2015

There are many explanations. For starters, the hurricane I mentioned was experienced as a drizzle, if that, by many Americans, who aren't exactly riveted by political news. Inasmuch as they notice journalists pouncing on the Clintons, they're apt to shrug. The substance of the accusations is eclipsed by the familiarity of the tussle. It's like lions on an impala: bloody, yes, but the natural order.

And the Clintons are being accused of what? Greed? There's plenty of that to go around. Just ask Huckabee, a self-styled man of God and slave to Mammon.

As recounted by Trip Gabriel in The Times, Ron Fournier in the National Journal and Max Brantley in Salon, he's a case study in financial high jinks, a master class in shamelessness. He reportedly used the Arkansas governor's office "as a personal ATM," in Fournier's description, channeling public money toward private expenditures (a doghouse, Taco Bell) and accepting tens of thousands of dollars in highly questionable gifts, some from people who later received prominent political appointments.

More recently he did an infomercial hawking dietary supplements as a diabetes cure, even though reputable physicians and medical associations call it poppycock. Only three of the following four adjectives correctly describe that decision: tacky, mercenary, irresponsible and presidential.

Clinton benefits from not being Huckabee, who described Obamacare's contraception provision as a big-government sop to women who can't "control their libido," blamed an absence of God in schools for the deadly shooting rampage in Newtown, Conn., in 2012 and then proceeded to write a book with a title that put firearms on a comforting par with breakfast food. Run, don't walk, to pick up your copy of "God, Guns, Grits, and Gravy."

Clinton also benefits mightily from not being Carson, who has lumped together homosexuality and bestiality and has likened Obamacare to slavery, President Obama to a psychopath and the United States under President Obama to Nazi Germany. It is said that Carson is a talented brain surgeon. I'm taking my cerebellum elsewhere if it ever comes to that.

And Clinton benefits as well from not being Carly Fiorina, who also declared a candidacy for the presidency last

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week. When Americans look askance at professional politicians, it doesn't mean that they long for the polar opposite and are poised to award the presidency to someone who, in Fiorina's case, has never held elected office, routinely failed to vote in the past, bungled her role as a surrogate for John McCain in 2008, had a miserable showing in her 2010 race for the United States Senate against Barbara Boxer, and claims a business expertise that's long been in vigorous dispute. Her campaign will be powered by hubris, not logic.

REPUBLICANS crow about their deep bench. And they do have some formidable candidates, including Marco Rubio, who is an anti-Hillary in ways that could indeed work for him, and Jeb Bush. But Rubio and Bush share the bench with an unruly crowd that pulls them and the party too far to the right.

Republicans also take heart from their majority in the Senate and their greater number of governors. But voters behave somewhat differently in presidential elections than in other ones, which is one reason Wisconsin has remained blue even during Walker's red reign.

The party's image hasn't gone through the intended upgrade after its defeat in 2012. According to the Times/CBS poll, just 29 percent of Americans now view Republicans favorably, though 43 percent feel that way about Democrats. That number is unlikely to improve much with the likes of Huckabee, Carson, Ted Cruz and Rick Santorum roaming Iowa and foaming at the mouth.

Besides, these two words come into play: Supreme Court. I know voters who'd give more consideration to Rubio, Bush, Chris Christie or John Kasich if they didn't fear the kind of jurist one of them might nominate at the behest of the religious right. And the next president could easily wind up filling two vacancies on the high court.

That thought is the soil in which love for Hillary Clinton flowers. It's a prompt for people who otherwise suffer bone-wearying Clinton fatigue to focus on her unquestioned smarts over her questionable scruples, her experience over her i.o.u.s, her sturdiness over her slipperiness. There's a case to be made for her, and there's motivation to make that case.

In another recent poll, by CNBC, she was the preferred candidate of voters with a net worth of $1 million or more. Apparently they, too, have made peace with her. Or maybe they just recognize a kindred spirit.

Clinton: Direct Evidence vs. Facts // WSJ // Mike Carroll – May 10, 2015

May 10, 2015 4:13 p.m. ET

Regarding Kimberley Strassel's "The Clinton Scandal Manual" (Potomac Watch, April 24): I'm a former judge. Let me pose this hypothetical: I am soon to hear a big case involving various parties. One of the parties offers a lucrative fee to my spouse for a speech, or they donate a large amount of money to my beloved charitable foundation.

If I go ahead and hear the case, and people later complain I was compromised and violated my fiduciary duty to the public, could I simply reply, as almost every Hillary Clinton defender has done, "there's just no evidence."

Of course, there are almost always no "direct evidence facts" because there is no overt quid pro quo. It's a covert wink-and-nod sort of thing where there's plausible deniability (you know, "there's just no evidence"). Many people are in prison today based on circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial evidence—being indirect facts that tend to inferentially prove other vital facts—is legal evidence. Clinton apologists are purposely trying to equate "evidence" with only direct evidence.

It is such an inherently corrupt practice and betrayal of one's fiduciary duty to receive any benefit of any value to

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any family member from a subject your principal has entrusted you to administer, that if a judge does it, he or she will be removed. The rules are clear. They recognize that the obvious corruption that flows from such obvious influence peddling is a violation of the canon of ethics. The judicial ethics board doesn't need any "evidence" showing that you actually were swayed by the benefit conferred. No. The mere receipt is sufficient for removal from office.

"There's just no evidence" doesn't cut it as a defense.

Mike Carroll

Tuscola, Ill.

George Clooney gushes over Hillary Clinton and his new life with Amal // Woman's Day - May 11, 2015

Outspoken Democrat George Clooney has thrown his support behind the US party's new Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton as he continues to gush about his new bride Amal and how she changed his outlook on life.

"I think that she's a tremendous candidate," George said of the new Democratic Presidential nominee in an interview with Fusion TV.

He continued: "I know her and I think the world of her and I think that I would be very happy if she was president"

When he was asked if he could consider campaigning on Hillary's behalf, George said: "Sure, whatever she wants. In whatever way I can help."

George, 54, was quite a vocal supporter of the last Democratic candidate and current President, Barack Obama, hosting a fundraiser for him in 2012 that brought in over $15 million.

With Hillary's campaign advisors having set an initial fundraising target of $100 million, an endorsement from the charming movie star could prove quite a boon to the party.

George's endorsement for Hillary comes just days after a hugely positive endorsement of his new wife, Amal, 37, whom he sheepishly admitted he was intimidated by as he first asked her out, in an interview with Access Hollywood.

"It's always intimidating. She's an incredibly warm, wonderful person so it's always intimidating. I think everyone gets intimidated," George said of the pressure involved when asking the stunning Human Rights lawyer out.

It reportedly didn't take long for Tomorrowland star George to realise that the stunning British beauty with the impressive C.V. was in fact "the one".

"I think it was about three days in, I knew she was the one," George said.

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"I knew when I met her that she was super-extraordinary. I wondered if I would ever get a chance to date her. We were friends for a while and luckily she said, 'yes'."

Like any couple though, George admits that they don't see eye to eye on everything.

"I watch sports, and it kills her," George said in an interview with Extra.

"I got her into March Madness a little, I'm a huge Kentucky fan, so she got into that, but it was enough."

Amal, who tied the knot with George in a lavish ceremony in Venice last year, attended the premiere of the dashing star's latest flick Tomorrowland in Hollywood over the weekend. The pair played happy families with her 13-year-old lookalike niece Mia Alamuddin in tow. Amal of course looked as glamorous as ever.

George gushed about his wife even further at the premiere, going as far as to say Amal "changed everything" about his world view.

"All I know is that it sort of changed everything in terms of what I thought my future – my personal future – was going to be," he told People magazine at the event.

"But I've always been an optimist about the world," the actor, 54, continued.

"I wasn't always completely optimistic about how it was going to work out personally for me. But now I am."

In Britain, an electoral earthquake shatters pre-election assumptions // WaPo // Dan Balz - May 10, 2015

LONDON — It was both energizing and bracing to watch the election returns roll in here Thursday night and into the early hours of Friday — energizing because the unfolding story bore little resemblance to the polls and forecasts; bracing for the very same reason and for what that said about all the pre-election analysis.

Public polls — and they were many and often — predicted a wholly different result. What the country was told to expect was the second hung Parliament in a row, and the prospect of tortuous negotiations and maneuvering to construct a new government.

Dan Balz is Chief Correspondent at The Washington Post. He has served as the paper's National Editor, Political Editor, White House correspondent and Southwest correspondent. View Archive

Instead, the Conservative Party under Prime Minister David Cameron produced a stunning victory, giving his party its first outright majority since the Tories yielded power to Tony Blair's New Labor Party in 1997. Cameron didn't call it the "sweetest victory" of all for him and the Conservatives for no reason. Rather than falling back in strength after five years in power as the head of a coalition government as might be expected, Cameron was able to enlarge his party's numbers, to 331 seats in the 650-seat Parliament.

Cameron emerged politically and personally strengthened, if nonetheless left to deal with the huge challenges the

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election so aptly defined and highlighted, from the place of Scotland in what could be an increasingly divided United Kingdom, to Britain's future place in the European Union and the world. With a slender majority and a potentially rebellious back bench, his leadership could be constantly tested as he tries to sort these out.

In contrast to the Conservatives, the Labor Party was left shattered by the final results, with a 99-seat deficit in Parliament, its traditional stronghold in Scotland in the grip of the Scottish National Party and its top two leaders now on the sidelines.

TOP NEWS

Domestic

Jimmy Carter falls ill in Guyana, returns to U.S. early // LAT // Kurtis Lee - May 10, 2015

Former President Jimmy Carter returned to the United States from Guyana on Sunday after becoming ill.

A statement released by Carter's nonprofit foundation, the Carter Center, did not offer much about the 39th president's condition. It said he "was not feeling well" and needed to return to Atlanta.

Carter, 90, was in the South American country to observe its general election, which is scheduled for Monday.

For the most part, Carter has remained in good health recently, and he has been active in traveling. Earlier this month, he visited the Middle East.

Former President George H.W. Bush, the oldest living president, has had several hospital visits in recent years. In December, Bush, also 90, spent nearly a week in a Houston-area hospital after experiencing shortness of breath.

Carter's visit to Guyana was part of an ongoing effort by the Carter Center to observe peaceful elections around the world.

"President Carter is hopeful about Guyana's election and expressed his commitment and that of the Carter Center to supporting Guyana in the days ahead, stressing the need for a peaceful process before, during and after the election," the center said.

Networks Fret as Ad Dollars Flow to Digital Media // NYT // Emily Steel and Sydney Ember - May 10, 2015

Beginning Monday, television networks will roll out the red carpet for marketers during the annual bazaar known as the upfronts, trying to lure them into committing tens of billions of ad dollars for the coming TV season. If things go well, the networks will sell as much as 75 percent of their advertising time in the negotiations that follow a week of flashy presentations and star-studded parties.

But behind that lavish veneer, the mood at some television networks is nervous and the sales pitch urgent.

That is because broadcast and cable companies are asking marketers to open their wallets at a time of great anxiety in the industry, when TV ratings have collapsed and networks are fending off fierce competition from

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digital outlets.

Television viewing has plummeted 9 percent so far this season compared with the previous season, according to MoffettNathanson Research. To explain the drop, some industry executives and analysts point to the rapid increase in the amount of time people spend watching Netflix and other streaming alternatives. Netflix viewing accounted for about 43 percent of the decline in traditional TV viewing in the first quarter of this year, according to MoffettNathanson.

In the past, a decline in ratings did not always damage the networks during the upfronts. As audiences fragmented, conventional television remained the best approach for reaching huge numbers of viewers. Even as digital media grew, advertisers kept pouring more money into TV. They dipped into their print advertising budgets to fuel spending on digital ads.

But now even traditional television is splintering, especially as the major broadcast networks make their programming available for streaming. With the number of digital alternatives growing quickly, and with marketers seeking greater flexibility in how they allocate their spending, the industry is bracing for what many expect to be an anemic upfront market. That would follow a soft market last year, which was one of the weakest the industry has seen, said Michael Nathanson, an analyst for MoffettNathanson.

“The story around the ratings decline has been a persistent drumbeat that’s reached a fever pitch this year, to the point where marketers are thinking, ‘We need to seriously think about alternatives,’ ” said Amanda Richman, president for investment and activation at Starcom USA, a Publicis Groupe-owned media buying agency whose clients include large advertisers like Kellogg’s, Kraft Foods and Procter & Gamble.

“It feels like this is a pivotal year,” she said.

The total amount of money advertisers commit during the upfronts this year is expected to tumble 7 percent, according to Magna Global, an ad-buying group owned by the Interpublic Group. That represents a 10 percent drop in spending committed to broadcast networks and a 5 percent drop for cable networks.

John Janedis, a media analyst at Jefferies, is predicting total ad spending commitments to drop about 6 percent, to about $20 billion, with ad rates flat or up 3 percent.

“Clearly, we’re going through a transition here,” Chase Carey, chief operating officer of 21st Century Fox, said during an earnings call last week. “Advertisers, without a doubt, have more choices. They want more flexibility in some ways. You could say the upfront we’re about to go into, while important, is probably a bit of an antiquated practice, given where the world is heading.”

For the advertising world, that direction is toward digital, and more of that money is likely to come from the share that has gone to the networks. While some streaming services like Netflix do not accept advertising, marketers are increasingly seeking out other new digital outlets that do, like Snapchat, Vine and YouTube, where viewers — especially younger ones — are spending an increasing amount of time.

“We’re at the tipping point now where the very role of TV in our mix is under consideration,” said Ivan Pollard, a top marketing executive at Coca-Cola North America. “Ten years ago, they held a much stronger hand than they hold today, but they all know that. They’re talking differently to us.”

Magna Global predicts that total TV ad revenues will be flat over the whole year, even as spending on digital media increases 19.1 percent. The group forecasts that digital media ad revenues will match television ad revenues by the end of 2016, each accounting for about $67.5 billion in spending and about 38 percent of the total ad market.

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“There’s no question that we’re seeing a new advertising reality here, because money definitely has migrated out of traditional media into new media,” Robert A. Iger, chief executive of the Walt Disney Company, said during an earnings call last week. He added that he expected his company’s networks, which include ABC, ESPN and the Disney Channel, to fare “just fine” during the upfronts.

To compete, television networks are featuring a host of their own digital offerings during this year’s upfronts, along with more data and targeting capabilities, qualities that are extremely important to marketers as they seek to increase the effectiveness of their ads. Executives are also highlighting television’s ability to reach broad audiences, and big events, like sports and awards shows, also dominate.

Rivalries among TV networks are becoming ever more cutthroat as they compete for their share of the ad-spending pie. That puts even more pressure on the networks to produce attention-grabbing hits.

“There are certain networks that have done very well this year, certain networks that haven’t done so well,” Leslie R. Moonves, chief executive of CBS, said during an earnings call last week. “I’m not going to go into great detail, but you could figure that out yourselves. So we are up, and we expect it to be a good marketplace.”

Some analysts warn against predicting TV’s demise just yet. “It is less impactful than it was, but it so dwarfs everything else,” said Brian Wieser, a media analyst with Pivotal Research. “We’re getting closer to the point when the world changes. We just haven’t seen it yet.”

Nuclear plant to clean up oil spill in Hudson River // USA Today // Matt Spillane - May 10, 2015

BUCHANAN, N.Y. – The owners of the Indian Point nuclear power plant plan to clean up what may be several thousand gallons of oil that spilled into the Hudson River following a transformer fire that shut down part of the plant, a federal official said Sunday.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo was scheduled to discuss the cleanup at a news conference Sunday at the plant, which is located across the Hudson River from Stony Point in Rockland County.

The fire, which began at 5:50 p.m. Saturday, sent smoke billowing into the air and oil overflowing the plant's moat, said Neil Sheehan, a spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"The plant's fire suppression system automatically sprayed water on the transformer fire," Sheehan said. "Oil made its way into the drains and into the water. Several thousand gallons may have overflowed the transformer moat."

Sheehan said Entergy Corp. is hiring an environmental contractor for the clean up. A strong odor of oil could be smelled Sunday across from the plant.

The fire didn't cause the release of any radiation and didn't pose a threat to workers or the public, according to a statement on Entergy Corp's website.

The fire was first declared out at about 6:15 p.m. Saturday, but flames rekindled at 6:37 p.m., Sheehan said. Firefighters from Verplanck and Buchanan entered the plant and used foam to put out the blaze, which was

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extinguished by 8:05 p.m.

Transformer fire shuts down N.Y. nuclear power plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors went to the plant Saturday night and will be reviewing what caused the transformer fire. Sheehan said the initial inspection found the plant's procedures and fire-suppression system worked.

Indian Point classified the explosion and fire as an "unusual event," the lowest of four levels of emergency classification used by the regulatory agency, Sheehan said. He said the explosion and fire was considered "unusual" because it occurred within the plant's fenced in protected area.

The transformers are used to step up power produced by the plant before it is transmitted to the grid, Sheehan said. The facility opened in September 1962.

On Saturday evening, Cuomo said officials and commercial crews — supervised by the state Department of Conservation — were working to prevent oil from seeping into the Hudson River.

"This was a relatively minor situation, but when you're talking about a nuclear power plant there are no really minor situations," Cuomo said Saturday night, calling the plant "controversial" because it is "a stone's throw from one of the most densely populated urban areas on the planet."

International

Saudi Arabia Says King Won't Attend Meetings in U.S. // NYT // Helene Cooper - May 10, 2015

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia announced on Sunday that its new monarch, King Salman, would not be attending meetings at the White House with President Obama or a summit gathering at Camp David this week, in an apparent signal of its continued displeasure with the administration over United States relations with Iran, its rising regional adversary.

As recently as Friday, the White House said that King Salman would be coming to "resume consultations on a wide range of regional and bilateral issues," according to Eric Schultz, a White House spokesman.

But on Sunday, the state-run Saudi Press Agency said that the king would instead send Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the Saudi interior minister, and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the defense minister. The agency said the summit meeting would overlap with a five-day cease-fire in Yemen that is scheduled to start on Tuesday to allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Arab officials said they viewed the king's failure to attend the meeting as a sign of disappointment with what the White House was willing to offer as reassurance that the United States would back its Arab allies against a rising Iran.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the Saudi interior minister.

King Salman is expected to call President Obama on Monday to talk about his decision not to attend the summit meeting, a senior administration official said on Sunday.

The official said that when the king met Secretary of State John Kerry in Riyadh last week, he indicated that he

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was looking forward to coming to the meeting. But on Friday night, after the White House put out a statement saying Mr. Obama would be meeting with King Salman in Washington next week, administration officials received a call from the Saudi foreign minister that the king would not be coming after all.

There was “no expression of disappointment” from the Saudis, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. “If one wants to snub you, they let you know it in different ways,” the official said.

Another senior administration official said the White House did not believe that King Salman’s absence was because of any disagreement.

Jon Alterman, senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said King Salman’s absence was both a blessing and a snub.

“It holds within it a hidden opportunity, because senior U.S. officials will have an unusual opportunity to take the measure of Mohammed bin Salman, the very young Saudi defense minister and deputy crown prince, with whom few have any experience.”

But, Mr. Alterman added: “For the White House though, it sends an unmistakable signal when a close partner essentially says he has better things to do than go to Camp David with the president, just a few days after the White House announced he’d have a private meeting before everything got underway.”

Mr. Kerry met on Friday in Paris with his counterparts from the Arab nations that were invited to the summit meeting — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman — to discuss what they were expecting from the summit meeting, and to signal what the United States was prepared to offer at Camp David.

But administration officials said that the Arab officials had pressed for a defense treaty with the United States pledging to defend them if they came under external attack. But that was always going to be difficult, as such treaties — similar to what the United States has with Japan — must be ratified by Congress.

Instead Mr. Obama is prepared to offer a presidential statement, one administration official said, which is not as binding and which future presidents may not have to honor.

The Arab nations are also angry, officials and experts said, about comments Mr. Obama recently made in an interview with The New York Times, in which he said allies like Saudi Arabia should be worried about internal threats — “populations that, in some cases, are alienated, youth that are underemployed, an ideology that is destructive and nihilistic, and in some cases, just a belief that there are no legitimate political outlets for grievances.”

At a time when American officials were supposed to be reassuring those same countries that the United States would support them, the comments were viewed by officials in the gulf as poorly timed, foreign policy experts said.

In addition, the Arab countries would like to buy more weapons from the United States, but that also faces a big obstacle — maintaining Israel’s military edge. The United States has long put restrictions on the types of weapons that American defense firms can sell to Arab nations, in an effort to ensure that Israel keeps a military advantage against its traditional adversaries in the region.

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That is why, for instance, the administration has not allowed Lockheed Martin to sell the F-35 fighter jet, considered to be the jewel of America's future arsenal, to Arab countries. The plane, the world's most expensive weapons project, has stealth capabilities and has been approved for sale to Israel.

In Paris on Friday, Mr. Kerry said that the United States and its Arab allies, which constitute the Gulf Cooperation Council, were "fleshing out a series of new commitments that will create between the U.S. and G.C.C. a new security understanding, a new set of security initiatives that will take us beyond anything that we have had before."

The king is the latest top Arab official who will not be attending the summit meeting for delegations from members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The United Arab Emirates is also sending its crown prince to the meetings, the officials said. The Emirati president, Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, was never expected to attend, because of health reasons, American and Arab officials said. The sultan of Oman, Qaboos bin Said al Said, also will not be attending because of health reasons, officials said.

Yousef Al Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates ambassador to the United States, declined to say exactly what his government was pushing for from the United States when he spoke at a conference in Washington on Thursday.

"The last thing I want to say is 'here's what we need,'" he said at a panel discussion sponsored by the Atlantic Council in Washington. "That's not the right approach. The approach is, let's come here, let's figure out what the problems are, how we can work together to address our needs."

King Salman's decision to skip the summit meeting does not mean that the Saudis are giving up on the United States — they do not have many other options, said Karim Sadjadpour, an Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "As upset as the Saudis are, they don't really have a viable alternative strategic partnership in Moscow or Beijing," Mr. Sadjadpour said.

But, he added, "there's a growing perception at the White House that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are friends but not allies, while the U.S. and Iran are allies but not friends."

Chasing a rainbow party // Economist // May 10, 2015

SOUTH AFRICA'S main opposition party has elected its first black leader, a step rightly thought necessary for the Democratic Alliance (DA) to shake its image as a "white party" and challenge the mighty African National Congress (ANC). Mmusi Maimane, aged just 34, won his election by a landslide at a weekend DA party congress in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth. The only other candidate was Wilmot James, aged 61. Mr James is a mixed-race, respected elder statesman of the party, but is seen as lacking the dynamism needed to give the party a boost and attract new voters.

Mr Maimane, who was raised in Soweto, is the DA's parliamentary leader—he will keep this post—and on weekends a pastor at a Christian church in Cosmo City, a Johannesburg suburb. He has the oratory of a preacher, too, and is widely praised for his ability to hold a crowd. Helen Zille, the outgoing DA leader, avoided openly backing a candidate but had previously described Mr Maimane as symbolising the party's future. But some doubt his ability to sell dubious voters on the DA. "I don't think they have an ideal candidate," said Eusebius McKaiser, a political analyst and author of a book titled "Could I Vote DA? A Voter's Dilemma". "The fact that Mmusi is black helps," but, he said, it won't by itself attract black votes. Mr Maimane will need to go beyond feel-good tales about his own rise from Soweto and abstract notions of a rainbow, "non-racial" party, and address the hard issues facing South Africa.

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The liberal DA portrays itself as a party of competency and efficiency, with its Western Cape base considered the best-run province in South Africa. Its congress was a well-organised, slickly run affair, in contrast to the ANC's chaotic last elective congress, in Mangaung (though the DA had far more white people awkwardly dancing to the music of Brenda Fassie, a famed anti-apartheid singer). There were many tributes to Miss Zille, who during her term increased the DA's share of the vote from 17%, in 2009, to 22% in last year's election.

With Mr Maimane as leader, the party's biggest challenge now will be to speak to a broader range of voters, in particular to black South Africans in the ANC's rural heartland. His first test will be the 2016 local elections, with a close race expected in the battleground municipalities of Johannesburg, Pretoria and Nelson Mandela Bay, which includes Port Elizabeth.

While the DA remains the main opposition party, it has been overshadowed in recent months by the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), led by Julius Malema, a former ANC Youth League leader who, like Mr Maimane, is 34. The attention-grabbing, radical EFF has found support among young black voters, frustrated with the lack of change and opportunity in South Africa. When Mr Maimane was asked by The Economist how he planned to tackle the EFF, he dodged the question. Instead, he spoke about the party's presence at universities and touted the DA's recent surprise victory in student-council elections at Fort Hare, Nelson Mandela's alma mater in the Eastern Cape. That was indeed a win for the party, but the work ahead will be a good deal tougher.

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Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

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From:	johnson_lo <johnson_lo@mail2000.com.tw>
To:	
Date:	12/12/2008 9:21:42 AM
Subject:	Fw: ((Russia Photographer Zenin's masterpiece) [!]
Attachments:	00.txt 01 _Zenin.pps

(Russia Photographer Zenin's masterpiece) [!]

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 3/25/2015 4:19:54 AM
Subject: Re: Israel and Hillary

Can we talk at 12:30?

On Mar 25, 2015, at 10:47 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

The Obama White House-Bibi relationship is obviously deteriorating to the point of no return. It is more poisonous than US-Israeli relationship in my lifetime. Even during the Nixon/Kissinger flaps with Prime Minister Meir and then Rabin after the Yom Kippur War, including Kissinger's threat of a "reassessment" of U.S. policy; the George H.W. Bush/James Baker-Shamir period, when there was an effort to freeze loan guarantees; the Carter-Begin relationship leading up to Camp David and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty; or the several "reassessments" by Reagan as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and other actions, there was nothing like the public personal animosity that exists now. The Prime Minister's efforts to back-off his immediate pre-election statements about Israeli Arab voting and opposition to a two-state solution have not only been rebuffed by both the President, and most recently, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, but they have effectively questioned the Prime Minister's candidness. Olive branches have been spurned. Fuel was added to the fire with the allegation of Israeli intelligence intervention in the Iran talks. There is a distinct possibility that the Administration may seek a new UN Security Council Resolution embodying the two-state solution, with 1967 lines and agreed land swaps, and some vague statements about Jerusalem.

If and when an Iran framework agreement is announced this week, this combustible situation will explode. I sent you a lengthy memo March 17 on the Iran nuclear talks, based upon my chairmanship of the Atlantic Council's Iran Task Force.

This obviously places Hillary in an extremely difficult position, caught between the President she served and the organized parts of the Jewish community, I have talked several times recently, including yesterday afternoon, with Malcolm Honlein, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. They have refrained from directly criticizing the President, but he told me that he and most of his organizations are extraordinarily concerned about the situation, and highly desirous of Hillary making some statement to calm the turbulent waters. At the same time, more liberal Jews are incensed at Bibi. However, as the NYT reports today, the vehemence of the President's reaction, even to Bibi's "peace offering", is turning the tide in Israel in the Prime Minister's favor, and may do so here, as well.

Permit me to suggest some points she might make. By way of background, I have very deep connections to the State of Israel and to its elected officials and leading academics. I go to Israel two to three times a year, perhaps 50 times since my first visit in 1965. My grandfather and great-grandfather are buried in Israel, and I have scores of relatives and friends there. During the Clinton Administration, I was responsible for the economic dimension of the peace process, working with Yasir Arafat, the Jordanians and the Israeli government on initiatives like Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZs) in Gaza and Jordan; construction of the airport in Gaza; facilitating some 50,000 Palestinian workers coming to Israel daily, and 20,000 trusted Palestinian businessmen who could enter Israel with their own cars. I co-chair with Dennis Ross the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem(JPPI), a think tank funded by the Jewish Agency and major American Jewish federations and foundations, focusing on strategic challenges facing Israel and the Diaspora around the world.

First, she should stress the need to "lower the temperature level" of rhetoric on all sides. The overall political, military, defense relationship with Israel is too important to allow personal differences to intrude on the future direction of U.S. policy. It is time to look to the future and not fixate on campaign statements, which often in all democracies can be excessive, as they were here. Moreover, we must respect the democratic process in Israel, just as we would expect Israeli leaders to accept the election and re-election of our President. It is time to put the election behind us, and roll-up our collective sleeves and get back to work on rebuilding confidence and trying to develop the parameters to return to the negotiating table.

Second, she should stress the enduring commitment of the United States to Israel's security interests, not only direct military threats, but attacks against Israel in the form of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign, on campuses in the U.S. and Europe. She should express grave concern for the increase in anti-Semitism in Europe and violent attacks by radical Islamic terrorists (Obama refuses to use this term; she will need to decide what language to use and then stick with it) against Jews in Europe (Paris, Toulouse, Malmo) which
conflate their hatred of Israel with Jews in their country.

Third, and critically, she should express a strong feeling that Israel MUST remain a bipartisan issue, as it has been since

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its formation. She should sharply criticize those in the U.S. and in Israel who are injecting Israel into a partisan context. The invitation to Bibi was not only done without prior notice to the President, but also to the Democratic leadership.

Fourth, she should reiterate the long-standing support for the two-state solution, as the only one which will ensure Israel remains a majority Jewish democratic state. Indefinite control over two million Palestinians is not in Israel's interests nor theirs. This will require compromises neither side has been willing to make, despite Secretary Kerry's herculean efforts. It is important for her to remind people that in both the year 2000 with Prime Minister Barak and in 2008 with Prime Minster Olmert, Israel offered to withdraw from 95% of the West Bank, make East Jerusalem the capital of a Palestinian state, and to allow up to 50,000 Palestinians to return to Israel for family reunions, and it was not accepted. No Palestinian leader is willing to forego their "right of return". At the same time, settlement expansion under Bibi and his insistence that Palestinians accept not just the "State of Israel" but "the Jewish State of Israel", does not create an environment for mutual sacrifice.

Fifth, she should call for all sides to avoid unilateral actions, like the Palestinian effort to seek a "war crimes" investigation against Israel in the International Criminal Court (interestingly, just this week, the ICC indicated it would also investigate Hamas); settlement expansion; and efforts to seek a new UN Resolution to supersede UN Resolution 242, with the consent of neither Israel or the Palestinians (this would be controversial with the Obama Administration, as they would see this as a preemptive action by Hillary to preempt their effort; thus she might hold her powder on this until there is more certainty what the Administration will do; still, at some point, she may have to take a position; this would not negate the need for her to advise against unilateral actions). It is time to get back to the negotiating table.

Sixth, realistically, there is no clear way to break the current impasse. Thus, she should suggest the following (I call it the diplomatic equivalent of the medical Hippocratic oath: "do no harm"; do not do anything that makes a two-state solution less possible) :

(1) There will be an expansion of settlements because couples have babies. But these should be within established settlement blocks, which in the Clinton Parameters and other plans, would be part of Israel in any peace agreement. In fact, over 80% of all settlement expansion is within the footprint of these major blocks. She should call for the Israeli government to remove settlement outposts which are illegal under their own law, and project deeper and deeper into Palestinian territory and make a two-state solution impossible. There has never been a mapping exercise with the Israelis on what they consider the parameters of the existing blocks. This should be jointly done.

(2) There should be an expansion of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation, which is important for Israel in working with the Palestinians on intelligence sharing against terrorists, and avoids an unsustainable military takeover of the whole West Bank. This could take the following forms:

(a) Establish several QIZs in the West Bank. This allows duty-free treatment of products within the QIZ into the U.S., if there is as little as 10% Israeli content. I visited the QIZ in Gaza in July 2000, and it was a beautiful thing to see. There were 30 plants employing over 1000 Gazans, and a second phase was being built. The only Israeli presence, was an unarmed Israeli soldier, who watched the products being loaded onto trucks, where they were whisked through the border and to the airport in Gaza. I also visited a QIZ in Irbid, Jordan. There are some dozen in Jordan and, I believe, around four to six in Egypt. Astonishingly, there are none in the West Bank. In late January, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I met with the deputy prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, and raised this possibility; he was very positive.

(b) Restore the $400 million in tax revenues, the Israeli government is withholding in response to the Palestinians going to the ICC.

(c) Begin to carefully allow vetted Palestinians to work in Israel. Again, at its peak, it was well over 50,000; some estimates were as high as 100,000.

(d) Increase the territory in the West Bank under control of the Palestinian Authority.

(e) Reduce the number of check points within the West Bank, given the security fence. I have a close friend in Israel (David Harman, the son of former Israeli Ambassador to the US Abe Harman), who teaches at Bard College, Hebrew University, and al-Quds university in the West Bank. He has told me it takes up to 2 hours or more each way for some of his Palestinian students to get to class. This only increases anger in the Palestinian community.

(f) Allow carefully vetted Gazans to travel to and from the West Bank, if the PA controls the passages, along with Israelis. Also, increase the range of products that can be imported and exported from Gaza, and the range of fishing rights off the Gaza coast.

Jake, she may not wish to have all of this in one statement, and limit herself to the First through Fifth points. But she needs to say enough to be substantive.

I have sent you separately, at your request, Jewish leaders to whom she should reach out. She needs to make a statement sooner rather than later, as things are spiraling out of control.

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Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

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From: "Nelson W. Cunningham" <ncunningham@maglobal.com>
To: "Nelson W. Cunningham" <ncunningham@maglobal.com>
Date: 6/25/2014 12:19:57 PM
Subject: Reception for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.) -- Tuesday July 22d

Friends:

My cohosts and I hope that you can join us for one more reception featuring not only a marquee Senate race but a terrific woman candidate – this time, **U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.**

I've had the opportunity to get to know Senator Shaheen since she arrived in Washington in 2009, and have been impressed by her exceptional leadership and her commitment to getting results for her constituents—the same dedication that she displayed during her three terms as Governor of New Hampshire.

She faces a challenge from former [Massachusetts] Senator Scott Brown. Though I suspect the good people of New Hampshire are not easily taken in, Scott Brown will have considerable funding from outside conservative groups bent on portraying him as a genuine New Hampshire article. It is incumbent on us to help her gather the resources to withstand the GOP attacks. Sen. Shaheen is the first Democratic Senator from New Hampshire elected since 1980 – and she deserves a second term.

She serves on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Small Business Committees.

The reception will be held on **Tuesday, July 22nd from 6:00-7:30 PM** at my home in **Georgetown, at 3417 P Street NW.**

Further background on Senator Shaheen can be found below, and event details are below and in the attached invitation.

Bain & Paige Ennis, Paige Reffe, and Damon Wilson and I hope you can join us on July 22nd.

All the best,

Nelson

Please join

Nelson Cunningham, Bain & Paige Ennis
Paige Reffe, and Damon Wilson

for a reception honoring

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

Tuesday July 22, 2014
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

The Home of Nelson Cunningham
3417 P. St NW
Washington, DC 20007

Host: $2,600
Sponsor: $1000

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Individual: $500

To RSVP, contact Tony Yost at 202-547-5797 or Tony@bhstrategiesllc.com
Paid for by Shaheen for Senate

About Jeanne Shaheen

The only woman in U.S. history to be elected both a Governor and a United States Senator, Jeanne Shaheen has been committed to serving the citizens of New Hampshire and is known for her common-sense leadership, hard work and dedication to improving the lives of the middle class. She has served in the United States Senate since 2009 and is a member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

As a former small business owner, Senator Shaheen has worked to keep the U.S. economy competitive in the global marketplace through her efforts on the Small Business Committee and through legislation such as the Small Business Jobs Act and the Small Business Innovation Research program. The first New Hampshire Governor to lead trade missions outside North America, Senator Shaheen has also co-sponsored legislation to help small businesses sell their products overseas. Her annual "Experience New Hampshire" event in Washington, D.C., gives New Hampshire businesses a forum to showcase their products and services.

Senator Shaheen has become a champion for families facing hardship during the recession. She led Senate efforts to pass a critical extension of unemployment benefits to help struggling families. Her state staff has made it a priority to help out-of-work families navigate the federal bureaucracy, including thousands of families facing foreclosure.

To strengthen the economy in the long term, Senator Shaheen is committed to addressing the federal government's long-term deficits. In the Senate, energy efficiency has remained a priority for Shaheen and she has introduced a bipartisan debt-reduction plan, and has introduced bills to reform our budget process, and to phase out unnecessary subsidies for U.S.sugar growers and for gold and silver mining. She cosponsored measures to cut government spending on vehicles by 20 percent and to eliminate unneeded tax breaks for major oil companies and ethanol production.

As a long-standing advocate for energy efficiency, Shaheen created programs while Governor that saved New Hampshire families and businesses over $1 billion through energy efficiency. In the Senate, Shaheen introduced bipartisan legislation that would create a national energy efficiency strategy to foster job creation, save businesses and consumers money and reduce pollution. She was successful in passing several provisions of her energy efficiency plan that will help businesses create jobs and consumers reduce energy costs. According to a study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Shaheen-Portman is estimated to create more than 190,000 jobs, save consumers $16.2 billion a year, and cut CO2 emissions and other air pollutants by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road – all by 2030.

As the former chair of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, Senator Shaheen was an outspoken proponent of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). She helped to secure its ratification, enabling the U.S. to resume critical inspections of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Shaheen has also continued the work she began as Governor to protect jobs at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Pease International Tradeport and New Hampshire's defense-related companies. She has worked to ensure that policies supporting our active-duty troops are accessible to our National Guard forces and their families as well. Shaheen is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, a position that puts her in a strong position to advocate for military families and programs that are important to New Hampshire and the nation – including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Air National Guard Base.

Shaheen also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she chairs the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch. After balancing a budget as a mother, small business owner, and governor, Senator Shaheen understands that every dollar we spend must deliver results. She is committed to fiscal responsibility and knows that public officials have a fundamental duty to make sure taxpayer money is used effectively and efficiently.

Shaheen served as Governor of New Hampshire from 1997 to 2003. During her time in the statehouse, she helped create nearly 67,000 new jobs while keeping New Hampshire's tax burden the lowest in the country. (Learn more about Jeanne Shaheen's three terms as Governor.)

Between her time as Governor and election to the U.S. Senate, Shaheen served as the Director of Harvard University's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

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Shaheen was born in Saint Charles, Missouri. Her father worked his way up to a management position in a shoe company and her mother worked as a secretary in their local church. After attending public schools, Shaheen received a bachelor's degree from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the University of Mississippi. She and her husband, Bill, live in Madbury and have three daughters, Stefany, Stacey and Molly, and seven grandchildren.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/30/2014 7:36:41 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday July 30, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday July 30, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "If you gaze too deeply at Correct the Record, you start to wonder if you've been too critical of the Clintons." http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2014/07/david_brock_s_correct_the_record_the_former_right_wing_operative_is_hillary.single.html … [7/30/14, 12:42 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "Journalism," conservative-style! Step 1: Cry foul. Step 2: Investigate. Step 3: Find nothing. Step 4: Cry foul. http://correctrecord.org/shame-on-america-rising-judicial-watch-right-wing-groups-cry-foul-when-attacks-proven-empty/ … [7/30/14, 11:35 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Shame on @AmericaRising and shame on @JudicialWatch for yelling "fire" when there isn't even smoke. http://correctrecord.org/shame-on-america-rising-judicial-watch-right-wing-groups-cry-foul-when-attacks-proven-empty/ … [7/3014,11:10 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to promote trade, investment, economic opportunities between US & Africa #HRC365http://1.usa.gov/1jPbmCi [7/29/14, 4:30 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Media Matters for America: "Chris Cillizza's Fixation On Hillary Clinton's Wealth"

[Subtitle:] "The Fix Has Devoted At Least 13 Posts To Clinton Wealth In Just 2 Months"

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The Daily Beast: "Elizabeth Warren's Biggest Donors Warn Her Not to Run for President"

[Subtitle:] "As speculation about the Massachusetts senator's presidential ambitions swells, her biggest donors have one thing to say: There's no way on earth they're backing her over Hillary Clinton."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Jeb Bush isn't the Hillary Clinton of the 2016 GOP field. Not even close."

"Bush is on the wrong side of the party's base on two of the issues that stoke the most passion: immigration and Common Core."

NPR: "'Hard Choices' Tour Put Spotlight On Clinton's Strengths, Weaknesses"

"While there once was a spirited debate about whether she would or wouldn't run, there's now a consensus, which the book tour only cemented — Hillary Clinton is running for president."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "$5 million, $50 million or even more – just how rich is Hillary Clinton? Here's why we don't know."

"'It's hard really to come up with much more specifics than what [the documents] give,' said Tim Miller, who as executive director of America Rising PAC, a Republican opposition research group, is in charge of helping to shape GOPattacks on Clinton."

Fox News politics: "Head of Benghazi probe says no witnesses off limits, including Clinton"

"Asked whether he wants Hillary Clinton to testify, Gowdy said, 'I want everyone who has access to relevant information, and it is, I think, impossible to argue that the secretary of State at the time would not have access to relevant information...'"

CNBC: John Harwood: "She's gone from Foggy Bottom, but global chaos still hurts Hillary"

"The chaos enveloping international relations this year has taken its toll on President Barack Obama's approval rating and midterm election prospects for his party. But it also hurts Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Baltimore Sun opinion: Bush Ambassador William L. Jacobsen Jr.: "President Hillary Clinton"

"The first few days of this Clinton presidency promise another historic photo opportunity as newly inaugurated head of state, an attractive blond woman taking care of the nation's business at her desk in the Oval Office — a radiant, self-confident smile on her face."

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Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Ryan will wait until 2015 to decide on presidential run"

"Rep. Paul Ryan said Wednesday that he is currently 'focusing on policy,' rather than his own political ambitions, and that he will wait until next year to decide whether to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2016."

The Onion [Satire]: "Hillary Clinton Spends Busy Day Fueling Speculation, Not Ruling Things Out"

"Capping off a packed week of weighing options and giving serious thought, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spent a busy day in Washington fueling speculation and not ruling things out, her spokesman confirmed today."

Articles:

Media Matters for America: "Chris Cillizza's Fixation On Hillary Clinton's Wealth"

By Alexandrea Boguhn & Jeremy Holden

July 30, 2014

[Subtitle:] The Fix Has Devoted At Least 13 Posts To Clinton Wealth In Just 2 Months

In the past two months, Washington Post political reporter Chris Cillizza has used his platform at The Fix to obsess over the question of whether Hillary Clinton has sufficiently explained her family's wealth, dismissing Clinton's comments on income inequality while offering conflicting advice on how she should answer the question in a way that satisfies Chris Cillizza and The Washington Post.

Cillizza's latest post came in response to an interview Hillary Clinton gave to Fusion TV host Jorge Ramos that aired July 29. "Hillary Clinton still hasn't found a good answer to questions about her wealth," according to the July 29 headline over at The Fix. After crediting GOPopposition research firm American Rising with focusing his attention on Clinton's wealth, Cillizza concluded: "Until she finds three sentences (or so) to button up any/all questions about her wealth, those questions will keep coming. And that's not the way Clinton wants to run-up to her now all-but-certain presidential bid."

This is the third time in two months that Cillizza has posted a column fixated on Clinton's wealth and his belief that she is struggling to explain it -- and the third time since June 22 that The Fix has turned to America Rising to help define Hillary Clinton. Meanwhile, a June NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Annenberg poll found that 55 percent of Americans say that Clinton relates to and understands average Americans.

"The Clintons are not 'average' people," Cillizza warned just a week before that poll came out. He concluded by advising Clinton to stop talking about her wealth and move on: "Instead of spending her time litigating just how wealthy she is, Clinton should acknowledge her wealth and then spend the vast majority of her rhetorical time making the case that through the policies she has advocated and pursued, she has never lost sight of the middle class."

The reality is that Clinton has already done exactly what Cillizza advises; he just largely chooses to dismiss it. When Clinton has been asked about her wealth, she has consistently paired her personal finances with discussing her lifelong advocacy and work on behalf of the poor and middle class.

"I want to create a level playing field so that once again, you can look a child in the eye and you can tell them the truth, whether they're born in a wealthy suburb or an inner city or a poor country community, you can point out the realistic possibility that they will have a better life," Clinton told The Guardian in June.

Cillizza actually acknowledged that Clinton "effectively" addressed questions about her family's wealth by discussing her desire to "create more ladders of opportunities for more Americans" during the very interview he's criticizing. He just immediately dismissed her response as insufficient to quiet the questions he insists will continue to plague her.

In early June, Cillizza chided Clinton for what he called a "slip up" after she said she and her husband were "dead broke" after leaving the White House. Comparing it to a moment during the 2008 presidential campaign when Sen. John McCain struggled to recall how many homes his family owned, Cillizza observed: "unless she does it again, it will likely be forgotten in a week."

Since that time, The Fix has published at least 13 posts obsessing over Clinton's wealth and the perception that she's struggling to explain it.

The Fix's obsession over Clinton's wealth is in line with a larger pattern at The Washington Post. Since pointing to Clinton's comments on her family's wealth as evidence that Clinton's book tour was "off to a bumpy start" in a June 11 article, the Post has worked to create a perception that Clinton has struggled to explain the question it keeps asking. "Clinton's rarefied life could be a liability in campaign" a June 23 Post headline warned in an article detailing how many homes Bill and Hillary Clinton have while letting a George W. Bush advisor claim that Hillary Clinton sounds "completely inauthentic."

Less than a week later, in an 1,800-word page 1 news article documenting how much money Bill and Hillary Clinton have earned in speaking fees, the Post claimed that the Clinton wealth "is now seen as a potential political liability if she runs for president in 2016."

"You have a money problem," Washington Post columnist Ruth Marcus argued on June 27. Marcus claimed that Clinton's "money problem" was rooted both in how she talks about it and the fact that she was "still frenetically collecting it."

"It's doubtful that the public holds the Clinton's wealth against them," Post columnist Dan Balz offered a day later, "so why was she so defensive when the topic was raised?"

A better question is, if the public isn't concerned with the Clinton wealth, why is the Post obsessed with it?

The Daily Beast: "Elizabeth Warren's Biggest Donors Warn Her Not to Run for President"

By David Freedlander

July 30, 2014

[Subtitle:] As speculation about the Massachusetts senator's presidential ambitions swells, her biggest donors have one thing to say: There's no way on earth they're backing her over Hillary Clinton.

She "lit up" a gathering of liberal activists earlier this month with a barn-burner of a speech calling on Democrats to push back hard as thousands of attendees waved signs and chanted "Run, Liz, Run!" Her every denial that she will not run for president is parsed down to the verb tense for evidence that the door is open even a crack. She embarked on the kind of nationwide book tour that candidates-in-waiting always do as they drum up interest for a potential bid, and a "Ready for Elizabeth" draft movement is preparing to launch satellite chapters in states and cities around the country.

But if Elizabeth Warren does in fact reverse her repeated denials of interest and decides to run for president, she will have to do so virtually alone.

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That's because almost to a person, her earliest and most devoted backers do not want her to challenge Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

"If Elizabeth called me up and said, 'I am thinking of running for president,' I would say, 'Elizabeth, are you out of your goddamn mind?'" said one New York-based donor who has hosted Warren in his living room. "I really like Elizabeth, but if Hillary is in the race it just makes no sense."

This conversation was echoed again and again in more than a dozen interviews with big-ticket Democratic donors in Warren's hometown of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in cities that operate as ATMs for the Democratic money machine, like New York, Washington, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Over and over again, the message was the same: Stay in the Senate, Liz, stay in the Senate.

There are many reasons why Warren would want to mount a campaign. The primary animating force of her political career—that the economy is unfairly tilted toward the rich, and that the Wall Street banks are rigging the game—has struck a chord with the activist wing of her party. And that same activist wing doesn't believe that Hillary Clinton, with her six-figure speeches to Goldman Sachs and her ties to the triangulating policies of her husband, can carry that banner for them. Warren has become a top Democratic surrogate in red states like Kentucky and West Virginia, and in races across the country, "The Warren Wing" appears to be on the march.

"There is a rising economic populist tide in America, and Elizabeth Warren is the personification of that tide," said Adam Green, the co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which has been organizing to make sure every presidential candidate is asked whether they agree with Warren. "In the Democratic Party there is a battle between the economic populist wing that fights for the little guy against the corporate wing, and she represents the populist wing."

Were she to run, Warren would face enormous challenges, mainly in that Hillary Clinton remains historically popular with Democrats. But the fact that the network of Democratic insiders who helped Warren raise a record $42 million for her 2012 Senate bid want her to stand down in deference to Clinton should all but end speculation that she will be a candidate.

"I think she is outstanding. She is articulate. She is persuasive. She can hit a piece of bullshit from a hundred yards away," said Victor A. Kovner, a Manhattan lawyer who hosted Warren for a fundraiser way back in 2011. But, he added, "I will be supporting Hillary in 2016. No question about that."

Some Democrats who say they support Hillary still want Warren in the race, under the theory that it will give a platform to Warren's ideas on the economy that she cannot achieve while serving as one of 100 senators.

But Kovner, echoing other members of the Democratic donor class, rejects this view. "People should run to win," he said. "They shouldn't run to have a voice. That is what Herman Cain did."

To be clear, the world of Warren-backers isn't entirely ready for Hillary, and some are holding out hope that the Massachusetts senator joins the race.

"I think it would be very good if she were the nominee," said Marc Weiss, a tech entrepreneur who helped fund a nascent Warren for Senate campaign soon after she announced. "She is closer to my views on almost every issue. I would be very enthusiastic if she decided to run."

Clinton, Weiss said, was a good senator and secretary of state, but "the problem I have with her is as a potential president is that she is too comfortable with many of the forces that are with Wall Street. It is hard to see how she would really be a voice for the middle class."

Erica Sagrans, the campaign manager at Ready for Warren, dismissed the notion that Warren would struggle to raise money if her fundraising network went with Clinton. "She has proven to be a pretty successful fundraiser for herself and for other candidates. I don't see that as being a huge challenge for her should she run."

There is an argument to be made that a Warren candidacy would benefit Clinton, even if the former secretary of state prevailed at the end. It would, for one thing, give the Democratic Party a primary worth watching, at a time when much of the action appears to be on the Republican side—and Democrats who remember 2008 can recall how galvanizing that campaign was for the party. Democrats maintain a sizeable demographic advantage, and the GOP appears as if it may be on the verge of making the same mistakes it made in the clownish 2012 nominating

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process.

But few of Warren's biggest supporters want to risk it.

"I am not sure what value it would bring to have her run," said Wayne Shields, CEO of the Association for Reproductive Health Professionals, who, along with Warren's husband, hosted Warren at his house earlier in her Senate candidacy. "She would be such a target for conservatives, it may end up having a paradoxical effect on Democrats."

One Massachusetts Democrat, who helped lay the groundwork for Warren's Senate run back when Warren was a Harvard professor mostly known as a thwarted nominee to the newly created Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, agreed:

"If she ran, it would tear apart the Democratic base even worse than Hillary and Obama did. Whoever is pushing this is not doing the Democratic Party any favors, and I wish it would stop."

That feeling, and it is one echoed in other conversations among the donor class, is that a Warren run would expose divisions in the Democratic Party—between, in Adam Green's words, the populist and the corporate wings—that have lain largely dormant on the national level as Democrats fear a Tea Party-controlled executive branch.

"It would galvanize a part of the left, and then the question becomes, how do you keep them motivated for a general election?" said one Warren donor. "She is a fresh face. She would get a lot of attention, which could hurt Hillary."

If Hillary decided not to run, even Warren's most devoted supporters doubt that she could win the presidency.

"If Hillary comes out tomorrow and says, 'I'm not running,' obviously, this becomes a difference question, but I still think she shouldn't run," said one New York-based financial supporter. "She has so many holes in her resume. Even Obama had more experience than she does."

Added another California-based donor who has given thousands of dollars to Warren's political action committee, PAC for a Level Playing Field, "I don't think she would be a very good president. Two years ago she was a college professor, for goodness sakes. She has one issue and she is a great advocate for that one issue. She doesn't have the breadth of experience necessary to be president."

And even those who say they would be the first to line up behind a Warren candidacy say that part of them hopes she doesn't do it. "Of course I would be with her," said one Massachusetts Democrat who was one of Warren's earliest supporters. "But this is Ted Kennedy's seat. We know what can be accomplished in a long Senate career—it is almost as much as can be accomplished in the White House."

Most of the Democratic donors interviewed for this article were quick to point out that at that moment this is largely an academic discussion. Warren has said repeatedly—and in some cases to these donors personally—that she is not running for president. Those who have spoken to Warren recently say that she seems quite content in the Senate, and they doubt that she is ready to give up her life to run for president.

"I hear the chatter, but I also hear what Elizabeth Warren is saying, and she has been pretty firm in answer to that question," said Dennis Mehiel, a New York-based donor who hosted Warren early on in her Senate campaign.

And if the answer to that question ever changed?

"I love Elizabeth. But I go back a very long way with Hillary."

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Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Jeb Bush isn't the Hillary Clinton of the 2016 GOP field. Not even close."

By Chris Cillizza

July 30, 2014, 9:00 a.m. EDT

There's a tendency in political circles to equate Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush when it comes to the 2016 presidential race. The thinking goes like this: Both are popular members of political dynasties with deep policy and political chops. And, if they both run for president, each has the inside track to be their party's nominee.

That is absolutely true for Clinton. It is not true for Bush.

CNN and the Opinion Research Corporation asked some 2016 horse-race questions in their latest poll, which was released Sunday.

Clinton led the Democratic field with 67 percent of the vote. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has said repeatedly that she isn't running, took 10 percent. Joe Biden, who, not for nothing, is the Vice President of the United States, received 8 percent.

Compare Clinton's massive edge with Bush's standing relative to the rest of the GOP presidential contenders in the CNN/ORC survey. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is at the front of the pack with 13 percent, followed by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul at 12 percent and Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan at 11 percent each. Bush is at 8 percent, tied with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in fifth place.

The Bush number in the CNN poll is even more unimpressive when you consider that 2016 horse-race polling at this point is mostly a measure of name identification. (No regular people are following the campaign and the candidates -- such as they exist -- at the moment.) Bush, whose brother and father have both been presidents of the United States, has the single most recognizable last name in the Republican Party at the moment. And he still sits in the middle of the pack.

But, the problems with the Bush-as-clear-frontrunner idea go deeper than just the horse race. Dig into the CNN/ORC poll and you see that, among self-identified conservatives, Bush gets just 7 percent -- behind six other candidates: Paul, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, Ryan, Perry, Christie and Cruz.

And, it's not just first impressions -- as measured by the CNN/ORC poll -- either. Bush is on the wrong side of the party's base on two of the issues that stoke the most passion: immigration and Common Core.

On immigration, Bush has been publicly supportive of the bipartisan comprehensive reform bill; he called the legislation a "good effort." And he drew headlines around the country -- and fury in some parts of the conservative base -- when he argued that many people who enter the U.S. illegally do so out of an "act of love." Recently, Bush penned an editorial in the Wall Street Journal urging Republicans not to use the crisis of undocumented children entering the country as an "excuse" to not pass immigration reform.

The base of the Republican Party -- as fellow Floridian and potential 2016er Marco Rubio learned when he spearheaded the Senate bill -- is vehemently opposed to any legislation that offers a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Such efforts are widely described as "amnesty" by the GOP base.

On Common Core, a series of standardized national testing standards, Bush is again out of step with the GOP base. That group loathes Common Core as an example of federal government overreach -- a.k.a. Washington telling the states what to do. Bush, on the other hand, views it as a necessary step to get American kids competitive with the rest of the world. As the Miami Herald's Marc Caputo wrote in March:

"Bush has repeatedly explained the standards, implemented and controlled by the states, are designed to make the United States more competitive with the rest of the world. He said those who oppose the standards support the 'status quo,' oppose testing and are worried too much about children's self-esteem."

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Bush's stance on Common Core has already led to an effort in some conservative circles to oppose his possible presidential bid. As the Wall Street Journal's Beth Reinhard reported, protesters touting the hashtag "#stopjebnow" parked themselves outside of a Bush fundraiser for the Republican National Committee in Cincinnati last month.

As we learned in the 2012 presidential race, the Republican base demands/expects purity on the issues it most cares about -- ("Self deportation", anyone?) -- and punishes those who veer from party orthodoxy. On not one but two of the major issues, Bush stands not only apart from the party base but also from many of the people who he would likely face in the GOP presidential race. You can be sure Bush's opponents would bring up his stances on immigration and Common Core. A lot.

(Worth noting: Clinton is out of line with the Democratic base in term of her general positioning on economic inequality but, No. 1, there is no one willing to run who can really challenge her there and, No. 2, her numbers among liberals suggest she is plenty beloved to weather that criticism.)

All of the above is not to say that Bush couldn't be the Republican nominee for president. He could be. The establishment of the GOP -- major donors, the consultant class, the D.C. crowd -- all see him as the party's strongest candidate. That view would translate to successes in fundraising, staff recruitment and overall buzz.

But the idea that Bush would either a) clear the field or b) emerge as the un-questioned frontrunner -- ala Clinton -- simply isn't born out in the polling or the policy positions.

Bush is a strong potential candidate for president, but he is nowhere close to Clinton's status as a shoo-in if he runs.

NPR: "'Hard Choices' Tour Put Spotlight On Clinton's Strengths, Weaknesses"

By Mara Liasson

July 30, 2014, 4:59 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton's book tour is over. Although it wasn't a campaign rollout, it did offer a peek at the strengths and weaknesses of a possible Clinton candidacy.

One thing was clear: The former first lady, senator, presidential candidate and secretary of state may be readier to be president than to run for president.

She was surprisingly unprepared to talk about her wealth. Her "dead broke" comment on ABC showed a real defensiveness about the debt-to-riches trajectory of her family after she and Bill left the White House — not to mention the $12 million she's made in six-figure speaking fees since she left the State Department a year and a half ago. We weren't "truly well off," she said. "It was not easy" to raise money for "mortgages for houses." It's never a good thing when a politician talks about houses, plural. Remember when John McCain couldn't remember how many houses he owned?

It's not clear whether this will be a long-term problem. Clinton managed, eventually, to pivot to talking about the good fortune she and Bill have had compared to the lack of opportunity for ordinary people. But the "out of touch" meme has been launched: The RNC started a website called poorhillaryclinton.com .

Another lesson from the tour: Clinton will have to get used to the brave new world of the relentless and instantaneous media cycle and a press corps less deferential — and substantive — than the state department correspondents.

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She will be covered like no other candidate — certainly not in the same way Republican hopefuls Marco Rubio, Rand Paul or even Jeb Bush will be covered. Hillary Clinton is the most prominent female politician in America and she's the prohibitive front runner for her party's nomination. And, let's face it, she's a Clinton. So she won't have a chance to test out sound bites or ideas in Des Moines or Manchester in front of small groups of reporters: Everything she does and says will be covered and dissected as if it's national news.

Now, her poll numbers did not drop, and her book is still in the top ten on the New York Times best-seller list. The tour also put to rest questions about her health and stamina — she showed no signs of the "traumatic brain injury" Karl Rove suggested she's suffered. And the issue of Benghazi, while not gone completely, seems to have receded a bit.

But she still hasn't come up with an answer to the most important question for any campaign: Why her?

She's trying. She told Charlie Rose, "What you need if you're going to run for president is to be absolutely clear about what you will do and to make the case relentlessly about that."

There are the green shoots of a big idea. There's the title of the book itself — Hard Choices — intended to frame her leadership style as tough, ready and competent. (A subtle rebuke or contrast, perhaps, to the man she hopes to succeed?)

And she said that she plans to run a "specific" campaign about economic growth and inequality — a sign she intends to bridge the left- center divide in her party on these issues.

After all of this, it's probably a good idea that Clinton is going on vacation. She'll be back in public in the late fall when she campaigns for Democratic Senate candidates. Then she'll have just a few months to make a decision and put together the structure of a presidential campaign. While there once was a spirited debate about whether she would or wouldn't run, there's now a consensus, which the book tour only cemented — Hillary Clinton is running for president.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "$5 million, $50 million or even more – just how rich is Hillary Clinton? Here's why we don't know."

By Alexander Becker

July 30, 2014, 11:19 a.m. EDT

Ever since Hillary Clinton drew attention to her finances by claiming her family was "dead broke" when they left the White House, speculation has focused on a seemingly simple question: Exactly how rich are the Clintons?

The answer, at least for the time being, is that there's no way for the public to know.

The couple's wealth since Bill Clinton's presidency ended in early 2001 has been generated largely from paid speeches, lucrative book deals and successful investments.

Some of that wealth has been detailed over the years in the financial disclosure forms Hillary Clinton was required to file as a senator and as secretary of state, as well as in tax returns she released as part of her 2008 presidential run. These forms record income from both Clintons jointly.

But loose federal disclosure rules, requiring that officials report the value of their holdings using only wide ranges, leave much room for interpretation. And while Hillary Clinton's past tax returns offer more data points than exist for most other potential presidential candidates, the information is incomplete - and out of date.

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In 2010, then-Secretary Clinton's financial disclosures revealed a net worth totaling between roughly $10 and $50 million. In 2012, the last year for which she disclosed finances, Clinton's net worth was estimated to be between $5 million and $25 million.

Clinton deflected a question about her net worth during an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos that aired Tuesday night. Asked if she knew the figure, Clinton replied, "Within a range, yeah. I mean, we have two very nice houses, which we're very proud of and not selling anytime soon." When Ramos asked if it was millions, she said, "Yes indeed."

A spokesman for Clinton did not respond to requests for comment or to specific e-mail questions about her net worth.

Lawyers and government ethics officials say federal personal financial disclosure rules are vague for a reason. The rules are designed to prevent conflicts of interest between those in office and their investments, not to provide values for specific holdings.

Assets such as mutual funds and stocks, and liabilities like credit card debt must be disclosed by name if their worth exceeds a certain amount.

"These governmental personal financial disclosure forms are not intended to represent either in general or specifically net worth," said Jan Baran, a partner at law firm Wiley Rein with experience in government ethics law.

In 2010 for example, Clinton disclosed two JP Morgan accounts each worth between $5 million and $25 million. Her 2011 and 2012 disclosures show only one JP Morgan account worth between $5 million and $25 million. It's unknown whether Clinton's net worth during this period actually decreased, or if assets were simply consolidated into one account that remained within the $5 million to $25 million range.

Also unclear is how the Clintons' income factored into their reported net worth. The tax returns Hillary Clinton released during her 2008 campaign show that the Clintons made $87.3 million in joint adjusted gross income between 2001 and 2006. Full tax returns for years beyond 2006 have not been made public, but a recent Washington Post report on Bill Clinton's paid speeches shows $49.2 million in further earnings from appearances alone between 2007 and 2012. Adding those figures together shows that the Clintons' confirmed income between 2001 and 2012 was at least $136.5 million.

The result is that Americans knew relatively little about Clinton's total wealth while in office - and probably know even less now, as there are no publicly available documents showing income or net worth for the period since she left the State Department.

That said, it's clear that both Clintons have been paid handsomely during that time, from continued speeches and for Hillary Clinton's recently released book.

Some have attempted to estimate the extent of the couple's recent financial fortunes. Bloomberg News reported, for example, that Clinton "earned at least $12 million in 16 months since leaving the State Department," though the report acknowledged that the information was based on incomplete estimates.

The lack of specific information has led to uncertainty among Clinton's rivals and backers, all of whom would like to know

to what degree her personal wealth might play a role in an election in which populism and income inequality seem likely to be factors. After all, Democrats were successful in using Mitt Romney's riches against him in 2012. Romney's net worth was reported to be as high as $250 million.

"It's hard really to come up with much more specifics than what [the documents] give," said Tim Miller, who as executive director of America Rising PAC, a Republican opposition research group, is in charge of helping to shape GOPattacks on Clinton.

If Clinton decides to run for president, she would have to file another financial disclosure form - and she would almost certainly be pressured to release more up-to-date tax returns.

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Only then will anyone know how rich she really is.

Fox News politics: "Head of Benghazi probe says no witnesses off limits, including Clinton"

By Catherine Herridge

July 29, 2014

The Republican head of the Benghazi Select Committee warned Tuesday that no witnesses would be off limits in its upcoming probe and that he would consider going to court, if necessary, to compel testimony.

"I can't skip over a witness that I think we ought to talk to simply because there is an assertion of either privilege or immunity," Chairman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina told Fox News in an exclusive interview.

He said that while he has received good cooperation to date, and the issue had not yet arisen, "if you mean to say that 'not only can they not talk, they don't have to come,' you have to litigate that."

Gowdy said the investigation will be driven by facts, characterizing as strongly bipartisan his work with the committee's ranking Democrat, Elijah Cummings of Maryland, to review documents and identify witnesses.

He also said he anticipates the first public hearing will be held in September and will focus on the State Department investigation into the 2012 attack and whether its recommendations have been implemented.

Asked whether he wants Hillary Clinton to testify, Gowdy said, "I want everyone who has access to relevant information, and it is, I think, impossible to argue that the secretary of State at the time would not have access to relevant information..."

Gowdy said he was not trying to single out any particular witness. He insisted he was just as interested in the former acting director of the CIA, Michael Morell, who was accused of misleading Congress over the flawed "talking points" that blamed a protest for the assault, as he was in the unnamed CIA public information officer who made a significant edit of the points.

"Either talk to all of them," Gowdy said, "Or concede you are not interested in getting all the facts."

Gowdy also said he hoped former CIA Director David Petraeus, who remains under FBI investigation nearly two years after he resigned, would participate voluntarily.

"This is going to be serious, fact-centric. There are not going to be leaks. There are not going to be selective releases," he said. "Hopefully, if the investigation is still ongoing, he (Petraeus) may conclude, he has an absolute right to conclude, that he is still going to participate."

Asked if the scope would extend to other current and former government and Congressional figures, including presidential adviser Ben Rhodes, former UN ambassador Susan Rice, and D.C.consulting group Beacon Global Strategies, Gowdy replied, "how can I run an investigation and at the end say that it was thorough and complete and fact-centric and fair if I began to rule out people that we're going to talk to?"

Beacon Global Strategies members include Clinton's principal gatekeeper, Philippe Reines, her former adviser for political and military affairs at State, Andrew Shapiro, the former chief of staff to Leon Panetta at CIA and the defense department, Jeremy Bash, as well as Michael Allen, the former staff director for the Republican-led House Intelligence Committee that investigated Benghazi.

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The online bios of its founders and managing directors suggest no group knows more about the terrorist attack and the Obama administration's response as well as having a vested interested in the scandal's impact on Clinton's presidential ambitions.

Gowdy said the fact-driven approach has derailed any attempts to minimize the importance of the committee's work. "The initial efforts to marginalize us as just a political exercise dedicated to drumming up the base, those efforts were not successful...Democrats are not only cooperating. They are suggesting, in some instances, other ideas for hearings. "

While the committee, which now stands at 13 staff but should reach its target of 20 by September, is focused on a detailed timeline to identify gaps in the facts, Gowdy said he believes closed or private depositions of witnesses as opposed to open hearings would provide the most information.

"Five minutes has proven time and time again to be an inadequate amount of time to get to the truth,"Gowdy explained. "I'm certainly not good enough in five minutes to unlock all the mysteries in the world. I might not be doing five hours but I would rather use whatever investigatory tool allows me the most amount of time with a witness or potential witness and I think that will be depositions as opposed to public hearings."

On Tuesday, the committee members met behind closed doors with the victims' relatives including Pat Smith, the mother of foreign service officer Sean Smith.

"It's the one thing that I wanted was this investigation to get the answers," Smith said. "And the people say that they're gonna do their best so this is what I'm hoping for."

CNBC: John Harwood: "She's gone from Foggy Bottom, but global chaos still hurts Hillary"

By John Harwood

July 30, 2014

The chaos enveloping international relations this year has taken its toll on President Barack Obama's approval rating and midterm election prospects for his party. But it also hurts Hillary Rodham Clinton.

By serving as Obama's secretary of state, the former first lady forged an independent political identity that has made her the front-runner to succeed him in 2016. At the same time, that tenure ties her political standing to the condition of American foreign policy even after she has departed Foggy Bottom.

I asked Clinton, in an interview last week for National Public Radio, how much responsibility she bears for turmoil in Ukraine, Gaza, Iraq and Syria. "It doesn't do us much good to point fingers at each other," she said. Her 2016 rivals are already pointing.

In particular, she can expect they'll point at what she told me about relations with Vladimir Putin's Russia, which she and Obama famously tried to "reset" when they took office after the presidency of George W. Bush.

"The reset worked," she said. Clinton pointed to Russia's cooperation on an arms treaty, pressure on Iran, and the war in Afghanistan early in the Obama administration. But that statement may sound jarring to voters unsettled by Russian aggression now.

"Every party in the White House has the responsibility during the time it's there to do the best we can, to lead and manage the many problems we face, and I think we did that in the first term," she said. The distinction between Obama's first and second terms is unlikely to be so clear in a 2016

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campaign.

In the diplomatic memoir "Hard Choices" that she's currently promoting, Clinton notes that a secretary of state must serve as CEO of a large diplomatic apparatus. I asked whether any of the problems the administration now faces abroad or at home—think Veterans Administration, the IRS and the NSA—stem from a "management deficit." Governors often tout the value of their executive experience as better preparation for the White House than the legislative experience of members of Congress. The three leading players of the Obama presidency so far are former senators Obama, Biden and Clinton.

"Oh, you don't expect me to agree with that, do you?" she responded with a chuckle. It may not be the last time she gets that question.

Clinton was upbeat during the interview, which hasn't always been the case in her relations with the press. Former New York Times editor Jill Abramson recently noted that the ex-secretary of state has unrealistically high expectations for her portrayal in the media.

"I do sometimes expect more than perhaps I should," Clinton told me. As robust as her political standing appears right now, she should expect a difficult campaign if she decides to launch one.

Baltimore Sun opinion: Bush Ambassador William L. Jacobsen Jr.: "President Hillary Clinton"

By William L. Jacobson Jr., ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau from 1989 to 1992

July 30, 2014, 12:35 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton — imagine if she runs and wins!

In America, moms and dads of daughters will throw their arms around their girls' shoulders and say, "OK honey, now that the highest and seemingly most impervious glass ceiling is gone, in terms of your future, the sky's the limit!" Grandpas and grandmas will do the same with their granddaughters.

Expect wide approval from American women of any age and enthusiastic response from women worldwide who will welcome the news that the charismatic, eloquent and tireless campaigner for women's welfare, rights and opportunities also is the new leader of the free world.

Governments of our north Atlantic partners will applaud the election's outcome. Some might even add, "About time!" That same response might be expected from those Latin American nations that have promoted women to important leadership positions.

Despots and leaders of countries that treat females according to medieval standards will shudder at the prospect that the new U.S. president's admonishment about treatment of women carries even more authority than before.

Within the U.S., suddenly having a woman as head of state, expect there to be a surge in female confidence. More will seek election to office — at the city, county and state levels as well as to Congress. If two fellows can organize a startup business using their garage, why can't a couple of enterprising women follow their dreams and establish a startup business using the basement or spare bedroom, or even their own garage for that matter? All it takes is some imagination, seed money and self-confidence.

At the university level, more women students may elect to study economics and business courses to take advantage of widening opportunities for females in finance and business (see the Federal Reserve; see General Motors).

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A female commander in chief is unlikely to tolerate the military's ho-hum response to the outrageous record of rape and sexual assault perpetrated by servicemen against their female service counterparts.

In short, election of our first woman as president will be to politics what sports writers term a "game changer!" Events will begin to be judged by "before HRC" and "after HRC."

While she sits in the Oval Office, President Clinton may expect to hear from citizen groups pressing for issues concerning women such as what compensation is paid men compared with what women receive for doing the same job. Other interest groups will attempt to enlist her as an ally in the campaign to provide more and better day care facilities to assist working mothers.

Americans may recall the first few days of the John F. Kennedy presidency when JFK was photographed in the Oval Office with his children playing around the president's desk.

The first few days of this Clinton presidency promise another historic photo opportunity as newly inaugurated head of state, an attractive blond woman taking care of the nation's business at her desk in the Oval Office — a radiant, self-confident smile on her face.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Ryan will wait until 2015 to decide on presidential run"

By Lori Montgomery

July 30, 2014, 10:08 a.m. EDT

Rep. Paul Ryan said Wednesday that he is currently "focusing on policy," rather than his own political ambitions, and that he will wait until next year to decide whether to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

"There really aren't any deliberations" about a presidential run, Ryan (R-Wisc.) said at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Science Monitor. "I've been doing my job, focusing on the here and now, 2014. I've consciously decided not to think about my personal ambitions or personal career moves or how I can think about something after 2014."

Ryan, who ran on the 2012 presidential ticket with Mitt Romney, is angling to chair the powerful House Ways and Means Committee in the next Congress. He recently unveiled an ambitious plan to reform federal anti-poverty programs.

Ryan said he will sit down with his wife in 2015 to decide whether to seek national office once again.

The Onion [Satire]: "Hillary Clinton Spends Busy Day Fueling Speculation, Not Ruling Things Out"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 30, 2014

WASHINGTON—Capping off a packed week of weighing options and giving serious thought, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spent a busy

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day in Washington fueling speculation and not ruling things out, her spokesman confirmed today.

“After dedicating a few hours in the morning to drawing a lot of focus, laying groundwork, and calculating risks, Mrs. Clinton conducted a full afternoon of taking stock of and thinking it through, as well as several hours of careful considering,” Clinton press aide Nick Merrill said of the 66-year-old’s breakneck schedule of entertaining various possibilities and seeing all sides.

“Between looking ahead and setting the stage, Mrs. Clinton has been putting in 18-hour days of late. No sooner has she finished up an evening’s worth of hinting at than she has to wake up the next morning at 6 a.m. and resume being touted as.” At press time, sources reported that Clinton was trying to squeeze in several more minutes of not rushing to decisions before sparking rumors and generating buzz.

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From: petition@kirkpatrickforarizona.com <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 12/12/2014 11:33:29 AM
Subject: SIGNATURE REQUESTED: [Grand Canyon]

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

Click here to demand Congress ban new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

Uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy. We must protect the Grand Canyon.

Please sign your name demanding Congress ban new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon >>

Name: John Podesta
Signature: PENDING

SIGN YOUR NAME >>

John -- The Grand Canyon is incredibly valuable to the Arizona economy. Just take a look:

6,000: Jobs created by the Grand Canyon.
$476,000,000: Yearly income the Grand Canyon provides to our local economy.
46,650: Number of people who have signed our petition to save the Grand Canyon.

Look John, the Grand Canyon is our district's own personal Wonder of the World.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

It's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon.

So far, over 46,000 people in Arizona and around the country have stepped up to demand Congress ban new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon. We need to get 50,000 strong demanding Congress take action immediately.

Will you join Ann in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

Thanks,

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Team Kirkpatrick

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters like you. However, if you'd prefer to take a break from emails, click here . If you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click here .

Our campaign is powered by supporters like you. Your grassroots support is critical to helping Ann fight back against Republican lies. If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to donate to our campaign, please click here . Thanks for having Ann's back!

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/20/2015 12:11:38 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Bernie's base problems

View The Daily 202 on the Web

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

An irritated Bernie Sanders tries to speak as he is shouted down by minority protesters Saturday at a Netroots Nation town hall meeting in Phoenix. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

BY JAMES HOHMANN

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THE BIG IDEA:

PHOENIX—Bernie Sanders is unaccustomed to being heckled by protesters. The self-identified democratic socialist was caught off guard here Saturday when African-American and Latino activists jeered him at Netroots Nation. Sanders' inability to control the audience – he tried to shut them up and then he tried to yell over them – underscores his broader struggle to expand his appeal and highlights why his summer surge is unlikely to last.

The huge crowds Sanders draws are overwhelmingly white, and polling consistently shows that virtually all of his support comes from whites. After Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two contests on the calendar, Latinos and African-Americans represent a massive share of the Democratic primary electorate in the next two: Nevada and South Carolina.

The senator's standard stump speech – a call for political revolution – does not include much specifically aimed at Latino or African-American voters. Asked specifically what he's done for black Americans Saturday, he cited his vote for Obamacare. Asked to offer concrete proposals on what he'd do to help blacks if elected, he initially responded: "We're going to transform the economic system so we create millions of new jobs." The generalities only made the protesters angrier. "I want Bernie Sanders to *say my name*," they chanted as the senator tried to speak. The event went so off the rails that the moderator abruptly ended it 15 minutes early. "Okay, good," said a peeved Sanders. He then skipped a scheduled meeting with black activists.

Sanders aides' point out that he attended the March on Washington, endorsed Jesse Jackson Jr.'s 1988 presidential campaign and has a 100 percent rating from the NAACP. "Black lives, *of course*, matter," Sanders told the crowd here. But if Sanders cannot bring African-Americans into his coalition, his support in the nominating contest will be decidedly limited.

STRUGGLING TO SCALE UP—Will the Summer of Sanders be followed by the Fall of Sanders? One of his own strategists mused on that question to a Boston Globe reporter. "Already the Sanders campaign infrastructure is creaking under the weight of the unexpected interest in his candidacy," reports Annie Linskey, who traveled with the senator on his weekend campaign swing. "Tens of thousands of bumper stickers were on back order. Venues for rallies need to be changed multiple times as the RSVPs pile high … He revels in this relative lack of professional help. To make his point, he briefly commandeered an interview with a reporter last week in Washington. 'Ask me who my campaign finance director is,' he said over coffee in a Senate cafeteria. 'We don't have one. Ask me who my pollster is,' he said. 'We don't have one.' He said he writes his own direct mail."

Watch a 13-minute clip of Sanders' give-and-take with the hecklers in Phoenix on YouTube:

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WEAK ON IMMIGRATION—Sanders helped kill comprehensive reform in 2007, siding with labor over Latinos. Some Latino activists have complained that Sanders does not talk about the issue as much as Hillary Clinton, something else that will prevent him from forming an enduring and viable bulwark of support. At the town hall, moderator Jose Antonio Vargas (an undocumented immigrant who formerly wrote for The Washington Post) pressed Sanders on his vote opposing the 2007 immigration bill, which Clinton supported. Sanders explained that, while he backs a pathway to citizenship, he worries about a flood of cheap labor entering the country and taking jobs from blue-collar Americans. Back then, he spoke about his "strong support" for "securing our borders" and "to hold employers accountable for hiring illegal immigrants." But he voted for the 2013 immigration bill that passed the Senate after getting money to help affected workers.

SOFT ON GUNS—The National Rifle Association played a pivotal role getting Sanders elected to the House. David A. Fahrenthold reports on the front page of today's Post that the NRA actively opposed the reelection of a Republican incumbent after he sponsored an assault weapons ban: "As a candidate in 1990, Sanders won over gun rights groups by promising to oppose one bill they hated — a measure that would establish a waiting period for handgun sales. In Congress, he kept that promise. The dynamic served as an early demonstration that, despite his pure-leftist persona, Sanders was at his core a pragmatic politician, calculating that he couldn't win in rural Vermont without doing something for gun owners." Amazing quote: "Bernie Sanders is a more honorable choice for Vermont sportsmen than Peter Smith," Wayne LaPierre, who was — and still is — a top official at the national NRA wrote members that year.

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Sanders supporters see him as a modern-day Robin Hood. (Photo by Charlie Leight/Getty Images)

— FIRST LOOK — The first ad from the Chris Christie super PAC focuses on the New Jersey governor's opposition to the Iran deal. America Leads will put $1.1 million behind the spot in New Hampshire between tomorrow and August 6, including an ad buy on Boston TV and a strong digital component. The 30-second ad shows Christie at a town hall meeting in Sandown, New Hampshire. "This president is allowing Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, to have a glide path towards a nuclear weapon," the Republican tells the crowd. "A strong American military is not built to wage war; it is built to prevent war. I am the only candidate who has actually been responsible for fighting terrorism and has prosecuted terrorists and put them in jail. And if I become president, we're going to protect the homeland, not lower our defenses against them."

The group, led by former Republican Governors Association executive director Phil Cox, reported raising $11 million last week. America Leads has also reserved $2.8 million worth of airtime during the three months leading up to next February's New Hampshire primary.

This is part of a broader strategy to "let Christie be Christie" and go positive from the start. With a cameraman at every town hall, the super PAC is developing a library of footage of the governor taking on every issue out there so that when an issue moves to the forefront, like Iran, they can quickly get up on the air with Christie in his own voice saying where he

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stands. “Christie’s persona and authenticity lend itself to this kind of approach,” a strategist for the group explained. *Watch the 30-second spot here :*

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** ’s morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— Hillary Clinton’s campaign floated details of a revamp in capital-gains tax rates that she will propose later this week. The Wall Street Journal reports on its front page that her plan “would hit some short-term investors with higher rates … to prod companies to put more emphasis on long-term growth.” The paper says the details of the plan are being finalized, but she “would create a sliding scale with at least three new rates that change depending on how long an investment is held.” And there’s a nod to the Elizabeth Warren wing: “The Clinton campaign hasn’t ruled out taxing such investments at the regular income-tax rate.”

— Cuba’s embassy in Washington officially reopened at midnight after being closed for five decades. There will be a flag raising ceremony later this morning with 500 guests, including a 30-member delegation of Cubans. The foreign minister is scheduled to meet with John Kerry later today. Kerry is slated to go to Havana next month to raise our flag over the U.S. Interests Section.

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— Greek banks reopened this morning after being closed for three weeks, "but new austerity taxes meant that most everything was more expensive — from coffee to taxis to cooking oil." The Associated Press reports from downtown Athens that "people queued up in an orderly fashion as the banks unlocked their doors at 8 a.m., but restrictions on most transactions remained. The daily cash withdrawal limit stayed at 60 euros ($65) but the government added a weekly limit of 420 euros ($455)."

Customers at a bank branch in Athens this morning. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Bloomberg)

GET SMART FAST:

1. Secretary of State **John Kerry** and Energy Secretary **Ernest Moniz** pulled off a Full Ginsburg on Sunday, appearing on all five Sunday shows to defend the Iran nuclear deal, as Defense Secretary **Ash Carter** flew to the Middle East to reassur e to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.
2. Some lawmakers, including top Democrats, express frustration that the U.N. Security Council gets the chance to vote on the deal this week, signaling the international community's intention to dismantle the sanctions against Iran before Congress votes on it. (NYT)
3. Members of both the Ku Klux Klan and Black Panthers protested at the South Carolina state house on Saturday, but then local churches gathered peacefully on the grounds Sunday to pray for peace in the state. (The State)
4. Mitsubishi apologized for using U.S. prisoners of war as forced labor in mines during World War II, the first such apology by a Japanese company. (BBC)
5. The widow of Eric Garner and hundreds of protesters rallied to call on federal prosecutors to indict the white police officer who put the black New York City man in a

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fatal chokehold exactly a year ago, per the New York Post .

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **George H.W. Bush**, 91, was discharged from a Maine hospital yesterday after falling at home and fracturing a bone in his neck last week.
2. **Scott Walker** said he does not know whether being gay is a choice: "I don't have an opinion on every single issue out there … I don't know the answer to that question." (CNN)
3. **Rick Perry** came out against the Boy Scouts of America's decision to allow openly gay leaders: "I believe that scouting would be better off if they didn't have openly gay scoutmasters." (NBC 's "Meet the Press")
4. **Rand Paul** apparently threatened to filibuster the highway bill in a bid to defund Planned Parenthood.
5. **Ron Paul,** breaking with his son, endorsed the Iran deal in a column posted on his institute's web site.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— **"Angry protesters in Chattanooga: When's the government going to do something?" by Greg Jaffe and Thomas Gibbons-Neff:** "The attack in Chattanooga, and the raw anger it has provoked here, illustrate the increasingly daunting odds that U.S. counterterrorism agencies face in an era marked by surging Islamist propaganda and a proliferation of disparate, self-radicalized, one-off threats. The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have launched sweeping initiatives aimed at shoring up their ties to Muslim communities across the country…But in many ways the bureau is working against itself. Arrests of suspects accused of planning travel to Syria, sting operations and expanded surveillance have at times alienated the Muslim communities that security agencies depend on for cooperation."

— **"California drought makes quest for water a consuming grind, " by Eli Saslow:** "For a few days now, they had been without running water in the fifth year of a California drought that had finally come to them. First it had devastated the orchards where Gamboa and his wife had once picked grapes. Then it drained the rivers where they had fished and the shallow wells in rural migrant communities… 'Come live your California dream in this cute ranchette!' the real estate listing had read, but now the ranchette was another California house with no running water. In a county where half of all residents depend on well water, their well was the 1,352nd to go dry."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: TRUMP'S TIPPING POINT CAME SATURDAY. "It was only a matter of time before Donald Trump crossed the kind of line he did on Saturday, when he questioned the heroism of Sen. John McCain, a Vietnam War POW," Dan Balz writes in this morning's paper. "The question now is whether Candidate Trump is immune from the laws of

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political gravity or soon will be isolated and regarded as an object of scorn or curiosity rather than of presidential seriousness … Many Republicans said Sunday that they think his attack on McCain (R-Ariz.) marks a turning point for Trump the politician." *Here's a great graphical representation from our partners at Zignal Labs of what a difference one day can make in presidential politics*–

This is the word cloud of Trump-related mentions on Friday:

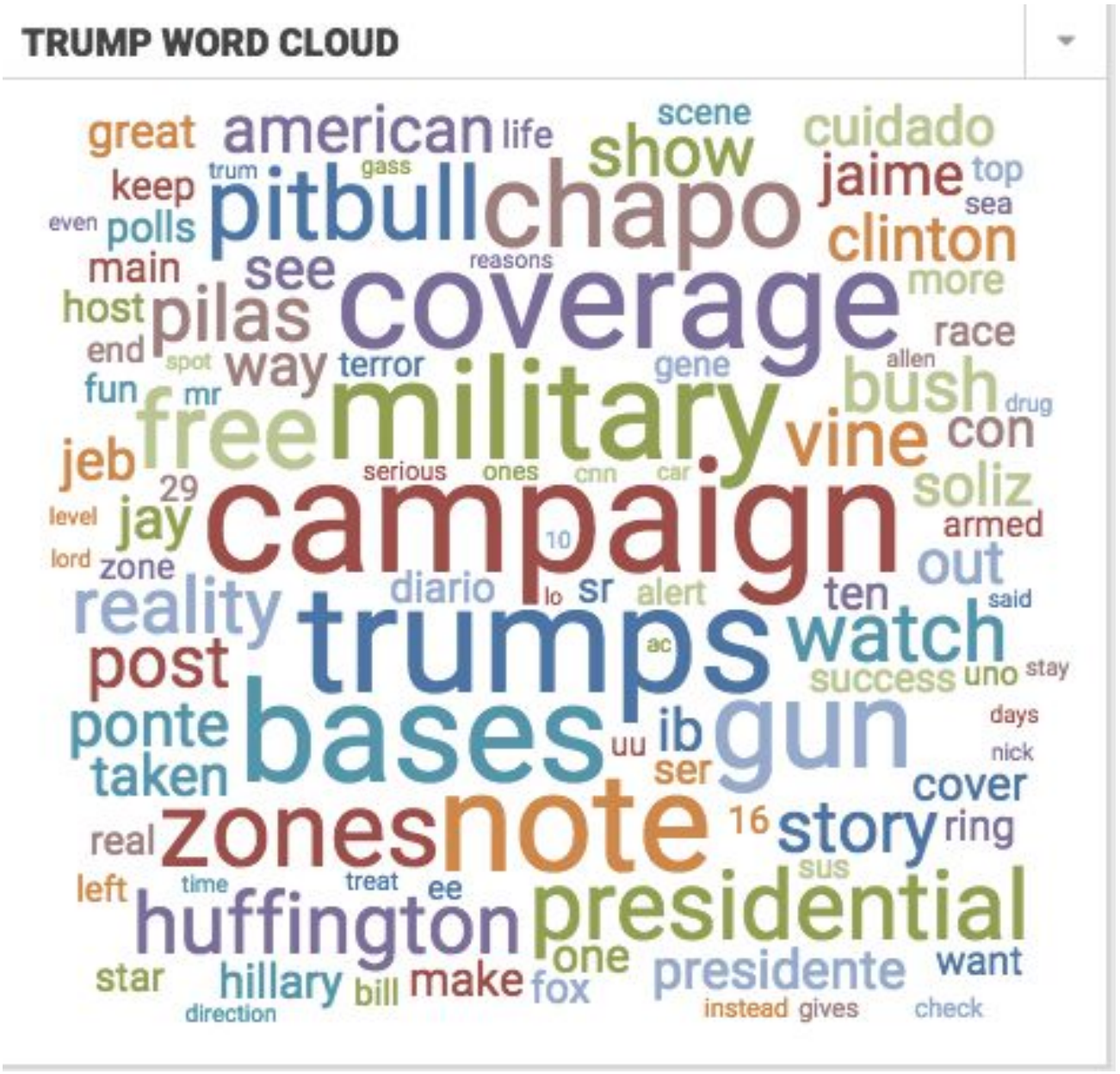

An analysis shows that the conversation about Trump was actually more positive than negative Friday:

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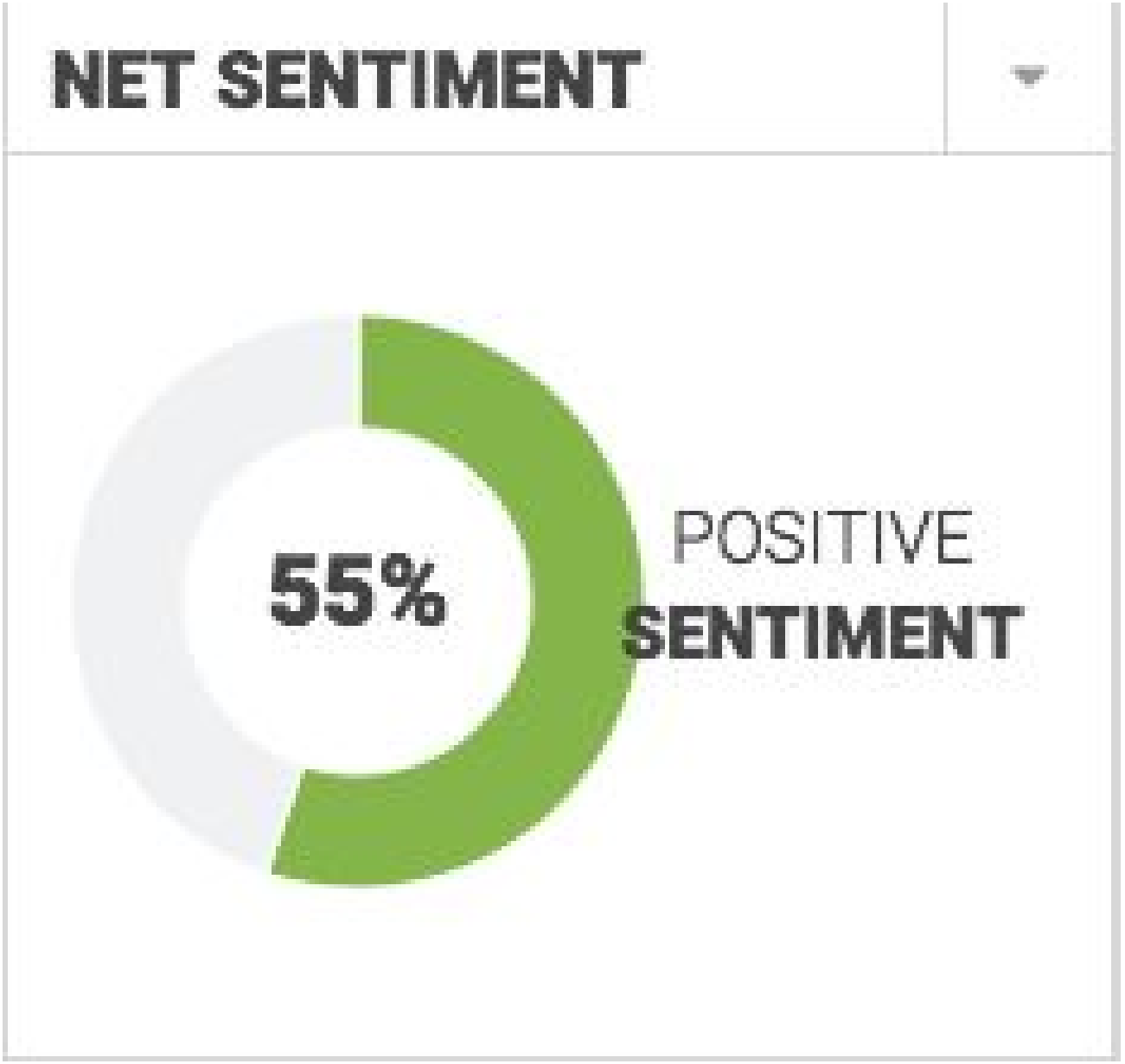

But, by the end of the day Saturday, there was a 15-point swing in sentiment as Twitter turned on Trump:

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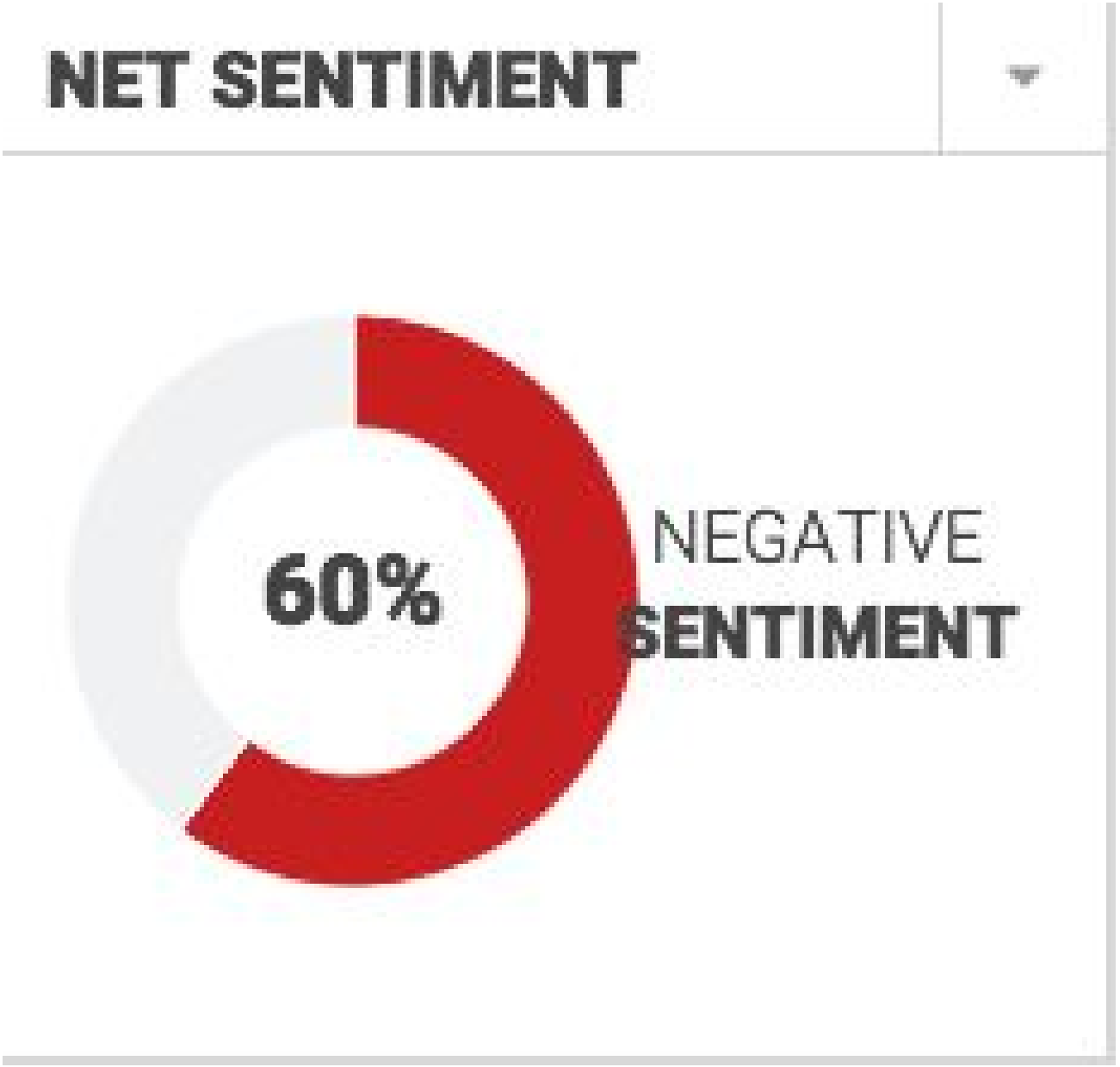

And this word cloud shows the extent to which the McCain comments totally overshadowed everything else:

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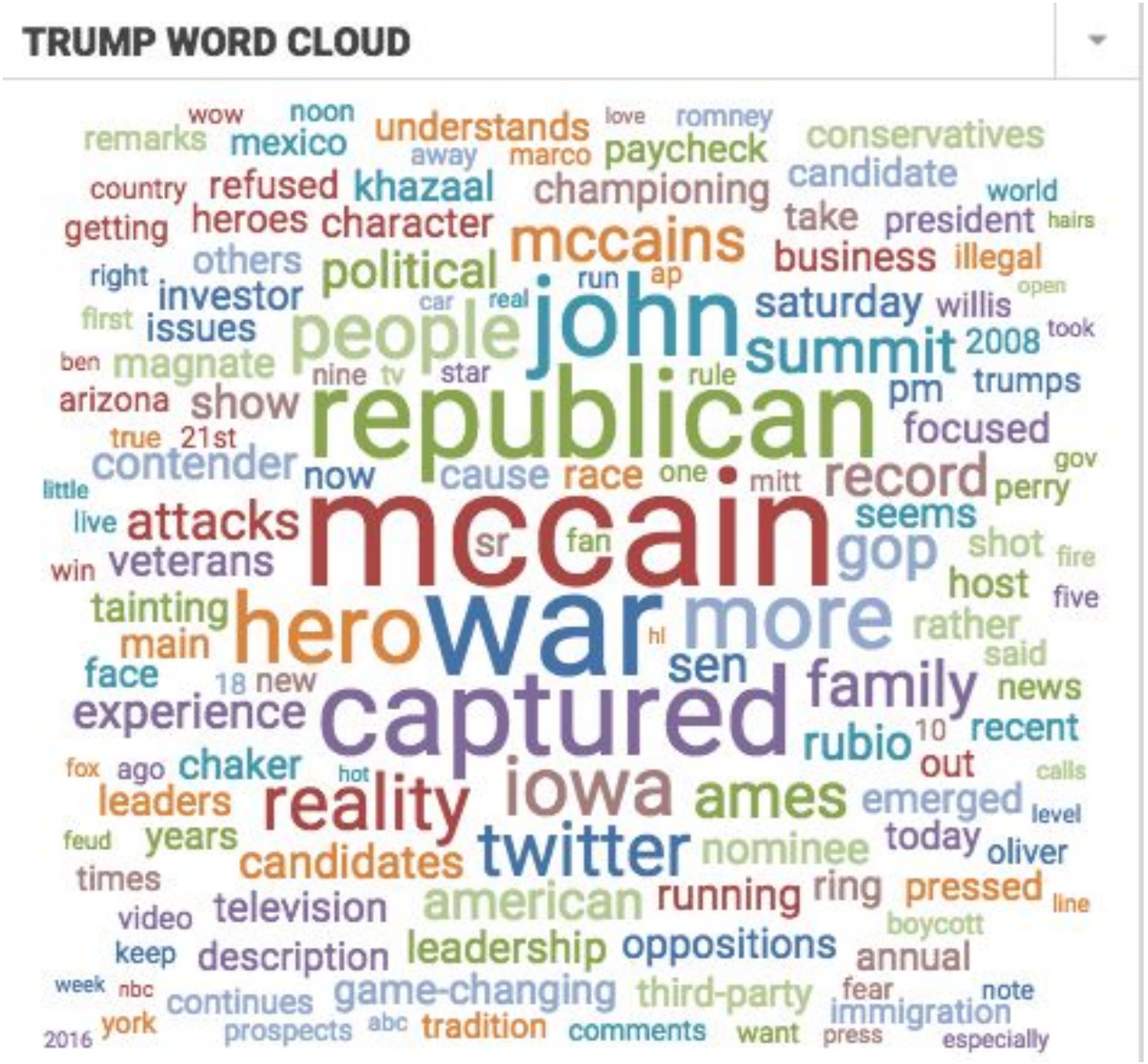

NO APOLOGY: Trump has an op-ed in today's USA Today defending himself. *"No, not at all,"* he replied yesterday when asked on ABC if he owes McCain an apology. Speaking to Martha Raddatz, he repeatedly accused McCain — who still bears the physical scars from the torture he was subjected to during more than five years in a North Vietnamese prison camp — of having "done nothing" for veterans.

More analysis from Balz on why the Trump comment is so significant: "Trump's candidacy for the GOP nomination is a knot of contradictions. He disparages the Affordable Care Act but has called for a universal national health-care program. He calls himself pro-life after earlier saying he was pro-choice. He wants to expand Social Security benefits. He has repeatedly mocked his opponents in the most personal ways. Could someone like that unite the Republican Party or the country? Such questions have been avoided, along with those of temperament and judgment. What happened Saturday could give license to his rivals and his critics to subject his candidacy — what he says and how he says it, where he stands vs. where he once stood — to the kind of scrutiny he has largely escaped." **McCain will make his first comments about the insult on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."**

–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

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Picture of the day:

John Kasich does a walk-through at The Ohio State University, where he will kick-off his presidential campaign tomorrow:

Bernie Sanders posted this knowing shot from backstage at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame Dinner:

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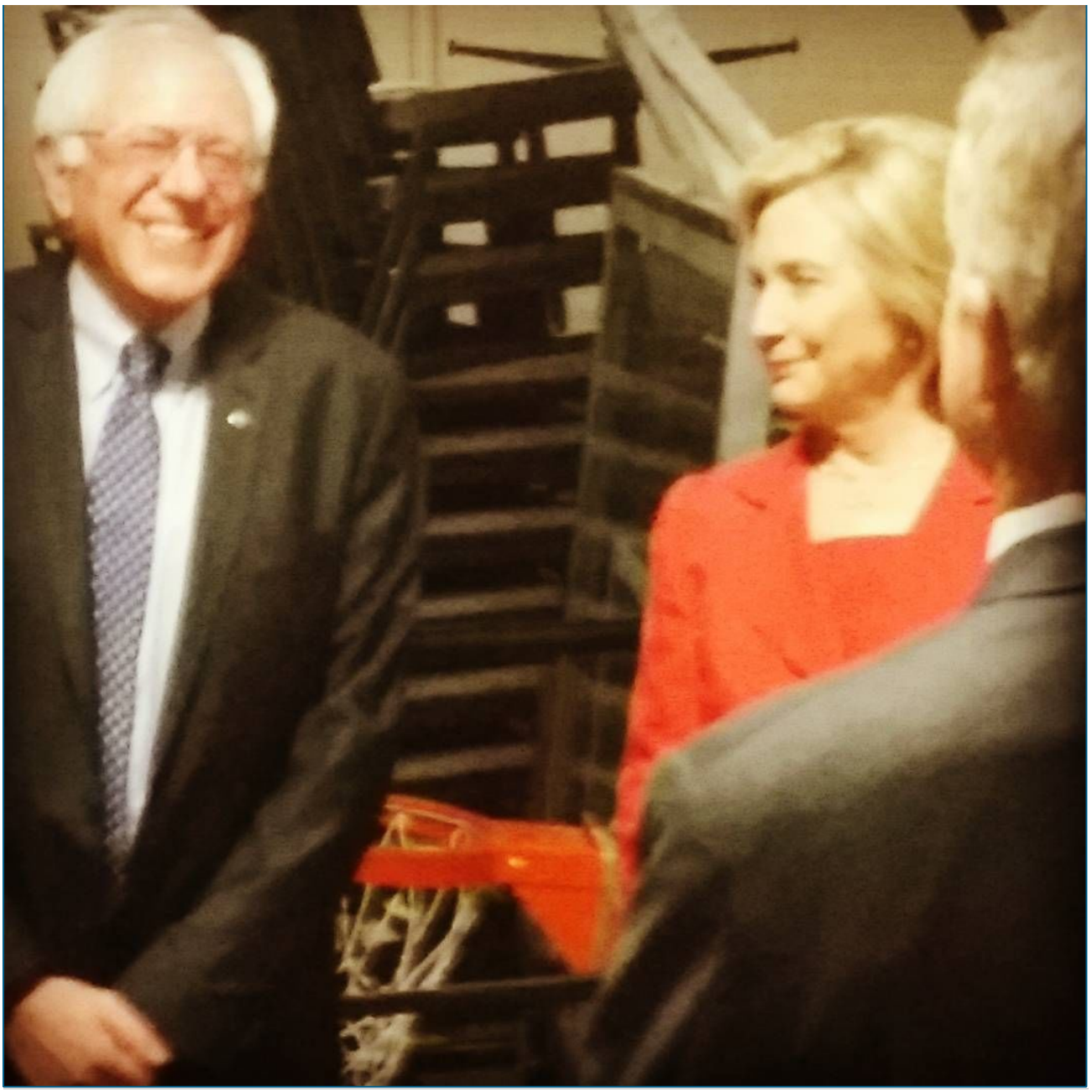

(berniesanders)

Tweets of the day:

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) celebrated a special holiday:

> Today is #NationalIceCreamDay … or as I call it–Sunday. Has to be dark chocolate!
>
> — Nancy Pelosi (@NancyPelosi) July 19, 2015

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) commemorated the anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention:

> Thinking of all the trailblazing women who gathered at #SenecaFalls 167 years ago today. Thanks for fighting for our right to vote.
>
> — D Wasserman Schultz (@DWStweets) July 19, 2015

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Sens. Jeff Flake (D-Ariz.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.) took a casual ride on horseback. “This is what senators do if they’re not running for President,” Flake joked:

(@JeffFlake)

Instagrams of the day:

Sunday was Star Wars Day at Nationals Park — pretty epic President’s Race:

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(nationals)

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) remembered meeting Ray Charles:

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(repstenyhoyer)

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) marked Mandela Day:

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(repjohnlewis)

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) took a flight on a Boeing EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada (Top Gun). “I feel the need … FOR SPEED, ” she wrote.

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(elisestefanik)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Los Angeles Times, "Obama pushes to extend gun background checks to Social Security," by Alan Zarembo: "Seeking tighter controls over firearm purchases, the Obama administration is pushing to ban Social Security beneficiaries from owning guns if they lack the mental capacity to manage their own affairs, a move that could affect millions whose monthly disability payments are handled by others. The push is intended to bring the Social Security Administration in line with laws regulating who gets reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, which is used to prevent gun sales to felons, drug addicts, immigrants in the country illegally and others."

— Des Moines Register, "In Iowa, Walker aims for Broad Appeal ," by Brianna Pfannenstiel: "Walker told the Register he's counting on broad appeal to win over conservatives from every segment of the party, as well as independents and 'discerning Democrats,' to win Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses. 'Part of the reason we play well in Iowa

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is we don't just fit into one field,' he said. 'And this is consistent with how I've won in Wisconsin. I do well with everything from the tea party to the so-called establishment, from social conservatives to independents.'"

— Los Angeles Times, "Hillary Clinton's political director brings key lessons from her own (losing) campaign," by Evan Halper: "Last year, Amanda Renteria returned home to California's Central Valley to run for Congress and got crushed. The race in the heavily Latino district exposed blind spots in Democratic strategy with Latino voters, who largely stayed home…Now, as Clinton's political director, Renteria is putting the campaign's vast resources to work avenging the 2014 midterms, when Democrats were unable to mobilize the coalition of minority voters that had helped elect President Obama twice…Clinton's massive Latino outreach machine is unprecedented for this stage in a primary. Most Latinos don't even know the name of Clinton's closest challenger for the Democratic nomination, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, according a new Univision poll."

— BuzzFeed, "Can Bill deBlasio turn Uber into the NRA? ", by Ben Smith: "So will Bill de Blasio pry the Uber app from his constituents' cold dead hands? That is the experiment the New York mayor will start running on Tuesday, when he imposes a cap on the growth of what is one of the fastest-growing businesses in the world…He is walking into a political buzzsaw: Uber has endless cash, real panic about getting capped in its biggest market, and every incentive to make an example of the high-profile New York mayor. The campaign is being run by David Plouffe, who once pulled off the rather impressive feat of persuading Democrats to hate the Clintons, and who immediately made it personal…'Mayor de Blasio's plan to stop Uber will cost 10,000 jobs, hurt underserved areas and make wait times for Uber cars skyrocket,' Plouffe told BuzzFeed in an emailed statement. 'With this view, New York City riders can see for themselves how much time this political payback to big taxi owners will cost them.'

— Wall Street Journal, "Dodd Frank Creators on Wall Street Reform, Five Years Later," by Victoria McGrane and Andrew Ackerman: "WSJ: Do you feel confident that you can declare 'too big to fail' dead? [Ex-Sen. Christopher] Dodd: I think so. … For the first time, insisting at least four times a year that these regulators sit down together to look over the horizon and what's occurring, it's made a difference already….WSJ: How much success do you think the financial industry has gotten in watering down the congressional intent of Dodd-Frank? Dodd: Not much. I know people complain about [Democratic Massachusetts Sen.] Elizabeth Warren [who has criticized regulators for not implementing Dodd-Frank more forcefully]. Elizabeth cares about this stuff and she's not antibanking. I know sometimes the rhetoric can be rather excessive. That's not new to politics. But overall she's watching carefully what's going on and I'm grateful to her for that."

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— The Associated Press, "Christmas in the Capitol? Congress' to-do list grows ," by Andrew Taylor: "Congress' midsummer to-do list may take until Christmas to clear. At the

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top are maintaining the flow of highway funding, easing automatic budget cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies, renewing tax breaks and raising the debt limit. A misstep at any of several points could trigger a partial government shutdown … An eventual repeat of a government shutdown is a real possibility, though a short-term government-wide funding measure is likely in September and would buy time for negotiations."

— Reuters, "Congress to examine FBI handling of Tennessee shooter ," by Andrea Shalal: "Lawmakers will examine possible shortcomings in law enforcement or intelligence in the case of a Tennessee shooting that killed five servicemen, a top Republican said on Sunday, adding that the case may be linked to Islamic State. Rep. Mike McCaul, who heads the U.S. House of Representatives homeland security committee, told ABC's 'This Week' program the case highlighted growing concern about Internet-based directives from Islamic State leaders in Syria."

— The Hill, "Dems worry Iran deal may wilt in dog days of August ," by Alexander Bolton: "Democratic lawmakers are holding back their support for President Obama's controversial nuclear deal with Iran, knowing the political dynamic surrounding it could change dramatically in the coming months. Political firestorms tend to erupt during the long, hot days of August, when lawmakers meet face-to-face with constituents in town-hall meetings that can quickly grow contentious. Pro-Israel and other political advocacy groups know this and plan to spend tens of millions of dollars over the next two months to build a firestorm of opposition to the deal."

— Politico, "Democratic self-funder preps U.S. House run in Florida ," by Marc Caputo: "Self-made multimillionaire Randy Perkins is becoming a Washington Democratic favorite to replace Rep. Patrick Murphy after the businessman met last week with party congressional-campaign honchos and said he'd spend as much as $5 million of his own money on the race … Perkins, owner and founder of AshBritt Inc., a debris-removal service, isn't yet ready to announce his candidacy. But all signs point toward a bid for the 18th Congressional District, the South Florida swing seat Murphy's leaving to run" for Marco Rubio's open seat.

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HOT ON THE LEFT

New bill would allow companies to fire unwed mothers. From the Huffington Post : "In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage, Republicans are pushing legislation that aims to protect Americans who oppose these unions on religious grounds. But critics say the language is so broad, the bill creates a license to discriminate that would let employers fire women for getting pregnant outside of wedlock … This scenario isn't merely hypothetical. There are a number of recent cases where religious schools have fired unwed teachers for becoming pregnant."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

In an IS training camp, children told: Behead the doll. From The Associated Press: "The children had all been shown videos of beheadings and told by their trainers with the Islamic State group that they would perform one someday. First, they had to practice technique. The more than 120 boys were each given a doll and a sword and told, cut off its head … It is part of a concerted effort by the extremists to build a new generation of militants, according to AP interviews with residents who fled or still live under IS in Syria and Iraq."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Jeb Bush will deliver a policy speech at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, about taking on federal power ("Mount Washington"). Chris Christie will hold town hall meetings in Mt. Pleasant and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Marco Rubio will campaign in Merrimack and Londonderry, New Hampshire. Bobby Jindal will hold events in Grand Mound and Davenport, Iowa.

–On the Hill: The House will meet in pro forma session at 2 p.m. The Senate will not convene again for votes until Tuesday, but a lot of members will be back in their offices.

–At the White House: President Obama will hold a bilateral meeting with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and deliver remarks at a reception marking the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Press Secretary Josh Earnest will brief the media at 12:30 p.m.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Eat your heart out, Zuckerberg" — Jeb Bush tries on a hoodie sweatshirt he received as a gift while visiting San Francisco

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "Like Sunday, today is miserably hot and humid and Tuesday is only modestly better," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "It's downright muggy from the moment you step out the door (today), especially around the city (near and above 80 degrees even early in the morning). Under variably cloudy skies, temperatures heat up to near 90 by noon, and low-to-mid 90s for mid-late afternoon highs. Factoring in the humidity (dew points in the 70-75 range, slightly lower than Sunday but still very uncomfortable), it feels like 100 or so."

— The Nationals lost 5-0 to the Dodgers yesterday, losing the series 2-1.

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) kicked off the weekend with a wacky throwback to "Soul Train":

(Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)

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In the weekend's scariest viral video clip, pro surfer Mick Fanning is shown fighting off an attacking shark during a competition in South Africa. Fanning escaped unharmed, and the competition was cancelled shortly after:

(Reuters)

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From: "Team Kirkpatrick" <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 10/11/2014 5:16:26 PM
Subject: PETITION: [Protect the Grand Canyon]

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

John --

The Grand Canyon delivers 6,000 jobs and over $475 million to our local economy each year.

That's why it's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining.

John, will you sign our petition and demand that Congress pass a permanent ban on new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon?

---------- Original Message ----------

John --

6,000: Jobs created by the Grand Canyon
$476,000,000: Yearly income the Grand Canyon provides to our local economy.
46,200: Number of people who have signed our petition to save the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon is our district's own personal Wonder of the World.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

It's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon. Will you join Ann in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

John, click here to sign our petition and add your name to the list of supporters demanding Congress ban new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon >>

As a native Arizonan, the Grand Canyon is especially important to Ann. But if we're going to protect it, we need your help.

ADD YOUR NAME: http://action.kirkpatrickforarizona.com/Grand-Canyon

Thanks,

Team Kirkpatrick

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Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters like you. However, if you'd prefer to take a break from emails, click here . If you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click here .

Our campaign is powered by supporters like you. Your grassroots support is critical to helping Ann fight back against Republican lies. If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to donate to our campaign, please click here . Thanks for having Ann's back!

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/23/2015 1:29:34 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday February 23, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday February 23, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Concord Monitor opinion: Paul W. Hodes and Peter V. Emerson: "My Turn: Who else but Hillary can manage world's problems? "

"Although we promised not to join the chorus of those asking Secretary Clinton to run for president, we have taken a sober look at the world's condition, the prognosis for the future and America's position in the world, and Hillary Clinton is the only one who can manage the problems that others see as unmanageable."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton and the #askhermore Oscar campaign"

"'Ready for Hillary', a super PAC urging the former Secretary of State to run for president, tweeted the hashtag #askhermore Sunday night before the Oscars. It's part of a campaign supported by actresses like Reese Witherspoon and Lena Dunham for reporters to ask more than 'who are you wearing?' on the red carpet."

The Daily Beast: "Sorry, But Clinton's Inevitably Is Not a Problem"

[Subtitle:] "And how exactly is it a bad thing for her or Democrats that Hillary Clinton has the nomination all but sewn up? News flash: It's not."

New York Times: "Economic Recovery Under Obama Creates Quandaries for 2016 Race"

"As both parties begin positioning themselves for the election to succeed Mr. Obama, the politics of the economy are far more complicated than the president would have them. Among Democrats, there are divisions over the degree to which Hillary Rodham Clinton, considered their leading contender, should praise the recovery and run on Mr. Obama's stewardship of the economy."

Politico: "National security still a perception problem for Democrats"

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"Now, more so than at any other time in the past 12 years, voters trust Republicans more than Democrats to protect them from terrorism. A new report by Ben Freeman and Michelle Diggles from Third Way, a center-left think tank, claimed to have identified the Democrats' antidote: Hillary Clinton."

Wall Street Journal: "Biden's Trips Fan 2016 Race Speculation"

"When Vice President Joe Biden traveled to South Carolina last week to speak about investing in infrastructure, some longtime supporters had another topic on their minds: 2016."

Articles:

Concord Monitor opinion: Paul W. Hodes and Peter V. Emerson: "My Turn: Who else but Hillary can manage world's problems?"

By Paul W. Hodes and Peter V. Emerson

February 22, 2015

We see ads frequently reminding us that friends do not let friends drive drunk. And we are also devoted to the idea that friends should not ask friends to run for president.

We are referring to all the drums beating, tongues wagging and lips pronouncing, "Run, Hillary, run."

We are not friends with Secretary Clinton, but we have great admiration and respect for her career of public service. She carries with her a list of accomplishments to which few can lay claim. She is respected and lauded around the world. Her ideas have tremendous power and influence because of her unparalleled experience.

So why would anyone wish on her one of the dirtiest, most degrading and exhausting processes ever conceived of? Already the lies, distortions and vicious personal attacks have begun. In fact, they never stopped; they just don't make it to the front pages of the papers or newscasts or postings every day. But they are out there, whispered and repeated myriad times every day and echoed by Fox News and other proponents of anything but the news or facts.

The world is becoming increasingly unstable and unpredictable, and therefore often far more threatening and dangerous to America and to American citizens at home and abroad. Looking but a few years down the road; there will be less food, less potable water and fewer basic human necessities for most of the world's exponentially expanding population. Consequently, there will be more violence, civil strive and war.

Unfortunately, many Americans are geographically and geopolitically challenged. Many still believe that America dominates the world and that we are neither dependent upon the international community nor subject to events occurring outside our borders. In short, many still hold opinions based on a world order long ago dismantled.

We are now interconnected and interdependent upon every region of the world. Thus international stability and our continued prosperity are under attack in our shrinking world:

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■ The continued advance of the Islamic State has already further destabilized an already precarious order in the unstable Middle East

■ The escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate with almost daily outbreaks of killings and retaliation.

■ Iran's continued nuclear program

■ The slowing of the Chinese economy and the potential head-on conflict over the Diaoyu Islands in China and the Senkaku islands in Japan.

■ The postponement of the election in Africa's largest democracy, Nigeria, a success for Boko Haram

■ Greece's possible default on its debt and the impact on the European Union

■ North Korea's continued militaristic posture and nuclear capabilities

■ Declining crop production in critical areas around the world

And the list goes on and on and on.

So what do these events mean to a waitress in New Hampshire, a farmer in Iowa, a rancher in Montana, an avocado grower in California, a high-tech entrepreneur in Massachusetts, a fisherman in Maine, a single mother in Harlem, a pensioner in Phoenix, a widower in Washington, our neighbors, family and friends?

It means that events in other countries, often far away, spill into and through our borders. Americans are part of a new global order – or too frequently global disorder – that challenges our traditional notions of American exceptionalism and leadership.

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International crises that emerge anew each day directly affect the prices of our food, gas, health care, etc. – our domestic tranquility and our national security. All these events affect the bottom-line of all American households.

So when we cut through the clutter of lies and gross distortions of the facts – all meant to create fear – to weigh and examine who's capable of making a dent in these seemingly intractable problems and challenges, there is only one person who is capable of managing them. Please note that we did not say solve these intractable problems because that would be impossible. But managing problems and challenges, that's possible.

Although we promised not to join the chorus of those asking Secretary Clinton to run for president, we have taken a sober look at the world's condition, the prognosis for the future and America's position in the world, and Hillary Clinton is the only one who can manage the problems that others see as unmanageable.

But given our pledge, we are reluctant to ask her to run for president, so we urge her to look around the world and within this extraordinary country of ours and ask herself, "Who else can accomplish what I can accomplish?"

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton and the #askhermore Oscar campaign"

By Hunter Schwarz

February 22, 2015, 8:56 p.m. EST

"Ready for Hillary", a super PAC urging the former Secretary of State to run for president, tweeted the hashtag #askhermore Sunday night before the Oscars. It's part of a campaign supported by actresses like Reese Witherspoon and Lena Dunham for reporters to ask more than "who are you wearing?" on the red carpet.

The campaign comes on the heels of a re-energized conversation about sexism in Hollywood following revelations from last year's Sony Pictures hack that female actresses were in many instances paid less than their male counterparts.

On E!, Ryan Seacrest seemed to have gotten the message, asking the "who-are-you-wearing" question throughout the night without actually using those exact words in that exact order, and promptly following it up with a similar question for the man. ("Who designed your dress?" he asked Chrissy Teigen before asking her husband, John Legend, what he was wearing). E! also got rid of the mani-cam.

While asking actresses questions about things other than fashion is something we should do a lot more of (why wouldn't you ask everyone on the Golden Globes red carpet last month what they thought about the Sony hack that happened just weeks before?!?), it's not just a question that's completely based in sexism; it's a big part of the fashion industry.

"You might say that awards season is as important, if not even more important, to fashion brands as it is to the entertainment companies that are honored in these ceremonies like the Oscars," Howard Hogan, an attorney and partner in the Washington, D.C.,-based firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "A favorable review for an Oscar gown can be make or break for the designers who outfit them."

Red carpet fashion can involve contracts and money changing hands. Los Angeles Times reporter Booth Moore tweeted that if we really want to get rid of "who are you wearing," we need to get rid of fashion brands paying actresses to wear their clothes. Without that, the question might not go away. During the 2010 Oscars, Ryan Seacrest abstained from asking about fashion and was criticized by some in the fashion press, and now five years later, and he's back to asking those question again.

But in politics, where politicians don't have to sign contracts about what wear, this campaign is still good news for female candidates. It shows there's a growing interest in ensuring reporters, whether on the red carpet or in Iowa, treat men and women equally.

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The Daily Beast: "Sorry, But Clinton's Inevitably Is Not a Problem"

By Ana Marie Cox

February 23, 2015

[Subtitle:] And how exactly is it a bad thing for her or Democrats that Hillary Clinton has the nomination all but sewn up? News flash: It's not.

Pundits can't stop snatching Hillary's defeat from the jaws of victory, insisting that her commanding lead in the polls is itself a problem. A Vox piece this week is typical: "Hillary Clinton's uncontested nomination is dangerous for her and her party," but I'd like to give points to Politico for finding a slightly different angle, "All-too-ready for Hillary," which argues that Clinton's real problem is all the really talented people who want to work for her. Clinton may not win, but blaming a loss on her popularity (or overly talented staff!) exposes the weak, desperate illogic of a pundit class that is mostly just filling time and news cycle holes until anything real happens.

An "air of inevitability" should be a good thing, right? It's in the superhero toolbox, right next to the cloak of invisibility and hammer of invincibility. So why do journalists treat it like kryptonite?

On some level, it may be due to amorphous ill will towards Clinton herself, whether motivated by generic sexism or a more specific dislike of her notoriously prickly staff. (The "which came first" between a prickly staff and the negative coverage is a chicken-and-egg-meets-Heisenberg Principle problem whose solution deserves a Nobel in both science and peace for the person who solves it.)

"Of course she's going to win the primary, and that's great for her!" is also the coldest take one could imagine, the kind of "another plane landed today" non-news that political reporters believe in their bones to be inherently uninteresting—as if the point of news was to be interesting, rather than factually correct.

The only kind of accuracy political pundits care about has to do with predictions. The continuing spate of concern-trolling on Hillary's behalf might just be padding out a soft landing should anything not work out exactly like most polls and political scientists predict.

Airy counter-intuitive clickbait is also a lot easier than reporting anything, and almost impossible to call out as untrue, especially when it comes embedded with iceberg-sized caveats such as this (from the Vox piece):

At the end of the day, presidential campaign gaffes rarely seem to matter much. But they surely don't help. And one reason they don't matter is that nobody makes it through the nominating process without showing they can take the heat. In 2016, Clinton isn't going to have to show that. And it might cost her—and her party—dearly down the road.

There is something to be said for working the kinks out of a campaign, as differentiated from a punishing series of preliminary contests. Still, politics can't be rigged like a non-conference schedule, a perfect balance of real competition and record-padding that gets you both ready and well-seeded for the big dance. Indeed, sports may be the one place that Americans truly prefer underdogs, but even then, NJIT jerseys do not sell as well as University of Kentucky ones.

Clinton's connection to purportedly unpopular Obama policies is also a real concern, though one that requires those making the argument to straight-up ignore data that say people will vote for Clinton in favor of squishier "how do you feel" answers—as though that means more than the question that is, you know, the one on the ballot. The story "Why Hillary Clinton isn't even close to a shoo-in, explained in one poll question," is, for some reason, not about the one poll question that shows her to be a shoo-in.

A variant of the "too popular to win" theory is the hypothesis that Clinton is only popular because of her familiar name, but having a familiar name is actually a bad thing. The argument that HRC (and/or Jeb Bush) represents a dynastic tendency that voters may rebel against is at least real

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argument, as opposed to the logical contortion of "inevitable=not inevitable." The proof that "Americans hate dynasties" is a real argument is that is a testable hypothesis! Testable and proven wrong, by the polls that show Hillary to be so popular. In general, if there's a political dynasty that America doesn't love, well, we haven't heard of it, and there are plenty of political dynasties in America.

Though some may point toward anti-Hillary coverage as proof that the media are not biased to the left, I consider this tendency toward deliberate, counter-factual undermining as pretty good evidence of that very bias, mostly because you just don't see this pathology on the right. Base voters on either side rattle their cages when the presumptive nominee doesn't fit their specific ideological prescription, but the Karl Roves of the world don't lay into a GOP hopeful just because he's (or she, but come on…) clearly going to win.

Poll numbers are not subject to the insecurity and attention-seeking that reporters are, and they tell a much less sexy, "Hillary leads the polls and you won't believe what happens next"-type story. What reporters insist on calling "inevitability" is a quantifiably unprecedented amount of support. According to the pollsters at The New York Times, "No candidate, excluding incumbent presidents, has ever fared so well in the early primary polls as Mrs. Clinton. She holds about 60 percent of the vote of Democratic voters, a tally dwarfing the 40 percent she held this time in the last election cycle."

I'll say it: Barring her own Titanic/iceberg moment, Hillary will win the nomination, and she will be in excellent position to win the general. Perhaps the only thing that can keep her from being in such an enviable position is the steady drip of negative coverage that proclaims otherwise.

New York Times: "Economic Recovery Under Obama Creates Quandaries for 2016 Race"

By Jonathan Martin

February 22, 2015

WASHINGTON — When President Obama addressed members of the Democratic National Committee here over the weekend, he offered a glowing account of the economic recovery under his administration.

"America is coming back," he said after rattling off an array of upbeat economic indicators. "We've risen from recession."

But as both parties begin positioning themselves for the election to succeed Mr. Obama, the politics of the economy are far more complicated than the president would have them. Among Democrats, there are divisions over the degree to which Hillary Rodham Clinton, considered their leading contender, should praise the recovery and run on Mr. Obama's stewardship of the economy. And Republicans — assessing falling unemployment and soaring job creation under a president with still-mediocre approval ratings — are grasping for the right way to frame their 2016 campaign message.

The coming debate over the economy, and by extension Mr. Obama's legacy, is a particularly acute topic for governors, who are often judged by voters on their states' economic performance and who spend much of their time on job creation. As the governors gathered here for their annual winter meeting, there was bipartisan optimism about the economy, but it was guarded.

"In many parts of the country, we are seeing increasing momentum in terms of recovery, but in almost every state, and certainly in parts of Colorado, we are still struggling to get the unemployment down," Gov. John W. Hickenlooper of Colorado said, "and most importantly the wages still haven't started rising."

Colorado's unemployment rate was down to 4 percent in December, below the national average, which was 5.7 percent in January, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But Mr. Hickenlooper's sober analysis suggests an awareness that voters are not yet enjoying a boon and certainly are not yet fully crediting Mr. Obama for the recovery.

Indeed, a Quinnipiac University poll in Colorado, a crucial swing state, released last week indicated that 58 percent of voters said they wanted the

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next president to “change direction from Barack Obama’s policies,” and the president’s job approval rating was only 43 percent. Perhaps mindful of such data, Mr. Hickenlooper, a Democrat, indicated that Mrs. Clinton could not run simply on the recent good economic news.

“I am not saying who the candidate is going to be, but I don’t think she will come with, ‘Everything is fine, everything is going well,’ ” he said. “I suspect that she will come forward with some new ideas and some innovative ideas on how we can begin to move wages up and how we can help businesses expand more rapidly and create more jobs.”

Yet in another important state on the presidential map, the Democratic governor said Mrs. Clinton should not be shy about linking herself to Mr. Obama’s record.

“She should embrace the Obama economic policies that have moved the country forward, absolutely,” said the governor, Terry McAuliffe of Virginia, a close friend of both Mrs. Clinton’s and former President Bill Clinton’s. “Go through the numbers, look where we are today. Things are booming.”

But Mr. McAuliffe was quick to add that Mr. Obama could make it easier for Mrs. Clinton to offer that embrace if his administration was more effective in trumpeting the recovery.

“I think they need to do a much better job of explaining their successes,” said Mr. McAuliffe, who was the chairman of Mrs. Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign. “I don’t get it.”

What most of the governors, in both parties, agreed on was that longstanding wage stagnation was diminishing the political impact of the recovery.

“We still have a wage problem. We are still creating too many low-wage, not family-supporting, jobs,” said Gov. Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island, a Democrat who was elected last year in a state that was among the hardest hit by the recession.

Ms. Raimondo, whose state has a 6.8 percent unemployment rate, added: “So there is a lot of work to do. She has a wage problem that she has to fix.”

The country’s structural economic challenges — whether wages, diminished manufacturing or other challenges associated with globalization — are such that Mrs. Clinton must come up with her own agenda, Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware, another Democrat, said.

“I think it would be a mistake for somebody to be running on ‘It’s great guns; we just have to keep doing what we’re doing,’ ” Mr. Markell said. “It ought to be, ‘In a changing world, here are the things we need to do differently.’ ”

Early signs suggest that Mrs. Clinton intends to offer proposals that would move beyond Mr. Obama’s ideas — notably a plan to offer incentives to corporations that increase profit-sharing with employees.

If Democrats are grappling with how best to hail the resurgent economy while acknowledging its underlying difficulties, Republicans are engaged in a conversation over whether they should remain critical of the recovery, claim a share of credit for it or move on to different issues.

Many of the Republican governors from states where economic improvement has been significant on their watch are uneasy about their nominee’s continuing to bad-mouth the economy. Gov. Terry E. Branstad of Iowa, where unemployment is down to 4.1 percent, said Republican presidential candidates should point to job growth in Republican-led states.

“Take some credit for what Republican governors have done, because the recipe to revitalize the national economy is to do the same thing,” Mr. Branstad said

He also suggested that Republicans ought to focus on national security, an issue on which Mr. Obama may prove to be more vulnerable than the economy.

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Politico: "National security still a perception problem for Democrats"

By Adam B. Lerner

February 23, 2015, 5:35 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Report: Voters trust Republicans more to protect them from terrorism.

Now, more so than at any other time in the past 12 years, voters trust Republicans more than Democrats to protect them from terrorism. A new report by Ben Freeman and Michelle Diggles from Third Way, a center-left think tank, claimed to have identified the Democrats' antidote: Hillary Clinton.

Focus groups conducted in October and November 2014 with white college-educated swing voters in Colorado and Iowa indicated that Clinton was an exception to the Democrats' otherwise lackluster performance, the researchers found. Respondents said she "exhibits strength without being pushy" and is "quicker to make decisions" than President Barack Obama without being too proactive like former President George W. Bush.

In Gallup polls dating back to 2003, Republicans have consistently led Democrats on national security — except for an approximately 18-month period from 2007 to mid-2008. Republicans now have a 23-percentage-point lead, after hovering in the teens and single digits through the rest of the period.

It remains unclear whether Clinton's personal favorability on national security will last into a national campaign, the researchers found; respondents praised the current Democratic front-runner in vague terms but their skepticism of her party and the president for whom she worked as secretary of state could sully her brand as she takes more public stances.

Third Way Senior Vice President Matt Bennett said he believes Clinton's appeal could work in the other direction. "An ancillary benefit [of a Clinton candidacy] will be that it will help close the security gap for the party" at large, he said.

The report stated that voters often intertwine immigration with foreign policy, meaning the issue could have particular resonance in 2016 if Obama's executive action to grant undocumented immigrants legal status and the rise of extremist groups in the Middle East are still key topics of debate.

Bennett believes that a Clinton campaign will need to "lean in" on national security to maximize her advantage.

The report's analysis also made an argument that national security is a more important electoral issue than originally believed.

During the 2014 midterms, even though only 13 percent of voters said foreign policy was the most important issue facing the country, the large gap between the parties on the issue made it far more decisive than an issue like the economy. Third Way's analysis found that Democrats' advantage with regards to the economy earned them only 2.6 percent in the polls, while national security and immigration both lost the party 5 percent.

Further, the authors found a strong correlation between voters' opinion of parties' handling of national security and their overall opinions of the parties, though shifts in the former weren't typically followed in the latter for about a year.

That analysis implies that the fact that Republicans currently lead Democrats on national security by the largest margin in more than a decade means the Democratic Party's overall favorability relative to the Republican Party is set to tank.

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As for Obama's most significant foreign policy achievements, Third Way found that voters couldn't care less.

"The benefit of the bin Laden raid is gone entirely," said Bennett.

In one focus group the researchers convened, a Colorado woman tried to identify his killing as a major Obama foreign policy success. "That guy, they made a movie about him. You know the skinny guy with the beard." None of the other eight or so respondents knew his name either, the report noted.

Wall Street Journal: "Biden's Trips Fan 2016 Race Speculation"

By Colleen McCain Nelson

February 22, 2015, 3:59 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Vice President keeps supporters guessing on whether he will challenge Hillary Clinton in 2016

When Vice President Joe Biden traveled to South Carolina last week to speak about investing in infrastructure, some longtime supporters had another topic on their minds: 2016.

"You need to run," Dick Harpootlian, former Democratic Party chairman in South Carolina, told the vice president during a stop in Columbia.

Mr. Biden gave his friend a smile and a coy answer. "We'll talk," Mr. Harpootlian recounted the vice president saying.

Mr. Biden has taken no overt steps toward building a national campaign machinery, and few people expect him to run. Nonetheless, Mr. Biden in recent weeks has fanned the will-he-or-won't-he conversation by suggesting that he's still considering a bid and by scheduling trips to three states that hold the earliest presidential nominating contests.

His recent travels to Iowa and South Carolina—as well as a planned Wednesday excursion to New Hampshire—have been official White House business to promote the administration's agenda. But inevitably, talk turns to the presidential campaign in private conversations. Mr. Biden doesn't seem to mind, fellow Democrats say, but he remains consistently noncommittal.

In January, Mr. Biden described the presidential race as "wide open" and said he may wait until summer to make a final decision on his own plans.

Assessing Mr. Biden's intent, Democratic strategists say the not-in, not-out strategy suggests that the vice president is keeping his options open on the off-chance that Hillary Clinton doesn't run. Polls show that Mrs. Clinton, who has yet to officially announce her candidacy, holds a commanding lead over all other potential contenders in her party, and strategists say it is unlikely that Mr. Biden would challenger her.

Joe Trippi, a longtime Democratic consultant, said Mr. Biden would be embarking on a much more aggressive effort if he were planning to square off against Mrs. Clinton. "He's doing things that help him in the event that everyone is wrong but not expending so much energy on what could be a futile mission," he said. "He's being realistic."

Mr. Biden's approach is also aimed at solidifying the Obama administration legacy, and his role in it, by urging members of his party to

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"acknowledge what we have done" rather than distance themselves from it, as many Democrats did during the 2014 midterm campaigns. His argument may carry more sway if Mr. Biden is seen as a figure with political relevance and a future.

The vice president had all but fallen out of the 2016 conversation, but he inserted himself into the political fray in January by saying he might seek the Democratic nomination.

During his recent trip to Iowa, Mr. Biden repeated that timeline and stoked speculation by calling for a continuation of President Barack Obama's policies while urging Democrats to run on this White House's record in 2016.

"Some say that would amount to a third term of the president," Mr. Biden said during a speech at Drake University. "I call it sticking with what works."

Beyond that public declaration, the vice president said little privately during his trips to Iowa and South Carolina that suggested he was ready to run. Democrats in those states, as well as in New Hampshire, say they've seen no evidence of organizing efforts by Biden emissaries, and many supporters say no one from the vice president's circle has even hinted that local officials might want to hold off on committing to other candidates.

In Iowa, Mr. Biden reunited with some local Democrats when he stopped by Smokey Row Coffee in Des Moines. Abby Finkenauer, a state representative from Dubuque who volunteered for Mr. Biden's 2008 presidential campaign, managed to snag a few minutes with the vice president at the coffee shop to catch up. But there was no mention of future plans, she said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clinton's emerging campaign is already lining up staff, and other groups have long been at work gathering donors and building a supporter network on her behalf. A New Hampshire Democratic strategist said there are no indications that Mr. Biden is organizing in that state, but the Ready for Hillary organization has been moving quickly to lock up commitments from Democrats.

Still, Biden supporters in early primary states say they're holding out hope. "He is the perfect successor to this president because he is part of the team that developed the policies that brought us this far," Mr. Harpootlian said. "Joe Biden ought to be the next president of the United States."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 10 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton addresses United Nations Women's Conference (Bloomberg)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: mlippert@barackobama.com
dmcdonough@barackobama.com
djsberg@gmail.com
tblinken@barackobama.com
john.podesta@gmail.com
john.podesta@ptt.gov
Date: 11/7/2008 8:46:15 AM
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

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roger. will do.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark Lippert <mlippert@barackobama.com>
To: Ricesusane@aol.com; Denis McDonough <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>; djsberg@gmail.com; Antony (Tony) Blinken <tblinken@barackobama.com>; john.podesta@gmail.com; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri, 7 Nov 2008 3:37 pm
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Its pretty big so I'd seperate it outm. Moreover, you seperate it away from the standard run of mill operations like carrier battle group deployments and the like.

From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: Mark Lippert; Denis McDonough; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri Nov 07 14:29:13 2008
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested
yes, we envisioned that as part of ongoing operations. Would you separate it out?

Come to think of it, we should also ask for AFRICOM brief.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark Lippert <mlippert@barackobama.com >
To: Ricesusane@aol.com ; Denis McDonough <dmcdonough@barackobama.com >; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken <tblinken@barackobama.com >; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri, 7 Nov 2008 3:19 pm
Subject: Re: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Just skimming - I'd throw CTJF-HOA brief into the mix for DOD.

From: ricesusane@aol.com
To: Denis McDonough; Mark Lippert; djsberg@gmail.com ; Antony (Tony) Blinken; john.podesta@gmail.com ; john.podesta@ptt.gov
Sent: Fri Nov 07 14:17:07 2008
Subject: Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Below is the list of briefings Jim and I propose we request of the IC and others for senior transition national security staff over the coming weeks.

A subset of these TBD could subsequently be requested for POTUS-E and VPOTUS-E. We leave it to others to decide if it is desirable and appropriate for POTUS-E to request any or all of these in his meeting with Bush on Monday).

We welcome your thoughts.

IC

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China

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MEPP and region
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity and CI
IRDPA briefs

NSC

Policy briefings on:

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
Syria
Lebanon
Egypt
Saudi Arabia
Darfur
Zimbabwe
DRC
Weak States strategy

OMB

Budget briefing

DOD

Ongoing Operations
Iraq
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Nuclear safety and security
Readiness

Homeland Security

Infrastructure security
Border security
Disease/pandemic preparedness
First respone/disaster preparedness
Crisis Response plans/processes and continuity in government

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/13/2008 5:04:44 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/13/08

Main Topics: Evangelical Voters, Bush's Third Term, Energy Compromise, Abba, Local PA News Coverage

Summary: Political spotlight remains on Edwards as details including the length of his affair, admittance to his wife, and monetary payments to Hunter are uncovered. Pelosi agreed to a vote on oil drilling when Congress reconvenes.

The Olympics dominated morning news coverage; particularly as U.S. swimmer Phelps sets record of most gold medals for any Olympian in history. Network coverage of Georgian situation released conflicting information, as NBC reported ceasefire had been put into effect, and allegations of further Russian invasions were unfounded. Other reports revealed that Russia had occupied city of Gori, and were moving east towards capital Tbilisi. In Tripoli, Lebanon, a roadside bomb killed at least 18 people.

Highlights:
1. FNC: Evangelicals See McCain As Only Option, Looking At Who He Chooses as V.P.
2. FNC: McCain Opposing Energy Compromise Legislation Even Before It Is Proposed or Debated
3. CNN: Susan Eisenhower Claims many Republicans Scared of Third Bush Term
4. FNC: Mamma Mia! John McCain the Dancing Queen?
5. WHTM-ABC 27 - Harrisburg PA - Local Harrisburg, PA News Covers McCain's Visit to Area, Reveals Some Tough Questions and Hard Answers

Highlights No Clip:
1. CBS - CRAIG FERGUSON: "John McCain has been accused of steeling policy ideas from Wikipedia. Which is ridiculous! Everybody knows McCain doesn't know how to use the internet! How could you even accuse him of that? And Barack Obama today pledged that he won't raise taxes on anyone over the age of 70. And McCain said Obama was just pandering to the youth vote. The youngsters got to pay tax!"
2. WHTM-ABC 27 - Harrisburg PA - KRISTEN OLSEN: "Harley Davidson is laying off 270 production jobs, how do you plan to get jobs back to people that you saw right out there in that townhall meeting?
MCCAIN: "We got to keep taxes low, we've got to provide stimulus to, for investment and research and development."

Clips:
Highlight #1
Evangelicals See McCain As Only Option, Looking At Who He Chooses as V.P. (FNC 08-13-08 7:30am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: 83 days until the election, since 1988 evangelicals have been the second most reliable block for the Republicans but will things change this time around? […] Are the evangelicals going to rally around John McCain or will they take a listen to Barack Obama?

DR. LAND: I think they're going to largely support John McCain. The latest TIME poll shows that 70 percent are planning on voting for McCain, and 19 percent are planning on voting for Obama, and the rest are undecided. The question is going to be how many evangelicals will turn out to vote? **Most of them are either going to vote for McCain or they're not going to vote.** A small minority are going to vote for Obama. And the reason is quite simple, it's very difficult for someone who is as radically pro-choice as Barack Obama is to gain much hearing with evangelicals. And that's why he's doing not any better and in some polls a little worse than John Kerry did with evangelicals in 2004.

GRETCHEN: […] But here's the question I have for you this morning Dr. Land, because, the prevailing thought process right now among the political pundits is **evangelicals, they're going to vote for John McCain no matter what because they don't have anyone else to vote for. But what you're saying this morning is that his V.P. pick will still be extremely important as far as getting evangelicals to come to the polls.**

LAND: **That will be the most important decision that John McCain makes in this entire campaign. The question is, will evangelicals be energized in a pro-life vice presidential pick will help to reassure them that his judicial nominees will be the right picks**, that they'll be pro-life like Roberts and Alito. It will reassure them, give them a confidence level, and it will have an enormous impact on turnout. If he picks a pro-life vice presidential candidate it will gin up the turnout. If he picks a pro-choice candidate it will deeply depress it and deflate it.

CARLSON: If he goes for Tom Ridge then, former Homeland Security Chief, he's not pro-life. And if he goes for Joe Lieberman, which some people are rumoring that he's going to do an out-of-the-box pick to try to get independents, what you're saying is that evangelicals may just stay home.

LAND: A lot of them will. A lot of them will. And I love Joe Lieberman. Joe Lieberman wrote the forward to my book, I think he's a great guy, he'd make a great Secretary of Defense, but he's pro-choice so that means he can't be vice president.

Highlight #2
McCain Opposing Energy Compromise Legislation Even Before It Is Proposed or Debated (FNC 08/13/08 10:07am)
MEGYN KELLY: John McCain campaigning for cash today in Michigan […] Let's talk energy, they are still working on an energy compromise on Capital Hill. McCain, not too in love with the compromise being proposed. Tell us.

JAMES ROSEN: Yeah, this is the compromise forged by the so-called "gang of ten", five senators on either side of the political aisle, and **in blunt terms Senator McCain is not committed to this compromise at all.** He has, of course, shifted policy this year when gas prices have been so punishing, and come out in favor of expanded offshore drilling. This proposed compromise, which hasn't even been circulated as formal legislation yet, provides for some limited new, offshore drilling. Off the shores of Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. But this gang of ten compromise would also repeal some tax breaks that the major oil companies now enjoy. In an interview with Fox News chief political correspondent, Carl Cameron, just yesterday, Senator McCain sidestepped a direct question about whether he supports those provisions.

MCCAIN: I don't support any increase in taxes. **But the point is, the oil companies are ready to drill, they don't need any tax breaks to do that. Not with the price of oil being in where it is. All they need to do is be allowed to drill.**

ROSEN: […] McCain also questioned this conventional wisdom that any offshore drilling would take several years to impact on domestic gas prices.

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KELLY: […] Apparently McCain in that interview also defended his reputation as a maverick?

ROSEN: That's right. This has come under some attack from the democrats and from Senator Obama's campaign Megyn, and Senator McCain yesterday repeated a favorite line of his saying, that he was never elected Ms. Congeniality.

Highlight #3
Susan Eisenhower Claims many Republicans Scared of Third Bush Term (CNN 08/13/08 07:29am)
SUSAN EISENHOWER: I had an avalanche of email after that endorsement. **Many moderate Republicans said that they're terrified of having a third Bush term. John McCain has been a real supporter of virtually everything that the Bush White House has wanted, and I think the American people feel desperate for a change, especially in understanding we have to restore our position abroad.**

Highlight #4
Mamma Mia! John McCain the Dancing Queen? (FNC 08/13/08 7:45am)
STEVE DOOCY: Let's take a look at John McCain's favorite songs.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: All right, Dancing Queen!

DOOCY: Is number one on John McCain's list.

[McCain's Favorite Songs List Includes:
1. **Dancing Queen – Abba**
2. **Blue Bayou – Roy Orbison**
3. **Take a Chance on Me – Abba**
4. **If We Make It… - Merle Haggard**
5. **As Time Goes By – Dooley Wilson]**

BRIAN KILMEADE: I know he's kidding, this can not be serious?!

CARLSON: His wife picked the list!?

KILMEADE: Is this true? You can't have your wife pick your own list! He's John McCain he can't have dancing queen!

CALSON: Come on! Maybe he has a little Swedish boy in him!?

[…]

DOOCY: There's one thing the two candidates have in common. One artist, who do you think that would be? Frank Sinatra. They both have a Frank Sinatra song on there.

Highlight #5
Local Harrisburg, PA News Covers McCain's Visit to Area, Reveals Some Tough Questions and Hard Answers (WHTM –ABC 27 – Harrisburg, PA 08/12/08 7:00pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: There's no doubt that Pennsylvania will be a battleground state, I think we will be up late and I think every vote will count."

DENNIS OWENS: Well, the fight for our votes went into high gear today as republican presidential candidate John McCain came to town. […]

VALERIE RITCHETT: McCain held his first major public event in the mid-state.

OWENS: Analysts say if McCain wants to win Pennsylvania, he needs to win big in the middle of the state.. today, he visited York to meet voters-- and get them fired up to go to the polls. Blaring music and a rolling bus delivered John McCain into York he calls it the Straight Talk Express and he took a few straight shots at congress for not fixing America's energy dependence. McCain wants more oil drilling and more nuclear.

MCCAIN: We've been sailing nuclear ships around the world for sixty years with nuclear power plants on them and we've never had an accident.

OWENS: He called for sanctions on Russia for invading Georgia and said this when a soldier asked about the war in Iraq,

MCCAIN: By the end of the next four years we will be largely out of Iraq and we'll be out because we will have won. Not because of a date for withdrawal.
OWENS: McCain didn't duck tough questions and gave tough answers. He told a public school teacher he favors school choice for parents, he told a farmer he doesn't like farm subsidies, and an eye doctor that he's against nationalized health care.

MCCAIN: If you like a government run health care system go to Canada or England before you decide that's what you want.

OWENS: But the truly conservative in the mid-state still have doubts about this moderate. Listen to this question.

QUESTIONER: We want to know if it is in you to become a passionate and forceful leader with a conservative agenda to fight the lure of socialistic programs promoted by Senator Obama and the democrats?

OWENS: McCain answered with one word and a chuckle.

MCCAIN: Yes [laughter]

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OWENS: McCain did elaborate that he'll appoint conservative judges to the Supreme Court. He knows conservative voters will be judging him and he needs their votes.

DEBORAH WENTZ: I thought it was wonderful and I wish more young people could have been here to hear it.

JACK NICHOLAS: I like this town hall format because it gives people a chance to hear him speak off the cuff.

[…]

OWENS: And after the town hall meeting, Senator McCain did not leave York right away.

RITCHETT: That's right, he sat down for a one-one-one interview with our Kristin Thorne. He told her that he knows Pennsylvania is going to be a big tough win. But McCain says he's going to campaign hard here. He hopes former Governor Tom Ridge will help him get the votes. The governor has been touring the mid-state with McCain for the past few days. And McCain would not say if Ridge is on his short list for a running mate. But he says if elected he may ask Ridge to serve in a homeland security capacity.

MCCAIN: I would certainly call on Governor Ridge to help out in the next administration because he's literally a national treasure.

RITCHETT: McCain wouldn't say when he'll announce his v-p. He says it's been a tough process picking a running mate because there are so many qualified people. And after his appearance in York, McCain also visited Lancaster County. […]

AMY KEHM: John McCain's mid-state tour is officially over today. He flew out of Lancaster airport about an hour and half ago. Before that though, Senator McCain made a surprise visit to a really interesting group of potential constituents, high school football players. Interesting choice as many of them can't even vote yet. But John McCain took to the field anyway, at Manheim Central High School. It was day two of football practice. The players, of course, are preparing for the upcoming school year. McCain joked that maybe he should give a long speech so the guys didn't have to practice so hard. That got a few laughs. The candidate didn't talk much about himself or politics. He briefly mentioned his time in Vietnam as a prisoner of war, telling the players that "team work" helped he and other prisoners survive. He encouraged them to also work as a team and to have fun.

MCCAIN: I'm proud of all of you. Don't forget to study. You also have to graduate. Don't forget that okay? Most importantly, look forward to this forward to this season. Enjoy every single game, every single game, every single moment."

[…]

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From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/4/2015 12:06:32 AM
Subject: First Draft on Politics: Rubio and Clinton to Have an Island All to Themselves

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The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Rubio and Clinton to Have an Island All to Themselves

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida spoke at the Prescott Bush Awards Dinner in Stamford,

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Conn., in June. Eric Thayer for The New York Times

By Jeremy W. Peters

Good Friday morning. ***Donald J. Trump*** *had a big day on Thursday , but on Friday, other candidates,* ***Senator Marco Rubio*** *of Florida and* ***Hillary Rodham Clinton****, will find themselves in Puerto Rico at the same time. And Mr. Rubio is wasting little time previewing his idea of what the general election might look like.*

"Marco vs. Hillary in Puerto Rico this Friday," reads the news release from the Rubio campaign, like a flyer promoting an event more suited to a boxing ring than a presidential race.

And while **Mrs. Clinton** has acted like she would rather just ignore the Florida senator — her campaign sent out a statement of its own saying only that she would be visiting a cardiovascular care center on the island primarily to discuss health care issues — **Mr. Rubio** sees their visits on Friday as an opportunity to draw clear contrasts with the candidate that many expect to be the Democratic nominee.

Their trips were not planned to coincide, but Mr. Rubio, seems eager to make the most of it. Mrs. Clinton does not speak Spanish. He does, and he plans to make good use of it while he's there.

He also wrote an op-ed (in English and Spanish) that was published on Friday in El Nuevo Día, Puerto Rico's largest newspaper by readership. In it, Mr. Rubio outlined how, unlike Mrs. Clinton and **Jeb Bush**, another Floridian who is one of Mr. Rubio's chief rivals, he does not support allowing the island's municipalities to reorganize their debt in bankruptcy. (Stateside municipalities can do so under bankruptcy law, but as a commonwealth, Puerto Rico's cannot.)

"So far, Hillary Clinton's liberal hosts in San Juan today have failed to propose any serious measures to fix Puerto Rico's economic challenges," he wrote in the piece.

Of course, there is a subtext to Mr. Rubio's jabs. He hopes their dueling appearances are just a preview of what's to come in the general election.

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What We're Watching Today

- **King Salman** of Saudi Arabia will visit **President Obama** at the White House, but the kingdom's oil production will barely get a mention. Instead, the first order of business for the Saudi king is likely to be the Iran nuclear deal, analysts said.

- **Jake Sullivan**, a key staff member for **Mrs. Clinton** when she was secretary of state, will be interviewed privately by the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya. Another aide, **Cheryl D. Mills**, testified on Thursday.

Crowd for Pope's Congressional Visit to Spill Onto the Lawn

The hottest ticket in town this month may be inside the House chamber, but second to that will be passes to the lawn of the West Front of the Capitol, where 50,000 people are expected to gather to watch a broadcast of **Pope Francis**' address to a joint meeting of Congress.

After his speech, plans call for the pope to walk out to the speaker's balcony to appear before the public gathered on the lawn, which has been the site of holiday concerts and other events. Each member of the House will receive a ticket for the lower west terrace and 50 tickets for the West Lawn; each member of the Senate will receive a ticket for the lower west terrace and 200 tickets to the West Lawn. So bug your representative to see what's left. Who knows? Francis might well wade into the crowd.

While the broadcast may seem almost impromptu, the Capitol police have been developing the master plan for the event, including security, for months, along with **Speaker John A. Boehner**, who has been trying to get a papal visit to Congress

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for the better part of two decades.

– *Jennifer Steinhauer*

Our Favorites From The Times

- A group of software developers and designers, product managers and other tech supporters have volunteered to create apps and other tools to help **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont.

- **Ben Carson** has developed a head of steam in the Republican field. Mr. Carson, a retired brain surgeon, outperformed **Mr. Trump** in a head-to-head matchup, according to a new Monmouth University poll.

- **Kim Davis**, the Kentucky county clerk who was ordered to jail for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, received mixed support from Republican candidates.

Bulletins: A Trump Thursday

- After much hand-wringing by his Republican rivals, **Mr. Trump** signed a party pledge, along with all the other candidates, to forgo a third-party run and support the eventual nominee.

- **Corey Lewandowski**, once a lobbyist, a political operative and a congressional aide who was arrested after he brought a gun to work, is running **Mr. Trump's** campaign.

- And **Mr. Trump** revealed gaps in his mastery of international affairs during a radio interview on Thursday, appearing to mistake the Quds Force, an Iranian military group, for the Kurds, a Middle Eastern people, and growing testy over questions about foreign leaders.

  Oh, and one of his guards hit a protester in the face .

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- **Mr. Carson** is this season's "stealth candidate," MSNBC writes , in part, because of his "contrasting humility and soft-spoken demeanor – paired with his outsider credibility and far-right views."

- **Rick Santorum** is the first in the crowded presidential field to campaign in each of

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Iowa's 99 counties, according to CBS News .

- The Washington Post reports that **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey said **Mr. Obama**'s "inaction" and "deceit," had helped fuel the Syrian refugee crisis.

A Range of Emojis for Bernie Sanders

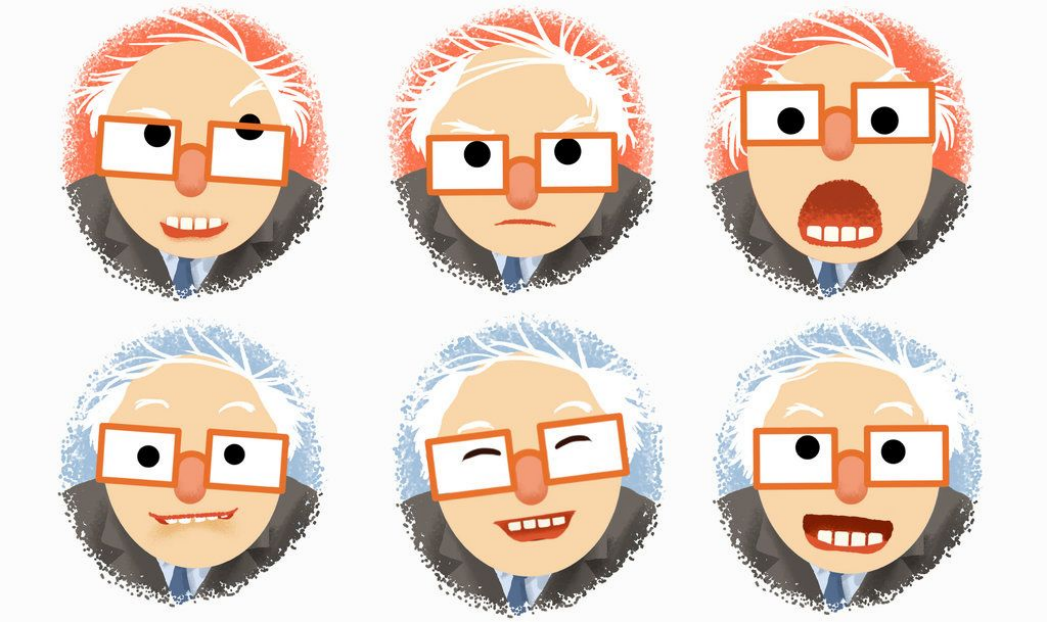

Berniemoji is an app that allows users to text, tweet and share emojis based on caricatures of Mr. Sanders. Scott Nash/NASHBOX Graphic Design and Illustration

As the hundreds of top-flight developers and programmers have volunteered their efforts to **Mr. Sanders**, some of his supporters have offered up their own quirkiness and services.

The latest: the Berniemoji , an app that allows users to text, tweet and share emojis based on caricatures of the senator.

"It started as a dare," said **Scott Nash**, a 55-year-old graphic designer from Portland, Me. "One of my colleagues laid down the gauntlet and said 'What's the equivalent of the Shepard Fairey portrait for Bernie?'"

Mr. Nash was referring to the portrait of **Mr. Obama** in 2008, his stoic gaze sitting above an all-caps "Hope" message. But every time Mr. Nash sat down to create an iconic portrait of Mr. Sanders, he struggled to find a gaze or a look that captured his momentum.

"And then it occurred to me that the key to Bernie, is he's not iconic, he's emotive," Mr. Nash said. So he set about making not one portrait, but 12, all cartoonishly emotional (which was fairly unsurprising, given Mr. Nash's background: He designed the logo for Nickelodeon way back when).

Two programmers who work with Mr. Nash, **Akimitsu Hogge** and **Wade**

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Brainerd, helped him amplify his illustrations.

So though Mr. Nash's portraits of Mr. Sanders are dotting the texts and chats of supporters, when it comes to the original dare, Mr. Nash jokes, "if you can tell, I failed miserably."

– *Nick Corasaniti*

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A Note to Readers

First Draft will be celebrating Labor Day by not sending you a newsletter on Monday. But we hope you have a great holiday, and we will return on Tuesday.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/20/2015 2:53:17 AM
Subject: News Update - July 20, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, July 20

Headlines:

- **Ashton Carter: Iran Deal Doesn't Prevent Military Option**
- **Netanyahu: Why Would US Compensate Israel for a Good Deal?**
- **Security Officials: We Must Discuss Compensation with U.S.**
- **Germany: Iran Must Improve Israel Relations**
- **Herzog Rejects Unity Gov't Reports: 'PM needs to be Replaced'**
- **Palestinians Freed in Shalit Deal Killed 6 Israelis Since 2014**
- **Uri Ariel Blasts PM for Settlement Construction Freeze**
- **Weizmann Institute Among Top 10 Research Institutions**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Netanyahu Packed the Bags for Herzog"**
  - By Nahum Barnea
- **Politico: "Israel in 2025: On horror, Hope and Honey"**
  - By Fania Oz Salzberger

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Ha'aretz

Ash Carter: Iran Deal Doesn't Prevent Military Option

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter arrived in Israel on Sunday evening, ahead of meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon. Carter said Sunday he has no expectation of persuading Israeli leaders to drop their opposition to the Iran nuclear deal, but will instead emphasize that the accord imposes no limits on what Washington can do to ensure the security of Israel and U.S. Arab allies. "Our ability to carry out that strategy is unchanged," Carter told reporters aboard his plane in route to Tel Aviv. “The Obama administration reserves the right to use military force against Iran if necessary”, he added, although the nuclear deal is intended to preclude that by resolving the issue diplomatically.

Jerusalem Post

PM: Why Would US Compensate us for a Good Deal?

US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter arrived in Israel on Sunday night as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated an unwillingness to speak about any “compensation” the US could provide to make Israel feel more secure after last week’s signing of the Iranian nuclear deal. Netanyahu, in an interview Sunday on ABC, said there was much talk about compensating Israel. The question that needed to be asked, the premier said, was, “If this deal is supposed to make Israel and our Arab neighbors safer, why should we be compensated with anything?” Furthermore, he said, “how can you compensate a country, my country, against a terrorist regime that is sworn to our destruction and is going to get nuclear bombs and billions of dollars to boot for its terror activities against us?”

Galey Tzahal

Officials: We Must Discuss Compensation with U.S.

Security officials have criticized the prime minister in the context of the debate over the compensation package from Washington following the nuclear agreement. We have to talk to the Americans now about the compensation package, because after the agreement is ratified by Congress, their interest in placating Israel will drop and the compensation package will shrink, security officials said. They said that the chances that the agreement would not be ratified by Congress were low, and so it would be a shame to take that risk.

Ynet News

Germany: Iran Must Improve Israel Relations

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel urged Iran at the start of a three-day visit to improve its relationship with Israel if it wanted to establish closer economic ties with Germany and other western powers. Gabriel, who is also economy minister, is the first senior figure from a large western government to visit Iran since it struck a landmark agreement with world powers on its nuclear program last week. "You can't have a good economic relationship with Germany in the long-term if we don't discuss such issues too," Gabriel told a gathering of German and Iranian business people in Tehran. "Questioning this Israel's right to existence is something that we Germans cannot accept."

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Ynet News

Herzog Rejects Reports: 'PM should be Replaced'

Opposition leader and head of the Zionist Union, Isaac Herzog, rejected reports that his party was in talks to join Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. "This government needs to be replaced today. Not get a lifeline," he declared. Speaking at the Labor party conference in Jaffa, Herzog said that "Benjamin Netanyahu must be replaced. He needs to be sent home. I'm saying no to 'crawling' into Netanyahu's extremist right government." The Zionist Union leader was trying to calm down party members after a series of reports in the media that he was interested in joining the prime minister in a unity government.

Times of Israel

Pal. Freed in Shalit Deal Killed 6 Israelis Since 2014

The suspected mastermind behind a deadly West Bank terror attack last month was among 1,027 Palestinian inmates freed by Israel in exchange for the release from Gaza of the captured Israel Defense Forces soldier Gilad Shalit in 2011. On Sunday, the Shin Bet announced it had detained four members of a seven-member Hamas cell who allegedly opened fire on a car near the settlement of Shvut Rachel in June, killing Malachy Rosenfeld, 25, and wounding three others. Rosenfeld was the sixth Israeli to be killed in attacks carried out or planned by Palestinians released under the Shalit deal since April 2014. This is a reminder of the cost Israel has paid for Shalit's freedom, a scenario that critics of the deal predicted would unfold.

Jerusalem Post

Ariel Blasts PM for Settlement Construction Freeze

Agriculture Minister and chairman of the Tekuma-National Union Party Uri Ariel denounced what he said was a de facto construction freeze in the West Bank and Jerusalem, as well as the planned destruction of housing units in Beit El by the end of July. The council of the National Union, a constituent of the Bayit Yehudi faction, which convened on Sunday night in Beit El, instructed its MKs, Ariel and MK Bezalel Smotrich, to implement "coalition sanctions" against the government until it changed these policies, which could include actions such as failing to be present for important votes in the Knesset. The Likud party said in response that the settlements were important to the PM and that he would "continue to advance the settlements" while acknowledging the current reality.

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Times of Israel

Weizmann Institute Among Top 10 Research Inst.

Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science ranks tenth in the world, out of 750, for the quality of its research, according to a recent Dutch review project that examined the impact of publications from research institutions on the scientific community. The institute, based in Rehovot, was the only non-US research body to make it to the top ten on the list, which was published by the Center for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands, otherwise known by its Dutch acronym CWTS.The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the top research institution, followed by Harvard University.
See also, "CWTS Leiden Ranking 2015" (CWTS)

Yedioth Ahronoth July 20, 2015

Netanyahu Packed the Bags for Herzog

By Nahum Barnea

There is nothing like getting on a plane. The opposition leader gets to leave the moist, humid Lod valley at midnight, and 12 hours later lands in moist, humid New York. Someone he doesn't know makes sure to usher him quickly through passport control, without a long line, without troublesome questions, without fingerprints. Another hour-long flight and he alights, pressed inside a group of bodyguards, at Reagan Airport in Washington. Someone insists on carrying his luggage. And there is the ambassador: He woke up at dawn, wasn't that nice of him, just to wait for the opposition leader at the airport. The black limousine was washed and polished in advance just for him. He feels that he is saving the homeland single-handedly; he feels like Netanyahu.

Four days later, when he returns to Ben-Gurion Airport, no one is waiting for him. He comes out into a sweltering, humid day in Tel Aviv. He turns on his cell phone to read what people wrote about him on the social networks. The right wingers wrote that he's a traitor; the leftists wrote that he's a loser. He mutters a curse under his breath: The omelet from the plane is giving him heartburn. If only I had an antacid, he says to himself. My opposition for an antacid.

The nuclear agreement with Iran became within a day a litmus paper for examining the Israelis' loyalty to the homeland. Anyone who discerns a single positive point in the agreement is a traitor; anyone who criticizes the agreement but blames our government for the failure is both a traitor and impudent; anyone who criticizes the agreement but is worried by the worsening clash with the Obama administration is a traitor, impudent and a coward.

Opposition Chairman Yitzhak (Buji) Herzog took the test first, and passed it successfully. Within a short time, he was called by the members of AIPAC, who proposed that he come to Washington to meet with senators and members of Congress and explain to them why the agreement is bad. Herzog quickly gave a positive response; he is a positive person by nature. He can sometimes say maybe or perhaps, but the person hasn't yet been born who has heard him say no.

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The AIPAC lobbyists will set up meetings for him with the Democratic members of Congress, those who are currently deliberating between their loyalty to the president and their dependence on Jewish voters and donors. They will ask him tough questions. He will run into trouble. He has already run into trouble. Jeffrey Goldberg, a prominent American journalist, conducted a phone interview with him that was published last weekend on the Atlantic website. "The deal," Herzog said to Goldberg, "will unleash a lion from the cage, it will have a direct influence over the balance of power in our region, it's going to affect our borders, and it will affect the safety of my children."

Herzog, Goldberg writes, had mainly kind words for Netanyahu. Do you intend to lobby members of Congress to vote against the deal, Goldberg asked. "I think it's a bad deal, but I'm not going to lobby, I'm not going to tell senators what to vote. I think what I need to do is explain the weak points and have them understand our concerns," Herzog replied.
Isn't that a description of lobbying? Goldberg queried. "I don't intend to clash with the administration," Herzog said. Goldberg was not convinced. He reminded the readers what Herzog had said to him in an interview he gave in Washington last December, when he asked him about the negotiations with Iran: "I trust the Obama administration to get a good deal," he said. Obama is the same Obama, but Herzog is no longer the same Herzog.

In the situation that has arisen after the agreement was reached, it is difficult to have it both ways, to fight against the agreement and support the Obama administration, to fight against Netanyahu and support his campaign against the administration. Herzog will let something slip against the diplomatic stalemate, and the right wing in Israel will immediately return him to the slot of the traitor, like before the elections; he will try to defend Netanyahu, and his party members will suspect that despite what he has said publicly, he is paving his way into the government behind their backs.

Eitan Cabel, his ally, advised him over the weekend not to go [to Washington]. Cabel is right; sometimes, there is no place like home. Before Herzog mobilizes for the campaign he should ask himself: Do I really want Congress to override the president's veto? Will the ensuing chaos be good for Israel? Won't the victory be a Pyrrhic victory?

Did you pack on your own, the security guard at Ben-Gurion Airport will ask him. No, he will say to her embarrassedly. Netanyahu packed my bags. Having no other choice, she will send him to have his bags x-rayed.

Politico – July 19, 2015

Israel in 2025: On horror, Hope and Honey

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By Fania Oz Salzberger

Political imagining of the future is often a thinly disguised exercise in reflection upon the present. What else can it be? But before I share my ideas of the sort of Israel, or rather the sorts of Israel that might emerge from today's intricate matrix let me dwell on the future's most obvious quality: unimaginability. As a writer and a historian, I know that storylines do not develop the way we expect, neither in life nor in fiction. There are too many unforeseen factors, overlooked seeds, unintended consequences. There is too much serendipity.

A decade from now we may be living in a bee-less, honey-less, nutrient-impoverished world. Or in a world helplessly watching its adolescents become monkish addicts to online gaming. Or in a world where the rich will buy technology enabling them and their genetically upgraded children to outlive the poor of their own country by four whole decades. Wars could be fought about on-screen icons or stolen intellectual property.

The Middle East would share such global diseases alongside, or instead of, its current regional plights. Its countries may face a food deficiency far graver than the already hard-hitting water shortage, making today's acute poverty in Egypt even more disastrous. Rising sea levels may equally threaten Alexandria, Tel Aviv and Beirut. Perhaps, as unintended consequences go, environmental disaster rather than military intervention would forcibly curb the energy-flow of militant Islam.

Or, by another scenario, young Israelis and Saudis and Iranians will co-inhabit an internet universe where online game pals matter far more than their Jewish mama or Muslim papa banging on the door. Israel's high-tech breakthroughs could make Israeli newborns, or some Israeli newborns, immensely healthier or prettier or smarter than their peers across the region.

All or any of these factors, and others yet unfathomed, would recalibrate our historical route and make a mockery of yesteryear's stale predictions.
So yes: I can offer you a couple of future Israels, potentially stemming within ten years from today's complex topography. But these predictions are really about 2015, and the way we stand now.

In the first of these futures I shall no longer be living in Israel, because Israel shall no longer exist. Israel will have been wiped out by two or three Iranian mid-range missiles capped with nuclear heads. This scenario may become less likely following this week's nuclear deal with Iran, but I will disbelieve anyone who tells me its likelihood is null. Actually, one missile might be enough, if it destroys Tel Aviv prior to the forthcoming relocation of Israel Defense Forces headquarters to the Negev desert. The rest of the tiny country will collapse like a beheaded body, with or without Hamas, Hezbollah or ISIS stepping in.

Bereft of its last liberal friends in the world, propped up only by the vestiges of Washington uber-Republicans or seeking dubious new supporters in the east, this Israel will become a tragedy as well as a travesty.

Just because I deeply dislike my prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who stakes his political career solely on the Iranian threat and deploys

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it to justify his deep-set animosity to peacemaking and territorial compromise, does not mean that his focal nightmare is not one of our possible futures.

The second sort of future Israel is a country I shall probably not inhabit either. Democratically conquered by an irreversible majority for nationalists and populists, leaning on the demographic growth of zealotry, pitching Jewish violence against Palestinian violence in a permanent danse macabre, Jerusalem will eventually defeat Tel Aviv. The liberals will pack their belongings; the high-tech nation will shut its laptops and relocate to Silicon Valley or perhaps Bangalore. The artists and intellectuals will be silenced, or desperately seek posts abroad. Some will end up playing their violins, real or symbolic, in the streets of the world's cities, like the Jewish émigrés of old. But numerous moderate Israelis will simply have nowhere to go. The world is not waiting for Tel Aviv's harrowed refugees with a gleaming stack of resident visas.

Led by Likud or by the extreme-right, this Israel will keep sending its youngsters, fresh from their Auschwitz-tour, clad in national flags and murmuring the mystical slogans of Jewish eternity, into the sinister and civilian-filled battlefields of Gaza, southern Lebanon, perhaps ISIS-controlled Syria and Jordan. Bereft of its last liberal friends in the world, propped up only by the vestiges of Washington uber-Republicans or seeking dubious new supporters in the east, this Israel will become a tragedy as well as a travesty. Its impressive financial stability will finally give way, not only due to the escalating toll of war and dearth of global friends, but also because most of the million-or-so Israelis responsible for our economic miracle are neither nationalists nor mystics. Pragmatic and heartbroken, they will leave if they can. Jerusalem will not only kill off Tel Aviv, but Israel's "Silicon Wadi" as well.

Why do I tend to believe that the second scenario will not happen? Perhaps because of inborn optimism, inherited from my early-Zionist ancestors who gambled against history and won. But it is more likely due to my faith in Jewish habits of controversy and in human dynamics of self-amendment.

In my third scenario, Israel's current tide of righteous belligerency will wane within one or two Knesset terms. Likud and its partners will lose their grip, which currently holds less than half of Israeli voters. Alienating the international community and barring moderate Palestinians (as well as marginalizing moderate Israelis) cannot work in the long run, nor even in the medium run. If the Middle East continues to totter in the clutches of Islamic fanatics, Israel will need to recruit Arab partners to battle extremism, rather than use radical Islam as an alibi for blocking Palestine's future. Nor can Netanyahu's open Obama-bashing prevail into the next U.S. administration, which now seems unlikely to consist of right-wingers eager to bear-hug Israel against its own best interests.

Israeli society itself, though, is my main pointer for a cautiously optimistic outlook. We are too contentious, too prone to hurl truth in the face of power, too verbally aggressive to take extremism lying down. The peace-seeking, justice-pursuing part of Israel's public sphere is vast, and far from placid. Our economic energies run parallel to our political restlessness; given an opportune moment, creative solutions must emerge.

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Like three cherries in a slot machine, we need a Palestinian government strong and serious enough to sign a peace deal, an international community willing to engage with both sides on an equally tough footing, and a skillful and charismatic Israeli leader. We have already had two cherries in the slots, more than once, but so far we never had three. Why not in the coming decade? Israel's public opinion is capable of rationality. Given the right amount of trust and hope, our stormy civil society will argue its way into a historical turning point.

The Israel of 2025 may not be a land of milk and honey. Perhaps, god forbid, bees will be extinct and honey gone. On the other hand, if it is allowed to flourish further, Tel Aviv might flex its high-tech muscles and help battle the man-made calamities inflicted on nature, agricultural and human prosperity.
But war is the greatest and most ancient man-made calamity, and therefore politics is the key. It always was. If we pull off that trickiest of feats, a democratic resolution of the longest war in living memory, beset by the bitterest civil controversy in living memory, then Israelis and Palestinians may still be able to shed some light unto the nations before the decade is over.

Fania Oz-Salzberger, an Israeli writer and history professor at the University of Haifa's Faculty of Law, recently co-authored "Jews and Words" (Yale University Press, 2014) with her father, novelist Amos Oz.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "John Douglass" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/17/2012 9:01:02 AM
Subject: Great new ad:

John --

Got some good news this morning. With all of your support, we hit our goal for this week's ad buy. Thanks to you, our new ad is up about my commitment to stopping dangerous uranium mining in populated areas.

Click here to check out our ad and help keep it up before tonight's last FEC deadline until the election.

Your support has been awe-inspiring this entire campaign. I knew this campaign would be hard but it has been made easier each day because of the generous support of people like you.

We only have two weeks left. Can I count on you now to keep us running strong?

Thank you again for all that you do. Together, we will win.

--John Douglass

Paid for by John Douglass for Congress

This email was sent to: john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, you can update your information here. We believe that emails are a vital way for the campaign to stay in direct contact with supporters. Click **here** if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages.

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From: "Campus Broadcast" <broadcast@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "Campus Broadcast" <broadcast@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 8/6/2014 1:43:54 PM
Subject: Security Update

Yesterday, the New York Times reported on the findings of the information security firm Hold Security. This firm discovered that Russian hackers had come into possession of 1.2 billion username and password combinations as well as 500 million email addresses. The security firm did not release information on what organizations this data belonged to. We have no reason at this time to believe that any University credentials have been compromised. However, since many people use the same password for multiple systems it is possible that stolen credentials from another site could be used to access University systems if they are the same. Security experts recommend regularly changing your password and using a different password for each system. If you observe suspicious activity on any of your accounts, you should immediately change your password. You can change your University password at any time by using the password change system found at http://password.georgetown.edu. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the IST Service Desk at 202-662-9284 or help@law.georgetown.edu .

Technology Service Desk
GEORGETOWN LAW | help@law.georgetown.edu
McDonough 152 | 600 New Jersey Avenue NW | Washington DC 20001
Office: 202.662.9284

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From: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 11:03:40 AM
Subject: Fwd: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Zachary Petkanas** <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Sat, Jan 23, 2016 at 6:00 PM
Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change

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one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

Buy Photo

Fullscreen

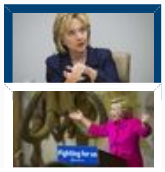

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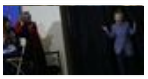

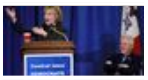

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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

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Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

--

Kristina Schake | Communications
Hillary for America

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From: "Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/19/2012 8:58:38 AM
Subject: Re: Clinton Foundation Letter

Helen Clark's CoS hasn't heard about this possible UNDP-CF/CCI islands collaboration. He's going to try to get more info from his people, quietly.

----- Original Message -----
From: Amitabh Desai
To: Bruce Lindsey; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC
Sent: Wed Apr 18 17:58:51 2012
Subject: RE: Clinton Foundation Letter

Will do - I just left a message for Helen Clark's chief of staff. Hard to know if they'll tip off Ira but I'll try to do it delicately. Sincerely, Ami

-----Original Message-----
From: Bruce Lindsey
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 2:28 PM
To: Amitabh Desai; john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC
Subject: Re: Clinton Foundation Letter

I agree with your unhappiness, but not your approach. I think you should talk with someone at UNDP and try to find out how much they have committed and if it is a grant or matching funds, what the scope of the project is, what the deliverables are, etc. Or you can wait and try to get those details from Darien.

The problem is that President Clinton apparently told Ira he supported this in concept. With Ira, if you give him an inch he will take a mile.

Bruce

----- Original Message -----
From: Amitabh Desai
To: Bruce Lindsey; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC
Sent: Wed Apr 18 12:47:19 2012
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

In reading the attached letter from the Barbados PM, I'm a bit inclined to recommend WJC writing back and delicately saying something like: this is an issue of shared importance and I'd like to be helpful but am not sure yet exactly what a project could or should look like (and how much it would cost and over what timeline, with what specific deliverables) and I therefore would welcome input from you (the PM) and other leaders in the region before this is discussed publicly, and I'd like you to speak with my staff (listing us and not Ira).

And/or we can call the UN Secretary General's folks and say their UNDP/energy folks should deal with us and not Ira.

The above seems like a nuclear option but at this point unless we do something, it seems like Ira is going to proceed on something that we don't really have a handle on, and it could be good, but on the other hand - and given precedence with CHAI and CCI - it could spend (a lot of) money without us knowing specifically what WJC and the world will get in terms of results (on a timeline) and/or us being able to control how WJC's name / legacy are being impacted / used in relation to this project.

Maybe I am being petty but just wanted to raise this option with you, and I'm happy to proceed as you wish. Tackling islands is something we all believe in but it's hard to know what Ira's plan is and hard to trust it since we seem to learn of things after the fact, as evidenced by us learning of this "launch" via the email below today. Thanks.

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-----Original Message-----
From: Ira Magaziner
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:29 AM
To: Terry Krinvic
Cc: Amitabh Desai
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

Terry:

Attached is a letter that will come to President Clinton from the Prime Minister of Barbados inviting him to speak on May 8 at a high level conference of energy Ministers from all of the Island nations in the world. The conference is being sponsored by UNDP and we will be participating. I will be there.

UNDP is providing funds to the Clinton Foundation for our work on clean energy and we will be launching our work at this conference.

Obviously, if President Clinton can speak, that would be great. If he cannot attend but could provide a video, that would also be very helpful.

I am sorry for the short notice, but the conference has come together rather quickly.

Thanks

Ira

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	5/6/2015 2:34:54 AM
Subject:	May 6 Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	5.6.15 Morning Cable Roundup.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

MSNBC's *Morning Joe*: Long segment on HRC's immigration announcement, Clinton cash and the latest polls. Mayor de Blasio was on to discuss his "Progressive Agenda." When asked about HRC he said he was seeing positive signs but was noncommittal about supporting her. George Mitchell was on to discuss his book and said HRC is fully capable of dealing with the issues the country faces.

CNN's *New Day*: Coverage of 2016 Iowa poll of GOPfield; Jeb Bush is facing declining numbers and the cause might be the Iowa Republican Party moving further to the right. Panel discussion on Bush's moderate stances, noting that NH has not been kind to him. John King said HRC's immigration position was smart politics and went on to discuss the NBC/WSJ poll. HRC is leading the Democratic field but 48% said she was trustworthy.

Fox News' *Fox and Friends*: Rudy Giuliani spoke about those on the Republican field he likes, including Huckabee, Christie and Rubio. Giuliani took a swipe at HRC over Clinton Cash allegations.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 9/24/2015 7:52:48 AM
Subject: Fwd: Follow up 2

From Barbara Boxer
Can you circulate to 8:00 group.
Second one for circulation coming also.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "BB" <bbnanna11@gmail.com >
Date: Sep 18, 2015 7:16 PM
Subject: Follow up 2
To: <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

Hillary has so many accomplishments. here is my view of the top three.

1. Being a constant champion for children, women and families all her life.

2. Organizing the countries of the world to support heavy economic sanctions on Iran to get them to the table to end their nuclear weapons program.

3.Working and fighting for first responders after 9/11 and to bring financial and moral support to New York City and all of those affected by that tragic terrorist attack.

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 3/3/2015 2:46:38 PM
Subject: Talking Points

Feel free to circulate these. We've been circulating this on background as an aide, and the additional points below on deep background.

- Let's start by rethinking the premise here. Nothing nefarious was at play. She had a Blackberry, she used it prior to State, and like her predecessors she continued to use it when she got to State. This was not bucking the system; this was in keeping with exactly what former Secretaries had done. Here's an excerpt from Secretary Powell's book about his email habits:

"To complement the official State Department computer in my office, I installed a laptop computer on a private line. My personal email account on the laptop allowed me direct access to anyone online. I started shooting emails to my principal assistants, to individual ambassadors, and increasingly to my foreign-minister colleagues who like me were trying to bring their ministries into the 186,000-miles-per-second world."

- The notion that she was subject to different regulations than her predecessors is flat wrong. In fact, it wasn't until the fall over 2013, well after she left office, that NARA issued any further guidance about the use of other email accounts. The NYT was at best not clear with the factset . The same regulations that applied to Colin Powell applied to HRC.

- As State worked to bring itself up to date, it became clear that they needed assistance, and reached out to ALL applicable former Secretaries for help in being responsive to the guidelines.

- We responded quickly to the request, and turned over 55,000 pages of emails to State. Anything that pertained to her work there. So if she emailed with her daughter about flower arrangements for her wedding, that didn't go in, but if she emailed one of the 100 State Department officials she regularly corresponded with, State had it in their servers already and HRC's office replicated that to ensure it was all there. 9 out of 10 emails that she sent over the course of her tenure went to the State Department.

- Using her own email account broke no laws, and like all other blackberry users, was used for communicating non-classified information only and was in accordance with the guidelines, even AFTER they were updated.

Further information/context:

- Here is the Archivist on the subject in sworn testimony followed by the text of the preservation requirement:

"David Ferriero , archivist of the United States, confirmed to the panel that while NARA discourages alias email accounts, there is "nothing in the law that prohibits them" and that sometimes circumstances make them necessary. "We don't care how many accounts you have as long as those on which you're doing federal business are captured for the record." http://www.govexec.com/technology/2013/09/agency-heads-explain-their-use-personal-email-accounts/70144/

Preservation requirement

(b) Agencies that allow employees to send and receive official electronic mail messages using a system not operated by the agency must ensure that Federal records sent or received on such systems are preserved in the appropriate agency recordkeeping system. [36 CFR 1236.22]

Further…

Jason Baron, former Director of Litigation at the National Archives, who in the NYT story said this: "It is very

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difficult to conceive of a scenario — short of nuclear winter — where an agency would be justified in allowing its cabinet-level head officer to solely use a private email communications channel for the conduct of government business," said Jason R. Baron, a lawyer at Drinker Biddle & Reath who is a former director of litigation at the National Archives and Records Administration.

…subsequently conceded on the record today that Secretary Clinton's email use did not violate the law, despite what the story alleges may have been the case.

https://twitter.com/danmericaCNN/status/572842630855430145

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From: john.podesta@gmail.com
To: "Denis Mcdonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
Date: 10/23/2008 11:17:50 AM
Subject: Re: Dennis Ross

Just make it from the middle east ctr rather than obama guy

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: "Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2008 12:57:33 -0500
To: <john.podesta@gmail.com>; James B. Steinberg<djsberg@gmail.com>; Mark Lippert<mlippert@barackobama.com>
Subject: RE: Dennis Ross

It is pretty forward leaning, so I am actually asking him to withdraw it.

D

From: john.podesta@gmail.com [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 1:51 PM
To: Denis McDonough; James B. Steinberg; Mark Lippert
Subject: Re: Dennis Ross

Do you know content? If inconsistent with BO positions we should ask for a different byline. He has plenty of other things he can put behind his name. If it sounds like what you would say if asked, let it go.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: "Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2008 08:39:00 -0500
To: James B. Steinberg<djsberg@gmail.com>; John Podesta<john.podesta@gmail.com>; Mark Lippert<mlippert@barackobama.com>
Subject: Dennis Ross

Fellas –

Dennis was asked to write an article about transition for Sunday's Outlook, and he did it. He says that he argues that this transition cannot be "business as usual" and there cannot be a lull in efforts to stop Iran's nuclear program.

He is identified in the byline as someone who gives advice to BO.

I would have preferred Dennis not write this or at least not be publicly identified as one of our advisers, but we are where we are. If you all have serious heartburn, please let me know and I will go back at Dennis.

Thanks,
DM

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From: "Clinton Campaign, Press Office" <press@hillaryclinton.com>
To:
Date: 5/20/2008 7:04:32 AM
Subject: State Clips, 05/20/08

State Clips
Tuesday, May 20, 2008

KENTUCKY (May 20)

Both Obama and Clinton prepare to claim victories *Herald Leader*
http://www.kentucky.com/254/story/410059.html

The day Bill Clinton came to my home *Herald Leader*
http://www.kentucky.com/263/story/410060.html

Former Clinton aide, Obama strategist in talks *Herald Leader*
http://www.kentucky.com/522/story/409815.html

Bill Clinton urges people to vote for Hillary *Richmond Register*
http://www.richmondregister.com/homepage/local_story_141083704.html?keyword=leadpicturestory

Ky. Primary Elicits Chatter *Kentucky Post*
http://www.kypost.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=c97f3527-6a2b-405f-8005-7a1fe2a86381

Part of Second Street closed because of Clinton visit *Courier Journal*
http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/ZONE07/80520024

Readers react to speeches at NRA meeting *Courier Journal*
http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/OPINION02/805200347

Clinton, Obama appeal for votes *Courier Journal*
http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805200446

Obama likely to cinch elected delegates *Courier Journal*
http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805200384

Clinton continues campaign *Appalachian News*
http://www.news-expressky.com/articles/2008/05/20/top_story/01clinton.txt

Clinton Campaign Makes Stops Around The State *WKYT*
http://www.wkyt.com/home/headlines/19071529.html

Candidates Make Final Campaign Push *LEX18*
http://www.lex18.com/Global/story.asp?S=8345408&nav=menu203_7_3_1

Clintons rally in Louisville one last time *WAVE*
http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?s=8350403

Op-Ed: **Voters ready to ditch GOP** *Courier Journal*
http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805200336

OREGON (May 20)

Oregonians are the deciders now *Salem Statesman Journal*
http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/ELECTION03/805200345&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL

All over but the shouting *Medford Mail Tribune*
http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/NEWS/805200307

Hillary Clinton talks with Newschannel 21 *KTVZ-TV*
http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=8349856&nav=menu578_1

Sen. Clinton encourages Oregonians to vote in primary May 20 *KVAL*
http://www.kval.com/news/19070984.html

Poll suggests late gains for Clinton *OBP News*
http://news.opb.org/article/2111-poll-suggests-late-gains-clinton/

Polls: Clinton solid in Kentucky, Oregon is Obama's tight race *Salem News*
http://www.salem-news.com/articles/may192008/clinton_obama_latest_5-19-08.php

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Clinton to Obama: Not so fast *KPTV*
http://www.kptv.com/politics/16333840/detail.html

Chelsea Clinton stops at Shari's *Salem Statesman Journal*
http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/ELECTION03/805200335/1001/NEWS

Chelsea Clinton visits boys and girls club of Albany *Albany Democrat Herald*
http://www.dhonline.com/articles/2008/05/19/news/top_story/6aaa05_chelsea.txt

Chelsea Clinton goes shopping in Springfield *The Register Guard*
http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/dt.cms.support.viewStory.cls?cid=101969&sid=1&fid=7

Bill and Chelsea speak at SOU *KDRV*
http://www.kdrv.com/article.aspx?id=36392

Bill Clinton and Chelsea visit SOU *KMED*
http://www.kmed.com/pages/landing/?blockID=7213&feedID=133

SOU students get out the vote *KDRV*
http://www.kdrv.com/article.aspx?id=36396

"Ugly Betty" in Medford for Senator Clinton *KOBI-TV*
http://www.localnewscomesfirst.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1971&Itemid=2

As primary nears, Oregon regains an old brand *The Oregonian*
http://blog.oregonlive.com/mapesonpolitics/2008/05/as_primary_nears_oregon_regain.html

Clinton and Obama last minute campaigning *KOHD*
http://www.kohd.com/article.aspx?id=36352&section=news&contentCat=local

(AP) Washington State Democratic Party chairman throws super delegate support to Obama
http://blog.oregonlive.com/breakingnews/2008/05/washington_state_democratic_pa.html

Obama courting Native American votes ahead of Western primaries *OPB*
http://news.opb.org/article/2115-obama-courting-native-american-votes-ahead-western-primaries/

Tribal leaders identify with Obama's words *East Oregonian*
http://www.eastoregonian.info/main.asp?SectionID=13&SubSectionID=48&ArticleID=77851&TM=6677.611

(AP) Oregon looks like Obama country
http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-24/1211242744262110.xml&storylist=orlocal

Obama stumped by question about Hanford nuclear cleanup *KDRV-TV*
http://www.kdrv.com/article.aspx?id=36422

Should Obama declare victory? Open Discussion *BlueOregon*
http://www.blueoregon.com/2008/05/should-obama-de.html

75,000 for Obama? Bloggers know better *Willamette Week*
http://wweek.com/wwire/?p=11948

Barack fan celebrates birthday waiting for Obama *East Oregonian*
http://www.eastoregonian.info/main.asp?SectionID=13&SubSectionID=48&ArticleID=77849&TM=43029.49

Editorial: Give them your verdict *The Oregonian*
http://www.oregonlive.com/editorials/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/editorial/121124491991120.xml&coll=7

Editorial: The deadline is 8 p.m. today - get out and vote *Salem Statesman Journal*
http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/OPINION/805200306/1048

Editorial: A bridge between politician and voter *The Oregonian*
http://www.oregonlive.com/editorials/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/editorial/121124491491120.xml&coll=7

Editorial: Ballots due by 8 p.m. *Medford Mail Tribune*
http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/NEWS07/805190329

Opinion: An altogether unique conversation *The Oregonian*
http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/steve_duin/index.ssf?/base/news/121124313846400.xml&coll=7

Opinion: Hillary knows how the Republican shoe feels *Salem Statesman Journal*
http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/OPINION/805200322/1049/OPINION

MONTANA (June 3)

Presidential Primary Attracts New Voters, *Flathead Beacon*

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/presidential_primary_attracts_new_voters/3535/

Votes of working-class Democrats uncertain, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/news/local/23-obama_s.txt

Poll Shows McCain Even With Clinton, Leading Obama in Rural States, *New West*
http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/poll_shows_mccain_even_with_clinton_leading_obama_in_rural_states/C37/L37/

Billings, Crow Agency prepare for Obama rallies today, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/19/news/local/20-obama.txt

Butte Obama volunteers getting out the vote, *KPAX-TV*
http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8346034

Obama holds Town Hall meeting in Billings, *KPAX-TV*
http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8344761&nav=menu227_8

Obama's Billings supporters react to his recent visit, *KPAX-TV*
http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8344773&nav=menu227_2

Crow welcome Obama on first visit to US reservation, *The Missoulian*
http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2008/05/19/bnews/br32.txt

Obama adopted by Crow tribe, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/19/news/state/20-obama_s.txt

Kumar Goes to Kalispell, *Flathead Beacon*
http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/kumar_goes_to_kalispell/3534/

Obama holds Town Hall meeting in Billings, *KPAX-TV*
http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8344761&nav=menu227_6/Global/story.asp?S=6830551.menu227_2_2

Obama speaking in Bozeman, *KPAX-TV*
http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8338673&nav=menu227_5

KULR-8 One on One with Barack Obama, *KULR-TV*
http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/19086019.html

Thousand Stand in Line for Obama, *KULR-TV*
http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/19085849.html

Butte student gets chance to meet Obama, *KPAX-TV*
http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8349871

Obama calls for end to 'game-playing' in Bozeman, *The Missoulian*
http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2008/05/20/news/local/news02.txt

Crow Tribe adopts candidate Obama in historic visit, Billings Gazette
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/news/state/18-obama_s.txt

Obama outtakes, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/news/local/26-obama_s.txt

Sidelights from the Barack Obama rock show, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/news/local/20-obama_s.txt

Obama wows 'em: Illinois senator excites crowd at West, Crow, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/news/local/18-obama_s.txt

Obama Speech, *KULR-TV*
http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/19088794.html

Letter: Clinton strong backer of family farming, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/opinion/letters/20-familyfarming.txt

Letter: Clinton offers voters strength, experience, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/opinion/letters/60-clinton.txt

Gazette Opinion: Face-to-face visits excite local voters, *Billings Gazette*
http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/05/20/opinion/gazette/50-gazetteopinion.txt

SOUTH DAKOTA (June 3)

Our View: Iran And Appeasement – Is Talking Dangerous? *Tankton Press & Dakotan*
http://yankton.net/articles/2008/05/20/opinion/editorials/doc4832499fddbcb540450299.txt

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Oregon, Kentucky primaries latest to shape race *Argus Leader*
http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200880520007

Obama returns to Iowa today for rally in Des Moines *Argus Leader*
http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200880520006

McGovern plan gains ground *Argus Leader*
http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805200309

Clintons playing fast, loose *Argus Leader*
http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805200322

Clinton refreshing *Aberdeen News*
http://www.aberdeennews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080520/OPINION01/805200315/-1/RSS02&rssfeed=RSS02

Poll: Clinton leads in Ky.; Obama ahead in Ore. *White Rock Reviewer*
http://www.onelocalnews.com/whiterockreviewer/stories1/index.php?action=fullnews&id=4647

Former Clinton Aide, Obama Strategist in Talks *KTTW*
http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008May20/0,4670,ClintonObama,00.html

Oregon, Kentucky primaries latest to shape race *KTTW*
http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008May20/0,4670,PrimaryRdp,00.html

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 5/21/2015 5:57:19 PM
Subject: Re: Israel and Iran: Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem (JPPI)

Stu - there is much to discuss in here. Let's try to touch base early next week?

On May 21, 2015, at 5:34 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

I thought it might be useful for the campaign to give you a quick summary of some of the points that were made at the JPPI conference we had on Monday and Tuesday of this week at Glen Cove, New York. Dennis Ross and I co-chair JPPI, which is based in Jerusalem, and was created by the Jewish Agency of Israel ten years ago to be a think tank for strategic issues facing Israel, the Diaspora, and USG-Israel relations. We have a group of fellows, like retired General Michael Herzog (brother of the opposition leader), Avi Gil and others. At the conference, we had Natan Sharansky, who heads the Jewish Agency; leading Jewish organizational leaders (e.g. heads of major UJA Federations around the country); leading rabbis (e.g. Norman Kurtz in Chicago, and Eric Yoffie); academics from Harvard to UCLA; a Member of the Canadian Parliament and former Cabinet Minister (Irwin Cotler)l Middle East experts like David Makovsky, Martin Indyk, and, of course, Dennis Ross, as well as Henry Kissinger and Eric Schmidt of Google, who talked about high tech in Israel. Moreover, Malcolm Honlein, the president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (who I put together with Hillary through you and Huma), was there for the whole two day conference. and spoke on several occasions. We had a signficant number of Israelis there, as well.

1. ISRAEL

(1) The new Netanyahu government has very little flexibility on the peace process, given its right-wing tilt.

(2) While solid majorities of the Israeli public (over 60%) continue to support the two state solution, only a minority believe it is feasible, given Palestinian intransigence.

(3) A number of people, including, interestingly, Malcolm Honlein, felt the Prime Minister should now accept the last Kerry offer as a basis for resuming negotiations. Evidently, the last version given to Bibi did not contain language on Jerusalem (which he cannot accept), while the last version given to Abbas contained the language (but they still rejected it).

(4) There was a clear consensus that the BDS/anti-delegitimization movement against Israel was growing in Europe, and was an increasing threat.

(5) There was a grave concern that the Obama Administration, once the Iran nuclear negotiations are out of the way, will support some form of the French proposal for a new UN Resolution to supplant UN Resolution 242, endorsing the two-state solution, with 1967 borders, and with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and a Palestinian state. Several people felt that given the impasse in the peace process, Israel's argument that this should be left to negotiations, had a hollow ring to it. If this is going to happen, then it should be framed in ways that force the Palestinians to make tough choices, like ending claims to the "right of return". But the safest political position is to oppose what will be seen as an effort to "impose" a solution both sides will reject.

(6) There was a feeling on the part of some that Gaza was likely to blow-up again, a combination of Hamas rearming and rebuilding their tunnels, and the impact of the embargo, which has not been loosened.

(7) Israel needed to be more creative to take advantage of the open window for cooperating with the Sunni states (Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Egypt, Jordan) against their common enemy, Iran.

(8) Most troubling was the pervasive feeling that the US has withdrawn from a leadership position in the Middle East, leaving our allies in the Arab world, and Israel, to fend for themselves. The level of vitriol against the President was striking, to such a degree that one participant urged that he was being unfairly demonized.

2. ANTI-SEMITISM/ANTI-ZIONISM

(1) There was genuine belief that there is a substantial rise in anti-Semitism in Europe (a topic I addressed at some length). This is most evident in France (where 7000 French Jews left in 2014 for Israel, with almost double that amount expected this year); Belgium; parts of Sweden (Malmo); the Netherlands; Greece; Hungary; Ukraine; but even in the UK. Roger

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Cukierman, the long-time head of the CRIF, French Jewry's central organization, cited several examples of the growth of anti-Semitism during my negotiations with the French government for payments for people deported on the French railway during World War II, as Secretary Kerry's Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues. Thus, in 2001, when his first term began, 90% of school-age French Jews attended public schools; now only 30% do so, because of the intimidation in schools. It is dangerous to wear a kipot (head-covering) on the Metro. Argentine Jews are also increasingly fearful, in part because of their government's close relations with Iran, which is widely seen as having planned and funded the Hezbollah attacks in the 1990s against the Jewish community center (AMIA), and the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

(2) Modern-day anti-Semitism is a product of a combination of factors:

(a) Neo-Nazi/right wing parties, which have long had an anti-Semitic strain, like Le Pen's National Front in France.
(b) Left-wing parties/academics, who oppose Israel's settlement policy and occupation and import their opposition on Jews, who are seen (wrongly) as surrogates for Israel.
(c) Angry, disaffected, unintegrated Muslim young people, who identify with the Palestinians as the underdogs and address their anger for their plight and that of the Palestinians at Jews in their countries.

(3) French Prime Minister Valls estimates there are some 3000 European-born Muslims fighting in Syria and Iraq, 1000 from France, who come back to Europe, armed and trained jihadists. This was precisely the profile of the suspect in the Brussels Jewish Museum attack last year.

(4) The growth in anti-Semitism, and anti-Zionism is not limited to Europe. There is a greater security fear among Jews in both the U.S., Europe, and key Latin American countries. It was reported that 14 AEPi fraternity houses on American campuses were subject to some form of desecration. Several people said that "American campuses were our Europe".

(5) Malcolm Honlein placed special emphasis on the rise of anti-Semitism in his remarks. He said that the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations was catalyzing efforts to create a Global Forum to deal with this phenomenon, to track it, exchange information about it, and develop new ways to combat it. He said that Israel had a role to play, as well.

3. DIVISIONS WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER ISRAEL POLICY.

(1) There are increasingly sharp left-right divisions (J Street vs. AIPAC) within the American Jewish community over Israel. Remarkably, rabbis are reluctant to discuss Israel in their sermons for fear of alienating one faction or another.

(2) There was now a big debate over which groups can march in the annual New York City Israeli Independence Day parade, which take more liberal positions (e.g., New Israel Fund, J Street). It was generally felt best to have a "big tent" so the Democratic Party left-leaning people were not excluded.

(3) The kind of robust debate that occurs in Israel over Israeli policy, is blunted here by attacks against those who oppose the current government's policies in the West Bank.

(4) There was a clearly established (Pew and Gallup polls) drop in support for Israel among self-identified Democrats (now under 50%, with over 80% for Republicans). This could feed into making Israel a partisan issue (one of the problems with Bibi's speech to Congress) for the first time in its history, a dangerous situation.

4. IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS AND BEYOND

(1) This was the most emotional issue. Most of the participants who spoke on the topic (Sharansky, Kissinger, Honlein, Makovsky, Ross) were deeply skeptical of the Iranian nuclear negotiations. Clearly, Honlein and AIPAC will mount a major effort to block the agreement. There was a real foreboding (one participant called it a "panic") that the American Jewish community was going to be involved in a confrontation with the Administration, that the Republicans would use to try to drive a further wedge with Jewish voters over Israel-related issues.

(2) At the same time, there was a recognition (e.g. Kissinger) that the President would be able to overcome a veto override fight, although just barely.

(3) It was important to reassure Israel and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States that any nuclear deal with Iran did not presage broader cooperation with Iran on regional issues. (Kissinger agreed, but felt it was inevitable over time, because Iran is a real country, with a long history)

(3) Several speakers (e.g. Ross) suggested that Israel should now begin to talk with the White House about ways to repair the damage to the relationship over the nuclear talks (if there is an agreement). Indeed, the President proposed to Bibi, in his call after the formation of the government, just that, but was rebuffed, seeing any cooperation as signaling he was giving up the fight against the deal.

(4) The options for a post-agreement reassurance included:

(a) Reassurance that the agreement would not lead to a new U.S.-Iranian alliance in the region, at the expense of our

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traditional alliances.
(b) Sophisticated military weapons to defend themselves against a resurgent Iran.
(c) Defense treaties, that an attack by Iran would be considered an attack against the U.S. (But this was fraught with difficulty; would it be all forms of attack or only a nuclear attack)
(d) Development of a common agenda with Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States. This has not been initiated.

(5) The "snap-back" of sanctions was felt to be impractical. What would constitute a violation? Who would make the determination? Which sanctions would be re-imposed (US, EU, UN)?

(6) There needed to be a clear declaration after the 10/15 year period of the agreement, that a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable, and the U.S. would every means to stop it. Likewise, the U.S. could not afford to disengage from the region, and had to lead the coalition against Iran.

(7) There was almost no one who subscribed to the Administration's hope that over the 10/15 year period of the agreement, the Iranian regime would moderate. Far from it, the end of sanctions and the massive amount of money that would flow to Iran would strengthen the regime, provide more funds to support terrorist groups, and embolden them in the region.

I hope this is helpful in shaping Hillary's positions on these difficult issues. But more broadly, she needs to understand the great angst in the Jewish community over the cascade of challenges I have described. The empathy and appreciation she can demonstrate, would itself be important and reassuring.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/28/2015 10:00:08 AM
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CTR STATEMENT ON ROMNEY SPEECH TONIGHT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 28, 2015

CONTACT: Correct The Record by American Bridge
Adrienne Watson / Daniel Wessel (202) 688-3656

CTR STATEMENT ON ROMNEY SPEECH TONIGHT

Washington, DC – Correct The Record released the following statement in response to released excerpts of Mitt Romney's speech tonight at Mississippi State University, in which, according to reports, he recklessly and inaccurately attacked former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Correct The Record's Communications Director, Adrienne Elrod, said, "Mitt Romney's reckless, inaccurate attacks against Hillary Clinton are laughable.

"Regarding Russia, what Mitt Romney fails to mention is that as one of the most accomplished Secretaries of State in U.S. history, Hillary Clinton obtained Russian cooperation on key objectives like sanctions on Iran and arms control while remaining one of the administration's most skeptical voices about Putin.

"And it's ironic that the guy whose own company bought American companies and then outsourced those jobs overseas is even bringing up the topic of jobs. Hillary Clinton has spent her lifetime working to lift up the middle class and level the playing field for all Americans – something elitist Mitt Romney could never understand.

"Mitt Romney hopes to recast himself as the guy looking out for the underprivileged. Working Americans need hope. Mitt needs to stick with reality. Let's not forget who criticized 'the 47% of Americans who believe that they are victims', who argued that Detroit should go bankrupt and who is beholden to special interests."

For the facts on Hillary Clinton's smart, effective strategy in dealing with Russia, click here .

For the facts on Hillary Clinton's work as a lifetime champion of economic opportunity, click here .

Correct The Record by American Bridge is a strategic research and rapid response team designed to defend potential Democratic presidential candidates from right-wing, baseless attacks.

Correct The Record · http://correctrecord.org/ · Facebook · @CorrectRecord

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/25/2008 11:37:36 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Mesilla, NM 10/25/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via TV coverage. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Attacks Obama for having his inaugural address already written
    - Says maybe im oldfashioned, but i prefer to let the voters weigh in before presuming the outcome
    - Adds that what america needs now is "someone who will finish the race before starting the victory lap," someone who will fight to the end, not for himself but for his country
    - Concludes i've fought for you most of life, in places where defeat mean more than returning to a Senate seat.
- Revives attack on Admin. and Treas. Secretary for not making mortgages affordable so ppl can stay in their homes -- says that's how this whole crisis started
- Repeats: Dems plan is to raise taxes and lower defense, my plan is to strengthen defense and lower taxes
- Continues to hit Obama on Biden-crisisgate, energy independence and spending

Mesilla, NM: McCain Rally 10/25/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- According to news reports, about 2k - 3k ppl

Speech Highlights

[feed cuts in]

joe the biden guarantees there will be an internatl crisis if obama is president**. the Dems' plan is to lower our defense and raise our taxes. thats not what i wnat to do, ill strengthen defense and lower taxes**

the next pres wont have time to get used to the office. many challenges at home and abrpad.

we cant spend next 4 yrs as we have the last 8, waiting for our luck change. we have to act. We need a new direction and we have to fight for it.

I've been fighting for this country since 17 and have scar to prove it. if im elected pres, I'll fight to shake up Washington and take america in new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, im ready for it.

if im elected pres, ill fight to shake up DC from my first day til last. im happy to have palin as my partner in this. shes not afraid of the fight, im not either.

i'm not gonna spend 750 billion to bailout WS bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. ill make sure we take care of the working ppl who were devastated by excess and greed and corruption of WS and DC. 1 of the first things we have to do is buy up these bad mortgages, **give them a home they can afford. this admin and this Tres. Secy is not doing this. that's how this whole crisis started.** we have to keep ppl in their homes.

i have a plan to hold the line on taxes and create jobs. Raising taxes makes bad economy worse. keeping taxes low creates jobs and strengthens economy.

if im elected pres-- When i'm elected president, [cheers] i wont spend nearly $1T more of your money, Obama

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will. and he cant do that without taxing or debt. im gonna make government live on budget just like you do.

Ill freeze government spending on all but most important programs like defense, vet care, SS and HC until we scrub every govt program and get rid of the ones not working. Ill veto every single pork barrel bill that comes across my desk. and you'll know their names.

when i'm elected presidnet, we'll stop spending 750B to pay countries for oil that dont like us very much

in the debate, I gave testimony to Obamas eloquence, but you have to pay attn to his words. he said he would "consider" off shore drilling and nuclear pwr. we have to drill offshore and we have to do it now. we have to do it now. we can creat 750k new jobs by building nucl plants. just ask anyone in the navy, we've been doing it for yrs without serious accidents.

we'll Invest in all alternatives: nucl, wind, solar. we'll encourage manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric cars. we'll invest in clean coal tech. we'll lower the costs of energy within months and create millions of new jobs in america.

some straight talk: let me give you the state of the race, 10 days out, we're a few pts down, and the pundits as they have a fwe times before have written us off. my opponent is working out the details with w/ reid and pelosi to raise taxes, incr spending and concede defeat in iraq. im not gonna let that happen. i will bring the trps home in honor and victory.

we just learned from a newspaper article today that obama's inaugural address is already written. [boos. someone yells, "what arrogance!"] im not making it up, im not makin it up. an awful lot of **voters are still undecided but he's decided for them.** why wait to move fwd w/ his first inaug. address? **when i win this, i have a request for my opponent. i want him to save that manuscript and donate it to the smithsonian. [laughter, cheers] so they can put it right next to the chicago paper that says Dewey defeats Truman! [cheers]**

t**here's 10 days left, maybe obama will even have his 1st state of the union address ready before you head to the polls.**

but i guess im a lil oldfashioned about these things. i prefer to let the voters weigh in before presuming the outcome. [cheers]

what america needs now is someone who will finish the race before starting the victory lap, someone who will fight to the end and not for himself but for his country. ive fought for you for most of my life. **I have fought for you most of life, and in places where defeat mean more than returning to a senate seat.** there are other ways to love this country but ive never been the kind to back down when the stakes are high.

I know you're worried. America is great but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future.

i wanna ask you these questions really quickly:
Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I am an American and I choose to fight.
Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

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Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

TY and god bless you and god bless the united states of America. I need your help. Thank you and god bless…

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Dennis Cheng" <dcheng@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Michael Bronfein" <mbronfein@gmail.com>
Date: 1/27/2016 4:16:15 AM
Subject: Re: The Chelsea Clinton fundraiser that should worry Hillary's pro-Israel backers

Thanks for flagging - will look into this asap

On Wed, Jan 27, 2016 at 11:13 AM, Michael Bronfein <mbronfein@gmail.com > wrote:
I am fielding quite a few concerns over this.. , seems to have some viral qualities.. FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cary Luskin <cary@thebigtv.com >
Subject: Fwd: The Chelsea Clinton fundraiser that should worry Hillary's pro-Israel backers
Date: January 27, 2016 at 10:34:22 AM EST
To: mbronfein@gmail.com

The Chelsea Clinton fundraiser that should worry Hillary's pro-Israel backers

Resize Text

Print Article

Comments 92

By Jennifer Rubin January 25

Iranian Foreign Minister

(REUTERS/Leonhard Foeger)

For $250,"friends" — or $1000 for a "champion" (photo included) — you too can attend a fundraiser with Chelsea California, according to an invitation to the event obtained by Right Turn. Michael Chegini served on theboard (NIAC), a notorious group with links to the Iranian regime that opposed, among other things, any sanctions on

"The Clintons never miss an opportunity to put money ahead of principle," a spokesman for the Republican Jewi primary concern has been supporting the NIAC — a notorious supporter of the Radical Islamic Mullahs in Iran. I for cold hard cash."

The NIAC, you may recall, was forced to pay damages for a spurious lawsuit against blogger Hassan Daioleslam, that is dedicated to Israel's destruction. (A federal court found in 2012 "that the work of NIAC president and fo

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advocate for the regime.' The judge essentially found it was conceivable that NIAC could reasonably be accused c

This is not the first Clinton encounter with the NIAC. Bill Clinton, while Hillary was secretary of state, according with the NIAC: "An aide to Bill Clinton asked the State Department in 2012 about the former president potential to all U.S. sanctions against Tehran, according to an email exclusively obtained by Fox News." Ultimately Bill C the Congo – an event that would have included notorious Democratic Republic of the Congo leader Joseph Kabila appointment).

It does however suggest that the Clintons are quite comfortable with taking money from people with ties to apol Clintons willingness to take money for themselves and their foundation from scoundrels and despots (e.g. Ara specifically that propagandists for Iran would have Hillary Clinton's ear should she make it to the White House. evidence that a Clinton foreign policy on Iran will be no different from what we have now," he told me.

The event should also serve as a reminder to Clinton's pro-Israel backers, argues Noah Pollak, executive director insist that she cannot dance at two weddings. To the extent they do not deliver this message, they share part of t

In any event, it is one more reminder that with Clinton comes a whole parade of influence peddlers, some of wh American Enterprise Institute, observing that the fundraiser "just isn't good politics," asks, "Surely there's some and Hillary Clinton will not take money.

fer Rubin writes the Right Turn blog for The Post, offering reported opinion from a conservative perspective.

--
Dennis Cheng
National Finance Director
Hillary for America
dcheng@hillaryclinton.com

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/22/2008 4:04:42 AM
Subject: FW: Clips: July 22, 2008

Today's clips.

From: John Neurohr
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:01 AM
To: Clips
Subject: Clips: July 22, 2008

Center for American Progress

Date	Headline	Text	Outlet	Contact
Center for American Progress				
07/21/2008	Yglesias Moves Again	Text	CQ Politics	
Matthew Yglesias to join CAP as new blogger				
Center for American Progress Action Fund				
07/21/2008	NV National Clean 07 21	Text	Associated Press (AP)	
John Podesta to speak at The National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Obama Campaign: Response to the latest McCain attack ad	Text	Wispolitics	
CAPAF report: "The McCain Plan to Cut Oil Company Taxes by Nearly $4 Billion,"				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Macro World Investor	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
Center for American Progress Action Fund; Economics				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at ...	Text	MarketWatch.com	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Atlanta Business Chronicle	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Courier Serving the Greater Cincinnati Area	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Journal Phoenix, The	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee, The	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Columbus Business First	
John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit				
07/22/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Digital50	

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John Podesta to speak at National Clean Energy Summit

07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Earthtimes.org	Center for

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Nashville Business Journal	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	Portland Business Journal	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	San Antonio Business Journal	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve	Text	San Francisco Business Times	

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07/21/2008	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy...	Text	Thomson Reuters	

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Domestic

07/21/2008	CITY'S POOR LOOK DIFFERENT THROUGH NEW ASSESSMENT	Text	City Limits	

Mark Greenberg on expanding poverty measures

07/21/2008	Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation	Text	Washington Post	

Rick Weiss' "Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation: Young Industry Needs Rules and Limits for Examining Individuals' DNA"

07/21/2008	Toledo Public Schools Academy Principal to Speak at Conference	Text	RedOrbit	Meghan Gilbert, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio

Cynthia Brown at Education Event 'From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold: Schools Expanding Learning time'

Economics

07/21/2008	Are you dipping into your retirement funds?	Text	Desert Sun, The	The Associated

Christian Weller on report, "Borrowing from Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/22/2008	McCain's head games on taxes	Text	Politico - Washington,DC,USA	

Robert Gordon and James Kvaal report, "Bush-McCain-Norquist Tax Agenda"

07/22/2008	Resist urge to raid retirement funds early	Text	Lawrence Journal-World	Michelle Singletary

CAP report on loans from 401(k) retirement plans

07/22/2008	Tapping retirement money too early can be costly	Text	New Haven Register	Tim Paradis

CAP report on loans from 401(k) retirement plans

07/21/2008	Workers Break Retirement Piggy Bank in Tight Times	Text	SmartPros	

CAP report on loans from 401 (k) retirement plans

Energy

07/21/2008	Read 'Cost of Freedom' recap	Text	FOXnews.com	

Dan Weiss on offshore drilling

ENOUGH

07/21/2008	Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]	Text	AllAfrica.com	

ENOUGH on ICC indictment of al-Bashir as a step towards peace

07/21/2008	Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	Released : Monday, July 21, 2008 12:30 PM

ENOUGH on ICC indictment of al-Bashir as a step towards peace

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07/21/2008	Sudan Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace	Text	AllAfrica.com	Washington, DC

Enough argues that pressure on Sudan's leader could be a step towards peace

07/22/2008	The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]	Text	AllAfrica.com

John Norris on justice in Zimbabwe

07/22/2008	The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]	Text	Calibre MacroWorld

John Norris on justice in Zimbabwe

Fellows

07/22/2008	At the Border, Your Laptop Is Wide-Open	Text	Connecticut Law Tribune

Peter Swire testifies on laptop search and data seizure

07/22/2008	Elizabeth Edwards To Be Keynote Speaker For Central Ohio Higher ...	Text	PRWeb

Elizabeth Edwards to be keynote speaker at Central Ohio HIgher Education Institute

National Security

07/22/2008	Bin Laden driver on trial at Guantanamo	Text	Russia Today

Ken Gude on Salim Hamdan Guantanamo trial

07/22/2008	How the next president can improve Homeland Security	Text	Washington Times

PJ Crowley Op-Ed on homeland security policies for the next administration

Think Progress

07/21/2008	Late Breaks: Janet and Justin, Vindicated	Text	Condé Nast Portfolio

Think Progress on Fox News misspelling education

07/22/2008	What's next for the netroots?	Text	Guardian, The

Amanda Terkel Op-Ed on the top priority for progressive bloggers

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Yglesias Moves Again

The ever-mobile Matthew Yglesias is leaving his perch at the Atlantic for new blogging digs over at the liberal think tank, the Center for American Progress. Over the past few years, Yglesias has largely shed his image as an independent thinker for one that is more overtly partisan and liberal. That doesn't necessarily mean his value as a blogger has devalued. In fact, it was probably a smart business move, as politically centrist views rarely equal high readership in the blogosphere. But now that Matt is working for an openly partisan political operation, I'm wondering if his soon-to-be former colleague Andrew Sullivan will revise the already antiquated 'Yglesias Award Nominee,' given to conservative and liberal bloggers who buck their side's dogma to express a poignant and independent opinion?

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NV National Clean 07 21

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TO BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDITORS:

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean

Energy Summit in Las Vegas to Chart America's Clean Energy Future

Speakers to include Reid, Center for American Progress Action Fund

President/CEO John Podesta, UNLV President David B. Ashley, President Bill

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Clinton, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and businessman T. Boone Pickens

LAS VEGAS, July 21 /PRNewswire/ --

WHAT: The National Clean Energy Summit, hosted Tuesday, August 19 by the Center for American Progress Action Fund, Nevada Senator Harry Reid and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) will join industry leaders, scientists and policy experts to define an agenda that accelerates the development of renewable energy, energy-efficiency technologies and robust clean energy markets throughout the nation and world.

The Summit's objective is to define consensus ideas and principles that participants can carry to the parties' political conventions and into the next Administration. To conclude the event, Reid, Podesta and Ashley will host a news conference at 6:30 p.m. to lay out deliverables from the Summit including key policy priorities that emerge from the day's discussions.

The National Clean Energy Summit will feature the following panel discussions:

-- Earning More by Using Less: Businesses, Efficiency and Renewable Energy

-- The Clean Energy Economy

-- Restoring American Leadership: Jobs, Growth, Communities and Trade

-- The Visible Hand: Government's Role in the Clean Energy Transformation Opportunities to Accelerate Deployment of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

-- For detailed agenda, including panel moderators and participants, visit http://cleanenergysummit.org/agenda.html

WHO: Speakers and Panel Participants:

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; John Podesta, Pres./CEO Center for American Progress Action Fund; David B. Ashley, UNLV President; Pres. Bill Clinton; NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg; AZ Gov. Janet Napolitano; CO Gov. Bill Ritter; Robert Rubin, former Treasury Secretary and Pres. Citigroup; T. Boone Pickens; NV Sen. Randolph Townsend; Jim Murren,

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Pres./COO MGM MIRAGE; Jon Creyts, Principal McKinsey Global; Congresswoman Hilda Solis, 32nd Dist. Calif.; NV Sen. Dina Titus; Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, Pres. U.S. Conference of Mayors; Somer Hollingsworth, Pres./CEO Nevada Development Authority; Ian Rogoff, Chairman/Trustee Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization; Leo Gerard, Pres. United Steelworkers; Edward Mazria, Founder Architecture 2030; Jon Wellinghoff, Commissioner Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Dr. Steven Chu, Dir. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Dr. David Overskei, Pres. Decision Factors; Neal Skiver, SVP Energy Services for Bank of America Public Capital Corp.

WHEN: Tues., Aug. 19, 2008

Summit begins at 9 a.m. PDT

Media check-in begins at 8 a.m.

All media must be in place by 8:45 a.m.

Closing news conference begins at 6:30 p.m.

One-on-one interviews can be scheduled following the event

WHERE: Cox Pavilion, University of Nevada Las Vegas

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89119

SOURCE Center for American Progress Action Fund

-0- 07/21/2008

/NOTE TO EDITORS: Please contact Natalie Mounier, 702-737-3100, nmounier@kirvindoak.com to request media credentials or to schedule one-on-one interviews./

/CONTACT: Natalie Mounier, +1-702-737-3100, nmounier@kirvindoak.com, for Center for American Progress Action Fund/

/Web site: http://cleanenergysummit.org/agenda.html /

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Obama Campaign: Response to the latest McCain attack ad Return to Top

A study by the Center for American Progress Action Fund noted that the corporate tax rate cut included in the McCain tax plan ?would deliver a $3.8 billion ...

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Unifies Nation's Leaders at National Clean Energy Summit in Las Ve Return to Top

SOURCE Center for American Progress Action Fund

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CITY'S POOR LOOK DIFFERENT THROUGH NEW ASSESSMENT

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The new poverty measure unveiled by city officials at the recent NAACP convention presents New York City with a yardstick not just to count the city's poor, but also to gauge the effect of anti-poverty measures and gain new perspective on New

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York's residents - including the realization that poverty among the elderly and the employed is significantly worse than previously recognized.
The question now, say both city officials and poverty experts, is how the new statistic will be incorporated into city policies.

Poverty experts have long decried the official federal "poverty line," which is used for calculating eligibility for programs ranging from Medicaid to WIC. First conceived in the 1960s by a Social Security Administration statistician named Mollie Orshansky, in more recent years it's come to seem hopelessly outdated. Noting that an Agriculture Department survey had estimated that the average American family spent about one-third of its income on food, Orshansky simply took the cost of a subsistence "food basket," tripled it, and families earning below that amount were deemed officially poor.

Since then, "the world has changed a lot," Deputy Mayor Linda I. Gibbs told a briefing at the NAACP gathering - filling in for Mayor Bloomberg, who was grounded at LaGuardia by bad weather, and unable to attend - as some household costs have fallen and others risen. Food, for example, made up one-third of all household costs 40 years ago, but is now down to about one-eighth. Housing and transportation, meanwhile, combine to make up nearly half of all family expenditures today.

To reflect this new reality, city researcher Mark Levitan - a longtime policy analyst with the Community Service Society who was brought on board the mayor's new Center for Economic Opportunity last year - led a team that devised a new measurement, based on recommendations presented to Congress by the National Academy of Sciences in 1995. The new measure first tallies up the average cost of a range of expenses, including food, shelter (which is regionally adjusted for local housing costs), clothing, and other essentials. If a household's income - including that from aid programs like food stamps, the earned income tax credit, and housing subsidies, none of which were counted under the old measure - minus the costs of child care, transportation, and out-of-pocket medical expenses, is less than 80 percent of the median expenses for these basic needs, that family is designated as poor.

The resulting poverty line is significantly higher than the old. For a family of four, for example, under the existing federal definition it was $20,444 in 2006, the year that the CEO studied; under the new measure, it is $26,138. Under the new measure, the official city poverty rate would jump from 18.9 percent of the city's population to 23 percent. The share of the population living below 150 percent of poverty leaps even more dramatically, from 27.8 percent to 44.3 percent.

The demographic breakdown of poverty also changes. Children living with single-parent families see their poverty rate drop slightly (from 44.4 percent to 41.6 percent), and those in two-parent families remains almost level (17.2 percent, up from 16.5 percent), reflecting, according to Gibbs, the success of aid programs targeted at poor children. The proportion of poor elderly, meanwhile, jumps from 18.1 percent to 32 percent - largely, explained Gibbs, as a result of deducting medical expenses from available income. The number of working poor families also rises dramatically, from 27.6 percent to 36 percent, a reflection of the fact that more low-wage earners fall below the new, higher income standard.

"This is not surprising to us at all," says Nancy Cauthen, deputy director of the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, which calculates its own Basic Needs Budgets as an attempt to more accurately measure poverty. "When you take benefits into account, the people we are targeting benefits to are doing better." In contrast, the large number of working poor reflects the presence of "benefit cliffs," where families that earn just enough to no longer qualify for benefits nonetheless are unable to pull themselves out of poverty.

Gibbs stressed that the new measure won't have an immediate effect on programs, since eligibility standards are set by the state and federal governments, not the city. Rather, she said the intent is to spark national discussion, while also moving to "feed this immediately into local programs policy decisions," specifically citing senior services as an example.

"We know that wages have not kept up with inflation, and that for folks that are working at the lowest end of the income scale, those wages are not enough to satisfy their basic needs," said Gibbs. The mayor's initial Commission on Economic Opportunity, she noted, focused on "making work pay" as one of its policy recommendations. "It shouldn't be that you are working full-time and you can't have your basic needs met."

The city's new poverty measure is likely to fuel national debate about scrapping the 40-year-old poverty line, or at least supplementing it with additional data. Last Thursday, the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee held hearings into a bill by U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) that would direct the Census Bureau to adopt an NAS-style poverty measure alongside the current one.

Mark Greenberg, director of the Poverty and Prosperity program for the Center for American Progress, says that this would come in useful during upcoming debates over changes to federal earned income tax credit and child tax credit, since "under the existing measure, if the earned income tax credit is expanded, it has no effect on the measure of poverty."

Prospects for adopting the new standard are potentially even brighter on the New York state level, where the issue is less likely to become bogged down in debates over how it would redistribute resources. The state uses the federal poverty rate to determine eligibility for numerous programs, including school lunches, says state Senator Liz Krueger, an Upper East Side Democrat and former poverty advocate who has long supported an updated measure of need. Changing state funding formulas, she hopes, will be easier than changing federal ones, because "we don't have to deal with 49 other states complaining about New York" getting more money.

Greenberg says these new measures would "provide a significantly improved way to measure poverty over what we have now," adding, "I think it takes some courage for a city to use a better measure that winds up concluding that a larger share of its residents are poor, and they ought to be commended for doing that." While historical census data isn't available to compare current city poverty under the new measure with, say, the same calculation for the start of Bloomberg's term, the mayor's office says it will issue a more detailed report on the 2006 figures later this summer, as well as a report later in the year comparing city poverty rates from 2005 through 2007.

Members of Community Voices Heard, a grassroots antipoverty group, welcome the new formula, but remain focused on

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what tangible outcomes accrue. "It's an improvement if this measure is taken seriously and additional services are created to address the extreme poverty in the city and even the poverty of those previously not considered poor," Ketny Jean-Francois, a CVH board member, said in a statement. "It's great that the CEO invested in creating a new poverty measure; now let's see them invest in some REAL programs to combat the poverty!"

"This measure also needs to be aggressively promoted at the federal level so that it can impact government programs that serve the millions of people living in poverty across the country who are not currently seen as poor because of an over 40-year-old measurement," Jean-Francois continued. Presidential aspirant Sen. Barack Obama apparently had a similar thought, endorsing the Bloomberg administration's effort as a step in the right direction.

Cauthen has quibbles about the specific methodology of the CEO measure - she worries that calling $26,000 the "poverty line" for a family of four is misleading, since that's after deducting transportation, child care, and medical expenses: "You need to have $26,000 left over to pay for food, clothing, shelter, and a few other things." Her organization's Basic Needs Budget, in contrast, calculates that for a New York City family of four with a preschooler, their basic needs budget is $65,000 - with $20,000 of that going for child care.

Still, Cauthen joins other poverty researchers in calling the new measure "a huge advance" over the old poverty line. "We need a much better poverty measure, and I think this fits the bill. But if we care about expanding the middle class, we need to go beyond a basic needs budget, and look at: What do you need to send a child for college? If you're going to put something in the bank for a rainy day? If you're going to be prepared for a medical crisis? A revised poverty measure is long overdue and welcome, but it should be just the beginning."

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Outlook: Genetic Testing's Recessive Regulation

Former Post science reporter Rick Weiss, now a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, will be online Monday, July 21 at 11 am ET to discuss his ...

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Toledo Public Schools Academy Principal to Speak at Conference

Meghan Gilbert, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio
RedOrbit

By Meghan Gilbert, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio

Jul. 21--Schools across the country could learn a thing or two from Toledo's Grove Patterson Academy, according to a Washington-based think tank.

For nearly 10 years, the districtwide elementary school has educated students the equivalent of about 40 days longer than the traditional school year, with two extra hours each day and several additional days. 'It's not just having extended learning time, but what do you do with it and what's the result,' said principal Gretchen Bueter, who has been invited to Washington to speak at 12:30 p.m. today to education and political officials about what her students do with that extra two hours.

For each day's first 90 minutes, Grove Patterson is on 'reading lockdown' for uninterrupted instruction. Later on, 30 minutes of class time is reserved daily for foreign-language study, Ms. Bueter said. About 400 students are enrolled in the kindergarten through eighth-grade school.

Ms. Bueter is one of several panelists for the 2 1/2-hour discussion called 'From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold: Schools Expanding Learning time' at the Center for American Progress offices.

Reports also will be released today about research of schools and districts with high poverty and minority students who have extended learning time and the financial costs of incorporating it.

Cynthia Brown, director of education policy for the Center for American Progress, said they are 'very impressed' with what Grove Patterson has done and Ms. Bueter will add the perspective of a real practitioner to the conversation.

An education consultant, university research professor, and an adviser to Sen. Ted Kennedy also are on the panel.

About 150 people are expected to attend, Ms. Brown said.

Ms. Bueter said that since the school opened, she has had researchers and various think tanks contacting her about extended learning time, and that the Center for American Progress' work has been in depth and should give a good overview about how schools across the country have incorporated it.

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Are you dipping into your retirement funds?

The Associated
Desert Sun, The

Americans are raiding their already fragile retirement piggy banks to weather financial hardships such as unemployment, medical emergencies and buying a home. And they're doing it even though borrowing a modest $5,000 can dramatically erode savings over time, according to a study released Wednesday by the Center for American Progress.

The study found workers in 2004 had $31 billion in outstanding 401(k) loans, a fivefold increase from $6 billion in 1989. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them. "They don't necessarily pay penalties. But the penalty is that they have fewer retirement savings," said Christian Weller, an author of the study.

As economic conditions grow bleaker, the number of people dipping into retirement money will only rise, he added.

A $5,000 loan, for example, could cut retirement savings by 22 percent even if the loan is repaid without penalty, according to the study. That's assuming the person has a $40,000 salary and is five years into a 35-year career.

One reason people are increasingly using 401(k) plans as a crutch is because they're so easy to access compared to pensions and individual retirement accounts, or IRAs. "The borrower acts like a bank to himself," Weller said. Typically, borrowers can repay loans within five years without penalty. Loans for first-time homes must be repaid within 15 years to avoid penalties. That doesn't mean people are raiding savings to go on shopping sprees. Middle-class families in particular are turning to retirement money to get through financial crises such as unemployment and medical emergencies, the study found.

When Rachel Hernandez took out a $7,000 loan from her retirement plan, for example, it was after her daughter was killed and she took time off to care for her grandchildren. "I understood it was going to hurt my retirement, but it was something I had to do," said Hernandez, a 46-year-old resident of San Antonio, Texas. She was working as a reservation agent for Southwest Airlines at the time and it was the second time she borrowed from her 401(k); the first time was to buy a house. "Obviously it's going to impact my retirement, but I'm glad I had the option," she said. People can typically borrow $50,000 or half the vested balance of their 401(k) accounts with extremely favorable interest rates. Failing to repay loans on time typically incurs a 10 percent excise tax and borrowers must also pay income tax.

Dipping into retirement money wouldn't be a problem if other sources of retirement income - such as Social Security and pensions - weren't drying up, Weller said. More people today are counting on 401(k) accounts to be their primary income source in retirement.

Yet a study by Hewitt Associates this month found four out five workers aren't socking away enough money into their 401(k) accounts to keep up their standard of living after retirement.

On average, employees are projected to replace just 85 percent of their income in retirement, compared with the 126 percent they would need when factoring in inflation, longer life spans and medical costs, the study by Hewitt found.

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McCain's head games on taxes

It really is psychological for John McCain.

Asked to defend his admittedly paltry gas plan in April, he touted the "psychological boost" of shaving a few cents off the gallon. Asked last month to explain the purpose of an offshore drilling plan that does not even purport to alter the current energy supply, McCain argued that while it "may take some years" to kick in, drilling promises a beneficial "psychological impact." And back in January, McCain downplayed talk of a recession by putting America on the couch. "A lot of this is psychological," he told voters at a town hall event, "because I believe the fundamentals of our economy are still strong."

So when former Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), McCain's then-chief economic adviser, chastised Americans for whining about a "mental recession," he was actually channeling McCain's psychological view of our economic problems. The media lapped up the gaffe but missed the point.

Gramm was not "off message." McCain's economic platform rests on the premise that the nation's economic challenges are minor and primarily psychological. How else can you explain his policies? McCain has not even proposed a short-term stimulus. His tax cuts ignore middle-class workers - about 100 million households, including 37 million seniors, would get no relief. Only 1 million seniors see rebates under his proposal, which brazenly prioritizes wealthy households over elderly Americans living on fixed incomes.

Then there's that McCain penchant for scheduling economic help a few years down the road. (Although perhaps the

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psychological boost is instantaneous.) The only plank of McCain's tax agenda that is not tailored for the superrich - boosting the exemption for dependents - would not even start until 2010. And it would not take full effect until 2016, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, which recently issued a 39-page report on both candidates' tax plans.

And McCain's tax plan is so regressive that some liken it to a third term for President Bush. But that's just not fair to Bush.

Bush's signature tax cuts were skewed toward the richest Americans; roughly 31 percent of the money went to the top 1 percent of taxpayers. Yet under McCain's two proposed tax cuts, a staggering 58 percent of the benefits go to the top 1 percent of taxpayers. That finding is from a report by James Kvaal and Robert Gordon, policy experts at the Center for American Progress, about the "Bush-McCain-Norquist Tax Agenda." Tax activist Grover Norquist, a Republican insider, has crowed that McCain adopted his organization's "entire agenda" of slashing the corporate tax rate, vetoing all tax hikes, extending the Bush tax cuts and abolishing the alternative minimum tax.

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Resist urge to raid retirement funds early

Michelle Singletary
Lawrence Journal-World

Would you still put money in a tax advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k)s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study has found an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. "The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity," wrote Christian E Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger, who authored "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet." The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing to examine this trend and hear solutions on how to reverse it. The CAP report was released at the hearing.

In it, researchers found that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 - "an increase of almost 400 percent." Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13 percent and 22 percent, the report noted.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds.

The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years.

Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70 percent of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10 percent charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said. Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report: " When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings. " You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return. " If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal. " You pay back the money in after-tax dollars

In a statement, the Senate committee's chairman, Herb Kohl, D-Wis., said, "When a participant can use his or her 401(k) to make everyday purchases like buying a cup of coffee, clearly that is a gross distortion of the plan's intended use." I've worked with a lot of people in debt and not a single person recklessly robbed their retirement account to pay for a latte. It's not conspicuous consumption that is pushing up the numbers of 401(k) loans. It's more likely the result of health problems or job losses.

But Kohl and others are right to be concerned.

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement.

Loans from a 401(k) plan should only be allowed in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability, or major medical illness.

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Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's neither realistic nor is it compassionate.

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Tapping retirement money too early can be costly

Tim Paradis
New Haven Register

NEW YORK Saving enough for retirement can fall far down on a to-do list for Americans squeezed by rising costs for necessities like food and energy. But even those who do set aside money can in a single move risk much of what they've saved.

Financial experts worried about the thin wallets of some workers are warning lawmakers in Washington that an increasing number of investors have begun to treat their retirement plans like piggy banks. While making loans or withdrawals from a retirement account is often linked to an emergency like illness, there is fresh evidence that the impact of even briefly sidelining money can be huge by the time retirement arrives.

Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, contends investors are robbing themselves of future earnings if they touch accounts that are supposed to be sacrosanct until retirement.

'We think it's a mistake generally to use the 401(k) for casual, everyday needs, and that's what we're tying to focus on, highlight and hopefully try and do something about,' Kohl said. 'This is not saying that we're insensitive to the tough times people are going through.'

Kohl and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have unveiled a bill that would ban the use of 401(k) debit cards, which they contend make it too easy for investors to remove money from their retirement savings. The bill also seeks to place a limit on the number of loans investors can take from their retirement accounts.

Kohl said investors need to be clear on the damage that missteps could cause to their retirement accounts. Beyond trying to save investors from themselves, he has other concerns.

The senator contends that strapped investors are more likely to make mistakes when they respond to marketing pitches from financial companies that are trying to land new business from rolled-over retirement accounts. He fears such pitches can gloss over the true costs of shifting money from one retirement account to another.

Financial ads do contain language, however, encouraging investors to review fees. Some ads spell out that while there might not be account fees on an IRA itself, for example, the underlying funds that an investor wades into could carry fees.

And, of course, moves such as rolling over an account can be beneficial as a way for investors to consolidate their investments or to move out of plans with inadequate choices.

But regardless of the degree to which ads might influence investors' decision-making, it appears more investors are taking risks with their retirement money.

In a new report, the Democratic-leaning Center for American Progress finds that the number of people taking loans from their retirement accounts is increasing, as is the amount of the loans.

The report notes that investors who borrow even small amounts from their 401(k) plans and only repay the loan without contributing more to make up for lost returns reduce their overall retirement savings by 13 percent to 22 percent.

Loans from defined contribution retirement plans like the 401(k) jumped nearly fivefold from 1989 to 2004 when accounting for inflation, according to the Center for American Progress report.

And advertising isn't the only thing that could be influencing investors.

John Gannon, a senior vice president with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, a non-governmental overseer, told the Committee on Aging that FINRA is concerned that some financial advisers are encouraging investors to tap into their retirement accounts too early.

Whatever might help investors make decisions about their savings, spiraling food and energy costs, as well as a slumping housing market, are only likely to make removing money from retirement accounts more tempting.

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Workers Break Retirement Piggy Bank in Tight Times

(Associated Press) NEW YORK - Americans are raiding their already fragile retirement piggy banks to weather financial hardships such as unemployment, medical emergencies and buying a home. And they're doing it even though borrowing a modest $5,000 can dramatically erode savings over time, according to a study released Wednesday by the Center for American Progress.

The study found workers in 2004 had $31 billion in outstanding 401(k) loans, a fivefold increase from $6 billion in 1989.

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Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them. 'They don't necessarily pay penalties. But the penalty is that they have fewer retirement savings,' said Christian Weller, an author of the study.

As economic conditions grow bleaker, the number of people dipping into retirement money will only rise, he added.

A $5,000 loan, for example, could cut retirement savings by 22 percent even if the loan is repaid without penalty, according to the study. That's assuming the person has a $40,000 salary and is five years into a 35-year career.

One reason people are increasingly using 401(k) plans as a crutch is because they're so easy to access compared to pensions and individual retirement accounts, or IRAs. 'The borrower acts like a bank to himself,' Weller said. Typically, borrowers can repay loans within five years without penalty. Loans for first-time homes must be repaid within 15 years to avoid penalties.

That doesn't mean people are raiding savings to go on shopping sprees. Middle-class families in particular are turning to retirement money to get through financial crises such as unemployment and medical emergencies, the study found.

When Rachel Hernandez took out a $7,000 loan from her retirement plan, for example, it was after her daughter was killed and she took time off to care for her grandchildren. 'I understood it was going to hurt my retirement, but it was something I had to do,' said Hernandez, a 46-year-old resident of San Antonio, Texas. She was working as a reservation agent for Southwest Airlines at the time and it was the second time she borrowed from her 401(k); the first time was to buy a house. 'Obviously it's going to impact my retirement, but I'm glad I had the option,' she said. People can typically borrow $50,000 or half the vested balance of their 401(k) accounts with extremely favorable interest rates. Failing to repay loans on time typically incurs a 10 percent excise tax and borrowers must also pay income tax.

Dipping into retirement money wouldn't be a problem if other sources of retirement income - such as Social Security and pensions - weren't drying up, Weller said. More people today are counting on 401(k) accounts to be their primary income source in retirement.

Yet a study by Hewitt Associates this month found four out five workers aren't socking away enough money into their 401(k) accounts to keep up their standard of living after retirement.

On average, employees are projected to replace just 85 percent of their income in retirement, compared with the 126 percent they would need when factoring in inflation, longer life spans and medical costs, the study by Hewitt found.

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Read 'Cost of Freedom' recap

DISCLAIMER: THE FOLLOWING 'Cost of Freedom Recap' CONTAINS STRONG OPINIONS WHICH ARE NOT A REFLECTION OF THE OPINIONS OF FOX NEWS AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON AS INVESTMENT ADVICE WHEN MAKING PERSONAL INVESTMENT DECISIONS. IT IS FOX NEWS' POLICY THAT CONTRIBUTORS DISCLOSE POSITIONS THEY HOLD IN STOCKS THEY DISCUSS, THOUGH POSITIONS MAY CHANGE. READERS OF 'Cost of Freedom Recap' MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN INVESTMENT DECISIONS. Bulls & Bears | Cavuto on Business | Forbes on FOX | Cashin' In Bulls & Bears This past week's 'Bulls & Bears': Gary B. Smith, Exemplar Capital; Tobin Smith, ChangeWave Research; Eric Bolling, FOX Business News; Peter Schiff, Euro Pacific Capital; Matt McCall, Penn Financial, and Maria Cardona, Democratic strategist.

Trading Pit: Is Oil Bubble Bursting and New Bull Market Beginning?

Gary B. Smith: Yes, the oil bubble has burst. My 'tell'? Tuesday (7-15-08) was the biggest volume down day on USO...ever. (USO is the exchange traded fund that tracks oil.) We may get a bounce back upwards, but at this point, the momentum is with the oil bears.

On the upside, look at Fannie Mae (FNM), Freddie Mac (FRE) and other major financial stocks. All up HUGE since Tuesday. Again, they may pull back a bit, but the upside is the easier path right now.

Tobin Smith: Oil is not done (meaning the bubble has not burst). We'll drop down to $120/barrel, and then we'll trade between that number and $130 until we get into the winter heating season when oil will shoot back up.

As for stocks, what we are seeing is the classic 'bear market rally', and we'll probably rally to 12,000. And then the fundamentals will take over. And on top of everything, everyone ignores the fact that we have the highest inflation numbers in 25 years.

You trade the bounce, build some cash and short the financials!

Eric Bolling: Yes, the oil bubble has burst and it will drop to $100/barrel. That means lower prices for consumers (like $2.50 gas). People will spend more and stocks will benefit. And It comes as no coincidence (to me) that this downward move in oil comes on the heels of Bush pulling the presidential portion of the ban on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf this past Monday (7/14/08).

Matt McCall: With oil back in a normal trading range it will take the fear factor out of 200 dollar oil out of the market and investors can now turn their attention to buying again.

A big drop in oil will only occur if the global growth numbers come down. Therefore high oil is not necessarily a bad thing.

Peter Schiff: There is no oil bubble, so there is nothing to burst. What we have is yet another correction in a major, long-term

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bull market driven by a combination of legitimate supply and demand and the most inflationary monetary policies the world has ever seen.

The current stock market bounce is yet another bear market rally, and should be sold.

Dems' New Spending Plan; Will It Crash Economy?

High gas prices, a slumping housing and job market, and the Dems' answer: another round of spending.

But this time its not just tax rebate checks. Try more food stamps... subsidies for air conditioning... and more cash for states.

Total cost? At least $50 billion. You pick up the bill, of course.

So is this what the economy needs?

Tobin Smith: We can afford the money&we cannot afford the philosophy&outlawing recessions&next thing you know they are going to try to outlaw short selling oh wait& they are! This is the ultimate Nanny State privatize profit and socialize risk LET capitalism WORK let it take capital away from POOR users and redistribute it to GOOD users of capital&that's what recessions do& Our numbers say that 85-90 percent of the checks went to savings, oil or paying off credit cards&Stimulus checks IN NO WAY creates jobs&it could delay layoffs for a few months at best in retail& ALL we do is push out the recession for a month or two&and make it WORSE IF they wanted to create REAL stimulus-open up $500 BILLION of new investment in energy resource exploration and GREEN energy development in the USpass expanded tax credits and funding for green energy AND open ALL drilling/pipeline installation TODAY.

Maria Cardona: This stimulus package is just what the doctor ordered for the economy; it is offering short term and long term solutions to the problems that ordinary Americans are facing. We are facing a real recession (Sorry Phil Gramm this is not a figment of our imagination), and Americans are hurting every which way they turn - form record high gas prices, to rising food prices, skyrocketing costs of health care, the mortgage crisis, the banking scare - Americans need more relief and the 'everything's fine, no need to worry' attitude is not going to put our country back on track and is certainly not going to give Americans the help they need and our economy the shot in the arm it is clamoring for.

And if you look past the stimulus checks, this bill is also designed to help create jobs (through a boost in infrastructure spending). That's a long-term solution that I think critics might miss!

Gary B. Smith: The economics do support a stimulus plan (increased government spending). But this is still a bad idea. If only the Congress, the President and the Fed, would stop screwing with things. They are all about short term fixes, and ignore any unintended/long term consequences. In this not, not the least of which is an even bigger deficit!! And these kinds of plans are just not the kind of system America was founded on.

Eric Bolling: When my son wants to stay outside any play with his friends after the time he should be coming in and getting ready for bed, once in a while I say o.k. And sure as day, he comes in the following week and asks for another hour...'but you said yes last week'. Get it? The stimulus was a one time transfer meant to jump start spending, the economy. If we do it again, people will absolutely be looking for another and another, and another. Talk about moral hazard; this is financial hazard. People will start to rely on these and get themselves in a heap of trouble when they stop. Stock X-Change: 'Dark Knight' Stocks Click here to watch this segment in its entirety

Gary B's Pick: Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) Tobin Smith's Pick: Assured Guaranty (AGO)

Matt McCall's Pick: American Superconductor (AMSC)

Eric Bolling's Pick: DreamWorks (DWA)

Peter Schiff's Pick: Harvest Energy (HTE)

Predictions

Gary B Smith's prediction: IndyMac bank scare overblown! 'XLF' up 30 percent by end of '08

Peter Schiff's prediction: Inflation gives silver more shine! 'SLV' up 25 percent by end of '08

Matt McCall's prediction: New roads = new cash for Fluor; 'FLR' up 50 percent in 12 months

Tobin Smith's prediction: Barbie/Bratz decision is big for Mattel; 'MAT' up 40 percent by Christmas

Eric Bolling's prediction: Clean up with clean energy! 'CLNE' jumps 50 percent in 5 months Bulls & Bears | Cavuto on Business | Forbes on FOX | Cashin' In Cavuto on Business On Saturday, July 19th, 2008, Cheryl Casone was joined Ben Stein, 'How to Ruin the United States of America' author; Charles Payne, wstreet.com; Adam Lashinsky, Fortune Magazine; Marc Lamont Hill, PhD, Temple University professor; Dan Weiss, Center for American Progress; Katrina Campins, real estate agent; Greg Warr, real estate developer.

Bottom Line: Should Congress Follow the President's Footsteps and Lift Ban on Offshore Drilling?

Cheryl Casone: Lifting the ban on offshore drilling. President Bush did it this week. Now, if Congress does it, could we see $2 gas? Charles, what do you think?

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Charles Payne: I think the reaction will be down to at least $3.50. Look at this week, oil got hammered. This was the worst week for oil in a long time. If congress follows through, it might take some of the speculators out. Ultimately, taking advantage of our resources, which includes offshore drilling, would take gasoline down to $2 a gallon.

Cheryl Casone: So offshore drilling seems to be an added bonus?

Dan Weiss: Except for one thing. It is totally divorced from reality. The Department of Energy says it will take till 2030 before drilling offshore will make any difference in price. In fact, four out of every five barrels that's offshore is already available to the oil companies, and they have chosen to not produce it. We have to get the oil from places that already have it. Second, is that the only way to have a really quick impact in lowering oil prices is to take a little bit of oil from the already-full Strategic Reserve, put it on the market, and that will lower prices at the pump.

Cheryl Casone: A lot of oil executives have said it will only be three years.

Adam Lashinsky: I want to apologize for guffawing when Dan was speaking. He doesn't even know and love Charles as much as I do, but he stole exactly what I was going to say. Charles, what you say is entertaining, but it is irresponsible to say that gas will go down to $2 a gallon because we open more drilling. It may go down to $2 a gallon for a list of reasons, but that is not one of them. Dan is right. We have to start getting oil into the system, but drilling will take years. Drilling would have absolutely zero impact. Oil didn't fall last week because the president said we should drill of the coast. People are concerned we would have a global expansion with a moderate impact on the economy of China and India. That's what we're talking about.

Cheryl Casone: I want to bring in Ben Stein. It is the psychological impact on the consumer and the industry& if they think we will drill at home, there is an emotional and psychological aspect of the economy to make that it will lower gas prices.

Ben Stein: It is an argument without numbers. The idea that drilling offshore will lower the price is just preposterous! I don't even know how to describe how preposterous it is. But, it is a very good idea for long-term security, and we should be drilling. On the other hand, Mr. Weiss's comment that the oil companies are not drilling on huge amounts of land or under sea is also nonsense. The oil companies have a lot of leases. They don't drill on ever single acre they lease. They want the oil out as fast as they can, too! The oil companies are not holding out on us. They'd like to pump and sell more oil too.

Cheryl Casone: Again, Marc, some people say it does help psychologically. It's like investing in stocks. If people are afraid we're in a recession, even though we're not; it's the same thing with oil. You have to put that factor in.

Marc Lamont Hill: It is possible it will have a psychological effect, but there is no way to quantify it. I think the argument that drilling will not affect oil prices till 2025 is actually dangerous because we could be there for 30 years! I do not advocate drilling. It will have a dangerous impact on the ecosystem. I think the caribou care if we drill. There have been conferences, and they have been particular about saying that 70 percent of food comes from that area, those animals, and this could have a deleterious effect. Indigenous tribes have said that 70 percent of their food comes from animals in the region.

Ben Stein: They can have some other type of food. We need the oil. There are 300-million of us and 220 of them.

Marc Lamont Hill: What are you going to do? Send them Dominos pizza? There is a delicate equilibrium we have to maintain in order to keep they ecosystem alive and functional. And drilling can impact that.

Charles Payne: Bottom line, I like what you said, Marc. I do not understand people who say it will not have an impact for 20 years. It will. The immediacy, the short-term thinking, is why we are in the problem to begin with. We've got to do something. By the way, Adam, I didn't realize you were such a great oil trader. I should start coming to you so you can tell me next time oil is going to go down. You know what? I think the president's speech had something to do with the drop in oil. But, the bottom line is that this argument is some kind of scam. Look at what we saw in Katrina. All those oil wells down in the ocean and we didn't have a lick of oil that leaked out.

Dan Weiss: That's totally wrong Charles! That's totally false! There were 9 million gallons of oil spilled!!

Charles Payne: Exactly! Out of how many BILLIONS? Come on! You're with the Center for American Progress? Tell me. What is the answer then? Because you guys keep telling us what the answer ain't!

Dan Weiss: In 2006, President Bush said America is addicted to oil& Charles Payne: What's the answer!?

(CROSSTALK)

Dan Weiss: Let me finish. Trying to get more oil out of the outer continental shelf is like curing your alcoholism by going to a different saloon. What we need to do is in the short run is lower prices by putting some of the oil in the SPR up for sale.

Charles Payne: No way. That is an illusion.

Cheryl Casone: Ok everybody. No one can hear when you're all talking at once. Neil doesn't like that and I know he's watchin'! Ben, be the voice of reason.

Ben Stein: The voice of reason is that it's not going to affect oil prices, but as a nation gigantic military interest and vulnerabilities around the world , we should be more self-sufficient. We should be drilling.

Head to Head: Housing or Stocks: Which Will Rebound First?

Cheryl Casone: This week, the Dow, NASDAQ, and S&P all jumping higher. And, new home construction jumping 9 percent

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last month. But, which rebound is for real? It's time to go 'Head to Head.' Greg Warr: This is like saying, 'Who is going to come second to last in a horse race?' Both housing and stocks have been beaten down. Right now, real estate is a smarter choice. It has been beaten down for such a long time. Houses are the 'American Dream.' That is what people want to get into. There are two factors that make real estate a good investment: Low interest rates and money coming in from private equity. It just has to have that marriage with that low interest rate and then they're just going to take off.

Cheryl Casone: Here the thing, Ben, I would think any investment you make now is going to have a return. We've got a really beaten down stock market that could really rebound in the next 6 months.

Ben Stein: I do not know the future; I'm not a fortune teller. But, a typical real estate correction takes seven or eight years. A typical stock market correction is about 18 months. Historically, stocks would be better. On the other hand, you do start getting returns immediately by rent and the pleasure of living in it. For a short-term return, I like stocks. For a place to play with your dogs, I like homes.

Cheryl Casone: Charles, he's making an argument that you should be doing both.

Charles Payne: First, Dan said at the start of the segment, real estate is a good buy anytime. That's nuts. We see an exodus of people losing their homes that are foreclosed on. I think people who want to buy a home, which is what Ben's talking about, then yes. As an investment, I dunno. Stocks are going to pop. You can make a lot of money with them. You can trade them. You can short them.

Cheryl Casone: I want to go over to Katrina really quick, because you're in Florida. And that market has been so beaten down. Here's the thing: People can't get loans to buy the homes.

Katrina Campins: It's the number one obstacle that I'm encountering right now regardless of how wealthy my clients are: Financing. However, real estate is really beaten up right now. It's really one of the best times to buy. Some of the smartest investors are buying right now. And, in real estate, you do make the most money when you buy. However, I think it's really important that the investor become familiar with the location. Every market is different. If investors have a mid-to-long term hold strategy, real estate make sense in the next two years. Be patient. Research the market. Buy a property at a discount and hold long term.

Cheryl Casone: Adam, you're in the Bay Area. I read earlier this week, homes down 25 percent for new home starts I believe. I know that prices have fallen just a little, so you're in a good place to say whether I should be stocks or real estate.

Adam Lashinsky: Bay Area is an unusual place because things were so expensive before the bubble. Story is different for the rest of California where the drop has been catastrophic. Charles and I disagree a lot, but this is one thing where he said something very important. You invest in the stock market. You buy a home to live there. We've seeing a once in a lifetime bubble in the residential real estate market. People have to get it through their thick heads that yes buying a home is a good investment, but it isn't an investment strategy. It's a lifestyle strategy. I think stocks will absolutely recover before the residential real estate market will recover.

Ben Stein: This shows how young you are, Adam. We have bubbles like this in California about every ten years.

Cheryl Casone: Greg, you're in California, a lot of people made a lot of money flipping homes in Arizona and California and Washington state. I'd have to think those days are done.

Greg Warr: They can be done. Charles said before that you can short the stock market. Unfortunately, the Federal government has rigged the real estate market now so that you can't short the stock market, and that takes a big play out of that.

Ben Stein: That's nonsense.

(CROSSTALK)

Cheryl Casone: Katrina, I'm going to give you the last word.

Katrina Campins: I would say overall real estate is always going to prove to be a good investment. My background is international finance and marketing, so I understand the stock market and what they're saying. If someone has real estate to be a mid-to-long term strategy, real estate is great for the long term.

More for Your Money: The Best Funds!

Click here to see this segment!

Dagen McDowell: Picking just one great stock in this unpredictable market can be a lot like trying to catch a falling knife. That's why Ben Stein says buying a basket of stocks with a fund will help you get 'More for Your Money.' Ben Stein: Fidelity Contrafund (FCNTX) *Ben owns shares of this fund

Charles Payne: Oppenheimer Emerging Growth A (OEGAX)

Adam Lashinsky: Dodge & Cox Stock Fund (DODGX) *Adam owns shares of this fund

FOX on the Spot!

Charles Payne: Ride high on the 'HOG'! Harley revs up 25 percent in 1 year

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Adam Lashinsky: Google's a go! Jumps 25 percent by 2010

Marc Lamont Hill: Apple knows what we want! MacBook Air price gets slashed

Ben Stein: Learn from brave soldiers! Stop whining and start buying!

Cheryl Casone: You need FBN! Call your cable provider Bulls & Bears | Cavuto on Business | Forbes on FOX | Cashin' In Forbes on FOX Flipside: New Fed Crackdown on Shady Lenders: Bad News for All Homeowners!

Mike Ozanian, national editor: Cracking down on predatory lenders would tank home prices. It would cause a big decrease in the demand for home. When you get lower demand, prices fall.

Quentin Hardy, Silicon Valley bureau chief: What happens when you get higher misplaced demand? Prices bubble up and you get an explosion of prices like you did over the past 4 years. That ends up in a catastrophe and that would happen again. We have to have guardrails in the system.

Rich Karlgaard, publisher: This is a terrible development. The Fed is grabbing more power after it's proved itself incompetent to manage the stability of the dollar. The problem is in the opposite direction. The good people can't get loans right now.

Elizabeth MacDonald, FOX Business Network: Predators have wrecked the system for us. The free market has turned into a free-for-all. Let's put those guardrails back up and get rid of those roaches in the system.

Steve Forbes, editor-in-chief: You may have a different agency than the Federal Reserve regulating this. They should be punished for their incompetence rather than rewarded. But there should be regulations that say a homeowner has an income before getting a mortgage. Lenders should have to lay out what the real fees are and basic things like that. Who enforces this you can debate. But we shouldn't debate the fact that you should have basic banking practices.

John Rutledge, Forbes contributor: Truth in lending laws are not new and a lot of what the Fed is trying to do is just that. In 2000, before the last crunch, I wrote an article for the Wall Street Journal that said the Fed, not the Treasury, should do bank regulation. The Fed is in charge of keeping the economy going. But they should do it locally, not centrally, so the whole economy doesn't shut down all at once.

In Focus: IndyMac Bank Customers Lose $500 Million: Should They Sue Sen. Schumer?

John Rutledge: We should roast this guy in public. What an idiot saying in a letter that if depositors take their money out of a bank, the bank could be in trouble. This is how all banks operate. Politicians need to show leadership and show us how to get out of problems. They don't need to create the problems with their mouths open and their policy books shut.

Josh Lipton, Forbes.com staff writer: The bottom-line here is IndyMac customers can't sue Senator Schumer. As a member of Congress he is immune from lawsuits arising from statements he makes in his official capacity. You might criticize him but you can't sue him.

Steve Forbes: Let Senator Schumer suffer his own medicine. He defends trial lawyers who engage in these types of lawsuits, let him face it. Also let him face hearings like he puts people through. Why did he write that letter, etc.? Let him face his own medicine for once.

Neil Weinberg, senior editor: There is still no law in this country against stupidity. This was a really dumb thing for someone in his position to do. Especially at a time when we're seeing such a loss of confidence in our financial system. But it's not illegal.

Jack Gage, associate editor: He's not apologizing for this. He's riding his white horse claiming he is a patriot defending the people. He's not. He's causing trouble. The SEC is going through this. Christopher Cox is speaking out about imposing laws against people who start rumors and create runs on banks. This is no different. Schumer started this rumor. Now it's the taxpayer's problem.

Victoria Barret, associate editor: Suing him is not really an option. But I think we should investigate him. I think we should question why he looked at a bank that was hundreds of miles away and decided to point a finger. Many of his largest contributors run hedge funds that could have profited from the kind of precipitous drop on IndyMac stock. We don't know, but it's something we should look at. It's pretty odd that he would single out this one bank that's not in his district and not effecting most of his constituents.

Best Way to Slash Food Prices: Eliminate All Government Regulations!

Jack Gage: Competition will always be a better street cop than government bureaucrats. You have to look no further than the rise in food prices to see that the FDA, when it's trying to protect consumers, is actually driving up the price of food.

Quentin Hardy: The market would maybe sort out some things but it would do it over thousands of dead bodies that wouldn't benefit from regulated food or drugs or other good things the FDA looks after. You want to lower food prices? End subsides in agribusiness. End foreign farmers from not being able to sell here.

Mike Ozanian: The FDA just came out and said corn fructose syrup is as natural as honey! So now, all the corn processors have a $30 million campaign to promote this. Guess who is going to pay for this? All of us when we go shopping!

Rich Karlgaard: Getting rid of these regulatory agencies is just a nonstarter right now. The real problem is the dollar. The cheap dollar is affecting crop prices and oil prices which affect transportation prices and packaging prices. If we strengthen

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the dollar prices will come down.

Steve Forbes: Rich is right. The cheap dollar is raising the price of everything. Quentin is right when it comes to subsides and removing trade barriers. You do those two things and you've addressed 98 percent of the problem. We can't get rid of the FDA. The best we can do is get alternative agencies. Agencies are immortal. Once you create them they live forever.

Informer: Most Recent Buys

Click here to watch the segment

Jack Gage: iShares Latin America (ILF)

Neil Weinberg: iShares Home Construction (ITB)

Victoria Barret: Lamar Advertising (LAMR)

Josh Lipton: Yamana Gold (AUY) Bulls & Bears | Cavuto on Business | Forbes on FOX | Cashin' In Cashin' In Stock Smarts: Gore's New Green Energy Plan: Fast Track to $8 Gas? John 'Bradshaw' Layfield, Layfield Energy: Absolutely! We can't get off of fossil fuel. We can't get off fossil fuel for electricity. We gotta have nuclear. We gotta have a national grid. We got to have a production tax credit, which these green tree huggers refuse to implement. It would create millions of jobs. But we are not drilling off our outer continental shelf. We're not drilling in Colorado, Utah. Oil is going to go through the roof.

Terry Barnes, FOX Business Network: If you're going to try to do this in 10 years, you have got to do everything. You cannot rule anything out. To his credit, he has been reminded people all along that we have to do something and he makes the point over and over again that we are giving money to countries that hate us. We have got to stop doing this. It is a national security issue. You have to give him credit.

Chris Kofinis, Democratic strategist: I don't understand the logic of how it will increase the price of gas. People on all sides agree that that is the case. And the proposal has a very ambitious state to achieve it, but it is simple, we have got to be very forward-looking, move in a different direction, and we cannot continue to do what we have been doing and continue to say we will grow more.

Wayne Rogers, Wayne Rogers & Co.: That is true, and we won't wane ourselves off of that until the other fuels become competitive. I think Tracy's right; you can make that argument. If you'll forgive me, Jonathan, that they are saying you are unpatriotic if you do not support these alternative uses of fuel. You are held captive. By the way, Carter made the same speech 30 years ago, and we did nothing. I blame the Congress; I blame the people of the United States, because we have ignored it.

Jonathan Hoenig, CapitalistPig Asset Management: Is not Middle Eastern oil that Gore is against, it's oil. It is carbon emissions. Problem is, we use carbon emissions. We're productive with them. It powers modern civilization.

Jonas Max Ferris, Maxfunds.com: I don't think it has anything to do with this whole thing about money going to our enemies has nothing to do with our domestic electricity business. All of the money in electricity goes to U.S. companies. We don't burn Saudi energy to make our electricity really. As a domestic business, it does not hurt the economy to buy electricity. It is an environmental issue he is raising, not a 'Don't send money to Hugo Chavez' issue. Electricity domestically, we could achieve this goal in less than 10 years. I could have my home in two weeks not hurting the environment, but it would practically doubled the cost of electricity to do this in the short run, so this is not some magical way to generate power. We have to keep down costs.

Lesson From IndyMac: Let All Failing Banks Go Bust?

Jonathan Hoenig: Absolutely.The government shouldn't be re-regulating banking, it should be de-regulating banking, and that includes letting IndyMac, Fannie and Freddie and Bear Sterns.

Wayne Rogers: Yes and No. You have the Federal Reserve, you've got the treasury and FDIC, and these are proper areas for the government to regulate in a certain extent. However, when they cancelled the Glass-Stegle Act, the congress, in its infinite stupidity, opened up this whole thing to what Jonathan would call deregulation. I' m not sure you would call it that, but, ok, the banks have been allowed to go so large, that they are too big to fail. If they were held to Glass-Stegall, they wouldn't be where they are today. John 'Bradshaw' Layfield: One thing that Wayne is dead right about is infinite stupidity. Our guys on Congress have got to be the worst Senate in the history of empires. These guys are morons. To let them be in charge of something they never saw coming is ridiculous. When is it going to stop. Do you bailout Wachovia? Do you bailout Wells Fargo? We either need a free market, or we do not need a free market.

Tracy Barnes: It should scare people. It's your money, do your due diligence. If you have more than 100 grand in a bank account, either separate it, or move it. Make sure your bank is solvent. If we were talking about 3 different tech companies, and one had a crappy computer, we would say, 'Let it shut down. Move the door, and move on.' We do it for other industries, we should do it for banks.

Jonathan Hoenig: Why do people trust and IndyMac bank? Because it is government- regulated. That's the whole point.

Chris Kofinis: My perspective is that one of the rules of government is to make sure we have a stable market place, but we want an economy right now where consumers are feeling really, really nervous about where we are going, and I think the idea of seeing a bank fail is something that's psychologically does bigger damage than just simply one bank failing. That doesn't mean that the government needs to save every bank, but they need to be very selective in terms of stopping it. The last thing you want is for people to lose confidence not only in the banking system, but the economy.

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Jonas Max Farris: Because they don't fully understand the problem yet. Any IndyMac customer can tell you, they did not get bailed out by the government. The government is bailing out depositors, which is a system we've had since the depression, and they will continue to do that because since the 24-hour news cycle, if we had camera shots of these lines around the banks, we would see a line around all banks. The average person cannot determine if their bank is solvent or has made good loans and we need an FDIC system. The core issue is falling home prices, and they're not doing things to support it. You have to bail out people at this bank, because it is hurting the bank. In fact, the government is encouraging home prices to fall.

Teachers Unions Social Agenda: Will It Bankrupt Us If Obama Wins?

Jonathan Hoenig: What's proposed here is school becoming a second home, replacing parents, and, once again, forcibly asserting more unaccountable government control into people's everyday lives. I' m not an educator but I think the purpose of school is to learn how to think. Not get a cavity filled, not get a hot meal. And that's what is on the table here.

Chris Kofinis: Well, times have changed. AFT's proposal is an ambitious, but I think what it reflects is a growing reality that educators face every single day. Kids come to school that do not have a health-care, kids come to school with poor nutrition or they are not treated well at home. They have to educate them poor services, poor building support instruments. It complicates the primary mission of every educator, to teach kids as best they can. I do not know if this is necessarily the right solution, it seems pretty ambitious. It is something that I think maybe almost too difficult to manage, but I think it reflects a growing reality that we have to, as a country, focus on human capital and how to build that up.

Next Bull Market Leaders!

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John Bradshaw Layfield: General Electric (GE)

Jonathan Hoenig: NTT Docomo (DCM)

Jonas Max Ferris: Vanguard Telecom Services ETF (VOX)

Wayne Rogers: United Technologies (UTX)

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Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]

Washington, DC, Jul 21, 2008 (AfricaFocus/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX News Network) --
On July 14, 2008, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) asked the court to indict the president of Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur. "Will this be a historic victory for human rights, a principled blow on behalf of the victims of atrocity against the men who orchestrated massacre and destruction? Or will it be a tragedy, a clash between the needs for justice and for peace, which will send Sudan into a vortex of [further] turmoil and bloodshed?" - Alex de Waal

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As this two contrasting analyses show, the impact of the ICC decision is highly unpredictable and hotly disputed, both among Sudanese and among international advocates for peace and justice in Sudan.

Whichever view of the ICC decision is correct, however, the debate does obscure one critical point: the failure of the international community to provide adequate support for the African Union-UN peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID). This operation is understaffed, under-equipped, under-funded, and vulnerable to attacks.

Established one year ago with an authorized strength of up to 19,555 military personnel, 6,432 police, and more than 5,000 civilian personnel, it currently has less than 8,000 troops, less than 2,000 police, and a little over 1,000 civilian personnel.

Critical equipment is lacking, including helicopters, aerial reconnaissance, transport and logistics units. And more than half of the $1.3 billion budget assessed on UN member states for the first year was unpaid as on the end of April. For more detailed information on UNAMID, including monthly reports, see http://www.un.org/depts/dpko/missions/unamid

For previous AfricaFocus Bulletins on Sudan, and other related links, visit http://www.africafocus.org/country/sudan.php

Additional commentaries on the ICC decision include:

July 14, International Crisis Group, "Opportunities and Risks for Peace"

http://allafrica.com/stories/200807141036.html

July 14, Inter Press Service, "Genocide Charges Split Global Community"

http://allafrica.com/stories/200807141818.html

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July 16, Suliman Baldo and Marieke Wierda, "UN Should Stand Fast of War Crimes Case"

http://allafrica.com/stories/200807160870.html

July 18, Inter Press Service, "ICC Indictment Sparks Hope, Fear"

http://allafrica.com/stories/200807190001.html

For a well-informed analysis of the background to the conflict in Darfur, there is no better single source than the book by Alex de Waal and Julie Flint, Darfur: A New History of A Long War. The most recent edition was released by Zed Books in May 2008.

It is available at

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Sudan and the International Criminal Court: a guide to the controversy

Alex de Waal

http://www.opendemocracy.net

http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/darfur

Today, 14 July 2008, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, asked the court to indict the president of Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur. Here, Luis Moreno-Ocampo is taking a bold and momentous step for global human rights and for Sudan. It is also controversial and fraught with danger. Will this be a historic victory for human rights, a principled blow on behalf of the victims of atrocity against the men who orchestrated massacre and destruction? Or will it be a tragedy, a clash between the needs for justice and for peace, which will send Sudan into a vortex of turmoil and bloodshed?

Over the last month, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) blog has hosted a debate on the imminent indictment, which has attracted diverse contributions by scholars and experts.

Contributors have diverse opinions and have provided arguments from different disciplines and perspectives. In pursuit of its aim of providing social-science expertise on matters of immediate import, the SSRC has hosted this debate as a resource for those interested in delving deep into the complexities of the issues that confront Sudan, the ICC and the United Nations. This article provides a guide to the main strands of the debate.

The prosecutor's application

The application to the court follows from the previous indictments, of Ahmed Harun (then in the ministry of the interior with responsibility for Darfur, now minister of state for humanitarian affairs) and militia leader Ali Kushayb. Both were indicted for their roles in the massacres of 2003 and 2004. Speaking to the United Nations Security Council on 5 June 2008, Luis Moreno-Ocampo indicated his intention to finger the men who instructed Harun.

But the decision Luis Moreno-Ocampo has made on 14 July by naming Presdient al-Bashir makes history. The prosecutor is striking an immense blow for universal jurisdiction. He is seeking to demonstrate that no one can enjoy impunity for crimes. He is taking a step towards a world constitution in which the barriers of national sovereignty are swept away in favor of the rule of law with global reach. This point is emphasised by William Schabas and also by Ronald Jennings.

The legal arguments

It is significant that Luis Moreno-Ocampo has indicated that his investigations range more broadly than the period of massacres of 2003-04. In his address to the United Nations Security Council - which referred Darfur to the International Criminal Court with Resolution 1593 in 2005 - he claimed that government actions the subsequent period represent the continuation of a systematic campaign of crimes against humanity. If he does indeed proceed to asking the court to make charges on this basis, it is an ambitious claim. The prosecutor would, in effect, be charging that the entire apparatus of the

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government of Sudan is involved in a coordinated and systematic, criminal enterprise.

The legal options open to the prosecutor have been analysed by Jens Meierhenrich.

There are three main avenues he could have chosen to pursue:

allege a conspiracy to commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide

charge senior government figures in Khartoum with joint criminal enterprise to commit a range of crimes

prosecute on the basis of command or superior responsibility for crimes, in effect returning to the 2007 case against Ahmed Harun and following it up the chain of command.

Is the prosecutor on solid ground when he claims that a policy of eradication has continued for the three and a half years since the beginning of 2005? On this point, Moreno-Ocampo's empirical case has been criticised by Julie Flint, who points out how much has changed. Fabrice Weissman of Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) makes similar points, especially with regard to the displaced camps.

These observers argue that evidence for such a policy, pursued in a determined and coordinated manner, is slender. Socio-economic analyses of Darfur by various authors (reviews of publications on markets and livelihoods, and of the political economy of Sudan) make the point that it is better understood as a "complex emergency" than an ongoing genocide. Pieter Tesch has also criticised parallels with the holocaust and especially Moreno-Ocampo's controversial comparison with the Nazis.

Julie Flint and these other contributors do not dispute that horrendous crimes have been committed and that responsibility reaches up to the highest echelons of the Sudanese state apparatus.

Nor do they cast doubt on the continuing crisis and the violations perpetrated by Khartoum and its proxies. But they do question the prosecutor's depiction of the current situation, and do question the wisdom of his approach.

The prosecutor's decision to pursue a charge of joint criminal enterprise against a head of state is certain to cause controversy.

The charge has been developed in United States law and is used primarily to catch racketeers and gangsters; it has often been used (such as in the well-known RICO cases) as a charge of last resort, a dragnet to catch individuals who may not have individual culpability for a crime but who are deemed to have common purpose with others who have actually committed the crimes.

As discussed by Jens Meierhenrich, this approach could eviscerate the principle of individual responsibility for crimes and set a precedent in international law with very far-reaching consequences.

By the same token that joint criminal enterprise allows a prosecutor to reach into the highest echelons of state power, it is also open to indiscriminate use. For example, it could be applied to make a head of state, or government ministers, criminally culpable for crimes committed by their underlings, even if they had no direct involvement in or even knowledge of those crimes.

Sudan's polarisation

Sudanese opinion on the ICC's role is polarised - and not simply "for" versus "against". Many Darfurians are enthusiastic about the indictment of the men they consider responsible for the destruction of their land and the slaughter of tens of thousands of people (see Omer Ismail's contribution). There are already exuberant demonstrations in Khartoum of support for the ICC among Darfur's displaced and its rebels. Many opponents of President al-Bashir, including southerners, are similarly delighted that he has finally received the condemnation that they believe he deserves. Without doubt, Bashir's adversaries - in Darfur, the south and within Khartoum itself - will feel emboldened. The dangers of emotive polarisation leading to bloodshed should not be minimised.

Others are less celebratory; one civil-society activist said that "This government deserves everything that can be thrown at it. But it is the people of Sudan who will pay the price." Another comments: "All of us want justice but justice cannot be achieved in a social vacuum. We should choose the time for justice. Today it is the lives of people that count." A Sudanese political leader - known for publicly supporting the ICC in principle - regards this as "a classic case in which justice and stability are at loggerheads." Many Sudanese - including people who are not supporters of the government - are worried about their country's political stability. Some are concerned that the prosecutor's action is depriving them of their democratic rights to choose their own government (see Abdalbasit Saeed's contribution).

Omar al-Bashir will not surrender himself voluntarily to the International Criminal Court. In resisting, will he be stigmatised, shamed and thus weakened? The possibility of the stigma of an indictment acting as a deterrent to future crime, an end to a culture of impunity, is examined by Nicki Alam. These outcomes seem improbable. Al-Bashir has already vowed never to hand over any Sudanese to the ICC and has accused the court of being a "terrorist" organisation. He may see an attempt to indict him as an act of war.

The likelihood that al-Bashir will react angrily, seeking to retaliate to avenge his sense of humiliation, is examined in my posting based on the writing of criminologist James Gilligan. In assessing al-Bashir's response, the long-standing rule of thumb for Khartoum elite politics should not be forgotten: the greatest threat to the president comes from those closest to him. His actions will be driven by calculations of internal threat more than by his assessment of how threatening the ICC or the UN troops in Sudan, might be.

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In the aftermath of the Justice & Equality Movement (JEM's) attack on Khartoum on 10 May 2008, the government is feeling vulnerable and the army especially feels that it needs to demonstrate its strength. President al-Bashir is also known for his propensity to respond to insult with fury, and is reportedly preoccupied with what he sees as foreign conspiracies to overthrow him. His response cannot be predicted.

Africa's ambivalence

The ICC prosecutor may have the law on his side. But whether he can win his case in the court of world opinion is a different matter - especially in Africa. When a common criminal is in the dock, he is on trial. When a sitting head of state stands indicted of crimes against humanity, both he and his prosecutor are on trial. A point made by several contributors is that the ICC does not operate like a regular criminal court. The choice of individuals to indict and the charges to bring against them are political decisions. Luis Moreno-Ocampo's political judgment and the future of the ICC are under scrutiny as much as the record of President al-Bashir.

The ICC's exclusive focus on African cases to date is causing some unease in Africa. It represents an expansion of western power at the expense of African concerns, including national sovereignty and the possibilities of pursuing local mechanisms for justice. Chidi Odinkalu and Beshir Gedda make these points. It is notable that the African Union (AU), an early supporter of the ICC, is showing a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the direction of the court. The AU-ICC cooperation memorandum, which was expected to be finalised by this time, has been put on hold. As Stephen Ellis describes, the precedent of the Charles Taylor prosecution shows that this will be a highly political act.

Beshir Gedda's second contribution argues that Moreno-Ocampo's strategy has less to do with justice and Africa and more to do with international politics: it is aimed at getting United States support for the court. William Schabas makes a similar point: "A more robust judicial intervention in Sudan from the Court has the potential to restore its flagging credibility."

Peace-and-justice dilemmas

Several contributors have predicted political turmoil as the most likely outcome of the indictment (they include Mary Harper and Michael Davies's far-reaching "worst-case scenario" - a frightening prediction that is privately shared by senior United Nations staff). Well-connected individuals fear that the indictment may spell the restriction or expulsion of UN missions, the end of Sudan's comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) agreed in January 2005, and new outbreaks of violence. The prosecutor's step comes at a time when the partnership between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) that underpins the CPA is very fragile.

Celia McKeon of Conciliation Resources makes the important point that accountability mechanisms should pay due regard to the need for peace. Under the Rome statute of July 1998 that set up the ICC, the prosecutor is in fact required to ensure that any prosecution is in the interests of justice and the interests of the victims. My posting on the deficiency of the justice provisions in the Darfur peace agreement (DPA) signed in May 2006 makes the complementary point that the UN Security Council's referral of Darfur to the ICC had the unintended consequence of excluding accountability issues from the peace talks, with the outcome that the ICC has become the only judicial mechanism operative with regard to the crimes committed Darfur. If - as now seems almost certain - ICC prosecutions are stalled, then there will have been no progress at all in obtaining justice for the victims of atrocities in Darfur.

Chad Hazlett is more sanguine, arguing that Darfur's peace process is stalled and that the adverse consequences of an indictment can be managed. Peace and political stability are not the prosecutor's prime concern. The Rome statute set up the prosecutor as an independent agent concerned with the pursuit of justice. When the UNSC referred Darfur to the ICC on 31 March 2005, it mandated the prosecutor to examine the evidence and pursue criminal prosecution.

Other concerns such as humanitarian relief, peace and civilian protection were dealt with by other UNSC resolutions. The prosecutor is obliged to consider the interests of the victims, but ultimately it is for the Security Council to exercise its powers to defer ICC activities, should it choose to do so. Moreno-Ocampo has, as examined in my posting of 11 June, thrown down a gauntlet to the UN Security Council.

What next?

Around the world, human-rights campaigners are expecting a bold step from Moreno-Ocampo which they can hail as the single most important blow for justice and human rights for many years. They argue that such an action by the chief prosecutor will signal that there is no impunity for crimes, even for a head of state, and demonstrate that the international community will stand up for the human rights of victims, whatever the consequences - and thus irrevocably change the world for the better. Moreover, by giving hope and solidarity to the victims of unspeakable crimes in Darfur, these campaigners contend that the indictment of al-Bashir will be a huge step towards realising human dignity, democracy and peace.

Others disagree, and fear the casualties of justice triumphant.

Responsibility now passes to the judges of the ICC, who must now consider the evidence presented and decide whether to indict the men named. In theory, the judges could reject all or part of the application, because they consider the evidence deficient. On past record, this is unlikely.

The UN Security Council could in principle intervene and, using its powers under Article 16 of the Rome statute, defer any prosecution for a year. At present this seems improbable. The prosecutor has checkmated the two countries most opposed to the ICC. The US, which refuses to support the court on principle, has determined that the crimes in Darfur constituted genocide, and both presidential candidates have committed themselves to a tough line on Sudan.

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China is unlikely to want to endanger its standing in the world with less than four weeks to go to the Olympic games.

Chad Hazlett makes the interesting point that use of Article 16 can be seen, not as a rebuff to the court, but as a use of the ICC mechanism to bring pressure to bear on the Sudanese government. His posting focuses on how an indictment can be used as an important point of leverage for achieving both justice and peace.

The challenge to the United Nations and the international community will be as profound as to Omar al-Bashir. Sudan's status as a pariah state will be confirmed while al-Bashir's defiant stand would be no more than his habit of nineteen years. But for the international community - respectful of the rule of law and supportive of the ICC, but also committed to the CPA and the national elections, and supporting two huge peacekeeping and civilian-protection missions - the dilemmas are acute. Cornelia Schneider's article on the UN and the ICC makes it clear that the UN forces are not under any legal obligation to execute ICC arrest-warrants - a step that would certainly bring them into sharp conflict with the Sudanese government. But whether it is possible for UN officials and peacekeeping troops to sit at the same table with Sudanese officials whose president and commander-in-chief is officially accused as a war criminal, and to enter into legally-binding agreements with him and his government, remains to be seen.

These legal issues will arise only if the judges of the court decide to uphold an application from the prosecutor and issue an indictment. The focus will now shift to the next act in this drama - the decision of the judges. If past experience is a guide, they will take at least a month to examine the application.

The UN Security Council's approach to the Darfur crisis has deployed a vast array of instruments including sanctions, peace processes, peacekeeping and the ICC. These decisions have rarely been coordinated and prioritised, and the last four years appear increasingly like an exercise in giving powerful new weapons to untrained foot-soldiers who lack a single commander. These weapons may cause less danger to the enemy than the risk of friendly-fire casualties to their own side. Some fear that the Security Council referral of Darfur to the ICC may yet turn out to be the international community's biggest self-inflicted wound.

AfricaFocus Bulletin is an independent electronic publication providing reposted commentary and analysis on African issues, with a particular focus on U.S. and international policies. AfricaFocus Bulletin is edited by William Minter.

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Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace [analysis]

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The application to the court follows from the previous indictments, of Ahmed Harun (then in the ministry of the interior with responsibility for Darfur, now minister of state for humanitarian affairs) and militia leader Ali Kushayb. Both were indicted for their roles in the massacres of 2003 and 2004. Speaking to the United Nations Security Council on 5 June 2008, Luis Moreno-Ocampo indicated his intention to finger the men who instructed Harun.

But the decision Luis Moreno-Ocampo has made on 14 July by naming Presdient al-Bashir makes history. The prosecutor is striking an immense blow for universal jurisdiction. He is seeking to demonstrate that no one can enjoy impunity for crimes. He is taking a step towards a world constitution in which the barriers of national sovereignty are swept away in favor of the rule of law with global reach. This point is emphasised by William Schabas and also by Ronald Jennings.

It is significant that Luis Moreno-Ocampo has indicated that his investigations range more broadly than the period of massacres of 2003-04. In his address to the United Nations Security Council - which referred Darfur to the International Criminal Court with Resolution 1593 in 2005 - he claimed that government actions the subsequent period represent the continuation of a systematic campaign of crimes against humanity. If he does indeed proceed to asking the court to make charges on this basis, it is an ambitious claim. The prosecutor would, in effect, be charging that the entire apparatus of the government of Sudan is involved in a coordinated and systematic, criminal enterprise.

The legal options open to the prosecutor have been analysed by Jens Meierhenrich.

There are three main avenues he could have chosen to pursue:

allege a conspiracy to commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide

charge senior government figures in Khartoum with joint criminal enterprise to commit a range of crimes

prosecute on the basis of command or superior responsibility for crimes, in effect returning to the 2007 case against Ahmed Harun and following it up the chain of command.

Is the prosecutor on solid ground when he claims that a policy of eradication has continued for the three and a half years since the beginning of 2005? On this point, Moreno-Ocampo's empirical case has been criticised by Julie Flint, who points out how much has changed. Fabrice Weissman of Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) makes similar points, especially with regard to the displaced camps.

These observers argue that evidence for such a policy, pursued in a determined and coordinated manner, is slender. Socio-economic analyses of Darfur by various authors (reviews of publications on markets and livelihoods, and of the political economy of Sudan) make the point that it is better understood as a 'complex emergency' than an ongoing genocide. Pieter Tesch has also criticised parallels with the holocaust and especially Moreno-Ocampo's controversial comparison with the Nazis.

Julie Flint and these other contributors do not dispute that horrendous crimes have been committed and that responsibility reaches up to the highest echelons of the Sudanese state apparatus.

Nor do they cast doubt on the continuing crisis and the violations perpetrated by Khartoum and its proxies. But they do question the prosecutor's depiction of the current situation, and do question the wisdom of his approach.

The prosecutor's decision to pursue a charge of joint criminal enterprise against a head of state is certain to cause controversy.

The charge has been developed in United States law and is used primarily to catch racketeers and gangsters; it has often

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been used (such as in the well-known RICO cases) as a charge of last resort, a dragnet to catch individuals who may not have individual culpability for a crime but who are deemed to have common purpose with others who have actually committed the crimes.

As discussed by Jens Meierhenrich, this approach could eviscerate the principle of individual responsibility for crimes and set a precedent in international law with very far-reaching consequences.

By the same token that joint criminal enterprise allows a prosecutor to reach into the highest echelons of state power, it is also open to indiscriminate use. For example, it could be applied to make a head of state, or government ministers, criminally culpable for crimes committed by their underlings, even if they had no direct involvement in or even knowledge of those crimes.

Sudanese opinion on the ICC's role is polarised - and not simply 'for' versus 'against'. Many Darfurians are enthusiastic about the indictment of the men they consider responsible for the destruction of their land and the slaughter of tens of thousands of people (see Omer Ismail's contribution). There are already exuberant demonstrations in Khartoum of support for the ICC among Darfur's displaced and its rebels. Many opponents of President al-Bashir, including southerners, are similarly delighted that he has finally received the condemnation that they believe he deserves. Without doubt, Bashir's adversaries - in Darfur, the south and within Khartoum itself - will feel emboldened. The dangers of emotive polarisation leading to bloodshed should not be minimised.

Others are less celebratory; one civil-society activist said that 'This government deserves everything that can be thrown at it. But it is the people of Sudan who will pay the price.' Another comments: 'All of us want justice but justice cannot be achieved in a social vacuum. We should choose the time for justice. Today it is the lives of people that count.' A Sudanese political leader - known for publicly supporting the ICC in principle - regards this as 'a classic case in which justice and stability are at loggerheads.' Many Sudanese - including people who are not supporters of the government - are worried about their country's political stability. Some are concerned that the prosecutor's action is depriving them of their democratic rights to choose their own government (see Abdalbasit Saeed's contribution).

Omar al-Bashir will not surrender himself voluntarily to the International Criminal Court. In resisting, will he be stigmatised, shamed and thus weakened? The possibility of the stigma of an indictment acting as a deterrent to future crime, an end to a culture of impunity, is examined by Nicki Alam. These outcomes seem improbable. Al-Bashir has already vowed never to hand over any Sudanese to the ICC and has accused the court of being a 'terrorist' organisation. He may see an attempt to indict him as an act of war.

The likelihood that al-Bashir will react angrily, seeking to retaliate to avenge his sense of humiliation, is examined in my posting based on the writing of criminologist James Gilligan. In assessing al-Bashir's response, the long-standing rule of thumb for Khartoum elite politics should not be forgotten: the greatest threat to the president comes from those closest to him. His actions will be driven by calculations of internal threat more than by his assessment of how threatening the ICC or the UN troops in Sudan, might be.

In the aftermath of the Justice & Equality Movement (JEM's) attack on Khartoum on 10 May 2008, the government is feeling vulnerable and the army especially feels that it needs to demonstrate its strength. President al-Bashir is also known for his propensity to respond to insult with fury, and is reportedly preoccupied with what he sees as foreign conspiracies to overthrow him. His response cannot be predicted.

The ICC prosecutor may have the law on his side. But whether he can win his case in the court of world opinion is a different matter - especially in Africa. When a common criminal is in the dock, he is on trial. When a sitting head of state stands indicted of crimes against humanity, both he and his prosecutor are on trial. A point made by several contributors is that the ICC does not operate like a regular criminal court. The choice of individuals to indict and the charges to bring against them are political decisions. Luis Moreno-Ocampo's political judgment and the future of the ICC are under scrutiny as much as the record of President al-Bashir.

The ICC's exclusive focus on African cases to date is causing some unease in Africa. It represents an expansion of western power at the expense of African concerns, including national sovereignty and the possibilities of pursuing local mechanisms for justice. Chidi Odinkalu and Beshir Gedda make these points. It is notable that the African Union (AU), an early supporter of the ICC, is showing a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the direction of the court. The AU-ICC cooperation memorandum, which was expected to be finalised by this time, has been put on hold. As Stephen Ellis describes, the precedent of the Charles Taylor prosecution shows that this will be a highly political act.

Beshir Gedda's second contribution argues that Moreno-Ocampo's strategy has less to do with justice and Africa and more to do with international politics: it is aimed at getting United States support for the court. William Schabas makes a similar point: 'A more robust judicial intervention in Sudan from the Court has the potential to restore its flagging credibility.' Several contributors have predicted political turmoil as the most likely outcome of the indictment (they include Mary Harper and Michael Davies's far-reaching 'worst-case scenario' - a frightening prediction that is privately shared by senior United Nations staff). Well-connected individuals fear that the indictment may spell the restriction or expulsion of UN missions, the end of Sudan's comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) agreed in January 2005, and new outbreaks of violence. The prosecutor's step comes at a time when the partnership between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) that underpins the CPA is very fragile.

Celia McKeon of Conciliation Resources makes the important point that accountability mechanisms should pay due regard to the need for peace. Under the Rome statute of July 1998 that set up the ICC, the prosecutor is in fact required to ensure that any prosecution is in the interests of justice and the interests of the victims. My posting on the deficiency of the justice provisions in the Darfur peace agreement (DPA) signed in May 2006 makes the complementary point that the UN Security Council's referral of Darfur to the ICC had the unintended consequence of excluding accountability issues from the peace talks, with the outcome that the ICC has become the only judicial mechanism operative with regard to the crimes committed

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Darfur. If - as now seems almost certain - ICC prosecutions are stalled, then there will have been no progress at all in obtaining justice for the victims of atrocities in Darfur.

Chad Hazlett is more sanguine, arguing that Darfur's peace process is stalled and that the adverse consequences of an indictment can be managed. Peace and political stability are not the prosecutor's prime concern. The Rome statute set up the prosecutor as an independent agent concerned with the pursuit of justice. When the UNSC referred Darfur to the ICC on 31 March 2005, it mandated the prosecutor to examine the evidence and pursue criminal prosecution.

Other concerns such as humanitarian relief, peace and civilian protection were dealt with by other UNSC resolutions. The prosecutor is obliged to consider the interests of the victims, but ultimately it is for the Security Council to exercise its powers to defer ICC activities, should it choose to do so. Moreno-Ocampo has, as examined in my posting of 11 June, thrown down a gauntlet to the UN Security Council.

Around the world, human-rights campaigners are expecting a bold step from Moreno-Ocampo which they can hail as the single most important blow for justice and human rights for many years. They argue that such an action by the chief prosecutor will signal that there is no impunity for crimes, even for a head of state, and demonstrate that the international community will stand up for the human rights of victims, whatever the consequences - and thus irrevocably change the world for the better. Moreover, by giving hope and solidarity to the victims of unspeakable crimes in Darfur, these campaigners contend that the indictment of al-Bashir will be a huge step towards realising human dignity, democracy and peace.

Others disagree, and fear the casualties of justice triumphant.

Responsibility now passes to the judges of the ICC, who must now consider the evidence presented and decide whether to indict the men named. In theory, the judges could reject all or part of the application, because they consider the evidence deficient. On past record, this is unlikely.

The UN Security Council could in principle intervene and, using its powers under Article 16 of the Rome statute, defer any prosecution for a year. At present this seems improbable. The prosecutor has checkmated the two countries most opposed to the ICC. The US, which refuses to support the court on principle, has determined that the crimes in Darfur constituted genocide, and both presidential candidates have committed themselves to a tough line on Sudan.

China is unlikely to want to endanger its standing in the world with less than four weeks to go to the Olympic games.

Chad Hazlett makes the interesting point that use of Article 16 can be seen, not as a rebuff to the court, but as a use of the ICC mechanism to bring pressure to bear on the Sudanese government. His posting focuses on how an indictment can be used as an important point of leverage for achieving both justice and peace.

The challenge to the United Nations and the international community will be as profound as to Omar al-Bashir. Sudan's status as a pariah state will be confirmed while al-Bashir's defiant stand would be no more than his habit of nineteen years. But for the international community - respectful of the rule of law and supportive of the ICC, but also committed to the CPA and the national elections, and supporting two huge peacekeeping and civilian-protection missions - the dilemmas are acute. Cornelia Schneider's article on the UN and the ICC makes it clear that the UN forces are not under any legal obligation to execute ICC arrest-warrants - a step that would certainly bring them into sharp conflict with the Sudanese government. But whether it is possible for UN officials and peacekeeping troops to sit at the same table with Sudanese officials whose president and commander-in-chief is officially accused as a war criminal, and to enter into legally-binding agreements with him and his government, remains to be seen.

These legal issues will arise only if the judges of the court decide to uphold an application from the prosecutor and issue an indictment. The focus will now shift to the next act in this drama - the decision of the judges. If past experience is a guide, they will take at least a month to examine the application.

The UN Security Council's approach to the Darfur crisis has deployed a vast array of instruments including sanctions, peace processes, peacekeeping and the ICC. These decisions have rarely been coordinated and prioritised, and the last four years appear increasingly like an exercise in giving powerful new weapons to untrained foot-soldiers who lack a single commander. These weapons may cause less danger to the enemy than the risk of friendly-fire casualties to their own side. Some fear that the Security Council referral of Darfur to the ICC may yet turn out to be the international community's biggest self-inflicted wound.

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Sudan Darfur - Justice Vs. Peace

Washington, DC
AllAfrica.com

the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) asked the court to indict the president of Sudan, Omar Hassan al-

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Bashir, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur. 'Will this be a historic victory for human rights, a principled blow on behalf of the victims of atrocity against the men who orchestrated massacre and destruction? Or will it be a tragedy, a clash between the needs for justice and for peace, which will send Sudan into a vortex of [further] turmoil and bloodshed?' - Alex de Waal This AfricaFocus Bulletin contains an analysis by Alex de Waal on the impact of the ICC decision to charge Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir, highlighting the threat that insistence on justice will further reduce the chances of peace, by provoking even more violent actions by the Sudanese government. Another AfricaFocus Bulletin sent out today contains an alternative perspective, from the Enough Project, arguing that in fact the increased international pressure on Sudan's leader could be a step forward towards peace.

As this two contrasting analyses show, the impact of the ICC decision is highly unpredictable and hotly disputed, both among Sudanese and among international advocates for peace and justice in Sudan.

Whichever view of the ICC decision is correct, however, the debate does obscure one critical point: the failure of the international community to provide adequate support for the African Union-UN peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID). This operation is understaffed, under-equipped, under-funded, and vulnerable to attacks.

Established one year ago with an authorized strength of up to 19,555 military personnel, 6,432 police, and more than 5,000 civilian personnel, it currently has less than 8,000 troops, less than 2,000 police, and a little over 1,000 civilian personnel.

Critical equipment is lacking, including helicopters, aerial reconnaissance, transport and logistics units. And more than half of the $1.3 billion budget assessed on UN member states for the first year was unpaid as on the end of April. For more detailed information on UNAMID, including monthly reports, see http://www.un.org/depts/dpko/missions/unamid

For previous AfricaFocus Bulletins on Sudan, and other related links, visit http://www.africafocus.org/country/sudan.php

Additional commentaries on the ICC decision include:

July 14, International Crisis Group, 'Opportunities and Risks for Peace' http://allafrica.com/stories/200807141036.html

July 14, Inter Press Service, 'Genocide Charges Split Global Community' http://allafrica.com/stories/200807141818.html

July 16, Suliman Baldo and Marieke Wierda, 'UN Should Stand Fast of War Crimes Case' http://allafrica.com/stories/200807160870.html

July 18, Inter Press Service, 'ICC Indictment Sparks Hope, Fear' http://allafrica.com/stories/200807190001.html

For a well-informed analysis of the background to the conflict in Darfur, there is no better single source than the book by Alex de Waal and Julie Flint, Darfur: A New History of A Long War. The most recent edition was released by Zed Books in May 2008.

It is available at

Amazon.com

http://tinyurl.com/5odnb6

Amazon.co.uk

http://tinyurl.com/58p5bs

Powell's Books

http://tinyurl.com/5putgy

For an additional selection in the AfricaFocus Bookshop of recent books on the crises in Sudan, see

http://www.africafocus.org/books/afbooks.php#sud1 (Amazon USA) or http://www.africafocus.org/books/afbooks_uk.php#sud1 (Amazon UK).

Sudan and the International Criminal Court: a guide to the controversy

Alex de Waal

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The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court sent a chilling message to war criminals around the world last week when he requested an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and his cronies are almost certainly paying close attention. A examines the legal options available to hold Mr. Mugabe and others to account for a laundry list of crimes committed during his nearly three decade rule from the massacre of 20,000 Ndebele civilians in the early 1980s to the continuing post-election crackdown against the political opposition. Justice for Zimbabwe should be approached under the combined efforts of a hybrid international tribunal, or a domestic court with international assistance and support, says David M. Crane, a co-author of the report, Professor at Syracuse University College of Law, and former founding Chief Prosecutor of The Special Court for Sierra Leone. The longer Mr. Mugabe abuses

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the power of the state and thwarts the legitimate and democratic will of the people of Zimbabwe to express their rights, the more the question of accountability gains traction, says ENOUGH Executive Director John Norris. The question of justice in Zimbabwe should ultimately be a question of when, not if. The Impunity Watch Mission is to monitor and address horrific human rights abuses and possible situations of impunity.

ENOUGH is a project of the Center for American Progress to end genocide and crimes against humanity. To learn more, go to www.enoughproject.org

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The Case Against Robert Mugabe [press release]

A report released jointly today by the ENOUGH Project and Impunity Watch examines the legal options available to hold Mr. Mugabe and others to account for a laundry list of crimes committed during his nearly three decade rule - from the massacre of 20,000 Ndebele civilians in the early 1980s to the continuing post-election crackdown against the political opposition. 'Justice for Zimbabwe should be approached under the combined efforts of a hybrid international tribunal, or a domestic court with international assistance and support,' says David M. Crane, a co-author of the report, Professor at Syracuse University College of Law, and former founding Chief Prosecutor of The Special Court for Sierra Leone. 'The longer Mr. Mugabe abuses the power of the state and thwarts the legitimate and democratic will of the people of Zimbabwe to express their rights, the more the question of accountability gains traction,' says ENOUGH Executive Director John Norris. 'The question of justice in Zimbabwe should ultimately be a question of when, not if.' Click here to read the full report

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At the Border, Your Laptop Is Wide-Open

Hearing (statement of Peter P. Swire, senior fellow, Center for American Progress Action Fund and professor of law, Ohio State University Moritz College of ...

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Elizabeth Edwards To Be Keynote Speaker For Central Ohio Higher ...

Columbus, OH (PRWEB) July 22, 2008 -- Elizabeth Edwards will visit Central Ohio this October for Ohio Dominican University's Presidential Lecture Series. Elizabeth Edwards is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and wife of former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate John Edwards.

"We are thrilled to welcome Elizabeth Edwards to Central Ohio and to our Institution," said Bishop James A. Griffin, Interim President of Ohio Dominican University. "Ohio Dominican University celebrates Mrs. Edwards' commitment to serving her country and we encourage all to join us at the lecture series."

Elizabeth Edwards shares her husband's deep commitment to improving the daily lives of all Americans and making sure that everyone in this country has the opportunity to succeed. A passionate advocate for children and families and an accomplished attorney and author, she has been a tireless advocate on behalf of many important social causes.

Americans were first introduced to Elizabeth Edwards as she campaigned extensively across the country during her husband's vice presidential and presidential campaigns. The day after the general election in 2004, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was in remission until March 2007, when she discovered the cancer had returned. She and her husband made the decision to continue on with the campaign and she kept an active schedule of campaign activities. Her courageous battle with breast cancer has served as an inspiration to women across the country.

Mrs. Edwards recently joined The Center for American Progress as a Senior Fellow. The Center is a think tank dedicated to improving the lives of Americans through ideas and action. In her new role, Mrs. Edwards works on behalf of healthcare issues and writes for the Wonk Room, The Center for American Progress Action Fund's newly launched rapid-response blog.

Elizabeth Edwards is also active in community service; the Wade Edwards Foundation, a foundation started by the Edwards family after their first child, Wade, passed away; a variety of charitable efforts, including fundraising for the March of Dimes, and serving on the UNC Board of Visitors and Books for Kids.

Ohio Dominican University's Presidential Lecture Series was created seven years ago to highlight the Central Ohio Institution's commitment to the arts, education and politics, and to provide the Ohio Dominican and Greater Columbus communities with the opportunity to hear leaders from a variety of fields who have been widely recognized for their contributions.

The series underscores the Ohio Dominican motto: To contemplate truth and share with others the fruits of this contemplation. These lectures are not intended to be an endorsement of any particular speaker or his or her views, but rather, are intended to provide insight into the prevalent social issues of our day.

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Bin Laden driver on trial at Guantanamo

The first war crimes trial at Guantanamo Bay has started. Salim Hamdan - who was Osama bin Laden's driver - has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and supporting terrorism. The judge has barred some of the evidence, as it was gained during interrogation of the defendant when he was held at U.S. bases in Afghanistan.

High-level people like Khalil Sheikh Mohammed - one of the reported masterminds behind the attack on the World Trade Center - might be called to testify in Hamdan's case. But it's not clear whether his testimony will even count as everything he says is considered classified information.

Ken Gude from the American Progress International Rights and Responsibilities Program says the outcome of the trial is a foregone conclusion: "The judges have probably already decided Hamdan is guilty", he said. "So this won't be a real trial, more like a demonstration rather than a trial".

The opening trial comes amid rising pressure against the U.S. administration over the reported torture of prisoners. A video was recently released showing Canadian officials questioning Omar Khadr - the youngest detainee at Guantanamo and a Canadian citizen. The 21-year-old appears to be in a poor psychological state which critics say is the result of mistreatment by U.S. officials in the days leading up to the interrogation. They say he was deprived of sleep, and moved from one cell to another every two hours.

The debate about Guantanamo has also featured in the presidential race. Both Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain have vowed to shut down the prison.

The days of the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay may be numbered. But many issues still remain. Experts say the biggest challenge for the next administration will be what to do with the detainees who won't be tried. And Guantanmo is likely to remain the focus of international criticism over Washington's handling of the war on terror.

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How the next president can improve Homeland Security

Given terrorist attacks associated with recent political transitions in Spain, Britain and Pakistan, it is possible that someone inspired by al Qaeda will make another attempt in the United States over the next 18 months. While Sen. Barack Obama discussed the intersection of terrorism and technology earlier this week in Indiana, homeland security has not been a significant campaign issue thus far. But since terrorism could present the next president with his first crisis, there are a number of steps the next president should take, beginning literally the day after the election.

The most obvious is to oversee an effective transition. Immediately after the election, the president-elect's homeland security team should be rapidly vetted, granted security clearances and receive extensive in-briefings- in short, form a shadow government. To its credit, the Bush administration has already laid the groundwork for this. Congress must rapidly confirm key leaders beginning on Inauguration Day. Everyone involved should take politics out of homeland security, a step that is long overdue.

Once in office, the next president should urgently increase federal support to state and local authorities. The best weapon we have to stop the next terrorist attack is less the soldier in Baghdad than the proverbial cop on the beat. Our military is stretched thin, but so are the police. As one example, New York City has 5,000 fewer police on its streets today than on 9/11. Better intelligence, information-sharing and technology can make police more productive, but with growing budget deficits, cities and states will be hard pressed simply to maintain the capabilities we have now.

Rather than cutting grant funding to cities and states as the Bush administration has attempted to do in its last two budgets, the next president must increase funding for community policing and emergency response to help communities cope with higher operating costs and new requirements.

During his first year in office, he should beef up defenses in specific risk areas such as aviation and chemical security. We can anticipate what terrorists might do from what they have already done. Aviation remains a favorite target. Since suicide hijackings have been made more difficult due to improved security at airports, the greater threat now is smuggling bombs on planes. While all passengers and luggage are physically inspected, this is not the case with air cargo that can travel on the same aircraft. Cargo data is screened, but only some of the cargo is inspected. Much more can be.

Insurgents in Iraq have tried to convert chlorine gas tanker trucks into improvised weapons. The District recognized this danger immediately after Sept. 11 and converted its Blue Plains wastewater treatment facility from chlorine gas, which can be exploited by terrorists, to liquid bleach, which cannot. While the Bush administration opposes the concept, the next administration should support new legislation that would push chemical facilities to operate in ways that are more terror-proof.

Not only should there be stronger private sector security standards, but the Department of Homeland Security must have resources to do the job we expect of it. Right now, only 430 agents are dedicated to air cargo and roughly 100 to chemical security. We don't need an army to improve homeland security, but in key areas we need more than the posse we have now.

Finally, he should redefine what we mean by homeland security and develop a new strategy. The new administration should use the development of a first-ever Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, mandated by Congress and due at the end of 2009, to evaluate the current state of homeland security, re-evaluate risks to our society and establish clear missions and priorities that will attract broad-based support. Even as we try to prevent another terrorism attack, we must also prepare for

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natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and pandemics, while protecting critical networks and infrastructure from global system disruptions. He needs to find the right balance.

He must put terrorism back in perspective. It is a real risk, but not an existential threat. We underestimated the danger posed by Osama bin Laden before 9/11; we have inflated it since. Terrorists win when governments overreact, and this is exactly what we've done. We have occupied Iraq (despite no link to 9/11), the cost of which this year alone will exceed the economic impact of 9/11. We have reorganized our government multiple times. We are a nation of immigrants, but we are less welcoming than we once were. We are a nation of laws, but we have jailed American citizens indefinitely without due process.

We are better than this. The next president can show us how to be safe without compromising our liberties and values. He can help us be better prepared without being afraid. He can build secure borders that are still open to the world. He can make homeland security a priority rather than a political prop.

P.J. Crowley is a senior fellow and director of homeland security at the Center for American Progress.

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Late Breaks: Janet and Justin, Vindicated

-Griffin may be biased, but at least his network hasn't misspelled "education" in a segment about...education. [Think Progress]

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What's next for the netroots?

This past weekend, more than 2,000 progressive bloggers, journalists, activists and concerned citizens gathered in Austin, Texas for the third annual Netroots Nation conference, formerly known as YearlyKos.

The first convention in 2006 was about crashing the gates. New media was a force to be reckoned with, and the establishment wasn't quite sure how to react. Bloggers were a novelty, and journalists came to figure out the fuss over all the typing, clicking and webcasting. The New York Sun wrote: "Could these laptop-strewn hotel hallways be the 21st-century equivalent of the smoke-filled rooms of yesteryear?" The New York Times reported: "The YearlyKos convention is giving bloggers a three-dimensional presence where they are seen and heard here, sometimes in unison, as well as read online." Time magazine was surprised that the "crowd is older and more professional than coverage of the blogosphere might lead one to expect."

Last year, the netroots descended upon the convention in Chicago as a powerful movement. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer concluded that "these are serious people intent on taking back their country." Seven of the eight Democratic presidential candidates travelled to YearlyKos to participate in a forum discussion, which, according to the Washington Post, "helped cement the bloggers as an increasingly significant constituency inside the party." The netroots were excited about the new progressives in Congress and their role in pushing the movement forward.

This year, the mood was a bit more muddled. Attendees seemed hopeful that the country's climate was more progressive but were already wondering how to remain engaged and strong outside of the election process. After all, Barack Obama didn't even attend the conference this year. (Although a taped message from him did play during the final keynote session.) Where the netroots were banging down the door this year was on accountability.

Whether Obama or John McCain wins in November, these activists will be pushing the new president - and Congress - to hold the Bush administration responsible for its past misdeeds. One of the highlights of the conference was a speech by former Democratic Alabama governor Don Siegelman, who has charged the Bush administration with pushing his prosecution for political purposes. His appearance had to be sanctioned by the court while he appeals his corruption conviction. Speaking with the Nation, Siegelman urged activists to pressure Congress to hold Karl Rove in contempt for defying a subpoena related to the investigation into his case.

Attendees were clearly frustrated and worried that nothing will be done on Siegelman or any other issue. "We could have 10 political conventions, or 20, and the end result would be the same," wrote Hunter, a popular blogger on DailyKos. "We are the fools, the idealists. We know full well that there are two sets of laws, one for the powerful and one for the citizenry, and yet we take the asinine position that perhaps that should not be the case."

One of the first questions posed to House speaker Nancy Pelosi during the Ask the Speaker session on Saturday morning was whether, if Rove is found in contempt of Congress, he would be placed "in that little jail cell that's in the basement of the House." Pelosi expressed support for the efforts of House judiciary committee chairman John Conyers, who is aggressively investigating Rove's politicisation. Some people occasionally shouted out for the impeachment of the president. The day before, Democratic Leadership Council chairman Harold Ford angered the crowd when he said that telecommunication firms should not be punished for participating in the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping programme. Displeased, audience members repeatedly demanded "accountability".

While a few journalists from mainstream national publications showed up to the conference this year, the media circus was far more subdued than in the past - likely due to the lack of novelty and also the lack of presidential candidates. That's too bad, because journalists are a key part of the accountability equation. At a Saturday afternoon panel called The War Pundits, Greg Mitchell of Editor and Publisher magazine raised the media's role in promoting the Iraq war. "As bad as the pundits were before the war," said Mitchell, "it's amazing how little accountability there has been." On Friday, the panellists Rick Perlstein, Digby, Paul Krugman, and Duncan Black noted that the media has internalised the right-wing criticism that they are too liberal,

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and consequently "bend over backward to please the right."

It's clear, however, that even some politicians and "establishment" figures are ready to start crashing down the gates. After all, no one received a warmer welcome than former vice-president Al Gore, whose surprise appearance on Saturday morning received a loud, sustained standing ovation. Speaking about the excitement of Netroots Nation, Gore also managed to sum up the purpose driving so many of this year's attendees: "You will tell them that this was the beginning of an effort that was the start to reclaim the integrity of American democracy."

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From:	"Genevieve Thaler" <gthaler@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	nhstaff <nhstaff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	11/29/2007 7:48:58 AM
Subject:	NH CLIPS 11/29/07 PM
Attachments:	NH CLIPS 11-29-07 PM.doc

NH CLIPS 11/29/07 PM

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Civil Unions soon ok in Granite State- Portsmouth Herald 11/29/07
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are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Paid for by Hillary Clinton for
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From: "Walker, Darren" <D.Walker@fordfoundation.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 5/26/2015 4:47:29 PM
Subject: Latest India Media Coverage

Deccan Chronicle reports that Ford Foundation wrote last week to Union Home Secretary, LC Goyal, to seek clarification on its operations. According to the report, the MHA has met with Ford Foundation officials and "assured Ford Foundation that the NGO can be removed from the prior-approval category if the organisation receives the 'all clear' following the scrutiny."

Additionally, today Press Trust of India reports that the Union government defended its decision to cancel the foreign contribution registration of Greenpeace India before the Delhi High Court, saying the NGO had violated the norms by opening five accounts to utilize foreign donations without informing the relevant authorities. Several mainstream media outlets report on this development. There also is continued media coverage of PM Modi's first year in office.

NGOs
The Wall Street Journal covers a draft Chinese law that "treats the entire sector of foreign nonprofits enemies of the state, placing them under the management of the Ministry of Public Affairs." The article mentions that "China isn't alone in stepping up pressure on nonprofits" and highlights India's recent scrutiny of Ford Foundation's finances and its decision to freeze the bank accounts of Greenpeace India.

Modi government
A number of articles and op-eds mention Ford Foundation or Teesta Setalvad in reference to the Indian government's actions against NGOs during Modi's first year in office. Associated Press reports that, despite Modi's "lofty promises of a new pristine world," it is a "mystery how Modi plans to get there." The article highlights that "past governments have opened debate to communities and activists, however, Modi's government has cracked on groups such as Ford Foundation, Greenpeace and Action Aid." An analysis by The Economist's South East Asia bureau chief Adam Roberts, writing in Business Standard , calls Modi's record "mixed" and cites his impressive speeches on various issues with follow up that "has been less convincing." The Economic Times looks at Modi's "battles with legal establishments" during his first year in government and mentions the actions against Teesta Setalvad and Greenpeace India. Kashmir Times also analyzes Modi's first year in government and mentions that the "entire might of the state" was brought against secular campaigners like Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand on "trumped-up charges because they are trying to bring the culprit of Gujarat-2002 to justice."

Greenpeace India
A number of articles report that the Union government today defended its decision to cancel the foreign contribution registration of Greenpeace India before the Delhi High Court. Press Trust of India reports the MHA charged Greenpeace with violating FCRA by merging its foreign donations with domestic contributions. According to the article, the government affidavit said, "it was found that petitioner (Greenpeace) receives huge amount of foreign contribution running into crores of rupees which is though deposited in FCRA account, is diverted to such other utilisation accounts in which foreign contribution has been merged with domestic receipts contrary to the Act". The Solicitor General also claimed that the NGO was not using the donations for the purpose they were received. Greenpeace said it has lost donations to the extent of Rs 1.25 crore by its Indian contributors due to freeze on its domestic accounts.

Social media activity remains light. Please find a sampling of newly posted tweets below which mention Ford Foundation and Greenpeace.

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The Wall Street Journal: Enemies of the State: Beijing Targets NGOs , May 26, 2015

Modi government
Business Standard: Adam Roberts: Modi govt's mixed record in first year , May 26, 2015
Open Democracy: When internationalization causes more harm than good , May 26, 2015
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The Economic Times: How PM Narendra Modi's battles with legal establishment played out in first year , May 26, 2015

Kashmir Times: Modi's disastrous first year , May 26, 2015

Greenpeace India
Jagran Post: Greenpeace opened accounts for foreign donations without informing authorities: Centre to HC , May 26, 2015
First Post India: Centre defends cancellation of FCRA registration of Greenpeace before HC , May 26, 2015

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The Hindu: Greenpeace violated FCRA: Centre tells Delhi HC , May 26, 2015
Outlook: Centre Defends Cancellation of FCRA Registration of Greenpeace , May 26, 2015
Al Jazeera: India cracks down on Greenpeace and foreign NGOs , May 26, 2015

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Social media

New Tweets

दुष्यंत @dushyantkh – 6 retweets, 5 favorites
crack down of ford foundation funded NGOs is one of the decisive factor for development of india and social harmony #SaalEkShuruaatAnek

May 26, 2015 - https://twitter.com/dushyantkh/statuses/603102940019036161

Narinder Singh @singhns – 0 retweets, 0 favorites
India (Modi) has placed the Ford Foundation on a national security watch list<9K NGOs have had registration canceled http://t.co/dadFcpWrDa

May 26, 2015 - https://twitter.com/singhns/statuses/603177402911617024

Jatin Anand @JatinPaul – 33 retweets, 14 favorites
A day was soon come when states across #India will rise against central interference; another independence day: Bhavna Gaur @the_hindu

- **Sushil Kumar @SushiGsl** – 0 retweet, 0 favorites
  @JatinPaul @TheHindu @the_hindu Preparing for balkanisation of country named India under pressure of Agencies like FORD Green Peace so on

  May 26, 2015 - https://twitter.com/SushilGsl/statuses/603158354848915456

Prasanna @flyfiddlesticks – 0 retweet, 0 favorites
@mariawirth1 did it not find Pakistani voices to substitute for Indians ? Al Jazeera is famous for that.

- **Maria wirth @mariawirth1** - 0 retweets, 0 favorites
  @Flyfiddlesticks they found an Indian interviewee who batted for Greenpeace & Ford Found. He even said, court will rule in favor of GP

  May 26, 2015 - https://twitter.com/mariawirth1/statuses/603145462149881857

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MHA allays Ford Foundation's concerns
Namrata Biji Ahuja
Deccan Chronicle
May 26, 2015
http://www.deccanchronicle.com/150526/nation-current-affairs/article/mha-allays-ford-foundation%E2%80%99s-concerns

New Delhi: The US-based Ford Foundation has approached the Union home ministry by writing to Union home secretary L.C. Goyal seeking a clarification on whether the NGO can "continue its operations normally'' in the country, "including releasing pending grants and payments to organisations where they have received a no-objection from the department of economic affairs.''

Soon after the Ford Foundation shot off a letter to the MHA last week, the top MHA brass has met the officials of the US- based NGO allaying its concerns and explaining the government's move to put the organisation in its prior-approval category, citing national security concerns. The MHA has assured Ford Foundation that the NGO can be removed from the prior-approval category. if the organisation is "all clear'' following the scrutiny.

It may be noted that the MHA move to put Ford Foundation on its watch-list came after the Gujarat government alleged that the organisation was "abetting communal disharmony" through Teesta Setalvad's NGO.

Enemies of the State: Beijing Targets NGOs
The Wall Street Journal
Andrew Browne
May 26, 2015
http://www.wsj.com/articles/enemies-of-the-state-beijing-targets-ngos-1432622054

SHANGHAI—It takes a special kind of courage to run a foreign nonprofit in China these days.

And not just because of the challenge of dispensing humanitarian services across such a vast country, everything from HIV/AIDS

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awareness campaigns to environmental clean-ups and care for orphans. Regulations are so onerous it's virtually impossible for many civic groups to operate legally.

Still, thousands persist, often counting on sympathetic local police and officials to turn a blind eye to infractions.

That kind of indulgence may soon be ending. A Chinese draft law treats the entire sector of foreign nonprofits as potential enemies of the state, placing them under the management of the Ministry of Public Security.

To drive home the point, the law is being readied as part of a package of legislation that also includes a national-security law and an antiterrorism law—and it contains similar language, according to Western legal experts who have studied the texts.

Beijing's message is clear, says the director of one children's-education group: "We're not welcome anymore."

"It's insulting," she adds, asking not to be identified.

China isn't alone in stepping up pressure on nonprofits. In Cambodia, nonprofits are alarmed by a proposed law that makes connections between NGO funding and money-laundering. Indian authorities have been scrutinizing the finances of the Ford Foundation and have frozen the bank accounts of Greenpeace's Indian arm.

There's a long history of suspicion about Westerners and their civic works in China: The missionaries who flooded in during the 19th century did so under the protection of gunboats and "unequal treaties" that pried open the country against its will. Chinese authorities today cast nonprofits as agents of a new kind of imperialism seeking to undermine Communist ideology. Lurking at the back of their minds are memories of covert CIA activities in Tibet during the Cold War aimed at destabilizing the regime.

Critics say the new law reflects a gathering sense of siege within the administration of President Xi Jinping.

Increasingly, they say, views of America and the West within the leadership are darkening, driven by fears that what state media calls "hostile foreign forces" are infiltrating the country. During last year's "Umbrella Revolution" in Hong Kong, a Chinese general accused foreigners of whipping up the student unrest, while the nationalist-leaning Global Times railed against "black hands" from abroad.

Undoubtedly, the undercover operations of a few politically motivated nonprofits in China has complicated life for the vast majority offering philanthropic assistance.

Foreign nonprofits are widely viewed as a bridgehead for subversion. Intensely suspicious of any networked activity it doesn't directly control, the government is especially wary of the grants they scatter that have allowed the domestic NGO sector to flourish.

In a preamble, the draft law says its aim is to protect the "rights and interests" of foreign NGOs while "promoting exchange and cooperation."

But it piles on new layers of bureaucracy. Nonprofits will have to pay tax and hire Chinese accountants to conduct regular audits. They'll have to go through approved agencies to hire staff and recruit volunteers. To enforce compliance, police will have unchallenged rights to enter offices, seize documents and inspect bank accounts.

The upshot is that smaller operations may have to pack up and leave, say nonprofit workers. Already, individuals have been forced out. Among them was British national Tim Millar who was working to improve legal protections for the disabled. He had to go after police caught him on a visa technicality.

In a U.S.-China relationship marked by constant frictions, people-to-people exchanges have helped keep overall ties on an even keel. What's deeply troubling to Western legal experts is the law's sweeping definition of NGOs—all groups operating outside the scope of government and commerce. This will bring under police watch not just traditional nonprofits but also the activities of foreign colleges and their alumni clubs, sports and artistic bodies and professional associations.

Theoretically, notes Carl Minzner, a professor at New York's Fordham Law School, it could even complicate trips to China by American high-school marching bands. That's because even the most innocuous NGO activity will require a Chinese sponsor. Since NGOs are being treated as potential security threats, that won't be easy.

"This could wreak serious collateral damage on U.S.-China ties," warns Mr. Minzner.

Some critics believe that the new law reflects a more general anti-Western bias within the leadership.

Fiercely cracking down on advocates of so-called Western values, including human-rights lawyers, academics and bloggers, Mr. Xi is reaching into China's own Confucian culture, as well as its punitive legal traditions, for solutions to China's social problems. Just last week he warned that religions must be free from foreign influence.

Taking their cue, authorities are tearing down crosses from the rooftops of Christian churches in Zhejiang province, where

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pastors and their congregations organize social welfare for the neediest.

Lester Ross, the senior partner at the Beijing offices of law firm WilmerHale calls the draft law "totally egregious," although he's hopeful that if authorities hear enough objections they might roll back some of the harsher provisions before it passes, possibly later this year.

Meanwhile, the director of the children's group is digging in for a long struggle between police and nonprofits, one that could leave a deep mark on Chinese society. She'll stay on, she says, "until they throw me in jail."

Adam Roberts: Modi govt's mixed record in first year
Business Standard
Adam Roberts
May 26, 2015
http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/opinion-modi-govt-s-mixed-record-in-first-year-115052501066_1.html

You don't have to like everything about Narendra Modi to admire some of what he is trying to do. He campaigned in the 2014 elections mostly by promising to bring "good times". Press him on what that means and he talks of cutting poverty, creating jobs, building roads and getting the economy moving faster. These are welcome goals, though he should be far more ambitious in spelling out the reforms he expects to produce them. On some issues he speaks frankly and well. I have been impressed by his speeches on public hygiene, ending open defecation, generating respect for women and girls and more. His follow-up, however, has been less convincing.

In the year since thousands of us sat in the sunshine at Rashtrapati Bhavan and watched his inauguration, I have roamed about and asked others what they make of him. Recently in Ahmedabad and in Vadnagar, I heard Gujaratis say their former chief minister was behaving in some familiar ways, centralising power in himself, sidelining others who might have made a stronger team. In Kashmir, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman Islands, I sought out those beyond the Hindi heartland. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the fervour for Mr Modi is lower in such places than in the West and North.

In an interview with Chandrababu Naidu, in Hyderabad, I traced parallels between Mr Modi's political fortunes and those of other regional leaders with national interests. In Varanasi, I listened to Mr Modi's constituents grumble that their MP had so far brought no noticeable changes there: The river Ganges was no cleaner; there was no sign there of "achhe din". Small businessmen and farmers are notably glum in many places, and routinely told me that they could not believe claims of statisticians that the economy was growing by 7.5 per cent a year. However, in visits to Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, I have heard foreigners who are impressed: They see renewed confidence, a spring in India's step under Mr Modi.

During 70-odd interviews for a just-completed special report on India, published in The Economist on May 23, I interviewed senior figures in politics, business and the bureaucracy. By and large people are yet willing to give him the benefit of the doubt, believing he could come right on the economy if only domestic investment picks up again. But there is also general disappointment that two Budgets have brought only half-hearted economic reforms. It is troubling that the one really big change expected - the Goods and Services Tax - looks stuck in Parliament.

Maybe meaningful devolution of spending power to states could spread more confidence on the ground. But I doubt Mr Modi has yet done anything close to enough to count as a transformative figure on the economy. He is not obviously yet a liberaliser who believes in a smaller state, though he might be a moderniser who wants a more capable one. He believes technology can improve government, and he wants to shift to cash welfare, not subsidies in kind. Coal auctions were done well. These are welcome. But he has made little effort to open up for the market to do more in India, for example by recapitalising state banks and planning to make them independent of meddling.

With a few exceptions, his team of ministers has disappointed. Spending time with a factory manager in Rajasthan, I was told that nothing new had happened in the past year to make it easier to flourish in business, let alone to hire more people. The finance ministry's mess-up of retrospective and other tax is turning out to be the main flop. Mr Modi should bring in more talent before more time is lost, perhaps from the business world. Arun Shourie's attack that his government is "directionless" was well-placed. Arun Jaitley may be an important minister but it looks increasingly like he runs the wrong ministry.

Many who supported Mr Modi while hoping for a strong economy understood he also had an illiberal, at times intolerant, side. If the economic story is ok but could have been brighter, what about the recent record on social matters? Here Mr Modi is a letdown: He has failed to grab all chances to prove himself a tolerant leader of all Indians. In Kashmir, I heard, to my surprise, that many people were ready to give him a chance to see if he could prove himself as a capable leader. But such tolerance will fade if he fails to clearly disavow Hindu nationalists set on dividing Indians.

Mr Modi should speak out frequently, clearly against religious and other intolerance. Campaigns to "reconvert" non-Hindus to Hinduism, and comments by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat that all in Hindustan are Hindus, look intended to marginalise or worry non-Hindus. Mr Modi should openly reject such statements. It is not enough to do so in private. He should also have sacked Niranjan Jyoti, his junior minister for food processing, who called non-Hindus "bastards". Not doing so has diminished his own reputation at home and abroad.

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Also troubling is his intolerance of non-governmental groups, such as the Ford Foundation and Greenpeace. The US' ambassador to India, Richard Verma, was right to say the current crackdowns on NGOs had "chilling effects" on Indian democracy.

A first year in office should be for building up momentum, setting up a strong team, taking difficult early decisions to bring substantial benefits later. On these scores Mr Modi's record is mixed. In a last area, foreign policy, he has proved energetic and impressive, but that counts for relatively little for most people.

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When internationalization causes more harm than good
Ram Mashru
Open Democracy
May 26, 2015
https://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/ram-mashru/when-internationalization-causes-more-harm-than-good

Beyond a small club of human rights elites, identifying the organizations that should and could enlist as part of a global movement—sharing organizational identities, voicing consistent messages, and campaigning through the same channels—is difficult. Why? Because internationalization can often do more harm than good, as the example of India's human rights arena makes clear.

The case for making human rights advocacy more representative is undeniable, and three models for doing so have emerged from the discussion so far: decentralization (the shift eastwards and southwards); franchising (the creation of local hubs from the ground up); and partnership (linkages between groups at the domestic and international levels). Each approach offers several benefits, and they lend the experience, resources and reach accrued by INGOs to domestic groundswells of activity.

But the call for a global movement of NGOs by NGOs makes the assumption that linking local and international groups arm in arm is unproblematic. Doing so obscures the enormous diversity of the human rights community when, in fact, this heterogeneity is central. The differences reflect carefully considered choices about identity, strategy and reach on the part of rights groups, and these distinctions make clear that internationalization is not for everyone.

In India the press, official reports and academic literature each list a diverse roll call of organizational types, and this plurality is reflected in the ways rights groups identify themselves. The terms used vary from "community group", "social movement" and "civil-society organization", to "quasi-governmental body", "charity", "research institute" and "grassroots campaign"—to name but a few. These varying labels capture groups championing the full range of causes—from conflict resolution to conservation—and reflect the distinct models, memberships and means of these groups. The process of internationalization, as Johanna Simeant notes, risks burying these differences behind a single organizational logo; a move that would be fatal to the autonomy, independence and freedom of activity that is at the core of many of these outfits.

Internationalization also carries grave risks. "NGO" and "INGO" are categories laden with baggage: in many jurisdictions they are vilified as foreign-interest groups pursuing ideological, financial and professional agendas. However unjust this demonization may be, linking national groups with global movements often exposes local activists to attack. For example, India's government recently cancelled the licences of 8,975 NGOs because of their failure to properly declare funds received from abroad. India has waged a long and bitter war against civil society groups and the increasingly networked operations of the country's NGOs, which have established ties with organizations overseas, has incensed a broad coalition of critics—from cynical corporates to hostile governments—into launching renewed clampdowns.

And internationalization can rarely, if ever, be benign. Partnerships are often asymmetrical trades in which established NGOs buy legitimacy and a local presence in exchange for funds and administrative support. Globalization is not a value-free process; local groups risk having their causes relegated or compromised, and the process may even compromise the effectiveness of large NGOs who risk losing their influence and access to donors by shifting overseas. There is not only a fundamental mismatch between the local needs of domestic groups and the global aspirations of INGOs but, also, the rights arena is both hierarchical and competitive. The process of internationalization could just as much increase these inequalities as reduce them.
Most importantly, however, globalization is an exercise in which power is won and lost. In his article on ActionAid's successful decentralization Adriano Campolina contends that, "giving up power doesn't mean having less power". But, often, this is precisely what is at stake. Links to a local campaign group seeking to indict Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi—for his alleged complicity in riots in 2002 in which thousands of Muslims were killed—culminated in the Ford Foundation, which boasts a long and fruitful philanthropic record in India, being placed on the country's national security watch list.

As laudable as the drive to "go global" is, local rights groups are very often the victims of their circumstances. As Stephen Hopgood rightly highlights, national boundaries can often be hermetic, sealing in the scope and ambitions of rights groups. Internationalization will fail wherever states decide to prevent it and, as the Indian case demonstrates, when doing so governments have numerous tools at their disposal.

Going global is readily presented as an unmitigated good, as a panacea that marks the next phase of human rights advocacy. Indeed it is often cast as an evolutionary process: as inevitable, desirable and necessary for the survival of both local and international groups. This is, no doubt, a compelling and tempting narrative. But, for rights actors, the question becomes one of choosing the right battles, and globalization is, for countless groups, one war too many.

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This admission does not set rights advocacy back. Instead, it refocuses attention on an older, alternative strategy: one of attrition, on multiple fronts, mounted at the local, regional and international levels. The rights community should not be too quick to dispense with this. After all, it is an approach that has yielded the impressive gains that we now take for granted. Crucially, reverting to this approach where necessary avoids inflicting the very real harm that comes with assuming that a one-size-fits-all internationalization strategy is the only and ideal one.

After Modi vows cleaner India, critics say gov't is laying ground for assault on environment
Katy Daigle
Associated Press (via Newser)
May 26, 2015
http://www.newser.com/article/ec74be4ffe034c539192454524e090c4/after-modi-vows-cleaner-india-critics-say-govt-is-laying-ground-for-assault-on-environment.html

NEW DELHI (AP) — Four months after becoming prime minister, Narendra Modi stunned Indians by picking up a crude straw broom and, holding it like a dance partner, gently sweeping at a small pile of green leaves on a New Delhi street.

Modi, ever the darling of photo ops and grinning selfies, seemed to be calling for a cultural revolution, defying centuries-old hierarchies that make the idea of an official cleaning a street anathema in Indian society. By leading a new campaign called "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan" or "Clean India Mission," Modi challenged those divisions while dignifying labor and elevating cleanliness as a nationwide goal.

That was the first and last time the public saw Modi with a broom. As he passes one year in office, India is as filthy as it ever was with some of the world's most polluted air, rivers stinking with sewage and more than half the 1.2 billion population still defecating in the open. Despite lofty promises of a new pristine world filled with smart cities, sparkling waterways, solar panels and toilets for all, it is a mystery how Modi plans to get there.

At the same time, environment experts say, the government is laying the groundwork to dismantle hard-fought laws for protecting the environment. With hundreds of millions mired in poverty, many believe economic growth at any cost is the only thing that matters. The latest budget slashed environment funds by 25 percent, with little outcry. And business leaders have been effusive about Modi's leadership, crediting his constant globe-trotting with boosting investor sentiment and raising India's profile worldwide.

Modi's approach embodies "the idea that like the West we will grow and clean up later," said historian Ramachandra Guha. "But we don't have access to colonies like Europe had," he said. "There is no part of India where no one lives. If you excavate a coal mine, or build a factory on a river, you are depriving someone of land, or clean water, or forests."

India has a long record of making plans that come to nothing. Previous governments also vowed better sanitation, cleaner rivers, renewable energy and various anti-pollution measures.

Modi's promises on the environment include expanding solar power five-fold by 2022, ensuring everyone has access to a toilet by 2019, and cleaning the Ganges river of sewage and pollutants. The sanitation pledge alone requires building 70,000 toilets per day. The country is still 100 million toilets short of its goal while funds for sanitation were halved in the last budget.

Environmentalists worry most about what is to come from Modi's government. They point to a mounting assault on environmental protections meant to check pollution, prevent unfair land-grabbing and establish legal rights for tribal communities to oversee the land they live on.

Specifically, the critics object to the loosening of rules such as requiring local consent for mineral prospecting as well as to longer-term plans for overhauling the country's six keystone environment laws.

One of Modi's first acts as prime minister was to form a committee that within three months issued a report recommending a wholesale shift in environmental regulation. The recommendations include eliminating independent pollution regulators and having industries police themselves.

All project clearances would be handled by a single government-appointed panel and eliminate the need for forest communities to approve diversion of their lands for industrial use. The Subramanian Committee report also suggests revising the mandate of India's environmental courts so that they consider only existing law and not scientific arguments and other considerations.

While it's unclear which recommendations Modi's government will adopt, environmentalists believe it will embrace most of them within legislation soon to be presented in Parliament.

"If the laws aren't working properly, you don't just throw them out. You're supposed to implement them, or make them better," said Leo Saldanha of the Environment Support Group, which has campaigned against the report's recommendations.

"Most of these changes will have adverse implications for decades. Modi won't even be around to see the consequences of what he's doing."

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Modi and many of his ministers have made clear they see India's environmental laws as roadblocks to economic development, holding up industry and halting infrastructure such as dams, highways and railways.

India's growth languished between 4 and 5 percent for several years as business confidence and investment wilted under the weight of chaotic bureaucracy, policy U-turns and epic corruption scandals. But economists forecast India to overtake China as the world's fastest growing economy this year with a 7.4 percent expansion.

Environmental degradation, meanwhile, is already costing India at least 5.7 percent of its GDP each year, according to the World Bank. Those losses are expected to increase as the compound effects of pollution sicken more people while more of India's forests vanish, soils continue to degrade and aquifers run dry.

Past governments have opened debate to communities and activists, but the Modi government has cracked down on groups such as the Ford Foundation, Greenpeace and Action Aid.

Critics warn Modi may be courting a backlash by undermining the rights of local communities and by sacrificing decades of environmental laws that required rigorous assessment of industrial consequences, even if those laws weren't always implemented.

Fishermen have begun protesting coastal pollution, while tens of thousands of farmers rallied last month against plans to make land acquisitions easier. A decades-long Maoist insurgency continues unabated and with support from forest-dwelling communities who also seek a greater share of the country's natural resource wealth.

"I have this feeling that all of this will ultimately go wrong," said Pushp Jain, director of a Delhi-based environment consulting group ERC.

"If they take away public hearings, which is where affected people can be heard, then you have a problem."

How PM Narendra Modi's battles with legal establishment played out in first year
Samanwaya Rautray
The Economic Times
May 26, 2015
http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/how-pm-narendra-modis-battles-with-legal-establishment-played-out-in-first-year/articleshow/47423245.cms

The PM may not have planned it, but he got off to a rocky start with the judges and it stayed that way. ET looks at how the battle evolved and where it's going.

No to Gopal, the First Salvo

With its first decision, the Ministry of Law under Modi Sarkar triggers a row and sets the tone for its larger run-in with the Lordships. A Supreme Court collegium decision recommendation to elevate former Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam as apex court judge is turned down Subramaniam withdraws himself after now erupts.

Apart from taking on the government, those arguing for Subramaniam's eligibility complain the collegium didn't stand up to protect his reputation, prompting CJI RM Lodha to defend himself publically. Subramaniam never appeared in Justice Lodha's court till the day he demitted office.

The Katju Bomb

Within a month, then outgoing Press Council of India chief and former SC judge Markandey Katju writes an article accusing three former former CJIs of making improper compromises in appointing judges during the UPA regime, ostensibly to push for a change in the system of appointing judges, an issue which figured high up on the Modi government's list of to-dos. The ball is set rolling for a National Judical Appointments Commission (NJAC) in August 2014, to replace the collegium system.

Gol's Ganga Mess

Justice TS Thakur, heading the bench hearing a 30-year-old PIL to clean up the river, asks Centre: "You should be more keen than us about cleaning up the river.... After all, you committed yourself to it (in your election manifesto). Tell us, do you want to complete it in this term (ending 2018) or the next term? Or keep the issue alive?" The government submits it will do so by 2018.

PM Hits Back

Narendra Modi says judiciary was perception-driven in its verdicts. He blames these perceptions on five-star activists, denying the legitimate role of civil society in drawing the court's attention to the executive's acts of omission and commission. The allusion to the likes of activist Teesta Setalvad and Greenpeace activist Priya Pillai, not to speak of antiestablishment favourites Prashant Bhushan, was clear.

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Setalvad was allowed anticipatory bail in a case of alleged misuse of funds of trusts she floated for the Gujarat riot victims and Pillai was allowed to go abroad without a gag order - the government had demanded that she make a declaration that she would shun anti-India slogans at all international fora.

Who Will Pick Judges

As the PM begins his second year in office, the big battle is about who will pick the judges. The Supreme Court is hearing petitions on the National Judicial Appointments Commission, and there has been many a war of words between the executive and the judiciary on the subject. The outcome of this particular tussle may well become one of the positive or negative highlights of Modi's premiership.

he Ram and Swamy Act

The Modi government rode back to power on one catchy slogan - each person would get `15 lakh credited to his bank account - as the government would leave nothing to chance in recovering black money stashed abroad. Months have rolled on, BJP chief Amit Shah dismisses it as an election jumla, or poll season platitudes.

Though the government enumerates measure after measure it is taking to get the money back, it hasn't been enough to smooth ruffled feathers of the likes of suspended BJP member Ram Jethmalani or Dr Subramanian Swamy, BJP convenor and the latest critic of the government on this score. Much to the government's chagrin, the court has allowed Jethmalani to have the floor in more ways than one. This is one flashpoint that is unlikely to go away, laws or no laws.

Modi's disastrous first year
Praful Bidwai
Kashmir Times
May 26, 2015
http://www.kashmirtimes.com/newsdet.aspx?q=41300

When first-time MP Narendra Modi arrived in New Delhi to be sworn in as India's Prime Minister, he flew in a private aircraft belonging to the Adani Group, although he could have taken a commercial flight or hired a chartered plane. On landing, Mr Modi was greeted raucously with the slogan Har Har Modi, patterned on communal-military lines.

The two events showed where Prime Minister Modi's loyalties and priorities would lie: with Big Business and Hindutva, both of which he had served with pious zeal in Gujarat since the anti-Muslim pogrom of 2002 and through the many crony-capitalist deals he cut later.

Over the past year, he has showered favours on both constituencies, and antagonised many classes and groups, including some who voted for him out of the naive belief that he would bring "development". His honeymoon period has ended, but he doesn't seem to have grasped that.

This was proved by a third development. That's Mr Modi's May 16 statement in Shanghai to an Indian audience: "Earlier, you felt ashamed of being born Indian, now you feel proud to represent the country..." He repeated this in Seoul, adding the religious motif of "sins" committed in past life as the cause of being born Indian: "There was a time when people used to leave [including] businessmen ... These people are ready to come back. The mood has changed."

Mr Modi thus heaped a gratuitous insult on Indian citizens, for which he has deservedly drawn flak. The use of terms like "shame" and "sin" reveals deep insecurity and an inferiority complex in Mr Modi's paranoid persona, which psychologists should analyse.

The boastful claim that the "mood" in India has changed dramatically in his one year in office is meant to cover up that inferiority complex-in the same way that Hitler and Mussolini tried to do by declaring that they had made the German and Italian people "proud" through military aggression and by making the "trains run on time"! These comparisons should seriously worry us.

What's the first-year balance-sheet of Mr Modi's government? Frankly speaking, it's overwhelmingly negative. India has socially regressed in multiple ways, economically become more unbalanced and unequal, and politically got further polarised in an unhealthy, skewed manner.

India's social regression is evident in the growth of rabid communalism, attacks on democratic rights, intolerance towards dissent, spread of authoritarian ideas, Hindutva takeover of educational and cultural institutions, greater licence to male-supremacism and violence against women, spread of insecurity among the religious minorities, all amidst neglect of human development and growing disdain for social cohesion.

The Ramzada-Haramzada abuse, ghar wapsi, attacks on churches and open calls for depriving Muslims of the right to vote are just the crassest forms of the present outbreak of communalism. The government's indulgence towards them sends a clear message: it's India's open season to malign non-Hindus, ban the sale of beef and even slaughter of bulls, impose surya namaskar

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

and the Bhagwad-Gita on school students, and build a cult around Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse.

The message is amplified when those charged with Gujarat's "fake encounters" and communal killings, including BJP president Amit Shah, are discharged without trial; but the entire might of the state is brought to bear against secular campaigners like Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand on trumped-up charges-because they are trying to bring the culprits of Gujarat-2002 to justice.

Other signs of social regression are evident in savage cuts in social sector budgets: by 20 percent in health, 29 percent in Mid-Day Meal schemes, 17 percent in education, 51 percent in women and child welfare, and similar reductions in sanitation, drinking water and rural infrastructure schemes.

Central transfers to the states, which implement many social schemes, were cut by a huge 30 percent. In the National Rural Health Mission, the shortage of primary health centres is over 20 percent and of doctors 70 percent-plus.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act had its worst-ever performance under the Modi government. In 2014-15, the number of person-days of work created was 40 percent less than in the previous two years. Only 3 percent of families got the promised full 100 days of work, and 70 percent of wages were delayed-to disastrous effect in a year of acute agrarian distress.

Industrial growth has slowed to about 5 percent, and the investment rate has declined from 37 to barely 31 percent. Employment growth in industry has fallen to its slowest pace in a year, barely a fifth of what's needed to absorb the growing workforce.

The suit-boot-ki-sarkar is shamelessly pro-rich and anti-poor. It's cajoling capital to invest by improving the "ease of doing business" through various incentives. But investment isn't forthcoming because a huge number of companies are financially stressed. Fiftytwo percent of India's top 500 companies are excessively indebted, and 14 percent of bank loans have turned bad.

The Modi government has failed to diagnose this, and believes that the key to stimulate investment is threefold: dismantle environmental regulations, allow unbridled diversion of agricultural land to industry (hence the land ordinance), and "reform" labour laws to allow hire-and-fire policies.

The first approach has meant ruthless "fast-tracking" of industrial-project clearances without scrutiny, violating the Forest Rights Act and coastal zone regulations, and redefining "forests".

The high-level (TSR Subrahmanyam) committee has recommended far-reaching changes in 5 environmental laws, including abolition of Central and state pollution control boards, self-certification of environment-related information by project promoters, and automatic clearances for roads and power-lines through forests earlier declared "no-go" areas, etc. But environmental regulations are no obstacle to industry: over 94 percent of proposals have been cleared since 2007.

Land has become an extremely contentious issue. The UPA's land law was meant to give farmers and those dependent indirectly on agriculture a stake in determining their fate-necessary since some 60 million people have been displaced from land since 1947, mostly without rehabilitation. The NDA's ordinance undermines this rationale. It's opposed tooth-and-nail by a wide spectrum of parties and farmers' organisations. A land agitation could turn politically explosive.

The government is sitting on lakhs of acres it acquired for various defence undertakings and Special Economic Zones, but which it hasn't distributed. The whole idea behind the ordinance seems to give private capital free access to land and what lies under it, especially valuable minerals-in other words, a huge racket. This has become a Modi government obsession.

The planned dismantling of labour protections will rob workers of the right to form unions (for which the minimum membership has been raised from 7 to 100). No permission will be needed to lay off workers or close factories with 100 workers; these account for 90 percent of the total number of units. The factories Act will also be undermined, making a travesty of safety rules. Employment of contract labour for permanent work will become rampant.

Politically, Mr Modi is running the most over-centralised government in India's history. This cannot work without destroying decision-making integrity and creating insecurity among bureaucrats and ministers; indeed, RSS men have been appointed as "officers on special duty" to spy on them. This makes nonsense of democratic government.

Worse, Mr Modi has introduced venomous confrontation into politics, which goes against the spirit of democracy. Intimidating and cornering your opponents, and even your allies, can quickly become counterproductive. Several NDA constituents and Sangh Parivar outfits have turned against the land ordinance. Mr Modi is making enemies out of friends.

Going by the recent Assembly elections, byelections, and local-body polls in different states, the enthusiasm witnessed in favour of Mr Modi in April-May last year has all but vanished. The BJP proved incapable of repeating its Lok Sabha performance in vote-shares/seats even in favourable situations like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh or Jharkhand. The edge it established in parts of West Bengal, including a lead over the CPM in Kolkata, has already eroded.

What's becoming manifest now is the effect of the thinness of the original support for Mr Modi. He won 31 percent of the vote, but 52 percent of the Lok Sabha's seats, the highest such disproportion ever. This happened because his support was highly concentrated in a handful of states-not least because of planned communal violence and polarisation along caste and class

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lines.

Another factor was Mr Modi's high-octane, corporate-bankrolled, multi-billion-dollar election campaign, which hyped up Gujarat's at-best-modest growth and social indicators as great achievements. Thus a CSDS-Lokniti poll asked people which state in their opinion was India's most developed: 64 percent answered Gujarat, only 4 percent said Maharashtra, and even fewer cited Kerala, India's indisputably most advanced state in social development.

This illusion, partly based on the search for a messiah, is breaking down. People are realising that the "56-inch-chest" man is a hollow caricature of his manufactured bloated image. Mr Modi's troubles are set to worsen in the coming months.

Greenpeace opened accounts for foreign donations without informing authorities: Centre to HC
Jagran Post
May 26, 2015
http://post.jagran.com/greenpeace-opened-accounts-for-foreign-donations-without-informing-authorities-centre-to-hc-1432631653

Centre defended its step to cancel FCRA registration of Greenpeace, and told High Court that Greenpeace violated Foreign Contribution Regulation Act by merging its foreign donations with domestic contribution.

However, Greenpeace is determined to keep operating in India even after the Modi government froze its bank accounts, leaving it with no funds to pay wages to hundreds of staff, its country head said.

The Home Ministry blocked foreign funding to the local branch of the environmentalist group in April as part of a wider crackdown against international and domestic Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) found to have misreported foreign aid.

Modi government took action after found holes in its balance sheet and suspended transactions for six months. "The government has made it impossible for us to operate but our employees are willing to work without pay for one month because they see that the larger commitment has always been to fight against injustice," said Greenpeace India head Samit Aich.

Greenpeace workers - who have campaigned against genetically modified crops, nuclear power and toxic waste management – cited their activism did not hurt the country's economy.

Centre defends cancellation of FCRA registration of Greenpeace before HC
Press Trust of India (via First Post)
May 26, 2015
http://www.firstpost.com/india/centre-defends-cancellation-fcra-registration-greenpeace-hc-2263752.html

New Delhi: The Union government on Tuesday defended its decision to cancel the foreign contribution registration of Greenpeace India before Delhi High Court, saying the NGO had violated the norms by opening five accounts to utilise foreign donations without informing the relevant authorities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in an affidavit before Justice Rajiv Shakdher, charged Greenpeace with violating Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by merging its foreign donations with domestic contributions.

The ministry also told the court that on the question of releasing funds for the NGO's day-to-day expenses, "statutory remedy is available under Rule 14 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules (FCRR)" which provides that 25 per cent of the unutilised amount in the FCRA account can be used with government approval.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, appearing for MHA, said Greenpeace has already applied for seeking benefits under Rule 14 which has not been disclosed to the court.

He also claimed that the NGO was not using the donations for the purpose they were received.

The government affidavit said, "it was found that petitioner (Greenpeace) receives huge amount of foreign contribution running into crores of rupees which is though deposited in FCRA account, is diverted to such other utilisation accounts in which foreign contribution has been merged with domestic receipts contrary to the Act".

Greenpeace, during the hearing, told the court that due to freeze on its domestic accounts, it has lost donations to the extent of Rs 1.25 crore only this month which were made by its Indian contributors.

It said if the court does not intervene, then it would lose the same amount of domestic donations in June as well.

PTI

Govt to court: Greenpeace broke rules for opening accounts, use of foreign funds
Press Trust of India (via Calcutta Telegraph)
May 26, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150526/jsp/frontpage/story_22209.jsp#.VWR09c9VhBc

New Delhi, May 26 (PTI): The government on Tuesday defended its decision to cancel the foreign contribution registration of Greenpeace India, telling the Delhi high court that the NGO had violated rules by opening five accounts to use foreign donations without telling the authorities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in an affidavit before Justice Rajiv Shakdher, said Greenpeace had violated the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by merging its foreign donations with domestic contributions.

The ministry also told the court that Greenpeace, whose accounts here have been frozen, could continue paying for its day-to-day expenses by using the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules.

All it has to do is to get the government's permission to use up to a quarter of the funds available in the FCRA account.

In fact, Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for MHA, said Greenpeace has already applied for seeking benefits under Rule 14, but has not disclosed this to the court.

He also claimed that the NGO was not using the donations for the purpose they were received.

Greenpeace told the court that the freeze on its domestic accounts had cost it at least Rs 1.25 crore in donations from people in India, during May, and stands to lose the same amount in domestic donations in June as well.

The NGO said Rule 14 of FCRR only pertained to the FCRA account and not to the domestic accounts and disputed the government's contention with respect to non-disclosure of domestic accounts.

Greenpeace violated FCRA: Centre tells Delhi HC
Vijetha S.N
The Hindu
May 26, 2015
http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/greenpeace-violated-fcra-centre-to-delhi-hc/article7247537.ece

The Central Government on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that Greenpeace India violated the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by merging its foreign donations with domestic ones.

This was in response to a court notice that asked the government whether the global NGO could use its domestic bank accounts for its day-today operations and payment of salaries to its domestic staff.

Greenpeace had filed the plea against the cancellation of its registration, saying it was facing imminent shut-down and it had barely a month to survive with the government freezing its accounts over allegations of foreign funding that were specifically meant to target India's economic and development interests.

The organisation had faced a host of other penalties for which it had approached the court.

The government had suspended Greenpeace India's license for six months and barred it from receiving foreign funds. It had also issued a notice to them to show cause as to why it should not be shut down permanently.

Centre Defends Cancellation of FCRA Registration of Greenpeace
Outlook India
May 26, 2015
http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/centre-defends-cancellation-of-fcra-registration-of-greenpeace/898787

Government today defended its decision to cancel the foreign contribution registration of Greenpeace India before Delhi High Court, saying the NGO had violated the norms by opening five accounts to utilise foreign donations without informing the relevant authorities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in an affidavit before Justice Rajiv Shakdher, charged Greenpeace with violating Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by merging its foreign donations with domestic contributions.

The ministry also told the court that on the question of releasing funds for the NGO's day-to-day expenses, "statutory remedy is available under Rule 14 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules (FCRR)" which provides that 25 per cent of the unutilised amount in the FCRA account can be used with government approval.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, appearing for MHA, said Greenpeace has already applied for seeking benefits under Rule 14 which has not been disclosed to the court.

He also claimed that the NGO was not using the donations for the purpose they were received.

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The government affidavit said, "it was found that petitioner (Greenpeace) receives huge amount of foreign contribution running into crores of rupees which is though deposited in FCRA account, is diverted to such other utilisation accounts in which foreign contribution has been merged with domestic receipts contrary to the Act".

Greenpeace, during the hearing, told the court that due to freeze on its domestic accounts, it has lost donations to the extent of Rs 1.25 crore only this month which were made by its Indian contributors.

It said if the court does not intervene, then it would lose the same amount of domestic donations in June as well.

The NGO said Rule 14 of FCRR only pertained to the FCRA account and not to the domestic accounts and disputed the government's contention with respect to non-disclosure of domestic accounts.

Earlier on May 18, the court had sought the Centre's response on Greenpeace India's plea challenging suspension of its FCRA registration and freeze on its bank accounts, both domestic and those meant for foreign contributions.

It had asked the government counsel to take instructions on whether funds of Greenpeace's domestic accounts could be released for day-to-day running, including paying salaries of its volunteers.

Apart from the Centre, the court had also issued notice to and sought the replies of three banks --IDBI, ICICI and Yes Bank -- which had complied with the Home Ministry's directive to freeze the NGO's accounts.

It had also asked Greenpeace to file an affidavit indicating details of its day-to-day functioning expenses, including salaries to be paid to the volunteers or workers, and listed the matter for hearing for today.

MHA on April 9 had suspended the NGO's registration under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) for 180 days, Greenpeace said in its plea.

The Greenpeace petition had said the MHA had earlier issued show cause notice to it asking why its registration should not be cancelled for allegedly transferring monies from its "FCRA designated bank to the FCRA utilisation account and from there to five other undeclared utilisation bank accounts without informing the authority".

The Ministry had also directed the banks to freeze the designated FCRA account as well as the domestic accounts.

Prior to that on February 19, the government had written to the banks with whom Greenpeace had accounts not to credit any amount, the NGO told the court.

India cracks down on Greenpeace and foreign NGOs
Al Jazeera via Yahoo (Maktoob)
May 26, 2015
https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/india-cracks-down-greenpeace-foreign-ngos-111507091.html

India's government has cracked down on hundreds of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including the environmental watchdog and lobby group, Greenpeace.

The government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Delhi Hight Court on Tuesday that "Greenpeace violated Foreign Contribution Regulation Act", according to local PTI news agency.

Greenpeace India, which receives less than 50 percent of its funding from overseas, approached the court to challenge the government's decision to block its bank accounts after it was accused of violating rules governing international financial transactions.

In a massive clampdown against NGOs, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently cancelled the licenses of 8,975 organisations for allegedly failing to file annual returns.

Pranonjoy Guha Thakurta, a board member of the Greenpeace India Society told Al Jazeera that the move was an "act of intimidation and harrassment" by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the government was treading on "shaky ground".

"Sixty percent of the money Greenpeace receives is from ordinary citizens, not corporations or government entities. According to the law, the government has no right to block these funds," he said.

"Greenpeace and its supporters have been agitating against the establishment of a nuclear power plant in southern India, Tamil Nadu. Greenpeace has been adgitating against government policies."

The right-wing government headed by Modi has also placed the US-based Ford Foundation on a security watch list, ordering government approval of any of its activities in the country.

Critics argue the government's decision to restrict the movement of foreign funding to local charities is an attempt to stifle the

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voices of those who oppose Modi's economic agenda.

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From: "Tara McGuinness" <tara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 6:54:10 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain's Remarks Today

Please see the following excerpt from the remarks as prepared for delivery today by Senator John McCain during his scheduled visit to the nuclear power plant in Newport, Michigan:

Solving our national energy crisis requires an "all of the above" approach. That will require aggressive development of alternative energies like wind, solar, tidal and bio-fuels. It also requires expanding traditional sources of energy like off shore drilling, clean coal, and nuclear power like the power produced at this plant here in Michigan.

Senator Obama has said that expanding our nuclear power plants "doesn't make sense for America." He also says no to nuclear storage and reprocessing. I couldn't disagree more. I have proposed a plan to build additional nuclear plants. That means new jobs, and that means new energy. If we want to enable the technologies of tomorrow like plug-in electric cars, we need electricity to plug into.

Now, nuclear power alone is not enough. Drilling alone is not enough. We need to do all this and more. That is why I am calling for an "all of the above" approach. I am also calling on Congress to come back into session to deal with this pressing energy challenge. I am prepared to take time off the campaign trail and I hope Senator Obama is too.

It is time for America to get serious about energy independence. Our nation is sending $700 billion overseas every year to countries that don't like us very much. When I'm president that's going to stop. We're going to achieve energy independence, and we're going to do it by using every resource at our disposal to get the job done.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/26/2015 10:51:18 AM
Subject: Re: Letter

Jake,

Right after the paragraph #5, is the paragraph to which I referred. It says, in part, "Most importantly, it is vital for the United States to affirm that it is US policy to prevent Iran from producing sufficient fissile material fron a nuclear weapon-or otherwise acquiring or building one-both during the agreement and after it expires."

This should a point Hillary could take-up.

I hope this is helpful. Best wishes,

Stu

----- Original Message -----
From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 01:07 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: Letter

Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.

> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Jake,
>
> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>
> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Breckenridge, Anita" <Anita_Breckenridge@who.eop.gov>
Date: 5/7/2015 10:19:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun** <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu >
Date: Thu, May 7, 2015 at 3:28 PM
Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
To: John Podesta <podesta@law.georgetown.edu >

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but **I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.**

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters,
Pam Vergun

Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu
3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642
Mo: 503-332-7633

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:

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https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beaverton-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

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From: "Gregory M. Klass" <gmk9@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "Paul Rothstein" <rothstei@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 3/20/2015 11:50:42 AM
Subject: Re: Beware of philosophical arguments?

Kant's philosophy apparently remains highly salient in Russia. This from The Telegraph two days ago:

'Kant is a moron': vandals critique the philosopher's home

Police in Kaliningrad are searching for vandals who daubed graffiti on the side of a home once lived in by Immanuel Kant - no reason was given

On Mar 19, 2015, at 6:55 PM, Paul Rothstein <rothstei@law.georgetown.edu > wrote:

Ironic that Kant essentially preached that you should act toward others as you would want to be treated. (Simplified version.)

Paul

Paul Rothstein
Professor of Law
Georgetown University

"Law never *is*, but is always *about to be*." –Justice Benjamin Cardozo

---

From: Julie Cohen
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Law Faculty and Visitors
Subject: Beware of philosophical arguments?

www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russian-man-shot-in-quarrel-over-immanuel-kants-philosophy-8820327.html

Julie E. Cohen
Professor of Law
Georgetown University Law Center
jec@law.georgetown.edu
http://www.juliecohen.com

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 2/2/2015 8:27:00 AM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> Agree
>
> On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
> > I think this piece turned out well.
> >
> > But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
> >
> > > One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.
> >
> > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > **Grunwald Communications**
> > **202 973-9400**
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
> > To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
> > Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
> > Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
> > Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
> >
> > http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490
> >
> > Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch
> >
> > By Peter Nicholas
> > Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.
> > One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.
> > She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.
> > As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.
> > Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.
> > In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class

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Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.
Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.
Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.
The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.
"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.
Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.
The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.
Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.
Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.
Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.
Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.
More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.
A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.
"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. "

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com>, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone <

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john@algpolling.com>, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

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On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>

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>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/8/2008 12:56:54 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 10/08

08 Election Daily News Clips
October 8th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:50am BUSH: Meets with the Prime Minister of Grenada at the White House

1:35pm McCain and Palin: Hold a "Road to Victory" rally at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

2:25pm BUSH: Signs H.R. 7081, the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act at the White House

5:15pm McCain and Palin: Hold a "Main Street USA" rally in Strongsville, Ohio

9:00pm McCain and Palin: Joint interview airs on Fox News' "Hannity and Colmes"

10:00pm Palin: Interview airs on Fox News' "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren"

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain, Obama clash over causes, cures of crisis (AP 10/08/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTO
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- Barack Obama and John McCain clashed repeatedly over the causes and cures for the worst economic crisis in 80 years Tuesday night in a debate in which Republican McCain called for a sweeping $300 billion program to shield homeowners from mortgage foreclosure.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PRESIDENTIAL_DEBATE?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=POLITICS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-08-00-07-38

Obama and McCain Clash Over Economy (NYT 10/08/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Senators John McCain and Barack Obama debated for 90 minutes on Tuesday night before a nation in economic crisis, each promising anxious Americans that he had the better plan and vision to lead the country through what both men said was the most dire domestic situation since the Great Depression… Mr. McCain chose not to use the evening — the second of three scheduled debates — to attack Mr. Obama's background or character. But in a moment that caught the attention of people in both parties, he appeared agitated at one point as he dismissively criticized Mr. Obama's record in the Senate and referred to his opponent only as "that one."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/us/politics/08debate.html

Economic Crisis Dominates Debate: McCain and Obama Differ Over Causes and Solutions (WaPo 10/08/09)
By Dan Balz, Anne E. Kornblut and Michael Abramowitz
NASHVILLE, Oct. 7 -- On a day when the stock market took another sharp plunge, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama clashed repeatedly here Tuesday night over the causes of the economic meltdown that has shaken the country and offered sharply contrasting prescriptions for how to restore stability.
McCain played the role of the aggressor throughout the 90-minute debate, accusing his Democratic rival of favoring major tax and spending increases and of relying too often on big government programs to reshape the nation's health-care system. He said he would do more to shake up Washington and bring cooperation to the capital.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/07/AR2008100703372_pf.html

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Economy dominates the McCain-Obama matchup (LA Times 10/08/09)
By Bob Drogin
McCain, the Republican nominee, unveiled the major surprise of the night as he sought to turn around his faltering campaign after weeks of sinking polls.
As his Democratic rival watched from a nearby stool, McCain promised to launch a federal program to buy failing mortgages directly from homeowners and mortgage providers and replace them with fixed-rate mortgages. A fact sheet from his campaign said the plan would cost taxpayers roughly $300 billion.
"Is it expensive?" McCain asked. "Yes. But we all know, my friends, until we stabilize home values in America, we're never going to start turning around and creating jobs and fixing the economy."
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-assess8-2008oct08,0,6881351.story

McCain, Obama spar over economy in debate (USA TODAY 10/08/09)
By Kathy Kiely and David Jackson
NASHVILLE — John McCain and Barack Obama exchanged blame and offered proposals to address the nation's financial crisis during Tuesday's presidential debate, with McCain promising aid to struggling homeowners and Obama saying the government must assure the massive federal financial rescue package works as planned.
The town hall-style debate focused immediately on the economy and stayed on it for much of the night, with McCain calling for the Treasury Department to buy up troubled mortgages -- with some conditions -- and renegotiate them with homeowners at the current value of homes. His campaign estimated the cost of the program at $300 billion.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-10-07-debate-tuesday_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

Analysis: Sharp tone, no gaffes in town hall debate (USA TODAY 10/08/09)
By Susan Page
NASHVILLE — When John McCain was counted out for the Republican nomination last year, he used town-hall-style meetings — more than 100 in every corner of New Hampshire — to fuel his comeback in January's Granite State primary.
Now, his support flagging one month before November's election, the Arizona senator hoped the casual format in his second debate against Democrat Barack Obama on Tuesday would help him shake up another race that seemed to be sliding away.
But the evening was less freewheeling than most town halls — the rules negotiated between the campaigns imposed time limits and prevented follow-ups — and most of the back-and-forth echoed the candidates' stump speeches and TV ads. The Nashville
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-10-07-analysis_N.htm

Analysis: Obama gains, McCain seeks game-changer (AP 10/07/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Barack Obama made strides toward easing voters' concerns about his candidacy in Tuesday night's debate. John McCain, despite raising pointed questions about his rival's readiness, didn't create the game-changing moment he'll need between now and Election Day.
There are still four weeks to go, but time is running out on McCain.
Poised and confident, Obama directly confronted his greatest hurdle - and did it by turning the tables on McCain during a foreign policy question.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/D/DEBATE_ANALYSIS?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=POLITICS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-07-23-53-00

A debate for sobering times (Salon.com 10/08/08)
By Walter Shapiro
With the economy nose-diving, McCain did not achieve the surge he needed, while Obama looked masterly as the candidate of reassurance.
McCain came across as solid and competent (though his incessant talk of "earmarks" was enough to prompt viewers to reach for their earmuffs). But with four weeks left before the election and with his poll numbers collapsing along with the Dow Jones Average, McCain needed a debate performance that would support a domestic surge in his fading electoral prospects. Such a stirring comeback was not on the calendar for Tuesday night -- and now McCain has to gamble on a breakthrough when the two candidates meet for the final time at Hofstra University on Oct. 15.
http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2008/10/08/debate2/print.html

Debate Tactics Reflect Shift in Contest's Dynamics (WSJ 10/08/08)
By GERALD F. SEIB
Sen. Barack Obama wanted the second presidential debate Tuesday night to be about the economy. Sen. John McCain, by contrast, wanted the debate to be about Sen. Obama.
They both got their wish.

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http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122343918239914493.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

For the New Contagion, the Same Old Prescriptions (WaPo 10/08/08)
By Steven Pearlstein
Against a backdrop of an unfolding meltdown in global financial markets and the near-certainty of a U.S. recession, the two candidates for president used the occasion of a much-anticipated town hall meeting last night to repeat all the talking points they were making long before the recent bank failures, the free fall of stock prices and the federal government's expensive rescue efforts.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/08/AR2008100800090_pf.html

Body language: confident Obama, combative McCain (AP 10/08/08))
By JOCELYN NOVECK
NEW YORK (AP) -- The McCains and the Obamas moved about the stage separately for a little while after their debate, greeting people on the stage, but not each other. Then John McCain tapped Barack Obama's back briefly and Obama turned and reached his hand out. Rather than shaking it, McCain directed him to his wife, Cindy.
If it wasn't clear on TV, photos showed that the two men did shake hands after Tuesday's contest. But that awkward physical moment highlighted a reality that viewers were reminded of repeatedly Tuesday evening: There's no love lost between these two men.
And it was McCain, slipping in the polls and increasingly on the attack in recent days, who appeared to have far more trouble concealing his apparent distaste for his opponent.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/D/DEBATE_IMAGE?SITE=TXMCA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Long History for Proposal on Mortgages by McCain (NYT 10/08/08)
By JACKIE CALMES
The Obama camp is correct that the new $700 billion bailout of the financial system gives the Treasury the authority to buy troubled mortgages. But the law leaves unclear how the authority is to be used, according to a person who was privy to the recent legislative negotiations between the White House and Congress and who is not affiliated with either campaign.
The mortgage renewal idea actually originated with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, said Charlie Black, a senior adviser to Mr. McCain. And Mrs. Clinton, who proposed the idea in a recent newspaper column, borrowed it from a Depression-era New Deal agency, the Home Owner's Loan Corporation.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/us/politics/08mortgage.html?pagewanted=print

In Debate, McCain Touted Mortgage Plan Already Proposed By Obama (Huff Po 10/07/08)
By Seth Coulter Walls
It was the first question of the evening: how to turn the economy around and help those ensnared in the housing crisis. And in John McCain's first answer, he bragged about a bold new proposal he would implement as president -- that Obama already fought for in the recently passed bailout bill.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/10/07/in-debate-mccain-touted-m_n_132828.html

Skyline Debate: First Thoughts (WaPo blog 10/07/08)
By Chris Cillizza
RESOLVED: There was no game changer.
Tonight's second presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain featured areas of agreement, a few areas of marked contrast on issues and absolutely no mention of Charles Keating, Bill Ayers or Tony Rezko. As almost always happens in these one-on-one encounters, the candidates played far nicer with each other than their campaigns had been doing in the days and hours leading up to tonight's set-to in Nashville.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/10/the_nashville_skyline_debate_f.html?hpid=artslot

GOP likes 'that one' too (Politcio blog 10/07/08)
By Ben Smith
A Republican official emails, on background:
The most memorable line of the night belonged to John McCain. McCain pointed out that "That One" vote for the 05 energy bill. Look for Republicans to note in coming days that "That One" also voted for higher taxes at least 94 times; "That One" has associations with unrepentant terrorists, etc…
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/1008/GOP_likes_that_one_too.html?showall

"That One" Debate. One More To Go. (Time blog 10/07/08)
Posted by Michael Scherer
A few thoughts on the debate:
My guess is "that one" will be the moment remembered from this one. Why? Because it can be used as

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shorthand for the overwhelming mood of the evening. There was deep tension between the two men. McCain appeared to hold Obama in low regard. Obama appeared to treat McCain like a disruptive student in his law school class. The teacher acknowledged the dissenter, explained why he was wrong, and moved on.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/10/that_one_debate_one_more_to_go.html

The Second Presidential Debate (Time blog 10/07/08)
By Karen Tumulty
Summing up? I'm not sure this was a good night for Barack Obama, but I think it was a bad night for John McCain. And these last two debates were supposed to be his best ones.
http://www.time-blog.com/election_debates/2008/10/the-presidential-debates-round.html?xid=site-cnn-partner

You Guys Are Nuts (National Review Online 10/07/08)
By Andy McCarthy
With due respect, I think tonight was a disaster for our side. I'm dumbfounded that no one else seems to think so. Obama did everything he needed to do, McCain did nothing he needed to do. What am I missing?
http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=MmFkOTk5MTNhZjVjMmYzYzhlY2RiYmQzN2Y3ZGZjMTg=

"That One," McCain Calls Obama In Debate (VIDEO) (Huff Po 10/07/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
During a discussion about energy, McCain punctuates a contrast with Obama by referring to him as "that one," while once again not looking in his opponent's direction (merely jabbing a finger across his chest). That's not going to win McCain any Miss Congeniality points. Nor will it reassure any voters who believe McCain is improperly trying to capitalize on Obama's "otherness."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/10/07/that-one-mccain-calls-oba_n_132802.html

Un - Change – D (Hotline blog 10/07/08)
By Jennifer Skalka
McCain hit Obama at every possible turn. But the criticism -- that Obama is going to tax voters into oblivion, that he would invade Pakistan, that he was wrong about the surge in Iraq and that he would fine Americans for not purchasing health insurance -- could've played as too negative.
http://hotlineblog.nationaljournal.com/archives/2008/10/un_change_d.html

Count 'em (MSNBC First Read, 10/07/08)
From NBC's Carrie Dann
"Fundamental" -- 9 for Obama (including 2 "fundamental change") and 6 for McCain
Bush -- 9 Obama, 3 McCain (all efforts to distance himself from a Bush policy)
And, as the Obama camp has pointed out tonight, Obama brought up "the middle class" four times, while McCain did not mention the phrase. He did not utter it in the last debate either, which turned into a day-after ad.

No shake (Politcio blog 10/07/08)
By Ben Smith 11:16 PM
I didn't immediately see this, but it's another moment in the theater of the debate: McCain doesn't take Obama's offered hand.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/1008/No_shake.html?showall

Obama Leaves Nashville Intact (Time blog 10/07/08)
By Mark Halperin
Once again, no big moments or news.
McCain spent much of the evening trying to define Obama on his terms, but never broke all the way through.
First 30 minutes focused on the economic crisis. Other issues included foreign policy, health care, energy and more.
Mark Halperin's grades:
Obama: B+
McCain: B
http://thepage.time.com/2008/10/07/game-on-20/

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Still Targets Pennsylvania, Ohio: Republican's Campaign Faces Mounting Pressure as Recent Polls Show Obama Gaining Ground (WSJ 10/08/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES
The McCain campaign said it remains committed to Pennsylvania and Ohio, which account for a combined 41

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electoral votes. Although it has pulled out of Michigan, the McCain campaign holds out hope for Wisconsin, with 10 electoral votes.
Some Republican strategists have quietly expressed concerns that the game plan may be squandering campaign resources sorely needed elsewhere. Areas around the Columbus, Ohio, suburbs, home to working-class Democratic swing voters, remain strong for Sen. Obama. In Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas are trending Democratic, and there are doubts about Sen. McCain's ability to turn out voters in the middle parts of the state that are more rural. Meanwhile, longtime Republican strongholds like Virginia and North Carolina now appear to be in play.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122342100824013057.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Analysis: McCain's contrition ends over Keating (AP 10/07/08)
By LARRY MARGASAK
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Nearly 20 years of John McCain's contrition over his role in a 1980s banking scandal vanished this week in 17 minutes and 30 seconds.
It took that long for John Dowd, McCain's lawyer in the Keating Five investigation, to make the mea culpas disappear in a telephone conference call with reporters.
Dowd said Monday the Arizona senator, now the Republican presidential nominee, was the victim of "a classic political smear job" and a "cheap shot" by Democrats who investigated him. The lawyer said the Democratic chairman of the Senate ethics committee during the investigation was a "stooge" of his leadership.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_KEATING?SITE=FLTAM&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain linked to group in Iran-Contra affair (AP 10/07/08)
By PETE YOST
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Republican Sen. John McCain served on the advisory board to the U.S. chapter of an international group linked to ultra-right-wing death squads in Central America in the 1980s.
The U.S. Council for World Freedom also aided rebels trying to overthrow the leftist government of Nicaragua. That landed the group in the middle of the Iran-Contra affair and in legal trouble with the Internal Revenue Service, which revoked the charitable organization's tax exemption.
The council created by retired Army Maj. Gen. John Singlaub was the U.S. chapter of the World Anti-Communist League, an international organization linked to former Nazi collaborators and ultra-right-wing death squads in Central America. After setting up the U.S. council, Singlaub served as the international league's chairman.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1848122,00.html

McCain and the U.S. Council for World Freedom (WaPo blog 10/07/08)
By Glenn Kessler
When John McCain severed his ties with a group linked to ultra-rightwing death squads in Central America may make a difference considering some of the literature associated with the U.S. Council for World Freedom.
McCain has said he resigned from the Council's board in 1984 because he was uncomfortable with the group's activities, but his name was still on the group's letterhead in 1986. He also attended the group's "Freedom Fighter of the Year" award ceremony on Oct. 3, 1985.
On July 15, 1985, the group's newsletter featured an article by Robert H. Goldsborough that appears to belittle concerns about then-President Reagan's decision to visit a cemetery with 49 graves of Waffen-SS officers.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/10/07/mccain_and_the_us_council_for.html

Forget Ayers. McCain Served On Advisory Board Of Whacked Out Council For World Freedom (Talking Points Memo 10/07/08)
By Greg Sargent and Eric Kleefeld
In a much discussed story, the Associated Press reported today that John McCain served in the mid-1980s on the advisory board of a right-wing group called the Council for World Freedom, which has been controversial because of the group's aid to the Nicaraguan Contras and the presence of anti-Semites in its ranks.
Now we've gotten a hold of another fun little nugget that shows how whacked out this group really is: A newsletter from the group from July 1985 that lashed out at people who criticized Ronald Reagan for visiting the Bitburg cemetery in Germany, which includes the graves of members of the SS.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/10/mccains_and_council_for_world_freedom.php#more

Social Security (NPR 10/07/08)
By David Welna
McCain said Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill's sitting down to strike a deal on Social Security is a model for what to do now. Problem is, those two gents agreed to raise taxes to cover the Social Security gap...and McCain says on his campaign website he WON'T raise taxes to fix Social Security.
http://www.npr.org/blogs/politics/2008/10/social_security.html

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McCain Urges More Weapons for Taiwan (WaPo blog 10/07/08)
By Glenn Kessler
Sen. John McCain today issued a statement urging the administration to add submarines and F-16s aircraft to a $6 billion package of military equipment for Taiwan that the White House unveiled last week.
As it happens, the lobbying firm helmed as recently as May by McCain's chief foreign policy coordinator had a $200,000 contract with Taiwan to provide "advocacy ... with the U.S. Congress and executive branch," which it renewed in June, according to documents filed with the Justice Department.
In 2005, Scheunemann signed the contract between his firm, Orion Strategies LLC, and Taiwan's Washington office. On June 4 of this year, his partner, Mike Mitchell, signed a renewal of the contract, which calls for quarterly payments of $50,000.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/10/07/mccain_urges_more_weapons_for.html#more

GOP movie star Chuck Norris appears to suggest that McCain may die during his first term (America blog 10/07/08)
By John Aravosis (DC)
'If John takes over the presidency at 72 and he ages 3-to-1, how old will he be in four years? Eighty-four years old — and can he handle that kind of pressure in that job?' Norris said, as Huckabee looked on. 'That's why I didn't pick John to support, because I'm just afraid the vice president will wind up taking over his job within that four-year presidency.' added the action star."
http://www.americablog.com/2008/10/gop-movie-star-chuck-norris-appears-to.html

Advisers worry about 'grumpy McCain' (Politico 10/07/08)
By: Mike Allen
But what friends call "grumpy McCain" is showing up regularly on the campaign trail, and several top advisers worry that it's hurting his campaign by making him appear peevish and hunkered down when the country is looking for a larger and more optimistic brand of leadership.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1008/14364.html

Obama outscores McCain in veterans' group's report card (The Hill 10/07/08)
By Roxana Tiron
Barack Obama outscored his Republican rival, Vietnam veteran John McCain, in a report card issued by an influential, nonpartisan veterans' group.
The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA's) Action Fund gave the Arizona senator a "D" as part of its congressional report card. Obama received a "B" from the group.
McCain is among three senators who scored a "D." Only one senator, Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), received an "F."
http://thehill.com/campaign-2008/obama-outscores-mccain-in--veterans-groups-report-card-2008-10-06.html

Behind Obama's Rise: An NBC/WSJ Stat (The Atlantic blog, 10/07/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Voters, the survey finds, believe Obama responded to the crisis more effectively than McCain did. Thirty-four percent say they felt more reassured by Obama's approach, versus 29 percent who said they felt less reassured.
That's compared with just 25 percent who were reassured by McCain's response, versus 38 percent who were less reassured.
In other words, McCain's response earned him a net negative rating; Obama's response earned him a net positive rating. Hard evidence that Obama did himself well by staying calm and McCain hurt himself by suspending the campaign, dramatically returning to Washington, and having little to show for it.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/10/behind_obamas_rise_an_nbcwsj_s.php

How McCain Lost His "Base" (The Atlantic blog, 10/07/08)
By Marc Ambinder
In 2000, McCain was the only real "hero" in the race, and the media sort of lived through him. Now, the media can sort of live through Obama's "change" movement.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/10/premise_of_denying_that_mccain.php

PALIN NEWS

Palin Plays to Conservative Base in Florida Rallies (NYT 10/08/08)
By JULIE BOSMAN
From Jacksonville in the northeast to Pensacola in the Panhandle, the fiery crowds gathered to jeer at any hint of liberalism, boo loudly at the mere mention of Senator Barack Obama's name and heckle the traveling press corps (at a rally in Clearwater, one man hurled a racial epithet at a television cameraman).
If there were undecideds, independents or swing voters among them, they were awfully hard to spot.

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Florida is still a too-close-to-call battleground state, with most recent polls showing Mr. Obama ahead, but not by much. That Ms. Palin campaigned there in Republican strongholds like Pensacola suggests an effort to increase turnout among the party's base.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/us/politics/08palin.html?pagewanted=print

Lawmakers defend Palin probe before Alaska Supreme Court (CNN 10/07/08)
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNN) -- Alaskan lawmakers investigating Gov. Sarah Palin's firing of her public safety commissioner defended their probe to the state Supreme Court on Tuesday, three days before the deadline for their report.
Palin's Republican allies have asked the court to shut down the legislators' probe, and the justices are scheduled to hear arguments on the issue Wednesday. In a brief filed Tuesday afternoon, lawmakers allege the shutdown request is meant entirely "to avoid a negative impact on the fortunes of one political party."
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/10/07/palin.investigation/index.html?eref=rss_topstories

Palin on the Plane (NYT blog 10/07/08)
By Julie Bosman
Ms. Palin said recently that she was disappointed with the campaign's decision to pull out of Michigan, and, when prompted, she followed up on those comments.
"With Michigan, you know, I'm not going to forget about Michigan," she said. "The campaign isn't either. Todd and I particularly here, he and I, we were just talking about this, how important it is that Michigan understands that what we're working on, these economic recovery proposals."
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/07/palin-on-the-plane/

Palin Family Could Apply for Free Federal Health Care (Washington Independent 10/08/08)
By Laura McGann
ANCHORAGE, Alaska — When Gov. Sarah Palin said during the vice presidential debate Thursday that her family has gone through periods where they've been uninsured and she understands what it's like for Americans "to sit around the kitchen table and try to figure out how are they going to pay out-of-pocket for health care," she forgot to mention something.
Unlike the vast majority of Americans, her husband and children had a good chance of qualifying for free, federally funded, comprehensive health care under a program of the Dept. of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service.
http://washingtonindependent.com/10743/palin-family-qualifies-for-free-federal-health-care

Palin Attacks Biden While He's At Mother-In-Law's Funeral (Huff Po 10/07/08)
By Sam Stein
While the presidential campaign has taken a decidedly personal and vicious tilt these past few days, one individual who has generally been left out of the fray has been Sen. Joe Biden. That's because the Delaware Democrat has been off the trail bereaving the loss of his mother-in-law to a heart attack.
As such an informal detente has been in place when it comes to attacking him. But on Tuesday, Sarah Palin broke the truce.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/10/07/palin-criticizes-biden-wh_n_132753.html

Palin stretches truth in campaign speeches (AP 10/07/08)
By BETH FOUHY
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) -- Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin tells audiences the election is about the "truthfulness and judgment" needed to be president. But the Alaska governor often stretches the truth herself.
She has exaggerated the nature of Barack Obama's personal ties to a former 1960s radical and falsely claimed the Democratic presidential candidate plans to raise most people's taxes.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN?SITE=IADES&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Palin Rips Obama on Social Security 'Fear and Panic,' but Tangles Health Policy Descriptions (WaPo blog 10/07/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr.
PENSACOLA , Fla. -- Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin accused Barack Obama of practicing "old-style politics" and misleading voters in his attacks on Sen. John McCain's Social Security views, continuing her criticism of the Democratic nominee…Palin did not detail exactly how McCain's Social Security reforms would work in the speech beyond saying he would not change it for people who are already retired.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/10/07/palin_rips_obama_on_social_sec.html

The Palins' un-American activities: Imagine if the Obamas had hooked up with a violently anti-American group in league with the government of Iran. (Salon.com 10/07/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By David Talbot
"My government is my worst enemy. I'm going to fight them with any means at hand."
This was former revolutionary terrorist Bill Ayers back in his old Weather Underground days, right? Imagine what Sarah Palin is going to do with this incendiary quote as she tears into Barack Obama this week. Only one problem. The quote is from Joe Vogler, the raging anti-American who founded the Alaska Independence Party. Inconveniently for Palin, that's the very same secessionist party that her husband, Todd, belonged to for seven years and that she sent a shout-out to as Alaska governor earlier this year. ("Keep up the good work," Palin told AIP members. "And God bless you.")
AIP chairwoman Lynette Clark told me recently that Sarah Palin is her kind of gal. "She's Alaskan to the bone ... she sounds just like Joe Vogler."
http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2008/10/07/palins_unamerican/

Alaska to review per diem payments to Palin (AP 10/07/08)
By BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) -- Alaska's top finance officer will review payments made to Gov. Sarah Palin for nights she charged the state for staying in her own home.
Finance Director Kim Garnero said she must determine whether the payments made to Palin in the future should be considered income.
Garnero said, "That's something we need to confer with the governor's office on."
Palin has received more than $17,000 in per diem payments since taking office in December 2006 for 312 nights she stayed in her Wasilla home about an hour's drive from Anchorage. The state provides a home for the governor in Juneau.
http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008Oct07/0,4670,PalinTaxReturns,00.html

Milbank: McCain-Palin's Attacks On Media Have Spawned Unprecedented Crowd Hostility Toward Press (Talking Points Memo 10/07/08)
By Greg Sargent
Milbank says that after the Palin attacked the New York Times and Katie Couric in her stump speech yesterday in Florida, he and other reporters were pelted with boos, with some saying things like "screw you" and "fucking liberal media."
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/10/milbank_mccainpalins_attacks_o.php

Claim Palin was union member hard to pin down: Obvious sources don't know, but that isn't end of the story (Las Vegas Sun 10/07/08)
By Michael Mishak
But the details of Palin's former union membership have proved elusive. What union did she belong to? When? What was her trade? In a politically active union town such as Las Vegas, her labor affiliation is a matter of some interest.
http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/oct/07/claim-palin-was-union-member-hard-pin-down/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Cool Hand Barack (WSJ 10/08/08)
Despite McCain's best efforts, Obama glides through his contradictions with ease.
Ahead in the polls, Barack Obama used last night's debate to portray himself as a nonradical if vague agent of change. Despite John McCain's best efforts, the Arizona Senator didn't knock Mr. Obama from his cool evasion or even do much to rebut the Democrat's routine talking points. This isn't enough to change the dynamics of the race.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122343890280614449.html

Palin's Kind of Patriotism (NYT 10/08/08)
By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
Criticizing Sarah Palin is truly shooting fish in a barrel. But given the huge attention she is getting, you can't just ignore what she has to say. And there was one thing she said in the debate with Joe Biden that really sticks in my craw. It was when she turned to Biden and declared: "You said recently that higher taxes or asking for higher taxes or paying higher taxes is patriotic. In the middle class of America, which is where Todd and I have been all of our lives, that's not patriotic."
What an awful statement. Palin defended the government's $700 billion rescue plan. She defended the surge in Iraq, where her own son is now serving. She defended sending more troops to Afghanistan. And yet, at the same time, she declared that Americans who pay their fair share of taxes to support all those government-led endeavors should not be considered patriotic.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/opinion/08friedman.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Mud Pies for 'That One' (NYT 10/08/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
John McCain has long been torn between wanting to succeed and serving a higher cause. Right now, the drive to succeed is trumping any loftier aspirations. He cynically picked a running mate with less care than theater directors give to picking a leading actor's understudy. And he has been running a seamy campaign originally designed by the bad seed of conservative politics, Lee Atwater.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/opinion/08dowd.html?pagewanted=print

Who Is John McCain? (WaPo 10/08/08)
By E. J. Dionne Jr.
Last night's debate raised a different question: Who is the real John McCain? Is he the man who used to tout himself as a problem-solver, or is he the desperate candidate who lurches from attack to attack?
The first McCain showed up last night, insisting that our "situation today cries out for bipartisanship." But is that the McCain who would govern? Is that the McCain who is authorizing all those attack ads? Is that the McCain we'll see tomorrow, and the day after?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/07/AR2008100702438_pf.html

It's Time to Think Big on Tax Cuts: McCain should revive his support for an alternative flat-tax system. (WSJ 10/08/08)
By JACK KEMP and PETER FERRARA
John McCain needs to show the nation that he has the economic recovery plan to restore long-term economic growth. To do that, he needs to refocus his campaign with a new tax plan. Mr. McCain should come out for an alternative, optional flatter tax system, which he has already supported.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122342333629113303.html

Health Insurance For All: How the GOP Can Frame the Issue (WaPo 10/08/08)
By Michael Gerson
It is a shame that a discussion of health-care policy has come near the end of the presidential campaign, when the level of discourse is at its lowest.
In the midst of assailing John McCain's mental health -- he is diagnosed as both "erratic" and "out of touch" -- Barack Obama and Joe Biden have pressed an attack on McCain's health-care plan that is deceptive in almost every detail.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/07/AR2008100702437_pf.html

Politics of Attack (NYT 10/08/08)
Editorial
Ninety minutes of forced cordiality did not erase the dismal ugliness of [McCain's] campaign in recent weeks, nor did it leave us with much hope that he would not just return to the same dismal ugliness on Wednesday.
Ms. Palin, in particular, revels in the attack. Her campaign rallies have become spectacles of anger and insult. "This is not a man who sees America as you see it and how I see America," Ms. Palin has taken to saying.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/opinion/08wed1.html?pagewanted=print

Gay is a choice? Not that again: Palin's view ignores the fact that, as in religion, the attraction is undeniable. (LA Times 10/08/08)
By Nathaniel Frank
So one of Gov. Sarah Palin's best friends is gay. Her pal "happens to have made a choice that isn't a choice that I have made," Palin told Katie Couric last week. That language resurfaced in the vice presidential debate, when Palin insisted that she was "tolerant" of Americans "choosing relationships that they deem best for themselves." Calling homosexuality a choice is the time-tested way politicians signal their belief that it is the wrong choice.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-frank8-2008oct08,0,3944795.story

McCain's dilemma (LA Times 10/08/08)
Editorial
His options limited, the GOP candidate struggled to regain the initiative against Obama in the second presidential debate.
John McCain boasts that he knows the difference between tactics and strategy, so he must recognize that the final weeks of his campaign against Barack Obama are plagued with difficulties in both realms. His strategic goal -- to run as the more experienced, worldly and wiser candidate -- is undermined by an electorate stubbornly unwilling to regard him as more presidential than his rival. And his tactical response, to challenge Obama with increasing ferocity, is only making matters worse.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-debate8-2008oct08,0,1049724.story

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BUSH NEWS

Bush: We're Going to Get Through This (Fox News 10/07/08)

WASHINGTON — An upbeat and jovial President Bush acknowledged Tuesday the challenges that Americans are facing in the global financial crisis but expressed confidence that the U. S. economy will recover.

"There's no doubt that people from all walks of land and all aspects understand that we're having serious times," he said at an office supply company in the Washington suburb of Chantilly, Va.

"We also know that we're the most dynamic econmy in the world, that we've been through tough times before and we're going to come through this time again," he said.

Bush defended the moves his administration has taken to address the economic problems, including the $700 billion bailout bill that was approved by Congress last week and immediately signed into law by him.

http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,433834,00.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Fed slashes interest rate by half percentage point (AP 10/08/08)

By TOM RAUM and JEANNINE AVERSA

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Federal Reserve on Wednesday cut a key interest rate by 0.5 percent, striving once more to steady reeling financial markets just days after President Bush signed a $700 billion bailout bill into law.

The Fed said it was lowering announced that rate to 1.5 percent, noting that it was acting in concert with central banks overseas.

http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/F/FINANCIAL_MELTDOWN?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-08-07-44-51

Federal Reserve to buy up short-term commercial debt (LA Times 10/08/08)

By Maura Reynolds

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Reserve said Tuesday that it would become a lender of last resort to corporate America and signaled a possible interest rate cut, but the stock market nose-dived again as the financial crisis continued to defy the best efforts of policymakers.

http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-bailout8-2008oct08,0,822022.story

Group's Ad Blames Crisis on Democrats (WSJ 10/08/08)

By BRODY MULLINS and T.W. FARNAM

WASHINGTON -- A conservative political organization will begin airing nationwide TV advertisements Wednesday that criticize congressional Democrats for their ties to mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, an early example of what will likely be a flood of spots running up to Election Day focused on the financial crisis.

The group sponsoring the $1 million advertising buy, the American Issues Project, is the same organization that spent nearly $3 million on a television campaign to tie Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama to former radical William Ayers.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122342367451513361.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Ad spending by independent groups rises in race's homestretch (CNN blog 10/07/08)

By Mark Preston

So far this election cycle, spending by anti-Obama and anti-McCain groups is dead even with each totaling $6.6 million so far this election cycle. In the last two weeks, Republican issue groups have spent $2.3 million, while Democratic issue groups have accounted for about $1 million.

But there has been a recent uptick in the frequency of third-party funded ads, said Evan Tracey, CNN's consultant on television advertising

http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/07/ad-spending-by-independent-groups-rises-in-race%E2%80%99s-homestretch/

Judge orders 17 Guantanamo detainees released to U.S. (McClatchy 10/07/08)

By Marisa Taylor

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic setback for the Bush administration, a federal judge ordered the U.S. government Tuesday to immediately release and transfer to the United States 17 Chinese-born Muslims detained for almost seven years at Guantanamo.

The decision marked the first time a court has ordered the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the U.S. and could prompt the release of dozens of other Guantanamo detainees who have been cleared for release by the military but who can't leave because the government hasn't found a country to send them to.

http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/53595.html

What are the odds of a terrorist attack? (MSNBC 10/07/08)

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By Domenico Montanaro
From NBC's Robert Windrem
Is this an opportune time for a terrorist attack? Could al Qaeda use the financial distress and political uncertainty to magnify its power?
U.S. intelligence officials suggest that while al Qaeda may want to be "part of the conversation" in the presidential election, there is no "specific or extraordinary" threat information, nothing to indicate that terrorists are capable of taking advantage of the current situation.
"They attack when they can, when they have an opportunity," said one intelligence official, adding that terrorists have wanted to attack the U.S., have tried and failed on several occasions since Sept. 11th, without success.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/10/07/1508504.aspx

New U.S. intelligence report warns 'victory' not certain in Iraq (McClatchy 10/07/08)
By Jonathan S. Landay, Warren P. Strobel and Nancy A. Youssef
WASHINGTON — A nearly completed high-level U.S. intelligence analysis warns that unresolved ethnic and sectarian tensions in Iraq could unleash a new wave of violence, potentially reversing the major security and political gains achieved over the last year.
U.S. officials familiar with the new National Intelligence Estimate said they were unsure when the top-secret report would be completed and whether it would be published before the Nov. 4 presidential election.
More than a half-dozen officials spoke to McClatchy on condition of anonymity because NIE's, the most authoritative analyses produced by the U.S. intelligence community, are restricted to the president, his senior aides and members of Congress except in rare instances when just the key findings are made public.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/53605.html

Feds question new voter checks in 6 states (AP 10/07/08)
By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press Writer
ATLANTA (AP) -- Federal officials have asked election officials in six states to investigate whether social security number checks are being improperly run on people registering to vote.
Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue sent a letter Friday to the secretaries of state of Alabama, Georgia and battleground states Indiana, Nevada, North Carolina and Ohio. The letter noted they had submitted "extraordinarily high levels" of verification requests.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VOTING_CHECKS?SITE=NVLAS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

RNC IE expanding buy to Maine, N.C. and Fla. (Politcio blog 10/07/08)
By Jonathan Martin
The RNC's independent ad arm is broadening its ad buy to include two more red states, another indication of GOP efforts to bolster their defenses in states they won four years ago.
The committee tomorrow will expand on an ad buy that began last week to include North Carolina and Florida, two states where Barack Obama has been vastly outspending John McCain on the airwaves in recent weeks.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/1008/RNC_IE_expanding_buy_to_Maine_NC_and_FL.html?showall

The Fed Can't Save Markets (US News blog 10/07/08)
By Kirk Shinkle
The Fed is buying up commercial paper and is now hinting at an interest rate cut.
So what's the Dow doing?
Falling. Again.
http://www.usnews.com/blogs/the-ticker/2008/10/7/the-fed-cant-save-markets.html

Retirement accounts have lost $2 trillion (Breitbart 10/07/08)
By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
WASHINGTON (AP) - Americans' retirement plans have lost as much as $2 trillion in the past 15 months, Congress' top budget analyst estimated Tuesday.
The upheaval that has engulfed the financial industry and sent the stock market plummeting is devastating workers' savings, forcing people to hold off on major purchases and consider delaying their retirement, said Peter Orszag, the head of the Congressional Budget Office.
http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D93LQUFO0&show_article=1

350,000 New Registered Voters in Virginia Since January 1, 2008! (Raising Kane 10/07/08)
by: Lowell
See the "flip" for the detailed numbers by locality, but the bottom line is that Virginia has about 350,000 more registered voters now than it did on January 1, 2008. Actually, it's even better than that, since the numbers

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below do not yet reflect voter registrations between October 1 and October 6. From a Democratic perspective, it's even better than THAT, as I'm hearing that of the 350,000 (or more) new voters, 80% may be Democratic! Keep in mind that John Kerry lost Virginia to George W. Bush by 262,000 votes in 2004, and that 80% of 350,000 is...280,000. :)
http://www.raisingkaine.com/showDiary.do;jsessionid=36B19E81123421F8A3561211B3F9219E?diaryId=16521

Record Pa. voter registration pads Democrats' edge (AP 10/07/08)
By PETER JACKSON
Democrats saw an increase of more than 500,000 new voters in the past year. Republicans saw their ranks shrink by about 28,000.
Statewide, there are now almost 1,170,000 more Democrats than Republicans registered in Pennsylvania. There are at least 4,387,027 Democrats and 3,217,464 Republicans.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hGs4lqPk5U1QkqfgJXE4rSVapwngD93LSV3O0

Can Obama's Grass-Roots Army Win Missouri? (Time 10/06/08)
By Karen Ball
Nationwide, Obama is massively outspending McCain on payroll: $2.7 million for salaries in August alone, compared with $1.1 million for McCain, according to federal election reports.
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1847473-2,00.html

Elizabeth Edwards attacks McCain health plan (USA Today 10/07/08)
RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Elizabeth Edwards calls Republican presidential candidate John McCain's health care plan a "perfect storm" for working families.
Edwards spoke out against McCain's plan to deregulate the insurance industry and give families a tax break to pay for care at an event Tuesday at the Virginia Capitol. She says the plan would backfire, resulting in lost care for more than 580,000 Virginians.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-10-07-edwards-mccain_N.htm?csp=34

Kenya deports anti-Obama author (CS Monitor 10/07/08)
Jerome Corsi, author of "Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality," tried to launch his new book, but violated immigration rules, Kenyan officials say.
By Rob Crilly | Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor
Nairobi, Kenya - The neoconservative author of an anti-Barack Obama book was detained and ordered out of Kenya on Tuesday night for not having a proper work permit, said Kenyan officials.
http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/1008/p04s01-wogn.html

Stevens's Lawyers Question Motives of Star Government Witness (WSJ 10/07/08)
By BRENT KENDALL
WASHINGTON -- Lawyers for Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens sought Tuesday to undermine the credibility of the star government witness against the senior Republican lawmaker, saying witness Bill Allen had several personal and financial incentives to cooperate with prosecutors.
Sen. Stevens's lead lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, told jurors that Mr. Allen, an oil executive who founded Veco Corp., could protect his family from criminal charges by helping the government build its public corruption case against Sen. Stevens, a former close friend.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122338915106111461.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Russian forces in Georgia appear to begin pullout (AP 10/08/08)
By MATT SIEGEL
KARALETI, Georgia (AP) -- Russian forces began the final stage of a pullback from positions outside Georgia's separatist South Ossetia region, bulldozing a camp at a key checkpoint as EU monitors looked on. A Russian general said the withdrawal would be completed Wednesday.
Moscow must withdraw its troops from buffer zones surrounding South Ossetia and another breakaway region, Abkhazia, by Friday under an agreement brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy after Russia's war with Georgia in August.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_GEORGIA_RUSSIA?SITE=DEWIL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

POLLS

CBS Poll: Uncommitted Voters Say Obama Won (CBS News 07/08)
Oct. 8, 2008(CBS) Uncommitted voters named Barack Obama as the winner of the second presidential debate as well, according to a CBS News/ Knowledge Networks poll.

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Immediately after the debate, CBS News interviewed a nationally representative sample of 516 debate watchers assembled by Knowledge Networks who were "uncommitted voters" - voters who are either undecided about who to vote for or who say they could still change their minds. Forty percent of these uncommitted debate watchers said Obama won the debate, 26 percent said John McCain won, and another 34 percent thought it was a tie.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/10/08/politics/2008debates/printable4508430.shtml

CNN Poll: Obama won the night (CNN blog 10/07/08)
By Paul Steinhauser
NASHVILLE, Tennessee (CNN) — A national poll of debate watchers suggests that Barack Obama won the second presidential debate.
Fifty-four percent of those questioned in a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation survey conducted after the debate ended said that Obama did the best job in the debate, with 30 percent saying John McCain performed better.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/07/cnn-poll-obama-won-the-night/

Obama Leading In Ohio, Poll Finds: Edge Is 6 Points In a State Looming Large for McCain (WaPo 10/08/08)
By Jon Cohen and Dan Balz
Washington Post Staff Writers
Tuesday, October 7, 2008; A01
Aided by the faltering economy, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has the upper hand in the race for Ohio, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll, putting Republican John McCain at a disadvantage in a state considered vital to his chances of winning the White House in November.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/06/AR2008100602373_pf.html

Evangelicals Take on McCain (Christian Broadcast Network, 10/06/08)
By David Brody
October 6, 2008
The fact that McCain isn't polling as well with younger Evangelicals seems to indicate Obama's youthful vision of hope (the way the younger generation sees it) resonates to a degree with this group. In my reporting I have noticed that the younger crowd is tired of all the partisan bickering coming from Washington. And while John McCain has been a guy who's been able to work across the aisle, he's also been around Washington for a long time. That perception doesn't do him any favors.
http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/459310.aspx

Obama takes a solid lead in Ohio (Public Policy Polling, 10/07/08)
Raleigh, N.C. – Barack Obama leads John McCain 49-43 in Ohio, the newest survey from Public Policy Polling finds.
http://www.publicpolicypolling.com/pdf/PPP_Release_Ohio_1007785.pdf

More State Polls (Time blog 10/07/08)
Posted by KYLETRYGSTAD
New polls out in Colorado, Nevada, Ohio and Wisconsin:
Colorado - Insider Advantage (Oct. 6, 485 LV)
Obama 51 (nc vs. last poll, Sept. 17)
McCain 45 (+4)
Obama leads by 4.0 points in the RCP Average for Colorado
Nevada - Insider Advantage (Oct. 6, 468 LV)
Obama 49 (+1 vs. last poll, Sept. 30)
McCain 47 (nc)
Obama leads by 3.0 points in the RCP Average for Nevada
Ohio - PPP (Oct. 4-5, 1239 LV)
Obama 49 (+5 vs. last poll, Sept. 13-14)
McCain 43 (-5)
Obama leads by 4.0 points in the RCP Average for Ohio
Wisconsin - SurveyUSA (Oct. 5-6, 672 LV)
Obama 52
McCain 42
Obama leads by 5.2 points in the RCP Average for Wisconsin
http://time-blog.com/real_clear_politics/2008/10/more_state_polls_1.html

Obama's lead widens to 7 in latest Ipsos/McClatchy poll (McClatchy10/07/08)
By Steven Thomma
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Barack Obama has opened his biggest lead over John McCain of the fall campaign, according to a new Ipsos/McClatchy poll that puts him ahead nationwide by 7 percentage points.
Obama's gain appears to come from two key factors.
First, voters are ever more anxious about the faltering economy and trust Obama by a 15-point margin over McCain to steer it. Second, their confidence that McCain's running mate Sarah Palin is qualified to step into the presidency if necessary has fallen sharply
http://www.freep.com/article/20081007/NEWS15/81007086

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/28/2016 2:45:09 PM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP Newsletter: Radicalization Part 1: The Process, Accepting Refugees Undermines ISIS, and Upcoming Event

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January 28, 2016

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Radicalization Part 1: The Process

Following the Paris attacks and the mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, radicalization has once again come to the fore as a topic of great intrigue. Even though it is now apparent that these violent episodes were linked to international terrorism, the precise nature of the suspects' paths to radicalization still remains a mystery.

Click here for more...

Accepting Refugees Undermines ISIS

ASP in the News

Chairperson of ASP's Business Council for American Security Dante Disparte in Huffington Post
Dante Disparte, Huffington Post

ASP Senior Fellow Andrew Holland in Latin America Energy Advisor
Inter-American Dialogue Latin America Energy Advisor.

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney in Politco
Bryan Bender, Politico

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney Interviewed On International Security Concerns
John Bersia, UCF

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ISIS desperately needs a highly-skilled civilian population. As refugees with these skills continue to flee and as ISIS continues to expand, their gains will see much less people, and hence less human capital.

Click here for more...

Upcoming Events

ASP and Lloyd's of London Risk and Resiliency Forum

Date	**February 17, 2016**
Time	**12:00pm – 4:30pm**
Location	**Arnold & Porter LLP, 601 Massachusetts Ave NW, 11th Floor, Washington DC 20001**

The American Security Project will host ***Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience*** in partnership with Lloyd's , JLT , and Risk Cooperative . This is an invitation-only opportunity for policymakers, business leaders and regulators to introduce the findings of the City Risk Index and share best practices and insights on risk assessment, mitigation, adaptation and transfer to help U.S. cities and institutions build greater resilience

To request an invitation, contact:

events@americansecurityproject.org

On Our Blog

American Competitiveness

Dante Disparte Featured in Huffington Post

Nicole Bohannon

In a new post published in the Huffington Post, Disparte discusses the many opportunities to reverse the island's economic woes,

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which have triggered one of the largest non-conflict related resettlements in recent history.

Click here for more...

Asymmetric Operations

Five Things to Watch for from ISIS in 2016

Pascale Siegel

Daesh will not go away in 2016, despite our repeated pledges and the West's renewed commitment. Here's five things to watch for from ISIS in 2016.

Click here for more...

Breaking the Brand: A New Way to Dismantle Perceptions of Terror

Esther Babson

American Security Project's Adjunct Fellow, Matthew Freear, was featured in this month's RUSI Newsbrief, arguing for "counter-branding" versus "counter-narratives" in the fight against terrorist branding.

Click here for more...

Radicalization Part 2: The Process

Anil Powers

It is important to keep in mind that Islamist radicalization can occur in a variety of locations, from heavily scrutinized mosques, to prisons, and even on the Internet.

Click here for more...

Radicalization Part 3: Mitigating the Threat of Terrorism

Anil Powers

To mitigate the threat of terrorism, governments have two options: adopting a proactive policy or a reactive policy. Within each policy approach, an array of programs and plans are already in effect or have been implemented to mitigate the threat of terrorism.

Click here for more...

Siege Tactics in Syria: Instability for the Future

C. Alexander Doyle

As 20,000 Syrian civilians face life threatening starvation, the Syrian government and rebel forces continue to use siege tactics as a way to gain a political advantage in local ceasefires and peace talks. Their use of starving citizens as bargaining chips will eventually lead to greater instability in the future as well as a stronger ISIS.

Click here for more ...

Climate and Energy

Resource Transparency and SEC Rulemaking

Andrew Vaccaro

The Securities and Exchange Commission has announced new regulations under Section 1504 of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Act. Unfortunately, the proposed rules fall short of providing the best possible solution. Fortunately, there is still time to offer a solution with greater resource transparency for everyday citizens.

Click here for more...

General Fusion is Named to the 2015 Global Cleantech 100

Esther Babson

For the second year in a row, the Business Council for American

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Security member General Fusion, a leader in the development of fusion power, was listed in the top 100 Global Cleantech companies of 2015.

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U.S. Navy Launches "Great Green Fleet"

C. Alexander Doyle

The Navy launched the “Great Green Fleet”, with a ceremony in San Diego yesterday, a major milestone towards a 2020 goal of having 50% of its energy supplied by alternative energy resources.

Click here for more...

Where Will Oil Prices Go?

Andrew Holland

The beginning of 2016 has seen a collapse in oil prices, to levels that few would have predicted even a year ago. What's going on, and why?

Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

Iran and Saudi Arabia Headed for a Cold War Over a Heated One

Nicole Bohannon

The sudden and dramatic breakup of Saudi-Iranian relations has put the world on watch as the situation develops. Now, as diplomatic ties between them are officially severed, war is inevitable. Correct? The short answer: probably not.

Click here for more...

Iranian Revolutionary Guard: Rough Seas Ahead?

Ken Robbins

ASP Senior Adjunct Fellow Ken Robbins on what the recent events in Iran could mean in the long-term.

Click here for more ...

Saudi Arabia Ratchets Up Regional Tensions with Iran

Asha Castleberry

The diplomatic rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a clear sign that sectarian and national rivalries are getting worse in the region.

Click here for more...

Nuclear Security

S.2461 and NextGen Nuclear Energy

Andrew Vaccaro

The Senate will consider an amendment to the Senate energy bill, offered by Senator Crapo of Idaho, on advanced nuclear research. The Crapo amendment consists of the text of his recently introduced bill S.2461, the "Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act."

Click here for more...

The Iran Deal in Action

Maggie Feldman-Piltch

As Iran removes the core of their nuclear reactor and fills it with cement opening the door for the easing of sanctions in just a manner of days, it is clear times are changing.

Click here for more...

What to do About North Korea's Nuclear Weapons

Matthew Wallin

With North Korea’s recent claims of having tested a hydrogen bomb, there is renewed concern about the situation on the Korean

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peninsula and the North's expanding nuclear program. Yet despite a possible increase in nuclear weapons capability, the strategic situation on the Korean peninsula has not changed since North Korea crossed the nuclear threshold.
Click for more...

Public Diplomacy

Ch-Ch-Changes in the US Anti-Extremist Messaging Strategy
Matthew Wallin
Rather than boosting large, officially labeled messaging centers overseas, the US should focus on skill-based training centers that are not focused on CVE.
Click here for more …

About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 6:56:46 PM
Subject: RE: Earned Media Update

After i suggested this earlier in the week i talked to few people on the Hill. The challenge is getting a member of congress to do it... because they think they will be called upon to make the same disclosure. I pointed out that they don't believe private emails should be made public, so there is no hypocrisy. But there is nervousness just the same.

Maybe a retiring senator like Mikulski. I'll keep working it, too.

From: Robby Mook [robbymook2015@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:36 PM
To: John Podesta
Cc: Joel Benenson; Jesse Ferguson; Margolis, Jim; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

...who is willing to say Members should turn over their emails!!
Lowey?
Israel?
SJL?

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 9:34 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.
> >
> > On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> > > Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?
> > >
> > > Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?
> > >
> > > ---
> > >
> > > **From:** Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
> > > **Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
> > > **To:** Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
> > > **Cc:** Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
> > > **Subject:** Earned Media Update
> > >
> > > Hello All – Two quick things.
> > >
> > > 1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.
> > >
> > > 2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and

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others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

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Associated Press , "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To: "Rhoades Ha, Danielle" <danielle.rhoades-ha@nytimes.com>
Date: 4/21/2015 4:15:43 AM
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry

Danielle, please clarify one thing, and please share this with Ms. Ryan, your bureau chief in Washington. CNN just reported that Schweizer is "partnering with the New York Times" for his book, but your reply stated only that the Times had access to some material in the book." Is the "partnership" limited to Schweitzer giving the Times the equivalent of a review copy of the book, i.e. an advance copy? Or is there something more that comprises this "partnership"?

Here is my problem with this that I will write about, once I get the facts correct. I have no problem with a partisan Republican writer/operative writing a book about "Clinton cash"; nor do I have a problem if his sources include Republican oppo research teams; nor do I have a problem with Amy Chozick writing a story that cited the book and repeated old news that was known before her story which included no new "news" except for the fact there is a book, even if Chozick's story was a de facto book promotion story. I do have a problem with Chozick opining in her news story that the Schweitzer book takes on some theoretical importance because he is "partnering" with the Times, Fox News, etc.

My problem would be if the NYT has some sort of partnership, relationship, with such a hard-core partisan book that makes the NYT an effective agent of, or collaborator with, a partisan political operator or operation seeking to influence an election. The places the NYT reputation and clout on the side of a partisan political project, as opposed to merely receiving an advance copy and then doing independent news stories.

Please note, a) while I am a columnist who supports Hillary Clinton I have publicly written critically of foreign donations to the Clinton foundation, and b) while I am a columnist in the opinion section of the paper I have higher standards for fact-checking than many beat reporters in the news sections that cover politics, which is why I am investing the time to get this story right.

I am trying to resolve the contradiction between your response yesterday, and Chozick's suggestion in her story that the Times, Fox News, etc have some "exclusive" arrangements (Chozik's description) with Schweizer and that these relationships make the book "more unsettling" (Chozik's description). In law school we called this the "ipsi dipsi", that a partisan book should have more credibility because of an exclusive relationship with a nonpartisan newspaper that denies to me that such a relationship exists, which puts the NYT in the position of giving its imprimatur to the credibility of a partisan attack, which I can understand with Fox News but not the New York Times.

For now I am simply trying to ascertain one fact: what beyond an early copy of the book constitutes the relationship that exists between the NYT and the author?

My thanks.

Brent

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2015, at 1:51 PM, Rhoades Ha, Danielle <danielle.rhoades-ha@nytimes.com > wrote:

> Hi, Brent -
>
> Eileen forwarded your query.
>
> I can confirm that there was no payment of any sort. Please attribute the response below to Carolyn Ryan, Washington, DC bureau chief and Political editor, The New York Times. It represents our response on the matter.

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"We had access to some material in the book, but we wanted to do our own reporting."

Danielle
Danielle Rhoades Ha
Executive Director, Communications
The New York Times Company
O: 212-556-8719 M: 917-379-6928
Danielle.Rhoades-Ha@nytimes.com
@daniellerha

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Brent Budowsky** <brentbbi@webtv.net >
Date: Mon, Apr 20, 2015 at 9:27 AM
Subject: Media Inquiry
To: "eileen.murphy@nytimes.com " <eileen.murphy@nytimes.com >

Ms. Murphy, my name is Brent Budowsky, columnist for The Hill newspaper in Washington. For an upcoming column I have a question:

Mr. Peter Schweizer will soon be publishing a book "Clinton Cash" etc. which makes serious allegations against Bill and Hillary Clinton. In her story about this book dated April 19, your reporter Amy Chozick includes the following: "But 'Clinton Cash' is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations including The Times, The Washington Post and Fox News have exclusive agreements with the author to pursue the story lines found in the book."

My question to the New York Times is: exactly what is this exclusive agreement between Mr. Schweizer and the New York Times? Is their any compensation to be offered by the New York Times to Mr. Schweizer or his publisher, or any compensation offered to the New York Times, by Mr. Schweizer or his publisher, in any form? In other words what exactly is the quid pro quo of this arrangement?

The working title of my column will be "Holy War against Hillary Clinton", and one of my topics will be the relationship between the conservative and Republican media infrastructure that organizes these attacks, which is certainly their right, and how the major media reports on these attacks.

This inquiry is purely fact-checking an effort to be accurate and fair in my column. I seek to ascertain the nature and details of the "exclusive relationship" between the NYT and the author and publisher of this book, and I will be candid and tell you I find this relationship strange and troubling. Normally an author publishes a book, and news organizations assign reporters to report on the content of the book without collusion or compensation beyond the normal book promotion and reporter/author relationships.

I may well request a formal interview with Mr. Baquet to discuss this "relationship", but for now I would appreciate in the spirit of fact-checking and fairness the details of this "relationship."

I can be reached via this email and at (202) 296-6177 .

In advance I appreciate your consideration,

Brent Budowsky

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Jonathan Garthwaite" <THeditor@TownHallmail.com>
To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/11/2016 9:04:16 AM
Subject: The FBI Just Revealed THIS Shocking News About the San Bernardino Terrorists

Townhall.com
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

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Obama Lays Groundwork to Confiscate Retirement Accounts

Banks Get Green Light to Seize Your Bank Accounts - No Crime Required!

IRS Loophole Allows You To Store Your IRA or 401K at Home.

Must Reads

Bad News: Millennials, America's Largest Generation, Prefer Socialism Over Capitalism

Katie Pavlich

State Department: 'Of Course' Hillary's Classified Email Spillage is 'Very Serious'

Guy Benson

Intelligence officials familiar with the recently-confirmed FBI criminal investigation into the matter say the secrets that Clinton knowingly put at risk were some of the most sensitive in existence.
[Keep Reading]

Have a Question For The Presidential Candidates? Ask Here!

Katie Pavlich

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When socialist Bernie Sanders beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in a landslide Tuesday in New Hampshire, he crushed her among young voters by a whopping 83 percent.
[Keep Reading]

The Enemy Within–and It's Not Donald Trump
Matt Vespa

Oregon Occupier: We'll Leave Here 'Dead Or Without Charges'
Cortney O'Brien

Congressional Black Caucus Endorses Hillary, Not One Vote for Bernie
Cortney O'Brien

Iran Celebrates Capturing Americans With Parade
Justin Holcomb

The FBI Still Hasn't Unlocked the San Bernardino Terrorists' Phone
Christine Rousselle

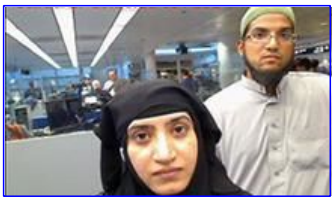

Bernie Sanders Meets With Al Sharpton And This Tweet Sums It Up Perfectly
Katie Pavlich

Obama Lays Groundwork to Confiscate Retirement Accounts.

Banks Get Green Light to Seize Your Bank Accounts - No Crime Required!

IRS Loophole Allows You To Store Your IRA or 401K at Home.

We've partnered with Change.org to bring you Conservatives Speak! This is a special project that allows you, the citizen, to submit questions to the presidential candidates for consideration.
[Keep Reading]

Obama Lays Groundwork to Confiscate Retirement Accounts.

Banks Get Green Light to Seize Your Bank Accounts - No Crime Required!

IRS Loophole Allows You To Store Your IRA or 401K at Home.

Columnists & Tipsheet

New Jersey Man Slays Child
Ann Coulter

Obama EPA "Clean Power" Rule Dealt Devastating Blow At SCOTUS
Kevin Glass

San Diego Declares War on our Founding Fathers and Men, Too
Todd Starnes

In Search of Fixes for a Fossilized Economy
Victor Davis Hanson

Feeling the Bern
Derek Hunter

Saudi Singer on Egyptian TV Criticizes Radical Islam, Defends the West
Larry Elder

Day of the Demagogues
Mona Charen

That 'Controversial' Doritos Commercial
Cal Thomas

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VIDEO: US Says Russian Campaign in Syria Helping ISIL

The U.S. says Russia's counterterrorism campaign in Syria is actually helping the Islamic State.
[Keep Reading]

Churchill's Grandson Furious Reply To Anti-Nuclear Defense Minister

Andre Walker

WESTMINSTER, United Kingdom The grandson of Britain's wartime Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, has raised eyebrows in the House of Commons for angrily refusing to meet the Labour Party's newly appointed Defense Secretary.
[Keep Reading]

VIDEO: Ted Cruz: It's Me vs. Donald Trump At This Point

Hours after his respectable third-place finish in New Hampshire, Ted Cruz suggested the GOP presidential contest is now a referendum between him and Donald Trump.
[Keep Reading]

Jay Carney: Obama Would 'Prefer' to See Clinton as Democratic Presidential Nominee Over Sanders

Leah Barkoukis

If she doesn't get indicted, that is.
[Keep Reading]

Oh, Canada: Cost Of Liberal Party's Proposals Projected To Soar Into The Billions

Matt Vespa

Nice job, Liberals
[Keep Reading]

Rotary Club Awkwardly Kicks Jeb Bush 'Out the Door'

Justin Holcomb

The cloud of awkwardness and clumsy misfortune continues to loom over Jeb Bush's head while on the campaign trail. At a rotary club rally in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Jeb was interrupted during the middle of his speech and ushered off stage.
[Keep Reading]

Political Cartoons

Bearing Arms

"Why Not Just Shoot Him In The Leg?" | Bob Owens

Why Yes–Carry Permits Are Surging In Minnesota | Matt Vespa

Man Robs Store With Fake Gun, Gets Shot By Clerk's Real One | Bob Owens

Thief Who Stole More Than 85 Guns Receives Probation In Plea Deal | Bob Owens

Did Travis Haley Have A Negligent Discharge? | Bob Owens

Political News

Cruz app data collection helps campaign read minds of voters | AP News

Campaign signs get new life to help people with disabilities | AP News

3 killed in attack on customs post in central Mali | AP News

Change would allow handguns at Tennessee legislative complex | AP News

Virginia school district nixes video on race after criticism | AP News

Obamacare in Full Effect
Plus: 2014 Senate Races

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 7:30:38 AM
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

I agree with Jen we should try to avoid Tuesday if that is possible. I like having her do it Wednesday, if we can make it til then -- saying a couple declarative sentences rejecting the basic premise [and expressing pride in Foundation's work], pointing to website, and then pivoting to positive message.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 1:33 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Friends - I wanted to lay out some issues to consider related to Clinton Cash and making news next week for discussion on Monday morning's call. Hope you are enjoying great weather in the meantime. JP
>
> HRC ENGAGEMENT ON CLINTON CASH
>
> The biggest question for this group is if and how HRC engages on Clinton Cash this week and what are the "two lines" she would deliver.
>
> Reminder on this week's events for her. WJC on Today show on Monday; HRC in Vegas on Tuesday in front of the pool for an immigration event; fundraiser and lunch with the Mayor in SFO on Wednesday; LA fundraisers on Thursday; Bay Area fundraiser on Friday. All of the fundraisers are closed. To restate what we all discussed on Thursday and Friday - I would rather she not engage with press while we are in Vegas. Like to keep her on immigration and we handle response.
>
> Below is a written statement Dan had drafted when we thought she might engage on this last week - so gives folks something to react to:
>
> Statement from Hillary Clinton:
> The suggestion that I or President Obama or any other senior official in this administration would ever allow decisions about national security to influenced by personal considerations – let alone some charitable donations – is absurd. Anyone who's had to sit in the Situation Room and make life and death choices would understand that. And if anyone ever donated to the Clinton Foundation in the hopes of influencing official government policy, they'd be a fool. Even the author himself has now admitted that he found zero evidence of any wrong-doing or quid pro quo. Unfortunately, the incredible life-saving work of the Clinton Foundation has gotten lost in these attacks. More than 9 million people with HIV/AIDS around the world have benefited from more affordable medicine because of the Clinton Foundation. Millions of American children have access to healthier food. Farmers in Africa are growing better crops. Women entrepreneurs are starting businesses. I'm so proud of the work that Bill, Chelsea, and all the professionals at the Foundation have done and continue to do. And I hope that people will judge the Foundation on that record of accomplishment, not on baseless conspiracy theories
>
> CLINTON CASH RESPONSE/LAUNCH OF "THE BRIEFING"
>
> On Tuesday morning we will launch The Briefing page on our website. This page will be where supporters and others can get information and points on what she is for, but also where we would post pushback on the book. Below is what we currently plan to post on Tuesday related to the book.
>
> We are also considering a Podesta post that we would put on Medium and our site that unveils the concept of The Briefing, debunks the book a bit, and notes that while we will respond aggressively to attacks - we know that they are just designed to stop her bc R's know that she has right vision/policies to win and will not be distracted from our main highway of selling the positive. John and I discussed yesterday and think it is important that supporters and press know that we will deal aggressively with unfair attacks, but our real focus and her's is her proactive vision. Important that we do not appear beleaguered.
>
> Clinton Cash Content for The Briefing:
>
> 1) a comprehensive post that debunks the book with all of our attacks in one place;
>
> 2) a short video narrated by Brian Fallon highlighting most egregious errors (we will need more time to do comprehensive version we discussed with HRC on Friday, but think it is worth doing short one for the book release on Tuesday);
>
> 3) a number of social media products that our supporters can share and are designed to get buzz with press and supporters and further discredit the author and the book;
>
> 4) the products we have already put out over the course of the last week.

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From:	"Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	10/23/2008 5:07:08 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MMR: McSocialism, Maverick to win, Palin's still a drag, McCarthyist revivalism, Bush still MIA, someone finally tells Bounds to pipe down, Morning 10/23/08

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: The difference between Obama's and McCain's socialism: qui bono
   HOLTZ-EAKIN: "This is...uh...prior to the 2001 tax cuts what John McCain had was a tax proposal that put the middle class first in line--absolutely appropriate at the time. Right now what Barack Obama is proposing is to raise taxes in a dangerous way for the sole purpose of sending checks to people who owe no income tax liability."
2. MSNBC: Pawlenty sells McCain as a bi-partisan straight-shooter
   PAWLENTY: "We can win here with the right year and the right candidate and I think, with a maverick, populist kind of straight-shooter like John McCain he's got a shot."
3. CNN: Palin pile-on: VP is certified drag on the ticket
   DANA BASH: "To win he needs suburban and independent voters and evidence is mounting, that with those groups, Palin hurts."
4. CNN: GOP strategist dismisses efforts to revive McCarthyism in the 21st century
   ED ROLLINS: "I don't think this is part of a large strategy. I think they all wish they would have been quiet."
5. CBS: The disappearing president – Bush conspicuously absent from campaign trail
   PLANTE: "But other than...one fundraising trip to Phoenix, the President has been a no-show. His Press Secretary says Mr. Bush has had a lot on his plate, the last few months."
6. FNC: Fox anchor encourages Tucker Bounds to keep it brief
   MEGYN KELLY:" Wow, OK, too long."

No Video

1. NBC – SARAH PALIN: "So be it. If that will allow some curiosity-seekers, perhaps to have oh one more thing that they can either check the box off that they can find something to criticize perhaps or find something to rest them assured over, fine."
2. NBC - BRIAN WILLIAMS: "Well, let's be very blunt. We have waited patiently. Fifty-five days since Sarah Palin was named to this ticket to get this interview since her naming as vice-presidential nominee. The campaign insisted that most of our sit-down interview, she be seated next to the nominee, John McCain. We were allowed time with cameras, with just Sarah Palin but only a few minutes later. I think, elapsed time, in all, 28 minutes to ask what were weeks worth of pent-up questions."
3. NBC - DAVID GREGORY: "Mr. Bush is on the distant sidelines. He may be a big target on the campaign trail, but you're not gonna find him anywhere near the trail itself. Rallying republicans in New Hampshire, John McCain was running away from the one guy other than Obama who might defeat him."
4. ABC – JAKE TAPPER: "Palin says the clothes belong to the Republican party, she's just wearing them, so she does not have to pay taxes.[...] The question is whether this woman who represents "Joe Six Pack" and "Hockey Moms" will appear to be skirting the rules."

Clips:

Highlight #1

MSNBC Anchor asks Spokesman to Differentiate between McCain's and Obama's Socialism, Spokesman Says Obama Wants to Redistribute Wealth to Different People (MSNBC 10/23/08 3:03pm)

DOUGLAS-HOLTZ EAKIN: There's the simple evidence that Barack Obama himself has said, on at least two occasions, that raising taxes in a bad economy is probably not a good idea and he even maybe thought that he should defer his. Now his--he's since lost his judgment on that, but it doesn't take a whole lot of economic research to show that, if you're gonna raise taxes on the one part of our economy that's created 331,000 jobs and that's the small businesses with fewer than 50 employees, you are endangering the one bright spot in the US economy and John McCain is not going to do that.

[...]

QUESTIONER: Why is it that someone like my father who goes to school for 13 years gets penalized in a huge tax bracket because he's a doctor. Why is that--why does he have to pay higher taxes than everybody else? Just because he makes more money how is that fair?

JOHN MCCAIN: I think it's, to some degree, because we feel obviously that wealthy people can afford more. Here's what I really believe: that when you reach a certain level of comfort there's nothing wrong with paying

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somewhat more and frankly I think that the first people who deserve a tax cut are working Americans with children that need to educate their children. They're the ones that I would support tax cuts for first.

LESTERHOLT: [H]ow is that different from what Barack Obama is saying now?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: This is...uh...prior to the 2001 tax cuts what John McCain had was a tax proposal that put the middle class first in line--absolutely appropriate at the time. Right now what Barack Obama is proposing is to raise taxes in a dangerous way for the sole purpose of sending checks to people who owe no income tax liability. Now the US tax code has a long tradition of progressivity and John McCain embraces that. Right now the top 1% pay 40% of the taxes. The top 5% pay 60% of the taxes. So there's a lot of progressivity out there. That's very different from a proposal that says lets' simply take more money for the sole purpose--not of meeting goods and services, but of sending it to people who are paying no tax liability and labeling it a a tax cut.

[...]

HOLTZ-EAKIN: We have compared out telephone calls made, our doors knocked, our volunteers to previous efforts; particularly the Bush-Cheney effort in 2004. They all come in favorably.

Highlight #2
Governor Pawlenty Insists the GOP has a Bi-Partisan Maverick on its Ticket (MSNBC 10/23/08 8:04am)
TIM PAWLENTY: Minnesota's always a challenging state for republicans but we can win here with the right year and the right candidate and I think, with a maverick, populist kind of straight-shooter like John McCain he's got a shot [...].

[...]

PAWLENTY: I think a couple basic messages are most powerful, Mika. First of all, we don't want the country to be run by a runaway train of democrat ideas and bad liberal ideas. We need a check and balance on that so having Senator McCain there would do that plus he could work across the party aisle to get things done. Number two I'd continue to push the idea that Barack Obama is not experienced. He'd be the least-prepared president in modern history of the country and third, he's out of the mainstream even in terms of centrist, center-left politics. He is a[n] extreme liberal and so I think those are three things that would concern the country and give people a chance to have a second look at Senator McCain.

Highlight #3
Sarah Palin Hurting McCain's Chances with Independents, Suburbanites (CNN's American Morning, 10/23/08)
JOHN ROBERTS: McCain has consistently had strong poll numbers on the issue of National Security, but there is one issue where poll numbers keep getting worse for the candidate- and that is his choice of a running mate. Dana Bash has got more for us now on that front, Dana?

DANA BASH: [...] The boisterous and rather large crowd here for John McCain and Sarah Palin is what's known as the Palin effect, she's helping rally the faithful. The problem for McCain is the increasingly negative impact Palin seems to be having on those he needs to win, who don't come to these rallies.

BASH (V.O.): With or without Sarah Palin by his side, John McCain warms up his crowds with this:

JOHN MCCAIN: I'm so proud of the enthusiasm that Sarah Palin has sparked across this country.

BASH: But what started as pure praise for his running mate, has morphed into a staunch defense [...] aimed at Swing Voters, increasingly less likely to vote for McCain because of Palin. Especially, independent female voters, McCain aides had hoped she'd appeal to, like Susan McGraw.

SUSAN MCGRAW: I don't think she's ready for the Big Boys, you know, should something happen to McCain.

BASH: Palin's negatives among key voters are climbing at a stunning rate. A fresh Pew Research Center poll shows just last month, independent voters unfavorable view of Palin has spiked, going from 27% to 50%. Even more dramatic, among independent women, from 28% to 56% with an unfavorable opinion of Palin.

SARAH PALIN: Our opponent, is someone who sees America as imperfect enough to pal around with terrorists who targeted their own country.

BASH: Pew's Andrew Cohutt says rhetoric like that has backfired.

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COHUTT: Obviously she's been front and center in going after Obama, and I think it's hurt her.

BASH: And a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll suggests worry about Palin's experience is really dragging McCain down. On a list of concerns about McCain, questions about Palin's qualifications ranks first, even higher than his link to Bush policies. But Palin remains wildly popular with the party's base. And republican leaders in GOP strongholds like Hamilton County, Ohio insist she's still a plus.

MARK TRIANTAFILOU: When people find out she's coming, to this region, you know, our phones ring like crazy, so we still see tremendous energy, people are excited about her candidacy.

BASH: It's a trade off that some pollsters and even some republicans say could prove too costly. Yes, McCain needs his republican base and [...] Sarah Palin helps. But, to win he needs suburban and independent voters and evidence is mounting, that with those groups, Palin hurts.

Highlight 4
Ed Rollins Writes off Burgeoning Resurgent McCarthyism as Unfortunate Blunders (CNN 10/23/08 8:57am)
KIRAN CHETRY: Republican Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin took some heat this week for suggesting that there are parts of the country that are more quote Pro-American than others. She later apologized, but we've seen this topic a lot recently, last week, Minnesota Republican Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann was under fire for her controversial comments to Chris Matthews, let's listen.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: You believe that Barack Obama may, you're suspicious because this relationship may have anti-American views?

MICHELLE BACHMAN: Absolutely, I'm very concerned that he may have anti-American views.

CHETRY: Well, Bachman went on to say that the media should see, she would welcome the media looking at whether certain members of congress were Pro-American or Anti-American and yesterday she issued this apology.

BACHMANN: I want to be clear, that I don't believe that Barack Obama is anti-American, nor did I say that he is anti-American, also, I don't question Barack Obama's patriotism.

CHETRY: Michelle Bachmann is up for re-election, her congressional seat may now be up for grabs. And there's more, North Carolina Congressman Robin Hayes telling a crowd of McCain supporters last weekend, quote Folks, there's a real America and liberals hate real Americans that work and accomplish and achieve and believe in and believe in God. Now, he also apologized, saying after reading it, there's no doubt that it came out completely the wrong way, this is definitely not what I intended. So, is this a new GOP tactic, and could it work, or could it backfire? Joining us now to talk about it is Republican Strategist and CNN Contributor Ed Rollins. Are these just sort of people that the GOP in general wishes would keep quiet, or is this part of the larger strategy?

ED ROLLINS: I don't think this is part of a large strategy. I think they all wish they would have been quiet. They've all three were forced to apologize and the Congresswoman who would've sailed to election now has an opponent who has a million dollars raised in 24 hours against her, so you can't think out loud, you need to be very careful what you say. Particularly, where there's a camera everywhere, where there's an iPhone or whatever, so you have to be very careful what you say and you can't attack people's patriotism in this country.

CHETRY: So you think that just by some of the comments that she made, her congressional seat is now up for grabs?

ROLLINS: Well, the instant ability to raise money when you've got a million people on an email list who've contributed and all you need to do is send one email out and there's a million dollars there, which is makes your opponent a very competitive race.

CHETRY: You also don't need to have a lot of money to be able to turn the words of somebody else into really a commercial, if you will, and email it out...

ROLLINS: And the combination of Facebook and the combination of cable network, you can get these on cable network and have a big impact quickly.

CHETRY: [...] One republican hasn't (apologized) yet and that's Randy Kuhl of New York, and this is what his democratic opponent posted on the web:

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RANDY KUHL (in Youtube vide): I firmly believe that the democratic majority wants the American public to suffer and to hurt so that they can make some political gains at election time and I think that's wrong.

ROLLINS: That's an absurd statement, I mean, no offense to the congressman, but he would have been better to argue what the democrats want to do, they want to raise your taxes, they want to spend more money but the idea that one party wants to hurt the country is just not realistic and there's a backfire to it.

Highlight #5
CNN Interview with Alan Raymond Foreshadows Potential Election Day Struggles (CNN 10/23/08 7:34am)
JIM ACOSTA: We're not going to give away exactly how Raymond (blocked NH Democrats Phone lines on Election Day) but Federal Prosecutors say two top Republican party officials hired Raymond, who then hired operators of a phone bank in Idaho to make the calls to New Hampshire. [...]Where the former Democratic Chairwoman Kathy Sullivan says the ensuing flood of hang up calls shut down her office[...]The operation also jammed the lines at this Union Hall, firefighter Jeff Duval was lining up car rides to help senior citizens to the polls.

DUVAL: It almost to me felt like an election might have been stolen.

[...]

ACOSTA: An hour and a half into the jamming operation, came this email from a republican official, who also plead guilty: "Chairman wishes not to proceed with this project, it violates federal law." The feds eventually came knocking at his office. [...]This operation didn't just effect voters in New Hampshire, the balance of power in the senate was on the line that year, and the senate race here, between democrat Jean Shaheen and Republican John Sununu was decided by just 19,000 votes.

Highlight #6
Megyn Kelly to Tucker Bounds: "Wow, OK, too long" (FNC 10/23/08 10:31)
TUCKER BOUNDS: Gotta love Joe Biden indeed. He's willing to tell the truth during the primary and during the general election. The important words that Joe Biden said is watch, the world is looking… God bless Joe Biden for telling the American people the truth, even if it was behind closed doors. People need to know that Barack Obama is a risk, he's a risk in the white house cause he doesn't have the proven experience…. There's a third person that actually ahs some input in this debate and that's Hillary Clinton. She said… that John McCain and Hillary Clinton would have a record of accomplishment and success that they would take to the White House and Barack Obama would just have a speech he would have in 2002.

[…]

We have 5 secretaries of state and 300 generals and flag officers that have endorsed Barack, John McCain, not Barack Obama… leaning on one endorsement, I've never seen a campaign lean on one endorsement so vigilantly… let's look exactly how Barack Obama has responded when he's been tested in the past. Let's look at when the American people were considering how the best way forward was in Iraq. Barack Obama opposed the surge, he said after the surge was working and we were seeing success in Iraq that he didn't want spin about the surge. He has shown, when Russia invaded a neighbor in Georgia, he told the [sic] invading country to show restraint… the third and most salient point… is that he said he would sit down unconditionally with … dictators around the world, elevating those regimes… he is not ready and if we do vote for him, we're voting a risk into the white house…

MEGYN KELLY: Wow, OK, too long.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

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This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 5:53:43 AM
Subject: Fwd: Politico: Book blowback hits Clinton's NYC donor kick-off

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jesse Lehrich** <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 12:40 PM
Subject: Politico: Book blowback hits Clinton's NYC donor kick-off
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/hillary-clinton-new-york-city-donor-kick-off-117281.html

Book blowback hits Clinton's NYC donor kick-off

Annie Karni and Gabriel Debenedetti

Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta had hoped to spend Thursday morning rallying fundraisers in Manhattan – but he also found himself fielding concerns about a spate of unsettling investigations into the Clinton family's personal fundraising.

Podesta sought to energize and activate hundreds of longtime Hillary Clinton donors and bundlers for what could be the country's first $2 billion presidential campaign.

But during a question and answer period, the most pointed query from donors to Podesta was, how do we respond to questions raised by a new book linking millions in Bill Clinton speaking fees to wealthy foreign donors angling for influence with the highest-ranking officials of the U.S. government – including his wife, the former secretary of state?

During the meeting, Podesta was asked if supporters would be given potential responses to the allegations, including a Thursday report in the New York Times detailing $2.35 million in previously undisclosed contributions to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation by the owner of a Russian uranium mining company hoping to get federal approval for its U.S. operations.

Podesta, according to several attendees and Clinton staffers interviewed by POLITICO, attempted to reassure donors the campaign would respond to the allegations – without letting them interrupt what is supposed to be a month of ramping up and fundraising. "If we try to chase every media story, we chase our own tail. We're not going to do that," the donor recalled Podesta saying.

He told them that spokesman Brian Fallon had issued a very detailed response to the allegations in the book, and that negative stories and attacks were simply par for the course for the Clintons.

Fallon distributed an updated memo to the campaign's surrogates and allies on Thursday, going a few steps further than his Tuesday night memo questioning Schweizer's credibility.

Fallon's new memo labels the book a "forthcoming smear project," and name-checks GOP Sen. Rand Paul, Sean Hannity, and George W. Bush in the opening paragraph. He writes that the primary conclusion to draw is that Schweizer's book "fails to produce a shred of evidence supporting the theory that Hillary Clinton ever took action as Secretary of State for the purposes of supporting the interests of donors to the Clinton Foundation."

Over three pages of the memo – titled "It's Official: Book Attacking Hillary Clinton Full of Discredited, Disproved Attacks" – Fallon details a series of reports in Time magazine, Yahoo News, The Daily Beast, and POLITICO questioning pieces of Schweizer's reporting or conclusions.
"This isn't the first baseless smear against Hillary Clinton, and it certainly won't be the last," he writes.

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But that might not be enough to quell the firestorm on a day when a spokesman for Clinton's foundation told Reuters that the charity would review and refile its non-profit tax forms for several recent years — to correct errors and omissions. And some longtime Clinton backers were feeling a little queasy.

"I think it should be a concern, yes. It's a legitimate concern and I think that Sec Clinton needs to be able to explain this in a straightforward, constructive, thoughtful way," said Clinton fundraiser Peter Buttenwieser, a philanthropist from Philadelphia. "And I think the sooner that she does that, the better. And I assume that she will rise to the occasion and work through this, it's part of running and I think it's critical that she do it and not wave it off."

Yet foundation officials flatly refused to address any of the allegations during a Thursday morning conference call previewing an upcoming trip to Africa by Bill and Chelsea Clinton.

The book at the heart of the controversy, "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Help Make Bill and Hillary Rich," by conservative author Peter Schweizer, is not out until May 5. But it has already emerged as a major flash point in the early days of Hillary Clinton's quest for the Democratic presidential nomination, with its examination of ties between the Clinton Foundation, the Clintons' personal wealth, and Hillary Clinton's years as head of the State Department.

Hundreds of attendees from the tri-state area came to Manhattan early Thursday morning to attend the meeting at a midtown office building, where top Clinton aides Podesta, Dennis Cheng, Robby Mook and Amanda Renteria briefed "Hillstarters" – fundraisers who the campaign is asking to raise $2,700 from 10 different people - on campaign strategy and delivered a PowerPoint presentation showing how to get people to make donations through the campaign's website.

--
Jesse Lehrich
Rapid Response
Hillary For America
781-307-2254
@JesseLehrich

--
Kristina Schake
Hillary for America

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From:	"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To:	"Marc Elias" <melias@perkinscoie.com> "charles baker" <charlie.baker@deweysquare.com> "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	3/21/2015 1:38:17 PM
Subject:	Brock

Marc, can we communicate with Brock about getting a copy of this Clinton Cash book? We need it very urgently if possible.

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com> "Phil Schiliro" <pschiliro@sb-atalaya.com> "Heather Samuelson" <hsamuelson@cdmillsgroup.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	1/28/2016 2:50:56 PM
Subject:	Pushback on classification & other documents
Attachments:	20160113 Officials Mentioning Drones.docx 2016128 Drone Email.docx North Korea Email.docx 2016 01 28 Overclassification.docx Bad Retro Classification.docx Shelby and Grassley Hypocrisy On Leaks.docx

Friends,

A big thanks to the team here, attached are some pushback documents that can help for tomorrow. Please let us know if we can provide any more information.

Tony

"Officials Mentioning Drones" - this doc is a collection of leading Democrats, Administration Figures, and Republicans discussing the drone program in public, in Congress, and in the Congressional Record. Please note Sen. Burr's comments in this doc.

"Drone Email" - this doc that's characterizing the alleged email discussing drone strikes in Pakistan, and what we know about it. Furthermore, it highlights several chains in HRC's emails that have been released publics where the drone strikes do appear to be discussed by knowledgeable people without TS classification.

"North Korean Email Pushback" - this doc is about one of the original alleged TS emails about the North Korean nuclear program. It has those characterizations as well a dozen instances of public reporting on the North Korean nuclear program citing satellite imagery.

"Overclassification" - this doc is a long collection of quotes and pushback from national security experts and figures attacking the problem of the overclassification and why it needs to change.

"Bad Retro Classification" - This doc is a collected examples of absurd retroactive classification, including from HRC's own emails. It also shows how over 20,000 documents have been public record to be classified later.

"Shelby and Grassley Hypocrisy" – this doc shows how Republican Senators Shelby and Grassley's push on classification is hypocritical given past stances/actions.

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From: "Unruh-Cohen, Ana" <Ana.UnruhCohen@mail.house.gov>
To: Sara.Latham@ptt.gov
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/13/2008 12:08:01 PM
Subject: Re:

Got it thanks

Ana Unruh Cohen, Ph.D.
Select Committee on Energy Independence
& Global Warming

From: Sara Latham
To: Unruh-Cohen, Ana; 'john.podesta@gmail.com'
Sent: Sat Dec 13 14:41:49 2008
Subject: FW:
person John mentioned on the phone

From: Denis McDonough
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 2:28 PM
To: Sara Latham
Subject: Re:

Adm John Nathman, 4*, excellent man. Want to take care of him. Was a navy pilot, bit is bif on nuclear power.

From: Sara Latham
To: Denis McDonough
Sent: Sat Dec 13 13:58:54 2008
Subject:

hi, John asked me to check with you - Nackman ? from the navy, 4 star general?

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	1/9/2015 9:03:50 AM
Subject:	1.9.15 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	1.9.15 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below.

1.9.15 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton Tough on Terrorism**
2. **Secretary Clinton Stemming the Tide of Climate Change**
3. **ICYMI: Roll Call opinion: Rep. Tim Ryan: "Progressives Are Ready for Hillary"**
4. **Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of the Middle Class**

TALKING POINTS: TOUGH ON TERRORISM

BACKGROUND: *In a changing and unpredictable world, Hillary Clinton's leadership on issues of national security has kept America secure and helped make the world a safer place.*

KEY POINTS:

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton worked through diplomatic channels to help the United States fight terrorism and safeguard our national security.

- Secretary Clinton made the case for the raid to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.
- Clinton built relationships with key players in the Middle East and funded counterterrorism training initiatives.
- Through negotiations with Russia, Clinton successfully worked to reduce the number of nuclear missile launchers in the world.
- Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history in order to encourage Iran to abandon, or at least stall, its nuclear program.
- Clinton negotiated the Gaza cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, helping avert an all-out war in Gaza.
- Clinton played a role to end the war in Iraq and begin a transition to civilian society in Afghanistan.
- Clinton instituted new roles at the State Department to fight terrorism:
  - Clinton created the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online.
  - Clinton established the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance counterterrorism objectives and our national security.
- Clinton identified and led on important issues which affect our national security, such as the global empowerment of women and climate change.

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- Clinton worked to empower women and girls around the world to participate in their economies. This helps make economies stronger and more stable.

- Clinton prioritized addressing climate change in her time at the State

Department. Weather events caused by climate change can lead to famine and destroyed infrastructure, which increase instability and unrest.

Serving as a United States Senator representing New York during September 11, 2001, Hillary Clinton made it a priority to urge the pursuit of justice against Al Qaeda and improve our nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

TALKING POINTS: SECRETARY CLINTON STEMMING THE TIDE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

"It took a lot of work by a lot of people to create the problem of climate change over the last centuries. And it will take our very best efforts to counter it." – Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton looked to the future, planning for our generation and the next generation of Americans when she prioritized the fight against climate change as a matter of foreign policy.

- Secretary Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Climate Change to serve as an advisor on international climate change policy.

- She established the Bureau of Energy Resources to address the threat of climate change posed by the world's energy consumption.

Secretary Clinton led the way through partnerships and developed incentives to encourage cooperation and progress toward reducing our footprint on the environment.

- Secretary Clinton helped negotiate an unprecedented agreement between all major economies to commit to curb carbon emissions through 2020.

- She launched the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a thirty-seven country partnership that is making important strides to reduce methane emissions all over the world.

- Recognizing that dirty cookstoves kill nearly 2 million people a year and are harmful to the environment, Secretary Clinton took action and launched the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves in order to save lives and protect our planet.

- She signed an agreement with Brazil to strengthen cooperation as the U.S. and Brazil work together to meet the grave challenge of global climate change.

Roll Call opinion: Rep. Tim Ryan: "Progressives Are Ready for Hillary"

By Rep. Tim Ryan

January 8, 2015, 5:00 a.m. EST

The progressive values and policies that Hillary Rodham Clinton represents have Democrats and Americans across the country more excited than ever. But lately, pundits and some in the media have attempted to drive a narrative that the progressive wing of the Democratic Party is not unified behind Hillary. As a progressive myself, and one who proudly hails from the ultimate battleground state of Ohio, this could not be further from the truth. Clinton's record speaks for itself.

Progressives support Clinton because of her experience and leadership on many of the issues that matter most. In Arkansas, she expanded childhood education throughout the state. As first lady, she worked to increase access to health care for every American. As a senator, she repeatedly fought to increase the minimum wage and extend unemployment benefits. While secretary of State, she worked to empower women and expand LGBT rights and more recently, through the Clinton Foundation, she has developed initiatives to help children and low-income families.

Simply put, Clinton understands the importance of investing in the fundamental building blocks that make America the envy of

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the world.

As an economic populist, protecting and growing our economy while putting Ohioans back to work is a consistent priority of mine. Being progressive is about assuring the safety of our citizens and our economy with a strong manufacturing base, both old-line manufacturing and the newer fields of advanced and additive manufacturing. I believe we can achieve this by re-establishing the United States of America as the world's leading innovator in advanced manufacturing — with my district's national additive manufacturing and 3-D printing facility and through the No. 1 ranked university incubator in the world — both right here in Youngstown, Ohio. These types of ideas and innovation are happening in places such as Youngstown largely thanks to a long-term vision for our nation and public-private partnerships, something Clinton has spent a lifetime forging as a first lady, senator and secretary of State.

I know that Hillary Rodham Clinton shares these same progressive and American values. Throughout her career, she has consistently worked to advance middle-class families, ensuring that Ohioans and all Americans can make more money and have the means to support their families.

Democrats have unified behind Clinton in an unprecedented way, in part, because of her advocacy on these core progressive policies that ensure everyone has a fair shot at success. From the people who know her best and for those like me who have fought alongside her to ensure that everyone has access to the American Dream, there is no question that Clinton has the message and vision — and will have the agenda — to be the Democratic Party's standard bearer to lead America on the world stage.

I am ready for Hillary. Should she run for president, she would be the best person to lead our country forward. I believe her progressive and American values can lift up all Americans and I know the people of Ohio stand ready to assist her should she decide to run.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

BACKGROUND: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that hardworking Americans can succeed. In uncertain times, families need faith that opportunity for their children and grandchildren is alive and well. Hillary Clinton wants the American Dream to be a real possibility for every child and every family across our nation.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families. Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional

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salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair share. She opposed tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

- Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

BOTTOM LINE: Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, fighting to increase wages, strongly advocating for progressive tax policies and access to education and healthcare to help middle-class families – Hillary Clinton has fought for an America and a future where everyone can rise to their potential.

HILLARY CLINTON'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

In her many public appearances over the past year, Hillary Clinton has continued to advocate for the middle class by sharing her vision all over the country:

In a speech to a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf, "Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start.'" According to Politico, Clinton "gave one of her strongest political speeches since her 2008 campaign ended in June 2008 as she headlined a women-focused event for Democratic gubernatorial Tom Wolf in Pennsylvania. Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start,' as well as women's pay equity and her gauzy first days as a new grandmother. For the first time in months, Clinton's public talk was neither a dry recitation of public policy nor a self-reflection about her tenure as secretary of state." [Politico , 10/9/14]

Clinton's language at a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf was "some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class." According to Politico, "The remarks were some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class. They came after she was accused of being out of touch for her comment in June about being 'dead broke' when she left the White House, and for giving paid speeches at exorbitant prices." [Politico , 10/9/14]

The theme of Clinton's speech at an event for Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf was working families. According to BuzzFeed, "The thread running through Clinton's message here in Pennsylvania, the state she won six years ago in a primary against Barack Obama, was working families — a theme she teased repeatedly throughout her speech with populist undertones, mentions of her granddaughter, and stories about her own trips as a child to Scranton, where Clinton's father, Hugh, was born to a working-class immigrant family." [BuzzFeed , 9/9/14]

In Pennsylvania, Clinton criticized the power of corporations, siding with middle-class families. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Though she and her husband have raised more than $1 billion from U.S. companies and corporate officials over the last two decades**,** Mrs. Clinton signaled that she sided with everyday families struggling to pay bills and keep afloat. Corporations, she said, 'seem to have all the rights, but none of the responsibilities of people …' She decried practices that pay women less than men for the same work and took aim at politicians who've belittled women's rights. 'A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families,' she said." [Wall Street Journal , 9/9/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she would fight to restore and re-open the middle class. According to TPM, "The notion of 'upward mobility' was central to Clinton's message to the New American audience in May. She described it as 'time-tested wisdom' that was 'at the heart of what I believe is the basic bargain of America.'… Here is how Clinton described that basic bargain of America, as she sees it, in May: 'No matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she can address income inequality and gender inequality. According to TPM, "So income inequality has been a big part of the message. But it's also been married to inequality between the sexes. At both the New American and CAP events, the same factoid made an appearance: That three-quarters of jobs that rely on tips -- like 'waiters, bartenders and hairstylists' as she said on both occasions -- are held by women…. And she said Thursday that these issues should be used to mobilize voters -- in the 2014 midterms and moving forward." [TPM , 9/22/14]

In recent speeches, Clinton has taken a tougher stance on big business, likely in "an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism" she may need in 2016, according to Reuters. According to Reuters, "Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country.… This is a change of tone for the former New York senator, who faced criticism for her Wall Street ties as recently as September, after appearing with Goldman Sachs (GS.N) chief executive Lloyd Blankfein. Allies and analysts see it as an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism that Clinton may need in order to broaden her appeal in a potential 2016 Democratic primary contest." [Reuters , 11/2/14]

During a New Hampshire midterm event, Clinton discussed expanding economic opportunity and raising the minimum wage. According to the Boston Globe, "Clinton spoke in New Hampshire about expanding economic opportunity, raising the minimum wage, and protecting women's rights. She acknowledged that, across the country, there is 'a lot of anxiety and insecurity.' But the former secretary of state and US senator from New York struck a hopeful note: She bookended her remarks talking about her new granddaughter and said seeing another generation in the family focuses the mind on what's important. Clinton said she and her husband were raised to believe the American Dream was within your reach if you worked hard. 'You should not,' Clinton told a packed gymnasium, 'have to be the grandchild of a governor or a senator or a former secretary of state or a former president to believe that the American Dream is in your reach.'" [Boston Globe , 11/2/14]

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In midterm campaign appearances, Clinton has been echoing populist notes. According to Bloomberg, Clinton "has been sounding more populist notes of late as a campaign-trail advocate for Democratic candidates who are on the ballot next week. That's an important turn as she contemplates a run for president in 2016 because Clinton's biggest weakness among Democrats, and some Republicans, is the perception that she's too close to Wall Street and corporate America…. And the more anti-corporate tone is pleasing to the ears of liberals who have pined for Senator Elizabeth Warren, a scourge of Wall Street banks, to challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination. And, they say, it's a message Clinton can use against Republicans because many in the GOP have turned wary of Wall Street and big corporations since the 2008 financial crash." [Bloomberg, 10/27/14]

During a midterm appearance in New York, Clinton clarified earlier comments about companies and job creation, while maintaining the same theme: "Clinton's for the little guy." According to Bloomberg, "Days after Republicans feasted on her claim that corporations don't create jobs, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to 'be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades.' 'So-called trickle-down economics has failed,' Clinton said as she stumped for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in New York. 'Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out–not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.' While campaigning Friday for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, Clinton created a stir–and drew criticism from Republicans–by saying, 'Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.'…The cleaned-up message, though, hits at the same theme: Clinton's for the little guy." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

While campaigning for Democrats in the midterm election, Clinton frequently tells voters that "everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance." According to a CNN, an investigation into Clinton's most common lines on the trail found that Clinton frequently tells voters, "'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance...' Clinton has focused a great deal on economic populism on the stump, an issue other Democrats thinking about seeking the presidency in 2016 have started to tweak Clinton on. 'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance to keep going and to make something of themselves,' Clinton said in Iowa earlier this year. 'That was one of the most important lessons of my life.' Clinton usually uses the line to encourage compassion from a crowd, and to show that she has compassion, too." [CNN , 10/28/14]

In a San Francisco speech, Clinton revealed some of what may be her economic message: "Who's on your side?" According to the Washington Post, "Here in San Francisco on Monday, Clinton gave a spirited call to arms to Democrats as she road-tested what is likely to be her economic message if she runs again. The November midterms, she said, come down 'to a simple question: Who's on your side?' She sounded close to her party's populist marrow when she decried the erosion of economic security for many working Americans, and a long way from her tone-deaf remark earlier this year about being 'dead broke' when she and Bill Clinton left the White House in 2000. 'It's time to elect leaders who will fight for everyone to get a fair shot at the American dream,' Hillary Clinton said." [Washington Post , 10/21/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she could finish the economic recovery begun by Obama. According to TPM, "Clinton seems to have a handle of the line she wants to toe: Obama saved us from worse economic struggles (as his defenders have been saying for years), but the work isn't over. Implicit, of course, is that she -- if she runs -- would finish the job. 'We haven't seen a full recovery from the economic crash,' Clinton said Thursday at CAP. 'When the president came in, he deserves an enormous amount of credit for staunching the bleeding and preventing a further deterioration and getting us out of that ditch we were in. But we know unless we change our policies, a lot of the benefits are not going to be broadly shared.' 'It's not just about more jobs for more people and better paying jobs,' she said. 'It's making sure that the people themselves get to keep those benefits and build that future back that they are so desperate to see for themselves.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

In an interview with PBS this summer, Hillary said : "Bill and I have had terrific opportunities, both of us…have worked hard, but we've been grateful for everything that we've been able to achieve, and sadly that's just not true for most Americans today…It's important that we all try to figure out what we're going to do, and that's what I've done my entire life, fighting for a higher minimum wage, or family leave…equal pay for equal work…I think my record speaks for itself."

At a speech at the Aspen Ideas Festival in June, Hillary said : "At the end of the day, we're all on the same team. We're on the American team. And we've got to do a better job of getting our economy growing again and producing results and renewing the American Dream so that Americans feel that they have a stake in the future and that the economy and the political system is not stacked against them, because that will erode the trust that is at the basis of our democracy."

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 7/16/2008 3:30:18 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/16/08

Main Topics: McCain's NAACP Speech, McCain and National Security, Romney Inteviews, New Ads Attacking McCain

Summary of Shift: Heavy McCain coverage devoted to his NAACP convention speech. McCain's attempt to woo African American voters was scrutinized as a new poll suggested only 2 percent of that electorate said they would vote for him. The other big McCain headline concerned national security. McCain's claim to add more troops to Afghanistan was examined with some questioning just where these troops are going to come from. There's also a new poll suggesting that McCain has the clear advantage on such issues, but Obama is starting to make headway on the issue. Planned Parenthood's new ad criticizing McCain's gaffe on Viagra and warning women that McCain is oblivious on their issues, got a lot of earned media attention. Mitt Romney made the rounds, talking on all the cable networks and his changing relationship with McCain was investigated.

Tonight's other headlines concerned the state of the economy. Inflation is up, crude oil was down, and the market made big gains today. The state of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the nation's bank systems are still being heavily talked about. Obama continues to be called a flip-flopper. And the Bush administration changes their policy and opens up discussion with Iran, sending the Undersecretary of State to meet with Iranian leadership.

Highlights:

1. McCain's Speech at NAACP Conference Scrutinized
a. CNN: McCain's Attempts to Woo Black Voters at NAACP Conference Scrutinized
b. MSNBC: McCain Looking for White Voters with NAACP Speech
2. CNN: McCain's National Security Advantage and How Obama is Going After It
3. MSNBC: Is the Surge Working and Where are the Troops for Afghanistan Going to Come From?
4. Romney Makes Rounds Stumping For McCain
a. CNN: Romney Interview on CNN; Discusses Economy Difference Between McCain and Bush, and More
b. FNC: Romney Interview: "We Should Be Drilling Everywhere We Can"
c. MSNBC: Romney Boosts McCain's Military Strategy, Attacks Obama's
5. CNN: McCain and Romney's Evolving Relationship Examined; From Foes to Friends, To More?
6. CNN: Surrogates Get Segment Devoted to all Their Gaffes
7. New Ads Attacking McCain Get Earned Media Attention
a. CNN: New Planned Parenthood Ad Played and Discussed on Situation Room
b. MSNBC: Pariser Explains Thrust of New MoveOn Ad
8. MSNBC: RNC Chair Dodges Questions about McCain's Policy on Birth Control by Touting McCain's Health Care Policy
9. MSNBC: McCain's Campaign Has a History of Fudging Policy Numbers
10. MSNBC: John McCain Can't Seem to Sell Himself as Change Candidate
11. MSNBC: McCain needs to emphasize his life story more (No Clip)
12. MSNBC: McCain's disconnect with the present century not that important (No Clip)

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain's Attempts to Woo Black Voters at NAACP Conference Scrutinized (CNN, 07/16/08, 4:03pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] John McCain confronts a huge political problem head on. Today he gave an enthusiastic speech in front of a less than enthusiastic audience of African Americans, meeting with the nation's oldest civil rights group. He's trying to win them over and he's trying to win over other African American's as well. But by several indicators he's looking at a rather steep uphill battle. […] So how did he do in front of the NAACP convention today, Dana?

DANA BASH: Well he did basically what he had to do, and actually something that we're told he was urged to do by several prominent black republicans who met with John McCain last week and urged him not to give up on the black vote. He came in part because of that, and in part to beef up his brand as someone willing to reach out.

If your audience is the NAACP and your opponent would be the first black president, you start here.

JOHN MCCAIN: Don't tell him I said this, but he's an impressive fellow in many ways.

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BASH: That was John McCain's biggest applause line, an icebreaker about Barack Obama. Who got a thunderous reception two days earlier. McCain was greeted by mostly polite clapping**. One person, so indifferent he read the paper**. McCain came armed with new education initiatives.

MCCAIN: The worst problems of our public school system are often found in black communities.

BASH: He pushed merit pay for teachers and his Obama for opposing school vouchers.

MCCAIN: All that went over well with the teacher's union, but where does it lead families and their children who are stuck in failing schools?

BASH: **The reaction, dead silence. McCain's chances at winning black votes are incredibly steep. A fresh New York Times poll shows 89 percent of black voters support Obama. Just 2 percent say they'll vote for McCain.**

MCCAIN: Whether or not I win your support, I need your goodwill and your council.

BASH: **But McCain came looking for mostly just that, goodwill, to show he's a different kind of republican. After George Bush was elected he did not attend the NAACP conference for six years.** McCain came and even opened it up for questions, knowing he get some tough ones. Like from this teacher in an Obama t-shirt, who says teachers can't afford food.

TEACHER: What are you going to do Senator? We can't continue this way.

MCCAIN: I want to reward good teachers.

BASH: If nothing else here, kudos for coming.

GRETCHEN WOODS: After hearing him today, I may listen to him again.

BASH: Now democrats were quick to send out a list of black forums this campaign season that John McCain has skipped. But many NAACP members that we spoke to after this speech said they don't plan to vote for Senator McCain but they do respect him for coming, and especially for taken questions. That's something, Wolf, that Obama did not do.

McCain Looking for White Voters with NAACP Speech (MSNBC 07/16/08 5:55pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: . . . I'm a little bit Machiavellian about this, although a do completely salute that performance . . . you know, **I think he wants to make sure he seems like a person who has no ethnic problem in this race. That he's not going to exploit in anyway the differences in our backgrounds and I think that helps him with white voters to be blunt about it.**

JOAN WALSH: I think it does too. A lot of Republicans were really irritated by the failure of the Bush administration to go to the NAACP regularly, to meet with black leaders because it plays well with white, to be honest, independents who want to believe we're a society with a lot more racial harmony than we have. So I think he did a great job. It was probably Maciavellian, he is running for president, he is a politician. But, it was a nice moment . . .

MATTHEWS: Are you talking about my hero, Machiavelli?

WALSH: Nothing wrong with that, no.

Highlight #2
McCain's National Security Advantage and How Obama is Going After It (CNN, 07/16/08, 7:05pm)
BILL SCHNEIDER: On Tuesday Barack Obama gave his big speech on Iraq and Afghanistan. John McCain's response? Obama doesn't know anything.

MCCAIN: **Why not take your first trip ever to Afghanistan before you come out with a speech on what we need to do? I mean, it's remarkable, I've never seen anything like it.**

SCHNEIDER: McCain has extensive military experience. 11 officers signed a letter endorsing him.

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OFFICERS: He's experience, he's well-liked, and he knows what he's talking about.

SCHNEIDER: **Nearly 3/4 's of Americans believe McCain would make a good commander in chief.** Obama has no military experience, voters are not sure whether he would make a good commander in chief. **As a result, McCain has the advantage on national security issues, like terrorism and handling a national crisis.** Obama opposed the troop surge in Iraq, but now acknowledges that violence has declined.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama refuses to acknowledge that he was wrong.

SCHNEIDER: Obama claims he was right. Not because the surge didn't work, but because it was a dangerous distraction.

[…]

Right now, Obama and McCain are rated at about the same on Iraq, Iran, and international affairs. Which means he has neutralized McCain's advantage on foreign policy. And he's trying to do the same thing on national security. […] McCain is trying to triple demonstrate to those same independent voters how little he knows.

Highlight #3

Is the Surge Working and Where are the Troops for Afghanistan Going to Come From? (MSNBC 07/16/08 5:18pm)

CRHIS MATTHEWS: **The surge of US troops in Iraq is coming to an end . . . did it work? Did it create a strong Iraqi government?** . . . back two years ago this country was on the [verge] of getting out of Iraq and the President made the case, before we leave, let's make one big last hurrah . . . has that succeeded . . . ?

JOHN SOLTZ**: It's never succeeded. From a tactical level, sure you put the best American troops on the ground and you take names and you clear streets but the Iraqis want us out of Iraq.** So the major reason it failed is Afghanistan is a two brigade mission, a three brigade mission, if you had taken those five combat brigades that you'd sent to Iraq for the surge and you'd sent them to Afghanistan, you would have . . . seven brigades on the ground in Afghanistan . . **. so the surge is a policy of retreat that George W. Bush and John McCain have supported against al-Qaeda and bin Laden . . . it's been a failure.**

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Your verdict on the goal of the surge. Has it been met?

ERIC EGLAND: Yes, Chris, we've made tremendous progress in the last sixteen months.

MATTHEWS: At what? At what? At giving the government in that country a chance to form itself?

EGLAND: Sure, yeah . . . improved security situation and improved political progress . . . the political progress on the ground at the local level has been tremendous and that has bubbled up . . . that's why it's a little hard for people to answer that question who answer it out of ideology to not be able to admit that hey, we have made tremendous progress out there.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Lets take a look at what Sen. McCain said yesterday . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: It's by applying the tried and true principles of counterinsurgency used in the surge . . . that we will win in Afghanistan. With the right strategy and the right forces we can succeed in both Iraq and Afghanistan and they are not disconnected . . . I know how to win wars. I know how to win wars. If I'm elected president, I'll turn around the war in Afghanistan just as we have turned around the war in Iraq with a comprehensive strategy for victory. I know how to do that.

MATTHEWS: Of course the question it holds there . . . if we won the war in Iraq we'd be coming home by now. He didn't win the war in Viet Nam, we lost the war in Viet Nam in terms of our ambitions there. So what wars have we won under John McCain? . . . you could argue that the surge has left has an environment over there where maybe the government can get its act together. But that's not done yet. We haven't done that yet.

[. . .]

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SOLTZ: John McCain is a man who's caused this country to lose a war in Afghanistan by being obsessed with Iraq. He's plan yesterday that he released to counter Sen. Obama's plan. It was like amateur hour over at the McCain campaign. You can't increase the size of the army, stay in Iraq a hundred years and send three more combat brigades to Afghanistan without the draft—

MATTHEWS: Ok, that's the question . . . can we fight the war in Iraq on the level we're fighting it and fight the war in Afghanistan on the level we have to?

SOLTZ: Absolutely not you can't do it. That's why the Obama campaign has a realistic plan and Sen. McCain has amateur hour that leads us to the draft.

[. . .]

EGLAND: Yeah. With the current facts on the ground I think we can. Gains in Iraq means we can continue to bring home those surge forces which will free up forces that we can use in Afghanistan . . . these are dynamic battle grounds and we need leaders who are open to the facts on the ground as they change. . .

[. . .]

SOLTZ: The bottom line is the McCain camp plan doesn't add up. You either have to have a draft or adopt Sen. Obama's position. That's why yesterday they backtracked from sending three combat brigades there to send NATO troops. It's amateur hour at the McCain campaign. They've supported a policy of retreat with bin Laden for the last six years with George Bush.

Highlight #4

Romney Interview on CNN; Discusses Economy Difference Between McCain and Bush, and More (CNN, 07/16/08, 4:30pm)

WOLF BLITZER: Let's talk about issue number 1, the economy right now. Obama keeps saying, if you like President Bush's economic policies, vote for John McCain because you are going to get a whole lot more of the same. With the exception of McCain being much tougher on pet projects, pork barrel spending, is there any real difference between McCain and Bush on the economy?

MITT ROMNEY: Well, the answer is of course, but of course the greatest difference is between McCain and Barack Obama. But with regards to Bush, first of all, he will cut spending, not just on pork barrel projects but discretionary council will be cut back. He'll also cut back on entitlement excesses and then he's going to go after our energy policy in a very aggressive way, by making sure that we one, get a cap and trade program. But also, he's going to develop nuclear power, wind power, solar power, additional drilling in this country, offshore, it's an entirely different approach to energy, it's getting us energy independent. And with regards to trade, he does believe in trade around the world, but trade that's fair, that protects American jobs.

BLITZER: **But so does President Bush.**

ROMNEY: But the big difference between John McCain and Barack Obama is with Barack Obama. That's where the big difference lies. Where Barack Obama wants to raise taxes, John McCain wants to lower them. John McCain unlike either the President or Barack Obama, has said lets lower taxes on middle income Americans. $2700 dollar a year savings by getting rid of the AMT, as well as doubling the personnel exemption.

BLITZER: But Barack Obama says you're only going to be paying more taxes if you make more than $250,000 dollars a year. If you're a middle class income tax payer, you're going to have a cut in taxes. **He says McCain will have a bonanza for rich people,** he will have a savings for the middle class.

ROMNEY: You know, sweet talk is awful nice, but it doesn't compare with straight talk. And in the case of John McCain, he said look, the tax changes he's going to put in place are changes to reduce taxes for middle income Americans. And Barack Obama's been all over with regards to taxes, but I do understand that he voted this year twice to increase taxes on people making $32,000 dollars a year and above. So he's not a guy who's going to shy away from more government spending and more government taxing. So they come from different places in regards to taxes. From energy they're miles apart. Where Barack Obama says we can't drill offshore, and John McCain says we can and should. And John McCain want to fast track nuclear power plants, so there's a big difference.

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[…]

BLITZER: Let me ask you this, if you're the vice president of the United States and they say go ahead and meet with the Iranian leadership, are you ready to do that?

ROMNEY: Well, first I'm going to reject the hypothesis that I'm the vice president of the United States. But I can tell you that whoever is the vice president of the United States is going to take their signals from whoever the president is and he'll follow the president or she'll follow the president's guide, whether or not he agrees with it. When you're the vice president, you do what you are told.

BLITZER: Fair point. Let's talk about another sensitive issue that's come up over the past few days. The issue of gay adoption. **John McCain told the New York Times he opposes adoption by homosexual couples, although the campaign later said they wanted to clarify, saying that this should really be an issue left up to the states. What do you think about this whole issue?**

ROMNEY: **You know, I know exactly just how Senator McCain feels on this, and I think most Americans feel the same way. Which is that we recognize that the ideal setting for raising a child is where there is a mom and a dad. And the great majority of states recognize that as well.** But typically states have said, look, we're encourage adoptions where there's a mom and a dad, but we're not going to make it illegal for other circumstances for adoption to occur as well and we're going to let the courts decide what's in the best interest of the child. And so, you don't make it illegal necessarily, or have a national policy that says you can't have gay adoption. You let the states decide what's in the best interest of the child. And that's, as I understand it, about where Senator McCain is on this issue.

BLITZER: Is that ok for you, if whatever state said, you know what it's fine for gay couples to adopt kids, that would be ok with you?

ROMNEY: **I didn't oppose that here in Massachusetts, my view was the best setting for a child to be raised is when there's a mom and a dad, but I did not say lets put in place a law that would prevent a court from deciding that a child instead of being in an orphanage should be with a same sex couple or with a single mom or a single dad. You leave that up to the court, and let them make the decision.**

BLITZER: A lot of people are suggesting that you're the front runner right now for John McCain's running mate. Have you already started being vetted, in other words, have you been asking, asked questions, are you submitting documents, IRS returns, has that process already started?

ROMNEY: Well, first of all, with regards to all the people who might be on some sort of a short list, the only one that really counts in that regard is John McCain, and I don't think he's told anybody what his thinking is. And with regards to a vetting process, you know, anything of that nature, I'm going to direct to the McCain campaign, I don't want to engage in any speculation with regards to the V.P. sweepstakes. And my own view is, I expect to support the administration and the McCain team. I don't expect to be a part of it.

Romney Interview: "We Should Be Drilling Everywhere We Can" (FNC, 07/16/08, 1:36pm)
MARTHA CROWLEY: There was an article out there today and the headline of it says, will Romney's combative style net him a V.P. nod? I'm not sure if you saw that but they're calling you combative for these kind of statements as the one I just referenced. What do you think about that?

ROMNEY: **Oh, I'm an awful sweet guy. You wouldn't consider me combative, would you?**

[…]

John McCain has been a leader in his last 25 years in the senate, and after that his military record, not just in Vietnam but in his long service is that of a leader and in a time like this, we need a leader.

CROWLEY: At a time like this, a lot of people say we need somebody who knows what is going on in the economy. There's a fear in this country that the banks may be seriously in trouble. What would you do, what would you advise in handling, what's the first thing you would you say we got to do to get this thing under control?

ROMNEY: Well, I think it is important for people to understand that the federal government does stand behind our banks,

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and their deposits in our banks are safe. And then there are banks, if you will, quasi-financial institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, where these banks are providing, if you will, the kind of strength to stand behind our mortgages and keep our mortgage market alive and strong. And the federal government has said, hey we're standing behind you guys as well. It's been very clear that the federal government and federal reserve are going to stand behind the lending institutions in this country. People don't need to worry about losing their deposits.

CROWLEY: But Governor, let me ask you something, in your very savvy financial mind in your own life, have you changed anything? Are you concerned about it? Have the moved anything into more conservative investments for a little bit more cash, anything along those lines?

ROMNEY: No, haven't made any changes in that nature. My investments are held in a blind trust, so I don't get the chance to do that anyways. But I can tell you this, this is a time when people are looking to make sure that their investments are held wisely, and people who are investing in American corporations and financial institutions, I have every reason to believe if they're well managed that they will do fine. But Americans are hurting because of high gas prices and Americans are hurting because they see the value of their home having taken a dip. And of course, their savings have also declined in value in the stock market, and I have to tell you, we are going to have to make sure that we finally take action, particularly on the energy front.

CROWLEY: […] I want to know what you think about drilling in Anwr. Is that something we should we be doing right now?

ROMNEY: **We should be drilling everywhere we can.** Where states agree and where it's environmentally acceptable and appropriate. We should also be developing our wind sources, our solar resources. **We should be taking off the tariff on ethanol so that we can bring ethanol into the country from Brazil and other places. We should, if you will, pushing every button. Nuclear power, everything we can to develop our own sources of energy, near term and long term. That'll help bring the prices down.**

CROWLEY: […] **Are you advising John McCain, when you have talks with him, and I assume that you do talk to him about these things, we need to drill in Anwr. Is that something you have encouraged him to do?**

ROMNEY: I haven't advised Senator McCain on policy issues. He keeps his own counsel in that regard, **but I do favor personally drilling in Anwr. And the people in Alaska favor doing so**. And Senator McCain said he would take a close look at that. You're going to see John McCain layout an energy policy which gets America energy secure. And **that means using ever source of energy we possibly can find**. **Of course it's going to be a collaboration with states, but states want to see the drilling as well.**

Romney Boosts McCain's Military Strategy, Attacks Obama's (MSNBC 07/16/08 1:50pm)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Let's just get it over with . . . are you being vetted?

BRZEZINSKI: The whole vetting process is something you have to talk to the McCain campaign about . . . I'll tell you this, I expect to be working for the McCain team. I don't expect to be part of it.

[. . .]

ROMNEY: . . . I think what you'll see as we're dealing with the economy that it's McCain versus Obama and Obama's saying raise taxes. McCain is saying lower them. McCain is right. Obama is saying let's cut back on trade with other nations. McCain is saying, no, no, no, trade is a great source of vitality and growth for America. McCain is right. Obama is saying, with regards to energy, we can't drill for additional oil, we can't have extra nuclear power plants. He's wrong on that. McCain is saying drill for oil, fast track nuclear power plants as well as solar and wind. McCain is right on the economic issues of the day and that's why he'll win on the economy.

BRZEZINSKI: Both candidates are focusing on Afghanistan. During today's Obama campaign conference call, Susan Rice slammed McCain's position. Take a listen to this:

SUSAN RICE: Yesterday he woke up and came to the sudden conclusion that indeed Afghanistan merited more strategic focus, something that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been saying for months. And that he would, therefore, be willing to put in additional combat brigades. But then he got confused again as to whether those needed to be American or NATO or some combination thereof and it leaves you all, and us, wondering what his strategic rationale is.

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MIKA BRZEZINSKI: . . . how do you respond to attacks on McCain's rationale here and is he flip-flopping?

ROMNEY: You know, I sure hope the Obama campaign plans to focus on the military strategy . . . I'm afraid it's a losing battle for them. John McCain understands military strategy. He, after all, was the person who offered, some time ago the philosophy that said a surge would work in Iraq and that said that Rumsfeld needed to go and, you know what? He ended up being right and Barack Obama said the surge would not work. . . . John McCain has been talking about Afghanistan for a long, long time even during the debates . . . he talked about Afghanistan and his posture there is absolutely right. Look, he understands what it takes to be successful on foreign battlefields because he has been there, he's been trained there and Barack Obama hasn't. And if it's going to be an issue of foreign policy and keeping Americans safe there's no question who comes out ahead.

Highlight #5

McCain and Romney's Evolving Relationship Examined; From Foes to Friends, To More? (CNN, 07/16/08, 4:04pm)

WOLF BLITZER: By political standards it's among one of the most closely guarded secrets, John McCain's list of people he's considering for vice president. There's wild speculation about this out there about who might be on that list. But one name is getting a lot more buzz than some of the others. […] And we're specifically speaking about Mitt Romney.

TOM FOREMAN: Yeah, Mitt Romney, he's really rising up here. **He and John McCain have gone from being political foes to friends, the question is will they go much further than that?**

MITT ROMNEY: **Senator McCain said that the economy is not his strong suit. It is my strong suit, I can tell you that.**

FOREMAN: **That was then, and this is now.**

ROMNEY: If you take Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama's experience and multiply it by ten you still haven't caught up with Senator McCain when it comes to experience on the economy.

FOREMAN: **Back in the heat of the primaries, former Massachusetts Governor, Mitt Romney, was one Senator John McCain's fiercest rivals,**

ROMNEY: **You know, he was against the Bush tax cuts, and now he's for making them permanent. He was for McCain/Kennedy, now he's for a new program for immigration. He's changed his view on issue, after issue.**

FOREMAN: But after Romney dropped his bid for the White House back in February, he backed McCain. He's held fundraisers for him and has become one of McCain's biggest surrogates.

ROMNEY: You're finding in our party, that people are rallying strongly around Senator McCain.

FOREMAN: In fact, this week McCain joked about all of Romney's help.

MCCAIN: I am appreciative every time I see Mitt on television on my behalf. He does a better job for me than he did for himself as a matter of fact.

FOREMAN: Romney's also considered to be a potential running mate. A job he seems to be interested in. But McCain remains coy.

MCCAIN: Millions of republicans voted for him. And so, obviously I think he would be a consideration for a lot of different roles in a republican administration.

FOREMAN: Well, there a lot of positives with Mitt Romney, including the fact that he's already been thoroughly vetted because of his own campaign run. He's got family ties to Michigan which is an important battleground state. And, never hurts in a campaign, he's a good looking guy. […]

Highlight #6

Surrogates Get Segment Devoted to all Their Gaffes (CNN, 07/16/08, 9:12pm)

JESSICA YELLIN: They're meant to vouch for the candidate.

LINDSAY GRAHAM: There has never been a better commander in chief candidate than John McCain.

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YELLIN: Sell the campaign line in an ever expanding universe of political photo ops and t.v. smackdowns. They are campaign surrogates, and this year, we're learning that sometimes they do more harm than good. **We see surrogates go off the reservation, like John McCain's economic advisor, Phil Gramm.**

PHIL GRAMM: We've sort of become a nation of whiners.

YELLIN: **A nation of whiners? Not helpful. It threw McCain off message and McCain threw Gramm under the bus.**

JOHN MCCAIN: Phil Gramm does not speak for me. I speak for me.

[…]

YELLIN: **Then there's the cringe factor. McCain surrogate, former CEO Carly Fiorina complained about health care plans that pay for men's Viagra but not women's birth control. That created quite the awkward moment for McCain when he was asked his views on that subject.**

[Awkward McCain Viagra Clip Shown]

[…]

YELLIN: **Sometimes, on the spot, surrogates can't find the right words. Like republican South Carolina Governor Mark Stanford. Asked to name a single policy between McCain and President Bush.**

GOV. MARK STANFORD: Uh, take for instance, the, the issue of, uh, of um, I'm drawing a blank. And I hate it when I do that, particularly when I'm on television. […]

YELLIN: Not good. **As election day approaches, expect to see more surrogates get the old heave ho.**

ROGER SIMON: I think the campaigns are going to decide, you know, it's just easier to run another t.v. commercial then send a surrogate out on the stump.

YELLIN: Of course, certain surrogates are here to stay. They can't be thrown under the bus no matter how much controversy they kick up.

[…]

Highlight #7
New Planned Parenthood Ad Played and Discussed on Situation Room (CNN, 07/16/08, 4:47pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] First I want to get to the internet buzz that's out there about a new anti-McCain ad that's just out from Planned Parenthood. […]

ABBI TATTON: Wolf, it was an uncomfortable moment for Senator John McCain on the campaign trail last week. Asked about insurance plans that cover Viagra but not Birth Control. And now Planned Parenthood wants women voters to see it.

[Planned Parenthood McCain/Viagra Ad Shown]

TATTON: **That ad is from the political arm of Planned Parenthood. They say it's going to be running in six battleground states and they are going right after women voters on this. It's going to be airing during Oprah in select markets and also in shows like Lifetime's "Army Wives".**

[…]

BLITZER: What do you think, is this an issue he can put behind him?

DICK ARMEY: Well, I don't know. It's too bad he didn't realize, the correct answer was that it's not the government's business to issue mandates about private insurance companies. Unlike my opponent, I do not believe in government mandates on health insurance. **I think he was taken by surprise, the question was such an inane and inappropriate question. It would have caught about anybody from surprise.**

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BLITZER: Why's it inappropriate? If some insurance companies will reimburse for Viagra but they won't reimburse for birth control?

ARMEY: In the private insurance market you get the coverage you pay for, and you should be free to stipulate the coverage you want**. And my guess is that at John McCain's age, he's too old for birth control, and too young for Viagra. He's probably not given any thought to either one.**

BLITZER: Well, I don't know about his personal predilections, but go ahead.

PAUL BEGALA: **I don't want to know. I'm a democrat though, we make love, not war. And my republican friends can't do either, actually, if you look at the status of things in around the world. This is enormously problematic. This is a man, Senator McCain, who recently said he didn't know anything about the economy. Now he apparently doesn't know anything about procreation either. I mean, what does he know? It's a wonderful ad for Planned Parenthood. The left, and particularly the feminist movement, has often been criticized for lacking a sense of humor. Well, this is hilarious, if unintentionally so from Senator McCain. It's the fairest attack you can wage, is putting someone's own words and in this case 8 seconds of deadly silence, about an issue that every family deals with family planning for goodness sakes. The notion that he doesn't know anything about that is really problematic for McCain.**

BLITZER: Is it going to hurt him?

ARMEY: I don't think it will hurt him because of the constituency that will be entertained by this ad is probably constituents he wouldn't vote at all. **On the other hand, it might in fact help him. There's a big constituency that's had a little bit of doubt from the Christian right about whether or not he's their guy, and they might like him.** But you know, it falls within the intellectual framework of asking a person what kind of underwear they wear. Quite frankly, the point still remains it's not the Federal Government's business to mandate health insurance coverage, and in a free market you can buy the coverage you want.

BEGALA: It's not a private matter, it's a public policy issue. You believe, that it's not the government's business, I believe it is. But that's why we have debates and elections. **That's why politicians ought to know enough about the real lives of real people to have a position on something like this. I gotta tell you, this is something that effects people's lives and McCain is completely out of touch.**

Pariser Explains Thrust of New MoveOn Ad (MSNBC 07/16/08 4:03pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: This was a big day in the world of campaign advertising, two independent democrat groups unveiled new ads attacking John McCain. Planned Parenthood is taking issue with McCain's refusal to answer a question last week about whether its fair for health insurance to cover Viagra but not birth control. And MoveOn.org is now running an ad focused on Iraq.

[MoveOn ad plays]

SHUSTER: . . . I do think the ad is effective but putting that aside for a second, Barack Obama has asked independent 527 groups not to run ads. MoveOn is not a 527 but did you have any second thoughts about this?

ELI PARISER: Well no. We're an issue group and our job is to educate the public about where the candidates stand on our issue . . . the difference couldn't be clearer between John McCain who basically wants to keep us in Iraq for a long time to come and Barack Obama who's got a plan to get us out.

SHUSTER: . . . is it fair to say John McCain will keep our troops in Iraq for years and years? I mean, he has said repeatedly that as the situation improves the troops will start to be brought home.

PARISER: . . . if you look at John McCain's policy, it's exactly the same thing that we've heard from President Bush for the last four years or more . . . John McCain has said when violence is up we need to stay, when violence is down he says we need to stay . . . it all adds up to a policy that really will keep us in Iraq for a long time because there's no plan to get us out.

[. . .]

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Highlight #8

RNC Chair Dodges Questions about McCain's Policy on Birth Control by Touting McCain's Health Care Policy (MSNBC 07/16/08 4:14pm)

JOHN MCCAIN: He's inspired a great many Americans, some of whom have wrongly believed that a political campaign could hold no meaning or purpose for them. The success should make Americans, all Americans proud. Sen. Obama talks about making history, and he's made quite a bit of it already.

DAVID SHUSTER: That was John McCain today . . . at the NAACP . . . Mike Duncan is chairman of the Republican National Committee and he joins us now to talk about Sen. McCain and other issues . . . has it been a mistake over the past eight years for President Bush to speak to the NAACP so infrequently?

MICHAEL DUNCAN: The Republican party reaches out on a daily basis to all Americans and President Bush has done that. He's done that that through his appointment process, he's done that through his policies that empower more people. His education policies, his small business policies. He speaks with Americans of both leaders and members of groups all the time. And I was very pleased today that John McCain was at the NAACP convention in Cincinnatti. He talked about hope and opportunity, he talked about the importance of education and I think it was a good day for the McCain campaign.

SHUSTER: Well, I suppose it's a good day given that President Bush in 2004 said that his relationship with the NAACP was "basically nonexistent" and there was John McCain today praising the group . . . the Republican Party has also had some difficulties, and not just with African Americans voters but also women voters in recent elections. We mentioned at the top of the hour, there's some independent groups running ads against McCain. Planned Parenthood is now running this ad against John McCain. Watch and I'll get your reaction.

[Planned Parenthood ad plays]

SHUSTER: Well chairman, maybe that ad wasn't fair but John McCain didn't answer the question. But maybe you can. **Do you think it's fair or unfair when health insurance covers Viagra but not birth control?**

DUNCAN: Well let me just tell you, **this is what the 527s are doing to this campaign.** John McCain, when he became the nominee talked to me about running this campaign on issues and a respectful campaign. You saw that today with his comments about Barack Obama. You've seen it in our demeanor in this campaign**. This is typical of 527s and what they're trying to do. We want to talk about the big ideas like energy and energy process. We want to talk about the economy. We wanted to talk about education. And those are the kinds of things this campaigns going to be run on, it's not going to be run by third party organizations.**

SHUSTER: Well clearly education is a concern for women but women are also concerned about what they see as unfairness in the way government and insurance treats them. What's the Republican Party's response?

DUNCAN: **My response is that this campaign's going to be about all people.** It's not going to be about one segment of society and pitting one segment against another segment. We want to talk about what's relevant to people everyday. We want to talk about the gas prices. **We want to talk about healthcare issues and how we talk about how we provide choice in healthcare and we the patients and the doctors more involved in healthcare.** These are the kinds of things that we want to talk about in the campaign and not to have the agenda set by special interest groups and third parties which are spending millions and will spend millions of dollars for Sen. Barack Obama in this campaign.

SHUSTER: Well, there is one third party down in Florida that's created a stir. A businessman in St. Cloud Florida paid for a billboard ad. And here it is. You see the Twin Towers burning and the message, "Please Don't Vote for a Democrat." The businessman says he was trying to help his party, the GOP. What's your reaction to this?

DUNCAN: Well, look, I would disavow Republican third party organizations that go too far, that bring race or bring hatred into a campaign, we're about issues and that's what we want this campaign to be about. This is a historic election. We have a star contrast between the Republicans and the Democrats. John McCain is offering solutions to the country. Barack Obama is great with his rhetoric but we want to know where he stands. He keeps changing his positions, he's moving on from one position to another position. So, that's what we want to talk about in the campaign. I'd be happy to answer your questions on that.

SHUSTER: . . . a lot of people agree that independent groups perhaps have undue influence. **But perhaps, is it a matter of bad taste when images of 9/11 are used in advertising by anybody?**

DUNCAN: **I can't be responsible for anyone other than the Republican National Committee and what they're doing** .

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. . when John McCain became the presumptive nominee of the party, we talked about running a respectful campaign on ideas. We talked about doing things a Republican candidate hasn't done before . . . he's doing nontraditional things and we want to frame the campaign around that.

SHUSTER: How do you think it's going? I mean, a lot of people look at John McCain's speech and say just the fact that he spoke today is pretty remarkable. Are you getting a sense that this is helping John McCain now?

DUNCAN: I'm getting a sense that we're going all over the country and doing very well . . . we're going to have enough money, combined with the McCain campaign to get our message out. We'll be outspent but the American people will know that John McCain stands for a brighter future for this country.

SHUSTER: Well I would agree. I think that Americans certainly are going to see that John McCain has enough money to get his message out, regardless of what it is . . .

Highlight #9

McCain's Campaign Has a History of Fudging Policy Numbers (MSNBC 07/16/08 3:00pm)

DAVID SHUSTER: Michael, there has been so much talk, both here and in the world now about Afghanistan and the situation with the Taliban getting worse over there. The Obama campaign had a conference call this morning and foreign policy advisor Susan Rice was quoted as saying . . . "he says he wants to surge in Afghanistan without reducing our presence in Iraq, which the chairman of the joint cheifs of staff has repeatedly said is impossible and he wants to balance our budget by 2013 in part on the basis of troop withdrawals from Afghanistand and Iraq, which he opposes." What'd you make, both of what McCain sort of said yesterday about Afghanistan, some of the confusing statements he made, and the Obama efforts to try and exploit them?

MICHAEL CROWLEY: **Look, I will say that the McCain campaign has had a repeated problem where their numbers have been murky, they don't add up. As I recall, his budget plan just sort of ignored maybe a trillion dollars or more in money that was going to be lost to tax cuts . . . I think you are starting to see a pattern where the McCain campaign is fudging things on their policy proposals and the Obama people are really trying to . . . get the press to bore in and pin him down on these questions. He has been vague, for instance, when it comes to Afghanistan, about where he's going to get more troops and also when he talks about budget offsets from foreign policy, he's assuming . . . a total withdrawal from Iraq, which is not what McCain wants to do**. So I think we can expect to see those questions pursued in the weeks ahead.

Highlight #10

John McCain Can't Seem to Sell Himself as Change Candidate (MSNBC 07/16/08 6:48pm)

DAVID GREGORY: [Has] McCain persuaded voters that he is better prepared to bring change to Washington since the primary? . . .

MIKE MURPHY: No, not yet. And it's kind of a great irony because John McCain is the original blow-up-Washington-and-change-the-culture-here kind of guy but somehow Barack Obama's hijacked a lot of that from the 2000 McCain campaign and is now getting a lot of credit. I think McCain can win it back but a legitimate criticism of his campaign is they've stumbled around on messaging and they've let go of a lot of space McCain naturally owns. I think it's been a huge mistake and they haven't served McCain well on that. I'm hoping they get it together now.

GREGORY: Isn't it hard to use the analysis from the 200 race . . . compared to 2008 when he's coming off an incumbent Republican president who's so unpopular and now he becomes the standard bearer of the party?

MURPHY: Right but the issue is, it's not that the party's going to change McCain, it's that McCain's going to change the party. If McCain's who he really is, a different kind of Republican and he bets his whole campaign on that because campaigns are best when the amplify the truth**, I think John McCain can win this election. If he is in the mold of the third Bush term, which I think is inaccurate . . . he's going to be in trouble. I think they've been murky about that.** They had to win a primary. But they won it. Now they got to put the thing in the center and amplify the real John McCain . . . you're gonna find McCain is the real reformer because he's had the guts and the courage to cast the tough votes in Washington . . .

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Walker Morris" <wmorris@clintonfoundation.org>
"Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
"Doug Band - PC" <doug@presidentclinton.com>
"Justin Cooper - PC" <justin@presidentclinton.com>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/19/2012 1:19:21 AM
Subject: Re: Howard Buffett

We should think abt or ask of interest in supporting haiti ag which is one of our main focus areas and has small investment, big impact. We've visted a few of our projects on recent trips and they are going very well but more is needed. Adding Greg for haiti related follow-up.

From: Walker Morris
To: Amitabh Desai; Bruce Lindsey; Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Robert Harrison; Ed Hughes; Dennis Cheng
Sent: Fri Mar 16 12:34:13 2012
Subject: Re: Howard Buffett

Thanks, Ami. This is great news. I'm obviously ready to help from CDI side on Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania. An August visit to Malawi would be after harvest and before planting, so early May or November would give him more farming to see. The impact on people is year round, so the powerful human story can be told first person any month he comes.

We will have a generic version of expansion business plan we've done for Salida ready next week and I can work with others to build it into a comprehensive presentation on WJCF work and collaboration opportunities if that would be a near term step.
Glad to talk further whenever it suits other than 6 hour time difference.
Walker

From: Amitabh Desai
To: Bruce Lindsey; Laura Graham; Doug Band - PC; Justin Cooper - PC; john.podesta@gmail.com <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Cc: Robert Harrison; Ed Hughes; Walker Morris; Dennis Cheng
Sent: Fri Mar 16 11:34:34 2012
Subject: Howard Buffett

Had a good call today with Howard Buffett. Like WJC, he talked about strengthening agriculture (sustainably) in developing countries in Africa, Latin/Central America, and beyond; and also in reconfiguring US food aid to enable more local purchasing of food aid rather than shipping US farm produce overseas. [Besides running his farm, he runs farms in South Africa and Central America and is currently a UN WFP Ambassador and advocate for their Purchase for Progress initiative.] He was surprised to learn there are so many shared interests. We discussed a few areas of possible future collaboration, all of which effectively are either “talking” or “doing,” on which I’d welcome your feedback:

DOING

- COUNTRY VISIT. We discussed WJC’s agriculture work in Rwanda/Malawi/Peru/Colombia and he is intrigued. He said he’s visiting South Africa (where he runs a 9,000 acre farm) in August and would like to visit Malawi/Rwanda to see CF projects. We can help facilitate his visit. I didn’t mention WJC’s Africa trip but should we consider a joint-visit whenever WJC goes? [He liked the Neno wheat example of working ourselves out of a job.]

- CDI. Funding for scaling-up commercial farms in Malawi/Tanzania. I explained our interest in growing the program, he said he’d like to work together given a lot of shared interests, and that he’ll be able to make a decision after seeing our work first-hand. Whenever he visits Malawi, we should be prepared with a specific ask.

- CARLOS SLIM. He said he has been in discussions with Marco about doing joint agriculture work in Mexico and he asked if we’d be open to discussing it and to WJC being involved as the convener. I said we work with Slim as well and that we’d be happy to discuss it together.

TALKING

- He is writing a book and would like to profile WJC’s agriculture work (we discussed Malawi). I said we’d be happy to discuss it further and provide him with more information about the projects.

- CGI. He’s going to try to come to CGI in September. He said it’s right around corn harvest so he doesn’t like being away from his farm but he will try to come for one day.

- He asked if there any appetite to do joint advocacy on agriculture issues – most notably US food aid. I tried to bring it back to CGI as an opportunity for him to share his message there under the umbrella of CGI. It would be good to give him

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information on any agriculture-related programming or action networks being contemplated for September, for him to weigh-in on.

Hope this helps, and I'd welcome your feedback. Thanks, Ami

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From: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 2:36:41 PM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

...who is willing to say Members should turn over their emails!!
Lowey?
Israel?
SJL?

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 9:34 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?

Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?

From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Earned Media Update

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the

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55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: “This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn’t about emails, it’s about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they’d hold themselves.

Washington Post : “Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records.” [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : “ But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. “He did exactly what Hillary did,” said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff “went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn’t. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: “When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio’s spokeswoman said they had been deleted.” (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , “Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival.” [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , “But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever.” [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account

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– on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/24/2015 7:53:14 AM
Subject: Re: Follow up 2

Yes, will do.

On Thu, Sep 24, 2015 at 2:52 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> From Barbara Boxer
> Can you circulate to 8:00 group.
> Second one for circulation coming also.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: "BB" <bbnanna11@gmail.com >
> Date: Sep 18, 2015 7:16 PM
> Subject: Follow up 2
> To: <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> Cc:
>
> Hillary has so many accomplishments. here is my view of the top three.
>
> 1. Being a constant champion for children, women and families all her life.
>
> 2. Organizing the countries of the world to support heavy economic sanctions on Iran to get them to the table to end their nuclear weapons program.
>
> 3.Working and fighting for first responders after 9/11 and to bring financial and moral support to New York City and all of those affected by that tragic terrorist attack.
>
> Sent from my iPad

--

Kristina Schake | Communications
Hillary for America

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	11/21/2014 7:55:02 AM
Subject:	11.21.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	11.21.14 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below.

11.21.14 Weekend Package

1. VIDEO: The American Dream: Hillary Clinton Writing A new Chapter
2. Hillary Clinton on Immigration
3. Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of Income Opportunity
4. Eleven Things You Should Know About Hillary Clinton

"THE AMERICAN DREAM: HILLARY CLINTON WRITING A NEW CHAPTER"

Correct The Record has produced and released a video entitled "The American Dream: Hillary Clinton Writing A New Chapter." Ready For Hillary is partnering in promotion of the video, which will be featured at their conference in New York City.

The four minute video includes footage from Hillary Clinton's recent campaign stops in Iowa and Louisiana, and features a variety of enthusiastic supporters of Hillary Clinton from all over the country voicing why they believe she should be - and must be - our country's next President.

"Correct The Record is proud to present "The American Dream: Hillary Clinton Writing A New Chapter," a video featuring enthusiastic, excited Americans expressing their support of Hillary Clinton," said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record. "As the video highlights, folks from across the country voiced their enthusiasm about Hillary Clinton's strength, resiliency and her vision for the future. The prevailing message heard was 'run, Hillary, run!'"

" The American Dream: Hillary Clinton Writing A New Chapter"

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Inline image 2

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON IMMIGRATION

KEY POINTS:

Hillary Clinton has been a vocal supporter of comprehensive immigration reform and a path to citizenship.

In a statement released after President Obama's executive order on immigration, Hillary Clinton said:

- "I support the President's decision to begin fixing our broken immigration system and focus finite resources on deporting felons rather than families."
- "Only Congress can finish the job by passing permanent bipartisan reform that keeps families together, treats everyone with dignity and compassion, upholds the rule of law, protects our borders and national security, and brings millions of hard-working people out of the shadows and into the formal economy so they can pay taxes and contribute to our nation's prosperity."
- "Our disagreements on this important issue may grow heated at times, but I am confident that people of good will and good faith can yet find common ground."

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton consistently voted in favor of comprehensive immigration reform.

Clinton is a supporter of the DREAM Act and advocated for it on the Senate floor.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton introduced an amendment to reunite families separated by the immigration system. The amendment would have reclassified the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives.

Clinton introduced a bill to restore access to Medicaid and SCHIP benefits for legal immigrant pregnant women and children.

Clinton introduced a bill to provide more funding for job training for people with limited English language skills.

BACKGROUND: HILLARY ON Immigration

Hillary Clinton: "I support the President's decision to begin fixing our broken immigration system and focus finite resources on deporting felons rather than families." In a statement released after President Obama's executive

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order on immigration, Hillary Clinton said, "I support the President's decision to begin fixing our broken immigration system and focus finite resources on deporting felons rather than families. I was hopeful that the bipartisan bill passed by the Senate in 2013 would spur the House of Representatives to act, but they refused even to advance an alternative. Their abdication of responsibility paved the way for this executive action, which follows established precedent from Presidents of both parties going back many decades. But, only Congress can finish the job by passing permanent bipartisan reform that keeps families together, treats everyone with dignity and compassion, upholds the rule of law, protects our borders and national security, and brings millions of hard-working people out of the shadows and into the formal economy so they can pay taxes and contribute to our nation's prosperity. Our disagreements on this important issue may grow heated at times, but I am confident that people of good will and good faith can yet find common ground. We should never forget that we're not discussing abstract statistics—we're talking about real families with real experiences. We're talking about parents lying awake at night afraid of a knock on the door that could tear their families apart, people who love this country, work hard, and want nothing more than a chance to contribute to the community and build better lives for themselves and their children." [Washington Post, 11/20/14]

Hillary Clinton: "I'm a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to advocate for that." As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently told a tearful young undocumented immigrant, "I'm a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to advocate for that." Clinton's remarks came at the Clinton Foundation's "No Ceilings" forum in New York. Clinton went on to say, "I believe strongly we are missing a great opportunity by not welcoming people like you and 11 million others who have made contributions to our country into a legal status so you don't have to worry, you can go to school, you can work, you can pursue your dreams." Clinton also said she is "strongly in favor" of the bipartisan Senate bill and that the House's opposition is "a big missed opportunity for our country." [Washington Post, 4/17/14]

Hillary Clinton has been a strong supporter of the DREAM Act. As Senator Clinton stated during a debate over the DREAM Act on the Senate floor, "There is a solution to this crisis, but sadly, the Senate today failed to act. The DREAM Act – which I have proudly cosponsored for several years – would help expand opportunities for our nation's immigrant children. For those students who have grown up in the United States, have demonstrated good moral character, and are pursuing a college education or have enlisted in the military, the DREAM Act will provide an opportunity to earn legal status in this country." [Clinton floor remarks, 10/24/07]

Sen. Clinton consistently voted in support of comprehensive immigration reform. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton voted for the bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 and voted to invoke cloture on S.1639, the 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill. [Vote #157, S.2611, 5/25/06 , Vote #235, S.1639, 6/28/07]

Sen. Clinton introduced legislation to restore access to Medicaid and SCHIP benefits for legal immigrant pregnant women and children. In 2007, Hillary introduced the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act "which amends titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (Children's Health Insurance) (SCHIP) of the Social Security Act to grant states the option of covering certain categories of eligible pregnant women and child resident aliens, including targeted low-income children, under the Medicaid and SCHIP programs." [S.764, 3/5/07]

Sen. Clinton introduced legislation to provide more job training funds for individuals with limited English language skills. In 2003, Hillary Clinton introduced the Access to Employment and English Language Acquisition Act which "Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for: (1) job training that integrates occupational skills training with language acquisition; and (2) specified services for individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). Authorizes the Secretary to award incentive grants to States for exemplary performance in carrying out integrated training programs." [S.1543, introduced, 7/31/03]

Sen. Clinton introduced an amendment to reunite families who had been separated by the immigration system. In 2007, during a debate over the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, Sen. Clinton introduced an amendment "to reclassify the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives." As she said before the vote, "It is time to take all the rhetoric about family values and put it into action and show that we mean what we say when we talk about putting families first. That is what my amendment does. This amendment is a bipartisan amendment offered with Senator Hagel and Senator Menendez. It is our view we must make reuniting families a

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priority in our immigration system, that we should show compassion for those living apart from their spouses and minor children, that we should reform immigration in a way that honors families and brings them together." The bipartisan amendment, introduced with Sens. Hagel and Menendez failed, 44-53. [Vote # 195, 6/6/07]

HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF INCOME OPPORTUNITY

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

BACKGROUND: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that all hardworking Americans have the chance to succeed, no matter their circumstances. Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, expanding access to early childhood education and healthcare, working to raise the minimum wage, and advocating for out-of-work Americans, Hillary's record reflects the belief that every American should have the right to achieve economic security and income opportunity.

Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair share. She opposed the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

- Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families.

- Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

BOTTOM LINE: The lack of income opportunity is hurting working families across the country and poses a threat to the American ideal that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should have the opportunity to succeed. Hillary Clinton's record reflects the belief that your ability to get ahead should be determined by your hard work, ambition, and goals – not by your circumstances.

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ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes , it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy , "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly

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international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia ,Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
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Date: 7/25/2014 11:46:44 AM
Subject: Rubio Discovers Void, Proposes More of What Created It

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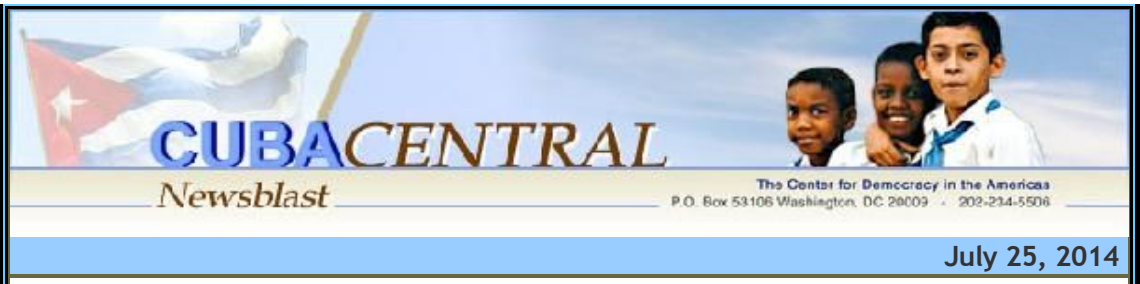

July 25, 2014

Dear Friends:

In 1992, Brigadier General Simon P. Worden, then serving at the Department of Defense, coined the phrase "self-licking ice cream cones " to describe a curiosity of Washington bureaucratic life. This is defined as a process that offers few benefits and exists primarily to justify its own existence.

The U.S. embargo against Cuba is a classic example of the self-licking ice cream cone at work. When champions of the hardline policy identify problems created by the embargo, they argue for increasing the sanctions that triggered the problems in the first place.

Consider Senator Marco Rubio's essay, "Marco Rubio on the Russian Threat to the Western Hemisphere," published last week in Power Line . Russia, like other nations, Rubio explains, has leapt into a "leadership void" in Latin America -

The Obama Administration's failure to pursue a consistent, meaningful and proactive strategy in Latin America has left a leadership void that not only Russia but also China, Iran, North Korea and others have been able to exploit. In recent years, we've seen each of these nations move aggressively to enhance their alliances in the region, and expand their defense and intelligence relationships.

Rubio seems to be living in a world in which the U.S. can control events in our hemisphere, or at least act as gatekeeper, determining which nations can enter Latin America and for what purpose; the kind of Monroe Doctrine world that has been declared dead , over and over again .

As we report below, the President of China, Xi Jinping, wrapped up his tour of Latin America this week with three days of activities in Cuba, culminating with his visit to the Moncada Barracks where the Cuban Revolution dates its start, 61 years ago tomorrow. But Xi, as AFP reports , also "made a point during his tour of reaching out to countries often shunned by US and European investors, including Argentina, Cuba and Venezuela."

President Xi came to the region with other leaders of the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) for a summit, during which they announced the creation of a $50 billion bank for infrastructure projects and a $100 billion crisis reserve fund described as a "mini-IMF."

German media described the purpose of creating banks to fund public works and credit in the region as offsetting "the clout of western financial institutions" as well as bolstering investment in infrastructure.

This is especially meaningful to Cuba. The Helms-Burton law, enacted in 1996, requires the United States government to oppose Cuba's admission to the International Monetary Fund and every other relevant international financial institution - such as the International

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Development Association and the Inter-American Development Bank - until the Cuban government is replaced.

In the meanwhile, the Obama Administration is aggressively enforcing sanctions on a global basis against financial institutions that do business with Cuba. Small wonder, then, that "Cuban official media are closely following the creation of a new $100 billion development bank that may offer lower-cost lending alternatives outside the realm of Washington and Wall Street," as reported by CubaStandard.com this week.

Helms-Burton also requires the U.S. to oppose and vote against Cuba's entry into the Organization of American States. Barring Cuba from the OAS also results in Cuba's exclusion from meetings of the Summit of the Americas. This, in turn, has led both to threats by nations in the Hemisphere to boycott the next summit scheduled to take place in Panama in 2015 and to the strengthening of Latin American institutions and initiatives that exclude the U.S. and Canada. The self-licking ice cream cone licks on.

Paradoxically, the BRICS bank breakthrough led former President Fidel Castro to write about the summit's concluding statement, the Fortaleza Declaration, in a reflection which praised the leaders because they recognized "the important role which state enterprises play in the economy, **as well as small and medium sized companies, as creators of employment and wealth**."

While Fidel Castro was praising the private sector, Rubio was turning red at Russia's reemergence as a player in Cuba, as we discussed recently here and here . Rather than conceding the role that U.S. sanctions played in creating the void that the BRICS were filling this month, the Senator from Florida suggested that we double-down instead. To punish Cuba for welcoming Putin back, Rubio writes:

"[The] U.S. must continue denying the Castro regime access to money it uses to oppress the Cuban people and invest in foreign policy initiatives that actively challenge and undermine U.S. interests. The Obama Administration should roll back the economic benefits it has extended to the Cuban regime, in the form of expanded U.S. travel and remittances..."

By this logic, if hardline policies haven't freed Alan Gross, haven't stopped oil development in the Gulf of Mexico, haven't blocked Cuba from hosting peace talks between Colombia and the FARC, haven't brought the Cuban economy to its knees, and haven't rallied Latin American nations to our side, sanctions supporters have just one answer: tighten them more.

This week in Cuba news...

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U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Lt. Governor of Fla. attacks Charlie Crist for wanting to lift Cuba embargo

Carlos López-Cantera, Florida's Lieutenant Governor, accused gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist of having a "flippant and shallow attitude" toward U.S. relations with Cuba, reports Sunshine State News . Crist supports lifting the embargo on Cuba and announced plans to travel to the island this summer, though he subsequently postponed those plans until after the election.

López-Cantera, who was born in Spain and is of Cuban descent, said on Wednesday, "While Gov. Scott has been building upon the 600,000 jobs created under his term and sharing his vision to grow 'Jobs for the Next Generation' this week, the only jobs plan Charlie Crist has offered is for Florida to do business with Cuba, a state sponsor of terror."

Crist responded to the accusation in an interview with the Nuevo Herald , saying, "That is obviously political propaganda on his part to inflame passions among Cubans in Florida. ... The idea of not having the embargo is actually aimed to help the people on the island."

López-Cantera was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to his post in January 2014 following the resignation of Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll who left office over an ethics controversy. Scott and López-Cantera face former Governor Crist and his running mate, Annette Taddeo, in the November election.

Cuba's first CGI animated film to be shown in U.S.

The first Cuban film to use computer-generated imagery (CGI) animation premiered in Cuba last Sunday, and will be shown in twelve countries, including the United States, report Cubadebate and Havana Times .

The film, called "Meñique," or, in English, "Pinky," was directed and written by Ernesto Padrón and produced by the Animation Studios of the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC), with the help of the Spanish company Fiction Productions. Meñique is based on Jose Martí's adaptation of the French story "Thumb," which Martí

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published in his children's magazine "*La Edad de Oro*," or "The Golden Age."

Cuban Vice President Miguel Díaz-Canel said that the film teaches important values, adding: "I feel very proud that we have made this movie. It is a special present to children on their day." Children's Day is observed in Cuba on the third Sunday of July. A trailer for the film is available here .

Twenty U.S. students graduate from ELAM

According to MEDICC , 20 U.S. students graduated from the Latin American Medical School (ELAM) in Havana, Cuba on July 23. Among the 1,382 graduates, 879 are from nations outside of Cuba, and 29% of those are Peruvian (the largest international constituency). Celebrating the end of their six-year scholarships, the 20 U.S. students participated in a ceremony attended by Cuban Vice President Ramón Machado Ventura and Minister of Health Roberto Morales.

Students say they plan to implement what they have learned by going into rural areas to replicate the work of other Cuban doctors, and serving underrepresented and marginalized groups, while others say they plan to enter family medicine and pediatrics. Since 2005, ELAM has graduated 23,000 students from all over the world.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

China's President Xi Jinping visits Cuba, signs 29 cooperation agreements

At the conclusion of his visit to Latin America, President Xi Jinping of China came to Cuba this week for meetings that focused on economic opportunities between the two countries, reports Reuters . On Tuesday, President Xi met with former President Fidel Castro (seen in this video) and with President Raúl Castro. In a statement, Xi praised the economic reforms that have taken place under Raúl Castro, saying, "Both China and Cuba are at a key stage in their respective development....Cuba is now updating, in an integrated manner, its economic model," reports the Associated Press .

During the trip, Cuba and China signed 29 bilateral accords addressing economic, cultural, and educational cooperation, and agreed to collaborate in the fields of biotechnology and renewable energy, reports CCTV . China also granted several interest-free loans to Cuba, one of which will go toward building a port terminal in Santiago de Cuba, reports Havana Times .

Terra reports China and Cuba are currently discussing additional investment opportunities, including in the pharmaceutical industry and in car assembly. The article notes that President Xi's Cuba visit coincided with a Chinese business delegation exploring investment opportunities. Cuba's new foreign investment law went into effect in June .

During the trip, President Xi attended the opening of a plant that produces blood glucose test strips, built with the help of technology transfers from China's Changsha SINOCARE Inc., reports Xinhua . Production is projected to start by the end of this year, and the plant is expected to help both the growing number of diabetes patients in Cuba as well as increase the country's export capacities.

This was President Xi's second visit to Cuba. During his first, in 2011 as Vice President of China, he signed ten bilateral agreements. China is Cuba's second largest trading partner, after Venezuela. As of August 2013, trade between China and Cuba amounted to some $1.4 billion, a 25% increase over the same period in 2012.

President Xi began his visit to Latin America last week , when he attended the BRICS Summit in Brazil and pledged $35 billion to fund projects in the region. He also made stops in Argentina and Venezuela, pledging billions more for the countries' transportation and extractive industries.

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Fidel Castro penned an article published in Cuban state newspaper Granma that describes the agreements reached during the BRICS Summit and emphasizing the importance of Cuba's ties to China and Russia. "The contribution[s] that Russia and China can make to science, technology, and economic development in South America and the Caribbean [are] decisive."

Bolivia will pay for training of doctors in Cuba

Bolivia's President Evo Morales announced this week that his government will pay for specialized medical education for Bolivian students in Cuba, in order for those students to return to Bolivia and run new, specialized hospitals, reports EFE . Bolivia says it will begin building these hospitals immediately in the cities of La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz. President Morales stated that the new hospitals will specialize in surgery of the brain, kidneys, and heart, and added that the hospital in Cochabamba will provide free cancer treatment.

Cuba's "Operación Milagro" (Operation Miracle) turns ten

Operación Milagro, a Cuban initiative founded in 2004 to offer free eye care to poor and geographically inaccessible communities around the world, celebrated its tenth year this month, reports Cubasí . People in 31 countries throughout Latin America, Asia and Africa have received ophthalmological care from Cuban doctors. By treating cataracts, as well as glaucoma, strabismus, and retina problems, Operación Milagro has "improved or restored" vision to over 3.4 million people since it began ten years ago.

IN CUBA

Contrary to news reports, Mariela Castro says she is alive and not aboard downed plane

After original reports that Mariela Castro, the daughter of President Raúl Castro, was on Air Algerie Flight AH5017, which crashed in bad weather en route to Algeria early Thursday morning, Ms. Castro reported to TeleSur that she is alive and well. The report, which spread through the mainstream press on Thursday, was based on a Facebook post by Burkina Faso's Ouagadougou Airport. The MD-83 passenger plane was carrying 110 passengers and an 8-member crew.

Family of dissident Oswaldo Payá renews plebiscite effort

The family of Oswaldo Payá, the Cuban dissident leader who died two years ago in a car accident, has announced a new campaign for a plebiscite on allowing free, multi-party elections on the island, reports the Miami Herald .

In 2002, Payá's Varela Project presented Cuba's National Assembly with over 10,000 signatures for a petition which called for a change in the country's constitution to allow multiple political parties, freedom of expression, and freedom of association, among other requests. The response to this was the passage of an amendment to the constitution, declaring socialism as the permanent system of Cuba's government.

According to Rosa María Payá, Payá's daughter, the initiative by the Christian Liberation Movement will include "one single question: Do you want to participate in free and multi-party elections?"

Cuban LGBT rights group meets with government officials to discuss Labor Code

Members of Proyecto Arcoíris , an LGBT activist group in Cuba, met with Cuban lawmakers last week, regarding the National Assembly's decision to omit language from Cuba's new Labor Code barring discrimination against transgender people or those with HIV/AIDS, reports IPS . The meeting followed up on a letter to the president of Cuba's National Assembly sent last month protesting the decision. The Assembly was represented

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by government officials led by José Luis Toledo Santander, president of the Parliamentary Commission of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, which was responsible for creating the final draft of the Labor Code .

Toledo Santander told journalist Francisco Rodríguez, who attended the meeting, that the "Style Commission" within the National Assembly had the last say on the language of the law, and chose not to include language about transgender people or those who are HIV/AIDS positive. During the meeting, Rodríguez says he took the opportunity to emphasize "the need for state leaders and the government to study these topics more [sexual orientation and gender identity] and to listen more to those who are specialists in these subjects and also to exert political leadership on scientific grounds."

As we reported in June , the Labor Code did outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, gender, disability, religious beliefs, or region of origin.

IPS reports that members of the government and the activists agreed during the meeting on the importance of passing a law that deals specifically with sexual orientation and focuses on protecting the rights of transgender people.

Recommended Reading

Tampa delegation sees ways to help during Cuba visit , Paul Guzzo, Tampa Tribune

Though Charlie Crist decided not to go to Cuba this summer, the rest of the delegation he had planned to travel with visited the island last week. Guzzo reports on their experience, saying that the travelers took away two goals: to help restore a monument of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Havana and to make the city more handicap accessible.

Cuba Looks to Mangroves to Fend Off Rising Seas , Andrea Rodríguez, Associated Press

Rodríguez reports on the impact of climate change and rising seawater levels on Cuba's coastal regions, and on efforts to preserve the island's extensive mangrove forests. The mangrove thickets play an important role in the coastal ecosystem, and will play a key role in mitigating the effects of rising sea levels.

Education in Cuba: A reform on the way? , José Jasán Nieves and Alejandro Ulloa, Progreso Weekly

Nieves and Ulloa offer details on education reforms in Cuba that the Ministry of Education announced two weeks ago . While it was already announced that teachers would be better trained, this article explains that teachers will now have eight rather than two hours per week of "pedagogical improvement studies." Seven thousand new teachers will be added to combat the teacher shortage, and the university entrance exams will also be modified to protect against fraud, a common problem in recent years.

Dali exhibition to be shown in Cuba for 1st time , EFE

EFE reports that a "Memories of Surrealism" exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Havana will open on July 24 and feature 95 of Salvador Dali's works. This will be the first time Dali's works have been shown in Cuba. Dali kept a home in the Catalan village of Cadaqués, from which an estimated 1,200 inhabitants migrated to Cuba.

In Conversation: Roberto Fabelo on *Fabelo's Anatomy* , Susan Delson, Cuban Art News

Susan Delson interviews Cuban artist Roberto Fabelo about his first solo exhibition in the U.S. Much of the exhibition displays ink drawings by Fabelo, laid over the pages of old anatomical textbooks. The article features a number of Fabelo's images.

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Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Malea Stenzel" <mkstenzel@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 3/23/2010 10:34:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Fwd: Christian Coalition of America Email on Climate/Jobs/Energy Debate

FYI-

The Christian Coalition of America went out today with this email to its membership and a surgery around the issues of:
- national security,
- addiction to oil,
- climate change,
- promotion of alternative energy,
- investing in clean energy technology,
- pollution,
- drilling,
- biblical mandate to care for the future,
- US as a world leader and
- bold leadership is needed by government and business leaders.

Dear friend,

We are conducting a survey of Christian Coalition supporters around the country on one of the most important issues that our country faces today, and we need your input.

Currently, America spends over seven-hundred billion dollars every year to buy foreign oil - in many cases from some countries that hate us or harbor terrorists. That over-reliance on foreign sources of energy puts our country's national security and our economy at the mercy of others.

Whether it's our economy, national security or our environment, so many of our country's interests converge on our energy policies - and we need a better plan.

(Click here to take our survey)

We need a "made in America" approach for developing energy resources that will lead to energy independence, a cleaner environment and more jobs for our families.

We need solutions that include proven American resources as well as the development of new "renewable" energy technologies.

Having a national energy independence strategy will not only help our country address environmental concerns, but free our country from its dependence on foreign oil, create new American jobs and protect our national security.

By building on current technologies, such as domestic oil, nuclear and natural gas - and developing new technologies - America can provide for our future energy independence and build our economy.

As conservatives, we stand up for our country's national security and the health of our economy. And, as Christians, we recognize the Biblical mandate to care for God's creation and protect our children's future.

That's why we're conducting this survey. We want to know what you think about these issues.

While your responses will be kept confidential, the results will be used to send a clear signal to those in positions of influence as to how politically

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active Christians feel about these important issues.

So please click here and complete our survey today.

By participating, you will be adding your voice to that of thousands of other American Christians who care about our nation's future.

Thank you so much for all that you do for our shared values.

Sincerely,

Roberta Combs

President

--

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From: "Joshua Dorner" <jdorner@americanprogress.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/5/2010 3:29:19 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Exclusive: Foreign-Funded 'U.S.' Chamber Of Commerce Running Partisan Attack Ads

http://thinkprogress.org/2010/10/05/foreign-chamber-commerce/

Exclusive: Foreign-Funded 'U.S.' Chamber Of Commerce Running Partisan Attack Ads

U. S. Chamber President Tom Donohue with George Bush

The largest attack campaign against Democrats this fall is being waged by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a trade association organized as a 501(c)(6) that can raise and spend unlimited funds without ever disclosing any of its donors. The Chamber has promised to spend an unprecedented$75 million to defeat candidates like Jack Conway , Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Jerry Brown , Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA), and Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA). As of Sept. 15th, the Chamber had aired more than 8,000 ads on behalf of GOP Senate candidates alone, according to a study from the Wesleyan Media Project. The Chamber's spending has dwarfed every other issue group and most political party candidate committee spending. A ThinkProgress investigation has found that the Chamber funds its political attack campaign out of its general account, which solicits foreign funding. And while the chamber will likely assert it has internal controls, foreign money is fungible, permitting the Chamber to run its unprecedented attack campign. According to legal experts consulted by ThinkProgress, the Chamber is likely skirting longstanding campaign finance law that bans the involvement of foreign corporations in American elections.

In recent years, the Chamber has become very aggressive with its fundraising,opening offices abroad and helping to found foreign chapters (known as Business Councils or "AmChams"). While many of these foreign operations include American businesses with interests overseas, the Chamber has also spearheaded an effort to raise money from foreign corporations, including ones controlled by foreign governments. These foreign members of the Chamber send money either directly to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, or the foreign members fund their local Chamber, which in turn, transfers dues payments back to the Chamber's H Street office in Washington DC. These funds are commingled to the Chamber's 501(c)(6) account which is the vehicle for the attack ads:

– The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has created a large presence in the small, oil-rich country of Bahrain. In 2006, the Chamber created a local affiliate called the "U.S.-Bahrain Business Council" (USBBC), an organization to help businesses in Bahrain take advantage of the Chamber's "network of government and business relationships in the US and worldwide." As the USBBC's bylaws state, it is not an actual separate entity, rather it is simply an office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 501(c)(6) trade association. Many of the USBBC's board members are Bahrainian, including Aluminum Bahrain, Gulf Air, Midal Cables, the Nass Group, Bahrain Maritime & Mercantile International, the Bahrain Petroleum Company (state-owned), Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, and First Leasing Bank. **With each of these foreign board members to the USBBC contributing at least $10,000 annually, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce raises well over $100,000 a year in money from foreign businesses through its operation in Bahrain**. Notably, the membership form provided by the USBBC directs applicants to send or wire their money directly to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The membership form also explicitly states the foreign-owned firms are welcomed.

– Like the Chamber's involvement in Bahrain, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce operates in India through a group called "U.S.-India Business Council" (USIBC), which has offices around the world but is headquartered in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Dozens of Indian businesses, including some of India's largest corporations like the State Bank of India (state-run) and ICICI Bank, are members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce through the USIBC. Annual membership dues range from $7,500 to $15,000 or more, and the money is given directly into the Chamber's 501(c)(6) bank account. **Like the USBBC, the USIBC generates well over $200,000 a year in dues for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce from foreign businesses.** On the USIBC website, many of the groups lobbying goals advocate changing American policy to help businesses in India. Under the manufacturing policy goal, USIBC boasts that it "can play a helpful role in guiding U.S. companies to India, while supporting various policy initiatives that will enhance India's reputation as a major manufacturing and investment hub."

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– Many foreign "AmChams" or Business Councils operate outside the direct sphere of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce but nonetheless send dues money back to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For instance, the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt is a separate entity based in Cairo that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars from both Egyptian firms and American businesses. However, the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt calls itself "the most active affiliates of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the" Middle East. **Some foreign chambers, like the Abu Dhabi AmCham, which includes American firms and Esnaad, a subsidiary of the state-run Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, claims that it is a a "dues paying member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and part of the global network of American Chambers of Commerce."**In Russia, the relationship between the American Chamber of Commerce there and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce here is opaque. This might be because many of the dues-paying members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia are Russian state-run companies, like VTB Bank , and controlled by the Russian government. Asked by ThinkProgress if the Russian Chambers pay dues back to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Ksenia Forsheneva, the membership development manager at the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, replied, **"Unfortunately the information that you require is closed for the public."**

Previously, it has been reported that foreign firms like BP , Shell Oil, and Siemens are active members of the Chamber. But on a larger scale, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce appears to rely heavily on fundraising from firms all over the world , including China, India, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Russia, and many other places. Of course, because the Chamber successfully lobbied to kill campaign finance reforms aimed at establishing transparency , the Chamber does not have to reveal any of its foreign funding. Dues-paying members of the Chamber could potentially be sending additional funds this year to help air more attack ads against Democrats.

Here's how it works. Regular dues from American firms to the Chamber can range from $500 to $300,000 or more, depending on their size and industry, and can be used for any purpose deemed necessary by Donohue and the Chamber leadership. For example, the health insurance giant Aetna has reported that it paid $100,000 in annual dues to the Chamber in the past. But for specific advocacy or advertising campaigns, corporations can hide behind the label of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and give additional money. Last year, alongside their regular dues, health insurance companies like Aetna secretly funneled up to $20 million to the Chamber for attack ads aimed at killing health reform (publicly, health insurance executives claimed they supported reform). Last week, Politico reported that News Corporation, the parent company of Fox News, gave an extra $1 million to the Chamber for its election season attack campaign.

There are many reasons foreign corporations are seeking to defeat Democratic candidates this November. The Chamber has repeatedly sent out issue alerts attacking Democratic efforts to encourage businesses to hire locally rather thanoutsource to foreign counties. The Chamber has also bitterly fought Democrats for opposing unfettered free trade deals. To galvanize foreign businesses, the Chamber has commissioned former Ambassador Frank Lavin — who served as the McCain-Palin Asia campaign director and has appeared on television multiple times recently saying a Democratic Congress is bad for business — to speak before various foreign Chamber affiliates to talk about the stakes for the 2010 midterm elections.

Because campaign finance laws prohibit foreign entities from contributing to political races here in America, we asked the Chamber to defend the legality of its fundraising operation. We have yet to receive a response. But as word of our investigation began to leak out yesterday, the Chamber informed Politico's Mike Allen that it is now "preparing a response ."

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From: "John DeCock - Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 5/3/2010 10:53:25 AM
Subject: Make Water a Priority

Clean Water Action logo with wave backgroun

Make Water Protection an Energy Priority, Not an Afterthought

Dear Mary,

The Gulf Coast oil spill disaster has grabbed headlines recently, and with good reason. We already know that the human, economic and environmental toll makes this one of the worst environmental disasters ever.

We know that oil spills will happen sooner or later as a consequence of oil drilling and development in coastal and offshore environments. The only real questions are: when will it happen and how bad will it be?

Clean Water Action's campaign to make water protection a national energy policy priority, not an afterthought, needs your financial support today.

Donate Now

Support Clean Water Action's campaign for energy policies that make water protection a priority.

GRAPHIC: Donate button

Mary, how much are we willing to sacrifice for a false energy "solution" that is all about fattening Big Oil's bottom line, that has few if any "security" or "price at the pump" benefits?

The time has come to transform our energy economy by investing in clean energy technologies, while rejecting bad investments in dirty, expensive, and unsafe technologies, like coal and nuclear power or more off-shore oil drilling.

Clean Water Action got its start in the 1970s at a time when devastating oil spills were relatively common and relatively unregulated. It is no accident that for decades - until the Bush-Cheney Administration's reckless industry-friendly policy reversals - most offshore oil development was not allowed. Clean Water Action has consistently opposed offshore and coastal drilling proposals, from Alaska to Florida, around the Chesapeake Bay and up the Atlantic seaboard.

Just a few weeks from now, the U.S. Senate is expected to begin work again on comprehensive energy and climate legislation. **With your support, Mary , Clean Water Action can continue to press for strong clean energy and climate change solutions that don't rely on high risk, low reward schemes like coal and nuclear power or more off-shore oil drilling.**

Make sure Clean Water Action has the resources we need to carry this message to Congress:

- We need an energy policy and climate solutions that make water protection a litmus test for sustainability.
- Energy technologies that degrade and deplete the nation's water

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resources need to be replaced with those which preserve and protect them.

Sincerely,

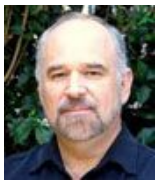

John DeCock
President & CEO
Clean Water Action

P.S. - Your donation now will help Clean Water Action keep the heat on Congress to support strong climate and energy legislation and hold Senators and Representatives accountable for their votes in the fall.

Contact Us

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave NW,
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-4918
202-895-0420

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To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/3/2015 2:48:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: EPA's nuclear shift eases climate goals for South Carolina, Georgia

Are you pronuke?
Happy with how this turned out?
I am in Tasmania
Snowing here
Let me know how it's going
Tony

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard <politicoemail@politicopro.com >
Date: August 4, 2015 at 7:44:08 AM GMT+10
To: <podesta@podesta.com >
Subject: EPA's nuclear shift eases climate goals for South Carolina, Georgia
Reply-To: <proservices@politicopro.com >

8/3/15 5:43 PM EDT

EPA's decision to not include nuclear reactors that are under construction in its state emissions goals under its new climate rule has significantly eased the burden on South Carolina and Georgia .

There are currently five reactors under construction in South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, and last year's draft version of EPA's emissions rule included them in the target for the states, which would have forced those states to make even deeper pollution cuts. The final rule says that those reactors may now be used to meet state emissions goals in part because unlike the growing investment and ever-shrinking costs of building out renewable energy, such trends "are not as clearly evidenced in nuclear generation."

Nuclear plants that increase their power output may also be used to meet a state's goals.

The final rule trimmed South Carolina's emissions rate goal from 51 percent to 36 percent, while Georgia's was reduced from 44 percent to 34 percent. Both states have two reactors under construction. Part of their lower targets was from an increase in their 2012 baseline emissions calculated by EPA.

The goal set out for Tennessee , where one reactor is under construction, rose by about a percentage point from the draft.

Today's final rule also axes a proposal aimed at factoring in the preservation of existing nuclear generation. "Existing nuclear generation helps make existing CO2 emissions lower than they would otherwise be, but will not further lower CO2 emissions below current levels," the rule states.

— Darius Dixon

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From: "Eric Schmeltzer" <eric@schmeltzerpr.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/18/2012 11:56:03 PM
Subject: [big campaign] New shocker on Romney video

Good morning. Jon Soltz posted this last night, and I'm actually a bit shocked this hasn't gotten pickup. Romney tells a donor on the tape that if a hostage crisis/Desert One type situation arises, he'd "work to find a way to take advantage of that." That, of course, is what he did, exactly, after the attacks in Libya and Egypt. Please feel free to pass this along.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jon-soltz/did-romney-actually-say-h_b_1895437.html

Did Romney Actually Say He'd Take Advantage of Hostages or Dead Americans?

Watch the now infamous Romney tapes, starting at the 4 minute mark . A questioner asks him about foreign policy and they start to talk about the hostage crisis in 1980. Then Romney drops this nugget:

> "And yet, in that election, in the Jimmy Carter election, the fact that we had hostages in Iran, I mean, that was all we talked about. And we had the two helicopters crash in the desert, I mean, that was the focus, and so him [Reagan] solv ing that made all the difference in the world. I'm afraid today that if you simply got Iran to agree to stand down on nuclear weapons, they 'd go, "Now hold on. It's really a-" I mean, if something of that nature presents itself I will work to find a way to take adv antage of the opportunity."

I'm sorry , what? If there's an international crisis where Americans die and/or hostages are taken, you'll "work to find a way to take advantage of the opportunity?"

I might not believe that's what Mitt Romney meant by this statement, if it wasn't ***exactly*** what he did down the road, when he immediately tried to politically capitalize on the attacks on our diplomatic outposts, before we even knew who had died.

I know many people hav e been dismay ed over Governor Romney 's comments about the mythical 47 percent who don't pay taxes and mooch off the government, but, to me, this is so much worse.

It shows that the political aspirations and ego of Mitt Romney have no limits - not even national security or American lives are spared. As Commander in Chief, with the military under his control and his finger on the button, what other "opportunities" would he "find a way to take advantage of?"

I shudder to think.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/14/2014 6:48:49 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday August 14, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday August 14, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@allidablack wrote in @TheAdvocateMag how @HillaryClinton has demonstrated her commitment to gay rights http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/08/14/op-ed-hillary-ready-us … [8/14/14, 12:35 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: The @HillaryClinton that @AllidaBlack met in 1993 has always stood by #LGBT people. http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/08/14/op-ed-hillary-ready-us … [8/14/14, 12:08 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to advance policies helping parents balance work and family #HRC365 http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/EOP/First_Lady/html/issues.html … [8/13/14, 6:00 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

New York Times: "Is This Island Big Enough for Clinton and Obama?"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton blew into this tiny island town like a fast-moving hurricane on Wednesday, creating a commotion at the Bunch of Grapes bookstore, where hundreds of admirers waited for hours in the rain for a glimpse of the woman who they hope will be the next president."

The Daily Beast: "Obama Stifled Hillary's Syria Plans and Ignored Her Iraq Warnings for Years"

"But for Clinton personally, the engagement of the armed groups was crucial and the White House's forced policy of pretending that the best way

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to support the revolution was through the civilian opposition based in Turkey was foolish."

Wall Street Journal opinion: Karl Rove: "Hillary's Risky Hawkish Makeover"

"Moving away from Mr. Obama may look good on paper, but it may not work so well. For one thing, Mrs. Clinton cannot point to any notable successes during her State Department tenure."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Even with Hillary Clinton in the race, 2016 is basically a toss-up"

"A new poll from McClatchy and Marist College documents that decline pretty well. In hypothetical matchups with potential 2016 Republican candidates, Clinton has seen her lead decline from 20-plus points in February to the mid-single digits today."

CNN: "Gap shrinks between Hillary Clinton and Republicans"

"While Hillary Clinton still maintains an advantage over potential GOPrivals in 2016, a new poll shows that her lead is narrowing. And as her book tour has received extensive coverage, her support has dropped below 50%, according to the McClatchy-Marist poll released Thursday."

Politico: "Poll: Hillary Clinton's 2016 lead drops"

"A McClatchy-Marist poll released Thursday shows that support for potential Democratic candidate Clinton has dropped to under 50 percent in head-to-head matchups as support for Republican potential candidates such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is gaining."

Time opinion: Sen. Rand Paul: "We Must Demilitarize the Police"

"The outrage in Ferguson is understandable—though there is never an excuse for rioting or looting. There is a legitimate role for the police to keep the peace, but there should be a difference between a police response and a military response."

Articles:

New York Times: "Is This Island Big Enough for Clinton and Obama?"

By Michael D. Shear, Jonathan Martin and Amy Chozick

August 13, 2014

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VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. — Hillary Rodham Clinton blew into this tiny island town like a fast-moving hurricane on Wednesday, creating a commotion at the Bunch of Grapes bookstore, where hundreds of admirers waited for hours in the rain for a glimpse of the woman who they hope will be the next president.

“When I heard Hillary was going to be here, I literally started crying,” said Lily Richards, a 17-year-old high school senior from Greenfield, Mass., whose high school thesis paper argued for Mrs. Clinton’s election as president. “Oh my God, I have to go.”

Up island from the hubbub, President Obama is vacationing at a sprawling shingled home, still setting off friendly waves from locals when his motorcade glides by. But after six years, energy here and elsewhere appears to be shifting from Mr. Obama toward Mrs. Clinton, as the former secretary of state moves away from the president’s orbit toward her own political future, generating tensions that are spilling out in unusual ways.

Mr. Obama is fast becoming the past, not the future, for donors, activists and Democratic strategists. Party leaders are increasingly turning toward Mrs. Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, as Democrats face difficult races this fall in states where the president is especially unpopular, and her aides are making plain that she has no intention of running for “Obama’s third term.”

The moment is an awkward one, and some moves by Mrs. Clinton are reopening wounds from the 2008 primary contest. Her blunt public criticism of the president’s foreign policy in The Atlantic this week touched off frustration among Mr. Obama’s advisers and supporters, especially her suggestion that under Mr. Obama, the United States lacked an “organizing principle” in its approach to international relations. “ ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle,” Mrs. Clinton said.

Christine Pelosi, a longtime Democratic activist and daughter of the House minority leader, Nancy Pelosi, said her phone and email “just exploded” after Mrs. Clinton’s remarks.

“Now is not the time to second guess the commander in chief, particularly when you’re a former member of his cabinet and national security team,” Ms. Pelosi said.

The sharpest response to the interview came from David Axelrod, who helped Mr. Obama crush Mrs. Clinton in the primary six years ago in part by calling attention to her support for the Iraq war. “Just to clarify: ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision,” Mr. Axelrod wrote on Twitter on Tuesday.

Mrs. Clinton then issued an unusual public statement, saying that she had called the president to reassure him that she had not intended to attack him, and that she looked forward to “hugging it out” with him at a party hosted by Vernon E. Jordan Jr. on Martha’s Vineyard on Wednesday night.

Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama sat at the same table during the party, a birthday celebration for Mr. Jordan’s wife, Ann, at the Farm Neck Golf Club. The president and his former top diplomat ate surf ’n’ turf and pasta, but White House officials declined to say whether they hugged.

When Mrs. Clinton arrived Wednesday to begin signing copies of her latest book, “Hard Choices,” on Wednesday, she paused to respond to reporters who called out questions about her relationship with Mr. Obama. She answered without missing a beat, saying: “We have disagreements, as any partners and friends — as we are — might very well have. But I’m proud that I served with him and for him.”

Then she turned her focus to her waiting fans, greeting them with a big smile, a “thanks for being here” or “hello, sir, how are you?” and a quick flick of the pen as she signed their books. Owners of the bookstore said they had sold more than 1,000 books in advance of the event.

“Awesome. I just talked to the 45th president!” said Cynthia Woolbright, 63, who pumped her fist in the air after the former first lady signed her copy.

Some Obama administration officials complain privately that Mrs. Clinton is already making the president’s job more difficult. As Mr. Obama navigates multiple foreign crises abroad, they say, he finds few vocal supporters in the Democratic foreign policy establishment because would-be diplomats and advisers have their eye on jobs in a future Clinton administration and do not want to be seen as taking sides in a dispute between Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton.

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Even before Mrs. Clinton's critique of Mr. Obama, some of the president's original loyalists were questioning the wisdom of her high-profile book tour, which has been likened to a trial run for a national campaign.

"I don't even understand why they're doing this," Mr. Axelrod said in an interview earlier this summer. "If I were her, I would be so sparing. With this, she makes herself a candidate and a target. Why she'd want to be out there so early is beyond me."

Robert Gibbs, another former adviser to Mr. Obama, said Mrs. Clinton risked being drawn into an extended news media examination that would not benefit a potential candidacy. Plus, Mr. Gibbs noted, Mrs. Clinton is inevitably going to draw attention from Mr. Obama's agenda in the small window that exists between now and when the 2016 campaign is fully engaged.

"There's no doubt that there's a certain amount of news that you're going to cede each day," he said of Mr. Obama.

Officially, Mr. Obama's aides dismiss the notion that there is strain between the president and Mrs. Clinton and insist that their staffs have worked hard to develop trust. And they say it is natural for Mrs. Clinton to stake out her own positions.

"It would be weird if she had no differences with us," Benjamin J. Rhodes, the deputy national security adviser, said shortly after "Hard Choices" was published. "She has every right to say where there are some differences, even as she's made clear they agree on most issues."

Still, the role reversal is a striking reminder that nothing in politics is fixed. Mr. Obama eclipsed the Clintons in 2008 as the fresh, new face of the Democratic Party, portraying them as baby boomer relics. Now, Mr. Obama is in danger of becoming a lame duck, and his party has once again started thinking about tomorrow — with the Clintons in mind.

Democratic strategists say the difference in standing will be especially striking this fall. The party is being overrun with candidates' requests for the Clintons to campaign for them, while almost no candidate wishes to appear with Mr. Obama.

Others suggested that Mrs. Clinton's criticism of the president's foreign policy could actually help some Democratic candidates in places where Mr. Obama is very unpopular. And her aides clearly believe it will help her.

Many of those who lined up for the book-signing in the steady rain, patiently submitting to Secret Service screening and following lines marked with yellow police tape, were women.

"I love Obama," said Patti McGrath, 72, of Harwich, Mass., "but I want to see women leading countries."

The Daily Beast: "Obama Stifled Hillary's Syria Plans and Ignored Her Iraq Warnings for Years"

By Josh Rogin

August 14, 2014

[Subtitle:] The rift between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama over Syria that spilled view this week was three years in the making and was about much more than just arming the rebels.

Throughout 2011 and well into 2012, President Obama's White House barred Hillary Clinton's State Department from even talking directly to the

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moderate Syria rebels. This was only one of several ways the Obama team kept the Clinton team from doing more in Syria, back before the revolution was hijacked by ISIS and spread into Iraq.

The policy feud has flared up again in recent weeks, with Clinton decrying Obama's Syria policy, Obama's inner circle hitting back, and the president himself calling criticism of his Syria moves "horseshit." Obama and his former secretary of state promised to patch things up at a social gathering on Wednesday. But the rift is deep, and years in the making.

Clinton and her senior staff warned the White House multiple times before she left office that the Syrian civil war was getting worse, that working with the civilian opposition was not enough, and that the extremists were gaining ground. The United States needed to engage directly with the Free Syrian Army, they argued; the loose conglomeration of armed rebel groups was more moderate than the Islamic forces—and begging for help from the United States. According to several administration officials who were there, her State Department also warned the White House that Iraq could fall victim to the growing instability in Syria. It was all part of a State Department plea to the president to pursue a different policy.

"The State Department warned as early as 2012 that extremists in eastern Syria would link up with extremists in Iraq. We warned in 2012 that Iraq and Syria would become one conflict," said former U.S. ambassador to Syria Robert Ford. "We highlighted the competition between rebel groups on the ground, and we warned if we didn't help the moderates, the extremists would gain."

But the warnings, which also came from other senior officials—including then-CIA chief David Petraeus and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta—fell on deaf ears. Obama's small circle of White House foreign policy advisers resisted efforts to make connections with rebel fighters on the ground until 2013, when the administration began to train and equip a few select vetted brigades. For many who worked on Syria policy inside the administration, it was too little, too late.

In the spring of 2012, the State Department prepared several classified reports for the White House that provided evidence that the Assad regime was much more durable than thought and was not on the verge of collapse, as both the White House and State Department had assessed up to that point. Back then, the al Qaeda offshoot Jabhat al-Nusra was the main extremist threat, but Clinton's State Department was prevented from having any relationship with the rebels who were fighting both the terrorists and the regime, often having to work through intermediaries.

But for Clinton personally, the engagement of the armed groups was crucial and the White House's forced policy of pretending that the best way to support the revolution was through the civilian opposition based in Turkey was foolish.

"Clinton understood that the guys with the guns mattered, not the people in Istanbul, that it would have regional implications, and that it could become one large operating area for al Qaeda," said Ford. "In 2012 and the start of 2013 the most we could do was to provide help to the civilian opposition. We had no permission from the White House to help the FSA, so we did not do so."

Toward the end of 2012, the White House allowed Ford and other State Department officials to have direct contact with the FSA but still barred even the provision of non-lethal aid. John Kerry, who also pushed to arm the rebels, finally got the White House to agree to non-lethal assistance in February 2013. The CIA ticked up its support for some armed rebel groups later that summer.

Throughout Clinton's tenure, the White House ban on doing more to help the Syrian rebels wasn't explicit, but over time everybody got the message. Even U.S. allies in the region, who wanted the United States to take control of the arming of the rebels, were complaining loudly to U.S. officials that the extremists were taking advantage of U.S. inaction.

"There was never a stated policy, but there was a well understood view that we were not going to do any more in Syria than we absolutely had to," said James Smith, who served as U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 2009 to 2013. "The Saudis wanted us to be more involved. They were very concerned about the U.S. being perceived as weak and ineffectual."

White House and National Security Council press staff did not respond to requests for comment.

Another State Department official who worked on Syria during Clinton's tenure said the fights between White House and State Department staff over whether to help the rebels got heated at times. The State Department tried to alleviate Obama's concerns about helping the rebels—it's too risky, the arms could get lost, it won't help—by working hard to figure out who the rebels were and how the United States could help them safely.

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"[The State Department] tried to get the opposition to a place where if the president did decide to arm the rebels, it would be easier to do," the official said. "But the institution of the State Department and the institution of the White House were not on the same page. The president didn't budge, and Hillary had no control over that."

Several former officials expressed exasperation this week after President Obama told The New York Times that the idea that arming the rebels would have made a difference had "always been a fantasy" and that "former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth" could win the war "was never in the cards."

They say Obama's recent comments reveal that he was pursuing a policy that he didn't believe in, by eventually agreeing to let the CIA arm some rebels, but only a little. This year, the president is asking Congress for $500 million to train and equip the very rebels Obama thinks are hopeless.

"It wasn't a fantasy when the U.S. government started training and arming these doctors, farmers, and pharmacists, and led them to believe the U.S. was coming to help them," said another former administration official who worked on the Middle East. "To them, the president's remark is a kick in the gut."

Clinton had to call Obama and apologize after the publication of her Atlantic interview, in which she said Obama's "failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Bashar al-Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled."

Obama's and Clinton's press staffs have both tried to deescalate the feud this week and emphasize their areas of agreement. Obama is particularly sensitive about the criticism that his refusal to arm the rebels contributed to the current crisis in Syria and Iraq. In a meeting with lawmakers even before Clinton's interview, he called that criticism "horseshit."

But even as the White House and Clinton team tried to paper over dispute this week, White House and State Department spokespeople were still sending different messages about the Syrian moderate opposition and whether the U.S. will help them. The State Department emphasized American assistance for the rebels; the White House downplayed the efficacy of that assistance.

"The U.S. has increased the scope and scale of our assistance to the moderate Syrian opposition, including announcements made last year and a request the president made of Congress this year to fund and authorize a train-and-equip program for the moderate Syrian opposition. That's something we think is important, and we've continued to increase our efforts in that area," said State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf on Tuesday, emphasizing that Assad helped start ISIS in the first place and facilitated its activities in Iraq for years. "The Syrian opposition is alive and well in Syria."

Deputy National Security Adviser for Communications Ben Rhodes, on the other hand, emphasized Obama's resistance to Clinton's strategy to help the rebels, because Obama never thought it could work.

"The reason that the president was very deliberate in his decision-making there is 1) we wanted to make sure that we were providing assistance to people who we knew, so that it wouldn't fall into the wrong hands given how many extremists were operating in that area," he said. "And 2) we didn't see a plan that was going to decisively tip the balance against Assad."

Wall Street Journal opinion: Karl Rove: "Hillary's Risky Hawkish Makeover"

By Karl Rove

August 13, 2014, 7:04 p.m. EDT

Barack Obama believed his legacy as president would be that he ended the Iraq war. It looks increasingly that his legacy could be that he lost it.

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By their admission, President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden inherited a war that had been won. In 2011 Mr. Obama said America was "leaving behind a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq," and Mr. Biden proclaimed Iraq "one of the great achievements of this administration."

Mr. Obama then committed a massive error in judgment by withdrawing all U.S. troops. That allowed the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS, the world's most formidable, merciless and dangerous terrorist army. ISIS is now establishing an Islamist caliphate that stretches from Aleppo in Syria to Fallujah and Mosul in Iraq and beyond.

The president was warned about the ISIS threat for months, yet did essentially nothing. As in so many other important moments when decisive action was required, his actions were haphazard and reactive, his leadership detached, his will almost nonexistent.

Even this past week, with ISIS threatening Kurdistan's capital and engaging in genocide against Yazidis and Christians, the best the president could do was order "targeted" airstrikes and send 130 additional troops to serve as "military advisers." While better than nothing, these actions do not demonstrate a commitment to defeating ISIS. Instead, Mr. Obama seems content to cede much of Iraq and Syria to the terrorists. That will have catastrophic consequences.

The Iraq calamity is the most recent in a staggering run of foreign-policy failures, from Syria to Libya to Afghanistan to Russia to Gaza. The president is paying a political price for his bumbling. The July 14 Pew Research poll found only 35% approve of Mr. Obama's handling of Iraq, while 54% disapprove, down from 46% approve and 41% disapprove in January 2011. Mr. Obama's numbers are likely worse today, one month further into the crisis.

Things are so bad that Mr. Obama is even drawing fire from his former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton. She is distancing herself from his foreign policy, telling the Atlantic's Jeffery Goldberg that she favored aiding Syrian opposition groups when Mr. Obama did not. His refusal to provide aid, she said, left a vacuum that was filled by ISIS.

Mrs. Clinton also made it clear that she would be tougher on the Iranian nuclear program and a stronger supporter of Israel than Mr. Obama. Then she added a wicked jab. Playing off the president's earlier quip that his approach to foreign policy is "Don't do stupid s—", she said, "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Mrs. Clinton is calculating that she must separate herself from the president she served because voters increasingly see him as inept and weak. She argues that she is a foreign-policy Goldilocks, balanced between the frontier rambunctiousness of Mr. Obama's predecessor and the erudite timidity of Mr. Obama.

Moving away from Mr. Obama may look good on paper, but it may not work so well. For one thing, Mrs. Clinton cannot point to any notable successes during her State Department tenure. If she developed a strategy that was more than the laughable "reset" button she used to mend U.S. relations with Russia, it escaped public view. Distancing herself from the president's foreign policy also underscores her failure to persuade Mr. Obama to act otherwise.

Mrs. Clinton's shots at the president have angered administration loyalists. Former Obama senior adviser David Axelrod reacted by tweeting that her vote as a senator to authorize the use of force in Iraq was "a tragically bad decision." Liberal commentators are warning that Mrs. Clinton's comments show she is not the inevitable nominee. After being whipsawed, her people now say she called Mr. Obama to "clarify her criticism" and looked forward to "hugging it out" with him at a Martha's Vineyard party Wednesday.

There is a historical precedent worth considering. Vice President Hubert Humphrey found it difficult to distance himself in 1968 from an unpopular President Lyndon Baines Johnson, and he suffered because of it. It was not until a Sept. 30 nationally televised address, when he broke completely with LBJ over the Vietnam War, that he felt he got his campaign back on track. But it was too little, too late, and Humphrey lost to Richard Nixon.

While she is starting her distancing earlier, in some respects Mrs. Clinton faces a greater challenge than Humphrey did in 1968. A gifted politician might be able to pull off what she is attempting, but she is hardly that talented. It's more likely that she will fail to win over many of Mr. Obama's critics as she alienates many of his supporters, making her road to the nomination and White House more difficult.

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Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Even with Hillary Clinton in the race, 2016 is basically a toss-up"

By Aaron Blake

August 14, 2014, 1:19 p.m. EDT

It's no big surprise that Hillary Clinton has come back down to earth polling-wise in the last few months. Her stumbles aside, it was basically bound to happen eventually -- for a whole host of reasons.

A new poll from McClatchy and Marist College documents that decline pretty well. In hypothetical matchups with potential 2016 Republican candidates, Clinton has seen her lead decline from 20-plus points in February to the mid-single digits today. She leads Chris Christie by six points after leading him by 21 points six months ago. She leads Jeb Bush 48-41 after leading him by 20 in February. She leads Rand Paul 48-42 after leading him by the same margin early this year.

Here's how that looks:

[GRAPHS]

Democrats will point out that Clinton is still ahead against all comers. And that's true. It's also true, though, that these polls pretty much show the 2016 presidential race is a toss-up.

Clinton's continued lead, at this point, is pretty clearly a function of her superior name ID. While Clinton wins the votes of 97 percent of "strong Democrats" in all three matchups, Christie and Paul take only 91 percent of "strong Republicans." While Clinton takes 79 percent of "soft Democrats," Paul only takes 65 percent of "soft Republicans." That's largely because these Republicans aren't as well-known to their base.

In all three matchups, Clinton continues to take at least 20 percent of so-called "soft Republicans." That's to her credit, and good on her if she can somehow keep it up. We would wager, though, that as those "soft Republicans" actually get to know Republicans and the GOPs campaign against Clinton begins in earnest, there's no way Clinton will continue to pick off one in five of even the most casual GOP voters. It's just not possible in today's polarized political environment.

As for pure independents-- those who don't really lean toward either party -- they continue to favor Clinton in two of the three matchups. But in all three matchups, around one-third of these voters are undecided. These are the voters that will decide the 2016 election, and there are a lot of them up for grabs. We doubt many of them know much about Rand Paul, Jeb Bush and Chris Christie, even as all of them know who Clinton is.

At this point in the game, Clinton is so well-known that she's effectively the incumbent, trying to ward off her lesser-known challengers. And, as with an incumbent, to the extent that she's below 50 percent in the polls, it's hard to call her a favorite.

CNN: "Gap shrinks between Hillary Clinton and Republicans"

By Ashley Killough

August 14, 2014, 8:36 a.m. EDT

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

While Hillary Clinton still maintains an advantage over potential GOP rivals in 2016, a new poll shows that her lead is narrowing.

And as her book tour has received extensive coverage, her support has dropped below 50%, according to the McClatchy-Marist poll released Thursday.

The survey also looks at the 2016 Republican primary and who fares best among the potential candidates.

Clinton vs. Republican

In a hypothetical matchup against Sen. Rand Paul, Clinton bests the Kentucky Republican, 48%-42%, with 10% undecided. The 6-point margin is equal to the poll's sampling error, and the gap is narrower than in April, when Clinton had a 55%-39%

Matched against Gov. Chris Christie, Clinton leads the New Jersey Republican, 47%-41%, with 12% of voters undecided. That's down from her 53%-42% advantage over Christie in April.

Clinton has also lost her wide margin over former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who she leads 48%-41%, down from her 55%-39% advantage in April.

Republican primary

The poll also asked Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who they would support in the GOP presidential primary. Like nearly every other 2016 poll, the McClatchy-Marist poll indicates there is no frontrunner in the race, and nearly a quarter of Republicans are undecided.

Bush and Christie tie for the top spot at 13% each, with Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas following behind at 10%. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who served as the 2012 vice presidential nominee, ties with Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida at 9%.

Paul and Texas Gov. Rick Perry tie at 7% each. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal all receive less than 5% of support.

The poll also indicates that Paul, while trying to expand the Republican Party has lost support among tea party supporters. In April, he came in at 20% among tea party backers, with Cruz at 6%. Paul now has only has 7% support from the group, compared to Cruz at 15% - the top spot.

The survey was conducted on August 4 with 1,035 adults, including 806 registered voters, questioned over the phone. The registered voters' subset has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For questions about the 2016 GOP primary, 342 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents were interviewed, with a sampling error of plus minus 5.3 percentage points.

Politico: "Poll: Hillary Clinton's 2016 lead drops"

By Kendall Breitman

August 14, 2014, 10:12 a.m. EDT

The Republican front-runners for the 2016 GOPpresidential nomination are shrinking the gap between themselves and Hillary Clinton, according to a new poll.

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A McClatchy-Marist poll released Thursday shows that support for potential Democratic candidate Clinton has dropped to under 50 percent in head-to-head matchups as support for Republican potential candidates such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is gaining.

When asked to chose between Clinton and Christie, 48 percent of those polled said they would vote for Clinton in a general election if one were held today, compared to 41 percent who supported Christie. Four months ago, in April, 53 percent of people said that they would vote for Clinton, while 42 percent sided with Christie. In February, Clinton had an even larger advantage, with 58 percent supporting Clinton and 37 percent saying they would vote for Christie.

Paul, another front runner for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, is also gaining on the former secretary of state. In April, Clinton led Paul 54 percent to 40 percent. In August, Paul is catching up with 42 percent of Americans saying they would vote for the Kentucky senator while 48 percent sided with Clinton.

A similar shrinking gap can be seen between Clinton and Bush. In April, 55 percent of Americans said that they would vote for Clinton in a general election and 39 percent said that they would vote for Bush. On Thursday, results show that only 48 percent supported Clinton while 41 percent said that they would side with Bush in a general election.

This poll was conducted via live-interview telephone survey Aug. 4-7 among 803 registered voters and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Time opinion: Sen. Rand Paul: "We Must Demilitarize the Police"

By Sen. Rand Paul

August 14, 2014, 12:26 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Anyone who thinks that race does not skew the application of criminal justice in this country is just not paying close enough attention. And the root of the problem is big government.

The shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown is an awful tragedy that continues to send shockwaves through the community of Ferguson, Missouri and across the nation.

If I had been told to get out of the street as a teenager, there would have been a distinct possibility that I might have smarted off. But, I wouldn't have expected to be shot.

The outrage in Ferguson is understandable—though there is never an excuse for rioting or looting. There is a legitimate role for the police to keep the peace, but there should be a difference between a police response and a military response.

The images and scenes we continue to see in Ferguson resemble war more than traditional police action.

Glenn Reynolds, in Popular Mechanics, recognized the increasing militarization of the police five years ago. In 2009 he wrote:

"Soldiers and police are supposed to be different. … Police look inward. They're supposed to protect their fellow citizens from criminals, and to maintain order with a minimum of force.

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“It’s the difference between Audie Murphy and Andy Griffith. But nowadays, police are looking, and acting, more like soldiers than cops, with bad consequences. And those who suffer the consequences are usually innocent civilians.”

The Cato Institute’s Walter Olson observed this week how the rising militarization of law enforcement is currently playing out in Ferguson:

“Why armored vehicles in a Midwestern inner suburb? Why would cops wear camouflage gear against a terrain patterned by convenience stores and beauty parlors? Why are the authorities in Ferguson, Mo. so given to quasi-martial crowd control methods (such as bans on walking on the street) and, per the reporting of Riverfront Times, the firing of tear gas at people in their own yards? (‘This my property!’ he shouted, prompting police to fire a tear gas canister directly at his face.’) Why would someone identifying himself as an 82nd Airborne Army veteran, observing the Ferguson police scene, comment that ‘We rolled lighter than that in an actual warzone’?”

Olson added, “the dominant visual aspect of the story, however, has been the sight of overpowering police forces confronting unarmed protesters who are seen waving signs or just their hands.”

How did this happen?

Most police officers are good cops and good people. It is an unquestionably difficult job, especially in the current circumstances.

There is a systemic problem with today’s law enforcement.

Not surprisingly, big government has been at the heart of the problem. Washington has incentivized the militarization of local police precincts by using federal dollars to help municipal governments build what are essentially small armies—where police departments compete to acquire military gear that goes far beyond what most of Americans think of as law enforcement.

This is usually done in the name of fighting the war on drugs or terrorism. The Heritage Foundation’s Evan Bernick wrote in 2013 that, “the Department of Homeland Security has handed out anti-terrorism grants to cities and towns across the country, enabling them to buy armored vehicles, guns, armor, aircraft, and other equipment.”

Bernick continued, “federal agencies of all stripes, as well as local police departments in towns with populations less than 14,000, come equipped with SWAT teams and heavy artillery.”

Bernick noted the cartoonish imbalance between the equipment some police departments possess and the constituents they serve, “today, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, has a .50 caliber gun mounted on an armored vehicle. The Pentagon gives away millions of pieces of military equipment to police departments across the country—tanks included.”

When you couple this militarization of law enforcement with an erosion of civil liberties and due process that allows the police to become judge and jury—national security letters, no-knock searches, broad general warrants, pre-conviction forfeiture—we begin to have a very serious problem on our hands.

Given these developments, it is almost impossible for many Americans not to feel like their government is targeting them. Given the racial disparities in our criminal justice system, it is impossible for African-Americans not to feel like their government is particularly targeting them.

This is part of the anguish we are seeing in the tragic events outside of St. Louis, Missouri. It is what the citizens of Ferguson feel when there is an unfortunate and heartbreaking shooting like the incident with Michael Brown.

Anyone who thinks that race does not still, even if inadvertently, skew the application of criminal justice in this country is just not paying close enough attention. Our prisons are full of black and brown men and women who are serving inappropriately long and harsh sentences for non-violent mistakes in their youth.

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The militarization of our law enforcement is due to an unprecedented expansion of government power in this realm. It is one thing for federal officials to work in conjunction with local authorities to reduce or solve crime. It is quite another for them to subsidize it.

Americans must never sacrifice their liberty for an illusive and dangerous, or false, security. This has been a cause I have championed for years, and one that is at a near-crisis point in our country.

Let us continue to pray for Michael Brown's family, the people of Ferguson, police, and citizens alike.

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From:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Dennis Cheng" <dcheng@hillaryclinton.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/27/2015 12:13:06 PM
Subject:	Fundraiser TPs and Q&A additions
Attachments:	2015-04-27 Fundraising TPs - 630pm.docx 2015-04-27 Q&A Additions.docx

Flagging for everyone some talking points for tomorrow's fundraisers and also some suggested Q&A on Clinton Cash and Baltimore.

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From: "Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 11:01:21 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here it is: https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/627237070268964864

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 3:45 PM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Will nudge the approvals chain right now

On Jul 31, 2015, at 3:42 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I hope so! Can we get it going?

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 3:40 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Is this happening?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

ok by me

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 1:02 PM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I vote for just replying directly with no period before the @ - people will see this and it will get pickup. We do need to shorten though - here's my attempt:

@ marcorubio That's backwards—engagement's a threat to the Castros, not a gift. Embargo hasn't worked for 50 yrs. Cuban ppl deserve better -H

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:41 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

+ Nick and Lauren.

From: Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Like this (w the handle). Lets do it

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

I like including his handle.

.@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Here we go...
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> User Actions
>
> Following

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Marco RubioVerified account @marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--

Jeremy Massey

Research Department

847 736 9211

JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/12/2015 2:15:07 PM
Subject: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.

Thanks.
Ian

OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS

Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.

- **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.

- **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.

- **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.

If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:

Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.

- Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
- Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
- Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
- Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our

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nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
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From: "Paul Begala" <info@seanmaloney.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/6/2014 1:29:53 PM
Subject: boomerang!

sean patrick maloney
Democrat for Congress

John-

It's a bit like a boomerang: **You don't have to worry about getting hit 'til it comes back at you.**

Well, Nan Hayworth is coming back at Sean with $100,000 of her own money, plus all the millions her biggest fan, Karl Rove, can get his mitts on.

I know Sean unseated her last time, but **with the kind of cash Hayworth's extreme ideology avails her, she could win it again.**

And we know exactly what we're getting with Hayworth – another vote to defund Planned Parenthood, to play Russian Roulette with the American economy and the Full Faith and Credit of the United States of America, cut taxes on billionaires – excuse me while I catch my breath… OK – essentially end Medicare as we know it, cut taxes for Big Oil, hold disaster aid hostage to other cuts in vital services and cut more taxes on billionaires.

Hayworth's using her personal wealth to jumpstart her attacks on Sean. Sean needs a grassroots response to match her $100,000 in the next 48 hours – will you help him respond?

Donate $250 or more now! Make sure Sean has what he needs to respond to Hayworth and Rove's dishonest attacks.

The last off-year election was 2010 – you remember, the rise of the Tea Party? Well, they were defeated in 2012 and see 2014 as their opportunity for a comeback. That's what Hayworth's thinking. Add in that Hayworth – a Planned Parenthood-attacking, anti-choice, anti-worker extremist – is fronting her own cash, and it's clear she means business this time.

We have to gear up, too. Sean needs to raise $100,000 in the next 48 hours to keep pace and fight back. Will you help now?

Click here to give $250 or more in a New York minute. Hayworth's in. This can't wait.

Thank you,

Paul

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Contribute

This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com.
To unsubscribe from the Sean Patrick Maloney for Congress email list, please click here.

Paid for by Sean Patrick Maloney for Congress

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/20/2014 7:33:25 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday December 20, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday December 20, 2014 Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: On her first trip to Iraq as Sec. of State, @HillaryClinton held a roundtable with Iraqi women #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/1dR4Hzg [11:00 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Politico: "Democratic techies' divided loyalties"

"While Clinton has a deep bench to draw from, she'll also be staffing up in the first open Democratic presidential primary to feature so many different tech companies competing for campaign business."

Huffington Post: "Elizabeth Warren Is Good and Bad News for the Democrats"

"The saving grace for now is that Democrats, by a lop-sided margin, are solidly behind Clinton. That's the good news for Clinton. The bad news is those numbers mask the weak enthusiasm or outright opposition that many Democrats have to a Clinton presidential bid. Warren almost certainly will continue to remain their alternative."

The Washington Post: "In Paul-Rubio feud over Cuba, a preview of 2016"

"The spat was also the latest example of Paul's combative tendencies. He has been the most aggressive GOP presidential contender in taking on

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Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former secretary of state and likely Democratic candidate, and showed Friday that he will not hesitate to throw punches at fellow Republicans as well."

CNN Politics: "2016 Republicans slam Cuba announcement"

"The GOP positions set up a clear contrast with a possible 2016 Democratic election rival Hillary Clinton, who expressed support for Obama's moves in a statement released Wednesday night."

Politico: "Leaked: Democrats' attack plan for Bush"

"The Democratic National Committee wants surrogates to attack Jeb Bush as the Mitt Romney of 2016, an out-of-touch representative of the 1 percent who is more conservative than he lets on."

CNN Politics: "Inside the push to draft Ben Carson for president"

"Sousa, 67, launched a super PAC last year that has raised millions in an effort to urge Dr. Ben Carson to explore a White House bid. Since the launch, Sousa and his team have proven to be a fundraising powerhouse, raising a whopping $12.2 million from more than 100,000 donors. That even edged out the effort by Hillary Clinton's supporters, who have raised $12.1 million for the "Ready for Hillary" super PAC."

Washington Examiner: "Future uncertain, Romney sits atop GOP polls"

"Many polls don't include Romney in their surveys. But the many that do suggest that, at least for now, Romney is a front-runner, if not *the* front-runner in the 2016 Republican race."

Articles:

Politico: "Democratic techies' divided loyalties"

By DARREN SAMUELSOHN 12/20/14 9:03 AM EST

[Subtitle]: Ex-Obama hands split between Clinton, rivals.

Scores of the Democratic techies who helped Barack Obama defeat Hillary Clinton for the 2008 presidential nomination are now seeking alternatives to Clinton in 2016. Some are even promising the same kind of digital throw-down to sink her presumptive front-runner campaign as they did in 2008.

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Clinton is still expected to be able to field a formidable tech team. But her troubles in grabbing many of the party's young campaign innovators have a good deal to do with Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat who insists she's not running for president but who has quickly become an appealing pick for Obama alumni who built his two campaigns' data and digital infrastructure. Earlier this month, more than 300 of Obama's former campaign staffers, including his chief information officer and senior aides who handled email, online fundraising and field efforts, released a letter begging Warren to jump into the race.

"What we were trying to do is send a signal to the larger country but also to Sen. Warren herself to say a lot of this institutional knowledge and power that's been built up over the last couple of years actually is with you," Christopher Hass, an Obama 2008 and 2012 digital campaign aide, said in an interview.

"We're not robots," added Catherine Bracy, who led Obama's San Francisco field office in 2012. "I think people are going to choose the candidate who inspires them the most. And for many of us that's Elizabeth Warren."

While Clinton's other potential 2016 rivals will be widely outmatched on the financial front, they are hardly tech neophytes and each brings his own digital skill sets to compete on the social media battlefield and for critical early votes in Iowa and New Hampshire. After all, Bernie Sanders is arguably Congress' biggest social media powerhouse; Martin O'Malley has governed both Baltimore and Maryland with an obsessive eye on statistics; and Jim Webb has a proven track record as a candidate willing to use progressive bloggers and viral videos to exploit his opponents' weaknesses for advantage.

"I'd not be surprised if [Sanders] or one of the others get several bumps over the next six months," said a senior Democratic source, noting the Vermont senator's ability to make waves on Facebook and Twitter while Clinton at the same time would be working to define her own new narrative. "I think she's got an enormous challenge reintroducing a brand that's been around this long and getting people excited about it. It's going to be tricky."

Clinton, of course, won't be lacking in the tech department either. She'll have plenty of money for the latest and greatest in campaign gadgets and her front-runner status makes her the most alluring landing pad for many senior Obama campaign officials who have gone on to lucrative careers running the party's leading digital and data consulting firms.

A high-stakes bidding war is also already underway among leading partisan technology shops to get Clinton's business, including Blue State Digital, Bully Pulpit Interactive, Catalist, NGP VAN, Precision Strategies, Rising Tide Interactive, Trilogy Interactive and 270 Strategies, according to interviews with more than two dozen Democratic sources angling for 2016 work.

While Clinton has a deep bench to draw from, she'll also be staffing up in the first open Democratic presidential primary to feature so many different tech companies competing for campaign business. Among prospective tech consultants, multiple questions loom over how she would structure her tech team (Bring the whole team entirely in house? Or create a patchwork of people who report to campaign headquarters and others who remain at their current employer?) and whether she would draw from multiple agencies that have their own unique skill sets.

A Democrat working at one of the major tech firms predicted the battle for Clinton business will get ugly. "Those guys are going to be knives out fighting each other," the source said.

Democrats say there's also a strong sentiment that Clinton — whose spokesman did not respond to a request for comment — won't repeat her own 2008 presidential campaign's tech flubs. There have been too many lessons drawn from Obama's successes — Republicans have gone to school too on his playbook— that demonstrate just how important it is to build up a strong data infrastructure and apply it routinely in the search for the right voters, donors and volunteers.

More than anything, Democrats techies say they are waiting for the most important signal of all out of Clinton's camp: whether she'll hire a campaign manager with a solid digital and data pedigree. Two names most frequently mentioned as candidates for the job, Robby Mook and Guy Cecil, are both seen by their fellow Democrats as people who fit that bill given their resumes leading the House and Senate party campaign arms respectively.

But Clinton's front-runner allure isn't stopping others from getting started with their own 2016 plans — even if they don't have an official campaign to work for.

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Revolution Messaging, a digital strategy firm founded by Obama 2008 external online director Scott Goodstein, has cut its ties with O'Malley's PAC after making more than $200,000 over two years helping the Maryland governor with general online organizing, video production, and management of its Facebook efforts and website.

At RootsCamp, an annual fair for progressive digital types held earlier this month in Washington, Revolution was working for another long-time client, MoveOn.org. The liberal group recently announced plans to spend $1 million urging Warren to run for president, and Arun Chaudhary, a Revolution staffer and former Obama White House videographer, was busy filming one of the group's leaders during a well-attended "Draft Warren" panel discussion that included activists from the Howard Dean-backed Democracy for America and the Ready for Warren campaign.

Goodstein and several other Obama alumni declined comment on their plans for the 2016 campaign. "I will work for the Cleveland Indians if they ask me," said Toby Fallsgraff, digital director for the Obama-affiliated nonprofit Organizing for Action. But several others who helped build Obama's two tech operations say they are ready to go to work — for Warren.

"I think there is absolutely an implication in that, that if [Warren] were to run, a lot of these people would be willing to use their talents and their networks and she'd be able to build a really quality team with a lot of veterans of the Obama campaigns," said Hass, who helped organize the pro-Warren letter among his former colleagues and who most recently worked as digital director for Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's unsuccessful reelection bid. "It wouldn't be a question of that entire apparatus transferring over to Hillary Clinton or to another candidate and Warren having to start from scratch."

Erica Sagrans, the campaign manager for Ready for Warren and an Obama 2012 digital team staffer, said in an interview she's hoping she'll get the chance to square off against many of her former presidential campaign colleagues who are now angling for jobs with Clinton.

"It'd be amazing to see a Warren-Clinton primary from the digital end," she said. "Because it'd be me and other people who worked on Obama with people who are going to work on Clinton pushing each other in a much more serious way than [John] McCain and [Mitt] Romney."

While Clinton is sure to launch a digital fundraising and social media juggernaut — the Ready for Hillary super PAC team is expected to offer up an email list with about 3 million names — Sagrans said the Massachusetts Democrat could quickly mount a rival organization. "It doesn't matter what you've been building for two years if there's someone else who's running who people just flock to because they want to work for them and are excited about them," said Sagrans, who on Wednesday attended a Des Moines, Iowa, rally with MoveOn.org as it begins staffing up its Iowa field operation on Warren's behalf.

Finding quality digital talent also shouldn't be a problem for O'Malley, Webb and Sanders. For starters, the chance to work on a smaller and more nimble organization presents plenty of learning opportunities — "You can take risks," said Democratic microtargeting expert Ken Strasma— and each of the candidates has shown they understand the importance of technology in mounting a successful campaign.

Democrats say it's only a matter of time before the three aspiring 2016 candidates add additional staffers with national and state campaign experience, as well as experts from the private sector in Washington, Silicon Valley and other innovation hubs around the country.

"If I was advising a 20-something if they wanted to take a very low level position with the front runner or a higher position with the long shot, I'd say take the higher position with the long shot," said Strasma, who directed the microtargeting programs for Obama's 2008 campaign and John Kerry 2004 efforts. "Get some experience. Join the nominee after the primaries."

Strasma added that technology can be something of a great equalizer among the Democrats in 2016 thanks to lower costs for some of the essential equipment needed to run a tech-savvy presidential campaign.

"It's no longer that only the front runner can afford the talent, the hardware and the software," he said. "It doesn't completely level the playing field, or even come close. But to some degree it does. Just total dollars for broadcast television becomes less important as campaigns are more targeted."

For Sanders, a potential presidential bid is likely to draw off a built-in constituency of tech-savvy progressives —nearly 17,000 people have signed a petition organized by the Progressive Democrats of America on CREDO urging him to run as a Democrat instead of an independent. His following comes in large part from social media success: More than 1.3 million people follow Sanders' Google+ page and another 253,000 followers on Twitter are treated to a steady stream of pull quotes, graphics and video clips of the senator speaking on the Senate floor and in his frequent MSNBC appearances.

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Sanders staffers also gloat that their boss has more people talking about him on Facebook than any other member of Congress, and more than twice as many as Obama.

Looking to 2016, Sanders is poised to be a small-dollar fundraising machine — he counts more than 1 million people combined who have signed up for his official Senate and campaign email lists. Staff-wise, he's surrounded by a small pack of young tech talent: Senate press secretary Jeff Frank co-founded his own Burlington-based social media analytics firm that was later bought by Dealer.com; deputy spokesman Kenneth Pennington launched a mobile technology blog and served for three years as its executive editor.

For Sanders' staffers, a big challenge will be just getting their boss to stop spending so much of his own time writing his own social media messages. "You think we ought to tell him that?" Sanders communications director Michael Briggs said.

O'Malley's challenge will be using his tech skills to increase his name recognition beyond the mid-Atlantic states. Over the last two years, the Maryland governor has relied on Obama tech alumni from Blue State Digital and Revolution to do just that — raising money on email with Democratic heavyweights like Cory Booker and Gabrielle Giffords and pumping out a series of social media messages and videos hyping his data-driven policy focus on everything from lowering crime rates to Chesapeake Bay cleanup. One biographical video — "Believe," which O'Malley regularly shows at party dinners — also came from Jimmy Siegel, a New York-based consultant who has worked for Hillary Clinton, Andrew Cuomo and Eliot Spitzer.

As he exits Annapolis, O'Malley will be leaning on Bill Hyers, who ran Obama's 2012 Pennsylvania operation and most recently managed New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's campaign; Colm O'Comartun, a longtime adviser and outgoing executive director of the Democratic Governors Association; and political spokeswoman Lis Smith, who handled rapid response for Obama's 2012 campaign.

If there's a dark horse in the Democratic field, it's Webb. The former Virginia senator raised eyebrows last month when he released a 14-minute video of himself speaking directly into a camera, with a plain blue backdrop, as part of the launch of his presidential exploratory committee. "In politics, nobody owns me, and I don't owe anybody anything except for the promise that I will work for the well-being of all Americans, and especially those who otherwise would have no voice in the corridors of power," Webb says in the video.

Democrats may be snickering at the low budget quality of the spot, but they also acknowledged that for relatively little money Webb has people talking about his presidential aspirations and the maverick voice he will bring to the primary.

"It's not about the shiniest penny," said David 'Mudcat' Saunders, a Virginia-based Democratic strategist who worked on Webb's 2006 Senate campaign. That race, interestingly enough, got perhaps its biggest boost thanks to another video: when Republican then-Sen. George Allen described a dark-skinned Webb campaign aide with the derogatory slang term 'macaca.'

Joe Stanley, another Virginia-based Democratic digital operative back working for Webb's Born Fighting PAC, was the first to recognize the significance of the 'macaca' video and uploaded it onto YouTube. Also on board for Webb is longtime aide Jessica Vanden Berg, a Democratic operative with deep roots in Iowa and more than a decade of experience in data-driven campaigning.

"This is really volunteer driven at this point," Vanden Berg said in an email. "We are however using tools to gauge support and communication [of] Jim's message."

Huffington Post: "Elizabeth Warren Is Good and Bad News for the Democrats"

Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Posted: 12/19/2014 2:59 pm EST

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For the record, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren has repeatedly said she's not running for president. She has not encouraged any of the burgeoning draft movements for her to run. But she's coy enough to let the legions that implore her to run to keep imploring her to do just that. But it really doesn't make a difference whether she tosses her hat in the presidential rink in 2016 or not. She will loom large in the 2016 presidential hunt anyway. That's good and bad news for Democrats, more specifically for presumptive Democratic presidential contender, Hillary Clinton.

It's true that Warren can energize frustrated liberals and progressives whose numbers are still big and it's much-needed for Democrats to rebound from its November mid-term shellacking. Warren's relentless pound of Wall Street for greed and manipulation, as well as its cozy ties with Clinton, are flashpoints of rage and disgust for many Democratic voters. Polls consistently show that a majority of Americans agree that the financial system is rigged for the rich, and that Wall Street and major corporations play and massage the system with impunity. Warren has firmly staked out her position as the one politician who is willing to confront Wall Street.

Without Warren in the race, there's the real possibility that many Democrats could do exactly what many in the GOP's ultra-conservative base did in 2008, and to an extent in 2012, and that's stay home on Election Day in silent protest against GOP presidential candidates John McCain and Mitt Romney. As it was with them, this would be a disaster for Democrats. Warren, though, is no Obama. She can't match him in charisma, political skill and a mountainous financial campaign kitty that he brought to the political table. Yet, she would still send thousands of doubting Democrats in a crusade to the polls in a Democratic primary joust with Clinton. But what then when she doesn't win the nomination?

Clinton is mindful of the loathing that legions of Democrats have for her Wall Street connection. In the general election, big bankers, financial executives and top corporate donors are expected to be generous bankrollers of her campaign. This was the reason that Clinton at a Democratic gubernatorial campaign rally in Massachusetts in November was effusive in her praise of Warren and in the process took a big shot at Wall Street and the corporations minimizing their role in job creation. Later she walked it back claiming she had "short-handed" her comments. In the run up to the 2016 presidential campaign, she will be continually challenged to tell which Clinton Democrats are to believe; the Wall Street or the populist Clinton. It will take deft political footwork on her part to try to be both and neither at the same time. This will reinforce the notion among Clinton detractors that she will say whatever it takes to try and please two polar opposite political constituencies.

All the while, non-candidate Warren will be repeatedly hailed as the one Democrat not afraid to speak her mind and take action to reign in Wall Street and not continue the corporate and Wall Street giveaways that, at times, have been co-signed under GOP duress by President Obama. The only real winner in an irreconcilable split among the Democrats is the GOP. GOP strategists will not mention Warren in their attacks on Clinton. Instead they will use her as their foil to paint Clinton as anti-business, and another tax-and-spend Democrat. And worse, a Democratic president who would be politically beholden, even hostage to Warren backers, and would impose more crippling restraints on corporations and the financial industry.

If Warren did choose to enter Democratic primary contests, her backers would cheer wildly. And this would force Clinton to spell out her position on the issues and tell how a Clinton administration would differ from Obama's and husband Bill's. She would also have to spend time making assurances that she is not the unreconstructed hawk on foreign policy issues that progressive Democratic critics lambaste her as.

This would pose fresh problems for Clinton. She'd have to talk even more boldly about tough financial regulations and reforms, and that would make her appear as even further to the left. That would feed Fox News and the Republican National Committee with a bonanza of round-the-clock hit points against Clinton. They would tar her as a Ralph Nader style Democrat who as president would war perennially with a GOP controlled Congress. The result, they'd loudly claim, would be even deeper gridlock that many Americans dread.

The saving grace for now is that Democrats, by a lop-sided margin, are solidly behind Clinton. That's the good news for Clinton. The bad news is those numbers mask the weak enthusiasm or outright opposition that many Democrats have to a Clinton presidential bid. Warren almost certainly will continue to remain their alternative.

The Washington Post: "In Paul-Rubio feud over Cuba, a preview of 2016"

By Philip Rucker December 19 at 10:25 PM

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Two of the Republican Party's top White House hopefuls clashed sharply Friday over President Obama's new Cuba policy, evidence of a growing GOP rift over foreign affairs that could shape the party's 2016 presidential primaries.

Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), who backs Obama's move to normalize relations with communist Cuba, accused Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) of being an "isolationist" with his hard-line opposition to opening up trade and diplomatic engagement with the island nation. Paul suggested that Rubio "wants to retreat to our borders and perhaps build a moat."

Paul's comments came after Rubio - the son of Cuban exiles who has stepped forward as a leading voice of resistance to Obama's policy - told Fox News that Paul had "no idea what he's talking about" when it comes to Cuba.

The feud is the loudest public dispute so far between potential GOP2016 candidates and lays bare the divergent world views of traditional hawks - including Rubio and past Republican presidents and nominees - and the emerging, younger libertarian wing represented by Paul.

For decades, Rubio's position has been the GOP's natural default. But Paul is testing that convention.

"Are we still cold warriors or are we entering a brave new world in diplomacy?" Republican strategist John Feehery said. "Rubio's perspective is we have Cuba, we have North Korea, we need a bold, internationalist, America-led world that fights the bad guys. Rand Paul is taking his father's position to a new level, which is constructive engagement, but America isn't really the policeman of the world."

Hawkish Republicans have long called Paul's foreign policy "isolationist," a label he rejects. In this week's Cuba debate, Paul applied the label to Rubio.

Paul's comments were unusually personal, beginning with a series of tweets aimed at Rubio followed by a two-paragraph message on his Facebook page. "Senator Rubio is acting like an isolationist" and "does not speak for the majority of Cuban-Americans," he wrote.

Paul followed up with an op-ed on Time's Web site Friday afternoon in which he wrote that he grew up learning to despise communism but over time concluded that "a policy of isolationism against Cuba is misplaced and hasn't worked." He noted that public opinion has shifted in favor of rapprochement - especially among young people, including young Cuban Americans - and that U.S. businesses would benefit by being able to sell their goods in Cuba.

"Communism can't survive the captivating allure of capitalism," Paul wrote. "Let's overwhelm the Castro regime with iPhones, iPads, American cars, and American ingenuity."

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), who traveled to Cuba this week with the U.S. entourage to secure contractor Alan Gross's release, shared Paul's sentiments. Flake said that he supported Obama's decision to normalize relations and that after a five-decade embargo, it was time "to try something different."

Rubio responded to Paul's comments Friday evening, telling conservative radio host Mark Levin, "I think it's unfortunate that Rand has decided to adopt Barack Obama's foreign policy on this matter."

For both Paul and Rubio, there are short-term political benefits to the tussle. With potential donors and other influential Republicans deciding between roughly a dozen presidential hopefuls, the pair are generating media attention and staking out ground on a high-profile policy issue.

The spat was also the latest example of Paul's combative tendencies. He has been the most aggressive GOP presidential contender in taking on Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former secretary of state and likely Democratic candidate, and showed Friday that he will not hesitate to throw punches at fellow Republicans as well.

Ana Navarro, a Miami-based Republican strategist close to Rubio and former Florida governor Jeb Bush, said it was an example of the "silly season."

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"There are some issues, like eye surgery and Kentucky bourbon, Paul knows something about," she said of the ophthalmologist turned lawmaker. "But to try to outdo Rubio on Cuba policy - and to do it by trolling him on Twitter in 140-character spurts - is frankly not productive, mature or senatorial."

Paul is trying to chart a new course for Republicans on foreign policy and areas such as race relations, working with Democrats on legislation to address drug sentencing guidelines.

"Paul is going to stretch the limits and try to grow the party in directions Republicans aren't used to," said Ari Fleischer, a former White House press secretary to George W. Bush. "I think the only upside he'll have is with young people. Outside of that, I think it's going to be tough going for him. . . . The history of the party is much more interventionist, muscular, strong, Ronald Reagan foreign policy."

Paul's aides said the senator considers Cuba policy an economic and diplomatic issue and not a partisan one.

But GOP primary voters may see it differently. "There's a certain willingness among conservatives to reconsider our Cuba policy, but the fact that it's been negotiated by Obama - whom we have no confidence or trust in - makes it suspect," said Richard Viguerie, a longtime conservative leader. "If this had been done by a trustworthy, conservative Republican, it would have been different."

Rubio, as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has worked to distinguish himself as a leading voice on international affairs. Almost immediately after Wednesday's Cuba announcement, Rubio spoke out aggressively and in personal terms. Raised in Miami by parents who fled Cuba in the 1950s, Rubio grew up surrounded by other Cuban American families and now represents them in Washington.

"It is just another concession to a tyranny by the Obama administration rather than a defense of every universal and inalienable right that our country was founded on and stands for," Rubio told reporters on Capitol Hill.

Most 2016 GOP hopefuls - including Bush, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker - issued statements similar to Rubio's. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has not spoken specifically on Cuba but generally shares Rubio's more hawkish worldview.

William Kristol, a prominent neoconservative and editor of the Weekly Standard, noted that most of the potential candidates, as well as the party's congressional leaders, are "all in the same neighborhood" on foreign policy.

"Rand Paul is a lonely gadfly," he said. "Rand Paul speaks for a genuine sentiment that's always been in the Republican Party, but maybe it's 10 percent? 15 percent? 20 percent? I don't think he's going to be a serious competitor for guiding Republican foreign policy."

CNN Politics: "2016 Republicans slam Cuba announcement"

By Stephen Collinson, CNN

updated 10:29 AM EST, Fri December 19, 2014

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Barack Obama's historic move to loosen the U.S. embargo on Cuba set off an immediate clash with Republicans keen to use the dramatic foreign policy shift to further their own White House aspirations.

The announcement immediately threw two Florida politicians -- Sen. Marco Rubio and former Governor Jeb Bush -- into the spotlight and served as another reminder of the state's enduring importance in presidential politics.

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Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, quickly took a hardline position, vowing to block any nominee the administration might put forward to be an ambassador to Cuba. He called Obama's announcement "truly outrageous and counterproductive" because there has been no "democratic opening" in Cuba.

"It is a lifeline for the Castro regime that will allow them to become more profitable ... and allow them to become a more permanent fixture," he said on CNN. "The embargo is leverage, these sanctions are leverage."

Rubio continued: "We have just lost a significant part of our leverage ... not a single democratic concession."

In a subsequent press conference, Rubio expanded his critique into a direct attack on Obama's foreign policy, previewing the assault Republican hawks could adopt in the presidential race.

"This president has proven today that his foreign policy is more than just naive," Rubio said. "It is willfully ignorant of the way the world truly works."

Rubio called Obama "the single worst negotiator we have had in the White House in my lifetime."

Bush, who shocked the political world on Tuesday by announcing he would explore a White House bid, welcomed the release of US contractor Alan Gross but said it was too early to transform Cuba policy.

"He shouldn't have been in prison to start with. He didn't do anything to deserve it. But the fact that he's coming home is spectacular news for himself and his family --- on the first day of Hanukkah," Bush said when asked about the Cuba news at a holiday event with Florida Governor Rick Scott.

In his first major foreign policy comments of the nascent 2016 campaign, Bush then warned in a statement that only Fidel and Raul Castro, who between them have ruled Cuba for over half a century, would benefit from Obama's "ill-advised move."

"Cuba is a dictatorship with a disastrous human rights record, and now President Obama has rewarded those dictators. We should instead be fostering efforts that will truly lead to the fair, legitimate democracy that will ultimately prevail in Cuba," Bush said in a statement posted on his Facebook page.

Bush's consistent hard line towards Havana could be appealing to thousands of Cuban Americans in Florida. But there's also the question of whether the issue will be as potent in 2016 as it has been in previous election cycles, as the younger generation of Cuban-Americans, many of them born in the U.S., are not as steeped in the Cold War-era struggle as their parents.

Bush has been a strong supporter of the trade embargo and believes it should only be lifted once political prisoners are freed, Cuba fully embraces democracy and a market economy is established.

"Instead of lifting the embargo, we should consider strengthening it again to put pressure on the Cuba regime," Bush said at a meeting of the US-Cuba Democracy PAC earlier this month.

Meanwhile, Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz, whose father fled Cuba, expressed "rejoice" that Gross is back in the U.S. But he slammed Obama for easing restrictions on Cuba.

"Make no mistake, although we are glad Alan is now free, the agreement the Obama Administration has entered into with the Castro regime has done nothing to resolve the underlying problem," he said in a statement. "Indeed, it has made it worse."

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is also considering a presidential run, tweeted "this is an incredibly bad idea."

The GOP positions set up a clear contrast with a possible 2016 Democratic election rival Hillary Clinton, who expressed support for Obama's moves in a statement released Wednesday night.

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"I support President Obama's decision to change course on Cuba policy, while keeping the focus on our principal objective -- supporting the aspirations of the Cuban people for freedom," she said. "It is great news that Alan is finally home with his family, where he belongs."

The former secretary of state ran for the White House in 2008 opposing calls to lift the embargo, but she has since shifted her stance.

In an interview with Fusion television network earlier this year, Clinton argued that the embargo had "propped up" the Castro regime.

"I would like to see us move toward normalizing relations eventually and therefore more Americans (allowed to move) back and forth," she said. "That's something President Obama did and I supported in the first term."

Clinton wrote in her book "Hard Choices" that towards the end of her time in the Obama administration, she "recommended to President Obama that he take another look at our embargo."

"It wasn't achieving its goals and it was holding back our broader agenda across Latin America," she wrote

Meanwhile, Obama's announcement surprised many on Capitol Hill. Outgoing Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Robert Menendez, who has often crossed swords with Obama on Iran and Cuba policy, issued a statement that hinted at the tough fight to come over the embargo in Congress.

While hailing a "moment of profound relief" for Gross, Menendez blasted Obama, who he said had "vindicated the brutal behavior of the Cuban government."

"Trading Mr Gross for three convicted criminals sets and extremely dangerous precedent," said Menendez.

"It invites dictatorial and rogue regimes to use Americans serving overseas as bargaining chips," he said and argued that the"asymmetrical trade" will invite further belligerence from the government towards the Cuban opposition.

House Speaker John Boehner also hammered Obama's foreign policy, rebuking the President for "another in a long line of mindless concessions to a dictatorship that brutalizes its people and schemes with our enemies."

Tennessee GOP Sen. Bob Corker, who will take control of the foreign relations panel next year, said lawmakers "will be closely examining the implications of these major policy changes in the next Congress."

Politico: “Leaked: Democrats' attack plan for Bush”

By JAMES HOHMANN 12/19/14 3:42 PM EST Updated 12/20/14 4:28 AM EST

The Democratic National Committee wants surrogates to attack Jeb Bush as the Mitt Romney of 2016, an out-of-touch representative of the 1 percent who is more conservative than he lets on.

DNC strategists hosted a private conference call Friday to prepare Democrats going on the Sunday news shows to address the former Florida governor’s announcement this week that he will actively explore a run for president. A participant on the call shared the talking points with POLITICO, and a DNC official confirmed their veracity.

Story Continued Below

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The talking points offer a window into the Democratic plan of attack against the GOP establishment figure. It is also a strong indication that Democrats view Bush as a formidable general-election candidate, if he can make it through a GOP primary.

"Jeb Bush has spent his career doing what would benefit himself and people like him – certainly not looking out for working Americans," the talking points say. "Bush spent recent years cashing in on Wall Street as Americans were hit by the financial crisis. Since leaving public office, Bush has been involved in several problematic business deals, creating a multi-million dollar fund in a tax haven, and leveraging his family name to reap profits for himself."

Democrats also signaled they will try to lash Jeb Bush to unpopular aspects of George W. Bush's White House tenure.

"But we also know what to expect from a Bush presidency because we've seen it before: policies that wreck the economy, that give massive breaks to the wealthy and corporations, and that are out of step with American people including women, LGBT Americans, Latinos and people of color," the talking points say.

On Friday evening, Bush responded with a message on his Facebook page.

"Everywhere I go, people tell me how tired they are of the dysfunctional, squabbling silliness of politics today. These silly talking points, misleading and misinformed as they are, show you just how void of ideas the Democrats have become after six years of poor results in every area of our nation's business, from our struggling economy to our weakening position on the world stage," he wrote.

"If I do decide to run for President," Bush continued, "I can promise you this: no more Kindergarten attack politics. Instead, I would offer a substantive campaign that will present the fresh conservative ideas and meaningful reforms that will help all Americans to rise up, seize opportunity and pursue a better life for themselves and their loved ones."

Bush then reprinted the talking points in full on his page.

The 600-word DNC document pushes back on the narrative that Jeb Bush is relatively moderate compared to the rest of the field. The impetus for the push is that some leaders on the right have been criticizing Bush as insufficiently conservative on issues like Common Core and immigration. The concern for Democrats is that Bush will be more appealing to independent voters if the perception of him being willing to challenge GOP orthodoxy solidifies.

There are targeted appeals at various constituencies. Democrats note controversial Bush quotes about opposing the Equal Rights Amendment, the Paycheck Fairness Act and equal pay. There are also attacks on Bush over his opposition to gay rights and for saying that gay couples should not be able to adopt. And he has defended his support for voter ID laws, which many African-Americans see as discriminatory.

But the brunt of the attacks focus on Bush helping the wealthy at the expense of the needy, which worked to President Barack Obama's advantage in the 2012 campaign against Romney. Bush has reportedly told allies that he will push back earlier and more aggressively than Romney did when his record at Bain Capital was criticized.

"Jeb Bush is looking out for himself and people like him over the priorities of everyday Americans," the suggested DNC talking points say. "On that point he is no different than the rest of the Republican field."

There are also past quotes from Bush about issues affecting women and African-Americans. Democrats are also encouraged to point out that Bush endorsed the conservative budget blueprint of Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.).

CNN Politics: "Inside the push to draft Ben Carson for president"

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By Chris Moody, CNN

Updated 10:16 AM EST, Sat December 20, 2014

Washington (CNN) -- John Philip Sousa IV has a mission: Convince a retired neurosurgeon with no political experience to run for President -- and then help him win.

Sousa, 67, launched a super PAC last year that has raised millions in an effort to urge Dr. Ben Carson to explore a White House bid. Since the launch, Sousa and his team have proven to be a fundraising powerhouse, raising a whopping $12.2 million from more than 100,000 donors. That even edged out the effort by Hillary Clinton's supporters, who have raised $12.1 million for the "Ready for Hillary" super PAC.

Sousa's group, dubbed the "National Draft Ben Carson for President Campaign Committee," is laying the groundwork for a presidential campaign in early voting states with plans to open a second office in Iowa later this month.

If Sousa's last name sounds familiar, that's because it should. He's the great grandson of John Philip Sousa, the composer known for his patriotic music. Sousa's effort is adding to the buzz surrounding Carson, who catapulted onto the national political scene at last year's National Prayer Breakfast by delivering a stinging rebuke to Obamacare -- with President Barack Obama sitting just a few feet away. He has captivated some Republicans with stories of his difficult childhood and placed second behind Mitt Romney in a CNN/ORC poll last month that asked the GOP about their preferred presidential nominee.

Carson himself has said he has been considering a run after seeing the outpouring of support.

"It definitely seems to be having an impression," said Adam Waldeck, a spokesman for the American Legacy PAC, which Carson chairs.

Federal election rules bar Sousa from coordinating with Carson, who hasn't yet said whether he'll run in 2016. But Sousa talks about a potential run in the same unvarnished style that Carson embraces.

Sousa recently visited CNN's Washington bureau. Read the interview below, which has been edited and condensed for clarity:

Why did you decide to start a super PAC?

In August 2013, a few of us got together and wondered what we wanted to do in terms of politics, PACs and so forth. We thought, gee, well, let's start a PAC and support senators, and candidates in '14 and '16. That sounded boring since everyone else in the world was doing it. One of us said, "Did you see Ben Carson at the National Prayer Breakfast?" And we all nodded, yes. And someone almost jokingly said, "Why don't we draft him to run for president?"

What drew you to him?

Because of his background, Dr. Carson can relate. He's a multi-millionaire now, but when he was a kid, he was far from it. He was a nasty thug in school. Thanks to a mother who probably deserves something close to sainthood, he started reading books instead of watching television. He read himself right into Yale and the head of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins.

His mother worked three jobs. She married when she was 13, and had two boys. Of course, the father took off. So she was on her own. She worked very, very hard in Detroit in the ghettos to provide for her boys. She was cleaning the house of a rather wealthy individual one day and noticed that the television was covered with books. She said to the gentleman, "How do you watch TV with all these books on your TV?" ...She went home and she said, "Boys, new rule in the house. No more than one hour of television in the house, and we're going to read." ...It was thanks to that that really pulled Dr. Carson out of the gutter and to the very top.

That's a story that lots of people can relate to. More importantly, Dr. Carson knows how to get people out of the rut, out of the ghetto. Because he's lived it. He's done it. Not that every kid in the ghetto will become head of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins, but Carson has a plan to do that and it's not simply throwing more money into these neighborhoods.

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Have you met him?

I've met him once. ...We have decided to take the road of being very, very cautious. We don't want the [Federal Election Commission] knocking on our door.

What happened during your encounter with him?

It was about a year ago. ...We talked briefly. I asked him, "Do you like what we're doing?" He said, "I'm not stopping you."

What have you done to vet him?

Did we thoroughly vet the guy? No. But we went back through his record as much is public and checked into his family life as much as we could, and we didn't see anything we didn't like. But to tell you we thoroughly vetted the guy, that wouldn't be accurate.

What was the key part of him that made you decide to devote so much effort into him?

A few things: His belief in the United States Constitution, his common sense approach to resolving things, the fact that this man developed the process of separating conjoined twins at the head so both halves lived. ...Once he developed the process, he realized that he didn't know it all. That he needed experts to help him with some of this stuff. So he brought in experts from around the world to help him with that surgery. So that tells us that he's not an egomaniac, that he's willing to reach out to professionals to help him in areas where he needs help. I think that's critically important if you're going to run a business, do a complicated surgery or run the United States of America.

We like the fact that he is a Christian man—he has a strong belief in God. And quite frankly, we liked the fact that he stood up at the National Prayer Breakfast, two feet from the president, and said, sir, you're wrong.

How do you plan to convince him to get into the race?

We think we've gone just about as far as we can go in convincing Dr. Carson to run. We've raised close to $12 million. We've spent close to that.

I send Dr. Carson a letter once a week and with that letter is anywhere between four and six thousand petitions encouraging him to run.

He never responds?

We know he gets them. We know he reads them.

How have you spent the money you've raised?

Direct mail is very expensive, so a lot of money went to direct mail. Fundraising is expensive, period. We ran ads in black communities in North Carolina and Louisiana in the Senate races. Spent about half a million on that total.

You've spent almost as much as you've raised. What do you say to critics who say this is just a lucrative project for contractors and consultants?

I mean, the Post Office is doing really well, the printer is doing really well...these things all cost money. Our fundraising firm, Everly, cut their prices pretty substantially for this cause. They've been good friends of mine for a lot of years. I've used them on a lot of campaigns. They earn every single dollar that they've charged us and I begrudge them not a penny.

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Anyone who wants to say this is simply an effort to raise money to support a fundraising firm is just dead wrong. We are very committed, and I think our success over the last 16-18 months has been proven. Carson never talked about running before we started this.

I don't want to say we get credit for Carson running, but we have been instrumental in showing how many people like him and want him to run. That's been our role, and I think we've done it damn well.

Do you ever have second thoughts about him when he says Obamacare is the worst US policy since slavery or uses compares policies to Nazis?

Listen, if I were a little bug on his shoulder I might pull on his ear and say, "Stop that!" But I'm not. Show me a presidential candidate who hasn't tripped on their tongue.

But do you think that could hurt his chances to be president?

I want Dr. Carson to be Dr. Carson. That's the guy who I really like and who I want to run this country, and if he trips on his tongue occasionally, OK, people are going to have to come along and clean it up. But geez, that's what candidates do, right? Rick Perry, two years ago, and [New Jersey Gov. Chris] Christie almost every time he opens his mouth. We can pick on Dr. Carson, but they all do it. They all say things they probably shouldn't have. Or they don't explain what they meant is articulately as well as they should have.

On policy, he acknowledges that he doesn't have all of his positions set yet.

He doesn't.

If you want to support somebody, you don't know where he necessarily stands on many of the issues. Doesn't that give you pause?

No, and I'll tell you why. He's a very firm believer in the Constitution of the United States. His policy will be driven by the Constitution. His policy will be driven by being a Christian. His policy will be driven by being a good human being. His policy will be driven by being good to the American people, and not because a bunch of lobbyists have given him bucket loads of money. The great thing about Dr. Carson running is that he is beholden to no one.

Until he is beholden to somebody.

Until he is. But today he's not.

What if he doesn't run? What will come of the super PAC?

We haven't really thought. But we have such an infrastructure in place that we will probably sit down around the same table and say, OK, is there anyone we believe in that we can use this infrastructure to help win in 2016?

Are there any candidates you would you rule out?

I don't think we would support [Texas Sen. Ted] Cruz because I don't think he can win.

I don't think we would support Jeb Bush or Mitt Romney, because they're just too close to the center and it's more of the same.

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If Ben Carson can win and Ted Cruz can't, what are the differences?

Big differences. I like what Ted Cruz says about the issues, but I think he's a bull in a china shop. He's too polarizing. The media will absolutely fry him every time he opens his mouth—not that they won't go after Carson—but Carson is not loud. He's not forceful. Ted Cruz will go on for hours about a given subject jumping up and down—again, I like his positions—I just don't think his methods can get him elected.

The other difference is that we believe Carson will get at least 17 percent of the black vote.

What do you base that on?

He's black.

I mean, what data have you seen that shows that?

Herman Cain's campaign polled it and showed that 17 percent at a minimum would support him.

If Carson gets 17 percent of the black vote, he wins. He can't take 17 percent of the black vote away from the Democrat and have the Democrat win on a national basis. It just won't happen.

Are you planning to try to replicate those polls for the new cycle?

We're going to be out shortly doing our research.

What are the next phase for your super PAC?

We will go from "Run Ben Run" to "Ben Carson for President." We will begin increasing our paid staff in the Carolinas and Florida. We will open another office in Iowa.

We're spending a lot of time working on Iowa. We have committee chairman in all 99 counties. We're paying a lot of attention to Iowa an dhow we knock everybody else out of the box.

Who will his biggest competitor be?

I don't know.

But if I die before the debates, I'm going to be really angry. Because I can hardly wait to see Dr. Carson take on any of them in the debates. His style is so different and so smooth. Nothing seems to get under his skin. I think he will absolutely tear them apart.

Washington Examiner: "Future uncertain, Romney sits atop GOP polls"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By: Byron Yo

December 18, 2014 | 10:44 PM

It can be hard to take the idea of a Mitt Romney 2016 presidential run seriously. After all, this is the man who said of losing general election candidates, "They become a loser for life." At least in presidential terms, he had that mostly right.

But what to make of polls continuing to show Romney at the head of the Republican presidential pack a little more than a year before the Iowa caucuses? A Fox News survey released this week found Romney the GOPleader, with 19 percent, ahead of Jeb Bush, who was pretty far back at 10 percent. Everybody else was bunched together behind Bush.

A McClatchy-Marist poll a few days earlier showed a similar result, with Romney leading at 19 percent and Bush at 14 percent. A Quinnipiac poll before that found Romney at 19 percent and Bush at 11 percent.

Many polls don't include Romney in their surveys. But the many that do suggest that, at least for now, Romney is a front-runner, if not the front-runner in the 2016 Republican race.

People in Romney's circle realize that some of his standing in the polls reflects nothing more than name recognition; everybody knows the guy who ran for president in 2012. But they believe there's more to it than that. In discussions this week, they pointed to what they think is a widespread belief among voters, certainly among Republicans, that Romney was right about some key issues in the 2012 campaign.

"I don't really think you can objectively chalk it up to name ID," says one resident of Romneyworld. "People are saying, 'He was right.' I think that has happened in so many different ways that people are looking at it with a fresh perspective." Another Romneyworld insider points to Russia, terrorism, and the economy as areas where Romney was prescient in 2012.

Some of the people who talk with Romney say they specifically avoid the subject of his running in 2016. They still believe he would be a good president, but they don't want to push. "I don't press him on it," says yet another in Romney's circle. "It's a personal decision."

"I don't bring it up," says another. "When we talk, we talk about what's going on in the world."

Some of the donors who supported Romney in 2012 aren't so shy; they're happy to tell Romney they believe he should run again. "He's being encouraged by people every day," says one confidant.

The big mystery, of course, is what Romney himself is thinking. As long as Romney keeps quiet, the outside world will be guessing. But it's probably smart to divide the question into two parts.

The first is what Romney thinks about the actual decision to run or not to run. That, nobody knows. The second is what Romney thinks about who would be the best president. That's not so mysterious. Romney ran in 2012 because he believed he was the best man for the job. There's no indication he has changed his mind.

Those close to Romney don't believe the recent moves by Jeb Bush, who now says he is "actively exploring" a presidential run, will have any effect on Romney. A bigger question will be whether a leader emerges in the GOP field to bring Republican voters together.

"One of the luxuries he has is he doesn't have to necessarily make up his mind and make a decision right now," says one. "He can take stock of the field and how it develops."

So here is a scenario. The Republican race that develops in 2015 is splintered and unhappy, with no candidate gaining the stature and respect needed to make a good nominee. The campaign becomes a protracted fight that diminishes each of its participants. Party leaders look for a savior. Romney is there.

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It probably won't happen. And Romney knows — we know he knows because he has said as much — that a political figure who has a halo around his head when he is out of the fray will be just another punching bag if he gets in.

Still, there are the polls. And, for some of those around Romney, the hope. Right now, all they know is that there is a chance — maybe a tiny one, but a chance — of another run.

"I can't really put any kind of prediction on it," says one of the Romneyworld insiders of the possibility that Romney will run again. "I wouldn't say there is zero chance of it. I would definitely not say it is zero."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/19/2014 1:43:32 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday November 19, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday November 19, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Washington Post: "The candidate who matters most to GOP presidential hopefuls: Hillary Clinton"

"Clinton leaves it to surrogates to mount any defense, as the pro-Clinton message outfit Correct the Record has done in the case of Clinton's age and other issues. 'Yes, there have been attacks on her after the midterms, but they have been hitting her hard for over a year,' said Correct the Record communications director Adrienne Elrod. 'They are trying as hard as possible to make sure she's not the nominee, and the reason they are doing that is that they don't want to run against her.'"

The Hill: "Clinton enjoys unofficial candidacy"

"Clinton knows that, if she runs for the White House, she'll be asked about every move the president makes. She and her team will have to be ready to embrace Obama where it suits them, and to cast him aside when that would better serve her candidacy."

Huffington Post opinion: Melanne Verveer: "Driving Growth through Women's Economic Participation"

"As Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton put women's economic participation on the foreign policy agenda."

Politico: "Ready for Hillary ready to end"

"Exactly when it will come to an end is unclear – it will likely exist for a period of time if Clinton declares, going through a formal process of closing accounts and wrapping up loose ends."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Fundraisers Rev Up for Possible Hillary Clinton Run"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"A group of New Jersey-based Democratic fundraisers and political operatives has scheduled a dinner in Newark on Monday to gather commitments for a donation to Mrs. Clinton's campaign as soon as she announces she's running, according to a person familiar with the event."

The Atlantic: "Hillary's Silence on Iran and Immigration Reform"

[Subtitle:] "The cautious Clinton of 2008 is back—and that shows why it's so essential she face a Democratic challenger in 2016."

Politico: "Democrats to Obama: You broke the party, now fix it"

"As much Hillary Clinton anticipation as there is, two weeks later, Democrats are still reeling and anxious."

Politico: "Beyond Senate defeat, ill omens for Keystone"

"In addition, Democrats would gain some political advantage from Obama settling the issue [Keystone] sooner rather than later, if only to keep it from burdening a 2016 White House run by Hillary Clinton."

Los Angeles Times column: Doyle McManus: "A Bernie Sanders candidacy could help Hillary Clinton"

"When pressed, however, he [Sen. Sanders] acknowledges that he thinks even a losing campaign would be a good thing because of its potential to bring more attention to his ideas, widen the national debate and put pressure on Hillary Rodham Clinton or any other eventual Democratic nominee."

Associated Press: "2016 contest overshadows GOP governors meeting"

"While Hillary Rodham Clinton remains the overwhelming Democratic front-runner should she seek the presidency, the prospective Republican field is crowded and without a clear leader."

Articles:

Washington Post: "The candidate who matters most to GOP presidential hopefuls: Hillary Clinton"

By Anne Gearan and Philip Rucker

November 19, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker says she's old. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul says she's a loser. Operatives for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie whisper that he's not afraid of her.

For Republicans eyeing a run for president in a crowded 2016 field, one measure matters above all others: How they stack up against Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"It would almost be political malpractice not to" go after Clinton, said former Mississippi governor Ronnie Musgrove (D), who is close to Clinton and her husband.

As the prohibitive front-runner for the Democratic nomination, Clinton is the Goliath to all the would-be Davids. Attacking her is an easy way to impress donors, get noticed by potential supporters and the news media, and stand out among a growing throng of Republicans who have middling fame compared with hers.

The Republican National Committee and America Rising, a GOP super PAC, have each launched opposition-research efforts aimed at identifying lines of attack on Clinton. The RNC has already deployed a team of 10 operatives to Arkansas — where former president Bill Clinton was governor — and elsewhere to dig up fresh dirt on Hillary Clinton.

"She's the 800-pound gorilla in the room," said Brian Jones, a communications adviser to John McCain's 2008 campaign and Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign.

But there are risks for Republicans. The attacks, already in full swing two years ahead of the election, could become repetitive or tiresome. Or sexist: Swipes at Clinton's age or health could backfire on a GOP field that is, at this point, all male.

Party leaders, however, say they relish a fight with the former secretary of state, who remains a polarizing national figure and has seen her approval ratings fall since leaving the State Department. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the party is treating Clinton as the presumptive Democratic nominee, no different from if she were an incumbent.

"There's no person in America I'd rather be running against than Hillary Clinton," Priebus said. "When it comes to raising money, unifying our party and recruiting a lot of volunteers, Hillary Clinton is my best asset."

For now, Clinton is remaining above the fray, and her aides did not respond to requests for comment on the GOP attacks. Advisers close to her say that if she runs, there will be plenty of time to engage Republicans on her terms. Clinton leaves it to surrogates to mount any defense, as the pro-Clinton message outfit Correct the Record has done in the case of Clinton's age and other issues.

"Yes, there have been attacks on her after the midterms, but they have been hitting her hard for over a year," said Correct the Record communications director Adrienne Elrod. "They are trying as hard as possible to make sure she's not the nominee, and the reason they are doing that is that they don't want to run against her."

But from the point of view of many Republicans, the attacks serve a simple purpose: to damage the presumptive Democratic nominee.

In 2008, Republicans benefitted from the bitter primary fight between Clinton and Barack Obama, which aired a lot of dirty laundry. Republicans now need to keep up the pressure on Clinton during the Democratic primary season if Clinton faces no serious opposition, Jones said.

"The party needs to keep applying pressure to her and keeping her and her team off balance, particularly if she's running against Larry, Curly and Moe" on the Democratic side, Jones said.

Clinton has said she is still considering whether to run and will probably decide after Jan. 1. She is quietly meeting with potential donors and possible campaign strategists, and is widely expected to make an official announcement by mid-February. She has given no sign that Republican attacks figure into that calculus.

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“The other side has no choice but to be constantly negative, because they know that Hillary has widespread grass-roots support and is the strongest, most qualified candidate if she decides to run,” said Seth Bringman, spokesman for the pro-Clinton Ready For Hillary super PAC. “The best way for her supporters to respond is by doubling down on the positive effort to build a grass-roots army of supporters to help her win.”

Some of the attacks are personal: Walker, 47, said this week that he could run for president in 20 years and be the same age as Clinton is now. Some are about Clinton’s policies and politics, as articulated over her long career and on the stump for fellow Democrats in the midterms.

Even before the full extent of the Democratic rout was known on election night, Paul tweeted a picture of Clinton side-hugging losing Kentucky Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes. He labeled it with the hashtag “#Hillaryslosers.”

Republicans are hoping that Clinton is tainted by her party’s midterm defeat. They are also attacking her on issues such as Asia policy, the Keystone XL pipeline and the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Paul began focusing on Clinton before she stepped down as secretary of state. At a Senate hearing in January 2013, Paul told Clinton he would have fired her over the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi. Paul later suggested that the episode should disqualify Clinton from higher office.

Paul, 51, and some other Republicans have also suggested Clinton may not be up to the physical rigors of a second run for president. She suffered a head injury in a fall two years ago that sidelined her for weeks but has said she has no lingering effects.

Republican strategist Karl Rove came under fire this year for seeming to suggest that she had suffered a “traumatic brain injury” in the fall; he later disavowed intending to say that.

In 2015, as Republican presidential hopefuls compete against each other, the RNC’s role will be to “reintroduce Clinton” in a negative light, said RNC communications director Sean Spicer. “It’s not a silver bullet, but it’s chink after chink after chink in her armor,” he said.

The RNC’s war room has been trained on Clinton for months and made much of Clinton’s stumbles during interviews to promote her June memoir, “Hard Choices.”

America Rising, the GOP research and communications shop founded by former presidential campaign operatives, has been leading the attack against Clinton for more than a year. Tim Miller, the group’s executive director, said Clinton’s “limbo state” — before the expected announcement of her candidacy — makes her especially susceptible to hits from Republicans.

“It’s an opportunity for our side to continue to define her and to continue to highlight her weaknesses before she has a campaign infrastructure that’s fully up and operational,” Miller said.

America Rising took another swing at Clinton on Tuesday over the Keystone oil pipeline, which was rejected by the Senate on Tuesday night.

The project has divided Democrats, and President Obama has signaled that he is leaning against approving the huge project to pump oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Clinton has declined to offer a public opinion on Keystone, arguing that her connection to the State Department — which is leading the Obama administration’s review of the project — prevents her from taking sides.

“She wrote a book called ‘Hard Choices,’ but she wouldn’t take an opinion on the Keystone pipeline,” Miller said. “She may be the only person in America without a position on the Keystone pipeline at this point.”

A Clinton spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

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For Clinton, however, there is little apparent upside to taking a stance now. If she comes out in favor of the pipeline, she will anger environmental and climate activists, including megadonor Tom Steyer and many other major Democratic contributors. If she opposes it, she will be at odds with many business leaders.

Republicans intend to make life similarly uncomfortable for Clinton by combing through her State Department tenure and dipping into the scandals and controversies of her husband's administration. Of course, they will also seek ways to tie Clinton to Obama, whose popularity is stuck underwater.

"Like anything in life, preparation is the key to success," Priebus said. "I'm a big believer that the most prepared team wins."

The Hill: "Clinton enjoys unofficial candidacy"

By Amie Parnes

November 19, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

Sometimes Hillary Clinton is happy to embrace President Obama's positions.

Sometimes Clinton is happy to distance herself from Obama.

And sometimes she just wants to stay out of it, such as with the battle over approving the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Clinton, who is weighing whether to make a second White House bid, hasn't taken sides over the pipeline since the midterm elections spelled disaster for Democrats, nor did she weigh in in her memoir or during her book tour this summer.

A Clinton spokesman didn't respond to an email asking about the former secretary of State's position, and more than 10 Clinton allies declined to comment, underscoring the precarious politics involved with a project that is vehemently opposed by green groups crucial in a Democratic presidential primary, but that is supported by many white working-class voters important in a general election.

The Keystone caution differs from Clinton's moves to distance herself from Obama's handling of Syria and her willingness to tie herself to Obama on other issues, such as immigration.

It shows a willingness by the front-runner for the Democratic nomination to handle the issues of Obama's presidency on a case-by-case basis, in whatever way is most convenient for her own political future.

"This is why it's convenient not to be an official candidate," said Julian Zelizer, a professor of public affairs and history at Princeton University. "It's easier to pick and choose what to speak about, while letting the president handle his own controversial issues."

On immigration, another high-profile issue confronting the White House, allies say Clinton will tie herself to Obama's executive actions. They mostly see the expected immigration executive action as a win-win for Clinton, because Obama moving to give legal status to millions of immigrants could excite Hispanic and Asian-American voters who have become crucial parts of Democratic presidential coalitions.

"It's an early win for her," said one former Clinton aide who worked on her 2008 presidential campaign. "The Republicans are still trying to figure out their position on this, and this helps her secure a huge bloc of voters. It's probably the best thing Obama could have done for her."

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Clinton knows that, if she runs for the White House, she'll be asked about every move the president makes. She and her team will have to be ready to embrace Obama where it suits them, and to cast him aside when that would better serve her candidacy.

And there will be some issues where it's best to stay quiet — especially now, during an "interim period," as one ally put it, when she's not a candidate for the White House.

They say that, for now, it makes the most sense to speak broadly about the challenges the country faces and not get weighed down by the trench warfare of day-to-day tactical battles.

One of the only Clintonites willing to talk about Keystone said it's a no-brainer for her to dodge the issue.

"There are a million reasons for why she wouldn't want to weigh in, but I can't think of one good reason for her to speak her mind on the issue, at least right now," the source said, adding that Clinton is "not at the State Department anymore, is not in elected office and is not a candidate."

Zelizer said Clinton likely hopes the issue will move on before she has to make a public comment about it.

"If she has the option of keeping quiet, which as a not-yet candidate she does, this is a smart move," he said. "She is hoping that the president can resolve this, or the issue fades before she needs to deal with it."

But it will be increasingly difficult to dodge these questions if her White House bid becomes official. And make no mistakes about it, Democratic rivals and Republicans alike will press her on the issue.

"What is Secretary Clinton afraid of when it comes to Keystone?" said Tim Miller, the executive director of the super-PAC America Rising, which has been targeting Clinton. "Environmentalist mega-donors who did nothing to stop the Democrats' widespread election losses?

"It's this type of overtly political posturing that turned voters off to her in 2008 and will cost her again next year," Miller added. "Voters want to know where you stand." But those in Hillaryland say she has lots of time to make her positions known.

"This is her time to kick back, make a decision and not worry about the nitty-gritty," said one former aide who worked on her 2008 campaign. "She can stay above the fray."

Huffington Post opinion: Melanne Verveer: "Driving Growth through Women's Economic Participation"

By Melanne Verveer

November 18, 2014, 4:13 p.m. EST

Women's economic participation is a game-changer with the potential to transform entire economies and societies. The recently released World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report shows that while progress has been made in closing the gender gap, there is still much work to be done. In 2006, 56% of the economic participation gender gap had been closed, and that number is now 60%. It is critical that we focus our efforts on closing the divide in women's participation in the formal economy in order to grow economies, create jobs and enhance inclusive prosperity for all.

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As Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton put women's economic participation on the foreign policy agenda. Recently, at Georgetown University, she reiterated why: "If we pay extra attention to getting women into the formal economy, it will be good for everybody...We have to unlock the potential of every person, and grow the economies of every nation. It's the only way we're going to be able to grow together." As Secretary Clinton mentioned, if we were to close the gender gap on women's economic participation, global GDP would grow by over 12%.

Some countries are tackling these issues head on. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made women's economic participation, or womenomics, an integral part of his economic stimulus agenda. With an aging workforce and a low birth rate, Japan's labor force can no longer support the size of the country's economy, which has been stagnant for years. By closing the gender gap, Japan could boost its GDP by almost 13%. Prime Minister Abe has been working to reform the tax code, improve access to childcare and eldercare, reform immigration laws, and increase female participation in government in order to improve women's economic participation. Abe sees women's economic participation as critical to Japan's revitalization and long-term growth.

This issue, however, is not just the responsibility of governments. The private sector plays a crucial role in catalyzing change, and corporations have the opportunity to be on the cutting edge. Access to finance, access to technology, sourcing from women-owned businesses, and changes to corporate culture all have the potential to increase women's participation and transform business as we know it. It has been demonstrated that diversity and inclusion are not only the right things for businesses to do, they also make the most business sense. Companies that are more diverse financially outperform their less diverse counterparts by about 18%. It has also been shown that companies with more women on their boards of directors experience higher financial performance.

Accessing capital is a worldwide problem that female entrepreneurs face when trying to start or grow their small businesses. Women have a much more difficult time securing loans than men. This is as true for the CEO of a tech startup in the U.S. as for the seamstress in India who runs her own shop. Globally, women entrepreneurs, who earn billions in income each year, are a largely untapped market for financial institutions. By removing barriers and helping women secure loans, not only do women-owned businesses grow, but financial institutions can increase their profits as well.

Access to technology is also becoming increasingly essential for women's economic participation. For example, a simple cell phone can revolutionize the way women do business. For a rural woman farmer trying to sell produce in Kenya, it can mean finding out where the closest market is on a given day. Cellular phones can also help women manage their finances and protect their savings. Mobile banking can enable the majority of the world's poor who are unbanked to access financial services for the first time. Likewise, mobile education applications provide training on important skills and resources to which women may not otherwise have access, such as financial literacy, management and leadership strategies, and networks of supporters and peers.

Many companies have started to source their products from women-owned businesses, and women often prefer to buy products from other women. Adding more women to the supply chain is an essential step large corporations can take to to leverage the power of the female economy.

Corporate culture can greatly women's participation in the workforce. For example, policies on parental leave, telecommuting, and flexible work hours influence women's ability to enter and remain in the workplace. Mentorship and sponsorship programs, elevating women into senior management positions, and adding women to corporate boards also further women's ability to succeed and make a greater contribution to the economy and society.

This is an evidence-based case built on a growing body of research and data. Women are game-changers in the economic sphere; their full economic participation drives prosperity for all. Data and analysis have shown that women's economic participation is good for families, communities, societies, and countries, and it is good for business too. We can and must capitalize on the power of women's economic participation to transform the lives of individuals, businesses, and the entire global economy.

Politico: "Ready for Hillary ready to end"

By Maggie Haberman

November 18, 2014, 11:53 p.m. EST

When staffers and supporters of Ready for Hillary gather Friday at a conference in Manhattan, the all-day event will mark the beginning of the end

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for the grassroots super PAC that was an impressive branding exercise that, for better or worse, helped freeze the field of competition against Hillary Clinton for 2016.

The lower-dollar super PAC is set to begin its wind-down once Hillary Clinton declares her candidacy for president – something her allies insist she still may not do but which most expect her to.

For the nearly two years it's been in existence, Ready for Hillary has been described as a shadow campaign for Clinton, an imprecise shorthand that both oversold and undersold the work the group was doing.

It was never intended to be a substitute for an actual campaign or signify a field operation that could be turned into the real thing with the flip of a switch, its organizers say – it was meant to harness energy, build a list and be the focal point where her supporters could look. There was never intense modeling beyond its direct-mail list, according to people familiar with its work. (Early discussions about doing more advanced modeling using voter data was abandoned, according to sources familiar with the work.)

"The goal of this organization has always been clear — Ready for Hillary has an explicit mission and a stated path to accomplish it," said Tracy Sefl, a senior adviser to the group. "Now, there are several million people who can take pride in — and rightly claim credit for — the progress made. Ready for Hillary isn't done, but we're still very grateful for the opportunity to reflect on where we are and what all of these supporters have helped build."

It also survived efforts to either curtail or outright stamp out its efforts in the first half of 2013, when some Clinton advisers grew alarmed by its presence. It ultimately became one of the most memorable political brands over the last two years.

Exactly when it will come to an end is unclear – it will likely exist for a period of time if Clinton declares, going through a formal process of closing accounts and wrapping up loose ends.

When it winds down, it will have a Facebook page with more than 3 million supporters and, people familiar with the group's work say, an enhanced voter list that improved on Clinton's own 2008 campaign data while attracting new names. The goal is to ultimately provide the new data to her campaign in the form of a swap, a move that the group's critics have argued will prove harder than it thinks. They aggressively used social media and hawked "Ready for Hillary" merchandise, which raised money and helped build on the list.

But the group's officials say they have figured out how it will work from their end. And when she declares, there are tentative plans to find a way to move the supporters from the Facebook page over to her social media accounts, possibly through an email.

Founded by former Hillary Clinton staffer Adam Parkhomenko, a 29-year-old who hatched the idea shortly after President Obama's re-election, the group initially struggled for traction. But it soon became ubiquitous – the "Ready for…" phrasing worked its way into the political vernacular in the form of headlines and borrowed use by other elected officials. A pro-Elizabeth Warren group copied its name, appearing as "Ready for Warren."

"I've always looked at Hillary as a brand," Parkhomenko, the group's executive director, told Slate last year, at a time when few reporters were giving it much attention. "That's been especially true in the last couple of years. It's a brand I believe in. It's a brand I want to protect. It's a brand I want to build."

It may have been inadvertent, but "branding" was very much what Ready for Hillary accomplished – elevating her name and celebrity to great heights. The New Hampshire Jefferson-Jackson Democratic Dinner in October, where Bill Clinton spoke, was draped with signs made by the super PAC, which had "Ready" references to the state's two top-level candidates, Gov. Maggie Hassan and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen.

In nearly two years, officials with the group said, it's attracted almost 35,000 volunteers, hired 29 staffers raised more than $10 million and spent almost as much as it's raised, primarily on fundraising and list-building. Ready for Hillary had trouble getting any press attention at first, but got key validation when it hired President Barack Obama's former field organizer's firm, 270 Strategies.

Some Obama advisers have publicly questioned the utility for Clinton, who is still formulating a message for a likely candidacy, in having an apparatus bearing her name so early in the cycle.

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Some Obama advisers have publicly questioned the utility for Clinton, who is still formulating a message for a likely candidacy, in having an apparatus bearing her name so early in the cycle.

Eventually, Ready for Hillary and another pro-Clinton entity, the high-dollar Priorities USA, brokered peace, in part with the help of current White House aide John Podesta, who was out of government at the time. It also got early support from top Bill and Hillary Clinton adviser Minyon Moore, a Dewey Square Group strategist who saw value in the organizing work the group was doing, even as other Clinton advisers said it would add to the aura of inevitability she was hoping to shed.

Moore and another Dewey Square official, Jill Alper, have worked with the group since in a volunteer capacity, people familiar with the work say.

When Craig Smith, a Clinton White House political director and old Arkansas friend of the former first couple, came on board as a senior adviser, it also added gravitas. And an early goal was to have a media-friendly approach.

In the meantime, the group began establishing some form of a presence in every state, either through fundraisers or rallies. It became the official vehicle by which surrogates offered support for Clinton — with Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, an Obama supporter, coming on as one of the early big names.

“We said from the beginning that empowering and engaging grass-roots supporters early on are the most critical components of building a winning, 21st century campaign — and frankly everything we’ve witnessed over the past year and a half of working with Ready for Hillary has only reinforced this perspective,” said 270 Strategies’ Lynda Tran. “We continue to believe that a successful, presidential-level effort needs to integrate a data-driven, people-focused approach with smart digital and communications strategies.”

Yet, field organizing is difficult to do without a candidate, even when there is an idea of one. Outside groups rarely conduct field operations, since unlike TV ad spending by independent entities, it’s very hard to track and therefore not duplicate.

It was “inspired by a campaign field structure, but the scale and focus are very different,” said one official working with the group. “The structure is essentially two streams that work in concert with each other — a general field stream and a constituency organizing stream.”

That included a lot of chaser events during Clinton’s book tour, replete with a “Ready for Hillary” bus at which people who showed up to see her could leave their names. Clinton herself was said to appreciate the concept of the bus, which has visited college campuses.

Among its most visible activities has been maintaining a presence in Iowa, where Clinton struggled in the 2008 caucuses. Veteran organizer Teresa Vilmain, who worked on Clinton’s 2008 campaign, has advised Ready for Hillary. Among the group’s major efforts was surrounding the annual and final Sen. Tom Harkin Steak Fry in September with a ring of signs that bore its trademark font, but simply said “Ready.” or “Thank you Tom.”

“From the get-go, they were clear about their organizational goals and communicated them well. As in — find people that are RFH and collect their contact information,” she wrote in an email.

Where some Clinton advisers have expressed concern is that her status as a political celebrity didn’t need enhancing, and a super PAC asking if people were “ready” for her implied that. And the group’s detractors have argued that almost everything it did would happen as soon as she declares. In a New York Times piece last year, some of the group’s detractors described it as a “make-work” program for people hovering around “Hillaryland.”

Whether Clinton, who was a global figure as secretary of state, can effectively connect with voters after living in the State Department bubble and in a life of extreme wealth is a question her supporters have.

Some RFH critics believe people involved with the group are seeking jobs with her eventual campaign. Clinton’s own aides haven’t addressed that, but the group’s supporters say they would be surprised if Clinton didn’t bring on some of those involved given their work so far.

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But ultimately, the perception of the group as a juggernaut helped freeze operatives who might have worked for a rival candidate, and gave pause to the group's admirers had little downside.

"They got a two-year head start," said one supporter.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Fundraisers Rev Up for Possible Hillary Clinton Run"

By Peter Nicholas

November 19, 2014, 6:48 a.m. EST

The fundraising machinery in support of Hillary Clinton's anticipated presidential bid is churning along, with multiple events in the coming weeks aimed at smoothing her entrance into the 2016 contest.

A group of New Jersey-based Democratic fundraisers and political operatives has scheduled a dinner in Newark on Monday to gather commitments for a donation to Mrs. Clinton's campaign as soon as she announces she's running, according to a person familiar with the event. About three dozen people are expected to attend. The organizers are Michael Kempner, a public relations executive, and Josh Gottheimer, who worked in Bill Clinton's White House. The pair organized a similar event last month.

"People understand that it will be very important for Hillary to make a significant financial statement right out of the box," said the person familiar with the effort. "People want to be there to step up quickly and aggressively."

Separately, the super PAC Ready for Hillary is holding a fundraising event in Philadelphia on Dec. 2 with tickets ranging from $1,000 to $5,000, a copy of the invitation shows. Ready for Hillary is also holding a meeting of its national finance council in New York City on Friday.

Mrs. Clinton isn't a candidate yet, though she has said she'll announce a decision in the new year.

Ready for Hillary has been collecting names and email addresses of Clinton supporters, compiling lists that it will eventually make available to her campaign should she jump in the race.

The event on Dec. 2 will be hosted by Leonard Barrack, a longtime Democratic fundraiser. Harold Ickes, a former Clinton White House official and a top adviser to Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign, is listed as the special guest. Those who donate $5,000 are invited to a special "VIP reception," the invitation shows.

The Atlantic: "Hillary's Silence on Iran and Immigration Reform"

By Peter Beinart

November 19, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EST

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[Subtitle:] The cautious Clinton of 2008 is back—and that shows why it's so essential she face a Democratic challenger in 2016.

Two weeks after the midterms, we now know that President Obama is headed toward collisions with the Republican Congress over immigration reform, climate change, and perhaps a nuclear deal with Iran. What we don't know is whether Hillary Clinton will have his back.

On climate change, the presumptive 2016 Democratic nominee seems most in sync with her former boss. In September, she called warming "the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world." The New York Times recently speculated that since John Podesta, the man behind Obama's climate-change efforts, will likely play a key role in her campaign, Clinton will publicly embrace Obama's EPA regulations and his recent climate deal with Beijing, despite Republican fury.

But on immigration and Iran, it's harder to tell. On immigration, Clinton has a history of trying to play it safe. At a presidential debate in October 2007, she famously refused to state clearly whether she supported then-New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's initiative to grant drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants. ("Do I think this is the best thing for any governor to do? No. But do I understand the sense of real desperation, trying to get a handle on this?")

Today, Clinton clearly supports legislation to allow many of the undocumented to remain in the U.S. But when it comes to Obama's effort to achieve that goal through executive action—an initiative he delayed this summer but seems set to implement now—she has studiously avoided taking a position. In September in Iowa, when an immigration activist named Cesar Vargas asked an autograph-signing Clinton "if you stand by the president's delay on immigration," she replied, "I think we have to elect more Democrats." The following month in North Carolina, when 25-year-old Oliver Merino told Hillary that his mother risked being deported, she replied, "I understand immigration is an important issue, and we appreciate that. We thank you for your advocacy."

When it comes to Obama's Iran policy, Clinton has been slightly less cagey and slightly more negative. In late 2007, she ran to Obama's right on Iran, calling him "irresponsible and frankly naïve" for agreeing to meet without preconditions with Tehran's leaders. This May, she declared, "I am also personally skeptical that the Iranians would follow through and deliver" on a nuclear deal. She's also laid out tougher terms for such a deal than her former Obama administration colleagues. In July, she told Fareed Zakaria, "I believe strongly that it's really important for there to be so little [uranium] enrichment or no enrichment, at least for a long period of time," even though John Kerry, her successor as secretary of state, had already acknowledged, "I can't tell you they might not have some enrichment" as part of a final nuclear deal. Just last week, Haim Saban, one of Clinton's biggest donors, criticized Obama for having "shown too many carrots and a very small stick" in its dealings with Iran. Saban also endorsed legislation that would require Obama to gain congressional approval for any nuclear deal, something the White House will almost certainly resist.

Perhaps the biggest reason Clinton hasn't yet backed Obama's efforts on immigration and Iran is that she hasn't had to. Obama has not yet taken executive action on deportations, nor have his negotiators inked an agreement with Tehran. But that hasn't stopped plenty of other politicians from tipping their hand. And it hasn't stopped Clinton from taking positions on other issues—for instance, raising the minimum wage—where no presidential action is imminent.

The other likely motive for Clinton's coyness is her desire to avoid inheriting Obama's baggage in 2016. Even if immigration reform is popular, Obama's efforts to implement it unilaterally may not be. And as Saban's comments suggest, an Iran deal will provoke fierce opposition not only among Republicans but among some of the hawkish "pro-Israel" Democrats to whom Clinton is close.

But whether or not keeping her distance is good politics for Clinton, it's bad politics for Obama. By distancing herself from Obama's efforts, she encourages Democrats in Congress to do the same, especially those in more conservative states or dependent on more hawkish donors. And given the furious opposition Obama's efforts will spark among Republicans, a public split among Washington Democrats will make it harder for him to prevail.

All of which shows why it's important that Clinton face a primary challenger. It's the only way that progressives, who overwhelmingly support Obama on immigration and Iran, can influence her behavior. As I've written at some length, Clinton could prove an unusually savvy, capable, and effective president. But there's a reason Democrats chose Obama instead of her in 2008: Because from granting drivers' licenses for the undocumented to invading Iraq, she refused to break decisively from the Beltway conventional wisdom that many liberals believed was hurting the country. As Obama said at an Iowa dinner in October 2007, in his most devastating attack of the primary, "Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do."

Clinton's relative silence this year on both immigration and Iran suggests that some of that caution remains. If Democrats don't want it to undermine Obama's final year in the White House, they need to show that it could undermine her chances of getting their herself.

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Politico: "Democrats to Obama: You broke the party, now fix it"

By Edward-Isaac Dovere

November 18, 2014, 10:35 p.m. EST

Enough, Donna Brazile told White House political director David Simas the day after the midterms.

Democrats are in worse shape than when President Barack Obama came into office — the number of seats they have in Congress, the number of governors, a party approval rating that's fallen behind Republicans for the first time in recent history, enthusiasm, energy. The White House, Brazile said when she came to meet with Simas, has got to focus for the next two years on getting the party into better shape, and Obama's the best and most effective person to get out the message.

As much Hillary Clinton anticipation as there is, two weeks later, Democrats are still reeling and anxious. Obama may have built his political career without the party — and created anti-establishment alternatives — but he's a lame duck with a new Congress that's been elected to oppose him. He needs Democrats. And they need him.

"The base craves his leadership," Brazile said in an interview later that week, following a meeting of the DNC committee that's beginning to set the rules for the next presidential nomination. "They want him in the mix, talking about what Democrats accomplished, what Democrats are fighting for, and what the president has done to make lives better."

Nancy Pelosi was reelected minority leader. So was Harry Reid. Debbie Wasserman Schultz's term at the DNC isn't up until 2017. Obama said repeatedly before and after the votes were counted that he wasn't going to fire anyone because of election results. But if no one's going to take the blame for 2014, Democrats are hoping he'll take responsibility for getting things better for 2016.

"He may or may not be the best messenger," said Vic Fazio, the former California congressman who was the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee chair for the 1994 rout. "But at this point, he is still our messenger. And the first year is very important."

At least until the next presidential campaign begins in earnest, Democrats say, it'll be up to Obama to centralize the Democratic message around something other than simply trying to paint the Republicans as extreme.

Interviews with leading party strategists turn to three main suggestions: Obama should be a much more frequent and strong voice on Democratic priorities, he should transform his West Wing political office from a midterm clearinghouse to an instrument for true party outreach, and he should reinvest his energy in the Democratic National Committee — including seeking a full-time chair who can begin the major clean-up and overhaul they need ahead of 2016.

And if doing it for the party isn't enough for Obama, Democrats say, do it out of self-interest.

"A strong party is the key to a lasting legacy," said a senior Democratic strategist. "Whether it's for our ideals as Democrats or it's for his personal legacy — if we lose the White House and continue to get gutted down ballot, they will repeal the ACA and everything else we've fought so hard for, and all of this will be for naught."

That should be a short-term worry for Obama too, Brazile said.

"The Republicans have not retreated from the battlefield, so why should President Obama surrender?" she said. "He can't give up, he can't waver. All of that looks to Democrats like he doesn't stand for much, and it's not the truth."

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In the West Wing, they've been projecting optimism since the midterms. The trip to Asia was a success, they say: Obama showed with the China carbon emissions deal how big and how bold he could go without Congress. He ignited a national debate from the other side of the planet by making a few short comments and releasing a fact sheet about net neutrality. There was progress, even, on the trade deals that might make up a big chunk of the limited agenda on which the White House is hoping to find workable compromises with Republicans.

Look for more of that kind of leveraging of the president's existing power and bully pulpit to tackle base priorities, aides say. White House chief of staff Denis McDonough initiated a process about a month before Election Day of internal conversations and outside advice, and they're already in the initial stages of formulating a State of the Union they promise will be heavy on new proposals — which aides insist has so far not been reshaped by the Republican wins or loss of the Senate.

Behind closed doors, they're a little more shaken.

"People are licking their wounds… trying to figure out where they go from here: 'Can we be the phoenix rising from the ashes?' Where are these issues where he's going to dig in his heels and fight? Where does he compromise with Republicans, and how does he manage the politics of that? " said a Democratic strategist familiar with the White House.

Through the election cycle, people in the White House would often say they felt frustrated and Obama to get out more and talk more about his message. Now, aides see two years of opportunities for a president who won't be constrained anymore, who'll be able to say what he wants without worrying about how it could scramble anyone else's political considerations.

Great, Democrats say. Now make something of it. Talk about the economic progress that's happened. Talk about how to achieve job growth to build on it.

"The best thing he can do is focus on income inequality, and talk about and propose things, and just be a fierce advocate for addressing the economic divide," said another Democratic strategist with ties to the White House. "That will leave people after two years saying the Democratic Party really stands for something."

"What Bush failed to do, and to some extent Bill Clinton failed to do, is to make the final two years of their presidency something big, and advocate for it and make it a defining characteristic of the party," the strategist said. "You have to come something that defines who your party is — even if you don't make law and you're not successful in the effort."

The White House declined comment on its own political plans, but over at the DNC, they say they're already feeling good about the level of Obama involvement that many people in and around the party headquarters have complained about for years.

"This president has been incredibly engaged and helpful to everything we've done," said DNC communications director Mo Elleithee, citing Obama's help on measures including retiring the DNC debt and beefing up the party data infrastructure. "He's helped grow the party infrastructure nationally ever since his 2008 campaign, and he's all in with us moving forward."

In Congress, where most Democrats feel bruised and battered from what most say has been a consistently standoffish and inattentive president, even among those who speak most warmly about him, there's a warning that he can't count on the caucus's unwavering support over the next two years.

"When it comes to climate, and when it comes to immigration, we're in sort of alignment. In trade and other areas, it's not so clear," said Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii). "It's going to depend on the issue, the kind of coalition."

But fixing the political problems is going to be even tougher given the history over the last six years, said Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.).

"We have lost our way. It's a stormy ocean and we're trying to find out way back to land to see where the hell we are," Pascrell said. "But you can't get back to land until you have a deep discussion, not just a philosophical, but a tangible, discussion about where we are as a party. It's kind of difficult in the last two years of the presidency to do that because we have not had that kind of relationship."

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Obama, said a White House aide speaking the day before the election, is very interested in the question of his political legacy himself.

"He brought a bunch of people in the process in '08. They sat out in '10. Then it was a real question. Then they came out again in really good numbers in '12. Are these people going to become Democratic voters? Are we going to be able to turn the Obama voter into a Democratic voter the way Reagan was able to turn the Reagan Democrat into a Republican?" the aide said. "If you can do that, we will not just be a presidential party, we will also have success in congressional elections, but also the priorities that we care about will be the ones that shape the discussion going forward."

Asked how that process was going so far, the aide deferred.

"We don't know. We'll see."

Politico: "Beyond Senate defeat, ill omens for Keystone"

By Andrew Restuccia

November 18, 2014, 10:01 p.m. EST

Never mind the cliffhanger defeat for the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Even if the Senate had passed the bill Tuesday, hints are mounting that President Barack Obama has hardened his stance against the $8 billion project and would veto any legislation green-lighting it, whether it comes from the current Democratic Senate or next year's Republican Senate.

The last two weeks offer the strongest evidence to date that Obama may reject the Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline in the end: He made a groundbreaking global warming deal with China — the latest sign that he is building a serious climate change legacy. He has been more dismissive than ever of GOP arguments that Keystone would be a major job creator. And he has lost much of the political urgency for considering the pipeline — the most vulnerable red-state Democrats lost on Election Day, so there's less reason to cater to endangered centrists begging for a "yes" vote on Keystone.

Obama's former aides, and others closely following the six-years-and-running Keystone drama, insist he still has plenty of wiggle room to rule either way when he finally renders a verdict, which could come in early 2015. The administration's official stance is that it's still awaiting the outcome of the State Department's review of the project's merits.

But the latest remarks from the White House, and the president himself, have been increasingly bullish against the pipeline — and especially against attempts by Congress to force his hand. Some of his recent comments also mirror the arguments of green activists who allege that the pipeline would mainly be a boon for Canada's oil export market.

"I have to constantly push back against this idea that somehow the Keystone pipeline is either this massive jobs bill for the United States or is somehow lowering gas prices," Obama said during a news conference last week in Myanmar. "Understand what the project is: It is providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our land down to the Gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else."

Republicans made it clear Tuesday that they'll try again when they take over the Senate in January, with a pro-Keystone majority large enough to overcome any filibuster. They and the pipeline's Democratic supporters say they're increasingly confident they can force the president's hand by attaching a pro-pipeline measure to must-pass legislation or, less likely, by securing the 67 Senate votes needed to override a veto.

"There's always room for a deal," said Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), a vocal Keystone supporter.

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But giving in on the pipeline would contradict Obama's message on climate change, environmental groups and the president's climate allies on the Hill say, especially given his devotion to reaching an international deal in Paris at the end of 2015. Despite the State Department's repeated conclusions that the project would pose little risk of environmental damage, the pipeline has drawn greens' ire because of the large amounts of greenhouse gases produced by western Canada's oil sands region.

"Given all the major strides the president has taken to cut carbon pollution, we are more confident than ever that he will reject this dirty and dangerous pipeline," League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski said.

Approving Keystone would be "out of step with saving the planet from devastating climate change … just as we're starting to make progress," said Senate Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), who led the debate against the Keystone bill.

Another Senate climate hawk, Rhode Island Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse, was more cautious about reading too much into the Beijing deal as a crystal ball on Keystone. "The problem with these conversations is that we often presume they are logical … when we have a big and powerful industry that's trying to have its way," he said.

The European Union's top climate change official, Connie Hedegaard, has called on Obama to reject Keystone, saying it would send a "strong signal" about his seriousness on global warming.

Green activists this week offered a preview of what they have in store for Obama if he approves the project and, in their view, tarnishes his environmental legacy. They staged sit-ins at the Senate offices of Democrats who supported the pipeline bill and flooded fence-straddling senators' offices with phone calls, even accusing one blue-state senator — Cory Booker (D-N.J.) — of "throwing our families in the Heartland under the bus" if he were to vote yes. (Booker voted no on the bill.)

While Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) desperately tried to whip votes for the Keystone bill, greens worked the phones to shore up opposition from liberal Senate Democrats. Top officials at the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club and 350.org all waited outside the Senate chamber as Tuesday's drama played out, and people from the groups were seen congratulating several senators when the bill failed.

The White House had stopped short of threatening to veto the bill, although press secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday that Obama "doesn't support" the legislation and opposes efforts to circumvent the State Department process.

Even if Congress never passes another Keystone bill, the completion of the State Department's analysis would eventually bring the saga to a close. But when that happens is anybody's guess.

The department halted its review last spring to await the outcome of a Nebraska Supreme Court case involving a challenge to the pipeline's route inside the state. The court could rule any day now, after which it could take weeks or months for the State Department to wrap up its analysis.

The final outcome will pose political difficulties no matter how Obama rules, displeasing either his green base or pro-oil Democrats and jobs-eager labor unions. Opinion polls consistently find the project popular with large majorities of Americans. In addition, Democrats would gain some political advantage from Obama settling the issue sooner rather than later, if only to keep it from burdening a 2016 White House run by Hillary Clinton.

Obama has never said where he stands on the pipeline's merits, and his words and actions have been mixed — though increasingly critical.

"The administration is looking to keep its options open here," one former administration official who has been close to the issue told POLITICO earlier this year, following the release of the latest State Department environmental study.

Obama rejected Keystone developer TransCanada's initial permit application in early 2012, after Republicans pushed through a bill giving him just 60 days to decide. But after the company reapplied, he told the Army Corps of Engineers to speed up its review of Keystone's southern half, which runs from Oklahoma to the Gulf Coast. (That portion is now operating.) He even went to a TransCanada pipe storage yard in Oklahoma and boasted that his administration "has approved dozens of new oil and gas pipelines over the last three years — including one from Canada."

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But in his second term, with climate change becoming a growing priority, his tone has turned increasingly negative.

He told Republican senators early last year that the administration is not “ideologically averse” to the pipeline, and that “some of the environmental concerns have been over-exaggerated,” Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) said afterward. But he has also accused Keystone supporters of overstating its job-creation potential, while telling The New York Times that Canada “could potentially be doing more” to counteract the greenhouse gas emissions being unleashed from its oil fields.

Obama’s most noteworthy public statement on the pipeline was his June 2013 declaration that “our national interest will be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution” — but Keystone supporters and opponents differed dramatically on what they thought he meant. Greens argued that the pipeline couldn’t possibly clear that bar, while supporters of the project pointed to the past State Department studies as evidence that it already has.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine), who voted against the Senate bill Tuesday, said Obama needs to end the suspense.

“Well, I do think the president ought to move ahead and make a decision,” King said. The power to make that decision was entrusted to him, and I think he should exercise it.”

Los Angeles Times column: Doyle McManus: “A Bernie Sanders candidacy could help Hillary Clinton”

By Doyle McManus

November 18, 2014, 4:54 p.m. PST

I'm going out on a limb here, but Bernie Sanders is not going to be our next president. Still, the independent socialist senator from Vermont is sounding more and more like a man who intends to defy the doubters and run. And he could play an important role in the campaign.

Sanders hasn't formally announced his candidacy; he hasn't even changed his party registration. (If he runs, it will be in the Democratic primaries.) But he's doing everything an aspiring candidate needs to do. He's traveled to Iowa and New Hampshire. He's signed up (provisionally) a high-powered campaign manager, Tad Devine, who worked on the presidential campaigns of John F. Kerry and Al Gore. He's buttonholing reporters with even more zeal than usual. And this week, he even submitted to the gentle ridicule of faux conservative Stephen Colbert to win seven minutes of national television time.

“A self-described socialist!” Colbert faux-sneered. “Do you frighten people when you walk around the Capitol? Are they afraid you're going to take their tractor and give it to the whole village?”

“Hopefully we frighten the billionaire class,” Sanders replied as a youthful studio audience cheered.

Get ready to hear Sanders repeat that phrase, “the billionaire class,” a lot. It's the core of his message, the theme that makes him passionate: his conviction that the wealthy have hijacked not only the economy, but also the political system.

There may not have been a major-party presidential candidate with so blunt a populist message on the economy since Franklin D. Roosevelt ran against “economic royalists” in 1936.

“The biggest issue in the country is that we don't discuss the biggest issue in the country,” Sanders told me in his Senate office last week.

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“How does it happen that today the economists tell us that 95% of all new income created in America goes to the top 1%? How does it happen that we have by far the most unequal distribution of wealth and income of any major country on Earth, where one family, the Walton family of Wal-Mart, owns more wealth than the bottom 40% of the American people? How does that happen, and what do we do about it?”

Sanders' answers on what to do come from a crisp checklist: Higher taxes on the wealthy, a much higher minimum wage, $1 trillion of new spending on roads and public transportation and European-style national health insurance (which he tries to make less foreign by calling it “Medicare for all”).

He's asking the right questions. The stagnation of middle class incomes in the midst of an economic recovery has become the central challenge for both political parties. Exit polls in this month's midterm elections found that 63% of all voters believe the U.S. economic system isn't fair to most Americans, but “favors the wealthy.”

But does Sanders really think his untrammeled populism can win him the nomination, much less a general election?

“I'm running to win,” he insists. “It won't be just an educational campaign.”

When pressed, however, he acknowledges that he thinks even a losing campaign would be a good thing because of its potential to bring more attention to his ideas, widen the national debate and put pressure on Hillary Rodham Clinton or any other eventual Democratic nominee.

Win or lose, Sanders will fill a familiar role if he decides to run. Democratic presidential primaries almost always include at least one populist or quasi-populist candidate on the left. In 2008, it was John Edwards. In 2004, it was Howard Dean. In 1992, it was California's own Jerry Brown. And none of them won the nomination.

This year, there could be three candidates running to the left of Clinton. In addition to Sanders, there might be Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (who says he's running, but hasn't succeeded in defining much of a theme yet) and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who spent most of the summer saying she wouldn't run, but recently modified that to “I don't think so.”

Meanwhile, former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) has been talking about running as a moderate to Clinton's right.

Challenges like these would be a good thing for Clinton.

For one thing, they would give voters a reason to tune in to Democratic primary debates; otherwise, the brawling Republican field would get hours of television time all to itself.

For another, if she has challengers on both the left and right, Clinton could conveniently cast herself as the woman in the middle, the champion of her party's broad center.

And finally, it would be good for Clinton to work through her campaign style in more friendly waters. The last thing she wants is to sail through the primaries untested and have to develop her battle skills in actual combat with her Republican opponent. “She needs to get out of the cocoon of inevitability,” former Barack Obama strategist David Axelrod said last week.

If Clinton wins the nomination, she's unlikely to thank her Democratic opponents for trying to stop her from breaking the glass ceiling — but she should.

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Associated Press: "2016 contest overshadows GOP governors meeting"

By Steve Peoples and Jill Colvin

November 19, 2014, 3:30 a.m. EST

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — No fewer than a half-dozen potential presidential candidates are gathering in Florida as the Republican Governors Association prepares to select its next leader.

The organization's annual conference begins Wednesday in a luxury oceanside resort where the nation's Republican governors will celebrate their party's recent success in the midterm elections. Privately, they're jockeying for position as the 2016 presidential contest looms. None of the most likely White House candidates is expected to seek to replace New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as chairman, a position with responsibilities that would conflict with the presidential primary season.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said he would not run for the RGA chairmanship for just that reason.

"It's pretty obvious at least it's something I should consider," Walker said of a White House bid during an interview with The Associated Press. "And if I'm going to do that, I'm not going to put my colleagues in the position of having someone in place who isn't 100 percent committed to the leadership of the organization."

The conference comes two weeks after the GOP's midterm rout, in which they gained control of Congress and expanded their majority of governorships across the country. In January the Republican Party will control 31 compared with Democrats' 19. The party's strong performance offers a presidential springboard to governors who won re-election, Walker among them, and others, like Christie, who played a leading role in the GOP's success.

While Hillary Rodham Clinton remains the overwhelming Democratic front-runner should she seek the presidency, the prospective Republican field is crowded and without a clear leader. A handful of Senate Republicans may join the 2016 contest, but many donors and party officials would prefer a presidential nominee to emerge from the ranks of the Republican governors, who have executive experience and are not tainted by Congress' low approval ratings.

Christie arrives in Florida in a strong position after having broadened his national network while raising tens of millions of dollars to help elect Republican governors. Christie and Walker will spend this week alongside a list of other prospective presidential candidates that includes Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

Governors, governors-elect, senior aides and prominent donors began to descend on the Boca Raton Resort & Club on Tuesday. The bright pink resort is a sprawling maze of fountains, manicured gardens, ballrooms and high-end restaurants, complete with its own beach club, marina and golf clubhouse.

The coming days will be filled with dinners and receptions, where governors can meet privately with donors and strategists. While much of this week's action takes place behind closed doors, a Wednesday open session titled "Republican Governors: The Road Ahead" features five prospective presidential contenders: Pence, Perry, Jindal, Walker and Kasich.

In one of the gathering's only formal agenda items, Christie will hand over the reins of the RGA on Thursday, ending what has arguably been a politically life-saving tenure as the group's chairman. Beyond boosting his 2016 prospects, he has used the position to help repair his reputation after the political retribution traffic scandal in New Jersey that badly tainted his brand earlier in the year.

But the role has also cost him at home. An AP analysis of his public schedule shows that Christie will have spent about 40 percent of his second term out of state by the time he finishes up in Florida on Friday. At the same time, his popularity has slumped at home, according to a number of local polls, with increasingly vocal critics charging that he's neglected local issues.

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None of the Republican governors considering the presidency is particularly popular at home, however, according to interviews with voters after this month's midterm elections. Just a quarter of Louisiana voters said Jindal would make a good president, while one-third of Texas voters said the same of Perry. For Walker, who just won his third gubernatorial election in four years, just over 4 in 10 of Wisconsin voters said he is presidential material.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· November 19 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the National Breast Cancer Coalition (Breast Cancer Deadline)

· November 20 – Memphis, TN: Sec. Clinton attends the dedication of The Marlo Thomas Center for Global Education & Collaboration at St. Jude (WMC)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/8/2014 7:19:00 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday September 8, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Monday September 8, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: As FLOTUS, Clinton received Mother Teresa award for her humanitarian work, Albania's highest civilian honor #HRC365http://1.usa.gov/U6M2xM [9/7/14, 4:00 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Clinton and Bush get chummy at joint event"

"A potential future president, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was also there, taking a seat in the back. She did not speak."

Associated Press: "Clinton, Bush Trade Jabs, Launch Scholars Program"

"With Hillary Rodham Clinton seated in the fourth row, Bush noted that many people ask him about the possibility of another Bush-Clinton White House campaign. His father, President George H.W. Bush, lost to Clinton in 1992, and his brother, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, may seek the GOP nomination in a race that could pair him against Hillary Clinton. 'The first one didn't turn out too good,' Bush quipped."

U.S. News & World Report blog: The Run 2016: "How Hillary's 2016 Timeline Will Affect the Others"

"In essence – due to her unique stature in American politics – once Clinton is in, it will be difficult for others to wait."

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Politico: "Benghazi panel to hold first hearing"

"The House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi will hold its first public hearing next week, according to a committee spokesperson."

Washington Post blog: Erik Wemple: "False advertising on 'Meet the Press': People are afraid to say Hillary Clinton's running for president"

"Now, what is the thing that people have been so afraid to say of late? According to yesterday's show, it's that Hillary Rodham Clinton is running for president. So Todd said it: 'Yeah, it's obvious … that she's running.'"

Burlington Free Press (V.T.): "Sanders would tempt fate, and history, as Democrat"

"Sanders says he's yet to decide whether to run for president in 2016. But he has plenty of supporters urging him to run — and to do so as a Democrat."

Slate: "Field of Dreams"

"There will also be thousands of normal human beings in that Indianola field, extending their phones like periscopes to capture one or both of the Clintons as they pledge allegiance before a vast flag or pretend to cook steak on a grill that's almost as large."

Washington Post blog: WorldViews: "Obama's new man in Moscow doesn't do Twitter"

"When McFaul arrived in Moscow, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was pushing her envoys to use Twitter to reach new audiences in the countries where they were the public face of America. McFaul was happy to comply."

Associated Press: "University of Miami President Shalala to Retire"

Shalala's goal was simple: She wanted to make Miami "the next great American university" and seemed to succeed in raising the school's profile."

Articles:

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MSNBC: "Clinton and Bush get chummy at joint event"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 8, 2014, 12:17 p.m. EDT

The bonhomie was flowing between former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush Monday morning at an event to announce a new scholarship program run jointly by their presidential centers.

Bush's father, George H.W. Bush was there in spirit, sending a lighthearted note urging his successors to keep their remarks brief at the event hosted by the Newseum in Washington, D.C. A potential future president, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was also there, taking a seat in the back. She did not speak.

The scholarship program is aimed at leveraging the experience and resources of the former presidents to teach new generation of leaders, so the two former presidents discussed at length what they admired about the leadership style of other occupants of the Oval Office, including each other.

Clinton revealed that Bush would call him twice a year in the latter's second term to talk casually for 30 to 45 minutes. "I felt good about that. I thought that was a really healthy thing," Clinton said. He's now become especially close with the elder bush, whom both former presidents praised movingly. The younger Bush has a new book coming out about his father next month.

With two Clintons and two Bushes in the mix, the specter of dynasty and the 2016 presidential election loomed over the event, but only addressed once. The families have been close, but Hillary Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush are both considering runs, which could pit the clans against each other once again.

Bush, who was relaxed and casual, joking as often as he was serious, said he was recently asked about the prospect of another Clinton-Bush matchup. "My answer was: The first one didn't turn out too good," he joked he replied. Joshua Bolten, Bush's former chief of staff who was moderating the discussion, quickly moved the conversation elsewhere.

At one point while Clinton was speaking on stage, a cell phone ring could be heard. The former president reached into his pocket to pulled out his device and silence it. "Only two people have this number, and I'm related to both of them," he said, with his wife in the room. "I hope I'm not being told I'm about to become a premature grandfather."

While Clinton has used his post-presidency to engage in global issues and remain on the public stage, Bush has led a relatively quiet life. "One of the things I've learned, maybe through my painting, is that I'm trying to leave something behind. Something to make the world a better place," he said in a rare introspective moment.

Clinton, as is his style – Bush called him an "awesome communicator" – was more voluminous in his remarks. Both presidents were asked what they admired about each other and Clinton gave a lengthy response, praising his successor's conviction and humility. Bush replied more briefly, praising Clinton's empathy and oratory skills.

"Is that enough? It was a lot shorter than your answer," Bush said. Bolten assured him the answer was "equally powerful." "Thank you, Josh, former chief of staff, I appreciate you saying that," Bush replied sarcastically to laughter.

Clinton spoke about the need for compromise in politics, saying that he loved the film "Lincoln" and the Broadway show "All the Way" about LBJ because they both showed presidents getting things done, even when it sometimes required ugly dealmaking. "If you read the Constitution, it ought to be subtitled, let's make a deal," he added.

Clinton said he hoped the new scholarship program would bring together leaders from various walks of life and in different sectors. For example, he hoped it would bring together tea party activists and community organizers in inner-city African-American or immigrant communities, who might find surprising common ground.

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The program is a joint project of the presidential centers of George H.W. Bush, Clinton, George W. Bush, and Johnson, with support from private foundations. It's a non-degree program for people who have already proven themselves and are ready to advance to another level. The board of advisors is made of alumni of both Clinton and Bush White Houses, as well as retired General Stanley McChrystal, the former Afghan War commander who was relieved by President Obama.

Finally, Bolten asked Bush if he had any advice for Clinton on becoming a grandfather. "Get ready also to be, like, the lowest person in the pecking order in your family," he replied warmly.

Associated Press: "Clinton, Bush Trade Jabs, Launch Scholars Program"

By Ken Thomas

September 8, 2014, 12:57 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Political opposites turned friends, former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush launched a new scholars program at four presidential centers with an opening act that might have been mistaken for a comedy routine.

The two former presidents - one a Democrat, the other a Republican - shared laughs and a buddy-like banter on stageMonday, talking about presidential leadership while trading stories about their famous families and life after the White House.

Bill Clinton said he and Bush laughed backstage about people coming up to them at restaurants and asking to take "selfie" photos. Quipped Bush: "At least they're still asking."

With Hillary Rodham Clinton seated in the fourth row, Bush noted that many people ask him about the possibility of another Bush-Clinton White House campaign. His father, President George H.W. Bush, lost to Clinton in 1992, and his brother, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, may seek the GOP nomination in a race that could pair him against Hillary Clinton.

"The first one didn't turn out too good," Bush quipped.

The 42nd and 43rd presidents joined together to announce the Presidential Leadership Scholars program, a partnership between the Clinton, Bush, George H.W. Bush and Lyndon B. Johnson presidential centers. At a time of partisanship and gridlock, both presidents said they hoped the scholars program would attract people in business, public service and the military interested in learning about presidential decision-making and applying it to their own careers.

Clinton revealed that he and Bush would speak twice a year during Bush's second term, 30-to-45 minute conversations about policy and politics. While they didn't always agree, Clinton said he never talked about their discussions and said the talks "meant a lot to me."

Clinton said the test of any democracy is finding ways of having a vigorous debate and still reaching resolution to the nation's problems. "If you read the Constitution, it ought to be subtitled: `Let's make a deal,'" Clinton said.

The elder Bush got in the act from afar, writing in a letter read aloud that every former president displays different qualities, "for example, not all of us skydive."

Bush, who celebrated his 90th birthday in June by making a tandem parachute jump, urged the two former presidents to "keep it brief."

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George W. Bush campaigned for president in 2000 on restoring "honor and dignity" to the White House following Clinton's impeachment over a sex scandal. But the two former presidents have developed a bond, strengthened by their mutual admiration for the elder Bush, whom Clinton visited in Maine last week.

Clinton and the younger Bush worked together on relief efforts after Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010 and have been active in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Bush noted that his upcoming book, called "41: A Portrait of My Father," would be a "love story. It's a story about seeing someone you admire and learning from them."

As moderator Josh Bolten joking plugged the book's Nov. 11 release date, Clinton mused about writing his own competing Bush 41 book. "I think I can put one together that would be ready to go," Clinton joked.

U.S. News & World Report blog: The Run 2016: "How Hillary's 2016 Timeline Will Affect the Others"

By David Catanese

September 8, 2014, 12:30 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Clinton's unique place in American politics could force an earlier start to the 2016 race.

Hillary Clinton's signal that she'll finally settle on whether to run for president again in January – a mere four months from now – likely will force the rest of the prospective field to reassess their own timelines for entry.

Assuming Clinton allows her intentions to be known during the first month of the year and assuming she decides to run, the 2016 White House campaign could commence before people have packed away their holiday decorations.

In essence – due to her unique stature in American politics – once Clinton is in, it will be difficult for others to wait.

None of her potential rivals from either party are as well known or as vetted as she is. Among Democratic constituencies, the expected rush of unity around Clinton will only hasten the drumbeat for those like Vice President Joe Biden and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley to make a decision quickly. If either of them were to defiantly move ahead, it would be a suicide mission to wait very long to begin gathering staff and attempting to raise funds.

Top Republican operatives argue Clinton's timeline won't affect the GOP tribe. There remains a line of thought within GOP circles – or perhaps it's wishful thinking – that Clinton isn't running after all.

"To me, she looks more like a person ending her career than starting," says Keith Nahigian, who managed Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann's 2012 presidential bid.

"I think very few GOP wannabes care what she does," offers Dave Carney, Texas Gov. Rick Perry's former top political aide. "More than a few think she won't pull the trigger anyway."

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Yet the better odds are that Clinton is running and the regular trickle of paid speeches, book tour events and winks and nods in interviews is just a drawn-out warm-up act to the 2015 kickoff.

It also explains why the emerging Republican field has taken shots at Clinton at every chance afforded to them.

Because the GOP primary contest currently has only a marginal, tenuous front-runner and is expected to turn into a wide open and divisive free-for-all, there will be an incentive to get in early – beginning with the traditional formation of an "exploratory committee" – and define oneself.

Given that financial capacity within GOP circles is likely to be divided among a handful of upper-tier candidates, free media will be vitally important for the Republican slate – especially when juxtaposed against Clinton, who will attract nonstop coverage the moment she's in.

As one unaligned operative notes, Clinton has graced the covers of supermarket checkout tabloids for almost a quarter of a century. Not one of the Republican aspirants can match that level of familiarity. But they must raise awareness of their biographies to compete in both the primary and general elections.

A slightly compressed primary calendar – with fewer debates – only adds to the urgency for Republicans, especially if Clinton is largely unopposed for the Democratic nomination. Media coverage will slowly but surely begin to frame the 2016 contest regarding which Republican is best suited to match up against the former secretary of state.

Of all the Republicans mulling it, there are two that could wait somewhat longer than the rest: Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Bush's name needs no explanation to the Republican primary voter and he'll have access to bundles of money whether he decides in January or June. Paul has some residual name identification from his father's three presidential endeavors, though the Kentucky senator has been the most aggressive contender in laying the groundwork for 2016 and it seems unlikely he'd wait long after the new year to announce a bid.

In the 2012 presidential cycle, most of the GOP field triggered exploratory committees – a legal vehicle that allows candidates to test the waters with fundraising and operational staffing – in March and April of 2011, with official announcements following in May and June.

But that timeline was calculated against a sitting president with no intraparty opposition.

A better parallel is to look back at the last time there was an open seat for the presidency without an incumbent. That, of course, was the 2008 race.

Then-Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., announced his exploratory committee on Jan. 16, 2007. Clinton dove in four days later onJan. 20.

But it's often forgotten that several Republicans got out in front of them with extraordinarily early announcements.

Former Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., announced his exploratory committee on Oct. 30, 2006 – a week before the midterm elections.

It's unlikely any major candidate would pull the trigger that early, but both Sen. John McCain and Rudy Giuliani waited only a little more than a week after the 2006 midterms to turn the switch for 2008. Giuliani and McCain pulled the trigger in 2006 on Nov. 14 and Nov. 16, respectively.

That early of an entry would invite immediate scrutiny, but it would also position a candidate to be on equal footing with Clinton when she makes her expected announcement in January.

Maybe the political world won't even have to wait until after the new year for the next race for the White House; a daring contender could jump

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start things before Thanksgiving.

Politico: "Benghazi panel to hold first hearing"

By Lauren French

September 8, 2014, 10:49 a.m. EDT

The House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi will hold its first public hearing next week, according to a committee spokesperson.

The hearing will focus on the State Department's Accountability Review Board — a panel created by the State Department after the attacks — to review the government's security systems abroad.

That review board found "systemic" management and leadership failures at the State Department surrounding the militant attacks, which left Ambassador Chris Stevens dead. The panel issued more than two dozen recommendations in December 2012 to help the U.S government tighten its security controls.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), will focus on how the implementation of those recommendations has proceeded.

The 12-member panel has actively worked since it was first created earlier this summer, reviewing previous reports on the Benghazi attacks and requesting documents from the State Department on the U.S. government's actions in the region before, during and after the attacks.

The hearing was first reported by Fox News.

Washington Post blog: Erik Wemple: "False advertising on 'Meet the Press': People are afraid to say Hillary Clinton's running for president"

By Erik Wemple

September 8, 2014, 1:11 p.m. EDT

Chuck Todd did a good job in his debut yesterday as host of "Meet the Press." He asked good questions of President Obama in an interview that the show spread out over a few segments; he interviewed three mayors about how they were overcoming Washington's deep-set gridlock; and he acted like Chuck Todd — humble and smart and reasonable.

None of which stops the Erik Wemple Blog from posing a monster quibble with the program. As part of an effort to freshen up "Meet the Press," Todd introduced a segment titled "What everyone in Washington knows, but is afraid to say."

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What a great premise! So bold and out-there. Now, what is the thing that people have been so afraid to say of late? According to yesterday's show, it's that Hillary Rodham Clinton is running for president. So Todd said it: "Yeah, it's obvious … that she's running."

What courage. Todd is the first person to come out and make such a declaration. Except for:

The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza, who wrote, "Let's be honest: Hillary Clinton is running for president."

Carl Cannon, who wrote: "Yes, let's get that out of the way: Hillary Rodham Clinton is not deciding whether to run for president; she's already running for president."

The Week, which wrote, "Yes, Hillary Clinton is running for president."

UCLA political science professor Lynn Vavreck, who wrote in the New York Times that the world is "sure she's a candidate, and they are treating her like one."

Miami Herald world affairs columnist Frida Ghitis, who wrote on CNN.com, "Yes, Hillary Clinton is running for president, and she is running away from President Barack Obama's record on foreign policy."

A commentator on CNBC, who said that it "appears that she's running for president."

"Daily Show" host Jon Stewart, who said in an interview with Clinton, "It sounds to me like, if I may, you've declared for president." A boomlet of Clinton-is-running pieces sprung up after that July program. Here's one, another and another.

Burlington Free Press (V.T.): "Sanders would tempt fate, and history, as Democrat"

By Nicole Gaudiano

September 8, 2014, 8:12 a.m. EDT

WASHINGTON – Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has belonged to one political party in his lifetime: the anti-war Liberty Union Party.

That was back in the 1970s. Since then, Sanders has forged his own political path, caucusing with Democrats in Congress but remaining independent on the ballot.

That could change as he considers a 2016 presidential bid. Among the decisions he's weighing is whether to run as an independent or as a Democrat.

On one hand, Sanders believes many people are dissatisfied with the two-party system and think Democrats are doing too little to protect working-class and middle-income Americans.

On the other hand, a Democratic presidential bid has definite advantages.

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"If you run as a Democrat, it would obviously be much easier to get on the ballot," Sanders said during a recent interview. "And the advantage, again, running as a Democrat, is that you would be in the middle of Democratic primaries, you would be in debates, and you would, I think, attract more media attention for your ideas."

Sanders, who turns 73 today, is the longest-serving independent member of Congress in history. His progressive views, which he delivers forcefully in a Brooklyn accent on the Senate floor and left-leaning news shows, don't always align neatly with the Democratic agenda or party politics.

Democratic urges

A self-described democratic socialist, he believes lessons can be learned from the Scandinavian approach to governing, focusing on health care as a right, free higher education, and an emphasis on environmental issues and childhood poverty. In March, he held a subcommittee hearing on ways that countries such as Denmark and Canada offer better health care for less money.

"We should have a government that represents all of our people," he said, "not one which is dominated by big money which significantly works for the interests of the wealthy and large corporations."

Sanders says he's yet to decide whether to run for president in 2016. But he has plenty of supporters urging him to run — and to do so as a Democrat.

Progressive Democrats of America has gathered about 14,000 signatures on a petition, urging Sanders to run in the Democratic presidential primaries. The group is organizing steering committees in Iowa towns and plans to raise money for Sanders through its political action committee, Progressive Democrats of America Action Fund.

When Sanders makes various stops in Iowa this month, the group will have bumper stickers, signs and banners greeting him with the message, "Run Bernie, Run."

"If he runs as an independent, we just feel he would be isolated," said Conor Boylan, the group's co-executive director. "It wouldn't be a smart move for him."

Sanders would encounter "substantial procedural and legal hurdles" to accessing the ballot if he ran as an independent in the Democratic primaries or in the general election, said Tad Devine, a Washington media consultant and political strategist who has worked on two Sanders campaigns.

Devine, who has spoken with Sanders about the decision, said he thinks Sanders would run as a Democrat, or at least within the structure of the party.

"He understands that a third-party challenger of his nature could do something very bad, like help elect a Republican president, like, for example, (Ralph) Nader did in 2000," said Devine, who also has worked on presidential campaigns for Al Gore and John Kerry.

No spoilers

Sanders said that would never be his intention if he ran as an independent.

"If the campaign did not catch on, I would not stay in the race until November and play the role of a spoiler," he said. "But that decision would have to be made down the line."

Sanders noted that he's always won in Vermont as an independent, and his lack of party affiliation is part of his identity. His supporters in the state

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appear to like him that way, according to recent poll conducted by the Castleton Polling Institute in Vermont.

Fifty-five percent of 608 people polled in May said they likely would support a Sanders presidential bid. Of that group, 55 percent said he should run as an independent, while 31 percent said he should run as a Democrat.

Boylan of the Progressive Democrats of America Action Fund, however, said Sanders is an "ideal" progressive candidate to run in the Democratic primaries, because the Vermonter would work to expand Social Security, protect Medicare and Medicaid and advocate for the poor and working classes.

"We don't want Hillary Clinton to be the presumptive nominee and to run unchallenged," Boylan said. "We need to have an open debate."

Priorities

Sanders, the son of a Polish-Jewish immigrant father and a New York-born mother, studied psychology at Brooklyn College and graduated with a political science degree from the University of Chicago, where he was active in the civil rights movement.

After graduating, he spent time on an Israeli kibbutz. He moved to Vermont in the 1960s and worked as a carpenter, filmmaker, writer and researcher. He lost several elections as a Liberty Union Party member before his successful bid as an independent for mayor of Burlington in 1981.

anders, now chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, has caucused with Democrats since his days as Vermont's lone congressman, beginning in 1991.

He believes the party does a better job than the GOP of standing up for working families, but he said there are "too many Democrats who are not prepared to stand up to the billionaire class, which today has incredible economic and political power."

His priorities include:

• Overturning the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission, which allows corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money on ads supporting or opposing individual candidates. Sanders calls the decision "disastrous."

• Addressing wealth and income inequality with a "massive federal jobs program" to rebuild crumbling infrastructure, an increased minimum wage, affordable higher education, a reformed trade policy to prevent corporations from shipping jobs overseas and a reformed tax system so profitable corporations can't avoid paying them and wealthy individuals pay more.

• Focusing on the "crisis" of climate change and the need to move away from fossil fuels.

• Creating a single-payer national health care system, also known as "Medicare for all."

"These are the issues," he said. "This is what is important."

Sanders has been traveling the country, visiting traditional and non-traditional presidential campaign stops. Last month, he visited North Carolina, South Carolina and Mississippi. On Labor Day, he was at an AFL-CIO breakfast in Manchester, N.H., and later this month, he'll be in Wisconsin, Iowa and New Hampshire again.

His message is simple: The country's middle class is collapsing, the gap between the rich and poor is widening, and if nothing changes, the country could move toward an oligarchic society where a handful of billionaires control the economic and political system.

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Sanders said his main challenge is figuring out whether that message resonates.

"How many Americans are prepared to get involved in the political process and fight hard to prevent that?" he said. "That's the question that I have to deal with."

Slate: "Field of Dreams"

By John Dickerson

September 7, 2014, 11:55 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] A mixture of hope and high expectations brings voters out to see the candidates. But the 2014 midterm elections are about to dash both.

The Iowa State Fair is over, but the circus is coming to town. On Sept. 14, Hillary and Bill Clinton will attend the 37th annual Harkin Steak Fry, the famous Iowa political event named after Sen. Tom Harkin. A mess of journalists will rush after the couple, looking for signs of a presidential campaign and drawing conclusions on the nearest barn wall. (It is fitting that the event takes place on a hot air balloon field.) But there will also be thousands of normal human beings in that Indianola field, extending their phones like periscopes to capture one or both of the Clintons as they pledge allegiance before a vast flag or pretend to cook steak on a grill that's almost as large.

The press will be there to cover the hype (and create it), but the people sinking their folding chairs into the grass during the political speeches will be there for the hope. It is the engine that drives all presidential campaigns. Voters are exhausted with Washington politicians debating one another in adjacent boxes on TV, but they can still be thrilled by a presidential candidate walking in the fall air. Some will have brought their kids so they can get a glimpse of perhaps the first female president. That's not simply a change from the previous president, but from the 227 years there will have been presidents.

But is this the beginning or the end of something? This will be Harkin's last steak fry—the senator is retiring after five terms, and there's a tough fight to replace him. The winner will become a freshman in a body that is drastically different than the one Harkin entered—different even than the one Hillary Clinton joined in 2001. It is partisan and deadlocked, and the election of 2014 will show us why it's likely to stay that way. The structure of modern politics is driving toward more gridlock. That means the sense of hope and high expectation that's fueling all those people coming out to look at Hillary Clinton may be a vain one.

It's easy to see why presidential campaigns encourage hope for progress. It's not just that so many parties, including the media, are invested in the conceit that big ideas are being debated and decided by the electorate. The structure of the presidential campaign helps encourage the notion that, despite the occasional silliness, progress is being made. In Washington, it doesn't seem to matter how many people march or protest, little happens when the gavel sounds. In a campaign, though, every yard sign and Facebook posting is aimed at a guaranteed result: the verdict of Election Day. Everyone who chooses to participate can believe that he or she might be doing the thing that changes minds and determines outcomes. When that verdict is rendered, all the activity that led to it is supposed to represent the people's will. A president chosen through that productive process will have a honeymoon and a mandate. But is that an old idea that has died? The election of 2012 changed nothing: Afterward it was the same players, the same debates, the same clog. Still, voters will show up in that field in Iowa this week, full of hope.

Usually we have to wait until a president disappoints us before the hope dissipates, but the tall oaks of disappointment are being planted this fall. The election feels national—control of the Senate is at stake, after all, and the president's performance in office is on the ballot. But the electorate participating will be small, and there isn't much actual engagement on national issues that could provide a mandate or give us a sense of the public mood. And even if there were, the politicians would learn soon enough to ignore the public message and follow the guidance of the structure that rules elections.

In the election of 2014, only a small number of seats are in a position to act as a proving ground for a battle of ideas. The Center for the Study of the American Electorate suggests that this might be the lowest midterm turnout in history. The number of people who will participate in states with elections that will determine control of the Senate is even smaller still. The House represents a national election of sorts, since all 435 members are up for re-election, but of that group only 30 (6 percent) are in races that are considered up for grabs.

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Even if there were a great chunk of the population being asked to weigh in on competing visions about the issues of the day, those people would have lots of free time. The two parties are running parallel campaigns aimed at motivating their core voters. Republicans want the race to be about national issues and the failures of the president. Democrats want it to be about everything but that, so they're focusing on local issues.

In North Carolina last week, Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan ran four ads with voters describing how the education cuts of her opponent, state House Speaker Thom Tillis, have affected them. On the other side, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched its second general election ad attacking Hagan for her ties to President Obama. When the two candidates participated in their first debate last week, Hagan focused her remarks on how Tillis was bad for women. Tillis talked about how Hagan was a rubber stamp for the president. If the candidates aren't discussing issues in an election, the election can't ratify one set of policy ideas over another.

Elections don't need to be about issues because, as the National Journal's Ron Brownstein points out, congressional elections are increasingly just a method for voters to show their presidential preferences. In the 2006 midterm election, Republicans won six of the 10 Senate races in states where exit polls showed President Bush's approval rating reaching 46 percent or above, but lost 19 of the 20 in states where he stood at 45 percent or below. In 2010, Democrats won Senate races in nine of the 10 states in which President Obama's approval reached 48 percent or higher, and lost 13 of the 15 states that gave him lower marks.

As Brownstein has been arguing, the death of split-ticket voting has changed the electoral structure so that senators who were once encouraged to compromise no longer have to. During the Reagan and Nixon presidencies, Republicans controlled about half the Senate seats in the states they won. That meant there were Democrats representing states that preferred Republicans at the presidential level. That encouraged compromise. A senator needed to show his voters who did not share his ideology that he was not abandoning them. But that pressure has disappeared. During Bill Clinton's term, two-thirds of the senators from states Clinton carried were also Democrats. Under President George W. Bush, that share became three-fourths. Now, under President Obama, Democrats hold 83 percent of the Senate seats in the states he won.

Democrats are sure to lose seats in 2014, and they may lose control of the Senate, which should be the ultimate rebuke of their party and their president. But since elections are increasingly driven by structural rather than policy differences, the incentive will be for Democrats to hew to the structure, not bend to some new policy view ratified by the last election. The 2016 map favors Democrats the way the 2014 map favors Republicans. Republican senators are on the ballot on blue or purple states like Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Democrats will be encouraged to block Republican ideas and blame them as Obama-hating. In 2016 Democrats will run as the antidote to GOP overreach in a presidential election where members of the Democratic coalition turn out in greater numbers than they do during a midterm. If the first viable female nominee is on their ticket, that will help Democrats even more.

It won't just be Democrats with an inclination to keep things bottled up in Washington. Republican senators facing re-election will have to fear challenges from the Tea Party on the right. One GOP strategist is advising every Republican up for re-election in 2016 to plan for a primary. That will not encourage Republicans running in competitive states to take vast risks for the sake of bipartisanship, particularly if the Democrats are being difficult.

Hope doesn't have much of a chance in that environment. An even stronger version of this hope was on display at the Harkin Steak Fry in 2006 when President Obama was the keynote speaker. Iowa was a spiritual birthplace for Obama, since his victory in its state caucus boosted his chances. He went on to win the state twice in the general elections. But that hope was dashed, too. As I was typing this piece and making plane reservations to bring my tank of air to join the Hillary throng, an email came in from Gallup about the Iowa Senate race: "As a key U.S. Senate race unfolds in Iowa ... Obama's approval rating among Iowans for the first half of the year stood at 38 percent, five percentage points below the national average and the lowest rating Gallup has measured in Iowa during his presidency."

At an Iowa campaign rally, presidential candidates present a world of easy possibility. Solutions promise to be effective, and entrenched opposition is easy to vanquish. The stump speeches are infectious, because at a time of high cynicism, people allow themselves the chance to believe that it really could be like this. Perhaps Sen. Rand Paul or Gov. Chris Christie or Hillary Clinton can pull this off. Every presidential season the feeling that the right candidate can change things gets replanted like a field of corn. But the way elections are heading, the idea that salvation can arise from an Iowa cornfield is starting to feel like something that only makes sense in Hollywood.

Washington Post blog: WorldViews: "Obama's new man in Moscow doesn't do Twitter"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Michael Birnbaum

September 8, 2014, 12:36 p.m. EDT

MOSCOW – The old U.S. ambassador to Russia was a firecracker on Twitter, taking on critics and offering a view of Moscow life that was unusually unfiltered for a diplomat.

The new U.S. ambassador – who on Monday presented his credentials to the Russian Foreign Ministry – doesn't even have a Twitter account.

John Tefft's arrival in Moscow last week as Washington's new envoy here filled a post that had been empty since February, bringing a seasoned and traditional hand to the embassy at the time of the worst relations between Russia and the United States since the Cold War.

Tefft's predecessor, Stanford academic Michael McFaul, 50, had been President Obama's chief Russia advisor before his arrival in Moscow in January 2012, just as the protests against then-Prime Minister Vladimir Putin were reaching their zenith. McFaul dived in to the job with a glee and openness that befit his cheerful character and academic past – but it unsettled Kremlin policymakers who said he was in town to stoke a revolution.

When critics attacked him on Twitter, he was ready to fire right back, countering a Russian Foreign Ministry offensive against him in spring 2013 with a series of protestations. He was – and remains – happy to engage with both supporters and detractors on the messaging service.

The openness and speed of McFaul's Twitter communications were unusual for a U.S. ambassador, whose every public utterance is typically vetted and filtered in advance by the State Department. But when McFaul arrived in Moscow, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was pushing her envoys to use Twitter to reach new audiences in the countries where they were the public face of America. McFaul was happy to comply.

Clinton's "message was that our diplomacy goes beyond meeting with our counterparts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," he said in a January interview with The Washington Post, shortly before he announced he would be departing after the conclusion of the Winter Olympics held in Sochi, Russia.

That experiment with Twitter may have backfired in Russia -- and Tefft's appearance in Moscow is a reversion to a more traditional form of diplomacy that may play better in the Kremlin's gilded hallways than McFaul's ever did.

Tefft, born in 1949, is a career diplomat and former ambassador to Ukraine, Georgia and Lithuania who was brought out of retirement for the Moscow job. He has a far different style, one more accustomed to working the quiet channels of diplomacy than punching out pithy 140-character observations on his State Department BlackBerry. And his arrival is a retrenchment of sorts for the Obama administration, which is gambling that his conservative approach to diplomacy will play better for getting business done The embassy has said that if ever his words appear on Twitter, they will come over the official embassy account, and he won't be the one doing the tweeting.

After he presented his credentials on Monday, he said that "as Ambassador, I have two main responsibilities. First and foremost, I am here to promote, defend, and explain the interests of the United States. Secondly, I am here to help my own government understand Russia's goals and perspectives.

"America's relations with Russia have a long and complex history. We have been allies, and we have been adversaries. We have cooperated and we have clashed. One thing, however that has never changed is America's enduring commitment to engage with Russia, its people, and its government," he said.

His words were published on Facebook.

But he wasn't the man who did the typing.

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Associated Press: "University of Miami President Shalala to Retire"

By Tim Reynolds

September 8, 2014, 12:12 p.m. EDT

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) -- University of Miami President Donna Shalala plans to step down in 2015, ending a tenure in which she raised the school's profile but also guided the athletic department through a controversial move to the Atlantic Coast Conference and a scandal involving a rogue former booster.

Shalala, 73, told the school's board of trustees of her decision Monday. She took over at Miami in 2001 after serving eight years as Health and Human Services Secretary under President Bill Clinton, with whom she remains close.

Shalala's goal was simple: She wanted to make Miami "the next great American university" and seemed to succeed in raising the school's profile. Miami is now consistently ranked among the nation's top 50 colleges and universities. The school's first "Momentum" fundraising campaign under her watch raised $1.4 billion, and the second such drive is on the way to a goal of another $1.6 billion.

The school's next fiscal year begins June 1. It's expected a new president could be in place by then.

Shalala also has been the chancellor at the University of Wisconsin and the president of Hunter College. She has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush, is a recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran in the 1960s. She once made national headlines for foiling an attempted robbery at an ATM from which she had just withdrawn cash in Washington. She still teaches classes at Miami.

Sports has long been a major part of Shalala's life, and it was a major part of her Miami presidency as well. On the day she announced she was Coral Gables-bound in 2000, Shalala referenced the Hurricanes' football team, saying that she knows why the program had long been a perennial power.

"They know how to recruit," Shalala said.

Now, Miami will be recruiting her replacement.

She has long been a regular at Miami games, no matter the sport. She's been to World Cup matches, thrown out ceremonial first pitches at Olympic softball games and served on the board of directors for the U.S. Soccer Foundation. She enjoys telling the story of her first Little League coach when she was growing up in the Cleveland area - a man by name of George Steinbrenner, who would eventually own the New York Yankees.

It may be fitting that Shalala's best-known legacies at the school will be tied to athletics, even though the school's reputation and its medical and research reach grew considerably under her leadership.

The Hurricanes' basketball teams play in an on-campus building now, the Bank United Center, the construction of which she spearheaded. Some moves from her presidency made were far more controversial, including Miami's part of the ACC expansion in 2003 and the school's decision to move home football games from a decaying (and now demolished) Orange Bowl for Sun Life Stadium, home of the Miami Dolphins.

Football won its fifth national championship a few months after Shalala's inauguration as Miami's fifth president. It has not won a title since, and the program is beginning to emerge from a cloud that hung over it for years after a former booster and convicted Ponzi scheme architect went public with tales of lavish spending on athletes in violation of NCAA rules.

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The NCAA investigation ended last year, but not before Shalala - who was complimentary of the NCAA for much of the process, until it became known that investigators working the case were breaking their association's own rules - lashed out at the governing body for college sports and demanded that Miami be treated more fairly.

"Her leadership throughout this chapter was amazing," football coach Al Golden said when the investigation ended last year.

Shalala is a 1962 graduate of Western College for Women, got her doctorate in 1970 from Syracuse and holds more than 50 honorary degrees.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/11/2015 12:15:19 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.11.15
Attachments:	6.11.15 H4A Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 11, 2015

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

ABC and CBS did not report on 2016 issues. NBC had a brief segment on Jeb Bush's campaign staff shakeup. Bush tries to downplay the changes in top campaign positions. He remains a favorite among many Republicans; however, he is not the front runner anymore. Reporters claim that changes to campaign staff is symbolizing campaign weaknesses.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton's Hard Choice: Her First Instagram Post // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 10, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's first post on Instagram isn't a picture of her on the campaign trail or of supporters gathered at a house party. It's a play on her memoir, "Hard Choices."

The "hard choice" in this case? What to wear. The photo features a rack full of red, white and blue jackets of the pants suits Mrs. Clinton is known for.

The clothes hang in front of a sunny window presumably in Mrs. Clinton's home in Chappaqua, N.Y. A needlepoint pillow and oil painting appear in the background.

Mrs. Clinton has had some fun with social media since she joined Twitter in 2013. Then her avatar featured her image as secretary of state, in dark sunglasses on a military aircraft. Her bio, until she declared her candidacy, read "TBD." (Now it reads "Wife, grandma, women + kids advocate, FLOTUS, Senator, SecState, hair icon, pants suit aficionado, 2016 presidential candidate.")

The tongue-in-cheek Instagram debut, like most things Mrs. Clinton does, prompted a divisive reaction. In four

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hours, the post had more than 6,600 “likes.” But some commentators used the post as an outlet to attack Mrs. Clinton over her handling of the 2012 attacks on the American mission in Benghazi and her personal wealth.

Hillary Clinton win could mean an end to paid speeches by Bill // WaPo // Rosalind S. Helderman – June 10, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton might quit his lucrative career as a paid speaker -- if his wife is elected president.

In an interview conducted with Bloomberg TV Wednesday on stage at a meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in Denver, Clinton said he would likely step off the lecture circuit that has earned him more than $100 million since he left the White House in 2001 if Hillary Rodham Clinton wins the presidency.

"I don't think so," he said when asked if he would continue to give paid speeches. "Once you get to be president, then you're just making a daily story."

He also offered a robust defense of the foundation that has been his life's work since his presidency ended, and which has been under intense scrutiny during the first phase of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Clinton said he would like to remain involved with the organization as long as possible during the campaign, to ensure it raises the money necessary to fund its global charitable work, but it would up to his wife whether he would stay with the foundation if she is elected.

"I believe if you have been president, and the current president of either party asks you to do anything, if in good conscience you can do it, you should do it. Now that's the truth, quite apart from our being husband and wife," he said. "That will be not an easy decision, should she be elected president. And she will have to decide what's my highest and best use, including being around to buck her up every morning."

Clinton blamed political reporters for the increase in attention on donors to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation and whether they may have been trying to curry favor with the former president and his wife through their contributions. He said the organization has turned down money and avoided work in some areas because of its anti-corruption policies.

"If you're a political reporter primarily, or you're a business reporter you tend to see -- tend to see the world through that lens. And it's hard to imagine that there are businesses and individuals that contribute money for things that have nothing to do with politics," he said.

"Has anybody proved that we did anything objectionable? No. Have we done a lot of good things with this money? Yes," he said.

Clinton far out front of rivals from both parties in fielding army of organizers across US // AP // Lisa Lerer – June 10, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton has launched a sweeping national jobs program — for her presidential campaign.

In the eight weeks since she announced her run for the White House, Clinton's campaign has deployed roughly 100 organizers nationwide and opened 15 offices in early-voting states. That's far more than any other candidate of either party in the 2016 contest.

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In Iowa, Clinton now has at least 27 paid organizers — three times as many as any of the roughly dozen Republicans in the race. Her campaign has hired at least one staff member in every state, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

She has two regional directors in the reliably Democratic state of California and even put one person on the payroll in Wyoming, a state that has not voted for a Democratic nominee in more than 50 years.

The overwhelming favorite for her party's nomination, Clinton doesn't necessarily need the volunteers now. But her team, worried she will lack the power of a competitive primary to energize the core group of supporters she will need for the general election, has gone on an early hiring spree rare in presidential politics.

"You can't get to a point where the polls are tight and say, 'Oh, wow, we need to do some organizing,'" said Marlon Marshall, Clinton's director of state campaigns and political engagement. "These organizing relationships will create a sense of urgency to let people know why we have to do this work now."

The effort isn't cheap: Senior campaign aides have set a goal of raising $100 million to pay for Clinton's primary campaign.

Her campaign has organized 320 house parties, attracting almost 11,000 people. This weekend, her appearance at an event in Iowa will be streamed to a gathering in every congressional district nationwide. "At this point, it's more about finding people and getting them involved then convincing them to back Clinton," said Scott Hogan, a former gun control activist hired by Clinton's campaign to organize voters in deeply Democratic Minnesota.

At a meeting in Mankato on Tuesday, Hogan wanted to know why his batch of potential volunteers was "ready for Hillary." He didn't get the answer he wanted, but it was enough to get the conversation started.

"To tell you the truth, I like Bernie Sanders for just his honesty, but I don't think he's electable," said Gina Casey, 59, sitting at a conference table at a Democratic Party office. "So, I'm trying to love Hillary and I need to know more."

Hogan made the pitch for his boss over Sanders, the independent Vermont senator mounting a longshot challenge for the Democratic nomination.

"This campaign is about you," Hogan told Casey and other Democrats in the small group gathered on a hot night. "It's not about me. It's not about Hillary."

Clinton's campaign staff takes great pains to keep a focus on the primary campaign, despite her crushing advantage. Should the Democratic race somehow become competitive, Minnesota — voting in the first big set of primaries after the first four states — could be decisive.

But if Clinton runs away with the Democratic prize, and if Minnesota votes for the Democratic nominee as it has done since 1972, the supporters Hogan is organizing now will become valuable for raising money, making calls and traveling to neighboring battleground states such as Iowa and Wisconsin.

The staff working in reliably Democratic states will be redeployed to battleground areas at the end of this month. The goal is to leave behind engaged volunteer networks to organize small-dollar fundraisers and make sure

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Clinton is represented at local events.

Clinton aides said the early investment will pay dividends in the final weeks of the campaign. Data analyzed by President Barack Obama's campaign showed a direct correlation between supporter enthusiasm in the last six weeks before the election and when local operations began in their area, according to former staffers.

"The earlier you start, the larger your volunteer structure will be the last two weeks or last month of the campaign, which is ultimately when that investment pays off," said Mitch Stewart, who oversaw battleground states for Obama's campaigns and advised the pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary.

In Mankato, the gathering was half political strategy session, half team-building retreat.

They each wrote a word that described her candidacy on a Post-it note and stuck it to a handmade poster of her campaign logo. Hogan encouraged them to post their support on social media, directed them to Clinton's website and promised to follow up. The meeting ended with a group photo.

At one table, a group of women had a suggestion for Hogan: Farmfest.

Before the meeting, they hadn't thought seriously about putting together a booth for Clinton at the three-day agricultural trade show in August, a must-attend event for political candidates in this part of the state.

"Next year will be the more important time to be out there," said Lori Sellner, 46, of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. "This is just earlier than we've seen before."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Scott Wong (6/10/15, 9:43 am) - House will vote Friday on #TPA, say Rs emerging from GOP conf meeting

Reid Epstein (6/10/15, 9:52 am) - Inbox: Whole slew of NH Republicans send an open letter to Fox & RNC calling for wholesale changes to 2016 debate format

Lis Smith (6/10/15, 10:51 am) - Corrigan Brothers, who penned song about @BarackObama , now on the @GovernorOMalley train. Listen here: https://soundcloud.com/the-irish-times/martin-omalley-song ...

Azi (6/10/15, 4:27 pm) - attending @HillaryClinton's rally? Bill de Blasio: "No .. I'm waiting to hear ... her larger vision to addressing income inequality."

Azi (6/10/15, 4:28 pm) - "I've always liked what I heard from Bernie Sanders" — @BilldeBlasio.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

How the $15 minimum wage could become a new dividing line in the 2016 primary // WaPo // Max Ehrenfreund & Lydia DePillis – June 10, 2015

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An unexpected thing happened over the weekend. Activists and union members convening in Detroit to rally for a $15 hourly minimum wage got an unexpected call from Hillary Rodham Clinton, who addressed the crowd by phone.

The former secretary of state did not endorse a $15 minimum wage. But she suggested her allegiance is with the efforts of the rallying workers. "All of you should not have to march in the streets to get a living wage, but thank you for marching in the streets to get that living wage," she said.

Two of her rivals for the Democratic nomination, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, have already embraced a $15 minimum wage. And so Clinton's decision to call the fast-food workers shows not only the potential power of organized labor in the 2016 campaign, but the way that the $15 minimum wage may become a kind of litmus test for Democratic candidates.

Asked about Clinton's position, the campaign provided the following statement: "She strongly supports workers in the fast-food industry in cities across the country mobilizing to fight for a living wage. In the coming weeks, she will lay out her specific plans for increasing wages."

The level of the minimum wage could prove to be an important theme in the Democratic primary.

"We need more cities and states to follow the lead of Los Angeles and St. Louis and New York," Clinton told the fast-food workers. The Los Angeles City Council recently voted to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour. The mayors of New York and St. Louis have proposed eventually raising the minimum wage to $15, as well. Other successes for the movement include San Francisco and Seattle.

Workers at the convention were gratified by Clinton's measured support but said they were aware of the political constraints she confronts as a candidate.

"I honestly believe that Hillary Clinton is trying to use her voice to back up her campaign more than she is to back up our campaign," said Ashona Osborne, 23, an Arby's employee from Pittsburgh. "It's great that she's supporting our movement, but we have to keep in mind that she's willing to do whatever she can to get more votes."

The minimum wage is not the only major economic issue on which Clinton has not outlined a clear position. As Dan Balz reported for The Washington Post over the weekend, Clinton has said little about banking regulation and free trade.

Labor activists oppose the trade deal the Obama administration is negotiating in the Pacific, which Clinton supervised and advocated for as secretary of state. Recently, though, she's stuck to generalities about fairness, workers' rights and economic growth.

Sanders said in a statement that he thought the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour was "a starvation wage." He's argued it should eventually be raised to $15 an hour. "That is what I believe every candidate for president should say," he said.

"We don't know where Secretary Clinton stands on the minimum wage," said Haley Morris, a spokeswoman for O'Malley. She noted that O'Malley signed a bill raising Maryland's minimum wage to $10.10 an hour by 2018 while he was in office.

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There are reasons that Clinton might hesitate to support a minimum wage of $15 an hour. Most economic research on the minimum wage has focused on the small changes that states and cities have made in the past. No one is sure what will happen if the federal minimum wage more than doubles from its current level. Dylan Matthews has argued in Wonkblog that a $15 minimum wage would be too risky, while Demos's Matt Bruenig gave a rebuttal.

According to some experts, dealing with the issue on a local level might be best anyway, since the cost of living and the average wage vary from city to city.

Clinton is expected to give a series of substantive speeches on policy beginning Saturday in New York.

Hillary's lurch to the left has been greatly exaggerated **// WaPo // Greg Sargent – June 10, 2015**

For days now, a noisy battle has reverberated throughout the Beltway Pundit Thunderdome. Is Hillary Clinton's campaign too focused on winning Obama coalition voters, at the exclusion of everyone else? Could that endanger her candidacy? Wouldn't winning that way imperil her ability to govern and tear the country asunder?

The New York Times kicked things off with an article quoting anxious Dems (is there any other kind?) floating these frightful questions. David Brooks and Ron Fournier added to the hand-wringing. In response, Ed Kilgore, Paul Waldman, Jonathan Chait, Ruth Marcus and others noted that due to deeper polarization and demographic change, the electorate and map are vastly different today.

I thought I'd go through Clinton's stances on the issues, to see if that sheds more light on what she's really up to. Short version: Clinton is indeed ministering to Obama coalition voter groups — minorities, millennials, college educated whites. But nonetheless, she's thus far campaigning like a mainstream Democrat. In fact, those things are now two sides of the same coin. Meanwhile, very few of her positions thus far preclude reaching beyond those groups.

Immigration: Clinton supports a path to citizenship. That has majority support nationally. While many note she suggested she'd go further than Obama's executive actions on deportations, in reality she has only proposed building on them very modestly, if at all. Would that alienate other voter groups? Maybe, but national polling is mixed on executive action.

Even so, because the Democratic Party is far more unified on immigration than ever, partly because of its increased reliance on Latinos, backing executive action is a must in a nominee. (Indeed, Martin O'Malley is attacking her from the left on immigration.) On this issue, she's a mainstream Dem.

Gay rights: Clinton's shift in favor of gay marriage occurred relatively late. But so did that of many, many other leading Dems. It would now be unthinkable for a Dem nominee not to support marriage equality. Yes, former president Clinton was a relative troglodyte on the issue. But this only underscores how rapid the cultural shift on it has been — forcing both parties to play varying degrees of catch-up. Indeed, it now has broad majority support across the country and may soon receive protection as a Constitutional right. So it's hard to see how favoring gay marriage precludes reaching beyond the core Dem coalition.

Criminal justice reform: It's true that Clinton called for an end to the era of mass incarceration that her husband helped usher in. While that is partly about speaking to minority voters, the cultural shift among the broader electorate since the 1990s on crime has been so pronounced that criminal justice reform is now a bipartisan issue.

Voting rights: Clinton's embrace of automatic, universal voter registration is certainly an example of her speaking directly to the Obama coalition. In fairness, this could alienate some groups outside that coalition. But absent

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good polling on this, it's hard to know for sure. It's possible, for instance, that a key Hillary target, non-college white women — particularly single ones, who tend to vote more sporadically — might support it.

Climate change: Yes, Clinton has pledged to protect Obama's climate actions. It's also true that some Dems in more conservative states have balked at his climate agenda. But even this is starting to change: Gary Peters won a Michigan Senate seat last year with an aggressive climate message. It's also true her stance might alienate some blue collar whites in the Rust Belt. But we still have no idea how much of an emphasis Clinton will put on climate issues. Meanwhile, Clinton actually is seen by advocates as insufficiently hawkish on climate.

It's hard to see a Dem winning the nomination without adopting an agenda that acknowledges global warming as a major challenge, making this yet another area where Clinton is basically a mainstream Dem.

Minimum wage: Clinton supports hiking the federal minimum wage to $10.10 per hour, another mainstream Dem position that has majority support. But she has refrained from endorsing the $15-per-hour goal of a burgeoning lefty movement.

Other economic issues: Clinton has not yet said whether she backs a financial transaction tax or breaking up the big banks, or whether she opposes the Trans Pacific Partnership — three of the most important priorities of the Elizabeth Warren wing of the party. There are reasons to think she could stop short of embracing the first two. She very well might back the TPP, if its labor and environmental protections are given the thumbs up by experts.

On taxes, Clinton may mostly stick to supporting the sort of loophole-closings and tax hikes on inherited wealth and capital gains that Obama has called for. She may well stick to a slate of policies she's already come out for — ones that strengthen the safety net, foster family-friendly workplace flexibility, and invest in education and job creation — without backing quite the kind of far-reaching economic agenda some on the left want. This, too, would put her in the Democratic mainstream.

Conclusion: Clinton has shifted to the left on some cultural issues, and that is partly about speaking to the Obama coalition. But this reflects the changing nature of the Democratic Party. Indeed, the party's growing reliance on the Obama coalition is the very reason she's speaking more directly to those voters in the first place. Does that mean the party has moved leftward? Maybe, but on many of these issues, the rest of the country has, too. So none of this necessarily precludes broadening beyond that coalition.

Meanwhile, on economic issues, she has not embraced the Warren-wing agenda in key areas, and the key economic prescriptions she has adopted have broad majority support. Have I mentioned that based on her campaign thus far, Clinton is essentially a mainstream Democrat?

Bill Clinton Likely to Stop Accepting Pay for Speeches If Hillary Clinton Is Elected President // WSJ // James V. Grimaldi – June 10, 2015

Bill Clinton on Wednesday said he likely would stop accepting money for speeches if his wife was elected president, and he gave his most forceful defense to date of fundraising by the Clinton Foundation.

Mr. Clinton's comments, made at a foundation-related event, addressed two of the controversies that have followed the former president and his wife recently: the large sums the Clintons have received for speeches while Hillary Clinton was a likely presidential candidate, and foreign donations to the family's foundation.

Asked by Bloomberg Television whether he would make paid speeches if his wife was elected, Mr. Clinton said, "No, I don't think so…because once you get to be president, then you are just making the daily story."

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“I will still give speeches, if I’m asked to do so,” without accepting honoraria for them, he said.

Earlier this year, Mr. Clinton said he would continue to make paid speeches during the time his wife is a candidate for office. “I gotta pay our bills,” he told NBC News. ”I also give a lot of it to the foundation every year. You know, we’ve got a lot to do.”

Mr. Clinton on Wednesday said that no donors to the Clinton Foundation ever asked for favors from Mrs. Clinton when she was secretary of state.

“Has anybody proven that we’ve done anything objectionable? No,” said Mr. Clinton, answering his own question. “Have we done a lot of good things with this money? Yes.”

He said Mrs. Clinton’s future wasn't an issue when the Clinton Foundation was created or when he launched the Clinton Global Initiative, one of the foundation’s projects, 10 years ago. “It wasn’t like we were working on the presumption that one day Hillary would be running for president,” Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton cited a $500,000 donation from Algeria that breached a promise not to accept certain foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served in the state department. He said it was true that Algeria was lobbying the State Department at the time of the donation, but that the two events weren’t related.

Mr. Clinton said the foundation was a “pass-through” for the donation, which went to help aid efforts after the 20120 earthquake in Haiti, and that no overhead was deducted for the foundation.

“There are very few countries in the world I would not accept for help to Haiti,” Mr. Clinton said.

He said there were only a couple of countries from which the foundation turned down money and overall he believes the foundation has performed well. “There may be a thing or two that I would change, but the basic idea is right. I still think it is the right thing to do to solve as many problems a possible” by working with foreign governments, corporations, nongovernmental organizations and charities.

Mr. Clinton’s defense of his charitable work came in media interviews at the fifth Clinton Global Initiative America meeting.

Mr. Clinton also answered questions about what he would do if Mrs. Clinton was elected.

“I believe that if you have been president, and the current president of either party asks you to do anything, you should do it,” Mr. Clinton said. “That will not be an easy decision if she’s elected. She’ll have to decide what is my highest and best use, including to be around to buck her up in the morning.”

However, Mr. Clinton said his wife might not accept all of his advice. “If there is one thing she knows more about than anybody on earth, it is on what subjects I should be listened to and what subjects I shouldn’t,” he said.

He didn't say what would happen to the Clinton Foundation if Mrs. Clinton was serving as president, though he has said in the past that he wanted it to keep operating and raising money. On Wednesday, he said he would stay on the foundation board “for this year, as long as I can.”

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"She's got better judgment about what is the highest and best use for me is," Mr. Clinton said." She's been stuck with it for 40 years."

Clinton Foundation Helps the Poor **// WSJ // Donna Shalala – June 10, 2015**

I'm just finishing my first week as president of the Clinton Foundation, but I've worked here long enough to know that Kimberley Strassel's "The Clinton 'Charity' Begins at Home" (Potomac Watch, June 5) misses the mark about the foundation and its dedicated, professional staff who any organization in the world would be proud to have.

The foundation is a unique organization that has created a partnership model to tackle our world's biggest challenges. Our senior leadership reflects this collaborative approach, with more than 200 years of management experience in diverse fields including global logistics, international development and finance.

It's true that some at the foundation have worked with President Clinton or Secretary Clinton at other points in their long careers. These are good people, and I am honored to count myself among them. I know from my own experience that people are drawn to positions in public service for the same reason they are drawn to nonprofits like the foundation—they want to make a difference in others' lives. That's what they do every day at the foundation.

To claim that we are only interested in "the occasional good deed" is demonstrably false. The foundation and its affiliates have helped 9.9 million in 70 countries access HIV/AIDS medicines; more than 16 million kids in America get healthier meals at school; and more than 85,000 farmers in Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania increase their incomes.

Helping people is not only our full-time job—it's a deep passion that burns within everyone who works here.

Clinton student loan reform plan has Warren stamp **// Politico // Annie Karni – June 11, 2015**

On a litmus test issue for liberals, Hillary Clinton's campaign has sought out policy experts with ties to the Massachusetts senator.

In weekly calls and meetings over the past few months, Hillary Clinton's policy team has been soliciting input from policy experts with ties to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, with the goal of making student loan reform the core of Clinton's economic mobility agenda.

The effort to make college more accessible — a litmus test for liberals and key to attracting grassroots support on the left — comes as the Clinton campaign finds itself under increasing pressure to accommodate progressive demands. Yet it also could provide Clinton with a signature domestic policy issue, similar to healthcare for Barack Obama in 2008. With a student debt crisis climbing upwards of $1.2 trillion, Clinton's camp views the issue as one where the former secretary of state could drive the conversation and create a mandate for reform

In one of the clearest signs of the importance the policy team — headed by senior adviser Ann O'Leary — is placing on the issue, student loan reform is expected to be one of the earliest policy roll-outs after Clinton's campaign kick-off Saturday. The campaign is expected to unveil its student loan plans in detail in mid-July, multiple sources said.

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To the great relief of restive progressives, Clinton's campaign has sought out policy experts with strong ties to Warren, who has crusaded on the issues of making college more affordable and refinancing student loans so that students get the same interest rates on federal loans as banks do on theirs.

Heather McGhee, president of the liberal think tank Demos, has discussed the issue directly with Hillary Clinton, sources said. McGhee's think tank is aligned with Warren, whose daughter, Amelia Warren Tyagi, serves as chairman of the board.

The Clinton campaign has also been seeking advice from Rohit Chopra, the top student loan official at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, who was hired by Warren when she launched the agency. Chopra remains close with Warren, who recently endorsed him as her top candidate to replace Ben Lawsky as the next New York state superintendent of financial services, after his name was floated in the press.

Other experts who have also been speaking regularly with O'Leary and her team, sources said, include Mark Huelsman, a senior policy analyst at Demos; economist Gene Sperling; James Kvaal, who was Obama's policy director in the 2012 election; and longtime Clinton advisor Neera Tanden, president of the Center for American Progress.

None of the policy details have been finalized, and it's still unclear how Clinton plans to pay for any of the proposals currently being discussed.

But on the table is a plan to support debt-free college — including reducing the cost of attendance. That goes beyond what either of Clinton's Democratic opponents, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders or former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, have discussed when addressing the issue of debt-free college. Sanders has used it to mean simply covering the cost of tuition, and O'Malley has focused more on capping student loan payments.

It's not clear yet exactly what form Clinton's debt-free college proposal will take — whether students will pay based on a percentage of their income, or carry some obligation based on their ability to pay.

But covering the cost of attendance is appealing to the progressive policy makers advising Clinton. "The total cost of attendance is a more expansive view of the actual cost of higher education," said Huelsman. "We and other groups have encouraged Clinton to include the cost of attendance as the definition of debt-free college. That would be a big deal."

Also under discussion is allowing students to refinance their loans, an issue that Warren championed in a bill that was defeated last year by Republican opposition. "It would help a lot of middle class families with student debt," said Huelsman.

Outside experts are also pitching the campaign on a bill of rights for student loan carriers, and risk-sharing for colleges, which would mean a school would be penalized if a student defaulted on his or her loans. Both of those are currently under discussion with campaign officials.

"It doesn't hurt to have had a lot of people in the more progressive side of the Democratic party say we want this to be a key issue going into 2016," Huelsman said. "It seems like they want to do something big on this. I'm extremely encouraged."

O'Leary has invited a group of experts to an hours-long briefing in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, at the Center for American Progress, to discuss these issues.

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A campaign spokesman declined to comment about the meeting or the policies under review.

But Clinton officials have made clear even in the ramp up phase of her campaign that the issue is at the forefront of their planned agenda. “What voters are looking for in this election is someone who is going to be a champion for everyday people,” campaign manager Robby Mook said in a CNBC interview in May. “For young people, that’s debt-free college, that is finding that job after you graduate.”

Clinton herself has addressed it in her limited forays on the campaign trail. “We have to deal with the indebtedness — to try to move toward making college as debt-free as possible,” she said last month in Iowa.

Clinton’s most engaged moment during the roundtables she has participated in so far was with Bryce Smith, a 23-year-old Iowan who owns a bowling alley, who told her student loans were harming his ability to access credit for his small business. “I’ve never heard anyone so persuasively link it to the slowdown in business start-ups,” Clinton told him.

She has also complimented Obama’s $60 billion community college plan, which would provide students with two years of free community college. Her plan, however, is expected to be more expansive and influence more institutions than just community colleges.

Hillary’s Game-Changing Voting Reform **// Politico // Michael Waldman – June 10, 2015**

last week, in Houston, Texas, Hillary Rodham Clinton denounced the wave of restrictive new voting laws enacted by Republican legislatures around the country. Those of us who aren’t wild about disenfranchising eligible citizens welcomed Clinton’s passionate defense. It’s been years since a major candidate made democracy reform a central issue. But the most important thing about the speech was her embrace of a transformative policy innovation: automatic, universal registration of voters once they turn 18. It’s an idea that’s already begun to gain ground across the country, building on reforms with bipartisan support. Now we have a chance to take it even further.

In a campaign season criticized for a dearth of big new ideas, this one’s a doozy.

Why is it so important? Between a third and a quarter of all eligible Americans remain unregistered and therefore cannot cast a ballot. Automatic, permanent registration as Clinton proposes would add up to 50 million to the rolls. It would cost less than today’s paper-clogged system. And it would curb the potential for fraud. Amid rising political inequality and declining voter interest, this could give the ailing political system a much-needed jolt of citizen energy.

Our ramshackle voter registration system disenfranchises more people by accident than even the harshest new laws do on purpose. To be sure, some people just don’t want to register and never will. Call them the “Don’t vote—it will only encourage them” caucus. But many others fall off the rolls, or become tangled in the mess of the current system. According to a 2012 Pew Center on the States study, 24 million entries are either invalid or inaccurate. Many eligible voters are under the impression that when they file a change of address form with the U.S. Postal Service, their voter registration information automatically updates. And, yes, plenty of dead people have stayed registered. All these flaws risk undermining election integrity.

While we deposit checks on our iPhones and push a button to start our cars, many states and localities still rely on piles of paper records to maintain their voting lists. Civil servants who perform data entry from paper-based applications must interpret citizens’ chicken scratch handwriting. Typos are common. And today’s system poorly reflects today’s hypermobile society. More than 26 million voting-age Americans move each year, and because of residency requirements, many of them fall off the rolls, even if they move within the same state.

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These glitches are a chief cause of polling place confusion and delay—which lead to long lines on Election Day. In all, according to the definitive study by Cal Tech and MIT, some 3 million eligible citizens were unable to vote in 2008 because of registration problems. Many took time from their families or jobs, only to learn they were nowhere to be found in the voter rolls. The problems aren't going away: The 2012 election saw a 40 percent jump in the number of in-person voters who experienced registration problems.

Other democracies do it better than we do. In 2009, the Brennan Center studied voting systems in 16 democratic countries. The United States was one of only four that put the responsibility for registering solely on the voter. Great Britain, Canada, Germany, France all boast registration rates above 90 percent. Ours were as much as 30 percent lower. That's one kind of American exceptionalism we don't want to boast about.

Tinkering won't suffice. It's time to modernize the way we run elections, and bring them into the 21st century. That's where a system of universal, automatic registration would come in.

So how would Clinton's proposal work? From now on, the government rather than the voter would be responsible for making sure all eligible citizens are registered to vote and that rolls are accurate and complete. Citizens would register at 18 and stay on the rolls for their entire lives. All would be given the chance to opt out; nobody would be registered against their will.

Clinton has not released details of her plan, so we don't know for sure what she'd enact, but there are several innovative reforms that could achieve complete and accurate voting logs through collaboration between various government agencies. Universities, for example, could automatically register 18 year olds, Medicare could do the same for seniors. And the U.S. Postal Service could let the voter registration agency know when someone has moved.

Some states are ahead of the curve. Ever since the Brennan Center published its proposal for Voter Registration Modernization in 2007, a package that included permanent and portable registration, at least two dozen states have implemented voter registration reforms—moving to online registration, for example. High school "pre-registration" programs, in which young people register as future voters and are automatically signed up when they turn 18, are already in place in at least 10 states.

The biggest breakthrough on this front—and one that Clinton mentioned in her speech—came in March in Oregon, when Gov. Kate Brown signed a law that automatically registered to vote anyone 18 and up who obtained a driver's license (unless that person chose to opt out). The move is likely to add at least 300,000 voters to the rolls right away, and could end up giving Oregon the highest registration rate in the country. Other states could expand on the model, moving beyond the DMV. When someone receives Social Security benefits, pays state taxes or applies for disability benefits, her information could be passed along for registration or updates to an existing record.

States should keep pressing forward with initiatives like these on their own. But, as Clinton suggested, there needs to be one national standard—a mandate to ensure that all eligible voters are registered no matter where they live. A comparable proposal from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. John Lewis would set core federal standards while giving some flexibility to states. In 2002, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) took such an approach. It required states to move to electronic voting, and provided federal funds to help them do it. This would be a similar technological upgrade—voting 2.0—this time applied to registration.

What are the risks? Some worry non-citizens would inadvertently find themselves registered, even voting, without realizing they cannot—putting them at risk of deportation. So it's hugely important to make sure that the lists omit non-citizens.

Others might worry about cost. So far, the move to digital records has proved very cost efficient in states that have tried it. Every so often, someone will grumble that this plan would—somehow—open the way to fraud. But that rationale quickly crumbles. After all, digital government lists, checked and rechecked, are likely to be more accurate than the names submitted by voter registration groups or private citizens. For those really worried about "Mickey Mouse" registering to vote, don't worry—he's not on the government list, even in Orlando (where he lives).

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In fact, automatic voter registration gives both left and right what they demand. It enfranchises more people. And it protects better against fraud. The bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration, co-chaired by Mitt Romney's top attorney and Obama's counsel, has endorsed key registration reforms.

The biggest reason for opposition to a proposal like Clinton's, if unstated, is the notion that maybe we don't really want everyone to be able to vote. But we all know that idea runs afoul of our most fundamental core precepts. Thomas Jefferson, in the Declaration of Independence, wrote that government is legitimate only if it rests on the "consent of the governed." That consent becomes muddied by missing data, illegible lists and long lines of voters. Last year, turnout fell to its lowest level in seven decades.

One leading candidate has already spoken up. As 2016 approaches, let's hope that all candidates from both parties will tell us what they would do to improve our democracy.

Hillary digital push highlights organizing before NYC rally // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – June 10, 2015

Days before Hillary Clinton will take the stage on New York City's Roosevelt Island to headline her presidential campaign's first full-scale rally, her political team is ratcheting up an effort to swing the spotlight away from the candidate, framing the first two months of Clinton's candidacy as an organizational victory beyond just the early-voting states she has visited so far.

The former secretary of state has faced no shortage of scrutiny during the 'ramp-up' phase of her presidential effort — a two-month period during which she has focused on small round tables and political meetings rather than open speeches or traditional events, often facing charges of running a distant campaign. But Wednesday will see a concerted online effort to highlight the inroads made by volunteers and organizers working on her behalf.

A memo from the campaign's top organizing official, a series of images from volunteer meetings across the country, and a handful of maps and hand-picked supporter quotes will pepper Clinton's online presence.

The note from Director of State Campaigns and Political Engagement Marlon Marshall points to the fact that the Clinton camp has hired 50 organizers in the early-voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina, and has brought on 51 more staffers in the other states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the territories. It also notes that the campaign — which frequently says it is taking the Democratic primary seriously despite Clinton's commanding lead in national polls, and in this kind of organizing — has opened 15 offices between the four early states, and that it has held nearly 4,000 one-on-one meetings with early-state voters.

The effort comes at a delicate moment for the Clinton camp, as it transitions from a relatively quiet period for the candidate to a more public phase, while Bernie Sanders emerges as her primary liberal antagonist. The front-runner has seen her poll numbers slip slightly while she continues to receive fire from Republicans and Democratic critics for not interacting more with voters or the press, and all eyes are on her Saturday rally, which will seek to energize her Democratic base after being pushed back by a few weeks.

After the speech she will quickly hit all four early-voting states, and will then start holding more public appearances at open events.

While Clinton has recently started to deliver more policy speeches, like her Houston address on voting rights last week, she has been primarily focused on gathering money across the country before the end of the fundraising quarter as part of her broader goal of raising $100 million by the end of 2015, a circumstance that factored into her campaign's decision to move the rally to mid-June after it was originally planned for May. Aides say the rally was moved to separate it from the onslaught of presidential announcements that came at the end of last month, but it now sits just two days before Jeb Bush's launch.

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Nonetheless, Wednesday's digital push is an effort to underscore the rapid construction of the campaign's organizing infrastructure, which in some ways mirrors the 50-state strategy made famous by former presidential candidate and Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean.

The Clinton campaign is similarly trying to bolster Democratic operations in states where the party has been decimated in recent years, in some cases holding meetings in states that have not voted for a Democratic president in decades. The campaign says it has held or scheduled 320 such get-togethers outside of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

And Marshall's memo notes that nearly 11,000 people have attended organizing meetings outside of the four early-voting states, on top of nearly 12,000 commitments to volunteer within the first four.

While the campaign had no formal infrastructure when it officially launched in April, it did have the benefit of being able to informally build off work done by the Ready For Hillary PAC that was active in the early-voting states during 2013 and 2014. In late May the campaign got access to the PAC's email list of roughly 4 million Clinton supporters.

J Street poll: Jewish Americans favor Hillary over Jeb **// Politico // Nick Gass – June 10, 2015**

American Jewish voters have a clear favorite between Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and likely Republican candidate Jeb Bush, according to a new national survey.

According to a poll commissioned by the left-leaning J Street Group, Clinton beats Bush in a hypothetical matchup by a count of 68 percent to 30 percent, with 2 percent undecided.

The Democratic Party also fared well in the poll, with a 46 percent favorability rating, compared to 20 percent for the Republican Party.

Asked whether they would "favor or oppose an agreement that would ease some of" the economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program without ending it and submit to greater international inspection standards, 59 percent said they would support such a deal, while 53 percent of all Americans responded that way to a similar CNN/ORC question in April.

At the same time, just 22 percent in the J Street poll said that they have heard "a great deal" of information about the agreement, compared to 45 percent who said "some," 25 percent who said "not much," and 9 percent who said "no information at all."

Republicans have repeatedly clashed with President Barack Obama over his administration's stance toward Israel, especially with regard to ongoing nuclear talks with Iran. The president, for his part, has said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu puts his country's credibility at risk with shifting comments about a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

In 2012, Obama defeated Republican nominee Mitt Romney among Jewish Americans by 39 points, according to exit polls — down from a 57-point advantage over John McCain in 2008.

The J Street poll, conducted by the Democratic-leaning GBA Strategies, was conducted May 31-June 3 among 1,000 self-identified Jews in the United States. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

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Every wedding should have a Hillary Clinton Bible reading // Politico // Kate Glassman Bennett – June 11, 2015

You know you're tight with the boss when she attends your wedding, but it's a whole other level of closeness when she takes part in the ceremony. Such was the case this past weekend as Jake Sullivan, Hillary Clinton's steadfast foreign policy adviser, married Maggie Goodlander on Saturday at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

The Democratic presidential front-runner was on the program at the couple's evening wedding, reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, as the duo tied the knot at Battell Chapel on the Yale campus, where Goodlander attended law school and Sullivan has been teaching. (Clinton's was a bigger role than that of U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power, who gave a toast at the couple's barbecue rehearsal dinner the evening before, which was also attended by Bill Clinton.) Hillary Clinton, for her part, squeezed the wedding into a busy week of East Coast fundraisers that included stops in Greenwich, Rhode Island, Boston and D.C.

Clinton's gesture signals the devotion she has to Sullivan, who political watchers say may be poised to become the youngest national security adviser in history should she take the White House in 2016. Sullivan, 38, was one of Clinton's most trusted confidants when she served as secretary of state. Before starting his teaching post at Yale Law School last August, he was Vice President Joe Biden's national security adviser. Goodlander, 28, is no stranger to politics either, having worked as a national security and foreign affairs adviser to Sen. Joe Lieberman.

Wonky Washington CVs aside, Sullivan and Goodlander—who could not be reached for comment as they are reportedly unplugged on a Caribbean honeymoon—evidently hope to spend a portion of their married lives exploring destinations far away from our nation's capital. Aside from the standard Crate & Barrel stuff, Sullivan and Goodlander registered for wanderlust funding via Traveler's Joy, a website that collects cash from friends wishing to donate to an adventure kitty, in lieu of candlesticks and Cuisinarts. According to the couple's profile, "Maggie wants to travel to the front lines of freedom," and "Jake wants to visit the places that shaped the course of history (and also hit some of the obscure, out-of-the-way countries he missed while he was at the State Department).

Domestic Worker Groups Announce Alliance At Clinton Global Initiative Conference // HuffPo // Samantha Lachman – June 10, 2015

The growing social movement advocating for domestic workers and Care.com, which calls itself the world's largest online care marketplace, will announce a new partnership Wednesday afternoon at the Clinton Global Initiative America conference in Denver.

The collaboration, called the Fair Care Pledge, joins the website, the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Hand in Hand, a network of domestic employers. The alliance is an "exemplary approach to addressing critical domestic challenges," according to the Clinton initiative, an offshoot of the foundation founded by former President Bill Clinton in 2005. Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea Clinton, are serving as the conference hosts.

According to a press release on the announcement, Care.com will promote the pledge by inviting hundreds of thousands of its members to affirm that they will make an effort to be fair and respectful when they hire a provider to work in their home cleaning or caring for children or seniors. The pledge asks families to commit to fair pay, clear expectations and paid time off for their care providers.

"We believe that care jobs will be the jobs of the future. It's in all of our interest to ensure that the quality of these jobs reflects the value and importance of the work," Ai-jen Poo, director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, said in a press release. "Fairness and quality care go hand-in-hand and we're thrilled to be able to work with Care.com to promote these values."

Poo has been a leading advocate for re-conceptualizing domestic work. The United States appears unprepared for an impending crisis as the "Baby Boomer" generation ages. Twenty-seven million Americans will need some form

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of long-term care by 2050.

“As a member of the ‘sandwich generation,’ I’ve relied on a slew of caregivers to help me juggle caretaking of my mother during her decline from Alzheimer's, caring for my two daughters and pursuing my legal career," Julie Kay, a Hand in Hand leader, said in the release. "While I’m so appreciative of the work these women do, many times I've asked myself whether I was doing right by them. The Fair Care Pledge provides me with guidance, information, and the assurance I’ve been looking for."

The domestic worker industry has traditionally been difficult to organize and advocate for, given the isolating nature of the work. Ninety-five percent of domestic workers are women, and nearly half are immigrants. Because domestic workers are excluded from many protections guaranteed by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, many in the industry are paid below the minimum wage and are denied overtime, sick pay and vacation pay.

The Department of Labor released regulations in 2013 that would cover some home health care workers under those federal minimum wage and overtime compensation laws. But a lawsuit filed by home care companies has tied up those regulations.

Care.com members and pledge-takers will be able to display an online badge on their profile allowing care providers to know they're "fair employers," according to the press release.

“Just as care impacts families, enterprise, policy and government in various ways, so must all those groups be involved in the solution,” said Sheila Lirio Marcelo, the founder, chairwoman and CEO of Care.com. “One key to driving real change is the professionalization of the caregiver industry. We believe it’s critical to attract and retain skilled caregivers. Families who employ full-time domestic workers should pay fair and legal wages, and provide vacation, overtime, and other critical protections that every professional deserves.”

The groups' partnership comes as debates about gender and workplace standards are gaining increased scrutiny. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who is not at this year's CGI conference, has advocated for Democratic Party-backed legislation that would promote gender parity in pay. Clinton has also spoken about how the United States is one of just three countries to not require paid maternity leave for new parents.

Journalists Meet With Clinton Campaign Officials Over Access Concerns // HuffPo // Michael Calderone – June 10, 2015

Two top communications officials with Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign met Monday in Washington with representatives from the traveling press corps to discuss journalists' frustrations over access.

The journalist-campaign détente followed a nearly two-hour meeting last week in which about 17 reporters covering the campaign, from outlets including The New York Times, The Washington Post and Politico, privately aired grievances.

As The Huffington Post reported last week, journalists expressed concerns over issues including not receiving enough advanced notice about public events, being kept too far from Clinton at campaign stops, and not being permitted inside to cover fundraisers. Journalists also have taken issue with the campaign reflexively providing information “on background,” or on a not-for-attribution basis, even when it may not appear particularly sensitive.

Clinton Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri and press secretary Brian Fallon represented the campaign at the meeting, which included three journalists: McClatchy’s Anita Kumar, The Washington Post’s Anne Gearan and Politico’s Gabriel Debenedetti.

In emails to The Huffington Post, Gearan and Kumar confirmed the meeting happened, but both declined to get into specifics.

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“Our conversations are ongoing -- a work in progress -- so I don't feel comfortable sharing the details right now,” Kumar wrote.

Fallon declined to comment on behalf of the campaign.

The group appeared to make progress Monday on some issues. For instance, the campaign seemed amenable to providing more advance notice for events, perhaps a week ahead, according to a source familiar with the discussions who was not authorized to comment. Still, the two sides aren't completely on the same page. The campaign still expects to keep fundraisers closed to the press for now.

There was also talk during Monday's breakfast about eliminating background briefings like one that recently took place at the campaign’s Brooklyn headquarters. CNBC’s John Harwood, an attendee, later mocked the campaign's request that top officials not be named in reports or even quoted blindly. A later tour of the headquarters, he noted, was off the record.

On Friday, Palmieri and campaign manager Robby Mook will be speaking on the record at a Politico-sponsored function in Manhattan, a day before Clinton holds her first campaign rally on Roosevelt Island.

As Clinton ramps up her campaign this weekend, she's expected to begin engaging more with the press. Though Clinton has answered some questions at campaign events, she has still not given an interview during her two months as a presidential candidate. The campaign has yet to announce any scheduled interviews as Clinton heads in the coming weeks to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

New York's Forgotten Island Shrugs At Hillary Clinton's Big 2016 Debut // HuffPo // Scott Conroy – June 10, 2015

It’s easy to understand why Hillary Clinton is holding her first 2016 campaign rally at Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on Saturday. The symbolism is about as subtle as a yellow-cab driver caught behind a slow-moving vehicle with the windows rolled down.

Her midday speech will take place in the city where her family’s multibillion-dollar Clinton Foundation is based in the state she represented in the Senate for eight years and at a park that honors one of the most famous speeches delivered by America’s most revered Democratic president.

"She has long been inspired by FDR’s belief that America is stronger when we summon the work and talents of all Americans,” said Clinton spokesperson Kristina Schake. “Her fight, like his, is to work to ensure that everyday Americans can achieve not just a sense of economic stability, but lasting prosperity."

Though the park's namesake will be a fundamental element of Clinton’s speech, less central to her unofficial campaign kickoff is Roosevelt Island itself -- a quirky sanctuary of inner-city suburbia, which bisects the East River between Manhattan and Queens.

To the people who live here, though, that’s not much of a surprise. This is a place that is used to getting overlooked.

A 2-mile by 800-foot sliver of land that is currently inhabited by about 14,000 people in a city of more than 8 million, Roosevelt Island remains a peaceful hamlet by New York City standards. It is perhaps best known for the aerial tramway that offers a mobile addition to the Upper East Side’s skyline and was featured in a memorable fight scene in the 2002 "Spider-Man" film.

By and large, in a city famous for its islands, this particular needle-shaped landmass -- which falls under the jurisdiction of Manhattan -- has long been largely anonymous outside (and sometimes inside) the city.

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“When I was growing up and through high school, you’d tell kids, ‘I live on Roosevelt Island,’ and it was like, ‘Where?’” said Mike Babcock, whose family was one of the pioneering families to move to the island in 1975, when the first residential building opened. “And these were kids who lived in the city.”

But that undistinguished image has been changing quickly.

Over the last couple of decades, Roosevelt Island has experienced a demographic evolution and construction explosion that has left it a more diverse and heavily urbanized place than it was decades ago -- a lot like the American electorate that the Clinton campaign believes will propel her to the White House.

“On the tram, you used to pretty much know everyone by sight,” said Lillian Kirkman, who has lived on Roosevelt Island since 1982. “Now it’s pretty much like riding the subway.”

It’s possible to traverse Roosevelt Island on foot in under a minute, but this is no longer a parochial place.

Take a stroll down Main Street, and it can feel like you’re walking the halls of the United Nations just across the river, as more than 40 percent of the population here was born in a different country.

The modern incarnation of Roosevelt Island was founded as a place where small-town charm could be found within spitting distance of the most exciting city on earth, but its enduring legacy has long been that of a place in constant transition.

Back in the 19th century when it was known as Blackwell’s Island, it was home to a prison, the nation’s first hospital for treating smallpox sufferers, and the New York City Lunatic Asylum where investigative reporter Nelly Bly faked insanity and later reported in the New York World her groundbreaking investigation of the facility’s wretched conditions.

After a long period of decline, the island was rechristened Roosevelt Island in 1973 in honor of the nation’s 32nd president, and a dramatic revitalization effort began that turned it into a thriving community intended primarily to offer subsidized housing to young families with a wide range of income levels.

An increasingly Democratic slice of a heavily Democratic city, it’s not just the Starbucks and Duane Reed, both of which opened a few years ago, that has signaled Roosevelt Island’s absorption into the modern urban aesthetic that has taken hold from coast to coast since Clinton’s husband’s presidency.

The Octagon -- a relatively imposing structure presiding over the northern end of the island -- originally served as the asylum’s main entrance. Now it is the entranceway for a pair of solar panel and fuel cell-equipped high-rise apartment buildings.

And in 2011, then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that Roosevelt Island would be the site of a more than $2 billion science graduate school for Cornell University -- likely the single most transformational development in the island’s recent history. The “Four Freedoms” Park, where Clinton will speak on Saturday, opened the year after that.

Still, unlike just about every other corner of New York, even as it has changed rapidly, Roosevelt Island has resisted some of the allures of its neighboring localities. Here, $16 cocktails and ironic handlebar mustaches remain as scarce as they are common to the Instagram-saturated streets not far from the Clinton campaign’s Brooklyn Heights headquarters.

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You will, however, find some of the same generally unimpressed attitudes that prevail in the hipper parts of town.

“We’ve had lots of local politicians -- senators and congressmen -- no one like Hillary,” said Judy Berdy, president of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society and a lifelong resident. “But I just shrug. It’s part of living in New York. You get used to it.”

Just four days before the big rally, there were few signs that anything particularly special was on the horizon, as residents prepared for Saturday’s Roosevelt Island Day -- an annual, family-friendly event that will take place concurrently with the Clinton rally.

At Piccolo Trattoria on Main Street on Tuesday, a sparse lunchtime crowd ordered pizza slices and deli sandwiches, as employees mopped the floor and took some run-of-the-mill verbal abuse from one woman, who wasn’t especially impressed by the yellow sign that warned her to watch her step.

“Seriously, it’s very slippery in here,” she said. “If I fall, you’re screwed!”

After Jesus Alvarez, 19, took the woman’s order from behind the counter, a reporter approached to ask what he thought about Hillary Clinton coming to the neighborhood.

Alvarez, who has been working at Roosevelt Island’s lone pizza slice joint for about a year, offered a perplexed look along with a reminder that for the vast majority of Americans, the 2016 election remains far from the forefront of their minds.

“There’s a rally here?” he asked. “I hadn’t heard about it.”

The selective liberalism of Hillary Clinton **// VOX // Jonathan Allen – June 10, 2015**

There's a term for the way Hillary Clinton has handled policy in the early stages of her campaign: Clintonian.

That is, on the issues that most divide the Democratic base from its centrist wing, she refuses to box herself into a position. She'd rather wait to see how things play out — a tendency that reinforces the often asserted (but sometimes unfair) criticism that she doesn’t have core convictions.

1. She’s thrilled that fast-food workers are fighting for a $15 minimum wage, but she won’t say whether she’ll fight for it — or even whether she thinks that's the right level.

2. She’s decidedly undecided on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, even though she called it "the gold standard in trade agreements" when she was secretary of state.

3. And her campaign has completely dodged the question of whether she thinks her husband’s welfare reform law was the right policy.

It's true that Clinton has rolled out a string of positions that please constituencies on the left, from support for

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LGBT rights and voting rights to repudiating the results of her husband's 1994 anti-crime law and vowing to enhance President Obama's executive action on immigration. These are important issues, perhaps more important than the exact level of a wage increase that surely won't be $15 an hour as long as Republicans control either the House or 41 seats in the Senate. But Clinton has been very selective about how she's courted her party's progressive base, speaking as much to identity politics as to actual policy. On some of the more controversial policy questions, she's taking a pass.

As Ruth Marcus put it in the Washington Post Wednesday morning, "The left-leaning positions she isn't taking are as significant as the ones she has endorsed."

In keeping her powder dry, she is reminding voters — Democrats, Republicans, and independents — that it's hard to pin down a Clinton. Her husband was famous for practicing political "triangulation," letting others stake out their positions and then standing in the middle. Clinton's unwillingness to commit to either side on the minimum wage, trade, and welfare reform (Jeb Bush is calling for a new round of it) leaves everyone wondering what she really believes on those issues. That feeds an existing narrative that she's less than trustworthy. And that's not good for Clinton.

Clinton's honesty problem

Most adults say the label "honest and trustworthy" doesn't apply to her.

Nearly two-thirds of men think Clinton isn't trustworthy, compared with about half of women.

The CNN/ORC poll released earlier this month is one in a series that show Americans have greater faith in her ability to lead than in her willingness to tell the truth. The problem is particularly acute with men and whites — two subcategories that lean more Republican and that have been problematic for Clinton.

The silver lining: almost three-fifths of nonwhite adults do believe she's honest and trustworthy, and about half of women say the same. The positions she's taken on voting rights, immigration, and ending the "era of mass incarceration" should bolster those numbers. She still leads all Republican challengers in head-to-head matchups.

But if voters don't trust what Clinton says, it will be harder for her to persuade them to vote for her. Pew polling suggests honesty is an essential leadership trait.

The $15 head fake

Clinton's main rivals in the Democratic field, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, have both taken firm stands in favor of a $15-an-hour minimum wage. Clinton gave a head fake this weekend.

Clinton seemed to be taking a stand on Sunday when she called in to a fast-food workers convention to say she stood behind them in their push for a $15-per-hour wage floor. The Washington Post noted that Clinton used language mirroring labor's campaign for the higher pay standard and ran a headline suggesting she was endorsing the $15 level. At first, her aides declined to say whether she meant that she backs a $15 minimum wage. And then, after a couple of days, they still declined to say.

One campaign spokesperson said Tuesday night that Clinton will eventually have a position.

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"As Hillary Clinton expressed this weekend, she strongly supports workers in the fast-food industry in cities across the country mobilizing to fight for a living wage. In the coming weeks, she will lay out her specific plans for increasing wages."

That leaves open the question of whether she might back something other than the most often cited figures, $15 an hour and $10.10 an hour. It's a little reminiscent of the scene from There's Something About Mary that revolves around one-upsmanship on whether six-, seven- or eight-minute abs is the most effective workout routine.

O'Malley spokesperson Haley Morris made the point that her boss raised the wage floor in his state (to $8.25 an hour).

"We don't know where Secretary Clinton stands on the minimum wage, but Governor O'Malley's stance couldn't be clearer: he supports efforts to raise it to $15 an hour. This is another issue where he doesn't just talk -- he's gotten things done. Last year, Maryland was just the second state to raise its minimum wage."

Trading places

For years, it would have been hard to find a more ardent advocate for a Pacific Rim trade deal than Clinton. As Obama's secretary of state, she was a leader of the US "pivot" to Asia, which was later recoined a "rebalancing." She wrote about the benefits of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and spoke publicly about them. As White House Communications Director and former State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki put it on MSNBC this week, Clinton spent a "great deal of time" extolling the virtues of the deal when she was a member of the administration.

And then, in April, with pressure bearing down on Democrats to take a position, Clinton backpedaled — through a spokesman.

"Hillary Clinton believes that any new trade measure has to pass two tests: first, it should put us in a position to protect American workers, raise wages, and create more good jobs at home," Nick Merrill said in a statement. "Second, it must also strengthen our national security. We should be willing to walk away from any outcome that falls short of these tests. The goal is greater prosperity and security for American families, not trade for trade's sake."

Senior aides have since said that she doesn't need to take a position until the deal is finalized and the fine print can be analyzed. If she's lucky, the House will reject Trade Promotion Authority for Obama this week, mooting TPP. But as it stands, the vast majority of House Democrats — and party activists — oppose the deal. If Clinton supports it, she'll disappoint them and give more fuel to Sanders and O'Malley, both of whom oppose the pact. If she opposes it, she'll have flip-flopped and turned her back on Obama.

Welfare reform

There's also distance between Clinton and her rivals on welfare reform.

When she said she wanted to end the "era of mass incarceration" — which was spurred by Bill Clinton's anti-crime law — the next logical question was whether she would seek to reverse another major social policy law from his presidency: welfare reform. As first lady, she had praised it.

It became a more pressing matter when Bush, in the wake of violence in Baltimore, called for new welfare reforms.

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So far, Clinton and her aides have refused to address repeated questions about where she stands with regard to the 1990s law, which largely addressed government benefits and work requirements for women. As with other issues, they say she'll have more policy to detail over the summer.

Sanders voted against the 1996 welfare reform law, which split Democrats almost evenly.

In 2000, O'Malley signed a document expressing appreciation for the Clinton law but calling on government to "finish the job" by creating more employment opportunities for people moving off of government assistance.

On this, too, Democrats are anxious to hear what Clinton thinks in this presidential run.

Time to choose

It's tempting to think that Clinton has plenty of time because it's early in the presidential election cycle or because her Democratic rivals probably don't have what it takes to beat her in a primary. But by sidestepping important policy questions, she's giving oxygen to doubts about her sincerity. That's a character question that should be familiar to Clinton fans who watched Barack Obama turn honesty into a weapon against her in 2008, and it's one that crosses party lines.

Ultimately, Clinton is going to have to choose a side on these issues. The longer she takes, the more it looks like she's afraid of commitment.

Bill Clinton Says He'll Nix Paid Speeches If Hillary Wins // NBC News // Andrea Mitchell and Cassandra Vinograd – June 11, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton said he will most likely stop giving paid speeches if his wife Hillary is elected president.

The Clintons have been dogged by questions about potential conflicts of interest around their foundation and the amounts they've earned from high-profile speaking engagements.

When asked by Bloomberg Television whether he would continue to give paid speeches if Hillary Clinton is elected president, Bill Clinton replied: "I don't think so."

"I will still give speeches though on the subjects I'm interested in," he added. "I've really enjoyed those things."

Clinton said "it would be a very good thing for America" if his wife Hillary Clinton wins the presidency.

"She'll have to decide what's my highest and best use — including being around to buck her up every morning," he said.

While Hillary Clinton has begun her second campaign for president by casting herself as a champion for middle-class voters, she's long drawn criticism from Republicans about the wealth she and Bill Clinton have generated

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since he left the White House.

In May, Federal Election Commission filings showed that the couple earned more than $25 million for more than 100 paid speeches between January 2014 and May 2015 — an average fee of about $250,000 per speech.

Hillary Clinton and the New Politics of $15 **// The Nation // John Nichols – June 10, 2015**

Fast-food workers and their allies in the "Fight for 15" movement who were gathered Sunday in Detroit to plan strategy for action in the streets and at the ballot box got an unexpected call from the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination and, perhaps, the presidency.

Declaring, "I want to be your champion," Hillary Clinton told the activists, "We need you out there fighting against those who would strip away Americans' right to organize, to collectively bargain, to fair play. No man or woman who works hard to feed American families should have to be on food stamps to feed their own family."

The Sunday morning phone call by the former secretary of state to the national gathering in Detroit was a breakthrough moment for the movement to raise pay for fast-food and retail workers, as it signaled that their issues are going to be a major part of the 2016 debate. It was also something of a breakthrough moment for Clinton, who has been seeking since announcing her candidacy to distinguish herself as a more progressive and populist contender.

But how much of a breakthrough remains to be seen. Clinton did not talk numbers in her call. Indeed, as CNN noted, " Just how high a wage hike Clinton supports, however, remains a mystery. The candidate has not provided a figure yet. Her campaign did not return a request for comment Sunday night."

Specifics are going to matter.

Facing a spirited economic-populist challenge from Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who has long championed wage hikes, and prodded by former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, who has a track record of work on living-wage issues, Clinton could not avoid the debate about hiking wages; she had to offer the party's base voters some economic populism. A recent Politico headline sums the circumstance up. "Hillary Clinton Camp Fears Bernie Sanders," read one, while another declared, "Wall Street Fears Leftward Swerve By Clinton."

To Clinton's credit, her referencing of the Fight for 15 movement was not a mild reference. It was laudatory. "I hope that every one of you will continue to raise your voices until we get all working Americans a better deal," the candidate told the fast-food workers who had come to Detroit from across the country. "I want to be your champion. I want to fight with you every day. I'm well aware that the folks on top already have plenty of friends in Washington, but we together will change the direction of this great country."

Yet Clinton has not, as have Sanders and O'Malley, announced support for a $15-an-hour wage. And as with her relatively strong statements on trade policy—strong on principles, weak on precise stances—the specifics are what will matter.

Clinton is a savvy politician. She recognizes that the "Fight for 15" movement has traction—and that major labor unions and grassroots activists are starting to measure candidates according to their commitment to the fight. She has made a good statement, and gotten some good headlines. Now she must provide a sense of where exactly she stands on a federal $15-an-hour wage, on state and local fights, and on a host of other wage and work concerns. And, frankly, she needs to fill-in-the-blanks on related issues, such as the fight for a Retail Workers Bill of Rights and efforts to make it easily to organize and maintain unions.

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Clinton's formal launch of her candidacy this coming Saturday at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park in New York City will be a key test. Will she reference the Fight for 15 movement? Will she make this struggle a clear, and constant focus of her campaign?

The pressure will only increase for Clinton and the other 2016 candidates. Following the lead of Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities across the country have moved to implement $15 wage floors, and states such as New York are starting to explore the prospect.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who announced last month that he will convene a special wage board to review and recommend higher wage rates for fast-food workers, explains why this is the case. "Nowhere is the income gap more extreme and obnoxious than in the fast-food industry," wrote Cuomo in a New York Times opinion piece. "Fast-food C.E.O.s are among the highest-paid corporate executives. The average fast-food C.E.O. made $23.8 million in 2013, more than quadruple the average from 2000 (adjusting for inflation). Meanwhile, entry-level food-service workers in New York State earn, on average, $16,920 per year, which at a 40-hour week amounts to $8.50 an hour. Nationally, wages for fast-food workers have increased 0.3 percent since 2000 (again, adjusting for inflation)."

As Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry says, " Powerful people around the world are listening to this movement to change our world."

This is the context in which Clinton's statement comes. Fast-food workers are organizing, and they are winning. Retail workers are organizing, and they are winning. Home-care workers are organizing. A movement has taken shape. It is real. And it has specific "asks" of candidates.

"We've got unstoppable momentum," said LeTonya Wilson, 41, a Richmond, Virginia, McDonald's worker who is paid $8.25 an hour. "Fifteen dollars is sweeping the country and we're going to build off victories in places like Los Angeles, New York and St. Louis to win $15 in Richmond and all across the country. Everyone said we had no chance, but we've shown when we stick together and speak out, we get life-changing results."

Wage hikes are life-changing for workers who are struggling to get by.

And the movement for wage hikes is changing American politics.

Presidential candidates are taking notice.

Indeed, the front-runner in the race for the White House is saying to LeTonya Wilson and her fellow workers: "There's a lot we can do together and you're showing us what that route is. You're on the streets, your voices are being heard. We need you."

That's right. But that's not enough. Getting a presidential front-runner to "call in" is not an indication that a corner has been turned on the "Fight for $15." Rather, it is a signal that the 2016 contest could, with continued pressure on all the candidates—Democrats and Republicans and third-party contenders,; liberals and centrists and conservatives—be the moment when that turn is made.

Bill Clinton Says Hillary Win Could Change His Philanthropy Role // Bloomberg // Margaret Talev – June 10, 2015

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Former President Bill Clinton said if his wife is elected the next U.S. president, he will consider stepping aside from leading his global philanthropy, and that while he intends to keep delivering speeches on issues he cares about he will stop accepting money for them.

“I believe if you have been president, and the current president of either party asks you to do anything, if in good conscience you can do it, you should do it,” Clinton said in an interview Wednesday with Bloomberg’s Betty Liu, when asked about his role in a potential Hillary Clinton administration. He suggested he may step away from his role as head of the foundation he established after his presidency in favor of his daughter, Chelsea.

“That will be not an easy decision,” Clinton said in the most direct acknowledgement to date that he's considering stepping away from the foundation to avoid conflicts of interest. “If she wins, and I think it would be a very good thing for America if she did win," he said, referring to his wife, "we’ll have to talk about it. But I don’t know.”

“We’ll have to talk about it.”

In a wide-ranging interview on the final day of the Clinton Global Initiative America meeting in Denver, Clinton also defended donations to his tied to foreign governments and corporations, which have come under scrutiny by news organizations as Hillary Clinton’s campaign ramped up. He said his organization operated for years without the presumption his wife would run. In particular, he defended the decision to accept $500,000 from Algeria to pass on to international efforts in Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake.

"I’d take the money from Algeria again," Clinton said. "There are very few countries in the world I would not accept for help to Haiti." Clinton said there were a couple of donations the foundation did not accept because "we have a strict no-corruption policy." He also suggested the scrutiny of the foundation was driven by cynical political journalists for whom "it’s hard to imagine" that businesses and individual would give money for anything other than political purposes.

Clinton said if his wife is elected president "she will make good decisions" and "she’ll consult widely and be inclusive."

As for his own role, he said he would be interested in working to restore the middle class and a sense of "inclusion" in communities. But he suggested that what he does as a first spouse would be up to his wife.

"If there’s one thing she knows more about than anybody on earth, it’s on what subjects I should be listened to and what subjects I shouldn’t," Clinton said, prompting a guffaw from the audience.

Hillary Clinton Needs a Do-Over **// RealClearPolitics // Jonah Goldberg – June 10, 2015**

Almost exactly two months after Hillary Rodham Clinton’s official announcement that she’s running for president, she will give her first “official campaign announcement speech,” on June 13, according to her Twitter account.

In other words, the Clinton campaign wants a do-over. Her first rollout was the most disastrous nonfatal presidential campaign debut in modern memory, so she wants another.

Her initial announcement video in April — which most outlets accurately reported as her official announcement — was well done. After that, everything went downhill; a steady stream of news stories and damning allegations about her family foundation and tenure as secretary of state has dogged her almost daily.

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Her best moment since announcing was when she was captured on grainy security video at an Ohio Chipotle franchise buying a burrito bowl. ABC News and MarketWatch dubbed it an “adventure.” Bloomberg’s Mark Halperin explained that Clinton’s excellent adventure was “fun” and “new.” “We’ve never seen her get a burrito before.”

Put “Burrito Day” in the win column.

In the loss column: plummeting poll numbers. In March she enjoyed a 15-percentage-point lead over Jeb Bush, according to a CNN poll. She had roughly similar double-digit leads over Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, and Scott Walker.

Those leads have nearly evaporated. Bush, whose rollout has also been less than stellar, now trails Clinton by eight percentage points, according to CNN (but only by three, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll). Walker and Rubio are three percentage points behind her and Paul is one.

Worse, the public is souring on her, like a carton of milk left out in the sun. More Americans now view her unfavorably rather than favorably (50 percent to 46 percent), her worst polling performance in 14 years. Fifty-seven percent believe she is untrustworthy, and fewer than half (47 percent) said she cares about people like them. Remember back in 2008 when her image took a beating in her bruising primary fight with Barack Obama? Her image is worse today.

She reminds me of Fred Thompson in 2008 or Rick Perry in 2012. Her best day in the polls was the day before she announced.

But fear not, the Clinton campaign has conveniently found a strategy that says none of this matters very much.

Jonathan Martin and Maggie Haberman report in the New York Times that the Clinton team has turned its back on a “nationwide electoral strategy,” opting instead to reassemble the Obama coalition of 2008 and 2012. To do that, Clinton needs to run to the left and pick polarizing fights that galvanize low-information and hard-to-motivate voters.

The days of trying to win swing voters and independents are apparently over. Today it’s all about that base. “The highest-premium voter in ’92 was a voter who would vote for one party some and for another party some,” James Carville, a longtime adviser to the Clintons, told the New York Times. “Now the highest-premium voter is somebody with a high probability to vote for you and low probability to turn out. That’s the golden list. And that’s a humongous change in basic strategic doctrine.”

Carville’s right that it is a big change in doctrine, but it’s unclear whether the doctrine is right. So far the entire theory rests on the precedent of one candidate: Obama. “If she won,” Martin and Haberman write, “it would suggest that the so-called Obama coalition of young, nonwhite and female voters is transferable to another Democrat.”

As I’ve been writing for a while, I’m extremely dubious. Here are four reasons. First, Obama didn’t really run as a polarizing figure in 2008. He ran as a post-partisan reformer who would end gridlock and fix the failures of the two-term incumbent (as did George W. Bush and Bill Clinton before him).

Second, Obama was a very good politician without much baggage (that the media were willing to report on). Clinton is a mediocre politician with mountainous baggage. Third, Obama’s coalition has never been transferable

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to any other cause or politician, despite the president's best efforts. And last, Clinton is running to stay the course.

The Obama veterans around Clinton boast of their willingness to break with the practices of the past. But it looks more like they can't break out of their own Obama bubble, running the same plays for a very different quarterback.

Check Out Hillary Clinton's First Instagram // TIMES // Olivia Waxman – June 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner in the 2016 presidential election, launched an Instagram account Wednesday. Her first post is a photo of red, white and blue pantsuits with the caption "Hard Choices" — which is also the title of her memoir. The former Secretary of State modestly describes herself as a "Doting grandmother, among other things."

The account already racked up more than 32,000 followers at the time of publication — more than any of the other 2016 candidates with verified accounts on the social network, such as Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Senator Rand Paul (R-KY),Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (R), retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson (R).

Having a presence on Instagram is an opportunity to engage with college-aged and 20-something voters, as "53% of young adults ages 18-29 now use the service," according to Pew Research Center's Jan. 2015 report on the demographics of social networking platforms. The study also says "women are particularly likely to be on Instagram, along with Hispanics and African-Americans, and those who live in urban or suburban environments."

Hillary Clinton launches Instagram account // CBS News // Hannah Fraser-Chanpong – June 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton has joined Instagram.

Clinton posted her first photo to the social media site Wednesday. It does not show Clinton but, instead, red, white and blue outfits hung on a garment rack, highlighting a sartorial choice that the presidential candidate has become well known for: the pantsuit.

"Hard choices," the caption reads.

Many of the other presidential candidates, including Bernie Sanders, Jeb Bush (and his wife, Columba Bush), Rand Paul and Marco Rubio already have Instagram accounts. Clinton's account was private until Wednesday morning.

Since the launch of her bid, Clinton's campaign has relied mostly on Twitter and Facebook to share photos of Clinton on the campaign trail, share news and highlight organizing events, and she recently joined LinkedIn. Clinton chimes in herself on Twitter on occasion -- both on policy and nonpolitical events like the Women's World Cup -- and signs her tweets with the letter "h." Clinton campaign officials say that the Instagram account will more regularly show a more candid, personal side of their candidate and her supporters. The campaign also plans to use it as another way to engage with her fans.

Clinton, the former senator, first lady and secretary of state whose colorful Twitter bio includes both "hair icon" and "pantsuit aficionado," highlights only one of her titles on her Instagram page. "doting grandmother, among other things." It includes a link to Clinton's campaign website.

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Hillary Clinton joins Instagram with a photo of her red, white and blue pantsuits // Mashable // Bryian Ries – June 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton exploded onto the Instagram scene Wednesday morning with an unfiltered photo of the things she knows best: her red, white and blue pantsuits.

"Hard choices," wrote the self-described "doting grandmother, among other things" in the photo's caption, which appeared days ahead of the former first lady's official 2016 campaign launch. Clinton first announced her second bid for the presidency in April.

The account, @HillaryClinton, was confirmed as hers by an Instagram spokesperson. So far, the reception toward the account is warm; one user called it "iconic," while another gave her the Broad City-inspired rebel yell, "YAAS QUEEN." Thirty minutes after creating the account, Clinton already attracted more than 5,000 followers.

Clinton joins 300 million Instagrammers — including many fellow 2016 candidates — who share a reported 70 million photos and videos each day.

Parties set events; Democrats draw Clinton to dinner // North West Arkansas Gazette // Michael R. Wickline - June 11, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the keynote speaker at the Democratic Party of Arkansas' annual fundraiser July 18 in North Little Rock, party Chairman Vince Insalaco said Wednesday.

Arkansas Republicans will hold their annual Reagan-Rockefeller fundraising dinner in Hot Springs on July 17, party Chairman Doyle Webb said Wednesday. Details and speaker information will be announced soon, he said.

Clinton, the wife of former President Bill Clinton, is a former Arkansas first lady, U.S. senator and U.S. secretary of state.

"As Arkansas' first lady, Hillary worked tirelessly to secure a better future for our children and families -- a responsibility that she continued as the first lady of the United States, a U.S. senator and as secretary of state," Insalaco said in a written statement. "We are excited to welcome her to an Arkansas homecoming that celebrates both that progress and looks toward a hopeful future."

Clinton moved to Arkansas in 1974 shortly after serving as an attorney for the congressional committee that investigated President Richard Nixon. She taught students at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville before marrying Bill Clinton, who later won elections for governor and the presidency.

She co-founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and led multiple campaigns to improve children's health and education in Arkansas, according to the state Democratic Party.

State Democratic Party Executive Director Candace Martin said the party hasn't endorsed Clinton for president.

Others who've said they're running for president as Democrats are former Rhode Island Gov. and U.S. Sen. Lincoln Chafee, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

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Webb, the state GOP chairman, said Arkansas Republicans are trying to get the party's presidential candidates to help raise money at party events.

"Our Reagan-Rockefeller dinner, the RPA's largest annual fundraiser, will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Horner Hall on July 17," Webb said in a written statement. "The RR dinner is the opening event of our state Republican Leadership weekend, which includes our summer State Committee meeting and workshops. The announcement of details and the speaker will be forthcoming."

Webb declined to say whether the keynote speaker will be former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who is among at least 10 Republicans who have said they are running for president in 2016.

Both Clinton and Huckabee ran unsuccessfully for their parties' presidential nominations in 2008.

Arkansas Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson last month signed into law a bill moving the state's 2016 primary elections from May 24 to March 1 to allow Arkansas to participate with several other Southern states in what its supporters call the SEC presidential primary.

Other states that plan to hold a March 1 primary include Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia.

The SEC is the Southeastern Conference, an intercollegiate athletic conference that includes many Southern states.

The party filing period will be from noon Nov. 2 until noon Nov. 9 in the state Capitol, said Chris Powell, a spokesman for Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin.

Webb said his party's 2016 filing fees will be decided July 17 by the party's executive committee, but he doesn't expect any change, including in the $25,000 fee for presidential candidates.

The state Democratic Party State Committee will determine the party's 2016 filing fees during its Aug. 15 meeting, Candace Martin said.

It's official: Hillary Clinton's logo is actually perfect **// Quartz // Annalisa Merelli – June 10, 2015**

As soon Hillary Clinton announced her presidential bid, commentators began dissecting each and every aspect of her communications strategy. Despite a few critics, many noted that the launch video successfully installed Clinton's campaign as a collective effort rather than emphasizing that Clinton was "destined" for the presidency.

What instead provoked nothing but bad reviews was the logo design—a patriotically blue, red and white "H" with an arrow pointing right at the center. Why is the arrow red (the Republican color in the US), some asked, and why is it pointing toward the right? Were voters going to interpret it as an imminent shift towards more conservative positions? Others plainly stated that the logo didn't say anything at all. Quartz's Anne Quito weighed in with the following:

As unoriginal and clunky as it may appear, Clinton's logo is perfectly functional. It's unique enough, with utility that holds up across print, broadcast, and digital platforms. On Twitter, the red arrow is even a nifty, albeit unnecessary, device that directs the eye right to the messenger.

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Clinton's new logo builds upon Obama's "O," which was much closer to a corporate brand than a traditional political logo.

The style informed both of Obama's campaigns, and forever changed the visual language of American politics, adding modern typography and design to an otherwise trite political visual vocabulary. Learning from that lesson, Clinton's 2016 one-letter logo is highly recognizable: Like a brand, the "H" is the complete logo and not accompanied by the full name nor the year—as to indicate a timeless commitment, and to separate this campaign from Hillary's bid in 2008.

Besides being bold, the one-letter logo is, as exceptionally social media friendly—no small quality, since compared to 2008 (and to an extent even 2012), social media channels have now become a campaign requirement.

"In the past, you got a lot of stars for being on a platform," Jon Jones, chief digital officer at the Incite Agency who worked as the first digital strategist for Obama's 2008 campaign, told Quartz. Now, he explained, it's much less about whether a platform is used, and why, and more about how it reflects on the candidate's image.

In this light, the square design is strategically sound: The strongest attribute of this design—what makes it particularly functional in the time of memes—is its flexibility which, unlike with Obama's "O," does not appear to be a lucky accident.

In the past two months the logo has already appeared in a number of avatars both on Twitter and Facebook, including the ones below:

It is through all these iterations that Clinton's logo fully displays its iconic value: It is highly recognizable despite the changes, and the much-criticized right-facing red arrow is now appears as it was likely meant to: pointing the way forward. The different backgrounds aren't just an innovative graphic solution—they are the visual embodiment of the values Clinton is building her campaign around. It vehicles a leadership based on collectivity and inclusiveness rather than the elitist individualism Clinton is often accused of.

"The real Hillary is what they are trying to get out there, as opposite to a top-down Clinton force," Jones explained.

The logo is young, modern, colorful. And the strategy of inclusiveness goes beyond the design, extending to the offline campaign (with campaign workers traveling by bus under the eyes of surprised reporters). Thus far, the best example has been Mary Jo for Hillary: In an unprecedented exercise in relinquishing control, Clinton handed her official campaign Twitter handle to Mary Jo Brown, a small business owner from New Hampshire, who posted tweets about a day in her life (and work) in support of the grassroots initiative of "small business owners for Hillary."

This, said Jones, is something 2008 Clinton would have stayed away from but, as other elements of her campaign—such as the pop merchandising, including items such as the pantsuit-printed t-shirt—is "a page of the Obama book."

Indeed, like Obama's 2008, Clinton's 2016 looks like a campaign designed to be remembered—not just to win.

Hillary to be honored at Wildlife gala after making // NY Post // Geoff Earle – June 10, 2015

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There will be an elephant in the room Thursday when Hillary Rodham Clinton is an honored guest at the Wildlife Conservation Society's annual gala in New York: a big-bucks contribution the Clinton Family Foundation gave to the organization.

The group works to protect endangered elephants from ivory poaching and threats, among other wildlife projects.

The foundation gave the society a $25,000 grant in 2013 for its efforts, foundation records show.

The good feelings appear to be mutual.

The following year, at the 2014 gala — called "An Elephant's Tale" — Hillary and Chelsea Clinton were honored by the group for "their commitment to conservation and protecting wildlife and wild places."

An official release said they "have been tremendous allies in the fight to save the African elephant." and work "tirelessly" for the cause.

Hillary Clinton is listed as an "honorary chair" at Thursday's black-tie event, to be held at the Central Park Zoo, which this year is called "Turning Tides."

Meanwhile, Renee Ring, the group's corporate relations director, donated $5,000 to the pro-Clinton PAC Ready for Hillary in 2013, according to campaign records.

Bill Clinton contradicts Hillary on email claims **// Fox News – June 10, 2015**

Bill Clinton appeared Wednesday to contradict his wife's claims about their personal email use, saying he's only sent two emails in his life -- despite Hillary Clinton saying some of the private messages on her personal server were from her and her husband.

The former president addressed his very sparing email use at a Clinton Global Initiative meeting in Denver.

He said the "only time" he got on the Internet was to do "two emails" and order Christmas presents.

"Otherwise I found people said embarrassing things on emails. I didn't want to be one of them," Clinton said, to laughter.

The statement echoes what a spokesman told the Wall Street Journal in March -- that the ex-president had only sent two emails in his life, one to U.S. troops and the other to astronaut John Glenn.

Yet, when Hillary Clinton held a press conference in March explaining her personal email use, she said her private server "contains personal communications from my husband and me."

The now-Democratic presidential candidate gave this detail in asserting that she would not turn over her personal server for examination -- as Republican lawmakers have requested.

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Her office, though, has turned over thousands of pages of emails to the State Department, which has started to release some of them.

De Blasio likely to skip Hillary Clinton's campaign launch // Crain's New York // Andrew Hawkins – June 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton is scheduled to formally launch her presidential campaign on Roosevelt Island Saturday, but Mayor Bill de Blasio's office would not say Tuesday whether her friend, former campaign manager and erstwhile supporter will attend.

A spokesman for the mayor did not respond to numerous requests for comment on Ms. Clinton's rally, the second major event of her presidential campaign to take place in New York City. Even so, the mayor of the city, a stalwart progressive Democrat, is unlikely to attend. He was absent from her speech on criminal justice at Columbia University in April. And despite numerous questions, the mayor has steadfastly declined to endorse her campaign, asserting that he wants to hear more "vision" from the candidate on income inequality and other such matters.

"Each of the candidates is beginning to address these issues," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation" Sunday. "I'm waiting to hear a fuller vision from each on how we'll actually tackle income inequality." Asked if that included Ms. Clinton, whom he has known for several decades and whose 2000 Senate campaign he managed, the mayor said, "Absolutely."

When questioned about whether an invitation had been extended to Mr. de Blasio to Saturday's rally, a spokesman for Ms. Clinton's campaign said he had no information. Some supporters were perplexed by the mayor's behavior.

"It strikes me as surreal and bizarre that de Blasio will be missing in action this Saturday when the presumptive candidate of his party has chosen to launch her candidacy in his city and host her campaign headquarters in his home borough," said a New York City-based operative close to the Clinton campaign.

Letitia James, the public advocate and Clinton supporter, plans to be there, but not City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who has yet to endorse a candidate. A spokesman for Comptroller Scott Stringer did not reply.

Much of the mayor's waffling has to do with his own national ambitions, namely his 13-point Progressive Agenda and his plans to host a presidential debate on income inequality later this year. As Mr. de Blasio sees it, he has to withhold his endorsement in order to remain a credible, unattached and authoritative voice in the national debate surrounding the politics of poverty.

Also, the mayor might lose credibility with his liberal fan base and lose leverage to move Ms. Clinton to the left if he were to endorse her before she takes a strong stand on his priorities, such as a much higher minimum wage and more taxation of the wealthy.

"Since she's appearing as a candidate and he's still neutral in the race, it would be strange for him to show up," said Kenneth Sherrill, professor of political science at Hunter College. "Showing up would be taken to be an endorsement. In this case, not showing up is good manners."

Democrats Line Up Hillary Clinton For Jefferson-Jackson Dinner // Talk Business – June 10, 2015

Arkansas Democrats are getting ready for Hillary.

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The Democratic Party of Arkansas announced Wednesday that former First Lady, U.S. Senator and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will be the keynote speaker at its Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in July.

The 2016 Presidential contender will speak to state Democrats on Saturday, July 18 at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock.

"We are very excited to officially announce our 2015 Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, featuring special guest Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton," said DPA Chairman Vince Insalaco. "I know you're as excited as I am that the former First Lady of Arkansas and the United States and now candidate for President of the United States will be coming to our state to join us for this incredible evening."

"As Arkansas's first lady, Hillary worked tirelessly to secure a better future for our children and families – a responsibility that she continued as the First Lady of the United States, a U.S. Senator, and as Secretary of State. We are excited to welcome her to an Arkansas homecoming that celebrates both that progress and looks towards a hopeful future," Insalaco added in the statement.

Clinton Has Edge Among Mass. Voters; Gov. Baker Remains Popular **// WBUR // Fred Thys – June 10, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton beat Barack Obama in the Massachusetts Democratic primary in 2008, but Massachusetts voters do not have a very high opinion of her currently, a new WBUR statewide poll (topline results, crosstabs) shows.

Of 502 registered Massachusetts voters surveyed late last week, only 48 percent of respondents have a favorable view of Clinton. That's compared to 38 percent of poll respondents who view her unfavorably.

Clinton is least popular among Republicans, as only 24 percent of Republicans view her favorably. But she's also relatively unpopular among the state's largest group of voters, the unenrolled: Only 42 percent of unenrolled voters view her favorably, compared with 43 percent who view her unfavorably. It's only among Democrats that Clinton enjoys a favorable image, with 66 percent of Democrats responding positively.

How voters view Clinton varies greatly depending on their race, the survey found. Only 44 percent of white voters view her favorably, compared with 73 percent of voters of all other races.

Clinton is most popular in the Boston area, with 54 percent of voters in Boston and surrounding cities and towns viewing her favorably. Clinton is in the Boston area Wednesday, attending a fundraiser in Newton.

She is least popular in western and central Massachusetts, where only 43 percent of voters view her favorably.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., listens to testimony on Capitol Hill in February. Warren has publicly declared she will not be running for president. (Susan Walsh/AP)

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., listens to testimony on Capitol Hill in February. Warren has publicly declared she will not be running for president. (Susan Walsh/AP)

Still, by a large margin, most Democrats and unenrolled voters who say they are more likely to vote in the Democratic presidential primary than in the Republican primary say they would vote for Clinton (58 percent).

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Although U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren remains well liked in Massachusetts — 53 percent of respondents view her favorably — she comes in a distant second to Clinton, with 16 percent, among voters who say they are more likely to vote in the Democratic presidential primary.

Warren has said she's not running, and 67 percent of poll respondents say they do not expect her to run.

The WBUR live phone survey was conducted by the MassINC Polling Group. Voters were interviewed last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The poll's margin of error is 4.4 percent.

The poll also finds that Gov. Charlie Baker continues to be highly popular among Massachusetts voters.

Sixty-nine percent of respondents view Baker, a Republican, favorably, compared with just 10 percent who view him unfavorably.

He's most popular among Republicans. Seventy-eight percent of Republicans view Baker favorably. But he's also extremely popular among unenrolled voters, as 72 percent of these voters view him favorably. And even Democrats view him favorably. Sixty-three percent of Democrats have a favorable view of him.

Among women, 64 percent have a favorable view of the governor. But Baker is more popular among men, with a 75 percent favorability.

Among the state's over-60 voters, Baker remains popular with a 76 percent favorable rating. His rating is lowest among the youngest voters, 18-29, though still relatively popular among them at 57 percent favorable.

The poll, as we reported earlier Wednesday, also finds 49 percent of voters opposing Boston hosting the Olympics in 2024, with only 39 percent supporting the idea.

No blueprint on cutting college debt // Boston Globe // Tracy Jan – June 11, 2015

WASHINGTON — Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont is calling for zero tuition at public colleges. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley says he will fight to erase debt for college graduates. Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a recent campaign event in Iowa, endorsed the goal of slashing such debt.

Promises to reduce, or even eliminate, the financial burdens of higher education represent the newest frontier in Democrats' call for taxpayer-sponsored social programs. The anxiety-inducing $1.3 trillion in student debt has quickly become a focus of the 2016 Democratic presidential primary contest.

But while the concept is attracting attention from financially challenged middle-class families, details are scarce on how government should pay for potentially the costliest initiatives since President Obama's health care overhaul.

The one concrete source of funding comes from Sanders, who proposes a new tax on Wall Street transactions. While that idea draws cheers from his populist fan base, it would be a political long shot for passage in today's Washington.

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Sanders also has produced the only guess at the huge costs: three quarters of a trillion dollars over the first decade.

“This is a politically popular idea, but the solutions are hard and expensive,” said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, a nonpartisan policy and lobbying group in Washington for colleges and universities. “How you pay for it very quickly becomes a seriously complicating issue.”

Meanwhile, the effect of student debt on the national economy — frequently cited on the campaign trail as a key reason to ease the burden — is hard to measure. While politicians often link higher student debt to lower rates of homeownership, entrepreneurship, and retirement savings, no one can point to a reliable figure quantifying the effect of the debt on the overall economy.

‘This is a politically popular idea, but the solutions are hard and expensive.’

Quote Icon

“I would say it’s overreaching given the current landscape of research to suggest a link between student debt and a drain on the economy,” said Beth Akers, a Brookings fellow whose research focuses on the economics of higher education.

The squishiness of the candidates’ proposals is giving conservative critics easy ammunition to denounce the ideas as nothing more than liberal talking points.

“This has quickly become a rallying cry for Democrats and advocates and also somewhat of a litmus test for candidates: Are you with us or against us on this?” said Andrew Kelly, director of the Center on Higher Education Reform at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank based in Washington. “I see why it’s enticing as an election- year slogan, but there are some serious flaws.”

Senator Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, got out front on the issue in 2013 when her first bill as senator called for reducing the interest rates that government charges student borrowers. Since then, goals have become far more sweeping.

Nudged along by liberal Democrats, party members in both the Senate and House are also looking for greater access to debt-free higher education. Warren, along with Senators Brian Schatz of Hawaii, and Chuck Schumer of New York, introduced a nonbinding resolution in April calling for states to reduce tuition at public schools; for the federal government to increase financial aid; and for a program that allows students to refinance loans at lower rates.

But the resolution has no teeth, and it makes no mention of how to pay for any of its lofty goals.

Warren, in an interview Wednesday, said the idea for the resolution is to “push us in the right direction.”

“We should be doing more as a country to leverage our federal dollars to give the schools incentives to drive down costs and to encourage states to invest more in their flagship schools,” Warren said. “We need resources and incentives to bring down costs. This is a one-two punch.”

Representative Katherine Clark, a Massachusetts Democrat, introduced a parallel resolution in the House, along with Representatives Raul Grijalva of Arizona and Keith Ellison of Minnesota, all Democrats.

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Clark, in an interview, acknowledged that without money attached to the resolution, it is simply a political guidepost, a “first step” in a national conversation.

So far, the resolution has garnered more than 70 cosponsors among Democrats in Congress, including Senators Edward Markey of Massachusetts, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

“Our ultimate goal is to make debt-free college central to the 2016 election and signal to the candidates that if they embrace the idea, they won’t be out on a limb,” said Adam Green, cofounder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which lobbied Congress on the resolutions.

Borrowers owe an average of $28,400 in federal and private loans combined, according to the Project on Student Debt by the Institute for College Access & Success.

A May poll by Rasmussen Reports found that Democrats, women, and younger voters were more likely to believe that the government should pay for college. But among the 800 adults surveyed, Americans were nearly evenly split — 43 percent agreed with the government paying for college and 40 percent disagreed.

Marv McMoore Jr., former president of College Democrats of Massachusetts, who graduated from Northeastern University last month, recently moved back home with his parents on Long Island to save money while he attends graduate school at Fordham University in New York City.

The son of an auto mechanic, McMoore is the first in his immediate family to graduate from college. The 21-year-old estimates that he will have $60,000 of student loan debt by the time he receives his master’s degree next year. He views the debt-free college campaign as a way to energize a new generation of voters. “With voter apathy among young folks, this is a way to attract them back to the polls,” McMoore said.

The recent push goes further than President Obama’s proposal in January to make two years of community college free — which the White House estimated would cost the federal government $60 billion over 10 years but which stands little chance of passing. A White House official said the president is encouraged that Congress is engaged in the conversation but would not say whether Obama supports the debt- or tuition-free proposals.

Sanders’ bill, which was introduced last month and has yet to draw supporters in the Senate, Democrat or Republican, would cost $750 billion over 10 years, according to his office.

Under the legislation, two-thirds of the cost of tuition and fees would be borne by the federal government and the rest by the states. The federal share would come from a tax on Wall Street. The bill would also eliminate federal profits on loans, build on existing work-study programs to defray costs, and offer incentives for colleges to keep tuition down.

Making public colleges free, said Sanders, an independent running for the Democratic nomination, is the most efficient way to “create the best-educated workforce that we can have.” But critics say they fear the plans to inject more federal money to ease college debt would only prompt college costs to balloon and leave taxpayers on the hook.

Said Lindsey Burke, a fellow with the conservative Heritage Foundation: “We need to think of policies that actually fix the college cost problem, not take taxpayer dollars filtered through government programs and increased subsidies.”

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Clinton plans 'Launch Party' in Concord during Monday visit // WMUR // John DiStaso – June 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton will host her first New Hampshire event that is open to the general public on Monday, WMUR has learned.

The Democratic presidential candidate will make her third visit to the state since announcing her candidacy in mid-April and will hold a "Launch Party with Hillary" in Concord at a venue and time to be announced, the campaign said. Those attending must RSVP and register on the Clinton web site.

The Concord event, which is free, will be among at least three stops she will make in the state that day.

She will also appear at the ticketed Manchester Democratic City Committee Flag Day Dinner at the Puritan Backroom Conference Center at 5 p.m. At least one other stop is being planned, the campaign said.

The visit will take place two days after her formal presidential campaign announcement rally in New York City.

In her prior two visits to the state, Clinton has held roundtables and gatherings with invited guests and what the campaign said were members of the public who expressed an interest in attending. She also met with Granite Staters at a quick stop at an ice cream stand in Derry.

How Huma Abedin became Hillary Clinton's confidante and 'translator' // Fortune // Nina Easton – June 10, 2015

Huma Abedin started as an intern at the Clinton White House. Now she is Hillary Clinton's closest aide, even in controversies.

When Huma Abedin first joined the Clinton White House in the 1990s, she hoped to be assigned to the press office. Growing up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, she had longed to be a journalist—specifically Christiane Amanpour who "looked purposeful—and glamorous." Instead, she was assigned to Hillary Clinton's chief of staff, Melanne Verveer.

"Take a chance," her mother counseled her disappointed daughter, according to Abedin. "Don't be afraid of what you don't know. And don't fall in love with Plan A." Plan B paid off–big time. Two decades later, Abedin is at the center of Clinton's presidential bid, with a title of campaign vice chair. And by most accounts, she is candidate Clinton's closest aide—"Hillary's translator," as one insider puts it.

Abedin is the high-fashion figure glued to Clinton's side—passing notes, whispering in her ear, working her cell phone. During Clinton's 2008 campaign–when Abedin served as the candidate's "body woman"— Clinton communications aide Mandy Grunwald told Vogue: "I'm not sure Hillary could walk out the door without Huma. She's a little like Radar on M*A*S*H. If the air-conditioning is too cold, Huma is there with the shawl. She's always thinking three steps ahead of Hillary."

Two years ago, Abedin and her disgraced congressman husband Anthony Weiner were emerging from the carnage of his sexting scandal. The New York Times described the young couple's life with their toddler as "in retreat." She served as deputy chief of staff under Secretary of State Clinton while he planned his (ultimately unsuccessful) political comeback running for New York mayor.

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As deputy chief of staff under Secretary of State Clinton, Abedin has spent hundreds of air-travel hours with Hillary, developing a relationship that colleagues describes as familial–along with an encyclopedic knowledge of the people and projects that populate the complicated global tangle of Clinton-world. A master of the "velvet no," Abedin calmly manages time demands on her candidate with apologetic grace.

But her tightness with Clinton also has costs. She's been caught up in questions about the propriety of the then-Secretary of State's private email server, and she is the target of an inspector general inquiry—prompted by a Senate Republican– into whether Clinton acted properly in hiring Abedin for government work even while she was employed by the private consulting firm Teneo Holdings. Abedin is also among the State Department aides on the list to be called as witnesses in a House committee investigation into the 2012 Benghazi terror attack.

Bill and Hillary Clinton have been the sun of Abedin's solar system ever since she joined the White House as an intern at age 21. Her late father, of Indian descent, was a university lecturer and her mother a sociology professor; both received their PhD's from the University of Pennsylvania. Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan before moving to Saudi Arabia, Abedin speaks fluent Arabic. She graduated from George Washington University.

At a 2012 Fortune dinner, Abedin said she has learned to take the advice of her mother, and the value of Plan B. "Sixteen years later, I wouldn't change a thing," she said at the time. "And I got to meet Christiane Amanpour."

Read more profiles of the top women behind Hillary Clinton's campaign operation. Next up: Women behind the GOP candidates.

Clinton Foundation donors have a bribery problem // The Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – June 10, 2015

Nigerian businessman Gilbert Chagoury's connections to the Clintons have come under scrutiny following revelations that State Department policy may have benefited him personally while Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state.

A pair of Clinton Foundation donors with financial ties to the former first family have both been at the center of major corruption cases, raising questions about why they chose to give millions to the Clintons' charity.

Nigerian businessman Gilbert Chagoury's connections to the Clintons have come under scrutiny following revelations that State Department policy may have benefited him personally while Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., has repeatedly pressed the State Department for documentation of Hillary Clinton's decision not to place Boko Haram on the terrorist watch list while serving as secretary of state.

"Disturbingly, while the department was refusing to make the [foreign terrorist organization] designation, former President Bill Clinton, also the head of the Clinton Foundation and account owner of the Clinton email domain, participated in events with a long-time donor and major Nigerian land developer, Gilbert Chagoury, who previously agreed to a $66 million plea deal during international investigation into corruption charges against him," Vitter wrote in a March letter to Secretary of State John Kerry.

"We need to know if Mr. Chagoury had any influence in the decision not to designate Boko Haram a [foreign terrorist organization], or had any other influence with Secretary Clinton's foreign policy decisions," Vitter added.

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Chagoury's financial support of the Clintons has raised red flags in the past. In 1996, he was reportedly prodded by a Democratic National Committee fundraiser to give $460,000 to a nonprofit voter registration group that later won the DNC's business.

The group, Vote Now 96, drew attention "from congressional investigators because of its connections to the DNC and indications that in some cases, at least, donors ineligible to give to the party were steered to the voters group," the Washington Post reported in 1997.

Chagoury was one such ineligible donor whose gift to the supposedly nonpartisan organization nonetheless earned him a seat at a White House dinner for top DNC donors months later "although he is not a party contributor and could not legally give to the Democrats," according to the same Washington Post report.

Chagoury's donation was solicited by Mark Weiner, a top Democratic bundler who will co-host a fundraiser for Clinton's presidential campaign in Rhode Island Wednesday.

Chagoury was an adviser to Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha, who held power in Nigeria from 1993-98. He reportedly paid the incoming Nigerian government $300 million to avoid prosecution after Abacha's death.

Chagoury was "believed to have acted as a middleman for the late and corrupt Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha," according to the American Criminal Law Review.

Nigerian media outlets reported Chagoury and his brother, Jack, were among 80 local officials who were indicted in the Halliburton bribery scandal in 2010. The case alleged the Chagoury brothers were involved in a series of bribes to Nigerian officials that preceded Halliburton's acquisition of lucrative oil contracts in the country.

In April 2011, a Lebanese media outlet reported Fouad Siniora, prime minister of Lebanon, "suggested that the U.S. deliver to Chagoury a stern message about the possibility of financial sanctions and travel bans against those who undermine Lebanon's legitimate institutions."

Siniora's call for sanctions against Chagoury came after his ties to Lebanese officials gave the impression that he was interfering in Lebanese politics.

Chagoury did not return a request for comment.

But Chagoury isn't the only international businessman whose checkered past has raised questions about the Clinton Foundation's acceptance of generous donations from foreigners accused of bribery.

Victor Dahdaleh, a Canadian businessman and trustee of the Clinton Foundation, was arrested in October 2011 for his alleged role in a bribery scheme that funneled kickbacks from aluminum conglomerate Alcoa to Aluminium Bahrain.

Dahdaleh reportedly traveled with Bill Clinton through Europe in 2009, shortly after Hillary Clinton took office, and arranged speaking engagements for the former president dating back to 2005.

The U.K.'s Serious Fraud Office dropped its case against Dahdaleh in December 2013 after key witnesses backed

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down, Reuters reported.

The British agency had tapped lawyers from Akin Gum Strayss Hauer and Field to probe the bribery allegations, the same lawyers representing Aluminium Bahrain in "a 'hotly contested' U.S. civil lawsuit against Dahdaleh," which raised "a potential conflict of interest between their assistance to the [Serious Fraud Office] and their own interests in the U.S. legal action."

Akin Gump is also a Clinton Foundation donor.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

Martin O'Malley Backs Controversial Cybersecurity Bill // US News // Tom Risen – June 10, 2015

Cybersecurity is getting heightened attention in the wake of what could be the largest hack of government networks ever, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is presenting himself as the best Democratic presidential candidate to confront the issue.

In an op-ed published Tuesday in Foreign Policy, O'Malley blamed congressional gridlock for delay of legislation he said could protect U.S. networks. Touting his work supporting cybersecurity investment as governor and as co-chairman of the Council of Governors, he said the data breach of the Office of Personnel Management shows "the urgent need to advance a new agenda to improve our nation's cybersecurity."

The Theodore Roosevelt Federal Building that houses the Office of Personnel Management headquarters is shown June 5, 2015 in Washington, D.C. U.S. investigators have said that at least 4 million current and former federal employees might have had their personal information stolen by Chinese hackers.

The hack that affected up to 4 million current and former government workers originated in China, federal investigators have determined, but it is unclear whether the country's Communist government was involved. O'Malley called on the Senate to respond to the data breach by passing the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, which would offer legal protections to companies and enable them to share with the government more information about threats to their networks.

The White House backs the cybersecurity legislation, which passed the House in April, but it also wants changes made in the Senate. Along with calling for amendments to limit the collection and sharing of unnecessary consumer data, the administration said giving companies too much legal protection for failing to protect consumer privacy or to act on hacker threat data "may weaken cybersecurity writ large." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., announced on Wednesday that he wants to expedite passage of the Senate version of the bill, called the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, by attaching it to the National Defense Authorization Act now on the Senate floor.

Cybersecurity professionals, however, remain convinced both pieces of legislation could damage privacy rights and endanger networks by sharing unnecessary information.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who are both presidential candidates, reportedly oppose the Senate bill because of the similar concerns about privacy, U.S. News has learned. O'Malley noted these concerns in his op-ed when he talked about his support for the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

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"After making changes to protect consumer data and ensure the appropriate level of legal protection for companies, Congress should pass this legislation," O'Malley said in the op-ed. "We need to ensure that privacy issues are directly and adequately addressed in order to build the trust necessary for businesses and other organizations to work with the government on the safeguards we need to protect both."

McConnell's move to attach cybersecurity legislation to a must-pass defense funding bill would damage the process to address privacy concerns, the Center for Democracy & Technology said in a blog post on Wednesday. The advocacy group warned that the Senate cybersecurity bill could enable the expansion of government surveillance and would not address the conduct of the National Security Agency and other agencies. The advocacy group wants the bill to discourage government conduct that could damage cybersecurity, including the stockpiling of "zero day" vulnerabilities in consumer software that could allow intelligence agencies to monitor or hack networks.

"This move would almost certainly stifle necessary debate on the privacy and civil liberties problems in the bill and thwart amendments that Senators have been crafting to address those problems," the blog post said.

A group of engineers from firms including Twitter and Cisco on April 16 sent a letter opposing the bill to House and Senate lawmakers, adding that security professionals already share threat data while complying with federal law.

"We do not need new legal authorities to share information that helps us protect systems from future attacks," the letter reads.

Strong national cybersecurity is a bipartisan issue likely to be advocated by all presidential candidates, but Congress has failed to pass a comprehensive bill on the issue in recent years because of concerns related to privacy protection. Support for stronger privacy on the issue could be a way for a candidate to stand apart in the 2016 election.

2016 hopeful O'Malley steps out on cybersecurity **// The Hill // Cory Bennett – June 10, 2015**

Martin O'Malley is trying to make his mark as the Democratic presidential candidate most focused on cybersecurity.

The former Maryland governor on Tuesday penned an essay for Foreign Policy that laid out his cyber agenda in the wake of the recent breach that exposed 4 million federal workers' records at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

"A new agenda is urgently needed to improve our nation's cybersecurity," O'Malley said.

The OPM hack has suddenly thrust cybersecurity into the 2016 election.

GOP hopefuls have used the breach to lambaste President Obama's policy on China, chastising him for not standing up to the Asian power.

But candidates seeking the Democratic nomination have been mostly mum on cybersecurity. Neither former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the presumptive front-runner, nor Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) have made an issue of the OPM breach.

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O'Malley's essay wasn't directly critical of Obama, but he did argue the government needs to better promote collaboration between the public and private sector, while also boosting funds for state-level initiatives to bolster the nation's cyber defenses.

"Greater security requires greater investment," O'Malley said. "Investing more resources in cybersecurity is an economic and national security priority."

He pointed to the stalled cyber bill in Congress that would shield companies from legal liability when sharing data with the government about hackers. By enhancing this information exchange, the bill's backers believe the country can better understand and defend against cyber threats.

But concerns the measure will simply shuttle more private data to intelligence agencies have caused it languish in the upper chamber. Senate Republicans are now trying to attach the offering to the annual defense spending bill in an effort to speed up its timeline.

"We need to ensure that privacy issues are directly and adequately addressed in order to build the trust necessary for businesses and other organizations to work with the government on the safeguards we need to protect both," O'Malley said.

O'Malley also promoted state-level cyber investment, recalling his time as co-chairman of the Council of Governors.

"We pushed for every state's National Guard to develop cybersecurity units, which could be established quickly and affordably, and tap the skill sets of civilians," he said. "The federal government should support these efforts with financial and technical assistance."

He contended that he applied all of these agenda items during his time as Maryland governor. He pointed to CyberMaryland, "an initiative to attract and convene new cybersecurity firms."

"We targeted more than 40,000 state employees for cybersecurity training and conducted vulnerability assessments to test resilience to attacks," he said. "We also created a cybersecurity tax credit and launched a program to train 1,000 workers for the industry."

Cybersecurity was not a major campaign issue in the 2014 cycle, so it remains to be seen whether this flare-up lasts into the heat of the 2016 election season.

"Our digital information and networks are critical to our economic might and national security," O'Malley said. "We should treat them like the precious resources that they are."

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders Denies Internet Claim on Dual Israeli Citizenship **// NYT // Gerry Mullany – June 10, 2015**

Senator Bernie Sanders declared in a radio interview on Wednesday that "I do not have dual citizenship with Israel," batting away an incorrect assertion that has cropped up on the Internet.

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The Democratic presidential hopeful was appearing on the Diane Rehm Show on public radio when the topic came up. At one point, Ms. Rehm said to Mr. Sanders, “Senator, you have dual citizenship with Israel.”

To which Mr. Sanders replied, “I do not have dual citizenship with Israel.” He then added, “I’m an American.”

“I don’t know where that question came from,” he said

“I am an American citizen, and I have visited Israel on a couple of occasions,” Mr. Sanders continued. “No, I’m an American citizen, period.”

Mr. Sanders, who is Jewish, blamed the misinformation on “the nonsense that goes on in the Internet.”

Mr. Sanders then noted that his father came to the United States from Poland “at the age of 17 without a nickel in his pocket.”

Ms. Rehm, who herself comes from an ethnic Arab heritage of Greek Orthodox Syrian background, also asked Mr. Sanders if there were “members of Congress who do have dual citizenship or is that part of the fable?” Mr. Sanders replied that he did not know.

Internet searches provide numerous lists incorrectly showing scores of members of Congress and high-level members of the Obama administration holding dual American-Israeli citizenship. Ms. Rehm did not say where she got her information.

De Blasio to Skip Clinton Rally, Praises Rival Sanders **// WSJ // Erica Orden – June 10, 2015**

One of Hillary Clinton’s rivals for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination received an informal boost Wednesday from a curious source: Mrs. Clinton’s former campaign manager, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Mr. de Blasio, who managed Mrs. Clinton’s winning 2000 campaign for Senate and supported her 2008 presidential bid, said at an unrelated news conference that “I’ve always liked what I heard from Bernie Sanders,” the independent Vermont senator who is running for the Democratic 2016 nomination.

“I think Bernie Sanders is a great senator, is a great voice for a fair society and a fair economy,” he said.

Mr. de Blasio, a Democrat, also said that he wouldn’t attend Mrs. Clinton’s campaign rally on Saturday in New York City, on Roosevelt Island.

“I’m waiting to hear, as I’ve said, her larger vision for addressing income inequality,” Mr. de Blasio said when asked if he would attend her June 13 event. “I look forward to that.”

Mr. de Blasio has sought lately to cast himself as a national voice for liberalism.

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A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton didn't immediately respond a question about whether Mr. de Blasio was invited to the rally, nor to a request for comment on the mayor's remarks about Mr. Sanders.

The mayor also praised Mrs. Clinton more extensively on Wednesday than he has since the start of her campaign.

"I've been very impressed by the comment she's given so far on a host of issues," he said.

"I saw her speech on voting rights — it was very powerful," he said. "I thought her vision for that was exactly right. I'm very impressed by her criminal justice reform speech. What I am waiting to hear about is the fight against income inequality, how we raise wages and benefits."

Mrs. Clinton last week proposed that Americans be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18, unless they opt out, and called for an expansion of early-voting opportunities across the country.

Mr. de Blasio has had a lengthy relationship with both Mrs. Clinton and former President Bill Clinton, in whose administration he worked as an official at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This isn't the first time Mr. de Blasio has distanced himself from Mrs. Clinton's campaign or expressed reservations about her platform. In recent months he has said repeatedly that he hasn't decided whether to endorse her 2016 presidential bid.

In April, Mr. de Blasio said in an interview on NBC that he wouldn't endorse her "until I see an actual vision of where they want to go."

"She's a tremendous public servant," he told NBC. "I think she is one of the most qualified people to ever run for this office. And by the way, thoroughly vetted, we can say that. But we need to see the substance."

Sanders wants war spending paid for **// The Hill // Jordain Carney – June 10, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) wants to require Congress to pay for any spending in the Pentagon's war fund.

Sanders, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, is offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would require that lawmakers offset spending in the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund by raising new revenues.

Congress isn't currently required to pay for any spending through OCO. The war fund also isn't subjected to the congressionally mandated budget caps under the sequester.

Sanders has long criticized Congress for not paying for wars, and a fact sheet from his office says that the Iraq and Afghanistan wars "were put on the nation's credit card while the president cut taxes for millionaires and billionaires at the same time."

The 2016 contender's amendment to the defense policy bill comes after he called for a "war tax" earlier this year.

Sanders wanted to include a new tax on millionaires to finance the country's wars as part of a budget resolution.

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Critics argue that the fund, meant to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and now financing operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, has turned into a slush fund for the Pentagon.

Sanders faces an uphill path to getting his amendment approved as part of the defense policy bill. Though Democrats have taken aim at an additional $38 billion in war funding included in the defense policy bill, they failed to gain enough support to fence off the money until Congress reaches a deal on the budget caps under the sequester.

Bernie Sanders, Gun Nut // Slate // Mark Joseph Stern – June 10, 2015

When Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders jumped into the 2016 presidential race, he was widely hailed as a far-left socialist who would appeal to the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. A liberal challenge to Hillary Clinton, said Politico. True progressives' liberal alternative, trumpeted FiveThirtyEight. But before liberal Democrats flock to Sanders, they should remember that the Vermont senator stands firmly to Clinton's right on one issue of overwhelming importance to the Democratic base: gun control. During his time in Congress, Sanders opposed several moderate gun control bills. He also supported the most odious NRA–backed law in recent memory—one that may block Sandy Hook families from winning a lawsuit against the manufacturer of the gun used to massacre their children.

Sanders, an economic populist and middle-class pugilist, doesn't talk much about guns on the campaign trail. But his voting record paints the picture of a legislator who is both skeptical of gun control and invested in the interests of gun owners—and manufacturers. In 1993, then-Rep. Sanders voted against the Brady Act, which mandated federal background checks for gun purchasers and restricted felons' access to firearms. As a senator, Sanders supported bills to allow firearms in checked bags on Amtrak trains and block funding to any foreign aid organization that registered or taxed Americans' guns. Sanders is dubious that gun control could help prevent gun violence, telling one interviewer after Sandy Hook that "if you passed the strongest gun control legislation tomorrow, I don't think it will have a profound effect on the tragedies we have seen." (He has since endorsed some modest gun control measures.)

None of these views are particularly shocking for a Vermont representative: Sanders' deep-blue state has both high gun ownership and incredibly lax gun laws, and it's perfectly logical for the senator to support his constituents' firearms enthusiasm. And a close friend of Sanders once said that the senator "thinks there's an elitism in the anti-gun movement."

The act's primary purpose is as simple as it is cold-blooded.

But Sanders' vote for a different kind of pro-gun bill is more puzzling—and profoundly disturbing. In 2005, a Republican-dominated Congress passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). This law doesn't protect gun owners; it protects gun manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers. The PLCAA was the No. 1 legislative priority of the National Rifle Association for years, because it shields gun makers and dealers from most liability when their firearms are used criminally. It is one of the most noxious pieces of pro-gun legislation ever passed. And Bernie Sanders voted for it. (Sanders' campaign has not replied to a request for comment.)

Because the PLCAA deals with tort law—not a topic of great interest for most Americans—it didn't stir much outrage when first passed. But the act's primary purpose is as simple as it is cold-blooded. Every state imposes liability on manufacturers who are negligent in their production and sale of products. If I crash my Prius because its accelerator malfunctions, I can sue Toyota for negligently manufacturing a faulty pedal. If my child dismembers himself with a blender at Sears, I can sue Sears for negligently leaving that blender within a child's reach. If I get stabbed by a teenager with a switchblade, I might be able to sue the pawn shop owner who illegally sold a knife to a minor.

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Before the PLCAA, most states imposed some form of tort liability on gun makers and sellers. If a gun manufacturer made an assault rifle that could slaughter dozens of people in a few seconds, for instance, one of its victims might sue the company for negligently making a gun that could foreseeably be used for mass murder. If a gun seller sold a gun to a customer without performing any kind of background check—and then the buyer opened fire on the subway—his victims might sue that seller for negligently providing a gun to a mentally unstable person. The standards in each state differed, but the bottom line remained the same: Victims of gun violence and their families could recover financially from the people and companies who negligently enabled gun violence.

The PLCAA changed all that. Remarkably, the act wiped out gun liability laws in all 50 states, rendering them invalid except for a handful of narrow exceptions. (So much for states' rights.) Thanks to the law, victims of mass shootings are barred from suing the companies that produced a wartime weapon that no civilian could ever need. With few exceptions, victims cannot sue a gun seller for negligently providing a semiautomatic weapon to a lunatic who shoots them in a movie theater. Even if a jury decides a gun maker or seller should be liable, the PLCAA invalidates its verdict. The law tramples upon states' rights, juries' rights, and fundamental precepts of America's civil justice system. And it received Bernie Sanders' support—in both 2003 (when it was first introduced) and 2005 (when it finally passed).

Every few years, the families of mass shooting victims take gun makers to court for creating a weapon seemingly designed to kill as many people as possible in as short a time as possible. Every time, they run headfirst into the PLCAA. Right now, the families of Sandy Hook victims are searching for a loophole in the law, so they can sue Bushmaster for making the gun that sent 154 bullets through 20 children and six adults in 264 seconds. They will probably fail.

Several liberal congressional representatives have recently spoken out against the PLCAA, and if Democrats retake both houses of Congress, they may make repealing the law a priority. Hillary Clinton, who voted against the act as a senator, would almost certainly sign a repeal bill. Would a President Bernie Sanders? Until he says otherwise, we have every reason to believe the ostensible progressive hero would stand behind the vile legislation he championed just a decade ago.

Lead, follow or get out of the way: Bernie Sanders opts for latter in Islamic State fight // The Washington Times // S.A. Miller – June 10, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernard Sanders said Wednesday that the United States should not take a leading role in the war against the terrorist army known as Islamic State.

He said Middle East countries should "step up" and lead the fight to turn back the advancing Islamist terrorists in Iraq.

"At the end of the day … I do not believe the United States can or should lead the effort in that part of the world. What is taking place now is a war for the soul of Islam," Mr. Sanders said on NPR's Diane Rehm Show.

Mr. Sanders, an avowed socialist from Vermont, said that countries such as Saudi Arabia, which has the third-largest defense budget in the world, Turkey, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates should "step up to the plate and lead."

He said the United States and Western countries would play a supporting role.

Mr. Sanders' comments come as President Obama is considering a Pentagon proposal to send 400 more U.S. troops to beef up the training of Sunni forces in Iraq, hoping to turn back advances by the Islamic State, which is

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also known by the acronyms ISIS or ISIL.

The proposed build-up follows criticism of Mr. Obama saying Monday that he doesn't yet have a "complete strategy" to combat the Islamic State.

"I think everyone understands ISIS is a barbaric organization and that they must be defeated," said Mr. Sanders, though he added it wasn't worth the cost of getting the U.S. drawn into another Middle East war.

"But here is my nightmare, and I see it moving forward every day," he said. "You have a lot of Republicans who apparently did not learn anything from the never-ending war in Afghanistan, learned nothing from what happened in Iraq and want us in perpetual warfare in the Middle East. I'm strongly opposed to that."

Mr. Sanders' is waging a long-shot campaign to overtake front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

CHAFEE

Chafee: Hillary is 'more like the Republicans' **// The Hill // Jesse Byrnes – June 10, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Lincoln Chafee on Wednesday likened Hillary Clinton to a Republican, citing her hawkish positions on foreign policy.

"Really the main difference is our approach to the world," Chafee said in an interview Wednesday on "Fox and Friends," mentioning ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

"She's more like the Republicans," Chafee said. "My argument is, you won't have a choice if Secretary Clinton is the Democratic nominee because she's so similar to the Republicans."

He echoed that sentiment in another interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," suggesting his party nominate "someone that differs from the Republican approach to the world."

"Where we're going in the world — her tenure as secretary of State, her vote for the Iraq war — kind of indicates a similarity to the Republican candidates that are running," he said on MSNBC.

The former Rhode Island governor is mounting a long-shot bid against Clinton, who is running well ahead of all her rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Chafee has dished up relentless criticism of Clinton's 2002 vote as a senator authorizing the Iraq war, and has described her muscular approach to foreign policy as similar to the neo-conservatives who were part of the George W. Bush administration.

Last week he also discussed "questionable ethics practices" that have followed Clinton over the years.

"I think that our candidates should stick to the ideas that draw a contrast between our party and our party's agenda and the Republicans," Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Fla.) said

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on CNN when pressed whether Chafee's comments were appropriate.

Chafee somewhat doubled down Wednesday over his criticism of Clinton.

"Well obviously she has a credibility problem over a long history of ethical questions, most recently with the emails and the Clinton Foundation donations," he said on MSNBC.

"But really my main criticism, if I could, is in her approach to the world. And that's really what I want to talk about in the campaign."

The hidden history behind Lincoln Chafee's metric proposal // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – June 10, 2015

When Democrat Lincoln Chafee told a group of mostly young journalists and even younger college students that if elected president he would convert the U.S. to the metric system, the response in the room was laughter.

Virtually every other country in the world uses the metric system. But for this millennial audience, the idea of the U.S. making a switch seemed on par with the moon colonies of Newt Gingrich's 2012 presidential campaign.

For critics who have followed Chafee's political career more closely in Rhode Island, it was entirely in character. "He is very consistent in his bizarro world. That was not a bad day. It'll come up every day," said Steve Laffey, who challenged Chafee in the 2006 Republican Senate primary. (Chafee was a Republican until 2007.) "He's a good guy, he's just odd," Laffey added.

Chafee framed his push for a switch to metric as a way for the U.S. to improve its status in a world where every country except Liberia and Myanmar uses the metric system. Despite that goal, it's hard to find anyone — including metric advocates — taking Chafee's proposal seriously.

That's because measurement is woven into to the most fundamental parts of life, from how Americans cook our food (in Fahrenheit), commute to work (in miles), build our homes (in feet), and clothe ourselves (in inches). It would take an enormous psychological change and a huge expenditure of political capital to convert a country of 315 million people to metric.

That was, in fact, the argument against converting made in the 1970s by former Rhode Island Sen. John Chafee, Lincoln Chafee's father, who said the government had far more important issues to tackle than metrication, as the conversion is known.

In addition, even advocates for the metric system concede that American exceptionalism and its cultural identity are bad fits for a francophone international measurement system.

"We have this thing where the metric system is seen as un-American. It's a really emotional issue for some people," said Paul Trusten of the U.S. Metric Association, which has been leading the charge for metrication for the past 99 years.

When the Federal Highway Administration announced in 1977 that it was going to start putting kilometers on signs, it was inundated with 6,000 public letters, many from people who saw the system as communist plot. "This change to the Metric System is just part of the Communist Diversionary to keep our country in an uproar," wrote a man from Kansas City.

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Conservatives and even anti-establishment liberals clubbed Jimmy Carter with metric, and when Reagan essentially killed the conversion in 1982, the board responsible for pushing metrication conceded there was “overwhelming” opposition.

Still, Trusten is glad Chafee is raising the issue. ”It’s been silent for so long, and now people are talking about it,” he said.

For those familiar with the history of the metric system in the U.S., Chafee’s idea is both more and less serious than it might appear.

Technically, but only technically, metric has been the official U.S. measurement standard for more than 100 years. In 1893, after a fire in London damaged the original British Imperial Yard — the physical metal bar that determined for the world how long three feet should be — the U.S. federal agency in charge of measuring stuff started defining U.S. measurements in relation to their metric counterparts.

Since then, a foot is officially defined as 0.3048 of a meter. A pound is 453.59237 grams. “We’ve actually been on the metric system since 1893, in a sense,” Trusten said.

For American metric advocates, widespread adoption seemed tantalizingly just over the horizon for decades or more. The closest the U.S. came to conversion was in 1975, as other countries were going metric and trade groups, scientists, engineers and others successfully lobbied Congress to follow suit. Two days before Christmas that year, President Gerald Ford signed a law making metric “the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce.”

“To say that this legislation is historic is an understatement,” Ford declared. But there were warning signs, even then.

The next four presidents offered lip service instead of real action to move forward with metric. Finally, in the face of political opposition and status quo bias, momentum petered out to almost zero kilogram meters per second (the metric measure for momentum).

The U.S. Metric Association maintains a tally every time metrication is mentioned in the press and academic journals. The graph elegantly shows the rise and fall of the metric movement in America. Like a cartoon mountain, discussion of metrication starts near zero around the turn of the 20th century, then peaked in the mid-1970s, before falling back towards zero by the turn of the turn of the next century.

In 1982, Reagan defunded and abolished the U.S. Metric Board, which was supposed to spearhead conversion. That signaled the beginning of the end for metric conversion, even though Reagan six years later signed an omnibus law that, tucked deep inside, contained a measure stipulating the metric system “be used, to the extent economically feasible, in Federal agency’s’ procurements, grants, and other business-related activities.”

So some parts of the federal government have adopted metric, others still use the old system. A federal law requires consumer products packages to list both.

That helps explain why wine comes in 750-milliliter bottles, while beer comes in 12-ounce cans. Nyquil comes in 8-ounce bottles, but its active ingredients are measured in milligrams. Soda is available in both customary and metric, with 20-ounce and 2-liter bottles.

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But widespread adoption never regained momentum, even after a conversion error between inches and centimeters was blamed for the crash of NASA's $125 million Mars Climate Orbiter in 1999.

Adam Toobin, who founded Students for Chafee at Brown University in Rhode Island, Chafee's alma mater and the school where he taught classes between stints as senator and governor, acknowledged metric may not be the most obvious way to fire up young people.

"I support it in theory, totally," he said. "It's not the perfect issue. The Internet would make a lot of fun with that one."

OTHER

Clinton, O'Malley, Sanders and Webb to attend Iowa dinner **// AP – June 10, 2015**

Four Democratic presidential hopefuls will appear at an Iowa Democratic Party event next month.

The state party organization announced Wednesday that their "Hall of Fame" dinner will be attended by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb. All but Webb have officially announced they are running for president.

The event will be held July 17 in Cedar Rapids. Clinton's Iowa spokeswoman Lily Adams confirmed that this is the first announced multi-candidate event for Clinton, the front-runner in the field. Some other Democratic candidates have previously appeared together.

Iowa Democrats have seen less big candidate round-ups than Republicans, given the smaller field of declared and potential contenders.

Warren shames both parties on college affordability **// Politico // Allie Grasgreen – June 10, 2015**

Progressive hero Sen. Elizabeth Warren on Wednesday hammered both Republicans and Democrats in an urgent call to make college more affordable.

Warren, a divisive figure who so far has had little success with her own legislative proposal to allow borrowers to refinance their federal student loans, seized the momentum of an issue that is resonating on the campaign trail to tell her colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get past their own hang-ups.

Story Continued Below

Warren spread around the blame, hitting states for divesting in higher education, Congress for letting resources taper off while the feds profit off student debt, and the Education Department for lax enforcement of troublesome loan servicers and for-profit colleges.

"It starts with courage — the courage of both Democrats and Republicans to admit how much is wrong and that the other side has a real point," she said, according to prepared remarks to be delivered at the headquarters of the American Federation of Teachers. "We can do it if Republicans admit that we will never have affordable college

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without investing more resources in education, and if Democrats admit that we will never have affordable college without demanding real accountability in exchange for those investments."

Warren's comments are a clear indicator that Democrats plan to keep pushing college affordability in Congress and in the presidential race — an issue that Hillary Clinton's campaign manager recently called "what voters are looking for."

Warren also pointed, aggressively, at colleges and universities for exacerbating the nation's student debt problem, which is about $1.2 trillion and climbing.

She's struck a similar tone at Senate education committee hearings of late, grilling college presidents who want Congress to ease regulations or increase federal aid, but won't commit to lowering tuition in return.

"Resources matter — but so do incentives," Warren said.

Following the economic recession, higher education bore the brunt of public funding cuts. Even now, colleges in almost every state are spending less per student than they were in 2008 — leading to program cuts, tuition increases and a heightened reliance on federal aid.

But colleges can't blame governments for their problems, Warren said. She took a swing at schools that "have doubled down in a competition for students that involves fancy dorms, high-end student centers, climbing walls and lazy rivers — paying for those amenities with still higher tuition and student fees."

Although Warren came down hard on the department — nothing new for the consumer watchdog, a seasoned critic of the agency's contracts and oversight — much of it will likely ring true. Just this week, Ted Mitchell, the top higher education official at the department, noted the risk of states supplanting their own funds with federal dollars through initiatives designed to increase college access and completion.

President Barack Obama's free community college proposal, for example, requires states to pick up part of the tab.

It's less clear how an increasingly popular "debt-free college" movement — of which Warren is a part — would have states contribute.

But with a move in that direction, Democrats are taking their focus on student debt from the 2014 midterm elections to an even broader, more progressive level.

High-profile Republicans have yet to come up with a proposal for reducing college costs that stands up to Democrats' sweeping campaign promises: 2016 contender Sen. Marco Rubio has offered several plans for reforming the student loan system, for example. And Republicans in Congress worked with Democrats in 2013 to strike a bipartisan deal that has reduced student loan interest rates in recent years.

But none of their proposals have the allure of Democrats' plan for college with no student debt at all.

Some Republican candidates, including Rubio, meanwhile, have track records of supporting for-profit colleges that could become liabilities. Rubio wrote the Education Department in the summer of 2014 to ask the

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department to show “leniency” towards the now-defunct Corinthian Colleges after the department placed the for-profit under strict oversight.

Jeb Bush also addressed the for-profit trade group Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities in 2014, telling the crowd that “we must empower people to make choices about their education.”

Warren reiterated today that she wants to tighten the rules on for-profits.

In other cases, potential Republican candidates such as Scott Walker have proposed slashing state higher education budgets — another liability on the campaign trail.

Earlier Wednesday, Warren appeared with other members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus to highlight the growing interest from Democrats in the debt-free college idea. Senate and House resolutions supporting the concept have a combined 62 co-sponsors including Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Bobby Scott, the ranking Democrat on the House education committee.

There, Rep. Keith Ellison told a crowd of debt-free advocates to “get ready to get your marching shoes on.”

Democratic presidential hopefuls are raising the issue on the campaign trail. Though Clinton hasn’t offered any specifics, liberals swooned when she said last month in Iowa, “We have to deal with the indebtedness — to try to move toward making college as debt-free as possible.”

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley recently told supporters nationwide that “every student should be able to go to college debt-free.”

And Sen. Bernie Sanders actually issued a concrete proposal, in the form of legislation that would make tuition free at public colleges.

Warren’s remarks come just days after the department offered a long-awaited plan to help thousands of students at shuttered for-profit college giant Corinthian Colleges deal with millions in student loan debt. More than a dozen congressional Democrats pushed the agency to forgive the debt of those students and others whose colleges may have committed fraud. (The department found that Corinthian falsified job placement rates, and the now-bankrupt company is also under investigation by several federal agencies and state attorneys general.)

But taxpayers will be stuck with the bill, to the tune of anywhere from more than $500 million, in the case of Corinthian students whom the department has already deemed eligible for loan forgiveness, to upward of $3.5 billion, the total loan portfolio of students who attended one of the college’s campuses in the last five years.

Warren also delivered the speech as work is heating up on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the massive bill governing federal financial aid and other college regulations.

In her speech, the Massachusetts senator endorsed some policies that are being considered in a process that Senate education committee Chairman Lamar Alexander insists will be bipartisan.

For example, Warren plugged her legislation that would require colleges to reimburse some portion of defaulted student loans, in theory encouraging institutions to “pay attention to rising costs and failing students.” Such risk-sharing concepts have gained traction from congressional Republicans, too.

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The federal government should simplify the application process for federal student aid, she said — as Alexander and other members from both parties have said. Even the White House is on board with that one.

Other ideas are less likely to find broad support.

Warren floated a maintenance of effort rule for states, requiring them to maintain minimum investments in schools. That idea emerged at a reauthorization hearing last week — but Alexander shot it down, fast.

And, unsurprisingly, Warren touted her student loan refinancing legislation, which the Senate has blocked twice. Republicans have staunchly opposed lowering interest rates for existing borrowers, though Warren notes some states — like North Dakota, under Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple — have done so on their own.

Some research has argued student loan debt is dragging down the economy, preventing borrowers from starting businesses and buying homes, cars and the like.

But that notion has its critics. At a hearing last week, for instance, Alexander asked why nobody's panicking about the comparable cumulative level of car loan debt.

It's more familiar and less intimidating, witnesses said.

GOP

BUSH

How Jeb Bush's campaign ran off course before it even began // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe and Robert Costa – June 10, 2015

When asked to pinpoint where Jeb Bush's presidential effort began running into trouble, many confidants utter a single word: Dallas.

Mike Murphy, Bush's political alter ego, decided early on to hold regular senior staff meetings at an unusual location: a Hyatt hotel inside the terminal at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. The idea was that it was a central and relatively inexpensive gathering place for a team scattered from Los Angeles, where Murphy lives, to Miami, where the would-be candidate resides.

It went fine at first but quickly became an awkward routine. Donors and other Republicans found the setup ungainly for a campaign-in-waiting that was supposed to be based in Florida.

Older Bush hands also grew unhappy with rapid hiring by new advisers, and relationships frayed, according to Bush associates. And as the former Florida governor began to founder on the trail and in the polls, the discussions flared into arguments about how to divvy up money and resources between Bush's allied super PAC and his official campaign.

"These things are always tug of wars," Thomas D. Rath, a Bush family friend in New Hampshire, said of the initial sessions. "It's almost like the first day of school, everyone trying to get to the right place and find the right seats."

Bush talks to the media after attending a house party in March in Dover, N.H., in March. (Matt McClain/The

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Washington Post)

The airport huddles were just one sign among many of a political operation going off course — disjointed in message and approach, torn between factions and more haphazard than it appeared on the surface. Bush's first six months as an all-but-declared candidate have been defined by a series of miscalculations, leaving his standing considerably diminished ahead of his formal entry into the race on Monday.

In interviews this week, dozens of Bush backers and informed Republicans — most of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to comment candidly — described an overly optimistic, even haughty exploratory operation. Strategic errors were exacerbated by unexpected stumbles by the would-be candidate and internal strife within his team, culminating in a staff shake-up this week.

The original premise of Bush's candidacy — that a bold, fast start would scare off potential rivals and help him overcome the burden of his last name — has proved to be misguided.

His operation's ability to rake in large checks also fueled inflated expectations. Supporters acknowledged this week that an allied super PAC was likely to fall short — perhaps substantially — of predictions that it would bring in $100 million in the first half of the year.

On the stump, Bush has stuck to his pledge not to shift to the right to win the primary, but his middle-of-the-road positions on immigration and education have come off more as out of step with the base of his party than shrewdly pragmatic. His wonky question-and-answer exchanges with voters sometimes resemble college lectures rather than a friendly appeal for votes.

The troubles have eroded the image Bush has sought to present as the one Republican uniquely ready for the presidential stage. He has slipped in polls from presumed front-runner to one of several candidates jumbled toward the top of an increasingly crowded field.

"We've learned that the prospect of a big financial advantage is not going to keep people out of the race and that the notion of a new face is stronger than we might have thought," Vin Weber, an outside Bush adviser, said in an interview. "That requires modest adjustments in strategy, not wholesale changes."

After weeks of bad press, "donors were getting a little edgy," Weber said. "No one is ready to jump ship. Nobody has lost heart. But they have watched other candidates rise in the polls."

Speaking Wednesday in Berlin during an overseas trip, Bush expressed confidence. "It's June, for crying out loud, so we've got a long way to go," he said, adding later: "I'm going to compete everywhere. If I'm a candidate, there's no fifth-place, you know, kind of mentality in my mind."

Forced to make up lost ground, Bush, his aides and his super-PAC allies are now preparing plans to attack the records and experience of his GOP competition, especially Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Rand Paul (Ky.) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. A summer originally envisioned as a season of slow and warm introductions to voters is now poised to be a battle as Bush tries to recapture his place atop the field.

"The Bushes have always underestimated the depth of the base's dissatisfaction with their policies, and they take the criticism personally," Laura Ingraham, a conservative talk-radio host, said in an interview. "Jeb has to try to understand the reasons why conservatives have problems with him instead of crowing about how principled he is."

Aides bristle at what they consider the media's relentless focus on Bush's personal and professional past. They say that out on the campaign trail, in visits to more than a dozen states, he has been doing exactly what he should.

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“Interacting with people on the road who deal with real issues . . . that’s what brings true joy to Jeb,” Sally Bradshaw, a longtime consultant, said in a recent e-mail.

Bush started with an aggressive series of steps late last year and early this year— a kind of “shock and awe” entry that caught fellow contenders by surprise. The moves were designed to send an unambiguous signal to fundraisers and party activists and to reinforce a natural advantage Bush had with establishment donors.

At the same time, Bush’s inner circle operated on the theory that there was little that could be gained by trying to speed up the political clock and that most voters in early states would not begin paying attention until later in the year.

Bush revived a 650-member alumni network of aides who worked for him as governor and recruited 21 veterans of his father and brother’s administrations to advise him on foreign policy. He hired state directors in the first four early states, aides for outreach to evangelicals and Hispanics, and a spokeswoman dedicated to fielding questions from the Spanish-language press.

As Bush travels the country, he has fielded more than 900 questions from donors, reporters and voters, according to aides. He has maintained a busy schedule that stretches from the early-voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada — where conservative Republicans remain skeptical — to places visited less frequently at this early stage by presidential candidates, including Denver, Seattle and Puerto Rico.

Despite those efforts, recent surveys put Bush in a five-way tie for the lead. Recent polls touted by his advisers give him a wide lead in New Hampshire, but others taken nationally and in the early states put him behind Rubio and Walker.

Sensing Bush’s vulnerabilities, Ohio Gov. John Kasich this week hired two veteran GOP operatives as he prepares to launch a bid and make a play for the same donors Bush has already wooed.

“I didn’t think I was going to be back up here again, because frankly I thought Jeb was just going to suck all the air out of the room, and it just hasn’t happened,” Kasich told New Hampshire business leaders last week.

Bush dispatched one possible rival early when Mitt Romney decided not to run again. His fast entrance also bruised the chances of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is still pondering a bid. They did not regard Rubio as a likely opponent but were proved wrong when the young, telegenic Cuban American jumped in the race.

Early on, there were signs that Bush’s ability to command huge amounts of cash for his allied Right to Rise super PAC was emerging as the dominant characteristic of his potential candidacy. His team laid out presidential-style goals for fundraisers, asking them to hit goals of $50,000, $100,000, $250,000 or $500,000 by April 17. The money was flowing into the super PAC so rapidly that his advisers issued an edict — no contributions of more than $1 million, for now.

“He was more of a super-PAC candidate than a retail candidate,” said one Republican close to the Bush operation. “The candidate hasn’t been out stumping for a while. When was the last time he’s asked anyone for a vote? It’s been quite a few years.”

Those concerns, simmering under the surface, finally boiled over one week in mid-May with a series of interviews focused on the most obvious issue imaginable for a Bush: the Iraq war.

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Starting with an interview aired on Fox News on Monday, May 11, Bush struggled over four days to answer whether he would have authorized the war begun by his brother given what is known now about bad intelligence. He first said yes, then said "maybe," and then refused to answer altogether.

Finally that Thursday he attempted to settle the issue at a campaign-style event in Arizona. "Here's the deal," he said. "If we're all supposed to answer hypothetical questions — knowing what we know now, what would you have done — I would have not engaged. I would not have gone into Iraq."

The episode served to crystallize some of the key concerns about Bush — his reluctance to criticize or distance himself from the unpopular policies of George W. Bush, and his tendency toward prickliness if pushed.

"We should have had that answer nailed down," one donor said. "There were people who were really shaken by that."

By the time major party donors gathered in Dallas in late May for a meeting of the Republican Governors Association's executive roundtable, the overwhelming sentiment was that Jeb Bush was less formidable than many thought he was going to be, according to several participants. Some flatly stated that they did not believe he could win the nomination.

People close to Bush started getting anxious, according to a top party fundraiser with close ties to his advisers — and things began to deteriorate inside the Bush team.

David Kochel, an Iowa-based strategist and former Romney aide, had been brought aboard in January as a de facto campaign manager. As the months wore on, Bradshaw and Murphy became jittery about Kochel's concentration on staffing issues rather than deflecting the shots being thrown Bush's way.

Meanwhile, Bush was growing chummy with Danny Diaz, a 39-year-old Washington native and onetime plumber, who was spotted several times on the trail while Kochel ground away at headquarters near the Miami airport.

By late May, Kochel's grip on power had eroded. Bradshaw and Murphy moved with the candidate's blessing to push Kochel into a lesser role and ensure they alone had final say about the allocation of resources. The candidate, urged on by his allies and donors, suggested that a more aggressive approach was necessary.

On Monday, just as Bush prepared to leave for Europe, Diaz was named the campaign manager.

Friends and donors are hopeful that Bush has corrected course and that his substantial resources will carry him further than others.

"He's going to try to do it his way without acting with every change in the wind, without doing full face-plants on the pandering," said Tallahassee lobbyist John "Mac" Stipanovich, a Bush ally.

Jeb Bush's 'It's June!' argument has two major flaws **// WaPo // Philip Bump – June 10, 2015**

"It's June, for crying out loud," Jeb Bush said with apparent exasperation on Wednesday, "so we've got a long way to go." Bush was responding to a question about his standing in the polls, which, given the size of the field, really

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isn't that bad.

But he was also responding to the strain of running a presidential campaign and to questions about the state of his campaign team, given prominent staff changes this week. His cry of "it's June!" was more a cry of 'it's too early for much of this to make a difference, so calm down.'

There's truth to that. If you look at how candidates did relative to polls from June of the year prior, the ones that ended up in the upper echelon usually didn't see a whole lot of up and down movement until the debates and primaries began in earnest. In 2011, Newt Gingrich started to spike toward the end of the year; Rick Perry came and went. But Gingrich, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum were pretty flat until November. The middle part of the year didn't make much of a difference.

But in 2007, things looked a bit different. Fred Thompson pulled a Rick Perry, arriving and departing. Rudy Giuliani's slide began in March and continued unabated until October, at which point he was all but finished.

It's that Giuliani thing that offers an asterisk to Bush's "it's early" declaration. Usually, candidates hold pretty steady through the end of the year before the election. As Rudy showed, not always.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results, as daytime infomercials are legally obligated to remind us. So Bush's steadiness is by no means guaranteed, and questions about the state of his campaign are very much warranted.

And then we get to the other thing.

An April editorial in the Post decried candidates that "mock the law" by running for president without declaring that they are presidential candidates. There are legal (read: financial) reasons they don't, but by now most of the big names have accepted reality. They're running.

Bush's campaign launch is still a few days away. While he filed paperwork suggesting that he is a candidate, he hasn't filed with the Federal Election Commission.

In other words, most of the analysis about and machinations of Bush's team over the past few weeks related to someone who wasn't even technically running for president. So were we not all playing this game about how Bush isn't a candidate even though he's a candidate, he might have pointed out that before his campaign became subject to its death notice, perhaps it should actually begin.

His exclamation works the other way, too. It's June, for crying out loud, months after Bush started running and should have had things sorted out. There is a messy, subpar campaign that he's been running, despite the legal lines set by the FEC. The odds are good that the not-campaign won't fall apart more between now and December, it's true. But not-yet-campaigns have doomed candidates before.

Jeb Bush says U.S. bank rules may have contributed to systemic risks **// Reuters // Reuters – June 9, 2015**

Likely Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush on Tuesday criticized the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street oversight law, saying it did not stop banks from becoming "too big to fail" and may have contributed to new risks in the U.S. financial system.

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Bush, the former governor of Florida, is expected to formally launch his bid for the White House on June 15, after he completes a five-day European trip.

Speaking in Berlin on Tuesday, Bush said reforms enacted in response to the 2007-2009 economic meltdown led to bigger banks and may have heightened risk in the U.S. financial system.

"We have more banks with more concentrated assets in the United States, and the systematic risk is perhaps greater now than it was when the law was signed," Bush said.

"And so I would beware of regulations in general. I think they need to be thoughtful," he said.

During the crisis, the biggest banks received government bailouts because regulators worried they were so big it would threaten financial market stability if they went under, a concept that came to be known as "too big to fail."

The 2010 Wall Street law made a wide variety of changes to financial oversight, such as forcing banks to rely less on debt for funding, in order to bolster financial firms and prevent them from needing bailouts in the future.

Critics of the White House administration of Bush's brother, George W. Bush, say tougher oversight of banks and the U.S. housing market could have prevented the crisis or lessened its impact.

But many critics of the 2010 law argue that instead of eliminating the "too big to fail" problem, the cost of complying with tougher rules forced smaller banks to shut down or sell themselves, resulting in fewer, more concentrated banks than before the meltdown.

Jeb Bush, who had long been expected to seek the presidency in the November 2016 U.S. election, said regulation was needed "around bad banks" to prevent another crisis that would hurt the middle class, but he said Dodd-Frank did not have the effect Congress desired.

Some seeking the Democratic nomination for the presidency, including former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, take the opposite view. They say Congress should go even further than it did with Dodd-Frank and break up the largest U.S. banks.

Jeb Bush After Shake-Up: 'I Don't Read the Polls' **// NBC News // Benjy Sarlin – June 10, 2015**

Days before his presidential launch, Jeb Bush told reporters on Wednesday that his decision to replace his campaign-manager-in-waiting was a strategic move rather than a response to his tepid position in the polls.

"I don't read the polls," he told reporters outside the Pestana Hotel in Berlin, where he is on the first leg of a trip through Germany, Poland and Estonia. "It's fun to see them when you're winning, not so fun when you're not. Doesn't really matter, though, its June for crying out loud, so we got a long way to go."

Bush said that he had chosen Florida Republican Danny Diaz as campaign manager over David Kochel, who was tapped for the role initially, to allow Kochel to take a different role masterminding the campaign's efforts in early states.

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"You have a real focus on four states in February then you have an avalanche of states after that and you think about how to organize all that, how to develop the messaging part of this, the scheduling part of it, it's a pretty overwhelming challenge and so I decided to kind of split up the duties," Bush said. "David has got great success in these early states, particularly Iowa, he's also got a great strategic mind and Danny's a grinder."

He added that he was "confident that the team in place will do their job and I got to do my job as well."

Responding to a reporter's question about his early expectations, Bush pushed back against the idea that he should be in a more dominant position by now given his fundraising strength and high-profile name brand.

"I know I'm going to have to earn this," he told reporters. "It's a lot of work and I'm excited about the prospects of this. It's a long haul. You start whenever you start and you end a long, long way from today. I just urge everybody to be a little more patient about this."

Turning to his European tour, Bush repeated his call for a harder line against Russian President Vladimir Putin, who he called a "ruthless pragmatist" in Berlin on Tuesday at a conference hosted by Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party.

"He's a bully and you enable bad behavior when you're nuanced with a guy like that," Bush told reporters, urging America and its allies to make clear that he would face specific consequences if he continued his aggression in Ukraine or expanded it to other neighboring states.

As part of that effort, Bush said he supported a "more robust" American troop presence in Poland and Baltic countries that he would decide based on military leaders' recommendations.

Bush said he had not seen reports that President Obama is considering sending hundreds of American troops to Anbar province in Iraq to help advise and train local forces working to retake Ramadi, but that he hoped they would play a more active role in combat than the administration has allowed so far.

"I think our advisers, if that's what they are, ought to be embedded in the [Iraqi] military," he said. "It helps us with our intelligence gathering, it certainly helps with morale and their ability to train the troops."

Jeb: It's too early for poll-watching **// The Hill // Jonathan Easley - June 10, 2015**

Jeb Bush on Wednesday expressed frustration with the press over its obsession with the horse race aspect of the presidential race, telling reporters that it’s too early to be poll-watching and encouraged them to focus on more important matters.

Speaking to a gaggle of reporters on a sidewalk in Germany, Bush said he was “not at all concerned” by expectations from some Republicans that he should have further separated himself from the field of GOP contenders by now.

“I just encourage people to be a little more patient about this,” Bush said. “Ya’ll cover this kind of in the here and now, and who is winning and who is losing. It’s important, and I have to respect that, but if you have a strategy and you think about it over the long haul is a better approach, at least for me."

“Anybody have any questions about Germany?” Bush asked, nodding to the surrounding environment.

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Bush has not officially entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination, but he's widely expected to make it official on Monday in Miami.

Bush has spent the past six months building a political team, amassing a huge campaign fund for his super-PAC, giving policy speeches, attending Republican cattle calls and seeking to curry favor with party leaders.

His name recognition and deep political ties have buoyed him in the early polls, but some conservatives question whether that support is durable. Bush faces deep skepticism from many in the party's base, and stiff competition from Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Sen. Marco Rubio.

"I don't read the polls," Bush said Wednesday. "Polls are, you know, it's fun to see them when you're winning, not as much when you're not. It doesn't really matter though. It's June for crying out loud, so we have a long way to go."

The state of Bush's campaign came into focus this week when he reshuffled his staff ahead of a five-day trip to Germany, Poland and Estonia.

Earlier this year, Bush brought on David Kochel, an Iowa GOP operative, for a leading role in his super-PAC, Right to Rise, with the intent of moving him over to campaign manager once he launched.

But this week, the Bush team announced that instead, Kochel would serve as chief strategist to the campaign, and Danny Diaz, an aggressive 39-year-old opposition researcher and conservative media consultant, would be the campaign manager.

The move stoked stories of struggle within the campaign and provoked questions over whether the Bush team was hitting the panic button at an early stage.

The former Florida governor downplayed the staff changes on Wednesday.

"This is an adjustment based on the skills of people that I've gotten to know over the past few months," Bush said.

"Nothing other than just the magnitude of the journey [provoked this change]," he continued. "You have the real focus on four states in February, and you have the avalanche of states after that, and you think about how to organize all of that, how to develop the messaging part of this, the scheduling part of this. It's an overwhelming challenge. So I decided to split up the duties, and David has great success in these early states, particularly Iowa, and he has a great strategic mind, and Danny is a grinder."

Jeb Bush is a compassionless conservative: His "Scarlet Letter" law was even worse than it sounds **// Salon // Katie McDonough – June 10, 2015**

In Jeb Bush's 1995 book, "Profiles in Character," the likely Republican presidential contender wrote that Americans have dropped the ball on public humiliation and called for a return to a time when "public condemnation" was used to deter people from "irresponsible conduct."

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Public condemnation — and in the criminal justice system, sentencing intended to humiliate — never actually went anywhere, so Bush wasn't really calling for a return to humiliation — he just wanted more of it. Here's the excerpt on single parenting, which Huffington Post political reporter Laura Bassett unearthed on Tuesday:

One of the reasons more young women are giving birth out of wedlock and more young men are walking away from their paternal obligations is that there is no longer a stigma attached to this behavior, no reason to feel shame. Many of these young women and young men look around and see their friends engaged in the same irresponsible conduct. Their parents and neighbors have become ineffective at attaching some sense of ridicule to this behavior. There was a time when neighbors and communities would frown on out of wedlock births and when public condemnation was enough of a stimulus for one to be careful.

Bush points to Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" as a reference for how this kind of thing might work, writing: "Infamous shotgun weddings and Nathaniel Hawthorne's 'Scarlet Letter' are reminders that public condemnation of irresponsible sexual behavior has strong historical roots."

Bush wasn't just riffing, he was setting up policy prescriptions for his future tenure as governor. As Bassett points out, Bush waived his veto power after the state legislature passed a 2001 law requiring single women who wanted to put a child up for adoption to publish their sexual histories in a newspaper. The ads included women's names, ages, physical descriptions including her hair, weight and eye color. Women were also required to provide details about their sexual encounters — including names of sexual partners, dates and locations.

From the bill:

The notice… must contain a physical description, including, but not limited to age, race, hair and eye color, and approximate height and weight of the minor's mother and of any person the mother reasonably believes may be the father; the minor's date of birth; and any date and city, including the county and state in which the city is located, in which conception may have occurred.

Women were required to pay for the ads, which ran once a week for the duration of a month. The law included no exceptions for victims of rape or minors. Bush expressed reservations about publishing these details, but declined to veto the law while it wound its way through the courts for two years.

Florida adoption lawyer Charlotte Dancui challenged the law in the Palm Beach County Circuit Court, representing six plaintiffs, including a 14-year-old girl and a rape victim. Dancui told the New York Times that in addition the women and girls she was representing in the lawsuit, others had come forward feeling terrorized by the law.

"I had a woman come to me who had a child 10 years ago while in college and now her husband of five years wants to adopt her child and in order to do that she had to put her name, her daughter's name and all the men she slept with in college in her college newspaper," she said.

But the law wasn't just being criticized by women's rights groups and the left — many conservatives opposed the law, arguing that violating women's privacy and subjecting them to public shame for choosing adoption would incentivize abortion and decrease adoption rates.

In 2003, after the law was declared unconstitutional, Bush signed a repeal. As the Times reported after the original law was overturned, the repeal replaced the provision to humiliate women with a new provision allowing men to electively enter into a confidential parental registry. Bush's was apparently satisfied with the change, according to a spokesperson for his office:

This was an important bill to sign and it has been two years in coming. It not only streamlines the adoption process

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by outlining specific steps for the unwed biological father but it also balances and protects the privacy rights of the mother and child.

But opponents of the bill were unimpressed that Bush acted only after the courts struck down the law. "Only a male-dominated legislature could possibly pass a law that facilitates adoptions by requiring public humiliation of women," Howard Simon, executive director of ACLU of Florida, told the Times.

"You've got to have a real narrow vision to congratulate the governor for signing a repeal of a statute that, as a result of a lawsuit we were involved in, the courts struck down as unconstitutional," he continued. "The legislature shouldn't have passed it in the first place."

One of the women involved in the lawsuit against the law told the Times that she welcomed the repeal and was relieved that other women wouldn't have to be subjected to that kind of humiliation. "They don't have to put their names in the paper in this barbaric gesture," she said. "They don't have to be afraid anymore."

Add this to the list of Bush's credentials as a compassionate conservative.

Hillary Clinton vs. Jeb Bush: A Boring Disaster Waiting to Happen // The Blaze // Chris Markowski – June 10, 2015

Some people have enough "celebrity status" that even announcing an announcement garners media coverage.

Jeb Bush recently proclaimed that on June 15 "an announcement will be made," and it's now all the media can talk about. "Another Clinton vs. Bush election?" is plastered across the headlines.

But Americans are clearly bored with these families.

While there are plenty of candidates who don't have family ties to the White House, those are not the candidates soaking up all the press. With Bush's announcement this year's presidential campaign is sure to be one for the books, but we certainly don't need another boring Clinton vs. Bush election. We're not being run by a monarchy here – even the Kennedy's couldn't pull it off. That snoozer of an election would bring the lowest voting turnout in ages.

We're bored with these families. Two Bush's in the past 20 years, a Clinton as well, and now one of each is running for president. If a Clinton or Bush is elected again, that says something about the United States. The media and Wall Street elites love it, but they're the only ones excited about it. We "peasants" cannot continue to allow the same families to have power over our country year after year, even if they have a longstanding record of holding office.

A great example of this is the Kennedy's, one of America's most loved and well-known political families. The family had at least one member in elective office in Washington for 64 years, yet only John Fitzgerald was able to reach the Oval Office. While many family members have been in Washington since Kennedy's assassination, none since have served as president.

Even great political families leave Americans feeling bored after a while. The country as a whole has decided to stop electing members of these families, so when will they decide to stop running altogether?

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Furthermore, we don't need another Clinton vs. Bush election. Neither of these candidates are been doing well in the polls, and while they both have recognizable names and families, American voters are not fans. Although the candidates are from different parties, they are virtually interchangeable. Taking money from the same big Wall Street companies, having a well-known name, and engaging in shady political practices are all common factors for these two. These are not "rock the boat" kind of candidates, and what we really need here is a change.

In addition to being one and the same, these candidates aren't the type that will bring voters to the polls. While Barack Obama was able to bring out people who may have never voted before, a Clinton vs. Bush election will leave people wanting to stay inside on voting day. After advertising on MTV and social media, voters came out of the woodwork to place their votes for Obama, because it was made "cool." Neither Clinton nor Bush has that same kind of pull or appeal, and they definitely won't be able to make themselves seem "hip" or "cool" to the masses.

These candidates aren't able to generate any excitement with voters, because we've seen it all before. For these candidates and their families, the elections are all about power and being a part of the "dynasty" that their families have had in the past.

American's are understandably tired of these families, and I predict that it will show when it comes time to vote. We've had an "old boys club" in Washington for far too long. It's time that we have a new, non-establishment candidate in office.

Tom Coburn on Jeb Bush: 'His last name will kill 47 percent of the votes' **// The Washington Examiner // Philip Klein – June 10, 2015**

Former Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn had a blunt assessment of Jeb Bush's chances of capturing the White House: "I don't think another Bush can get elected."

In an interview with the Washington Examiner Coburn said, "I think there's Bush fatigue and I think you automatically lose a large percentage of the electorate."

He explained, "I like Jeb Bush. But the fact is his last name will kill 47 percent of the votes for him — potential votes in this country. That's a big deal to get over."

Though he said that he thought George W. Bush was a "great president," he's said he remained a polarizing figure.

"Why would you run a candidate that is going to have trouble with 47 percent of the electorate?" Coburn asked.

He made the comments in a wide-ranging interview with the Examiner. Stay tuned for more.

Shaming Unwed Moms Was the Law in Jeb Bush's Florida **// The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodroff – June 10, 2015**

Remember that time when Gov. Jeb Bush allowed a bill to become law that required unwed, pregnant women to publish their sexual history in the newspaper in order to give their babies up for adoption?

But this was just the beginning of the weird parental follies of Florida in the early 2000s.

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In 2001, Bush didn't veto adoption-overhaul legislation that included a provision making it harder for unwed mothers to put their children up for adoption, as The Huffington Post recently reported.

And by taking a pass, he allowed a particularly offensive provision to become law.

This provision required any woman who wanted to put her child up for adoption, but who didn't know who the father was, to take out an ad in a local newspaper listing her name and description, as well as the name and description of each possible father and the locations where the baby could have been conceived.

In other words, women had to broadcast her sexual histories to, well, pretty much everybody before attempting to find stable homes for her children.

The law's sponsor, state Sen. Walter Campbell, said the provision was designed to keep "potential biological fathers from coming back and taking children out of adoptive parents' hands." And the law didn't include an exception for women who became pregnant because of rape.

"You cannot just allow someone to say they were raped and use that as an excuse not to provide a name," said Deborah Marks, who helped draft the law, at the time.

Alvin Coen, a veteran adoption lawyer, told the New Pittsburgh Courier at the time that concerns about birth fathers interfering with adoptions were baseless.

The bill passed overwhelmingly in the state house and by a 30-8 vote in the state senate. Bush said he decided not to veto it because Campbell told him the newspaper-reporting language would get fixed. That didn't happen. What did happen? More abortions. The Orlando Sentinel reported there were almost 2,000 more abortions in the first six months of 2002—after the legislation went into effect—than in the first six months of 2001.

After state courts declared the law unconstitutional, Bush signed legislation repealing it. The bill that took its place put the fathers-rights onus on potential fathers. The law still exists today.

"In place of the publication requirement, the new law establishes a ''father registry' through which men who believe they may be fathers must provide the name, address, and physical description of the mother and the date and place where conception took place to protect their parental rights," The New York Times reported.

This wasn't the only time children's issues have gotten the former governor in trouble. As governor, Bush drew sustained criticism for his adamant opposition to gay adoption. And Bill O'Reilly leveled harsh criticism at him after a young girl's disappearance from the state's foster-care system went unnoticed for years. Her death led to an overhaul of how the state handled foster care.

Basically, Florida men have some major issues when it comes to dealing with vulnerable children. And in the early 2000s, it appears Jeb Bush was no exception.

Jeb Bush to visit Jimmy Fallon on 'Tonight Show' next week // LA Times // Meredith Blake – June 10, 2015

Pesidential aspirant Jeb Bush will visit "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" on June 16, the day after he is expected to formally announce his candidacy.

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It will be the first appearance by the former Florida governor — brother of George W., son of George H.W. — on a late-night talk show. Under Jay Leno, "The Tonight Show" was an all-but-required stop for presidential candidates and was considered a friendlier venue for Republicans than David Letterman's "Late Show" or either of Comedy Central's late-night shows.

Since Fallon took over the reins of "The Tonight Show" in February 2014, he has welcomed several politicians, including frequent guest Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and former GOP candidate Mitt Romney.

Bush is considered a frontrunner in the race for the White House and has been busy in Europe this week burnishing his foreign policy credentials. He faces stiff competition in the polls from fellow Floridian Sen. Marco Rubio, but he may get a leg up as the first declared candidate in the ever-expanding GOP field to make a visit to "Tonight."

RUBIO

Florida Poll: Rubio Gaining on Jeb // The Weekly Standard // Michael Warren – June 10, 2015

A new poll of Florida Republican primary voters finds a tightening race between the Sunshine State's two favorite sons in the 2016 GOP presidential primary. According to St. Leo University's Polling Institute, former governor Jeb Bush has 30 percent support among likely Republican primary voters in Florida, while Marco Rubio, the state's sitting junior senator, has 24 percent support. That's a surge of eight points for Rubio since St. Leo's last poll of the GOP primary in March, when the younger Republican had 16 percent support to Bush's 31 percent.

It's worth noting that since the March poll, Rubio has declared his candidacy, while Bush remains in the exploratory phase and is not officially a candidate.

Rubio continues to do well in Florida as a second choice for primary voters, with a field-high 29 percent calling him their second choice. Bush comes behind with 12 percent listing him as their second choice. And in a head-to-head matchup with no other Republican candidates? Rubio beats Bush by 8 points, 48 percent to 40 percent.

There was not much movement from March to June for the non-Florida Republican candidates in the poll. Wisconsin governor Scott Walker comes in at 7 percent, down from 10 percent in March, and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson is at 7 percent as well, down from 9 percent in March. Kentucky senator Rand Paul stayed steady at 7 percent support while former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee is up to 6 percent in June from 4 percent in March.

Florida's presidential primary usually follows the first three contests of Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. Given the state's large population and numerous (and expensive) media markets, Florida has often been a test of a campaign's big-money viability given the state's numerous and expensive media markets. This year, however, the Florida primary will occur two weeks after the "Super Tuesday" March 1 primaries taking place in 12 states, including several in the GOP-heavy south.

PAUL

At GOP fundraiser in Maryland, Rand Paul decries racial injustice, champions diversity // WaPo // Ovetta Wiggins – June 10, 2015

Speaking at a Maryland Republican fundraiser less than 15 miles from West Baltimore, where Freddie Gray was

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taken into police custody and rioting took place two months ago, Republican presidential hopeful Rand Paul told an audience made up mainly old white men about the recent suicide of a young black man who spent three years imprisoned without a trial.

Paul said he has relayed the story of Kalief Browder's imprisonment for more than a year, including a March visit to the historically black college Bowie State University. He said he considered not mentioning it since Browder's death last weekend.

Browder was accused of stealing a backpack and waited three years at Riker's Island for a trial.

"He wasn't even convicted," the Kentucky senator. "So when I see people angry and upset — and I'm not here to excuse violence in the cities — but when I see anger I understand where some of the anger is coming from. ... Imagine how [Browder's] classmates feel about American justice, imagine how his parents feel."

Paul's speech Tuesday night was a collection of his stances on not only criminal justice reform, but on the Patriot Act and NSA data collection, and party inclusion. He took swipes at Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, saying her handling of Benghazi should "forever preclude her from being president."

Paul told the crowd that the Republicans must expand beyond its base.

"If we want to win elections we have to be a big party," Paul said. "I tell people that we've got to have people with tattoos, without tattoos, with long hair, without, with earrings, black, white, brown, rich, poor, working class. We've got to be a more diverse party."

Paul's appearance in Maryland is part of two days of events sponsored by the Maryland Republican Party in the Baltimore area. On Wednesday, the state party will partner with the Baltimore City NAACP for a panel discussion to discuss criminal justice reform.

The party is trying to make some strides in Maryland, where where Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than a 2-to-1 margin but Gov. Larry Hogan (R) captured a surprise win in November.

D. Bruce Poole, the chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party, said in a statement prior to Paul's appearance that the Republican candidate's message does not resonate in the deeply Democratic state.

"If Rand Paul wants to convince Marylanders and Americans that he is going to be a champion for the issues that matter most,

then he will have to abandon his destructive policies that only help those at the very top. Unfortunately for Paul and the Republican Party, that train has already left the station," Poole said.

Since the libertarian Kentucky senator declared his candidacy in April, Paul has struggled to gain ground among rank-and-file Republicans, whose support he will need to win the nomination.

Many Republicans have expressed unease over Paul's stance on various issues, including security, criminal justice reform, and recent high-profile cases involving police conduct.

Paul has taken a hard-line stance on the NSA, leading the charge to block the renewal of the anti-terrorism law

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used to justify domestic spying programs. He has spoken forcefully about police officers who have killed unarmed African Americans, and has sponsored legislation to address inequities within the prison system.

A recent Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Paul and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin with each capturing 11 percent of the vote among Republicans and Republican-leaning independent registered voters. But, with a margin of error of plus or minus six percentage points, the contest remains wide open, with former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida with 10 percent each. The rest of the field received single digits.

WALKER

Walker makes case for education reforms nationwide **// AP – June 10, 2015**

Scott Walker touted changes he's made to K-12 education as governor in Wisconsin in a newspaper column published Wednesday, saying there's "no reason" what he's done in the state can't be matched nationwide.

Walker, expected to announce a run for the Republican presidential nomination within weeks, inflamed teachers across Wisconsin four years ago when he pushed for a law that took away their collective bargaining rights, while also forcing them to pay more for health and pension benefits, as part of an effort to balance the state budget.

"Now, more than ever, we need to push big, bold reforms to improve our schools," Walker wrote Wednesday in a column published by The Des Moines Register in Iowa. "If we can do it in Wisconsin, there is no reason we can't push positive education reforms across the country."

Walker's education policies have included expanding school choice efforts and cutting funding for public schools. His call to take such efforts nationwide elicited anger from his opponents in Wisconsin, who also vehemently opposed his efforts on union rights.

"When it comes to the damage Gov. Walker has inflicted on Wisconsin students, it's hard to come up with a short list," said Betsy Kippers, president of the statewide teachers union, the Wisconsin Education Association Council.

Walker's first state budget cut funding for public schools by $1.2 billion, the largest reduction in state history. This year, Walker proposed cutting public school funding by $127 million in the first year of a two-year budget, a move rejected by the Legislature's Republican-controlled budget committee.

Walker has also successfully expanded Wisconsin's private school voucher program statewide after it debuted in Milwaukee. Walker's pending budget proposal would gradually remove the program's enrollment caps and use tax dollars currently provided to public schools to pay for it.

Walker has argued the state, and schools specifically, are better off under the collective bargaining law, which affected nearly all state employees and led to his recall election in 2012. He renewed that argument in Wednesday's column, saying he fixed a "broken" system.

"Today, the requirements for seniority and tenure are gone," Walker said. "Schools can hire based on merit and pay based on performance. That means they can keep the best and the brightest in the classroom."

Walker also pointed to higher graduation rates, improved third-grade reading scores and the fact that Wisconsin's high school student ACT scores are the country's second best.

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He did not note that Wisconsin's graduation rates were increasing for years before he took office and the recent growth is not as strong as the national average. Wisconsin's ACT scores were also consistently among the nation's best prior to his election.

Walker also wrote that he opposes the Common Core academic standards. When he took office in 2011, Walker called for creating tests that were tied to the standards. He first objected to the standards during his re-election campaign last year.

His pending budget reiterates that school districts can't be forced to adopt the standards, a protection they already have under current state law.

In the column, Walker also mentions Megan Sampson, a teacher who was laid off after being named the outstanding first-year teacher by the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English in 2010. Collective bargaining agreements in place at the time, since eliminated, protected those with more seniority from losing their jobs.

Walker often tells the story, and Sampson has repeatedly asked him to stop. She did so again Wednesday.

"I do not enjoy being associated with Walker's political campaign," Sampson said.

Walker: We changed broken education system // The Des Moines Register // Scott Walker – June 10, 2015

Megan Sampson was named the outstanding first-year teacher by the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English in June of 2010. A week later, she received another certificate: a layoff notice from the Milwaukee Public Schools system.

Why would they get rid of a new teacher like Sampson — especially in Milwaukee, which was one of the most troubled urban school districts in the nation? Well, under the old union contracts, the last hired was first fired.

In 2011, we changed that broken system in Wisconsin. Today, the requirements for seniority and tenure are gone. Schools can hire based on merit and pay based on performance. That means they can keep the best and the brightest in the classroom.

Best of all, the reforms are working. Schools are better. Graduation rates are up. Third grade reading scores are higher. Wisconsin students now rank 2nd best in the country for ACT scores in states where more than half the students take the exam.

In addition to improving traditional public schools, like the ones my own sons attended, we increased the number of quality education choices all over Wisconsin. Over the past four years, we expanded the number of charter schools, lifted the limits on virtual schools and provided more help for families choosing to home school their children.

We also dramatically expanded the 25-year-old Milwaukee Parental School Choice program to add more students, more schools and working class families. Then, we expanded school choice across the state.

Last fall I had a chance to meet a mom by the name of Dana from Appleton. Her son and daughter were two of the

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first students to participate in the statewide school choice program.

Dana told me that her son was doing poorly in a public school a few years ago. He was being bullied and he hated going to school each day. Now, after Dana signed him up for the voucher program, his school scores had doubled, he plays the trumpet in the band and he signed up for the football team. Dana's son loves school. She thanked us for giving her son a chance to succeed.

Now, more than ever, we need to push big, bold reforms to improve our schools. If we can do it in Wisconsin, there is no reason we can't push positive education reforms across the country.

Nationwide, we want high standards but we want them set by parents, educators and school board members at the local level. That is why I oppose Common Core.

Money spent at the local and state level is more efficient, more effective and more accountable. That is why I support moving money out of Washington and sending it to states and schools. Students deserve a better education.

And every student in the our nation's capital should have access to a great education. Therefore, we should expand the options for families in the District of Columbia to choose the school that is best for their children.

As a father, an uncle and a governor, I believe that every child deserves access to a great education — be it at a traditional public, charter, choice, private, virtual or home school environment. We need leaders who value quality choices and who trust parents to put the interests of their children first.

Scott Walker Courting Mitt Romney Donors After Slamming Candidate Romney // Bloomberg News // John McCormick – June 10, 2015

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker makes clear in his political memoir that he thinks Mitt Romney did a lousy job of running for president in 2012.

That isn't keeping Walker from traveling to the mountains of Utah Thursday to gain favor with the former Massachusetts governor -- and potentially tap his robust donor network.

"Instead of offering a big, positive vision for the future, Romney was working to make the campaign a referendum on President Obama," Walker wrote in his book, noting that Romney was trying to mimic the 1980 presidential run of Republican icon Ronald Reagan. "The problem was, the Romney team got the 1980 Reagan campaign all wrong."

"The problem was, the Romney team got the 1980 Reagan campaign all wrong."

Walker, 47, is among at least six declared or likely Republican presidential candidates scheduled to attend Romney's third annual retreat in Park City. The E2 Summit, mostly closed to the media, is meant to bring together influential business, political and policy leaders to discuss the U.S. leadership.

Roughly 250 guests can also play flag football with Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, skeet-shoot with Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and ride horses with Romney's wife, Ann.

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Walker, of course, isn't the only Republican critical of Romney's 2012 missteps. Others have routinely knocked him for gaffes such as standing before rich campaign donors and asserting that 47 percent of voters are dependent on government assistance.

Misreading Wisconsin

Of the potential candidates attending the Romney gathering, Walker has been among the most outspoken about those failings, arguing the party's 2012 nominee didn't do enough to connect with voters or present his own positive vision.

In his book, "Unintimidated: A Governor's Story and a Nation's Challenge," Walker fills most of a chapter entitled "Misreading the Message of Wisconsin" with Romney criticism.

Walker writes that shortly after his June 2012 victory in Wisconsin's recall election, he realized Romney could lose the state in November. He recalled Romney saying the message of his victory was that Americans didn't want more police, firefighters and teachers, as Obama had asserted.

"Unfortunately, it was Romney who did not get the message of Wisconsin," Walker writes. The rollback of union power, he said, was meant to avoid mass layoffs of such public employees.

The chapter also provides a window into Walker's own likely presidential campaign, which he's expected to announce in early July after Wisconsin's two-year budget is completed.

47 Percent

Walker repeatedly suggests that Reagan had dealt with similar campaign situations more effectively.

"Reagan did not dismiss 47 percent of the country as a bunch of moochers," Walker writes. "Quite the opposite: At the Republican convention in Detroit he appealed to those who wanted nothing more than to get off government assistance and find work."

While Walker praises Romney's decency and compassion in the book, about the only thing he gives him credit for doing right in the campaign is picking Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin as his running mate.

Obama ultimately won Wisconsin, carrying it with 52.8 percent of the vote, about the amount Walker won in his recall.

Stuart Stevens, Romney's chief strategist in 2012, said he doesn't think criticisms from Walker or others bothered Romney during or after the campaign. "It's just not in his DNA," he said.

AshLee Strong, a spokeswoman for Walker's political committee, Our American Revival, said in a statement that Romney and Walker are friends.

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“While Governor Walker has said he may have made some different campaign tactics in 2012, he has tremendous respect for Governor Romney as a leader and what he has done for the Republican Party,” Strong said. “Governor Walker believes that had Mitt Romney been elected in 2012, the U.S. would have restored its leadership position in the world and would be safer today.”

CEO Turnout

Besides Walker, Rubio and Graham, other declared or likely 2016 Republican candidates expected to attend the Utah gathering will be New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Ohio Governor John Kasich and former Hewlett-Packard Co. Chief Executive Officer Carly Fiorina.

Some Democrats also will be there, including David Axelrod, Obama’s longtime strategist, and Lawrence Summers, a former U.S. Secretary of Treasury. Corporates leaders attending include General Electric Co. CEO Jeffrey Immelt and Meg Whitman, Hewlett-Packard’s CEO.

Walker is expected to meet privately with the Romneys. He’ll spend much of Thursday at their gathering and will join them for barbecue that evening. He’ll speak on Friday before departing on an almost week-long trade mission to Canada.

In his run-up to a campaign, the Wisconsin governor is trying to present a more working-class image than the one offered by Romney, a former private equity executive worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Last weekend, Walker rode a rented Harley Davidson motorcycle in Iowa and talked about his modest family upbringing. And he’s fond of highlighting his frugality: from clipping coupons to tweeting photos of the ham-and-cheese sandwiches he brings to work.

“My brother and I did not inherit fame or fortune from our family,” Walker said in Iowa. “What we got was more important, and that is the belief that if you work hard and you play by the rules you can do and be anything you want in America.”

A teacher central to Scott Walker's education pitch would like him to stop using her story // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – June 10, 2015

Likely presidential candidate and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) regularly touts his education policies by citing a local teacher who long ago asked him to stop including her in his speeches and writings.

The teacher, Megan Sampson, repeated her opposition to Walker using her name in an email to Business Insider on Wednesday.

"I would like Walker to stop using my story as a political narrative for his campaign," the English teacher wrote.

Walker's most recent Sampson reference came Tuesday night in a Des Moines Register op-ed that began by mentioning her.

"Megan Sampson was named the outstanding first-year teacher by the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English in June of 2010. A week later, she received another certificate: a layoff notice from the Milwaukee Public Schools system," Walker wrote. "Well, under the old union contracts, the last hired was first fired."

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This part of the piece is almost identical to the opening of Walker's 2011 op-ed in The Wall Street Journal. The day that article was published, Sampson strenuously objected to being cited as part of the governor's policy advocacy, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Sampson told the newspaper's education reporter, Erin Richards, that the attention was unwelcome and resulted in "stress."

"My opinions about the union have changed over the past eight months, and I am hurt that this story is being used to make me the poster child for this political agenda," she said then. "Bottom line: I am trying to do my job and all this attention is interference and stress for me."

Business Insider reached out to Walker's government office and campaign team on Wednesday inquiring about why they decided to continue using Sampson's name; both have yet to respond.

Wisconsinites Blast Scott Walker's Stadium Deal As 'Outrageous' **// Think Progress // Alice Ollstein – June 10, 2015**

Depending on who you ask, building a new, publicly financed basketball stadium for the Milwaukee Bucks is either a horrendous example of corporate welfare and official corruption, or a chance to reinvigorate an economically depressed city.

With the fate of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's plan up in the air — hit by criticism from progressives and conservatives alike — the county held its first public meeting Tuesday night to discuss the proposal to use tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to keep the team in the city.

The large crowd took issue with many aspects of the deal, which would sell public land valued at nearly $9 million for $1 dollar to the team's billionaire owners.

Earlier this month, Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, a key architect of the deal, promised the plan to build a brand new stadium close to the 27-year-old existing venue would "create jobs, generate millions of dollars in economic activity and property value, and provide a great return on investment for taxpayers."

Local Milwaukee blogs have raised questions about whether it would also be a great return on investment for Abele personally, given that he recently purchased a $2 million condo directly next to the site of the proposed arena and the restaurants and stores slated to surround it.

"The appreciation for that condo will go sky-high," Milwaukee economics professor Michael Rosen told ThinkProgress. "I'm not saying that's why he bought it, but the fact is that will appreciate like crazy if the stadium gets built. He has an interest in this, even though his job as public official is to look out for this community."

Abele's office did not respond to an interview request from ThinkProgress.

Several local officials are also speaking out against the county's promise to collect $4 million per year in unpaid debts from residents, plus a penalty fee of 15 percent, to contribute to the stadium. For example, a woman who owed $1,000 for an old traffic ticket would be charged $1,150.

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Milwaukee County Supervisor John Weishan, Jr. called the proposal to go after unpaid ambulance rides, delinquent property taxes and court fees "crony capitalism."

"This plan shifts the cost of the new arena from the state and the Milwaukee Bucks' new wealthy owners to the poorest in our community," he said. "I will not foreclose on someone's home or shake down a senior for unpaid medical bills in order to build an arena for millionaires and billionaires."

Whether or not it's morally right to collect these debts to pay for the stadium, some county officials say it may not be possible, because most of the residents that owe that money are indigent.

County comptroller estimated in an official report that the county could only collect about 2 percent of the money they're promising — in part because much of the unpaid court fees would go to restitution for victims of crimes if they ever got collected.

"This is phony money. This is hocus-pocus," Rosen told ThinkProgress. "They won't be able to collect it, and if they do, it's going to come from our poorest citizens, and that's outrageous."

The scramble to find a source of revenue for the stadium is exacerbated by Governor Scott Walker's pledge not to create any new taxes to pay for the project. But many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle remain critical of the plan, and say it's inappropriate to tuck it into the must-pass state budget. A growing bloc of lawmakers are demanding a separate vote.

Scott Walker To Remove Waiting Period For Wisconsin Gun Purchases // Breitbart // Awr Hawkins – June 10, 2015

Republican lawmakers passed a bill to do away with the 48-hour waiting period on gun purchases in Wisconsin, and Gov. Scott Walker is expected to sign it.

Spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said Walker supports laws which "make it easier for law-abiding citizens to access firearms and difficult for criminals to obtain illegal firearms."

According to the UK Independent, Wisconsin Democrats are already claiming that a repeal of the waiting period will lead to more gun violence. State representative Fred Kessler (D-12th) said taking away the 48-hour wait is "just going to result in more violence in our urban communities."

But Kessler is countered by Republicans who argue that women can more quickly acquire guns with which to protect themselves if they do not have to wait 48 hours before taking the gun home. For example, Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-61), argued that removing the waiting period "would curb domestic violence against women" and she pointed out that "[she] purchased her own handgun to protect her own family."

The point is simple: A woman under threat from a former boyfriend or husband may not have 48 hours to wait for a gun. Any delay in getting a firearm simply provides her would-be attacker with a safe period in which he can come after her.

On June 3, Carol Bowne's former boyfriend allegedly stabbed her death while she was waiting on state's permission to buy a gun in New Jersey. Although New Jersey requires residents to wait much longer than 48 hours, the

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principle is the same — time spent waiting is time spent in a vulnerable condition.

CRUZ

"If you live by the pen, you die by the pen" // WaPo // James Hohmann – June 10, 2015

Ted Cruz would spend his first day in office trying to undo some of Barack Obama's biggest achievements via executive order.

In a wide-ranging interview about how he'd spend his first 100 days as president if he won, the Texas GOP senator pledged to roll back more than just the president's controversial orders related to immigration.

"If you live by the pen, you die by the pen," Cruz said by phone Tuesday, as he traveled from Dallas to an afternoon tour of the Southern border. "Everything put in place by executive order can be undone by executive order."

Cruz said he would use the transition to bring a team together "to engage in a careful, systematic review of each executive action and to rescind every one of them that exceeds the Constitutional and legal authority of the president."

Cruz's comments underscored the tenuousness of some of Obama's biggest second-term accomplishments, enacted by executive order because of a Republican-dominated Congress. He's the first of several presidential candidates to outline his governing priorities in an interview with PowerPost, a new Washington Post site that will focus on the intersection of policy and politics.

Other highlights from the interview:

Cruz promised to do whatever it takes to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, which he calls "the single greatest national security threat to the United States."

"On day one, I would expect to convene the national security team for a serious, careful, sober assessment of where Iran stands – how close they are to acquiring nuclear weapons – and to review every tool at our disposable to assure that under no circumstances does Iran acquire nuclear weapons," he said.

On Israel, he responded to this week's Supreme Court decision by saying that he would allow Americans born in Jerusalem to list Israel as their birthplace on passports. Though Republicans and Democrats have promised in the past to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Avis to the contested city, Cruz pledges that he would actually follow through.

The senator, who was the first major party candidate to formally announce his candidacy back on March 23, said he's running to try "to get a mandate from the electorate" to push far-reaching tax and regulatory reform. He really wants to eliminate the Internal Revenue Service, which he believes would be possible with a flat tax, but he recognizes how politically challenging such a proposition would be. So he would want to get the public behind it through the primary and general election.

"I intend to do everything possible to make 2016 a referendum on repealing Obamacare and adopting a flat tax,"

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he said.

Asked about his legislative priorities, Cruz said he would focus on tax and regulatory reform first. He would also push for Congress to "repeal every word of Obamacare."

He described himself as "cautiously optimistic" that the Supreme Court will side against the government in King vs. Burwell on the grounds that the federal government has "illegally collected billions of dollars in taxes from Americans who do not owe them." If the court invalidates coverage for millions now receiving health subsidies, Cruz said he wants legislation that would let states "opt-out of Obamacare" altogether.

Cruz promises on the trail to repeal the Common Core state standards.

"This administration has used Race To The Top funds to pressure states to adopt Common Core standards," he said. "At the very outset, if I'm elected, the administration would no longer use federal authority to coerce states into adopting Common Core."

Asked who he might appoint to his Cabinet if he were elected, Cruz said that engaging with that question in a detailed way would be like telling a woman on a first date what he would like to name his children.

"One step at a time," he said.

But Cruz said he could definitely see picking some of his GOP rivals in the 2016 race for prominent posts.

"Any Republican president would be a fool not to look very seriously at the men and women who will be on that debate stage as very serious and even likely members of a Republican cabinet and even a Republican dream team," he said.

Ted Cruz team looks beyond Iowa, New Hampshire **// Politico // Katie Glueck – June 10, 2015**

He's stuck in the middle of the pack in Iowa, lags in polls, and much of the GOP donor class views him with disdain.

But Ted Cruz is embracing a novel strategy for winning the nomination: He's lowering expectations in the early states while investing in later-voting states that hardly see a candidate before March.

In the past week or so alone, the Texas senator has taken his presidential campaign to Michigan and Massachusetts, staffed up in New Jersey and Tennessee, and skipped an Iowa cattle call to stump in North Carolina — all states expected to vote in March, with the exception of New Jersey, which has a primary slated for June 2016.

It's a risky bet that defies the usual wisdom — and historical precedent — that a candidate must achieve an early-state victory to stay in the game. But Cruz's team is bracing for a long fight based on picking up delegates — a battle they plan to stretch all the way to the convention, where, the theory goes, he'll be the last conservative standing — though a contested convention hasn't happened in nearly 40 years.

"Our strategy is taking it to the convention, which is why you've seen us announcing chairmen in California and New Jersey, as well as Iowa and New Hampshire," said Mark Campbell, Cruz's political director. "There are 2,470

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[delegates] total, and you need 1,236 of them to win. None of these can be accumulated at any one time, which is why it's a marathon more than a sprint. So we are methodically going state by state, focusing on grass roots and party activists."

Campbell said they expect Cruz to place "in the top three" in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, and Cruz is spending time there as well — but he made clear that the real strategizing is, already, built around delegate counts.

"We expect to do well in all of the early primary states, which will give us sufficient momentum to do extremely well in the March 1 primaries ... and caucuses," he said. "Obviously Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada are important, but then there are many large states that will be distributing their delegates starting March 1."

Betting big on later contests has little track record of success. There's often talk of a contested convention — as there was, briefly, in 2012 — but the last time that actually happened was in 1976, when Gerald Ford narrowly beat out Ronald Reagan over a contest for delegates at the Republican National Convention. And it's almost as rare for a nominee to clinch the title without winning at least one of the first two nominating contests. Bill Clinton and George McGovern failed to win Iowa or New Hampshire in 1992 and 1972, respectively, but both clocked in as strong second-place finishers in the Granite State, ultimately propelling them to the nominations. On the Republican side, no candidate has won the nomination without winning either state going back to when the Iowa caucuses gained prominence in the 1970s — a dynamic, Cruz's team notes, the senator himself has acknowledged.

"Candidates who play down the importance of a strong showing among early primary states do so out of necessity, not choice," said Chris Maloney, a senior vice president at Black Rock Group who worked for Mitt Romney and is well-versed in presidential campaign logistics. "While super PACs now carry the potential to sustain candidacies in place of early victories, it's difficult to envision a scenario where the eventual nominee does not possess a first-place finish in an early nominating contest. Campaign capital — donations, personnel — flows with momentum, not against it, and makes recruiting delegate slates, notaries and attorneys well-versed in onerous and often costly ballot-access requirements that much easier among states with later contests."

But there is a scenario, note people who have observed Cruz's strategy, in which three different candidates win Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — which wouldn't necessarily be a surprise, given how crowded and fluid the GOP field is at this point. Then all of a sudden, delegates start to matter. So even in places where Cruz is highly unlikely to be the favorite of the bulk of the state's Republican primary voters — moderate Massachusetts, for example — in the states where delegates are allotted proportionally, he could still rack up some points.

"If essentially there becomes no clear front-runner, then it becomes important for a particular candidate to start looking at raw counts," said a Texas Republican operative. "The traditional focus on Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina becomes less important, and it becomes more important to deal with raw delegate counts."

Cruz's potential targets, where he has either campaigned or hired staff, include Massachusetts, Georgia, Oklahoma (where he will return this weekend), Tennessee and Cruz's home state of Texas — all of which are tentatively planning to vote on March 1. Then, on March 8, comes Michigan, where Cruz also visited last week, and North Carolina Republicans are hammering out details but are also eyeing March dates. But other places where he's investing resources — New Jersey, for example — aren't expected to have primaries till June, and party leaders hope and expect that there will be a nominee long before then.

In the meantime, Cruz — and, to some extent, Rand Paul, who has also maintained a relatively unorthodox campaigning schedule — is able to boost his name ID by soaking up the free media that accompanies visits to states where there are fewer candidates traipsing through.

"My guess is ... he's doing a solo media strategy, going where he can get 100 percent of the attention while the others are fighting for the attention in Iowa," said conservative radio host Erick Erickson, who is based in Georgia, where Cruz visited recently. He noted that over the weekend, Cruz was in North Carolina instead of at Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst's Roast and Ride (Campbell said the trip was long-planned and was an opportunity to pick up state co-chairs). "So none of the other guys got the media coverage he got by just going to North Carolina, which I guess if you're trying to do a free media campaign, that's the way to do it."

Ted Cruz Going After the Libertarian-Hawk Vote // Reason // Matt Welch – June 10, 2015

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At National Review, Joel Gehrke reports that the Ted Cruz campaign "thinks it has identified a way to begin" to "pick off enough libertarian votes to hobble Rand Paul." How? By running to the right of Paul on national security:

Perhaps surprisingly, Cruz's [analytics] team discovered that national security is a prominent and growing concern among libertarian voters. "There is a plurality of libertarians whose top issue is national security today," [Cruz campaign director of research and analytics Chris] Wilson says, pegging the figure in the mid-30s. "Now, I doubt that was the case in 2008. It may not have been even in 2012. But today it is." Consequently, he believes that Cruz's support for the USA Freedom Act, which Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell backed begrudgingly after failing to pass a bill reauthorizing the Patriot Act, hit the sweet spot in terms of appealing to libertarians who dislike the NSA but fear ISIS.

Are libertarian-leaning Republicans really worried that Rand Paul is too soft on ISIS? Color me doubtful. While there's no doubt that Americans as a whole, Republicans especially, are more anxious about national security and more willing to send out American bombers than they were in 2013, hawks in my estimation have been wishful in their thinking that those numbers has made re-palatable notions like pre-emptive war and American boots on the ground in the Middle East. Being worried about ISIS is not the same as endorsing whatever Marco Rubio thinks we should do about the Islamic State. If interventionism was really back in vogue GOP candidates wouldn't have spend a week in mid-May stumbling over the Iraq War.

It's more likely here that analytics are being bent to fit a strategic reality and imperative. Which is to say, Ted Cruz is going after the libertarian vote (in addition to the overlapping Tea Party vote and especially the social conservative bloc), and he is more hawkish than Paul, so he's going to continue heightening the contrasts while looking for positions and rhetoric that don't totally alienate people who distrust the National Security Agency. I'm no Cruz fan, but I'd rather have two of the party's top five or six candidates vying for the libertarian vote than just one.

Ted Cruz And The False Narrative Of Christian Persecution **// Forbes // Rick Ungar – June 10, 2015**

If you ask Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) about the state of religious freedom in America, you are likely to get an earful on how Christians in this country are being forced to live through some terrible era of religious persecution.

Speaking at the Faith and Freedom Coalition summit in Iowa, Cruz told his audience that “There is a liberal fascism that is dedicated to going after believing Christians who follow the biblical teaching on marriage,” and that there is “no room for Christians in today’s Democratic Party.”

Really?

Last I checked—which was about five minutes ago—all but 30 (28 Jewish and 2 Muslim) Democrats serving in the United States House of Representatives and Senate identify as Christians.

These numbers might lead a more rational and less politically motivated observer to conclude that there is still quite a bit of room for Christians to be a part of the Democratic Party and its leadership.

In truth, even the most ardent evangelical should be able to summon the logic required to realize that using the Constitution to resolve disagreements and conflicts between Christian beliefs and the belief structures of their fellow Americans who think differently is hardly an act of persecution. Rather, these efforts are simply an act of fealty to our founding document and the men who wrote it—most of who were, themselves, Christian believers.

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It is possible that Senator Cruz's inability to distinguish between legal disagreements and religious persecution may rest in his inability to recognize what persecution in America really looks like?

As Paul Waldman so aptly wrote a few years ago in The American Prospect,

"The impulse to jam that crown of thorns down on your head is a powerful one in politics. It means you've achieved the moral superiority of the victim, and the other side must be the victimizer. The problem is that these folks don't seem to have much of a grasp on what second-class citizenship actually looks like. Last time I checked, nobody was forbidden to vote because they're a Christian, or not allowed to eat in their choice of restaurants, or forced to use separate water fountains, or even be forbidden by the state to marry the person of their choice. That's what second-class citizenship is. Having somebody on television call your views retrograde may not be fun, but it doesn't make you a second-class citizen."

It seems unlikely that a victim of religious persecution would be permitted to make the statements we hear Ted Cruz utter—in his effort to rally the religious right to his cause —without suffering some form of personal repression or punishment. Can anyone testify to the effort being made by our government to silence Senator Cruz? So far as I can see, he remains completely free to say and do what he wishes, including publicly making fun of a grieving father who has just suffered the loss of his eldest son. Has he been forced to change his religious practices under threat of penalty? Has Ted Cruz's life or status in society been altered in any way merely because he is a Christian believer?

Further, is it unfair to ask why the cries of religious persecution pouring forth from those now claiming great offense are missing in action when a person of color, or one with a different sexual orientation, is treated with less respect or opportunity? Galatians 3:28 states, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Is it not, therefore, a violation of Christian belief to allow a black man in America to be treated differently than a white man in America? Would it not be a violation of Christian belief to view a gay American as something 'lesser' than a straight American?

Let me be clear that I sympathize with the Christian baker or flower supplier who feels that being forced to provide their products to a gay wedding violates their religious convictions. Indeed, I agree that nobody should be required by law or otherwise to affirmatively perform an act that is in conflict with a religious conviction that can be legitimately traced to the roots of the religion in question.

I would, however, raise for the discussion the case of a religious Jew whose religion prohibits work, driving, or even speaking on the phone during the sabbath, being forced to do one or all of the same when his or her employer demands. I can't help but wonder where the cries of religious persecution are when this type of an event takes place.

In my view, there is a difference between the law providing same sex couples the equal opportunity to marry, which I anticipate the Supreme Court will soon confirm is a right in compliance with our Constitution, and forcing those who do not believe in the same to actively participate in that wedding. While I certainly agree that our Constitution protects the right of a same-sex couple to marry in the same way that I am entitled to such protection, I disagree with the notion that people should be required to commit an act that is in violation of their religious convictions. The decision of a local baker to politely decline to provide a cake for the wedding reception hardly constitutes a denial of a same sex couple's Constitutional right to marry as they please.

CHRISTIE

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In Washington Speech, Chris Christie Sounds Like He's Ready to Run // NYT // Nick Corasaniti – June 10, 2015

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey told reporters on Tuesday that his family was completely supportive of a potential presidential run; his decision hinged on his will to do it.

Speaking in Washington on Wednesday, he seemed ready to make the jump as well.

"I want to be a part of that discussion, I want to be a part of that debate, and I want to be part of the leadership that brings our country to new heights through the power and the goodness of each individual that makes up this country," he said at the Latino Coalition Small Business Summit.

Indeed, Mr. Christie seemed like someone ready to make his case to the country. To showcase his coalition-building potential, he ticked off the gains he made in his 2013 re-election effort, noting that he drew the support of a majority of Latinos in the state and doubled his support among African Americans. He plans to continue that outreach effort, he said, in contrast to some of his fellow Republicans.

"My party, quite frankly, has been guilty in some respects of speaking in a way that doesn't sound very welcoming to new members," he said, arguing that if "a club doesn't sound like it's welcoming you, you're not going to come, no matter how much you might agree with them."

He weaved in broad platitudes about his successes as a governor, speaking at length about Goya, the Latin American food purveyor, opening its headquarters in Jersey City in April, and he made few specific policy statements, aside from calling for the end of the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law and for providing more choices in education.

He was reserved, at times even somber, invoking phrases like "the goodness of their heart" and "the goodness of the soul." But his trademark bluster emerged at the end of the session, when he responded to a question regarding education that recalled his battles with the teachers' unions.

Mr. Christie tore through a list of critiques of the unions, while calling on the need for "raw politics" to deal with them, and concluded with yet another indication that he's ready to run.

"If you're ready to start offending people in order to achieve a greater goal, you've found the right guy," he said. "I'm here to help offend people with you."

Court Ruling Removes a Bump From Chris Christie's Path // NYT – June 10, 2015

New Jersey's highest court handed Mr. Christie a victory on Tuesday when it allowed him to skip the pension payments he promised to make in a signature law.

That means he won't have to find the $1.58 billion a lower court had wanted him to restore to this year's state budget, and it will make balancing next year's budget a lot easier. He can decide whether to run for president, a call he has promised to make this month, spared of any "fiscal crisis" headlines.

The court sided with him against public employee unions, which may help remind Republican primary voters that

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the governor was willing to take on those powerful interests – a fight that spurred his rise to national stardom. But the decision could also reinforce doubts among Republicans about his fiscal management of New Jersey. Mr. Christie couldn't make the payments because the state's job growth has lagged well behind neighboring states and the nation. The missed payments resulted in a record nine credit downgrades.

While Mr. Christie has been selling himself as a straight shooter, the court, despite its ruling for him, didn't make him seem like a man of his word.

"The loss of public trust due to the broken promises" in the law, the court wrote in its decision, "is staggering."

Mr. Christie speaks at a Latino Coalition event on Wednesday in Washington. He won a majority of Latino voters in his re-election two years ago and presents that victory as the kind that can help a Republican win the White House. But that was so many problems ago.

N.J. Gov. Chris Christie Uses Court Pension Win in Fundraising Pitch // WSJ // Heather Haddon – June 10, 2015

One day after New Jersey's highest court delivered Gov. Chris Christie a victory on a pension-funding fight, the potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate is using the issue to fundraise.

Mr. Christie's political-action committee, Leadership Matters for America, sent a fundraising email to supporters Wednesday that touted the court's decision as a sign of the governor's leadership abilities. It concluded by asking for donations to the PAC, according to a copy of the email.

"The greatest leaders in our history weren't afraid to fight for what was right, even if it was unpopular. Do you want a leader like that in Washington?" the email read. "If your answer is yes, donate $5 or more today and help us support the fight to send courageous leaders to D.C. once again!"

Mr. Christie's willingness to take on public-sector unions has helped raise his profile among Republicans nationally.

The fundraising solicitation came from Mike DuHaime, a senior advisor to Mr. Christie's PAC and a longtime strategist for the governor. Mr. DuHaime didn't respond to a request for comment.

On Tuesday, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the Christie administration could slash funding to pensions for state workers, even though the governor signed a law requiring escalating payments into the underfunded benefit system.

If the court had ruled against Mr. Christie, it would have been another obstacle for the governor as he pursues the possibility of entering the presidential race. On Tuesday, state Democrats and the public-sector unions denounced the court's ruling

In a statement, Mr. Christie said the court's decision was a victory for state taxpayers who can't "afford these unsustainably high costs" and that all parties needed to resume discussions about how to make public-employee benefits more affordable.

Mr. Christie spoke before Hispanic leaders at a Washington D.C. luncheon Wednesday, where he attacked

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teachers unions for being more interested in the comfort of their members than doing more to improve student learning. The governor has spoken about the need to extend the school day and year.

On Thursday, Mr. Christie leaves for Iowa, home of the first-in-the-nation presidential caucus, for two days. Mr. Christie has said he'll announce a decision on whether he's running at the end of the month.

Christie faults GOP for sounding unwelcoming to Latinos // AP // Luis Alonso Lugo & Jill Colvin – June 10, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie faulted his party Wednesday for its unwelcoming tone at times to minority voters.

In a speech to a Latino Coalition small business conference, the potential Republican presidential contender also boasted about getting 51 percent of the Hispanic vote in his re-election as governor.

Christie portrays himself as the kind of Republican who can attract females, blacks, Hispanics and other voters who are normally drawn to Democrats.

Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP nominee, won just 27 percent of the Latino vote in his contest against President Barack Obama — a disconnect that intensified interest among some Republicans in expanding the party's appeal to a broader spectrum of people, especially the growing Hispanic vote.

The GOP "has been guilty in some respects of speaking in a way that does not sound very welcoming to new members," Christie said. "If you want to be a leader in this country, you have to first reach your hand out and change the tone of our national conversation."

If Christie chooses to run for the nomination, he will face challengers who have already begun an aggressive outreach to Hispanic voters. One of them is former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who speaks Spanish. And another is Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who is Cuban American.

Christie credited his meetings with communities across New Jersey for his gains with Latinos and others in his re-election campaign. He was riding high in opinion polls in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and faced an opponent who gained little traction.

He said his experience "tells you that if we change the way that we hear each other, if you treat each other with respect, even when we disagree, we can bring people together."

Christie says he will decide this month whether to run for the Republican nomination.

For Chris Christie, 'good' news is relative // MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 10, 2015

The headline on the front page of The Hill yesterday was, for the most part, accurate: "NJ Supreme Court gives Christie a win on pensions." And insofar as the Republican governor hoped the state court would rule his way, yesterday offered Chris Christie some welcome news.

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The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that Gov. Chris Christie (R) can move ahead with his proposed $1.57 billion cut to the state's public employee pensions system to clean the state's fiscal house.

The decision came as much-needed good news for Christie, who is expected to announce whether he'll run for president in the coming weeks.

When it comes to political, economic, and legal developments, the Garden State governor hasn't had it easy lately, and I don't doubt that Christie and his political team were delighted by the 5-2 ruling from the state Supreme Court.

But with Christie, "good news" is relative. As the New York Times reported this morning, "While Mr. Christie has been selling himself as a straight shooter, the court, despite its ruling for him, didn't make him seem like a man of his word. 'The loss of public trust due to the broken promises' in the law, the court wrote in its decision, 'is staggering.'"

In other words, in Christie's "win," the same judges who agreed with his legal argument also concluded that the governor broke his word and violated the public trust.

For those hoping for a refresher in this story, this 2014 column from the Star-Ledger's Tom Moran on New Jersey's pension reform efforts is worth another look.

[Christie] did only the easy part. He made public workers pay more for skimpier benefits, and froze cost-of-living adjustments for current retirees. That tough medicine was justified to deal with the emergency.

But the other half of the deal was just as important. For his part, Christie promised to ramp up state payments into the pension funds gradually, over seven years, to make up for the scofflaw governors in both parties who shorted these funds over two decades.

The point is that both sides had to absorb their share of pain. Public workers did their part. Now Christie is saying he will not do his, that he will short the funds by a whopping $2.4 billion through next year.

The GOP governor said he'd boost investments in the pension funds, but Christie was counting on increased job creation and improved economic growth to help provide additional resources. When New Jersey's economy lagged, the money wasn't there, and Christie didn't follow through.

A record nine debt downgrades soon followed.

The New Jersey Supreme Court sided with Christie, effectively saying he could legally pursue his preferred course: investing far less in the pension funds than he said he would. Whether or not this should be considered a Christie "victory" is a matter of perspective.

PERRY

Perry's cherry-picked claim that America would have lost 400,000 jobs without Texas // WaPo // Michelle Ye Hee Lee – June 10, 2015

"In the last seven years of my tenure, Texas created 1.5 million new jobs. As a matter of fact, without Texas, America would have lost 400,000 jobs."

–Former Texas governor Rick Perry (R), presidential announcement speech, June 4, 2015

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In declaring his second bid for the presidency, Perry touted one of his favorite talking points: job growth in Texas. Perry, the state's governor from 2000 to 2015, frequently makes references to the state's economic accomplishments, and this topic likely will be repeated through the campaign.

The Fact Checker recently examined separate claim from Perry about job creation in Texas, which earned him Two Pinocchios. Despite that rating, however, he unfortunately repeated the claim in his presidential campaign announcement. The Fact Checker has long urged readers to be wary of politicians using jobs numbers to highlight their success in office, as much of what happens in the economy is out of a politician's control and jobs data are subject to manipulation.

Is Perry's often-repeated statement correct?

The Facts

Texas' workforce as a whole, indeed, has grown since 2000. Texas has had noteworthy economic recovery compared to other states, for many reasons that cannot all be tracked to the decisions of a single policymaker or the state's chief executive.

Perry's staff cited the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, a monthly survey of about 60,000 households. This is used to track changes of unemployment rates and labor force activity. It measures the number of people who are employed, unemployed and are unemployed but looking for work. Perry's figure comes from the survey's total civilian employment numbers, which includes agricultural, self-employed and unpaid family workers.

In December 2007, there were 10,997,356 employed residents in Texas and total U.S. employment was 146,273,000. (The U.S.-without-Texas employment was 135,275,644). In December 2014, there were 12,570,050 employed Texas residents, and 147,442,000 total employed residents in the United States. (The U.S.-without-Texas employment was 134,871,950).

So while Texas gained 1,572,694 jobs between December 2007 and December 2014, the United States gained 1,169,000 in the same period. The difference between the two (i.e., U.S.-without-Texas employment in December 2014 minus U.S.-without-Texas in December 2007) was 403,694 — essentially the figure Perry used.

But that is not the same as the number of "jobs" that would have been "lost" without Texas. In fact, the BLS warns against aggregating state-level data and adding them up to the national total, as state figures are adjusted at the state level.

The standard measure for job gains or losses is a different data set: BLS Current Employment Statistics, also called establishment survey or payroll survey. This is a monthly survey of about 588,000 worksites in the country and is an estimate of non-farm wage and salary jobs, not of employed Americans. It does not include agriculture, self-employed or unpaid family workers.

Economists, the BLS and the Federal Reserve use the establishment survey when measuring job growth. Perry's staff did not respond when we asked why he used the household survey instead of the more commonly cited establishment survey.

The establishment survey shows a much different picture. The seasonally adjusted non-farm payroll data show that between December 2007 (138,350,000) and December 2014 (140,592,000), there were 2.2 million net new jobs in the United States. During the same period, there were 1.2 million net new jobs in Texas (10,529,900 in December 2007 to 11,749,500 in December 2014).

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Let's see what happens when you apply Perry's logic to the establishment survey, despite the BLS's warning that this is not kosher math: Without Texas, America still would have gained 1,022,400 jobs.

There's more, still applying Perry's logic. (BLS officials can close their eyes for the next few paragraphs.)

If you pick the month of December during any other year Perry was governor of Texas, and compare it to December 2014 employment numbers, it begins to become clear why he picked 2007. If you compare December 2000 to December 2014, or compare December 2001 to December 2014, and so on, the only two years he can use to say that America would have "lost jobs" "without Texas" are December 2006 and December 2007.

As the graph shows, if Perry picked December 2001 to compare to December 2014, he would have to say: "Without Texas, America still would have gained 8.8 million jobs." If he picked December 2006 to compare to December 2014, he may have said: "Without Texas, America would have lost 240,000 jobs."

Last one, using the Perry logic: From January 2000 to December 2014 — Perry's entire tenure as governor — the United States gained 8.2 million net new jobs without Texas.

Further, the BLS establishment survey shows that after a bump in the number of jobs in Texas from December 2014 to January 2015, the number is decreasing — potentially due to the plummeting oil prices that affect states such as Texas more than others.

The Pinocchio Test

This is a classic case of politicians manipulating or cherry-picking numbers to put their state's performance in the best possible light. Perry used a BLS dataset used to measure unemployment rate, not job growth. He added up state employment numbers in the way that BLS says you shouldn't. And he picked a baseline year (December 2007) that over-inflates Texas' share of total U.S. employment and deflates what is happening to the rest of the country.

Perry has made similar claims in the past (FactCheck.org examined one earlier this year) and may repeat them as he launches his campaign. We wavered between Three and Four Pinocchios, but his raw numbers were rooted in accurate BLS data, so it tipped his claim, just barely, to Three.

Rick Perry Tries Again **// HuffPo // Chris Weigant – June 10, 2015**

I've been giving each of the major candidates for president a serious overview, right after they officially announce their candidacy. Today, we'll take a look at Rick Perry, who made his formal announcement last week.

Perry is the tenth Republican to throw his hat in the 2016 ring, joining Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, Mike Huckabee, George Pataki, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Rick Santorum. There are at least five other Republicans who will also likely make a run for their party's nomination, but they have yet to formally announced their candidacies.

Rick Perry served the longest term as Texas governor in the state's history, taking over the office from George W. Bush (when Bush left to become president), and Perry only stepped down from this post earlier this year. He, obviously, wants to follow the trail Bush blazed from the Texas governor's office to the Oval Office. However, this

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will be the second run for Perry, and he'll have to improve significantly on his previous performance to even have a chance of doing so.

This is likely the biggest obstacle Perry faces. In an incredibly crowded Republican field, there are only three men who are not making their first run for the presidency: Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum and Perry. None of these three have exactly caught fire in the polls yet (although it is early, and anything could still happen). But it does seem that this time around the Republican electorate is looking for a completely new face to head their ticket, which could spell doom for the three also-rans.

Perry's 2012 run was impressive, at least at first. Right after he announced, he leapt to the top of the polling, beating out Mitt Romney and all the rest of the Republican field. Unfortunately for Perry, he didn't stay on top of the heap for very long, and his chances all but evaporated after a disastrous debate performance. When asked to name the three federal government departments he would work to abolish as president, Perry infamously could only name two of them. After hemming and hawing for a while, Perry just threw in the towel and replied: "Oops." This "oops moment" absolutely torpedoed whatever chance he might have had to beat Romney and the rest of the field, and his poll numbers quickly sank like a stone.

A plausible explanation for his disastrous debate performance was revealed later: Perry had undergone back surgery mere weeks before he announced his candidacy, and was on some serious painkillers during the debates (indeed, during his whole campaign). Anyone who has ever been on such painkillers can easy attest that they don't exactly go hand-in-hand with coherent thinking or clear-headedness. If Perry was popping pills before walking on the debate stage, it's a little more understandable that his memory wasn't fully in working order, in other words. Perry's big problem, however, is that you rarely get a second chance to make a first impression.

Perry falls somewhere in the middle of the conservative ideological spectrum. He's taken a very hard line on some issues dear to the Republican base, but then he's also championed some rather unorthodox positions as well, which might cause him problems if he does rise to the frontrunner ranks of the Republican pack (where his positions will get much more scrutiny from his fellow Republicans).

Perry, as governor, slashed the state's safety net to the bone, and pushed a conservative version of health care reform, which consisted mostly of "tort reform." But Texas is now the number one state in the country when it comes to the rate of uninsured citizens, meaning this panacea didn't exactly work wonders. Perry is a hardliner on abortion, and opposes it in almost all cases -- including for rape or incest victims -- and would only carve out an exception if the life of the mother is at risk. Perry is counting on the religious right's support (he announced his 2012 presidential candidacy at a prayer rally), and is stridently anti-gay-rights. He has expressed support for a constitutional amendment limiting marriage to a man and a woman. Perry is an Eagle Scout, and strongly supported the Boy Scouts banning gays from their ranks. He is (no surprise, for a Texas Republican) very pro-gun and presided over the executions of hundreds of Texas prisoners -- more than any other state by far. All these things are pretty standard Republican positions, well within the mainstream of his party.

Perry, however, has broken ranks with Republican orthodoxy in several notable ways. He signed a law in Texas to give undocumented immigrants in-state tuition rates at state colleges, which is much more liberal than most conservatives' position. Unlike some of the other Republicans running for president (Marco Rubio, chiefly), Perry actually stood behind this action and defended it, rather than running away from it in an effort to pander to Republican voters. Perry also championed mandatory HPV vaccine shots for young women, which raised eyebrows among many Republicans (and not only the anti-vaccine crowd). Perry has one further issue that has long been a bugaboo among the more conspiracy-minded Republicans (and libertarians). Perry supported the "Trans-Texas Corridor" project which would have created a major transportation route from Oklahoma to Mexico, in an effort to boost trade through his state. But this soon became the stuff of conspiracy theory, supposedly being just a preliminary to some sort of merger of Canada, Mexico and the United States into a supposedly-nightmarish regional government which would destroy life as we know it in America. Or something. This likely won't hurt Perry all that much, however, because so few people have heard about it, and because the project never really got off the ground.

Perry's strong point -- the foundation of his campaign, if last time is any indication -- is the explosive growth in Texas during his time in office. Perry likes to refer to this as the "Texas miracle," on the campaign trail. Texas

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showed an enormous amount of growth in jobs and population over the past 15 years, and (just as one indicator) the state added a whopping four seats in the House of Representatives in the last reapportionment (after the 2010 census) -- far more than any other state (California, by comparison, added zero seats, while New York and Ohio both lost two seats). Perry is running as the man who made such spectacular growth happen, in short. How much of the credit is his is debatable, as is much of the "Texas Miracle" itself, but politicians aren't exactly shy about claiming such credit, so Perry's claims are really just par for the course.

Perry may be weak on the actual fiscal record of Texas, however -- a point so far not being made by his opponents in the Republican field, but one which could gain traction if Perry starts doing better in the polls. While Perry was governor, the state began financing such basic services as roads (and other infrastructure) and unemployment benefits, by borrowing an enormous amount of money. The total state debt essentially tripled during his term as governor, due largely to his refusal to raise taxes. This may not go over very well with the fiscal conservatives in the Republican base -- again, if any of his opponents actually uses it to attack Perry.

Perry is also running as a strong proponent of beefing up border security, an issue where he's got more experience than most of his Republican opponents (Texas shares the longest border with Mexico of any state). He's hoping to defuse the immigration issue by being the strongest voice for increasing border patrols and stopping illegal entry on America's southern border.

Could Perry's candidacy catch fire the way it did the last time around? Well, anything's possible, especially this early in the race. But so far, it just hasn't happened. He has received a small bump in the polling, but he's still in tenth place overall -- right behind Donald Trump. If he's going to be considered a viable candidate, he'll have to get his poll numbers out of the bottom tier of candidates. Unfortunately for Perry, there are a lot of other people who will be attempting to do exactly the same thing.

If Perry does surprise everyone and start moving up, he's got as good a chance as most of the candidates to break into the top rank (currently occupied by Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Scott Walker). At the present time, however, there are no indications that this is going to happen. But perhaps one very good debate performance (to finally bury the notoriety of his previous debate performances) could move him up to challenge the frontrunners.

Perry's Texas swagger probably wouldn't go over all that well in a general election, though, if he were somehow to become the Republican nominee. In the first place, the last Republican who was president also had a pronounced Texas swagger, and look what that got us all. Perry will have a similar problem to Jeb Bush's, in separating himself from the man he took over the Texas governor's office from: George W. Bush. My guess is that if it came down to a race between Hillary Clinton and Rick Perry, Clinton would beat him pretty easily. But I would be very surprised if Perry got that far. I think his "oops moment" is going to be remembered by too many voters for him to recreate his image (glasses or not). I also think that the Republican electorate truly is looking for something new in their candidate of choice this year, and as a direct result Perry isn't even going to merit much attention from most Republican primary voters.

The Legal Trouble That Could Haunt Rick Perry's Presidential Campaign // Mother Jones // Patrick Caldwell – June 10, 2015

Rick Perry's recently launched presidential campaign is off to a relatively smooth start. Sure, unlike his 2012 bid, he's entering the field far, far behind in the polls—he's trailing Donald Trump!—but he's been getting good press. "Rick Perry's still got it," proclaimed Politico's Katie Glueck over the weekend, noting that "when it comes to glad-handing and working a crowd, Perry still sets the gold standard even if he trails in the polls."

But as he launches his second run for the White House, Perry faces ongoing legal trouble back home in Texas stemming from his time as governor. Last August, a grand jury indicted Perry for abusing his power as governor. Perry has repeatedly requested that judges dismiss the case, only to be rebuked as the allegations progress toward a trial—one that could play out during the heat of the GOP primaries.

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The case is a bit convoluted, but it stems from Perry's 2013 effort to oust a county district attorney who investigates public corruption.

Texas has an unusual system of keeping politicians in check. There's no a state-level commission that scrutinizes political malfeasance. Instead, the Travis County DA—based in Austin—is responsible for conducting these investigations.

Texas Republicans had never been huge fans of a system that entrusts this liberal county with that power (especially after the Travis DA charged former US House majority leader Tom DeLay with violating election law in 2005). Nevertheless, the status quo had hummed along until April 2013, when police arrested Travis County DA Rosemary Lehmberg for drunk driving. Lehmberg, a Democrat, was caught on videotape the night of her arrest threatening police officers.

Republicans, including Perry, immediately called on Lehmberg to resign. But she refused, managing to hold onto her job despite various legal maneuvers to remove her from office. So Perry attempted a more creative method to get rid of Lehmberg. In 2013, he used the governor's line item veto power to cross out $7.5 million in funds allocated to the Public Integrity Unit, the subsection of the Travis County DA's office that investigates political corruption. Perry directly linked the veto to Lehmberg's arrest, saying he couldn't allow the funds to go to this outfit "when the person charged with ultimate responsibility of that unit has lost the public's confidence."

That raised the ire of Texans for Public Justice, a left-leaning good government outfit. It filed a complaint alleging Perry had abused his office's powers. "The governor overstepped his authority by sticking his nose in Travis County's business," the group's executive director said in a statement at the time. This led to a judge tasking a special prosecutor to look into the case, and that led to a grand jury and felony indictment for Perry on one count of abusing his official capacity and another count of coercing a public servant.

Perry has been dismissive of the case, turning his mugshot into a fundraising t-shirt. And a number of legal commentators, even liberal ones, have agreed, questioning the seriousness of the charges leveled against Perry. University of California, Irvine law professor Rick Hasen termed it "the criminalization of ordinary politics."

Yet judges in Texas aren't ready to shelve the charges. San Antonio Judge Bert Richardson has repeatedly turned down motions from Perry's lawyers to dismiss the case. In April, the case was assigned to a three-judge panel in Texas' 3rd Court of Appeals. No date has been set for initial hearings, so the case might not get fully aired until the peak of presidential primary season later this fall. If Perry he ends up getting convicted on both counts, he would face a maximum sentence of over 100 years of jail time.

No matter the outcome of the case, Perry soon might get his wish to see Lehmberg off the public corruption beat: The state house and senate both recently passed bills to reassign corruption cases to the Texas Rangers—a law enforcement agency that is overseen by the governor's appointees.

Perry Switches On Trade: TPP's Become 'An Animal' That 'Needs To Go Away' // The Daily Caller // Al Weaver – June 10, 2015

After initially offering up support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry has withdrawn his backing ahead of a House vote to potentially approve a deal Friday.

In an interview on "The Hugh Hewitt Show" Wednesday, the 2016 candidate argued that much like the Ex-Im Bank, which Perry also supported until recently, the TPP has now become "an animal" that "needs to go away" at this point and time.

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Perry had signaled his potential opposition to the TPP in May based on his lack of trust in President Barack Obama negotiating a trade deal.

"As you find out information, I don't mind — just like the Ex-Im Bank, I believe that America has to be a competitor out there. I think we have to do everything we can to well our products around the world. But like the Ex-Im Bank, when it came to be abundantly clear of the fraud and corruption that was going on there, I finally said 'listen, I can't support you anymore," Perry told Hewitt. "At this particular point and time, this thing needs to go away. And the TPP has now become that kind of an animal, if you will."

"When you will not tell Congress and when you will not tell the American people what is in a trade agreement — Washington has a real issue with trust as it is, and when you try to pull that on the American people and we start hearing some of the things that are in there — with this president's record of pulling some of the things he has done, we have to pass the bill so we'll know out what's in it type of rhetoric," Perry continued. "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you pass Obamacare, the costs are going to go down…With that kind of record and not being honest and transparent with the American people, I think it's just easier — well, I wouldn't say easier, I think the wise thing to do is to say Mr. President, if you don't trust the American people to know what's in this trade deal, we don't trust you enough to pass it."

Perry had previously signaled reservations about a potential deal, as reported on May 19 by the Texas Tribune.

"I would rather Barack Obama not be negotiating for me right now, but he's going to be there for about 20 more months, and this deal needs to be transparent, and that's my greatest concern — is the lack of transparency in this piece of legislation," Perry said. "Until the public and Congress are comfortable that they know what's in this trade agreement, I'm not going to recommend that they sign it, and if we have to wait until there's a new president, then that's okay."

GRAHAM

The most interesting candidate you're not paying any attention to **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – June 10, 2015**

When Lindsey Graham talks, the political world, generally, yawns. Graham, while a very well-regarded figure from his Senate perch, is not particularly regarded at all in the 2016 presidential race that he recently joined.

Graham is an asterisk -- or close to it -- in polling in every early state (except for his home state of South Carolina) and nationally. He's not even close to making the stage in the first Republican debate set for August. He's generally regarded as a cause candidate, with that cause being to represent the most hawkish views on foreign policy and national security against attacks by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

Ok, fine. But, if you stop and actually listen to some of what Graham is saying -- particularly on the subject of bipartisanship -- you realize that he's one of the most interesting candidates in the field and one of the few who can genuinely sell himself as a change agent.

Here's Graham answering a question from "Meet The Press" host Chuck Todd about how he would address political polarization in Washington:

I think there's a market for a better way. When I talked to that young guy there, I said, you're going to have to work a little longer, pal. If I'm president, I'm going to ask you to work a little bit longer. What do people do between 65 and 67, they work two years longer. Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neil showed us what to do. I'm making a bet here. I'm making a bet that you can talk about problem-solving in a Republican primary and still get the

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nomination. I'm making a bet that you can openly embrace working with Democrats and still get the nomination. I'm making a bet that with a war-weary public, you can rally them to go over there and keep the fight over there before it comes here. Now, if I lose those bets it doesn't mean America is lost, it just means I fell short. To a young person in politics, listen to what I'm doing here and see if it makes sense to you. There is a growing desire by the public at large to stop the BS. I feel it, I sense it, and I'm running on the idea that if you elect me, I'll do whatever is necessary to defend the nation. I'm running not as a candidate for a single party but for a great nation.

If you believe the American people when they say they want leaders who are willing to work with one another and take positions because they believe in them not because the policies are popular, it's hard for me to imagine a better message than that paragraph from Graham above.

And, not for nothing, Graham's recent life in politics suggests he actually walks some of his talk. Graham was one of the leading voices in support of the comprehensive immigration reform proposal that passed the Senate in June 2013 only to die in the House. Unlike most of the Republican Senators involved in that effort *** cough *** MARCO RUBIO *** cough ***, Graham stood steadfastly behind his support for immigration reform -- despite the fact that it drew him five primary challengers who cited it as exhibit A that he simply wasn't conservative enough for South Carolina.

Graham won that primary last June with 56 percent of the vote. How? Here's how The Atlantic's Molly Ball diagnosed it: "Graham talked about his support for a path to citizenship at nearly every campaign stop, touting his work with Democrats on the issue as evidence of his willingness to solve tough problems in Washington. By his calculus, voters would accept a difference of opinion, but they wouldn't accept insincerity."

That's pretty compelling stuff, right? A guy who not only says he is committed to work across the aisle but actually has done it -- and owned it?

And yet, Graham is where he is: An asterisk in the polls, classified, already, in the "also-ran" pile of GOP presidential candidates.

There's a case to be made that it's early in the process and Graham still has plenty of time to rise above his currently meager station in the polls and so on and so forth. True, if unlikely based on the history of these sorts of races.

To me though, Graham's candidacy is a sort of campaign thought experiment: What if politics produced a candidate that had lots and lots of what the public said it wanted but in a somewhat unlikely package (a southern-drawling lifetime politician) and without the buzz and fanfare that surrounds the so-called "top tier"?

Could a candidate like that possibly hope to break through?

Lindsey Graham to Sean Hannity: Knock it off **// Politico // Nick Gass – June 10, 2015**

Fox News host Sean Hannity went after presidential candidate Lindsey Graham on Tuesday night, responding to the South Carolina Republican's recent remarks that blamed both him and MSNBC host Rachel Maddow for the role they play in polarizing American politics.

"I've come to conclude that the Republican Party and the country as a whole needs to knock off some of this stuff," Graham told Hannity.

Story Continued Below

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Graham's initial comments, aired June 2 in an interview with NBC News' Chuck Todd, imagined what the two political commentators from opposite ends of the spectrum might have said to Benjamin Franklin.

"You know, Ben Franklin comes outside and Rachel Maddow and Sean Hannity jump on him, 'Don't give in, Ben.' Just think how hard it is in today's 24/7 news cycle [with] talk radio, cable television and money," Graham told Todd. "There is a group telling you to say no about everything."

Hannity ticked through his policy positions available on his website, touting his own solutions.

"Absolutely, you have solutions," Graham responded. "But so does Rachel Maddow. And the problem is that we can't blend these solutions."

"Wasn't Martin Luther King Jr. polarizing in a good way for justice?" Hannity asked. "He was a polarizing figure, right?"

Ronald Reagan was also described as "polarizing" when he took on sitting President Gerald Ford for the Republican nomination in 1976, Hannity said. The Fox News host also brought up Graham's own support of President Bill Clinton's impeachment while he was a member of the House, as well as his support of the troop surge in Iraq.

At times, Graham acknowledged he has been polarizing, but told Hannity that his solutions don't work. Shutting down the government over the Affordable Care Act, for example, Graham said, "made zero sense to me."

Lindsey Graham's abortion push could imperil fellow GOPers **// Politico // Burgess Everett – June 10, 2015**

Sen. Lindsey Graham is renewing a GOP push for a 20-week abortion ban — a bid that could boost his long-shot presidential campaign but spell trouble for vulnerable GOP senators up for reelection in swing states next year.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) earlier promised a vote on the hot-button bill, which already passed the House. Abortion foes say a vote in the Senate would be a historical milestone, the most consequential vote on the issue in more than a decade.

But Graham's effort threatens to hand political ammunition to Democrats trying to knock off GOP senators in purple and blue states that will decide Senate control after the 2016 election. Among them are Rob Portman of Ohio, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Democratic leaders, cognizant of the damage that social issues like abortion have done to Republican candidates in the recent past, practically dared McConnell to take up the ban.

"They can do whatever they want. We're ready for them," said Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), one of the party's top electoral strategists, was slightly more measured.

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“I don’t think it’s the right thing to do and I don’t think it helps them politically,” said the Democratic leader in waiting.

In an interview, the South Carolina Republican called his legislation “good policy” and “acceptable politics.” He waved away the possibility that he is imperiling some of his GOP colleagues running in tough states — in a year that’s expected to favor Democrats with Hillary Clinton at the top of the ticket.

Ayotte, Portman and Johnson have backed the 20-week ban in the past, and said they would do so again if it came to a vote. But they did not urge its speedy consideration on the Senate floor.

“Late-term abortions are obviously something that the American people don’t agree with. So I am looking at the bill and it’s up to the leader whether he brings it to the floor. But I’ve previously been against late-term abortions,” said Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), who in 2014 worked with Graham to pressure then-Majority Leader Harry Reid in putting the bill up for a vote, citing polls that show support for a 20-week abortion ban.

Graham asserted that the measure, which he plans to introduce formally at a news conference Thursday, would be tricky even for some Democrats who back abortion rights to oppose.

“A lot of pro-choice people would say, ‘Hey, that late in the pregnancy we probably should not allow wholesale abortion,’” Graham said.

Graham’s rivals for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016 uniformly endorse a ban after 20 weeks of pregnancy. And some governors running for president have overseen enactment of strict abortion legislation or, like Gov. Scott Walker (R-Wis.), are in the process of doing so.

But Graham would be leading the charge from the stage of the Senate floor, possibly in the thick of the 2016 primary season. Graham is running as a bipartisan pragmatist who’s strong on national defense; a high-profile anti-abortion campaign could raise his profile among social conservative activists, some of whom will stand aside him on Thursday morning when he makes his push for Senate action on the bill. Little known outside his home state and far behind in the polls, Graham is looking to jump-start his fledgling campaign.

“It’s a good debate to have. We’re one of seven countries I believe that allow wholesale abortion on demand five months into the pregnancy. I’d like to get out of that club,” Graham said. “This is a reasonable position to take.”

The abortion push is already causing some grumbling among some Republican senators who say the party should steer clear of a pitched battle over social policy that will never get past President Barack Obama’s veto pen even if it somehow managed to break a filibuster.

“I don’t think that should be the priority,” said Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine). Asked if she could support such a bill, she demurred: “I don’t think it is good policy for us to turn to that issue, period.”

For Graham personally, though, there’s little downside to pressing McConnell follow through on his pledge a year ago to put the abortion bill on the floor if he became majority leader. Graham has long been a staunch anti-abortion advocate, taking up the charge to pass the 20-week ban two years ago and successfully pushing through a law that legally recognized in utero children killed in crimes.

But the 20-week bill’s political complexity has confounded GOP leaders. In the House, GOP leaders were forced to pull the bill and rewrite it to assuage concerns of Republican women who objected to rape-reporting requirements in the bill. After four months of work, the legislation eventually passed the House last month. McConnell has said little about it since, giving no indication when it will come up for a vote in the Senate.

Graham said McConnell isn’t backing away from his pledge to have a vote.

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“I have no reason to believe he’s changed his mind,” Graham said. But GOP leaders and senior aides suggested McConnell is no rush to bring the bill to the floor.

Democrats involved in 2016 Senate races indicated that they’re prepared to pounce if McConnell takes up the abortion measure.

“In 2016, voters across the country – men and women alike – will remember that Senate Republicans were more interested in playing politics with women’s health than in moving our country forward,” said Sadie Weiner of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Republican leaders are defending 24 Senate seats next year, including in several states that President Barack Obama carried twice. Privately, some Republicans groused that putting the legislation up for the vote would revive “war on women” broadsides from Democrats and hurt the GOP in purple states. But several vulnerable GOP incumbents said they would likely support the 20-week bill.

“It’s pretty important to so many people that are pro-life, as am I. I think at some point in time it’s just reasonable to say that we should protect life,” said Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), whom former Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold is planning to challenge in what’s expected to be a close race.

From right to left: Sen. Rob Portman, Sen. Pat Toomey and Sen. Kelly Ayotte | AP Photo

Polls are mixed on abortion. The 20-week ban frequently garners a plurality or majority of support in polls, most of which were conducted in 2013. But last week a Gallup survey showed Americans self-identifying as “pro-choice” for the first time since 2008.

Republicans are reading the supportive polls for the 20-week bill as a reason to forge ahead. But Democrats remember their previously successful efforts to portray the GOP as insensitive on women’s healthcare.

“It’s yet another proof point of them being out of touch,” said Jess McIntosh of EMILY’S List. “They were elected to create jobs.”

National Republican Senatorial Committee chairman Roger Wicker of Mississippi brushed off that attack.

“It’s a fully formed baby at this point. The pregnancy is halfway over,” he said of the abortions the bill seeks to end.

A vote could help other Republicans politically.

Backing the the 20-week bill could allow Republican senators such as John McCain of Arizona, Roy Blunt of Missouri and Portman to flex their conservative muscles in primary races. And pro-abortion rights Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) could tout his opposition during a general election.

“That’s going to be an issue that probably works for our candidates,” said Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), the No. 3 Senate Republican. “The politics of the life issue has changed dramatically in the past few years and the way that Lindsey’s approaching it is pretty good ground for us to stand on.”

But nobody may benefit more than Graham, who stands out among many of his conservative rivals for the Republican nomination as a lawmaker willing to compromise.

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On Thursday morning he'll stand aside leaders from social conservative groups that say a vote on his bill is the most important abortion action in the Senate since former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) managed to pass a partial-birth abortion ban a dozen years ago.

"This moment is tailor made for him," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, which opposes abortion rights.

SANTORUM

Rick Santorum is getting lost in the growing GOP pack // LA Times // David Horsey – June 10, 2015

Within days after Mitt Romney lost the 2012 presidential election, I began to receive emails from Rick Santorum's media relations staff. At the time, I thought to myself, "This guy is still running for president." And, of course, I was right.

Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, finished No. 2 in the 2012 Republican primaries, so it made sense that he might want to have another go at it. The unceasing flow of emails on his behalf did not mention the next election, of course. They were merely updates on Santorum's speaking schedule and statements about major issues arising in the news -- part of a coordinated effort to signal he remained a player in the political game.

Many of the news releases arrived under the banner of Patriot Voices, an organization formed by Santorum and his wife, Karen, in 2012 with a stated mission to "fight to protect faith, freedom, family and opportunity." The unstated, but rather obvious, underlying mission was to maintain a political organization Santorum could mobilize for another White House run. It also allowed him to avoid having to take a real job.

Santorum probably hoped his good showing in the last round of primaries and his unceasing effort to sustain grass-roots support would give him the inside track to the 2016 GOP nomination, but it has not turned out that way. In polls, he is now languishing near the bottom in the most crowded field of candidates in his party's history. Instead of fighting for first place with Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Scott Walker, Santorum is stuck between Carly Fiorina and George Pataki.

Still, there is no reason to give up. The Iowa caucuses are still eight months away and, as yet, no candidate holds a commanding position in an ever-expanding group of candidates that is splitting the polling numbers into smaller and smaller fractions. Anything could happen.

The uncertain nature of the Republican race at this point has made it easy for just about anyone to announce his or her candidacy and expect to be taken at least halfway seriously. Politically speaking, there are no heavyweights in the GOP ring in this election cycle, no prohibitive favorites. If you were a Republican with even a modest resume as a senator or governor or Fox News analyst (or, if you were Donald Trump, with an ego the size of Manhattan), it would be easy to look around at the competition and think, "Really? I'm at least as worthy as the rest of these guys."

And even though most of the announced and soon-to-be-announced candidates must know their chances are slim, they have also learned there are consolation prizes for also-rans. Mike Huckabee turned his failed candidacy in 2008 into a lucrative TV career that is paying for a gaudy mansion in Florida. A turn as a vice presidential nominee elevated Sarah Palin from a boring job as governor of Alaska to a glitzy celebrity career at the crossroads of politics and entertainment. For others, being a presidential candidate at least earned them frequent appearances on the Sunday morning political news shows.

Santorum may face more meager rewards if and when he loses again. Still, considering that Pennsylvania voters booted him out of the Senate in 2006, by November 2016, he will have spent much of a decade as a presidential

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candidate or candidate-in-waiting with all the perks and attention that go with that role. That's not nearly as good as getting the keys to the White House, but, for a politician, it is sure better than obscurity.

HUCKABEE

Co-Author Of Mike Huckabee Books Was Accused Of Child Molestation In Two Legal Cases // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski – June 10, 2015

John Perry, a prolific author who co-wrote two books with former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and co-wrote one with Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore, was accused of child molestation in two separate lawsuits, BuzzFeed News has found.

A 2012 police investigation of Perry's alleged offenses found that "the allegations of sexual battery were sustained" but that the statute of limitations had expired.

Perry co-wrote Do the Right Thing: Inside the Movement That's Bringing Common Sense Back to America about Huckabee's 2008 presidential campaign. He also did research and writing for Huckabee's 2007 book Character Is the Issue, a memoir of his early time as governor. Perry also co-wrote So Help Me God, Moore's autobiographical account of fighting to keep a monument to the Ten Commandments at Alabama's Supreme Court.

Those books are just a few of the titles produced with Perry's help: He wrote For Faith & Family: Changing America by Strengthening the Family with Richard Land, the president of Southern Evangelical Seminary, a book with former Southern Baptist Convention president James T. Draper, as well as a book with Frank Page, the president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Perry even co-authored The Vow, the book made into a feature film starring Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum. Perry also lists writing two books for prominent pastor John F. MacArthur on his website.

In a sworn affidavit submitted during divorce proceedings, Perry's ex-wife attests that she "filed for divorce as a result of Mr. Perry's inappropriate marital conduct, to which he admitted to in his Response to Interrogatories numbers 1 and 2." Throughout the court documents, "inappropriate marital conduct" appears to be a euphemism for the alleged molestation.

Perry's responses are not included in the case file.

Another filing, submitted by Perry's ex-wife's attorney earlier in the same proceedings, refers to Perry's "admitted sexual abuse" of a minor child. Perry's response to that filing — also submitted prior to his ex-wife's affidavit — does not deny the abuse, or that Perry admitted it. Instead, Perry claims that "there was never any testimony or other evidence of any kind presented" to the court, "or any orders or findings of fact [...] regarding any alleged sexual abuse of any minor child relative to the parties' divorce or any other legal proceeding."

This claim is not, however, necessarily incompatible with Perry's ex-wife's claim that Perry "admitted to" the alleged "inappropriate marital conduct" during the discovery process, because it appears that those findings were not technically "presented" to the court.

Likewise, a police investigation launched in 2012 found the allegations against Perry "were sustained," according to a police department spokesperson, but that statute of limitations had passed.

"The alleged sexual battery was reported to have occurred when the victim was between the ages of 11 and 14," said Nashville police department spokesperson Don Aaron in a statement to BuzzFeed News.

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"As a result of the investigation, the allegations of sexual battery were sustained, but it was determined that the statute of limitations had tolled, barring prosecution. The victim was age 18 when she first disclosed the allegations to non-law enforcement and said at that time she did not want the matter reported to the Tennessee Department of Children's Services or the police."

In a second series of lawsuits brought in a county court in Tennessee, and related to the same alleged acts of child molestation, Austin Davis, a former parishioner of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville, claims that the church covered up Perry's alleged acts of child molestation and launched a campaign to silence and harass Davis.

Inquiries to Covenant Presbyterian were forwarded to their attorney. Autumn Gentry, a lawyer for Covenant Presbyterian, told BuzzFeed News they can't comment on ongoing litigation.

The individual Perry allegedly molested told BuzzFeed News that she believed that the church reacted appropriately, and did not cover up Perry's alleged offense. Perry has not returned multiple requests for comment from BuzzFeed News.

In an affidavit submitted as part of his case, Austin Davis claims the accuser told him that she had been molested between the ages of 11 and 13.

In Davis's court case, he presents what he alleges are minutes from Covenant Presbyterian Church meetings that show Perry resigning from the church's diaconate in 2008, and minutes from 2010 showing Perry was excommunicated from the church because he "has confessed to committing heinous and repetitive sin [...] and has not shown evidence of repentance." The minutes appear to have been introduced as evidence in one of Davis' lawsuits against the church. The church does not appear to have objected to the introduction of the minutes or contested their authenticity.

BuzzFeed News spoke to a longtime church member, who said he had obtained the minutes for Davis and vouched for their authenticity. The minutes are accessible to any church member. The individual Perry allegedly molested also told BuzzFeed News that Perry was excommunicated from the church as a consequence of the alleged abuse.

Catherine Davis, the wife of Austin Davis, likewise wrote in a sworn affidavit that during the summer of 2012, she spoke to the accuser, who confirmed the abuse occurred numerous times when the individual was a minor. Davis said the accuser told her that she broke her silence in 2007 and began telling friends, family members, church leaders, and school officials about what had allegedly occurred.

Spokespeople for Huckabee did not return a request for comment.

Huckabee: Fox News Staff Thought I Was A "Psychopath" For Owning An AR-15 // Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – June 10, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. and Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee said earlier this year that the staff of his Fox News show was "scared to death" and reacted like he was a "psychopath" when he told them he owned "several" AR-15 rifles.

"I'll never forget sitting around with my own staff at Fox News, New Yorkers all, and something came up about guns, and they were saying about how nobody should ever own an AR-15, 'Well, there's just no reason to own an assault weapon,'" Huckabee said, speaking at the Destiny Worship Center in Destin, Florida in January.

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Huckabee said he challenged his staff's definition of the term 'assault weapon,' telling them that even "a pencil is an assault weapon if you poke it in someone's eye," before making them "really shocked when I said 'AR-15s, I got several of them.'"

"They were scared to death," Huckabee said. "I thought they were gonna dive under the table. I really did. It was like they were, 'Huh!' He's a psychopath.'"

Huckabee said he explained to his staff that the AR-15 rifles were less powerful "than the rifles that I deer hunt with" and that the features that make them look intimidating are "all practical functional features of the rifle to make it lighter, to make cooler, to make it easier to hold so that a woman as well as a man who is short or tall can use these."

"'You're just looking at it and you think because you saw it on a Rambo movie that it must be more lethal than anything else,'" Huckabee said he told his team. "And I said that's nonsense."

KASICH

Kasich Leads Field In Ohio **// Public Policy Polling – June 10, 2015**

PPP's new Ohio poll finds that John Kasich would be the first choice of Republican primary voters in his home state- more than a lot of the other GOP hopefuls can say in theirs. Kasich polls at 19% to 13% for Ben Carson and Scott Walker, 12% for Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, 9% for Rand Paul, 6% for Mike Huckabee, 5% for Ted Cruz, and 4% for Chris Christie.

Kasich is pretty universally popular with Republican voters in the state- 72% approve of the job he's doing to only 17% who disapprove. But he still performs unspectacularly with voters on the right in the primary- among 'very conservative' voters he manages just a tie for third place with Marco Rubio at 12%, behind Ben Carson's 19% and Scott Walker's 17%. But he leads the field among the more centrist ideological groups within the Republican electorate. Among 'somewhat conservative' voters he gets 24%to 14% for Rubio, 11% for Carson, and 10% each for Walker and Rand Paul. And among moderates he ties Jeb Bush for the top spot at 23% with Walker at 11% and Rubio at 10% also in double digits.

Rubio has the highest favorability rating among GOP voters in Ohio, as we have found to be the case many places lately, at 58/16. Ohio makes yet another state where Christie is outwardly disliked by GOP voters- his favorability is 34/44- to put into perspective how poor that is the next least popular Republican we tested- Jeb Bush- is still at +16 at 48/32.

Hillary Clinton remains as dominant as ever on the Democratic side- she polls at 61% to 13% for Bernie Sanders, 7% for Michael Bloomberg, 2% each for Lincoln Chafee and Martin O'Malley, and 1% for Jim Webb.

We threw in Bloomberg because of the fascination of the New York media with a potential bid from him. We found that 1) Bloomberg isn't actually that well known- 54% of primary voters have no opinion about him and 2) he is not that well liked- only 22% of Democrats have a favorable opinion of him to 24% with a negative one.

This is the first poll we've conducted since O'Malley and Chafee formally got into the race and their 2% showing suggests neither has gotten much of an initial bump from his announcement. Neither has a positive favorability rating among Democratic primary voters in the state either.

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Clinton is polling over 70% with African Americans, over 60% with liberals, women, and seniors, and over 50% with moderates, men, and younger voters. There's no major demographic group within the Democratic electorate she fails to receive majority support from.

The general election match ups in Ohio are generally close with one exception- Kasich leads Clinton 47/40 in a hypothetical contest. Kasich boasts a solid 49/35 approval rating following his resounding reelection victory last year. The key to Kasich's advantage is that 89% of Republicans support him, compared to 75% of Democrats for Clinton.

The only other Republican who Clinton trails in Ohio is Rand Paul at 44/41. She also ties Marco Rubio at 44. She has small advantages over the rest of the GOP field- it's 44/43 over Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, and Scott Walker, 45/43 over Jeb Bush, 44/41 over Chris Christie, and 45/42 over Mike Huckabee.

Clinton may not be polling great against the Republicans in Ohio but there's still a huge gap between how she fares and how any other Democrat does in a general election match up. In match ups against Scott Walker, Bloomberg trails 40/32, Sanders 40/30, O'Malley 41/26, Chafee 39/24, and Webb 41/25.

CARSON

Ben Carson: Let's spy on government workers **// MSNBC // Jane Timm – June 10, 2015**

Republican presidential contender Ben Carson said Wednesday that if elected next year he might implement a "covert division" of government workers who spy on their coworkers to improve government efficiency.

The pediatric neurosurgeon-turned-candidate told a crowd of Iowa Republicans he is "thinking very seriously" about adding "a covert division of people who look like the people in this room, who monitor what government people do."

Carson suggested people would work harder if they suspected their coworkers of monitoring their work. "And we make it possible to fire government people!" he said to loud cheers.

Conservatives often criticize government employees as bureaucrats who live off public money and aren't accountable to taxpayers. Still, Carson's suggestion that such workers should spy on each other is the latest in a string of unusual — and often bizarre — ideas he's floated that win cheers from far-right crowds and raised eyebrows from everyone else.

It's true that firing government employees who underperform can be notoriously complicated – so much so that most agencies don't even try to do it, a Government Accountability Office report found earlier this year.

Campaign communications director Doug Watts tried to clarify Carson's comments in an email to msnbc. "Covert division? More like Secret Shopper, a quality control strategy used worldwide to improve customer service and customer care," Watts said.

While Carson is considered to be a long shot for the GOP nomination at best, his polling numbers and fan base are strong and active, indicating that Republicans can't count Carson – or his covert division – out just yet.

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Carson: Gay rights aren't the same as civil rights // **CNN // Alexandra Jaffe – June 10, 2015**

Ben Carson said Wednesday night that he was "irritated" by the comparison between the fight for same-sex marriage rights and the Civil Rights Movement because there's no overt segregation against gays.

Speaking on Fox News' "Special Report", Carson elaborated on his remarks on CNN in March that he believes being gay is a choice because people "go into prison straight -- and when they come out, they're gay."

The GOP presidential contender told host Brett Baier that he "shouldn't have allowed my emotions" into the conversation, but was reacting to CNN host Chris Cuomo's line of questioning on the issue.

"I was a little bit irritated that he was equating the whole [gay marriage] issue with the Civil Rights movement. Because, quite frankly, I didn't remember any times when there were signs up that says, you know, 'everybody else here and gay people have to drink at this fountain,'" he said.

"I was a little irritated, but I shouldn't have allowed that to enter into the discussion," Carson said.

During his March interview on "New Day," Cuomo had pressed Carson on his assertion that the marriage issue should be left up to the states to decide, drawing a comparison to segregation against blacks.

"What if people of a state vote for a law, 100 to zero, that winds up infringing on the rights of a minority -- like happened very often with slavery? Like many would argue is happening now with people who are gay?" Cuomo asked.

Carson replied that "the Constitution was followed and we corrected those things" in the case of segregation against blacks, but suggested the case with gay marriage was different because being gay is a choice. His subsequent line of reasoning -- that it's a choice because some people come out of prison gay -- sparked a firestorm of criticism and eventually Carson apologized for the comments, admitting his words were "hurtful and divisive."

But on Wednesday night, Carson expressed satisfaction with how the controversy played out.

"They saw that as the opportunity to finally knock this guy out -- and they thought that they had done it. Stick a fork in him, he's gone. They were jubilant," he said of critics. "And now they're saying, I can't believe this guy's still here, are you kidding me?"

Carson came in seventh place in a late May CNN/ORC survey of the GOP presidential field, taking 7% support.

Carson identifies as 'pragmatic dove' for conservative voters // **The Des Moines Register – June 10, 2015**

Ben Carson identified himself as a "pragmatic dove" with a declaration against ISIS Wednesday morning.

The retired neurosurgeon's "only choice is to destroy them" stance won a round of applause near the end of a 30-minute speech at the Westside Conservative Club breakfast gathering in Urbandale.

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"Pragmatic doves do not allow themselves to be destroyed. They will do what they need to do to preserve themselves," Carson said to nearly 200 captivated faces packed into a side room at the Machine Shed Restaurant.

He added that he disagreed with the decision to invade Iraq in 2003.

The Republican presidential candidate shared his biography in brief, including an early desire to become a missionary doctor that faded with an "I'd rather be rich" realization in high school.

"Lord, what are you up to?" was a recurring question as he achieved success, influence and fame, he said. Carson was the youngest physician to head a major division at Johns Hopkins Medical Institution. He also sat on major corporate boards and got invited twice (1997 and 2013) to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast.

Carson said he heard the answer to his question when people started telling him to run for president, prompted largely by his harsh criticism of the Obama administration at the 2013 prayer breakfast.

"It was the good Lord giving me a lot of experience," Carson said before diving into a range of issues.

His speech depicted an America that is slipping away with special interest groups and intentional "purveyors of division" at the helm. He quoted Jesus, stating that a house divided cannot stand and how he will only answer to citizens.

"I would much rather lose than get involved with a special interest group," Carson said.

Lack of political experience was the first concern on the mind of David Stilley, a 59-year-old physician at the Wednesday event.

"Are we going to get right back where we were with someone who doesn't understand how government works on the day-to-day," Stilley said, highlighting Barack Obama's short political career prior to the White House.

Carson resolved some of those fears with anecdotes about overseeing finances on corporate boards and travel to 50-some foreign countries during his career.

"He's definitely stepped up a couple notches for my support based on his comments," said Stilley, who owns DoctorsNow Walk-in Care with three clinics in the Des Moines metro. "Fixing the economy fixes everything else."

Several Wednesday attendees – in an audience nearly 100 percent white and mostly above the age of 50 – pointed to the economy as their chief concern.

Kim Hiscox, owner of a West Des Moines real estate company, asked Carson about his solution for illegal immigration.

Carson said he would seal "all the borders, which we can do within a year ... and turnoff the spicket that's dispensing all the goodies."

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Hiscox, a 60-year-old Republican voter, called the response brilliantly thought-out. Carson won her over as a top choice, tied with Rick Perry, for a GOP candidate.

"Perry knows how to handle himself in public, fielding questions. Now I can see Carson also is a very capable public speaker," Hiscox said. "I don't respect canned, tele-prompted speeches."

SETTING: Machine Shed Restaurant in Urbandale for Westside Conservative Club breakfast

CROWD: Captive audience of nearly 200

REACTION: Many laughs and several rounds of applause paused Carson's 30-minute speech; several hands went up after and Carson answered five specific questions.

WHAT'S NEXT: This is part of a two-day visit for Carson. His schedule called for a busy Wednesday after the breakfast club: volunteering at a food bank in Waterloo, a meet-and-greet in Cedar Falls and an ice cream social visit in Eldora. He also plans to attend a coffee-with-residents gathering Thursday morning in Fort Dodge.

FIORINA

Fiorina's campaign-trail attacks leave out her own ties to Clinton Carly Fiorina // LAT // Joseph Tanfani – June 11, 2015

In a crowd of Republican presidential contenders hammering away at Hillary Rodham Clinton, no one has been more relentless than Carly Fiorina.

In speeches and media interviews, some of them while shadowing Clinton on the campaign trail, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive has attacked the Clintons' family foundation for a lack of transparency amid reports that it accepted money from foreign governments. "She is not trustworthy," Fiorina says in a video on her website, itself named ReadytoBeatHillary.com.

In a Facebook post, Fiorina excoriated the Clintons for accepting donations from foreign governments "while making promises about transparency that they never intended to keep."

"What else don't we know? What don't we know about your donors?" she asked Wednesday on Fox News about the Clintons' charitable efforts. "What don't we know about the conflicts of interest that those donors represent?"

But in Fiorina's own philanthropic ventures, one of the key points of her resume as a White House hopeful, she has had a friendlier relationship with the Clintons and their foundation than she highlights on the campaign trail. And, in pressing for help for women around the globe, Fiorina is more similar to Hillary Clinton than she admits.

The discrepancies show how personal and professional ties can complicate life on the campaign trail for well-connected people like Fiorina, who also unsuccessfully ran for Senate in California in 2010.

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One Fiorina charitable effort, a campaign to fund women's empowerment projects around the globe, went forward with help from the State Department when Clinton was secretary.

And Fiorina has roles in two charities that participated in projects that became commitments with the Clinton Global Initiative, one of the organizations in the Clintons' worldwide philanthropic network in which charities and companies announce partnerships to pledge action on social projects.

She has also twice participated in Clinton Global Initiative events. In 2013, she spoke on a small panel that discussed how to boost female entrepreneurship. Last year, she appeared with former President Clinton and three other people on a televised panel discussion on how best to pull people out of poverty.

Fiorina at times sparred with the former president and criticized Democratic economic policies, saying that the Obama administration "made the rich much richer." But she also argued for the role of small business and praised the organization's work. "Seed capital, support, tools, energy -- all of the initiatives that the Clinton Global Initiative invests in to try and build Main Street entrepreneurship -- it has always been the hope of this country," Fiorina said.

A spokeswoman for Fiorina said she was "delighted" to participate in a session advocating for women who are entrepreneurs, and characterized the second discussion as "a debate with Bill Clinton."

Fiorina has contrasted her belief in transparency with Clinton's, saying last month: "Unlike Hillary Clinton, I am not afraid to answer questions about my track record or beliefs." She did not respond to follow-up questions about her involvement with the foundation or her work with the State Department.

Bill Clinton, speaking at a Clinton Global Initiative conference on Wednesday, said the foundation had always considered itself nonpolitical and had hosted a number of Republican politicians, including Mitt Romney and John McCain. He didn't mention Fiorina.

Fiorina helped spark a charitable drive in 2008 called the One Woman Initiative, targeting women's empowerment groups, mostly in Muslim countries. According to the organization, she set it up with help from the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

It took about a year to raise the money. By the time the approximately $500,000 in grants was released, in June 2009, President Obama was in the White House and Clinton was secretary of State. The initiatives included a microfinance program in Pakistan, a conflict-resolution program in the Philippines and an economic development program in India.

The initiative aimed to distribute grants with the help of corporate sponsors, and with support from the Department of State and USAID. The agencies also declined to comment on the initiative.

The Clinton Global Initiative draws together corporate and charity leaders for networking and to announce commitments to complete projects together.

Fiorina is connected to two groups that participated in such programs. She is board chairman of Good360, a Virginia-based group that connects companies who want to donate goods with charities that need them. Hilton Worldwide made that program a Clinton Global Initiative commitment in 2013.

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Fiorina also is on the advisory board of the National Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a group that wants to open a center celebrating inventors and entrepreneurs on the National Mall in Washington. That too was announced as a Clinton initiative commitment in 2013. But the plans have stalled, in part because the Smithsonian decided it couldn't devote resources to the project, said Philip Auerswald, the group's board chairman.

The advisory board and Fiorina didn't play a role in the decision to announce the project as a Clinton initiative commitment, he said, adding: "Carly has been nothing but supportive throughout this process."

Carly Fiorina Steps Up Cam paign Against Hillary Clinton // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 10, 2015

Carly Fiorina does not always seem entirely comfortable in her role as the Republican Party's designated Hillary Rodham Clinton attacker.

But that has not stopped the former Silicon Valley executive from doubling down on her strategy of trying to catapult her long-shot candidacy by focusing on attacking Mrs. Clinton in more aggressive and pointed ways than her male Republican rivals. The most recent instance: Ms. Fiorina is pushing traffic to ReadyToBeatHillary.com.

A play on the pro-Clinton group Ready for Hillary, the website, financed by the Fiorina campaign, does not have Ms. Fiorina's name or image on its homepage. Instead, a series of photos of Mrs. Clinton highlight the State Department's handling of the 2012 attack on a United States mission in Benghazi, Libya, when she was secretary of state; her family foundation's acceptance of foreign donations; and other criticism of the Clintons over the last couple of decades. If one clicks on the image and video of Ms. Fiorina criticizing Mrs. Clinton, a request for donations appears.

"So far, Hillary's been running one of the shadiest campaigns in presidential history," reads an email from Ms. Fiorina announcing the new website, which plays on the Clinton campaign's red arrow logo.

A Clinton campaign spokesman did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Ms. Fiorina has drawn large crowds in Iowa and New Hampshire, and her candidacy, while hardly registering in national polling, has drawn increasing attention. For now, Ms. Fiorina's biggest task it building her name recognition and poll numbers so she can qualify for the first Republican debate on Fox News in August. The attacks on Mrs. Clinton, her campaign says, can only help get Ms. Fiorina a coveted spot on the debate stage.

OTHER

Republicans Still Playing Catch-Up on the Digital Campaign Trail // NYT // Ashley Parker – June 10, 2015

The criticism after the 2012 presidential election was swift and harsh: Democrats were light-years ahead of Republicans when it came to digital strategy and tactics, and Republicans had serious work to do on the technology front if they ever hoped to win back the White House.

Now, with the 2016 campaign already underway, Republicans are eager to show they have learned the lessons of past cycles and are placing a premium on hiring top digital talent to build the tools they deem necessary to compete.

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But their immediate problem is slightly more low-tech: the basics of supply and demand.

“Shopping around for a digital data firm was already difficult — and when you’re one of 20 possible candidates in a party that has yet to establish its own expertise in this area, it’s even harder,” said Sasha Issenberg, author of “The Victory Lab: The Secret Science of Winning Campaigns.”

This type of work — often described in political circles as digital, data and analytics — encompasses many areas, from building email systems for small-dollar fund-raising to generating buzz on social media to analyzing data to help direct ads at specific groups of voters.

Using data to determine the most efficient and effective way to target voters, considered by many to be a crucial advantage for President Obama’s campaign in 2012, could prove particularly important in a crowded Republican primary in which every dollar counts. But it is another area in which only a handful of Republican companies specialize.

The lack of experience among Republican operatives and companies is captured in a coming study by Daniel Kreiss, an assistant professor of political communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Christopher Jasinski, a graduate student there.

Using the Federal Election Commission and other data sources, including LinkedIn, the two identified 626 political operatives with experience in digital, data and analytics on every presidential campaign since 2004. The breakdown was stark: 503 of those staff members were hired by Democratic campaigns, 123 by Republicans.

They also found that 75 different political companies or organizations were founded by those former campaign workers on the Democratic side, but only 19 on the Republican side.

“Historically, the one thing that’s pretty clear is that the Democrats, over the course of three cycles, have been investing much more in creating a deeper pool of talent that can do things like work in digital, data and analytics, and that runs from top to bottom in the party,” Mr. Kreiss said.

The study also found that Democrats have done a better job of actively recruiting and attracting employees from places like Silicon Valley who bring innovative thinking and new technologies from the commercial sector into the political arena.

Though the imbalance seems to stem largely from recruitment efforts, Mr. Issenberg added that Republicans suffer from a cultural disadvantage as well. Many who work in technology have a somewhat libertarian worldview that, especially on social issues, more closely aligns with Democrats.

The limited number of Republican companies and the pressure to attract premium talent has added a new dimension to the so-called invisible primary, where candidates vie for expertise and money, and created unexpected opportunities for operatives with digital experience.

For instance, Targeted Victory — one of the largest companies on the Republican side, which ran Mitt Romney’s 2012 digital operation — has signed on with former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, but also plans to split itself off into distinct parts to take on one or two other campaigns or outside groups.

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“This is the first time there have been more campaigns that view digital as an actual weapon, as opposed to a box they have to check,” said Michael Beach, co-founder of Targeted Victory.

Vincent Harris and his company, Harris Media, which handled Ted Cruz’s 2012 Senate bid in Texas, is running the digital operation for the 2016 presidential campaign of Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. And Senator Marco Rubio of Florida has hired both Optimus, one of the few Republican analytics companies, and Push Digital to lead his digital effort.

Other likely campaigns, including those for Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, are solving the problem by building in-house teams. Mr. Walker, for example, hired staff members who worked on Senator Joni Ernst’s successful 2014 campaign in Iowa and from the Silicon Valley office of the Republican National Committee.

Republicans say they are optimistic this cycle will help usher in a true cultural change, much as the 2008 Obama campaign did — with its emphasis on data and analytics that helped create a pipeline to recruit and nurture tech talent.

But the party faces a difficult path to building the vast operation that a general election requires, said Patrick Ruffini, founder of Engage, a Republican digital strategy company. “There is going to be a real challenge in terms of finding people who were at the level the Obama campaign people were four years ago,” he said.

Still, Republicans say they see progress. Anton Vuljaj, chief revenue officer for IMGE, a digital advocacy agency whose political clients are Republicans, said that after the 2012 cycle, companies like his have more leverage because campaigns now see the value in the work they do.

“We’ve had a lot more conversations with campaign managers and general consultants who know at least the very basics of what questions to ask us, like how are you segmenting and amplifying your email lists or how are you measuring the impact of your advertising,” he said.

Brian Stobie, a partner at Optimus, also said there were signs of change — even in the sheer number of campaigns willing to take a meeting. “Now everyone wants to have the meeting,” he said. “They may not sign on the dotted line, but they want to have the meeting. Before 2012, it was like, ‘Analytics? We don’t need that.’ ”

The digital firms are also getting to be increasingly choosy about just which candidate they work for — a perk of their elevated stature in the party hierarchy.

“Who we sign on with is very much tied to how much they buy into our worldview,” said Zac Moffatt, co-founder of Targeted Victory. “I don’t know that you would want to spend a year just running into a wall, so I think everyone we sign up with cares about the cost of efficiency and wants to have a plan for how we turn out 40,000-plus folks in Iowa.”

But some Republican operatives with digital experience privately wonder how much the emphasis on digital and analytics is simply for public image purposes. Will the digital team, they worry, still be the first item cut when the budget gets crunched?

“There’s a difference between having a seat at the table, because there are seats at the table, and then there’s the back room where all the decisions get made, and there’s who does the candidate call at 11 p.m. at night,” Mr. Ruffini said.

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How much the Republican digital field evolves may not truly be known until after Election Day.

“If one of the campaigns that actually uses data to make decisions wins, then the culture changes,” Mr. Stobie said. “If one of the campaigns that uses data as a hood ornament wins, then nothing changes.”

New Hampshire Republicans Urge Networks to Alter Debate Crit eria // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 10, 2015

Republicans in New Hampshire are urging Fox News and party leaders to reconsider its plans to limit participation in presidential debates based on performance in polls.

The group of local lawmakers and activists argued in a letter to Roger Ailes, president of Fox News, and Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, that limiting the number of candidates who can participate in debates would supplant the role that early nominating states such as New Hampshire play in allowing voters to narrow the field.

“Historically, it has been the responsibility of early primary and caucus states to closely examine and winnow the field of candidates, and it is not in the electorate’s interest to have TV debate criteria supplant this solemn duty,” they wrote.

The letter comes as Iowa is fighting to retain the significance of its straw poll and other traditional early contest states are increasingly fearful of losing their status as springboards for those who eventually capture the nomination.

Fox and CNN have said they would limit the number of candidates on the debate stage, basing the criteria on performance in national public polling. Lesser-known candidates like Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson have criticized this plan, and some political analysts have said that it will alter the way candidates campaign early on, as they focus on television exposure instead of retail politicking in hopes that they will get noticed. Bigger names, including Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, who is mulling a run, could also struggle to qualify to debate.

The New Hampshire Republicans suggested that Fox consider dividing the debate into two panels and use a random drawing to determine who will participate in each.

“The New Hampshire primary, as well as the contests in Iowa, South Carolina, and Nevada, exist to afford every candidate – regardless of money and polling – a level playing field and the opportunity to personally share their message and experience with as many voters as possible,” they wrote.

Craig Benson and Stephen Merrill, former governors of New Hampshire, are among the more than 50 people who signed the letter.

Fox is scheduled to broadcast the first debate on Aug. 6.

Their state economies may lag, but Republican hopefuls still brag // Reuters // Andy Sullivan – June 10, 2015

Various Republican governors with an eye on the White House can point to tax cuts and other business-friendly policies they spearheaded as they enter the crowded 2016 presidential contest. But many of them can't highlight

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robust economic growth.

Among the handful of governors and former governors competing for the Republican presidential nomination, only one - former Texas Governor Rick Perry, who declared his candidacy last week - can say that his state has outpaced the national economy over the past four years.

Economic growth lagged in other states whose governors are expected to run for president, according to U.S. government figures released on Wednesday.

"Only Perry can really brag," said George Mason University economist Stephen Fuller. "The other guys just haven't been there long enough and don't have anything to show for it, anyway."

The Texas economy grew by 17.8 percent between 2011 and the beginning of 2015, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, well above the national pace of 6.3 percent during that period. The state's economy, however, has begun to show signs of weakness recently as oil prices have plunged.

In Ohio, Governor John Kasich, who has been mulling a White House run, presided over a state that grew by 6.0 percent over those four years, slightly less than the national average. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, considered a likely Republican contender, oversaw growth of 4.3 percent in his state.

In New Jersey, the state economy under Governor Chris Christie grew by 3.8 percent, while Louisiana grew by only 1.2 percent during that period under Governor Bobby Jindal. Both Christie and Jindal are eyeing White House bids.

Governors have a limited ability to shape a state's economy in the short term, economists say.

Investments in education and highways can take years to bear fruit, while tax cuts must be offset by spending cuts to keep budgets in balance, resulting in little overall stimulus in the short term.

"If you shift state tax policy to make it more inviting for businesses to expand here, that can increase employment," said Dale Knapp, research director at the nonpartisan Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. "But that's a long-term impact."

The dynamics of the particular industries that dominate in a region play a significant role as well. Economists say that manufacturing-heavy Wisconsin, for example, is more susceptible to recession than an oil state like Texas.

Experts say the true impact of any governor often isn't apparent until years after the person leaves office.

But that has not stopped potential candidates from talking up their economic track records on the campaign trail as they criticize Democratic President Barack Obama for presiding over sluggish growth at the national level.

Walker, for example, argues that tax cuts and weakened labor laws have helped Wisconsin climb out of recession, even if he fell far short of his promise to create 250,000 jobs by the beginning of 2015.

In Texas, Perry's spokeswoman said growth was boosted by Perry's focus on low taxes, business-friendly

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regulations and limits on lawsuits.

In Louisiana, Jindal's administration cites a growing population, rising income and favorable ratings by business magazines to argue that the economy has improved, despite the tepid growth of recent years.

In New Jersey, Christie spokesman Kevin Roberts said Democrats have slowed his efforts to cut taxes and implement other changes. New Jersey's economy also suffered when Hurricane Sandy devastated much of the coast in 2012.

No matter the facts on the ground, White House hopefuls will find a way to argue that they are leaving their states in better shape than when they arrived, said James Pethokoukis of the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

"For these guys there's only two kinds of situations: a booming economy or a turnaround economy, and in both situations they get the credit," he said.

Polling Memo: Clinton 'Clearly Unpopular' Among Battleground State Independents // GOP.com – June 10, 2015

The Republican National Committee (RNC) today released the following polling summary memo from American Viewpoint, showing Hillary Clinton's clear shortcomings in voter perception of her character, trust, and decision-making.

To: Chairman Reince Priebus

From: Linda DiVall, Randall Gutermuth

Re: Independent Battleground States Survey Key Findings

Date: June 9, 2015

The following are the key findings from a survey conducted on behalf of the RNC by American Viewpoint in 10 key battleground states with Independent voters, which provide 137 electoral votes. Interviews were conducted May 3-7, 2015, using mix-mode interviewing. The margin of error for the entire sample, N=1500, is +/- 2.5% at the 95% confidence level. N=600 interviews were conducted with a landline sample, N=600 interviews were conducted with a cell phone sample and N=300 interviews were conducted online in the following states:

Hillary Clinton is clearly vulnerable and already has a net unfavorable rating with these Independents.

· Clinton's favorable to unfavorable ratio is 44:49 and she trails the generic Republican candidate 40%-36% in these key battleground states.

Hillary Clinton's supposed superior strength with women is a myth with these battleground state Independent women.

· Clinton's favorable to unfavorable ratio with these Independent women is barely a net favorable (49:43) and she only leads the generic Republican by 3-points among them. Conversely, she trails among battleground state Independent men by 11-points (45%-34%) and her favorable to unfavorable ratio is an abysmal 39:56.

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· The Party, its candidates and its surrogates need to be very careful in their tone and demeanor towards Hillary Clinton to ensure she isn't able to turn the gender gap back in her favor.

The most significant driving factor to Hillary Clinton's perceptual issues is a question of trust.

· Throughout the data, this was the most unprompted hesitation voters gave and is the attribute that she scored the lowest on. This is all before an attack ad has run this cycle.

· Messages tested dealing with her email scandal and the influence peddling of her brothers underscore her untrustworthiness, but were not in the top tier overall because this perception is already established and doesn't move Independents as much as other issues.

Hillary Clinton's own personal problems are only further magnified by President Obama's poor ratings. However, this shouldn't be a race about the incumbent President.

· President Obama has a net unfavorable rating with these battleground Independents (45:50) and his job approval is a similar 43% approve, 52% disapprove. This is problematic for Clinton's candidacy as her favorable to unfavorable ratio is only 21:74 among those who disapprove of the job the President is doing.

When discussing Hillary Clinton's speeches, the focus needs to be less about her getting rich and more about how this hurts working families.

· Making tens of millions, flying in private jets and the outrageous demands she made of those giving her six figures for speeches may work well with the base, but for swing voters in these essential battleground states, it's more important to tie the millions taken from public universities to tuition rate increases and budget cuts.

To further drive down Hillary Clinton's support with Independent women, her hypocrisy on equal pay can be highlighted.

· The fact that Hillary Clinton only paid her female Senate staff 72 cents on the dollar raises real questions as to her claims of being a champion of equal pay.

The most important case to prosecute against Hillary Clinton is her mismanagement of the State Department as Secretary of State. This severely undercuts her perceived strength of resume.

· Specifically, the most persuasive message tested in this survey states "as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton's State Department approved the sale of a Canadian uranium mining company to a Russian state atomic energy agency. This action allowed Russian President Vladimir Putin to control 20% of American uranium and poses a grave threat to U.S. national security."

Character, trust and decision-making are all key tests voters have for a candidate running to be President and Commander and Chief, and this survey clearly indicates a pattern of Hillary Clinton failing all three of these. Further conveying her problems on these tenets will prove to be very problematic for her.

GOP ready to counter Hillary Clinton's speech // The Washington Examiner //David Drucker – June 10, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Republican National Committee is ratcheting up its "Stop Hillary" campaign, planning a flurry of political hits on presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton to accompany her first major speech since announcing for president in April.

Clinton on Saturday will deliver a speech from Roosevelt Island in New York that her campaign is promoting as the former secretary of state's official 2016 launch event. The site is named for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Democratic icon who was first elected in 1932 and was responsible for the creation of Social Security (FDR died in office during his fourth term.)

The RNC plans an aggressive response on traditional and social media, and on the ground in New York and in the early primary states where Clinton has spent the bulk of her time campaigning since kicking off her second presidential bid in mid April. This effort is part of the GOP's plan to offer public opposition to Clinton while the party's crowded field of presidential contenders focuses on themselves in their battle for the 2016 nomination. According to information shared with the Washington Examiner, the party's activities include:

— New web ad pushed nationwide with higher emphasis placed on targeting IA, SC, NH and NV

— Statements/Op-eds

— Releasing Hillary oppo book

— Bracketing Hillary's events in NYC, IA, SC, NH, NV.

— New gimmicks will be delivered to news outlets

— Surrogates booked on radio/TV.

— Staff on the ground for her state visits.

Additionally, the RNC commissioned a poll of independent voters that it claims proves Clinton's vulnerability with independents in 10 battlegrounds states, most of which the GOP has not won in a presidential race since at least 2004, if that. The states polled included Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Colorado and Arizona. Arizona is the only state in the group that is solid red.

Among the poll's findings:

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The survey was conducted by American Viewpoint May 3-7, 2015, using "mix-mode" interviews: 600 via land line telephone, 60 via cellphone, 300 via the Internet. The margin of error was 2.5 percentage *points*.

Disclosure: The author's wife works as an adviser to Scott Walker.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Senate GOP denies funds for lawyers for immigrant children // AP // Andrew Taylor – June 10, 2015

A GOP-controlled Senate panel on Wednesday blocked President Barack Obama's request for $50 million to pay for legal help for unaccompanied immigrant children coming to the United States after fleeing violence in Central America.

Responsible for the move was Republican Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, chief author of a spending bill funding the Justice Department's budget. The measure won initial approval on Wednesday but has a long way to go before becoming law.

The flow of children fleeing gangs and other dangers in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador and finding their way to the U.S. is down significantly from last year, when an influx created a humanitarian crisis, in states along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Without lawyers, children are much more likely to be sent back to their home countries. Under federal law,

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immigrant children have two options to seek legal status, including requesting asylum for fear of returning home to face gang violence.

Without legal help, the maze of documentation and legal requirements is far more difficult for a child to maneuver.

Republicans opposed to people who are in the United States illegally have greater priorities in the $51 billion measure, which also funds the Commerce Department and science-related agencies such as NASA.

The measure is one of 12 annual appropriations bills covering the day-to-day operations of government agencies. Such discretionary spending gets reviewed and funded annually unlike mandatory programs such as Medicare, Social Security and food stamps.

The 12 spending bills are at the center of a fight between Obama and Republicans, who have given the Pentagon almost $40 billion in relief from automatic spending curbs but are resisting Obama's demands for equal treatment for domestic agencies facing a funding freeze.

The battle is particularly bitter in the tea party-driven House. Republicans pressed ahead Wednesday with bills seeking to force further cuts to the agencies they particularly dislike, the IRS and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The House measures are full of provisions aimed at blocking various Obama policies, including implementation of the Affordable Care Act by the IRS and environmental regulations, including protections for the endangered sage grouse that are opposed by Western energy interests.

Republicans take aim at IRS budget // Politico // Rachael Bade – June 10, 2015

Ever since the IRS tea party scandal broke two years ago, House Republicans have redoubled their efforts to gut the agency's budget — year after year after year.

But now — for the first time since Lois Lerner's infamous 2013 apology — they're finally getting their moment to impose serious financial constraints on the tax-collecting agency they love to hate.

House GOP appropriators on Wednesday proposed chopping IRS resources almost 8 percent, reducing the agency budget to $10.1 billion. It would be a huge hit to the agency responsible not only for overseeing tax collections but administering Obamacare's health care subsidies.

And those cuts are bound to balloon even more once the bill hits the House floor. Republicans are eager to offer further amendments snipping at the IRS — especially amid headlines about the IRS targeting conservative groups, giving rogue employees bonuses and falling short of protecting taxpayer rights and privacy.

While House Republicans in past years have had to negotiate with the Democratic-controlled Senate — which was often able to restore the IRS budget or at the very least, ease proposed cuts — this time around, GOP allies are behind the wheel in the Senate.

That means President Barack Obama — who requested an 18 percent increase for the IRS — could be forced to sign a spending bill later this year that would add new hardships for the agency, which already is reeling from scandal and begging for more money to boost taxpayer services and protect taxpayers' information. Holding up a

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broader spending bill in the name of the IRS, after all, is a political no-no with an American public deeply skeptical of tax collectors. If the president were to refuse to sign a spending bill only because of cuts to the IRS, he'd risk serious political backlash.

"This will hold the agency's budget below the sequester level and below the fiscal year 2004 level," a House Appropriations Committee news release boasts. "This funding level is sufficient for the IRS to perform its core duties, but will require the agency to streamline and better prioritize its budget."

The bill would cut $838 million from the current IRS budget, bringing the agency's funding $2.8 billion below what Obama requested.

The bill, as in years past, would also block the IRS from proposing a controversial, much-awaited regulation aimed at reining in the political activities of 501(c)(4) tax-exempt groups like Crossroads GPS. Such groups are supposed to limit their campaign activity under law, but the IRS got in trouble during the tea party hubbub for holding up the approvals of conservative groups that weren't engaging in politics but advocacy.

Still, the IRS says it needs clarity for itself and for taxpayers about what is and isn't allowed.

Another thing it can't do under the GOP bill: Collect penalties under Obamacare's individual mandate. That would potentially save hundreds if not thousands of dollars for Obamacare protesters who refuse to buy coverage.

The agency argues that such cuts would only hurt taxpayers and leave a threadbare IRS unable to help people address their tax problems. The IRS also administers the core of Obamacare — health care tax credits — and recently experienced cybersecurity lapses that amounted to people's personal information being hacked.

The bill specifically gives the IRS a $75 million boost for taxpayer services, in an effort to prevent any cuts from hurting Americans who need their tax questions answered.

The cuts are part of a $20.2 billion financial services bill filled with political red meat designed to appeal to GOP lawmakers. While Republican appropriators have decried spending caps for other appropriations bills, leaving them in a tough spot cutting key priorities, they're more than happy to make reductions on this measure.

"While making good use of limited tax dollars, this legislation also makes great strides in reining in wasteful spending, and stopping harmful and unnecessary bureaucratic over-reach," House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) said in a statement.

Overall, the bill is about $1.3 billion below last year's level and $4.8 billion below what the president wanted.

The legislation makes cuts to prized Democratic agencies, including a proposal to bring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau under the congressional appropriations process. Currently, it's funded through the Federal Reserve, but the change would give Congress — namely, Republicans — more power over the agency.

The bill is also packed with conservative policy provisions like one requiring the administration to "report to Congress on the cost and regulatory burdens of the Dodd-Frank Act," and another to bar the SEC from mandating political-donation disclosures in filings.

EPA takes crucial step toward climate rules for airplanes // Politico // Alex Guillén – June 10, 2015

The Obama administration took the first step Wednesday toward regulating airplanes' greenhouse gas emissions, adding yet another major industry to the roster of businesses falling under the crosshairs of President Barack

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Obama's environmental and climate agenda.

The EPA said it was proposing to declare that planes' carbon pollution threatens public health and welfare by significantly contributing to climate change. The agency's "endangerment finding" comes amid a flurry of activity by the EPA, which is also pushing ahead with a contentious regulation for wetland and waterways, preparing to tighten fuel efficiency standards for heavy trucks and nearing a midsummer launch for a landmark greenhouse gas rule for power plants.

But the aircraft rules — which will likely take years to write — may not reach the altitude that environmentalists are hoping for. They could also face pushback from the airline industry, which enjoys hefty lobbying power in Washington, particularly among lawmakers who jet home each weekend — and the Republican Party that rules the Capitol is always skeptical of EPA regulations.

"Just when I thought the EPA couldn't get more ridiculous," Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) said on Twitter, linking to POLITICO's coverage of the proposal.

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), chairman of the House Science Committee, predicted that the rules would increase the price of air travel and harm domestic airlines. "The sky is the limit when it comes to how much of the U.S. economy the EPA wants to control," he said in a statement.

But the Sierra Club said both airlines and travelers would save money as the regulations yield more efficient, less-polluting planes.

"President Obama is taking an important step on climate once again by finding that carbon pollution from airplanes poses the same danger to our climate as carbon pollution from other sources," Sierra Club attorney Joanne Spalding said. The World Wildlife Fund's Brad Schallert called the move "common sense," and urged EPA to "take the next step and close a major loophole that allows the airline industry to emit unchecked amounts of carbon into our atmosphere."

"Since today's announcement will likely cause a fight in Congress, we hope the president makes this a fight worth having by requiring real cuts in airplane pollution," said Heather Leibowitz, director of Environment America's New York chapter. "Bold action on climate should solve the problem of pollution from airplanes, not just acknowledge it."

Air travel is undeniably an international industry, and a growing one to boot. While airplanes are used more extensively in the U.S. than in many other nations — American air travel makes up 29 percent of global aviation emissions — getting cooperation from Europe, China and other major manufacturing centers and plane purchasers will be key to making the global effort work.

Green groups and the administration are already debating one key issue: whether the U.S. climate rules for airlines should match those being developed worldwide — or be even tougher.

The International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations body, plans to set international targets to limit airline emissions in 2016. The U.S., through the EPA and FAA, is contributing to that process, and many in the air travel industry maintain that a global setup would be a better bet than individual nations taking action that could create a regulatory patchwork across the planet.

Wednesday's proposal is "part of preparing for a possible subsequent domestic rulemaking process to adopt standards that are of at least equivalent stringency as the anticipated ICAO CO_2 standards," EPA says in its proposed rule. Member nations must adopt standards at least as stringent as what the international body approves, the agency adds.

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White House press secretary Josh Earnest said relying on an international standard is “common sense.”

“Obviously these airplanes operate in a variety of different countries in many cases,” Earnest said.

Bill Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, also called for the U.S. and the international body to cooperate. “It is critical that EPA and the rest of the world, through the International Civil Aviation Organization, move quickly and seek meaningful greenhouse gas emission reductions,” he said.

But environmentalists fear that the international targets will lead to only small reductions in global aviation emissions, particularly given that ICAO is generally considering only changes to newly designed aircraft engines, not retrofits to the existing fleet or designs already in production. Since aircraft remain in service for decades, emissions reductions would come slowly under that approach.

One environmental group, the Center for Biological Diversity, expressed unhappiness about the EPA’s attachment to the international standards.

“Passing the buck to an international organization that’s virtually run by the airline industry won’t protect our planet from these rapidly growing emissions,” said senior counsel Vera Pardee, whose group had previously sued and threatened to sue EPA for its slowness to regulate planes’ greenhouse gas emissions. “We’re disappointed that the Obama administration remains sufficiently captive to the airline industry to consider allowing unlimited aircraft carbon emissions for what could be decades to come.”

Airlines for America, the U.S. airline industry’s lead trade group, said it supports the international efforts to develop a carbon standard. It interpreted EPA’s action Wednesday as showing the agency’s “commitment to the ICAO process.”

“Aviation is a global industry, making it critical that aircraft emissions standards continue to be agreed upon at the international level,” A4A Vice President for Environmental Affairs Nancy Young said in a statement.

The U.S. already has a history of implementing the international aviation body’s standards. Twice in the last decade, the group has issued standards limiting emissions of acid-rain-causing nitrogen oxides from new planes — and both times, EPA has followed suit with rules conforming to those standards.

Environmentalists worry that the U.S. government may take a similar path when it comes to carbon emissions from planes. They hope to persuade EPA to set stronger standards that could serve as a runway to guide other nations toward tougher standards as well. Meanwhile, manufacturers fear that U.S. standards tougher than the rest of the world’s will only encourage engine makers to move overseas.

Along with the proposed endangerment finding, EPA issued an advanced notice that it is considering how to regulate the planes’ emissions under the Clean Air Act — under provisions that are both relatively untested and broader than the statutes used to write other pollution regulations.

EPA must consult with the FAA and cannot set standards that decrease safety or increase noise, but otherwise appears to face fewer limits in its authority than in the sections of the Clean Air Act regarding pollution from other sources. FAA is charged with writing separate rules to ensure compliance with EPA’s standards.

In its call for input, EPA is taking comment on when carbon standards should take effect, how stringent they should be and whether standards should apply only to newly designed aircraft or to designs already in production.

Any future regulations would almost certainly apply to manufacturers of planes and engines — specifically, jets

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with a maximum takeoff mass of at least 6.3 tons and prop planes with maximum takeoff mass of at least 9.3 tons. That range that would cover everything from smaller jets to jumbo liners such as the Airbus A380 and the Boeing 747. (Smaller recreational craft and military planes are not covered by the proposal.)

But given that any price increase will be borne by carriers, the U.S.' major airlines are sure to weigh in on the climate rules, if not the endangerment finding itself.

Boeing spokesman Tim Neale told The Associated Press that the industry is already shrinking its carbon footprint. "We're hard at work on lighter airplanes, and GE is hard at work on more efficient engines," he said. "And we're working a lot of these operational issues with the carriers so they operate the planes more efficiently."

The administration has already weathered one flap over international emissions efforts.

In 2012, U.S. carriers balked when the European Union instituted an emissions trading scheme that would apply to flights that arrived at or departed from member airports. Congress passed legislation that allowed the Transportation Department to block U.S. airlines from having to comply, and the issue moved to the back burner for several years after the EU put that program on hold.

Legally speaking, EPA may be on solid footing with its proposed endangerment finding.

The Supreme Court has made it clear that EPA can regulate greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide so long as it determines those emissions threaten public health, and it upheld EPA's 2009 finding that cars pose such a threat. EPA later extended that finding to emissions from power plants, the greatest source of U.S. carbon pollution.

While critics will have a chance to weigh in via public comments, few expect EPA to alter course significantly in its final decision.

One potential argument against the endangerment finding is the fact that U.S.-related airplane emissions make up just 0.5 percent of global human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. But in the ramp-up to this December's international climate talks in Paris, every action helps build support, no matter the size.

EPA expects to finish the endangerment finding next year. While that would trigger a requirement to subsequently issue greenhouse gas regulations for planes, the timing means that the next president will oversee those efforts. Regardless of who wins the White House next year, a positive endangerment finding would legally require EPA to write the carbon regulations.

Environmentalists are pushing for the U.S. to set stricter goals and become a standard-bearer on the issue, but it remains unclear whether any administration would go beyond ICAO's eventual plan.

"President Obama has a unique and extremely important opportunity to demonstrate leadership not only domestically but, around the world," said Becker.

Senate shows Ex-Im support in test vote **// The Hill // Kevin Cirilli – June 10, 2015**

Supporters of the Export-Import Bank showed they have the support to break a filibuster against its renewal on Wednesday in a test vote highlighting the bank's support.

In a 31-65 tally, the Senate voted against tabling an amendment to reauthorize the bank.

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The amendment was offered by Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.). Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), who supports the bank, then removed the amendment.

"What we're trying to do here is basically show support for the Ex-Im Bank," said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a bank supporter who is one of five senators running for president. "This is not the last vote we'll take on the Ex-Im Bank."

Twenty GOP senators joined 45 Democrats to support the bank.

Presidential candidates Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.) voted against the bank. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), another presidential candidate and outspoken bank critic, did not vote.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is running as a Democratic presidential candidate, also voted against the bank.

The Export-Import Bank will expire unless its charter is extended by the end of this month, and conservative Republicans in the House have mounted an effort to kill it.

Despite the show of support in the Senate, it appears unlikely the bank will be extended before June 30. Supporters will likely attach an amendment extending its charter to a transportation bill, but that legislation would not move until July.

Those opposed to the bank argue it is a form of crony capitalism in which favored companies get advantages. The bank finances overseas investments intended to boost U.S. exports.

INTERNATIONAL

Hackers May Have Obtained Names of Chinese With Ties t o U.S. Governm ent // NYT // - David Sanger & Julie Davis – June 10, 2015

Investigators say that the Chinese hackers who attacked the databases of the Office of Personnel Management may have obtained the names of Chinese relatives, friends and frequent associates of American diplomats and other government officials, information that Beijing could use for blackmail or retaliation.

Federal employees who handle national security information are required to list some or all of their foreign contacts, depending on the agency, to receive high-level clearances. Investigators say that the hackers obtained many of the lists, and they are trying to determine how many of those thousands of names were compromised.

In classified briefings to members of Congress in recent days, intelligence officials have described what appears to be a systematic Chinese effort to build databases that explain the inner workings of the United States government. The information includes friends and relatives, around the world, of diplomats, of White House officials and of officials from government agencies, like nuclear experts and trade negotiators.

"They are pumping this through their databases just as the N.S.A. pumps telephone data through their databases," said James Lewis, a cyberexpert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It gives the Chinese the ability to exploit who is listed as a foreign contact. And if you are a Chinese person who didn't report your contacts

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or relationships with an American, you may have a problem."

Officials have conceded in the briefings that most of the compromised data was not encrypted, though they have argued that the attacks were so sophisticated and well hidden that encryption might have done little good.

The first attack, which began at the end of 2013 and was disclosed in the middle of last year, was aimed at the databases used by investigators who conduct security reviews. The investigators worked for a contracting firm on behalf of the Office of Personnel Management, and the firm was fired in August.

The broader attack on the personnel office's main databases followed in December. That attack, announced last week, involved the records of more than four million current and former federal employees, most of whom have no security clearances.

White House and personnel office officials have provided few details about the latest breach. But the Department of Homeland Security has been telling outside experts and members of Congress that it regards the detection of the attack as a success, because it made use of new "signatures" of foreign hackers, based on characteristics of computer code, to find the attack.

In a statement, the personnel office said Wednesday that "it was because of these new enhancements to our IT systems that O.P.M. was able to identify these intrusions." But the detection happened in April, five months after the attack began.

The list of relatives and "close or continuous contacts" is a standard part of the forms and interviews required of American officials every five years for top-secret and other high-level clearances, and government officials consider the lists to be especially delicate.

In 2010, when The New York Times was preparing to publish articles based on 250,000 secret State Department cables obtained by WikiLeaks, the newspaper complied with a request by the department to redact the names of any Chinese citizens who were described in the cables as providing information to American Embassy officials. Officials cited fear of retaliation by the Chinese authorities.

Officials say they do not know how much of the compromised data was exposed to the Chinese hackers. While State Department employees, especially new ones, are required to list all their foreign friends, diplomats have so many foreign contacts that they are not expected to list them all.

But other government officials are frequently asked to do so, especially in interviews with investigators. The notes from those interviews, conducted by a spinoff of the personnel office called the United States Investigative Service, were obtained by hackers in the earlier episode last year.

Intelligence agencies use a different system, so the contacts of operatives like those in the C.I.A. were not in the databases.

But the standard form that anyone with a national security job fills out includes information about spouses, divorces and even distant foreign relatives, as well as the names of current or past foreign girlfriends and boyfriends, bankruptcies, debts and other financial information. And it appears that the hackers reached, and presumably downloaded, images of those forms.

"I can't say whether this was more damaging than WikiLeaks; it's different in nature," said Representative Adam B.

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Schiff, a California Democrat who is a member of the House Intelligence Committee, which was briefed by intelligence officials, the Department of Homeland Security and the personnel office on Tuesday. Mr. Schiff, who declined to speak about the specifics of the briefing, added, “But it is certainly one of the most damaging losses I can think of.”

Investigators were surprised to find that the personnel office, which had already been so heavily criticized for lax security that its inspector general wanted parts of the system shut down, did not encrypt any of the most sensitive data.

The damage was not limited to information about China, though that presumably would have been of most interest to the hackers. They are likely to be particularly interested in the contacts of Energy Department officials who work on nuclear weapons or nuclear intelligence, Commerce Department or trade officials working on delicate issues like the negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and, of course, White House officials.

In a conference call with reporters on Wednesday, Senator Angus King, an independent from Maine on both the Intelligence Committee and the Armed Services Committee, called for the United States to retaliate for these kinds of losses. “Nation-states need to know that if they attack us this way, something bad is going to happen to their cyberinfrastructure,” he said.

But Mr. King said he could not say if the attacks on the personnel office were state-sponsored, adding, “I have to be careful; I can’t confirm the identity of the entity behind the attack.” The Obama administration has not formally named China, but there has been no effort to hide the attribution in the classified hearings.

The scope of the breach is remarkable, experts say, because the personnel office apparently learned little from earlier government data breaches like the WikiLeaks case and the surveillance revelations by Edward J. Snowden, both of which involved unencrypted data.

President Obama has said he regards the threat of cyberintrusions as a persistent challenge in a world in which both state and nonstate actors “are sending everything they’ve got at trying to breach these systems.”

The problem “is going to accelerate, and that means that we have to be as nimble, as aggressive and as well resourced as those who are trying to break into these systems,” he said at a news conference this week.

The White House has stopped short of blaming Katherine Archuleta, the director of the personnel office, for the breach, emphasizing that securing government computer systems is a challenging task.

U.S. Expands ISIS Involvement, Sending Up To 450 Military Personnel To New Training Site In Iraq //
Huffington Post – June 10, 2015

The United States will send another 450 military personnel to Iraq to help forces there combat the extremist Islamic State group, the White House announced Wednesday, signaling a shift in focus for the U.S. and a tacit acknowledgement that the extremists have not been weakened as much as the Obama administration has claimed.

The additional personnel will establish a new U.S. training site -- the fifth in Iraq -- at Taqaddum military base in Iraq's Sunni-majority Anbar province, according to White House spokesman Josh Earnest.

Earnest said that President Barack Obama made the decision following requests from Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and recommendations from top military commanders and national security advisers. But the

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announcement also suggests a possible resolution to an ongoing struggle within the Obama administration about how best to move forward in Iraq, as military commanders have previously said that sites in Anbar province -- such as the provincial capital, Ramadi, which was captured by the Islamic State last month -- are less important than potential offensives elsewhere.

The additional U.S. forces will not play a combat role, administration officials emphasized Wednesday afternoon in a call with reporters. Instead, they are intended to bolster Iraqi forces' morale in the embattled province, help the Iraqis respond more promptly to Islamic State advances and eventually strengthen them to the point where they can retake Ramadi and other towns like Fallujah. The officials tried to strike an optimistic tone, citing prior success at the al-Asad air base, an already-established U.S. training camp in Anbar province.

But that is a difficult message to sell in light of a Monday report from The Hill indicating trouble at the air base. U.S. military officials there are frustrated, according to the report, because the central Iraqi government has not sent new recruits to al-Asad for at least the past four weeks.

Officials on Wednesday's call said that recruitment for the new training mission will be facilitated by the Iraqi government's commitment to move closer to Sunni tribal fighters in Anbar province, something Iraqi leaders have made a priority following the fall of Ramadi. Ben Rhodes, the deputy national security adviser, told reporters that Baghdad's decision to audit its military rolls -- removing soldiers who have fled or defected -- would free up Iraqi cash to pay more soldiers, particularly Sunni tribal recruits.

Administration officials also emphasized that Wednesday's decision had been made in response to what the Iraqis said they needed. Abadi had sought a U.S. training presence with Sunni tribesmen for some time and reiterated the request after Ramadi fell, according to Rhodes.

"The Iraqis want to be in the lead themselves," he said.

The statements came one day after Salim al-Jabouri, speaker of the Iraqi parliament and a prominent Sunni politician, told Foreign Policy that he blames the Islamic State's success in Anbar province not only on problems in the Iraqi forces but also on a lack of urgent U.S. attention to the problem.

The White House also announced Wednesday that it will speed up the delivery of heavy equipment, notably anti-tank missiles, to its Iraqi partners on the ground. The administration did not say whether it would directly supply the Kurdish peshmerga forces in the north or the Sunnis already battling the Islamic State, although those communities have said they desperately need supplies because they claim Baghdad is slow to distribute equipment.

The White House did not indicate how Wednesday's development will affect previously announced plans to retake Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and a key prize for the Islamic State. Military officials controversially predicted in February that Mosul would be liberated in the spring, prompting vocal criticism from Iraq and a struggle to temper expectations. The New York Times reported on Wednesday that Mosul might not be retaken until next year.

Asked about the change in policy, Rhodes did not mention whether it will affect Mosul, where residents are reportedly living in fear of the militants. Rhodes said the administration is constantly revising its approach based on reports from the ground in Iraq and Syria showing what has and hasn't worked for the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State.

"I wouldn't think of it as a formal review process," he said.

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He added that Obama is constantly thinking about force protection as he continues to approve an expansion of the U.S. military footprint in Iraq.

Elissa Slotkin, a top defense official, said on the call with reporters that the 450 additional troops for the new U.S. training camp will be built up beginning immediately, first by redeploying forces already within Iraq and then by sending U.S. troops there from elsewhere.

American Keith Broomfield killed fighting in Syria // CNN // Elise Labott – June 10, 2015

American citizen Keith Broomfield was killed fighting in Syria, a State Department official confirmed Wednesday.

The official said the State Department was in touch with Broomfield's family.

Jennifer Broomfield, a woman who identified herself on Facebook as Keith Broomfield's sister, shared an image of a text message conversation on the social medium, which she said were the "Last words I had with my brother."

"My unspoken prayers and tears for those in the Middle East were answered when he left to fight," she wrote. "I didn't think I would lose him."

The State Department said in its press briefing Wednesday that additional details on Broomfield's death were not immediately available.

Idris Nassan, Kurdish co-deputy foreign minister of the Kobani district, also confirmed to CNN Broomfield had been fighting alongside the Kurds against ISIS.

"Broomfield was fighting alongside the Kurdish People's Protection Units in the Kobani countryside when he was killed battling against ISIS," Nassan said. "It is unclear how long Broomfiled had been fighting with the Kurdish forces, but he had become well acquainted with the militiamen, even earning the Kurdish nom de guerre Damhad (meaning: it's the time to do something)."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Jeb Bush's Learning Curve on Russia // NYT // Carol Giacomo – June 10, 2015

Few world leaders are easier to criticize these days than President Vladimir Putin of Russia. There can be no defense of his decision to annex Crimea, worsen Ukraine's civil war by sending troops and weapons to the eastern region and threaten nuclear responses if NATO tries to deter his aggression.

So it was no surprise that Jeb Bush, an all-but-declared Republican presidential candidate, used Mr. Putin as a target during a visit to Berlin on Tuesday and Wednesday that was intended to burnish his non-existent foreign policy credentials.

"Ultimately to deal with Putin you need to deal from strength – he's a bully and ... you enable bad behavior when you're nuanced with a guy like that," Mr. Bush said. He called for a "more robust" approach and asked, "Who can doubt that Russia will do what it pleases if its aggression goes unanswered?"

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It was also no surprise that Mr. Bush took the opportunity to fault President Obama, saying the administration's attempt to "reset" relations with Russia had failed.

Despite the venue, his most important audience was not Germans or even Europeans but Republican voters who are eager to blame Mr. Obama for everything that goes wrong in the world.

It has sometimes been hard to watch the Europeans waffle over imposing sanctions on Russia. But they and the Americans have done just that, and the sanctions seem to be holding even if they don't seem to have altered Mr. Putin's outrageous behavior.

So what would Mr. Bush do differently? Nothing, it seems. He proposed a beefed-up presence of NATO troops along Russia's border with the Baltic states and said the allies should signal what further sanctions Russia could face if it persists in its aggression – things the United States and its allies are already doing.

Mr. Bush coupled his exhortations about strength with caution, insisting, "I'm not talking about being bellicose." That suggests the kind of nuance that Mr. Obama has tried to bring to his Russia policy. Getting the balance right is complicated by the fact that Mr. Putin's help is still needed to solve other challenges, including in Syria and Iran.

What Mr. Bush failed to offer is a detailed plan for ending the presence of Russian-backed troops in Ukraine.

He apparently saw no irony in the fact that while he faulted Mr. Obama for trying in 2009 to reset relations with Russia, his own brother, President George W. Bush, famously declared on meeting Mr. Putin in 2001 that he had gotten "a sense of his soul" and found him "trustworthy."

President Bush obviously went overboard with his naïve and cloying assessment. But like Mr. Obama, he was serving the national interest in trying to establish a working relationship with the leader of a major country that controls thousands of nuclear weapons.

As Jeb Bush correctly noted, Mr. Putin has changed and is far more aggressive than in the past. If he wants to be taken seriously as a presidential candidate, Mr. Bush will have to come up with more thoughtful explanations of what Mr. Obama's failings are and how he will tackle the world's most thorny problems differently.

Jeb Bush's recipe for a better society: Shame // WaPo // Catherine Rampell – June 10, 2015

Judge a little more, blush a little more, and all of society's ills will be cured.

So posited now-presidential hopeful Jeb Bush in a book published shortly after his unsuccessful first run for Florida governor in 1994.

"Profiles in Character" (which Bush co-authored with Brian Yablonski) is part compilation of platitudes about community, religiosity and integrity; part series of inspirational biographies (the "profiles" of the title); and part diatribe about bloated government. The juiciest and weirdest bits, though, are in a subchapter about the need to revive "shame."

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“Society needs to relearn the art of public and private disapproval and how to make those who engage in undesirable behavior feel some sense of shame,” Bush writes.

The book argues that the diminishment of dishonor has contributed to all sorts of depravity. If only we as a populace were a bit more judgmental, the poor would stop being so poor, the promiscuous would learn restraint, deadbeats would pay their bills, criminals would keep to the straight and narrow, school shooters would lay down their arms and bastard children would finally start getting “legitimize[d]” (their term, not mine) through marriage.

To contrast today’s shamefully shameless culture with the past, the book waxes wistful about ye olden times: “There was a time when neighbors and communities would frown on out-of-wedlock births and when public condemnation was enough of a stimulus for one to be careful. Infamous shotgun weddings and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Scarlet Letter are reminders that public condemnation of irresponsible sexual behavior has strong historical roots.”

His priceless Andover education notwithstanding, Bush may be a little confused about one of the great American literary classics. Hawthorne’s unforgiving, shame-wielding Puritan Salemites were not exactly portrayed as worthy of imitation.

But no matter; scarlet A’s for all sluts, please. In fact, after Bush won the governorship, Florida’s legislature passed a measure nicknamed the “Scarlet Letter” law because it required single women to publish information on their past sexual partners in a newspaper before they could put children up for adoption. The law was repealed after being struck down as unconstitutional.

Bush also pines for the days of “pillories and public dunkings,” and regrets that “much of today’s criminal justice system seems to be lacking in humiliation.” He endorses one idea, proposed by a Miami Herald columnist, that juvenile offenders should be shamed by dressing them “in frilly pink jumpsuits and making them sweep the streets of their own neighborhoods.” This sounds a lot like the infamous pink underwear inmates wear in Arizona’s Maricopa County, but apparently even that would be insufficiently emasculating.

Perhaps most astonishingly, Bush advocates using corporal punishment in public schools, because he says the humiliation involved (rather than the physical pain) is so effective.

Kids These Days “do not care if the teacher yells at them or if their test results are less than stellar,” Bush writes. In most districts, teachers have few available tools to adequately humiliate delinquents — but in some lucky districts, such as Florida’s Walton County, educators were still able to practice corporal punishment. (This was true when the book was copyrighted, in 1995; last year, the county school board voted to ban paddling.) “Profiles in Character” quotes an anonymous student who declares, “We feel ashamed when it happens to us, but when you’re in that classroom and you want to learn and somebody else won’t let you learn, well, they are dealt with.”

Bush then implies that spankings are the key to preventing more egregious forms of school violence: “To date, Walton County has never experienced a shooting at any of its schools.”

Yes, and I have an amulet that keeps away tigers.

Bush has some other strange and/or relatively retrograde things in the text, including some histrionics about the rise of no-fault divorce (as well as “no-fault psychotherapy”) and fierce objections to the fact that a criminal defendant’s childhood and life circumstances are ever taken into consideration before passing judgment.

The book was written 20 years ago, around the time that Hillary Clinton wrote an entire book about her pets (fun fact: rejected names for Clinton’s dog Buddy include “Arkanpaws” and “Clin Tin Tin”). So it’s hard to know which,

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if any, of these specific policies he still favors. (His spokesperson did not respond to questions about Bush's current views on shame and corporal punishment, saying only that people should look to his record as governor.)

But even if Bush no longer directly embraces, say, corporal punishment, his underlying philosophy is clear, and it's consistent with attitudes we've seen among conservatives now in power in places such as Kansas and Wisconsin: that the main reason people are broke, unmarried, in prison or unemployed is because it's all just too much gosh-darn fun.

Back Clinton for voting rights // The Quad-City Times // Elaine Baxter - June 10, 2015

In Iowa, we take voting seriously. Every four years, presidential candidates make Iowa their first stop on the road to the White House. In cities from Burlington to Council Bluffs, Iowans listen, carefully consider their options and then turn out on caucus night for their preferred candidate. Voting isn't just a civic duty here - it's a core part of what makes us Iowans.

When more people vote, it's better for our state, our country and our democracy. In Iowa, we have made it easier than most states. From same day registration to in-person absentee voting, we have eliminated barriers to the ballot box. Hillary Clinton agrees with us and offered concrete, common-sense policy proposals to increase participation in our elections for the entire country

Hillary is calling for no fewer than 20 days of early voting in every state, has called for the restoration of voting rights for convicted felons and she believes it's time for all eligible citizens to be registered to vote automatically when they turn eighteen in every state in the union.

When I was Secretary of State, making it easier for Iowans to vote was a primary goal of mine. My service convinced me more than ever that more people voting is never a bad thing. I applaud Hillary Clinton for her bold call to expand access to the ballot. Her solutions will strengthen our democracy and ensure that our leaders are accountable to the greatest number of citizens. That's just the way we like it in Iowa.

Bernie Sanders Was Just Another Hippie Rummaging Through My Mom's Fridge // The New Republic // Chelsea Summers – June 10, 2015

One hot night in July 1972, I walked into my family's kitchen to see my mother brandishing a broom at a skinny man who had his head stuck deep inside our refrigerator.

"You get out!" my mom yelled, hitting the man on his skinny ass. "Out, out!" Under her tan skin, my mother's face was red with indignation. We didn't have much in our fridge, but my mom would fiercely defend it. The man pulled his head out of the fridge, dropping the food on the shelf. His hair was curly; a cherub's full-bodied curls framed his startled face. Chagrined, he loped off to the other apartment housed in my family's converted two-room schoolhouse in Huntington, Vermont, the site of a late-night mock-up session for The Vermont Freeman, the alt-weekly my parents published. Years later, I'd find out that man was Bernie Sanders.

Standing on the waterfront park of Burlington, Vermont, on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, Sanders announced his candidacy for president. Shortly thereafter, Mother Jones published "How Bernie Sanders Learned to Be a Real Politician," an article detailing Sanders' decades-long shift from scruffy radical to hirsute politician. While the article delineates much of Sanders' early history, including his time with the doomed Liberty Union party, his multiple failed political bids, and his hardscrabble hippie-adjacent life, the media fixated on one element: The "50 Shades" satiric erotica that Sanders wrote for the Freeman in October 1972.

"A woman enjoys intercourse with her man," goes the most quoted portion of the essay, "she fantasizes being

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raped by three men simultaneously." Called "Man—and Woman," the short piece originally appeared in the "China" issue of the Freeman. You'd likely imagine that an underground Vermont newspaper would have a hard time drumming up enough copy to fill a China issue—and you'd be right. The piece is bad, but it speaks to the gendered zeitgeist of the time, the '70s confusion about who humans are when we can't rely on the gender roles we grew up in with. It's a confusion that lingers, suggesting that though his prose is execrable, Sanders is posing questions that were valid for the time, questions that the anger of Men's Rights Activists and fourth-wave feminist divisions suggest are still relevant.

"It is very bad," Frank Kochman, my father and co-publisher of the Vermont Freeman, said of Sanders's 1972 piece. "But it has a wonderful graphic."

"We were probably hard up for copy," Jennifer Kochman, my mom, another co-publisher, added.

Distancing himself from the piece, even Sanders called it "bad writing," but this was the text that the media fixated on; from NPR to the Washington Post and beyond, the media glommed onto Sanders's semi-salacious prose. It certainly was the first time that The Vermont Freeman was featured on "Meet the Press." From 1971-1974, the Freeman, with a circulation of about 1,500 ranging across the state of Vermont and into New Hampshire, lived and breathed in our converted two-room schoolhouse. My dad calls the Freeman a "heavy duty, Hanoi Jane, anti-war, people's revolution sort of thing—short of violent revolution; the Freeman never advocated actual revolution."

The newspaper's pages detailed the vicissitudes of the Vietnam War, local politics, labor strikes, generalized feminism, and whatever other food co-op–fed hobby-horses my parents and their friends were riding that particular week. Printed on newsprint with type laboriously cut and pasted by hand, illustrated by pictures my mom drew or found in clip-art, the Freeman looks like a forerunner to 'zines, and its copy often reads a lot like late-night posts to LiveJournal. Sometimes experienced journalists placed pieces too hot to publish anywhere else, but most of the paper had the feel of earnest kids doing everything they could to pretend to be real.

When I was a nine-year-old girl, I saw Sanders as just another one of the mop-haired, rangy hippies crowding my house. However, unlike all those other Freeman writers, Sanders was a radical who never left the political scene. While my parents left the Freeman to pursue other ventures—my dad became a lawyer and my mom did public relations for non-profits—Sanders didn't abandon his politics. Instead, he made a career out of them, running unsuccessfully for Vermont governor and U.S. Senate multiple times as a Liberty Union candidate before being elected as an independent to the House of Representatives in 1991 and to the Senate in 2007. (Sanders has always caucused with the Democrats.)

And it was as a candidate that Sanders first came into contact with the Freeman. In its identity as the liberal alternative to the then-conservative Burlington Free Press, the Freeman covered the nascent anti-war Liberty Union Party. Starting as early as October 1971, the Freeman covered the Liberty Union Party and its candidates, including a photo of a very young Senate hopeful Bernie Sanders with his son. Everyone looks so fluffy and soft, their children on their laps and nary a necktie to be seen.

By the next year, Sanders had grown disillusioned with the coverage of the Freeman, and he penned a letter to the editor. Beginning with a churlish charge that the paper "virtually ignored" his campaign, Sanders continued to lay out a three-point campaign platform consisting of "a radical revision of the state's regressive tax structure," an end to the Vietnam War, and an amorphous call to "abolish all laws which attempt to impose a particular brand of morality." Rather than an ethical argument, Sanders used finances as the basis for ending the Vietnam War and suggested that this money fund universal health care, low-cost housing, and environmental cleanup.

It's a three-point policy that's remarkably similar to Sanders' current presidential platform, which consists of income and wealth inequality, getting big money out of politics, and working against climate change and for environmental causes.

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As Sanders' trademark truculent tone hasn't changed, so too has his political position remained notably consistent. The 1972 senatorial candidate who somewhat hazily pledged to "abolish all laws dealing with abortion, drugs, sexual behavior" in his letter to the Freeman became a U.S. representative who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, and just as he opposed the Vietnam War as a candidate, he voted against the use of force in Iraq in 1991, 2001, and 2003.

In that 1972 letter, Sanders opposed the "gradual erosion of freedoms and the sense of what freedom really means" in the Nixon administration—a loosey-goosey, hippie-dippy expression that, forty-plus years later, makes it hard to know what freedoms Sanders is referring to, exactly. However, the passage of time has solidified Sanders' vague understanding of personal freedoms—or it has given him a well-defined foe, and he vociferously decried the Patriot Act and other "Orwellian surveillance," as he called it. His voting record stands against big banking but usually with the NRA, necessary if you want to get elected in hunter-heavy Vermont.

"Bernie really is not much different now than he was then," my dad says. "His ties and suits are way better—of course, he had no ties or suits, but he has been boringly consistent for 44 years."

In 1981, my first election as a voter, I voted for Sanders's first successful bid to be mayor of Burlington. It was the cool thing to do, and I did it to wear the button and prove my loyalty to the collective cool. Forty years later, it's an uncanny thing to see this person I've known since childhood become a viable candidate for president. It's like seeing my childhood validated, slapped on a campaign button, dissected by the press, and turned into a slogan.

My family moved out of that converted schoolhouse decades ago, but my mom loves telling the refrigerator story. She says she forgives him. "He was probably just hungry," she says. "We all were."

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | *Communications*

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Suzy George" <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com>
To: "Ben Chang" <bchang@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Alexis Keslinke" <akeslinke@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Bill Antholis" <wantholis@brookings.edu>
"Bill Woodward \(blackwoodward@gmail.com\)" <blackwoodward@gmail.com>
bill.danvers@gmail.com
"Brian Katulis" <bkatulis@americanprogress.org>
"Bruce Riedel" <briedel@brookings.edu>
"Caitlin McDonnell" <cmcdonnell@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Carol Browner" <cmbrowner@me.com>
"Carole Hall" <chall@brookings.edu>
"Catherine Whitney" <Catherine.Whitney@skadden.com>
"Chris Roberts" <croberts@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Dan Benjamin" <dbenjam61@hotmail.com>
"Daniel Silverberg" <danielsilverberg@yahoo.com>
"Denis McDonough" <denis.mcdonough@gmail.com>
"Derek Chollet" <dhchollet@gmail.com>
"Don Gips?? \(don.gips@gmail.com\)" <don.gips@gmail.com>
donkerrick <donkerrick@comcast.net>
"Eryn M. Sepp \(eryn.sepp@gmail.com\)" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
"Frank Lowenstein" <frankl03@yahoo.com>
"Greg Craig" <gcraig@skadden.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Jamie Rubin" <JamesPRubin1960@gmail.com>
"Jan Stewart" <jstewart@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Jeff Smith" <jeffrey_smith@aporter.com>
"Jeremy Bash" <jeremybash@gmail.com>
"Jessica Lewis" <lewisje03@yahoo.com>
"Jim Miller - Department of Defense?? \(james.n.miller.jr@gmail.com \)" <james.n.miller.jr@gmail.com>
"Jim O'Brien" <jobrien@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Joanna Nicoletti?? \(info@forwardengagement.org\)" <info@forwardengagement.org>
"Joe Cirincione" <jcirincione@ploughshares.org>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Julianne Smith" <julsmi@gmail.com>
"Ken Lieberthal" <klieberthal@brookings.edu>
"Kurt Campbell" <kurtmcampbell@yahoo.com>
"Laura?? Huber" <lhuber@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Leon Fuerth" <hdpf@msn.com>
"Maida?? Stadtler" <mstadtler@apcoworldwide.com>
"Marcel Lettre" <mlettre@verizon.net>
"Marisa DeAngelis" <MDeAngelis@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Martin Indyk" <mindyk@brookings.edu>
"Michele Flournoy" <micheleflournoy3@gmail.com>
"Nadia Nowytski" <nadia.nowytski@aporter.com>
"Pat Griffin" <pgriffin@pmj-dc.com>
"Rich Verma" <rverma@steptoe.com>
"Rob Malley" <rmalley555@gmail.com>
"Samuel Berger" <sberger@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Steve Ricchetti" <sricchetti@cox.net>
"Strobe Talbott" <stalbott@brookings.edu>
"Susan Rice" <ricesusane@aol.com>
"Tara Sonenshine" <tsonenshine@earthlink.net>
"Theodore Waddelow" <twaddelow@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Tim Roemer" <tjroemer@gmail.com>
"Tom Daschle" <tom.daschle@dlapiper.com>
"Tom Donilon" <tdonilon@gmail.com>
"Tom Downey" <tdowney@dmggroup.com>
"Tommy Ross" <tommy_ross@reid.senate.gov>
"Toni Verstandig" <tonigverstandig@gmail.com>
"Tony Blinken" <ablinken@aol.com>
"Veronica Pollack" <Veronica.Pollock@dlapiper.com>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
Date: 5/2/2014 7:55:38 AM
Subject: WSJ op-ed by Secretary Panetta

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WALL STREET JOURNAL / OPINION

Playing Politics With Military Readiness in a Dangerous World

The armed forces are less and less prepared to respond to the threats facing the U.S.

By
LEON E. PANETTA

April 30, 2014 6:54 p.m. ET

Thursday marks the third anniversary of the day when two dozen members of an elite U.S. special operations force flew 150 miles into Pakistan by helicopter and killed Osama bin Laden . As I watched the operation from the seventh floor of CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., I knew we had dealt a tremendous blow to the organization that attacked the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001. But I also knew that his death did not wipe out all threats to America and our allies.

Three years later, the world is just as dangerous—maybe more so. While a mood of withdrawal and restraint is spreading in both political parties, recent events suggest that the U.S. may need to address crises around the world that threaten our national security. Our military must be prepared to respond if necessary. Consider the threats we face:

• Russia is threatening further military incursions into Ukraine. The U.S. may have to bolster both military and humanitarian aid to our NATO allies and others in the region.

• Syria remains a humanitarian catastrophe. It may require further U.S. involvement, including military aid and training the opposition.

• Al Qaeda is again on the rise in Iraq, Syria and North Africa. U.S. intelligence and special operations forces will be necessary to prevent an attack on the homeland.

U.S. army soldiers in a military exercise in Kosovo in April. *AFP/Getty Images*

• An unpredictable and nuclear-armed North Korea and an assertive China demand a continuing and strengthened U.S. presence in the Pacific.

• Iran's drive for a nuclear capability and continuing political turmoil in the Middle East require a strong U.S. force in the region to deal with any contingency.

• U.S. military assistance to nations in Latin America, Africa and elsewhere is essential to building alliances to fight terrorism, drug trafficking, cyberattacks and other transnational threats.

This is the world we live in. The president and his team have a strong record of addressing national security challenges—ending the war in Iraq, drawing down forces in Afghanistan, toppling Libya's Ghadafi, imposing crippling sanctions on Iran, and rebalancing our efforts to the Asian-Pacific region. But many diplomatic challenges lie ahead.

For diplomacy to succeed, it must be supported by a strong and credible defense. Now is not the time to weaken our military, but that is exactly what's happening. That's not to say the defense budget cannot be reduced responsibly. After more than 12 years of war and a blank check for government spending, significant savings can be achieved while protecting the strongest military force on earth.

But we are in danger of doing it the wrong way, as we have in the past. After every major conflict in recent history, deep defense cuts "hollowed out" the military. Troops were not adequately trained or equipped, maintenance was delayed, and key investments were postponed. A U.S. at peace has meant a U.S. without a military that can respond effectively to crisis.

The right way to reduce the defense budget is to provide stable, long-term funding, outlining the savings that will be achieved over a set time period. The secretary of defense should have the discretion to make spending reductions in a balanced and responsible way.

Congress started off on the right track. The Budget Control Act of 2011 required $487 billion in defense savings over 10 years. As defense secretary, I worked with military and civilian leadership at the Pentagon to develop a new defense strategy to guide our efforts to achieve savings. The strategy was approved by the president and the joint chiefs, and enjoyed broad support in Congress.

But then gridlock in Washington stalled progress. Congress and the administration have failed to agree on any long-term budget. Kicking this can down the road by passing short-term agreements, as well as sequester cuts and a government shutdown, all result in one thing that undermines a strong defense: uncertainty. At the same time, Congress has limited the discretion of the secretary, placed limits on force reductions and blocked procurement and compensation reform. The only place Congress has forced reductions, unfortunately, is in the readiness of the force.

While the temporary two-year budget deal in Congress provided some short-term stability, it failed to repair the extensive damage to readiness. There is simply no slack left in the system if the U.S. must respond to another crisis abroad.

In a troubled world, both our friends and our enemies will take note if we reduce our military readiness. No one questions the capability of our troops, our weaponry or our technology. What they do question is whether our democracy can function effectively to ensure our strength.

America must be willing to take the risks involved with leadership. The president and leaders in Congress must be willing to make difficult budget

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decisions—and, yes, compromises—that involve political risks. There's little appetite for compromise at a time when the extremes of both parties command attention, but that is what is essential to protecting our economy and our national security. Our national leaders cannot just give up until the next election. Events in a dangerous world will not wait for the next election.

The real strength of our nation lies in the brave Americans—like those who conducted the bin Laden operation three years ago—who are willing to fight and die for this nation when called upon to do so. We must not shortchange them by weakening our readiness at a dangerous time.

Mr. Panetta was the 23rd secretary of defense from 2011-13. He previously served as CIA director, White House chief of staff, OMB director and chairman of the House Budget Committee.

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From: Creamer2@aol.com
To: CAN@list.americansunitedforchange.org
bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 12/26/2010 10:07:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-During Holidays We Celebrate Progressive Values

During the Holidays We Celebrate Progressive Values

I was struck several days ago to hear Arizona's Senator Jon Kyl claim that the Democrats' insistence on considering the new START nuclear inspection treaty in the short time before Christmas somehow defiled the holiday.

Perhaps, I thought, Senator Kyl forgot for a moment that Christmas celebrates the birth of the "Prince of Peace" – that the Christmas story is about "Peace on Earth, good will to men." Could there be a better way to celebrate Christmas than to approve a peace accord that would reduce the risk of nuclear war?

Of course, this particular episode is actually emblematic of the fundamental disconnect between the values held by Senator Kyl and many of his radical conservative colleagues, and the progressive values that have served as the very definition of human morality, freedom and progress.

When you think of the heroes and heroines of American – and World – history you think of the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Cesar Chavez, Robert Kennedy, Mohandas Gandhi and Franklin Roosevelt.

They are people who expanded the realm of human freedom for everyone. They stood up for everyday people – not the rich and powerful -- of their times. They are the people who ended wars, not those who began them. They are the people who created mechanisms that help us avoid violence; who enhanced the ability of every child – no matter her background or income -- to live a fulfilling life; who stood up against ignorance and oppression and greed; who understood that we're all in this together –not all in this alone.

Most of all they were people who believed that what is important in life is what you can do for other people – not simply what you can do for yourself.

The progressive values that have always truly defined human progress are about hope not fear; unity not division. They are about mutual respect and loving your neighbor as yourself. They *are* the values that are celebrated in this holiday season.

Let's be clear: "Greed is good" is *not* being celebrated at Christmas. The values of Ebenezer Scrooge do *not* define the Christmas spirit – past, present or future. More tax breaks for the top one percent is not the moral of "A Christmas Carol."

The Right often characterizes progressive values as "soft," "utopian" and "naïve." But the hard fact is that progressive values have not only defined human progress in the past, they must *prevail* if human beings are to survive and prosper in the world of the future. Far from being "pie in the sky," "utopian" or "soft-headed," progressive values are the most precious, adaptive possessions of humanity – and they have provided the moral foundation for the unfolding story of American democracy.

The future of our society and our planet depends on our ability to create a world that reflects those values. And the growing power of our technology – our new ability to destroy human civilization, or alter our climate – means that we don't have forever to get ourselves on the right track.

A few years ago a planetary scientist named David Grinspoon wrote a book called *Lonely Planets,* that explores the question of extraterrestrial life – both basic biological life and intelligent sentient life.

Toward the end of his book, Grinspoon speculates on the chances of survival for intelligent life in the universe. He argues that every civilization of intelligent creatures must pass through a gauntlet that tests whether the values and political structures of the society are capable of keeping pace with the exponentially increasing power of the society's technology. If its values and political structures can keep pace with technological change, the society may pass into a phase of enormous freedom and possibility. If it does not, the power of its own technology will destroy it. Perhaps, he postulates, civilizations are like seahorses. Many are born, but only a few survive.

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For the first time, a little more than half a century ago, human society entered that gauntlet. The autocatalytic nature of technological growth reached a point of takeoff that for the first time gave us the power to destroy ourselves and all life on our tiny, fragile planet. From that moment on, the race began.

The next several generations of humans will decide how that race turns out. They won't simply observe it, or describe it; *they will decide it*. Whatever the future holds will be a result of human decision for which we are all responsible.

We will decide if we pass through that gauntlet or – like our cousins the Neanderthals – become evolutionary dead ends. We will decide if humanity passes into a new era of possibility and freedom – or the human story simply ends.

Progressive values are humanity's most precious possession. We must nurture them, fight for them, stand proudly for them, and celebrate them now during the holidays – and in all the battles we face in the coming year.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "David Dixon" <david@dixondavismedia.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 4:16:55 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

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And congrats, btw...well earned.

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:15 PM, David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com > wrote:

> Sure...we'll take a crack.
>
> On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> > Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> > Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> > My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> > **To:** Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience**

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

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As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

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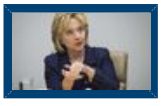

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- 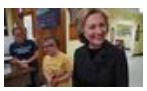
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But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

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Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: "Andrea Herrmann - Clean Water Fund" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/28/2012 11:06:14 PM
Subject: Deadline Approaching - We Need You Now!

Clean Water Fund logo with wave background

Dear Mary,

Can We Count on You?

Make A Tax Deductible Gift Today!

2012 is almost done – and what a year it was. We celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the Clean Water Act and stopped polluters from weakening landmark laws like the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. We organized communities in Colorado and Pennsylvania to fight pollution from fracking; worked with advocates in New Jersey, California, and Connecticut to protect our communities from chemicals and pharmaceutical waste; and cleaned up dirty energy in Michigan, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Help us make sure Clean Water Fund is just as successful in 2013 – make a tax deductible year-end gift before the clock strikes midnight on December 31st!

We're making a difference across the country. In Florida, we're spreading the word about dangerous coal ash. In California and Texas, we're keeping trash out of our waterways by cutting down on disposable bags and foam products. Once again we've kept a moratorium on new nuclear plants in Minnesota and on new trash incinerators in Rhode Island. And we've made sure Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, D.C., and the other states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are making progress in bringing the Bay back to health again.

The common thread in all of our work is you! You are the power behind our work. Power us today, before the new year, with a special, tax-deductible gift .

We've been able to count on people who are passionate about protecting our water, empowering our families, and making sure our communities are healthy for decades. In short, people like you. Please join us this year, before time runs out, with a tax-deductible gift of $50 or more.

Thanks for your support!

For clean water,

Andrea Herrmann - Director of Development

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave | Suite 400 | Washington D.C. | 20005 202.895.0420

You are receiving this message because you or someone using your e-mail address, john.podesta@gmail.com, gave us permission to send it. Not interested anymore? unsubscribe now.

empowered by salsa

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/5/2008 1:42:50 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/5

08 Election Daily News ClipsAugust 5th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

2pm McCain: Tours Nuclear Plant in Newport, MI
- Tracking scheduled for this event
7pm McCain: Tele-Town Hall for PA

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Oilman greases skids for McCain campaign (LA Times 8/5/08)
By Dan Morain
Among the donors from John B. Hess' company are an office manager and her husband, who pony up $57,000.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailhess5-2008aug05,0,2621587.story?track=rss
See TPM's "Hess "Driver" Maxed Out To McCain": http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/hess_driver_maxed_out_to_mccai.php
See WaPo blog's "Left Keeps Hammering McCain Oil Ties": http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/04/left_keeps_hammering_mccain_oi.html
See TPM's "Multiple Oil Company Executives Gave Huge Contributions To Electing McCain Just Days After Offshore Drilling Reversal": http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/oil_company_executives.php

McCain's Oil Co. Donors (NYT blog 8/4/08)
By Michael Luo and Kitty Bennett
Senator John McCain received a burst of donations in June from oil company employees after he came out in favor of offshore drilling, according to a report released last week by Campaign Money Watch, a watchdog organization. But the largest collective response from a single company, the report noted, came from the Hess Corporation.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/04/mccains-oil-co-donors/#more-5799

Track The Lobbyist Money That Bankrolls McCain's Campaign (And His Advisers) (Huffington Post 8/4/08)
When it comes to tracking the lobbyists and companies who either work for or have contributed to John McCain's presidential campaign, now you can play the same game Beltway journalists engage in every day from the comfort of your own home! McCainsLobbyists.com is the latest project from Campaign Money Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Still, they don't tend to take a positive view of the big corporate money that's fueling the presumptive Republican nominee's latest run for the White House.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/04/track-the-lobbyist-money_n_116913.html

McCain to visit Monroe-area plant today (Detroit Free Press 8/5/08)
By Kathleen Gray
Sen. John McCain will make another trip to Michigan today, but he won't be seen by the general public or most of the media.
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080805/NEWS15/808050348/1014

GOP hopeful pumps energy policy at the Chip (Rapid City Journal 8/5/08)
By Kevin Woster
In his first-ever stop at the always-raucous Buffalo Chip Campground, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain had thousands of boisterous supporters -- and more than a few loud motorcycles -- rocking and rumbling Monday night as he slammed his Democratic opponent, Sen. Barack Obama, for being weak on energy and national defense.
http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2008/08/05/news/top/doc4897d94106dca717274020.txt

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Link to video: http://videos.rapidcityjournal.com/p/iframe_widget?media_id=2049268&autoplay=0#

McCain visiting motorcycle rally, nuke power plant (AP 8/4/08)
By GLEN JOHNSON
STURGIS, S.D. - Thousands of motorcyclists greeted Republican presidential candidate John McCain with an approving roar Monday as he sought blue-collar and heartland support by visiting a giant motorcycle rally. ...His wife, Cindy, also paid tribute to the crowd, saying: "I'd like to thank all of you for your support of our troops, and here's why: I'm many things in my life, and one thing I'd like to be is your first lady. But more importantly, I'm Jack McCain's mother and Jimmy McCain's mother, one in the U.S. Navy and another one in the Marine Corps, an Iraqi vet."
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080805/ap_on_el_pr/mccain
See LA Times's "McCain campaigns at another sort of rally in Sturgis, S.D.": http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain5-2008aug05,0,6838766.story?track=rss
See CBS's "John McCain Campaigns At Biker Rally": http://feeds.cbsnews.com/~r/CBSNewsPolitics/ ~3/355910564/main4320653.shtml
See Politico's "McCain tries to rev up bikers in S.D.": http://news.yahoo.com/s/politico/20080805/pl_politico/12309
See Motorcycle News blog's "John McCain Buys Motorcycle T-Shirt": http://news.motorbiker.org/blogs.nsf/dx/john-mccain-buys-motorcycle-t-shirt.htm

McCain Makes Campaign Appearance at a Small Business in Lafayette Hill, Pa (KYW 8/4/08)
by Brad Segall
Sen. John McCain says the energy crisis is hurting small businesses in this country, and during a stop at National Label Company in Montgomery County on Monday he called on Congress to do something about it now.
http://www.kyw1060.com/pages/2721862.php?contentType=4&contentId=2529177

McCain: I'll Come Back To Senate For Oil (The Huffington Post 8/4/08)
On Monday, John McCain lambasted Congress for adjourning without passing an energy bill, saying he'd be willing to "come off the campaign trail" and return to Washington if Democratic leadership would simply "come off of vacation" and go to work on off-shore drilling.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/04/mccain-ill-come-back-to-s_n_116876.html

McCain: Let's Go Back to Work (NYT blog 8/4/08)
By Mary Ann Giordano
Come back, Barack. While some Republican members of the House are having a jolly time in Washington trying to embarrass the Democrats into returning to Congress to pass an energy bill, Senator John McCain on Monday issued a personal challenge to his Democratic rival to "come back into town and come back to work."
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/04/mccain-lets-go-back-to-work/

Factcheck.org Says Obama Ad Uses Incorrect Figure on Oil Donors (ABC blog 8/4/08)
By Jake Tapper
In his new TV ad in which he accuses Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., of being "in the pocket of big oil," Sen. Barack Obama, D-Illinois, said that McCain's campaign took $2 million from "Big Oil." "The truth is that McCain's campaign has received $1.33 million from individuals employed in the oil and gas industry, not $2 million," rules Factcheck.org.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/08/factcheckorg-sa.html

Negativity the norm in presidential campaign (AP 8/5/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
For all the talk about John McCain's hard-hitting politics, Barack Obama is hardly innocent. Both candidates and their allies are fully engaged in creating unflattering caricatures of each other that they hope will stick in voters' minds for the next three months.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080805/ap_on_el_pr/negative_politics

The Tire-Gauge Solution: No Joke (TIME 8/4/08)
By Michael Grunwald
...who's really out of touch? The Bush Administration estimates that expanded offshore drilling could increase oil production by 200,000 bbl. per day by 2030. We use about 20 million bbl. per day, so that would meet about 1% of our demand two decades from now. Meanwhile, efficiency experts say that keeping tires inflated can improve gas mileage 3%, and regular maintenance can add another 4%. Many drivers already follow their advice, but if everyone did, we could immediately reduce demand several percentage points. In other words: Obama is right.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1829354,00.html

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See AP's "Fact Check: Properly inflated tires cut gas use": http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i4KolYrUJQ8NRDg8boAKDR49lluAD92BNSK00

Obama: 'National Priority' (Politico blog 8/5/08)
By Ben Smith
Here's a second contrast ad on the subject of energy from the Obama campaign, which seeks to paint McCain as the candidate of the past, of Washington, and of Bush, while Obama is the candidate of "new energy."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Obama_National_Priority.html?showall
Link to video of ad ("National Priority"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHMbwk6CDLE

McCain -- "Big Oil's best investment": Obama (AFP 8/5/08)
by Stephen Collinson
Barack Obama branded John McCain a stooge of profit-soaked US oil giants, as the White House rivals dueled on high gasoline prices and energy policy exactly three months from election day.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080805/pl_afp/usvote

Monday Morning Funnies (WSJ blog 8/4/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
...Moments after the Boeing 737 was airborne, Salter swooped past the cabin-dividing curtain and gleefully handed out tire gauges that read "Obama's Energy Plan." The stunt pokes fun at Obama's suggestion that American's improve their gas mileage by filling up their tires and will be reportedly be replicated, compliments of McCain supporters, at Obama's appearance in Michigan Monday. Even more of a surprise? The appearance of John McCain in the back of the campaign plane—or at least the closest he's come as of late. A life-sized cardboard cut-out of the Republican candidate is now fixed to the divider between the press corps area and the campaign staff areas.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/08/04/monday-morning-funnies/

Romney: 'McCain Doesn't Ask For Any Tax Reduction For Oil Companies' (Think Progress 8/4/08)
For the first time, six of the giant oil companies — including ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Total — made more than $50 billion in combined profits in a single quarter last quarter, with ExxonMobil breaking the record for the highest corporate profits ever, at more than $11 billion.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/04/romney-big-oil-tax-breaks/

McCain On HIV/AIDS Prevention: All Talk, No Action (Wonk Room 8/4/08)
On Saturday, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that the number of Americans infected with HIV is "much higher than previously thought." According to the study, 56,300 people became infected with HIV in 2006, "40% higher than previous figures."
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/04/mccain-on-hivaids-prevention-all-talk-no-action/

Fiorina: 'McCain Has Consistently Said' He Will 'Balance The Budget By 2013' (Think Progress 8/4/08)
On CBS' Face the Nation yesterday, host Bob Schieffer asked McCain economic adviser Carly Fiorina how the newly announced projection of "a $480 billion deficit" would affect Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) economic plans. "The deficit is a huge problem," admitted Fiorina.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/04/fiorina-mccain-balance/

D.N.C. Web Site Seeks to Link Potential V.P.'s to Cheney and Bush (NYT blog 8/4/08)
by Michael Falcone
The Democrats are pledging to aggressively vet some of those rumored to be on John McCain's vice presidential short list.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/05/dnc-web-site-seeks-to-link-potential-vps-to-cheney-and-bush/

McCain security ousts reporter (Florida Capital News 8/2/08)
By Paul Flemming
Tallahassee Democrat senior writer Stephen Price on Friday was singled out and asked to leave a media area at the Panama City rally of presidential candidate Sen. John McCain. Price was among at least three other reporters, and the only black reporter, surrounding McCain's campaign bus — Gov. Charlie Crist and his fiancee, Carole Rome, were already aboard — when a member of the Arizona senator's security detail asked the reporter to identify himself. Price had shown his media credentials to enter the area.
http://floridacapitalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080802/CAPITOLNEWS/808020312

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's Problem Isn't Bush (WSJ 8/5/08)

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...If you ask Barack Obama, he will tell you that a vote for Mr. McCain is a vote for a "third Bush term." It's a clever strategy, because it works on many levels. . ...however awkward Mr. McCain may find standing with President Bush, the greater danger is that Mr. McCain will buy into Mr. Obama's campaign theme. And that is what appears to be happening.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121789241263411727.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

'Race card' theatrics (Boston Globe 8/5/08)
THE DEBATE over which presidential candidate played the "race card" first - John McCain or Barack Obama - is a distracting sideshow. Instead, the country needs new ways to talk about racial identity.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/05/race_card_theatrics/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

The color of politics (Washington Times 8/5/08)
By Tara Wall
Kudos to John McCain. He stood up and refused to accept being labeled a racist lying down. After his third attempt to inject race into the race, Barack Obama was stopped dead in his tracks when he made these remarks last week:
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/05/the-color-of-politics/

The Unavoidable Issue (Washington Post 8/5/08)
By E. J. Dionne Jr.; A19
Last week's dust-up over race between John McCain and Barack Obama was entirely disappointing. Obama spoke first about how his opponents would try to "make you scared of me," noting that he "doesn't look like all those other presidents" on our currency. What Obama said was true, but he made the tactical mistake of suggesting that McCain was complicit in overtly racial politics.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/04/AR2008080401826.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

BUSH NEWS

Bush Says It's 'Important to Engage' China (Washington Post 8/5/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A01
Three days before he is set to arrive in Beijing for the Olympics, President Bush offered a mixed assessment of China's role in the world, praising its efforts to curb the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran, expressing disappointment about its recent move to help scuttle global trade talks, and saying that it is "really hard to tell" whether human rights in China have improved over the past eight years.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/04/AR2008080402460.html?hpid%3Dtopnews&sub=AR

Bush Arrives in South Korea (AP 8/5/08)
By PAUL ALEXANDER
President Bush is kicking off his Asian trip with a visit to a new friend while seeking solutions to sticky issues old and new. Air Force One landed Tuesday evening at a military airport near the South Korean capital, Seoul. Bush's official schedule starts Wednesday, when he will meet for the third time with the conservative, pro-American president, Lee Myung-bak. Lee took office in February with promises to patch up relations with Washington that became strained under Seoul's previous decade of liberal governments.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1829443,00.html

Prayers, Protests Greet Bush in Seoul (WSJ 8/5/08)
Thousands of South Koreans gathered for a prayer service to welcome Bush on a visit that also sparked revived street demonstrations.
http://feeds.wsjonline.com/~r/wsj/xml/rss/3_7011/ ~3/356151124/SB121792164015312775.html

Bush tells troops Iraq no longer 'hopeless' (AP 8/4/08)
By BEN FELLER
EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — President Bush said Monday that U.S. troops going to Iraq soon will find a country dramatically different from the one that was "hopeless" before his troop buildup.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j3b6xoPSXQAc5AoJwqPQit9OtitgD92BRS5G0

Stevens to Join Bush in Alaska (ABC blog 8/4/08)
By Jennifer Duck
Embattled Republican Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska will be with President Bush in Fairbanks, Alaska tonight.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/08/stevens-to-join.html

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Book says White House ordered forgery (Politico 8/5/08)
By Mike Allen
A new book by the author Ron Suskind claims that the White House ordered the CIA to forge a back-dated, handwritten letter from the head of Iraqi intelligence to Saddam Hussein.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/politico/20080805/pl_politico/12308

UNCONVENTIONAL (American Spectator 8/4/08)
Vice President Dick Cheney will not make an appearance at the Republican convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul next month, according to sources in his office. Cheney has not sought a speaking slot at the convention, nor has his staff sought a role for him at the convention.
http://www.spectator.org/dsp_article.asp?art_id=13636

OTHER TOP NEWS

Obama reverses two positions in new energy plan (AP 8/5/08)
Democrat Barack Obama put forward a broad energy plan yesterday designed to end US reliance on imported oil within 10 years and shore up his standing amid a tightening White House race and high anxiety over gas prices. But his proposal includes two significant reversals of positions he has taken in the past, and he immediately drew accusations of flip-flopping from Republican rival John McCain, who has gained ground in the polls using the energy issue.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/05/obama_reverses_two_positions_in_new_energy_plan/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

1,250 Marines ordered to stay longer in Afghanistan (AP 8/5/08)
The Pentagon has ordered roughly 1,250 Marines serving as trainers for the Afghan security forces to stay on the warfront almost a month longer to continue a mission that military leaders say is a top priority, according to a senior military official.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2008-08-05-us-troops-afghanistan_N.htm?csp=34

Report: U.S. may have taped Gitmo interviews (AP 8/5/08)
The State Department advised representatives of foreign governments that their interviews with their citizens being held at Guantanamo Bay would be recorded, The Washington Post reported Tuesday.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-05-gitmo-interviews_N.htm?csp=34

First military commission doesn't end fairness debate (USA TODAY 8/5/08)
By Alan Gomez
Observers of the first U.S. war crimes trial since World War II have seen enough to render a verdict on the fairness of the trial, the first major test of the military commission system established by President Bush after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/judicial/2008-08-04-gitmo_N.htm?csp=34

US nuclear sub visits Japan amid leak controversy (AP 8/4/08)
TOKYO: An American nuclear submarine making a regular stop in southern Japan does not present a risk, the U.S. Navy said Monday, just days after Japan's government suggested a similar U.S. vessel may have leaked radiation at the same port earlier this year.
http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/08/04/asia/AS-Japan-US-Nuclear-Sub.php

Iraqis Fail to Agree on Provincial Elections (NYT 8/4/08)
By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON and SUADAD AL-SALHY
Iraqi political leaders met Sunday to try to reach a deal that would allow provincial elections to proceed, but they again failed to agree, further dimming prospects that the elections would be held this year.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/04/world/middleeast/04iraq.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

U.S. retail gasoline price falls to 11-week low: government (Reuters 8/4/08)
By Tom Doggett
U.S. drivers found more relief at the pump as the national price for gasoline dropped to its lowest level in 11 weeks, the government said on Monday.
http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN0451143220080804?feedType=RSS&

GOP returns for Day 2 of talkathon (Politico 8/4/08)
By Daniel W. Reilly, John Bresnahan
If Friday's impromptu House protest session had all the passion of a revival meeting, Monday's Episode II was more like a prayer circle — intense but smaller, with shouts of glory replaced by wishful thinking.

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http://news.yahoo.com/s/politico/20080804/pl_politico/12300

GOP: Lift drilling ban or risk shutdown (Washington Times 8/4/08)
Sean Lengell
The showdown on Capitol Hill over expanding offshore drilling could lead to a threatened government shutdown when Congress returns from its five-week summer break in early September.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/04/lift-drilling-ban-or-risk-shutdown-gop-warns/

Wealthy Begin Feeling The Pain In Down Economy (AP 8/3/08)
Less Money Allocated For Luxury Goods, Investments And Credit Cards Are Signs That Rich, Too, Getting Squeezed
http://wcbstv.com/topstories/Wealthy.Spending.Down.2.786657.html

POLLS

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll (Rasmussen 8/4/08)
The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Monday shows the race for the White House is tied with Barack Obama and John McCain each attracting 44% of the vote. However, when "leaners" are included, it's McCain 47% and Obama 46%.
http://rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_presidential_election/daily_presidential_tracking_poll

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From: "David Donnelly" <david.a.donnelly@gmail.com>
To: researchalliance2008@googlegroups.com
"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 7/11/2008 8:14:56 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain's campaign finances and lobbyists research updated

http://www.campaignmoney.org/campaigns/main/the-mccain-file

Here is a listing of all our reports, fact sheets, etc. -- we've updated a bunch of this with new, fresh numbers from McCain's June monthly report, which includes donations through May.

EMBEDDED OR IN BED? John McCain And His Lobbyist Problem

EMBEDDED OR IN BED? John McCain And His Lobbyist Problem lays out the financial entanglements and other relationships that exist between McCain and his cadre of 118 lobbyists who have represented some of America's largest corporations — many of which have had business before the Senate Commerce Committee McCain once chaired — but now find themselves advising, staffing and raising money for McCain's presidential campaign. *Released June 13, 2008*.
Download the PDF | **Press release**

John McCain, The EADS Tanker Deal, and The Lobbyists Who Made It Happen

In February 2008, the Air Force bypassed Seattle-based Boeing and awarded a multi-billion dollar contract to the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) to provide the next generation of in-flight refueling tankers. The decision came after Sen. John McCain twice intervened in the procurement process, and after EADS lobbyists, at least seven of whom are staffers or fundraisers for McCain's presidential campaign, launched a massive lobbying effort on their client's behalf. *Updated July 11, 2008.*
Read the report | **Download the PDF**

Oil Money: John McCain's Close Ties to The Petroleum Industry

With oil prices skyrocketing and the economy on the brink of a recession, Americans are looking for candidates up and down the ballot to introduce meaningful plans to provide relief at the pump and put the economy back on track. Yet John McCain continues to side with the oil companies that have given him more than $1 million in donations and line the pockets of the lobbyists who staff and raise money for his campaign. *Updated July 11, 2008.*
Read the report

McCain's Energy Plan: Written By Corporate Lobbyists, Bankrolled By Industry Contributions

John McCain's energy plan calls for offshore oil drilling along America's coastline and expanded use of nuclear power. Although some have criticized McCain as flip-flopping on energy issues, the positions McCain has staked out should not surprise anyone: They are similar to those advocated by the fifty-nine energy lobbyists on his campaign and fundraising staff, as well as those industry insiders who have donated millions of dollars to McCain's political career.*Updated July 11, 2008.*
Read the report | **Download the PDF** | **Press release**

John McCain and Telecom Immunity: The Donors and Lobbyists Behind the Confusion

Over the past few years, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) position on telecom immunity has been in flux. On various occasions he has stated that such immunity should only be granted if the telecommunications companies involved testified openly about their involvement and apologized, and if the language of the bill made clear that future warrantless wiretapping was unacceptable. But in recent months his position has become more ambiguous. Not only did he vote in favor of telecom immunity legislation that did not contain any of the above provisions, he has also backtracked on some of them altogether. One reason for his change of heart may be his campaign's close ties to the telecom industry.*Updated July 11, 2008.*
Read the report | **Download the PDF**

Following the Money Trail: Fortune 200 Companies, John McCain, and McCain's Lobbyists

The top 200 corporations in America are well represented among Sen. John McCain's campaign contributors and the lobbyists working to get him elected.*Released June 26, 2008.*
Download the PDF | **Press release**

McCain's Multiple Views on Public Financing of Elections

This Public Campaign Action Fund report details John McCain's shifting views on public financing of federal elections. After opposing comprehensive reform early in his political career, he gradually became a support of his own state's Clean Elections law. But once he began gearing up for his second presidential campaign, he started to backtrack. *Released April 8, 2008.*
Download the PDF: Part 1 , Part 2

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/11/2016 2:01:24 PM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP Newsletter: Champion Free Markets, but Don't Risk National Security, Two Cheers for the President's Announcement on Clean Energy, and Upcoming Event

View this email in your browser

February 11th, 2016

Top Stories

Champion Free Markets, But Don't Risk National Security

American Security Project

Read ASP CEO BGen Stephen A. Cheney's statement on the proposed transactions by ChemChina and Zoomlion. In the statement, ASP CEO BGen Stephen A. Cheney. "In today's world," he argues, "foreign investment is a key driver of global economic growth. At any given time, U.S. companies are buying or investing around the world and foreign companies are doing the same here. However, when foreign investment places national security at risk, it's an entirely different story."

Click here for more...

Two Cheers for the President's Announcement on Clean Energy

Facebook
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ASP in the News

ASP Panel Mentioned in The Daily Caller
The Daily Caller

ASP Board Member and former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel Interviewed on BBC
BBC

ASP's Adjunct Fellow, Matthew Freear in RUSI Newsbrief
RUSI Newsbrief

Chairperson of ASP's Business Council for American Security Dante Disparte in Huffington Post
Dante Disparte, Huffington Post

ASP Senior Fellow Andrew Holland in Latin America Energy

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Advisor
Inter-American Dialogue Latin America Energy Advisor

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney in Politico
Bryan Bender, Politico

ASP CEO BGen. Cheney Interviewed On International Security Concerns
John Bersia, UCF

This weekend, in his weekly address, the President announced a "Doubling Our Clean Energy Funding to Address the Challenge of Climate Change." This funding was announced in the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, which was released on Tuesday, February 9.

Click here for more...

Upcoming Events

ASP and Lloyd's of London Risk and Resiliency Forum

Date	**February 17, 2016**
Time	**12:00pm – 4:30pm**
Location	**Arnold & Porter LLP, 601 Massachusetts Ave NW, 11th Floor, Washington DC 20001**

The American Security Project will host ***Lloyd's and ASP Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience*** in partnership with Lloyd's , JLT , and Risk Cooperative . This is an invitation-only opportunity for policymakers, business leaders and regulators to introduce the findings of the City Risk Index and share best practices and insights on risk assessment, mitigation, adaptation and transfer to help U.S. cities and institutions build greater resilience

To request an invitation, contact:

events@americansecurityproject.org

On Our Blog

American Competitiveness

Dante Disparte Featured in Huffington Post
Nicole Bohannon

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In a new post published in the Huffington Post, Disparte discusses the many opportunities to reverse the island's economic woes, which have triggered one of the largest non-conflict related resettlements in recent history.

Click here for more...

Asymmetric Operations

After ISIS: Issues and Questions for Stability

C. Alexander Doyle

If you follow the news closely, it seems that everyone has an answer on how to weaken or destroy ISIS. However, it seems that very few people are having the conversation on what happens after ISIS. Does the world just expect ISIS to be defeated and suddenly everything will be alright?

Click here for more...

On the Table? Turkey's Kurdish Policy

Elias Stahl

In a prescient article for The American Interest, Dov Friedman first exposes Turkey's divergent policy approach for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and the Syrian Kurdish administration (PYD), and then prescribes Turkish policy with the PYD to mirror its KRI counterpart more closely.

Click here for more...

Recruitment Problems? ISIS Stumbles in Jakarta

Elias Stahl

Although the Islamic State's recruiting success has been perhaps most visible in the West, it is global in reach. Despite these ambitions, ISIS is having a hard time replicating its success in Western Europe in majority Muslim countries outside the Middle East.

Click here for more...

Five Things to Watch for from ISIS in 2016

Pascale Siegel

Daesh will not go away in 2016, despite our repeated pledges and the West's renewed commitment. Here's five things to watch for from ISIS in 2016.

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Breaking the Brand: A New Way to Dismantle Perceptions of Terror

Esther Babson

American Security Project's Adjunct Fellow, Matthew Freear, was featured in this month's RUSI Newsbrief, arguing for "counter-branding" versus "counter-narratives" in the fight against terrorist branding.

Click here for more...

Radicalization Part 1: The Process

Anil Powers

Broken up into three parts, this blog post will examine the radicalization process, the sources of radicalization, and ways in which it can be mitigated in order to prevent future attacks.

Click here for more...

Radicalization Part 2: In Prison and on the Internet

Anil Powers

It is important to keep in mind that Islamist radicalization can occur in a variety of locations, from heavily scrutinized mosques, to prisons, and even on the Internet.

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Radicalization Part 3: Mitigating the Threat of Terrorism

Anil Powers

To mitigate the threat of terrorism, governments have two options: adopting a proactive policy or a reactive policy. Within each policy approach, an array of programs and plans are already in effect or have been implemented to mitigate the threat of terrorism.

Click here for more...

Climate and Energy

Will Cheap Oil Derail the Paris Agreement?

Esther Babson

Plummeting oil prices have led to concern of whether states will follow through with the promises made in the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. The U.S. and China have maintained their supportive policies and rhetoric so far, but many reports have cautioned early optimism.

Click here for more...

The Age of Consequences: A New Climate Security Film featuring ASP

Esther Babson

The Age of Consequences, an upcoming climate security film featuring ASP's CEO, BGen. Stephen Cheney, explores the risk of climate change through the lens of national security and global stability.

Click here for more...

BCAS Member General Fusion Mentioned in Science News

Bryn Woollacott

Business Council for American Security member and Fusion Committee Chair General Fusion's work on nuclear fusion technology was the subject of a recent article in Science News.

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Resource Transparency and SEC Rulemaking

Andrew Vaccaro

The Securities and Exchange Commission has announced new regulations under Section 1504 of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Act. Unfortunately, the proposed rules fall short of providing the best possible solution. Fortunately, there is still time to offer a solution with greater resource transparency for everyday citizens.

Click here for more...

General Fusion is Named to the 2015 Global Cleantech 100

Esther Babson

For the second year in a row, the Business Council for American Security member General Fusion, a leader in the development of fusion power, was listed in the top 100 Global Cleantech companies of 2015.

Click here for more...

U.S. Navy Launches "Great Green Fleet"

C. Alexander Doyle

The Navy launched the "Great Green Fleet", with a ceremony in San Diego yesterday, a major milestone towards a 2020 goal of having 50% of its energy supplied by alternative energy resources.

Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

The Zika Virus - A Window Into Future Security Threats

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Nicole Bohannon

Over the next 20-30 years, a major epidemic could decide a country's stability. There must be international networks designed for earlier detection and coordination.

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Russian Aggression Prompts Refocused U.S. Spending

Bryn Woollacott

Secretary Ashton Carter has stated that the next defense budget must focus on “a return to great-power conflict” to guard against Russian aggression.

Click here for more ...

Iran and Saudi Arabia Headed for a Cold War Over a Heated One

Nicole Bohannon

The sudden and dramatic breakup of Saudi-Iranian relations has put the world on watch as the situation develops. Now, as diplomatic ties between them are officially severed, war is inevitable. Correct? The short answer: probably not.

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Iranian Revolutionary Guard: Rough Seas Ahead?

Ken Robbins

ASP Senior Adjunct Fellow Ken Robbins on what the recent events in Iran could mean in the long-term.

Click here for more ...

Saudi Arabia Ratchets Up Regional Tensions with Iran

Asha Castleberry

The diplomatic rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a clear sign that sectarian and national rivalries are getting worse in the region.

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Nuclear Security

North Korea Satellite Launch Prompts Missile Defense Discussion Posted

Bryn Woollacott

International efforts to limit North Korea’s ability to project military power have failed as this weekend the state launched an object into orbit. The U.S. and South Korea have discussed the deployment of missile defense systems to combat this threat, which may further escalate the situation.

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Creating an International Standard to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

Bryn Woollacott

The threat of global terrorism is at an all-time high, and increased global instability has intensified the risk of nuclear terrorism.

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S.2461 and NextGen Nuclear Energy

Andrew Vaccaro

The Senate will consider an amendment to the Senate energy bill, offered by Senator Crapo of Idaho, on advanced nuclear research. The Crapo amendment consists of the text of his recently introduced bill S.2461, the "Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act."

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The Iran Deal in Action

Maggie Feldman-Piltch

As Iran removes the core of their nuclear reactor and fills it with

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cement opening the door for the easing of sanctions in just a manner of days, it is clear times are changing.
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What to do About North Korea's Nuclear Weapons
Matthew Wallin
With North Korea's recent claims of having tested a hydrogen bomb, there is renewed concern about the situation on the Korean peninsula and the North's expanding nuclear program. Yet despite a possible increase in nuclear weapons capability, the strategic situation on the Korean peninsula has not changed since North Korea crossed the nuclear threshold.
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Public Diplomacy

New Cuba Crisis Means It's Time to Kick Out Old Policies
Nicole Bohannon
The current massive Cuban exodus is an opportunity to foster better Latin American relations and an incentive to push the island towards liberalization.
Click here for more...

Ch-Ch-Changes in the US Anti-Extremist Messaging Strategy
Matthew Wallin
Rather than boosting large, officially labeled messaging centers overseas, the US should focus on skill-based training centers that are not focused on CVE.
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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
"Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:41:21 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

+ Nick and Lauren.

From: Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Like this (w the handle). Lets do it

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> I like including his handle.
>
> .@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.
>
> On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
> > **To:** Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> >
> > Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.
> >
> > On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I like that. Another option:
> > >
> > > @marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.
> > >
> > > ---
> > >
> > > **From:** Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
> > > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
> > > **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > **Cc:** Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > **Subject:** RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> > >
> > > Adding Reynolds.
> > >
> > > Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:
> > >
> > > Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

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From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Here we go...
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> User Actions
> Following
>
> **Marco RubioVerified account** @ marcorubio
>
> After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.
>
> https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872
>
> --
> Jeremy Massey
> Research Department
>
> 847 736 9211
> JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 7:17:38 PM
Subject: RE: Earned Media Update

Love the FOIA idea Jesse –
Could be a house member or a Senator --

From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:41 PM
To: John Podesta; Robby Mook
Cc: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: RE: Earned Media Update

To Joel's original point about someone to raise this point about Gowdy releasing his email, David Brock did it already - http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/david-brock-top-hillary-clinton-ally-trey-gowdy-release-your-emails. I know we want Members, etc. to do it and will pursue but just flagging Brock did it. Also, Roy Blunt got challenged on it by Stephanopoulos on Sunday.

The other question is whether there is a member who would introduce a bill to end the FOIA exemption for Members of Congress? They should be just as transparent as they're demanding HRC be. It would put the focus on the Members keeping their emails private and would never actually pass.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:35 PM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Joel Benenson; Jesse Ferguson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.
>
> On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>
> > Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?
> > Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?
> >
> > **From:** Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
> > **Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
> > **To:** Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
> > **Cc:** Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
> > **Subject:** Earned Media Update
> >
> > Hello All – Two quick things.
> >
> > 1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.
> >
> > 2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly

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before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have

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found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/23/2015 11:47:29 AM
Subject: Navin R. Johnson's UN Vote Preview

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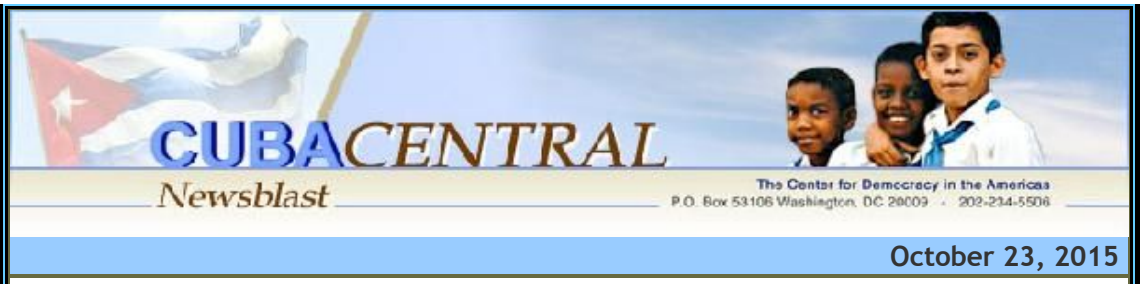

October 23, 2015

Dear Friends,

Spoiler alert: On Tuesday, the United Nations General Assembly will consider Cuba's resolution on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America on Cuba." The vote is not in doubt; a similar resolution condemning the U.S. embargo was adopted by a 188-2 margin last year. We freely admit that virtually no one takes this process as seriously as we do; news organizations tend to yawn, since the General Assembly has adopted these measures for 23 consecutive years, and are likely to yawn harder this year, now that the State Department has denied the rumor the U.S. would abstain rather than vote against the resolution, taking away any remaining mystery about next week's vote.

What's the big deal? If the press doesn't care, why should you? After all, we know how the vote will go down and, at this new, more hopeful stage in U.S.-Cuba relations, isn't the resolution, the vote, and the analysis just a set piece from another day? That's apparently what U.S. officials believe, who say they tried to get the Cubans to water down the resolution and take greater note of what diplomacy has produced so far, but felt rebuffed. In their telling, that ended the chance for a U.S. abstention. So, is there anything here that should concern any one of us?

Nerd Alert: We think so. Typically, the embargo resolutions request the UN Secretary-General to compile a summary of how UN agencies and each member nation of the General Assembly are affected by the global reach of U.S. economic sanctions. Every year, that report is "embargoed" by the UN until the eve of the vote. When we get our copy, as we did this week, the effect it has on one member of our team would remind Steve Martin fans of Navin R. Johnson's reaction when he discovers his name in the phone book for the first time.

Getting serious for just a moment, we suggest you either read the report yourself here, or take a look at the analysis that follows. In fact, what came back in the Secretary-General's report is pretty interesting, and here are some of the big themes that captured our attention.

The diplomatic breakthrough with Cuba bought the U.S. a lot of good will. Comments filed by Member states - allies and adversaries alike - recognize the Obama administration for talking to Cuba and making an effort to have a respectful policy. While President Obama had in previous years made reforms on travel and remittances, and no country took notice, several nations and UN agencies mentioned the opening of embassies, ending Cuba's listing as a state sponsor of terror,reforms that allow greater travel, the export of building materials to repair homes, and the like as welcomed steps forward. The report has never praised the U.S. before.

But that goodwill stretches only so far. Japan, for example, expressed support for the new,positive direction of the U.S.-Cuba relationship, but will support the resolution

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condemning the embargo because it imposes hardships on Cubans and because the extraterritorial reach of sanctions violates international law. Similarly, the European Union - allies whose policy toward Cuba is most like ours and welcomed the bilateral breakthrough - also believes "the United States measures are increasingly outdated and should be ended."

Then, there are the comments by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights which says that coercive economic sanctions justified on human rights grounds more often than not fail to improve those conditions, and punish the poorest people, the intended beneficiaries,at the cost of increased unemployment and poverty and risks to their health. It stings to read the example it offers that there is increased risk of mortality in Cuba because our sanctions restrict its access to chemicals that would otherwise protect Cuba's drinking water.

From Stinging to Strange to Stupid. Those who are cynical about the UN, those who are bored writing or reading the annual stories on General Assembly vote, might spend time reading the impact the embargo continues to have on vulnerable Cubans.

In the report, you can read about sanctions blocking Cuban access to diagnostic equipment for monitoring the treatment of leukemia patients; how sanctions prevent the sale to Cuban hospitals of devices critical for pediatric heart surgery patients; how sanctions hinder efforts by the UN Development Program getting medicine and support into Cuba for its 18,257 patients, people of all ages, living with HIV/AIDS. You can read about the month-long cutoff of funds that Cuba's government needed to pay for the housing and food costs for the Cuban doctors who were deployed in West Africa to fight Ebola.

On a lighter note, Cuba wants you to know that while it could be buying baseballs from the Wilson Sporting Goods Co., headquartered in Chicago, Illinois at $5.80 apiece, the embargo forces it to turn to a Japanese baseball manufacturer and spend $9.50 so that each ball can make its way to Cuba.For some reason, Cuba would also like you to know that because of the U.S. embargo, it has to spend over $35,000 more buying saxophones for 334 student musicians than it would if only it could purchase instruments made by Selmer in Elkhart, Indiana. Cuba: Point taken!

The report lays bare the economic contradictions of our policy. The great change in direction offered by President Obama's new policy is that we're supposed to stop strangling Cuba economically and instead give support to what can help make Cubans prosperous.

With the embargo, however, our new policy still has the old effects. For example, the Secretary-General's report is a reminder that we close off to Cuba its natural, most proximate export market.

The embargo stops Cuba from selling its biotechnology and medical services, its nickel,rum, cigars, coffee, lobsters, and honey to the eager consumers it would find in the U.S.A.The embargo stops Cuba from getting credit, it subjects Cuba to exchange rate risk, it places Cuban bank accounts and its funds in jeopardy of being seized, and it bans Cuba from using the U.S. dollar in international transactions. On top of the well-known problems that are due to Cuba's own economic policies, our embargo is a brake on Cuban economic growth and increases the struggles of the Cuban people.

Next Steps? After a really exciting year for U.S.-Cuba diplomacy, and strong leadership in the U.S.by President Obama on behalf of engagement, the Secretary-General's report reminds us that the embargo is still in place and it cuts pretty sharp.

For its part, Cuba's resolution and its lengthy section in the UN Report is focused on nudging President Obama to try harder, to use his executive authority again and again, because Congress doesn't have the votes to lift the embargo.

Cuba wants President Obama to help Cuba secure credit, use the dollar, open the banking

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system to Cuban entities and financial transactions, allow it to use the International Financial Institutions, and permit U.S. investment. He can do those things, and he should, but a year from now, are we going to be having the same debate, over the same resolution, covered or ignored by the same cynical press corps? Or, are there things that both governments are prepared to do in order to move the process along, further and faster?

This week in Cuba News...

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS
- U.S will not abstain from annual U.N. vote condemning the embargo on Cuba
- Governor Chris Christie opposes flights between N.J. and Cuba, as new air and rail-to-cruise services are unveiled
- Update: Bill Introduced to Terminate the Wet Foot/ Dry Foot Policy
- Confirmation of U.S. ambassador to Mexico delayed by politics
- U.S. and Cuba agree to long-term shark protection plan

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS
- State Department Refutes Claims of Cuba's Military Involvement in Syria

IN CUBA
- Cuban artist released from jail after 10 months without a trial in Cuba
- Cuba plans to resume deep water oil exploration in 2016
- Fidel Castro's son blames bureaucratism, conservatives, and corruption for "immobility"

Recommended Reading
- What It's Like to Launch an Independent News Outlet in Cuba , Ernesto London, New York Times
- Capitol Facelift: Restoring a Cuban Landmark , Mark Trevor Burrel, Miami Herald
- Cuba-Illinois trade could boost ag economy, U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos says , Chuck Sweeny, rrstar.com
- Cuba's Limited Absorptive Capacity Will Slow Normalization , Fulton Armstrong, American University Center for Latin America and Latino Studies

Recommended Viewing
- HBO showing film it saw on 'Cuba's Dylan' at Tampa Film Festival' Paul Guzzo, The Tampa Tribune
- The sensual photography of t erican artist loved by Cub he Ama , CNN
- DIY drone video captures unseen views of Cuba Patrick Oppman, CNN
- Cuba: How A Nation Comes Online , Social Media Week Miami
- VIVA LA (DIGITAL) REVOLUCION , Desmond Boylan, Fusion

U.S.-Cuba Relations

U.S. will not abstain from annual U.N. vote condemning the embargo on Cuba

Despite last year's diplomatic breakthrough, the United States will oppose a U.N. resolution condemning the embargo against Cuba because the draft doesn't "fully reflect" the new spirit of engagement between the U.S. and Cuba, according to an Obama administration official who spoke to the Associated Press this week on background.

"Regrettably the resolution tabled looks very similar to resolutions from previous years, and doesn't appear to fully reflect the spirit of engagement that President Obama has championed as the best way to advance our shared interests with Cuba," the official told the AP. In the unlikely event Cuba amends the text, the official left open the possibility that the U.S. would change its position and abstain. Last year, the resolution said the embargo has cost the Cuban people $833.7 billion, "a number the U.S. would never accept," according to AP.

In September, AP reported that the Obama administration was considering an abstention from the annual U.N. General Assembly vote on October 27, a move which could have sent a powerful signal to Congress of Obama's commitment to end the 55--

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year--old embargo.

Governor Chris Christie opposes flights between N.J. and Cuba, as new air and rail-to-cruise services are unveiled

Governor Chris Christie sent a letter to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey this week demanding that no flights be allowed to leave New Jersey's Newark Liberty Airport until Cuba extradites Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, who fled to Cuba in 1984 seven years after her conviction in connection with the killing of a New Jersey State Highway Patrol trooper.

"It is unacceptable to me as Governor to have any flights between New Jersey and Cuba until and unless convicted cop--killer and escaped fugitive Joanne Chesimard is returned to New Jersey to face justice," Christie wrote in a letter cited by Fox News . During his presidential campaign, Christie called Obama "dead wrong" for allowing the U.S. and Cuba to open embassies; he has also accused U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba of "participating in the oppression" imposed by Cuba's rulers, according to NJ.com .

His letter came after United Airlines applied for permission from the Port Authority to start flights between Newark's Liberty Airport and Havana. "We remain very interested in serving Cuba as soon as we are able to do so, and believe United's service would benefit the airport and the region," United Airlines told NJ.com .

Although General John Degnan, Chairman of the Port Authority, asked United to reconsider its service to Cuba after receiving the letter, the Port Authority Board met on Thursday and "decided the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, not the Port Authority, gets the final say on whether the flights can go ahead," according to the Washington Times.

Meanwhile, Delta Air Lines hopes to expand services to Cuba, according to a published report. Delta recently placed Atlanta--Havana on its schedule and filed to operate on Saturdays beginning April 2, 2016 with a Boeing 737--800, according to Airways News. (There are no seats for sale yet, likely because a bilateral agreement leading to commercial flights has yet to be approved.

Vacations by Rail also announced a new, New York--Miami--Cuba rail--cruise cultural exchange itinerary with trips beginning in February of 2016. Prices for the nine--day cruise that includes visits to Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santiago de Cuba, and Baracoa start at $5,353. Since the thaw in diplomatic relations, U.S. travel to Cuba has surged; in September, U.S. visits in 2015, not related to family travel, reached 100,000, exceeding the figure reached in all of 2014. The number of U.S. travelers is likely to rise as more Americans find ways to travel there .

Update: Bill introduced to terminate the Wet Foot/Dry Foot Policy

Today, U.S. Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) introduced a bill that aims to repeal the 1996 Cuban Adjustment Act, also known as the "Wet Foot/Dry Foot" policy, for Cuban immigrants. The bill, the Ending Special National Origin-Based Immigration Programs for Cubans Act of 2015 (H.R. 3818), would remove the special status given to Cubans when they immigrate to the United States and reverse a policy that has been maintained by nine U.S. presidents and Congress. Representatives Dave Brat, Mo Brooks, Scott DesJarlais, Trent Franks, Louie Gohmert, Walter Jones, Steve King and Ted Poe are cosponsors on the bill, which is endorsed by Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR)and NumbersUSA.

Confirmation of U.S. ambassador to Mexico delayed by politics

Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson's appointment to serve as the next U.S. ambassador in Mexico City has been held up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

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since she was nominated by the Obama administration in June, Politico reports. According to Sen. Ben Cardin (MD), the ranking Democrat on the committee, the holdup has "everything to do with the Cuban policy." Jacobson, the State Department's assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere affairs, helped lead the negotiations that reestablished U.S. diplomatic ties to Cuba.

Sen. Marco Rubio (FL) and Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ), both Members of the Foreign Relations Committee, are both obstacles to Jacobson's appointment, according to Politico . Menendez denied that his concerns over her nomination are connected to her participation in the Cuba negotiations. However, Rubio and Menendez have historically opposed and even blocked Obama administration's nominees due to their views on Cuba.

The New York Times Editorial Board condemned "the pettiness of two senators," pointing to a July 15th confirmation hearing when Sen. Menendez questioned Jacobson's trustworthiness without offering evidence calling it into doubt, and also to a hold that Sen. Rubio placed on Oct. 8th to block progress on her nomination without explanation. Chairman Bob Corker (TN) has pledged to move the nomination along, promising a vote at the next committee meeting.

Cardin has called Ms. Jacobson "eminently qualified.

U.S. and Cuba agree to long-term shark protection plan

On Wednesday, Cuba launched an initiative in cooperation with the New York--based Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to protect sharks whose populations have been in rapid decline, Reuters and Miami Herald report. The action plan reached through two years of collaborative research with EDF will set aside protected areas and better monitor shark catches, in addition to creating size, capture, and seasonal limits on fishermen.

While Cuba has perhaps the best--preserved environment in the region, sharks have been decimated by over fishing. As a result, "[g]etting fishermen involved in collecting data has been critical," Jorge Angulo, senior scientist with Cuba's Center for Marine Research, said in an EDF statement quoted by Reuters .

Cuba's Foreign Relations

State Department Refutes Claims of Cuba's Military Involvement in Syria

On Monday, Mark Toner, Deputy Spokesperson at the U.S. State Department told reporters that State Department experts and the U.S. intelligence community concluded there is no evidence to claims made by the University of Miami in a "Staff Report" that Cuban forces are working in support of the Russian military deployed in Syria.

In response to a reporter's question, "is there anything new on reports that Cuba has been sending troops into Syria?" Toner said:

> Sure. Well, you saw that the Cuban Government, in fact, denied those claims. And we discussed these allegations with our own experts here at State as well as in the intelligence community and have found nothing to substantiate or corroborate any of these reports. And moreover, no U.S. official has -- who would be knowledgeable of Cuban military presence in Syria would corroborate any of these reports. I know one of the articles quoted a U.S. official, but I'm not sure who that was or what their level of expertise or knowledge about this instance or this allegation was.

On October 13th, in a "CUBA BRIEF: CUBAN TROOPS IN SYRIA?" released by the Institute for Cuban and Cuban--American Studies at the University of Miami, the Institute claimed it had "received information that General Leopoldo Citra Frias, Head of the Cuban Armed Forces, visited Syria recently leading a group of Cuban military personnel sent by Cuba in support of Syria's dictator Assad and Russian involvement in that country."

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Later, the report went on to say, "If this information about the presence of Cuban troops in Syria is confirmed, it would indicate that General Raúl Castro is more interested in supporting his allies, Russia and Syria, than in continuing to normalize relations with the U.S."

Once "An unnamed U.S. official told Fox News that intelligence reports confirmed that Cuban paramilitary and special forces were on the battlefield in Syria," as Newsmax reported, the conjecture contained in the University of Miami "Cuba Brief" was then reported as fact.

While Fox News reported that Cuban military operatives were spotted in Syria, where they said sources believe the troops are advising President Bashar al--Assad's soldiers in fighting rebel forces backed by the U.S., White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the U.S. government had seen no evidence to indicate the reports of Cuba's presence in Syria were true, according to Reuters and Fox News Latino .

Later, Cuba's government categorically refuted the reports. Gerardo Peñalver, who serves as the Cuban Foreign Ministry's Director General of Bilateral Affairs, released a government statement that denied the "irresponsible and unfounded information regarding the supposed presence of Cuban troops in the Syrian Arab Republic," Reuters reports .

In "Stories on Cubans in Syria Lack One Thing: Evidence of Cubans in Syria," Adam Johnson reminds readers that Cuba hasn't engaged in overseas military operations in decades. However, for those who echoed the claims about Cuban forces in Syria, this wasn't "seen as a red flag that the story is suspect, but rather as an invitation to frame their supposed secret expedition as a significant departure from 25 years of foreign policy."

In Cuba

Cuban artist released from jail after 10 months without a trial in Cuba

Cuban artist Danilo Maldonado, better known as "El Sexto" (The Sixth), was released from jail on Tuesday morning after being held since he was arrested last December for what Cuban authorities called "disorderly conduct." On December 24, 2014, El Sexto was arrested in Cuba on his way to put on a performance art piece named after George Orwell's Animal Farm called "Rebelión en la Granja," which included two pigs decorated with the names Fidel and Raúl, according to the Human Rights Foundation .

In September, Maldonado went on a 22--day hunger strike in jail until Cuban authorities said they were considering his release. Maldonado's case attracted attention from U.S. lawmakers and civil rights groups, like Amnesty International , who placed Maldonado on their "Prisoner of Conscience" list. In a statement to the Washington Post, Erika Guevera Ross, Amnesty International Americas Director, applauded the release by saying,

> Danilo's release is great news but he should have never been jailed in the first place. Peacefully expressing an opinion is not a crime... This long awaited positive move must open the door for much needed political reform in Cuba, where people are routinely harassed, arrested and thrown in jail on spurious charges for speaking their minds... This needs to change urgently if Cuba is serious about respecting human rights, including the rights of people opposing the Cuban government.

Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson tweeted, "#ElSexto released from jail in #Cuba. Live your art, son of @MDCollege. #HumanRights #FundamentalFreedoms" Since his release, he has expressed desires to spend time with family, particularly his daughter, as he recovers from months of hard conditions. Maldonado hopes his case will help "stretch the line of prohibition" in regards to artistic liberty and freedom of expression in Cuba, according to the Miami Herald .

Cuba plans to resume deep water oil exploration in 2016

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Cuba plans to drill exploratory deep--water wells in the Gulf of Mexico by the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017, officials from the state oil monopoly told Reuters on Wednesday. Cuba--Petroleo (Cupet) has contracts with Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA and Angola's Sonangol to drill exploratory wells as deep as 7,000 meters (223,000 ft) in waters of up to 3,000 meters in production.

The announcement that Cuba will drill for oil in deep water creates "an added urgency and the urgency is to do things before drilling begins," as Lee Hunt, chair of the Safe Seas, Clean Seas conference that took place in Havana this week, told CCTV .

Currently, the U.S. trade embargo does not allow Cuba to purchase oil rigs fitted with American drilling and safety devices or oil recovery equipment that could alleviate safety concerns over a major oil spill in Cuba waters.

Previously, as the Tampa Tribune reported this summer, "Five nations with Caribbean shorelines -- Mexico, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Cuba and the U.S. -- spelled out how they'll react when a spill extends beyond one nation's territorial waters." Additionally, the Obama administration's new Cuba policy "calls for the U.S. Department of Commerce to license for export to Cuba any items deemed necessary for protection of U.S. coastal environments."

While executive authority exists for the Obama administration to do more to protect the coast line in advance of Cuba and its partners resuming the search for oil in the Gulf, there is still debate over how expansive that authority is.

Previous efforts by Cuba to find commercially recoverable deposits of oil with several global partners have ended in failure, though experts believe great quantities exist offshore.

For more information about the history of Cuba's search for offshore oil and the impediments posed by the U.S. embargo in protecting our coasts, read this study by the Center for Democracy in the Americas.

Fidel Castro's son blames bureaucratism, conservatives, and corruption for "immobility"

Fidel Castro's third son, Alex Castro, recently blamed "bureaucratism," conservatives, and corruption for the slowness of changes in Cuba in an interview on a Chilean news channel, cited by El Nuevo Herald . "It's moving very slowly. I am one of the people who would like things to move more quickly. There are very conservative people. The conservative currents are dangerous, because a change is for the better and if it is not, you change again," he said without specifying who made up this conservative group.

At the same time, he also said that economic changes on the island are being implemented in ways to avoid subjecting the people to "a policy of shock where many can be on the street, homeless."

Alex Castro is the third son of Fidel; the second from his second marriage to Dalia Soto del Valle. He studied electrical systems engineering and currently works as professional photographer. Although not an official of the state, he has a public image as Fidel's son, and, the opinions he expressed align closely with the perspective of his uncle, President Raúl Castro, who implemented the economic reforms and policy of engagement with the U.S.

Alex Castro complained about the pace of the reforms, particularly the Cuban Communist Party's hope to unify the dual currency system back in 2011. He declared that he hopes to see major progress in foreign investment in Cuba and more opportunities for Cubans who want to grow their business into major corporations. Alex also dismissed rumors that the government might promote political reform to move away from a one--party state, but added "Here in Cuba, the family dynasty does not exist."

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Recommended Reading

What It's Like to Launch an Independent News Outlet in Cuba , Ernesto Londono, New York Times
Interview with Elaine Diaz, the first Cuban journalist to receive a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard, after she has launched an independent news outlet Periodismo de Barrio .

Capitol Facelift: Restoring a Cuban Landmark , Mark Trevor Burrel, Miami Herald
Cuba's "Capitolio" is undergoing renovation. When complete, the building will again be the seat of government for the first time since 1959. The restoration, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Mexico have provided material; Cuba has provided funding for the project.

Cuba-Illinois trade could boost ag economy, U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos says , Chuck Sweeny, rrstar.com
U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos went to Cuba last week on a trade mission, hoping to increase Illinois agribusiness exports to Cuba. "We also should build relationships with Cubans," Bustos said, "it would be good for Cuban farmers to come to a farm here to learn about modern farming methods. I have a whole tour worked out for them. They're using 50--year--old Russian tractors, which they somehow manage to keep running."

Cuba's Limited Absorptive Capacity Will Slow Normalization , Fulton Armstrong, American University Center for Latin America and Latino Studies
A discussion of Cuba's economic institutions and how they're strength could affect normalization with the U.S.

Recommended Viewing

HBO showing film it saw on 'Cuba's Dylan' at Tampa Film Festival' Paul Guzzo, The Tampa Tribune
"The Poet of Havana" will be televised at 8 p.m. today, October 23, on HBO Latino. HBO discovered the documentary at the sold out world premiere screening in March at Tampa's Gasparilla International Film Festival.

The sensual photography of the American artist loved by Cuba , CNN
Select images from photographer Peter Turnley who has covered Cuba for the past 40 years.

DIY drone video captures unseen views of Cuba , Patrick Oppman, CNN
Drone footage of various scenes of Cuba. After years of strict regulations, Cubans have recently been able to fly drones on the island.

Cuba: How A Nation Comes Online , Social Media Week Miami
Experts discuss the availability of technology and access to social media platforms on the island, the opportunities this has created, the technological tools that are not yet in use in Cuba, the challenges to the introduction or adoption of such tools, and the opportunities that may arise if technology and social media were more widespread on the island.

VIVA LA (DIGITAL) REVOLUCION , Desmond Boylan, Fusion
Photos of people on cellphones at popular WiFi hotspots in Cuba.

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Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/13/2014 6:46:02 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday August 13, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday August 13, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: Grateful for the life of Robin Williams, a true talent and a wonderful friend. He will be missed by so many. [8/12/14, 6:34 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC said "best solutions...will come from harnessing energy & creativity of youth" #HRC365 #internationalyouthday http://www.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2012/08/196362.htm … [8/12/14, 6:02 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Media Matters for America: "Maureen Dowd Reaches Self-Parody: Links Robin Williams' Death To Hillary Clinton Attack"

"Maureen Dowd's long descent into anti-Clinton self-parody hit a new low last night when she managed to transition from discussing the death of Robin Williams to an attack on Hillary Clinton."

Wonkette: "Cool Robin Williams Story, Maureen Dowd"

"Maureen Dowd has been eating jazz cookies again. One time she met Robin Williams, which makes her think about her friend Michael Kelly, who later died covering the war in Iraq, and that's why Hillary Clinton is a monster. Wait, what?"

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Huffington Post: "Obama, Clinton Camps Move To Downplay Schism"

"In the end, advisers said they expect Obama and Clinton to disagree on foreign policy matters. It would be odd if there was no divergence. And more likely than not, Clinton will come off as more aggressive than Obama. But the breaks, they said, shouldn't be over-emphasized, considering the more copious common ground."

The Hill: "White House says media won't see Obama, Clinton hug it out"

"If President Obama and Hillary Clinton hug it out Wednesday night, the news media won't be there to witness it."

National Journal: Ron Fournier: "Groveling, Backpedaling, and 'Hugging It Out:' The Fear of Being Authentic"

"Throughout her long career as a lawyer, a public wife, and a public servant, Hillary Rodham Clinton has been a role model for millions of young people, especially women, entering politics and government. I hope none of them are paying attention now."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton's Barack Obama problem"

"Hillary Clinton made a strategic move to begin to distance herself from President Obama's foreign policy over the weekend. It failed."

The Daily Beast: "So How Hawkish Is Hillary Clinton?"

[Subtitle:] "She's not a neocon. She has a humility they lack. However, she could stand to show a little more humility toward Democratic primary voters."

The New York Times blog: Taking Note: "Hillary Clinton Doesn't Know When to Stop"

"When she runs in 2016, she will want to separate herself from Mr. Obama. That's normal. Doing it now, more than two years ahead of time, is inadvisable."

Slate blog: David Weigel: "Ben Carson's New Book Just Outsold Hillary Clinton's"

"According to Nielsen BookScan, Carson has pushed past Hillary Clinton and become the author of the year's second-best-selling nonfiction book."

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Articles:

Media Matters for America: "Maureen Dowd Reaches Self-Parody: Links Robin Williams' Death To Hillary Clinton Attack"

By Ben Dimiero and Hannah Groch-Begley

August 13, 2014

Maureen Dowd's long descent into anti-Clinton self-parody hit a new low last night when she managed to transition from discussing the death of Robin Williams to an attack on Hillary Clinton.

In her August 12 column following the news that Williams died in an apparent suicide, Dowd opened by recounting an interview she once conducted with the comedian, before abruptly transitioning into an attack on Hillary Clinton (emphasis added):

"As our interview ended, I was telling him about my friend Michael Kelly's idea for a 1-900 number, not one to call Asian beauties or Swedish babes, but where you'd have an amorous chat with a repressed Irish woman. Williams delightedly riffed on the caricature, playing the role of an older Irish woman answering the sex line in a brusque brogue, ordering a horny caller to go to the devil with his impure thoughts and disgusting desire.

"I couldn't wait to play the tape for Kelly, who doubled over in laughter.

"So when I think of Williams, I think of Kelly. And when I think of Kelly, I think of Hillary, because Michael was the first American reporter to die in the Iraq invasion, and Hillary Clinton was one of the 29 Democratic senators who voted to authorize that baloney war."

Dowd's bizarre segue was immediately greeted with widespread ridicule from both conservatives and liberals.

Conservative website Twitchy -- which Media Matters agrees with very seldomly -- asked, "How does that make any sense whatsoever?" The site also highlighted criticism from numerous pundits, including NYU journalism professor Jay Rosen, who wondered whether "the New York Times is too embarrassed to edit Maureen Dowd anymore"; Bay Area News Group editor Daniel Jimenez, who called the column "stupefyingly embarrassing" and posited that Dowd was "destroying" the Times' brand; and Forbes contributor Tom Watson, who said the Times should "be ashamed."

Fox News contributor Mary Katharine Ham, writing for conservative site Hot Air, called Dowd's transition from Williams to Clinton "the most graceless, tacky, incoherent segue in recent memory." Referencing Dowd's ill-fated experiment with edible marijuana, Washington Examiner senior writer Philip Klein wrote, "From now on, I'm just gonna assume that Maureen Dowd writes all her columns from a Denver hotel room." (Examiner colleague Tim Carney replied, "I literally assumed there was an editing error.")

Several critics noted Dowd's tendency to turn any news event into an attack on the Clintons. Wonkette's Rebecca Schoenkopf called the piece "as glowing an example of Maureen Dowd's Hillary vendetta as any we've seen yet," while Mother Jones' Kevin Drum asked, "I wonder if there's anything left in the world that doesn't remind Dowd of Hillary Clinton?"

The answer is no. Dowd's bizarre obsession with Hillary Clinton dates back more than two decades, during which she has attacked the former secretary of state and first lady in at least 141 columns. A Media Matters analysis of Dowd's work since 1993 found that the columnist has repeatedly used popular culture references to attack Clinton, managing to link her to everything from the movie The Stepford Wives to a Picasso painting.

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Wonkette: "Cool Robin Williams Story, Maureen Dowd"

By Rebecca Schoenkopf

August 13, 2014, 7:43 a.m. EDT

Maureen Dowd has been eating jazz cookies again. One time she met Robin Williams, which makes her think about her friend Michael Kelly, who later died covering the war in Iraq, and that's why Hillary Clinton is a monster. Wait, what?

"As our interview ended, I was telling him about my friend Michael Kelly's idea for a 1-900 number, not one to call Asian beauties or Swedish babes, but where you'd have an amorous chat with a repressed Irish woman. Williams delightedly riffed on the caricature, playing the role of an older Irish woman answering the sex line in a brusque brogue, ordering a horny caller to go to the devil with his impure thoughts and disgusting desire.

"I couldn't wait to play the tape for Kelly, who doubled over in laughter.

"So when I think of Williams, I think of Kelly. And when I think of Kelly, I think of Hillary, because Michael was the first American reporter to die in the Iraq invasion, and Hillary Clinton was one of the 29 Democratic senators who voted to authorize that baloney war."

This is as glowing an example of Maureen Dowd's Hillary vendetta as any we've seen yet. There were 29 Democratic senators (or almost 60 percent of the caucus) who voted to authorize that baloney war, says Maureen Dowd. When she thinks about Michael Kelly (and Robin Williams), does she think about

Blanche Lincoln

Dianne Feinstein

Chris Dodd

Joe Lieberman

Joe Biden

Thomas Carper

Bob Nelson

Max Cleland

Zell Miller

Evan Bayh

Tom Harkin

John Breaux

Mary Landrieu

John Kerry

Jean Carnahan

Max Baucus

Ben Nelson

Harry Reid

Bob Torricelli

Chuck Schumer

John Edwards

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Byron Dorgan

Fritz Hollings

Tom Daschle

Tim Johnson

Maria Cantwell

Jay Rockefeller

or Herb Kohl?

Hint: one of those people is currently vice president of the United States, and is possibly maybe thinking about running for president again too! But when Maureen Dowd remembers her fallen comrade because she met Robin Williams once, she thinks about Hillary Clinton. When doesn't Maureen Dowd think about Hillary Clinton? Never. She never doesn't think about Hillary Clinton. Eggs on toast? Hillary Clinton. Caught in the rain? Hillary Clinton. Watching unexplainably popular Disney flicks? Hillary Clinton. Eating Chinese takeout with "Game of Thrones" on in the background? Hillary Clinton. Watching a TMC marathon of The Birds or whatever? Hillary Clinton. Soused at a drunken Irish Thanksgiving? Well, if that doesn't put every one of us in mind of Hillary Clinton, I don't know what would.

Maureen Maureen Maureen.

Huffington Post: "Obama, Clinton Camps Move To Downplay Schism"

By Sam Stein

August 12, 2014, 6:17 p.m. EDT

For months now, political junkies and the national press corps have been salivating over the prospects of Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama once again applying proverbial chokeholds to each other.

Conflict seemed inevitable since she -- contemplating a presidential run -- needed distance from him -- wallowing in some of his lowest approval ratings on matters of foreign policy. After a few instances of apparent friction passed without much of a stir, the flames finally erupted over the weekend.

Interviews by the president and his former secretary of state put them at odds over (at least) two matters -- one specific, the other expansive. Clinton told The Atlantic Magazine that the failure of the U.S. to arm the moderate rebels in Syria had left a vacuum that Islamic State extremists had filled. Obama, meanwhile, told The New York Times that it was absurd revisionism to think that sending arms would have changed the course of the Syrian revolution. The president, in that interview, defended a foreign policy based on prudence, planning, and caution. Clinton, meanwhile, derided the Obama-themed tag line, "Don't Do Stupid Shit" as insufficient and uninspiring as an organizing principle.

And there you had it: Enough fodder for Republican trolling, liberal hair-pulling, intra-camp sniping, and a provocative, umbrage-heavy tweet from David Axelrod, Obama's longtime counsel.

If you had flashbacks to the heydays of the 2008 campaign, when foreign policy rifts defined the Democratic presidential primary, you could be forgiven. By midday Tuesday, the emerging wisdom was that Clinton had committed the same mistake that cost her that contest.

And yet, below the surface, several Democrats insisted the rift may underwhelm. Clinton's spokesman put a statement Tuesday afternoon, saying she had reached out to the president to assure him that her interview was not "an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership" and to narrow the perceived schism.

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“Secretary Clinton has at every step of the way touted the significant achievements of his presidency, which she is honored to have been part of as his secretary of state,” said Nick Merrill. “While they've had honest differences on some issues, including aspects of the wicked challenge Syria presents, she has explained those differences in her book and at many points since then. Some are now choosing to hype those differences but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues.”

Tellingly, earlier in the day, Merill declined a request for comment, saying there was not much to add to Clinton’s previous remarks. Such reserve usually comes when one thinks a story is on the verge of petering out. Indeed, elsewhere on Tuesday, several other Democrats made the case that the gulf between Clinton and Obama — at least on the specifics -- wasn’t vast.

“We are not talking about big differences in foreign policy,” Howard Dean, the former Democratic National Committee chair and Vermont governor, told The Huffington Post. “I think the Hilary versus Obama stuff is inside the Beltway kerfuffle, irrelevant and typical Washington crap.”

The substantive component of Dean’s point was that on the issue of Syria, Obama and Clinton ended up largely in the same place. While Obama clearly moved slower than Clinton wanted, he did end up sending arms to the rebels -- even if he thought it was futile. In June, he asked for $500 million more.

Clinton also firmly backed the president's push to launch military strikes in September 2013 -- strikes that were called off when it became clear the president lacked congressional support, and a separate deal to rid the country of chemical weapons emerged.

And while Clinton may have expressed regret that the administration moved slowly to put its imprint on Syria’s civil war, she peppered her position with skepticism (“I totally understand the cautions that we had to contend with”) and drew limits to U.S. involvement.

“Most Americans think of engagement and go immediately to military engagement,” Clinton said. “That’s why I use the phrase 'smart power.' I did it deliberately because I thought we had to have another way of talking about American engagement, other than unilateralism and the so-called boots on the ground.”

As for her criticism of “Don’t Do Stupid Shit,” not all old Obama hands were offended.

“I feel like that [phrase] has been misinterpreted. It’s not an organizing principle and it hasn’t been one for Obama,” said Tommy Vietor, a former Obama White House national security spokesman who has advised Clinton during the rollout for her book. “It is a shorthand rebuke to Bush administration.”

The problem, in the end, isn’t so much the substance or tone as the history -- namely, Hillary’s. Her support of the Iraq War spooked liberals in 2008 and she hasn’t earned back their trust since. In a phone conversation, Dean -- the first Democrat to run for president on an explicitly anti-war platform -- seemed to urge people to take a second look. He praised Obama’s foreign policy as laid out in his West Point address (“He is not interested in getting in a scrum with a lot of bad guys”) and offered confidence that Clinton would not deviate.

“She is very, very smart,” said Dean. “And she is more experienced with respect to foreign policy, really, than probably any American president since, gee, I don’t know ... Wow, you’d have to think how far back. Eisenhower I guess. I guess with the exception of George H.W. Bush.”

That may seem like wishful thinking to some. Certainly, there is ample evidence that Clinton’s hawkishness is not an act, meant to prop up the perception of her toughness, but an honest reflection of her worldview. Her insistence that Iran have no uranium enrichment capability, and her unbending, almost defiant, support for Israel in that same Jeffrey Goldberg interview suggest as much.

But Clinton’s defenders are certainly aware of the downside of that. Over the weekend, one loyalist told The Huffington Post that what made him nervous, heading into a presumptive 2016 presidential run, was disaffection on the left over matters of foreign policy. Clinton's remarks to The Atlantic likely caused their share of angina.

In the end, advisers said they expect Obama and Clinton to disagree on foreign policy matters. It would be odd if there was no divergence. And more likely than not, Clinton will come off as more aggressive than Obama. But the breaks, they said, shouldn’t be over-emphasized, considering

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the more copious common ground.

“Having a different point of view on policy than your secretary is not a rift. It is why you have smart advisers around,” said Vietor. “The notion that she has to be lockstep is ridiculous, as is the notion that he demands fealty. He is not a guy who is easily aggrieved by comments like this.”

The Hill: “White House says media won't see Obama, Clinton hug it out”

By Justin Sink

August 13, 2014, 1:00 p.m. EDT

If President Obama and Hillary Clinton hug it out Wednesday night, the news media won't be there to witness it.

The press won't be allowed into the birthday party where Clinton and Obama will meet, White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters on Martha's Vineyard.

"I appreciate the request, but I do think this is a private social gathering for someone’s birthday, so it’s going to be hard to bring all of you lovely people in," Schultz said.

The event will be the first time Clinton and Obama will see each other since the former Secretary of State made several comments critical of the president's foreign policy, including that “don’t do stupid stuff” is not “an organizing principle” worthy of “great nations.”

A spokesman for Clinton said the remarks were not intended as an attack on Obama and that the former first lady was looking forward to "hugging it out" at the birthday party of the wife of a prominent Democratic fundraiser.

But Schultz swatted down reporters' requests to be present for the highly anticipated gathering.

“I believe the president and Secretary Clinton have had many hugs over the years, and many of them have been caught on camera,” Schultz said.

The White House spokesman said that Obama “appreciated” that Clinton had already phoned him over the interview, in which she argued Obama’s restrained approach to the civil war in Syria had created a vacuum that enabled the rise of Sunni extremists now targeting minorities in Iraq.

Schultz defended the president, saying Obama was concerned that U.S. weapons “could have fallen into the hands” of ISIS if he had begun providing rebels with weapons earlier. He also said that few would agree it was wrong to avoid doing “stupid stuff.”

Clinton’s comments had clearly irritated people close to Obama.

David Axelrod, Obama’s former campaign adviser, on Tuesday took a veiled shot at Clinton, tweeting that “‘don’t do stupid stuff’ means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision.”

Clinton voted for legislation authorizing military action in Iraq, a decision she said in her new memoir was a mistake.

The Obama and Clinton camps have sought to play down the dispute by highlighting the get together on Wednesday.

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Schultz the administration was "looking onward and upward" after the rift, and described the friendship between Obama and Clinton as "close and resilient."

“The president appreciates her counsel and advice, but more importantly, he appreciates her friendship,” Schultz said.

Schultz did offer one crumb of news for 2016-watchers, however: President Obama will meet with Vice President Biden — among Clinton's biggest rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination — when he briefly returns to Washington next week.

National Journal: “Groveling, Backpedaling, and 'Hugging It Out:' The Fear of Being Authentic”

By Ron Fournier

August 13, 2014

[Subtitle:] Long a role model for young Americans, especially women, Hillary Clinton rewards bad-boy behavior.

Throughout her long career as a lawyer, a public wife, and a public servant, Hillary Rodham Clinton has been a role model for millions of young people, especially women, entering politics and government. I hope none of them are paying attention now.

The statement she issued Tuesday to calm an offended Obama White House was exactly the type of behavior you don't want your daughters modeling—groveling to a thin-skinned boss, eating her own words, and swallowing her pride by "hugging it out."

It's silly, really, this entire Obama versus Clinton frame. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and former President Bill Clinton never looked smaller than when they were race- and sex-baiting during the 2008 Democratic nomination fight. They never looked bigger than when they covered the scars and formed a genuine "Team of Rivals" in the Obama White House.

Now they're back to the petty. And over what? Hillary Clinton's criticism of Obama was fair and smart—and it might even be right. She rebuked his foreign policy principle of "Don't do stupid shit," arguing that Obama should have armed the Syrian rebels to prevent the creation and growth of an Islamic state.

She didn't call him an idiot. She didn't say he was a bad leader. In fact, she praised the president more than she criticized him, and her critique gave Obama an opportunity to better explain his foreign policy principles. Who doesn't want what Obama plans to do about this scary new world order?

Instead, he acted like a typical politician. Mr. Hope-and-Change dialed the 20th century and sicced his attack dogs on Clinton. His top consultant, David Axelrod, tied her to President George Bush's decision to invade Iraq, as if none of what's occurred in the Mideast these past six years is Obama's responsibility.

I made a mistake at the end of my column Tuesday, "The Audacity to Be Authentic: Hillary Clinton's Risky Hedge Against Obama." For the first 16 paragraphs, I challenged conventional wisdom that Clinton was distancing herself from Obama and that doing so was an obvious political victory. I noted that Clinton's remarks, consistent with her long-held interventionist views, actually ran counter to those of a majority of the public, especially the Democratic base. Why would she be willing to do that? "Call me naïve," I concluded "but maybe Clinton is simply being honest."

I was naïve.

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A few hours after that column posted, Clinton issued this statement through a spokesperson:

“Earlier today, the Secretary called President Obama to make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies or his leadership. Secretary Clinton has at every step of the way touted the significant achievements of his presidency, which she is honored to have been part of as his secretary of State. While they've had honest differences on some issues, including aspects of the wicked challenge Syria presents, she has explained those differences in her book and at many points since then. Some are now choosing to hype those differences but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues. Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when she they see each other tomorrow night.”

There are several problems with her statement.

It's inaccurate. Clinton certainly did criticize some of Obama's policies, most directly with the "stupid stuff" formulation.

It's inconsistent. She denies attacking "him, his policies or his leadership," and two sentences later notes "honest differences." If you can't be honest about "honest differences," what are you going to be honest about?

It's borderline demeaning, like a subordinate trying to get back in the boss's good graces. Clinton is an accomplished person who has challenged glass ceilings. She shouldn't have to come even close to apologizing for her opinions.

Her interview with my Atlantic colleague Jeffrey Goldberg wasn't "hyped," it was covered fairly, and now she's trying to blame the messenger.

It's too cute by half, too Clintonian. She's trying to distinguish her policies from Obama's without upsetting all the president's men. She can't have it all.

For young people who might be paying attention to politics, I hope they don't take away the wrong lessons. They're already abandoning government and politics in alarming numbers.

Clinton didn't make a mistake challenging a male authority figure. She wasn't wrong to speak her mind. Her aspirations are not dependent on her "hugging it out." The lesson here is to be true to yourself. Stick to your guns. Be authentic. After all, that's really what Americans want in a leader.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “Hillary Clinton’s Barack Obama problem”

By Chris Cillizza

August 13, 2014, 10:49 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton made a strategic move to begin to distance herself from President Obama's foreign policy over the weekend. It failed.

Clinton's team, concerned about the blowback from Obamaworld for her critique of his "don't do stupid stuff" comments, put a statement out Tuesday evening seeking to quiet the tensions. "Earlier today, the Secretary called President Obama to make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill.

That statement, of course, is not, technically, accurate. If Clinton wasn't talking about Obama in saying that "don't do stupid stuff" wasn't an organizing principle for foreign policy then c-a-t spells "dog". This is a clean-up-the-mess statement; the Clinton people know that it stretches credulity but don't really care -- they needed to publicly defuse the tension before the two meet on Martha's Vineyard tonight (more on that below) and this, they believe, is the best way to do so.

But, the sturm und drang of the past 72 hours proves two things: 1) The kumbaya story that the Obama and Clinton teams tell about their relationship isn't the whole story and 2) Clinton's attempts to distance herself from some of the less-popular policies of the Obama Administration

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will be more difficult than her team may have realized.

On the first point, there has been much effort over the past six years -- from people in both camps -- to paint the relationship between the erstwhile 2008 rivals as one of professional respect and even personal friendship. But, old wounds rarely heal over so easily and it's clear that, at least for some, the tensions that dominated the race for president six years ago remain.

In the wake of Clinton's critique-except-it's-not of Obama's foreign policy, David Axelrod, Obama's closest political adviser sent out this tweet:

[TWEET]

Now, one tweet does not a rift make. But, there was other pushback -- mostly private and to journalists -- from the Obama camp that suggested Clinton was re-writing history in advance of her 2016 bid.

That tension flies in the face of the story Clinton has been working on building for months in the lead-up to her expected 2016 bid: That she was fusing the best of the Obama world and the best of her team into one superteam. Ready for Hillary, the super PAC functioning as Clinton's campaign-in-waiting, has hired Jeremy Bird and Mitch Stewart, the two men who led the Obama ground game, and Tommy Vietor, a former Obama campaign spokesman turned national security communicator in the White House, helped Clinton with her recent book tour.

The reality is -- and always has been -- that the papering-over of the nastiness of the 2008 campaign was somewhat flimsy. By all accounts, the two principals respect one another but, at the staff level, some lingering hard feelings remain.

Those hard feelings have begun to crop up as the political paths of Obama and Clinton begin to diverge in earnest -- a process that will continue over the coming weeks and months. That reality -- coupled with the fact, as Republicans are quick to remind reporters, that Clinton was Obama's top diplomat for four years, will make the process of creating some distance between the two on a policy front difficult for the former Secretary of State.

What Clinton really wants to spend the next year (or so) doing is laying out her vision for the future of the country -- a vision that, at least from what we have seen of it to date, borrows far more from the policies of her husband's time in office than those of President Obama. That means, at least in part, that she wants to make clear some of the differences between she and the president, particularly in the foreign policy space.

The problem that raises for Clinton, however, is that among Democratic base voters -- particularly among African Americans -- Obama remains incredibly popular and any attempt to "get away" from him will be met with resistance. That distancing goes double for Clinton who is always and forever fighting a battle over authenticity -- whether she genuinely has a core set of beliefs or whether she takes positions solely for political positioning.

Working in Clinton's favor is the fact that there appears to be no serious challenger to her in a primary, which, theoretically, allows her more leeway in positioning herself as a centrist of sorts. Of course, if Clinton did continue to antagonize the Obama forces and the liberal left, there is the possibility that someone on the sidelines right now -- Elizabeth Warren, anyone? -- could step forward although that remains very unlikely.

The back and forth over the last 72 hours -- and the incredibly awkward "hugging it out" that a Clinton spokesman suggested might happen at the party both the president and the former Secretary of State will be at tonight -- should serve as a reminder that the relationship between the Obamans and the Clintonites is like an iceberg: What you see above the water is only a small part of what's really going on under the surface.

The Daily Beast: "So How Hawkish Is Hillary Clinton?"

By Michael Tomasky

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August 13, 2014

[Subtitle:] She's not a neocon. She has a humility they lack. However, she could stand to show a little more humility toward Democratic primary voters.

Okay, everybody. Deep breath, back to equilibrium. Yes, Hillary Clinton talked some smack on Barack Obama to Jeff Goldberg in that interview. But beyond those three or four sentences—and when yanked out of their larger context, sentences like that always carry more shock value than they do in context—did she really say very much that set her dramatically apart from Barack Obama? How different, really, would a Clinton foreign policy be?

Despite Clinton's very public efforts to make up with the president, the consensus verdict over these last three hyperventilating days is: dramatically different. Hillary's a neocon! Robert Kagan, operatic Iraq war enthusiast, admires her. MoveOn, the grassroots liberal group, snarled at her like a tiger—specifically, one freshly on the prowl for a non-Clinton alternative for 2016: "Secretary Clinton…should think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq in the first place and helped set the stage for Iraq's troubles today."

Having read through the interview a few times now and talked to some folks about it, I'm less convinced that the differences—with two key exceptions—are that dramatic. But those exceptions are big ones, and they make me wonder not only about any future Clinton foreign policy priorities, but about her political judgment today.

The main, non-headline-making takeaway from the whole interview is that she wants a bigger American footprint in the world than Obama seems to. Okay, we've known that, but she spelled out what that means at some length. And she's actually pretty nuanced about it. She does not mean, as people to her left reflexively seem to think she means, going bombs away. Money quote:

"I think we've learned about the limits of our power to spread freedom and democracy. That's one of the big lessons out of Iraq. But we've also learned about the importance of our power, our influence, and our values appropriately deployed and explained. If you're looking at what we could have done that would have been more effective, would have been more accepted by the Egyptians on the political front, what could we have done that would have been more effective in Libya, where they did their elections really well under incredibly difficult circumstances but they looked around and they had no levers to pull because they had these militias out there. My passion is, let's do some after-action reviews, let's learn these lessons, let's figure out how we're going to have different and better responses going forward."

What did she just say there? No Iraqs. Good. But more aggressive pushing on Egyptian moderates to form political parties, get in the game, and not leave the competition to just military vs. Muslim Brotherhood (she had spoken at length on this earlier). And more follow-through in Libya. I don't think those are positions that would have her marching in the shoot-'em-up parade next to John McCain. A bit later, Goldberg gently challenged her that the constituency in America for her middle-ground views between Obama and the neocons might not exist, and she acknowledged that by making a good point in her own defense: "…most Americans think of engagement and go immediately to military engagement. That's why I use the phrase 'smart power.' I did it deliberately because I thought we had to have another way of talking about American engagement, other than unilateralism and the so-called boots on the ground."

Sentiments like these left me, and others, with the feeling that differences with Obama in a lot of cases would not be that great—more presence, more follow-through, more diplomatic pressure, but not war-mongering. Heather Hurlburt, who worked for President Clinton and is now at the New America Foundation, told me: "Clinton and her closest advisers are more rooted in a style of visible, public American leadership developed in the 1990s, before the catastrophes of the 2000s, to which Obama's personal style is in many ways a reaction. But Clinton's assessment of the world—that the United States wields great power, has great responsibilities, and best exercises both in close coordination with others—is not fundamentally different."

Brian Katulis of the Center for American Progress largely agreed, but he pointed to Clinton's talk of smart power and her identification of "prosperity" as a central organizing principle as providing something of a contrast. "I don't see much difference here in substance, but perhaps there is one of emphasis. Clinton talks about this more. Of course, President Obama continues to have this element in his foreign-policy outreach," Katulis told me. "But Clinton seems to keep this concept closer to the core of her world view, which places less emphasis on limits than Obama does."

There were two issues, though, in addition to the much-discussed Syria example, where Clinton's comments were alarming. The first was her balls-to-the-wall defense of Benjamin Netanyahu. First of all, as Peter Beinart wrote for Ha'aretz, she left a lot of inconvenient facts out of her narrative. She sounded like she was reading from an AIPAC press release—particularly surprising, said Matthew Duss, the new president of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, given the way the Netanyahu government has been trashing Clinton's own successor, John Kerry. "To completely back Netanyahu both on substance—about having control of security in the West Bank—and to do so after several weeks in which the Netanyahu government has really gone out of its way to embarrass and humiliate your successor…that's really troubling," says Duss.

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The other issue on which Clinton got pretty far out there was on Iran and the current nuclear negotiations. The position she took in the interview—no working centrifuges for Iran, or a very small number of "discrete, constantly inspected" centrifuges—sounds much harder-line than the Clinton of 2010, when she told the BBC that Iran should be "entitled to the peaceful use of civil nuclear energy." So maybe she's just being politically crafty here, but that's not much of a defense. The potential long-term implication is that the Obama administration could negotiate a deal with Iran that would permit civilian centrifuges to operate, and then a President Clinton could come into office and derail the deal—a deal that she, as secretary of state, had helped forge! "Again, it's troubling to see her weigh in on the side of U.S. hardliners," says Duss.

Those hardliners don't all feel like Kagan. I emailed with Elliott Abrams about this yesterday, and he thinks that Clinton "has moved all over the place," from "totally pro-Israel" as a New York senator to not so much as secretary of state, and now apparently back again. "And as Gates's book reminds us, her views on the Iraq surge were apparently politically motivated rather than sincere," Abrams continued. "Her track record is hard to decipher, and most of what she billed as major speeches are just laundry lists of problems we face. There's no sense of priorities or strategy."

I don't think she's a neocon hawk. I think she's what we might call a muscular internationalist. And yes, there are differences. The main one is about American hegemony: It is the neocons' core belief that America is and must remain the world's sole superpower and can do whatever it needs to do, unilaterally or otherwise, to maintain that status. Obama is a cautious internationalist, and on the whole I see Clinton as closer to Obama than to McCain. Yes, she agreed with McCain on Syria, but arming the Free Syrian Army is essentially a muscular-internationalist position for which the neocons are having to settle. And unlike McCain, who preens his way around Washington saying that that ISIS's strength is entirely Obama's fault, at least Clinton says, "I don't think we can claim to know" what would've happened had the FSA been armed two years ago. That's a humility the neocons lack. It's a crucial distinction, and it's a pretty damn important quality in a president.

However, the interview suggests she may lack another kind of humility—toward the Democratic primary voter. Yes, she's probably invincible. There appears to be (emphasis added) no one out there who is like Obama was in 2008—someone, that is, who could knock her off. And if her hawkishness is the left's concern, then Elizabeth Warren isn't the answer, since foreign policy isn't her portfolio. So it's hard to picture Clinton not getting the nomination.

Still, she should remember that it was in large part her hawkishness—her pro-Iraq war vote—that cost her the nomination in 2008. She should be aware that U.S. public opinion, and certainly Democratic primary-voter opinion, while not exactly pro-Palestinian, is not as enthusiastically pro-Israel as it once was. And she should keep in mind that the foreign-policy establishment of Washington, D.C., whose favor she's clearly currying in sections of this interview, consists of only a few thousand voters. To the millions who'll vote in Democratic primaries, she'll need to be considerably clearer about those differences between her and the neocons.

The New York Times blog: Taking Note: "Hillary Clinton Doesn't Know When to Stop"

By Andrew Rosenthal

August 13, 2014, 12:33 p.m. EDT

It's hard to dispute that Hillary Clinton is the smartest person in most rooms. That's why The Times editorial board endorsed her in the Democratic primary in 2008 over Barack Obama.

She just doesn't know when to stop. It was her problem when her husband was in the Oval Office. It was her problem in 2008, and it's her problem now.

In her failed run for the Democratic nomination, Mrs. Clinton's team cynically introduced race into the campaign, repeatedly. Should the country be more excited about a woman president or a black president? Had African Americans really needed a white leader to achieve their civil rights goals?

The "red phone" ad was a marvel of inappropriateness. It questioned Mr. Obama's leadership abilities, tried to terrify people about the crisis that

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would follow his election.

Mrs. Clinton gleefully led the way to making the Pennsylvania primary of 2008 a low point in campaigning. She put Mr. Obama in the same list of disasters as the 1929 stock market crash, Pearl Harbor, the Cuban missile crisis, the cold war and 9/11. She talked about how she would be prepared to “obliterate” Iran if it attacked Israel.

Mrs. Clinton lost and Mr. Obama made her secretary of state – a mixed act of graciousness and smart politics. And Mrs. Clinton did well in that job until she decided to retire in 2013 and begin her run for the presidency in 2016.

Pretty soon, her inability to stop when she should stop began to show itself. There was the bizarre interview about gay marriage in which she ended up snapping at the host of Fresh Air, Terry Gross, for daring to ask about her evolving views on same-sex marriages, instead of simply answering the question.

The most recent episode, about Mr. Obama’s toughness in foreign affairs and her supposed opposition to his Syria policies while she was Secretary of State, takes Mrs. Clinton’s lack of an internal braking mechanism to new heights.

Maureen Dowd did a masterful job this morning of summing it up.

I’ll just add a couple of thoughts and questions. First, Mrs. Clinton did debate Mr. Obama on Syria. But in the end, she was part of the decision he made and she can’t wiggle out of that. (Just as she can’t wiggle out of her vote for the invasion of Iraq when she was in the Senate.) And the timing of her criticism was very strange, just before Mr. Obama started dropping bombs in Iraq. Her office said the interview had been long scheduled, but I find it hard to believe that Mrs. Clinton was not briefed on what was coming in Iraq, as a former secretary of state. And she still chose to attack.

When she runs in 2016, she will want to separate herself from Mr. Obama. That’s normal. Doing it now, more than two years ahead of time, is inadvisable.

Slate blog: David Weigel: “Ben Carson's New Book Just Outsold Hillary Clinton's”

By David Weigel

August 13, 2014, 12:37 p.m. EDT

It's hard to gauge how seriously to take the political ambitions of Dr. Ben Carson. For starters, it's unclear exactly what his ambitions are. He lives in blue Maryland, where Democrats have comfortably won every Senate race since 1986, and where Democrat Anthony Brown is expected to soon become the state's first black governor. He has formed a PAC, and he's heading to Iowa this month -- I talked to local Carson fans who are trying to get people to his book tour stops in the western and eastern parts of the state. But as a public speaker, he's sort of unfocused, spending lots of time re-litigating the latest liberal calumny against him.

And yet. According to Nielsen BookScan, Carson has pushed past Hillary Clinton and become the author of the year's second-best-selling nonfiction book. Carson's One Nation has sold 224,990 copies, a massive success for his publisher, Random House. (The book came out under the conservative Sentinel imprint.) Clinton's Hard Choices has sold 222,822 copies. The two of them have been bested only by Bill O'Reilly, whose Killing Jesus has sold 228,811 copies. They are joined in the blockbuster circle by Michael Lewis (189,726 copies of Flash Boys), Charles Krauthammer (177,121 copies of his column collection) and Thomas Piketty (158,668 copies of Capital). Carson's book is substantially shorter than Clinton's, and retails for $9.05 less, but he gets bragging rights if he decides to jump into politics.

Oh, and Elizabeth Warren's A Fighting Chance has sold 71,930 copies. You were the one who asked.

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From: "Stephen Miles" <stephen@winwithoutwar.org>
To: "Stephen Miles" <stephen@winwithoutwar.org>
Date: 9/6/2012 11:28:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Win Without War calls for action to prevent war with Iran, Sept 19-20th

(Apologies for cross-posting)

Just wanted to pass along the following announcement from Win Without War. The Win Without War coalition has decided to call for coordinated grassroots action in September to help prevent war with Iran. We are specifically urging organizations to help drive calls and emails to Congress on September 19-20th. As you'll see from the information below, we have a number of organizations on board already, but the more we can get, the more impactful this effort will be. At this point we are encouraging calls/emails to both the House and the Senate if organization's capacity allows for it. If narrower targeting is helpful, we would urge activists to target the Senate and a further narrow list of Senate targets is available upon request. As the message below says, we'll be providing more information next week, but I just wanted to make sure everyone saw this today.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

All the best,

-Steve

Announcing Days of Action to Prevent War with Iran - September 19-20th

The Win Without War coalition is calling for a collaborative day(s) of action, September 19-20, to send calls (and emails) to Congress to prevent war with Iran.

Over the past several weeks, the talk of war with Iran has severely ratcheted up. While the media continues to debate the likelihood of a potential Israeli military strike against Iran, the Israeli political leadership increasingly shows signs of preparing for war. Meanwhile, Iran has declared that it will view any attack as the joint work of the U.S. and Israel and respond against both, almost ensuring a broader military conflict. Here at home we have become increasingly concerned that Members of Congress, indeed many previously strong allies, are either unwilling to speak out against war or fear doing so because of a perceived lack of support from their constituents. And while all of this goes on, we remain dangerously close to an inadvertent war with Iran, a reality brought home by U.S. naval accidents this summer in the Persian Gulf.

Iran poses serious challenges for the United States and Israel that must be dealt with, but military action and war will only increase these challenges at a dramatic cost.

It's time to tell Congress that we must prevent a war with Iran. That is why we're asking like-minded organizations to take part in a coordinated action, sending calls and messages to Congress on September 19-20th.

Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents who know that while we all want to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, military action is not the answer. As the past decade of war has shown us, wars seldom follow the scripts their advocates claim they will, and the neocons pushing war with Iran now have proven to be particularly horrible at understanding what will happen once the bombs start falling. Yet Members of Congress are being lobbied hard to be more hawkish on Iran. Now they need to hear from those of us who believe that another war in the Middle East would be devastatingly costly and counterproductive and must be prevented.

A number of Win Without War member organizations will be taking part in this action, including CREDO Action, USAction, AFSC, Sojourners, PeaceAction, WAND and others.

We encourage organizations to issue an action alert on September 19th or 20th (or as close to these dates as possible) urging your activists to call Congress and tell them "Give Diplomacy a Chance, No War with Iran." At this point, Congress is one of the chief proponents of military action, and without our voices, Members of Congress will continue to push for war. They must hear from their constituents telling them that now is the time to prevent war, not to start one.

Please email Stephen Miles (stephen@winwithoutwar.org) directly if your organization is able to participate in this action. In the coming days we will provide further message guidance and can help craft action alerts upon request.

We know that right now everyone is in the midst of electoral craziness. With the conventions wrapping up and the debates not far away, many will be preoccupied with numerous, important efforts. However, the threat of war with Iran is real and we must use what capacity we have to stand up to help prevent it. As one of our members recently said, 'activists, organizations and elected officials are waiting to see what we say about this. If we believe that we must avoid a war with Iran, it is up to us to stand up now and say something.'

Please join us September 19-20th in telling Congress to prevent war with Iran.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns.

All the best,

-Stephen Miles

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Coalition Coordinator
Win Without War

--
Stephen Miles
(504) 289-3594 - cell
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To unsubscribe, send email to dubois.sara@gmail.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
john@algpolling.com
"Betsaida Alcantara" <balcantara@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/4/2015 8:35:32 AM
Subject: RE: BS and guns

Being added today. Plus Betsaida who is collecting. Edits are do at 5 pm if any other commetns.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2015 3:30 PM
To: bfallon@hillaryclinton.com ; john@algpolling.com
Cc: kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; arenteria@hillaryclinton.com ; caitlin@grunwald-communications.com ; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com ; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; david@db-research.com ; ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com ; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com ; jbenenson@bsgco.com ; jp66@hillaryclinton.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; kfinney@hillaryclinton.com ; kschake@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com ; mharris@hillaryclinton.com ; mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; Mona@algpolling.com ; oshur@hillaryclinton.com ; re47@hillaryclinton.com ; slatham@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; scurrie@bsgco.com ; tgoff@hillaryclinton.com ; tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com ; vanand@hillaryclinton.com ; hstone@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: BS and guns

There have been a couple stories in the last few days about past HRC positions on gun control, like this one in Buzzfeed about HRC OPPOSING federal gun control standards and arguing (as on minimum wage now) that states had different needs.

http://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/clinton-in-2008-it-doesnt-make-sense-for-federal-government#.nfQAQdNqz

I also saw something about her supporting a 25% tax on gun sales back in 1993.

I didn't see q and a on either of these in the briefing.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >; caitlin <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com>; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; David Binder <david@db-research.com >; Ellen Esterhay <ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >; Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >; Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com >; Heather Stone <hstone@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, Oct 4, 2015 3:24 pm
Subject: Re: BS and guns

Circling back around on guns as a follow up to the Friday morning discussion: the Today show has indicated they definitely plan to ask bout guns, and so to have the discussion be more of a news event than her previous times discussing guns, we are going to background reporters tonight on a few of the specific proposals she would support as President - universal background checks of course, but also closing the gun show loophole by executive order and imposing manufacturer liability.

On Friday, October 2, 2015, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> Here is the BS interview last night on tragedy/guns last night I referenced on the call where he punts on gun manufacturer liability. He also keeps using the term “sensible” gun legislation
>
> **MSNBC’s All in With Chris Hayes: Bernie Sanders on Gun Control and Oregon Shooting**
>
> Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5d507cd6-3074-4f06-aabe-41c26000012a
>
> Rough Transcript

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CHRIS HAYES: i just spoke with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, vermont senator, and i asked him for his reaction to today's mass shooting.
BERNIE SANDERS: you know, chris, i saw the president's statement. and i know him well enough to know that this was very personal for him, that he is disgusted, he is angry, he is sick and tired, as we all are, of sending our condolences to the families of people who have been murdered in cold blood. and the president is right. condolences are not enough. we've got to do something. we have to stop shooting at each other. we need sensible gun control legislation. and by the way, we need to significantly improve mental health services in the united states of america. and i pledge to do everything that i can in both of those areas.
CHRIS HAYES: yeah, if you were elected president is this something that would be a priority for you? have you thought about how you go about putting in place the policies that could reduce the amount of mass shootings we see?
BERNIE SANDERS: well, i don't think anyone has all the answers, but i think some of the components are first of all guns should not be in the hands of people who should not have them. people who have criminal records, people who are mentally ill. and that means we need a very strong instant background check system. number two, we have a huge loophole right now in gun legislation in that unlicensed gun dealers can sell guns at these gun shows. that's the gun show loophole, which has to be eliminated. and in my view, which is somewhat controversial, i don't think in this country we should be selling or distributing weapons of mass -- weapons that are designed just to kill people, automatic weapons, military type weapons. and that's what i voted for. but what we need, chris, as a nation is to get beyond the shouting. some people want to ban every gun in america and some people believe in nothing at all. i think the vast majority of the american people, as the president indicated, including gun owners, and i know that's true here in vermont, want sensible gun control legislation and they also believe that we should have more access to mental health facilities and counselors than we presently do. the bottom line is if somebody is suicidal, somebody is homicidal, you've got to make sure that person gets care and attention immediately, not two months from today.
CHRIS HAYES: you reference that your constituents in vermont, a state of course you represent, that's a state that it's my understanding of the statistics has relatively high levels of gun ownership, relatively low levels of gun violence. compared to some other states.
BERNIE SANDERS: yeah.
CHRIS HAYES: you also -- you voted for some gun safety legislation and against others. you voted for the brady bill, for instant background checks, against a bill that would have allowed lawsuits against gun companies. has your thinking on this evolved over time? have you been influenced in how you think about it in discussions with your constituents who are gun owners?
BERNIE SANDERS: well, i think we are all disgusted and horrified by these mass killings. and as the president indicated, we're tired of sending condolences and we know that it could happen tomorrow, it could happen again a month from now. i have voted as i said a moment ago for what i think is the most important provision, and that is strong instant background checks to make sure that people who should not have guns do not have guns. and i have voted to eliminate this gun show loophole, which is what we have got to do. and i think, chris --
CHRIS HAYES: but the fact --
BERNIE SANDERS: -- that at the end of the day --
CHRIS HAYES: if i could just say, senator --
BERNIE SANDERS: yes.
CHRIS HAYES: there's two things about this. one is it strikes me it may prove to be a more difficult policy problem than we're prepared to admit about keeping guns out of the hands of the wrong people. and it may be that that isn't enough. the sort of items that you've indicated, that if we need to take a more robust approach like, say, in australia or england, which the president mentioned today.
BERNIE SANDERS: well, i don't -- i don't know that anybody knows what the magic solution is. what we do know is the current situation is not tenable. it is clearly not working. and as the president indicated we can and must do a lot better. i believe -- i'll tell you what else i believe. you can sit there and say i think we should do this and do that states in this country where but you've got a whole lot of people want virtually no gun control at all. and if we are going to have some success we are going to have to start talking to each other. and here's what i think is the good news, that i think there is a consensus for serious gun control including among people who own guns. and i think that's what we have to bring about. and the fact we have folks in congress who don't even want us to get information about shootings in this country and fatalities, that's pretty crazy stuff. so i think the job is to bring people together and say yes, we've got to move forward, we've got to move forward aggressively, stop the shouting and let's work together to do something that's realistic.
CHRIS HAYES: senator Bernie Sanders.

John Anzalone
Partner
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
(o) 334.387.3121
Website | Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

From: Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Friday, October 2, 2015 at 6:01 AM
To: Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, "caitlin@grunwald-communications.com" <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, David Binder <david@db-research.com >, Ellen Esterhay <ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Mindy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >, Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >, Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >, Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >, Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >, Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com >,

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Heather Stone <hstone@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Accomplishments for 8AM

Dear all,

Please see the below foreign policy accomplishments, for discussion on today's 8am call.

Thanks!
Kate

She has a long list of accomplishments, but to name 3...:

- She built the toughest sanctions regime on Iran in history , twisting arms in China, Russia, and dozens of other countries, to force Iran to the negotiating table. And when pressure started working, she sent her closest aides to explore a deal that would cut off Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.

- She personally negotiated an end to Hamas rockets raining down on Israel in 2012 and worked to build stronger defense programs for Israel, including upgrading the Iron Dome rocket defense system, which has saved the lives of so many Israelis.

- She fought to make women's rights a priority in international relations. She stood up against sex trafficking of women and children, intervened in Saudi Arabia to prevent child marriage, and led the fight for a UN Security Council resolution to combat sexual v iolence against women and children around the world that passed unanimously.

...And 3 more....

- She ov ersaw negotiation and worked to ensure ratification of the New START treaty, which will make the world safer by reducing U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals to their smallest size in 50 years.

- She helped build the unprecedented global effort to combat climate change, joining with President Obama to stand up to the Chinese in Copenhagen and get them to take responsibility for the first time, resulting in last y ear's major climate agreement.

- She stood up to Russia, China, and Iran on internet freedom and fought for the "freedom to connect" around the world.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/14/2014 10:12:49 AM
Subject: Time Is Running Out for Activists to Halt Fracked Gas Pipeline

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Time Is Running Out for Activists to Halt Fracked Gas Pipeline Into New York City, Connecticut, Rhode Island

Ellen Cantarow, Truthout: Unless an extension is granted, concerned citizens have until September 29 only to comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about the Algonquin Pipeline Extension pushing fracked gas through sensitive regions in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island - creating environmental and nuclear hazards.

Read the Article

How the West Created the Islamic State

Nafeez Ahmed, Medium: Since 2003, Anglo-American power has coordinated direct and indirect support for Islamist terrorist groups linked to al Qaeda across the Middle East and North Africa. This ill-conceived strategy is motivated by ambitions to dominate regional oil resources, defend an expansionist Israel and re-draw the map of the Middle East.

Read the Article

At Least Some Unions Step Up for Big Climate March!

Abby Scher, Truthout: New York City and key national unions like the Service Employees International Union and Communication Workers of America are stepping up in a broad coalition to support the People's Climate March in NYC September 21. But some from labor groups say unions need to create their own climate protection strategy that democratizes the energy sector.

Read the Article

A Campaign Primer: Native American Voters Count

Dennis Worden, Truthout: Political influence for Native Americans and Indian tribes has grown in federal elections in recent years. Native voters often make the difference in certain races. What are the implications for Congress and who is paying attention?

Read the Article

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Video Purports to Show Islamic State Beheading of British Aid Worker

Read the Article at The Washington Post

"Treasure Map": The NSA's Plan to Map the Entire Internet

Read the Article at Der Spiegel

Contractors Ready to Cash in on ISIS War

Read the Article at The Daily Beast

Despite Multiple Malpractice Payouts, Doctors Often Keep Practicing

Read the Article at CBS News

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Four Ways Industrial Ag Is Destroying the Soil - and Your Health

Hannah Bewsey and Katherine Paul, Organic Consumers Association: If the numbers are any indicator, there's a crisis in worldwide soil health that is rapidly becoming a crisis in human health. Converting from factory farms and conventional crops to pasture-grazing livestock and organic farming are the solutions.

Read the Article

On Patriotism and Constitutional Amendment: An Interview With Film Director Miyazaki Hayao

Asato Ikeda, The Asia-Pacific Journal: This interview with famed animated film director Miyazaki Hayao covers a wide range of topics. Throughout, Hayao presents a strong criticism of Japan's current Abe government, especially its proposal of a constitutional amendment.

Read the Interview

Paul Krugman | "You Call Yourself an Economist?"

Paul Krugman, Krugman & Co.: Some believe that "real economics" is about singing the praises of the free market. It's inconceivable to them that you could have a more nuanced view without being a Marxist.

Read the Article

World's Last Remaining Forest Wilderness at Risk

Stephen Leahy, Inter Press Service: The world's last remaining forest wilderness is rapidly being lost - and much of this is taking place in Canada, not in Brazil or Indonesia, where deforestation has so far made the headlines. More than 104 million hectares of forests have been destroyed or degraded.

Read the Article

US Government Threatened Families of Beheaded Reporters With Prosecution if They Raised Ransoms

Read the Article at AFP

Study: High Cost of Housing Forcing Elderly Americans to Cut Back on Food and Health Care

Read the Article at Common Dreams

Django Unchained Actress Accosted by LAPD After Kissing White Husband

Read the Article at Gawker

Scott Walker's Snow Job

Mary Bottari, PR Watch: The governor's race in Wisconsin between the Republican incumbent, Scott Walker, and his Democratic challenger, Mary Burke, is coming down to one issue: jobs, jobs, jobs.

Read the Article

Why I'm Marching for Climate Action

Michael Brune, OtherWords: It's so important that, as a society, we increase the pressure on our leaders to take action right now to advance clean energy solutions and resist the temptation to drill, mine and frack as if there were no consequences and no tomorrow.

Read the Article

A Wild That Leaves Us Speechless

Brooke Williams, Earth Island Journal: As the Wilderness Act turns 50, those of us continuing to advocate for more designations find ourselves in a tough spot. Our new opponents argue that if we love wilderness in these times of global warming, we need to intervene in it to protect it.

Read the Article

This week in Speakout:

Leslie Thatcher interviews *Undocumented in a Pirate Sea* author **Jeffrey R.**

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McCord about his book; **Emily Cleath** points out the fallacy in the "official" US poverty rate; **Dan Falcone** interviews **Professor Lawrence Davidson** about media misinformation concerning the Islamic State; **Reprieve** reports arms industry firms bought access to a recent NATO summit; **Pam McAllister** recounts the history of the term "tree hugger" as the People's Climate March approaches; **Dean Baker** critiques The New York Times for failures in its reporting on Rhode Island's management of pensions; **Terri Shofner and Erin Niemela** demand school children receive solid science and math education instead of exposure to violence; and more.

Read the Articles

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From: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To: "Blakemore, Emily D. EOP" <Emily_D_Blakemore@who.eop.gov>
Date: 5/7/2015 11:51:13 AM
Subject: Re: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton —and My Children's Request

Thanks Emily. Got your other email. I'll forward to the family. What a turnaround!

> On May 7, 2015, at 6:40 PM, Blakemore, Emily D. EOP <Emily_D_Blakemore@who.eop.gov> wrote:
>
> John -
>
> We have 4 tickets to the event in Beaverton tomorrow. I will forward the details to Eryn and they should be all set.
>
> Best,
> Emily
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Dumas, Clay A. EOP
> Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2015 5:25 PM
> To: 'John Podesta'; Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP; Blakemore, Emily D. EOP
> Subject: RE: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
>
> Thanks John. Will work with Emily to make sure Anita sees and whether anything can be done.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2015 5:20 PM
> To: Breckenridge, Anita J. EOP
> Cc: Dumas, Clay A. EOP
> Subject: Fwd: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
>
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu <mailto:vergun@alumni.stanford.edu> >
> Date: Thu, May 7, 2015 at 3:28 PM
> Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
> To: John Podesta <podesta@law.georgetown.edu <mailto:podesta@law.georgetown.edu> >
>
>
>
> Dear Mr. Podesta,
>
>
> I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.
>
> Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.
>
> Sincerely,
> Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.
>
>
> Dear Mr. President,
>
> I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.
>
> Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we

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just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.
>
>
> My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
> Miko's: >https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com<
> Isaac: >https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com<
>
> Thank you so much.
> With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters, Pam Vergun
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>
> Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.
>
> Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
> vergun@alumni.stanford.edu <mailto:vergun@alumni.stanford.edu>
> 3545 NW Ashland Place
> Beaverton, Oregon 97006
> Hm: 503-645-6642 <tel:503-645-6642>
>
> Mo: 503-332-7633 <tel:503-332-7633>
>
>
> Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
>> https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beavert
>> on-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power<
> Thanks!
> And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
> Miko: >https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com<
> Isaac: >https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com<
>

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 4:42:39 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain Nuke Plan: No Waste Through AZ, But Just Fine For 44 Other States

The AP and the Washington Post have picked up on the meltdown storyline:
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iE2JCSH5p9r2GBkQWS9TWAMzmuvQD92C58480
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/05/mccain_touts_expanded_nuclear.html#more

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=65822.0

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 5, 2008
CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384
David Willett, 202.675.6698

McCain: Not Comfortable With Nuclear Waste Through Arizona, But Just Fine for 44 Other States
McCain Touts Plan at Nuke Plant That Partially Melted Down,
Gave Rise to Term "China Syndrome" & Caught Fire Just This Past May

Washington, D.C.--As John McCain is paying a visit today to the Enrico Fermi nuclear generating station in Monroe, Michigan he can be expected to tout his costly plan to build 45 new nuclear plants by 2030 and 55 more after that. This plan would effectively double the number of nuclear reactors and the amount of dangerous high-level nuclear waste that would need to be transported across the country.

The Sierra Club is today calling attention to the YouTube video that surfaced earlier this year which shows John McCain clearly saying—while shaking his head 'no'--that he would not be comfortable with nuclear waste traveling through his own home state of Arizona on its way to the unsafe and unproven Yucca Mountain site--something for which John McCain has been one of the Senate's biggest proponents.

The video can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPlaHQCKc34

Transcript (beginning at 1:14): Interviewer: What about the transportation? Would you be comfortable with nuclear waste coming through Arizona on its way, you know going through Phoenix, on its way to uh Yucca Mountain? McCain (Shaking Head): "No, I would not. No, I would not."

"Why does John McCain think it's ok for 77,000 tons of dangerous nuclear waste to go through some 44 other states but yet too dangerous to go through his own home state?" said Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club National Political Director. "John McCain simply can't have it both ways when it comes to the nuclear waste issue. It's hypocritical and unfair that he supports running hundreds of shipments of dangerous nuclear waste through 44 states and sticking Nevadans with 77,000 tons of it forever, while at the same time saying he's uncomfortable with it going through his own backyard for even a day."

The Sierra Club also pointed out that the very nuclear plant that Senator McCain is visiting today partially melted down in 1966. Indeed, the term "China Syndrome"—a nuclear reactor melting down and going "all the way to China"—was coined as a result of the incident. It also gave rise to both a book and song (performed at the original Musicians for Safe Energy/No Nukes concerts in the 1970s) entitled "We Almost Lost Detroit." More recently, the operating reactor, Fermi II, experienced a leak in 2005 and the decommissioned reactor, Fermi I, caught fire just this past May.

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John McCain supports the Bush administration's plan to store our nation's nuclear waste at the unsafe and unproven Yucca mountain site--a white elephant that has wasted two decades and billions of taxpayer dollars. A plan to transport the waste released by the State of Nevada based on Department of Energy plans details the likely rail, truck, and barge routes that high-level waste would take on its way to Yucca Mountain. Approximately 15,000 casks of waste would travel through at least 45 states. Each cask would transport between 2 and 15 tons of high-level waste. In total, the dangerous waste would travel through more than 703 counties in 45 states. More than 123 million people live along the proposed truck routes alone. And more than 10 million people live within a half-mile of the proposed routes.

"John McCain is asking Nevadans and the residents of 44 states to gamble with their safety, yet it's not even a bet he's willing to take for Arizona," said Duvall. "Just like with subsidies—he's against them, except when it comes to nuclear power and so-called 'clean coal'--John McCain wants to have his cake and eat it too on the nuclear waste issue. He's all for moving thousands of tons highly radioactive waste through communities across the country, except when it comes to his home state of Arizona."

In addition to being dangerous, John McCain's nuclear plan is a costly distraction from the real solutions to global warming. Based on cost estimates for new nuclear power plants put forth by utilities like Florida Power and Light, McCain's plan for 100 new nuclear plants could cost more than $1 TRILLION.

Over the years McCain has cast vote after vote in favor of Yucca Mountain and billions in subsidies for the nuclear industry, yet he has consistently voted against renewable energy and has refused to support extending key clean energy incentives that are in danger of expiring at the end of this year. Twice in recent months when extending these incentives failed by just a single vote and every single other Senator voted, McCain was nowhere to be found. Failing to extend these incentives could throw 116,000 people out of work in the wind and solar industries alone and sacrifice billions in lost economic growth.

Barack Obama, by contrast, opposes storing nuclear waste at the Yucca Mountain site. With regards to the role of nuclear power in general, Obama's energy plan released yesterday states:
"Before an expansion of nuclear power is considered, key issues must be addressed including: security of nuclear fuel and waste, waste storage, and proliferation."

# # #

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http://www.sierraclub.org/, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org> john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	4/18/2012 5:47:19 AM
Subject:	FW: Clinton Foundation Letter
Attachments:	DOC120417-20120417164915.pdf

In reading the attached letter from the Barbados PM, I'm a bit inclined to recommend WJC writing back and delicately saying something like: this is an issue of shared importance and I'd like to be helpful but am not sure yet exactly what a project could or should look like (and how much it would cost and over what timeline, with what specific deliverables) and I therefore would welcome input from you (the PM) and other leaders in the region before this is discussed publicly, and I'd like you to speak with my staff (listing us and not Ira).

And/or we can call the UN Secretary General's folks and say their UNDP/energy folks should deal with us and not Ira.

The above seems like a nuclear option but at this point unless we do something, it seems like Ira is going to proceed on something that we don't really have a handle on, and it could be good, but on the other hand - and given precedence with CHAI and CCI - it could spend (a lot of) money without us knowing specifically what WJC and the world will get in terms of results (on a timeline) and/or us being able to control how WJC's name / legacy are being impacted / used in relation to this project.

Maybe I am being petty but just wanted to raise this option with you, and I'm happy to proceed as you wish. Tackling islands is something we all believe in but it's hard to know what Ira's plan is and hard to trust it since we seem to learn of things after the fact, as evidenced by us learning of this "launch" via the email below today. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ira Magaziner
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:29 AM
To: Terry Krinvic
Cc: Amitabh Desai
Subject: FW: Clinton Foundation Letter

Terry:

Attached is a letter that will come to President Clinton from the Prime Minister of Barbados inviting him to speak on May 8 at a high level conference of energy Ministers from all of the Island nations in the world. The conference is being sponsored by UNDP and we will be participating. I will be there.

UNDP is providing funds to the Clinton Foundation for our work on clean energy and we will be launching our work at this conference.

Obviously, if President Clinton can speak, that would be great. If he cannot attend but could provide a video, that would also be very helpful.

I am sorry for the short notice, but the conference has come together rather quickly.

Thanks

Ira

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/30/2008 4:33:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/30/08

Main Topics: McCain negativity, Crist interviews

Summary: The most prominent Presidential election news continues to be running mate speculation. Some pundits noted the degree of negativity coming from the McCain campaign. Following a strong trend of earned media for campaign ads, the new RNC sponsored 'German techno' web video was played several times on the cable stations. Major networks led with coverage regarding the Los Angeles earthquake yesterday. Other segments included the Senator Ted Stevens indictment, a soldier arrested for murder, California wildfires, and footage of a New York police officer beating a man.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Crist has 'no idea' if Obama wants to lose war, questioned about offshore drilling
2. FNC: Crist interviewed, touts offshore drilling
3. MSNBC: Morning Joe hosts highlight negative attacks from McCain campaign, compared to Lee Atwater
4. COMEDY: Daily Show mocks McCain for weak campaign, seemingly going for pity vote
5. MSNBC: Though Todd offers that VP could 'reboot' McCain campaign, Scarborough reminds him McCain doesn't use a computer

No Clips
6. CNN: In effort to combat McSame branding, Republicans compare Obama to unpopular Democrats [no clip]
7. KTVN-CBS-NV: Seniors groups highlight McCain's zero filled record with elderly [no clip]
8. KOLO-ABC-NV: Protestors outside McCain event [no clip]
9. KRNV-NBC-NV: McCain event attracts protesters [no clip]
10. KTVN-CBS-NV: Dozens gather to protest McCain in Nevada [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Crist Has 'No Idea' If Obama Wants To Lose The War; Questioned About Offshore Drilling (MSNBC 07/30/08 8:39am)
CHARLIE CRIST: Good morning Joe how you doing buddy?

JOE SCARBOROUG: I'm doing well. We're talking this morning about John McCain's campaign turning negative. He has one TV spot which we've been running Obama's response to where he blames Barack Obama for higher gas prices. How can he do that?

CRIST: Well I mean if you're not willing to try to increase the domestic supply of oil, if you're not willing to utilize nuclear power, you know, it speaks for itself doesn't it? I think we have to be open minded to realize we have to increase our domestic production. Senator Obama is not supporting drilling and continuing to have more of our domestic supply, winning us off foreign oil. You know when you hit 4 dollars a gallon at the pump, common sense ought to kick in and tell you we've got to produce more at home, we've got to expand our nuclear supply, we've got to have renewables, we've got to conserve more, you know got to do all of it.

SCARBOROUGH: **Charlie what do you, Governor, what do you, John McCain and I have in common? We've opposed offshore drilling in Florida for years. So if he's part of the problem, aren't you part of the problem, and John McCain part of the problem and myself part of the problem?**

CRIST: The facts have changed and I think that's something we all need to realize. Once you have an economic situation, and the economy is the issue, and I think everyone is very well cognoscente of that. The fact is when you hit 4 dollars a gallon at the pump, it slows down tourism here in Florida, it slows down the economy generally, people's ability to get out and you know contribute to the economy by taking their families out to restaurants and other things they might want to do. So you have to look for alternatives and you have to wake up and smell the roses and understand that its time for a change. We need to do what's right. We need to address this issue and we need to help people.

SCARBOROUGH: Charlie there's another attack out there. John McCain has said Barack Obama would rather win a campaign than win the war. That is about as harsh of an attack as I've ever heard on a political candidate.

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CRIST: Well Senator McCain understands war, better than any of us. I mean, look at the facts. This is a guy who is a true American hero. A man who served over 5 years in a prisoner of war camp.

SCARBOROUGH: But does Barack Obama really want America to lose this war?

CRIST: Well what I think Senator McCain wants is for us to win this war.

SCARBOROUGH: But Senator McCain is suggesting that Barack Obama wants us to lose this war if it gets him to the White House. You have to admit that's a pretty stunning charge.

CRIST: Well as you know Joe, I mean you've been in the political arena for a long time as well. There's a lot of back and forth and we've got less than 100 days before the people will go to the polls and make their decision. It is time for people to understand that we've got to talk about these issues in a very direct way. And Senator McCain understands what it means to fight for freedom first and make sure we're doing whats right to protect our country.

SCARBOROUGH: You've been in the public eye for a very long time. You've run in a lot of campaigns, campaigns that you always win. You've got high approval ratings. Have you ever suggested a political opponent of yours wanted America to lose a war?

CRIST: It's never been an issue in one of my campaigns. No I can't say that. I have said some of my opponents want to raise taxes like Senator Obama wants to do. Senator McCain on the otherhand wants to lower taxes and that's important for people to know.

SCARBOROUGH: I again though I will ask you one more time. Because I know what you're saying about John McCain and we've said on the air that John McCain was right about the surge, he's been right about awful lot of things. I need to ask you one more time about yourself, personally as Governor of the state of Florida and how many people 17 million people there?

CRIST: Almost 20 now, it's amazing. We still get 500 to 1,000 new people everyday.

SCARBOROUGH: 20 million. You represent 20 million people. I'm curious what do you think as a public official about Barack Obama? Do you believe the Democratic nominee wants America to lose the war in Iraq?

CRIST: **I have no idea. I would hope not. But who knows.** What I do know he is a gifted politician. He communicates very effectively and he turns out big crowds. But what's important is how do you keep these two candidate feel about issues? If you want a candidate who wants to lower taxes, you want John McCain. If you want a candidate who wants to raise your taxes, you want Senator Obama. If you want someone who understands we need to drill for more oil domestically, to ween ourselves off of foreign oil, if you want somebody then you want McCain. McCain wants to do everything that we can in order to make America independent, to make America strong, to make sure we have energy resources that make the American family that much stronger and the economy that much more secure. This is a clear, crystal clear decision for the American people coming in November. And Senator John McCain is the right guy for the people of America and the people of Florida.

SCARBOROUGH: Charlie Crist, Governor of the state of Florida. I think his approval rating, 96%. Mika, ask him the question.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Oh come one. Alright are you on the short list? Are you going to take the job? Do you want it? Oh come on you did the whole offshore oil drilling thing. We've got to get something from it.

CRIST: Mika I have the greatest job in the world.

Highlight #2
Crist Pushes for Drilling in Florida (FNC 07/30/08 8:21am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: Governor, Jeb Bush says we're not going to drill off the shore of Florida. You're saying you're open to it. Why?

CHARLIE CRIST: Because gas is $4 a gallon. It's amazing how ridiculous this issue has become, how expensive it is on the backs of the American family, and how really John McCain gets it, understands it, and it's a shame that Senator Obama doesn't have an open mind to trying to produce more domestic oil, making sure we have nuclear energy, and that we have renewable and that we conserve. I mean, all of these things are very, very

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important. Senator McCain has put this issue front and center, and it's certainly something that's front and center on the minds of the American people and their pocketbook, and they're hurting, and we need to try to help them as much as we can and wean ourselves off this dependence on foreign oil. It's killing us.

MARTHA MACALLUM: . . . I do get a chance to squeeze in this question I have for you on drilling off the shore of Florida. Russia, and I know china is also negotiating to drill about 35 miles off the coast of Florida, so is this something you think Americans need to be more aware of, and do you think the United States more capable of drilling in a cleaner, better, more efficient way than some of these other countries?

CRIST: There's no doubt. The United States is one of the most safest and secure countries on the planet, as we all know, and if we're going to venture into this water, so to speak, I certainly would rather have the United States doing it, than anybody else. As a governor of Florida, it's important to me that what we do is make sure that it's far enough, clean enough, and safe enough so that we don't hurt our beautiful beaches and tourism, but that can be accomplished. And I know that our U.S. Senators are working on it. Certainly Mel Martinez is. Our members of our congressional delegation. This is an issue that john McCain talks about all the time, and getting the congress to at least vote on the issue so that states have the right to make a decision on it.

Highlight #3
Morning Joe Hosts Highlight Desperation, Negative Attacks From McCain Campaign (MSNBC 07/30/08 8:20am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: John McCain has made a decision and it goes against type. It goes against the John McCain that so many loved in 2000. He has decided he's going to take on the Lee Atwater approach. We're going to blame Barack Obama for gas prices. That's ridiculous. We're going to say Barack Obama doesn't love the troops. Ridiculous. The Washington Post saying its not true. What's the danger of John McCain just punching and swinging, he's like a boxer swinging wildly hoping that one of those punches land.

JOHN HEILEMANN: Well I think if you take the three things from last week. **One, the change of his slogan to country first. Which is basically saying Obama doesn't love his country. The thing about how Obama would rather campaign than win the war, and then this troops ad, with them shooting hoops, which you know I think they, the McCain campaign likes the image of Obama as a bling'ed out NBA star because it kind of, sort of exacerbates or enhances this image of him being you know other and being full of himself. They think they need to drive his negatives way up. And your question is what are the dangers to McCain? I think the danger to McCain is that he's not very good at this. He's not very good at driving a negative message in a consistent way.** I think they may be right that the only way to win is to make Obama unacceptable. The problem is McCain is just not good at doing it. In addition to the fact that its going to soil his own image, he just doesn't do it very well.

SCARBOROUGH: It plays against type so much.

HEILEMANN: The question is in this election whether you think he's ever, anybody's ever going to affirmatively, apart from hardcore Republicans, whether anybody's going to vote for McCain. The vote among undecided's is going to be a default vote because they decide Obama's unacceptable and okay I'll vote for McCain.

SCARBOROUGH: Which goes back to what we're saying. It's because the Republicans have mishandled things so badly over the past 8 years. This is all about whether Americans trust Barack Obama to be the President. Because not a lot of people are going to be all that excited about voting for a Republican.

HEILEMANN: Even a lot of Republicans are not that excited for voting for that Republican.

Highlight #4
Daily Show Hosts Say Weak McCain Campaign Performance Is Actually A Bid For Pity Vote (COMEDY 07/29/08 11:15pm)
JON STEWART: Isn't there a danger here? Doesn't it have to be the right kind of pity?

JOHN OLIVER: Absolutely right Jon. You don't want your magoo like doddering to turn into coryhang (sp) like hopelessness. That's why its not just about tearing yourself down, its about building your opponent up. Now in this ad, McCain attacks Obama for skipping a trip to meet with troops during his trip to Germany. And yet, the footage they choose to use in the ad is of Obama playing basketball with the troops.

STEWART: To undermine one's own accusation so viscerally.

OLIVER: Jon, it's adroitly incompetent, brilliantly retarded. To allow another fight to so viciously pound on you that the crowd cannot help but pray for your resurrection. It's not even a rope-a-dope. It's a dope-a-dope.

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STEWART: Others have tried it, famously Walter Mondale, Dukakis.

OLIVER: Sure. But they didn't want to lose it badly enough. There was always that hint of self-respect and integrity. But I believe, McCain has the wrong stuff.

Highlight #5
Todd Says VP Could Reboot McCain Campaign, But Scarborough Reminds Him That McCain Doesn't Use A Computer (MSNBC 8:10am)
CHUCK TODD: There's another thought process that McCain could just use a simple reboot, you know? You know your computer and its starting to be sluggish, you know particularly when you don't have a Mac and you're using one of these PCs, gets a little sluggish.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Yes Microsoft NBC go ahead.

TODD: And your thinking alright I need to do a reboot. I need to do that control alt delete. I need to get the computer working again. And these is this some thought McCain particularly somedoay if it isn't Romney, somebody new, if it's somebody that just says you what, we're all going to be kind of interested in who the guy is or we're all going to be impressed with sort of the uniqueness of the pick. Well then do it now. Reboot the campaign. And sort of get back on your own path. Take control of your message again.

SCARBOROUGH: **You know there's a big problem with that, that whole reboot. John McCain doesn't use a computer.**

TODD: Well okay. Its still at the end of the day still a PC is what your saying.

SCARBOROUGH: Yeah I guess so.

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From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
Date: 7/19/2008 3:03:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY

Here is an excerpt and full text of interview

EXCERPT:

SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.

SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?

Maliki: Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems. Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business. But it's the business of Iraqis to say what they want. And that's where the people and the government are in general agreement: The tenure of the coalition troops in Iraq should be limited.

FULLL TEXT OF INTERVIEW:

SPIEGEL: Germany was opposed to the war. The German economics minister was in Baghdad last week, Daimler AG plans to build trucks in Iraq, and you will travel to Berlin this week. Has everything been smoothed out between Germany and Iraq?

Maliki: We want closer relations, and it is my impression that the Germans -- the government, the people and German companies -- want the same thing. Our task is to rebuild a country, and the Germans are famous for effective and efficient work. We have great confidence in them and want to involve them in the development of our country.

SPIEGEL: And there is truly no resentment against a country that opposed the war in 2003?

Maliki: We do not judge our partners on the basis of whether or not they were militarily involved in toppling Saddam. The decisions back then corresponded to the national will of the countries, and we respect that.

SPIEGEL: What exactly do you expect from the Germans and from German companies?

Maliki: We want to get to know them, and we want to know what they want -- and the things they fear when thinking about Iraq. We have to start over again in many areas, including oil production, the development of the power grid and all industries. There is much to be done.

SPIEGEL: What do you expect from the Germans, politically and militarily? The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) occasionally trains Iraqi security forces -- but only in neighboring countries.

Maliki: What matters most to us is that we develop resilient political relationships and work together economically. Our security forces are steadily improving, partly as a result of German efforts. We will be pleased to turn to the Germans to equip our police and military; and should there be new training programs with the German Bundeswehr, we will be happy to accept their help. However, we would clearly prefer that the training take place in Iraq in the future. Overall, I believe that we are gradually becoming self-sufficient.

SPIEGEL: Three weeks ago, your government filed a civil lawsuit in New York against companies that allegedly paid bribes to officials in the Saddam regime. The defendants include three German companies: Daimler, Siemens and B. Braun Melsungen. How is this compatible with your overtures to German industry?

Maliki: We are in negotiations with Siemens for the construction of power plants, which shows just how serious we are. Whether the suit you mention succeeds will be for the courts to decide. Under no circumstances will the consequence be that we no longer wish to work with the companies in question.

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SPIEGEL: Large parts of Iraq's assets abroad remain frozen -- and inaccessible to creditors. What will happen to this money when the UN Security Council mandate for Iraq expires at the end of this year?

Maliki: We have hired several international law firms to deal with these assets. At the moment, they are protected by UN resolutions, American law and the personal commitment of President George W. Bush -- and we want this protection to remain in place after the end of UN mandate on Iraq. We consider the claims being lodged against this money to be unjustified. Iraq cannot be punished for crimes that were committed by the dictator. This is very important to us, and a key aspect of our negotiations over the future status of US troops in Iraq.

SPIEGEL: Germany, after World War II, was also liberated from a tyrant by a US-led coalition. That was 63 years ago, and today there are still American military bases and soldiers in Germany. How do you feel about this model?

Maliki: Iraq can learn from Germany's experiences, but the situation is not truly comparable. Back then Germany waged a war that changed the world. Today, we in Iraq want to establish a timeframe for the withdrawal of international troops -- and it should be short. At the same time, we would like to see the establishment of a long-term strategic treaty with the United States, which would govern the basic aspects of our economic and cultural relations. However, I wish to re-emphasize that our security agreement should remain in effect in the short term.

SPIEGEL: How short-term? Are you hoping for a new agreement before the end of the Bush administration?

Maliki: So far the Americans have had trouble agreeing to a concrete timetable for withdrawal, because they feel it would appear tantamount to an admission of defeat. But that isn't the case at all. If we come to an agreement, it is not evidence of a defeat, but of a victory, of a severe blow we have inflicted on al-Qaida and the militias. The American lead negotiators realize this now, and that's why I expect to see an agreement taking shape even before the end of President Bush's term in office. With these negotiations, we will start the whole thing over again, on a clearer, better basis, because the first proposals were unacceptable to us.

SPIEGEL: Immunity for the US troops is apparently the central issue.

Maliki: It is a fundamental problem for us that it should not be possible, in my country, to prosecute offences or crimes committed by US soldiers against our population. But other issues are no less important: How much longer will these soldiers remain in our country? How much authority do they have? Who controls how many, soldiers enter and leave the country and where they do so?

SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

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SPIEGEL: In your opinion, which factor has contributed most to bringing calm to the situation in the country?

Maliki: There are many factors, but I see them in the following order. First, there is the political rapprochement we have managed to achieve in central Iraq. This has enabled us, above all, to pull the plug on al-Qaida. Second, there is the progress being made by our security forces. Third, there is the deep sense of abhorrence with which the population has reacted to the atrocities of al-Qaida and the militias. Finally, of course, there is the economic recovery.

SPIEGEL: Critics have accused you of striking harshly against the Mahdi army of Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, while going easy on his rival Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim's Badr militia.

Maliki: That's not true. We proceed just as firmly against anyone who breaks the law. Just a few days ago, we had an incident with a group associated with the Badr people. The army moved in immediately and arrested them all. No one was spared. The punishment is based purely on the nature of the crime, not on the identity of the criminal.

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SPIEGEL: In southern Iraq, where you come from, you have been compared with Saddam Hussein when it comes to harshness.

Maliki: That's the sort of thing that people say who don't understand how urgently Iraq needs stability -- or these people prefer instability. We don't want to spread fear and terror in Iraq. We have, for example, given the militias several deadlines to hand over their weapons. Their resistance was tremendous, so we had to oppose them with tremendous force of our own.

SPIEGEL: What role do you envision for your chief rival, Muqtada al-Sadr? Can there ever be national reconciliation in Iraq without his participation?

Maliki: You can only reconcile with someone who wants to reconcile. His Excellency Muqtada al-Sadr can be a political partner, especially if, to that end, he draws on the great spiritual legacy he has inherited from his ancestors. He has understood that his following was eventually infiltrated by criminal elements, by men from the former regime, al-Qaida people and others. The fact that he is now in the process of systematically separating himself from these elements makes him even stronger as a political partner. As a politician, I might add, not as a militia leader.

SPIEGEL: You spent part of your exile in Iran, and you have visited the country several times since you took office. Can you explain to us what the leaders in Tehran are up to? Are they building a nuclear bomb? Do you see this as a serious threat?

Maliki: I have not been made privy to the details of the Iranian nuclear program. Iranian representatives assure us, however, that this program serves peaceful purposes. Even if Tehran wanted to develop a nuclear weapon, it would take a very long time, simply from a technical standpoint. It is obvious that our region is far too fragile for even a single country to possess nuclear weapons, because it will always be an incentive for other countries to also build their own.

SPIEGEL: Exactly 50 years ago, the monarchy in Iraq was overthrown and a republic established. But we didn't see any celebration of this event at all. What does that day mean for the history of Iraq?

Maliki: There may have been people who celebrated. But certainly not all Iraqis. On July 14, 1958, and era came to an end, but what came afterwards didn't live up to our expectations and hopes. What came were decades of military putsches and the dictatorship. We are still dealing with the aftermath today.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, your job is probably one of the most dangerous a politician can have. How do you cope with this, and what do you do to make it bearable?

Maliki: I lead a very simple life -- one that is shaped by external forces, which is apparently what fate has determined for us Iraqis. In that regard, the past few decades of dictatorship have not changed all that much. What keeps me going? The constant exertion of my job -- and the successes we are now having. It means a lot to me to see how much closer we are today to a democratic Iraq, one that respects human rights, than we were only a few months ago.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Interview conducted by Mathias Müller von Blumencron and Bernard Zand in Baghdad

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From: **Ilan Goldenberg** <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org >
Date: Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 9:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] HUGE STORY
To: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com " <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com >

This is absolutely huge. Maliki just essentially endorsed by name the Obama Iraq plan

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It's Over
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

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In an interview with Der Spiegel released on Saturday, Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes"

And

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"Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems."

And

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Is there anything left to say?

July 19, 2008 at 05:59 AM | Permalink

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Iraqi PM backs Obama troop exit plan: report
Sat Jul 19, 2008 7:38am EDT

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"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes."

It is the first time he has backed the withdrawal timetable put forward by Obama, who is visiting Afghanistan and us set to go to Iraq as part of a tour of Europe and the Middle East.

Obama has called for a shift away from a "single-minded" focus on Iraq and wants to pull out troops within 16 months, instead adding U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan.

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"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Some five years after the U.S.-led invasion, there are still some 146,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

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(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

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"Anna Stolitzka \(Debbie?? Wasserman Shulz\)" <stolitzka.anna@gmail.com>
"Anne Hall" <Anne.Hall@APORTER.COM>
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"Mike?? Morell \(mike08082013@gmail.com\)" <mike08082013@gmail.com>
"Pat Griffin" <pgriffin@pmj-dc.com>
"philip.gordon \(philip.gordon@verizon.net\)" <philip.gordon@verizon.net>
"Rob Malley" <rmalley555@gmail.com>
"Rose Marie?? Owen" <rmowen@virginia.edu>
"Samuel Berger" <sberger@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Sharon Burke" <burkese@comcast.net>
"Steve Ricchetti" <sricchetti@cox.net>
"Strobe Talbott" <stalbott@brookings.edu>
"Susan Rice" <ricesusane@aol.com>
"Suzy George" <suzygeorge8@gmail.com>
"Tamara Wittes \(twittes@brookings.edu\)" <twittes@brookings.edu>
"Tara Sonenshine" <tsonenshine@earthlink.net>
"Theodore Waddelow" <twaddelow@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Tim Roemer" <tjroemer@gmail.com>
"Tom Daschle" <Tom@DaschleGroup.com>
"Tom Donilon" <tdonilon@gmail.com>
"Tom Downey" <tdowney@dmggroup.com>
"Tommy Ross" <trossjr@gmail.com>
"Toni Verstandig" <tonigverstandig@gmail.com>

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"Tony?? Blinken" <ablinken@aol.com>
"Veronica Pollack" <veronica@daschlegroup.com>
"Vikram Singh" <vsingh@americanprogress.org>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
Date: 8/18/2015 7:46:14 AM
Subject: Albright: Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq

All, pasted below and at link is a piece Madeleine wrote in response to Jeb Bush's position on Iraq.

http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#.VdJv8oKCOnM

IN THE ARENA
Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq
By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

August 17, 2015
Since leaving office, I have come to a détente with many of my Republican friends, agreeing not to keep rehashing mistakes of the past and to instead focus on the future of America's foreign policy. However, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's brazen attempts to rewrite history in a series of campaign appearances last week cannot go unchallenged. By blaming President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for the rise of ISIL, Governor Bush is clearly seeking to absolve his brother's administration of responsibility for today's problems in Iraq. This argument may serve Governor Bush's political interests, but it does a disservice to the truth

No honest discussion of the situation today in Iraq can brush aside the mistakes that were made by the Bush administration during the invasion and its aftermath, much of it based on faulty intelligence and flawed assumptions. They sent too few troops to secure the country. They replaced a government that was a sworn enemy of Iran with one that had close ties to the mullahs. They disbanded the Iraqi Army and dismissed thousands of Sunni officers, who soon launched a violent insurgency.
None of these facts were acknowledged by Governor Bush in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library or in his recent campaign appearances in Iowa, because they undermine his attempts at blame shifting.

According to Bush's emerging narrative, the fatal U.S. error in Iraq was the withdrawal of our troops on December 31, 2011. If that is the case, then the error was made by President George W. Bush, who negotiated that withdrawal date in a binding agreement reached with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in 2008. The Obama administration sought to extend the mission for U.S. troops, and by all accounts Secretary Clinton strongly supported such a residual presence. But Prime Minister Maliki refused to give U.S. troops immunity from prosecution—and the administration wisely decided not to put U.S. troops at risk to support a government that did not want them there any longer.
It is these circumstances that Governor Bush believes led to the rise of ISIL, but once again, he is only telling part of the story. ISIL, which emerged from al Qaeda in Iraq, was established in 2003 in the chaos that followed the invasion. AQI became a magnet for disaffected Sunnis and remnants of Saddam Hussein's army, who still help lead ISIL.

No one, Democrat or Republican, would claim that all is going well in the Middle East today. The Obama administration has certainly made mistakes, and the Bush administration did not do everything wrong. We should also not fall into the trap of assuming everything is America's fault. Sectarian Iraqi leaders, the Assad regime in Syria and malign Iranian influence also bear responsibility for the tremendous problems facing the region.

Still, the United States has been and will be an important force in the Middle East. Our country does not need a backward-looking partisan fight over our policy in the region. Instead, we should be having a substantive, forward-looking discussion about the kind of role we can play in bringing stability to a critical part of the world.

To his credit, Governor Bush did present some ideas for how his administration would deal with Iraq. While his rhetoric has been lofty, and his criticism of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton has been sharp, the policies he proposes look remarkably similar to what the administration is already doing—supporting the Iraqi military in their fight against ISIL. The areas where he appears to differ are his willingness to put more U.S. lives at risk by sending troops into combat, and his unwillingness to rule out waterboarding in interrogations.
Governor Bush also spoke of the importance of alliances, but his rhetoric and proposed actions would jeopardize these important sources of strength. Nothing would infuriate our European allies more than Governor Bush's plan to break away from the nuclear agreement with Iran that they spent years negotiating alongside us. Similarly, Governor Bush made a point of using the term "Islamic terrorists," a phrase that our allies in the Arab world have pressed us not to use because it feeds the false narrative that we are at war with a religion.

Words matter in the world of diplomacy, and so does leadership. The reputation of the United States was severely damaged during President' Bush's administration. Today, America's place in the world is far stronger than it was in 2009 thanks to the leadership of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton. They renewed alliances, relentlessly pursued our terrorist enemies, and forged international coalitions on Iran sanctions and on the fight against climate change. That's a laudable record of achievement—one that needs no re-writes.

In the months ahead, I would encourage Mr. Bush to be a true student of foreign policy rather than a hurler of political potshots. The United States cannot afford another President Bush who blinds himself to global reality and who forges ahead into chaos. Americans deserve a president who will acknowledge the past and will forge a better future.

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Read more: http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#ixzz3j7jyKZKa

Fariba Yassaee | Vice President
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fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	5/15/2015 2:29:26 AM
Subject:	May 15 Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	5.15.15 Morning Cable News.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

MSNBC's *Morning Joe*: Two 6-8 minute segments on Jeb Bush's struggles answering the Iraq question. The panel agreed coverage has been bad for Bush and he should have had a good answer teed up. Eugene Robinson noted that Jeb's final answer can be parsed. Jeremy Peters said both HRC and Bush have legacy issues and Stein responded that HRC has actually distanced herself from her legacy issue: WJC's record in some policy areas. One 12 minute segment on the donation by Stephanopoulos. The panel agreed he should have disclosed and he may need to do more to weather the storm.

CNN's *New Day:* Three minute segment on Jeb Bush now clarifying that he would not have gone to war in Iraq. Included a clip of Bush stating that he was not going to go out of his way to criticize his brother and father's actions. Dana Bash rehashed Bush's various stances on the question throughout the last week. Many Republicans are criticizing Bush for his comments. Dana Bash went on to say that this is only the first time that Bush will face questions about his brother's administration.

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Report on George Stephanopoulos's donations to The Clinton Foundation; showed footage of Stephanopoulos's interview with Peter Schweizer; used footage of Marc Thiessen's comments on Fox News' The Kelly File last night in which Marc Thiessen accused Stephanopoulos of echoing Hillary for America's talking points; Elisabeth Hasselbeck said there were questions about whether this would be the end of Stephanopoulos's career; teased to a poll on the Fox News website that asked whether Stephanopoulos's donations would affect his legacy. There was also an eight minute segment on Jeb Bush's struggle to answer a question about the Iraq war. Karl Rove and Joe Trippi debated his various answers and the media's response before transitioning into a conversation about George Stephanopoulos' donation to the Clinton Foundation; both agree that his reputation has been put at risk by the donation.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Daniel Kalik" <dankalik@jstreetpac.org>
To: "Amanda Renteria" <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/28/2015 8:05:30 AM
Subject: Amanda/John: New Poll of Jewish American show 60% support for Iran Deal
Attachments: July_2015_Iran_Deal_Poll_One-Pager.pdf

Hi Amanda and John

I hope you are both doing well. I wanted you share with you a new poll of Jewish Americans on the Iran deal released by J Street this morning.

Top line is that we find 60-40 support for the agreement and for Congress voting to approve. This 20-point margin tracks the 18-point margin that the LA Jewish Journal found last week in its poll of Jewish Americans as well as the 18-point margin we saw in our June poll that we went over in our meeting in Brooklyn earlier this month.

Below is the press release and the full results, pollster memo, cross tabs, etc can be found at this link .

I have also attached a one-pager with some key highlights from the poll.

Let me know if you have any questions or if you would like me or our pollster to walk though this data.

Dan

Daniel Kalik

Vice President of Political Affairs

J Street

Office: (202)248-5866

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2015
CONTACT: Jessica Rosenblum, Jessica@jstreet.org , 202.448.1600 /202.279.0005 (m)

NEW POLL: Majority of American Jews Support Iran Nuclear Deal

WASHINGTON—The majority of American Jews support the Iran nuclear deal and do so at a higher rate than Americans as a whole, according to a new poll.

The poll, conducted by Jim Gerstein of GBA Strategies and released today by J Street, finds that 60 percent of American Jews support the agreement reached between the P5+1 and Iran. This, as compared to the 56 percent of American adults who backed the deal when asked the exact same question in a July 20 Washington Post-ABC poll.

"These results make clear that American Jews overwhelmingly support this deal and see this diplomatic agreement as the best way to keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon," says J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami. "The numbers just go to show—once again— that the pundits and those who speak most loudly on behalf of the Jewish community are flat- out wrong in their presumption that Jewish Americans are hawkish on Iran or regarding U.S. policy in the Middle East in general."

The full survey, crosstabs and analysis can be found here.

As a fierce battle over the deal between pro-Israel advocacy organizations takes shape on Capitol Hill, American Jews want their Members of Congress to approve the agreement by the same 20-point margin, 60 to 40 percent.

Support for the agreement cuts across demographic groups. There is broad and, in most cases, majority support for the agreement across the Jewish community, regardless of age, gender, region, Jewish organizational engagement and knowledge of the issue.

"These findings underscore that American Jews are a solid base constituency of support for the agreement," says Gerstein. "The massive public campaign launched by AIPAC and the Republican Jewish Coalition against the agreement doesn't reflect the views of most American Jews."

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The 20-point margin in favor of the agreement is consistent with the 18-point margin found in the LA Jewish Journal's survey released last week, as well as the 18-point margin in J Street's survey conducted prior to the agreement.

Jewish awareness of the Iran issue has notably risen since the signing of the agreement, with 79 percent reporting to have "a great deal" (32 percent) or "some information" (47 percent) about the deal. This marks a 13-point increase in awareness since the J Street survey conducted prior to the deal.

Despite a high level of awareness about the Iran deal, Jews indicate that Iran and Israel are low voting priorities, with the two tied for ninth place in a list of 11 issues they want the President and Congress to prioritize. Only ten percent listed Iran and Israel as one of their top two priorities, but it is notable that these percentages are up from six and seven percent, respectively, from the June poll, and both were at the highest level ever found in prior J Street surveys.

President Obama's job approval and personal favorability have increased slightly since the agreement was reached, and there is also an improvement in the national mood. Obama's job approval among Jews now stands at 59 percent, which marks a 3-point bump since J Street's June survey. Also, his personal favorability has risen from +7 (48 favorable/41 unfavorable) to +15 (52 favorable/37 unfavorable), and there has been a 5-point bump to 44 percent who believe the country is headed in the right direction. Favorability for Benjamin Netanyahu (+18), John Boehner (-54), and the Republican Party (-51) remains largely unchanged.

GBA Strategies designed the questionnaire for this national survey of American Jewish adults. The survey was conducted July 21-23, 2015 and includes 1,000 self-identified Jews. The survey is subject to a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. GBA Strategies contracted the research company Mountain West Research Center to administer the survey by email invitation to its web-based panel, which is regularly updated and consists of nearly 900,000 Americans.

###

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From: john.podesta@gmail.com
To: sewallconroy@comcast.net
Date: 10/25/2008 4:11:14 PM
Subject: Re: liz sherwood randall

Probably makes sense. Helps to not compound the Perry distance. Maybe leave her in an advisory position, but get Bill and Michelle to give her a real assignment. Alt B is ask Ash to utilize her on his work.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: <sewallconroy@comcast.net>
Date: Sat, 25 Oct 2008 17:46:19 -0400
To: <john.podesta@gmail.com>
CC: <Don.Gips@Level3.com>
Subject: liz sherwood randall

John,

I know that it is important to include Liz Sherwood Randall in the transition. Based on her ability to contribute to the DOD Agency team to date, we had assigned her to the Russia policy team.

However, the organizational structure that Susan and Jim agreed upon today now leaves Liz with a minor role (albeit one consistent with having a family in CA). Given the level of interest, I wanted to double back with you.

Should we put Liz Sherwood back on DOD Agency team so she has the choice of a more significant role? Pls advise.

–sarah

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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/13/2008 7:20:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Davis and connections to Ukrainian politician who poisoned his opponent

All, this is the first shot across the bow of what hopefully will be a much bigger story.

It would help a lot if people could work to get this around. In the meantime, David Donnelly, NSN and others are working to make this much, much bigger.

http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=5063617&page=1

Alleged Russia Ties Entangle McCain Campaign Manager

McCain's Campaign is Blasting a Report that Manager Worked for Kremlin-Backed Candidate in Ukraine

By JUSTIN ROOD
June 13, 2008
ABC NEWS
Post a Comment
FONT SIZE AAA
EMAIL
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John McCain's presidential campaign is blasting a New York Times report that his campaign manager once worked for a Kremlin-backed politician, and that McCain likely knew of his efforts.

(ABC News Photo Illustration)

The McCain campaign is strongly denying the paper's reporting that in 2005, a White House National Security Council staffer called John McCain's Senate office to complain that Rick Davis, at the time a GOP lobbyist, was "undercutting American policy on Ukraine" by ferrying a Kremlin-backed politician, Viktor Yanukovich, around Washington D.C., the paper reported.

The Bush White House -- and McCain – opposed Yanukovich, whom the United States and others had accused of election fraud, and benefiting from violence and intimidation towards journalists.

Related

Ethics Concerns Claim Another McCain Adviser

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McCain's Lobbyist Friends Rally 'Round Their Man

McCain Pastor: Islam Is a 'Conspiracy of Spiritual Evil'

McCain's campaign categorically denied that Davis was involved in his firm's work for the Ukranian politician – did not prepare briefings for U.S. officials or lawmakers, did not schedule meetings involving Yanukovich, did not draft talking points, and did not make phone calls on Yanukovich's behalf.

"He was not involved in any work his firm did on Ukraine, including Yanukovich," said McCain spokesman Brian Rogers.

If the account of the NSC staffer's call is true, it suggests McCain should have known Davis' business -- but installed him as campaign manager anyway. McCain's campaign, which had earlier referred a New York Times reporter to McCain's Senate office, now disputes that such a phone call ever happened.

"It's absolutely nonsense, it never occurred," Rogers said.

The story also raises the possibility that Davis may have violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act, a 1938 anti-espionage law requiring all agents of foreign powers to register with the U.S. government and disclose their activities. Davis never filed -- though according to the campaign, of course, he had no reason to do so.

-

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Arizonans for Ann" <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 9/6/2014 9:49:10 AM
Subject: SIGN YOUR NAME

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

John --

The Grand Canyon delivers 12,000 jobs and over $700 million to our local economy each year.

That's why it's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining.

John, will you sign our petition and demand that Congress pass a permanent ban on new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon?

---------- Original Email ----------

From: Ann Kirkpatrick
Subject: Protect The Grand Canyon: [PETITION]

John --

12,000: Jobs created by the Grand Canyon
$700,000,000: Yearly income the Grand Canyon provides to our local economy.
28,800: Number of people who have signed our petition to save the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon is our district's own personal Wonder of the World.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

It's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon. Will you join me in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

John, click here to sign our petition and add your name to the list of supporters demanding Congress ban new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon >>

As a native Arizonan, the Grand Canyon is especially important to me. But if we're going to protect it, we need your help.

ADD YOUR NAME: http://action.kirkpatrickforarizona.com/Grand-Canyon

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Thanks,

Ann

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here . We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters. Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages. Thanks for your support!

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From: "Reid Detchon" <RDetchon@unfoundation.org>
To: "Adele Morris" <amorris@brookings.edu>
"Andy Karsner" <akarsner@manifestenergy.com>
"Bob Nordhaus" <rrn@vnf.com>
"Boyden Gray" <cbg@cboydengray.com>
"Charles Curtis" <curtis@nti.org>
"Dan Esty" <daniel.esty@yale.edu>
"David Orr" <dorr@oberlin.edu>
"Greg Dotson" <gdotson@americanprogress.org>
"Larry Schweiger" <ljschweiger@larryschweiger.net>
"Maggie Fox" <maggielfox@gmail.com>
"Mark?? Safty" <mark.safty@ucdenver.edu>
mikef@turnerfoundation.org
"Pete Rouse" <prouse@perkinscoie.com>
"Rhea Suh" <rsuh@nrdc.org>
"Richard Branson" <Helen.clarke@virgin.com>
"Richard Cizik" <rcizik@aol.com>
"Rush Holt" <rholt@aaas.org>
"Scott DeFife" <SDeFife@restaurant.org>
"Steve Symms" <ssymms@prdands.com>
"Susan Eisenhower" <susan@eisenhowergroup.com>
"Debbie Masterson" <debbie.masterson@tedturner.com>
"Thea Lee" <tlee@aflcio.org>
"Tim Wirth" <twirth@unfoundation.org>
"Tom Daschle" <Tom@DaschleGroup.com>
"Thomas Lovejoy" <tlovejoy@unfoundation.org>
"Vic Fazio" <vfazio@akingump.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 1:50:46 PM
Subject: Energy Future Coalition: Agenda for May 12
Attachments: Agenda150512.docx

As a reminder, the next Energy Future Coalition Steering Committee meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 12** – from 10 am to noon at our offices, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, in the conference room on the 12th floor. An agenda is attached.

We will discuss current thinking about geoengineering – direct human interventions to affect climate change – based on a report earlier this year by a committee of the National Research Council. The report was issued in two volumes – ***Climate Intervention: Carbon Dioxide Removal and Reliable Sequestration*** and ***Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth*** – to distinguish the two approaches, and our discussion will also follow that pattern.

We will hear from two members of the committee – first an overview by **David Titley**, founding Director of the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk at Penn State and the former Chief Operating Officer at NOAA. To discuss carbon capture, use, and storage – particularly biological capture, **Jen Wilcox** will join us by phone. She heads the Clean Energy Conversions Laboratory at Stanford. We also have a number of additional participants joining us to enrich the discussion – including **Rafe Pomerance**, longtime climate advocate and now a member of the National Academies' Polar Research Board; **Brenda Ekwurzel**, Senior Climate Scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists; **Andrew Deutz**, Director of International Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy; and **Ernie Shea**, who in addition to running 25x'25 has pulled together nearly 40 ag and environmental groups into the newly formed North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance.

We expect to have a fascinating discussion, and we look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday, May 12**.

As it happens, the following came across the transom, so I can't vouch for it, but you might find it interesting and provocative reading in advance:

Rutgers University climatologist Alan Robock talks with the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* about geoengineering and nuclear winter. He says that geoengineering is not the solution to global warming because of its many risks and unknowns. He notes that some of the technology that would be required to implement geoengineering has not been developed and that many socio-political questions would have to be resolved before it could be put into practice--questions such as who decides what the global temperature should be? The world would have to reach agreement on a target temperature and on what entity should do the implementing. Robock's biggest fear with regard to geoengineering is that disputes over these questions could escalate into nuclear war which in turn could cause nuclear winter, producing global famine among other effects. Robock goes on to describe interactions with the Central Intelligence Agency regarding their interest in geoengineering, and his meeting with Fidel Castro.
http://bos.sagepub.com/content/71/3/1.full.pdf+html

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If we haven't heard from you already, as always, we welcome RSVPs to Caitlin Shubick at cshubick@energyfuturecoalition.org or by phone at (202) 778-1638.

With best regards,
Reid

* * * * *

Reid Detchon
Executive Director
Energy Future Coalition
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 463-8744
Fax: (202) 887-9021
www.energyfuturecoalition.org

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/26/2015 6:57:56 AM
Subject: News Update - October 26

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, October 26

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **PM Considers Canceling 80,000 Arabs' Residency in East Jerusalem**
- **Police Block Waqf from Installing Own Temple Mount Cameras**
- **Palestinians to Ask UN to Set Deadline for Ending Occupation**
- **UN Chief Welcomes Bibi's Decision on Maintaining Status Quo**
- **2 Israelis Wounded, Assailant Killed in 3 West Bank Attacks**
- **Police: Israeli Arabs Stopped Rioting, Fear of Jewish Boycott**
- **Arab Israeli Uses Paraglider to 'Join Rebel Fighters in Syria'**
- **Lieberman: 'Syria Fighting Over Soon, Hezbollah Turning Sights on Israel'**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "We're Lifelong Zionists. Here's Why We Boycott Israel."**
  - By Steven Levitsky, Harvard University and Glen Weyl, University of Chicago
- **Times of Israel: "The Political Center's Role: Security and Morality"**
  - By Yair Lapid, Chairman of Yesh Atid party and Knesset member

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Ynet News

PM Considers Canceling 80,000 Arabs' Residency in East J'lem

Prime Minster Benjamin Netanyahu recently raised the possibility of canceling the residency status of the 80,000 Palestinians living in East Jerusalem neighborhoods on the other side of the separation wall. Shuafat refugee camp and Kafr Aqab would be among the affected neighborhoods. Netanyahu brought up the need to address the situation in East Jerusalem's neighborhoods during a cabinet meeting two weeks ago. "There is no enforcement there, no law," Netanyahu said. "We need to examine the possibility of canceling their residency. There needs to be a discussion about it."

See also, "Netanyahu Mulls Revoking Residency of Palestinians Beyond E. Jerusalem Separation Barrier" (Ha'aretz)

Times of Israel

Police Block Waqf from Installing Own Temple Mount Cameras

The Muslim authority administering the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City said it tried to install its own cameras on the Temple Mount, but was blocked by Israeli police Monday. The installation of surveillance cameras is a key provision of a deal reached over the weekend between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority to defuse tensions over the holy site. The Jordanian-run Waqf said a team was "working on the installation of cameras belonging to the Islamic Waqf… but the Israeli police interfered directly and stopped the work."

See also, "Kerry Lays Out Steps to Ease Israeli-Palestinian Strife" (Reuters)

See also, "Netanyahu: Holy Site Surveillance Cameras in Israel's Best Interest" (Voice of America)

Ha'aretz

Palestinians to Ask UN to Set Deadline for Ending Occupation

Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization's steering and monitoring committee, announced Sunday that the PLO and Arab League are preparing a motion for the UN Security Council that sets a deadline for ending Israel's occupation of the West Bank. At a press conference in the Palestinian embassy in Cairo, Erekat said that alongside this proposal, Palestinians will seek international protection in the Security Council as well the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the current violence.

See also, "Palestinians to Renew UN Bid for Israeli Withdrawal Deadline" (Times of Israel)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Ma'ariv

UN Chief Welcomes Bibi's Decision on Maintaining Status Quo

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed Prime Minister Netanyahu's announcement confirming Israel's commitment to upholding the status quo on the Temple Mount in both words and actions. His statement noted that he had taken note of Israel's commitment not to divide the holy places and to respect Jordan's special role as stipulated by the peace agreement and its historic standing. He said that he hoped the security arrangements between Israel and the Jordanian Waqf would make it possible for visitors and worshippers to behave with restraint and to respect the sanctity of the site.

See also, "UN Chief Praises Netanyahu's Status Quo Commitment" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

2 Israelis Wounded, Assailant Killed in 3 West Bank Attacks

Palestinian assailants wounded two Israelis, and Border Police shot and killed a Palestinian teenager who threatened them with a knife, in three separate attacks on Sunday in the West Bank. In the evening, a Palestinian stabbed and seriously wounded a man at the Ariel junction in the West Bank. Magen David Adom paramedics said they found a 25-year-old man sitting on the sidewalk near the entrance to the city suffering from multiple stab wounds to his upper body. He was hospitalized in serious but stable condition at The Rabin Medical Center- Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva.

See also, "Israeli Stabbed Close to Jerusalem by Attackers Wearing Traditional Jewish Garbs" (i24 News)

Arutz Sheva

Police: Israeli Arabs Stopped Rioting, Fear of Jewish Boycott

Israel's Arab citizen population has stopped the rioting that accompanied the current terror wave at its outset, according to the police. "For two weeks, there was an awakening and an intensification of the protests and riots, Chief Superintendent Doron Malka, Spokesman for the Police's Northern District, told *Walla!* Monday. "But for the last week and a half there has been utter quiet in the Northern District." The riots began October 1, with organized protests in several northern cities and villages. The violence then spread to most of the northern Arab communities, and included dozens of instances of blocking roads with burning tires, as well as hurling rocks and firebombs and police and civilian vehicles.

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The Guardian

Arab Israeli Uses Paraglider to 'Join Rebel Fighters in Syria'

An Arab Israeli has crossed into Syria using a paraglider, with the apparent goal of joining rebel fighters there, the Israeli army has said. "A surveillance post identified an Israeli civilian entering Syrian territory using a paraglider" late on Saturday, an army statement read on Sunday. "The preliminary review indicates that the civilian that entered is a resident of Jaljulia", an Arab town in central Israel . A military spokeswoman said the army was "examining the possibility he had entered Syria in order to join rebels." The army said the paraglider took off from the southern section of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, next to southern Syria. It challenged speculation that he may have been blown off course and crossed the border inadvertently.

See also, "Israeli Paraglides Into Syria in Apparent Attempt to Join Rebel Group" (Ha'aretz)

Jerusalem Post

Lieberman: Syria Over Soon, Hezbollah Turning Sights on Israel

Yisrael Beytenu chief Avigdor Liberman warned Monday that comments made by Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah over the weekend suggest that the organization intends to set its sights on Israel as soon as it extricates itself from fighting in Syria's civil war. During a rare public appearance in Beirut to mark the Shi'ite Ashura holy day, Nasrallah attacked both Israel and the US, saying that Hezbollah has fought Israel in the past and will continue to do so. "Anyone who thinks that we will retreat or give up- that won't happen. We will win," he vowed.

Washington Post – October 23, 2015

We're Lifelong Zionists. Here's Why We Chose to Boycott Israel.

By Steven Levitsky and Glen Weyl

We are lifelong Zionists. Like other progressive Jews, our support for Israel has been founded on two convictions: first, that a state was necessary to protect our people from future disaster; and second, that any Jewish state would be democratic, embracing the values of universal human rights that many took as a lesson of the Holocaust. Undemocratic measures undertaken in pursuit of Israel's survival, such as the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the denial of basic rights to Palestinians living there, were understood to be temporary.

But we must face reality: The occupation has become permanent. Nearly half a century after the Six-Day War, Israel is settling into the apartheid-like regime against which many of its former leaders warned. The settler population in the West Bank has grown 30-fold, from about 12,000 in 1980 to 389,000 today. The West Bank is increasingly treated as part of Israel, with the green line demarcating the occupied territories erased from many maps. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin declared recently that control over the West Bank is "not a matter of political debate. It is a basic fact of modern Zionism."

This "basic fact" poses an ethical dilemma for American Jews: Can we

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continue to embrace a state that permanently denies basic rights to another people? Yet it also poses a problem from a Zionist perspective: Israel has embarked on a path that threatens its very existence.

As happened in the cases of Rhodesia and South Africa, Israel's permanent subjugation of Palestinians will inevitably isolate it from Western democracies. Not only is European support for Israel waning, but also U.S. public opinion — once seemingly rock solid — has begun to shift as well, especially among millennials. International pariah status is hardly a recipe for Israel's survival.

At home, the occupation is exacerbating demographic pressures that threaten to tear Israeli society apart. The growth of the settler and ultra-orthodox populations has stoked Jewish chauvinism and further alienated the growing Arab population. Divided into increasingly irreconcilable communities, Israel risks losing the minimum of mutual tolerance that is necessary for any democratic society. In such a context, violence like the recent wave of attacks in Jerusalem and the West Bank is virtually bound to become normal.

Finally, occupation threatens the security it was meant to ensure. Israel's security situation has changed dramatically since the 1967 and 1973 wars. Peace with Egypt and Jordan, the weakening of Iraq and Syria, and Israel's now-overwhelming military superiority — including its (undeclared) nuclear deterrent — have ended any existential threat posed by its Arab neighbors. Even a Hamas-led Palestinian state could not destroy Israel. As six former directors of Israel's internal security service, Shin Bet, argued in the 2012 documentary "The Gatekeepers ," it is the occupation itself that truly threatens Israel's long-term security: Occupation forces Israel into asymmetric warfare that erodes its international standing, limits its ability to forge regional alliances against sectarian extremists and, crucially, remains the principal motive behind Palestinian violence.

In making the occupation permanent, Israel's leaders are undermining their state's viability. Unfortunately, domestic movements to avert that fate have withered. Thanks to an economic boom and the temporary security provided by the West Bank barrier and the Iron Dome missile defense system, much of Israel's secular Zionist majority feels no need to take the difficult steps required for a durable peace, such as evicting their countrymen from West Bank settlements and acknowledging the moral stain of the suffering Israel has caused to so many Palestinians.

We are at a critical juncture. Settlement growth and demographic trends will soon overwhelm Israel's ability to change course. For years, we have supported Israeli governments — even those we strongly disagreed with — in the belief that a secure Israel would act to defend its own long-term interests. That strategy has failed. Israel's supporters have, tragically, become its enablers. Today, there is no realistic prospect of Israel making the hard choices necessary to ensure its survival as a democratic state in the absence of outside pressure.

For supporters of Israel like us, all viable forms of pressure are painful. The only tools that could plausibly shape Israeli strategic calculations are a withdrawal of U.S. aid and diplomatic support, and boycotts of and divestitures from the Israeli economy. Boycotting only goods produced in settlements would not have sufficient impact to

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induce Israelis to rethink the status quo.

It is thus, reluctantly but resolutely, that we are refusing to travel to Israel, boycotting products produced there and calling on our universities to divest and our elected representatives to withdraw aid to Israel. Until Israel seriously engages with a peace process that either establishes a sovereign Palestinian state or grants full democratic citizenship to Palestinians living in a single state, we cannot continue to subsidize governments whose actions threaten Israel's long-term survival.

Israel, of course, is hardly the world's worst human rights violator. Doesn't boycotting Israel but not other rights-violating states constitute a double standard? It does. We love Israel, and we are deeply concerned for its survival. We do not feel equally invested in the fate of other states.

Unlike internationally isolated states such as North Korea and Syria, Israel could be significantly affected by a boycott. The Israeli government could not sustain its foolish course without massive U.S. aid, investment, commerce, and moral and diplomatic support.

We recognize that some boycott advocates are driven by opposition to (and even hatred of) Israel. Our motivation is precisely the opposite: love for Israel and a desire to save it.

Repulsed by the Afrikaners' ethno-religious fanaticism in South Africa, Zionism founder Theodore Herzl wrote, "We don't want a Boer state, but a Venice." American Zionists must act to pressure Israel to preserve Herzl's vision — and to save itself.

Steven Levitsky is a professor of government at Harvard University. Glen Weyl is an assistant professor of economics and law at the University of Chicago.

Times of Israel – October 25, 2015

The Political Center's Role: Security and Morality

By Yair Lapid

What is the role of the political center during days like this?

To recognize that our reality is complex. That there are no simple solutions.

We know that national resilience means we must protect ourselves — both from terrorists with knives and also from people who want to change us into something we cannot become.

It's true that Jews will no longer go like sheep to the slaughter and if someone runs towards us with a knife we must shoot to kill. But it is also true that Jews do not cheer over a bleeding corpse because our tradition teaches "when your enemy falls do not rejoice," and we do not sanctify death, we sanctify life.

It is true that you can protect yourself however necessary. But it is

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also true that it is forbidden to carry out a lynch against a person lying unconscious on the floor, even if he is a terrorist.

It is true that Jews have been praying towards the Temple Mount for 2,000 years and that the liberation of the Western Wall was nothing short of a divine miracle. But it is also true that we don't want a Third Intifada and we don't want to ignite the Jihadi fire throughout the Arab world.

It is true that Jerusalem will not be divided. But it is also true that if concrete barricades successfully protect nursery schools, then it is better to put up those barricades because children should not have to fear Molotov cocktails. They are not soldiers, they are children.

It is true that destroying the homes of terrorists is a justified step in our fight against terror. But it is also true that when the Supreme Court demands this be carried out according to proper legal procedures then that is how it must be and we should not back down one inch in the face of those who provoke. The rule of law is the basis of our lives here and without the Supreme Court there is no democracy.

It is true that there is a lot of anti-Semitism — half the world is against us and the international press is hostile. But is also true that we have many friends and we have to be willing to listen to what they are saying and value the fact that they stand beside us.

It is true that the Palestinians — 3.5 million Muslims who are stuck like a bone in our throat — are not partners but the enemy. But it is also true that specifically because of this we must separate from them as quickly and efficiently as possible, with the IDF retaining its ability to operate in their territory to protect Israeli citizens.

It is true that the Arab members of Knesset, especially those from the Balad party, are irresponsible and try to ignite the street and undermine coexistence, and that the Knesset needs to consider what to do with them. But it is also true that we cannot play into their hands and we must recognize that there are 1.2 million Israeli-Arabs and we must find a way to live together with them.

It is true that the radical left is bizarre and traitorous and the radical right is violent and breaks the law. But it is also true that most of us are not like that. Most Israelis are in the center, which is not prepared to allow extremism to control our lives.

We expect our leadership to find solutions.

The leadership that we bring to Israel says that our test is to stand strong against our enemies without flinching but also to protect our identity — to remember that there are no instant solutions, that this is a long road, that we cannot choose between survival and Jewish values — we must implement both.

During days like these we must unite.

Unity is created when everyone recognizes that it won't be 100 percent the way they wanted or believed. Because, in the words of Maimonides, "the upright path is the middle path."

What this country needs during these days, more than ever, is to

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rediscover our common language. Our true strength comes from our unity and our unity comes from understanding that we are complex.

We are determined and we are ethical. We are fighting for our lives and preserving human dignity. We are defending Jews and remembering Jewish values.

If we hate, we will lose. If we become like them, we will lose.

If we find the way – even during these difficult days — to preserve that which unites us, no one will be able to defeat us — ever.

Yair Lapid is a member of Knesset and the chairman of the Yesh Atid party.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Phil Barnett" <pbarnett@sb-atalaya.com>
To: "Heather Samuelson" <hsamuelson@cdmillsgroup.com>
Date: 10/17/2015 4:18:09 PM
Subject: Re: Friends & Allies TP's

On Heather's point about getting a consistent number for the prior congressional investigations, here's the list we have in the fact sheet comparing the Benghazi investigations to prior investigations into terrorist attacks:

• In December 2012, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs released a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In April 2013, the Chairmen of the House Armed Services, House Foreign Affairs, House Judiciary, House Over sight and Government Reform, and House Intelligence Committees released a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In September 2013, the majority and minority staffs of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released separate reports on the Benghazi attack.
• In January 2014, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence issued a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In February 2014, the House Armed Services Committee issued a majority staff report on the Benghazi attack.
• In February 2014, the House Foreign Affairs Committee issued a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In November 2014, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence issued a report on the Benghazi att ack.

This makes seven prior congressional investigations if you count (as we did) the report by the five Republican chairmen.

If we want to use seven as the number instead of six (which is the number in the talking points), it might make sense to rephrase the talking point so it is referring to prior congressional investigations, not prior committee investigations, since the five Republican chairmen are not technically a "committee."

One other point is that there is very little in the talking points about the emails. That may make sense, but if you want talking points for allies to use, here would be two possible ones to add:

* While Republicans criticize Secretary Clinton's email practices, Secretary Clinton has called for all of her emails to be released publicly. No prior cabinet secretary has ever taken this step. There are now thousands of her emails available to the public, more any other cabinet secretary in history. There are thousands of her emails available on the State Department's website; there are zero emails from any of her predecessors.

* Republicans and the press naturally focus on a small subset of her emails. But if you look at all of them, you will see a much different picture. You will see a Secretary working hard -- and long hours -- to reach a nuclear arms agreement with Russia, build an international coalition against Iran, advance women's rights, and aid countries in need.

Phil

On Sat, Oct 17, 2015 at 4:40 PM, Heather Samuelson <hsamuelson@cdmillsgroup.com > wrote:

My edits and questions attached.

From: Brian Fallon
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Cheryl Mills
Cc: Milia Fisher , Jake Sullivan , John Podesta , Dan Schwerin , Adrienne Elrod , Mandy Grunwald , Philippe Reines, Sara Latham , Heather Samuelson , David Kendall , Katherine Turner , Jennifer Palmieri , Huma Abedin , Phil Schiliro , Phil Barnett , Matt Siegler , Varun Anand , sbay@hillaryclinton.com , Corey Ciorciari

Attached is an updated version of Friends and Allies TPs document to reflect the settled-upon goals/themes for the hearing. Please send along any edits/comments. We want to provide this to folks in time for the Sunday shows tomorrow.

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 4:19 PM, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com > wrote:

Dear Team

In advance of tomorrow's call, please find a summary that seeks to capture our discussion.

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Welcome comments and redline edits.

best.

cdm

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 2:01 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Hi all-

As discussed on today's call, we'll reconvene this hearing prep group on Saturday morning, 8:30-9:30 am. Calendar invite to follow.

Dial in: 1 (718) 839-6957 // NO PIN

Best,
Milia

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/25/2008 2:48:50 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/25/08

Main Topics: McBush, energy, terrorism and economy, McCain's military roots, AUFC's Bush Bus

Summary of Shift: President Bush today spoke about Zimbabwe and met with the president of Iraq. Ralph Nader's comments on Obama's treatment of race and class were a source of much conversation between panelists and pundits. With Hillary and Bill Clinton's support now behind Obama, pundits spent a vast amount of time on how the upcoming Unity event will go. Almost all programs and stations dedicated a noteworthy chunk of time to Barack Obama's iPod content, recently published in *Rolling Stone*.

Highlights
1) McBush
   a. CNN: Jeanne Moost compares McCain's and Bush's computer illiteracy
   b. CNN: Panel has a few yucks at McBush's expense
2) CNN: McCain's energy proposal does not sit well with Nevadan voters
3) CNN: *Fortune* editor expresses surprise at McCain's opinion on #1 threat to economy
4) MSNBC: Author of pro-McCain book describes McCain as having the American military in his blood
5) FNC: AUFC's Bush Legacy Bus and awesome communications director on Shepard Smith's program
6) MSNBC: Olbermann cites McCain: 'Bin Laden may have just given us a little boost' during segment on Black's *Fortune* comments [no clip]
7) MSNBC: Olbermann mentions how McCain promotes eBay as a way for Americans to make money [no clip]
8) MSNBC: Olbermann mocks McCain for basically admitting his offshore drilling proposal is a gimmick [no clip]
9) NBC WRC summarizes the McCain message from Las Vegas today [no clip]
10) CBS WUSA outlines the AP-Yahoo poll about who is better suited to deal with the Iraq war and the LA Times domestic issue poll. They also briefly discussed the music both candidates have on their iPods [no clip]
11) MSNBC: Chris Matthews asks panel whether Charlie Black's terror comment in *Fortune* magazine was smart, citing recent polls that show the public trusts McCain more with terror. Panel concludes: no. Matthews also cites McCain's similar '04 statement on Bush [no clip]

Clips
Highlight #1
Computer Illiterate, Just Like President Bush (CNN 06/25/08 06:59pm)
JEANNE MOOST: We don't expect the President to be the Liberace of the keyboard but still. Should the next President of the United States know how to work a computer?

KID ON THE STREET: I mean, yeah. I guess so. It would be helpful. Why not?

MOOST: Ask John McCain. Here's how he describes his computer skills:

JOHN MCCAIN: I am an illiterate that has to rely on my wife for all the assistance that I can get.

WOMAN ON STREET: Oh that's absolutely ridiculous.

[…]

MOOST: **While Cindy McCain's been spotted scrolling on her blackberry, John McCain tends to be handed a blackberry to talk on**. Barack Obama on the other side is one of those guys so intent on reading his black berry that he could run into something. […] A far cry from this guy:

GEORGE BUSH: I hear there's rumors on the internets. One of the things I've used on the Google.

MOOST: Just the other day President Bush did it again.

BUSH: They can go on their computers and dial up volunteer.org .

[…]

MOOST: But McCain's admission that he is computer illiterate was fodder for debate at something called the

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Personal Democracy Forum. The online expert who had worked for John Edwards got into it with the Internet expert from the McCain campaign.

MCCAIN EXPERT: You don't necessarily have to use a computer to understand how it shapes the country.

EDWARDS EXPERT: That's the point. You do.

MOOST: But when McCain's guy said this:

MCCAIN EXPERT: John McCain is aware of the Internet.

MOOST: John McCain is aware of the Internet became a joke on the Internet. […] At least John McCain knows the difference between a lap dance and a laptop even if jokesters made a mock up of John McCain's real website with: How does this thing work? And should I double click here?

Panelists Laugh at McCain's Expense (and Bush's) (CNN 06/25/08 6:40pm)
[Clip opens with President Bush endorsement of John McCain.]
WOLF BLITZER: All right. He's out on the campaign trail obviously. What do you think?

GLORIA BORGER: Third Bush term. I think he's asking for a third Bush term for John McCain. He's using the McCain' campaign slogan. 'This isn't the kind of change you want. I can provide the kind of change you need,' and that the kind of change Barack Obama provides is 'fake.' This is George Bush right now campaigning for his legacy.

[…]

JACK CAFFERTY: What does he got? A 28% approval rating? Nobody cares at this point […].

PANELIST: I think Bush is onto something. The real change would be bringing Alberto Gonzalez back as attorney general, Don Rumsfeld back as secretary of defense and McCain's vice president: Larry Craig. […]

Highlight #2
McCain Names Energy Proposals The Lexington Project, Nuclear Plans Worry Voters in Nevada (CNN 06/25/08 7:04pm)
DANA BASH: McCain has been pushing energy related ideas for nearly 2 weeks. Today he labeled those proposals, The Lexington Project. Named for a Revolutionary War site, its intended as a simple way to communicate to voters that he's leading . […]

JOHN MCCAIN: In a world of hostile and unstable suppliers of oil, this nation will achieve strategic independence by 2025.

BASH: A lofty goal aimed at invoking John F. Kennedy and some Harry Truman for good measure.

MCCAIN: 3 decades of partisan paralysis on energy security is enough. Since I am not President I cannot say the buck stops here but I will say that it must stop now.

BASH: But beyond the snappy sound bites, many of the ways John McCain's wants to wean America from oil are controversial. Take Nuclear Energy:

MCCAIN: I will set this Nation on a course to build 45 new reactors by the year 2030.

BASH: **That's a promise voters he was speaking to in Nevada are weary of. Because of congress's plan to store nuclear waste in their state, Yucca Mountain. Something McCain has supported.**

MCCAIN: We well need to solve complex problems of moving and storing materials that will always need safeguarding. We will need to do all these things and do them right.

Highlight #3
Fortune Magazine Editor David Whitford "Surprised" That McCain Thinks Biggest Threat to Economy is Terrorism, Says It's "Very Telling" (CNN 06/25/08 12:10pm)
JOHN ROBERTS: [...] In the interview you did with John McCain you asked him what the greatest threat to the American economy is and he said 'radical Islamic terrorism.' Were you surprised by that answer?

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DAVID WHITFORD: Yeah, I was pretty surprised. **I was expecting him to say something about, I don't know, rising gas prices or climate change or something like that. But it was very telling that he turned it around to an answer about national security. I think he feels that that's the issue on which he's got the best chance of winning in November.** And I think we're going to see a lot of that this year. Questions directed at John McCain that he will try to turn into national security issues.

ROBERTS: So if John McCain can in fact make the economy a national security issue, he has admitted that the economy is not his strongest point, but if he manages to make that connection, could he mitigate any disadvantage that he has on Issue #1 with Barack Obama.

WHITFORD: Yeah, possibly. I mean he's gained some familiarity with economic issues over the years. And he really has a plan that's very different [...] I would start with Free Trade. John McCain has been an advocate, a longtime advocate of Free Trade for breaking down trade barriers [...]

ROBERTS: Big differences on energy policy as well David. John McCain advocating a gas tax holiday, as well as expansion of offshore drilling. Are either one of those plans viable?

WHITFORD: Well I think neither has very good political prospects. I mean certainly, his proposal for a summer gas tax holiday has zero chance of ever even being introduced in Congress, much less being passed. And he would admit himself that's not the sort of thing for a long-term positive effect on energy prices. In fact, I think that most economists would say that the effect might even be detrimental because it would increase demand for gas and demand seems to be what's driving up gas prices.

His other proposal, to open up offshore drilling conceivably, I suppose, if it were to become law might have the effect of increasing supply and that might have the effect of bringing down energy prices long term but again I think it's unrealistic and maybe moving us in the wrong direction. We need to begin weaning ourselves from fossil fuels not finding new ways to exploit them.

Highlight #4
Author of Pro-McCain Book: McCain is the Product of the US Military (MSNBC 06/25/08 12:47pm)
CONTESSA BREWER: You know, we have seen a lot of liberals criticizing John McCain and saying, 'He's no maverick. He backs up President Bush. I mean, he's backing up President Bush on the issues like offshore drilling and the tax cuts and the surge in Iraq.' So why do you call it a 'maverick life'?

PAUL ALEXANDER: I think if you look back at the first Bush term, the first four years of the Bush presidency, he fairly consistently worked against almost everything the Bush Administration was advancing, the tax cuts—there was a great story. He was supposed to be—have dinner at the White House one night but he was actually at the capitol, trying to derail one of the Bush tax proposals. He couldn't go have dinner with the president 'cause he was trying to shoot down his tax proposals.

There was a sort of a sear—on the econ—on the…you know, econ—ecology, you know….

BREWER: Environmentalism.

ALEXANDER: Environmental issues. All that. So there's a long—if you go back and look at the record a lot of what he did in those first four Bush years was fight against the president.

BREWER: […] Did he learn lessons from [the 2000 republican primary] that he's now put into practice that helped him secure the nomination this time around and could help him going toward the White House?

ALEXANDER: I think so. I was on the campaign trail with him in South Carolina, during the South Carolina primary in 2000 and it really was the dirtiest race […] I've seen. […] I think he learned that you have to respond to those attacks. […] That was his mistake last time. He should have answered and he didn't.

BREWER: […] McCain carries with him proudly his military experience […]. Has that experience influenced him so strongly that he is unable to accept any kind of limitations on what the military can accomplish overseas?

ALEXANDER: Well, **he's a product of the American military.** […] **He's a product of the American military and he thinks in terms of, you know, being a product of the American military.** So when they talk about who's gonna be best for national security, this is what the McCains do.

BREWER: It's in his blood.

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ALEXANDER: It's in his blood.

Highlight #5
Bush Legacy Bus and J. Funk on Britt Hume (FNC 06/25/08 06:31pm)
BRITT HUME: President George Bush's approval rating is at an all time low but one liberal activists group not only doesn't want to recover this year it doesn't want it to recover ever. American's United for Change has unveiled the Bush Legacy Bus. Which highlights what it calls the failed policies of the Bush administration on the outside. The bus features a photo of President Bush and phrases like: economy in crisis, endless war in Iraq, healthcare's a mess. On the inside there are various interactive exhibits and videos. AUC's communication director tells Cybercast News that the bus is:

[Visual of Quote]

"designed to drive a stake through the heart of the failed conservative ideology as a governing philosophy."
–Jeremy Funk

--
Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst
PMUSA
(c) 208.420.3470
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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From: "Terry Gawryk" <gawrykt@att.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/12/2014 2:20:47 AM
Subject: Your recent Climate Change missive.

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I subscribe to the White House e-mails mainly for comic relief. They never seem to disappoint. I just read today's about the President's monumental agreements with the Chinese. So I am compelled to write to you.

How will the United States Government seek to enforce these agreements when the Chinese choose, as they invariably will, to disagree?

Will there be a line in the sand? Will it be a red line? Will we all have to cross our arms, pout, and jump up and down? I'm only asking because of the recent evidence of our great nation's foreign policy successes around the globe: In North Korea; Iran; Iraq; Ukraine; Russia, and countless other places.

A recent observation of Daniel Henninger of the Wall Street Journal which I'm paraphrasing badly, comes to mind:

"For the past six years foreign policy planners and national leaders in Moscow, Tehran and Beijing got up every day and did one thing: "Think how they can diminish or destabilize the United States. Our Leadership (that's you Mr. Podesta) got up every day for six years and thought about. . . .wind farms."

Huzzah! God bless you for all your effort! From now, every time that I read or hear something about you, it will be framed against this remark. A laudable and honorable legacy.

Best regards, Terry Gawryk

Terry Gawryk, Attorney at Law
7250 N. Cicero Ave., Suite 102
Lincolnwood, IL 60712
Telephone, 847-674-8124, fax, -8126
Mobile, 773-315-8411.

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 2/7/2016 3:00:31 AM
Subject: Re: Revised Message Frame

I think we should all get on the phone today to finalize this. Kate is going to send an invitation.

Mandy, Navin and I have also been talking about the potential need for another survey across march states that would do the following:
--Refine/finalize our response on Wall Street
--Test our refined message frame
--Explore "nuclear option", i.e. hard negatives from both sides (Anzo--this may already be accomplished in your surveys, so let's discuss)

On Sun, Feb 7, 2016 at 9:29 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Dan,
>
> Other than what she has been doing over the last few days, do we have any sense from her what she believes or wants her core message to be?
>
> I pose this only because the opening graph here, which I assume is the core frame, is written in passive as opposed active voice and it is still not clear what her singular message is. The power of a strong message frame generally lies in a combination of simplicity and focus. In your graph below you have a diagnosis in the first sentence that is about "achieving their dreams." In the second sentence we're making it about "reaching your potential" - and then we are building a future "we can all share and succeed in" --- to me these are related for sure but not the same thing.
>
> Hillary Clinton wants to break down all the barriers holding Americans back from achieving their dreams. Because she believes that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours. That's how we'll build a future we can all share and succeed in.
>
> Sanders has simplicity and focus --- the corrupt political and economic systems are rigged to keep giving more to the billionaire class while the middle class has been hollowed out. We have break up the banks, take on wall street to rebuild the middle class reduce income inequality.
>
> Is there a simpler construct for our frame – and this may also be a little long but I'm trying to get a little more aspirational about where we're going:
>
> It's time to live up to the promise of America – and that means living up to our promise of opportunity, equality and justice for all Americans. That means breaking down the barriers of structural racism, sexism and LGBT discrimination that are holding too many people back and tackling once and for all the disgrace of corporate profits reaching record highs while wages and incomes are stagnant while Americans are working longer and harder than ever just to get by.
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 2:44 AM
> **To:** Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Jennifer Palmieri; Jake Sullivan; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Huma Abedin; John Anzalone; David Binder; Oren Shur; Navin Nayak
> **Subject:** Revised Message Frame
>
> Per a discussion some of us had on Thursday before the debate, and also drawing on what HRC has been doing over the past few days, here's a rough one page summary of a revised message frame. Oren has also

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added a note at the bottom about paid media strategy. I know Robby is keen to engage HRC on this as soon as possible, so we'd welcome feedback.

Thanks

Dan

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/5/2008 8:59:42 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Lake Buena Vista, FL 06/05/08

Hello BigCampaign,
Just off the phone with our tracker Evan who was on the ground today in Orlando, FL. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Asked about how Vietnam applies to Iraq
  - Says he's "proud of America now" because we're divided about the war but not about the soldiers
  - He's surprised at Americans patience with Iraq given mismanagement
- Stumbles but says he voted against Everglades restoration bill because it was an omnibus bill
- Repeats "The fundamentals of the economy are very strong"
- Suggests town hall proposal will alleviate people's feeling we're on the wrong-track

Lake Buena Vista, FL: McCain Speech 06/05/08

Background Details

- There were teleprompters at the event, but McCain didn't use them. Unclear whether there was a malfunction or he decided off-the-cuff not to use them.
- Audience: Florida Society of Newspaper Editors and Florida Press Association. 150-300 people. White, middle-aged.
- Venue: Closed convention inside Walt Disney World Resort Hilton ballroom.
- Cindy was there. Didn't see any of the other McCain family members or notable staffers.
- Very very few McCain staffers: handful of traveling aides, didn't see any local/ground staffers.
- Our tracker had no trouble getting in. Local police took were more of a presence than Secret Service.
- Press: heavy on print news; also ABC, NBC, Fox and Univision cameras; and lots of local press.
- Introductory remarks by Executive VP of St. Petersburg Times, Marty Petty.

Speech Highlights

- In intro, Marty Petty notes that the event format will be town hall meeting, according to McCain's desire.

<u>Opening Remarks</u>

- McCain says he's just watched "Recount" "one of the more interesting times in America's history"
- Politicians claim allegiance everywhere they go, but I think I can make a legit claim for affection for this state. Florida has been important to MCCAIN in this election and in his personal life (Pensacola flight training; family in FL while he was a POW; Cecil Field)
- Reiterates that this will be long, hard and well-fought campaign, one of respect. That's why he proposed town halls to BHO. Hypes up benefits of this format: democracy, dialogue; he's learned so much. JFK-Goldwater model. Hopes that we can agree to this proposal. When 81% of people feel we're on the wrong track, it's even more important to include people in this process.
- Mentions his interview with Charlie Gibson: "Without thinking long" McCain told him that 3 major issues are reform, prosperity and peace.
  - (1) REFORM: Doesn't need to tell anyone in FL how hard housing crisis has been. We need to restore people's trust in government, that it can work. People have figured out that Washington is not working for them. But I have a record of reform, of bipartisanship - that's how you get things done in DC. After 9/11 there was some real bipartisanship.
    - § We need to eliminate earmarks. We haven't always done it. It has bred corruption. We have to reform this so we can have credibility with the American people for other reforms.
    - § We must reform Social Security, Medicare. Also Air Traffic Control system—hurts tourism. SS—"it's going to require some tough decisions." Because we can't hand off a broken system to the next generation.
    - § Cites examples of his bipartisanship: Gang of 14, campaign finance reform, immigration reform. Sometimes I've won, sometimes I've lost, but always I put the American people first.
  - (2) PROSPERITY: Americans are worried. "We have to give them a clear blueprint," e.g. reassure that people can stay in their homes by a 30-year guaranteed FHA loan. We're on the verge of a revolution, like the Industrial

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Revolution. Old jobs aren't coming back—when I go to MI and see people affected by auto industry, "it's heartbreaking." We have to take care of the displaced workers: education and training. A job is more than a job—it's self-respect.

- **"The fundamentals of our economy are very strong."**
- Energy independence is key. Green technologies are beneficial and profitable. 50% of Brazilians' cars are now powered by alternate energy and we just passed the farm bill, which I opposed; Sen. Obama supported it. We're giving tax breaks to thorough-bred horse owners, and asparagus owners.

- (3) PEACE-- We're in 2 wars.
  - "This is a global struggle, and it's not going to be over soon." But I will not give up.
  - And there's Afghanistan. Pakistan is affecting it. I've been to Waziristan. Straight-talk: there's corruption in Afghanistan. There are nations—not as many as we want, but there are many—committed to helping us in Afghanistan.
- And the central battleground, as Petraeus says, Iraq. I argued for the surge strategy, even though all the pundits and everyone was against it. We are winning in Iraq now.
  - Iraqi govt and military now in control of 3 largest cities in Iraq.
  - There are many enemies there: AQI, Shiite militias, former Baathists, etc.
  - Maliki has shown some very strong leadership. If we had done what my opponents wanted to do—a date for withdrawal—we would've been back, it would've been a victory for Iranian influence in the region. The benefits of success are enormous; e.g. a check on Iranian influence, Iraqis will never see return of another Hussein.
  - "I believe we will prevail in Afghanistan *over time*"
  - We have to be more multilateral, we have to be more reasoned.
  - Believes this century will be, like the 20th century, "an American century."

Question and Answer

- Q1 (Rosemary Goodrow, Tampa Tribune): Your relationship with the media. Early on, you were unique in giving easy access to the press. And "look what happened… you are where you are today." But AZ Republic reporter said you had no relationship with them. What did you learn about easy access to the media and how would that guide a MCCAIN presidency?

  MCCAIN: (1) I respectfully disagree with that characterization of my relationship with the AZ Republic; I had a very close relationship with the traveling reporter with me from there. I had a rocky relationship with AZ Republic for years, but then that improved. I love being on the back of the bus. Sometimes I make mistakes, and I understand that. the benefit to that in my view is that members of the media really know what I'm all about. I will continue to try to give the media access. Logistics are harder now that we're hopping from state to state. I've tried to have a good relationship with all the AZ press.

- Q2 (Tampa Tribune): Racism and sexism, subtle and not, were in Dem primary. What will you do to prevent this from being a problem in the general?

  MCCAIN: I believe American people will judge the candidates based on their merits. there were elements that entered into the race that threatened that. I'm proud of how Sen Clinton inspired a generation of women—I know as a father of 3 daughters. Obama inspired people too. I will do everything I can to keep anything that could be that kind of ugliness out of this campaign. You have to keep anything disrespectful out of the campaign, I have a record of that.

- Q3) What would you do to keep inflation in check?

  MCCAIN: (1) I would've vetoed the farm bill: it's distorted the market and artificially encouraged bad choices in the agriculture business. (2) I'm worried about the dollar- tied to costs of gas, for instance. Some of us remember the crisis in the 1970s. I was glad to see Bernanke making comments yesterday that we need to strengthen the dollar. (3) We need to get spending under control, which makes us borrow from China, then pay interest. The difference between 1982 and today is that then we restrained spending when we would cut taxes. (4) I don't know where price of oil is going to stop. That puts tremendous pressure on economy. So we need energy independence. Innovation makes costs go down.

  - Inflation is a great threat that looms on the horizon. I have a plan of action to address it.

- Q4) Paul Tash, St Petersburg Times. What are the historical lessons that you draw from Vietnam that may apply to the course ahead in Iraq?

  MCCAIN: (1) My experience in Nam made me hate war. And when the country was divided, that made it even harder for our vets to come home. "And I'm proud of America now. Because we are divided about the war" but not about the soldiers. And when we were defeated—but we never lost a battle—we had to fix the military. (2) On a broader level, you have to maintain the support of the people when sending young people to war. A lot of

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people are surprised at Americans' current impatience. I'm surprised at their patience, given that the war was so badly mishandled for 4 years. The American people and the Congress need to be informed, because if they're gonna be involved in the landing, they have to be involved in the takeoff. I would hold weekly town halls. (3) Remember the Powell Doctrine. One of the fundamental errors—see *Fiasco* or Cole—is we weren't prepared following the military success. I believe that since we're a special nation, we have special responsibilities. I'm worried about isolationism, since there's evil of radical Islamic extremism. (4) I learned a lot from reading about Vietnam War after I came back. War must always be the last resort.

- Q5 (Rick Hirsh, Miami Herald): Last year you opposed a $2B Everglades restoration bill—
  MCCAIN: Was it part of an omnibus bill?
  HIRSH: Yes.
  MCCAIN: There's your answer. … I'll let you finish. … I am committed to the preservation of the Everglades. If it were a stand-alone bill, it'd be different. I'll be glad to look at that vote, but I don't memorize the number on that vote. … I oppose out of control spending.

- Q6: Last year, your attempts at immigration reform failed. As Pres, what would be the first things you would do to put that effort back on track?
  MCCAIN: Ted Kennedy and I worked on that bill in bipartisan fashion. That bill was comprehensive, including a way to secure our borders. We failed because Americans didn't believe that, remembering 1986 amnesty law. We can secure our borders; then temporary worker program; then we can address the issue of the 12 million people who are here illegally—'administer justice' to the 2 million that have come here recently, and the other 10 million should not be privileged over people who came legally. This is a federal issue. I've failed a lot of times at getting legislation through, but I have shown I can make bipartisan efforts.

- Q7 (Carrie Eberly, Florida Daily): Are you comfortable not being able to send Americans into space for 7 (?) years? More NASA support?
  MCCAIN: I would be willing to spend taxpayer dollars on that. I am disturbed that we'd have to depend on Russia, and also now China. I think Americans would be very willing to do that, not to mention what space exploration contributes to American betterment.

- Q8: (Michael Lewis, Miami Today): How would you as President do earmark reform?
  MCCAIN: You'd know their names, I'd make them famous. Some of it already is, e.g. "bridge to nowhere"—they know it was $230million.

- Thanks audience for all they do. I am not for the Fairness Doctrine. You are going through a lot of challenges because of technology.

--
Sara DuBois
Deputy Director, Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/17/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: NATO Looks South

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

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NATO Looks South

Ian O. Lesser — February 18, 2016

BRUSSELS—NATO's decision to deploy a multinational naval force to the Aegean to help control the flow of refugees from Turkey is a harbinger of things to come as the Alliance looks south. The limited naval force will not resolve a crisis that has imposed tremendous human costs and threatens the cohesion and security of Europe. But the use of NATO assets is an important symbolic step at a time when the European Union seems unable to act decisively. More significantly, it points to growing concern about Mediterranean security within the Alliance. Even as NATO moves to counter Russia on Europe's eastern borders, it will need to address a range of pressing security risks emanating from the south, including the Levant, North Africa, and Mediterranean...

FULL ARTICLE

Ian Lesser is executive director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States' Transatlantic Center in Brussels, and senior director for Foreign and Security Policy at GMF.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:39:29 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Like this (w the handle). Lets do it

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
I like including his handle.

.@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

User Actions

Following

Marco RubioVerified account @marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

Image removed by sender. Embedded image permalink

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--

Jeremy Massey

Research Department

847 736 9211

JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/22/2015 11:33:45 AM
Subject: Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

Yes, the foundation team heard that 60 minutes was looking into it. That's one of the reasons we desperately want to get the book ahead of time.

On Sun, Mar 22, 2015 at 6:27 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> I heard the same. I think from nick or josh
>
> On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>
> > +nick and john
> >
> > I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
> > Not sure how reliable info is.
> >
> > Jim Margolis
> > Sent from my iPhone.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/24/2014 5:40:58 AM
Subject: CTR TALKING POINTS: RAND PAUL'S FOREIGN POLICY

TALKING POINTS: RAND PAUL'S FOREIGN POLICY

BACKGROUND: In a lame attempt to clarify his contradictory foreign policy positions, Rand Paul gave a speech last night that only left more questions about what are the real views of Rand Paul and what are just political posturing.

TALKING POINTS:

Rand Paul's foreign policy is about as clear and predictable as rolling the dice.

After being criticized for his extreme isolationist views, Rand Paul is now trying to back track on those positions.

Rand Paul wants to have it both ways, claiming to be more of a hawk when it is politically convenient for him.

This isn't the first time Rand Paul has flip-flopped on important issues for political reasons.

- Rand Paul flip-flopped on Israel: After repeatedly claiming he would eliminate foreign aid, including to Israel, he now claims that he would not.
- Rand Paul flip-flopped on ISIS: Rand Paul expressed reluctance to intervene against ISIS, only to change his mind a few months later.
- Rand Paul flip-flopped Russia: Rand Paul was against standing up to Putin after the Russian leader sent troops into Georgia, but took a different stance after Russian troops entered Ukraine.

In his speech, Rand Paul criticized Secretary Clinton and cited former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Pakistani activist and recent Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, both of whom have praised Secretary Clinton for her leadership around the world.

Rand Paul is quick to criticize the actions of our country's leaders after the fact, but he has never been in hot seat.

With such an unclear and contradictory foreign policy position, it is impossible to predict the actions Rand Paul would take if he were ever the one making the decisions.

Supporting Rand Paul's foreign policy would be the biggest, and most dangerous, gamble the American people could ever take.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Rand Paul flip-flopped on Israel. "Paul said, 'I haven't really proposed (phasing out aid to Israel) in the past.' That's rewriting history. Not only did Paul say he would eliminate all foreign aid during multiple media interviews in January and February of 2011, but as late as March of that year, his office released a budget proposal that included a zeroing-out of foreign assistance, with a section specifically inserted to defend the effect that policy would have on Israel. Paul is free to change his position, but saying he never held the position in the first place is flatly contradicted by his past statements and documents. We rate the claim Pants on Fire." ["Pants On Fire: I haven't really proposed (phasing out aid to Israel) in the past," PolitiFact, 8/7/14]

Rand Paul flip-flopped on ISIS. "After expressing reluctance to intervene against ISIS over the summer, Sen. Rand Paul abruptly shifted gears on Thursday and announced that he supports military action to eliminate the Islamist group. 'The military means to achieve these goals include airstrikes against ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria,' the Kentucky Republican and likely 2016 presidential hopeful wrote in an op-ed in TIME. 'Such airstrikes are the best way to suppress ISIS's operational strength and allow allies such as the Kurds to regain a military advantage.' […] When ISIS initially captured large swaths of Iraqi territory in June, Paul's response was mainly to criticize former President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for enabling ISIS's rise by launching the U.S. invasion of Iraq. In fact, Paul specifically argued that Obama didn't deserve scorn for failing to prevent the insurgent gains as a result. And while his new op-ed criticizes Obama for saying he still hasn't decided on a strategy to confront ISIS, Paul himself has made similar comments in arguing there might not be a viable strategy to defeat ISIS." ["Rand Paul's epic ISIS flip-flop," MSNBC, 9/4/14]

Rand Paul flip-flopped on Russia. According to Mother Jones, "So when Russia sent troops into Georgia (on George W. Bush's watch), Paul didn't want to provoke Russia by placing missiles in Poland. Yet today, when Russia moves into Ukraine (on Obama's watch), he's all for dispatching missiles to Poland to send a message to Putin. Does Paul care more about Crimea than Georgia? Or does he care more about keeping a

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foot on the GOP's anti-Obama bandwagon? Paul's office did not respond to a request for comment." ["Rand Paul's Big Flip-Flop on Russia," David Corn column, Mother Jones, 3/14/14]

Robert Gates: Sec. Clinton "made a singular contribution to strengthening this country's relationships with allies." Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates: "In a world that is ever more complex, turbulent and dangerous, Secretary Clinton, 64, has made a singular contribution to strengthening this country's relationships with allies, partners and friends; rallying other countries to join us in dealing with challenges to the global order, from Libya and Iran to the South China Sea; and reaching out to people in scores of countries to demonstrate that America cares about them. She has developed, for the first time, long-range, comprehensive strategies for diplomacy and development that will strengthen the critical civilian contribution to America's national security abroad." [Robert Gates, Time Magazine, 4/18/12]

Malala: "A world with more women leaders will be a better world, and Hillary Clinton is helping make that possible." "Hillary Clinton is a symbol of strength for women across the world. It was she who famously said, 'Women's rights are human rights.' She not only spoke those words, but also dedicated her life to empowering women around the world through politics and philanthropy. She has been a source of strength for many women leaders, including myself, my family and those who stood by me after I was attacked. 'Continue your mission, be strong, we believe in you' is what she said to me, my father and the rest of the Malala Fund team when we met her last year at the Clinton Global Initiative awards. Her life and leadership show women what we can achieve if we believe in our own strength and if we channel our inner creativity, compassion and determination. A world with more women leaders will be a better world, and Hillary Clinton is helping make that possible." [Malala Yousafzai op-ed, 4/23/14]

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/27/2015 7:18:13 AM
Subject: News Update - October 27

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, October 27

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Netanyahu Reprimands Hotovely's Vision to Alter Status Quo**
- **UK Academics Boycott Israel to Fight for Palestinians' Rights**
- **US Warns Against Bibi's Idea to Revoke Jerusalem Arabs' Residency**
- **Dispute Erupts Over Al-Aqsa Mosque Security Cameras**
- **Palestinian Leader Seeks EU Help to Ease Crisis with Israel**
- **Senior IDF Official to 'Jerusalem Post': Terrorism Won't End Soon**
- **Netanyahu Announced Development of Terror Wave App**
- **Israel Strikes Hamas Targets in Response to Gaza Rocket Fire**

Commentary:

- **Ha'aretz: "Israel Mustn't Accept Anti-Democratic, Jewish Jerusalem"**
  - By Editorial Board
- **Al-Monitor: "Why Kerry's Prioritizing Syria Over Israeli-Palestinian Peace"**
  - By Laura Rozen, Foreign Policy Reporter, Al-Monitor

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Ma'ariv

Netanyahu Reprimands Hotovely's Vision to Alter Status Quo

Netanyahu's bureau reprimanded Deputy Foreign Minister Tzippi Hotovely for saying that her dream was to see the Israeli flag flying over the Temple Mount and that Jews should be allowed to pray there. The bureau clarified last night that government policy vis-à-vis the Temple Mount had been expressed in the statement made by the prime minister on Saturday night and that there had been no change. Prime Minister Netanyahu asked Tzippi Hotovely to issue a clarification and she said that her statements reflected her personal opinion and not government policy.

See also, "Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister: I Dream of an Israeli Flag Over Temple Mount" (Ha'aretz)

The Guardian

UK Academics Boycott Israel to Fight for Palestinians' Rights

More than 300 academics from dozens of British universities have pledged to boycott Israeli academic institutions in protest at what they call intolerable human rights violations against the Palestinians. The declaration, by 343 professors and lecturers, is printed in a full-page advertisement carried in Tuesday's Guardian: "A Commitment by UK Scholars to the Rights of Palestinians." The pledge says the signatories, from a variety of universities in England and Wales, will not accept invitations to visit Israeli academic institutions, act as referees for them, or take part in events organized or funded by them. They will, however, still work with individual Israeli academics, it adds.

See also, "Over 300 British Academics Pledge Boycott of Israel" (Times of Israel)

Times of Israel

US Warns Against Bibi's Idea to Revoke Jerusalem Arabs' Residency

The Obama administration on Monday hurried to express its opposition to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tentative talk of revoking the permanent residency status of tens of thousands of Arabs living in East Jerusalem. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said that, as far as the US government knows, Israel is not actively considering such a move. But if it were, he said, "it would obviously be of some concern to us." The US, Earnest went on, reiterates the "importance of all sides avoiding provocative actions and rhetoric."

See also, "US Opposes Netanyahu's Idea of Revoking Residency of East Jerusalem Palestinians" (i24 News)

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Al Jazeera

Dispute Erupts Over Al-Aqsa Mosque Security Cameras

Muslim religious officials in occupied East Jerusalem say Israeli police have blocked them from installing security cameras at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, despite a new agreement to place the surveillance equipment there. US Secretary of State John Kerry announced over the weekend a deal between Israel and Jordan, which administers the site, to install security cameras at the hilltop compound that has been at the center of weeks of unrest.

See also, "Jordan's King Welcomes Netanyahu's Status Quo Pledge 'As Long As It's Implemented" (Ha'aretz)

See also, "Israeli Police Remove Cameras Installed by Muslim Officials at Temple Mount" (Ha'aretz)

U.S. News

Palestinian Leader Seeks EU Help to Ease Crisis with Israel

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas came to European Union headquarters Monday to seek the bloc's help to de-escalate the crisis with Israel, which he blamed on policies and actions of the Israeli government. Before opening the talks with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in Brussels, Abbas told reporters the situation was "extremely serious and grave," adding that "it may even deteriorate, and that is my fear." There have been almost daily Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians and security forces. In the past five weeks, 10 Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks, mostly stabbings, while 51 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, including 30 attackers and the rest in clashes.

Jerusalem Post

Senior IDF Official to 'Jerusalem Post': Terrorism Won't End Soon

Palestinian attacks are set to continue for a "lengthy period," and the IDF is preparing itself accordingly, a senior army source told *The Jerusalem Post* on Monday. "We are preparing for this to continue. It won't pass in two days. This can escalate and decrease in strength. We have to be prepared. It can go in any number of directions. We have to be ready for all scenarios." Three of the Home Front Command's four standing battalions are deployed in the West Bank, and the fourth in the Arava region of southern Israel, securing the Jordanian border. Recently, the Home Front Command sent a third battalion to the West Bank as part of the IDF's move to inject four back-up battalions.

See also, "Multiple Terrorist Attacks Thwarted in Hevron, Jerusalem" (Arutz Sheva)

See also, "Jerusalem Bus Attack Claims Third Life: Richard Lakin" (Ha'aretz)

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Ynet News

Netanyahu Announced Development of Terror Wave App

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Monday with one of his answers to the continuing wave of terrorism - an application that alerts security forces. "We are currently working on the development of an application that will allow every citizen, with a push of a button, to alert security forces, so that they get to the scene faster and are able to neutralize the terrorist," Netanyahu said. He stressed that action will be taken against those who abuse the app. At the moment the app is in the initial stages of development. The announcement is a part of a series of actions taken to calm the public's fear in the wake of the current wave of attacks.

Ha'aretz

Israel Strikes Hamas Targets in Response to Gaza Rocket Fire

The Israeli Air Force struck Hamas targets in Gaza Monday night in response to the day's earlier rocket fire. A rocket fired from Gaza exploded in an open area in southern Israel Monday evening after sirens sounded in the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council. There were no injuries, and Israeli forces are searching the area for damages. Meanwhile, Palestinians report that a 19-year-old Palestinian was killed during clashes with Israelis in the West Bank and a Palestinian was shot during clashes near the Gaza border. Dozens of Palestinians are currently throwing stones and burning tires near Gaza's Bureij refugee camp.
See also, "Israel Strikes Gaza Sites After Rocket Attacks" (Washington Post)

Ha'aretz – October 26, 2015

Israel Mustn't Accept Anti-Democratic, Purely Jewish Jerusalem

Netanyahu has made clear again and again that he has no intention of adding any substance to his declared readiness for a two-state solution.

By Editorial Board

The prime minister's latest idea is to set up a separation wall in the heart of Jerusalem. Benjamin Netanyahu's aspiration, as reported Monday, is to rescind the residency rights of tens of thousands of Palestinians living in neighborhoods beyond the separation wall yet within the area annexed to Jerusalem.

At first glance, Netanyahu would seem to deserve praise for recognizing the fact that Jerusalem can no longer pretend to be a unified city, and that it must be divided. This was meant to be a historic decision, full of far-reaching repercussions for the political process. However, Netanyahu has made clear again and again that he has no intention of adding any substance to his declared readiness for a two-state solution.

The tactic of revoking Palestinian residency, if it happens at all as opposed to being just media spin, is meant to forge a reality that the right dreams about: a unified Jerusalem without Palestinian residents; annexed territory without an Arab population.

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The argument for the idea is that while residents of these neighborhoods enjoy all the rights of a resident, they do not fulfill their obligations. By "rights" it is probably meant the lack of municipal services, an unsupervised education system and frightful neglect of infrastructure in exchange for the right to receive payments from the National Insurance Institute, which have become the essence of Israeli generosity toward the state's residents. By unfulfilled "obligations" Netanyahu means that many of the knife-wielding assailants have come from these neighborhoods, necessitating retaliatory action, lacking any legal basis, against a civilian population.

But even if Netanyahu finds, or invents, the legal lacuna permitting him to revoke the collective residency rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem, the city will continue to be "stuck with" tens of thousands of Palestinians without rights. These residents won't go anywhere. They will stay in their homes, or they will need work permits like residents of the territories.

In the first years of the occupation and the annexation, Israel made an effort to convince East Jerusalem's Palestinian residents to accept Israeli citizenship, and not just residency. The state understood back then that anyone seeking to annex East Jerusalem cannot give up on trying to win legitimacy from the world as well as the Palestinians. Legitimization would bring along with it, so the leadership hoped, international recognition of the city's unification. Now, Netanyahu makes it clear, there is no such need.

Jerusalem will not be a unified city, rather a purely Jewish city. Indeed, there will be Arabs in it, but they will lack basic human and civil rights. We must not agree to this dangerous and anti-democratic vision.

Al-Monitor – October 26, 2015

Why Kerry Is Prioritizing Syria Over Israeli-Palestinian Peace

By Laura Rozen

US Secretary of State John Kerry returned Oct. 25 from a five-day trip to Europe and the Middle East focused on advancing a diplomatic process for Syria that is seen as an increasingly urgent priority for some of the United States' closest allies in Europe and the region. While Kerry also met with Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian leaders on the trip and proposed measures to try to restore calm, diplomats and current and former officials saw little chance of the United States embarking on a new Israel-Palestine peace push because chances for progress are seen to be so limited and because the urgency of ending the 4½-year-old Syrian war, countering the threat posed by the Islamic State and stemming the Syrian refugee influx have become top national security priorities, especially for Europe.

"Syria, for the US, for Europe … is the next priority," Ghaith al-Omari, an expert on Palestinian issues at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told Al-Monitor on Oct. 26. "Syria has become such a central point [especially] for the Europeans, I don't see any oxygen for dealing with anything else."

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"On the Israel-Palestinian front, I don't see any potential for any progress between [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu on the one hand and [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas on the other," Omari said. "There is no sense if you start anything that these two leaders will play ball."

On Syria, "We feel a sense of urgency," Kerry told reporters after a meeting with the Russian, Saudi and Turkish foreign ministers in Vienna on Oct. 23. He said there will likely be a bigger follow-up meeting as early as Oct. 30 in Paris, which will include more parties.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov proposed that Egypt and Iran, among others, be included in follow-up talks.

"Our position first of all is to get the Syrians to sit down at the negotiating table and, second, to establish a reliable and representative support group in which many more countries would take part than have done so today," Lavrov told reporters after the Vienna meeting Oct. 23. "We have singled out Iran and Egypt as they can have an impact on the situation. Their absence does not promote this process."

Iranian officials did not yet respond to queries whether they expected to attend the Paris meeting. Lavrov spoke with Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif about the Syria consultations on Oct. 24 and Oct. 26, the Russian Foreign Ministry said. Oman's foreign minister also held a rare meeting with Sryia's Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Oct. 26 on how to advance a political process for ending the conflict.

A likely consideration would be if Saudi Arabia accepts being in multilateral talks on Syria that would include Iran, or if there are alternative ideas for working around the impasse — for instance, holding talks with some of the parties in different rooms.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, speaking in Cairo on Oct. 25, said there had been some progress in narrowing positions between the parties on their visions for a Syria process.

"I believe that there has been some progress, and positions have moved closer on finding a solution to the Syrian crisis, but I cannot say that we have reached an agreement," Jubeir said at a press conference with the Egyptian foreign minister in Cairo on Oct. 25. "We still need more consultations … to reach this point."

While there seems to be growing momentum for a Syria political track, the Israeli-Palestinian issue has largely been relegated to the back burner.

Kerry, speaking in Jordan on Oct. 24, announced that Israel had accepted Jordanian King Abdullah's proposal to install cameras on Jerusalem's Temple Mount as one measure to try to reduce tensions. Netanyahu, in a statement that evening, reiterated that Israel was not seeking to change the status quo at the site, under which Muslims could pray there but non-Muslims could visit.

Whether such measures will be sufficient to reduce the violence remains to be seen.

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Ilan Goldenberg, a former aide to former State Department Middle East peace envoy Martin Indyk, said the US administration does not see opportunities for a major Israel-Palestine peace push, but would need to take steps even for the more limited goal of trying to prevent a new major outbreak of violence.

There is "not a grand plan right now for a big move to a new [Israel-Palestine peace] process," Goldenberg, now with the Center for New American Security, told Al-Monitor on Oct. 26.

There is a sense "on all sides … right now, there is no opening for serious [Israeli-Palestinian] negotiations, but American policy should be to try to take effective steps to preserve [a two-state] solution for later on," he said.

Even that more limited policy goal would likely require "a series of steps to deter and prevent the worst outcomes and another major cycle of violence, the collapse of the Palestinian Authority and the types of settlement activity that would make it impossible later on to pursue a two-state solution."

Regarding some reports alleging that Kerry may have discouraged a meeting between Netanyahu and Abbas, Goldenberg said he wasn't aware if that was the case, but noted the two men don't like or trust each other, and nothing good was likely to come out of such a meeting. "They have only met a few times, and they don't like each other," he said. "From past experience … the US has been hesitant about putting them together."

"I doubt there is such a thing," Omari said, referring to a proposed Netanyahu-Abbas meeting. While "Netanyahu always talks [about how] he is willing to meet Abbas 'anytime, anywhere,' [Abbas] is not too keen on a meeting [that would be] used by Netanyahu to say things are fine, when they are not. It would be politically costly, if there are no deliverables. Lose, lose."

Laura Rozen reports on foreign policy from Washington, DC, for Al-Monitor's Back Channel. She has written for Yahoo! News, Politico, and Foreign Policy.

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Issue #32, Spring 2014

Against Disengagement

Today's progressives are often as muddled in their thinking about U.S. involvement in the world as conservatives are divided.

Brian Katulis

The Syria debate last fall offered the latest indication that U.S. foreign policy has entered uncharted political territory. The partisan lines in Congress were scrambled when lawmakers responded to President Obama's request to authorize military force against Syria for using chemical weapons—a request that was withdrawn after Syria agreed to dismantle its arsenal. Strong public opposition to the proposed military action resonated in a polarized Congress that has become increasingly disengaged from national security, especially compared to the decade after 9/11.

Had the Syria vote happened, President Obama probably would have lost it. But the vote's likely outcome was less interesting than the varied responses his request provoked. The arguments that the Syria debate produced within Republican and Democratic camps indicated that the old battle lines in the politics of U.S. foreign policy are being redrawn. Labels like "neoconservative" and "liberal interventionist" have less political relevance as their camps have decreased in size and political clout.

A big reason for this: The American public has grown more skeptical about U.S. engagement in the world. A recent Pew poll found 52 percent of Americans say the United States "should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best that they can on their own," with only 38 percent disagreeing. By contrast, at the height of the Cold War in 1964, only 20 percent agreed that the United States should mind its own business; 30 percent said the same in 2002 at the beginning of the war on terrorism. But progressives must resist the lure of simply focusing inward; instead we should lead the American public toward embracing the current wave of geopolitical change underway in order to guide and shape that transformation. We need to put forth a compelling moral and strategic argument for U.S. engagement in the world. America has an interest in advancing a rules-based international system that strengthens the global common good and supports basic human freedoms and rights. Doing so won't be easy given the need to focus on our problems at home. But without stronger American leadership, the challenges percolating around the world—whether it's Syria's civil war, global economic instability, or the looming threat of climate change—might one day affect us as well.

The current public mood is the continuation of a decades-long breakdown of bipartisan support for international engagement. After World War II, such consensus led to the creation of programs and institutions that defined the postwar era: the Marshall Plan, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This vital center started to collapse in the 1970s due to sharp conflicts over the Vietnam War and economic downturns at home, and the breakdown accelerated with the end of the Cold War.

After a brief moment of national unity following the 9/11 attacks, polarization on national security rose to new levels over the Iraq War. Beyond just deepening the division between progressives and conservatives, the foreign policy mistakes of the Bush era produced major fissures among conservatives on national security. Republicans are now split into three camps: neoconservative defense hawks like Lindsey Graham, Tea Party libertarian budget cutters like Rand Paul, and endangered traditional Republican internationalists like James Baker and Colin Powell. The divisions among conservatives on key foreign policy questions leave progressives with an opening to redefine America's leadership role in the world for the coming years—but progressives must want to seize this opportunity and articulate their worldview more clearly. If conservatives are divided, today's progressives are too often muddled in their thinking about U.S. engagement in the world.

The impulse to circle the wagons is strong and understandable with so many pressing issues facing us at home. Fixing these domestic problems will take money and attention, but it would be a tragic mistake to turn away from the challenges and opportunities of the world. The liberal order that America helped construct over 70 years faces new threats as governments around the world are under increasing pressure from citizens to fulfill basic needs, and more countries go their own way on issues like energy, food supply, and climate change. Progressives should renew the call to advance the common good at home and abroad that we supported during and after World War II.

We're witnessing a global transformation similar to that period. The world needs our vision and ideals. But some on the broad left believe America can do little good in the world. Many have wrongly concluded that the failure of overwhelming military force in Iraq and Afghanistan has proved the futility of deploying America's diplomatic, economic, and military assets. This is a reflexive, wrong, and even dangerous outlook. Yes, the Bush Administration made grievous, costly errors—and the Obama Administration's attempts to correct those mistakes are incomplete—but the Bush Administration's overreach certainly doesn't mean that we should retreat overseas. Progressives need to remember that our military plays an essential role in deterring wars with North Korea and Iran and providing a security umbrella for the global commons that keeps Americans safe and prosperous. It's all the more reason to engage with the world in the right way.

The country is on more solid footing than it was five years ago. Our economy is stronger, we're producing more energy at home and using less of it, and we're now out of unnecessary ground wars of choice. Considering how much we need to get done, leading from behind will no longer suffice. It's time to renew our purpose and lay out a vision of America as a force for good in the twenty-first century.

The Obama Era: A Mixed Record

Certainly one factor complicating America's public attitudes toward U.S. global engagement has been the Obama Administration's mixed foreign policy record, which does not fit easily into the usual frameworks—it's neither "hawkish" nor "dovish." President Obama ended America's involvement in the Iraq War but escalated the Afghanistan War. He has prosecuted a deadly and effective campaign against Al Qaeda and used controversial measures such as drone strikes and kill lists; he also continued the massive surveillance program run by the National Security Agency (NSA). Obama's reactive crisis management and sometimes erratic response to events abroad has often left the public confused, which was evident in his handling of Syria last fall. It's no surprise that the American public was skeptical about his request for authorization to conduct targeted and limited strikes on Syria's Assad regime—the President's public case for the strike was puzzling and bore the Administration's own skepticism about the venture.

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After five years in office, President Obama can point to several major accomplishments overseas, like ending the Iraq War and killing Osama Bin Laden. But many goals remain unmet—among them closing the Guantánamo Bay prison, bringing stability to Afghanistan, achieving a two-state solution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran. Furthermore, the ongoing turmoil and uncertainty in many parts of the Middle East show that the President is far from instituting the "new beginning" in that region he envisioned in his 2009 speech in Cairo.

The Obama Administration's mixed record is due in part to the significant challenges it inherited from its predecessor. The damage done by the Iraq War was considerable. But part of the problem has been the Obama Administration's own lack of clarity about the values it stands for globally, revealed most explicitly in its unsure response to political change in the Middle East and its heavy reliance on targeted drone strikes. The North Star of the Obama Administration's foreign policy has been pragmatism—doing what works (and what is politically salable at home) to achieve results in the world at any given moment. This approach has helped address the aftermath of the disastrous Bush years, but it has not provided much clarity on what America stands for, or what our strategy should be.

More than halfway through Obama's tenure, America finds itself in an uncertain geopolitical moment. America is safer from conventional military threats, and the risk of a major, 9/11-style terrorist attack on the homeland is lower than it was a decade ago. The war in Iraq is over, and our combat role in Afghanistan is coming to an end this year. But possible security threats from regional conflicts and instability in Syria, the Central African Republic, Libya, and Afghanistan remain. Terrorist groups like Al Qaeda have mutated into ever more splintered networks and continue to pose a challenge. These threats could harm our peace and prosperity, and we should be prepared to meet them. The global unemployment crisis, austerity measures, and the lack of basic freedoms have produced chronic social unrest in countries like Brazil, Turkey, and China. New cybersecurity threats loom and could weaken the digital infrastructure and technology essential for the global economy.

A New Four Freedoms Moment

At this moment of global transformation and uncertainty, progressives are better equipped than conservatives to articulate a new vision for global engagement that advances American interests and values. It's not simply that conservatives are divided over what they stand for on national security, and are mired in post-Iraq War malaise in the way that many Democrats were for years after the Vietnam War. It's that the conservative worldview—a lack of faith in the idea that effective government can promote the common good, a disdain for international institutions and treaties—is inadequate and unsuitable for today's global challenges.

Progressives have long been champions of the common good and the idea of promoting it through collaboration with allies. That moral imperative has not been as clear and consistent as it could have been in Obama's first five years. We need to revive it today.

At the start of 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt used his State of the Union address to propose his famous Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Roosevelt delivered this speech at a time when non-interventionism was ascendant at home while threats loomed abroad. Today, we don't see threats on the order of Nazi Germany, but we do see challenges to basic freedoms in places like Egypt and problems like climate change and nuclear proliferation. Today, we need to shape our own "Four Freedoms" moment and articulate a new vision of progressive global engagement.

To do so, progressives need to illuminate their positions on four issues that will define U.S. leadership in the world: taking a clearer stance on global political change and the possibilities for democratic transitions around the world; defining a pragmatic and flexible form of multilateral collaboration; reforming the U.S. national security architecture at a time of budget cuts; and outlining a progressive economic agenda that preserves our leadership in global commerce and finance.

A Progressive Global Values Agenda

Around the world, the struggle to advance the freedoms FDR championed continues in a wide range of contexts. The waves of democratic change that started in the 1970s and continued for 30 years throughout Latin America, Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe face multiple challenges. The reassertion of authoritarianism in reaction to social and political protests in many countries across the globe is worrisome, and the alternative models of authoritarian state capitalism represented by countries like China compete with America's model. Democracy's appeal is still dominant. But the push for democratic progress is under considerable strain, especially in the unfinished upheavals in the Middle East.

More than three years into the Arab uprisings, the chaotic results from the first waves of political change call into question whether the United States, or anyone else for that matter, can influence these struggles for power and legitimacy in the Middle East. Tunisia and Yemen have staggered toward political change while Syria continues to disintegrate and Egypt backslides into authoritarianism. Extremist Islamist ideologies remain a key part of the landscape, and repressive forces are trying to squelch dissent in countries that have seen political openings (like Egypt) and countries that have not (like Saudi Arabia). Progressives need to revive a national conversation about the battle of ideas and how to defeat the lure of extremist Islamist ideologies with nonmilitary means. This discussion about the battle of ideas loomed large in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, but it was quickly forgotten in the wake of Iraq and the global war on terror. Unfortunately, as the Arab uprisings went through their "terrible twos" and passed their third anniversary, the United States was viewed as indifferent, disengaged, and inconsistent in its voice and role in the Middle East.

A progressive values agenda entails four fundamental ideas. First, it requires pushing back against the Obama Administration's tendency to shy away from the tough issues of political change in the Middle East. For example, the Administration's reticence in calling out the repressive and anti-pluralistic moves by both the Muslim Brotherhood-led government of former President Mohamed Morsi and the military-ruled governments has left America with few friends in Egypt.

Second, we must articulate a form of engagement with the region that uses the full range of our powers. This means eschewing simplistic calls from some neoconservatives either to use military force or to threaten cuts in security collaboration with partners in the region as a tool to force democratic change. It also requires substantial reform in America's democracy promotion infrastructure. After more than a decade working on the ground in multiple Middle East countries, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations have not been able to enrich civil society and economic life in the ways we saw in previous waves of democratic change in Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. The U.S. approach to democratic development in the Middle East needs to do more to take into account the importance of economic change and the need for comprehensive political and economic reforms to help societies alter basic power structures. It needs to wrestle with challenges associated with the rise of religious political forces and these groups' stances on pluralism, religious freedom, and inclusion. One issue that deserves more attention from progressives is the status of Christians in the Middle East; the oldest Christian communities in the world are disappearing from the lands where their faith was born and first took root. If Christian communities with deep roots in the region are not respected, then there is little hope for other religious minorities and nonbelievers, and respect for pluralism, a core progressive value, will continue to erode. Along these lines, the U.S. approach also needs to encourage actors in the region to develop stronger political ideologies that go beyond elite personality politics, Islamism, and vague ideas of

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Arab nationalism, and instead offer concrete ideas for solving social and economic problems in a richer political paradigm.

Third, it means enhancing partnerships with key regional powers. For example, Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia have been instrumental in providing economic and diplomatic support to Yemen's ongoing democratic transition. The United States needs to continue backing such efforts. While it is tougher to apply such a model to a case like Egypt—the Muslim Brotherhood is simply too polarizing a force—it is nonetheless essential for the United States to have a candid dialogue with such countries.

Finally, it requires the United States to assume the risks of broad engagement in today's Middle East. Such risks are sadly all too familiar to us: Think of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and his sacrifice in service to his country in Libya in 2012, an example now obscured by a highly politicized debate over conspiracy theories surrounding the Benghazi attacks. Stevens and his colleagues were on the front lines and trying to help shape a positive outcome in postwar Libya. Their loss has had the unfortunate consequence of making America less inclined to engage in the toughest battles.

The most difficult challenge facing America in the Middle East right now is Syria's civil war. The Obama Administration's often confused and confusing approach has not advanced U.S. interests and values in the region, and the lack of a clear strategy from 2011 to 2013 was alarming. The Administration has taken a step in the right direction in pushing a diplomatic effort to end the conflict, but it must go further. The United States must come up with a coherent plan to support the moderate elements of the Syrian opposition. Because we currently lack one, retrograde extremist elements have come to dominate the opposition. The United States also needs to work with close regional partners to prepare security and military options that may at some point become necessary to support diplomatic efforts to end the conflict, in the way that the Clinton Administration used targeted force with political objectives in Bosnia and Kosovo to attain a sustainable peace agreement.

Progressives should shun the magical thinking that U.S. military force might be the panacea for this conflict. But we should also remember that the threat of force in 2013 produced a tangible result: a process for eliminating Syria's deadly chemical weapons arsenal. When force and the threat of force are part of a strategy with clear political ends, it can achieve results. It's true that the process of turning over the weapons isn't going as quickly as expected, but the process is still alive and it has boosted the confidence of key allies in the region. When I was in Israel and Jordan in January, the leaders of both countries were praising the agreement, with Israelis saying that the chemical weapons deal led them to stop a program for distributing gas masks to the public.

Pragmatic Multilateralism and the Global Common Good

In this period of budget cuts, America's bilateral military relations with reliable partners and cooperation in international organizations will loom larger. Getting other countries to pull their weight and contribute to resolving shared security challenges is not just desirable but necessary. A multipolar world means that American leadership is more important, not less. In a world where other powers are stronger, America's leadership style must now privilege genuine listening and consensus building.

We need to listen—but we also need to lead. At times during the Obama years, it has seemed as if America had overlearned the lessons from the Iraq War and leaned away from telling the world where we stand and what we want to get done. Leading from behind hasn't worked. We have an unmatched ability to form global coalitions and mobilize resources—but to do this, we need to ground our strategy in a clear purpose, telling partners what's at stake and what values we are trying to advance.

In many corners of the world, regional powers are rising. India continues to see impressive economic growth, but it will face internal political challenges and a need to implement a wide range of economic reforms. China is now established as an economic powerhouse, but its global role is untested, and the dramatic rise of a middle class there will test the new government. In the Western hemisphere, Mexico is playing an important role in the regional economy. The United States needs to broaden its engagement with these societies. America will also have to better signal how it will deal more effectively with the rise of the rest than we have to date—and do it in a way that doesn't send a message of America in decline.

A new approach would pursue multiple avenues for international cooperation. One key avenue is bilateral strategic relationships with rising powers such as China and India. The United States has already opened dialogues with these countries on how to work toward common goals, but it needs to deepen those discussions. A second avenue is cooperation with regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the African Union. The recent announcement by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that the United States intends to work more closely on security issues with the Gulf Cooperation Council is an example of how the United States might seek to demand more out of existing multilateral organizations.

Security Institutions in a Time of Budget Cuts

Progressives need to continue making the case for an overhaul of U.S. national security institutions, with a focus on three areas: defense transformation, intelligence reform, and continued efforts to strengthen diplomatic and development institutions.

Defense transformation. After years of military overreach, many progressives are naturally skeptical about the use of force abroad. But to advance freedom from fear and to keep Americans safe, we need to maintain a strong military that can develop the capacities of partners so they can do more.

After the defense budget grew at an unprecedented rate for a decade, we are starting to see that trend slow. Initial defense budget-cutting efforts have focused on waste, duplication, and unneeded weapons programs. But the Pentagon still needs to make structural reforms in several key areas where substantial cost savings are possible: the weapons-system acquisition process; compensation for service members and retirees, especially in health care; and operations and maintenance costs. Progressives can continue to play an important role in reducing the defense budget, working with libertarian conservatives who support smaller government.

Intelligence and special operations reform. Reform in our intelligence and counterterrorism institutions should focus on intelligence collection, targeted military strikes, and terrorist detainees. On collection, there are two urgent matters. First, the United States must address the privacy and civil liberties issues at stake in NSA surveillance activities. The revelations about the NSA's activities have raised important questions about the very nature of our democracy and have dimmed America's image around the world. Second, the U.S. intelligence community has been overly focused on counterterrorism over the past decade, and this was part of the reason the Arab uprisings took us by surprise. We need to build the capability to understand and interpret changes underway—including rising Islamist militancy, which presents a threat to security and to core progressive values.

Progressives should continue the debate over the use of force against terrorist targets, especially drone strikes. With the end of combat operations in Afghanistan set for later this year, the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force will likely require amendments to ensure a legal framework for strikes against terrorist groups in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and elsewhere. [See "Battlefield Earth," Issue #31.] The coming end of the Afghanistan War presents an opportunity for us to partner with some conservatives in establishing a stronger oversight framework on executive branch activities to target terrorist networks with a global reach. We must also push to close the Guantánamo Bay prison and other detention facilities and establish new bilateral arrangements and international means to deal with terrorism suspects under the rule of law.

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Strengthening Development and Diplomatic Institutions. Between 2006 and 2013, the United States moved from the "shock and awe" militarism phase of the Bush era with the surge in Iraq and started talking more about "smart power"—an effort that has led to mixed and incomplete results.

In Afghanistan, the much-touted civilian surge of 2010-11 that accompanied the troop increases did not leave an enduring imprint. Counterinsurgency efforts failed to keep Afghan civilians safe and did not produce lasting institutions. In Pakistan, the Biden-Lugar bill (later named the Kerry-Lugar bill) tripled nonmilitary assistance to that country, but the creaky structures of the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) lacked the capacity to disburse large portions of this additional aid in a timely fashion. After trillions were spent in the past decade in military and civilian development efforts to stabilize Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries, many of these countries do not appear more stable. Unless we intend to leave a trail of failed states behind us, we must rebuild the capacities of USAID and other institutions and ensure that they're having impact on the ground for the long haul.

Rebuilding America's Economy

A top priority in advancing a progressive national security agenda is rebuilding a key source of American power—its economy. Progressives should make the case that freedom from want at home is linked to freedom from want abroad.

The traditional tools of fiscal and monetary policy have less impact than they did three decades ago due to the increasingly interlinked nature of the global economy. With America's economy on more solid footing than when President Obama entered office in 2009, progressives should make the case that policies shaping health care, education, infrastructure, and social safety nets affect America's global standing and leadership in the world.

It also means reckoning with the thorny issue of free trade. In his three remaining years in office, President Obama hopes to reach a trade agreement with Europe that would create the largest trading bloc in the world, as well as a 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership treaty that would cover 40 percent of world economic output, from Chile to Japan. This global economic agenda has the potential to create economic growth and jobs in America, but the Administration must take great care in negotiating these deals to ensure that they benefit the common good and help American workers and consumers.

Many progressives see the turn toward globalization in the 1990s as a grim development that led to outsourced jobs and benefited only a small group of multinational corporations. There are similar worries about the Obama Administration's approach on the proposed European and Asian trade deals; consequently, learning the lessons from previous expansions in global trade will be critical. There should be enforceable rules that prevent trading partners from manipulating the value of their currencies to obtain unfair competitive advantage. In advancing an agenda that helps strengthen America's position in the next phase of globalization, progressive leaders can mediate between large multinational corporations and key constituency groups such as labor unions, and in doing so build tactical alliances with Republicans who favor free trade. Expanding U.S. access to emerging markets at a time when the middle class is growing in those countries presents great opportunities for win-win economic growth—but it must be done with agreements that avoid a race to the bottom on wages and standards.

The End of Strategic Drift

After more than a decade of unnecessary wars, economic problems, and persistent talk of America's decline, it's easy to forget that America remains a great power and that we've done a lot of good things—that is, when we've been true to our values and clear about what costs we're willing to bear to keep the country safe and prosperous.

The United States is in the midst of a major transformation in the politics of national security, and progressives are well positioned to construct a new style of international engagement that appeals to the American public and advances a new type of leadership in the world. Conservatives will likely face stronger internal forces requiring them to focus inward and make fewer arguments for American engagement overseas. Rand Paul and the Tea Party are tugging the party toward retrenchment and away from the neoconservatism of the George W. Bush years and the internationalism of Brent Scowcroft and Colin Powell. What we may see is a Republican Party in which the conservative foreign policy elites and commentators become increasingly disconnected from the base of the party. Progressives will need to build a series of tactical alliances with the competing conservative foreign policy camps—making common cause with Republican internationalists on supporting international organizations like the United Nations and expanding free trade, and working with libertarian voices to institute sensible defense budget and intelligence community reforms.

Among Democrats, there is an internal debate emerging about Obama's legacy and what he has achieved in the world. There will be voices that are more critical of Obama's record on Afghanistan and the changes in the Middle East as well as those expressing serious concerns about the NSA's massive surveillance program. With so much uncertainty across the Middle East, how the current policies on Iran, Syria, Egypt, and the Arab-Israeli peace process develop in 2014 and 2015 are bound to have a major impact on this internal debate.

For progressives, this period of global transformation offers opportunities to make the case for a more pragmatic, measured engagement in the world while America continues to deal with problems at home. Some progressives seem to want to avoid the world's most pressing problems and shun the opportunities that could benefit America's security and economy through a new vision of global engagement.

For example, a number of Democrats in Congress joined Republicans and came out in favor of more sanctions on Iran at a delicate phase in the diplomacy that's attempting to put an end to that country's nuclear program. This was a mistake—because it would close off the possibilities created by the Bush and Obama Administrations' painstaking efforts to engage Iran.

Another missed opportunity over the past three years was the Middle East uprisings. Democrats joined Republicans in Congress in not backing a proposal for funding a Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund, a pot of money that would have created incentives for countries in the region to implement economic, political, and trade reforms. Earlier this year, the Obama Administration announced it was cutting back on its plans in this area of democracy promotion in the Middle East, another missed opportunity. Now, it is understandable why many progressives were skeptical about Obama's proposed use of military force in Syria last year—the risks were high, and the arguments coming from the Administration weren't as clear as they could have been. But deciding to unilaterally disarm in the battle of ideas is a mistake that will undermine our security in the long run.

The concept of national security is broader and more challenging in a globalized, interdependent world than it was during the Cold War. For decades, our vision and engagement have helped advance freedom and dignity. We've seen bastions of brutal authoritarianism like South America and Central and Eastern Europe become home to flourishing democracies. And though it doesn't feel like it, the world has gotten a lot safer, with the end of major-power wars in places like Europe and East Asia, the spread of vaccines, the advances against polio and AIDS, and improved access to health care globally.

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Finally, progressives should stand with oppressed people everywhere—whether it's democratic opponents of Assad in Syria, women and girls in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Christians in the Middle East, and both Palestinians and Israelis who want to end their historical divisions. Some argue that it's not worth it and don't believe America can be a force for good in these complicated situations. That view sells America short and abandons these people to their fate. Freedom of speech; freedom of religion; freedom from want; and freedom from fear: These are lofty ambitions and there are many forces worldwide trying to blunt them. We must take wise steps to keep them alive.

Brian Katulis is a senior fellow for national security at the Center for American Progress.

From: Suzy George <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com >
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:41 PM
To: Brian Katulis
Subject: RE: 'Committed to Democracy and Unity: Public Opinion Survey in Libya'

We were working on a Ukraine topic but not sure it will come together.

Would love any ideas you have.

From: Brian Katulis [mailto:bkatulis@americanprogress.org]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:32 PM
To: Suzy George
Subject: RE: 'Committed to Democracy and Unity: Public Opinion Survey in Libya'

what's the next dinner topic? I have an idea

From: Suzy George <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com >
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Brian Katulis
Subject: RE: 'Committed to Democracy and Unity: Public Opinion Survey in Libya'

Sorry missed this earlier this week. Call me at the office this afternoon if you are around. 202-370-3578 or anytime on my cell 202-309-1204.

Thanks.
Suzy

From: Brian Katulis [mailto:bkatulis@americanprogress.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Suzy George
Subject: RE: 'Committed to Democracy and Unity: Public Opinion Survey in Libya'

Thanks

I'm back from Jordan - let me know if you want to catch up.

Brian

From: Suzy George <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com >
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:52 PM
To: Brian Katulis
Subject: FW: 'Committed to Democracy and Unity: Public Opinion Survey in Libya'

From: me_ndi@ndi.org [mailto:me_ndi@ndi.org] **On Behalf Of** Ken Wollack
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:32 PM
To: Me_ndi@ndi.org
Subject: Fwd: 'Committed to Democracy and Unity: Public Opinion Survey in Libya'

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Attached is the third in a series of nationwide public opinion surveys launched in May 2013 to evaluate changes in Libyan public opinion as the political transition proceeds. This study focuses on citizens' views on the upcoming constitution-drafting process, the General National Congress (GNC), and regional autonomy.

Findings from the study reveal that most Libyans view elected institutions, leaders, and political parties with increasing negativity. Despite frustration and profound security concerns, however, Libyans remain optimistic about the country's future and continue to believe that democracy constitutes the best form of government. The findings also show widespread disapproval of moves towards regional autonomy by non-state groups, and outline citizens' views on international organizations and their engagement with Libya.

The survey, which was carried out from November 10 to December 8, was conducted in partnership with Copenhagen-based JMW Consulting and the Libyan firm Diwan for Market Research. Funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of a broader political development program led by NDI, it gathered opinions from 1,200 randomly selected Libyan nationals from across the country, ages 18 and older.

The attached report will soon be available on NDI's website , which also features the first two surveys in the series and reports from NDI's on-going focus group research.

With best regards,

Ken

Kenneth Wollack
President
National Democratic Institute
455 Massachusetts Ave., NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
202-728-5500 (Tel)
888-875-2887 (Fax)
email: ken@ndi.org
website: www.ndi.org

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to me_ndi+unsubscribe@ndi.org .

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From: ThinkProgress <progress@americanprogressaction.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/7/2016 5:17:43 AM
Subject: One weird solution to football's concussion problem

THINKPROGRESS

Head trauma is a huge problem in football -- and thought it seems like the opposite of a solution, getting rid of helmets could actually help. Militant ranchers in Oregon are still trying to "take back their land" -- which this 6,000 year old tribe, forced off the land less 200 years ago, has a big problem with. And, the Obama administration recently authorized large-scale deportation raids: Here's what a raid actually looks like.

Why James Hansen Is Wrong About Nuclear Power

Climatologist James Hansen argued last month, “Nuclear power paves the only viable path forward on climate change.” He is wrong....**(read more)**

Could Getting Rid Of Helmets Actually Make Football Safer?

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Oregon Tribal Leaders Say Militant Group Needs To 'Get The Hell Out'

The Oregon tribe that once inhabited the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge has made its stance clear on the militant group now occupying refuge headquarters: They're not welcome. **...(read more)**

How A Racist Troll Pretended To Be Ammon Bundy On Twitter And Punked Most Of The Media

This Is What A Deportation Raid Is Like

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com.

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From: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 11:40:24 AM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.
>
> John Anzalone
> Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> 334-387-3121. Office
> @AnzaloneLiszt
>
> On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> > Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> > Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> > My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> > **To:** Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience**
> >
> > # DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
> >
> > If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.
> >
> > Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.
> >
> > On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.
> >
> > The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.
> >
> > By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary

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Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

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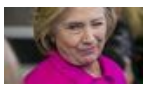

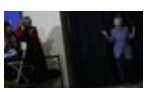

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- 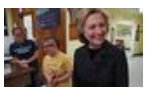
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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

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Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/1/2008 3:33:23 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/01/08

Main Topics: Surrogates respond to Clark's remarks and predictions on future terror attacks, McCain's free trade campaign, McSame on Social Security

Summary of Shift: Obama's faith-based program initiative was the centerpiece for tonight's political coverage. Several programs report that tomatoes may not be the source of a recent salmonella outbreak. Reports on the commander of the SS Cole, the Christian left and shock hazards the US soldiers face in their showers in Iraq were also featured stories. Bobby Jindal faces an angry constituency and state legislature in the face of a controversy over legislative pay raises. In lieu of increased likelihood that Israel will strike Iran imminently an Iranian foreign minister declares Iran will make no distinction between an attack from Israel or the US.

Highlights
1) McCain surrogates on the airwaves
   a. CNN: Rudy Giuliani raises the specter of future terror attack on US soil
   b. MSNBC: Pfotenhauer claims Bush's Iraq policy was unpopular with himself
2) McCain's free-trade campaigning
   a. CNN: Panel finds McCain's strategy utterly laughable
   b. MSNBC: Maddow makes the Black-Colombia connection
   c. MSNBC: McCain's travels are likely a way to court the Latino vote
3) MSNBC: Panelists expect McCain to distance himself from Bush on Social Security
4) CNN: Independent contractors will no longer be under immunity in Iraq [no clip]
5) FNC: Shepard Smith covers McCain's claim that Obama will pack the Supreme Court with liberals
6) CNN: John McCain plans to hold a softball tournament in lieu of a ban on fireworks in Arizona [no clip]
7) CNN: McCain campaign pulls web ad on site that links Obama followers to followers of Adolph Hitler [no clip]
8) CNN: Iraq goes through near-catastrophic gas shortages [no clip]
9) FNC: Comparison of Obama's and McCain's platform on nuclear power [no clip]
10) CNN: Comparison of Obama's and McCain's energy, economic and tax platform [no clip]
11) MSNBC: Olbermann reports: McCain doesn't know the price of gas [no clip]
12) MSNBC: *Hardball* reports on Roberta McCain being "muzzled" [no clip]
13) MSNBC: During segment on Gen Clark's comments, lower-third of screen bar reads, "2003: McCain Says War Service Doesn't Qualify You For Pres." [no clip]

Clips
Highlight #1
Rudy Giuliani: 'The Safe Thing is to Assume They're Gonna Attack Us Again' (CNN 07/01/08 5:30pm)
[Clip opens with summary of John McCain's appearance at the Sherriff's Association, moves to excerpt of Clark's statement and then to interview.]
RUDY GIULIANI: [laughing] John McCain's not running as a fighter pilot. John McCain has also been a United States Senator, United States Congressman; he's probably been one of the most active—maybe even, in some ways, a controversial—member of the United States Senate by taking on a leadership role, which he even stood up against his own party.

JOHN ROBERTS: But he is using his military service as a centerpiece to burnish his credentials on national security.

GIULIANI: I think he's using his many, many years of experience in the United States Senate, going all over the world, being involved in negotiations and discussions on almost every single world issue. To try to say that John McCain is running as a fighter pilot is kinda—I mean, it's laughable.

ROBERTS: Is Senator McCain—

GIULIANI: The difference is—and I think this is why Wesley Clark is doing this—Senator Obama has no experience. Senator Obama has a very short career in the United States Senate, where he's accomplished nothing compared to John McCain who's past landmark legislation and, before that, he was in the state legislature. So, when you put the two resumes against each other, one has the background and experience to take on the most difficult job in the world. The other there's a real question mark about.

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ROBERTS: Is Senator McCain any more qualified on national security than you are?

GIULIANI: **Is Senator McCain more qualified? He certainly has more experience than I have.** I think I know quite a bit about national security because I've been in the Justice Department. I've negotiated with foreign governments. I've traveled to 35 countries. I just got back from Kazakhstan, but I consider John McCain one of the premiere experts on national security in our country right now.

ROBERTS: Because I remember back in September of 2007 he said this about your experience. He said, 'I think the nation respects the mayor's leadership after 9/11 and I do too. I don't think it translates necessarily, into foreign policy or national security expertise. I know of nothing in his background that indicates he has any experience in it, with him or Romney.'

GIULIANI: I think that John—we were running against each other then and we say things about each other I think if John—

ROBERTS: You say things that aren't true?

GIULIANI: Well I think John maybe wasn't focusing on the fact that I was the third-ranking official in the Justice Department, that I had a lot of contact with Interpol, that I negotiated with two or three foreign governments, that I've been in—I've been on 90 foreign trips in the last six years alone, that I've lead delegations. I've had a good deal of foreign policy experience, but, if you're asking me, 'Has John?' John has had just about the most of anyone that has ever run for president.

ROBERTS: But do you think he's more qualified to be president than you are?

GIULIANI: I thought I was the best qualified to be president and I once announced in a debate […], if I wasn't running, John McCain would be my candidate. So, for personal reasons, […] I though I was the best qualified, but I thought John was number two.

ROBERTS: Doesn't that mean […] you're better able to handle national security?

GIULIANI: **It isn't just about foreign policy.** It isn't just about domestic policy. It's about a whole array of things.

I'm not a candidate. I'm not a choice. John was my number two choice after me and I got out of the race when I did because I was so convinced it was important for the country that John McCain get nominated. I didn't want to stand in the way of him.

ROBERTS: Senator Joe Lieberman said something the other day that took some people by surprise. He predicted that America will be the subject of another terrorist attack on the homeland, in early 2009 […]. Many people out there—democrats mostly—are saying, 'Hey! He's playing into the politics of fear here.'

GIULIANI: I don't think the Senator's doing that. I think that what the Senator's trying to do is deal with something that's almost inscrutable, which is, how to interpret what these terrorists were gonna do. **Here's the safe thing for us to do: the safe thing for us to do is to assume they're gonna attack us again and to be prepared for it.**

ROBERTS: Do you believe there will be an attack? Are you as convinced as he is?

GIULIANI: Do I believe that they are attempting to attack us again? Absolutely. Do I know if they'll be successful at it? I hope not.

They have attempted to attack us again

ROBERTS: But [Lieberman] was pretty definitive about this, saying that there will be a terror attack in early 2009.

GIULIANI: But excess of caution—**you're better off assuming there's gonna be an attack.**

ROBERTS: So would you make that prediction? I would not predict a time and what I would say is, **'We should be on guard that there will be an attack. They are attempting to attack us. We are attempting to stop them. You cannot always be 100% perfect.'**

I was in London for the attacks in London a few years ago and it was a very eerie experience, having been in New York, sort of at the center of that group of attacks and then in London, a half-block away from the Liverpool

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station where the first bomb went off. So I'm the last one that's ever gonna discount the possibility of an attack.

ROBERTS: […] There appears to be a direct connection between camps in Pakistan and what happened there in London on July 7th. Do you believe the Unite States should be more active in chasing down terrorists in Pakistan?

GIULIANI: […] I've been saying that for quite some time. […] Pakistan is an independent government with nuclear weapons. That's gotta be worked about but it's gotta be worked out in a way that we achieve our objective.

ROBERTS: […] do you believe there is any place for Osama Bin Laden in the American judicial system?

GIULIANI: This is a military matter. It's not a judicial—but this is part of the problem with the whole Barack Obama campaign and the whole democratic approach to this. They want to treat this as a criminal justice matter and it isn't. This is the thing we failed to see in 1993 when they attacked us at the World Trade Center. It was treated purely as a criminal justice matter. We gotta get beyond that.

This is a war. This is a situation in which they have attacked us. They've attacked us over and over again. We've been very fortunate since September 11, 2001—since we've been on offense under President Bush—not to have a domestic attack. If we go back into this, 'let's treat this as a criminal justice matter solely,' I believe we're gonna put our country in much more jeopardy. At least, that's my opinion.

ROBERTS: […] You were quite happy to have them prosecuted in the justice system [in 1993]. Why not now?

GIULIANI: That's because I didn't know then what I know now. I don't criticize the people for doing that back then.

ROBERTS: So are you saying you were wrong for saying that back then?

GIULIANI: I didn't know the facts that I know now. What I have said since September 11 is, 'If we knew back in 1993 what we found out on September 11, we should have treated this as a long-term terrorist issue.' Now, knowing those facts, why would you want to go back to treating it purely as a criminal justice matter?

ROBERTS: So you were premature in those comments? I didn't have the facts at that time. When I got the facts, I changed my mind.

Pfotenhauer: McCain's Surge Policy "Was Particularly Unpopular With President Bush," Defends McCain Against Fear-Mongering Charges (MSNBC 07/01/08 10:54am)
MONICA NOVOTNY: Are Republicans flaying the fear card in arguing John McCain's foreign policy experience? Last week McCain's chief strategist came under fire for saying an attack in the United States would benefit his candidate. This week it is Joe Lieberman's turn. McCain supporters saying that his candidate would be the one that would be best prepared if there were a terror attack in 2009.

[clip of Lieberman]

NOVOTNY: […] So Nancy, two men both tied to the McCain campaign talking about terrorist attacks alongside the candidate's credentials. Is this playing into the vote fears?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I don't think so. I think it's discussing what's obviously on the minds of many American voters and on the front page of most newspapers […] My own poll of one, if you will, is that we've been spending as much or more time talking about the economy and particularly the energy crisis as we have been the concerns […] and the challenges we face in the national security arena.

[…]

PFOTENHAUER: **As you recall, when Senator McCain challenged the surge, […] or challenged the current strategy in Iraq and was pushing the surge, alongside General Petraeus, this was incredibly unpopular here in Washington. It was particularly unpopular with President Bush.** And he did it because that's when he felt was right on the ground. And he put the interests of the country first. History has shown that he was right on that call.

NOVOTNY: Let's get back to Lieberman's comments. White House spokesman Dana Perino said that she agreed was Senator Lieberman. Is this part now of some October Surprise strategy at play?

PFOTENHAUER: Not at all. That I can attest to. […] Senator Lieberman, is, of course, known as one of the most

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analytical and thoughtful members of the U.S. Senate. I think he was doing an historical analysis, which is really how show approaches almost any issue.[…]

Highlight #2
Panel Finds McCain's Free Trade Campaigning Decision Questionable (CNN 07/01/08 8:24pm)
KITTY PILGRIM: Senator McCain [is] traveling to Colombia, then going to Mexico. Just fill me on what you think this strategy—how this makes sense, Steve.

STEVE COCHRAN: Well, I'm not sure that it does, from a political standpoint because swing states being crucial and swing states being in the economic position they're in—it's tough. You can argue all you want about this being a new economy and a world-wide economy, until the rest of the world plays by the same rules and standards that we hold America to the imbalance is just gonna get bigger and bigger and people are gonna lose jobs. So we can make the rules and we can keep our end of the bargain, but the people we're dealing with aren't doing their share. China's a fine example of that on the other end of the world.

[…]

WILMER LEON: […] when Senator McCain's primary solutions seem to be improving programs for unemployed workers and increasing unemployment benefits or continuing unemployment benefits instead of really trying to find tangible and workable solutions, in terms of how we're gonna stop this country from hemorrhaging jobs.

[Airs a segment from McCain's free trade commercial with Spanish subtitles.]

PILGRIM: [attempting to contain laughter] It really is hard to see how this is going to sell….

[Panel laughs collectively]

[…]

MARK SIMONE: [also attempting to contain laughter] Basically some people wonder: Does McCain even really want to win this and why [Pilgrim chuckles] even bring this up? It's like campaigning with a Halliburton jacket on.

COCHRAN: And an Enron hat.

[laughter]

SIMONE: This would be like Obama taking Wesley Clark to dinner tonight. I mean, why would you even do this? It's like the third rail of the subway—stay away from it!

LEON: [McCain] also wants to equate people who want to even negotiate or discuss this issue—he equates them to be isolationists and protectionists and these are a lot of people who just want to keep their jobs. They just want to feed their families. There's nothing—well, you're protecting your job—but there's nothing isolationist about wanting to feed your family.

[Pilgrim introduces new CNN/Opinion research poll from June 26-29:

Foreign trade is a threat to economy – 51%
Opportunity for economic growth – 41%]

PILGRIM: […] if you look at it over time that 51% […] has come up from 35% in the year 2000. So increasingly Americans are starting to see these lopsided trade policies as a threat to their economy.

SIMONE: **That's why you gotta wonder about McCain's judgment.** It wasn't necessary to even do this. Why did he even bother?

COCHRAN: Well because you know, he doesn't want to be accused of flip-flopping on it, but **he is literally at a tipping point here and he needs to go very quiet on this issue and not deal with it and move forward on other things because the damage done by flip-flopping is nothing compared to the damage he's gonna do if he sticks to this line.**

PILGRIM: By taking the wrong subject to the American public […].

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[The panel moves to a discussion of Obama's evangelical outreach.]

SIMONE: […] McCain is weak there. McCain doesn't speak their language. If he is a very religious guy, he's kept it very private. […]

McCain's Colombia Trip Puts Black "Back Under the Microscope" (MSNBC 07/01/08 6:30pm)
RACHAEL MADDOW: **Because of this Colombia trip, back under the microscope now is McCain's campaign advisor, Charlie Black, whose lobbying firm has represented Colombian oil interests.** Black isn't going with McCain to Colombia but McCain choosing this trip, this country, ensures more headlines about Charlie Black and about the lobbyists and ex-lobbyists who are in McCain's inner circle. **Michelle, do you think McCain thinks the lobbyist controversy has blown over? That it's too complicated an issue to do him any real political harm?**

MICHELLE BERNARD**: I think he probably would've thought that until this program aired tonight . . . otherwise he would not be taking this trip right now. This is the issue that will not go away** . . . it is very difficult to get away from people who have not been lobbyists in some capacity whatsoever . . . **I think the McCain campaign is going to just stop talking about the problem with lobbyists as much as possible and hope that that's an issue that will go away.**

[. . .]

MADDOW: . . . is this a liability for McCain at this point or is it something that he's put past him?

McCain has Little Support for his Immigration Platform but Colombia Trip Lets Him Campaign Across the US (MSNBC 07/01/08 5:10pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: . . . John McCain really got killed among the conservative base, the Republican base, for the position that he took on immigration, where he aligned himself with George Bush. So he's not getting credit from the Hispanic community at the same time as he's getting killed among the base.

CHUCK TODD: And well part of it, he's changed his rhetoric too . . . but look, this trip to Colombia and then to Mexico, he's going to visit some very important religious symbols to . . . Catholic Hispanics. He's going to get saturation coverage with the Hispanic media here in the United States. This is . . . as if he's courting New Mexico voters and Florida voters and Arizona voters and Colorado voters by going to Colombia.

Highlight #3
McCain Expected to Push McDifferent on Social Security (MSNBC 07/01/08 6:25pm)
RACHAEL MADDOW**: . . . a new Gallup poll shows . . . 68% who say they are worried, to a certain extent, that McCain is too close to Bush. Smelling blood, the DNC is now running another ad linking McCain and Bush . . .**

[DNC ad comparing Bush and McCain on Social Security runs]

MADDOW: Is Social Security another issue on which we should expect McCain to try to put some distance between himself and Bush? Does McCain need a few more issues where he can say, "Look, I disagree with the president"? . . .

GENE ROBINSON: Well, I don't see how he can do it on Social Security . . . he's taken the position that private accounts would be necessary to save the system. You know, that's really one of the traditional electric third rails of politics and I can't imagine that stance is really going to do McCain a lot of good, either in trying to distance himself from George Bush or simply in trying to get elected president.

JOHN HARWOOD: . . . he could renounce privatization. There's been some ambiguity between McCain and his advisors on exactly what he supported, whether he was going to go back Bush's route and look, even if you support privatization, it is plain . . . that's not going anywhere. So what John McCain could do in a bold stroke was renounce it . . .

MADDOW: I think that we're beginning to see a little bit of that in the way **that he has distanced himself from the word "privatization" even though he is still saying he is in favor of private accounts** . . .

--
Jacob Roberts

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PAO
208.420.3470 (c)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Hudson Institute" <info@hudson.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/17/2015 11:00:04 AM
Subject: News from Hudson: Iran Deal, Modi's India, Seapower, and more

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From: "Pam Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 7:40:30 AM
Subject: Re: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton \and My Children's Request

Thank you so much!!
Best wishes and thank you for all your work.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2015, at 2:14 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Did my best to get to the President's team. Good luck
>
> On May 7, 2015 3:29 PM, "Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu > wrote:
>
> > Dear Mr. Podesta,
> >
> > I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.
> >
> > Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.
> >
> > Sincerely,
> > Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.
> >
> >
> > Dear Mr. President,
> >
> > I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but **I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.**
> >
> > Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.
> >
> > My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
> > Miko's: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
> > Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com
> >
> > Thank you so much.
> > With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters,
> > Pam Vergun
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.
> >
> > Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
> > vergun@alumni.stanford.edu
> > 3545 NW Ashland Place
> > Beaverton, Oregon 97006

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Hm: 503-645-6642
Mo: 503-332-7633

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beaverton-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	4/5/2015 8:37:08 AM
Subject:	4.5.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150405 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
April 5, 2015

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High Political Stakes For Hillary Clinton On Iran Nuclear Agreement (Associated Press)
By Ken Thomas and Julie Pace
April 4, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton can claim a piece of the victory if the U.S. and other world powers ultimately complete a final nuclear deal with Iran.

She will own a piece of the failure if the negotiations collapse or produce a weak deal.

Her statement after Thursday's tentative agreement suggests the soon-to-be Democratic candidate for president knows those are her stakes.

She called the framework "an important step," while cautioning that "the devil is always in the details."

"The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high," said Clinton, who helped lay the groundwork for the diplomacy with Iran as President Barack Obama's first secretary of state. "There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed."

The issue will figure prominently in the foreign policy debate of the 2016 presidential campaign. Nearly all the expected GOP candidates said the outline agreement was dangerous to U.S. interests.

"This attempt to spin diplomatic failure as a success is just the latest example of this administration's farcical approach to Iran," said Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. He is likely to make foreign policy a centerpiece of his candidacy.

But Clinton occupies a unique space on the nuclear issue because of her role in Obama's Cabinet. She sent a close adviser, Jake Sullivan, to participate in the secret talks with Iran that led to the start of the international negotiations over the country's nuclear ambitions.

Clinton is also navigating delicate ties with Israel and the American Jewish community, an influential group of voters and donors. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a fierce critic of the Obama administration's outreach to Iran, described the framework deal as a threat to "the very survival" of his nation.

"I don't know how you can maneuver all aspects of this politically," said Ray Takeyh, a senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. "You can be supportive and skeptical. I suspect that's the direction."

The tentative agreement announced Thursday by the U.S. and its negotiating partners — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia — is aimed at keeping Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Negotiators have until June 30 to settle the technical details.

The deal would remove economic penalties against Iran once the U.N. nuclear agency verifies Tehran's compliance.

At times, Clinton has tried to play up her connection to the historic diplomacy. The U.S. and Iran severed diplomatic relations in 1979 after the Islamic revolution and the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, where 52 Americans were held hostage for more than a year.

When Obama was getting credit for the clandestine negotiations, Clinton's aides made sure reporters knew that the approach had started during her tenure at the State Department.

Clinton wrote in her memoir of how she set the negotiations in motion by facilitating back-channel discussions with Iran through the sultan of Oman, who suggested the talks after he helped free an American hiker held by Iran. Clinton tapped Sullivan to establish contact with the Iranians in 2012, an important step in the path to Thursday's preliminary agreement.

Sullivan has closely consulted with Clinton on policy as she prepares to announce her presidential campaign this month. The 38-year-old Sullivan is seen as her likely pick, if she wins the presidency, as national security

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adviser.

Yet Clinton also expressed doubt as the talks dragged on and she neared a return to politics.

Last year, Clinton told an American Jewish organization that while Obama had given 50-50 odds of an agreement, she was "skeptical the Iranians will follow through and deliver." She said she had "seen many false hopes dashed through the years."

Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at the left-leaning Center for American Progress who focuses on national security policy in the Middle East and South Asia, said if a full deal is reached by the summer, Clinton would be "part of something historic" because of her initial role.

If it failed, he predicted she still would be "in a strong position at the center of the debate, because Iran would be widely viewed as the spoiler."

With public polling showing a majority of Americans favor a diplomatic resolution to Iran's nuclear ambitions, Katulis said, "any effort by Republicans to criticize Clinton's support for diplomacy might ultimately push them to the margins of today's national security debate and away from the center."

Clinton appears set to go on offense against the Republicans in the race on Iran. After dozens of Republican senators sent a letter to Iran's leaders warning that Congress could upend a deal, Clinton said the lawmakers were "out of step with the best traditions of American leadership."

"Either these senators were trying to be helpful to the Iranians or harmful to the commander in chief in the midst of high-stakes international diplomacy," she said. "Either answer does discredit" to the letter-signers.

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How will Hillary announce? (The Hill)
By Ben Kamisar
April 4, 2015
The Hill

It's no longer a question of will Hillary Clinton run for president. It's a question of how she'll do it.

Clinton is widely expected to announce her second bid for the White House in the next two weeks, which overnight will thrust her nascent political operation into the spotlight.

The former New York senator has been battered with bad press over the last several weeks, with questions raised about donations her family foundation took from foreign nations as well as her decision to not have a government email account while serving as secretary of State.
The 2016 launch gives Clinton a chance to take control of the narrative on her candidacy, and to reintroduce her political brand to the public.

It's a critically important moment for both Clinton and the Democratic Party, which at this point doesn't have a strong option in 2016 aside from the former first lady.

Here are a series of key decisions that Clinton needs to make before she jumps in.

Will she announce in a video or will there be an event?

In January 2007, Clinton used a message on her website to announce her 2008 run for the White House.

"I'm in, and I'm in to win," Clinton told the world.

But outside of a few webcasts in the following days, that Clinton campaign staged a very slow rollout. She gave no political speeches until March, when she marked the anniversary of the Selma civil rights marches in Alabama.

Many strategists expect her to release another video in April, but follow it up with a swing through key primary and general election states. Without the obligations in the Senate that tied her up in 2008, she can build off that momentum and work to define her candidacy from the start.

"I think you do multiple speeches in key states and showcase that she is going to be a candidate that will go to every corner of the country, even go to some red states and take the message there," one Democratic strategist said, adding that a multi-state rollout could show that Clinton won't take anything for granted this time.

Where will the announcement be made?

Hillary Clinton has been the first lady, a New York senator and a secretary of State. She has family roots in Illinois, a history in Arkansas and homes in New York and Washington. She is expected to run her campaign from Brooklyn.

The lack of an obvious choice frees her up to launch anywhere, including in key primary or general election states.

One Democratic strategist floated the idea of a kick-off in upstate New York for this campaign. That would serve a dual role of highlighting her service in the Senate and as well as her ability to win approval in GOP-leaning areas.

"People forget that she was a very successful senator that did very well even in Republican parts of New York," he said.

Peter Fenn, a Democratic consultant who is also a pundit for The Hill, said that her best bet would be a social media push coupled with an announcement tour in the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire. Clinton's upset loss in Iowa in 2008 represented the first major crack in her armor of inevitability, so many strategists predict she'll spend substantial energy on the Hawkeye state.

Who will be with Hillary?

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Will former President Bill Clinton, Chelsea Clinton or Hillary Clinton's new granddaughter make an appearance?

It's a difficult question for Clinton, given her unique political family.

Candidates typically jump into the field alongside their smiling spouses and children, in part to show voters that the candidate is just like us. But some question whether inviting President Clinton to stand alongside her during her first big event might force Hillary Clinton to share the spotlight.

Democratic strategists who spoke to The Hill agreed that inviting her family would help Clinton.

"Her family absolutely should be there, her husband and her daughter and her grandchild," one strategist said.

"Bill should be there. He's very popular within the party, he's her husband and he was probably her biggest supporter [in the 2008 campaign]."

Will she embrace her campaign as a historic moment?

Clinton shied away from the narrative of becoming the first female president at times in 2008, as close advisors feared an emphasis on her gender could push some voters away.

But she cemented the metaphor of the "18 million cracks" in the glass ceiling during her concession speech in 2008, and that theme has been consistent in her public remarks since she left the State Department.

Many Democrats see that as a plus. One Democratic strategist said that Clinton would speak "from the heart," which will resonate with voters.

"She is really comfortable talking about her gender because she's comfortable talking about herself," she said.

"This is an important part of who Hillary is and what she stands for, and especially key considering her enormous and successful body of work throughout the decades to promote opportunity and equality for women and all Americans."

But after years of voters deciding whether they're ready for "Madame President," Fenn and others questioned whether that message would resonate as strongly.

"In 2008, that was a good deal more novel," he said.

"I don't think she has to talk that much about it."

How will she connect with voters?

"You're likable enough, Hillary," then-Sen. Obama told her on the campaign trail in 2008.

The dig characterized the biggest knock against Clinton: that more than two decades as American political royalty has left her out of touch with regular people.

That perception plagued her on the campaign trail. Many observers said Clinton was at her best when she let her guard down, as she famously did during a teary eyed moment at a New Hampshire diner in 2008.

For Fenn, one key emphasis of the impending 2016 campaign should be a robust schedule that allows Clinton to spend meaningful time with voters.

"People want to know their candidate for president, they want to feel them, see what makes them tick, that's what she did when she ran for Senate in New York," he said.

"I'd treat Iowa like it was New York that first time."

A Democratic strategist added that the quest to paint Clinton as relatable starts as early as the announcement video. He called her 2008 announcement video, which had her sitting alone in a living room, "tone deaf."

"The knock against Hillary in the last campaign was: Can she convey some humanity and feeling and concern for other folks?"

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You talkin' to Hillary? De Niro backs Clinton for 2016 nomination (The Guardian)
By Lauren Gambino
April 4, 2015
The Guardian

Robert De Niro is ready for Hillary. The formidable actor and long-time Democrat has come out swinging in favor of the likely Democratic nominee for president in 2016, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In an interview with the Daily Beast, De Niro said he intended to endorse Clinton in her all-but declared bid for the White House, adding that a woman leader might be exactly what the US needs.

"Hopefully it will be her, yes," De Niro said. "I think that she's paid her dues. There are going to be no surprises, and she has earned the right to be president and the head of the country at this point. It's that simple.

"And she's a woman, which is very important because her take on things may be what we need right now."

De Niro, who has won two Oscars and starred in classics such as Taxi Driver, Raging Bull, The Godfather and The Untouchables, has a long track record of supporting Democratic presidential candidates.

He threw his weight behind Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004, and famously predicted the 2008 Democratic presidential contenders during a 2006 appearance on MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews at George Mason University. Asked who he would like to see become the next US president, De Niro responded: "Well, I think of two people: Hillary Clinton and Obama."

De Niro and Clinton appeared together last December at the Robert F Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights annual gala, where they were among those being honored. De Niro was recognized for his philanthropy and the former first lady, senator and secretary of state was celebrated as the evening's chief honoree for her "long career in public service" and "deep commitment to human rights".

Clinton is expected to formally launch her presidential campaign in the coming weeks, despite a spiralling controversy over her use of a private email account while serving as secretary of state. This week, the news that her incipient campaign had rented office space in Brooklyn caused national comment.

Such an early celebrity endorsement may provide the Clinton campaign with a much welcome distraction.

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Clinton hopes to tap small-donor network that beat her in 2008 (MSNBC)
By Alex Seitz-Wald
April 4, 2015
MSNBC

In another break from her 2008 presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton plans to focus far greater attention on energizing the grassroots base and raising money for her anticipated 2016 presidential run through small contributions.

Clinton's campaign-in-waiting absorbed much of the staff of Ready for Hillary, the pro-Clinton super PAC that has organized supporters across the country for two years, and is investing in the kind of digital outreach pioneered by Barack Obama when he beat Clinton in 2008.

The additions include the group's co-founder, Adam Parkhomenko, who is expected to hold the title of director of grassroots engagement. Grassroots fundraising director Neisha Blandin and deputy finance director Alex Smith will also join Clinton's official fundraising operation, The New York Times first reported this week.

"Hires like that are critical because there is a recognition of how critical grassroots fundraising is — more than ever," said source familiar with discussions inside Clinton's nascent operation.

Ready for Hillary has held dozens of low-dollar fundraisers, often asking for its trademark $20.16 contributions, and has identified organizers in more 100 cities across the country who have helped the super PAC and would be eager to help Clinton. It's a well-oiled low-dollar machine that could prove invaluable to Clinton's campaign.

At the same time, Clinton has hired former Obama 2012 digital director Teddy Goff as her top digital strategist, along with a slew of other operatives who have expertise in targeting and online fundraising.

Clinton's last presidential campaign was marked by a centralized campaign structure that turned off some activists and did not prioritize grassroots donations. The dependence on large donors became a serious problem when the Democratic primary dragged on longer than expected and Clinton ran out of money as her donors hit federal contribution limits.

"There was a mentality that we could count on double-max donors and be fine," said one former campaign aide, who requested anonymity to speak candidly. "But the thing about max-out donors is that they max out. You need low-dollar donors to sustain, and you need to communicate that need to your grassroots and empower regular people who believe in your candidate but only have $10 to spare."

As a relatively inexperienced candidate, Obama was able to topple the vaunted Clinton machine by mobilizing an army of small-dollar donors, who chipped in just $5 or $10 at a time. In the first six months of the campaign in 2007, Obama had raised more than four times as much as Clinton from donations of $200 or less, and they made up nearly three times the share of his total haul.

When the candidates needed more money, many of Clinton's donors were already tapped out, while Obama had millions of small-dollar contributors he could turn to again and again.

Eventually, as her coffers ran dry, Clinton began emphasizing her campaign's website during stump speeches and asking grassroots supporters to contribute — but it was too little too late.

Clinton was reportedly furious with her advisers for missing the importance of small-time donors in 2008. After a ritzy fundraiser in the Hamptons, Clinton chewed out her fundraising chief in front of one of her biggest donors, demanding to know why she didn't have merchandise like Obama or his grassroots fundraising organization, according to the book "Game Change," by journalist Mark Halperin and John Heilemann

If Clinton ran a campaign in 2008, Obama ran a movement — something she seems to be trying to do this time around.

This time around, Clinton is planning to do things differently, said Nick Merrill, Clinton's spokesperson. "Make no mistake, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote," he said.

In an age of super PACs and billion-dollar-campaigns, Clinton will still need to depend on larger donations for the majority of her fundraising.

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During his 2012 reelection campaign, Obama raised more money from small donors than any candidate in history, but they still accounted for only 43% of his total haul. Mitt Romney raised only 23% of his money from small donors.

Ready for Hillary capped their donations at $25,000 to avoid sucking up money from other Democratic super PACs, but sought to appeal to both large and small donors with low- and high-dollar events on the same night in the same city, featuring the same big name surrogates.

But in addition to a valuable financial source, small donors are an important messaging tool and a way to give supporters a sense of ownership over a campaign, say Kim Alfred, who lead grassroots fundraising efforts for Obama's 2008 campaign. "It was a huge way for us to show the groundswell of support" for Obama, she said. "It was about really, truly about creating a sense of a movement."

If Clinton ran a campaign in 2008, Obama ran a movement — something she seems to be trying to do this time around. "You feel there is a movement stirring across this county, you can see it from coast to coast," she said on the campaign trail in Philadelphia in October. She would return to that cryptic "movement" several more times on the trail.

Candidates often tout their small contributions in speeches and marketing materials to show they're representing average people. "While the other side leans on corporate donors and million-dollar checks, we're doing this the right way," Obama told supporters in the final month of the 2012 in a plea for a $5 donation.

Online fundraising has become both an art and a science, with reams of data and A/B message testing coupled with the creativity of successful email solicitation writers, some of whom became famous in digital political circles for their ability to churn out high-performing emails.

Despite her pick of talent, Clinton will start at somewhat of a disadvantage here, since she does not have an up-to-date email fundraising list, like Obama did in 2012. She will likely absorb Ready for Hillary's list of about 4 million names, but will have to start from scratch on Facebook and and other social media platforms outside Twitter.

But the early hiring of the super PAC's grassroots staff suggests Clinton wants to send a message to Democrats that she's eager for donations — even if it's $5 at a time.

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Carly Fiorina comes out swinging against Hillary Clinton and the ‘woman card’ (Examiner)
By Dwight Schwab Jr.
April 4, 2015
The Examiner

Republican Carly Fiorina is ready to do battle with Hillary Clinton and makes no bones about it. She told Newsmax on Thursday that America needs a “squeaky-clean fighter" in the White House, intimating Clinton is mired in one scandal after another.

Her best line was referring to Hillary raising the “woman card.” She vowed that her candidacy would have nothing to do with that gender-bending set of political rules. As the former Hewlett-Packard CEO put it, "This battle with Hillary Clinton needs to be about track record, accomplishment, leadership, capability, character," Fiorina said on "The Steve Malzberg Show."

But she wasn’t done there. She added, "And Benghazi goes to the heart of her character because she peddled a fiction for four weeks about what really happened there. And it goes to the heart of her capability as well, because she did nothing to protect that embassy when she was asked to do so and she did nothing to respond to the terrorist attack that occurred." Strong words for a still undeclared candidate looking more like one every speech she makes.

She was of course referring to Clinton's original explanation that the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11, 2012, was triggered by an anti-Muslim video posted on YouTube. Two weeks later it was revealed that the bloodbath, in which Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed, was a planned terror attack. This even though then U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice said the tragedy was due to an anti-Muslim video.

Fiorina said, "We need a fighter because this is a fight about what we believe in this nation, what values and principles and policies work better to lift people up. It's a fight about the direction we take in the world as well as the direction we take in this nation. It is going to be a fight and so we do need a fighter, and I'm not afraid to fight and anyone who looks at my life knows that."

The former CEO didn’t stop there. She also called Clinton out on her use of a personal email account and private server to conduct government business while she headed the State Department. It is now known she deleted thousands of emails sometime between October and last week. Clinton's actions before and after the Benghazi attack are now being probed by a House select committee.

The former CEO explained her candidacy as "My gender is different from everyone else running on the Republican side and it is the same as Hillary Clinton's gender. That will not allow her to play the war on women card or to play the gender card, and she won't be able to say 'I'll be the first woman president."

Fiorina faces a formidable battle against other Republican hopefuls that include GOP names like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky. Bush and Paul are still weighing a 2016 run; Cruz declared his candidacy last week.

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Don't Be Fooled: Hillary Is Way to Bill's Left (Daily Beast)
By Liz Mair
April 4, 2015
The Daily Beast

One of these Clintons is not like the other.

As the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign behemoth gets seemingly closer to raising itself and beginning its plod toward its great Philadelphia coronation, Republicans are giddy at the prospect of being able to remind Americans about the return of Clintonism. They should stop it, now, for three reasons.

First, while many Republicans never liked Bill Clinton and do not have universally positive memories of the mid- to late-90's, many Americans—including conservatives and libertarians— look back on that period with fondness and nostalgia.

Second, too few Americans are or were then sufficiently politically engaged or news-addicted to remember the Clinton drama (aside from the Lewinsky scandal) that so many Republicans and media figures warn is already returning, much less treat it as a top priority.

But third, and most importantly, tying Hillary Clinton to her husband is an act of political malpractice that ignores the fact that on economic issues, she was—during his presidency, during her 2008 campaign, and still today—significantly to the left of him.

For whatever else one may say about him, Bill Clinton was and is a centrist. His presidency is remembered for the taming of the deficit, his advocacy for free trade, his signature of welfare reform, his legislation cutting the long-term capital gains tax rate, and perhaps most famously, his declaration that "the era of big government is over."

That would not have been true if Hillary had had it her way. And if she has her way now—and if she makes it to the White House—a very un-Bill-like big government will remain in the cards for some time. Leon Panetta, who served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and then Chief of Staff during the earlier Clinton years, writes in his 2014 book that Hillary Clinton "picked at [the Clinton administration's] economic program" of deficit reduction, "asking why there wasn't more room for health care reform or other initiatives." Panetta apparently felt that such "initiatives" would have proved too expensive, and would have undermined efforts to slash the deficit.

Moreover, after Bill Clinton passed his first budget, Hillary apparently opposed treating welfare reform as the next priority, again pushing for health care reform. Panetta also details this in his book, and it is significant given what we know about Hillary Clinton's views on health care.

Her Hillarycare proposal, as it was dubbed in the 90's, was a textbook example of government overreach that proved politically unviable. Obamacare, which remains loathed by so many across America, much more closely resembles the version of health care reform that Hillary Clinton advocated during her 2008 presidential run than that pushed by then-candidate Obama.

It may surprise those who have recently joined the political game to know that candidate Obama's plan was decidedly smaller-government and less interventionist than Clinton's, and that his was swapped for hers once Obama entered the White House. But that is a fact that cannot be avoided, though Hillaryland may in due course try to convince voters otherwise.

During Hillary's failed 2008 presidential run, she explicitly pledged to increase the federal government's role in the economy, presenting a contrast against her husband's record and approach. In a late January 2008 interview with The New York Times, she talked up an "effective, vigorous government." She also appeared dismissive of opposition to confiscatory taxation, speaking of the "nostalgia and pride" with which Americans look back on the period just after World War II, when the highest marginal tax rates ran above 90 percent.

As of 2007, Hillary Clinton was on record opposing future free trade agreements and calling for an overhaul of NAFTA, one of Bill Clinton's signature accomplishments. In a November 2007 CNN debate in Las Vegas, she called NAFTA a "mistake."

This was interesting, given that even as Hillary had begun trashing the agreement and was set to continue to do

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so, Bill confirmed that he still supported it, and said in a September 2007 interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos that knowing everything he knew then, he would still have tried to pass it. Contrary to Hillary's claims, Bill said, NAFTA had not hurt American workers.

More recently, Hillary and Bill have appeared to disagree over the Keystone XL pipeline. In 2012, the State Department, then headed by Hillary, "recommended to President Obama that the presidential permit for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline be denied and that at this time, the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline be determined not to serve the national interest." Shortly thereafter, Bill Clinton went on record saying of Keystone XL that "I think we should embrace it."

As the Hillary machine revs up and begins its trundle towards Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada, and beyond, expect to read more about the differences between the two Clintons. Hillary may benefit politically from leveraging her husband's record, reputation and rhetorical skills, all of which remain more an asset to her than a liability. But on all of these counts, one of these Clintons is not like the other. Republicans would be smart to ensure the country comes to understand that, sooner rather than later.

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Sarah Brady Death: Bill And Hillary Clinton Release Statement On Death Of Gun-Control Advocate (International Business Times)
By Dion Rabouin
April 04 2015
International Business Times

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton paid tribute to the late Sarah Brady, a longtime gun-control advocate and wife of the now-deceased White House Press Secretary James Brady, in a joint statement Saturday.

Sarah Brady, who died of pneumonia at the age of 73 Friday night, lobbied for the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, aka the Brady Act, which required background checks and five-day waiting periods for firearms purchases. The bill was signed into law by Bill Clinton in 1993.

“Sarah and her late husband Jim were fierce champions of sensible gun legislation, for which few could make as passionate or as personal a case,” the Clintons said in their statement. “She transformed tragedy into a courageous campaign, and because of her work and her remarkable life, American families are safer today.”

Sarah Brady became a prominent voice for stricter gun legislation after her husband was critically injured in an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Reagan made a full recovery from the attack, but James Brady, who was press secretary at the time, was left partially paralyzed. A bullet struck him in the head, and the resulting injuries kept him in a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. He died last August.

Sarah Brady was the chair of the Brady Campaign and Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which released a statement about her Friday. “Our nation has lost a great hero, and I have lost a dear friend,” Dan Gross, president of the center, said in the statement. “I am certain that she would want nothing more than to know we are carrying on her and Jim’s legacy with the same fiery compassion and dedication that made her so remarkable.”

Both lifelong Republicans, the Bradys attended the 1996 Democratic National Convention in support of Bill Clinton’s re-election effort. Sarah Brady even singled out Clinton for praise during the convention, noting his role in the adoption of the Brady Act. “Thank you, Mr. President,” she said in a speech at the convention. “That moment was the proudest moment of our lives.”

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who introduced the Brady Act as a member of the House of Representatives in 1993, also recognized and lamented Brady’s death. “Sarah Brady took the tragedy of her husband’s shooting and turned it into a movement that saved tens of thousands of lives,” he said in a statement. “She was strong and forceful, sweet and kind, and someone I considered a friend and patriot for decades. She was a true hero and will be missed by America.”

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Sarah Brady, widow of James Brady, dies (CNN)
April 4, 2015
CNN

(CNN) —Sarah Brady, who with her husband, James Brady, pushed for stricter gun control laws, including the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, died Friday, her family said.

"Sarah courageously stepped up after Jim was shot to prevent others from enduring what our family has gone through, and her work has saved countless lives," their statement said.

James Brady, President Ronald Reagan's press secretary, was shot in the head by John Hinckley Jr. during his attempt to assassinate Reagan in 1981. Brady spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair, advocating against gun violence.

He died in August.

Sarah Brady was also involved in gun violence prevention for the past 30 years. She was the chairwoman of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence from 2000 until she died.

The National Rifle Association said its thoughts and prayers were with the Brady family.

"Although we disagreed on public policy, Sarah Brady was an honorable American who we always respected," the gun rights organization said.

On the Brady Campaign's website, she said she got involved in gun control after her young son picked up what she thought was a toy gun on the seat of a friend's pickup. Her son started to wave it around and she took it from him. It was not a toy, she said, and she fumed over what she imagined could have happened. The loaded gun was much like the one used to shoot her husband.

"It just hit me like a ton of bricks," she told CNN in 2013. "So I asked Jim if he felt comfortable with me speaking out, and he said, 'Of course.'"

After that, the Bradys made it their business to be gun control activists.

Despite budgets that were just a fraction of the gun lobby's, the Bradys and their colleagues helped pass federal and state laws, including Maryland's 1988 ban on cheap handguns known as Saturday night specials, 1993's Brady law requiring background checks on certain kinds of gun purchases and a ban on manufacturing and future sales of some military-style firearms, which lasted from 1994 to 2004.

Former President Bill Clinton, who signed the Brady bill in 1993, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a joint statement Saturday that the Bradys "were fierce champions of sensible gun legislation."

Sarah Brady "transformed tragedy into a courageous campaign, and because of her work and her remarkable life, American families are safer today," the Clintons said.

Brady Campaign and Center President Dan Gross said in a written statement that few people are responsible for saving as many lives as Sarah and James Brady.

"Our nation has lost a great hero, and I have lost a dear friend," he said. "I am certain that she would want nothing more than to know we are carrying on her and Jim's legacy with the same fiery compassion and dedication that made her so remarkable."

Sen Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat who helped write the Brady bill, concurred.

"She was strong and forceful, sweet and kind, and someone I considered a friend and patriot for decades," he said. "She was a true hero and will be missed by America."

James Brady was one of four people wounded in Reagan's shooting outside a Washington hotel.

Suffering a head wound, it was erroneously reported at one point that Brady had died. He was, however, left partially paralyzed.

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Reagan, severely wounded as well, also survived the attack and served two terms as President. Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity in the shooting and has spent the ensuing years in a psychiatric hospital.

The Brady bill was fiercely fought over for seven years before Congress approved it and President Bill Clinton signed it into law in 1993.

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Former USA president Bill Clinton endorses Robin Hood's book about his daughter (Daily Record)
By Leona Greenan
April 4, 2015
Daily Record (UK)

A former president of the United States has endorsed an emotional book written by the chairman of the Hamilton-based charity DEBRA.

Robin Hood penned the memoir in tribute to his daughter Alex, who tragically died aged just 19 from Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) – a genetic condition which causes the skin to blister and tear at the slightest touch.

The appalling condition leaves its' little victims with skin as tender to the touch as that of a butterfly.

The book – entitled Smile Daddy, I'm Dying – went on sale last month on what would have been Alex's 26th birthday and has already gained acclaim from Bill Clinton and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Robin, who lives in Dumfries, spends a lot of his time in Hamilton at the Scottish headquarters for DEBRA.

The charity provide practical and emotional support, financial help and advice, respite breaks, and information on lots of different aspects of living with EB.

He explained: "It has taken me three years to put into words the story behind my wonderful and inspirational daughter Alex.

"The book charts my journey to raise money to find a cure for the condition, but it also describes the journey we went through as a family, including the break-up of my marriage to her mother, as well as Alex's pain and eventually her passing in 2008.

"It has been really well received and, in fact, has been endorsed by Bill Clinton, who encouraged me to keep up the good work Debra is doing, and Gordon Brown who very touchingly said I was Alex's greatest champion and said he had deepest admiration for my efforts."

Robin, who has been breeding labradors for over 30 years, gifted the former president a chocolate labrador puppy back in 2001 as a companion for his dog Buddy.

The pair have remained in contact since with Mr Clinton sending Robin a touching letter after the death of Alex.

The title for Robin's book came from words said by Alex to her father when they had been told by the consultant all hope was lost.

Having started out by running a marathon in Scotland in 1994 while pushing five-year-old Alex in a pushchair for the whole route, Robin has since taken part in hundreds of events - including the London Marathon in 2001, pulling his daughter along in a supermarket trolley, and a 50-mile event in Ireland, pulling along another little boy with EB in the same unusual fashion.

He is now the chairman of DEBRA and has had support from the likes of Prince Charles, David Cameron and Boris Johnson during his fundraising campaign.

Surrey-born Robin has raised millions of pounds whilst working tirelessly for the charity for over 20 years.

He hopes to add to that total from his book sales.

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From: "Robert Wendelgass - Clean Water Fund" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/22/2010 12:43:16 AM
Subject: Let's Keep Moving Forward

Clean Water Fund logo with wave background

Help Us Continue to Build Momentum for Water Protections in 2011

Dear Mary,

It's been a year of impressive victories for Clean Water Fund - victories that will help improve our water, protect our health, and create jobs in a green energy economy. But we need your help to continue this momentum into 2011 and to escalate the fight for a clean, healthy environment in the New Year.

It's not too late to make a tax deductible contribution for 2010! Your gift today of $50, $100 - or even more - will support our work to protect our water, our health and our future.

Your gift will also be matched by an anonymous donor through the end of this year.

We have made enormous progress this year in protecting our water, promoting clean energy and safeguarding the health of our families.

Get your gift matched dollar for dollar!

PHOTO: woodland stream

Help Clean Water Fund keep our rivers clean in 2011 by making a tax deductible gift today!

GRAPHIC: Take Action button

- Clean Water Fund is working to protect water and health with innovative "upstream solutions" that prevent pollution before it can enter our water. We have won new protection that will keep pollution from natural gas drilling out of streams in Pennsylvania. We have fought to keep trash out of our waterways and the ocean, winning adoption of alternatives to disposable bags and packaging in California, the District of Columbia and Texas. And we have helped lead the fight to protect national treasures like the Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes and our coasts.

- Clean Water Fund is advancing clean energy alternatives that will move the country away from the dirty technologies of the past, create new jobs, and protect our water. Just this year, Clean Water Fund helped stop two new proposed coal power plants in Michigan; defended Minnesota's moratorium on new nuclear power plants; won a commitment to shut down the nation's oldest nuclear power plant in New Jersey; and helped protect our coasts from the dangers of offshore oil drilling.

- Clean Water Fund is working help guarantee a healthier future for our families and our communities. In Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan, Minnesota and California, we are working to get toxic chemicals out of the every day products we use. We've helped get BPA out of children's products in several states, and we're getting cadmium out of children's jewelry in Connecticut. And we've led the fight to protect the public from unhealthy diesel pollution in Rhode Island, Michigan, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

These are just a few of the victories that we are celebrating this year...victories

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that will help make our water cleaner, our families healthier and our economy stronger.

There are still plenty of challenges facing us in the New Year. Too many of our rivers and streams are still unsafe for fishing and swimming, and we are still all too often exposed to dangerous chemicals in cosmetics or in the consumer products we use. And our economy is still too dependent on dirty sources of energy that are warming our planet and polluting our water.

But with your support, Mary, we can face these problems and win! **With your generous gift of $50 or more Clean Water Fund will continue our work to ensure strong drinking water protections and to make sure that our pollution rules protect all streams, large and small.** These are just two of the areas where we are already actively working in leadership roles with key decision makers.

Mary, we need your help to continue our momentum as we head into 2011. I hope we can once again count on your support for a cleaner, safer environment!

Now and for the Future,
Robert Wendelgass
CEO

P.S. - Please don't delay in making your most generous gift - to be matched by a generous donor - today!

Contact Us

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 400 | Washington, DC 20005-4918 | 202.895.0420

You are receiving this message because you or someone using your e-mail address, john.podesta@gmail.com, gave us permission to send it. Not interested anymore? unsubscribe now.

empowered by Salsa

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/12/2015 1:04:46 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: This is not the year of the governor

View The Daily 202 on the Web

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

This is not the year of the governor

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker watches the Republican debate at the Milwaukee Theatre on Tuesday night. (AP Photo/Jeffrey Phelps)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

John Kasich made a remarkable observation at the start of Tuesday's Republican debate. Of the eight candidates on stage for the main event, he pointed out that he was the only sitting governor.

The Ohioan proceeded to have the worst night of anyone, and conservatives widely panned his performance.

Kasich's struggle is emblematic of something bigger: 2015 has been a terrible time to be a current or former governor running for president.

Wisconsin Gov. **Scott Walker**, who led in some polls this spring, and ex-Texas Gov. **Rick Perry**, who briefly led in the polls during his first run four years ago, were the first two candidates to drop out of the 2016 contest.

On the Democratic side, ex-Rhode Island Gov. **Lincoln Chafee** quit after the first debate and **Martin O'Malley** remains an afterthought. Two years ago, if you'd done a survey of insiders, few would have predicted that the democratic socialist from Vermont, **Bernie Sanders**, would be faring so much better than the two-term Maryland governor against **Hillary Rodham Clinton**. O'Malley's campaign never got off the ground after his lieutenant governor was defeated in last year's election to succeed him, and then the Baltimore riots case his record as mayor of that city in a dark light.

New Jersey Gov. **Chris Christie** and ex-Arkansas Gov. **Mike Huckabee**, who were both relegated to the kid's table on Tuesday because of their drop in the polls, found themselves defending their records in Trenton and Little Rock against attacks from **Bobby Jindal**. The outgoing Louisiana governor, at the kid's table in all four debates, has struggled to raise cash and his unpopularity back home has become a drag on **David Vitter**, the Republican nominee in next week's runoff to determine who will succeed him in Baton Rouge.

In many ways, governors are better equipped to become president than legislators. They've balanced budgets. They've led in moments of crisis, from hurricanes to terrorist attacks. They've forged coalitions. They've faced far more press scrutiny. They've commanded a national guard.

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Jeb Bush, who left Tallahassee nine years ago after two terms as Florida's chief executive, started the year as a presumptive frontrunner. But he's found many voters uninterested in the long list of accomplishments he rattles off during his stump speech. He played the governor card in Iowa yesterday when he was asked about **Marco Rubio**, who is 18 years younger than him and has no executive experience.

"I'm a better bet," he said. "I've got a proven record … I've been vetted. I've been tested."

But, so far, that argument doesn't resonate with the restive and angry Republican base. The two leaders in the polls, Ben Carson and Donald Trump, have never even *run* for office. At least Rubio, **Ted Cruz** and **Rand Paul** have cast votes in the Senate, though none of the trio has even served a full six-year term.

Former Virginia Gov. **Jim Gilmore** and New York Gov. **George Pataki** didn't even make the cut for the undercard debate, despite leading two of the country's biggest states. They're not even trying to run serious campaigns. Neither filed to appear on the primary ballots in Arkansas and Alabama before deadlines this week.

This is historically unusual: Barack Obama was the first sitting senator elected president since 1960. **George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan** and **Jimmy Carter** all came to the White House from governor's mansions. Each ran against Washington and the status quo.

Mitt Romney foreshadowed this trend four years ago when he downplayed his record as governor of Massachusetts in favor of emphasizing his experience as a businessman who could create jobs. He did that to contrast himself with Obama but also because his signature achievement in office was Romneycare, which included an individual mandate and helped inspire Obamacare.

— Why is this happening? So far, this campaign has not really been about policy. It's been all about personalities.

The bigger issue is that governors are also no longer seen as outsiders. They've made compromises, and it is very difficult to stay ideologically pure when you're leading a state. For example: From a conservative perspective, Walker had a very impressive record of achievements, aided by GOP majorities in both chambers of his state legislature. But many big donors, including the Koch brothers, zeroed in on his support for offering taxpayer help to build a new sports stadium, which Walker did to keep the Milwaukee Bucks from leaving town. That's part of a governor's job. But, in this climate, it is apostasy.

Of course, it is still possible that a governor will emerge to claim the nomination. Dan

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Balz, explaining that no one is dropping out of the Republican contest because it remains so unsettled, argues in a column today that Kasich and Christie are "on a collision course." They are "two alpha personalities whose hopes are kept alive by their conviction that those above them are no more capable than they are of leading the party," he writes.

Welcome to The Daily 202, **PowerPost** 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

Smoke from an airstrike billows over the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar today. (AP Photo/Bram Janssen)

— **Kurdish forces, backed by U.S. airstrikes, have launched an offensive to retake control of a town in Iraq that ISIS seized in summer 2014.** The Post's Loveday Morris reports that ISIS captured thousands of women in last year's raid and has been using them as sex slaves for the past 13 months. About 7,500 Kurdish forces on Thursday swooped in from three different fronts in the campaign delayed by several weeks because of poor weather and tactical disagreement among Kurdish fighters. Read Loveday's dispatch from the front lines here.

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Ben Carson, center, is flanked by Al Costa, right, and then Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis at a 2005 charity auction. (Andy Starnes/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette via AP)

— Ben Carson profits from ties with convicted felon. Breaking from the Associated Press: "Carson has maintained a business relationship with a close friend convicted of defrauding insurance companies and testified on his behalf, even as the candidate has called for such crimes to be punished harshly. Pittsburgh dentist Alfonso A. Costa pleaded guilty to a felony count of health care fraud after an FBI probe into his oral surgery practice found he had charged for procedures he never performed, according to court records. Though the crime carries a potential sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison, Costa was able to avoid prison time after Carson helped petition a federal judge for leniency. That's different from the position Carson took in 2013 as he prepared to launch his presidential campaign, saying those convicted of health care fraud should go to prison for at least a decade and be forced to forfeit 'all of one's personal possessions.'"

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(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

— Smoking would be banned in all public housing, including common areas and administrative offices, under a new federal proposal to be unveiled today by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It would impact nearly 1 million homes across the country, per the New York Times . If the rule were to be implemented, housing complexes would have a year-and-a-half to implement it.

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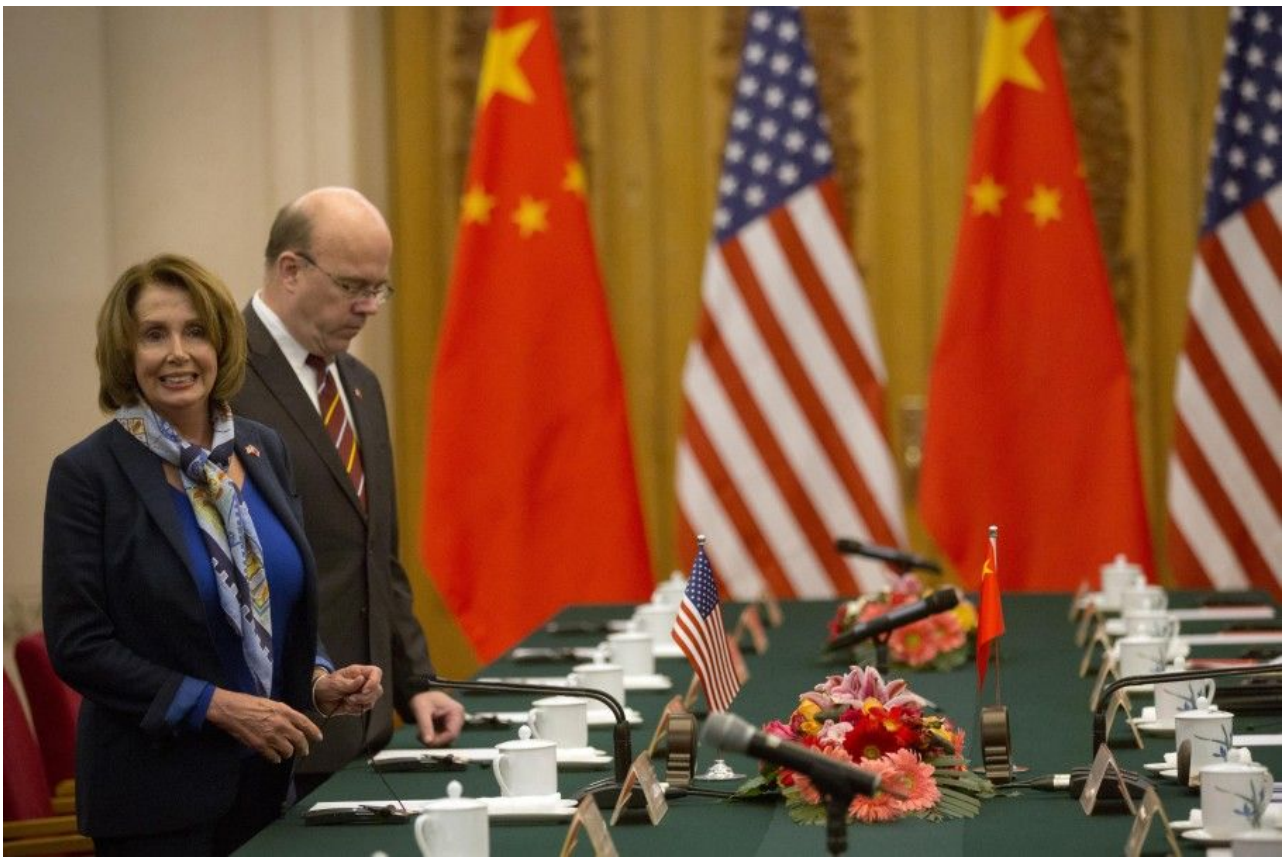

Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., wait for the start of a bilateral meeting with Zhang Ping, vice chairman of China's National People's Congress, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing this morning. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, Pool)

— Nancy Pelosi made a surprise and unannounced trip to Tibet. The House Minority Leader led a delegation of congressional Democrats on a rare trip to the remote Himalayan region ahead of meetings in Beijing. Now she's meeting with top Chinese officials. Traveling with her are Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, Betty McCollum and Tim Walz of Minnesota, Joyce Beatty of Ohio and Alan Lowenthal and Ted Lieu of California.

GET SMART FAST:

1. The **NTSB** found no signs of distress calls by the pilots of the business jet that crashed into an apartment complex in Akron, Ohio, killing all nine people on board. (Cleveland Plain Dealer)
2. A **Mississippi state flag,** which includes the Confederate emblem, was removed from a hallway in the **U.S. Capitol.** (NYT)
3. The **U.S. military** didn't have its own intelligence on the **Afghan Doctors Without Borders** hospital it bombed last month, and instead relied almost exclusively on Afghan officials' assertion that the **Taliban** was inside the hospital. (AP)
4. A new planet with similar size and composition to **Earth** has been spotted 39 million light years away, though scientists doubt there is life on it. (Los Angeles Times)
5. Two nephews of the **Venezuelan first lady** were arrested in **Haiti** for trying to smuggle 800 kilos of cocaine into the United States. (AP)

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6. Germany's **BND** spy agency reportedly eavesdropped on the **FBI** and U.S. gun manufacturers from 2008 to 2011. *Remember Germans' outrage over the Snowden revelations?* (AP)
7. **Slovenia** started building a razor-wire fence along its border with **Croatia** to keep out immigrants. (AP)
8. The percentage of Americans who are **obese** increased from 35 to 38 percent. (NYT)
9. A nationwide shortage of the **FluMist** nasal spray means people who want protection will need to receive a flu shot. (Ariana Eunjung Cha)
10. The **USDA** in investigating an undercover video filmed at one of the nation's largest pork processing plants that shows pigs being beaten and dragged across the ground, and — apparently in violation of federal law — still conscious before being killed. (Roberto Ferdman)
11. A new **Justice Department** proposal recommends that companies not face charges if they voluntarily disclose instances of foreign bribery. (Ellen Nakashima)
12. **Wal-Mart** will scale back its Black Friday shopping promotions this year, still opening its doors at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving but no longer having its door-buster deals spread out over a five-day period. (Wall Street Journal)
13. A man was arrested for using social media to threaten to shoot African-Americans at the **University of Missouri,** which has seen its president and chancellor resign amid allegations that administrators failed to address racially-charged incidents on campus. Meanwhile, the Mizzou professor who was caught on camera berating a student journalist for trying to cover campus protests apologized and resigned her appointment with the journalism school, though she will remain a professor in the communication department.
14. An **Arkansas** woman, 28, was charged with child endangerment after giving her 10-month-old son **bourbon** to relieve his teething pains. (KTHV-TV)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. The American Postal Workers Union endorsed **Bernie Sanders,** citing the senator's voting record and his opposition of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.
2. **Hillary Clinton** revived her story of trying to join the **Marines** when she was 26. Critics have questioned the tale's veracity, and her campaign declined to substantiate her claims. The Post's Glenn Kessler gives Clinton two Pinocchios , noting that friends have recalled her musing about testing the boundaries of what was available to women in the 1970s.
3. **Bob Dole** endorsed **Jeb**. (NBC)

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4. **Ed Gillespie** started a PAC for his Virginia gubernatorial candidacy in 2017. (Laura Vozzella)
5. **Vladimir Putin** launched an investigation into the accusations of doping by **Russia's** top athletes. (AP)

SECOND-DAY DEBATE COVERAGE:

Jeb and Columba Bush greet people on stage after Tuesday's debate (Photo by Scott Olson/ Getty Images)

The Fox Business debate had the lowest ratings of the cycle: 13 million tuned in, slightly lower than watched on CNBC. But that's only about half as many as the 24 million who watched the first debate in Cleveland and the 23 million who watched the second debate at the Reagan Library.

Charles Krauthammer predicted on Fox News last night that the "the final four" candidates for the nomination will be Trump, Carson, Cruz and Rubio.

Donald Trump indicated yesterday that he would use a "deportation force" to execute his plan of removing more than 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. The Boston Globe looked into "Operation Wetback," that Dwight Eisenhower program that Trump invoked during the debate to argue that his deportation promise is feasible. Matt Viser points out that 88 people died, and Mexicans' heads were shaved so that they'd be recognized at the border. Far fewer people were also deported.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Post runs two stories on the front page following up on the debate—

— "As Rubio rises, GOP candidates are reluctant to take him on directly ," by Philip Rucker and Robert Costa: "Many Republican elites are once again celebrating him as the party's golden boy, if not its strongest general-election candidate, and fear seeing him bruised too badly during the primaries. The other candidates have not figured out how to deal with what some are calling 'the Marco moment,' hinting at critiques and possible anti-Rubio ads to come but hesitating to make Rubio their main target."

Yesterday, Jeb said his Right to Rise super PAC should not attack **Rubio** over his opposition to abortion in all instances, including in the cases of rape and incest. Bush, who supports exceptions, said: "I don't think anybody should attack someone who's pro-life." His super PAC has reportedly considered attacking on the issue to make the case that the Florida senator is unelectable in the general.

— "On foreign policy, the GOP candidates are 'all over the map ,'" by Sean Sullivan and Karen DeYoung: "Republican presidential contenders have long viewed foreign policy as a key area of strength in a potential general election matchup against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. But first, the party must resolve its own identity crisis on the subject, which erupted into view in the fourth Republican debate Tuesday night and flowed quickly onto the campaign trail the next day. Many in the GOP had been relishing the opportunity to vigorously prosecute the former secretary of state's role in what they have disparagingly dubbed the 'Obama-Clinton foreign policy legacy.' The large GOP field's muddled positions have shown that it won't be easy. Unlike abortion and same-sex marriage, on which the Republican candidates mostly agree, there are deep divisions on foreign policy and national security, highlighting how President Obama's agenda abroad, and by extension Clinton's, have become difficult to assail from a consistent posture."

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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Allison Corona, in the bedroom of her family home in Glen Head, N.Y., was born legally blind. It was only after gene therapy that she was able to realize her bedroom wallpaper had detail in it. (Photo by Jesse Dittmar for The Washington Post)

— "Gene therapies offer d ramatic promise but shocking costs, " by Carolyn Y. Johnson and Brady Dennis: "First tested in patients a quarter-century ago, gene therapy — a risky approach aimed at fixing the malfunctioning genes at the root of some diseases — is finally emerging from its own darkness after weathering high-profile tragedies, including the death of a teenage patient. As it evolves from experimental to applied medicine, gene therapy might soon find itself steeped in a new controversy: soaring drug prices. No therapy is approved yet in the United States, so discussions about price — as well as crucial questions about how much patients will pay directly — are hypothetical. But industry leaders are already talking about ways to get ahead of potentially massive one-time price tags that could make insurers and patients balk. A gene therapy approved in Europe in 2012 costs close to $1 million, and prices are expected to follow suit in the United States."

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Monsignor Krzysztof Charamsa and his partner Eduard leave a restaurant in Rome. The Vatican fired Charamsa for coming out as gay on the eve of a big meeting of the world's bishops to discuss church outreach to gays, divorcees and more traditional Catholic families. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

— **"Not all gay Catholics are pleased with how Vatican priest came out of the closet," by Anthony Faiola: "**Krzysztof Charamsa was still employed at one of the Holy See's most powerful offices, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. But after decades of hiding, the 43-year-old gay Polish priest wanted to come out with a flourish. He was no longer afraid to confront a church he saw as intrinsically 'homophobic' and proposed a symbolic news conference outside the headquarters of the Congregation — the very institution charged with defending and disseminating Catholic teachings around the globe. But Emilio Sturla, a public relations consultant who worked closely with gay Catholic groups and was helping Charamsa, strongly suggested he reconsider, both men recalled. The public and the church, Sturla insisted, would see such a move as too incendiary. 'But that's what he wanted,' Sturla said. 'To be provocative.' And that's what he did."

In related news, a juvenile court judge in **Utah** ordered a child to be taken from his lesbian foster parents and placed with a heterosexual couple for the child's "well-being." And a group of **Mormons** will quit the church this Saturday out of frustration with the new ban on baptizing the children of same-sex couples, per Michelle Boorstein .

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ

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Curated by Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck)

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Trump back on top with media mentions, if only for a day. The Donald doubling down on immigration generated a surge of mentions across social and traditional media. It was as if the old order had returned, if for only a day, with Trump receiving more than twice as many mentions (more than 162,000) than Carson, his nearest GOP rival. As for what they were saying about Trump, the word cloud from our analytics partners at Zignal Labs makes it pretty clear: “Deportation Force.”

–Pictures of the day:

Ben Carson, delivering the convocation at Liberty University, asked students to pray for him to have “courage” and “stamina.”

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(realbencarson)

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) visited the Air Force Memorial:

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(lisamurkowski)

Marco Rubio did a round of early TV hits:

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(marcorubiofla)

–Tweets of the day:

Bernie Sanders continues his efforts to get on the right side of the #BlackLivesMatter movement:

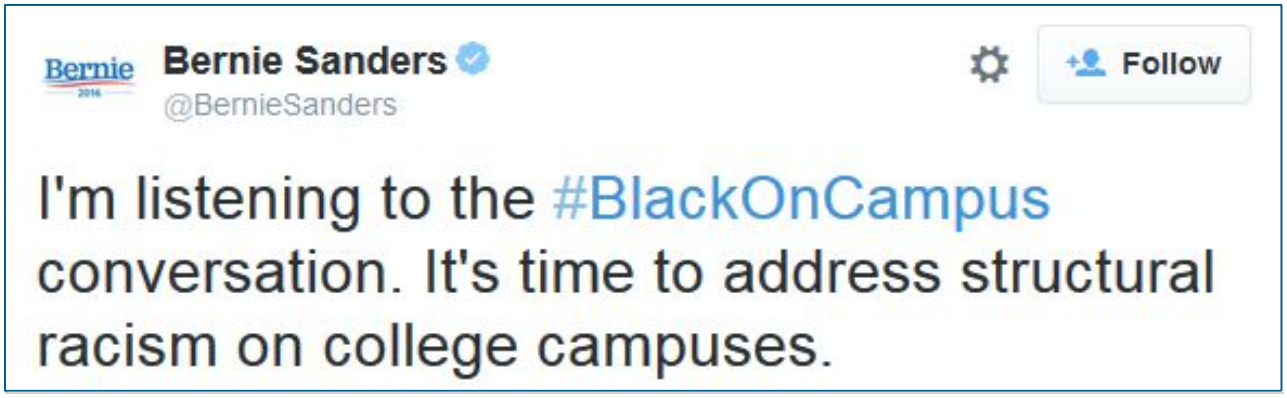

(@BernieSanders)

Donald Trump defended his debate comments about China and trade:

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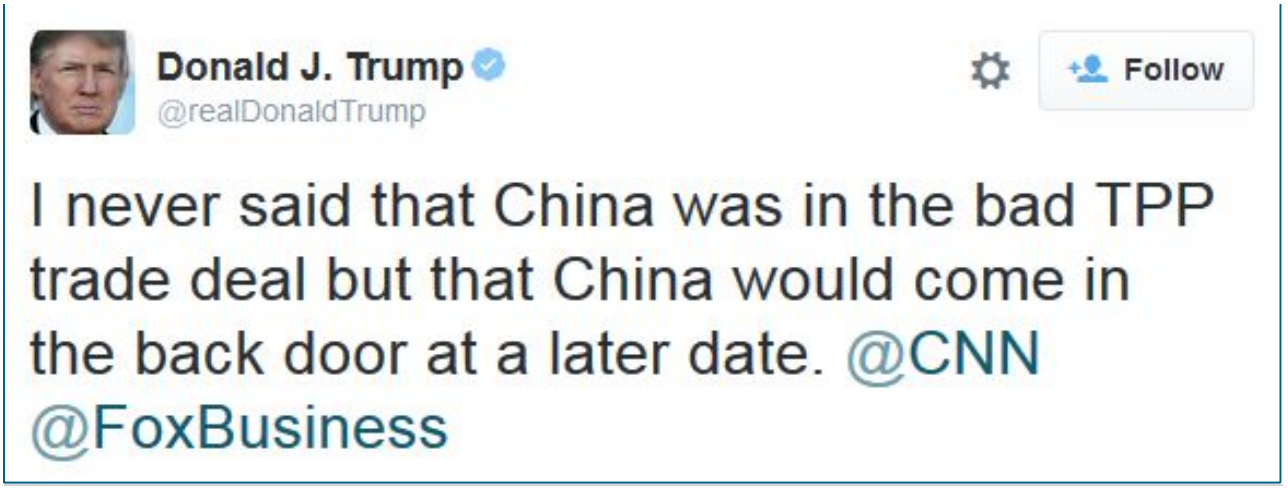

(@realDonaldTrump)

And complimented host Gerard Baker on his performance ("elegant"!):

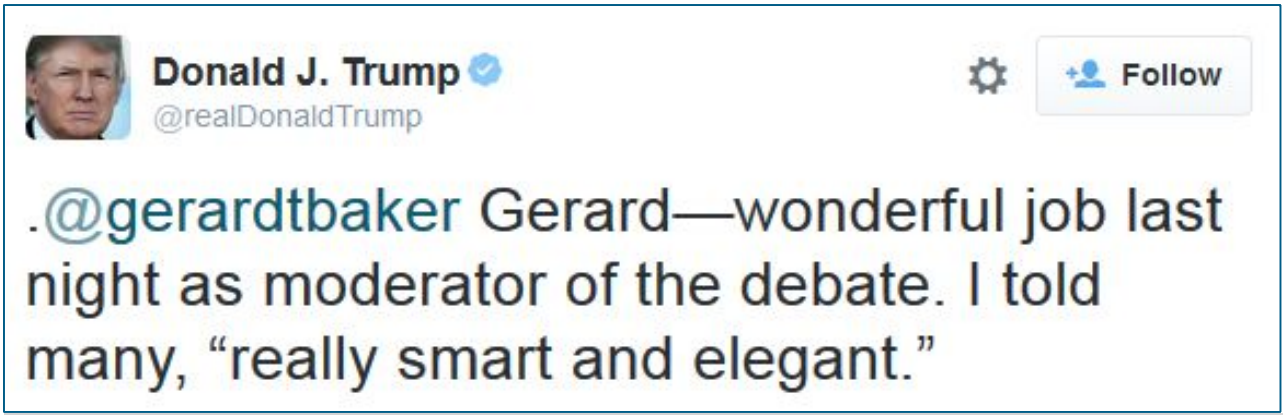

(@realDonaldTrump)

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), who earned his history Ph.D from Yale, made a philosophy joke:

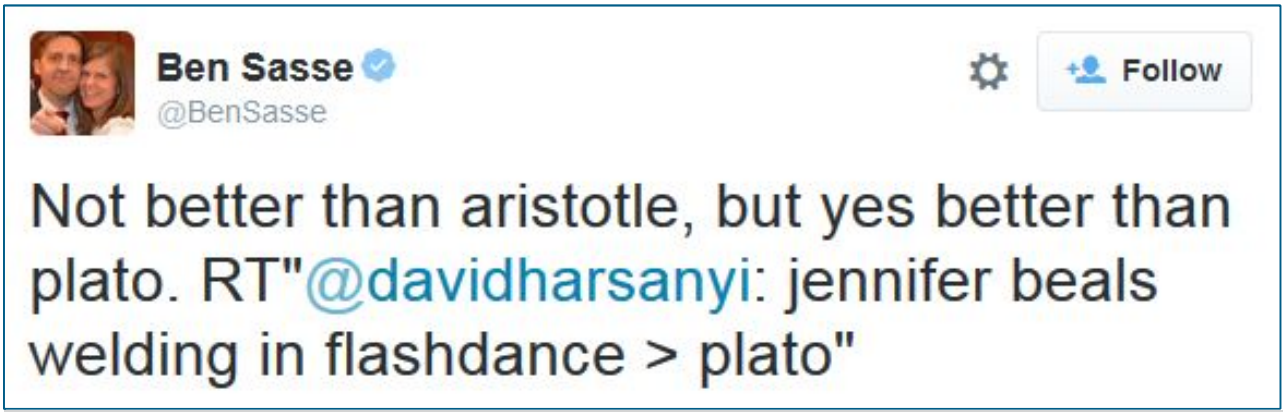

(@BenSasse)

And Rand Paul answered what he does for fun:

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(@RandPaul)

–Instagrams of the day:

With John in cycle, the McCain family rode in the Veterans Day parade in Phoenix (Cindy is second from the left):

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(cindymccain)

Martin O'Malley posted the final photo taken of him and his dad, from Veterans Day 10 years ago:

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(martinomalley)

The RNC's Sean Spicer found ping pong at the Milwaukee airport:

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(seanmspicer)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— USA Today, "Justice officials fear nation's biggest wiretap operation may not be legal," by Brad Heath and Bret Kelman: "Federal drug agents have built a massive wiretapping operation in the Los Angeles suburbs, secretly intercepting tens of thousands of Americans' phone calls and text messages to monitor drug traffickers across the United States despite objections from Justice Department lawyers who fear the practice may not be legal. Nearly all of that surveillance was authorized by a single state court judge in Riverside County, who last year signed off on almost five times as many wiretaps as any other judge in the United States. The judge's orders allowed investigators — usually from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration — to intercept more than 2 million conversations involving 44,000 people, federal court records show."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

'Daily Show' launches petition to free Jeb Bush from 'cruel' campaign. From TPM : "'The Daily Show' started a petition on Tuesday night to free the former Florida governor from his 'cruel presidential campaign.' 'Jeb's been bred and trained for life,' host Trevor Noah explained, not unlike the orcas at Sea World. 'Every night, no matter how bad he feels, he has to go out there and perform …. Jeb Bush wants to be, no, he deserves to be set free. We know this because unlike an orca trapped in Sea World, Jeb Bush can voice his misery in a language we can understand.'"

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Charles Koch has no plans to back a candidate in Republican primary. From USA Today : "I have no plans to support anybody in the primary now," the billionaire industrialist said yesterday. Asked what he wants to hear from Republican contenders vying for his support, Koch said, "It's not only what they say. If they start saying things we think are beneficial overall and will change the trajectory of the country, then that would be good, but we have to believe also they'll follow through on it, and by and large, candidates don't do that."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Donald Trump rallies supporters in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Jeb Bush attends a town hall in Grand Rapids, Mich., and a house party in Center Tuftonboro, N.H. Also in N.H., Ted Cruz campaigns in Concord and John Kasich greets voters in Exeter. Lindsey Graham stops in Concord, Bedford, Litchfield and Nashua. In Iowa, Rand Paul holds events in Ames and Altoona, Chris Christie is in Cedar Rapids, Anamosa and Robins, and Carly Fiorina stops in Onawa and Harlan. Marco Rubio speaks at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Summit in Hilton Head.

–On the Hill: The Senate and House are in recess.

–At the White House: President Obama awards retired Army Capt. Florent A. Groberg the

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Medal of Honor. Vice President Biden speaks at an "It's On Us" event at Syracuse University.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: Trump called for a 25 percent or greater tax on profits from the Keystone XL pipeline: "I want a piece of the profits," he said in New Hampshire. "Let's make a good deal." (WSJ)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **Breezy showers streak across the area this morning and are mostly gone by early afternoon.** "Winds build to a crescendo of leaf-stripping, hair-disrupting intensity tomorrow," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "The weekend is clear sailing, literally, and turns much calmer. While Saturday is downright nippy, temps recover nicely to start the new week."

— **Virginia** is the first state to meet the Housing and Urban Development Department's definition of ending homelessness among military veterans. (Jenna Portnoy and Laura Vozzella)

— A fatal beating of a homeless man in **Northeast Washington** was captured on video. (Joe Heim)

— Environmentalists want an ethics investigation into D.C. Mayor **Muriel Bowser** over her reversal on Exelon's takeover of **Pepco.** She was against the deal and then came out for it. (Aaron C. Davis)

— **Washington** is the snobbiest city on the East Coast, according to a new ranking from a site called RoadSnacks.net. San Francisco is #1. (Dana Hedgpeth)

— **D.C**. also has the nation's fourth-highest concentration of students in **charter schools.** (Emma Brown)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Bravo posted a 2-minute trailer for its new reality TV show: **"The Real Housewives of Potomac,"** as in Maryland. The show will follow socialite and single mom Gizelle Bryant, model Katie Rost, grand dame Karen Huger, social butterfly Charrisse Jackson-Jordan, publicist Robyn Dixon and restaurateur Ashley Darby. Watch the trailer here .

Saturday Night Live posted an unaired, five-minute sketch that envisioned the Pentagon treating Trump's hair as a national treasure if he was president ("Scalp Team 6").

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Jeb Bush chest bumped a new supporter:

(@KilloughCNN)

President Obama laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery in honor of Veterans Day. His message focused on the troops being able to find good careers when they arrive home from overseas.

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(The White House)

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The Washington Post

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From:	"Laurel Ruza" <lruza@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/27/2015 4:49:56 AM
Subject:	July 27 Morning Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	July27MorningCableRoundup.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Reported Trump is leading right now in New Hampshire 21-14 percent against Bush, and is second only to Walker in Iowa, 19-17 percent; Ed Henry said Trump has dialed back some of his attacks; Doocy reported Trump attacked Scott Walker for the first time; Doocy reported that in national polls, Trump is leading at 18 percent; Hasselbeck said Trump's remarks against McCain has not affected his standing in the polls; Doocy reported that the Black Lives Matter movement might try to shut down the Republican convention next summer; Hasselbeck said if Black Lives Matter wants to shut down any convention, they should shut down the DNC because they are the party keeping the black community in the position they are in. Discussed the possibility of Trump running as a third-party; Ed Henry interviewed public affairs consultant Craig Shirley about how Trump running as a third-party could change the dynamics of the race; Shirley talked about Reagan-Rockefeller-Ford dynamic; Ed Henry asked if the nightmare scenario was a repeat of the WJC-Bush-Perot campaign, to which Shirley said he wasn't sure; Shirley said if Trump were to run, the Democrats would stand an even better chance of winning the election; Shirley said there's no doubt Trump is bringing in new issues to the Republican party, and compared Trump to Reagan when he took a large proportion of Democrats.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* On front of Boston Globe, headline about Biden running for president; Mika said she thinks he's going to jump in for sure; Mark Halperin said if HRC looks weak before the filing deadline, Biden will jump in, but for now HRC is crushing with fundraising and grassroots support. New NBC News/Marist poll says Walker (19%) leads Trump (17%) in Iowa by only 2 points, Bush is trailing at 12%. Talked about Walker-Trump feud. In NH poll, Rubio is at 5% (and not even in the top tier in Iowa), Trump is ahead at 21%; Mark Halperin said Rubio needs to focus on one state, not sure which one, but Trump has sucked the oxygen out of the room; Mike Huckabee is getting desperate after losing a lot of votes to Trump and compared Obama's Iran deal to the Holocaust to get attention; Ted Cruz is also trying to get attention, accusing McConnell of being a liar on the floor of the Senate. On the Dem side, the Iowa poll shows HRC with solid lead at 55%, Sanders trailing at 26%, but in NH, HRC only leads Sanders by 13 points. For favorability, all 2016 candidates except Sanders polled more unfavorable. In NH, the outlook appears to be dim as well. People are fed up with their options. Michael Warren from The Weekly Standard said HRC's unfavorable numbers show how weak she is. Mika said she thinks Trump will run as an independent if he doesn't win the Republican nomination. On HRC and emails, Joe Scarborough said HRC should apologize and put herself at the mercy of the American people.

CNN's *New Day:* While Donald Trump is leading the Republican polls, he has the highest unfavorable rating of any of the presidential candidates at 59%; Donald Trump's central issue to his agenda is illegal immigration however, Republicans and Democrats alike feel that the economy is the most important issue for voters;Trump states that people "are tired of incompetent politicians in Washington that can't get anything done;" Trump EVP states that everything Trump has touched has been great and now he wants to make the country great again like he has done with his company; Trump wants to show Americans how great of a deal maker he is and show everyone that America is just "one big business;" Chris Cuomo points out that HRC and Bernie Sanders both are doing better than Trump across the national spectrum; Cohen states that means nothing because there's another part of the poll that shows 52% of people who, if their first choice candidate is not in the general election, Trump would be their second choice; Michael Cohen states that "Iran is a disaster;" He claims that Trump would not be offended by Mike Huckabee's claim that "The Iran Nuclear Deal is marching the Israelis to the door of the oven."

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From: "Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/20/2016 1:10:15 PM
Subject: Belfer Center Newsletter: Fall/Winter

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/28/2014 9:28:28 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | The Iraq War Was a Smashing Success

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Thursday, 28 August 2014

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William Rivers Pitt | The Iraq War Was a Smashing Success

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: By any vaguely human measure, the situation in Iraq is a US-made disaster of historic proportions. But for those in the "defense" industry, the specter of ongoing war and fear and death and weaponized mayhem is a fantastic return on their investment.

Read the Article

From Freedom Summer to Black August

Dan Berger, Dissent: Thirty-five years ago, California prisoners founded Black August, a holiday to pay tribute to African-American history in the context of an ever-expanding carceral state. Through Black August, prisoners sought to demonstrate the personal power they maintained despite incarceration.

Read the Article

Israeli Company Targeted by Oakland Blockade Imports Ammunition Into US

Darwin BondGraham, Truthout: Israeli-owned shipping company Zim, the target of recent port blockades organized by Palestinian solidarity activists in California, is importing millions of rounds of small arms ammunition into the United States each year.

Read the Article

Caught on Tape: What Mitch McConnell Complained About to a Roomful of Billionaires

Lauren Windsor, The Nation: At a secret meeting of elite donors convened by the Koch brothers, McConnell laid out his plan for shrinking the federal

BuzzFlash

Romney May Run for President Again: Invasion of the Plutocrats, the Sequel

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: What this portends, given that the 2016 Democratic candidate for president is, at this time, likely to be a neoliberal on economics, is that the next presidential election is currently destined to be another horse race spectacle, rather than a serious discussion of potential structural changes in our economic system.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Everything Is Already Broken, So Let's Bomb

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government and whined about having to vote on minimum wage bills.

Read the Article and Listen to the Audio

Street Sweepers, Part I: The Battle for the Cecil

Aaron Cantú, Beacon Reader: Downtown Los Angeles is home to two extreme phenomena: hyper-gentrification and a homeless population rising more rapidly than in any other city in the nation. No story embodies this more than the battle between activists and developers for the Cecil Hotel.

Read the Article and Watch the Videos

You Don't Know What "Libertarian" Means

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Libertarianism is not what most Americans think it is. From wanting to privatize health care, to doing away with federal agencies and eliminating minimum wage laws, libertarianism put the interests of billionaires and the wealthy elite first, and the interests of everyone else dead last.

Read the Article

Why Wall Street and Consulting Firms Win at the Elite College Brain Drain Game

Yves Smith, Naked Capitalism: From the perspective of elite college administrators, steering more students to get big-ticket jobs creates a virtuous circle for the school: More well-heeled graduates makes for a bigger pool of income from which to solicit donations.

Read the Article

Laura Flanders | Surplus Military

Laura Flanders, GRITtv: Obama says the review of surplus military equipment will be done by White House staff and "relevant" agencies, including Homeland Security and the Departments of Defense. But how about the residents in towns with all this firepower review the program? Especially those who have had police point assault rifles at their heads.

Listen to the Audio and Read the Transcript

Paul Krugman | The "Libertarian Moment" Will Have to Wait

Paul Krugman, Krugman & Co.: The libertarian vision of the society we actually have bears little resemblance to reality. Libertarianism is a crusade against problems we don't have, or at least not to the extent that libertarians want to imagine.

Read the Article

Ferguson: Living Through the Replay

Dr. Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, The Rag Blog: As a society, we seem repeatedly surprised by the anger generated by educational inequity, vanished jobs, ever more income disparities, lost affordable housing and racial and ethnic profiling of those targeted. We seem not to hear our fellow Americans until these events replay and coverage lets protestors speak for themselves.

Read the Article

Let's Bomb Some More Stuff
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Russians Invading, Says Ukraine Leader; Tanks Reported Crossing Border
Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

Chevron: Global Bandit, Local Bully
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

A 9-Year-Old at a Shooting Range, an Uzi and Outrage
Read the Article at The New York Times

Elizabeth Warren Faces Angry Questions About Gaza at Town Hall
Read the Article at the Cape Cod Times

Charles P. Pierce | It Is Never About Race: A Continuing Series
Read the Article at Esquire

Your Cellphone Company Says Your Location Info Is Private. Think Again.
Read the Article at Mother Jones

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Climate Crisis Connects Us, Climate Justice Requires Unity

Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese, Popular Resistance: There are solutions to the climate crisis, but like all other real solutions, they will have to come from organized and mobilized people at the grassroots level.

Read the Article

Economic Update: Corporate Economics

Richard D. Wolff, Economic Update / Truthout: This episode covers Burger King, French socialism, cellphone overcharging and Bank of America's fine. We also address the advertising industry and the lack of an economic recovery. Plus, we respond to listeners' queries about Michigan teachers' union fight, the poor still being kept out of top US colleges and corporate stock buybacks.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/16/2008 1:52:10 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 9/16

08 Election Daily News Clips
September 16th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:05am BUSH: Briefing on Hurricane Ike damage in Houston, TX

10:35am BUSH: Aerial tour of Texas hurricane damage

11:15am BUSH: Briefing at Emergency Operations Center in Galveston, TX

11:30am Palin: Fund Raiser in Cincinnati, OH

12pm McCain: Rally in Tampa, FL
- Tracking scheduled for this event

3pm Palin: Interview on 55 WKRC-AM - "Sean Hannity Radio Show"

3:30pm BUSH: ,Meets with the President's Working Group on financial markets at the White House

4pm McCain and Palin: Rally in Vienna, OH

10pm Todd Palin: Part 2 of interview airs on Fox News' "On the Record with Greta van Susteren"

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Candidates, 2 Approaches to Wall Street (NYT 9/16/08)
By JACKIE CALMES
The crisis on Wall Street will leave the next president facing tough choices about how best to regulate the financial system, and although neither Senator Barack Obama nor Senator John McCain has yet offered a detailed plan, their records and the principles they have set out so far suggest they could come at the issue in very different ways.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/16/us/politics/16record.html?_r=1&hp=&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

Wall Street's Woes Challenge Both Candidates (WSJ 9/16/08)
By GERALD F. SEIB
In his reaction to the Wall Street meltdown, John McCain is playing the part of Teddy Roosevelt, man of the people: Don't use taxpayer money to bail out greedy financial titans, he says, and don't be afraid to regulate Wall Street.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122149887584837137.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Economy Becomes New Proving Ground For McCain, Obama (WaPo 9/16/08)
By Dan Balz and Robert Barnes; A01
Yesterday's meltdown on Wall Street brought the economy roaring back to the center of the presidential campaign, and the question for the final seven weeks of the general-election campaign is whether Barack Obama or John McCain can convince voters that he is capable of leading the country out of the morass.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091503356_pf.html

Did McCain economy gaffe prompt a correction? (MarketWatch 9/16/08)
By Russ Britt
On a day when Wall Street was melting down, Republican Sen. John McCain insisted Monday that the nation's economy was "fundamentally strong," drawing criticism from Democratic leaders and his opponent for the

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presidency, Sen. Barack Obama.
http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/did-mccain-economy-gaffe-prompt/story.aspx?guid=AB97BD36-9F9C-4239-ABC9-6B9E89D5C194&dist=SecMostCommented

McCain TV Ad Puts Focus on Economic "Crisis" (The Page 9/15/08)
The issue-based ad focuses on the woes on Wall Street, doesn't mention Obama by name once. "Our economy in crisis. Only proven reformers John McCain and Sarah Palin can fix it."
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/393166018/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pd-pMhboEX4

Obama TV Ad Smacks McCain for "Fundamentals" Remark (The Page 9/16/08)
Ominous 30-second spot asks how can McCain fix the economy if he believes, as he said Monday, "that the fundamentals of our economy are strong." Amount and length of buy TBD. Spot airing in battleground states.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/16/obama-tv-ad-smacks-mccain-for-fundamentals-remark/
Link to video of ad ("Fundamentals"): http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/fundamentals_ad/

New Obama ad hits McCain on pay for women (Politico blog 9/15/08)
By Ben Smith
A new, and unreleased, Obama ad, airing (at least) in Virginia, attacks McCain for his opposition to legislation requiring women receive equal pay for equal work.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0908/New_Obama_ad_hits_McCain_on_pay_for_women.html?showall
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2G7ZDgVSvM

Wall Street Political Donations Set to Slow (WSJ 9/16/08)
By BRODY MULLINS and MARY JACOBY
Barack Obama and John McCain blamed executive greed Monday for the turmoil in financial markets. But both men, and their parties, have relied heavily on Wall Street cash to fuel their campaigns, and the slowdown threatens to dry up that lucrative source of donations.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122152311313139643.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

McCain pulls in big donations, smaller crowds (CNN blog 9/15/08)
By Chris Welch
Republican presidential candidate John McCain told a private audience Monday night that "no matter what you see in the polls," he and Sarah Palin are underdogs. ...The GOP candidate was addressing a crowd of donors at a Miami hotel. In his introduction, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist said McCain has brought in $26.2 million to date from Floridians, $5.1 million Monday night alone.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/15/mccain-pulls-in-big-donations-smaller-crowds/

Studies Detail Contrasts in Rivals' Health-Care Plans (WSJ 9/16/08)
By LAURA MECKLER
Republican presidential candidate John McCain's health-care plan would make only a small dent in the ranks of the uninsured, at best covering about five million more people, two new reports conclude.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122153768171141665.html

Economists take critical view of health plans (AP 9/16/08)
By KEVIN FREKING
John McCain's health plan won't lower the ranks of the uninsured. Barack Obama's fails to curb the soaring cost of health care, meaning initial gains in helping more people buy health insurance would eventually be undermined.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j3QFmojE8Ft12Stb5Eru_cHBwqxgD937J6600

McCain is practically bubble-wrapped these days (AP 9/16/08)
By GLEN JOHNSON
John McCain isn't mixing it up with the people much these days. His strong suit and distinguishing characteristic _ accessibility _ is rarely on display in these buttoned-up weeks of the presidential election campaign, when worries about missteps or getting off the topic of the moment trump the freewheeling nature of the Arizona senator. That made his town-hall meeting Monday, first in nearly a month, all the more striking.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091600229_pf.html

McCain's stump speech more about Palin than self (AP 9/16/08)
By JENNIFER LOVEN
Two things jump out from John McCain's standard campaign speech: Sarah Palin and change. Mostly Sarah

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Palin bringing change.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091600221_pf.html

McCain says Obama didn't call Palin a pig (AP 9/15/08)
By BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Did Barack Obama really call Sarah Palin a pig, as a John McCain ad leads people to believe? "No," McCain said Monday.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jqSrvKD0cyqbefXbnUu0sZbSv8qAD937C7SO2

Ad Calls McCain's Campaign 'Dishonorable' (WaPo 9/16/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut and Shailagh Murray; A03
Sen. Barack Obama's campaign accused Sen. John McCain of running a "disgraceful, dishonorable campaign" in an advertisement launched Monday as the Democratic nominee vowed to leave no attack unanswered in the final weeks of the race for the White House.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091503000.html

Obama, McCain diverge on Wall Street cures (Politico 9/15/08)
By: Ben Smith and Avi Zenilman
As Wall Street closed more than 500 points down and seemed on the verge of sliding into the New York Harbor Monday afternoon, the campaigns of Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain sought to draw voters into two very different conversations about the financial crisis.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=67EC64F1-18FE-70B2-A8884C7B13B5AFDF

McCain: Once a victim of push polls, now a perpetrator? (National Post blog 9/16/08)
by Shane Dingman
What is a push poll? Irony of ironies, most people might not have been familiar with this tactic of political campaigns until it was made famous in the 2000 primary campaign when John McCain was the victim of some singularly ugly push-polling. McCain's campaign manager at the time wrote a fabulous piece all about what it was like for McCain in the Boston Globe in 2004. One of the opening graphs says it all:
http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/posted/archive/2008/09/16/mccain-once-a-victim-of-push-polls-now-a-perpetrator.aspx

Obama, McCain to Speak to Clinton Global Initiative (The Page 9/15/08)
The two presidential candidates will participate with the likes of Queen Rania, Gordon Brown, Hamid Karzai, Al Gore, Michael Bloomberg, Lance Armstrong, Bono and more in addressing the fourth annual meeting. Obama by satellite. The conference takes place in New York City from September 23-26
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/393625662/

PALIN NEWS

Creamery Case Has Palin Critics Taking Aim at Fiscal-Conservative Claim (WSJ 9/16/08)
By JIM CARLTON
Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin promotes herself as a small-government conservative. But when Alaska government officials wanted to shut down a money-losing creamery, the governor overturned the decision after dairy farmers near her hometown complained the loss of subsidies would cripple them.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122152654971140245.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Palin supports $600 million 'other' bridge project (AP 9/16/08)
By GARANCE BURKE
Gov. Sarah Palin may eventually have said "no thanks" to a federally funded Bridge to Nowhere. But a bridge to her hometown of Wasilla, that's a different story. A $600 million bridge and highway project to link Alaska's largest city to Palin's town of 7,000 residents is moving full speed ahead, despite concerns the bridge could worsen some commuting and threaten a population of beluga whales.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091600245_pf.html

John McCain campaign tries to quell 'Troopergate' (AP 9/16/08)
By GENE JOHNSON
The presidential campaign of Sen. John McCain is trying to put to rest the ethical controversy that's come to be known as "Troopergate," releasing e-mails supporting Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's contention that she dismissed her public safety commissioner over budget disagreements, not because he wouldn't fire her ex-brother-in-law.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091600265_pf.html

Palin for Energy Czar! (WaPo blog 9/15/08)

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The woman touted by John McCain as the most knowledgable person in America on energy issues has been having a lot of trouble getting her basic energy statistics straight. Last week, Sarah Palin told Charlie Gibson of ABC News that her state, Alaska, produced "nearly 20 percent of the U.S. domestic supply of energy." Yesterday, she told a campaign rally in Golden, Colorado, that she had been responsible for overseeing "nearly 20 percent of the U.S. domestic supply of oil and gas." Both claims are way off.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2008/09/palin_on_energy.html

Fired Official: Governor Sarah Palin Did Not Tell the Truth to ABC (ABC 9/15/08)
By RHONDA SCHWARTZ and JUSTIN ROOD
Walt Monegan Says He Was Called to Gov.'s Office Over a "Private Family Matter"
http://www.abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=5804703&page=1

Palin makes first foray into fundraising for McCain (CNN blog 9/15/08)
By Peter Hamby
In her first fundraising effort on behalf of the McCain campaign, Sarah Palin raised just under $1 million, according to the host of the event.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/15/palin-makes-first-foray-into-fundraising-for-mccain/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The Ugly New McCain (WaPo 9/17/08)
Richard Cohen
He has become the sort of politician he once despised.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091502406.html

McCain's Radical Agenda (NYT 9/16/08)
By BOB HERBERT
Talk about a shock to the system. Has anyone bothered to notice the radical changes that John McCain and Sarah Palin are planning for the nation's health insurance system?
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/16/opinion/16herbert.html?pagewanted=print

Running on a Lie (WaPo 9/16/08)
By Eugene Robinson
Palin believes that truth is nothing more than what she says it is.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091502471.html

What It Takes (WaPo 9/16/08)
Anne Applebaum
Are we willing to pay the high cost of victory in Afghanistan?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091502470.html

Palin the outsider (Washington Times 9/16/08)
Jeremy Lott
When John McCain chose Alaska Governor Sarah Palin for his running mate, the decision caught everyone completely off guard. That shock and embarrassment, even, extended to America's major book publishing houses. So instead of the normal quickie campaign clip job put out by one of the larger imprints, for now we have the surprise small press publishing the success story of the year.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/16/palin-the-outsider/

BUSH NEWS

Bush: Economy Strong Enough to Handle Turmoil (WaPo 9/16/08)
By William Branigin
President Bush today lamented what he described as "painful" adjustments in U.S. financial markets following the collapse of the Lehman Brothers investment firm, but he gave no indication of any further federal bailouts and said the markets are resilient enough to handle the disruptions.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091501283.html

Cheney Linked Hussein to Al-Qaeda, Ex-GOP House Leader Says in Book (WaPo 9/16/08)
By Jeff Leen; A19
A GOP congressional leader who was wavering on giving President Bush the authority to wage war in late 2002 said Vice President Cheney misled him by saying that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had direct personal ties to al-Qaeda terrorists and was making rapid progress toward a suitcase nuclear weapon, according to a new book by Washington Post investigative reporter Barton Gellman.

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091503064.html

Bush heads to Texas as Galvestonians urged to leave (CNN 9/16/08)
President Bush heads to hurricane-ravaged south Texas on Tuesday with a message that the federal government will be there with aid and support.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/09/16/hurricane.ike/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Dow sheds 500 points in worst skid since 2001 terror attacks (AP 9/16/08)
A stunning makeover of the Wall Street landscape sent stocks falling precipitously Monday, with the Dow Jones industrials losing 500 points in their worst slide since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Investors recoiled after a shakeup of the financial industry that took out two storied names: Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Merrill Lynch & Co.
http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/2008/09/16/20080916biz-mktwallstreet0916.html

Economic-Stimulus Plan Lacks Bipartisan Backing (WSJ 9/16/08)
By GREG HITT and SARAH LUECK
House Democratic leaders plan to push for action on a $50 billion economic-stimulus package, betting that financial-market turmoil will overcome Republican reluctance to spend more on highways and bridges.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122152277104639601.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Interest Groups Step Up Efforts in a Tight Race (NYT 9/16/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG and MICHAEL LUO
After largely staying on the sidelines, the types of independent groups that so affected the 2004 presidential campaign are flooding back as players in the final sprint to the election this fall, financing provocative messages on television, in mailboxes and through the Internet.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/16/us/politics/16group.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper&oref=slogin

Kissinger Backs Direct Talks 'Without Conditions' with Iran (ABC blog 9/15/08)
By Rachel Martin
Former U.S.Secretary of State Henry Kissinger today told an audience in Washington, DC that the U.S. should negotiate with Iran "without conditions" and that the next President should begin such negotiations at a high level.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/09/kissinger-backs.html level.

Powell still undecided, says Obama win would be 'electrifying' (CNN blog 9/15/08)
Former Bush Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday that he has not yet decided which candidate to back in this year's presidential race.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/15/powell-still-undecided-says-obama-win-would-be-electrifying/

Top Democrats Privately Urging Major Donors To Fund Outside Groups To Attack McCain (TPM 9/16/08)
By Greg Sargent
In a sign of just how nervous senior Democrats are about Barack Obama's situation, top Democratic Party operatives are privately urging the party's major donors to get serious about putting big money into outside groups looking to attack John McCain in key battleground states.http://
tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/09/top_democrats_privately_urging.php

Fannie, Freddie's Former CEOs to Lose $12.6 Million in Severance Pay (WaPo 9/16/08)
By Zachary A. Goldfarb; D02
Former Fannie Mae chief executive Daniel H. Mudd and former Freddie Mac chief executive Richard F. Syron will lose $12.59 million in salary, stock and bonuses but keep $9.43 million in retirement and pension benefits under a Federal Housing Finance Agency plan to block their severance payments.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/15/AR2008091502853_pf.html

POLLS

Latest Ohio Numbers (The Page 9/15/08)
From Suffolk University poll:
McCain 46, Obama 42
Dates conducted: Sept. 10-13. Error margin: 4 points.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/09/15/latest-ohio-numbers/

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/6/2015 8:54:55 AM
Subject: Vivek Lall

Dr. Vivek Lall, a renowned aerospace and defence expert, has held various key positions with his last stint being as CEO and President, Reliance New Ventures Ltd. Reliance Industries Limited .[2] Dr. Lall was heading the Boeing (Defence and Space) operations in India from 2007 till April 2011. **Dr. Lall has now joined the US-based global defense and nuclear giant General Atomics** as the global Chief Executive for international Commercial Strategic Development for General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems.[3] He has been also recognized as one of the world's top scientists of the twentieth century by Cambridge. [4] [5] In his new role at General Atomics, Dr. Lall will based out of San Diego California and will be frequently travelling to India. General Atomics is best known for manufacturing one of the most important tools in modern warfare: the Predator, an unmanned spy plane used by the US in many global engagements. As Chief Executive he will have US and international responsibilities of strategic development of systems like EMALS. Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) is a complete launch system designed to replace the existing steam catapult currently being used on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. EMALS is being considered by the Indian Navy for its forthcoming aircraft carrier.[6] [7]

He is also affiliated with the United Nations in New York to advise on Broadband and Cyber Security issues for unique challenges within the global community and provide services that will help address them.[8] [9]

Associations

- Vivek was appointed as Chairman of the Indo-US Strategic Dialogue by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce. In August 2011[20] [21]
- Vivek was appointed as Distinguished Fellow at India's think tank Observer Research Foundation.[22]
- He also served as Chairman of the Defense Committee of The Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)[23]

Dr Vivek Lall joins General Atomics (Aug 2014)

Dr Vivek Lall, the noted Indian-origin American aerospace expert, has joined General Atomics as Chief Executive for global strategic development.

Dr Lall had joined the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) group in May 2011 and set up its aerospace arm, Reliance Aerospace Technologies Limited (RATL) to chart a roadmap for the company’s incursion into aircraft and space systems manufacture. Although his departure comes as a surprise, his movement may actually help bring newer technologies to India.

The San Diego-based General Atomics (GA) is into futuristic fusion nuclear power and electromagnetic propulsion which can launch aircraft, artillery shells and even spacecraft into orbit. GA is a privately-held company, and a pearl of technology in the United States.

GA is already in talks with the Indian Navy to offer its patented Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) for India’s second indigenous aircraft carrier which is at design stage. No decision has been announced but indications are that the Navy is seriously looking at the EMALS, but under Transfer of Technology (ToT). If an agreement goes through, this could perhaps be the most sophisticated ToT venture under India’s current Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP).

The EMALS technology was on the table among the offers during US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel’s recent visit to New Delhi.

General Atomics has also offered the unarmed version of its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Predator which has extensively been used in Afghanistan for reconnaissance purposes. It is not known if the Indian Air Force (IAF), which is looking for UAV and UCAV (Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle) technology, is considering the Predators.

As for the soft-spoken Dr Lall, who signed into the company Aug 25 in this Californian city on the Pacific coast, he will

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be visiting New Delhi soon to say Hullo and Bye to those in the establishment there and also meet his friends in the Indian capital's strategic community. He told ***India Strategic*** he would be a periodic visitor as New Delhi is more or less a hometown for him.

Dr Lall is a former US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) hand. He was Boeing's Vice President in India with high credits for winning major orders for the company's civil and military aircraft before joining RIL.

He had also worked with Raytheon, a leading US manufacturer of highly sophisticated airport and aircraft radars and onboard weapon systems for air, land, sea and space usage.

Notably, Dr Lall is on a global list of the world's top scientists prepared by the University of Cambridge. He was also the President of the Mathematical Association of America.

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Eryn M. Sepp
Cell: 818-456-2881

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/5/2016 11:01:20 AM
Subject: Peace and the Parallel Universe

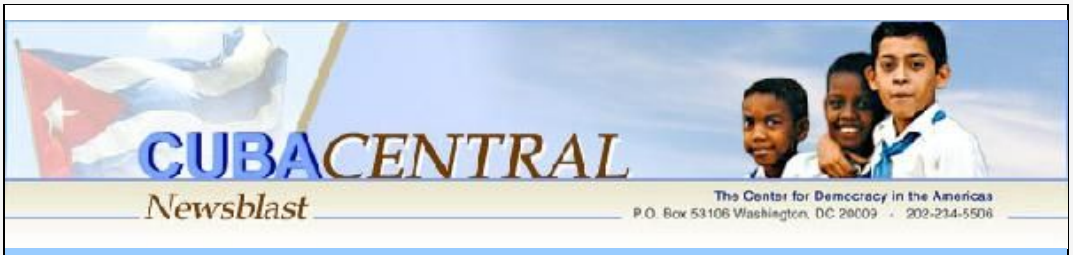

February 5, 2016

Dear Friends:

Blessed are the peacemakers, it says in Matthew 5:9 - and the peacemakers seem to converging in Havana.

One week from today, the leaders of Roman Catholicism and the Russian Orthodox Church will meet in Cuba to try and advance the healing process between Eastern and Western Christianity, churches which have been in schism since 1054.

In coming to Cuba to seek peace, Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill I are not alone.

For two years, a tightly held negotiation between the United States and Cuba ended six decades of hostilities between our two countries. The diplomatic effort to normalize relations continues to roll forward in both capitals.

Since 2014, Cuba and the European Union have been negotiating a new Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement to replace the tired, confrontational framework that has existed for nearly twenty years. The talks, which are alternating between Brussels and Havana, will resume in Cuba later this year.

Most of all, talks to end the fifty-year civil war between the Government of Colombia and the FARC guerrilla movement, a conflict that has claimed more than a quarter-million dead, are "Heading toward the Finish Line in Cuba," according to Ginny Bouvier's most recent post.

While the Colombian and FARC peace delegations deserve the lion's share of the credit - they've been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize - Cuba's role in hosting the negotiations continues to win praise.

As President Obama said at a White House ceremony with Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos at his side, "I want to think all of the parties for their efforts, including the government of Cuba for hosting the talks. We all know that it's easier to start wars than to end them."

President Santos replied in part by saying, "I also believe that I speak for all the people in Latin America and the Caribbean, all the people who live south of the Rio Grande, when I say to you, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, for your audacity in reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cuba."

The President was audacious, indeed, for ushering in a period of diplomacy that has produced resumed relations, reopened embassies, prisoner releases, policy reforms and more. In a world beset by tragic struggles and disorder, it's hard not to enjoy the emergence of Cuba, once the epicenter of the Cold War conflict, as a 21st Century staging point for reconciliation.

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Somehow, the editorial writers at the Washington Post have figured out a way not to feel the love.

The Post didn't allow a day to go by before it unloaded on President Obama's decision to normalize relations with Cuba. On December 17th, 2014 they called his diplomatic breakthrough "an undeserved bailout" of the Castro regime. They also called the administration "naïve" for believing it would help transform U.S. relations with Latin America.

After just six months, the Post denounced the deal as "one-sided," and actually took pleasure in the fact that Congress was stopping the appointment of a U.S. Ambassador to Cuba. In September, it accused Pope Francis of appeasement for his role in bringing America and Cuba together. In October, they slammed the overhaul of U.S. policy again for being "one-sided." And on Sunday, they roared again.

Their editorial, Failure in Cuba, topped by a dated photograph of President Raúl Castro sitting with Fidel Castro taken in 2011, declares that President Obama's opening to Cuba "seems to be failing to live up to its declared goals." After concluding that nothing positive has materialized, "the president's only response," they say, "has been more unilateral concessions."

In the Post's parallel universe, in one year's time, nothing has been accomplished. Cuba has not unilaterally dismantled its system in the last year, just as it didn't for more than fifty years under the old policy. But that's the wrong metric.

In his well-argued piece, Inconsistent Impatience on Cuba, Paul Pillar pillages the Post for its way-stale argument giving the administration a single year to reverse decades of failed policy in Cuba.

"Evidently half a century," Pillar writes, "through ten different U.S. administrations, is deemed insufficient time to judge whether the policy of isolation can ever achieve any useful results. But the editorial criticizes President Obama's opening for not bringing about a 'sea change in Cuba' during the brief time it has been in effect."

Short of a sea-change, as a critic of U.S. policy, Carlos Lopez wrote this week, "Opening telecommunications, increasing tourism, and embracing foreign culture into the island are all signs that Obama's policy of engagement has resulted in a Cuba with less restrictions and barriers."

Engage Cuba made a similar point this week. "Before December 17, 2014...there were zero Wi-Fi hotspots outside of hotels and zero in the homes of Cubans. At the end of 2015, there were 65 Wi-Fi hotspots, and the Cuban government has announced it will add 80 more during 2016.

These Wi-Fi hotspots, a priority for President Obama's new policy, are gateways for Cubans to expand their borders. "We are seeing a whole new quality of public space," Miguel Antonio Padrón Lotti, a Cuban professor of urban planning, told The Guardian. "Cubans have always socialized on the streets, but now we can interact with the wider world at the same time."

It's not just hotspots, but also progress propelled by painstaking diplomacy - on commerce, criminal justice and fugitives, migration and fraud - with more left to be done.

Rather than rolling the policy back, as several prominent candidates for the U.S. presidency would have us do, or stand and wait until a new Congress is elected capable of dealing with Cuba policy legislation (talk about a parallel universe), we enjoy the *elan* of President Francois Hollande, who called this week on President Obama to "go all the way (how French)," and end the embargo himself.

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Now, the President's authority probably doesn't really extend that far. In fact, Congress and the Supreme Court have taken steps in recent days to call into doubt the powers of his office that he has used to reform Cuba policy since 2009.

But, as Bill LeoGrande explained in Foreign Policy this week, there's much that he can do with the power he's got within the time left in his term to use it. LeoGrande proposed presidential actions to lift bans on U.S. investments, allow a range of Cuban imports into the U.S., free individuals to make people-to-people trips to Cuba, and make significant changes in the regulatory regime and its enforcement so that U.S. banks embrace the idea of commerce with Cuba, rather than thwarting it in fear of being fined.

The choice seems pretty clear; rather than returning the policy to the Post's parallel universe, take the more promising path with the Pope, the Patriarch, President Santos and the FARC toward progress and peace.

Our Recommendations

Cuba says it will launch broadband home Internet project , Michael Weissenstein, *Miami Herald*
On Sunday January 31, Cuba's government announced that it would launch broadband Internet service in two Havana neighborhoods. ETECSA, the state telecommunications company intends to use fiber optic connections from Chinese telecom operator, Huawei, to provide Internet service to homes in the historic Old Havana neighborhood. This development comes a year after Cuba set up dozens of public Wi-Fi hotspots, and will serve as a pilot program for future wireless telecom projects.

Obama Needs to Stop Playing Small Ball With Cuba or a Republican in the White House, backed by a fearful, anti-Cuba Congress, could undo -- in an instant -- all his good work. William M. LeoGrande, *Foreign Policy*
Given reluctance by Congress to take up legislation to repeal the embargo, the Obama administration's actions in Cuba have relied on the use of executive authority. Should a Republican win the White House in 2016, Professor LeoGrande warns that President Obama's unilateral executive actions can easily be revoked. In the year remaining, however, he lists a series of actions the administration could take to make Cuba policy reform progress harder to roll back.

Inconsistent Impatience on Cuba , Paul Pillar, *National interest*
Paul Pillar responds to a Washington Post editorial that labels President Obama's Cuba opening as a "failure" that is "not leading to positive change." Pillar compares this criticism to similar backlash against the administration's nuclear agreement with Iran. He suggests that critics of Obama's diplomatic initiatives fail to assess - or even propose - alternative policies, have unrealistic, anachronistic, and inconsistent expectations for potential changes, and tend to be "impatient" in their views of diplomacy.

NASA explores cooperation with Cuba on science projects , *Fox News Latino*
NASA researcher Brent Holben's recent trip to Cuba underscores potential research collaboration between the US and Cuba. Holben urged Cuba to join the recently created Caribbean Aerosol Network, a component of Aeronet, which is a network of robotic instruments basically used to study aerosols, tiny particles suspended in the air whose high concentration has a negative impact on human health.

U.S. and Cuban researchers begin neuroscience collaborations , Becky Hamm, *Science*
U.S. and Cuban scientists have identified areas of neuroscience for research collaboration. The areas include magnetic resonance imaging technology, neuroinformatics, neurodevelopment, and a plan to establish an international nonhuman primate research center in Cuba. Mark Rasenick, a professor of physiology and psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a fellow of both AAAS and the

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Cuban Academy, noted the positives of this academic relationship with Cuba but added, "We still have a number of impediments to research, and in order to fix them, we need to end the embargo."

Port of Miami preparing for daily ferry service to Cuba , Douglas Hanks, *Miami Herald*
The Miami Herald recently uncovered documents showing that Port of Miami has been in negotiations to open ferry service to Havana for a year. However, delays from the Cuban side have stalled progress, as Cuba prioritizes other construction projects.

Constitutional Reform in Cuba: Why, how, and with whom? , Eileen Sosin Martínez, *Progreso Semanal*
Progreso Semanal offers an updated look into proposed constitutional changes in Cuba. On February 24, 2013, President Raul Castro announced that he was introducing changes to the constitution. The first proposal outlined was the need to introduce term limits on politicians. At most, they would be able to serve two five-year terms in office. Three years later, we still do not have many additional details on the reforms. Professor and investigator at the Center for the Study of Public Administration, Julio Antonio Fernandez, imagines that we will see a clearer proposal at the upcoming April 2016 Party Congress, following the same logic of reform put forth in 1992.

Cuba, through rose-colored glasses , Yoani Sánchez, *Miami Herald*
Sánchez describes the stark contrast between the prosperous and thriving Cuba envisioned by the Cuban government, journalists, and media, and the reality in which sickness, censorship, and poverty affect citizens on a daily basis.

Cuba for sale: "Havana is now the big cake - and everyone is trying to get a slice,"
Oliver Wainwright, *Guardian*
Tourism from the U.S. to Cuba has surged by 40% since president Obama announced a thaw in diplomatic relations between the two countries in December 2014. According to the IMF, an end to the U.S. economic embargo on the island could see the number of American tourists to Cuba skyrocket to 10 million per year.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

Like our work? Consider a monthly donation!

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/23/2014 7:20:03 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday November 23, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday November 23, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times: "G.O.P.-Led Benghazi Panel Bolsters Administration"

"'The effort to turn the Benghazi tragedy into a political scandal never had a factual basis,' said David Brock, founder of Correct the Record, a group that defends Mrs. Clinton in the news media, and author of the e-book 'The Benghazi Hoax.' ... 'The Republican committee report should close the case,' he added. 'If the scandal persists into 2016, it will only be for partisan reasons.'"

ABC News: "Top Hillary Clinton Supporters Gather to Plot, Strategize"

"The attendees at the event included Correct the Record's David Brock and Burns Strider, who were invited guests to last weekend's 10th anniversary event for the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, as well as political strategists Harold Ickes, James Carville and Paul Begala."

Newsday: "Hillary Clinton eulogizes lawyer Thomas A. Twomey Jr. in East Hampton"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton eulogized prominent environmental lawyer Thomas A. Twomey Jr. at his funeral in East Hampton on Saturday, recalling how he helped her connect with everyday Long Islanders and win her Senate seat from New York in 2000."

Associated Press: "Obama: Americans want 'new car smell' in 2016"

"He said a number of possible Democratic candidates would make 'terrific presidents,' but Hillary Clinton is the only one he mentioned by name. He said she would be a 'formidable candidate' and make 'a great president' if she decides to run a second time."

CNN: "Sen. Lindsey Graham: GOP-led Benghazi report is 'full of crap'"

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"Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, has some harsh words for the recently released Benghazi report, led by his own party. 'I think the report is full of crap,' Graham told Gloria Borger on CNN's 'State of the Union' on Sunday."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "GOP-led Benghazi report purposely buried in news cycle, Democrat says"

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New York Times: "A Deep 2016 Republican Presidential Field Reflects Party Divisions"

"As Democrats signal that they are ready to rally behind Hillary Rodham Clinton before their primary season even begins, allowing them to focus their fund-raising and firepower mostly on the general election, the Republicans appear destined for a free-for-all."

Articles:

New York Times: "G.O.P.-Led Benghazi Panel Bolsters Administration"

By Michael S. Schmidt

November 22, 2014

WASHINGTON — A report released late Friday about the fatal 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, left Republicans in the same position they have been in for two years: with little evidence to support their most damning critiques of how the Obama administration, and then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, responded to the attacks.

Similar to five other government reports, the one released by the House Intelligence Committee on Friday said that the administration had not intentionally misled the public about what occurred during the attacks in talking points it created for officials to use in television appearances that turned out to be inaccurate.

It also said that no order was given by the military to "stand down" in responding to try to save the four Americans killed in the attacks, a claim that Republicans have made based on the account of a member of the security team in Benghazi that day.

Coming six months after Speaker John A. Boehner created a separate special committee to investigate the Benghazi attacks, the report raised questions about what that panel might uncover that the Intelligence Committee — whose chairman, Representative Mike Rogers, Republican of Michigan, is leaving Congress — and the other investigations missed.

The special committee that Mr. Boehner created is led by Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, who has a budget of $3.3 million for the investigation.

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Mr. Gowdy, in a written statement, said that his committee had reviewed the latest findings along with the other reports. “It will aid the select committee’s comprehensive investigation to determine the full facts of what happened in Benghazi, Libya, before, during and after the attack and contribute toward our final, definitive accounting of the attack on behalf of Congress,” he said.

Democrats have asserted that the special committee was created by Republicans only to try to discredit Mrs. Clinton, who is expected to seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2016.

“The effort to turn the Benghazi tragedy into a political scandal never had a factual basis,” said David Brock, founder of Correct the Record, a group that defends Mrs. Clinton in the news media, and author of the e-book “The Benghazi Hoax.”

“The Republican committee report should close the case,” he added. “If the scandal persists into 2016, it will only be for partisan reasons.”

While the report backed up many of the administration’s longstanding claims that its response was proper, it agreed with the other reports that criticized the State Department for having inadequate security at the compound where the ambassador to Libya, J. Christopher Stevens, was killed.

“The State Department security personnel, resources and equipment were unable to counter the terrorist threat that day and required C.I.A. assistance,” it said.

The panel’s findings reflected well on the intelligence apparatus, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency. The agency “ensured sufficient security” for its facilities in Benghazi and “without a requirement to do so, ably and bravely assisted the State Department on the night of the attacks,” according to the report.

“Their actions saved lives,” the report said.

The report said the C.I.A. did not have an “intelligence failure” in the months before the attacks. In fact, the report said, the agency had increased its security because of intelligence reports showing that attacks had intensified in the area.

In the course of the investigation, the committee reviewed thousands of pages of intelligence assessments, cables, emails and other documents, and it interviewed many senior intelligence officials and people who were on the ground during the attacks — including eight security personnel who responded to them, it said.

Republican lawmakers have said that the administration, fearing political fallout from the attacks — which occurred on Sept. 11, 2012, less than two months before the presidential elections — tried to mislead the public.

In particular, the Republicans have said that Susan E. Rice, who was the ambassador to the United Nations at the time, lied on several Sunday television talk shows when she said the attacks were set off by a protest over an anti-Muslim video. They claimed that she glossed over whether the fatalities were the result of “terrorist” attacks by Al Qaeda because that would have undermined the administration’s narrative that it had all but defeated the group.

The panel found that in the days after the attacks, there was contradictory intelligence about what precipitated them and who was behind them. Ultimately, Ms. Rice’s assertions were wrong, the committee said, but there was no evidence that the administration was attempting to misconstrue the facts.

Even today, the report said, the government is still uncertain about much of what happened that day.

“Much of the early intelligence was conflicting, and two years later, intelligence gaps remain,” the report said. A mix of individuals, “including those affiliated” with Al Qaeda, participated in the attacks, it said, adding, however, that “the intelligence was and remains conflicting about the identities,

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affiliations and motivations of the attackers."

A man accused of being the ringleader of the attackers was apprehended in a raid by American commandos in Benghazi in June, and will likely go on trial in Washington next year on murder charges.

The report also debunked a few accusations against the C.I.A. It said that the agency had not intimidated or prevented "any officer from speaking to Congress or otherwise telling their story." It also said that the agency had not administered "any unusual polygraph exams" to officers about their assignment in Benghazi. And it said that the C.I.A. was not collecting arms in Libya and sending them to rebel groups in Syria.

ABC News: "Top Hillary Clinton Supporters Gather to Plot, Strategize"

By Liz Kreutz

November 21, 2014, 8:01 p.m. EST

NEW YORK – Two-hundred prominent Democratic strategists, former Clinton aides and donors, joined forces today for a day-long strategy meeting hosted by the pro-Hillary Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary to coalesce their efforts, plot and plan for when and if Hillary Clinton runs for president.

The meeting, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Midtown Manhattan, where the Clintons hold their annual Clinton Global Initiative summit, was made up of a series of closed-to-the-media strategizing panels and marked the beginning of the end of Ready for Hillary, which plans to shut down its operations once Clinton announces a run.

It also marked a turning point for Clinton's potential 2016 campaign.

Although nobody today would flat out say it (hypotheticals like "if" and "hope" preceded all statements about her candidacy), the general sentiment among the panelists and attendees was: She's running. And when she does, her supporters said, they will be ready.

"Hopes run high," Marty Chavez, the former Albuquerque mayor and a senior adviser for Ready for Hillary, told reporters. "The biggest takeaway I have is … there are a lot of people who have her back if she says yes."

The attendees at the event included Correct the Record's David Brock and Burns Strider, who were invited guests to last weekend's 10th anniversary event for the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, as well as political strategists Harold Ickes, James Carville and Paul Begala. Two people who have been mentioned as possible campaign managers for Clinton, Stephanie Shriock, the head of EMILY's List, and Guy Cecil, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, also were there.

Hillary Clinton herself was not at the event. Super PAC rules would not allow her to go.

Very little was said about other possible Democratic presidential candidates, such as former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, who just this week became the first candidate to throw his hat in to the ring. The panelists said they saw Hillary Clinton as the most "formidable" candidate and that any concerns were not about a "Hillary Clinton problem," but rather a problem for the Democratic Party, as a whole.

"We have yet to figure out a message on the economy that resonates with working-class voters," Mitch Stewart, a former Obama adviser and founding partner of 270 Strategies, which partnered with Ready for Hillary, told reporters. "We have not been able to persuade them that your values align with ours. And that, for me, is the biggest concern out there."

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The meeting also focused on acknowledging what Ready for Hillary has accomplished since it launched nearly two years ago. In that time, the group has raised $11 million and gained 3 million supporters. Once it shuts down, the group plans to transfer its vast email list of supporters to Clinton's campaign. It was unclear, however, what would happen to the group's now-famous bus.

Ready for Hillary's meeting came a day after Hillary Clinton came out in support of President Obama's executive action on immigration and blamed Congress for inaction on the issue. It was a rare move for Clinton, prompting speculation she might be starting to position herself as a candidate, because she has remained relatively mute on policy matters since she stepped down as Obama's secretary of state in 2013.

Ready for Hillary also hosted a grassroots fundraising event Thursday night at a noisy, haram-themed lounge downtown.

The event, with roughly 150 people, cost $20.16 to attend and offered up cocktails thematically linked to Clinton, who might run to become America's 45th president.

"I'll have one 'Ceiling Breaker' and one '45,'" a young 20-something guy, donning a small Ready for Hillary sticker on his button-down shirt, was heard yelling out to the bartender.

Two minutes later, he was handed two ambiguously colored drinks.

"No idea," he shouted out when asked what was in them. But, he said with a smile, "They're named after her."

Hillary Clinton, who has a lighter-than-usual schedule in the coming month, has said she will likely make a decision on 2016 sometime early next year.

Newsday: "Hillary Clinton eulogizes lawyer Thomas A. Twomey Jr. in East Hampton"

By Debbie Tuma

November 22, 2014, 8:29 p.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton eulogized prominent environmental lawyer Thomas A. Twomey Jr. at his funeral in East Hampton on Saturday, recalling how he helped her connect with everyday Long Islanders and win her Senate seat from New York in 2000.

"He said to me, 'You need to meet real people, those who built this state and also East Hampton,' " Clinton, who attended the afternoon service with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, told a crowd of more than 600 mourners at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

The former first lady and secretary of state, who is weighing a second try for the White House in 2016, said she met Twomey in the mid-1990s. He took her to spend time with the North Fork farmers who helped him in a successful 1977 bid to stop nuclear power plants from being built in Jamesport, she said.

"What really impressed me was these people had families going back 10 to 12 generations, and I learned how their grandparents and great-grandparents had loved and cherished this place," Hillary Clinton said. "It made a great impression on me."

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The Clintons are longtime friends of Twomey and his wife, Judith Hope, the former state Democratic chairwoman, former appointments secretary to Gov. Hugh Carey, the first female East Hampton town supervisor and a native of Arkansas.

"The first thing Tom Twomey said to me [when they met] was, 'We have something in common, we both married someone from Arkansas,' " Clinton said.

Together, Twomey and Hope -- like the Clintons -- were a longtime political power couple, and also fundraisers with statewide and national connections.

During his legal career over more than four decades, Twomey built the East End's largest law firm -- Twomey, Latham, Shea, Kelley, Dubin, Quartararo -- with 28 lawyers based in Riverhead. He also served as legal counsel to numerous local municipal boards and worked as a lawyer for the Long Island Farm Bureau.

Twomey's efforts to help farmers and stop nuclear plant construction, Clinton said, "made me think about how Tom took on responsibility in his own community, which is something purely American.

"He understood that we are individuals but we are also members of communities," she added.

Before her eulogy, Clinton sat in the front row between her husband and Hope. When the service was over, the Clintons chatted with mourners for about a half-hour about topics such as President Barack Obama, immigration and Hillary Clinton's potential presidential run.

Throughout their long friendship, Clinton said in her eulogy, Twomey taught her valuable political lessons.

"He knew how to find common ground," Clinton said. "But he also knew how to stand his ground."

Associated Press: "Obama: Americans want 'new car smell' in 2016"

By Darlene Superville

November 23, 2014, 1:04 p.m. EST

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) — President Barack Obama says voters want a "new car smell" in the 2016 White House race and that Hillary Rodham Clinton would be "a great president."

But would Clinton pass that particular smell test?

In a nationally televised interview broadcast Sunday, Obama seemed to suggest that any Democrat other than him would provide the turn of the page that he says voters are interested in. He acknowledged the "dings" to his own political standing during nearly six years of sometimes bruising battles with Congress and said Americans will want something new.

"They want to drive something off the lot that doesn't have as much mileage as me," Obama said in the interview with ABC's "This Week," which was taped Friday in Las Vegas following a public appearance there by the president.

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He said a number of possible Democratic candidates would make "terrific presidents," but Hillary Clinton is the only one he mentioned by name. He said she would be a "formidable candidate" and make "a great president" if she decides to run a second time.

But if she does run — which she is considering, with a decision expected to be announced early next year — would she have that "new car" scent for voters?

Hillary Clinton has been a powerful force in Democratic politics for many years, beginning as Arkansas' first lady before she became America's first lady after her husband, Bill Clinton, was elected president in 1992. When his two terms were up, she ran for and won a U.S. Senate seat from New York.

She later sought and lost the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination to Obama, then cemented her worldwide profile by serving Obama as secretary of state in his first term. The Democratic political establishment is now awaiting word on whether she will take on the challenge of another national political campaign.

New car smell or not, Democratic voters hold her in such high regard that she outdistances anyone else in polling of possible Democratic candidates for 2016. One of them is Vice President Joe Biden, who has not ruled out a third run for the White House.

Eight in 10 Democrats held positive views of Clinton in an Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in late July. Biden had a 71 percent favorable rating in the survey.

Obama acknowledged that Hillary Clinton won't agree with him on everything, suggesting that such a stance would be a welcome break for voters after eight years of Obama. A benefit of running for president, he said, "is you can stake out your own positions."

The 2016 presidential race could feature a repeat face-off between a Clinton and a member of another leading American political family: former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is considering entering the 2016 race. His father and brother both were elected president.

Three of the past four presidents dating to the 1988 election have been named Bush or Clinton.

Jeb Bush's father, George H. W. Bush, was elected president in 1988. He lost re-election in 1992 to Bill Clinton, who served two terms. Jeb Bush's brother, George W., then defeated Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, in 2000 and was re-elected in 2004. The elder Bush also served two terms as vice president to Ronald Reagan.

In the AP-GfK survey, Jeb Bush was most popular among potential 2016 GOP presidential candidates, with 56 percent of Republicans viewing him favorably. Majorities also held positive views of outgoing Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

CNN: "Sen. Lindsey Graham: GOP-led Benghazi report is 'full of crap'"

By Sara Fischer

November 23, 2014

Washington (CNN) -- Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, has some harsh words for the recently released Benghazi report, led by his own party.

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"I think the report is full of crap," Graham told Gloria Borger on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday.

"I don't believe that the report is accurate, given the role that Mike Morell (deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency at the time) played in misleading the Congress on two different occasions. Why didn't the report say that?"

The investigative report Graham is referring to was released Friday by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Michigan, and Ranking Member Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Maryland.

The report finds little to support the questions that have been raised about CIA actions on the ground in Benghazi the night of the deadly attack on September 11, 2012.

Graham, who has maintained a critical voice in the Benghazi controversy over the past two years, says it's "garbage" that the report finds no members of the Obama administration lied to cover up what happened in Benghazi.

"That's a bunch of garbage," Graham said. "That's a complete bunch of garbage."

The investigation also found the security at the diplomatic outpost was weak and also described a "flawed" process used to create talking points for House members and for then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, whose public statements after the attack incensed critics who said the administration was trying to avoid calling the attack terrorism.

"When Susan Rice was on television after the attack, she said on three different occasions the consulate was strongly, and significantly secure," Graham said. "Nothing could be further than that from the truth, and there's nothing in the talking points about the level of security."

To conclude, Graham says the findings of the report prove the House Intelligence Committee "is doing a lousy job policing their own."

"Anybody who has followed Benghazi at all knows that the CIA deputy director did not come forward to tell Congress what role he played in changing the talking points and the only way we knew he was involved is when he told a representative at the White House," Graham said.

Asked why the Republican chairman of the Intelligence Committee would be "buying a bunch of garbage," Graham simply replied, "good question."

Graham said he is going to take another look at the findings of the report.

"I'm going to do a hard review of this."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "GOP-led Benghazi report purposely buried in news cycle, Democrat says"

By Rebecca Shabad

November 23, 2014, 11:03 a.m. EST

A GOP-led investigation that debunked theories about the 2012 Benghazi attack was purposely released on the Friday before Thanksgiving to evade exposure, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said Sunday.

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On CNN's "State of the Union," Schiff questioned the decision behind the timing of the release of the House Intelligence Committee's report.

"Why is this report being released on the Friday before Thanksgiving?" Schiff asked.

Schiff said if a panel spends two years compiling an important report, it wouldn't make much sense to conceal it.

"You want to trumpet it to the high heavens, you don't want to bury it on the Friday before Thanksgiving," he said.

The House Intelligence panel released the report Friday evening, and it found there was no intelligence failure surrounding the attack, no delay in the rescue of U.S. personnel and no political cover-up by Obama administration officials.

Schiff, a member of the committee, said he wouldn't be surprised if Republicans employed a similar tactic when the House Select Committee on Benghazi releases its own report on the attack.

"If the select committee comes up with a similar conclusion, it'll release a similar report on Christmas Eve," he said.

Schiff rejected Sen. Lindsey Graham's (R-S.C.) earlier claims that the report is "full of crap" and a "bunch of garbage."

Republicans and Democrats on the Intelligence committee supported the report's findings, Schiff said, adding that it exonerates the Obama administration.

Schiff said talk about Benghazi would have died down by now if it weren't for the former secretary of State possibly running for president.

"If Hillary Clinton weren't a likely candidate for president," he said, "I think this investigation would have been over with a long time ago."

New York Times: "A Deep 2016 Republican Presidential Field Reflects Party Divisions"

By Michael Barbaro and Jonathan Martin

November 22, 2014

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Republican presidential primaries have for decades been orderly affairs, with any momentary drama mitigated by the expectation that the party would inevitably nominate its tested, often graying front-runner.

But as the 2016 White House campaign effectively began in the last week, it became apparent that this race might be different: a fluid contest, verging on chaotic, that will showcase the party's deep bench of talent but also highlight its ideological and generational divisions.

As Democrats signal that they are ready to rally behind Hillary Rodham Clinton before their primary season even begins, allowing them to focus their fund-raising and firepower mostly on the general election, the Republicans appear destined for a free-for-all.

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"I can think of about 16 potential candidates," said Haley Barbour, the former governor of Mississippi and a veteran of Republican presidential politics dating to 1968. "Almost every one of them have a starting point. But there is no true front-runner."

The sprawling nature of the race was on display Thursday as an array of would-be candidates took steps to position themselves.

At a gathering of Republican governors here, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey sought to capitalize on the party's victories this year in Democratic-leaning states while at least six fellow governors tested their messages and met with potential donors.

On the same day in Washington, Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, addressed an education conference and tried to tamp down differences with the right on the Common Core standards. On Capitol Hill, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky continued his outreach to African-Americans by having breakfast with the Rev. Al Sharpton, while Senator Ted Cruz of Texas appealed to conservatives by citing Cicero on the Senate floor in a speech castigating President Obama's executive action on immigration.

And in California, Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, just back from taking a group of evangelicals from early primary states on a trip to Europe honoring Ronald Reagan's Cold War leadership, venerated Mr. Reagan in a speech at his presidential library.

If the dizzying activity on a single day captured the depth of the Republican field, it also underlined its factions, split among pragmatists, hard-liners and those trying to bridge the blocs.

Foster Friess, a major Republican donor whose contributions to Rick Santorum's "super PAC" helped keep alive the former Pennsylvania senator's presidential campaign two years ago, acknowledged that the coalescence around Mrs. Clinton was a "huge advantage" for Democrats.

"That's why the Democrats run the government and the Republicans run the museums," Mr. Friess said.

But the eventual choice for the nomination will not merely speak to philosophical direction. Republicans also confront a generational decision: They have several energetic governors and senators in their 40s and early 50s lining up to run. Yet there is also an older group of potential candidates, such as Mr. Bush and Mitt Romney, who could arrest the ambitions of the next generation of Republicans but whose experience could be appealing.

To date, Mrs. Clinton, 67, has been the target of the age-oriented attacks by the younger Republicans. But some of that fire is now from within, albeit subtly. After Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, 62, mentioned 1980s-era congressional doings, when he was in the House, at a news conference here, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, 47, shot back: "John talked about '86? That's when I was in high school."

Democrats have had their share of intergenerational battles, but this is relatively new terrain for Republicans. With the exception of George W. Bush, every Republican nominee since 1976 has been over 60. Now, the wide range of age, experience and viewpoints could lead to an unusually turbulent contest.

"It is unpredictable as I can recall, but I worry less about it because we've changed the calendar and we'll have a de facto nominee by late April and a convention by late June," said Charles R. Black Jr., a longtime Republican strategist, referring to the changes made by the Republican National Committee to compress the primary schedule and nominating convention.

While the would-be candidates are taking public steps to assert themselves, the action has been just as intense behind the scenes as they build political operations.

Jeb Bush has started reaching out to Republicans in early primary states, including Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, whom he called on election night. And he met with Spencer Zwick, Mr. Romney's finance director, this year. Yet Mr. Bush has not decided on a bid, and those familiar with his thinking say he will give no indication until next year. Some of his private comments in recent months — musing about the need for a "pain threshold" to run and complaining about a video tracker that the liberal group American Bridge assigned to him — raise doubts about his intentions.

Still, some of Mr. Bush's confidants have had informal conversations with potential aides. Sally Bradshaw and Mike Murphy, his two closest advisers, have quietly met with campaign lawyers, data specialists and donors. While Mr. Bush was in Washington to attend his education

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foundation's conference, Ms. Bradshaw spent days in the capital visiting with a number of Republicans. They included two of the party's most in-demand strategists after its success this month: Rob Collins, executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and Liesl Hickey, executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Mr. Christie's supporters have been just as aggressive. They envision him establishing a political organization in the coming months to raise money. They also foresee a top role for Phil Cox, who is stepping down as executive director of the Republican Governors Association.

"The governor has really come to appreciate Phil's talents and counsel," said William J. Palatucci, one of Mr. Christie's closest advisers. Mr. Christie may also look to Rick Wiley, a former Republican National Committee political director who is close to Mike DuHaime, Mr. Christie's chief strategist.

Mr. Paul has been perhaps the most open about his presidential intentions, and last week he hired away a strategist from Mr. Cruz. But Mr. Paul has not found a campaign manager, having been turned down by Ward Baker, who accepted a job running the Republicans' senatorial committee.

There is also some uncertainty about who will run Mr. Walker's expected campaign. Mr. Wiley, if he does not work for Mr. Christie, would be a possibility. Another prospect is Mr. Walker's strategist, Keith Gilkes, but he is said to be in the running for the top staff job at the Republican Governors Association.

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida has a seasoned group of advisers in place, and his team has begun considering aides for early primary states. Gov. Rick Perry of Texas also has a team ready and is inviting donors to Austin.

Gov. Mike Pence of Indiana said in an interview that he would not decide on his future until after his state's legislative session. "After that concludes in the spring, we will sit down and make decisions about our future," he said. The nomination season is likely to be effectively underway at that point, which gives pause to some in the party who fear a replay of the long and contentious battle in 2012.

"You might argue it was more divisive than it needed to be," Mr. Friess said, adding that this time, "the donors are not going to let that happen."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/22/2008 12:32:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 10/22

08 Election Daily News Clips
October 22nd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

Morning Palin: is a guest on James Dobson's "Focus on Family" radio show

7:30am McCain: is a guest on "Imus in the Morning"

9:30am McCain: holds a "Road to Victory" rally in Goffstown, New Hampshire

10:00am Palin: holds a "Road to Victory" rally in Findlay, Ohio

10:20am BUSH: meets with the President of Liberia at the White House

1:05pm BUSH: participates in a photo opportunity with recipients of the public safety officer Medal of Valor at the White House

3:30pm McCain and Palin: hold a joint "Road to Victory" rally in Green, Ohio

4:00pm McCain: interview airs on CNN's "The Situation Room"

6:30pm McCain and Palin: hold a joint "Road to Victory" airport rally in Cincinnati, Ohio

6:30pm McCain and Palin: interview airs on NBC's "Nightly News"

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Al-Qaida-linked Web site backs McCain as president (AP 10/21/08)
By PAMELA HESS
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Al-Qaida supporters suggested in a Web site message this week they would welcome a pre-election terror attack on the U.S. as a way to usher in a McCain presidency.
The message, posted Monday on the password-protected al-Hesbah Web site, said if al-Qaida wants to exhaust the United States militarily and economically, "impetuous" Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain is the better choice because he is more likely to continue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AL_QAIDA_US_ELECTION?SITE=OKTUL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

On Al-Qaeda Web Sites, Joy Over U.S. Crisis, Support for McCain (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Joby Warrick and Karen DeYoung
Al-Qaeda is watching the U.S. stock market's downward slide with something akin to jubilation, with its leaders hailing the financial crisis as a vindication of its strategy of crippling America's economy through endless, costly foreign wars against Islamist insurgents.
And at least some of its supporters think Sen. John McCain is the presidential candidate best suited to continue that trend.
"Al-Qaeda will have to support McCain in the coming election," said a commentary posted Monday on the extremist Web site al-Hesbah, which is closely linked to the terrorist group. It said the Arizona Republican would continue the "failing march of his predecessor," President Bush.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102102477.html?nav=rss_politics

McCain hits Obama again on experience, tax policies (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 10/22/08)

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By James O'Toole
Sen. John McCain derided Sen. Barack Obama's foreign policy experience yesterday while continuing to invoke his new best friend, Joe the Plumber, as an argument for the ills of the Democrat's tax policies.
http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08296/921782-470.stm

For McCain, father's error holds lesson (Boston Globe 10/22/08)
By Michael Kranish
Now, as Senator John McCain seeks the presidency, he often says that the lessons from the Vietnam War helped shape his views on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But what is little-noted is that one of his key lessons came from what he perceived as a failure by his father. Senator McCain has excoriated the way his father failed to make public his misgivings about Nixon's Vietnamization strategy. If the older McCain and other commanders had spoken up, his son believes, it might have changed the course of the war.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/22/for_mccain_fathers_error_holds_lesson/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

McCain, Palin pound away at Biden's crisis remark (Boston Globe 10/22/08)
By Globe Staff
John McCain and Sarah Palin sharpened their attack yesterday on Barack Obama's readiness to be commander-in-chief, using his running mate's prediction that Obama would be tested by an international crisis early in his presidency.
McCain noted that Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden had compared Obama to John F. Kennedy, who presided over the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, then the Cuban missile crisis early in his term.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/22/mccain_palin_pound_away_at_bidens_crisis_remark/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

McCain "fighting to win" Colorado (Denver Post 10/22/08)
By Karen E. Crummy
If John McCain and the GOP are planning to cede Colorado to Democrat Barack Obama, they sure have a funny way of showing it.
Not only is the Republican National Committee's independent expenditure arm targeting the state with big ad buys, but McCain — who will be flooding the airwaves here through Election Day, his campaign said — is slated to make three campaign stops in Colorado Friday.
McCain's visit comes on the heels of three appearances in the state earlier this week by his running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. Her husband, Todd, visited Colorado on Tuesday.
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_10779139

McCain returns to NH trying to stave off Nov. loss (AP 10/22/08)
By Glen Johnson
MANCHESTER, N.H.—New Hampshire launched John McCain's two presidential campaigns, and now he's hoping it doesn't end his bid for the White House.
The Republican nominee was returning Wednesday to the state whose primary he won in 2000 and again earlier this year. But there were signs it was tilting toward Democrat Barack Obama in the Nov. 4 general election.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/22/mccain_reminds_biden_hes_been_tested_in_crisis/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

McCain Curtails Ads in NH and WI (Time blog 10/21/08)
By Jay Newton-Small
A Democratic source tells TIME that John McCain is stretching his media buys in New Hampshire and Wisconsin, spacing out ads they've already bought to last through the rest of the election. The move would mean they would not spend any more ad money in the states, effectively pulling out without taking the hit in the press the way they did in Michigan.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/10/mccain_curtails_ads_in_nh_and.html

McCain Stretches Ad Dollars in Colorado And Maine, Too (The Atlantic blog 10/21/08)
By Marc Ambinder
What this means is that the campaign is scaling back on the volume of their current buys and will stretch those savings for another week.
What this means is that the campaign is making tough decisions about where to spend.
What this means that is that if they thought that they could move the numbers in Colorado, they would spend there.
What this pretense of a strategy means, in essence, is that the campaign has no real electoral strategy -- they are simply trying to cover as much ground as possible in the hope that one of these states breaks for McCain.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/10/mccain_stretches_ad_dollars_in.php

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McCain Fights to Keep Crucial Blue State in Play (NYT 10/22/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER and JEFF ZELENY
MOON TOWNSHIP, Pa. — People are scratching their heads: Why is Senator John McCain here?
Senator Barack Obama has a double-digit lead in recent Pennsylvania polls. Senator John Kerry beat President Bush here in 2004. The previous three Democratic presidential candidates won, too. And this year there are 1.2 million more registered Democrats than Republicans in the state.
But in these frantic last weeks of the 2008 campaign, Mr. McCain has lavished time and money on this now deep-blue state — he made three stops here on Tuesday — as if his political life depended on it. And, from his campaign's point of view, it does.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/us/politics/22pennsylvania.html?hp=&pagewanted=print

McCain Campaign Hopes to Exploit Obama's Weakness in Keystone Primary (WSJ 10/22/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES
BENSALEM, Pa. -- Sen. John McCain is banking on support from former supporters of Sen. Hillary Clinton to turn Pennsylvania red in November, a task that looks increasingly daunting.
The Republican presidential candidate made three stops Tuesday in Pennsylvania, home to 21 electoral votes and a large number of so-called Reagan Democrats, or working-class white voters who tend to be conservative on social issues.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122460131054854321.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain's push may not budge Pennsylvania (LA Times10/22/08)
By Peter Nicholas and Bob Drogin
McCain is targeting Pennsylvania in hopes of winning at least one state that voted for Democrat John F. Kerry in 2004. With 21 electoral votes, a victory in Pennsylvania could offset possible losses in smaller states captured by President Bush in the last contest.
Yet by any number of measures, McCain's prospects are dimming. An aggregate of public polls shows Barack Obama with a double-digit lead in Pennsylvania. Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 1.1 million, about twice the gap in 2004, state figures show.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign22-2008oct22,0,5359086.story

Certain parts of country first (Boston Globe blog 10/21/08)
By Sasha Issenberg
MOON TOWNSHIP, Pa. -- Sorry, "real Virginia" and the "pro-America" parts of North Carolina: John McCain doesn't think you love your god or country enough.
Apparently referring to Congressman John Murtha's comment that Western Pennsylvania is a "racist" region, McCain declared it the "most patriotic, most god-loving, most patriotic part of America" upon his arrival in this Pittsburgh suburb.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/10/certain_parts_o.html

McCain, Obama go rural in final fight for Virginia (AP 10/22/08)
By BOB LEWIS
WARSAW, Va. (AP) -- The quest by Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama for toss-up Virginia has gone country.
McCain is looking to run up enormous margins in rural Republican strongholds. Obama is fighting just as hard to stay in play.
How country has it gone?
At the same moment on Tuesday, current and former Mississippi governors toured opposite ends of the Virginia countryside for the campaigns, neither conceding a single city, town or crossroads.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VIRGINIA_RURAL_VOTERS?SITE=ORBEN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain's Struggles Leave a G.O.P. Incumbent to Fight a Democratic Tide (NYT 10/22/08)
By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN
If there was a swing state in America where a ticket headed by Mr. McCain was supposed to have long coattails it was New Hampshire, where he defied the odds to win presidential primaries in 2000 and 2008. But with Mr. McCain skidding in the polls amid a rising tide of Democrats here, Mr. Sununu, who is battling to keep his job in one of this year's most bitterly contested Senate races, is hardly hitching a ride to easy re-election.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/us/politics/22sununu.html?pagewanted=print

Candidates' Cash Hoards Are Similar, but Ad-Spending Patterns Differ (WSJ 10/22/08)
By T.W. FARNAM
WASHINGTON -- Both presidential candidates, together with their parties, had similar amounts of cash on hand

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at the end of September, despite Barack Obama's record-breaking fund raising that month.
Sens. Obama and John McCain have been raising money for their national and state parties through so-called joint fund-raising accounts. Once all that money is taken into account, Democrats had $164.4 million available to them on Sept. 30, while Republicans had $171.7 million. The Democrats brought in $209.5 million in September, compared with $171.6 million for the Republicans.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122459794763054031.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain Weighs In - Cautiously - on New Stimulus (WSJ blog 10/21/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
After nearly two days of discussion over a new economic stimulus package, John McCain finally weighed in on the proposal.
The Republican presidential candidate has been silent on Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's suggestion that Congress consider a second package to help the country handle more tough times ahead….
McCain's silence suggests a new caution after his intervention more than a month ago. When the market turmoil began in the middle of September, McCain suspended his campaign and returned to Washington. His involvement in the federal bailout package was largely criticized and damaged him in the polls.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/10/21/mccain-weighs-in-cautiously-on-new-stimulus/

MCCAIN'S TAX EVOLUTION (MSNBC blog 10/21/08)
By Carrie Dann and Mark Murray
But archived MSNBC videotape from 2000 further demonstrates how McCain's tone has shifted on taxes and what constitutes socialism since the end of his last presidential race. Answering questions during a Hardball College Tour show in October 2000, McCain defended the progressive tax system when questioned by a town hall participant who warned that the high tax bracket of her father – a doctor – smacked of an inching towards "socialism and stuff." McCain said that progressive tax systems are based on the fact that "we feel, obviously, that wealthy people can afford more." He spelled out this response: "Here's what I really believe, that when you are -- reach a certain level of comfort, there's nothing wrong with paying somewhat more."
McCain then added a caveat, saying that benefits that are too high can certainly hurt productivity.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/10/21/1577609.aspx

Fact check: Was McCain once against Bush tax cuts? (CNN blog 10/21/08)
The Verdict: True. As Obama states, McCain did say he could not support President Bush's tax cuts in 2001, saying it was because they went to the wealthy at the expense of the middle class. He later supported extending them, saying the economy made them feasible at that later time.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/21/fact-check-was-mccain-once-against-bush-tax-cuts/

Spreading the wealth? US already does it (AP 10/21/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON
WASHINGTON (AP) -- John McCain is pouncing on Barack Obama's call for shifting more wealth from richer Americans to poorer ones, likening it to socialism. His remarks win applause at campaign events. But they ignore the nation's long tradition of redistributing huge amounts of wealth through tax-and-spending policies.
Placing a heavier burden on the wealthy has been a cornerstone of the federal income tax since its inception in 1913. Under its "progressive" formula, in which the wealthy pay higher tax rates, the richest 5 percent of Americans now pay well over half of all federal income taxes.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SPREADING_THE_WEALTH?SITE=NYMID&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

You may not like Obama's tax plan, but it's not socialism (McClatchy 10/21/08)
By David Lightman and William Douglas
Favoring higher tax rates for the wealthy than for the less fortunate isn't socialism, and if it is, then the U.S. has been a socialist country for nearly a century, under both Democrats and Republicans.
Socialism involves state ownership of the means of economic production and state-directed sharing of the wealth. America's democratic capitalist system is neither socialist nor pure free market; rather, it mixes the two, and it has at least since the progressive income tax was introduced 95 years ago. Under it, the wealthy pay higher income tax rates than those who are less fortunate do. It's a form of sharing the wealth.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/309/story/54546.html

McCain aide's firm whacked by SEC (Chicago Tribune blog 10/21/08)
By Andrew Zajac
Sen. John McCain has complained long and loud about inadequate regulation of the financial markets by the Securities and Exchange Commission and recently even called for the dismissal of SEC Chairman Christopher Cox.
If the Arizona Republican needs an illustration of how the regulatory apparatus is supposed to work, he now has

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an example close at hand. Last Friday, the SEC suspended trading in shares of e-Smart Technologies Inc., a troubled penny stock that counts one of McCain's closest advisers, Charles Black, as a consultant and director.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/10/mccain_aides_firm_whacked_by_s.html

PALIN NEWS

RNC appears to shell out $150K for Palin fashion (Politico 10/21/08)

By JEANNE CUMMINGS

The Republican National Committee appears to have spent more than $150,000 to clothe and accessorize vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and her family since her surprise pick by John McCain in late August.

According to financial disclosure records, the accessorizing began in early September and included bills from Saks Fifth Avenue in St. Louis and New York for a combined $49,425.74.

The records also document a couple of big-time shopping trips to Neiman Marcus in Minneapolis, including one $75,062.63 spree in early September.

The RNC also spent $4,716.49 on hair and makeup through September after reporting no such costs in August.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1008/14805.html

If You Don't Look Good, We Don't Look Good (NYT blog 10/21/08)

By Julie Bosman

In one heavyweight shopping trip in early September, $75,062.63 was spent at Neiman Marcus in Minneapolis, a host city of the Republican National Convention.

The expenditures were listed on the R.N.C.'s monthly financial disclosure forms.

Those forms also documented $4,716.49 on hair and makeup in September, expenses that were not incurred in August.

On the campaign trail, Ms. Palin is always impeccably turned out, sometime changing jackets, high heels and hairstyles twice or three times a day.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/21/if-you-dont-look-good-we-dont-look-good/

Why Palin softened her rhetoric (Las Vegas Sun 10/22/08)

By J. Patrick Coolican

Palin offered a range of women- and family-friendly policy proposals not usually heard from Republican candidates.

She called for equal-pay-for-equal-work and more family-friendly policies such as flexible workweeks. She offered an homage to the federal law requiring that women's collegiate sports have the same resources as men's.

She castigated the subjugation of women abroad. Meet Sarah Palin, feminist extraordinaire.

The calculation in deploying this softer, gauzier speech was savvy, if transparent.
http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/oct/22/why-palin-softened-her-rhetoric/

Palin's Hand Seen in Battle Over Mine in Alaska (NYT 10/22/08)

By MICHAEL POWELL and JO BECKER

EKWOK, Alaska — Two years ago, Sarah Palin landed near this tiny native village and spoke of her love for the vast and starkly beautiful delta that drains into Bristol Bay…. Many here took her words to heart. But as governor, Ms. Palin has helped ease the way for a proposed copper and gold mine of near-mythic proportions at the headwaters of Bristol Bay, the world's greatest spawning ground for wild salmon.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/us/politics/22mining.html

Palin says Obama's policies could lead to crises (AP 10/21/08)

By Sandra Chereb

RENO, Nev.—Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin said Tuesday that Democrat Barack Obama's own foreign policy proposals could create crises that would test him as president.

The Alaska governor raised the idea of a "looming crisis" in response to Democratic rival Joe Biden's remark at weekend fundraisers that Obama would face a "generated crisis" within six months of becoming president because he would be tested by adversaries of the United States.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/21/palin_says_obamas_policies_could_lead_to_crises/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

Clinton backers by her side, Palin makes pitch to women voters (CNN blog 10/21/08)

By Peter Hamby

HENDERSON, Nevada (CNN) — Flanked by a quintet of former Hillary Clinton supporters, Sarah Palin on Tuesday made her most direct appeal to female voters since kicking off her vice presidential campaign in August.

"Our opponents think that they have the women's vote all locked up, which is a little presumptuous," Palin said.

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"Little presumptuous, since only our side has a woman on the ticket…
"You've got to ask yourself, why was Senator Hillary Clinton not even vetted by the Obama campaign? Why did it take 24 years, an entire generation from the time Geraldine Ferraro made her pioneering bid, until the next time that a woman was asked to join a national ticket?"
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/21/clinton-backers-by-her-side-palin-makes-pitch-to-women-voters/

Palin Apologizes for 'Real America' Comments (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Lyndsey Layton
Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin apologized yesterday for implying that some parts of the country are more American than others, even as similar comments by two Republican congressmen were causing a backlash that threatened their chances for reelection.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102102449.html?nav=rss_politics

Palin apologizes for patriot 'pro-America areas' comment (CNN blog 10/21/08)
(CNN) – Republican vice presidential nominee Gov. Sarah Palin apologized Tuesday for any misunderstanding that resulted when she referred last week to the patriotic values of "the real America" and the "pro-America areas of this great nation."… "I don't want that misunderstood," Palin said. "If that's the way it came across, I apologize."
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/21/palin-apologizes-for-patriot-pro-america-areas-comment/

New McCain Robocall Stars ... Sarah Palin! (Talking Points Memo 10/21/08)
By Greg Sargent
Palin's call would seem to be at odds with her own public statements about the tactic. In a Q and A with reporters late yesterday, she said she'd prefer that the campaign not resort to such calls at all, describing them as "kind of draining in terms of Americans' attention span."
"They get a bit irritated with just being inundated," Palin added.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/10/new_mccain_robocall_stars_sara.php

Sarah Palin In Charge... (Time blog 10/21/08)
By Karen Tumulty
Sarah Palin truly is not a Washington insider. Per Think Progress, she told a local television station in Colorado (in response to a question from a third grader), that the Vice President is "in charge of the U.S. Senate, so if they want to they, can really get in there with the senators and make a lot of good policy changes."… The fact of the matter: No one is "in charge" of the Senate, a place where every single member has the ability to gum up the works. Which reminds me of the time that Adam Clymer of the New York Times asked then-Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell why he aspired to be major league baseball commissioner, a job that would put him at the mercy of 32* rich, egotistical maniacs.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/10/sarah_palin_in_charge.html

Gov. Palin to give Troopergate deposition Friday (AP 10/21/08)
By RACHEL D'ORO
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) -- Gov. Sarah Palin, already found by one investigation to have abused her power, will take time from her vice presidential campaign Friday to give a deposition in a second inquiry into her firing of the state's top public safety official.
It will be the first deposition in the affair by the Republican vice presidential candidate. Palin wasn't subpoenaed to answer questions in an investigation by the state Legislature, though her husband, Todd, gave an affidavit in that probe.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN_TROOPERGATE?SITE=MOJOP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

AP INVESTIGATION: Alaska funded Palin kids' travel (AP 10/21/08)
By BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE, ADAM GOLDMAN and MATT APUZZO
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) -- Gov. Sarah Palin charged the state for her children to travel with her, including to events where they were not invited, and later amended expense reports to specify that they were on official business.
The charges included costs for hotel and commercial flights for three daughters to join Palin to watch their father in a snowmobile race, and a trip to New York, where the governor attended a five-hour conference and stayed with 17-year-old Bristol for five days and four nights in a luxury hotel.
In all, Palin has charged the state $21,012 for her three daughters' 64 one-way and 12 round-trip commercial flights since she took office in December 2006. In some other cases, she has charged the state for hotel rooms for the girls.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN_FAMILY_TRAVEL?

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Sorry, but 'fake Americans' aren't the real threat (Miami Herald 10/22/08)
BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Excuse me while I say a few words on behalf of us Fake Americans.
Not that I really think of myself as such. I mean, here in Fake America, life proceeds much as it does in Real America. We are raising our kids and paying our taxes, trying to keep up with the dishes in the sink, going to the movies now and then. In fact, if you didn't know better, you'd never realize our America was Fake.
http://www.miamiherald.com/851/story/735892.html

The 'Socialist' Scare (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Ruth Marcus
There is an ugliness to the McCain campaign's closing days. Sarah Palin talks about "pro-America areas of this great nation." Minnesota Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann pronounces herself "very concerned that [Obama] may have anti-American views." Ohio Republican Sen. George Voinovich, ordinarily much more sensible, says, "With all due respect, the man is a socialist."
And McCain is the stoker in chief of the argument that Obama is Eugene V. Debs revisited
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102102254.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

The Power of Two Myths (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Harold Meyerson
As its days dwindle down to a precious few, the McCain campaign is giving new life to old myths. In an attempt to suppress minority voting, it has conjured up the specter of voter fraud, though there is no evidence that voter fraud exists. Even more impressive is its attempt to resurrect the welfare queens against whom Ronald Reagan used to fulminate, though the stories Reagan told about them had no basis in fact, either. Welfare was pretty much abolished in the mid-1990s, of course, but an increasingly desperate John McCain is transporting us back to the wedge issues of yesteryear.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102102253.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

McCain's desperate tactics (Boston Globe 10/22/08)
By Scot Lehigh
AS THE presidential campaign enters its final weeks, John McCain resembles a journeyman boxer, behind on every scorecard and struggling desperately to land a knockout punch.
His lurching pursuit of a nimble rival has led to some jarring shifts between McCain's dueling personas, Johnny Be Good and Mack the Knife.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/22/mccains_desperate_tactics/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

Young Voters, Get Mad (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Robert J. Samuelson
You're being played for chumps. Barack Obama and John McCain want your votes, but they're ignoring your interests. You face a heavily mortgaged future. You'll pay Social Security and Medicare for aging baby boomers. The needed federal tax increase might total 50 percent over the next 25 years. Pension and health costs for state and local workers have doubtlessly been underestimated. There's the expense of decaying infrastructure -- roads, bridges, water pipes. All this will squeeze other crucial government services: education, defense, police.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102102252.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

Moved by a Crescent (NYT 10/22/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
In a gratifying "have you no sense of decency, Sir and Madam?" moment, Colin Powell went on "Meet the Press" on Sunday and talked about Khan, and the unseemly ways John McCain and Palin have been polarizing the country to try to get elected. It was a tonic to hear someone push back so clearly on ugly innuendo.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/opinion/22dowd.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Vice president: a split-ticket vote? (LA Times 10/22/08)
By Vikram David Amar
The question of Gov. Sarah Palin's presidential qualifications just won't go away. With the denunciations mounting, it seems likely that in a head-to-head election against the Democrats' vice presidential choice, Sen. Joe Biden, Palin would lose.
And yet, because we vote for tickets, not individuals, when it comes to the vice presidency, Palin still stands a good chance of ending up first in succession to lead the free world.
That brings up an important question: Why are voters denied the chance to vote for a president of one party and a vice president of the other?
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-amar22-2008oct22,0,3911393.story

BUSH NEWS

Bush Winds Up Last Fund-Raising Appeal (NYT blog 10/21/08)
By Sheryl Gay Stolberg
WASHINGTON – President Bush has wrapped up the 2008 election cycle with a perfect record: not a single traditional political rally.
Election Day is not for another two weeks, but for Mr. Bush, the campaign season officially ended Tuesday night here in Washington, when the president attended his final political event, a $1 million fundraiser for the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee. Like nearly all of Mr. Bush's political events this year, it was closed to the press.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/21/bush-winds-up-last-fund-raising-appeal/

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OTHER NEWS

Early voting suggests 2008 may see record turnout, expert says (CNN 10/21/08)
Michael McDonald, an associate professor of politics and government at George Mason University, said at least 2.2 million people already have voted using absentee or other types of ballots that allow them to vote before the polls open on November 4.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/10/21/early.voting/index.html?eref=rss_politics

More Democrats Casting Early Ballots, Data Show (NYT 10/22/08)
By MICHAEL LUO and RON NIXON
Significantly more Democrats than Republicans have cast ballots at this early stage in Iowa, North Carolina, New Mexico and Ohio, according to data analyzed by The New York Times.
Information from counties representing more than 90 percent of Nevada's population show Democrats also holding a commanding advantage in early voter turnout.
In Florida, however, Republicans appear to hold the upper hand, while in Colorado, early voting is about evenly split among Republicans and Democrats. Mr. Bush won all those states in 2004.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/us/politics/22early.html?ref=politics

Early Voting Attracts Outsize Portion of Blacks (WSJ 10/22/08)
By ALEX ROTH
Americans are voting early in large numbers this year -- and African-Americans in several states are turning out in disproportionate numbers. Some fear that polling places in predominantly black neighborhoods will be overwhelmed by a record turnout on Election Day. Others are voting early to be certain the chance to elect the first black U.S. president doesn't slip away.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122463439049156841.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Minority Voters to Make Major Impact in Swing States (ABC News 10/21/08)
By RUSSELL GOLDMAN
Obama has made no secret that his strategy to become president involves winning the Western states of Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico. All are swing states with large Hispanic populations, and all voted for President Bush in 2004….Minority voting blocs are also being fought over in other states that could be decisive on Nov. 4. http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=6073343&page=1

GOP boss to SOS: Don't let certain voters cast ballots! (Las Vegas Sun blog 10/21/08)
By Jon Ralston
Republican Party Chairwoman Sue Lowden this week sent a letter to Secretary of State Ross Miller, asking him to bar certain voters from casting ballots because their registrations are incomplete. Issue is whether they should be allowed to correct the forms and be allowed to vote. I understand that 2,300 forms have been identified in urban counties, which may not sound like a lot but could have an impact in down-ticket races.
http://www.lasvegassun.com/blogs/ralstons-flash/2008/oct/21/gop-boss-sos-dont-let-certain-voters-cast-ballots/

Ohio Voting Disputes Take on New Intensity (WSJ 10/22/08)
By AMY MERRICK
With alleged death threats, suspicious mail and a surfeit of lawyers, the battle over Ohio voting procedures has reached a new level of ugliness.
Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner said her office has been barraged with phone calls and e-mails that contain "menacing messages and even threats of harm or death." Authorities are investigating those incidents, as well as a suspicious package mailed to her office last week that contained an unidentified powder and was covered with threatening messages, she said.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122463327244056681.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

North Carolina GOP tries to link Obama, Ayers (AP 10/21/08)
By Mike Baker
RALEIGH, N.C.—North Carolina's Republican Party is circulating a mailer that tries to link Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama to 1960s radical William Ayers.
The advertisement includes several photos of Ayers, including his mug shot. It provides a boilerplate of Ayers' past radical activities and declares that he and Obama are friends. The mailer says Obama is "not who you think he is."
"This is the story of William Ayers... Terrorist. Radical. Friend of Obama," the ad says. It also says Obama is "not who you think he is."
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/21/north_carolina_gop_tries_to_link_obama_ayers/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

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North Carolina's New Blues (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Kevin Merida
The gale forces of the economy are blowing people in different directions, driving them to their presidential choices with an intensity that this state has not seen in some time. Many North Carolinians are either running toward a candidate or running away from one, the candidates now surrogates for folks' fears and aspirations. Even with his consuming worries, Vaughn found himself drawn to Barack Obama's quest as a symbol of the change Vaughn envisioned for his own life.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102103002.html?nav=rss_politics

NRSC, Freedom's Watch preparing to play defense in Kentucky, Georgia (Politicker 10/21/08)
By Alex Isenstadt
On Tuesday, the National Republican Senatorial Committee went up with a web advertisement saying that Georgia "can't afford" Chambliss' Democratic opponent, former state Rep. Jim Martin.
And on Wednesday, the conservative advocacy organization Freedom's Watch is going on the air in the Georgia Senate race with a television advertisement that praises Chambliss for "leading the fight against higher taxes in the Senate."
http://www.politicker.com/nrsc-freedom-s-watch-preparing-play-defense-kentucky-georgia

"I'm Joe The Plumber" (Time blog 10/22/08)
By Mark Halperin
New McCain camp ad features small business owners sharing the same concerns about Obama's tax agenda as the now famous Ohioan.
"I'm supposed to work harder... Just to pay more taxes. Obama wants my sweat to pay for his trillion dollars in new spending?"
Campaign says ad "will be televised in key states." Amount and length of buy TBD.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/10/22/im-joe-the-plumber/

Iraqi Cabinet says US security pact needs changes (AP 10/21/08)
By ROBERT H. REID and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
BAGHDAD (AP) -- Iraq's Cabinet decided Tuesday to ask the U.S. for changes to the draft agreement that would keep American troops here three more years, as key Shiite lawmakers warned the deal stands little chance of approval as it stands.
The decision, reached in a closed-door meeting that lasted nearly six hours, raised doubt that the agreement can be ratified before a new American president is elected next month.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ?SITE=NCKIN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

US, Russia hold fence-mending military talks (AP 10/21/08)
By MATTI HUUHTANEN
HELSINKI, Finland (AP) -- The top U.S. military officer held "businesslike" talks on Georgia, Afghanistan and missile defense with his Russian counterpart Tuesday, a signal of thawing relations between the two powers. Held at an isolated manor house in Finland, it was the highest-level military meeting between the two countries since Russia's war with U.S. ally Georgia in August.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_FINLAND_US_RUSSIA?SITE=INEVA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

US drops charges against 5 Guantanamo prisoners (AP 10/21/08)
By ANDREW O. SELSKY
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) -- The U.S. military abruptly dropped charges against five Guantanamo Bay detainees, including one who allegedly plotted to detonate a "dirty bomb" in the U.S., after a prosecutor accused the military of suppressing evidence that could have helped clear them.
But despite the decision, announced Tuesday, there are no plans to free the men. New trial teams are taking another look at the evidence, the military said, and after consulting with intelligence agencies will recommend whether to reinstate charges.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CB_GUANTANAMO_CHARGES_DROPPED?SITE=TNMEM&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Senate Democrats Subpoena Mukasey over Detainees (AP 10/21/08)
WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Tuesday subpoenaed Attorney General Michael Mukasey for testimony and documents about the Justice Department's legal advice to the White House on detention and interrogation policies since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., complained to Mukasey that after five years of efforts to glean the information, the committee still has seen only a fraction of the documents it is seeking.

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http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,442603,00.html

Closing Arguments in Stevens Trial (NYT 10/22/08)
By NEIL A. LEWIS
Joseph Bottini, a federal prosecutor, told the jurors that Mr. Stevens, Republican of Alaska, was well aware that he received an array of gifts, including a sled dog, a sculpture and a massage chair, as well as the more valuable services of a longtime friend, Bill Allen, who used his company, Veco, to oversee a vast remodeling of the Stevens home… Mr. Bottini methodically tried to demolish Mr. Stevens's explanations for not disclosing the gifts and services. He asserted that Mr. Stevens had engaged in a classic cover-up with close and trusted friends to prevent the public from learning about what he was being given and to ensure that he would continue to be given free benefits.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/washington/22stevens.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Fate of Sen. Stevens In the Jury's Hands (WaPo 10/22/08)
By Del Quentin Wilber
A federal jury today will begin deliberating two conflicting views of Sen. Ted Stevens, the powerful Alaska Republican charged with lying on financial disclosure forms to hide more than $250,000 in gifts and renovations to the Alaska house he affectionately calls his "chalet."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/21/AR2008102101624.html?nav=rss_politics

POLLS

Poll: Obama opens biggest lead over McCain (MSNBC 10/21/08)
By Mark Murray
With two weeks to go until Election Day, Obama now leads his Republican rival by 10 points among registered voters, 52 to 42 percent, up from 49 to 43 percent two weeks ago.
Obama's current lead is also fueled by his strength among independent voters (topping McCain 49 to 37 percent), suburban voters (53 to 41), Catholics (50 to 44) and white women (49 to 45).
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27297013/

CNN Poll of Polls: Obama leads by nine points (CNN blog 10/21/08)
By Martina Stewart
(CNN) — Sen. Barack Obama has his largest lead so far over rival Sen. John McCain, according to CNN's latest national poll of polls.
Obama leads McCain by nine points in the poll of polls released Tuesday – 51 percent to 42 percent. Seven percent of those surveyed are unsure about their choice for president.
In Monday's CNN's poll of polls, Obama's lead over McCain was seven points – 51 percent to 44 percent.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/21/cnn-poll-of-polls-obama-leads-by-nine-points/

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From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/24/2015 12:14:29 AM
Subject: First Draft on Politics: Hollande Heads to Washington for Meeting With Obama

View in Browser | Add nytdirect@nytimes.com to your address book.

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

The New York Times NYTimes.com/FirstDraft »

FirstDraft

What You Need to Know Today in Politics

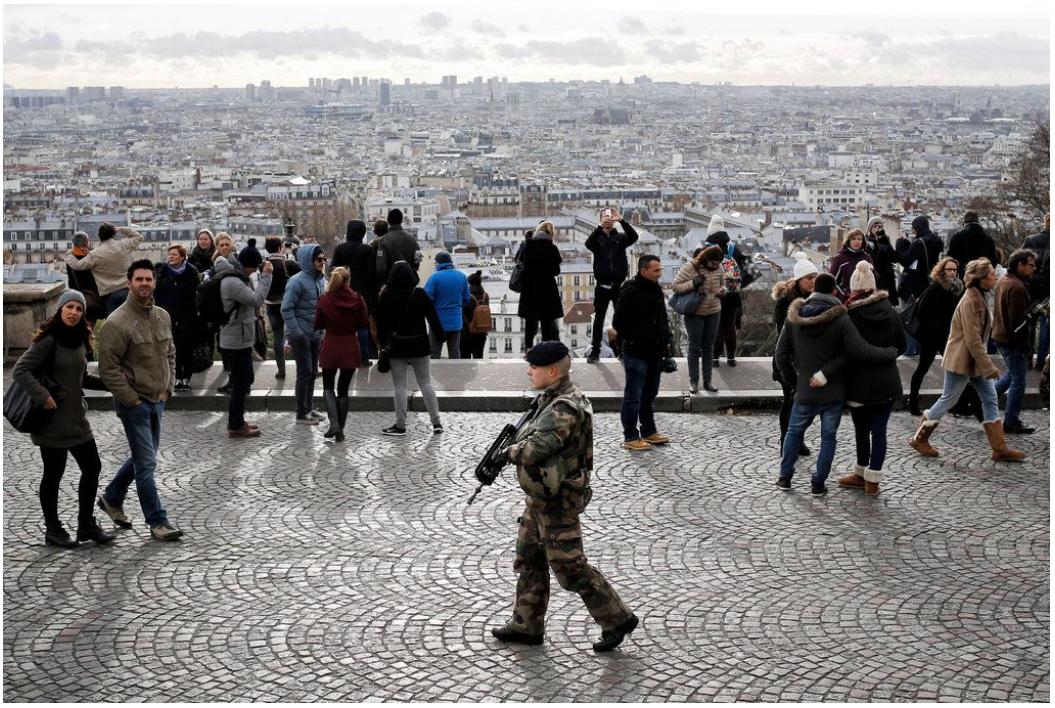

A soldier patrolled outside the Sacré- Coeur Basilica in Montmartre on Saturday, just over a week after the Paris attacks. Laurent Cipriani/Associated Press

Hollande Heads to Washington for Meeting With Obama

By PETER BAKER

Good Tuesday morning. The Paris attacks forced terrorism to the front of the campaign trail and spurred heated debates among the candidates. ***President Obama****, who has received the brunt of the criticism from the Republican nominees over his administration's policy to defeat the Islamic State, will meet with* ***President François Hollande of France*** *to discuss the nations' response to the terrorist attacks.*

Mr. Obama will host **Mr. Hollande** at the White House on Tuesday as the two seek to bolster the military campaign against the Islamic State, but it remained unlikely that they could forge a broader coalition with Russia.

The issue has taken on such urgency that Mr. Hollande could not wait even a few days for Mr. Obama, who already had plans to fly to Paris on Sunday for a climate-change conference. Vowing a merciless response to the terrorist attacks in Paris, Mr. Hollande is racing across the map trying to knit together a tighter alliance

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against the Islamic State, which claimed responsibility.

After leaving Washington, Mr. Hollande will head to Moscow, where he will meet with **President Vladimir V. Putin**, who has also vowed to wage war against the Islamic State in retaliation for the downing of a Russian passenger jet over Egypt. But Mr. Obama and Mr. Hollande insist that any solution to the crisis in Syria has to include the eventual departure of **President Bashar al-Assad**, while Mr. Putin has been fortifying Mr. Assad's position by bombing his opposition.

What more Mr. Obama could offer Mr. Hollande was unclear. The United States has already provided France with intelligence to facilitate airstrikes against the Islamic State stronghold in Syria, but the White House argued that it was already carrying most of the load.

"The United States is certainly pulling more than our own weight when it would come to the contribution behind this coalition," said **Josh Earnest**, the White House press secretary.

Mr. Obama and Mr. Hollande will hold a joint news conference after their talks, and it is possible it would mainly consist of more expressions of support. "But I also wouldn't downplay the significance of additional expressions of solidarity and support," Mr. Earnest said.

What We're Watching Today

— While some candidates are beginning to ease their public appearances over the Thanksgiving holiday, **Jeb Bush** will hold several events, including a meet-and-greet and town-hall-style event, in South Carolina, while **Donald J. Trump** will hold his typical large rally in the state. **Senator Marco Rubio of Florida** will hold town-hall-style events in Iowa, where a new poll shows him slipping far behind **Senator Ted Cruz of Texas**, with whom he has recently had frequent public disputes.

— **Hillary Rodham Clinton** will be in Colorado, where she will be helping to sign up and organize caucusgoers.

— And **Mr. Obama** will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 17 honorees at the White House on Tuesday, in recognition of the "especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." Among the recipients will be the **former Senator Barbara A. Mikulski of Maryland** and **William Ruckelshaus**, the former Environmental Protection Agency director. Also to be honored are the artists **Itzhak Perlman**, **Stephen Sondheim**, **Barbra Streisand**, the director **Steven Spielberg** and the baseball player **Willie Mays**. Posthumous honorees include **Yogi Berra** and **Shirley Chisholm**.

First Draft

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Mark Kauzlarich/Reuters

Ted Cruz Makes a Big Leap in Iowa, Poll Says

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

Mr. Cruz's long-anticipated Iowa surge came a step closer on Tuesday with a new poll showing him just behind Donald J. Trump and leaping ahead of Ben Carson, as terrorism and foreign policy now drive the 2016 nominating race.

Sam Hodgson for The New York Times

Bernie Sanders's Rejection of 'Super PACs' Is Not Universal

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

Mr. Sanders has spent months denouncing the groups and faulting Hillary Rodham Clinton and other candidates for accepting money from them. But the National Nurses United For Patient Protection "super PAC" has spent more than $550,000 in support of Mr. Sanders's campaign.

Pfizer's Merger Proposal With Irish Company Rekindles Fight Over Tax 'Inversions'

By CARL HULSE

The drug company's $160 billion merger proposal with Dublin-based Allergan, which could help the new company escape billions of dollars in United States taxes, drew a cascade of harsh criticism from lawmakers and renewed a push to crack down on these so-called tax inversions.

Stay tuned throughout the day: Follow us on Twitter @NYTPolitics and on Facebook for First Draft updates .

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Our Other Favorites From The Times

Hillary Clinton Looks Past Primaries, and to Republicans, in Strategy to Beat Sanders

By AMY CHOZICK

At campaign events, Mrs. Clinton focuses her criticism on the 14 Republicans running for president, and she does not mention her main Democratic riv al, Mr. Sanders.

After Paris, Voters Give Christie a Second Look

By MICHAEL BARBARO

The Paris attacks have brought a sudden intensity, attention and focus to the once-moribund candidacy of Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey .

Kasich Tries to Spoil Trump's Ohio Welcome

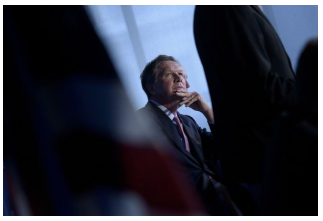

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

Gov. John Kasich and other legislators in his state who support his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination have stepped up their criticism of Donald J. Trump as the billionaire businessman heads to Ohio to woo voters.

Carson Supporters Cite 'Vulgar' Attacks in Seeking Donations

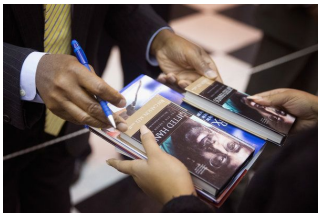

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

Supporters of Ben Carson made a fund-raising plea that they hope will reinvigorate his campaign. A new media team is also trying to showcase a different side of the retired neurosurgeon through interviews with his former patients.

Trump's Hosting of 'S.N.L.' Means Equal Airtime for Rivals

By NICK CORASANITI

NBC viewers in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina should be prepared to see a lot of four Republican candidates over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Carson Clarifies Remarks on Muslims Celebrating on 9/11

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

After saying that he, too, had seen American Muslims celebrating as the World Trade Center fell, Ben Carson said that he was mistaken, and that he was thinking of protests he had seen in the Middle East.

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What We're Reading Elsewhere

— The Washington Post isolates the "war for the evangelical vote" that is developing between **Mr. Cruz** and **Mr. Carson.**

— FiveThirtyEight argues that **Mr. Trump**'s sustained success in the polls so far during the Republican primary says little about his chances of winning in a general election.

— And USA Today, just in case you might be "over" the 2016 elections already, or at least in the days before a potential break over the Thanksgiving holiday, offers a chance to "test your memory" of previous races including **Bush vs. Dukakis**, **Bush vs. Gore** and **Obama vs. McCain**.

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From: "Kennan Institute" <kennan@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/7/2014 4:01:52 AM
Subject: Invitation: “They Can Live in the Desert but No where Else: A History of the Armenian Genocide"

To view this email as a web page, click here

Kennan Institute

Wilson Center

“They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else: A History of the Armenian Genocide"

Starting in early 1915, the Ottoman Turks began deporting and killing hundreds of thousands of Armenians in the first major genocide of the twentieth century. By the end of the First World War, the number of Armenians in what would become Turkey had been reduced by ninety percent—more than a million people. A century later, the Armenian Genocide remains controversial but relatively unknown, overshadowed by later slaughters and the chasm separating Turkish and Armenian versions of events. In this definitive narrative history, **Ronald Suny** cuts through nationalist myths, propaganda, and denial to provide an unmatched account of when, how, and why the atrocities of 1915–1916 were committed.

Drawing on archival documents and eyewitness accounts, Professor Suny's book is a vivid and unforgettable chronicle of a cataclysm that set a tragic pattern for a century of genocide and crimes against humanity.

This event is cosponsored by the Global Europe Program

Speaker

Ronald Grigor Suny
Kennan Institute Title VIII-supported Short Term Scholar; Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of History, University of Michigan

Moderator

Thomas de Waal
Senior Associate, Russia and Eurasia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

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From: "Debbie Stabenow" <dstabenow@stabenowforsenate.com>
To: "John D. Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 10/15/2015 7:13:14 AM
Subject: What's at stake

DEBBIE STABENOW
STANDING UP FOR MICHIGAN

John D. –

The Great Lakes are central to our Michigan way of life and contribute billions of dollars to our economy every year. But Canada wants to permanently bury 52 million gallons of nuclear waste less than a mile from Lake Huron.

That's why Senator Peters, Congressman Kildee and I are coming together to stand up for our Great Lakes and against this dangerous plan.

Click here to add your name and stand with us.

Canada is a huge country, but they admit they haven't explored any alternative sites to store their waste! We've seen too many accidents to take a risk like this with our Great Lakes.

John D., I'm not willing to take the chance with the fate of our Great Lakes. Add your name to stand with us against this dangerous and risky proposal.

Thank you for standing up for our Great Lakes!

Sincerely,

Debbie

Debbie Stabenow

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United States Senator

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To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/15/2008 11:15:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Clip of the Day: McCain Says "Czechoslovakia" ... Again

Enjoy!

McCain Says "Czechoslovakia"... Again
JOHN MCCAIN: "I've suggested a long time ago a League of Democracies and it's very clear that Russia and China and especially Russia will veto significant measures, which would impact the behavior of the Iranians. And I regret that and I regret some of the recent behavior that Russia has exhibited [...] including reduction in oil supplies to **Czechoslovakia** after they agreed with us on missile defense system, et cetera."
(Town Hall Meeting; Albuquerque, NM 07/15/08)
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0XQ6zlP518
To Download: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/ozkz1fx44w

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Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
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From:	"Adam Jentleson \(CAPAF\)" <ajentleson@americanprogressaction.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	7/28/2008 8:02:26 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] McCain Adviser Steve Forbes: Cap-And-Trade Wouldn't 'Get Very Far' Under McCain

McCain Adviser Steve Forbes: Cap-And-Trade Wouldn't 'Get Very Far' Under McCain

Speaking with CNN's Glenn Beck on Friday, former GOP presidential candidate and current McCain economic adviser Steve Forbes disparaged Sen. McCain's signature plan to put mandatory reductions on greenhouse gases with a cap-and-trade system. McCain has repeatedly pointed to his record on promoting global warming legislation as a key distinction between himself and the current president.

> **I think cap and trade is going to go the way of some other things**, as you may remember, when he came into office, Bill Clinton had a proposal of tax carbons and stuff like that. I don't think those things are going to get very far as people start to examine the details of them.

Watch it:

On July 9, conservative journalist Larry Kudlow reported that he was told "on deep background" by a "senior McCain official" that McCain was off cap-and-trade. The campaign publicly responded that "any notion that the senator is abandoning or minimizing his support for cap-and-trade is 'totally false.'"Forbes is signaling that Kudlow may be right, and McCain will follow in the footsteps of George W. Bush. As a candidate in 2000, Bush pledged to impose mandatory reductions of carbon dioxide, but immediately reversed that position once elected. Newly elected Vice President Dick Cheney said of Bush's pledge, "It was a mistake."

Contrary to right-wing talking points, a cap-and-trade system is not in fact a tax (or even a "stealth tax"). Critically, cap-and-trade provides "emissions certainty" — ensuring that pollution does not exceed a certain level, whereas a carbon tax would place no such limits. At WorldChanging, Alan Durning explains how the most flexible regulatory system for managing global warming pollution would be using both policy instruments: cap-and-trade and a carbon tax. With the stark need to arrest global climate change as fast as possible, we will need all the tools in the chest.

Transcript:

BECK: Then explain this to me, Steve, because I know you're a John McCain guy and I'm not a John McCain guy. I mean, I don't have any guy in the running right now.

FORBES: Why aren't you running?

BECK: I would vaporize too many cities. Here's the thing, John McCain may be good on income tax, and he says that he gets that and I've seen his plan, and it's good. But in the same plan, he talks about cap and trade. Gigantic tax programs, the biggest ever created. So you're taking, sure, I'm not giving income tax, but I'm getting it here and here.

FORBES: Yes. I think cap and trade is going to go the way of some other things, as you may remember, when he came into office, Bill Clinton had a proposal of tax carbons and stuff like that. I don't think those things are going to get very far as people start to examine the details of them.

BECK: But shouldn't he have examined those details, Steve? Shouldn't he have known that's a bad idea?

FORBES: Yes, well, he's moving in the right direction. You got to give him credit. He's now for really having active exploration offshore. Going full bore on nuclear power plants, 45 in the next 20 to 25 years and that's another thing that the Democrats are squirming about. People know we should do more offshore production and drilling and they wish that issue would go away and we're not going to let it go away.

http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/07/28/forbes-no-cap-and-trade/

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From:	"Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/27/2015 1:30:43 PM
Subject:	FW: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES: Goldman Paid Bill Clinton $200,000 For Speech Before Bank Lobbied Hillary Clinton

Your friend David Sirota being helpful as always.

From: HPS Alerts [mailto:hpsalerts@hamiltonps.com]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 12:25 PM
To: bankingalerts@hamiltonps.com
Subject: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES: Goldman Paid Bill Clinton $200,000 For Speech Before Bank Lobbied Hillary Clinton

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES: Goldman Paid Bill Clinton $200,000 For Speech Before Bank Lobbied Hillary Clinton
By: David Sirota And Andrew Perez
http://www.ibtimes.com/goldman-paid-bill-clinton-200000-speech-bank-lobbied-hillary-clinton-1898154

Goldman Sachs paid former President Bill Clinton $200,000 to deliver a speech in the spring of 2011, several months before the investment banking giant began lobbying the State Department, then headed by Hillary Clinton, according to federal records reviewed by International Business Times.

Goldman's objective in lobbying the State Department could not be immediately discerned. The lobbying disclosure filings note only that Goldman sought to "monitor deficit reduction issues" -- specifically, a bill known as the Budget Control Act -- and the bank declined to answer questions about the precise nature of its interests.

Three days after Bill Clinton accepted Goldman's money to make a speech in New York, Hillary Clinton delivered her own address at the State Department in Washington: She lauded the investment bank's participation in her department's campaign to boost the numbers of American students who study in China.

According to an ethics agreement governing Hillary Clinton's tenure as an Obama administration cabinet official, all of her husband's paid speeches while she was secretary of state required the prior approval of department officials. Bill Clinton's 2011 speech to a conference full of Goldman clients gathered in New York gained the blessing of State Department officials, according to documents obtained by Judicial Watch.

The discovery that Bill Clinton accepted a six-figure payday from Goldman Sachs just before the bank sought the ear of his wife's department seems certain to intensify scrutiny of the Clinton family's often overlapping personal, philanthropic and official business interests.

In the two weeks since she formally declared herself an aspirant for the presidency, gaining status as the presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton has been dogged by allegations that foreign governments and well-connected investors have used generosity to her husband and their family's philanthropic empire, the Clinton Foundation, as a means of seeking to influence policy at her State Department.

Goldman confirmed that it paid President Clinton for his speech several months before the bank's Washington lobbying firm, the Duberstein Group, began focusing on State Department policy in addition to other federal agencies. But Goldman said there was no connection between the speech fee paid to Bill Clinton and the bank's interests at the State Department headed by Hillary Clinton.

"Any linkage between a speech for clients and the outcome of the Budget Control Act is preposterous," said a Goldman spokesman, Andrew Williams, who previously served as a deputy assistant secretary for public affairs at the Treasury Department in the Obama administration. Despite Goldman's lobbying records, Williams asserted: "We did not lobby the State Department on budget issues, nor did we ask anyone else to."

A spokesperson for Clinton's presidential campaign declined to answer questions about the propriety of Bill Clinton's Goldman-financed speaking engagement. The State Department declined to comment. Bill Clinton did not respond to requests for an interview.

This month, IBTimes reported that Hillary Clinton switched her position to support a trade agreement forged by the United States and Colombia just as a Colombian oil conglomerate and its founder contributed to the Clinton Foundation. Under her leadership, the State Department certified Colombia's human rights record, enabling American military aid to continue to flow to Colombia, despite complaints from organized labor that the military has been responsible for violent crackdowns on striking workers at the oil company's facilities. The founder, Frank Giustra, has since said his donations to the Clinton Foundation were made as a bid to promote positive change and were not aimed at influencing the State Department.

The New York Times and Wall Street Journal later detailed contributions that flowed into the Clinton Foundation from an executive at a uranium mining firm that was seeking the State Department's support for a series of transactions

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involving interests in Russia and Kazakhstan. The State Department occupies a seat on a powerful government panel that reviews deals involving foreign interests, probing potential threats to national security.

In recent days, attention to overlapping interests that have donated to the Clinton family's private interests while also allegedly seeking to influence State Department policy has reached a fever pitch amid leaks from a forthcoming book on the subject, "Clinton Cash," by Peter Schweizer.

The involvement of Goldman Sachs seems certain to amplify that scrutiny. The bank brings a reputation as uniquely well-connected in Washington given that many of its former executives have landed in the uppermost ranks of the Treasury Department. (One Goldman alumnus, Gary Gensler, was recently appointed the chief financial officer of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.) In a time in which many ordinary Americans have grown suspicious of Wall Street, accusing well-placed executives of profiting through unsavory enterprises such as subprime mortgage lending, Goldman has become an emblem of this view, -- an institution famously described by the journalist Matt Taibbi as a "a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money."

Bill Clinton installed former Goldman Chairman Robert Rubin as his Treasury secretary. Since leaving office, President Clinton has received $1.35 million from the bank for eight speeches, according to the Washington Post . Two years ago, Hillary Clinton, having left the Obama administration, gave two speeches at Goldman Sachs events in the span of a week, according to Mother Jones.

State Department records show that Bill Clinton's $200,000 Goldman Sachs speech was delivered on April 11, 2011, to "approximately 250 high level clients and investors" at a United Nations dining room in New York.

In federal disclosure documents , the Duberstein Group is listed as lobbying the Clinton State Department on behalf of Goldman Sachs between July and September 2011. Goldman Sachs paid the Duberstein Group $100,000 during that time.

Those records show that the firm was specifically lobbying the department on "proposed legislation" linked to a series of budget bills. One bill continued congressional authorization for the Export-Import Bank, a government-backed lender whose financing was critical for the prospects of a company in which Goldman owned a stake. The Duberstein Group did not respond to questions about its precise interests in the legislation at issue.

The original budget bill was introduced in July and did not include an extension of the Export-Import Bank, but the bank reauthorization was added in late September, during the same period Goldman was lobbying the State Department on the bill.

In August 2011, the bank authorized a $75 million loan enabling a Chinese firm to purchase aircraft from Beechcraft (known before emerging from bankruptcy in February 2013 as Hawker Beechcraft), a company that was part owned by Goldman . Beechcraft had lobbied the Clinton State Department on issues relating to foreign military sales in 2009 and 2010 , according to its lobbying disclosures.

The State Department is intimately involved in Export-Import Bank decisions. Bank documents say it performs a "human rights review" of countries where loans are made, and also "examine(s) human rights and other foreign policy considerations in their assessment of the risks associated with transactions in specific countries." In October 2011, Clinton touted the work of her undersecretary, former Goldman Vice Chairman Robert Hormats, saying he was "coordinating with the Export-Import Bank, OPIC, and others to support our investors and exporters in emerging economies."

The Export-Import Bank was a source of extraordinary controversy in the latter half of Obama's first term. Conservative Republican lawmakers charged that it had become a source of wasteful corporate welfare, echoing traditional criticism from liberal Democrats. Despite the controversy, Congress ultimately passed a bill reauthorizing funding and President Obama signed it into law.

The Export-Import bank appears to have made the loan to the Chinese firm, according to its ledgers, though Hawker Beechcraft filed for bankruptcy protection in 2012 .

The Export-Import Bank is again up for reauthorization and faces strong opposition from conservatives, including GOP financiers Charles and David Koch .

Federal documents show that at the same time the Duberstein Group was lobbying for Goldman on the budget bills, it was also lobbying for the bank on issues related to "executive branch action" on pending free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. Clinton was at the time publicly promoting those agreements.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

In Iowa, it was a good night for Clinton — and her rivals // WaPo // Dan Balz – July 18, 2015

The first gathering of the Democratic presidential candidates played almost according to script here Friday night. Hillary Rodham Clinton stood above the field but did not dominate. Bernie Sanders displayed the passion that has made him such a favorite of the left. And Martin O'Malley's speech got a reception that belied his anemic poll numbers.

The serial speeches by Clinton, Sanders and O'Malley — who were joined in the program by fellow contenders Lincoln Chafee and Jim Webb — also highlighted the leftward shift of the Democratic Party under President Obama and the degree to which that movement is continuing during the contest for the party's presidential nomination.

Clinton, who spoke with the aid of a teleprompter, was fiery, funny and sharply partisan. It was a red-meat speech delivered to an audience eager for her to deliver it. She took little notice of her Democratic opponents and concentrated her attacks on the opposition party.

She noted that Republicans have fresh faces running for president but denounced the GOP as a party mired in the past and wedded to policies that have not worked except for thewealthiest in society.

On economics, she warned that the GOP candidates want to return to the tax-cutting policies of previous Republican administrations. "Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s," she said. "It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair. I lived through it — and there are photographs. And we're not going back to that."

That wasn't her only hair reference. When she turned to Donald Trump, it went like this: "Finally, a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine." Then the humor stopped, as she added that there is "nothing funny about the hate he's spewing" toward immigrants. She called it shameful and ridiculed the other GOP candidates for

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being slow to denounce Trump's words.

The former secretary of state and senator from New York attacked former Florida governor Jeb Bush for his comments on part-time work. She hit at Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for restricting reproductive rights in his state, saying the voters should say no to politicians "who shame and blame" women. She even went after Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad for vetoing spending on mental health and got one of the biggest ovations of the night.

If once she seemed tentative about talking about herself and her family, she no longer is. She talked as she has done in this campaign about the abandonment her mother endured as a child. She said becoming a grandmother was "transformational," forcing one to consider the kind of future this generation will leave for others. "And that's why I'm never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made," she said.

She said she would fight against efforts to go back to trickle-down economics and to a "wild West on Wall Street," to retrenchment on marriage rights or to efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

She mocked Republicans who say they aren't scientists and therefore can't judge whether climate change is man-made. "Look, I'm not a scientist either," she said. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I'm not going to let them take us back."

She showed her willingness as well to embrace gender issues and the prospect of becoming the first female president. Ticking through a series of policies that would help women, she noted that some would say, "There she goes again" on women's issues. "Well, I'm not going to stop," she said, "so get ready for a long campaign."

Sanders's fire

Sanders again showed he is prepared to go where Clinton won't on economic issues. He called for a nationwide mass movement against the "billionaire class" that he has made the heart of his populist insurgency. No president, he said, can bring about the changes he says are needed "unless there is a political revolution."

Clinton attacks Wall Street but hardly with the vigor of Sanders. Calling wealth and income inequality the moral and political issues of the day, the senator from Vermont identified his enemy and called on Democrats to take up the fight. "The greed for the billionaire class has got to end, and we are going to end it for them," he said.

There is an old-fashioned passion that Sanders brings to the campaign, and it has clearly found an audience on the left. Clinton's policies are progressive but safely so; Sanders's go beyond. Without naming her, he drew contrasts with Clinton that many in the audience clearly understood.

Sanders would raise the minimum wage more than she. He opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. He favors both a big infrastructure program to rebuild roads and bridges as well as a big public jobs program to reduce unemployment among young African Americans and Hispanics.

On health care, he would move beyond the Affordable Care Act and seek to enact a Medicare-style government-run single-payer system. On Social Security, he would expand benefits, not cut them.

The Sanders cheering section on Friday filled one end of the room, and the response he received was one more sign that he has found an audience within the party and, if he can keep building on it, could threaten Clinton here and in New Hampshire.

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O'Malley's eloquence

The surprise of the night might have been O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and ex-mayor of Baltimore, if only because he has largely been dealt out of the narrative of the current Democratic contest. He had hoped to become the alternative to Clinton only to see Sanders take up that space. Now he languishes far behind. But he showed he has a message, too.

His speech was a version of Sanders's message but with a different style and eloquence. Sanders's style is direct and blunt. O'Malley's rhetoric and cadence lift in other ways, and many times he brought the whole audience from their seats cheering.

"I'm not the only Democratic candidate for president who holds progressive values," he said. "But I am the only candidate for president with 15 years of executive experience." He said he offered the party "action not words."

He agrees with Sanders on minimum wage and trade and Social Security. He wants a major initiative to rebuild urban America. He attacks the "bullies of Wall Street" with just as much enthusiasm and edge.

"We must prosecute financial crimes, and if a bank is too big to fail, too big to jail and too big to manage, then it's too damn big and it needs to be broken up before it breaks us up," he said to cheers and applause.

Chafee and Webb

Chafee and Webb provided the evening's bookends, curiosities to many in the audience and so far barely registering in the consciousness of party activists.

Chafee, the former Rhode Island governor, spoke for less than seven minutes, denouncing Republican foreign policy as "failed, arrogant, unilateral, bellicose." He added: "We need to reject once and for all the belligerent advocates of conflict."

Webb was notable for declaring his differences with Obama on the newly negotiated nuclear agreement with Iran. And seeking to set himself apart from others, the former senator noted that he is the only candidate elected statewide in Virginia "with a union card, two purple hearts and three tattoos."

Republicans have had many such forums this year. For the Democrats, Friday was the first opportunity to see their candidates in the same room. Clinton delivered a rousing and polished speech, but Sanders and O'Malley showed there is appetite for an even harder-edge populist message among party activists. That will provide the tension as the Democratic contest evolves in the coming months.

Hillary Clinton slams Trump over criticism of McCain **// WaPo // Sean Sullivan – July 18, 2015**

At a state Democratic fundraising dinner here Saturday night, Hillary Rodham Clinton took sharp aim at Donald Trump and his Republican opponents, singling out the real estate mogul on his comments disparaging Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) over his military record.

"There's nothing funny about the hate he is spewing at immigrants and their families and now the insults he has

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directed at a genuine war hero, Sen. John McCain," she said.

Clinton said it was "shameful" that it took Trump's GOP opponents so long to "stand up to him," mostly referring to Trump's comments on immigrants.

Trump spoke at a Republican fundraising dinner about an hour's drive away in Hot Springs on Friday night.

"Last night the new Republican front-runner was here in Arkansas — yes Donald Trump. Finally, a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," quipped Clinton.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton and Sanders Take Aim at Different Targets as Democrats Gather in Iowa // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 18, 2015

Hillary Clinton and her chief rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders, each brought Iowa Democrats to their feet Friday night in a pair of fiery speeches, though their sharp tongues were aimed at different targets.

Speaking at an Iowa Democratic Party dinner, Mrs. Clinton trained her attacks on Republicans who she said would take the nation backward on the economy, health care and more. Mr. Sanders also took shots at the GOP, but he said the real problem is the nation's "billionaire class" who take home a disproportionate amount of the money and wield a disproportionate amount of the power in the nation's political system.

"This country belongs to all of us and not a handful of billionaires," he said. None of the needed changes would come about, he said, without a political revolution and a "mass movement coast to coast."

Mrs. Clinton's ambitions were less sweeping: a Democratic White House that would advance the interests of families and children and the idea that people who work hard should be able to get ahead. "I'm never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made," she said.

In back-to-back speeches at the state party's annual Hall of Fame dinner, the two were joined by three others seeking the party's nomination, the first time all five candidates have appeared on the same stage. The ballroom was filled with some 1,300 Democrats.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley also won a standing ovation as he embraced virtually every position that liberal Democrats are advocating. He said he would work to prosecute Wall Street wrongdoing, raise the minimum wage to $15 per hour, expand Social Security benefits, kill trade agreements, make college debt-free and reinstate rules that separated commercial and investment banking.

"If a bank is too big to fail, too big to jail and too big to manage, then it's too damn big and it needs to be broken up," he said.

He also tried to differentiate himself as the candidate with the most executive experience and a track record in Maryland of advancing gun control, same-sex marriage rights and other issues.

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But his challenge was evident from the first words out of his mouth. Mired at the bottom of polls, he sought to introduce himself. “My name is Martin O’Malley. I’m running for president. And I need your help,” he said.

Two other long-shot candidates also shared the stage. Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee sounded his support for the nuclear agreement with Iran and for the opening of diplomatic relations with Cuba. “This is the right way to make the world safer,” he said of the Iran deal.

By the time former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb’s turn to speak arrived—he was last due to the alphabetical order of the speakers—dozens of people were streaming for the doors. He voiced concern about the Iran deal and highlighted his opposition to the Iraq war. “As a senator I would have never voted to authorize that invasion,” he said. That was a cloaked shot at Mrs. Clinton, who voted yes, and one of the few criticisms of any kind spoken about another candidate.

Going into the evening, most of the focus was on Mrs. Clinton, the former secretary of state who remains the front-runner, and Mr. Sanders, the Vermont senator who has gained ground in recent weeks.

Mrs. Clinton offered a withering attack on the GOP. She charged that Republicans would cut taxes for the rich, strip regulations for American corporations and promote “trickle-down economics,” which she called one of the worst ideas of the 1980s.

“It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair,” she said, mixing humor with policy. “I lived through it—there are photographs—and we’re not going back to that.”

Republicans argue that the economic policies under Democratic President Barack Obama have stifled growth, and are pushing for lower tax rates and fewer regulations on business, which they see as burdensome.

Mrs. Clinton also joked about Republicans who deflect questions about the impact of climate change by saying they aren’t scientists. “I’m not a scientist either,” she said. “I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain.”

Some Republicans doubt the scientific consensus that human activity is warming the Earth, and say mostly Democratic proposals to combat it would hurt the economy.

Mr. Sanders was greeted with chants of “Bernie, Bernie” before he was even introduced. In his speech, he repeatedly denounced the concentration of wealth at the top of the income scale.

“Enough is enough. That has got to end and together we will end it,” he said. “This campaign is sending a profound message to the billionaire class. You can’t have it all. You can get huge tax breaks when children in America go hungry.”

He also vowed a single-payer health-care system, free tuition at public universities and to appoint Supreme Court justices who will overturn the Citizens United ruling, which allowed unlimited contributions to super PACs.

“There is nothing we can’t accomplish,” he said. “Please don’t think small. Think big.”

Friday also brought many Republican presidential candidates to the state. At a rally in eastern Iowa, Republican state party chair Jeff Kaufmann said, “Our message is clear to Democrats in Iowa and across the nation: The

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Republican Party is unified and ready to put a Republican back in the White House."

Why Hillary Clinton is pushing to reignite Democrats in Arkansas **// WaPo // Sean Sullivan – July 18, 2015**

The Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library and Learning Center, set on a six-acre campus here, is about a 15-minute drive away from the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport.

In between are the state capitol and the governor's mansion, now controlled by Republicans, who also hold all six of the state's seats in Congress.

In some ways, Clinton never left the state where she served as first lady for 12 years, as she has already etched her name in Arkansas history. In others, she's an outsider — the Democratic front-runner for president in a state that has moved sharply Republican in recent years.

Clinton returns Saturday evening to try to turn things around. She will be the feature speaker at a Democratic fundraising dinner some 2,000 people are expected to attend. The visit highlights Clinton's effort to fortify and revitalize state and local Democratic parties as she runs for president, including in areas where victories have been hard to come by in recent elections.

Arkansas is perhaps the best test of how well that strategy will work. Clinton and her husband Bill are practically political royalty here, giving them an advantage that President Obama and other Democratic leaders never had. But they face stiff headwinds months after Republicans dominated the midterm elections, despite them campaigning for Democratic candidates here.

Part of Clinton's plan to help state Democrats around the country is simply showing up and boosting ticket sales to dinners. Her speech at the Jefferson-Jackson dinner in North Little Rock comes after appearances at similar dinners in New Hampshire and Virginia in recent weeks.

Clinton aides say they are trying to build a broad national coalition that extends well beyond the states that vote early in the primary. Last month, the campaign said it had dispatched 51 organizers to build volunteer networks in the 46 non-early states and had held or scheduled 320 organizing meetings there.

Arkansas Democratic Party chairman Vincent Insalaco said the prospect of Clinton being at the top of the ticket in 2016 has made it easier to recruit Democrats to run for state and local offices.

Republicans confidently predict that Clinton, should she win the Democratic nomination, would not prevent them from winning Arkansas in the presidential election. And even the most optimistic Democrats acknowledge how difficult it would be to spring an upset. The last Democrat to carry the state was Bill Clinton in 1996. Obama lost twice by wide margins.

"She cannot revitalize the party in Arkansas because the party has no future at this time," said Arkansas Republican Party chairman Doyle Webb. "It's suffered great losses. If you look at our success over the past three election cycles, their infrastructure is down."

The Clinton campaign, which is trying to diminish the impression that she is the inevitable Democratic nominee, says it is focused on Arkansas as part of the primary process. The state is slated to be part of a full batch of "Super Tuesday" primaries on March 1.

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“Hillary Clinton is committed to strengthening the Arkansas Democratic Party, and helping Democrats be successful up and down the ballot next year and beyond,” said Clinton spokesman Tyrone Gayle.

The massive electoral shift toward Republicans in Arkansas, once a Democratic stronghold, is part of a broader trend in Southern states in recent years. Clinton’s allies and friends hope her résumé of local accomplishments can help ease some of their suffering at the ballot box and bring more voters into the Democratic fold.

They point to her work on behalf of women, children, families and poor rural residents, citing her co-founding of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, a nonprofit advocacy group.

“If you look at many of Hillary’s domestic policy initiatives and interests, you can trace them back to her work in Arkansas,” said Skip Rutherford, a longtime Clinton adviser and friend who is the dean of the University of Arkansas’s Clinton School of Public Service.

Insalaco said Clinton left a defining political mark.

“She was a very different first lady,” he said. “I think she helped pave the way for women to run for office in Arkansas, for women to have success in politics in Arkansas.”

Republicans believe that Clinton’s accomplishments in the state will only carry her so far, since she has spent the past two decades outside of Arkansas — representing New York in the Senate from 2001 to 2009 and then serving as U.S. secretary of state for the next four years.

At a Republican fundraising dinner on Friday in Hot Springs, the crowd cheered when real-estate mogul and White House hopeful Donald Trump said Clinton “deserted” Arkansas.

Rutherford sees things differently. But he also sees a challenging landscape for Clinton in 2016.

“The base of support for Hillary Clinton has not shrunk in Arkansas,” Rutherford said. “But the demographics have changed.”

As Democrats face off, Clinton keeps focus on GOP **// AP – July 18, 2015**

Ignoring her primary challengers, Hillary Rodham Clinton focused instead on the expanding field of Republican contenders as she and her fellow Democrats tried to impress influential party activists in Iowa.

The fundraising face-off for the benefit of the state party came Friday night as the Democratic primary fight - long assumed to be just short of a coronation for Clinton - appeared to be heating up into a slightly more serious contest. In recent weeks, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has risen in the polls and packed arenas with voters eager to hear the message of the self-described socialist who's become Clinton's chief rival.

But rather than confront her most immediate political obstacle in a crucial primary state, Clinton took aim at the other party, vowing to never let Republicans "rip away the progress" made during the Obama administration.

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"Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s," Clinton said, evoking Republican policy from the Reagan era. "It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair."

Singling out former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Clinton launched a familiar attack on his statement that Americans need to work longer hours.

"Americans don't need lectures -- they need raises," she said. "So if Republicans really want to help us, why don't they join us in breaking down barriers?"

Clinton additionally pledged an agenda of "small growth, fair growth, and long-term grown," because her campaign "has to be about how we unlock the potential of every American."

Sanders, too, refused to criticize his primary opponent directly. Earlier in the day he edged closer to an attack when he questioned whether Clinton would back the kinds of tough regulations for Wall Street that's become a rallying call for liberal Democrats.

"You'll have to ask Hillary Clinton her views on whether we should break up these large financial institutions," he said during an afternoon appearance in Cedar Rapids.

At the evening forum, Sanders called for a "political revolution" fueled by a "mass movement from coast to coast" that would end the influx of money into politics and take the country off "the path to oligarchy."

"The greed of the billionaire class has got to end and we are going to end it for them," he said. He added: "Please don't think small. Think big."

The Clinton campaign has signaled that it considers Sanders to be a legitimate challenger who will be running for the long haul, noting the $15.2 million he's raised - largely from small donors - in the first three months of the race.

They believe he will find a measure of support in Iowa, where the caucus system typically turns out the most passionate voters, and in New Hampshire, given Sanders' many decades representing neighboring Vermont in Congress. A recent Quinnipiac University poll showed that Sanders has even doubled his support in Iowa since May.

On Friday, Clinton's campaign said it bought $7.7 million worth of television advertising time in early voting states, its first ad buy for the 2016 contest. In Iowa, the campaign paid $3.6 million for time in all eight media markets that serve the state. An additional $4.1 million of airtime was purchased in New Hampshire, which holds the nation's first primary.

Unlike her rivals, Clinton has already built a vast campaign infrastructure, run from a multistory headquarters in New York City, with hundreds of staffers across the country. But so far the Clinton team has resisted any direct engagement with Sanders, fearing such an exchange might alienate the activists and small-dollar donors who will form the base of support in the general election if Clinton should win the nomination.

"You can see that Democrats are united, we are energized, and we are ready to win this election," Clinton said Friday night.

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In a fiery address, she slammed the economic policy of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, joked that businessman and TV star Donald Trump is "finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," and criticized Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for targeting union power.

"That's why we can't let Republicans take us back," Clinton said. "We're not going back to the Wild West on Wall Street. We're not going back to denying climate change."

Besides Sanders and Clinton, the forum featured former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

O'Malley introduced himself as a can-do former chief executive who tackled a series of problems in Maryland by promoting public education, freezing college tuition, passing a "Dream Act" for young immigrants and expanding family leave policies.

But like Sanders, he got some of his biggest applause when he talked about regulating and punishing Wall Street - underscoring the populist mood of the most active Democratic voters.

"Main Street struggles while Wall Street soars," he said. "If a bank is too big to fail, too big to jail and too big to manage, then it's too damn big."

In contrast to O'Malley and Sanders, Chafee and Webb both spoke of foreign policy issues at length.

Chaffee praised the contentious nuclear deal with Iran, exclaiming "What a change!"

"Avoiding war is worth every bit of our energy," the Rhode Island governor added. "This is the right way to make the world safer."

Clinton Eulogizes Promoter of National Civil Rights Museum // AP – July 18, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton led the eulogies Saturday for D'Army Bailey, a lawyer and judge who helped preserve the Memphis hotel where civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and turn it into the National Civil Rights Museum.

Bailey died last Sunday at age 73 after a long illness.

At his funeral attended by Memphis' mayor, other political leaders, lawyers and judges, Clinton heaped praise on Bailey for saving the Lorraine Motel, The Commercial Appeal (http://bit.ly/1MhNoOn) reported.

"The Lorraine Motel could be a parking lot for all you know today if it hadn't been for D'Army Bailey," the former president said.

"The man was moving all his life," Clinton added. "And he believed everything should have a moving purpose, including this museum. He left you and America a national treasure."

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Bailey led the fight to preserve the crumbling Lorraine Motel, where King was slain while standing on a balcony on April 4, 1968. King had stayed at the hotel while marching and making speeches on behalf of striking sanitation workers who were protesting low wages and unsafe working conditions.

Bailey assembled donors to buy the hotel, which ultimately became the National Civil Rights Museum in 1991. The museum has since undergone an extensive renovation.

Bailey received his law degree from Yale and practiced civil rights law in New York before moving to California. He served on the Berkeley, California, city council from 1971 until 1973.

He later returned home to Memphis, where he practiced law and served as a judge.

Bailey also had small acting roles in several films, including "The People vs. Larry Flynt" and "How Stella Got Her Groove Back."

Hillary Clinton is ignoring Bernie Sanders — and it's a smart move **// AP // Lisa Lerer – July 18, 2015**

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Hillary Clinton to hold private fundraiser near Pittsburgh **// AP – July 18, 2015**

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton will attend a private fundraiser at a supporter’s home in the Pittsburgh suburbs next week.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported an email sent to Clinton supporters on Tuesday announced the fundraiser to be held at the home of community activist Cindy Shapira in Fox Chapel. The tony, wooded suburb is home to sprawling mansions and millionaires a few miles east of Pittsburgh.

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The event called “Conversations with Hillary” lists contribution levels of $1,000 for a “friend” on up to $27,000, which qualifies one as an “event host.” That also includes getting to attend a reception with Clinton and membership in her Hillstarters program.

The newspaper reported the Wednesday fundraiser will be Clinton’s first western Pennsylvania stop since a brief Pittsburgh visit the day she announced her candidacy in April.

Hillary finds new major fundraisers to boost campaign // Politico // Tarini Parti & Theodoric Meyer – July 18, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s campaign has drawn in dozens of new bundlers who have raised $100,000 or more for her presidential campaign, though several big-name Democratic donors have not yet stepped up as major fundraisers.

Since launching her campaign three months ago, Clinton has attracted fundraising help from donors who did not bundle for either of President Barack Obama’s campaigns, according to a POLITICO analysis of a list of more than 100 “Hillblazers” — or top bundlers — voluntarily disclosed by the campaign this week. About 40 percent of her donors did not serve as bundlers for Clinton’s previous campaign or either of Obama’s presidential campaigns. And only about seven percent of those who bundled at least $100,000 for Obama in 2012 have raised that much for Clinton.

The absence from Clinton’s campaign bundler list, however, may mean that deep-pocketed donors have chosen another route of candidate support. In this presidential election, outside groups are already overshadowing official campaigns, and some major bundlers from previous elections may have opted to write big checks to Priorities USA Action, a super PAC supporting Clinton. Those details will not be made public until the end of July.

Bundlers pull together individual contributions capped at $2,700 — the federal limit for individuals in the primary — and their efforts can add up to big money. The fundraising is more time-consuming for wealthy donors than simply writing six- or seven-figure checks to super PACs, but inclusion on a campaign bundler list often comes with perks that give donors inside access. This week, for example, Hillblazers were treated to four hours of face time with top campaign officials at a Brooklyn Marriott hotel close to Clinton’s headquarters.

Overall, with money raised from the bundlers, Clinton’s campaign reported collecting roughly $47.5 million in the last three months.

Super PACs operate with no restrictions on fundraising, but they are not allowed to coordinate with campaigns. Super PAC reports to the Federal Election Commission will offer a more complete picture of Clinton’s big donor support.

“The sad reality of super PACs is that if the impact a bundler can make is waning, the influence of grassroots donors is exceedingly diminished,” said Bill Burton, who co-founded Priorities in the 2012 election cycle when it was supporting Obama. “But it’s important to note that bundlers are still critically important to the success of a campaign operation. Without them, no presidential campaign can raise the funds needed to be successful.”

The boldface names of Democratic donors missing from Clinton’s bundler list include billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer; Hollywood moguls Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg; former Clinton adviser Vernon Jordan; Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs; Chicago Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts; billionaire Warren Buffett; Salesforce founder Marc Benioff; and Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour.

Most of them did show up as $2,700 contributors to Clinton, the maximum primary contribution. Some have even hosted Clinton fundraisers. But none have so far raised six-figures for Clinton, as they have done in past presidential elections.

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Steyer hosted a fundraiser for Clinton at his San Francisco mansion in April. Ricketts co-hosted an event for the Democratic frontrunner in Chicago in May, and Jacobs is expected to host an August fundraiser.

Some new Clinton bundlers include lobbyists, who were barred from contributing to the Obama campaigns, and have been quick to return to Democratic presidential politics by raising cash for Clinton. They include Washington lobbyists Steve Elmendorf, David Jones, Jay Dunn, former Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and former South Carolina Gov. James Hodges.

Other new bundlers are women like Allida Black, co-founder of the Ready for Hillary super PAC that laid the foundation for Clinton's White House bid, and former Clinton press secretary Lisa Caputo.

Black, a first-time bundler, said she's raised $117,000 so far for Clinton's bid and hopes to raise more.

"It's too important for me to stop. I think it's the most important election of my lifetime, and I think Hillary is someone I've watched since the early 70s, known since the 90s, and she is the candidate of my lifetime when it comes to issues I care about. So I have to put my money where my mouth is," Black said.

"The thing I'm enormously proud of is that a boat load of my money came from small-dollar donors," Black added. "My donors gave anywhere from $20 to $1,000, $500. Some even gave $5. I reached out to everyone I know because I wanted people to invest because its important to me and the country and important for Hillary. I find that men are receptive and women are eager."

Pamela Eakes, who has bundled for Obama and Clinton, told POLITICO in a recent interview that Clinton supporters tried to encourage women who lack money to write large super PAC checks to jump into fundraising.

"Strategically, we're doing what we've done for years," said Eakes, a major donor based in Seattle. "We've always reached out to women. This time the most qualified person to be president happens to be a woman and a mother. So it's not strategic, it's just natural."

Some of the Hillblazers are Clinton supporters who did not bundle for Obama. Now, they are making a comeback. They include Tracy Bernstein, who sits on the board of the nonprofit Sasha Bruce; Espirit co-founder Susie Tompkins Buell; longtime supporter and Clinton Foundation donor Lynn Forester de Rothschild; and Univision owner Haim Saban and his wife Cheryl.

Clinton is the only 2016 candidate so far to release bundler names. Disclosure is voluntary, and campaigns that name their bundlers typically don't provide exact amounts they've raised or their addresses and occupations, as campaigns are required to do for reports filed to the FEC.

GOP presidential contenders Jeb Bush and Scott Walker have said they will also voluntarily disclose their bundlers, but have not yet released the information.

Hillary Clinton slams Trump's 'shameful' comments on McCain's war record // Politico // Annie Karni – July 18, 2015

Hillary Clinton sharply rebuked Donald Trump on Saturday for his "shameful" comments that Sen. John McCain was not a war hero because he was captured in Vietnam.

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Clinton also moved quickly to erase any daylight between Trump and the rest of the GOP field, where the real-estate mogul and reality television personality has moved from sideshow to the current leader in the polls.

“Donald Trump, finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine,” Clinton quipped at a Democratic dinner here. “But there’s nothing funny about the hate he is spewing at immigrants and families — and now the insults he has directed at a genuine war hero, Sen. John McCain.

“It’s shameful, and so is the fact that it took so long for his fellow Republican candidates to start standing up to him,” she said. “The sad truth is if you look at many of their policies, it can be hard to tell the difference.”

Clinton made her comments at the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Little Rock, in front of a crowd of about 1,500 Democrats. It was a brief, half-day homecoming for Clinton, her first visit to her de facto home state since she announced her candidacy in April.

In her keynote address, she gave an impassioned version of her stump speech, talking about paid leave, childcare, equal pay for equal work, universal preschool, and refinancing student debt. She reiterated her promise to hold individuals on Wall Street accountable for actions that lead to economic crises.

And she criticized the Republican field as a generic whole. “They may have some fresh faces, but they are the party of the past,” she said. “Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s. It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair. I lived through that. There are photographs. And believe me we’re not going back.”

After arriving in town late Saturday afternoon, Clinton visited the house she and Bill Clinton lived in when they first moved to Little Rock from Fayetteville, after Bill Clinton was elected state attorney general in 1977. She also made a brief stop at the Clinton Presidential Center, and drove by their old 1992 campaign headquarters, before arriving at the Verizon Center to keynote the dinner. She was scheduled to fly out Saturday night after her speech, an aide said.

Arkansas has changed dramatically since the Clintons were the stars of the state’s Democratic Party more than three decades ago. Democrats have been trounced here in recent elections, where the GOP now holds a majority at all levels of government in a state that used to be a Democratic stronghold. In his 2012 reelection campaign, President Barack Obama lost Arkansas by 24 points. Former Democratic governor and close Clinton ally Mike Beebe, the one stalwart Democratic survivor, left office in January after he was term-limited out.

The changing politics of Arkansas were on display Friday night, where Trump was warmly received by a crowd of over 1,000 Republicans at a GOP dinner in Hot Springs, Bill Clinton’s boyhood home.

But inside the overly air-conditioned Verizon Center, state Democrats were trying to keep both the pounding heat and the bleak political map out.

“I’m here to tell you the Democratic party is alive and well in Arkansas!” said state Democratic Party chairman Vince Insalaco.

For her part, Clinton acknowledged that last year was “a hard one for Democrats” in Arkansas. But she put a positive spin on it. “Don’t forget, voters did come out and pass an increase in the minimum wage,” she said. “Arkansas voters know paychecks need to grow. We just have to offer a plan for more growth and more fairness they can believe in and vote for.”

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The arena was filled with longtime Clinton allies like Beebe; Mack McLarty, who served as White House chief of staff; former Sen. Blanche Lincoln; former Sen. David Pryor; Gen. Wesley Clark; and Lynda Dixon, Bill Clinton's former personal secretary during his years as Arkansas governor, among others. The crowd was thrilled to welcome Clinton home — a large portrait of the former Secretary of State was sold at a pre-dinner auction for $19,000.

Speaking to reporters before Clinton took the stage, Beebe said Democrats are suffering because Arkansans are "mad at the White House. They're mad at the president, in Arkansas."

But he said Clinton can distance herself from Obama without being disloyal to a president she served under. "She can row her own boat," he said. "She will be loyal, as she should be. She has her own plans, her own policies."

He also acknowledged that Trump's entry into the race is good for Clinton. "Good, I hope he wins," he said when asked about Trump's large and supportive crowd here Friday night.

As for whether Clinton could win here, he acknowledged in today's environment, "it will be difficult, but yes. If anyone on that side of the aisle right now [has a chance,] she does. but it will be an uphill battle because the state has gone significantly red."

Hillary Clinton Calls Donald Trump Comments 'Shameful' **// Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 18, 2015**

Donald Trump's dismissive comments about Senator John McCain's military service in the Vietnam War were "shameful," Hillary Clinton said Saturday, joining most of her would-be Republican presidential rivals in defending the former prisoner of war.

Hours after the real estate mogul-turned presidential candidate set off an uproar in the Republican party with his suggestion that McCain, who spent more than five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, was "not a war hero," Clinton lambasted Trump in a speech at the Arkansas Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner.

Clinton, who served in the Senate with McCain, broadened her critique of Trump beyond his comments about the Arizona senator to include Trump's incendiary remarks about immigration — which set off his feud with McCain.

"There's nothing funny about the insults he's directed at a genuine war hero."

"There is nothing funny about" how Trump has talked about immigrants or "the insults he's directed at a genuine war hero, Senator John McCain," Clinton told her audience in North Little Rock. "It's shameful."

Noting the deference many Republicans have accorded the outspoken billionaire, whose take-no-prisoners speaking style has rocketed him towards the top of his party's presidential field, Clinton questioned why it "took so long for most of his fellow Republican candidates to stand up to him."

Some Republicans, including McCain, have publicly disagreed with Trump's comments on immigration, including a charge that Mexicans illegally crossing the border are "rapists." But it was not until Trump attacked McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, that condemnation became more vocal and widespread.

Almost every major Republican candidate running for president, with the notable exception of Texas Senator Ted

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Cruz, rounded on Trump Saturday after he pooh-poohed McCain's time in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, where the the Navy pilot was tortured to the point where he says he considered suicide. “He’s not a war hero," Trump told a gathering of evangelicals in Ames, Iowa. "He’s a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured."

In her visit to North Little Rock, which brought her back to the state where she was once first lady, Clinton also commented on Thursday's shooting in Chattanooga, Tennessee. A Marine from Arkansas was among the five people killed by a gunman who opened fire at two military facilities there.

The incident "breaks our hearts but it also stiffens our resolve," she said. "We will not be intimidated by terrorists. We’ll be strong, we’ll be smart and we’ll defend our country and our values."

Hillary Clinton Condemns Donald Trump’s ‘Insults’ of ‘Genuine War Hero’ John McCain // ABC News // Liz Kreutz – July 18, 2015

Leave it to Donald Trump to help Republicans and Democrats find common ground.

Hillary Clinton joined the chorus of presidential candidates from both parties Saturday to condemn Trump for saying Sen. John McCain, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, was not a war hero.

During her headlining speech at a Democratic dinner in Little Rock, Ark. Clinton called Trump’s assertion “shameful” and described McCain as a “genuine war hero.”

“Donald Trump, finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention that mine,” Clinton quipped.

“But, there’s nothing funny about the hate he is spewing at immigrants and their families, and now the insults he’s directed at a genuine war hero, Senator John McCain,” she added. “It’s shameful, and so is the fact that it took so long for most of his fellow Republican candidates to start standing up to him.”

Earlier today, Trump came under fire for saying at a campaign event in Iowa that McCain is only a war hero “because he was captured.”

The comment has drawn criticism from a slew of his Republican presidential challengers, as well as Clinton and Secretary of State John Kerry.

“I have known John McCain for more than thirty years. We've had our share of disagreements and still do today. But one thing I know is beyond debate is that John McCain is a hero, a man of grit and guts and character personified,” Kerry said in a statement released tonight.

McCain spent five and a half years as a POW after he was captured in 1967 while flying his 23rd bombing mission over North Vietnam. His aircraft was shot down by a missile and he nearly drowned landing in a lake. He had his shoulder crushed by his captors, who refused to treat his injuries, which were exacerbated by beatings administered during interrogations. He survived a program of severe torture and his wartime injuries restrict him from lifting his arms above his head.

Clinton made her attack against Trump during her first trip back to Arkansas since becoming a presidential candidate.

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In her speech, Clinton attacked the GOP for being the “party of the past.” She also reminisced fondly about her years spent in Little Rock.

Looking out at the many familiar faces she saw in the crowd, Clinton thanked her longtime friends: “I hope you know that you mean the world to me and my family,” she said.

At first cattle call, Democrats hone name-free Clinton attacks **// CNN // Dan Merica – July 18, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's opponents didn't have to use her name in order to launch attacks against the Democratic frontrunner at Friday night's Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame dinner.

The pluses and minuses of Clinton's frontrunner status were on full display at the dinner. The 1,300-person audience was largely dominated by Clinton supporters, who hooped and hollered throughout her speech. But the fact that she leads every national and state poll was also the reason her opponents honed all of their rhetorical fire against Clinton, not the four other Democrats in attendance.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley was the most aggressive at targeting Clinton during the first event of the presidential campaign to include all five Democratic candidates -- O'Malley, Clinton, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The former Maryland governor sprinkled his speech with subtle knocks against positions Clinton has taken and areas where the governor's team feels she is weak.

"We didn't just talk about it, we actually got it done," O'Malley said, casting himself as the only candidate with 15 years of executive experience. The line, while biographical, is also meant to knock Clinton, who O'Malley's campaign believes is all talk but no action when it comes to progressives issues.

O'Malley also subtly knocked Clinton on minimum wage, trade and energy. "I am the first candidate but I am not the last" to call for a 100% clean electric grid by 2050, he said, seemingly alluding to the fact Clinton would not commit to climate change demands at an event Thursday in New Hampshire.

On trade, O'Malley hit the North American Free Trade Agreement, a trade law that was approved under President Bill Clinton's administration but is deplored by unions.

"Many of you remember the return of NAFTA. It was nada," he said.

Asked by CNN afterward whether the lines were directed at Clinton, O'Malley said, "No, they're directed at our country's future."

He added later, "I'm offering my candidacy and I'm highlighting the things that I've done. And I hope each of the candidates will highlight the things that they have done. One of the things that I have done is accomplish many of the progressive goals and values that the rest of the field is committed to, and I don't doubt their sincerity ... but I actually have the experience in having gotten that done. That's a distinguishing characteristic that I offer, but it's up to the people to decide."

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Clinton, for her part, did not return the attacks, instead choosing to use her 15 minutes to describe the reason she was running, attack Republicans and stress the importance of building up the Democratic Party.

"We Democrats are in the future business. But from the Republican candidates for president, we see the opposite," Clinton said. "Now they may have some fresh faces, but they are the party of the past."

Clinton even reached back to Republicans of presidencies past, calling "trickle-down" economics "one of the worst ideas of the 1980s," one that is "right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair."

"I lived through it," she said, "and there are photographs, and we are not going back to that."

Clinton also looked to sum the entire 15-person Republican field into one candidate: Donald Trump, the businessman whose bombastic statements about Mexicans have revolted most Democrats and many Republicans. Calling him the "new Republican frontrunner" -- a nod to his standing in the polls -- Clinton said she was happy there is "finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine."

Her only mention of her Democratic opponents was at the top of her speech when she said she was happy to be there with "my fellow candidates."

That was true for all candidates except for Webb, who notably complimented Sanders multiple times in his speech.

"Bernie, you always fire me up," Webb said of the blunt independent senator.

Webb told CNN after the speech that there was "no real strategy" to heralding Sanders.

"I think Bernie Sanders raises a lot of good issues to be discussed," he said. "I wouldn't necessarily agree with all of his solutions."

Webb noted in his speech that if he were president, he would have "never urged the invasion of Iraq." Clinton in 2002 voted to authorize military action in Iraq, a decision that hurt her mightily in her failed 2008 presidential bid.

Webb also said he wouldn't have used "military force in Libya during what was called the 'Arab Spring.'" Clinton advocated military force in Libya while she was secretary of state.

But O'Malley and Webb were not the only Democrats to knock Clinton.

Going into the event, Clinton's aides anticipated that their candidate would draw much of the fire. After the speech, all said that they were surprised O'Malley didn't hit Clinton harder.

And other Democrats knocked the frontrunner without naming her.

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Sanders, the candidate surging in the polls both nationally and in Iowa, did not attack Clinton. Around 200 supporters at 20 tables backed Sanders, who delivered a stump speech that promised universal health care, tuition-free college and a breakup of the big banks.

Chafee opened the event, but only spoke for six minutes, less than half the 15 minutes allotted to each candidate.

He used his speech to introduce himself to the audience and outline his views on climate, war and raising the minimum wage.

He received a polite response, but nowhere near the excitement generated by Clinton, O'Malley and Sanders.

The sheer fact that all Democrats were at Friday night's event was notable. Republicans have had cattle calls -- events that bring a high number of candidates -- nearly every week, but this was the first of the Democratic nomination fight.

'Older,' 'Wiser,' 'Richer' Donald Trump Would Be Better President Than Hillary Clinton, Bill Kristol Says //
ABC News // Ben Bell – July 18, 2015

Real estate mogul Donald Trump would make a better president than Hillary Clinton, Bill Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard, told ABC News.

Kristol, who joins the "This Week" roundtable Sunday and is also an ABC News contributor, shared his thoughts on the 2016 race for president, the Iran nuclear deal struck this week and more over email.

1. Is Donald Trump helping or hurting the Republican Party? Also, what are Trump's chances for capturing the Republican nomination for president?

Kristol: Trump's chances of being the GOP nominee are small but not nonexistent. And he's not hurting the GOP, and is probably helping by broadening the tent. Incidentally, if you look at match-ups of the various GOP possibilities with Hillary Clinton, they're doing no worse today than before Trump emerged. So what evidence is there -- as opposed to knee-jerk conventional wisdom -- that he's hurting the GOP?

2. Would Donald Trump make a better president than Hillary Clinton?

Kristol: Yes. After all, he's older, wiser, and richer!

3. You called the nuclear deal struck with Iran this week "a deal worse than even we imagined possible." So, what would have been your alternate plan? Do you see this development changing Israel's view on a potential military strike?

Kristol: The alternative would be to keep the sanctions in place (or perhaps ratchet them up), increase diplomatic and political pressure on the regime, keep on sabotaging the nuclear program, etc.

'This Week' Powerhouse Puzzlers: Test Your Knowledge

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The Clintons: Then and Now

4. Looking outside those who are openly seeking the White House, who do you think will be closely looked at for the VP spot on the eventual Republican ticket for president?

Kristol: GOP VP's: Rubio (if not the nominee), Martinez, Ayotte, Kasich, Cotton.

5. How do you see the issue of gay marriage playing in this election? Should GOP candidates focus on it?

Kristol: Probably not a big issue, and probably not one GOP candidates will focus on. The Supreme Court and the Constitution ("judicial supremacy") could be a big issue, though.

Clinton, Sanders share the stage in Iowa **// The Hill // Elliot Smilowitz – July 18, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidates shared the stage at a party event in Iowa on Friday night, but rather than take aim at each other, they took turns attacking Republicans.

The Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame dinner was a shared platform for five 2016 contenders — Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and former Sen. Jim Webb, according to the Associated Press.

Clinton, the primary's leader in the polls, also led the way in GOP attacks, accusing Republicans of trying to "rip away the progress we have made" and bring back Reagan-era policies.

"Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s," she said. "It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair."

Clinton took particular aim at businessman Donald Trump, who has rocketed to the top of many Republican presidential polls.

"Finally, a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," she joked.

"But there's nothing funny about the hate he is spewing about immigrants and their families," Clinton added. "It really is shameful."

She also called out by name Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for his battles to declaw labor unions, as well as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for his economic policy.

Sanders used his speech to evoke populist messages, saying "the greed of the billionaire class has got to end — and we are going to end it for them."

He called for a "political revolution" to end big money in politics, and a renewed focus on helping the little guy.

"The issue of wealth and income inequality is the great moral issue of the time, the great economic issue of our

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timethe great political issue of our time," he said.

O'Malley touted his liberal record in Maryland on immigration, education, gay marriage and the minimum wage.

"We didn't just talk about it," he said. "We got it done."

He also joined the other candidates in attacking Wall Street.

"If a bank is too big to fail, too big to jail and too big to manage, then it's too damn big," O'Malley said.

Hillary Clinton turns up the heat as Iowa takes on general election feel // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 18, 2015

With Hillary Clinton maintaining a strong lead in the polls in the first-in-the-nation caucus state, her campaign is increasingly looking like a "post-caucus" operation, focused on the general election.

At the Iowa Democratic party's Hall of Fame dinner in Cedar Rapids on Friday night, the first time all five declared Democratic candidates for the White House were together on one stage, Clinton gave a fiery speech which almost seemed more appropriate for a general election rally than an attempt to rally the base.

The former secretary of state seemed to ignore not just her Democratic opponents but the host of issues raising debate on the left, from student loans to a $15 minimum wage. Instead, Clinton attacked three Republican presidential candidates – Donald Trump, Scott Walker and Jeb Bush – by name while also criticizing unnamed people who dismissed her emphasis on women's issues.

In contrast, her chief Democratic rivals, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley and Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, both hit a list of progressive hobby horses, including minimum wage and immigration reform.

Sanders got a rapturous reception from fans who started cheering before his name was mentioned, continued through his call for "a political revolution" in the US and all the way through the time he sat down. Both mentioned conservatives – Trump in O'Malley's case and the Koch Brothers for Sanders – but they presented them simply as symbols of what they found morally abhorrent, rather than as potential electoral opponents.

The "general election" approach was nothing new for Clinton. In a rally before the event, held in a steamy basement underneath the Veterans Memorial building, she delivered a fiery speech to a crowd of more than 300, attacking Republican economic plans by stating "we've trickled on enough" and warning of the dire consequences of a GOP president in 2016.

"It was awesome," said local state representative Art Staed. The room had a pep rally feel as a number of Clinton organizers took the stage to fire up the crowd and pass the time until the former secretary of state arrived. While the campaign provided free pizza, they charged for water, soda and even alcoholic beverages. In the rather warm room, water quickly sold out.

The crowd featured a mix of Clinton loyalists and those curious to see the Democratic candidate in the flesh on a relatively rare public appearance in Iowa. Vlora Ajeti came from Illinois. A Kosovan American, she said she would

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be forever grateful to the Clinton family for what Bill Clinton did for Kosovo.

In contrast, Linda Early of Cedar Rapids said of Clinton: “She’s as good as the others.”

Early seemed supportive but not exactly converted to the cause.

In Iowa, Clinton has mostly used roundtables or private gatherings with invited guests. With the exception of one fundraiser in the fall of 2014, she did not set foot in the state between her 2008 loss in the Iowa caucuses and the April announcement of her candidacy for 2016. She did not campaign on behalf of local Democrats or show up at party events. However, her campaign has been organizing in the state, putting together a massive footprint.

The room at the Hall of Fame dinner felt that Clinton influence. Reporters were penned off, either because mixing press and attendees presented security issues – according to the secret service – or to “allow the event to move along”, according to a spokesman for the Iowa Democratic Party. This represented a major shift, according to one Iowa Democratic insider, from past practice at party events.

This did not mean that there were no old-fashioned politics at the event. On the street outside, a sign war was waged between supporters of Clinton and O’Malley in the nearly 100F heat. Staffers from both campaigns waved signs and shouted cheers. Unsurprisingly, Clinton had more people – O’Malley supporters, divided between those affiliated with his campaign and his Super Pac, struggled mightily to stay competitive.

The Sanders campaign did not have any such presence. Instead, 37 supporters stayed in the air conditioning and got to meet the candidate.

Sanders has built a devoted fanbase, similar in some ways to that of the libertarian Ron Paul in 2008 and 2012. Sanders supporters showed up the dinner covered in paraphernalia. Clinton or O’Malley supporters might be happy with a sticker – Sanders fans were wearing T-shirts.

The Vermont senator, who held a veterans’ event earlier on Friday, has built a following so devoted that at least one attendee had flown halfway across the country to see him. Claire Harrison had flown in from California. She told the Guardian “I wanted to hear him” and said she had combined the trip with a visit with a friend in Omaha.

Sanders has built a robust state operation around Pete D’Alessandro, a veteran Iowa operative. While he has not quite run a traditional Democratic caucus campaign, Sanders has still been a frequent visitor who has been showing up in the state for more than a year. Like Barack Obama, he is building a passionate following composed of traditional lefties and first-time caucus goers.

Jay Lion of Spencer, Iowa, told the Guardian he had specifically changed his registration from Independent to Democratic in order to caucus for Sanders. A former factory worker currently on disability while getting dialysis treatment, he said he had been waiting to support Sanders for president since he first saw the Vermonter on C-Span in 2002.

O’Malley has long been running a traditional caucus effort in Iowa. He has repeatedly visited the state, dispatching staffers to work on various Democratic campaigns in 2014 there and doling out money to local Democrats.

At an event held on Thursday night in Ottumwa, the Marylander spoke to a crowd of about 40 who gathered in a hotel ballroom. He emphasized his progressive bona fides, telling attendees: “I think we should raise the minimum wage to $15 wherever we can – however we can.” The evening felt far more like a traditional Iowa caucus event, in which candidates go out of their way to court local Democrats. O’Malley walked into the room with a birthday cake for the local county chair – his campaign left with a signed supporter card from her.

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At the Ottumwa event, Joe Judge, the chair of the local Democratic party in rural Monroe County who was leaning towards O'Malley, told the Guardian he thought O'Malley was the only Democratic candidate who could win a general election in his area. A loyal Obama supporter who had met all three candidates, he said he simply thought after due consideration that Clinton and Sanders would lose the rural, heavily Irish area to a Republican in November 2016 – but that O'Malley could win.

At the Hall of Fame diner on Friday, the crowd cheered all three candidates – each of the three campaigns had purchased 200 tickets for supporters. The question, though, remained: which candidate will Iowa Democrats support in February?

Given changes in the way candidates are campaigning, the vote could determine not only the future of the nation, but the future of the Iowa caucus as well.

Hillary Clinton delivers fiery speech at Democratic party hall of fame dinner // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 18, 2015

Hillary Clinton delivered a fiery barn burner to a gathering of more than 1,300 Iowa Democrats Friday night.

At a Democratic party hall of fame dinner in Cedar Rapids, Clinton attacked three Republican presidential candidates by name as well as railing against Iowa's Republican governor, Terry Branstad. The Democratic frontrunner did not mention any of her opponents in the Democratic primary by name.

The speech felt more like a general election address with Clinton going after both Jeb Bush and Scott Walker by name and arguing Democrats "are in the future business … but [the Republicans] are the party of the past". But perhaps the best applause came for her attack on the state's Republican governor who is currently in a showdown with the state legislature after vetoing education funding.

The former US secretary of state built on her typical stump speech by delivering a series of cable news ready zingers towards conservatives. Clinton mocked those Republicans who express skepticism about climate change by claiming "I'm not a scientist" by declaring: "I am not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I am not going to let them take us backwards."

The former secretary of state also took a jibe at the GOP's economical policy, saying "trickle down economics was one of worst ideas of 1980s along with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair".

Clinton also took care to emphasize her work on women's issues, highlighting the struggles of her mother's impoverished childhood and her work as a young lawyer at the Children's Defense Fund.

Elizabeth Warren Gives Hillary Clinton Economic Advice (Sort Of) In a Fiery Public Speech // Bustle // Lauren Barbato – July 18, 2015

Days after Hillary Clinton delivered her first major campaign speech on economic issues, Sen. Elizabeth Warren took to the Netroots Nation stage on Friday to fulfill her role as America's progressive savior — but the Donald Trumps and Sarah Palins of the Republican Party weren't her only targets. In a passionate headlining address at the gathering of progressive activists, Warren seemingly gave Hillary Clinton some economic advice , including a stark ultimatum about Wall Street politics. The Massachusetts senator's pointed words will likely raise some eyebrows in the Democratic Party, especially as Clinton's biggest challenger, the progressive Sen. Bernie Sanders, continues to see his popularity surge.

We probably shouldn't be too surprised over Warren's speech. The senator, who has publicly supported both

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Clinton and her friend Sanders in the past, hardly shies away from calling out those in her own party. But the timing, of course, is obvious: Was Warren not impressed with Clinton's recently revealed economic plan, which was hailed by many writers and news outlets as "fiery ," feminist," "pro-immigrant" and even "progressive "?

Here's a look at where Clinton and Warren may differ on economic reform — and what Warren wants Clinton to do about it if she wins the White House in 2016:

Wall Street In The White House

As we know, Warren isn't that popular on Wall Street, but Wall Street loves Clinton. Or they loved the old Clinton, anyway. On Monday, Clinton took a harsher stance on her former allies and backers, saying:

As a former senator from New York, I know firsthand the role that Wall Street can and should play in our economy, helping main street grow and prosper, and boosting new companies that make America more competitive globally. But as we all know in the years before the crash, financial firms piled risk upon risk, and regulators in Washington either could not or would not keep up. I was alarmed by this gathering storm and called for addressing the risks of derivatives, cracking down on subprime mortgages and improving financial oversight.

Under President Obama's leadership we have imposed tough new rules that deal with some of the challenges on Wall Street. Those rules have been under assault by Republicans in Congress and those running for president. I will fight back against these attacks and protect the reforms we have made. We can do that, and still ease burdens on community banks to encourage responsible loans to local people and businesses they know and trust.

But perhaps Warren wasn't convinced. The Massachusetts senator told the large crowd at Netroots Nation:

I think anyone running for that job — anyone who wants the power to make every key economic appointment and nomination across the federal government — should say loud and clear that they agree: We don't run this country for Wall Street and mega corporations. We run it for people.

Beyond Dodd-Frank

Both Warren and Clinton brought up Dodd-Frank, the Wall Street-consumer protection legislation passed in the wake of the financial collapse and recession. "Progressives believe that Wall Street needs stronger rules and tougher legal enforcement — and that, five years after Dodd-Frank — it's time to stop pretending and really end 'too big to fail' with rules like the Glass-Steagall Act," Warren said Friday, referring to the Great Depression-era legislation that she wants to revive.

Sanders recently said he would support Warren's new Glass-Steagall Act , but Clinton advisers said this week that she would not support the reform. Coincidentally, it was Clinton's husband, Bill, who repealed the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999, after nearly 60 years of economic reform.

Although she has wavered on Glass-Steagall, Clinton did address more Wall Street regulation in her sweeping economic address, though the promises were vague. Clinton said Monday:

We also have to go beyond Dodd-Frank. Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky. And the problems are not limited to the big banks that get all the headlines. Serious risks are emerging from institutions in the so-called shadow banking system, including hedge funds, high-frequency traders, non- bank finance companies. So many new kinds of entities, which receive little oversight at all.

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Boosting The Middle Class

Warren has made middle-class Americans the crux of her career, so it's no surprise she said on Friday that she wants a president who will "embrace the kind of ambitious economic policies that we need to rebuild opportunity and a strong middle class in this country." Will this person be Clinton?

Well, it seems the middle class is the focus of Clinton's campaign, and her recent speech drove at least one point home: Wages. Wages. And more wages.

"The defining economic challenge of our time clear. We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans, so they can afford a middle-class life," Clinton said in her speech Monday. "We must drive steady income growth that lifts up families, and lifts up our country. And that will be my mission, from the first day I am president to the last."

Hillary Forbids Young Supporters from Talking to Press // The Weekly Standard // Daniel Halper – July 18, 2015

"Here's what struck me," said Susan Page of USA Today, "when I read the coverage in the Des Moines Register this morning. Jennifer Jacobs, who's been on your show, was covering this last night. Big demonstrations outside of young people for O'Malley and Hillary Clinton. She went up to the Clinton supporters -- these are protesters for Clinton -- and they were told they were not allowed to [speak to] a reporter."

Page continued, "Now, why in the world would the campaign tell their own supporters who came out to campaign in favor Hillary Clinton ... these are the young people, college kids, for Hillary, and they've been told they can't talk to reporters. Why in the world would you do that?

"This raises some warning flags for Hillary Clinton campaign that is trying to control their supporters."

Together the First Time, Hillary Clinton and Her Rival 2016 Democrats Still Play Nice // The National Journal // Emily Schultheis – July 18, 2015

It had all the makings of a showdown: after months in each other's footsteps on the campaign trail, all five 2016 Democratic presidential contenders were gathered in the same room for the first time Friday night, ready to stand in front of each other and tell a 1,300-strong crowd why they,and not their rivals, should get the party's presidential nod.

But when the five—Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb and Lincoln Chafee—spoke here tonight, there was little rancor to be found. Instead, the candidates took turns touting their own credentials, occasionally praising each other, and ripping into the Republican 2016 field.

"You can see that Democrats are united, we are energized and we are ready to win this election," Clinton said.

Indeed, throughout the evening—the fundraiser for the state Democratic party—was remarkably free of intra-party fireworks. The five candidates refrained from criticizing each other in any explicit way. In fact, the only one of them who even uttered an opponent's name was Webb, whose speech directly followed followed Sanders and made several praising references to him.

Some of the others, including Sanders and Chafee, made general references to the other Democrats in attendance

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without naming any names. Sanders, for example, spoke of "great Democrats who have dedicated their entire lives to public service." "This is a great team and I thank them all," he said.

Unlike the Republicans, who have gathered at a handful of cattle call-style events across the country this year—and will appear on stage in Ohio together at their first debate in just a few weeks—Democrats have not held similar events.

Instead, the gathering of presidential hopefuls focused their attention on the Republican Party, offering up criticisms of the 2016 GOP field and framing the party's philosophy as a whole as outdated.

The five candidates spoke alphabetically, which meant Chafee was first, followed by Clinton. When she came on stage, supporters began chanting, "Hil-lar-y! Hil-lar-y!" Clinton told some personal stories in her speech, touching on frequently-cited anecdotes about becoming a grandmother and her mother's struggles as a young girl. But she saved most of her comments for criticism of the Republican Party.

"I am running for everyone who's ever been knocked down but refused to be knocked out," she said. In closing, she hoped for a country "where a father can tell his daughter you can be anything you want to be, even President of the United States."

Sanders' vocal and enthusiastic supporters, who have been drawing him big crowds and are beginning to form the basis for his campaign's organization here in Iowa, The chants for Sanders—"Bernie! Bernie!"—started barely seconds after O'Malley, who spoke third, walked off stage. And throughout the Vermont senator's speech, in addition to loud cheers, supporters were vocal: some shouted "Preach!" or "That's right!" after each point he made.

"No president can bring about the changes that we need in this country unless there is a political revolution," Sanders said. He got perhaps his biggest applause line—from people across the room—when he called for the Supreme Court to overturn its now-infamous Citizens United decision.

Clinton took aim at the Republican economic philosophy: "Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s. It is right up there with new Coke, shoulder pads and big hair," Clinton quipped. "I lived through it and there are photographs—and we are not going back to that."

She went after Florida Gov. Jeb Bush by name, criticizing his remark that Americans want to work "longer hours."

"In the past week, Gov. Bush scrambled to explain his statement that Americans need to work longer hours. He now says he just wants part-time workers to be able to find full-time jobs," she said. "Well, so do I. There's just one problem: his policies and the policies of all these Republican candidates would make that harder, giving more tax cuts to those at the top won't do anything for part-time workers."

O'Malley lamented what he described as the decline of the Republican Party, including the rhetoric of business mogul Donald Trump.

"They once had leaders and visionaries: Lincoln, Eisenhower," O'Malley said. "Now they create traffic jams and dismiss science."

Of the other Democrats, O'Malley had a strong contingent of supporters in the room and got loud cheers and applause when he appeared on stage. His supporters—both the official campaign and the super PAC—cheered

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loudly, and for hours, outside the Cedar Rapids Convention Center before the event began.

The lesser-known Democratic candidates, who did not have nearly as many supporters in the room, had a hard time getting traction with the crowd. Chafee, the former Rhode Island governor, spoke for just 6 minutes of his allotted 15. "I'm the only presidential candidate who has been a mayor, a U.S. senator and a governor," he said. "And throughout these experiences I have tried to earn a reputation for courage and honesty."

And when Webb prepared to speak—he was fifth of the five candidates—some attendees began filing out of the room before he even made it on stage. "I'm going to turn the lights out tonight, folks," Webb joked.

If there was conflict to be found Friday, it was on Twitter, where spokespersons for Clinton and O'Malley disputed whose candidate was first to support President Obama.

Lis Smith, communications director for O'Malley's campaign, tweeted that O'Malley was the "first Dem tonight to give @BarackObama full-throated shout out." Nick Merrill, the traveling spokesman for Clinton's campaign, replied with a direct line from Clinton's speech: "With President Obama's leadership and the determination of the American people, we're standing again." Smith fired back by saying, "Oh sorry, I guess I fell asleep during that one."

After Merrill replied again ("Be nicer."), Smith Tweeted that "it was—to its credit—a nice speech/" Minutes later, Smith was engaged in a war of Twitter words with Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer.

The trap Hillary can't escape: Her Bernie Sanders problem is she doesn't understand Sanders' policies are popular, mainstream and the future // Salon // Bill Curry – July 19, 2015

There's a reason Clinton's economic plan sounds wooden and unspecific. She's misreading public mood and her party

The Clinton Express wheezed its way into New York City this week, rolling into Greenwich Village to offload another "big speech," this time on the economy. Whoever is driving this train must have considered Cooper Union as a possible station stop; a speech Lincoln gave there in 1860 may have made him president. But this speech wasn't that big, not by a long shot. The campaign settled on a spot a few blocks away, a smallish auditorium over at The New School.

Even that venue was a bit of a reach. The New School has a history of innovative economic inquiry dating to its 1919 founding by such progressive lights as John Dewey and Thorstein Veblen, neither of whom, it's safe to say, would be backing Clinton today. When the school opened, the New York Times said its announced purpose was "to seek an unbiased understanding of the existing order, its genesis, growth and present working."

The country could use a fresh, unbiased analysis of the existing order. Clinton's speech provided nothing of the sort.

Still, it was well received in some quarters. At Vox, where much of what Clinton says is well received, Matthew Yglesias called her pledge to prosecute financial crimes "the most important words she has spoken thus far in the campaign." It's not saying much, as she hardly ever says anything substantive, let alone important. Yglesias likens her rhetoric to Elizabeth Warren's, but why Warren when so many other politicians now promise the same thing? He notes Clinton's "trust gap" with "activists focused on the issue" but says those activists can take "succor" knowing that bringing such cases is one of the few ways a "sharply constrained" President Clinton would have of "leaving a mark."

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In other words, count on her doing it because she won't be able to do much else.

In a piece written before the event and based on campaign backgrounders, Yglesias claims the speech marks Clinton's passage from neoliberalism to "paleoliberalism," as in the Paleolithic Age of hunter gatherers. He says it "hints at a fundamental philosophical difference" Clinton now has with her husband, her old boss and her old self, and that it shows she is now "less inclined to favor a market-oriented approach than a left-wing approach" in which the financial sector is "deliberately regulated in a heavy handed way rather than allowed to lead the economy."

Yglesias says "left-wing interest group leaders" tell him they're skeptical but he says "history suggests that presidents generally try to implement the agendas they have promised." He also says Clinton was never "purely" a neoliberal—she backed a minimum wage hike and was willing to let government play a bigger role in health care—and that as president she'd extend financial regulation and help strengthen unions. He noted that Clinton would not be delivering a "laundry list" of specifics and that until she did no one could be quite sure what she was up to.

The Times' David Brooks also thinks Clinton is "best viewed… as a new paleoliberal." To Brooks it denotes a faith that "government is more competent at steering companies toward their own best interests than are the companies themselves." He says that many of her ideas have been proven wrong, that voters don't share her fondness for central planning and that she has "no plausible chance" of getting her agenda through Congress. Still, he says, she "hasn't gone crazy" or ruined herself by "wandering into the class warfare swamps." He thus concludes that politically she has "cleared the first hurdle of this campaign" by offering "a coherent response to today's economic conditions."

The Washington Post's E.J. Dionne said "Clinton is making a major bid to shape the conversation" that "could mark the beginning of a genuinely substantive debate between Democrats and Republicans over how to define the nation's economic problems." He quoted a "campaign official" accusing Republicans of peddling "the same old proposals every Republican presidential candidate has been offering since Reagan"; unlike Clinton, whose package of new benefits includes "family leave, child care and more affordable access to college." The official seemed not to know that, good as some of Clinton's ideas may be, they are mostly the same ones Democratic candidates have been offering since Reagan.

Yglesias, Brooks and Dionne are fine writers. But their somewhat overlapping analyses, like Clinton's speech, perpetuate some habits we need to break. Clinton is no "paleoliberal," a more than faintly pejorative label liberals would do well to challenge. She, Bill and Barack Obama practically invented neoliberalism and remain members in good standing until proven otherwise. If your speeches are long on weepy tales of "everyday Americans" you met on the campaign trail, but short on policy prescriptions, the credit goes to David Axelrod, not Paul Krugman. If you'd raise the minimum wage but won't say how much, you're Mitt Romney. If you back the Trans Pacific Trade Partnership–and despite recent evasions she's all for it–you're fighting for capital, not labor.

I.F. Stone once counseled young reporters not to develop inside sources. He said reporters do more for sources than sources do for them, and that anyway most of what we need to know lies right under our nose, hidden like Poe's purloined letter in a speech or a public record. It's sound advice, but especially if you're covering the Clinton campaign. Background interviews with insiders are catnip for reporters, few of whom would miss a chance to get out ahead of the pack. But if they'd wait for the transcript they might reap the full rewards of textural criticism. To wit:

Yglesias' notion that presidents try to deliver on campaign promises may be right, notwithstanding Obama's spotty record. (See ethics reform, whistleblowers, the surveillance state, the public option, the minimum wage, etc.) But if you parse Hillary's speech you find that despite talking for 55 minutes she didn't make any promises, or at least none specific enough to be politically actionable. Her handlers did a fine job of prepping the press for yet another dearth of detail. But at this point "instructions to follow" isn't a viable message for Clinton, nor should any reporter react to such assurances from any politician with anything but a long, loud groan.

Clinton's speech didn't spark a "substantive debate between Democrats and Republicans." If you've so much as

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glanced at the GOP field, you know they won't be having one this year. Nor did it move the needle on the Democrats' debate, which moves away from Clinton even as she runs to chase it down. It's true for reporters and campaigns alike: If you focus too much on tactics, you miss the meaning of the race. What drives this race is not what the left wants; it's what middle-class families want. Their economic anxiety and outrage at the condition of our democracy is transforming politics in ways Obama never imagined.

It's this mood that David Brooks mistakes for the "class warfare swamps." Voters prize civility and long for a populism without culprits or conspiracies–but sorely want to hear their righteous anger expressed. Clinton won't do it, in part because she can't offend the delicate sensibilities of her donors but also because, like Brooks, she mistakes the mood for a leftist insurrection. Many of us–see Paul Rosenberg's wonderful article right here in Salon–have long argued that the old categories are defunct and that much of what the old order calls radical has long since gone mainstream. Soon everyone will see it. For now, let me suggest a rule: any policy enjoying majority support in every poll must henceforth be called centrist, not "radical" or "left wing." If you aren't sure, look it up.

Clinton's speech was on balance another disappointment, but it must be said she packed it with more proposals than any candidate not named Bernie Sanders has offered all year. Her delivery remains a problem. She's improved, but can't shake that sing-songy cadence that makes her sound like Al Gore hosting a children's television show. Aides say she must seem more authentic, but it can't help that her policies are so vague or that her anecdotes seem so canned. Her full embrace of Axelrod's politics of biography isn't helping either. Telling so many personal stories, she gives off more than a whiff of self-involvement. On Monday she recalled a nurse in the hospital where her granddaughter was born thanking her for "fighting for paid leave." She'd be better served by a story in which she thanks the nurse. What she mainly needs is to tell fewer such stories.

Clinton's style is problematic but her real problem is policy. Her speech embodied the neoliberal struggle to adapt to changing times and especially to changing public opinion. The early tenets of neoliberalism were economic deregulation, fiscal austerity, modulated militarism, a faint environmentalism and a cultish faith in the potential for technology, economic growth and global trade to solve our problems. The deregulation boom fizzled out in 2008; Republicans don't even talk much about it in public except in the most abstract terms. Many neoliberals remain deficit hawks, as do most voters, but the Tea Party has tired everyone on the topic.

Clinton learned in 2008 that her less-modulated militarism is a nonstarter with the Democratic base. Its stock has since fallen with the general public. The Iraq War and our bloated military budget belong at the heart of any discussion of what sank our economy in the 2000s and what we must do now to fix it, but don't wait for Clinton to make the case. Neoliberals would extend the social contract but not in a slow economy, which nowadays means not at all. It's why Clinton, who does want to extend it, mostly namechecks cherished goals– universal pre-K, paid leave, lifelong learning–while steering clear of the fiscal weeds. A surprising amount of her economic agenda involved social services and educational opportunity and she was at her best making the case for their importance to the overall economy.

Clinton structured her speech as a plan for three types of growth: strong growth, fair growth and long-term growth. Strong growth got the lead mention, though unlike Jeb Bush she got no more specific than "getting close to full employment is crucial for raising incomes." It speaks volumes of all our fears for the future when the leading Democratic candidate for president lowers her sights to "getting closer to full employment" and no one even seems to notice.

Clinton revisited lots of familiar proposals, from immigration reform to enacting the Buffett Rule to investing in infrastructure, so many that such shape and purpose as the speech might once have had was lost. Its one intriguing passage pertained to a promise to promote profit sharing. By the standards of modern politics it was long, a whole paragraph, which suggests Clinton or her people are at least giving some thought to issues of economic structure, though what she offered up was the merest morsel of an idea that is in itself timid.

Clinton's speech had its isolated moments but if it sparks a debate it won't be because she made common cause with a category of unicorns called paleoliberals, but because Bernie Sanders seizes the chance it presents. Clinton still doesn't get it. It is the neoliberals who are paleo now. The ferment Sanders has tapped into is the future. But to

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get there coalitions must be broadened and policies rethought; when the old order collapses you don't seek the old center, you invent a new one.

In taking on Hillary, Sanders must not only propose policies, he must expose the false logic of the status quo. Some issues will be easier than others. Sanders is plainspoken about the radical environmental changes we must make to secure our prosperity and avoid an existential catastrophe. The transition to a sustainable economy based on conservation and clean, renewable energy is our most urgent economic task. Yet of the 5,113 words in Clinton's speech, exactly 60 were on energy and the environment. You can't run as a Democrat and name-check climate change. Clinton's a fine debater, but on this topic she's easy pickings.

In her speech, Clinton didn't abandon any neoliberal doctrine but she whistled past them all, even the core neoliberal faith in growth, technology and trade. Sanders has the skills to dissect these issues in ways we can grasp. Someone has to. Rising tides no longer lift most boats, let alone all. Even if things go well, we aren't apt to see the wage growth we once knew. Yet we could create even more disposable income by lowering the costs of basic necessities for average families. It will take big reductions in the costs of health care, education, energy, consumer credit, transportation–and yes, even taxes. We can do it, but only by reining in powerful institutions that now use the political system to mortgage us to the past.

Sanders has long recognized that "fair growth" demands not just a little profit sharing but economic democratization through employee ownership, consumer and producer cooperatives, cooperative banks and a host of other new and old economic forms that struggle to survive under present rules. Clinton says she wants to be the "small-business president." I think she means it, but I don't think she knows what it means. Again, Sanders is miles ahead of her.

In the '90s you couldn't tell Bill Clinton from Newt Gingrich on the topic of new technology. There's no shame in that. Everybody was a believer then. Not long ago you could be laughed out of politics for saying this technological wave might be the one that finally costs more jobs than it creates. But 20 years into the Age of Information, jobs are in short supply. As we restructure employment and all the many ways in which we provide for one another's needs, we are less tolerant of technology's intrusions on our privacy and personhood.

The issue of the day is "trade." I'm amazed when economists invoke the theories of David Ricardo as if nothing's changed in the 200 years since his passing. Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage asserted that free trade always results in a net benefit to the trading partners since each sells goods on which it enjoys a natural advantage: climate, raw materials, labor supply, etc. But when jobs cross borders in nanoseconds the advantages everyone seeks are low wages and weak governments. Somebody must tell the neoliberals this is no longer about who has the best weather to grow bananas in. In fact, it is no longer about trade. It is about whether democracy rules commerce–or commerce rules democracy. It's a subject Sanders knows well. Clinton appears clueless.

This is the debate we need: how best to turn back the impersonal tide of globalization and begin conscious creation of a new, intentional economy. This isn't the debate Clinton or the media is prepared to have. But it's the one the country urgently desires, and one progressives can win. Like the polls, the throngs flowing to Sanders' events and the small-dollar donations to his campaign attest to the ripeness of the moment. The real proof's in the power of ideas.

National Security Expert Slams Hillary's 'Assault' On Free Speech // The Daily Caller // Rachel Stoltzfoos – July 18, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton put her willingness to defend the Constitution in serious doubt when she promised Islamic countries the United States government would intimidate Americans who violate their free speech code, national security expert Stephen Coughlin told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

As Secretary of State, Clinton promised an international Islamic organization in 2011 that the United States government would "use some old-fashioned techniques of peer pressure and shaming" to intimidate Americans

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who improperly criticize Islam or Muhammad.

“An official of the United States, in an official communiqué, went to a foreign land to commit to a foreign leader that the United States Government would engage in the extra-legal practice of intimidating American citizens in the exercise of what is otherwise their protected free speech rights under the First Amendment,” Coughlin told TheDCNF.

Coughlin discusses the move in his recently published book, “Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad,” and told TheDCNF it casts a pall on her record as secretary of state.

“If her willingness to sell out Americans First Amendment rights to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation by categorizing as ‘hate speech’ anything that is deemed offensive to Islam is any indication, she may be the least qualified candidate to support and defend the Constitution,” he said.

Coughlin’s an attorney, decorated intelligence officer and expert on Islamic law and terrorism who consulted the military’s Joint Chiefs of Staff for about a decade following 9/11, before the Muslim Brotherhood allegedly convinced the White House to ban him and “outlaw” his briefings.

He cites Clinton’s 2011 visit to Turkey and her cooperation with the OIC in his book as one example of how muslim ideologists wield influence in the “highest reaches” of the U.S. government.

The Clinton campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

The OIC is the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the U.N., consisting of 57 states that identify as “the collective voice of the Muslim world.”

After she helped the OIC secure passage of U.N. resolution 16/18, “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief,” Clinton promised the U.S. would take what steps it could to curb speech critical of Islam.

“And together we have begun to overcome the false divide that pits religious sensitivities against freedom of expression, and we are pursuing a new approach based on concrete steps to fight intolerance wherever it occurs,” she said in an address following the resolution’s passage.

“We also understand that, for 235 years, freedom of expression has been a universal right at the core of our democracy,” she added. “So we are focused on promoting interfaith education and collaboration, enforcing antidiscrimination laws, protecting the rights of all people to worship as they choose, and to use some old-fashioned techniques of peer pressure and shaming, so that people don’t feel they have the support to do what we abhor.”

The resolution condemns “any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media.”

Coughlin argues in his book it’s part of a deliberate OIC-led effort to bring the U.S. and other countries in line with Muslim speech standards, first by condemning and eventually criminalizing unwanted speech such as depictions of Muhammad.

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"Over the last few years, major left wing and Islamists organizations have been working diligently to reframe free speech in an oppositional narrative that distinguishes sanctioned speech, designated free speech, from hate speech in a long term campaign to brand nonconforming speech as hate speech that is at first to be ridiculed and then criminalized," he told TheDCNF.

Hillary Clinton defends Iran pact during Davenport, Iowa, campaign stop // Sioux City Journal // Ed Tibbetts – July 18, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton defended the nuclear agreement reached with Iran at a campaign stop in Davenport on Saturday, saying, "What we were doing before President Obama became president and I became secretary of state wasn't working."

The deal announced earlier in the week between Iran and a coalition of six countries, led by the United States, has been greeted with near unanimous scorn from Republicans in Congress and those who are running for president.

But in a visit to Davenport on Saturday, the former secretary of state said Iran had made advances in its nuclear program during the Bush administration and left the Obama team with a problem.

"When we came into office, that train had left the station," Clinton said. "Our challenge was, what were we going to do to back it up. And I think, given the circumstances, this agreement holds promise for stalling, preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and we have got to enforce it."

Republicans have been trying to tie the agreement to Clinton almost as much as they do to Obama. And critics have complained that the inspections parts of the pact are weak.

Clinton, though, said that if she is elected, enforcement would receive constant attention from her.

"I will just be on that day in and day out to make sure we catch them if they try to cheat," she said.

Clinton spoke for about a half-hour at the home of Ken Croken, an executive at Genesis Health System.

She covered a wide range of subjects over a half-hour, then met with the approximately 60 people who attended. Reporters and photographers were ushered out of the house after her remarks.

Clinton got a big cheer when she defended Obama's handling of the economy. She also praised the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage decision and spoke of the need to push for early education.

She also, for the second consecutive day, criticized Gov. Terry Branstad for recent mental health and education spending vetoes.

Clinton made the stop in Davenport on the heels of a big fundraiser for the state Democratic Party on Friday night in Cedar Rapids, where all the major contenders for the party's 2016 presidential nomination appeared.

Clinton has a wide lead in the polls, both nationally and in Iowa. But Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has gained some ground in recent weeks. And the progressive wing of the party is pushing Clinton to take a harder line on

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Wall Street, among other things.

Nonetheless, some of those who attended Saturday, a number of whom were already Clinton supporters, said that she struck the right balance for them. And they said her years of experience appealed to them.

“I think she knows what you have to do to get things done,” Margie Schwaninger, a retired teacher from Bettendorf, said. Schwaninger said she supported Clinton eight years ago.

Sheri Carnahan, of Davenport, who also supported Clinton in 2008, echoed other supporters who say that in her years working in politics, Clinton has worked to advance progressive priorities.

“The issues that are important to me are the issues that she’s fought for long before she ran for president of the United States,” Carnahan said.

Clinton was headed to Arkansas on Saturday night for a party fundraising dinner there. But before she left she stopped to greet some people in the McClellan Heights neighborhood for a short time, posing for a picture with a Galesburg couple and their 10-month-old son who had been having lunch in the area and then went for a walk.

Clinton remembers D'Army Bailey at funeral // Commercial Appeal // Thomas Bailey – July 18, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton on Saturday eulogized Judge D’Army Bailey as a mover and “movement politician.”

“He was always moving us,” the 42nd president told a large crowd of mourners during a two hour and 20 minute funeral at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.

The Circuit Court judge, lifelong civil rights activist, author and even part-time actor died July 12 of cancer at age 73.

Judge Bailey’s civil rights activism, Clinton acknowledged with a smile, had “moved” Southern University to expel him and “moved” citizens of Berkeley, California, to remove him from their City Council in 1973.

“But that was part of who he was,” Clinton said in his 17-minute eulogy. “Here’s the first thing I want to say to the young people: You need to be moving.”

That same compulsion to act led Judge Bailey, Clinton said, to save the Lorraine Motel. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated there in 1968.

Judge Bailey and the late A.W. Willis raised $144,000 to buy the bankrupt motel, and continued working until the motel opened in 1991 as the National Civil Rights Museum.

About 250,000 people visited the museum on Mulberry over the past year.

“The Lorraine Motel could be a parking lot, for all you know, today if it hadn’t been for D’Army Bailey,” said

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Clinton, who reminded the mourners that he attended the museum's dedication as governor of Arkansas.

" ... He left a monument that will have to be moved, not physically but internally," he said. "You can't imagine if you are not of a certain age what the civil rights museum means to those of us who were young when Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis."

Before the black-garbed church choir started the service with soothing strains, Judge Bailey's body lay at the front in an open, wood casket. Floral displays flanked the casket, which, when closed, was draped in a U.S. flag.

Judge Bailey's colleagues in the judiciary — about 40 strong — sat as a group at the front behind U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen and Memphis Mayor A C Wharton.

Wharton was one of six people who gave short eulogies before the former president took the pulpit. The others were U.S. Dist. Judge Bernice Donald, attorney Richard Glassman, family friend Aubrey Howard, Circuit Court Judge Jerry Stokes and Bailey's brother, Shelby County Commissioner Walter Bailey.

Wharton smiled as he described Judge Bailey as "the most sophisticated, cosmopolitan radical that most of us would ever meet."

Wharton drew laughter when he said, "Who but D'Army Bailey could pull off 'speaking truth to power' while remaining one of the individuals in power? But, hey, that was D'Army Bailey."

A city mayor receives lots of advice, Wharton told the mourners. Judge Bailey never sugarcoated his, Wharton said, again with a smile. "You got it pure and unadulterated. And the hard part about it was that it was always true."

Glassman recalled being both a courtroom adversary and close friend to Judge Bailey over the years. Bailey had a passion for Justice, he said, adding, "D'Army showed those around him how to turn passion into action through his own example.

"He always emphasized the importance of the law and the right of all persons coming into his courtroom — young, black, experienced, not experienced — he treated all parties fairly and equally," Glassman said.

Donald said one of the highlights of her life was when Judge Bailey asked her to administer to him the oath of office when he took the bench.

She described Judge Bailey as a bridge builder. "We in this community, in this state and nation are a better people because D'Army Bailey lived," she said.

Stokes, the Division 6 Circuit Court judge, described another way that Judge Bailey was a mover: He kept cases in his courtroom moving along. Judge Bailey was loathe to grant attorneys' requests for continuances — or delays — in his courtroom, Stokes said.

"You had to fish or cut bait," Stokes said. "He would not tolerate delays."

Walter Bailey brought applause when he told the mourners, "D'Army did everything in his mortal power to make

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this a better world for all of us."

Clinton received a rousing ovation before and after his eulogy.

"This man was moving all his life," the former president said. "We're a long way from where we used to be. And he had a lot of fun doing it.

"All those movie roles he had (Judge Bailey acted in several movies including "The People vs. Larry Flynt"); I wish we had a movie of the founding of the civil rights museum and he could close out his career as a lead actor playing the starring role," he said.

" ... He left you and America a national treasure. He left his wife and children and brother and the family he loved so much a loving legacy.

"You have to decide what to do with it," Clinton said.

"He moved to the very end. To the very end he moved. May God rest his soul. He earned it."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

SANDERS

Sanders vaults from fringe to the heart of the fray // The Boston Globe // Annie Linksey – July 18, 2015

It's 7:20 a.m. and Bernie Sanders looks irritated. He's already buckled into his economy seat on Delta Flight 4516 and an attendant just announced that the flight would sit on the runway for 30 minutes before taking off.

"Planes," grumbled the Vermont senator. "Don't get me started about airplanes." Then he added, in a tone that sounded only half-joking, "This is when you want a private jet."

Sanders' insurgent campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination doesn't spring for charters like his top competitor — at least not yet. On this day he isn't even flying nonstop, as he heads from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Phoenix via Minneapolis. If all goes well, he'll just be a few minutes late to a forum at Netroots Nation, an annual gathering of liberals.

The weekend events — another rally is planned in Houston Sunday — is capping off Sanders' best week so far in his increasingly credible quest for the nomination. Federal reports made public last week show he has raised more than $15 million for his campaign, beating every other presidential candidate from either party save Hillary Rodham Clinton (she hauled in about $46 million). He has gathered the money from an army of small donors that is larger than that of any other presidential candidate.

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And, as he pulled his roller bag out of the air-conditioned terminal into the blast of Phoenix heat Saturday morning, he was preparing to speak that evening before his largest crowd yet.

Through some combination of political skill, fortuitous timing, well-tuned messaging, and sheer luck this has become the Summer of Sanders — in which an unkempt 73-year old man who isn't even a member of the Democratic Party is mounting the strongest challenge to the Democratic establishment. He's gone from being dismissed as a fringe candidate to having a huge early impact on the primary.

The self-described Democratic socialist flying coach is suddenly a star. Clinton aides have acknowledged concern about losing ground in Iowa and New Hampshire, or both, to Sanders. One poll has shown him within 19 percentage points of Clinton in the Hawkeye State and another has him within eight points of her in New Hampshire.

'This country belongs to all of us and not a handful of billionaires.'

But, will it last? Or, as one of his strategists put it, could the next few months bring the fall of Sanders?

Already the Sanders campaign infrastructure is creaking under the weight of the unexpected interest in his candidacy. Tens of thousands of bumper stickers were on back order. Venues for rallies need to be changed multiple times as the RSVPs pile high, and crowds swell. And most importantly, to survive, he'll need to expand his support beyond the liberal wing of the Democratic Party — and persuade the party that he should be the standard bearer.

Sanders contends that the national caricature of him as a hippy-dippy socialist from the People's Republic of Burlington, where he was mayor from 1981 to 1989, is largely inaccurate. He jokes about it — saying that he doesn't own a pair of Birkenstocks and never would "in a million years." He says that his message resonates most loudly with blue-collar workers, not the tie-dye set.

On Friday night in a vast hall in Cedar Rapids before 1,300 people, that appeal was on full display. Sanders shared the stage for the first time with the other four Democratic candidates who took turns speaking to the audience. He won multiple standing ovations for a thundering rant against the inordinate power of the super-rich. He called for a "political revolution" and predicted that without it, the country was heading toward an oligarchy.

"Nothing will get done unless millions of people stand up and roundly proclaim enough is enough," Sanders said, gripping the lectern with both hands. "This country belongs to all of us, and not a handful of billionaires."

It was a classic display of Sanders' freewheeling approach, the aura of blunt authenticity that makes him seem a refreshing change from Clinton's poll-tested messages and reluctance to offer detailed positions on issues of the day.

"He really connected," said Steve Hultman, a 65-year-old retired teacher from Council Bluffs, Iowa. "Hillary has to go to work. She has to get the facts and framing to excite the Democratic side of the party."

Some part of Sanders' popularity flows directly from the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party. He only began to rise in polls of probable voters when the Massachusetts senator's name was dropped from their surveys after it became clear that she wouldn't run. For him as for her, not having to worry much about moderate support is liberating; Clinton has no such luxury. And it doesn't really tell against Sanders at this early stage that a liberal message like his may not play well, or at all, in some states a candidate must win to gain nomination or election.

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But there's more to Sanders than the Warren echo. Unlike others in the current field, he has been quietly building a national grass-roots network for years. His 2012 Senate campaign finance report looks remarkably similar to his presidential one last week, with most contributions coming from small donors across the country. He raised $7.2 million for that election, swamping his Republican opponent, who took in about $135,000.

While he was being written off in 2014 by the news media and other candidates focused on Warren instead, Sanders road-tested his message. In Los Angeles, he recalled, there were standing-room-only crowds this year well before announcing his candidacy. In Texas, so many people came to hear him that a traffic jam of supporters headed for the venue made it difficult for him to get to the event himself.

Still, those around Sanders weren't sure he was going to run even weeks before his April 30 announcement. "As late as late April, if Bernie had called and said 'we're not doing this' I would not have been shocked," said Tad Devine, a longtime Sanders ally and a political consultant.

There's a limit to the revolution Sanders is pushing: The senator won't mount an independent bid for president. No matter how the crowds swell. "We're doing this within the party system," he said again Saturday on the Minneapolis leg of his trip.

Keeping it simple

Sanders' plane landed in Minneapolis with about 30 minutes to get his connecting flight. One passenger positioned himself near the end of the jet bridge to get a photo of him getting off the plane. He paused for selfies with several others as they all waited for luggage checked at the gate.

Lisa Fontana took a selfie with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders at a Democratic Party event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Unlike Clinton's container-ship-sized campaign organization with more than 300 on staff, Sanders has a much smaller operation. On Saturday he traveled with only his campaign manager, his communications director, a videographer, and his wife. He figured out most of the logistics himself — securing boarding passes for the group and leading everyone through the Minneapolis airport from one terminal to the other.

The campaign pays 25 full-time staff members in Iowa and rents offices in 10 different towns. Sanders has just 10 full-time staffers in Vermont, 5 in Washington, and 4 in New Hampshire, plus 11 paid interns in Vermont and New Hampshire.

He revels in this relative lack of professional help. To make his point, he briefly commandeered an interview with a reporter last week in Washington.

"Ask me who my campaign finance director is," he said over coffee in a Senate cafeteria.

"We don't have one. Ask me who my pollster is," he said. "We don't have one." He said he writes his own direct mail.

That's not to say Sanders has a consultant-free campaign. He's soaked up some talent from President Obama's team. The names include Scott Goodstein, an online director for Obama's first presidential race, and Arun Chaudhary, another veteran of the 2008 Obama campaign team who was Obama's first videographer.

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Teamwork pays off

Should this team's work pay off and Sanders becomes even more viable, the target on his candidacy will grow. On June 25 a super PAC linked to former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, another declared Democratic candidate, spent about $10,000 on online ads critical of Sanders' record on gun control, which is, for a Democrat, notably friendly to gun owners.

Sanders' team fought back, using the same rhetoric that Warren so effectively employs against her many critics: Frame the attack as an assault on the progressive movement and raise buckets of cash off of it.

The day after the ads began, Sanders' campaign blasted an e-mail to supporters requesting help. Within 48 hours they'd raised more than $800,000, according to a source familiar with his fund-raising.

But by far the most talked about aspect of Sanders' candidacy is the size of the crowds — it comes as a shock even to the candidate.

"You walk into an arena and find 10,000 people looking at you . . . " he said in an interview, trailing off. Then he turned to Michael Briggs, his charmingly beleaguered press aide.

"How many RSVPs do we have now in Phoenix?" he asked. "10,000?"

The swell forced the campaign to move the event twice. The same thing happened in Portland, Maine, where he ended up speaking to more than 7,500. And in Madison, Wis., where he spoke to a crowd about 10,000. And in Denver, where he spoke to about 5,000.

Putting this many supporters in a room takes work. The campaign e-mails supporters who live near events, and they ask an enthusiastic Reddit community to spread the word.

There's a practical reason for holding these events. Sanders hasn't spent much time building the relationships within the Democratic Party leaders at the state level that can help propel a national candidacy.

"We need to build organization, particularly in relatively early states," Devine said.

On Saturday — when Sanders finally arrived at Netroots — the work that he needs to do to appeal to the broader Democratic coalition was clear. A group of mostly African-American demonstrators protesting police brutality had heckled O'Malley, disrupting his speech.

Sanders knew he was walking into a difficult situation. "It's this afternoon's talk I'm worried about," he said before walking on the stage — and faced some of the same angry chants, competing with the cheers.

UNDECLARED

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BIDEN

Sources: Joe Biden Still Considering A Presidential Campaign **// HuffPo // Ryan Grim – July 18, 2015**

Vice President Joe Biden is still very much considering a bid for the White House, people close to Biden say, and will make a final decision at the end of the summer, targeted for September.

The Iowa caucuses are scheduled for early February, meaning Biden would have roughly four months to barnstorm the first-in-the-nation state before the contest turned to New Hampshire.

Front-runner Hillary Clinton has faced a surprisingly tough challenge from democratic socialist Bernie Sanders, who is within striking distance in Iowa despite not being registered as a Democrat and trailing far behind in establishment support. Sanders' surge suggests Clinton could be once again beatable in a Democratic primary.

While Biden is seriously considering the bid, he has by no means decided to pull the trigger.

"He has said he would announce his decision at the end of the summer," said Ted Kaufman, a former Democratic senator from Delaware and longtime aide to Biden, when asked about Biden's plans. Kaufman recently went back to work for the vice president in the months preceding Beau Biden's death so that he could help his old boss and friend through the unspeakably difficult time.

The vice president's press secretary, Kendra A. Barkoff, denounced the speculation, but kept the door ajar. "The Biden family is going through a difficult time right now," said Barkoff. "Any speculation about the views of the vice president or his family about his political future is premature and inappropriate."

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that Biden's late son, Beau Biden, who the vice president has called "my soul," had urged him to run for president before he died. His son Hunter has also encouraged him to enter the race.

Though he is undeclared, Biden is polling at slightly above 10 percent nationally, trailing both Sanders and Clinton.

Biden still considering 2016 bid: report **// The Hill // Keith Laing – July 18, 2015**

Vice President Joe Biden is still mulling a challenge to Hillary Clinton for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, the Huffington Post reported.

Clinton is the dominant frontrunner for the Democratic nomination to succeed President Obama, but Biden expects to make a decision on entering the race by September, according to the report.

"He has said he would announce his decision at the end of the summer," former Biden aide and Sen. Ted Kaufman (D-Del.), said when he asked about the vice president's 2016 plans, according to the website.

Clinton has widely been seen as the likely 2016 Democratic nominee, even before she launched her presidential bid in April. But she has faced a surprising challenge from Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who has drawn large crowds

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and quickly risen in polls.

Clinton campaign officials have insisted that they are not worried about Sanders or any of the other Democratic candidates in the presidential race, including former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

Biden, who has run for the presidency twice before in 1988 and 2008, would be considered a longshot if he launches a bid.

A spokesperson for Biden dismissed the presidential speculation in the report.

"The Biden family is going through a difficult time right now," Vice Presidential Press Secretary Kendra Barkoff told the website, referencing the death of Biden's son, Beau, who had been Delaware's attorney general.

"Any speculation about the views of the vice president or his family about his political future is premature and inappropriate," Barkoff continued.

Biden has traveled extensively since the 2014 election to early-voting states in the 2016 primaries like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

OTHER

Activists disrupt forum featuring candidates O'Malley, Sanders **// WaPo // John Wagner – July 18, 2015**

A forum featuring two of the most liberal candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination was disrupted and taken over Saturday by liberal activists seeking to showcase their concerns for the plight of African Americans.

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) made back-to-back appearances in a presidential town hall that was part of the four-day Netroots Nation conference here, an annual gathering of 3,000 progressive activists that Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton elected to skip.

Shortly into O'Malley's allotted time, his discussion with a moderator was disrupted by more than 100 protesters that included members of Black Lives Matter, a group formed after teenager Trayvon Martin's shooting in Florida, and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration.

As chanting protesters streamed to the front of the room, O'Malley looked stunned at first and then started clapping along.

Close to 10 minutes later, leaders of the protest were handed microphones and rattled off a number of their concerns, including deaths of African Americans in police custody, and demanded specific solutions from O'Malley.

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“It’s not like we like shutting s--- down, but we have to,” Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matters, told the crowd, saying the group’s issues were an emergency.

The protest, however, did not appear aimed at O’Malley. The protesters remained as Sanders appeared on stage, and he took a less patient approach.

“Whoa, whoa, let me talk about what I came to talk about for a minute,” the senator said before launching into a riff on income inequality and steps to address it.

The Vermont senator faced chants and heckling as well, but Sanders continued talking. Asked what he had done in the Senate to benefit black Americans, he started to talk about the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

“We can’t afford that!” heckled Elle Hearns, a 28-year-old Ohio-based coordinator for the LGBT rights group GetEqual.

O’Malley made several starts at addressing the issues raised but was interrupted.

Democratic presidential candidate and former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley speaks to guests at the Iowa Democratic Party’s Hall of Fame Dinner on Friday.

“I think that all of us as Americans have a responsibility to recognize the pain and grief throughout our country from all of the lives that have been lost to violence, whether that’s violence at the hands of police, whether that’s violence at the hands of civilians,” he said.

“Stop trying to generalize this s---!” yelled Ashley Yates, a 30-year-old activist from Oakland, Calif.

Later, O’Malley drew boos as he said: “Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter.”

After his appearance, O’Malley addressed those comments on a radio show being recorded at the convention hall.

“When I said those other two phrases, I meant no disrespect,” O’Malley told the online radio show “This Week in Blackness.” “I did not mean to be insensitive in any way.”

As Baltimore’s mayor, O’Malley faced criticism of the city’s aggressive policing policies, a topic that moderator Jose Antonio Vargas questioned him about at the outset of the forum. (Vargas, a journalist, filmmaker and activist who is an immigrant in the country illegally, previously worked as a reporter for The Washington Post.)

Sanders made several comments addressing the protesters’ concerns, including: “In my view, maybe, just maybe, it’s time to invest in jobs and education, not in jails and in incarceration.”

That generated applause from a crowd where hundreds carried Sanders’s campaign signs.

Vargas decided to cut the forum about 15 minutes short of its allotted time.

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“Unfortunately, we have to wrap it up,” he said.

“Okay, good,” Sanders replied, before rising to exit.

Following the event, Mary Rickles, a spokeswoman for Netroots Nation, said: “We wish the candidates had more time to respond to the issues. What happened today is reflective of an urgent moment that America is facing today.”

The crowd was largely sympathetic to the protesters, but many said afterward that they wish they could have heard more from the candidates.

“I didn’t disagree with the message,” said Elizabeth Arledge, 50, of Alexandria, Va., an activist who focuses on civil justice. “I was very supportive of it, and I also wanted the program to go on.”

Lucas Hernon, 30, of Las Cruces, N.M., an undecided voter, said he thought O’Malley handled the situation well except for when he said white lives also matter. “As a white person, we don’t need to be reminded of that,” Hernon said.

Some in the audience suggested there could be fallout from the event for Sanders, whose challenges include expanding his appeal beyond liberal white voters.

Bethany Winkels, a 30-year-old activist from Minneapolis, said it was hypocritical for Sanders to call for more grass-roots organizing in one breath and then sound dismissive of the protesters in the next.

“It’s shameful, and he needs to do better,” Winkels said.

Demonstrators disrupt presidential forum at Netroots event **// AP // Ken Thomas – July 18, 2015**

Demonstrators protesting cases of police brutality and the treatment of black Americans by law enforcement disrupted a presidential forum on Saturday as Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley was interviewed on stage. The group later heckled Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

In a raucous scene at the annual Netroots Nation convention, a large group of protesters streamed into the convention hall chanting, "Black lives matter!" as O'Malley was interviewed by Jose Antonio Vargas. One of the group's leaders took over the stage and addressed the audience as the largely female group of demonstrators railed against police-involved shootings, the treatment of immigrants and Arizona's racial history.

The demonstrators were promoting the national "Black Lives Matter" movement, which seeks changes to law enforcement policies following several high profile deaths of black men at the hands of police.

Sanders and O'Malley are vying to become the Democratic alternative to front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was campaigning in Iowa and Arkansas on Saturday and did not attend Netroots.

Before the demonstrations, Vargas pressed O'Malley to defend his law enforcement record as Baltimore's mayor a decade ago. O'Malley faced scrutiny when unrest broke out in his home city after an African-American man,

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Freddie Gray, died while in police custody in April.

O'Malley discussed his work to deal with violence and drug addiction in Baltimore, telling the crowd, "there are very few issues in our country that are quite as painfully intertwined as the legacy of violence, race and law enforcement in America." He said his policies improved policing, reduced the number of police-involved shootings and increased drug treatment.

About 20 minutes into the interview, demonstrators walked into the cavernous ballroom, creating a confusing scene. Tia Oso, National Coordinator for the Black Alliance for Just Immigration in Phoenix, took the stage and addressed the crowd, noting two years had passed since the the Black Lives Matter movement started after Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old was fatally shot by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Days of protests that sometimes turned violent in the St. Louis suburb followed.

"We want to take a moment at Netroots to acknowledge the lives lost," Oso said. Organizers sought to restore order and at one point, Cheryl Contee, a Netroots Nation board member, took the stage and asked the audience to allow O'Malley to respond.

O'Malley said all Americans have a responsibility to "recognize the pain and the grief throughout our country, through all the lives that have been lost to violence." He reiterated that every police department should be required to report all police-involved shootings and create civilian review boards.

"Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter," O'Malley told the crowd, as some protesters heckled him.

O'Malley later said after a roundtable event on immigration that he regretted the comments. "I meant no insensitivity by that and I apologize if that's what I communicated. That was misstated. What I intended to say was that we're all in this together — that black lives do matter and we have a double-standard of justice in this country."

Sanders, during his abbreviated 20 minute appearance, spoke about the need to address wealth and income inequality, noting that blacks and Hispanics face high rates of unemployment.

His remarks were interrupted at times by the protesters, prompting Sanders to respond, "Black lives of course matter. I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights."

Sanders called the criminal justice system "out of control" and described high rates of unemployment and incarceration for young black Americans.

The Netroots Nation convention has been a rough place for presidential candidates before. Clinton last appeared in 2007, when it was called the Yearly Kos, and heard boos from some activists who disapproved of her vote for the 2003 invasion of Iraq and her acceptance of campaign contributions from lobbyists.

Iowa Democratic Party dinner: 5 takeaways **// Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – July 18, 2015**

If Hillary Clinton is worried about liberal challenger Bernie Sanders, she didn't let it show here on Friday night at the party's first cattle call event, which saw Democrats' quintet of presidential candidates finally descend on the same place at the same time.

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As expected, at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame Dinner all eyes were on Clinton and Sanders, who sat just feet away from each other. The cavernous ballroom of roughly 1,300 Iowan activists ate up the strain between the party's leading candidates, while laying bare some of their most glaring weaknesses. The crowd was largely made up of party establishment figures sympathetic to Clinton, but it also comprised a healthy pro-Bernie faction, creating a night of tension for two candidates who insisted on talking past one another, neither fully acknowledging the former secretary of state's status as a dominating front-runner who remains dogged by Sanders' fiery, insurgent, and grumpy candidacy.

Meanwhile the audience barely registered the presence of Lincoln Chafee or Jim Webb. But there were signs of a small opening for Martin O'Malley, whose speech was received favorably by a crowd that is nonetheless still working out what, exactly, is his pitch. For the former Maryland governor, who was expected to be Clinton's primary progressive antagonist until Sanders snatched the mantle from him, it was mostly a relief.

Here are POLITICO's five takeaways from the Democrats' first cattle call:

1. Hillary's sensitive to the critique that she's a candidate of the past

On the campaign trail, Clinton repeatedly drops lines about how Republican policies are backward-looking and how she wants to move the country forward. But on Friday night, she slipped beyond that standard campaign fare. Facing recent criticism from Republicans — particularly 40-somethings Marco Rubio and Scott Walker — that she represents the politics of her husband's White House and the 1990s, Clinton, 67, made clear she is fed up with this argument.

"Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s. It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads, and big hair," she said, in what amounted to catnip to a true blue crowd. "I'm never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we've made. They may have some fresh faces, but they are the party of the past."

The "fresh faces" reference wasn't just an elbow thrown at Rubio and Walker, however. It also read like a brush-back pitch to O'Malley, whose "new leadership" slogan couldn't be clearer in its intent.

2. A healthy number of Iowa Democrats are on the same page as Bernie Sanders. But not the majority.

Faced with questions about Sanders' polling surge, Clinton supporters frequently say that 30 to 40 percent of the party fits Bernie's — or Elizabeth Warren's — ideological profile, but no more than that.

Friday night showed exactly why.

Clinton's speech regularly brought huge portions of the crowd to its feet with her broadsides against Republicans, and then to a hushed, reverent silence when she spoke about her mother's hard childhood.

But while Sanders' stemwinder drove so many "you tell 'ems" and "hell yeah"s from the crowd that it occasionally felt like a tent revival, well more than half the room felt no need to even acknowledge Sanders' most powerful lines. It was as if he was talking to the crowd wearing Bernie '16 stickers, but not to anyone else. The bulk of the audience effectively twiddled during the loudest stretches of the Sanders stump speech, leaving the rapturous applause to the designated Bernie tables.

The message of political revolution failed to land on ears that weren't already sympathetic to Sanders, suggesting

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there are limits to the bounds of his popularity in the state — and within the state party establishment — that by now knows him well.

3. Clinton sees no benefit in acknowledging her Democratic rivals

Hillary Clinton had yet to mention any of her Democratic opponents on the campaign trail heading into Friday night. That didn't change once the evening's festivities were over, suggesting Clinton won't start taking on Sanders unless he starts matching or surpassing her in polls.

Instead, the former secretary of state went after Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, and Donald Trump by name, throwing the crowd the red meat it so craved and sending a clear message to the audience that she views herself as the front-runner for the nomination.

"We've heard a lot recently from the new Republican frontrunner, Donald Trump. Finally, a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," she said, to laughs and raucous applause.

"Governor Walker kicked off his campaign by rolling back reproductive rights for women and stripping union workers of their rights," she said to jeers.

And to Republicans who avoid discussing climate change by pleading ignorance as non-scientists, Clinton mocked their timidity. "I'm not a scientist either, I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I'm not going to let them take us backwards."

Clinton's camp sees no need to elevate any of the Democratic rivals trailing her by naming them, and except for a brief nod at the beginning of her speech that did not use any names, she might as well have been the headliner at a political rally for Iowa Democrats.

4. Bernie now recognizes the Democratic Party's diversity

It's abundantly clear to the Sanders campaign that it has a real candidate on its hands. But the Vermont senator has never had to appeal to minority voters in his heavily white state, and he's now starting to take up the challenge.

After tacking a passage about immigration reform onto his stump speech in front of a Hispanic advocacy group earlier this week, Sanders went much further on Friday, drawing huge applause from his pockets of the room by bringing up disproportionately high African-American incarceration rates and his hope to help undocumented immigrants.

Lines like these may be part of any standard liberal stump speech, but Sanders is no standard liberal. His rollicking, red-faced speech on Friday picked up steam with his usual anti-billionaire talk, but there was a noticeable ripple through his delighted supporters when he reached the sections designed to speak to minority voters.

5. O'Malley has the potential to catch fire in Iowa

O'Malley plainly showed the most potential in Cedar Rapids, successfully firing up a crowd full of partisans for rival candidates. But his performance also highlighted his central problem as he concentrates on Iowa: he has yet to define whether he wants to be the progressive standard-bearer or the candidate with executive experience.

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"My name is Martin O'Malley, I'm running for president, and I need your help," he said, effectively acknowledging from the start that he is still working to gain traction and higher name recognition. The crowd rose to its feet repeatedly over the next 15 minutes as he ticked through a progressive wish-list — from Wall Street reform to sweeping clean energy measures. Nonetheless, O'Malley's central pitch seemed to be based on the notion that his city hall and governor's mansion experience would impress.

"I am the only candidate for president with fifteen years of executive experience," he said. "We didn't just talk about it, we actually got it done."

The two pitches are not mutually exclusive, but they're separate messages. Without choosing one to center his campaign on, O'Malley appeared to be a compelling character but not necessarily a viable option — at least for now. He finished to serious applause and scattered "O-Mall-ey!" chants. But they were drowned out within seconds by roars from far more enthusiastic backers of the next speaker:

"Bernie! Bernie!"

Black Lives Matter' protesters flummox O'Malley, Sanders // Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 18, 2015

When Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders took the stage at Saturday's Netroots Nation forum here in Arizona, things didn't go exactly as planned.

Both Democratic presidential candidates were supposed to sit down with activist and journalist Jose Antonio Vargas to talk about immigration. Instead, they got shouted down.

O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, was up first, and his forum was hijacked by protesters who said they were from the "Black Lives Matter" movement. They moved toward the stage, chanting, "What side are you on? Black people! What side are you on?"

Two of the activists climbed onto the stage and seized the microphones as O'Malley and Vargas stood by patiently.

"It's not like we like shutting shit down but we have to," activist Patrisse Cullors said. "We are tired of being interrupted."

But shutting things down is what they did.

O'Malley was repeatedly drowned out by chanting protesters who wanted to discuss police brutality against black Americans. When O'Malley finally did get a chance to respond, they kept shouting.

"I believe every police department in America should have to report in an open and transparent way all police-involved shootings, all discourtesy complaints, all brutality complaints," O'Malley, a former Baltimore mayor, said. Asked by Vargas about civilian review boards, O'Malley added, "all departments should have civilian review boards."

That was roughly as specific as the protesters allowed O'Malley to get. He went on to say, awkwardly, "black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter," sparking loud boos.

O'Malley repeated the phrase and the audience kept booing. Vargas tried to quiet the crowd down, but time was up anyway.

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“Unfortunately, Senator Sanders is waiting out there,” Vargas said.

“We just started,” O’Malley quipped.

It started off well: Sanders supporters waved “Bernie” signs in the air as the independent Vermont senator took the stage, hoping to talk about economic policy and bash Republicans.

He got chaos instead.

“Here’s the serious issue: We live in a nation in which to a significant degree media is controlled by large multinational corporations. We live in a nation in which 95 percent of talk radio is right wing, including in areas where Republicans have almost no support,” Sanders began.

The protesters kept shouting, forcing Sanders to address there concerns.

“When we talk about issues like ‘black lives matter’, let me tell you something,” Sanders said. “A study came out a few weeks ago talking about youth unemployment in America, an issue we do not deal with as a nation. And here’s what, here’s what that said. What that report said is that if you are a high school graduate and you’re white, the unemployment rate is 33 percent. If you are Hispanic, the unemployment rate is 36 percent; if you are African American, the unemployment rate is 51 percent. And in my view maybe, just maybe, it is time we invest in jobs and education not in jails and incarceration.”

The protesters began shouting again when Sanders tried to pivot back to discussing Wall Street greed and economic inequality. At one point, Sanders offered a deviation from his usual talking points: “Black people are dying in this country because we have a criminal justice system that is out of control,” he said.

Vargas tried to pepper the Vermont senator with immigration questions, but the chants once again threatened to drown them out. At one point, Sanders’ frustration showed. “Black lives of course matter, but I have spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and if you don’t want me to be here that’s OK,” he said.

Once again, time ran out and Vargas said, “Unfortunately we have to wrap it up.”

“OK, good,” Sanders said.

O'Malley apologizes for saying 'all lives matter' at liberal conference **// CNN // Chris Moody – July 18, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley apologized on Saturday for saying "All lives matter" while discussing police violence against African-Americans with liberal demonstrators.

Several dozen demonstrators interrupted the former Maryland governor while he was speaking here at the Netroots Nation conference, a gathering of liberal activists, demanding that he address criminal justice and police brutality. When they shouted, "Black lives matter!" a rallying cry of protests that broke out after several black Americans were killed at the hands of police in recent months, O'Malley responded: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

The demonstrators, who were mostly black, responded by booing him and shouting him down.

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Later that day, O'Malley apologized for using the phrase in that context if it was perceived that he was minimizing the importance of blacks killed by police.

Invoking the familiar names of blacks who died at the hands of police, including Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Tamir Rice, thousands have taken part in protests across the country calling for a more aggressive federal response to recent slayings by police. A protester is arrested at the demonstration on December 13 in Oakland.

"I meant no disrespect," O'Malley said in an interview on This Week in Blackness, a digital show. "That was a mistake on my part and I meant no disrespect. I did not mean to be insensitive in any way or communicate that I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

Judith Butler, a philosopher at the University of California, Berkeley, recently explained why some find it offensive to respond to the "Black Lives Matter" movement with the "all lives matter."

"When some people rejoin with 'All Lives Matter' they misunderstand the problem, but not because their message is untrue. It is true that all lives matter, but it is equally true that not all lives are understood to matter, which is precisely why it is most important to name the lives that have not mattered, and are struggling to matter in the way they deserve," Butler said in an interview with The New York Times. "If we jump too quickly to the universal formulation, 'all lives matter,' then we miss the fact that black people have not yet been included in the idea of 'all lives.'"

O'Malley isn't the first Democrat to come under fire for the remark. Hillary Clinton was criticized in June for doing the same thing.

Martin O'Malley And Bernie Sanders Interrupted By 'Black Lives Matter' Activists At Progressive Conference // HuffPo // Sam Levine – July 18, 2015

"Black Lives Matter" protesters interrupted Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley, former governor of Maryland, and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) during their appearances Saturday at Netroots Nation, a progressive conference being held in Phoenix this year.

O'Malley was interrupted after just one question during a panel discussion with Jose Antonio Vargas, and Sanders had barely begun speaking before he was cut off.

Demonstrators began chanting, "What side are you on?" during a Q&A session with O'Malley. O'Malley allowed the protesters to finish, but drew boos when he said that "black lives matter, all lives matter, white lives matter," according to Washington Post reporter Dave Weigel. O'Malley later admitted that he made a mistake in his choice of words, and said he did not mean any disrespect.

Sanders was quickly interrupted when he spoke and told protesters that he agreed with them.

Sanders tried to continue speaking, but Vargas eventually ended the panel early.

While O'Malley and Sanders had a difficult time speaking on Saturday, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, chose not to attend the conference and was campaigning in

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Arkansas instead.

Democratic Presidential Candidates Face Off in Iowa // ABC News // Josh Haskell – July 18, 2015

It was a big night for Democrats in Iowa who heard from all five presidential candidates on everything from income inequality to climate change and recent Supreme Court decisions on same-sex marriage and the Affordable Care Act.

Lincoln Chafee, Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders, and Jim Webb didn't spend any time going after each other Friday, but instead laid out their visions for the country and at times went after the Republican presidential candidates.

Clinton spent the majority of her speech criticizing Republicans by name -- including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush -- whose comments that "Americans need to work longer hours" didn't sit well with the former secretary of state.

"He now says he just wants part-time workers to be able to find full-time jobs," she said. "So do I. There's just one problem: his policies and the policies of all these Republican candidates would make that harder."

Hillary Clinton Thinks Telemarketers Are 'Really Annoying,' Too

Hillary Clinton Cashes in, Donald Trump Dead Last in 2016 Campaign Money Race

Bernie Sanders Gets His Say on Clinton's Day in Capitol

But the Democratic front-runner didn't stop with Bush. Clinton and O'Malley also went after billionaire Donald Trump.

“We've heard a lot recently from the new Republican front-runner, Donald Trump," said Clinton. "Finally, a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine. But there's nothing funny about the hate he is spewing towards immigrants and their families."

"If Donald Trump wants to run on a platform of demonizing immigrants, he should go back to the 1840's and run for the presidential nomination of the Know-Nothing Party," said O'Malley.

The night began with the five candidates taking the stage together as loud chants of Bernie and Hillary filled the room. More than 1,300 from across the state greeted the candidates with open arms and listened to each 15 minute speech with the same amount of attention but varying levels of enthusiasm.

Clinton, O'Malley, and Sanders had a number of standing ovations from their backers in the room, but lesser known candidates Chafee and Webb had a harder sell. They laid out their visions for the country, spending a considerable amount of time telling Iowans about their accomplishments as public servants.

Sanders was the only candidate to bring up recent race-related shootings in America.

"I want to see an America where when young black men walk down the street, they will not be harassed by police officers," he said, pausing when the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

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Raising his hands, Sanders added "They will not be killed and not be shot."

Outside the convention hall, O'Malley and Clinton supporters who didn't have tickets to the dinner chanted at each other as cars honked in downtown Cedar Rapids. All of the candidates stayed till the end of the event and worked the room afterwards.

The politicking continues Saturday in Iowa as 10 Republican presidential candidates will discuss their vision for the country at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames.

Sanders, O'Malley face protesters at Netroots Nation conference // LA Times // Nigel Duara – July 18, 2015

e annual Netroots Nation political conference, being held here this year, isn't just supposed to be friendly to progressive candidates. It is an applause-filled jaunt that can add luster to campaigns whose candidates want to be standard-bearers of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

That was far from the case on Saturday, the showcase day of the five-day event that began Wednesday, as former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont found themselves face-to-face with protesters, led by supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter.

- Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, to a chorus of boos

Black Lives Matter was fueled by several high-profile deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police in the last two years, and the slogan has been the rallying cry for a series of protests calling for social justice.

Saturday's verbal confrontation first came during O'Malley's town hall meeting.

He had just delivered what should have been applause lines at such a conference — closing for-profit prisons and ending wealth inequality — when about 30 protesters streamed into the Phoenix Convention Center's main hall and began shouting questions:

"What are you doing to stop the killing of black men?"

"Do black lives matter to you?"

Seated onstage, hands clasped and elbows on his knees, O'Malley in response turned his speech over to related issues: creating civilian review boards for police departments, pushing through criminal justice reform and asking the same of other candidates. A protester was invited on stage.

"I recognize the pain and grief throughout country, to all the lives lost to violence," O'Malley said, to tepid applause, before expounding on the efforts he made when he was mayor of Baltimore to end an epidemic of violence and drug abuse.

Then, after the 15-minute interruption, O'Malley said, "Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter."

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He was roundly booed. He repeated the line. More boos followed. He eventually waved to the crowd as he left the stage.

Sanders next took the stage with the protest in full swing, but nevertheless muscled his way through. He scoffed at questions about what he has done for the civil rights movement, replying that he's spent 50 years fighting for civil rights.

"We need a political revolution in this country," said Sanders, sticking to the grass-roots progressive message that has earned him crowds in the tens of thousands at appearances across the country.

The difference, said conference attendee Lexis Clark of Chicago, was that O'Malley seemed to waffle and waver during the protest, while Sanders, used to long, loud debates, simply boomed his way through the interruptions.

"I wasn't blown away" by O'Malley, said Clark, 30. "He didn't do a very good job controlling it."

To the protesters themselves, neither candidate did much to assure them that the goals of the Black Lives Matter movement would be considered.

"They all fumbled when we brought black issues to the table," said Ashley Yates, 30, one of Saturday's protest leaders. "That was by design."

It wasn't the first time a presidential candidate has been roundly booed at the conference. At the 2007 event, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her first presidential campaign, heard boos for being too centrist and for voting in favor of the Iraq war. She skipped this year's event.

The conference, held this year in Phoenix in an attempt by organizers to plant a flag in a red state, issued a statement less than an hour after Saturday's protest to say it "stands in solidarity with all people seeking human rights."

"Our aim was to give presidential candidates a chance to respond to the issues facing the many diverse communities represented here," conference organizers said in an email. "Although we wish the candidates had more time to respond to the issues, what happened today is reflective of an urgent moment that America is facing today."

Yates was unconvinced.

While candidates' plans on issues such as banking reform and wage inequality have specifics — whom they would appoint, what steps they would take on Day One — they've been vague when it comes to pushing for racial and social justice.

"You can't hold anyone accountable for something they haven't agreed to yet," Yates said, adding that Netroots, for all its progressive leanings, remained a largely white space.

"Let's be honest: It's mostly white, concerning white issues," Yates said, "when we are out here dying."

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'Black Lives Matter' protesters halt Sanders, O'Malley events // The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 18, 2015

"Black Lives Matter" protesters disrupted two 2016 Democratic presidential candidates during speeches in Phoenix on Saturday.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley both had question-and-answer sessions halted at the 2015 Netroots Nation conference.

"Say that black lives matter," demonstrators chanted at both men. "Say that I am not a criminal. Say my name."

Activists began intruding on the event during O'Malley's session with host Jose Antonio Vargas.

"What side are you on?" they began singing at the former Maryland governor.

Vargas tried salvaging the situation, but protesters only shouted over him louder.

"We hear you," he said. "Everyone take a little breathe."

The flustered moderator then let a "Black Lives Matter" leader who identified herself as Patrisse Cullors address O'Malley.

"Let me be clear – every single day people are dying, not able to take another breath," she said.

"We are in a state of emergency," she added. "If you do not feel that emergency, then you are not human. I want to hear concrete action plans."

O'Malley responded by appealing to the unity of Americans that comes from their shared country.

"I think all of us have a responsibility to recognize the pain and grief caused by lives lost to violence," he said.

"Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter," O'Malley added, drawing boos from the demonstrators.

An apology to O'Malley flashed on the event's teleprompter once the disruption began, according to reports.

Sanders fared little better with outraged crowd members when his session began.

"If you don't want to be here, that's OK," he said over yelling attendees. "I don't want to shout over people."

"Black lives of course matter," Sanders added. "I have spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights."

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Sanders argued criminal justice reform is essential for improving race relations in the U.S.

“Black people are dying in this country because we have a criminal justice system that is out of control,” he said.

“We need fundamental reform in police departments all over this country,” Sanders said.

“In my view, maybe, just maybe, it is time to invest in jobs and not jails and incarceration,” he added.

Protesters hailed the two-year anniversary of the “Black Lives Matter” movement during their demonstration at Saturday’s event.

The protesters say law enforcement unfairly discriminates against blacks in both its policies and its enforcement.

Democratic candidates turn dinner into a GOP bashing party // NY Post // Bob Fredericks – July 18, 2015

All five declared candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination gathered at a party dinner in Iowa Friday night and took turns bashing Republicans while mostly playing nice with each other.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the front-runner, and socialist Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, her toughest challenger so far, got most of the attention at the Hall of Fame celebration dinner, but ex-Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and ex-Virginia Sen. Jim Webb were also on hand.

Clinton used tough rhetoric to go after the GOP candidates and brought Democrats to their feet, The Washington Post reported.

“I’m never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made. Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s. It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair,” she said.

‘Black Lives Matter!’: Sanders, O’Malley Heckled by Liberal Demonstrators at Blogger Convention; Clinton a No-Show // The Blaze // Dave Urbanski – July 18, 2015

The demonstrators were promoting the national “Black Lives Matter” movement, which has sought changes to law enforcement policies in the aftermath of sometimes-violent protests in several cities. The group grew from the fatal shooting of a black, unarmed 18-year-old, Michael Brown, by a white police officer in the St. Louis suburb.

Sanders and O’Malley are vying to become the alternative to Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was campaigning in Iowa and Arkansas on Saturday and did not attend Netroots.

Before the demonstrations broke out, Vargas pressed O’Malley to defend his law enforcement record as Baltimore’s mayor a decade ago. O’Malley faced scrutiny when unrest broke out in his home city after an African-American man, Freddie Gray, died while in police custody in April.

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O'Malley discussed his work to deal with violence and drug addiction in Baltimore, telling the crowd, "there are very few issues in our country that are quite as painfully intertwined as the legacy of violence, race and law enforcement in America." He said his policies improved policing, reduced the number of police-involved shootings and increased drug treatment.

About 20 minutes into the interview, demonstrators walked into the cavernous ballroom, creating a confusing scene. Tia Oso, National Coordinator for the Black Alliance for Just Immigration in Phoenix, took the stage and addressed the crowd, noting two years had passed since the the Black Lives Matter movement started.

"We want to take a moment at Netroots to acknowledge the lives lost," Oso said. Organizers sought to restore order and at one point, Cheryl Contee, a Netroots Nation board member, took the stage and asked the audience to allow O'Malley to respond.

O'Malley said all Americans have a responsibility to "recognize the pain and the grief throughout our country, through all the lives that have been lost to violence." He reiterated that every police department should be required to report all police-involved shootings and create civilian review boards.

"Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter," O'Malley told the crowd, as some protesters heckled him.

Sanders, during his abbreviated 20 minute appearance, spoke about the need to address wealth and income inequality, noting that blacks and Hispanics face high rates of unemployment.

His remarks were interrupted at times by the protesters, prompting Sanders to respond, "Black lives of course matter. I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights."

Sanders called the criminal justice system "out of control" and described high rates of unemployment and incarceration for young black Americans.

Netroots Nation executive director Raven Brooks said in a statement that the organization "stands in solidarity with all people seeking human rights." He said Netroots aimed to give presidential candidates to respond to the issues faced by many diverse communities.

"Although we wish the candidates had more time to respond to the issues, what happened today is reflective of an urgent moment that America is facing today," Brooks said.

Here's another video taken Saturday of demonstrators chanting "This is what democracy looks like!" apparently while exiting a large conference room.

O'Malley Apologizes For Saying 'All Lives Matter' **// Daily Caller // Derek Hunter – July 18, 2015**

Former Maryland Gov. and Democratic Party presidential candidate Martin O'Malley, along with fellow candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, were shouted off stage at the Netroots Nation conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday. O'Malley's offense was saying, "Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter."

O'Malley has now apologized for including "white lives matter, all lives matter" in his statement.

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The Black Lives Matter movement on the extreme progressive left does not tolerate inclusion of all lives, or any other lives when it comes to mattering.

Appearing on the Internet based “This Week In Blackness,” or TWiB Nation, host L. Joy Williams excoriated O’Malley for his insensitivity for including “white lives” and “all lives” in his statement. The former governor did not repeat the phrases, he referred to them as “those other two phrases.”

“I want to ask something specifically,” Williams said, “Towards the end, in your explanation, you said the phrase ‘all lives matter,’ you said the phrase ‘white lives matter.’ But I want to ask you, do you understand the difference in responding in that conversation, in that context, with ‘all lives matter’ or ‘white lives matter’ when we’re specifically talking about black death, that is not all inclusive.”

O’Malley responded, “I certainly do and, in fact, I believe what I first said was that ‘black lives matter’ before those other two phrases. And when I said those other two phrases I meant no disrespect to the point, which I understand, that black lives matter is making.”

O'Malley, Sanders Shouted Down at Netroots by 'Black Lives Matter' Protest // The National Journal // S.V. Dante – July 18, 2015

Protesters upset that the topic of police shootings in black communities was not getting a high enough profile at the Netroots Nation conference shut down a much-touted forum Saturday featuring two Democratic presidential candidates.

Several dozen activists burst into the Phoenix Convention Center meeting hall as former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley was 20 minutes into a planned 40-minute moderated discussion. They sang – "What side are you on, people, what side are you on?" -- chanted, and eventually were given a microphone by conference organizers to ask O'Malley a question about police-involved violence.

"We hear you," Netroots board member Cheryl Contee said from the stage. "Give the governor a chance to respond."

O'Malley has been dogged by his record as Baltimore mayor since rioting there this year following the death of an unarmed black man in police custody. When his answer started describing some of his actions as mayor, the protesters began shouting him down again.

And when he said, "Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter," the protesters roared in disapproval. O'Malley left the stage not long after.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose supporters had packed the hall, was similarly interrupted. Sanders tried to deliver a truncated version of his stump speech, only louder, in an attempt to drown out the protesters. When he was asked what his plan was to deal with police violence, he brought it back to a favorite topic of his, high unemployment in the black community, which he would solve with a trillion dollar program rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.

That answer failed to satisfy the protesters, who continued shouting and chanting until moderator Jose Antonio Vargas told Sanders that they had to wrap it up. Sanders replied: "Okay, good."

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The protesters held a victory rally of sorts afterward. "People only yell when they feel they're not being heard," said one.

Ashley Yates, an activist who came to prominence in St. Louis during the riots there last year following the police shooting of a black man, was among the leaders of Saturday's protest. "We're telling you that black America is starved for resources and we are in a state of emergency," she said.

As to whether the disrupted discussion would make it harder for Netroots to attract presidential candidates in the future, Yates said: "That's Netroots' question to answer."

For its part, Netroots declined to criticize the protest. "Although we wish the candidates had more time to respond to the issues, what happened today is reflective of an urgent moment that America is facing today," the group said in a statement. "In 2016, we're heading to St. Louis. We plan to work with activists there just as we did in Phoenix with local leaders, including the #BlackLivesMatter movement, to amplify issues like racial profiling and police brutality in a major way."

Sanders continued with plans for a Saturday evening rally at the same Convention Center venue, while O'Malley held a discussion with local immigration activists Saturday afternoon.

Martin O'Malley Was Booed For Saying "All Lives Matter," & Here's Why That Phrase Should Just Disappear
// Bustle // Chris Togonotti – July 18, 2015

Saturday was a big day for Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley. Despite serving two terms as the governor of Maryland and being one of just five Democrats in the 2016 field, he's getting pretty overlooked in the early going. So, like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, he decided to speak at Netroots Nation, a good opportunity to draw some attention at a high-profile progressive event. And draw some attention he did, for all the wrong reasons: Martin O'Malley was booed for saying "all lives matter," and he really should have seen that one coming.

Look, there's no denying that O'Malley was probably a little thrown off his game. His appearance was interrupted by seemingly organized chants before the offending flap, an interruption that culminated in activists taking the stage and getting on the mic. That has to be a little disorienting, regardless of whether you're sympathetic to him or not.

But that kind of a moment can speak volumes, too – about how someone responds to a breakdown in the pre-arranged order of things, and how they choose to communicate about the most raw, serious issues for a given community. Here's are three reasons why Martin O'Malley got booed, and why "all lives matter" really needs to go away.

It's An Unneeded Statement

Think about the phrase black lives matter, and all the events that culminated to birth the movement. Mainly, instances of black people being slain by police without any legal action afterward. Michael Brown in Ferguson, no indictment. Eric Garner in New York City and John Crawford in Ohio – both men's deaths captured on video – no indictments. It's true that all lives do and should matter, but the point is that when black lives are lost, society doesn't treat it as such. Institutionally, and in the hearts and minds of countless racist trolls you can find in all corners of the internet, black lives matter less. Which is why it's so important to specifically name that, and to be unapologetic about it.

Stealing Black Activist Language Is Offensive

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Think of it like this: have you ever seen supporters of law enforcement tweet #BlueLivesMatter? It became a thing after the murder of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu late last year, and you still see it from time to time. But beyond being intensely inflammatory – appropriating black activism against police brutality in service of law enforcement – it crucially misses the point.

After officers Liu and Ramos were killed, what happened? Their tragic deaths were national news, everybody knew their names, and there was a massive police and public response. The loss of life was treated as unacceptable and horrifying, and not just by police officers and their supporters, but by the public at large. And, had the perpetrator not killed himself shortly after the murders, he undoubtedly would have been hunted relentlessly and brought to justice. That's the difference.

Basically, if you're a white authority figure invoking the language of black activists, you should only do so address the issues, not dilute them.

He Didn't Just Say "All Lives Matter"

In reality, O'Malley's remarks were even a little bit worse than a simple "all lives matter" would have been. In full, while discussing how Maryland halted the death penalty under his watch, O'Malley said the following (the relevant portion starts at 59 minutes in).

Every life matters, and that is why this issue is so important. Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter. … Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter.

O'Malley must've felt some conviction about this, because he repeated it even with the boos and jeers still raining down from the first time. But, both in tone and in execution, it was an epic blunder. He came off, quite frankly, as though he were lecturing black people about their own movement. The argument of activists isn't that white lives don't matter, it's that black lives should matter every bit as much. In fact, over the din of the crowd, you can make out a man's voice yelling just that.

We don't need to hear that all lives matter! We already know that all lives matter!

In short, it came across as incredibly condescending, and made it seem as though O'Malley hadn't put enough thought into such a loaded remark.

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Raising money is a Jeb Bush family business, even for the next generation // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – July 18, 2015

Politically, Jeb Bush wants voters to focus on his first name and his own political record. But when it comes to fundraising, he's still banking on the success of his last name.

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He hosted wealthy donors, many of whom backed his father and brother's presidential bids, at his parents' coastal estate in Maine this month. And on Friday night, he headlined a raucous dinner hosted by a PAC led in part by his two sons. It was held in a Venetian Hotel ballroom next to the theater where Diana Ross performs.

The group cannot officially endorse in the presidential race, so Bush and his family are drawing inspiration from the PAC as he continues fundraising. But the PAC is an outgrowth of the 2004 reelection campaign of George W. Bush — so, in essence, Jeb Bush is learning the lessons of his older brother.

With his father sidelined by injury and his brother staying out of the fray, Bush is deploying his wife and sons to appear at some of the 17 major fundraising events in 11 states and the District of Columbia that are scheduled through September.

Bush raised $11.4 million for his campaign in the last quarter — he was a candidate for just 16 days of the period. The sum was part of an unprecedented $119 million raised on his behalf by an allied super PAC and another leadership PAC. Most of his campaign money came from donors cultivated by the Bush family for more than 40 years. Just $368,000 came from people giving less than $200. Bush himself gave more to his campaign — $388,720 — to cover expenses.

Asked about the paltry sum of donations from small-dollar donors, Bush says that there will be plenty of time to cultivate grass-roots supporters.

"We had 16 days, and we wanted to send a statement of seriousness about the campaign. It was launched, and, in 16 days, we raised $11 million. I'm proud of that," he told reporters last week. "We'll have ample time to broaden that out. That's the intention."

For now, Bush is focused on bigger dollars, and his appearance on Friday night was a tacit acknowledgment of the work his sons are doing to help.

He appeared at a conference hosted by Maverick PAC, a group of wealthy Republicans under the age of 40 who support GOP political candidates of a similar age. The PAC was launched in Texas by about a dozen of George W. Bush's "Mavericks," or young professionals who helped raise at least $50,000 in 2004. In 2006, George P. Bush — Jeb's older son — joined the group and became chairman in 2010. He expanded the PAC beyond Texas to include more than 20 chapters, with several in Florida and one in London.

As Texas land commissioner, George P. Bush can no longer actively participate, but his friend, Jay Zeidman, kicked off the event Friday night. He stood in jeans and a button-down shirt handing out awards to winners of a "40 under 40" prize while attendees dined on chicken and pork barbecue, cole slaw and potato salad.

Spotted in the crowd was Charlie Spies, a Republican campaign finance lawyer, who represents Maverick PAC and Right to Rise USA, the super PAC allied with Jeb Bush that raised a record $103 million last quarter.

Two younger conservative authors, Guy Benson and Kristen Soltis Anderson, sat onstage sipping beer while touting their books. Benson admitted he'd spent most of the day drinking by the hotel pool. Both lamented that too many liberals rely on comedians Jon Stewart and John Oliver for their news and bemoaned the "stifling culture of political correctness."

Bush applauded enthusiastically from the front of the room. He was later introduced to the crowd by Fritz Brogan,

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a Washington restaurateur who worked in George W. Bush's administration and has grown close to Jeb Bush Jr.

Jeb Bush thanked his younger son for his early help and called out his wife, Columba, who was in the crowd.

"We've been married longer than the age of retirement of a MavPAC member," he said.

Father and son later headed upstairs to Bouchon, the French restaurant by chef Thomas Keller, where they hosted a kickoff reception for "Mission: NEXT" — essentially the 2016 version of George W. Bush's "Mavericks" group.

In a nod to his home state of Florida, Jeb Bush's donor program is called "Mission 2016 JEB" — a NASA-inspired title for a program that will have three distinct tiers for top bundlers.

The first tier, called Apollo, will be for bundlers who can help Bush raise at least $75,000. The second tier, called Endeavour, is for donors who reach at least $150,000. Top-flight bundlers will reach the Voyager level as they help rake in at least $250,000.

Mission: NEXT will be for donors under 40 who can help raise at least $50,000. George P. and Jeb Bush Jr. will co-chair the group and said in a joint statement that it "will be the central program for youth involvement in the campaign."

Through a spokesman, George P. Bush declined an interview request.

Jeb Bush Jr. said in a recent interview that when he meets with potential supporters, "I try to share my experience with Dad, working with him the last six years, what he's like as a dad or a grandfather, his experience in Florida as governor. And talk about potential solutions for things like student debt, the job market, health care, things that are facing millennials."

The two brothers have tapped their own professional networks — wooing junior executives such as Zeidman, business executives such as Brogan and attorneys, surgeons, investment bankers, accountants and other young professionals in Texas, Florida and elsewhere.

Andres Asion, a Miami real estate broker who is backing Jeb Bush and is friends with Jeb Bush Jr., said the brothers "have been raised in the business, per se, and they know their market and they know what they're doing very well."

Watching Bush's new plans unfold are several former members of Maverick PAC who have aged out and remain active in GOP politics and fundraising.

Jonathan Neerman, the former chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party, called the group "a starter PAC" that "was an introduction to the bundling world at a donor level that was not cost-prohibitive. Its genesis was really a networking opportunity for young bundlers from around the state to stay connected."

Another presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), is a founding member and standout alumnus. His campaign chairman, Chad Sweet, is a former member.

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"I've been tremendously impressed by the success of MavPAC over the years, serving as a vehicle for young professionals to play a meaningful role in the political process," Cruz said in an interview.

Clearly, Cruz learned from the experience: Despite trailing far back in most polls, he raised $14 million for his campaign last quarter and another $37 million through a constellation of super PACs backing his campaign. The combined $51 million put him just behind Bush in the GOP money race.

Jeb Bush consultant critiques Republican digital culture // Yahoo News // Jon Ward – July 18, 2015

A top digital consultant to Jeb Bush's presidential campaign had harsh words for Republican technologists on Saturday, saying that many of them are "impostors" and that the GOP has until recently been an "atrociously bad" place for tech savvy people who wanted to get involved in politics.

The Republican party "was a terrible place for a smart technologist to come work," Andy Barkett, a former Facebook engineer, said at a conference on technology and politics hosted by Lincoln Labs, a conservative nonprofit group.

Barkett, who was hired by the Republican National Committee as its chief technology officer two years ago, made reference to his time at the RNC, which did not go smoothly.

"I mean it was a terrible place for me when I started. It was horrible. It was like the worst experience of my life," Barkett said of his entry into Republican politics, after spending over a decade at Silicon Valley companies, where he moved into angel investing on the side. "It was just, like, atrociously bad."

Barkett was brought in after the RNC conducted an "autopsy" of the 2012 election that concluded they lagged far behind the Democrats in using technology to target voters for persuasion and turnout.

But Barkett said that Republican digital culture "is getting better, and now for the first time since I've been involved in it over the last few years, you can take a smart person and plug them in and they can be really effective and make a difference."

And yet, Barkett, 34, said that too many people in Republican politics, and political culture in general, still are too ignorant of basic technology.

"There's a whole bunch of people in politics who say a lot of words, all the buzz words that we talked about, and they say, 'I want more analytics.' None of them have any idea what any of those things mean," he said, seated on a stage during a panel discussion alongside digital operatives working for the presidential campaigns of Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"They have no idea what the difference is between building an infrastructure of servers that knows how to send e-mails, to having an e-mail list, or the difference between the records in the voter file and the analytics that you do in addition to those," he said.

Barkett urged people in politics doing tech-related work to "get over the impostor syndrome and learn what the f you are talking about."

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"Be honest with yourself, you're probably a political person and you probably don't know what the f you're taking about. And the first thing you should do is probably dig in and learn. In the short run it will hurt you, because you will be exposed as a fraud," he said. "You people will learn that you don't know these things yet. And in the long run it will help you, because you will then be one of the one percent of the people in politics who does know what they're talking about."

Yahoo Politics asked Barkett during the panel whether he was criticizing the 200 or so Republicans working in the tech space, and he clarified his comments.

"I wouldn't say all 200 of them are complete phonies. I would say that a lot of them are good at one thing or another. So a lot of them may be very good at online fundraising, which is a thing, which is important, or they may be very good at online advertising in a political context, which is a thing that's important," Barkett said. "There's not a lot of people who are genuinely well-rounded technology leaders. It's a pretty small percentage of that number."

Barkett is a controversial figure in Republican politics. His blunt style of communication and willingness to openly criticize other vendors and consultants quickly created many enemies when he arrived at the RNC. Less than a year after being hired by the RNC and its private sector data arm, Data Trust, to do work at both entities, he left Data Trust and went to work only at the RNC.

One of Barkett's biggest tasks at the RNC was to build a digital dashboard to access voter file data. That dashboard, which was called Beacon, never acquired a high user adoption rate and has been eclipsed by other platforms.

The RNC is currently working on a new dashboard that they hope will compete with the one being delivered to a growing number of Republican campaigns by the Koch brothers political arm, Freedom Partners, through a subsidiary called i360.

Barkett is now doing work for Bush's campaign through a company called Digital Core Campaign, LLC, which was paid $64,216 on June 30 for "web service." DCC advertises on its website that they do "big data infrastructure," "modeling and analytics," "digital communications," and "field and finance integration." The New York Times reported earlier this year that Barkett would be building a voter file to be used by both Bush's campaign and the super PAC supporting the former Florida governor.

Barkett on Saturday referred to Bush as his "client."

How Jeb Tackled the Cocaine Cartels // The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – July 18, 2015

It was an October day in Miami, 1985, and Leonel Martinez didn't want to die.

Margarita Escobar—a Colombian woman known as La Doctora and rumored to be a distant relative of Pablo Escobar—had paid Martinez, a construction magnate, a hefty sum to move 12 duffel bags of cocaine from The Bahamas to Miami on his luxury yacht. The load got intercepted en route, though, and La Doctora wanted her money back. But Martinez didn't have it.

So she called him up and said she would be visiting his office. Martinez did the natural thing: He bought a Cadillac limousine, sent it to pick up her and her bodyguard at the airport—in an effort to project wealth he didn't quite have—and welcomed her to his office.

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She demanded he produce the cash. He didn't have it, and he offered her ten condominiums instead. But that wasn't good enough. Give her the money, she said, or she'd kill him.

"You can kill me, or you can wait," he replied.

She decided to wait, and she flew back to Colombia. Then Martinez got to work rustling up the thousands he owed her.

Overlooking that conversation was a wall plastered with pictures of Martinez glad-handing some of South Florida's most powerful political luminaries. That's because the drug-trafficker—according to retired DEA agent and a retired Metro Dade police officer who worked to hunt him down—had a knack for creating the illusion of intimacy with elected officials.

A few of those officials had the last name Bush.

But those donations didn't get him much.

In fact, as governor, Jeb Bush became a favorite of drug warriors. He mirrored his father's tough-on-drugs tactics in Florida, won the loyalty of cops and DEA agents, and showed the limits of money in politics.

When Jeb arrived in South Florida after the 1980 presidential campaign, it was a crazy time.

The use of drug money in politics was commonplace.

In fact, his dad's presidential campaign and the Jeb-helmed Dade County Republican Party both took contributions from Martinez, and faced minimal political repercussions when Martinez's true career was revealed.

Eduardo Gamarra, a professor in Florida International University's department of politics and international relations, said at that time Southern Florida was so saturated with cocaine-tainted cash that it would have been odd if none of it could get traced to Jeb.

"That's just the way things were in the 1980's," he said.

Gamarra added that grip-and-grin photos with drug dealers didn't immediately mean the politician was in league with them. Even then-state attorney Janet Reno appeared in a photo with Martinez when he was being investigated for bribery.

Martinez moved from Cuba to Miami when Castro rose to power, and he proceeded to build a successful construction business—with a lucrative marijuana- and cocaine-trafficking business on the side.

He also made a number of contributions to the Dade County Republican Party when young Jeb Bush chaired it, as Jack Colhoun detailed in an essay in the anthology Covert Action: The Roots of Terrorism. Martinez won respect in Republican circles and, according to his former defense attorney Ron Dresnick, even managed to snag a photo with Jeb. It was never released.

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This came at a time when Jeb was laying some of the groundwork for the GOP's eventual and total takeover of state-level politics there. In 1984, Politico wrote, 4,000 Democrats became Republicans and 74 percent of Hispanics to join the voter rolls that year registered with the GOP.

That success ballooned, and Bush carried Miami-Dade in both of his successful gubernatorial campaigns. His impact in the Sunshine State is hard to overstate.

And a tiny little statistically insignificant sliver of it was thanks to coke money.

"Just like today everybody has to be a badass when it comes to fighting terrorists, the 80's and 90's were really the same. You had to demonstrate that you were a drug warrior."

By 1989, Martinez was unmasked as a narcotrafficker. The Miami Herald reported that he had promised to give a covert Drug Enforcement Administration informant a dump truck worth $80,000 and five lots worth $120,000 in exchange for 300 kilograms of cocaine. The Herald also noted that, in a government affidavit, between 1981 and 1989 Martinez and his team endeavored to move hundreds of pounds of marijuana and "multi-hundred kilogram shipments of cocaine" into Southern Florida. As one does.

The Martinez case was representative of a South Florida cocaine problem of cartoonish proportions—a culture where Jeb's political ambitions first began to flourish.

"It was a nuthouse," recalled Tom Raffanello, a former Special Agent in Charge of the DEA's Miami Field Division, who had that position for three years of Jeb's governorship there. "We averaged two drug-related shootings a month for almost two years. Everybody had a gun. Everybody was pissed off all the time."

Tony Kost, a retired Metro-Dade Police Department detective who worked to apprehend Martinez, Dominic Albanese (a retired DEA agent who worked on the investigation), and Raffanello all praised Jeb's work to continue the prosecution of the Drug War that started when his father, George HW Bush, was vice president for Ronald Reagan.

It's an interesting story of the failure of money in politics; though Martinez managed to donate his way into the good graces of South Florida Republicans, some of his favorite politicians ended up being the most dogged foes of his industry.

Albanese said that Jeb Bush's support of the War on Drugs—despite inadvertently appearing in a photo with a powerful drug trafficker—speaks to his integrity.

"I can't say enough good things about what the Bushes did for the anti-drug department, I'm telling you now," he added. "I know where we would have been if it wasn't for them. We'd be in deep kimchi right now, I'm telling you, with the drug problems."

Jeb Bush appointed the state's first drug czar, Jim McDonough, just a month after he assumed office. McDonough's responsibilities included coordinating statewide efforts to curtail the import and distribution of narcotics. Bush prioritized streamlining the communications between different agencies and governments—local, state, and federal—to make anti-drug efforts more efficient.

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Gamarra, a Democrat, also said taking Martinez's cocaine cash shouldn't taint the Bush family's anti-drug legacy.

"It's kind of popular to go around saying we've lost the drug war," he said, "but South Florida really demonstrates how they built up the correct kind of legislation—financial controls and so on."

"You're not going to find an airplane flying into the Everglades dumping cocaine," he added. "Miami has drug problems today but this is not the 1980's by any stretch of the imagination."

Gamarra described Bush and his team as "the best drug warriors in town."

"Just like today everybody has to be a badass when it comes to fighting terrorists, the 80's and 90's were really the same," he continued. "You had to demonstrate that you were a drug warrior, that you were in favor of al the extreme kind of measures to stop drugs coming into the United States."

Data from the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that total violent crime grew at a slower rate than Florida's overall population during Bush's governorship.

While the population grew steadily, from 15.1 million people in 1999 to 18.3 million in 2007, the number of violent crimes committed in the state ebbed and flowed. In 1999, there were 129,044 total violent offenses. That number dipped to a low of 123,754 in 2004. And it grew to 129,602 in 2006, his last full year as governor.

The fact that violent crime didn't grow at the same rate as the population seems to corroborate the anecdotal evidence from South Florida's top drug warriors—that, with time, the state became less bloody.

Raffanello said Bush's efforts to improve communication between local sheriffs, the DEA, and other law enforcement arms were particularly fruitful.

As governor, he and his wife Columba participated in yearly Tallahassee summits that brought together the state's drug warriors for networking, planning, and coordination. Raffanello said the impact of those meetings—and the impact of the governor's involvement with them—made statewide enforcement efforts more organized and effective.

"I thought he really gave a shit," Raffanello said. "It's refreshing to see a politician care about an issue."

So his efforts seem to have made Florida less violent and crazy, but Gamarra said the overall outcome was mixed. While drug-related violence went down, there weren't great results as far as overall drug use.

"The objective of all of this stuff was to stop the flow of drugs into the United States," he said. "And we have just as many drugs coming into the United States today as we did in 1985. And the price is cheaper and quality of the drugs is better."

Still, Raffanello said Jeb's greatest impact was the shift of drug violence from the Sunshine State to the U.S./ Mexico border, saying the violence in Florida decreased "exponentially."

"We probably had three of the most successful years we had in the last two decades," he said.

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Talk of rolling back Obama's Iran nuclear deal on day one is not 'mature' **// The Washington Times // Kellan Howell – July 18, 2015**

Jeb Bush told a Nevada audience on Friday that he would not repeal President Obama's Iran nuclear agreement on day one.

Speaking in Carson City, the former Florida governor reiterated his opposition to the deal, which will ease economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for a decade of limitations to it's nuclear program.

But Mr. Bush stopped short of promising he would dismantle the deal and denounced other Republicans who have promised to do so, calling them panderers, Politico reported.

"At 12:01 on January, whatever it is, 19th [2017], I will probably have a confirmed secretary of state; I will not have a confirmed national security team in place; I will not have consulted with our allies. I will not have had the intelligence briefings to have made a decision," Mr. Bush said, Politico reported. "If you're running for president, I think it's important to be mature and thoughtful about this."

Mr. Bush said he would never have negotiated with Iran in the first place and told the crowd of roughly 100 people at the town hall that he doesn't discredit Mr. Obama for doing so, but for not negotiating harder.

"I'm deeply worried about this agreement because I think it's going to create the possibility of nuclear proliferation in the region and a much more unstable Middle East that will impact us," he said, Politico reported.

After holding a moment of silence for the Marines killed in a shooting Thursday at a recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mr. Bush slammed Mr. Obama for a foreign policy approach that has left the Middle East in tatters and had led to incidents of domestic terrorism like this week's shooting.

"We're living in times that are quite perilous," Mr. Bush said, Politico reported. "Now we see what happens when we pull back. These threats spread over the Internet all around the world including our own country. I, for one, we believe we need to reengage with the rest of the world, fight barbaric Islamic terrorism in the Middle East and also do what we need to do to protect the homeland, using all the tools available to make it so, protecting civil liberties along the way but make sure, make sure that we keep this country safe."

FBI officials have yet to confirm if the accused 24-year-old Kuwaiti-born gunman had any ties to Islamic terrorist organizations.

RUBIO

Rubio: 'The American people believe in immigration' **// The Hill // Keith Laing – July 18, 2015**

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on Saturday said he believes voters are willing to embrace immigration reform if officials find a way to stem the tide of illegal entrances into the country.

"I think the American people believe in immigration and want it to work for America," the Republican presidential

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candidate said at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa.

"I don't think we can make any progress on it until we bring illegal immigration under control," Rubio continued. "That's been the biggest lesson of last three years."

Rubio pushed for an immigration reform package in 2013, prior launching his 2016 presidential bid, but he backed off amid staunch opposition from conservatives.

The White House hopeful placed blame for the failed immigration reform effort on President Obama and Democrats in Congress.

"I believe people are ready to be very reasonable about it [and] modernize our system," he said. "But before they do anything, they want to make sure that problem we have now of a rampant, out-of-control illegal immigration is brought under control and never happens again, and they don't believe that is and they don't trust this president to do it."

Obama has moved to address immigration through executive action, arguing he had to act on his own because Congress failed to pass an immigration reform measure in his first six years in office.

Rubio said blamed the congressional inaction on Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), who was the majority leader until the beginning of this year.

"It was frustrating for four years in the Senate, and Harry Reid chose to do nothing," he said. "And even now, we face the situation where even if we make progress, you have a president that will veto things."

"There are consequences to electing someone to the highest office of the land is who more interested in doing things by executive order than through the proper channel that our constitution gives us."

Rubio also criticized Obama for striking a nuclear agreement with Iran, saying the president is pursuing the deal "because he wants a legacy.

"He is dying to build exhibits for his presidential library," Rubio said of Obama, who promised to meet with hostile foreign leaders during his 2008 campaign.

"This is going to be that Barack Obama opened up America to Iran, and the next president blew it," Rubio continued. "And it's absurd and our allies in the region know it's absurd."

"We now live in a world were we treat the Ayatollah in Tehran with more respect than the Prime Minister of the only pro-American, free enterprise democracy in the Middle East, the state of Israel," the Florida senator said.

He said the final decision on the Iran deal will come down to "whether you are able to convince 13-14 Democrats to vote against it."

He said he is opposed to the nuclear agreement because "the inspection requirements in the deal are a complete sham."

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"It sounds almost like an arbitration panel for a contract between two companies," Rubio added.

WALKER

Scott Walker Is Starting His Road to the White House in a Winnebago // ABC News // Jordyn Phelps – July 18, 2015

On his first trip to Iowa as the fresh face of the Republican presidential field, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has been putting the pedal to the metal, crisscrossing the Hawkeye State's corn field-lined interstates in a souped-up Winnebago RV with a goal of hitting all 99 counties before voters here cast the nation's first votes in the presidential nominating process.

Since arriving in Iowa Friday -- the final stop of his whirlwind five-state, 16-city campaign kickoff tour -- it has been abundantly clear that Iowa is the key to Walker's White House hopes.

"We're pulling a full Grassley. We're doing like Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst and Terry Bandstad," Walker is telling audience after audience, referring to the state's two senators and governor, as he traverses the length and breadth of Iowa with his wife and two college-age sons. "We're going around in an RV in all 99 counties across this great state. We're having a lot of fun, it's a lot of fun for us cruising around the state in the RV."

It's a tried-and-true approach for the masters of Iowa-style retail politics, and one that's not only reaped benefits for Iowa politicians but presidential hopefuls too. Rick Santorum, the winner of the state's 2012 Republican caucuses, visited all 99 counties. And as the governor of a neighboring Midwestern state who spent his early childhood years in Iowa, the son of a small-town Baptist preacher, Walker goes heavy in emphasizing his Midwestern roots – and values -- as he makes his pitch to voters here.

While campaigning this week, he has taken to pulling from his pocket a 40-year-old-photo of him and his brother, David, holding an Iowa state flag and telling the story of how as boys they raised money to buy a state flag for the Plainfield, Iowa, town hall by walking around town with a mayonnaise jar with a slit in the top, eventually collecting enough coins to purchase the flag.

"That's the kind of people we are here in the Midwest," Walker said. "We stand up for what's right, we do the right thing, we don't make a lot of fuss about it, we just do it. And I think that's what we need now more than ever in Washington."

Everything from Walker's choice of transportation (he jokes he could go camping in the RV) to his footwear (Harley boots) and the contents of his pockets (that photo of him and his brother holding an Iowa state flag as children), bolster Walker's narrative as a relatable guy who could just as easily live down the block as he could at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Walker closes his stump speech with a promise not to leave the people of Iowa behind in the rearview mirror of his Winnebago if they can deliver him a win in the 2016 caucuses.

"I'm not just coming to the caucus, I'm committed here," Walker says. "You help me win this caucus and we go on and become the nominee, we will be back in Iowa to win in November of 2016, because the pathway to a Republican president comes through the Midwest."

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Iowa Republicans get some satisfaction as Scott Walker rolls up like a rock star // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 18, 2015

In a shortsleeved button-down shirt and with a thin veil of sweat on his upper lip, Scott Walker would never be mistaken for Mick Jagger. Yet on his first official trip to Iowa as a candidate for the presidency, the Wisconsin governor came across as a rock star in mid-tour form.

In lieu of performing his greatest hits, Walker reached back to his 40-minute announcement speech from Monday – and gave some lines word for word.

Surrounded by a crowd of almost 200 in a room on the upper deck of a minor-league baseball stadium in Davenport, Walker said he could bring "new and fresh leadership which gets things done". He went on to recite the story of how he cracked down on organized labor in his home state, praising the idea of "true freedom" as he did so.

"As long as you don't violate the health and safety of your neighbor, go out and start your own business," Walker said.

He also denounced Barack Obama's deal with Iran and, unsurprisingly, cited Ronald Reagan as his foreign policy model.

Many of the attendees were familiar with Walker's record. John Moeller of Davenport told the Guardian he had long been a small donor to the Wisconsin governor. Pat Turner of nearby Coal Valley, Illinois, said her daughter, a student at the University of Wisconsin, experiencing major budget cuts pushed by the governor, didn't much like him. However, Turner, a former teachers union member, liked that the Wisconsin governor cracked down on tenure for public school teachers.

No screaming teenage girls ran on stage – although Miss Scott County 2014 did sit behind Walker, wearing tiara and sash. The governor was approached, after his speech, by a homeless man, who embraced him.

Gregory Kehl, a 60-year-old army veteran wearing a Harley-Davidson vest, asked to pray with the candidate. As they embraced, Kehl prayed for a Walker victory. He had never voted before, he said, but he would do so in this election for Walker.

Kehl then asked for help finding something to eat. Walker directed him to a staff member who took him to an assortment of hamburgers and bratwursts, provided for attendees.

Some more traditional Republican supporters were also impressed. Gene Lepperd of Bettendorf talked to the Guardian while munching on a bratwurst with onions and ketchup. Lepperd, who was wearing an Iowa State University polo shirt, said he thought Walker was No 1 in the 15-strong Republican field. Asked why, he cited Walker's record as governor.

A lot of politicians will give "these flowery speeches", Lepperd said, but he thought the governor was "one of the few who had walked the walk" with his conservatism in office in Wisconsin.

The Davenport event was Walker's first stop in Iowa as an official candidate – he has announced his intent to visit

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all 99 counties in the course of the primary campaign. He was scheduled to crisscross the Hawkeye State through Sunday.

Scott Walker promises forceful foreign policy in Sioux City stop // Sioux City Journal // Bret Hayworth – July 18, 2015

Pointing to his experience as Wisconsin's chief executive, Gov. Scott Walker on Saturday vowed he would establish the toughest foreign policy since Ronald Reagan if he wins the presidency in 2016.

Walker, a Republican, told a crowd of 200 in Sioux City that he would steer the nation away from Democratic President Barack Obama's failed, inadequate defense of longtime ally Israel and ensure that sanctions remain on Iran, a nation that is suspected of wanting to develop nuclear weapons. A 60-day period for Congress to review Obama's deal to lift sanctions on Iran is underway.

"Iran is not a place we should being doing business with," Walker said.

Walker spoke for 20 minutes outside a Republican Party office downtown on a sunny day. He didn't take questions from the crowd.

He came through the city as part of a six-state, 16-city swing after launching his campaign Monday in Wisconsin. He plans to visit 10 Iowa counties through Sunday, traveling in a Winnebago motor home.

Walker noted that he lived as a young boy in Plainfield, Iowa, in the 1970s before his minister father moved the family to Wisconsin. He peppered his remarks with statements about living in Iowa, Big 10 Conference sports and shopping for bargains at Kohl's.

When he turned to policies, Walker said he would boost the economy by reducing harmful federal regulations on business, decreasing tax rates and ensuring that all types of energy be used nationally.

"I am for building a better economy, where everyone can be lifted up and get their piece of the American Dream. And I am for protecting your children and grandchildren from the threats of radical Islamic terrorism and other threats like that in the world," Walker said.

As for his Wisconsin accomplishments, Walker pointed to education reform, lowering property taxes and reducing benefits to state employee union members in 2011.

Walker said in becoming the first Republican governor in Wisconsin since 1984 he has demonstrated the mettle needed to win a bruising presidential election next year.

"I am going to come back and play to win in Iowa," Walker said of the state that is among roughly 10 battleground states that could decide the presidency.

Walker has led the broad Republican field in Iowa polls for many months, even though he wasn't officially a candidate until this week.

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Walker's visit closed out a notable week of Republican candidates making their first visit to Sioux City. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush spoke Monday, and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio had a campaign stop on Friday. They drew crowds ranging in size from 140 (Rubio) to 240 (Bush).

Sandy Sievers, of Sioux City, said Walker is among her current five top choices for president. She also likes former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Rubio, and U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz, of Texas, and Lindsay Graham, of South Carolina.

"I am checking Walker out thoroughly," Sievers said. "He is with my philosophy on foreign affairs. We do need to support Israel. We have kind of left them to sink or swim."

Jim Lewis, of Sioux City, has Walker and Perry in his top tier of candidates.

Lewis said the fact that Walker prevailed after an election to remove, or recall, him from the governor position is impressive.

"He is coming from a blue (Democratic-leaning) state. He won the election on the recall even more than he won the first time. To me, that shows he is doing the right thing," Lewis said.

PAUL

Report: Rand Paul calls for scrutiny of Muslims **// USA Today // Bill Theobald – July 18, 2015**

Breitbart News is reporting that GOP presidential candidate Rand Paul told one of its reporters backstage at a speech in Houston last night that the U.S. should provide extra scrutiny of people coming into the country from predominantly Muslim countries after the Chattanooga, Tenn., terrorist attack on Friday.

"I'm very concerned about immigration to this country from countries that have hotbeds of jihadism and hotbeds of this Islamism," Paul told Breitbart. "I think there does need to be heightened scrutiny. Nobody has a right to come to America, so this isn't something that we can say 'oh, their rights are being violated.' It's a privilege to come to America and we need to thoroughly screen those who are coming."

The alleged shooter in the Chattanooga incident -- which claimed the lives of five U.S. Marines -- was named Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez. The 24-year-old was born in Kuwait and immigrated to the U.S.

Paul also cited an incident in his hometown of Bowling Green, Ky., where two Iraqi refugees who were placed in Kentucky tried to buy military grade missiles.

"I think we're doing the wrong thing by just having this open door policy to bring in people without significant scrutiny. I'm for increasing scrutiny on people who come on student visas from the 25 countries that have significant jihadism. Also, any kind of permanent visas or green cards, we need to be very careful. I don't think we're being careful enough with who we let in," he said.

Paul, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said he would ask that senators to look at reinstating the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System program.

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Started in 2002 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the DHS system recorded the arrival, stay and departure of people from countries chosen based on an analysis of possible national security threats. Registrants were also required to register when they left. The program was effectively eliminated in 2011.

Ron Paul Not Listed As Donor To Rand Paul's Presidential Campaign // Daily Caller // Jamie Weinstein – July 18, 2015

Rand Paul's father Ron does not appear to be among the over 100,000 donors so far to his son's presidential campaign.

According to the younger Paul's recent Federal Election Commission filing, the elder Paul, a former Texas congressman who himself ran for president three times, has yet to donate to his son's 2016 presidential campaign — at least not more than the $200 threshold where his donation would be required to report. Rand's mother, Carol, does not appear to have donated her son's campaign yet either.

In contrast, the other Republican presidential contender with a storied political family, Jeb Bush, has received the maximum allowable donation of $2,700 from both his father, former President George H.W. Bush, and his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush.

A host of Bush siblings and in-laws, including former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush, have also donated $2,700 to Jeb's campaign to win the Republican presidential nomination.

An email to Paul's campaign spokesman by The Daily Caller Thursday requesting comment went unreturned.

Between April when Paul officially entered the presidential field and June 30, Paul has raised nearly $7 million, according to numbers filed earlier this week with the FEC. That number places him ahead of Republican contenders like Carly Fiorina and Rick Perry, but behind Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, Ben Carson and Ted Cruz.

Paul's mother Carol did donate $2,000 to her son's Senate race in 2010.

CRUZ

Cruz: Planned Parenthood leaders should be prosecuted // The Hill // Keith Laing – July 18, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on Saturday said the leaders of Planned Parenthood should be prosecuted after the release of a video this week showing an executive discussing the donation of fetal organs.

"Every American should watch that video and say, 'Are those my values?' " the 2016 presidential candidate said at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa.

"On tape, it appears a Planned Parenthood official is admitting to multiple felonies," he continued. "The U.S. Department of Justice, if it was not simply a partisan arm of the DNC, should open an investigation and prosecute Planned Parenthood. Congress should hold hearings and we should cut off funds."

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Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical services, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, was filmed discussing the demand for fetal organs such as livers, lungs and “intact” hearts. The video has been viewed more than 1.5 million times since it was released Tuesday.

Republicans have threatened to cut of the group's federal funding since the release of the video, but Democrats have sought to protect the payments.

Paul said he also took issue with a recent Supreme Court decision to legalize same-sex marriage, which he said was "lawless and it was sad."

"It's naked judicial activism," he said.

Ted Cruz On Iran Deal: There Will Be Blood // Breitbart – July 18, 2015

In case there was any doubt, which there probably wasn’t, Sen. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) is not a fan of the Iran deal that President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday.

Indeed, he told CQ Roll Call Tuesday it will fund murder.

If the deal goes into effect, it “will result in the United States government becoming one of the leading funders of international terrorism,” and that “those American dollars will be used to murder Americans, to murder Israelis, to murder Europeans.”

The Texas Republican said a sensible commander in chief would demand that Iran disassemble all centrifuges, forfeit its enriched uranium, shut down its intercontinental ballistic missile program — which is solely to “carry a nuclear weapon to the U.S.” — and stop being the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Cruz called Obama’s speech announcing the deal “particularly shameful” for not mentioning Americans imprisoned in Iran — specifically Pastor Saeed Abedini, Marine veteran Amir Hekmati and journalist Jason Rezaian.

“To see the president not even mention Americans wallowing in Iranian prisons for having the temerity to profess their faith, for having the temerity to exercise their First Amendment rights, I cannot imagine the heartbreak and betrayal that [their] families must be feeling and that every American should be feeling at a president who doesn’t stand up and defend Americans,” Cruz said.

Cruz, of course, isn’t the only 2016 aspirant to oppose the Iran deal. The party’s candidates appear united in opposition.

Ted Cruz says he won't 'go into the gutter' to criticize Donald Trump // Business Insider // Bryan Logan – July 18, 2015

Criticism of real estate mogul-turned-presidential candidate Donald Trump has been swift and boisterous of late, thanks to Trump's fiery statements labeling some Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and drug-runners.

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Trump's latest target is Arizona Senator John McCain (R), a decorated veteran who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

After the billionaire businessman trampled McCain's service record Saturday, saying "He's not a war hero," and mocked McCain's time in captivity, the ensuing backlash was quick and sharp.

Current GOP presidential candidates and the Republican Party at large have summarily condemned Trump's attack, except for one candidate, Ted Cruz.

In a Bloomberg interview Saturday, Cruz said "I'm not going to go into the gutter with personal attacks"

Cruz hearkened back to his days in the Senate where he says "I haven't impugned the character of Republicans or Democrats and I don't intend to start today," Bloomberg reports.

Trump has doubled down on his unfiltered political rhetoric despite criticism coming from all sides, including Republican National Committee chairman, Reince Priebus.

News Corporation founder, Rupert Murdoch, tweeted Saturday that Trump is "embarrassing the country."

For better or worse, Trump has not been shy about challenging anyone who opposes him — engaging critics on social media and in public.

In the few weeks since Trump launched his 2016 presidential campaign, Ted Cruz, who is also vying for the GOP nomination, has made a concerted effort to stay out of Trump's way.

Even as the repudiation of Donald Trump's views on immigration exploded, Cruz — who is of Cuban ancestry — backed away, even saying he "salutes" Trump for "focusing on the need to address illegal immigration."

PERRY

Rick Perry redoubles attack on Donald Trump for John McCain remarks // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 18, 2015

Former Texas governor Rick Perry doubled down on his condemnation of Donald Trump's attack on John McCain, demanding an immediate apology.

Trump, however, said only that McCain was "yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television".

Hours after Trump said McCain was "not a war hero" on stage at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Perry went on the same stage and tore into Trump for his remarks.

McCain's plane was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967 and he spent five and a half years in captivity, subject

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to repeated torture.

Perry said: “I was highly offended about what Donald Trump said about [McCain’s] years of sacrifice in a dirty, dingy, terrible prison in North Vietnam. Donald Trump owes every American veteran and, in particular, John McCain an apology.”

In response to a follow-up question from moderator Frank Luntz, the former Texas governor said that if Trump did not apologize it would disqualify him from being a legitimate candidate as well as commander in chief.

Perry’s comments received polite applause from the audience of thousands of Iowa social conservatives.

In a statement on Saturday afternoon, Trump tried to pivot on his comments about McCain and distance himself from criticism of the Arizona senator’s service. Trump said: “I am not a fan [of] John McCain because he has done so little for our veterans and he should know better than anybody what the veterans need, especially in regards to the VA [Veterans Affairs department].

“He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the vets.”

Earlier on Saturday, Perry’s campaign had issued a statement stating Trump’s comments represented “ a new low in American politics” and urging the former Celebrity Apprentice host to “immediately withdraw from the race for president”.

In recent days, Perry has engaged war of words with Trump. The former Texas governor has condemned Trump’s comments on immigration and said the billionaire’s ideology was “a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense”.

In return, Trump tweeted that Perry “should be forced to take an IQ test before being allowed to enter the GOP debate”.

Perry is running for president for a second time, after his 2012 campaign was torpedoed by a debate gaffe, in which he forgot the name of a third government department he was proposing to abolish.

Perry calls on Trump to end his campaign: ‘His comments have reached a new low’ // Washington Times // Seth McLaughlin – July 18, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is calling on Donald Trump to bow out of the 2016 GOP presidential race, after the New York real estate mogul ridiculed Sen. John McCain’s military service.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Trump have been engaged in a back-and-forth that escalated Saturday when Mr. Trump dismissed the idea that Mr. McCain is a war hero for getting shot down over Vietnam and being imprisoned for nearly six years.

Mr. Perry called on Mr. Trump to apologize and end his bid for the White House, and the Republican National Committee said that there is “no place in our party” for Mr. Trump’s comments.

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“As a veteran and an American, I respect Sen. McCain because he volunteered to serve his country. I cannot say the same of Mr. Trump. His comments have reached a new low in American politics,” Mr. Perry said. “His attack on veterans make him unfit to be Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for President.”

Mr. Trump and Mr. Perry have been trading barbs for several days.

Mr. Trump said Mr. Perry failed to secure the Texas-Mexico border as governor and said Mr. Perry should be “forced to take an IQ test before being allowed to enter the GOP debate.”

Mr. Trump also had took aim this week at Mr. McCain, the party’s 2008 presidential nominee, calling him a “dummy” after the Arizona Senator said that Mr. Trump’s controversial remarks on immigration have fired “up the crazies” in the Republican party.

The feud spilled into the Family Leadership Summit in Iowa on Saturday when Mr. Trump mocked Mr. McCain’s war hero status.

“He’s not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured,” Mr. Trump said, sarcastically. “I like people who weren’t captured.”

Then he added, “He’s a war hero because he was captured. OK, I believe — perhaps he’s a war hero.”

Mr. Trump’s GOP presidential came to Mr. McCain’s defense.

“If there was ever any doubt that @realDonaldTrump should not be our commander in chief, this stupid statement should end all doubt,” Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said.

“Enough with the slanderous attacks,” said former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. “@SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration.”

Sean Spicer, RNC spokesperson, said Mr. McCain is “an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period.”

“There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably,” Mr. Spicer said.

Despite the blow back, Mr. Trump signaled he plans on sticking around the nomination race, blasting out a news release in which he leveled additional criticism at Mr. McCain.

“He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the Vets,” Mr. Trump said. “He is also allowing our military to decrease substantially in size and strength, something which should never be allowed to happen.”

“I have great respect for all those who serve in our military including those that weren’t captured and are also heroes,” he added. “I want to strengthen our military and take care of our Veterans. I want to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN especially for those that serve to protect our freedom. I am fighting for our Veterans!”

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Rick Perry: Trump Is Unfit to Lead the Military, 'Should Immediately Withdraw' from Race // MediaIte // Josh Feldman – July 18, 2015

Lots of Donald Trump's Republican presidential candidates have already shredded him for his comments about John McCain, but Rick Perry came out swinging by calling for Trump to basically GTFO.

In case you missed it, the draft-defering Trump attacked McCain today over his war hero status because, "He's a war hero 'cause he was captured. I like people that weren't captured."

Now, for some unbelievable reason, lots of conservatives including the aforementioned candidates thought Trump crossed a line.

Perry was the first to release a statement on The Donald's latest rambling, this one really going for the jugular (emphasis his):

Donald Trump should apologize immediately for attacking Senator McCain and all veterans who have protected and served our country. As a veteran and an American, I respect Sen. McCain because he volunteered to serve his country. I cannot say the same of Mr. Trump. His comments have reached a new low in American politics. His attack on veterans make him unfit to be Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for President.

For the record, when Trump was asked if he plans to apologize, he said no.

Rick Perry calls on Donald Trump to withdraw from the presidential race // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – July 18, 2015

Real-estate magnate Donald Trump's latest comments were a bridge too far for many top Republican presidential rivals. And at least one candidate wants him out of the race.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) said Trump should be disqualified from running for president.

"His attack on veterans make him unfit to be Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for President," Perry said in a statement.

At an event in Iowa on Saturday, Trump raised eyebrows for criticizing Sen. John McCain's (R-Arizona) military service and status as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured," Trump said.

Trump's comments sparked immediate condemnation from the Republican presidential field. Perry was the first to explicitly call for him to withdraw from the race.

"I respect Sen. McCain because he volunteered to serve his country," Perry said in a statement. "I cannot say the same of Mr. Trump. His comments have reached a new low in American politics."

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GOP candidate and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), McCain's long-time friend, also said Trump's comments were "disqualifying." Other Republican hopefuls, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R), condemned Trump's remarks.

Trump was quick to slightly tone down his comments about McCain, though he did not apologize.

"He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the [veterans]," Trump said in a statement. "He is also allowing our military to decrease substantially in size and strength, something which should never be allowed to happen."

As it has done when defending controversial comments in the past, Trump's campaign cited the excitement in the crowd as proof that his message resonated with the crowd.

"Note, Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much congratulatory praise," a statement from the Trump campaign said.

Trump's comments come after McCain criticized the real estate mogul earlier this month for bringing out "the crazies" in the Republican base.

Perry — a former cargo-plane pilot in the Air Force — made military service a major part of his presidential campaign. In his announcement speech last month, the former governor was joined onstage with several veterans and the wife of sharpshooter Chris Kyle, made famous by the semi-biographical film American Sniper.

GRAHAM

'I feel like I'm on Oprah': Lindsey Graham tears up in Iowa as he explains how the government helped him survive his parents' early death // Daily Mail // David Martosko – July 18, 2015

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham fought back tears on Saturday during a religious Republican gathering, recalling his late mother and father, and imagining how he would talk to them if he could.

Graham was left with a 13-year-old sister to raise at age 21 when his parents both died within a year's time, and he said he wished they knew 'that Darline turned out really good.'

And risking the wrath of more than 1,000 red-meat conservatives gathered in Ames, Iowa, he insisted that he and his younger sibling wouldn't have survived the crisis of their lives without robust government benefits.

'I'm a proud Republican but there's a time and a place for the government,' he said. 'I've been on my knees and some people helped me get up.'

'I'm glad I had college loans for my sister,' he said. 'I'm glad Social Security is there. If I got to be president of the United States I'd make sure we did the right thing and the hard thing, because the country needs a leader and Barack Obama has been a miserable failure as president.'

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Asked by moderator Frank Luntz at the Family Leadership Summit to say what he would say to his parents, Graham paused while tears welled in his eyes.

He said, whisper-like, that he would say 'that Darline turned out really good.'

'And I've tried hard. And thanks to you, I've come a long way.'

Over generous applause at one of the day's most genuine human moments, Graham told the crowd: 'Love is not the size of the house, but what happens inside the house. I was well loved.'

'To all those kids who were not well loved, I feel so sorry for you,' he preached. 'This is a Family Leadership council. We're all one car wreck away from needing somebody's help.'

As the ovation subsided, Graham turned and smiled.

'I feel like I'm on Oprah,' he said. 'I'm sorry.'

'What does that make me?' Luntz asked.

Graham's focus on the value of taxpayer-funded benefits was a stark contrast to other GOP presidential candidates who spent their alloted time on stage describing which federal programs – and entire cabinet departments – they would ban from Washington.

The Internal Revenue Service, the Education and Energy Departments and the section of Health and Human Services that administers Obamacare programs were popular targets.

And while neither Republicans nor Democrats are fond of bashing entitlements like Social Security, there's scant agreement on how to keep the programs functioning as benefit payouts dramatically outpace taxpayer contributions.

The Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees reported in 2014 that the two programs' long-term unfunded obligations – money the government will need to distribute but has no plan to collect in taxes – has reached nearly $49 trillion.

That figure continues to grow and is approaching triple the size of America's official public debt.

Republican reformers have been loath to risk the wrath of elderly voters and those approaching retirement, tiptoeing around the idea of changing how benefits are allocated.

Think-tanks periodically propose raising the retirement age as Americans' life-expectancy grows, in order to keep Social Security solvent, or 'means-testing' Social Security by denying benefits to people who already have confortable retirement incomes of their own.

I'm a proud Republican but there's a time and a place for the government. I've been on my knees and some people helped me get up. I'm glad I had college loans for my sister. I'm glad Social Security is there.

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Sen. Lindsey Graham, reflecting on how the GOP needs to be willing to compromise in order to keep entitlement programs solvent

Democrats typically pan such proposals as mean-spirited and cruel, especially as biennial federal elections draw near.

But Graham, a centrist on immigration reform, said Saturday that his own experience with the Social Security program would drive him to reach across the political aisle as president and get something done.

'When I was 21 my mom died,' he said. 'A year later my dad died. I'm 22. My sister's 13.'

'My mom had Hodgkins Disease,' he recalled wistfully. 'We got totally wiped out because we were underinsured. So I don't need a lecture from Democrats about health care.'

'We got Social Security survivor benefits to help our family since my sister was a minor.'

Graham pointed to his own situation as an aging bachelor, and hinted that he was a stand-in for other Americans who could afford to bend on their retirement expectations.

'I'm 60, I'm not married, I don't have any children,' he said.

'What would I do to save Social Security for people who need it more than I do? Almost anything.'

'I would give up some of my benefits to save it for those who needed it more. I'd work with a Democrat to save Medicare and Social Security. Because if we don't, we're all going down together.'

Graham told the story of Republican President Ronald Reagan and Democratic House Speaker Thomas 'Tip' O'Neill collaborating in 1983 to avoid a Social Security default by raising the retirement age.

While both men's partisan backers grumbled, the pair took a public victory lap and became genuine friends.

That result, surprising for Washington, emerged after Reagan formed a White House commission on saving Social Security and invited O'Neill and the Democrats to share its seats.

In contrast President Barack Obama, said Graham, 'has done nothing but talk.'

A similar commision, named after co-chairs Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, a former Republican Senator and Clinton Chief of Staff, delivered recommendations on the long-term solvency of the U.S. treasury that the White House has largely ignored.

'He had a chance to do something about our national debt – Simpson-Bowles,' Graham complained on Saturday. 'He threw it in the trash can.'

SANTORUM

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Rick Santorum wants curbs on legal immigration in effort to help boost wages in US // **AP – July 18, 2015**

Several Republicans presidential candidates are vowing to stop illegal immigration. But Rick Santorum says the U.S. needs to curtail legal immigration as well.

The former Pennsylvania senator says the vast majority of immigrants coming into the U.S. — legally and illegally — are driving down wages for American-born workers.

Santorum tells Iowa evangelical voters on Saturday that "we need to hold the line and stop illegal immigration" while reducing legal immigration of unskilled workers by 25 percent. He says that will help bring up wages in the U.S.

Santorum is among 10 presidential candidates courting religious conservatives in Iowa. He won the state's caucuses in 2012, but faces strong competition for the evangelical vote in 2016.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee Responds to Trump: 'John McCain is a hero' // **Alex Swoyer – July 18, 2015**

GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee distanced himself from fellow candidate Donald Trump's statements about Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)43%

on Saturday.

"I said very clearly Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) is a hero — Donald Trump will need to determine whether that's a statement he needs to walk back," Huckabee told a news conference, saying that he continues to speak only for himself.

Reporters also questioned Huckabee about Trump's popularity, since the real estate mogul has rocketed to number one in recent polls.

"I'm having a hard time understanding why I don't have 97 percent in the polls right now," Huckabee quipped, saying he'll focus on his campaign and not on Trump.

Huckabee added that the polls will continue to fluctuate.

"You guys are giving him so much attention — give me a little bit of the love," Huckabee joked to the press.

The crowd at the Family Leadership Summit certainly did. Huckabee got four standing ovations — the most for any candidate so far.

CARSON

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Carson: Black voters 'waking up' to GOP // The Hill // Keith Laing – July 18, 2015

Ben Carson on Saturday said African-American voters are "waking up" to the possibility of supporting GOP candidates for office like himself.

"I think there's a lot of people who are waking up," the neurosurgeon-turned-presidential candidate said at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa.

"I met with a group of black pastors yesterday and people are waking up in droves," he continued. "I think they're realizing what's been happening here."

Carson said he converted to the Republican Party after growing up and going to school in Democratic strongholds during the Reagan administration.

"I started listening to Ronald Reagan ... and I said he doesn't doesn't sound like that," he said, noting he had heard horror stories about conservatives during his entire upbringing.

Carson criticized President Obama for shrinking the size of the U.S. military in the face of terrorism threats in the Middle East.

"Our military is shrinking while our enemies are growing and metastasizing," he said. "It seems like we're trying to destroy ourselves. We've got to do better than that."

The Republican presidential hopeful said he would prepared to fight Islamic State in Syria and Iraq if successful in his bid to become commander-in-chief.

"We have radical Islamic jihadists who want to destroy us and they want to destroy our way of life," he said. "And their existence is a threat to us. We cannot be in that mindset that we made a mistake and we spent a bunch of money, so let's just get into our little cocoon. That's not going to work."

Dr. Ben Carson on 'Trump's McCain Statement: 'We Need to Hear from Everybody' // Breitbart News // Alex Swoyer – July 18, 2015

In a press conference following GOP candidate Dr. Ben Carson's speech at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, Carson was asked what he thought about Trump's comments on illegal immigration and recent statement on Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) as a war hero, which Trump made during his own speech at the Summit.

"I think everybody has their niche – everybody has their voice," Carson answered. "I think we need to hear from everybody. And that's the beauty of the process we have."

A reporter asked Carson what niche Trump has in the GOP presidential race.

"I think that's a decision that will be made by the people," Carson answered.

Carson continued to say the people will decide who's voice they favor: "Not the media, not the pundits, but the people – all we have to do is make sure we allow voices to be heard."

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Carson said he believes Sen. McCain has done some wonderful things when questioned if he considers McCain a war hero.

JINDAL

Jindal focuses on his religion in Indianola // The Des Moines Register // Paige Godden – July 18, 2015

Hours before Bobby Jindal met hundreds of media and fans Saturday at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, he sat down with a much more intimate crowd 50 miles south in Indianola.

About 60 people gathered to see the Louisiana governor and White House hopeful at the First Assembly of God Church.

Jindal started his hour-long remarks by pointing out that the sleeping baby his wife Supriya Jolly was holding wasn't theirs.

"Before we start any rumors, that is not our baby," Jindal said. "That'd be news to my parents and a lot of other folks back home."

The Jindals have three children of their own: Slade, Selia and Shaan.

The youngest of which, Bobby said, was accidentally born at home.

His wife was in labor for more than 24 hours with the first two children, he said, but the third came in 30 minutes.

"I'll tell you this," Jindal told the crowd. "Any man who thinks they're tough, there's a reason the Lord God almighty decided women — not men — should have babies. If men had babies, there would be one and we'd get together and say 'never again.' "

The Republican focused a good portion of his speech on his religious beliefs.

He said as commander in chief he'd hunt down and kill radical Islamic terrorists and make sure to condemn the "evil individuals who are going straight to hell, where they belong."

Jindal later said Christians are the ones who are being persecuted in America.

His remarks on terrorism began with blasting President Barack Obama, who at the Pentagon earlier this week said the country can't win the war on terror with guns.

"You know, I'm glad generals Eisenhower and Patton didn't take that idea in World War II," Jindal said. "Can you imagine if a previous generation said we're going to win, we're going to beat evil with propaganda? The French

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would be speaking German today."

He said instead of having a president who is busy apologizing for and criticizing America and wants to protect Americans from microwave popcorn, Oreos and junk food, citizens should want a president who will actually say the words "radical Islamic terrorism."

"How can we beat an enemy if we're not willing to name it, identify it and confront it?" Jindal asked. "I don't want a commander in chief who says we're going to contain them. I want a commander in chief who says we're going to hunt them down and kill them."

He said as president, he'd tell Muslim leaders they have to explicitly embrace the same freedoms for people of different religious beliefs as they want for themselves.

Jindal said his own statements are harsh, and he'll be judged for being anti-Muslim or racist, but he said it's just common sense to say he'd confront radical Islamic terrorism.

Later, he called out Hillary Clinton, who said Jindal was too extreme for saying he wants to get rid of the Supreme Court justices after they legalized gay marriage.

Maybe, he said, he really only wants two-thirds of the justices gone.

"We need Republicans who are willing to fight for our principles," Jindal said. "I'm for federal efforts to give us our Tenth Amendment back to define marriage as being between a man and a woman, but we also need to fight for our First Amendment rights."

He said the left is trying to take away the First Amendment right of freedom of religious expression.

"Several weeks ago, Hillary Clinton said those of us who are pro-life need to have our religious beliefs changed," Jindal said. "My religious beliefs are between me and God almighty. I'm not changing because Hillary Clinton doesn't like it, or the New York Times doesn't like it. But make no mistake, the left are now trying to silence us."

In Louisiana, Jindal said, he wrote an executive order in May protecting the rights of individuals and businesses that says no one can sanction or discriminate against those who have a traditional view of marriage.

His reward, he said, was a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union.

"They used Louisiana's own Religious Freedom and Restoration Act to defend the rights of religious minorities, and I'm glad they did," Jindal said. "But now that Christians are the ones being persecuted and discriminated against, now the ACLU is showing its hypocrisy. They don't want anything to do with the rights of Christians.

"I want to say this very slowly and simply so even Hillary Clinton can understand it," Jindal said. "The United States of America did not create religions liberty. Religious liberty created the United States of America."

Jindal also talked about Israel and Iran, stating every time Israel gets attacked, the president talks in moral equivalents.

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The president, he said, believes both sides should make concessions even though only one side is using suicide bombers to attack civilians.

Instead of putting pressure on Israel, Jindal said, the country needs to figure out how to reject violence and believe in itself.

"If they want negotiations, it's up to them to reject violence, to reject terrorism, to recognize the right for Israel's right to exist," Jindal said.

He questioned how Obama can be making deals with Iran when he can't even acknowledge Israel exists.

"We need to make it clear Israel is our most important ally in the Middle East," Jindal said. "Secondly, I will not recognize a bad deal negotiated by this president."

Jindal received a lot of applause with his stance on immigration, including a story on how his parents achieved the American dream.

"When they came, they came legally," he said to a clapping audience.

He received even louder applause when he said: "If folks want to come to our country, they should come legally, they should learn English, they should adopt our values and they should roll up their sleeves and get to work when they get here."

Jindal later said he'd try to protect the border, but he wouldn't do that with a 1,000-page immigration bill. The only thing that would be good for, he said, is if someone decided to stack the pages up along the border.

TRUMP

The Trump Campaign's Turning Point **// NYT // Nate Cohn – July 18, 2015**

Donald Trump's surge in the polls has followed the classic pattern of a media-driven surge. Now it will likely follow the classic pattern of a party-backed decline.

Mr. Trump's candidacy probably reached an inflection point on Saturday after he essentially criticized John McCain for being captured during the Vietnam War. Republican campaigns and elites quickly moved to condemn his comments — a shift that will probably mark the moment when Trump's candidacy went from boom to bust.

His support will erode as the tone of coverage shifts from publicizing his anti-establishment and anti-immigration views, which have some resonance in the party, to reflecting the chorus of Republican criticism of his most outrageous comments and the more liberal elements of his record.

His surge in the presidential polls began on June 16 when he declared his candidacy. Announcements of that type

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always yield a wave of media coverage, just as they did for candidates like Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio. So far this year, media attention from announcements has helped the best-known candidates by an average of six percentage points, with the effect degrading steadily afterward.

But Mr. Trump has not received an ordinary amount of media attention, and he has not received an ordinary bounce. He has been perfecting the art of attracting media attention for more than two decades, first in New York and then nationwide. Today, he is a celebrity, the biggest and best-known personality in the race, someone who would attract an unusual amount of attention and interest even if he said nothing unusual or interesting. Mr. Trump, of course, made unusual and provocative comments from the start, saying in his announcement speech that Mexican “rapists” were entering the United States.

The amount of news media coverage of Mr. Trump dwarfed the attention received by other candidates. His post-announcement bounce has dwarfed other candidates’ surges as well. In taking the lead in some polls, he has justified another wave of media coverage and attention that continues to the article you’re reading right now.

It is tempting to attribute Mr. Trump’s surge to something more than media coverage, to assume that his positions must have unusual resonance with Republican voters, or to infer that Republicans are clamoring for an anti-immigration candidate. Those factors do play a role, but the predominant force is extraordinary and sustained media coverage.

Donald Trump’s support kept climbing, even after his initial post-announcement boost.

The average includes Donald Trump and all candidates who received at least 4 percent in polls before their announcement: Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee and Ben Carson.

The polling is consistent with the media-driven explanation as well. His support does not follow ideological lines, as Harry Enten of FiveThirtyEight has observed. It is not even clear that he has more support among immigration hard-liners than other Republicans. A Politico article titled “The Mystery of the Trump Coalition” struggled to identify which issues or demographics drove support for Mr. Trump. There might not be any.

Media-driven bumps occur all the time. Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry and Herman Cain all rode bits of good news to a lead in national polls in 2011. They even occur in general elections, like after a party convention, when voter preferences are far firmer than they are in a 17-way primary. Google Trends data indicates that the interest in Mr. Trump rivals or even exceeds the interest in Mitt Romney after the Republican National Convention and presidential debates in 2012.

But media-driven surges are not sustainable. Eventually, the media coverage shifts from whatever initially propelled the bounce — an announcement, a strong debate performance, a convention — toward a more serious examination of the candidate newly at the top of the polls. Some candidates can withstand this scrutiny. Most do not.

Google search interest in Donald Trump has been about the same as Mitt Romney’s during September and October of 2012, before the general election.

Lynn Vavreck, who contributes to The Upshot, and her fellow political scientist John Sides described the cycle of boom-bust candidacies as “discovery, scrutiny and decline” in their book “The Gamble.” Mr. Trump, who already enjoys high name recognition, may not present a typical case of “discovery,” but it’s highly unlikely he’ll avoid decline after encountering scrutiny.

Even a cursory look at Mr. Trump’s political record revealed a candidate with serious liabilities once journalists

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and campaigns started taking him seriously. He has donated more to Democrats than Republicans over the last decade. He has even donated to Hillary Clinton, who he has said he likes, and the Clinton Foundation. He has supported universal health care and seems to continue to do so. He has supported a $5 trillion dollar tax increase and has said he is “very pro choice,” although he has since changed his position on abortion. He is self-evidently unelectable in a general election, combining terrible poll numbers with an unpresidential persona.

Conservative candidates and their supporters view him as a rival. They have every incentive to publicize those of his views that the G.O.P. considers heretical. More moderate and establishment-friendly Republicans oppose his statements and views on immigration. They fear that his tone will alienate Hispanic voters, who are considered essential to the party’s general election chances now and in the future. Mr. Trump’s supporters will start taking cues from the uniform opinion of their fellow partisans.

Until today, the big question about Mr. Trump was when coverage would shift toward a serious examination of him. Journalists and campaigns have, understandably, been reluctant to treat him as a serious candidate. The Huffington Post, for instance, decided it would cover him in the entertainment section. But eventually, campaigns were bound to treat him as a threat to be neutralized, and journalists would decide he was a candidate who needed to be covered.

Today, Mr. Trump brought the shift upon himself. His comments were nothing less than an invitation for the rest of the Republican Party to begin their long-awaited offensive. So far, the Republican National Committee, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, Jeb Bush and Scott Walker have already criticized him for his comments.

After today, Republican commentators and campaigns will have far fewer reservations about attacking Mr. Trump. They will be dismissive of his candidacy, and they will probably diversify their attacks, expanding the onslaught to include his record of donating to Democrats and his continuing support for universal health care. Nearly all of the campaigns have incentives to pile on, and Mr. Trump — without a deep base of support and with few party allies — will struggle to hold on.

He will probably try to stoke support and coverage with more attention-grabbing remarks, though my hunch is that his act will have lost its novelty by the time the attacks begin to take their toll. Voters will be looking for more from him than the bombastic campaign he has offered so far. They will be looking for a serious presidential candidate, and they won’t find one.

Donald Trump disparaged John McCain’s military service. Is this the end of his run? // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 18, 2015

At Saturday's Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, Donald Trump may, at last, have crossed a line with Republican voters from which he can't walk back.

Arizona Sen. John McCain earlier this week harshly criticized the businessman in a conversation with the New Yorker, lamenting Trump's comments about Mexican immigrants. Having already responded on Twitter by calling McCain a "dummy," Trump upped the ante in Iowa by disparaging McCain's -- and every POW's -- military service.

"He's a war hero because he was captured," Trump said. "I like people that weren't captured."

The online response (for what it's worth) was immediate and harsh. Many pointed to the fact that Trump had received deferments that let him avoid service in Vietnam. In an ensuing press conference, Trump blamed a bone spur, among other things. A subsequent written statement offered that Trump has "great respect for all those who serve in our military including those that weren't captured and are also heroes." (And ends with: "Note, Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much

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congratulatory praise.")

Unsurprisingly, his primary opponents criticized him as well, at varying degrees of severity.

As CBS' John Dickerson pointed out on Twitter, Trump's comment allows establishment Republicans who disagreed with Trump's much more vituperative comments about Mexican immigrants to at last lay into him or write him off. Several of Trump's primary opponents were loathe to respond to his immigration comments with much ferocity. But defending illegal immigrants requires a higher political investment than defending former prisoners of war. Ted Cruz, Trump's most reliable defender on the immigration remarks, declined to condemn these comments, either.

Voters may react differently. Given the increasing number of times Trump has made outlandish comments that have been disproven or rebuked -- and that Trump has nonetheless steadily risen in the polls -- it's easy to envision Trump not paying much of a price this time, either.

Among the conservative voters that rallied to Trump's side after his attacks on immigration, McCain is hardly a favorite. (Some laughter can be heard in the audience following Trump's comment.) But for less fervent voters who liked the idea of straight-shooting Donald Trump who was the only guy talking about immigration, the comments will likely cause some reconsideration of support. Average Republican voters support deporting illegal immigrants. They are far more likely, however, to support military service.

It's worth noting that Trump endorsed McCain during the latter's 2008 bid for the presidency. At the time, Trump said that McCain was "a man worthy of respect." He continued: "And this country no longer has respect. What we need more than anything else is just that word: Respect."

Trump slams McCain for being 'captured' in Vietnam; other Republicans quickly condemn him // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 18, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump slammed Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a decorated Vietnam War veteran, on Saturday by saying McCain was not a war hero because he was captured by the North Vietnamese.

"He's not a war hero," Trump said. Sarcastically, Trump quipped, "He's a war hero because he was captured." Then, he added, "I like people that weren't captured."

Trump's comments came during his appearance at the Family Leadership Summit, a day-long gathering of about 3,000 social conservative activists that is drawing nine other Republican presidential candidates.

A celebrity businessman and reality television star, Trump has surged to the top of polls in the GOP race, in part because of his inflammatory comments about undocumented immigrants from Mexico.

Republican leaders and other candidates have been careful in how they respond to his immigration remarks, but his condemnation of McCain opened the floodgates, drawing swift and sharp criticism from other Republicans.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry, himself a subject of recent attacks from Trump, said Trump was "unfit" to serve as president and should "immediately withdraw" from the race.

"Donald Trump should apologize immediately for attacking Senator McCain and all veterans who have protected

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and served our country," Perry said in a statement. "As a veteran and an American, I respect Sen. McCain because he volunteered to serve his country. I cannot say the same of Mr. Trump. His comments have reached a new low in American politics. His attack on veterans make him unfit to be Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for President."

Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, also chimed in with a Twitter post calling or an end to such "slanderous attacks":

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, campaigning in Western Iowa, denounced Trump's remarks and said McCain is "undoubtedly an American hero." This is a change in tune for Walker, who on Friday refused to speak ill of Trump over his immigration comments.

"He needs to apologize to Senator McCain and all the other men and women who have worn the uniform," Walker told reporters following a campaign stop in Sioux City. "It's just a disgrace."

Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) posted on Twitter: "America's POWs deserve much better than to have their service questioned by the offensive rantings of Donald Trump"

The Republican National Committee also criticized Trump and defended McCain.

"Senator McCain is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period," RNC Chief Strategist and Communications Director Sean Spicer said in a statement. "There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably."

Mitt Romney, who ran against McCain in the 2008 GOP primaries, also took to Twitter to defend him: "The difference between @SenJohnMcCain and @realDonaldTrump: Trump shot himself down. McCain and American veterans are true heroes."

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), who has been perhaps the loudest defender of Trump's remarks about immigrants and met privately with Trump a few days ago in New York, refused to condemn Trump over his comments about McCain.

Cruz said that he considers McCain a friend and "an American war hero" and that it is an honor to serve with him in the Senate. But he said he would not criticize another Republican candidate, including Trump.

"I recognize that folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence, so you want me to say something bad about Donald Trump or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else," Cruz told reporters here. "I'm not going to do it. John McCain is a friend of mine. I respect and admire him and he's an American hero. And Donald Trump is a friend of mine."

For the past few days, Trump has been publicly feuding with McCain, the GOP's 2008 presidential nominee. McCain said that Trump had drawn out "crazies" with his immigration-focused rally in Phoenix last weekend, and Trump responded by calling McCain a "dummy" for finishing at the bottom of his class at the Naval Academy.

Trump stepped up his criticism of McCain on Saturday in Ames. He said he had supported McCain's 2008 campaign and claimed to have raised $1 million for him.

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“He lost,” Trump said. “He let us down. I never liked him as much after that because I don’t like losers.”

In a combative, 18-minute news conference following his remarks here, Trump refused to apologize for his attack on McCain's war service.

Trump said he considers prisoners of war to be heroes — although he called Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl an exception — but accused McCain of doing little to help veterans in the Senate.

“John McCain has not done enough for the veterans,” Trump told reporters. “The veterans in this country are suffering. The veterans in this country are treated as third-class citizens. John McCain talks a lot, but he doesn’t do anything.”

Trump grew hot and agitated by repeated and sharp questioning from reporters, who were asking him to explain his earlier suggestion that McCain should not be considered a war hero because he had been captured.

“I like the people that don’t get captured, and I respect the people that do get captured,” Trump said.

But he did not answer the questions about McCain directly. He snapped at one persistent reporter, “Go back to being a pundit.”

Trump managed to avoid serving in the Vietnam war because of a series of draft deferments. Asked why he didn’t serve, Trump said, “I had student deferments and ultimately had a medical deferment because of my feet. I had a bone spur.” But Trump said he did not recall which foot was injured and instructed reporters to look up his records.

Trump added, “I was not a big fan of the Vietnam War. I wasn’t a protester, but the Vietnam War was a disaster for our country. What did we get out of the Vietnam War other than death? We got nothing.”

After meeting with the news media, Trump took to Twitter, where he did not back down from his criticism of McCain:

Outside the political world, Trump was also being widely criticized.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, president of the National League of POW/MIA families, a nonprofit group that supports families of American troops held as prisoners of war and those missing in action, said that Trump's comments were inappropriate.

“Sen. McCain was a prisoner of war who came home with honor but also continued to serve the nation and certainly the cause of America’s veterans returned and unreturned,” Mills-Griffiths said in an interview. “We all need to be grateful for those who did serve with honor.”

John Rowan, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, said in an interview that the group is “assiduously non-partisan” and does not support candidates or comment on political rhetoric.

Rowan said only of Sen. McCain’s service in Vietnam, including his time as a prisoner of war, that “he served his

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country well."

But Paul Rieckhoff, founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, commented that Trump's remarks were offensive to all veterans who have served overseas.

"Trump's asinine comments about Senator McCain's service are an insult to everyone who has ever worn the uniform — and to all Americans," Rieckhoff said on Twitter. "Trump's stupidity is especially egregious given the death of a Navy Petty Officer just this morning and the death of 4 Marines this week. An attack on one veteran's service is an attack on us all."

And John W. Stroud, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, said: "For someone who never served a day in uniform to criticize the service and sacrifice of a combat-wounded veteran is despicable."

Trump Surge Leaves All but Jeb Bush in Donald's Dust **// WSJ // Dante Chinni – July 18, 2015**

Something strange has happened to the Republican presidential field since Donald Trump joined it a month ago: Mr. Trump and Jeb Bush are rising. Everyone else is falling in the polls, or seems stuck in place.

Mr. Bush's support has jumped by about four percentage points in the Real Clear Politics average of polls, rising to 15.5%. Mr. Trump's support has bumped up more than 10 points since mid-June, to 15% as of Friday.

And everyone else? Here's another view of how support for most of them has fallen during the course of the Trump bump.

The numbers suggest Mr. Trump is shaking up the GOP primary electorate in a meaningful way.

He seems to be taking support from the most conservative and anti-Washington rivals in the field, particularly Mike Huckabee, Scott Walker, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

Mr. Bush's rise in the polls, coming in tandem with Mr. Trump's growing strength, may be a sign that so-called establishment Republicans are closing ranks around Mr. Bush, possibly as a result of Mr. Trump consolidating his own support. Marco Rubio may be feeling some of that shift with his sinking numbers.

The numbers suggest there may be very different approaches among the candidates to dealing with Mr. Trump, who has the media's attention right now.

Mr. Bush's rise in the polls suggests that his base of support has little overlap with Mr. Trump's, and he therefore may have the least to lose in attacking the brash New Yorker. And Mr. Bush, in fact, has criticized Mr. Trump's now-famous claim that many Mexican immigrants are criminals.

The rest of the field may take a more subtle approach to handling Mr. Trump. Attacking him head-on may risk alienating his supporters.

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There's reason to believe that Mr. Trump will fade. Many voters have a negative view of him, as a recent USA Today/Suffolk University poll shows, suggesting that he may not weather well over time.

If Mr. Trump's negative ratings hobble him in the nomination fight, his supporters will be up for grabs. And the candidates who have lost support in the last month are going to be looking to get their voters back – and perhaps a chunk of someone else's supporters, as well.

Trump's Criticism of McCain Overshadows Issues in Iowa **// AP – July 18, 2015**

Donald Trump's criticism Saturday that Sen. John McCain isn't a war hero overshadowed his rivals' quest for support among evangelical voters at an Iowa political gathering designed to showcase their conservative views.

In their appeals to more than 2,000 religious conservatives crowded into an sports arena, Trump and other White House hopefuls urged a crackdown on illegal immigration, a forceful approach to the Islamic State group that could include ground troops, and a devotion to Christian values.

Yet Trump's questioning of a respected Republican leader's war record dominated the day.

When the moderator pressed Trump over his recent remark that McCain was "a dummy" and pointed out that the Arizona Republican was a war hero, Trump said: "He's not a war hero. ... He is a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

The comment directed at a former prisoner of war drew some boos from the audience and criticism from several Republican rivals who took the stage later in the day. McCain's spokesman offered no comment.

Trump's outsized role in the Republican presidential primary began last month when he described Mexican immigrants as "bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people."

"It turns out I was right," Trump declared on Saturday, citing the recent murder of a California woman by an immigrant in the country illegally. "I am so proud of the fact that I got a dialogue started on illegal immigration."

Trump was not alone in his hardline approach on illegal immigration.

Once a leading advocate for an immigration overhaul that included an eventual pathway to citizenship, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said Saturday he'd support "work permits or something like that" for immigrants in the country illegally, but only after "we bring illegal immigration under control."

Rick Santorum, a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, took it a step further. He called for curbs on illegal and legal immigration, suggesting that both groups of immigrants are hurting American-born workers. He specifically called for cutting legal immigration by 20 percent.

"What is in the best interests of American workers?" Santorum said.

The Republicans' position moves further away from GOP leaders' previous calls to embrace comprehensive immigration changes heading into a presidential election where Hispanic voters are expected to play a critical

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role.

On foreign policy, the candidates offered an aggressive approach to the Islamic State group, whose rise has become an increasing concern for American policy makers and a focus in the Republican presidential primary.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, a conservative favorite, said he was skeptical of the U.S. invasion of Iraq more than a decade ago. On the Islamic State group, however, Carson said there was a "strong likelihood" that American ground forces would be necessary to contain the threat.

"I would send ground troops if I needed ground troops in order to take the land," Carson said. "You're not going to take the land without troops."

While not addressing ground forces, Rubio charged that, "ISIS is someone we can humiliate," using an alternative acronym for the group.

"We need to subject them to high-profile humiliating defeats that we broadcast and advertise to the world," he continued. "We have won propaganda wars before."

The conversation came as evangelical voters eye their options in an extraordinarily crowded Republican presidential contest. There are already 15 high-profile contenders in the race, while two more are expected to join by month's end.

Iowa's evangelical voters traditionally hold great sway in the state caucuses, which are expected for the first week in February. Christian conservatives backed the winners of the last two caucuses, Mike Huckabee in 2008 and Rick Santorum in 2012, but neither became their party's nominee.

Former Iowa Republican Party Chairman Matt Strawn said it was likely too early for a leader to emerge among Christian conservatives.

"Not only are there considerable options within the Christian conservative lane, but there are also those in that lane that demonstrate appeal to a broader base," he said.

Indeed, muscular policies on immigration and foreign policy are often popular among the GOP's most passionate voters — as is a commitment to Christian values.

"I go to church. And I love God," Trump said. "I'm a religious person. ... People are so shocked when they find this out."

Trump attacks McCain: 'I like people who weren't captured' **// Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 18, 2015**

Donald Trump might finally have crossed the line.

Appearing on Saturday at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, the real estate mogul took his running feud with Arizona Sen. John McCain to a new level.

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“He’s not a war hero,” said Trump. “He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured.”

The remarks, which came after days of back-and-forth between McCain and Trump, were met with scattered boos.

McCain, a former Navy pilot, spent roughly five-and-half years in a notorious North Vietnamese prison known as the “Hanoi Hilton,” where he was repeatedly tortured. He spent two of those years in solitary confinement.

At a press availability following his remarks, Trump denied saying that McCain isn’t a war hero and said, “If somebody’s a prisoner, I consider them a war hero.”

He also continued his attacks on the Arizona senator, saying, “I think John McCain’s done very little for the veterans. I’m very disappointed in John McCain.”

Trump received four student deferments from military service between 1964 and 1968. In Ames, he told reporters another medical deferment he received after graduating was for a bone spur in his foot. When asked which foot, Trump told reporters to look up the records.

In a follow-up statement sent to reporters, Trump again declined to apologize, calling McCain “yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job.”

Trump’s fellow Republican presidential candidates quickly distanced themselves from his remarks — with a few notable exceptions.

“Enough with the slanderous attacks,” Jeb Bush tweeted.

“@SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration.”

“John McCain is an American hero. I have nothing but respect for his service to our country,” tweeted Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. “After Donald Trump spends six years in a POW camp, he can weigh in on John McCain’s service,” he added in a second tweet.

”.@SenJohnMcCain is an American hero & all POW’s deserve our nation’s highest debt of gratitude. @realDonaldTrump’s comments are disgraceful,” tweeted former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

“As a fellow veteran I respect @SenJohnMcCain because he volunteered to serve his country. I cannot say the same about Mr. @realDonaldTrump,” Perry added. He then called in a statement for Trump to drop out of the race.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close friend of McCain’s, tweeted, “If there was ever any doubt that @realDonaldTrump should not be our commander in chief, this stupid statement should end all doubt.” He added: “At the heart of @realDonaldTrump statement is a lack of respect for those who have served - a disqualifying characteristic to be president.”

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At a campaign event in Sioux City, Iowa, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker called McCain “an American hero.” At a press gaggle afterwards, he said of Trump, “I unequivocally denounce him.”

“I know @SenJohnMcCain. Senator John McCain is an American hero. Period. Stop,” tweeted New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

“America’s POWs deserve much better than to have their service questioned by the offensive rantings of Donald Trump,” tweeted Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who spoke at the summit before Trump.

Sean Spicer, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, tweeted: “.@SenJohnMcCain is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period.”

“There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably,” he added.

Not all Republicans were ready to condemn Trump. When asked by POLITICO if the mogul’s comments were out of line, Santorum declined to comment. In a tweet, he defended McCain, but did not mention Trump: “.@SenJohnMcCain is an American hero, period.”

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz spoke at length to reporters about McCain’s heroism between signing books and appearing on-stage at the summit, but he, too, declined to condemn the comments when asked about them.

Neurosurgeon Ben Carson, whose appearance followed Trump’s at the summit, declined to comment on Trump’s remarks after leaving the stage. He also would not say when asked whether or not McCain was a war hero. “It depends on your definition of a war hero,” he said.

Trump on John McCain: 'I Like People That Weren't Captured, Okay?' // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – July 18, 2015

Donald Trump went where nobody could have expected even Donald Trump to go.

The real estate mogul and Republican presidential candidate, who's leading the field in several recent polls, lit into Senator John McCain of Arizona on Saturday when speaking to a conservative conference, even going after his legendary military service—and drawing instant condemnation from fellow candidates.

"He's not a war hero," Trump said in a question-and-answer session with pollster Frank Luntz. Then he altered his comment: "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured, okay?"

“He's a war hero because he was captured.”

The crowd responded with an awkward mix of shocked "oohs" and scattered applause. "Because he was captured, okay? Perhaps he's a war hero. But right now he's said some very bad things about a lot of people."

McCain spent more than five years in captivity as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, a brutal period during which he was tortured and faced solitary confinement, after his plane was shot down. His feud with Trump escalated last

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week after Trump rallied conservatives in Phoenix against illegal immigration, which McCain, who is running for reelection to the Senate in 2016, told New Yorker "fired up the crazies."

Trump retorted: "I know what a crazy is. I know all about crazies. These weren't crazy."

And that wasn't all Trump had to say about McCain. He attacked him for having "graduated last in his class" at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis (McCain actually graduated fifth from last).

Asked why he didn't serve in the Vietnam War, Trump responded that he had a bone spur, although he couldn't remember in which foot. "It's a long time ago. I had student deferments and ultimately had a medical deferment because of my feet," he said.

Badgered by reporters at a news conference shortly after, Trump repeatedly refused to back down or apologize for his attack on McCain, and even launched new missives. "I think John McCain has done very little for the veterans. I'm very disappointed in John McCain."

"If someone's a prisoner I would consider that person a war hero. And we have a lot of war heroes that weren't prisoners also. And we should give them credit, too," he said.

Trump's fellow Republican candidates at the Ames, Iowa, forum, including Bobby Jindal, Lindsey Graham, and Rick Perry, quickly condemned the comments.

"John McCain is an American hero. I have nothing but respect for his service to our country," Louisiana Governor Jindal said on Twitter. "After Donald Trump spends six years in a POW camp, he can weigh in on John McCain's service."

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who was not at the conference, also tweeted. "Enough with the slanderous attacks."

Trump questions McCain's bravery, says 'he is not a war hero' **// CNN // Mark Preston & Eugene Scott – July 18, 2015**

Donald Trump ignited a political firestorm Saturday by questioning whether Sen. John McCain -- who spent over five years as a prisoner during the Vietnam War -- is a war hero.

By mid-afternoon, Trump tried to walk back his blunder on Twitter, saying "captured or not, all our soldiers are heroes!"

But his attempt at damage control seemed unlikely to diminish the anger his remarks had caused. They provoked an immediate outcry from his 2016 presidential rivals and the Republican National Committee, which has expressed concern about the impact his controversial remarks on immigration have had on the GOP brand.

For Republicans waiting to pounce on Trump and knock him from his position as the party's leading presidential candidate, the real estate mogul may have handed them an opening.

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Cruz declines to denounce Trump's McCain comments

The controversy began early Saturday afternoon, when Trump, speaking at a question-and-answer session at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, commented on McCain, with whom he's recently feuded over illegal immigration.

"He is not a war hero," Trump told pollster Frank Luntz, who was hosting the session.

"He is a war hero," Luntz interjected.

"He is a war hero because he was captured," Trump said, cutting him off. "I like people that weren't captured, OK? I hate to tell you. He is a war hero because he was captured. OK, you can have -- I believe perhaps he is a war hero."

The comments met with a mix of gasps, boos, laughter and some applause from an audience.

McCain, a Naval aviator, was shot down in 1967 over North Vietnam and fractured both arms and legs after being ejected from his aircraft. He was repeatedly tortured during his stay in the notorious "Hanoi Hilton" -- and refused early release when the North Vietnamese learned his father was a Navy admiral -- until he finally returned home in 1973 following the Paris Peace Accords.

The Arizona senator, who has limited mobility in his arms following his war experience, received the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Silver Star and a Purple Heart for his service.

Trump believes in God, but hasn't sought forgiveness

Trump, meanwhile, received several deferments during the war. According to The Smoking Gun, which obtained selective service records for Trump in 2011, he received four student deferments between 1964 and 1968, and later a medical deferment in 1968.

McCain spokesman Brian Rogers told CNN that the senator would have no comment on Trump's statements.

But McCain's daughter, Meghan, tweeted that she was "horrified" and "disgusted" by the remarks.

"I can't believe what I am reading this morning," she said. "There are no words."

2016 GOP hopefuls rip remark

Trump's comments were swiftly condemned on Twitter Saturday afternoon, with multiple Republican 2016 candidates blasting the remarks.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said in emotional comments made to an audience at the summit that if Trump doesn't apologize, he is unfit to be commander-in-chief of the United States.

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"To disparage a legitimate American hero like John McCain -- you may disagree with his policies and that's fine. I tell people all the time it's OK to question your government," said Perry, an Air Force veteran. "But don't question the men and women of the military who sacrifice and sometimes pay a huge price for our safety and our freedom and our economics."

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a frequent target of Trump's criticism, also came to McCain's defense.

"Enough with the slanderous attacks. @SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration," he tweeted.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called McCain "a hero" on Twitter.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close friend of McCain's, fired off a series of tweets criticizing Trump and questioning his qualifications to be president in light of the comments.

But while Texas Sen. Ted Cruz -- who has stood out in the 2016 field as a supporter of Trump's controversial remarks on immigration -- defended McCain in a tweet, he notably declined to criticize Trump when asked by reporters to comment on the real estate mogul's remarks. Instead, he blamed the media for trying to turn Republicans against each other.

"You know I recognize that folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence, and so you want me to say something bad about Donald Trump, or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else," he said. "I'm not going to do it."

Retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson was also asked if he defined McCain as a war hero, and said that while he believed the senator has "done some wonderful things," he also stopped short of denouncing Trump.

"It depends on your definition of a war hero. I think he has done some wonderful things, certainly the history is consistent with what we would consider a war hero," Carson said. "So do we take that away from him because some people disagree with him politically? I think that's probably a stupid way to do things."

Mitt Romney, the 2012 presidential candidate, vouched for McCain's heroism and praised veterans on Twitter.

"The difference between @SenJohnMcCain and @realDonaldTrump: Trump shot himself down. McCain and American veterans are true heroes," he tweeted.

But Trump dismissed Romney -- and McCain again -- in a tweet.

Why would anybody listen to @MittRomney? He lost an election that should have easily been won against Obama. By the way, so did John McCain," he tweeted.

Sean Spicer, the communications director for the Republican National Committee, said in a statement that McCain "is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period."

"There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably,"

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Spicer said.

Secretary of State John Kerry, a Vietnam War veteran, said McCain is "a hero, a man of grit and guts and character personified. He served and bled and endured unspeakable acts of torture."

Speaking to reporters after the event, Trump sought to clarify his comments.

"If a person is captured, they're a hero as far as I'm concerned," Trump said. "But you have to do other things also. I don't like the job John McCain is doing in the Senate. He's not taking care of our veterans."

Borger: Trump is the guy GOP candidates can't afford to ignore

His campaign also released a statement, in which Trump said McCain has done "little" for U.S. veterans.

"I am not a fan John McCain because he has done so little for our veterans, and he should know better than anybody what the veterans need, especially in regards to the (Department of Veterans Affairs)," Trump said in the statement. "He is yet another all-talk, no-action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the vets. He is also allowing our military to decrease substantially in size and strength, something which should never be allowed to happen."

Joel Arends, chairman of Veterans for a Strong America, in a statement said feuding between McCain and Trump over issues "has nothing to do with Mr. Trump's high regard for the military or veterans as a whole. Mr. Trump is supporter of the U.S. military and of America's veterans. It is well known that when Mr. Trump is attacked by a detractor, he swings back." The group said it was glad Trump clarified his remarks and said McCain is a war hero.

This is not the first time Trump has taken a jab at the 2008 Republican nominee this week.

After McCain criticized Trump's visit to Phoenix last weekend, saying he "fired up the crazies" in regard to his controversial comments on illegal immigration, Trump called the Arizona senator a "dummy" on Twitter.

".@SenJohnMcCain should be defeated in the primaries. Graduated last in his class at Annapolis--dummy," he said.

In his campaign's statement on Saturday, Trump again referenced illegal immigration as the main reason for his feud with McCain.

"Furthermore, he was extremely disrespectful to the thousands upon thousands of people, many of whom happen to be his constituents, that came to listen to me speak about illegal immigration in Phoenix last week by calling them 'crazies,'" the statement said. "These were not 'crazies' -- these were great American citizens."

Trump supported McCain's presidential candidacy in 2008. He donated $28,450 to John McCain's Victory Committee, a super PAC, and endorsed him on CNN's "Larry King Live" that year, calling him "a smart guy and I think he's going to be a great president."

During Saturday's Q&A session, Trump claimed he raised $1 million for the Arizona senator. After the event,

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Trump added on Twitter that McCain "let us down by losing to Barack Obama in his run for President!"

Republicans Condemn Donald Trump After He Belittles John McCain's War Record // TIME // Zeke Miller – July 18, 2015

The Republican National Committee and a bevy of GOP presidential candidates lined up to repudiate Donald Trump on Saturday after the reality television star-turned-White House hopeful attacked the military service of Sen. John McCain, a former POW.

Appearing at a candidate cattle call in Ames, Iowa, the real estate mogul told a crowd he was no supporter of the 2008 Republican presidential nominee. "He was a war hero because he was captured," Trump said. "I like people who weren't captured."

Trump's critique of McCain did what his previous controversial remarks could not quite do: open the floodgates for fellow Republicans to denounce him. After all, the perceived political risk inherent in defending the record of a war hero is far less than that of getting involved in contentious debates around immigration.

McCain, who was held captive in Vietnam for nearly six years after his airplane was shot down over Hanoi, has been critical of the Trump's bombast, saying that it had "fired up the crazies." Trump's already-controversial mocking of the Arizona senator is only the latest in a series of provocative statements and scandals that have swirled around his campaign, including his comment that many Mexican immigrants are "rapists" and his claim "The illegals come in, and the illegals kill their children."

"Senator McCain is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period," said RNC communications director Sean Spicer. "There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably."

Trump, who is riding atop the GOP primary polls, appears certain to make the first GOP debate stage on Aug. 6, even as the RNC is facing escalating calls to somehow bar him from participating. But under Federal Election Commission rules, there is no legal mechanism for the party or the hosting network, Fox News, to ban a candidate who meets the qualifications.

But the comments about McCain have set up a race among GOP candidates to most-forcefully condemn their fellow candidate, a trend that is likely to continue live on national television at the debate. In a statement, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Trump's comments were disqualifying and, "he should immediately withdraw from the race for President."

Other candidates and Republican leaders weighed in on stage at the Iowa Family Leader summit after Trump spoke, or took to Twitter to lambast him:

For his part, Trump issued a statement lambasting McCain's "extremely disrespectful" description of Trump supporters and saying in part, "I have great respect for all those who serve in our military including those that weren't captured and are also heroes."

But the statement showed no signs of contrition, noting, "Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much congratulatory praise."

In a series of Twitter postings later, Trump lauded veterans but did not back off his earlier remarks, and in fact

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continued to criticize McCain's record.

Donald Trump Hits the Limits of Celebrity **// TIME // Zeke Miller – July 18, 2015**

Controversy has always been at the heart of Donald Trump's professional career, defined by his ostentatious displays of wealth, innumerable public feuds, and a television show built around firing people. So when he entered the political arena, there was little question that it would revolve around the same, but few predicted the Trump-sized firestorm he set off Saturday when he criticized the military service of former Vietnam POW Sen. John McCain.

After a lifetime in the spotlight, Trump is painfully learning the difference between the rules of the game when playing as a candidate instead of a celebrity.

For years, Republicans have courted Trump's endorsement, entertainment, and deep pockets, tolerating—even encouraging and profiting from—his longstanding list of outlandish comments. They invited him to keynote state party conventions and to endorse their 2012 nominee, even as they stood silently by as he challenged President Obama's birthplace and indulged in his routine name-calling.

Not even comments deemed insulting to a vital segment of the electorate—suggesting that many who have immigrated to the U.S. illegally from Mexico are "rapists"—were enough to spark widespread condemnation.

But on Saturday the floodgates opened, with Trump criticism flowing from nearly every fellow 2016 candidate, the Republican National Committee, former GOP nominee Mitt Romney, and even Fox News' Rupert Murdoch. For many in the party, it was a long-anticipated occasion—the inevitable moment when the candidate so obviously and completely stepped in it that sitting silent was no longer an option.

"He's not a war hero," Trump said Saturday of the 2008 Republican presidential nominee at a candidate forum in Ames, Iowa. "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

Trump avoided serving in the Vietnam War using four deferments, including a medical deferment for a bone spur. McCain was shot down over Hanoi and imprisoned for nearly six years, undergoing physical and psychological torture at the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

Already feeling the financial burn of the ending of a series of financial and endorsement deals in the wake of his immigration comments, the statement set Trump on the path to becoming a Party pariah.

The swift reaction reflected both the GOP's pent-up frustration with the man at the top of their primary polls, and the reality that in Republican politics, offending those in the U.S. illegally may provoke mild consternation, but attacking veterans is sacrilegious.

"When is Donald Trump going to stop embarrassing his friends, let alone the whole country," Murdoch tweeted Sunday.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has sought to use his criticism of Trump to his own political advantage, became the first GOP candidate to call on his rival to withdraw from the race, as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham called it disqualifying for the highest office in the land.

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“Seems to me that there’s an enormous sense of relief among Republicans that he f—-d up so badly,” said one Republican operative.

Party officials, including RNC Chairman Reince Priebus, had been sending signals to Trump for weeks to tone down his rhetoric against those in the U.S. illegally for fear of alienating Hispanic voters. They also were critical of his frequent criticisms of fellow Republicans, violating Ronald Reagan’s 11th commandment.

“There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably,” RNC communications director Sean Spicer said in a statement Saturday in response to the McCain comments, an exceptionally rare critique of a presidential candidate’s own party.

In a defiant statement Saturday, Trump criticized McCain for allegedly failing veterans which noted that he has “great respect” for people who served in the military. It concluded without any effort at appeasing his critics: “Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much congratulatory praise.”

After Donald Trump says John McCain 'not a war hero,' Republican rivals denounce him **// LA Times // Noah Bierman – July 18, 2015**

nald Trump, whose bombastic statements have shot him to the top of Republican presidential primary polls, mocked Sen. John McCain's war record as a POW in Vietnam on Saturday, crossing a line that triggered condemnations from previously quiet GOP leaders and rivals.

They used their strongest terms to date — calling Trump’s comments “slanderous,” declaring him unfit for office, and asserting that the Republican Party has no tolerance for disparaging statements about combat veterans.

The question now is whether Trump, who saw his campaign take off after broadly denouncing Mexicans who cross the border illegally as rapists and drug dealers, will remain popular with segments of the GOP base who revere military service, prisoners of war and the 2008 presidential nominee’s connection to both.

“He’s not a war hero,” Trump said at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, in response to a question about McCain, who has sharply criticized Trump’s withering comments on immigrants.

“He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured, OK? I hate to tell you. He's a war hero because he was captured, OK? And I believe — perhaps he's a war hero. But right now, he's said some very bad things about a lot of people,” Trump said.

McCain, a Navy aviator during the Vietnam War, suffered several broken bones and spent more than five years as a prisoner in North Vietnam, including two years in solitary confinement, after his Skyhawk was shot down during a bombing mission over Hanoi in 1967.

McCain, the son of the U.S. Navy commander in the Pacific at the time, refused North Vietnamese offers for an early release because Americans captured before him remained prisoners of war. He was released in 1973, and has served Arizona in the Senate since 1987. The Republican now heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Trump received four student deferments from the draft between 1964 and 1968 and a medical deferment that kept him out of the military, according to reports published in 2011.

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For all the expressions of indignation, the dust-up inevitably was a reminder of Republican-backed attacks on combat medals awarded to John F. Kerry, the former senator, 2004 Democratic presidential nominee and now secretary of State, for his service in Vietnam. The attacks, which hurt Kerry's 2004 campaign, ultimately were discredited as untrue.

Since announcing his campaign on June 16, Trump has lost numerous commercial endorsements and business deals due to his harsh comments about Mexican immigrants.

His rhetoric has worried Republican leaders, who are trying to broaden the party's support among women and minorities, especially the growing number of Latino voters, before the 2016 election. In a Univision poll, 71% of Latinos surveyed had an unfavorable view of Trump.

Some GOP candidates have refrained from criticizing Trump until now because many core conservatives, who vote heavily in Republican primaries, support him. A Fox News poll released Friday found 68% of GOP voters said Trump was "basically right" about immigration.

But by appearing to attack military veterans and POWs, a more powerful constituency among conservatives and other voters, Trump may finally have given party leaders a chance to pop his balloon, which has been eclipsing other candidates.

The Republican National Committee immediately denounced Trump's comments Saturday, saying "there is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably."

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who had previously avoided discussing Trump, told reporters Saturday, "I unequivocally denounce him," according to his campaign.

Fellow leading candidates Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican whose parents were born in Cuba, and Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor whose wife is Mexican American, also criticized Trump.

"Enough with the slanderous attacks," Bush wrote on Twitter.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry — who days ago condemned Trump's "toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense" — on Saturday called upon him to end his campaign because of comments that have "reached a new low in American politics."

"His attack on veterans make him unfit to be commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for president," Perry said in a statement.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said on Twitter that "after Donald Trump spends six years in a POW camp, he can weigh in on John McCain's service."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz was a notable exception, calling McCain a friend and hero on Twitter but adding, "Donald Trump is a friend of mine."

Trump has clashed verbally with McCain, who supported a comprehensive immigration overhaul that passed the

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Senate but died in the House. While on a campaign swing in Phoenix last week, Trump slammed McCain in his home state, violating normal rules of party politics.

“I've supported John McCain, but he's very weak on immigration,” Trump said. He also questioned whether McCain, who is up for reelection in 2016, would hold onto his Senate seat.

“I think he will probably lose if somebody runs against him for the Republican nomination,” Trump said.

McCain told the New Yorker that Trump’s comments were “very hurtful … because what he did was he fired up the crazies.”

On Saturday, his daughter Meghan McCain said on Twitter that she was “horrified” and “disgusted” by Trump’s latest comments: “There are no words.”

Trump clarifies attacks on McCain **// The Hill // Keith Laing – July 18, 2015**

Donald Trump accused Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) of being "all talk, no action" on veterans issues on Saturday as he sought to clarify his dismissive words toward McCain earlier in the day.

"I am not a fan of John McCain because he has done so little for our Veterans and he should know better than anybody what the Veterans need, especially in regards to the VA," Trump said in a statement released by his campaign.

"He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the Vets," Trump continued. "He is also allowing our military to decrease substantially in size and strength, somethings which should never be allowed to happen."

Trump faced immediate criticism Saturday after mocking McCain’s six years as a prisoner during the Vietnam War.

“He was a war hero because he was captured,” Trump sarcastically told host Frank Luntz during the 2015 Family Leadership Summit. “I like people who weren’t captured.”

Trump was swiftly rebuked by the Republican National Committee and several of his fellow 2016 Republican presidential candidates.

Trump said in his statement that McCain has been "extremely disrespectful to the thousands upon thousands of people, many of whom happen to be his constituents, that came out to listen to me speak about illegal immigration by calling them 'crazies.'

"These were not 'crazies' --- these were great American citizens," Trump said.

"I have great respect for all those who serve in our military including those that weren't captured and are also heroes," he continued. "I want to strengthen our military and take care of our veterans. I want to make America great again, especially for those that serve to protect our freedom. I am fighting for our veterans!"

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Trump's statement noted at the end: "Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much congratulatory praise."

Draft-Dodging Trump Says POW McCain 'Not A War Hero' **// Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – July 18, 2015**

In September 2008, Donald Trump donated $28,450 to John McCain's Victory Committee and endorsed him on Larry King Live. "I know him. I like him. I respect him," he said. "He's a smart guy and I think he's going to be a great president."

Seven years later, Trump is the one running, and he now respects McCain, who spent five years as a prisoner during the Vietnam War, so little that he says he's not really a war hero.

During a discussion at the Family Leadership Summit in Iowa Saturday afternoon, Trump said, "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured, OK? I hate to tell you."

Trump, whose candidacy has been defined by his insults to various groups of people and even entire ethnicities, finally went too far.

Paul Rieckhoff, the founder and CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, told The Daily Beast that Trump's comments were "asinine" and an insult "to everyone who's ever worn the uniform and to all Americans."

Rick Perry, one of just two Republican primary contenders to have served in the military (the other is Senator Lindsey Graham), called for Trump to withdraw from the contest.

"Donald Trump should apologize immediately for attacking Senator McCain and all veterans who have protected and served our country," he said in a statement. "As a veteran and an American, I respect Sen. McCain because he volunteered to serve his country. I cannot say the same of Mr. Trump. His comments have reached a new low in American politics. His attack on veterans make him unfit to be Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, and he should immediately withdraw from the race for President."

Lindsey Graham responded to Trump on Twitter: "At the heart of @realDonaldTrump statement is a lack of respect for those who have served—a disqualifying characteristic to be president."

So did Jeb Bush: "Enough with the slanderous attacks. @SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans–particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration."

And Scott Walker: "Just told a crowd in Sioux City: @SenJohnMcCain is a war hero."

"He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured, OK? I hate to tell you."

And Bobby Jindal: "After Donald Trump spends 6 years in a POW camp, he can weigh in on John McCain's service."

And Rick Santorum: ".@SenJohnMcCain is an American hero, period."

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And Chris Christie: "I know @SenJohnMcCain. Senator John McCain is an American hero. Period. Stop."

Ted Cruz initially stood out as being the only candidate to refuse to stand by McCain, telling The Washington Post's Philip Rucker, "Folks in the press love to see Republican on Republican violence, so you want me to say something bad about Donald Trump or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else. I'm not going to do it." Perhaps regretting that decision, Cruz then Tweeted, "John McCain is an American hero. Although we have some policy disagreements, I'm proud to serve alongside him."

As the crowd in Iowa laughed, gasped and booed—unsure if Trump was joking—he doubled down on his point. "He's a war hero because he was captured! OK? I believe, perhaps, he's a war hero. But right now? He's said some very bad things about a lot of people."

Actually, he's said very bad things about just one person who Trump cares a lot about: Trump.

On Thursday, The New Yorker's Ryan Lizza published an interview with McCain, wherein the Arizona senator criticized Trump, who had just held a rally in Phoenix. "This performance with our friend out in Phoenix is very hurtful," McCain said. "Because what he did was he fired up the crazies."

It would become evident, in the following days, that Trump—callous and bombastic by nature—had hurt feelings.

He immediately lashed out first on Twitter, saying "The thousands of people that showed up for me in Phoenix were amazing Americans. @SenJohnMcCain called them 'crazies'—must apologize!" He then said he thought McCain should lose his Senate primary: ".@SenJohnMcCain should be defeated in the primaries. Graduated last in his class at Anapolis--dummy!"

And then in an interview on MSNBC's Morning Joe on Friday. "I'm a loyalist," he said. "I'm a person that like, if somebody is with me, I'm with that person. And John McCain was very disloyal to me."

Saturday afternoon, in a statement following his insult to McCain, Trump said that McCain, whose office has not yet responded to a request for comment from The Daily Beast, had been "disrespectful" to the people who came to see him speak in Phoenix when he told The New Yorker they were "crazies."

"These were not 'crazies,'" Trump said. "These were great American citizens."

Trump's decision to criticize McCain's military record is all the more puzzling given the circumstances surrounding his lack of one.

Trump claimed, in an April interview on WNYW, that he avoided the Vietnam War because "I actually got lucky because I had a very high draft number." He said, while attending the Wharton School of Finance, that "I was watching as they did the draft numbers and I got a very, very high number and those numbers never got up to me."

But The Smoking Gun reported that Trump's draft number was 365, and when it was drawn on Dec. 1, 1968, "18 months after Trump graduated" from the Wharton School, Trump "had already received four student deferments and a medical deferment," according to records obtained by the publication.

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Rieckhoff joked, “He was so interested in seeing the president’s birth certificate, I’m sure he’d be willing to provide the documentation about that.”

Despite his lack of service, Trump, in the post-insult statement, said, “I am not a fan of John McCain because he has done so little for our Veterans and he should know better than anybody what the Veterans need, especially in regards to the VA. He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping Vets.”

It was, in fact, McCain (along with Senator Bernie Sanders, a candidate for the Democratic nomination) who last year passed legislation to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs and improve veterans’ access to health care, among other things.

In the statement, Trump clarified that he has “great respect for all those who serve in our military including those that weren’t captured and are also heroes.”

The release ended with a “note”: “Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much congratulatory praise.”

Trump fuels GOP fire with criticism of McCain // The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 18, 2015

Republicans of all stripes spent Saturday hammering Donald Trump for his remarks mocking Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) over his time spent as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Many of the GOP’s most visible members are suggesting the outspoken billionaire and presidential candidate went too far taunting McCain during a speech Saturday afternoon.

“He was a war hero because he was captured,” Trump sarcastically told host Frank Luntz during the 2015 Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa. “I like people who weren’t captured.”

The quip came after Luntz challenged Trump’s criticisms of McCain’s political career.

The pollster questioned his verbal attacks on McCain, calling him a “war hero.”

“I supported McCain for president,” Trump said. “He lost and let us down,” he added, arguing he spent $1 million supporting McCain’s Oval Office bid.

“I’ve never liked him as much after that,” Trump added. “I don’t like losers.”

The Republican National Committee (RNC) quickly rejected the business mogul’s remarks.

“Senator McCain is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than we can imagine – period,” said RNC Chief Strategist and Communications Director Sean Spicer said in a statement.

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“There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably,” he added.

Trump’s many rivals for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination joined the RNC in discrediting his political legitimacy.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Trump should immediately mend fences with McCain over his remarks, or end his campaign.

“As an individual who has worn the uniform of this country, I was highly offended by what Donald Trump said about John McCain,” Perry said during his own 2015 Family Leadership Summit remarks.

“Donald Trump owes every American, and in particular John McCain, an apology,” he added.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a close friend of McCain’s, argued McCain and other prisoners of war like him deserve “recognition and respect” for their sacrifices.

“If you want to be commander-in-chief and you are serious about wanting that job, the last thing you’d do is disrespect the people in our armed services,” he said.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush expressed disgust with Trump’s statements in a post on Twitter.

“Enough with the slanderous attacks,” he tweeted. “@SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans – particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration.”

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) was equally dismissive of Trump.

“America’s POWs deserve much better than to have their service questioned by the offensive rantings of Donald Trump,” he wrote.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker vowed he would personally defend McCain’s tenure during the Vietnam War against any critics.

“@SenJohnMcCain is an American hero, period,” he said on Twitter. “I’ll denounce any attack against his service and anyone else who wears this uniform.”

Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas), who considers himself a friend of both McCain and Trump, refused comment on the bitter feud.

“I recognize that folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence, so you want me to say something about Donald Trump or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else,” he said, according to The Washington Post. “I’m not going to do it.”

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“John McCain is a friend of mine,” Cruz added. “I respect and admire him and he’s an American hero. And Donald Trump is a friend of mine.”

Former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney noted the differences between McCain and Trump’s military backgrounds in his own pointed criticism on Twitter.

“The difference between @SenJohnMcCain and @realDonaldTrump: Trump shot himself down,” Romney wrote. “McCain and American veterans are true heroes.”

Megan McCain, John McCain’s daughter, expressed disbelief that Trump would insult her father’s sacrifices during the Vietnam War.

“I can’t believe what I am reading this morning,” she wrote on Twitter. “Horrified. Disgusted. There are no words.”

“I have a brother that just returned from Afghanistan a month ago, glad he can come home to this being said about his father and his service,” she added.

The Concerned Veterans of America (CVA) offered a comparison between McCain and Trump on military service in its own rebuke of the real estate mogul.

“Donald Trump’s attacks against Senator John McCain today are the height of arrogance and reveal that he has no understanding of what our Vietnam POWs endured and the honor they displayed during their captivity – Senator McCain among them,” the group said in a statement.

“A man who received four student deferments to avoid service in Vietnam has absolutely no credibility to attack someone like John McCain who volunteered to serve his country and suffered 5 1/2 years of torture as a result,” it said.

The military personnel organization took issue with Trump’s remarks over veterans affairs made during the same controversial speech.

“Donald Trump also revealed he has no idea what he is talking about in regards to reforming and fixing the VA,” it said.

“If he did, he would have known that Senator McCain has been a leader in fighting to give veterans more health care choices and to hold the VA accountable for its failures,” it added.

“Finally, this incident should clarify for veterans which leaders really understand the issues they face and the sacrifices they made as part of their military service. Unfortunately, it appears Donald Trump is not one of them.”

Later Saturday, as criticism was percolating, Trump sought to clarify his remarks, saying his problem with McCain stems from the senator’s policy stances.

"I am not a fan of John McCain because he has done so little for our Veterans and he should know better than anybody what the Veterans need, especially in regards to the VA," Trump said in a statement released by his

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campaign.

"He is yet another all talk, no action politician who spends too much time on television and not enough time doing his job and helping the Vets," he continued. "He is also allowing our military to decrease substantially in size and strength, somethings which should never be allowed to happen."

Trump also accused McCain of being “extremely disrespectful” toward attendees of an immigration rally in Phoenix last weekend that was headlined by Trump.

"These were not 'crazies' --- these were great American citizens," he said.

"I have great respect for all those who serve in our military including those that weren't captured and are also heroes," Trump added.

"I want to strengthen our military and take care of our veterans. I want to make America great again, especially for those that serve to protect our freedom. I am fighting for our veterans!"

Trump’s statement noted at the end: “Mr. Trump left to a long lasting standing ovation, which will be by far the biggest ovation of the weekend, and much congratulatory praise.”

Trump was taking issue with McCain’s critique of his July 11 rally against illegal immigration in Phoenix.

McCain argued in an interview published Thursday that the event energized the right wing’s most extreme members.

“It’s very bad,” he said of Trump’s Phoenix rally earlier this month.

“This performance with our friend out in Phoenix is very hurtful,” McCain added. “Because what he did was he fired up the crazies. Now he galvanized them. He’s really got them activated.”

Trump has retaliated by calling McCain a “dummy” and predicting he will lose his upcoming Senate primary in Arizona.

Trump on Saturday said McCain is insulting the Americans who support stronger policies against illegal immigration.

“15,000 people showed up to hear me speak,” Trump said of the Phoenix event, adding that it was “beautiful.”

“He called them all crazy,” he added of McCain. “I know all about crazies, and those weren’t crazies.”

Trump comments on McCain war record spark outrage **// USA Today // Jason Noble – July 18, 2015**

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Donald Trump's insults of Sen. John McCain at a presidential candidate forum here on Saturday drew sharp and immediate condemnation from across the Republican spectrum — including calls for him to quit the 2016 race.

The swift, nearly unanimous rebuke prompted by Trump's comments questioning McCain's war heroism may suggest a shift in the Republican presidential contest, as rivals seize an opportunity to marginalize a popular but divisive figure who some see as potentially destructive to the party's standing among Latino voters.

The comments that sparked the firestorm came after forum moderator Frank Luntz interrupted a Trump tirade against McCain to note the senator's heroism in the Vietnam War and the more than five years he was held as a prisoner of war.

"He's a war hero because he was captured," Trump replied dismissively. "I like people that weren't captured, OK?"

Trump went on to insult McCain's academic achievements at the U.S. Naval Academy. At a subsequent news conference, he said McCain "has not done enough for the veterans in this country."

The businessman and reality TV star, who entered the GOP race last month, has dominated media coverage for weeks with controversial comments on immigration and unflinching criticism of other candidates. More recently, he's begun to take the lead in national polls.

But by expanding his bombastic rhetoric to include criticism of a former prisoner of war, Trump may have overplayed his hand, even with Republicans eager for a candidate at odds with the political establishment, said political scientist Kyle Kondik, managing editor of a political newsletter published by the University of Virginia.

"There's a constituency that supports the pretty stridently anti-illegal immigration comments which Trump has made," Kondik said. "But I don't think there's a constituency for comments that come off as anti-military or basically making fun of POWs, which is what Trump did."

Indeed, rival GOP candidates, party officials and others who may have been looking for an opportunity to distance themselves from Trump seized on the comments. Within an hour, at least a half-dozen fellow candidates tweeted to either criticize Trump or defend McCain, and a few did so on the very same stage at Stephens Auditorium later on Saturday.

Cary Gordon, an evangelical pastor from Sioux City, said that he has seen Trump surging in Iowa in recent weeks and that Trump has surprised many grass-roots conservative activists with his accessibility and thoughtfulness at campaign events.

But that momentum is almost certainly lost now, Gordon said.

"Donald Trump probably handed ammunition to his own firing squad today," he said.

Trump's comments came during the Family Leadership Summit, a key forum for candidates seeking to win approval from the state's sizable bloc of socially conservative evangelical voters.

At a news conference following his appearance, Trump did not apologize for his remarks, according to the Associated Press. He did offer this clarification: “If a person is captured, they’re a hero as far as I’m concerned. I

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don’t like the job John McCain is doing in the Senate because he is not taking care of our veterans.”

Also appearing Saturday were presidential candidates Marco Rubio, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, Rick Santorum, Lindsey Graham and Scott Walker.

Cruz, a senator from Texas, won numerous standing ovations and some of the loudest cheers of the day with red-meat conservative rhetoric opposing abortion — including calling for criminal investigations into Planned Parenthood — same-sex marriage and Islamic extremism.

"Cruz has stood up and taken stands against what we call the mainstream political machine," said Jeanne Shattuck, an attendee from Dallas Center.

Jindal, the Louisiana governor, competed with Cruz on crowd response, hitting big applause lines when criticizing the media for failing to adequately scrutinize President Obama and calling for federal employees to be jailed for malfeasance.

Similarly, Graham, a senator from South Carolina, received sustained, booming applause for criticism of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's handling of the attack in Benghazi, Libya, as secretary of state, an issue that has animated conservatives but had received relatively little mention Saturday.

Rubio, a senator from Florida, has been viewed with skepticism among many conservatives for his previous support for a comprehensive immigration reform package in the Senate. On Saturday, though, he appealed to many in the crowd with substantive answers on immigration, the Islamic State and entitlement reform.

Edward Wollner, a supporter of Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, said Rubio's performance made him "a little bit more viable."

"Honestly, I came in pretty closed-minded on Rand," Wollner said. "Rubio I had kind of written off as a young, one-term senator, but he could actually be competitive in a general election."

Many attendees were complimentary toward all the candidates who appeared on Saturday, and far from ready to commit to one with the caucuses still more than six months away.

"It's a no-lose situation, if you're a conservative, at this point," said Scott Schaefer, a pastor from Davenport who described himself not as a Republican but as a "Christian conservative compassionate capitalist constitutionalist."

"This country needs a pastor, someone to shepherd this country."

After Attacking John McCain's War Record, Donald Trump's Dramatic Fall Is Predictable // Forbes – July 18, 2015

Mr. Trump has decided to attack Senator John McCain’s war record.” He’s not a war hero,” said Trump. “He’s a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren’t captured.” Mr. McCain is, in fact, a bona fide war hero who rejected efforts to release him in exchange for selling out his fellow prisoners of war. Mr. Trump’s activities extend only to building monuments to himself because no one else apparently will do so. This is shameful. But let’s be serious, folks. Donald Trump’s rise in the polls is as predictable as his dramatic fall will be.

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The Donald knows how to capture media attention. After all, he has been doing it for decades now. He has teased about running in the past and received too much coverage for that. Now he is a declared candidate and he dominates attention for himself, something he craves and masters, by simply being outrageous. He is Kim Kardashian's rear, Paris Hilton's sex tape, and Caitlin Jenner's transformation – all rolled into one and now dominating media attention. In short order, Donald Trump's candidacy will be Sarah Palin's plea for attention and Kate Gosselin's whatever.

But we are talking about the Presidency of the United States and now, today, the inevitable merging of this iconic institution with celebrity culture. Enter The Donald. He has "surged" and "rocketed" – both Washington Post terms – into second place in the battle for the Republican nomination. Then, as of now, into first place. Stuff happens.

Some pundits say he is tapping into something. There is a rage against the machine and Donald Trump represents a genuine phenomenon. But let me be emphatic here: There is nothing genuine about him or about this. Allow me to explain. First, there is a real anger out there among voters. There was George Wallace, Pat Buchanan and Ross Perot, then the Tea Party. This is a bona fide strain in American history. It is called xenophobia and fear of the modern. It is the angry white man in a nation that is becoming more non-white, less heterosexual, and less reliant on either organized religion or traditional notions of patriotism. The demographics alone show how much the America of "the old white man" is shrinking. And today, in this worldview, is Armegeddon , the worst case scenario – a President who is a man of color, with a Muslim name, insufficient proof of his nativity, and in possession of a worldview that recognizes the limits of U.S. power in the world and a willingness to lead from behind.

Enter Donald Trump. Yes, indeed, Mr. Trump has struck a responsive chord among some. But let's not get carried away with it. When the Washington Post reported almost two weeks ago that Mr. Trump had both "surged" and "rocketed" into second place in the GOP race, it really meant that his polling numbers had moved from 6%-8% to 10%-12%. And now a couple of polls show him leading the GOP pack with 17%-18%.

Several obvious points explain this. First, he has sucked all the oxygen out of the room. Mr. Trump likes to produce good copy and that is what has done. He has offended a large and growing constituency, our largest next door neighbor, and the sensibilities of many stripes of Americans – including some very high profile corporations and celebrities who also know how to grab public attention. He has made a career out of being outrageous and he is only doing what does best.

Second, this is the summer. Other candidates are just getting started and (for them, at least) this is not the time to be making mistakes and saying the wrong things. Rather, now is the time for the smaller events, the local news coverage, the slow plodding visits and calls to raise money.

Third, there is in fact a constituency out there that is alienated and angry. One that is looking for tough talk now, a reassertion of American greatness in the world, an expression of outward resentment – what the great historian Richard Hofstadter once called the "paranoid style in American politics". Trump has captured and captivated it for the moment. But this is how you get to 17% or 18% (perhaps even 20%) in the polls. That does not win an election even with so many candidates in the race. When well over half of GOP voters say they disapprove of Mr. Trump and will never vote for him, how does he grow? I suppose he can attack gays. There are also Muslims and kids with disabilities. But a lot of that would be duplicative. After all, if you hate Latinos, odds are you already fear sharia law, gay couples, and tax money spent on special education.

Besides, does anyone really think Mr. Trump can sustain this outrageous behavior for another year and a half? I for one don't think we will be talking about him in the fall of 2015. I am remembering Michele Bachman, Herman Cain and Newt Gingrich. There are even more candidates this time around who can be the GOP "Flavor of the Month."

This summer, the circus marquis welcomes you to see and hear the narcissistic bloviator who says the kinds of

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things you won't hear anywhere else. But look closely and the same sign will have a banner reading, "Featuring Next Month…"

UNDECLARED

OTHER

Seeing Crowd, G.O.P. Donors Holding Back // NYT // Nicholas Confessore & Sarah Cohen – July 18, 2015

Despite a wealth of choices in a crowded primary field, the vast majority of high-level Republican donors and fund-raisers have not yet backed any candidate financially, magnifying the importance of the coming debates as the presidential hopefuls seek to impress potential backers.

Only about a fifth of the 1,000 or so fund-raisers and their spouses who rallied around Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee in 2012, have given money to any of the 2016 candidates, according to a New York Times review of fund-raising records reported by the candidates last week.

Those who remain uncommitted — hundreds of volunteer "bundlers" who could collect contributions from their friends and business associates — represent a huge pool of untapped campaign cash, potentially hundreds of millions of dollars, that could remake the primary campaign.

Some of the bundlers and donors said they had held back, in part, because the field was the strongest they had seen in years, with several viable contenders representing the party's different generational and ideological segments.

Unlike in 2012, when Mr. Romney dominated fund-raising even as he fought off a series of insurgencies by more populist candidates, the affections of many donors in 2016 are divided among three or four candidates. Others are quietly weighing the impact of Donald J. Trump, who has jumped to the lead in some national polls despite raising almost no money from the party's establishment.

"I haven't committed to anyone at this point, and I'm not on the verge of committing to anyone," said Paul E. Singer, a hedge fund manager who is among the most sought-after Republican bundlers in the country, at an investment conference last week. "I think there are a number of candidates that are smart, solid, good potential leaders, leaders and potential leaders."

The slow recruitment of major donors and bundlers is also a function, several donors and Republican leaders said, of the candidates' early emphasis on raising money for "super PACs," which tend to be funded by a much smaller pool of extremely wealthy donors.

Note: Some contributions to Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham and Rand Paul were made to their Senate campaigns before they became presidential candidates. Data for John Kasich, Scott Walker, Chris Christie and Democrat the Jim Webb is not yet available, so their donors are not known.

Source: New York Times analysis of Federal Election Commission data

Candidates cannot solicit the unlimited checks that fuel super PACs, and several White House aspirants delayed entering the race this year and spent the winter and spring securing commitments from mega-donors. One result: Vast amounts of money are already flowing into the Republican race, but mostly to super PACs, not candidates.

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Super PACs and outside groups backing individual Republican candidates have raised about $230 million, while the candidates took in just $64 million through the end of June.

“The super PAC donors were more important, to some extent eclipsing the traditional world of hundreds of bundlers,” said Fred Malek, the finance chairman of the Republican Governors Association. “The next quarter is going to be hugely different.”

Mr. Romney’s financial operation raised $1 billion in 2012, more than any Republican campaign in history, by combining those who raised money for former President George W. Bush with hundreds of new Republican bundlers, many of them from Wall Street. Some of Mr. Romney’s top bundlers, including the Oklahoma energy executive Harold Hamm and Joseph W. Craft, the chief executive of one of the country’s largest coal producers, have not yet given to a Republican candidate in 2016.

The Times analyzed a list of Mr. Romney’s bundlers and their spouses that USA Today assembled in 2012 with data from the Sunlight Foundation, which tracks invitations to political fund-raisers, and the Federal Election Commission, which requires that candidates disclose the names of registered lobbyists who raise money for them.

Jeb Bush, the former president’s brother, appears to have won over the largest share of Mr. Romney’s bundlers, with at least 120 donating to his campaign. They include Brian Ballard, a Florida lobbyist, and Dan Loeb, a hedge fund manager who shares Mr. Bush’s passion for education issues.

“Jeb’s record as a champion of parent choice and academic excellence is unparalleled,” Mr. Loeb said in an email. “He understands that as a nation we have a responsibility to even the playing field through education so that every child has a chance at the American dream.”

Some bundlers are committed to Republicans who did not enter the race until July and have not yet reported any fund-raising numbers, such as Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. An unknown number may have given to the candidates’ super PACs, which do not have to report their donors until the end of July.

Other bundlers, like Jenny Craig, the California-based diet guru, have given to multiple candidates. Still others, like Frank VanderSloot, who runs an Idaho-based health products company, are weighing the prospects of two candidates they like.

“Frank VanderSloot is committed to helping both Marco Rubio and Scott Walker get their messages out,” said Tony Lima, a spokesman for Mr. VanderSloot. “He is engaged in that process.”

But the scramble for other major bundlers is a boon for candidates not named Bush, several of whom are banking on the debates, which begin Aug. 6, as a chance to prove their mettle and recruit new donors and fund-raisers.

Almost 50 Romney bundlers, among them Wayne Berman, an executive at the Blackstone Group, and Harlan Crow, a Texas builder, have already given money to Mr. Rubio, the Florida senator; 14 each have contributed to Senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina; and at least 10, including the prominent New York hedge fund manager John Paulson, have donated to Carly Fiorina, the former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard.

A separate analysis, looking at the top 250 donors to Republican candidates and party organizations, showed a similar phenomenon: Fewer than 100 have contributed to any of the 2016 candidates, according to the Times analysis. Some of them have contributed to more than one candidate, indicating that they are hedging their bets in what is likely to be a volatile and fiercely fought campaign.

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“I decided to give all of the ones I like the support, just in case they made the primary,” said Elloine M. Clark, a Texas philanthropist who wrote large checks to Mr. Cruz, Mr. Rubio, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana.

“I didn’t want to cut anybody out,” Ms. Clark added. “I want to see some intelligent young people in the race.”

The Republican contenders are moving aggressively to tap that money. In recent weeks, some have begun shifting from raising money for their super PACs, which typically depend on a handful of ultra-wealthy donors, to their campaigns, which require the help of hundreds of bundlers and thousands of donors.

“As we talk to bundlers around the country, there is still a great pause going on right now,” said Ray Washburne, the finance chairman for Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey. “There’s been no breakaway candidate, and everyone is waiting to see the first debate.”

On Republican Hopefuls’ Checklist: A Super PAC and Lots of Money // WSJ // Patrick O’connor and Reid J. Epstein - July 19, 2015

Expanding roles of super PACs, condensed nominating calendar are set to transform 2016 primary campaigns; a well-positioned Jeb Bush

WASHINGTON—Some Republican presidential candidates could be in for sticker shock.

Right to Rise, the super PAC supporting Jeb Bush, estimates it will cost nearly $60 million just to run 10 days’ worth of advertising in each of the first 30 primary states. And that price tag doesn’t include turning on the lights of campaign offices and filling them with full-time staff dedicated to identifying supporters and getting them out to vote on Election Day.

The expanding roles of super PACs and a condensed nominating calendar are fundamentally transforming the way the 2016 primary campaign will be conducted. Gone are the days when campaigns could just scrape together enough money to advertise in Iowa and New Hampshire, and then count on an early victory to spur an infusion of fresh contributions.

‘This is a new world with new rules.’

—Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich

Now, more than ever before, a premium is attached to amassing ahead of time enough money for a mad dash through big states. Roughly 62% of the delegates will be allotted in the first 52 days of voting, from February 1 through March 22. Eleven states hold nominating contests on March 1, including Texas with its 20 media markets.

“This is a new world with new rules,” said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who waged an unsuccessful White House bid in 2012. “You have lots of candidates who are going to have super PACs and you’re going to have many more well-funded candidates than you had in 2012.”

No Republican is better-positioned for this new era than Mr. Bush. Right to Rise, which ended June with more than $98 million in the bank, is gearing up for a big, multistate advertising push that will allow the group to run ads in Minneapolis and Dallas when the rest of the field is fixated on Manchester and Des Moines. The goal is to build such a big media presence that other camps will struggle to keep pace.

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“Gov. Bush has said that he is running to win and will do so by communicating his conservative reform agenda across the country,” said Paul Lindsay, a spokesman for Right to Rise. “We are planning a serious and robust independent effort to help him achieve that goal and challenge Hillary Clinton and the Democrats in the general election.”

Mr. Bush has raised a combined $114 million when his campaign cash is combined with Right to Rise. While he’s ahead in the GOP money race, other candidates are competitively positioned. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and a trio of outside groups had raised a combined $52 million by the end of June to back his candidacy. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and his aligned super PACs had raised a total of $44 million.

Beyond media strategy, the new environment is changing traditional travel itineraries. Candidates are already devoting more attention to later primary contests, making regular stops in some of the 11 states with primaries on March 1 as well as those that vote after them.

Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell said that four years ago no candidates visited her office. ENLARGE

Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell said that four years ago no candidates visited her office. PHOTO: ERIK SCHELZIG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four years ago, no candidates visited Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell. This year, Mr. Bush has visited her office twice. Ohio Gov. John Kasich stopped by last week, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee attended an event for her in the spring. She is attending an event with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker this week.

“Now, in the crowded primary, Tennessee is a plum state,” she said.

Three Republicans attended the Georgia Republican convention in June—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Messrs. Cruz and Rubio—even though the event fell on the same day as Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst’s pig roast in Boone. Messrs. Cruz and Walker are expected back in Georgia next week.

“We haven’t seen this level of candidates coming through the state than I can ever remember,” said Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, a Republican who led efforts to create a so-called “SEC Primary” in which a number of Southern states vote on March 1. (The contest is named after college football’s Southeastern Conference.)

With 16 Republicans running and the polls muddled, many campaigns are preparing for a longer-than-normal primary because of the strong possibility that several candidates will split the first four nominating contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

“They’re all concluding that you’re going to have three different winners in the first three states,” said Erick Erickson, the conservative pundit who helped organize a forum for GOP candidates in early August in Atlanta that effectively replaces the once-dominant Iowa Straw Poll. “March 1 is when you’re going to narrow it down to one or two.”

Because delegates will be allotted to candidates based on their percentage of the vote until March 15, there is a chance the nomination remains up-for grabs even after March 1. And the tight timeline means it will be difficult for an underfunded candidate, like former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum was in 2012, to score an early win and collect enough money to get up on the air in those March 1 media markets.

Right to Rise spent weeks compiling advertising rates for individual media markets in all 30 states that vote between Feb. 1 and March 22. They put the cost of running ads for 10 days on the radio and on cable, broadcast

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and satellite television in each state at $57 million. That total includes $8.4 million for Texas alone.

The actual costs are bound to be much higher because television advertising rates are likely to skyrocket with so many groups competing for time, including the Democratic candidates. Mrs. Clinton's campaign is already reserving time on stations, as are other candidates.

TV stations must give candidates a low rate, but supply-and-demand will dictate the cost for super PACs. In 2012, Republican nominee Mitt Romney's super PAC was charged $3,600 to air three 30-second ads during one New Hampshire program; the Romney campaign paid half that for the same time.

The risk for all these candidates is that the wealthy benefactors financing these groups may cut them off if they don't catch on in the earliest voting states. Even those Republicans with the most money may struggle to compete in March if they lose every contest in February. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani famously flamed out in 2008 when his campaign opted not to compete in Iowa, New Hampshire or South Carolina.

"There are more super PACs that will have the funding to compete deeper into the calendar and that will give candidates the option to stay in the race longer," said Carl Forti, who ran the super PAC for 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney. "But you can't underestimate momentum, and the press coverage that will come from winning an early state can minimize the advantage of money."

GOP contenders court evangelical vote in Iowa **// AP – July 18, 2015**

Republican presidential contenders seeking to woo evangelical voters are making their case for conservative social issues at a gathering expected to attract thousands of potential Iowa caucus-goers.

Ten candidates are scheduled to appear Saturday in Ames at the annual Family Leadership Summit. No one seeking the GOP nomination has emerged as a clear favorite among evangelical voters.

"They understand that this base has been very influential in past caucuses," said Bob Vander Plaats, president of the Family Leader, the conservative organization sponsoring the event.

Vander Plaats, who has not endorsed any candidate in the 2016 race, expressed concern that the Christian conservative vote might be split up between multiple candidates, diluting its impact.

"The goal would be in this summit, and any subsequent venue or event, that we would start recognizing a leader we could unite around and champion – and try to get the person across the goal line," he said.

Scheduled to attend are Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and reality TV personality Donald Trump.

During the daylong event, the candidates will be questioned on stage by political consultant Frank Luntz.

Iowa's evangelical voters traditionally influence the state's first-in-the-nation presidential caucuses because they tend to be organized and participate. Christian conservatives backed the winners of the last two caucuses, Mike Huckabee in 2008 and Rick Santorum in 2012, but neither was the eventual nominee.

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Former Iowa Republican Party Chairman Matt Strawn said it was likely too early for a leader to emerge among Christian conservatives. He also noted that some of the candidates may have a wider draw.

“Not only are there considerable options within the Christian conservative lane, but there are also those in that lane that demonstrate appeal to a broader base,” he said.

GOP's 2016 ad war slowly heating up // CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 18, 2015

Dollar days at the local Ford dealer are about to get pushed out by heartwarming tales of Gov. John Kasich's mailman father and Gov. Rick Perry's humble start as an Eagle Scout.

The stories candidates want to tell about their everyman roots, played out in gauzy, 30-second blips, are about to take over airwaves in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

There are 15 candidates so far officially seeking the Republican nomination. And every one of them wants to get on the air. Only the top 10 contenders, as determined by an average of national polls, will make it on stage for the first Republican debate, just a few weeks from now, and candidates are scrambling to make the cut.

"I am tired of hyphenated Americans. We are not Indian-Americans or African-Americans, or Asian Americans, we're all Americans," intones Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, in his own twist on the typical candidate introduction spot, which features clips of his family. Jindal has been pacing himself on TV throughout Iowa for more than a month now.

Jindal, Perry and Kasich didn't crack 5% support among Republicans in the most recent CNN / ORC poll, released late in June.

So far, the top tier is holding back. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose supporters touted an eye-popping $114 million haul, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who formalized his candidacy this week, have yet to begin unloading on-air.

Sen. Marco Rubio, who's sitting at the front of the GOP pack with Bush and Walker, made a surprise move last month, spending $10 million to flood the airwaves -- not now, but beginning in November, in the thick of the primary fight.

According to federal filings for WMUR in New Hampshire, Rubio will grace "Live with Kelly and Michael" and "The View" through the morning, before book-ending the mid-day news. Then the afternoon is booked with spots airing with "General Hospital," "The Chew" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." Finally, ABC primetime viewers get their final dose of Rubio during the nightly news and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

Kasich's supporters paid for a $1.7 million Hail Mary that went up on air last weekend in New Hampshire. In it, the often-blunt and sometimes prickly veteran politico talks about his upbringing over a light piano soundtrack and clips from smalltown America.

"My dad carried mail on his back. They called him 'John the Mailman.' They loved him because he looked out for everyone in those neighborhoods," Kasich, who has not yet officially announced his candidacy for president, said in the ads. "I learned something from my father: Do your best to look out for other people."

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And Christie, who's launching a come-from-behind bid in the Granite State, is planning to spend $1.1 million in combined online and on-air advertising beginning next week.

For candidates looking to get a leg up, buying up ads early can help them find a foothold in the wide, wide field of big-name Republicans, said Greg Moore, state director for Americans for Prosperity-New Hampshire.

The name of the game, he said, is building name identification among possible voters.

"If you're trying to catch a wave, people have to know who you are before you grab a surfboard," Moore said.

Craig Robinson, editor of The Iowa Republican website and a veteran campaigner, said he's been impressed by the early consistency from Perry and Jindal.

"Thus far it's been a Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal kinda air war," Robinson said. "It's been those two who have really been on TV and have had a prolonged presence."

The question for both, however, will be whether they can maintain their pace throughout the year, he said. The stakes, in the Republican pack, are holding onto territory and even carving a slice of land, at least one large enough to appear on stage for the first Republican debates.

"For Perry, he needs to hold onto his debate spot. For Jindal, he needs to break into that," Robinson said.

Moore is watching for most ads to start in earnest around September, when schools are back in and families have returned from vacation. Once airtime in Manchester has been snatched up, look for the candidates (and their affiliated super PACs) to begin buying in the Boston market, which covers southern New Hampshire.

Mike Schreurs, a veteran Republican buyer in Iowa who has advised Sen. Chuck Grassley since 1974, noted that some candidates haven't had to spend heavily yet because they're already getting plenty of exposure on their own, through "earned media."

Others, like retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, have been making effective use of radio advertising, Schreurs said. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina could be the next candidate hitting the radio.

Full-blown political saturation of the airwaves hasn't happened yet, but Schreurs noted that could change in a minute once one of the big names like Walker or Bush begin unloading on air.

"I think that's all going to change soon," he said.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

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Ku Klux Klan and New Black Panther Party Protest at South Carolina Capitol // NYT // Alan Binder – July 18, 2015

With police officers watching from nearby rooftops and a din of racial slurs heard on the pavement below, members of the Ku Klux Klan and the New Black Panther Party appeared at dueling rallies outside the South Carolina State House on Saturday, eight days after officials here removed the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol grounds.

Despite sporadic scuffles and hours of inflammatory rhetoric from white and black demonstrators alike, the authorities largely maintained order and prevented any significant violence. The police made five arrests, and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety estimated that the State House crowd, including onlookers, had at one point swelled to about 2,000 people. They chanted — or at least heard — volleys of incendiary speech and shouts of “white power!” and “black power!”

Excerpts From the Confederate Flag Debate in the South Carolina HouseJULY 8, 2015

Bystanders watched people wave flags celebrating Pan-Africanism, the Confederacy and the Nazi Party. And they watched as black demonstrators raised clenched fists, and white demonstrators performed Nazi salutes.

Much of the day’s drama was on the south side of the State House, near a statue of former Senator Strom Thurmond, where a few dozen people associated with the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan held a demonstration. A Columbia newspaper, The State, reported that it was the first Klan rally outside the State House since the late 1980s.

Saturday’s protesters, who were predominantly men, did not don the Klan’s traditional white hoods and robes. Even as they denied being members of a hate group, their message was a relentless one of white supremacy.

“This is my country,” one shouted at a group of black onlookers. “My ancestors founded this country!”

“Peace is over with,” said William Bader, who said he was a Kentucky resident and the imperial wizard of the Trinity White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. “There is no peace.”

Mr. Bader, who said he planned to wear his Klan regalia for a cross burning on Saturday night, added, “What do I want to see happen? White revolution is the only solution.”

But on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Bader and the other demonstrators who championed a vision of white supremacy were vastly outnumbered as they protested for an hour in a barricaded area of the State House grounds and sometimes became involved in angry shouting matches with black people in the crowd.

There were physical altercations beyond the barricades, but police officers resolved them quickly. When the protest ended and the white demonstrators began to march away around 4 p.m., state troopers with long guns, as well as a Sheriff’s Department tactical team, helped to clear a path.

It barely worked. Hundreds of Klan critics followed the white demonstrators to a nearby parking garage, and the authorities had to block roads so the protesters could leave. One driver, besieged by a crowd of protesters that ran toward the departing vehicles, crashed into a lamppost.

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Some of the white people who circulated in the crowd before the Klan rally said they were drawn to the protests by a blend of curiosity and support for preserving Southern history.

"We're not allowed to have this as a heritage," Jerry Anderson, a 49-year-old white man who drove here from northwest Georgia, said as he gestured toward another man's Confederate battle flag. "But they can fly theirs, and they can say what they want to, and it's O.K."

Mr. Anderson said he had never attended a Klan event, adding: "I've never had a reason to go to one. But they take that away and holler that we're the racists, so, yeah, I'm here."

By attending, people like Mr. Anderson defied Gov. Nikki R. Haley, a Republican, who on Thursday asked South Carolinians to keep "away from the disruptive, hateful spectacle members of the Ku Klux Klan hope to create over the weekend."

Earlier on Saturday, a rally organized by Black Educators for Justice, a Florida-based group with ties to the former director of the New Black Panther Party, attracted a smaller crowd and a far less conspicuous police presence. Among the speakers was the chairman of the New Black Panther Party, Hashim Nzinga, who made little mention of the June 17 massacre of nine black people at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Instead, he argued that blacks must offer renewed and vigorous resistance to what he regards as generations of oppression.

"Do what you need to do now before your coffin," Mr. Nzinga said as a sign nearby urged "death to the K.K.K."

Mr. Nzinga found a receptive crowd, including Charles Goins, a 36-year-old truck driver who held the red, black and green flag of Pan-Africanism. Mr. Goins flatly and frequently said he did not expect the day's rallies to aid in race relations, but he said they could inspire blacks in South Carolina to demand greater equality.

"If anything, this will unify black people because we're tired of being stepped on. We're tired of being pushed around," he said. "This is not the '50s or the '60s."

But the crowds, which brought downtown Columbia traffic to a halt on a sweltering day, eventually dissipated, especially once the Klan supporters had been escorted from the area.

INTERNATIONAL

ISIS Says It Carried Out Bombing That Killed 100 in Iraq // NYT // Anne Barnard – July 18, 2015

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a bombing in eastern Iraq, and Iraqi officials on Saturday said the death toll had risen to 100, with 20 more missing and more than 100 wounded.

The bomb tore through a marketplace on Friday as shoppers prepared for a major Muslim holiday in Khan Bani Saad, a mostly Shiite town about 12 miles from Baquba, the capital of Diyala Province.

Government troops and Shiite militias months ago wrested back parts of the province from the Islamic State, also known as ISIS and Daesh, its Arabic acronym.

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The attack was a blow to the unity and optimism that Iraqi officials have sought to project as they mount a new offensive to drive the militants out of Anbar Province, to the west. The government has struggled to oust the group, more than a year after Islamic State fighters seized large areas of northern and western Iraq.

In a statement claiming responsibility for the blast, the Islamic State, which has often singled out Shiites as targets, declared that the bombing was revenge for what it called a massacre of Sunnis in the town of Hawija, farther north.

The statement may have been referring to an episode in March, during a battle that eventually drove the Islamic State from the central city of Tikrit. Residents of Hawija reported at the time that dozens of Islamic State fighters had been killed by their commanders for trying to flee the battlefield.

It is not unusual for conflicting accounts of clashes to emerge. There have also been cases of indiscriminate killings by some Shiite militias in areas that they have taken back from the Islamic State.

The militant group also claimed in its statement that the bomb had hit “a gathering of Shiite militias.” But Iraqi officials said that many civilians, including women and children, were killed or wounded in the blast.

The Islamic State, which follows an extremist interpretation of Sunni Islam, views Shiites as apostates and has often attacked Shiite civilians. Its statement declared that it used three tons of explosives to kill and wound more than 180 “apostates.”

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a statement that the Islamic State was attacking civilians in response to recent government advances.

“The terrorist criminal gangs of Daesh committed a heinous crime targeting civilians in Khan Bani Saad after the victories achieved by our heroic forces in various places, and the Anbar operation is part of it,” he said.

The bomb struck as people were shopping for Eid al-Fitr, the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Sunni Muslims generally celebrated the holiday a day earlier.

The police and health officials said that in addition to the dead, at least 133 people were wounded in the blast. Identifying the dead was a painstaking task because many bodies were dismembered, the officials said.

It was the most deadly bombing in the area since the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, said Khudhur al-Ubaidi, the secretary of the Diyala provincial council, adding that the death toll was expected to rise because “most of the injured are in critical condition, and more bodies are still under the rubble.”

Bombings have been a terrifying commonplace in Iraq since long before the Islamic State existed in its current form. They often struck at Shiite religious gatherings, but also hit marketplaces with shoppers of all sects, throughout the American occupation and the years of sectarian infighting that peaked in 2006 and 2007.

In recent years, car bombs and suicide bombs have been the militants’ weapons of choice for attacks in government-held areas.

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Iran will uphold its anti-American policies and continue to support regional allies inimical to Western interests, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Saturday, days after Tehran and six world powers struck a landmark nuclear deal that renewed hopes of improved ties between longtime adversaries.

"Our policy regarding the arrogant U.S. government will not change," Mr. Khamenei said in a televised address to mark Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim feast day at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "We don't have any negotiations or deal with the U.S. on different issues in the world or the region."

Mr. Khamenei said the country wouldn't surrender to excessive demands, and vowed not to change Iran's policy of supporting regional allies that the U.S. and Israel oppose.

Iran provides vital support for the Syrian regime, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Shiite militias in Iraq, among other groups.

"Whether [the deal is] ratified or not, we will not give up on our friends in the region," Mr. Khamenei said.

The comments were the most detailed from Mr. Khamenei since the nuclear deal was struck Tuesday. The hard-line cleric's views are being closely watched because he has the final say in most matters of state and could still back out of the agreement.

While Mr. Khamenei was equivocal about the deal's ultimate success, he also hailed it as a win for Iran in a decadelong struggle to preserve its nuclear achievements, including thousands of centrifuges that enrich uranium.

He didn't explicitly reject its provisions, nor did he fully embrace the deal, an ambiguity that appeared to both play to his hard-line base and appeal to Iranians who support the negotiations. A majority of Iranians supported the deal, according to a poll conducted in May by the University of Tehran and IranPoll.com.

"After 10 to 12 years of struggle with the Islamic republic, they have no other way today but to tolerate the spinning of a few thousand centrifuges in the country, the continuation of this industry and research and development," Mr. Khamenei said.

Iran's nuclear deal with six world powers—the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, Russia and China—puts curbs on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of sanctions that have reduced its oil exports and hurt its economy.

The U.S., the EU and the United Nations imposed the sanctions over suspicions that Iran sought to develop nuclear weapons, a charge Iran has always denied.

Mr. Khamenei's insistence that Iran's policy toward the U.S. wouldn't change appeared to run counter to recent suggestions by top government officials that the deal could be a springboard for closer cooperation against common threats, including Islamic State extremists in Iraq and Syria.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, who spearheaded Iran's negotiations, said in an Eid message Friday that he hoped the nuclear deal could bring about better regional and international collaboration. President Hassan Rouhani, a pragmatic moderate, has articulated a foreign policy of engagement based on mutual respect since his

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election in 2013.

Mutual distrust between Iran and the U.S. dates to the Iranian revolution in 1979, which ousted the U.S.-backed Shah Reza Pahlavi and ushered in the Islamic government in place today.

Chants of “Death to America” have since been a regular refrain during government gatherings and Friday prayers, and hard-liners often refer to the U.S. as “the great Satan,” a phrase coined by Iran’s first Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Despite the nuclear deal’s finalization on Tuesday, it still faces hurdles both in Iran and the U.S.

In Iran, the parliament and the Supreme National Security Council, a body over which Mr. Khamenei has control, must sign off. But it is ultimately Mr. Khamenei whose decision counts.

The U.S. Congress also has 60 days to weigh in on the deal. If lawmakers pass a resolution disapproving the deal and President Barack Obama vetoes it, a two-thirds majority in the House and Senate is required to override the veto. Mr. Obama can still implement the deal if Congress can’t override his veto.

Since the deal was signed, Mr. Obama’s administration has been fending off opposition in Congress while trying to assure the U.S.’s Gulf Arab allies that they won’t be abandoned in Washington’s mending of ties with Tehran.

In a speech following the deal, Mr. Obama said the accord wouldn’t resolve all the U.S.’s differences with Iran, and that sanctions imposed over the country’s human rights record would stay in place. But he said the deal also “offers an opportunity to move in a new direction” toward tolerance and peace.

The predominantly Sunni Muslim Gulf countries, led by Saudi Arabia, are skeptical of the deal because they see Shiite Iran as their most potent regional rival.

Mr. Obama met Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister, Adel al-Jubeir, on Friday to discuss the Iran deal and other regional issues, according to a White House statement.

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From:	"King & Spalding" <update@kslawmail.com>
To:	"Odesta, Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	4/21/2015 5:36:45 AM
Subject:	King & Spalding Client Alert: Is Congress Ready To Act On Trade Legislation? Bill To Renew Trade Promotion Authority About To Be Considered

KING & SPALDING

Client Alert

Government Advocacy & Public Policy Practice Group

Is Congress Ready To Act On Trade Legislation?

Bill To Renew Trade Promotion Authority About To Be Considered

On April 16, long-awaited trade promotion authority (TPA) legislation was introduced in the House and Senate. The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (S. 995/H.R. 1890) is sponsored by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Paul Ryan (R-WI). The ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Sandy Levin (D-MI), was notably not a co-sponsor of the bill. The legislation renews presidential authority to negotiate and submit to Congress trade agreements, including the nearly-completed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Previous trade promotion authority lapsed in 2007. **More »**

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/26/2008 1:43:12 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/26

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 26th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

8:30am BUSH: Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC

12pm McCain: Town Hall in Cincinnati, OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event

1pm BUSH: Remarks to the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives' National Conference in Washington , DC

4pm BUSH: Participates in the arrival of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi from the United Arab Emirates at Camp David

5:30pm McCain: Finance Reception in Cincinnati, OH

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Top McCain Adviser Has Found Success Mixing Money, Politics (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Matthew Mosk; A01
As Sen. John McCain's top presidential campaign adviser, Richard H. "Rick" Davis has worked for almost a year without compensation, telling reporters that the sacrifice shows his dedication to the cash-strapped Arizona Republican. He also took a protracted leave from his Washington lobbying firm to distance himself from ethical questions.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502858.html

McCain-Obama So Far: Positively Negative (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Dan Balz; A06
A campaign between Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain once offered enormous possibilities for something new. Instead, the two presumptive nominees have opened their campaigns for the White House with what looks and sounds like a repeat of the kind of politics both have promised to leave behind.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502847.html?hpid=topnews

Echoes of Bush's '04 Campaign in Sales Pitch for McCain (NYT 6/26/08)
By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
President Bush, offering a glimpse of the White House strategy for selling Senator John McCain to voters this fall, told a Republican crowd here on Wednesday that Mr. McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, is the only candidate "who knows what it takes to defeat our enemies."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/26/us/politics/26bush.html

McCain pledges oil independence for U.S. (LA Times 6/26/08)
By Maeve Reston
In Nevada, he says he'd free America from foreign suppliers by 2025. He also pitches nuclear power, a touchy topic in the state.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign26-2008jun26,0,2405380.story

Who's 'Dr. No' of energy policy? (LA Times 6/26/08)
By Noam N. Levey
The McCain camp tries to stick the label on Obama, but the movie villain, like the Republican, said yes to nuclear power.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailno26-2008jun26,0,4986575.story

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McCain camp releases 'Dr. No' web ad (CNN blog 6/25/08)
By Martina Stewart
The battle over energy policy between Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama has ventured into the realm of online video.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/25/mccain-camp-releases-%e2%80%98dr-no%e2%80%99-web-ad/?dr-no?-web-ad/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3Zy50Dy6Zk
Link to McCain press release: http://www.johnmccain.com/informing/news/PressReleases/909debdc-93e0-4d6a-8374-2fd7bd2b4542.htm

John McCain doesn't work weekends (Politico 6/26/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Since effectively capturing the Republican nomination when Mitt Romney dropped out of the race on February 7, John McCain has held just one public campaign event on a weekend.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11355.html

On the Web, Supporters of McCain Wage An Uphill Battle (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Jose Antonio Vargas; C01
Republican's Online Presence Lags Far Behind Obama's
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062503116.html

For Mother McCain, 96 Is More Than an Age: It's an Average Speed. (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Mary Ann Akers And Paul Kane; A17
Nothing, not even skyrocketing gas prices, seems to slow down Roberta McCain, the indefatigable 96-year-old mother of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and a notorious lead-foot behind the wheel. She's still speeding around like a NASCAR driver on the last lap. Mrs. McCain told us at a recent cocktail party that she got a $40 speeding ticket in Chevy Chase a few weeks ago. "Don't speed up there," she warned with a wry smile.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502596.html

Obama plans to run McCain ragged across the US (AFP 6/26/08)
Democrat Barack Obama is broadening the playing field against his Republican White House rival John McCain with a nationwide trawl for votes that could, if successful, produce a landslide.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gvcHS7wuzzITQw1fEY_duczVEWjA

McCain pushes energy plan on delicate ground (AP 6/26/08)
Takes nuclear power plan to Nevada, sidesteps nuclear waste controversy
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25372699/

Gov. Crist Takes Middle Way In Environment, Energy (WSJ 6/26/08)
By Stephen Power
In the space of a week, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist cheered the oil industry by suggesting he could live with oil wells off the Florida coast, then won praise from Greens for cutting a deal to reclaim 300 square miles of the Everglades from sugar farming.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121443962081205471.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

John McCain Meets with Log Cabin Republicans President (GayPatriot 6/25/08)
GayPatriot has exclusively learned that presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Senator John McCain held a personal meeting with the head of the national gay Republicans organization, the Log Cabin Republicans. Log Cabin President Patrick Sammon confirmed his meeting with Senator McCain earlier today.
http://www.gaypatriot.net/2008/06/25/breaking-election-newsgaypatriot-exclusivejohn-mccain-meets-with-log-cabin-republicans-president/
See also: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/25/mccain-in-the-closet-secr_n_109279.html

ANALYSIS-McCain foreign policy susceptible to Obama attack (Reuters 6/25/08)
By David Morgan
Republican candidate John McCain could be vulnerable on foreign policy and national security -- his major campaign assets up to now -- if Barack Obama can paint him as a symbol of contradiction and hardline ideology, experts say.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSN24328846

McCain In 2004: "Bin Laden May Have Just Given Us A Little Boost" (TPM 6/25/08)

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By Greg Sargent
This is a live one. John McCain said he strenuously disagrees with top adviser Charlie Black's comment that a terror attack on U.S. soil would help McCain's campaign -- but more evidence has just emerged that McCain does believe this, or a variation of it, anyway.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/mccain_in_2004_bin_laden_may_h.php

Former McCain Strategist Blames Charlie Black's Gaffe On 'Tremendous Reporter Cleavage' (ThinkProgress 6/25/08)
In a new Fortune magazine article, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) chief strategist Charlie Black claimed that another terrorist attack on U.S. soil would be "a big advantage" for their campaign. On Dennis Miller's radio show today, former top McCain strategist Mike Murphy attempted to explain away the gaffe with a crude joke:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/25/black-cleavage/
Link to audio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMM1seEVka0&eurl=http://thinkprogress.org/

In 2005, McCain Said Even The 'Scum Of Humanity' Deserve To Have 'Some Adjudication Of Their Cases' (ThinkProgress 6/25/08)
After last week's Supreme Court decision granting terror detainees the right of habeas corpus, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) blasted the decision as one of the worst ever. Raising the specter of Osama bin Laden being tried in civil court, McCain invoked the Nazi war crimes trials to declare that bin Laden should be denied habeas rights at all costs, Supreme Court be damned:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/25/mccain-nazi-flip/

McCain Attacks Obama Using Hip Film Reference...from 1962 (ABC News blog 6/25/08)
By Jake Tapper
Three weeks after Sen. Barack Obama, D-Illinois, began accusing Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., of "running for George Bush's third term," McCain started saying Obama was running for "Jimmy Carter's second" term.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/06/mccain-attack-1.html

McCain tries to balance energy solutions, votes (AP 6/25/08)
By GLEN JOHNSON
After fending off ocean drilling critics in California, Republican John McCain on Wednesday bucked opponents of a Nevada nuclear waste repository as he outlined ways to resolve the nation's energy crisis while seeking votes in another swing state.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hsrp6j9iu62RFM1PULIv9y6YNHoAD91HG3NG0

More offshore drilling does little at the pump: EIA (Reuters 6/25/08)
By Tom Doggett
Allowing oil drilling in U.S. offshore waters that are now closed to energy exploration would do little to lower gasoline prices paid by consumers, the government's top energy forecaster said on Wednesday.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080625/ts_nm/usa_oil_offshore_dc

Obama Condemns Supreme Court Decision in Child Rape Case (WSJ blog 6/25/08)
By Susan Davis
Barack Obama criticized the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision today striking down the use of the death penalty in cases of child rape. ...Expected Republican nominee John McCain also disagreed with the court's decision.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/06/25/obama-condemns-supreme-court-decision-in-child-rape-case/?mod=googlenews_wsj

Obama Florida supporters slam McCain (MSNBC 6/25/08)
By Athena Jones
The Obama campaign hosted a call with Florida legislators to slam McCain as a poor candidate for South Florida who would have a big, uphill climb if he is to appeal to voters there.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/24/1164983.aspx

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

A winning strategy for McCain (Boston Globe 6/26/08)
By Todd Domke
THE TRENDS are troubling for John McCain. Polls show growing support for Barack Obama, for Democrats generally, and for change. And since Obama broke his public financing pledge he'll have much more money than McCain for advertising. How can McCain change the dynamic of this race?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/26/a_winning_strategy_for_mccain/

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The Obamacons Who Worry McCain (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Robert D. Novak; A19
What is an "Obamacon?" The phrase surfaced in January to describe British conservatives entranced by Barack Obama. On March 13 the American Spectator broadened the term to cover all "conservative supporters" of the Democratic presidential candidate. Their ranks, though growing, feature few famous people. But looming on the horizon are two big potential Obamacons: Colin Powell and Chuck Hagel. ...The Obamacon syndrome is based on hostility to Bush and his administration and on revulsion over today's Republican Party. The danger for McCain is that desire for a therapeutic electoral bloodbath could get out of control.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062501942.html?hpid=opinionsbox1

McCain is on track with battery prize (Arizona Republic 6/26/08)
By Don Walter
Sen. John McCain's idea to offer government prizes to whoever can develop a new era of batteries and a zero-emissions car is not only courageous and innovative but demonstrates a clear understanding of how to get results ("McCain offers prize for new battery," Republic, Tuesday).
http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/0626thurlets261.html

Snuggling Up to the Bundlers (NYT 6/26/08)
In his self-serving retreat from the spending restraints of public financing, Senator Barack Obama hailed his formidable Internet army of small donors as "a new kind of politics." Maybe so. But just in case, the senator is not about to neglect the old politics of special-interest money bundlers in his presidential campaign. ...Senator John McCain — who is also vying for the mantle of reformer in chief — is opting for the public subsidies that begin after the conventions. In the meantime, he is relying on his own flock of special-interest bundlers to raise all the private funds he can.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/26/opinion/26thu3.html

Another wedge issue (LA Times 6/26/08)
By Salam Al-Marayati and Steven B. Jacobs
Exploiting the Muslim- Jewish divide is the wrong way to win votes.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-almarayati26-2008jun26,0,5362594.story

Terror Gaffe is a Blot on McCain Campaign (Seattle Times 6/25/08)
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/editorialsopinion/2008015338_terrored25.html

It's All About Obama (WSJ 6/26/08)
By KARL ROVE
The senator risks being painted as arrogant and self-centered.... Many candidates have measured the Oval Office drapes prematurely. But Barack Obama is the first to redesign the presidential seal before the election.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121443823260805375.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

BUSH NEWS

U.S. to Take North Korea Off Terror List (NYT 6/27/08)
By NORIMITSU ONISHI and EDWARD WONG
North Korea submitted a long-delayed declaration of its nuclear program on Thursday, as the Bush administration said it would remove the country it once described as part of the "axis of evil" from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/27/world/asia/27nuke.html?hp
See also: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_NKOREA?SITE=NVLAS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

White House Tried to Silence EPA Proposal on Car Emissions (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Juliet Eilperin; A02
White House officials last December sought to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from submitting a proposed rule that would limit greenhouse-gas emissions from new vehicles, agency sources said yesterday. And upon learning that EPA had hit the "send" button just minutes earlier, the White House called again to demand that the e-mail be recalled.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502713.html

Bush visits Michigan, says McCain will win state (AP 6/25/08)
A jovial President Bush spoke to an enthusiastic crowd of 300 Republican donors, promoting Michigan

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candidates and presidential hopeful John McCain.
http://www.mlive.com/elections/index.ssf/2008/06/bush_visits_michigan_says_mcca.html

Bush Misread War-Powers Cases (WSJ 6/25/08)
By Jess Bravin
WASHINGTON -- At the Supreme Court, it has become a biennial ritual: The Bush administration loses a major war-powers case. In 2004, 2006 and again this month, the justices rejected the president's claim that he can effectively do as he wishes with prisoners he designates as "enemy combatants."
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121443502741304977.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

OTHER TOP NEWS

Guantanamo Detainee to File Habeas Petition (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Josh White and Del Quentin Wilber; A14
Mohammed Sulaymon Barre fled his native Somalia as civil war raged in the early 1990s, receiving U.N. refugee status and landing in Pakistan, where he settled his family and worked for a financial services company. In a nighttime raid in November 2001, Pakistani authorities arrested Barre, holding him for four months and then turning him over to U.S. forces in Afghanistan as an alleged terrorist.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502598.html

High Court To Announce Ruling on D.C. Gun Ban (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Paul Duggan; A16
With its term coming to an end, the U.S. Supreme Court this morning is expected to issue its ruling on the District's handgun-ownership ban in a case that could result in a landmark interpretation of the Second Amendment.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502712.html

Damages Cut Against Exxon in Valdez Case (NYT 6/26/08)
By ADAM LIPTAK
The Supreme Court on Wednesday reduced what had once been a $5 billion punitive damages award against Exxon Mobil to about $500 million. The ruling essentially concluded a legal saga that started when the Exxon Valdez, a supertanker, struck a reef and spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into the Prince William Sound in Alaska in 1989.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/26/washington/26punitive.html?hp

Right to Face Accusers Is Affirmed in Unusual Case (Washington Post 6/26/08)
By Carrie Johnson; A02
The Supreme Court yesterday threw out the conviction of a man accused of murdering his ex-girlfriend because the defendant could not challenge an incriminating account she gave the police weeks before her death.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/25/AR2008062502614.html

Global warming could increase terrorism, official says (CNN 6/25/08)
* Climate change could destabilize "weak" states, intelligence chair says
* Global warming could spark mass migrations, classified report finds
* U.S. food production could increase with climate change, report suggests
* But it says U.S. coasts could be threatened by larger storm surges

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/25/climate.change.security/index.html?eref=rss_politics

House passes AMT patch (The Hill 6/25/08)
By Jessica Holzer
The House approved legislation to shield 25 million families from a scheduled tax increase this year, voting to raise taxes on the private equity industry and major oil companies to offset part of the measure's $60 billion cost.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/house-passes-amt-patch-2008-06-25.html

Afghanistan attacks up 40% in east, Pentagon says (LA Times 6/25/08)
By Peter Spiegel and Julian E. Barnes
Insurgent activity has spread into once stable areas, data show, prompting alarm among officials.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-fg-usafghan25-2008jun25,0,4289911.story

POLLS

Poll: McCain Takes Seven-Point Lead In Missouri (TPM 6/25/08)
By Eric Kleefeld

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A new SurveyUSA poll shows John McCain taking a decent lead in one battleground state: Missouri.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/poll_mccain_takes_sevenpoint_l.php

Gallup finds 80% see McCain as a commander in chief, 55% Obama (LA Times blog 6/25/08)
By Andrew Malcolm
Republican Sen. John McCain, a retired Naval aviator, Naval Academy graduate, war veteran and son and grandson of admirals, draws a very high level of confidence among American voters in his ability to serve as commander in chief -- fully 80% of those surveyed say McCain could handle the top job.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/06/gallup-finds-80.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
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202-609-7681 (office)
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From: "Gary Ritterstein, Douglass for Congress" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/1/2012 9:49:42 AM
Subject: drama queen

John,

Despite bankrolling his campaign with millions of dollars from the likes of the Koch Brothers and Wall Street, Corporate Congressman Robert Hurt is still trying to get away with playing the victim card. Instead of showing up at debates to explain his ties to dangerous uranium mining that puts our district at risk, he is hiding behind campaign statements that try to gin up another right-wing hissy fit.

Congress is no place for a drama queen. It takes a leader who is tough enough to handle a little political criticism. Having narrowly escaped several kidnap attempts, General Douglass has been through far worse. He's tough enough to lead in our military and is tough enough to lead in Congress.

Will you stand tough now with an immediate contribution?

The more they whine, the more we win. **If you contribute by Monday's deadline, we'll keep up the fight to replace a Corporate Congressman with a true patriot who will fight for Virginia families.**

Our opponent's own polling shows that we are gaining momentum. Our support has surged by 7 percent before we even hit the airwaves. And we're on the verge of our strongest fundraising month to date.

Our grassroots movement comes from a campaign that does more than 300 events and makes tens of thousands of calls. It comes from you. And we won't back down until we restore our representation in the people's House to the people of Virginia. **Please contribute now.**

Thanks,

Gary Ritterstein
Campaign Manager

Paid for by John Douglass for Congress

14249 Hume Rd
Hume, VA 22639

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/30/2015 11:22:40 AM
Subject: Read, Watch and Listen to the Best from the Wilson Center In 2015

To view this email as a web page, click here

Dear John D.,

Thanks to our scholars, our staff, and our friends around the world, this has been an exceptional year in programming at the Wilson Center. More than ever, our publications and our conversations bridged the worlds of scholarship and policy.

Below you'll find a list of the standout events, publications, and articles of 2015 organized by the themes we found most significant.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/11/2014 8:50:55 AM
Subject: Communal Lands: Theater of Operations for the Counterinsurgency

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Communal Lands: Theater of Operations for the Counterinsurgency

Renata Bessi and Santiago Navarro F., Translated by Miriam Taylor, Truthout: The Pentagon has been funding mapping expeditions of indigenous areas in Mexico. Its aim? To incorporate indigenous territories into the transnational corporate model of private property, either by force or through agreements.

Read the Article and View the Photos

Fracked on Their Own Petard: The Self-Implosion of an Industry on the Ropes

Adam Briggle, Truthout: As Denton seeks to become the first city in Texas to ban fracking, the industry is trying to frame the fight in economic terms. That frame, it turns out, is a poor choice for leaders.

Read the Article

Gar Alperovitz | Is Worker Ownership a Way Forward for Market Basket?

Gar Alperovitz, Truthout: Market Basket seems a prime candidate for transition to employee ownership that could keep the leadership that built the company's culture in place, while laying the groundwork to maintain that culture by rooting ownership in the company itself.

Read the Article

"Pro-Troop" Charity Misleads Donors While Lining Political Consultants' Pockets

Kim Barker, ProPublica: Move America Forward has collected millions of dollars to send care packages to US troops. But its appeals often rely on images and stories borrowed without permission, and its assets have been used to benefit consulting firms and political action committees.

Read the Article

Reflections on the Maidan and Pro-Autonomy Political Movements in Ukraine

Roger Annis, Truthout: Social researcher at the

BuzzFlash

"Poor Door" Approved for Luxury Apartment Building in NYC Is Economic Apartheid

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: The rich, apparently, do not want to have their days disturbed by mingling with those of less income. So, real estate developers in at least three cities are developing rental buildings with separate doors for wealthy renters and those with reduced economic means.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Study: Keystone XL's Carbon Emissions

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Moscow-based Institute for Globalization Studies and Social Movements Daniel Grigor'ev speaks with Truthout about the origins and development of Ukraine's "Maidan" and East Ukraine's autonomy movements.

Read the Interview

Another Unarmed Black Teen Shot by Militarized Police

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: On Saturday, 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot and killed by a Ferguson, Missouri, police officer. Brown's death has sparked considerable outrage in Ferguson, with protests breaking out all weekend long and continuing today.

Read the Article

As Migrant Children Face Backlash, Communities Mobilize to Drown Out Hate

Laurie Smolenski, Waging Nonviolence: During rallies this summer, the hateful taunts of anti-immigration counter-protesters were drowned out by communities singing songs of freedom, resonating toward the skyscrapers in Manhattan.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | The Entitlement of the Very Rich

Dean Baker, Truthout: Last week we got to see the thinking of the very rich when Jeffrey Immelt, the CEO of General Electric, complained at a summit with African heads of state and business leaders about the fact that there is even an argument over the reauthorization of Export-Import Bank.

Read the Article

California Drought Leaves Farmworkers Hung Out to Dry

Julia Wong, In These Times: The crops being harvested in California this summer are smaller than usual thanks to the record-setting drought that has reached extreme levels in more than half of the state. It's another blow to California's hundreds of thousands of farmworkers who are struggling to survive.

Read the Article

Our Privacy and Liberty Are Still at Risk, Even if Leahy NSA Bill Passes

Elizabeth (Liza) Goitein, Brennan Center for Justice: Even if the Senate version of the USA Freedom Act becomes law, Americans' private information will remain vulnerable - under both the domestic programs addressed by the bill and other, much larger, programs nominally targeted at foreigners.

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Walgreens Will Not Move Overseas to Avoid Taxes, and More

In today's On the News segment: Walgreens has caved to public pressure and announced that it will

Would Be Four Times Higher Than the US Thought

Read the Article at The Guardian

Obama's Pentagon Covered Up War Crimes in Afghanistan, Says Amnesty International

Read the Article at The Daily Beast

The Wall Street Journal: The Funny Papers of Modern Journalism

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Koch Brothers Reach Out to Hispanic Community in New "Libre Initiative"

Read the Article at the Associated Press

The Man With the Cardboard Sign: "Ferguson Police Just Executed My Unarmed Son!!!"

Read the Article at Prison Culture

Minimum Wage Laws Aren't Just for Workers With the Lowest Wages

Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

George Will Confirms Nixon's Vietnam

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not move overseas to avoid paying US taxes; in the last year alone, the default rate on federal student loans has risen by 5 percent; the United States is the richest nation on the planet, but we're the only advanced economy that doesn't guarantee workers a vacation; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Treason
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

A Bike That Stamps Your Message on the Street, and Three Other Open-Source Tools for Activists

Molly Rusk, YES! Magazine: StreetToolbox offers new tools for the political communicator - from a remote-controlled car that writes messages in colored sand to a kit that turns your bike into a mobile printing press.

Read the Article and Watch the Videos

The Mass Destruction of Iraq: The Disintegration of a Nation: Why It Is Happening and Who Is Responsible

Truthout writers William Rivers Pitt and Dahr Jamail have collaborated on a new e-book that examines the history behind the chaos in Iraq. From PNAC to Bush, with vivid reporting from the scene, this book definitively explains why this is happening. Order *The Mass Destruction of Iraq* for Kindle now!

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/6/2015 3:19:43 AM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Throw it back

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theSkimm

Skimm for August 6th

Skimm'd after watching "The Wonder Years." Sigh.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The choice we face is ultimately between diplomacy or some form of war" – President Obama on why he wants Congress to approve a little thing called the Iran nuclear deal.

SKIMM THIS

THINGS EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT

THE PLANE

THE STORY

Everyone's pretty, pretty sure that debris found last week on an island in the Indian Ocean is from the missing plane. More sure than they were last lime . And the time before that .

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

A Malaysia Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing went missing more than a year ago with 239 people on board, and no one knew what the F happened. Last week, debris washed ashore on Reunion Island (in the Indian Ocean, near Madagascar). It was sent to France, where experts said they have a strong feeling it's from the missing plane.

theSKIMM

It looks like this is a major clue to the mystery of the plane. But still TBD – how and why the plane turned from its original flight path.

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THE DEBATE

THE STORY

The first presidential debate is tonight. And the GOP has the talking stick. The top 10 candidates — based on the average of recent national polls — will argue it out on Fox News over who should take the White House.

WHO DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Donald Trump…the one with the hair. He's polling the highest by far – despite being the most controversial candidate by far.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush (FL)…the one who's a Bush. But he wants you to call him Jeb. Exclamation mark included.

Gov. Scott Walker (WI)…the one with the union beef. He's apparently uninterested in beef with other candidates tonight.

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee (AR)…the one who was a pastor and previously seen on Fox News. He has some aggressive stances on social issues.

Ben Carson…the one who's a neurosurgeon with no political experience.

Sen. Ted Cruz (TX)…the one who's a Tea Party golden boy.

Sen. Marco Rubio (FL)...the one with a 'Gate. #WaterBottleGate

Gov. Chris Christie (NJ)…the other one with a 'Gate. #BridgeGate.

Sen. Rand Paul (KY)…the one where every time he says he wants 'smaller government,' you take a drink.

Gov. John Kasich (OH)…the one who barely made the cut, and also used to be a Fox News host. Welcome home.

theSKIMM

It's still 2015, but it already smells like 2016 spirit.

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REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR BOSS'S SUMMER MANSION FOR THE OFFICE BBQ...

Must be nice. Yesterday, the SEC told the CEOs of most public companies to make their salaries public…and then play a game of compare and contrast with their employees' salaries. Hint: one is much higher. In some cases, CEOs are making 800 times the average employee. Supporters are saying 'bout time,' this will put a spotlight on income inequality. Critics are saying 'WTF,' this is a useless rule that only serves to shame CEOs about how much they make. In other paycheck news, Netflix wants its employees to keep theirs while they have babies. Earlier this week, the company announced it's allowing new parents to take off up to a year and still get paid. So that makes changing diapers a little more bearable.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN THE WAITRESS ASKS TO SEE YOUR ID...

That's a controversial question in Texas. Yesterday, a federal appeals court ruled against a Texas law that requires voters to show certain approved forms of ID at the polls. For example, college IDs are a no-go, but driver's licenses and concealed gun licenses are OK. The court decided it has a discriminatory effect on minority voters. This law was signed in 2011 and has been controversial ever since. Supporters say it's needed to protect the voting process in Texas. Critics — including the Justice Department — say that voter fraud is a non-issue and instead, the law just makes it harder for low-income and minority voters to get an "I Voted" sticker. Now, the law's going to a lower court for some revisions. PS: today is the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU REMEMBER TONIGHT IS JON STEWART'S LAST SHOW ...

Cosby jokes might be off limits. It looks like Bill Cosby will have to talk about one of the sexual abuse cases against him. He's been ordered to give a deposition under oath later this year. The alleged victim is one of the women who have publicly accused Cosby of sexual abuse. She was a minor when the alleged abuse happened, so the statute of limitations that has allowed Cosby to keep quiet until now doesn't apply. He's never been charged.

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN THE INTERN IS SITTING AT YOUR DESK...

So you think this is yours now? Recently, China's been saying 'mine' to contested territory in the South China Sea. Yesterday, US Sec. of State Kerry told China's foreign minister 'relax' with the territory grabbing. The South China Sea is home to major shipping routes, which is why pretty much every country in the neighborhood says it's theirs. Last year, China went SimCity on everyone and built about 2,000 acres of artificial islands…complete with helipads, airstrips, and military facilities. The US has repeatedly told China to kindly pump the brakes, since this could become a bigger issue in the region. And yesterday, Kerry told them again. Good talk.

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THING TO KNOW

Catty-corner: The phrase your aunt uses when you're trying to agree on a meeting place for brunch. It means diagonally opposite.

SKIMM SHARE

It's almost Friday. We're here to help you get the party started…early. Share theSkimm and you could have a Skimm happy hour set and $100 worth of liquid courage coming your way. Share here.

SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

***indicates Skimm'bassador. Clap your hands.**

***Emiko Faust** (Jackson, MS); ***Becky Pospisal** (Clive, IA); ***Eileen Buckley** (Chicago, IL); ***Brianna Sikorski** (Joliet, IL); ***Alexis Eggleton** (Goshen, NY); ***Molly Bradford** (Missoula, MT); ***Hannah White** (Atlanta, GA); ***Sasha Swerdlow** (Los Angeles, CA); ***Natasha Abdullah** (Houston, TX); ***Kim Maddox** (Louisville, KY); ***Laura Smith** (Raleigh, NC); ***Christine Nowack** (Olney, MD); ***Hana Betts** (McLean, VA); ***Elizabeth Trainor** (Roseland, NJ); ***Kayla Calder** (Toronto, Canada); ***Laura Evans** (McLean, VA); ***Monica DeLuca** (Massapequa, NY); ***Malia Funk** (Columbus, OH); ***Rissa Reddan** (Chicago, IL); ***Megan Dupuy** (Bator Rouge, LA); ***Laura Bilicic** (Chicago, IL); **Lauren Seiple** (Charlotte, NC); **Alexandra Weingarten** (Roslyn, NY); **Jeff Piotrowski** (Philadelphia, PA); **Lily Mortimer** (New York, NY); **Alix Rabins Clyburn** (Maplewood, NJ); **Brianna Welle** (Minneapolis, MN); **Wes Wynne** (New York, NY); **Caron Blanton** (Madison, MS); **Donna Piard** (New York, NY); **Gin Barbera** (Amelia Island, FL); **Holly Usiak** (Chapel Hill, NC); **Jessica Fleury** (Bethesda, MD); **Julie Mackenie** (Boston, MA); **Lindsey Marmorstein** (New York, NY); **Mallory Jones** (Ann Arbor, MI); **Alli Movsovitz** (Atlanta, GA); **Irina Kous** (Boston, MA); **Lindsay Bembenek** (Arlington VA); **Minnie Tesage** (Thomaston, CT); **Kathy Wallace** (Fitchburg, MA)

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/10/2008 6:36:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting Belleville, MI 07/10/08

Hi All,

Unfortunately, a stubborn McCain volunteer wouldn't let our tracker into today's town hall meeting. But here's the good news: we were able to cover the event via online video and web quality clips are available by request. Below are our notes.

BIG HIGHTLIGHTS:

- McCain does NOT mention Gramm comments
- McCain tells Michigan crowd that 'I have to look you in the eye and tell you you're jobs aren't coming back'
- McCain reiterated his support for No Child Left Behind and for 'choice and competition' in schools
- When asked about his changing positions on the Bush tax cuts and the environment, McCain repeated in his response, 'I have not changed positions.'
- When asked how he will defend Israel as president, McCain said 'the United States of America can never allow a second Holocaust'

Belleville, MI - McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/10/08

Speech Highlights:
- Town hall meetings are the best way to communicate. Senator Obama has chosen not to participate in these town hall meetings.
- The town hall meeting I hope to have is one on the economy, but I'll answer all questions.
- I don't want to insult your intelligence by tell you that the state of Michigan has lost over 70,000 jobs. 8.5% of your workforce is out of the job.
- Families are sitting around the table each night and worrying how to pay their bills.
- The price of a gallon of gas is over $4 -- over $5 in California.
- We got to reform government and keep taxes low.
- Right now we are gridlocked in our nation's capital. I don't know if you saw it or not, but Congress is at an approval rating of 9%.
- My whole life has been spent putting my country first. And I promise to always do that.
- I believe in the greatness of America. I'm encouraged when I go to places in America that are using technology and innovation.
- My opponent would like to have small businesses have mandatory health care -- which means new jobs will not be created.
- The last thing we need in an economic downturn is to raise taxes. Obama wants to raise a broad range of taxes.
- If you want a candidate that will raise your taxes, Senator Obama is your candidate. I am not your candidate.
- I believe in free trade. I also believe in fair trade. And we do have means for addressing inequalities. I will be very active in preventing abuses.
- I have to look you in the eye and say I believe in free trade.
- Let me talk to you about spending. Government has grown by 60% in the last 8 years. Spending has gotten out of control. That is a great failure of this President for not vetoing those spending bills.
- Ronald Reagan used to say -- Congress spends money like a drunken sailor ... And I got a letter from a former drunken sailor who said he was offended by the association.
- We spent $15 million of your money for asparagus subsidies. That was in the farm bill. I voted against that.
- Any pork-barrel project that comes across my desk, I will veto.
- I have never asked for or received a pork-barrel project for my state. Obama has.
- My friends our single biggest challenge is our dependence on foreign oil. We are sending billions of dollars to countries overseas that don't like us very much.
- We need to embark on a mission -- I'm calling it the Lexington Project. We need to do wind, solar, nuclear, tide -- all these sources.
- We can unleash that power -- and we can do that right here in Michigan where we have some of the most innovative workers in the nation.
- The lowest income Americans are being hurt most by the cost of gasoline.
- The point is Americans need relief. And we should give them a gas-tax holiday.
- It's a security issue and an environmental issue. We need to drill offshore.
- We've got to have nuclear power -- my friends the French. 80% of their electricity is coming from nuclear

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energy.
- We need to reprocess and story nuclear power.
- I'm proud of my record. In January, I'm going to go in there and take them all on. The Democrats, the Republicans, the Libertarians -- the vegetarians. I'll make it happen.
- I promise to serve -- I did it as a prisoner of war and in Congress.
- Thank you very much for being here. I'll now take your questions.

Question and Answer

1 Q) You visited my plant 2 years ago. I donated to your campaign. You say fair trade, free trade. We want fair trade. We've lost a lot of our jobs. For job training programs, where are you going to find the teachers? And once they're trained, I can go and hire an engineer for cheaper in China. We want fair trade.

MCCAIN: I see what your saying. We have the WTO and other organizations that help make trade fair. But the innovation and hope lies in America. You can never replace the ingenuity and greatness of the American worker. We are the best. Bill Gates started in a garage I believe. I'll look at you in the eye again and say there are certain jobs that aren't coming back. But with green technology there will be new jobs available. I am confidant that flex fuels and hybrids are part of the answer. I understand again that people are hurting. But they need to have hope and confidence in the future. I do. And I will keep taxes low. And I will dedicate federal funds to research and development money. The right leadership, motivation and incentives and we can do this. The future of the economy is in green technologies. I believe that green technologies are going to fuel the economic recovery of this nation.

FOLLOW-UP: I believe we do need the leadership and the training programs. But where are you going to get the teachers? And the violations in free trade! We've all testified before Congress and there's not much else we can do.

MCCAIN: All I can say to you is -- I will exercise every possible means to make sure that trade regulations are not violated by our foreign partners. I also believe we can provide the job training programs. We all know a job is more of a job in America -- we know it has to do with pride and family. I appreciate this exchange, but to do nothing contradicts what America is about. And I believe opening markets to our products is the way to go because we have the best, most innovator worker in the world. And I'm not afraid to compete. I have to tell you, I do believe in the overall benefits of trade.

2 Q) [Superintendant of schools] We have lots of displaced workers, but a lot of them don't have the degrees to access our programs. What can you do to help these workers get access?

MCCAIN: Our job training programs are stuck back in the 1950's. We need to fix that. And I want to come to your school and learn what I can do. I'd like to come and visit your school, see the programs you have and make sure displaced workers have access to your programs.

FOLLOW-UP: Thank you and you are invited.

MCCAIN: You're welcome and I will be in contact with you.

3 Q) [Doctor, candidate for board of education] I'd like to open up our education system to choice. How can the government promote school choice without becoming overly bloated?

MCCAIN: I agree with you and thank you for your work. My wife Cindy taught special education. And that is another type of education that needs attention. I believe in choice and competition. I believe in No Child Left Behind, but it was a start and it needs to be fixed. The city of New Orleans has many charter schools and the quality of education is on its way up. Cindy and I sent our children to a Catholic school. We're not Catholic, but we were thankful for the choice to send our kids to a good school.

4 Q) [Owns flag company] Thank you for your service. I'm completely committed to not voting for Barack Obama. I'm trying to get committed to voting for you. I don't like your votes against the Bush tax cuts, some of your environmental votes. And I see you've changed your positions and are right on those now. However, I'm not sure. We want to take you to the dance, we're just concerned about who you are going to go home with.

MCCAIN: I hate to tell you, but I have not changed positions. When we first had these tax cuts, we did not have any restraints in spending. I haven't changed my position -- I wanted tax cuts, but I wanted that coupled with restraints in spending. And on the environment, I believe we have a respectful disagreement. Teddy Roosevelt is my hero. We Republicans are fundamentally good environmentalists. But suppose I'm wrong and climate change doesn't exist -- and we just go ahead and create all these great green jobs. But suppose I'm right -- we risk hurting future generations.

But I have not changed positions.

FOLLOW-UP: I believe drilling is not hurting the environment.

MCCAIN: Let me chime in. I believe we do have to drill -- we do have to have to do offshore drilling.

FOLLOW-UP: If we don't drill, other countries are going to -- and already are. We should drill in ANWR. Everyone is going to be out of the job because they can't travel anywhere.

MCCAIN: If we build the 45 powerplants that I want to build, that's 700,000 jobs. I think it should still be up to the states if they want drilling off their coasts.

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5 Q) Most of us hold several patents because of the R and D tax credit. We need that, but it's under scrutiny. We need to have that tax credit to continue to be innovative. Very few metal stamping presses left. A lot of these investments we have made have been possible because of bonus deprecation. We need that to make certain things possible. We need incentives to keep businesses here.

MCCAIN: Thank you. The R and D tax credit for research and development is one of the big scams in America. We put it up for a vote every couple years so we can go a ring some money out of you every election year. We need to make that permanent.

A business tax -- the corporate tax is the second highest in the world. We need to lower it. I'm with you all the way.

FOLLOW-UP: We need to make sure our customers are investing here. A lot of the jobs that haven't been created in the United States is because we haven't been making enough investments here at home.

MCCAIN: I thank you for your passion and what you've done for America. These have been tough times for you. We need a plan. We need to not just go to Congress but to the people and share that plan. I'm going to reach out my hand to the Democrats and protect intellectual property. It's time we put our country first. I thank you for what you do.

6 Q) [transportation rep] Transportation and freight issues in the area. Would support that -- personally take a look at that?

MCCAIN: Yes I will personally take a look at that. We tried to spend several million to build a bridge to nowhere in Alaska. That's your money, your tax dollars. It's outrageous. How we spend your money and transportation dollars is not based on any real qualifications. I will stop this outrageous, corrupt process for how we spend your money. I'm proud of my record on the issue.

7 Q) When you are president, what is your commitment to Israel going to be? How do you feel about the unofficial talks between Israel and Syria?

MCCAIN: On your second question, it's a democratic, freely elected nation and they have the right to make the decision to speak with who they want to. On your first question, I am very worried about Iran and what they are doing and how that threatens Israel. Obama wants to sit down with the leader of Iran without any pre-conditions. I'm not going to do that until they stop killing our soldiers. I won't do it. I will do everything in my power to put sanctions on Iran to get them to stop. But if the Iranians obtain nuclear weapons, there is going to be a huge problem. We need to act together with all of our allies. The United States of America can never allow a second Holocaust.

FOLLOW-UP: As a Holocaust survivor, I thank you.

MCCAIN: No, thank you. I am very honored to be in your presence.

8 Q) I've always been a Democrat. I've lost all respect for Hillary and I'm not voting for Obama. I'm from a military family. my son is serving. I truly believe you are an American hero. I want to know where you stand, on immigration. I'm behind you on most things, but I don't know where you are on that issue. I see the people all around me losing their homes and at the same time I see immigrants working. And it's unfair and I think people should be held accountable.

MCCAIN: Thank you and your son for his service. I'd like to give my respect for Hillary Clinton. Twice now we have attempted comprehensive immigration reform. It is a federal responsibility to secure our borders. Americans want our borders secure. We can do that. I come from a border state. We also have to have a temporary worker program that includes biometric documentation so we can track them. I want to assure you that small business people don't know if people's documentation is real or not. We've got to address the issue of the 12 million illegal immigrants in this country. Two million should be deported immediately because they've committed crimes. The rest of them we have to deal with humanely. As soon as I'm president, we'll begin work on this issue.

FOLLOW-UP: We have allowed people who are not even citizens of this country to rally and protest. It just does not sit right with me. I see protesting all the time and these immigrants.

MCCAIN: I know -- I see them at my events all the time -- the anti-war protesters I mean.

FOLLOW-UP: I'm a true American coming from a military family. We can't event pledge of allegiance in our schools. Americans need to stand up for the true Americans.

MCCAIN: I apologize, the federal government has failed you.

Conclusion

Thank you for being here. Michigan is a battleground state and will be important in determining who is the next president of the United States. I know you are hurting and I will fix that. When I was a prisoner of war, I was given the opportunity to go home early. But I didn't accept. I put my country first. And though we may disagree from time to time, I promise you, I will always put my country first.

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From: "Rick Hegdahl, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/9/2015 7:38:38 AM
Subject: [Iran] We met members of Congress last night

As you know, VoteVets has been working hard to bring a number of veterans and military family members to Washington, D.C. to make our voices heard in support of a diplomacy-first approach with Iran.

Well, yesterday afternoon we arrived. And last night, we joined former Speaker of the House, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and several other Members outside of Congress on our first stop of the trip.

Today, we're meeting with a number of Representatives we need to vote the right way in the House, and tomorrow we will head to the White House.

One of the members of our delegation, Gold Star Mom Karen Meredith, wrote a letter to VoteVets' supporters about her son, Ken Ballard, who was killed in Najaf, Iraq while fighting an Iranian-backed militia in 2004.

Read her note below and sign our petition urging Congress to support a diplomacy-first approach with Iran as the best way to prevent them from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and keep the U.S. out of another war.

VoteVets is the only progressive organization with the ability to organize and mobilize veterans and military family members on scale in support of the values we share.

We'll be in touch with more from the trip later this week. But we wanted to give you one last chance to sign the petition before our trip to the White House tomorrow.

All my best,

Rick Hegdahl
Iraq War Veteran
VoteVets

Add your name to Gold Star Mom Karen Meredith's petition supporting a diplomacy-first approach with Iran. She's in D.C. with VoteVets to deliver the message to Congress and the White House this week.

John -

My only child, Ken Ballard, joined the Army after graduating High School in 1995. As an Army granddaughter, Army daughter, Army sister, and Army mom, I couldn't be more proud of his decision.

He was stationed in Bosnia as an enlisted soldier with the 1st Armored Division, and later attended college on the Army Green to Gold scholarship before he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Army in 2002.

He deployed to Iraq in May of 2003, and 384 days later he was killed while fighting an Iranian-backed militia in Najaf. He had been scheduled to return home eight days earlier, but his tour was extended.

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This week, I'll carry his memory with me to Washington, D.C. where I plan to encourage members of Congress to back a diplomacy-first approach to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Not only is this deal the best way to ensure Iran isn't able to gets it's hands on the bomb, but Congress must act to move our military away from another war in the Middle East.

Add your name to the VoteVets petition supporting the Iran deal. Together, we'll deliver your name members of Congress later today, and to the White House on Thursday.

Ken and I chatted online or on the phone almost every day -- he was the kind of son everyone should have.

Since his death, I've been active in the Gold Star and Veteran's communities as an advocate for military families. I feel as if my trip to Washington, D.C this week is an extension of that work and support. And I thank you for adding your name to mine ahead of my visit.

All my best,

Karen Meredith
Gold Star Mom
VoteVets

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/18/2014 8:24:43 AM
Subject: MUST READ: CNBC: Empowering women is good for the economy

CNBC: Empowering women is good for the economy

By Shelly Porges

Last month, the Gujarat state government in India instituted a two-week celebration on the empowerment of women. The celebration quickly subsided when the police took actions more reminiscent of female oppression than empowerment, putting up posters with women dressed in jeans and shorts that read "Do not step out of the house in inappropriate clothing" and urging girls to refrain from using cell phones for no reason whatsoever.

Across the world's economies, women face all kinds of barriers to their empowerment. Two decades after Hillary Clinton's 1994 speech in Beijing where she so famously declared that "women's rights are human rights," the fight continues.

But empowering women is not just the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do.

This week, powerhouse leaders including Hillary Clinton, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will come together at a Center for American Progress roundtable to continue the dialogue on women's economic security and empowerment.

Women are an extremely powerful resource for global entrepreneurship and economic development — one that is not currently tapped to its potential. Research has shown that where women are economically empowered, communities and nations thrive.

That is why over the past few years, the conversation has developed into empowering women economically. In 2011, for example, the State Department held the first Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Women and the Economy Summit, a breakthrough forum in San Francisco on the economic empowerment of women where we hosted 21 of the world's economies — including China, Russia, and Indonesia — that represented 55 percent of the world's GDP.

At the forum, Secretary Clinton persuaded the countries to agree to the "San Francisco Declaration" — an agenda to integrate female economic empowerment and entrepreneurship into their economic policies. It declared that the countries "will take concrete actions to realize the full potential of women, integrate them more fully into APEC economies, harness their talents, remove barriers that restrict women's full economic participation, and maximize their contributions towards economic growth."

This was a monumental breakthrough for many of the economies and for the United States, and is just one example of the enormous strides that have been made. But there is more to be done to continue to increase opportunities for women entrepreneurs and to raise their profile to the highest levels.

Each of us can also do our part by:

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- Purchasing goods or services from women-owned businesses locally and around the world;
- Supporting organizations that assist women entrepreneurs; and
- Joining angel investment groups like Golden Seeds that invest in women-founded and led enterprises.

The United States recently celebrated Women's Equality Day — let's do more to make every day equal for women everywhere. As Hillary Clinton says, "it is the great unfinished business of the 21st century."

Commentary by Shelly Porges, the national finance co-chair for Ready for Hillary PAC. She was also the former senior advisor to the Global Entrepreneurship Program at the U.S. State Department, and launched the State Department's Global Women's Business Initiative. Follow her on Twitter @shellyporges.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/11/2014 6:43:43 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday August 11, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Monday August 11, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

[Ready for Hillary's Adam Parkhomenko and Kirby Hoag announced their engagement on Sunday morning.]

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Bill and Hillary listened to Arkansans in all 75 counties about the details and struggles of education inequality: http://thecabin.net/interact/opinion/columns/2014-08-07/ernst-hillary-clinton-and-education#.U-UqZoBdUyC … [8/11/14, 9:01 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Don Ernst traces @HillaryClinton 's history as an advocate for education equality in this op-ed for @lcdonline : http://thecabin.net/interact/opinion/columns/2014-08-07/ernst-hillary-clinton-and-education#.U-UqZoBdUyC … [8/11/14, 8:30 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC at women's event: "no country in the 21st century can advance if half the population is left behind" #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/LrT3Ei [8/10/14, 5:00 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

The Week: "The political brilliance of Hillary out-hawking Obama"

"Pundits love to say that people vote their pocketbooks, not foreign policy. Well, what Clinton is doing here transcends foreign policy. It's about restoring America's swagger. And I think there's a real hunger for this."

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Politico: "Bill Clinton to headline DCCC fundraiser"

"Bill Clinton will headline a fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee next month, signaling the beginning of fall political activity by the Clintons ahead of the midterms, according to an invitation obtained by POLITICO."

Washington Post blog: Achenblog: "Hillary Clinton takes on Barack Obama"

"This doesn't look like a mere kerfuffle to me: This is a planned political maneuver by the former Secretary of State and not-quite-announced presidential candidate."

Salon column: Joan Walsh: "Hillary's overlooked '16 worry: Will she write off the anti-interventionist left again?"

"I'd rather progressives start out realistic, elect Clinton, let her appoint two Supreme Court justices, do some good things on economic policy, and continue with at least 98 percent of Obama's foreign policy — while progressives work to change the House and Senate."

Huffington Post: "Former Deputy CIA Director Disagrees With Hillary Clinton On Syria"

"Former Deputy CIA Director Mike Morell said he disagreed with Clinton's suggestion — offered in a recent Atlantic Magazine interview — that the United States should have armed Syrian rebels far earlier than it did."

CNN: "With vocal support of Israel, Clinton rankles pro-Palestinian Americans"

"Hillary Clinton has been upfront about her support for Israel's recent military operations in Gaza. And her outspokenness is infuriating pro-Palestinian supporters in the United States."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "What Hillary Clinton is doing by slamming President Obama's foreign policy"

"Clinton does very little by accident in the public space. This interview with Goldberg was no exception."

Mother Jones opinion: Kevin Drum: "Is There a Hillary Doctrine?"

"I don't know for sure."

Haaretz opinion: Peter Beinart: "Israel's new lawyer: Hillary Clinton"

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[Subtitle:] “She sees the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through Bibi’s eyes, which could be the reason she gets so much wrong.”

Washington Post blog: PostEverything: “Which GOP hopeful does Hillary Clinton sound like? The answer may surprise you…”

“In bringing up containment, it would seem that Clinton is trying to steer a middle ground between Obama’s reluctance to take more aggressive action and the neoconservative impulse to take aggressive action at the drop of a hat.”

Yahoo: “Bernie Sanders says he has a ‘damn good platform’ to run for president in 2016”

“One of Sanders’ most likely competitors, should he choose to seek the Democratic nomination, is Hillary Clinton. And while Sanders praised Clinton for a successful career, he was critical of the Democratic Party’s seeming coronation of the former secretary of state.”

Articles:

The Week: “The political brilliance of Hillary out-hawking Obama”

By Matt K. Lewis

August 11, 2014, 10:22 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] She sounds like a Democrat that even Republicans can love

Hillary Clinton's interview with Jeffrey Goldberg at The Atlantic — in which she dinged Obama for "the failure to help build up a credible fighting force" of moderates in Syria, leading to "a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled" — is leading to a lot of headlines about the former secretary of State sprinting from the failing foreign policy of her former boss.

This political knifing of Obama is surely not the friendliest thing the Clintons have ever done. And it's obviously hypocritical — Clinton was secretary of State for four years! Nonetheless, this rhetoric is music to the ears of of both GOP and Democratic hawks, friends of Israel, and many Americans of all political stripes watching in horror as ISIS commits crimes against humanity in Iraq.

It's called triangulation. It's a method perfected by Bill Clinton and Dick Morris. And it's brilliant.

This excerpt in particular struck me as the work of a master:

“At one point, I mentioned the slogan President Obama recently coined to describe his foreign-policy doctrine: ‘Don't do stupid shit’ (an expression often rendered as ‘Don't do stupid stuff’ in less-than-private encounters).

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“This is what Clinton said about Obama's slogan: ‘Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle.’ [The Atlantic]”

Ouch.

Pundits love to say that people vote their pocketbooks, not foreign policy. Well, what Clinton is doing here transcends foreign policy. It's about restoring America's swagger. And I think there's a real hunger for this.

So many people today have the sense that America is floundering at home, and being pushed around abroad by thugs and dictators and autocrats. It's not just about national security — this takes a toll on our national psyche. Americans don't want to get bogged down in a foreign land, and most are sick of military adventurism. But they sure as hell don't like malaise or looking like weaklings, either.

Obviously, Clinton's gambit isn't fool proof. There will be some on the left who will resent her out-hawking of Obama. Presumably, this makes Clinton more vulnerable to a primary challenge from the left. Still, this was very smart.

As a female candidate, Clinton probably still feels she has to demonstrate that she's tough. Elbowing Obama helps a lot in this regard. But perhaps most importantly, she might be depriving the GOP of its best arguments for winning over Obama-weary independent and Democratic voters in the 2016 general election.

What if moderates believe they can restore American greatness without taking a chance on someone who might have a "scary" social issues policy? If one believes America has moved leftward on social issues — and that ObamaCare isn't likely to be the defining issue of the 2016 presidential election — then Clinton may be co-opting the strongest argument the GOP has: A return to American toughness and exceptionalism.

As Dave Wiegel pointed out, a recent CNN poll shows Clinton doing better with white voters than any Democrat since 1976. And that was before the triangulation began in earnest. It's not hard to imagine Clinton absolutely cleaning up with non-evangelical whites who never really liked Obama — and who are sick of America being pushed around.

And Clinton's move doesn't just make sense if she's matched up against a non-interventionist like Rand Paul. Let's suppose she goes up against Marco Rubio — someone thought of as more hawkish. Rubio has the ability to inspire Americans to be a force for good in the world, and boasts a unique biography that taps into hope for the future and the American Dream. That isn't all that different than what Clinton is selling.

Ironically, she might even be able to cast him (or Ted Cruz) as some sort of inexperienced show horse — someone, who (she won't say it, but... like Barack Obama) spent just a few years in the Senate before running for president. She might bring up that 3 a.m. call again. And this time (ironically, because Obama was elected president) it might resonate. That message will appeal to middle-of-the-road Republican voters in the general election.

The GOP had better watch its back.

Politico: “Bill Clinton to headline DCCC fundraiser”

By Maggie Haberman

August 11, 2014, 12:12 p.m. EDT

Bill Clinton will headline a fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee next month, signaling the beginning of fall political activity by the Clintons ahead of the midterms, according to an invitation obtained by POLITICO.

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The event will be hosted by Jim Chanos and Dennis Mehiel, along with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and DCCC Chairman Steve Israel.

It is scheduled for Sept. 4 in New York City, according to the invitation.

Both Bill and Hillary Clinton are in high demand by committees and candidates to help out in a difficult midterm cycle for Democrats.

Washington Post blog: Achenblog: "Hillary Clinton takes on Barack Obama"

By Joel Achenbach

August 11, 2014, 10:34 a.m. EDT

Here we are witnessing the world on fire again, in multiple locations. August is never as slow as it ought to be. I think of it as the time my tomatoes ripen, but in some parts of the world it's known as Fighting Season. The news from much of the world is so awful that you almost feel guilty watching baseball, much less plotting a trip to the beach.

Questions: Why is it so hard to get supplies to those poor people who have taken refuge on the mountain? What will happen if the militants blow up the Mosul Dam? What's the latest from the Green Zone in Baghdad?

Meanwhile, we see an eruption of dissent within the Democratic establishment: Hillary Clinton has distanced herself quite dramatically from President Obama. This doesn't look like a mere kerfuffle to me: This is a planned political maneuver by the former Secretary of State and not-quite-announced presidential candidate.

In her interview with the Atlantic, she states:

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled."

Just in case you thought that notion slipped out accidentally, she doubled down, jabbing Obama for his cautious approach to foreign policy:

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Obama, however, gave an interview to Tom Friedman on Friday in which he explicitly derided the idea that there was a road not taken in Syria that could have squelched the gestation of ISIS:

"With 'respect to Syria,' said the president, the notion that arming the rebels would have made a difference has 'always been a fantasy. This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards.'"

Counterfactual history is for arm-wavers: No one can know what might have been.

But think ahead to 2016: Clinton has taken a big step toward advocating a more hawkish and interventionist foreign policy. Would love to see her

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debate Rand Paul on that!

As for Obama: His strategy, as articulated to Friedman, goes beyond “Don’t Do Stupid Stuff.” He believes that the U.S. should use its military might as political leverage. We shouldn’t simply answer the bell whenever someone needs us to serve as an emergency air force, Obama says. Think long-term, think endgame, think about the political fallout from the military actions. His broader message to the fighting factions abroad: We can’t solve your problems. Only you can solve your problems. And the only way you can solve your problems is to stop trying to kill everyone you disagree with.

But hate is toxic, and does not tend to mellow into something more palatable over time. Hate can’t be wished away.

I wrote something in late June that touched on Obama’s philosophy:

“Obama’s signature philosophy has been to turn crises into mere problems. It’s a ratcheting down of dilemmas, at least in theory. The catastrophe is reframed as a crisis and the crisis is reframed as a problem and the problem is reframed as a policy question.”

The world isn’t cooperating. The president now has to scale up in the opposite direction. Problems are now crises; crises are becoming catastrophes. No use pretending otherwise.

A smart and unified U.S. policy, with politics stopping at the water’s edge, is probably unattainable given our own domestic rancor and the cable TV shout-fest culture, and Clinton’s comments suggest that even the Democrats could become fractured. Everyone play the blame game!

So: This is a bad situation and could get even worse. If the U.S. policy is to await the efflorescence of harmony and power-sharing among rival factions in places like Iraq, we may want to rethink that. It’s hard to see how the U.S. can finesse this situation with limited air strikes here and there. Even reluctant warriors know that.

Salon column: Joan Walsh: “Hillary’s overlooked ’16 worry: Will she write off the anti-interventionist left again?”

By Joan Walsh

August 11, 2014, 11:56 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] For all the talk about her positioning around inequality, her foreign policy may alienate voters she needs in '16

Political mischief-makers are having a lot of fun with Jeffrey Goldberg’s Hillary Clinton interview, published Saturday night for maximum Monday morning OMG predictability. I admit: that makes me instinctively inclined to minimize the fissures between Clinton and President Obama that Goldberg widened into chasms to conform with his own political worldview.

Except I can’t entirely. Because Clinton and her team are smart enough to know that’s exactly what Goldberg would do. Which means that’s what they wanted him to do.

It’s important to note that there’s almost nothing new in the Goldberg interview. We already knew that Clinton is somewhat more hawkish than Obama. Specifically, we knew that as Secretary of State she backed arming “moderate Syrian rebels,” took a maximalist approach to Iran sanctions, and was sometimes uncomfortable leaning on Benjamin Netanyahu the way Obama wanted, because she’s already told us. Here’s the best take on the way Goldberg, and more important lots of pundits, have exaggerated those differences.

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Clinton also can't be blamed for the timing of its publication – the weekend Obama ordered U.S. began airstrikes in Iraq to set back ISIS, which enraged the right and the left for different reasons and satisfied practically no one. She gave the interview before the crisis escalated.

What's most disturbing about the conversation is not its timing in relation to Iraq, but to the Israel-Gaza debacle. The person most furious about Clinton's remarks should not be Obama, but Secretary of State John Kerry, who has been barbecued by Israeli officials and hawkish American critics for daring to pressure Benjamin Netanyahu to be a tiny bit more careful not to kill children while obliterating Hamas.

Clinton apparently felt it important to avoid every opportunity Goldberg gave her to criticize Netanyahu, occasionally sounding more hawkish than Goldberg himself, at a time when her successor was under very unfriendly political fire. Even assuming that everything she said about Palestinian leaders blowing chances at peace is true, I see no reason for such unyielding support for Netanyahu — not to mention so little compassion for Palestinian victims — except to court favor with hardline supporters of Israel. That's disturbing.

On the issue of arming "moderate" Syrian rebels, Goldberg's headline and introduction exaggerate the extent to which Clinton was criticizing Obama. She explains to him, as she does in her book, that she thought it was possible to identify and support a secular opposition, but admits "we'll never know" if she was right, and adds: "And I don't think we can claim to know."

Yes, she used the word "failure," which became Goldberg's headline. But her overall take on the differences between them is considerably more generous, and I'm inclined to read "failure" as "inability" – or as a generic failure of U.S. leaders, herself included, and their global allies, to figure out how to advance a moderate Syrian alternative.

But Clinton's take on the potential power of the "moderate" elements in the Free Syrian Army stands in clear opposition to Obama's, published for maximum contrast in an interview with Thomas Friedman the same weekend. Obama told Friedman that the idea of finding and backing a capable and moderate Syrian opposition has "always been a fantasy. This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards."

That difference between Obama and Clinton led Steve Clemons to warn that the interview will "reawaken the substantial resistance to her as a reckless interventionist by some quarters." I would not call Clinton "reckless," but Clemons has a point.

As someone who supported Clinton in 2008 and who anticipates supporting her again in 2016, assuming she runs, I found the interview sobering. So far, my approach to 2016 is to say that Clinton may not be perfect, but she's the not-perfect candidate we know, very well. I would rather not see progressives set up someone who seems perfect (Sen. Elizabeth Warren, perhaps?) who will turn out to be not perfect — whether on Israel, Iraq or some crisis that hasn't emerged yet — as Sen. Obama did. Especially since I don't see anyone on the horizon with Obama's politics, charisma, or capacity to unite the party.

I'd rather progressives start out realistic, elect Clinton, let her appoint two Supreme Court justices, do some good things on economic policy, and continue with at least 98 percent of Obama's foreign policy — while progressives work to change the House and Senate.

I still mostly feel that way. I also hope anti-interventionist progressives won't be fooled by Sen. Rand "Stand with Israel" Paul. That said, I am not sure what we need is an American president who's even closer to Benjamin Netanyahu and who can't be moved to utter a word of genuine compassion for innocent Palestinian victims. Clinton may think she can write off the anti-interventionist left – again — and win the White House this time. But she may find out she's wrong this time too.

Huffington Post: "Former Deputy CIA Director Disagrees With Hillary Clinton On Syria"

By Sam Stein

August 11, 2014, 11:31 a.m. EDT

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WASHINGTON -- On one of the first major foreign policy rifts between President Barack Obama and his former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, one top former administration official is siding with the president.

Former Deputy CIA Director Mike Morell said he disagreed with Clinton's suggestion — offered in a recent Atlantic Magazine interview — that the United States should have armed Syrian rebels far earlier than it did.

"There is no doubt that what ISIS [the Islamic State] was able to do in Syria was probably the key factor in strengthening them in terms of what they are doing in Iraq today," Morell told "CBS This Morning" on Monday. "It is difficult for me to see how arming the moderate rebels would have made that much difference in Syria. We would have had to have it on a very, very large scale that I think would have frightened our partners in the region because it would have put a very, very large footprint, U.S. footprint on the ground in the Middle East."

"So you support the decision made by the president at the time," host Charlie Rose asked.

"Yes," Morell replied.

A lifer in the intelligence community, Morell served as both deputy director and acting director at the CIA when the Obama administration's policy toward the Syrian rebels was put in place. His skepticism about arms transfers ended up prevailing, though contemporaneous reporting has shown it was one of the most contentious foreign policy debates inside the administration. (Eventually, the president did send light arms to the rebels).

The argument has been revived in recent weeks as the Islamic State has moved from waging an insurgency inside Syria toward wreaking havoc through western, mid and northern Iraq. And in a notable break from the president, Clinton stressed that more could have been done earlier to deal with the menace.

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," she told The Atlantic.

Whether timed for political benefit or an honest assessment of her policy preference, Clinton's deviation from Obama on Syria underscored the rifts that continue to exist within the Democratic Party on matters of foreign affairs. Its more hawkish wing may have been humbled by the Iraq War, but recent events in the Middle East have encouraged its members to speak up a bit more.

The president has never been a part of that camp, as his "don't do stupid stuff" ethos is (more often than not) philosophically at odds with it. And in comments that appeared before Clinton's, he made the same case as Morell -- that more weapons in Syria never would have guaranteed better results.

"This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards," the president told the New York Times' Tom Friedman.

CNN: "With vocal support of Israel, Clinton rankles pro-Palestinian Americans"

By Dan Merica

August 11th, 2014, 1:10 PM ET

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Washington (CNN) - Hillary Clinton has been upfront about her support for Israel's recent military operations in Gaza. And her outspokenness is infuriating pro-Palestinian supporters in the United States.

Since Israel kicked off Operation Protective Edge against Hamas in early July, Clinton has strongly and repeatedly said she backs Israel's right to defend itself. She stepped up that message in a recent interview with The Atlantic, in which she charged Hamas for "stage-managing" the conflict to engender sympathy.

"There have been a lot of political support for what Israel has done in Gaza, but to go so far to say that Palestinians are stage managing dead children is disgusting," said Rania Khalek, a Lebanese blogger for the pro-Palestine Electronic Intifada blog. "It is really disheartening and frustrating to see politicians in the United States blaming Palestinians for their own slaughter."

[TWEETS]

Israel has been criticized for hundreds of civilian deaths, particularly those at United Nations schools and local hospitals. The country's leaders contend, however, that Hamas is intentionally firing rockets from within civilian areas in order to engender support for its cause when innocent civilians are killed.

"What you see is largely what Hamas invites and permits Western journalists to report on from Gaza. It's the old PR problem that Israel has," Clinton said. "Yes, there are substantive, deep levels of antagonism or anti-Semitism towards Israel, because it's a powerful state, a really effective military. And Hamas paints itself as the defender of the rights of the Palestinians to have their own state. So the PR battle is one that is historically tilted against Israel."

The comment, particularly the charge of stage managing, did not sit well with pro-Palestine activists and writers.

The reaction to Clinton's interview with the Atlantic from pro-Palestine activists and writer was swift and loud, especially on Twitter:

[TWEETS]

In addition to their frustration, the biggest takeaway for pro-Palestinian writers from Clinton's interview was this: She is running for president.

"Stage-managing is an exaggeration," said Hussein Ibish, a senior fellow at The American Task Force on Palestine, a nonprofit think tank on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Ibish said that there is plenty to criticize Hamas over, but Clinton's comments went further than she ever has because he feels she is vying to win the presidency in 2016.

"I don't think there is a lot of political cache is taking on pro-Israel sentiment when you are going for the highest office in the land," he said. "From a political point of view, I understand why someone is going to do that. What she is engaging in is politics, not foreign policy."

Ibish was not alone in this sentiment. A handful of pro-Palestine activists and writers said her comment further cemented their feeling that Clinton - the Democratic party's frontrunner for the presidency in 2016 - is vying for the job.

She was "posturing in preparation for a presidential run," Yousef Munayyer, executive director of the The Jerusalem Fund, said bluntly.

"The language that she used yesterday, the uncritical acceptance of the Israeli narrative in Gaza, means she is already thinking in a very politically calculated mode and is prepared to defend against critics on the right," he added.

CNN reached out to a Clinton spokesman to respond to these claim, but did not immediately receive a response.

Clinton has long been a vocal supporter of Israel, but that support has not always been certain.

When she ran for Senate in 2000, she had to win over a skeptical New York Jewish community by reassuring her commitment to Israel. Some, at the time, worried that the former first lady was too sympathetic to Palestinians. But she effectively won them over and enjoyed Jewish support in both of her Senate race and her failed bid at the presidency in 2008.

Although Clinton's cred with American Jews was somewhat questioned during her four years as President Barack Obama's secretary of state – largely because of her work with Iran – Clinton been vocally pro-Israel since kicking off her memoir tour in June.

During an NPR interview in July, Clinton strongly sided with Israel in the country's conflict with Hamas and the Gaza Strip.

Clinton said that she has "no doubt" that the current conflict "was a deliberate provocation" by Hamas to "engender more sympathy for their cause and also to put Israel on the back heal."

"I think the responsibility falls on Hamas," Clinton said.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "What Hillary Clinton is doing by slamming President Obama's foreign policy"

By Chris Cillizza

August 11, 2014, 11:10 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State and all-but-announced presidential candidate Hillary Clinton offered her most public break yet from President Obama over the weekend, slamming his "don't do stupid [stuff]" foreign policy and suggesting he had not been aggressive enough in asserting America's role in the world.

"Great nations need organizing principles -- and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Clinton told the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg in a line that surely launched a thousand grimaces (or worse) in the White House.

Clinton, of course, knew what she was doing -- picking a prominent foreign policy writer to make a pointed critique of the current Administration's policies at the very moment when President Obama's ratings are at -- or damn close to -- their lowest ebb of his time in office. So, why did she do it -- and what does her willingness to so publicly break with the Obama Administration tell us about how she's positioning herself for 2016?

Here are three thoughts.

1) Clinton isn't worried about the Democratic primary. At all. Consider the 2008 race. By this time in that contest, then Illinois Sen. Barack Obama had already emerged as a potentially potent political force who was running to Clinton's ideological left largely on his opposition to the Iraq war. Clinton would never have made such a hawkish statement as this one back then, worried that it would embolden an already-rising Obama. (It turned out that Clinton's vote for the use of force resolution and her unwillingness to back away from it was enough for Obama to capitalize.) Why do it now then? Because she is supremely confident that there simply is no serious primary challenger out there who would be emboldened to take on the race because of her more hawkish (than Obama at least) views on foreign policy. Sure, people like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders or former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer might run in 2016 against Clinton but she doesn't spend one second worrying about them. This positioning on

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foreign policy -- that America needs to be more aggressive in asserting its views on the world stage -- is entirely aimed at a general electorate.

2) Clinton as ready on day one. Remember that "3 a.m. phone call" ad? The idea was that Barack Obama was untested on the world stage and sought to raise the question in voters' minds whether the freshman Illinois Senator was the person they wanted dealing with a complex world. Now, six years later, there are many people -- Democrats, Independents and, obviously, Republicans -- who believe that Obama wasn't prepared to take on the various challenges the changing world presented to him. Clinton's "organizing principle" argument is aimed directly at those doubts about Obama. Her argument is a simple one: I know the world. I know how complicated it is. I know all of these things because I have spent decades in government (and out of government) studying them, building relationships with foreign leaders, developing best practices. On day one, I step into the job with a broad idea of how I want America to be seen in the world -- and a plan to make it happen.

3) Clinton wants people to remember she never always agreed with Obama. One of the challenges Clinton will face in 2016 -- although not the biggest challenge -- is her association with Obama, particularly on foreign policy. (She was, after all, the top diplomat in the Obama Administration for his first term.) What Clinton does not want to do, however, is be forced to own every decision the President made -- especially those that she disagreed with. On Afghanistan, Clinton -- along with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates -- advocated for putting more troops in the country. On Libya , Clinton was a lead voice making the case for a military intervention to topple Muammar Gaddafi. And, in the interview with Goldberg, Clinton calls the U.S.'s decision to not actively involve itself in the early days of the uprising in Syria a "failure". There will be plenty on the foreign policy front that Clinton will have to own -- "pushing the reset button" with Russia, anyone? -- but she also wants to make very clear that had she been president, our foreign policy might have looked very different over the past six years.

Clinton does very little by accident in the public space. This interview with Goldberg was no exception.

Mother Jones opinion: Kevin Drum: “Is There a Hillary Doctrine?”

By Kevin Drum

August 11, 2014, 11:21 a.m. EDT

Jeffrey Goldberg's interview with Hillary Clinton is being taken as an effort by Hillary to distance herself from President Obama. Here's the most frequently quoted snippet:

HRC: Great nations need organizing principles, and “Don’t do stupid stuff” is not an organizing principle. It may be a necessary brake on the actions you might take in order to promote a vision.

....JG: What is your organizing principle, then?

HRC: Peace, progress, and prosperity. This worked for a very long time. Take prosperity. That’s a huge domestic challenge for us. If we don’t restore the American dream for Americans, then you can forget about any kind of continuing leadership in the world. Americans deserve to feel secure in their own lives, in their own middle-class aspirations, before you go to them and say, “We’re going to have to enforce navigable sea lanes in the South China Sea.”

I've seen the first part of this excerpt several times, and each time I've wondered, "So what's your organizing principle." When I finally got around to reading the interview, I discovered that this was Goldberg's very next question. And guess what? Hillary doesn't have one.

She's basically hauling out an old chestnut: We need to be strong at home if we want to be strong overseas. And that's fine as far as it goes. But it's not an organizing principle for foreign policy. It's not even close. At best, it's a precursor to an organizing principle, and at worst it's just a plain and simple evasion.

It so happens that I think "don't do stupid stuff" is a pretty good approach to foreign policy at the moment. It's underrated in most of life, in fact,

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while "doctrines" are mostly straitjackets that force you to fight the last war over and over and over. The fact that Hillary Clinton (a) brushes this off and (b) declines to say what her foreign policy would be based on—well, it frankly scares me. My read of all this is that Hillary is itching to outline a much more aggressive foreign policy but doesn't think she can quite get away with it yet. She figures she needs to distance herself from Obama slowly, and she needs to wait for the American public to give her an opportunity. My guess is that any crisis will do that happens to pop up in 2015.

I don't have any problems with Hillary's domestic policy. I've never believed that she "understood" the Republican party better than Obama and therefore would have gotten more done if she'd won in 2008, but I don't think she would have gotten any less done either. It's close to a wash. But in foreign policy, I continually find myself wondering just where she stands. I suspect that she still chafes at being forced to repudiate her vote for the Iraq war—and largely losing to Obama because of it. I wouldn't be surprised if she still believes that vote was the right thing to do, nor would I be surprised if her foreign policy turned out to be considerably more interventionist than either Bill's or Obama's.

But I don't know for sure. And I probably never will unless she gets elected in 2016 and we get to find out.

Haaretz opinion: Peter Beinart: "Israel's new lawyer: Hillary Clinton"

By Peter Beinart, The Atlantic

August 11, 2014, 5:24 p.m.

[Subtitle:] She sees the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through Bibi's eyes, which could be the reason she gets so much wrong.

Who's the Israeli government's best spokesperson? Ron Dermer? Michael Oren? Bibi himself? Nope. It's Hillary Clinton. In her interview on Sunday with Jeffrey Goldberg, Clinton offered the most articulate, sophisticated, passionate defense of Netanyahu's conduct I've heard from a government official on either side of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, important chunks of it aren't true.

Let's take her claims in turn.

In his first term, Netanyahu moved towards a Palestinian state

Clinton began her defense of Bibi by noting that in his first term, in the late 1990s, he had "give[n] up territory" and "moved in that direction [towards a Palestinian state], as hard as it was."

That's extremely generous. It's true that in 1997, Bibi withdrew Israeli troops from most of the West Bank city of Hebron (though they can reenter any time Israel wants) and the following year signed the Wye River Accords, under which Israel was supposed to hand over 13 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority (though Bibi's government fell before it could do so).

What Clinton leaves out is that Bibi only agreed to these withdrawals to forestall the far larger ones envisioned under the Oslo Accords he inherited from Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. In 1993, when Oslo was signed, Bibi publicly compared it to Neville Chamberlain's surrender of the Sudetenland to Adolf Hitler.

He accepted Oslo in the 1996 election campaign only because he couldn't repudiate a process endorsed by the Israeli center and championed by the United States. So Bibi sabotaged Oslo by accelerating settlement growth and minimizing the amount of land Israel relinquished. "Before I took office," he later boasted, "the conception was to give away everything except for two percent [of West Bank] while I turned everything around and gave just two percent to [full control] of the Palestinian Authority." Or as he told settlers after leaving office, "I stopped the Oslo Accords."

The Clinton administration officials who dealt with Bibi in his first term understood this all too well. "Neither President Clinton nor Secretary

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[Madeleine] Albright believed that Bibi had any real interest in pursuing peace," writes Dennis Ross in The Missing Peace. Ross' deputy, Aaron Miller, adds in his memoir that, "all of us saw Bibi as a kind of speed bump that would have to be negotiated along the way until a new Israeli prime minister came along who was more serious about peace."

That's a far cry from what Hillary told Goldberg. Then again, Ross and Miller aren't running for president.

Bibi agreed to a settlement freeze but Abbas wouldn't negotiate

Fast-forwarding to the Obama years, Clinton claims that, "I got Netanyahu to agree to the unprecedented settlement freeze… It took me nine months to get Abbas into the negotiations even after we delivered on the settlement freeze."

What's striking, again, is what Clinton leaves out. The settlement freeze was indeed, unprecedented. Unfortunately, it didn't actually freeze settlement growth. It's not just that, as Clinton admits, the "freeze" exempted East Jerusalem. Even more importantly, it exempted buildings on which construction had all ready begun. This loophole proved crucial because, as the Israeli press reported at the time, settlers spent the months preceding the "freeze" feverishly breaking ground on new construction, on which they continued to build during the ten month "freeze," before breaking new ground once it expired. As a result, according to Peace Now, there was more new settlement construction in 2010 - the year of the freeze - than in 2008. As Obama administration envoy George Mitchell admitted to Palestinian negotiator Saab Erekat, the Obama administration had wanted a freeze that truly stopped settlement growth but "we failed."

Clinton's claim that Abbas refused to negotiate until the last minute is disingenuous too. In fact, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met repeatedly during the "freeze." In January 2010, just over a month after it began, veteran Israeli columnist Ben Caspit reported that, "In the past weeks, Israeli representatives, including Netanyahu, have repeatedly rejected official documents that their Palestinian counterparts have tried to submit to them, with details of the Palestinian positions on all the core issues. The Israeli representatives are completely unwilling to discuss, read or touch these documents, not to speak of submitting an equivalent Israeli document with the Israeli positions."

While reporting my book, The Crisis of Zionism, I heard four different Obama officials confirm this account. During the settlement "freeze," the Palestinians submitted to Netanyahu and his aides the same positions they had submitted to Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert. These included a Palestinian state on the 1967 lines with a 1.9 percent land swap for territory inside Israel proper, Israeli control of all the Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, international troops in the Jordan Valley and the return of 150,000 Palestinian refugees over ten years. The Netanyahu government, by contrast, steadfastly refused to discuss the parameters of a Palestinian state.

In her interview with Goldberg, Clinton never mentions that.

Netanyahu's views on Palestinian statehood resembled Ehud Barak's.

Given the evidence that during her time as secretary of state, Bibi refused to discuss territory, Clinton's claim that "I saw Netanyahu move from being against the two-state solution to…considering all kinds of Barak-like options" is bizarre. Whatever you think of Ehud Barak's offer at Camp David in July 2000, it was a detailed offer. Netanyahu, by contrast, refused put forward a territorial proposal not merely during Clinton's term, but during John Kerry's far more aggressive effort to broker a deal. During the Kerry negotiations, according to Haaretz's Barak Ravid, Netanyahu "flatly refused to present a map or even to discuss the subject theoretically…throughout the nine months of the talks Netanyahu did not give the slightest hint about the scale of the territorial concessions he would be willing to make."

It's too bad Goldberg didn't press Clinton on what kind of "Barak-like options" she heard Netanyahu propose, because the best reporting we have suggests he offered no territorial "options" at all.

Netanyahu is right to demand indefinite control of the West Bank

Most remarkable of all, Clinton tells Goldberg that, "If I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have security [control over the West Bank]." What makes this statement so remarkable is that earlier in the interview, Hillary praised the Clinton parameters outlined by her husband in December 2000. Those parameters permit Israeli troops to remain in the Jordan Valley, along the West Bank's border with Jordan, for three years. Later in the interview, Clinton claims that she convinced Abbas to agree to allow Israeli troops to remain for "six, seven, eight years" and that she "got Netanyahu to go from forever to 2025" as a date for their withdrawal. Even this, from a Palestinian perspective, represents painful backsliding from the position outlined by Hillary's husband. But as Hillary must know, Bibi three weeks ago said that in light of regional developments, "there cannot be a situation, under any agreement, in which we relinquish security control of the territory west of the River Jordan."

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Which is to say that, as of now, Bibi's position really does seem to be "forever." Yet rather than challenge that stance, Clinton endorses it.

Why does Clinton again and again endorse Netanyahu's view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict even when it contradicts long-standing American positions? Because she's so willing to see the world through his eyes. Notice how she begins her statement about security control of the West Bank: "If I were the prime minister of Israel." There's nothing wrong with that. U.S. officials should understand, and empathize with, Israeli leaders, even right-wing ones. But what's missing from Clinton's interview is any willingness to do the same for Palestinians. If it's so easy to understand why some Israelis might want perpetual military control of the West Bank, why can't Clinton understand why Palestinians - after living for almost fifty years under a foreign army - might not want it to indefinitely patrol their supposedly independent state.

One of the hallmarks of Barack Obama's statements about Israel and Palestine, going back to his 2008 presidential campaign, has been his insistence on giving voice to the fears and aspirations of both sides. Writing about his trip to Israel in The Audacity of Hope, Obama wrote that, "I talked to Jews who'd lost parents in the Holocaust and brothers in suicide bombings; I heard Palestinians talk of the indignities of checkpoints and reminisce about the land they had lost." In Jerusalem last March, he spoke movingly, and in detail about the Jewish story, but also asked Israelis to "put yourself in their [the Palestinians] shoes. Look at the world through their eyes." In her interview with Goldberg, that's exactly what Clinton does not do. Her interpretations of recent Israeli-Palestinian history reflect from a deep imbalance: a willingness to see reality through Israeli eyes and an almost total refusal to do the same for Palestinians.

"For far too long," wrote Aaron Miller in 2005, "many American officials involved in Arab-Israeli peacemaking, myself included, have acted as Israel's attorney, catering and coordinating with the Israelis at the expense of successful peace negotiations." From the beginning, Barack Obama has tried to avoid that. Although he hasn't brokered Israeli-Palestinian peace, he has tried to make good on his campaign promise to "hold up a mirror" to both sides. In Hillary Clinton, by contrast, at least judging from her interview on Sunay, Israel has yet another lawyer. And a very good one at that.

Washington Post blog: PostEverything: "Which GOP hopeful does Hillary Clinton sound like? The answer may surprise you…"

By Daniel W. Drezner

August 11, 2014, 8:49 a.m. EDT

So, a few high-ranking Democrats gave some foreign policy interviews over the weekend.

Barack Obama's muse du jour was the New York Times' Thomas Friedman. You can go read their interview. I, for one, am delighted with it, because it pretty much confirms the point I made last month about Obama's Zen Master approach to foreign policy. As a general rule, Obama is reluctant for the United States to take the lead in other countries' civil strife, unless he thinks the balance of domestic politics on the ground favors the side he wants to back. It certainly explains why he didn't intervene in Syria but why he's intervening in Iraq right now.

The thing about Obama is that on foreign policy, he's pretty predictable at this point, and also spectacularly bad at, well, you know, the actual politics of the whole thing. So his chat with Friedman is not the most interesting interview by a high-ranking Democrat to be published this weekend (though it is always fun to see what thing Obama says that Breitbart will distort the most).

No, that honor goes to Hillary Clinton's chat with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg.

There's a lot to parse through here, and much of it has already been parsed, but there was one part of the interview that did jump out at me, in talking about the need for an ordering principle for U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East:

"I think part of the challenge is that our government too often has a tendency to swing between these extremes. The pendulum swings back and then the pendulum swings the other way. What I'm arguing for is to take a hard look at what tools we have. Are they sufficient for the complex situations we're going to face, or not? And what can we do to have better tools? I do think that is an important debate.

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"One of the reasons why I worry about what's happening in the Middle East right now is because of the breakout capacity of jihadist groups that can affect Europe, can affect the United States. Jihadist groups are governing territory. They will never stay there, though. They are driven to expand. Their raison d'être is to be against the West, against the Crusaders, against the fill-in-the-blank—and we all fit into one of these categories. How do we try to contain that? I'm thinking a lot about containment, deterrence, and defeat. You know, we did a good job in containing the Soviet Union, but we made a lot of mistakes, we supported really nasty guys, we did some things that we are not particularly proud of, from Latin America to Southeast Asia, but we did have a kind of overarching framework about what we were trying to do that did lead to the defeat of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism. That was our objective. We achieved it.…

"[M]ost Americans think of engagement and go immediately to military engagement. That's why I use the phrase 'smart power.' I did it deliberately because I thought we had to have another way of talking about American engagement, other than unilateralism and the so-called boots on the ground. (emphasis added)"

In bringing up containment, it would seem that Clinton is trying to steer a middle ground between Obama's reluctance to take more aggressive action and the neoconservative impulse to take aggressive action at the drop of a hat. But what's fascinating about the reference to containment is that it reminded me of a GOP contender who, last year, made a similar analogy in a speech at the Heritage Foundation. Can you guess who said this?

"What the United States needs now is a policy that finds a middle path. A policy that is not rash or reckless. A foreign policy that is reluctant, restrained by Constitutional checks and balances but does not appease. A foreign policy that recognizes the danger of radical Islam but also the inherent weaknesses of radical Islam. A foreign policy that recognizes the danger of bombing countries on what they might someday do. A foreign policy that requires, as Kennan put it, 'a long term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of . . . expansive tendencies.' A policy that understands the 'distinction between vital and peripheral interests.'….

"Like communism, radical Islam is an ideology with worldwide reach. Containing radical Islam requires a worldwide strategy like containment. It requires counterforce at a series of constantly shifting worldwide points. But counterforce does not necessarily mean large-scale land wars with hundreds of thousands of troops nor does it always mean a military action at all."

If you said "Rand Paul," you're right — and likely very confused. After all, there's been a lot of chatter the past few months about what neoconservatives would do in a Clinton vs. Paul race, as they think the former is more hawkish than the latter. Indeed, as Time's Michael Scherer pointed out last Friday, "[Rand Paul] is also running for President—albeit without an official campaign—on the idea that he can best distinguish himself from Clinton on key matters of foreign policy that are likely to resonate with independent and young voters." But the above quotes don't sound very different at all.

How to explain this? Well, there are two possibilities. The first is that, despite all the hyperbole about political polarization, the two-party system is once again producing a Kang vs. Kodos choice:

[SIMPSONS CLIP]

The other possibility is that we're in the very preliminary stages of the 2016 presidential election, and statements like these are sufficiently anodyne and flexible enough to allow either candidate to reference containment without feeling locked into any particular foreign policy position. And that embracing concepts like "smart power" and "neither isolationism nor invasion" will resonate pretty well with foreign policy cognoscenti.

For me, what all of this means is that whatever any potential 2016 hopeful says about foreign policy right now isn't worth a bucket of warm spit. We're at the posturing phase of a presidential campaign that's already started way too damn early. Let's wait at least a year and see if these candidates actually add some flesh to these foreign policy bare bones.

Am I missing anything?

Yahoo: "Bernie Sanders says he has a 'damn good platform' to run for president in 2016"

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By Jeff Zeleny, Richard Coolidge and Jordyn Phelps

August 11, 2014

Sen. Bernie Sanders isn't afraid to be called a socialist. In fact, the Vermont Independent proudly labels himself a Democratic socialist.

"Do you hear me cringing? Do you hear me running under the table?" Sanders said rhetorically when asked if Democratic socialist is an accurate description.

Sanders is so delighted with his brand of politics that he said in an interview with "The Fine Print" that it would be a "damn good platform" on which to run for president.

"If the American people understand what goes on in countries like Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and other countries, they will say, 'Whoa, I didn't know that!'" Sanders said, pointing out that health care is considered a right, "R-I-G-H-T," among even the most conservative politicians in Denmark.

Sanders described his credo as a fight to protect America's working class from what he sees as the threat of an approaching "oligarchic form of society."

"You have today in America more income and wealth inequality than any time in this country since 1928 and more than any major country in the world," Sanders said. "So, you got the top one percent owning 38 percent of the wealth in America. Do you know what the bottom 60 percent own? 2.3 percent."

"You know what that is?" he said. "That's called oligarchy."

Though Sanders isn't making any secret of his possible 2016 presidential bid, he said he's still determining whether he could generate a sufficient level of grassroots support on which to build a campaign.

"Look, it's easy for me to give a good speech, and I give good speeches," he said. "It is harder to put together a grassroots organization of hundreds of thousands of millions of people prepared to work hard and take on the enormous amounts of money that will be thrown against us."

One of Sanders' most likely competitors, should he choose to seek the Democratic nomination, is Hillary Clinton. And while Sanders praised Clinton for a successful career, he was critical of the Democratic Party's seeming coronation of the former secretary of state.

"She has accomplished a lot of very positive things in her career, but I'm not quite sure that the political process is one in which we anoint people," Sanders said.

Though he stopped short of criticizing Clinton directly, he said she is not a sufficient champion of his message for the middle class.

"What I'm telling you is that this country has more serious problems today than any time since the Great Depression," he said. "Those are the real issues that we've got to start dealing with."

To hear more specifics about Sanders' potential presidential platform, check out this episode of "The Fine Print."

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/2/2015 6:14:07 AM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: T wo Takes on the Legacy of '89

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Transatlantic Take

Two Takes on the Legacy of '89

Ivan Krastev and Stephen F. Szabo — October 2, 2015

The Ambiguous Legacy of 1989

Ivan Krastev

"History is irony on the move," European philosopher Emil Cioran wrote some half a century ago. And he has a point. Twenty-five years ago, East Europeans destroyed the Berlin Wall and opened their arms to the world beyond their borders. Today, with the similar enthusiasm, the same East Europeans are rebuilding the walls destroyed, then hoping to find protection from the misery and the dangers of the bigger world. And Russian President Vladimir Putin is not alone in blaming democracy and capitalism's creative destruction for the current world disorder. Never before have the legacies of 1989 been more contested or looked more ambiguous...

FULL ARTICLE

Partners in Leadership? Germany and the United States 25 Years After Unification

Stephen F. Szabo

WASHINGTON—President George HW Bush called for Germany to be a Partner in Leadership with the United States in May 1989, six months before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He did this in anticipation of the changes that were building, sensing that with the end of the Cold War, Germany would be the central power in Europe. Chancellor Helmut Kohl was reluctant to take on this role, and this reluctance has characterized Germany ever since. Today, the United States looks to Germany to provide leadership to a Europe adrift. Germany stands as one of the few successful countries in Europe with a stable leadership while France and Britain seem shadows of the countries they were in 1990, with the European Union unable to fill the gap...

FULL ARTICLE

Ivan Krastev is a Bosch Public Policy fellow at the Transatlantic Academy and the chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Stephen F. Szabo is the Executive Director of the Transatlantic Academy, an initiative of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, DC. Follow him at @stephenfszabo .

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Stuart Eizenstat" <seizenstat@gmail.com>
Date: 10/9/2015 4:45:05 AM
Subject: Re: Zarif/Iran

Thanks Stu. Sounds like a fascinating discussion.

On Oct 8, 2015, at 12:06 AM, Stuart Eizenstat <seizenstat@gmail.com > wrote:

From: Eizenstat, Stuart [mailto:seizenstat@cov.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:21 PM
To: 'seizenstat@gmail.com '
Cc: Holte, Laurina
Subject: TPP and Iran

Dear Jake,

I attended a meeting on Monday, October 5, in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif, hosted by the Atlantic Council (whose Iran Task Force I chair) and the New America Foundation (with Bill Leurs and Tom Pickering). This is the third meeting I have had with Zarif.

He made the following points in a 20 minute speech and answers to questions:

1. The nuclear agreement was a victory for diplomacy and dialogue. What was a success for Iran is not a defeat for the U.S. This is not a zero sum game. The agreement is the best insurance against an Iranian breakout. The "fabricated nuclear material cannot be used for making a bomb." We are willing to take "your nuclear fuel, so we will not need to make any of our own."

2. Implementation of the agreement requires transparency and a commitment to abide by its terms, and Iran will do so.

3. The US seems intent in terms of sanctions relief to do the "least it can do". He is "concerned with the tough interpretation of sanctions relief by OFAC. Moreover, the New York banking authorities are complicating things even more with financial sanctions, making it difficult for European companies to get the funds to invest in Iran.
This sends negative signals Treasury and DOJ should give a reasonable interpretation to the lifting of sanctions. Otherwise, it will make it difficult for even European companies to do business in Iran. Here again, the U.S. seems to view sanctions relief as a zero sum game, in which whatever helps Iran is bad for the U.S. It is in everyone's interest if Iran's economy recovers, and gets out of a "siege mentality".

4. Iran does not expect American companies to do business with Iran because of continuing U.S. sanctions. But under existing rules, many U.S. companies can do business with Iran. For example, Iran needs 400 new aircraft, and can purchase them from either Boeing or Airbus. There is no legal bar to Boeing selling its aircraft to Iran, with an OFAC license. Likewise, humanitarian goods can be sold to Iran from the U.S. now, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices made by GE. Iran can be a "huge market" for U.S. goods and services.

5. Even if the lifting of sanctions will not help U.S. companies that much, compared to European companies, eventually this will happen.

6. Just as politics in the U.S. are difficult, they are also "difficult" in Iran .A member of the Iranian parliament said that Zarif's hands should be cut-off for shaking hands with President Obama at the United Nations this week. It is wrong to think that all decisions in Iran are made by one man.

7. Iran and the U.S. have negative views of each other. The U.S. sees Iran as determined to get a nuclear weapon, while Iran sees the U.S. as trying do dominate the Middle East.

8. He spent a good deal of time discussing Saudi Arabia. He said since his first days in office he has sought a dialogue, but Iranian overtures have been rebuffed. He was told by the Saudis, "leave the Arabs to ourselves". He recounted that he left the World Economic Forum immediately and made the long trip to Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Abdullah. But he received barely a handshake for his efforts. Saudi Arabia also sees relations with Iran as a zero sum game. The Saudis think ISIS can help them against Iran. Iran has sent a new Ambassador to Saudi Arabia who they trust, and he hopes this will help the relationship.

9. I asked him about the use of the unfrozen assets, and I said that people here will be looking to see if Iran spends its new-found funds on its people and investments, of if substantial amounts go to Hezbollah. He gave a tough response. "The money is our money and it was illegally blocked by the U.S., and what we do with our money is purely our business." He further said, "You spend 10 times more in the Middle East than we do, and what has it gotten you?" He contended Iran would only get $40 billion and we will spend it for our people.

10. If we give funds to Hezbollah, they are a positive force in Lebanon, and have kept ISIS out of Lebanon.

11. Regarding Syria, he said the presence if Russian military equipment and personnel was a good thing for Syria. He contented that "four

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months ago ISIS was close to Damascus, and this necessitated Russian help to beat them back. Iran "does not intend to send troops to Syria, but we will play a greater role in training and supporting the Syrian Army. He asked rhetorically, "what good has the U.S. and its allies done in combating ISIS?" He said flatly, "We are cooperating with Russia in Syria." The U.S., he asserted, has a dilemma in Syria. If you stick with the rebels, your support is not likely to be effective; if you support Assad you are changing your policy. He asserted that

12. Regarding the 1994 AMIA bombing and the recent controversy over the death of the prosecutor Nisman, shortly before he was to deliver a report to the Argentine Congress, the person who alleged Iran blew up AMIA has been proven a fraud and liar. He did saw shortly after Nisman's death that it was a suicide, but he was simply following the statement made by Argentina's democratically elected leader. "It is a mistake to allege Iran blew up AMIA." The Saudis are behind all of this with their incorrect allegations.

13. Robin Wright of the Post, asked him about the release of the prisoners, including Jason, their journalist. Zarif said he knows Jason and would like to see him released, but he is an Iranian citizen, and an Iranian court found him guilty of passing along intelligence to a foreign power He is subject to Iranian law. "It will be hard to justify their release to our public." However, he added, "I am ready for a negotiation, but it will have to involve the release of Iranian prisoners in the U.S." The US "says we should be flexible", but you are not flexible with our prisoners". But he would like to see them back in the U.S. and their prisoners back in Iran.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

P.S. On the unrelated issue of TPP, I am disappointed with the position Hillary took. Of course, I am fully aware of the politics of the issue, but she could have stressed the geo-political advantage of passing it, in terms of combating Chinese influence in Asia. Also, the environmental groups seem positive. She might have dealt with the deficiencies in the trade area by bilateral side agreements, as with NAFTA. Her position will complicate an already difficult fight to pass TPP; its defeat would be a gift to China.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/5/2014 8:17:17 AM
Subject: Housing Rights Group Says HUD Program Helps Wall Street, Hurts Homeowners

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Housing Rights Group Says HUD Program Helps Wall Street, Hurts Homeowners

Rebecca Burns, Truthout: Housing rights organizations say a new federal housing program has deepened the pain of homeowners and tenants by handing their fates over to hedge funds and investment groups that have no interest in keeping residents in their homes.

Read the Article

Noam Chomsky: Resisting Empire for More Than Four Decades

Marcus Raskin, Haymarket Books: For the casual observer, Chomsky seems to hold that on the one hand, there is science and analysis, and on the other hand, there are those desired values that we hold dear and preach about through different social means, writes Marcus Raskin in the forward to Chomsky's book, *Masters of Mankind*.

Read the Excerpt

Since Hiroshima: Australia's Active Involvement in the Use and Abuse of Nuclear Energy

Lindsay Fitzclarence, Truthout: Australia has been involved in nuclear power politics since the 1940s as both a weapons test site and a source of base fuel uranium.

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Feeling the Touch of the Goad: A Sense of Urgency as a Spur to Climate Action

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Truthout: The texts of early Buddhism provide us with a psychological model of how the sense of urgency arises and how it can be channeled into effective action. This sense is necessary to confront climate change.

Read the Article

Monsanto Announces "Global Center" for Developing GMO Corn

Anastasia Pantsios, EcoWatch: Monsanto

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

The Most Ambitious Environmental Lawsuit Ever

Read the Article at The New York Times

Pacific Northwest Tribes Fight to Save Threatened Salmon

Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

Mass Graves With Charred Victims Found in Southern Mexico

Read the Article at Reuters

As Supreme Court Term Begins, Prospect of a Gay-Marriage Ruling Looms

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announced this week that it is opening a new facility in Mexico to research and develop new hybrid types of corn resistant to disease and climate conditions - but the reception hasn't been particularly warm.

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Truthout Interviews Featuring James Kilgore on Reversing Mass Incarceration in the US

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Ted Asregadoo talks to author and research scholar at the University of Illinois' Center for African Studies James Kilgore about what the movement against mass incarceration can learn from those combatting climate change.

Watch the Video

Military Firms Likely to Benefit From Airstrikes in Iraq, Syria

W.J. Hennigan, Los Angeles Times: With US and allied aircraft now bombing Islamic State and Al Qaeda positions in Iraq and Syria, many analysts foresee a boost to bottom lines for munitions manufacturers, weapons producers and other military contractors.

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Student Protests Are a Bigger Deal Than You Think

Jeff Bryant, Campaign For America's Future: Students who are alarmed to know they're not allowed to learn about civil dissent and protest have quite rationally chosen to protest.

Read the Article

Ellsberg Sees Vietnam-Like Risks in ISIS War

Barbara Koeppel, Consortium News: Daniel Ellsberg, the former Defense Department official who leaked the Pentagon Papers exposing the Vietnam War lies, is alarmed at the many parallels between Vietnam and President Obama's new military campaign against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Read the Article

The Scourge of Siphon-Up Economics

Marjorie E. Wood, OtherWords: Addressing inequality head-on will put our nation's wealth back where it belongs - with all of us.

Read the Article

This week in SpeakOut:

Paul Thomas deconstructs the cruel practices of Southern Christianity; **Kayly Ober** questions the absence of risk analysis from government response to climate change; **Michaela Wade** discusses the growing and extreme divide between rich and poor in San Francisco and simultaneous loss of the city's famous whimsical character and charm; **Reprieve** calls for transparency in the Guantanamo force feeding trial; **Nozomi Hayase** reviews Julian Assange's new book, *When Google Met WikiLeaks*; **Melissa Fisher and John Lawrence** report on potential for worker co-ops in New York City; **Darius Shatahmasebi** analyzes New Zealand's National Party's record in light of its recent electoral victory; **Les Kishler** discusses the art and science of deep gardening; **Dr. Marc Gopin** argues professionals should return some of the benefits of their professions to society; **Erin Niemela** criticizes the use of polls as a "rally around the flag" tactic during wartime; **Edward Tick** talks about mentally-ill veteran Omar Gonzales, who scaled the White House walls, and how we need a new paradigm in treatment of US veterans; **Public Citizen** releases a new report excoriating extra-judicial trade tribunals; **Acronym TV**

Ruling Looms Large
Read the Article at the Washington Post

Open Pits Offer Cheap Disposal for Fracking Sludge, but Health Worries Mount
Read the Article at Inside Climate News

Los Angeles County Supervisors to Weigh County Jails' Collaboration With ICE Agents
Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

Doctors With Borders
Read the Article at Texas Observer

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confronts white privilege in the climate justice movement; and more.

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 7:44:06 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

We have a two pager I'm getting clearance from her on. That is what we have to ship around.

On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:17 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> We could either get a donor to leak it or just give it to a reporter if we want to get it out there. I'm semi-surprised it's not out yet.
>
> On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?
> >
> > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.
> > >
> > > On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?
> > > >
> > > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.
> > > > >
> > > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > > >
> > > > > Begin forwarded message:
> > > > >
> > > > > **From:** Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > > **Date:** July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
> > > > > **To:** Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > > **Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO**
> > > > >
> > > > > http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html
> > > > >
> > > > > **Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama**
> > > > >
> > > > > But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran

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deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

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"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's security. "She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel," recalled Jacobs. "And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer."

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. "She said 'I'm going to do what's in the best interest of the U.S.,' and that

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was the end of it," Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, "although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it's got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people." He urged Jewish donors "to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits," adding: "I'd hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support."

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton's senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

"It's a tricky issue for her," said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran "are going to put her in a box."

Clinton's allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. "I know where she stands, but I can't talk about it," Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, "She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this."

He soon backtracked, saying "I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal."

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount

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of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

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“For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy,” said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street’s PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

“She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community.”

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 1:58:51 PM
Subject: Re: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA

Sure! Here's the phrase exactly, adding his twitter handle. Going out in 10.

.@Frank_Giustra replies, adding actual facts to NYT conjecture: http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

On Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 8:53 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Can you tweet statement with something very simple like Guistra replies, adding actual facts to NYT conjecture.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com >
Date: Apr 23, 2015 8:06 PM
Subject: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA
To: "hrcrapid@googlegroups.com " <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com >
Cc:

http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

Statement of Frank Giustra

POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2015 BY FRANK GIUSTRA
CATEGORY FRANK GIUSTRA ,

A book that has not yet been published has caused the New York Times to publish a wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article about the Clinton Foundation and my role in contributing money to it. There is not one shred of evidence to back up the Times' conclusions. **This is not about me, but rather an attempt to tear down Secretary Clinton and her presidential campaign.** If this is what passes for investigative journalism in the United States, it is very sad.

The facts do not comport with the story in the New York Times. The reporter, Jo Becker, wrote a similar piece in 2008, which was eventually debunked by Forbes. http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/12/giustra-clinton-kazakhstan-pf-ii-in_rl_0912croesus_inl.html

1. I began working on financing the purchase of mining stakes from a private Kazakh company in early 2005. The purchase was concluded in late 2005.

- In late 2005, I went to Kazakhstan to finish the negotiations of the sale. Bill Clinton flew to Almaty a few days after I arrived in the country on another person's plane, not on my plane, as the Times reported. Bill Clinton had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company.
- I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company. I would note that those were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the Secretary of State. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the Secretary of State.
- Other media outlets have insinuated that I influenced the decision by the U.S. to sign a free trade agreement with Colombia. At one point, I was an investor in Pacific Rubiales, a Colombian energy company. I sold my shares in Pacific Rubiales several years before the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which, I will note, was approved by several U.S. agencies and the White House. To theorize that I had anything to do with that is sheer conjecture.

I hope that the U.S. media can start to focus on the real challenges of the world and U.S. society. Focus on poverty, homelessness, infrastructure, health care, education, or fractious world politics. You are a great country. Don't ruin it by letting those with political agendas take over your newspapers and your airwaves.
I am extremely proud of the work that we have done at the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership. Thousands of people, all over the world, have been helped by this initiative. I plan to continue that work long after the harsh glare of this week's media stories has faded.

4 Votes

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--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
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From: "Jeff Liszt" <jeff@algpolling.com>
To: "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Peter Brodnitz" <pbrodnitz@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
"Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"Philippe Reines" <pir@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 2/5/2015 12:33:41 PM
Subject: RE: Bush Detroit Econ speech

It's a scary new wrapping paper for trickle down. Very much in synch with what we're hearing in groups.

Then again maybe not so new:

"We will extend the promise of prosperity to every forgotten corner of this country. To every man and woman, a chance to succeed. To every child, a chance to learn. To every family, a chance to live with dignity and hope." –GWB

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From: Margolis, Jim [Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; Jeff Liszt; Peter Brodnitz; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Dan Schwerin; Nick Merrill; Huma Abedin; Cheryl Mills; Philippe Reines
Cc: Anson Kaye; John Rimel; Jim Margolis
Subject: Bush Detroit Econ speech

If you haven't read Jeb's Detroit speech, take a look.
He's in a fertile zone, GOP primary electorate notwithstanding.

For those of you who've had to put up with my interest exploring 'opportunity' framing, he has some of the elements here.

Here's the full text of Jeb Bush's "right to rise" speech in Detroit

Updated by Vox Staff on February 5, 2015, 9:20 a.m. ET
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Bill Pugliano/Getty Images

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Thank you. I am delighted to be here. You are part of a great story - the revival of a city that means so much to all Americans. In these past few years, when confronted with grave challenges, you have seized the opportunity to reform the city you love.

And you have begun to repair the damage done by decades of mismanagement and empty promises.

I want to congratulate Governor Rick Snyder for his leadership. I want to acknowledge Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, and Attorney General Bill Schuette. And Mayor Mike Duggan for his determination to serve the city of his birth.

I want to recognize as well the hard work of Kevyn Orr, who I am proud to say is a son of Florida.

And finally, I want to recognize all those who were involved in making difficult and often painful decisions. Your work is not complete. But your efforts have captured the attention of our nation.

Because across the U.S., we are asking ourselves the same questions:

How do we recapture the prosperity and opportunity that once defined cities like Detroit?

How do we restore America's faith in the moral promise of our great nation that any child born today can reach further than their parents?

This is an urgent issue: Far too many Americans live on the edge of economic ruin.And many more feel like they're struck in place, working longer and harder, even as they're losing ground.

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Tens of millions of Americans no longer see a clear path to rise above their challenges. Something is holding them back. Not a lack of ambition. Not a lack of hope. Not because they are lazy or see themselves as victims.
Something else. Something is an artificial weight on their shoulders.
Today and in the coming weeks, I will address this critical issue.
And I will offer a new vision. A plan of action that is different than what we have been hearing in
Washington D.C. It is a vision rooted in conservative principles and tethered to our shared belief in opportunity and the unknown possibilities of a nation given the freedom to act, to create, to dream and to rise.
We see that belief every day in action.
In oil and gas fields once given up for dry we are now assuring America's energy security. In hospitals, we are extending life and beating back once untreatable diseases. In charter schools, we are connecting students to their potential. In labs and hacker spaces, invention comes from every corner of society and the world still comes to America to learn how to create and innovate.
People know this country can be more than it is today. And that each one of us can, and must, be a part of it.
But they know this as well: We have a lot of work to do.
Today, Americans across the country are frustrated. They see only a small portion of the population riding the economy's up escalator... It's true enough that we've seen some recent and welcome good news on the economy.
But it's very little, and it's come very late.
Six years after the recession ended, median incomes are down, households are, on average, poorer ... and millions of people have given up looking for a job altogether. Roughly two out of three American households live paycheck to paycheck. Any unexpected expense can push them into financial ruin. We have a record number of Americans on food stamps and living in poverty.
The recovery has been everywhere but in the family paychecks. The American Dream has become a mirage for far too many. So the central question we face here in Detroit and across America is this: Can we restore that dream -- that moral promise -- that each generation can do better?
If we can't answer that question, no tax, no new welfare program, will save our system or our way of life. Because America's moral promise isn't broken when someone is wealthy. It's broken when achieving success is far beyond our imagination.
America is a place where, as Lincoln dreamed, any person may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year...and the next, work for himself... and finally, to hire men to work for him!
America, though discouraged, has not given up on the dream of Lincoln.
The dream of Lincoln is alive at 5 a.m. at a bus depot in a distant suburb or in an inner city as workers get to jobs in hotels and restaurants and hospitals. The dream is alive in the breath of a construction worker running cable under a city street in the bitter night air.
The dream is alive in the college student driving an Uber car part-time to graduate debt-free.
Lincoln's dream is alive every day nand at every moment when people choose to buy a home, start a business, enroll in school, save for the future. They know such commitments aren't easy and don't pay off right away. But they're worth doing. If Americans are working harder than ever earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong - or they should step aside.
Let's ask how we got to this point. Let's start in Detroit.
Because in a sense, the troubles Detroit faces are an echo of the troubles facing Washington, D.C.
Decades of big government policies, petty politics, impossible-to-meet pension promises, chronic mismanagement and broken services — combined with a massive loss of jobs and competitiveness in the auto industry — drove tens of thousands of people from this city and this region.
For example: Detroit under the previous administration was so proud of shutting down businesses that hadn't paid their licenses and fees, they bragged about it in press releases. The city threatened nearly 900 businesses with closure and followed through on nearly 400 businesses, shutting them down.
Many of these were small businesses run out of homes and alley-facing garages, run by people who just wanted to take that first step up the economic ladder.
One of those business owners, Derek Little, had a simple way to describe his frustration: I'm running a legit business... They could be doing something better.
And while the city was shutting down people who were trying to build a business ...it couldn't even do its job correctly: The city was losing money writing parking tickets.
Of course, on Amtrak they lose money on the snack car. They literally have a captive audience.
But government inefficiency isn't just irritating. It's instructive. If the government can't collect parking fines, or sell snacks on a train, why would government know how to enable every citizen to move up in life?
That's why I launched the Right to Rise PAC. So that someone would speak for people who don't want to wait for the government to deliver prosperity. They want to earn it themselves. Government isn't the only issue here. There is far more at work. But in a sense, fixing government policy is the easiest problem to solve. And it's the one most responsive to the demands of voters.
So, I am getting involved in politics again, because that's where the work has to begin. The opportunity gap is the defining issue of our time.
More Americans are stuck at their income levels than ever before. It's very hard for people to go from the bottom rungs of the economy to the top. Or even to the middle.
This should alarm you. It alarmed me. The problem starts when we fear the one thing that can help unlock the economic status quo: The freedom to compete and work as a team to build great things.
Competition is messy. But it's essential. We've all seen the battles: The taxicab companies fight against web-enabled car services. The restaurants fight against the food trucks. The brick-and-mortar retailers fight against the Internet companies.
I'm not here to take sides. And I don't think government should either. Because when government protects one business against another, or tilts the field of competition, there is a clear loser: Anyone who wants to create something as a team. Anyone who wants to innovate and shake things up. Anyone who wants more choices and better service. And we know that in the end, standing against competition and dynamism is a losing battle.
In 1955, 60 years ago, the Fortune 500 list first appeared. Of the companies on that list, fully 88% don't even exist today or have fallen away. Today's Fortune 500 will be replaced by new companies that are just starting today.
This is hard for some people to accept. Because entrenched interests do not like giving up what they have. That's why they fear small competitors who have nothing to lose. You know the stories: The president of Michigan Savings Bank imparted some wisdom to the young lawyer for a small start-up company: The horse, the bank president said,'is here to stay, but the automobile is only a fad.'
The small start-up that lawyer represented... was the Ford Motor Company.We can laugh about it now because Ford and the other innovators of Detroit had the economic freedom to compete and to prove the doubters wrong.
Our nation has always valued such economic freedom because in economic freedom, each citizen has the power to propel themselves forward and upward.
This really isn't understood in Washington D.C. And you can see why: It's a company town.
And the company is government. It's all they know.
For several years now, they have been recklessly degrading the value of work, the incentive to work, and the rewards of work.
We have seen them cut the definition of a full-time job from 40 to 30 hours, slashing the ability of paycheck earners to make ends meet. We have seen them create welfare programs and tax rules that punish people with lost benefits and higher taxes for moving up those first few rungs of the economic ladder.
Instead of a safety net to cushion our occasional falls, they have built a spider web that traps people in perpetual dependence. We have seen them waive the rules that helped so many people escape welfare.
The progressive and liberal mindset believes that to every problem there is a Washington D.C. solution. But that instinct doesn't solve any problem, other than the problem of how to keep Washington's regional economy well-lubricated.
And the cost is enormous!
Let's say you're a hard-working middle-class family. You work hard. You pay your mortgage on time. As President Obama likes to say: You play by the rules.
But for President Obama, one of the rules is this: He reserves the right to change the rules.
Just last month, he thought it was a good idea to tax 529 college savings plans. Remember: 529s were created to be tax-free ways to save for college. Millions of people started them for their kids and grandkids. So it's no surprise people hated the president's idea. And he dropped it. But it was an instructive lesson in the liberal and progressive mindset. Saving for college is the responsible thing to do. But instead of embracing 529s, the liberals moved to tax them.
It's frustrating. But it shows you how they think.
And if you want to know how they act, ask Sharon DeLay. Sharon founded a recruiting company in Westerville, Ohio. Here's what she said: It's as if the politicians and regulators in Washington want me to fail - and spend all their time thinking up new ways to ensure that I do ...You either want me to be the engine of the economy or you don't!
Here's a message for Sharon and millions like her: There's a better way.Let'sine this path first by the core principles of a Right to Rise society because once we do that, the policies, the laws and the way forward will be much clearer.
Let's start with the first principle: When it comes to ensuring opportunity and a chance at success, the most important factor isn't government. It's a committed family.
Social scientists across the ideological spectrum agree on this: If you want to predict whether someone will graduate from school, go to college and move forward in life, just find out one thing: Were they raised in a loving household by two parents? If you didn't, you can overcome it, but it's very hard. If you did, you have a built-in advantage in life.
The evidence is overwhelming. Every child has a greater chance at opportunity when they are raised by loving, caring and supportive parents and a committed family. That isn't the work of government. But it's critical that governmental leaders recognize that and support it.
A second principle: Growth above all. A growing economy, whether here in Detroit or throughout this country is the difference between poverty and prosperity for millions. If you want to close the opportunity gap, grow the economy. This is a principle that concentrates the mind.
If a law or a rule doesn't contribute to growth, why do it? If a law subtracts from growth, why are we discussing it? And for what it's worth, I don't think the US should settle for anything less than 4% growth a year — which is about twice our current average. At that rate, the middle class will thrive again.
And in the coming months, I intend to detail how we can get there, with a mix of smart policies and reforms to tap our resources and capacity to innovate, whether in energy, manufacturing, health care or technology.
Third: The right to rise depends on a government that makes it easier to work than not work.
That means fewer laws restricting the labor market and reducing the penalties that come with moving up from the lowest rungs of the ladder.
Fourth: To address the income gap, let's close the opportunity gap, and that starts with doing everything we can to give every child, from every neighborhood, a great education. This won't happen overnight — trust me, I know. But I also know it works. And it takes every tool we have.
Accountability for teachers and school administrators, assessment of student learning, high standards, and choices. These key elements of school reform work and we have the results to prove it.
Finally, let's embrace reform everywhere, especially in our government. Let's start with the simple principle of who holds the power. I say give Washington less and give states and local governments more.
We make multi-billion dollar infrastructure decisions based on a labor law written in 1921. President Obama proposes making rules on the Internet using laws written in the 1930s. We regulate global airlines using laws written for railroads. Our immigration laws were written a half-century ago.
Governmental policy seems frozen, incapable and fearful of change. It is in the way. And we deserve better than this.
If we don't transform ourselves to meet new challenges and seize new opportunities, we know what happens next. Look around this city. In its history there is a warning to all of us.
A century ago, Detroit was America's great innovation hub. The Silicon Valley of its age.

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It was bigger than Chicago. It was the nation's wealthiest city in 1960.
Detroit put the world on wheels and created the jobs that lifted millions of Americans into the middle class.
This city was the arsenal of Democracy and delivered the arms needed to defend freedom across two oceans.
Detroit promised prosperity and it delivered.
Sons of sharecroppers coming up from the South, farmhands from the Upper Midwest, immigrants who spoke Polish, Yiddish, Greek and Arabic.
Their children settled. They prospered. And some of their grandchildren are in this room today.
And now, you are rebuilding this city. I know you will be that great city again. Because Americans by nature work and strive to succeed.
It is already happening.
In the Madison Building, not far from here, new companies are rising. One of them, iRule, is led by two young men, one born in Russia, the other in Israel. They left secure jobs as automotive engineers to start their business in 2009. At the very bottom of the recession. Here's what one of them, Itai ben Gal said: ‘We know Detroit has its baggage, but we believe we're part of the solution.'
Three years later, they have 21 employees, including Itai's father, who is the CFO.
And this activity is happening downtown, in an area once ignored.
Another Detroit entrepreneur grew up in the suburbs. He rarely came downtown as a child. But today, he works here. He lives here. This is what he said: 'We see the city for what it can be... not for what it was.'
That's how we should see everything. Not just Detroit.But in all of America.
I know some in the media think conservatives don't care about the cities.
But they are wrong. We believe that every American and in every community has a right to pursue happiness. They have a right to rise.
So I say: Let's go where our ideas can matter most. Where the failures of liberal government are most obvious. Let's deliver real conservative success.
And you know what will happen?
We'll create a whole lot of new conservatives.
I know, because I've lived it.
I come from Miami, another city that faced the same struggles as Detroit.
In my city, the schools were failing, opportunity was scarce and for too many, simply being born in the wrong neighborhood meant the American Dream was cruelly out of reach.
I joined with my friend, Willard Fair, a courageous leader in the civil rights movement.
We decided that the right to rise, was also a civil right. So we went to work to change education in Florida.
While there's much more to do, we saw lives changed and hope restored.
You can do it, here in Detroit. We can do it, across America.
Because this morning, 320 million Americans got up ... and they are on 320 million different paths of life.
It's our goal to see them succeed.
And it's our responsibility to do everything possible to help them.
Because by their success, they will not only build prosperity for themselves. They will renew the promise of this nation when everyone, has the right to rise.
Those are the stakes. That's why we're here. Please join me in this great cause.
Thank you and may God bless you, and may God bless America.

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From: sewallconroy@comcast.net
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/25/2008 10:46:19 AM
Subject: liz sherwood randall

John,

I know that it is important to include Liz Sherwood Randall in the transition. Based on her ability to contribute to the DOD Agency team to date, we had assigned her to the Russia policy team.

However, the organizational structure that Susan and Jim agreed upon today now leaves Liz with a minor role (albeit one consistent with having a family in CA). Given the level of interest, I wanted to double back with you.

Should we put Liz Sherwood back on DOD Agency team so she has the choice of a more significant role? Pls advise.

–sarah

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/18/2015 9:22:18 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Up now.

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for August 19th

Skimm'd at a baseball game

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Big hug" — Russian President Vladimir Putin signing off on a radio chat with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Cuties.

SKIMM THIS

THINGS WITH TROUBLE IN AISLE FOUR

WALMART

THE STORY

Yesterday, Walmart said it's officially on the profit struggle bus.

WAIT, WHY?

The retailer's sales haven't been looking so hot lately. To reverse that, the company started spending more. Think: longer hours, increased wages for workers , and a bigger focus on e-commerce. The good news? Sales went up. The bad news? Walmart has been spending so much that its overall profits are down...by double digits. Yesterday, it also announced that it's lowering earnings targets moving forward. Womp womp.

theSKIMM

Walmart used to be the world's most valuable retailer. Until recently, when a little company called Amazon took its place. Yesterday's announcement is more bad news for traditional stores who were slow to jump on the e-commerce bandwagon.

SKIMM THIS

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TARGET

THE STORY

Yesterday, Target agreed to say 'sorry' for a 2013 data breach. In this case, 'sorry' means a $67 million check.

WAIT, WHY?

Back in the holiday season of 2013, Target got hit by an epic cyberattack. 40 million credit and debit cards were exposed to fraud. Not a Merry Chrismukkah. Yesterday, Target announced a settlement with Visa. The $67 million will go towards the banks that sent customers new Visas after theirs were hacked. Target's still settling up with MasterCard.

theSKIMM

Credit card companies, the government, and pretty much every business in the world is trying to figure out how to make their networks more secure. This settlement is another reminder that hacks are a security threat — and they're also pretty f'ing expensive messes to clean up.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE BF ASKS IF YOU'RE READY...

Oh, I'm ready. Yesterday, the FDA approved a drug that wants to turbocharge women's sex drive. It's called Addyi' because "I just watched 'The Notebook' again" didn't fit on the box. This is the first approved drug of its kind and the pharmaceutical industry has pushed for it to get the green light for a while. And surprise, so have women. But the FDA rejected it twice because of concerns over side effects. The libido-fixing drug apparently doesn't pair well with alcohol, among other lovely side effects. Women who take the drug reportedly have one extra "sexually satisfying event" per month. That's an event that will get RSVPs.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN THE AIRPORT SECURITY LINE IS BACKED UP AND YOU MISS YOUR FLIGHT...

The TSA is going to hear about this in my Yelp review. Thanks to a new agreement with the review site, US agencies can now claim or create Yelp pages. And respond directly to your constructive criticism about the long line at the post office. This should go well.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY AFTER YOU HEAR THE WHITE HOUSE HIRED ITS FIRST OPENLY TRANSGENDER STAFFER ...

Bout time. This week, two women are becoming the first female graduates of the Army's Ranger School. Meaning they completed an intense training course that makes your triathlete friend look out of shape. Rangers are an elite special ops force in the US military. So elite that 400 people tried out, and only 96 made the cut - including these two women. Problem is, they can't actually join the Rangers yet because women still aren't officially allowed to serve in combat roles. The Pentagon's making a decision later this year on how that rule should change for different military positions. But the Navy SEALs are feeling inclusive. Yesterday, a top Navy admiral said there's "no reason" that women who can take the heat should be left off the SEAL team.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

Mineral water: Making regular water feel inferior since forever. It's water that comes from a mineral spring, complete with — yup – minerals like calcium. Often sparkling (think: Perrier).

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SKIMM LIFE

We're all about that 'bass(ador). Yup, the Skimm'bassadors have their own playlist now. Listen up.

SKIMM SHARE

Skimm'ing is good, but Skimm'ing from the beach is better. Top 10 sharers get to sit in the sand with this swag . Here's how to share theSkimm .

SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

*** indicates Skimm'bassador. Make a wish.**

***Amy Yazdian** (New York, NY); ***Whitney Hinckley** (Cincinnati, OH); ***Girina Pandit** (Tucson, AZ); ***Terri Peters** (Pasadena, MD); **Molly Jong-Fast** (New York, NY); ***Ashley Cangelosi Llewellyn** (New Orleans, LA); ***Madison McGill** (Grapevine, TX); ***Molly Cullen** (Minneapolis, MN); ***Shannon Campagna** (Alexandria, VA); ***Steffie Tomson** (Houston, TX); ***Sophia Serrao** (Gainesville, FL); ***Cassandra Lautredou** (Little Rock, AR); ***Kandace Parker** (Little Rock, AR); ***Emily Button** (Indianapolis, IN); ***Colleen McGee** (Annapolis, MD); ***Girina Pandit** (Tucson, AZ); **Pedro Mendonça** (São Paulo, Brazil); **Rachel Cargo** (Boston, MA); **Bart Witmer** (San Francisco, CA); **Melissa Manuel** (New York, NY); **Robert Kroez** (Delmar, NY); **Jessie Alvaro** (Fair Lawn, NJ); **Laura Gibson** (Elmhurst, IL); **Bozenna Hartzell** (New York, NY); **Julie Noblick** (Washington, DC); **Carson Heimann** (New York, NY); **Katie Taaffe** (Dallas, TX); **Victoria Pappas** (New York, NY); **Elly McKenna** (Fairfield, CT); **Laura Granite** (New York, NY); **Emma Tuz** (New York, NY); ***Taylor Gillilan** (Birmingham, AL); **Robin Moodley** (Cleveland, OH); **Cynthia Johnson** (Culver City, CA); **Meira Levison** (Tel Aviv, Israel); **Sandra Midlitz** (Yardley, PA); **Brandy Satterwhite** (Raleigh, NC); **Cindy Meyer** (Leawood, KS); **Barbara Steppe** (North Bellmore, NY); **Danielle Moran** (Berkeley Heights, NJ); **Tara Delany** (Orlando, FL); **Courtney Futryk** (Washington, DC); **Molly Breiner** (New York, NY); ***Lilibeth Rivera** (Bronx, NY); **Jamie Rosenberg** (Edgartown, MA); **Matt Golden** (Weston, MA); **Peggy Hoyt** (Winnetka, IL); **Janeen Gonzalez** (Los Angeles, CA); **Heidi Adams** (Raleigh, NC); **Andrea LoBalbo** (Arlington, VA); **Elizabeth Scouler** (Los Angeles, CA); **Hannah Gettleman** (Chicago, IL); **Jennie Dopf** (New York, NY); **Haley Vallon Chestnut** (Athens, GA)

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/16/2008 5:49:05 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech/Q&A NAACP Cincinnati, OH 07/16/08

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Jacob who is on the ground today in Cincinnati. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Demonstrator outside of event with sign, "JOHN MCCAIN VOTED AGAINST MLK DAY"
- McCain opens with kind words about Obama, acknowledges Obama's historical significance
- McCain emphasizes education, says "the worst problems of our public school system are often found in black communities"
- McCain attacks public education, calls for reform
- McCain proposes "bonuses" for encouraging teachers to teach in tough neighborhoods and rewarding teachers for a job well done; He calls for such funds to be controlled by princpals
- McCain proposes $500 million for virtual learning programs, online classes
- McCain references his "friend" John Lewis
- McCain asked about Katrina; calls the government's response a disgrace
- McCain promises to fund No Child Left Behind
- McCain asked about why he didn't fill out his NAACP candidate survey, says he'll do it immediately

Cincinnati, OH - McCain Speech/Q&A NAACP 07/16/08

Background Details:
- McCain staffers interspersed with NAACP staffers and secret service
- On stage: NAACP emblem that reads, 'Power, justice, freedom, vote'
- Outside: Protester with "JOHN MCCAIN VOTED AGAINST MLK DAY" sign
- Dana Bash present along with several local media outlets
- Conference hall packed 1-1,200 people present
- Several audience members wearing Obama T-shirts; tracker did not see any signs or chum for McCain
- Crowd not excited about McCain, subdued reaction; at one point the jumbotron screen cut to a crowd shot after he said something that was meant to gain applause and the crowd shot showed people with their arms crossed

FULL Transcript:
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/transcript-of-mccains-remarks-at-the-naacp/

Thank you. Julian Bond, Dennis Courtland Hayes, Roslyn Brock – I appreciate your kind invitation, and this warm welcome to the NAACP. This is your second invitation to me during my presidential campaign, and I hope you'll excuse me for passing on the opportunity at your convention last year. As you might recall, I was a bit distracted at the time dealing with what reporters uncharitably described as an implosion in my campaign. But I'm very glad you invited me again.

Let me begin with a few words about my opponent. **Don't tell him I said this, but he is an impressive fellow in many ways. He has inspired a great many Americans, some of whom had wrongly believed that a political campaign could hold no purpose or meaning for them. His success should make Americans, all Americans, proud. Of course, I would prefer his success not continue quite as long as he hopes. But it makes me proud to know the country I've loved and served all my life is still a work in progress, and always improving. Senator Obama talks about making history, and he's made quite a bit of it already**. And the way was prepared by this venerable organization and others like it. A few years before the NAACP was founded, President Theodore Roosevelt's invitation of Booker T. Washington to dine at the White House was taken as an outrage and an insult in many quarters. America today is a world away from the cruel and prideful bigotry of that time. There is no better evidence of this than the nomination of an African-American to be the presidential nominee of his party. Whatever the outcome in November, Senator Obama has achieved a great thing – for himself and for his country – and I thank him for it.

As our country has changed these past few decades, so have many of your debates within the NAACP, and within other civil-rights organizations. In the days of separate lunch counters, bullhorns, and fire hoses, the mission was hard and dangerous, but it was easily defined. The advancement of African Americans meant equal protection under law, in a country where the law had simply codified injustice. That cause required the enormous courage and commitment of generations, and a determination to hold this nation to its own creed.

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You know better than I do how different the challenges are today for those who champion the cause of equal opportunity in America. Equal access to public education has been gained. But what is the value of access to a failing school? Equal employment opportunity is set firmly down in law. But with jobs becoming scarcer – and 400,000 Americans thrown out of work just this year – that can amount to an equal share of diminished opportunity. For years, business ownership by African Americans has been growing rapidly. This is all to the good, but that hopeful trend is threatened in a struggling economy – with the cost of energy, health care, and just about everything else rising sharply.

As in other challenges African Americans have met and overcome, these problems require clarity of purpose. They require the solidarity of groups like the NAACP. And, at times, they also require a willingness to break from conventional thinking.

Nowhere are the limitations of conventional thinking any more apparent than in education policy. **Education reform has long been a priority of the NAACP, and for good reason. For all the best efforts of teachers and administrators, the worst problems of our public school system are often found in black communities.** Black and Latino students are among the most likely to drop out of high school. African Americans are also among the least likely to go on to college.

After decades of hearing the same big promises from the public education establishment, and seeing the same poor results, it is surely time to shake off old ways and to demand new reforms. That isn't just my opinion; it is the conviction of parents in poor neighborhoods across this nation who want better lives for their children. In Washington, D.C., the Opportunity Scholarship program serves more than 1,900 boys and girls from families with an average income of 23,000 dollars a year. And more than 7,000 more families have applied for that program. What they all have in common is the desire to get their kids into a better school.

Democrats in Congress, including my opponent, oppose the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program. In remarks to the American Federation of Teachers last weekend, Senator Obama dismissed public support for private school vouchers for low-income Americans as, "tired rhetoric about vouchers and school choice." All of that went over well with the teachers union, but where does it leave families and their children who are stuck in failing schools?

Over the years, Americans have heard a lot of "tired rhetoric" about education. We've heard it in the endless excuses of people who seem more concerned about their own position than about our children. We've heard it from politicians who accept the status quo rather than stand up for real change in our public schools. Parents ask only for schools that are safe, teachers who are competent, and diplomas that open doors of opportunity. When a public system fails, repeatedly, to meet these minimal objectives, parents ask only for a choice in the education of their children. Some parents may choose a better public school. Some may choose a private school. Many will choose a charter school. No entrenched bureaucracy or union should deny parents that choice and children that opportunity.

We should also offer more choices to those who wish to become teachers. Many thousands of highly qualified men and women have great knowledge, wisdom, and experience to offer public school students. But a monopoly on teacher certification prevents them from getting that chance. You can be a Nobel Laureate and not qualify to teach in most public schools today. They don't have all the proper credits in educational "theory" or "methodology" – all they have is learning and the desire and ability to share it. If we're putting the interests of students first, then those qualifications should be enough.

If I am elected president, school choice for all who want it, an expansion of Opportunity Scholarships, and alternative certification for teachers will all be part of a serious agenda of education reform. I will target funding to recruit teachers who graduate in the top 25 percent of their class, or who participate in an alternative teacher recruitment program such as Teach for America, the American Board for Teacher Excellence, and the New Teacher Project.

We will pay bonuses to teachers who take on the challenge of working in our most troubled schools – because we need their fine minds and good hearts to help turn those schools around. We will award bonuses as well to our highest-achieving teachers. And no longer will we measure teacher achievement by conformity to process. We will measure it by the success of their students.

Moreover, the funds for these bonuses will not be controlled by faraway officials – in Washington, in a state capital, or even in a district office. Under my reforms, we will entrust both the funds and the responsibilities where they belong in the office of the school principal. One reason that charter schools are so successful, and so sought-after by parents, is that principals have spending discretion. And I intend to give that same discretion to public school principals. No longer will money be spent in service to rigid and often

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meaningless formulas. Relying on the good judgment and first-hand knowledge of school principals, education money will be spent in service to public school students.

We can also help more children and young adults to study outside of school by expanding support for virtual learning. So I propose to direct 500 million dollars in current federal funds to build new virtual schools, and to support the development of online courses for students. Through competitive grants, we will allocate another 250 million dollars to support state programs expanding online education opportunities, including the creation of new public virtual charter schools. States can use these funds to build virtual math and science academies to help expand the availability of Advanced Placement math, science, and computer science courses, online tutoring, and foreign language courses.

Under my reforms, moreover, parents will exercise freedom of choice in obtaining extra help for children who are falling behind. As it is, federal aid to parents for tutoring for their children has to go through another bureaucracy. They can't purchase the tutoring directly, without having to deal with the same education establishment that failed their children in the first place. These needless restrictions will be removed, under my reforms. If a student needs extra help, parents will be able to sign them up to get it, with direct public support.

Over the years, the NAACP has brought enormous good into the life of our country – in part by broadening the reach of economic opportunity. There was a time when economists took little if any notice at all of the poverty of black communities. Even in times of general economic growth, many lived in a perpetual recession, and the jobs available didn't promise much upward mobility. Our country still has a lot of progress to make on this score. But with 1.2 million businesses today owned and operated by African Americans, more and more are no longer just spectators on the prosperity of our country. They are stakeholders. As much as anyone else, they count on their government to help create the conditions of economic growth – and, as president, I intend to do.

Senator Obama and I have fundamental differences on economic policy. But when he describes my plan, I'm not sure his heart is always in it – so let me have a go at it myself. I believe that in a troubled economy, when folks are struggling to afford the necessities of life, higher taxes are the last thing we need. The economy isn't hurting because workers and businesses are under-taxed. Raising taxes eliminates jobs, hurts small businesses, and delays economic recovery.

Under my plan, we will preserve the current low rates as they are, so businesses large and small can hire more people. We will double the personal exemption from $3,500 to $7,000 for every dependent, in every family in America. We will offer every individual and family a large tax credit to buy their health care, so that their health insurance is theirs to keep even when they move or change jobs. And we will lower the business tax rate, so American companies open new plants and create more jobs in this country, instead of going overseas to flee the second-highest tax rate in the world.

My opponent and I have honest differences as well about the growth of government. And it may be that many of you share his view. But even allowing for disagreement, surely there is common ground in the principle that government cannot go on forever spending recklessly and incurring debt. Government has grown by 60 percent in the last eight years, because the Congress and this administration have failed to meet their responsibilities. And next year, total federal expenditures are predicted to reach over three trillion dollars. That is an awful lot for us to be spending when this nation is already more than nine trillion dollars in debt – or more than thirty thousand dollars in debt for every citizen. That's a debt our government plans to leave for your children and mine to bear. And that is a failure not only of financial foresight, but of moral obligation.

There will come a day when the road reaches a dead-end. And it won't be today's politicians who suffer the consequences. It will be American workers and their children who are left with worthless promises and trillion-dollar debts. We cannot let that happen. As President, I'll work with every member of Congress – Republican, Democrat, and Independent – who shares my commitment to reforming government and controlling spending. I'll order a top-to-bottom review of every federal program, department, and agency. We're going to demand accountability. We're going to make sure failed programs are not rewarded … and that discretionary spending is going where it belongs – to essential priorities like job training, the security of our citizens, and the care of our veterans.

To get our economy running at full strength again, we must also get a handle on the cost of energy. Under my plan, we will produce more of America's own energy. We will build at least 45 nuclear plants that will create over 700,000 good jobs to construct and operate them. We will develop clean coal technology – which alone will create tens of thousands of jobs in some of America's most hard-pressed areas. We will accelerate the development of wind and solar power and other renewable technologies, and we will help automakers design and sell cars that don't depend on gasoline. Production of hybrid, flex-fuel, and electric cars will bring America closer to energy independence. And it will bring jobs to auto plants, parts manufacturers, and the communities that support them.

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Our country is passing through a very tough time. But Americans have been through worse, and beaten longer odds. The men and women of the NAACP know more than most about facing long odds, and overcoming adversity.

Many of you are veterans of the great civil rights struggles of a generation and more ago. Like my friend John Lewis, some of you have seen enough years to have known Martin Luther King, Jr., and even marched at his side or not far behind in Birmingham, Montgomery, or elsewhere. For all of this, like Dr. King, you were called agitators, trouble-makers, malcontents, and disturbers of the peace. These are often the terms applied to men and women of conscience who will not endure cruelty, nor abide injustice.

Perhaps with more charity than was always deserved, it was Dr. King who often reminded us that there was moral badness, and there was moral blindness, and they were not the same. It was this spirit that turned hatred into forgiveness, anger into conviction, and a bitter life into a great one. He loved and honored his country even when the feeling was unreturned, and counseled others to do the same. He gave his countrymen the benefit of the doubt – believing, as he wrote, that "returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that."

I remember first learning what had happened in Memphis on the fourth of April, 1968, feeling just as everyone else did back home, only perhaps even more uncertain and alarmed for my country in the darkness that was then enclosed around me and my fellow captives. In our circumstances at the time, good news from America was hard to come by. But the bad news was a different matter, and each new report of violence, rioting, and other tribulations in America was delivered without delay. The enemy had correctly calculated that the news of Dr. King's death would deeply wound morale, and leave us worried and afraid for our country. Doubtless it boosted our captors' morale, confirming their belief that America was a lost cause, and that the future belonged to them.

Yet how differently it all turned out. And if they had been the more reflective kind, our enemies would have understood that the cause of Dr. King was bigger than any one man, and could not be stopped by force of violence. Struggle is rewarded in God's own time. Wrongs are set right and evil is overcome. We know this to be true because it is the story of your cause, and the story of our country.

As much as any other group in America, the NAACP has been at the center of that great and honorable cause. I'm here today as an admirer and a fellow American, an association that means more to me than any other. I am a candidate for president who seeks your vote and hopes to earn it. But whether or not I win your support, I need your goodwill and counsel. And should I succeed, I'll need it all the more. I have always believed in this country, in a good America, a great America. But I have always known we can build a better America, where no place or person is left without hope or opportunity by the sins of injustice or indifference. It would be among the great privileges of my life to work with you in that cause.

Thank you all very much.

Question and Answer

1) QUESTIONER: I am a flood survivor and I want to know what you will do about FEMA.

MCCAIN: The government's response to Katrina was a disgrace. I will combine the best in business and government to respond more competently to natural disasters. Attacks by natural calamities are just as bad, if not worse, than attacks by terrorists on our nation. I would also consider drills to see how we and our agencies respond.

2) QUESTIONER: We are concerned with justice and fairness of sentencing. With that in mind what kind of judges would you appoint?

MCCAIN: I would appoint judges who strictly adhere to and interpret The Constitution. I voted for Ginsberg and Breyer because I thought they were qualified. Why we strayed from those immortal words that all men are created equal from our founding fathers I will never know.

3) QUESTIONER: Will you fully fund NCLB?

MCCAIN: I will. NCLB also needs to be fixed. The status quo is not acceptable. Also, the rise in autism is an issue.

4) QUESTIONER: Did you miss the opportunity to fill out the NAACP civil rights survey and do you look forward to completing it in the future?

MCCAIN: We get hundreds of surveys and we fill out them all. Yes, we will complete it immediately. I'd be glad to.

5) QUESTIONER: I work with head start workers and federal funding has not been allocated to them. What will you do now as a senator so head start workers can get the funds needed to educate the poor?

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MCCAIN: I would be glad to fully fund those programs, but there has to be monitoring so we know there will be a return on the taxpayer's money. There's no reason you should resent any scrutiny, if you receive full funding. How's that?

FOLLOW-UP: The federal monitoring is from the people who run the programs. If I am making $17k a year, I cannot afford basic costs of living. These people have gone to school and gotten the mandates that have been allocated by city governments and they need to make living wages. What are you gonna do? We can't continue this way.

MCCAIN: I'll be glad to tell you exactly what I'm gonna do. As I said in my speech, a great and outstanding teacher such as yourself deserves rewards. I don't want someone to have tenure after only two years of teaching. I want us to reward good teachers and find bad teachers another line of work.
In NYC and New Orleans we've seen dramatic education improvements because of choice and competition and merit-based rewards.

6 Q) QUESTIONER: I am a pastor in San Fransisco. I would like to know your position on faith-based initiatives. We live in a nation where we are supposed to have freedom of and from religion. What is the point of these programs when we are supposed to have equality for all regardless of affiliation?

MCCAIN: I noticed Sen. Obama gave a speech on faith-based organizations. I think the some of the finest services rendered unto this country has come from them because of Judaeo-Christian values. These organizations represent the best of America because it manifests the ideas that we are to help the poor and heal the sick.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Accountability Office
cammie@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/19/2015 8:19:20 AM
Subject: Why this Iraq vet supports Iran deal

John -

If you haven't had the chance to read Garett Reppenhagen explain how his service in Iraq informs his support for a diplomacy-first approach with Iran, you should do that today. It's below.

Garett's story is unique, but he is by no means alone. VoteVets has collected over 1,000 stories from veterans who served in World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan... all of whom support the deal.

Make a $3 contribution to help us elevate those stories ahead of September's Iran vote.

The Koch and Lieberman-linked organizations opposing this deal have unlimited resources. But these stories, and the experiences that inform them, are far more valuable.

Thanks for ensuring they get heard.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran & Chairman
VoteVets

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

Read my story and contribute $3 to VoteVets to elevate the voices of veterans like me who support a diplomacy-first approach with Iran.

John -

The last time the U.S. Military was called on in the name of stopping Weapons of Mass Destruction, I was stationed in the Diyala Province in Iraq as a Sniper in the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division.

I participated in combat missions while the infrastructure of the country was destroyed, sectarian violence divided communities, millions were displaced from their homes, countless Iraqis were killed and injured, and our fellow service members were caught in the middle.

After helping to secure the scene of a HEMTT Tactical Truck that was destroyed by a roadside bomb in Iraq, and watching two female soldiers medivaced knowing they would likely not survive their injuries, I started to wonder what could have prevented the conflict I found myself deployed to.

Aside from the many American troops killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the burden of war continues to impact our veterans. Substance abuse, traumatic brain injuries, incarceration, homelessness, and suicide are just some of the issues veterans face coming home from war. Although these sacrifices are high, our military members take pride in risking their lives for our homes, families, and country.

That is why we need to ensure we do everything we can to prevent future war unless it is absolutely necessary. Our country needs to exhaust all diplomatic efforts before the possibility of military action is warranted. We owe it to the men and women that choose to serve this country.

The deal our State Department, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, has negotiated with Iran is the best diplomatic effort we can agree upon. It has great potential to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and prevent the future deployment of our Armed Forces.

VoteVets is elevating the voices of veterans like me who support this deal - contribute $3 to help ensure we are heard before Congress votes in September.

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Before we see more of my brothers and sisters in uniform medivaced away from the combat zone let's support diplomacy and support the Iran Deal.

We have a very unique and important voice in this debate.

Thank for helping to ensure that it's heard.

Garett Reppenhagen
Iraq War Veteran
VoteVets

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 2:19:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations

The enviros may latch onto this going forward. Have we discussed when she will come out against Keystone? After POTUS vetoes?

and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Josh Schwerin** <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 9:08 PM
Subject: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com >

Book Questions Clinton Donations

By AMY CHOZICK APRIL 19, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/us/politics/book-questions-clinton-donations.html?_r=0

The book does not hit shelves until May 5, but already the Republican Rand Paul has called its findings "big news" that will "shock people" and make voters "question" the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," by Peter Schweizer — a 186-page investigation of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities — is proving the most anticipated and feared book of a presidential cycle still in its infancy.

The book, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, asserts that foreign entities who made payments to the Clinton Foundation and to Mr. Clinton through high speaking fees received favors from Mrs. Clinton's State Department in return.

"We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds," Mr. Schweizer writes.

His examples include a free-trade agreement in Colombia that benefited a major foundation donor's natural resource investments in the South American nation, development projects in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

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In the long lead up to Mrs. Clinton's campaign announcement, aides proved adept in swatting down critical books as conservative propaganda, including Edward Klein's "Blood Feud," about tensions between the Clintons and the Obamas, and Daniel Halper's "Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine."

But "Clinton Cash" is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations are expected to pursue the story lines found in the book.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been briefed about the book's findings, which have already made their way into several of the Republican presidential candidates' campaigns.

Conservative "super PACs " plan to seize on "Clinton Cash," and a pro-Democrat super PAC has already assembled a dossier on Mr. Schweizer, a speechwriting consultant to former President George W. Bush and a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institute, to make the case that he has a bias against Mrs. Clinton.

And the newly assembled Clinton campaign team is planning a full-court press to diminish the book as yet another conservative hit job.

Mr. Schweizer and a spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corporation and is publishing the book, declined to comment.

The timing is problematic for Mrs. Clinton as she begins a campaign to position herself as a "champion for everyday Americans."

From 2001 to 2012, the Clintons' income was at least $136.5 million, Mr. Schweizer writes, using a figure previously reported in The Washington Post. "During Hillary's years of public service, the Clintons have conducted or facilitated hundreds of large transactions" with foreign governments, he writes. "Some of these transactions have put millions in their own pockets."

Continue reading the main story

The Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for accepting foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state. Last week, the foundation revised its policy to allow donations from countries like Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Britain but prohibit giving by other nations in the Middle East.

Mr. Schweizer's book will be released the same day former President Bill Clinton and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will host the Clinton Global Initiative gathering with donors in Morocco, the culmination of a foundation trip to several African nations. (A chapter in the book is titled "Warlord Economics: The Clintons do Africa.")

There is a robust market for books critical of the Clintons. The thinly sourced "Blood Feud," by Mr. Klein, at one point overtook Mrs. Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices" on the best-seller list.

But whether Mr. Schweizer's book can deliver the same sales is not clear.

Mr. Schweizer writes mainly in the voice of a neutral journalist and meticulously documents his

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sources, including tax records and government documents, while leaving little doubt about his view of the Clintons.

His reporting largely focuses on payments made to Mr. Clinton for speeches, which increased while his wife served as secretary of state, writing that "of the 13 Clinton speeches that fetched $500,000 or more, only two occurred during the years his wife was not secretary of state."

In 2011, Mr. Clinton made $13.3 million in speaking fees for 54 speeches, the majority of which were made overseas, the author writes. Among the connections he tries to draw is a $750,000 speaking fee to Mr. Clinton by the Swedish telecom company Ericsson and a State Department list of new sanctions on Iran that did not include telecom.

Mr. Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute, is the author of the 2013 book "Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets," and "Throw Them All Out" about elected officials receiving insider stock tips.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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From: "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
Date: 3/10/2015 4:14:12 AM
Subject: Re: Iran

+ Jake

On Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 10:39 AM, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com > wrote:

> Language from Jake:
>
> Let me say a word on Iran. As Secretary of State, I worked with Congress on a bipartisan basis to construct the most effective sanctions regime in history. Those sanctions, along with patient and determined diplomacy, brought Iran to the negotiating table. Now the President and his team are in the midst of intense negotiations. Their goal is a diplomatic solution that would close off all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear bomb and give us unprecedented access and insight into Iran's nuclear program. Reasonable people can disagree about what exactly it will take to accomplish this objective, and we all must judge any final agreement on its merits. But right now, there is an urgent need to restore a bipartisan commitment to the patriotic idea that politics stops at the water's edge. The recent letter from Republican senators was out of step with the best traditions of American leadership. One has to ask: what was the purpose of this letter? There appear to be two logical answers -- either these Senators were trying to be helpful to the Iranians, or hurtful to the commander-in-chief in the midst of high-stakes international diplomacy. Either answer does discredit to the letter's signatories. We can all agree that a diplomatic solution that prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon is the right objective. Let's give the president the space and support he needs to achieve it. Let's choose statesmanship over politics.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 12:28:44 PM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.

On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:

> It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.
>
> On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
> > If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.
> >
> > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > **Grunwald Communications**
> > **202 973-9400**
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
> > To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
> > Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls
> >
> > Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.
> >
> > On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:
> > >
> > > - Immigration plan
> > > - Clinton Cash update
> > >
> > > Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:
> > >
> > > **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call**
> > >
> > > **Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays**
> > > Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.
> > >
> > > --
> > > Kristina Schake
> > > Hillary for America

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	2/6/2015 9:45:53 AM
Subject:	2.6.15 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	2.6.15 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below.

2.6.14 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton: Fighting for America's Workers**
2. **Hillary Clinton: Vaccinations**
3. **Hillary Clinton: Tops New Millennial Poll**
4. **Eleven Things You Should Know About Hillary Clinton**

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS

"This is the country where if you work hard, you can make it. And each generation is supposed to have it a little better than the one before." – Hillary Clinton, 10/23/14

- Hillary Clinton has stood up and fought for American workers her entire life, reflecting her belief that our country's future depends on a strong and successful middle class.
- Clinton worked to close tax loopholes and called for eliminating "any tax break that promotes or rewards outsourcing." Hillary also supported legislation to discourage outsourcing in the private sector and to restrict federal agencies from outsourcing work.
- Clinton proposed a $1 billion per year innovation fund to encourage states to develop family leave and paid leave policies, and also called for providing paid parental leave to all federal employees.
- Clinton cofounded the bipartisan Senate Manufacturing Caucus and fought to bring new manufacturing technology to small and medium-sized businesses, which would help to create jobs and spur manufacturing growth.

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- Clinton stood up against unfair Chinese trade practices and voted in favor of authorizing action on Chinese imports if the Chinese government did not reform its currency practices.
- Clinton worked to expand job training opportunities for workers and led efforts to bring together local businesses, governments, educational institutions and labor organizations to collaborate on new programs to train workers for modern technology jobs.
- Clinton backed efforts to expand protections for workers' pensions and to protect overtime pay for working Americans.
- Clinton fought to strengthen safety protections for coal miners and worked to secure health coverage for laid off and retired steelworkers.
- Clinton worked to give all American workers the opportunity to easily save for the future. Hillary proposed creating "American Retirement Accounts" that would give workers greater security on their savings and increase flexibility in making investments.

BOTTOM LINE: Hillary Clinton's life has been about fighting to protect and lift up American workers and their families. Hillary's vision for our future is reflected by her efforts to ensure everyone has a fair shot at the American Dream.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON AND VACCINATIONS

BACKGROUND: *The recent measles outbreak has been attributed by many to a decline in childhood vaccinations, sparking a debate in America about the safety of vaccinating our children. As a result, some in the media and various pundits have accused Hillary Clinton of flip flopping on the vaccine issue.*

THE FACTS:

Hillary Clinton has consistently supported researching the causes of autism and finding fact-based solutions to fight the disorder.

Hillary Clinton has a long record of protecting children in America and all over the world through life-saving vaccines.

In 2008 , Senator Clinton, along with President Obama and many others, wrote she was committed to investing in additional research to find the causes of autism.

Clinton wrote she supported additional research on the possible environmental causes of autism, including but not limited to, vaccinations.

It is a consistent approach by Secretary Clinton to seek and research in order to utilize the best information possible to come to a conclusion, exactly the process here.

HILLARY CLINTON'S LONG RECORD OF PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH VACCINATIONS:

- As First Lady, Hillary Clinton spearheaded the Childhood Immunization Initiative and worked to create the Vaccines for Children Program, bringing childhood immunization rates to an all-time high.
- She introduced or cosponsored more than 10 bills to promote awareness of vaccines and expand vaccine supplies for emergencies.
- Hillary cosponsored the Childhood Vaccine Supply Act to combat the shortage of routine childhood vaccines.

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- As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton used diplomacy to combat unfounded rumors about the dangers of polio vaccines.
- Today, through her work at the Clinton Foundation, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) is partnering with governments of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Malawi to support the national rollout of new vaccines, which will prevent 50,000 child deaths each year.
- On Monday, February 2, 2015, Hillary Clinton tweeted, "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork. Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest."

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON TOPS NEW MILLENNIAL POLL

BACKGROUND: *A new Fusion Massive Millennial poll of 18-34 year olds conducted January 6-11, 2015 finds that Hillary Clinton leads the field of potential Democratic candidates and beats the preferred GOP nominee by double digits.*

THE POLL:

- 57% of young Democrats polled chose Hillary Clinton as their preferred Democratic presidential nominee, 47% higher than the next potential candidate.
- In a head-to-head matchup with young Republicans' preferred GOP nominee, Mitt Romney, who eventually decided not to run, Hillary Clinton wins by double digits, 55%-31%.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- Even as right-wing attacks groups throw everything but the kitchen sink at Hillary Clinton, she continues to connect with Democrats, Independents and Americans of all backgrounds who are hungry for her experience, leadership and vision. Because of Hillary Clinton's years of public service, her strong record as a leader, and her commitment to being a voice to the voiceless, she has the support of so many Americans.
- This latest poll is in line with what others polls and pundits have been showing for months – that Hillary Clinton has unprecedented support, despite the onslaught of Republican attacks against her.
  - A Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa poll conducted January 26-29, 2015 finds that 56% of the likely Democratic caucus-goers polled in Iowa said that Hillary Clinton was their first choice for president, 40% ahead of the next potential candidate. The poll also shows that Hillary Clinton is viewed favorably by 84% of Democratic likely caucus-goers.
  - An ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted January 12-15, 2015 finds that Hillary Clinton leads each of the top potential GOP candidates in hypothetical matchups by double digits. According to the poll, Hillary leads Jeb Bush 54%-41%, Mitt Romney 55%-40%, Chris Christie 53%-40%, Rand Paul 54%-41%, and Mike Huckabee 56%-39%.
  - For 17 out of the past 18 years, Hillary Clinton has been named Americans' Most Admired Woman, according to a Gallup poll from December 8-11, 2014.
  - Clinton is extremely popular among Democrats: an NBC/Marist poll from July 7-13, 2014 puts her favorability/unfavorability rating in Iowa at 89 percent/6 percent; in New Hampshire it's even higher, at 94 percent/4 percent.
  - In polls conducted this summer in Ohio, New Jersey and Florida, Hillary Clinton had commanding leads over potential 2016 GOP contenders.

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- According to a Quinnipiac press release on the Ohio poll , "Secretary Clinton, on the other hand, is almost everyone's favorite candidate."
- Regarding the New Jersey poll, a Quinnipiac official stated , "As Gov. Christopher Christie traipses around the nation, his presidential potential seems alive, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the adopted girl next door, easily beats him in his home state."
- Based on the Florida poll, CNN reported that "Hillary Clinton is the clear 2016 frontrunner in the nation's largest presidential battleground state."

TALKING POINTS: ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia,working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes, it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

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Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy , "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased investment through three new free trade agreements(Colombia , Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating theCenter for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create theBureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From: "John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 4:41:54 AM
Subject: Fwd: Formal response from me

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jennifer Palmieri** <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 1:10 AM
Subject: Fwd: Formal response from me
To: H <hdr29@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >

The memo we sent to NYT follows.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Brian Fallon <brianefallon@gmail.com >
> **Date:** April 23, 2015 at 12:50:45 AM EDT
> **To:** jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com , bfallon@hillaryclinton.com
> **Subject: Fwd: Formal response from me**
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Brian Fallon** <brianefallon@gmail.com >
> Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 9:15 PM
> Subject: Formal response from me
> To: Jo Becker <jbecker@nytimes.com >, "McIntire, Mike" <mcintire@nytimes.com >
>
> Below is the campaign's official response to your inquiry.
>
> **MEMORANDUM**
>
> TO: Jo Becker and Mike McIntyre, New York Times
>
> FROM: Brian Fallon, Hillary for America
>
> DATE: April 22, 2015
> RE: Response to story based on “Clinton Cash”
>
> ---
>
> The below memorandum presents our response to the questions you have posed in the course of your reporting on Peter Schweizer’s book, *Clinton Cash*.
>
> At the outset, it is important to note that no one – neither Mr. Schweizer, nor the *Times*, nor anyone else -- has ever produced a shred of evidence supporting the theory that Hillary Clinton ever took action as Secretary of State to support the interests of donors to the Clinton Foundation. Therefore, we are extremely disappointed that the *New York Times* intends to rely on research culled from a

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biased author like Mr. Schweizer. During our conversations with the *Times*, it has been unclear to what extent, if at all, the *Times*' reporting goes beyond the allegations made in *Clinton Cash*. This is troubling because, as has been well documented already, the book's author is a known Republican operative whose organization has links to the Koch brothers and a major donor to Ted Cruz. Moreover, the book's rollout has been coordinated with another Republican presidential candidate, Rand Paul. It is worrisome that the Times would repeat the claims from such a questionable source.

As we understand it, the crux of your story revolves around the allegations contained in the book's third chapter, entitled "Hillary's Reset." This chapter attempts to trace a connection between Frank Giustra, a known philanthropist who has long partnered with the Clinton Foundation, and the U.S. government's review of the proposed sale of a majority stake in Uranium One to a Russian-based company in 2010.

To suggest the State Department, under then-Secretary Clinton, exerted undue influence in the U.S. government's review of the sale of Uranium One is utterly baseless. It mischaracterizes the nature of the State Department's participation in such reviews, and also ignores the range of other regulatory agencies that ultimately supported this sale. It is impossible to view this allegation as anything other than just another in the many partisan conspiracy theories advanced in the *Clinton Cash* book.

To begin with, the fact of Mr. Giustra's contributions to the Clinton Foundation is not new. In fact, the only reason his contributions are known to the book's author is because the Foundation goes above and beyond what the law requires of nonprofit foundations in terms of disclosing its donors.

With respect to the State Department, it is but one of nine agencies involved in the CFIUS process. While the details of CFIUS deliberations are classified, it is widely known that it is the Treasury Department that serves as the lead agency in the body's reviews, and that the State Department very seldom serves in the role of "co-lead." Moreover, decisions by CFIUS are made on the basis of consensus. This means that to the extent anyone were to claim that the Uranium One sale might have raised national security questions, agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and Defense Department would have been party to the approval and could have elevated any concerns to the President if they had them. In light of these facts, it is completely misleading to suggest that the State Department was in a position to steer the approval of this deal.

Apart from the fact that the State Department was one of just nine agencies involved in CFIUS, it is also true that within the State Department, the CFIUS approval process historically does not trigger the personal involvement of the Secretary of State. The State Department's principal representative to CFIUS was the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs. During the time period in question, that position was held by Jose Fernandez. As you are aware, Mr. Fernandez has personally attested that "Secretary Clinton never intervened with me on any CFIUS matter."

In addition, the deal in question was approved by a range of regulatory bodies beyond CFIUS. This includes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Utah Department of Radiation. On account of the target company being Canadian, that country's regulators would also have had to approve the deal. They indeed did so.

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The widespread nature of the approval of this transaction stemmed in part from the concessions that Russia made in the course of the review process. Indeed, one of the conditions imposed by the U.S. regulators is that U.S. uranium assets could not be exported and had to be sold in the United States. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) verified this arrangement and said it satisfied him.

In our conversations, you have raised a possible contradiction in the fact that while CFIUS approved this particular transaction, it blocked a separate deal involving U.S. uranium assets sought by the Chinese government. This comparison is inaccurate. According to many press reports, the FirstGold investment was blocked because it was proximate to the Fallon Air Force Base, not because it involved uranium.

The bottom line is that the State Department was but one in a multitude of agencies that participated in the review of this widely supported transaction, and there is no evidence that the Department deviated in any way from its normal process involving CFIUS reviews. In fact, as noted above, the Department's principal representative to CFIUS at the time has confirmed that the Secretary never intervened with him in any CFIUS matter during his tenure there. Any allegations to the contrary are wholly unsubstantiated.

--
JP
jp66@hillaryclinton.com
For scheduling: mfisher@hillaryclinton.com

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From:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date:	2/6/2015 8:08:24 AM
Subject:	UABA Press Release; A Question for President Obama -- Then What?
Attachments:	15-02-06 A Question for President Obama - Then What.pdf

Ukrainian American Bar Association

PDF copy attached

Click here to view in PDF format

A Question for President Obama -- *Then What*?

On February 5, 2015, Terry Atlas, writing for Bloomberg News , stated "Washington policy makers are caught up in a debate reminiscent of the Cold War era: Should the U.S. send weapons to help an outgunned country resist Russian-backed aggression?" According to the article, the indecision of policy makers - as well as that of President Obama - is grounded on the question -- if weapons are supplied to Ukraine, *Then What*? Would it only anger Russia and make it more aggressive? Would it escalate the warfare and make a political solution more difficult to achieve?

The question that Washington policy makers and President Obama should be asking is -- if weapons are **NOT** supplied to Ukraine, ***Then What*** ?

The argument not to supply military aid to Ukraine is based in large part on the naïve assumption that hostilities in the eastern part of Ukraine are somehow not a war of aggression by Russia but are internal rebel activities by Ukrainians of Russian ethnicity and that Russia has good and honorable intentions to find a peaceful solution to this alleged "internal" crisis. This fallacious notion has been debunked by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary and is not reflective of a rational view of reality. The alleged "separatist rebels" are mercenaries hired, trained, supplied with weapons, and directed by Russia. Russian military personnel in the thousands are openly fighting, and many are dying, alongside these "separatist rebels" on Ukrainian soil.

There is also an unstated view in Western political circles that Russia would be politically satisfied with holding onto Crimea and that Eastern Ukraine [Luhansk and Donetsk regions] be quasi-independent entities within the sphere of direct influence of the Kremlin. According to this misguided rationale, if the West were to accept this scenario as the *status quo* [and convince Ukraine to such draconian terms], Russia would readily enter into a binding international agreement which would guarantee peace on the European continent for the future. As a reality check to this flawed logic, one only has to recall from recent memory countless historical events to realize that Russia has **never** lived up to any of its international agreements including nuclear non-proliferation treaties. One such glaring example that comes immediately to mind is the 1994 Budapest Memorandum wherein Russia profusely guaranteed that it would not violate Ukrainian sovereignty in exchange for which Ukraine surrendered the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Further, the Kremlin flagrantly continues to violate various other nuclear accords and proudly states that it will be expanding its nuclear armaments as well as its military potential -- and all international covenants to the contrary be damned. There is a saying "The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior."

History is also the best teacher. To understand Russia and its political and military intentions towards Ukraine, we need to look at history. Over the centuries, Russian political thought always viewed Ukraine as the linchpin to its imperialistic ambitions and desires. It has continuously fought to control not only Ukraine's territory, but also sought to destroy Ukrainian culture and ethos. As former Ukrainian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, V. Vassylenko stated in his recent essay, **The 2014 War: An Endeavor for a Comprehensive Analysis** ;

> The restoration of Ukraine's independence is intertwined with the inevitable revival of its national memory and individual national history, thus stripping Russia of a part of its alleged history, thereby destroying the myth of its millennium-old statehood, European identity and supposedly eternal and natural place of Russia in European civilization. Russian empire-minded chauvinists realize that, unless Ukraine with its territory, resources and human potential, is not subdued once again, Russia's attempts to restore its status of an empire will be futile….. p. 4
>
> Meanwhile, another less obvious goal of the Russian aggression is to test how ready and capable Western democracies are in resisting Russia's revanchist and expansionist plans to use force to return territories that had

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been parts of the Russian empire in the past. …..p. 8

Russia's covert foreign policy objective is to undermine European and Euro-Atlantic unity and to create a Euro-Asian empire, stretching from Vladivostok to Lisbon thereby challenging and threatening the United States. p. 8

Viewed from the historical perspective, if weapons are not supplied to Ukraine so it can defend itself now, [and thereby, in essence, protect Western Europe] any "political solution" that does not permanently insure Ukrainian territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders from Russian incursion by giving Ukraine the unfettered military ability to protect its national boundaries, is only temporary window dressing to appease the gullible conscience of Western leaders and to lull them into an unrealistic sense of security. If Ukraine is not afforded the necessary means to defend itself, then after a temporary illusionary respite in hostilities and the easing of economic sanctions, Russia will regroup, strengthen itself, and will exponentially continue its assault on Ukraine, thus drastically expanding the existing conflict to the entire European continent in the future. In the process, Russia will successfully undermine Western and NATO unity, European economic integration and security, greatly jeopardize world peace, and put America's national interests and security at high risk.

Then Washington foreign policy makers and future American Presidents will be asking the question: ***NOW WHAT?***

February 6, 2015

Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq.
730 West Saddle River Rd., Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423
Communications Director of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA)
Tel: 201-507-4500; Email; myroslaw@smorodsky.com ; Website; www.smorodsky.com

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From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/26/2008 7:16:41 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Phoenix, AZ 08/26/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Ryan, on the ground in Phoenix, AZ. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Attacks on Obama and promises to vets largely a repetition, verbatim, of speech to DAV, VFW
    - Hits Obama on US' failure to "lead by example" comment, says he should state it outright -- "because that is a debate I welcome."
- Directly addresses Obama charge he'll privatize VA; adamant that this is an expansion
- Directly addresses Obama criticsm GI bill, says it would've been politically easier to sign GI bill but "I sought a better bill"
- Hits Obama on his Berlin speech for saying a "world that stands as one" ended the Cold War, and slips in POW reference in saying it was America that lead the democracies of the world to end the cold War
- Repeats promise of no more Walter Reed's.
- Says he will "save billions" by vetoing every earmark, which can be used for vets care
- Repeats blames on Congress for exacerbating problems in vet health care and energy problems

Phoenix, AZ: McCain Speech at American Legion National Convention 08/26/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Stage Craft was all American Legion, no campaign signs
- 3,000 people - "this place is huge and packed"
- All veterans of the American Legion, representing all the states
- Audience members wore their legion hats with spouses
- two seating areas on either side of podium with 3 rows of veterans each, about 80 people on the stage
- Heavy press: 20 or so cameras, mix of natl and heavy local coverage
- Tracker didn't see any protesters
- McCain reading from teleprompter

Prepared Remarks:
90th Annual American Legion National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona

Thank you all very much. National Commander Marty Conatser, thank you for the kind introduction. National Adjutant Bob Spanogle, Auxiliary President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Auxiliary Secretary Pam Gilley: thank you all. If I may speak for the gang at Tempe Post 2, we are honored to be in the company of our fellow members of the American Legion. Apparently it falls to me as well to offer an official welcome the Great State of Arizona. Our governor is out of town, up in Denver for some big party they're throwing there. I guess my invitation got lost in the mail.

All of us take pride in being members of this great organization. After its founding in 1919, the Legion served many of the more than four million American veterans of the First World War. Today just one of those veterans survives, a man of 107 named Frank Buckles. Frank lives in West Virginia, and last week in Orlando the folks at the VFW convention gave him a standing ovation. I have a feeling that you, too, will want to join in a round of applause for the last doughboy.

In all the years since, the men and women of the Legion have stayed faithful to their mission of service to one another and to country. In Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere, America's veterans have faced different enemies, but they have always found the same friend and ally in the Legion, the VFW, and other veterans' service organizations. All of us returned from war with a few experiences we'd gladly forget, but the friendships and camaraderie we brought home are forever. For keeping us all together, and helping those most in need, we're all in the debt of the American Legion.

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The men and women of the Legion believe in their country's cause in the world, and you have served and sacrificed for it. You know that when our leaders speak of this nation's history and purposes in the affairs of the world, they should do so with confidence, gratitude, and above all with moral clarity.

There are those who say that our day as the free world's leader has passed, that our moment is waning. They point to the anti-Americanism that is sometimes heard in Europe and elsewhere, and take this as a sign that America no longer has the strength or the moral credibility to lead. The criticisms tend to pass or quiet down when global threats and dangers appear. In times of trouble, free nations of the world still look to

America for leadership, because they know the strength of America remains the greatest force for good on this earth.

My opponent had the chance to express such confidence in America, when he delivered a much anticipated address in Berlin. He was the picture of confidence, in some ways. But confidence in oneself and confidence in one's country are not the same. And in that speech, Senator Obama left an important point unclear. He suggested that the end of the Cold War proved that there was, "no challenge too great for a world that stands as one." Now I missed a few years of the Cold War, as the guest of one of our adversaries, but as I recall the world was deeply divided during the Cold War -- between the side of freedom and the side of tyranny. The Cold War ended not because the world stood "as one," but because the great democracies came together, bound together by sustained and decisive American leadership.

All of this is more than an academic debate. For the sake of our own security, and the defense of our values in the affairs of the world, American leadership is critical. While we have our share of critics around the world, when people in the oppressed nations of the world need support, and solidarity, and hope, they look to America. When they talk about our country, it is not with distrust or disdain, but with respect and affection. They do not resent or resist America's democratic influence in the world -- they thank God for it.

Just days after the Russian invasion of Georgia, Senator Obama had this to say about the crisis: "We've got to send a clear message to Russia and unify our allies. They can't charge into other countries. Of course it helps if we are leading by example on that point." End of quote. I guess we are left to figure out the rest for ourselves. It's unlikely he was alluding to Afghanistan, the nation we liberated after 9/11, and continue to help despite Russian complaints about our related deployments in Central Asia. And he probably didn't have Kosovo in mind either -- although Russia didn't care much for that military action, either. We and our NATO allies had to end the Serbian slaughter of civilians in Kosovo without UN approval, because the Russians blocked the effort in the Security Council.

If I catch Senator Obama's drift, then, our failure to "lead by example" was the liberation of Iraq. And if he really thinks that, by liberating Iraq from a dangerous tyrant, America somehow set a bad example that invited Russia to invade a small, peaceful, and democratic nation, then he should state it outright -- because that is a debate I welcome.

In the end, confusion about such questions only invites more trouble, violence, and aggression. To promote stability and peace, America must stand firmly on the side of freedom and justice. The next president must bring to office a clear-eyed view of our nation's role in the world, as the defender of the oppressed and a force for peace.

Through decades of struggle, free nations prevailed over tyranny in large measure because of the sacrifices of the men and women of the United States armed forces. And it will fall to the next commander in chief to make good on the obligation our government accepts every time any man or woman enters the military, and again when they receive their DD 214. Those we depend on as troops should know, when they become veterans, that they can depend on us. Honoring this obligation will require leadership. And I pledge to you that as president I will lead -- from the front -- to reform our VA system and make sure that veterans receive the respect and care they have earned.

The Walter Reed scandal was a disgrace unworthy of this nation -- and I intend to make sure that nothing like it is ever repeated. There are other problems as well that have not received as much media attention. And my administration will do the hard and necessary work of fixing them, even when the press and the public are not watching.

Reform begins with appointing a secretary of veterans affairs who is a leader of the highest caliber, and who listens to veterans and veterans' service organizations. My VA secretary must be a forceful advocate for

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veterans and forthright advisor to me, so we can make the right choices about budgeting, health care, and other veterans' benefit issues. He or she will also need to be a high-energy leader, too, because we'll have a lot of work to do in improving service to veterans.

Veterans must be treated fairly and expeditiously as they seek compensation for disability or illness. We owe them compassion and hands-on care in their transition to civilian life. We owe them training, rehabilitation, and education. We owe their families, parents and caregivers our concern and support. Veterans should never be deprived of quality medical care and mental health care coverage for illness or injury incurred as a result of their service to our country.

As president, I will do all that is in my power to ensure that those who serve today, and those who have served in the past, have access to the highest quality health, mental health and rehabilitative care in the world. And I will not accept a situation in which veterans are denied access to care on account of travel distances, backlogs of appointments, and years of pending disability evaluation and claims. We should no longer tolerate requiring veterans to make an appointment to stand in one line for a ticket to stand in another.

I'm not here to tell you that there is a cost that is too high to be paid in the care of our nation's veterans. I will make sure that Congress funds the VA health care budget in a sufficient, timely, and predictable manner. But I will say that every increase in funding must be matched by increases in accountability, both at the VA and in Congress. And this requires an end to certain practices and abuses that serve neither our veterans, our country, nor the reputation of Congress itself.

Exactly because funding VA programs command bipartisan support, some in the Congress like to attach unrelated appropriations and earmarks to VA bills. The result is to mix vital national priorities with wasteful and often worthless political pork. Earmarks show up in bills of every kind, and not just VA bills. That's how we end up budgeting hundreds of millions of dollars for bridges to nowhere, and for other wasteful projects that do not serve the public interest. The principle here is simple: Public money should serve the public good. If it's me sitting in the Oval Office, at the Resolute desk, those wasteful spending bills are going the way of all earmarks: straight back to the Congress with a veto.

When we make it clear to Congress that no earmark bill will be signed into law, that will save many billions of dollars that can be applied to essential priorities, and above all to the care of our veterans. But reform doesn't end there. We must also modernize our disability system to make sure that eligible service members receive benefits quickly, based on clear, predictable, and fair standards. And we must address the problems of capacity and access within our VA health care system. While this will involve a wide range of initiatives, I believe there is a simple and direct reform we should make right away.

My administration will create a Veterans' Care Access Card to be used by veterans with illness or injury incurred during their military service, and by those with lower incomes. This card will provide those without timely access to VA facilities the option of using high-quality health-care providers near their homes. For many veterans, the closest VA facility isn't close enough. And many of their local providers are already familiar with the most common needs of veterans. Often, all that prevents them from receiving local care is a system for sharing medical records among VA, DOD, and civilian hospitals and doctors. My reform will improve care, reduce risks, and broaden access all at the same time.

This card is not intended to either replace the VA or privatize veterans' health care, as some have wrongly charged. I believe the VA should always be there to provide top-quality care for our veterans. And I believe that the VA should continue to provide broad-spectrum health care to eligible veterans, in addition to specialized care in areas such as spinal injuries, prosthetics, and blindness -- services in which the VA sets the standard in medical care.

Even so, there are veterans eligible for care who are not currently able to receive it, on account of distance, wait times, or the absence of certain specialties. And for this group, the new card I propose will offer better alternatives, to provide the benefits they have earned.

Reform must also recognize that greater care is needed for certain types of injuries. In the Senate, I co-authored the Wounded Warrior Act, which was the first major legislative initiative to address post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. As president, I will build on this legislation to improve screening and treatment for these severe injuries suffered by many in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The VA must also broaden its care for the women who are entering the armed forces in greater numbers than ever, and who are suffering from the same war wounds -- visible and invisible -- suffered by other veterans. The American Legion was founded just one year before the women of America received the right to vote, in a

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constitutional amendment that became law 88 years ago today. Among the many wrongs that have been righted in that time, women are now welcomed and respected as equals in the ranks of the armed forces of the United States. Yet the growing ranks of women veterans have left the VA lagging behind in the services it provides. As rapidly as possible, we must improve the VA system so that it can fully assess and treat conditions that predominantly or exclusively affect women. And here the Veterans Care Access Card will prove especially valuable, affording women medical options while the VA improves capaci ty and expands services.

These are among the elements of my reform agenda for the VA system. And today, as other occasions, I have stated in the plainest, most straightforward terms that the Veterans Health Care Access Card will expand existing benefits. I don't expect this will deter the Obama campaign from misrepresenting my proposals, but lest there be any doubt you have my pledge: My reforms would not force anyone to go to a non-VA facility, and do not signal privatization of the VA. Use of the Card would be optional. Only high quality health care providers would be used. Participating veterans would incur no additional charges. And my reforms will not replace any scheduled expansion of the VA network -- including those facilities designed to serve veterans living in rural and remote areas. This is, very simply, an effort to expand care to a group of eligible veterans who are not now receiving care.

I suppose from my opponent's vantage point, veterans concerns are just one more issue to be spun or worked to advantage. This would explain why he has also taken liberties with my position on the GI Bill. In its initial version, that bill failed to address the number one education request that I've heard from career service members and their families -- the freedom to transfer their benefits to a spouse or a child. The bill also did nothing to retain the young officer and enlisted leaders who form the backbone of our all-volunteer force.

As a political proposition, it would have much easier for me to have just signed on to what I considered flawed legislation. But the people of Arizona, and of all America, expect more from their representatives than that, and instead I sought a better bill. I'm proud to say that the result is a law that better serves our military, better serves military families, and better serves the interests of our country.

No one who has worn the uniform of his or her country can ever take these matters lightly. We all learned an ethic in the service of looking after one another, of leaving no one behind, and this commitment did not end when we left the service. As a matter of duty and of honor, whatever our commitments to veterans cost, if I am president those commitments will be kept.

The next president will have many responsibilities to the American people, and I take them all seriously. But if I am elected, I will have one responsibility that outweighs all the others. And that is to use whatever talents I possess, and every resource God has granted me to protect the security of this great and good nation from all enemies foreign and domestic.

It is every veteran's hope that should their children be called upon to answer a call to arms, the battle will be necessary and the field well chosen. But that is not their responsibility. It belongs to the government that called them. As it once was for us, their honor will be in their answer not their summons. Whatever we think about how and why we went to war in Iraq, we are all humbled by and grateful for their example. They now deserve the distinction of the best Americans, and we owe them a debt we can never fully repay. We can only offer the small tribute of our humility and our commitment to do all that we can do, in less trying and costly circumstances, to help keep this nation worthy of their sacrifice.

Many of them have served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many had their tours extended. Many returned to combat sooner than they had been led to expect. It was a sad and hard thing to ask so much more of Americans who have already given more than their fair share to the defense of our country. Few of them and their families will have received the news about additional and longer deployments without aiming a few appropriate complaints in the general direction of people like me, who helped make the decision to send them there. And then they shouldered a rifle or climbed in a cockpit and risked everything -- everything -- to accomplish their mission, to protect another people's freedom and our own country from harm.

It is a privilege beyond measure to live in a country served by them. I have had the good fortune to know personally a great many brave and selfless patriots who sacrificed and shed blood to defend America. But I have known none braver or better than those who do so today. They are our inspiration, as I suspect all of you were once theirs. And I pray to a loving God that He bless and protect them. Thank you.

--
Andres Moreno

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Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO)
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6566 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/22/2014 11:19:01 AM
Subject: UN Report: Human-Caused Climate Disruption Is "Severe, Pervasive, Irreversible"

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Dahr Jamail | UN Report: Human-Caused Climate Disruption Is "Severe, Pervasive, Irreversible"

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: A recently released draft report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that anthropogenic climate disruption is fully upon us and will dramatically worsen unless something is done immediately - on the level of a wartime response.

Read the Article

William Rivers Pitt | Fascism 101: The Police and Media Control

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: If you are a cadet in training with the St. Louis County and Municipal Police Academy, good news! Beginning at 8 am on October 24, you are welcome to attend a seminar titled "OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING - YOU CAN WIN WITH THE MEDIA."

Read the Article

At New York March, Activists Work to Connect Capitalist Culprits to Climate Crisis

Matt Surrusco, Truthout: At the largest climate march in history, which saw some 310,000 people converge on New York City streets on September 21, individual activists and organizations made a point to tie climate disruption to those seen as most responsible - major corporations, the financial industry and the governments that allow them to pollute with impunity.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | The Mysteries of Inequality Are Only Mysterious to Elites

Dean Baker, Truthout: The government openly acts to ensure that wages don't rise, and it also protects Wall Street high flyers who managed to sink their banks with their bad bets. Maybe an economist will win a Nobel prize for figuring out why inequality is increasing.

Read the Article

BuzzFlash

Nearly Annihilating Native Americans Led to Abandoning a Respect for Nature's Limits

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Day by day, as global warming accelerates, we are in need of developing an economic system that is connected to the soul of the earth.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Flood Wall Street Protesters Risked Arrest at New York Climate Change Sit-In

Read the Article at Reuters

Rockefellers, Heirs to an Oil Fortune, Will

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Imagining Our Dark and Stormy Future: Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*

Emily Johnston, Truthout: If you generally avoid reading about climate change (out of paralysis, fear or grief) or wonder whether there's any hope, or what hope would even look like in the context of a biosphere in crisis, read Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*.

Read the Review

Education With a Debt Sentence: For-Profit Colleges as American Dream Crushers and Factories of Debt

Astra Taylor and Hannah Appel, TomDispatch: In the past, US higher education has always been associated with upward mobility, but with student loan debt quadrupling between 2003 and 2013, it's time to ask whether education alone can really move people up the class ladder.

Read the Article

Can a "Firewall Strategy" Keep Big Energy Out of Climate Talks? It Worked for Fighting Tobacco

Alexis Goldstein, YES! Magazine: Kicking the polluters out of the negotiations may sound like wishful thinking. But there is a precedent: the global effort to regulate the tobacco industry.

Read the Article

Marijuana Decriminalization a Racial Justice Victory in Philadelphia

Kate Aronoff, Waging Nonviolence: Philadelphia will soon become the largest US city where you can have marijuana and smoke it too - at least without going to jail. Rather than arrest, being caught with anything under an ounce of marijuana will carry with it a $25 fine and a citation.

Read the Article

Attacking J Street Won't Bring Justice for Palestinians

Robert Naiman, Truthout: Take issue with J Street, which seeks a two-state solution in the Middle East and also supported strikes on Gaza, but any plausible vision for a future progressive victory includes J Street in the winner's circle.

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Senate GOP Blocks Legislation on Gender Pay Gap, and More

In today's On the News segment: Senate Republicans block legislation aimed at closing the gender pay gap; voters in Sweden say "no" to austerity; our government may have bailed out Wall Street, but Rolling Jubilee is bailing out students; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

The Troubling Way We Pay Hospitals in Maine and Throughout the US

Philip Caper, Bangor Daily News: A study published in the current issue of

Divest Charity From Fossil Fuels

Read the Article at The New York Times

Climate Riders Roll to Fight the Corporate Climate Killers

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Pentagon Allows Police Accused of Civil Rights Abuses to Apply for Military Gear

Read the Article at the Associated Press

US Ramping Up Major Renewal in Nuclear Arms

Read the Article at The New York Times

How Rich Old White Men Are Taking Lunch Money Away From Inner-City Black Kids

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Worldwide Marches: John Kerry Says to Take Climate Change as Seriously as the Fight Against Ebola and ISIS

Read the Article at The Guardian

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Health Affairs found that hospitals in the United States spend about twice as much per capita on administration as the seven other countries studied.

Read the Article

Uganda's Youth Discover the Beauty in Farming

Amy Fallon, Inter Press Service: According to the State of Uganda Population Report 2013, four out of every five of Uganda's 17.3 million women are employed in agriculture. The majority of these women work as subsistence farmers.

Read the Article

Editorial Cartoon: "Obamacare"

Cartoonist Jen Sorensen - whose work will now be featured weekly on Truthout - gives right-wing Obamacare naysayers a dose of their own medicine.

Read the Cartoon

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/28/2015 9:11:33 AM
Subject: New Titles on Energy Reference No. (134180)

Energy

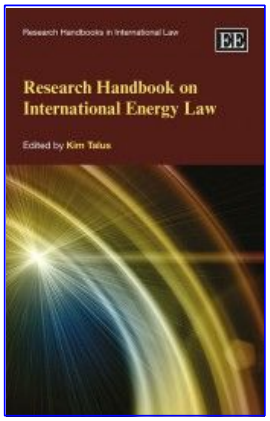

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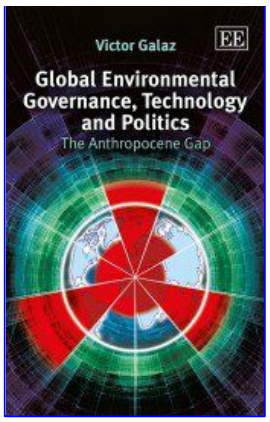

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Victor Galaz, Associate Professor in Political Science, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden

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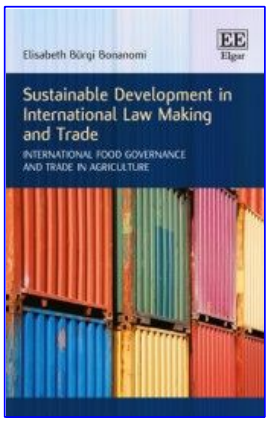

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Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi

Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi, Attorney at Law and Senior Lecturer, World Trade Institute and Centre for Environment and Development, University of Bern, Switzerland

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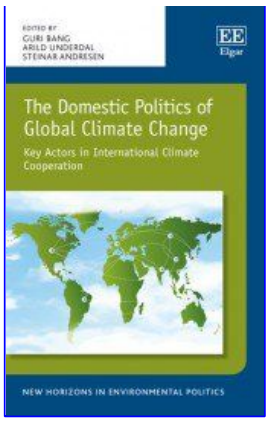

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The Domestic Politics of Global Climate Change

Key Actors in International Climate Cooperation

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Guri Bang, Arild Underdal, Steinar Andresen

Edited by Guri Bang, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO), Arild Underdal, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo and Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO) and Steinar Andresen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Prof. John Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu>
Date: 8/10/2015 6:23:22 AM
Subject: Re: Age of nuclear fleet

Grazie.

On Aug 10, 2015 8:46 AM, "John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu > wrote:

> John,
>
> Enjoyed breakfast. Here is the answer to the first question -- as we thought. The U.S. fleet begins to pass 60 years of age around 2030 and all are over 60 by 2050.
>
> My guess is most of the post 60 reactors will not seek license renewal for technical reasons. And if granted extensions very considerable capital costs mods would be required with likely accompanying reductions in capacity factors from the high 90+ levels of today. So absent unexpected options for nuclear, and post 2040 reduction in generation should be expected.
>
> John
>
> **********
> John Deutch
> Department of Chemistry
> Room 6-215
> MIT
> Cambridge MA 02139
>
> e-mail jmd@mit.edu
> Tel: 617 253 1479
> Fax: 617 258 5700

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 4/9/2015 11:31:10 AM
Subject: Re: Rough first crack

On college:

- We can't allow student debt to be dragging our young people down, when education is supposed to life them up. Here in Iowa, an average student will graduate from a 4-year college or university with nearly $30,000 in debt -- the 9th highest debt burden in the country. Shady for-profit colleges and abusive debt servicers are getting rich while students, families, and taxpayers get taken for a ride. I will propose ideas to fix these problems.

On voting rights:

Modernizing the voter registration system could add up to 50 million unregistered citizens to the rolls, cheaply, conveniently, and accurately.

On security

We need to protect America and Americans from the dangers we face, and assert confident American leadership to shape global events rather than be shaped by them.

POLICY

- We need to be strong and smart in dealing with new security challenges, like cyber, pandemics like Ebola, and emerging terrorist threats. We need to be strong and smart in dealing with the old geopolitical games that countries like Russia and China will play. And we need to be strong and smart in seizing opportunities to advance democracy, human rights and human dignity everywhere we can.

[could stop there or could add ...]

- We are in a long-term struggle against terrorism and violent extremism, and we need to be strong, disciplined, and smart to defeat the enemy. Let's lead the world in a comprehensive approach to restoring stability in the Middle East by confronting ISIS, checking Iranian aggression, dealing with the terrible humanitarian toll in Syria, and defending Israel at all costs.

- We are dealing with a canny operator in Vladimir Putin. Let's position ourselves and our allies for success by strengthening NATO, breaking Europe's dependence on Russian oil, and supporting a strong, united democratic Ukraine.

- We need to shape China's rise and make sure China plays by the rules. Let's cooperate with them where it is in our interest, and otherwise we should out-compete them and everyone else.

On Thu, Apr 9, 2015 at 6:20 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com> wrote:

> I took it as a framing statement for each bucket with several proof points underneath it.
>
> — John Anzalone
> Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> 334-387-3121
> www.algpolling.com
> twitter: @AnzaloneLiszt
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Mindy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>
> **Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:19 PM
> **To:** Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com>
> **Cc:** Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>, Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com>, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com>, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com>, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org" <esepp@equitablegrowth.org>, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com>, "Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com" <Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com>, Sawsan Bay

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<sbay@hrcoffice.com >, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >, Katie Connolly <kconnolly@bsgco.com >
Subject: Re: Rough first crack

I thought what HRC was looking for was a sixty second-ish billboard of these four fights before she goes into detail about them.

What did others think?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Apr 9, 2015, at 5:45 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Tyring to keep it simple
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Marisa McAuliffe [mailto:mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 12:34 PM
> **To:** Marissa Astor
> **Cc:** Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Robby; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; John Anzalone; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro; Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com ; Sawsan Bay; Shannon Currie; Mona Thinavongsa
> **Subject:** RE: Call with HRC
>
> Last change. Locking in 4:30pm.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Marisa McAuliffe
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 11:18 AM
> **To:** Marissa Astor
> **Cc:** Teddy Goff; Margolis, Jim; Joel Benenson; Robby; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; John Anzalone; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro; 'Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com '; Sawsan Bay
> **Subject:** RE: Call with HRC
>
> Apologies for another change – looks like 2:00pm will be the best time in order for prep materials to be ready. I'll send around a calendar invite now as well. Best, Marisa
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Marisa McAuliffe
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:49 AM
> **To:** Marissa Astor
> **Cc:** Teddy Goff; Margolis, Jim; Joel Benenson; Robby; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; John Anzalone; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> Thank you. Confirmed for noon:
>
> 206-402-0100
>
> 930969#
>
> On Apr 9, 2015, at 9:32 AM, Marissa Astor <marissa.astor@icloud.com > wrote:
>
> > We will make noon work for Robby.

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From: Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com >
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 9:05 AM
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >
Cc: Marisa McAuliffe <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, "jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com " <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, "kristinakschake@gmail.com " <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, Marissa Astor <marissa.astor@icloud.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org " <esepp@equitablegrowth.org >, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com >
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Noon works here

On Thursday, April 9, 2015, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

> I am suppose to film Gen Powell til 11:30 so noon would work
>
> **From:** Marisa McAuliffe <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com >
> **Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 9:03 AM
> **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> **Cc:** Robby <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Jen Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, "marissa.astor@icloud.com " <marissa.astor@icloud.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org " <esepp@equitablegrowth.org >, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com >
> **Subject:** RE: Call with HRC
>
> Would noon work for everyone (she's flexible on timing)?
>
> **From:** Joel Benenson [mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:02 AM
> **To:** Marisa McAuliffe
> **Cc:** Robby; John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; marissa.astor@icloud.com; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> On a flight that is scheduled to land at 11:30
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Apr 9, 2015, at 9:00 AM, Marisa McAuliffe <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi all – HRC would like to have a call with you today. Please let me know if 11:00am will NOT work for you. Call in information is:
> >
> > 206-402-0100
> >
> > 930969#
> >
> > Best,
> > Marisa

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Marisa McAuliffe

Office of Hillary Rodham Clinton

646-647-2742 (o)

813-480-9370 (c)

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<Four Fights - IOWA - JB.docx>

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	12/14/2015 9:15:03 AM
Subject:	Upcoming Events: Fighting Kleptocracy, Regional Security in the Pacific, Venezuela ’s Elections, and the Muslim World in Crisis

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/1/2014 2:11:56 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday December 1, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday December 1, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Daily Beast: "Remember When Republicans Loved Hillary Clinton?"

[Subtitle:] "Today they may be sketching out their best attacks on the Democrats' leading potential candidate for 2016, but once Dick Cheney, Paul Ryan, et al. had plenty of nice things to say."

Winnipeg Free Press: "Clinton coming to Winnipeg"

"Former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is widely expected to run for the Democratic party presidential nomination in the 2016 election, will deliver the keynote address at an event at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre on Jan. 21."

National Journal: "Can Clinton Win Back the White Working Class?"

"One of the central challenges facing a Clinton campaign will be managing to win back enough of those voters, especially in a working-class-heavy battleground like Iowa."

Bloomberg: "Analyst: Hillary Clinton 'Lost Her Fastball,' and Jeb Bush Won't Likely Win"

"In an e-mail on Sunday evening, Rose clarified that he misheard Cook, who instead said that Clinton had a 25- to 30-percent chance of passing on a White House bid."

MSNBC: "Charlie Cook: Hillary's still (probably) running"

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"Veteran political analyst Charlie Cook says he never predicted that Hillary Clinton is unlikely to run for president."

Bloomberg: "The Torch Is Being Passed to A New Generation of Right-Wing Media"

[Subtitle:] "At the Washington Free Beacon The Federalist, and the Independent Journal Review, They're Ready to Pay Any Price, Bear Any Burden to Defeat Jon Stewart and his ilk."

USA Today column: University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds: "Not working for the working class"

"And Democrats might choose a working-class-friendly nominee, too, if they can find one. Of course, the current favorite is Hillary Clinton, who went to Wellesley and makes $300,000 for giving a speech, and the No. 2 prospect for 2016 is probably Elizabeth Warren, a former Harvard Law professor who made $212,000 for representing an asbestos company. Portraying either of them as working class heroes will be an uphill battle."

Townhall.com: "Jim Webb Thinks He Can Beat Hillary Clinton"

"Clinton's 'dead broke' gaffe was seen as nothing short of disastrous; everyone knows the earning potential for ex-presidents and their families are phenomenal. This, coupled with Clinton's cozy relationship with Wall Street and the financial sector, could be a wedge that Webb could exploit."

Articles:

The Daily Beast: "Remember When Republicans Loved Hillary Clinton?"

By Ben Jacobs

December 1, 2014

[Subtitle:] Today they may be sketching out their best attacks on the Democrats' leading potential candidate for 2016, but once Dick Cheney, Paul Ryan, et al. had plenty of nice things to say.

For the better part of a quarter-century, Hillary Clinton has loomed over American politics as a hate figure for many on the right—and she seems poised to re-assert her dominant position in right-wing demonology in 2016. But there was a time, stretching roughly from her concession of the Democratic presidential nomination to Barack Obama in 2008 to the Benghazi attack in 2012, when conservatives changed their tune on Clinton. In fact, plenty of Republicans even said nice things about her. Here are seven she can look back on as she weathers the attacks of the next presidential cycle.

Dick Cheney

The former vice president is not known as a soft touch, but for a brief moment in 2011, he seemed to hold Clinton in high regard. During an

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appearance on Fox News Sunday, Cheney told host Chris Wallace of Clinton: “I have a sense that she is one of the more competent members of the current administration, and it would be interesting to speculate about how she might perform were she to be president.” Cheney also suggested that, if elected, Clinton might be easier for Republicans to work with than Obama.

Paul Ryan

Republican superstar Paul Ryan is still mooted as potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate. But even if he doesn’t run, the Wisconsin congressman will be a major force in the GOP as the next chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Back in January 2013, though, he was fresh off a losing presidential ticket when he suggested that Hillary Clinton in the White House would have ensured a return to a balanced budget. “Look, if we had a Clinton presidency, if we had Erskine Bowles as chief of staff of the White House or president of the United States, I think we would have fixed this fiscal mess by now,” he said. “That’s not the kind of presidency we’re dealing with right now.”

Carly Fiorina

While Ryan is still on the fence about running for president, Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive and 2010 U.S. Senate candidate in California, seems to be going full steam ahead toward a bid for the White House in 2016. Yet Fiorina, who seems to be positioning herself as a GOP alternative to Hillary Clinton who could appeal to female voters if nominated, has her own history of complimenting the former secretary of state. In 2008, while campaigning for John McCain, Fiorina said: “Having started as a secretary and eventually become a chief executive officer, I not only have great admiration and respect for Hillary Clinton and her candidacy and her leadership, but I also have great empathy, I must tell you, for what she went through.”

Orrin Hatch

The most senior Republican in the U.S. Senate, Orrin Hatch will not only lead the Senate Finance Committee in 2015 but will become president pro tempore of the Senate, making him third in line for the presidency. In 2010, when Clinton was being floated as a possible Supreme Court nominee and Hatch was the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Utah senator said of his former colleague: “I happen to like Hillary Clinton; I think she’s done a good job for the…secretary of state’s position, and I have high respect for her and think a great deal of her.”

John McCain

The 2008 Republican presidential nominee and longtime Arizona senator has long had a cordial relationship with Hillary Clinton. Indeed, Clinton once described McCain as “her favorite Republican.” The affinity goes both ways. In 2011, at a breakfast sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, McCain praised Clinton as “an international star” who has done “a tremendous job” as secretary of state. He also later told to CBS News, “I respect Secretary/Senator Clinton; I respect her views.”

Condoleezza Rice

Rice has praised Clinton, who succeeded her as secretary of state in 2009 on several occasions and said repeatedly that Clinton was “doing a fine job.” In 2010, she told Bill O’Reilly of Fox News: “Hillary Clinton is someone I’ve known for a long, long time. She’s a patriot. I think she’s doing a lot of the right things.” Rice then added, “She’s very tough...and she’s got the right instincts.” George W. Bush’s top foreign policy aide stood by those words two years later, when she described Clinton as “great” to Ohio Republicans.

Lindsey Graham

Perhaps no Republican has spoken more highly of Hillary Clinton than the South Carolina senator and prominent foreign policy hawk, who went so far as to describe the then-secretary of state as “a good role model, one of the most effective secretary of states, greatest ambassadors for the American people that I have known in my lifetime” in May 2012. The Republican also went out of his way to praise Clinton to The New York Times three months later, saying, “She is extremely well respected throughout the world, handles herself in a very classy way and has a work ethic second to none.”

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Winnipeg Free Press: "Clinton coming to Winnipeg"

By Geoff Kirbyson

December 1, 2014, 6:00 a.m.

She could make history in 2016 as the first woman to be elected U.S. president.

And she's coming to Winnipeg.

Former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is widely expected to run for the Democratic party presidential nomination in the 2016 election, will deliver the keynote address at an event at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre on Jan. 21.

Her speech will be part of the Global Perspectives series, which is sponsored by CIBC.

In addition to already being on the campaign trail, Clinton is touring in support of a new book, Hard Choices, which chronicles her work to "restore America's leadership" after eight years under the George W. Bush administration.

Clinton has spoken several times in Canada since stepping down as secretary of state in early 2013. In October, she told an Ottawa crowd military action against Islamic extremists in Iraq and Syria is essential to stop the growth of IS outside the region. She also spoke in Toronto in June as part of the promotional tour for her memoir, Hard Choices. And in March in Montreal, she criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin's actions in Crimea and Ukraine and said Canada has a key role to play in deterring further aggression.

Clinton tends to generate headlines whenever she speaks. For example, explaining to the New York Times on how she does business: "I choose my cards. I play them to the best of my ability. Move on to the next hand."

To the Atlantic, she explained how she lives her life: "My doctrine is the Goldilocks doctrine — not too hot, not too cold, just right."

And on being a woman: "I am a woman and, like millions of women, I know there are still barriers and biases out there, often unconscious, and I want to build an America that respects and embraces the potential of every last one of us."

And showing a lighter side: "If I want to knock a story off the front page, I just change my hairstyle."

Getting Clinton to speak here is not going to be cheap for organizers. According to a story in the Washington Post, officials at the University of California at Los Angeles recently finalized a deal with her to speak on campus for the "special university rate" of $300,000.

Since stepping down as secretary of state nearly two years ago, Clinton has made dozens of paid appearances across the U.S. at industry conventions, universities and Wall Street banks. Her fees are often funnelled through to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, the family's non-profit group.

(Her focus at the foundation includes working on behalf of women and girls, supporting early-childhood development and helping young people develop the skills they need to find good jobs.)

It's not uncommon for celebrity speakers to make special requests for food and drink, and Clinton is apparently no exception. Her list reportedly includes a case of still water (room temperature) to be deposited stage right; a carafe of warm/hot water, coffee cup and saucer, pitcher of room-

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temperature water, water glass, and lemon wedges to be situated both on a table on stage as well as in another room where she would stand for photos with VIPs.

Other requests reportedly include:

- Long, flat pillows for back support.
- A lavalier mike so she can give TED-like lectures.
- Coffee, tea, room-temperature sparkling and still water, diet ginger ale, crudité, hummus and sliced fruit in the green room.
- A computer, mouse, printer and a scanner.

This won't be the first time the U.S. Secret Service has worked a Winnipeg event involving a high-powered politician. Clinton's husband, former U.S. president Bill Clinton, spoke at a $1,100-per-plate dinner here in 2003 as well as another event at the Winnipeg Concert Hall. Former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger spoke at the convention centre in early 2011.

Clinton finished second to U.S. President Barack Obama in 2008 in the Democratic nomination race.

National Journal: "Can Clinton Win Back the White Working Class?"

By Alex Roarty

November 30, 2014

[Subtitle:] A measly 34 percent of this group backed House Democratic candidates in 2014, creating a gap that could sunder the party's 2016 hopes.

Hillary Clinton's support of deferred deportation of millions of undocumented workers might help the Democratic Party's putative presidential nominee win over Latinos in 2016. But among the voters most responsible for the Democrats' midterm wipeout this year, it could very well make things worse—and therein lies Clinton's dilemma.

Support for Democrats among white, working-class voters was especially sparse this year: A measly 34 percent of them backed Democratic House candidates, exit polls found, while they fled in almost equal measure from Senate candidates like Rep. Bruce Braley in Iowa and incumbent Mark Udall in Colorado. Democrats still performed relatively well among black and Hispanic voters, but the deficit among whites without a college degree—who constituted more than one-third of the nationwide electorate—was too much to overcome.

One of the central challenges facing a Clinton campaign will be managing to win back enough of those voters, especially in a working-class-heavy battleground like Iowa. But as her quick support of deferred deportations shows, she'll have to do so while also motivating black, young, and Latino voters who formed the core of President Obama's coalition in 2008 and 2012.

At times, the two imperatives will work against each other.

"Democrats, to win regularly, not just the presidency but other levels of government, they need to do better among ... noncollege whites than they've been doing," said Ruy Teixeira, a demographer who has written extensively about the electoral advantages inherent in the nation's changing demographics. "You can't ... just rely on the coalition of the ascendant."

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Once the backbone of the Democratic Party, working-class white voters have gradually shifted into the GOP's camp since the 1970s in part because of the alienation they felt toward an increasingly urban, culturally cosmopolitan party. Democrats, meanwhile, have made up for the loss by winning over minorities and a greater share of the upscale white vote.

Clinton doesn't have to win a majority of white voters without a college education—Obama never did, after all. Even during the height of his 2008 campaign, he won just 40 percent of them. Four years later, his share slipped to 36 percent.

But in 2014, the bottom fell out, and it fell out in places where Democrats have performed relatively well with working-class white voters, even recently. The party didn't just lose the white, working-class vote in places like Arkansas and West Virginia, where it has long since stopped being competitive at a presidential level. It also lost the vote in Iowa.

Braley, the Democratic Senate nominee in Iowa, won just 41 percent of the white, working-class vote in an overwhelmingly white state, exit polls showed, on his way to a stunning 9-point defeat in an open-seat race. Precise data was unavailable for Obama's performance among the same group in Iowa in 2012, when he won the state comfortably, but he won 52 percent of voters without a college degree that year.

Other states showed a particularly weak performance among blue-collar whites: In Colorado, Udall got just 34 percent of their vote, to his opponent's 61 percent. For Democratic presidential candidates, most plausible paths to the White House run through winning both of those states.

Democrats do have some reason for optimism. For one, the share of white, working-class voters continues to shrink every presidential election by an average of about 3 percentage points, according to Teixeira, while the share of groups Democrats do better with—racial minorities and well-educated white voters—continues to grow. And Democrats hope that Clinton, as the nation's first major-party female presidential nominee, would be able win over so-called waitress moms at a greater rate than most Democratic candidates.

The most pressing need for Clinton, however, might be devising an economic agenda and message able to convince some of those voters to back Democratic candidates.

"Are they going to convince the majority of these voters that they have a plan and it'll definitely work?" Teixeira asked. "Well, that's probably not going to happen. You don't have to convince most of these voters. You just have to convince a persuadable part of them."

Bloomberg: "Analyst: Hillary Clinton 'Lost Her Fastball,' and Jeb Bush Won't Likely Win"

By Steven Yaccino

November 30, 2014, 2:20 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Just when it seemed there was unanimous consent about a Clinton White House bid, even doubts are getting debunked.

These days, when Hillary Clinton says she's still deciding whether to run for president in 2016, she does so with a smile that seems almost like a silent apology for the absurdity of her non-answer.

For months, all signs have pointed to an inevitable White House bid for the former secretary of state, senator and first lady. On Sunday, it looked like there might be at least one person of note who is having serious doubts about whether it is a lock that Clinton will run for president. Now even that has been called into question.

An account of remarks attributed to Charlie Cook, whose Cook Political Report newsletter is among the country's most trusted for campaign analysis, was published in the Kansas City Star, describing him as telling a local audience recently that he believes Clinton has a 25- to 30-percent

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chance of jumping into the race.

Columnist Steve Rose did not specify exactly when or where the private event took place, but said Cook knew he was in attendance and that the statements were on the record. But Cook, who could not be reached by phone or e-mail for comment, took to Twitter and denied making the claim.

In an e-mail on Sunday evening, Rose clarified that he misheard Cook, who instead said that Clinton had a 25- to 30-percent chance of passing on a White House bid.

Cook, whose correction focused on the likelihood that Clinton would not run, apparently cited her recent book tour performance as reason to believe that she is either “rusty” or “she lost her fastball," according to the Kansas City Star.

A presidential race without Clinton, who has held huge leads in primary-voter polling, could be devastating to the Democratic Party, which does not have the same deep bench of potential candidates as Republicans.

Cook also apparently predicted that the next GOP nominee will likely be a governor from the Midwest or a Tea Party senator, two categories, of course, that leave out Jeb Bush. Should the former Republican governor of Florida and potential 2016 contender decided to run, Cook said a GOP primary electorate will balk at two issues that Bush has supported.

“One is immigration reform, which he favors,” Cook reportedly said, “and two, is his advocacy of education reform.”

MSNBC: “Charlie Cook: Hillary’s still (probably) running”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

November 30, 2014, 12:12 p.m. EST

Veteran political analyst Charlie Cook says he never predicted that Hillary Clinton is unlikely to run for president.

Cook, the publisher of the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, caused a stir this weekend among 2016 watchers when the Kansas City Star reported that he told a private gathering in the city that the former secretary of state is unlikely to throw her hat in the ring.

Cook “believes Hillary Clinton has only a 25-30% chance of running for president, and in any case he thinks she is either ‘rusty’ or ‘she has lost her fastball,’” the paper reported.

Since most observers think a Clinton candidacy is a nearly foregone conclusion, the remark attracted plenty of attention among journalists on Twitter was aggregated by several major national publications, including msnbc.

But Cook says the report is wrong.

“I have never said that the odds of her running were less than 60%. Clearly this person misheard me. From other conversations with people over dinner, after my speech, no one else heard 25-30 chance of running,” Cook told msnbc.

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He pointed to two columns he has written in the past pegging Clinton's chances of running at 70%. At a event hosted in July by the National Journal, where Cook writes a weekly column, he said there was as low as a 60% chance she does not run. But a 25-30% chance of running would be dramatically different from what he's said previously.

Kansas City Star columnist Steve Rose, who reported Cook's remarks at the private dinner in Kansas City, told msnbc he apologized to Cook for getting the quote wrong. "All I can say is I must have misheard Charlie, and I did not have a chance for followup after the event," he said in an email.

Editor's Note: This piece originally included the Kansas City Star's reporting. We have since corrected the piece.

Bloomberg: "The Torch Is Being Passed to A New Generation of Right-Wing Media"

By David Weigel

December 1, 2014, 5:45 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] At the Washington Free Beacon The Federalist, and the Independent Journal Review, They're Ready to Pay Any Price, Bear Any Burden to Defeat Jon Stewart and his ilk.

"If you're looking for something, you might not find it," says Lachlan Markay. "If you're looking for anything, then, who knows?"

It's the middle of November, early morning, and Markay is perched in a chair right outside the biennial meeting of the Democracy Alliance. He is not allowed inside. He is never allowed inside. As a reporter for the Washington Free Beacon, a conservative website founded in 2012, Markey's assignment is to sit in a lobby café of the Mandarin Oriental hotel for three days, acquiring news about the meeting the way a shipwrecked sailor might acquire driftwood.

Five months earlier, when the Democracy Alliance met in Chicago, it distributed the photos of 20 reporters to prevent attendees from leaking anything by accident. Eleven of the profiled reporters worked for the Washington Free Beacon.

"If this is anything like Chicago," says Markay, knocking back a cup of coffee, "they have my picture. I went downstairs to use one of the computers, in the business center, and somebody followed me until I left."

The tender attention did not stop Markey from reporting. As the conference got underway, he published a story based on the memos he'd obtained. It had everything from a paranoid guidance to hotel staff to a PowerPoint presentation about how the progressive Committee on States moved $45 million to Democratic causes in 2014, illustrated by arrows traversing the supposed firewall between PACS and campaigns. In a follow-up story, Markey contrasted some hit-and-run coverage of the conference with more facts, pulled from the documents.

It had been a good year for the WFB. In February, reporter Alana Goodman (also on the illustrated DA watchlist) published the first in a series of scoops about Hillary Clinton drawn from the archives a friend had given to the University of Arkansas. "By being the first to report on the papers," wrote founder and editor-in-chief Matt Continetti, "the Free Beacon exposed the inanity and irrelevance of the mainstream media." Throughout the midterms, the WFB published stories about incumbent Democrats that ended up being cited in attack ads, like the tale of how North Carolina Senator Kay Hagan skipped a meeting about ISIS to hit a fundraiser. These stories unquestionably helped elect Republicans. In August, the Free Beacon went private, leaving the non-profit Center for American Freedom—an explicit parody of the liberal Center for American Progress—that it was founded under. This news was announced, as is WFB custom, with a picture of supermodel Kate Upton.

That combination of irreverence, scoops and spite is creating something new on the right. Conservative media, never somnolent, is in a new and different boom period, led by millennial writers who are striking out against fresh targets. The Independent Journal Review, an aggregation-heavy site launched by a veteran of Republican campaigns, has made a steady profit and generated eight-figure numbers of Facebook shares for its

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content. The Federalist, launched last year as the latest of 32-year old Ben Domenech's publications, got Cosmos host Neil DeGrasse Tyson to reluctantly admit he'd fabricated a George W. Bush quote that had been delighting his like-minded audiences. And that was after a National Review cover story by Charles Cooke, a 2007 graduate of Oxford University, labeling DeGrasse Tyson as the icon of a cult of nerds whose faux expertise was wrecking America.

"A century ago, Woodrow Wilson complained that the checks and balances instituted by the Founders were outdated because they had been contrived before the telephone was invented," wrote Cooke. "Now, we are to be liberated by the microchip and the Large Hadron Collider, and we are to have our progress assured by ostensibly disinterested analysts."

What's the connection between Neil DeGrasse Tyson and the wealthy liberals at a Democracy Alliance conference? Culture—which is to say, everything. A previous generation of conservatives trained their guns on Dan Rather and the network news that Americans used to watch. The newer generation does not fear the mainstream media. It pities the media, and understands, after a generation of Matt Drudge and Fox News, that manipulating it is child's play. On the new sites, a little reporting and a little snark can expose that the government, and its defenders in the press, are puffing up their expertise to hide their incompetence.

The more proximate enemy of this new generation of conservatives is the left's nerd cult. Jon Stewart, John Oliver, and "explanatory" journalism of the Vox.com variety—it all has wild fun with the "derp" of cable news and fringe conservatism. The most influential writers in this sphere, like Ezra Klein and Matt Taibbi, eventually carved out roles at the mainstream media, changing its hoarier institutions from the inside.

The reader and consumer of explainer media, or the donor to the Democracy Alliance, believes that expertise can correct misinformation and fix policy. This is the context for wildly popular news, wildly share-able on social media. The Awl, no conservative news site, even mocked "the Content industry" by tracking how many Facebook interactions liberal sites got from embedding John Oliver's monologues into blog posts.

Jon Stewart's show embodies plenty of the problems the newer right has with the press. "Dutiful reporters for websites like Salon, Huffington Post and the like simply write down whatever Stewart said," wrote the WFB's David Rutz by way of introducing a compilation of Stewart's mugging, "and declare his target utterly annihilated." The Federalist's Mollie Hemingway, whose media criticism career dates back most of a decade to the blog Get Religion (motto: "The press just doesn't get religion"), has held up Stewart as an example of a smug left that pretends the real news is just one explainer or eye-roll away. "Adults should not watch the Daily Show," wrote Hemingway in 2012. Two years later, she added that she had "such a hard time taking adult Jon Stewart fans seriously."

The Federalist "did not have a game plan to criticize explainer journalism," says David Harsanyi, a longtime Denver Post columnist who came to the new site after a stint at Human Events. It was, and is, a source of original interviews and real-time arguments between conservatives and libertarians. Rand Paul and Mike Lee gave the site news-making looks at their agendas for foreign policy and Congress, respectively.

But some of The Federalist's most popular content is directed at the rest of the media. Politifact is a source of "ridiculous and non-fact-based" cover-ups for the Democrats. A Vox.com story that errantly referred to a bridge between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank—which does not exist—might have been "a Mossad operation to forever discredit everything Vox ever writes on Israel for all time." (This was a joke.)

"I really do want to know if he tires of being embarrassingly wrong about everything, but I think I already know the answer," wrote Hemingway, in a piece about Vox co-founder (and my former Slate.com colleague) Matthew Yglesias. "Being a wrong liberal means never having to say you're sorry, and having no shame means you never have to feel embarrassed."

That tone is common in the new right media. The left, sure, can get away with murder with its own readership. What's that worth in the long run? "Liberal discourse is insular, sophomoric, divorced from everyday life," wrote the Free Beacon's Continetti in an October column. "What liberals say about race and gender and climate change is designed not to persuade the unconvinced but to rally the base. MSNBC is imploding. Vox.com is a laughingstock."

Domenech doesn't think that the young right's targets need to be driven out of the industry. "We're trying to give voice to some critiques that some people have long had of journalism, whether it's of news or of culture," says Domenech. "We're not trying to drive anyone out of business. To a certain degree, when we critique a journalist or a public figure like Tyson, we're not doing so out of animosity toward that person. We're doing so because we want them to stop saying that thing that isn't true."

The Free Beacon has an explicitly generational message when it comes to Democrats, and their presumed 2016 presidential candidate. It applies the clickable tag "trolling" to a burgeoning number of pieces, many of them by Andrew Stiles, who left National Review for the WFB after "burning out on politics." Recent Stiles stories have worn headlines like "SHOCKING: Hillary Clinton Could Be the Youngest Democrat Running in 2016," and "You Won't Believe How Old the Democratic Party's Leaders Really Are," and "Hillary Clinton Has Mastered The Art of Turning Her New Grandchild

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Into a Stump Speech."

"I think it's perfectly reasonable to look at the Democratic Party, which is supposed to represent younger generations, being run by Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi, both in their 70s, and thinking about nominating Hillary, who will be pushing 70, and think: Wait a minute? Is the best we can do?" says Stiles. He felt the same way in 2008, when he voted for Barack Obama. His turn to the right came, he says, when he started paying closer attention to politics. "It was easy to be a liberal in college and watch The Daily Show and feel good about myself but not really know anything."

On Nov. 13, after Lachlan Markey was done staking out the Democracy Alliance, Continetti headed to the Republican Party's Capitol Hill Club to accept a prize. The Young Conservatives Coalition was giving him the "Buckley Award," named for National Review founder William F. Buckley, for his "significant contribution" to the movement. As fellow award-winners James O'Keefe and Dan Backer watched, Continetti asked his audience to reject the popular history of Buckley as a bloodless intellectual.

"The Buckley of the 1950s and 1960s was even more frightening to liberals than even Ted Cruz," said Continetti. "He defended Joe McCarthy. If you want a controversial issue, defend Joe McCarthy!" Buckley, he said, launched "the conservative march through the institutions that continues to this day."

USA Today column: University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds: "Not working for the working class"

By Glenn Harlan Reynolds

November 30, 2014, 6:06 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The key to Obama's struggle with white working class voters is not 'white,' but 'working.'

Working class white people don't like President Obama much. According to the latest Gallup poll, only 27% approve of him. That's 21 percentage points down since he took office in 2009.

A standard talking-point is that these voters don't like Obama because they're racist. But that assumes that the key word in "white working class" is "white." In fact, the key word is "working." After all, Obama isn't any blacker than he was in 2009.

A few Democratic pundits seem to get this. Writing in Mother Jones, Kevin Drum observes: "So who does the WWC take out its anger on? Largely, the answer is the poor. In particular, the undeserving poor. Liberals may hate this distinction, but it doesn't matter if we hate it. Lots of ordinary people make this distinction as a matter of simple common sense, and the WWC makes it more than any. That's because they're closer to it. For them, the poor aren't merely a set of statistics or a cause to be championed. They're the folks next door who don't do a lick of work but somehow keep getting government checks paid for by their tax dollars. "

Given the availability of government benefits, most working-class people of any race could be on welfare if they chose. That they're not drawing government checks means that they value work. As Slate's Jamelle Bouie notes, government programs like Social Security and Medicare are differently received, because they aren't seen as rewarding people for not working. When your neighbor gets welfare, it makes you feel like a sucker for going to work. Medicare, not so much.

So if Democrats want to win back the white working class — and they kind of need to, if they want to win elections, because it's an enormous demographic — maybe they need to start thinking about honoring and encouraging work, rather than talking about race or class. One person who has some ideas in this direction is Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who suggests that the government invest heavily in infrastructure, which would create a lot of blue-collar jobs.

That was actually an original part of Barack Obama's stimulus plan, but it was derailed by feminists within the Obama coalition who thought it would produce too many jobs for men. Christina Romer, then-chair of Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, reported: "The very first email I got ...

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was from a women's group saying 'We don't want this stimulus package to just create jobs for burly men.' "

Well, if you're offended by jobs for burly men, you probably won't do well with working-class men, or with the working-class women who are often married to burly men. And, as Joel Kotkin notes, many other Obama policies — promoting urban density, which creates fewer construction jobs; fighting oil and coal extraction, thus targeting industries that create high-paying blue collar jobs; and even opening up immigration, which drives down wages for the working class — all seem designed to punish people who work for a living, even as expanded benefits for the poor seem designed to reward people who draw government checks for a living.

According to Gallup, thanks to Obamacare, Americans earning $30,000 to $75,000 a year are more likely to skip medical care because of cost than Americans earning under $30,000 a year.

Can the Democrats solve this problem? Sure. These are all policies that could be changed, though a lot of party constituencies would oppose it. And Democrats might choose a working-class-friendly nominee, too, if they can find one. Of course, the current favorite is Hillary Clinton, who went to Wellesley and makes $300,000 for giving a speech, and the No. 2 prospect for 2016 is probably Elizabeth Warren, a former Harvard Law professor who made $212,000 for representing an asbestos company. Portraying either of them as working class heroes will be an uphill battle.

And there's another problem: The white working class may have abandoned Obama, but the black and Hispanicworking classes have mostly stayed loyal to him. But what do Clinton or Warren have that might inspire similar loyalty? Come 2016, it may not just be the white part of the working class that the Democrats have trouble with.

Townhall.com: "Jim Webb Thinks He Can Beat Hillary Clinton"

By Matt Vespa

November 30, 2014

In a previous post, Jim Webb announced he is establishing an exploratory committee for a possible 2016 run. Given Clinton's vast ties within her political machine, it seems hard to envision a 2016 primary season where she loses, but she did lose to an insurgent candidate named Barack Obama in 2008; Obama trailed her in the polls by 30 points at the time.

Her unofficial political team is already posturing, saying Clinton could net 386 electoral votes in 2016. One could posit that this is a tacit acknowledgement of Clinton's vulnerability. After all, she's a bad campaigner, her books sales were lackluster to say the least, and she's nothing like Obama in the sense of being something completely different from the underbelly of the Democratic Party–nor does she bring an aura of change that captivates a nation. She will also be nearly 70 when–or if–she subjects herself to the burdensome and tortuous life of a national campaign.

Jim Webb, former Democratic Senator, thinks he has what it takes to beat Clinton. Hillary is vying for the white, working class voters that have flocked to the GOP in past elections; Webb thinks he can compete, or even win, with this demographic as well. Yet, besides the southern Democrat, supposedly moderate appeal Webb has; he's also angling for a populist narrative–something the Clinton camp could have trouble disseminating to voters.

Clinton's "dead broke" gaffe was seen as nothing short of disastrous; everyone knows the earning potential for ex-presidents and their families are phenomenal. This, coupled with Clinton's cozy relationship with Wall Street and the financial sector, could be a wedge that Webb could exploit (via the New Yorker):

"He laid out a view of Wall Street that differs sharply from Clinton's.

"'Because of the way that the financial sector dominates both parties, the distinctions that can be made on truly troubling issues are very minor,' he said. He told a story of an effort he led in the Senate in 2010 to try to pass a windfall-profits tax that would have targeted executives at banks and

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firms which were rescued by the government after the 2008 financial crisis. He said that when he was debating whether to vote for the original bailout package, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, he relied on the advice of an analyst on Wall Street, who told him, 'No. 1, you have to do this, because otherwise the world economy will go into cataclysmic free fall. But, No. 2, you have to punish these guys. It is outrageous what they did.'

"After the rescue, when Webb pushed for what he saw as a reasonable punishment, his own party blocked the legislation. 'The Democrats wouldn't let me vote on it,' he said. 'Because either way you voted on that, you're making somebody mad. And the financial sector was furious.' He added that one Northeastern senator—Webb wouldn't say who—'was literally screaming at me on the Senate floor.'

"When Clinton was a New York senator, from 2001 to 2009, she fiercely defended the financial industry, which was a crucial source of campaign contributions and of jobs in her state. 'If you don't have stock, and a lot of people in this country don't have stock, you're not doing very well,' Webb said. Webb is a populist, but a cautious one, especially on taxes, the issue that seems to have backfired against O'Malley's administration. As a senator, Webb frustrated some Democrats because he refused to raise individual income-tax rates. But as President, he says, he would be aggressive about taxing income from investments: 'Fairness says if you're a hedge-fund manager or making deals where you're making hundreds of millions of dollars and you're paying capital-gains tax on that, rather than ordinary income tax, something's wrong, and people know something's wrong. '

…

"Webb said. 'A lot of the Democratic leaders who don't want to scare away their financial supporters will say we're going to raise the minimum wage, we're going do these little things, when in reality we need to say we're going to fundamentally change the tax code so that you will believe our system is fair.'"

On prison reform, Webb studied Japan's low recidivism rate to bring about changes within our own system that he says prevents ex-convicts from rebuilding their lives. The article noted that the prison population exploded when President Clinton signed new tough sentencing laws.

If there's one thing that will split progressives on Hillary, it's the Iraq War. She voted for it–and the left has never fully forgiven her for that. Webb is a Vietnam veteran, was Secretary of the Navy, and thinks the Obama-Clinton ways of doing business abroad isn't much of a blueprint :

"He [Webb] thinks Obama, Clinton, and Power made things worse by intervening in Libya. 'There's three factions,' he said. 'The John McCains of the world, who want to intervene everywhere. Then the people who cooked up this doctrine of humanitarian intervention, including Samantha Power, who don't think they need to come to Congress if there's a problem that they define as a humanitarian intervention, which could be anything. That doctrine is so vague.' Webb also disdains liberals who advocate military intervention without understanding the American military. Referring to Syria and Libya, Webb said, 'I was saying in hearings at the time, What is going to replace it? What is going to replace the Assad regime? These are tribal countries. Where are all these weapons systems that Qaddafi had? Probably in Syria. Can you get to the airport at Tripoli today? Probably not. It was an enormous destabilizing impact with the Arab Spring.'

"Early on as a senator, Webb championed the idea of the so-called 'pivot to Asia,' a rebalancing of America's strategic and diplomatic posture from the Middle East to the Far East—an idea that Obama and Clinton subsequently adopted. Webb pushed Secretary of State Clinton to open up relations with Burma, a policy that Clinton includes in her recent book, 'Hard Choices,' as a major achievement. (Obama is travelling to Burma this week.) When I raised the subject with Webb, he seemed annoyed that he hadn't received adequate credit for the Burma policy. People who know him well suggest that part of what's motivating him to consider a primary challenge to Clinton is his sense that she hasn't expressed the proper gratitude."

So, here's the narrative that's forming here: Hillary is wrong on war, wrong on Wall Street; I, Jim Webb, gave her the idea to rebalance our position in Asia, and tried to punish the folks who hurt "Main Street." Hillary sounds like she's an Obama-lite candidate; something that voters will not be enthused to hear about.

With Obama's dismal approval numbers and voters yearning for something new after eight years, Webb could fill that void and become a formidable anti-Clinton candidate.

On the other hand, As Josh Kraushaar at National Journal wrote, the Democratic Party has become a smaller, more ideologically homogeneous party on social issues, not economic ones; and they're the issues that gain traction with the liberal base. While he admits that Webb is a good candidate on paper, he will never survive the culture shock that has occurred within the ranks of liberal Democrats after eight years of Obama.

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Regardless, it should be interesting what happens in the next two years. It's about time Democrats duke it out leave each other beaten, bruised, and bloodied in a primary process.

Oh, and one last note on Hillary's vulnerability; she's virtually tied with Romney in a head-to-head presidential match up–and that's with a 13-point gender gap with women voters. Mittmentum Part II? What is going on?

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton hosts fundraiser for Sen. Mary Landrieu (Times-Picayune)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 3:44:56 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

> All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
> Thinking.
>
> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
> **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> **Cc:** Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> I was kidding!
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>
> > Not ninnies.
> >
> > We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.
> >
> > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> > **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
> > **To:** Matt Paul
> > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
> > **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
> >
> > Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
> > >
> > > On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

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That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

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And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

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I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/27/2014 9:27:06 AM
Subject: Challenging Bedrock Law: "Dillon's Rule" in Detroit and Beyond

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Simon Davis-Cohen, Truthout: Detroit and other city governments have been effectively dissolved. In the Motor City, all governing power resides in one man - Kevyn Orr - the state-appointed "emergency manager." He performs all functions of local government, unilaterally.

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The Disunited States: A French Writer Navigates 1930s United States

Patrick Glennon, Truthout: In his recently translated book, *The Disunited States*, Vladimir Pozner reveals the alienation, class antagonism, racism and sexism endemic to this country in the 1930s - and how little has changed.

Read the Review

Jeopardy Has Not Attached: Killer Cops Can Still Be Indicted

James Marc Leas, Truthout: Protests should continue to demand justice for Michael Brown and Eric Garner. The officers who killed them can still be indicted and tried for murder under state law in Missouri and New York.

Read the Article

Everything You Need to Know About the Radical Roots of Wonder Woman

Christopher Zumski Finke, YES! Magazine: The hero and her alter ego, Diana Prince, were the products of the tumultuous women's rights movements of the early 20th century, and her enigmatic creator believed women were destined to rule the world.

Read the Article

Looking Back, Moving Forward: 2014 Year in Review

Making Contact, National Radio Project: The year 2014 saw social movements ranging from pro-

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

NSA Fesses Up to Improper Surveillance of US Citizens
Read the Article at The Huffington Post

Evil Torturers Catch a Break: How Americans Got Distracted From a National Travesty
Read the Article at Salon

US Prepares to Accelerate Detainee Transfers From Guantánamo Bay Prison
Read the Article at The Washington Post

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democracy protests in Hong Kong to the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. Making Contact brings an update on some of these movements that made major news this year.

Listen to the Radio Report

Unearthing the Truth: Mexican State Violence Beyond Ayotzinapa

Jesse Franzblau, NACLA: Declassified files on migrant massacres reveal impunity and Mexican state complicity in human rights atrocities that predate the recent Ayotzinapa disappearances.

Read the Article

What the US Should Learn From Russia's Collapse

Miriam Pemberton, OtherWords: It's time for communities that are dependent on Pentagon contracts to work on strategies to reduce their economic vulnerability as defense spending dwindles. The time to start planning an economic transition is now.

Read the Article

Why Obama Won't Reach an Agreement With Iran

Gareth Porter, Middle East Eye: The Obama administration has no obvious incentives to reach an agreement with Iran on its nuclear program because the United States is getting most of what it wants already under the status quo.

Read the Article

It's Not Even 2015, but the 2016 Republican Presidential Race Rumors Have Begun

Robin Marty, Care2: It's still 2014 for at least another few days, but that hasn't stopped the 2016 presidential speculation from jumping to an accelerated start, with news that another Bush may be tossing his hat in the ring.

Read the Article

After Scrutiny, CIA Mandate Is Untouched
Read the Article at The New York Times

Doubts Persist on US Claims of North Korean Role in Sony Hack
Read the Article at NPR

ACLU Accuses NSA of Using Holiday Lull to "Minimize Impact" of Documents
Read the Article at The Guardian

On Racial Issues, Americans Are Divided Both Black and White and Red and Blue
Read the Article at The Washington Post

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From: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/20/2015 12:01:14 PM
Subject: Re: Axe tweet on Clinton Cash -

That's one of the points I raised on Wagner's show, he was helpful

On Mon, Apr 20, 2015 at 6:51 PM, Adrienne Elrod <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

>
> **David Axelrod** @ davidaxelrod 3m 3 minutes ago Chicago, IL
> Haven't read book attacking Clintons. But if, as reported, it charges that Obama Admin moved Colombia FTA to reward CGI donor, that's nuts!
> **6 retweets4 favorites**
> Reply Retweet6 Favorite4 More
>
> Adrienne K. Elrod
> Spokesperson
> Hillary For America
> **www.hillaryclinton.com**
> @adrienneelrod
>
> --
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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/29/2014 7:44:09 AM
Subject: Hawaii's GMO Battle: Federal Judge Strikes Down Kauai's Pesticide Regulations

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Hawaii's GMO Battle: Federal Judge Strikes Down Kauai's Pesticide Regulations

Mike Ludwig, Truthout: A federal judge in Hawaii has struck down a local ordinance that would have regulated pesticide use at farms on the island of Kauai, where four of the world's largest agrichemical companies take advantage of long growing seasons to develop genetically engineered crop seeds.

Read the Article

Five Things About Canada Every American Climate Activist Should Know

Joseph Boutilier, Truthout: For being such a global issue, with the potential to unite across borders both physical and virtual, the climate movement remains shockingly isolated in domestic dialogue.

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Secret $700,000 Donation Has Scott Walker Scrambling to Address "Appearance of Corruption"

John Nichols, The Nation: Despite serious concerns that changing Wisconsin's mining regulations would cause harm, Gov. Scott Walker supported it. Now newly released documents show a mining firm secretly steered $700,000 into "independent" efforts to provide political cover for the embattled governor.

Read the Article

Should Japan Restart Its Nuclear Reactors?

Arnie Gundersen, The Mark News: The untold story of March 11, 2011 is how close Japan came to three more spent fuel pool fires at Fukushima Daiichi and four meltdowns at Fukushima Daini after the massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Read the Article

Seven Disturbing Quotes From the Koch Summit Speeches

Jay Riestenberg, Common Cause: Speeches from

BuzzFlash

Surfers Defy Wealthy California Oceanfront Property Owners Denying Beach Access

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: A battle for public access to the California beaches on the Pacific Ocean is raging. Many wealthy property owners want to hinder people from using the state-owned coastline in front of their homes.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

How Trayvon Martin's Death Launched a New Generation of Black Activism

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The Courage to

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elected leaders like Mitch McConnell at a secretive donor summit hosted in June by billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch betray troubling perspectives on what the relationships between the ultra-wealthy, mega-corporations and lawmakers should be.

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A Prescription for Treating Runaway CEO Pay

Marjorie E. Wood, OtherWords: Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, your premiums are now guaranteed to pay for health care instead of executives' yachts. And more than 10 million Americans have gained coverage because of it. That the ACA also holds the profit-making side of the health care industry accountable is a great benefit.

Read the Article

How the #FergusonSyllabus Can Help Teachers Talk About Race and Rights on the First Day of School

Liz Pleasant, YES! Magazine: The killing of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown and the aftermath in Ferguson, Missouri left teachers wondering how to address it with their students. So teachers have connected on Twitter using #FergusonSyllabus, to share suggested readings, discussion topics and classroom activities for students of any age.

Read the Article

Why Nurture Is Just as Important as Nature for Understanding Genetics

Claire Haworth, The Conversation: Genetic variation is only half the story. Environmental influences are important too, and we now know that our environments can interact with our genetic makeup, in ways that can be good and bad for our health.

Read the Article

Learning #EverydaySexualViolence: Women Telling Our Stories

Stephanie Gilmore and Pia Guerrero, The Feminist Wire: "Social structures such as racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, capitalism and imperialism thrive on unmitigated and often state-sanctioned violence. The brutal murder of Michael Brown is but one example."

Read the Article

The Courage to Disarm

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

How Does a 9-Year-Old Come to Shoot a Fully Automatic Weapon?

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Tax Dollars for Oil Wars and Weapons Should Be Spent on Improving the Common Good

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Ferguson Protesters Sue Missouri Police for $40 Million

Read the Article at Talking Points Memo

Global Community Must Face Deeper Roots of Growing Ebola Crisis

Read the Article at Common Dreams

Jon Stewart: Rick Perry Will Be a Creepy Inmate

Watch the Video at Comedy Central

How Midwives on Sierra Leone's Almost Untouched Turtle Islands are Improving Women's Health

Joan Erakit, Inter Press Service: Marie Stopes is a British-based nonprofit that provides family planning and reproductive health services to over 30 countries around the world, including the tiny, hard-to-reach Turtle Island in Sierra Leone. They are a lifeline for women seeking reproductive, prenatal and maternal health care.

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To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/11/2015 9:55:49 AM
Subject: The same voices pushing for war with Iraq

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

John -

President Obama is right: many of the same voices urging the United States to reject the deal with Iran in favor of a military approach were some of the loudest voices in favor of war with Iraq.

Congress is home for recess now, and we need to make sure they hear your voice before returning to D.C. to take a vote.

So far over 100,000 veterans, military family members, and VoteVets supporters have taken action on this issue - add your name to theirs today:

Tell Congress: vote for the negotiated deal that is our best chance to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon

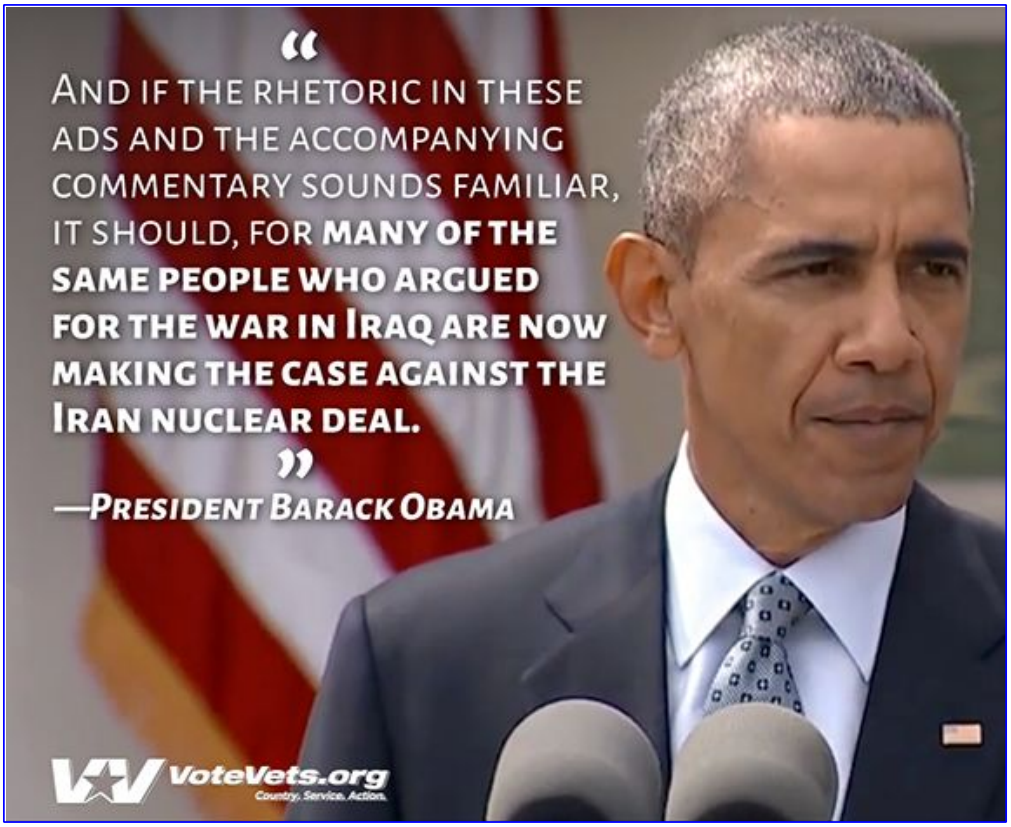

The vote can go either way at this point so every Representative and every Senator that comes out in favor of the deal is a major victory.

We have a very unique voice in this debate. It'd be a real shame to let it go to waste.

Thanks for adding your name,

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
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From: "Andrew Schwartz" <externalrelations@csis.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/15/2014 8:06:54 AM
Subject: New Smart Women Smart Power Podcast: Putin's Power Play

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CSIS | CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Dear Colleague:

Last week I wrote you about “Smart Women, Smart Power,” CSIS’ new initiative in partnership with Fortune Magazine and headed by Dr. Kathleen Hicks, senior vice president and director of the International Security Program at CSIS.

The project includes live events to be held regularly at CSIS, the first of which will be in November (we will keep you posted on our launch date).

We’ve also developed a weekly podcast that is featured on Apple’s iTunes and is hosted by Fortune columnist and Most Powerful Women Summit cochair Nina Easton. The podcast includes panel discussions and interviews with senior officials, business executives, and thought leaders.

Last Friday, Nina moderated a CSIS all-star panel with Heather Conley, CSIS Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia and the Arctic and Dr. Sarah Mendelson, CSIS Director of the Human Rights Initiative. The Podcast is called “Power Politics in Putin’s Russia” and you can listen to it here or by clicking below:

We couldn’t be more excited about Smart Women, Smart Power and look forward to great discussions, both live and on iTunes.

I always welcome your feedback.

Best,

Andrew

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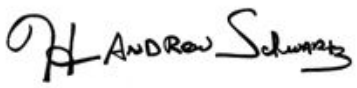

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/23/2014 6:38:10 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday December 23, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday December 23, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton wants everyone to enjoy the same opportunities she had growing up,@jengranholm writes for @cnbc http://www.cnbc.com/id/102291832 [12/23/14, 11:37 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@jengranholm : @HillaryClinton embodies a "fierce duty and loyalty to [the American] family."http://www.cnbc.com/id/102291832 [12/23/14, 10:56 a.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton successfully fought to expand Family and Medical Leave Act for families of wounded soldiers. http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-a-record-of-service-to-veterans/ … [12/22/14, 2:32 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

CNBC opinion: Gov. Jennifer Granholm: "The message Democrats need to hit for 2016"

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"Since long before the time Hillary Clinton wrote that 'it takes a village,' she has been advocating a belief that we, as a country, are all in this together."

Bloomberg: "The Man Poised to Guide Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign"

[Subtitle:] "Robby Mook, Terry McCauliffe's makeover artist, may be the one to bring discipline to the Clintons' 2016 campaign."

Associated Press: "Late At Night, Christie Doing 2016 Foreign Policy Homework"

"Such preparation is expected from prospective White House candidates, especially those such as Christie, a long-time politician in New Jersey and former U.S. attorney who lacks the foreign policy experience of the favorite for the Democratic nomination, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Articles:

CNBC opinion: Gov. Jennifer Granholm: "The message Democrats need to hit for 2016"

By Gov. Jennifer Granholm

December 23, 2014

After the 2014 electoral debacle, much has been written about Democrats needing a message. Of course, first and foremost, Democrats must be obsessed about creating good-paying jobs in America. But there's one other message that is authentic to us and to our hopeful Democratic nominee:

Family.

Since long before the time Hillary Clinton wrote that "it takes a village," she has been advocating a belief that we, as a country, are all in this together. That, just like in your own family, our American family takes care of each other. In your family you take care of your aging parents. Period. In our American family, we take care of all of our parents, through strong policies like Social Security and Medicaid.

In your family, you lend your brother a hand if he gets laid off. You don't cut him off; you help him. In our American family, we make sure that all of our brothers and sisters are given a bridge to something better through unemployment insurance, if they find themselves without income.

That's what we do. That's who we are. As we say in the faith community, that's whose we are.

Yes, we believe that people should pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But we also know this truth: many children were not issued boots upon arrival. These are all our children. We are a family. And in a family, no one gets left behind.

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And you know what? It turns out that when we believe that way, and act upon that belief, our economy does better too. If our children are better educated, our brothers and sisters make a better living, and our parents are taken care of, we will all be better off.

This is exactly what Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to — what she calls "the basic bargain of America," that "no matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family." This is the same opportunity that young middle-class Hillary Rodham had, and the opportunity that she wants for everyone in the American family.

That is why Hillary has long advocated for a progressive tax structure to ensure, among other things, that we can fund a basic safety net for Americans. For while you may fall on hard times today, and I may fall on hard times tomorrow, together we hold a net that is strong enough that neither of us will fall through.

That is why Hillary has protected working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own, leading the fight in the Senate to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

That is why she has been determined to expand access to education and healthcare for children across all walks of American life. As First Lady of Arkansas, she expanded early childhood education for economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, she worked across the aisle with former Missouri Senator Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families. Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well being of children five and under, she is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady.

As Hillary says, "You should not have to be the grandchild of a governor or a senator or a former secretary of state or a former president to believe that the American Dream is in your reach." Opportunity and success shouldn't be limited to those lucky enough to be born into wealthy families, or to the grandchildren of governors or senators. Instead, we should remind ourselves that we belong to one another, to one team, to one family. And we are fiercely proud of belonging to a country — a big American family — where no one gets left behind.

That is why I am ready for Hillary.

Bloomberg: "The Man Poised to Guide Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign"

By Jonathan Allen

December 22, 2014 6:37 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Robby Mook, Terry McCauliffe's makeover artist, may be the one to bring discipline to the Clintons' 2016 campaign.

In 2009, Terry McAuliffe, the Democratic power broker and close Clinton friend, lost a three-way Democratic primary for Virginia governor; four years later, with Robby Mook aboard as his campaign manager, McAuliffe won.

It was that performance that solidified Mook's status as one of the leading candidates to help Hillary Clinton to change her own fortunes from primary loser to general election winner. Now Mook, a 35-year-old Vermont native, has emerged as a clear front-runner to manage Clinton's expected presidential campaign after Guy Cecil, the political director for her 2008 bid, acknowledged Sunday he won't have an official role this time around.

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Mook already is working on special projects for Clinton, according to two longtime Democratic strategists. One said Mook was influential in shaping her role helping Democrats during the 2014 midterm elections.

Clinton advisers say Mook could serve as a bridge between Clinton's past and present, because he's close enough to Clinton to be trusted, and experienced enough in more recent campaigns to know which parts may need fixing.

"You can't have someone in such a pivotal and important position who is unknown," said Ellen Tauscher, a former congresswoman, State Department official, and Clinton ally. "For people that want to be reassured about no repeat of 2008 issues, I think that he definitely answers the mail on that, too." Tauscher said she did not know whether Mook would manage a campaign or whether Clinton would run.

McAuliffe's first campaign relied heavily on old friends as operatives and advisers, just as Clinton's had during her 2008 presidential bid. As a result, both suffered from an air of arrogance and a lack of political sophistication. For the 2013 race, McAuliffe wanted something different.

"He wanted to have a professional organization, he wanted to make sure it was based on the most recent tactics and wanted to make sure the campaign was strategic and data-focused," said Michael Halle, who managed field operations for McAuliffe.

Enter Mook, who was coming off a stint as the executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and had managed Clinton's primary-vote victories over Barack Obama in Nevada, Ohio, and Indiana in 2008.

He brought in talent from the data-obsessed Obama re-election campaign, including Elan Kriegel, who was the director of analytics in battleground states, and kept in touch with Obama adviser David Plouffe.

"Robby understands modern campaigns, the value of data and technology," Plouffe told Bloomberg in 2013. "He beat us three times; his footprint was on our back."

And, Plouffe added, "our sense was he did the best job of anyone over there."

Mook was also able to instill discipline in McAuliffe, a famously difficult mission. When he ran McAuliffe's operation, Mook mapped out campaign strategy on big white boards at meetings and was "absolutely anal about every meeting ending with action items," Halle said.

He also sought to understand the operation from the ground up. Every other week or so, he ordered headquarters staffers to go into the field to get a sense of what voters were telling volunteers. That's not terribly unusual in a campaign. What's less common: Mook knocked on 50 to 60 doors himself each time, Halle said.

Mook's experience with McAuliffe could prove valuable, because Clinton has struggled with discipline on the campaign trail and on her recent book tour, a weakness that Mook supporters say he has a track record of addressing. And, her operation is famous for the kind of infighting that Mook-run shops have been able to avoid.

Clinton hasn't officially announced whether she's running–and other names including Emily's List President Stephanie Schriock and California Democratic strategist Ace Smith still surface for the top job.

Obama counselor John Podesta, a onetime chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, is expected to take on a high-ranking role, perhaps as campaign chairman.

Mook and Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill declined to comment for this story.

Last month, ABC News published leaked excerpts from a private email listserv called the "Mook Mafia" in which Mook and other Democratic

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operatives shared thoughts on politics and politicians. In one, Mook wrote about wanting to "smite Republicans mafia-style."

Mook, who is rarely quoted in news stories, has been silent on the prospective Clinton campaign. That's a good sign for Clinton allies who want a lower-drama operation this time around.

Associated Press: "Late At Night, Christie Doing 2016 Foreign Policy Homework"

By Jill Colvin

December 23, 2014, 2:19 a.m. EST

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) -- It's after 9 p.m. on a Sunday night in late November and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is deep into a conference call talking about nuclear weapons and Iran.

One voice is advocating a hard line, arguing against allowing Iran any capability to enrich uranium. Another summarizes the status of current negotiations and argues that forcing Iran to give up enrichment entirely isn't realistic.

This is how Christie has spent many of his nights during a year in which he raised record-setting amounts of campaign cash for his fellow Republican governors and methodically tried to recover from a political scandal involving traffic jams near a New York City bridge. Late at night, away from the spotlight of the midterm elections and 2016 speculation, he's been on the phone with some of the brightest foreign policy minds in the Republican Party, getting ready to run for president.

"They've been much more quiet in general in their outreach and their approach than, say, (Texas Gov.) Rick Perry, who's been very public and active," said Lanhee Chen, who served as 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney's chief policy adviser and is among those whom Christie's aides have sought out for guidance.

"I think that reflects a difference in terms of what they perceive that they need to accomplish here very early on to be viable as presidential candidates," Chen said.

Such preparation is expected from prospective White House candidates, especially those such as Christie, a long-time politician in New Jersey and former U.S. attorney who lacks the foreign policy experience of the favorite for the Democratic nomination, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

But the previously undisclosed prep sessions are another indication that Christie's political ambitions are undeterred by the George Washington Bridge scandal and the all-but-formal entry into the 2016 campaign of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a competitor for support among donors eager to back an establishment nominee.

The briefing efforts are led by Bob Grady, a longtime adviser to Christie and a former White House official who has become the point man on policy in the tight-knit Christie circle. Assisting is Bob Zoellick, the former president of the World Bank and U.S. Trade Representative, and Brian Hook, a former assistant secretary of state who was the Romney campaign's senior adviser on foreign policy.

Zoellick and Grady said some of the sessions have covered Christie's recent trips to Mexico and Canada. Other topics have included Ukraine and Russia, the Islamic State, Syria and Iraq, Iran, and the U.S. defense budget.

The calls, which generally last about 90 minutes, typically begin with several experts discussing a region's history, recent developments and the views of foreign leaders of the countries involved, followed by a detailed question-and-answer session. The format is designed, they said, to

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expose Christie to multiple points of view and help him build a deeper understanding of history and world affairs.

"The idea is, the governor will form his own views, and this is the stage where he can get some sort of range of perspectives, some sense of questions that he should be thinking about," Zoellick said. "I personally think, having been through these since the `88 campaign in one form or another, is that it's the best way for him to actually think through and develop a foundation."

Christie has also met one-on-one or on the phone with officials, business leaders and academics, including former secretaries of state Condoleezza Rice and Henry Kissinger, and Council on Foreign Relations President Richard Haass.

While selling himself as a brash straight-talker, Christie has been notably reluctant to share his views about policy issues that fall outside his wheelhouse as governor. That includes immigration, which Christie has repeatedly said he won't discuss unless he chooses to run.

That has triggered criticism, with a Washington Post columnist suggesting Christie was at risk of becoming the "Rick Perry of 2016" - a reference to the Texas governor's dismal performance in 2012 and his inability to recall in one debate the details of his own plan to eliminate three federal departments.

While Christie and his aides have also been reluctant to share other details about their preparations, members of his team, led by his chief political adviser Mike DuHaime and money man Bill Palatucci, have begun a quiet outreach effort to potential donors as well as conservative activists, people familiar with the efforts said.

One of Christie's most loyal cheerleaders, Ken Langone, the billionaire founder of Home Depot, told The Associated Press that he's been chatting up friends and associates who may also be interested in backing a Christie campaign.

"As I talk, I'm keeping a list of people that, if the governor decides to run, these are the people I'm going to go to and say, `Would you like to help?'" he said.

There is more to be done, and soon, should Christie want to stay competitive in a race defined by Bush's announcement last week that he plans to "actively explore" a campaign.

Christie's people have been less aggressive in feeling out potential staffers in early voting states, and he does not have any kind of political action committee to allow him to raise money to pay for his travel and other campaign preparation.

With nearly a dozen potential candidates raring to go, there is little time left for the behind-the-scenes approach. Florida's Mel Sembler, a former finance chair of the Republican National Committee, said he received a flurry of calls from donors last week telling him, "We're ready," following Bush's announcement.

"Sides," Sembler said, "are beginning to be drawn."

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/1/2015 6:55:07 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | Planting a Seed for 2015

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William Rivers Pitt | Planting a Seed for 2015

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: "This is the time for New Year's resolutions, and I have a request of you: plant the seeds of goodness wherever you find fertile soil. Be that better person. Help to gentle the cold brutality of this hard world within reach of your arm."

Read the Article

Democracy and Its Discontents

Thomas J. Scott, Truthout: Globalization and rising inequality are contributing to the growing lack of confidence in democratic institutions in the United States and other Western democracies.

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California: Waking Up Is Hard to Do

Craig Collins PhD, Truthout: Today, California is part of a profit-driven global system that must plunder and pollute the planet on an ever-grander scale to survive. Major sectors of the economy like agribusiness, tourism and construction depend on cheap labor drawn from outside the state.

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Ten Ways Human Rights and Democracy Won in 2014

Sarah van Gelder, YES! Magazine: In 2014, we saw a lot of brutality. It was a violent year, but no worse than other years. What was different was the emergence of new movements of resistance - and with them new possibilities for change.

Read the Article

A View on Cuba's Opening From the De Facto US Colony of Puerto Rico

Ed Morales, North American Congress on Latin America: If Cuba were to take a deep breath and look at what's happened to an island it has shared such a deep history with, and if Cuba were to see Puerto Rico as the beginning of the free-trade economic era we're living in now, it would have to ask itself, is it the end game?

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

No One Here Should Be Turning His Back
Read the Article at The New Yorker

Harvard Settles Title IX Case With Administration, Agrees to Revise Sexual Assault Policies
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$14 Million an Hour: The "War on Terror" Has Cost $1.6 Trillion
Read the Article at AlterNet

Budget War Looms for

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Renaming Afghan War, Renaming Murder

David Swanson, War Is a Crime: The US-led NATO war on Afghanistan has lasted so long they've decided to rename it, declare the old war over, and announce a brand new war they're just sure you're going to love.

Read the Article

The Democrats' Last Defense: Obama's Pen

Kevin Mathews, Care2: With a Republican majority taking over the Senate in addition to the House this January, right-wing ideology is sure to dominate Congressional votes for the next two years. Nevertheless, hope is not entirely lost for the left.

Read the Article

What's Luck Got to Do With It? Everything, if You Are a Banking Whistleblower

Kate Kenny, The Conversation: Think whistleblowing is a matter of telling the truth? Think again. "Successful" whistleblowing, where the protagonist actually manages to make themselves heard in the media and get the support of the public, is a matter of luck.

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Paul Krugman | Vladimir Putin's Unraveling Russia

Paul Krugman, Krugman & Co.: It's impressive just how quickly and convincingly the wheels have come off the Russian economy. Obviously the plunge in oil prices is the big driver, but the ruble has actually fallen more than Brent crude - oil is down 40 percent since the start of the year, but the ruble is down by half.

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Looms for Obama, New Republican Congress
Read the Article at The Hill

Democrats' Middle-Class Hypocrisy: Why Omnibus Will Haunt Them
Read the Article at Salon

Jeb Bush Quits Board Posts Ahead of Possible White House Run
Read the Article at The Guardian

Steve Scalise's Problem Is the Republican Party's Problem
Read the Article at The Nation

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/18/2015 4:45:23 AM
Subject: Invitation: Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili to speak at the Wilson Center

To view this email as a web page, click here

Director's Forum

Wilson Center

A Conversation with the President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili

Georgia is Europe's gateway between the East and the West. It lies at the heart of a region rapidly changing—Russia, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia. An aspirant to EU and NATO, Georgia's soldiers have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan as America's allies. Its democracy has developed against the odds in a neighborhood where power is often exercised without popular consent. How will the strategic realignments underway in Eurasia affect Georgia? Is Georgia's embrace of the West enduring, and what path links Georgia's future to Europe and America? How can the US benefit from Georgia's further Western integration?

His Excellency the President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili will discuss these issues with the Honorable Jane Harman, Director, President, and CEO of the Wilson Center, and then take your questions, at the Wilson Center on Thursday, October 1 at 11:00am.

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Thursday, October 1, 2015
11:00am-12:00pm

6th floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

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Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

wwics@wilsoncenter.org

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To: "Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com>
"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/17/2016 3:18:19 AM
Subject: RE: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

I don't think that is knowable information. Adding Corey to confirm.

From: Karen Dunn [mailto:karen.l.dunn@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Ron Klain <ron.klain@revolution.com >; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; kcosta@hillaryclinton.com ; ssolow@hillaryclinton.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Need to know how many people get guns through Charleston loophole broken down by timeframe. The last thing he said he would look at something it took a very long time.

On Jan 17, 2016, at 10:06 AM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Baer <nbaer@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 17, 2016 at 9:47:53 AM EST
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=95f60a8d-a842-40b1-bcea-b1a96e194209

Rough Transcript

CHUCK TODD: let me start with one of the issues that's likely to come up tonight at the debate, that's the issue of gun safety. last night in what the clinton campaign is referring to as a debate-eve conversion you came out in favor of essentially repealing immunity for gun manufacturers when it comes to being held liable for gun deaths. that's a switch of your positions. what brought you to this conclusion?

BERNIE SANDERS: well, not really. you know, i understand that secretary clinton and her campaign understand that, you know, they're losing ground. we've started this campaign off 359% in the poll at 3% in the polls, we're closing in in iowa and we're ahead in new hampshire. so i sense in the next few weeks you'll see more --

CHUCK TODD: but you did change your position on this.

BERNIE SANDERS: what i said several months ago, having a d-minus voting record from the nra, voting to ban assault weapons in 1988, yeah, that was a piece of legislation i wanted to relook at. but what that legislation had is a prohibition on armor-piercing bullets, it had language for a child lock safety for our kids, important provision. there were things i do not like and i was willing to rethink. we have rethought it. there's a bill apparently being introduced, i like that bill, it makes good changes and we will be supportive of it.

CHUCK TODD: another thing that will come up on the issue of gun safety is the issue of a waiting period. the clinton campaign is hitting you on not being supportive of something longer like a five day or seven day window and the reason this is being brought up is if dylann roof, the man who killed those nine folks in charleston last year, if there had been a longer waiting period he might have been prevented from buying a gun.

BERNIE SANDERS: look, what we saw in charleston is a tragedy of unspeakable dimensions. i did some pray a guy did prayer with people then takes out a gun and shoots nine people. i believe very strongly in instant background checks. i think we have to expand it and make sure 100% that we keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have that, people with criminal backgrounds,

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people who are mentally unstable. that has been my view from day one. but you know, chuck, i think the reason the clinton campaign is getting defense sieve they see that we have the momentum. they see the issues we are talking about, a disappearing middle-class and new income and going to the top 1%, a corrupt campaign finance system where people like secretary clinton can raise millions of dollars through super pacs, those are the issues they don't want to discuss so tonight we're going to be discussing a lot of issues and the main issues is why the rich get richer, almost everybody else gets poorer and the fact that we have got to stand up to the billionaire class and change those dynamics.

CHUCK TODD: so you're in in favor of a longer background check? a five, seven-day background check?

BERNIE SANDERS: we are willing to look at anything that makes sense, that keeps guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. but i'm not going to be defensive on that issue. i lost an election in 1988, probably lost an election because i had the courage back then to say assault weapons should not be sold in america.

CHUCK TODD: let me ask you quickly about the iran deal. is iran still an enemy of the united states given what's going on? the improved diplomatic relations?

BERNIE SANDERS: it's funny. if you think back to 2007 during the campaign in which secretary clinton ran against barack obama she was critical of him, a question was asked to obama and said "would you sit down and talk to the iranians?" and he said "yeah, i would." point bag in you talk to your adversaries, you don't run away from that. secretary clinton i think called him naive. turns out that obama was right so clearly we have many, many issues and many concerns with iran but clearly also we want to improve our relationship with this very powerful country. i think the agreement to make certain iran does not get a nuclear weapon was a huge step forward. the fact we have the prisoner release was a good important step forward. so i hope we can continue to go forward to improve relations with iran.

CHUCK TODD: senator sanders, i'll leave it there. we'll look forward to seeing you, secretary clinton and martin o'malley on stage on nbc thank you, sir. it's going to be a humdinger of a debate. you heard senator sanders there mentioned hillary clinton in almost every single answer.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
"Dennis Cheng" <d.cheng@me.com>
"Dan?? Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
"Jacob Sullivan" <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 3/20/2015 9:30:03 AM
Subject: Re: Stories Update

https://gop.com/rnc-releases-new-hillary-clinton-video-stay-secretive-my-friends/

From: NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
Date: Friday, March 20, 2015 at 10:51 AM
To: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, Dennis Cheng <d.cheng@me.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Stories Update

Haiti story one of two that will likely run today.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-the-clintons-haiti-development-plans-succeed--and-disappoint/2015/03/20/0ebae25e-cbe9-11e4-a2a7-9517a3a70506_story.html

How the Clintons' Haiti development plans succeed — and disappoint

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Deep in the Haitian countryside, peanut farmer Wismith Moricette epitomizes the success of Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton's charitable work: Through an innovative program backed by the Clintons, the 23-year-old has doubled the yield from his one-acre plot. Along with all those peanuts, Moricette said, have come visions of a brighter future for his wife and young son.

Fifty miles away on Haiti's Caribbean coast, Anelle Germinal exemplifies another reality of the Clintons' work here: disappointment. The 33-year-old mother of four has been standing in the baking sun every day for months waiting for work in the struggling Caracol Industrial Park, which the Clintons have touted as a model that would change the economy of this impoverished country.

"They said we would have work," Germinal said, "but I have nothing."

Moricette and Germinal are two faces of the Clintons' increasingly complicated relationship with Haiti, where their high-profile development efforts after a devastating earthquake in 2010 have produced both success and disillusionment.

As Hillary Clinton moves toward a second run for the White House, her family's global charitable work, mostly through the Clinton Foundation, has come under intense scrutiny. The foundation has accepted large donations from corporations and foreign countries, raising concerns that the Clintons are creating conflicts of interest by blurring the lines between their political, business and charitable interests.

Two farmers water plants in the Acceso farm, near Mirebalais. The Acceso Peanut Enterprise Corp. was started with a $1.25 million grant from the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership. (Andres Martinez Casares/for The Washington Post)

The Washington Post reported last month that the foundation's donors include seven foreign governments that contributed millions during Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. Among those donations was a $500,000 contribution for Haiti earthquake relief from the Algerian government that the foundation has acknowledged violated the terms of an ethics agreement with the Obama administration.

The Clintons' defenders have dismissed concerns about the donations as political sniping, saying the test of the foundation is not where it gets its money, but how it spends it. They said their work has created economic opportunity, improved lives for women and girls, raised health standards, and fought the effects of climate change across the developing world.

The work has been especially visible in Haiti, where the Clintons first traveled as young newlyweds in 1975 and where many people credit them with drawing the world's attention immediately after the earthquake, which killed more than 200,000 people.

With former president Clinton assigned by the United Nations to head up the emergency recovery effort and Hillary Clinton guiding official U.S. assistance as secretary of state, the couple helped a vast relief effort that has included some of the world's richest people, biggest celebrities and most successful businesses. The Clintons helped mobilize a vast relief effort in which international donors pledged

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$10.4 billion, including $3.9 billion from the United States.

Greg Milne, director of the Clinton Foundation's Haiti Program, said foundation projects include programs that have helped more than 2,000 small farmers, an artisan-goods company that employs more than 300 people, a fish-farming operation, a cholera treatment center and improvements to schools in some of Haiti's poorest slums.

Clinton supporters also point out that their successes have come amid Haiti's chaotic political situation — parliament is not functioning, and President Michel Martelly, dogged by scandal, is ruling with virtually no checks on his power — endemic corruption, weak institutions, poverty, poor public education, terrible roads and other factors that have historically made it extremely difficult for development efforts to succeed.

The country has long had a fraught relationship with foreigners who come to invest and provide aid. Haitians often regard them with gratitude for desperately needed resources, and at the same time with suspicion that their motives are more to make a profit in Haiti than to help it.

Landry Colas hugs former president Bill Clinton in 2012 to express his gratitude for the Caracol Industrial Park, one of the largest regional investment projects in Haiti, which was expected to create more than 60,000 jobs. (Carl Juste/Miami Herald/MCT via Getty Images)

Nevertheless, the Clintons are facing a growing backlash that too little has been accomplished in the past five years, and that some of the most high-profile projects they have backed — including the Marriott, another luxury hotel and the industrial park — have helped foreign investors and Haiti's wealthy elites more than its poor.

"Bill Clinton is a good guy and well-intentioned, but the people here don't think so — they think he's here making money," said Leslie Voltaire, a former government official who worked with Clinton on post-earthquake reconstruction. "There is a lot of resentment about Clinton here. People have not seen results. . . . They say that Clinton used Haiti."

In January, Haitian expatriates picketed the Clinton Foundation's New York headquarters, demanding to know why more progress has not been made with the billions in international aid pledged after the quake.

Said Raymond Joseph, a former Haitian ambassador to the United States: "People are asking, 'What has Bill Clinton done for us?' "

[Activist: Haiti redevelopment hasn't been about helping Haitians]

The Clintons' long influence in Haiti is hard to overstate. As president in 1994, Bill Clinton deployed about 20,000 U.S. troops to Haiti to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been ousted in a coup in 1991. Clinton's trade policies as president, which he later called a "mistake," were devastating to Haiti's rice production and made it harder for the Haiti to feed itself.

In 2009, Clinton was named U.N. special envoy for Haiti, and he has visited the country 37 times since then.

After the earthquake, Clinton united with former president George W. Bush to create the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, which distributed $54.4 million in the two years after the earthquake. Separately, the Clinton Foundation has spent more than $30 million in Haiti and led efforts through the Clinton Global Initiative to persuade private companies to spend vastly more.

"What I think most people don't know, even if they've been on the ground there, is these people are immensely talented," Bill Clinton said in a 2010 interview with NPR. "They have suffered from 200 years of outside and inside abuses and neglect and misgovernment. And a lot of the people who've gone there even to help them in the best of faith, have done so in a way that would never have allowed them to support themselves and to lift themselves up. And now there is a true consensus for and determination for a sustainable, comprehensive, long-term, modern society in Haiti. And they can do it."

But as the initial emergency response has evolved into efforts to ensure Haiti's long-term development, Haitians increasingly complain that the Clintons' most ambitious plans are disconnected from the realities of most people in the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

For instance, the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund invested more than $2 million in the Royal Oasis hotel, where a sleek suite with hardwood floors costs more than $200 a night and the shops sell $150 designer purses and $120 men's dress shirts.

One recent afternoon, the hotel appeared largely empty, and with tourism hardly booming five years after the quake, locals fear it may be failing. A spokeswoman for Occidental Hotels, the chain that runs the hotel, said that occupancy is up this year and that the project will "mature in the long run."

Bill Clinton also introduced Marriott officials to Denis O'Brien, an Irish telecom billionaire who has contributed millions to the Clinton Foundation. The result is a $45 million Marriott Hotel that opened this month in central Port-au-Prince. O'Brien said no Clinton money was invested in the project.

The ultra-modern hotel is adjacent to the headquarters of Digicel, a communications giant owned by O'Brien. When The Post visited recently, many, if not most, of the guests seemed to be foreign businessmen connected to Digicel.

Clinton defenders argue that hotels that cater to well-heeled foreign guests can still buy local products and provide local jobs, and those guests are often involved in businesses investments or aid projects that benefit the neediest Haitians.

O'Brien said his hotel employs 200 Haitians, is filled with locally purchased art and serves food from Haiti. O'Brien leads the Haiti Action Network, a collection of private businesses that have committed through the Clinton Global Initiative to spend $500 million on projects in Haiti. He and his company just built 150 schools and rebuilt Port-au-Prince's historic Iron Market.

"I don't know any modern leader that has spent more time helping a country and being so effective," O'Brien said of Bill Clinton. "He works like a demon in the developing world. Nobody is doing that. Is Tony Blair doing that?"

Other Clinton-backed projects have not delivered on lofty promises: A 2011 housing expo that cost more than $2 million, including $500,000 from the Clinton Foundation, was supposed to be a model for thousands of new units but instead has resulted in little more than a few dozen abandoned model homes occupied by squatters.

Controversy surrounding the Clintons only deepened with the recent revelation, contained in an upcoming book by Peter Schweizer, that Tony Rodham — Hillary Clinton's younger brother — serves on the advisory board of a U.S.-based company that in 2012 won one of Haiti's first two gold-mining permits in 50 years. After objection from the Haitian senate, the permits have been placed on hold.

"Neither Bill Clinton nor the brother of Hillary Clinton are individuals who share the interests of the Haitian people," said Samuel Nesner, an anti-mining activist who thinks mining poses great environmental risks and will mainly benefit foreign investors. "They are part of the elite class who are operating to exploit the Haitian people."

Clinton Foundation officials said Bill Clinton had been unaware of Rodham's involvement in the mine project. A spokesman for Hillary Clinton said she does not know the chief executive of the mine.

"I strongly believe the Clintons came to Haiti in good faith and they wanted to have an impact," said Jean-Max Bellerive, who was Haiti's prime minister at the time of the earthquake and served as co-chairman with Bill Clinton on the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission. (Bellerive is also on the mining company's advisory board.)

But, Bellerive said, the former president was hampered by a "weak" staff of American aides who were "more interested in supporting Clinton than helping Haiti." Echoing a common sentiment in Haiti, Bellerive also said Clinton should have listened more carefully to the opinions and needs of ordinary Haitians. "How do you want a guy coming from Davos or Dubai to get the real feeling for what's happening downstairs?" he said.

Milne, of the Clinton Foundation, said the criticism is wrong and unsurprising.

"President Clinton is one of the most dedicated and highest-profile advocates for Haiti, and he is still engaged while others have moved on," he said. "So it's not surprising that for some he is an easy target for natural frustration that the change we all want isn't happening faster."

Milne said the country has experienced strong economic growth in recent years, with more Haitians employed and more children in school.

"Is Haiti building back better?" Milne said, using a phrase that the Clintons frequently quote. "In many ways yes, though challenges remain."

Paul Farmer, a doctor whose Partners in Health has helped provide medical care in rural Haiti since the 1980s and whose health network has received more than $1.8 million from the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund to establish a medical residency program, also praised the Clintons' work. He said he forged partnerships at CGI meetings with private businesses and other charities for a variety of projects he said would not have taken place without the Clinton connection.

He said that by any objective measure, Haiti has been improving, in part because of the Clintons' efforts.

"Is the whole country built back better? I doubt it," Farmer said. "Water insecurity and food insecurity are very pressing problems. But if you look at the health statistics for Haiti . . . infant mortality, child mortality — they're all improving."

Still, even some who have benefited from Clinton-backed programs have grown disillusioned.

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"I read that Bill Clinton is the most popular politician in America, but he couldn't get elected mayor in Haiti today," said Jacky Lumarque, rector of Quisqueya University, a private school that was largely damaged in the earthquake and received $914,000 from the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund to create an entrepreneurship center.

Lumarque said the program has helped hundreds of Haitians turn their informal street businesses into formal entities that keep records, pay taxes and have potential for growth.

He said it has been a huge success — but stands apart from the usual strategy of foreign groups, including the Clintons, who tend to favor projects imposed by well-meaning foreigners that are more "about Haiti" than "for Haiti."

The entrepreneurship center, Lumarque said, "is an example of what Clinton can do, in spite of himself."

[Foreign governments gave millions to Clintons' foundation]

When Bill Clinton came here late last month to help inaugurate the new Marriott, he made a side trip by helicopter to Haiti's central plateau to have a look at a Clinton-backed program that is revolutionizing the peanut-farming industry.

The Acceso Peanut Enterprise Corp. was started with a $1.25 million grant from the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, which is headed by Bill Clinton and Canadian mining executive and philanthropist Frank Giustra, as well as the charitable foundation of Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim.

Acceso buys feed, fertilizer and fungicide at bulk rates, then sells them to farmers for far less than normal prices. Acceso also hires tractors for farmers who otherwise would be using an ox and plow.

Robert Johnson, an American who runs the program, said the improvements are vastly increasing yields, quality and farmers' profits.

He said Acceso worked with about 1,000 farmers last year and bought about 120 metric tons of peanuts. This year, it expects to triple the number of farmers and buy almost five times as many nuts.

At least half of Acceso's sales have gone to two large Haitian factories that produce a peanut-based paste that is given to malnourished children. Most of the rest goes to local peanut-butter producers, he said.

The program's success, Johnson said, comes from its market-driven approach: It's not a charity, it's a business with a charitable purpose.

"We're building something that is going to be sustainable," he said. "We talk to the farmers. We're not going to just bring in something that someone thought up in Davos."

The program is now branching out into lime production, and Clinton visited a site last month where thousands of lime seedlings are being cultivated by dozens of workers.

Benel Auguste, 32, is one of the small landowners who rented his plot, about a third of an acre, to Acceso to plant limes. "It's a good idea; it's going to work," he said. "We know limes and we need them. We can do this."

The Clintons also were enthusiastic backers of the Caracol Industrial Park, which was built on 600 acres of farmland just east of the Caribbean port city of Cap-Haitien.

They agreed with economists, particularly Oxford University development specialist Paul Collier, who concluded that Haiti is an ideal place to create mass jobs in garment factories because of its proximity to the United States, favorable trade agreements and cheap labor.

The Clintons helped Haitian officials identify Sae-A Trading Co., which operates factories across the developing world and sews garments for giants such as Target, Gap and Wal-Mart, as a potential major investor.

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, along with top aide Cheryl Mills, lobbied for the project with South Korean officials and hosted Sae-A executives in Washington to press the plan.

Bill Clinton attended the Sae-A contract-signing ceremony in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 11, 2011 — a day before the first anniversary of the earthquake. He later laid the first stone of the park's construction. And then in October 2012, the Clintons, Martelly and other officials attended the ribbon-cutting.

Speaking to a group of investors at the ceremony, officials and celebrities that included actors Sean Penn and Ben Stiller and business moguls Donna Karan and Richard Branson, Hillary Clinton said it represented "a new day for Haiti and a new model for how the international community practices development."

"Haiti is truly open for business, and we want your help," she said. "We see this partnership between governments like our own and the private sector as absolutely essential in promoting and supporting long-term prosperity in Haiti. We know very well that long-term prosperity cannot come from just the provision of aid; there must be trade and investment like we have seen here today."

Today, Sae-A employs about 4,500 people. Company spokesman Lon Garwood said the operation has been steadily growing and will open a new facility next month. Henri-Claude Müller-Poitevien, a Haitian government official who works the apparel industry, said the Caracol project is on schedule and continues to expand.

A power plant was built, but plans for a new port at the industrial park to carry finished goods to the United States have been shelved. Residents of the plant's housing project say their land floods when it rains, and few said they think the plant will ever create the number of jobs originally promised.

"I believe that the momentum to attract people there in a massive way is past," said Bellerive, the former prime minister. "You can do interesting things with Caracol, but you have to reinvent the concept. Today, it has failed."

Each morning, crowds line up outside the park's big front gate, which is guarded by four men in crisp, khaki uniforms carrying shotguns. They wait in a sliver of shade next to a cinder-block wall, many holding résumés in envelopes. Most said they have been coming every day for months, waiting for jobs that pay about $5 a day.

From his envelope, Jean Mito Palvetus, 27, pulled out a diploma attesting that he had completed 200 hours of USAID training on an industrial sewing machine.

"I have three kids and a wife, and I can't support them," he said, sweating in the hot morning sun. "I have a diploma, but I still can't get a job here. I still have nothing."

Tom Hamburger in Washington contributed to this report.

From: NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 7:59 PM
To: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <grruncom@aol.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, Dennis Cheng <d.cheng@me.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Stories Update

Hi Everyone,

Now that we're hopefully reaching a place of relative sanity again, I wanted to take a minute to send everyone a quick update on what's brewing in the press. We'll institutionalize a system going forward, but for the moment let me just run through a few things.

First, Amy Chozick at the NYT is writing a piece on Robby. He didn't talk to her for the piece but we sent some people her way. Looks like it will trace his life a little, have some colorful factoids in it (apparently Robby loves polo shirts), and based on the intel we have, the more irritating parts will be a look at how the wide web of Clintonland will be kept at bay, including WJC's office. To help on that last point Amy talked to Tina Flournoy last night who was fantastic.

Second, the Washington Post is working on a Haiti story about the Clintons' work there, either via the Department of State or the Clinton Foundation. It could run as early as Monday, and will be a look at the progress (or in their view the lack thereof) and what the Clintons' role in it has been. I'm working closely with the Foundation on the response.

Related, there are some other Foundation-related stories in the offing, so I will keep people posted on that front.

Finally, we've been going back and forth with TIME about a particular component of their piece on Thursday that claimed no one read many of the emails, implication being that the search parameters outlined in the Q&A were applied and anything that didn't show up in them was discarded as "personal." We've pushed back pretty hard and gone on the record telling them that they are wrong. We are also hoping to put the counter-narrrative out there with the help of Laura Meckler at the WSJ, which I'll send when it posts. Will keep everyone posted on this front as well.

Nick

As a postscript, please enjoy this courtesy of John A:

http://www.newyorker.com/humor/borowitz-report/hillary-releases-twenty-thousand-spam-e-mails-from-old-navy

Hillary Releases Twenty Thousand Spam E-Mails from Old Navy

WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report)—Hoping to quell the controversy over e-mails missing from her private account, the former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday released twenty thousand spam e-mails she received from Old Navy.

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"In an effort to be transparent, I have gone above and beyond what is required of me by law and released every last e-mail I received from this retailer," she told reporters. "Now I think we can all consider this case closed."

The e-mails reveal an extensive one-way correspondence between Clinton and Old Navy, as the retailer sometimes contacted her up to a dozen times in a single day to inform her of sales and other offers.

"This is one of the main reasons I set up a private e-mail account," she said. "I did not want spam from Old Navy clogging up the State Department servers."

But if the former Secretary of State thought that she could end the controversy swirling around her e-mail account by releasing the Old Navy spam, she may have miscalculated.

Representative Trey Gowdy, the Republican chairman of the House Benghazi select committee, questioned why Clinton would let twenty thousand spam e-mails from Old Navy accumulate rather than simply unsubscribe. "It doesn't pass the smell test," he said.

Responding to that allegation, Clinton said, "I want the American people to know that, on multiple occasions, I tried to unsubscribe from Old Navy, and my requests were ignored. The most frustrating part of this whole affair is that I've never even bought anything from Old Navy."

Get news satire from The Borowitz Report delivered to your inbox.

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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/30/2015 3:45:09 PM
Subject: Re: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS

Isn't it up to Bernie to define socialism?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Jul 30, 2015, at 10:42 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Lord
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jul 30, 2015, at 11:30 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > This may require us to articulate the difference bt us and Bernie sooner than we thought.
> >
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: **Lily Adams** <ladams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Date: Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 11:25 PM
> > Subject: Fwd: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS
> > To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >
> >
> > This exchange is making the rounds.
> >
> > **CHRIS MATTHEWS:** whatever is the difference between a democrat and a socialist? i used to think there is a big difference. what do you think it is?
> >
> > **DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:** the difference between –
> >
> > **CHRIS MATTHEWS:** a democrat like hillary and a socialist between bernie sanders. what's the big difference between a democrat and a socialist? you're chairman of the democratic party. tell me the difference.
> >
> > **DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:** the relevant debate we'll be having what's the difference between a democrat and a republican.
> >
> > **CHRIS MATTHEWS:** i think there's a huge difference.
> >
> > ---------
> > Lily Adams
> > cell: (202) 368-4013
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: Batul Contractor <bcontractor@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 30, 2015 at 9:21:40 PM CDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS

MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, 7.30.15.

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a9a0ef9d-da00-4992-9b3a-2dbec93c46ac

Rough Transcript:

CHRIS MATTHEWS: of course, that was florida congresswoman debby wasserman schultz in 2008. not long ago. now hillary clinton is running again and debby is the chair of the democratic committee. a long primary campaign will only erode the benefit democrats are poised to reap from the republicans' free for all. i'm convince that had a prolonged debate will do us more harm than good. is he right? are we better off with bernie noise against hillary or better off without him?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i think eventually the nominee of both parties benefits from having the muscle that they need exercised throughout a primary. i think it atrophies if you don't get to discuss it. i think it is healthy to have a debate throughout the contest. i don't think we'll have a terribly long one.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: hillary clinton will probably win in iowa. new hampshire will be very close. there could be an upset. won't that hurt to the left? further left than she would want to go? won't that weaken her in the general?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: what will happen throughout the primary and the republican party. the contrast will be extremely clear. that any of our candidates, hillary clinton, hillary clinton, bernie sanders, lincoln chafee, any of them, will focus on moving our country forward. continuing job growth that we've had under president obama for more than five straight years. we were at 750 jobs a year.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: so he can beat jeb bush? linoln chafee? come on.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the american people are with democrats.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: do you want to see bernie sanders speak at the democratic convention? do you want him up there?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: do you want him on the floor of the convention?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders has been a good democrat. caucuses with the democrats.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: she speak in prime time? with everybody watching?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders represents, we are a big time –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: so the answer is yes.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: said yes. i can say yes again.

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CHRIS MATTHEWS: in prime time.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i don't know what time he should speak.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: maybe when nobody is watching, you mean.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: no. of course he should speak. he should speak in a slot where the appeal that he has across the board, the progressive, pop list message that he has that resonates deeply and widely with the american people, not just democrats, absolutely that should be featured. the difference between us and the republicans, we are really a big party.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: whatever is the difference between a democrat and a socialist? i used to think there is a big difference. what do you think it is?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the difference between –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: a democrat like hillary and a socialist between bernie sanders. what's the big difference between a democrat and a socialist? you're chairman of the democratic party. tell me the difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the relevant debate we'll be having what's the difference between a democrat and a republican.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i think there's a huge difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: different between a democrat and republican is that democrats fight to make sure everybody has an opportunity to succeed. and the republicans are strangled by their right wing extremists. so where, we're watching them debate. phasing out medicare. and a candidate who actually said that president obama would march israelis to the ovens. that's the kind of debate going on on their side on. our side, we're talking about the best way that we can make sure every american has a chance to reach the middle class.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: are you in or out of the deal? the nuclear deal?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i'm taking my time to really know that deal well. i'm going to go home and talk to my constituents.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i'm with you on that. let me ask you a tough question. if you vote it down, it is a -- if the congress votes it down. then you basically voted a vote of no confidence against president's foreign policy. the weird things is those on the right would say now we'll cut a better deal. how can they trust obama cut a better deal if they knock down the only plan?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the problem i see with people opposed to the deal, the republicans, i think, have been very irresponsible. where they're unilaterally immediately –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: they're not looking at it.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i have the. the number one decision, what is the most likely scenario that prevents iran from getting a nuclear women -- nuclear weapon. to make sure we can draw contrast and reemphasize support to make sure everyone has access to health care throughout the entirety of their lives. before medicare, seniors faced medical bankruptcy, families were medically bankrupt. republicans like jeb bush would phase out medicare. every republican on the other side why.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: that's a solid argument. thank you. debby wasserman schultz.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/13/2015 6:40:50 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday February 13, 2015 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday February 13, 2015 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton stressed the need for affordable childcare for middle-class economic empowerment #HRC365 http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/220354-hillary-clinton-returns-to-stump-championing-workers-and-women … [2/12/15, 6:02 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Fox News Plagiarizes RNC's Hillary Clinton Attack Campaign"

"Fox & Friends ripped off the Republican National Committee's latest hit job on Hillary Clinton, building an entire segment around the GOP's specious 'Where's Hillary?' campaign without disclosing the source."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton pens bipartisan oped for children's health care"

"Hillary Clinton teamed up with Republican former Sen. Bill Frist in a New York Times op-ed published in Friday's edition that urged Congress to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton thinks Europe 'too wimpy' with Putin, London mayor says"

"Johnson said that he was impressed by the likely Democratic presidential candidate's 'brilliant mastery' of foreign policy."

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Washington Times: "Marco Rubio: As 'architect' of Obama foreign policy, Hillary Clinton has 'tremendous liabilities'"

"Sen. Marco Rubio, Florida Republican, predicted Friday that if former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton runs for president, her record as the nation's chief diplomat will play a central role — to her detriment."

Articles:

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Fox News Plagiarizes RNC's Hillary Clinton Attack Campaign"

By Sophia Tesfaye

February 13, 2015

[Subtitle:] From The RNC To FNC: The Conservative Media Pipeline For GOP Attacks

Fox & Friends ripped off the Republican National Committee's latest hit job on Hillary Clinton, building an entire segment around the GOP's specious "Where's Hillary?" campaign without disclosing the source.

"Where in the world is Hillary Clinton?" Fox & Friends co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck asked Thursday. "It's been 204 days since her last press conference and 186 days since her last interview," and according to Hasselbeck, "Hillary seems to be in hiding."

Hasselbeck's report is ripped straight from a Republican National Committee (RNC) memo announcing its "Hillary's Hiding" campaign. That campaign, launched two days before the Fox & Friends segment, purports to "keep asking, 'Where's Hillary?'" and focuses on the number of days since Clinton's last press conference and interview. At no point did Hasselbeck credit the RNC for the concept that framed her segment.

As Slate noted, the RNC's campaign got "a rather large unpaid push from" right-wing media, which quickly adopted the campaign's attacks. The conservative Drudge Report, Washington Free Beacon and Weekly Standard blog amplified the RNC attacks. Rush Limbaugh mimicked the attacks, while Fox News' Sean Hannity even credited himself with inspiring the RNC's ads.

[VIDEO]

Fox News has a history of adopting GOP talking points as their own. In October 2013, Fox & Friends aired a video attacking the Obama administration over the faulty launch of Healthcare.gov that was strikingly similar to a then just-released RNC attack.

The Republican opposition research group America Rising launched a campaign similar to the RNC's on February 6 entitled, "Hiding Hillary." As Politico noted, "the similarity indicates Republicans' universal wish to combat Clinton's candidacy early on."

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CNN: "Hillary Clinton pens bipartisan oped for children's health care"

By Dan Merica

February 13, 2015, 11:16 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton teamed up with Republican former Sen. Bill Frist in a New York Times op-ed published in Friday's edition that urged Congress to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Invoking her new status as a grandmother, Clinton wrote that she and Frist were "concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program."

"We may be from different political parties, but both of us have dedicated our careers to supporting the health of children and their families," Clinton and Frist wrote. "This isn't about politics. It's about our kids and our nation's future. What could be more important than that?"

The CHIP program was enacted in 1997, while Clinton was first lady and Frist was senator from Tennessee. It currently provides around 10 million children and families who don't qualify them for Medicaid with affordable health coverage. CHIP funding currently runs out in September.

Senate Democrats have started their own push to reauthorize the program through 2019, but some are concerned current gridlock in Washington will make it difficult to pass the plan.

"While reauthorization is not due until the end of September, Congress needs to act now" wrote Clinton and Frist. "With more than four-fifths of state legislatures adjourning by the end of June, lack of action and clarity from Washington by then will make budgeting and planning virtually impossible."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton thinks Europe 'too wimpy' with Putin, London mayor says"

By Stephen Collinson

February 13, 2015, 9:15 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is worried that European governments are being "too wimpy" in dealing with Russian President Vladimir Putin, London's mayor Boris Johnson said Friday.

Johnson, on a trade mission to the United States, said that he was struck by the former secretary of state's insistence that Europe must do more to stand up to the Russian leader over Ukraine.

"One thing in particular she really wanted to get across -- that was she thought the Europeans were being too wimpy in dealing with Putin," Johnson said, at a Politico Playbook Breakfast event in Washington.

Stressing he was not quoting Clinton word for word, two days after meeting her in New York, Johnson said that he was impressed by the likely Democratic presidential candidate's "brilliant mastery" of foreign policy.

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"She thought in particular that we in Britain should be less dependent on Russian hyrdrocarbons and she thought we should get on with seeking alternative sources," Johnson said.

"Her general anxiety was that Putin, if unchallenged and unchecked, would continue to expand his influence in the perimeter of what was the Soviet Union. I was very, very struck by that."

"I was struck by the firmness with which she wanted us in Britain to stick it, to take it to Putin," he said, once again underlining he was not using Clinton's exact words but offering a "brutal summary" of what she said.

The flamboyant Johnson, while remaining mayor of London, is running for a seat in parliament at the next UK general election in May, and has long been tipped as a future leader of the Conservative Party and possible future prime minister.

Washington Times: "Marco Rubio: As 'architect' of Obama foreign policy, Hillary Clinton has 'tremendous liabilities'"

By David Sherfinski

February 13, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio, Florida Republican, predicted Friday that if former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton runs for president, her record as the nation's chief diplomat will play a central role — to her detriment.

"We are very blessed as a party to have a lot of quality people who are thinking about running," Mr. Rubio said on WHO Newsradio 1040 in Iowa. "I mean, compare that to the Democrats and their very weak bench."

Mr. Rubio was in the early presidential state Friday for a book-signing event at a local Barnes and Noble for his new book, "American Dreams."

"I mean, even their front-runner, Hillary Clinton, has significant challenges ahead," he said. "I think she's going to try to run on the claim that she was the secretary of state and did a great job, and there's no way you can argue that America today is safer or more respected on the global stage than they were five years ago.

"And she wasn't just a supporter of Barack Obama's foreign policy — she was its architect and its implementer," he continued. "So she's got tremendous liabilities."

Mr. Rubio also reiterated that the prospective 2016 candidacy of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush isn't going to affect his own decision-making on a possible presidential run.

"If I decide to run, it won't be against Jeb Bush — it'll be because I believe that this is the right place for me to serve our country at this time in its history, in my life, and in my career, and [that] I have something unique to contribute to that debate," he said.

"It doesn't change my feelings about him or his service to our state and country in the past. … He was a good governor," Mr. Rubio said, adding that some people argue Mr. Bush was the best governor the state ever had.

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From: "Gary Ritterstein" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/20/2012 6:10:39 PM
Subject: so scared

John,

We haven't been on TV with our positive ad for much more than a week and our opponent is already on the attack.

That's right -- Corporate Congressman Robert Hurt has spent his career in politics, and apparently has nothing good to show for it. Instead, he's reintroducing himself to voters by taking pathetic, cheap shots at General Douglass's advocacy for American aerospace policies that create jobs in states like Virginia.

Now we're ready to show voters why Hurt is running so scared -- he's afraid of us exposing his dangerous ties to uranium mining in the district.

Check out our new ad and help keep it on the air with a contribution right away!

Even though our opponent won't do anything to stop uranium mining, General Douglass will take action because he believes our public safety comes first.

Help us warn voters about Hurt and his financial ties to uranium investors before it's too late.

Thanks for all that you do.

--Gary Ritterstein
Campaign Manager
John Douglass for Congress

Paid for by John Douglass for Congress

This email was sent to: john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, you can update your information here. We believe that emails are a vital way for the campaign to stay in direct contact with supporters. Click **here** if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/26/2015 12:52:29 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.26.15
Attachments:	H4A 5.26.15 Clips.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 26, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday Hillary Clinton and President Clinton made their first joint appearance since the campaign launch at the Chappaqua Memorial Day Parade.

Senator Bernie Sanders will officially announce for President today. He said not to underestimate him, citing his record of winning unexpected races. The media immediately positioned Sanders as the candidate for the "Warren Wing" of the Democratic party to embrace.

An article from Bloomberg speculates that Hillary Clinton will run against President Clinton's welfare legacy saying, DC-based and national outlets have begun covering the fallout for the health care market and the burden on Congress if the Supreme Court overturns the ACA in the upcoming ruling.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Clintons march in Mem orial Day parade // CNN // Dan Merica – May 25, 2015

Bill and Hillary Clinton had two goals during Monday's Memorial Day parade in Chappaqua: Honor the men and women who lost their lives at war and not talk about the 2016 campaign.

Monday's Memorial Day parade was the first public event the Clintons have attended together since Hillary Clinton announced her campaign in April. The couple has tried to walk in the New Castle Memorial Day Parade every y ear since they moved to the Norman Rockwell-esque New York hamlet in 1999.

Clinton was followed by a small group of reporters who walked in front and around the presidential candidate for the about three-quarters of a mile parade route, while well-wishers on the sidewalk waved 2016 signs and shouted words of encouragement to the former secretary of state.

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"Hillary 2016," read one sign. "POTUS at last."

Clinton, however, wanted to deflect attention away from the presidential race.

"This parade's not about that," Clinton said when asked about the signs. "This parade is about honoring those we've lost. That's what I want to keep focused on and make sure that we pay proper respect to our veterans and especially those who lost their lives."

Clinton said that parade was a "wonderful tradition."

"It is a good way to remember our veterans and particularly those who gave their lives or were griev ously injured," she said. "This is a way of demonstrating that they are not forgotten and we are going to continue doing everything we can to make sure we honor their sacrifice and commitment."

Bill Clinton, too, declined to answer a question about how he thought the campaign was going.

"I don't know," he said with a laugh. "I'm in my foundation."

"Ask them," he said, pointing to Clinton's campaign aides walking with her.

For the first two months of the campaign, Hillary Clinton has campaigned without her former president husband. Instead, Bill Clinton has spent most of his time focused on the Clinton Foundation, including a nearly two-week trip to Africa.

The parade, while not a campaign event, did look like one. Clinton campaign staffers set up a volunteer recruitment table and were handing out stickers.

Hillary Clinton, sporting an American flag scarf, took selfies and shook hands with people who lined up to meet her. She greeted local town politicians and sat next to Rep. Nita Lowey at the ceremony after the parade.

Jim McCauley, the grand marshall of the parade, spent much of the event shouting at reporters to get out of the way.

"Move guys! Get on the sidewalk," McCauley said.

"Get them in line," Hillary Clinton joked.

Even though the horde of reporters changed the feel of the event, most in attendance were thankful for the Clintons attending.

"Every year I get an opportunity, I thank them for marching in the parade," said Rev. Larry Holland from Grace Baptist Church. "I'll be honest with you, I've lived in Westchester for a long time. No one knew Chappaqua until they moved here. We call it an honor."

The White House has released enough Benghazi documents to cover half a football field **// Vox //**
Christophe Haubursin

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The State Department turned over 900 pages of Hillary Clinton's private emails Friday to a House special committee investigating the Benghazi attacks of 2011. The documents join 40,000 pages the White House has handed over to Congress already. The volume is enormous.

Benghazi documents would cover half of a football field.

The volume of information produced by this case ends up giving comfort to both sides of the fight: Republicans believe a smoking gun must be hidden in reams of documents, while Democrats point to the continued demand for documents, given how much has been made available and how little wrongdoing has been found, as proof this is a partisan witch hunt.

Regardless, the investigation will continue on Capitol Hill and dog Clinton on the trail as she campaigns for the Democratic nomination.

Where the media loves Hillary Clinton // Politico // Hadas Gold – May 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton may feel like the press hounds and harasses her, but there's one segment of the media from which she's getting the kind of coverage you just can't buy: women's magazines.

Better known for features like "10 ways to flatten your tummy" and lush fashion spreads, the magazines have been hiring well-connected Washington women lately in the hopes that having an inside political track will position them for could be a historic White House run.

They've also ramped up their interest in politics, delving into hot-button issues like abortion rights and gay marriage and profiling members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. But a POLITICO review of several of the magazines' past few months of coverage suggests that readers will be getting a heavy dose of liberal cheerleading this campaign season along with their skincare, makeup and fashion tips.

"We're thrilled that Hillary is in the race," said Marie Claire Editor-in-Chief Anne Fulenwider, whose May issue included an entire section on the women who run Washington. "We'd love to see a woman president for the United States."

Clinton, a fashionista in her own right who counted herself among famed designer Oscar de la Renta's friends, already has a natural home among women's magazines and their mostly liberal audiences. But the reporting and writing often veers beyond alignment and into outright boosterism — if not of Clinton herself, then of Democrats and the progressive causes they identify with.

Take Vogue. In the past few months, the magazine — whose fabled editor, Anna Wintour, is an unabashed Clinton fan and has even taken her shopping — has featured John Kerry, a book about the first lady, and a feature on the first gay male White House social secretary, Jeremy Barnard. Clinton was the first first lady to appear on the magazine's cover and has appeared in the magazine at least seven times.

"I can only hope that all of you here in Little Rock will be celebrating her come November 2016," Wintour said as she introduced Clinton at an event in Arkansas in 2013. "Just as all of us, all of us at Vogue, look forward to putting on the cover the first female president of the United States."

Elle has seen perhaps the most Clinton action in its pages recently, with a Gucci-clad Chelsea gracing the cover the same week her mother announced her candidacy — a coincidence, Editor-in-Chief Robbie Myers said — along with several online articles on everything from how Clinton's inner circle is dominated by women to "12 Times Hillary Clinton showed us exactly who she is" ("brave, feminist, and unapologetic").

It's enough to make Republicans scream.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

“I just hope that these editors, which in my experience tend to be very liberal women, can take their blinders off and can see that there are lots of conservative issues women can embrace and lots of conservative women who can be celebrated,” said Katie Packer Gage, a top campaign aide for Mitt Romney’s failed 2012 presidential bid.

The magazines don’t ignore the GOP. Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, Reps. Elise Stefanik, Martha McSally, Martha Roby and Jaime Herrera Beutler hav e all been featured in print or online over the past few months. In previous years, Vogue has written about Laura Bush, Condoleezza Rice, Nikki Haley, Sarah Palin, Rand Paul and other Republicans. And as the cy cle gets moving, more GOP women will probably be covered. But you’re not likely to see articles defending the Supreme Court’s Hobby Lobby decision, or arguments against federal regulations requiring equal pay for women.

Of all the top women’s magazines, Cosmopolitan and Marie Claire cover politics most intensely — both host stand-alone politics sections on their websites. Cosmopolitan has a full-time politics writer; last October, Cosmo announced a get-out-the-v ote campaign and even began endorsing candidates (though Editor Joanna Coles said the endorsements would be limited to the midterms). Marie Claire has hired former White House deputy chief of staff Alyssa Mastromonaco and former Jill Biden aide Courtney O’Donnell as contributors, while Glamour hired Giovanna Gray Lockhart, a former aide to Sen. Kristen Gillibrand and wife to former Clinton White House press secretary Joe Lockhart.

Coles, whose recent issue includes a feature on female senators, has been perhaps the most vocal about only backing candidates who are abortion-rights supporters and fav or equal pay and mandatory insurance coverage for contraception. But she was actually a bit more subdued about Clinton, saying that while “there’s a lot of excitement” about the former secretary of state among Cosmo readers, there’s also some anxiety over her perceiv ed inevitability.

“It’s incredibly interesting to us watching the first female presidential candidate with a real shot,” Coles said in an interview. “I don’t think we think that differently from rest of media on this, but the fact she has been the first women running as president really seriously with a serious shot is v ery interesting, as a moment of history .”

Clinton deserves some credit for getting more politics into women’s magazines, Glamour Editor-in-Chief Cindi Leive said.

“When we first started three cycles ago, we really had to persuade the politicians to be in the magazine — we had to go through the whole eye-roll, ‘Ugh, is this going to be about fashion, are you going to do her do’s and don’t’s?’ Now, I don’t get any of that,” Leive said.

But Leive, whose magazine featured Michelle Obama on its May cov er, pushed back against the idea that women’s magazines lean left.

“I think there’s a misconception that fashion or women’s fashion magazines lean one way, that we’re Democrats. So part of our coverage that we really adhere to is a fairness and a philosophy of being pro-woman, nonpartisan,” she said, noting that last fall she interviewed Stefanik and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.). “We have 20 million print and online readers, and these are women whose political v iews are not monolithic. We keep that top of mind when it comes to our coverage of Washington and politics.”

The magazines know they’re not publishing the most serious political profiles. They tend to focus more on the personal stories behind the candidate, or what it’s like being a powerful woman, than on their policies or positions on major issues.

“I don’t want to pretend we’re doing some huge, in-depth political coverage,” Coles said, hastening to add that Cosmo’s readers still care about serious topics like the economy or foreign policy . “But so much of that is covered in the mainstream media, so where we’ve been focused is on issues that particularly engage our reader,” she said.

Covering politicians, especially women politicians, can lead to certain pitfalls, as “Saturday Night Live” comedian Cecily Strong made clear during the White House Correspondents’ Dinner last month when she demanded that reporters pledge not to report on Clinton’s appearance.

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“What you never want to do is to go into a situation with a preconceiv ed idea of the outcome, and you never want to go into an interview with a politician with a preconceived sense of what the conversation will be,” Coles said. “We have to be as vigilant as ev erybody else and at Cosmo we are, actually.”

For Myers, the Elle editor-in-chief, focusing on a candidate’s image is a gender-neutral endeav or.

“It’s so funny to me, but we talk about a man’s image too, meaning, ‘Oh, he’s scrappy or he’s a natty dresser, or he clearly has invested in botox’ or whatever,” Myers said.

She pointed to a recent Elle story on Clinton. “There was not a lot of undue attention to the way she looked. When you talk about her image, it’s a much broader word — how does she come across, communicate to people.”

The magazines boast enormous audiences, especially among the younger women whom Clinton’s camp has alway s counted on for support — millions of readers, according to Hearst, which owns Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire and Elle. Cosmo reports its “reach” (an audience measure combining print and digital readers) to be 53 million, Glamour’s about 28 million, Vogue’s at 28 million, Elle at 21 million.

It’s a hugely important demographic for Clinton and Republican rivals, too: According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, women have cast 4 million to 7 million more votes than men in recent elections. Additionally , a higher proportion of women under the age of 44 voted in the past four presidential elections. That pattern is reversed among older v oters. The main audience of these magazines? Young women.

“These are not typically women who are sitting at home at 6 p.m. at night watching the evening news,” Gage said. “They’re not sitting and watching Sunday morning shows. You have to reach them where they’re at.”

Will Hillary Clinton Run Against Her Husband’s Welfare Legacy? // Bloom berg // Melinda Henneberger - May 26, 2015

In a campaign focused on inequality, Bill Clinton's famous pledge to "end welfare as we know it" is liable to be a central focus.

Almost 20 years ago, when Bill Clinton made good on his campaign promise to “end welfare as we know it,’’ some of his oldest friends were beside themselves. The plan, as originally conceived, had been to pump significantly more money into programs designed to move poor single mothers off of assistance and into jobs, which couldn’t be done on the cheap. Yes, Clinton had proposed a strict time limit on benefits, but he had also pledged to “make work pay.” As it turned out, only one of those two things happened.

On August 22, 1996, Clinton proudly signed a Republican bill that pushed recipients out of the program after five years and ended an entitlement in place since the New Deal. “In a sweeping reversal of Federal policy , the New York Times story on the event began, “President Clinton today ended six decades of guaranteed help to the nation's poorest children.”

The bill wasn’t the solo handiwork of then House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who had proposed sending poor children to orphanages. Rather, a Democratic president with political capital to spare was freely approving what many in his party saw as a baldly punitiv e bill. And Hillary Clinton, who in this early phase of her campaign has made "the-deck-is-stacked" inequality a central focus, was fully in support.

“You can put wings on a pig, but you can’t make it an eagle.”

Clinton's signing of the bill was a source of near-physical pain to someone like Peter Edelman, then Clinton’s assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, who as a speechwriter for Robert Kennedy had penned one of the earliest liberal critiques of welfare’s shortcomings, in 1967 . RFK’s proposed antidote, however, had been a massive jobs program. Edelman had known Hillary Clinton since 1969, when he’d put her in touch with his wife, Marian Wright

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Edelman, who became her mentor and employer at the anti-poverty organization she'd just founded, the Children's Defense Fund.

After Clinton signed the legislation, Edelman and his Health and Human Serv ices colleague Mary Jo Bane, both of whom had been brought into the administration as advocates of a very different brand of welfare reform, did what few in Washington ever do—they resigned in protest. In an "Open Letter to the President'' published in the Washington Post, Marian Wright Edelman called it a "moment of shame" for her old friends and their party.

The Edelmans weren't the only ones who were alarmed. New York's Daniel Patrick Moy nihan, whose U.S. Senate seat Hillary Clinton later filled, warned that children would be sleeping on hot-air grates if Clinton signed the bill. The liberal icon Paul Simon, of Illinois, said, "This isn't welfare reform; it's welfare denial."

The pain was all the sharper because the consensus among Clinton's aides, both those who supported and opposed the bill, was that the move was not politically necessary. Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos told the president that he did not have to sign the bill to be reelected, but was far enough ahead of GOP nominee Bob Dole that he'd win in November either way .

Two decades later, much of the left feels that Moynihan, Simon, Bane and the Edelmans have been proven right: In the early years, in a strong economy, many single moms did move from welfare to work. "When people think about welfare reform as a success, that's what they're talking about,'' says LaDonna Pavetti, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. But since 2000, those gains have slipped away, until "now we're almost back to where we started."

There's no question that a smaller percentage of Americans are getting the help they need: In 1996, 68 of every 100 families living in poverty received cash assistance. Today , only 26 of 1 00 do, and in 10 states, that number is under 10. Because federal aid is no longer guaranteed to anyone living in poverty, states can simply make it harder to qualify for help, and then point to the low number of people they're serving as a measure of success.

Bruce Reed was the Clinton aide who wrote the phrase "end welfare as we know it" in one of his earliest presidential campaign speeches, and he still believes that the reform worked. "It was one of President Clinton's proudest achievements," Reed says, "moving 7 million people out of pov erty in those 8 y ears—100 times more than Reagan did'' during his two terms in office.

Reed's figures are correct. But digging into the numbers, a more complicated picture emerges. For one thing, 40 percent of those on welfare did not get a job, even in the early years.

"It did increase the work rate among never-married mothers,'' says the Brookings Institution's Ron Haskins, a Republican who helped write the welfare reform bill, "but that peaked in 2000 and has never gotten back to there because of three recessions."

What's more, as Haskins notes, the rate of extreme or deep poverty—defined as living on around $2 a day—has actually increased slightly: "There is a group at the bottom who are not better off. In the old days, they could stay on welfare forever, and now, any mom who does not have the ability to maintain her household and work at the same time is going to have trouble."

In a campaign focused on both income inequality and the opportunity gap, how Hillary Clinton engages with her husband's record on poverty and the safety net is liable to become a central question. And both Clintons have already said they've changed their minds on other issues that were central to his presidency . They no longer stand by his administration's record on criminal justice—especially the mandatory sentencing guidelines that filled prisons and hollowed out communities—or on gay rights, which were seen so differently by much of the public two decades ago.

But welfare reform was to the Clinton administration what health care reform is to Obama's; despite the controv ersy, it's always been considered a signature achievement. At the time, there was no discernible daylight between the Clintons on the bill he signed. "I think her views were like his," says Reed—"that the Republicans were wrong to play politics with extraneous cuts, but that there were good aspects of the welfare reform bill," including stepped-up child support enforcement, which made it, on balance, something to be proud of. Reed notes that most of the cuts to immigrants' benefits in the bill were later restored.

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In Hillary Clinton's first memoir, "Living History," published in 2003, she wrote at some length about the fight over welfare reform. Clinton had vetoed the first two bills that hit his desk, but when the third one passed, she wrote, "I agreed that he should sign it and worked hard to round up votes for its passage—though he and the legislation were roundly criticized by some liberals, advocacy groups for immigrants and most people who worked with the welfare system ... I was most concerned with the five-year lifetime limit, because it applied whether the economy was up or down, whether jobs were available or not, but I felt, on balance, that this was a historic opportunity to change a system oriented toward dependence to one that encouraged independence."

There were political considerations, of course: "The legislation was far from perfect,'' she wrote, "which is where pragmatic politics entered in. It was preferable to sign the measure knowing that a Democratic administration was in place to implement it humanely. If he vetoed welfare reform a third time, Bill would be handing the Republicans a potential political windfall."

She was nonetheless sorry, she wrote, that "Bill's decision, and my endorsement of it, outraged some of our most loyal supporters," including the Edelmans, and "[i]n the painful aftermath, I realized that I had crossed the line from advocate to policy maker. I hadn't altered my beliefs, but I respectfully disagreed with the convictions and passion of the Edelmans and others who objected to the legislation."

In the book, Clinton came very close to suggesting that they were naïve, and said outright that that kind of purity was easy for people in their position: "As advocates, they were not bound to compromise, and unlike Bill, they didn't have to negotiate with Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole or worry about maintaining a political balance in Congress."

Engaging with the entwined issues of inequality and poverty will inevitably mean engaging with the consequences of the welfare bill Bill Clinton signed, though she has not done so yet. Asked if she would distance herself from welfare reform as she has from '90s-era mandatory sentencing, a Clinton campaign spokesman issued this statement: "Hillary Clinton has a long record fighting for everyday Americans and their families, and she is running to make sure all families are not only able to get ahead, but stay ahead. In the coming months she will discuss more details on her approach to addressing children and families living in poverty, including how best to support those families who rely on the safety net of welfare to temporarily keep their families afloat during the hardest of times, as well as other ideas to further strengthen families and help them move forward."

On that front, too, Clinton will not only face challenges from the left, but from the right. "A rising tide lifts all boats—that's a comment John Kennedy made—except if your boat has a hole in it," GOP presidential hopeful Rick Santorum said recently. "And in America today,'' said Santorum, who supports an increase in the minimum wage, "millions of Americans have holes in their boats."

Many anti-poverty advocates are hopeful that Clinton will address the holes in the safety net head-on, finally repairing the system that she and her husband had a hand in creating: "Welfare reform needs to be revisited,'' said Stephen Schneck, director of the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at Catholic University and a former national co-chair of Catholics for Obama. "I think Hillary needs to stand up and say, 'My husband and the Republicans in the 90s really thought they'd put together a package that was going to fix welfare and poverty but didn't fix either one.' She needs to call America to the barricades in the struggle against deep poverty.''

Will she? Robert Putnam, whose new book on the inequality of opportunity in America today, Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis, said Clinton had "used extremely well chosen words, I thought, that kids everywhere should have the same opportunities as her granddaughter.'' Speaking that way, he added with a laugh, "emphasized the 'It Takes a Village,' and Children's Defense Fund part of her resume'—and she has a rich, complicated and not always internally consistent one—but she didn't just discover this issue y esterday."

Already, at this early stage in the campaign, Clinton is speaking with more specificity on the subject than her riv als on the right, calling for more support for child care and early childhood education. At Effie O. Ellis Early Learning Center in Chicago last week, she criticized Republicans in Congress for making America "turn its back on our children and working parents."

Yet even as Clinton talked about fairness, those she called by name were not the have-nots, but members of the middle class: "When we talk about child care, we're talking about the economy , we're talking about families, we're talking about fairness. We're talking about all the v alues that we believe are necessary to raise healthy, successful, productive children

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in society today. ... I want you to get ahead and stay ahead. And I want the words 'middle class' to mean something again."

At the same stop, in Bronzeville on Chicago's South Side, she listened to Lakesia Collins, a single mom of three boys who makes $10 an hour: "It kind of hurts me that I can't afford things for them, but I'm able to work. It really is shameful for me because I can't give them what they need because I don't make enough money." Work still doesn't pay, in other words.

Those completely left out of both our safety net and the policy debate so far include older women who've done physical labor all their lives—what do they do after their bodies start to give out?—and mothers who are not disabled enough to qualify for SSI, but are not able enough, for a constellation of reasons, to go straight to work, either. "I'm a true believer in work," says Pavetti, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "but our programs are set up as, 'You do it now or y ou never do it.' "

Some remedies for inequality that are being discussed, on and off the campaign trail, include raising the minimum wage, extending Earned Income Tax Credits, subsidizing wages and doing more to support job training and job readiness, along with more macro solutions like financial sector reform, rethinking trade agreements and bankruptcy rules, and allowing the government to negotiate health care costs.

Peter Edelman, who supports Hillary Clinton's presidential bid, doesn't expect her to revisit the '90s when it comes to welfare reform. But then, he's been mistaken about Bill and Hillary Clinton's intentions before—for instance, the month before President Clinton signed the welfare reform bill, when Clinton remarked that "You can put wings on a pig, but y ou can't make it an eagle."

"So a bunch of us hear that and think he's going to veto it,'' Edelman remembers, "and that's what he wants us to think."

Those arguing for the bill inside the White House back then included Reed, Rahm Emanuel, Mickey Kantor, and Al Gore, while those who opposing it were Donna Shalala, Robert Reich, Robert Rubin, Leon Panetta, George Stephanopoulos and Harold Ickes.

The principle concern among those arguing against it was that it ended the legal right to aid. And while the states alway s set the amount of the benefit, Edelman says that they now they can effectiv ely say , "You look like y ou could work; go away."

A lot of states, Reed notes, "have stolen that money—legally—and use it for other things.'' In Texas, for example, more than half of the federal welfare dollars support child welfare programs, and some states, according to Pav etti, have even used it for college scholarships. Though it does have to be used for low-income residents, she says, "it all depends where the shortfalls are."

"There is no welfare in big chunks of the country any more,'' Edelman argues, "and because too many of the Democrats own a piece of it, nobody says it's a terrible failure, but it is. You want people who can work to work, but we have a deeply damaged safe net.''

More than any presidential election since the civil rights era, this one is likely to focus on those who have fallen through that net. And more than any other contender, Peter Edelman's old friend Hillary Clinton knows what's at stake.

Launching cam paign, Sanders appeals to party's Warren wing // AP via Yahoo! News // Ken Thom as – May 25, 2015

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — For Democrats who had hoped to lure Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren into a presidential campaign, independent Sen. Bernie Sanders might be the next best thing.

Sanders, who is opening his official presidential campaign Tuesday in Burlington, Vermont, aims to ignite a grassroots fire among left-leaning Democrats wary of Hillary Rodham Clinton. He is laying out an agenda in step with the party's

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progressive wing and compatible with Warren's platform — reining in Wall Street banks, tackling college debt and creating a gov ernment-financed infrastructure jobs program.

"I think our views are parallel on many, many issues," Sanders said in an interview with The Associated Press, describing Warren as a "good friend."

Sanders caucuses with the Democrats in Washington and is running for the Democratic nomination. He and Democratic former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley are vying to become the primary alternativ e to Clinton. Much of the energy behind a Clinton alternative has been directed to drafting Warren, but she has repeatedly said she won't run.

For Sanders, a key question is electability. Clinton is in a commanding position by any measure. Yet his supporters in New Hampshire say his local ties and longstanding practice of holding town hall meetings and people-to-people campaigning — a staple in the nation's first primary state — could serve him well.

"Toward the Vermont border it's like a love-fest for Bernie," said Jerry Curran, an Amherst, New Hampshire, Democratic activist who has been involved in the draft Warren effort. "He's not your milquetoast left-winger. He's kind of a badass left-winger."

A self-described democratic socialist, Sanders has raised more than $4 million since announcing in early May that he would be a presidential candidate. He suggested in the interview that raising $50 million for the primaries was a possibility . "That would be a goal," he said.

He rejects the notion that he's simply in the race to shape the debate.

"Hillary Clinton is a candidate, I am a candidate," Sanders said. "I suspect there will be other candidates. The people in this country will make their choice."

Whether Sanders can tap into the party 's Warren wing and influence Clinton's policy agenda remains unclear. But he has been on the forefront of liberal causes as Clinton has seemed to be tacking to the left.

Clinton regularly refers to an economic stacked deck against American workers — rhetoric that offers comparisons to Warren's frequent description of the economic system being "rigged" against middle-class families.

Sanders has joined with Warren to drive opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade proposal, arguing it would ship jobs overseas. Clinton has avoided taking a specific position on the trade deal.

The Vermont senator has introduced legislation to make tuition free at public colleges and universities, a major piece of Warren's agenda. The free tuition would be cov ered by a mix of state and federal money and paid for by higher taxes on Wall Street investment firms, hedge funds and other financial transactions. Clinton's campaign has signaled that she intends to make debt-free college a major piece of her campaign.

Sanders' disdain for big money in politics is also shared by liberals. Clinton frequently tells voters that she would back a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision allowing super PACS to raise unlimited money. But Democratic super PACs are already lining up behind her.

"I'm not going to have a super PAC in this campaign," Sanders said. "I don't go to fundraisers where millionaires sit around the room and say here's a million, here's $5 million for your super PAC. That's not my life. That's not my world. And I think the American people are saying that is not what our politics should be about." He said the money he's raised so far has come from more than 100,000 individual donors, giv ing an av erage of $42 each.

Organizers of the pro-Warren effort say Clinton may still win over many of their supporters. Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Vermont-based Democracy for America, said Sanders would "fill the void" for some of the voters hoping for Warren to run. But not for all.

"They're different people. They've got different pluses, they've got different minuses," Chamberlain said. "Some of the people who want to see Elizabeth get in the race are going to Hillary. Some of them are going to go to Martin O'Malley." O'Malley is expected to announce his candidacy Saturday.

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If Sanders is the underdog, that's fine by him. During the 197 0s, he lost four statewide elections as a third-party candidate, and then narrowly defeated a Democratic incumbent in 1981 to become Burlington's may or.

"Nobody — trust me — nobody thought I would defeat a five-term incumbent Democratic mayor," Sanders said, noting the winning margin of 10 votes.

The lessons, he said, are clear: "Don't underestimate me."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Bill and Hillary Clinton Make First Public Appearance Together Since Campaign Launch // ABC News // Liz Kreutz – May 25, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton took a short break from the campaign trail today to participate in her favorite Memorial Day tradition: the annual New Castle Memorial Day Parade in Chappaqua, New York.

Clinton, who loves the parade (like “really , really, really” loves it), was joined this year by her husband, Bill Clinton -- marking their first public appearance together since the announcement of her presidential campaign.

The two arrived in Clinton’s famous Scooby van just before 11 a.m., when the parade was scheduled to start, and were instantly swarmed by crowds of locals, young and old, clamoring for a moment with their town’s most famous couple.

“Hi! Oh, hi! Hi! So good to see you! Mwah!” Clinton called out as one after the next, she greeted friends and neighbors.

The crowds were eventually asked to step aside so the Clintons could take their position at the front of the parade, where they walked alongside friends and other local elected officials.

“It's a wonderful tradition,” Clinton said as she began walking. “Obviously it happens in towns and cities across our country but it's a good way to remember our veterans particularly those who gave their lives or were grievously injured, and we just need to, you know, make sure that it continues from y ear to year, generation to generation."

Hillary Clinton has attended the parade nearly every single year since she and Bill Clinton mov ed into the town, about an hour north of New York City, in 1999 -- and it’s something she does not like to miss no matter what.

"I put this on my calendar every year, and I basically tell my staff I really, really, really want to do this," the then-secretary of state told the New York Times on Memorial Day in 2012. "So unless there's some crisis of significant proportions, I'll be here, and I've had a few crises where I'v e had to take phone calls as I'v e marched."

This year, Clinton was greeted by crowds cheering their support for 2016, some even wearing t-shirts reading: “It Takes a Village: Chappaqua for Hillary.”

But when asked by a reporter about the signs of support along the parade route, Clinton didn’t engage.

“This parade is not about that,” she said.

Clintons march in Chappaqua parade; Hillary talks education // Lohud // Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy – May 25, 2015

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NEW CASTLE – As Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential hopeful, marched alongside former President Bill Clinton in their hometown Memorial Day parade, chants of "Hillary 2016" filled the air.

Close to a thousand onlookers crowded the parade route down King Street in Chappaqua.

The Clintons smiled and waved at the adoring and often loud supporters.

"Many of our veterans came home from combat with injuries of all kinds," Hillary Clinton told the media about taking part in the event. "This is a way of demonstrating that they are not forgotten, and we are going to make sure we do everything we can to honor their sacrifice."

Hillary Clinton also surprised a few middle school boys by posing for selfies while still waking the route.

"Hillary 2016. POTUS at last" read one sign posted in the front yard of a home using the abbreviation for president of the United States.

After the event, Clinton gave a hint of what one of her priorities as a presidential candidate may be.

When asked by The Journal News about key actions the U.S. could take to improve education and remain competitive with other leading economies, Clinton said early childhood education should be a priority .

"Education is absolutely key. And y ou have to start early. The years birth to 5 are critical," she said.

Anne Boundas, whose house sits on Ridgewood Terrace, where the parade originates, said she had had front row seats to the festivities ev ery year since 1974 and has often seen the Clintons take part.

"The parade has become bigger over the years, "she said. "It's just a lot of fun. Gets you thinking of all the sacrifices that have been made so we can have a community like this."

Can Hillary Clinton crum ble? **// Newsday // William F.B. O'Reilly – May 25, 2015**

Martin O'Malley has good abs. And wasn't he was once mayor of Baltimore?

That seems to be about the sum of what most Americans know about the former Maryland governor as he prepares to launch a presidential bid on May 30. O'Malley polls somewhere between zero and 2 percent in early Democratic primary surveys, a dozen points behind Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who's not ev en running.

O'Malley's bleak numbers remind me of a former New York State senator who put his hat in the ring for mayor of New York in 197 7. His pollster had good news and bad news, he once told me. The good news was that he was at 3 percent in the latest survey. The bad news was that the poll had a 4-percent margin of error. He could be at negative one.

But O'Malley is suddenly interesting, far more so than his anemic poll numbers would typically warrant. He matters because he's the sole candidate in the current Democratic field who could legitimately step in as the party 's standard-bearer should Hillary Clinton's candidacy collapse. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (12 percent in the latest Economist survey) is an avowed socialist, which, thankfully , still makes him a non-starter in American politics. Vice President Joe Biden (11 percent), who is reportedly hanging around in the wings in case Clinton tanks, remains America's favorite crazy uncle. He's a hoot at Thanksgiving, but y ou don't want to see him behind the wheel.

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O'Malley comes out of central casting. He's handsome, articulate and passionate about his beliefs. He stands decidedly to Clinton's political left, but he has the clean-cut looks of someone who wouldn't spook the American public in a general election. Indeed, when he's not posing shirtless for cameras in beach photo-ops, he looks like the Brooks Brothers conserv ative Aaron Sorkin might conjure for a new HBO series. And at 52, O'Malley is vibrant. He appears to be reaching his prime, whereas Clinton, rightly or wrongly, seems to have exceeded hers. It's not so much that her past is wearing on her, it's that it's catching up with her.

It's a marvel to watch Clinton at present. It's as if she's suspended in air. She's the prohibitive favorite to be the Democratic nominee while carry ing at least 1,000 pounds of baggage, with more seemingly being added by the day. The big question is whether she can continue to defy gravity . It's possible she can. But it's probable that she eventually falls to earth.

O'Malley's positioning as the dark horse candidate in the race isn't escaping notice. Political blogger Matt Drudge had a field day this week reciting past praise heaped on O'Malley by none other than former President Bill Clinton. Mr. Clinton sang O'Malley's praises liberally at the 201 4 annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative. In a 2002 letter to then-Baltimore May or O'Malley, the former president wrote, "I won't be surprised if you go all the way." Say what you will about Bill Clinton, he has a good eye for political talent.

I recently asked a prominent New York Democrat in a telev ision green room -- a progressive Democrat -- what's wrong with O'Malley? Why aren't more left-wing Democrats backing him? He was genuinely perplexed by the question. There's nothing wrong with O'Malley , he said, but why on earth would we mess with a good thing? In other words, Clinton is the surest thing they 've got going into 2016.

She certainly is. So long as she can remain suspended above ground. But if she's ever forced to touch terra firma, watch for O'Malley to be there to meet her.

Clinton: I See 'No Role Whatsoever' For US Ground Forces In Iraq // CBS DC – May 25, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. (CBSDC/AP) — Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday she sees "no role whatsoever" for U.S. ground forces in Iraq despite setbacks in the struggle against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria militants.

The existing U.S. policy of providing air support, intelligence, surveillance and training is the right one, Clinton said, in comments that appeared more definitiv e than her past statements about how the Iraqis themselves must carry the fight.

She addressed the matter after visiting Smuttynose Brewery, where she spoke in defense of the Export-Import Bank, a little-known U.S. agency that guarantees loans to help U.S. exporters and is opposed by some Republicans. Clinton was on her second v isit to New Hampshire since opening her campaign for the Democratic nomination.

ISIS advances have intensified questions about whether the U.S. should be doing more in the country it invaded in 2003, setting off a years-long war that President Barack Obama drew down by phasing out American combat operations. Clinton supported the invasion as a senator, a decision she later called a mistake.

On Friday , she said the U.S. should stay its course, not expand it.

"American air support is available, American intelligence and surveillance is available, American trainers are trying to undo the damage that was done to the Iraqi army by former Prime Minister Maliki, who bears a very big part of the responsibility for what is happening inside Iraq today," she said.

"But at the end of the thought process that I engage in ... this has to be fought by and won by the Iraqis. There is no role whatsoever for American soldiers on the ground to go back other than in the capacity as trainers and adv isers."

In remarks at the brewery, Clinton accused Republicans in Congress and the presidential race of threatening tens of thousands of small business jobs by seeking to cut the Export-Import Bank.

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Conservative Republicans have sought to eliminate the bank, arguing it unfairly helps some large American companies sell products overseas at the expense of others and gives government too big a hand. Clinton said she learned as secretary of state that the U.S. was in a global competition for business, and the notion that Congress would eliminate "this relatively small but vital" agency is "absolutely backwards."

Republican Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said Clinton is a "natural cheerleader" for the bank because its "biggest beneficiaries are foreign governments and giant corporations."

These, he said in a statement anticipating her defense of the bank, are "among the biggest donors to the Clinton Foundation as well as major underwriters of the speaking fees that added millions of dollars to the Clinton bank account."

At the brewery, Clinton spoke about her wish for regulations to be loosened on community banks to ease lending to small businesses.

Joanne Francis, the brewery's co-owner, said it was a "white-knuckle ride" securing loans and other money to start the brewery and open a new operations facility in 2014. "It was terrifying, to be honest with you," Francis said.

But Clinton criticizes Republicans for wanting to roll back regulations on the types of large financial institutions that contributed to the 2008 economic crisis. She said Republicans were holding a community banking overhaul hostage to their attempt to overturn the 2010 financial regulation law known as Dodd-Frank.

Her appearances in New Hampshire coincided with the State Department's release of emails, from her time as secretary of state, related to the 2012 attacks on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans. Clinton said she welcomed their release and the information in the emails was handled appropriately, but kept focus on her economic message.

"I'm not running for my husband's third term and I'm not running for Barack Obama's third term," she said. "But I am running to continue the positive results-oriented policies that both of them worked for."

Clinton will make her first campaign speech at a major rally June 13 and is scheduled to attend events in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, New Mexico, Texas and Connecticut in the coming weeks.

A recent CBS News/New York Times poll finds that 85 percent of Democratic voters would consider voting for her.

The White House has released enough Benghazi documents to cover half a football field // Vox // Christophe Haubursin

The State Department turned over 900 pages of Hillary Clinton's private emails Friday to a House special committee investigating the Benghazi attacks of 2011. The documents join 40,000 pages the White House has handed over to Congress already. The volume is enormous.

Benghazi documents would cover half of a football field.

The volume of information produced by this case ends up giving comfort to both sides of the fight: Republicans believe a smoking gun must be hidden in reams of documents, while Democrats point to the continued demand for documents, given how much has been made available and how little wrongdoing has been found, as proof this is a partisan witch hunt.

Regardless, the investigation will continue on Capitol Hill and dog Clinton on the trail as she campaigns for the Democratic

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nomination.

Hillary Clinton was paid millions by tech industry firms with a 2016 stake **// Daily Herald // Matea Gold, Rosalind S. Helderman and Anu Narayanswamy – May 25, 2015**

In one of her last gigs on the paid lecture circuit, Hillary Clinton addressed an eBay summit aimed at promoting women in the workplace, delivering a 20-minute talk that garnered her a $315,000 payday from the company.

Less than two months later, Clinton was feted at the San Francisco Bay-area home of eBay chief executive John Donahoe and his wife, Eileen, for one of the first fundraisers supporting Clinton's newly announced presidential campaign.

The two events spotlight the unusually close financial ties between Clinton and a broad array of industries with issues before the government that paid tens of millions of dollars to her and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, in the months preceding the launch of her presidential campaign.

Disclosure documents recently filed by Hillary Clinton revealed that the couple have earned about $25 million for delivering 104 paid speeches since January 2014.

While Bill Clinton's lucrative speaking career since leaving the White House in 2001 has been well documented, the new disclosures offer the first public accounting of Hillary Clinton's paid addresses since she stepped down as secretary of state. And they illustrate how the Clintons have personally profited by drawing on the same network of supporters who have backed their political campaigns and philanthropic efforts -- while those supporters have gained entree to a potential future president.

Silicon Valley is one place where those overlapping interests come together, according to a Washington Post analysis of the new Clinton disclosures.

Out of the $11.7 million that Hillary Clinton has made delivering 51 speeches since January 2014, $3.2 million came from the technology industry, the analysis found. Several of the companies that paid Clinton to address their employees also have senior leaders who have been early and avid supporters of her presidential bid.

The tech sector was the largest single source of speaking fees for Clinton, followed by health care and financial services, according to the Post analysis. Bill Clinton also made substantial income speaking to tech groups but focused more heavily on financial services, insurance and real estate companies.

A Hillary Clinton campaign spokesman declined to comment.

While it is common for former presidents to receive top dollar as paid speakers, Hillary Clinton is unique as a prospective candidate who received large personal payouts from corporations, trade groups and other major interests mere months before launching a White House bid. In some cases, those speeches gave Clinton a chance to begin sounding out themes of her coming campaign and even discuss policy issues that a future Clinton administration might face.

Companies that paid her to speak include industry giants such as Xerox, Cisco Systems and Qualcomm, as well as start-ups and trade groups focused on biotechnology and medical technology.

The blurred line between personal and political is apparent in the cases of companies that hired Clinton to speak and are led by executives who are now prominent backers of her campaign. Salesforce.com, for instance, paid Clinton $451,000 to deliver two talks last year, and its CEO, Marc Benioff, is a major donor to Ready for Hillary, a super PAC that laid the groundwork for her presidential bid. Another major backer of the PAC is Irwin Jacobs, he former chairman of Qualcomm, which shelled out $335,000 for Clinton to speak in late October.

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A spokeswoman for Salesforce declined to comment on how Clinton came to be invited to speak. Qualcomm did not return requests for comment. A spokeswoman for Jacobs said that he is retired from the company and does not play a role in its decisions.

When Clinton arrived at eBay for her March 2014 women's-leadership speech, she had another connection to the company. Eileen Donohoe, wife of the CEO, had worked for Clinton as U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Abby Smith, spokeswoman for eBay, said that, "as one of the world's most admired women, Hillary Clinton was the perfect choice" for the event. Smith declined to comment on the Donahoes' fundraiser for the Clinton campaign.

The new disclosures showed Clinton's vast earning power on the public speaking circuit as a former secretary of state who many viewed as the Democratic presidential nominee in waiting.

In some cases, organizations that had once paid Bill Clinton to speak now paid even more to lure his wife.

The Biotechnology Industry Organization paid Bill Clinton $175,000 in 2010. Four years later, the group paid $335,000 -- nearly twice as much -- to hear from Hillary Clinton. Likewise, the Advanced Medical Technology Association paid Bill Clinton $160,000 to speak in 2009 and paid Hillary Clinton $265,000 to speak in 2014.

The warm reception for Hillary Clinton in Silicon Valley comes after she watched a young upstart named Barack Obama lock up many of the industry's top money players during their fight for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Since then, the region has experienced explosive growth, making it an even bigger target for candidates hunting for political donors. Republicans such as Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Florida governor Jeb Bush are making a play to win over the traditionally left-leaning enclave.

But Clinton is not giving them much of an opening, assiduously courting tech leaders as she contemplated another White House run.

One day last July, she tweeted, "In #SiliconValley today visiting @Google, @Facebook, & @Twitter. Looking forward to seeing everyone and answering some questions."

Clinton did not receive any speaking fees from those companies, which she visited as part of a tour promoting her latest book, "Hard Choices."

But about a month later, she scooped up $625,000 in one day from the tech sector -- first addressing a conference in San Francisco sponsored by Nexenta Systems, a data storage start-up, and then as a surprise guest at Cisco's sales conference in Las Vegas, where she was interviewed by chief executive John Chambers.

At the Nexenta conference, Clinton addressed several hot-button policy issues in Silicon Valley that the next president will have to confront.

She spoke of the need to "rebalance" privacy and security when it comes to government surveillance, an issue viewed as both a business and philosophical matter among tech leaders. And she expressed interest in an idea proposed by Chambers and other chief executives to allow companies to bring profits invested overseas back to the United States at a reduced tax rate.

"It doesn't do our economy any good to have this money parked somewhere else in the world," Clinton said, according to the Wall Street Journal.

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The event also provided Clinton, who was making few public appearances, a platform to weigh in on an increasingly hot national issue. In her first remarks about the unrest that followed the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, she urged Americans not to ignore "inequities that persist in our justice system."

Allison Darin, director of communications for Nexenta, said that the topic "has nothing to do with what we do."

But, she added, "it was obviously compelling news which brought a lot of attention to the event, which is exactly what we want."

Tarkan Maner, the company's chief executive, sits on the national finance committee of the Ready for Hillary PAC and made a $5,000 donation to the group in September, about a month after Clinton's speech.

Darin said Maner's support for Clinton had nothing to do with the company's invitation to have her speak. Rather, she said, company officials decided Clinton would have broad appeal for the audience of 500 top executives who attended the conference.

"It really wasn't politically focused at that time," she said. "It was just good timing."

Most of Clinton's paid speeches were closed to the public and the press. But in the few that were open, Clinton appeared to be road-testing themes that would become a part of her upcoming campaign.

In an April 2014 speech at a technology conference sponsored by Marketo, a software branding company, she discussed the growing gap between rich and poor in the United States. According to news reports, she proposed changes to taxation and corporate policies to address the issue.

"Inequality of the kind we are experiencing is bad for individuals, bad for society, bad for democracy," she said, according to The New York Times. "If y ou look around the world, this is becoming a bigger issue everywhere."

Clinton's latest financial disclosures also highlight the extent of personal support she and her husband have received from organizations and individuals who have donated to their charity, the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

At least 72 organizations that have paid the Clintons for speeches since 2001 have also donated to the Clinton Foundation.

For example, Cisco, which paid Hillary Clinton $325,000 for her August appearance, has given the foundation between $1 million and $5 million. In 2011, the company paid Bill Clinton $210,000 to speak at an event on Kiawah Island in South Carolina.

As for eBay, the company's charitable foundation has given more than $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

The Latest Proof That Clinton Can't Stop the Sleaze // Real Clear Politics // Rich Lowry – May 25, 2015

Charity Nav igator should make this an informal rule: If your charity is employing Sidney Blumenthal, it automatically goes on the watch list.

The ethical controversies around Hillary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation hav e often seemed 1990s redux, and nev er more so than when a New York Times story resurfaced longtime Clinton loyalist Blumenthal.

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According to the Times, from a perch at the Clinton Foundation, Blumenthal was sending Secretary of State Hillary Clinton memos on Libya that she forwarded around the State Department, even though they were occasion for eye-rolling by the professionals.

Sidney Blumenthal is the former writer for The New Republic, The Washington Post and The New Yorker whose devotion to the Clintons was too much ev en for his fellow journalists.

He eventually traded in his status as a quasi-Clinton apparatchik for official Clinton apparatchik, taking a job at the White House.

He was noted for his conspiratorial thinking and nasty, highly personalized, whisper-campaign politics. Much can be learned about his smash-mouth style by studying the social behavior of the spotted hyena.

Ultimately, Blumenthal himself isn't the issue. What's interesting isn't the suckerfish per se, but what it tells us about the shark.

When the Obama team went with Hillary Clinton as secretary of state, it undertook a high-stakes experiment: Could it hire a Clinton and, with enough rules and constraints, force him or her to act in a manner above reproach?

The Blumenthal affair is yet another indication that the answer is a resounding "no."

Then-White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel reportedly had Blumenthal banned for — what else? — spreading harsh attacks about Barack Obama during the 2008 primaries.

Emanuel's edict would hav e seemed to bar Blumenthal from serv ing Clinton while she was secretary of state. Ah, but as the poet said, you can drive nature out with a pitchfork, she will nevertheless come back.

Blumenthal happened to be sending Hillary memos about Liby a at the same time that he was in league with people trying to make money in Libya. Let's think about this.

One scenario is that Blumenthal's would-be business associates got together and thought: "We need to find the best expert we can on North Africa, someone who understands the subtleties of Libyan political and tribal dynamics. Let's get Sidney Blumenthal!"

Another is that they thought: "We need to find someone who is in tight with the Clintons and has a back channel to Hillary so, when the time comes, the State Department will giv e our venture the most favorable possible consideration. Let's get Sidney Blumenthal!"

The Blumenthal story underlines what we already knew or suspected about Hillary's tenure as secretary of state and at the Clinton Foundation.

She portrays herself as the picture of openness, explaining how she wants her e-mails public as soon as possible. But we wouldn't know about the Clinton-Blumenthal correspondence but for the exertions of a Romanian hacker.

For all its good works, the Clinton Foundation was a political slush fund and holding tank for Clinton operativ es. Presumably, the March of Dimes manages to get along without paying former government officials as they scheme to return to power.

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The ethics of Clinton's tenure as secretary of state were atrocious. In what world is it OK for the secretary of state to get and pass along back-channel advice from a friend about a country where he has business interests at stake?

Finally, it's impossible to credit "the new Hillary" so long as she is dependent on the same old cronies.

Asked about Blumenthal, Hillary said his e-mails were her effort to make sure she wasn't "caught in the bubble." Because nothing keeps you intellectually fresh and on your toes like e-mails from a loyal hatchet man of some 20 years and counting.

Hillary Tweets About Memorial Day, And She's Got The Right Message // Bustle // Chris Tognotti – May 25, 2015

Monday is Memorial Day, a holiday that marks a very solemn remembrance: all those American service members who lost their lives throughout our nation's history. And on Monday afternoon, likely the country's foremost presidential contender weighed in with her thoughts on the meaning of the day — Hillary Clinton tweeted a Memorial Day message, and it's the sort of thing almost anyone could agree with, regardless of politics.

Clinton's 2015 Memorial Day was far more involved than just sending out an appropriately commemorative tweet. She also marched in the Memorial Day parade in Chappaqua, New York on Monday afternoon, alongside her ex-president husband Bill. The Clintons are no strangers to the New York hamlet, having kept a residence in there since leaving the White House in 2001, and she finished up the march by discussing her campaign's emphasis on early childhood education, as detailed by The Journal News.

In her tweet, which was sent out at 6:44 a.m., Clinton discussed the "sacred responsibility" of Memorial Day. It was marked with a -H at the end, which is meant to denote a tweet originating from Clinton herself, rather than her campaign. In other words, you at least know that she's got some experience as an early-riser.

Hillary's straightforward tweet sends a good message, to be sure, especially the part about sacrifice. Even though Memorial Day commemorates the soldiers we've lost, if you have a still-living veteran in your family, or close to you, be sure to voice your appreciation today. And be sure to take their issues seriously everyday, to make sure people who need and deserve care can get it. As detailed by the New York Daily News, Clinton told a reporter following the march where she wanted the focus to be.

I want to keep focusing and make sure we pay proper respect to our veterans and particularly those who lost their lives.

The nature of the tweet does show a clever campaign strategy, however. Having her staff manage and send the bulk of her tweets while she just jumps in for an occasion personal aside could be a politically advantageous way for her to engage on a variety of topics. Campaign staffers handling more officious business, while Clinton chimes in on the news of the day. She did the same thing on Saturday, in a tweet congratulating Ireland for voting to legalize same-sex marriage.

Different candidates, obviously, responded to the big occasion differently. While Clinton and presumptive GOP candidates Mike Huckabee and Rick Perry decided to go the lo-fi social media route, while Florida Senator Marco Rubio (who's actually officially in the race) released a video — though it ended up being more about outlining some defense-related policy views than Memorial Day itself. Obviously, President Obama had a job to do today as well — he delivered a speech at Arlington National Cemetary Monday, dedicated to the memory of America's fallen soldiers.

Here's Everything We Learned From The Hillary Emails // The DC // Chuck Ross – May 25, 2015

With its Friday dump — on Memorial Day weekend, no less — the State Department ensured that Hillary Clinton's 296 Libya-related emails would receive limited news coverage.

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But the records are well worth reviewing because they contain important insight into Clinton and her top aides' views on Libya and Benghazi leading up to the Sept. 11, 2012, attack, which killed four Americans.

Here are the 13 most interesting exchanges.

'The public face of the U.S. effort in Libya'

If one email chain comes back to haunt Clinton on the campaign trail it would be an April 4, 2012, message top aide Jake Sullivan sent touting Clinton's "leadership on Libya."

"HRC has been a critical voice on Libya in administration deliberations, at NATO, and in contact group meetings — as well as the public face of the U.S. effort in Libya," Sullivan wrote. "She was instrumental in securing the authorization, building the coalition, and tightening the noose around Qadhafi and his regime."

While deposing Gaddafi was seen as a major U.S. victory at the time, the attack at Benghazi and its vulnerability to Islamist groups like ISIS calls Clinton's and the Obama administration's intervention there into question.

Clinton overslept and missed a national security briefing days after the Benghazi attack

Clinton missed a President's Daily Brief meeting on the morning of Sept. 15, 2012, just days after the Benghazi attack, because she overslept.

Monica Hanley, a Clinton aide, sent an email to Clinton at 9:17 a.m. stating that a briefer "has some sensitive items that he would like to personally show you when he arrives."

Clinton responded at 10:43 a.m., stating "just woke up so i [sic] missed Dan. Could he come back after finish my calls?"

Interested in a movie on morning of the Benghazi attack

Early on the morning of Sept. 11, 2012, before the attack on Benghazi, Clinton had a movie on her mind. But she wasn't thinking of "Innocence of Muslims," the short film that the Obama administration initially falsely blamed for the Benghazi attack. Instead, she emailed aides Philippe Reines and Huma Abedin seeking a copy of "The Oath of Tobruk," a documentary about the Libyan civil war directed by French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy and produced by her friend, Harvey Weinstein.

Clinton was interviewed for the film, which Weinstein claimed depicted the secretary's "leadership" in Libya.

Confused the names of two Americans killed at Benghazi

After Clinton learned that ambassador Chris Stevens and Sean Smith, a Foreign Service officer, had been killed at Benghazi, she sent an email to several top aides asking if she should issue a statement that night or the following day.

The only problem was, Clinton flubbed the two murdered Americans' names. Her email was entitled "Chris Smith." None of the aides on the email chain — Cheryl Mills, Jake Sullivan and Victoria Nuland — corrected the mistake.

Clinton's aides prepared her speech for a Clinton Foundation event

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Emails from Sept. 22, 2012, just 10 days after the Benghazi attack, show that Clinton was concerned with a speech she was set to giv e on behalf of her family charity, the Clinton Foundation.

Her aide, Jake Sulliv an, wrote that “Megan is working on a development speech but please read the below if you can this afternoon.”

“Please let me know your thoughts,” he added.

Clinton instructed another aide, Oscar Flores, to print off the speech, which is redacted in the emails.

State Department and White House officials asked YouTube to block video

One email shows an all-hands-on-deck effort to ensure YouTube and its parent company , Google, continued to block “The Innocence of Muslims” from appearing online.

The Obama administration falsely blamed the movie for sparking the attacks on Benghazi.

On Sept. 27, 2012, Denis McDonough, then the deputy national security advisor, sent an email to several State Department officials which listed contact information for Google’s and YouTube’s CEOs.

Nora Toiv, who worked in Clinton’s office, contacted others within the department stating that the video would be blocked until at least the following Monday, Oct. 1.

Cheryl Mills, Clinton’s then-chief of staff, forwarded the email chain to Clinton.

While it was known that the Obama administration had asked YouTube and Google to block the movie, the emails show that the effort was far more inv olved that prev iously reported.

Clinton received now-classified information on her priv ate email account

Shortly before the State Department released Clinton’s records, the FBI redacted portions of a Nov. 18, 2012, email because the information was classified. The email appears to have included names of individuals suspected of carry ing out the Benghazi attack.

Clinton and her team have repeatedly denied that she sent or received classified information on her personal email account. The FBI’s re-classification raises questions over whether the agency would have marked the information as classified if Clinton had turned her records over to the State Department as she was required to do when she left the agency in Feb. 2013.

On Oct. 3, 2012, Clinton receiv ed an email from Chery l Mills which included a link to a Wall Street Journal article entitled “Benghazi was Obama’s 3 a.m. call.”

The Journal article pinned the Benghazi attack on Obama’s “policy and worldview” and did not criticize Clinton’s role in the fiasco.

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The 3 a.m. reference was to a campaign ad Clinton ran against Obama in Feb. 2008. The ad, which was roundly criticized when it aired, asserted that Obama did not have the chops to handle international crises.

Clinton discussed her “cracked head” and health

Emails Clinton sent to aides show her discussing a concussion she reportedly suffered in Dec. 2012.

Clinton fainted before she was to testify in front of Congress about Benghazi. As many questioned whether she actually suffered a fall, Fox News’ Greta Van Susteren interviewed Arizona U.S. Sen. John McCain who said that he believed Clinton. Clinton emailed Mills on Dec. 20 telling her that someone should call Van Susteren to thank her for “knowing the truth” about her injury.

Clinton sent another Dec. 20 email to aides Williams Burns and Thomas Nides. In the message Clinton joked she was unable to make a meeting on Capitol Hill because “I’ll be nursing my cracked head.”

Clinton aides sought to reassure her about her Benghazi video comments

In a Sept. 24, 2012, email Sullivan reassured Clinton that she had never blamed the “Innocence of Muslims” video for the Benghazi attack.

“You never said spontaneous or characterized the motives, in fact you were careful in your first statement to say we were assessing motive and method. The way you treated the video in the Libya context was to say that some sought to *justify* the attack on that basis,” Sullivan wrote.

Other administration officials had publicly blamed the video for the uprising which led to the four American deaths at the consulate.

Sid Blumenthal tells Hillary about planting an anti-Romney story

On Oct. 1, 2012, longtime Clinton insider, Sidney Blumenthal, emailed Clinton to share an article another jounralist published at Salon entitled “GOP’s October Surprise.”

Blumenthal’s email was entitled “Romney’s last gambit. Got done and published.” According to Bloomberg News, this is an indication that Blumenthal planted the story with Salon.

The article cited a “highly reliable source” who claimed that the Romney campaign was planning to roll out a “Jimmy Carter strategy” in which it planned to paint Obama as weak because of the Benghazi failure.

Clinton aides’ jokes about a fawning reporter and about FOIA

In an Oct. 2012, email, State Department communications director Caroline Adler sent an email to Clinton aides Philippe Reines and Thomas Nides poking fun at Wall Street Journal reporter Monica Langley for gushing over Clinton during an interview.

“This will be exciting when it’s FOIA’d…but will give you a sense of the interaction,” Adler wrote.

Reines described the scene when Langley pulled up a chair to sit extremely close to Clinton. He wrote that he didn’t “think

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you see that behavior among any type of mammal."

Missing messages

Perhaps as noteworthy as emails Clinton and her staff did send are those that they did not. As the Washington Examiner noted, the team only sent 35 Libya- and Benghazi-related emails between January 2012 and the Sept. 11 attack at Benghazi.

Hillary Clinton's 1st SC campaign stop is Wednesday at Democratic women's event in Columbia // AP via Daily Reporter – May 25, 2015

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's first campaign stop in South Carolina will be a speech to Democratic women who say they are trying to make South Carolina better.

Clinton's campaign says she will speak Wednesday afternoon at Marriott hotel in downtown Columbia to the South Carolina House Democratic Women's Caucus and the South Carolina Democratic Women's Council.

She will be at the Statehouse earlier in the day to speak to the Democratic caucuses in the House and Senate.

The gathering at the hotel is called the Third Annual 2015 Day in Blue. The event helps women become better citizen advocates and leaders.

Clinton has already opened phone banks in South Carolina and her campaign has held neighborhood parties across the state.

Step aside, Bernie Sanders has a big week - the busiest of the presidential hopefuls // The Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – May 25, 2015

He is the busiest of all the presidential hopefuls this week. Sure, Sen. Marco Rubio will celebrate his birthday in Las Vegas on Thursday, and Carly Fiorina and Gov. Scott Walker will head for New Hampshire later in the week, but it's Sen. Bernard Sanders who has the wall-to-wall schedule punctuated by the rallying cry, "A political revolution is coming." So step aside, folks.

On Tuesday, the Vermont senator kicks off his formal campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination with a Zydeco band and free Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Company founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield will be by his side, incidentally. Mr. Sanders rushes to New Hampshire on Wednesday for town meetings in Concord, Portsmouth and Eppington. By Thursday, he will be in Iowa for more town meetings in Davenport, Muscatine, West Branch, Iowa City and Kensett and pushing his new "Agenda for America" wherever he goes. And Mr. Sanders, 73, is in a fighting mood when it comes to the press.

"In terms of campaign coverage, there is more coverage about the political gossip of the campaign, about raising money, about polling, about somebody saying something dumb or some kid works for a campaign and sends out something stupid on Facebook, right?" Mr. Sanders told CNN on Sunday. "The media's job is to say, 'Look, these are the major issues facing the country. We're a democracy. People have different points of view. Let's argue it.'"

A CHEER FOR MISS AMERICA

The National Memorial Day Parade to honor the American military has its share of celebrities on Monday: actors Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna; celebrity chef Robert Irvine; singers Billy Corgan, Caleb Johnson and Beau Davidson; and TNA Wrestling stars, including Army vet Chris Melendez. Then there is Miss America Kira Kazantsev, who will wave at the crowd as only Miss America can do.

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“As Miss America, it is my responsibility to not only raise awareness about the military, our veterans and their needs, but to thank them in person for their service. The National Memorial Day Parade is the perfect opportunity for that, and I am so honored to be a part of this celebration of our troops,” Ms. Kazantev tells Inside the Beltway.

She is also the first Miss America in four decades who has stepped up to the plate for the USO and visited U.S. troops overseas — logging 25,400 miles last month with stops that included Afghanistan, Bahrain, the Korean DMZ and USS Carl Vinson. In her online diary of the experiences, she recounted meeting a Medal of Honor recipient who recalled his time in Vietnam — particularly memories of a certain Hollywood patriot who arrived in the unforgiving combat zone with Miss America. The hero had never forgotten those moments.

“He said that Bob Hope would bring Miss America up on stage and say ‘Soldiers, this is what you’re fighting for.’ I still can’t believe that I am now a part of this legacy and that, in my own way, I hav e had the honor of serving our country,” Ms. Kazantev wrote.

GOP: SHOW SOME TEETH

“Fully 75 percent of Republicans want GOP leaders to challenge President Obama more often; just 15 percent say they are handling relations with the president about right, and 7 percent say GOP leaders should go along with Obama more often,” reports a new Pew Research Center poll.

Forty percent of Americans ov erall agree with this, along with 37 percent of independents and 15 percent of Democrats. More numbers at column’s end.

ALOHA, OBAMACARE

The Affordable Care Act does not get intense media coverage these days, but it’s still a troublemaker. Americans for Tax Reform reports that the rickety Obamacare sign-up sy stem will cost taxpayers plenty.

“The Obama administration had implemented the special enrollment period from March 15 to April 30 to assist indiv iduals who were unaware they would face a tax penalty for not having qualifying health insurance. In all, less than 250,000 indiv iduals decided to enroll nationwide — meaning that millions of Americans would rather pay the tax than enroll in Obamacare,” reports analy st Alexander Hendrie.

His case in point: In Hawaii, the Obamacare exchange enrolled no participants during the grace period. None. The state’s sign-up website, meanwhile, cost taxpayers $205 million to launch, with a total of 8,5 92 people enrolling in the first year. The cost to taxpayers is $23,899 per person, Mr. Hendrie says.

“Hawaii’s is not the first website to implode. Oregon’s $305 million exchange was officially abolished earlier this year at an additional cost of $41 million. The exchange is currently under investigation by numerous federal organizations for how it wasted so much money ,” he adds. “In all, states receiv ed $5.4 billion from the federal government for state-based Obamacare exchanges with no strings attached and zero oversight over spending decisions.”

THE OKLAHOMA AFTERMATH

“Hillary Clinton must not be president of these United States as she is not trustworthy, and does not have a record of leadership. Since I launched my campaign for the presidency less than three weeks ago, I have answered 413 questions from the press, and yes, I am counting. Hillary Clinton, I think, has answered 13 questions since April 12. We know that Hillary Clinton will not be held to account unless we have a nominee that holds her to account in the general election,” Carly Fiorina told the Southern Republican Leadership Conference, which ended Saturday in Oklahoma City.

And in a telling snapshot, Ben Carson won the straw poll at the aforementioned conference with 25 percent of the v ote. Gov. Scott Walker placed second with 20 percent, followed by Sen. Ted Cruz, Gov. Chris Christie, Rick Perry, Jeb Bush, Sen.

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Rand Paul, Sen. Marco Rubio, Gov. Bobby Jindal, Ms. Fiorina, Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum and Donald Trump — who each receiv ed between 1 percent and 16 percent of the vote. Three-fourths of the 715 poll respondents were from Oklahoma, incidentally.

WHITE HOUSE CRUNCH TIME

Are things getting a little intense on Memorial Day? Pollster John Zogby suggests so.

"President Obama is one step closer to achiev ing fast-track authority to negotiate a new free trade agreement with Asian nations. This is one of his key goals and one he shares with Republican leaders, though vigorously opposed by the left," Mr. Zogby says. "Secretary of State John Kerry held a four-hour meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose help can be useful in both Iran and Syria. Nonetheless, the Islamic State has taken over the capital of Anbar Province, the city many Americans lost their liv es to liberate several years ago, and have secured control over the whole Iraq-Syria border. It's crunchtime for U.S. decision-makers."

His current grade for Mr. Obama: C-.

POLL DU JOUR

• 72 percent of Americans disapprov e of the job performance of Republican leaders in Congress; 55 percent of Republicans, 74 percent of independents and 84 percent of Democrats agree.

• 60 percent of Americans disapprov e of the job performance of Democratic leaders in Congress; 87 percent of Republicans, 65 percent of independents and 35 percent of Democrats agree.

• 37 percent overall say what Congress is accomplishing is "less than expected"; 36 percent of Republicans, 38 percent of independents and 38 percent of Democrats agree.

• 23 percent overall say GOP leaders are "keeping their campaign promises"; 37 percent of Republicans, 20 percent of independents and 17 percent of Democrats agree.

GOP's policy: Attacking Hillary Clinton // Bloom berg // Frank Wilkinson – May 25, 2015

It's possible to view Hillary Clinton as a money-grubbing opportunist and shady political operator who has amassed millions of dollars and gobs of power by exploiting the inside tracks that she and her husband spent decades carving through the upper strata of American society.

After all, it's not that much of a reach — especially for Republicans already inclined to a cynical view of the former secretary of state.

To amplify that negative portrait, and heighten its political resonance, the Republican National Committee sends emails with titles such as "Fast Track To Duplicity" and "Secretary Stonewall" — the latter about a Wall Street Journal story depicting Clinton political aides at the State Department meddling with Freedom of Information Act requests.

"Clinton's Latest Fundraising Hypocrisy" is another RNC missive. In this one, the RNC quotes Clinton saying, "There's something wrong when CEOs make 300 times more than the ty pical worker." The RNC then juxtaposes that with a jab — "11 out of 19 Clinton fundraisers have been hosted by financial bigwigs."

Get it? Clinton talks as if she cares about workers, but behind closed doors, she's raising millions from the super rich.

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You can argue about whether this genre of attack — it has been around a long time — is successful. But there's no doubt that it would be more salient if, unlike Clinton, seemingly every viable Republican candidate running for president were not committed to cutting the taxes of the "bigwigs" who are raising money for her (and them). Worse, several Republicans are revisiting their quadrennial flirtation with various flat taxes, most of which would drive down taxes for chief executive officers while raising them for the typical worker.

At The Atlantic, David Frum wrote that Jeb Bush will have a hard time drawing useful political contrasts with Clinton because, while the Clintons are unquestionably expert at using power to gain wealth and wealth to gain still more power, in all fairness, the Bushes got there first.

It's true that Bush's family history is a specific drawback in a race against Clinton. But the atrociousness of Republican policies is a general disadvantage — and one far more encumbering to any Republican who wins the nomination, including Bush.

Republican complaints about Clinton's wealth and connections are presumably intended to turn the left wing of the Democratic Party against her. But in November 2016, the Republican candidate for president will almost certainly be a man who will have not only accepted hundreds of millions from "bigwigs" — just as Clinton will have — but who will also have promised, in an age of burgeoning plutocracy and rising inequality, to engineer a massive transfer of wealth from poor to rich to provide those bigwigs with a windfall on their political investment.

Political campaigns run on contrasts; that one doesn't sound like such a winner.

Indeed, the Ivy League cronyism and transactional relationship-leveraging that characterize the Clinton empire may strike many voters as unseemly. But Clinton's policy platform probably won't. It will not, for example, take money out of middle-class voters' paychecks, undermine their health insurance, ramp up carbon pollution in their air or leave their children with additional trillions in national debt to finance better living for billionaires. Will the Republican nominee be able to say that his policies are similarly benign?

The 2016 Republican candidates are vastly superior to those of 2012, when Mitt Romney was the only good choice in a disturbingly weak field. It's unclear how much the higher quality of candidates will matter, however, because the party is very much the same. Its donors and activists continue to make demands — more tax cuts! never compromise! — that no rational, public-spirited candidate for national office should ever honor. It's unclear how even a high-quality politician rises above that.

In principle, there's nothing wrong with lambasting Clinton. Politics shouldn't be easy. But we'll know the Republican Party is on the mend when its candidates spend as much energy showcasing sensible conservative policies as they do attacking Clinton's character.

Obama + Clinton + Florida = fundraisers // The Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – May 25, 2015

The phrase gets old after a while, but it's time to rev up Air Force One once again: President Obama has a pair of fundraisers to attend in Florida.

On Wednesday he's off to Miami to raise money for the Democratic National Committee at a private dinner in the home of a local real estate kingpin, priced up to $33,400 a plate. Then it's on to one of those private "roundtable discussions," this at the home of a mortgage broker, fetching $33,400 a person for donors eager to parse the issues.

There's some official business too. On Thursday Mr. Obama visits the National Hurricane Center "to receive the annual hurricane season outlook and preparedness briefing," this according to the White House.

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But the siren call of the Sunshine State is very loud this week. After an appearance in South Carolina, Hillary Rodham Clinton is bound for Florida as well, and yes, the two will be in Miami on the very same day. On Thursday, Mrs. Clinton attends a pair of "Conversations with Hillary" events in Miami and Parkland to benefit her presidential campaign — at $2,700 a person. Then she journeys to Orlando for a private fundraiser at the home of a trial lawyer. She's just getting going, though. Beginning next week Mrs. Clinton will also be on the fundraising trail in New Mexico, Texas and Missouri.

THE FADING OF 'INEVITABLE'

"We live in an age of narratives, not news," points out Thomas Lifson, editor of AmericanThinker.com. "The narrative in the mainstream media is that Hillary Clinton is 'inevitable' as the Democratic nominee, with supporting polling data from The New York Times that oversamples Democrats and undersamples Republicans, manufactured to support the narrative."

Such political artistry between press and pollster can shore up their candidate of choice. Sometimes the facts get in the way though.

"The real news, what people need to know, is that Hillary looks like a disaster in the making, with very poor campaign skills and an indefensible record overseeing foreign policy disasters that have exploded in the face of Obama. But some in the mainstream media are beginning to shed their reluctance to say that the empress has no clothes," Mr. Lifson says, citing new op-eds centered on Mrs. Clinton's private email system, the Benghazi matter and the increasing competition from eager Democrats like Martin O'Malley, who has scheduled his first fundraising event on Friday, followed by an "announcement event" on Saturday.

There could be a bonus for Republicans if Mrs. Clinton stays in the 2016 race.

"I am hoping that Hillary toughs it out and damages the Democrat brand. We could really use a reformist presidency backed by a GOP Congress," Mr. Lifson concludes.

BERNIETOPIA

"Paid for by Bernie Sanders, not the billionaires."

That's the campaign motto of Sen. Bernard Sanders. The Vermont senator kicks off his campaign to become the Democratic nominee for president on Tuesday in Burlington, to be followed by a 10-event tour through New Hampshire and Iowa in the 48 hours that follow.

"We are at a moment of truth. We need to face up to the reality of where we are as a nation, and we need a mass movement of people to fight for change," Mr. Sanders advises in his campaign outreach.

JEBTOPIA

Some big doings in Kennebunkport, Maine: Construction is underway on a 3,000-square-foot "cottage" at Walker's Point, the George H.W. Bush family compound. It is the ninth residential building on the expansive seaside acreage, and it is being built for Jeb Bush, according to the Portland Press Herald.

The local newspaper also reports that architect Kristi Kenney is both honored and intimidated to work for "a politically prominent family."

But she's keeping with traditional design on the four-bedroom, five-bath home: cedar shingles, gabled roofs, wraparound verandah, big windows. Jeb's vacation getaway will be finished in July. It's not the largest house in the compound, however. That honor goes to the original 7,100-square-foot, 12-room main home built in 1920 — and where the big family will gather June 8 to celebrate matriarch Barbara Bush's 90th birthday.

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NOT SOMETHING FOR AL GORE

"World's leading skeptics of man-caused global warming gather in Washington, DC," proclaims the Heartland Institute, which has organized the 10th International Conference on Climate Change in the nation's capital for June 11-12.

"Should policies adopted at the height of the global warming scare be repealed and replaced with pro-environment, pro-energy, and pro-jobs policies? In short: Given the new science and economics of climate change, isn't it time for a fresh start to the debate over what, if anything, to do about global warming?" the organizers ask.

A SUB FOR JERSEY

Here is a moment far removed from the questions of Bridgegate for the potential presidential campaign of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. At a formal ceremony in none other than Jersey City, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced at the weekend that "SSN 7 96," a Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, will bear the name "USS New Jersey ." And she is a big girl: 7,800 tons, 377 feet in length, a speed of 25 knots submerged — complete with enhanced stealth and surveillance and the capability to attack targets ashore with accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The Navy's first sub was built in New Jersey in 1900, incidentally . Two naval ships also hav e been named New Jersey — a battleship commissioned in 1906 and another commissioned in 1943.

"New Jersey's relationship with our Navy has been defined by innovation, leadership and courage — in conquest and in combat," said Mr. Mabus. "The name of our newest nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine will carry on that strong tradition. She will sail the world like those who have gone before her, defending the American people and representing our American values."

CNN, 35 YEARS LATER

Back in the day, it was the world's first 24-hour cable news station — signing on the air June 1, 1980. On Tuesday the Cable News Network — yes, CNN — will air a recap of 35 of its most pivotal stories of the decades, including the assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Anita Hill matter, the rescue of Baby Jessica, the first Persian Gulf War, the O.J. Simpson trial, 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and the Boston Marathon bombing.

Larry King, Bernard Shaw, Aaron Brown and Paula Zahn are among the past CNN talents to have their say in this hour long special — which airs at 9 p.m. EST and will repeat on June 1.

POLL DU JOUR

50 percent of Americans say the current federal tax system is fair; 40 percent of Republicans, 52 percent of independents and 66 percent of Democrats agree.

39 percent overall favor a flat tax system; 59 percent of Republicans, 39 percent of independents and 25 percent of Democrats agree.

38 percent overall do not trust either political party to handle the federal tax system; 30 percent of Republicans, 55 percent of independents and 23 percent of Democrats agree.

30 percent oppose a flat tax system; 1 7 percent of Republicans, 24 percent of independents and 45 percent of Democrats agree.

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27 percent overall trust Democrats to handle the federal tax system; 1 percent of Republicans, 1 2 percent of independents and 62 percent of Democrats agree

20 percent overall trust Republicans to handle it; 60 percent of Republicans, 12 percent of independents and 3 percent of Democrats agree.

What Young Feminists Think Of Hillary Clinton // National Journal // Molly Mirhashem – May 25, 2015

Alexandra Sv okos was six years old, growing up in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, when she became a Hillary Clinton fan. It was 1998, and Clinton had published Dear Socks, Dear Buddy, a collection of children's letters addressed to the first family's pets. Sv okos became so obsessed with the book, she recalls, that she wrote her own letter—not to Socks the cat or Buddy the Labrador, but to Clinton herself. When she got a reply on official White House stationery with the first lady's signature, Svokos was thrilled.

Clinton was an early feminist icon for many women of Svokos's generation—long before they even began to think of themselves as feminists. Svokos, who's now 23 and a fellow at The Huffington Post, grew up with parents who called themselves feminists and practiced gender equality in the house, balancing household responsibilities and encouraging Svokos and her two sisters to "fight for what we deserved." Mostly, she say s, feminism meant "girl power" to her—and that meant, in turn, rooting for Clinton when she made her first run for the presidency in 2008. Svokos was in high school then, and her ideas about feminism were still pretty simple; she admired Clinton "because she was a woman, rather than knowing much about what she stood for."

Eight years later, Svokos's notion of feminism has evolv ed—and the prospect of Hillary Clinton becoming president no longer fills her with unbridled excitement. Sv okos says her ideas about feminism began to change when she studied economics at Columbia University, beginning in 2010. As she learned about economic inequality in the United States and around the world, she says, she began to see how gender, race, and class were intertwined—how, for instance, expanding access to birth control can stimulate an economy by enabling women to pursue their own careers.

Feminism came to mean something v ery different from girl power. And Hillary Clinton came to look like the sy mbol of an older generation of women more concerned with female empowerment—in particular, with white, middle-class, American female empowerment—than with broader issues of social and economic justice. Sv okos says she'll vote for Clinton in 2016, but she's not expecting her to make social justice and inequality true priorities if she makes it to the White House. "I find her lacking, in that I realize she's not likely to push for the kind of change I'd like to see," Svokos says. "At the same time, though, I believe she knows how to manage politics and will be more than capable in the position."

Among feminists of her generation, Svokos is hardly alone in her lukewarm feelings about Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. I recently interv iewed 47 young women, most in their early to mid-20s, who call themselves feminists; they talked about what feminism means to them and shared their thoughts about Clinton's candidacy and public image. While the overwhelming majority of these women said they would likely vote for her in 2016, only about a quarter of them were enthusiastic or emphatic in their support. Jennifer Schaffer, a 22-year-old weekend editor at Vice, summed up a common sentiment among these women: "I'm glad we have a female presidential candidate," she told me, "but it's incredibly difficult to get excited about something that should have happened decades ago." A vote for Clinton, many said, would be a vote by default, because no other viable progressiv e alternativ es—female or male—are in the offing.

While it's not exactly news that Clinton is a less-than-ideal candidate for many on the Left, the critique of her from those on the vanguard of contemporary feminism is more surprising—and potentially problematic for her presidential effort. To win in 2016, Clinton doesn't just need half-hearted support from young women; she needs them to be a base of her grassroots efforts, as fired up as young people were for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. But even as more and more young women are embracing the "feminist" label—with pop-culture icons like Beyoncé making it central to their public personas—the feminism that Clinton represents seems increasingly outmoded. While her campaign banks on young feminists like Svokos and Schaffer being "Ready for Hillary," these women say they 're ready for more.

HILLARY CLINTON came of age during the peak years of second-wave feminism. The first wave began in the mid-1800s, with women's suffrage as the goal; the second stretched from the 1960s to the early 1980s, and focused on reproductive and workplace rights. Writer and activist Betty Friedan is usually credited with catalyzing the second wave with The Feminine Mystique. Published in 1963, the landmark book called for women's liberation from housework, with Friedan famously writing: "We can no longer ignore that voice within women that say s: 'I want something more than my husband

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and my children and my house.'"

As the feminism of Friedan and second-wave stalwarts like Gloria Steinem moved into the mainstream, some began to criticize it as a movement tailored to white women of means. Who, they asked, would clean the homes and care for the children of Friedan's liberated middle-class housewives? Where was their liberation? Such questions fed into a larger critique of second-wave feminism: that it saw white American women's concerns as representing those of all women.

In 1989, a term emerged for a feminist philosophy that would include women of color and other marginalized groups: "intersectionality." To the uninitiated, the word might sound like unwieldy academic jargon. But without my bringing it up, many of the women I spoke to said intersectionality was the foundation of their feminism—and of their skepticism about Clinton. First coined by legal scholar and professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, the word refers to the connections (the "intersections") between different systems of oppression—not just sexism, but also racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism. It's a recognition that a black woman, for instance, is not affected independently by racism and sexism—those forms of discrimination are inextricably linked, which makes her experience sexism differently from a white woman and racism differently from a black man.

The concept itself was far from new; it stretched as far back, at least, as Sojourner Truth's famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech in 1851, in which she highlighted the dramatic differences between the ways black and white women experience sexism. "That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place every where," Truth said. "Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?"

“I think it’s problematic to assume that just because she’s a woman, she’s the best spokesperson for all women.”

Now the idea had a name. But in the 1990s, as intersectionality was gaining popularity in academic circles, Hillary Clinton was bringing her own, more traditional brand of feminism to her role as first lady. Her domestic initiatives included adoption, foster care, and child care. In 1995, Clinton gave her famous Beijing speech to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, declaring that "women's rights are human rights." She helped to form the Justice Department's Violence Against Women Office and partnered with then–Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to found the Vital Voices Democracy Initiative, a series of conferences devoted to promoting female leaders and involving women around the globe in politics.

In the early and mid-2000s, after she left the White House and took up residence in the U.S. Senate, Clinton largely shifted away from a women-centered agenda as she worked to bolster her presidential résumé. At the same time, young bloggers like Lauren Bruce (Feministe) and Jessica Valenti (Feministing) were bringing feminist theory out of the Ivory Tower. "Each month seemed to bring a new site with feminist content," Rebecca Traister writes in her 2010 book, Big Girls Don't Cry. "At various points there were about six sites calling themselves The F-Word."

Social media changed the landscape of feminism. Young women who might not learn about feminism in their schools or communities could find primers on Tumblr blogs with names like intersectional feminism 101. Their feminist awakenings thus involved, from the start, debates about second-wave feminism's perceived failures of inclusivity. "Anyone who entered the feminist conversation in the Internet age has immediate access to not only research about those failures, but also to a lot of the conversations about them," says feminist organizer and writer Shelby Knox, who's 28. "The barriers are a lot lower for participation in the movement."

Young women could now do more than read about feminist issues and discuss them in class; they could find communities of women on Twitter or Tumblr whose experiences they could relate to—or who could open up new vistas for them on what other women's lives are like. They could participate in the creation of a new feminism—one that would be a far cry from Friedan's. By 2011, the writer Flavia Dzodan was famously declaring on her blog: "My feminism will be intersectional or it will be bullshit." Her words became a rallying cry.

As young women's notions of feminism evolved and broadened, so did their idea of what constitutes "women's issues" in the political arena. "If you're taking intersectionality as the foundation of this kind of feminism, you wouldn't just be concerned with how any particular policy issue is affecting women," says Gwendolyn Beetham, director of the Global Village at Douglass Residential College, the women's residential college affiliated with Rutgers University. "But you would be asking, 'Which women, and how?' And you would be asking this whether or not you are a member of one of those groups."

To young women like Sylvie Edman, a 20-year-old student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Clinton embodies

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"corporate feminism," which Edman defines concisely: "It's empowering women who are already powerful." Clinton and Sheryl Sandberg, the Facebook COO and author of Lean In, are often name-dropped in this context; while they experience sexism, the thinking goes, they've been able to dare greatly because of their race and class—while being helped along the way by working-class women and women of color who didn't have the same opportunities.

Some of the concerns raised by the women I spoke to about Clinton were traditional "women's issues" like reproductive justice and equal pay. But just as many brought up police brutality, criminal-justice reform, and environmental issues as primary concerns—and as integral to what they mean by "feminism." Some of the most commonly expressed critiques of Clinton echoed those of many left-of-center Americans: She's "hawkish" on foreign affairs, "part of a political dynasty," and simply "not very progressive." Collier Meyerson, who writes for the website Fusion, told me that her ideal candidate "wouldn't be part of a legacy, and wouldn't be a career politician." A candidate more like Barack Obama—"somebody who is rooted more in community-organizing"—would fit the bill better, Meyerson says.

Ayesha Siddiqi, the 24-year-old editor-in-chief of the online magazine The New Inquiry, says that this range of concerns should be no surprise. "Feminist issues," she says, "are no more complicated than the issues of people's lives." But that philosophy makes young women's views of Clinton—and her campaign's efforts to galvanize them behind her—very complicated indeed.

At April's Women in the World summit, Clinton talked about inequities in what women are paid, taking care to note the "even wider gaps for women of color." Will such rhetoric speak to young feminists' concerns that she's a classic "corporate feminist"? (Andrew Burton/Getty Images)

AT THE ANNUAL Women in the World Summit in New York this April, Sam Viqueira stuck out from the crowd. The summit, a high-powered gathering of leaders and activists launched by former New Yorker and Daily Beast editor Tina Brown in 2010, this year featured a keynote address by Hillary Clinton. Most of the women in attendance looked like Clinton's crowd, her generation: Dressed business casual, the mostly middle-aged women flocked to the free coffee and Luna bars on offer, chatted in small groups, and snapped selfies in front of a Dove-sponsored backdrop. The 17-year-old Viqueira and her high school friend stood off to the side in a small lounge, looking like they were dressed for a regular day of school. They'd taken the train in from Maplewood, New Jersey. "To me, feminism isn't only about wanting equality for all genders," Viqueira told me later, "but wanting and advocating for the equality of all oppressed groups, which can and do intersect."

In some respects, Viqueira exemplifies the rising generation of feminists—and their conflicted feelings about Clinton. She grew up with three sisters and parents who were big on women's empowerment, encouraging the girls to play sports and study math and science. But she credits social media with teaching her about the intersection of race and gender, and the issues women face outside of the United States; she first read the term "intersectionality" online when she was just 15 and now follows a lot of young women on Twitter who help broaden her perspective.

This spring, she's taking the first gender-studies class ever offered at her public high school. Next fall, Viqueira will be old enough to cast her first vote. That has led her, like so many other young feminists, to think long and hard about what Clinton would—and wouldn't—represent as the first woman president. "It's nice to see a strong female candidate running for president," Viqueira says, but she can't help wishing it were a woman with a different track record. She's particularly troubled by Clinton's support of the 1996 welfare-reform bill her husband signed and of the Clinton-era crime-fighting legislation that, among other things, lengthened prison sentences for drug offenses. At best, she says, Clinton has been inconsistent on social-justice issues; at worst, she has been a hypocrite.

While Viqueira is hesitant to say she'll vote for Clinton, she acknowledges that the limited options for progressive-minded voters will probably push her in that direction. But it bothers her to see Clinton held up as a model feminist: "I think it's problematic to assume that just because she's a woman, she's the best spokesperson for all women."

While her deep résumé impresses many young women, Clinton has to grapple with past policies that are anathema to others. (Luis Acosta/AFP/GettyImages)

Clinton's first presidential campaign relied heavily on that assumption. An internal campaign memo from March 2007, written by the campaign's chief strategist and pollster, Mark Penn, and published in The Atlantic the following year, advised Clinton thusly:

1) Start with a base of women.

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a. For these women, you represent a breaking of barriers.

b. The winnowing out of the most competent and qualified in an unfair, male-dominated world.

c. The infusion of a woman and a mother's sensibilities into a world of war and neglect.

2) Add on a base of lower- and middle-class voters.

a. You see them; you care about them.

b. You were one of them, it is your history.

c. You are all about their concerns (health care, education, energy, child care, college, etc.).

For young feminists, Penn's memo, and Clinton's campaign, represented the antithesis of intersectional thinking. The problem isn't merely the assumption that women would be Clinton's primary base because of their gender alone; it's also the fact that lower- and middle-class voters are itemized as a separate group, with a different (and far more specific) set of concerns from those of "women." "With strategies like this," Traister writes, "it was not unjust to suggest that one serious problem with the Clinton campaign leadership was that it did not think much of the women with whom it was supposed to be making history." Traister notes that "Penn assured Hillary that internal polling showed that 94% of young women would automatically vote for the first female president. It was perhaps this confidence that led him to shrug off concerns about reaching them." In the end, according to a CBS News poll, Penn's initial estimates were way off: 53 percent of young women backed Obama over Clinton.

While these young women, rallying for Clinton in New York in April, are “Ready for Hillary,” others say they’re ready for more. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Far from a high-water mark for feminism, Siddiqi, The New Inquiry editor, sees Clinton's presidential campaigns as "the nadir of the 'Lean In' feminism moment. This is what you get when that's what your feminism looks like," she says. "You don't get a victory that all women can celebrate."

OF COURSE, plenty of young women will be celebrating next November if Hillary Clinton wins the presidency—including some who see themselves rooted in "intersectionality." Gabriel Clarke, a 20-year-old musician and student at Oakwood University in Alabama, says she had a wake-up moment during protests over the shooting of Michael Brown last summer in Ferguson, Missouri. "A young woman grabbed the microphone and said, 'I am a woman, but before I am a woman, I am black.' And I was thinking, that's not how we have to look at these things. That's not how we have to be. We have to understand that we are both of those things simultaneously."

Women of color like herself have long been "on the back burner in the movement," Clarke says. It's a welcome change that "people are starting to see that you can't have a social movement about equality and leave out everyone else who's not a white woman." But intersectional thinking hasn't dimmed her passion for electing Clinton. The first time Clinton ran, Clarke was just 13. She had a hard time taking the candidate seriously, she says, because of the media's relentless focus on her hair, clothes, and manner of speaking. But the summer before Clarke went off to college in 2013, her impression was changed by watching the documentary Miss Representation, which shines a critical light on the way women leaders are portrayed by the media. "It really opened my eyes and made me see Hillary in a totally different way," Clarke says. "They talked more about her pantsuits than her policies!"

Like most of the one-quarter of these young women who told me they're gung ho for Clinton, Clarke cites the candidate's extensive experience—the same experience others use to knock her as a "career politician"—as a prime factor in her support. Clinton, says Clarke, is obviously the most-qualified candidate in the race. "But that's the story of being a woman," she says. "You have to be ten times better than everyone else to even get your foot in the door." Clarke realizes that many feminists of color are "very skeptical" of Clinton, wondering "whether she will really be a champion or a voice for them, or only for white women"—and she gets the skepticism. But to her, there's something more fundamental at stake: "I think that even her as a symbol for women, that a woman can be president, is powerful enough."

This time around, the Clinton campaign isn't taking that kind of solidarity for granted. Young feminists' social and economic views may have been overlooked in 2008, but in the early stages of Clinton's second run, they've been front and center. You could hear it in her keynote at the Women in the World Summit, where Clinton talked about inequities in what women are paid, taking care to note the "even wider gaps for women of color." You could hear it in another speech she recently gave in New York calling for police reform and in her frequent invocations of income inequality. "Americans have fought their way back from tough economic times," Clinton said in the April video announcing her campaign. "But the

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deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top."

Such talk is welcomed by Clinton skeptics like Viqueira, the 17-year-old, who sees the candidate "redefining her feminism to be all-inclusive." Collier Meyerson says that Clinton's announcement video—which, as pundits noted, took pains to feature just about every group of "marginalized" people in America—was a clear attempt to reach people ignored during her 2008 campaign. "My hope is that she continues with this thread," Meyerson says, "and goes on to pull in people from different socioeconomic classes, backgrounds, and races."

By and large, these women say they'll need to see more evidence of Clinton's new inclusiveness before their ambivalent support morphs into enthusiasm. "So far, she's hit on a lot of the things I'm passionate about," says Laura Brown, a 26-year-old fashion designer and seamstress in Los Angeles. "I want to see her prove it. I want to know it's genuine and not just part of the game."

Presidentidal Candidates Continue to Take Shots at the Supreme Court // Bloomberg.com // David Knowles – May 25, 2015

Of late, the U.S. Supreme Court has become a regular target for the current crop of presidential candidates, but for two decidedly different issues.

For Republicans still burned by the court's 2012 ruling that let stand insurance mandates and penalties under the Affordable Care Act, the latest beef with the court concerns its forthcoming ruling on whether gay marriage should be recognized nationwide. That prospect is so galling to some GOP candidates, that some have gone so far as to suggest that the court does not have the authority to enforce such a decision.

Mike Huckabee

During an appearance last weekend on Fox News Sunday, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee voiced his frustration with the prospect of having the court decide the gay marriage question once and for all. "The notion that the Supreme Court comes up with the ruling and that automatically subjects the two other branches to following it defies everything there is about the three equal branches of government," Huckabee said.

Pressed by host Chris Wallace how far he would carry his logic, Huckabee floated a hypothetical.

“Then, what if the Supreme Court ruled they were going to make the decision as to who was going to be the next president and save the taxpayers and voters from all the expense and trouble of voting, and they'll just pick a president? Well, we would say, 'Well, they can't do that.' Why can't they do it? They can't do it because it's not in the law.”

Ted Cruz

Back in October, Texas Senator Ted Cruz reacted strongly to news that the supreme court had rejected requests from five states seeking to overturn lower court rulings that legalized gay marriage.

“The Supreme Court’s decision to let rulings by lower court judges stand that redefine marriage is both tragic and indefensible,” the senator said in a statement. “By refusing to rule if the states can define marriage, the Supreme Court is abdicating its duty to uphold the Constitution.”

Cruz also described the court's move as "judicial activism at its worst."

Ben Carson

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Interviewed by Fox News' Chris Wallace in May, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson argued that it was an "open question" whether a president should be obliged to follow the Supreme Court's rulings. Asserting that "the laws of the land are not provided by the judicial branch," Carson suggested that the question of judicial rev iew had its limits and might be revisited.

"I have said this is an area that we need to discuss. We need to get into a discussion of this because it has changed from the original intent," Carson said (discussion begins at the 1:45 mark in the video).

Marco Rubio

Unlike his GOP riv als, Florida Senator Marco Rubio did not specifically mention the U.S. Supreme Court when, during an interview in April with the Christian Broadcasting Network's David Brody, he mocked the notion that the right to same-sex marriage is protected in the Constitution.

"It doesn't exist. There is no federal constitutional right to same sex marriage," Rubio declared. "There isn't such a right. You have to have a ridiculous reading of the U.S. Constitution to reach the conclusion that people have a right to marry someone of the same sex."

For Democrats, meanwhile, disappointment with the court largely stems from the 2010 v erdict in the Citizens United v . FEC case, which ruled that the First Amendment to the Constitution prevented the government from restricting the amount of money that corporations and unions can spend on elections. Still, neither of the two politicians to have declared their candidacy have suggested amending the current balance of power the way their Republican counterparts have.

Bernie Sanders

Shortly after declaring himself a presidential candidate, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders pledged to enact a Supreme Court litmus test if elected whereby he would not nominate judges who did not promise to ov erturn the Citizens United decision.

"If elected president, I will have a litmus test in terms of my nominee to be a Supreme Court justice. And that nominee will say that we are going to ov erturn this disastrous Supreme Court decision on Citizens United. Because that decision is undermining American democracy. I do not believe that billionaires should be able to buy politicians," Sanders told CBS' Face the Nation in May.

Hillary Clinton

One week after announcing her 2016 candidacy, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton began targeting Citizens United.

"We need to fix our dysfunctional political system and get unaccountable money out of it once and for all—even if it takes a constitutional amendment," Clinton said during her first trip to Iowa in April as a candidate.

Not to be outdone by Sanders, Clinton too began talking up a Citizens United litmus test for Supreme Court nominees.

"I will do ev ery thing I can do to appoint Supreme Court justices who will protect the right to v ote and not the right of billionaires to buy elections," Clinton told supporters at an Iowa house party two weeks ago.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

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10 questions with Bernie Sanders // CNBC // John Harwood – May 26, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, 73, is the only self-described socialist in Congress. Now

he is mounting a long shot bid for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination against his former Senate colleague Hillary Rodham Clinton, who served most recently as Secretary of State.

Sanders calls for nothing less than a "political revolution" that would use tax policy to reverse what he calls the massive transfer of wealth from ordinary families to the most affluent over the past generation. He sat down to discuss the campaign with me over spaghetti-and-meatballs at a bistro near the Capitol. What follows is a condensed, edited transcript of our conversation.

HARWOOD: I read that you ran track in school. Was athletics important to you as a kid?

SANDERS: I came in third in my junior year in the New York City public school one-mile. I think my best was 4:37, which is not superstar, but it's pretty good.

We used to play ball every day. we chose up teams. One of the differences, by the way, between today and way back then is maybe you learn a little bit about democracy. Kids are out on the street. There wasn't any supervisors. There wasn't any parents. You chose—punch ball, softball. Everybody knew how good you are. It didn't matter how much money y ou had. You were the third best basketball player. Everybody knew it, 'cause they played with you day in and day out. Baseball the same.

You want to know who the Brooklyn Dodger team of 1951? Gil Hodges, Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, Billy Cox, Gene Hermanski, Duke Snider, Carl Furillo, Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe. How's that? Were they important to me? We would occasionally, go in the bleachers, which were then 60 cents. And when we really could put together the money and really were goin' big, we would sometimes get a buck-and-a-quarter seats.

HARWOOD: After the revolution, what does it look like? What do you see happening to the 1 percent?

SANDERS: What is my dream? My dream is, do we live in a country where 70 percent, 80 percent, 90 percent of the people vote? Where we have serious discourse on media rather than political gossip, by the way? Where we're debating trade policy, we're debating foreign policy, we're debating economic policy, where the American people actually know what's going on in Congress? Ninety-nine percent of all new income generated today goes to the top 1 percent. Top one-tenth of 1 percent owns as much as wealth as the bottom 90 percent. Does anybody think that that is the kind of economy this country should hav e? Do we think it's moral? So to my mind, if you have seen a massive transfer of wealth from the middle class to the top one-tenth of 1 percent, you know what, we've got to transfer that back if we're going to have a vibrant middle class. And you do that in a lot of ways. Certainly one way is tax policy.

HARWOOD: Have y ou seen some of the quotations from people on Wall Street, people in business? Some have even likened the progressive Democratic crusade to Hitler's Germany hunting down the Jews.

SANDERS: It's sick. And I think these people are so greedy, they 're so out of touch with reality, that they can come up and say that. They think they own the world.

What a disgusting remark. I'm sorry to hav e to tell them, they live in the United States, they benefit from the United States, we have kids who are hungry in this country. We hav e people who are working two, three, four jobs, who can't send their kids to college. You know what? Sorry, y ou're all going to have to pay your fair share of taxes. If my memory is correct, when radical socialist Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, the highest marginal tax rate was something like 90 percent.

HARWOOD: When you think about 90 percent, you don't think that's obv iously too high?

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SANDERS: No. That's not 90 percent of your income, you know? That's the marginal. I'm sure you have some really right-wing nut types, but I'm not sure that every very wealthy person feels that it's the worst thing in the world for them to pay more in taxes, to be honest with you. I think you've got a lot of millionaires saying, "You know what? I've made a whole lot of money. I don't want to see kids go hungry in America. Yeah, I'll pay my fair share."

HARWOOD: In the latter part of the 20th century, Ronald Reagan came along and there was a big pivot in our politics. It revolves around the idea that we need less government and more market forces. Do you think that basic pivot was wrong?

SANDERS: Let me answer it this way, John. I think there is obviously an enormously important role for the free market and for entrepreneurial activity. I worry how free the free market is. In sector after sector, you have a small number of companies controlling a large part of the sector.

Certainly, in my view, the major banks should be broken up. We want entrepreneurs and private businesses to create wealth. No problem. But what we're living in now is what I would call—what Pope Francis calls—a casino-type capitalism, which is out of control, where the people on top have lost any sense of responsibility for the rest of the society. Where it's just "It's all me. It's all me. And to heck with anybody else." I want to see the result of that wealth go to the broad middle class of this country and not just to a handful of people.

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HARWOOD: If the changes that you envision in tax policy, in finance, breaking up the banks, were to result in a more equitable distribution of income, but less economic growth, is that trade off worth making?

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SANDERS: Yes. If 99 percent of all the new income goes to the top 1 percent, you could triple it, it wouldn't matter much to the average middle class person. The whole size of the economy and the GDP. doesn't matter if people continue to work longer hours for low wages and you have 45 million people living in poverty. You can't just continue growth for the sake of growth in a world in which we are struggling with climate change and all kinds of environmental problems. All right? You don't necessarily need a choice of 23 underarm spray deodorants or of 18 different pairs of sneakers when children are hungry in this country. I don't think the media appreciates the kind of stress that ordinary Americans are working on. People scared to death about what happens tomorrow. Half the people in America have less than $10,000 in savings. How do you like that? That means you have an automobile accident, you have an illness, you're broke. How do you retire if you have less than $10,000, and you don't have much in the way of Social Security?

HARWOOD: It came out in disclosure forms the other day that Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton, in the last 16 months, have made $30 million. What does that kind of money do to a politician's perspective on the struggles you were just talking about? Does it make it difficult for recipients of that kind of income to take on the system?

SANDERS: Well, theoretically, you could be a multi-billionaire and, in fact, be very concerned about the issues of working people. Theoretically, that's true.

I think sometimes what can happen is that—it's not just the Clintons—when you hustle money like that, you don't sit in restaurants like this. You sit in restaurants where you're spending—I don't know what they spend—hundreds of dollars for dinner and so forth. That's the world that you're accustomed to, and that's the world view that you adopt. You're not worrying about a kid three blocks away from here whose mom can't afford to feed him. So yes, I think that can isolate you—that type of wealth has the potential to isolate you from the reality of the world.

HARWOOD: I read an interview that you did about the corporate media. And you said the corporate media was reluctant to call out people for lying in public debates. You're on corporate media right now. Who's lying in our politics?

SANDERS: I'm the ranking member of the Budget Committee, okay? Leader of the opposition. The Republican budget does the following: It throws 27 million people off of health care by ending the Affordable Care Act and cutting Medicaid by $440 billion. Have you seen that in print? Have you seen that statement? There is a reality that goes on here. And you have many people who try to be, "Oh, I've got to be even-handed here and even-handed there. You got the Koch Brothers there, Bernie Sanders there." That's nonsense. And I think a lot of right-wing people get away with murder, because the media doesn't call them out on it.

HARWOOD: President Obama, in talking about trade the other day, said that Elizabeth Warren and some of the people taking her position were just making things up about the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Do you think he's making things up in selling it? He says it's the most progressive one that's ever been negotiated.

SANDERS: Yeah, like what? The minimum wage in Vietnam is 56 cents an hour. Workers there cannot form independent unions. And if you protest government policy, you might end up in trouble. Okay? What does this trade agreement have to say about that? Not a goddamned thing. Not a bloody thing. In this trade agreement there is language, what we call the Investor State Dispute Resolution. This is what it says: that Philip Morris can take Australia and Uruguay to court and try to collect many millions of dollars. For what reason? You know why they can do that? Because Australia and Uruguay have passed strong legislation trying to keep their kids from smoking. And Philip Morris is aggrieved because their future profits are being threatened by strong anti-smoking legislation. That is exactly how you undermine American democracy.

-Sen. Bernie Sanders

HARWOOD: You and I talked some months ago. You said you were going to take a look at running, and you weren't going to do it if it wasn't viable. What did you see that made you think it was viable?

SANDERS: If I do badly, and I don't run a good campaign, and we don't get our message out, and we don't bring people together, it reflects not just on me, but on the ideas that I'm talking about. A couple months ago, I was in California, a beautiful sunny day. We had 500 people coming out at a union hall. I went to Austin, Texas - we had about 600 people coming out. I was in Las Vegas, we had 300 people coming out. Went to Chicago, we had 400 people. So I am sensing that based on that trip and trips that I made to Iowa, New Hampshire, that there is more disconnect and more anger at the establishment—the corporate establishment, the political establishment, the media establishment.

Is there the potential support out there? I sensed that there was. Gut feeling, that's all.

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I fully concede that I get into this race as a major underdog. No question about it. I mean, Hillary Clinton is known by 95 percent of the American people. And clearly, in terms of money, I will be very, very, very heavily outspent. As I've said before though, don't underestimate me.

We're going to do better than people think. And I think we got a shot to win this thing.

Bernie Sanders Aims To Catch On With Elizabeth Warren-Backing Democrats // AP via Huffington Post // Ken Thomas - May 25, 2015

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — For Democrats who had hoped to lure Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren into a presidential campaign, independent Sen. Bernie Sanders might be the next best thing.

Sanders, who is opening his official presidential campaign Tuesday in Burlington, Vermont, aims to ignite a grassroots fire among left-leaning Democrats wary of Hillary Rodham Clinton. He is laying out an agenda in step with the party's progressive wing and compatible with Warren's platform — reining in Wall Street banks, tackling college debt and creating a government-financed infrastructure jobs program.

"I think our views are parallel on many, many issues," Sanders said in an interview with The Associated Press, describing Warren as a "good friend."

Sanders caucuses with the Democrats in Washington and is running for the Democratic nomination. He and Democratic former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley are vying to become the primary alternative to Clinton. Much of the energy behind a Clinton alternative has been directed to drafting Warren, but she has repeatedly said she won't run.

For Sanders, a key question is electability. Clinton is in a commanding position by any measure. Yet his supporters in New Hampshire say his local ties and longstanding practice of holding town hall meetings and people-to-people campaigning — a staple in the nation's first primary state — could serve him well.

"Toward the Vermont border it's like a love-fest for Bernie," said Jerry Curran, an Amherst, New Hampshire, Democratic activist who has been involved in the draft Warren effort. "He's not your milquetoast left-winger. He's kind of a badass left-winger."

A self-described democratic socialist, Sanders has raised more than $4 million since announcing in early May that he would be a presidential candidate. He suggested in the interview that raising $50 million for the primaries was a possibility. "That would be a goal," he said.

He rejects the notion that he's simply in the race to shape the debate.

"Hillary Clinton is a candidate, I am a candidate," Sanders said. "I suspect there will be other candidates. The people in this country will make their choice."

Whether Sanders can tap into the party's Warren wing and influence Clinton's policy agenda remains unclear. But he has been on the forefront of liberal causes as Clinton has seemed to be tacking to the left.

Clinton regularly refers to an economic stacked deck against American workers — rhetoric that offers comparisons to Warren's frequent description of the economic system being "rigged" against middle-class families.

Sanders has joined with Warren to drive opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade proposal, arguing it would ship jobs overseas. Clinton has avoided taking a specific position on the trade deal.

The Vermont senator has introduced legislation to make tuition free at public colleges and universities, a major piece of Warren's agenda. The free tuition would be covered by a mix of state and federal money and paid for by higher taxes on

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Wall Street investment firms, hedge funds and other financial transactions. Clinton's campaign has signaled that she intends to make debt-free college a major piece of her campaign.

Sanders' disdain for big money in politics is also shared by liberals. Clinton frequently tells voters that she would back a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision allowing super PACS to raise unlimited money. But Democratic super PACs are already lining up behind her.

"I'm not going to have a super PAC in this campaign," Sanders said. "I don't go to fundraisers where millionaires sit around the room and say here's a million, here's $5 million for your super PAC. That's not my life. That's not my world. And I think the American people are saying that is not what our politics should be about." He said the money he's raised so far has come from more than 100,000 individual donors, giving an average of $42 each.

Organizers of the pro-Warren effort say Clinton may still win over many of their supporters. Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Vermont-based Democracy for America, said Sanders would "fill the void" for some of the voters hoping for Warren to run. But not for all.

"They're different people. They've got different pluses, they've got different minuses," Chamberlain said. "Some of the people who want to see Elizabeth get in the race are going to Hillary. Some of them are going to go to Martin O'Malley." O'Malley is expected to announce his candidacy Saturday.

If Sanders is the underdog, that's fine by him. During the 1970s, he lost four statewide elections as a third-party candidate, and then narrowly defeated a Democratic incumbent in 1981 to become Burlington's mayor.

"Nobody — trust me — nobody thought I would defeat a five-term incumbent Democratic mayor," Sanders said, noting the winning margin of 10 votes.

The lessons, he said, are clear: "Don't underestimate me."

Vermont's Favorite Underdog // Politico // Terri Hallenbeck - May 25, 2015

As the sun sets Tuesday over Lake Champlain, Bernie Sanders plans to join Hillary Clinton in the Democratic presidential race during a rally at Burlington's Waterfront Park filled with Ben & Jerry's ice cream and music from Vermont's best Cajun band, Mango Jam. It's an unlikely, long-shot bid for the nation's highest office—but it's not entirely Quixotic. "Bernie," as everyone in this state knows him, has after all made a career out of unlikely, long-shot bids for public office.

And, if Sanders' presidential bid is going to go anywhere, he's going to have to do it the way he's always done it: as the outside candidate, winning over voters one town hall meeting at a time.

Over a forty-year political career, he's gotten pretty good at it. Bernie Sanders wasn't even up for reelection in 2014, but at a late October campaign rally last year in small-town Bristol, Vermont, he was clearly the headline act. The incumbent governor and Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor and state legislative seats filled the front of the room. But who was the biggest draw to the town hall brunch? Sanders. "Oh god, yeah," said Bristol resident Suzanne Boyle, who enthusiastically supported his push for universal health care.

The wild-haired, filled-with-outrage Sanders has long had a rock-star status in Vermont that is envy of fellow politicians. And it follows him to the polls. He won 71 percent of the vote in 2012, his most recent election. That's better than President Barack Obama fared in the state.

In 2006, his first election to the Senate after 16 years in the House, Sanders won every county in the state despite facing off against a self-financed millionaire Republican. He did better than the incumbent governor that year.

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The self-described democratic socialist polls well in relativ ely populous, left-leaning Burlington, where he got his political start as may or in 1981. But he also does surprisingly well in the so-called Northeast Kingdom, one of the most rural and conserv ative corners of the state. He's big with liberals but also with seniors and veterans, farmers and postal workers.

During four decades of politics in Vermont, Sanders has managed to win over a wide array of voters with his unique style. If the presidential campaign he is kicking off Tuesday in Burlington is to gain traction, he will likely hav e to do it the same way .

"Bernie has really been able to speak for the underdog," says Garrison Nelson, a political science professor at the University of Vermont who has followed Sanders' entire career. "They see Bernie as a person who can be their champion."

Though Sanders was headlining a Democratic campaign rally last fall in Bristol, he has never been elected to office as a Democrat. Congress' longest-serving independent caucuses in Washington with Democrats, runs in Democratic primaries and campaigns with Vermont Democrats, but he is not one of them.

That showed clearly last week, as Gov. Peter Shumlin, a three-term incumbent Democrat, announced he's supporting Hillary Clinton in the presidential race. Shumlin joins a long list of the state's top Democrats to do so: former Gov s. Howard Dean and Madeleine Kunin, Sen. Patrick Leahy and Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger. Only the state's sole at-large congressman, Democrat Peter Welch, has remained uncommitted.

"Bernie and I are great friends," Shumlin said last week. "But my belief is that the most qualified candidate running for president who's going to fight for the middle class and who understands the challenge of foreign policy is Hillary Clinton."

Sanders is used to being the outsider. Other than a few early unsuccessful elections in which he was part of the liberal, anti-war Liberty Union Party, Sanders has always run his own party. He's become a master at hosting town hall-style meetings, where his staff serves up a free brunch, lunch or dinner and he adds a heaping spoonful of political theater.

He wins over v oters, but not with charm. The gruff 73-year-old, who has never lost his blustery Brookly n accent, is not the sort of politician who remembers your name, or your kids' names. He does not linger for idle chatter. He seems far too busy with weighty matters.

Instead, he leaves voters believing they can count on him to bully their bullies, whoev er they might be. He stands up for almost everybody but the rich.

Bernie Sanders Takes It to Wall Street With Financial T ransactions Tax // Huffington Post // Dean Baker – May 25, 2015

Last week, Bernie Sanders, the Senator from Vermont and only announced challenger to Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination, took a strong stand for everyday people. He proposed a financial transactions tax (FTT), effectively a Wall Street sales tax, and to use the revenue to make public colleges tuition free.

While making college affordable to low and middle income families is important, the proposal for an FTT is a real game changer. There is no single policy that would hav e anywhere near as much impact in reforming the financial sector. A FTT would effectiv ely impose a sales tax on stocks and other financial assets, so that speculators have to pay a tax on their trades, just like people who buy shoes or clothes.

There are three points people should understand about a FTT. The first is that it can raise an enormous amount of money . A FTT could be imposed at different rates. Sanders proposed following the rate structure in a bill put forward by Minneapolis Congressman Keith Ellison. Eleven countries in the European Union are working to implement a set of FTTs that would tax stock trades at a rate of 0.1 percent and trades of most derivativ e instruments at the rate of 0.01 percent.

Extrapolating from a recent analysis of the European proposal, a comparable tax in the United States would raise more

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than $130 billion a year or more than $1.5 trillion over the next decade. This is real money; it dwarfs the sums that have dominated most budget debates in recent years. For example, the Republicans had been trying to push through cuts to the food stamp program of $40 billion over the course of a decade. The sum that can be raised by this FTT proposal is more than thirty times as large. The revenue from a FTT could go far toward rebuilding the infrastructure, improving the health care system, or paying for college tuition, as suggested by Senator Sanders.

The second point is that Wall Street will bear almost the entire cost of the tax. The financial industry is surely already paying for studies showing the tax will wipe out the 401(k)s held by middle income families. This is nonsense. Not only is the size of the tax small for anyone not flipping stock on a daily basis, research indicates that most investors will largely offset the cost of the tax by trading less.

Most research shows that trading volume falls roughly in proportion to the increase in transaction costs. This means that if a FTT doubles the cost of trading then the volume of trading will fall by roughly 50 percent, leaving total trading costs unchanged. Investors will pay twice as much on each trade, but hav e half as many trades. Since inv estors don't on average make money on trades (one side might win, but the other loses), this is a wash for the investor.

While most middle income people don't directly trade the money in their retirement accounts, they do have people who manage these funds. The research means that the fund managers will reduce their trading, so that the total costs of transactions that are passed on to the investor remain roughly constant. This means that the financial industry will bear almost the entire cost of the tax in the form of reduced trading volume.

This gets to the last point: a smaller financial industry is a more efficient financial industry. The purpose of the financial industry is to allocate money from savers to companies that want to finance new investment. As the industry has exploded in size ov er the last four decades there is no reason to believ e that it has gotten better in serving this basic function. In fact, the stock bubble at the end of the 1990s and the housing bubble in the last decade might suggest that it has gotten worse.

A study from the Bank of International Settlements and more recent research from the International Monetary Fund find that a bloated financial sector slows growth. An oversized financial sector pulls resources away from more productiv e sectors of the economy. People who could be engaged in biological research or developing clean technologies are instead employed on Wall Street designing computer programs to beat other traders by a microsecond to garner profits at their expense. A FTT will make much of this activity unprofitable, encouraging people to turn to more productive work.

In short, a FTT is a great way to raise large amounts of money to meet important public needs. It will come almost entirely at the expense of the financial industry and should strengthen the economy . We now have one presidential candidate who is prepared to support a strong FTT. Are there others?

Sanders: A Revolution With an Eye on the Hungry Children // NYT// John Hardwood – May 26, 2015

Mr. Sanders won't condemn Mrs. Clinton for raking in millions in speech fees and campaign donations. But he warns it could curb her effectiveness in challenging corporate interests on behalf of working Americans.

"When you hustle money like that, you don't sit in restaurants like this," Mr. Sanders said during an interv iew in a small Italian bistro on Capitol Hill. "You're sitting in restaurants where y ou're spending — I don't know what they spend, hundreds of dollars for dinner."

"That's the world that you're accustomed to, and that's the worldview that y ou adopt," he added. "You're not worrying about a kid three blocks away from here whose mom can't afford to feed him."

Mr. Sanders spoke on the eve of the first big rally for his 2016 presidential bid, in Burlington, Vt. One question looming over his effort is how aggressively he will draw contrasts with Mrs. Clinton, his former Senate colleague who he concedes is heavily favored.

Mr. Sanders advocates a "rev olution" to reverse a "massive transfer of wealth" from the middle class to the affluent over

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the last generation.

He exuded contempt for the "sick" and "disgusting" views of some titans of business who have likened such efforts to Hitler and his persecution of Jews.

"These people are so greedy, they're so out of touch with reality," Mr. Sanders said. "You know what? Sorry, you're all going to hav e to pay your fair share of taxes."

He doesn't flinch over returning to the 90 percent personal income tax rates of the 1950s for top earners. And if reducing income inequality reduces economic growth, he says, that's fine. "You don't necessarily need a choice of 23 underarm spray deodorants," he said, "when children are hungry in this country ."

GOP

Ben Carson tells RNC to keep debates inclusive despite his own surge // Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – May 25, 2015

Ben Carson has penned his second open letter to the Republican National Committee concerning the upcoming GOP presidential debates, which will only include the 10 best-polling candidates according to new restrictions set by host networks Fox News and CNN.

Initially, Mr. Carson urged the RNC to let all GOP hopefuls participate in the high profile debates beginning Aug. 6, asking consideration for himself and fellow hopeful Carly Fiorina.

The national polls, howev er, turned out to be in Mr. Carson's favor; he is now on the Top 10 list after a Fox News poll found him tied with Jeb Bush in first place.

Nevertheless, he expounded on his concerns about the broadcasts, again calling for inclusiv eness in an open letter released at the weekend.

"I am very worried that out of broadcasting convenience our party is about to exclude voices from our debate programs that are critical to making our party bigger, better, and bolder. The rules may be good for me personally, but they are not good for the process," Mr. Carson wrote. "We are blessed to have so many qualified candidates running for president, more than a typical debate format can handle. Surely we could find a format to allow every voice to be heard."

With potential candidates including Donald Trump, Ohio Gov. John Kasich to Sen. Lindsey Graham, the field of GOP presidential hopefuls currently ranges from a low of 12 — all the way up to 30, depending on who's doing the counting. Candidates "must place in the top 10 of an average of the fiv e most recent national polls," according to the Fox News criteria; CNN's rules were similar.

"In the past, this type of rule has been used to keep 'fringe' candidates off the stage. None of these men and women deserves this exclusion," Mr. Carson concluded.

As for Ms. Fiorina, her campaign manager Steve DeMaura issued his own statement, saying the campaign expects to meet the standards.

"We are confident that Carly's growing momentum and support will meet and exceed whatever inclusion criteria Fox News and the RNC set. Fox News has deep political expertise and we are hopeful that whatever criteria they settle on will accurately reflect both the state of the race and the realities of the nominating contest," he said.

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The Koch brothers try to rein in the GOP presidential clown show // The Washington Post // Paul Waldman – May 25, 2015

If you're a Republican primary voter, you're probably feeling pretty good about the presidential primaries. Even if you haven't yet found the candidate who will make you swoon, one thing you've got is choices. By my count, there are currently 10 candidates who are declared or all but certain to run, and another four who will probably run. But while the voters might find this an embarrassment of riches, for the party's leaders and financiers, it looks like a recipe for trouble. Which is how I interpret this news:

> In a Saturday interview on the Larry Kudlow Show, a nationally syndicated radio broadcast, David Koch let it slip that the roughly $900 million that he and his brother, Charles, plan to lavish on the 2016 presidential race could find its way into the hands of more than one GOP contender.
>
> "We are thinking of supporting several Republicans," David Koch said, adding, "If we're happy with the policies that these individuals are supporting, we'll finance their campaigns."
>
> Koch said the brothers would begin writing checks to individual candidates in "the primary season, winter and next spring."

Up until now, the Koch brothers hadn't indicated that they'd be taking a side in the primaries. It almost seemed that they viewed that as the kind of thing amateurs like Sheldon Adelson do, throwing money at some candidate based on overly irrational personal feelings, while they keep focused on the real goal of getting a Republican — any Republican — into the White House. By saying they're going to support several candidates in the primaries, the Kochs are pledging to accelerate the winnowing process, by which the race's chaff can be sloughed off and the focus can stay on the serious contenders.

Don't be fooled by the line about them supporting all the ones whose policies they're happy with. That's because there's almost no disagreement among the candidates, at least on the issues the Kochs care about. All of them would like to see low taxes on the wealthy (most have even advocated a flat tax, a boon to people like the Kochs), a dramatic reduction in regulations that affect corporations and a rollback of the social safety net. Where the Kochs personally disagree with the candidates (as they may on some social issues or on immigration), they disagree with all the candidates, because the candidates' positions are so similar.

So mark my words: If the Kochs pick out a few candidates to support, it will be the ones they think would be the strongest in a general election and those they think put the best face on the GOP.

And the Kochs aren't the only ones trying to do this winnowing. Fox News, which always keeps the long-term interests of the Republican Party in mind, recently announced that in the first debate of the season, it will be refusing admittance to all but 10 candidates. The excluded ones will in all likelihood find themselves caught in a vicious cycle where they can't get coverage because they aren't being taken seriously, and the can't get taken seriously because they aren't getting coverage. Ten is still a large number of candidates, but that first debate will be a key moment in the winnowing process.

So as open as the campaign is, certain key players still have ways to at least try to rein it in. But their power is limited. One result of the newly freewheeling nature of presidential elections is that a rich donor or two can prop up the candidacy of someone with little chance to win the party's nomination, enabling him or her to stick around and cause trouble months after he or she ought to have departed the race. This year, multiple candidates could have billionaires feeding them the money they need to keep their campaigns active deep into the primary season. If you're a thoughtful Republican, a primary with this many candidates is a cacophonous mess, full of extremist cranks squabbling with each other and taking progressively nastier potshots at the leaders, one of whom will end up as the nominee. The longer it goes, the more that nominee has to pander to the base and the less time he or she will have to focus on Hillary Clinton.

If the Kochs are ready to put some of their ample resources into the primary campaign, it's a sign that the enormous size of the primary field is generating some serious concern at the top of the GOP. The question is whether, even with their money, there's much they can do about it.

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Here's Everything We Learned From The Hillary Emails // The Daily Caller // Chuck Ross – May 25, 2015

With its Friday dump — on Memorial Day weekend, no less — the State Department ensured that Hillary Clinton's 296 Libya-related emails would receiv e limited news coverage.

But the records are well worth reviewing because they contain important insight into Clinton and her top aides' v iews on Libya and Benghazi leading up to the Sept. 11, 2012, attack, which killed four Americans.

Here are the 13 most interesting exchanges.

'The public face of the U.S. effort in Liby a'

If one email chain comes back to haunt Clinton on the campaign trail it would be an April 4, 2012, message top aide Jake Sullivan sent touting Clinton's "leadership on Liby a."

"HRC has been a critical voice on Libya in administration deliberations, at NATO, and in contact group meetings — as well as the public face of the U.S. effort in Libya," Sullivan wrote. "She was instrumental in securing the authorization, building the coalition, and tightening the noose around Qadhafi and his regime."

While deposing Gaddafi was seen as a major U.S. victory at the time, the attack at Benghazi and its v ulnerability to Islamist groups like ISIS calls Clinton's and the Obama administration's intervention there into question.

Clinton overslept and missed a national security briefing days after the Benghazi attack

Clinton missed a President's Daily Brief meeting on the morning of Sept. 15, 2012, just days after the Benghazi attack, because she overslept.

Monica Hanley, a Clinton aide, sent an email to Clinton at 9:17 a.m. stating that a briefer "has some sensitive items that he would like to personally show you when he arrives."

Clinton responded at 10:43 a.m., stating "just woke up so i [sic] missed Dan. Could he come back after finish my calls?"

Interested in a movie on morning of the Benghazi attack

Early on the morning of Sept. 11, 2012, before the attack on Benghazi, Clinton had a movie on her mind. But she wasn't thinking of "Innocence of Muslims," the short film that the Obama administration initially falsely blamed for the Benghazi attack. Instead, she emailed aides Philippe Reines and Huma Abedin seeking a copy of "The Oath of Tobruk," a documentary about the Libyan civil war directed by French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy and produced by her friend, Harv ey Weinstein.

Clinton was interviewed for the film, which Weinstein claimed depicted the secretary's "leadership" in Libya.

Confused the names of two Americans killed at Benghazi

After Clinton learned that ambassador Chris Stevens and Sean Smith, a Foreign Serv ice officer, had been killed at Benghazi, she sent an email to several top aides asking if she should issue a statement that night or the following day.

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The only problem was, Clinton flubbed the two murdered Americans' names. Her email was entitled "Chris Smith." None of the aides on the email chain — Cheryl Mills, Jake Sullivan and Victoria Nuland — corrected the mistake.

Clinton's aides prepared her speech for a Clinton Foundation event

Emails from Sept. 22, 2012, just 10 days after the Benghazi attack, show that Clinton was concerned with a speech she was set to giv e on behalf of her family charity, the Clinton Foundation.

Her aide, Jake Sulliv an, wrote that "Megan is working on a development speech but please read the below if you can this afternoon."

"Please let me know your thoughts," he added.

Clinton instructed another aide, Oscar Flores, to print off the speech, which is redacted in the emails.

State Department and White House officials asked YouTube to block video

One email shows an all-hands-on-deck effort to ensure YouTube and its parent company , Google, continued to block "The Innocence of Muslims" from appearing online.

The Obama administration falsely blamed the movie for sparking the attacks on Benghazi.

On Sept. 27, 2012, Denis McDonough, then the deputy national security advisor, sent an email to several State Department officials which listed contact information for Google's and YouTube's CEOs.

Nora Toiv, who worked in Clinton's office, contacted others within the department stating that the video would be blocked until at least the following Monday, Oct. 1.

Cheryl Mills, Clinton's then-chief of staff, forwarded the email chain to Clinton.

While it was known that the Obama administration had asked YouTube and Google to block the movie, the emails show that the effort was far more inv olved that prev iously reported.

Clinton received now-classified information on her priv ate email account

Shortly before the State Department released Clinton's records, the FBI redacted portions of a Nov. 18, 2012, email because the information was classified. The email appears to have included names of individuals suspected of carry ing out the Benghazi attack.

Clinton and her team have repeatedly denied that she sent or received classified information on her personal email account. The FBI's re-classification raises questions over whether the agency would have marked the information as classified if Clinton had turned her records over to the State Department as she was required to do when she left the agency in Feb. 2013.

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WASHINGTON – Sen. Lindsey Graham's all-but-official presidential campaign likely will draw support from super PACs, but the South Carolina Republican said this should be the last election where wealthy donors are allowed to write such huge checks.

Graham, a third-term senator, is expected to officially announce candidacy for the Republican nomination on June 1 in Central.

Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money running ads supporting or opposing individual candidates, as long as they don't coordinate with campaigns. Most of the 2016 presidential contenders have at least one super PAC backing them, and the committees are raking in millions.

"Every campaign will have friendly super PACs," Graham said. "You can only ask for a $5,000 contribution as a candidate. So the super PAC role looms large in presidential campaigns."

But Graham is not a fan. He supported the 2002 law that tightened campaign finance limits, and he's criticized the 2010 Supreme Court decision that loosened them.

In a recent interview, he said super PACs are a necessary evil of the 2016 contest and whoev er wins the White House should try to rein them in.

Many super PACs are using the presidential race to test the limits of campaign finance rules. A new super PAC supporting Democratic contender and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, called Correct the Record, argues it's allowed to work closely with her campaign because it doesn't intend to fund paid advertising.

Republican Jeb Bush has appeared at a fundraiser for a super PAC supporting his likely bid. His allies say that's OK because he's not yet an official candidate.

Super PACs didn't exist before 2010, when a pair of federal court rulings, including the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United vs. the Federal Election Commission, pav ed the way for corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts helping get candidates elected.

A crucial factor in Graham's decision to run for president was his view, based on the few months he spent traveling the country, that he can raise enough money to be competitive.

"I feel like in my case, I'll have a finance team that can adequately fund my campaign," Graham said. "That was one of the big Rubicons I had to cross, and I've never felt better about that. On the super PAC side, I have v ery little ability to influence that."

Voters will grow weary of super PACs' influence, he said.

"I think over time, there will be a real re-evaluation after this election cy cle over the role that some of these PACs play," Graham said.

He went further during a TV interview in New Hampshire in April, saying a constitutional amendment is needed to curtail super PACs.

"Eventually, we're going to destroy American politics with so much money in the political process because they are going to turn y ou off from wanting to vote," Graham told WMUR in Manchester.

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Until then, however, Graham isn't disavowing any super PAC that may emerge to back his campaign.

His 2014 Senate re-election campaign was helped by the West Main Street Values PAC, run by his allies in South Carolina. The PAC raised about $900,000 last year and financed $272,000 worth of pro-Graham advertising that helped him beat six primary challengers and win the general election by a wide margin.

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg donated the largest amount, $250,000, to the super PAC. Several other donors have links to pro-Israel organizations, reflecting Graham's ardent support of the Mideast ally and his willingness to commit military resources to target terrorism.

In January, Graham created a standard political committee, Security Through Strength, to finance his travels while he mulled a White House bid. Donations to that committee were capped at $2,700 per person, and the donors will be disclosed later this summer.

In March, a Hilton Head man who has previously donated to Graham's Senate campaigns created a super PAC called Security Is Strength. William Bethea Jr., a former chairman of the South Carolina Ports Authority, is listed as treasurer of the new super PAC, which has not yet had to file a report on its financial activity.

Federal Election Commission records don't specify if the super PAC supports or opposes a specific candidate.

Efforts to reach Bethea for comment Thursday were unsuccessful. Brittany Bramell, a spokeswoman for Graham's Security Through Strength committee, declined to comment Friday .

Nuclear Waste Hard To Handle For GOP Candidate // National Journal // Jason Plautz – May 25, 2015

In South Carolina, voters want to ship their nuclear waste far away, maybe to a long-dormant federal site in Nevada called Yucca Mountain. Nevadans, on the other hand, mostly want to see it anywhere but in their state.

And with both states hosting early primaries just days apart, Republican presidential candidates are facing a tricky tightrope walk to avoid losing face in either state.

The Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository , which would sit 100 miles outside of Las Vegas, was long thought to be dead, given Sen. Harry Reid's virulent opposition. But with Republicans back in control of the Senate and Reid's pending retirement, the issue has suddenly been revived, and candidates are stuck balancing competing local interests.

Saying you want to open the project—the position taken in recent weeks by Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and Ben Carson—and it's a winner on Feb. 20 in South Carolina, site of the nation's third primary after Iowa and New Hampshire.

But former Nevada Rep. James Bilbray called it "political suicide" in his state, which hosts a wide-open Feb. 23 caucus, the fourth in the nation and first in the West.

"In my political life, I've never seen an issue as emotional in Nevada as Yucca Mountain," said Bilbray, who, as a freshman Democrat, tried to fight the project when Congress first approved it in 1987.

"But I can understand in other states where this can be popular," he said. "I'm not the campaign, I'm not a candidate, but I can see where if you're looking at the big picture and you don't think you can win Nevada, you just try to get some publicity."

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The project had been stalled under President Obama and Reid, but the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reopened its safety study in 2013, which has been favorable towards the site. The House approved $150 million for the site in its fiscal 2016 Energy Department spending bill, and while the Senate did not include similar money, Republicans say they're open to inserting it during a floor debate or in conference with the House.

Jeb Bush and Mike Huckabee, two former governors, are staking out more nuanced positions on the Yucca Mountain project. Bush, who's expected to run for the Republican nomination, last week said he's doubtful of Yucca's future, although he acknowledged the need for a long-term solution to the country's waste storage problem.

"I think we need to move to a system where the communities and states want it," Bush told reporters in Reno. "It's a system where instead of hav ing it forced down the throats of people, that there is a consensus inside the communities and states that they want it and they proactively go for it.

And in a statement to National Journal, Huckabee said that "the citizens of Nevada—not federal bureaucrats—should determine the future of Yucca Mountain."

"As a former governor, I believe the federal gov ernment should not force Nevada to accept nuclear waste against their will, but work with Nevada officials to find a mutually agreeable solution," Huckabee said.

That stance, which mirrors what major GOP candidates like Mitt Romney have said in the past, is a bit of a hedge, said University of Nevada, Las Vegas political science professor Dav id Damore.

"That's language y ou hear from Republicans trying to find a middle ground between what the nuclear industry wants and what you say when you're in Nevada," said Damore.

Polls show that voters largely don't want the repository to open, and Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval has pushed funds through the state legislature to fight the project. Reid lashed out at Bush and Rubio, say ing in an email that he dared "any Republican to step foot in Nevada and declare their support for" Yucca Mountain.

"Let this be a warning to Republican presidential candidates as they make their way to Nev ada: Google exists and y ou cannot hide from your past positions on Yucca Mountain," he said in a statement from the Nevada Democratic Party.

But nationally, Republicans and the nuclear industry want to see Yucca opened, since the government already has poured millions into the site and it's seen as the best federal location (there also is mov ement for smaller, private repositories in other states). Bush is even a member of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition, a pro-Yucca group backed by the Nuclear Energy Institute, although he splits with it on this issue (the tie was first reported by Nevada political reporter Jon Ralston).

And in South Carolina, Yucca represents an opportunity to clear out its crowded nuclear waste sites; along with Washington, it sued the NRC to reopen its review of the Nevada project, a decision it won in 2013. Gov . Nikki Haley and Sen. Lindsey Graham, himself an expected 2016 candidate, applauded the decision and said they were determined to ensure South Carolina did not become a permanent home to nuclear waste.

"If we could ship everything away , we'd do it for sure. We've ev en talked about putting it on rockets and sending it into space," said David Woodward, a political science professor at Clemson who has adv ised Republican campaigns. "Obviously its best to say that you're for Yucca Mountain here."

And that's why the state has become a welcome site for some pro-Yucca statements. Rubio saidthis month that with the money spent on Yucca, it should move forward. Cruz told the Greenville News that Yucca should have opened years ago, blaming the delay on Reid's "brand of nasty, partisan politics," although he added that if Nev adans opposed, he would be open to moving the site and recouping the federal funds spent there.

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And Ben Carson said the Yucca site was "logical" given its sparse population, saying, "if the science is correct, we do have to come up with a mechanism for transporting the nuclear waste in a safe manner, and I think the people of Nevada would need to be compensated for that as well."

But that again leaves them on shaky ground in the valuable Nevada race. Rubio is in an especially awkward spot -- lieutenant governor Mark Hutchison also opposes the project, but was recently named chair of Rubio's Nevada campaign. Hutchison told the Las Vegas Review Journal that he wouldn't leave the campaign over the issue, but would "use my own personal influence and my relationship with him to make Nevada's case against Yucca Mountain."

A spokesman for Rand Paul said the senator was not commenting on Yucca, while a spokesman for Carly Fiorina did not return a request. Democrats have been generally opposed to the project; Hillary Clinton in the 2008 campaign said she opposed it.

Another variable complicating the candidates' stance was Nevada's current use of a caucus. Although it's an early voting state, the format of the caucus has blunted turnout and in the past made Romney, who had the support of the state's Mormon voters, and Ron Paul, backed by libertarians, the dominant figures there.

State leaders are exploring a move to a primary, which state analysts say could make the state more appealing to national candidates. That, Bilbray said, could give candidates like Bush a leg up when they avoid full-throated support for Yucca.

"If I don't think I'm winning a caucus, I move on and say something that's going to get me publicity," Bilbray said. "But I don't see how a candidate can win on this. Anyone, even you or me, could win against a candidate who supports Yucca."

Marco Rubio and the Challenge to Hillary Clinton // Huffington Post Politics /// Hoyt Hilsman – May 25, 2015

In a recent article in the New York Times, Jeremy Peters reported on the growing fears of some Democrats -- even within the Clinton camp -- over facing Marco Rubio in the 2016 campaign. They see several powerful forces at work in Rubio's candidacy -- his youth and his Hispanic heritage, not to mention his charismatic personality.

Patti Solis Doyle, who ran Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign and was the first female Hispanic to run a presidential campaign, was quoted in the article as saying Rubio "is a powerful speaker," adding "He is young. He is very motivational. He has a powerful story."

Rubio has two strong cards to play if he faces Clinton in the election. First and most important is the generational divide. Rubio, at age 43, can argue that he represents the future of American politics, while Clinton, at age 69, represents the past. Since the Democrats have relied on younger voters for their support in recent presidential elections, even a modest percentage of young voters defecting to the Rubio camp would be a serious threat to Democratic prospects.

The other obvious advantage is his Hispanic heritage. Again, Democrats have relied on the loyalty of Hispanic voters -- and the Republican hard-line against immigration reform -- to keep Hispanics solidly in their camp. However, as Doyle points out, Rubio "could have the ability to nip away at the numbers for the Democrats." That could mean trouble for Clinton, especially in the crucial swing state of Florida, Rubio's home territory.

Rubio understands his natural advantages over Clinton and has wisely exploited them in recent days. Following the old adage in politics that one should attack an opponent's strength, Rubio proposed a tax plan aimed at helping middle-class families instead of the traditional Republican approach of lowering taxes for high earners. This proposal very cleverly provides a benefit for most Americans and addresses the income inequality issue more concretely than the populist "tax the rich" proposals.

The conventional wisdom among Democrats is that Rubio's departures from Republican orthodoxy will doom him in the primaries and that if he moves to the center in his policies, he will never get the Republican nomination. This is a curious

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strategy for Democrats since it relies on the Republican right to rescue Clinton from a formidable opponent. It also is likely wrong. Many Republicans are tired of losing presidential elections and of being steamrolled by Tea Party and other ultra-conserv ative forces. Even the ranks of the hard right are being weakened by competing, more moderate forces.

In the meantime, Democrats are looking in the rear-view mirror and hoping that the past is prelude to the 2016 election. On the left, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders are trumpeting a populist platform that resonates with many Americans but has very little to offer in the way of concrete, practicable solutions to the pressing problems of average families. And Clinton has yet to present a credible reason why she should be president or how her policies would address the challenges that we face as a nation.

Barack Obama was presented as a transformational candidate when he ran in 2008. He was young, charismatic and promised change. Although his presidency ran aground on the realities of the political system, the hunger for change is just as great today as it was in 2008. Unless Democrats can offer the hope of real change with a candidate that inspires voters to believe in her, they may be fighting an uphill battle the White House. And Democrats cannot rely on the Republican right -- the Tea Party, the Koch brothers or the rest of the ultra-conservative gang -- to deliver the White House to the Democratic nominee. As the old saying goes, they hav e to "earn it."

Analysis: Anti-gay bill rejection gives Jindal a campaign opportunity // AP via LGBTQNation // Melinda DeSlatte – May 25, 2015

BATON ROUGE, La. — By voting down a proposal to give special protections to people who oppose same-sex marriage, lawmakers thought they had put the divisive issue to bed and ended one of the major controversies of the legislative session.

The defeat seemed a sharp rebuke to Gov. Bobby Jindal, who championed the religious objections bill as a central plank of his legislative agenda.

Instead, lawmakers handed Jindal a way to bolster his rallying cry about “religious liberty” as he uses the nation’s culture wars to help build a likely campaign for president.

Perhaps the Republican governor hoped it might go this way all along.

The defeat gave Jindal the ability to issue an executive order that he could tout across presidential campaign states to showcase his efforts to protect what he describes as religious freedom. And it came the same week Jindal announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee and a group tied to the governor launched an ad in Iowa positioning Jindal as a defender of religious rights.

On Tuesday, the House civil law committee voted 10-2 against the bill proposed by Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Bossier City, that would have prohibited the state from denying people or businesses any licenses, benefits, jobs or tax deductions because of actions taken “in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction” about marriage.

Johnson framed it as a protection for Christians who believe that marriage should only be between a man and woman, anticipating the U.S. Supreme Court this summer will strike down same-sex marriage bans across the country.

Critics saw it as sanctioning in law discrimination against same-sex couples.

Businesses came out in opposition, much like they did for similar debates in Indiana, Arkansas and other states. Dow Chemical Company – which employs 6,000 direct workers and contractors in Louisiana – said it would hinder the company’s ability to recruit employees. Tourism leaders said it could heav ily damage one of the state’s most important industries.

Lawmakers called the proposal an unnecessary distraction from important work on balancing next year’s budget and stabilizing the state’s finances. The House committee’s shelving of Johnson’s bill was designed to end the controversy .

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Jindal, who is courting evangelical Christians for his likely White House bid, seemed to see the committee's action as an opportunity. He issued an executive order aimed at doing the same thing as Johnson's bill, albeit in a narrower fashion.

The order prohibits state agencies under Jindal's control from denying licenses, benefits, contracts or tax deductions in response to actions taken because of someone's "religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman."

"We don't support discrimination in Louisiana and we do support religious liberty. These two values can be upheld at the same time," Jindal said.

Many suggest the order has no practical effect and is unenforceable because of limits on Jindal's power through executiv e order. Jindal's office dismisses such criticism. But it's also unclear if enforceability is really the point.

Rep. Walt Leger, D-New Orleans, the second-highest ranking member of the Louisiana House, said while lawmakers came to the conclusion the bill wasn't necessary, "the governor is engaged with something other than trying to deal with real issues in the state of Louisiana."

Jindal did something similar in relation to the Common Core education standards.

Last year, the governor came out in opposition to the multistate English and math standards, but he did little to bolster efforts from a group of lawmakers try ing to remove Common Core from Louisiana's public school classrooms.

Instead, he waited until the legislativ e session had ended and the bill had failed, then issued a series of executive orders he said were aimed at getting Louisiana out of Common Core.

The orders had no such effect, and the education standards remain in place.

Voters in Iowa and New Hampshire won't know if Jindal's latest executive order, as some contend, really does nothing. And Jindal will get to say he was the fighter for "religious liberty " who put it in place.

Can Marco Rubio Make Peace With Conservatives on Immigration? // The Daily Signal // Ken McIntyre – May 25, 2015

Some conserv atives wrote off Marco Rubio as a prospective candidate for president because of the Florida Republican's work on, and advocacy for, the Gang of Eight immigration reform bill.

The first-term senator began to talk about that legislation as a mistake, though, as he moved toward his April 13 announcement that he was formally entering the race for the White House.

Even so, he mentioned the immigration issue only once as he declared his candidacy at Miami's Freedom Tower, a former immigrant-intake facility.

"If we reform our tax code, reduce regulations, control spending, modernize our immigration laws and repeal and replace Obamacare," Rubio said about halfway through the speech, "the American people will create millions of better-paying modern jobs."

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“The thing that’s different with Marco is that he’s responded to criticism,” one close observer of policy battles in Congress for an outside group tells The Daily Signal.

Rubio’s problem, this person adds, is that he chose several years ago to make immigration reform his signature domestic issue.

Although not straining to bring up what to do about immigrants already in the country illegally , Rubio, who turned 44 this month, appears to be increasingly comfortable explaining why he decided they should wait longer before the government considers legal status for them.

In a May 1 appearance at a gathering of conservatives sponsored by the National Review Institute, the son of Cuban immigrants forcefully took on liberal activists who claim a “right” for immigrants in the country illegally to become citizens.

“There is no right to illegally immigrate anywhere in the world,” he told the crowd.

“What I’m saying to people is that we can’t do it in a massive piece of legislation,” Rubio said of reforming the immigration system and addressing the status of illegal immigrants in an interview with Bob Schieffer of CBS News that aired April 19 on “Face the Nation.”

He said Americans hav e a message for their public officials about the more than 12 million living here unlawfully: “We know we have to deal with this. We’re not prepared to deal with this until first you can prove to us that this will never happen again.”

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, says he thinks Rubio has gotten closer to the mark but faces skepticism among conservativ es because of his leadership role in promoting the Gang of Eight bill.

“The real question is, are we actually going to plug the hole in the boat before we start bailing it out?” Krikorian says in an interview with The Daily Signal.

With Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker talking about possible new limits on legal immigration as he contemplates a White House bid, Krikorian says, Rubio and other hopefuls will need to specify whether they favor net increases in higher-skilled workers.

“He is going to have to be pressed on the issue, and we’ll see what he says.”

The word “immigration” does not appear in the policy agenda on Rubio’s official Senate web site. In the blog and commentary section of the site, he hasn’t mentioned immigration reform since April 17, 2013.

That’s a rough measure, perhaps, of when Rubio began to disassociate himself from the Senate bill that supporters called comprehensive immigration reform and opponents called amnesty for illegal immigrants.

As one of the so-called Gang of Eight in what was then the Democrat-controlled Senate, the Florida Republican co-sponsored, helped craft and promote, and ultimately voted for the bill when it passed 68-32 on June 27 , 2013.

Billie Tucker, former head of the First Coast Tea Party in Florida, says she hasn’t lost faith in Rubio—and she isn’t alone.

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“I will tell you from my observations that Marco Rubio is still a man of principle and conviction,” Tucker says in an interview with The Daily Signal.

She recalls Rubio calling several years ago to talk about his plans to focus on doing something for children unlawfully brought here by their parents, who “never knew anything else” but America. He wanted to know how tea party activists would react.

“I told him, ‘Marco, I don’t think people would be opposed to that if it was done right.’ These children shouldn’t be punished for what their parents did, but they shouldn’t get special treatment either,” Tucker recalls.

“He will hav e some people who will never forgive him, who expect people to be perfect. I still trust Marco. That is my personal opinion,” she says, adding: “I’m going to get all kinds of crap about that, but I don’t care.”

Also voting yes on the Gang of Eight bill were two of the four other senators in the presidential race, Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and independent Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Among those voting no were Republicans Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

The legislation proved dead on arrival in the House, where a significant portion of Republican lawmakers—some citing Obamacare—said they wouldn’t support an all-in-one bill that could move illegal immigrants toward citizenship without first ensuring border security, workplace compliance and enforcement of other immigration laws.

By October 2013, Rubio’s break from his own bill was clear.

He “had to be reasonable about what is achiev able,” Rubio told the Wall Street Journal.

House Republicans did move several bills addressing aspects of immigration, although none was scheduled for a floor vote.

Interest in the Republican-controlled House then withered when President Obama went around Congress to take executive actions that would allow millions of illegal immigrants to stay and work here without fear of being deported.

By that time, Rubio rapidly had lost ground with grass-roots conserv atives.

As one angry voter wrote in a typical comment on news accounts of the Senate action:

I contributed to Rubio’s Senate campaign and I regret it. … I will do all I can to defeat Rubio for any office that quisling runs for. He … lied through his teeth about his real position on amnesty in his 2010 campaign.

But another posted this comment on Rubio:

And why did FL [Florida] go to President Obama [in] 2012? He [Rubio] has earned my respect for taking a stand on something that is not popular with the immigration hawks in his party. This will get done. If it isn’t done this time the GOP will win a battle but will ultimately lose the war.

In the annual presidential preference poll conducted at the 2014 Conserv ative Political Action Conference, to take one measure, Rubio dropped from second to seventh place. He stayed there this year.

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Some Rubio sympathizers blamed Cesar Conda, his chief of staff at the time, who last spring joined Reclaim America, the political action committee advancing Rubio's White House bid. Conda was once a domestic policy aide to Vice President Dick Cheney .

Rubio's underestimation of the blowback revealed that he perhaps wasn't as engaged with tea party conservatives in Florida and elsewhere as he was depicted to be, Tea Party Patriots co-founder Mark Meckler says in an interview with The Daily Signal.

Meckler speculates that Rubio did not see an advantage in becoming too closely associated with the tea party movement in Florida, not only a swing state but one that is key to winning the White House.

How Rubio treats skeptical grass-roots activ ists could be "his win-or-lose move" as a contender for the presidency, says Meckler, now head of Citizens for Self-Governance.

"Rubio, far more than the other GOP candidates, will have to be much more specific with his immigration reform agenda to convince suspicious voters," says Bob Dane, spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "Simply saying, 'We need to secure the border before any thing else happens' may be heard as 'amnesty a little later' rather than 'amnesty nev er.'

Rubio devotes eight pages to reform of the nation's immigration system in his 195-page book "American Dreams: Restoring Economic Opportunity for Ev eryone," couching the issue as part of "winning the global competition for investment and innovation."

"We simply cannot remain competitive in the 21st century if we are unable to attract and keep the most talented people in the world," he writes.

Then, noting the struggles of "so many working-class and middle-class families," Rubio argues that advocating continued immigration reform doesn't have to be at odds with helping those Americans—so long as policymakers reform a "chaotic" system.

He cites sectors of the border with Mexico that are not secure, immigration laws that "are simply not enforced or unenforceable," and a family -based system of legal entry that is a "relic of the last century."

He writes:

No nation on earth is more generous when it comes to immigration than America. Each year about 1 million people permanently immigrate here legally. But when people hear that we have over 12 million people here illegally, they feel as if we are being taken advantage of. They see how hard it is to find and keep a steady and well-paying job, and they worry that more people will mean more competition for already scarce work. That's not nativism. That's human nature.

Rubio argues that economic growth depends on a merit-based, high-skilled immigration system that works, in part by encouraging innovators and entrepreneurs to settle here. The holdup, he adds, is failure to address the nation's 1 2 million or more illegal residents.

"We will never have the votes needed in Congress to modernize any part of our immigration sy stem until the issue of illegal immigration is adequately dealt with first," Rubio says in his book. Americans "simply don't trust" politicians of either major party to move forward "before illegal immigration has been brought under control."

Skepticism was fueled in early 2014 when parts of the southern border "essentially were overrun," largely by unaccompanied children from Central America, he say s, despite assurances that the border was "as secure as ever" from Obama, allies in Congress and advocates of immigration reform.

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Obama's executive actions to "ignore, suspend, rewrite or violate" the law cemented public mistrust of the administration and resulted in stalemate, Rubio writes.

Public mistrust and the backlash against his leading role in the Senate bill apparently convinced Rubio to renounce what he calls "comprehensiv e reform of anything in a single bill" as unrealistic.

"Hav ing tried that approach, I know this to be true firsthand," Rubio adds:

The fear that such massive pieces of legislation include some clev er loophole or unintended consequence makes it even harder to achieve. The only way we are going to be able to break this impasse and make progress on this issue is in a sequential and piecemeal way, with a series of bills that build upon one another until ultimately we hav e put in place the kind of immigration system our nation needs.

He then lays out the necessary steps.

Step one: Exercise effectiv e, v erifiable enforcement, including "securing the most vulnerable and most trafficked" stretches of the border using more electronic monitoring as well as personnel; a "mandatory" E-Verify system that reliably allows employers to check the legal status of those they hire; and "full implementation" of an entry-exit tracking system designed to flag v isitors who overstay visas.

Step two: Move to a merit-based legal immigration system by reassigning existing visas from family-based entries toward work- and skill-based entries; implementing reforms encouraging visas for high-tech workers; and creating a "guest worker" program for seasonal agricultural laborers.

Step three: Address the 12 million here illegally in a three-part process. First, they come forward to be registered and "will have to leave" if they "committed serious crimes" or "have not been here long enough" (Rubio does not specify).

Then, those who qualify are allowed to apply for a temporary nonimmigrant visa, which they can't get until paying a fee and a fine, undergoing a background check and learning English. To keep the v isa, Rubio says, they must pay taxes but "would not qualify for government programs like Obamacare, welfare or food stamps."

Finally, visa holders have to retain that status "for at least a decade" before they are allowed to apply for permanent residency – "the way any one else would, not through any special pathway," Rubio writes.

The chronology Rubio outlines in this third step closely tracks provisions in the Senate bill; the difference is that he now insists border security and other enforcement measures first will be fully implemented—not just planned or budgeted.

How Rubio's changed perspective on a sequenced response to the immigration challenge will play with voters is only beginning to be tested. The first GOP debates are months away , and the first primary and caucus voters even further.

For now, activists on both sides of the issue are watching. Two who spoke to The Daily Signal are with organizations that oppose a pathway to legal status for illegal immigrants and want to see what they consider sensible curbs on legal immigration.

"The take-away lesson for others," FAIR's Dane says, "is to listen to your constituents, approach immigration from the principled standpoint of what's in the broad national interest and stick with it."

"He's rehabilitating himself. It's a big hill to climb," says Roy Beck, executive director of NumbersUSA, adding:

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There's a lot of distrust [but] I think also there is a real reservoir of interest among conservative Republicans for a fresh face. They're fighting with him, but they like him. There's a real desire among a lot of people for him to rehabilitate himself.

Republican Presidential Debate Caps Upend 2016 Race // The Wall Street Journal // Reid J. Epstein – May 25, 2015

New rules that limit the number of contenders on stage during the first Republican presidential debates are likely to alter the campaign calculations for many of the GOP candidates, forcing them to try to build national name recognition months earlier than planned.

Four Republicans are poised to formally announce their White House campaigns in the next 10 days, but it is virtually certain that not all of them will qualify for the party's initial televised debates, the premier venue for introducing themselves to voters.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) and former officeholders Rick Perry, Rick Santorum and George Pataki will start their campaigns with low standing in national surveys, the barometer Fox News and CNN will use to determine who is invited to participate in GOP-sanctioned debates. None of the four new contenders is drawing above 2.5% in an aggregate of national polls, which could prove too low to meet the networks' cutoff for making it onstage for the main debate forums.

With national polls largely a function of name recognition, strategists working for various campaigns said they expected long-shot candidates to spend time in cable TV studios in New York that may instead have been used to meet voters at small events in Iowa or New Hampshire. Money that might have gone to build a campaign infrastructure in early states could instead be diverted to buying national TV ads.

Moreover, candidates traditionally have tried to time their campaigns to peak right at the time of the Iowa and New Hampshire contests, scheduled this cycle for February. Now, candidates with low name recognition must try to build national profiles ahead of the first primary debate, set for Aug. 6.

Not being invited to the debates could serve as an early death knell for candidates already in the shadows of fundraising behemoths such as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who have yet to formally declare their candidacies, or Sens. Rand Paul, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio.

"At some point, if you're not in the debates you're not a legitimate candidate," said Matt Moore, the South Carolina GOP chairman.

Former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore noted that when he ran a quixotic campaign for the party's nomination in 2008, he was allowed to join the GOP's first three debates before he dropped out. Now weighing a 2016 run, Mr. Gilmore said the networks' debate rules will affect campaigns' decision-making.

"The debate criteria begins to govern the strategy of the candidates," Mr. Gilmore said. "It's a very significant thing. The debate rules here are very influential."

Fox News, which will host the GOP's first debate, in Cleveland, said last week it would limit participation to candidates who are in the top 10 of an average of national polling. CNN, which will air the party's second debate, in September, said it would do the same, though it will also include a segment for lower-polling candidates, a kind of junior-varsity debate before the main event. Rules for subsequent debates, beginning with a planned October debate on CNBC, haven't been announced.

With 16 or more serious candidates likely to run, the Fox News rules could winnow out such hopefuls as Mr. Pataki, a former governor of New York, as well as Mr. Graham, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, unless they improve their current standing in the polls. At the same time, entertainer and businessman Donald Trump could qualify based on national name recognition, should he run.

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The Republican National Committeesaid last year that it was wresting control of what in the 2012 cycle was an unwieldy process of nearly two dozen debates—many of them involv ing eight candidates—by sanctioning 12 official forums for this coming cycle. But the RNC left it to the broadcast networks to determine the criteria for participation.

Now, GOP officials find themselves worried in particular that excluding Mrs. Fiorina, the only woman seeking the party's nomination, from debates would reflect poorly on a party widely expected to run against Democrat Hillary Clinton. Mrs. Fiorina has professed optimism that she will increase her standing in national polls enough to qualify.

"If y ou give me a goal, I'm going to work really hard to try and meet or exceed that goal, so that's what I've got to go do now," she said last week during a radio interv iew on SiriusXM.

For the candidates joining the race this week, worrying about getting into the debates is already coloring their thoughts. Mr. Santorum, a former Pennsylv ania senator and 2012 White House candidate, blasted the Fox News rules at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Oklahoma last week, telling reporters they were "not legitimate."

David Catalfamo, a top aide to Mr. Pataki, said dropping long-shot candidates from the debate stage would have eliminated some presidents whose road to the White House began with little support.

Mr. Catalfamo said Mr. Pataki won his first election as gov ernor, in 1994, as a long-shot candidate. "He wouldn't have been the 10th candidate [on the stage]" under the current debate rules, Mr. Catalfamo said. "Just like Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and Abe Lincoln wouldn't have been when they were elected."

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who by current polling exceeds the standard to qualify for the debates, wrote an open letter to RNC members Friday urging them not to exclude "fringe" candidates.

"I am very worried that out of broadcasting convenience, our party is about to exclude voices from our debate programs that are critical to making our party bigger, better and bolder," Mr. Carson wrote.

Perhaps just as concerned are top GOP officials from early presidential nominating states, who now worry about diminishing influence.

"The purpose of the [early-v oting] carve out-states is to not crowd out the underfunded and upstart candidates," said Mr. Moore, the South Carolina party chairman. "Many here are disappointed about using national polling to set debate criteria."

Christie places fourth in southern GOP conference straw poll // NJ.com // Claude Brodesser-Akner – May 25, 2015

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie placed fourth in the Southern Republican Leadership Conference's 2016 straw poll this Memorial Day weekend, edging out top tier GOP candidates like former Florida Gov . Jeb Bush and current U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky but finishing well behind former neurosurgeon Ben Carson and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

The poll of nearly a thousand conserv ative voters is an early indicator of southern primary voter support.

Christie had attended the conservative gathering in Oklahoma City on Friday, giv ing a speech which argued for pragmatism above all: As a conservativ e governor in a state with three-quarters of a million more registered Democrats, he represents his party's best chance of wresting back control of the White House next year, he said.

"We need a presidential candidate who knows how to fight," Christie said, "And how to win."

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Carson handily won the straw poll with more than one in four votes cast, doing best with social conserv atives. Walker finished second, with 20.5 percent of the vote, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas placed third with 16.6 percent. Christie's 5.3 percent was good for fourth, ahead of both former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Christie's better than expected finish with socially conservativ e voters shows the governor has clearly managed to convince at least some GOP v oters to give him a second look. In March, one in three Republicans said they "definitely would not vote for" Christie if he ran for president in 2016, according to an Washington Post-ABC poll.

"Showing up fourth in that group is more surprising and impressive than people recognize," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, a taxpay er advocacy group that argues for conservativ e economic policies.

"The field is so divided that you don't need to be one of three guys to stay alive," explained Norquist, comparing Christie's sudden revival to that of U.S. Sen. John McCain seven years ago.

"McCain would never hav e been the nominee in 2008, except for the fact that every one thought he was dead," said Norquist. "As a result, all of the things that would have disqualified him in some parts of the base were not an issue."

Norquist described Christie's surprising strong finish as "the flower in the crack of the pavement where y ou look and say, 'This could be something.'"

Over the Memorial Day weekend, the undeclared Christie again sounded every bit a presidential candidate, assailing the Senate and his GOP rivals in it for failing to renew the USA Patriot Act as "a failure of the US government to perform its most important function - protecting its citizens from harm."

Paul and Cruz had both voted against renewing the Act over its collection of U.S. citizen's phone records and metadata.

Christie attacked them as "misguided ideologues" with "no real world experience in fighting terrorism" for "putting their uninformed beliefs above the safety and security of our citizens."

The SLRC straw poll was voted on by 958 attendees of the conference, 75 percent of whom were from politically conserv ative Oklahoma, where the Republican candidate has carried the state in ev ery presidential election since 1968. The rest hailed from Texas, Arkansas and other, primarily southern, states.

Iowa straw poll on death watch? **// The Hill // Jonathan Easley – May 25, 2015**

The Iowa straw poll deathwatch is underway.

Political watchers in the Hawkeye State say the controversial event, which has served as the traditional starting point for the GOP presidential campaign, has suffered significant blows to its credibility and is at risk of collapsing.

“The straw poll is toast,” said Steffen Schmidt, a professor of political science at Iowa State University. “The brand is dead.”

The event, which has been a big moneymaker for the state party , has been criticized for years, chiefly for two reasons: the cost of full participation for candidates has been prohibitive, and the results have tended to push forward long-shots with no real chance of winning the GOP nomination.

The state party has sought to address some of these issues, mov ing the event from Ames to a smaller venue in Boone, and no longer requiring candidates to pay enormous sums for prime positions and food for attendees.

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But some in the state say the party hasn't adequately addressed the political risks candidates take by participating in a poll that has only picked the eventual Republican nominee twice in several decades of existence.

In 2011, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) spent about $1 million at the event on his way to a third place finish. He bowed out of the race the next day, while then-Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) won the poll before flaming out in the caucuses.

"The mistake the Iowa Republican Party made is that they haven't done anything to entice frontrunners to show them how they could benefit from this," said former Iowa Republican Party political director Craig Robinson, who in 2007 serv ed as the liaison between the straw poll and the campaigns.

That criticism has played out publicly over the last couple of weeks as two top-tier candidates said they'd take a pass on the event.

Jeb Bush will spend the second weekend in August in Georgia, along with five other declared or potential candidates, at a gathering hosted by conservative blogger and Red State founder Erick Erickson.

And on Thursday, GOP presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee said he too would skip the event, taking to the pages of the state's most influential newspaper to trash the proceedings.

"I have concluded this year's Iowa straw poll will serve only to weaken conservative candidates and further empower the Washington ruling class and their hand-picked candidates," Huckabee wrote in the Des Moines Register.

Huckabee's words were particularly powerful considering he finished second at the event in 2007 on his way to winning the caucuses. (The straw poll was won that y ear by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a somewhat incongruous result for an event that is widely perceived for favor "red-meat" conservatives.)

Despite the high-profile withdrawals, some Republicans in the state believe that reports of the straw poll's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

"It's way too early to administer last rites to the Iowa straw poll," said former Iowa GOP chairman Matt Strawn. "There's still no other gathering in Iowa or any early states where candidates will have the opportunity to get in front of upwards of 15,000 or 20,000 of the most active Republicans in the state. There's clear v alue there."

Strawn argued that there's a breakout opportunity for one or more of the huge field of GOP contenders at the poll, especially those who may be excluded from the debates.

He also argued that there's risk inherent in skipping, particularly for Huckabee, who faces competition from a handful of candidates who will be fighting for the votes of social conservativ es and evangelical Christians who attend the event in big numbers.

"In 2007, [Huckabee] used the straw poll to become the movement conservative and effectively knocked out his competition," Strawn said. "This year, someone else could be catapulted into that role."

But for that to happen, the poll will need to land some firm commitments.

The Hill reached out to all of the declared candidates, and so far only two – Ben Carson and Donald Trump – have said they intend to participate.

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Representatives for Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Ted Cruz said they're still undecided, while a spokesperson for Carly Fiorina, who would appear to be almost an archetype of the kind of candidate that could benefit from a strong showing in the poll, was noncommittal. Sen. Marco Rubio's campaign didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

"They need at least six candidates, because it's not going to work with just two or three," said Robinson. "And they really need to get Scott Walker. He's at the top of the polls in Iowa and nationally. If they can get him to commit, a lot of things will fall into place, and some of the other candidates might worry that they'll be damaged by skipping."

A spokesperson for Walker's political team said they'll make that decision if the gov ernor decides to run for president, as he's expected to do some time in June.

Strawn said the state party just started reaching out to candidates about the logistics of the event, and he expects some big-name conservative groups will get on board, giv ing added incentive for candidates to attend.

Beyond the long-standing controversies, the poll has struggled to stay relevant among increased competition from other events in recent years.

This year alone, Iowa Republicans and presidential contenders have already gathered for Rep. Steve King's Freedom Summit, the first-ever Ag Summit, and the Faith and Freedom Coalition Summit. In June, sev en candidates will be attending Sen. Joni Ernst's first-ever "Roast and Ride" event.

There is a GOP debate on Aug. 6 this year, just days before the straw poll, and the Red State gathering, which is going on the same weekend in Georgia, has generated considerable buzz, with Walker, Bush, Rubio, and Fiorina already confirmed, as well as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

"You're getting too many events before the caucuses and the straw poll is just one more, and it's really become a nuisance," said Schmidt. "I used to be a supporter, but it's clear now that it's become a disruption."

Mike Huckabee and his tax plan got slammed on Fox // Business Insider // Rob Garver – May 25, 2015

A few months after he left his gig as a Fox News television host to pursue the Republican nomination for president in 2016, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee was back on Fox News Sunday, and to put it mildly, things did not go well.

While Fox has a reputation for being friendly, sometimes overly so, toward the GOP, Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace is usually an equal opportunity interrogator, and he didn't hesitate to ask his former colleague to explain some of his more controv ersial claims.

Huckabee, for instance, is an advocate of the "FairTax" plan, which would eliminate the income tax and replace it with a consumption tax of about 30 percent while remaining revenue-neutral. Tax experts hav e repeatedly exposed the FairTax plan as highly regressive – meaning that lower-income individuals would pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes than the wealthy.

It was a point Wallace asked Huckabee to address, quoting an analysis by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center which found that "the av erage rate of the lowest income group would exceed 33 percent, while the av erage for the top group would fall to less than 16 percent."

"They have it exactly wrong," Huckabee said. "In fact, it's the bottom third of the economy who benefit the most from the FairTax, and the people at the top third who benefit the least Ev erybody benefits some. That tax study is one that has been discredited by the people who spent over $20 million, very thoughtful economic study developing the FairTax. It's not just some political idea…."

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Wallace interrupted, “Doesn’t it just stand to reason that if I make $5,000, I’m going to spend a higher percentage of my income just for necessities, and if I make $1 million, I’m not going to spend as much of a percentage of my income?”

Huckabee launched into an explanation of what FairTax advocates call a “prebate.” Under the proposal, the government would send a check ev ery month to every taxpayer equivalent to what someone living at the pov erty level would pay in taxes for “necessities.” He claimed that the prebates mean low-income earners do better under the sy stem than they do currently.

“The FairTax empowers the consumer,” Huckabee said. “That’s power to the people.”

As it turns out, though, the folks at the Tax Policy Center don’t take kindly to hav ing their analyses described as “discredited” on national television.

Asked to respond to Huckabee, William Gale, co-director of the Center, delivered a withering email takedown of Huckabee’s claims and the FairTax proposal in general.

“He has the distributional benefits backwards,” wrote Gale, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former senior economist for President George H.W. Bush’s Council of Economic Advisers. “The notion that a tax on consumption will help the poor and hurt the rich is contrary to just about everything that is known about rich/poor spending and income habits, not just our model.”

In a swipe at the FairTax program, he added: “The ‘people who spent over $20 million on this did not understand for a decade how the tax actually worked, and it took two papers by me as well as other work – for example, the Bush tax reform panel – to convince these people that they had vastly misstated the tax base because they made 20-25 percent of government disappear.”

Len Burman, the director of the Tax Policy Center, joined the fray as well. Also by email, he said that the idea that the poor would do better under the FairTax plan is simply wrong.

“This issue doesn't inv olve complicated economic analysis,” wrote Burman, who among other things served as a deputy assistant secretary for tax analysis in the Clinton Treasury Department. “It's simple math, and the FairTax advocates have repeatedly and willfully flubbed the math.”

“The distributional effects are pretty straightforward,” he wrote. “High-income people spend only a fraction of their income, so they effectively benefit from a giant tax exemption compared with an income tax.”

In the Fox interview, Wallace eventually let Huckabee wriggle away from the tax issue, but mov ed on to some other interesting claims the former governor has recently made – including a suggestion that presidents and lawmakers don’t necessarily need to abide by the rulings of the Supreme Court.

Huckabee claimed that the United States has fallen v ictim to what he called “judicial supremacy ,” in which the Supreme Court has set itself above the other branches of the government.

“The Supreme Court isn’t the Supreme branch, and for God’s sake, it isn’t the Supreme Being,” he said. Wallace, who had not suggested that the Supreme Court was in any way God-like, had no answer for that one, and Huckabee was off, dropping straw man arguments as he went.

“It’s a matter of balance of power,” he said. “If the Supreme Court could just make a ruling and everybody has to bow down and fall on their faces and worship that law – it isn’t a law because it hasn’t been yet passed.”

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Umm…

"What if the Supreme Court ruled that they were going to make the decision as to who is going to be the next president and save the taxpayers and the voters from all the expense and trouble of v oting and they'll just pick a president? Well we would say that they can't do that. Why can't they do it? They can't do it because it's not in the law," Huckabee continued.

But wait, nobody said….

"We are sworn to uphold the Constitution and the law and it has to be agreed on by three branches of government. One can't overrule the other two," He said "That's all I'm saying. We learned that in 9th grade civics, but I'm conv inced a lot of Ivy League law schools must have forgotten that simple, basic civics lesson along the way."

Okay , enough.

That's just not true. A bill passed by Congress and signed into law by the president can be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. That's pretty much the definition of one branch overruling the other two.

Sometimes it's a little difficult to tell if Huckabee is actually mounting a presidential campaign or just an extended book tour for his latest tome, God, Guns, Grits, and Gravy. On Sunday, it felt a lot like the latter.

Mike Huckabee: Creating cynicism // The Washington Post // Jennifer Rubin – May 25, 2015

Former governor of Arkansas Mike Huckabee speaks at the Freedom Summit in Des Moines, Iowa, in January. (Jim Young/ Reuters)

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee complains that trust in government is at an all-time low. Perhaps he is a cause not a solution. Consider this exchange with Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday:

WALLACE: Governor, I want to keep mov ing along, because as I say , there are a lot of things you said in your announcement. You also seemed to indicate that as president, you wouldn't necessarily obey court rulings, even the Supreme Court. . . . But, Governor, we have operated under the principle of judicial rev iew since the Marbury versus Madison case in 1803.

HUCKABEE: Judicial rev iew is actually what we've operated under. We hav e not operated under judicial supremacy. Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Jackson, presidents have understood that the Supreme Court cannot make a law. They cannot make it. The legislature has to make it, the executive branch has to sign it and enforce it.

And the notion that the Supreme Court comes up with the ruling and that automatically subjects the two other branches to following it defies everything there is about the three equal branches of government. Chris, the Supreme Court is not the supreme branch. And for God's sake, it isn't the Supreme Being. It is the Supreme Court.

WALLACE: But, sir, George Will, the conservative columnist, has pointed out that back in 1957, another governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, decided to disregard and refuse to obey the ruling to desegregate schools. President Eisenhower had to call in the 101st Airborne.

Are you saying President Huckabee might decide he wasn't going to obey the ruling on desegregation, or like President Nixon to turn over the tapes? You know, it's up in the air as to whether you're going to obey the Supreme Court?

HUCKABEE: Well, Chris, as you know, George Will is no fan of mine. He's not very fond of me. He recently called me appalling. So, I'm not surprised he would make such a false comparison.

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But the point is, in that case, the Supreme Court had ruled the legislature and the executive branch had agreed with the Supreme Court, and precisely what happened is what should happen. The president ordered the airborne to come in and enforce the law, the law that did exist.

WALLACE: But —

HUCKABEE: It wasn't that the president defied the law. The president was carrying out the law and using all the forces at his resource to do it.

WALLACE: But, OK, let's say the president decided, "I don't like the Supreme Court's ruling on that," let's say Nixon had said, for instance, in Watergate, "I don't want to turn over the tapes and the court can't make me"?

HUCKABEE: Well, the president has to follow whatever the law is. Does Congress have a law that tells him what he is going to do? In that case, the Congress was ready to impeach Nixon and he ultimately resigned.

So "the president has to follow whatever the law is," except if he's Mike Huckabee railing against gay marriage? Huckabee's notion is incoherent and in any event a recipe for chaos and lawlessness. The right wing can't demand the president abide by existing immigration law and any rulings on his executive order while at the same time preaching lawlessness on gay marriage. Huckabee is either deeply cynical or deeply ignorant, but in either case he offers a mirage for the unsophisticated. In doing so he, in essence, says that elected leaders are lying or misleading the public when they say they must obey the court's ruling. In short, Huckabee is spreading cynicism and a sense of betrayal.

He does not stop there. He and politicians like senators Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.) prey on voters' fears that their phone calls are being listened to and their e-mails read. As Wallace reminded Huckabee, "Section 215 of the Patriot Act, which is the section that is going to expire on June 1st, has nothing to do with listening in on phone calls. It's just recording the fact that my phone number called your phone number. So, aren't you, one, wrong there when you talk about listening in?" But facts don't get in the way of the fear-mongers. Again the result is to spread suspicion and cynicism.

There is plenty to be upset about in Washington. Seven years into the Obama administration there is no entitlement or tax reform, for example. Immigration reform is going nowhere (in part, because there are those to tell the public that immigrants will steal our jobs and lower wages). The international scene is frightful. But while presidential candidates should highlight legitimate failures, they should not heighten the anti-government and conspiratorial fever that already exists. The GOP voters can do their part as well — by rejecting the cranks and fear-mongers. They could start by sending Huckabee packing.

Cruz says GOP candidates afraid to talk gay marriage // GOPUSA // Michael F. Haverluck – May 25, 2015

Taking on the competition in his run for the White House, GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz says that there are many Republican politicians who are scared to jump into the debate over same-sex "marriage" and religious liberty, including some of the candidates he's running against.

While speaking at the Watchman on the Wall three day conference that ended Friday, Cruz told the crowd of more than 600 in the nation's capital that he is not afraid to champion their religious freedom. He wore his faith on his sleeve and addressed some touchy subjects other candidates have appeared to be a bit reticent to tackle.

Opening up the recent debate over the passage of Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), the Texas senator addressed the topic of religious freedom, noting that the bill was grossly misinterpreted by the great majority of Democrats opposing the bill, according to the Christian Post.

Delving into the issue further, Cruz pointed out how the highly controversial Indiana bill was "substantively identical" to

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the federal RFRA that was relatively uncontested when President Bill Clinton signed it — a bill that passed with an impressive 97 Senate votes, while unanimously passing the House.

“[The federal RFRA] receiv ed the support of such famed right-wing nut cases as Ted Kennedy, Chuck Schumer and Joe Biden," Cruz said in jest to the hall filled with pastors at the event, which was hosted by the Family Research Council.

He went on to explain why Democrats had a sudden change of heart over RFRA, mentioning how the bill was opposed by a number LGBT supporters with deep pockets.

"The modern Democratic Party, working hand-in-hand with big business, decided their allegiance to gay marriage trumps any devotion to religious liberty," Cruz asserted.

Blues in Red’s clothing?

Cruz said it’s even more of a trav esty that a large amount of Republicans cease to champion Americans’ religious liberty to avoid a head-on collision with activists pushing for LGBT rights, noting that several of them were running alongside him in the GOP presidential pool for the 2016 Republican ticket.

"I'm going to tell you something that was even sadder was just how many Republicans ran for the hills,” Cruz added, without pointing fingers. "I'll point out that some of the Republicans running in 2016 were nowhere to be found when Indiana was being fought."

Using other candidates’ silence to amplify his v oice on the issue, Cruz emphasized that he will champion the freedom of expression and free speech rights of all in the faith community .

"And I can tell you this — I will always, always, always stand and fight for the religious liberty of ev ery American," Cruz promised.

Fighting persecution

He then revisited the latest attempt by the state to silence churches, reminding the audience how believ ers scored a victory over Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who unsuccessfully tried to subpoena pastors’ communications on homosexuality . Cruz said the scandal was overcome by Christians who applied “pressure and heat and light” to the situation — not allowing the government to quash religious freedom in the pseudo name of tolerance.

Cruz stressed that the threat to religious liberty is nowhere more rampant than in nations that are threatened by Islamic terrorists, where Christians suffer a level of persecution for their faith that few Americans can fathom.

"What's happening here pales in comparison to what is happening across the globe," Cruz insisted.

The senator from the Lone Star State went from ISIS beheading children to crucifying Christians for not denying Jesus Christ and submitting to the Islamic god, Allah.

He also brought up Meriam Ibrahim’s time in a Sudanese prison, where the pregnant mother was released before the Islamic nation’s judicial system could execute her for not submitting to Allah.

Attributing Ibrahim’s release to Christians’ “pressure and heat and light on the government of Sudan,” Cruz recounted meeting with the nearly martyred Sudanese Christian at a previous FRC event, sharing with the crowd a question he posed her. In response to Cruz’s inquiry about how she managed to not renounce her faith throughout her horrific

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experience in prison, Ibrahim simply told him, “Jesus was with me.”

Cruz used the response as a segue to incite gratefulness in Americans who complain about being discriminated against for their faith.

"Compared with that, problems in America don't seem all that bad," Cruz concluded.

Walker emerges from Southern confab as GOP front-runner // Washington Examiner // Timothy P. Carney - May 24, 2015

OKLAHOMA CITY — The annual Southern Republican Leadership Conference provided a glimpse into the state of the Republican base and the presidential field.

The conference revealed a Republican base that is (1) broadly happy with the crowded and conservative field, (2) still smitten with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and (3) unimpressed and uninterested in Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Senate chaos over the Patriot Act kept the four senators who are running from making it, dampening the mood a bit.

The candidates running a second time — Rick Santorum, Rick Perry, and Mike Huckabee — do not excite the conservative base.

Also, it was evident from the speakers and the attendees that defense and national security have returned to the forefront of the Republican mind.

Straw Poll: The straw poll results mostly reflected Scott Walker's popularity, and the apprehension the Republican base has for Jeb Bush and Chris Christie, the perceived establishment moderates in the field.

1) Dr. Ben Carson won the straw poll handily, thanks to his having the biggest organized effort. His campaign bought a booth and bought 100 tickets, to allow supporters to attend for free. Many of these supporters came in from out of state. All told, Carson won about 240 votes.

2) The biggest winner may have been Wisconsin Gov. Walker, who finished a close second, with about 200 votes. He had no organized effort to win the straw poll, but he still won the most votes among Oklahomans in the crowd. His Friday afternoon speech was spot-on and well delivered. His strong showing reflects that the good will Walker garnered through his fights in Madison, Wis., sill buoy him, even after other conservative stars have entered the race.

3) Sen. Ted Cruz was a big reason many conservatives attended the event — he was slated to be the keynote speaker, and is something of a superstar, but he had to miss the confab for Senate votes. Cruz's campaign ran a small but clever operation to try and win the straw poll. A third-place finish for a no-show isn't bad.

THE CANDIDATES

Walker: Walker continues to impress the GOP crowd, especially those who haven't seen him before.

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1) His strong second-place finish in the straw poll was impressiv e because he was the only candidate to post double digits without an organized straw poll effort.

2) Pacing the stage, jacketless, in a blue shirt, sleeves rolled up, Walker's speaking style was easy and comfortable. Some attendees found him too low-key. Most saw his sty le as confident and assuring.

3) What recommends Walker most to Republican voters is his successful battles with powerful labor unions, the media, and the Wisconsin Democratic Party. Walker made these battles — including his recall election victory — the focus of his talk.

4) Walker was able to tick off a long list of legislative accomplishments, touching on all the major conserv ative policy priorities: cutting spending, cutting taxes, bringing the bureaucracy to heel, defunding Planned Parenthood, expanding gun rights, passing right to work, requiring photo ID for voters and so on.

5) Walker cast his political and policy wins as populist victories ov er powerful insiders. He described his fight against the government unions as "taking power out of the hands the big-government special interests" and putting it in the hands of ordinary people.

6) Walker closed with a pointed critique of his rivals. He said many Washington politicians are good at picking fights, but they don't win — a clear reference to Cruz's failed Obamacare shutdown, and Marco Rubio and Paul's lack of a record. Alternatively, many Republicans, Walker said, are good at winning races, but they never fight for important, tough things — presumably referring to Christie and Bush.

7) Conference attendees praised Walker's "courage," and ability to "solve problems." They said he reminded them of Reagan.

8) The word "front-runner" can carry many meanings, but it probably fits Walker at the moment.

Cruz: Cruz was a no-show because of Senate votes, but he still made an impression from afar.

1) Cruz was supposed to be the dinner keynote address. Instead he gave a 25 -minute video-taped speech. The message was standard Cruz, and the delivery was constrained by the format. Still he elicited applause from the dinner crowd.

2) Cruz's father, pastor Rafael Cruz, spoke twice — once at the dinner and once Saturday , near the end of the proceedings. The elder Cruz pleased the crowd.

3) Cruz's 16.6 percent in the straw poll was enough for third place, and it was three times the vote total of the fourth-place finisher, Chris Christie. This was partly the fruit of his campaign's small but clever campaign to win the straw poll.

4) Along with his decent positives, Cruz has some negatives with the base — more than the other conservatives. Some Republicans dislike his libertarian streak (these people dislike Rand Paul more), while others see him as a grandstander.

5) Cruz was probably the most common target (unnamed) of criticism from other candidates. Many candidates made pointed reference to grandstanding, empty speechifying, ineffective unbendingness and inexperience in office.

Carson: Carson has high positiv es and low negatives among the conservative base, but many see him more as a running mate or a cabinet official.

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1) Carson's straw poll victory was not proof that he is the favorite of the southern Republican crowd. It was instead the fruit of a deliberate, paid effort by his super PAC to win the straw poll. Still, he earned at least 150 more votes than his supporters bought in tickets — an impressive showing that would have put him in third place.

2) The assembled Republicans all had good things to say about him. At least three attendees independently called Dr. Carson "a healer," suggesting he could "heal" the country.

3) Conservative enthusiasm for Carson is partly grounded in the belief that Obama has divided Americans along racial lines, and that Carson would bridge that divide.

4) Carson is the only Republican in the field who has never before run for office, and that is generally seen as a positive among a base that has grown increasingly anti-establishment and anti-Washington.

5) Carson's speaking style, while endearing, is not compelling. He's sleepy, down to earth, charming and funny. But he's not forceful in the way Walker is, nor does he seem as purposeful as Carly Fiorina. Although he's not a career politician, his message isn't significantly different from that of the other candidates.

6) Attendees often mentioned Carson as a potential running-mate for a more experienced nominee.

Christie: Greeted with skepticism as a possible squish from the Northeast, Christie won over — or at least entertained — the conservative crowd. His was probably the best speech of the weekend.

1) Christie speaks in an easy, relaxed tone that conveys confidence. He walked the stage, with no script or notes at hand, but still delivered a well-crafted speech, peppered with personal stories both funny and moving.

2) His two main themes are his record, and criticism of Barack Obama.

3) Christie was perhaps the most consistent candidate in knocking Obama (as opposed to merely Hillary Clinton). This is likely an attempt to undo the harm he did to himself among the GOP base by hugging President Obama after tropical storm Sandy. When he pledged to undo Obama's executive orders, the crowd roared.

4) Christie touted his record of "fiscal conservatism," in New Jersey, cutting spending and regulation and axing thousands of state jobs. He didn't play up his cooperation with Democrats, but instead portrayed himself as fighting the special interests in his state.

5) Electability — specifically, his ability to beat Hillary — was a powerful point Christie made in his talk. Republicans need a nominee who "knows how to fight and knows how to win."

6) In his catalog of policy prescriptions — not a central focus of the talk — Christie won some decent applause. He hit some standard GOP issues such as entitlement reform and flatter taxes.

7) Christie's forceful critique of the civil libertarian wing of the party divided the crowd more than any other issue. When he attacked (without naming) Rand Paul for holding up the Patriot Act reauthorization, deploring the "very dangerous debate," half the crowd rose to their feet in applause, while the other half sat on their hands.

8) Attendees received Christie's speech well, applauding often, and in interviews saying they were pleasantly surprised.

9) Still many conservatives rule out Christie, as a RINO, often mentioning his post-Sandy embrace of Obama. Christie's hard line in favor of NSA spying also turns off a subset of the conservative crowd.

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10) Christie has serious upside potential. There will probably be a Christie boom or boomlet at some point in the primary season.

Perry: Rick Perry's speech was excellent, one of the two best of the weekend. Still, few conservatives see him as their top choice.

1) Perry's style was more formal than the others. He stood behind the podium, in his crisp dark suit, and read clearly with gravity from a script — but it was a good script.

2) Perry played up his record in Texas, as a series of policy victories, as an economic success story, and as having provided the experience a president will need. He said the president must be "someone who's been tested."

3) Perry specifically contrasted his executive experience with the inexperience of his rivals who sit in the U.S. Senate, particularly Paul and Cruz: "Leadership's not a speech on the Senate floor — it's a record of action." Along similar lines, Perry said: "A lot of candidates will say the right thing. We need a candidate that will do the right thing."

4) He ticked off his accomplishments on job growth, budgets, border enforcement and education, eliciting a roar from the crowd with his criticism of Common Core.

5) Very few attendees volunteered Perry's name as one of their favorite candidates, even after his powerful speech. His fifth-place finish — behind Christie, and in a state neighboring his own — suggests the Perry's failed 2012 run puts him at a disadvantage as 2016 starts.

Jindal: Bobby Jindal delivered a culture-war polemic that seemed to touch the rawest nerves of the conservative crowd.

1) Jindal — whether he was talking about the Islamic State, religious liberty, school, his life story or immigration — spoke in terms of a culture war.

2) Jindal seemed the most in touch with this conservative, mostly older and white, Oklahoma crowd. He warned that Obama wants to "redefine our country" and works to "divide us." This sort of talk of cultural identity and divisiveness is ubiquitous among the conservative crowd. Jindal was the only one to clearly tap into this apprehension.

3) Jindal's style was down-home story-telling, filled with legitimately funny jokes — not just politician jokes, but actual comedian material. On a dreary, rainy Friday afternoon he woke up a crowd that had been dulled by Jeb Bush, and a bit dispirited by the recently announced absence of superstars Rubio and Cruz.

4) Most of Jindal's speech was his own American dream story. This quietly highlighted his ethnic minority status in a way that appealed to the crowd.

Fiorina: Fiorina has little support but the biggest upside potential of any candidate in the field.

1) Fiorina barely registers in the minds of conservatives when you ask them to name their favorite candidate or candidates. Speaking last at the conference — after the straw poll — didn't help her in OKC.

2) Fiorina defines herself as the anti-Hillary. She leads and closes her speech with barbed attacks on the Democratic front-runner. She elicited one of the weekend's loudest cheers with a direct and undeniable headshot to Clinton: "She. Can. Not. Be. Trusted."

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3) Her sty le is fairly flat, but poised. She comes across as possibly the smartest of the Republican candidates — and that's in a field with some high IQs.

4) She is most insistent and direct in going after crony capitalism, an issue that has the power to motivate the base, and which will be potent against Clinton.

5) Fiorina makes a decent case that her business experience would be useful to the presidency, but her defense of her rocky tenure at HP ("when you lead, you make enemies,") may not be convincing.

Santorum: Santorum barely registered in the straw poll. He'll have a hard climb to conv ince GOP voters that he's the guy for 2016.

1) Santorum's speech was at times compelling, but often awkward and stiff.

2) He lays on the populism better than the others. His populist pitch to the conservative crowd is part of an electability pitch: unless Republicans get over their Romney 47-percentism, and speak to middle America and the working class if they want to win.

3) Santorum barely registered in the straw poll, even though he won this state's primary in 2012.

Bush: Bush was the loser of the weekend — except maybe when it came to fundraising from the oil and gas barons in OKC.

1) Bush's speech was the worst of the bunch. The delivery was flat and uninspired. He didn't seem to want to be there, and it looked like he barely wanted to be running for president.

2) He has a strong governor record to tout, and the crowd applauded as he recalled his battles with trial lawy ers, teachers' unions, and the like.

3) Bush leans hard on the electability issue. "We have to get outside of our comfort zones" in order to win the presidency, he says.

4) I asked dozens of attendees if there were any candidates they would rule out, and Bush's name was easily the most mentioned — for a v ariety of reasons. Some cited his immigration stance. Others just pointed to his last name. The dislike for Jeb showed up in the straw poll, where he finished in sixth place with less than five percent of the vote.

5) One state party official attended the small gatherings where candidates met with big local donors. She said Bush's gathering had the most impressiv e crop of billionaires and millionaires, and that they received his message warmly .

The Field: Other candidates didn't register very much at the conference.

1) Rubio was often mentioned when attendees were asked to name their favorite candidates, but Senate votes kept him from attending.

2) Paul also was a no-show, but he hadn't signed up to attend in the first place.

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3) Huckabee, who surely would need to win Southern states to even have a chance in the primary, oddly was absent.

Issues: There is no clear priority issue among the candidates nor among the attendees.

1) Education — specifically opposition to Common Core standards — was a common theme from the candidates, and it always revved up the crowd.

2) Along similar lines, religious liberty was big for candidates and attendees alike. As with Common Core, the attacks on religious liberty leave conservatives feeling powerless and disenfranchised. In both cases, big business sides with big government against cultural conservatives.

3) Populism in general was a theme with the candidates, with Fiorina taking on crony capitalism; Walker, Christie and Bush talking about battling the special interests; and Santorum calling for outreach to the working class.

4) Foreign policy was up there with economics as a top concern of the gathered conservatives. It was one of the favorite issues for the candidates. Consistently, support for Israel invoked loud applause.

5) Many attendees — in a crowd that was overwhelmingly old, white, and Southern — fretted about America "losing its identity," and "coming apart," due to "divisiveness."

And now Christie's moment of Zen **// North Jersey.com // Charles Stile - May 25, 2015**

Days after his now legendary "sit down and shut up" outburst aimed at a heckler in Belmar last October, Governor Christie issued a blanket warning of sorts: If anyone pushes him too far, he's going to push back. They can expect the full-throated Christie takedown.

"I'm not going to change, Matt," Christie told NBC's Matt Lauer. "This is who I am."

Yet as Christie edges closer to a possible plunge into the 2016 presidential campaign, he is presenting himself as a changed man, with a thicker skin and a new appreciation of restraint. Gone — at least for the time being — are the town-hall confrontations and the tart-tongued putdowns that his office proudly circulated on YouTube.

The once-combative Christie now wants the nation's voting public to see him as the cool-under-pressure Christie, who could be trusted not to go ballistic in a nuclear standoff with Russia or North Korea. The Christie who fired off barbs at public school teachers now wants to demonstrate that he can take the heat of a national campaign.

The anger-management makeover comes as Christie is struggling to climb out of the second tier of hopefuls for the 2016 Republican nomination. But this rebooting of the Christie image presents him with a paradox: New Jersey's self-proclaimed "tell it like it is" governor runs the risk of becoming more generic, more like the "air-brushed" politicians he once derided.

Instead of standing out, he's more likely to blend in.

And at this stage, he needs to be noticed.

"At some point, you have to stand out from the pack," said Fergus Cullen, a former New Hampshire Republican state chairman and a political consultant not affiliated with any candidate. "He just can't drift along as just one of 18 candidates forever. "There are also a significant number of Republicans who want somebody who is combative."

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During Christie's recent swings through New Hampshire, Cullen witnessed a careful Christie, staking out positions and staying clear of any conflict that might go viral. The same approach has also been on display in his recent New Jersey appearances.

At a town-hall-style event in Hasbrouck Heights last month, Christie sparred with a critic for 16 minutes — an unprecedented stretch for him — without losing his patience or his temper. The encounter ended in a handshake.

Christie also refused to take the bait from a couple of patrons in a New Hampshire bar who needled him with jokes about the George Washington Bridge lane-closing scandal.

And in an interview last week on CNBC, Christie — who once labeled a legislator "numb nuts," called Democrats "animals" and urged reporters to "take a bat" to state Sen. Loretta Weinberg — argued that the GOP needed to rally behind a nominee who was capable of striking a more tolerant, inclusive tone.

Someone like himself.

"I feel very strongly about the things that I feel very strongly about," Christie said. "But I don't have to denigrate somebody else in the process. I think part of our problem has been tone."

Christie's defenders say he's undergoing a rite-of-passage transformation that all presidential candidates face as they step onto the national stage.

"I see it more as a natural progression from a guy who is running a state that is Democratic … to a guy who now realizes he has to show that he can be a statesman," said former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who ran a brief, unsuccessful campaign for the 2008 Republican nomination for president. "Part of what he has to do is show people the depth of his personality, that he's not a caricature."

Impact of GWB case

A raucous, ruffle-the-feathers style was key to Christie's swift rise to celebrity during his first term. But the George Washington Bridge lane closings — a politically vindictive plot allegedly carried out by close Christie associates to punish Fort Lee's mayor with traffic snarls — damaged the governor's image as a leader. While no evidence has linked Christie to the scheme, it created the impression that intimidation and retaliation were tolerated.

Suddenly, Christie's sharp retorts didn't seem like truth-telling as much as the words of a political bully. So Christie may be holding his tongue, eager not to reprise the image that he has worked hard to banish.

Others, however, say Christie's restraint is guided by a more practical consideration. He cannot afford to alienate any voters at this stage, especially in New Hampshire, the early, pivotal primary state that usually embraces pragmatic, moderate Republicans. If Christie fails to make a strong showing there, most analysts say he has little chance of winning the nomination.

"The voters who are only attracted to him because of his bombast are already with him," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. "The voters who are not sure of him … are not going to be won over by that kind of behavior."

Questions about his temperament are clearly a concern for Christie. At a VFW Hall in Hudson, N.H., last week, he went so far as to make the case that he is the Republican Party's best choice to run against Hillary Clinton because he's already defeated a liberal Democratic woman, former state Sen. Barbara Buono, in his 2013 reelection bid. Most important, Christie stressed that he never lost his cool when Buono, a weak candidate who posed no real threat to him, goaded him with attacks on the campaign trail and during a debate.

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“The point is, the entire time my eyes were focused on the prize. The prize wasn’t to beat her that night,” Christie said of their debate. “The point was to win in November so that I could govern.”

Can it last?

Of course, given Christie’s back-of-the-pack status, he might need more than a behavioral adjustment to become competitive. But if he does formally announce his candidacy and gain momentum, some question how long Christie can keep his measured approach. He hasn’t faced the heat of a debate, the competition of a mid-summer straw poll in Iowa or the negative campaign ads financed by super PACs aligned with his rivals — ads that could raise questions about his temperament and fitness for office.

“I don’t think we’re ever going to end up with Chris Christie who is a milquetoast,” Giuliani said. “No matter how much anybody reins him in, there will be times during this campaign when Chris Christie is going to be very tough, that’s just going to happen. The question is the style he uses to display that.”

He added: “Can he do that? I think he can, but that’s the challenge.”

Echoes of Hamilton in Huckabee's message // Philly.com // Robert Patterson - May 25, 2015

Not long ago, pundits were dismissing Mike Huckabee as a religious-right candidate whose folksy demeanor wouldn't fly outside the South. Yet in his presidential announcement this month, the former Arkansas governor is already distinguishing himself as the Republican with the most compelling vision in a generation.

Insisting "we need to be able to fight for ourselves by bringing manufacturing back to our communities, where we make our own planes, tanks, bullets, and bombs," Huckabee is breaking from the globalist-corporatist groupthink that has handicapped the post-Reagan GOP. His championing of domestic nation-building imperatives that Alexander Hamilton outlined in Philadelphia will resonate not only in Middle America, but also in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

A strong dose of economic nationalism couldn't be timelier, as a Democratic president and a Republican Congress prepare to deal away more prime sectors of our economy to rival nations, as well as third-world backwaters, via the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Huckabee cuts through all the "free-trade" happy talk, noting that "unbalanced trade deals ... undercut American workers and drive wages lower than the Dead Sea."

Yet more concerning to Huckabee is the threat to national survival as Washington and Wall Street have abandoned our healthy economic independence for dysfunctional codependency on foreign powers.

It's the inverse of Hamilton, the founder who in 1791 advised the second Congress that "every nation ought to endeavor to possess within itself all the essentials of national supply." Our first treasury secretary's national strategy transformed the fledging republic into a continental superpower and preserved American independence for 200 years. But today, bowing to the gods of globalization is decimating the industrial base needed for maintaining a defense second to none.

Thanks to an unprecedented wave of subsidized and "dumped" foreign steel, we no longer produce enough steel to supply our defense and infrastructure needs. And trade surpluses in advanced technology are gone as we face troubling inadequacies in defense-related industries such as propellant chemicals, batteries and photovoltaics, specialty metals, hard-disk drives, and flat-panel displays. Not to mention our reliance on foreign suppliers of semiconductors, printed circuit boards, and machine tools.

Most disheartening: the emasculation of the U.S. aerospace sector. As Eamonn Fingleton has detailed in Forbes, Boeing has led the crown-jewel industry in "one of the most outrageous sellouts in modern business history": transferring technology and production secrets achieved via defense contracts at the expense of U.S. taxpayers to its international "partners," especially Japan.

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Now fancying itself a "sy stems integrator," Boeing merely assembles airplanes here at home, relying on overseas vendors for high-end components, from av ionics to jet engines and wings, a downshift that Fingleton also sees occurring in the U.S. auto industry. Yielding America's "comparative advantage" in plane-making and "consciously cooperating in its own demise," the company has turned David Ricardo's free-trade theory on its head.

British historian Paul Kennedy sensed this erosion of the "arsenal of democracy" in his 1987 classic, The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: "Were there ev er to be a large-scale future war ... one is bound to wonder what the impact upon U.S. productive capacities would be after years of decline in certain key industries."

Kennedy's fears have become reality , warns Dan DiMicco, former Nucor CEO. As he notes in his new book, American Made: Why Making Things Will Return Us to Greatness: "For 30 years we hav e supported a failed business model of our economy that said we could ignore being a nation that creates, makes, and builds things; that we could remain a rich nation that only services things."

Even the 1999 Nobel Prize winner and father of supply-side economics, Robert Mundell, laments: "It has been a mistake to let U.S. manufacturing run down so low. While other nations have industrial policies to maximize their trade benefits, the United States leaves itself open like a naked woman. A big problem is with nations that may prov e to be future enemies."

In short, America can't afford to lose any more industrial capacity . The pending TPP portends to expand commerce for the United States and 11 other nations. But its true significance is the de facto surrender of America's automotive sector to the Japanese car industry, aided by the same currency manipulation that has boosted China. If ratified by an unwitting Congress, the Pacific pact would leave the country vulnerable in a perpetually hostile world.

To ensure we don't lose the next war - including stealth trade wars aimed at wiping out our industrial base - Huckabee's call for "bringing back manufacturing to our communities" like Philadelphia, a former industrial powerhouse, deserves a full hearing. By hitting a chord that resonates not only with historians, economists, and Founding Fathers - but also with working Americans - the gifted communicator may achiev e just that.

T he day President Bush's tears spilled onto a Marine's face at Walter Reed // Fox News // Dana Perino - May 22, 2015

News of America’s military men and women [who] were wounded and killed in Iraq and Afghanistan almost overwhelmed me on some days. I may have sounded strong when I was talking to the press, but sometimes I had to push my feelings way down in order to get any words out of my mouth to make statements and answer questions.

The hardest days were when President Bush went to visit the wounded or families of the fallen. If it was tough for me, you can only imagine what it was like for the families and for a president who knew that his decisions led his troops into battles where they fought valiantly but were severely injured or lost their lives.

He regularly v isited patients at Walter Reed military hospital near the White House. These stops were unannounced because of security concerns and hassles for the hospital staff that come with a full blown presidential v isit.

One morning in 2005 , Scott McClellan sent me in his place to visit the wounded warriors. It was my first time for that particular assignment, and I was nervous about how the visits would go.

The president was scheduled to see 25 patients at Walter Reed. Many of them had traumatic brain injuries and were in very serious, sometimes critical, condition. Despite getting the best treatment available in the world, we knew that some would not survive.

We started in the intensive care unit. The chief of naval operations (CNO) briefed the president on our way into the hospital about the first patient we’d see. He was a young Marine who had been injured when his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb. After his rescue, he was flown to Landstuhl U.S. Air Force Base in Kaiserslautern, Germany . At his bedside

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were his parents, wife, and five-year-old son.

“What’s his prognosis?” the president asked.

“Well, we don’t know sir, because he’s not opened his eyes since he arrived, so we haven’t been able to communicate with him. But no matter what, Mr. President, he has a long road ahead of him,” said the CNO.

The Marine’s young child tugged on the president’s jacket and asked, “What’s a Purple Heart?” The president got down on one knee and pulled the little boy closer to him. He said, “It’s an award for your dad, because he is very brave and courageous, and because he loves his country so much. And I hope you know how much he loves you and your mom, too.”

We had to wear masks because of the risk of infection to the patient. I watched carefully to see how the family would react to President Bush, and I was worried that they might be mad at him and blame him for their loved one’s situation. But I was wrong.

The family was so excited the president had come. They gave him big hugs and thanked him over and over. Then they wanted to get a photo. So he gathered them all in front of Eric Draper, the White House photographer.

President Bush asked, “Is everybody smiling?” But they all had ICU masks on. A light chuckle ran through the room as everyone got the joke.

The Marine was intubated. The president talked quietly with the family at the foot of the patient’s bed. I looked up at the ceiling so that I could hold back tears.

After he visited with them for a bit, the president turned to the military aide and said, “Okay, let’s do the presentation.” The wounded warrior was being awarded the Purple Heart, given to troops that suffer wounds in combat.

Everyone stood silently while the military aide in a low and steady voice presented the award. At the end of it, the Marine’s young child tugged on the president’s jacket and asked, “What’s a Purple Heart?”

The president got down on one knee and pulled the little boy closer to him. He said, “It’s an award for your dad, because he is very brave and courageous, and because he lov es his country so much. And I hope you know how much he loves you and your mom, too.”

As they hugged, there was a commotion from the medical staff as they moved toward the bed.

The Marine had just opened his ey es. I could see him from where I stood.

The CNO held the medical team back and said, “Hold on, guys. I think he wants the president.”

The president jumped up and rushed over to the side of the bed. He cupped the Marine’s face in his hands. They locked eyes, and after a couple of moments the president, without breaking eye contact, said to the military aide, “Read it again.”

So we stood silently as the military aide presented the Marine with the award for a second time. The president had tears dripping from his eyes onto the Marine’s face. As the presentation ended, the president rested his forehead on the wounded warrior's for a moment.

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Now everyone was crying, and for so many reasons: the sacrifice; the pain and suffering; the love of country; the belief in the mission; and the witnessing of a relationship between a soldier and his Commander in Chief that the rest of us could never fully grasp. (In writing this book, I contacted several military aides who helped me track down the name of the Marine. I hoped for news that he had survived. He did not. He died during surgery six days after the president's visit. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery and is survived by his wife and their three children.)

And that was just the first patient we saw. For the rest of the visit to the hospital that day, almost every family had the same reaction of joy when they saw the president.

But there were exceptions. One mom and dad of a dying soldier from the Caribbean were devastated, the mom beside herself with grief. She yelled at the president, wanting to know why it was her child and not his who lay in that hospital bed.

Her husband tried to calm her and I noticed the president wasn't in a hurry to leave—he tried offering comfort but then just stood and took it, like he expected and needed to hear the anguish, to try to soak up some of her suffering if he could.

Later as we rode back on Marine One to the White House, no one spoke.

But as the helicopter took off, the president looked at me and said, "That mama sure was mad at me." Then he turned to look out the window of the helicopter. "And I don't blame her a bit."

One tear slipped out the side of his eye and down his face. He didn't wipe it away, and we flew back to the White House.

Koch Brothers Plan to Fund 'Several' GOP 2016 Presidential Hopefuls // Bloomberg // David Knowles - May 25, 2016

The good news for Republican presidential candidates seeking to get a slice of Koch brothers cash is that the siblings, two of the world's richest individuals, seem to be in a sharing mood.

In a Saturday interview on the Larry Kudlow Show, a nationally syndicated radio broadcast, David Koch let it slip that the roughly $900 million that he and his brother, Charles, plan to lavish on the 2016 presidential race could find its way into the hands of more than one GOP contender.

"We are thinking of supporting several Republicans," David Koch said, adding, "If we're happy with the policies that these individuals are supporting, we'll finance their campaigns."

Koch said the brothers would begin writing checks to individual candidates in "the primary season, winter and next spring."

The pledge to fund multiple Republicans is consistent with what Charles Koch told USA Today in April about the candidacies of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul, and Florida Senator Marco Rubio. He indicated all six were at the top of the list in terms of who might receive funding.

"Those are the ones we have talked to the most and who seem to be the possible leaders," Charles Koch said.

Cruz, Rubio and Paul all spoke at the Koch brothers' event in Palm Springs, California, in January, which was dubbed the "American Recovery Policy Forum." Walker has been a frequent recipient of Koch donations, and Bush also is considered to be still in the running for Koch backing.

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"What we've told them all is that right now, we're not supporting anyone," Charles Koch said in April. "We're telling them that if they want our support, one way to get it is articulating a good message to help Americans get a better understanding and a better appreciation of how certain policies ... will benefit them and will benefit all America."

The GOP field is still growing, and the Koch brothers seem content to let the sifting process play out before placing their chips on a single candidate.

"Only if somebody really stands out from the standpoint of their message and what they would actually do to benefit America and has a chance a decent chance of being elected, only then would we select one over the others," Charles Koch told USA Today.

Charles and David Koch have matching fortunes of $51.3 billion dollars each, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, ranking them equal at number five in the world.

GOP's fight for 2016 nomination likely to drag on longer than party desires // WaPo // Chris Cillizza - May 25, 2015

Republicans have made no secret of their desire for a quick presidential primary fight aimed at rapidly producing a nominee to take on former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton.

They almost certainly won't see that wish granted — thanks to the greatly crowded GOP field and a drastically reshaped fundraising landscape that could combine to keep the fight for the Republican nomination active until late spring, and maybe later.

Let's start with the size of the field.

At the moment, there are six announced candidates: Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Mike Huckabee, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio. By my count, there are at least nine others — including bold-faced names such as Jeb Bush and Scott Walker — who will be in the race by this summer.

That puts the field at 15 (and it could easily be a few candidates more), which would make it the largest Republican primary to date — eclipsing the 12 candidates who actively ran in 2008 and 2012.

The enormousness of the Republican field is due to a number of factors. The most obvious is that there is no strong front-runner a la George W. Bush in 1999, and so every GOP pol who has ever looked in the mirror and thought "Hello Mr./Mrs. President" is getting in.

But it's also become a winning business proposition for many second-tier (or lower) candidates to run for president. Think back to 2008. No one knew who Huckabee was before that race. By the time it ended, he was one of the hottest commodities in Republican politics — and cashed in (TV show, radio show, speeches, books) accordingly. Winning the nomination isn't the true goal for some of the 2016 candidates; upping their speaking fees and visibility is. (And I'm not even talking about Donald Trump.)

Then there is the rise of the ever-present super PAC. Virtually every candidate — from the Jeb Bushes of the world on down — has an "independent" organization aligned with their campaign. And that super PAC can collect checks for unlimited amounts — meaning that a single donor or two could finance millions of dollars' worth of ads for a candidate who might not be able to raise that sort of money in the $2,700 increments allowed by federal law.

We've already seen a glimpse of what this everybody-has-a-super-PAC world might look like. During the 2012 presidential primary, former House speaker Newt Gingrich was struggling to raise money after finishing fourth in the Iowa caucuses

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and the New Hampshire primary. But Gingrich had casino magnate Sheldon Adelson in his corner; Adelson donated $5 million to Gingrich's super PAC in the run-up to the South Carolina primary, which Gingrich won. All told, Adelson and his wife, Miriam, donated $16.5 million to Gingrich's super PAC; Gingrich raised $25 million total for his campaign committee.

Now, rather than just a handful of candidates with a well-funded super PAC, we could be looking at a dozen or more who have a setup similar to Gingrich's in 2012. And, although Bush's super PAC, which reportedly will have raised $100 million by the end of this month, gets all the attention, it's actually super PACs for the Fiorinas and Rick Perrys of the world that will prolong this race.

Traditionally — that is, in the time before super PACs — the way that the field was winnowed was via fundraising. A candidate underperformed expectations in Iowa or New Hampshire (or both), the fundraising spigot dried up, and he or she was forced to acknowledge reality and drop from the race.

Now, though, your aligned super PAC can function as a sort of campaign life support — keeping candidates alive for as long as wealthy donors want them to be around.

Gone is the incentive to drop out of the race; here is the incentive to stick around as long as possible because in a field this wide open and with so many super PACs spending so much money, who knows when your opportunity might come?

Then there is the ever-present uncertainty about the state of the primary calendar. What we know is that Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada will be the first four states to vote. Beyond that, though, chaos reigns. There is talk of an "SEC" primary, named after the NCAA's Southeastern Conference, featuring a passel of southern states on March 1. And several more states are trying to push their way closer to the front of the calendar.

What a crowded early primary calender could mean is that candidates pick and choose states where they think they can run well, meaning that there is rarely, if ever, a state in which every candidate is playing hard at the same time.

Add up a historic number of candidates, a potentially limitless amount of funding and the potential for a series of different winners in the early going, and you see why Republicans seem likely to be fighting for their presidential nomination well into next spring and even, possibly, as summer begins.

The nightmare scenario for Republicans is a brokered convention fight — playing out in mid-July in Cleveland. We're not there yet. Yet.

The Right's Political Correctness // WaPo // E.J. Dionne - May 25, 2015

WASHINGTON -- Scott Walker insists that when he changes his positions, he is not engaged in "flips."

"A flip would be someone who voted on something and did something different," the Wisconsin governor explained last week on Fox News. His altered views on immigration don't count because he is not a legislator. "These are not votes," he helpfully pointed out.

Sheer brilliance! Other than former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Walker's major rivals at the moment are Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Senator Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Senator Rand Paul, R-Ky. They have all cast lots of votes. So Walker can accuse them of flip-flopping while claiming blanket immunity for himself.

Unfortunately for the Republican Party and the country, Walker's careful parsing of shape-shifting counts as one of the cerebral high points of the debate among the party's 2016 presidential candidates.

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The shortage of philosophical adventure and the eagerness of GOP hopefuls to alter their positions to make them more conserv ative have the same cause: a Republican primary electorate that has moved so far right that it brooks no deviationism. What makes it even harder for the candidates to break new ground is that the imperatives of orthodoxy are constraining even the thinkers who are trying to create a new "reform conservatism."

The fall-in-line-or-fall-in-the-polls rule means that Walker has gone from supporting to opposing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, as has Gov. Chris Christie, R-N.J. Rubio got much praise for his work in negotiating a bipartisan bill that would have allowed the undocumented to become citizens -- and then, faced with hostility from tea partyers, he turned against it.

Paul, the most daring of the lot because of his libertarian convictions, deserves kudos for being true to his small-state ideology by standing up -- literally, for nearly 11 hours on the Senate floor -- against the Patriot Act. But even Paul has recast his foreign policy positions to make them sound more hawkish and thus more in keeping with prevailing Republican views.

Accommodating right-wing primary voters poses real risks to the party in next year's elections. Its candidates' messages on immigration and gay marriage, could hurt the GOP with, respectively , Latinos and the young.

But the greater loss is that none of the leading Republicans is willing to offer a more fundamental challenge to the party's rightward lurch over the past decade. L. Brent Bozell III, a prominent activist on the right, could thus legitimately claim to The Washington Post: "The conservative agenda is what is winning the field."

Where, for example, is the candidate willing to acknowledge that, like it or not, there's no way anywhere close to all Americans will be able to get health insurance unless government plays a very large role? Where is the Republican who will admit that if the party had its way on further tax cuts, many programs Americans like would fall by the wayside?

The reform conservatives were supposed to remedy this shortcoming, and they have issued some detailed proposals. But their efforts remain largely reactive. Last week, Yuval Levin, the intellectual leader of the movement, joined a sy mposium in Reason, the sprightly libertarian magazine, to reassure others on the right that reform conservatives are -- honest and true! -- no less committed than they are to "limited government," to rolling back "the liberal welfare state," and to reducing government's "size and scope."

It's not surprising that Levin's fervently anti-statist Reason interlocutors were not fully persuaded. What's disappointing to those outside conservatism's ranks is that the Reformicons are so often defensive.

With occasional exceptions, they have been far more interested in prov ing their faithfulness to today's hard-line right than in declaring, as conservatives in so many other democracies have been willing to do, that sprawling market economies need a rather large dose of gov ernment. Conservatives, Levin says, are "eager to build on the long-standing institutions of our society to improve things." Good idea. But somehow, the successes of decades-old gov ernmental institutions in areas such as retirement security, health care provision and env ironmental protection are rarely acknowledged.

Many Republicans, especially reform conservativ es, know that most Americans who criticize gov ernment in the abstract still welcome many of its activities. Yet stating this obv ious fact is now politically incorrect on the right. Conservatives who condemn political correctness in others need to start calling it out on their own side. Otherwise, Scott Walker's artful redefinition of flip-flopping could become the 2016 Republican debate's most creative intellectual contribution.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Deadly Flooding Wreaks Havoc in Texas, Oklahoma // ABC News via Good Morning Am erica – May 25, 2015

At least five people were killed, three others are missing and hundreds of homes were destroyed as large parts of the central and southern Plains states faced flash floods and tornadoes.

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In Claremore, Oklahoma, about 30 miles northeast of Tulsa, firefighter Jason Farley died when he was swept away while attempting a water rescue, said Deputy Chief Matt Wilson of the Claremore Fire Department. A 33-year-old woman in Tulsa died a traffic-related crash, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Keli Cain said. In Texas, a man's body was recovered from a flooded area along the Blanco River, which rose 26 feet in one hour and left piles of wreckage 20 feet high, authorities said.

Alyssa Ramirez, 18, a student at Devine High School in Texas, died Saturday driv ing home from her school's prom, after her car got stuck in floodwater, ABC affiliate KSAT reported.

According to the National Weather Service, one other person died in Union, Mississippi when a tree fell on the victim's car.

In Wimberley, about 40 miles southwest of Austin, hundreds of homes were destroyed, many of them washed away, after more than 9 inches of rain was reported and the Blanco River rose. Trey Hatt, Communications Specialist for the city of San Marcos, told ABC News that three people remain missing from the Wimberley area -- and 5 50 properties and 1,100 structures were impacted by the flood waters.

A tornado touched down in Houston, severely damaging an apartment complex and sending at least two people to the hospital. The National Weather Service identified the tornado in a preliminary report as an EF-1 with 100 mile per hour winds.

Two EF-1 tornadoes were also reported in Dallas County, Texas, on Saturday.

The threat for severe weather will encompass a large swath of Texas and the southern part of Oklahoma yet again on Memorial Day with large hail, damaging winds, and an isolated tornado possible across the region.

Heav y rain and more flash flooding are expected for areas that are already extremely saturated.

Biden praises Iraqi military after U.S. defense chief questions its will to fight // CNN // Kevin Liptak, Barbara Starr and Jim Acosta – May 25, 2015

Washington (CNN)American officials attempted to explain on Monday the claim made over the weekend by Defense Secretary Ash Carter that Iraqi defense forces "showed no will to fight" prior to the ISIS siege of Ramadi.

The comment, made in an exclusiv e interview with CNN, was the harshest public criticism of the Iraqi security forces to date from the Obama administration. The United States has said local fighters, rather than U.S. forces, must lead the fight against ISIS, a strategy that has come under withering criticism as the terror group gains ground in Iraq and Syria.

The remark surprised Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who told the BBC that Carter was "fed the wrong information."

In a Monday phone call with Abadi, Vice President Joe Biden "recognized the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces over the past 18 months in Ramadi and elsewhere," according to a statement from the White House.

Biden, who told Abadi before Ramadi's fall that shipments of weapons were being expedited to help protect the city, explained to the prime minister on Monday the U.S. was planning to ramp up training to combat ISIS truck bombs, which were deployed in brutal fashion during the group's takeov er of the Anbar capital.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials were parsing what precisely Carter meant when he told CNN Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr that "we have an issue with the will of the Iraqis to fight ISIL and defend themselves," despite outnumbering ISIS

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forces.

A senior administration official said Carter's remarks were in reference to the Ramadi siege specifically, which came after months of fighting and was hastened by a rash of ISIS suicide bombings, some of them at the same magnitude as the 1995 Oklahoma City blast.

"The reference to lack of will was in relation to this specific episode, which followed 18 months of fierce (Iraqi Security Forces) attrition against ISIL in Ramadi, coupled with what the Iraqi government has acknowledged were breakdowns in military command, planning, and reinforcement," the official said.

A senior defense official pointed to specific factors that may have contributed to Iraqi troops' lack of fighting will in Ramadi, including the absence of regular payments, the inability to visit family members and a general sense that commanders weren't looking after their battalions.

According to this official, the U.S. has grown increasingly concerned about a lack of leadership skills within the Iraqi ranks, seen as crucial to winning the support of troops in combat situations like the battle for Ramadi.

The White House has consistently ruled out sending American combat forces back into Iraq after the decade-long war begun by President George W. Bush. Instead, the U.S. is relying on a strategy of empowering local forces to beat back ISIS where they 've made gains.

President Barack Obama, speaking to The Atlantic magazine last week, said that "if the Iraqis themselves are not willing or capable to arrive at the political accommodations necessary to govern, if they are not willing to fight for the security of their country , we cannot do that for them."

Officials say in Anbar prov ince, the equipping and training of Sunni tribes is a priority as Iraqi forces regroup and attempt to retake Ramadi.

"The rapid integration of the Sunni tribes into the fight alongside other Iraqi forces is essential as they will be the most invested in fighting for their areas," an administration official said.

Michele Flournoy , a former undersecretary of defense who Obama considered naming to the top Pentagon post, said on CNN Sunday the administration has "under-resourced" its counter-ISIS strategy.

"We need to provide more fire power support, more intelligence surveillance," she told CNN's Jim Acosta on "State of the Union."

Joe Biden tries to patch things up with Iraq // Politico // Nahal T oosi – May 25, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden is trying to calm tensions with Iraq's leaders after the U.S. secretary of defense accused Iraqi troops of lacking the "will to fight" Islamic State.

Biden spoke to Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi on Monday to reaffirm U.S. support for Iraq's government and to recognize "the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces," according to a White House statement.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter, in an interview with CNN that aired Sunday, said that although Iraqi troops greatly outnumbered the forces of Islamic State, they could not hold their own against the extremists in the city of Ramadi, allowing it to fall just over a week ago.

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His comments were among the harshest to date from the administration, which has invested for years in training and equipping Iraqi troops, and his words implied the White House is growing frustrated with the Iraqis as they battle the militant network, which also is known as ISIS or ISIL.

"We have an issue with the will of the Iraqis to fight ISIL and defend themselves," Carter said. "We can give them training, we can give them equipment. We obv iously can't give them the will to fight."

In an interview with the BBC, the Iraqi premier expressed surprise at Carter's comments, adding, "I am sure he was fed with the wrong information."

Ramadi is the capital of Iraq's Anbar province, a Sunni-majority area; the city fell to the Islamic State after more than a year of fighting and numerous casualties. For the most part, Obama administration officials have described its loss as a tactical setback, and they hav e stressed the battle is a long one.

But there's a growing sense within the administration and bey ond that Ramadi's loss is a major blow, although President Barack Obama is resisting calls to deploy additional U.S. troops to Iraq beyond those adv ising the Iraqi army.

According to the White House statement, Biden welcomed the Iraqi gov ernment's recent decision "to mobilize additional troops, honor those who hav e fallen, and prepare for counter-attack operations." He also promised the U.S. would speed up its provision of training and equipment to deal with the militants' use of truck bombs.

ObamaCare fallout? Supreme Court ruling sets up potential Obama, GOP battle // Fox News – May 25, 2015

March 4, 2015 : Demonstrators rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, as the court was hearing arguments in President Obama's healthcare ov erhaul.

The upcoming Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act could wipe out insurance for millions of people cov ered by the president's health care plan, leaving states that didn't set up their own health care markets scrambling to subsidize coverage for those left uninsured.

Twenty -six of the 34 states that would be hardest hit by the ruling have GOP governors. Twenty-two of the 24 Senate seats that are up for re-election in 2016 are currently held by Republicans. What that means is that it's the GOP – and not the White House –that's working on damage control.

President Obama's landmark legislation offers subsidized priv ate insurance to those without access to it on the job. In the Supreme Court case, opponents of the law argue that its literal wording allows the government to subsidize coverage only in states that set up their own health insurance markets.

The justices will determine whether the law makes people in all 50 states eligible for federal tax subsidies -- or just those who live in states that created their own health insurance marketplaces. The question matters because about three dozen states opted against their own marketplace, or exchange, and instead rely on the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Healthcare.gov.

If the court rules against the Obama administration, insurance subsidies for people in those states would be in jeopardy.

If the court invalidates the subsidies in those states, the results would be "ugly ," former Kansas insurance commissioner Sandy Praeger told The Associated Press.

"People who are reasonably healthy would just drop coverage," she said. "Only the unhealthy would keep buy ing health

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care. It would really exacerbate the problem of the cost of health insurance."

Praeger, a Republican who retired this year, called it "a classic death spiral," using a term for market collapse.

In March, the Supreme Court appeared divided along ideological lines after hearing the challenge that, if struck down, could affect up to 8 million policy holders.

If the subsidies surv ive, the ACA will look like settled law to all but a few passionate opponents. However, if they are overturned, the shock could carry into next year's elections.

Here are just a few of the potential consequences:

BAD TIMING

Around the time when the court announces its decision, insurers will be working to finalize premiums and plans for the coming year. Contracts with the government for 2016 health law coverage have to be signed by early fall. If the subsidies are overturned, insurers would have to tear up their projections about markets in more than half the states.

Populous states such as Texas, Florida, Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey, Georgia and Pennsylvania would be among those affected.

State lawmakers could mitigate the impact by setting up their own insurance markets, or exchanges. But that can't be done overnight.

States might try authorizing an exchange, and then contracting with the federal government to run it. But that sort of end-run might prompt lawsuits from opponents of the law.

In any case, most state legislatures will be out of session by the summer.

During arguments, Associate Justice Samuel Alito raised the possibility that the court might be able to delay the effective date of its decision. Even a delay through the end of this year wouldn't buy much time. Enrollment for 2016 health law plans is scheduled to start Nov. 1.

HOUSE OF CARDS

The health law was designed as a balancing act. Insurers can't turn people away because of health problems, but most healthy people are required to contribute to the insurance pool, and the government subsidizes most of the premium for low- to middle-income households.

Take away subsidies, and the other two parts become unstable.

The law's requirement to carry insurance, never popular, would probably become the biggest target for repeal.

"My guess is there would be overwhelming political support for the elimination of the individual mandate if people can't afford the premiums," said former Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., who was an influential Obama adviser on health care.

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Insurers would demand relief from provisions of the law intended to limit premium increases, or they might drop out of the insurance exchanges.

STICKER SHOCK FOR SELF-PAY CUSTOMERS

Many people still buy individual health care policies directly from an insurance company, by passing the law's markets and paying the full cost. They tend to be small-business owners, self-employed professionals and early retirees.

But even they would not escape the tumult in states losing subsidies.

The health law created one big insurance pool in each state, combining customers who purchase their policies directly with those who buy through the government market. If healthy people exit the insurance exchanges in droves, premiums for those buying directly would go up. Some may be unable to afford the higher cost.

"It would set off cascading events," said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "The individual market would empty out as premiums rise significantly."

REPUBLICANS TO THE RESCUE?

Leading congressional Republicans have been walking a fine line, opposing the law in the Supreme Court case while pledging to protect consumers if their side wins.

If the subsidies are overturned, Republicans will first try blaming Obama and the Democrats for writing flawed legislation and then trying to paper over problems with regulations. Then they'll move ahead with a patch to appease angry constituents.

A bill introduced by Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., would continue the subsidies for existing customers only on the federal exchange until September 2017. That would open a window for states to act, but it would ultimately leave the problem for the next president and Congress. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is a co-sponsor.

Johnson's bill would repeal the requirements for individuals to have insurance and for larger employers to offer coverage to workers.

Obama is unlikely to accept any of those changes.

"The president is likely to veto whatever we would propose, because we don't have a willing partner," said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., leader of a GOP working group on health care.

Islamic State faces battle in Iraq, U.S. reassures Abadi // Reuters // Baghdad Bureau, Jeff Mason, Andrea Shalal, Isabel Coles, Sylvia Westall – May 25, 2015

Islamic State poured more fighters into Ramadi as security forces and Shi'ite paramilitaries prepared to try to retake the Iraqi city, while Washington scrambled on Monday to reassure Baghdad after a U.S. official's sharp criticism of Iraqi forces.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden spoke to Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi after Defense Secretary Ash Carter questioned Iraqi troops' will to fight when Ramadi fell. The U.S. damage-control effort came as the loss of Ramadi and Palmyra in Syria put its strategy against Islamic State into question.

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"The vice president recognized the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces over the past eighteen months in Ramadi and elsewhere," the White House said in a statement about Biden's call with Abadi.

"The United States will ... do all we can to help the brave Iraqi forces, including the tribes of Anbar, secure the province from ISIL terrorists," a senior U.S. official said separately, referring to the group by an acronym.

The insurgents reinforced Ramadi on Monday, deploying fighters in preparation for battle against security forces and paramilitary groups advancing on the provincial capital, 110 km (70 miles) northwest of the capital, Baghdad.

Iraqi forces have regained ground east of Ramadi since launching a counter-offensive on Saturday, a week after it was overrun, and on Monday retook a rural area south of the city.

In comments to CNN on Sunday, Carter knocked Iraqi forces for being unsuccessful in holding Ramadi despite being more numerous than the militants, drawing a rebuke from Abadi, who told BBC the U.S. defense chief had been misinformed. Abadi predicted Iraqi forces would take back Ramadi "in days."

In Palmyra, the Syrian air force struck at buildings captured by the Sunni militant group, whose arrival has raised fears that the city 's famed Roman ruins will be destroyed.

The air force leveled Islamic State "hideouts" and killed a large number of its members around Palmyra's military air base, Syrian state media said.

Islamic State has killed at least 217 people execution-style, including children, since it moved into the Palmy ra area 10 days ago, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

RAMADI PUSH

Police sources said Iraqi forces supported by Iran-backed Shi'ite militia and locally recruited Sunni tribal fighters had retaken parts of al-Tash, 20 km (12 miles) south of Ramadi.

Pro-government Sunni tribal fighters, with the help of the army, laid land mines to reinforce their defensive lines around Baghdadi, a settlement northwest of Ramadi that controls access to a major Iraqi air base. Islamic State attacked Baghdadi with seven suicide car bombs on Sunday.

In Ramadi, residents said trucks carrying Islamic State fighters arrived on Sunday evening.

Abu Saed heard a commotion outside his house in the city's southeastern Officers neighborhood. "I saw two trucks pull up outside with dozens of fighters carrying arms running quickly into nearby buildings and taking cover."

Another resident said at least 40 fighters had jumped out of three trucks that arrived in the southern al-Tamim district on Sunday evening.

"They were carrying weapons and wearing mostly khaki dress with ammunition belts wrapped around their chests," said Abu Mutaz. "They were talking in an Arabic dialect, they were not Iraqis."

MAJOR SETBACK

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The seizures of Ramadi and Palmyra were Islamic State's biggest successes since a U.S.-led coalition launched an air war against it last year.

The near simultaneous victories against the Iraqi and Syrian armies have forced Washington to examine its strategy of bombing from the air while leaving fighting on the ground to local forces.

One analyst said the U.S. defense secretary's remarks suggested the White House realized a change in policy was needed. A spokesman for Abadi dismissed Carter's comments as "untimely and surprising at a time when Iraqi security forces are preparing to launch a counter-offensiv e to retake Ramadi".

The general in charge of Iran's paramilitary activities in the Middle East said the United States and other powers were failing to confront Islamic State.

"Today, in the fight against this dangerous phenomenon, nobody is present except Iran," said Major General Qassem Soleimani.

In a move that could mark an expansion of U.S. involvement in the conflict, Turkey said it and the United States had agreed in principle to give air support to some forces from Syria's mainstream opposition.

The United States and its allies carried out 10 air strikes against Islamic State militants in Syria and 25 strikes in Iraq since Sunday, the U.S. military said.

Days after taking Ramadi, Islamic State defeated Sy rian government forces to capture Palmyra, home to 50,000 people and site of some of the world's most extensiv e and best-preserved Roman ruins.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there had been no reports so far of Islamic State destroying Palmy ra's ruins and artifacts.

The militants have proclaimed a caliphate to rule over all Muslims from territory they hold in Syria and Iraq. They have carried out mass killings in towns and cities they have captured, and destroyed ancient monuments, which they consider evidence of paganism.

In Syria, Hezbollah fighters captured two hilltops from al Qaeda's Syria wing, the Nusra Front, in areas close to the Lebanese border and killed dozens of enemy combatants, Hezbollah-run al-Manar telev ision reported on Monday.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah has backed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in his country's civil war. The group's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has vowed to clear the border area of Sunni Muslim militant groups that have carried out attacks on Lebanese soil.

White House expected to remove Cuba from State Sponsors of T errorism list // Aljazeera America // Sara Hassan – May 25, 2015

The White House is expected to remove Cuba from America's "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list later this week. Despite progress during the talks between the two countries, negotiators have failed to reach an agreement on exchanging ambassadors.

The Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson commented on the situation by saying, "We made great progress ... but we still have a few things that need to be ironed out, and we're going to do that as quickly as possible. I do remain optimistic, but I'm also a realist about 54 y ears that we have to overcome."

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Cuba was placed on the U.S. terror list during the Reagan Administration in 1982. It's one of four other countries still on the list, along with Iran, Sudan, and Syria.

Historians say that Cuba and the U.S. were once close to sparking a global nuclear war. Former Cuban President Fidel Castro nationalized all businesses in his country after taking power, prompting the United States to close its embassy in Hav ana in 1961 and impose a crippling embargo. Later that y ear, the U.S. tried to overthrow Castro in a failed coup known as the Bay of Pigs incident.

Castro then turned to the Soviet Union for help, setting off decades of mistrust between Washington and Havana.

It wasn't until 2012, when Raul Castro took over power from his ailing brother Fidel Castro, that Cuba suggested normalizing relations with the United States. President Barack Obama responded by moving to lift parts of the trade embargo and kick-starting talks in January.

Not everyone is on board with the President's strategy, but many are optimistic about better relations between the two countries.

During Al Jazeera America's Sunday night segment "The Week Ahead," Lisa Fletcher spoke to Christopher Sabatini, founder and Editor-in-Chief of the website Latin America Goes Global, and Paul Bonicelli, a former Assistant Administrator at USAID.

Bonicelli say s that he does not agree with President Obama's approach on the negotiations. "The President hasn't really required concessions from this government," he says. "The Castro brothers are running a dictatorship, and you would think that the President would require at least some movement on politics, on economics, and on our national security interests before he's willing to give them everything. He could have gotten a lot of Republican support for that kind of negotiation, but he hasn't asked for anything in return."

Sabatini say s, however, that the Cuban government had made changes even before Obama's announcement last December to begin negotiations. "Right now Cuba has far fewer political prisoners than it has had in decades," he says. "Detentions and harassment continue, but there have also been economic reforms. There were over 400,000 entrepreneurs that Cuba's allowing to help grow the economy and help bolster socialism, that's been really important in creating some space for civ ic activism."

Bonicelli disagrees, saying "entrepreneurial activity is not up in Cuba. In fact, the number is down over the years because the Cuban government has been more talk than action. I think the President missed a great opportunity to sit down with Congress and get a bi-partisan deal."

Sabatini say s though that there is a better chance for success with diplomatic negotiations. "Cuba hasn't been engaging in sponsoring terrorism for decades. In fact, it is sponsoring a peace negotiation between the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) guerillas and the Colombian government, one of our allies."

When asked how opening U.S. trade with Cuba would be different than what Canada and Europe have already been doing with the island for decades, Sabatini says "neither of them is 90 miles off the coast of Cuba, and neither of them have close to 2 million Cubans living on their shores." He adds that once the Castro brothers out of power, "we need to be engaged in Cuba. We cannot risk having that regime collapse without us having some sort of stake in its present, if we want to have a role in the future."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

2016 presidential cam paigns chase m oney, with no cop on the beat: Our view // USA T oday // T he Editorial Board – May 25, 2015

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Money has always been the dark force of politics, but it's reaching a tipping point in the 2016 presidential election. Whoever wins will be more beholden than any recent predecessor to megadonors who write huge checks. Campaigns are skating up to, or over, ethical and legal lines to maximize the dollars.

There's little worry about prosecution, though. The agency set up to enforce campaign laws after the Watergate scandals in 1974 — the Federal Election Commission — is mired in partisan stalemate on major issues, meaning there's effectively no cop on the beat.

That leaves no one (except the news media) to police the flood of big money set loose by court decisions in 2010 that made it legal for corporations, labor unions and rich people to give unlimited amounts to "super PACs," which can support candidates as long as they remain independent from them.

In practice, the independence is fiction. Super PACs are typically run by a candidate's close aides, but it's hard to prove illegal coordination.

Advisers to Republican Jeb Bush have already told reporters that his presidential campaign — which technically doesn't exist yet because Bush hasn't officially declared — will be offloading big expenses such as television ads, direct mail and get-out-the-vote efforts to its super PAC.

Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign will also rely on an affiliated super PAC for TV and Internet advertising. The idea that campaigns would outsource crucial activities to groups they could not at least clandestinely steer is hard to swallow.

At least super PACs are required to disclose the names of anyone who gives more than $200. That's not true of non-profit "social welfare" organizations, which can do what super PACs do but keep contributors' names secret as long as the PAC's chief purpose isn't politics. Reformers say groups routinely abuse this rule, but a challenge to four such groups went nowhere when the FEC deadlocked and refused to investigate. FEC Chairwoman Ann Ravel told The New York Times that the agency, which has three Democratic commissioners and three Republicans, is "worse than dysfunctional," and that "the likelihood of the laws being enforced is slim."

When candidates comment on the situation, they tend to sound like St. Augustine asking to "make me pure, but not yet." Clinton says if she's elected, she'll appoint Supreme Court justices who will make the money-grubbing unconstitutional. Bush has ordered donors to his super PAC to cap their donations at $1 million, apparently on the theory that no one can be corrupted for a mere million. Meanwhile, they and their rivals are raising megabucks for their super PACs.

This would be amusing if it weren't such a sad indictment of politics. It's a reason why Americans don't vote, why elections seem like arms races, and why the next president will get to office with an indelible taint.

Americans demanded change once and got it, but it took one of the worst political scandals in history. That's a terrible price to pay for something politicians should see is in their and the nation's best interest.

Super PACs are not the problem: Opposing view // USA Today // Bradley A. Smith – May 25, 2015

A super PAC is a group of people pooling their resources to support candidates for political office. They don't contribute to candidates' campaigns, but instead say what they want to say. Super PACs must register with the Federal Election Commission, and report all of their expenditures and contributions over $200. Why is all that considered so bad?

Americans tend to forget, or not know, that until 1975 our elections always featured the equivalent of super PACs. But that year, we decided to vastly increase the government's role as a speech policeman. Not surprisingly, the combined incumbent re-election rate over the three election cycles since the return of super PACs is lower than at any time since 1974.

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People hate political spending the same way that children hate spinach, but it turns out to be good to have. Studies show that spending increases voter knowledge and turnout, but it's not cheap. One recent study showed it cost roughly $87 a vote to increase turnout.

Unfortunately, current campaign-finance laws make it difficult for candidates to raise the money necessary to get their message to v oters. Super PACs help fill that need. And that, in turn, means that candidates can spend less time fundraising and more time talking to v oters.

Before super PACs, if a presidential candidate didn't do well in Iowa and New Hampshire, his campaign typically ended for lack of money. In 2012, however, super PACs kept campaigns of candidates such as Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum alive. They didn't ultimately win, but they did win primaries and millions of votes, and, more important, gav e Americans more time to consider and debate the candidates and issues. What's wrong with that?

In the old day s, the 2016 GOP primary would have played out like this: Jeb Bush would have just out-fundraised everyone, leav ing voters with less choice and less information about the candidates. Why is that good for democracy?

Let's take stock: Since the return of super PACs, turnout, up; competition, up; candidate time spent fundraising, down; personal freedom, up. Our campaigns aren't perfect, but super PACs aren't the problem.

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | *Communications*

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Shumway Marshall, Business Forward" <info@businessfwd.org>
To: "John Podesta" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/26/2015 1:52:48 PM
Subject: INVITE: Join us to learn media interview best practices for your business

BUSINESSFORWARD

John—

As a business leader, your experiences are important to creating effective public policies that will grow our economy and create jobs. But how can you best communicate your views so that Washington listens?

Sharing your perspective with local and national media can be a particularly effective tool for encouraging policy action. And it can help bring attention to your business as a leader in your industry.

Please join Business Forward for an interactive media training. Using the effect of severe weather and climate change as a case study, seasoned public affairs strategists Aric Caplan and Jonathan Hahn will show you:

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Can you join our media training on print and radio interviews?

YES > NO >

Here are the details:

WHAT:
Media training for business leaders on print and radio interviews

WITH:
Aric Caplan
Founder and President
Caplan Communications
and
Jonathan Hahn
Managing Director
Caplan Communications

WHEN:
Friday, October 30
3:00 p.m. ET / 12:00 p.m. PT

WHERE:
You will receive a unique dial-in and password when you register

Following a presentation from Aric and Jonathan, you will have the opportunity to ask questions. If you prefer, you can also submit questions in advance by emailing info@businessFWD.org .

Here's the link to register: http://www.businessfwd.org/blog/media-training .

I hope you can make it,

Shumway Marshall
Digital Director

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Business Forward

P.S. There is no cost to attend Business Forward's programming so please feel free to forward this invitation to your colleagues.

ABOUT THE TRAINERS

ARIC CAPLAN is the founder and president of Caplan Communications. For over 18 years, Mr. Caplan's winning issues advocacy campaigns have furthered the timely missions of civic organizations, non-profit groups and NGOs seeking to advance human rights, environmental protection and safeguard social justice. Caplan Communications also maintains a robust literary division that services the needs of major book publishers across the United States. As a seasoned public affairs strategist and avid news junkie, Mr. Caplan has made a career of renovating the air products of major-market news/talk radio stations in Pittsburgh and West Palm Beach, FL. He worked in radio as a reporter and producer at KDKA and program director at WJNO before entering public relations. In February 2004, Mr. Caplan founded his agency to champion issues in the public interest and on behalf of social justice and environmental causes. Aric Caplan frequently publishes editorials in industry trend magazines such as O'Dwyer's magazine and has been invited to address audiences on communications panels as a public affairs practitioner whose insights and approaches continue to reach and influence target audiences and Capitol Hill with precision.

JONATHAN HAHN is the managing director of Caplan Communications. He is a seasoned media trainer who specializes in strategic communication, public advocacy and story development. Mr. Hahn has managed press operations for various clean, renewable energy media relations events, including the Climate Action Campaign's 27-state "I will Act on Climate" bus tour. He also specializes in strategic advocacy and crisis public relations, which include the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. He is a veteran media trainer with more than a decade of experience coaching executives to prepare for television, radio and print interviews.

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Click here to contact us.
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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 1:28:50 PM
Subject: Re: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 8:15 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Should I tweet?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com >
Date: Apr 23, 2015 8:06 PM
Subject: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA
To: "hrcrapid@googlegroups.com " <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com >
Cc:

http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

Statement of Frank Giustra

POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2015 BY FRANK GIUSTRA
CATEGORY FRANK GIUSTRA ,

A book that has not yet been published has caused the New York Times to publish a wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article about the Clinton Foundation and my role in contributing money to it. There is not one shred of evidence to back up the Times' conclusions. **This is not about me, but rather an attempt to tear down Secretary Clinton and her presidential campaign.** If this is what passes for investigative journalism in the United States, it is very sad.

The facts do not comport with the story in the New York Times. The reporter, Jo Becker, wrote a similar piece in 2008, which was eventually debunked by Forbes. http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/12/giustra-clinton-kazakhstan-pf-ii-in_rl_0912croesus_inl.html

1. I began working on financing the purchase of mining stakes from a private Kazakh company in early 2005. The purchase was concluded in late 2005.

- In late 2005, I went to Kazakhstan to finish the negotiations of the sale. Bill Clinton flew to Almaty a few days after I arrived in the country on another person's plane, not on my plane, as the Times reported. Bill Clinton had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company.
- I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company. I would note that those were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the Secretary of State. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the Secretary of State.
- Other media outlets have insinuated that I influenced the decision by the U.S. to sign a free trade agreement with Colombia. At one point, I was an investor in Pacific Rubiales, a Colombian energy company. I sold my shares in Pacific Rubiales several years before the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which, I will note, was approved by several U.S. agencies and the White House. To theorize that I had anything to do with that is sheer conjecture.

I hope that the U.S. media can start to focus on the real challenges of the world and U.S. society. Focus on poverty, homelessness, infrastructure, health care, education, or fractious world politics. You are a great country. Don't ruin it by letting those with political agendas take over your newspapers and your airwaves. **I am extremely proud of the work that we have done at the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership.** Thousands of people, all over the world, have been helped by this initiative. I plan to continue that work long after the harsh glare of this week's media stories has faded.

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To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 2/5/2010 5:40:32 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McConnell, Shelby & GOP Undermine America's National Security

McConnell, Shelby & GOP Undermine America's National Security

Washington, D.C. - Conservatives continue escalating their shameless attacks on America's national security institutions, criminal justice system and military. On Fox News, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell insulted the FBI professional on the frontlines of the fight against terrorism, saying that Larry King gives a tougher interview than the FBI does when interrogating a terrorism suspect. And today, Sen. Richard Shelby is putting petty partisan political demands over the security of the country by placing a blanket hold on over 70 Administration appointees, including several critical national security positions. This follows a broader pattern of the GOP distorting the facts and disparaging our security institutions - and the men and women who risk their lives to keep us safe - for political gain.

Conservatives spout mistruths, insult law enforcement professionals as a means to politically attack Obama administration. Conservative leaders in congress and pundits have been trying to score cheap political points by attacking America's civil servants and those on the front line combating extremists. Just yesterday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, referred to the FBI interrogation of Umar Farouq Abdulmutallab, the underwear bomber, saying that, "He was given a 50 minute interrogation, probably Larry King has interrogated people longer and better than that." Similarly, Susan Collins mocked the FBI interrogation saying, "Less than one hour. That's right, less than one hour. In fact, just fifty minutes. That's the amount of time that the FBI spent questioning Abdulmutallab, the foreign terrorist who tried to blow up a plane on Christmas Day. Then, he was given a Miranda warning and a lawyer, and, not surprisingly, he stopped talking." And Michael Hayden, the Bush administration's final CIA Director, wrote in the Washington Post that, "We allowed an enemy combatant the protections of our Constitution before we had adequately interrogated him," And David Frum fallaciously declares in a CNN.com op-ed on Monday that, "As soon as the underwear bomber got his Miranda warning, he stopped talking." [Mitch McConnell, 2/4/10 . Susan Collins, 1/30/10 . Michael Hayden, 1/31/10]

These remarks are disrespectful and just plain wrong. Earlier this week FBI Director Robert Mueller confirmed that federal agents have been successful in obtaining intelligence from Abdulmutallab: "It is a continuum in which over a period of time, we have been successful in obtaining intelligence, not just on day 1, but on day 2, day 3 day 4 and day 5 down the road." And the Washington Post reports that, "Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the man accused of trying to blow up a jet airplane on Christmas Day, has been providing FBI interrogators with useful intelligence about his training and contacts since last week, Obama administration sources said Tuesday. Separately, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III told senators at an intelligence committee hearing that Abdulmutallab was giving information to investigators." In addition, the Los Angeles Times reported, the FBI decided to mirandize Adulmutallab after he had stopped providing useful intelligence.

In fact, the interrogation of Abdulmutallab has already proven fruitful. Ken Gude of the Center for American Progress writes that, "The intelligence gained from Abdulmutallab has been shared widely throughout the intelligence community - and has already produced results. On January 21, Malaysian counterterrorism authorities arrested 10 suspected terrorists tied to Abdulmutallab. The suspected cell was made up of mostly non-Malaysians including two Nigerians who were thought to be part of an international terrorist network." [LA Times, 2/01/10 . ABC News, 2/02/10 . David Frum, CNN, 2/1/10 . Robert Mueller, via Adam Serwer, 2/03/10 . Ken Gude, Think Progress, 5/3/10]

Richard Clarke: FBI is "good at getting people to talk." What makes the statements from Sen. McConnell, and his conservative cohorts, even more egregious is that the FBI is in fact very good at interrogating terrorists. Richard Clarke, the counterterrorism advisor to Presidents Clinton and Bush, and a career intelligence official, said earlier this week that, "The FBI is good at getting people to talk...they have been much more successful than the previous attempts of torturing people and trying to convince them to give information that way. The FBI does it right." Similarly, Vicki Divoll, a former legal adviser to the CIA's Counterterrorist Center and general counsel for the Senate intelligence committee told the Washington Independent that, "The FBI is experienced at using nonviolent but aggressive techniques, within the rule of law, to elicit information from individuals who are hostile and uncooperative."

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In fact some of the most important intelligence gained on al Qaeda has been gained through FBI interrogations. Ali Soufan, was an FBI interrogator who, through traditional interrogation techniques of Abu Zubaydah discovered that Khalid Sheikh Mohammad was the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. This was some of the most important intelligence gathered on al Qaeda, and it was obtained by an FBI agent. In fact, once he and his FBI team were removed from the interrogation by contractors and intelligence officials, Zubaydah stopped talking. They were then asked to return. Shortly after they returned they received more actionable intelligence.

In the case of Umar Farouq Abdulmutallab, the Underwear Bomber, cooperation and intelligence was gained not in spite of using the FBI and following the rule of law, but because of it. As a senior national security official told ABC News, "One of the principal reasons why his family came back is because they had complete trust in the US system of justice and believed that Umar Farouq would be treated fairly and appropriately... And that they would be as well." [Richard Clarke, ABC, 2/3/10. Vicki Divoll, via Washington Independent, 6/24/09 . Ali Soufan, 5/13/09 . ABC News, 2/02/10]

Disparaging of the FBI is part of a larger pattern of conservatives attacking national security apparatus for political gain. Conservatives have long demonstrated their willingness to trade our national security for political gain.

Obstructing national security policy by blocking votes on key nominees. Senator Richard Shelby (R-IA) has put a hold the nominees for the top Intelligence officers at the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security as well as a senior civilian at the Pentagon. ABC News reported yesterday: "Sen. Carl Levin, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, gave a frustrated speech on the Senate floor. 'They've been sitting on our calendar since December 2, over two months, while these positions go unfilled and we're in the middle of two wars,' said Levin of five total defense department nominees Shelby has held up (civilian positions only, points out Shelby's office). It all has to do with Alabama-based defense contracts. In other words - pork." [ABC News, 2/4/10]

Ignoring facts and seeking political points. After blatantly lying about the facts surrounding the investigation of the Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, Senator Kit Bond further attacked the White House. The NY Times reports, "Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, said yesterday that Senator Kit Bond, the ranking Republican on the Intelligence Committee, should apologize for suggesting that the administration leaked information in the investigation of the Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up a jetliner on Christmas Day...Mr. Gibbs said the senator's assertion was incorrect. Mr. Abdulmutallab's cooperation with the authorities, he said, was first disclosed at a Congressional hearing on Tuesday by the director of national intelligence, Adm. Dennis Blair, and the director of the F.B.I., Robert Mueller." [NY Times, 2/4/10]

Jeopardizing defense spending. In 2009, "Senate Republicans failed...in their bid to filibuster a massive Pentagon bill that funds the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an unusual move designed to delay President Obama's health-care legislation," reported the Washington Post. While unsuccessful, the move would have had major consequences for national security priorities at a time when American troops are at risk in Iraq and Afghanistan. Conservatives had previously obstructed the entire 2010 defense appropriations bill, because of an amendment "that would specify harsh penalties for hate crimes, including those based on sexual orientation or gender identity," reported the Hill. As a result, 34 Senate Republicans sought to block a vote on the defense bill, prioritizing their opposition to the Hate Crimes amendment over support for the appropriation of critical funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. [Washington Post, 12/18/09 .The Hill, 10/22/09 . Senate Roll Call Vote, 10/22/09]

Rushing to send troops into harm's way into Afghanistan without a clear strategy. Throughout the fall of 2009, conservatives consistently called for the President to abandon his methodical review of the U.S. strategy for Afghanistan and come to a snap decision to put more troops into harm's way. But, as senior military strategists, including CENTCOM commander General David Petraeus and NATO-ISAF commander General Stanley McChrystal have both testified, the President's painstaking review was critical for setting the strategy. [Sens. Graham, Lieberman, and McCain, via WSJ, 9/13/09 . Gen. David Petraeus, 12/09/09 . General Stanley McChrystal, 12/01/09]

Placing a hold on a major veterans bill. This fall, Sen. Tom Coburn (R - OK) placed a hold on a bill that provided "Enhancements in VA health care for female veterans, including new training for VA mental health providers to handle veterans who experienced military sexual trauma. ... Support to family caregivers of severely disabled veterans by

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giving them access to counseling, support and a living stipend... Expanded mental health services to rural regions where veterans currently have to drive hundreds of miles to seek mental health care... Improved traumatic brain injury (TBI) care... [and] Additional programs for homeless veterans," according to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a non-partisan veterans' advocacy organization. [IAVA, 10/30/09]

Denying threat of climate change outlined by Pentagon. Conservatives in Congress have built up a record of climate change denial. Senator Jim Inhofe (R - OK) and Rep. Paul Broun (R- GA) have both called global warming a hoax, and Rep. Mike Pence (R - IN) said that the "science is very mixed on the subject of global warming." Yet the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review - the document setting defense strategy for the United States - devotes over four pages to addressing the issue.[Senator Jim Inhofe, via Countrywide and the Sun, 6/26/09 . Rep. Paul Broun, via Think Progress, 6/26/09 . Rep. Mike Pence, via Think Progress, 5/05/09 . 2010 QDR, 2/1/10]

Politicizing intelligence on Iran in order to justify military action. There are emerging signs that neoconservatives are once again attempting to recklessly politicize the intelligence community's activities in order to pave the way for their militant policies. Last month, Josh Marshall noted Center for Security Policy President Frank Gaffney's "argument that Obama needs to appoint a 'Team B' to come in and analyze the threat of Islamic fundamentalism," to ensure that the U.S. intelligence community is taking the threat seriously enough. Such efforts to politicize intelligence are especially troubling, given the reports that the intelligence community is updating its analysis of Iran's nuclear program. [TPM, 1/12/10 .Frank Gaffney, via the National Review, 12/4/07 . Danielle Pletka, via the Washington Post, 12/07/07]

Undermining and obstructing America's policy toward Latin America. Sen. Jim DeMint (R - SC) traveled to Honduras in support of the coup against Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, actively undermining sensitive efforts by the Administration to restore democratic rule. In addition to this trip, also blocked the, "nominations of Thomas Shannon, President Barack Obama's pick to serve as ambassador to Brazil, and Arturo Valenzuela, the choice for the post of assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs," according to the Hill. Steve Clemons of the New America Foundation explains how historically, this borders on treason. [The Hill, 9/20/09 . The Washington Note, 10/1/09]

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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

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To: "Aaron Connelly" <AConnelly@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Bill Antholis" <wantholis@brookings.edu>
"Bill Perry" <wjperry@aol.com>
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"Veronica Pollack" <Veronica.Pollock@dlapiper.com>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
"Wyndee Parker" <wyndee.parker@mail.house.gov>

Date: 1/31/2014 7:30:17 AM
Subject: Brian Katulis op-ed

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/obamas-foreign-policy-to-do-list/2014/01/30/5ad0bcd4-8925-11e3-916e-e01534b1e132_story.html?tid=hpModule_ea22e378-b26e-11e2-bbf2-a6f9e9d79e19

…Some Work to Do on Foreign Policy
By Brian Katulis, Published: January 30

Brian Katulis is a senior fellow for national security at the Center for American Progress. He is on Twitter: @katulis.

President Obama's State of the Union address focused mostly on domestic issues. Yet how Obama talked about his foreign policy agenda underscores a crisis of purpose about U.S. engagement in the world.

To advance his national security agenda in the next three years, Obama should offer a more cohesive strategic argument for global engagement, one that more clearly articulates the values informing his policies. Economic challenges at home, including slow job growth, have made many Americans more selective about which global problems they think the United States should take on. A Pew poll released last month found that most Americans think we should mind our own business internationally.

It won't be sufficient for the administration to state how the president intends to approach particular national security questions: He needs to articulate why they matter and what's at stake. Obama has done this before; his 2009 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech made a compelling moral and strategic argument for U.S. engagement in the world.

To be sure, Obama outlined sound and pragmatic positions Tuesday on most of the leading foreign policy questions of the day. He made a measured case for more time to pursue nuclear talks with Iran without overselling the prospects for success. He also sketched out how his administration is addressing questions about National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance and drone strikes while remaining vigilant to the threats posed by al-Qaeda and its affiliates.

But missing was the connective tissue between the different elements of his foreign policy agenda. It sounded like a "to do" list of chores in search of a broader argument for why these policy proposals matter. The lack of an overarching worldview is partly why Obama made only passing mention of the Syria conflict and said nothing about the complicated changes in Egypt. It is important that Obama used his stirring recognition of Sgt. 1st Class Cory Remsburg to rally support for our veterans — but it's not clear what the president would like to see as the end result of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars in which Remsburg served.

At the start of its sixth year, the Obama administration runs the risk of remaining intellectually stuck, cleaning up the inheritance of the Bush years. Yet major global changes, including the rise of other powers and widespread social protests for dignity, require a forward-looking moral framework for U.S. engagement. A clearer vision is necessary to rally public support and votes in Congress for key agenda items, such as a possible nuclear deal with Iran and proposed future trade deals with Europe and Asia. It is important for Obama to do this because Republicans are sharply divided on foreign policy and Obama's own party looks for him to lead.

The administration's planned release this year of a new national security strategy offers a chance to make a clearer argument for global engagement with three core elements.

First, it must make a case for how its global economic agenda, including proposed trade agreements with Asia and Europe, would benefit Americans and expand growth while meeting the president's aspirations of reducing domestic inequality.

Second, it must demonstrate how the government will keep Americans safe while protecting our core values. Obama's record here is mixed: He has brought troops home and kept the homeland safe, but threats from terrorist networks have morphed abroad. The principles Obama has outlined for reining in NSA surveillance and drone strikes must be applied with real actions to rebuild confidence in U.S. leadership.

Third, Obama must tell the world more clearly what we stand for and what costs we are willing to bear to advance the causes of freedom and dignity — and not shy away from the toughest cases. From Ukraine to the Middle East to China, the struggle to advance freedom endures, and many see a growing American reticence to engage on this complicated front. Egypt will present an important test — in the coming weeks, the administration will face calls on whether to certify that Egypt is on a path toward democracy.

Many people in this country and abroad are still looking for U.S. leadership in the world. Vague notions of turning the page on the Bush years, pivoting to new regions of the world and rebalancing to the wider global arena are not sufficient arguments to

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make a case for global engagement. Obama has a sound set of policies, but if he wants to achieve great things in the world in the next three years, he has to sharpen his argument and answer the question many are asking about his foreign policy: What's the big idea?

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/22/2014 7:06:48 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday July 22, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday July 22, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton @HillaryClinton: On my way to @Twitter! Tweet your questions to me with #AskHillary & watch my conversation with @KatieS here:http://youtu.be/kcMbpeRINZc [7/21/14, 7:30 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton calls for additional sanctions on Russia, working with our European allies. http://thehill.com/policy/international/212896-clinton-calls-for-tougher-sanctions-on-putin … [7/22/14, 1:15 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: See what @HillaryClinton thinks is one of the biggest problems facing our country right now #AskHillary http://youtu.be/wHy-z_zxnYc [7/22/14, 12:39 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@AmericaRising What is it you dislike more about charity, helping people or helping people? #AskRising [7/21/14, 5:59 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Why the 'rich Hillary Clinton' storyline is so dumb http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2014/07/21/why-the-rich-hillary-clinton-storyline-is-so-dumb/ … via @paulwaldman1 [7/21/14, 4:23 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

CNN: "Rubio calls Clinton 'a 20th century candidate'"

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"'Should she decide to run for president, Hillary Clinton would present a forward-thinking agenda, one that presents new, bold ideas to keep our country moving in the right direction. With his history supporting the Tea Party's outdated, regressive policies, Senator Rubio is the one stuck in the stone ages. This is nothing but a desperate attempt by him to divert from his failed legislative record,' Adrienne Elrod, communications director at the pro-Clinton rapid response shop Correct The Record, told CNN."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Marco Rubio calls Hillary Clinton a '20th century candidate'"

"Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton super PAC, responded in a statement: 'Should she decide to run for president, Hillary Clinton would present a forward-thinking agenda, one that presents new, bold ideas to keep our country moving in the right direction.'"

Media Matters for America: "When A GOP Presidential Hopeful Earned $11 Million In Speaking Fees And D.C. Press Didn't Care"

"Even though the Republican hopeful in thirteen months prior to his candidacy earned nearly twice as much money in speaking fees as Clinton has in the sixteen months since stepping down as Secretary of State, the press has universally agreed that Clinton's fee are not only newsworthy but deeply disturbing and that her family wealth poses a 'a political liability.'"

Washington Post opinion: Catherine Rampell: "Limousine liberalism's good works"

"The term I'd use for a 1 percenter who expresses concern about the wages, economic opportunities and safety nets available to the 99 percent is not hypocrisy; it's empathy."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Rubio: Clinton is '20th century candidate'"

"The criticism of Clinton is 'rich coming from a Senator who wants the minimum wage to have less purchasing power than it did in the 1960's, take women's health care back to the 1950's, shut down the government like Republicans did in the 1990's and has voted time and again to end Medicare as we know it,' Democratic National Committee nation press secretary Michael Czin said in an e-mail."

Des Moines Register: "Possible presidential rival to Hillary Clinton coming to Iowa again"

"Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley seems willing to fill the void in Iowa from the relative lack of Democratic White House hopefuls touching base here."

Slate: "Adventures in Warrenland"

"The evidence for a left-wing challenge to Clinton that could defeat her is thin to nonexistent."

Washington Examiner: "'Lost control': MSNBC hits Hillary Clinton for wrecking her personal Image"

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“Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has ‘lost control’ of her public Image, a sorry place to be for someone who's reportedly considering a 2016 presidential bid, and she has no one to blame but herself, an MSNBC panel suggested Tuesday morning.”

Articles:

CNN: “Rubio calls Clinton 'a 20th century candidate'”

By CNN Political Unit

July 22, 2014, 9:52 a.m. EDT

Marco Rubio's apparently not so concerned if Hillary Clinton decides to make another run for the White House.

"I just think she's a 20th century candidate," the first-term senator from Florida and potential 2016 GOP presidential candidate told NPR.

"I think she does not offer an agenda for moving America forward in the 21st century, at least not up till now," Rubio said, in an interview with "Morning Edition" that posted early Tuesday.

"The truth of the matter is she was the secretary of state during an administration that has had virtually no successes on foreign policy," Rubio added.

This is far from the first time Rubio's been critical of Clinton's tenure as America's top diplomat.

"First, I think she's going to be asked to account for her time as secretary of state and I don't think it's the sterling success people think it is. Quite frankly, much of the foreign policy failures we see in place today began when she ran the Department of State," Rubio told CNN's Wolf Blitzer in an interview in February on "The Situation Room."

"Should she decide to run for president, Hillary Clinton would present a forward-thinking agenda, one that presents new, bold ideas to keep our country moving in the right direction. With his history supporting the Tea Party’s outdated, regressive policies, Senator Rubio is the one stuck in the stone ages. This is nothing but a desperate attempt by him to divert from his failed legislative record," Adrienne Elrod, communications director at the pro-Clinton rapid response shop Correct The Record, told CNN.

Clinton has said she'll decide on running for the White House by the end of this year or early next year. Rubio, who's also up for re-election to the Senate in 2016, said in the NPR interview that he'd make up his mind by early 2015.

"There's a lot of work to be done if you're going to run for president, or if you're going to run for re-election in a state as big as Florida," Rubio added.

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Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Marco Rubio calls Hillary Clinton a '20th century candidate'"

By Sean Sullivan

July 22, 2014, 9:28 a.m. EDT

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) says former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) would not offer a platform that addresses the country's future challenges if she runs for president in 2016.

"I just think she's a 20th century candidate," Rubio told NPR in an interview published Tuesday. "I think she does not offer an agenda for moving America forward in the 21st century -- at least not up to now."

Rubio argued that Clinton is "extremely vulnerable in her record" because of the foreign policy "failures" of the Obama administration.

Rubio, like Clinton, is a possible candidate for president.

It's not the first time Rubio has made the "20th century"" argument. He said something similar in New Hampshire in May, though he did not mention Clinton by name. Democrats, Rubio said then, could "nominate someone now who wants to take us to the past, to an era that is gone and is never coming back. The 20th century is gone. We live in the 21st century, a time of extraordinary challenges but also extraordinary opportunities."

Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton super PAC, responded in a statement: "Should she decide to run for president, Hillary Clinton would present a forward-thinking agenda, one that presents new, bold ideas to keep our country moving in the right direction."

Media Matters for America: "When A GOP Presidential Hopeful Earned $11 Million In Speaking Fees And D.C. Press Didn't Care"

By Eric Boehlert

July 22, 2014

[Subtitle:] Different "Wealth" Coverage For Democrats And Republicans

In the thirteen months directly prior to kicking off his Republican presidential campaign in February 2007, Rudy Giuliani earned more than $11 million dollars giving paid speeches. The former New York City Mayor, who was thrust into the national and international spotlight after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, typically charged between $100,000 and $300,000 for his speeches and spoke more than 120 times.

According to one speaking contract published at the time, Giuliani required clients pay for meals and lodging for himself and four travel companions. Giuliani required a two-bedroom suite (with a king-sized bed) for his overnight stays; a suite preferably located on an upper floor with a balcony. Clients also had to pay for four additional rooms to house Giuliani's entourage.

As for travel, the contract stipulated that clients "should provide Mr. Giuliani with first class travel expenses for up to 5 people to include a private plane." What kind of private plane? "Please note that the private aircraft MUST BE a Gulfstream IV or bigger."

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Note that along with the $11 million in speaking fees Giuliani pocketed in 2006, he also earned $8 million on the speech circuit in 2002. If Giuliani was able to average between $8 and $11 million in speaking fees from 2002 until he announced his candidacy in early 2007, he would have earned more than $40 million giving speeches in the five years prior to his White House campaign. (Speaking fees represented only part of his income.)

What's newsworthy about that today? Simply the fact that back in 2007 when a wealthy Republican became a presidential hopeful the Beltway press didn't care that he'd earned an eight-figure income giving 45-minute speeches. (With an additional 15 minutes allotted for Q & A.) Indeed, Giuliani's financial revelations barely registered with pundits and reporters who gave the information little time and attention. The Washington Post, for example, published just three mentions of Giuliani's multi-million dollar "speaking fees."

The press certainly never elevated the issue to a defining narrative for the Republican's campaign. Perhaps they realized there was nothing intrinsically wrong with a speaker being paid what organizations are willing to offer them.

Compare that collective shoulder shrug with the nearly month-long media fascination still churning over Hillary Clinton's speaking fees; a fascination that's part of a larger, misguided media obsession over the issue of Clinton wealth. ("Speaking fee" articles and columns published by Post so far this year regarding Clinton? 28.)

Even though the Republican hopeful in thirteen months prior to his candidacy earned nearly twice as much money in speaking fees as Clinton has in the sixteen months since stepping down as Secretary of State, the press has universally agreed that Clinton's fee are not only newsworthy but deeply disturbing and that her family wealth poses a "a political liability."

Why a major political hurdle? Clinton's "windfall [is] at odds with her party's call to shrink the gap between the rich and the poor," Bloomberg News preposterously proclaimed this week.

Note to media: American history is filled with wealthy Democrats who have fought for income equality and on behalf of the working class. Based on her past performance, as a candidate Hillary Clinton would simply extend that tradition. And last time I checked, the Democratic Party platform doesn't discourage the accumulation of personal wealth. That's simply a media stereotype.

The other steadfast media angle in play has been that Clinton's speech-driven wealth means she's no longer "authentic" and that she's "out of touch" with everyday voters. But a recent poll thoroughly debunked that notion, so why does the lazy press keep pushing it?

When you examine the two sets of facts, the press treatment and the gaping media double standards in play for Giuliani and Clinton could not be more vivid: The D.C. press holds the Clintons, and Democrats, to a much tougher standard than they do Republican candidates.

Note that last week, appearing on Morning Joe, while hosts and guests all agreed that the Clinton speaking fees were a big problem for Hillary, NBC's Chuck Todd insisted the inflated paychecks looked unseemly [emphasis added]:

“All of this book tour; all of these decisions to go out and basically make your post-presidential money before you run for--before you actually are president? Which is really what's going [on]. **Ex-presidents make money like this, not candidates before they run**.”

But what did Giuliani do in 2006? He went out and made big, "ex-president" speech money before he ran for president. But most pundits remained quiet.

And how about the Washington Post harping on the fact that Clinton received big speaking fees from college and universities and that it just looked bad. (Even though no student fees were used to pay Clinton and she donated the fees to charity.) Article after article from the Post has obsessed over that angle.

But guess what Giuliani did? He not only cashed a big university paycheck, paid for by student fees, but the Republican also demanded the school pay for his pricey travel.

From the Chicago Tribune, one of the few news organization that took a close look at Giuliani's speech earnings in 2007:

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"In one speech last year at Oklahoma State University, Giuliani requested and received travel **on a private Gulfstream jet that cost the school $47,000 to operate**. **His visit essentially wiped out the student speakers annual fund**."

By the way, if anyone thinks my description of the Post's Clinton speaking fees as having been obsessive represents an exaggeration, here's a sampling from Washingtonpost.com archives of recent, fevered dispatches from the Clinton speech beat:

University at Buffalo paid $275,000 for Hillary Clinton speech

At time of austerity, 8 universities spent top dollar on Hillary Rodham Clinton speeches

Hillary Clinton's speaking fees are a drop in the Clinton Foundation's massive fundraising bucket

Hillary Clinton paid $300,000 and Bill Clinton paid $250,000 for UCLA speeches

Hillary Clinton says she donated all money from college speeches

Chelsea Clinton speaking fees can reach $75,000

Here's what Hillary Clinton's $225,000 speaking fee could buy on the campaign trail

Ten questions about those donated speaking fees

What did the Post's coverage of Giuliani's speaking fees look like in 2007? It looked liked this:

Disclosure Forms Show Wealthy Lot Of Hopefuls

Giuliani to Seek Advice From FEC About Speaking Fees

That, according to a Nexis search, captures most of the Post's coverage and commentary about Giuliani's $11 million earnings from speaking fees. You'll note in the first piece the Post didn't even publish a stand-alone article about the topic. Instead, the paper simply grouped Giuliani's speaking fees with the other candidates and detailed all their earnings. (The issue garnered three additional sentences of coverage is this Post article.)

As for the second article -- the only one the paper published devoted entirely to Giuliani's speeches -- the Post focused exclusively on any ethical issues raised by Giuliani continuing to give paid speeches after he had formed a presidential exploratory committee, not on whether he'd earned too much money, which is what the current Clinton coverage revolves around.

For Giuliani, being a Republican and cashing large checks for speaking fees was definitely not a political problem according to the Washington Post, and according to the rest of the Beltway press, which now on a weekly, and sometimes even daily, basis devotes time and space to harshly examining Hillary's earnings.

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Washington Post opinion: Catherine Rampell: "Limousine liberalism's good works"

By Catherine Rampell

July 21, 2014, 7:28 p.m. EDT

Is it hypocritical for a really, really rich person to object to rising inequality?

I've been thinking about this in light of the derision the Clintons are facing for charging six-figure speaking fees while pontificating about income polarization and the plight of the poor.

Other high-income, high-net-worth figures have been similarly mocked for expressing concerns about a growing income and wealth imbalance that benefited them. Among the targeted upper-crusters are Goldman Sachs chief executive Lloyd Blankfein, who said in a recent interview that "too much of the [gross domestic product] over the last generation has gone to too few of the people"; Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha, who has advocated higher tax rates on high-earners such as himself and consistently decried rising inequality; and Paul Krugman, the Nobel-winning economist and New York Times columnist who will soon receive $25,000 a month from an institute that studies income inequality.

These economic elites aren't alone in balking at rising inequality. A rare survey of 1 percenters found that nearly two-thirds believe "differences in income in America are too large," according to research by Benjamin I. Page, Larry M. Bartels and Jason Seawright. That's almost identical to the share of the general population that espouses this view.

Given the e-mails I received when I wrote last week about Chelsea Clinton's lucrative speaking gigs, lots of people see this sort of "limousine liberalism" as, if not outright hypocrisy, at least a sign of cognitive dissonance. The implication is that to credibly care about — and advocate on behalf of — poor people, you need to take a vow of poverty yourself.

I find this view highly problematic.

First of all, when low-income people do jump on the soapbox about raising taxes on the rich or expanding the social safety net, they're usually accused of class warfare. But more important, the poor, unlike billionaires, don't get a lot of airtime.

Pretty much every time a rich person sneezes, a banner headline sprouts. Some of this outsize influence over the public discourse comes from the fact that very rich people tend to be more politically active than the typical American. Billionaires have the resources to spritz their agendas throughout the airwaves, and when they ask the White House for a meeting, they can be pretty sure they will be accommodated . But some of their influence reflects the fact that regular Americans, for whatever reason, put a lot of stock in what rich people think, no matter how inane such commentary might be. We listen when Kim Kardashian prattles on about "having it all" and when Tom Perkins mouths off about apportioning votes according to taxes paid. Why? Because, as Tevye the Milkman wisely surmised, "When you're rich, they think you really know."

Given this state of affairs, I would much rather the megarich wield their wealth and influence to try to improve conditions for the working class, rather than to further pad their pocketbooks.

Of course, when it comes to inequality, these two goals are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Blankfein's objections to rising inequality, for example, could be said to represent a sort of enlightened self-interest, as he emphasized that he thinks the yawning income gap is politically "destabilizing" and could lead to legislative gridlock and slower economic growth — all of which potentially affect his own well-being.

But for some rags-to-riches moguls — including Blankfein and Bill Clinton, both of whom grew up poor — objections to economic inequity may also reflect a fear that the system is now stacked against the kinds of people they once were. As social structures ossify and the income ladder becomes more rickety, the son of a postal clerk, growing up in a Brooklyn housing project, might never again be able to rise to become the chief executive of one of the United States' biggest financial institutions.

Amassing a great fortune can lead to a very different outlook on life. For some, success begets contempt for those not similarly situated, those lazy schmoes who didn't manage to lift themselves up by their own bootstraps. (One recent study of lottery winners, for example, found that a

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financial windfall typically leads people to become less egalitarian-minded and more approving of the existing distribution of wealth.) But for others, proximity to poor and working-class Americans can be a constant reminder that there but for the grace of God go they. The term I'd use for a 1 percenter who expresses concern about the wages, economic opportunities and safety nets available to the 99 percent is not hypocrisy; it's empathy.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Rubio: Clinton is '20th century candidate'"

By Jesse Byrnes

July 22, 2014, 9:13 a.m. EDT

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on Tuesday said Hillary Clinton is a "20th century candidate" ill-suited to leading the nation going forward.

"I just think she's a 20th century candidate," Rubio told NPR. "I think she does not offer an agenda for moving America forward in the 21st century, at least not up till now."

Rubio, who's weighing a White House bid or reelection in Florida, said he would make his decision about a presidential run by early 2015.

"There's a lot of work to be done if you're going to run for president, or if you're going to run for reelection in a state as big as Florida," Rubio said.

Earlier this month the freshman senator said he believed he could beat Clinton in a race for the White House.

"Multiple people can beat her. Hillary Clinton is not unbeatable," he said in an interview with radio host Hugh Hewitt.

On Tuesday, Rubio reiterated his attack on the former secretary of State's record, saying she worked in "an administration that has had virtually no successes on foreign policy."

The Cuban-American senator, who last year co-sponsored an immigration overhaul that passed the Senate but failed in the House, also called for immigration reform amid the recent border crisis. But he said there first must be better border security and a modernization of the immigration system.

Democrats fired back, arguing Rubio's policies would take the coutnry back even further.

The criticism of Clinton is "rich coming from a Senator who wants the minimum wage to have less purchasing power than it did in the 1960's, take women's health care back to the 1950's, shut down the government like Republicans did in the 1990's and has voted time and again to end Medicare as we know it," Democratic National Committee nation press secretary Michael Czin said in an e-mail.

Des Moines Register: "Possible presidential rival to Hillary Clinton coming to Iowa again"

By Jennifer Jacobs

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July 22, 2014, 10:15 a.m. EDT

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley seems willing to fill the void in Iowa from the relative lack of Democratic White House hopefuls touching base here.

It has been 2,392 days since Hillary Clinton, the Democrats' most popular choice for a 2016 presidential run, stepped foot in Iowa in 2008.

But O'Malley, who was just here a month ago for his introductory visit of the 2016 cycle will return this weekend to gain more exposure - and to campaign for Iowa candidates running for office this fall.

O'Malley will help raise money for Iowa Democrat Jack Hatch, who is challenging Republican Terry Branstad for the governor's office, as well as for state Sen. Rita Hart of Wheatland and for Kevin Kinney, a sheriff's deputy from Johnson County who's running for the Iowa Senate this fall. His pending trip was first reported by Politico.

In comparison to the traffic from the GOP presidential aspirants, Iowa hasn't gotten much attention from Democrats who are on the buzz list for 2016. Liberal blogger John Deeth keeps a running tally on his website on Clinton's absence; she has said she is still trying to decide whether to run for president a second time.

U.S. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota will be back in Iowa on Aug. 23 to campaign for U.S. Senate hopeful Bruce Braley; she was last here in August 2013. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent will make his second Iowa visit this year when he holds events in Dubuque on Sept. 13 and in Waterloo and Des Moines on Sept. 14 – the likely weekend of the Harkin Steak Fry. Vice President Joe Biden dropped in on a couple hundred Iowans who were in D.C. for an annual lobbying trip in May, and was last in Iowa for the steak fry in September 2013. Former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer was here in December. And a group of people who claim to be from Iowa are trying to recruit U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia to run for president.

O'Malley who received a warm welcome from Iowa Democratic activists during a two-day visit a month ago. He praised retired U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin at a dinner on June 20, then gave the keynote speech at the Democrats' state convention on June 21. In his speech, orated with the aid of teleprompters, O'Malley offered up commentary on his achievements and his belief in the future.

Linda Langston, who is one of Iowa's representatives to the Democratic National Committee, in an interview with the Register last month predicted that Iowans will be intrigued by O'Malley. "He's well positioned to run should (Clinton) decide not to run," she said. "And obviously if she does run, she's got to figure out who she's going to put her on the ticket with her."

In summer 2012, O'Malley courted Iowa activists at the Democratic National Convention in North Carolina, and he was the keynote speaker at U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin's 35th annualsteak fry fundraiser in fall 2012.

Slate: "Adventures in Warrenland"

By David Weigel

July 21, 2014, 5:51 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The movement to elect Elizabeth Warren president is make believe.

DETROIT—Every time she's asked, Sen. Elizabeth Warren gives the same frustrated answer. No. Nope. She is not running for president. She has literally rolled her eyes at the question. She's offered to "add an exclamation point." She's even signed a letter calling on Hillary Clinton, who leads polls of Democrats by up to 50 points, to run for president.

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And yet there they were on Friday morning, the people who wanted Warren to reconsider. Days before this year's Netroots Nation conference, the annual gathering of the online left, an Obama campaign veteran launched a draft campaign called Ready for Warren. (The name is a wink at the pro-Clinton PAC Ready for Hillary, which claims to have 2.5 million supporters in its database.) The new group printed "Warren for President" signs and plastered "Warren for President" stickers on free skimmer hats. As activists entered the Cobo Center, which resembles a pile of faded Rubik's Cubes that have tumbled from a closet, volunteers handed out the goods. There was even a folk song soundtrack, by Jessie Murphy:

Americans want our next president to be a woman

Hey babe, here's lookin' at you, Senator Elizabeth Warren

The planet is warming and the power is shifting

We will need a leader who won't stand for all the Wall Street bullshit, the lobbyist grifting

The reluctant hero never stood a chance. When her applause lines hit, up went the signs.

"The game is rigged," said Warren toward the end of her remarks. "We can whine about it, we can whimper about it, or we can fight back. I'm ready to fight back. Are you ready to fight back on this?"

Up went the signs, up went the chant: "Run, Liz, Run."

"Si'down," Warren chuckled. "Si'down."

But the story was already being told. The signs made it into write-ups by Politico, Huffington Post, McClatchy, and a Washington Post story about how "cracks are beginning to emerge" in the Clinton restoration's coalition.

The evidence for a left-wing challenge to Clinton that could defeat her is thin to nonexistent. Defeating Clinton wasn't even a theme at Netroots Nation, where in 2007 both Sens. Barack Obama and John Edwards clearly outpaced her in support. Anyone who could force Clinton to the left—on Wall Street, on bank reform, on student loans, on inequality—was worth talking about. Not far from where Warren was speaking, a D.C. activist named Edrie Irvine was sporting a Bernie Sanders for President 2016 shirt, and getting into conversations that assumed the Vermont senator could never win.

"I love my Bernie," said Irvine. "I want him to run not because I expect that he would ever win, but because he would force the conversation in a direction it might not otherwise go."

That's just it. Progressives want to change the party, which means more than choosing a president. (Several Netroots panels featured activists who had moved the Obama administration when it was acting too slowly on issues like immigration.) The institutions that created the online left were birthed by no-chance campaigns. MoveOn was founded in 1998 by Silicon Valley liberals who wanted Congress to stop short of impeaching Bill Clinton. "Censure," it said, "and move on." Howard Dean's 2004 campaign brought in a young generation of activists and techies, spawning some of the data and campaign companies that would elect Barack Obama.

Yet MoveOn lost its first fight. The Dean campaign lost every major primary. The lesson activists took away: Try something. The media, at least, is going to cover a primary threat more than it covers a sui generis student loan bill.

Thus the Warren "presidential campaign," a masterful branding and messaging exercise. In September 2013, the New York Times wrote an attention-getting profile of Warren's appeal to progressives, proven by the growing crowds for organizers wise enough to book her. "Bumper stickers and T-shirts surfacing in liberal enclaves proclaim, 'I'm from the Elizabeth Warren Wing of the Democratic Party.' " Jonathan Martin reported that those stickers were mass-produced by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which was founded in 2009 by Adam Green (a veteran of MoveOn and Democratic campaigns) and Stephanie Taylor (a veteran of the SEIU, AFL-CIO, and yes, MoveOn).

In its early years, the PCCC confounded Democrats, losing a run of primaries and buying ads to pressure red state Senate Democrats who were slow-walking the Affordable Care Act. The Warren brand—earned after the group signed up activists and donors for her nascent Senate bid—is self-evidently a way to move the conversation, whether or not anyone challenges Clinton. "We're going to make sure that every Democrat who runs for president is forced to say whether they agree with Elizabeth Warren on key issues," Green told the Boston Globe last year, "like

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expanding Social Security benefits and more Wall Street reform."

Green repeated that point at the Netroots conference, though he hardly needed to. Rep. Dan Kildee, a freshman Democrat from one of the new safe Michigan districts, said it was "clear" that any 2016 candidate had to cop from Warren.

"The basic premise, that we need to restore some balance in the equation between corporate interests and consumers—that's what she's done for a long time," he said, recalling how he'd cited her when he worked at a think tank. "More people should embrace it. It cuts across partisan lines. "

But he wasn't calling for a primary. The point was getting the next candidate to move where the Netroots crowd wanted her to move.

"Hillary Clinton is going to say these things," said former Rep. Brad Miller, a North Carolina Democrat who left his seat after a 2011 gerrymander. "Whoever our Democratic nominee is will run as an economic populist. When the pollsters and consultants come back with the numbers, they'll tell her: Holy crap, you may not have been a populist before, but you are one now! The problem will be credibility, and whether it's believable coming from someone who has close ties to the financial sector."

At the conference, for most attendees, Clinton was credible enough. A Ready for Hillary organizer pointed out that some of the people who applauded when they saw Warren at a nearby hotel were sporting Hillary gear. There was no mass boycott of the main Friday night party, sponsored by Ready for Hillary, held at a downtown music venue called St. Andrews, with the PAC's bus parked right outside. As guests arrived, they ran into a table loaded with PAC stickers ("I'm ready for Hillary") and the room-filling pop of KGB, a Motown cover band.

Activists born in the 1980s; music from the 1960s. Not the ideal metaphor for a Clinton campaign, but it got a PCCC leader tweeting that after "one more margarita" even he, too, would be ready for the Clintons.

I didn't find a true Clinton critic, actually, until the next night's after-party. It was hosted by the Alliance for American Manufacturing. (In a Saturday speech, the labor group's president, Scott Paul, had told activists to nominate "a woman who not only says the right thing but does the right thing.") At the party, I ran into the last guy who challenged Clinton from the left and lost. Jonathan Tasini, a writer and activist who ran against Clinton in the 2006 New York U.S. Senate race, was at least willing to muse about one of the progressive branding campaigns turning into an actual primary.

"Warren would have the best chance," he said. "Whenever [Hillary] opens her mouth, there's enough people who say: 'I just don't believe her.' "

But how many Democrats? In 2006, Tasini asked progressives to hold Clinton accountable for backing the Iraq War. She won the primary with 83 percent of the vote. And on this particular Saturday night, the Clinton agita was not too serious. On the way out of the party, Scott Paul spotted me and corrected the record on his quote—the one absolutely everyone interpreted as a call for Warren to run.

"I saw the tweet about that," he said. "I wasn't talking about Warren!"

Washington Examiner: "'Lost control': MSNBC hits Hillary Clinton for wrecking her personal Image"

By T. Becket Adams

July 22, 2014, 8:57 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has "lost control" of her public Image, a sorry place to be for someone who's reportedly considering a 2016 presidential bid, and she has no one to blame but herself, an MSNBC panel suggested Tuesday morning.

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Questions about whether Clinton has done irreparable harm to her Image began with "Morning Joe" co-host Mika Brzezinski citing a recent Politico survey that shows a majority of voters disapprove of how the former first lady performed as secretary of state.

The poll found that only 14 percent of voters rate Clinton's performance at state as “excellent,” while 28 percent rate her performance as “good,” 21 percent rate it as “fair” and 32 percent rate it as “poor.”

“[I]t's a major change from a year-and-a-half ago when the then-secretary of state had a 70 percent approval rating,” Brzezinski said, noting a separate Bloomberg article that reported Clinton has made roughly $12 million since stepping down from state in February 2013.

Co-panelist and political analyst Mark Halperin weighed in on the issue: “She has lost control of her public Image. It's the worst thing that can happen to somebody thinking of running for president, and it's at a time when she should be in command. You know, she had a book tour, she can control the message,” he said.

“Her operation is playing defense on a lot of stories and, again, it's fine. She can recover from it. But right now, she has lost control of how people are thinking about her, how the media is covering her."

The Clinton machine, for its part, claims that much of the negative press surrounding the former secretary of state is either uninteresting or simply untrue. Meanwhile, Clinton's tour promoting her new book, Hard Choices, continues apace, providing the media with one wealth-related gaffe after another.

“Would it have been better -- in hindsight -- if Hillary Clinton had not written this book and gone on a book tour?” co-panelist Willie Geist asked. “Because look where she was when she was out of the fray: No one was talking about her in terms of politics, just in terms of how she had done as secretary of state.”

“She’d have less money,” Halperin responded, grinning like a Cheshire cat.

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 4/2/2015 4:07:34 PM
Subject: Re: Iran statement

One small tweak below and now good to go.

> The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It can never be permitted to acquire a nuclear weapon. It is also vital that these efforts be part of a comprehensive strategy to check Iran's regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:49 PM, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> wrote:

> Give me 10 or so to confirm one thing.
>
> On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:44 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > Looks great. If folks are good, let's get out.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:14 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> wrote:
> >
> > > + Brian
> > >
> > > **From:** Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
> > > **Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:11 PM
> > > **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com>, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
> > > **Cc:** Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
> > > **Subject:** Iran statement
> > >
> > > HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?
> > >
> > > The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	3/25/2015 6:59:20 AM
Subject:	3.25.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150325 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
March 25, 2015

HRC

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Hillary Clinton adds top digital talent to campaign-in-waiting (The Washington Post)
By Philip Rucker
March 25, 2015
The Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton has added some of the Democratic Party's most experienced digital strategists to her team of political advisers as she gets ready to launch her 2016 presidential campaign.

Teddy Goff, the digital director of President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, is advising the Clinton campaign-in-waiting on its digital strategy, while longtime Clinton aide Katie Dowd is on board to be the campaign's digital director with Jenna Lowenstein as her deputy, according to several Democrats with knowledge of the moves.

Andrew Bleeker, a digital marketing guru and veteran of Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, also could join the Clinton campaign in an advisory role, according to the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the Clinton team's staffing decisions.

Goff is expected to serve as a top adviser for digital strategy to the Clinton campaign, which would enable him to continue running his private business. Dowd, who is widely respected in the Clinton orbit as a skilled manager and has a personal relationship with the former secretary of state, will be on staff overseeing the campaign's day-to-day digital operations. And Lowenstein, who has been vice president of digital at Emily's List, one of the outside groups laying the groundwork for Clinton's candidacy, would join the staff as deputy digital director.

In 2008, the Obama team pioneered the use of new technologies for political campaigns while the Clinton campaign struggled to keep up. Now, two cycles later, Clinton is the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination and has her pick from the party's deep bench of digital talent, which includes alumni of Obama's innovative campaigns.

During his 2012 stint, Goff led a staff of 250 and oversaw the Obama campaign's social media outreach, online advertising and fundraising, and product development and design. He managed state-level digital efforts in more than 25 battleground states during Obama's 2008 campaign. Goff is a partner at Precision Strategies, a firm he co-founded with Obama campaign veterans Stephanie Cutter and Jennifer O'Malley Dillon.

Bleeker is another Obama world star, having overseen digital marketing strategy on the president's 2008 and 2012 campaigns. He founded Bully Pulpit Interactive, a digital firm that advises corporations as well as political campaigns, and worked for Clinton's 2008 campaign.

Dowd has been Clinton's director of digital strategy at the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation. She served as new media director on Clinton's 2008 campaign and followed Clinton to the State Department, where she worked as an innovation adviser running Foggy Bottom's digital diplomacy efforts. She also worked at the White House as senior adviser to the U.S. chief technology officer.

Lowenstein joins the Clinton team from Emily's List, which helps elect Democratic women who support abortion rights. She is credited with expanding the group's reach on social media and breaking its online fundraising records in the 2014 midterm campaign cycle. Emily's List is preparing to play a major role supporting Clinton from the outside and earlier this month honored her at its 30th anniversary gala. Lowenstein previously has served as deputy digital director for the Democratic National Committee and for Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's 2013 campaign.

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Women's voice topic of forum set in LR (ArkansasOnline)
Marchh 25, 2015
ArkansasOnline

In partnership with the Clinton Foundation, the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock will hold an event called "Empowering Women and Girls: Amplify Your Voice" on Monday.

No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project is a Clinton Foundation initiative led by former Secretary of State and U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton to inspire and advance the full participation of women and girls around the world. Earlier this month, the Clinton Foundation unveiled the "Full Participation Report," presenting the most complete picture of the status of women's participation since the 1995 United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Participants include Arkansas Children's Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Marcy Doderer; Wal-Mart Senior Director of Women's Economic Empowerment Beth Keck; Director of No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project Terri McCullough; Chief Executive Officer of YWCA USA Dara Richardson-Heron; and founder and Executive Director of KIPP Delta Public Schools Scott Shirey.

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Round 1: Hillary Clinton vs. Liberal Ideas (TIME)
By Haley Sweetland Edwards
March 24, 2015
TIME

Hillary Clinton does not face a serious primary challenger for the Democratic nomination in 2016, but that isn't stopping some liberals from putting together the trappings for one.

The handful of Democrats who have expressed interest in challenging Clinton — Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb — are all polling double digits behind her and raising minimal funds. None have the kind of name recognition that could seriously threaten her inevitable march to the nomination.

But that's not stopping some on the left from trying their hand at the classic primary squeeze play of raising issues in the primary in an effort to persuade her to adopt them.

Over the weekend, during his first foray into the early caucus state of Iowa, O'Malley called for tougher sanctions on Wall Street and "too-big-to-fail" banks, and for reinstating Glass-Steagall, a law that separated commercial and investment banking which was repealed in 1999. He also called for strongly supporting the long-embattled Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was passed in 2010 response to the financial crisis.

"Today, most Republicans in Congress are hell-bent on disassembling the Dodd-Frank Act," O'Malley's PAC, O'Say Can You See, wrote in a press release Monday, along with a link to a petition. "And too many Democrats have been complicit in the backslide toward less regulation."

O'Malley's populist swing came the same weekend that the Boston Globe featured a splashy package begging Massachusetts Senator and liberal hero Elizabeth Warren to run for president. "Democrats need Elizabeth Warren's Voice in the 2016 presidential race," the editorial board urged. (The idea is not totally out of left field, as it were. Though Warren has said repeatedly that she is not running for president, she has been somewhat cagey about it. She studiously uses the present tense — "I am not running for president" — and has yet to endorse a Clinton candidacy.)

This week, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee also re-upped its ongoing effort to motivate liberals to challenge Clinton's famously Wall Street-friendly economic positions. Liberals should join New Hampshire and Iowa leaders in urging candidates to "campaign on big, bold, economic populist ideas," the PCCC urged. "The more momentum we get, the more Hillary Clinton and others will take notice."

So what's all this clamoring, calling-to-arms actually add up to?

Liberal optimists argue that it's the only thing that will help scooch Clinton to the left at a time when she's already planning her general election strategy. They believe that Clinton will adopt some of their positions in order to win the full-throated endorsement of key liberals such as Warren who she'll need to rally the base in 2016.

Liberal pessimisists say it's all for naught. Without a face to put on these ideas — or even a name on a ballot — the left won't have enough clout to persuade Clinton to change course. Even if she doesn't adopt any of their ideas, Clinton could still rally the liberal base in the general election because she'd be the first female president, by adopting other liberal planks or by running against the right Republican.

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Rift in Bush camp illustrates Israel's high profile in 2016 race (The Washington Post)
By Anne Gearan and Ed O'Keefe
March 25, 2015
The Washington Post

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush on Tuesday disavowed criticism of Israel levied by longtime family counselor and former secretary of state James A. Baker III - laying bare a problem faced by the entire 2016 presidential field.

Israel, and U.S. policy toward it, has become an intensely partisan issue with serious implications for Jewish voters, campaign fundraising and foreign policy.

For Republicans seeking office, almost any critique of Israel has become taboo. That doesn't leave much leverage for diplomacy if a Republican wins the White House.

And for presumed Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, the tough line that President Obama is taking with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu forces her hand. Clinton is in the awkward spot of appearing to side against Netanyahu or against the president she served as secretary of state.

"Frankly, I have been disappointed with the lack of progress regarding a lasting peace - and I have been for some time," Baker told a left-leaning audience Monday night, according to news reports of his speech.

He added that "in the aftermath of Netanyahu's recent election victory, the chance of a two-state solution seems even slimmer, given his reversal on the issue."

That put Baker - a longtime friend of the Bush family and an unpaid adviser to Jeb Bush's expected presidential campaign - alongside Obama and firmly outside the Republican wagon circle.

Baker was notably critical of comments Netanyahu made in the closing hours of his reelection campaign last week, when the prime minister suggested that he no longer supported a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Netanyahu has since backtracked, with limited effect.

Obama on Tuesday said he took Netanyahu "at his word" and was openly skeptical that the Israeli leader would support an independent state for Palestinians.

Ilan Goldenberg, director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security and a former Obama administration Mideast policy aide, said Netanyahu's speech to Congress this month crystallized the growing partisan divide.

Republicans invited Netanyahu over White House disapproval, and Democrats accused Republicans of colluding with Netanyahu to sabotage nuclear diplomacy with Iran.

"The fact that Netanyahu has become such a hero to them, and that the whole confrontation has such a partisan tinge to it, just exacerbates a division that was not there" to the same degree in past elections, Goldenberg said.

Clinton has not addressed Netanyahu's remarks or the White House reaction to them. She is on record supporting the diplomatic outreach to Iran that undergirds the current U.S.-Israeli tension.

[For Hillary and Bibi, a long and fraught relationship]

As Obama sought to do Tuesday, candidate Clinton will no doubt stress the ongoing strength of U.S. support for Israel despite policy differences with its leader. In the short term, she will probably try to avoid criticizing Netanyahu directly, according to analysts and Democrats involved in outreach to Jewish voters.

"Hillary Clinton as both a candidate and as president would put serious effort into healing the rift between the United states and Israel," said Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

If the rift continues, Clinton may seek to distance herself from Obama's stance. That is because any tension with Israel makes many Jewish Democrats squeamish and because she would want to pave the way toward better relations with Netanyahu if she wins.

Baker has been an outspoken advocate for the former Florida governor's likely White House bid. Bush touted

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Baker's support last month when he announced a 21-member foreign policy advisory team that is counseling him as he prepares to run for president.

Baker has also long supported peace negotiations that would require concessions from Israel and the Palestinians. As secretary of state to Jeb Bush's father, George H.W. Bush, in 1990, Baker famously told off Israel for stiff-arming U.S. efforts to broker talks.

"When you're serious about peace, call us," Baker said, addressing the Israeli leadership from afar at a congressional hearing. "The phone number is 202-456-1414," he added. Then and now, the number reaches the White House switchboard.

Baker's views are now out of step with Republican primary campaign orthodoxy, if not with many actual Republican general-election voters.

Baker spoke Monday night at a conference hosted by J Street, an advocacy group focused on U.S.-Israel relations and support of negotiations toward a Palestinian state.

Spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said in a statement that Bush "respects Secretary Baker, he disagrees with the sentiments he expressed last night and opposes J Street's advocacy. Governor Bush's support for Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu is unwavering, and he believes it's critically important our two nations work seamlessly to achieve peace in the region."

Bush, who said he has visited Israel five times, has repeatedly expressed support for Netanyahu and for Israel. He tweeted congratulations last week to Netanyahu on his reelection.

[Where do strained U.S.-Israeli relations go after Netanyahu victory?]

Other Republicans see the current division as a way to criticize Obama and burnish their own pro-Israel credentials. Announcing his presidential bid at Liberty University on Monday, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) drew long applause criticizing Obama on Israel.

"Instead of a president who boycotts Prime Minister Netanyahu, imagine a president who stands unapologetically with Israel," Cruz said.

Another possible Republican contender, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), said on the Senate floor last week that Obama is making a "historic mistake."

"Allies have differences, but allies like Israel, when you have a difference with them and it is public, it emboldens their enemies," Rubio said.

The sharp critiques could help Republican contenders win over some of the party's most influential donors. Many top contributors will assemble in Las Vegas next month for the annual spring meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition, which touted Netanyahu's appearance before Congress last month. Cruz, former Texas governor Rick Perry, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio and Gov. Mike Pence of Indiana are scheduled to address the gathering, as is former president George W. Bush.

Staunch support for Israel is a prime motivator for major GOP donors such as Sheldon Adelson and Norman Braman. Rubio visited Israel with Braman, a wealthy car dealer who is expected to give a Rubio-aligned super PAC as much as $10 million if the fundraising group is formed.

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Hillary Clinton Caught Between Dueling Forces on Education: Teachers and Wealthy Donors (The New York Times)
By Maggie Haberman
March 25, 2015
The New York Times

The last time she ran for president, Hillary Rodham Clinton did not have to take a position on the Common Core, Race to the Top or teacher evaluations in tenure decisions.

She won the endorsement of one of the nation's largest teachers' unions in 2007 after deploring the use of standardized tests and the underfunding of the No Child Left Behind law by President George W. Bush's administration.

Now, as she prepares for a likely second run at the White House, Mrs. Clinton is re-entering the fray like a Rip Van Winkle for whom the terrain on education standards has shifted markedly, with deep new fissures in the Democratic Party.

Already, she is being pulled in opposite directions on education. The pressure is from not only the teachers who supported her once and are widely expected to back her again, but also from a group of wealthy and influential Democratic financiers who staunchly support many of the same policies -- charter schools and changes to teacher tenure and testing -- that the teachers' unions have resisted throughout President Obama's two terms in office.

And the financiers say they want Mrs. Clinton to declare herself.

''This is an issue that's important to a lot of Democratic donors,'' said John Petry, a hedge fund manager who was a founder of the Harlem Success Academy, a New York charter school. ''Donors want to hear where she stands.''

The growing pressure on education points out a deeper problem that Mrs. Clinton will have to contend with repeatedly, at least until the Iowa caucuses: On a number of divisive domestic issues that flared up during the Obama administration -- trade pacts, regulation of Wall Street, tax policy -- she will face dueling demands from centrists and the liberal base of the Democratic Party.

Her allies believe that with no strong primary opponent to force her into the open, Mrs. Clinton has plenty of time to maneuver before taking sides. But advocates will be using what leverage they possess to draw her out sooner.

Mr. Petry said there were many other political contests where wealthy Democrats who favor sweeping changes to education -- including a more businesslike approach, and tying teacher tenure to performance as measured by student scores -- could focus their resources next year instead, including congressional, state and local races.

Some progressives already view Mrs. Clinton as overly cozy with Wall Street. And should she align herself with the elite donors who favor an education overhaul, many of them heavyweights in the investment world, it could inflame the liberal Democratic base.

The outcome is particularly important for advocates of an overhaul, whose movement has faced growing opposition the past few years. Political crosswinds have whipped up from both the right and the left, particularly over the Common Core education standards that more than 40 states have put in place, but also over Race to the Top, the Obama administration's program to reward school districts that improve, using measurements that union leaders often find controversial. Reform proponents include donors, but also a cross section of parents and business advocates.

Jeb Bush, a likely Republican presidential candidate, has been a staunch supporter of the Common Core, but other contenders in his party have railed against it.

And in Chicago, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a Democratic proponent of education overhaul, is battling to survive an April 7 runoff in his bid for a second term. Mr. Emanuel closed dozens of underperforming schools, many of them in predominantly black neighborhoods, and had an angry run-in with a leader of the city teachers' union.

Not surprisingly, supporters of an education overhaul speak apprehensively about Mrs. Clinton's longstanding friendship with Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, which endorsed her in 2007.

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‘‘I hope she sees this as a winning political issue,’’ said Whitney Tilson, manager of Kase Capital and a board member of Democrats for Education Reform, a leading left-of-center advocacy group on the subject.

But he said he was concerned: ‘‘She has had more longstanding ties to the teachers’ union, certainly, than Obama ever had. She’s thrown some bones to both sides and I think is sort of trying to triangulate on this.’’

In another sign of that anxiety, the executive director of Democrats for Education Reform, Joe Williams, recently circulated a memo to its board members highlighting the ‘‘strong ally’’ the group has had in the White House over the past six years and describing the ‘‘stiff pushback’’ the group and its allies are now facing.

Presumably in an attempt to set the terms for a policy discussion with Mrs. Clinton and other candidates, the memo said the group had commissioned polling showing that ‘‘voters support our policies, and if candidates want to meet voters where they are, they should, too,’’ according to a copy obtained from a recipient.

Mr. Williams concluded, ‘‘Democratic candidates who support education reform are representative of where the American people are, and those who want to roll back progress risk becoming outliers.’’

Mr. Williams noted that the polling had been conducted by Benenson Strategy Group, founded by Joel Benenson, whom Mrs. Clinton had recently retained as chief strategist. An official at the firm said research had been done before it was hired by Mrs. Clinton and had not been conducted by Mr. Benenson himself.

Still, Mr. Benenson, who was Mr. Obama’s pollster, would be familiar with how the issue played out in the 2012 campaign, when Mitt Romney accused Mr. Obama of being too close to teachers’ unions, and Mr. Obama’s advisers saw his support for changes to education as an asset against Mr. Romney, a businessman.

In fact, Mr. Obama’s ties with teachers’ unions have grown increasingly toxic. Union leaders complained that his administration did not listen to them, and anger over the use of test scores to gauge success boiled over last year when the head of the largest union, the National Education Association, called on Education Secretary Arne Duncan to resign.

Mrs. Clinton intends to listen to both sides, according to her advisers.

‘‘I think it will be different than the Obama administration in the sense that both the teachers’ union and the reformers will really feel like they have her ear in a way they haven’t,’’ said Ann O’Leary, a onetime aide to Mrs. Clinton in the Senate and now a senior vice president at Next Generation, a group involved with the Clinton Foundation on an education initiative.

‘‘She believes we need to have some kind of ways that we can measure student progress,’’ Ms. O’Leary said. But she said Mrs. Clinton was ‘‘also sympathetic that the test regime has become very burdensome in driving the education system in ways that many people think is problematic.’’

Mrs. Clinton will at least not have to establish credibility on the subject.

Her involvement with efforts to overhaul education dates back at least to the early 1980s, when her husband named her co-chairwoman of an Arkansas committee that called for a teacher-competency test, smaller classes and a higher dropout age. As a senator, she voted for No Child Left Behind in 2001, but later attacked the law, saying it was failing children.

Her association with Ms. Weingarten of the American Federation of Teachers began when Ms. Weingarten was a local union leader in New York and Mrs. Clinton was the state’s junior senator. Yet her incoming campaign chairman, John D. Podesta, has been a charter school supporter.

In an interview, Ms. Weingarten suggested that those she termed ‘‘the so-called education reformers’’ were most worried that the agenda they have pushed for with the Obama administration, and in places like Chicago, ‘‘does not work.’’

But she rejected the idea that Mrs. Clinton would set policy based on anything other than ‘‘her experience and the evidence.’’

‘‘She has been versed in these issues for a long time, and will give everyone a fair hearing and a fair shot, but she will look at it through the lens of what’s good for kids. Period,’’ Ms. Weingarten said. ‘‘Anybody who thinks otherwise just doesn’t know her.’’

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Trading Favors: Why the GOP is Helping Hillary Clinton (The Atlantic)
By Russell Berman
March 25, 2015
The Atlantic

Improbable as it may sound, House Republicans are on the verge of approving, without much fanfare, a major priority of Hillary Clinton's.

When Clinton ran for president in 2008, she touted her role as first lady in "designing and championing" the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, which provided coverage for millions of children whose parents did not qualify for Medicaid but could not afford private insurance. At the time President Clinton signed the law in 1997, it constituted the largest expansion of government-funded children's health insurance since the enactment of Medicaid in 1965.

On Tuesday, Republicans unveiled legislation that would extend CHIP for another two years, without spending cuts or changes of any kind. The program's funding is due to expire at the end of September, making this an unusual case of Congress moving to act well in advance of a deadline. You won't hear much about the CHIP extension from Republicans, however. They are supporting it to gain Democratic backing for one of Speaker John Boehner's top goals: a package that permanently prevents steep cuts in Medicare payments to doctors and institutes a few long-sought reforms to the entitlement program. The so-called "doc fix" is an annual headache for both parties, and repealing it for good has commanded most of the attention inside the Beltway. Yet extending funding for children's health insurance is equally significant, and its inclusion in the bill represents a rare bipartisan breakthrough, as well as a sign that the nation's improved fiscal footing is helping to ease the gridlock in Congress.

That Republicans might extend CHIP is a testament to its popularity. After 18 years on the books, the program is an accepted component of the social safety net. Health policy experts say it has succeeded in its original goal of providing coverage to more than half of the nation's uninsured children. And when congressional leaders asked governors last year what to do with the program, both Republican and Democratic state leaders urged them to continue it, said Ron Pollack, the executive director of FamiliesUSA. CHIP's trajectory is a mark of hope for supporters of Obamacare—and a reason for fear among conservatives. The longer a government program endures, the more popular it becomes, and the harder it is to eliminate it.

Still, there's a crucial difference between CHIP and the Affordable Care Act, aside from the much broader scope of the 2010 overhaul. "The Children's Health Insurance Program has, from its origination, been a bipartisan program," Pollack noted. In Congress, it was the brainchild of the late Senator Ted Kennedy and Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican of Utah who now heads the Finance Committee. Hillary Clinton, just three years removed from her failed bid to shepherd universal health care into law, championed the more limited insurance expansion from the White House. It was ultimately included in a larger budget deal that Republicans passed and President Clinton signed in 1997. A decade later, Hillary Clinton drew some criticism for embellishing her role in the program's passage, given that she stayed mostly behind the scenes after stumbling on health care earlier in her husband's tenure. "Success has more than one set of parents in the political arena," Pollack said. "Clearly, she played a significant role."

Count on Clinton to tout CHIP again during her 2016 presidential run, especially considering the bipartisan effort it took to create it. Along with Bill Frist, the Republican former Senate majority leader, Clinton co-authored an op-ed last month in The New York Times urging Congress to extend the program. "This is an opportunity to send a message that Washington is still capable of making common-sense progress for American families," they wrote.

"As 2015 unfolds, we know Congress will continue to debate the future of health care reform. We most likely won't see eye to eye about some of the more contentious questions. But one thing everyone should be able to agree on is that our most vulnerable children shouldn't be caught in the crossfire."
While CHIP began as a bipartisan program, it did not escape the ideological battles of the last decade over healthcare. President George W. Bush signed the first reauthorization in 2007, but only for two years and only after vetoing two Democratic attempts to expand it. President Obama signed the expansion shortly after taking office, despite opposition from most Republicans. The Affordable Care Act extended the program again through this coming September.

Given CHIP's popularity, conservative fiscal hawks didn't realistically expect the GOP Congress to let funding completely run out in September, but they hoped Republicans would demand reforms to the program, starting

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with a roll-back of its expansion under Obama. “I don’t think there’s any doubt that Republicans and Democrats have sort of accepted that CHIP is here,” said Dan Holler, spokesman for Heritage Action, a conservative group frequently at odds with Boehner. Heritage’s main objection to the $200 billion Medicare deal is that it will add significantly to the deficit, but Holler also said Republicans “missed a huge opportunity” to reform CHIP.

An even bigger fear, Holler said, is that Boehner’s deal with Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi will set a precedent for future big-spending agreements with Democrats. After facing revolt after revolt from conservatives, the speaker changed course when it came to fixing the Medicare reimbursement rate. As National Journal’s Daniel Newhauser reported, Boehner went first to Pelosi to strike a deal, not to his right flank. Congress faces another set of deadlines on the debt ceiling and the Highway Trust Fund in the coming months, and with the improving economy helping to bring down the deficit, more bipartisan deals could come as lawmakers loosen the federal pursestrings. Instead of fighting over how which programs to cut, Democrats and Republicans may strike more bargains in which they agree to fund each other’s priorities.

Boehner hasn’t publicly discussed the children’s health program extension, but a House Republican leadership aide noted that the deal was only for two years, not the four that Democrats wanted. That could give Republicans time to enact reforms that would be implemented by the next president. “By extending CHIP, this bill would keep more than three million people from being uninsured or enrolling in the Obamacare exchanges over the next decade,” the aide said. While the bill is seen as likely to pass the House this week, Democrats in the Senate could put up a fight over the length of the extension or abortion provisions tucked into the legislation.

For advocates like Pollack, the quicker the measure passes, the better—in part because of concerns that a Clinton campaign could complicate things. If Hillary is out on the stump demanding that Congress reauthorize CHIP, support among Republicans could disappear, especially with increased pressure from conservatives. “It’s fair to say,” Holler noted, “that Hillary Clinton’s healthcare legacy is being extended in this deal.”

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Obama Draws on Tight Circle for Adviser (The New York Times)
By Michael D. Shear
March 25, 2015
The New York Times

WASHINGTON -- Shailagh Murray, a former political reporter who has spent the last four years as a senior adviser to the vice president, will move to the West Wing as the top message strategist for President Obama, the White House announced on Tuesday.

Ms. Murray will replace Dan Pfeiffer as one of the president's senior advisers, and will help coordinate the president's agenda during the final two years of his term. In a statement, Mr. Obama called her an ''invaluable asset'' to Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

''For four years, I've relied on Shailagh Murray's strategic advice and keen ability to cut through the Washington noise to focus on what matters to everyday Americans,'' Mr. Obama said. ''I'm proud to have her as a senior adviser.''

In addition to bringing Ms. Murray to the White House, the president also announced the hiring of Jason Goldman, an early executive for companies like Twitter and Medium, as the chief digital officer of the White House, focusing on the use of social media to advance the president's message.

Mr. Goldman was formerly head of product at Twitter and served on the company's board of directors. He also worked at Google.

In the statement, Mr. Obama said that Mr. Goldman ''brings new energy and coveted expertise as someone who's helped shape the digital age. Our mission is to use every single tool available to ensure that all Americans can contribute to and benefit from our American resurgence.''

Ms. Murray's office will be just down the hall from the Oval Office, in a place previously occupied by David Axelrod and David Plouffe, the chief architects of Mr. Obama's White House campaigns.

In the last several years, Mr. Pfeiffer had aggressively pursued ways to broaden the White House's reach beyond the traditional media. He had Mr. Obama appear on Internet-only comedy sites, and post important announcements first on Twitter and other sites.

Ms. Murray's charge will be to find a way to keep Mr. Obama on offense even as the national spotlight shifts from the White House to the 2016 presidential campaign. White House officials said they believed that dynamic could be an opportunity for the president to pursue his agenda aggressively.

Stephanie Cutter, a former senior adviser to Mr. Obama who helped run his 2012 re-election campaign and has known Ms. Murray for the better part of two decades, said she had an ability to get to the point of any issue.

''There is going to be a natural shift in attention to the 2016 campaign and away from the White House that happens at the end of any administration, and that will be a challenge,'' Ms. Cutter said, ''but Shailagh understands how to cut through the clutter to reach the American people.''

In selecting Ms. Murray, 49, Mr. Obama is turning to a trusted aide to Mr. Biden with whom the president also has a warm rapport. That is a well-established pattern for Mr. Obama, who is most comfortable among a tight circle of familiar advisers.

As some of his closest aides have left the White House in recent days to join the nascent presidential campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mr. Obama has held to that approach.

He named Brian Deese, who has served in the administration since Mr. Obama took office, as a senior adviser, replacing John D. Podesta, who is expected become chairman of Mrs. Clinton's campaign. And he selected Jen Psaki, a spokeswoman for both of his White House bids, to take over for Jennifer Palmieri, the communications director who departed last week to take that post for Mrs. Clinton.

But if Ms. Murray does not bring new blood, people close to the president said, she may offer some fresh perspectives on how to get Mr. Obama's message across in an increasingly complex and competitive media environment.

''She understands the old media well, and I think it's an asset to have someone inside who comes from that

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background, but she also has a very deep appreciation for new media and for innovative ways to get a message across, and I think that's going to be very, very valuable for the president,'' Mr. Axelrod, Mr. Obama's longtime communications guru, said.

He added, ''She's someone who has been totally willing to level with the people she's working for and tell them what they needed to know, not in an obstreperous way, but in a clear and forceful way.''

As a reporter, Ms. Murray covered Congress for The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, and covered political campaigns in 2006, 2008 and 2010. She joined the White House in 2011 as Mr. Biden's communications director and was promoted to deputy chief of staff two years later.

Ms. Murray will start next week.

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Would Hillary Clinton inherit Obama's black voter enthusiasm? (CNN)
By David Love
March 25, 2015
CNN

Hillary Clinton held a closed door meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House on Monday. Although the former secretary of state, senator and first lady has not declared, it is treated as a foregone conclusion that Clinton is running for president.

Likely to launch her campaign in April, Clinton is regarded as the front-runner — if not the only Democratic candidate — and the inevitable Democratic nominee.

There is an assumption that since Clinton supported Obama, the black community will now embrace her. But there are more than a few who didn't get that memo. At this stage of the game, many African-Americans may not be excited about a candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016. And after two terms of the nation's first black president, she should proceed with caution.

Clinton need look no further than the 2008 contest, when black voters doused water on her presidential prospects. Early on, Clinton was the favorite of black folks, lest you forgot, and it did not hurt that President Clinton had been regarded as the "first black president" with high approval among African-Americans.

Then, support for a senator named Barack Obama blew up after the Iowa caucuses. And Clinton found herself apologizing for her husband's comments about Obama's win in the South Carolina primary.

President Clinton was relieved of his black card privileges for the remainder of the 2008 election season when he compared Obama's win in the Palmetto state to that of Jesse Jackson in 2004 and 2008, suggesting that Obama, like Jackson, would not win. The misstep was an affront to many African-Americans, as were Hillary Clinton's suggestions on the campaign trail that Obama was only good for making speeches, but not for taking action.

And let's not forget her assertions that she was the candidate for "hard-working Americans, white Americans."

We can chalk up some of that rhetoric to spirited campaign-trail junk-talking, and obviously much has happened since the 2008 election. President Obama made Clinton his secretary of state, and she served as a capable top diplomat and a loyal member of the Obama Cabinet. But that does not mean black voters will completely forget the bitter, racially tinged presidential campaign politics of seven years ago.

Black voters are among the most loyal of the Democratic Party base, and their record high turnout for Obama was an important part of his victory. However, with a charismatic Obama no longer on the ballot, maintaining the same level of enthusiasm for any other candidate is a challenge.

Moreover, as for Clinton, who (understandably?) has her own ideas and may not agree with the President on certain issues, any criticism of Obama could cost her some black voters. Remember that Clinton voted in favor of the unpopular, costly and deadly Iraq war. That support cost Clinton in 2008. And while she has remained silent on the recent re-election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Clinton's strongly pro-Israel stance on Mideast peace now appears at odds with the emerging consensus among major groups in the Democratic base, including blacks, Latinos and young voters.

However, it is likely that foreign policy will not pose as great a challenge to Hillary Clinton as economics. Because she is tied to the Wall Street wing of her party and commands sky-high speaking fees, people may take a closer look at her approach to tackling inequality and the shrinking of the middle class, and whether she is too concerned about offending the wealthy. The nation is hurting, despite the economic turnaround, and this is felt particularly strongly among blacks, who still have high unemployment rates, a rising wealth gap compared to whites, and, for many, no recovery in sight.

And while police shootings of young black men continue to stir outrage in the community, Clinton has remained relatively quiet on the subject. She will have to prove that she can identify with this frustration and offer ideas for reform in local law enforcement. This, rather than her email account, is what concerns the black electorate.

Perhaps a populist, more down-to-earth challenger such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren or former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb could appeal to black and working-class voters, and unlike Clinton, would not have to

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fight the perception of living in a protective security bubble, or lacking core beliefs other than being in power.

It is safe to assume that if Clinton wins the Democratic nomination that she will ultimately win the majority black vote in the general election, but that may not be enough. Let's remember President George W. Bush won re-election in 2004 with just 11% of the black vote. Had Mitt Romney been able to duplicate that number of black votes, he would be president now.

Obama won in no small part because blacks turned out for him in record numbers in 2012, particularly in swing states like Ohio.

Clinton can't assume she'll inherit that same level of black voter enthusiasm. Support for Barack Obama does not necessarily translate into support for another Democrat. This means Clinton must fight for votes like anyone else: knock on doors, kiss babies, clap off beat at the AME church, and do whatever it takes.

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Clinton Tenure Lacked Top Watchdog --- The State Department had no permanent inspector general during her time as secretary (The Wall Street Journal)

By Byron Tau and Peter Nicholas
March 25, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

The State Department had no permanent inspector general -- the lead watchdog charged with uncovering misconduct and waste -- during Hillary Clinton's entire tenure as secretary, leaving in place an acting inspector who had close ties to State Department leadership.

President Barack Obama didn't put forward a nominee to lead the inspector general's office while Mrs. Clinton led the State Department, making it the only agency with a presidentially appointed inspector general that had neither a confirmed nor nominated head watchdog during that full time period.

Five months after Mrs. Clinton left office, Mr. Obama nominated a permanent inspector general, who was confirmed by the Senate three months later.

The lack of a confirmed inspector general raises questions about oversight of the department under Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton. The department has been criticized for its failure to gather and archive the email records of Mrs. Clinton and other officials and for responses to public-record requests that lawmakers and advocacy groups say were insufficient, including its response to requests for information from a congressional panel investigating the 2012 terror attack in Benghazi, Libya.

The vacancy in the top watchdog spot left the State Department with no confirmed inspector general for more than five years, the longest gap since the position was created in 1957, according to department records. While other agencies have had no permanent inspectors general at various points in recent years, some of those vacancies were due to a lack of confirmation by the Senate on nominees put forward by Mr. Obama.

Is isn't clear whether Mrs. Clinton had any role in the lack of a nomination.

The acting inspector general, Harold Geisel, had served in a variety of roles, including U.S. ambassador to Mauritius in Bill Clinton's administration and in a State Department job under Richard Nixon. Because he was a longtime foreign-service officer, Mr. Geisel was banned from becoming permanent inspector general, a prohibition to ensure that oversight is conducted by people who don't have ties to the departments they investigate.

"It's a convenient way to prevent oversight," said Matthew Harris, a University of Maryland University College professor who has worked in law enforcement and researches inspectors general. Acting inspectors general "don't feel empowered; they don't have the backing of their people."

Rep. Ed Royce (R., Calif.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Mr. Geisel's role as a Clinton administration ambassador undercut his status as a watchdog.

"We did not believe he could be truly independent. We raised the issue," Mr. Royce said. He said an independent inspector would likely have uncovered and raised objections to Mrs. Clinton's use of a private email account and computer server for official correspondence.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, Nick Merrill, said Mr. Geisel "was a career official spanning Republican and Democratic administrations alike, independent and hard-hitting." A spokesman for the State Department said Mr. Geisel led a team that "conducted more investigations between 2007 and 2012 than the IG had under his predecessor."

The White House declined to elaborate on the reason for the lack of an appointment. A White House spokesman said the inspector general's office issued more than 450 reports while there was no permanent head.

Mr. Geisel, assuming his tenure would be short-lived, said he did little to decorate his office. "I never even put up a picture," he said in an interview. After his five-year stint, the State Department gave him a paid temporary assignment reviewing staffing conditions at outposts in Egypt and Nairobi, Mr. Geisel said.

Designed to be isolated from political pressure, inspectors general are tasked with uncovering waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement of federal agencies. The State Department office has a large staff that conducts audits and investigations.

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During Mr. Geisel's tenure, members of Congress and watchdog groups raised questions about his distance from top leadership at the State Department.

The nonpartisan Project On Government Oversight said Mr. Geisel had an unduly close relationship with Patrick F. Kennedy, the department's undersecretary for management, a top post. In a 2010 letter to the White House, the group cited friendly emails between the two as evidence of a close relationship, as well as the fact that Mr. Geisel recused himself from an investigation into a situation involving Mr. Kennedy during his tenure.

Asked whether he believed he was compromised in his ability to do his job, Mr. Geisel said: "My work absolutely speaks for itself." He described his mission as "telling the truth that needs to be told, which may not be the truth that people want to hear."

One person who worked in the office from 2009 to 2013, Evelyn Klemstine, spoke highly of Mr. Geisel. "I personally never felt that he inhibited any of the audits that we did," she said.

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U.S. visa official faulted; Homeland Security's No. 2 leader created appearance of special access, a report says. (Los Angeles Times)
By Joseph Tanfani
March 25, 2015
Los Angeles Times

The No. 2 official at the Homeland Security Department intervened several times in projects with connections to insiders, including Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and a brother of Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to a report issued by the department's watchdog Tuesday.

Alejandro Mayorkas, while head of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, created an "appearance of favoritism" in a program that offers visas to wealthy foreigners willing to invest in American companies, the report says, though it stops short of saying Mayorkas was guilty of wrongdoing.

More than 15 whistle-blowers came forward to complain that Mayorkas was giving special treatment to connected applicants, the report by the department's Office of Inspector General says.

The projects included McAuliffe's electric car company, GreenTech Automotive; a series of films by Sony Pictures; and a luxury hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

Mayorkas intervened "in unprecedented ways," the report says, and "created a perception ... that certain individuals had special access and would receive special consideration." If it were not for Mayorkas, the report says, the applications would have been decided differently.

The report says the projects eventually won approval after Mayorkas heard from advocates like Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, both Democrats.

In a 32-page response, Mayorkas, now the department's deputy secretary, said he weighed in only to fix a broken system that wasn't moving applications.

"I did so not because I wanted to but because I needed to," Mayorkas wrote. "It was not easy or pleasant to hear complaints of how poorly our agency was performing."

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said he still had "full confidence" in Mayorkas, but said the report also showed that leaders needed to avoid the "appearance of special treatment."

The complex EB-5 visa program, mixing immigration policy with economic development goals, offers U.S. visas to people willing to invest at least $500,000 in projects that create at least 10 jobs and meet other requirements.

Most of the visas, about 10,000 annually, are snapped up by wealthy Chinese investors.

But a number of the deals have turned out to be fraud schemes, and critics in Congress have charged that the government isn't properly screening the investors for security risks.

Mayorkas, who once served as U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, said the visa program was a mess when he began at Citizenship and Immigration Services in 2009. The office was short-staffed, he said, and the agency was deluged by complaints about stalled applications.

Some of the complaints were from McAuliffe, a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee who helped run presidential campaigns for Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Gulf Coast Funds Management, a company run by Anthony Rodham, Hillary Clinton's brother, was trying to attract EB-5 applicants to invest in GreenTech, where McAuliffe was board chairman until he left in 2012 to run for governor.

The report says Mayorkas became involved at some point in the long application process but declined to do so in others, saying it was inappropriate. The project eventually won approval. Though Mayorkas didn't ultimately make the decision, the report says, his unusual involvement was "corrosive" and intimidated staffers. Mayorkas, though, said McAuliffe kept complaining about his treatment, at one point leaving an expletive-laced message.

Mayorkas also intervened in 2011 in a project called LA Films, set up to steer money from about 200 investors into Sony Pictures films, the report says. His staff members wanted to deny the project, the report says, but that changed after Mayorkas received a call from Rendell, who knew the project head from his previous dealings in Philadelphia. And Reid, then Senate majority leader, asked Mayorkas to look into a stalled application from a company that wanted to invest in the SLS Hotel in Las Vegas.

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The report spurred biting criticism of Mayorkas from Republicans.

The report shows “just how questionable Mr. Mayorkas’ ethics and judgment were,” said Iowa Sen. Charles E. Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a long-standing critic of Mayorkas and the EB-5 program.

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, said he would hold a hearing Thursday to explore the report’s findings.

Johnson said that he also had concerns about the integrity of the EB-5 program but that the problem was not Mayorkas, but lawmakers.

“Officials of this department are constantly contacted by outsiders, including members of Congress of both parties, on behalf of those with an interest in the outcome of a particular EB-5 case,” Johnson said. He said he had asked his staff to come up with a way to keep the program free from outside influence.

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Clinton Email Probe Means Political Tightrope for House GOP (National Journal)
By Ben Geman
March 24, 2015
National Journal

House Republicans probing the Benghazi attacks have a politically delicate task that goes well beyond investigating the 2012 incident that claimed the lives of four Americans. They have to make clear they're out to get Hillary Clinton's emails—not Hillary Clinton.

Thus far, Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy and his aides have taken pains to cast the overall Benghazi probe as a methodical one. It's even taken some criticism from the Right for not being more aggressive against the former secretary of State.

And that's by design. The panel wants to avoid the appearance that it is attacking Clinton by any means possible. That—ideally—means few leaks and little grandstanding.

"We are not putting out for the public bits and pieces of our investigation. That's not how a solid, fair investigation is conducted," said Rep. Susan Brooks of Indiana, one of seven Republicans on the panel. "I am very pleased with the professional nature and the civility of the investigation and how it is progressing."

"If you look back at the three hearings we have had so far, I have mentioned Hillary Clinton's name a whopping zero times. We were interviewing witnesses that have nothing to do with Secretary Clinton when this story broke," Gowdy said on Fox News Sunday.

The emphasis on perception is a marked change from some previous House GOP investigations of the Obama administration, including probes into Fast and Furious and Solyndra, which were seen in some circles as political fishing expeditions. Many Republicans took note when House Speaker John Boehner announced last May that the Benghazi panel would be headed by Gowdy, not then-House Oversight Chairman Darrell Issa—the author of those more controversial probes.

"They have to be careful not to make it look too nakedly partisan, and more specifically, not exclusively built around the prospects of Hillary Clinton winning the White House in 2016, even though everyone in this town knows that that's true," said Thomas Schaller, a political science professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

To that point, last week Gowdy sent a letter to Clinton's attorney asking for her private email server to be turned over to the State Department's inspector general or another "neutral, detached, and independent arbiter." Gowdy didn't, however, ask for it to be sent over to the House panel.

Schaller's recent book, The Stronghold: How Republicans Captured Congress but Surrendered the White House, argues that the increasingly powerful House wing of the GOP has hobbled the party's White House prospects in recent decades. But in this case, Schaller believes the House panel is poised to help the party's 2016 prospects.

"This might be the one case where, if it is done right and it is done successfully, I suppose it could actually help the presidential wing of the party because it does look like Hillary Clinton was damaged by this revelation," he said of the discoveries about Clinton's email practices.

GOP strategist Rick Wilson framed it this way in Politico: "Let's try something new: maintain message discipline, hold focus and keep an eye on a bigger objective than your daily press release, social media hits or email fundraising drops."

David Marin, a former top GOP aide on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and a veteran of congressional investigations, says the Select Committee has proceeded with integrity.

"I think they have proceeded exactly as I would have wanted to proceed if I were working for this committee. They are quietly, diligently doing their work. You haven't seen leaks from this committee in terms of documents, you haven't see any show hearings," Marin said.

"I think at the end of the day, this committee will be judged on the quality of its report, on the report's objectivity and utility, on whether the facts presented match the conclusions the committee reaches. Everything else is just theater and noise, and I do have a strong sense that Mr. Gowdy understands this," said Marin, who is now with the Podesta Group, a prominent lobbying and PR firm.

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Democrats are having none of it.

Rep. Adam Schiff, a Democratic panel member, said on Fox News Sunday recently that the GOP-controlled committee has not yet had Clinton testify on Benghazi because Republicans want that to occur “as far into the presidential cycle as possible.”

And GOP efforts to keep a lid on political talk or appearances may not make a difference anyway, given the personalities and strong feelings involved.

“It doesn’t matter what we do,” said committee member Lynn Westmoreland, a Georgia Republican. “It is going to be looked at as being political.”

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Report criticizes official who helped Dems with visa program (Associated Press Newswires)
By Alicia A. Caldwell
March 25, 2015
Associated Press Newswires

WASHINGTON (AP) — When influential Democrats with stakes in different investment groups needed help securing visas as part of a complicated foreign investor program, they sought out a fellow Democrat who just happened to be in charge of the immigration agency overseeing their applications.

Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, the head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the time, took up their causes, according to a report by the Homeland Security Department's inspector general. Investigators say Mayorkas improperly intervened in three cases involving prominent Democrats, including a company run by the youngest brother of likely Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In the report released Tuesday, investigators said Mayorkas helped efforts to secure the visas in ways that created the appearance of favoritism and special access. That, in turn, caused resentment among career government employees, managers and lawyers.

The agency's inspector general, John Roth, said he could not suggest a motive for Mayorkas, a longtime Democrat who served on President Barack Obama's transition team after his 2008 election and was U.S. attorney in California under President Bill Clinton. Roth did not accuse Mayorkas of violating any laws and acknowledged that Mayorkas sometimes declined to become involved in cases because he said he did not think it would be appropriate.

Mayorkas said in a statement that he disagreed with the inspector general's findings but that "I will certainly learn from it and from this process."

He added: "There was erroneous decision-making and insufficient security vetting of cases. I could not and did not turn my back on my responsibility to address those grave problems. I made improving the program a priority and I did so in a hands-on manner."

The U.S. government's investor-visa program, known as EB-5, allows foreigners to obtain visas to live permanently in the U.S. with their spouse and children if they invest $500,000 to $1 million in projects or businesses that create jobs for American citizens. Approved investors can become legal permanent residents after two years and later can become U.S. citizens.

The chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, said the findings were "extremely concerning" and that he will conduct a congressional hearing about them Thursday. Roth was expected to testify.

The Associated Press first reported in July 2013 — as Mayorkas was being considered for the No. 2 job at the Homeland Security Department — allegations that he had improperly intervened in the investor case involving a financing company run by Anthony Rodham, brother of Mrs. Clinton. Mayorkas told senators at his confirmation hearing that the allegations were "unequivocally false" and said he oversaw the program "based on the law and the facts, and nothing else."

The inspector general's new conclusions also cast doubt on whether the Homeland Security Department withheld embarrassing internal files the AP had sought under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act as part of its own investigation nearly two years ago — and instead released records that indicated no wrongdoing.

The AP in July 2013 requested all emails to or from Mayorkas over the preceding seven months that contained specific words or names, including Rodham. The government eventually sent AP more than 200 pages, mostly censored, including emails in which Mayorkas told investors and agency staff that he would not become involved in internal deliberations.

"I cannot weigh in," Mayorkas wrote to Assistant Secretary Douglas Smith on Feb. 1, 2013, in a message turned over to the AP and cited in the new inspector general's report. "The (investor's) attorney sent an email to me and I responded that I could not weigh in."

But the inspector general's report also cited other messages from Mayorkas that were never turned over to AP. In one case, Mayorkas forwarded a January 2013 email from Rodham about delays with a high importance designation. The email would have been covered under AP's information request since Mayorkas sent it during

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the relevant time period and contained Rodham's name.

"Staff understood these applications were getting high-level attention," the inspector general's report said.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe was also connected to the investor proposal but later divested. His spokesman, Brian Coy, said the report demonstrated that McAuliffe asked the government to decide on the investment proposal in a timely fashion.

The other two cases involved a Hollywood investment program and an investment effort in Nevada that had ties to former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell and Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, respectively.

Mayorkas previously came under criticism for his involvement in the commutation by President Clinton of the prison sentence of the son of a Democratic Party donor. Another of Mrs. Clinton's brothers, Hugh Rodham, had been hired by the donor to lobby for the commutation. Mayorkas told lawmakers during his 2009 confirmation hearing that it was a mistake to talk to the White House about the request.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said there were lessons to be learned in the inspector general's investigation but described Mayorkas in a statement as "exceptionally conscientious, honest and patriotic."

"He is often impatient with our sluggish government bureaucracy, can at times be very hands-on in resolving issues and problems that are brought to his personal attention, and is always mindful that we are public servants," Johnson said. "Ali works hard to do the right thing, and never acts, in my observation, for reasons of personal advancement or aggrandizement."

Roth, the inspector general, praised as "courageous" the agency employees who confidentially had complained about Mayorkas' actions and promised they would be protected as whistleblowers.

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Jeb Bush had another email account while Florida governor (Associated Press)
By Ronnie Greene
March 24, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeb Bush used another, previously unreported email address when he was governor of Florida, records show — the newest wrinkle in an evolving debate over public officials' use of private email accounts.

The disclosure follows revelations that Hillary Rodham Clinton used a private email address to conduct State Department business when she was secretary of state. Republican Bush and Democrat Clinton are two likely contenders in the 2016 race for the White House.

When Bush released thousands of emails from his tenure as Florida's governor as part of his preparations to run for president next year, he did so from the email account he shared openly, jeb@jeb.org.

Those emails also include references to another email address, jeb@gencom.net. Bush said through a spokeswoman that he was unaware of the account, although records showed that people wrote to him there more than 400 times between 1999 and 2004.

The same records show no replies from Bush coming from that address. Instead, when Bush responded, he did so from his more well-known email address. Writers sometimes also reached the governor at jeb@jebbush.org or jeb@myflorida.com.

Bush's spokeswoman, Kristy Campbell, said Bush had no knowledge of the other email account. "He doesn't know what that email address is," she told The Associated Press Tuesday.

There's no indication this other account was used in any improper or secretive way.

But its existence — and the mystery around it — show the potential complications when public officials, like Bush and Clinton, use private email accounts to conduct public business.

An AP review of Bush's emails spotlighted cases in which top donors sought to sway the governor on political appointments during his two terms in office.

The gencom address traces to ElectroNet Broadband Communications of Tallahassee, Florida's capital. The company did not immediately respond to a phone message Tuesday from the AP with questions about the Bush email address.

The majority of emails sent to Bush at that address came in 1999, and a slow trickle followed in ensuing years. Just one came in 2004, from a South Florida businessman who wrote to Bush at both addresses about a university board meeting. Several writers used both email addresses when contacting Bush.

Others reached Bush simply through the gencom account — writing to him on a range of issues from judicial appointments to the federal raid that captured the Cuban child Elian Gonzalez to state labor and literacy issues.

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Hillary Clinton promised a new relationship with the media. She was kidding. (The Washington Post)

By Chris Cillizza

March 24, 2015

The Washington Post

"I am all about new beginnings," Hillary Clinton said at event honoring the late New York Times Robin Toner Monday night in Washington. "A new grandchild, another new hairstyle, a new e-mail account. The relationship with the press. So here goes: no more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?"

Clinton made clear that her change of heart was decidedly tongue in cheek, adding: "Before I go any further, look under your chair, you'll find a simple non-disclosure agreement my attorneys drew up. Old habits last."

ZING!

Here's the thing: Clinton shouldn't be joking. She badly needs a new relationship with the press after a 2008 campaign that was marked by the remarkably uncivil daily interactions between her press team and the reporters tasked with covering the campaign. (I am far from blameless in that as a participant in plenty of skirmishes that, in retrospect, were so tiny and meaningless as to not make much of a difference in even the short term.)

And, in her hires for the not-yet-announced-but-come-on-everyone-knows-she's-doing-it presidential campaign there does seem to be an acknowledgment that the press shop needs an entirely different approach. As Peter Nicholas wrote recently in the Wall Street Journal:

Mrs. Clinton's new campaign is shaping up to be a hybrid of longtime Clinton and Obama political operatives. Tensions are inevitable. But Mrs. Clinton seems to want some sort of rapprochement with the press.

Three of the people she has recently tapped for key spots in her media operation suggest as much. All have strong ties to the press corps; none is known for a combative approach to the media.

He's exactly right. Jennifer Palmieri, who is expected to be the communications director, has a long history with the national media -- from her time working for John Edwards' presidential bid to her service as a senior press person in the Obama White House. Brian Fallon, expected to be the national press secretary, spent time on Capitol Hill with the irrepressible Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) before going to head press operations at the Justice Department. And Jesse Ferguson, who is expected to play a major role in the Clinton 2016 press shop, comes out of the world of House Democratic politics and is known -- by me and lots of other reporters -- for his reasonableness.

Those hires will likely make some difference in how the Clinton campaign deals with the media. But, the key question is not really the philosophy of the people Clinton has hired when it comes to dealing with the media. It's whether she (and her husband) have actually changed their mind in any meaningful way about their approach to the press.

And, in that regard there's little evidence to suggest that anything like a new beginning is likely. Hillary Clinton's handling of her news conference addressing the email controversy a few weeks back was guarded and careful -- unwilling to play ball with the media up to and including the decision to stage it at the United Nations -- a less-than-ideal location for the crush of media at the event. And there was that whole following-reporters-to-the-bathroom thing.

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Bill Clinton, in a speech last spring at Georgetown, lamented the way the press covers politicians. “If a policymaker is a political leader and is covered primarily by the political press, there is a craving that borders on addictive to have a storyline,” he said. “And then once people settle on the storyline, there is a craving that borders on blindness to shoehorn every fact, every development, every thing that happens into the story line, even if it’s not the story.” And, Hillary Clinton said much the same in a speech at the University of Connecticut around the same time; “A lot of serious news reporting has become more entertainment driven and more opinion-driven as opposed to factual,” she said at the time. “People book onto the shows, political figures, commentators who will be controversial who will be provocative because it’s a good show. You might not learn anything but you might be entertained and I think that’s just become an unfortunate pattern that I wish could be broken.”

Now, there is truth in the Clinton analysis of the media. The growth of journalists as “brands”, the rise of social media and the growth in both the ability to measure traffic and the increasing preeminence of traffic as a definition of journalistic success have altered journalism since even the last time Hillary Clinton ran for president -- and often in not-so-good ways.

But, it’s clear that the Clintons are not simply offering a clinical analysis on the media. Their feelings about the press are deeply held and laden with emotion, beliefs forged over more than two decades in the national spotlight. As Maggie Haberman and Glenn Thrush wrote in an absolutely seminal piece on Hillary Clinton’s relationship (or lack thereof) with the media in mid-2014:

While the white-hot anger she once felt toward the media has since hardened into a pessimistic resignation (with a dash of self-pity), she’s convinced another campaign would inevitably invite more bruising scrutiny, as her recent comments suggest. Public life “gives you a sense of being kind of dehumanized as part of the experience,” she lamented a few weeks ago to a Portland, Ore., audience. “You really can’t ever feel like you’re just having a normal day.”

When asked why Clinton hasn’t done more to reach out to reporters over the years, one Clinton campaign veteran began to spin several theories. She was too busy, she was too prone to speaking her mind and the like—then abruptly cut to the chase:

“Look, she hates you. Period. That’s never going to change.”

While “hate” might be overstating things somewhat, it is absolutely clear that Hillary Clinton’s disdain for how the media does its collective job isn’t going to disappear or even change because she says a few nice words at a dinner or hires a handful of senior press operatives who have a different approach to the media than her past flacks. Yes, people like Palmieri, Fallon and Ferguson can temper some of the media suspicion in Clintonworld but they will never cure the candidate (or her spouse) of their fundamental dislike and, more importantly, distrust of the press.

Now, distrusting the press isn’t exactly disqualifying for a presidential candidate. In fact, bashing the media is one of the most bipartisan applause lines a pol can deliver; I have been in Democratic and Republican audiences in which a little press-bashing elicits huge cheers. And, whining from reporters about access to a candidate or polite treatment from a campaign isn’t exactly the sort of stuff that the average voter feels a ton of sympathy for.

And yet, it’s hard to dispute that Clinton’s relationship with the media played a role in just how difficult -- and disappointing -- that campaign was for her. Clinton has made some moves in the last few weeks that suggest she recognizes that she can’t repeat those mistakes this time around. But, campaigns take their lead from the candidate. And Clinton doesn’t seem to, really, have adjusted her view of the media in any meaningful way between 2008 and today. That matters.

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Group Urges Clinton to Embrace Liberal Agenda (The New York Times)

By Jonathan Martin

March 24, 2015

The New York Times

A liberal group is starting a campaign Tuesday aimed at pushing Hillary Rodham Clinton to adopt a full-throated liberal agenda in her all-but-certain presidential campaign, signaling that even some on the far left of the Democratic Party are now more focused on shaping Mrs. Clinton's eventual platform than they are on finding an alternative to her.

Over 200 Iowa and New Hampshire Democrats signed a petition at ReadyForBoldness.com, a website that plays on the name of the pro-Clinton group "Ready for Hillary."

The effort, sponsored by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, will push Mrs. Clinton and other Democratic presidential hopefuls toward embracing expanded Social Security benefits, curbs on Wall Street and an overhaul of the campaign finance system, among other liberal priorities.

The organization is seeking volunteers in early primary states to attend campaign events and ask candidates where they stand on the liberal agenda.

Among those signing the "Ready for Boldness" statement are former Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, Representative Dave Loebsack of Iowa, and Paul Hodes and Carol Shea-Porter, each former members of Congress from New Hampshire.

"Our Democratic nominee will have the best chance to win New Hampshire and other swing states in the general election if they campaign on a bold economic agenda that impacts kitchen table issues like jobs, wages, college affordability and retirement security," Ms. Shea Porter said.

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Trusted Aide Declines Formal Role in a Clinton Campaign (The New York Times)

By Maggie Haberman

March 24, 2015

The New York Times

Cheryl D. Mills, an adviser to Hillary Rodham Clinton who has been closer to her than perhaps any other over the last six years, will not be playing a formal role in her soon-to-be-announced presidential bid, according to people in direct discussions with the campaign.

Ms. Mills, who had a senior role in Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign and then served as an adviser and chief of staff at the State Department, has told friends that she knows first-hand how intense and trying a presidential race can be and that she values the work she is doing outside of political life. That includes working for a hedge fund she started that is focused on Africa.

There had been some discussion of Ms. Mills taking a campaign co-chair title along with John Podesta, who served in senior roles in the Clinton and Obama administrations. Mr. Podesta is not currently planning to relocate to New York City, where Mrs. Clinton's campaign will be based, and advisers to Mrs. Clinton are still discussing who, if anyone, could play that role, according to people familiar with the discussions.

Ms. Mills has been singular among Mrs. Clinton's circle of trusted advisers in stating plainly to people that she hoped the former secretary of state would forgo another national campaign. At the same time, she has devoted much of the last two years to helping Mrs. Clinton preserve the option of running and has been strongly supportive of Mrs. Clinton's desire to delay declaring her candidacy as long as possible.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, declined to comment.

Even without an actual title, there is little doubt that Mrs. Clinton will continue to consult frequently with Ms. Mills, which could pose a familiar challenge for Mrs. Clinton's team of paid advisers, who will have to contend with a circle of counselors who aren't in the campaign structure, but who have her ear nonetheless.

At the same time, the fact that the campaign is still assessing how to structure top tier of her political operation just weeks before an expected announcement highlights the late start Mrs. Clinton has had in building her team, despite considering her campaign for the last two years.

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Paul slams Clinton on women's rights (The Hill)

By Kevin Cirilli

March 24, 2015

The Hill

Likely presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Monday that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is not a consistent defender of women's rights.

Paul said on Fox News's "The Kelly File" that Republicans need to "aggressively go after the Clintons," since she is expected to announce her run for president.

"We need to go after their corruption. We need to call her out for not being a consistent defender of women's rights," Paul said. "There's a lot of hypocrisy on the Clinton side. ... You can't let that go."

Paul said that Republicans will not win the White House in 2016 unless they attack her record.

"We won't win unless we aggressively combat her and make sure that she has to explain her record as well," Paul said.

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What Scott Walker Can Teach Hillary Clinton (Slate)

By Jamelle Bouie

March 24, 2015

Slate

Hillary Clinton has been polarizing her entire political career. But now, ahead of a second presidential run, she wants to be a uniter, not a divider. People should "get out of the kind of very unproductive discussion that we've had for too long, where people are just in their ideological bunkers, having arguments instead of trying to reach across those divides and have some solutions," she said, speaking to labor leaders and policy wonks during a Monday event at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank that doubles as the Clinton administration-in-waiting.

Elsewhere in Washington, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities—another left-leaning think tank—released its analysis of the new Republican budgets. "Each budget plan," notes the CBPP, "derives more than two-thirds of its [approximately $5 trillion] budget cuts from programs for people with low or modest incomes even though these programs constitute less than one-quarter of federal program costs." This includes billions in cuts to tax credits for working families as well as trillions in cuts to health care for low-income people. At the same time, House Republicans are mulling huge tax relief for the wealthiest Americans; later this week the House Ways and Means Committee will consider a bill to repeal the federal estate tax.

Clinton hasn't announced a full agenda for 2016, much less a campaign for president. But when she does, it will stand on the opposite bank of anything offered by Republicans, with a vast distance between the two. She will give a plan for growing the welfare state. They will offer a plan for gutting it.

Put differently, she has to know that there's no way to bring the two sides together. Democrats and Republicans aren't just polarized; they've adopted distinct ideologies, and they've prioritized a maximalist approach to using power and influence. The first two years of the Obama administration weren't modest. Part of this was a massive economic crisis that demanded a proportional response, but part of it was policy ambition. From the stimulus to the auto bailouts, Affordable Care Act, Dodd-Frank, and a host of other, smaller policies, Obama and the Democrats steered the country in a much more liberal direction than any president and Congress since Lyndon Johnson.

Likewise, if elected president in 2012, Mitt Romney had promised a full repudiation of the Obama administration. His White House would have slashed social spending, repealed the Affordable Care Act, and pushed a sweeping agenda of broad tax cuts and deregulation. It would have been a complete ideological victory, scored without any input from liberals.

It's not that the "togetherness" talk is unreasonable. The public craves political comity and wants its leaders to affirm values like cooperation and bipartisanship. And even if they've built their appeal on the opposite, most politicians will oblige. "The answer will not come from Washington," said Sen. Ted Cruz—of all people—in his presidential announcement speech. "It will only come as it has come at every other time of challenge in this country, when the American people stand together and say we will get back to the principles that have made this country great."

But even if they try—and candidates tend to pursue their promises once in office—there's no way anyone can keep this pledge. If elected president, Hillary Clinton won't bring anyone together, just like Barack Obama didn't overcome bitter partisanship and George W. Bush couldn't sustain the national unity of his first two years in office (not that it was a huge priority). Not only are presidents pressured by party elites and activists with distinct visions, but the public is more polarized, and less willing to give approval or support to presidents from the other side. It's why Clinton polarized more than Bush, why the second Bush polarized more than Clinton, and why Obama stands as the most polarizing president we have known—until we elect the next one.

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Indeed, the only person in the present presidential field who seems to understand that political comity is a fool's errand is Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, which, given his record for sowing ideological rancor, isn't a surprise. In 2013—just after the government shutdown—he spoke at a breakfast for reporters in Washington, D.C. And when asked about polarization, he refused to say he could bridge the divide:

"For years, the conventional wisdom was that Americans want divided government," he said. "I think they've seen in the last few years that that's not necessarily a good thing. Instead of checks and balances you get a lot of gridlock." …

"What we learned in Wisconsin and what many of the other battleground states, particularly in the Midwest, learned during the 2010 election, was that if you want to get big, bold reform done in your state you need a team to help you do that. So in our case everything switched from Democratic control to Republican control in 2010 and that empowered us to go out and make reforms that would've been much more difficult without those changes."

It's clear that Clinton wants to echo Barack Obama's 2008 campaign of change and togetherness. But, as per her critique in the 2008 Democratic primaries, Obama's message was a mistake. Outside of the most technical or non-salient issues, there's no chance of bipartisan cooperation in the next presidential administration, and to promise otherwise is to set yourself up for failure. The only way a President Hillary Clinton will succeed in 2017 is if she has a Democratic Congress to pass her policies, confirm her judges, and staff her administration.

In other words, Clinton needs to listen to Walker. He gets it. Instead of a promise to work with Republicans, Clinton should promise to elect Democrats. It's the only way she'll get results, and ultimately, that's what the public wants.

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Congress Is the Best Bet to Recover Hillary's E-mails (The Hill)

By Shannen Coffin

March 24, 2015

The Hill

In opposing efforts to reopen Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) cases seeking Hillary Clinton's e-mails, the Department of Justice is playing perfectly to type. Last week, the department told the D.C. Circuit that there was no reason to re-open a case in which it had previously said it had no e-mail. Justice's lawyers argued that its prior statements to the court were literally true: It had no such e-mails at the time it conducted its prior searches.

As I previously wrote, the Supreme Court has consistently rejected the notion that private citizens can force the recovery of documents removed from agency recordkeeping systems through FOIA lawsuits. This precedent was established in 1980, in a case involving an effort to force the State Department to produce notes and tapes that Henry Kissinger took with him when he resigned as Secretary of State. The Court reasoned that the Freedom of Information Act requires an agency to search only those records within its possession and control at the time of the request.

The Department of Justice, representing the State Department now, relies heavily on that principle in arguing that, when it made its prior representations to the courts in some pending (and some now dismissed) FOIA cases, the State Department complied with the law. Because Secretary Clinton had removed – and, some might argue, even concealed — her e-mails from agency possession and control, the agency did not have an obligation to search those records in the past. So the Department of Justice's argument goes, and under the current law, it is likely to succeed.

Instead of giving power to the average citizen to claw back Mrs. Clinton's records through the Freedom of Information Act, federal law generally allows that only the federal government itself can seek to recover documents removed from its control. The Federal Records Act requires that when an agency head or the Archivist of the United States learns that official records have been or will be removed or destroyed, they must request that the Attorney General initiate a civil enforcement action to recover the documents.

This may be where the Department of Justice's recent filings fall short. DOJ explains that there is "no basis, beyond sheer speculation, to believe that former Secretary Clinton withheld any work-related e-mails from those provided to the Department of State." But the very fact that Mrs. Clinton took it upon herself to decide what to produce and what to delete – and the many inconsistencies in her own description of the document-review process – should give the Department of State and the Archivist pause as to whether she produced all of her official e-mails when requested. The State Department seems unconcerned about the possibility of the existence of other e-mails beyond the 30,000 or so Clinton has already handed over. The Archivist, at least, has raised his eyebrows, inquiring in a letter to the State Department about the circumstances surrounding the "potential alienation" of Mrs. Clinton's e-mail records.

If either the agency head or Archivist fail to act to recover improperly removed e-mails, a private party has some recourse to the courts, although that recourse is limited. A private citizen can petition a court to compel either official to fulfill this statutory duty. As one federal court recently held in a case involving an effort to seek the return of e-mails held in a private account by the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy:

If the agency head or Archivist does nothing while an agency official destroys or removes records in contravention of agency guidelines and directives, private litigants may bring suit to require the agency head and Archivist to fulfill their statutory duty to notify Congress and ask the Attorney General to initiate legal action. . . . [The private party must] plausibly allege that records have been unlawfully 'removed' [from the agency in order to be granted judicial relief].

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But judicial relief merely forces the agency head and/or Archivist to fulfill their statutory obligation to ask the Attorney General to sue. In every case, even where a court intervenes, the ultimate decision about whether to seek judicial relief to force return of the improperly removed documents is left with the Attorney General of the United States. And given the Department's current position that nothing is amiss, the likelihood of a civil enforcement action to force Mrs. Clinton to account for any missing records seems low.

A number of organizations have already begun to seek to reopen FOIA claims long-since closed. But absent some prior misrepresentations by the Department of State in those FOIA cases, this federal scheme leaves little chance of judicial relief for those public-interest and media organizations clamoring for Mrs. Clinton's e-mail servers to be seized and searched. Even in the face of clear violations of records laws, federal judges are simply unlikely to force the Attorney General to exercise his well-established discretion to enforce the law.

The best chance of recovering Mrs. Clinton's records, then, currently lies in congressional subpoenas. But that process may take months or even years – with an elaborate and predictable kabuki dance of subpoena, stonewalling, contempt citation, House votes, and, finally, judicial enforcement. A future President Clinton may have served her second term in office before that process is resolved.

So was all hope of recovery of any remaining e-mails lost with Mrs. Clinton's stroke of the delete button? Perhaps not. Assuming there is anything left to recover after Mrs. Clinton's rather arbitrary deletion process, there still exists an obvious avenue for relief through Congress that does not involve a protracted subpoena fight: Congress could simply amend the Federal Records Act to make clear that the Attorney General's duty to seek civil enforcement of the Act is non-discretionary, thus allowing a court to order the Attorney General to fulfill his duty to recover the documents.

Or, if Congress wishes to empower private citizen suits, it could amend the Freedom of Information Act to permit courts to order directly that a private party return improperly removed federal records for preservation by the agency. Such statutory tweaks could be applied immediately to remedy any improper records removal and topple the wall of secrecy Clinton has built around her public service.

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Clinton: U.S. Should Consider German Model for Saving Jobs (Foreign Policy)

By David Francis

March 24, 2015

Foreign Policy

When times are tough in Germany, Berlin staves off unemployment by paying for private jobs with government subsidies. Hillary Rodham Clinton, a presumed Democratic 2016 presidential candidate, suggested Monday that a similar program could work in the United States.

Speaking about job creation at the Center for American Progress in Washington, Clinton said the United States should look to comparable foreign economies for examples of how to create and keep jobs. She said Berlin's model for dealing with job retention during downturns is one Washington should explore.

"The other thing that Germany does is, instead of an unemployment system, they have a wage subsidy system so you don't let people go in the first place," Clinton said.

She was referring to Germany's "Kurzarbeit," or short-work, policy, one that Germans are enthusiastically proud of. It allows companies to reduce workers' hours with the government picking up the tab for the lost time.

Of course, getting such a wholesale change to how the United States deals with job losses during economic downswings would require Congress to act, no sure thing given current partisanship. And U.S. officials have run into trouble in the past by suggesting European solutions to America's problems.

Moreover, Germany's policies would be difficult to replicate in the United States, said American Enterprise Institute scholar Desmond Lachman. The German workforce is highly unionized, he said, making it easier for workers to get concessions from the central government when times are tough.

Lachman also said the German policy does little to create new jobs, and widens the gap between top earners and those at the bottom who don't get salary increases when Berlin steps in with subsidies. During her speech, Clinton said job creation and lessening income inequality were priorities.

"Then what you're doing is basically just sharing the work," Lachman told Foreign Policy. You're not creating jobs, you're just keeping unemployment down … while increasing the number of people at the bottom."

During the Great Recession, the German labor market proved especially resilient. In 2010, when the United States and the rest of the world were losing jobs, Germany actually added them because companies there took advantage of the government program.

According to a survey for the Munich-based research group Ifo Institute, in the first quarter of 2010 — the depths of the European sovereign debt crisis — 39 percent of German manufacturers were using Kurzarbeit, allowing them to hold onto skilled labor at a time when many firms around the globe were shedding jobs.

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Many on the right and left, including President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton, have mentioned the Kurzarbeit concept as something the United States should consider. And evidence from Germany, Europe's strongest economy, shows that it stops companies from cutting jobs.

Clinton said she was willing to try. "Maybe we'll start not too far from here, in a beautiful domed building," she said to laughter and applause.

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Hillary Clinton vs. the record-keepers (Yahoo)

By Nancy Scola

March 24, 2015

Yahoo

It was a Thursday morning, Jan. 26, 2012, and Hillary Clinton was standing onstage in the three-story, redwood-paneled Dean Acheson Auditorium at State Department headquarters in Washington, D.C., to speak with some of the 25,000 or so people who flesh out the department's organizational chart. Three years into her tenure, Clinton had been building a reputation for being eager to think hard about technology. Around the world, she pitched the idea that the networked society was remaking international relations, producing a need for "21st-century statecraft." InWashington, she gave speeches extolling Internet freedom. Inside Foggy Bottom headquarters, she launched an in-house online forum, calling it the Sounding Board.

But Clinton knew full well that the State Department's own technology was lagging behind. She chuckled knowingly when the moderator that day said that one of the hottest questions on the Sounding Board was about Internet Explorer 7 — so sluggish and dated that while activists in the Middle East were using Twitter to organize protests, those inside the State Department could see only a broken version of Twitter.com.

The question put to Clinton: When were those working at the State Department finally going to get a decent browser on their computers?

Once Clinton stopped laughing, she made a declaration. "I'm happy to announce that Google Chrome will be deployed worldwide on February 14." Consider it, she said, a Valentine's Day present.

The town hall meeting lasted just over an hour and covered topics ranging from the Armenian genocide to limits on career advancement for Foreign Service officers. And yet, says Ian Schuler, who served in the department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the time, "She could have said, 'You're all getting Chrome,' dropped the microphone and walked out. Because that's all anyone talked about."

There is perhaps no figure, now or ever, in American politics like Hillary Clinton: a former first lady, a powerful secretary of state, a potential Democratic presidential nominee. But standing there that day, Clinton was one of many presidential officials who have found themselves confronted with jalopy technology and a desire to maintain some degree of control over their records. In fact, the saga of Clinton's use of a nongovernmental email address is, in many ways, rooted in a question of control. Clinton, as secretary of state, would take control of which tools department employees had to do their work. And she would take control of the archive she would leave behind after what would turn out to be her 1,472 days in Obama's Cabinet.

A desire to be in command is natural, even healthy, in politicians. But for those charged with keeping the apparatus of government chugging along, it can also be where it all starts to go wrong.

The inconvenience of government tech

Joining the State Department, recalls Schuler, who is now CEO of the Washington, D.C., technology firm Development Seed, meant being assigned a "computing device that worked almost like a real computer." Talk to others who have worked with and around State's IT, and you hear phrases like "old" and "1990s tech" and "f—-ing terrible." Explains Schuler, "The

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technology is optimized for security. It's not at all optimized for doing work or for connecting with people beyond the State Department. It means you spend a lot of your day without any way to connect to the outside world. And that can make it really hard to do your job."

It's easy enough to chalk up the shouting over Clinton's decision to use clintonemail.com instead of government tools to yet another bout of Clinton hate or a fresh instance of Hillary Clinton being held to a higher standard than anyone else in politics. After all, Colin Powell used a personal account as secretary of state, from 2001 to 2005, and admitted on ABC's "This Week" that he "retained none of those emails." Peter Daou, the Internet director for Clinton's 2008 run for president, in a blog post dismissed the complaints about her as the whinging of the Beltway "innerati." And Philip "P.J." Crowley, who served as assistant secretary of state for public affairs from 2009 to 2011, agreed to talk about the Clinton emails — a subject he clearly considered trivial — only if we could work around an interview he already had scheduled on "real-world issues like the Islamic State."

But there are many others who have deep experience with the workings of the federal government who — though they may not want to shout it from the rooftops — find what Clinton did unsettling. They include Democrats, good-government activists and by-the-books federal employees who argue that they'd be pummeled if they did what she did. It's not the biggest issue in the world, perhaps. But it is a setback for those interested not just in transparency and accountability but also in dragging the federal government into the modern technology era.

"People should see getting a government email address as a benefit," says one high-ranking federal official who asked to remain anonymous because of the awkwardness of critiquing Clinton. "It should make your job easier," says the official, "not harder." But as things stand, the BlackBerrys loaded with Microsoft Outlook that are given to State Department employees can feel like a burden.

BlackBerry's long dominance inside government IT circles is, in part, a holdover effect of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, when the then-novel devices proved the only reliable means of communicating. But it's also due in part to the fact that Microsoft products — and those who sell them — dominate the town's IT landscape, and BlackBerrys have long played particularly well with Microsoft's email products.

Indeed, the fact that government workers are still regularly issued BlackBerrys when most of the United States has moved on to iPhones and Samsung Galaxy smartphones, serves as a hard, plastic reminder of the remove from the general population at which government technology operates.

POEMS for the secretary

When it comes to the secretary of state, though, the department has attempted in recent years to lighten the technological burden.

It's little-known, but there is a high-security, concierge email system made just for the U.S. secretary of state and others on the "seventh floor," as Foggy Bottom's executive suite is dubbed inside the building. It's called, officially, the Principal Officers Electronic Messaging System, but it is known inside the department as POEMS. Schuler remembers traveling with those whose email accounts were on POEMS and witnessing that they received 24-hour support, far beyond what he jokingly calls the "plebes" in the department got. A State Department spokesperson describes POEMS as a "carve-out" from the department wide email system, with "services tailored to what the secretary would need."

Beyond that, Foggy Bottom isn't all that eager to speak of POEMS. There are only a handful of references to it online. I

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found one reference, with a number for a “POEMS Help Desk” in an old PDF of a State Department directory. I hadn’t yet deduced what the acronym represented, so I rang the POEMS number and asked the person who answered if he might be able to tell me what POEMS stood for. “No, I cannot,” he said. Can anyone at the State Department tell me? “No.”

Still, it’s clear that Clinton opted out of the Principal Officers Electronic Messaging System, the framework specifically designed by those on the federal payroll to meet the unique needs of a U.S. secretary of state.

“When I got to work as secretary of state,” Clinton said in the press conference she held two weeks ago at the United Nations about the controversy, “I opted, for convenience, to use my personal email account, which was allowed by the State Department, because I thought it would be easier to carry just one device for my work and for my personal emails instead of two.” She went on. “Looking back, it would’ve been better if I’d simply used a second email account and carried a second phone, but at the time, this didn’t seem like an issue.”

The two-devices-is-simply-too-much argument was roundly mocked, partly because modern cell phones, at least, let you set up two email addresses or more on one device. But that might be one of the few choices Clinton made that was coloring well within the lines: Best practices for government workers dictate not putting personal applications on devices paid for with tax dollars. But it was also mocked because — though there are moves afoot in official D.C. toward a “Bring Your Own Device” culture — hauling around two cell phones is still something much of Washington does as a matter of course. Clinton granted herself an early exemption from the hassle, but what about everyone else? “If it’s inconvenient for her to use, does she not think it’s inconvenient for everybody else?” asked the same anonymous official. “Did that not make her prioritize wanting to fix that system?”

Plenty of State Department employees, those with experience with the situation say, do grant themselves their own mini-exemptions, on occasion — perhaps dashing off a few quick iPhone emails from home rather than taking 10 minutes to log in to a virtual private network (VPN), deleting emails to get back below inbox size limits while out and about, or waiting weeks to get their hands on a laptop to take overseas.

What perhaps none will admit is doing it all the time with every sort of email, out of concern, in some cases, for exposing themselves to a safety breach — a constant threat. In her book “Hard Choices,” Clinton noted that State Department officials were targeted by email phishing attacks of remarkable “sophistication and fluency.” But she has said there are no signs that her email was ever violated; moreover, the servers that actually housed them were in her home and thus guarded by the U.S. Secret Service. Indeed, it might be easier in some ways to protect a handful of people using clintonemail.com than it is to safeguard all of POEMS.

Add into the mix that Clinton’s email address — hd22@clintonemail.com for most of her time at State — might not, in itself, have been a dead giveaway that she was working outside official circles. An unexpected domain name could have suggested to some a sanctioned security plan for her account (“OPSEC,” in national security speak) to throw off hackers. Though even an off-the-books address would probably have used “.gov,” the possibility might help explain why no one raised a red flag over the address while Clinton was in office. But there’s also another, more likely, explanation: Few saw it attached to emails that clearly had to do with State Department work.

The email blackout in Foggy Bottom

“I knew exactly what her address was,” says P.J. Crowley, the former State Department spokesperson. Crowley is known for speaking his mind; an active, often colorful, tweeter while in office, Crowley resigned after delivering a negative opinion of the Pentagon’s treatment of alleged WikiLeaks source Chelsea (then Bradley) Manning. “I don’t recall any conversation where this was an issue. It wasn’t a big deal. It just never came up as an area of concern.”

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But Crowley also paints a picture of working with Clinton where email was never much of an issue at all. Like many national security principals, Clinton, he says, was one step removed from day-to-day email traffic. “Email to her was not the means by which we communicated with her,” says Crowley. “We primarily used old-fashioned forms of communications: meetings, paper, phone calls. In formulating positions, the staff would use email a great deal. But the secretary isn’t necessarily going to be integrally involved in the sausage making, and getting those perspectives to the secretary, that was usually done on paper.”

Besides, Crowley says, “She was always staffed, and there was always someone with her.” When something was time-sensitive, “More often than not we’d email the staffer and say, ‘Hey, when she pops out of the meeting, can you make sure she’s aware of Y?’ We did a lot of communicating toward her.”

It’s a work pattern that is ingrained in the geography of the State Department. The so-called “Mahogany Row” where the secretary’s suite is located, is a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, or SCIF. Those entering must drop their mobile devices into tiny lockers and take with them a numbered key.

Being more email-adjacent than email-dependent isn’t all that unusual for high-ranking officials. David Almacy was the Internet director for the George W. Bush White House from 2005 to 2007. Bush swore off email when he took office. But Almacy remembers that he’d sometimes get internal emails saying “Some people over here were wondering…,” knowing that some people and over here meant the president of the United States, sitting in the Oval Office.

But if Clinton wasn’t actively using email as part of her daily grind — and she’s said that there was just one email to a foreign peer, an official in the United Kingdom — that might raise more questions than answers. Clinton has since turned over to the State Department, she says, more than 30,000 work-related emails. Some of those are ones she simply received and could involve the lunch menu in the State Department cafeteria, for instance. But what of the rest?

“The opposite of the spirit of the law”

In some ways, there’s little new under the sun here. “There’s a long history of secretaries of state not wanting their communications public,” says Nate Jones, the director of the Freedom of Information Act Project at George Washington University’s National Security Archive.

Indeed, while serving overlapping tenures as national security adviser and later secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford White Houses, Henry Kissinger amassed more than 15,000 transcripts of his telephone calls. Many are frank conversations with President Nixon or about the Vietnam War. He destroyed the original tapes, and after he left office in 1977, he claimed the written records as private papers. Some were later turned over the State Department and posted on State.gov, forming a treasure trove of insights into how that administration operated on matters big and small.

At 11:05 a.m. on Oct. 29, 1976, for example, Kissinger had a quick call with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, one in a number of historic backchannel conversations, about computers that the U.S. was newly exporting to the USSR. Dobrynin believed that computers had considerable symbolic value in painting the Soviets as technologically advanced. Kissinger wanted to make sure his Soviet colleague knew what he was getting: something not quite on the cutting edge. “I wanted to tell you on the computer, we have sold you the same computer two years ago,” Kissinger told Dobrynin, adding later: “There is only a slight technical difference with respect to safeguards, which is of no practical consequence.”

Those “Kissinger telcons,” as they’re known, have enormous value for historians; in 2005, Walter Isaacson used them to

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write his “Kissinger: A Biography.” But Kissinger, during his life, was eager to maintain control over them. During the Carter administration, the Supreme Court ruled that while the 1966 Freedom of Information Act applied, the 1950 Federal Records Act — limited as it was to the work of federal agencies —dictated that only his records compiled in his duties as secretary of state had to be released. (It wasn’t until the post-Watergate Presidential Records Act that presidential papers would formally shift from being the personal property of the president of the United States to belonging to the United States.)

And the fight over the Kissinger papers goes on. On March 4, just as the Clinton email story was breaking, the National Security Archive sued the State Department for delaying the release of some 700 remaining transcripts — 38 years after Kissinger left office.

Today, knowing that all executive branch emails might one day be housed in a searchable, online archive raises concerns about whether such a practice would have a chilling effect on internal debate. David Almacy, the Bush-era White House Internet director, says that the prospect of being read by future audiences was always in the back of his mind. He recalls making sure to record his positions in emails during the Bush administration’s mistake-filled response to Hurricane Katrina.

That was one part making sure that generations to come had a historical record to study for lessons, he says, and one part, he admits with a laugh, covering his posterior for posterity.

In 2012, the Obama White House issued new rules for federal record-keeping, saying, “Records protect the rights and interests of people, and hold officials accountable for their actions. Permanent records document our nation’s history” It’s part of an ongoing effort to make sure those rules keep up with the digital age and an increasingly online government.

Clinton, though, has argued that the laws in place when she was in office allowed what she did. The long-standing Federal Records Act operates in part on a good-faith basis, requiring that the head of each agency preserve a public record “containing adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of the agency.” But Clinton allies have argued that it wasn’t until 2014 that the rules were adjusted to specifically include electronic records, including emails.

There’s certainly a lot of wiggle room, and the federal government’s official record-keepers haven’t yet gotten onto firm footing on what to do about emails and other electronic records. The National Archives, for example, still uses a print-to-file system, though since 2005 it was been working on getting its Electronic Records Archives up and running at a federal ballistics lab in Rocket Center, West Virginia. In 2013, the Archives launched Capstone, an optional system that will help agencies archive by focusing on those officials whose emails are most likely worth saving. By 2017, the Obama White House has said, all emails must be stored as electronic records. But the powers-that-be are still struggling to cope with the practical considerations of saving what federal archivists calls “the overwhelming volume of email that Federal agencies produce.”

And in the meantime, say archivists, complying with just the letter of the law isn’t enough. Clinton’s people have argued that to abide by the rules, “it was Secretary Clinton’s practice to email government officials on their ‘.gov’ accounts, so her work emails were immediately captured and preserved.”

No biggie then, right? Not so, says the National Security Archives’ Nate Jones.

To understand why, you have to understand how Freedom of Information Act requests generally work. When a member of the public or the press submits a request to an agency’s FOIA office, he or she is asked to be as specific as possible about the information being hunted. Often requesters are asked to “perfect a request” by naming the senders or recipients involved. And whereas the expectation laid out in the 2014 law cited by Clinton defenders (even though the law formally applies only to presidential staff) is that you’re forwarding a copy to yourself, Clinton, instead, fractured her email trail, scattering it

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across the email caches of dozens, if not hundreds, of staffers. That has the effect of adding an extra dash of secrecy — not to mention difficulty — to an already challenging process.

"The FOIA shop," says Jones, "would have to do some real sleuthing. If they can't search her email, they would have to search the records of everyone she emailed."

Bear in mind, too, that until very recently, the State Department — like other federal agencies — had no system in place that allowed the automatic archiving of emails . Document-by-document decisions on what required archiving in order to comply with record-keeping lawswere left up to the individual staffer. As Attorney General Eric Holder has told federal employees, "FOIA is everyone's responsibility."

That means that Clinton, even if she had used a State.gov address, would have been the official responsible for deciding which of her files to preserve. But what Clinton did was effectively shift the burden of manually archiving those records to her staff, pulling them into the mix and exposing them to potentially unexpected congressional oversight. Rep. Trey Gowdy, the South Carolina Republican leading a committee investigating the 2012 death of a U.S. ambassador in Benghazi, Libya, announced last week that he had subpoenaed the email records of "a number of individuals within the State Department, other than Secretary Clinton."

Could a good K Street lawyer make the case that Clinton broke no laws on the books nor expressly violated in-house rules? Yes, most likely. But some in the good-government world argue that that's a pitiful standard.

John Wonderlich is the policy director at the nonpartisan D.C. transparency group called the Sunlight Foundation. "Terms like 'illegal' are not always helpful," he says, arguing that an agent of government can fail to meet the expectations of her position even if she doesn't break any laws. Says Wonderlich, "What she did was the opposite of the spirit of the law."

The spirit of the law isn't one of perfection. Incidental use of personal accounts is, generally speaking, no major offense, the same way that you might use your company's fax machine to send a permission slip to your kid's school. But that's something different from using it to launch a start-up. Anthony Clark is the author of the forthcoming book on presidential libraries called "The Last Campaign." And from 2009 to 2011, Clark was a legislative director for the Democratic side in the House of Representatives, running a series of congressional investigations on breakdowns in federal record-keeping.

"There are few people who have spent as much time thinking about this topic as I have," says Clark, and he's probably right. "And I know of no example of a federal official at any level who only used a personal email account."

One investigation Clark took part in had to do with a former U.S. deputy chief technology officer named Andrew McLaughlin who, in spring 201o, was reprimanded by the White House, for using a Gmail account in the course of his work.

"One of our employees recently fell short," John Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, wrote in a memo to staff members, adding and underlining for emphasis that "all OSTP-related email communications should be conducted using your OSTP email accounts."

It's not likely that Clinton didn't know she was similarly exposing herself to potential criticism, says Anthony Clark, the presidential library historian. It's that, having been subject to such extraordinary scrutiny throughout her public life, she

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made a calculation. “I don’t think it’s a coincidence that it was the former first lady and future presidential candidate who was the one Cabinet official that we know of who exclusively used personal email accounts. A person in that position is thinking about both legacy and viability.”

“It’s understandable,” says Clark. “But that still doesn’t make it right.”

The state of digital democracy

“The federal government is pretty good at giving out what the federal government wants to give out,” says Nate Jones of the National Security Archive. Federal records laws, chief among them the Freedom of Information Act, represent, he says, “the fighting chance for the public to get what it wants from the federal government.”

If there’s a constant, multigenerational battle between politicians’ desire for privacy and the public’s desire to know what is being done in its name, the public is likely coming up short at the moment. And it’s difficult to see how that balance doesn’t get even more skewed as government gets even more digital. Email was invented in 1973, but it is only relatively recently that it has become a building block of governing. For every official presidential email archived by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark., there are a dozen held by the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas. Indeed, the Bush Library stores 200 million email records — or a remarkable 68,ooo for every single day he was president. And those numbers will no doubt climb as so-called digital natives become national security advisers, chiefs of staff and presidents.

And if they have absolute control over the digital record, it will increasingly serve as absolute control of the historical record.

As for current Secretary of State John Kerry? Those around him report that he is frequent emailer, one who “primarily uses a State.gov account,” says that same State Department spokesperson. “Since around the time he started,” says the spokesperson, “he has had a system in place called ‘journaling’ to capture the emails he sends and receives.” An aide to Kerry regularly captures any personal emails that might have gone astray. But Kerry, too, seems to be among those who dismisses his predecessor’s email practice as a trivial concern.

Kerry was asked about it while in Saudi Arabia to discuss, among other topics, political instability in Yemen. “Let me check on that,” he deadpanned, “when I actually have time to pay attention to such an important issue when I get home.”

To the Sunlight Foundation’s John Wonderlich, the seemingly offhand remark encapsulated a reflexive sense of privilege on the part of a U.S. secretary of state that is both infuriating and depressing. “For him to minimize that is just so frustrating. This is about power. Who gets access to what information is about power.”

A few minutes later on in our conversation, Wonderlich searched for some way of summing up why Hillary Clinton’s emailing is something, regardless of Kerry’s dismissal, deserving of all the attention being paid to it. He eventually comes up with this: “What I keep thinking about is the State Department’s role in building democracy overseas — and how they never would recommend other countries doing things this way.”

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Florida Tepid Toward Bush, Rubio runs (Public Policy Polling)

March 24, 2015

Public Policy Polling

Floridians aren't very excited about the prospect of either Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio running for President, and Hillary Clinton leads the entire field of potential GOP candidates in the state.

Only 37% of Florida voters think Jeb Bush should run for President, to 52% who say they think he shouldn't. The numbers for Marco Rubio on that front are almost identical- 35% say he should run to 51% who believe he should sit it out. The lack of enthusiasm for either Bush or Rubio making a White House bid is at least partially a function of their not being terribly popular. 45% of voters approve of the job Rubio is doing as a Senator to 40% who disapprove. Bush's favorability numbers are similar with 45% giving him good marks to 42% with a negative opinion. Their numbers aren't bad but they aren't that impressive either.

Hillary Clinton has leads of 2-8 points over all of the potential GOP contenders in the state. Rubio comes the closest at just a 48/46 deficit and Bush is down by a similar margin at 47/44. Rand Paul trails by 4 at 46/42, Mike Huckabee's down 5 at 49/44, Chris Christie and Ted Cruz each trail by 7 at 48/41 and 49/42 respectively, and Ben Carson (49/41), Rick Perry (50/42), and Scott Walker (49/41) all lag Clinton by 8 points.

Bush leads the Republican field in the state with 25% to 17% for Walker, 15% for Rubio, 12% for Carson, 7% for Huckabee, 6% for Cruz, 4% each for Christie and Paul, and 3% for Perry. Since PPP last did a Presidential poll in Florida last June, Bush has dropped by 5 points while Walker has seen his support increase by 10. Also seeing their stock decline in Florida are Paul whose support is down from 11% in June, Cruz who was previously at 9%, and Christie who was previously at 8%. Florida makes yet another state where Christie is under water with GOP primary voters- 35% rate him favorably to 40% with a negative view.

Even in his home state Bush lags a little bit with voters identifying themselves as 'very conservative,' trailing with 19% to Walker's 23%. But he has a commanding lead with moderates, getting 33% to only 10% for Walker, that's enough to help give him his overall advantage.

On the Democratic side Hillary Clinton remains dominant with 58% to 14% for Joe Biden, 10% for Elizabeth Warren, 3% for Bernie Sanders, 2% for Martin O'Malley, and 1% for Jim Webb. Clinton is polling over 50% with liberals, moderates, men, women, whites, African Americans, and voters within every age group.

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Amongst Friends, Clinton Discusses Urban Renewal (Newsweek)

By Nina Burleigh

March 24, 2015

Newsweek

At the very hour when Texas Sen. Ted Cruz became the first candidate to formally confess his 2016 Presidential aspirations from the Jerry Falwell-founded Liberty University, the leading likely Democratic applicant for that same job was attending a different tent revival. Hillary Clinton was on a panel at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank helmed by longtime Clinton stalwart John Podesta who will likely take a leave his post soon to direct a presidential campaign.

In what was likely to be one of her last public events before her expected April announcement, Mrs. Clinton in that most Clintonian of fora—the roundtable discussion—discussed the needs of American cities. She gave a seven-minute speech and then stayed for an hour and half more, nodding and listening (another Clintonian gesture) to union leaders, businesspeople and two rising young Democratic political stars including HUD Secretary Julian Castro--who has been mentioned as a possible Hillary veep.)

Among the topics covered: the tale of two cities of Pittsburgh and Detroit, both blighted and failing at the same time, one now in bankruptcy and the other listed as one of the finest places to live in America; what to do about crumbling infrastructure, and how one STEM job in a tech alley spawns five more.

Almost everyone in the room agreed on and mentioned the need to demolish the “silo”—the four-letter word du jour in government and management-speak these days referring to fiefdoms within organizations that don’t collaborate.

Mrs. Clinton reminded the room that as the junior Senator from New York, she didn’t just represent booming New York City, but more economically troubled urban centers like Binghamton, Buffalo and Syracuse. She made three points in her three-minute presentation. She suggested that she’d do “a mapping” of cities crumbling infrastructure needs; do more in terms of “human infrastructure” with pre-K and job training; and encourage social mobility which is akin to encouraging kindness—easier said than done.

Labor leaders Randi Weingarten (American Federation of Teachers) and Lee Saunders (AFSCME) joined Mrs. Clinton for the panel which guaranteed a less-than-combative session. They discussed public-private partnerships, job training and, yes, tearing down “silos” to revitalize urban areas like Detroit.

“There is a tragedy going on in our urban centers,” said Saunders. His union of 1.6 million government employees is a reliable power base for Clinton is also under heavy assault in states with Republican governors .

Mrs. Clinton praised the Clinton Global Foundation twice which is not entirely shocking. CGI was “the convenor,” she said, for a large job training program run by the AFT that Mrs. Clinton said “retrofit tens of thousands of people to do jobs.” She also praised the CGI’s “Job One” program for aiming at youth unemployment. Mrs. Clinton announced the program last June, which procured commitments from 16 businesses like Microsoft, J.P. Morgan and Gap to mentor, train and hire out-of-work youth.

Mrs. Clinton’s celebrity was almost dimmed for a minute by Compton Mayor Aja Brown, the youngest mayor in America,. Aformer urban planner, she gave a succinct recounting of how she’d hosted 50 gang members and coaxed them to make peace, dropping the city’s legendary crime rate by 40 percent, and shuttering rent-by-the-hour motels that are a den of

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underage prostitution.

After Brown spoke, Mrs. Clinton suggested the California mayor might be back in Washington holding higher office. “Mayor, don’t be surprised if you get a call. And maybe we will start not too far from here, in a beautiful domed building.”

“I love sessions like this,” Clinton said in her concluding statement. “It’s nice to get back into an evidence-based discussion about what works and to try to learn from examples that can teach us all a lot of lessons.” She mentioned, en passant, the need to end “unproductive discussions” in “ideological bunkers.”

With that, the participants and presumptive front running Democrat filed out of her liberal silo and back into the pigpen of American politics.

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Citizens United files new lawsuit for Clinton records (Politico)

By Josh Gerstein

March 24, 2015

Politico

The conservative group Citizens United filed its second lawsuit in a little over a week Tuesday, heading to court to demand photos, videos and hotel bills of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's travels during her four years as America's top diplomat.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington (and posted here) complains that the State Department has taken no action for months on separate requests the advocacy group filed for all official photos of Clinton, all videos State made of her and for hotel invoices and other records relating to 10 foreign trips she took as secretary from 2010 through 2012.

A State Department spokesperson declined to comment on the newly-filed suit.

Last week, Citizens United filed suit seeking emails and other correspondence between top aides to Clinton and consulting firm Teneo, which was founded by one of President Bill Clinton's top aides, as well as correspondence relating to the Clinton Foundation.

The conservative group was already suing State in yet another case over a failure to respond to a request for manifests of travelers on Clinton's official trips. Earlier this month, a judge set deadlines for the agency to begin rolling disclosures of records responsive to that request, but she did not rule that any specific information must be disclosed.

Clinton, who's expected to announce a presidential bid in the next couple of weeks, is currently enmeshed in a controversy about her decision to use only a private email account during her tenure as secretary. She said she did so for convenience, but the practice may have put thousands of emails beyond the reach of Freedom of Information Act requests.

In December, Clinton turned over 55,000 pages of emails from that account to the State Department at its request. State spokespeople have said the agency is processing those messages for release under FOIA rules. Officials have predicted that process will take several months but have not committed to a specific deadline.

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Hillary Clinton Moved Her Head, According To Crack Campaign Reporters (Huffington Post)

By Jason Linkins

March 24, 2015

Huffington Post

Presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was a featured guest Monday at the Center for American Progress' "Expanding Opportunity in America's Urban Areas" conference in Washington. According to the liberal think tank's website, the event "[brought] together a small group of public, private, philanthropic, and nonprofit leaders to discuss challenges that our metropolitan regions face, as well as emerging solutions, laying the foundation for a vision of a thriving urban America that supports national prosperity."

Clinton's participation in the event offers a hint as to what her own economic policy priorities might be, and to whom she might turn for help in crafting a presidential platform. As Bloomberg's Melinda Henneberger put it: "For the many progressives who wonder where exactly Clinton stands on a number of issues, including trade, Wall Street reform and how she'd address income inequality, inspiring the feeling that they are being heard as she's still sketching out the policy particulars of her expected presidential run is no small thing."

Except it was a small thing, at least to Henneberger, who used the better part of her word count to inform readers that Clinton successfully made gestures and said some things, including fairly uncontroversial remarks about how the middle class is good and kids should be able to go to school and stuff. Per Henneberger, Clinton "nodded vigorously" and "took copious notes" and did so "with great enthusiasm." And like, you also had to listen to the notes she wasn't playing: "In a way, the message [Clinton's] body language sent was perfect: I'm here. I'm listening more than I'm talking. And I am even willing to go to school."

Yes, in a way. In another way, there was this whole policy conversation going on about how to improve urban economies. Henneberger caught snatches of this conversation and arranged them in a pastiche. Here's a taste:

When [Clinton] did speak on Monday, she talked about investing in infrastructure, including human infrastructure. Among the most pressing questions, she said, are, "What do we do to better equip our people to be able to take the jobs? And how do we keep middle-class families in cities where they want to stay? They don't want to leave, but they're being priced out."

Several unconnected instances of Clinton dialogue follow. In a way, the message that Henneberg's report sends is perfect: "I was here. I listened more than I talked. And I did the bare minimum to prove that to my credulous editor."

Clinton's remarks accounted for just a few minutes of the hourlong session, in which multiple politicians, advocates and policymakers offered their thoughts on how to address the (very important, and very daunting!) problems that face American cities. One of the more interesting points, and one that came up again and again, was that many of the assembled experts see urban economic renewal as something that begins at the local level -- something conceived among community stakeholders, municipal and regional governments, and private or philanthropic investors. In other words, Monday's roundtable was no festival of top-down, let-the-federal-government-take-the-lead policy ideas. So one might wonder: How, exactly, would Hillary Clinton, or any other president, facilitate this sort of change from the Oval Office?

I mean, when I say "one" might wonder, it's shorthand for "one substantively invested in a presidential election." But probably what most people want out of their political coverage is an Instagram video of Hillary Clinton nodding her head. Good news, then, because that's what The New York Times' official Hillary Clinton chronicler, Amy Chozick, got out of the session.

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If you're into the whole "policy ideas that could affect people's lives" side of this story, the Center for American Progress has listed a bunch here, along with links to other reports they've written that deal more specifically with things like lessening the burden of people with criminal records as they move back into the productive economy, facilitating the establishment of "anchor institutions" in underserved communities, clearing out some of the regulatory impediments to infrastructure construction and expanding access to credit among distressed consumers.

But, if you prefer, here once again is that crackerjack video of Clinton nodding, because with 21st-century political coverage, you are there.

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Hillary Clinton seeks clean slate with press (Politico)

By Dylan Byers

March 24, 2015

Politico

Weeks after being dogged by accusations of secrecy, Hillary Clinton told journalists Monday that she wanted “a new relationship with the press.”

Speaking at a dinner in honor of veteran Washington Post correspondent Dan Balz, the all-but-certain presidential contender acknowledged that her “relationship with the press has been at times, shall we say, complicated.”

But Clinton said she was “all about new beginnings.... A new grandchild. A new hairstyle. A new email account. A new relationship with the press. No more secrecy, no more zone of privacy … After all what good did that do for me?”

Clinton has spent nearly three decades in the public eye, the great majority of which have been notably contentious. Her most recent dismissal of the media’s obsession with her private email account seemed to portend another antagonistic spell in Clinton-press relations.

In an appeal to journalists, Clinton praised Robin Toner, the former New York Times correspondent and namesake of the evening’s prize, saying we need “more Robin Toners” to “get us out of the echo chambers we all inhabit.”

“We need more than ever smart, fair-minded journalists,” she said.

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From: "Tikkun and the Network of Spiritual Progressives" <miriam@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 8/14/2015 11:53:55 AM
Subject: Act Now: Support the Iran Deal

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 6:24:31 AM
Subject: Re: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Not to pile on, but this is therapeutic to watch. George is cool as a cucumber, doesn't rush into it, but just destroys him slowly but surely over the course of the interview, culminating when he asks him about A/S Fernandez confirming that HRC had absolutely nothing to do with the Uranium 1 deal.

On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 10:46 AM, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

It was beautiful to watch

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2015, at 10:37 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

This is amazing. A pleasure to read.

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great work everyone. this interview is perfect. he lands nothing and everything is refuted (mostly based on our work)

On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal** ," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine

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major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

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STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

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There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

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Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
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To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/3/2014 7:46:46 AM
Subject:	10.3.14 CTR Weekend Package
Attachments:	FINAL 10.3.14 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

You can find Correct The Record's weekend package both attached and below. Have a good one!

10.3.14 Weekend Package

1. VIDEO: Clinton Speaks to Military Families
2. ICYMI: CTR Response to Michele Bachmann
3. TPs: Hillary Clinton and Syria
4. 11 Things To Know About Hillary

VIDEO: Clinton Speaks to Military Families

CLICK HERE : NYT: Hillary Clinton Honors Military Families

ICYMI: Politico: CTR Response to Michele Bachmann

POLITICO:
"Michele Bachmann lecturing on foreign policy makes Sarah Palin sound like Dean Acheson," said Adrienne Elrod, a spokeswoman for the pro-Clinton group, Correct The Record. "Hillary Clinton is one of the most admired and respected public figures throughout the world, who continues to prove her knowledge and intellect on foreign policy matters. There is simply no comparison."

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TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON AND SYRIA

BACKGROUND: *In a panel discussion with CNN's Sanjay Gupta at the Clinton Global Initiative recently, Hillary Clinton discussed the situation in Syria and the current steps being taken to address the threat of terrorist groups in the region.*

KEY POINTS:

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton was an early advocate of arming the moderate Syrian opposition. She "believed, at the time, they would be overwhelmed by Assad's military force and that they would open up the door to extremists coming in."

- Clinton has said there is no way to predict if arming the rebels early on would have worked, but she believed it was the best of the options available at the time, a point she reiterated this week when she stated, "I can't sit here today and tell you if we had done what I had recommended we would be in a very different position."

Recently, Hillary Clinton emphasized the importance of the current steps being taken to address the threat of ISIL and other terrorist groups in the region, stating: "It's something the president is right to bring the world's attention to and say, whatever the debates might have been before, this is a threat to the region and beyond."

ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes , it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy, "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her

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work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted inincreased investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia , Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/4/2016 4:02:57 AM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: What to Watch in 2016: GMF Experts Look at the Year Ahead

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What to Watch in 2016: GMF Experts Look at the Year Ahead

GMF Experts — January 4, 2016

2015 was a tumultuous year for the transatlantic partners. The refugee crisis, terrorist attacks, Russian aggression, and economic issues dominated discussions on both sides of the Atlantic in ways that would have been difficult to predict at the start of the year. What will 2016 bring? More of the same? Or are new issues lurking in the wings, waiting to make an appearance on the transatlantic stage?

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Subject:	Upcoming Events: Sen. Fischer on FCC Regulations and Sen. McCain on American Foreign Policy and World Affairs

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Date: 5/24/2015 3:38:53 AM
Subject: H4A News Clips 5.24.15

H4A Press Clips

May 24, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Hillary Clinton took questions for reporters Friday for the second time in a week, commenting on the State Department's disclosure of emails related to the 2012 attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. Mrs. Clinton has been publicly calling for the release of her emails by the State Department, and said on Friday that she'd like them to be released even faster.

On Thursday, the campaign announced its big kick-off rally, where Clinton will address supporters with a big-picture speech about her candidacy and her vision for the future.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Takes Questions Again and Addresses Emails // NYT // Jess Bidgood - May 23, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton took questions for reporters Friday for the second time in a week, commenting on the State Department's disclosure of emails related to the 2012 attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya.

"I'm glad the emails are starting to come out," Mrs. Clinton said at a campaign event in Hampton, N.H. "This is something that I've asked to be done, as you know, for a long time. And those releases are beginning. I want people to be able to see all of them."

The State Department made public 296 emails related to the attacks, which had been stored on Mrs. Clinton's private email server. Republicans have attacked Mrs. Clinton's use of personal email during the time she was secretary of state, suggested she was trying to hide her correspondence.

Mrs. Clinton has been publicly calling for the release of her emails by the State Department, and said on Friday that she'd like them to be released even faster. She noted that one of the emails was just declared classified. The email, forwarded to her by her deputy chief of staff, Jake Sullivan, involved reports of arrests in Libya of possible suspects in the attack, and was not considered classified at the time.

At the event in New Hampshire, Mrs. Clinton said, "I'm aware that the FBI has asked that a portion of one email be held back. That happens in the process of Freedom of Information Act responses. But that doesn't change the fact that all of the information in the emails was handled appropriately."

Mrs. Clinton made the remarks at the Smutty nose Brewing Company, where she led a round-table discussion on American small businesses.

As the event wound down, reporters crowded around Ms. Clinton when she posed for selfies with those in attendance. And then, to the surprise of some who have grown accustomed to Ms. Clinton keeping her distance from the press in her nascent campaign, she took questions.

In response to a question about Iraq, Mrs. Clinton said she agrees with American military strategy there and she did not allude to recent victories by the Islamic State in Ramadi, Iraq, and Palmyra, Syria.

"I basically agree with the policy that we are currently following, and that is American air support is available, American intelligence and surveillance is available, American trainers are trying to undo the damage that was done to the Iraqi army by former Prime Minister Maliki," Mrs. Clinton said. She added, "There is no role whatsoever for American soldiers on the ground to go back other than in the capacity as trainers and advisers."

And she had a curt response to a question about whether Americans trust her on Benghazi:

"I'm going to let Americans decide that," said Mrs. Clinton, before aides whisked her away.

The emails siphoned attention from the intended theme of the day. During her small-business roundtable, which lasted about an hour, Mrs. Clinton discussed economic opportunities for the middle class, declaring at one point, "I want to be the small business president."

Mrs. Clinton also used the event to highlight her support for the Export-Import bank, which guarantees loans for American

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exports and which faces opposition from congressional Republicans – including some of the presidential candidates – as it nears a deadline for reauthorization.

"It is wrong that Republicans in Congress are now trying to cut off this vital lifeline for American small businesses," said Mrs. Clinton. "It's wrong that candidates for president who really should know better are jumping on this bandwagon."

She also, briefly, seemed to lose track of where she was. "Here in Washington, we know that, unfortunately, the deck is still being stacked for those at the top," Mrs. Clinton said.

Mrs. Clinton has a long history in New Hampshire — she won the 2008 primary here before going on to lose the Democratic nomination to Barack Obama — and some audience members arrived here carry ing relics from trips Mrs. Clinton made to the state in the 1990's during her husband's candidacy and presidency.

David Schwartz, an 58-year-old attorney, had in his pocket a photograph of himself and Mrs. Clinton that he said was taken by Bill Clinton when he was a presidential candidate in 1992. Mr. Schwartz, who works with lenders, is a Republican, but said he would consider supporting Mrs. Clinton because the issue of small business loans is important to him.

Mr. Schwartz compared his photograph to a framed one held by Lincoln Soldati, 66, a defense lawyer. The image showed Mr. Soldati in conversation with Mrs. Clinton when she paid a visit to the University of New Hampshire at some point in the 1990s, and he said he was thrilled that she has returned.

"I don't believe there's ever been anybody running for president that is more qualified than she is," said Mr. Soldati, who is a Democrat.

On policy, Clinton plays it safe // Politico // Annie Karni - May 23, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. — Hillary Clinton's approach to policy, so far, has been as risk-averse as her media strategy.

On the trail, she prefers the safe hav en of the controlled roundtable setting, and for the most part avoids taking questions from the press. And when it comes to the issues she wants to talk about, Clinton sticks with those that are either so broadly popular as to present no threat to her brand or general-election prospects, or so small-bore as to carry little chance of backlash.

On Friday in New Hampshire, Clinton spoke with a passionate, progressive voice, pounding away at Republicans for "jumping on the bandwagon" to kill the Export-Import Bank, whose authorization in Congress is set to expire June 30. It was a safe call, to say the least: House Democrats support the bank. Moderate Democrats such as Sen. Chuck Schumer support the bank. A liberal like Sen. Elizabeth Warren? She's pro-bank, too.

"It is wrong that Republicans in Congress are now trying to cut off this vital lifeline for American small businesses," said Clinton, at the SmuttyNose Brewery in Hampton. Republicans, she said, would threaten the livelihoods of American workers rather than "stand up to the Tea Party and talk radio. It's wrong, it's embarrassing."

Weighing in forcefully on an issue where her outlook matches that of the majority of her party was right in line with Clinton's posture on many policy issues during this first phase of her campaign.

In her month and a half on the trail, Clinton has spoken in broad terms that give her the appearance of sometimes channeling Sen. Elizabeth Warren and championing the left — in the case of her appearance at SmuttyNose Brewery, sticking up for small businesses and bashing the GOP.

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She sounds like she's wrapping her arms around the progressive wing of her party while alienating few. She uses rhetoric that sounds Warren-esque ("The deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top") while being vague about details of how precisely she would address the problem.

One Democratic strategist described Clinton's positioning as a "head fake, making the general audience of the left think she's one of them."

The risk is that Clinton plays into the stereotype that she is a cautious and poll-driven politician more inclined to appease rather than lead. In an op-ed in the Portsmouth Herald Friday, Sen. Marco Rubio knocked Clinton for playing it safe and feeling no pressure to "offer new ideas."

Clinton campaign advisers, meanwhile, argue that her positioning is not a strategy at all, but rather a sincere reflection of her record of fighting for the middle-class.

"The campaign is built on that record and consistent with the values Hillary Clinton has always championed," spokesman Jesse Ferguson said. "It's not about left or right, it's about the values Hillary Clinton believes in and the fight she is continuing to wage."

But the issues her advisers cite tend to be broadly accepted Democratic chestnuts. Clinton has said same-sex marriage should be a constitutional right; the minimum wage should be raised; the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision should be overturned to remove big money out of politics; community college should be free; police departments should be equipped with body cameras; what works in Obamacare should be extended and the high cost of prescription drugs should be lowered; paid family leave should be instituted; effective treatment should be provided for those who suffer from mental health and substance abuse problems.

Some of her stances, such as that on same-sex marriage, represent an evolution from where she has been in the past. But overall, Clinton has not supported progressive positions where she would have to stick her neck out from where the majority of her party is.

Moderate Democrats have taken note. "She's being smart by checking the boxes on progressive issues that have wide appeal across the party, but keeping her general election powder dry by not going too far to the left," said Jonathan Cowan, president of Third Way, a think tank started by former Clinton administration staffers.

Nonetheless, she's succeeded in giving the impression of moving to the left.

The right-wing America Rising PAC has already accused Clinton of "staking out far-left positions that are outside of the mainstream of most Americans." Even some of her biggest donors claim they see a shift.

"I think she is moving a little bit to the left and I think that's fine," hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, who recently hosted a fundraiser for Clinton, said in a television interview with Bloomberg. "People who are giving money to her understand that."

But supporting universal pre-k and reforming student loans are hardly bold positions for Democrats in 2015 — instead, Democratic strategists argued, they act as liberal stalking horse issues that allow a candidate to appear boldly progressive while risking little.

A real sign that Clinton was tacking left would be a call for a single-payer healthcare system, or a promise to break the country's large banks, or returning to a higher income-tax rate on everyone making more than $1 million a year. Clinton is unlikely to take those positions, and so far has not offered those kinds of specifics.

Indeed, as Vox.com's Jonathan Allen pointed out, 91 percent of voters said they favored police officers wearing body cameras, according to a Pew poll from last year. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll from April showed that 58 percent of

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respondents favor legalizing same-sex marriage. And 57 percent of voters support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who live in this country, according to a CBS/New York Times poll from earlier this month.

On those issues that could be potentially costly to her — like weighing in on President Obama's trade deal or the Keystone XL Pipeline— Clinton has notably refused to weigh in.

"Her strategy: alienate no one," said Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf. "Give the left of the Party no reason to criticize. Rhetoric works better than detail. Rhetoric you can change or edit. Details are difficult to erase."

Details, such as how much she would like to raise the minimum wage, have yet to be shared. Even on immigration, where Clinton surprised many of the immigration activists who in the past had protested her speeches, some are still waiting eagerly for specifics. Clinton has yet to outline how, legally, she would be able to institute any policy that would go beyond where Obama went with an executive action to let millions more undocumented immigrants gain protections and work permits.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton eyes her chocolate peanut butter fudge ice cream Friday during a stop at Moo's Place in Derry, N.H. AP Photo

"Everything we hear now is words on the campaign trail, but the proof is in the pudding," said Javier Valdes, co-executive director of Make the Road Action Fund. "We appreciate that she's pushing the envelope. But the details will matter. We're happy to hear that she's taking that stance but we need to hear a little bit more."

The hope, Democrats said, is that Clinton will soon add specifics to the outlines of policy she has only traced so far.

On Thursday, the campaign announced its big kick-off rally, where Clinton will address thousands of supporters with a big-picture speech about her candidacy and her vision for the future.

Hillary Clinton in Seacoast: 'I want to be small business president' **//Seacoast Online // Erik Hawkins - May 23, 2015**

HAMPTON — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, a former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state, began her day in the Seacoast Friday at Smuttynose Brewery, playing to the crowd of small business leaders gathered for the occasion.

"I want to be the small business president," Clinton said. "Let's make 'middle class' mean something again."

Before she sat down at the forum, Clinton took a 20-minute tour of the brewery with owner Peter Egleston. Clinton called the brewery "impressive."

When Egleston noted his beer is served even in Dublin, Ireland, Clinton said, "It's a small world story."

Clinton received a warm reception in the crowded warehouse stacked high with kegs as the strains of Miles Davis played and she joined Egleston and Joanne Francis, owners of Smuttynose Brewing, along with five other area business owners for a discussion on making small businesses successful.

Clinton's remarks were brief. She said although the national economy is "out of the ditch," the country still has to "stand up and get running again."

Clinton said small business owners' hard work and investments should pay off, and they should feel secure in saving for their children's college and their own retirement.

"The big businesses have a lot of advantages that you don't," she said.

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Clinton also called for regulations to be loosened on community banks to ease lending to small businesses.

Francis, the brewery 's co-owner, said it had been a "white-knuckle ride" securing loans and other money to start the brewery and open a new operations facility in 2014. "It was terrifying, to be honest with you," Francis said.

Panelist Charlie Cullen, of The Provident Bank, in his closing words with Clinton asked her to "please soften (the Dodd-Frank bill) just a little bit," then added, "I think now it's time for a Smutty!"

There were a few eyebrows raised when, while standing in front of prominently placed Smutty nose signs, Clinton began a remark by saying, "Here in Washington ..." The apparent gaffe went unremarked on at the time, though it began circulating quickly online through social media and news reports.

After greeting supporters and taking several brief questions from the press, Clinton departed for Exeter's Water Street Bookstore, for a grassroots organizing meeting.

When asked about the recent release of her State Department emails, Clinton said she was glad the emails from her controv ersial private server were being released, albeit slowly.

"It has been my request from the beginning that they release as many as possible," she said. "I also understand that there is a protocol being followed."

When asked her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership currently being negotiated by President Obama, which has drawn criticism from the political left and perceived to be conceived in secrecy, Clinton was not prepared to take a firm stand.

"I have some concerns about protecting American workers and a level playing field, as well as currency manipulation ... as I've said before, though, I will make up my mind — I will judge this when I see exactly what's in it," she said.

Clinton also said regarding the conflict in Iraq and the setbacks in the fight against Islamic State militants that, "at the end of the thought process, this has to be fought and won by the Iraqis. There is no role whatsoever for American troops on the ground bey ond training the Iraqis."

At Water Street Bookstore in downtown Exeter, Clinton joined owner and town Selectman Dan Chartrand, along with other local Democratic activists and representatives including state Reps. Alexis Simpson and Marcia Moody , Selectwoman Nancy Belanger and Selectwoman Julie Gilman to continue her discussion of concerns facing small businesses.

Water Street filled quickly with supporters, including a group of Phillips Exeter Academy students, who said they were missing a scheduled sports photo in order to catch a glimpse of Clinton. Across the street, a handful of Clinton opponents gathered for a brief time holding signs that read, "Clinton Lied. Four heroes died," and Tea Party slogans, but appeared to disperse quickly.

Chartrand said after the event that Clinton's message about expanding access to capital for small business owners resonated strongly with him, and that although he only truly became politically active in 2012, he was "now a canvasser, through and through."

"Tv e fallen in love with campaigning," he said.

"What I love specifically is that she has a real focus in her economic plan for leveling the playing field for small businesses and community banks," he added. "That's a huge part of the reason I'm supporting her."

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Hillary Clinton has been an official candidate for president for five weeks, and she still hasn't done the thing most candidates do on day one: give a speech laying out her vision for America. Nor is she planning on doing so anytime soon. Politico reports that Hillary's "why I'm running for president," speech, initially scheduled for May, has now been delayed until June, or even later.

There's a reason for that: The speech is unlikely to be very good. Soaring rhetoric and grand themes have never been Hillary's strengths. That's one reason so many liberals found her so much less inspirational than Barack Obama in 2008. And it's a problem with deep roots. In his biography, A Woman in Charge, Carl Bernstein describes Hillary, then in law school, struggling to articulate her generation's perspective in an address to the League of Women Voters. "If she was speaking about a clearly defined subject," Bernstein writes, "her thoughts would be well organized, finely articulated, and delivered in almost perfect outline form. But before the League audience, she again and again lapsed into sweeping abstractions."

Team Clinton appears to understand this. And so it has done something shrewd. Instead of talking vision, Hillary is talking policy, which she does really well.

The Many Measures of Hillary Clinton

If Hillary's struggles with vision go back a long time, so does her passion for wonkery. As a student government leader at Wellesley, Bernstein notes, Hillary developed "a better system for the return of library books" and "studied every aspect of the Wellesley curriculum in developing a successful plan to reduce the number of required courses." In 1993, she took time off from a vacation in Hawaii to grill local officials about the state's healthcare system. In his excellent book on Hillary's 2000 Senate race, Michael Tomasky observes that, "In the entire campaign, she had exactly one truly inspiring moment" but that, "over time it became evident to all but the most cynical that she actually cared about utility rates."

Hillary's handlers have played to this strength. On April 29, she devoted the first major speech of her campaign not to her vision for America, but to something more specific: race and crime. She began with a graphic and harrowing description of the young black men recently killed by police:

Walter Scott shot in the back in Charleston, South Carolina. Unarmed. In debt. And terrified of spending more time in jail for child support payments he couldn't afford. Tamir Rice shot in a park in Cleveland, Ohio. Unarmed and just 12 years old. Eric Garner choked to death after being stopped for selling cigarettes on the streets of this city. And now Freddie Gray. His spine nearly severed while in police custody.

She recounted advocating for prisoners while director the University of Arkansas' legal-aid clinic. She noted the parallels between race and class, observing that life expectancy is declining not only for many African Americans, but also for white women without high-school degrees. And she made the crucial point that because government currently treats drug addiction and psychiatric disorders primarily as criminal rather than public-health problems, "our prisons and our jails are now our mental health institutions."

The speech was not merely substantive. It was authentic. It showcased the real Hillary Clinton: A woman who, whatever her faults, hates injustice and knows what she's talking about when it comes to government.

A week later in Las Vegas, Hillary gave another impressive speech, this one on immigration. In a media environment where "pro" and "anti" immigration often refers merely to how many people America lets in, Hillary turned the conversation to how America treats immigrants once we do. First, she talked movingly about her childhood memories of the migrant farm workers who worked in the fields around Chicago. Then she attacked the idea, common in "pro-immigration" Republican circles, that America should legalize undocumented immigrants without allowing them citizenship. "Today not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship," she declared. "Not one. When they talk about "legal status," that's code for "second-class status." America, Hillary insisted, must see the undocumented not merely as workers, but as human beings.

Sooner or later, Hillary will have to move from policy to philosophy. It may be a rocky transition. And if the Republicans nominate Marco Rubio (which at this point looks like a decent bet), she will face a candidate who interweaves personal biography and national aspiration better than she does. But if Hillary stumbles, these opening weeks of her campaign may offer a template for how she regains her footing. She's at her best talking about America not abstractly, but concretely. She's most inspiring when talking not about what she believes, but about what she wants to do. And she most effectively

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humanizes herself by being true to who she is: knowledgeable, passionate, and vaguely obsessive about making government work. Against Rubio, or any other likely Republican challenger, that identity should provide an excellent contrast.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The New York Times (5/23/15; 1:07PM): Breaking News: Ireland Becomes First Country to Legalize Gay Marriage by Popular Vote

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Va. Democrats hope to use Clinton mojo to improve their own position // WaPo // By Rachel Weiner – May 24, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton needs Virginia Democrats next year. But they need her now.

In what is expected to be a heav ily competitiv e presidential battleground in 2016, Democrats have a more pressing challenge this fall: trying to gain control of one of the state legislature's two Republican-held chambers.

Democrats are within one seat of taking the state Senate. But low turnout in off-year elections tends to favor Republicans, and there is little evidence so far that voters are engaging with unusual enthusiasm.

That's one reason organizers think a little Clinton excitement could help.

That dynamic was on full display on a recent weeknight night in Arlington, when a couple of hundred Clinton enthusiasts gathered at a second-floor sports bar for one of the first campaign meetings in the state.

"Hillary is all about building up the Democratic Party ," Susan Johnson told the crowd, many of whom knew each other from previous campaigns. "What she wants us to do is make sure our Democratic candidates in the state Senate, in the House of Delegates, get elected."

Ginning up grass-roots excitement during off-y ear state elections helps Clinton, too, by starting to build the organization she'll need to win the battleground state next y ear and earning favor with Democrats who might think she is taking her nomination for granted.

Johnson, a elementary school teacher turned full-time political activist, is the one paid Clinton staffer in the state. Since the Clinton campaign launched in mid-April, Johnson has been working to build up a network of v olunteers aimed at sustaining momentum until the real staff comes in. She's held similar events in Annandale and Richmond. Three more are scheduled for Newport News, Ashburn and Roanoke.

Clinton is "extremely supportive of us in Virginia to take this opportunity, while we're building the grass roots for her, applying that grass roots immediately and getting Dems elected this year," Johnson said.

A visit by Clinton in June is being promoted heav ily as a chance to refill depleted state party coffers. Democrats are expecting so large a crowd that the annual Jefferson-Jackson event is no longer being called a "dinner" — the party hopes for so many attendees that a sit-down meal would be challenging.

A spokesman said Clinton will "earn every vote" in Virginia's primary and is "committed to strengthening Virginia Democrats so they win elections across the board in this year and beyond."

Democratic control of the state Senate would be a boon for a close friend of Clinton's, too: Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D). It would give the governor a bulwark against the Republican-dominated House in his final two y ears in office. It would show his clout as a Democratic leader on the national stage. And it would help build momentum in crucial areas of the state for

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Clinton, whose campaign he chaired in 2008.

“The best way y ou can help Hillary is to help elect Democrats to the state Senate,” said Brian Zuzenak, who leads the governor’s political action committee.

The Democrats’ path to that mutual victory won’t be easy, though they need to take only one Republican seat to create an even split in the Senate. (That would give Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam the power to break any tie votes.) Republicans are already mobilizing.

“We’re expecting our targeted races to make thousands of voter contacts each week now, and if they’re not we’re having some real heart-to-heart conversations with them,” said Republican Senate Caucus Chairman Ryan T. McDougle (Hanover).

In only one of the districts Democrats are hoping to flip hav e they consistently won the past few statewide elections. That seat is held by retiring Sen. John C. Watkins (R-Powhatan). Watkins represents both Demo¬cratic Richmond voters who Clinton will be looking to turn out in droves and ¬Republican-leaning suburban areas where she will need to be competitive.

Other top Democratic targets may be harder to win, but they are in swing territory that will be critical in 2016 — Loudoun and Prince William counties, Hampton Roads.

Arlington is now solidly Democratic, but it’s where some of the party ’s most dedicated and well-connected members are based.

Northern Virginia is “the top of the swing, the base of the tsunami that’s going to roll down south and turn the entire state blue,” Johnson told the crowd to cheers.

But the cheering was far more muted when she turned to this year’s races. How many eager Clinton volunteers will turn out, as she urged, at the “awesome parade” in Falls Church on Memorial Day?

Democrats hope many of them will be like Arman Azad, a voluble 17 -year-old who can’t yet v ote but has been volunteering for Democrats for y ears. He took the Metro from Tysons Corner to Arlington by himself and quickly gravitated toward the few other teenagers in a room of 20-to-5 0-something professionals.

Azad got inv olved with the Arlington County Democratic Committee when he was looking for a school community service project. Soon he was a convert, trudging through the snow to help elect state Sen. Jennifer T. Wexton (Loudoun) in a hotly contested special election last year.

Growing up, he says, “I always perceived Virginia as this conservative Southern state.” When he started pay ing attention to politics, gay marriage was banned in the state and the government was embroiled in controv ersy ov er transv aginal ultrasounds for women seeking abortions.

Now, the marriage ban has been overturned in court after the state attorney general refused to defend it.

“It’s just a seismic shift,” Azad said. “It’s kind of cool to be part of that transition.”

Some friends, he said, agree that progressiv e political activ ism is now “cool.” Others are persuaded that it will look good on their college applications.

Maurice Champagne, 34, is way past college. He just finished graduate school. When he saw Clinton’s announcement video, he laughed, because the first story was his own. Like the woman in the video, his mother moved from Pittsburgh to Falls Church so he could go to a school where a 7-year-old wouldn’t get jumped in the halls.

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He volunteered for the Obama campaign in 2008 but was too busy with his dissertation in 2012. The Clinton event Tuesday was his "first step to get back into the real world."

Asked whether he would keep volunteering from now through 2016, however, he was skeptical.

"Until I find a job," he said.

The Real Democratic Primary: Hillary Versus the Media // The New Republic // Suzy Khimm -May 22, 2015

Beth Lilly, 29, remembers the first time she felt like the media was doing Hillary Clinton wrong: It was in 1992, when she was just about six years old, and remembers that people weren't happy about Hillary's chocolate-chip cookie recipe.

The incident was actually one of the most infamous moments of the 1992 campaign. "I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas, but what I decided to do was fulfill my profession," Hillary said. The comment prompted a media firestorm—and an invitation from "Family Circle" magazine to pit her cookie recipe against Barbara Bush's. "The press coverage was just so absurd," recalls Lilly, who's now a policy attorney in Washington, D.C.

It was Lilly's very first memory of Hillary. Twenty-three years later, Lilly sees the Hillary pile-on is happening yet again, and she'll be there to support her. "So her foundation took money. It's kind of what foundations do," she tells me at a recent happy hour for Clinton supporters in Arlington, Virginia.

To the irritation of her biggest devotees, the controversial donations to the Clinton Foundation—and the efforts to tie them to Hillary's policymaking at the State Department—have loomed over the early weeks of her official campaign. Jack Bardo, a young Democratic activist from Arlington, believes "the media is missing the mark" by focusing on such issues. "I wasn't surprised—that's what you'd expect in this media landscape," says Bardo, who supported Clinton in the 2008 primary.

The lack of competition in the Democratic primary has left Hillary's most ardent supporters with the strange task of having someone to root for, without having someone to root against. Her Republican opponents are a distant challenge; the other Democratic candidates are mere speed bumps in the polls. Instead, the most visible threat to Hillary is her own public image, leaving her early supporters with the dual mission of ginning up enthusiasm for her campaign—and pointing fingers at the media for trying to drag her down.

Just a few Metro stops from the White House, the northern Virginia corner of Hillaryland is particularly well suited to the task of flacking for Clinton, full of political junkies, yellow-dog Democrats, media-savvy consultants, grad students, wannabe Hillary campaign staffers, and other ambitious professionals who are old enough to have grown up with Hillary but too young to have been burned out on anti-Clinton mudslinging.

Nate Maeur, 29, remembers seeing Hillary for the first time on TV when he was young. She was advocating for children's rights in Africa. "I remember being glued to the TV as a really little kid, watching her, almost being entranced by what she was saying, what she believed in, because it was exactly what my mother was saying," says Maeur, who runs a workforce development organization. "I'm surprised I didn't confuse my mom for her, and say—'Oh, there's Mom right there.'"

For Clinton's younger supporters—many of whom, like Maeur, were Barack Obama campaign volunteers—their memories of the scandals and pseudo-scandals of the Clinton years are hazy at best, filtered through the soft focus of childhood. In sharper relief for them are the accomplishments that Hillary has racked up since then—U.S. senator, 2008 candidate, secretary of state—which her young Arlington supporters quickly rattled off when asked why they were backing her. "She's going down in history whether people like it or not," says Renzo Olivari, 19, a political science major at James Madison University who hopes to run for office one day. He was still in middle school during the 2008 campaign but remembers watching her speeches at age 12 and getting "emotionally invested" in the Clinton campaign even then.

In Clinton, young supporters see someone who's risen up through the political establishment on her own merits: the ultimate Washington success story. What they missed earlier in the '90s was what Josh Marshall describes as the "Vince Foster moment" that the Clintons had to overcome first:

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For those of you not familiar with Vince Foster, his tragic suicide or the years-long right-wing clown show it kicked off, it is probably best described as the '90s version of Benghazi...It's never enough for the Clintons' perennial critics to be satisfied with potential conflicts of interest or arguably unseemly behavior. It's got to be more. It always has to be more. There have to be high crimes, dead people, corrupt schemes. And if they don't materialize, they need to be made up. Both because there is an organized partisan apparatus aimed at perpetuating them and because there is a right-wing audience that requires a constant diet of hy perv entilating outrage from which to find nourishment.

Hillary's older supporters remember those days all too well and are quick to point out the larger machinations of the anti-Clinton apparatus. "You think of all this dirt that gets thrown out at her every day. There are what, 30 organizations that have been founded to throw crap at her?" says Allida Black, 63, a historian and long-time Hillary supporter who co-founded the Ready for Hillary SuperPAC.

The Clinton Foundation story is almost perfectly designed to polarize Clinton's supporters and opponents along traditional lines. Critics say donations from foreign governments and business interests with a stake in administration policy raise conflict-of-interest questions, but even the conservative author leading the charge on the issue, Peter Schweizer, acknowledges there's no "direct evidence" linking Clinton to any specific quid pro quo deal. Whether you believe there's more to the story than just bad "optics" mostly depends on whether you see it as merely the latest in a long line of trumped-up Clinton scandals that didn't pan out or the newest example of those ruthless and corrupt Clintons flouting the rules for personal gain.

But like many of Hillary 's young supporters gathered in Arlington, Oliv ari doesn't blame Republicans or a "vast right-wing conspiracy." Instead, he faults the media itself for driving the controversy ov er the Clinton Foundation, the Libya intervention, and Clinton's use of her personal email at the State Department. (The New York Times broke the story on her personal email, going off a tip from an unidentified source.) "The media—they're bringing these allegations and these scandals up to see if anyone else in the Democratic side will emerge as a strong candidate and they can go head to head," says Olivari, who hopes to run for office one day. He adds: "That sells, if you put that out, it sells. It's them trying to tailor the election to their own needs, rather than what the election is."

Hillary herself has been keeping the media at an arm's length, taking only a handful of questions from the press in the early weeks of the campaign. And that control—otherwise known as campaign "discipline"—has ev en extended to the upstairs bar in Arlington where her early supporters gathered on Tuesday . I try to talk to Nalini Pande, a health policy consultant who had organized the happy hour in Arlington as a more casual alternative to the traditional house party. But a Clinton grassroots organizer in Virginia offers herself up for comment instead.

Obama's own campaign had a similarly defensive attitude toward the media, but also pioneered new ways to bring his own message directly to supporters without the press. And that's ultimately what the Clinton campaign is try ing to draw on as well: Growing its own grassroots network of support—online and on the ground—that doesn't need external news outlets to carry her message. And ultimately, the need for that ground-lev el enthusiasm that will be a far biggest obstacle for Clinton to overcome than Clinton Foundation-palooza.

The Clinton campaign has been organizing similar grassroots events with paid staffers in all 50 states. It's building not only a base of volunteers for Hillary's campaign, but also a way to push back against the barrage of negative attention in the media that Clinton's early supporters are so frustrated with. "Every day I meet people who are so happy about this in a way that's different," says Black. "This is what you want to get done, not about what y ou're against." After everyone goes home, Pande keeps the cheering squad alive on Twitter: "So excited that the Hillary Happy Hour I planned in Arlington,VA had an awesome turnout! It looked like we had about 200 people!#Hillary2016."

Clinton's NH appearance draws ardent supporters, curious onlookers // Concord Monitor //Casey McDermott - May 23, 2015

The windows were papered over from the inside, and on the door of the Water Street Bookstore in the middle of Exeter, a sign informed customers: "We are closed from 12-3 p.m. today due to a private ev ent. We apologize for the inconvenience!"

For those who hadn't seen the candidate arriv e firsthand, these clues — and the steadily growing crowd of onlookers waiting on the sidewalk outside of the bookstore — were enough to attract dozens and dozens more as the afternoon wore on.

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“Hillary Clinton is inside the bookstore,” one young woman, who waited well over an hour outside of the store yesterday afternoon, assured a friend on the other end of her cell phone. “I’m not kidding . . . I’m sure it’s Hillary Clinton, dude.”

Indeed, dudes, Clinton was there inside greeting an audience of about 5 0 supporters — taking questions and signing books before ev entually emerging to an enthusiastic group. It was her second stop on her second trip to New Hampshire in her second bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, and one that attracted the largest audience of onlookers of any of the events she’s held so far this year.

Earlier in the day, Clinton toured Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton and hosted a roundtable to talk about the challenges facing small businesses. Later in the day, her schedule included a stop for ice cream at Moo’s Place in Derry and more time spent in private events with supporters.

Inside the bookstore, the group included a mix of those invited by the campaign and by the owner. Outside, the group was even more v aried: plenty of ardent supporters, others who were somewhat supportive but not entirely sold on Clinton’s latest bid for the White House, some students from nearby Phillips Exeter Academy, and lots who wanted to meet (or, at the very least, take a picture of) the presidential candidate. One woman held a handmade sign that declared, “We (heart) Hillary!”; another man held a less-enthusiastic sign that played off of Clinton’s supporters’ “Ready for Hillary” rallying cry, “I’m Ready for Oligarchy.”

Two of the students who were waiting outside, Ariana Patsaros and Nicole Don, will be v oting in their first presidential election next year. Both 18 years old, they were drawn to the chance to see the candidate up-close — but they held different sentiments toward Clinton.

Patsaros, who said she’s been active in her school’s Democratic Club, was already a big fan and is hoping to soon intern with the candidate. She only arrived about 15 minutes before Clinton exited the store, but she still lucked out with a good spot.

“Some tall person let me in front of him, and I ended up getting a selfie with her,” she said, adding, “She’s my idol, to be honest. I’m so glad that I had this opportunity .”

Don, meanwhile, is still making up her mind. She said she’s socially liberal, but economically more conservativ e, and she’s paying close attention to candidates’ foreign policy positions.

“I’m torn,” Don said after the event, as the crowd had mostly disappeared and the street returned to normal. “Still torn.”

Unlike her friend, she didn’t get a chance to see Clinton up-close. She picked a spot on the other side of the store, and the candidate was farther out of view.

“I know it’s totally random what happened,” Don said. “Still, it hits you in the gut when you wait an hour and a half.”

Laura Lunardo was passing through town when it seemed like things were buzzing outside of the bookstore. The Exeter resident didn’t stick around with the rest of the crowd, but she said she would hav e liked to see more face-to-face interaction from Clinton on the campaign trail.

“I think there should be more public events. I think she needs to be accessible, and people want to hear some answers,” said Lunardo, who hasn’t yet committed to Clinton but tends to lean toward Democratic candidates. “People who hate her are going to hate her. People who want to try and support her, just tell us what’s going on. And the reporters, let the reporters talk to you.”

Martha Kies was picking up her daughter, Solveig, at school up the street when she saw the gathering on the sidewalk. Luckily for the two of them, they managed to get a place right next to a Secret Service officer and had a prime spot to wave to Clinton when she left the store. Kies, who also leans Democrat, said she’s still “waiting to hear a bit more” before making her mind up on who to support for the 2016 presidential race. In any case, she thought it would be great for her young

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daughter to see the candidate up close.

“If she wins she’ll be the first woman to win,” Kies said. “So we talked about that. It’s exciting for young girls to see that possibility .”

Overall, Kies was grateful to hav e the chance to see Clinton. Still, she said, “It would have been great to have her talk, rather than just sort of make an appearance” outside before leaving.

One of those inside the store with Clinton was Nancy Richards-Stower, whose long history of campaign work in New Hampshire includes an active role in Bill Clinton’s 1992 bid for president. Earlier in the day, Richards-Stower was stationed at the bottom of the hill at Smuttynose Brewery — balancing a giant “Hillary” campaign sign against a tree while holding another handmade sign supporting her.

As she waited to giv e the candidate a warm welcome ahead of the brewery tour, Richards-Stower said there’s no question in her mind about supporting Clinton this time around.

“They’re issue people,” she said of the Clintons, recalling how impressed she was with Hillary during her time campaigning for her husband two decades ago. “They’re issue people and loyal friends, and that’s what I love.”

Now, as Clinton takes on another campaign of her own, Richards-Stower said she doesn’t think the focus on roundtables and priv ate events, over more public ones, will be a problem in the long run.

“There’s being president, and there’s being a campaigner. So which do y ou care more about — that she’s going to be a fabulous president or a fabulous campaigner?” she said. “This is her opportunity — it sounds so trite, but it’s true — to really hear what the struggles are of the normal person. And you can’t get that if you’re standing in front of a thousand people in a big auditorium. You have to get that in a small group. Now, how does Hillary Clinton get to be in a small group? It has to be organized.”

Hillary Clinton says more em ails will be released // Boston Globe // Chris Cassidy -May 23, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. — Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton said she wants more of her private emails as secretary of state to come out faster as she faced the press y esterday just minutes after the State Department released nearly 300 of her messages, many of them on the Benghazi attack.

“I’m glad the emails are starting to come out,” Clinton told reporters. “This is something I’ve asked to be done for a long time. Those releases are beginning. I want people to be able to see all of them.”

Among the highlights of the 896-page email treasure-trove:

• One of her emails about the Sept. 11, 2012, Benghazi attack was upgraded from unclassified to “secret” with 23 words of a November 2012 message redacted at the FBI’s request.

• Clinton appears to mistakenly refer to one of the Benghazi attack victims as “Chris Smith,” though it’s unclear whether she’s referring to diplomat Sean Smith or Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens — who both died. The email asks whether the State Department should announce the death that night or in the morning.

• Clinton asked to “pls print” an article called “Benghazi Was Obama’s 3AM Call,” a headline referencing Clinton’s famous attack ad against then-Sen. Barack Obama during the 2008 Democratic primary.

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• As Clinton recovered from health issues, including a concussion that forced her to miss a congressional hearing, she wrote to two State Department officials attending in her place: “I’ll be nursing my cracked head and cheering you on as you ‘remain calm and carry on!’ ” In a follow-up email, she wrote: “What doesn’t kill y ou makes you stronger (as I have rationalized for years), so just survive and you’ll hav e triumphed!”

Clinton hardly seemed defensiv e about the emails yesterday.

“I would just like to see it expedited so we can get more of them out more completely,” she said.

Clinton held a tightly controlled small business roundtable at the Smuttynose Brewery and answered five questions from the mob of reporters — but none from the 50 people gathered at the inv itation-only event.

Arrows printed on paper were hung up to guide Clinton through her brewery tour, and an event organizer repeatedly ordered a Herald reporter to push back to arbitrary places on the warehouse floor to prev ent any unplanned interaction between the candidate and a member of the press.

“I wouldn’t want you to jump out at her,” one of the organizers warned.

Afterward, Clinton spoke to campaign supporters in Exeter and Amherst, and stopped at Moo’s Place in Derry, where she greeted customers and ordered a “kiddie”-size chocolate peanut butter and fudge sundae with a cow-shaped cookie on top.

“Most excellent,” Clinton declared. “One of my most favorite things.”

Question foreshadows Hillary Clinton’s biggest fear // Boston Globe // Joe Battenfield - May 23, 2015

Only once did Hillary Clinton’s armor show signs of cracking — just enough to rev eal a glimpse into what her cruise control campaign fears the most.

On the floor of a New Hampshire brewery, surrounded by kegs and cases of porter and IPA, Clinton easily batted away media questions until this one got through:

“Many Americans don’t believ e you’v e told the truth about Benghazi ...”

Clinton didn’t wait for the finish to shoot back: “Well, I’m going to let the Americans decide that.”

Just one word, “Americans,” but the annoyance was audible. Clinton, of course, already knows voters will pick her. A remnant from the arrogant White House days.

But here’s the problem: If Clinton is so sure voters are behind her, why is she mostly avoiding them in her visits to New Hampshire? Not a single town hall meeting with unscreened questions.

Clinton is just mailing it in right now, and she really doesn’t hav e to do much more.

During her visit to Smutty nose Brewery, where the general public was kept far away by campaign aides and Secret Service, Clinton didn’t even have to demand “equal pay for women.” One of the invited guests at the “small business” roundtable, Smuttynose co-owner Joanne Francis, did it for her.

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The other co-owner of the brewery, Peter Egelston, who sat on the other side of Clinton, is a stalwart Democratic donor, records show. And FYI, Hillary, he liv es in Maine, not New Hampshire.

It's not uncommon for candidates to pack their ev ents with ringers, but all the others have subjected themselves to sometimes unpleasant questions at town hall meetings.

Not Clinton, yet. She did make a quick stop for ice cream yesterday, posing for photos. And she's finally starting to answer questions from the press — yesterday mostly national reporters who know her. She walked over to NBC's Andrea Mitchell first.

But on those new rev elations that she used her private server for emails in the aftermath of Benghazi, Clinton stuck to script. She wants the State Department to release those gosh darn emails as quickly as possible, of course.

Those answers won't suffice when the campaign gets more heated and more details about the emails surface. That's not even counting potentially more damaging questions about donations to the Clinton Foundation and Hillary and Bill raking in huge corporate pay checks for speeches.

Republicans will get their chance soon in debates to hone their attacks on Clinton, and the most skilled one will probably get the nomination.

And luckily, "Americans" who aren't in the tank will eventually get their chance. And sav vy Granite Staters will probably want to know one thing from Hillary Clinton.

Just what are you afraid of?

Hillary Clinton responds to released emails while in N.H. // WHDH // Byron Barnett - May 23, 2015

EXETER, N.H. (WHDH) -

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton received information on her private email server that has now been classified about the deadly attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi.

The email in question, forwarded to Clinton by her deputy chief of staff Jake Sullivan, relates to reports of arrests in Libya of possible suspects in the attack.

The information was not classified at the time the email was sent but was upgraded from "unclassified" to "secret" on Friday at the request of the FBI, according to State Department officials. They said 23 words of the Nov . 18, 2012, message were redacted from the day's release of 296 emails totaling 896 pages to protect information that could damage foreign relations.

Because the information was not classified at the time the email was sent, no laws were v iolated, but Friday's redaction shows that Clinton received sensitive information on her unsecured personal serv er.

No other redactions were made to the collection of Benghazi-related emails for classification reasons, the officials said. They added that the Justice Department had not raised classification concerns about the now-redacted 1 1/2 lines when the documents were turned over to the special House committee looking into the Benghazi attack in February. The committee retains a complete copy of the email, the officials said.

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It is at the end of a chain of communication that originated with Bill Roebuck, the then-director of the Office of Maghreb Affairs, that pointed out that Liby an police had arrested several people who might have connections to the attack. The redacted portion appears to relate to who prov ided the information about the alleged suspects to the Liby ans. A total of five lines related to the source of the information were affected, but only the 23 words were deleted because the FBI deemed them to be classified.

Roebuck's email was sent to a number of senior officials, including the former assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs, Elizabeth Jones, who then sent it to Sullivan with the comment: "This is preliminary, but very interesting. FBI in Tripoli is fully involved."

Sullivan then forwarded the email to Clinton with the comment: "FYI."

There was no immediate indication that Clinton herself forwarded the email.

While touring the Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton, New Hampshire, the main focus of Clinton's visit was promoting small businesses. She addresses the State Department releasing her emails and said she was "glad" the emails are beginning to come out.

"I'm aware that the FBI has asked that a portion of one email be held back," said Clinton. "That happens in the process of Freedom of Information Act responses. But that doesn't change the fact that all the information in the emails was handled appropriately."

Clinton participated in a roundtable discussion at the brewery, where she said she wants to be the "small business president." She also criticized the Republican presidential candidates for supporting measures to cut government funding that helps small businesses.

What the resurfacing of Sidney Blum enthal says about Hillary Clinton //Vox // Jonathan Allen - May 23, 2015

Old Clinton hands don't fade away. They always resurface.

That's the case with Sidney Blumenthal, the Clinton scandal veteran and purveyor of opposition research who turned up in a trove of Hillary Clinton e-mails at the center of the House Benghazi Committee's investigation into the attack that killed four Americans in Liby a in 2012.

As the New York Times first reported, Blumenthal sent Clinton a big batch of memos about the situation on the ground, many of which she forwarded to other State Department officials and many of which were deemed off-base by the agency 's own experts. According to the Times, Blumenthal was, at the same time, adv ising associates who were trying to win business from the transitional Libyan government Clinton had helped install by pushing for a coalition war to oust Qadhafi.

His pet theories included a warning that the Al Qaeda affiliate in North Africa would use American weapons to retaliate against the U.S. for the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

The emails, which were released Friday as part of a larger disclosure by the State Department, don't provide much texture to Clinton's decision-making on Libya or how she assessed the situation in Benghazi in real time. The real question is what was in the emails Clinton destroyed after determining unilaterally that they did not deal with government business. But the emails released by State do show that Blumenthal, who had no connection to the U.S. government, acted as an unofficial adviser to Clinton on Libya — and that she sent her own aides to chase down his leads, no matter how implausible.

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More saint than sinner

Blumenthal's ability to access her when she was secretary of State is a reminder that it's damn near impossible to be ex-communicated from Clinton's orbit, especially if one has been bloodied defending her and her family in Washington's political wars.

Even after President Obama promised to let Clinton pick her own team at State, the White House drew a line at hiring Blumenthal. That's because they suspected him of peddling the nastiest "opposition research" about Obama during the 2008 Democratic primary.

But he's seen much more as a saint than a sinner in a Clinton world that values loy alty abov e all other traits. That's why his proximity to Clinton didn't come as a shock to people in her inner circle.

He was among her most ardent and v icious defenders during the Clinton White House y ears. Back then, his aggressive tactics included digging into reporters and was frequently accused of pushing negative story lines about officials who investigated Bill Clinton. As a former reporter, he could be counted on to have a view of how to manipulate the press, and, in the emails released Friday, he appeared to take credit for placing a story by Craig Unger in Salon in an email to Clinton.

He's a walking reminder of the bloodsport politics that defined the Clintons in the 1990s.

Longtime Clinton advisers say one her great strengths and weaknesses is that she seldom casts anyone aside. That means she gathers information from a vast array of sources. But it also means political players like Blumenthal who have burned through their good will with many other Washington figures can still gain influence through her.

Blumenthal, who wrote a book about his years as a White House defender called "The Clinton Wars," stands out because he's well known in Washington and because he was e-mailing Clinton about Libya and Benghazi, the very topics at the center of Republican inquiries into Clinton.

The State Department

Some of the dozens of emails Blumenthal sent Clinton on Libya and the Benghazi attack.

But former advisers frequently send Clinton long memos on all manner of issues, from politics and communication to policy. She likes to absorb it all. In that way, and perhaps only in that way, her communication with Blumenthal is orthodox for Clinton. And there's nothing wrong, per se, with him sending her memos. That said, she kept her longtime adviser working for her, against the will of the Obama White House, while he worked for the Clinton Foundation.

Why Clinton won't cast him aside now

Now, there's even more reason for her to hold Blumenthal close: He will appear before the Benghazi Committee. If she cut him loose, he might be less inclined to keep her best interests at heart when testifying.

Clinton gave him a vote of confidence during a Tuesday press conference.

"He has been a friend of mine for a long time. He sent me unsolicited e-mails which I passed on in some instances," she said. "When you're in the public eye, when you're in an official position, I think you do have to work to make sure you're not caught in the bubble and you only hear from a certain small group of people. And I'm going to keep talking to my old friends, whoever they are."

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It is increasingly clear that Hillary Clinton will have to overcome a number of serious voter concerns about her to win the presidency. These challenges have been complicated by the unprecedented position in modern times of not having a real challenger from within her own party.

Though the latest polls continue to show her leading the modest field of announced and potential Democratic candidates, they also show significant declines in her favorability rating and concerns about her honesty and trustworthiness. One of the most troubling findings for her in recent national surveys is that while she leads most Republican candidates in head-to-head match-ups, she runs about even with Sen. Rand Paul and is not that far ahead of several others.

Her strategic problem is that, absent a strong Democratic challenger to duke it out with, questions about various Hillary controversies, her age and the "Bill factor" will hang there to be resolved in the general election against a Republican candidate who has been on the road addressing his or her own image weaknesses.

Meanwhile, the press, which would ordinarily be covering a full set of Democratic candidates, has and will continue to turn its undivided attention to Hillary. And that has a downside. Note, for example, recent criticisms over Clinton not taking press questions for 21 days, getting speaking fees from lobbying groups, the income she and Bill have earned in recent years, and so on. While media attention is a positive for a candidate, being its almost sole focus on the Democratic side has not been easy.

And this could well serve to demoralize Democratic voters. There are already signs of that in the national polls. The Pew Research Center found Democrats far less engaged in the presidential race than they were eight years ago, while Republicans are not. A March survey found just 58 percent of Democrats saying they had given a lot or some thought to the presidential candidates, compared to 71 percent back in 2007. There was no significant falloff in Republican campaign interest.

Indeed, according to the latest Pew survey, Republicans are more positive about the GOP field than they were at nearly comparable points in the past two presidential campaigns: 57 percent rate it excellent or good. In contrast, fewer Democrats (54 percent) are positive about the current group of candidates than felt the same way in September 2007 (64 percent). Not surprisingly, then, an April Gallup poll found 54 percent of Democrats saying a number of strong candidates competing for the nomination would be better for the party, while only 40 percent thought it would be better for a single strong candidate to emerge early.

In the end, Hillary's problems are not with Democrats, who will ultimately back her if she is the nominee, but with the broader electorate. And recent polls showed the impact of the latest round of Clinton controversies.

Gallup found her unfavorable rating climbing steadily—from 39 percent in March to 46 percent in mid-May—which virtually matches her unfavorable rating in Pew's May survey (47 percent). And the April Wall Street Journal/NBC poll added that 50 percent of its respondents gave her a negative rating when it comes to being "honest and straightforward."

The good news for Hillary is that she recovers well. Her favorable ratings have dipped into the 40s in the Gallup rating on a number of occasions over the past 20 years, only to strongly recover into the 60s for significant periods of time. And while voters worry about her honesty, they give her a positive rating for being knowledgeable and having the experience to handle the presidency (51 percent, according to WSJ/NBC) and having strong leadership qualities (65 percent, CBS/New York Times).

From this vantage point, Clinton would be well served at this stage by having other Democratic candidates to absorb some of the torrent of press scrutiny to which she has been subjected. On the Republican side, only Jeb Bush has received anything close to the same focus. At this pace, one can only wonder about the condition of her public image when she starts to take on the Republican nominee.

Miss Uncongeniality // Free Beacon // Matthew Continetti - May 23, 2015

There it was—the classic Hillary charm. Close to a month had passed since the Democratic frontrunner answered questions from the press. So this week, when reporters were invited to gawk at the spectacle of Clinton sitting with "everyday

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Iowans," Ed Henry of Fox wanted to know: Would the former secretary of state take a moment to respond to inquiries from non-stage-managed reporters?

Before Henry was able even to finish his sentence, however, Clinton interrupted him, tut-tutting his impertinent shouting and raising her hand, empress-like, to quell her subject. After a few seconds of talking over each other Clinton must have realized that she had to give Henry an answer. Whereupon she said, slowly and sarcastically: "I might. I'll have to ponder it." What a kidder.

After the photo-op was over, Clinton did take six questions from reporters—raising the total number of media questions she has answered since announcing her candidacy in April to a whopping 26. She committed no gaffes, but unleashed the full blizzard of Clintonian misdirection, omission, dodging, bogus sentimentality, false confidence, and aw-shucks populism. Voting for the Iraq war was a "mistake," like the kind you make on a test; she and Bill are lucky people (that's one way of describing them); Charlotte needs to be able to grow up in an America where every little boy and girl has the chance to go from public office to a foreign-funded slush fund; and family courtier and dirty trickster Sid Blumenthal is just an "old friend" who sent her emails about Libya, where he had business dealings, so that she could get out of her "bubble."

Not much for an enterprising reporter to go on. And for all we know, the ice caps will have melted before Clinton submits to more questions. It's part of her strategy: limiting press availabilities also lessens the chances of another "dead broke" moment, of giving answers that raise more questions. Clinton is busy—raising money, positioning herself on the left to thwart a liberal insurgent, doting on Iowa so as not to repeat her defeat there in 2008. Talking to reporters would be a distraction or, worse, an error. Everyone knows who she is. And interviews leave exposed the most vulnerable part of her campaign: herself. Nor is it like she doesn't have anything to hide. She has a whole lot to hide: her record, her emails, her charity, her brothers, and her friends. Why risk it?

This strategy of press avoidance worked for Clinton pal Terry McAuliffe in 2013 when he was elected governor of Virginia. McAuliffe rarely if ever spoke to reporters, and instead visited with carefully selected businesses and interest groups and sob stories to whom he would nod sympathetically and explain, in the vaguest of ways, how he would make the commonwealth a better, more progressive place. McAuliffe's campaign manager was Robby Mook, who now performs the same job for Clinton. The lesson he must have drawn from his Virginia experience was that the press, at best, is a nuisance and irrelevant to the outcome of an election. Strategic communications, lots of money, television advertising that defines one's opponent as extreme, and the Democratic "coalition of the ascendant" are enough to win.

At least it's enough to win Virginia in a—surprisingly close—off-year election. But treating the press with contempt may not work at the presidential level. On the contrary: It could backfire. Not because voters care about how the press is being treated; they don't. But because the media are exactly that: the medium through which a candidate is presented to the public. Disturb the medium, tic off its individual components, and the presentation may begin to change.

Slowly and subtly, a candidate may find herself shown to be inaccessible, aloof, conniving, manipulative, privileged, elusive, dishonest. The questions she faces might grow more hostile; the investigations into her wealth might widen; interest in her husband's friendship with Jeffrey "Lolita Express" Epstein might sharpen. The message she wants to communicate could be displaced by a media-driven caricature.

Republicans know what I'm talking about. They live with it every day: rising stars that go into eclipse, hidden behind media cartoons. Dan Quayle, Clarence Thomas, Dick Cheney, Sarah Palin, Ted Cruz. The latest target is Tom Cotton—see how a Harvard-educated combat veteran is being labeled an amateur, out of his depth, disruptive because of his efforts to stop the nuclear deal with Iran. Our media are fickle, sensationalistic, anxious, insecure, and petty. They're surprising me with their tough coverage of the Clinton Foundation. Imagine what might happen if Hillary really begins to annoy them.

The assumption has been that the mainstream press will guard Clinton like they did Obama in 2008—avoid damaging lines of inquiry, play up the gender angle just as they played up the racial one. I don't see it happening yet, however. Clinton can't be happy with the way her candidacy has been portrayed in the media, from her speaking fees to her email server to the family foundation. You can't ascribe this treatment to the conservative press alone—though we've happily played our part.

Since Bill first became president the Clintons have held a suspicious attitude toward the media, an attitude the media seem to have reflected back at them. Obama was new, cool, postmodern, suave; Clinton is old, a grandmother, clumsy, a millionaire many times over who has been one of the most famous people in the world for more than two decades. She has none of Obama's edge, his antiwar bona fides, the quasi-mystical importance his followers bestowed on him. No one would have written a story about Obama like the one McClatchy wrote about Hillary on Thursday: "Clinton campaigning in a

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bubble, largely isolated from real people." That's why she has Sid.

The press will no doubt take a different approach once the Republicans choose a nominee, who can then be written off as primitive or corrupt or inexperienced or stupid. I'm not expecting a revolution here, a paradigm shift in the way the media establishment conducts itself. But I am surprised at the way in which Hillary and her supporters dismiss media complaints as extraneous. Bad press hurts campaigns—ask Al Gore, John Kerry, or Mitt Romney. It can hurt Hillary Clinton too. Saturday Night Live is already portraying her as a power-mad robot; think of the damage that could do to perceptions of her over time. And there's plenty of time.

By not talking to the press Clinton has made a strategic choice, as valid as any other. But it may be the wrong choice—in fact it probably is the wrong choice, because most of the choices Hillary Clinton has made since 2006 hav e been bad. She lost the Democratic nomination, she was the top foreign policy official for a president who is widely seen to hav e bungled foreign policy , she joined the ethically murky Clinton Foundation and gav e high-pay ing speeches to business groups despite knowing she'd soon be running for president.

It's the same lack of judgment and mismanagement that would cause her to vote for Iraq, then oppose the surge, then support the troop withdrawal; to do Obama's bidding on Russia, Israel, Iran, Libya; to keep up the pen pal correspondence with Blumenthal; to act unlike any presidential candidate in recent memory. Maybe I'm dreaming, but the press could respond by taking someone who's likable enough—and making her not likable at all.

Silda Wall Spitzer hosts Hillary fundraiser **// Politico // Annie Karni - May 23, 2015**

Call it the wronged political wives club.

Former New York Gov . Eliot Spitzer's ex-wife, Silda Wall Spitzer, is hosting a $2,700-a-head fundraiser for Hillary Clinton on June 1 in Manhattan, from 12 to 2 p.m., billed as "a conv ersation with Hillary Clinton."

In 2008, Silda Wall Spitzer drew notice for standing stoically by her husband's side when he resigned from office after it was rev ealed that he was caught up in a prostitution ring scandal.

The "Hillstarter" event is notable as the former governor — who ran unsuccessfully for New York City comptroller in 2013 and now ov ersees his family 's real estate firm — has ties to Team Martin O'Malley. O'Malley , the former governor of Mary land, is expected to announce his candidacy for president on May 30 in Baltimore, Md., and Spitzer has been in a long-term, committed relationship with O'Malley's spokeswoman, Lis Smith, for close to two years. But Spitzer is now said to be completely out of politics and not expected to donate to either Democratic candidate.

Silda Wall Spitzer has kept a low profile since her divorce from the former governor was finalized last year, when she reportedly receiv ed a $7 .5 million pay out, including the former couple's Fifth Avenue home. She has been a stalwart Clinton supporter, giving $5,000 to the independent Ready for Hillary super PAC in 2013.

On the same day as the Manhattan event, Clinton is also scheduled to hit up a fundraiser in Queens, N.Y. and a fundraiser at the home of longtime supporters Mindy and Jay Jacobs in Laurel Hollow, N.Y., according to a copy of the email invitation obtained by POLITICO.

On June 5 , Clinton will attend a fundraiser at the home of philanthropists Carolyn and Malcolm Wiener in Greenwich, Conn.

Hillary Clinton to Hold Fund-Raiser Hosted by Spitzer's Ex-Wife // NYT // Maggie Haberman - My 23, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hillary Rodham Clinton will hold a string of fund-raisers on June 1, including one hosted by the ex-wife of Eliot Spitzer, the former governor of New York who resigned amid scandal in 2008.

The event for Mrs. Clinton, one of three New York-based events that day, will be hosted by Silda Wall, according to the invitation.

The hosts of Mrs. Clinton's fund-raisers this cycle haven't been particularly noteworthy — most have been longtime supporters, and Ms. Wall is no exception. But Ms. Wall is also the ex-wife of Mr. Spitzer, who resigned after he was caught up in an investigation into a prostitution ring.

Mr. Spitzer is in a long-term relationship with Lis Smith, a well-known Democratic operative who is also a longtime spokeswoman for Martin O'Malley, the former governor of Maryland who is expected to begin his 2016 presidential campaign on May 30. The fund-raising event was first reported by Politico.

Some of Mrs. Clinton's allies still recall with frustration the Democratic presidential primary debate in October 2007 in Philadelphia, when she stumbled over a question about a plan by Mr. Spitzer to allow driver's licenses for unauthorized immigrants. That stumble was seen as contributing to her downward spiral in the polls. Mr. O'Malley has frequently talked about his support for such driver's licenses.

Mr. O'Malley is seen as a potential vessel for more left-leaning Democrats looking for a challenge to Mrs. Clinton within the party. He has been ratcheting up his populist oratory, drawing comparisons to Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a vocal proponent of curtailing Wall Street excesses.

Yet that language is also very similar to how Mr. Spitzer carved out a role on the national stage; he became known as the "sheriff of Wall Street" when he was the New York attorney general. Mr. O'Malley has hired Jimmy Siegel, a Madison Avenue ad-maker whose first political campaign was Mr. Spitzer's run for governor in 2006, and who subsequently worked for Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign.

Mr. O'Malley's aides, meanwhile, have grown sharper in drawing a generational contrast with Mrs. Clinton, who will be 69 on Election Day 2016.

Mr. O'Malley, 52, was a strong supporter of Mrs. Clinton in her 2008 presidential campaign. But in recent days, his aides have signaled that they will point to him as a more future-looking candidate than she is.

Asked about the fact that some Maryland elected officials, such as Senator Ben Cardin, have been backing Mrs. Clinton, and her team's aggressive efforts to corral support in Mr. O'Malley's home state, one of Mr. O'Malley's aides, Haley Morris, gave a statement to the Baltimore Sun that used the word "old" twice.

"The establishment backing the establishment is the oldest story in politics," Ms. Morris said. "If Governor O'Malley runs for president, he'll bring new leadership — not old-guard establishment thinking — to the race."

Mrs. Clinton is holding more than a dozen fund-raisers in different cities ahead of her June 13 campaign kickoff rally.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Elizabeth Warren and Democrats should be down with TPP // WaPo// Johnathan Capehart - May 23, 2015

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Now that the Senate has passed a Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) bill that would fast-track passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal, the action moves to the House where my hope for cooler Democratic heads will surely be dashed. And we will hav e Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) partially to thank for it. The leader of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party has whipped into a frenzy members of Congress who insist on fighting the last war.

Warren was dead set against TPA, which is basically a broad, congressionally approved outline that sets the parameters for the TPP that President Obama is negotiating with 11 other nations. Her steadfast opposition to TPP on behalf of American workers who believe global trade shipped their jobs overseas is understandable. I just wish Warren were telling the truth.

During an interview with Peter Cook of Bloomberg News on May 19, Warren trod her usual path to slam a trade deal she strongly believes is detrimental to the American people. “We’re being asked to grease the skids for a deal that’s basically done but is being held in secret until after this vote,” Warren said in a double-play diss of TPA and TPP. Here’s the thing: nothing’s secret.

Yes, it is secret from you and me. As Ruth Marcus correctly explained, “This is not secrecy for secrecy’s sake; it’s secrecy for the sake of negotiating adv antage. Exposing U.S. bargaining positions or the offers of foreign counterparts to public view before the agreement is completed would undermine the outcome.” But TPP is not secret to Warren. She has read it.

“Hav e you been able to read the deal,” MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow asked Warren during an April interview. “Yes,” Warren replied. She went on to explain that any member of Congress can do so. That is true. The voluminous and changing deal sits in a basement room in the Capitol where members and staff with security clearances can read it. Any member of Congress who wants to be briefed on the emerging agreement or ask questions about what they are reading can call the offices of the United States Trade Representativ e (USTR). According to the folks at USTR, there have been more than 1,700 in-person briefings on the deal. In fact, Ambassador Michael Froman, who is the USTR, has personally briefed Warren on various aspects of TPP.

Now, about Warren’s assertion that TPA “grease[s] the skids for a deal that is basically done.” She used that phrase six times in the 10-minute Bloomberg interview. And she makes it sound like Congress has no and has had no input whatsoever into TPP. Not true. Warren conveniently neglects to mention that every proposal in the deal is and has been previewed with Congress. Or that members of Congress can offer and hav e offered proposals of their own to USTR.

Again, the concerns about the effect another trade deal will have on the American worker are real. The opposition roaring out of the House Democrats is understandable. After 21 years, the bitter aftertaste of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) remains. Shuttered factories and the lost jobs that ensued led many Americans, Democrats and Republicans, to turn inwards to protect their livelihoods. That’s why Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) said in a statement last month that past trade deals “put the American Dream out of reach for countless working families.” Even the president acknowledges that “past trade deals haven’t always lived up to their promise.”

United States Trade Representative Michael Froman (Andrew Harnik/The Washington Post)

But as I read and do my own reporting on TPP, I keep coming back to a reported conversation between Obama and the late Apple maestro Steve Jobs. According to the New York Times, at a 2011 dinner in Silicon Valley, the president asked Jobs why iPhones couldn’t be made in the United States?

Mr. Jobs’s reply was unambiguous. “Those jobs aren’t coming back,” he said, according to another dinner guest.

Froman told me the United States has three options with regard to TPP. The first option is the status quo. That’s the state of play we have now where “those jobs aren’t coming back,” as Jobs said. It’s also a state of play where large companies may see greater benefits to moving operations abroad and smaller ones face a hill too steep to export. And let’s not even talk about the existing trade deals between some of our biggest trading partners that put U.S. firms at a competitive disadv antage.

The second option is implementing TPP. Froman and the administration have argued consistently that unprecedented labor requirements (minimum wage, the right to collective bargaining) and environmental standards (protections for endangered wildlife and oceans) would “level the playing field” for American workers to compete with their counterparts in what would be the largest free-trade zone in the world. “With open markets there, you give U.S. companies an incentiv e to keep manufacturing here and ship goods ov erseas,” Froman said.

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The third option, Froman said, was for the U.S. to sit back and let China set the rules in the region with its own trade deals with nations in the region. China would lov e nothing more than for TPP to fail. According to a story from MarketWatch, China's State Council is "panicky" over the trade deal. The report points out that the Council believes, "Implementation of the TPP will 'further impair China's price adv antage in the exports of industrial products and affect Chinese companies' expansion' abroad...."

"They are working to carve up the market," Froman told me. "Would you rather a world where the Chinese set the rules of the road or we set the rules of the road?" The latter option is unacceptable. With its polluted air and controlled economy that has a seemingly endless supply of controlled workers, Beijing couldn't care less about labor, the environment or any of the other values forming the foundation of TPP. In addition, the geopolitical benefit of the deal is a stronger U.S. presence in the region as a counterweight to China.

No trade deal is perfect. The U.S. won't get everything it wants in the negotiations, but it's getting pretty darned close. And the people's representativ es in Congress have and have always had the ability to see and shape the forthcoming agreement. Once completed, its terms will be seen by all and debated at the Capitol. That's as it should be. But this nation cannot pretend the world and the global economy hav en't changed since 1994. And Democrats cannot pretend that a progressive president who has championed the cause of the middle class and who they have supported for the last six years would negotiate "a bad deal" that further put American workers at risk.

The House needs to pass TPA so that TPP can be completed and move towards final passage. It's not "greasing the skids." In the 21st century global economy, it's a necessity.

7 ways Bernie Sanders could transform America // Salon // Mathrew Rozsa - May 23, 2015

Say what y ou will about the presidential candidacy of Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), but if nothing else, it has certainly introduced some interesting ideas into America's political debate. Considering that the most recent polls show Hillary Clinton with a nearly five-to-one lead over her nearest rival, this can only be viewed as a positive thing.

As Reddit's favorite politician, Bernie Sanders has enormous influence on our political discourse, and his recent policies have been making huge headlines on the Internet. Here are seven way s in which our national discussion on a wide range of issues could be transformed by the Sanders campaign.

1) Guaranteeing free college

In a press conference on Monday, Sanders advocated that the gov ernment fund tuition at four-y ear public colleges and universities through a so-called Robin Hood tax on Wall Street, one that would set a 50 cent tax on every $100 of stock trades on stock sales, as well as lesser amounts on other financial transactions.

More from The Daily Dot: "This death metal band fronted by a parrot is real and it's amazing"

While Sanders' critics are expected to denounce the plan as socialistic, the Vermont Senator is quick to point out that similar proposals are already in effect and successful elsewhere. "Countries like Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and many more are providing free or inexpensive higher education for their y oung people," Sanders points out. "They understand how important it is to be investing in their youth. We should be doing the same."

Although Obama promised free community college for students who qualify, Bernie Sanders' proposed policy shows that with America's burgeoning debt crisis, we need to go ev en further.

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2) Addressing income inequality

In an interview with the Associated Press confirming his presidential run, Sanders cited America's growing income inequality as one of the chief motivators behind his campaign, a well-timed stance given the recent #FightFor15 on Twitter.

"What we have seen is that while the average person is working longer hours for lower wages, we have seen a huge increase in income and wealth inequality, which is now reaching obscene levels," Sanders argued. "This is a rigged economy , which works for the rich and the powerful, and is not working for ordinary Americans."

Sanders has proposed a number of reforms to solve this problem, from legislation that would close corporate tax loopholes to raising the minimum wage above $7.25 an hour, a rate Sanders describes as a "starvation wage." For the working poor, getting by continues to be a daily struggle, and Sanders is fighting to change that.

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3) Regulating Wall Street

If you think Sanders' free college plan has Wall Street concerned, you can only imagine how they feel about Sanders' proposed bill for breaking up banks that are considered "too big to fail." In fact, polls show 58 percent of likely voters agreewith his basic argument that "if an institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist," indicating that merely denouncing Sanders as a radical won't necessarily work for this measure.

What's more, banking lobbyists are concerned that anti-bank sentiment within the Democratic grassroots could push Clinton to the left on this issue. "The prospects of it becoming law are nil," reported one banking lobbyist to the Hill. "But we care about whether this impacts Hillary and whether she'll try to pander to the far left."

More from The Daily Dot: "'The Crow' is recasting its supervillain as a woman"

But for the millions who continue to be affected by the 2008 crash and the effects of the American banking bubble on our Great Recession, it's not just about pushing Hillary to the left. It's about pushing America forward.

4) Legalizing marijuana

Although Sanders told Time magazine that he doesn't consider marijuana legalization to be "one of the major issues facing this country ," his sympathies on the subject are pretty clear.

"If y ou are a Wall Street executive who engaged in reckless and illegal behavior which helped crash the economy leading to massive unemployment and human suffering, your bank may have to pay a fine but nothing happens to you," heexplained in an AMA session on Reddit. "If y ou're a kid smoking marijuana or snorting cocaine, you may end up in jail for years."

He also supports increased use of medical marijuana and takes pride in the fact that no one was arrested for marijuana possession or use when he was mayor of Burlington, Vt. Given the negative impact of three decades of the War on Drugs on incarcerating urban residents at disproportionate rates, particularly black men, this is a policy that is long ov erdue.

Although Hillary has vowed to fight the prison-industrial complex, Sanders shows he's already ready to take the first steps.

5) Fighting free trade

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There is another issue in which Bernie Sanders may push Clinton to the left: free trade.

Although hardly a trending topic, Sanders is a longstanding opponent of international trade agreements like NAFTA that he believes work against the interests of average American laborers. His current target is the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is being pushed by the Obama administration despite the fact that its provisions have not been made public.

"It is incomprehensible to me that the leaders of major corporate interests who stand to gain enormous financial benefits from this agreement are actively involved in the writing of the TPP," Sanders wrote in a letter to the Obama White House, "while, at the same time, the elected officials of this country, representing the American people, have little or no knowledge as to what is in it."

6) Confronting climate change

Sanders' has made no secret of his contempt for global warming deniers. To embarrass anti-science Republicans, he introduced a "sense of Congress" resolution in January that simply acknowledged man-made climate change was real and needed to be addressed. By voting in favor of the measure, Congress would do little more than place itself "in agreement with the opinion of virtually the entire worldwide scientific community."

More from The Daily Dot: "People are freaking out over this photo of a woman being walked around on a leash"

Although the amendment was tabled by a mostly party-line vote of 56-42, Sanders' reputation as an unwavering advocate of pro-environmental policies when dealing with climate change hasn't gone unnoticed. Climate Hawks Vote, a super PAC dedicated to addressing global warming, ranked Sanders as the number-one climate leader in the Senate.

7) Criticizing Israel

If elected in 2016, Sanders would be America's first Jewish president, and that makes his willingness to criticize Israel all the more significant. During a town hall event last year, Sanders got into a shouting match with constituents who were angered by his statement that Israel "overreacted" in its military campaign against Hamas and was "terribly, terribly wrong" for bombing UN facilities.

His stance on Israel could hardly be described as blindly pro-Palestinian, however. In the same town hall meeting, he acknowledged that Israel was in a tricky situation because Hamas was firing rockets from populated areas, but he has no love for Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, distinguishing himself as the first Senator to openly refuse to attend Netanyahu's speech to Congress.

Regardless of whether one agrees with Sanders' views on these issues, the odds are still far greater than not that he won't receive the Democratic nomination next year. In addition to being on the far left in his own party, Sanders is a septuagenarian from a minority background who hails from one of America's smallest states.

At the same time, he is still giving voice to a series of positions that deserve a more prominent place in our political debate. When all is said and done, this can only be a good thing.

Kaine's quest for war legitimacy // WaPo // George F Wil - lMay 23, 2015

The Revolutionary War and the Civil War ended in Virginia, which was involved, by the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, in the beginning of today's war with radical Islam. Now a senator from Virginia is determined that today's war shall not continue indefinitely without the legitimacy conferred by congressional involvement congruent with the Constitution's

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text and history .

Tim Kaine, former Richmond mayor, former Virginia governor and former national chairman of the Democratic Party, represents the distressingly small minority of legislators interested in crafting an authorization for use of military force (AUMF). This is easier vowed than accomplished.

George F. Will writes a twice-weekly column on politics and domestic and foreign affairs. He began his column with The Post in 1974, and he received the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 1977. He is also a contributor to FOX News' daytime and primetime programming.

Kaine's interest in Congress's role in the making of war quickened in October 2002, when President George W. Bush, on the eve of midterm elections, sought an AUMF regarding Iraq, even though the invasion was not imminent. The Univ ersity of Virginia's Miller Center released the report of the National War Powers Commission , co-chaired by former secretaries of state James Baker and Warren Christopher. It recommended a new codification of the allocation of war powers between the president and Congress.

On Sept. 7, President Obama said he was going "on the offensive" against the Islamic State. In August, he had gone beyond the protection of threatened consular staff at Irbil, an emergency presidential responsibility requiring no congressional authorization. When, however, he unilaterally undertook, also in August, military action to protect a dam about 80 miles from Irbil, Congress, with the lassitude of an uninvolv ed spectator, did not express itself. Instead, it recessed unusually early , seven weeks before the 2014 elections.

Such dereliction of duty, Kaine says, is as unacceptable as pretending that the AUMF of Sept. 18, 2001, suffices to regulate presidential war-making discretion in the current context. Lacking both temporal and geographic limits, it authorized force "against those nations, organizations, or persons" who "planned, authorized, committed, or aided" the 9/11 attacks "or harbored such organizations or persons." The Islamic State did not exist then and today is a hostile riv al to al-Qaeda. Even while the twin towers and Pentagon still smoldered, Congress rightly rejected language authorizing force "to deter and pre-empt any future" terrorism or aggression.

While now claiming to need no authorization beyond that of 2001, Obama suggests an AUMF that would permit military action against the Islamic State and "associated forces," which would include any group, anywhere, seeking a charisma injection by claiming adherence to the Islamic State.

Because the definitions of today's enemy and the nature of today's war are blurry, perhaps any new AUMF must be extremely elastic. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) suggests one authorizing "whatever steps are necessary to defeat ISIS. Period." To at least partially immunize the future from today's paralyzing ambiguities about the executive's and legislature's respective war-making responsibilities, Kaine and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) propose legislation essentially incorporating the National War Powers Commission recommendations, as follows:

Unless Congress declares war or otherwise authorizes any "significant armed conflict" ("lasting more than a week"), it must, within 30 day s of the beginning of such a conflict, vote on a joint resolution of approval. This protects presidential power by reversing the presumption of the 1973 War Powers Resolution that inaction by Congress suffices to establish congressional disapproval.

The Kaine-McCain legislation would, howev er, constrain presidents by institutionalizing consultation: The joint resolution would be proposed by a permanent Joint Congressional Consultative Committee made up of the House speaker and Senate majority leader, the minority leaders of both bodies and the chairs and ranking members of the four most germane committees of both (Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Intelligence and Appropriations).

Demographic and geographic factors hav e driv en Kaine's interest in foreign and military policies. When he was born in 1958, 1 in 100 Virginians was foreign-born; today, 1 in 9 is. From its south, with the world's largest naval base (Norfolk), to its north, with Quantico (where Marine Corps officers train) and the Pentagon and associated military contractors, Virginia is, he says, "the most militarily connected state."

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As Obama's war strategy collapses, he should welcome company during his stumble through the gathering darkness. As always, however, his arrogance precludes collaboration with Congress. And Congress, knowing that governing involves choosing, which always involves making someone unhappy, is happy to leave governing to him.

When Kaine began running for the Senate, he says he was warned that he would join "the unhappiness caucus" composed of senators who previously had experienced the pleasure of exercising executive power. He is, however, finding satisfaction, of sorts, reminding the national legislature that the fault is not in the stars but in itself that, regarding the most solemn business, it is an underling.

Democrats' Vanishing Future // National Journal // Josh Kraushaar - May 21, 2015

One of the most underappreciated stories in recent years is the deterioration of the Democratic bench under President Obama's tenure in office. The party has become much more ideologically homogenous, losing most of its moderate wing as a result of the last two disastrous midterm elections. By one new catch-all measure, a party-strength index introduced by RealClearPolitics analysts Sean Trende and David Byler, Democrats are in their worst position since 1928. That dynamic has manifested itself in the Democratic presidential contest, where the bench is so barren that a flawed Hillary Clinton is barreling to an uncontested nomination.

But less attention has been paid to how the shrinking number of Democratic officeholders in the House and in statewide offices is affecting the party's Senate races. It's awfully unusual to see how dependent Democrats are in relying on former losing candidates as their standard-bearers in 2016. Wisconsin's Russ Feingold, Pennsylvania's Joe Sestak, Indiana's Baron Hill, and Ohio's Ted Strickland all ran underwhelming campaigns in losing office in 2010—and are looking to return to politics six years later. Party officials are courting former Sen. Kay Hagan of North Carolina to make a comeback bid, despite mediocre favorability ratings and the fact that she lost a race just months ago that most had expected her to win. All told, more than half of the Democrats' Senate challengers in 2016 are comeback candidates.

On one hand, most of these candidates are the best choices Democrats have. Feingold and Strickland are running ahead of GOP Sens. Ron Johnson and Rob Portman in recent polls. Hill and Hagan boast proven crossover appeal in GOP-leaning states that would be challenging pickups. Their presence in the race gives the party a fighting chance to retake the Senate.

But look more closely, and the reliance on former failures is a direct result of the party having no one else to turn to. If the brand-name challengers didn't run, the roster of up-and-coming prospects in the respective states is short. They're also facing an ominous historical reality that only two defeated senators have successfully returned to the upper chamber in the last six decades. As political analyst Stu Rothenberg put it, they're asking "voters to rehire them for a job from which they were fired." Senate Democrats are relying on these repeat candidates for the exact same reason that Democrats are comfortable with anointing Hillary Clinton for their presidential nomination: There aren't any better alternatives.

For a portrait of the Democrats' slim pickings, just look at the political breakdown in three of the most consequential battleground states. Republicans hold 12 of Ohio's 16 House seats, and all six of their statewide offices. In Wisconsin, Republicans hold a majority of the state's eight House seats and four of five statewide partisan offices. In Pennsylvania, 13 of the 18 representatives are Republicans, though Democrats hold all the statewide offices. (One major caveat: Kathleen Kane, the Democrats' once-hyped attorney general in the state, is under criminal investigation and has become a political punchline.) These are all Democratic-friendly states that Obama carried twice.

If Strickland didn't run, the party's hopes against Portman would lie in the hands of 30-year-old Cincinnati Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld, who would make unexpected history as one of the nation's youngest senators with a victory. (Sittenfeld is still mounting a long-shot primary campaign against Strickland.) Without Feingold in Wisconsin, the party's only logical option would be Rep. Ron Kind, who has regularly passed up opportunities for a promotion. Former Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett already lost to Gov. Scott Walker twice, and businesswoman Mary Burke disappointed as a first-time gubernatorial candidate last year. And despite the Democratic establishment's publicized carping over Joe Sestak in Pennsylvania, the list of alternatives is equally underwhelming: His only current intra-party opposition is from the mayor of Allentown.

In the more conservative states, the drop-off between favored recruits and alternatives is even more stark. Hagan would be a flawed nominee in North Carolina, but there's no one else waiting in the wings. The strongest Democratic politician, Attorney General Roy Cooper, is running for governor instead. And in Indiana, the bench is so thin that even the GOP's embattled governor, Mike Pence, isn't facing formidable opposition. Hill, who lost congressional reelection campaigns in both 2004 and 2010, is not expected to face serious primary competition in the race to succeed retiring GOP Sen. Dan

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Coats.

Even in the two swing states where the party landed young, up-and-coming recruits to run, their options were awfully limited. In Florida, 32-year-old Rep. Patrick Murphy is one of only five House Democrats to represent a district that Mitt Romney carried in 2012—and his centrism has made him one of the most compelling candidates for higher office. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee quickly rallied behind his campaign (in part to squelch potential opposition from firebrand congressman Alan Grayson). But if Murphy didn't run, the alternatives would have been limited: freshman Rep. Gwen Graham and polarizing Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz being the most logical alternatives.

In Nevada, Democrats boast one of their strongest challengers in former state Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, vying to become the first Latina ever elected to the Senate. But her ascension is due, in part, to the fact that other talented officeholders lost in the 2014 statewide wipeout. Democratic lieutenant-governor nominee Lucy Flores, hyped by MSNBC as a "potential superstar," lost by 26 points to her GOP opponent. Former Secretary of State Ross Miller, another fast-rising pol, badly lost his bid for attorney general against a nondescript Republican. By simply taking a break from politics, Cortez Masto avoided the wave and kept her prospects alive for 2016.

This isn't an assessment of Democratic chances for a Senate majority in 2017; it's a glaring warning for the party's longer-term health. If Clinton can't extend the Democrats' presidential winning streak—a fundamental challenge, regardless of the political environment—the party's barren bench will cause even more alarm for the next presidential campaign. And if the Democrats' core constituencies don't show up for midterm elections—an outlook that's rapidly becoming conventional wisdom—Democrats have serious challenges in 2018 as well. It's why The New Yorker's liberal writer John Cassidy warned that a Clinton loss next year could "assign [Republicans] a position of dominance."

By focusing on how the electorate's rapid change would hand Democrats a clear advantage in presidential races, Obama's advisers overlooked how the base-stroking moves would play in the states. Their optimistic view of the future has been adopted by Clinton, who has been running to the left even without serious primary competition.

But without a future generation of leaders able to compellingly carry the liberal message, there's little guarantee that changing demographics will secure the party's destiny. The irony of the 2016 Senate races is that Democrats are betting on the past, running veteran politicians to win them back the majority—with Clinton at the top of the ticket. If that formula doesn't work, the rebuilding process will be long and arduous.

GOP

Ben Carson wins SRLC straw poll **// Politico //Alex Isenstadt - May 23, 2015**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ben Carson won the straw poll at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference Saturday, demonstrating his popularity among conservative activists at one of the party's traditional presidential cattle call events.

Carson, a former surgeon who formally launched his underdog campaign this month with an appeal to the GOP's tea party wing, finished first with 25 percent. He was followed by Scott Walker, who received 20 percent, and Ted Cruz at 16 percent. Chris Christie and Rick Perry tied at 5 percent, with Jeb Bush narrowly behind. Marco Rubio tied with Bobby Jindal and Rand Paul at 4 percent.

Story Continued Below

The straw poll victory doesn't necessarily represent a breakthrough for Carson. Carson and Cruz, both middle-of-the-pack candidates in the early 2016 polls, mounted serious efforts to win the straw poll but most candidates did not compete. They hoped it would give them badly needed momentum as they compete against a sprawling field of better known and better funded rivals. Four years ago here, Mitt Romney notched a narrow, one-vote win over Ron Paul.

The announcement of the results brought an end to a three-day event that has become a mainstay of the party's nominating contest. It drew 2,000 or so activists from around the South, organizers said, with 958 casting votes in the straw poll. It also drew many of the 2016 Republican hopefuls, all of whom used 25-minute speeches at the downtown Cox Convention Center to throw out red meat to the conservatives gathered.

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Rubio and Cruz, who were originally scheduled to make appearances, had to cancel as a result of the ongoing negotiations in Washington over renewal of the Patriot Act.

The three front-runners for the party's nomination — Bush, Walker, and Rubio — did not have a major presence in the halls. Privately, their advisers said they saw little point in investing time and resources in winning a contest without any electoral implications. None wanted to be seen as seriously competing for a straw poll, which would have little upside and could result in an embarrassing loss.

Cruz and Carson, however, decided to participate in a big way. Both candidates had supporters who manned booths, where they passed out literature, took down information from prospective supporters, and encouraged them to cast votes in the straw poll. Carson backers, wearing blue "I'm with Ben" stickers, crowded the halls and invited attendees to take pictures with a life-size cardboard cut-out of the candidate.

"He has a large contingency here," Steve Fair, Oklahoma's Republican national committeeman, said of Carson.

For Cruz — who was initially slated to be the keynote speaker at a Friday night dinner but had his father, Rafael, substitute for him — the organizing surrounding the straw poll was nearly a month in the making. Weeks ago, his top advisers developed a projection of which activists would be most likely to attend the conference and set out to contact them. The campaign would end up calling about 2,000 people throughout Oklahoma, northwest Louisiana, North Texas, and western Arkansas — all areas likely to be heavily represented at the event — and encouraged them to come and register their support for the Texas senator.

The cost of the effort was low — Cruz's advisers estimate they spent only around $1,800 — but they saw a return in competing. By doing so, they made contact with thousands of conservatives across the South, a constituency that could be inclined to support the Texas senator. Several of Cruz's top aides spent the conference roaming the halls and talking to activists and party leaders in hopes of increasing his support.

Republicans are grappling with a similar discussion over whether to compete in the Iowa Straw Poll in August, a traditional measuring stick that has been seen as an early barometer of a candidate's strength in the critical first-caucus state. Earlier this month, Bush said that he wouldn't be competing, saying that it's not relevant. Mike Huckabee also announced earlier in the week that he would skip the Iowa Straw Poll. Walker, the current front-runner in Iowa, has yet to say whether he will participate. For both, a loss in the Iowa event — which carries more political cachet than the SRLC poll — would be seen as a black eye.

The SRLC represents one of the party's major events of the pre-primary season, bringing together activists from the most reliably Republican region in the nation. The 2016 hopefuls who trekked to Oklahoma City, a hub for oil and gas interests, came to speak but also to court influential local political leaders and donors with private meetings. Walker, Bush and Rick Santorum all organized get-togethers in the Devon Tower, the 50-story skyscraper that towers above the city. Christie, meanwhile, held an event for a super PAC that's been set up to to support his anticipated candidacy.

Some Southern leaders are looking to increase the region's influence in the nominating process by altering the primary calendar. A number of states, including Alabama, Texas, and Virginia, have announced plans to hold their contests on March 1 and create an "SEC primary," a reference to the NCAA Southeastern conference. In recent presidential election years, Southern states had their primaries on different dates.

As the conference wrapped up on Saturday, a number of candidates were expected to formally launch their campaigns in the coming days. Santorum is set to launch his bid next week in Pennsylvania, with Perry and Lindsey Graham the week after. Christie, Bush and Walker, meanwhile, are expected to formally launch their candidacies later in the summer.

Chris Christie: The strong, loud type **// CBS News // John Dickerson - May 22, 2015**

OKLAHOMA CITY--Chris Christie doesn't give speeches so much as engage in performance art. How he speaks is as much a part of his message as what he says. At the Southern Republican Leadership Conference on Friday, after explaining his plan to manage the growth of entitlements, the New Jersey governor said he knows that Social Security is a "third rail of

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American politics," but that's why he's meddling with it. "I just grabbed it and hugged it, everybody, because that's what leadership is."

Every Republican candidate has a strong suit he thinks will get him to the presidency. Sen. Marco Rubio says he represents the future, Sen. Ted Cruz says he's the purest conservative, Sen. Rand Paul is Mr. Liberty, former Gov. Rick Perry is running on his Texas record, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is positioning himself to be the general election candidate. Christie's route to relevance will be based on the show he puts on for voters.

Christie faces a steep hill to climb with Republicans. In the latest CBS News poll, 42 percent of Republicans said they would never vote for him. That's higher than any other candidate. What makes matters worse is that Christie is among the most well-known candidates in the field. That means unlike Gov. Scott Walker, who is still making a first impression with many primary-goers, voters already have opinions about Christie.

As Mom told us, it's hard to get a second chance to make a first impression. Christie is trying a variety of gambits anyway, including informing voters about his record, using the word conservative a lot, and unveiling policy proposals. But all of it is less important than the way he conveys the information.

Christie starts his remarks in his typical stump speech by talking about his bluntness, the product of his Irish and Italian parents. He tells the story of his mother, who instructed bluntness and truth-telling from an early age. This could be defensiveness--Jeb Bush starts by talking about his father and brother to clear the air, proclaims his love of family but also his independence, and moves on--but Christie has designed his speech and his entire performance around this bluntness. "I didn't run for governor of New Jersey to be elected prom king," said Christie in New Hampshire last month. "I'm not looking to be the most popular guy in the world. I'm looking to be the most respected one."

The message isn't just what you see is what you get, but what you see is what you want. On no issue is this clearer than national security, where Christie, like all Republican candidates, is preaching strength as the antidote to the weakness President Obama has shown. When Christie makes his strength pitch, it's not about his plan for destroying ISIS, restoring U.S. influence in Asia, or countering Vladimir Putin with a stronger NATO. It's about how he talks. "People say lots of different things about me, but they never say that I'm misunderstood, and they never say that I'm unclear. And no one around the world will doubt the resolve of the American people, doubt our strength ... because I will say it directly, whether I'm saying it to a friend or an adversary." In the strength in foreign policy contest, Christie hopes that showing is better than telling.

Will Christie's rhetorical feats of strength work? It was working on some of the members of the audience who listened to him on Friday. "I wasn't fond of him when I came into the room, and he changed my opinion," said Ben Ross, 67, of Oklahoma City. "I didn't like the way he responded to the tragedy of Hurricane Sandy. That hit me the wrong way, but these wounds healed, based on what he said." Dane Trout of western Oklahoma stood outside the convention hall after Bush spoke and compared the two men: "Chris Christie had further to go with me than Jeb Bush, and he did that."

Christie's performance is pleasing to the crowd in a party craving strength after the Obama years, but the question is whether any of the conversions he performed on voters are permanent. If so, those grim poll numbers can be improved. Then he's got to find a way to get himself in front of every possible voter he can.

At the end of his strong-man act, Christie returned to the story of his mother. On her deathbed she told him that because they had been frank with each other their whole lives, there was nothing left to say, and he should go back to work. Strong stuff.

A Rubio campaign blueprint, for all the world to see // WaPo // Dan Balz - May 23, 105

It isn't often that a presidential campaign blueprint comes packaged between covers and available in bookstores and online for all to see. But that's the inescapable conclusion from looking through the pages of the book entitled, "2016 and Beyond," by Republican pollster Whit Ayres.

Ayres is one of his party's leading analysts. He also happens to be the pollster for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.). The new book is subtitled, "How Republicans Can Elect a President in the New America." If not exactly the strategy memo for a Rubio campaign, it's a good proxy.

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Dan Balz is Chief Correspondent at The Washington Post. He has served as the paper's National Editor, Political Editor, White House correspondent and Southwest correspondent.

Ayres's demographic analysis looks at the issue of a changing America from the perspective of the growing minority population (and his party's weaknesses there) and the majority white population (and his party's strengths and limitations there). His argument is straightforward: To win the White House, Republicans must systematically improve their performance among minorities while maintaining or even improving their support among white voters.

In an electorate in which the white share of the vote was 72 percent, President Obama won reelection in 2012 despite losing the white vote by a bigger margin than any winning Democrat in the past. The white share of the electorate in 2016 will be a point or two smaller.

Based on estimates of the composition of the 2016 electorate, if the next GOP nominee wins the same share of the white vote as Mitt Romney won in 2012 (59 percent), he or she would need to win 30 percent of the nonwhite vote. Set against recent history, that is a daunting obstacle. Romney won only 17 percent of nonwhite voters in 2012. John McCain won 19 percent in 2008. George W. Bush won 26 percent in 2004.

Sen. Marco Rubio, who's running for president in 2016, is known for his stances on immigration and tax reform. Here's the Florida Republican's take on Obamacare, the Islamic State and more, in his own words.

Put another way, if the 2016 nominee gets no better than Romney's 17 percent of the nonwhite vote, he or she would need 65 percent of the white vote to win, a level achieved in modern times only by Ronald Reagan in his 1984 landslide. Bush's 2004 winning formula — 26 percent of the nonwhite vote and 58 percent of the white vote — would be a losing formula in 2016, given population changes.

Ayres also points out that the GOP's support among whites is not evenly distributed across the country. He notes that Romney won "overwhelming margins" among whites in conservative southern states, but won fewer than half the white vote in northern states such as Maine, Vermont, Iowa, New Hampshire and Oregon. More importantly, Romney won fewer white votes than he needed in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

To Ayres, this isn't an either-or choice for the GOP. As he puts it, "For Republicans to become competitive again in presidential elections, Republican candidates must perform better among whites, especially in the overwhelmingly white states of the upper Midwest, and much better among minorities."

The coming Republican nomination contest will test the appeal of the candidates with both groups of voters. Is there any one candidate who can raise the share of the nonwhite vote and attract more white votes in the Midwest?

When I put that question to Ayres, he said yes, with this caveat: "If that candidate can relate to people who are struggling economically and relate to people who have been disadvantaged by a remarkably changing economy."

Ayres addresses immigration at length, seeking to debunk those in his party who say Hispanics will always vote overwhelmingly for Democrats or those who say there are more than enough white voters who stayed home in 2012 to make up the deficit by which Romney lost.

He lists any number of GOP candidates who have won significant portions of Hispanic voters in state races and includes an interesting table that shows that, even if all the "missing white voters" had turned out in 2012, and Romney had won them all, "he still would have lost the election."

Much of Ayres's book is an examination of public opinion on a range of issues. His conclusion is that, on the key issue of the role and size of government, the country is center-right, not center-left. On debt and deficit, he argues that a Republican candidate is on solid ground talking about both, as long as he or she doesn't make it all about the numbers and instead links

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it to policies to stimulate more economic growth.

He sees cultural hot buttons of abortion and same-sex marriage as separable. On abortion, he argues that Americans are and will remain “torn about the morality” of the issue and sees no particular downside for the GOP to remain the antiabortion party, as long as candidates talk about it with sensitiv ity.

On same sex marriage, he concludes that the political debate is over, that public opinion has made a decisive shift. But he acknowledges that changing the party ’s position will be wrenchingly difficult and sketches out some do’s and don’ts for those opposed, including not advocating federal interv ention to ov erturn same-sex marriages adopted through referendums or legislative action.

Ayres urges Republicans to set aside their satisfaction over their big victories in 2010 and 2014 and focus on the reasons they have fallen short in the past two presidential campaigns. He reminds them that deepening their hold on state and local offices in red states is no indicator of their presidential prospects.

In one example, he looks at the dominance of the Republican Party at the state level in states that Romney won in 2012. The party holds between 53 percent and 87 percent of the state senate seats in those places, according to Ayres’s calculations. Some Republicans, he argues, look at those numbers and say, what’s the problem? But Ayres notes that those states still leav e the Republicans short of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

Ayres said he wrote and published the book before Rubio made a final decision to run for president and said he hoped it would be a blueprint not just for Rubio but for any of the candidates running in 2016. What the party needs, he said, is a candidate who will prompt people who have not voted for the Republicans in the past to consider doing so in 2016 rather than one who offers modifications in message.

“It’s more a matter of not nominating a candidate who looks like the same old, same old, but who looks like a fresh start for the party century,” he said in a phone interview Friday. “It’s bigger than this position or that position. Republicans have got to nominate a transformational candidate because the country has changed more than most of us realized, even in the last 12 years.”

Rubio will choose to run as he sees fit, but the similarities between what he already is saying and doing and what Ay res lays out in his book are striking. The interest in a Rubio candidacy clearly exists within the party for the reasons Ayres outlines. But there is a large leap from the pages of a pollster’s book to the rigors of a presidential campaign. Ayres has offered the road map. Now comes the road test of whether the candidate can deliver.

Rick Santorum’s got a point: Nothing helps poll numbers like winning // WaPo // Philip Bump - May 23, 2015

When Fox News announced on Wednesday that it would limit participation in the first debate of the Republican calendar to the top 10 candidates in national polling, it was instantaneously obv ious that there would be friction.

And sure enough, within 24 hours Rick Santorum (who would not make the top-ten cut, if it were today) offered a complaint. But a good one.

"In January of 2012," he said at a conference in Oklahoma, "I was at 4 percent in the national polls, and I won the Iowa caucuses. I don't know if I was last in the polls, but I was pretty close to last."

He was not last in polls. He was indeed close to last -- at least in Real Clear Politics' polling average.

2012 was different in a lot of ways. (For example, Santorum would have been included in a debate using Fox's rules at that point.) But the more interesting point is: Look what happened to his poll numbers afterward. Within day s, he shot up over 15 percent support, and never fell below that level again. Later in the campaign, though, his numbers jumped again --

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this time after winning majorities in the Colorado and Minnesota primaries.

From Jan. 3, the date of the Iowa caucus, to March 3, the last contest before Super Tuesday, the winner of each contest went into the next one doing better in the polls.

That makes sense, certainly . Losing candidates drop out and support moves around, for one thing. But also, people gravitate toward candidates they think might actually win. Before Iowa, most people probably wouldn't have included Santorum. Afterward, they would.

Santorum's immediate point was, expand the univ erse of participants in the debates, because you nev er know. But he actually did more to undermine his point. Santorum was in all of the debates and still only polled at 4 percent. The debates didn't do much. It took winning to actually make his mark on those numbers.

Kasich May Miss Cut in Ohio Debate **// RCP // Rebecca Berg - May 22, 2015**

The 10-candidate cap set by Fox News for the first Republican debate has raised the awkward possibility that a state's sitting governor could be excluded from a forum held on his home turf.

The Aug. 6 debate will be in Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena, the same venue that will host the Republican National Convention in July 2016. But only the candidates who rank in the top 10 in national polling will be invited to the Fox News forum, the network announced Wednesday — meaning Ohio Gov. John Kasich might not make the cut.

In public, Kasich's allies are expressing confidence that he will meet the threshold come August.

"We believe that if Gov. Kasich decides to run, he will be on the stage in Cleveland," said Chris Schrimpf, a spokesman for the Ohio Republican Party.

But Kasich, who is thought to be laying the groundwork for a campaign, although he has not announced his candidacy , currently scores just 2 percent in the RealClearPolitics national polling average, putting him outside of the top 10 candidates.

Now, behind the scenes, it is his political team's "top focus to try and get him in the debate," said a Republican operative with ties to Kasich.

"It would just be flat-out embarrassing if he didn't meet the top 10 threshold in his home state," the operativ e said.

That objective poses an unusual strategic challenge. Normally , candidates focus their spending during the primary solely on winning the key states on the path to the party's nomination. But national polls can be influenced by purchasing ads on national television — and candidates on the bubble for debates will need to decide whether to splurge on that advertising.

Kasich is not the only candidate who may face this dilemma: Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, former New York Gov. George Pataki, former Sen. Rick Santorum and Sen. Lindsey Graham could also be vying for the tenth slot come August.

But the stakes are perhaps more personal for Kasich, who lobbied hard to bring the Republican National Convention to Cleveland — and now might be blocked from debating in the very venue that will later host the convention.

In spite of the potential awkwardness and the obstacles the debate format will present to lower-tier candidates, the Republican National Committee has nevertheless thrown its full weight behind Fox's decision.

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“We support and respect the decision Fox has made, which will match the greatest number of candidates we have ev er had on a debate stage,” RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said after Fox announced its criteria.

The RNC decided it would leave it to each debate’s host to decide the threshold candidates must meet to participate, meaning each debate will be handled differently. While Fox News will limit its August debate stage to 10 candidates, CNN will divide its September primary debate into two stages: the first for the top 10 candidates and the second for the remainder.

“They asked for input and ideas,” said Steve Duprey , a New Hampshire committeeman and chairman of the RNC’s 2016 debate committee. “Our input was to make the debates as inclusiv e as you can.”

Although Kasich has not yet commented publicly on the Fox News debate configuration, other Republican candidates who might be left out have begun to make noise

Santorum, who barely registered in national polling at the start of the 2012 Republican primary contest, but went on to place second to Mitt Romney, told the National Journal on Thursday that the debate thresholds are "arbitrary" and "not legitimate."

“Hopefully they put it out there and they're going to listen to what the comments are, and factor those in, and determine what is the right way,” Santorum said.

In a conciliatory gesture, Fox News host Greta Van Susteren invited those candidates who do not make the network’s debate to appear on her show that same evening.

But then, Kasich would giv e up his a home-field advantage for a smaller stage — an outcome his team will be working to avoid.

Ten Is Too Few // Weekly Standard // Jay Cost - June 1, 2015

Last week, Fox News announced its guidelines for the first debate among presidential contenders endorsed by the Republican National Committee (RNC). The network plans to inv ite the top 10 candidates, with the ranking determined by an average of the five most recent national opinion polls before the August 6 ev ent. This is similar to the approach it has taken in previous cycles.

Following historical precedent is often smart. In addition, using a hard-and-fast metric, like a candidate’s poll position, is better than subjective criteria to determine whether a candidate is “serious.”

However, Fox has adopted the wrong approach, and the RNC is wrong to endorse it. Several problems stand out:

* The “margin of error” in polling does not disappear when one averages polls together. For instance, five polls with 750 respondents apiece would still y ield a margin of error of about 1.5 points. That may not seem like much, but it could be trouble early in the cycle. What if the candidate in 10th place is polling at 4 percent on average, while the 11th-place candidate is at 3.5 percent? Statistically speaking, there is no difference between the two, yet one would be included while the other would be left out.

* Polls have been misbehaving of late. They were wildly wrong in Britain and Israel, and they were wide of the mark in our 2014 midterms. Worse, there has been evidence of what Harry Enten of Fiv eThirtyEight calls “herding”: pollsters producing results that closely mimic one another, but not what is happening in the real world.

* Polls simply do not tell us v ery much so early in the cycle. Voters are hardly pay ing attention, which means their opinions can be arbitrary and easily changed. We saw this in both the 2008 and 2012 GOP nomination battles, where the primary debates rapidly moved public opinion. Why should pre-debate polls carry any weight?

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* There is no meaningful separation between the candidates yet. The Real Clear Politics polling av erage has Jeb Bush in first place, with 15 percent, and John Kasich in 11th place, at 2 percent. A 13-point gap is insubstantial in the early days of a presidential campaign cycle. Just ask President Barack Obama. At one point in 2007 , he trailed Hillary Clinton by 26 points in the RCP average.

* It is not the business of Fox News or the RNC to determine the range of acceptable choices for Republican voters. If this were a typical cycle, with maybe a half-dozen serious candidates, a threshold such as this would make sense. It is the only way to exclude obviously nonserious or fringe candidates. But this is not a typical cycle. If we used the current RCP polling averages, the proposed threshold would exclude John Kasich, Carly Fiorina, Bobby Jindal, and Lindsey Graham from the first debate. These are all serious candidates—two sitting governors, a sitting senator, and a former Fortune 5 00 CEO. Moreover, the RNC has talked a good game about how to grow the party. Does it make sense to exclude a woman, the son of immigrants from India, and the governor of a must-win purple state? Neither Fox News nor the RNC should take it upon itself to decide that such candidates are unworthy of consideration. That task is best left to the voters.

There is no doubt that the RNC faces a logistical challenge with these debates. It is simply not practical to include more than 10 candidates in a single session (and even 10 will be a stretch). However, excluding serious candidates based on statistically meaningless poll positions so early in the cycle is a terrible solution.

There has to be a better way. For instance, CNN intends to hav e two debates, one with “first tier” candidates, and another with “second tier” candidates pulling in at least 1 percent apiece. But this approach still creates an arbitrary and meaningless distinction between who participates in which debate.

Both Fox and CNN should hold more two (or even three) debates, with the candidates divided up by some random selection, including all candidates who meet some basic threshold like 1 percent in the polls or a minimum sum of money raised. It makes sense to apply more stringent criteria later in the cycle; however, there should be a maximally inclusive approach in the early day s of the campaign, without discrimination between candidate “tiers.”

The GOP electorate would surely appreciate this. A recent Pew poll found that Republicans are more excited about this field than their choices in the previous two cycles. It is an easy bet that primary voters would eagerly watch multiple debates.

In fact, the RNC should insist on inclusion. The only way to produce the best candidate to defeat Hillary Clinton is to examine all the credible contenders carefully. This means they all should be included in the debates, even if this means two or three-tiered debates in the early going.

Reform Conservatism Is An Answer To The Wrong Question // The Federalist // Robert Tracinski - May 22, 2015

In less than a year, the agenda of the Republican Party will be pretty much fixed by the selection of its presidential nominee, whose policies we will all feel pressured to get behind, because they will probably be better than the prospect of Hillary Clinton selling the Oval Office furniture to the highest bidder.

So there is a certain urgency for those who are fighting over what that agenda should be. Hence the renewed push by those who call themselves “reform conservativ es.” An examination of their agenda featuring The Federalists‘s Ben Domenech led to an insightful roundtable from some of our contributors. I talked with Ben about it yesterday on the Federalist Radio Hour, and we covered a lot of interesting ground, including the curious way that “reform conservativ es” feel like a bunch of think-tank elites trying to draft a populist platform. This explains some of the disconnect between the ambitious goal of making the agenda of the right more appealing to the common man—and the result, which is a laundry list of technical policy tweaks.

What struck me most of all is that “reform conserv atism” looks a lot like a rebranding of neoconservatism—not the neoconservative foreign policy that everyone has been talking about for the past decade, but the neoconservative domestic policy.

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I remember way back in 1993 opening the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal—we read things on paper back then—and seeing an op-ed by Irving Kristol (which seems to be reprinted here) calling for "a conservative welfare state." His starting point was that it was going to be impossible ever to roll back the welfare state and the middle-class entitlements: "the welfare state is with us, for better or worse." So we might as well make it for better by redesigning "a welfare state consistent with the basic moral principles of our civilization and...our nation."

In practice, this meant that the "conservative welfare state" should provide greater incentives for the moral values conservatives like, such as work and marriage, and it should be made more efficient by introducing "free-market" elements, which usually ends up meaning some form of vouchers or tax credits in place of a centrally administered welfare program. This is pretty much what the "reform conservatives" are offering now as if it were a new idea.

More to the point, this doesn't really count as a reform of conservatism or of the Republican agenda. Offering more efficient and responsible management of the welfare state is the Republican agenda of the past thirty years. That isn't a reform. That's what needs reforming.

Offering more efficient and responsible management of the welfare state is the Republican agenda of the past thirty years. That isn't a reform. That's what needs reforming.

The key premise of this non-reforming "reform conservatism" is the idea that it's impossible to really touch the welfare state. We might be able to alter its incentives and improve its clanking machinery, but only if we loudly assure everyone that we love it and want to keep it forever.

And there's the problem. Not only is this defeatist at its core, abandoning the cause of small government at the outset, but it fails to address the most important problem facing the country.

"Reform conservatism" is an answer to the question: how can we promote the goal of freedom and small government—without posing any outright challenge to the welfare state? The answer: you can't. All you can do is tinker around the edges of Leviathan. And ultimately, it won't make much difference, because it will all be overwhelmed in the coming disaster.

America's real problem is that we have entrenched a set of middle-class entitlements that are about to yawn wide open and swallow the economy. They've already swallowed the federal budget. Non-defense discretionary spending—the stuff left over after entitlements and the military—has been whittled down to insignificance and is about to disappear altogether. Defense spending is still quite large, but not much larger than the deficit. What this means is that most of the money the federal government actually raises in taxes is immediately spent on entitlements, and we have to borrow huge sums of money to pay for anything else.

America's real problem is that we have entrenched a set of middle-class entitlements that are about to yawn wide open and swallow the economy.

It's only going to get worse as the Baby Boomers age and drop out of the workforce at the same time that they massively increase the load on Social Security and Medicare. Greece is the harbinger of our future, as we hurtle toward the point when we've borrowed so much money—and need to keep on borrowing, just to keep cutting the entitlement checks—that it becomes doubtful we can ever pay it all back. Then our creditors start to clamp down and the whole house of cards collapses.

So tinkering on the edges isn't an adequate response. The question we need to be asking is not: how can we reform the welfare state without challenging it? The question is: how can we convince the American people to start rolling back the welfare state? How can we wean the nation off entitlements?

How we can do that is a big topic, and I don't pretend to have any easy answers. But it is at least the right question to ask.

It's also true that this might not give us much guidance for how to win elections in the short term. But that's not what this discussion is supposed to be about, is it? It's not about the crude opportunism of "rebranding" the GOP for the next election cycle. It's about finding a long-term agenda that can help the right define and achieve its goals. "Reform conservatism" looks to me like a great plan for rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. What we need is a plan to show everyone the

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iceberg, point to the clear waters in the other direction, and turn the boat around.

The question is: how can we convince the American people to start rolling back the welfare state?

More broadly, we need a program that would achieve the real, fundamental moral reform this country needs: a rediscovery of personal responsibility, private initiative, and self-reliance. Do you know how you encourage individuals to take the reins of their own lives and make their way in the world, instead of sitting back and waiting for a government handout? You let them do it.

The defeatism is really quite astonishing. We are a people who crossed mountains and cultivated prairies, who built farms and steamships and steel mills, who created astonishing new technologies that altered every aspect of life. That's the story of two centuries of our history. By contrast, the cradle-to-grave welfare state is an upstart experiment that only really took hold in the last thirty to fifty years. Yet we're supposed to act as if that is the permanent, unchangeable, immovable part of our society—while the American as builder, creator, and self-made man is a vision that no longer has any power to stir the soul.

I think that's a short-range, self-defeating approach. It doesn't really reform anything, and the only thing it conserves is the welfare state.

The power grab that destroyed American politics: How Newt Gingrich created our modern dysfunction // Salon // Paul Rosenberg - May 23, 2015

In rolling out his proposal for a progressive agenda, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has repeatedly referenced Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America." On one level that makes sense, since the "Contract with America" is arguably the only example most people can think of where a national political platform of sorts did not come from a presidential campaign. It also played a significant—though sometimes poorly understood—role in altering the trajectory of American politics, and thus it makes sense to reference it when setting out to alter that trajectory again.

A lot of what people remember about the Contract just isn't so, and a lot of what was so is forgotten. It was not a conservative document so much as it was a targeted GOP play for the support of Ross Perot voters (as described in the book "Three's a Crowd: The Dynamic of Third Parties, Ross Perot, and the Republican Resurgence" by Ronald Rapoport and Walter Stone), and despite its poll-driven nature (touted by Gingrich at the time), its late release indicated it was less a play for broad political support than it was for shaping elite political discourse after an election Republicans knew they would win. At its core, it was the very essence of political gamesmanship, even as it paraded itself as a populist attack on the establishment.

In contrast, de Blasio's agenda clearly is a progressive document, and brings together a range of similarly themed aspirations to create a fairer, more inclusive future. His 13 points are organized under three broad headings,"Lift the Floor for Working People," including points like raising the federal minimum wage to $15/hour and passing comprehensive immigration reform; "Support Working Families," including passing national paid sick leave and paid family leave, and making Pre-K, after-school programs and childcare universal; and "Tax Fairness" including closing the carried interest loophole and ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas.

Aside from referencing Gingrich's Contract, other statements de Blasio has made reinforce a very different picture of the core political processes as well as the end goal that he has in mind, as Amanda Terkel reported:

"Obviously the Washington dynamics are broken for all intents and purposes, and history has shown us that a lot of the greatest success I think we've ever seen in the history of American government, in terms of dealing with economic crisis, is the New Deal," he said. "That arrived largely from actions that were already started at the state and local level and were developed into national policies. I think we're in a similar paradigm right now. The local level is way ahead of the federal level in terms of addressing these issues."

While de Blasio's intention is continue and expand the New Deal heritage, Gingrich was opposed to it. Yet, he did nothing to change the basic structure of American political attitudes, which embody broad support for maintaining or expanding social spending programs in practice, even while fitfully deploring it in theory—a "schizoid" state first documented by Lloyd Free and Hadley Cantril in their 1967 book, "The Political Beliefs of Americans." They found that two-thirds of the

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population qualified as operationally liberal, supporting an activist federal government when asked about specific programs or responsibilities, while half the population qualified as ideological conservatives, based on questions about government interference and individual initiative. Half of all ideological conservatives even qualified also as operational liberals. For all the effort he expended, Gingrich did nothing to change this basic situation. What he did do was to significantly aggravate this disconnect, intensifying America's political dysfunction.

The story surrounding how that happened is best told by Rapoport and Stone in "Three's a Crowd." They find a direct relationship between Perot vote share in 1992 and the chances of a GOP House pickup two years later. "Only 2.2 percent of Democratic districts where Perot received 10 percent or less of the district vote flipped to the Republicans in 1994, while 42 percent of Democratic districts where Perot ran most strongly in 1992 switched to the GOP," they write. How much did this matter? A lot: "Had Perot won the same popular vote [in 1992] as he captured in 1996 (8.4 percent, less than half of what he actually received in 1992), we estimate that the Republicans would have picked up about twenty-nine seats over what they held in 1992, leaving Democratic control intact." That's only three seats more than the average number of seats lost by the president's party between 1946 and 1990—a negligible difference. Thus, Perot's 1992 showing was absolutely crucial to GOP success in 1994—the "Contract with America" was merely the primary means for tapping into that potential.

Looking back to 1992, Perot's affinity with the Democrats appeared stronger, once Clinton was nominated. He even withdrew from the race for a time. After the election, however, Clinton alienated Perot and his supporters, most dramatically by pushing through NAFTA, with Vice President Gore publicly debating Perot on NAFTA and treating him disdainfully in the process. Despite the fact that more Republicans than Democrats voted for NAFTA (with Gingrich playing a key role), Clinton's leadership was key, and the disrespect shown to Perot personally was emotionally most resonant. At the same time Clinton/Gore were treating Perot with contempt, Republicans were viewing him like a gold mine:

As the dynamic of third parties suggests, after Perot identified and mobilized a large constituency, both major parties bid for its support in subsequent elections. The Republicans, as the party out of power in both houses of Congress and the presidency, had the greater opportunity and incentive to appeal aggressively to the Perot constituency. Beginning with the February 1993 Republican post-election retreat, a group of Republican leaders, spearheaded by Newt Gingrich and John Kasich, established close ties with Perot and his UWSA organizations. Despite initial reluctance from other party leaders, including Bob Dole and Haley Barbour, Gingrich and his colleagues brought the Republican Party into line behind a Perot-base strategy. Most impressive in this effort was the Contract with America, which reflected both the form of Perot's checklist for candidates at the end of his book "United We Stand America" and many of the same issue priorities of Perot and his supporters, while ignoring issues—such as abortion and free trade—where differences between the GOP base and the Perot movement were sharp.

Although there were some real affinities between Republicans and Perot voters, three sharp differences are particularly illuminating in terms of fundamental deceptions that the Contract embodied. Each involves a matter of principle for Perot voters, which Gingrich and the Republicans adopted purely as matter of political expediency—and even then, not too convincingly. First was the call for term limits. As the minority party, out of power for four decades, it was an easy call for Republicans to adopt this Perot position, except when it came down to actual cases, as reported at the time:

And for some GOP incumbents the contract presents awkward contradictions. Gingrich, for instance, finds himself advocating that no House member be allowed to serve more than six terms–even as he runs for his ninth.

Asked to explain the apparent double-standard on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday, he declined to say directly whether he would step down if the term-limits proposal became a reality.

"The notion that everybody who's for something has to offer to commit suicide in order for you to think they're sincere, I think is fairly outrageous," Gingrich said.

There was a similar strategic logic to adopting the Perot call for a balanced budget. It was, after all, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush who had exploded the deficit like never before, so why not stick a Democratic president with the job of fixing their mess? Especially since it would mean getting Democrats to do Republican's dirty work for them? (Which some had seen as the point all along.) In this case, the hypocrisy wasn't quite so self-evident in advance. That would come after Clinton left office, and George W. Bush quickly plunged the government deeply into deficits once again.

The third point was the matter of congressional reform, two items in particular: the first to "cut the number of House committees, and cut committee staff by one-third," and the second to limit the terms of all committee chairs. While Perot

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supporters saw such measures in terms of making Congress more accountable to the people, Republicans had a much more clear-eyed view of things: it would make Congress more dependent on special-interest lobbyists, who would become significantly more important in the process of drafting legislation.

But for Gingrich personally, there was an additional pay off: it got rid of knowledgeable congressional staffers who readily saw through his grandiose BS. As I've noted before, this has been pointed out by Bruce Bartlett, a top economic adviser to presidents Reagan and Bush I, in a piece titled "Gingrich and the Destruction of Congressional Expertise," where he explained:

He [Gingrich] has always considered himself to be the smartest guy in the room and long chafed at being corrected by experts when he cooked up some new plan, over which he may have expended 30 seconds of thought, to completely upend and remake the health, tax or education systems.

Because Mr Gingrich does know more than most politicians, the main obstacles to his grandiose schemes have always been Congress' professional staff members, many among the leading authorities anywhere in their areas of expertise.

To remove this obstacle, Mr Gingrich did everything in his power to dismantle Congressional institutions that employed people with the knowledge, training and experience to know a harebrained idea when they saw it. When he became speaker in 1995, Mr Gingrich moved quickly to slash the budgets and staff of the House committees, which employed thousands of professionals with long and deep institutional memories....

In addition to decimating committee budgets, he also abolished two really useful Congressional agencies, the Office of Technology Assessment and the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The former brought high-level scientific expertise to bear on legislative issues and the latter gave state and local governments an important voice in Congressional deliberations."

Of course, the GOP had decades of no-nothing history before Newt Gingrich came along. But his evisceration of congressional expertise was something without parallel in American history. Regrettably, when the Democrats did briefly regain control of the House, they did nothing significant to reverse the damage Gingrich had done. The kind of expertise that Gingrich eliminated is precisely what America needs to make sound policy decisions—on everything from WMDs in Iraq to climate change, financial regulation, community-based policing and drug policy reform. In its absence, we've had an endless parade of committees investigating Benghazi, and various other forms of clownish behavior.

Such is the extreme end result of the Contract with America. As I said above, Gingrich did nothing to change the basic structure of American political attitudes, the "schizoid" state described by Free and Cantril. Instead, he merely aggravated the schizoid disconnect. But even with that disconnect, landslide majorities still support robust social spending—the exact opposite of what our political classes have decided on. Where Gingrich aimed to confound the majority will, de Blasio aims to liberate it, by bringing together existing movements and synergizing their power to restore what still remains the dominant popular political outlook in the nation at large—a belief that government should be an instrument of the popular will, enabling us to achieve together what we cannot achieve on our own.

While this view has been present throughout our history, it achieved its modern formulation during the New Deal, and knowledge of this is reflected in de Blasio's core understanding of what he's up to, as refected in Amanda Terkel's reporting cited above. It's reflected in de Blasio's timing as well. As already noted, Gingrich's Contract was unveiled less than two months before the 1994 election, on Sept. 27, leaving no opportunity to forge any organic popular foundation. But de Blasio's announcement provides an 18-month lead time, plenty of time to build support, dialogue, revise, and forge alliances for post-electoral action.

In contrast to the Contract's evolution as a carefully calculated political document, de Blasio's 13-point agenda is much more driven by the actual content of the proposals and movements it seeks to encompass. Salon's Joan Walsh was certainly right to call attention to key missing pieces:

De Blasio was flanked by big placards supporting debt-free college and expanding Social Security, two demands that have rocketed to the top of the progressive agenda thanks to strong movements behind them. But those issues haven't yet officially made the 13-point list. A bigger omission was any mention of criminal justice reform.

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If, like Gingrich's Contract, de Blasio's lead time were less than two months, this could prove fatal. But an 18-month lead time allows for these omissions to be addressed via a much more organic process of consultation. The greater challenge will be shaping a cohesive narrative whole. As Walsh also noted, the logic of de Blasio's agenda is supported by a more detailed analysis in the Roosev elt Institute report "Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy: An Agenda for Growth and Shared Prosperity," advancing the arguments that "Inequality is not inevitable: it is a choice we make with the rules we create to structure our economy." And this bedrock insight—that the economy is a structured human creation, which can be reshaped by structuring it differently—is the foundation on which the struggle for America's future needs to be waged.

There is nothing particularly new or radical in this view. Almost 240 years ago, in "The Wealth of Nations," Adam Smith did not blindly assume that the "inv isible hand" of the market automatically produced the best outcome, as many mistakenly believe. Smith was quite aware that markets reflect the rules built into them, which in turn reflect underlying power. Hence, he wrote: "Whenev er the legislature attempts to regulate the differences between masters and their workmen, its counsellors are always the masters. When the regulation, therefore, is in fav our of the workmen, it is always just and equitable; but it is sometimes otherwise when in favour of the masters."

Yet, the free market fantasy of a primordial pristine state has a powerful hold on the American imagination, and it plays a key role in shaping the views of ideological conservatives, which brings us back to "The Political Beliefs of Americans" again. In the last section of their book, Free and Cantril noted that "the principles according to which the majority of Americans actually behave politically have not yet been adequately formulated in modern terms," and argued that "it is only because the American system has demonstrated such flexibility and such a capacity to accommodate to new situations that this schizoid state has not more seriously impeded the operation and direction of government."

Two points are worth making here. The first is that what they wrote in 1967 has remained true ever since. Decades of polling, particularly the "attitudinal measures" in the General Social Survey, show slow cyclical variations, but no overall erosion of these attitudes. As noted above, broad support remains for maintaining or expanding social spending programs, even among conserv atives, and Gingrich's Contract did not destroy that support.

The second point is that what Gingrich did do was to significantly impair the American system's flexibility and capacity to accommodate to new situations. Although Gingrich's narrow power-grabbing agenda quickly failed, and he left Congress only a few years later, the heightened impairment to the system's flexibility and adaptability lived on, furthering the negativ e consequences of the underlying schizoid state. Things have now reached such a crisis state that even the most basic, broadly supported, non-ideological forms of government spending are being crippled: spending on infrastructure, education and scientific research, spending that even the wealthiest Americans support.

Free and Cantril also said:

There is little doubt that the time has come for a restatement of American ideology to bring it in line with what the great majority of people want and approve. Such a statement, with the right symbols incorporated, would focus people's wants, hopes, and beliefs, and provide a guide and platform to enable the American people to implement their political desires in a more intelligent, direct, and consistent manner.

Something along these lines is the long-term task that progressiv es have before us. Building movements, and drawing them together—as de Blasio and others are working hard to do—are necessary precursors. But for the long haul, we will need to go even deeper than Free and Cantril imagined, even changing the language we use to talk about economy—as the rule-governed human creation it actually is, not as something natural that's best left alone—as cognitive linguist Anat Shenker-Osorio explains in her book "Don't Buy It: The Trouble with Talking Nonsense about the Economy" (my review here). Ultimately, what's needed is a fundamental reorientation in how we see ourselv es as a people and a country, as well as how we see the economy . We need a new, inclusive vision, and a language that reflects the fact that America is what we make it, together: E pluribus unum.

"The party of white people": How the Tea Party took over the GOP, armed with all the wrong lessons from history // Salon // David Sehat - May 23, 2015

There was an emerging disagreement among conservativ es, one that grew out of differing dispositions, if not principle. The Tea Party mov ement possessed an almost centrifugal force in which ideas gravitated from the center to the margins. On the anti-intellectual fringe, the narrative about the Founders was taken up by absolutists and paranoids who supported citizen militias and the like. Yet even those not on the fringe supported the radical rhetoric. It was, in some sense, built into

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the movement. The logic of their argument—that conservatives were losing the country, that it had fatally departed from the Founders' intentions, that the republican experiment required periodic revolutions to renew old values—suggested that extreme and uncompromising measures were necessary to restore the nation to the old ways.

The Republican leadership, by contrast, was made up of realists. Though establishment politicians had used similar revolutionary rhetoric often enough—since at least the time of Ronald Reagan—when it came to governing they recognized the limits of their power and the importance of incremental change. But with the Tea Party revolution, the rhetoric became harder to control. The conservative base had slipped its leash. The new Tea Party activists, who rejected incremental change as part of the same old pattern that slouched toward tyranny, had begun speaking of revolution in sometimes the most literal sense.

As early as August 2009, David Frum, a speechwriter for George W. Bush, warned that conservatives were playing with fire. "All this hysterical and provocative talk invites, incites, and prepares a prefabricated justification for violence," he wrote during the angry summer recess. "It's not enough for conservatives to repudiate violence, as some are belatedly beginning to do. We have to tone down the militant and accusatory rhetoric."

His warning turned out to be tragically prescient two days after the 2011 legislative session began, when Representative Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head at a constituent event in Arizona. All told, nineteen people were shot. Six of them died, including a federal judge who was present. Reporters quickly discovered that Giffords had been on Sarah Palin's target list. The police had been called when a man dropped a gun at one of her summer events in the infamous 2009 summer recess. And she had been one of the representatives to receive police protection after her affirmative vote on Obamacare. In retrospect, it was clear that she had been in danger for some time. Now she lay in a medically induced coma with the surgeons uncertain about the extent of her injuries.

Some commentators wondered if perhaps the Republicans had foolishly tried to ride the Tea Party tiger. It had been clear for some time that the Tea Party combined legitimate outrage over Democratic policies with more disreputable elements that tended toward extreme directions, a dialectic that the conservative columnist Matthew Continetti called "the two faces of the Tea Party." One side sought to repair various "deformities" in American politics. The other, according to Continetti, was "ready to scrap the whole thing and restore a lost Eden." One side was reformist. The other was revolutionary. One was responsible. The other was dangerous. It was really important, Continetti believed, to encourage the one side and suppress the other.

But when Continetti first began worrying about how to separate the responsible side from the reactionaries, other commentators had argued that it was impossible to draw such a line. Over at the National Review, Jonah Goldberg suggested that these two faces were actually marching in lockstep, as they had always done. Like Goldwater and Reagan in an earlier era, the two sides were really differing dispositions. One was more strident. The other was sunnier. One sometimes drifted into apocalyptic pronouncements. The other maintained a more realistic position while offering the hope of change. But both shared a policy vision, he argued, and both rejected the twentieth-century welfare state as a betrayal of the Founders' idea of self-reliance. If the strident faction seemed to be ascendant at the moment, as it had since 2009, Goldberg was not particularly worried. Tea Party zeal would only catalyze conservative momentum that could eventually be channeled toward legislative success.

But after the shooting, things looked different. With Giffords lying in a coma and half a dozen people dead, it became much more important to distinguish the hysterical faction from the responsible one. Republican leaders would need to contain the more unruly components of the Tea Party revolution, while nevertheless harnessing its energy to accomplish Republican purposes.

Unfortunately for the Republican leadership, the Tea Party seemed barely interested in governance. Tea Partiers wanted, above all else, a confrontation with the president regardless of the wisdom of the conflict. And because the 2010 freshman class was so large, Speaker John Boehner did not have a functional majority to pass bills without Tea Party support. That dynamic made Republican attempts to convert the posture of rage into actual policy initiatives difficult if not impossible.

The problems began straightaway. By early spring, it became apparent that the U.S. debt ceiling would need to be raised, a regular occurrence since the spiraling debts under the George W. Bush administration, now exacerbated by the Great Recession and the Democrats' stimulus package to combat it. Republican leaders decided that they would resist all increases to the debt ceiling until they received sufficient concessions that would, they hoped, force a fundamental change in course.

The tactic was not new. Fights over the debt ceiling had been occasional going back to the exploding deficits of the Reagan

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administration. But what was new was the unbending posture of the Tea Party. In the past, when the opposition party threatened not to raise it, there was no real risk that the ceiling would not be raised. Refusing to do so was simply a way of extracting concessions. Everyone understood that actually going through with the obstruction would put the U.S. government into default—not a live option.

But what the Tea Party–led Republicans demanded—a massive cut to spending that would increase over time, a balanced-budget amendment that would permanently limit spending in the future, and the promise that these aggressive cuts would somehow balance the budget rather than creating recession and larger budget deficits—was unprecedented. There was no way that Obama could give even half of what the Tea Party faction demanded. So what would otherwise have been a routine maneuver in public credit of the United States. The Tea Party threatened to burn down the house in order to "save" it.

As the standoff lasted through the summer, many old-guard Republicans began to grow nervous. Even those not known for their moderation began to appeal to the Tea Party faction for a sense of perspective. Under the headline "Ideals vs. Realities," the conservative pundit Thomas Sowell reminded his allies that they needed to keep in mind the course of the Founders in the American Revolution. Just as George Washington retreated from British troops to find a more strategic ground, Sowell argued, so the Tea Party might find a different place than the debt limit to begin the quest for smaller government.

But the Tea Party members remained firm. They were engaged in a revolution, and a revolution demanded, above all else, extreme commitment. They would continue to the bitter end. As former House majority leader Dick Armey had said at a Tea Party rally, they needed to follow the Founders and the Constitution without thought or equivocation—"This ain't no thinkin' thing," he said.

Once the Treasury commenced extraordinary measures to put off default, more business-minded Republicans became frantic. The Wall Street Journal published an editorial denouncing the self-destructive extremism of the Tea Party faction under the title "The GOP's Reality Test." The editorial board was now convinced that the Republican Party had been taken over by a bunch of lunatics who were unhinged from the actualities of economics and governance.

The future was now clear. The Tea Party movement was determined to follow their vision, even if it was self-stultifying. They professed to want to shrink government to unleash the capitalist system and they argued that not raising the debt ceiling would be a first step. But a default would have plunged the nation's economy back into recession, which would have lowered tax receipts and massively increased the debt. And the default would have further raised the cost of borrowing, which would then further increase the debt. So not raising the debt ceiling as a first step in stopping the debt cycle would have, in fact, massively increased the deficit, added enormously to the debt, and thrown the nation's economy into chaos.

As the radicalism of the new freshman class became apparent, Sam Tanenhaus of the New York Times wondered if perhaps the Tea Party could learn from Jefferson, their idol. Jefferson was the originator of the antistatist tradition in American politics. He had invented many of the rhetorical postures that the Tea Party now adopted. But like the Tea Party, Jefferson had found his ideology and his posturing challenged by reality, as had many anti-statist politicians who crusaded to shrink government. In fact, by the measurement of actually accomplishing their goals in office, Tanenhaus wrote, "Jefferson and his heirs have been abject failures." But by learning once in office and by adjusting to the realities before him, Tanenhaus believed, Jefferson succeeded in governance.

Could the Tea Party do the same? The answer was no. Unlike Jefferson, who proved to be supple in adjusting his ideology to reality, the Tea Party faction was determined to remain consistent to the bitter end. Their failure was not merely one of political thought, but grew instead out of an intellectual and rhetorical style that substituted paranoid sloganeering for actual policy analysis. Tea Partiers assumed, as Reagan, Goldwater, and others before them had done, going all the way back to Jefferson, that principles and values naturally cohered without trade-offs. Those principles had been handed down from the Founders, were betrayed at some point in the past, and now needed to be reapplied or else the people would find themselves under a federal despot. Given those stakes, the niceties of economics, the actual numbers by which decisions are made, and the policy considerations that guide choices and trade-offs were all beside the point. Total resistance was the only option.

It would be a long next few years.

SECESSION IS AN AMERICAN PRINCIPLE

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“Is the Tea Party Over?” the columnist Bill Keller asked hopefully at the start of the 2012 election season. After the near miss with the default, Keller was not alone in wishing for a reprieve. But it was not to be.

Because of Republican gerry mandering after the 2010 election, the party leadership could not abandon the Tea Party radicals. Since many conservatives were in safe seats, the only credible challenge that they could face would be from the right. To ignore the Tea Party faction or to sideline their political interests would only cause a challenge to the seat. “You have to kowtow to the Tea Party,” a spokesman for Richard G. Lugar of Indiana said, summarizing the view of many Republican politicians. And because of the Tea Party’s unbending radicalism, the Republican Party was, in effect, being driv en by its most extreme faction.

The resulting environment was not hospitable to moderate Republicans, especially coming up on a presidential election cycle. After seeing the radicalism of the moment, many v iable Republican governors decided to sit out the 2012 race. Nav igating the way through a Republican primary required too many bows to Tea Party orthodoxy and an almost willful detachment from basic budgetary math. As Jacob Weisberg observed, the new Republican orthodoxy expected all candidates “to hold the incoherent view that the budget should be balanced immediately, taxes cut dramatically, and the major categories of spending (the military , Social Security, Medicare) left largely intact.” “There is no way to make these numbers add up,” Weisberg concluded, a fact that had been pointed out numerous times by nonpartisan sources. But the Tea Party required the incoherent litmus test nevertheless, which had the effect of winnowing the field.

As more responsible Republican governors bowed out of the race, the resulting crowd of candidates was filled with minor and often eccentric figures who hewed to Tea Party orthodoxy. The primary season itself unfolded with an unseemly chaos. Each Tea Party–supported candidate—Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Herman Cain, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum—took a turn in the lead before making a gaff, losing a crucial primary, or exposing his or her basic ignorance of public affairs. At that point, a new candidate would begin to rise to the top.

Tea Partiers remained cool to Romney, even after it became apparent that he was to be the nominee. To energize the base, Romney decided to add some Tea Party flair to the ticket, choosing as his running mate Paul Ryan, a Tea Party darling and architect of the 2012 Republican budget that, among other things, promised to convert Medicare into a voucher sy stem and to cut taxes (again) on the wealthy. Ryan had strengthened his already robust Tea Party credibility when he rehearsed the standard-issue Tea Party rhetoric during his 2011 Republican response to Obama’s State of the Union address. Warning that the nation was “reaching a tipping point,” Ryan called the nation back to its anchor “in the wisdom of the founders; in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence; and in the words of the American Constitution.”

Ryan seemed the perfect choice. But it turned out that the Tea Party and the American electorate had begun to div erge. Although Ryan’s place on the ticket energized Tea Party conservativ es, in a time of economic stagnation the Tea Party rhetoric did not sell with the wider public. The Romney -Ryan ticket was stuck in the mud, unable to pull ahead in what many Republicans had anticipated would be an easy contest. After the late-summer conventions, polling suggested a close race. But some pollsters, most notably Nate Silver of the New York Times, were predicting Obama’s reelection.

Still, many conserv atives went into election night expecting to win. “I just finished writing a victory speech,” Romney told reporters on his campaign plane. And a concession speech? “I’v e only written one speech at this point,” Romney said.

Yet as the election returns came in, it became apparent how out of touch Republicans had become. Obama won in decisive fashion, 332 electoral votes to Romney’s 206. Even more disturb-ing—at least for Republicans—was the demographic composition of those who voted from Romney versus those who voted for Obama. Romney lost nearly every important demographic with one exception: 88 percent of Romney voters were white. In a nation that was turning increasingly brown, those numbers suggested crisis.

Watching the agony unfold, Sam Tanenhaus, one of the keenest of political observers, came to a disturbing conclusion: the Tea Party–led GOP was headed to the most extreme Jeffersonian position, that of John C. Calhoun prior to the Civil War. According to Tanenhaus, Calhoun’s position had been built into the conservative movement from the beginning. At William F. Buckley’s National Rev iew, for example, Calhoun was “the Ur-theorist of a burgeoning but outnumbered conserv ative movement, ‘the principal philosopher of the losing side.’ ” Through the fervent embrace of such early conserv atives, Calhoun’s v iews on federal power and the Tenth Amendment became central in the emergence of the newly conserv ative politics.

But problems had begun to set in by the 1990s and only intensified during the Bush administration. Although Bush was reelected, it had become obvious that the Jeffersonian-Calhounian rhetoric ceased to mobilize the electorate in the same way as the nation became less white and as conservative policy goals failed to pan out. By 2009, the conservativ e

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movement hit crisis. “In retreat,” Tanenhaus argued, “the nullifying spirit has been revived as a form of governance—or, more accurately, anti-governance.” Led by the Tea Party, Republicans stumbled into a series of unwinnable fights over the budget, the debt ceiling, and Obamacare, each justified, according to Tanenhaus, “not as a practical attempt to find a better answer, but as a ‘Constitutional’ demand for restoration of the nation to its hallowed prior self.”

But now that approach had come to its logical endpoint after the 2012 election. The Jeffersonian argument about maintaining founding principles had degenerated into a Calhounian vision of state-sponsored nullification and retrenchment. “Denial has always been the basis of a nullifying politics,” Tanenhaus believed, but after the election it was obvious that “modernity could not be nullified.”

How would Republicans now respond? They could either abandon their form of antigovernance—with its genuflections toward the Founders, its simplistic solutions to complex problems, and its general tendency toward obstruction. Or the party would remain, Tanenhaus predicted, “the party of white people.”

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

After Senate vote, NSA prepares to shut down phone tracking program // LAT // Brian Bennett and Lisa Mascaro - May 23, 2015

Hours after the Senate balked at reauthorizing the bulk collection of U.S. telephone records, the National Security Agency began shutting a controversial program Saturday that senior intelligence and law enforcement officials say is vital to track terrorists in the United States.

The Senate had debated into early predawn hours Saturday but failed to reach a deal to reform the program or extend its life beyond May 31, when the law used to authorize it is set to expire. Lawmakers then left on a weeklong recess, vowing to return at the end of it to try again in a rare Sunday session.

Administration officials said later that they had to start the lengthy procedure of winding down the counter-terrorism program in anticipation that Congress failed to act and a full shutdown was required.

“That process has begun,” an administration official said Saturday.

Intelligence officials warned of a precipitous gap in data collected if Congress did not come up with a plan before May 31 to either expand the NSA's authority — which is unlikely — or replace the program in an orderly way over several months.

The start of the wind-down process marks the most significant step the Obama administration has taken to limit the data collection since former NSA contractor Edward Snowden leaked documents in 2013 showing the government was siphoning and holding millions of so-called toll records of domestic phone calls.

The data include the number dialed, duration, date and time for most telephone calls made by Americans. The information is then searched for connections to the phone numbers of known or suspected terrorists. About 300 such searches were made in 2014.

Opponents of the program, including presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), are concerned that the massive database could invite abuse by future administrations that want to probe how citizens are connected to each other, stifle dissent or crack down on political enemies.

“The Bill of Rights is worth losing sleep over,” Paul wrote on Twitter on Friday night after he sent the Senate into overdrive

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by running the clock on procedural steps. “Continuing to filibuster against NSA bulk surveillance.”

Paul won praise from his supporters for his unrelenting stand against the surveillance program. Two Republican lawmakers from the House came to the late night Senate session to support the Kentucky senator. But elsewhere in the Capitol, his maneuver drew grumbles from fellow senators in his party who viewed it as a campaign stunt.

The program, which relies on siphoning data directly from phone companies into U.S. databases, is complex and requires several days to shut down, officials said. Intelligence officials said they had to start taking steps now in order to stay within the bounds of the law, particularly after a federal circuit court ruling this month found the NSA program to be illegal. The decision invalidated the legal analysis of the Patriot Act that NSA lawyers used for years to justify large-scale collection and storage of call records.

The standoff in Congress also puts in jeopardy some lesser-known parts in the Patriot Act, which was passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

One of them allows the FBI to collect business records, such as credit card and banking data, for use in terrorism investigations. Another authorizes “roving wiretaps,” which permit the FBI to eavesdrop on every phone used by a suspected terrorist without seeking separate court warrants for each one.

And another helps the FBI track a “lone wolf,” an individual suspected of planning a terrorist attack, even if he or she has no known link to a terrorist group. If the provisions lapse, the FBI could continue using the “roving wiretap” and “lone wolf” authorities in existing cases only.

“We better be ready next Sunday afternoon to prevent the country from being endangered by the total expiration of the program,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said as he left the Capitol.

Senators had rejected two bills that would have continued the program, including one overwhelmingly approved by the House and backed by the White House that would put limits on the government’s ability to acquire phone data.

The House bill gave the NSA six months to shift from collecting and holding the raw call data itself on government servers to a program that requested the records from telephone companies on a case-by-case basis. It fell just three votes short of advancing. Many view it as the most viable compromise.

Proposals from McConnell to continue the program as is, with no reforms, for as little as one extra day, also fell short.

Paul objected to those measures, as did two Democrats, a further sign of bipartisan opposition to extending the program without changes. Paul, who has made shutting down the NSA program a focus of his presidential bid, engaged in a 10½-hour talk-a-thon this week to delay proceedings.

“It’s not about making a point, it’s about trying to end bulk collection,” Paul said. The debate has been difficult for Congress, and especially McConnell, the Republican leader who backs Paul for president but disagrees with his fellow home-state senator on this issue.

In a sign of the growing political consensus for changes, Senate Republican leaders had reversed course earlier Friday and signaled that upon returning from the holiday recess they were willing to consider legislation to reform how the NSA searches U.S. telephone records.

Legislation promised by Sen. Richard M. Burr (R-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is expected to include many elements of the House-passed USA Freedom Act, which would impose limits on the NSA surveillance program.

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Fearful of allowing a counter-terrorism program to close on their watch, some senators suggested an agreement could still be reached before May 31. “We don’t want a dark period,” Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.), a member of the Intelligence Committee, said before lawmakers adjourned.

Others expressed hope that if record collection were interrupted, the impact on the NSA would not be dire.

“What would happen during that time period, they just wouldn't be scraping data, but they still would be carrying out other parts of the program,” said Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

But more hawkish lawmakers oppose elements of the compromise approach. They want to keep the program in place as is until they are certain the alternative methods being pushed by privacy advocates will work.

“The way you determine it doesn’t work is when the bomb goes off, and all of a sudden people say, ‘Hey, it didn’t work,’” Coats said. “That’s why holding it at current lev el is, we think, necessary until it’s prov en that, yes, we can do this.”

Administration officials are urging Congress to act quickly and comprehensively. A stopgap measure to extend the program past May 31 would not satisfy the court order, they say, and thus would not stop the dismantling of the phone record collection effort.

McConnell's NSA gambit fails **// The Hill // Jordain Carney and Julian Hattem - May 23, 2015**

Mitch McConnell staged an epic gamble over U.S. spying powers — and lost.

The Republican leader pledged to keep senators in Washington through the weekend to finish work on expiring provisions of the Patriot Act, but Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky .) called his bluff.

Instead, when the smoke cleared in the early hours of Saturday morning, the 2016 presidential contender was the one with bragging rights.

The battle between the two Kentucky Republicans spilled over on the Senate floor, with Paul using procedural tactics to force the chamber into an early Saturday vote. He then used his leverage to kill off McConnell’s repeated attempts to reauthorize the expiring National Security Agency (NSA) programs — first for two months, then for eight days, then for five, then three, then two.

McConnell and the Republican leadership team had appeared confident even into Friday ev ening that they could kill the House-passed USA Freedom Act. They had planned to force the Senate into accepting a “clean” reauthorization of the provisions — set to expire at the end of the month — at least for a short while.

But Paul and other opponents of the “clean” renewal held firm, forcing McConnell to kick the can and adjourn the Senate without a clear path forward on how to prevent a shutdown of the NSA programs.

Leaving the Capitol, Republicans seemed confused on what their leader’s next steps would be.

“That's a really good question,” Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said, when asked what would change between Saturday and when senators return to Washington for a rare Sunday session on May 31.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) seemed equally unsure if Paul would accept a deal before returning to Washington.

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“I don’t know. I don’t know. I don’t know. They march to a different drum,” the Armed Services Committee chairman said, adding that he was sure Paul’s tactics were “a great revenue raiser.”

Even Paul himself appeared non-committal on whether or not he would accept a deal.

“We'll see,” he told reporters as he left the Capitol. "It depends, sometimes things change as deadlines approach."

The junior senator from Kentucky wants votes on two amendments, and said that he didn’t understand why McConnell wouldn't let them pass by a simple majority threshold.

Supporters of the USA Freedom Act appeared bolstered by the amount of support the House-passed legislation received, coming three votes shy of the 60 needed to overcome a procedural hurdle.

Lee said he suspects McConnell will try to work out a deal over the recess, adding that “I hope that whatever that is, is going to be built on... the House-passed USA Freedom Act.”

Sen. Ted Cruz, who is competing against Paul for his party’s presidential nomination, said he was “hopeful” that McConnell would see the light on the reform bill, which passed the lower chamber in an overwhelming 338-88 vote.

"Sometimes the Senate takes some time for debate and consideration,” the Texas Republican said. “I think we'll take a week and come back and cooler heads will prevail."

Cruz, while acknowledging that he disagreed with Paul, refused to criticize his hardball tactics, saying that he’s “a big fan” of the libertarian favorite.

McConnell didn’t respond to a barrage of questions from reporters as he left the Capitol, and has given no sign of what his next step would be.

McConnell and Paul have been allies of late. Paul endorsed McConnell last year in his reelection bid, and McConnell is backing Paul's White House run.

But the Republican leader appeared to be caught off guard by his fellow Kentuckian’s resolve, and had previously brushed aside Paul’s filibuster threat.

“Well, ya know, everybody threatens to filibuster. We’ll see what happens,” McConnell told ABC’s “This Week.” “This is the security of the country we’re talking about here. This is no small matter. We see it on display on almost a weekly basis.”

Sen. John Cornyn (Texas), the Republican whip, suggested that Republicans would be able to find a way out of the current standstill, telling reporters after the votes that, "yeah, we'll fix it. I am confident."

Even with path to a deal unclear, the spy brawl had one clear winner — Paul's political ambitions.

He has staked much of his presidential campaign on his civil libertarian bone fides. The stalemate, as well as his filibuster earlier this week, has helped him, and his presidential campaign, dominate the media this week.

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Paul showed no sign early Saturday morning of letting go of that spotlight.

"The Senate has refused to reauthorize bulk data collection. I am proud to have stood up for the Bill of Rights," he tweeted from his campaign's account on Saturday. "But our fight is not over."

"The Senate will return one week from Sunday," he added. "With your help we can end illegal NSA spying once and for all."

But he also flatly rejected that his hardline on the Patriot Act provisions was part of a campaign stunt, telling reporters, "I think people don't really question my sincerity."

States quietly consider ObamaCare exchange mergers // The Hill // Sarah Ferris - May 23, 2015

A number of states are quietly considering merging their healthcare exchanges under ObamaCare amid big questions about their cost and viability.

Many of the 13 state-run ObamaCare exchanges are worried about how they'll survive once federal dollars supporting them run dry next year.

Others are contemplating creating multi-state exchanges as a contingency plan for a looming Supreme Court ruling expected next month that could prevent people from getting subsidies to buy ObamaCare on the federal exchange.

The idea is still only in the infancy stage. It's unclear whether a California-Oregon or New York-Connecticut health exchange is on the horizon.

But a shared marketplace — an option buried in a little-known clause of the Affordable Care Act — has become an increasingly attractive option for states desperate to slash costs. If state exchanges are not financially self-sufficient by 2016, they will be forced to join the federal system, HealthCare.gov.

"What is happening is states are figuring out the money is running out," said Jim Wadleigh, the director of Connecticut's exchange, hailed as one of the most successful in the country. "At the end of 2016, everyone has to be self-sustaining."

Other states are being driven to consider the idea by the King v. Burwell case, in which the Supreme Court will decide whether subsidies are allowed in states that didn't set up their own health exchanges.

If the court rules against the Obama administration, millions of people in states across the country will lose subsidies.

Some of those states could be interested in joining with other states that have their own ObamaCare exchanges.

"It's absolutely being driven by the court case," said Joel Ario, the former director of the federal government's Office of Health Insurance Exchanges.

Most Republican state leaders have avoided talking about how they would respond to a decision against the use of subsidies on the federal exchange. Behind the scenes, however, many are anxiously contacting states that run their own exchanges.

"In the last seven business days, I've probably had seven to 10 states contact me about contingency plans," Wadleigh said, though he declined to disclose the names of states he's been talking to. "You can imagine the political backlash that would be if the names got out."

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Wadleigh, who became the CEO of Connecticut's exchange last fall, said he has been in conversations with many states — some using the federal exchange and some running their own exchanges — about possible partnerships.

"Clearly, we can't sell the code, which was paid for by federal dollars, but what we can do is have collaborations like joining exchanges, if that's feasible," Wadleigh said.

His office met recently with officials from Vermont and Rhode Island to talk about ways to collaborate. A few weeks earlier, the directors of all state marketplaces met in Denver to discuss ways to share services.

That same group will come together again in late July at a conference hosted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

By most accounts, creating a multi-state marketplace would be a logistical nightmare.

It's unlikely that states could ever merge the full responsibilities of a marketplace, such as regulating plans and managing risk pools.

But even with a simpler model, like a shared call center or website platform, there are big questions about how states could share those costs and duties.

Jennifer Tolbert, a state health expert with the Kaiser Family Foundation, said "one of the trickiest issues" would be determining a governing structure for multi-state exchanges.

"I don't know how that would be resolved," she said.

These hurdles have been big enough to thwart multiple states from moving forward with their plans. Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia, which commissioned a study on the option in June 2013, have all dropped the idea.

What is more feasible, experts believe, is a technology-sharing system, where multiple states all hire the same private contractor. States could also create a regional call center or outreach team.

"There's lot of states that are trying to crack this sustainability problem, and there have been times when they've talked about regional solutions, but it's really been very early on in those discussions," said Pat Kelly, the director of Idaho's health exchange, Your Health Idaho.

He said sharing some services, particularly technology, could bring big benefits to states, though his own state couldn't do so because it used federal dollars for the contract.

"Is it possible and is it a good idea? Absolutely," he said. "Every time you can share the costs, it's going to be more efficient."

Eventually, it could also involve states that are already on the federal exchange, though that kind of transition would likely take years, said Ario, who has served as the state insurance commissioner for both Oregon and Pennsylvania.

"I think if King goes against the government, there will be a flurry of activity," added Ario, who is now the managing director at Manatt Health Solutions. "Otherwise, it will be more of a gradual transition."

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He said it could be possible for states in some regions — like the Great Plains, where the politics and populations are similar — to leave HealthCare.gov in fav or of their own, more autonomous system.

"You can imagine an SEC exchange," he said, referring to states participating in the Southeastern Conference college football league. "Maybe they could run an exchange really well."

The idea is becoming more attractive as more and more states are facing dwindling budgets.

Already, Oregon and Nevada have been forced to scrap their own systems and move to the federal exchange. Hawaii is now nearing a shutdown of its program after lawmakers rejected a last-ditch $10 million funding request.

The costs of running Vermont's ObamaCare exchange are expected to rise to $200 million this y ear, while California has made major cutbacks after seeing lower-than-expected enrollment figures. Its latest budget, released last week, scales down the budget for advertising, outreach budget and technology services.

For all states, technology is the biggest cost item and the biggest barrier for states to set up their own exchanges.

The Obama administration, which has given $5 billion in grants to help launch exchanges, has already pushed back the deadline for state marketplaces. Exchanges were initially told to be self-sufficient by 2015.

Still, while forming larger exchanges could make financial sense for the states, it could risk a political backlash.

The state-based exchanges were included in the Affordable Care Act to calm fears that the law would lead to a new, national system for obtaining insurance similar to a "public option."

Kevin Counihan, the CEO of HealthCare.gov, said earlier this month that he has been encouraging to share "best practices" among state marketplaces that are struggling.

"Our role is to do everything we can ... to help those states succeed," Counihan told a group at the Health Insurance Exchange Summit earlier this month.

Wadleigh, who will speak at the CMS-sponsored July conference, said officials have been "very supportiv e" about his discussions with other states, including multi-state partnerships.

A spokesperson from the CMS declined to answer questions about the exchanges.

INTERNATIONAL

Ireland legalizes gay marriage in historic vote // USA Today // Kim Hjelmgaard - May 23, 2015

DUBLIN — Ireland became the first country Saturday to legalize same-sex marriage by national referendum, a result that highlights the dramatic pace at which this traditionally conservative Catholic nation has changed in recent times.

Just 22 years after decriminalizing homosexuality, 62.1% of v oters approved the measure changing the nation's

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constitution to allow gay marriage, according to official results by Ireland's referendum commission. National turnout in Friday's poll was 60.5% of 3.2 million eligible voters.

"With today's vote we have disclosed who we are: a generous, compassionate, bold and joyful people," Prime Minister Enda Kenny said, welcoming the outcome Saturday, according to the Associated Press.

Emily Neenan, a physics student at the Dublin Institute for Adv anced Studies, was holding a large rainbow-colored umbrella in the forecourt at Dublin Castle, where "Yes" supporters gathered to celebrate outside the Irish government complex.

"I am absolutely thrilled and I didn't think it would pass with such a resounding yes," she said. "Even in more traditional rural areas, it looks like we have done a lot better than we thought we would."

As Neenan spoke on an unseasonably warm and sunny day in Ireland, an occasional cheer rose up from the crowd as Irish politicians who spearheaded the "Yes" campaign passed close by on their way to be interviewed by Ireland's domestic broadcasters.

"You know, it's about time Ireland did this," she said. "It's time Irish society better understands what it looks like, and needs."

Before official results were released, both sides confirmed the outcome earlier Saturday as v otes were tallied.

"We're the first country in the world to enshrine marriage equality in our constitution and do so by popular mandate," Leo Varadkar, Ireland's health minister who revealed he was gay during the campaign, told state broadcaster RTE. "That makes us a beacon, a light to the rest of the world of liberty and equality . It's a very proud day to be Irish."

David Quinn, the director of the conservative Iona Institute, a leading figure behind the "No" campaign, tweeted: "Congratulations to the 'Yes' side. Well done. #MarRef."

Quinn said Friday that the movement to secure equal marriage rights for same-sex couples in Ireland appeared to be insurmountable. For months, polls indicated the majority of Irish v oters were in fav or of the change.

But in the days leading up to the vote, Ireland's government — which supports the measure — warned that attitudes may have been hardening and that victory wasn't certain.

Campaigners on both sides said the high turnout, buoyed by strong engagement from y ounger members of the electorate as well as the many Irish expatriates who returned home to cast their votes, contributed to the "Yes" result.

The referendum is seen as an especially complex one for Ireland, where about 85 % of the population still identify as Roman Catholic even though church attendance has been steadily declining for a few decades. The church's moral authority has been questioned in the wake of a series of sexual abuse scandals and cov erups inv olving children.

The country has been slow to follow a path of social liberalization that has taken root across Europe. Except in cases where a mother's life is perceived to be in danger, abortion is still illegal in Ireland. A prohibition on div orce was repealed only in 1996 following a national referendum.

Dublin's storied pubs were fuller than usual Saturday, and rev erie spilled out onto streets all across the capital. Many were carrying balloons, flags and other accessories highlighting an issue that for some in that gay and lesbian community seemed almost too good to be true.

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"It's an incredible day that ev en two years ago we could not have dared to imagine," said Panti Bliss, a well-known Irish transvestite who appeared at a rally at Dublin Castle.

"I think (outsiders) are still hung up on the idea that Ireland is some sort of very conservative country ruled by the Catholic Church," Panti, whose real name is Rory O'Neill, told journalists.

Around the world, 18 countries have approved gay marriage nationwide, the majority of them in Europe. Others, such as the United States and Mexico, hav e approved it in certain regions. In the United States, 37 states have approved gay marriage and the Supreme Court is currently weighing the issue.

"This is a joy ous day for Ireland and for LGBT people and our allies ev ery where," Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, a U.S.-based gay-advocacy group, said in a statement. "We are thankful for the leadership of the Irish people, and we hope that many countries, including the United States, follow suit by extending marriage to all their citizens."

Visitors to St. Patrick's Cathedral — founded in 1191 to honor Ireland's patron saint — in central Dublin on Saturday afternoon appeared mostly wrapped up in their appreciation of the building's impressive stonewall facades.

"It is good that Ireland is approving this legislation," said Michael Lendhofer, a tourist visiting from Hanover, in northwestern Germany.

"But I also think that there are some things about the gay community that I don't agree with. For example, I think they should be more private," he said, without elaborating.

ISIS Gains Mom entum With Palmyra, Assad Squeezed on Multiple Fronts // NBC News // Cassandra Vinograd - May 23, 2015

ISIS' conquest of the ancient city of Palmyra marked the latest in a series of setbacks for the Syrian regime, but analysts say not to count out President Bashar Assad just yet.

This week's capture of the so-called "Venice of the Sands" and its Roman-era ruins marked what appeared to be the first time ISIS directly seized a city from Syrian military and allied forces.

French President Francois Hollande said the fall of Palmyra showed Assad was significantly diminished and called for a new push to broker a deal for his ouster.

"With a regime that is clearly weakened, and with a Bashar Assad who cannot be the future of Syria, we must build a new Syria which can be rid, naturally, of the regime and Bashar Assad but also, above all, of the terrorists," he said Friday.

NBC News reported in December that ISIS and Assad's forces were mostly ignoring each other on the battlefield, focused on eliminating smaller rivals ahead of a possible final showdown.

The Assad regime was focused on stamping out the moderate and weaker opposition — and knew ISIS was doing so too. Now both are starting to engage in a "much more concerted way" because "there isn't much of a moderate left," according to Matthew Henman, head of IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center.

However, there is still one large, well-funded and well-armed obstacle acting as a thorn in both sides: the Army of Fatah, a coalition which includes the al Qaeda-linked Nusra front and recently seized control of Idlib from pro-government forces.

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Analysts say the Army of Fatah also poses a longterm threat to ISIS as a competitor. Rumors are rife that the coalition is receiving funding from a variety of external actors — Saudi Arabia, Turkey and even Qatar — and Assad has had to rely on Hezbollah fighters for help in the Qalamoun Mountains to beat back the rebels.

"The Assad gov ernment now is being squeezed between these two groups who are still competing with each other," Henman said.

In a rare public appearance earlier this month, Assad downplayed recent setbacks in Idlib as a normal part of any war.

"Psy chological defeat is the final defeat and we are not worried," the Syrian leader said at the time, explaining that amid his army's relentless war there were occasions when the fighters had to "retreat back when the situation warrants."

With other Islamist groups like the Army of Fatah taking the fight directly to the Assad regime — particularly in the northwest of the country —ISIS has "clearly felt a need to respond to that," according to Henman.

Seizing Palmyra looks like a solid way of doing so: It put ISIS back in the headlines as a force capable of snatching territory away from Assad and positioned the group along a key highway network well-situated for further gains.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Friday that ISIS had seized the last border crossing between Syria and Iraq controlled by Assad's forces, situated in Homs province. The monitoring group also has said with the capture of Palmyra, ISIS now controls more than half of all Syrian territory .

That doesn't mean that ISIS necessarily outsmarted pro-government forces for Palmy ra, according to analysts. Instead, it appears that ISIS found a way to "take advantage of the situation," Henman said.

"The opportunity was right to strike at Palmyra ... while the government is v ery busy elsewhere fighting," he added.

Analysts said that while the Assad regime certainly is facing a number of challenges — including an overstretched military — it would be premature to interpret Palmyra's fall as a sign of its impending collapse.

Failing to put up a big fight for Palmyra actually could have even been a strategic move on Assad's part, according to Ayham Kamel, the Eurasia Group's Middle East & North Africa director.

While previously the regime tried to maintain at least nominal control in each of Syria's prov inces, Kamel said the losses of Palmy ra and Idlib show that "the former strategy is no longer working."

He said that with fights on so many fronts it simply has become "unsustainable" for the military to devote equal resources in all locations — quite possibly forcing the regime to literally pick its battles.

"Palmyra is a national treasure but it is not key to the regime's fate," he explained. Instead, the regime might be calculating that troops are needed elsewhere in more strategic locations for long-term v iability.

While the regime is "definitely " weaker than six months ago, it's not necessarily weaker than two months ago, Kamel said.

"We've seen very clearly that in the war, the pendulum sway s in both directions," he added. "The current balance of power on the ground is not necessarily permanent."

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39 die in Mexico police shootout with suspected cartel members // LAT // Deborah Bonello - May 23, 2015

gunfight between Mexican police and suspected criminals in the cartel-dominated western state of Michoacan left at least 39 people dead Friday , according to authorities and news reports.

The firefight occurred in Tanhuato on Michoacan's border with Jalisco state. The region has seen intense drug-related violence in recent months, at least in part because of the approaching midterm elections June 7.

Controversial former top cop shot in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez

Controversial former top cop shot in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez

Early reports Friday suggested that the Jalisco New Generation cartel, Mexico's fastest growing criminal group, might have been behind the attack in Tanhuato. Details about who died in the gunfight were not immediately available.

Tension between the Jalisco New Generation cartel and the Mexican government has been high since members of the cartel shot down a police helicopter with a rocket-propelled grenade early this month, killing six soldiers. The army was in pursuit of a cartel conv oy when the copter was downed.

After the attack, the national security commissioner, Monte Alejandro Rubio, told Mexico's Televisa network that "the full force of the Mexican state will be felt in the state of Jalisco."

In early April, Jalisco New Generation ambushed and killed 15 members of the federal police, the largest death count in an attack on state forces here since 2010.

Tanhuato is minutes from Yurecuaro, where a political candidate was fatally shot last week during a campaign event. The slay ing of Enrique Hernandez of the left-leaning Movement for National Regeneration, or Morena, party prompted authorities to reinforce security along the state line between Michoacan and Jalisco, which also forms part of a region known as Tierra Caliente, or hotlands.

Tierra Caliente is a center of drug production and trafficking in Mexico and has been a focus in President Enrique Peña Nieto's security strategy . Civ ilians began to rise up in arms there about two years ago to defend themselves against the criminal groups that kill, kidnap and extort money from residents.

On Thursday, three bodies were found near Chilapa in Guerrero state, where at least 16 people went missing this month when the town was taken over by armed, masked men for five days.

The bodies were not immediately identified, but the leader of the federal police, Enrique Galindo, on Friday made his second trip to Chilapa to speak to the families of the missing.

The Mexican government has moved quickly over the last few days in an attempt to take control of the situation. Peña Nieto and his administration want to avoid a new scandal involving mass disappearances after international condemnation last year over the abduction of 43 college students.

The students vanished in September after being detained by local police in the city of Iguala,about a three-hour drive from Chilapa. The federal gov ernment initially gave jurisdiction for the incident to Guerrero's state government, for which it was heavily criticized.

Since then, clandestine graves containing about 100 bodies have been discov ered in the hills around Iguala; the remains of

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only one of the students hav e been identified.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Weary of Relativity // NYT // Frank Bruni - May 23, 2015

SAY anything critical about a person or an organization and brace for this pushback: At least he, she or it isn't as bad as someone or something else.

Sure, the Roman Catholic Church hasn't done right by women. But those Mormons have more to answer for!

Yes, there are college presidents with excessive salaries. But next to the football and basketball coaches on many campuses, they're practically monks!

Set the bar low enough and all blame is deflected, all shame expunged. Choose the right points of reference and behold the alchemy: naughty deeds into humdrum conformity. Excess into restraint. Sinners into saints.

Arkansas into Elysium.

I mention Arkansas because of a classic bit of deflection performed last month by one of its senators, Tom Cotton. He was rationalizing a so-called religious freedom bill that would hav e permitted the state's merchants to deny services to people based on their sexual orientation. And he said that it was important to "have a sense of perspective."

"In Iran," he noted, "they hang you for the crime of being gay."

I see. If you're not hauling homosexuals to the gallows or stoning them, you're ahead of the game, and maybe even in the running for a humanitarian medal.

Like I said, y ou can set the bar anywhere you want.

And you can justify almost any thing by pointing fingers at people who are acting likewise or less nobly.

Naturally, this brings us to the current presidential campaign.

Earlier this month Hillary Clinton not only made peace with the "super PACs" that will be panhandling on her behalf, but also signaled that she'd do her vigorous part to round up donations for one of them, Priorities USA.

She did this despite much high-minded talk previously about taming the influence of money in politics.

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She did this without the public hand-wringing of Barack Obama when he reluctantly embraced his super PAC, which happened at a later point in his 2012 re-election effort.

She did this because Jeb Bush and other potential Republican rivals were either doing or poised to do this.

And she did this, no doubt, because of the Koch brothers and their political network's stated goal of raising and spending nearly $1 billion on behalf of Republicans during this election cycle. For Democrats, "the Koch brothers" is at once a wholly legitimate motivation and an all-purpose exoneration, a boogey man both real and handy, permitting all manner of mischief by everybody else. True, I'm vacuuming up money like an Electrolux on Adderall. But in a Koch-ian context, I'm a sputtering Dustbuster.

Democrats tell themselves that they have a ways to go before they sink as low as Republicans do. Republicans tell themselves that none of their machinations rival the venal braid of conflicting interests and overlapping agendas in the Clintons' messy world.

The Clintons tell themselves that their assiduous enrichment since the end of Bill's presidency still doesn't put them in a league with the fat cats whom they've met and mingled with, and that they earned their wealth rather than inheriting or shortchanging shareholders for it.

Other politicians tell themselves that if the Clintons are lapping at the trough so rapaciously, surely they 're entitled to some love and lucre of their own.

When it comes to money , almost everybody looks up — not down or sideways — to determine how he or she is doing and what he or she might be owed. There's always someone higher on the ladder and getting a whole lot more, alway s someone who establishes a definition of greed that you fall flatteringly short of.

One titan's bonanza becomes the next titan's yardstick, and the pay of the nation's top executives spirals ever further out of control.

In the warped context of their compensation packages, the $8.5 million that Richard Lev in, the former president of Yale University, received as an "additional retirement benefit" after he strode out the door in 2013 probably struck some of the enablers who gave it to him — and perhaps Levin himself — as unremarkable.

Never mind that Yale is a nonprofit institution or that the values of higher education are supposed to diverge from those of Wall Street. Now Lee Bollinger, the current president of Columbia, can feel modest about the nearly $3.4 million package that he received for one recent year.

THAT magnitude of compensation didn't dissuade him from musing last week about how completely content he and his wife were back when their apartment hosted roaches and dinner was Lipton noodle soup. He recalled that distant past in remarks to graduating seniors, whom he urged, without any evident irony, to address "persisting inequalities, especially of wealth."

And if Bollinger can feel modest, Drew Faust, the president of Harvard, can feel positively ascetic: She makes less than a third of what he does. Of course she supplements that by sitting on the corporate board of Staples, an arrangement that some Harvard students and faculty have understandably questioned and quibbled with.

Then there's the moral jujitsu that American voters have become especially adept at in these polarized times. Many of them unreservedly exalt their party's emissary — and inoculate him or her from disparagement — simply because he or she represents the alternative to someone from the other side. Being the lesser of ev ils is confused with being virtuous, though it's a far, far cry from that.

President Obama stumbles or falls and is pardoned by all-or-nothing partisans on the grounds that he's not George W.

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Bush. Those same partisans wave off any naysaying about his foreign policy by bringing up the invasion of Iraq. And the bungled rollout of Obamacare? A mere wisp of inconvenience in comparison with the botched response to Hurricane Katrina. Everything's relative.

Except it's not.

There are standards to which government, religion and higher education should be held. There are examples that politicians and principled businesspeople should endeavor to set, regardless of whether their peers are making that effort. There's right and wrong, not just better or worse.

And there's a word for recognizing and rising to that: leadership. We could use more of it.

Echoes of Iraq war sound in 2016 presidential race **// LAT // Mark Z. Barabak - May 23, 2015**

Every war casts a long shadow, from the heroism of the Greatest Generation to the dark ambiguities of Vietnam. It was inevitable, then, that the 2016 presidential candidates would be confronted with the war in Iraq.

Twelve years on, the broad questions raised by the invasion — about trust in Washington and its leaders, about faith in dubious overseas alliances, about the best ways to fight terrorism and how to bring peace to the Middle East, if that's even possible — have not gone away.

If anything, the politics have grown more fraught for members of both parties.

Kentucky Republican Rand Paul seized the Senate floor Wednesday for a 101/2 -hour speech aimed at ending the domestic surveillance program that grew out of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 — part of President George W. Bush's justification for war.

The accusations of government overreach have been a centerpiece of Paul's presidential bid and made him a champion to privacy advocates and the libertarian-minded. But it also sets him against Republicans eager to portray the freshman lawmaker as feckless and too quick to drop the nation's guard.

In a mocking speech, New Jersey's Republican Gov. Chris Christie laced into those he called "civil liberties extremists," who he said were trying to convince Americans "there's a government spook listening in every time you pick up the phone or Skype with your grandkids."

"They want you to think that if we weakened our capabilities, the rest of the world would love us more," Christie told a New Hampshire audience on Monday. "Let me be clear: All these fears are exaggerated and ridiculous."

The challenge for candidates like Christie and others in the GOP field is to sound tough — certainly tougher than President Obama is perceived — without appearing belligerent or too eager, as some now fault Bush, to go to war.

Familial ties make that balance all the more acute for his brother, Jeb Bush, should he emerge as the Republican nominee, which is why his ham-handed performance last week — seemingly for the Iraq war before he was against it — was so unexpected and potentially damaging.

The former Florida governor spent days calibrating and recalibrating a series of statements before flatly declaring that, in retrospect, the invasion should never have occurred. "Knowing what we know now, I would not have engaged," Bush said.

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“I would not have invaded Iraq.”

The question could not, or at least should not, have caught him by surprise, raising doubts about Bush's campaign faculties after a years-long layoff; several GOP rivals were quick to align themselves with popular sentiment, saying they would never have gone to war given the knowledge they possess today.

“I don't know how that was a hard question,” said former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, turning the knife.

Bush, however, was not alone among Republicans. On Sunday, in a convoluted Fox News interview, it was Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's turn to weave and stumble about the issue, defending President Bush's decision to invade Iraq, given his thinking at the time, while suggesting it was a mistake he would not wish to repeat.

For the Democratic candidates, familiar divisions surrounding the war have also begun to emerge.

Some on the left have never forgiven the party's favorite, Hillary Rodham Clinton, for backing the war as a United States senator in 2002, and they are once more calling her judgment into question. The former New York lawmaker and secretary of State has expressed regret for her vote many times since, including again this week.

Clinton's sole announced challenger, independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, said in an interview during a March swing through Iowa, a state with a broad pacifist streak: “I think the war in the Mideast, how we got into it and how we're going to address the current problems, are issues that every American should be concerned about.” He opposed the Iraq war, he tells audiences, from the start.

Since 2003, when the Iraq war began, every presidential campaign has been shaped to some degree by the U.S. invasion, its faulty pretense — weapons of mass destruction that were never found — and the war's vexing aftermath.

President Bush might not have been reelected in a close 2004 race but for voters' reluctance to replace him in the throes of the conflict.

His successor, President Obama, would probably not be in office today had his antiwar position not given him the traction in 2008 to take on Clinton, who was then — as now — the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination.

But politically it is no longer as simple as being for or against the Iraq invasion.

After the withdrawal of U.S. troops under Obama, after the drawing of red lines in Syria and the violent birth of the terrorist group Islamic State, critics can no longer blame Bush for all that torments the region.

“In 2008 and 2012 there was only one narrative, and that benefited Democrats,” said Peter Feaver, a Duke University expert on war and public opinion.

“In 2016 there is another narrative, which says President Obama inherited an Iraq that was stable and headed on a trajectory to success and then, through choices of his own, destabilized the situation and so bears responsibility for what happened,” said Feaver, who served on the National Security Council in Bush's second term.

Ultimately, though, the debate comes back to Bush and his decision to send U.S. troops to topple dictator Saddam Hussein, a move he said would leave the world a better, safer place.

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“It's a generational pivot point,” said Matthew Dowd, a onetime member of Bush's inner political circle, who was chief strategist for the president's 2004 reelection campaign before souring on the war in Iraq.

At a cost of $2 trillion and more than 4,000 American lives, the war's legacy “affects everything,” Dowd said. “What do we do in Syria? What are we willing to do in Iran? How do we pay to fix our railroads and pay for our kids' college loans?”

“All of this stuff ripples,” he said, and will be debated by presidential candidates for many years to come.

Obama has a strategy for fighting ISIS -- one that isn't working // LAT // Doyle McManus - May 23, 2015

Obama administration critics often charge that the president has no strategy in the war against Islamic State, but that's not true.

Eight months ago, after Islamic State's army swept across northern Iraq, President Obama's national security aides drew up a plan to reverse the militants' gains. It began with airstrikes, to stop their advance. It also included a series of steps to enable Iraq to defeat the invaders without using U.S. combat troops.

First, the United States planned to push Nouri Maliki, the stubborn Shiite prime minister, out of office. Then it would help a new government rebuild the country 's security forces, set up a "national guard" of local militia units, and arm Sunni tribesmen who wanted to fight Islamic State. Once those steps were underway, a strengthened Iraqi army would march north and retake Mosul, the country 's second-largest city.

So Obama does have a strategy — but for the most part it hasn't worked.

U.S. pressure helped shove Maliki out of the prime minister's office last fall, but his successor, Haider Abadi, hasn't succeeded in making most of the other changes the administration sought.

Some 3,000 American military advisors are in Iraq, but they couldn't prevent Iraqi army units from abandoning the western city of Ramadi to Islamic State last week.

Abadi's government drafted a law to set up the national guard, which would allow Sunni military units to defend Sunni provinces, but Shiite politicians have blocked the bill in parliament.

As for arming the Sunni tribes, U.S. officials say the Iraqi government has budgeted money and weapons for 8,000 fighters in Anbar, the largest Sunni prov ince — but most of the aid hasn't been delivered. "The weapons have all been approv ed," a U.S. official said last week. "We just have to get them to the site and get them to the guy s."

And the Iraqi recapture of Mosul, which some officials rashly predicted could happen this spring? It's been postponed several times — most recently because aides hav e concluded that retaking Ramadi must come first.

U.S. officials say the Iraqi government has budgeted money and weapons for 8,000 fighters in Anbar, the largest Sunni province -- but most of the aid hasn't been delivered.

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Obama's reaction to these reversals has been to counsel patience, reaffirm faith in his strategy — and blame the Iraqis. "If the Iraqis themselves are not willing or capable to arrive at the political accommodations necessary to govern, if they are not willing to fight for the security of their country, we cannot do that for them," he told Jeffrey Goldberg of the Atlantic magazine last week.

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A large portion of the blame clearly does belong in Baghdad — especially to the Shiite factions that have blocked Abadi's attempts to do more.

But plenty of pro-American Iraqis and Americans who have spent time in the country believe the Obama administration could do more, too — without putting U.S. troops in ground combat.

"America can help," Rafi Issawi, a moderate Sunni leader and former deputy prime minister, said during a visit to Washington this month. He called on the Obama administration to set up "joint committees" in Sunni provinces to get aid and weapons flowing. "Direct financing from the American side encouraged people to defeat Al Qaeda in 2006 and 2007," he noted.

"The administration's strategy is a good strategy — but it only gets done if you actually do it," Ryan C. Crocker, the former U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, told me. "There hasn't been enough political engagement at the top level. Where are the visits [to Iraq] by the secretary of State and the secretary of Defense? Where are the phone calls from the president? It's not happening."

Crocker said he met with Iraqi politicians in exile last week — "guys who usually want to kill each other" — and heard a common refrain: "Where is America?"

"They're all realistic; they understand we are not going to do boots on the ground," he said. "But they all think we can do more than we're doing now."

Part of the problem, he warned, is that Abadi is under increasing criticism from both sides, Sunni and Shiite. "He's being seen as weak — and in Iraq, weakness is death," he said.

What more could the United States do? There are several options, some already under consideration by the administration, officials say.

The United States could send more advisors and trainers to Iraq to expand the relatively small force already there and allow them to work with more Iraqi units, or even accompany Iraqi forces onto the battlefield.

Although the administration has already increased military aid to the Iraqi army, it could be tougher in demanding that Baghdad's defense ministry implement its promises to arm Sunni forces before more aid arrives.

The U.S. could also consider arming Sunni forces directly. That step, however, could undermine Abadi and accelerate Iraq's division into sectarian camps.

Finally, Obama probably needs to take steps to bolster Abadi — which could include more economic aid and even a symbolic visit or two.

If Iraqi attitudes don't change, the war against Islamic State won't be won. And Iraqi attitudes don't appear likely to change without more pressure from the United States — whether it comes from Obama or, 20 months from now, his unlucky successor.

Is the Ex-Im Bank Doomed? **// NYT // Joe Nocera - May 22, 2015**

It’s looking pretty grim for the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

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Over the last few months, the bank, which extends loans and government guarantees to help American companies export their goods and thus create jobs, has been under intense assault from conservative Republicans opposed to its very existence. Almost every day I get at least one email blast from a conserv ative think tank denouncing the bank for its "crony capitalism" and "corporate welfare."

Conservative economists keep pounding away at their belief that, in macroeconomic terms, the Ex-Im Bank's job creation is illusory; whatever jobs might be gained when one company starts exporting are lost at another company, they say. Most of the Republican presidential candidates are falling all over themselves to declare their opposition to the agency , which is set to die unless Congress reauthorizes it by June 30.

In the House of Representativ es, Jeb Hensarling, the Texas Republican who is chairman of the House Financial Services Committee — and is an implacable foe of the bank — has made it plain that he is eager to see the bank die, casting the issue as one of free markets versus "business interests." He has made no mov es to introduce a reauthorization bill.

In the Senate, Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, who is also against the bank, has grudgingly agreed to allow a vote on a reauthorization amendment, which supporters hope to attach to a future must-pass bill that would then go to the House.

But don't get your hopes up. "Just because the Senate votes on a piece of crap doesn't mean we have to vote for it," retorted Representative Mick Mulvaney, a House Republican from South Carolina, according to Roll Call, a newspaper on Capitol Hill. In a news conference this week, Hensarling said that "the momentum is in our favor." He's right.

There are dozens of countries that have so-called export credit agencies like the Ex-Im Bank. They all do the same thing. They help finance some of their country's exports. Some countries, like China, use a variety of other techniques to push their exports. Guess how many of those countries are following America's lead in trying to wind down that assistance? You guessed it: none. On the contrary, they're rather enjoying watching the U.S. cut off its nose to spite its face.

The conservative opposition is rooted in ideology , of course. Conservatives argue, for instance, that the gov ernment has no business guaranteeing loans if the private sector isn't willing to make them. But this defies reality. In the real world, there are plenty of perfectly good loans that the private sector won't make. Small companies that want to expand abroad have a terrible time getting loans. Big companies often need a government guarantee just to compete for a major contract. After the financial crisis, the Ex-Im Bank increased its financings precisely because the banks were gun-shy. Now that the priv ate sector is making more loans, the agency has backed off.

Another conservativ e argument I've heard recently is that the big companies that use guarantees from the Ex-Im Bank, such as Boeing, General Electric and Caterpillar, have years of back orders, so they can afford to lose a little business if the agency dies. "Boeing has a backlog of $441 billion in back orders," said Diane Katz of the Heritage Foundation. (It's now up to $495 billion, according to Boeing.) "They can't keep up with all the work." She can't really mean to say that it's O.K. if Boeing, America's largest manufacturing exporter, loses business, can she?

Nocera: "Over the last half-dozen years, Republicans hav e done many things that have hurt the American economy and the American worker,...

For goodness' sake! This continent's colonization was founded on government assistance. How have fiscal conservativ es become so short...

Mr. Nocera asks and answers the key question we should all be worried about: "Guess how many of those countries are following America's...

A third argument is the macroeconomic one: that ultimately the Ex-Im Bank does not create net new jobs. "Whenever y ou subsidize a U.S. company, you are ignoring the fact that other U.S. companies could have made that same sale" without the subsidy , said Daniel Ikenson, the director of trade policy studies at the Cato Institute and a leading proponent of this theory.

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But I wonder. Reuters this week reported that General Electric will lose a $350 million deal to build locomotives for Angola without the Ex-Im Bank's assistance. The winner won't be another American company , though; it will be a Chinese company, which will hav e export credit financing. The Times wrote about another G.E. deal, this one a $668 million public water project, done in partnership with a second company, that relied on Ex-Im loan guarantees. Without the bank, the second phase of the project will again be lost to a Chinese riv al. The Wall Street Journal recently told the story of Air Tractor, "a maker of crop-dusting and firefighting aircraft in the rural West Texas town of Olney" that will lose a quarter of its business without the Ex-Im Bank. How is that a good thing?

Over the last half-dozen y ears, Republicans have done many things that hav e hurt the American economy and the American worker, including the debt-ceiling crisis of a few years ago. If they succeed in eliminating the Ex-Im Bank, you'll be able to add that to the list.

End Ex-Im Bank, the government's Enron // Washington Examiner // Rep. Bill Flores and Senator Mike Kee - May 21, 2015

Congress has a choice to make, with a deadline of June 30. It can either renew the authorization of the Export-Import Bank — a taxpayer-backed credit agency that picks winners and losers in the marketplace — or let it expire and begin the bank's orderly winding-down.

As conservativ es, we believe that one of Congress' top responsibilities is to protect taxpayers from corruption, waste and mismanagement. That is why we support letting Ex-Im expire. Congressional ov ersight has revealed that the bank is broken, ignores opportunities for reform and proves a financial liability to American taxpayers.

Originally, Ex-Im was conceived to help small American businesses compete with the Soviet Union. It has evolved from a Cold War relic to become a prime example of the perils of Washington's "government knows best" philosophy.

The bureaucrats who run the bank believe that government can outwit markets and help some businesses at the expense of others. We know, however, that America can compete in a modern global economy without interference from bureaucrats. In fact, the best thing Washington can do to help our economy thrive is to enact common-sense tax reforms, unleash America's energy production and lower the barriers for international trade.

Past, present and potential future presidential candidates will fill political talk shows Sunday.

The Senate will instead reconvene in an unusual Sunday session next week to try again.

Unfortunately, Ex-Im is more than an outdated agency — it is fundamentally broken. And it should come as no surprise that when such an agency wields the heavy hand of governmental power, mismanagement, misconduct and corruption become the norm. It is a modern day "Enron" of the federal government.

Take, for instance, the case of former Ex-Im official Johnny Gutierrez, who pleaded guilty just last month to accepting nearly $79,000 in bribes. On 19 separate occasions between 2006-13, Gutierrez accepted cash in return for recommending the bank approve certain unqualified loan applications.

This example is not isolated. At a recent congressional hearing on Ex-Im, House Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, pointed out that Ex-Im has seen an ov erall increase in criminal charges since President Obama appointed Chairman Fred Hochberg to head it six years ago. According to the chairman, the supposedly small bank's rap sheet is impressive: "Sixty-five matters hav e been referred to prosecution, 31 arrest warrants, 85 indictments, 48 criminal judgments, decades of combined prison time, a quarter of billion in fines, restitution and forfeiture."

Those numbers may soon rise even higher — at the same hearing, Ex-Im's inspector general testified that there are at least 31 open fraud investigations involving Ex-Im that could lead to future indictments.

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Ex-Im's employee misconduct is a symptom of a larger problem. The bank has simply proven itself incapable of reform. Congress, the General Accountability Office and the bank's own inspector general have made numerous recommendations to "fix" Ex-Im, which its officials have boldly ignored. After y ears of repeated warnings, the bank has made clear that they have no interest in changing their troubling and irresponsible practices — and they are putting taxpay ers at risk in the process.

According to Ex-Im's IG, the bank does not subject borrowers to the same level of scrutiny that private lenders do, and it has no robust and systematic process for keeping an eye on borrowers. The standards for underwriting loans are also decentralized and potentially subjective, as well. In 2010, the Bank's board of directors authorized certain officials to approve loan applications under $10 million, raising concern that the bank was no longer doing its due diligence or applying a uniform standard for loan approval. The IG recommended Ex-Im improve its credit underwriting process, but there is no indication these changes have been implemented.

Ex-Im has also ignored recommendations to manage its risk, as wise private investors do, by diversifying its portfolio geographically and by sector. As a result, its portfolio is too heavily concentrated in a handful of industries. If a sector of the economy heavily subsidized by Ex-Im — like aerospace, for example — were to suffer, taxpayers could be on the hook for billions of dollars in bad loans.

We have paid for such bad decisions before. The painful lessons of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should not go unheeded. Congress made it clear that Ex-Im needs to reform the way it does business, but Ex-Im has made it clear it will not change. Ex-Im is at risk of becoming another Enron — that legendary corporate example of mismanagement and misconduct, which itself once benefited from Ex-Im financing.

The government should not be in the banking business to begin with, but a government bank that defies the government's elected representatives is ev en more inappropriate. We are both determined to let Ex-Im begin what will likely be a 20-year process of winding down its operations in order to protect taxpayers and pave the way for a freer, more prosperous economic future.

Banks as Felons, or Crim inality Lite **// NYT // Editorial Board - May 22, 2015**

As of this week, Citicorp, JPMorgan Chase, Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland are felons, having pleaded guilty on Wednesday to criminal charges of conspiring to rig the v alue of the world’s currencies. According to the Justice Department, the lengthy and lucrative conspiracy enabled the banks to pad their profits without regard to fairness, the law or the public good.

Besides the criminal label, however, nothing much has changed for the banks. And that means nothing much has changed for the public. There is no meaningful accountability in the plea deals and, by extension, no meaningful deterrence from future wrongdoing. In a memo to employ ees this week, the chief executive of Citi, Michael Corbat, called the criminal behavior “an embarrassment” — not the word most people would use to describe a felony but an apt one in light of the fact that the plea deals are essentially a spanking, nothing more.

As a rule, a felony plea carries more painful consequences. For example, a publicly traded company that is guilty of a crime is supposed to lose privileges granted by the Securities and Exchange Commission to quickly raise and trade money in the capital markets. But in this instance, the plea deals were not completed until the S.E.C. gave official assurance that the banks could keep operating the same as always, despite their criminal misconduct. (One S.E.C. commissioner, Kara Stein, issued a scathing dissent from the agency’s decision to excuse the banks.)

Barclay s was one of the banks that pleaded guilty to federal crimes in a currency manipulation case. Credit Mike Segar/ Reuters

Also, a guilty plea is usually a prelude to further action, not the “resolution” of a case, as the Justice Department has called the plea deals with the banks.

To properly determine accountability for criminal conspiracy in the currency cases, prosecutors should now investigate low-level employees in the crime — traders, say — and then use information gleaned from them to push the investigation up as far as the evidence leads. No one has thus far been named or charged. Nor has there been any explanation of how such lengthy and lucrative criminal conduct could have gone unsuspected and undetected by supervisors, managers and executives. The plea deals leave open the possibility of further investigation, but the prosecutors’ light touch with the

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banks makes it doubtful they will follow through.

An argument has been made that the S.E.C. was right not to revoke the banks' capital-market privileges because doing so might disrupt the economy. That is debatable. What is not debatable is that bringing criminal charges against individuals and even sending some of them to jail would not disrupt the economy. To the contrary, holding individuals accountable is all the more important in instances of wrongdoing by banks that, for whatever reason, have been exempted from the full legal consequences of their criminal behavior.

If I walk into the local bank, demanding the teller hand over X dollars, I would immediately get tackled and hauled off to jail. If I used...

Bribes become acceptable when they have enough 0s.

We all know exactly where the NYSE floor is. Nothing is stopping private citizens from waiting outside and putting the fear of god into...

The plea deals mimic previous civil settlements. In all, the banks will pay fines totaling about $9 billion, assessed by the Justice Department as well as state, federal and foreign regulators. That seems like a sweet deal for a scam that lasted for at least five years, from the end of 2007 to the beginning of 2013, during which the banks' revenue from foreign exchange was some $85 billion.

The banks will also be placed on "corporate probation" for three years, which will be overseen by the court and require regular reporting to the authorities as well as the cessation of all criminal activity. And the banks are also required to notify customers and counterparties that may have been directly affected by the banks' manipulation of the currency markets.

The Justice Department intended the criminal pleas to look tough. Instead, they reflect at bottom the same prosecutorial indulgence that has plagued the pursuit of the banks in the many financial scandals of recent years.

Why Obamacare makes me optimistic about US politics **// Vox // Ezra Klein - May 22, 2015**

Five years after its passage, Obamacare stands as a monument to much that's wrong with American politics. But it also, increasingly, is evidence of much that's right with it, too.

First, the bad news. Obama isn't just as bitterly polarizing as ever — it's also as confusing as ever. The media has covered the law and its implementation more thoroughly than perhaps any other law in recent American history. But according to a national poll conducted by PerryUndem for Vox, only 18 percent of Americans say they know enough about what's in the Affordable Care Act. And it's not clear that more information would do much good: only 19 percent of Americans think what they hear in the news about Obamacare is even "mostly true."

Much of what Americans know about Obamacare is simply wrong. A plurality, for instance, think the law is costing more than originally estimated. Only 5 percent know it's actually costing quite a bit less:

The result is that opinions on the law are pretty much the same as the day it passed: 83 percent of Americans say their view of Obamacare hasn't shifted over the past five years.

But the good news is, well, really good. Obamacare's premiums are much cheaper than anyone expected, and a new study by the Kaiser Family Foundation shows most enrollees are happy with their health insurance, happy with the value they're getting for their money, and happy with their choice of doctors and hospitals:

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In total, a new Rand study estimates that Obamacare has gotten 16.9 million people insured. And all this is happening amidst the most profound slowdown in national health-care costs in decades.

More information won't save American politics

Obamacare is an example of a depressing fact of American politics: more information doesn't change minds.

Social scientists have tested this again and again. The more information partisans get, the deeper their disagreements become. When it comes to politics, people reason backward from their conclusions. Politics makes smart people stupid.

Consider how much we've learned about Obamacare in the past five y ears — and how few elected officials have changed their minds about it. We know how many people it's covering and how much its premiums are costing and how badly Healthcare.gov was designed and how high the deductibles are and how narrow the networks are becoming and how happy people are with their insurance.

Yet no congressional Democrats have watched Obamacare's progression and turned against the law. No congressional Republicans have noticed the law cov ering tens of millions of people with cheaper-than-expected premiums and decided maybe it's not such a disaster after all.

If anything, the opposite has happened. In a last-ditch effort to wound Obamacare by wrecking it in Republican states, conserv atives have begun dev eloping a bizarro-Earth history of the law — one in which Congress built federal exchanges for the sole purpose of ruining insurance markets in recalcitrant states. Five y ears later, it is not just opinions on Obamacare's worth that have diverged. The two sides can't even agree on what the law say s or the history of how it was passed.

Among these elites, the problem is not too little information, nor too little trust in the information. It is too much information that confirms their priors, and too much trust in arguments and "facts" that suit their ends. But the result is much the same. If Americans sometimes seem to disagree on Obamacare because they know too little, Washington's bitter divide is the result of knowing too much.

This is a good place to stop for a moment and be clear about my priors, though they are already quite obvious: I think the evidence is, at this point, overwhelmingly on the side of the law. Obamacare is nowhere near perfect, but it's doing pretty much what it said it would do, at a lower cost than anyone thought. The law can and should be improved, but the simple fact is that the federal government is cov ering millions of prev iously uninsured Americans and spending less on health care with Obamacare than it expected in 2010 to spend without Obamacare. That's remarkable.

Some readers might see my side of this argument as convincing. Some might see it as deluded. In some ways, that's the point. My counterparts and I are drowning in Obamacare data and are no closer to agreement than we were five years ago. More information is just giving both sides more way s to confirm what they already believe.

Washington can't reason. But it can govern.

The state of the Obamacare debate is depressing. But the state of the law is encouraging across pretty much every metric you can find.

Despite a terrible start — the mess that was Healthcare.gov will be used to scare public administration students for generations to come — the law is working pretty well.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that Obamacare will cut the ranks of the uninsured by 17 million in 2015 —

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and will cost more than $100 billion less than originally thought. Enrollees are quite happy with their coverage. And, nationally, America's health-care spending is growing more slowly than it has since the 1960s — a trend Obamacare can't take full credit for, but that it hasn't interrupted and is likely helping along.

Obamacare's biggest problem is that the Supreme Court let states opt out of the Medicaid expansion — and dozens did.

But a few years in, a majority of states have signed up, and even the reddest locales are slowly but surely coming around. Right now, Kansas and Utah are thinking about joining Obamacare's Medicaid expansion even while Obama remains in office. It's a pretty safe bet that once Obama leaves, and some of the polarization around his signature law leaves with him, all or nearly all states will eventually participate in the law.

And this is, more broadly, the bright spot for American politics as a whole. Even as it is often irrational for elected officials to look at the facts and come to a conclusion that puts them at odds with their party, it is rational for them, when in power, to come to conclusions that will help them govern well.

This was evident even when the Democratic Party first passed and implemented Obamacare. The law was unpopular by the time it passed — and one reason was that Democrats had actually made it fiscally responsible legislation, adding hundreds of billions in spending cuts and tax increases. Healthcare.gov was a mess on the day it launched, but the White House fixed it quickly — even as some liberals downplayed the severity of technical problems, the Obama administration knew its legacy depended on the law actually working.

This is true across policies. Democrats may broadly support tax increases, but Democratic presidents worry about the distortionary effects of high taxes. Republicans may want to drown the government in a bathtub, but they know better than to get voters too wet. That isn't to say either party governs perfectly, or even always rationally. But governing has feedback loops that press releases don't. Parties that want to stay in power — and they all do – have an incentive to do a good job.

In that way, voters discipline the system even if they don't know much about individual policies, and even if they don't regularly update their opinions on how various laws are working. Most people aren't experts on politics, but they are experts on their lives and the lives of their loved ones. If the economy is tanking, or their health insurance is being yanked away, or their cousin was just wounded in an unnecessary war, they eventually punish the politicians they think responsible.

It's not a perfect system — sometimes elected officials end up paying for the sins of their predecessors, or can pass legislation where the bill will be sent to their successors — but it's better than we sometimes give it credit for.

For all the rhetoric, imagine what would happen to, say, President Jeb Bush if he sought to uproot Obamacare entirely. Tens of millions of Americans would lose their health insurance overnight. Any search for a coherent replacement would spark a brutal political war within the Republican Party. Republicans would suddenly be on the wrong end of the "if you like your health care, you can keep it" promise. Remember that for all the energy congressional Republicans spent in the 1990s trying to cut Medicare, Bush's brother, once in the White House, ended up massively expanding it. The incentives of governing are very different from the incentives of politicking.

The Islamic State is entirely a creation of Obama's policies // WaPo // Ed Rogers - May 22, 2015

As reported by Robert Costa in The Washington Post, Republicans are blaming the president not only for allowing the Islamic State to develop as a terrorist organization in the first place, but also for failing to effectively combat the group as it has grown. Yet there appears to be some objection to Republicans calling President Obama out on his lack of a foreign policy strategy. Well, yeah. The Islamic State is 100 percent a creation of Obama's policies. Plain and simple.

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Iraq security forces withdraw from Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's Anbar province, 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad, Sunday, May 17, 2015. Suicide car bomb attacks killed over 10 members of Iraqi security forces Sunday in Ramadi, which now is largely held by the Islamic State group, authorities said. Last week, the militants swept through Ramadi, seizing the main government headquarters and other key parts of the city. It marked a major setback for the Iraqi government's efforts to drive the militants out of areas they seized last year.

By his own admission, Obama announced the "end" of the Iraq war, standing in front of returning troops at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Dec. 14, 2011. In that speech, he said the United States was leaving behind "a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq, with a representative government." There was no Islamic State threat at that time. Fast forward to this month, when the president said in an interview with the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg the day after Ramadi, Iraq, fell to Islamic State fighters that, "No, I don't think we're losing." I wonder what this administration thinks "losing" looks like? This isn't a "technical setback." The losses in Iraq and the splintering of Syria are a direct result of at least three key Obama decisions.

First, Obama let the sectarian Nouri al-Maliki form a government in Iraq, even after Maliki failed to win the Iraqi parliamentary elections in 2010. Second, Obama folded in 2011 and did not ensure that an American fighting force remained in Iraq. Third, Obama refused to identify and groom an allied force fighting against President Bashar al-Assad in Syria. To be clear, Obama is completely to blame for the Islamic State — the "JV team," in his words — and its rapid consolidation of territory in western Iraq and through half of Syria. We are paying the price for the president's dithering and his refusal to cultivate and equip an allied force that could shape events inside Syria and western Iraq. As your Insider said on May 18, "A 'Sunni-stan' is being created in front of our eyes."

And since all Insiders readers know that bad gets worse, we can assume the march of the Islamic State will continue unless the president acknowledges some new realities. That doesn't seem likely, as White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest is incredibly still claiming that the Obama administration's strategy against the Islamic State is "overall" a success. So there is virtually no chance the president will acknowledge that the borders of the nation called Iraq, ruled from Baghdad, no longer exist; or that the nation called Syria, with its current borders, will not continue to be ruled from Damascus.

Anyway, I have always accused this White House of lacking insight and being incapable of being self-aware — much less self-critical — so despite the urgent nature of world events, the prospect of a wholesale revision of our foreign policy objectives and policies is unlikely.

This lack of insight — the denial, delusion and downright, jaw-dropping inability to deal with the world as it is — was on display Wednesday during Obama's remarks at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy commencement ceremony. Given the realities of America's decline and retreat from the global stage and the growing threats to our country, the president thought the most important thing he could say to a U.S. military force was, "Climate change constitutes a serious threat to global security, an immediate risk to our national security ... And so we need to act — and we need to act now."

Since the president has been wrong about almost everything else concerning our national security, perhaps he's wrong about the threat he sees in global warming. These are serious matters, but it's hard not to ridicule what the president said at the academy. Perhaps if global warming persists at the pace the president desires, maybe it could actually improve America's strategic positioning. Maybe global warming will work to America's advantage since Obama cannot. Maybe global warming will cause the islands China is creating to flood. Maybe warm weather will strain the air conditioners in the North Korean laboratories where scientists are miniaturizing nuclear weapons. Maybe another Russian sinkhole will open up and swallow Vladimir Putin, making it impossible for him to continue to humiliate the president. Maybe a drought will somehow inhibit the Islamic State and keep it from murdering the few allies we still have in the Middle East.

Anyway, the Republican voices seeking to replace Obama need to speak with urgency so that the rest of the world will take notice. Even if Obama continues to be a befuddled pushover on the world stage, perhaps their forceful statements — combined with those of our GOP congressional leaders — will send the message that our enemies and competitors should temper their ambitions because a new sheriff is only 20 months away.

The Art of Avoiding War **// The Atlantic // Robert D. Kaplan - May 23, 2015**

The Scythians were nomadic horsemen who dominated a vast realm of the Pontic steppe north of the Black Sea, in present-day Ukraine and southern Russia, from the seventh century to the third century b.c. Unlike other ancient peoples who left not a trace, the Scythians continued to haunt and terrify long after they were gone. Herodotus recorded that they "ravaged the whole of Asia. They not only took tribute from each people, but also made raids and pillaged everything these peoples had." Napoleon, on witnessing the Russians' willingness to burn down their own capital rather than hand it over to

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his army, reputedly said: “They are Scythians!”

The more chilling moral for modern audiences involves not the Scythians’ cruelty, but rather their tactics against the invading Persian army of Darius, early in the sixth century b.c. As Darius’s infantry marched east near the Sea of Azov, hoping to meet the Scythian war bands in a decisive battle, the Scythians kept withdrawing into the immense reaches of their territory. Darius was perplexed, and sent the Scythian king, Idanthyrsus, a challenge: If you think yourself stronger, stand and fight; if not, submit.

Idanthyrsus replied that since his people had neither cities nor cultivated land for an enemy to destroy, they had nothing to defend, and thus no reason to give battle. Instead, his men harassed and skirmished with Persian foraging parties, then quickly withdrew, over and over again. Each time, small groups of Persian cavalry fled in disorder, while the main body of Darius’s army weakened as it marched farther and farther away from its base and supply lines. Darius ultimately retreated from Scythia, essentially defeated, without ever having had the chance to fight.

Killing the enemy is easy, in other words; it is finding him that is difficult. This is as true today as ever; the landscape of war is now vaster and emptier of combatants than it was during the set-piece battles of the Industrial Age. Related lessons: don’t go hunting ghosts, and don’t get too deep into a situation where your civilizational advantage is of little help. Or, as the Chinese sage of early antiquity Sun Tzu famously said, “The side that knows when to fight and when not will take the victory. There are roadways not to be traveled, armies not to be attacked, walled cities not to be assaulted.” A case in point comes from the ill-fated Sicilian Expedition of the late fifth century b.c., chronicled by Thucydides, in which Athens sent a small force to far-off Sicily in support of allies there, only to be drawn deeper and deeper into the conflict, until the prestige of its whole maritime empire became dependent upon victory. Thucydides’s story is especially poignant in the wake of Vietnam and Iraq. With the Athenians, as with Darius, one is astonished by how the obsession with honor and reputation can lead a great power toward a bad fate. The image of Darius’s army marching into nowhere on an inhospitable steppe, in search of an enemy that never quite appears, is so powerful that it goes beyond mere symbolism.

Your enemy will not meet you on your own terms, only on his. That is why asymmetric warfare is as old as history. When fleeting insurgents planted car bombs and harassed marines and soldiers in the warrens of Iraqi towns, they were Scythians. When the Chinese harass the Filipino navy and make territorial claims with fishing boats, coast-guard vessels, and oil rigs, all while avoiding any confrontation with U.S. warships, they are Scythians. And when the warriors of the Islamic State arm themselves with knives and video cameras, they, too, are Scythians. Largely because of these Scythians, the United States has only limited ability to determine the outcome of many conflicts, despite being a superpower. America is learning an ironic truth of empire: you endure by not fighting every battle. In the first century A.D., Tiberius preserved Rome by not interfering in bloody internecine conflicts beyond its northern frontier. Instead, he practiced strategic patience as he watched the carnage. He understood the limits of Roman power.

The United States does not chase after war bands in Yemen as Darius did in Scythia, but occasionally it kills individuals from the air. The fact that it uses drones is proof not of American strength, but of American limitations. The Obama administration must recognize these limitations, and not allow, for example, the country to be drawn deeper into the conflict in Syria. If the U.S. helps topple the dictator Bashar al-Assad on Wednesday, then what will it do on Thursday, when it finds that it has helped midwife to power a Sunni jihadist regime, or on Friday, when ethnic cleansing of the Shia-trending Alawites commences? Perhaps this is a battle that, as Sun Tzu might conclude, should not be fought. But Assad has killed many tens of thousands, maybe more, and he is being supported by the Iranians! True, but remember that emotion, however righteous, can be the enemy of analysis.

So how can the U.S. avoid Darius’s fate? How can it avoid being undone by pride, while still fulfilling its moral responsibility as a great power? It should use proxies wherever it can find them, even among adversaries. If the Iranian-backed Houthis are willing to fight al Qaeda in Yemen, why should Americans be opposed? And if the Iranians ignite a new phase of sectarian war in Iraq, let that be their own undoing, as they themselves fail to understand the lesson of the Scythians. While the Middle East implodes through years of low-intensity conflict among groups of Scythians, let Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Iran jostle toward an uneasy balance of power, and the U.S. remain a half step removed—caution, after all, is not the same as capitulation. Finally, let the U.S. return to its roots as a maritime power in Asia and a defender on land in Europe, where there are fewer Scythians, and more ordinary villains. Scythians are the nemesis of missionary nations, nations that obey no limits. Certainly America should reach, but not—like Darius—overreach.

The Notorious R.B.G . // National Journal // Editorial Board - May 22. 2015

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s more florid admirers sometimes refer to her as “The Notorious R.B.G.,” as though notoriety, which she seems intent on courting, were a virtue for a justice of the Supreme Court. On the matter of same-sex marriage, Justice Ginsburg long ago stopped behaving like a judge and started behaving like a member of a political campaign. She

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talked up the prospects of same-sex marriage earlier this year — Bloomberg headlined the story , not inaccurately, “Ruth Bader Ginsburg Thinks Americans Are Ready for Gay Marriage” — and declared that Americans’ acceptance of a federal redefinition of family life, should five of nine Supreme Court justices demand it, “would not take a large adjustment.” Other than the jettisoning of state marriage laws and a few thousand y ears of social ev olution, that is. Ginsburg is a bit of a freelance advocate of Democratic policies and priorities, having praised, among other things, the so-called Affordable Care Act, the constitutionally questionable provisions of which she voted to uphold.

Likewise, her public call for Congress to undo the effects of the Lilly Ledbetter case and her implausible, poorly reasoned dissent in the Hobby Lobby case speak to political rather than legal priorities.

Justice Ginsburg’s bare political activ ism is unseemly, a reminder that the Court, like any other institution, is corruptible. Last week she presided at a same-sex wedding, not her first — the two gentlemen strolled down the aisle to the accompaniment of “Mr. Sandman” — during which, the New York Times reports, she put a theatrical weight upon the word “Constitution,” with a “sly look and special emphasis,” as Maureen Dowd put it. And that, of course, is one of the questions before the Supreme Court: whether the 14th Amendment, unbeknownst to its 19th-century architects, has all along contained within it a provision mandating the nationwide enshrinement of same-sex marriage as a matter of fundamental rights. “Bring me a dream,” indeed.

But Justice Ginsburg’s admirers are not troubled by that — far from it, in fact: They want what they want, and their conception of government is that it exists to give them what they want. Principle? Limitation? Separation of powers? For the infantile, nothing is able to stand against the great “I want.”

Justice Ginsburg might be expected to have a more sophisticated understanding of the architecture of our constitutional order. That she does not is both an intellectual and a moral indictment of Justice Ginsburg, and an indictment by extension of her sy cophants in the press and the legal establishment. It is further evidence that there is something other than the law at work in the rulings of the Supreme Court, indeed that the law may be considered an obstacle by justices seeking to satisfy political appetites. And this appears to be especially the case when it comes to same-sex marriage, an issue where legal reasoning has consistently taken a back seat to political advocacy. If this really were a legal proceeding, subject to standard principles of recusal, Justice Ginsburg’s open support for one side of the litigation would create a moral obligation for her to recuse herself. But an honest interpretation of the 14th Amendment is not what is going on, and Justice Ginsburg’s own comments are evidence of it: Whether the country is “ready” for same-sex marriage is, of course, irrelevant to whether it is a constitutional command. This is a ward-heeler’s approach to the Constitution. She really should be notorious.

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | Communications

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 3:57:07 AM
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

Marco Rubio **Verified account** @ marcorubio

User Actions
Following

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/11/2008 1:40:00 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/11

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 11th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
10:30am BUSH: Meets with the economic team at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.

11am McCain: Town Hall in Hudson, WI
- Tracking scheduled for this event

News Clips:

MCCAIN GRAMM 'NATION OF WHINER' NEWS

Gramm Remark Adds to McCain's Difficulty Addressing the Economy (Washington Post 7/11/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Jonathan Weisman A01
Sen. John McCain ventured to an auto-parts supplier in this hard-hit Detroit suburb to express sympathy for those affected by Michigan's economic malaise and to talk up his ideas for creating jobs in the region.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071003085.html

McCain Adviser Refers to 'Nation of Whiners,' Touching Off Rebukes (NYT 7/11/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
Senator John McCain has spent the week trying to tell people that he feels their economic pain. So it was more than a little unhelpful when one of his top economic advisers was quoted Thursday as saying that the United States was only in a "mental recession" and that it had become a "nation of whiners."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/11/us/politics/11campaign.html?ref=politics

Gaffe Alert! (Newsweek 7/10/08)
By Howard Fineman
This was supposed to be John McCain's week to re-re-launch his campaign, this time with a tightly focused message about the economy and how he plans to fix it. He had a nicely staged debut in Denver, even if the experts quickly demanded to know how he could preserve George Bush's tax cuts, stay in Iraq and yet balance the federal budget by 2013. Details, details! Still, McCain was back in the game. Then a one-man thundercloud named Phil Gramm rained on McCain's Main Street parade.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/145421

Dr. Phil Gramm knows what ails America (LA Times 7/11/08)
Here are a few permissible ways a presidential campaign can describe American voters: hardworking, decent, caring. And here's one that won't cut it: whiners.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailgramm11-2008jul11,0,2281266.story
***See* AP's "McCain Disagrees With Adviser 'Whiners' Remark":** http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1821708,00.html
***See* TPM's "Whoops! Gramm "Spoke For" McCain Today At Edit Board Meeting":** http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/but_but_gramm_spoke_for_mccain.php

Gramm Stands by Recession Comments (Washington Post blog 7/10/08)
By Jonathan Weisman and Perry Bacon Jr.
Former senator Phil Gramm -- under fire for saying the United States has "become a nation of whiners" -- said in an interview today that he meant the nation's leaders were whiners, not its citizens.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/10/gramm_stands_by_recession_comm.html#more

McCain Disagrees With Adviser 'Whiners' Remark (AP 7/10/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Republican John McCain distanced himself from an economic adviser who dubbed the United States "a nation of whiners" in a "mental recession" as Democrat Barack Obama turned the remarks against his rival.

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http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1821708,00.html
Link to McCain's response: http://thepage.time.com/full-remarks-of-mccains-media-availability-on-gramm/
Link to McCain camp statement: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-on-gramm/

McCain campaign originally stood by Gramm's comments. (ThinkProgress 7/10/08)
Earlier today, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) presidential campaign tried to distance itself from top economic adviser Phil Gramm's claim that America is a "nation of whiners" by claiming Gramm's words were "not representative" of McCain's views. But as Huffington Post's Sam Stein reports, the McCain campaign originally had a different response, in which a campaign official told Politico that Gramm was "simply saying that we are laying out the economic plan this week":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/10/mccain-campaign-originally-stood-by-gramms-comments/

MCCAIN NEWS

The Candidates Speak Off the Cuff, and Trouble Quickly Follows (NYT 7/11/08)
By LARRY ROHTER
At this rate, both John McCain and Barack Obama may want to rethink their fondness for town-hall-style meetings. Both have embroiled themselves in controversies this week as a result of departing from scripted campaign speeches and speaking off the cuff.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/11/us/politics/11checkpoint.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1215775021-qzUNlqXR0jAUhKwVr+em8g

Candidates Are Slow to Identify 'Bundlers' (NYT 7/11/08)
By MICHAEL LUO and CHRISTOPHER DREW
Senators Barack Obama and John McCain have long been among the most outspoken critics of the influence of money in politics. Yet records show that in their presidential campaigns, neither has lived up to his promise to fully disclose the identities of his top money collectors who bundle millions of dollars in campaign contributions.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/11/us/politics/11bundlers.html

Hispanics seek McCain's reassurance (Washington Times 7/11/08)
By Stephen Dinan
When Sen. John McCain speaks to the nation's largest Hispanic rights group this weekend, he will face an audience increasingly confused about his immigration position and looking for a declaration that he remains the same champion with whom they have worked for two decades.
http://www.washtimes.com/news/2008/jul/11/hispanics-seek-mccains-reassurance/

McCain, Obama Woo Hispanics, Duel Over Prescriptions for Growth (Bloomberg 7/11/08)
By Kristin Jensen
John McCain and Barack Obama agree the Latino vote will be pivotal in a close presidential election and both know their disadvantages, with McCain tied to an unpopular party and Obama losing such voters overwhelmingly in the Democratic primaries.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=aCpO22N0tK2c&refer=politics

McCain Courts Hispanics in New TV Ad (The Page 7/11/08)
30-second spot praises Hispanics' service in the Armed Forces, highlights quote from a June '07 New Hampshire debate: "So let's from time to time remember that these are God's children. They must come into country legally, but they have enriched our culture and our nation as every generation of immigrants before them."The ad will air in Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico. Amount and length of buy unknown.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/11/mccain-courts-hispanics-in-new-tv-ad/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0cNqtUtufo
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/john-mccain-2008-launches-new-tv-ad-gods-children/

McCain totals his highest donations in June (USA Today 7/11/08)
By Fredreka Schouten
Republican John McCain had the strongest fundraising month of his presidential campaign in June, collecting $22 million and starting July with nearly $27 million in the bank to battle against Democrat Barack Obama.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-10-mccain-fundraising_N.htm

McCain Manager Predicts an Even-Money Race (Washington Post 7/11/08)
Friday, July 11, 2008; A04
Sen. John McCain raised just more than $22 million during the month of June, and his campaign manager said yesterday he expects the Republican presidential candidate to stay on nearly equal financial footing with Democratic Sen. Barack Obama through the November election.

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071002748.html
***See* The Hill's "McCain camp: Obama needs $200 million to 'keep pace'":** http://thehill.com/campaign-2008/mccain-camp-obama-needs-200-million-to-keep-pace-2008-07-10.html
See Politico's "McCain camp reassures GOP of finances": http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11667.html

Obama Is Catching Up to McCain In Television-Ad Spending (WSJ 7/11/08)
By AARON RUTKOFF; Page A5
In the three weeks since Barack Obama launched his first general-election television ad he has all but erased John McCain's three-month headstart in ad spending on the airwaves.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121573238606944141.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

McCain misfires on Obama attack (CNN 7/10/08)
By Evan Glass and Kerith McFadden
It turns out that John McCain made an off-the-mark error when he launched at Barack Obama this week over Iran's missile tests.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/10/mccain-misfires-on-obama-attack/

Ironically, success of the surge in Iraq is helping Obama (UK's Globe and Mail 7/11/08)
By JOHN IBBITSON
It is the strangest of political ironies. Every report out of Iraq suggests that John McCain's campaign to rescue that plagued country through a surge in troop strength has worked. ...As a result, the al-Maliki government is now demanding that a timeline for the withdrawal of U.S. troops be part of an agreement that Iraq and the United States are trying to reach concerning future American troop deployments in Iraq.
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/GAM.20080711.IBBITSON11/TPStory/TPComment

A Hint of New Life to a McCain Birth Issue (NYT 7/11/08)
By ADAM LIPTAK
In the most detailed examination yet of Senator John McCain's eligibility to be president, a law professor at the University of Arizona has concluded that neither Mr. McCain's birth in 1936 in the Panama Canal Zone nor the fact that his parents were American citizens is enough to satisfy the constitutional requirement that the president must be a "natural-born citizen."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/11/us/politics/11mccain.html

McCain Calls for Sanctions on Iran (WSJ blog 7/10/08)
By Susan Davis
Expected Republican nominee John McCain today called for "meaningful and impactful" sanctions against Iran following a series of missile tests Wednesday and Thursday.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/10/mccain-calls-for-sanctions-on-iran/

Time to relaunch an important debate on missile shield (Detroit Free Press 7/10/08)
Iran's test-firing of a missile capable of striking Israel reignites an issue for the presidential campaign: Should the United States stay on track with Bush administration plans to build a $3.5-billion missile defense system in Eastern Europe to contain any threat from Iran? Republican candidate John McCain says yes, Democrat Barack Obama is less enthused, and Russia is bitterly opposed, even hinting at military action against such a U.S. installation.
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008807100338

Despite all his fearmongering, McCain admits he doesn't know 'the nature of the threat' from Iran. (ThinkProgress 7/10/08)
Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) regularly hypes the threat posed by Iran, saying they are "intent on acquiring nuclear weapons" and even attacking Democrats for allegedly not recognizing "the threat posed by an Iran with nuclear ambitions." But when ABC's Charlie Gibson asked McCain yesterday if an Israeli strike against Iran would be "jusified" in light of Iran's recent missile tests, McCain said that he couldn't determine "the nature of the threat" from Iran:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/10/despite-all-his-fearmongering-mccain-admits-he-doesnt-know-the-nature-of-the-threat-from-iran/

McCain camp tries to link McCain to Colombian hostage release. (ThinkProgress 7/10/08)
Last week, when Colombia infiltrated the FARC to successfully free 15 hostages, Fox News falsely tried to tie the rescue to Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) visit to the country. On McCain's official blog yesterday, Michael Goldfarb glibly insinuated that McCain's leadership led to the rescue:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/10/mccain-camp-tries-to-link-mccain-to-colombian-hostage-release/

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McCain's Taxing Tax Attacks (TIME blog 7/10/08)
By Michael Scherer
The latest version of the new-and-improved candidate McCain sticks to a message. And this week, the message is the economy, with a big subset devoted to taxes, specifically the idea that Republicans cut taxes and Democrats raise taxes, making Republicans better for a nation in distress. The problem is that McCain's rhetoric on taxes often skirts the truth of the tax debate.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/07/mccains_taxing_tax_attacks.html

Why John McCain is So Awful (Atlantic Online 7/10/08)
By Matthew Yglesias
...Some good points are made, but I think most of these posts wind up implicitly overstating the extent to which McCain was an effective politician at some point in the past and has only recently become crappy. The reality is that he's been coasting for his entire political career, and his toughest race -- the 2000 GOP presidential primary -- was won where he lost badly.
http://matthewyglesias.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/why_john_mccain_is_so_awful.php

For Obama, McCain, varied paths on women's issues (AP 7/10/08)
By Liz Sidoti and Charles Babington
It's women's week on the presidential campaign trail, judging from the attention that Barack Obama and John McCain are lavishing on female voters and issues especially important to them.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/07/10/
for_obama_mccain_varied_paths_on_womens_issues/

McCain Adviser: Priority Is Getting Economy Growing (NPR 7/11/08)
[includes link to audio]
Morning Edition, July 11, 2008 · John McCain's economic adviser Carly Fiorina is campaigning with the presumptive GOP presidential nominee and is one of many names that has been mentioned as a possible McCain running mate. Renee Montagne talks with Fiorina, the former president and CEO of Hewlett Packard.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92442919

McCain planning to stop in area (WI's Leader-Telegram 7/11/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain will make a stop in the Eau Claire area today after his scheduled town hall meeting in Hudson, according to a source with the McCain campaign.
http://www.leadertelegram.com/story-news.asp?id=BH5E6MREE47

McCain: I feel Michigan's pain (The Detroit News 7/10/08)
By Gordon Trowbridge and Tanveer Ali
John McCain was forced on Thursday to spend part of his first Michigan campaign appearance in weeks distancing himself from a top economic adviser.
http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080710/METRO/807100440/1022/rss10

McCain takes tough talk to undecided voters (Detroit Free-Press 7/10/08)
BY BEN SCHMITT, KATHLEEN GRAY AND SARAH TOMPKINS
Republican presidential candidate John McCain emphasized the need for free trade today while meeting with a group of undecided voters and automotive employees today in western Wayne County.
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080710/NEWS06/807100379
Link to video: http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080710/VIDEO01/80710067

Michigan Governor's Low Marks Give McCain a Shot (WSJ 7/11/08)
By Sara Murray in Washington and Elizabeth Holmes
Michigan should be a layup for Barack Obama. The state's economy is in the doldrums, blue-collar auto workers are losing jobs and the state hasn't voted for a Republican in a presidential election since 1988.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121574180368244863.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

McCain rallies St. Paul volunteers (AP 7/10/08)
John McCain dropped in on a phone bank Thursday to tell campaign volunteers they can make or break him in Minnesota.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-10-mccain-stpaul_N.htm

McCain vows support for Fannie, Freddie (Washington Times 7/11/08)
By Patrice Hill
Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain said Thursday he would not allow Fannie Mae and Freddie

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Mac to fail, even as fears mounted that the mortgage giants are insolvent and could succumb to market pressures.... A bailout could cost taxpayers $1 trillion
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jul/11/mccain-vows-support-for-fannie-and-freddie/

In Pennsylvania, McCain Tells a New Version of Heroic P.O.W. Story -- Subbing the Pittsburgh Steelers for the Green Bay Packers (ABC blog 7/10/08)
By Jake Tapper
Yesterday in Pittsburgh, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., professed his love for the Steelers to KDKA-TV. ...And then McCain told a rather moving story about his time as a P.O.W. "When I was first interrogated and really had to give some information because of the pressures, physical pressures on me, I named the starting lineup, defensive line of the Pittsburgh Steelers as my squadron mates."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/07/in-pennsylvania.html

AFL-CIO seeks wedge between McCain and veterans (The Hill 7/10/08)
By Alexander Bolton
The AFL-CIO has launched a television ad in six states that will target military veterans who are also union members and may be inclined to vote for Sen. John McCain, the expected GOP nominee, because of his combat record.
http://thehill.com/campaign-2008/afl-cio-seeks-wedge-between-mccain-and-veterans-2008-07-10.html

AFL-CIO Falsely Attacks McCain (FactCheck.org 7/11/08)
By Justin Bank
It runs an ad claiming McCain voted "against increasing health care benefits for veterans," when he actually voted repeatedly to increase them.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/145415

Fellow ex-POW eager to back McCain against Obama (AP 7/11/08)
By MIKE GLOVER
In the decades since they shared a prison cell in North Vietnam, George "Bud" Day has remained a close friend of Republican John McCain and emerged as a staunch opponent of Democrats seeking the presidency.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gX0c6yHcUWgLlMBNdhNVgUC8DzEAD91RGLLG0

Keeping his fingers crossed (Economist 7/9/08)
John McCain hopes to overcome his problems with the economy
http://www.economist.com/world/na/displayStory.cfm?story_id=11700885&source=features_box2

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's budget figures don't add up (Boston Globe 7/11/08)
By Scot Lehigh
FICTION MAY require a willing suspension of disbelief, but presidential campaigns shouldn't.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/11/mccains_budget_figures_dont_add_up/

So long, spoiled children (LA Times 7/10/08)
By Rob Long
McCain's jab at USC may prove to be a stroke of campaign genius.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-long10-2008jul10,0,2984701.story

McCain and Post-Racial Politics (TownHall.com 7/10/08)
by Ken Blackwell
On July 16 Senator McCain will address the NAACP at its national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. It will give him a historic opportunity to lay out his vision for individual empowerment, and offer concrete solutions for solving the challenges facing many African-Americans today.
http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/KenBlackwell/2008/07/10/mccain_and_post-racial_politics

The Week That Should Have Ended McCain's Presidential Hopes (Huffington Post 7/10/08)
By Max Bergmann
This is the week that should have effectively ended John McCain's efforts to become the next president of the United States. But you wouldn't know it if you watched any of the mainstream media outlets or followed political reporting in the major newspapers.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/max-bergmann/the-week-that-should-have_b_111983.html

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

How Hostages, And Nations, Get Liberated (Washington Post 7/11/08)
By Charles Krauthammer; Page A17
Diplomacy and moral suasion alone cannot make the world a better place.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071002262.html

Capitalism's Reality Check (Washington Post 7/11/08)
By E. J. Dionne Jr.; A17
The biggest political story of 2008 is getting little coverage. It involves the collapse of assumptions that have dominated our economic debate for three decades.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071002264.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush Signs Eavesdropping Law (AP 7/11/08)
President Bush signed a bill that overhauls rules about government eavesdropping and grants immunity to telecommunications companies that helped the United States spy on Americans.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/11/washington/11brfs-BUSHSIGNSEAV_BRF.html?ref=us

Kucinich Brings Bush Impeachment Resolution to House Floor Again (FOX News 7/10/08)
Ohio Democratic Rep. Dennis Kucinich said Thursday he's pleased that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is going to consider his impeachment resolution against President Bush.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,379681,00.html

Bush will veto Medicare bill, White House says (The Hill 7/10/08)
By Jeffrey Young
President Bush will stand by his longstanding threat to veto Medicare legislation passed by the Senate Wednesday, the White House confirmed.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/bush-will-veto-medicare-bill-white-house-says-2008-07-10.html

Bush to G8: 'Goodbye from the world's biggest polluter' (UK's The Independent 7/10/08)
By Andrew Grice
After rejecting global climate-change targets, George Bush's parting shot to the G8 summit
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/bush-to-g8-goodbye-from-the-worlds-biggest-polluter-863911.html

Bush Privately Told Germany He Had Misgivings About Obama Speech (Huffington Post 7/10/08)
Yesterday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed unease about a possible Obama speech at the Brandenberg Gate. A spokesman said Merkel felt "great skepticism as to whether it is appropriate" for a U.S. election candidate to speak at "a place with a particular exclusivity, intensity and symbolism." Today, Der Spiegel reports that Bush administration officials privately told the German government that they don't like the idea:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/10/report-bush-privately-tol_n_111993.html

Rove ignores committee's subpoena, refuses to testify (CNN 7/10/08)
* Karl Rove ordered to testify before the House Judiciary Committee
* Rove's lawyers say "executive privilege" makes him "immune" from subpoena
* Panel is investigating whether Rove was involved in firing of U.S. attorneys
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/10/rove.subpoena/index.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

U.S. Weighs Takeover of Two Mortgage Giants (NYT 7/11/08)
By STEPHEN LABATON and STEVEN R. WEISMAN
Alarmed by the growing financial stress at the nation's two largest mortgage finance companies, senior Bush administration officials are considering a plan to have the government take over one or both of the companies and place them in a conservatorship if their problems worsen, people briefed about the plan said on Thursday.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/11/business/11fannie.html?_r=3&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

Senate Housing Bill Moves Toward Passage (Washington Post 7/10/08)
By Lori Montgomery; D01
A massive package of housing legislation that seeks to rescue hundreds of thousands of homeowners in danger of foreclosure while shoring up confidence in struggling mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac cleared a final procedural hurdle in the Senate yesterday and was headed for passage.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071000198.html

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US plays down fears of war with Iran (7/10/08)
The United States has played down any prospects of war with Iran or any immediate dangers from its nuclear drive but warned that the world was ready to confront its "provocative" policies.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hYf1mz42k7PQIT3_5p2bTHM5QkjQ

Donors Asked To Give for Two (Washington Post 7/11/08)
By Matthew Mosk A04
The fundraising machine Sen. Barack Obama is relying on to overwhelm Sen. John McCain this fall has shown signs of wear in recent weeks, as Internet contributions have slowed and efforts to recruit top donors to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign have been beset by lingering tensions.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071002813.html?hpid=topnews

Dust-up over Jackson remark reflects generational shift (The Hill 7/10/08)
By Walter Alarkon
Rev. Jesse Jackson's crude remark directed at Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) represents a larger, generational shift from civil rights era politicians to a black man who could be president.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/dust-up-over-jackson-remark-reflects-generational-shift-2008-07-10.html

POLLS

Obama-McCain poll numbers show a decided split (McClatchy 7/11/08)
Democrat Barack Obama leads Republican John McCain 48 to 40 percent, according to a new Pew poll, but the race remains volatile largely because of a huge bloc of undecided swing voters.
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/politics/national/stories/DN-pollbox_11pol.ART.State.Edition1.4e3f2ea.html

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/3/2014 7:14:12 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday December 3, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday December 3, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton "will forever be known for taking opportunities to expand the roles of women," expanding opportunity http://www.journalinquirer.com/opinion/other_commentary/hillary-is-paving-the-way-for-others-to-follow/article_18061a4a-7af4-11e4-b45f-4fa875b50899.html … [12/3/14, 12:41 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: As Secretary of State, @HillaryClinton launched global action to fight climate change. http://correctrecord.org/stemming-the-tide-of-climate-change/ … [12/2/14, 3:06 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "You saw her tonight...leaning in to this issue to make it clear how much she cares about it." @LCVoters ' Karpinskihttp://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/hillary-clinton-goes-green … [12/2/14, 1:22 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Journal Inquirer opinion: East Hartford Mayor Marcia Leclerc: "Hillary is paving the way for others to follow"

"This fall, Hillary Clinton crisscrossed the country campaigning on behalf of Democrats and speaking out for women's rights and opportunity. I cannot think of anyone better to speak on our behalf than the one who paved the way for the rest to follow."

The Hill blog: "Clinton: Women should have larger role in national security"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"Hillary Clinton called for women to have a larger role in national security issues in a speech at Georgetown University on Wednesday, saying women 'are agents of peace and agents of change.'"

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton plays it safe with 'smart power' speech"

"It was the right topic at the right venue for Hillary Clinton Wednesday morning at Georgetown University, but the timing was off. Poor weather and impending finals kept students from filling up the ornate Gaston Hall, and her wonky foreign policy remarks left many disappointed who are hungry for something more from the likely presidential candidate."

NBC News: "Hillary Clinton Lauds Female Leaders As 'Agents of Change'"

"Hillary Clinton appeared at Georgetown University Wednesday to laud the contributions of female leaders globally, saying that women are important catalysts for change throughout the world."

Washington Post blog: Post Everything: Sally Kohn: "The Republicans hating on Hillary Clinton's speaking fees are hypocrites"

"Let that sink in for a moment. The Republican Party, which wants to keep women and minimum wage workers (the majority of whom, incidentally, are also women) severely underpaid while trust fund families and Wall Street execs pocket more — this crowd is attacking Hillary Clinton for being paid well."

Mediaite: "Politico Demands Hillary Put It out of Its Own Misery"

"It should be pointed out that nobody forced the Beltway media to cover a campaign that didn't exist."

The New Republic: "Poll: Obama's Immigration Plan Could Help Hillary Clinton Win Latino Voters"

"A new poll from Latino Decisions asked 405 Latino voters if they were more or less likely to support Hillary Clinton for president if she said she would extend the executive action. The results were clear: 85 percent of respondents were likely to support Clinton in such a situation, with just 11 percent saying they were unlikely to support her."

Washington Post blog: Post Partisan: Stephen Stromberg: "Hillary Clinton's insulting silence on Keystone XL"

"Did Hillary Clinton learn enough from 2008? She still seems to be self-defeatingly guarded."

People: "Mia Love, the First Black Republican Congresswoman-Elect, Says Hillary Clinton Should Stand Down"

"But asked if she would like to see Hillary Clinton run in 2016, Love responded, in her first at-home interview since her election, 'Nope.' Asked to

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elaborate, the normally outspoken conservative had nothing more to say."

The Hill: "Benghazi panel to meet in lame duck"

"The hearing on Dec. 10 will feature two State Department officials and serve as a follow-up to the panel's inaugural September meeting on security measures surrounding American diplomats overseas."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Ready for Hillary holding events in O'Malley's home state"

"Ready for Hillary is holding events this week in the home state of Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), a potential presidential rival to Hillary Clinton."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Elizabeth Warren gets a new slogan"

"The merchandise could stir fresh speculation that Warren is considering a run for the White House in 2016 despite her repeated denials."

Articles:

Journal Inquirer opinion: East Hartford Mayor Marcia Leclerc: "Hillary is paving the way for others to follow"

By Marcia Leclerc, mayor of East Hartford

December 3, 2014 11:00 a.m. EDT

This fall, Hillary Clinton crisscrossed the country campaigning on behalf of Democrats and speaking out for women's rights and opportunity. I cannot think of anyone better to speak on our behalf than the one who paved the way for the rest to follow.

Clinton will forever be known for taking opportunities to expand the roles of women and for not resting until everyone is given the opportunity to succeed.

As secretary of state, Clinton showed her ability to lead as a woman on the global stage. In an increasingly challenging and changing world, Clinton's leadership helped make the planet a safer place and created opportunities for millions in underdeveloped countries.

Throughout her career, Clinton has successfully paved a path in a traditionally male-dominated world.

Here are just a few examples of her many accomplishments that have left her poised, qualified, and ready to potentially become the first female president of the United States.

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First lady of Arkansas: During her time in Arkansas, Clinton became a lifelong advocate for families and creating opportunity for all. Even before her time as first lady, Clinton worked to expand early childhood education to low-income families.

As first lady, Hillary Clinton brought the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program to Arkansas to expand early childhood education. And as chairwoman of the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, Clinton helped develop new education reform standards that were eventually adopted statewide.

Clinton understands the value of education. Here in East Hartford, we too know the value of education and we celebrate our excellent schools. Education is the greatest tool for creating opportunity, economic security, and building greater family and community engagement.

First lady of the United States: As First Lady of the U.S., Clinton continued to change the role of women in politics. Clinton demonstrated that, in a role once only thought of as “the wife to the president,” she could become an effective powerhouse, forever changing the direction of our country.

The moment I knew that Clinton would forever change the role of women was when she famously declared in China, circa 1995, that “human rights are women’s rights, and women’s rights are human rights.”

Clinton continued to be a trailblazer, working to improve the lives of children and families throughout the country. Clinton was instrumental in the creation of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, which increased health coverage to millions of children in low-income and working families, continuing to provide a vital lifeline to millions of families today.

U.S. senator: As a senator, Clinton fought for those who put their lives on the line every day to protect our country — our service members. Clinton helped expand access to health care for our National Guard and reservists, and secured funding to help first responders recover from the 9/11 attacks.

Clinton also fought for hardworking Americans by consistently advocating for equal pay for equal work, expanding access to early childhood education and health care, and working to raise the minimum wage.

Secretary of state: By the time Clinton was appointed secretary of state, she had already forever changed the role of women, serving as an example to millions. But she didn’t stop there. Clinton became one of our most successful secretaries of state, improving our country’s leadership and standing in the world, while working to empower women and girls across the globe.

“The highest, hardest glass ceiling”: We do not yet know what is in store for Clinton’s future, but we do know that the futures of millions of girls will forever be brighter and more promising, thanks to her leadership and dedication to creating opportunities for others.

I know I would not be where I am today if it were not for Hillary Clinton.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Clinton: Women should have larger role in national security”

By Peter Sullivan

December 3, 2014, 12:16 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton called for women to have a larger role in national security issues in a speech at Georgetown University on Wednesday, saying women "are agents of peace and agents of change."

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While Clinton was not giving a speech especially themed on U.S. politics, her expected presidential campaign means politics are never far away. Even as she spoke, Republicans pointed to the empty seats in the hall as evidence of a lack of enthusiasm for Clinton.

"Women are not victims of conflict," Clinton said. "They are agents of peace and agents of change."

Clinton made women's rights on the domestic front a centerpiece of her midterm campaigning for Democrats, touting issues like equal pay and paid leave. As first lady in 1995, she famously said in Beijing that "women's rights are human rights."

She touted women defense ministers on Wednesday, saying they prove that they can they can "defend their countries as well as any man."

Asked about Ukraine, in a session after the speech, Clinton called on the Ukrainian military to "make it at least possible for women to be in positions of military and civilian authority in defending their country."

As Ukraine deals with a conflict with separatists in the east and Russia's annexation of Crimea, Clinton called for the United States to support Ukraine's military building back up.

"I hope other European countries, the United States will be there as they undertake this defense buildup," she said.

Some Republicans have called on the U.S. to provide arms to the Ukrainian military, but Clinton did not weigh in on this debate.

On Syria, an issue where Clinton sparked controversy in August by referring to President Obama's "failure" to arm the rebels, Clinton steered clear of larger U.S. policy and said the situation was dire enough that as far as women and security, a "protective, humanitairan approach" is what is needed.

She said "we should do what we can" to support Kurdish women who are fighting ISIS militants.

While Clinton was speaking, another issue was generating buzz: the empty seats in front of her.

The balcony and some of the seats lower down were empty in Georgetown's Gaston Hall, which the University says is an "over 700-seat hall."

America Rising, a conservative PAC, linked to photos of the empty seats with the title "Guess who's #ReadyforHillary! Empty chairs!!!"

A lack of enthusiasm for Clinton among students would speak to fears that some Democrats are not excited about a Clinton candidacy.

Avery Jaffe, who works for Ready for Hillary, the pro-Clinton group, posted on Twitter, "In fairness to Georgetown students, it is finals prep week."

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton plays it safe with ‘smart power’ speech”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Alex Seitz-Wald

December 3, 2014, 1:22 p.m. EST

It was the right topic at the right venue for Hillary Clinton Wednesday morning at Georgetown University, but the timing was off. Poor weather and impending finals kept students from filling up the ornate Gaston Hall, and her wonky foreign policy remarks left many disappointed who are hungry for something more from the likely presidential candidate.

It was just over a month ago when Clinton last visited Georgetown's Institute for Women, Peace and Security, which was founded by a close friend and former aide of Clinton's, and where Clinton herself serves as honorary chair.

"When I told my husband this morning that I was going to Georgetown, he said, you've been to Georgetown more in the past two years than I have," the former secretary of state joked as she took the stage. Bill Clinton is a Georgetown alum.

On October 30, when she last appeared at Gaston Hall, decorated with elaborate wood-carved beams and religious frescos, it was to talk about women's role in the economy.

It was also in this room that she, in her first year as secretary of state, launched the the country's first "action plan on women, peace, and security." Melanne Verveer, who now runs the Georgetown institute and who moderated the discussion Wednesday, served as Clinton's Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.

This time, when Clinton came to Georgetown to partake in a conference on "smart power," the topic was as close to her heart as any. It was her guiding philosophy at State.

Clinton defined the term Wednesday as "using every possible tool and partner to advance peace and security," while "showing respect" for other countries and actors on the world stage – "even for one's enemies."

She also spoke about women, noting they often "bear the humanitarian load" of conflicts more than men. But she added, "Women are not just victims of conflict, they are agents of peace and agents of change." She referenced the Northern Ireland Peace process, where women took a lead.

After Clinton concluded her remarks, Norway's 38-year-old female Defense Minister, Ine Eriksen Soreide took the stage. She told a story about how the then-secretary of state inspired Soreide to have the confidence to take on the chairmanship of the foreign policy committee in her Parliament.

Soreide also said Russia "violated fundamental … international law" in Ukraine. Clinton nodded in agreement. Later, the former secretary of state called the comments "very strong."

The themes are all well-known to those familiar with Clinton's work, but felt somewhat vintage for a former secretary of state who has been increasingly moving away from her foreign policy safe zone into economic and other domestic issues, like immigration.

And there was little room for spontaneity or commenting on news of the day.

Questions from students were submitted ahead of time and reviewed by a committee of faculty and students before being read by Verveer. At the start of the program, an announcer declared that interruptions to the program "will not be permitted."

The questions Clinton was asked focused on women's roles in the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, something Clinton spoke about another time she visited Georgetown.

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Meanwhile, as she speaking, an entirely different theme was being pushed by Republicans operatives, who filled reporters' inboxes and Twitter feeds with pictures showing empty rows of seats in the hall.

The university said the hall seats over 700 people, but that only 400 turned out. The entire balcony was empty, save reporters, while there were several empty seats downstairs.

Clinton regularly gives speeches where she's paid up to $300,000 by groups to hear her remarks. Tickets were offered free to every student.

The university and students sympathetic to Clinton pointed out that many students were busy studying for upcoming finals. The rainy weather also may have kept some students indoors, and made Clinton run about 30 minutes late for her speech, which Verveer blamed on "weather delays."

NBC News: "Hillary Clinton Lauds Female Leaders As 'Agents of Change'"

By Carrie Dann

December 3, 2014, 11:55 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton appeared at Georgetown University Wednesday to laud the contributions of female leaders globally, saying that women are important catalysts for change throughout the world.

"Women leaders, it has been found, are good at building coalitions across ethnic and sectarian lines and speaking up for other marginalized groups," the former secretary of state told attendees at a Georgetown University conference entitled "Smart Power: Security Through Inclusive Leadership."

"It's important to underscore this overriding fact: women are not just victims of conflict," added Clinton, who is widely viewed as a potential first female president if she chooses to run in 2016. "They are agents of peace and agents of change."

During her remarks at the conference, some Republicans took to Twitter to gleefully point out empty seats at the event.

Washington Post blog: Post Everything: Sally Kohn: "The Republicans hating on Hillary Clinton's speaking fees are hypocrites"

By Sally Kohn

December 3, 2014, 8:50 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton makes a lot of money when she speaks. This is, somehow, offensive to the Republican Party.

Let that sink in for a moment. The Republican Party, which wants to keep women and minimum wage workers (the majority of whom, incidentally, are also women) severely underpaid while trust fund families and Wall Street execs pocket more — this crowd is attacking Hillary Clinton for being

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paid well.

In a hum-drum effort to vet the hum-drum presumptive 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, news outlets have been reporting on Clinton's speaking fees and contract requirements. Most recently, the Washington Post revealed Clinton's terms for a speech at the University of California Los Angeles.

For the speech, Clinton's team made such ludicrous requests as a "pitcher of room temperature water, water glass, and lemon wedges." Why can't she settle for cold water? Plus she wanted, nay demanded, that backstage there be "diet ginger ale, crudité, hummus and sliced fruit." How dare Hillary Clinton demand healthy snacks? For this, she was paid $300,000 — a sum, like all her speaking fees, which Clinton donated to the Clinton Global Foundation.

The Washington Post story comes on the heels of June reporting about a speech to the University of Nevada Las Vegas Foundation, for which Clinton was paid $225,000. Anti-Hillary conservatives have taken this reporting and run with it:

America Rising PAC @AmericaRising: Hummus: $5 Crudité: $19 Speaking fee: $300,000 Making students pay for it: Priceless http://gph.to/1vPxHa6 cc @ClintonCosts @HillaryClinton [11/26/14, 8:29 p.m. EST]

First, the facts. Neither the UCLA speech or UNLV speech were paid for with student tuition dollars. The UCLV Foundation is a private non-profit separate from the university; the UCLA speech was paid for as part of a separately endowed lecture series. More pertinently, though, both speeches raised money for the universities and their students. For instance, the UNLV event raised more than $350,000. But shame on Hillary, speaking at events that raise money for public universities!

It's ironic that, after a 2012 election spent complaining about how Mitt Romney was attacked for being successful, Republicans now find themselves trying to attack success. And that's just the tip of the irony iceberg.

On the occasion of Clinton's UNLV speech, the Republican National Committee put out a statement saying, "Hillary Clinton's speaking fee at UNLV is more than 4 times what the average Nevadan makes in a year." Raising the minimum wage would sure help those Nevada families way more than cutting Hillary Clinton's speaking fee. But Republicans are the ones blocking a minimum wage hike nationwide.

Conservatives also complained that Clinton accepted six figures to speak at a public university about, among other things, the challenges of mounting student debt. They pounced on calls by some students for Clinton to donate her speaking fees back to defray scholarships and rising tuition costs.

But if conservatives are so outraged about the rising cost of college and run-away student debt, why have they blocked legislation to refinance student loans and proposed massive cuts to Pell grants?

Certainly, Clinton has stumbled in finding a populist way to talk about her finances, as when she said she was "dead broke" when she and Bill left the White House (they had two houses). The New York Post wrote that Clinton's "diva routine could hurt her chances of campaigning as a champion for the middle class." Sure, but you know what else hurts a party's reputation as a middle class champion? Repeatedly opposing policies like paid sick leave and investments to fix roads and schools that help the middle class—which Republicans routinely do.

Selective outrage sure works for fanning the flames of Twitter trolls, but when Election Day rolls around, Republicans won't be able to paint Hillary Clinton as an out-of-touch elitist if their party is a still a worse example of that which they seek to condemn.

There is plenty in Hillary Clinton's speaking schedule actually worth scrutinizing. Since leaving the State Department, Clinton has given paid speeches to Goldman Sachs, Fidelity, the Carlyle Group, the National Association of Realtors and other business interests. "This is a great way for a company to get access to her, to hear what she's thinking, to be remembered if and when she does run for office," Campaign Legal Center policy director Meredith McGehee told Mother Jones. This might also seem like the perfect thing to attack given the problems with Clinton's coziness with Wall Street in a post-Occupy political era increasingly focused on the crisis of inequality. Curiously, conservatives aren't even mentioning these speeches—just the ones Clinton has given at fundraisers for public universities.

Of course, why would Republicans ever critique big business, even if big business is courting the potential Democratic frontrunner for 2016?

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While conservatives might rhetorically feign a defense of public colleges and the middle class, they would never, ever hint at attacking big business. Which reveals the deepest irony of all — Republicans regularly say that government should get out of the way and let "market forces" handle everything from pay inequity to healthcare. But market forces are precisely what have made Hillary Clinton the second best paid political speaker in America (after her husband, Bill) — she's simply more popular, by leaps and bounds, than any potential Republican challenger. By drawing attention to how much Hillary Clinton is being paid to speak, Republicans are merely pointing out how in-demand Clinton is—presumably not just on the stage but in the voting booth in 2016.

Mediaite: "Politico Demands Hillary Put It out of Its Own Misery"

By Evan McMurry

December 3, 2014, 8:34 a.m. EST

For the twenty-one months, Hillary Clinton has daily disappointed the political press corps by not actually being a presidential candidate. In not holding any office nor actively campaigning for one, Clinton left political publications and cable news shows to endlessly pick over the non-ness of her non-campaign. It's as if every science publication were forced by invisible decree to incessantly debate whether the cat is still alive.

On Wednesday Politico's Roger Simon had enough. Chiding her non-campaign for "insufficiently" arguing her qualifications for the office for which she's not yet running, Simon all but demanded that Clinton put everybody out of their misery. "Not since Hamlet first strode upon the stage circa 1599 and dithered over 'To be, or not to be' have so many held their collective breath for an answer," he wrote.

Not for nothing, the subhead suggests who this "so many" is:

[SCREENGRAB OF HEADLINE: "HILLARY SHOULD STOP DITHERING"]

Simon even cites "his own publication's" coverage — just in the past week — as proof that Clinton's non-campaign is failing. He could go back further: a search of Politico's archives reveals 1,064 mentions of "Hillary Clinton 2016″ since February 2013, when Clinton left the State Department. Even allowing for peripheral mentions, that's more than article a day. No wonder Politico's exhausted, though it should be pointed out that nobody forced the Beltway media to cover a campaign that didn't exist.

The New Republic: "Poll: Obama's Immigration Plan Could Help Hillary Clinton Win Latino Voters"

By Danny Vinik

December 3, 2014

President Barack Obama's executive action protecting more than four million undocumented immigrants from deportation isn't just good policy. It's also good politics for the Democratic Party.

A new poll from Latino Decisions asked 405 Latino voters if they were more or less likely to support Hillary Clinton for president if she said she would extend the executive action. The results were clear: 85 percent of respondents were likely to support Clinton in such a situation, with just 11 percent saying they were unlikely to support her.

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Clinton announced her support for the executive action soon after Obama announced it, so it's hard to imagine her discontinuing it as president.

Of course, a backlash among non-Hispanic voters could hurt Clinton. But given party polarization today, there are few voters left in the middle who could be disheartened with her over her support for Obama's plan. In other words, this move allows Clinton to consolidate her support among Hispanic voters while her risk of losing many non-Hispanics is low. That's a good position to be in.

Washington Post blog: Post Partisan: Stephen Stromberg: "Hillary Clinton's insulting silence on Keystone XL"

By Stephen Stromberg

December 3, 2014, 11:51 a.m. EST

Did Hillary Clinton learn enough from 2008? She still seems to be self-defeatingly guarded.

Several recent articles have called Clinton out for refusing to say where she stands on the Keystone XL pipeline. In fact, reporters should be asking her whether she has changed her mind on the issue now that environmentalists have made it into a purity test — because she had sensible things to say about Keystone XL four years ago, before she adopted her strategic silence.

Here is Clinton in 2010, then secretary of state, speaking at San Francisco's Commonwealth Club:

We haven't finish[ed] all of the analysis. So as I say, we've not yet signed off on it. But we are inclined to do so and we are for several reasons — going back to one of your original questions — we're either going to be dependent on dirty oil from the Gulf or dirty oil from Canada. And until we can get our act together as a country and figure out that clean, renewable energy is in both our economic interests and the interests of our planet — (applause) — I mean, I don't think it will come as a surprise to anyone how deeply disappointed the president and I are about our inability to get the kind of legislation through the Senate that the United States was seeking.

Now, that hasn't stopped what we're doing. We have moved a lot on the regulatory front through the EPA here at home and we have been working with a number of countries on adaptation and mitigation measures. But obviously, it was one of the highest priorities of the administration for us to enshrine in legislation President Obama's commitment to reducing our emissions. So we do have a lot that still must be done. And it is a hard balancing act. It's a very hard balancing act.

Clinton was responding to a question about the Alberta Clipper, a pipeline that began transporting tar sands oil to Wisconsin in 2010. But the State Department subsequently clarified that she was speaking about Keystone XL. Her remarks were on the right track: The Keystone XL decision will not determine the future of oil use here or abroad, and there are much more important factors that will. Policymakers should focus on those instead of trying to micromanage decisions on energy supply infrastructure, angering our allies in the process.

Does Clinton still hold to those principles? If so, why won't she admit it? If not, what changed her mind? Clinton is not officially running yet, so she is not under the high obligation to square with the public that candidacy brings. But she isn't free of obligation; she led the State Department when it considered the issue.

Continuing evasion only communicates one thing: insulting caution. As was often the case in her 2008 run, she gives the impression that she is unwilling to tell you what she really believes, at least not until Mark Penn or some other purveyor of political pablum has sliced it up and served it to the public in its maximally inoffensive — and least interesting — form. That's infuriating for those who would agree with her — particularly for those who want pro-environment leaders to guide people toward issues that really matter — because she knows better and won't stick up for their side. It's patronizing to environmentalists because she is trying to pander to them by refusing to engage them like adults. Clinton's political calculation is good sign that she's running for president — but not an indication that she will do a better job than she did in 2008.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

People: "Mia Love, the First Black Republican Congresswoman-Elect, Says Hillary Clinton Should Stand Down"

By Sandra Sobieraj Westfall

December 3, 2014, 7:45 a.m. EST

It seems there is little in the way of sorority when it comes to glass-ceiling shatterers.

Last month Utah's Congresswoman-elect Mia Love sent shards flying when she became the first black woman Republican – not to mention, first Haitian-American – to be elected to the House of Representatives.

Her victory was noted as a milestone even by political opponents, such as Democratic strategist Donna Brazile, who said, "Black women no longer have to fit in a bracket."

But asked if she would like to see Hillary Clinton run in 2016, Love responded, in her first at-home interview since her election, "Nope."

Asked to elaborate, the normally outspoken conservative had nothing more to say.

PEOPLE sat down with Love and her family – husband Jason, daughters Alessa, 14, and Abi, 12, 7-year-old son Peyton and even the rambunctious family dog Xander – at their Saratoga Springs home to get better acquainted with the woman arguably poised to be the most high-profile member of the new Congress being sworn in Jan. 6.

Once a fine arts major who dreamed of a musical theater career, Love, 39, gave up that path when her 1998 wedding date conflicted with a Broadway audition.

After that she became a flight attendant, a call-center manager, and a fitness instructor before finding her calling in politics when an insect infestation in her community motivated her to organize – successfully – against a home developer.

After six years on her city council, and one term as mayor of her small Utah town, Love finds herself headed to Washington, and into the history books for changing the face of the Republican party.

But making history, she says, "wasn't important to me – it's certainly not why I ran. I wasn't elected because I'm female or because I'm a certain color. We wanted to make sure we were focusing on issues."

The Hill: "Benghazi panel to meet in lame duck"

By Martin Matishak

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December 3, 2014, 1:01 p.m. EST

The House Select Committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi attack announced Wednesday that it will meet again before the year is out.

The hearing on Dec. 10 will feature two State Department officials and serve as a follow-up to the panel's inaugural September meeting on security measures surrounding American diplomats overseas.

The lame-duck session meeting's tone could be less restrained than the House panel's first hearing, when Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) stressed the neutral, fact-finding nature of the committee's mission.

Committee Republicans could look to use the hearing to chastise Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of State at the time of the deadly strike in Libya.

Republicans have repeatedly attacked Clinton's handling of the episode, with several suggesting it should bar her from seeking the presidency in 2016.

The hearing also comes after the House Intelligence Committee released a report last month that cleared the Obama administration of GOP charges that it covered up the circumstances of the attack and intentionally misled Congress.

Many Republicans, including Sens. Rand Paul (Ky.), Ted Cruz (Texas) and Marco Rubio (Fla.), all of whom could run for the White House in two years, have lambasted the report, charging the panel with whitewashing its conclusions to protect the intelligence community.

They, along with other Senate Republicans, want the upper chamber to join the investigation.

Appearing next Wednesday will be Greg Starr, the assistant secretary for diplomatic security, who testified in September, along with Steve Linick, the State Department's inspector general.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Ready for Hillary holding events in O'Malley's home state"

By Peter Sullivan

December 3, 2014, 12:49 p.m. EST

Ready for Hillary is holding events this week in the home state of Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), a potential presidential rival to Hillary Clinton.

The group, which is not formally affiliated with Clinton but has gained welcome among her advisers, will hold a fundraiser at a Potomac, Md. home on Thursday. That follows an event held at Goucher College in Baltimore on Monday.

The events are featuring a number of top Democratic figures in Maryland who support Clinton, ahead of a possible 2016 presidential run.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) told the Monday gathering that the state would provide a "groundswell of grassroots" support for Clinton, according to the Baltimore Sun.

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Seth Bringman, a spokesman for Ready for Hillary, said about 100 people attended the event, mostly young professionals giving $20.16 each.

The Thursday event's host committee includes Attorney General Doug Gansler, state Treasurer Nancy Kopp, state Senate President Mike Miller, and other members of the legislature.

O'Malley says he is weighing a bid and has been laying the groundwork for a run with visits to early states like Iowa and New Hampshire.

He has also gone to Clinton's left on some issues, warning President Obama not to send unaccompanied children back across the border this summer, and urging the rejection of the Keystone pipeline.

O'Malley faced a possible setback to a presidential run on Election Day, when his lieutenant governor, Anthony Brown, lost the governor's race to a Republican, Larry Hogan.

Asked by the Washington Blade last month whether the loss would hurt his chances, O'Malley said "Don't know, don't care."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Elizabeth Warren gets a new slogan"

By Kevin Cirilli

December 3, 2014, 12:46 p.m. EST

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has a new slogan: "The best senator money can't buy."

Those are the words plastered across a new T-shirt that is now for sale on the senator's campaign website.

The merchandise could stir fresh speculation that Warren is considering a run for the White House in 2016 despite her repeated denials. Warren is not up for reelection in the Senate until 2018.

The T-shirt plays up the senator's independent streak, something liberals have seized on while declaring themselves members of the "Warren wing of the Democratic Party."

Groups on the left have praised Warren for her populist, anti-Wall Street rhetoric, with some pleading for her to mount a challenge to Hillary Clinton in 2016.

The grassroots of the Democratic Party has long been suspicious of Clinton, recently criticizing her for making paid speeches to Wall Street banks.

Earlier this week, The Winnipeg Free Press reported that Clinton will speak at the Winnipeg Convention Center in January at an event sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Republicans, meanwhile, have sought to portray Clinton as out of touch with Americans as she collects hefty paychecks, some of which have

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been reported to be upwards of $300,000 per speech.

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From: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/20/2015 2:32:47 PM
Subject: How Corporate Media Plans To Cash In On 'Clinton Cash' Scandal Book | Crooks and Liars

---

http://crooksandliars.com/2015/04/how-corporate-media-plans-cash-clinton

Sent from my iPhone

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout.

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From: "Scott Lilly" <rscottlilly@hotmail.com>
To: denis.mcdonough@gmail.com
dmcdonough@barackobama.com
Date: 8/14/2008 3:13:04 AM
Subject: U.S. Intelligence Failure in Georgia

Denis,

I have it on good authority that the DNI was completely caught off guard by the Russian invasion. He was, according to my information, watching CNN with his mouth wide open.
This is a collosal failure of U.S. intelligence.

The word inside the community is that overhead and other resources were so fully tasked on Iraq and Afghanistan that little was left for the South Caucuses. That indicates that the security costs presented by the Iraq occupation are even more profound than believed by many of us who worried about that issue.

But even that explanation is insufficient to explain how the Russians could have prepared for such an operation and executed it without our being alerted. They clearly constrained radio and telephone communications, covered their efforts to raise unit readiness and set a carefully planned manuever into motion without tripping a single trigger of U.S. information collection--all this despite the fact that we had U.S. military forces in the target country.

The fact that we had so little monitoring raises serious questions about whether the administration was exercising an appropriate level of scepticism about Russian intentions. Their desire to recover their lost possessions in the region--at least Georgia and Azerbaijan--have been widely known and pre date Putin.

For more than four decades the Republican party has cast itself as heirs to the traditions of Wiston Churchill and cast Democrats as naive about our enemies and unwilling to use the force necessary to protect the nation's interest. The administration's performance with Russia indicates that they more closely approximate Neville Chamberland than we do.

Scott Lilly
3110 North 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22201

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From: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/30/2015 4:28:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: O'Malley announcement remarks as prepared for delivery

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Samantha McClain <smcclain@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: May 30, 2015 at 11:25:59 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: O'Malley announcement remarks as prepared for delivery

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2015/05/30/heres-what-martin-omalley-said-when-he-launched-his-campaign/

My fellow Americans.

I want to talk with you today about The American Dream we share…

its powerful history,

its current condition, and most importantly,

its urgent need for rebuilding.

Our nation was founded on two self-evident truths...

That All of us are created equal.

And that we are endowed by our Creator with the rights to Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With these words, the American dream began.

No fine print. No expiration date.

All of us are included.

Women and men.

Black and white people.

Irish Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Americans.

Young and old. Rich and poor. Workers and Business owners. Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and straight Americans.

Every person is important, each of us is needed.

In our idea of country, there is no such thing as a spare American.

There is, however, a growing injustice in our country today.

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It is the gap between the strong and just country our children need for us to be ... and the country we are in danger of becoming.

For today in America, 70 percent of us are earning the same or less than they were 12 years ago. This is the first time that has happened this side of World War II.

Today in America, family owned businesses and farms are struggling to compete with ever larger concentrations of corporate power,...

Fifty years ago, the nation's largest employer was GM. An average GM employee could pay for a year's tuition at a state university with two weeks' wages.

Today in America, with dreams of college, a decent paying job, and a secure retirement slipping beyond the reach of so very many,... the American Dream seems to be hanging by a thread.

And yet, for America there is always a yet.

The final thread that holds us just might be the strongest.

It is the thread of the generosity, the compassion, and the love of one another that brings us together as One American People.

For over 200 years we've been the architects of our own future. And now we must build anew today.

My father and mother, Tom and Barbara O'Malley, were born to the Great Depression and grew up as part of that great generation that won the Second World War. My dad flew 33 missions over Japan in a B-24 Liberator, and went on to college only because of the GI Bill.

My mom, herself, flew in the Civil Air Patrol at the age of seventeen.

They raised their children -- the six of us -- to a middle class future secured largely by the sacrifices and better choices of their generation.

But they would never accept the notion that somehow theirs was the "greatest generation." For they believed and they taught us that every generation of Americans has the ability -- and the sacred responsibility -- to become great.

And so we must. No matter how long the odds, no matter how large the challenge, and no matter how tough the fight.

This is the urgent work calling us forward today: to rebuild the truth of the American Dream for ALL Americans. And to begin right now!

Baltimore/Economy

Last month, television sets around the world were filled with the anger and the rage, and the flames of some of the humblest and hardest hit neighborhoods of Baltimore.

For all of us who have given so much of our energies to making our city a safer, fairer, more just and more prosperous place, it was a heartbreaking night in the life of our City.

But there is something to be learned from that night, and there is something to be offered to our country from those flames.

For what took place here was not only about race…not only about policing in America.

It's about everything it is supposed to mean to be an American.

The scourge of hopelessness that happened to ignite here that evening, transcends race or geography.

Witness the record numbers of young white kids killing themselves with heroin in suburbs and small towns across America.

The hard truth of our shared reality is this: Unemployment in many American cities and in many small towns across the United States is higher now than it was eight years ago.

Conditions of extreme and growing poverty, create conditions for extreme violence.

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We have work to do…

Our economic and political system is upside down and backwards and it is time to turn it around.

What happened to our economy -- what happened to the American Dream -- did not happen by chance.

Nor was it merely the result of global forces somehow beyond our control.

Powerful, wealthy special interests here at home have used our government to create -- in our own country -- an economy that is leaving a majority of our people behind.

An economy that has so concentrated wealth in the hands of the very few that it has taken opportunity from the homes of the many.

An economy where a majority of our people are unheard, unseen, un-needed, and left to conclude that their lives and labors are literally worth less today than they were yesterday,... And will be worth less still tomorrow...

We are allowing our land of opportunity to be turned into a land of inequality.

Main Street struggles, while Wall Street soars.

Tell me how it is, that not a single Wall Street CEO was convicted of a crime related to the 2008 economic meltdown. Not. A. Single. One.

Tell me how it is, that you can get pulled over for a broken tail light in our country, but if you wreck the nation's economy you are untouchable.

This is not how our economy is supposed to work!

This is not how our country is supposed to work!

This is not the American Dream!

And it does not have to be this way!

This generation still has time to become great.

We have saved the world before and we must save our country now – and we will do that by rebuilding the American Dream!

The Agenda

As I look out here this morning over the original "land of the free and the home of the brave," I see the faces of people who have done so much for so many in our City and our State.

Together, we made our City a safer, healthier and better place for kids.

Together, we made our city believe again. We invented a new and better way of governing called CitiStat, and we got things done.

Together, we made our State's public schools the best in the United States. We made college more affordable for more families.

We led our people forward through a devastating national recession. We took greater care to protect our land, our air, and the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

We passed Marriage Equality and we passed the DREAM Act.

Together, we raised the minimum wage and we sustained the highest median income in America. We achieved top rankings for innovation, entrepreneurship, and minority and women's business development.

Yes, understanding precedes action.

And it took new leadership. New perspectives. And new approaches.

But we believed in the dream,...together we took action to make it real,... and that is exactly what we must do as a nation

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today.

Our economy isn't money, our economy is people—all of our people.

We measure success by the growing prosperity and security of our people–all of our people.

A stronger middle class is not the consequence of economic growth -- a stronger middle class is the cause of economic growth.

Together, as one nation we must build an American economy that works again for all of us.

That means good jobs and wage policies that allow hardworking families to actually get ahead. That means a higher minimum wage, overtime pay for overtime work, and respect for the rights of all workers to organize and collectively bargain for better wages.

If we take these actions…the dream will live again.

Climate change is real. We must create an American jobs agenda to build a new renewable energy future.

We must launch a new agenda to rebuild America's cities as places of Justice and Opportunity for all.

And if we take these actions… the dream will live again.

For the sake of our country's security, and our country's well-being, and our country's economic growth, we must also bring 11 million of our neighbors out of the shadows by passing comprehensive immigration reform.

Because the enduring symbol of our nation is not the barbed wire fence,... it is the Statue of Liberty.

We are a nation of immigrants. We are a compassionate and generous people. And if we act according to our principles--and the better angels of our nature—if we return to our true selves, the dream will live again.

Make no mistake about it -- our ability to lead the world and be safe in this world depends on the strength of the American Dream here at home. The challenges we face in the world today are different from the challenges we faced in the 1990s.

Together, we must construct a New National Security Strategy and build new alliances that are forward-seeing and forward-acting.

The center of this new strategy must be the reduction of threats. Fast-evolving threats -- from violent extremism, pandemic, cyber attacks, nuclear proliferation, nation-state failures, to the drought, famine, and floods of climate change.

Together, we must craft a New Foreign Policy of Engagement and Collaboration. We must join with like-minded people around the world -- especially with nations here in our own hemisphere -- for the cause we share of a rising global middle class.

We must put our national interest first, we must put America first.

But we cannot rebuild the American Dream here at home by catering to the voices of the privileged and the powerful.

Let’s be honest. They were the ones who turned our economy upside-down in the first place. And they are the only ones who are benefiting from it.

We need to prosecute cheats, we need to reinstate Glass-Steagall, and if a bank is too big to fail without wrecking our nation’s economy…then it needs to be broken up before it breaks us…again.

Goldman Sachs is one of the biggest repeat-offending investment banks in America. Recently, the CEO of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he’d be just fine with either Bush or Clinton.

I bet he would...

Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street --

The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families.

It is a sacred trust to be earned from the people of the United States, and exercised on behalf of the people of the United States.

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The only way we are going to rebuild the American Dream is if we re-take control of our own American government!

Conclusion

The poet laureate of the American Dream, Bruce Springsteen, once asked:

Is a dream a lie, if it don't come true?…

Or is it something worse?

Whether the American dream becomes a lie, or becomes an ongoing truth that our children can enjoy, can build upon, can live, is really up to you and me.

It is up to all of us.

It's not about Wall Street, not about the big five banks, it's not even about big money trying to buy our elections.

It's about U.S.

It is about whether, together, We the People still have the will to become great Americans.

I believe we do.

My decision is made.

Now you will all have a vital choice to make next year, for the good of your families, and for the good of the country you love and carry in your hearts.

It is a choice that people will ask you about for years to come.

And so, when a child with a world of learning ahead asks who you voted for, I want you to be able to tell that child, "I voted for you."

When you see a dad sweating through another long shift in order to give his daughter a better future, I want you to be able to tell him, "I voted for you."

When you see a mom working long hours at two jobs for the dream of sending her son to college, I want you to be able to tell her, "I voted for you."

When you see a young father who hungers for a decent job to support his family, I want you to be able to tell him, "I voted for you."

The story of our country's best days is not found in a history book, because this generation of Americans is about to write it!

And that is why today, to you -- and to all who can hear my voice -- I declare that I am a candidate for President of the United States….and I'm running for YOU.

May God Bless you and may God Bless the United States of America.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/8/2015 10:37:32 AM
Subject: Russia Blamed, US Taxpayers on the Hook, as Fracking Boom Collapses

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Russia Blamed, US Taxpayers on the Hook, as Fracking Boom Collapses

Ben Ptashnik, Truthout: As Congress removes restrictions on taxpayers bailing out the too-big-to-fail banks, the right is blaming environmentalists and Russia for the demise of the fracking boom. In reality, the banks' junk bonds and derivatives have flooded Wall Street, and now the fracking bubble threatens another financial crisis.

Read the Article

FCC Chairman Wheeler Moves Toward Strong Net Neutrality Rules

Mike Ludwig, Truthout: Consumer groups and internet freedom activists are cautiously celebrating FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's hint that he would support reclassifying the internet and protecting net neutrality - the idea that all internet content should be treated equally

Read the Article

Galt and God: The Courtship Between Ayn Randians and Right-Wing Christians

James Sanford, Truthout: An odd collaboration between Ayn Rand disciples and Christian rightists, based on a mutual attraction for aggressive free enterprise, is on the upswing. The relationship seems to signal further cohesion and ideological extremism on the Tea Party right.

Read the Article

US Policy on Cuba: From Regime Change to Systemic Change

Cliff DuRand, Truthout: Regardless of other changes in US policy on Cuba, President Obama still thinks the United States has the right to shape the future of its neighbor and will work toward reinforcing a petty bourgeoisie that will bring Cuba back into the capitalist fold.

Read the Article

Moving Beyond Politics to Accountability

BuzzFlash

Vast Deposits of Fossil Fuels Will Need to Stay in Ground to Save the Earth

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: When the economic system of the world is drunk on greed, it is hard to keep the earth from being ruinously plundered.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

You Are Not Your Beliefs

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

They Turned Their Backs: Mayor Bill de Blasio's Red Badge of Courage

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Slaughter and

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on US Torture Program

Sahar Aziz, Truthout: Will the United States do what it demands of other nations and hold its own government officials accountable for torture, or will it parrot authoritarian regimes as it invokes national security as a blanket excuse for crimes against humanity?

Read the Article

Why Protest Won't Get the NYPD What It Wants

Kate Aronoff, Waging Nonviolence: The NYPD's "slowdown strike" has unwittingly placed the police in an awkward position: With arrest rates plummeting and no significant harm done to public safety, the department may soon find itself having disproven the value of Broken Windows policing polices that civilian protesters have been calling for an end to all along.

Read the Article

Obamacare Counselor: "On the Surface, People Have Choices. But It's a Complete Farce"

Rebecca Burns, In These Times: "The [Affordable Care Act] took the health-care system, which is messed up already, and then it added an application and an online shopping system on top of it, and then more layers of tax law and immigration law on top of that. It didn't actually make the health system itself better," says one health-care application counselor.

Read the Article

Carbon Counterattack: How Big Oil Is Responding to the Anti-Carbon Movement

Michael T. Klare, TomDispatch: While climate denialism still figures in the propaganda of some carbon companies, they have now largely chosen to embrace another strategy - extolling the benefits of fossil fuels and highlighting their contributions to human well-being and progress.

Read the Article

The Republican Strategy to Repeal Dodd-Frank

Simon Johnson, The Baseline Scenario: Republicans will chip away along all possible dimensions, using a combination of legislation and pressure on regulators - with the ultimate goal of relaxing the restrictions that have been placed on the activities of very large banks.

Read the Article

Obama Should Not Prop Up Mexico's Corrupt President

Laura Carlsen, CIP Americas Program: Mexican president Peña Nieto presides over a nation of impunity, where 98.3 percent of crimes go unpunished. The justice system has gotten worse, not better, under attempts at reform that have been heavily funded by the US government.

Read the Article

Tilting at Turbines

Emily Schwartz Greco, OtherWords: While renewable energy remains vulnerable to volatility as governments phase subsidies in and out, it's poised for massive growth, and Wall Street will eventually accept renewable power's

Satire: Understanding What Charlie Hebdo Really Stood For

Read the Article at Salon

Storytelling From the Front Lines of Food Justice

Read the Article at EcoWatch

The Real Reason US Gas Is so Cheap Is Americans Don't Pay the True Cost of Driving

Read the Article at City Lab

New Research Links Earthquakes to Fracking in Ohio

Read the Article at The New York Times

Legal Advocacy Group Asks for New Darren Wilson Grand Jury

Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

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full potential.

Read the Article

Laura Flanders | Peter Linebaugh: Who Owns the Commons? An 800-Year Fight for Public Goods

Laura Flanders, GRITtv: This year marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, and this week's show marks that occasion with a discussion on the rights of the commons with author Peter Linebaugh. We also visit a community center in Caracas and hear from youth voices about life and revolution in Venezuela.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Pete Ogden" <progden@gmail.com>
Date: 11/30/2014 4:33:26 AM
Subject: Re: global tech initiative

Not sure what to do with this beyond ccs demo announced in Beijing.

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

> On Nov 29, 2014, at 2:07 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Hi John -- Good seeing you the other day, and hope you had a good Thanksgiving.
>
> I asked John Deutch if he had any thoughts about what a global technology initiative might look like, and he sent the attached note for you to take a look at. He makes the case that the focus should be on CCS, and told me that nuclear he thought too expensive and solar was progressing on its own. If you are interested in him thinking about what exactly the shape of an initiative might be, he'll want to hear from you directly.
>
> Let me know if there's anyone else you think that I should solicit ideas on this from at at this stage.
>
>
> --Pete
> <CCS RD&D proposal.pdf>

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/7/2015 1:01:33 AM
Subject: Invitation: Global Energy Forum: Revolutionary Changes and Security Pathways

To view this email as a web page, click here

Special Event

Wilson Center

Global Energy Forum: Revolutionary Changes and Security Pathways

The international energy system is going through revolutionary changes. Oil and natural gas production is growing in the United States and elsewhere in response to new technologies. Geopolitics face several inflection points, from a turbulent Middle East to increased Russian pressure in Europe, and Chinese pressure in East Asia. Furthermore, new pathways must be developed to advance global energy security at a time of revolutionary change. The system must be more resilient, as energy trade is vulnerable to interruption, and as strategic petroleum reserves need to be modernized. Up to and beyond the next climate change conference (COP-21) in Paris, national security, energy and climate goals need to be better integrated in future policies.

Panel 1: A Global - and Revolutionary - Energy System

Amy Myers Jaffe
Executive Director, Energy and Sustainability, University of California, Davis

Robert Johnston
CEO and Natural Resources Head, The Eurasia Group

David G. Victor
Professor, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego

Keynote: The Energy World Ahead

To Be Announced

Panel 2: Pathways to Global Energy Security

Leon Fuerth
Practitioner in Residence, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University

David L. Goldwyn
Principal, Goldwyn Global Strategies LLC

Jan H. Kalicki
Public Policy Fellow and Energy Lead, Woodrow Wilson Center

Conference Rapporteur

Julia Nanay
Principal, Energy Ventures LLC

RSVP NOW

Monday, September 21, 2015
1:15 pm-4:30 pm

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

wwics@wilsoncenter.org

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From:	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com> "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Marissa Astor" <mastor@hillaryclinton.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com> "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/3/2015 11:48:15 AM
Subject:	8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:

- Immigration plan
- Clinton Cash update

Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call

Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays
Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.

--
Kristina Schake
Hillary for America

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From:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	6/29/2015 8:14:01 AM
Subject:	Ben Gemen policy background
Attachments:	EnergyClimatePlatform_Overview_29June2015.docx

Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

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1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 5:40:05 AM
Subject: Re: Podesta in the News Today

me too

On Mon, May 4, 2015 at 12:40 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I'm keeping my eye on it. Agree we don't engage.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2015 12:38 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri; Tony Carrk

Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

You guys tuned into any of this. One stream is that i'm pro-fracking because Tony and I went to Greek Independence Day together where he must have convinced me to be anti-environment
The other is Uranium 1.
I assume we ignore.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 9:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Missi Tessier <tessier@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 at 5:51:12 PM GMT+2
To: Tony Podesta <podesta@podesta.com >, David Marin <DMarin@podestagroup.com >
Cc: Stephen Rademaker <srademaker@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
Subject: RE: Podesta in the News Today

Yes you are correct. David and Steve may want to give additional justification, but all of us agree that it is not in anyone's interest to engage with or respond to purposefully inaccurate right wing bloggers as it will only result in additional rounds of stories that will do nothing to correct the record. Our internal digital analysis has shown that this story line has flatlined over the last several days and we do not believe that inducing another spike in the online discussion will be beneficial.

From: Tony Podesta
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 10:43 AM

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To: Missi Tessier; David Marin
Cc: Stephen Rademaker
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

Weren't the Russians already owners when we started

This implies we worked on cifius

Don't think we should let anything pass

Views

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Gregory McGowan <gmcgowan@podestagroup.com >
> **Date:** May 4, 2015 at 4:26:00 PM GMT+2
> **To:** Everyone <PA-Everyone@podesta.com >
> **Subject: Podesta in the News Today**
>
> PODESTA IN THE NEWS: 05.04.2015
>
> *Note: numerous blogs are continuing to repost last week's DeSmog Blog article as well as the following Breitbart piece that was published over the weekend.*
>
> Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One
>
> By: Ben Shapiro, Breitbart
>
> ---
>
> Breitbart
>
> May 1, 2015
>
> Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One
>
> By: Ben Shapiro
>
> If you love the team that put together the Clinton Foundation and all of its various corrupt dealings with foreign nations, you'll love the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign. It now turns out that

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John Podesta, chair of Hillary's presidential campaign – and the same man who called the allegations of Peter Schweizer's Clinton Cash "conspiracy theories" – has a brother who runs a company, The **Podesta Group**, that lobbied the State Department on behalf of Uranium One while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and beyond.

Uranium One is, of course, the uranium firm that sent a "flow of cash" to the Clinton Foundation as the Russian government gained increasing ownership of the company; the State Department had to sign off on the Russians' encroachment into the American uranium market. The Clinton Foundation did disclose its relationship with Uranium One in Hillary's State Department disclosures. According to the Daily Caller, Uranium One "paid the **Podesta Group** $40,000 to lobby the State Department, the Senate, the National Park Service and the National Security Council for 'international mining projects,' according to a July 20, 2012 filing."

Hillary's relationship with John Podesta goes back to the first Clinton administration. During Bill Clinton's second term, Podesta acted as chief of staff. After leaving, he created the Center for American Progress, a Clinton-backed leftist think tank designed to forward the political goals of the Clintons. As the Christian Science Monitor reported when Podesta joined Hillary Clinton's campaign back in January:

Podesta is the guy people call on when the going gets tough: He served as Bill Clinton's chief of staff from 1998 to 2001, helping control a series of crises including Clinton's impeachment trial. The Obama administration brought him on to help the President steer a path through Congressional impasses and to avert embarrassments like the Affordable Care Act's botched rollout.

Podesta's relationship with the Clintons didn't waver during Hillary's time in the White House; his own ties with the Obama administration grew stronger when he became a senior advisor to the Obama administration in late 2013, before resigning this year to join Hillary's campaign.

Podesta isn't the only member of the Clinton team embroiled in Clinton Foundation corruption. Hillary's new top fundraiser is Dennis Cheng, the former chief development officer for the Clinton Foundation, which means he did all the fundraising for that organization. Cheng has not been asked any questions thus far about his relationship with the Clinton Foundation or the new Clinton 2016 campaign.

Just as President Obama magically transformed his campaign organization, Obama for America, into a political action group, Organizing for Action, to lobby for his preferred governmental policies, Hillary Clinton has transformed the Clinton Foundation and its constellation of allies into her 2016 campaign.

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GREGORY MCGOWAN ASSOCIATE

O 202.448.5204 / C / W www.podestagroup.com

1001 G Street NW, Suite 1000 West, Washington, DC 20001

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/26/2015 7:31:55 AM
Subject: News Update - January 26

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, January 26

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Netanyahu: Iran Deal Dangerous for the World, Will Allow Production of Nukes**
- **Dermer: PM Has 'Sacred Duty' to Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal**
- **Boehner: We Gave White House Heads Up on Netanyahu**
- **Michael Oren Calls on Netanyahu to Cancel Congress Speech**
- **Rivlin Invited to Meet Obama During First US Visit as President**
- **Washington Officials: Netanyahu 'Playing Politics' at Expense of Israel-U.S. Ties**
- **Netanyahu Attacks Media for Stories on Wife Sara: 'Leave My Family Alone'**
- **Hezbollah Says Israel Wants to Set 'New Rules' with Syria Raid**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: “A Great Gift to Iran"**
  - By Nahum Barnea
- **New York Times: "Political Sabotage over a Deal with Iran"**
  - By Ellie Geranmayeh

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Jerusalem Post

Netanyahu: Iran Deal Dangerous for the World, Will Allow Production of Nukes

The deal under negotiation between the six world powers and Iran would still leave it the capacity to produce dozens of nuclear bombs, Prime Minister Netanyahu warned on Monday. The agreement that is emerging now between the P5+1 countries - the United States, Russia, China, Great Britain, France and Germany - and Iran is unacceptable to Israel, Netanyahu said. It "is dangerous for Israel, the region and the world," he said as he explained that under its terms Iran would remain a nuclear threshold state. "It leaves Iran with the ability to produce the material needed to produce a nuclear bomb within a few months, and later, it could produce dozens of nuclear bombs," Netanyahu said.

Ha'aretz

Dermer: PM Has 'Sacred Duty' to Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal

Disavowing any disrespect towards President Obama or any intent to intervene in American politics, Israel's U.S. ambassador Ron Dermer says that Prime Minister Netanyahu has a "sacred duty" to speak up in Congress against the proposed nuclear agreement with Iran which, in Dermer's words, "could endanger the very existence of the State of Israel." In an address to an Israel Bonds gala dinner in Boca Raton, Florida, Dermer said "there may be some people who believe that the Prime Minister of Israel should have declined an invitation to speak before the most powerful parliament in the world on an issue that concerns the future and survival of Israel. But we have learned from our history that the world becomes a more dangerous place for the Jewish people when the Jewish people are silent."

Times of Israel

Boehner: We Gave White House Heads Up on Netanyahu

US Speaker of the House John Boehner said Sunday night that he informed President Barack Obama that he'd asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to speak before Congress hours before the invite was made public. Boehner and Netanyahu agreed that the Israeli prime minister would speak in Washington on March 3 without consulting the administration — the customary policy on such things. But it gave rise to anger in Washington and to criticism in the media. Asked about the White House's statements that it had been blindsided by the plan, Boehner told CBS's "60 Minutes," "We gave them a heads up that morning."

Ynet News

Michael Oren Calls on Netanyahu to Cancel Congress Speech

Member of Kulanu and Israel's former ambassador in Washington Michael Oren has called for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to cancel his planned address to Congress. "The behavior over the last few days created the impression of a cynical political move, and it could hurt our attempts to act against Iran," said Oren. "It's advisable to cancel the speech to Congress so as not to cause a rift with the American government. Much responsibility and reasoned political behavior are needed to guard interests in the White House."

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Ynet News

Rivlin Invited to Meet Obama During First US Visit as President

President Reuven Rivlin has rejected an offer to meet with US President Obama, a statement from his office said Sunday as he left on his first official visit to the United States, where he will address a UN session marking 70 years since the end of the Holocaust. His trip comes at a point of high tension between Israel and Washington after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted a controversial invitation to address a joint session of Congress in early March in a move which was not coordinated with the White House. Netanyahu defended the move on Sunday, saying it was his obligation to help Israel wherever he can.

See also, "Scheduling, not Netanyahu, prohibits Obama-Rivlin meeting" (Jerusalem Post)

Ha'aretz

Washington Officials: Netanyahu 'Playing Politics' at Expense of Israel-U.S. Ties

Senior U.S. officials continued over the weekend to harshly criticize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the invitation from leading Republicans to address Congress in March. In background briefings to U.S. media outlets, administration officials said Netanyahu was "playing politics" at the expense of the U.S.-Israeli strategic relationship. The Washington Post quoted senior U.S. officials who attacked Netanyahu and Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer.

Jerusalem Post

Netanyahu Attacks Media for Stories on Wife Sara: 'Leave My Family Alone'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out at the media on Monday after reports emerged Sunday over his wife Sara's allegedly untoward behavior toward staff at the couple's official residence in Jerusalem. Netanyahu took to his Facebook page, accusing the media of taking its campaign against him to a new, personal level. "The media attack against my wife Sara is yet another low point for some leading memebrs of the Israeli media that will use any means to hurt me and my political path," Netanyau charged. "The 'Anyone but Bibi' campaign has become 'Anyone but Sara' - anything in order to defame, denounce, attack, to do all in their power to unseat the Likud under my leadership and pave the way for the Left," he said.

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Reuters

Hezbollah Says Israel Wants to Set 'New Rules' with Syria Raid

An Israeli attack which killed several prominent members of Lebanon's Hezbollah last week was an attempt by Israel to set "new rules" in the conflict between the two foes, Hezbollah's deputy leader said at a gathering to commemorate those who died. Sheikh Naim Qassem's comments were the first reaction from the group's leadership to the missile attack in the Syrian province of Quneitra near the Israeli border. Among those killed was an Iranian officer and the son of Hezbollah's late military chief. Israel has struck Hezbollah in Syria several times since the conflict there began, hitting weapons deliveries, but the group did not acknowledge these attacks.
See also, "Ya'alon: Lebanon, Syria will be held responsible for revenge attacks" (Times of Israel)
See also, "A conversation with Bashar al-Assad" (Foreign Affairs)

Yedioth Ahronoth – January 26, 2015

A Great Gift to Iran

By Nahum Barnea

Over the weekend, my inbox was flooded with questions from American friends: Does he really intend to go? Yes, I replied. Despite all the terrible reactions here? Yes, I replied, despite them. And despite the fact that he knows that his trip is the greatest gift that the Iranian nuclear program could receive? Yes, I replied, despite that. It's unbelievable, they summed up.

The Americans—in the White House, in the political establishment, in the media—have spoken their piece. Netanyahu has found himself in the situation of the proverbial hapless person who ate the rotten fish and took a beating, but has not yet been banished from the city [referring to a Jewish parable about a slave who was given a choice of three punishments for a misdeed and ended up suffering all three—INT]. It is a classic dilemma: If he gives up on making the trip he will be perceived as a loser; if he insists, he will take a beating for the third time. Netanyahu has chosen, at least at this stage, to insist.

"I will go anywhere to present the State of Israel's position," he declared yesterday at the start of the cabinet meeting. Netanyahu has great faith in his powers of rhetoric. If you've given a speech you've done something, if you haven't given a speech you haven't done anything, that is the motto [allusion to his saying about the left wing that it only believes it has done something if it has removed settlements]. But even he does not believe that a speech, no matter how polished, can force the US president to act against what he views as his country's vital interests. Particularly since the speeches that Netanyahu is supposed to give there, and his visit in and of itself, are intended to attack, humiliate and diminish the only person that Netanyahu has to persuade. Persuasion by affront? There must be more successful methods to soften the president's heart.

The discomfiture is felt mainly there, in the United States. I will return to that soon. In the meantime, a few words about Netanyahu's trip and the elections in Israel. I am going in order to save the State of Israel from the Iranian nuclear program, not to steal the elections, Netanyahu says. I believe him, of course. Unfortunately, not

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everyone believes him. And so, to remove all doubt, Netanyahu should send a letter today to Central Elections Committee Chairman Judge Salim Joubran, and implore him to ban any coverage of his speeches in Washington two weeks before the elections. Zehava Galon submitted a similar request to the judge this week, but with all due respect to Galon, Netanyahu is closer to the matter. Without cameras, Netanyahu should demand from his hosts. Without applause. Without billionaires in the gallery. I have come to persuade, not to be photographed.

Back to the entanglement on the American side. At the end of the negotiations, Iran will be a nuclear threshold state. This is bad news for Israel and a stinging failure for our foreign policy, but the die has been cast. This is not because there is a hater of Israel in the White House, but because the majority of Americans refuse to get into a war with Iran at this point in history. The Republicans seize every opportunity to provoke Obama, but they do not want war either.

Netanyahu knows that there is no point to his trip, besides its theoretical contribution to the elections in Israel. The decision to cook up the trip behind the administration's back has not only put Netanyahu in opposition to the president and the secretary of state, but also to the Democrats in both houses of Congress and some of the Republicans. This means several things. Firstly, the chances have weakened for legislation that will intensify the sanctions (even if a majority is obtained, the president will impose a veto and the legislation will be overruled). Secondly, AIPAC has taken a blow. AIPAC achieved great influence in Washington thanks to its reliance on the majority in both parties. It must not lose the Democrats.

AIPAC is further discomfited by this affair: So as not to look as though it were meddling in the elections in Israel, its leaders have to invite Netanyahu's rivals, and first and foremost Herzog, and give him exactly the same stage as Netanyahu receives. Herzog has already been invited (Livni has also been invited, and will apparently give a negative reply). It would be best for [Herzog] to turn down the invitation; his arrival would give false legitimacy to Netanyahu's visit. But true to form, Herzog is deliberating.

Thirdly, the Jews. The overwhelming majority of the Jews are loyal to the Democratic Party and will continue to be loyal to it. They can take in stride a confrontation between the Israeli government and the White House (and enjoy the benefit of the efforts to mediate between them). They will not support an Israel that becomes a tool in the hands of the rival party.

Fourthly, and perhaps most seriously: Netanyahu has hurt American pride, the sense of patriotism, the immense respect for the institution of the presidency. It is no wonder that the broadcasters of Fox News, which is pro-Republican, have joined the attack on Netanyahu. The matter truly upsets them. In front of the cameras they prefer to attack him rather than John Boehner, their man in the US House of Representatives, who cooked this stew together with Netanyahu and his American patrons.

In Israel it is customary to think that Netanyahu is the boss and the billionaires work for him. This is a mistake. Now, when we know how difficult it is to work for the Netanyahus, we understand how ridiculous this thought is. As far as the relations with America are concerned, Netanyahu works for them and only for them.

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Perhaps the time has come to Netanyahu turn this part-time job into his full-time job and let others rehabilitate the relationship with the United States. More than a few people in Washington, Jews and non-Jews, friends and lovers of Israel, would accept the change gladly.

New York Times – January 25, 2015

Political Sabotage over a Deal with Iran

By Ellie Geranmayeh

America and Iran took a step toward a final nuclear deal on Jan. 18, but they should be making leaps. The negotiators have proposed some creative solutions but major political compromises are sorely needed, and soon.

If a framework agreement can't be reached in March, the talks could become mired in stalemate. Those who oppose any diplomacy between Iran and the West are already seeking to end the process altogether. With time, they will gain further ammunition.

Spoilers have been striking from Tehran, Washington and Tel Aviv. Some are trying to limit the ability of President Barack Obama (or whoever succeeds him) to deliver a reasonable sanctions-relief package to Iran. Others are seeking to corner Iran and force its government into knee-jerk reactions to regional flare-ups. Hard-liners in the United States and Iran see the nuclear negotiations as an opportunity to score points domestically and they are escalating their efforts to scuttle a grand bargain.

Although the Obama administration has dedicated itself to multilateral diplomacy with Iran, it has been under constant pressure from Congress. Powerful American legislators, influential lobby groups and the Israeli prime minister have repeatedly called for increased economic pressure on Iran to extract further concessions. Not only does this contradict America's interest in maintaining the freeze on Iran's nuclear program, but it also devalues the agreement brokered between Iran and France, Britain, Russia, China, America and Germany.

Threats by American lawmakers to impose further sanctions on Iran have already poisoned the spirit of the talks and created doubt among Iranians about whether the United States is able and willing to deliver on its promises. This has provoked hard-liners in Tehran to respond with their own threats that Iran would increase its enrichment capacity should new sanctions pass.

During his State of the Union address, President Obama made clear that he would veto any proposals for additional sanctions on Iran. And although officials in Tehran recognize this as a good faith gesture on the part of Mr. Obama, they also remember that a Congressional bill introduced in late 2013 nearly garnered enough support to withstand a similar veto threat. Iranian officials worry that the Obama administration is constitutionally unable to make a durable and ironclad promise of sanctions relief as part of a final deal. With a Republican majority in both chambers of Congress, and House Speaker John Boehner's invitation to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address Congress for a third time, Iran fears that Mr. Obama's veto won't be enough.

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At the same time, Iran is at risk of losing the West's trust. There is a danger that Iran will damage its newfound reputation as a good faith interlocutor by retaliating for the presumed Israeli attack that killed Hezbollah operatives and an Iranian general in Syria last Sunday.

Iran believes the strike was a premeditated Israeli operation targeting a high-level Iranian official. Influential hardliners in Tehran's security establishment view it as an act of aggression by Israel and demand a direct response.

But any such retaliation, either overtly by Iran or covertly through Hezbollah, would likely prompt Israel's European and American allies to halt the nuclear negotiations altogether — especially if the retaliation involves attacks against civilians.

The Iranian government must decide how openly it wishes to involve itself in the inevitable Hezbollah retaliation while ensuring its tactics do not threaten Iran's long-term strategic objective of securing a nuclear deal. Iran prudently avoided any entanglement in the Gaza conflict over the summer — and it should continue to keep its distance.

If Tehran responds excessively, or if operations are carried out unofficially by Iranian hard-liners, this would escalate the Israeli-Iranian standoff and could derail the nuclear talks completely.

March will be an important month for all parties. The results of the Israeli elections could deflate Tel Aviv's fierce opposition to current negotiations with Iran. For Mr. Netanyahu, blocking any nuclear deal is a personal investment. Some of his political rivals do not necessarily share his fervor on the issue. They view a nuclear deal as less of a threat and place more value on maintaining Israel's strong alliances with European nations and the United States, all of whom seek a nuclear deal with Iran. If Mr. Netanyahu is defeated by a less hawkish opponent, the Obama administration will have an easier time reassuring Israel about any deal with Iran and there would also be less Israeli pressure on Congress.

March is also symbolic for Mr. Rouhani, who is eager to mark the Iranian New Year with a psychological shift on sanctions and engagement with the West. This would be a timely electoral boost for moderates seeking to strengthen their position in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

After the negotiations were extended for a second time in November, Mr. Rouhani appealed to the Iranian people, other political factions and Iran's Supreme Leader for hope and patience. They granted his request but they will not tolerate talks that continue to be extended indefinitely with no tangible sanctions relief in sight.

The extension of negotiations has prevented a return to hostile rhetoric between Iran and the West. But tepid progress without any major concessions is a blessing for spoilers, who will use the additional time to sabotage diplomacy.

Iran must not allow its short-term ideological pursuits in the region to jeopardize its overarching strategic objective: achieving a comprehensive nuclear deal that brings sanctions relief and provides Iran the option of having a functional relationship with the West.

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Likewise, the United States must not allow a myopic and obstructionist Congress to derail a deal that is in Washington's long-term interest and strengthens global security.

Ellie Geranmayeh is a policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
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From: "Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 5/7/2015 5:28:27 AM
Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton —and My Children's Request

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but **I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.**

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters,
Pam Vergun

Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu
3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642
Mo: 503-332-7633

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beaverton-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/2/2015 8:26:22 AM
Subject: News Update - October 2

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, October 2

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Netanyahu Rebukes U.N. Over Iran Accord**
- **Israeli Couple Killed in West Bank Shooting**
- **West Bank Tensions Surge in Night of 'Price Tag' Attacks**
- **Senior Official Confirms: We Murdered the Couple**
- **Pro-Israel Groups Targeting Palestinian Organizations in US, Report Finds**
- **Israel Mulls Authorizing Five 'Hilltop' West Bank Settlements**
- **IDF Deputy Chief to Meet Russian Counterpart in Tel Aviv**
- **Egyptians Rank Israel Most Hostile Country**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Bombshell in the First Act"**
  - By Nahum Barnea
- **Ha'aretz: "Russian Airstrikes in Syria Aim to Build Alawite Mini-State"**
  - By Ely Karmon, Senior Research Scholar, Institute for Counter-Terrorism

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The Wall Street Journal

Netanyahu Rebukes U.N. Over Iran Accord

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a fiery address condemning the Iranian nuclear deal, largely unbowed in his opposition despite losing steep political ground to President Barack Obama over the issue this year. In his speech to the General Assembly, Mr. Netanyahu thundered that Iranian threats to destroy Israel have been met in the world body by "utter silence, deafening silence." He then stopped speaking for 45 seconds, panning the hall with a furrowed glare. "Perhaps you can now understand why Israel is not joining you in celebrating this deal," he said.

See also, "In Fiery Speech, Netanyahu Challenges UN on Moral Grounds" (Jerusalem Post)

Ma'ariv

Israeli Couple Killed in West Bank Shooting

An Israeli couple was killed last night in a shooting attack in the West Bank. The two victims, Naama and Eitam Henkin, were shot while driving with their four children on the road between Itamar and Elon Moreh. The children suffered from shock but were not otherwise injured. IDF troops combed the area to find the attackers. Hamas sources praised the shooting and called for more such attacks.

See also, "Thousands Gather for Funeral of Slain Israeli Couple" (Jerusalem Post)

Ynet News

West Bank Tensions Surge in Night of 'Price Tag' Attacks

Tensions escalated further in the West Bank Friday morning when, just hours after near Itamar, a Palestinian's vehicle was torched and a message of revenge was graffitied on a house nearby in Baytillu near Ramallah. "Revenge, Henkin," read the message on the wall in reference to Israelis Eitam and Na'ama Henkin who were killed in Thursday night's attack. Their four children were with them in the car at the time of the attack but were unharmed. Police requested that the owner of the house and vehicle file an official complaint so that investigations could begin to catch the culprits.

See also, "Ya'alon: Many of Our Forces Are Working to Catch the Murderers" (Jerusalem Post)

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Arutz Sheva

Senior Official Confirms: We Murdered the Couple

The "armed wing" of Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction initially claimed responsibility for Thursday night's brutal murder of a young couple right in front of their four children, but now a senior Fatah official has confirmed that claim. Senior Fatah official Mahmoud Al-Aloul, who is a member of the Fatah Central Committee, was revealed by *Palestinian Media Watch* (PMW) as having announcing responsibility the night before on Facebook for the murder of Rabbi Eitam and Naama Henkin outside Itamar in Samaria. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement Fatah, accepted responsibility for the Itamar operation (i.e. the murder - ed.) carried out against settlers, leading to their deaths," wrote Al-Aloul in an open admission.

See also, "Fatah Armed Wing Claims Responsibility for Terror Attack" (Times of Israel)

The Guardian

Pro-Israel Groups Targeting Palestinian Organizations in US

Pro-Israel organizations are increasingly targeting pro-Palestinian groups in the US, according to a report released by two legal advocacy groups on Wednesday. In a report co-authored with the Center for Constitutional Rights, legal group Palestine Legal said it was called in to respond to nearly 300 incidents of attempted suppression of pro-Palestine activism and rhetoric in the past 18 months. "These numbers aren't telling the full story," said Dima Khalidi, director of Palestine Legal. "They are really the tip of the iceberg with incidents that go unreported." The report found that, overwhelmingly, these incidents took place on university campuses, which have become the focus of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign in recent years.

See also, "Palestine Exception to Free Speech: A Movement Under Attack in the US" (Center for Constitutional Rights)

i24 News

Israel Mulls Authorizing Five 'Hilltop' West Bank Settlements

Israel is considering authorizing wildcat settlement outposts in the West Bank near a village where a firebombing killed an 18-month-old Palestinian boy and his parents, court documents showed Thursday. The government confirmed it was considering the authorization in a court document first made public by rights group Yesh Din, which has been involved in legal action against one of the outposts. The international community regards all Jewish settlements in the West Bank as illegal, but the Israeli government makes a distinction between those it has authorized and those it has not.

See also, "Israel Seeks to Legalize Controversial Settler Outpost" (Times of Israel)

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Jerusalem Post

IDF Deputy Chief to Meet Russian Counterpart in Tel Aviv

The IDF Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Yair Golan will meet with his Russian counterpart, Col.-Gen. Nikolai Bogdanovski at IDF Headquarters in Tel Aviv this coming Tuesday. The meeting is the first by a joint working group set up between the IDF and Russian Armed Forces, to coordinate Syria-related activities in the aerial, naval, and electromagnetic arenas, and avoid inadvertent clashes. The announcement came a day after the Russian air force launched its first wave of air strikes on Syrian rebels, sparking alarm in the West, which has cast doubt on Russian claims that ISIS was the target. Bogdanovski will lead a Russian military delegation on a two-day visit to Israel, and will discuss regional coordination, the IDF said.

Ynet News

Egyptians Rank Israel Most Hostile Country

A public opinion survey of Egyptians published Tuesday placed Israel in first place in the category of hostile nations - frienemies at best. The Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera), published the results of the survey in media outlets associated with the regime, like Al-Ahram's website and the news agency al-Sharq al-Awsat. The survey assigned countries a rating ranging from 100 to -100, with the negative figures indicating hostility and the positive figures friendliness. Israel received -88 points in the survey, and is thus considered by Egyptians to be its most hostile nation.
See also, "Egyptians View Israel as Most Hostile State, Poll Finds" (Ha'aretz)

Yedioth Ahronoth – October 2, 2015

Bombshell in the First Act

By Nahum Barnea

Only one person succeeds in creating a national consensus in Israel, a uniform front, from wall to wall. Only one person, and only once a year: Abu Mazen, in his annual speech at the UN General Assembly. Netanyahu tweeted from New York: A deceitful speech, which provokes incitement and trouble in the Middle East. "This was not a speech, it was a litany of ugly and false defamations by a person who instead of being a leader, acts like the worst of the inciters," tweeted Yair Lapid, also from New York. "Distorted statements," Yitzhak Herzog tweeted from Tel Aviv. "An incitement speech, filled with lies and fantasies," declared Tourism Minister Yariv Levin from the settlement Har Bracha, on the road to Nablus. According to his tweet, he was going [to Har Bracha] to celebrate the dedication of a day-care center.

And so on and so forth.

Indeed, a sharply-worded speech. In the way of propaganda speeches, it was filled with demagogic statements, historical distortions, exaggerations. Here and there it also included outright lies, the kind that insult one's intelligence. I have no interest in defending the PA chairman. He is not my leader.

But the trends illustrated by the speech pointed are deeply rooted,

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regrettably enough, in reality. It is not unnecessary, therefore, to examine his claims one by one.

"In Jerusalem," he said at the start of his speech, "the Israeli government is promoting a plan to have separate visiting times on the Temple Mount." This is a false statement: The Israeli government has not approved a plan that changes the existing situation on the Mount. The prime minister has repeatedly announced publicly that the status quo will be maintained.

But as every police officer in Jerusalem knows, the status quo is not maintained. A war is being waged on the Temple Mount between two messianic sects—one is Arab, founded by Sheikh Raed Salah, leader of the Islamic Movement's northern chapter, and the other is Jewish, inspired by rabbis from Judea and Samaria. Uri Ariel, a cabinet minister, is the prominent spokesperson of the Jewish sect. The war is being waged over territory: Each sect aspires to full control of the Mount—the Arabs wish to remove the Jews, and the Jews seek to destroy the mosques and build synagogues, and in the long term, a Temple. The basis on which Moshe Dayan established the rules of the game in 1967 has collapsed. The Arab street is no longer content with worshipping at el-Aksa Mosque—the entire area of the mount is now considered a mosque. Dayan created three circles of government on the Mount: The Wakf, Jordan and the Israel Police. The activists of the sect thumb their nose at all three.

A change that is no less dramatic has taken place among the Jews. Dayan relied on the rabbinic prohibition to visit the Temple Mount. That prohibition enabled him to divide control of the Mount. He did not imagine that a day would come in which many members of religious Zionism would exempt themselves from this prohibition. National messianism has intermingled with religious messianism, which has intermingled with curiosity, recklessness, challenging the limits, romanticism.

The Temple Mount is the Petra of the [hilltop] youth with curled sidelocks [in the 1950s Israeli hikers would tried to sneak into Petra as a challenge, this was considered a rite of passage for elite youth.] Minister Uri Ariel not only visits the Temple Mount, he also prays there, in a place that has been sanctified by the Muslims as a mosque. The Temple Mount is all ours, he declares on camera, and the prime minister does not reprimand him. It is no wonder that the Palestinians suspect that there is a deliberate intention here, that there is a plan.

Speaking of the Temple Mount, Abu Mazen warned that the national confrontation could turn into a religious confrontation. This is a well-placed warning. You are playing with fire, he says, and ignores his role in the game.

<u>The Meaning of the Lie</u>

The settlements and the settlers occupied a central part of the speech. This is a relatively new phenomenon in Palestinian rhetoric. Arafat, who used to say that he was the greatest expert on Israel politics, did not understand the importance of the settlements until his dying day. It took Abu Mazen time, but now he understands. In his view, the settlements are an effective propaganda instrument against Israel and are an almost insurmountable obstacle on the way to establishing a Palestinian state. There is a great deal of truth to both

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these assumptions.

When the Israeli government continues to build in the settlements, he says, it is violating international law, UN resolutions and the spirit of the agreements it signed with the Palestinians. The Israeli government is creating two types of regimes in the West Bank: an apartheid regime towards the Palestinians and towards their state on one hand, and a regime of privileges and protection for the settlers on the other.

Are these "ugly and false defamations," as Yair Lapid said? If only this were true. Every soldier in the territories who keeps his eyes open will testify otherwise. According to the Oslo Accords, Abu Mazen noted, Israel was supposed to pull back from the territories by 1999. The withdrawal stopped with 60 percent of the territory under Israel's full control. IDF troops and settlers also invade at will territories under PA control.

Factually speaking, he is right. He would have been more right had he mentioned the waves of Palestinian terrorism, which made a crucial contribution to freezing the situation on the ground.

Israel, he says, controls the natural resources in the Palestinian territories and strangles their economy. In doing so, it is violating the spirit of the Oslo Accords and the Paris Protocol. Unfortunately, this allegation is true. The ease with which Israel periodically stops the transfer of the Palestinians' customs and VAT funds to their destination is a good example. Water too: Many months passed until the Israeli government deigned to permit water to be supplied to the Palestinian city Rawabi. The settlers in the Likud Central Committee intimidated Yaalon and Shalom. The blockade on Gaza, which in the past included a prohibition on bringing in tampons, was only tenuously related to security, and so on and so forth.

"The occupation is brutal," Abu Mazen said. He accuses the Israeli government of turning a blind eye to the terrorist acts of settlers, including the torching of the family in Duma, and including price tag actions against mosques and churches. Are these "lies and fantasies," as Minister Levin says? I am not sure.

All this leads Abu Mazen to the conclusion: As long as Israel refuses to stop construction in the settlements, refuses to continue to release prisoners, and violates international law as he interprets it—the PA he leads will feel free to violate its commitments. "Either the Palestinian Authority will lead the Palestinian people from occupation to independence, or else Israel, the occupying power, will bear full responsibility," he said.

<u>The National Heroes</u>

Mohammed Deif, the Hamas figure from Gaza, and Marwan Barghouti, the Fatah figure from the West Bank, are the most two popular people on the Palestinian street today. In fact, they are the only two popular figures. Deif is considered a national hero because he survived five assassination attempts by Israel—a national record. In one assassination attempt he lost an eye, and in another he lost his hands and feet. Nevertheless, he continues to lead the Hamas military wing in Gaza. Deif gives the instructions and outlines the direction. Marwan Issa, his deputy, executes the instructions. The two do not obey the authority of the Hamas political leadership, in Gaza and

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outside it.

Barghouti was sentenced to five terms of life imprisonment. His standing as a national hero is derived from his incarceration. It is not out of the question that at some point the PLO will decide to choose him as Abu Mazen's successor. This will be a purely symbolic decision, a show of protest that is empty of content: no Israeli government will be in a hurry to release him from prison.

In other words, the Palestinians suffer from a leadership vacuum no less than we do. None of their senior politicians have a basis on the ground. Nasser al-Kidwa, Arafat's nephew and the former ambassador to the UN, who was considered a natural successor, suffers from a severe case of cancer; Jibril Rajoub has taken a blow since the FIFA affair; Mohammed Dahlan has been accused of corruption and is unpopular in the West Bank; Saeb Erekat is marginal; and Rami Hamdallah, the prime minister, wishes to return home to An-Najah University.

The Palestinian street is desperate. It is desperate because it has lost hope for a breakthrough. All the paths have been tried, all the paths have failed. The relative quiet did not bring about a change and terrorism did not bring about a change, the PA did not bring about a change and Hamas did not bring about a change. The alienation is so great that 14 percent of the residents of Gaza, according to the latest poll, support ISIS.

The confidence in Abu Mazen has hit rock bottom. In an attempt to regain something of the street's support, he promised to drop a bombshell in his speech at the UN. He even weighed the idea of announcing the dismantling of the PA. At that point, he saw the anxiety in the eyes of tens of thousands of Palestinians who are employed by the PA or work as its contractors. Palestine, like the pre-state ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem, subsists on the generosity of donors. If there is no Palestinian Authority, there will be no one to channel the funds, and there will be no means of livelihood.

He chose a middle-ground solution: He produced a bomb, but did not light the fuse. It is not certain that he will have control over the continuation: A bomb that is left on the table in the first act tends to explode in the third act.

The Palestinian account is interesting, but alongside it is the Israeli account. We are approaching a reality of one state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, a state that the world will see as an apartheid state. Herzog understands this, perhaps Lapid as well. When Obama says similar things to those said by Abu Mazen, Herzog and Lapid shower him with praise. When Abu Mazen says them, he is the worst of the inciters.

Nahum Barnea is a leading Israeli journalist for Yedioth Ahronoth. In 2007, he was awarded the Israel Prize.

Ha'aretz – October 1, 2015

Russian Airstrikes in Syria Aim to Build Alawite Mini-State

Putin's military intervention does not target ISIS, but seeks to establish

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a solid strategic base for Russia in the Middle East. As Russia forges an alliance with Iran and Iraq, Israel's interests will be put at stake.

By Ely Karmon

Many Russian analysts maintain that Russia's intervention in Syria is driven by Vladimir Putin's desire to reinstate the status of the world's largest nation as a superpower and his genuine belief that the United States has deliberately seeded chaos in the region to secure its reign there. While this assessment may be accurate, it only reveals part of the Russian president's intentions.

Russia's military engagement in Syria comes on the backdrop of three major factors: a serious threat to the survival of President Bashar Assad's regime, Russia's old Middle Eastern client; Putin's success at securing the occupation of Crimea and expanding Russian territorial presence in Ukraine; and the evident weakness, even disarray, of the Obama administration in handling the war against Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

Two additional factors may have helped Putin make this risky decision now: Iran's strength in the region, following its success at securing a highly favorable nuclear deal; and the wave of Syrian refugees who threaten the unity and stability of Europe, thus mitigating its threat to Russian interests in Ukraine.

Aware of Assad's weakness (Putin mocked the Syrian military during his public meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) and that even Iran and Hezbollah's support cannot ensure the Syrian president's survival, the Russian leader decided to upgrade his previous strategy of providing military and political support to the regime. For now, this upgrade is taking the form of building a territorial military presence in the Latakia area –including some 25 to 30 airplanes, several thousand troops, naval infantry brigades, modern T-90 tanks and artillery, according to Jeffrey White of The Washington Institute – which will permit the Russians to carry out airstrikes against rebel forces who threaten the regime's strongholds.

Russia seeks to secure an Alawite mini-state for Assad to control, and transform it into a solid strategic base in the region under Russia's umbrella. This scenario, based on the examples of Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Transnistria or Donetsk People's Republic, was already envisioned by Fabrice Balanche, probably the best expert on the Alawites, in 2012.

Few observers noticed Putin's reference to the Kurds in his address to the United Nations General Assembly this week, when he said no one other than Assad and the Kurdish militias are "truly fighting the Islamic State." Was he hinting at another potential client of the Alawite mini-state in Syria?

In "Time to put an Alawite state on the map" (Haaretz, March 20, 2013) this author proposed Israeli leaders lobby visiting U.S. President Barack Obama to work for a "grand bargain" with Russia to protect the Alawite minority in the face of the "inevitable collapse of the Assad regime," defend it against a massacre by the Sunni rebels and destroy Syria's chemical arsenal under international control. The main caveat to this agreement would be to prevent any Iranian/Hezbollah military or para-military presence in the future Alawite mini-state.

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The August 21, 2013 Syrian chemical attack that killed some 1,400 civilians triggered Russia's and Iran's decision to save the Assad regime from an American military strike and led to the September 2013 U.S.–Russia deal that removed most of the chemicals from Syrian turf.

A new coalition

Indeed, Putin has now found in Iran his best ally for building a coalition that includes "Assad's Syria," Hezbollah and Iraq, the next target in line. Even Egypt is inclined to work with the Russians.

It is in this framework that one must consider the intelligence cooperation agreement between Iran and Hezbollah, Iraq's decision to permit Russia to send military hardware through its air space and to create a coordination cell on the Islamic State, and Iran's purchase of $21-billion worth of Russian satellite technology and aircraft.

Nasrallah said last week that additional Russian forces and highly advanced weapons systems were arriving in Syria, and noted that while an official Syrian request for Russian intervention had not yet been made, one may be imminent.

Nasrallah was right: the first Russian airstrikes in Syria, which were conducted on Wednesday, had nothing to do with ISIS. Instead, they targeted moderate Syrian rebels in the strategic Homs area, which threatens the strategic road linking Damascus to the Alawite Coast.

Those in Israel who expressed careful optimism after the meeting between Netanyahu, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot and Putin yielded a "coordination agreement" between the two air forces have now witnessed an example of how the Russians "coordinated" their first airstrike in Syria with the Americans.

If the United States continues hesitantly zig-zagging on Syria, Israel should take into consideration that its hands will also be tied, as this will embolden Russia to undermine an important American ally in the region.

Will it be safe for Israel to give the Russians information before an attack on a vital strategic target of Hezbollah or Iran? What if Russia passes this intelligence on to Iran before such a strike? Putin has already said he is concerned about the Israeli attacks in Syria, hinting that Russia will clip Israel's wings over Syrian skies, as Haaretz's Amos Harel put it. The stronger and closer Russia's alliance with Iran and Hezbollah on the ground, the harder it will be for Russia to repress the desire to accommodate its friends.

Russia could also disrupt the Israeli military naval activity near the Lebanese and Syrian waters and possibly give Syria/Iran/Hezbollah information on our gas rigs if they compete with vital Russian economic interests. Some Turkish sources have recently claimed that a series of terrorist attacks on Turkish gas and oil pipelines by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) served Russian interests "without any direct orders coming from Moscow."

The new situation in Syria and the region should provide Israel and the United States with an incentive to coordinate more closely on their political and military strategies concerning the Russian intervention. Israel has a lot to offer in the operative and intelligence

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field.

This could also trigger closer cooperation with the moderate Sunni states and even with Turkey, whose game plan for Syria could be ruined by the Russian intervention.

Ely Karmon has been the Senior Research Scholar at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism at The Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya since 1997. He is also the Senior Research Fellow at The Institute for Policy and Strategy at IDC.

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/10/2015 11:23:15 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 6.10.15

National:

-- Report that HRC joined Instagram; noted HRC's pantsuits were color coordinated. Fox News' The Five , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC launched an Instagram account.mp4

-- Discussion about whether HRC had to compete for the black vote given black people struggling in BHO's economy; Dana Perino said HRC needed to talk to black people in Virginia, Iowa, Florida, Colorado, and Ohio to get to 270; Juan Williams said he thought HRC would demonize Republicans; Gret Gutfeld said the economy under HRC would be terrible for black people.Fox News' The Five , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Discussion on whether HRC would be bad for blacks.mp4

-- Report on Bill Galston's Wall Street Journal op-ed about how HRC should aim at undecided voters and winning back working-class whites; Halperin said he didn't see an appetite within HFA to do things risky; Heilemann said HRC had a recipe for victory right now but will have challenges governing; led into WJC's interview at CGI America; used footage of WJC defending The Clinton Foundation; used footage of WJC talking about what he would do if HRC was elected; Halperin said he was impressed by WJC's answers; Heilemann said WJC does well when he stays away from talking about the Clintons' wealth.Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Report on HRCs path to victory and CGI America.mp4

-- Report on HRC's stance on the TPP; used footage of HRC talking about the TPP on the campaign trail; interviewed Richard Trumka; Trumka said he thought he had the votes to defeat the TPP; Trumka said HRC does not have a vote in the TPP on Friday; Mitchell noted HRC supported the TPP when she was part of the administration, asked how HRC backed away from TPP during the campaign; Trumka said HRC had not been privy to negotiations since she was Secretary of State; Mitchell asked if HRC's demurral could affect labor's endorsement of HRC; Trumka said there was a series of issues that affected labor's endorsement process. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Interview with Richard Trumka.mp4

-- Report on Anne Gearan's story about HFA campaign staff riding the bus between NYC and DC; panel with Anne Gearan and Chris Cillizza; Gearan said it was a way to show that HFA has budget-minded, tight-fisted; Gearan said this was partly out of necessity due to HFA confining operating expenses to the primary money that they can raise themselves; Gearan said HRC wants to be able to show she's running a disciplined campaign; Mitchell said part of it was that HRC wanted to show donors that this campaign was different than last time; Chris Cillizza agreed with Mitchell. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Anne Gearan discussed HFA employees taking the bus.mp4

-- Report that HRC joined Instagram; said that HRC posted a photo of patriotic pantsuits with the caption "Hard Choices".MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Hillary Clinton joined Instagram.mp4

-- Report that HRC joined Instagram; posted a photo of patriotic pantsuits with the caption "Hard Choices"; mentioned HRC's description; said HRC had almost 19,000 followers on Instagram; Jenna Lee noted that she posted photos of her wardrobe too, said everyone goes through picking the right outfit; Jon Scott said of HRC,

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"Good for her." Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Hillary joined Instagram.mp4

-- Discussion on how the administration's report about Iraq strategy will affect the 2016 campaign; panel with Alex Seitz-Wald and David Catanese; Catanese said it would be interesting to see how HRC responded to the administration potentially putting additional troops in the Anbar province given her 2003 Iraq War vote; Seitz-Wald said HRC has been stuck in the past on these policy questions before and waited for the White House to do something before supporting the White House's decisions; Seitz-Wald said this could give space for MOM or Sanders to talk about HRC's Iraq War vote. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, POTUS maybe sending 450 more troops to Iraq.mp4

-- Report on Jeb Bush's foreign policy comments in Berlin; interviewed Rudy Giuliani; Giuliani said the Russian reset without getting anything from Russia was a terrible idea; Giuliani said the reset took away the nuclear defense of Poland and the Czech Republic; Giuliani said the reset was a total lack of understanding of history on the part of BHO and HRC. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush, Rudy Giuliani, Interview, National, Rudy Giuliani criticizes Russian reset.mp4

-- Report on Marco Rubio's finances; discussion with Marc Lamont Hill and Ben Ferguson; Ferguson said he wished Hill had more scrutiny on The Clinton Foundation with all of its potential conflicts of interest; Ferguson said he wished the NYT would do more investigation into the Clintons; Hill said he didn't know why they were talking about the Clintons; Ferguson asked what was wrong with Rubio buying a boat that costs less than one flight that WJC and HRC take on a weekly basis around the country through The Clinton Foundation paying their travel; Hill said the Clintons were irrelevant to Rubio's boat. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello , 2015 06 10 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ben Ferguson hits The Clinton Foundation.mp4

States:

Iowa:

--Report on HRC in Iowa: Reporters claim that HRC will be making a visit to Sioux City Iowa after her campaign launch in New York. The event is a house party for supporters and volunteers, and it will be simulcast for other states in the U.S. KCRG-IOW(ABC)'s KCRG TV9 Morning News, Iowa City (IA), 2015 06 10, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Hillary Clinton in Iowa.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC in Boston: Clinton will be in Boston to raise money for her campaign. There is a conversation with Hillary fundraiser in Chestnut Hill. The tickets cost between $1000 and $2700 dollars per person. WDH-BOS (NBC)'s 7 News Today in New England, Boston (MA) 2015 06 10, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Hillary Clinton Fundraising Boston.mp4

--Report on Carly Fiorina on HRC: Carly Fiorina gave a speech in New Boston claiming that HRC should not be president. Fiorina says that she is counting on the people of New Hampshire. She claims that the people of New Hampshire do not necessarily want or need someone that is that well known or that well financed. MUR-MAN (ABC)'s News 9 Daybreak, Manchester (NH) 2015 06 10, Hillary Clinton; Carly Fiorina, Clips, National, Carly Fiorina on Hillary Clinton.mp4

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--Report on Carly Fiorina attacking HRC finances: Fiorina goes after HRC and not being transparent about her finances. She specifically points to the Clinton Foundations financial records as creating opaqueness for HRC's message. WBIN's NH1 News at 6, Boston (MA) 2015 06 09, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Carly Fiorina on Hillary Clinton finances.mp4

--Report on HRC Transparency: Carly Fiorina claims that HRC will have a difficult time getting voters to trust her. She claims that HRC is not transparent; transparency is a quality needed by strong candidates. WMUR-MAN(ABC)'s News 9 Tonight, Manchester (NH) 2015 06 10, Hillary Clinton; Carly Fiorina, National, Carly Fiorina on HRC transparency.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and Clinton Foundation: Reporters claim that the problems facing the Clinton Foundation can be directly connected to HRC according to many reports. Reporters claim that the issue of foreign donors for the Clinton Foundation creates scrutiny on HRC's campaign. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s WTOC News at Daybreak, Savannah (GA) 2015 06 10, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Hillary Clinton and Clinton Foundation.mp4

--Report on HRC and Labor Leaders: HRC is going to be meeting with labor leaders privately. HRC met with board members of the American Federation of State. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s WTOC News at Daybreak , Savannah (GA) 2015 06 10, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Hillary Clinton Labor Leaders.mp4

Nevada:

[No Pertinent Coverage]

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Bernie Sanders and campaign lift: Reporters claim that because HRC is involved with TPP, and Sanders is opposed to TPP, Sanders is getting a campaign lift. Fox News' The Kelly Fire . 2015 06 10, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on TPP.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

-- No coverage.

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From: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 2:52:52 PM
Subject: RE: Earned Media Update

We took a look last week and couldn't find any past House patron, unfortunately.

We either need an HRC advocate OR someone who wants to make a name for themselves on good government/transparency (and doesn't mind pissing some people off).

From: Robby Mook [mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:51 PM
To: Jesse Ferguson
Cc: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Can we research if anyone has introduced in the House? I believe Leahy introduced it in the Senate although I doubt he'd be willing to go to bat like this (although others would know better than me).

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 9:41 PM, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com > wrote:

> To Joel's original point about someone to raise this point about Gowdy releasing his email, David Brock did it already - http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/david-brock-top-hillary-clinton-ally-trey-gowdy-release-your-emails . I know we want Members, etc. to do it and will pursue but just flagging Brock did it. Also, Roy Blunt got challenged on it by Stephanopoulos on Sunday.
>
> The other question is whether there is a member who would introduce a bill to end the FOIA exemption for Members of Congress? They should be just as transparent as they're demanding HRC be. It would put the focus on the Members keeping their emails private and would never actually pass.
>
> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:35 PM
> **To:** Robby Mook
> **Cc:** Joel Benenson; Jesse Ferguson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
> **Subject:** Re: Earned Media Update
>
> Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.
> >
> > On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?
> > > Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?
> > >
> > > **From:** Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
> > > **Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
> > > **To:** Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
> > > **Cc:** Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
> > > **Subject:** Earned Media Update
> > >
> > > Hello All – Two quick things.

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1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog

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group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/18/2008 6:21:49 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/18/08

Main Topics: Offshore Drilling, Terrorism and Guantanamo Back and Forth

Summary of Shift: Gas prices continue to rise and McCain's new stance on offshore drilling is attracting attention. While receiving the support of Bush and the recently converted Crist McCain is being attacked from the Democratic side for being environmentally irresponsible. Terrorism has also become a major battleground with the McCain camping calling Obama "naïve" and "delusional." The Obama camp shot back accusing McCain of trying to "frighten" Americans.

Rememberances of Russert continued today with coverage of his funeral. Much of Iowa remains underwater after the breach of the levees yesterday.

Highlights:

1. Offshore Drilling
   a. Sens. Boxer and McCaskill call McCain's position a flip-flop
   b. Dana Bash examines McCain's flip-flop on offshore drilling
   c. McCain's plan won't have an appreciable effect on gas prices
   d. McCain's drilling position is a "side headache" that will hurt him in coastal states
   e. ABC-WJLA-DC links McCain to Bush in their offshore drilling coverage
2. The Supreme Court, Guantanamo and Obama vs. McCain on terror
   a. Former Bush terror czar, Clarke, accuses McCain of trying to frighten Americans
   b. John McCain's changing position on detainees
3. Giuliani makes the rounds
   a. Giuliani talks counterterrorism, pushes offense
   b. MSNBC: Calling Obama naïve is just quoting Hillary
   c. Giuliani talks oil drilling and fighting terrorism
4. Independent voters split between the candidates but like McCain because he's perceived as different than Bush
5. Fox covers Recipegate
6. Fox News: Gingrich leading drive for domestic oil drilling [no clip]
7. Fox News: Oil drilling could hurt tourism [no clip]
8. Fox News examines "What House Star Signs" in VP Stakes [no clip]
9. Conan and Letterman make fun of McCain's age [no clip]
10. CBS WUSA DC outlines McCain's and Obama's positions on energy [no clip]

Local Highlights:

11. Local Affiliates in Texas do straight reporting on McCain's visit [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Boxer and McCaskill Call McCain out on Oil Flip-Flop (MSNBC 06/18/08 8:37am)
BARBARA BOXER: We can't keep on doing the same old same old. For example, they're no saying, drill, give them more leases . . . the oil companies already have 68 million acres already under lease they're not using. So why just give them more acres . . .?

CLAIRE MCCASKILL: In fact, I'm surprised Joe, you didn't mention as a Floridian, they wear a lot of flip-flops in Florida, we've got a giant flip-flop here on drilling offshore in Florida. The people of Florida do not want the incredible tourist industry spoiled by more offshore drilling . . . but what happens? John McCain flip-flops on this and your governor flip-flops on this. And you know what it is? It's the influence of big oil.

[. . .]

SCARBOROUGH: . . . when I was in congress, I was very, very conservative on economic issues, almost a libertarian but there is something about being surrounded by water that turns you into an environmentalist on these type issues. Also, the thing is talking about the environment, George Miller and I would always fight against

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royalty relief when we've actually got the federal government, basically subsidizing oil companies to drill in areas where Americans don't want them to drill.

BOXER: Right. And I want to put some dollar figures to it. You know, the unspoiled coastlines all over America, that's a $60 billion recreation and tourism industry and millions of jobs. So it's very shortsighted. Now we have the two oil men in the White House who've just been waiting to do this. And it was President Bush who said we're addicted to oil, remember that? . . . and what's the answer? More oil sometime in the future?

Dana Bash Examines McCain's Flip-Flop Reversal Over Off-Shore Oil Drilling (CNN 06/18/08 7:26am)
JOHN ROBERTS: The President's request for off-shore drilling comes less than 24 hours after Senator John McCain changed his stance on the issue. […] Dana, a lot of people changing their minds, John McCain, Gov. Charlie Crist out of Florida, what's this all about?

DANA BUSH: Well, what they're all saying **[…] from the White House, John McCain is basically saying the same thing, which is interesting because he's trying to distance himself from the President on climate change.** But on this issue of off-shore drilling, he says he's looking for some way to ease voters pain at paying at the pump and that's not the only area his position on energy policy is evolving. In the heart of Texas oil company, John McCain went after Barack Obama for supporting a windfall profits tax on oil companies. […] Critical now, but just last month McCain said he was open to the idea. […] **The change, proof of just how tricky gas price politics is for McCain.** On the one hand, he's pushing green energy alternatives, like wind, solar, and bio-diesel. Pushing away from George Bush with this new ad. […] But in the face of voter outrage over high gas prices McCain is changing his position on an issue that helped define him as an environmentally conscious republican. He used to oppose lifting a federal moratorium on off-shore drilling. Now he wants to lift the ban. […] **It's a risky reversal by a candidate trying to use the issue to appeal to independents.** Especially in the battleground of Florida where many republicans, like Gov. Charlie Crist and Senator Martinez have long opposed off-shore drilling. **But as McCain changes his position, so are they.** […] Barack Obama accused John McCain of taking the politically expedient way out. Obama echoed what some environmental groups are saying about off-shore drilling, that it would really take 5 to 10 years to really get the oil exploration up and running and that's no short term fix.

McCain's Plan Won't Have an Appreciable Effect on Gas Prices (MSNBC 06/18/08 6:47am)
ALI VELSHI: John McCain was talking about energy and I wanted to chime in about that because what we've been waiting for is the third leg of the stool from the major presidential candidates in terms of an energy policy . . . both the candidates say they want to reduce the candidates dependence on foreign oil . . . except that the United States uses about 20 million barrels of oil a day, we produce about 5 million . . . we've been using a disproportionate amount of oil for very long. John McCain is talking about drilling for more oil . . . the concept here is the problematic one . . . the problem is that no amount of oil that we drill for is going to offset the worldwide demand for oil so it doesn't necessarily bring the price down. The concentration should probably be in reducing our reliance on oil.

McCain's Oil Position will Hurt Him in Costal States (MSNBC 06/18/08 9:06am)
TAMRON HALL: Yesterday . . . John McCain said that drilling was a step in the right direction but Barack Obama calls it a bad idea and a sign that McCain can't stick to his positions.

[. . .]

JAMES WARREN: . . . to suggest that this is just a matter of McCain inconsistency, I think is quite unfair . . . the situation in this country is getting more and more dire . . . the question is for McCain, politically, is does this hurt him or not? . . . in coastal states will gas prices go so high that folks who are naturally reluctant to support offshore drilling, will they have second thoughts?

TAMRON HALL: . . . we just showed that Quinnapiac poll where Sen. Obama leads Sen. McCain and this was before the plan . . . to lift the ban on offshore drilling. So when you look at the matchup without that conversation thrown in we know how Floridians feel about this. Now with the Gov. coming in on McCain's side, how does this affect the race in Florida?

LYNN SWEET: I think it will make it harder for McCain because what this really is is McCain tossing it to the states and President Bush tossing it to the states which will immediately trigger a big state campaign by the local environmental groups and forces who will probably line up to fight this . . . it will also create problems for Sen. McCain because one of the issues he was going to use to attract crossover Democrats was that he was different than President Bush; he does have an environmental record, he has recognized global warming. So what this decision does it triggers organizations organizing in critical states in the presidential campaign that might be against him on this issue. It just creates, I think, kind of a side headache. And nothing will happen this summer so

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fast anyway that will bring gas prices down before the election.

WJLA Links Bush To McCain On Piece Covering Their New Oil Drilling Policies (ABC-DC-WJLA, 06/18/08, 6:23am)
ALLISON STARLING: **Well President Bush is on the same page as republican presidential candidate, John McCain, when it comes to energy relief.** Today, Mr. Bush will call on Congress to lift the ban on off-shore oil drilling. This as energy policy moves to the top of the agenda for the presidential campaign. Viviana Ratato has the details.

VIVIANO RATATO: American's are paying more than $4.00 a gallon for gas, that's why President Bush will make a move today to support off-shore oil drilling. He's expected to call on Congress to lift the federal ban which currently prevents it. The current presidential candidates also weighed in. **The likely republican nominee agrees with the President.**

[McCain Off-Shore Oil Drilling Speech Shown]

But this represents a political U-Turn for John McCain, who in the past has opposed lifting the ban on drilling off the U.S. coast for oil. Barack Obama, who is against lifting the ban, calls his rival's position flip-flopping.

BARACK OBAMA: This is yet another reversal by John McCain in terms of his earlier positions. I think we could set up an interesting debate between John McCain 2000 and John McCain 2008.

RATATO: As rising oil prices continue to worry American families, a new ABC News poll shows more Americans trust Obama with America's energy future**. Specifically, just over half of respondents trust Obama to do a better job than McCain handling energy policy.** The President's announcement is intended to pressure Congress into lifting the ban on off-shore drilling. But with only a few months left before a new administration enters the White House, it's unclear how effective the President will be.

Highlight #2
Richard Clarke Accuses McCain Campaign of Fear-mongering on Terror (MSNBC 06/18/08 6:17am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Richard Clarke came out swinging for Obama, didn't he?

WILLIE GEIST: Richard Clarke, former terrorism czar under President Bush and a great critic of the Bush administration, responded to the McCain response to Obama . . .

RICHARD CLARKE: I'm frankly a little disgusted b y the attempts of some of my friends on the McCain campaign to use the same old tired tactics that have been used in the last several campaigns of trying to paint one party as weak on terrorism and, completely and utterly distorting the record of that party to frankly frighten Americans.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: And Joe, doesn't he have a point, looking back at the Bush presidency and what tactics were used or what sentiment of the voters might have been preyed upon a bit to get people to vote for President Bush and are we going to fall for it again?

John McCain's Changing Position on Guantanamo Detainees (MSNBC 06/18/08 7:24am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Rudy Giuliani and a lot of Americans are asking the question, why should we give terror suspects . . . constitutional rights that no enemy combatant on foreign soil has ever had before last week?

SUSAN RICE: You should ask John McCain that, because back in 2003 *The New York Times* reported that John McCain wanted everybody in Guantanamo charged with a crime or released. That's what the administration wanted to do.

[. . .]

RICE: . . . that goes way, way beyond what the Supreme Court just said. The Supreme Court said *habeas* hearings. John McCain in 2003 said charge them or release them. Now he's flip-flopped for political purposes. This campaign, the McCain campaign is doing what George Bush tried to do in 2004, which is to stoke fear and blow smoke and confuse the American people.

SCARBOROUGH: It worked though, didn't it?

RICE: The American people are smart . . . they get that this has been a failed war on terrorism . . .

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Highlight #3

Giuliani Talks Counterterrorism, Pushes Offense (FNC 06/18/08 7:50am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: We have been discussing all morning the rift now that has suddenly appeared yesterday between John McCain and Barack Obama about terrorism and how we should handle it. Now, here is what Barack Obama has said. […] do you have a problem with that statement?

RUDY GIULIANI: Well sure. What it says is something I've been saying along time. The democrats want to go back to a pre-September 11th view of terrorism. What I call being on defense. They want to treat it mostly as a criminal justice matter use grand juries, investigations. They seem to think that 1993 was a good example of how to do it. It turns out in retrospect 1993 was a mistake. It's was a mistake not to recognize it was more than a criminal act it was an act of terrorism. It was followed by attacks in Nairobi, in Darisalam, in Cobalt Towers, in U.S.S. Cole, a whole series of attacks and then ultimately the attacks of September 11th. The reality is we can't deal with this as solely a criminal justice matter. The things that I said and other republicans have said are no different than what Hillary Clinton said about Barack Obama's approach to dealing with terrorism. I think she described it as irresponsible or naive or some language like that. I'm not sure I would characterize it. I would describe it and say this is not a realistic approach. Time has proven that being on offense is better than being on defense.

BRIAN KILMEADE: Rudy, were things exposed in that trial of Yousef and others detrimental to the war on terror?

GIULIANI: In several of the trials, there have been things of interest that were passed on to bin laden. This disclosure of classified information, which sometimes comes out in these things. These are all dangerous things. I think the Supreme Court, quite respectfully I would say this, but I think the supreme court made a big mistake in extending rights to terrorists. Big mistake is to give terrorists rights they didn't have in the past. I don't understand for the life of me, why would you want to create new rights for terrorists at a time we are dealing with terrorism?

STEVE DOOCY: During the Clinton years, wasn't that law enforcement only?

GIULIANI: It was to a large extent there were responses to several of the bombings but they were for a day or two and they were not sustained. The whole difference that has happened since September 11th that I believe was at the core of keeping us safe is we now have a full response to terrorism. We're on offense. We're trying to anticipate it. in the criminal justice system you react to what happened.

Giuliani: Calling Obama Naïve is Just Quoting Hillary (MSNBC 06/18/08 7:24am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Yesterday in a conference call members of McCain's campaign called Barack Obama naïve, they called him delusional. . .are the Republicans trying to tell Americans once again that electing a Democrat will make them and their families less safe?

RUDY GIULIANI: I think those Democrats are just repeating what Hillary Clinton said. Those are almost exactly the same words . . .

SCARBOROUGH: Do you think that Barack Obama is naïve? Do you think that he is delusional? Do you think that he's dangerous?

GIULIANI: It's an attitude that demonstrates his inexperience. . .

Giuliani Talks Oil Drilling and Fighting Terrorism (CNN 06/18/08 7:26am)
JOHN ROBERTS: Hey look, during the campaign you were for lifting the federal ban on off-shore drilling, but a lot of people saying this is nothing more than pandering to the oil and gas interests, this is going to do nothing to lower the price per barrel of oil in this country. Listen to what Barack Obama said about that yesterday.

[Barack Obama "Had it right the first time" Clip Shown]

As we mentioned Mr. Mayor, this is an about-face for Senator McCain, also an about change for Governor Crist who has about-faced on his position on off-shore drilling. Why all the change of heart here?

RUDY GIULIANI: Well, as you said, i believe it should be left to the states. That's the position I've always taken. I think the reality is it's just not correct to say it wouldn't affect the price of oil. anything you do to increase supply, actually, given the futures market, anything you do to suggest that you're going to increase supply in the future is going to reduce somewhat the price of oil. The reality is, Barack Obama opposes almost everything that could

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realistically reduce the price of oil. Expanding refineries. Expanding nuclear power, which is something that he doesn't embrace. so the reality is you can't look at this in isolation. if all you were doing is this, it would have a small impact on the price of oil. but if you're talking about thinking some of the things that have hurt us over the last 20 to 30 years, then that is truly taking us on a path toward energy independence. It includes liquid natural gas. It includes wind and solar. It includes hybrid vehicles. You have to do all these things. These all have to be opened up for discussion. Because we've been basically on hold for about 30 years now. We haven't built a new refinery in 30 years. we haven't licensed a nuclear power plant in 25 or 30 years. We're not exploiting responsibly our oil reserves. All these things have to now be opened up. We're in a crisis with regard to this. And the reality is the American people deserve some really tough political decisions about things that we've held back on in the past.

ROBERTS: Mr. mayor, in the past 24 hours you've really been lashing out at senator Obama over this idea of fighting the war on terrorism. it falls out of comments he made in an interview with abc in which he said regarding the supreme court decision on Guantanamo detainees, quote, we can crackdown on the threats to the united states but we can do so within the constraints of the constitution. For example, the first attack against the World Trade Center, we were able to arrest those responsible, put them on trial. They are currently in U.S. prisons, incapacitated. He says he wants to deal with terrorism within the frame work of the constitution. What's wrong with that?

GIULIANI: The reality is, no one is lashing out at him. The words that we use by some of the commentators are no different than hillary clinton said. she described the way he deals with terrorism, the way he proposed dealing with it. talking to people in some of these countries without preconditions. she described it as irresponsible. i'm not sure she used the word naive, it's the same word some of the republicans used. i haven't said that but what i do suggest is he doesn't have the experience to handle terrorism. it was a terrible mistake to deal with it in the '90s just as a criminal justice matter.

ROBERTS: Would you have dealt with the 1993 world trade center bombing in a different fashion?

GIULIANI: We should have. We should have recognized it was a terrorist attack.

ROBERTS: What should you have done?

GIULIANI: America should have gone on offense. America should have gone on offense against terrorism. We didn't. We had a muted response to the terrorist attacks that occurred right after that. Including the ones that occurred on the u.s.s. coal where we had no response. we saw it as the way senator Obama sees it. I call it a pre September 11th mentality that he wants to return to. The reality is the criminal justice system has limited application in this area of terrorism. when it can be used, it should be used. but you should not think of it as a criminal justice matter, as a grand jury is going to solve terrorism. and i guess the real objection that we have is trying to take the constitution and apply it all over the world. We never did that before. The constitutional decision last week by the supreme court is a creation of new rights for terrorists that did not exist before.

ROBERTS: Senator Obama says that the Guantanamo detentions haven't resulted in a lot of people being prosecuted for terrorist crimes and all its done is ruin America's credibility in the world. True or untrue?

GIULIANI: It may have also protected America. at least 30 of the people that were released from Guantanamo have engaged in battlefield activities or terrorist activities again. That'll give you some idea of what can happen if you decide to release those people from Guantanamo. So the reality is the people that are being held there may have something to do with safety. We haven't had a terrorist attack in the United States since September 11. I thank god for that. You keep thinking it could happen again and we've got to be prepared for that. The reality is, we've been safe. I don't know why we want to change the constitutional guarantees and give terrorists more constitutional guarantees than they have had over the last 200 years. Or at least enemy competence they've had over the last 200 years

Highlight #4

Independent Voters Down, Split Between Candidates, But Like McCain Because He Is Different Than Bush (CNN 06/18/08 9:45am)

BILL SCHNEIDER: Independents hold the key to victory. Both contenders know it. […] **Who's got the edge with independents? Two new polls have the same answer. Neither candidate.** The Washington Post/ABC News poll finds independents split, so does the CNN poll by the Opinion Research Corporation, 45 percent for Barack Obama, 45 percent for John McCain. Independents remember have no brand-name loyalties. Bizarre as it may sound, they actually look at the candidates on the issues and then make up their minds. So what do they think of the candidates? Do they hate them both? Actually they like them both. McCain somewhat more than

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Obama. On the issues, however, independents are not happy at all. 78 percent think the economy is lousy. 72 percent oppose the war in Iraq. Which explains why independents are so down on the republican party. Only 33 percent have a favorable opinion on republicans. 53 percent like the democrats. Big difference. Obama's trying to sell change, which independents clearly want. […] **If independents are so down on republicans, why do so many of them support McCain? Because most independents think McCain will be different than Bush. Otherwise McCain wouldn't have a chance.** Independents don't like the republican brand, but they do like McCain. For independents the brand comes second, for partisans the brand comes first.

Highlight #5
Fox News on Recipe Gate (FNC 06/18/08 8:59am)
GINA MOSE: John McCain's wife Cindy is getting battered over a cookie contest. […] "Serial Recipe thief" "Re-Heat Offender" "Cindy Bakes Another Waffer" screams the Huffington Post. Both Cindy McCain and Bill Clinton are feeling the heat, accused of recipe plagiarism. Every year FamilyCircle magazine holds a presidential cookie bake-off. Candidate spouses submit their favorite recipes and may the best cookie win. Readers are supposed to try the recipes then vote. […] Cindy McCain turned in a receipe she says she got from a good friend, but the Huffington Post says they found the exact same recipe on Hersheys.com. The recipe's are pretty identical. […] They're even in the same order! No comment from Mrs. McCain. This is the second time she's taken lumps for supposedly passing off recipes, the last time for recipes for passion fruit mousse, where described as family recipes on the McCain website then discovered elsewhere. That time Mrs. McCain blamed a campaign intern for posting the recipes. […] That's the way the cookie crumbles, they smell good, they smell like plagiarism.

--
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EWhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org
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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
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"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/21/2015 11:31:59 AM
Subject: 5.21.15 HRC TV Coverage

National

-- Report on The New York Times' story from Thursday about HRC's private emails; report focuses on HRC sending sensitive information about Benghazi, focuses on Blumenthal's emails to HRC; panel with Matt Schlapp and Bob Shrum; Schlapp said Blumenthal's business deals in Libya made this troublesome news for HRC; Shrum said the emails prove what BHO and HRC's comments about the aftermath of Benghazi were true about there being a cloud of uncertainty; Schlapp said there was no smoking gun in this release, but that HRC would have deleted any smoking gun when she deleted her personal emails. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 5.21.15

-- Report on 50 Cent's endorsement of HRC; mentions Snoop Dogg, Neyo, Waka Flakka Flame, and Ja Rule's endorsements of HRC; led into HRC's announcement that HRC's official campaign announcement speech would come on June 13th. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner , 5.21.15

-- Report on Sidney Blumenthal's emails from The New York Times' story on Thursday; used footage of HRC's Blumenthal answer from Iowa on Tuesday; one host said getting foreign policy tips from Blumenthal was like getting cooking advice from Jeffrey Dommer; discussion about the absurdity of Benghazi attacks being based on a video; Dana Perino brought up how BHO did not want Blumenthal at State, and HRC found a way to work around that. Fox News' The Five , 5.21.15

-- Report on The New York Times' release of HRC's emails on Thursday; interviewed Michael Schmidt; discussed HRC's response to Blumenthal's emails right after the Benghazi attacks; Schmidt said that HRC had information that went against what BHO and Susan Rice said at the time; discussed Blumenthal's influential role with HRC; Schmidt said Blumenthal worked for The Clinton Foundation while sending HRC emails about Libya; Schmidt said HRC told Jake Sullivan to send Blumenthal's memo to the White House, to Ben Rhodes; Schmidt said the argument Clinton staffers made was that people send government officials unsolicited emails regularly; Schmidt dismissed this argument though and said Blumenthal's emails were more systematic. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper, 5.21.15

-- Panel with Glenn Thrush, Chris Cillizza, and Amy Chozick; Thrush said maybe HRC was not talking to the press because Jeb Bush is doing such a bad job answering questions; Chozick said HRC was grappling with WJC's legacy in talking about the adverse effects of the crime bill and that HRC would probably grapple with WJC's legacy with deregulating Wall Street banks; Chozick said every time HRC breaks with WJC's legacy that it will play into a narrative; Chozick said we are already seeing that with trade and NAFTA; Cillizza said it helped that we were more removed from the Clinton years than the Bush years which is why Bush was having more problems than WJC; conversation about Christie; shifted into conversation about The New York Times release of HRC's emails; Chozick said the campaign is fighting the narrative the press is helping create; Chozick said Blumenthal's emails were a reminder of some of the Clintons' complicated relationships; Wagner questioned the NYT putting that no confidential information was sent in this batch in the third paragraph and burying that fact; Thrush said we were only talking about a culled set of emails anyways; Cillizza said if Bush and HRC are the nominees then 98 percent of Americans would have their minds made up six months before the election. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner , 5.21.15

-- Reporter asked John Boehner about HRC's emails that were released to the press; Boehner said he had not reviewed the emails, and they were in the possession of the Benghazi Committee. CSPAN's Key Capitol Hill

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Hearings, 5.21.15

-- In a larger story about David Letterman's last show; mentioned that HRC tweeted, "ThanksDave—for two decades of laughs, insights, and yes, even pantsuit jokes. Letterman, you're a legend. – H." MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts, 5.21.15

-- Report on HRC handing over her Twitter account to Mary Jo Brown, a small business owner in Portsmouth; reported that HRC joined LinkedIn today. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.21.15

-- Report on the State Department's announcement that it would release HRC's emails in the next day or two; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry discussed The New York Times' release of HRC's emails; Henry focused on Blumenthal's emails in The New York Times' emails; showed footage of Lynn Westmoreland saying he wanted the documents from the State Department; showed footage of Marie Harf saying that the State Department would release the first batch of emails; Henry said the broader security implication of the emails was that HRC was sharing sensitive information; used audio from Mike Morell's interview last week when he said HRC's server could have been compromised. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.21.15

-- Report on the State Department's imminent release of the first batch of HRC's emails; interviewed Brianna Keilar; Keilar focused on Sidney Blumenthal's emails from The New York Times release on Thursday; discussed Blumenthal's emails about the Benghazi attacks and how they ran counter to the Obama administration's narrative about the attack; profiled Blumenthal. CNN's Wolf , 5.21.15

-- Discussion about a Bloomberg focus group of Iowa Democrats; showed footage of focus group participants praising HRC; showed footage of focus group participants unable to name one of HRC's accomplishments as Secretary of State; discussion about HRC; Sandra Smith said obviously HRC is doing something right, because people like HRC; Smith noted that it was uncommon for people to know specifics from candidates' track records. Fox News' Outnumbered , 5.21.15

-- Report on the State Department's cooperation with a federal judge's order to hand over HRC's emails; reported on The New York Times' publication of some of HRC's emails on Thursday; interviewed Chris Wallace; Wallace said the single most damaging email released was Blumenthal's from Sept. 13, 2012, that HRC circulated; on Sept. 14, 2012, HRC spoke at an event to honor the four victims and did not call Benghazi a terror attack. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.21.15

-- Led with report on The New York Times' publication of about a third of the 180 pages of personal emails HRC turned over to the State Department from the time she was Secretary of State; the State Department turned over the emails to the Benghazi Committee; interview with Mike Pompeo; reported the Benghazi Committee would interview Blumenthal on June 3rd; Pompeo said the Benghazi Committee had not seen all the emails it had requested; the National Archives said around 1,000 emails it analyzed were personal; Pompeo said the National Archives was not a legitimate source of being the final arbitrator of whether HRC's email was personal; Pompeo refused to go into communications between the Committee and Blumenthal; showed HRC's Blumenthal answer from Iowa on Tuesday; Pompeo said it was important for the Committee to talk to Blumenthal because HRC apparently relied on him, needed to find out who Blumenthal's sources were for the information he provided HRC; shifted into panel with Chris Cillizza, Kelly O'Donnell, and Ruth Marcus; Marcus said the emails revealed how foggy information was in the aftermath of Benghazi; Marcus said she was confused about what the Benghazi Committee's goal was in having all of HRC's emails; Marcus said she was not sure how interviewing Blumenthal would help the Benghazi Committee discover what happened during the Benghazi attack; Marcus said it's clear that HRC doesn't totally endorse what Blumenthal passed along to her. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 5.21.15 [Part Two]

-- Report on The New York Times' publication of 349 emails from HRC's tenure as Secretary of State (this is the

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second report Roberts did on this today); interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said there was no smoking gun; discussed Blumenthal; Seitz-Wald said he did not know who leaked the emails. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts, 5.21.15

-- Report on The New York Times' publication of 349 emails from HRC's tenure as Secretary of State; reported the emails contain sensitive but not classified information; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said the emails were lightly redacted; Seitz-Wald reported on the contents of the emails; Seitz-Wald said there was no smoking gun in the batch of emails. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.21.15

-- Interviewed Maeve Reston about how 2016 candidates, including HRC, are struggling with how to answer questions about Iraq. CNN's Wolf , 5.21.15

-- Report on The New York Times' publication of nearly 400 pages of HRC's emails as Secretary of State; interviewed Mark Murray; Murray said these emails were not from the State Department's official release; Murray said much of what was in the release was already known; Murray said the release did not change the emails much; discussed the Bloomberg focus group with Democrats in Iowa; showed footage of the person saying HRC's honesty most concerned him; Murray said most Democrats he spoke to said they just want to win in 2016, and they say HRC is the best chance they have to win. MSNBC's News Nation With Tamron Hall , 5.21.15

-- Report on The New York Times' publication of nearly 400 pages of HRC's emails as Secretary of State; reported the State Department's response to the publication, that the documents were not as redacted as the agency would prefer; panel with Alex Seitz-Wald, McKay Coppins, and Jane Timm; Seitz-Wald said there was no smoking gun in the released emails; Seitz-Wald discussed Sidney Blumenthal. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 5.21.15

-- Interview with Adam Smith; Smith said the Benghazi Committee left the topic of Benghazi long ago; Smith said now the Committee was all about HRC; said that we've had nine separate investigations of what happened in Benghazi; reported on The Washington Times' report that detailed an intelligence report that was circulated before the Benghazi attack; Smith said reports like that come in all the time; Smith said we did not provide proper security in Libya; Smith said what was next for the Committee seemed to be just hassling Hillary Clinton, called it a "partisan witch hunt." CSPAN's Washington Journal , 5.21.15

-- Brief report on Sidney Blumenthal's subpoena; regurgitated information from The New York Times story on Tuesday about Blumenthal. Fox News' Fox and Friends First , 5.21.15

-- During an interview with Mike Huckabee, Hasselbeck played footage from Mark Halperin's focus group with Iowa Democrats who could not name a single accomplishment of HRC as Secretary of State; Huckabee said HRC was in a leading position due to her celebrity not due to her accomplishments; Huckabee called HRC a known quantity who is hiding, afraid to face the press; Huckabee said O'Malley was being smart in challenging HRC. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.21.15

-- Discussion about the Bloomberg focus group; used footage of the focus group; one participant said he wished HRC would talk more about Benghazi; one person said he was most concerned about HRC's honest; one person said he was not concerned about WJC and HRC's speaking fees; one person said he thought it was silly that HRC used a gmail account for her server but that he understood wanting to keep some emails private; Halperin said focus group participants liked that HRC moved to the left; Halperin said the participants in the Democratic focus group bordered on cynical while the participants in the Republican focus group were more idealistic; Scarborough said Republicans were not being pragmatic enough; made the point that if the Republicans lose the White House then it will change the world forever. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.21.15

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-- Discussed Pataki's comment that US ground troops should be sent to Iraq; Paul Begala briefly contrasted Pataki's remarks with HRC's remarks on Iraq; Begala said Americans were more in line with HRC's stance on Iraq than Petaki; host said HRC's plan does not work if ISIS decides to continue attacking America; Begala said ISIS was not attacking America; Begala pivoted to Jeb Bush without mentioning HRC; Chris Cuomo said HRC would have to give a clearer answer since she was one of the architects of foreign policy over the last six years. CNN's New Day , 5.21.15

-- Brief report on Mark Halperin's Bloomberg focus group of Iowa Democrats; showed footage of focus group participants struggling to come up with something HRC accomplished as Secretary of State; hosts said Democrats must be nervous given all of the scandals swirling around about HRC. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.21.15

-- Interviewed Mitt Romney; Romney said he would rather have Carly Fiorina than HRC; Romney said people wonder if they can trust HRC. Fox's Extra , 5.21.15

-- 10-minute segment on two focus groups, one of Republican likely caucus-goers and one of Democrat likely caucus-goers; the Republican group was more concerned with the general feeling about a candidate than specific ideology like Jeb Bush's positions on Common Core or Immigration; Republicans were more concerned than Democrats about political dynasties; the Democrat group was not very concerned about HRC's scandals; hosts argued that fear of Republicans drives Democrats to support anyone who can realistically win, which is HRC since there is not "sexy alternative." MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.21.15 [Part Two]

-- Led with a segment about Bernie Sanders challenging HRC; jokingly compared Sanders and HRC; Stewart said HRC would crush Sanders; Stewart said nothing would stop HRC; led into news footage that said at least 180 Clinton Foundation donors lobbied the State Department while HRC was Secretary of State; Stewart joked about The Clinton Foundation forgetting to report foreign contributions; showed news coverage that said CVC gets paid as much as $75,000 per speech to talk about diarrhea; Stewart joked about CVC's interest in diarrhea; Stewart said the optics of the foreign donations were not good but there was no proof of quid pro quo; showed footage of HRC answering questions about quid pro quo from her Iowa stop on April 20. Comedy Central's The Daily Show With Jon Stewart, 5.20.15

-- Said HRC got testy with Ed Henry; Hannity bemoaned the HRC did not treat Henry better after he interrupted her event in Iowa; Henry talked about how long it had been since HRC spoke to the press; Henry said, regarding reporters, "we are not potted plants"; Henry said that HFA said HRC was taking questions from voters; showed footage of Howard Dean on MSNBC's Morning Joe; panel with Juan Williams and David Limbaugh; Hannity said if HRC wanted transparency then she wouldn't have had her own server; Williams pointed out Hannity was speculating; Williams said HRC had an ethical problem though; Williams defended HRC wiping her server free; Limbaugh said HRC snubbed and mocked Ed Henry; showed footage of Bloomberg's focus group with Democratic voters in which voters were asked to name an accomplishment of HRC's as Secretary of State; Hannity asked Williams for three accomplishments; Williams listed HRC's backing BHO's decision to go after Bin Laden, HRC repairing relationships abroad after the war in Iraq, and HRC was the one who backed additional troops in Afghanistan; Limbaugh said the press gave HRC a pass; Williams said the press was not giving HRC a pass, pointed to the New York Times and The Wall Street Journal stories this week. Fox News' Hannity , 5.20.15

-- Showed footage of Bill Burton from The Kelly File on Wednesday; led into discussion with Robert Zimmerman to discuss whether Fox News and the media were inventing scandals about HRC; Zimmerman said there was not a cloud of corruption following the Clintons at all; Zimmerman said scandal stories live and die with the facts; pointed to Amazon reissuing Clinton Cash due to major revisions due to inaccuracies; Kelly said the Clinton Cash story hasn't collapsed, is circumstantial; Kelly said there's no smoking gun but there's still a case to be made; Kelly brought up Ron Fournier's column, Blumenthal, private email servers, Clinton Cash, and Benghazi in one breath as creating a narrative that could lead people to distrust HRC; Zimmerman pointed to all of the Benghazi hearings that have already taken place, pointed to this investigation taking longer than Iran-Contra; Kelly pointed to a Quinnipiac poll that said HRC was not trustworthy; Zimmerman hit back with a Gallup poll that

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said HRC weathered the storm on the email scandal and a Pew poll that showed HRC with high approval ratings from Democrats. Fox News' The Kelly File , 5.20.15

-- Brief report on HRC's hiring of Lorella Praeli as Latino Outreach Director; led with DREAMers interrupting HRC's Maryland campaign stop in fall 2014 and an overview of DREAMer activism. MSNBC's All In With Chris Hayes, 5.20.15

-- Follow-up on Sidney Blumenthal; reported the Benghazi Committee subpoenaed Blumenthal; discussed Blumenthal's business interests in Libya; mentioned BHO banned HRC from hiring Blumenthal at State; panel with Andrea Tantaros and Nomiki Konst; O'Reilly said people hacked into Blumenthal's server to get access to emails that Blumenthal sent to HRC; Konst said the story doesn't look good but nothing reported was illegal; Tantaros mentioned that Blumenthal was an employee of both The Clinton Foundation and Media Matters, a 501(c)3, and questioned whether the FEC should get involved to see if campaign finance laws were being violated. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC taking questions from reporters after talking to small-business owners; showed footage of HRC talking about economic issues from Iowa on Tuesday; reported on The USA Today story, "Why is Clinton running?"; panel with Howard Fineman, Susan Milligan, and Perry Bacon about why people ask HRC for her rationale for running and not Republicans; Milligan said the question is sexist; Fineman said HRC needs a narrative; Bacon mentioned HRC's four fights but said HRC has not clarified what her main theme is yet; used footage from the Bloomberg focus group; Milligan said most Americans could not name a success of any Secretary of State; Fineman said HRC was mostly running for a third term of BHO; Milligan said HRC would have a hard time being the candidate of the middle class having just made $25 million from speeches. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews, 5.20.15

-- Brief mention in a longer segment about Bin Laden's emails that Bin Laden criticized HRC's Libya policy, calling her "weak." Fox News' On The Record With Greta Van Susteren , 5.20.15

-- Speculation about how Iraq/ISIS would affect HRC if it becomes a focal point in the campaign; panel with Sara Murray and Jeff Zeleny; Murray said HRC would have to answer more questions about her Iraq War vote and differentiate herself from Republicans; Zeleny said HRC did not say what she would different from BHO on Iraq moving forward. CNN's Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer , 5.20.15

-- Report on HRC's hiring of DREAMer Lorella Praeli; showed footage of HRC's roundtable in Las Vegas; profile of Praeli; used footage of Al Sharpton's interview of Praeli in 2012; Sharpton lauded HRC's hiring of Praeli, morally and politically; showed breakdown of how Latinos voted in the last three presidential elections; panel with Clarissa Martinez-De-Castro and Erika Andiola; Martinez-De-Castro said Praeli's hire was a big get for HFA; Andiola said she hoped HFA listened to Praeli instead of just using her. MSNBC's PoliticsNation With Al Sharpton, 5.20.15

-- Report on how Republican candidates are attacking BHO and HRC for their foreign policy; main angle of the segment is on BHO, but included footage of Perry asking HRC whether she would have pulled the troops out of Iraq in 2011; reported that Huckabee said the fair tax could help woo minority voters from supporting HRC; led into Ed Henry segment about HRC defending The Clinton Foundation; led with HRC's fundraisers in Chicago on Wednesday; used footage from HRC's campaign stop in Chicago when she talked about CEOs making 300 times what their employees make; juxtaposed that comment with reports on the wealthy people hosting HRC's fundraisers; reported on the disparity between what Fred Eychaner's foundation donated to The Clinton Foundation and what The Clinton Foundation said Eychaner's foundation donated; used footage of HRC defending The Clinton Foundation on Tuesday; led into report about Cheryl Mills sometimes blocking FOIA requests at the State Department; reported the State Department dodged defending HRC; used footage of Marie Harf from the State Department briefing; shifted into HRC being pressured by Elizabeth Warren's disappointment that HRC did not weigh in on trade; reported that the Benghazi Committee sent two US Marshalls to Blumenthal's home to serve him a subpoena. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier , 5.20.15

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-- Interview with Ian Bremmer who said HRC articulated strategy reasonably well as Secretary of State. Bloomberg's Bloomberg West , 5.20.15

States

Iowa

-- Report on a Dubuque political analyst's opinion of HRC's Iowa stops; report on HRC's Tuesday stop in Iowa where she appeared before 80 people; mentioned the event was closed to media; reported that Loras College's Christopher Budzisz said HRC's campaign approach was more typical to an incumbent. KCRG's Good Morning America segment, Iowa City (IA), 5.21.15

-- Report that HRC was stressing the importance of more training and increased wages for early childcare workers; showed footage of HRC's Wednesday stop in Iowa; reported that HRC said she stood with unions and workers' right to organize. KWQC's KWQC Today @ 6am , Davenport (IA), 5.21.15

-- Reported one of Santorum's claims about Iran was misleading; Santorum claimed he authored sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table, but was opposed by HRC and POTUS; Santorum actually introduced several bills to aid Iran's "transition to democracy" i.e., opposite of sanctions; HRC and then-Senator Obama did vote against a bill with sanctions in it but so did a number of Republicans. WQAD-DAV WQAD News 8 at 10 , Davenport, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported on HRC's small business roundtable at Bike Tech in Cedar Falls; reported she "took aim" at high CEO pay and income inequality; quoted HRC's opening remarks, "there's something wrong when a CEO makes 300 times more…"; reported her use of using private email accounts while Secretary of State; quoted HRC, " I want those out…"; reported HRC did not address Republican claims she had 2, not 1, private email accounts while at State dept.; reported federal judge ordering new timetable for emails release by next week. WHBF-DAV Local 4 News This Morning at 6am, Davenport, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported Mike Huckabee "slammed" HRC, saying she was "out of touch" with voters; Quoted Huckabee, "everywhere I go I take question…I don't screen people…I don't fly them in…I have no idea who I'm going to face…I'm not afraid to face the people of America… I know what I believe…"; Reported HRC "regretted" her vote in favor of military action in Iraq; quoted HRC, "I've made it very clear that I made a mistake…"; reported on HRC's visit to Cedar Falls and her plans to spur small business growth; reported federal judge ordering state dept. to speed up release of emails, giving one week for new schedule; quoted Jim Rathke, spokesperson for State Dept., "…we take our legal obligation seriously…"; Reported that federal judge want a separate schedule for release of emails related to Benghazi. KWQC-DAV KWQC Today at 6am , Davenport, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC talked to reporters for the first time in nearly a month; Reported HRC answered questions from the media while in Cedar Falls; Reported HRC answered questions about the 25 million she and Bill Clinton made for paid speeches; quoted HRC, "…most Americans understand the deck is stacked for those at the top, and I'm running a campaign to reshuffle the deck…"; Reported state department may need more time to release all emails; reported HRC says now is the time to release those emails. WQAD-DAV Good Morning Quad Cities, Davenport, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC visited home of Carrie Tedore and met with supporters on Tuesday; quoted Ioras College PoliSci Prof. Christopher Budzisz, "these close door events…more like an incumbents approach to a campaign…HRC feels they don't necessarily need as much coverage…may not sit well with Iowa voters, who expect candidates to get out and meet with voters"; Quoted Patrick Burgwinke, campaign spokesperson, "We try to open as many of these as possible to folks so they can see our organization…sometimes spaces aren't large

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enough to accommodate everyone"; Reported Iowa Republican Party claims these closed door meetings are to avoid press, "always opt for secrecy," mention deleting thousand of emails from private server. KCRG-IOW ABC KCRG TV9 News at 5, Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC faced the media for first time in nearly a month at small business roundtable at Cedar Falls; quoted HRC, "made a mistake" on Iraq; Reported HRC's emails will be released in batches; quoted HRC, "nobody wants them out more than I do"; Reported HRC answered questions on person wealth after making $25million for paid speeches, connecting with Americans; "Obviously Bill and I have been blessed…most Americans understand deck is stacked for the top"; Reported HRC visited local coffee shop and book store, and made a stop in Dubuque at Carrie Tedore's. KCRG-IOW ABC KCRG TV9 News at 11 , Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC is "finally" answering questions to Iowa reports; Reported state dept. will release HRC's emails but not until January; quoted HRC, "nobody wants those emails released more than I do…but they're not mine, they're the state dept.'s; reported HRC attended a small business roundtable in Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mike Huckabee said voters should "challenge" candidates over their views on the issues. KWWL-IOW NBC Today in Iowa at 6, Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC's stop in Cedar Falls; Reported HRC was asked about emails, "broker her silence" after a month of silence; State Dept. won't release emails until January; reported HRC asked emails be released last March; quoted HRC, "I want these out as much as anyone…"; release in January could hurt her chances in Iowa during primaries; reporters "Grilled" HRC. KWWL-IOW NBC Today in Iowa at 5 , Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC's visit to Cedar Falls yesterday; quoted HRC that regulations enacted during Great Recession were hurting small businesses, "I will fight to level the playing field…"; reported HRC supports expanding technology to smaller businesses to reach more customers; reported HRC's visit with Carrie Tedore; reported HRC supported expanding technology reported Mike Huckabee criticized HRC for not doing more as Secretary of State after Benghazi attack. KCRG-IOW ABC KCRG TV9 Morning News , Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC "breaks silence" with media and answers questions; reported HRC was ready for emails to be released, but state department says it will take months; reported HRC's small business roundtable in Cedar Falls. KWWL-IOW NBC Today in Iowa at 6 , Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC visited pre-selected small businesses; reported HRC answered questions about private emails. KGAN-IOW CBS CBS2 This Morning , Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC's small business roundtable in Cedar Falls; Reported HRC wants to cut red tape for small businesses to expand; Reported HRC supports public and private partnership to help small businesses. KGAN-IOW CBS CBS2 This Morning , Iowa City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC's small business roundtable in Cedar Falls; reported HRC answered questions on a number of topics including private emails while at the state dept. KWWL-IOW NBC Today in Iowa at 5

-- Quoted Osama Bin Laden's remarks on HRC and America's Middle East policy in Libya, calling it weak. KDSM-DM 13 News at Nine on Fox 17 , Des Moines, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC visiting Iowa on Monday and Tuesday; quoted Rick Perry, "we are a few policy changes and a leadership change at the top from the best days this country has ever had,"; reported that only HRC and Sanders are in the race for the democratic nominee at this time; O'Malley expected to announce on May 30.

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WHO-DM NBC Channel 13 News at 6 , Des Moines, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC and Huckabee finished 2-day visits to Iowa yesterday. WHO-DM NBC Channel 13 Live at 5 , Des Moines, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC's small-business roundtable in Cedar Falls; reported HRC took questions from the media concerning private emails while at State Dept. and investigation into Benghazi; Reported State dept is sorting through emails and plans to release them in January; reported HRC wants those emails out quickly but it's "out of her hands"; quoted HRC, "…I want those emails out…but State Dept. has there process…if there's anyway to release them sooner I heartily support it." WHO-DM Today in Iowa at 6 , Des Moines, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC "bombarded" by tough questions in Iowa. KTVO ABC KTVO News at 10 , Ottumwa, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC facing questions about funding she received in the last year and half from paid speeches; opposition asking what will the people who paid her one day ask in return; reported HRC on campaign trail "finally" taking questions from reporters; answered questions about funding received by Clinton Foundation, quoted HRC "proud of the work…"; questions on donations "raked in" over the years; questions about HRC's paid speeches, Washington Post report says she made "almost 12 million dollars for 51 speeches, 3.2 million from tech. industry,"; Peter Schweizer, author of "Clinton Cash" said donations can be "influence payments,"; over 2 million dollars in Union dues paid to Clinton Foundation; HRC still "plowing ahead" on campaign trail, according to NYT/CBS poll continues to soar in the polls; Lanny Davis, Clinton supporter said, "people care about the issues that affect their lives, families lives"; Reported that Democratic leaders are rallying to her support on emails, quoting Rep. Xavier Becerra, "…hopefully the charade will stop…"; with little opposition from the left, scrutiny might be heating up. KTVO ABC KTVO News at 10 , Ottumwa, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC answered questions about private emails while at State Dept.; quoted HRC, "I want those emails out…"; Reported federal judge ordered timetable for email release sped up; Reported HRC wanted emails out "even though it was her use of private server that started the controversy in the first place"; quoted HRC, "…I want those out as soon as possible…"; Reported HRC answered questions from reporters and "even flashed a smile until we asked about her old friends and controversial allies"; quoted HRC, "I have many, many old friends…"; Reported on Sidney Blumenthal sending emails to HRC; quoted HRC, "emails were unsolicited…I'm going to keep talking to my old friends whoever they are…"; Reported she answered questions on the Clinton Foundation and foreign donations; quoted HRC, "I am so proud of the work the Foundation has done…"; reported HRC on Iraq; quoted HRC, "…I made a mistake…"; reported HRC making $25million from paid speeches and whether that puts her out of touch with everyday Americans; quoted HRC, "…obviously Bill and I have been blessed…"; Reported Democrats want her to take a stronger stand on trade agreements, but HRC is walking a fine line; "..I've supported some…been against some…want to see the final agreement." KHQA CBS KHQA This Morning, Quincy, IL, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC's small business roundtable in Cedar Falls; reported State dept. will take until next year to release all emails; quoted HRC, "nobody has a bigger interest getting them released than I do…"; reported State Dept. will not release all emails until Jan. 15. KCAU ABC ABC9 News This Morning at 5

-- Reported HRC's visit in Cedar Falls; reported Republican demands that HRC release emails to further the investigation into Benghazi attacks; quoted HRC, "…nobody has a bigger interest in releasing them than I do…"; reported HRC said when emails are released Americans will see how hard she worked as Secretary of State. Lead into national story, identical to story from: . KTVO ABC KTVO News at 10 , Ottumwa, IA, 5.20.15 (see above.) This story reported by: KMEG CBS Siouxland News at Sunrise , Sioux City, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC "finally" answered questions in Iowa this week; Quoted HRC regretted voting for Iraq War; reported HRC wants private emails release ASAP, but Stat Dept. says it will take until January to release all 55k.

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KSFY ABC KSFY Morning News , Sioux Falls, IA, 5.20.15

-- Reported HRC was able to “avoid mention of her email controversy”; Reported HRC’s small business roundtable in Cedar Falls. (Note, she did not “avoid email controversy”: she answered questions about emails at Press Q and A).

NOTES:

-- Several stations in Iowa Media Markets are reporting that HRC’s private emails won’t be released until January. This sounds misleading. Federal Judge did order a new timetable by next week, and emails will presumably start being released much sooner than January 2016 in small batches.

South Carolina

-- Report on HFA hosting neighborhood parties across South Carolina including one in Mt. Pleasant; showed event’s time and location on the screen; reported that supporters and friends would meet with their neighbors to share their stories and get involved in HRC’s run for the White House. WCBD’s New 2 Today, Charleston (SC), 5.21.15

-- Report that HRC made a stop in Chicago on Wednesday; said that the trip was mostly a fundraising visit but that HRC spoke at an event for childcare workers; said HRC stressed the importance of small classes, higher wages, and more training; used footage of HRC’s Chicago stop; reported HRC said she stood firmly with unions and their right to organize. WCSC’s Live 5 News at 6am, Charleston (SC), 5.21.15

-- Report on the HFA phone bank on Wednesday evening; said HRC’s South Carolina state office in Columbia opened on Wednesday; reported HRC planned to visit South Carolina next week. WTAT’s Morning News at 7, Charleston (SC), 5.21.15

-- Report on the HFA phone bank on Wednesday evening; said HRC’s South Carolina state office in Columbia opened on Wednesday; reported HRC planned to visit South Carolina next week. WMBF’s WMBF News Today at 6:30am, Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.21.15

Nevada

-- Report on The New York Times’ release of the first batch of HRC’s emails from her time as Secretary of State; mentioned the emails included messages about Benghazi from a longtime advisor. KSNV’s News 3 Live at Noon, Las Vegas (NV), 5.21.15

New Hampshire

-- Report on HRC’s event in New Hampshire on Friday; said HRC would focus on small business; reported HRC would appear at Smuttynose Brewing Company before meeting with people in New Hampshire working on her campaign. WMUR’s News 9 @ Noon , Manchester (NH), 5.21.15

-- Report on HRC’s event in New Hampshire on Friday; reported that HRC would appear at Smuttynose Brewing Company before attending private events. WMUR’s News 9 Daybreak , Manchester (NH), 5.21.15

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/3/2014 9:52:11 PM
Subject: Fwd: Silberstein Foundation: the truth finally comes out

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Steve Silberstein <stevesilberstein@hotmail.com >
Date: July 3, 2014 at 8:28:10 PM PDT
To: Herb Sandler <hms@sandlerfoundation.org >
Subject: Silberstein Foundation: the truth finally comes out

FYI, they left out my contributions to Pro Publica, the ACLU, HRW, J street.and the self-hating anti-Israel Jew, etc so don't believe every single word of this.

http://beforeitsnews.com/opinion-conservative/2014/07/the-stephen-m-silberstein-foundation-california-dreamin-of-social-democracy-2873872.html?currentSplittedPage=0

and at

http://capitalresearch.org/

The Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation: California Dreamin' of Social Democracy

By CRC Staff

July 1, 2014

By Jonathan Hanen

Foundation Watch

Summary: Stephen M. Silberstein, a member of George Soros's far-left Democracy Alliance, sheds light on the extent of Soros's socialist agenda for America. Silberstein's foundation backs a panoply of leftist groups that fight for higher taxes on the rich, wealth redistribution schemes, single-payer socialized medicine, burdensome regulation of energy markets, judicial activism designed to advance a radically egalitarian agenda, and the replacement of the linchpin of federalism, the Electoral College, with a national popular vote.

George Soros's secretive donor consortium, the Democracy Alliance, has been making news lately in the wake of a new plan set forth at its four-day conference entitled "A New Progressive Era?" which took place in Chicago at the end of April 2014. According to the Washington Post, "The plan, being crafted in private by a group of about 100 donors that includes billionaire hedge fund manager George Soros and San Francisco venture capitalist Rob McKay, seeks to give Democrats a stronger hand in the redrawing of district lines for state legislatures and the U.S. House." More specifically, the newspaper reports that "keeping Democratic control of the Senate" was of paramount concern to the donors. "There's a lot of anxiety about the midterms," admitted McKay, the outgoing chairman, "who said substantial investment this year will go to local and state minimum-wage campaigns that can help drive turnout for federal races." The new plan would shift significant resources away from the Alliance's typical focus on donating to left-wing media

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outlets and think tanks, such as Media Matters for America and the John Podesta-founded Center for American Progress. Assuming the reported shift occurs, the Alliance will try to engage in ground-level political campaigning by in effect acting as a bundling super PAC—an über super PAC—in order to prevent the expected GOP takeover of the Senate.

Over time it has leaked out that more than 100 billionaires and multi-millionaires belong to this shadowy philanthropic collective that Markos Moulitsas, founder of the influential leftist blog Daily Kos, has called "a vast left-wing conspiracy." Membership in Democracy Alliance comes by invitation only and requires donating a minimum of $200,000 per year to left-wing activist groups and think tanks endorsed by the Alliance. In addition to Soros and McKay, the Washington Post reports that hedge fund manager Tom Steyer of San Francisco (who is most famous in conservative circles for his self-interested opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline) and the trial lawyers Steve and Amber Mostyn from Houston are relatively new members (for more on Steyer, see Green Watch, January 2014). Other notable figures from the world of business have recently joined the ranks of this elite group: Adam Abram (insurance and real estate), Rick Segal (financial services), Paul Boskind (mental health services), Amy Goldman (real estate), and Henry van Ameringen (manufacturing). New School Professor Philip Munger, son of Berkshire Hathaway vice chairman Charles Munger, also became a member.

There has been a sizeable influx of labor leaders into Democracy Alliance. This may help to explain the group's strategic shift to make the minimum wage an issue in the 2014 mid-terms. Of course union contracts often have automatic salary increases triggered by increases in the minimum wage. New Alliance members include Noel Beasley, president of Workers United, a textile union affiliated with SEIU (Service Employees International Union), and Keith Mestrich, president of the union-owned Amalgamated Bank. Other new members are Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America (CWA); Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers; CWA senior director George Kohl; and Michelle Ringuette, Weingarten's assistant. Other individuals previously reported as members with ties to organized labor include former SEIU executive Anna Burger and National Education Association executive director John C. Stocks. SEIU President Mary Kay Henry is vice chair of the Alliance's board of directors. SEIU and the AFL-CIO are institutional members of the Alliance. (Around press time, the Alliance's website was updated to reflect that Stocks of the NEA has been named chairman of the group's board.)

Beyond the names listed in media coverage of Democracy Alliance, there are many rank-and-file dark money generals in this elite club who have not received much media scrutiny. The DA website says its mission is "a stronger democracy and more progressive America." It identifies four goals: "an open, vibrant democracy," "an opportunity-driven economy," "a dignity-based foreign policy," and "an independent judiciary." But the Alliance has been vague about the meaning of these terms. This report will profile a representative donor among the few known illuminati inside the group and examine his giving and political activities in order to see how he understands and pursues the Alliance's goals. Only then will we be in a position to surmise the full extent of the Alliance's social-democratic vision for America's future.

History

Stephen M. Silberstein, the founder of the private foundation that bears his name, is a key member of the Democracy Alliance. According to his bio at the website of the University of California Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, where he sits on the board of advisers with U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Silberstein earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in library science from U.C. Berkeley, as well as a master's in econometrics from the University of Stockholm. Silberstein began his career as a computer programmer in the library at U.C. Berkeley, where he was responsible for the library's "total automation program," the project to computerize the entire card catalog which began in the early 1970s. The bio further states "Steve Silberstein co-founded Innovative Interfaces in 1978 and served as its first President. The company develops automated systems for libraries and now includes as its customers more than 1500 library systems around the world, including most of the campuses of the University of California and the California State University System, as well as large and small public city and county library systems."

Silberstein's computer company presumably generated the wealth that he used to found the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation in Belvedere, Calif., in May 1998. It is not easy to research the foundation's activities. The foundation has no website, and a Google search reveals few to no publications or public speeches from Mr. Silberstein. The paper trail is almost non-existent.

One personal hobbyhorse does appear: Silberstein has in recent years jumped on the "inequality" bandwagon, urging higher taxes. As one law professor summarized Silberstein's idiosyncratic idea, Silberstein "would adjust the corporate tax rate based on the ratio of CEO pay to the average worker. A company with a ratio at the 1980 level of 50:1 would pay tax at the current rate of 35%, with the rate rising for companies with a higher ratio and lower for those with a narrower pay gap."

It is a bad idea for several reasons. It disincentivizes growth, thus hurting both job creation and the overall economy. It limits the profit motive, and therefore leads the best quality CEOs to look to other countries for work while simultaneously putting American companies at a disadvantage with their foreign competitors. Having no legal ceiling on CEO pay is the primary reason why the U.S. has the best CEOs in the world — along with our comparatively strong rule of law, private property, and free markets.

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But as part of this crusade, Silberstein last year supported a documentary, Inequality for All, described in a friendly review as a "thorough, user-friendly documentary" in which "UC Berkley professor and columnist Robert Reich, aka the Conscience of Liberal America, restages the highlights of his 'Wealth and Poverty' class to explain how and why economic inequality is hurting everyone in the country…. One of the very best Outrage Docs, sure to galvanize debate among believers and detractors alike." Silberstein is credited as the movie's executive producer, which likely means he helped underwrite production.

Silberstein has also signed up with Patriotic Millionaires, a group formed in the 2010 electoral cycle and still active, which publicly asks that its members' taxes be raised. On its website it brags it has staged a debate with tax-reduction advocate Grover Norquist, "delivered a press conference with the President, and worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the White House to pass the 2012 American Taxpayer Relief Act." The group was set up by the Agenda Project, founded by Erica Payne, a political consultant, former senior official at the Democratic National Committee, and a speaker at the first organizational meeting of donors that led to the Democracy Alliance. Agenda Project is best known for producing the 2011 commercial that attacked Rep. Paul Ryan's (R-Wisc.) budget by showing a grandmother being thrown off a cliff. With greater subtlety, it also launched a project, "F*ck Tea," to attack the Tea Party movement.

Perhaps the best way to gain insight into Silberstein's thinking is to review the publicly available financial record and the spending pattern of his foundation, along with his political donations in California and nationally. From these data we can glean something of his vision of the role of government in a liberal democratic political order, and the extent to which he would extend the scope of government regulation into the free operation of markets and autonomous social institutions in order to advance the progressive agenda of subordinating the traditional American notion of justice—the equality of all citizens before the law—into the social-democratic ideal of justice as equality of results.

Finances and Spending

In its most recent reporting year ending December 2012, the Silberstein Foundation reported assets of $89,947,653 (book value) and net investment income of $2,540,027, with $4,877,175 paid out in gifts, grants, and charitable donations. In 2011, the foundation reported slightly higher assets of $91,609,664 and net investment income of $7,683,604, with total giving at $3,246,970. In 2010, it listed total assets of $86,577,155 and net investment income of $1,992,094 with total giving at $4,327,345. In a nutshell, the foundation fits the pattern of being a small, self-regenerating wellspring of cash that donates roughly as much as it earns each year to far-left causes.

The foundations ranks 1,321st in the FoundationSearch top 10,000 U.S. foundations by assets, and 173rd in the top foundations by assets for the state of California. It is on the lower end of the mid-range in terms of assets. What makes it of interest to conservatives is that it is a private foundation that reflects the aims and interests of one man who happens to be a member of Soros's Democracy Alliance. So let's examine what the foundation has tried to accomplish with its giving in recent years.

Far Left Media

Since 2003 the Silberstein Foundation has made five donations since 2003 totaling $117,590 to Media Matters for America. MMfA is perhaps the most influential nonprofit left-wing media watchdog group. According to The Daily Caller's now famous exposé, MMfA had a direct line in to MSNBC in 2008 and had inside contacts that were capable of directly placing content in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and Washington Post, as well as online media such as Huffington Post, Daily Kos, and Salon. Since its founding by erstwhile journalist David Brock in 2004, MMfA has been pushing the ludicrous notion that the mainstream media has a monolithically conservative bias. Since its inception, MMfA has been in a constant state of war, aiming to defame and defund Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, and Lou Dobbs, to name only a few. Anyone familiar with MMfA's tendentious presentation of facts can empathize with the late Christopher Hitchens who, in reviewing Brock's 2002 memoir, wrote "I would say without any hesitation that he [Brock] is incapable of recognizing the truth, let alone of telling it. The whole book is an exercise in self-love, disguised as an exercise in self-abnegation."

In both 2013 and 2014 Silberstein made identical donations of $200,000 to American Bridge 21st Century, a super PAC devoted to opposition research and tracking Republican candidates that was founded by Brock in 2010. Other notable donors to MMfA in 2013 include Soros ($500,000), longtime Clinton ally Susie Buell ($400,000), American Federation of Teachers ($100,000), AFSCME ($100,000), SEIU COPE (Committee on Political Education, a PAC) ($100,000), the Boston law firm of Ropes and Gray ($25,000), and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) ($46,500). American Bridge 21st Century created a project called Correct the Record (CTR), a media and rapid response outfit that is dedicated to defending Hillary Clinton from criticism of her handling of the Benghazi scandal and the progress of Iran toward acquiring nuclear weapons that occurred on her watch as Secretary of State. Former Clinton White House special counsel Lanny Davis announced on Fox News that he will lead a "truth squad" under the auspices of CTR to counter the findings of Rep. Trey Gowdy's (R-S.C.) select committee investigation of Benghazi.

Since 2008 the Silberstein Foundation has donated $650,000 to the American Prospect, a left-wing magazine whose

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columnists regularly argue for the standard progressive agenda: single-payer healthcare, amnesty for illegal immigrants, same sex marriage, coal-killing environmental regulations, and card-check legislation to take away the right to a private ballot when workers decide whether to unionize.

Since 2002 the philanthropy has donated $800,000 to “Democracy Now,” a far-left radio news program that features anti-American radical Amy Goodman, among others. “Democracy Now” also receives substantial funding from Soros, Tides, and the Ford Foundation. This giving can truly be called philanthropic because left-wing talk radio has never been able to garner a large enough audience to sustain itself by selling advertisements.

Far-left Activist Groups and Think Tanks

Since 2005 the Silberstein Foundation has given $55,000 to the Tides Foundation, apparently at the request of the Democracy Alliance. Tides was founded in 1976 by far-left activist Drummond Pike, and along with its sister philanthropy, the Tides Center, it is second only to Soros’s billion-dollar Open Society Foundations (formerly known as Open Society Institute) as the preeminent funder of far-left activist groups over the past 20 years. To appreciate the magnitude of the far left’s advantage in so-called “dark money,” consider that Open Society’s net assets were $1,007,665,737 in 2011 and that year it awarded $33,616,565 in grants. Net assets for the Tides Foundation were $135,525,497 in 2011 and grants awarded came to $91,939,822, while net assets for the Tides Center were $75,030,551 in 2011 and grants awarded came to $19,341,827.

Compare these 2011 figures to the larger 2012 presidential year figures for the Charles Koch Foundation (assets: $276,881,787; total giving: $14,920,448) and David Koch Charities (assets: $60,567,797; total giving: $10,500,000). In short, Tides alone outspends the Kochs, while at the same time Soros is making them look poor, and the money from the Ford Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and many others constitutes a torrent of money for left-wing 501(c)(3)s, 501(c)(4)s, 527s, and super PACs. The mainstream media simply chooses to ignore the Left’s vast advantage in dark money, in favor of echoing repeated over-the-top attacks on the Kochs made on the floor of the Senate by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

The Silberstein Foundation has given $1,150,000 to the Center for American Progress (CAP) since 2001. With Soros as a key initial funder, CAP was launched in 2003 in the hope of creating a progressive think tank to rival conservative groups like the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Cato Institute. With former Clinton White House Chief of Staff John Podesta at the helm, CAP has been staffed by a large number of Clintonistas and is often referred to as the Clinton White House in exile. (At the beginning of 2014, Podesta left behind his active leadership role at CAP to become a senior adviser in the Obama White House.) In recent years, CAP has served as an echo chamber for the Obama White House. There is little to no daylight between CAP and the Obama administration on the issues of Keynesian economic “stimulus,” tax increases, comprehensive immigration reform, gun control, and EPA’s destruction of the coal industry. (CAP was profiled in the May 2007 and February 2011 issues of Organization Trends.)

The wonks at CAP have helped to propagate the false and destructive class warfare narrative of extreme income inequality in America, in spite of the unprecedented surge in the standard of living for the poor in America over the last century, and the creation of a large and affluent middle class, and the greatest social mobility in human history. Numerous studies have shown that the distribution of income earners by quintile over the 20th century remained stable.

Moreover, economist Thomas Sowell regularly makes the point that, if one looks at individuals instead of categories, a person born in the poorest fifth of the income distribution (the bottom quintile) has a 50 percent chance of getting to the middle of the middle quintile in his or her own lifetime. No society has ever achieved anything like this level of social mobility, but the Left will let nothing stand in the way of its ugly, envy-laden class warfare narrative.

The Silberstein Foundation has donated $300,000 to the Campaign for America’s Future since 2001. CAF is a 501(c)(4) led by Sixties radicals Robert Borosage and Roger Hickey that was founded in 1996. It currently advocates higher taxes, increased social spending, and single payer-health care (for more on the group and its leaders, see Organization Trends, March 2013).

The foundation has donated $471,000 to Demos since 2004. Demos is a nonprofit that presses state and federal legislators to increase taxes on the rich, especially on the top 1 percent, and to hike corporate taxes as a strategy to strengthen the middle class. Demos also advocates for “redistribution” through increased transfer payments in Social Security, disability, and Medicare, and through legislating the “Buffet rule” on income taxes and tax credits targeted to the poor. The policy wonks at Demos are unfazed by the fact that the top 2 percent of income earners pay 40 percent of income taxes, the top 6 percent pay 60 percent of the taxes, the top 20 percent pay over 80 percent and about half of all Americans pay no income taxes at all. On the legislative front, Demos works to promote measures to establish same-day voter registration, to block voter ID laws, and to grant felons the right to vote. Demos staff generally favor expanding global governance, e.g., by supporting efforts like the job-killing Kyoto Protocol on carbon dioxide emissions and the UN Millennium Project to cajole rich countries to boost their developmental assistance donations to 0.7 percent of yearly GNP (the current issue of Organization Trends profiles Demos in depth.)

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Common Cause, a Soros-funded group that focuses on campaign finance reform, gutting the military to increase welfare and environmental spending, and the "fairness doctrine" that would force privately owned radio stations to take a loss by mandating equal time for liberal talk shows, received $100,000 in 2007 from the Silberstein Foundation. The group continues to disparage the Supreme Court ruling in the Citizens United case. This is because it allows corporations to donate unlimited amounts anonymously to super PACs that advocate on behalf of causes or candidates while barring them from coordinating with campaigns (the May 2014 Organization Trends profiles Common Cause).

Judicial Activism

The Silberstein Foundation has donated $3.45 million to the Alliance for Justice (AfJ) since 2010. AfJ's mission is to promote the appointment and confirmation of liberal judges who practice judicial activism in order to achieve social outcomes, i.e., so-called social justice and equality of results. It also works to block conservative judicial nominees who believe it is possible to discern the original content and principles of the Constitution, who support the Madisonian principle of limited federal government, and who believe in the general principle of justice as equality before the law. The AfJ is best known for assisting in the organized publicity campaign to "bork" Justice Robert Bork's nomination in 1987, for supporting Anita Hill in her attempt to slander Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas during his confirmation hearings in 1991, and for helping to block dozens of President George W. Bush's nominees to the federal bench.

The Silberstein Foundation donated $200,000 in 2002 to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and has continued to make five-figure grants to it. The Center is a hotbed of activism for the promotion of the doctrine of the "living" Constitution. It advances the kind of activist jurisprudence that was first outlined in President Woodrow Wilson's "What is Progress?" speech, in which Wilson explicitly subordinates both the individual rights elaborated in the Declaration of Independence and the system of checks and balances in the Constitution, to the criteria of present economic needs and arbitrarily chosen social goals that are deemed vital to the general welfare by government administrators–with or without consent of the duly elected representatives of the people. (Organization Trends profiled the Brennan Center in April 2014.)

Green Energy

The Silberstein Foundation gave $500,000 in 2003, $250,000 in 2007, and occasional five-figure grants thereafter to the Apollo Alliance, an extreme environmentalist group that grew out of the Tides network and the Campaign for America's Future. The group uses the green agenda to mask its push to expand the welfare state and increase government regulation of the economy and civil society. The group claims, "Working with our coalition of labor, business, environmental and community leaders we will reduce carbon emissions and oil imports, spur domestic job growth and position America to thrive in the 21st Century economy."

Apollo Alliance was responsible for drafting the $86 billion green jobs portion of the $787 billion so-called stimulus package known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This stimulus didn't manage to stimulate anything, except the $17 trillion national debt, and participation in the labor force remains stuck at its lowest point since the Carter administration. The Left's fantasy of a competitive green energy sector invariably leads either to mass layoffs or a wave of multi-million dollar bankruptcies in green companies like Solyndra, many of which were linked to high-value donors to Obama's 2008 campaign. Heritage Foundation research cites 1,900 waste, fraud, and abuse investigations into all the stimulus energy projects, green or not, with 600 criminal convictions as of Oct. 18, 2012. (For more on the Apollo Alliance, see Green Watch, November 2012.)

Political Activity

The Center for Responsive Politics currently lists Silberstein as number 15 on the list of the top individual donors to "Federally Focused 527 Organizations" in the current election cycle. The $115,000 he has given consists of donations to EMILY's List ($75,000), Emerge America ($20,000), and the Progressive Change Campaign Committee ($20,000). EMILY's List is a group that funds female Democratic political candidates who oppose any and all limits on abortion; the acronym stands for "early money is like yeast."

In 2013, Silberstein donated $100,000 to the House Majority PAC, and gave $32,400 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, along with $32,400 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in 2014. In 2013, he donated $25,000 to the Ready for Hillary PAC, and gave smaller sums to a slew of candidates in 2013-2014, including U.S. Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Kay Hagan (D-N.C.), and U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.).

In a manner of speaking, Silberstein has provided his own data on his political giving in the state of California through the agency of the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR). He has donated $505,000 to the CIR since 2008. The CIR manages the Data Center and produces the CaliforniaWatch.org website, which provides information on political donations in the Golden State.

Silberstein's California donations since 2001 total $1,335,000. About half ($625,000) went to the Democratic Party of California between 2006 and 2011. Gov. Jerry Brown has received donations totaling $29,500 since 2009, while Lt. Gov.

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Gavin Newsom received $5,000 in 2010. The far-left Attorney General Kamala Harris has received $11,500 since 2009.

Breaking the Constitution's Electoral Machinery

Perhaps what best reveals Silberstein's political intentions is his significant donation of $500,000 since 2009 to the National Popular Vote Institute and the fact that he, though publicity shy, sits on its board. The Institute is part of the Left's forceful attempt to abolish the Electoral College without amending the U.S. Constitution. The Institute's objective is to achieve direct popular election of the president by establishing an interstate compact between the roughly 11 large states that would be needed for presidential candidates to win 270 electoral votes. The compact, it is believed, would then force the remaining states to comply with the compact without any say in the matter. Not surprisingly, this unconstitutional compact has only been ratified in the state legislatures of the bluest states: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, along with the District of Columbia.

As Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation observes, the compact clearly violates the Compact Clause of the Constitution, which provides, "No State shall, without the Consent of Congress … enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State." He argues the change would lead to narrower margins of victory in presidential elections, decreased presidential legitimacy, more recounts, increased voter fraud, and more frequent electoral litigation. More importantly, candidates would campaign only in large population centers—where, by coincidence, the Left's electoral strength is greatest—leaving small and medium states to have no say in the election of the president.

Spakovsky explains that the Framers of the Constitution didn't establish a national popular vote for president because they wisely wanted to balance power between the federal government, headed by the president, and the state governments. That is why the Framers blended the proportional representation of citizens and the direct representation of states in the Electoral College, which assigns each state electors equal to the number of representatives and senators it has in Congress.

The Left's campaign for a national popular vote is an attempt to let a majority faction utterly dominate the sovereignty of the individual states and the rights of minorities, and thus to transform the American polity from a representative republic into a direct democracy under a centralized administrative state.

Conclusion

The philanthropic and political donations of the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation demonstrate how one significant member of George Soros's Democracy Alliance understands the four stated goals of this secretive organization. This will allow us to decode the group's leftist Orwellian doublespeak.

To judge from the Silberstein Foundation's spending patterns, "an opportunity-driven economy" means bankrolling think tanks like Center for American Progress and Demos that support higher taxes on the rich, schemes of wealth redistribution, single-payer socialized medicine, and unduly burdensome regulatory control of energy markets designed to kill the coal industry (and natural gas next). "A dignity-based foreign policy" entails supporting Media Matters' Correct the Record campaign to obfuscate the findings of the House select committee on the cover-up of the Benghazi attack, leaving the families of four dead Americans without justice and the American public without an explanation.

It appears from the foundation's support for the Alliance for Justice and the Brennan Center, that in its view "an independent judiciary" means adopting a jurisprudence based on the concept of "the living Constitution," according to which the nation's founding principles and the Constitution's system of checks and balances are outdated and optional unless they can be harnessed to achieve "the common task and purpose" of the evolving social organism. In this view, the Constitution just means whatever judges claim is in the economic or social interest of the country. The radically egalitarian goal is to invoke the General Welfare Clause and the rhetoric of the common good in order to legitimate government regulation of markets, social institutions, and individual freedoms. Traditional due process is to be replaced by what leftist scholars euphemistically call "substantive due process."

Lastly, supporting "an open, vibrant democracy" means bankrolling the national popular vote movement in order to do away with federalism and the legitimate authority of the states. The national popular vote is an unconstitutional attempt by the Left to transform America from a representative republic into a direct democracy that fits the original ancient Greek notion of democracy, i.e., demokrateia meaning mob rule, as opposed to a politeia which enjoys constitutional government. For populist demagogy and undiluted majoritarianism are the only means by which the Left can complete the assimilation of the state governments into an all-encompassing socialized state along the lines of European social democracies.

It is not surprising that a member of George Soros's Democracy Alliance runs a foundation that backs the full spectrum of leftist groups striving to implement extreme Keynesian spending and regulatory policies, to pervert the original meaning and manifest tenor of the Constitution, and to exploit a national popular vote as an extra-constitutional means to secure permanent Democratic Party control of the presidency. Stephen M. Silberstein has joined the ranks of the

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leftist establishment, but the Marxist-inspired students of Berkeley in the 1960s can be rightfully proud of their fellow alumnus.

Jonathan Hanen is a freelance writer and political consultant based in Washington, D.C. A native of Connecticut, he earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston University.

FW

www.NationalPopularVote.com

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/25/2015 1:34:11 AM
Subject: News Update - August 25, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, August 25

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Rivlin: Israel has 'Right' to Settle in West Bank**
- **Obama Poised to Avoid Need for Iran Veto Altogether**
- **Hammond: Iran Genuinely Seeks to 'Turn a Page' with West**
- **U.S. Judge Orders PA to Post $10m Bond in Terror Case**
- **Settlers Take EU to Court for Funding Illegal Pal. Building**
- **Barak: Netanyahu Resisted Shalit Deal**
- **Israel 'Very Interested' in Strengthening Relations with Kurds**
- **Young Israeli Girl Breaks 2,000-year-old Vase, Museum Says Thanks**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "The Iran Strike that Never Was"**
  - By Nahum Barnea
- **Ha'aretz: "I Saw Hamas' Cruel and Selfish Game in Gaza"**
  - By Wojciech Cegielski

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Ynet News

Rivlin: Israel has 'Right' to Settle in West Bank

President Reuven Rivlin said during talks with settler leaders on Monday that Israel had a "right" to build settlements in the West Bank, his office said in a statement. "I love the land of Israel with all my heart. I have never and will never give up on this land. For me, our right to this land is not a matter of political debate. It is a basic fact of modern Zionism," Rivlin said. For Rivlin the "land of Israel" includes the West Bank, where Jewish settlements are considered illegal under international law. "We must not give anyone the sense that we are in any doubt about our right to our land. For me, the settlement of the land of Israel is an expression of that right, our historical right, our national right."

Times of Israel

Obama Poised to Avoid Need for Iran Veto Altogether

US President Barack Obama has won the backing of a fresh clutch of senators for his Iran deal, raising the prospect he could yet dodge a humiliating legislative rebuke. For months, Republicans and rebellious Democrats have looked on course to pass a resolution against the nuclear deal, a stinging rejection of a central Obama foreign policy goal. But, with 15 Senate Democrats backing the deal in as many days — including Senate minority leader Harry Reid and Michigan's Debbie Stabenow on Monday — the White House may dodge a political bullet.

Times of Israel

Hammond: Iran Genuinely Seeks to 'Turn a Page'

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said Monday he believed in Iranian's genuine desire to "turn a page" with the West and develop better ties, the Telegraph reported. Hammond spoke at the end of a two-day visit to Tehran and a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to mark the reopening of the two nations' respective embassies after a break of several years. While he stressed that the countries' relations remained complex and difficult, he said Iran as a regional power was too important to ignore on Middle East issues. "It's hard to see what is the point of advocating dialog with someone who you know has a very different view of the world from you, unless you are anticipating some give and take," he said.
See also, "UK says Iran sanctions could be lifted next spring" (Reuters)

Ha'aretz

U.S. Judge Orders PA to Post $10m in Terror Case

A U.S. judge ordered the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization on Monday to post $10 million in cash or bond while they appeal a jury's finding that they supported militant attacks in Israel. At a court hearing in Manhattan, U.S. District Judge George Daniels in Manhattan said the defendants must also deposit $1 million each month pending the appeal of a February jury verdict worth $655 million in favor of 10 American families. The order came after the Obama administration took the unusual step of urging Daniels to "carefully consider" the Palestinian Authority's financial condition, saying too high a bond could compromise its ability to function.

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Jerusalem Post

Settlers Take EU to Court for Funding Pal. Building

Settlers on Monday asked the High Court of Justice to order the demolition of 15 Palestinian homes in Area C of the West Bank, which they say are illegal and funded by the EU. The modular structures with cement floors located within the boundaries of the Kfar Adumim settlement were built in 2015 and house Palestinian Beduin. The settlement and the non-governmental group Regavim, which monitors illegal Palestinian building, are the co-petitioners. They asked the state to force the Civil Administration to remove the structures, which they said were built illegally on state land. They presented photos of the structures, which have signs on the walls with the EU logo. The petition comes as the international community, including the EU and the US, is pressuring Israel not to demolish illegal Palestinian buildings.

Ha'aretz

Barak: Netanyahu Resisted Shalit Deal

A tape released Monday revealed former defense minister Ehud Barak's criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the Gilad Shalit case. In the recording, which was aired by Israel's Channel 2 News, Barak was heard saying that the prime minister consistently opposed the deal that could bring Shalit home from captivity. According to Barak, once Shalit had been released in 2012, the most important thing to the prime minister was getting the first photo with the formerly imprisoned soldier. "His office sent teams to organize it and everything was directed towards one thing: For the picture to be the first picture when the kid (Shalit) comes down and for him to be with only Bibi in the frame." Barak continued criticizing Netanyahu in the recording. "Bibi strongly feels that it's really the picture, the word, that's more important than the actual deed."

Jerusalem Post

Israel 'Very Interested' in Relations with Kurds

News published in the Financial Times on Sunday that Israel imports most of its oil from Iraq's Kurdish areas came as no shock to those following the secretive Israel-Kurd relationship. "The news is not so surprising, as it has been going on for some time," Prof. Ofra Bengio, editor of the book Kurdish Awakening: Nation-Building in a Fragmented Homeland, told The Jerusalem Post on Monday. "The Kurds do not want problems with Baghdad or Tehran, so they prefer to stay quiet about it and not upset anybody," said Bengio.

See also, "Israel turns to Kurds for oil supplies" (Financial Times)

Ha'aretz

Girl Breaks 2,000-year-old Vase, Museum: Thanks

A little girl accidently broke a 2,000-year-old glass vessel during a visit to the Israel Museum on Sunday. The museum said the object has now been repaired and is in better shape than it was before. According to a museum employee, the little girl clung to the glass case or rocked it and as a result, the glass object fell inside the case and broke along the old crack. The museum removed the object and received permission from the collection's owners to repair it in its laboratory. "It would require a great effort to notice the crack with the naked eye," the museum said.

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Yedioth Ahronoth – August 24, 2015

The Iran Strike that Never Was

Ehud Barak's interview outtakes shown on Channel 2 News tell a skewed version of what happened when the government decided to avoid striking Iran's nuclear sites.

By Nahum Barnea

Meir Dagan, Yuval Diskin, Gabi Ashkenazi, Benny Gantz, Gadi Eisenkot, Amir Eshel, Aviv Kochavi, Tamir Pardo, Dan Meridor, Benny Begin, Yuval Steinitz, Moshe Ya'alon - these are the real Israeli patriots when it comes to attacking Iran's nuclear sites, attacks that did not happen.

Plans of attack were discussed three times: In 2010, 2011, and 2013. Allegedly, the top three members of government urged the approval of these plans with all the vigor they could muster. I say "allegedly" because the members in question are Benjamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak, and Avigdor Lieberman, three men for whom "allegedly" is practically a middle name.

The discussions focused on two questions, one obvious and one crucial. The obvious question was what Barak calls "operational readiness" – can the IDF significantly damage the nuclear sites and bring its pilots back home safely. The crucial question was what is it good for, what will the results of the strike be if it's successful, what will be the impact on the Iranian nuclear program, what will happen to the Middle East.

The interview outtakes of Ehud Barak speaking to Ilan Kfir and Danny Dor, two journalists who have written a new biography of him, which were recently aired on Channel 2 News, focus on the less crucial first question.

Those who hear the outtakes might come to three conclusions: First, that there was some patent, a magic wand, a brilliant operation with which a single blow could have been landed and with it destroy an existential threat to Israel. Second, that there were three brave ministers, determined spirits with the will to take action, but a group of cowardly politicians prevented them from doing so. And third, that among these three was an internal division: Barak was trying his hardest to get the operation greenlit, Lieberman didn't do very much, and Netanyahu failed as a leader.

Wrong, wrong, wrong.

The main point raised against an attack on Iran was that it would do more harm than good: The moment Israel attacked, Iran would have been free to push its nuclear program forward at full force while claiming self-defense. In two years, at the most, it would have manufactured its first bomb. Had we attacked in 2010, Iran would have been nuclear in 2013; had we attacked in 2013, it would have been nuclear today, without binding agreements or international oversight.

The Israeli strike could have borne fruit only if it had dragged the United States into war. Israel attacks, Iran retaliates harshly against the Israeli populace, the US is forced to stand with its ally and commit its full military power. The participants in the discussions that took place had to suspect that this was Netanyahu and Barak's real goal,

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that this was the gamble. Otherwise, the Israeli attack had no purpose.

The Israeli tail wanted to wag the American dog and start a regional war, one whose end was unknown. If Churchill could recruit Roosevelt into the fight against Hitler, Netanyahu will force Obama into fighting Khamenei. But Obama isn't Roosevelt, Netanyahu isn't Churchill, and Khamenei isn't Hitler. It's all talk.

The heads of the defense establishment who participated in the discussions didn't want to be seen as cowards. Therefore, they supported spending billions on purchases and training meant to bring the IDF to full operational preparedness. A large part of this investment went down the drain. We can take comfort in the fact that knowledge of the preparations for a possible Israeli attack contributed somewhat to the severity of the sanctions imposed on Iran.

Barak is a dangerous kind of person to drive behind. The kind who might signal left, turn the steering wheel in that direction, and still turn right in the end, or the other way around. It's doubtful whether we'll ever know if he really wanted military action, or if he hoped that Netanyahu would back out in the last moment and save him from being responsible for a catastrophe.

The prime minister holds a crucial role in this kind of decision. Ben-Gurion passed every important decision he supported through government votes during the 1948 Independence War, including the decisions on the Altalena Affair and the dissolution of the Palmach. On one decision, a majority of ministers voted "no": Conquering Mount Hebron. They saw that the prime minister was ambivalent. Ben-Gurion would go on to accuse his government of creating an "endless tragedy," but the ministers knew the truth.

When all the defense chiefs oppose a military operation, the prime minister knows that if it fails, he won't have anyone to share the blame. Everything will land in his lap. Menachem Begin took that risk when he chose to strike Iraq's nuclear reactor. He gambled and won.

It's easier to overcome opposition by ministers. When Netanyahu can't convince Steinitz, there's no escaping this conclusion: Either Steinitz is, deep down, very conniving – Che Guevara Steinitz – or Netanyahu, influenced by his own motivations, didn't really try.

Ha'aretz – August 25, 2015

I Saw Hamas' Cruel and Selfish Game in Gaza

By Wojciech Cegielski

I spent a month in Gaza during Operation Protective Edge. It was one of the worst and deadliest months I have seen in my life. The reality there was much more complicated than was seen from a safe distance in Europe or the United States.

Yes, Israel bombed Palestinian houses in Gaza. But Hamas is also to blame for its cruel and selfish game against its own people. I do not have hard evidence, but for me, spending a month in the middle of this hell, it was obvious that they were breaking international rules of war and worst of all, were not afraid to use their own citizens as living

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shields.

The first incident happened late in the evening. I was in the bathroom when I've heard a loud rocket noise and my Spanish colleague, a journalist who was renting a flat with me near the Gaza beach, started to scream. He wanted to light a cigarette and came to one of the open windows. The moment he was using his lighter, he saw a fireball in front of his eyes and lost his hearing.

From what our neighbors told us later, a man drove up in a pickup to our tiny street. He placed a rocket launcher outside and fired. But the rocket failed to go upwards and flew along the street at ground level for a long time before destroying a building. It was a miracle that nobody was hurt or killed.

When we calmed down, we started to analyze the situation. It became obvious that the man or his supervisor wanted the Israel Defense Forces to destroy civilian houses, which our tiny street was full of. Whoever it was, Hamas, Iz al-Din al-Qassam or others, they knew that the IDF can strike back at the same place from which the rocket was fired. Fortunately for us, the rocket missed its target in Israel.

The second story happened in the middle of the day. I was sitting with other journalists in a cafe outside one of the hotels near the beach. During wartime, these hotels are occupied by foreign press and some NGOs. Every hotel is full and in its cafes many journalists spend their time discussing, writing, editing stories or just recharging the phones. Suddenly I saw a man firing a rocket from between the hotels. It was obvious that we journalists became a target. If the IDF would strike back, we all would be dead. What would Hamas do? It would not be surprising to hear about the "cruel Zionist regime killing innocent and free press."

For me, provoking is also creating living shields.

While I was interviewing people on the streets of Gaza, I couldn't meet anyone who spoke something other than official propaganda. But some Palestinians, when they were sure my microphone was turned off, told me they have had enough but they are afraid. No one would dare to say publicly that Hamas is creating a hell inside Gaza. But they were also asking "what if not Hamas?" The Palestinian Authority government would have no authority there. So if not Hamas, they say, there could be somebody much worse. "The choice is between evil and evil plus," one of them said.The reality is much more complicated than can be seen from a distance.

The writer is a foreign news correspondent for Polish Radio.

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/15/2008 6:54:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 05/15/08

Main Topics: McCain Ohio Speech, Bush Speech to Israeli Legislature, Bill Donohue on Fox News

Summary of Shift: John Edwards' endorsement of Barack Obama was a big story this morning. President Bush spoke to the Israeli parliament and not so subtly called Obama's diplomatic vision "appeasement." John McCain gave an expansive speech outlining an overly optimistic vision for his presidency.

In Afghanistan a suicide bomber killed 15 people and injured 22. Estimates of the Chinese earthquake death toll are now over 19,000. Exxon Mobil announces first quarter profits of $10.9 billion and unemployment numbers have increased.

Highlights:

1) McCain gives speech in Ohio outlining very hopeful goals for his presidency
a. By 2013 "the Iraq War has been won"
b. Transcript of full speech
2) President Bush implies at speech to Israeli Parliament that Obama will appease terrorists
a. CNN: President Bush's "unusual" attack on Obama is helping to push John McCain's message
b. Bash: This "fits together nicely" with McCain campaign strategy
c. Obama Camp's Tom Daschle hits back at "failed" Bush diplomacy
3) Catholic League's Bill Donohue Interview on "Fox and Friends"
a. Donohue forgives Pastor Hagee calling him "a man of great courage"
b. Attacks Obama, says he supported "infanticide" bill in Illinois State Legislature
4) Robert Gibbs: Last year John McCain voted with Bush 95% of the time
5) Governor Charlie Crist touts McCain's bipartisanship and green credentials on Fox News
6) MSNBC panel discusses McCain's health problems

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain: By 2013 "The Iraq War has Been Won" (FNC 05/15/08 10:00am)
JOHN MCCAIN: By January 2013, America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and women who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom. The Iraq War has been won. Iraq is a functioning democracy, although still suffering from the lingering effects of decades of tyranny and centuries of sectarian tension. Violence still occurs, but it is spasmodic and much reduced. Civil war has been prevented; militias disbanded; the Iraqi Security Force is professional and competent; al Qaeda in Iraq has been defeated; and the Government of Iraq is capable of imposing its authority in every province of Iraq and defending the integrity of its borders. The United States maintains a military presence there, but a much smaller one, and it does not play a direct combat role.

The threat from a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan has been greatly reduced but not eliminated. U.S. and NATO forces remain there to help finish the job, and continue operations against the remnants of al Qaeda. The Government of Pakistan has cooperated with the U.S. in successfully adapting the counterinsurgency tactics that worked so well in Iraq and Afghanistan to its lawless tribal areas where al Qaeda fighters are based. The increase in actionable intelligence that the counterinsurgency produced led to the capture or death of Osama bin Laden, and his chief lieutenants. There is no longer any place in the world al Qaeda can consider a safe haven.

Full Clip and Transcript of McCain Speech (FNC 05/15/08 10:00am)
Thank you. The hectic but repetitive routine of presidential campaigns often seems to consist entirely of back and forth charges between candidates, punctuated by photo ops, debates and the occasional policy speech, followed by another barrage of accusations and counter accusations, formulated into the soundbites preferred by cable news producers. It is a little hypocritical for candidates or reporters to criticize these deficiencies. They are our creation. Campaigns and the media collaborated as architects of the modern presidential campaign, and we deserve equal blame for the regret we feel from time to time over its less than inspirational features.

Voters, however, even in this revolutionary communications age, with its 24 hour news cycle, can be forgiven

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their uncertainty about what the candidates actually hope to achieve if they have the extraordinary privilege of being elected President of the United States. We spend too little time and offer too few specifics on that most important of questions. We make promises, of course, about what kind of policies we would pursue in office. But they often are obscured, mischaracterized and forgotten in the heat and fog of political battle.

Next January, the political leadership of the United States will change significantly. It is important that the candidates who seek to lead the country after the Bush Administration define their objectives and what they plan to achieve not with vague language but with clarity.

So, what I want to do today is take a little time to describe what I would hope to have achieved at the end of my first term as President. I cannot guarantee I will have achieved these things. I am presumptuous enough to think I would be a good President, but not so much that I believe I can govern by command. Should I forget that, Congress will, of course, hasten to remind me. The following are conditions I intend to achieve. And toward that end, I will focus all the powers of the office; every skill and strength I possess; and seize every opportunity to work with members of Congress who put the national interest ahead of partisanship, and any country in the world that shares our hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

By January 2013, America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and women who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom. The Iraq War has been won. Iraq is a functioning democracy, although still suffering from the lingering effects of decades of tyranny and centuries of sectarian tension. Violence still occurs, but it is spasmodic and much reduced. Civil war has been prevented; militias disbanded; the Iraqi Security Force is professional and competent; al Qaeda in Iraq has been defeated; and the Government of Iraq is capable of imposing its authority in every province of Iraq and defending the integrity of its borders. The United States maintains a military presence there, but a much smaller one, and it does not play a direct combat role.

The threat from a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan has been greatly reduced but not eliminated. U.S. and NATO forces remain there to help finish the job, and continue operations against the remnants of al Qaeda. The Government of Pakistan has cooperated with the U.S. in successfully adapting the counterinsurgency tactics that worked so well in Iraq and Afghanistan to its lawless tribal areas where al Qaeda fighters are based. The increase in actionable intelligence that the counterinsurgency produced led to the capture or death of Osama bin Laden, and his chief lieutenants. There is no longer any place in the world al Qaeda can consider a safe haven. Increased cooperation between the United States and its allies in the concerted use of military, diplomatic, and economic power and reforms in the intelligence capabilities of the United States has disrupted terrorist networks and exposed plots around the world. There still has not been a major terrorist attack in the United States since September 11, 2001.

The United States and its allies have made great progress in advancing nuclear security. Concerted action by the great democracies of the world has persuaded a reluctant Russia and China to cooperate in pressuring Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, and North Korea to discontinue its own. The single greatest threat facing the West -- the prospect of nuclear materials in the hands of terrorists -- has been vastly diminished.

The size of the Army and Marine Corps has been significantly increased, and are now better equipped and trained to defend us. Long overdue reforms to the way we acquire weapons programs, including fixed price contracts, have created sufficient savings to pay for a larger military. A substantial increase in veterans educational benefits and improvements in their health care has aided recruitment and retention. The strain on the National Guard and reserve forces has been relieved.

After efforts to pressure the Government in Sudan over Darfur failed again in the U.N. Security Council, the United States, acting in concert with a newly formed League of Democracies, applied stiff diplomatic and economic pressure that caused the government of Sudan to agree to a multinational peacekeeping force, with NATO countries providing logistical and air support, to stop the genocide that had made a mockery of the world's repeated declaration that we would "never again" tolerant such inhumanity. Encouraged by the success, the League is now occupied with using the economic power and prestige of its member states to end other gross abuses of human rights such as the despicable crime of human trafficking.

The United States has experienced several years of robust economic growth, and Americans again have confidence in their economic future. A reduction in the corporate tax rate from the second highest in the world to one on par with our trading partners; the low rate on capital gains; allowing business to deduct in a single year investments in equipment and technology, while eliminating tax loopholes and ending corporate welfare, have spurred innovation and productivity, and encouraged companies to keep their operations and jobs in the United States. The Alternate Minimum Tax is being phased out, with relief provided first to middle income families. Doubling the size of the child exemption has put more disposable income in the hands of taxpayers, further

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stimulating growth.

Congress has just passed by a single up or down vote a tax reform proposal that offers Americans a choice of continuing to file under the rules of the current complicated and burdensome tax code or use a new, simpler, fairer and flatter tax, with two rates and a generous deduction. Millions of taxpayers are expected to file under the flat tax, and save billions in the cost of preparing their returns.

After exercising my veto several times in my first year in office, Congress has not sent me an appropriations bill containing earmarks for the last three years. A top to bottom review of every federal bureaucracy has yielded great reductions in government spending by identifying programs that serve no important purpose; and instigating far reaching reforms of procurement and operating policies that have for too long extravagantly wasted money for no better purpose than to increase federal payrolls.

New free trade agreements have been ratified and led to substantial increases in both exports and imports. The resulting growth in prosperity in countries from South America to Asia to Africa has greatly strengthened America's security and the global progress of our political ideals. U.S. tariffs on agricultural imports have been eliminated and unneeded farm subsidies are being phased out. The world food crisis has ended, inflation is low, and the quality of life not only in our country, but in some of the most impoverished countries around the world is much improved.

Americans, who through no fault of their own, lost jobs in the global economy they once believed were theirs for life, are assisted by reformed unemployment insurance and worker retraining programs. Older workers who accept lower paying jobs while they acquire new skills are provided assistance to make up a good part of the income they have lost. Community colleges and technical schools all over the country have developed worker retraining programs suited to the specific economic opportunities available in their communities and are helping millions of workers who have lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

Public education in the United States is much improved thanks to the competition provided by charter and private schools; the increase of quality teachers through incentives like merit pay and terrific programs that attract to the classroom enthusiastic and innovative teachers from many disciplines, like Teach for America and Troops to Teachers. Educational software and online teaching programs endorsed by qualified non profits are much more widely in use, bringing to the smallest classrooms in America some of the greatest math, English, and science teachers in the country. This revolution in teaching methods has especially benefited rural America. Test scores and graduation rates are rising everywhere in the country.

Health care has become more accessible to more Americans than at any other time in history. Reforms of the insurance market; putting the choice of health care into the hands of American families rather than exclusively with the government or employers; walk in clinics as alternatives to emergency room care; paying for outcome in the treatment of disease rather than individual procedures; and competition in the prescription drug market have begun to wring out the runaway inflation once endemic in our health care system. More small businesses offer their employees health plans. Schools have greatly improved their emphasis on physical education and nutritional content of meals offered in school cafeterias. Obesity rates among the young and the disease they engender are stabilized and beginning to decline. The federal government and states have cooperated in establishing backstop insurance pools that provide coverage to people hard pressed to find insurance elsewhere because of pre-existing illness.

The reduction in the growth of health care costs has begun to relieve some of the pressure on Medicare; encouraging Congress to act in a bipartisan way to extend its solvency for twenty-five years without increasing taxes and raising premiums only for upper income seniors. Their success encouraged a group of congressional leaders from both parties to work with my administration to fix Social Security as well, without reducing benefits to those near retirement. The reforms include some form of personal retirement accounts in safe and reliable index funds, such as have been available to government employees since their retirement plans were made solvent a quarter century ago.

Part Two:
The United States is well on the way to independence from foreign sources of oil; progress that has not only begun to alleviate the environmental threat posed from climate change, but has greatly improved our security as well. A cap and trade system has been implemented, spurring great innovation in the development of green technologies and alternative energy sources. Clean coal technology has advanced considerably with federal assistance. Construction has begun on twenty new nuclear reactors thanks to improved incentives and a streamlined regulatory process.

Scores of judges have been confirmed to the federal district and appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme

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Court, who understand that they were not sent there to write our laws but to enforce them and make sure they are consistent with the Constitution. They are judges of exceptional character and quality, who enforce and do not make laws, and who respect the values of the people whose rights, laws and property they are sworn to defend.

Border state governors have certified and the American people recognize that after tremendous improvements to border security infrastructure and increases in the border patrol, and vigorous prosecution of companies that employ illegal aliens, our southern border is now secure. Illegal immigrants who broke our laws after they came here have been arrested and deported. Illegal immigration has been finally brought under control, and the American people accepted the practical necessity to institute a temporary worker program and deal humanely with the millions of immigrants who have been in this country illegally.

Voluntary national service has grown in popularity in part because of the educational benefits used as incentives, as well as frequent appeals from the bully pulpit of the White House, but mostly because the young Americans, no less than earlier generations, understand that true happiness is much greater than the pursuit of pleasure, and can only be found by serving causes greater than self-interest. Scores of accomplished private sector leaders have joined the ranks of my administration for a dollar a year and have instituted some of the most innovative reforms of government programs ever known, often in partnership with willing private sector partners. A sense of community, a kinship of ideals, has invigorated public service again.

This is the progress I want us to achieve during my presidency. These are the changes I am running for President to make. I want to leave office knowing that America is safer, freer, and wealthier than when I was elected; that more Americans have more opportunities to pursue their dreams than at any other time in our history; that the world has become less threatening to our interests and more hospitable to our values; and that America has again, as she always has, chosen not to hide from history but to make history.

I am well aware I cannot make any of these changes alone. The powers of the presidency are rightly checked by the other branches of government, and I will not attempt to acquire powers our founders saw fit to grant Congress. I will exercise my veto if I believe legislation passed by Congress is not in the nation's best interests, but I will not subvert the purpose of legislation I have signed by making statements that indicate I will enforce only the parts of it I like. I will respect the responsibilities the Constitution and the American people have granted Congress, and will, as I often have in the past, work with anyone of either party to get things done for our country.

For too long, now, Washington has been consumed by a hyper-partisanship that treats every serious challenge facing us as an opportunity to trade insults; disparage each other's motives; and fight about the next election. For all the problems we face, if you ask Americans what frustrates them most about Washington, they will tell you they don't think we're capable of serving the public interest before our personal and partisan ambitions; that we fight for ourselves and not for them. Americans are sick of it, and they have every right to be. They are sick of the politics of selfishness, stalemate and delay. They despair when every election -- no matter who wins -- always seems to produce four more years of unkept promises and a government that is just a battleground for the next election. Their patience is at an end for politicians who value ambition over principle, and for partisanship that is less a contest of ide as than an uncivil brawl over the spoils of power. They want to change not only the policies and institutions that have failed the American people, but the political culture that produced them. They want to move this country forward and stake our claim on this century as we did in the last. And they want their government to care more about them than preserving the privileges of the powerful.

There are serious issues at stake in this election, and serious differences between the candidates. And we will argue about them, as we should. But it should remain an argument among friends; each of us struggling to hear our conscience, and heed its demands; each of us, despite our differences, united in our great cause, and respectful of the goodness in each other. That is how most Americans treat each other. And it is how they want the people they elect to office to treat each other.

If I am elected President, I will work with anyone who sincerely wants to get this country moving again. I will listen to any idea that is offered in good faith and intended to help solve our problems, not make them worse. I will seek the counsel of members of Congress from both parties in forming government policy before I ask them to support it. I will ask Democrats to serve in my administration. My administration will set a new standard for transparency and accountability. I will hold weekly press conferences. I will regularly brief the American people on the progress our policies have made and the setbacks we have encountered. When we make errors, I will confess them readily, and explain what we intend to do to correct them. I will ask Congress to grant me the privilege of coming before both houses to take questions, and address criticism, much the same as the Prime Minister of Great Britain appears regularly before the House of Commons.

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We cannot again leave our problems for another unluckier generation of Americans to fix after they have become even harder to solve. I'm not interested in partisanship that serves no other purpose than to gain a temporary advantage over our opponents. This mindless, paralyzing rancor must come to an end. We belong to different parties, not different countries. We are rivals for the same power. But we are also compatriots. We are fellow Americans, and that shared distinction means more to me than any other association. I intend to prove myself worthy of the office; of our country; and of your respect. I won't judge myself by how many elections I've won. I won't spend one hour of my presidency worrying more about my re-election than keeping my promises to the American people. There is a time to campaign, and a time to govern. If I'm elected President, the era of the permanent campaign will end. The era of problem solving will begin. I promise you, from the day I am sworn into office until the last hour of my presidency, I will work with anyone, of either party, to make this country safe, prosperous and proud. And I won't care who gets the credit.

Thank you.

Highlight #2

President Bush Attacks Barack Obama's Diplomatic Vision as "the False Comfort of Appeasement" (FNC 05/15/08 8:59am)

STEVE DOOCY: […] The President of the United States has been addressing the Israeli Parliament, the Knessy, and he took a shot at Barack Obama. Listen to this.

GEORGE W. BUSH: Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along. We have heard this foolish delusion before. As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American Senator declared: 'Lord, if only I could have talked to Hitler, all of this might have been avoided.' We have an obligation to call this what it is -- the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history.

BRIAN KILMEADE: Now we do have a response from Barack Obama's camp and here it is, you are about to see it in front of you.

ROBERT GIBBS: Why would the President go halfway around the world to make a political attack instead of congratulating Israel on its 60th anniversary?

DOOCY: Yeah and so that officially why he was there, but he did take aim at Barack Obama. Now remember, we were talking a little about Hamas and Barack Obama earlier in the week because John McCain had said at one point that Hamas would like to see Barack Obama as President of the United States because a Hamas spokesperson had actually said that 'we like Barack Obama, he would make a good President.' So John McCain was being factual and just essentially reporting the facts so it is in the bloodstream this week.

CNN: President Bush "Unusual" Attack on Obama Helping "To Push John McCain and His Message" (FNC 05/15/08 8:30am)

KIRAN CHENTRY: This is really unusual to see this coming from the President right now. He's basically stayed out of making any political comments with regard to the candidates. What do you make of this?

SUZANNE MALVEAUX: It's not only unusual Kiran, the fact that he's saying this. But it's also unusual that it's coming from overseas, that he is making the statement in Israel itself. It's one of the indications that this is gonna be a real sensitive and important topic in the campaign. John McCain and if Barack Obama in fact becomes the nominee, the subject of Israel, Middle East peace, all of that. And President Bush under a great deal of pressure himself. As you know, he made this one of his goals of his administration, to bring Middle East Peace. And it's been something that has been a source of frustration for his own administration. So that is one thing that is kind of the backdrop. And its also another thing, Barack Obama has consistently been talking about reaching out to these leaders that President Bush has refused to talk to, has refused to reach out too. This is a very very different approach to National Security, to diplomacy [...] So this at the core of what he's running for, and it's very much against what John McCain has been talking about and how they approach these leaders. So it's clear that President Bush is already, he's trying to push John McCain and his message and obviously trying to push the administration's approach here.

Bash: This "Fits Together Nicely" with the McCain Campaign Strategy (CNN 05/15/08 8:40am)

JOHN ROBERTS It's surprising the forum in which he said it, not surprising that the Republican Party is trying to cast doubt among Jewish American voters on Senator Barack Obama and the policies he would pursue [...] Dana this really falls out of what the McCain campaign was hitting Barack Obama on, not too long ago when one of his aides had met with a leader of Hamas. That aide has since been dismissed from the campaign. But John McCain certainly went after Barack Obama pretty hard on this issue of he is the candidate that Hamas would like to see win the White House. How does this all fit together?

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DANA BASH: It fits together really nicely with the McCain campaign strategy. Not just some of the things that Senator McCain himself and other aides have been saying, but more importantly John the kind of campaign they are planning on, that they are working on behind the scenes to work on and run against Barack Obama. It doesn't seem to be much of an accident here [...] So it is very similar to the kind of thing that you heard President Bush do not so subtly [...] What is striking isn't necessarily just that President Bush said this kind of thing and dove into the presidential campaign here in the United States, but the fact that he did it abroad and it did it in the Middle East, it's pretty striking John.

JOHN ROBERTS: Yeah, I mean, Dana you spent a tremendous amount of time working at the White House too as a White House correspondent, like Suzanne. President Bush, every time we would ask him about politics, he would say, 'ay, you're trying to drag me into the presidential race. I don't wanna go there.' I mean he lept in with both feet there and as you said, in a foreign country. That's highly unusual.

DANA BASH: Exactly and look, you know I've spoken, as I'm sure you have, cause you covered the White House John, spoken to several people frankly, who are so close to the President who left who do talk to him frequently about politics because President Bush is a political animal as much, or as more, as anybody who is currently running for President. And he is really has been chomping at the bit to get into involved in this, particularly when it comes to foreign policy, particularly when it comes to Barack Obama. People who have talked to the President who I've spoken to say that he really is frustrated with the idea that Barack Obama, for example, had suggested, even suggested that he would sit down with somebody like Ahmadinejad. That clearly came out in a really an unbelievable way, again, while sitting in the Middle East. Something that we haven't heard in that kind of way publicly, but certainly privately, we understand, that is something he has felt for some time.

[...]

BASH: You know Senator McCain and his campaign understand that this hasn't been a time where he has gotten a lot of attention because of the enormous attention going to the Democratic race. But what he is trying to do in this speech is say, 'it's 2013, my first term is over, and this is the kind of change that I will have enacted in my first term.' Very much, indirectly, but not so subtly, making the case that Barack Obama talks about change but here is how I'm gonna do it. And he really does tick off across the board of things he wants to do […]

Obama Camp Hits Back, Calls this "Unprecedented Attack" Ironic Because Bush's Own Secretary of Defense Has Begun to Engage Iranians (FNC 05/15/08 10:45am)
TOM DASCHLE: Well, I'm shocked and I'm actually very very saddened by what the President has done. This is actually an unprecedented political attack. He doesn't have to use names to know exactly what he's trying to do. We've never seen a President do that before. And I think the ironic thing is that his own Secretary of Defense just in the last couple of weeks has done exactly what Barack Obama has called for and that is to engage with the Iranians. He himself has said that so he probably ought to start by firing his Secretary of Defense if he takes offense at the positions that Barack has made here. I think the most important thing here is to underscore the extraordinary failure of this Administration when it comes to Iran. They are a lot more influential than they were 8 years ago. Their nuclear proliferation program, their nuclear program has expanded and so the very failures he has been unable to address are the ones now he is trying to blame others for so this is something we're ready for. We're gonna engage in this debate. And it's really too bad that in this day, at this point that to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Israel this way is uncalled for and is very very disappointing.

Highlight #3
The Catholic League's Bill Donohue Forgives Pastor Hagee Calling Him "A Man of Great Courage" (FNC 05/15/08 6:50am)
STEVE DOOCY: Televangelist John Hagee, who supports John McCain, has faced a firestorm of criticism for his anti-Catholic rhetoric. Now Hagee has written an apology to Catholic League President Bill Donohue.

ALLIYSON CAMEROTA: And let's get a reaction from Bill Donohue, who joins us now in the studio. Just to remind people, he has said very offensive things about Catholics. He said that Hitler learned his sort of mindset from the Catholic Church. He also called the Catholic Church the 'great prostitute', but he used an even more offensive term. He has since apologized to the Catholic League and you've accepted it. Do you really think he's had a change of heart?

BILL DONOHUE:I do because I knew that something was in the work for about five, six weeks. There are number of people in Washington in particular, Catholics as well as evangelicals, who have been sitting down with him trying to bring him up to speed. The Catholic Church has had some ugly moments with Jews, but don't blame us for the Holocaust, ok? He took the dark side, the black legends that have been sold about the Catholic Church

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and he swallowed it. But people have been talking to him one-on-one, introducing him to certain books which I've recommended myself. And I'll tell you what, this man is a man of courage, as far as I'm concerned. He has given us a public statement of regret, which is very thorough, very complete, touched on all the right areas that I wanted him too. I didn't get one of these 'Well, I'm sorry if you were offended but.' So I commend him for turning the corner on this.

DOOCY: That's a big corner.

DONOHUE: Yes it is because I wrote to him in 1997 about some problems I had with him. But you know I mean there are people who have a readiness to accept the worst about certain peoples but the guy got an education. And he didn't have to do this. He didn't have to be as thorough as he has. I'm in the business of reconciliation too. So as far as I'm concerned this issue is over.

BRIAN KILMEADE: And Bill, do you think, what are you going to be listening for today? Or is this going to be just a formal press conference?

DONOHUE: Well you know I've been asked to meet with Pastor Hagee on a number of occasions. I've said no. The reason I've said no is that I wanted a public statement first that was very complete. I got it, now I'm gonna meet with him in my office this afternoon. He doesn't want any press, I don't care about press as you know. But that's ok, we're just gonna meet together, shake hands and maybe we can come together on issues we have in common.

Donohue Attacks Obama, Says He Supported "Infanticide" Bill in Illinois State Legislature (FNC 05/15/08 6:50am)
ALLIYSON CAMEROTA: And you also called up John McCain to repudiate things that Hagee had said, 'cause Hagee had endorsed John McCain, much in the same way that Barack Obama has recently repudiated things that his controversial Pastor has said. Is that over now?

BILL DONOHUE: Oh yeah. That's been over for some time. McCain, at first, I thought his statement on Hagee was a little bit tepid but then he came forth, very forthrightly. So he buried that hatchet a long time ago. This monkey is off of McCain's back. In the case of Wright and Obama, I'll let the public decide that.

STEVE DOOCY: So you've had a bone to pick with Pastor Hagee, who's a supporter of John McCain. Now you got a problem with Barack Obama and this is historical.

DONOHUE: Well I think Catholics gonna now turn their attention to what happened when he was in the state senate. I want to say this very delicately. When he was in the state senate Barack Obama worked hard against a bill that would provide health care for a baby who survived an abortion. That's exactly, this is called 'selective infanticide.' Now the late Daniel Patrick Monihand and our mayor of New York City, Ed Koch, both said they're pro-choice but when it comes to partial-birth, count me out. We're not talking about partial-birth, we're talking about infanticide. The baby is born and he says do not attend to the baby. There's been a media cover up on this, and I want Catholics and my friends in the evangelical community and Orthodox Jews and others who care about life, as well as all Americans. I can't imagine too many people, even if you're pro-choice, wanting to support a situation where a child is on the doctor's table and you say don't attend to the baby. Where's the discussion on this?

Highlight #4
Robert Gibbs: John McCain Last Year Voted with Bush 95% of the Time (MSNBC 05/15/08
ROBERT GIBBS: I think one of the things independents are gonna have to think about in this election is, in this last year, John McCain voted 95% of the time with the George Bush Administration. I don't many people that work outside of the White House, or John McCain, that believe that George Bush was right 95% of the time last year. […]

Highlight #5
Governor Charlie Crist Touts McCain's Bipartisanship and Green Credentials (FNC 05/15/08 7:50am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: Governor, when John McCain said Global Warming is my number one priority a lot of conservatives passed out. Is that pandering to the left?

CHARLIE CRIST: No, it's doing the right thing. You know, we're very focused on climate change here in Florida, as well. We'll have a summit coming up in June. I think it's extremely important to understand is what you wanna do is try to be good stewards of the land, to protect god's work. You know, we have a wonderful opportunity, life

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is a gift. And to be smart enough to understand, that we wanna make sure that we protect it, that we preserve it, that we do all the things that are necessary to be good stewards of the land and the water. I think is exactly what we ought to be doing.

STEVE DOOCY: Governor, 10 today I believe in Columbus, Ohio John McCain is going to give a speech and he's gonna talk about how this race and politics in general have just gotten so bitterly mean, there's got to be a change.

CRIST: Well he's right. You know, there's no question about it. You know we in Florida try to do things in a bipartisan way. John McCain understands that. He's the kind of guy who reaches across the aisle to work with others to get things done for the American people. It's what we're trying to do right here in Florida. Whether it's get Autism coverage or health insurance for the uninsured, those are the kind of things that people want us to do. They want us to work together to do what's right. John McCain understands that and I applaud him for it.

Highlight #6
MSNBC Panel Discusses McCain's Health Problems, Including 2 Bouts with Melanoma (MSNBC 05/15/08 7:48am)
RICHARD STENGEL: […] that's essentially the argument that Barack Obama will make in opposition to John McCain. He's gonna say to people, "Are you better off now eight years later, after the George Bush administration? Do you want a third term of George Bush?"

PAT ROBERTSON: When you take a look at this McCain thing, you do wonder, the piece on McCain's health. You say he has had, what, Melanoma a couple of times.

STENGEL: Right, Stage 2A Melanoma.

ROBERTSON: And that there's a 40% chance of this recurring again […] We know that there's a 40% risk of metastasized Melanoma coming back even though the primary lesion is taken out. And he's had two primary lesions taken out, is that correct?

STENGEL: He's about to next week release all of his health records, obviously this is a matter of concern. […] When you've had this kind of Melanoma at this stage, the chances of it recurring are 40%. That doesn't mean that it will, that doesn't mean that it will kill you, but it does mean that there is a probability of something like that happening.

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To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/9/2008 7:29:22 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain's Paradox

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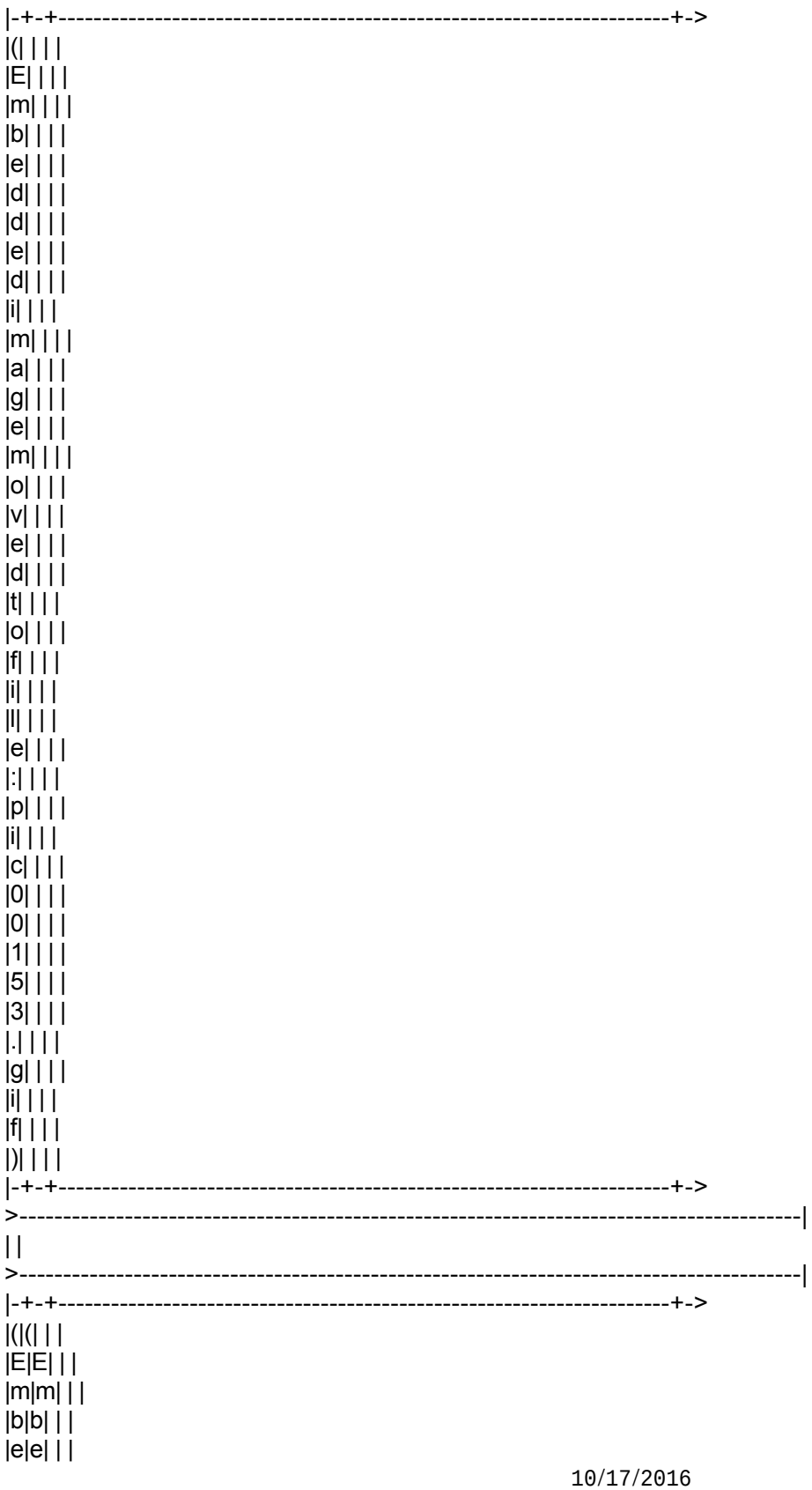

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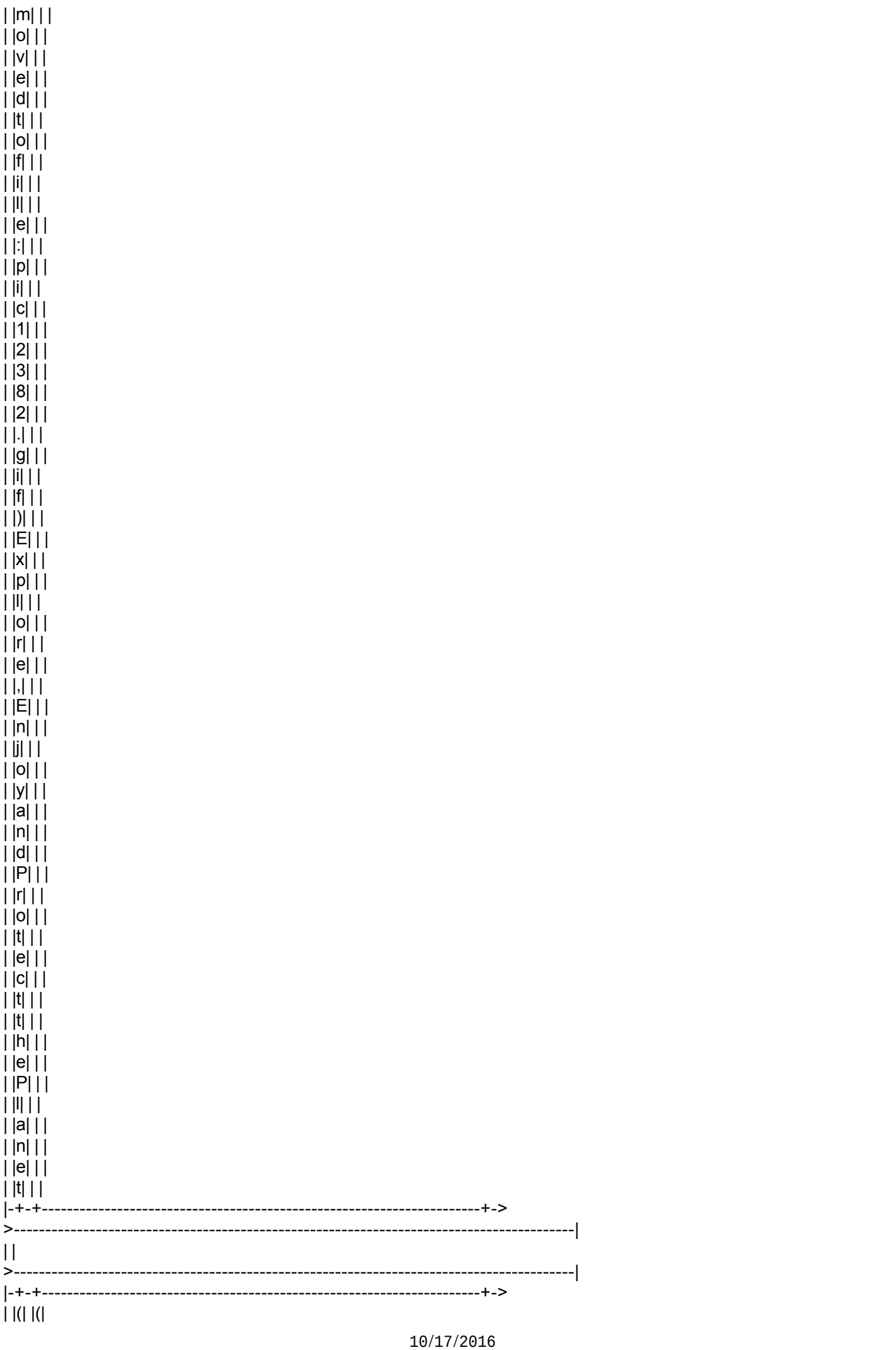

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	m	(Embedded image moved to file: pic18716.gif)RAW: Uncooked Truth,	m
	b	Beyond Belief	b
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	d	Issue #253	d
	e	May 9, 2008	e
	d	McCain's Paradox	d
	i	Dave Willett	i
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	a		a
	g	(Embedded image moved to file: pic19718.jpg)Not even going to try to	g
	e	be funny today. Senator McCain is starting to unveil his environmental	e
	m	message today, with more in-depth policy discussion at the beginning	m
	o	of next week. He can't have been happy about this story in the	o
	v	Washington Post today. Which of course comes only a few weeks after	v
	e	this story in the New York Times.	e
	d		d
	t		t
	o	Both stories basically boil down to sweetheart deals supported by	o
	f	McCain that may have put the interests of developers he knew over the	f
	i	best interests of the public. Now, land swaps in and of themselves are	i
	l	common, often routine, and can in fact be a win-win for everyone when	l
	e	the public gets a fair price for the land it's exchanging. It's	e
	:	unclear with this latest deal whether that was the case.	:
	p		p
	i		i
	c	But more importantly, as the Washington Post put it this morning, "As	c
	1	McCain positions himself as a champion of environmental causes,	1
	7	observers of the Yavapai Ranch swap say it shows a paradox in the	4
	4	senator's positions. At times, he has fought to protect the delicate	7
	2	desert ecosystem. But when wildlife concerns have thwarted	7
	1	development, his loyalties have shifted."	1
	.		.
	g		g
	i	As McCain outlines his overall environmental policies over the coming	i
	f	days, we'll be watching closely to see whether and how this paradox is	f
	)	revealed on other issues as well. We're urging Senator McCain to only	)
		support land swaps that benefit conservation -- not just developers.	
		|And while Senator McCain deserves credit for his work on early global	
		|warming legislation in the Senate and for bringing attention to the	
		|need for urgent action, his efforts to date have been driven by	
		|yesterday's solutions and they won't solve tomorrow's problems. The	
		|science on global warming has changed dramatically over the last five	
		|years and the bill Senator McCain has previously championed is	
		|outdated and fails to provide the big changes Americans are demanding.|
		|Like President Bush, McCain's policies on global warming offer more of|
		|the same, by putting the interests of polluters over the people and	
		|failing to invest in building a clean energy economy that will create	
		|new jobs and opportunities at a time when an economic boost is sorely	
		|needed. Americans want real change -- investment in clean, renewable	
		|energy instead of Big Oil, Nuclear power and other polluting	
		|industries.	
		|We need more windmills not windfalls.	
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From: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 7/17/2015 11:11:07 AM
Subject: Clinton Foundation In The News 7/17/15

Good afternoon! We wanted to give you updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news this week:

Several op-eds about the Clinton Climate Initiative have appeared in newspapers in island nations around the world, to discuss the importance of renewable energy and CCI's work in small island nations. Authored by CCI's CEO Dymphna van der Lans and Jules Kortenhorst, CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), each op-ed outlines the CCI-RMI partnership and the work we do to help islands transition to renewable energy. The op-eds have appeared in The Voice St. Lucia , The Seychelles Nation and The Nassau Guardian.

Share/retweet the St. Lucia piece here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/620276507852820481 and the Bahamas here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/621435457696591873

The inaugural Presidential Leadership Scholars program concluded in Dallas with a final conversation led by President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush. The 60 scholars completed leadership training aimed at helping them develop proposals to increase the social good. The event was covered by USA Today , TIME , The New York Times , CNN and NBC.

Share/retweet the presidents' advice here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/619502948494798848 and a Q&A with a graduate of the program here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/619989678683496448

Frank Giustra, who established the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership with President Clinton, discussed the value of philanthropy in affecting positive change worldwide and emphasized the work of the Clinton Global Initiative in undertaking challenges that were once considered impossible to confront. Read his piece in the Huffington Post here.

Share/retweet about the value of global philanthropy here: https://twitter.com/Frank_Giustra/status/621715591183757312

The American Institute of Architecture Foundation and All Hands Volunteers announced a $3 million reconstruction plan for Nepalese villages that were devastated by the April 25earthquake. The Commitment to Action will not only rebuild homes by the catastrophic earthquake, but also train local architects to construct disaster-resilient homes. Read about the project here .

Share/retweet news about reconstruction here: https://twitter.com/architectmag/status/621406923666104320

Kyle Zimmer, CEO and President of First Book, wrote piece for the Huffington Post about the shocking lack of diversity in children's books. CGI-member First Book launched a CGI Commitment to Action to disperse hundreds of thousands of books that recognize different cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientation, and abilities to children across the country.

Share/retweet about the importance of literacy for all: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/621048989455122432

Mansi Prakesh, a 20-year-old CGI U student, was highlighted in the Christian Science Monitor for her successes in bringing clean energy to developing nations. After discovering that compact florescent bulbs could reduce a family's electricity costs by 80%, Prakesh pledged to bring these bulbs to India. Her Commitment to Action at the 2014 CGI U conference won the Social Ventures Challenge and spurred her first trip.

Share/retweet the progress of Prakesh's NGO here: https://twitter.com/abrightertoday/status/605760084983939073

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Hope you have a great weekend!

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/28/2014 2:04:14 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday July 28, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday July 28, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

National Journal: Neera Tanden: "Working Mother, Washington Powerhouse? Good Luck."

"In late 2006, my old boss Hillary Clinton started talking to me about the ideas that would fuel her presidential campaign."

CNN: "Clinton jokes: Darth Vader would not be my choice for president"

"Instead, Clinton would prefer someone with a not-so-dark disposition. 'Somebody of perhaps a slightly more positive attitude in his presentation,' she said."

The Telegraph (U.K.): "He's arrogant, tough, insecure and charming – but he has such bright blue eyes: Hillary Clinton's verdict on Vladimir Putin"

[Subtitle:] "Hillary Clinton says she warned White House Vladimir Putin would be 'more aggressive' in second shot as Russian president"

The Hill: "Clinton not running away from Wall Street"

"As cries from within her own party grow louder for the all-but-declared 2016 Democratic presidential candidate to distance herself from high finance's titans, Clinton is continuing to address Wall Street audiences."

Politico blog: Politico Now: "Albright: 'The world is a mess'"

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"Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Sunday offered a pithy summary of recent international events: 'To put it mildly: the world is a mess.'"

CNN: "British, U.S. diplomats out of Libya as militia fighting rages"

"GOP critics say they plan to make Benghazi an issue for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, under whose watch the attacks occurred, should she decide to run for president."

Salon: Bill Curry: "My party has lost its soul: Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and the victory of Wall Street Democrats"

"Two years out, Republicans seem headed for a bloody knife fight while Hillary Clinton may be headed for the most decorous, seniority-based succession in either party's history."

Articles:

National Journal: Neera Tanden: "Working Mother, Washington Powerhouse? Good Luck."

By Neera Tanden

July 26, 2014

[Subtitle:] Family-work balance is far from the only challenge powerful women face in this town.

In late 2006, my old boss Hillary Clinton started talking to me about the ideas that would fuel her presidential campaign. I had advised Hillary on policy when she was first lady, Senate candidate, and senator, so it seemed natural that I'd be part of her presidential run. Natural to everyone but me, that is. At the time I had two young children, ages 1 and 4; advising a presidential campaign while caring for them seemed a gargantuan task.

I ached over the decision but ultimately said yes. Unlike most women, I was fortunate in two crucial ways: I had a husband who was truly a co-parent, and I had a boss who would give me the flexibility to do my work while still upholding my responsibilities as a mom. One memorable day, Hillary even flipped her schedule to ensure that I could attend my daughter's pre-K graduation and still run her debate prep. She never gave me less work or responsibility—believe me!—just the ability to do it on a schedule that let me get home for dinner (but not cook it) most nights and allowed me to work through the wee hours of the morning at home. I didn't get much sleep, but it worked.

Today I'm one of just a handful of women running major Washington institutions. But I'm fully aware that I would not be heading the Center for American Progress, as a mother of two, without being so lucky in my husband and former boss. I had the chance to step up in my career when my kids were young, not step back. That's impossible for most women in the U.S.

Because working women still shoulder the lion's share of caregiving at home, inadequate public policies mean that far too many professional women leave the workforce during the prime of their careers to bond with a new baby or care for a sick parent. When they return to work, they are forever behind their peers, both in the leadership pack and in earning potential.

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The mores of high-pressure jobs in Washington—which emphasize long hours and put a premium on face time with the higher-ups—convince a lot of women that they can't succeed at the highest level and be good moms. But mores are a function of culture, and we can shape the culture. That's why, at CAP, we expect excellent work, but if a parent has to leave the office to take a child to the doctor, nobody sweats it.

Of course, family/work balance is far from the only challenge powerful women face in this town. And if you're a woman of color, well, watch out. I vividly remember one meeting with business leaders and academics early in Hillary's presidential campaign; at the time I was in my late 30s and rising through the ranks. I had called the meeting, and was doing most of the talking. But many of the men around the table aimed their questions right past me, to my white, male deputy. I could also see them looking to him for confirmation of what I was saying.

At first I thought it was because I was young. But then I realized my deputy looked half my age. Did they not see me as a leader because I was a woman? Because I was Indian? Because I was short? Because I was all three? I will never know. But I do know they didn't, or couldn't, see me as an authority figure.

What holds back women in Washington is not so much that they lack the proverbial "seat at the table"; after all, I wasn't just sitting at the table in that meeting, it was my table. It's not how they negotiate their salaries, either, or when they choose to have children, or whether they "lean in" enough; Washington has no shortage of brilliant, assertive young women. They are held back by a culture that often marginalizes their voices, by a society that undervalues their work, and by public policy that fails to support and empower them. You shouldn't have to win the boss lottery, or the husband lottery, to be able to thrive professionally while raising your children. But that's still the reality for too many.

CNN: "Clinton jokes: Darth Vader would not be my choice for president"

By Marina Cracchiolo

July 27, 2014, 4:44 p.m. EDT

Attention potential presidential candidates: Beware of the dark side.

A recent tongue-in-cheek analysis shows Americans prefer Darth Vader more than any potential 2016 presidential candidate. Never mind that Darth Vader has done some pretty evil things across the "Star Wars" films, including blowing up planets and torturing his own son, Luke Skywalker.

What does former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton think?

Clinton chuckled when asked during a taped interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria that aired Sunday on "CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS."

"Darth would not be my choice," she joked.

Instead, Clinton would prefer someone with a not-so-dark disposition. "Somebody of perhaps a slightly more positive attitude in his presentation," she said.

A poll from earlier this week, from FiveThirtyEight.com, showed results of who was most – and least – popular among "Star Wars" characters. A Washington Post blog then took those numbers and compared them to favorability numbers of potential 2016 presidential candidates.

In the Post's analysis, Clinton was the front-runner of any politician on this planet, though she still trailed Vader. Republicans Mike Huckabee and Sen. Rand Paul trailed her.

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Amid her laughter, Clinton offered a somewhat serious answer.

"I think the deeper meaning is that people love fantasies," she said, highlighting Americans' frustration "with the gridlock in Washington."

Clinton remains undecided about a possible 2016 presidential run.

The Telegraph (U.K.): "He's arrogant, tough, insecure and charming – but he has such bright blue eyes: Hillary Clinton's verdict on Vladimir Putin"

By Rosa Prince

July 27, 2014, 8:32 p.m. BST

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton says she warned White House Vladimir Putin would be 'more aggressive' in second shot as Russian president

Hillary Clinton has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as "tough" and "arrogant" but says he secretly suffers from a "fundamental insecurity" and can turn on the charm when he wants to.

The former First Lady, US Secretary of State and potential future presidential candidate, described her experiences of dealing with Mr Putin on the world stage, saying he would turn his "bright blue eyes" on those he wanted to dazzle.

Revealing she had sent memos warning US president Barack Obama that the Russian leader was likely to be more "aggressive" following his return to the presidency, she also said he bore indirect responsibility for the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 over Ukraine last month, having armed pro-Russian separatists.

"He's very tough, he's a very arrogant person to deal with, which I think is a combination of this vision of Russia and this fundamental insecurity," she told CNN.

"When you are with him he often acts as if he could care less; he's not interested. He acts bored and dismissive. So he has a lot of personas that he pulls out.

"If he wants to stare intently at you with his very bright blue eyes, because he wants something from you, or he wants to convey a message to you, he can turn on the charm.

"But he can also be very tough to deal with and act as though it's a burden on him to be in conversations with other world leaders."

Mrs Clinton claimed she was among the most "sceptical" within the Obama administration about Mr Putin following his return to the presidency in 2012, having stood down in 2008, saying: "I certainly made my views known in meetings, as well as in memos to the president.

"I think that what may have happened is that both the United States and Europe were really hoping for the best from Putin as a returned president. And I think we've been quickly, unfortunately, disabused of those hopes."

Mrs Clinton's scathing assessment of President Putin is the latest sally in a war of words between the two.

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Last month, he rejected her claim that he had acted like Hitler in annexing Crimea, describing her as “weak” and saying "It's better not to argue with women."

He went on: “Mrs Clinton has never been too graceful in her statements.

"When people push boundaries too far, it's not because they are strong but because they are weak. But maybe weakness is not the worst quality for a woman."

The Hill: “Clinton not running away from Wall Street”

By Kevin Cirilli

July 28, 2014, 3:49 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton isn’t backing away from Wall Street.

As cries from within her own party grow louder for the all-but-declared 2016 Democratic presidential candidate to distance herself from high finance’s titans, Clinton is continuing to address Wall Street audiences.

This week she’ll speak at an Ameriprise Financial conference in Boston. She’s also been booked or given paid speeches at events sponsored by Fidelity, KKR and Co., the Carlyle Groups and Goldman Sachs.

Supporters of Clinton argue there’s no need for her to change her schedule.

They say her career is highlighted with support for liberals ideals, from raising the minimum wage to improving healthcare.

Giving a speech to a financial firm means nothing in that context, said veteran Democratic strategist Robert Shurm.

“Yeah, for some there's a desire to bash banks, but they care more about raising minimum wage, making college affordable and income inequality,” Shrum said. “And for Hillary, that's the test — not whether she gave a speech for Ameriprise.”

Liberals say the problem goes beyond the speeches. They worry that if Clinton becomes president, she’ll back policies they see as having contributed to the financial crisis. They want to at least pressure Clinton to move to the left on financial issues in a Democratic primary race.

“It's not about the pure fact that she's speaking to Wall Street,” griped Charles Chamberlain, executive director of the liberal Democracy For America. “The problem is these speeches give the impression that she's still in the Wall Street wing of the party.”

Chamberlain notes that President Clinton backed the 1999 repeal of the Glass Steagall banking law requiring commercial banks to split off their investment banking operations.

Many on the left argue its repeal contributed to the financial crisis, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has championed reinstating it.

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Warren has given no indication she's interested in entering the 2016 race, but she might be the one figure on the left who could emerge as a serious challenger to Clinton.

Chamberlain said he'd like to see Clinton move toward what he called the "Warren wing" of the Democratic party.

People in Clinton's camp scoff at such suggestions.

"Ask any so-called 'left' or 'liberal' critic of Hillary to name a single vote or position on issue on which Elizabeth Warren and Hillary would disagree," said one Clinton political strategist. "Rhetoric is not an acceptable answer."

Spokespersons for Clinton declined to comment for this story

Polls suggest that if Clinton enters the race for the 2016 Democratic nomination for president, she will be an overwhelming favorite.

She garnered 67 percent of Florida Democratic presidential primary voters, according to a Quinnipiac poll released last week. Warren nabbed just eight percent, as did Vice President Biden.

Republicans have signaled that they will try to tie Clinton to Wall Street if she is the Democratic Party's nominee.

"What exactly does Hillary stand for: Main Street? Wall Street? No one knows," mused GOP strategist Ford O'Connell. "She seems to be talking out of both sides of her mouth."

But Shrum and others argue those attacks aren't going to work.

Shrum noted that Barack Obama received considerable support from Wall Street during both his 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, and that it didn't prevent him from winning his party's nomination or the White House.

Politico blog: Politico Now: "Albright: 'The world is a mess'"

By Jose Delreal

July 27, 2014, 11:57 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Sunday offered a pithy summary of recent international events: "To put it mildly: the world is a mess."

"There are an awful lot of things going on that need understanding and explanation," Albright told host Bob Schieffer on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Albright's appearance comes as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates and events in Ukraine continue to put a strain on US-Russian relations. The former secretary and Schieffer went on to discuss the saturation of international news in recent months and marveled at the the lack of media coverage surrounding the ongoing conflict in Syria and the temporary closure of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

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“Can you recall a time when there was so much trouble in so many places around the world?” asked Schieffer. “We have so much going on right now, it’s almost like we’re caught up in events out of control.”

Albright offered praise for Secretary of State John Kerry's efforts to put impose a cease-fire in Gaza.

“I so admire Secretary Kerry for all the effort he’s put into this,” said Albright. “I think Secretary Kerry is doing everything he can at this moment to prolong the short peaceful cease-fires. It’s a tough sell for everybody.”

CNN: “British, U.S. diplomats out of Libya as militia fighting rages”

By Alan Duke

July 27, 2014, 1:36 p.m. EDT

A convoy of British diplomats made it safely into Tunisia from Libya despite an attack on its vehicles Sunday, British officials said.

"There was an attempted carjacking of a British Embassy convoy this morning," UK Ambassador Michael Aron said in a Twitter posting Sunday. "Shots were fired at our vehicles but all safe."

Several Western embassies, including those of Britain and the United States, were evacuated over the weekend as heavy militia violence raged in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

The German government renewed its "urgent call for citizens to leave Libya" because of the dangers of kidnappings and fighting.

Britain warned its citizens against all travel to Libya and asked that any of them in the country "leave now" by commercial means, which is made difficult by the limited flights out of the main airport.

'Libya is reaching a critical stage'

Fighting in Tripoli and Benghazi is the worst seen since the revolution that overthrew the regime of Moammar Gadhafi nearly three years ago. The central government has been outgunned by increasingly powerful militias.

Witnesses reported heavy shelling and fighting around the Tripoli international airport Sunday, which has been under attack by an alliance of powerful militias from the city of Misrata and Islamist militias. The fighters are trying to take it from militias from the city of Zintan, which have controlled it since the 2011 revolution.

Dozens of people, including some women and children, died in fighting in Benghazi in recent days, according to the Libyan state news agency. Intense shelling continued Sunday, the reports said. Violence erupted in Benghazi last Monday when Islamist militias attacked military bases in the city.

The Libyan Health Ministry said at least 32 people who were killed and 62 wounded were taken to the Benghazi medical center on Saturday and Sunday.

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The ministry counted at least 97 killed and 404 wounded in Tripoli over the past two weeks. The casualty numbers do not count those taken to smaller field hospitals.

Envoys from the Arab League, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States issued a joint statement Saturday calling for "a ceasefire from all sides."

"The situation in Libya is reaching a critical stage. We are deeply concerned about the ongoing violence across the country and its humanitarian consequences," the envoys said. The statement called for "a willingness to compromise" by all sides in "an inclusive political dialogue on the back of the ceasefire agreement."

U.N. 'should play a leading role'

The United Nations "should play a leading role in reaching a ceasefire in conjunction with the Libyan government and other internal partners, with the full support of the international envoys," the statement said.

The U.N. and other international organizations and businesses temporarily evacuated staff from Libya earlier this month.

The envoys also said Libya's recently elected Council of Representatives "must have the opportunity to convene according to the time table set out in the law" and "carry out its tasks in a spirit of inclusiveness, moderation and in the interest of the country."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, at the U.S. Embassy in Paris meeting with the Turkish and Qatari foreign ministersSaturday, called upon various factions to engage in a political process, saying "the current course of violence would only bring chaos." Kerry added that due to the "freewheeling militia violence that is taking place in Tripoli" the U.S., along with other countries including Turkey, has "suspended our current diplomatic activities at the Embassy."

'Robust package of military forces' standing by

The U.S. evacuated its 150 personnel, including 80 U.S. Marines, from the embassy in Tripoli on Saturday. Their convoy drove across the border into Tunisia, U.S. officials confirm to CNN.

U.S. officials stress operations have been "temporarily suspended" until "the security situation on the ground improves." The embassy will continue to operate from other locations. A senior State Department official said some of the staff will be sent to other U.S. embassies in the region and others will return to Washington.

U.S. President Barack Obama approved the State Department recommendation to temporarily relocate personnel because of the "ongoing violence resulting from clashes between Libyan militias in the immediate vicinity" of the embassy, a White House official said.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the United States is "currently exploring options for a permanent return to Tripoli as soon as the security situation on the ground improves. In the interim, staff will operate from Washington and other posts in the region," Harf said in a statement.

"Securing our facilities and ensuring the safety of our personnel are top Department priorities, and we did not make this decision lightly. Security has to come first. Regrettably, we had to take this step because the location of our embassy is in very close proximity to intense fighting and ongoing violence between armed Libyan factions."

The Pentagon had a "robust package of military forces" in the vicinity but out of sight, ready to move in if the convoy of evacuees had come under attack. Two F-16s were on combat air patrol overhead, while a drone tracked the convoy to the border and a Navy destroyer watched from offshore in the Mediterranean, CNN learned. An "airborne response force" of several dozen Marines was on V-22 Osprey aircraft flying nearby, prepared to land and protect the Americans if they came under attack during the transit to the Tunisian border.

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The Pentagon had pressed for weeks to evacuate the embassy, especially after the Tripoli airport came under repeated militia attack, leaving Americans no way to get out via commercial air, the official said. The decision to use vehicles to drive the Americans across the border was seen as the best low-profile approach to conducting the evacuation rather than sending U.S. military helicopters and troops into Tripoli.

This comes nearly two years after attacks on U.S. government facilities in the Libyan city of Benghazi. The assaults of September 11-12, 2012, left four Americans dead, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, and spawned political controversy in Washington. Republican lawmakers have claimed the Obama administration tried to mislead the public about the cause of the attacks and should have done more to prevent them.

GOP critics say they plan to make Benghazi an issue for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, under whose watch the attacks occurred, should she decide to run for president.

Salon: Bill Curry: "My party has lost its soul: Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and the victory of Wall Street Democrats"

By Bill Curry, White House counselor to President Clinton and a two-time Democratic nominee for governor of Connecticut

July 27, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] A former Clinton aide on how Democrats lost their way chasing Wall Street cash, and new populism the party needs

1.

In 2006 the Atlantic magazine asked a panel of "eminent historians" to name the 100 most influential people in American history. Included alongside George Washington, Abe Lincoln, Mark Twain and Elvis Presley was Ralph Nader, one of only three living Americans to make the list. It was airy company for Nader, but if you think about it, an easy call.

Though a private citizen, Nader shepherded more bills through Congress than all but a handful of American presidents. If that sounds like an outsize claim, try refuting it. His signature wins included landmark laws on auto, food, consumer product and workplace safety; clean air and water; freedom of information, and consumer, citizen, worker and shareholder rights. In a century only Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson passed more major legislation.

Nader's also the only American ever to start a major social or political movement all by himself. The labor, civil rights and women's movements all had multiple mothers and fathers, as did each generation's peace and antiwar movements. Not so the consumer movement, which started out as just one guy banging away at a typewriter. Soon he was a national icon, seen leaning into Senate microphones on TV or staring down the establishment from the covers of news magazines.

What lifted Nader to such heights was the 1965 publication of "Unsafe at Any Speed," an exposé of the auto industry's sociopathic indifference to the health and safety of its customers. In little more than a year Congress put seat belts in every new car and created the forerunners of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Washington's rapid response affirmed Nader's belief that people provided with critical facts will demand change and that sooner than one might expect politicians, however listless or corrupt, will give it to them. This faith in the power of ideas and of public opinion — in the educability of people and thus in the viability of democracy — distinguishes Nader from much of what remains of the American left.

For nearly 30 years Nader largely abstained from electoral politics while turning out a steady stream of testimony and books. But his influence waned. By the late '70s the linked forces of corporate and cultural reaction we memorialize as the Reagan Revolution were gathering force. In 1978 Nader lost a pivotal battle to establish a federal consumer protection agency as key Democrats, including Jimmy Carter, whom Nader had informally blessed in 1976, fled the field.

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In Reagan's epic 1980 sweep the GOP picked up 12 Senate seats, the biggest gain of the last 60 years for either party. Nader had done his best business with Democrats, especially the liberal lions of the Senate; men like Warren Magnuson, Gaylord Nelson, Birch Bayh and George McGovern, all swept out to sea in the Reagan riptide. In the House, a freshman Democrat from California, Tony Coelho, took over party fundraising. It's arguable that Coehlo's impact on his party was as great as Reagan's on his. It is inarguable that Coehlo set Democrats on an identity-altering path toward ever closer ties to big business and, especially, Wall Street.

In 1985 moderate Democrats including Bill Clinton and Al Gore founded the Democratic Leadership Council, which proposed innovative policies while forging ever closer ties to business. Clinton would be the first Democratic presidential nominee since FDR and probably ever to raise more money than his Republican opponent. (Even Barry Goldwater outraised Lyndon Johnson.) In 2008 Obama took the torch passed to Clinton and became the first Democratic nominee to outraise a GOP opponent on Wall Street. His 2-to-1 spending advantage over John McCain broke a record Richard Nixon set in his drubbing of George McGovern.

Throughout the 1980s Nader watched as erstwhile Democratic allies vanished or fell into the welcoming arms of big business. By the mid-'90s the whole country was in a swoon over the new baby-faced titans of technology and global capital. If leading Democrats thought technology threatened anyone's privacy or employment or that globalization threatened anyone's wages, they kept it to themselves. In his contempt for oligarchs of any vintage and rejection of the economic and political democratization myths of the new technology Nader seemed an anachronism.

His critics would later say Nader was desperate for attention. For certain he was desperate to reengage the nation in a debate over the concentration of wealth and power; desperate enough by 1992 to run for president. His first race was a sort of novelty campaign — he ran in New Hampshire's Democratic and Republican primaries "as a stand in for none of the above." But the experience proved habit-forming and he got more serious as he went along. In 1996 and 2000 he ran as the nominee of the Green Party and in 2004 and 2008 as an independent.

The campaigns defined him for a new generation, but he never stopped writing. His latest book, "Unstoppable," argues for the existence and utility of an "emerging left-right alliance to dismantle the corporate state." The book is vintage Nader and ranks with his best. The questions it poses should greatly interest progressives. The question is, will any read it.

It's a question because on top of all the hurdles facing even celebrity authors today, Nader is estranged from much of his natural readership. It goes back, of course, to his third race for president, the one that gave us George W. Bush, John Roberts, Sam Alito, the Iraq War and a colossal debt. Democrats blame Nader for all of it. Some say he not only cost Al Gore the 2000 election but did it on purpose. Nader denies both charges. Both are more debatable than either he or his critics allow.

In 1996 I served as counselor to President Clinton and met often with Nader to discuss that campaign. Early on he told me he wouldn't be a spoiler. Judging by his message and schedule and the deployment of his meager resources, he was true to his word. In 2000 his allocation of resources was little changed: He spent 20 days in deep blue California, two in Florida; hardly a spoiler's itinerary. But he was in Florida at the end and his equation throughout of Gore with Bush — "Tweedledum and Tweedledee" — outraged Democrats.

The Democrats' dismissal of Nader in 2000 was of a piece with our personality-driven politics: a curmudgeon on steroids; older now and grumpier; driven by ego and personal grievance. But Nader always hit hard; you don't get to be the world's most famous shopper by making allowances or pulling punches. The difference was that in 2000 Democrats as well as Republicans bore the brunt of his attacks. What had changed? It says a lot about the Democratic Party then and now that nobody bothered to ask the question, the answer to which is, a whole lot.

Between 1996 and 2000 the Wall Street Democrats who by then ruled the party's upper roosts scored their first big legislative wins. Until then their impact was most visible in the quietude of Congress, which had not enacted any major social or economic reforms since the historic environmental laws of the early '70s. It was the longest such stretch since the 19th century, but no one seemed to notice.

In the late '70s, deregulation fever swept the nation. Carter deregulated trucks and airlines; Reagan broke up Ma Bell, ending real oversight of phone companies. But those forays paled next to the assaults of the late '90s. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 had solid Democratic backing as did the Financial Services Modernization Act of 1999. The communications bill authorized a massive giveaway of public airwaves to big business and ended the ban on cross ownership of media. The resultant concentration of ownership hastened the rise of hate radio and demise of local news and public affairs programming across America. As for the "modernization" of financial services, suffice to say its effect proved even more devastating. Clinton signed and still defends both bills with seeming enthusiasm.

The Telecommunications Act subverted anti-trust principles traceable to Wilson. The financial services bill gutted Glass-Steagall, FDR's historic banking reform. You'd think such reversals would spark intra-party debate but Democrats made barely a peep. Nader was a vocal critic of both bills. Democrats, he said, were betraying their heritage and, not incidentally, undoing his life's work. No one wanted to hear it. When Democrats noticed him again in 2000 the only question they thought to ask was, what's got into Ralph? Such is politics in the land of the lotus eaters.

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The furor over Nader arose partly because issues of economic and political power had, like Nader himself, grown invisible to Democrats. As Democrats continued on the path that led from Coehlo to Clinton to Obama, issues attendant to race, culture and gender came to define them. Had they nominated a pro-lifer in 2000 and Gloria Steinem run as an independent it's easy to imagine many who berated Nader supporting her. Postmortems would have cited the party's abandonment of principle as a reason for its defeat. But Democrats hooked on corporate cash and consultants with long lists of corporate clients were less attuned to Nader's issues.

Democrats today defend the triage liberalism of social service spending but limit their populism to hollow phrase mongering (fighting for working families, Main Street not Wall Street). The rank and file seem oblivious to the party's long Wall Street tryst. Obama's economic appointees are the most conservative of any Democratic president since Grover Cleveland but few Democrats seem to notice, or if they notice, to care.

2.

There's much talk lately of a "populist" revival but few can say what a populist is. Like "liberal"and "conservative," it's a word best used with conscious imprecision. As apt to indicate a sensibility as a theory, it's often just an epithet, the conjured image being one of class envy and fist-shaking anger. But populism can be civil; Huey Long was a populist, but so was Will Rogers. It has conservative as well as liberal elements. Populists espouse traditional values. They loathe bureaucracy, public or private. They seldom raise taxes and never on the poor or middle class.

The best template of populism remains the career of William Jennings Bryan. Like Jefferson and Jackson, Bryan railed against big banks. He thought it in the nature of big businesses to oppress small businesses and to corrupt government. He despised the gross income inequality of his day. His proposed graduated income tax left the lower and middle classes alone.

Bryan took the national stage decrying banks in his Cross of Gold speech and left it denying evolution at the Scopes trial. He didn't become a Bible-thumper in old age, he'd always been one. And he never altered his view of banks. He reminds us that populism can be economic or cultural — the first tends to reform, the second to repression — and that both species may abide in the same person. For a century the parties divided populism between them; Democrats ran the Cross of Gold speech at Republicans. Republicans ran the Scopes trial at them. Then Democrats decided to let Republicans have both cultural and economic populism. It was some gift.

Populism encompasses not just Bryan's late 19th century agrarians but their close relations, the early 20th century urban progressives and countless descendants of each. Jefferson and Jackson are called fathers of both populism and the Democratic Party. Jackson and Bryan are the only Democrats other than FDR to be nominated three times for president. All populists share common traits: love of small business; high standards of public ethics; concern for individuals, families and communities; suspicion of elites and of all economic trusts, combinations and cartels.

Some recent populist talk is owing to the election of two liberals, Elizabeth Warren and Bill de Blasio. (Liberals taking Massachusetts or Manhattan didn't used to be news.) It's unclear how well they and other Democratic liberals can tap populist sentiment. In any case, Democrats are late to the populist dance. Mass protests of corrupt oligarchies have roiled global politics for a decade. In America the Tea Party has been crying crony capitalism since the Bush bailout and Obama stimulus. Income inequality's so bad Mitt Romney wants to raise the minimum wage.

Even the Democrats' tardy me-too-ism seems insincere, less a churning of policy than a freshening of message. In 2009, when he had the votes in Congress, Obama chose not to raise the minimum wage. Not till late 2013 did Democrats press the issue. Why then? As the New York Times reported, "they found an issue they believe can lift their fortunes both locally and nationally in 2014." If there's a true populist revolt on the left it is as yet invisible to the naked eye.

Meanwhile the populist revolt on the right persists. In 2010 the Tea Party declared open season on GOP incumbents. It has since bagged quite a few. But Republicans don't just fight over offices, they fight over ideas. It's hard to track all the players in their endless policy scrum: Heritage, American Enterprise, Focus on the Family, Club for Growth, etc. Rand Paul pilfers Democratic issues like a fox stealing chickens while dynasty star Jeb Bush grapples with such timeless questions as whether there can be such a thing as a conservative social program.

Democrats aren't even having a debate. Their one think tank, the Center for American Progress, serves their establishment. (Its founder, John Podesta, once Clinton's chief of staff, is now counselor to Obama.) The last real primary challenge to a Democratic senator was in 2006 when Ned Lamont took on Connecticut's Joe Lieberman. They say the GOP picks presidents based on seniority. Two years out, Republicans seem headed for a bloody knife fight while Hillary Clinton may be headed for the most decorous, seniority-based succession in either party's history. (If she loses this time it will be to herself.)

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If Democrats had caught populist fever they'd be reappraising their own orthodoxy and offing a few of their own incumbents. Owing only partly to the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, they instead spend their days as Republicans do, in an endless search for new ways to help the rich pump money into politics. As public alienation deepens, polls show Democrats generally content with their party's leaders. Of such stuff revolutions are not made.

3.

Which brings us back to Nader's book. It opens with a story of left and right banding together in 1982 to stop construction of Tennessee's Clinch River Breeder Reactor. Authorized in 1972, by 1977 this "public private partnership" had spent $1.3 billion of public money ($4.5 billion in current dollars) on preconstruction costs. That's when Jimmy Carter pulled its plug. Or thought he did.

In 1981 the Reagan administration revived it. It looked good to go until Arkansas Sen. Dale Bumpers convened an ad hoc coalition of liberals opposed to nuclear waste and conservatives opposed to wasting money. Its sublimely eclectic membership included the International Association of Machinists, the National Taxpayers Union and the Audubon Society. What happened next was Reagan and his allies in Congress got rolled. By 1983 the project was dead, this time for good.

Nader cites other issues, most culled from his own experience, on which left and right collaborated. He predicts convergence on topics ranging from civil liberties to defense, corporate welfare and open government. He assays 25 ideas he deems ripe for alliances and the strategies for forming them. He says all appeal to a growing populist movement. It's this movement he calls unstoppable.

Nader's belief in convergence isn't the same as Obama's naïve pursuit of the holy grail of bipartisanship. He doesn't say Democrats and Republicans can talk away their differences, only that some of them can work on issues on which they haven't any. He concedes that doing even that much is hard for Republicans, for whom it often proves fatal to work with Democrats even on Republican ideas.

To many, Nader's vision will seem naïve, as will the book's very title. Surely a lesson of our time is that all progress is stoppable. Not long ago optimism was in vogue. Obama's slogan then was "Yes we can." Today it could be "It turns out we can't." His basic brief: "With an economy so broken, government so broke, politics so corrupt and Republicans so crazy, no one could do better, so quit whining: from now on, this is as good as it gets." Better the Obama of 2008, or the Nader of today who insists "pessimism has no place in a democracy."

Some of the ideas in "Unstoppable" may seem small bore: defending whistle-blowers, auditing defense budgets, loosening restrictions on standing to sue. Some need elaboration — encouraging community-based businesses, reforming government procurement — while others seem too long a reach: tying the minimum wage to inflation, getting Congress to do its constitutional duty on declaring war. But all relate to systemic reforms Democrats no longer espouse.

Democrats envy Republicans their knack for framing issues in foundational values: thrift, hard work, family, patriotism. Nader espouses values that form the very substratum of American culture. He often cites lessons learned as a child, listening to his dad talk politics in the family restaurant or tagging along with his mom to town meetings. He doesn't tell these tales as politicians do, for mere nostalgic connection, but to make the case for community and small business, to defend families from the commoditization of privacy and the commercialization of childhood and, above all, to spark a revival of the grass roots, New England-style democracy of his youth. One may call such values liberal or conservative, or simply say they are rooted in American populism.

Republicans can talk values even while defending a corrupt status quo because, recent Tea Party convulsions aside, defending the status quo is their job. The Democrats' job is to challenge the status quo; when they don't do it, nothing they say sounds sincere. Nader's words resonate because they're rooted in a populist tradition and connected to a populist vision. Democratic rhetoric rings hollow because it's no longer rooted in any tradition or connected to any vision.

4.

What agrarian populists did best was battle cartels and advocate for a kind of homegrown communitarian capitalism. They busted price fixing railroads and granaries, fought for rural free delivery and established cooperative banks that still provide a third of all credit to rural America. Most amazing, they did it all via Congress amid the venality of the first Gilded Age. Powerful trusts were turning farmers into wage slaves and the world's greatest democracy into just another corrupt oligarchy when Populists and Progressives rose as if from nowhere to stop them.

Parallels to our own time could hardly be clearer. Like invasive species destroying the biodiversity of a pond, today's global trusts swallow up

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everything smaller than themselves. The rules of global trade make organizing for higher wages next to impossible in developed and undeveloped countries alike. Fights for net neutrality and public Wi-Fi are exactly like the fight for rural free delivery. Small businesses are as starved for credit as small farmers ever were. PACs are our Tammany Hall. What's missing is a powerful, independent reform movement.

Republicans make their livings off the misappropriation of populism. Democrats by their silence assist them. Rand Paul is more forceful than any Democrat on privacy and the impulse to empire. The Tea Party rails loudest against big banks and corporate corruption. Even on cultural issues Democrats don't really lead: Your average college student did more than your average Democratic congressman to advance gay marriage.

It's hard for Democrats to see that their problems arise from their own mistakes. Obama called the 2008 recession "the worst since the Great Depression." It wasn't; by most measures — jobs, wages, exports — it was the worst since 1982. The valid comparison to the 1930s is that now as then all our vital institutions are broken. Our healthcare, banking, energy and transit systems are badly broken. Our defense policy is obsolete. Politics is a cesspool. Oddly, the one system working relatively well, public education, is the object of our only sustained reform effort.

Mistaking the nature of the crisis, Obama mistook massive fraud for faulty computer modeling and a middle-class meltdown for a mere turn of the business cycle. Had he grasped his situation he'd have known the most he could do by priming the pump would be to reinflate the bubble. Contrast him to FDR, who saw the systemic nature of his crisis. To banks Roosevelt offered only reform; financial help went to customers whose bad mortgages he bought up and whose savings he insured. By buying into Bush's bailout, Obama co-signed the biggest check ever cut by a government, made out to the culprits, not the victims. As for his stimulus, it didn't cure the disease and hefty portions of it smelled like pork.

Populist rage against the bailout and stimulus saved the Republican Party. In 2006 it had lost Congress, in 2008 the White House. Younger voters recoiled from its racial and religious politics. Middle-class decline had even devout Christians focused on family finances. That's when Democrats handed over title to economic populism. Absent the bailout and stimulus it's hard to imagine the Tea Party being born, Republicans retaking Congress or the government being so utterly paralyzed.

Liberals have spent the intervening years debating macroeconomic theory but macroeconomics can't fathom this crisis. This isn't just a slow recovery from a financial sector collapse, or damage done by debt overhang or Obama's weak tea Keynesianism. We're in crisis because of all our broken systems; because we still let big banks prey on homeowners, students, consumers and retailers; because our infrastructure is decrepit; because our tax code breeds inefficiency and inequality; because foreign interventions bled us dry. We're in peril because our democracy is dying. Reviving it will take more than deficit spending and easy money. It will take reform, and before that, a whole new political debate.

5.

Reading "Unstoppable" reminds one of Nader's standing among the '60s reformers who formed populism's last great wave. The book is drenched in populist themes: distrust of big business and big government, faith in democracy and contempt for its corrupters, defense of all things small — towns, businesses, people — against the inevitable predations of all things big. Among its lessons for would be populists:

Populism isn't about spending. Of Nader's 25 proposals none costs any money. Eight actually save money. By cleaning up Reagan's fiscal mess Bill Clinton made Democrats the party of fiscal responsibility. With the bailout and stimulus Obama handed the issue back to Republicans. Populists know we have a choice: change the rules or write the check. And they know which choice generally works best. If instead of a bailout and stimulus Obama raised the minimum wage, secured a public option, rescued homeowners and cut defense there'd be no budget crisis today and he'd be a folk hero instead of a punching bag.

Populists challenge big business. Apart from global warming, our most pressing problem is the mal-distribution of power, opportunity and income. In their denial, Democrats think they can compete with Republicans for Wall Street cash and still "fight for working families," but on many issues — wages, credit costs, tax burdens — there really are two sides. Soon even the party's base will ask which side it is on.

Populists stand up for small business. We think of small business as Republican. Not necessarily. In a 2012 poll of small-business owners, a majority picked Obama over Romney, a choice their Washington lobbyists were at pains to explain way. No constituency gets more lip service and less actual service than small business, which is why it's always up for grabs. Nader's small town, small business populism speaks to it like nothing else can. Small business has never been, or felt, more threatened. A party that earns its trust can govern a long time.

Populists care about ethics. So do voters. In two recent rounds of exit polls voters named corruption their top concern over jobs and the economy, this in the teeth of a "jobless recovery." In 2008 Obama closed stump speeches with vows to "curb lobbyists' power" and "change Washington's culture." Voters thought he meant to make it more honest. It turns out he only meant to make it more polite, and even in that he failed. His longest list of unkept promises is the one titled "ethics and open government." Few among party elites have any sense of the price he has paid.

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Populism changes with the issues and times. Ethics means even more to us than it did to the early populists. Technology has made privacy a populist issue. The bankruptcy of our foreign and defense policies elevates those issues. Populism is relevant to global warming. Its frugality fosters conservation. Its decentralization supports everything from local farms to distributed generation. Its anti-corporate ethos is a key to any credible effort to curb the influence of the fossil fuel industry.

It pains us to watch Democrats bungle populist issues. We see Rand Paul corner the market on privacy and the scrutiny of defense budgets and wonder why no Democrat rises to expose his specious rantings. We yearn for a new politics but worry that our democracy, like that Antarctic ice shelf, has reached its tipping point. For things to improve Democrats must come up with better ideas and learn how to present them. So why don't they?

One reason is that today's Democrats think politics is all about marketing. While Republicans built think tanks Democrats built relationships with celebrity pollsters. When things go awry one pops up on TV to tell us how they "lost control of the narrative." Asked to name a flaw, Obama invariably cites his failure to "tell our story." Judging by his recent book, Tim Geithner thinks failing to tell his story was the only mistake he ever made. People don't hate the bailout because Tim Geithner gives bad speeches. They hate it because their mortgages are still underwater.

Democrats must learn that policy precedes message; figure out what you believe, then how to tell people about it. A good idea advertises itself.

Democrats must also learn to argue history. They chortle when Michele Bachmann credits the founders with ending slavery or Sarah Palin forgets who Paul Revere rode to warn. Yet they let the right turn our founding myths into pulp propaganda with nary a reply from any but academics. In "Unstoppable" Nader enlists Jefferson, Adam Smith, Friederich Hayek and a raft of others to buttress his case and reclaim valuable ground.

Democrats think the power of money is greater than the power of ideas. Nader thinks that with the right ideas you can win even if outspent 100-to-1. Every year Democrats further dilute their ideas to get the money they think they need to sell them. The weaker the ideas, the more ads they need, the more money it takes, the weaker the ideas. As you can tell from their ads, they've been at this a long time.

They don't believe in ideas because they don't believe in people. Obama wasted years dickering with Republicans who wished him only ill. He should have talked to the people and let them talk to the Republicans.

6.

One reason we know voters will embrace populism is that they already have. It's what they thought they were getting with Obama. In 2008 Obama said he'd bail out homeowners, not just banks. He vowed to fight for a public option, raise the minimum wage and clean up Washington. He called whistle-blowers heroes and said he'd bar lobbyists from his staff. He was critical of drones and wary of the use of force to advance American interests. He spoke eloquently of the threats posed to individual privacy by a runaway national security state.

He turned out to be something else altogether. To blame Republicans ignores a glaring truth: Obama's record is worst where they had little or no role to play. It wasn't Republicans who prosecuted all those whistle-blowers and hired all those lobbyists; who authorized drone strikes or kept the NSA chugging along; who reneged on the public option, the minimum wage and aid to homeowners. It wasn't even Republicans who turned a blind eye to Wall Street corruption and excessive executive compensation. It was Obama.

A populist revolt among Democrats is unlikely absent their reappraisal of Obama, which itself seems unlikely. Not since Robert Kennedy have Democrats been so personally invested in a public figure. Liberals fell hardest so it's especially hard for them to admit he's just not that into them. If they could walk away they might resume their relationship with Nader. Of course that won't be easy.

Populism isn't just liberalism on steroids; it too demands compromise. After any defeat, a party's base consoles itself with the notion that if its candidates were pure they'd have won. It's never true; most voters differ with both parties. Still, liberals dream of retaking Congress as the Tea Party dreams of retaking the White House: by being pure. Democratic elites are always up for compromise, but on the wrong issues. Rather than back GOP culture wars, as some do, or foreign wars, as many do, or big business, as nearly all do, they should back libertarians on privacy, small business on credit and middle-class families on taxes.

If Democrats can't break up with Obama or make up with Nader, they should do what they do best: take a poll. They would find that beneath all our conflicts lies a hidden consensus. It prizes higher ethics, lower taxes and better governance; community and privacy; family values and the First

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Amendment; economic as well as cultural diversity. Its potential coalition includes unions, small business, nonprofits, the professions, the economically embattled and all the marginalized and excluded. Such a coalition could reshape our politics, even our nation.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· July 29 – Fusion: Sec. Clinton interview with Jorge Ramos (Politico)

· July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 3/3/2015 6:47:26 AM
Subject: Re: AIPAC/Iran

Got it. Thanks.

On Mar 3, 2015, at 1:29 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Jake,
> We need to keep the military option on the table, but it would be the additional sanctions in the new congressional bill, which would give the future President the right to impose them upon a finding of a violation. But it would als include current sanctions--SWIFT, CBI, etc.
> Stu
>
> **From**: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
> **Sent**: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 08:53 AM
> **To**: Eizenstat, Stuart
> **Cc**: Thomas (Tom) R. Nides (tom.nides@morganstanley.com) <tom.nides@morganstanley.com >; Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonemail.com) <huma@clintonemail.com >; Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonfoundation.org) <huma@clintonfoundation.org >; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com) <John.Podesta@gmail.com >; Melanne Verveer (pverveer@aol.com) <pverveer@aol.com >
> **Subject**: Re: AIPAC/Iran
>
> Thanks Stu. What would those sanctions look like? If Iran actually tried to break out at the end of the period, ostensibly we'd be talking about military action?
>
> On Mar 3, 2015, at 8:09 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:
>
> > Dear Jake,
> >
> > Attached is my speech at AIPAC yesterday to the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative American Rabbis, on rising anti-Semitism in Europe; the Iran nuclear negotiations; and U.S.-Israel relations.
> >
> > I would like to suggest for Secretary Clinton that on the most sensitive issue, Iran, she be generally supportive of an agreement along the lines I outlined, but, crucially, she indicate (a) grave concerns that Iran's missile program is unconstrained and has no civilian purpose, and that we should make its restraint a priority; (b) that Congress should pass additional sanctions after an agreement that could be imposed by a future President following the 10-15 year expiration period of the agreement, if Iran seeks a "breakout" at that point. In other words, one major flaw in the emerging agreement is that Iran would be free of constraints after the period. She should take the position that unless Iran radically changes its posture over this period of time, the U.S. should never allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons state, as North Korea is now.
> >
> > This position would be supportive of the Obama Administration's efforts, but would signal a tougher position on what a post-agreement world should look like.
> >
> > Best wishes,
> >
> > Stu
> >
> > **Stuart Eizenstat**
> >
> > Covington & Burling LLP
> > One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW
> > Washington, DC 20001
> > (202) 662 5519 (tel) | (202) 778-5519 (fax)
> > seizenstat@cov.com
> > www.cov.com

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<AIPAC CONSERVATIVE RABBIS STU SPEECH FINAL FINAL 030215 DOCX.doc>

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 4/2/2015 4:56:28 PM
Subject: Re: Iran statement

Already gone.

From: Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7:54 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Brian Fallon <brianefallon@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Iran statement

If not out, pls add following. If out, fine:

> The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, RESOLVES THE MILITARY DIMENSION, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It can never be permitted to acquire a nuclear weapon. It is also vital that these efforts be part of a comprehensive strategy to check Iran's regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

On Apr 2, 2015, at 7:07 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

> One small tweak below and now good to go.
>
> > The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It can never be permitted to acquire a nuclear weapon. It is also vital that these efforts be part of a comprehensive strategy to check Iran's regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:49 PM, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:

Give me 10 or so to confirm one thing.

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:44 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:

Looks great. If folks are good, let's get out.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:14 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

+ Brian

From: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Cc: Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
Subject: Iran statement

HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It is also vital that our efforts to deny Iran a nuclear weapon be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/31/2015 9:22:50 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Just keep swimming

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for September 1st

Skimm'd from bed.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Where are we on this?" — Hillary Clinton in an email with the subject line "Gefilte fish." Yesterday, thousands of emails were released from the private server she controversially used while sec. of state.

SKIMM THIS

THE BIG O

THE STORY

Yesterday, OPEC – a squad of the world's biggest oil producers – said it might be open to working with other countries to boost oil prices.

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OPEC's a group of 12 countries - think: Mideast, African, and South American nations - that together produce almost half of the world's crude oil. And lately, their oil profit game has been thrown off by fracking (read: a controversial way of producing oil and gas) in the US and Canada. Fracking has flooded the market with oil supply, even though there's not as much demand for oil (thanks in big part to a sluggish global economy). This has led to prices dropping like it's hot. (Psst...we Skimm'd it for you.)

SO WHAT'S THE LATEST?

Now, it looks like OPEC might be open to working with other producers to revive oil prices. Which a lot of people think means the US and Canada. This, plus other slick headlines, sent oil prices way up.

theSKIMM

OPEC isn't known for playing nice with others, but the drop in oil prices has been a big blow to some of its member countries, who depend on oil to keep their economies afloat. This could be a smoke signal that they're hurting badly enough to flirt with countries they don't normally do business with.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR FLIGHT'S DELAYED...

Can I leave, please? These journalists can relate. Yesterday, two British Vice News journalists and their translator were arrested in Turkey on terrorism charges. Turkey says they were working for a terror group, allegedly one you might have heard of (hint: rhymes with crisis). Reminder: Turkey recently starting fighting ISIS in Syria. Turkey's also been fighting the PKK back home, a group it considers a terrorist organization. These journalists were covering the violence between the Turkish military and the PKK. Vice has called the charges "baseless and alarmingly false." Human rights organizations agree.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR GRANDMA MAKES AN INAPPROPRIATE COMMENT AT A FAMILY DINNER...

Not the place for that. The Auschwitz museum's had problems with high temperatures recently. So the caretakers of the former concentration camp installed "mist showers" to cool people off. And now high temperatures are the least of their problems.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO RESOLVE MULTIPLE PEOPLE'S COMMENTS IN A SHARED DOC...

Hard to please everyone. Ukrainian lawmakers know about that. Yesterday, the country's parliament voted on whether to give more power to pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. Reminder: Ukraine has been going through an epic identity crisis for years (Here's your Skimm). In February, Ukraine, Russia, and the West agreed on a cease-fire deal to end months of violence between Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists in the country's eastern cities. Part of that deal included separatists getting more autonomy. But a lot of Ukraine doesn't want to give up any power to the separatists, who everyone thinks are actually backed by Russia. Yesterday, protests in the capital got violent. One person was killed and dozens were injured when a grenade was thrown. Now, Ukraine's government is left wondering if it'll have enough support to hold up its end of the cease-fire bargain. Rock, meet Putin's abs.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN THE SAME CAR ALARM KEEPS GOING OFF OUTSIDE...

This again? Everyone's talking about Tom Brady's balls. Still. Yesterday, the star QB was back in court, appealing the NFL's decision to bench him for four games for his role in Deflategate. Deflategate: when the Patriots were accused of intentionally deflating game balls to make them easier to grip...and win playoff games. Brady says he knew nothing of the shrunken balls. The NFL begs to differ. Yesterday was the last chance for both sides to talk it over and hug it out before a judge steps in. There was no hugging. The judge says he'll make the call this week on whether to keep Brady sidelined.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

Denali: The mountain formerly known as Mt. McKinley. Obama officially renamed it this week to please his Alaskan friends - who've been on the Denali name train for pretty much forever. His GOP frenemies are none too pleased.

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SKIMM SHARE

Morning pro-tip. Share theSkimm and you get to stay in bed longer. Share here.

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SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

indicates Skimm'bassador. Make it count.

Kerry O'Brien (Darien, CT); ***Danna Galed** (New York, NY); ***Briayna Cuffie** (Annapolis, MD); ***Hallie Putterman** (San Diego, CA); ***Meghan Sisk** (Richmond, VA); ***Amelia Mazzarella** (New York, NY); ***Tiffany Liu** (Los Angeles, CA); ***Courtney Spadaro** (Huntsville, AL); ***Katy Kaesebier** (Statesboro, GA); ***Lauren Christopher** (Newton, MA); ***Madison Underwood** (State College, PA); ***Marybeth Lawrence** (Winston-Salem, NC); ***Ricki Katz** (New York, NY); ***Rachel Friedman** (Wilmette, IL); ***Anna Wofford** (Clemson, SC); ***Sarah Olsem** (Solon, IA); ***Kali Brodsky** (Boston, MA); *Ashley Brown (New York, NY); *Madison Underwood (State College, PA); *Alisha Vimawala (New York, NY); *Anabel Kelso (Washington, DC); **Alex Lane** (Scarsdale, NY); **Kati Pajak** (Boston, MA); **Ann Rodriguez** (San Jose, CA); **Jillian Berard** (Boston, MA); **Noelle Wyman** (New York, NY); **Sarah Provonsha** (Signal Mountain, TN); **Kenley Breckenridge** (New Orleans LA); **Libby Brittain** (New York, NY); **Anna Wofford** (Clemson, SC); **Susan Frane** (St. Louis, MO); **Vicki Pugh** (Jupiter, FL); **Olivia Schreiber** (Madison, WI); **Ben Schreiber** (Bethlehem, PA); **JoAnna Jetton** (Houston, TX); **Deepthi Menon** (New Canaan, CT); **Ellie Maes** (New York, NY); **Coleen Lambdin** (Baltimore, MD); **Wendy Labowitz** (New York, NY); **Casey Steele** (Indianapolis, IN); **Alisha Vimawala** (New York, NY); **Julian Reddick** (Sydney, Australia); **Steve Shaifer** (Philadelphia, PA); **Mary Fehr** (Waterloo, Ontario)

Skimm'd something we missed?

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From: "Burns Strider \(CTRFF\)" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/28/2015 4:58:54 AM
Subject: CTR Saturday Clips 2-28-15

Good Saturday to all, yall. Today is the last day of CPAC. We have been monitoring so you don't have to. Below, before the usual daily clips I have posted two videos from this morning of CPAC panels... Poignant reminders of the need for our unified and strong voices. B.

CPAC panel on President Obama's religion: Perkins on Obama's Christianity at CPAC 2-28-15

CPAC panel on public schools: http://youtu.be/MGTdj4rPi8c

Correct The Record Saturday February 28, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

ABC News: "Rand Paul Wows CPAC Crowd, Talks Privacy, Tax Cuts, Hillary Clinton"

"The pro-Clinton group 'Correct the Record,' responded to Paul's speech with spokeswoman Adrienne Elrod saying in a statement, 'Rand Paul's brand of extreme isolationism would foster global instability.' She said 'Americans want a tested and proven leader like Hillary Clinton.'"

New York Times: First Draft: "Group Backing Netanyahu Will Air Ad Attacking Hillary Clinton"

"The first television advertisement of the 2016 presidential campaign cycle to attack Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, will have its debut this weekend, paid for by a neoconservative group that strongly supports Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel."

Lancaster Online: "Sen. Casey expects Clinton to be Democratic nominee"

"His spokesman, John Rizzo, responded with that message to an email Friday morning inquiring whether Casey's spike in appearances on national news outlets was a precursor to a 2016 presidential run. 'No. Senator Casey loves his work in the Senate. Senator Casey expects Secretary Clinton to be the nominee,' Rizzo wrote in the email but would say if the senator will throw his support behind Clinton for the nomination."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton stacks March schedule with women's events..."

"After a handful events in two months, Hillary Clinton has filled her March with a mix of women's events, nonprofit speeches..."

Politico: "At CPAC, Republicans attack Hillary Clinton from every angle"

"Republicans eager to derail a Clinton 2016 campaign, like those flooding the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center here, see the panoply of critiques as a show of force against a candidate they insist is more vulnerable than her allies realize. Watching warily from afar, however, Democrats eager to see a Clinton presidency cast the attacks as a sign of confusion in the GOP, predicting the mish-mash of arguments will fail to

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jell and dent the former secretary of state's image."

Politico: "Rick Santorum makes a Kenya joke about Obama"

"He called out President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in particular, two perennial targets at the annual gathering of conservative activists."

New York Times: "Bush Confronts Skeptics at Conservative Gathering"

"Notably, while Mr. Bush criticized President Obama and Democrats, he was chiefly focused on delivering his own message. This was an exception at a gathering where many presidential aspirants delivered scathing attacks on Mr. Obama and, to a lesser degree, on Hillary Rodham Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee in 2016."

Articles:

ABC News: "Rand Paul Wows CPAC Crowd, Talks Privacy, Tax Cuts, Hillary Clinton"

By Shushannah Walshe

February 27, 2015 2:47 p.m. EST

Sen. Rand Paul got a rousing reception this afternoon at the Conservative Political Action Conference, lighting up a crowd that tends to have a libertarian streak to it, saying, "In the coming weeks, I will propose the largest tax cut in American history."

Speaking with rolled-up sleeves, he promised to pitch "a tax cut that will leave more money in the paychecks of every worker in America. My tax plan will keep the IRS out of your life and out the way of every job creator in America. My plan will also cut spending and balance the budget in just five years."

Paul, R-Ky., blasted Congress, now controlled by Republicans, calling it "dysfunctional."

"Often, bills are plopped on our desk with only a few hours to review," he said. "No one, and I mean no one, is able to read what is in the bill. I propose something truly outrageous: Congress should read every bill."

The crowd was packed with supporters, and Paul was interrupted by chants of "President Paul, President Paul." He perhaps received the loudest applause when talking about personal privacy and going after the woman he may face if he they both choose to run in 2016: Hillary Clinton.

"Hillary's war in Libya is a perfect example," he told the CPAC crowd in National Harbor, Maryland. "Hillary's war made us less safe," adding, "Libya's less stable."

He said to cheers: "It's time for Hillary Clinton to permanently retire."

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Calling the crowd “lovers of liberty,” he asked them to “rise to the occasion.”

“You do have a right to privacy," he said. "Your rights are who you are, your rights are what you are, your rights are in your DNA -- and the government can, quite frankly, get over it.

"I say that the phone records of law-abiding citizens are none of their damn business," he added. "From within, our freedom is threatened by debt and by a government that regulates everything that moves.”

He differed in some ways with other Republican presidential contenders who have taken the stage at the conference since Thursday, specifically on the issue of foreign policy -- an issue that may make him an outlier in the GOP field, but was well-received by the libertarian-leaning activists gathered.

“At home, conservatives understand that the government is the problem, not the solution. But as conservatives, we should not succumb to the notion that government inept at home will somehow become successful abroad,” he said, "that a government that can’t even deliver the mail will somehow be able to create nations abroad. Without question, we must be strong. Without question, we must defend ourselves. I envision an America with a national defense unparalleled, undefeatable and unencumbered by nation building.”

He ended the speech by asking the crowd to “stand” with him: “Will you fight for freedom? Will you vote for freedom?”

Paul is popular with the CPAC crowd. He has won the CPAC straw poll the last two years, and his father, former Rep. Ron Paul, a three-time Republican presidential candidate, won the straw poll in 2010 and 2011. This year's winner will be revealed Saturday.

However, Paul received some criticism today at CPAC, even if it was veiled.

Right after Paul spoke, former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., a 2012 presidential candidate, took the stage. Santorum didn’t mention Paul’s name, but in the past he has said he thinks possible candidates like Paul, as well as Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas -- all in their first terms -- do not have enough experience to be president.

He said it was the president’s “profound lack of experience that has created the problems for us here in America,” stressing his own “eight years of service on the armed services committee” while he was in the Senate.

"Commander-in-chief is not an entry-level position,” he said. “[The] Oval Office is no place for on-the-job training, not in times like this.”

The pro-Clinton group "Correct the Record," responded to Paul's speech with spokeswoman Adrienne Elrod saying in a statement, "Rand Paul's brand of extreme isolationism would foster global instability."

She said "Americans want a tested and proven leader like Hillary Clinton."

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New York Times: First Draft: “Group Backing Netanyahu Will Air Ad Attacking Hillary Clinton”

By Maggie Haberman

February 27, 2015 3:27 p.m. EST

The first television advertisement of the 2016 presidential campaign cycle to attack Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, will have its debut this weekend, paid for by a neoconservative group that strongly supports Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

The ad is being purchased by the Emergency Committee for Israel, a group started by William Kristol, the editor of The Weekly Standard, who has been deeply critical of President Obama and of Mrs. Clinton, the former secretary of state.

It is being supported with a small advertising buy: about $200,000, mainly on cable networks, beginning with the Sunday news shows and running through Tuesday, with some placements during the morning shows on two broadcast networks. There will also be a digital component, according to an official with the group, although it was unclear what portion of the dollar figure will be spent online.

The ad comes less than two weeks after a Republican group, American Crossroads, began running a web-only advertisement critical of Mrs. Clinton.

The new saber-rattling ad is harshest with Mr. Obama, but its main target is clearly Mrs. Clinton. The commercial ties together the Obama administration’s nuclear talks with Iran and Mr. Netanyahu’s scheduled speech before Congress at the invitation of House Republicans, which has been met with protest from Democrats, a number of whom plan to boycott the address. The ad then turns to Mrs. Clinton, who has not spoken publicly about Mr. Netanyahu’s speech.

“Does she support the boycotters, or is she too afraid to stand up to them?” it asks.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton did not respond to an email for comment. A White House press aide did not respond to an email.

Mrs. Clinton wrote extensively about her sometimes contentious dealings with Mr. Netanyahu in “Hard Choices,” a memoir that she promoted heavily last year. But she also forcefully defended Israel in its conflict with Hamas in a widely discussed interview with the columnist Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic.

While Mrs. Clinton is not expected to seek to distance herself from Mr. Obama on domestic policy to a great extent, she has pointed to areas of disagreement with the administration on global issues, and she is historically more hawkish than the president.

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With foreign policy potentially playing a bigger role in this presidential campaign than it did in 2012, Republicans have long planned to try to make Mrs. Clinton's tenure as secretary of state a liability. And top Republican operatives have spent months discussing the possibility of airing ads before Mrs. Clinton officially begins a campaign, to try to define her before she openly starts to present herself to voters as a candidate.

"The Obama administration has launched an all-out assault against the Israeli prime minister," Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel, said in a statement. "Friends of the Jewish state ranging from Joe Lieberman to Elie Wiesel to Shelley Berkley have rallied to his defense. Hillary Clinton has remained silent. It's time for the former secretary of state and prospective presidential candidate to come out of hiding and tell us where she stands. Does Hillary Clinton stand with the boycotters or the supporters of Israel?"

Lancaster Online: "Sen. Casey expects Clinton to be Democratic nominee"

By Karen Shuey

February 27, 2015

There may not be any official candidates for president yet, but Sen. Bob Casey is betting on Hillary Clinton to be the Democratic nominee.

His spokesman, John Rizzo, responded with that message to an email Friday morning inquiring whether Casey's spike in appearances on national news outlets was a precursor to a 2016 presidential run.

"No. Senator Casey loves his work in the Senate. Senator Casey expects Secretary Clinton to be the nominee," Rizzo wrote in the email but would say if the senator will throw his support behind Clinton for the nomination.

Poll after poll shows Clinton is the safest bet.

Public Policy Polling's newest national survey finds Clinton leading all of her potential Democratic challengers.

The poll, released Wednesday, found that 54 percent of the party's voters want her to be their candidate to 16 percent for Vice President Joe Biden, 12 percent for Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 5 percent for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, 2 percent for former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and 1 percent for former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Clinton has more than 50 percent support for the nomination from almost all demographic groups tracked by the poll. The only two groups where she falls a bit short of that mark are men and middle-aged voters.

The former secretary of state is also ahead when the poll pits her against potential Republican candidates.

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She has 7 point advantages over Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. An 8 point advantage over retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. And a 10-point lead over former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

The poll surveyed 691 registered voters, including 310 Democratic primary voters, from Feb. 20- 22. The margin of error for the overall survey is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points, and for the Democratic primary component it's 5.6 percentage points.

CNN: "Hillary Clinton stacks March schedule with women's events, a paid speech"

By Dan Merica

February 27, 2015, 2:15 p.m. EST

After a handful events in two months, Hillary Clinton has filled her March with a mix of women's events, nonprofit speeches and at least one paid appearance.

In January and February, Clinton headlined three events -- only one of which was in the United States. But as Clinton moves closer to her expected 2016 presidential campaign announcement, the former secretary or state has at least seven events scheduled for the month of March.

Most of Clinton's events are focused on one thing: women.

Clinton starts her month by headlining the 30th anniversary gala for Emily's List -- a pro-Clinton organization that focused on helping Democratic women win elected office. At the D.C. speech on March 3, Clinton is expected to give a nod to the group's importance to Democrats and highlight the reason more women are needed in politics.

Emily's List has been energized by Clinton's campaign and has pledged to raise and spend more money than any other election cycle because of the prospect of a Clinton White House.

The following week, Clinton will headline two New York events tied to her 1995 speech to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing -- a speech Clinton regularly references in pitches to women. In that speech Clinton said, "If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights once and for all."

On March 9, Clinton teams up with Chelsea, her daughter, and Melinda Gates to release a report through the Clinton Foundation that looks at "the gaps that still remain" in women's participation in the economy and politics.

The following day -- on March 10 -- Clinton will headline the United Nation's Women Empowerment Principles annual gathering in New York. Clinton will use the speech to outline the findings in the Clinton Foundation report and "reflect on progress made in implementing the agenda set in Beijing two decades ago," the organizers said in a release about the event.

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On March 16, Clinton will be inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame at an event in New York. Clinton is not Irish -- her family is of English, Scottish, French, and Welsh descent -- but she is being hooded because of "her dedicated work on Irish Peace Process."

"Hillary Rodham Clinton is one of the unsung heroes of the success of the Irish peace process," said Irish America co-founder Niall O'Dowd.

In 1998, Clinton put together the Vital Voices Conference of women in Belfast, a body that pressed for a piece agreement. The former secretary of state cited her experiences in Ireland during a number of speeches in 2014.

O'Dowd is a longtime Clinton supporter, though,and was a member of her 2008 campaign finance team. Some Republicans have questioned how active Clinton was in the Northern Ireland peace process. The Washington Post Fact Checker wrote in 2008 that Clinton "seems to be overstating her significance as a catalyst in the Northern Ireland peace process, which was more symbolic than substantive," but that she did play "a helpful role at the margins."

On March 19, Clinton will headline her only confirmed paid speech of the month when she heads to Atlantic City for the American Camp Association, NY & NJ Conference.

Susie Lupert, the group's executive director, tells CNN, "Yes, just like most nonprofits and conferences, she is being paid for her appearance." But she would not confirm how much she is being paid. On average, Clinton makes between $200,000 and $300,000 per speech.

Near the end of the month, on March 23 in Washington, D.C., Clinton will be the keynote speaker at the award celebration for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting from Syracuse University.

Robin Toner, who graduated from Syracuse, was the first woman national political correspondent for the New York Times.

Syracuse Dean Lorraine Branham said Clinton is a "vivid example — like Robin — of a pioneering woman at the top of her profession."

Clinton headlining an event honoring political journalists is somewhat unique because for decades she has held a dim view of the profession.

In a 1996, according to the diary of the late Clinton confidant Diane Blair, Clinton said the media are "complete hypocrites." At an event in 2014, Clinton said "journalism has changed quite a bit in a way that is not good for the country and not good for journalism."

"A lot of serious news reporting has become more entertainment driven and more opinion-driven as opposed to factual," she said. "People book onto the shows, political figures, commentators who will be controversial who will be provocative because it's a good show. You might not learn anything but you might be entertained and I think that's just become an unfortunate pattern that I wish could be broken."

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Clinton's presidential campaign has become a forgone conclusion and Democrats close to Clinton expect she will announce some official move towards the presidency in April.

Politico: "At CPAC, Republicans attack Hillary Clinton from every angle"

By Gabriel Debenedetti

February 27, 2015, 6:38 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Democrats suggest the varying attacks show GOP is confused about how to take her on.

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said Hillary Clinton couldn't make it to the Conservative Political Action Conference because "we couldn't find a foreign nation to foot the bill." Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO, insisted Clinton "likes hashtags, but she doesn't know what leadership means." And former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush knocked her on conflict of interest claims involving her family's foundation.

It was amply clear at the annual conservative confab this week that Clinton has eclipsed Barack Obama as the Republican residential hopefuls' main punching bag. But it is the sheer number of distinct anti-Clinton attack lines that is raising eyebrows.

Whether onstage or off, Republicans derided Clinton from every angle. They cast the 67-year-old as yesterday's news, brought up her husband Bill Clinton's 1990s scandals, questioned the rationale for her expected run for the White House, criticized her high-dollar speaking fees, and, of course, lashed her over the Benghazi attacks.

Republicans eager to derail a Clinton 2016 campaign, like those flooding the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center here, see the panoply of critiques as a show of force against a candidate they insist is more vulnerable than her allies realize. Watching warily from afar, however, Democrats eager to see a Clinton presidency cast the attacks as a sign of confusion in the GOP, predicting the mish-mash of arguments will fail to jell and dent the former secretary of state's image.

Both sides could agree on one thing: that the brewing questions about the Clinton Foundation's funding — the theme gaining most attention at CPAC and among national political operatives in recent weeks — pose special danger for her. "The foundation stuff is real," said a Democrat in Clinton's orbit. "That's hurting."

Clinton has stayed relatively low-key in recent months, appearing in public within the United States for the first time just this week. She is expected to take a formal step toward a presidential run before the end of April, and her allies expect she and her campaign team will engage with such criticisms once she does. Republicans, however, cite her aides' unwillingness to take on the critics now as evidence that Clinton is "hiding" because she doesn't have a good response.

"Hillary barely comes out in public these days," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said on stage. "If there's not a private luxury jet and a quarter million-dollar speaking fee waiting for her, you can forget about it."

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Republicans' intense and long-standing focus on Clinton suggest many of them expect her to be a formidable candidate. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, for instance, warned a packed hotel suite of about 100 college students that Clinton has strategic advantages because she is a woman and could make history by winning the White House.

But as White House aspirants paraded through the convention center halls this week and riled up conservative activists from the stage, fellow Republicans brushed off the notion that there were too many arguments against Clinton floating around, pointing out that 2016 hopefuls aren't expected to coordinate their messages.

"Democrats have a real problem if they are complaining about Hillary Clinton having too many vulnerabilities for Republicans to exploit. This is further proof of how flawed their candidate is and why she won't come out of hiding to talk with voters," RNC spokeswoman Allison Moore said.

Democrats pointed out that Clinton, a public figure for decades, has weathered numerous controversies in the past, and that it will be hard for any one issue to change perceptions of her so far ahead of the election, especially when Republicans are hitting her with so many separate criticisms.

"It's more important to get [the campaign launch] right than to be out there to deal with all these one-offs," said former Bill Clinton White House aide Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist.

The anti-Clinton messages were not limited to the main speakers' stage at CPAC: posters trashing the former first lady line the walls; college-age Republicans frequently refer to Clinton as the enemy as they stroll the hallways; and the official schedule included a screening of an anti-Clinton documentary.

Republican 2016 hopefuls speaking at the convention center aren't trying to sway independents; they're trying to excite the GOP base, and a stinger of a line about Clinton is worth the barrage of attention it will get.

Speaking on Friday afternoon, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul fumed over the 2012 attacks on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, whose victims included U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens. He called on Clinton to "permanently retire."

"Hillary's war made us less safe," Paul said. "As Hillary was declaring victory in Libya, Ambassador Stevens was pleading for more security."

Asked by conservative media personality Sean Hannity for a one-word description of Clinton a few hours later, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said, "foreign fundraising."

Some of the harshest attacks of the week against Clinton have come from Fiorina, the sole woman in the emerging GOP presidential field, who appears to be positioning herself as its top Clinton antagonist.

Fiorina zeroed in on the Clinton Foundation and its relationships with foreign governments: "Please explain why we should accept that the millions and millions of dollars that have flowed into the Clinton Global Initiative from foreign governments doesn't represent a conflict of interest," Fiorina implored an energized crowd on Thursday.

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Speaking next that afternoon, Cruz went a similar route, saying Clinton “embodies the corruption of Washington.” Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, meanwhile, continued his tactic of painting Clinton as a candidate of “yesterday.”

But amid the deluge of anti-Clinton talk, one unexpected argument in particular caught CPAC’s attention and set the crowd abuzz.

The notion was offered up by popular conservative radio host Laura Ingraham, who was tasked with helping rouse the sleepy activists on Friday morning.

“Why don’t we just call it quits?” she asked. “Jeb and Hillary can run on the same ticket.”

Politico: “Rick Santorum makes a Kenya joke about Obama”

By Nick Gass

February 27, 2015, 1:38 p.m. EST

The world is a dangerous and complex place, former Sen. Rick Santorum told the Conservative Political Action Conference on Friday, even more so than when he ran for the presidency in 2012.

He called out President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in particular, two perennial targets at the annual gathering of conservative activists.

“We don’t need just someone with a strong economic plan. Thanks to the Obama-Clinton foreign policy team, we have gone from a policy of peace through strength to a policy of leading from behind,” he said.

“In fact, the president’s popularity is so bad around the world today that I heard a source that the Kenyan government is actually developing proof that Barack Obama was actually born in America,” he joked.

Santorum broached the possibility of a GOP candidate facing Clinton in the general election next year. That candidate had better call “radical Islam” by its name, he said.

“The likelihood that we’re going to face a former secretary of state means that we need someone who has a long and deep understanding of the threats we confront, particularly the threat of radical Islam,” he said, adding that the president’s “profound lack of experience has created problems.”

“Commander in chief is not an entry-level position,” the former Pennsylvania senator said, touting his time on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Santorum called for boots on the ground to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, as well as increased

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aid to Jordan and Egypt.

“We need to start by crushing ISIS. Now,” he said, using an alternative name for the terrorist group. “We must start in Iraq. We need to get ISIS out of Iraq. The first thing we need to do is arm the Kurds. Instead of sending them bandages and bodybags, we need to send them weapons.”

If Iran develops a nuclear weapon, Santorum warned, the U.S. will have failed in its negotiations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s upcoming address to Congress has become a political flashpoint, with many Democrats, including Vice President Joe Biden, declining to attend.

“In the end, Prime Minister Netanyahu would not be coming to America, he would not be risking the most important national security arrangement that Israel has if it wasn’t for the fact that he believed in his heart that Iran’s and the United States’ nuclear negotiations was going to end up being an existential threat to his country,” Santorum said.

New York Times: “Bush Confronts Skeptics at Conservative Gathering”

By Jonathan Martin and Maggie Haberman

February 27, 2015

OXON HILL, Md. — Confronting a somewhat hostile crowd for the first time since declaring his interest in a presidential race, Jeb Bush on Friday reiterated his support for an immigration overhaul and for Common Core education standards, positions that are anathema to many hard-line conservatives who play an outsize role in some of the early nominating states.

But Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, also emphasized his conservative credentials, pointing to his efforts to curb spending during his two terms in Tallahassee and to create a business-friendly climate in the state.

The combination — refusing to bow on the more centrist positions he feels strongly about while highlighting his right-leaning record in office — offered a preview of the sort of primary campaign Mr. Bush intends to run. He and his advisers have styled it “inclusive conservatism,” and say they believe it will be crucial to win the party’s nomination and still remain viable for the general election.

Mr. Bush, appearing at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference here before thousands of activists — who gave Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin a rousing reception on Thursday, and broke out into chants of “President Paul!” for Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky earlier on Friday — offered language that differed sharply from the trail of presidential hopefuls who had preceded him onstage.

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“The simple fact is there is no plan to deport 11 million people,” Mr. Bush said, calling for “a path to legal status” for illegal immigrants. He also said flatly, “No,” when asked if Common Core amounted to a federal takeover of education.

And he explained to a mostly white audience that Republicans should aggressively appeal to people “who don’t know they are conservatives,” mentioning minority groups and young voters.

Mr. Bush’s name was much discussed before he arrived at the conference, long an important fixture on the Republican political calendar. While he is not the front-runner in polls, Mr. Bush is expected to amass a large fund-raising advantage over his rivals. This perceived financial strength has created a sense of foreboding among some who say they fear that another Bush presidency would depart from conservative orthodoxy much as the first two did.

That hostility was stoked earlier in the conference. The conservative talk-show host Laura Ingraham used repeated appearances to savage Mr. Bush — mocking his wife’s expensive jewelry purchases at one point — and nudged Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey to swipe at him. And a succession of White House hopefuls drew implicit contrasts, citing their conservative stances on immigration and education and describing their roots as decidedly more humble than that of a president’s son.

Notably, while Mr. Bush criticized President Obama and Democrats, he was chiefly focused on delivering his own message. This was an exception at a gathering where many presidential aspirants delivered scathing attacks on Mr. Obama and, to a lesser degree, on Hillary Rodham Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee in 2016.

Mr. Bush declined to give a prepared speech. Instead, he spent just under 25 minutes answering gently adversarial questions from the conservative talk-show host Sean Hannity about his policy positions and his view of the Republican Party.

Standing the entire time, Mr. Bush appeared considerably more animated and at ease than he did when delivering policy speeches this month in more staid settings.

Mr. Hannity brought up Mr. Bush’s support in Florida for offering driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants and for allowing illegal immigrants’ children to receive in-state college tuition. Mr. Bush parried by saying that no such driver’s-license bill was ever passed, and that Florida’s conservative-dominated Legislature had approved the in-state tuition measure and that the state’s Republican governor signed it last year.

Mr. Bush was booed loudly a few times, but he seemed ready. “I’m marking it down as neutral, and I want to be your second choice if I decide to go beyond this,” he told his adversaries in the crowd.

Eventually, Mr. Hannity softened his line of questioning and allowed Mr. Bush to detail his record as governor from 1999 to 2007. Mr. Bush said he had run on conservative principles, recalled his expansion of school vouchers, and noted that he had ended affirmative action in higher education. He boasted that he had been called “Veto Corleone” for his spending cuts. And he earned laughter when he spoke of the budget reserves he had left behind: “No drunken sailors,” he said.

Though there were many skeptics in the audience, Mr. Bush was not exactly walking into a political lion’s den. There were a good number of his supporters in the audience, notably well-tailored and many of them wearing red JEB lapel pins, who did their best to drown out any catcalls with cheers and applause.

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Hoping to pre-empt any mischief at the conference, Mr. Bush's backers, including a group of lobbyists and advisers, worked with former aides from President George W. Bush's administration to organize a caravan from Washington to the hotel in Maryland where the conference was being held.

After his appearance in the main ballroom, Mr. Bush addressed a smaller group of his supporters, who crowded a meeting room. Mr. Bush sounded another pragmatic note, saying that Republicans needed to remain unified despite their differences.

"A campaign should be about getting to 50" percent, he said, "not trying to tear down the differences between the 35 or the 40." He added: "Last time I checked, in a two-person race, you got to get to 50."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 10 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton addresses United Nations Women's Conference (Bloomberg)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/11/2015 7:14:44 AM
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HRC Clips
February 11, 2015

HRC

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Jeb Bush faces plenty of early warning signs (WAPO)
By Aaron Blake
February 11, 2015
By Washington Post
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We've seen a smattering of new polls of the nascent 2016 campaign in recent days.

The good news for Jeb Bush: Most of them show him as a front-runner.

The bad news: There's plenty of bad news.

Of the four major Iowa and New Hampshire polls released over the past 10 days, half show Bush leading, and all show him toward the front. This is a function, in large part, of name recognition. But there are plenty of warning signs, too.

Here's a quick recap:

1) His image numbers are not good

The lone Iowa poll in the bunch shows that likely Iowa GOP caucus-goers view Bush more negatively than anybody not named Chris Christie. Just 46 percent had a favorable opinion of Bush in the Bloomberg/Des Moines Register poll, while 43 percent had an unfavorable one. Again, this is Republicans.

Bush's numbers in New Hampshire (where the universe of voters is less conservative) were better, but not by a huge amount. He was at 61 percent favorable/26 percent unfavorable in the Bloomberg/Saint Anselm College poll released over the weekend, and at 47/33 in the University of New Hampshire/WMUR-TV released just prior.

Part of this is that Republicans today are just fussier when it comes to purity, and Bush can't help but be seen as the establishment (i.e. "moderate," to the tea party) candidate. But it's also clear they have some preconceived notions about Bush that he'll have to dispel.

Which brings us to...

2) The name isn't helping

Bloomberg asked likely New Hampshire primary voters whether they viewed Bush's and Hillary Rodham Clinton's prospects as being more tied to their own accomplishments or to their family name.

While just 21 percent of Democrats said Clinton is a front-runner because of her family connections, 59 percent of Republicans say the same about Bush. Only 31 percent said Bush is where he's at because of his "unique qualities and achievements."

Similarly, a Washington Post/ABC News poll released a few weeks ago showed the Bush name was a net-negative for 33 percent of voters, while just 11 percent said it was a reason to vote for him. It was more even among Republicans, but again, it wasn't nearly the benefit the Clinton name was.

3) The porridge question

The other reason Bush's numbers might suffer -- in addition to him being a Bush -- is that he's seen as too moderate. We're not sure how much people have actually processed his positions in favor of comprehensive immigration reform and Common Core, but already 37 percent of likely Iowa caucus-goers see him as "too moderate." Another 7 percent say he's "too conservative."

In fact, the 40 percent who say Bush is ideologically "about right" is lower than Ben Carson (49 percent), Ted Cruz (48), Mike Huckabee (57), Rand Paul (55), Rick Perry (62), Mitt Romney (46), Marco Rubio (53), Rick Santorum (49) and Scott Walker (56). That's pretty much anybody who is reasonably well-known (and isn't named Chris Christie).

4) Immigration and Common Core

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While most likely New Hampshire primary voters don't yet say these issues are disqualifying, plenty still do. The Bloomberg poll showed 41 percent of likely New Hampshire primary voters say Bush's pro-comprehensive immigration reform position is a deal-killer, while 20 percent say the same of Common Core. Those are significant chunks of voters who say Bush's positions are non-starters.

Perhaps more illustrative, just 40 percent say Common Core is not a real problem for them when it comes to Bush, and just 22 percent say the same of his immigration position. The others are in the mushy middle (but haven't ruled out supporting him) or haven't decided.

The good news is that these liabilities, at this point, aren't yet overwhelming; Scott Walker's lack of foreign policy experience, for comparison, is deemed as a deal-killer by 28 percent of Republicans — something we have a hard time believing will pan out.

All of this, indeed, is quite preliminary. While Bush has been something of an open book, the campaign hasn't actually begun in earnest, and thus he hasn't had much of a chance to combat these early preconceived notions. These notions, in other words, probably aren't based on a whole heck of a lot.

What these numbers prove, though, is that there are preconceived notions that he'll have to contend with. And they're generally bigger hurdles than his opponents have to clear.

Of course, his opponents aren't likely to have the kind of funding Bush does, either.

Washington Post

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Hillary Clinton has a busy March, but all's quiet now (WAP)
By Anne Gearan
February 10, 2015
The Washington Post
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This post has been updated.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is everywhere and nowhere these days.

The subject of daily news stories and Republican attacks befitting her position as the 2016 Democratic front-runner, Clinton has made just two public speaking appearances since Christmas. Both of them were in the voter-rich state of Canada. She hasn't visited Iowa or New Hampshire since the November midterm election.

As she readies a vast campaign operation to be rolled out later this spring, Clinton is keeping an intentionally low profile. She isn't even an official participant in a Clinton Foundation event Tuesday at which her husband and daughter spoke.

Clinton did attend a session with daughter Chelsea on saving endangered wild elephants that was closed to the press. The day-long Clinton Global Initiative winter meeting focused on the Clinton network's expanding philanthropic efforts.

By staying mostly mum now, Clinton isn't exactly keeping people guessing. Although she heads off questions about her intentions in public, Clinton has sent unmistakable signals to Democrats that she is running. Her quiet schedule makes it easier to navigate this time in official political limbo, although of course everything Clinton says and does is viewed through that lens.

The former first lady, senator, secretary of state and 2008 presidential candidate is in heavy demand as a speaker, both paid and unpaid, but is declining most invitations. She will speak at a Silicon Valley technology conference later this month, for which she is expected to draw a paycheck of $250,000 or more.

She has a busy March planned, with at least four speaking appearances. She is expected to be paid for one of those, a practice that has already raised eyebrows and that would be awkward to continue once Clinton announces. There is nothing on her public schedule after March 23.

Washington Post

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Big donors awaiting word from Clinton (WAPO)
By Matea Gold
February 11, 2015
The Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton's decision to delay an announcement about her presidential ambitions until as late as July has stymied efforts of a major allied super PAC to come out of the gate early with a slew of big-money commitments.

Priorities USA Action - which has positioned itself as the main advertising vehicle to back a Clinton candidacy - had hoped to line up dozens of seven-figure pledges before April as a show of strength but has secured only about 10, according to people familiar with the situation.

One factor that has contributed to the reluctance: Many wealthy political givers on the left have written large checks to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, part a drive to raise money for the nonprofit organization before a likely Clinton presidential run. Major foundation donors have indicated to super-PAC fundraisers that they are holding off on other large pledges for now, according to people with knowledge of the conversations.

Priorities' slow progress has prompted internal conversations about whether the group will recalibrate what it can expect to raise this cycle - a sum that people close to the operation originally expected to be around $300 million. The super PAC's difficulties in securing pledges were first reported late Tuesday by Politico.

Priorities officials said they are not concerned.

"Priorities USA Action chose not to raise money in the 2014 cycle because we did not want to compete with the many good Democrats who were fighting for their political lives," senior adviser Paul Begala said in a statement. "We will play a critical role in electing a Democratic President in 2016. Anyone who doubts us should ask President Romney."

Many party fundraisers concur, saying that once Clinton is officially in the race, the money will rush in from loyalists and new donors eager to be part of her candidacy.

"I think it's like everything else going on -- what's the timeline with her?" said one party strategist familiar with the dynamics, who requested anonymity to discuss donor attitudes. "Once things are more finalized with what she is doing, their job will become a little easier."

Some top Democratic contributors said they won't consider committing large amounts until she is officially in the race.

"I'm waiting to see if Hillary announces a campaign and to see what it looks like," said David desJardins, San Francisco-based investor who supports independent political groups on the left.

Among the major Clinton supporters who have not pledged to Priorities is Esprit co-founder Susie Tompkins Buell, according to a person familiar with the situation. Buell, an early backer of the group Ready for Hillary, did not return a request for comment.

Billionaire media mogul Haim Saban, who has said he will spend "whatever it takes" to help Clinton reach the White House, has also not made a commitment to the super PAC, according to a person with knowledge of the fundraising efforts. Saban and his family have given between $10 million and $25 million to the Clinton Foundation, including a donation last year, according to the foundation's records. A spokeswoman for Saban could not immediately be reached for comment.

The difficulties that Priorities has encountered in assembling an early money juggernaut also suggests that Democrats are still working to overcome distaste in the donor community for big-money groups.

New York venture capitalist Alan Patricof, a longtime Clinton friend and fundraiser, said he does not plan to get involved until she is an official candidate - and at that point, he said, he will probably focus his efforts on helping her official campaign.

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“I am not much interested in a super PAC,” he said. “It’s just not something I believe in. I’m not ready to deal with the realities that people can give any amount of money.”

The early donor drought is one of the factors that led to a public falling-out this week between liberal activist David Brock and Priorities officials. Brock, who runs a network of prominent groups on the left such as Media Matter and American Bridge, noisily resigned from the super PAC’s board Monday, accusing people affiliated with the group of feeding negative information to the New York Times about the fundraising practices of his organizations.

After outreach by top Priorities officials, Brock agreed to reconsider joining the group. But the public showdown exposed a clash between two power spheres on the left, both vying for big contributions.

Supporters of Priorities were hoping to build an early financial base and avoid scrambling for dollars in the midst of the campaign, as the group did during the 2012 race, when the nascent super PAC initially struggled to raise money to run ads on behalf of President Obama.

In the end, Priorities pulled in $79 million. While the group was far outpaced by the pro-Mitt Romney super PAC Restore Our Future, which raised $153 million, its hard-hitting ads were credited with helping frame the Republican presidential nominee as an out-of-touch plutocrat.

This time around, the donor outreach began early. The day after last November’s elections, DreamWorks Animation chief executive Jeffrey Katzenberg and Hollywood political strategist Andy Spahn began reaching out to potential backers, urging them to make commitments to Priorities, which was refashioned into a pro-Clinton vehicle after 2012.

Other top officials have also been making pitches, including Priorities board co-chair and former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm, executive director Buffy Wicks, finance adviser Jonathan Mantz, and senior advisers Sean Sweeney and Begala.

Less involved has been Jim Messina, who ran President Obama’s reelection campaign and co-chairs Priorities with Granholm. Most recently, he has been in London, where he has been consulting for Prime Minister David Cameron in the run-up to British elections.

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Emerging Clinton Team Shows Signs of Disquiet (NYT)
By Nicholas Confessore and Amy Chozick
February 11, 2015
The New York Times

Lingering tensions between Hillary Rodham Clinton's loyalists and the strategists who helped President Obama defeat her in 2008 have erupted into an intense public struggle over who will wield money and clout in her emerging 2016 presidential campaign.

At issue is controlling access to the deep-pocketed donors whose support is critical to sustain the outside organizations that are paving the way for Mrs. Clinton's campaign. It is a competition that has been exacerbated, many Clinton supporters said, by Mrs. Clinton's reluctance to formally enter the race and establish a campaign organization with clear lines of authority.

The dispute broke into the open on Monday after David Brock, a Clinton ally, accused Priorities USA Action — a pro-Clinton "super PAC" whose co-chairman is Jim Messina, Mr. Obama's 2012 campaign manager — of planting negative stories about the fund-raising practices of Mr. Brock's organizations. Mr. Brock resigned from the super PAC's board in protest.

Mr. Messina is one of the half dozen top veterans of Mr. Obama's campaigns that Mrs. Clinton's tight-knit circle of advisers has hired or courted, vexing some longtime Clintonites seeking more prominent roles for themselves. Other former Obama aides are working with pro-Clinton groups to organize grass-roots volunteers or to fend off attacks on her record, efforts that some Democrats view as the first step toward a place in Mrs. Clinton's campaign when it finally gets off the ground.

All recognize that Mrs. Clinton's political operation could dominate the Democratic Party for the next decade, controlling the flow of commissions, consulting work and political appointments. But the marriage between the two camps — based to a large degree on mutual interest, if not love — now appears more uneasy than at any time since Mr. Obama asked Mrs. Clinton to serve in his administration after the 2008 election.

"It is 'The Dream Team,' but only five can start," said John Morgan, a Florida lawyer who has raised money for both Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama. "Who do you put at guard? Jordan, LeBron, Kobe, Magic, Bird, Derrick Rose? That is where it is."

The list of Obama veterans now working in "Clinton World" includes the New York-based pollster Joel Benenson, who Mrs. Clinton has settled on as chief strategist over several pollsters with long Clinton ties. A consulting firm founded by two Obama voter-turnout specialists, Mitch Stewart and Jeremy Bird, is being paid $20,000 a month by Ready for Hillary, a super PAC focused on organizing grass-roots Clinton supporters. Jim Margolis, whose firm handled lucrative media-buying contracts for Mr. Obama's campaigns, will also advise Mrs. Clinton, whose campaign will probably raise and spend over a billion dollars in the next two years.

But Mr. Brock's path to the Clinton inner circle is perhaps the most convoluted. Once a conservative journalist whose reporting on President Bill Clinton prompted Paula Jones's 1994 sexual harassment lawsuit against him, Mr. Brock has since emerged as a prominent liberal organizer and one of Mrs. Clinton's chief defenders.

With the tacit blessing of both Clintons, Mr. Brock has maneuvered his $28 million network of media-monitoring and opposition research organizations into the center of the emerging Clinton effort, establishing a new project, Correct the Record, that has defended Mrs. Clinton in the news media and even issued daily emails explaining her positions.

His successful fund-raising has been led by Mary Pat Bonner, whose firm has been paid millions of dollars by Mr. Brock's groups to court donors — some of whom have criticized the arrangement as well as Mr. Brock.

"He is a cancer," said Mr. Morgan, who is close to Mr. Messina.

"If you care about your party and our country, you just do what you are asked," said Mr. Morgan, referring to Mr. Brock's public resignation from Priorities USA, which immediately reignited tales of infighting from Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign. "If you care about yourself, you take your toys and go home."

Mr. Brock declined to comment.

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Susie Tompkins Buell, a friend of Mrs. Clinton's and a donor from San Francisco who is close to Mr. Brock, said he "is an incredibly important part of the Democratic Party" whose work "protects us from the onslaught and destruction of the Republican attack machine."

Ms. Buell added: "Certain people are trying to destroy David through off-the-record conversations with reporters. They are spineless and devious."

Mr. Messina, now a consultant with a significant roster of corporate and political clients, became co-chairman of Priorities early last year, charged with helping the advertising-oriented super PAC secure hundreds of millions of dollars in contributions. But with the campaign season still a year away, Mr. Messina and his team have encountered some difficulty getting commitments, according to several Democrats involved in helping the group.

Mr. Brock, in turn, has been reluctant to cede turf — or pre-eminence — to Obama veterans like Mr. Messina. "He was never accepted" by the Obama camp, said one Clinton loyalist, who like most people interviewed for this article declined to speak on the record for fear of angering either the president or the woman who hopes to replace him.

Months ago, Mrs. Clinton's top advisers encouraged the three pro-Clinton super PACs — Ready for Hillary, Priorities USA, and Mr. Brock's American Bridge 21st Century — to combine efforts. Mr. Brock's organization would provide opposition research to Priorities, which would eventually raise high-dollar donations to pay for attack ads. Ready for Hillary would dissolve after Mrs. Clinton officially declared her candidacy.

But Priorities is the only one of the groups founded by Obama operatives, making it the least easiest to fit into the emerging Clinton apparatus. And all outside groups are facing increased competition from official party organizations, like the Democratic National Committee, which are now free to solicit their own million-dollar commitments from big donors, thanks to new campaign finance rules inserted into December's federal spending bill.

In a statement, Mr. Messina suggested there was little tension with Mr. Brock or his organizations. "Priorities USA Action works closely and cooperatively with progressive champion David Brock and American Bridge," he said. "Both organizations have clear and complementary missions, and we look forward to continuing to work together to build on our shared success."

Several donors approached by Priorities in recent months, including some advised by Ms. Bonner, said they had already given generously or otherwise committed to Mr. Brock. Mr. Messina's allies worry that Clinton loyalists will seek to replace him with another strategist closer to Mrs. Clinton, perhaps Guy Cecil, previously a contender for the job of Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager.

When the Priorities board issued a statement on Monday evening asking Mr. Brock to reconsider his resignation, it was signed not by Mr. Messina but by his co-chairwoman, Jennifer M. Granholm, the former Michigan governor and a Clinton supporter in 2008. Ms. Granholm and other Priorities officials have sought to soothe Mr. Brock, Democrats assisting the group said, and he has suggested he would be open to rejoining the super PAC's board.

In an interview, Mr. Messina denied a report in BuzzFeed that he had used the controversy around Ms. Bonner's fees to try to rally donors around a pledge to hold back checks from any organizations paying fund-raisers on commission. Such a campaign could cripple Mr. Brock's groups, which rely entirely on Ms. Bonner's firm to raise money.

"I've never heard of a petition, I don't know anything about it, no one has talked to me," Mr. Messina said. "It's not true."

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Hillary Clinton fundraising off to slow start (Politico)
By Kenneth Vogel
February 10, 2015
Politico

The main super PAC supporting Hillary Clinton is struggling in its early efforts to line up cash toward a fundraising goal of as much as $500 million, according to sources with knowledge of its fundraising.

The group, Priorities USA Action, is trying to secure 30 or more pledges of at least $1 million apiece to be unveiled publicly when the former secretary of state officially enters the race, sources say. But, so far, it has received only about 10 firm commitments, and it is encountering resistance from top donors who have given to other Clinton-linked vehicles, including ostensibly aligned super PACs and even the apolitical Clinton Foundation.

Discussions have focused on trying to supercharge the sluggish fundraising by enlisting help from heavyweight surrogates with close ties to the Clintons, including possibly Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe or investment banker Tom Nides, who served under Hillary Clinton at the State Department, according to sources.

Priorities, which has worked to reinvent itself after helping President Barack Obama win reelection in 2012, has been buffeted by disagreements over its mission, as well as its fundraising strategy and goals, according to interviews with about a dozen Democratic donors and operatives working to lay the groundwork for an expected Clinton campaign.

Priorities occasionally has clashed behind the scenes with other groups working toward the same goal. The tensions spilled out into public view Monday, when Clinton ally David Brock quit the Priorities board amid accusations it was trying to boost its own fundraising by undercutting that of two pro-Clinton groups he runs.

While Brock said late Monday he was “open to returning” after Priorities pledged to address his concerns, it’s Priorities itself that some Clintonites are concerned about.

“People are starting to worry that Priorities could be a weak link,” said a strategist who has worked with the various pro-Clinton outside groups.

The stumbles — and the slow fundraising start — raise doubts about a key assumption about Clinton’s strength as a presidential candidate: that her allies will be able to rely on a seemingly bottomless well of support from rich supporters to build an historic political money juggernaut that will overwhelm prospective rivals.

Over the past two years, the two super PACs that have been most active paving the way for an expected Clinton campaign — Brock’s American Bridge 21st Century and Ready for Hillary — raised a combined $29 million, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

And the Clinton Foundation this week said it had raised all but $2 million of an aggressive $250 million fundraising drive for an endowment it had hoped to complete before any campaign kickoff, at which point the Clintons themselves likely would have to withdraw from foundation activities.

Meanwhile, Priorities, which was created in 2011 to help boost Obama’s reelection, has been mostly idling since it spent $75 million during the 2012 campaign. It raised only $364,000 in the past two years, and finished 2014 with less than $500,000 in the bank, according to FEC filings.

Peter Kauffmann, a spokesman for Priorities, said “we are confident that we will have the resources necessary to execute our mission.”

But there’s also debate about how much exactly the PAC will need to provide effective advertising cover for Clinton’s would-be campaign during an election cycle in which the network overseen by the conservative billionaire Koch brothers intends to spend at least $889 million.

Some Clinton allies argue that Priorities must raise as much as $500 million — a major increase from the $300 million goal floated by insiders late last year — while others privately worry that figure is out of reach, even for the Clintons. For perspective, the super PAC supporting Republican Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign raised $154 million, while the Karl Rove-conceived Crossroads advertising groups spent $325 million during that cycle.

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Priorities is hampered by the absence of a Clinton campaign organization, say people familiar with its early efforts. They expect fundraising to spike once Clinton declares her candidacy, but that might not come until July, which is one reason Priorities began seeking pledged donations. The group's co-Chair Jennifer Granholm, Executive Director Buffy Wicks and Finance Director Diana Rogalle are among those soliciting pledges for Priorities.

Many donors have begged off solicitations until Clinton formally announces, with some saying they have recently given to other groups associated with the Clintons.

Granholm and Wicks last year discussed Priorities' efforts with Michael Vachon, a representative for billionaire financier George Soros, who has donated $25,000 to Ready for Hillary. But Vachon told them Soros had not yet made any decisions about 2016 political spending, sources say.

Another major donor got a visit from two Priorities fundraisers about a month after attending a fundraising luncheon for the Clinton Foundation but did not make a pledge to the group.

Los Angeles television producer Marcy Carsey and Boston philanthropist Barbara Lee this year turned down requests from Granholm to pledge seven figures to Priorities, according to sources, despite both having written recent large checks to other Clinton-related endeavors. Carsey had given a significant sum to the Clinton Foundation, as well as $275,000 in the last two years to EMILY's List and Ready for Hillary, while Lee has given at least $875,000 in that span to Ready for Hillary, EMILY's List and Brock's American Bridge.

Carsey could not be reached for comment, while a spokeswoman for Lee said in an email, "Barbara receives a number of various requests, and as a matter of strategy, she does not publicly discuss them."

Investment banker Robert Wolf, a top bundler for Obama who describes himself as "fully supportive" of a Clinton 2016 campaign, nonetheless said he hasn't pledged to Priorities.

"In 2014, I gave to CGI [the Clinton Global Initiative], Clinton Foundation, Obama Library and DNC [the Democratic National Committee] and individual races, so I have not focused yet on 2016 Presidential stuff, but will at some point," he wrote in an email.

There is a sense among some donors that donations to various Clinton-linked efforts are indistinguishable, say sources who travel in Democratic finance circles. That impression may be reinforced by the involvement of a handful of key operatives in both the political and foundation fundraising efforts.

Brock and his fundraising team, including his star fundraiser, Mary Pat Bonner, who also raises money for Ready for Hillary, have raised funds for the foundation on a pro bono basis. The foundation official who oversaw the endowment drive, Dennis Cheng, served as a finance director on Clinton's 2008 campaign and is expected to play a similar role in any 2016 bid.

Cheng is stepping down at the end of this week, which some read as a signal that Hillaryland is officially shifting its attention to a more imminent campaign.

Clinton Foundation spokesman Craig Minassian credited Cheng with "diversifying the donor base" of the foundation, which works on public health and women's empowerment initiatives around the world.

Priorities board member Joe Solmonese, a former president of the Human Rights Campaign, said major donors aren't going to conflate any of the pro-Clinton super PACs, let alone the foundation.

"People who write big checks like that are a lot smarter than that," he said. "Having many different entities doing many different things is necessary to win in the context of an election cycle. And donors are sophisticated enough to evaluate these things individually and to give on the basis of what they're passionate about and what there is a need for."

A veteran Democratic operative with close ties to the Clintons who has been briefed on Priorities efforts said, "I have not heard of anyone saying, 'I gave at the office.' The folks Priorities is talking to are intensely political people. Many were there for Clinton the first time, they were there for Obama, they'll be there for Hillary this time, and they'll be there for Chelsea if she ever runs."

The operative said it had not been determined whether Priorities would release the list of pledged donations, casting the pledge push as just in the "internal discussion" phase. "I'm less interested in the announcement as I

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am in the cash.” And the operative also stressed that the overall fundraising goal had not been definitively determined, while conceding that waiting for Clinton to declare her intentions creates planning and fundraising challenges.

“Nobody is going to write a seven-figure check for a cause that has not yet come to fruition,” said the operative.

The resulting questions about how Priorities would make best use the interregnum between the Obama and Clinton campaigns has occasionally left the impression that “there is a lot of lurching over there,” in the words of one Democrat involved in laying the groundwork for a Clinton campaign.

And there have been lingering tensions from the 2008 Democratic presidential primary between some Clinton backers and Priorities co-Chair Jim Messina, who ran Obama’s reelection campaign and is said to have taken a significant behind-the-scenes role in shaping Priorities’ strategy.

Then came this week’s blow-up, during which Brock, whose groups defend Clinton against attacks, suggested that the Priorities leadership was pursuing “their own personal agendas.”

Granholm dismissed concerns about the infighting, asserting in a Monday night statement, “we all have the same shared goals.”

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Hillary Clinton's best frenemies (Politico)
By Ben Schreckinger
February 11, 2015
Politico

What makes Jim Webb a better presidential candidate than Hillary Clinton? "I really don't have an answer for you on that," the former Virginia senator told NPR late last month. Where does Martin O'Malley differ from Clinton as a leader? "My mind is not even in the compare-contrast mode," O'Malley told the New York Times. How does the bombastic Bernie Sanders feel about the candidate he's planning to challenge for the Democratic nomination? "This is a woman I respect, clearly a very intelligent person," Sanders said Monday.

With enemies like these, who needs friends?

Time and time again, when invited to criticize Clinton, her potential Democratic primary rivals have ducked, deflected and dodged. They're trying to present themselves as viable alternatives to the daunting frontrunner without addressing the obvious question of how they stack up against her.

"At the end of [interviews], somebody has to ask me a question about Hillary, and I try not to attack her. Usually, no matter what I say, it becomes 'Hillary Clinton,'" said Sanders, raising his arms in a sweeping gesture as if to indicate that Clinton's name becomes the banner headline. "What I'm running on are the issues … Her name recognition is about 10 times greater than mine, so if I run, it would take a lot of work getting around the country introducing myself to people."

With Elizabeth Warren continuing to resist entreaties to enter the race, liberals are still waiting for a serious challenger to Clinton to emerge — if only to ensure the party's progressive wing gets the attention and respect it believes its views deserve. At this point in 2007, President Barack Obama was declaring his candidacy and drawing a contrast with Clinton on issues like the Iraq War and the politics of triangulation, pioneered by Clinton's husband in the 1990s.

This time around, would-be Clinton spoilers are not so far along.

The outspoken Sanders deflected a question about Clinton posed by POLITICO late last month. "All I know is if I run, I'm not running against Hillary Clinton," protested the Vermont senator, who if he runs, almost certainly would be running against Clinton. Over the weekend, he did engage the prospective match-up more directly, telling MSNBC that it would be a "real clash of ideas" on issues like trade, climate change and infrastructure investment.

But at an event at the Brookings Institution this week, Sanders made it clear he had little interest in going after the former secretary of state.

"It is not my style to trash people," he said.

Clinton's other two most likely rivals haven't even gone that far. Before Webb dodged a Hillary question from NPR's Steve Inskeep ("If I were to run, it would not be sort of as a counterpoint to her") he ducked a similar one put to him by Yahoo's Matt Bai in late December ("I'm not running against Hillary Clinton"). When an O'Malley operative began talking about Clinton to a New York Times reporter last fall, the former Maryland governor's communications director "jabbed him in the side" to make him stop, according to the newspaper's account.

The repeated questions and dodges underscore the unusual nature of the Democratic race. Though Clinton is a private citizen who has not declared she is running, she has cultivated an aura of inevitability so strong that, "She's tantamount to an incumbent," in the words of Democratic consultant Tad Devine.

Naturally, voters will want to know how lesser-known candidates compare to Clinton, but advisers to those candidates argue that talking about the former secretary of state would be a mistake.

"It makes no sense, whether it's Webb, Sanders, or O'Malley, to start a campaign by going on the attack," said an adviser to one Democrat considering a 2016 run who was not authorized to speak on the record about messaging strategy. "It would be putting the cart before the horse a little bit to start lobbing bombs at Hillary Clinton before you even enter the race."

"You need to make an affirmative case before you get to the contrast," said the adviser, who added that Mitt

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Romney erred in 2012 by focusing on Obama before he had articulated a positive vision of his own candidacy.

Devine, a longtime Sanders ally who will advise the senator's presidential campaign should he launch one, conceded that conflict generates coverage, a precious commodity for lesser-known candidates. But he said that the Vermont senator would try to attract attention by targeting the forces of runaway capitalism rather than his primary opponents. "It's a huge challenge," said Devine. "It's a different kind of conflict than the press is used to covering and perhaps than voters are used to hearing."

"Governor O'Malley is looking forward to introducing himself to Democrats outside of Maryland and talking about his own affirmative ideas for the future," wrote O'Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith in an email.

Candidates on the livelier Republican side of the presidential fieldhave been a lot more willing to snipe at both Clinton and each other. Jeb Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio have both characterized Clinton as old news, with Rubio calling her a "20th century candidate." Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul regularly trolls his presidential rivals on social media and recently released a gag audio recording of a Jeb Bush impersonator conspiring with a Hillary Clinton impersonator.

But the Democratic field faces something of a Catch-22. Because no challenger has gained traction, Clinton feels little pressure to campaign and is reportedly considering postponing an announcement until July. But the longer Clinton stays out of the race, the longer she can avoid taking positions that opponents can attack to gain traction.

"They don't know what she's going to say," said Democratic strategist Bob Shrum, who worked on the presidential campaigns of John Kerry and Al Gore. "And it's hard to define yourself without knowing what contrast you want to draw."

Webb, Sanders and O'Malley are all planning to travel to early primary states in the coming weeks and months, and the pressure to define themselves in contrast to Clinton will only intensify.

For now, though, they're content to play nice.

"The Beltway media might want a food fight right now," said Smith, the O'Malley adviser, "but that won't do anyone — let alone Democrats — any good."

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Brock Is No Stranger to Political Rumbles Involving Clintons (NYT)
By Amy Chozick
February 10, 2015
The New York Times

“As rough and tumble as they get.”

That’s how one old friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton described David Brock when he arrived in Arkansas in early 1993 to dig up dirt on President Clinton.

Back then, Mr. Brock was a star reporter for The American Spectator, the conservative magazine. Today, he is a liberal devoted to getting Hillary Rodham Clinton elected president. But he’s still rough and tumble.

On Monday, Mr. Brock accused a pro-Clinton “super PAC,” Priorities USA Action, of “spreading derogatory material” about his organizations, Media Matters and American Bridge, to The New York Times.

He knows a thing or two about how to generate a controversial press report. Mr. Brock’s story accusing Arkansas state troopers of setting up sexual liaisons for Mr. Clinton led to Paula Jones’s 1994 sexual harassment lawsuit against him.

Mr. Brock later converted to the left, and his 2002 memoir, “Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative,” became one of Mr. Clinton’s favorite reads. (He keeps copies in a dresser at his home in Chappaqua, N.Y., and gives them out to visitors.)

In turn, Mr. Brock has become one of the Clintons’ most loyal political soldiers, though he is sometimes accused of applying the attack-dog tactics he used as a conservative on behalf of the other side of the political spectrum.

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Hillary Clinton Seeking Office Space in Brooklyn or Queens (Time)
By Sam Frizell
February 10, 2015
Time Magazine

Hillary Clinton's staff are working with global real estate broker CB Richard Ellis to find a headquarters for her likely 2016 presidential campaign, TIME has learned from several sources familiar with the matter.

Her campaign headquarters would likely be located in Brooklyn or Queens, where commercial rents are significantly cheaper than in Manhattan. It's unclear whether, or how soon Clinton will settle on a headquarters.

The Los-Angeles-based brokerage CBRE has worked with the Clintons in the past. Roshan Shah, a broker and senior vice president at CBRE, helped the William J. Clinton Foundation negotiate the move out of its Harlem offices. CBRE declined to comment.

There aren't many options for large, contiguous office spaces in downtown Brooklyn and Queens, where a high demand for commercial leases has raised prices in recent years. The current average annual rent price per square foot of office space in Brooklyn is around $40-$45. Prices in a 2013 report indicated averages around $35 per square foot in Brooklyn compared with around $60 in Manhattan.

Clinton's staff privately toured office space at MetroTech last year, a large office complex in downtown Brooklyn, and have also looked at the One Pierrepont Plaza building in Brooklyn Heights. The Pierrepont building is home to over 120,000 square feet of available office space.

Both spaces are owned by Forest City Ratner, whose chairman Bruce Ratner is a Democrat and an ally of New York City mayor Bill de Blasio. De Blasio served on Clinton's 1999 campaign for Senator in New York.

In 2011 and 2012, the Obama campaign leased 50,000 square feet of office space in the Prudential Building in Chicago, which is now available for $20 to $27 per square foot but was cheaper four years ago, according to the current property managers.

Clinton has been courted by Westchester notables in an effort to attract the presumptive presidential candidates 2016 campaign to the New York City suburb.

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Hillary Clinton's Brooklyn options are limited (Capital New York)
By Dana Rubenstein
February 11, 2015
Capital New York

In recent days, people who pay close attention to the undeclared presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton have been wondering about her real estate plans, which could, reportedly, involve setting up shop in Brooklyn or Queens.

"A base in gentrifying Brooklyn or Queens could help give Clinton's campaign a youthful feel, and would likely be a relief for Democratic operatives dreading a relocation to the suburb, or a daily commute from New York City," explained MSNBC.

In the ensuing days, two pertinent details leaked out.

First, the Daily News reported that Clinton's team, which is believed to include brokers from CBRE, checked out One Pierrepont Plaza and MetroTech, both owned by Forest City Ratner. Bruce Ratner, the company's executive chairman, is a big Democratic donor.

Then, the News reported that Clinton was seeking 100,000 square feet of office space. That's a quite a lot.

For comparison, 100,000 square feet is twice the amount Barack Obama's campaign occupied in 2012. It's also roughly twice the space Clinton's campaign occupied in 2008.

It would be hard enough for Brooklyn and Queens to accommodate a 50,000-square-foot tenant. A 100,000-square-foot requirement would further narrow Clinton's options in two boroughs that have, for decades, sent commuters to offices in Manhattan, rather than developing office space themselves.

Brooklyn is "a borough of churches and houses," said Chris Havens, the vice president of commercial real estate at the Brooklyn-based aptsandlofts.com.

"I'm skeptical," he said. "This is a very tight market. There's a lot of space available in Manhattan."

Roy Chipkin, a Queens commercial real estate broker at CBRE, described the Queens market as "very thin," because "nothing's been built in 100 years," and most of what has been built is residential.

Given the slim pickings, what are Clinton's realistic options, should she indeed decide to headquarter in the outer boroughs instead of Manhattan?

The contours of her former presidential endeavor may provide some guidance.

The last time Clinton ran for president, in 2008, she ran her campaign from a drab office building at 4420 North Fairfax Drive in Arlington, VA. It had roughly 50,000 square feet, five floors, an elevator.

According to former staffers, the space was aggressively utilitarian. (Before Clinton, the Immigration and Naturalization Service ran a detention center there.)

It was also quite spacious.

There was a floor devoted to ping pong and debate prep. Mold flourished on a war-room wall.

The headquarters were close to the Metro line, and 20 minutes from D.C. by car. There was ready access to mid-market food options, like Cosi, not to mention a hamburger joint called Big Buns.

It's not clear how much Clinton paid per square foot in Arlington, but commercial real estate database CoStar indicates that asking rents at her old headquarters are now $36 per square foot.

Clinton's office didn't respond to any questions about the real estate requirements of her campaign-to-be.

Interviews with several real estate experts in both boroughs suggested a few potential options.

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If Clinton wants to cultivate a pioneering vibe, she could venture out to Industry City, the creative-industry beehive on the Sunset Park waterfront.

Michael Phillips, president of Jamestown Properties, which owns part of the complex, said it could accommodate a new, 100,000-square-foot tenant.

To get there, staffers could take the N or D trains one stop past Atlantic Avenue. Or drive. There are some good food options on site, but not that many of them. It would offer her space and some distance from the ravenous media crowd.

“That’s definitely a place where they’d be able to find chunks of space and have a lot more flexibility,” said Ofer Cohen, president of TerraCRG, a Brooklyn-based commercial real estate brokerage.

Cohen also said, “The cost would be significantly, significantly less [than other parts of Brooklyn], in the 20 dollar per-square-foot range.”

There isn’t much of anything available in North Brooklyn. The Walentas family’s DUMBO properties are not believed to have the necessary space.

“DUMBO Heights,” the old Jehovah’s Witnesses complex now partly controlled by Jared Kushner, has some room. But it’s thought to be on the pricey side, with asking rents in the $50s per square foot, according to Cohen.

Nor is it clear that the complex, which Kushner is renovating, is imminently available.

“From what I understand, the building’s not really open for occupancy yet,” said Tucker Reed, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. “They’re a year or two away, so the timeline might not match up.”

Kushner wouldn’t comment for this story.

Finally, and most obviously, there’s Downtown Brooklyn proper, a neighborhood where high demand and a paucity of office space have created a very low vacancy rate.

Sources say that Forest City could make about 170,000 square feet available at One Pierrepont Plaza, the building the Daily News said Clinton’s people had visited.

But some wonder whether the asking rent—which sources say is at least in the $40s per square foot—is too high.

From a symbolism standpoint, Brooklyn isn’t necessarily all upside either.

“Brooklyn has the advantage and the disadvantage of having cache,” said Seth Pinsky, a real estate executive and the former president of New York City’s Economic Development Corporation. “The advantage is that you can attract a lot of young, talented people and it links you to a new, very highly desirable urbanism. At the same time, there are also a lot of stereotypes—good and bad—that come with both of those and it’s unclear whether she wants to be associated with those as she’s campaigning for president.”

Queens, which is often cheaper than downtown Brooklyn, appears to offer Clinton more options.

“If she’s looking for something that’s funkier and that’s close to Manhattan, then certainly a place like Long Island City would be the most logical place,” said Pinsky.

Last week, at Capital’s request, Evan Daniel, the executive vice president of the ModernSpaces real estate group, sent Capital a list of properties 50,000 square feet and greater in the western Queens submarket.

There’s a 1930s-era Astoria factory on 36th Street down the street from the Museum of the Moving Image called “Offices at the Square.” Sixty-three thousand square feet are available there, it’s close to the M, R, N and Q trains and there’s a beer garden downstairs

There’s hundreds of thousands of square feet available at the Factory, on 47th Avenue in Long Island City, according to the report. The nearby Falchi Building could also accommodate a 100,000-square-foot tenant.

There’s 90,000 square feet at an old industrial building on Austell Place, and more than 100,000 square feet at

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30-30 Northern Boulevard and One MetLife Plaza. There's nearly that much at 3430 Steinway Street.

There's also Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens, home to borough hall and the Queens district attorney's office, though that market's not believed to have to have enough space.

And, should she more inclined to maintain her distance from Midtown, there's Jamaica.

It's accessible by subway and Long Island Rail Road, but not too accessible. It's also close to the airport and some of her donors on Long Island. It's pre-trendy.

"If she wanted to show she was more a 'woman of the people', then a place like Jamaica, with a feel similar to where her husband is in Harlem, would send an interesting signal and it's certainly transit accessible as well," said Pinsky.

(It's not clear that there's supply there either, though. Justin Rodgers, managing director of real estate and economic development at the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation said he couldn't think of anything off the top of his head.)

Certainly, Queens leaders would love to have her.

"Queens is the gateway to the city, the nation and the world, with its unparalleled transportation connections including bridges, tunnels, rail and airports, and has a population to match," said Elizabeth Lusskin president of the Long Island City Partnership. "While space is tight, I'm sure Queens would find room for any national candidate wise enough to chose the World's Borough for her home base."

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Dems make up after Hillaryland spat (CNN)
By Brianna Keilar
February 10, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN)Priorities USA and American Bridge -- two super PACs aligned behind likely 2016 Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton -- are publicly mending fences after the head of American Bridge abruptly resigned his position on the board of Priorities USA earlier today.

David Brock, longtime Clinton defender and the founder of the liberal opposition research juggernaut American Bridge and media watchdog Media Matters, quit in protest of a New York Times story published Friday that pulled the curtain back on the opaque fundraising practices of his groups.

The piece questioned Brock's ties to fundraising adviser Mary Pat Bonner, revealing that she receives 12.5% commission on the donations she raises for Brock PACs.

In a letter, first published by Politico and verified by multiple sources, Brock defended his fundraising practices and called the Times story "an orchestrated political hit job," taking aim at current and former officials at Priorities USA, saying they "were behind this specious and malicious attack on the integrity of these critical organizations."

Brock's resignation was a departure from the cooperation that Priorities, American Bridge and another pro-Clinton super PAC, Ready for Hillary, have displayed since brokering an agreement to work together last year. But it also harkened back to the days of the 2012 presidential cycle when American Bridge and Priorities USA, then a nascent super PAC backing President Barack Obama, were at odds at they competed for the attention of Democratic donors.

Democratic operatives close to Clinton who are involved in outside groups dedicated to her seemingly certain presidential run, were eager to tamp down speculation about trouble in Hillaryland and orchestrated the public make up, according to multiple sources.

In a statement distributed to reporters following the flap, former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, co-chair of Priorities USA, said, "We take the concerns board member David Brock raises seriously and are working to address them."

Brock said he had spoken to the group's leaders and was assured his concerns would be addressed, though for now he remains off the board of Priorities USA, a sign that not all is forgiven.

"I'm open to returning to the board and I share their desire to find a way to move forward," he said in the statement.

Republicans, meanwhile, were only too happy to see the intra-party fighting.

"If they can't keep it together 20 months out and before Hillary has even officially announced, one has to seriously wonder how they're going to hold up in the heat of a national campaign," said Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short.

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Boris Johnson once compared Hillary Clinton to 'a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital' (Telegraph)
By Raf Sanchez Washington
February 10, 2015
The Telegraph Online

Mayor of London hastily tries to make amends for comparing the potential next president of the United States to Lady Macbeth

Boris Johnson today attempted to make sheepish amends for once comparing Hillary Clinton to "a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital" and alluding to conspiracy theories she was involved in a friend's death.

A day before he was due to meet Mrs Clinton in New York, the Mayor of London was reminded that he had once said she represents "everything I came into politics to oppose" including "an all-round purse-lipped political correctness".

Writing in the Daily Telegraph in November 2007, when Mrs Clinton looked the favourite to win the 2008 presidential election, Mr Johnson mused about whether he could support her candidacy.

"She's got dyed blonde hair and pouty lips, and a steely blue stare, like a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital," he noted.

Perhaps more damaging than his colourful remarks about her appearance was Mr Johnson's conclusion that he thought Mrs Clinton should win in 2008 because it would bring Bill Clinton back to the White House:

For all who love America, it is time to think of supporting Hillary, not because we necessarily want her for herself but because we want Bill in the role of First Husband. And if Bill can deal with Hillary, he can surely deal with any global crisis.

Mr Johnson also made a reference to conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Vince Foster, a close friend of Mrs Clinton's who killed himself with a gun in 1993.

Some opponents of the Clintons have suggested that he may have been killed and they had a hand in his death - a theory refuted by multiple official investigations.

In his column, Mr Johnson referred to "worrying allegations" about "the anomalies in the position of poor Vince Foster's gun".

He also said Mrs Clinton appeared to have spent her eight years as First Lady behaving like "a mixture between Cherie Blair and Lady Macbeth, stamping her heel, bawling out subordinates and frisbeeing ashtrays at her erring husband".

When reminded about his eight-year-old comments by ITV News , Mr Johnson said: "I'm delighted to be able to meet Senator Clinton. I'm sure that whatever I've said in the past will be taken by the Senator who is a very distinguished politician in the light hearted spirit in which it was intended."

Even his efforts to make amends may cause new issues.

While Mrs Clinton was once a senator from New York, and therefore entitled to be called "Senator Clinton", that title was overtaken by her work as US Secretary of State.

Americans universally refer to her as "Secretary Clinton", which may have been the title Mr Johnson was grasping for.

The mayor is due to meet Mrs Clinton, who is expected to run for president in 2016, in New York on Wednesday for talks expected to focus on foreign policy.

The flap over his past comments is the latest in a series of hiccups to befall Mr Johnson's US trip.

He had been due to meet with Bill de Blasio, the mayor of New York, on Tuesday but his Big Apple counterpart pulled out of the meeting citing illness.

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While Mr de Blasio cancelled his meeting with Mr Johnson - and several other engagements during the day - he was apparently well enough to give a speech at the premiere for a television documentary later in the evening.

Parts of Mr Johnson's scheduled visit to Boston also had to be called off as the northeastern city was inundated by historic snowstorms.

He is due to travel to Washington on Thursday.

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Boris Johnson Had Unkind Words for Hillary Clinton (WSJ)
By Tim Hanrahan
February 10, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

London Mayor Boris Johnson, set to meet with Hillary Clinton on Wednesday, found himself in a bit of hot water over a column he wrote in 2007 that took some jabs of the then-senator.

In the Telegraph column, Mr. Johnson -- today seen as a potential future U.K. prime minister -- said he found himself hoping that Mrs. Clinton would be the next U.S. president, despite his long list of misgivings about her.

“She’s got dyed blonde hair and pouty lips, and a steely blue stare, like a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital,” wrote Mr. Johnson. He added: “[S]he represents, on the face of it, everything I came into politics to oppose: not just a general desire to raise taxes and nationalize things, but an all-round purse-lipped political correctness.”

After a few more digs, Mr. Johnson explains why he was pulling for Mrs. Clinton, instead of the “plainly brilliant” Barack Obama and others: so that former President Bill Clinton could return to the White House as first husband.

In a statement to ITV News Tuesday, Mr. Johnson said: “I’m sure that whatever I’ve said in the past will be taken by the Senator ...in the light-hearted spirit in which it was intended.”

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Bill, Hillary tee off; for pay — and to play (SF Chronicle)
Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross
February 11, 2015
The San Francisco Chronicle

Democrats' other first family, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, are getting into the swing of things around here — both on and off the golf course. Hillary Clinton is scheduled to headline the $295-a-head Lead On conference for women at the Santa Clara Convention Center on Feb. 24. The event is being put on by Watermark, an executive networking group for women, and is being sponsored by a number of prominent Silicon Valley companies, including Cisco and Intel, as well as by the San Francisco 49ers and The Chronicle. Watermark spokeswoman Karen Breslau said the organization does not comment on whether "any speaker is paid or not." Meanwhile, Bill Clinton, who received $17 million in speech honorariums in 2013, delivered four for-pay talks last week in Oakland, San Rafael and San Mateo as part of the MPSF Speaker Series.

While he was in town, Bill also had time for some good old-fashioned political schmoozing, including a quick morning meet-and-greet with San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee at the Harding Park Golf Course. Afterward, the former president shot 18 holes with a foursome that included city Recreation and Park Commission President Mark Buell, whose wife, Susie Tompkins Buell, has been one of Hillary's most ardent backers. "I'm always glad to welcome a Clinton to San Francisco," Lee said of his get-together.So, apparently, was an SUV full of women who spotted Bill Clinton crossing the road and rushed to get his photo and autograph, causing the obliging ex-president to wave off the fast-descending Secret Service. Later, Clinton realized he had left his favorite sand wedge on the course. Rec and Park staff promised to get it to Mark Buell at City Hall.However, when the staffer showed up with club in hand, sheriff's deputies refused to let it past security. Buell eventually retrieved the club outside City Hall and delivered it that night to Clinton — who greeted its safe return with his trademark toothy grin.

Split rail: It ought to be an interesting BART meeting this week when directors take up the question of what do to — or not do — about the 14 protesters who were arrested after shutting down the system for three hours on the Friday after Thanksgiving. "Right now, I see a three-way split," said Board of Directors member Joel Keller. At issue is BART's initial call for Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley to prosecute and seek $70,000 in restitution from the protesters — or $5,000 each — for losses from the shutdown. BART General Manager Grace Crunican has since backed off on the cash demand, saying she would prefer a payback through community service. The "Black Friday" protesters chained themselves to a BART train at the West Oakland Station, effectively shutting down the system for hours, to call attention to their anger over grand juries' refusals to indict police officers who killed unarmed black men in New York and Ferguson, Mo.. BART Directors Rebecca Saltzman and Tom Radulovich want both the restitution and the charges dropped altogether. Keller and fellow director Nick Josefowitz have come out for dropping the restitution demand, but supporting whatever charges O'Malley decides to pursue. A third option would be to let the call for prosecution and community service stand. The nine-member board will hash it all out Thursday. "From my count, there are three directors leaning for each of the options," Keller said.

Crash call: In San Francisco, everything gets political — even a head-on collision with a suspected car thief. At least that was the case for former Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, who was in a crash Saturday night with a suspected car thief who was fleeing from police. As Ammiano described it in an Internet posting, he and a friend were stopped at a red light at Sixth and Mission streets when the suspected thief "ran a red light, nailing 2 or 3 cars and then slammed into us."Ammiano's car was totaled, but he and his passenger escaped with "scrapes, bruises and whiplash," Ammiano wrote. It was while sitting in the ambulance waiting to go to St. Luke's that things took a political twist. According the Ammiano, a cabbie whose car had also been bashed by the fleeing thief yelled, "I hope this is a wake-up call to run for mayor!" "Only in San Francisco," Ammiano said.

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Inside the Beltway: Where's Hillary Clinton - and why is she hiding? (Washington Times)
Jennifer Harper
February 11, 2015
The Washington Times

The Republican National Committee is fretting about Hillary Rodham Clinton's absence from the public arena at the moment. "We've noticed it. You've noticed it: Hillary Clinton is hiding," the committee notes in a public memo. "Potential Republican presidential candidates are out in public, speaking to voters, and sharing their ideas. But Hillary Clinton is nowhere to be found." Their point has resonated. Others parse the who, what, when and where of it all. "Come out, come out wherever you are," writes the Weekly Standard's Daniel Halper. "Where in the world is Hillary Clinton? Over the past several weeks, she has been behaving like a reclusive third-world dictator," declares Washington Free Beacon editor Andrew Stiles.

Journalist and author Sharyl Attkisson wonders why Mrs. Clinton — who once erroneously claimed she was shot at in a Bosnian war zone — isn't scrutinized as closely as NBC News anchor Brian Williams, who falsely claimed he encountered enemy fire in the skies over Iraq. It's ironic, Ms. Attkisson told NewsMax TV, that he could lose his career, "yet we didn't care enough to have it matter with someone who became our Secretary of State." The point was also brought home by Washington Times columnist Joseph Curl.

The GOP, meanwhile, points out that it has been 202 days since Mrs. Clinton held a press conference, and 184 days since offering a major interview. She has been spotted around Manhattan, enjoying a Broadway show, and appearing at a fundraiser also attended by Mitt and Ann Romney, speaking of irony. Mrs. Clinton had two public speaking engagements in Canada in late January, notable for a moment when she imitated Russia President Vladimir Putin. She is now said to be hard at work on a "modern, aggressive campaign," according to the Washington Post.

The GOP is not buying any of it.

"Why would a would-be presidential candidate behave this way? Because she's made a strategic decision that the only way to ensure she is the Democratic nominee is to make everyone think she's inevitable. The last time she had to face voters and actually compete for the nomination, she lost to a newcomer. She doesn't want to make the same mistake twice," the organization continues. "As her poll numbers show, when Hillary is campaigning, she's much less popular. What's the only way not to seem like she's campaigning? Go into hiding."

FOR THE LEXICON

"Infotainment confusion syndrome."

— A condition developed by NBC anchor Brian Williams, according to Comedy Central's fake newsman Jon Stewart, who told a recent audience, "It occurs when the celebrity cortex gets its wires crossed with the medulla anchor-dala." Mr. Stewart noted that "celeb-rellum" is then activated, adding, "That's known as the brain's applause center. Once that engages, there's no going back."

And what timing. Late Tuesday, NBC announced that Mr. Williams had been suspended from his newscast for six months minus pay, for his aforementioned fib - in the same hour that Mr. Stewart went public with news he would leave his own show later this year. And as the sages say, hmmm.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

Fire up Air Force One, it's California fundraising time. In 48 hours, President Obama will travel to Palo Alto to address the Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection at Stanford University. Well that's nice. Then it's on to San Francisco proper for a Democratic National Committee fundraiser — specifically an "intimate dinner" with 60 other fans in the private home of an investment guru, priced at $10,000 a person for dinner and a photo with Mr. Obama, and $32,400 for dinner, a photo and a "co-chair" title.

And just to review, the president attended 71 fundraising events in 2014, this according to an excruciating count by the Sunlight Foundation. But we also must mention that the group also says that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie went to 109 fundraisers last year in his role as chairman of the Republican Governors Assoc.

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Meanwhile, there is some more traveling to come, though. On Valentine's day, "the President will depart San Francisco and travel to Palm Springs, California where he will remain overnight. Further details about the President's travel to California will be made available in the coming days," the White House advised earlier this week.

MCCAUL GETS BUSY

The mission does not end. A House Committee on Homeland Security hearing titled "Countering violent Islamist extremism: The urgent threat of foreign fighters and homegrown terror" has drawn some very helpful witnesses, including Nicholas Rasmussen, director of he National Counterterrorism Center; Francis X. Taylo r, undersecretary for intelligence and analysis at the Department of Homeland Security and Michael B. Steinbach, the FBI's assistant director for counterterrorism.

"Islamist terror groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula are surging, and every day we witness their brutality and senseless violence. The threat they pose to the homeland has reached its highest level since 9/11," says Rep. Michael McCaul, Texas Republican and committee chairman. "I want to make sure we are doing everything possible to keep that terror from reaching our shores."

And on the death of Kayla Mueller, an American aid worker who was held hostage by the Islamic State group, Mr. McCaul says, "While Kayla selflessly devoted herself to the cause of helping those in need, violent Islamist extremists like ISIS have devoted themselves to death and destruction. Her death will only strengthen our resolve to destroy these depraved barbarians."

The hearing is at 10 a.m. ET, and will be carried live by C-SPAN.

ONE FOR A HISTORIC FEBRUARY

Allen Wes t, Ben Carson and Kenneth Blackwell are among the sizable host committee for a Republican gathering of significance on Wednesday. The Republican National Committee hosts the 3rd Annual Black Republican Trailblazer Awards in the nation's capital, meant to celebrate Black History Month and honor those with "historic victories," says committee chairman Reince Priebus.

Awards and kudos will go to Sen. Tim Scott, Reps. Will Hurd and Mia Love, plus the late Ed Brooke — who is honored posthumously. The event is at the splendidly restored Howard Theater; onstage with Mr. Priebus and co-chairman Sharon Day: New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, TVOne host and editor Roland Martin, and CNN political analyst Tara Setmayer Love.

VOTE OR ELSE

"More than 100 Hamilton County poll workers got fired for failing to do the one thing that matters most on Election Day. They didn't vote. The board of elections said goodbye to the 104 workers after learning they had not voted in either the 2013 or 2014 elections, despite spending most of those Election Days in a polling place, surrounded by voters and ballots," reports the Cincinnati Enquirer.

"I'm frankly kind of shocked by the number of people on that list," said Tim Burke, chairman of the board and leader of Hamilton County's Democratic Party. "We want everyone to vote. If we have poll workers who don't vote, we're not encouraging that."

POLL DU JOUR

• 74 percent of Americans say the federal government does not have the right rules and regulations in place to prevent another recession from occurring.

• 55 percent say the U.S. government did a "good" job helping the nation recover from the recession that began in 2007.

• 55 percent say "big business" has recovered from that recession; 52 percent say the stock market has recovered.

• 35 percent say their own family has recovered from the recession; 30 percent say their local real estate market has recovered.

• 27 percent say the same of local job markets have recovered, 18 percent say the same for small businesses.

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Republicans say Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign is already falling apart (Business Insider)

By Colin Campbell

February 10, 2015

Business Insider

One of the leading political operatives in Hillary Clinton's world caused some major behind-the-scenes drama on Monday.

David Brock, a close Clinton ally who leads several liberal advocacy groups supporting her potential presidential campaign accused other Hillary backers of leading "an orchestrated political hit job" against him, according to a letter obtained by Politico.

"Our Democratic Presidential nominee deserves better than people who would risk the next election – and our country's future – for their own personal agendas," Brock declared in the letter.

Brock was apparently upset over a recent New York Times report detailing the millions of dollars a prominent Democratic consultant's firm made while helping organizations affiliated with Brock raise money. Brock accused officials from a major pro-Clinton "super PAC," Priorities USA Action, of intentionally leaking information to benefit themselves at his expense. In the letter to the PAC's leaders, Brock announced his resignation from their board. (Priorities denied involvement in the Times story to Politico.)

Reporters and conservative political operatives quickly compared the drama behind Brock's resignation letter to Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, which infamously suffered from perennial infighting and leaks. In "Game Change," John Heilemann and Mark Halperin described her White House bid as "a simmering cauldron of long-held animosities" — much of it centered on her then-pollster, Mark Penn.

"Good afternoon – Meet the new Hillary Clinton presidential campaign," Michael Short, a spokesman for the national Republican Party, quipped in an email, "same as the old Hillary Clinton presidential campaign."

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Targeted GOP senator: ‘I will never vote with my reelection in mind’ (The Hill)

By Alexander Bolton

February 10, 2015

The Hill

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) is up for reelection this cycle, but he says he’s not changing. Not one bit.

“I’ll always tell Wisconsinites the truth, to the best of my ability, and I will never vote with my reelection in mind. I’m not afraid to justify my votes. I generally have a pretty good rationale for voting the way I do,” he told The Hill in an interview from his office in the Hart Senate Office Building.

To win back the upper chamber in 2016, Democrats probably have to defeat Johnson. The freshman senator knows he is a huge target, but he isn’t shying away from his conservative credentials in a state that hasn’t voted for a Republican presidential nominee since 1984.

Johnson, 59, says he won’t let a difficult reelection race push him out of bare-knuckled confrontations with the administration or soften his resolve to reform entitlement programs.

As the new chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, he is taking a prominent role in the immigration debate by putting together a border security bill that will be the first item of the GOP’s reform agenda.

Johnson was sworn into office in 2011 after beating incumbent Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold (Wis.) in a stunning upset. This time, he will run for reelection in a presidential year, when Democratic voters typically turn out in greater numbers.

A member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Johnson is positioning himself as an outspoken critic of the Democrats’ likely nominee, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He has slammed her for not taking enough precautions to avert the attacks that left four Americans dead in Benghazi, Libya.

“The bigger problem for Secretary Clinton is just her dereliction of duty. She has not been held to account yet for that,” he said.

The two had a contentious exchange during Clinton’s testimony before the Foreign Relations panel in 2013, when Johnson pressed her on the administration’s initial claim that the attacks evolved from a spontaneous protest.

“Was it because of a protest, or was it because of guys out for a walk one night who decided that they’d they go kill some Americans? What difference, at this point, does it make?” Clinton asked.

Johnson’s Homeland Security Committee gavel gives him a platform to speak out on another fast-rising issue: the threat posed by militant Islamic groups around the world.

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”We’re not the ones devising the strategy. Only the commander in chief can do that. So, [President Obama] has to establish the goal. He has to define what that looks like. What do you mean by defeat? Is it just in Iraq? Is it in Iraq and Syria?” he asked.

Democrats say Johnson’s refusal to distance himself from his party will come back to haunt him next year.

“Without a doubt, Ron Johnson is the most vulnerable senator in the country,” said Justin Barasky, communications director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. “He has distinguished himself in a variety of ways, be it his record, his public posturing, his partisan warrior stance he’s used to taking on every issue.”

Barry C. Burden, a professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said, “He’s really latched onto two or three Washington issues to focus on. … When he arrived, it was about the healthcare law and wanting to repeal that, and then moving on to Benghazi and other foreign policy issues. To his credit, he hasn’t relented on any of those things. They’re still his focus, even though we’re a year and a half from the election.”

There’s speculation that Feingold might want a rematch and some chatter that veteran Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.) might jump in the race.

Republicans say that, while Johnson has stuck to his conservative principles, it won’t hurt his reelection bid, because he eschews the heated rhetoric of some of his colleagues.

“He’s conservative, but he’s not somebody who’s alarming. He has a reassuring presence. Some conservatives don’t have it. He’s conservative and responsible in his rhetoric,” said Peter Wehner, former director of the White House Office of Strategic Initiatives under George W. Bush.

Johnson, he said, feels free to speak his mind on thorny political and policy topics because he’s not a career politician. The Wisconsin Republican spent most of his professional life in the business world running a plastics manufacturing company. He never visited Washington before running for the Senate.

Privately and publicly, Johnson has pressed Obama on the debt, noting that the Congressional Budget Office has projected federal spending will exceed federal revenue by about $126 trillion over the next 30 years.

“Know what he said to me? He said, ‘Ron, we can’t show the American public numbers that big. If we do, they’ll get all scared, throw up their hands, give up all hope,’ “ Johnson recalled of his conversation with Obama. “He said, ‘Besides Ron, we can’t do all the work; we have to leave some work for future presidents, future Congresses.’

“It would be funny if it weren’t so sad,” Johnson added.

Johnson will be a central player in this year’s fiscal debate as a member of the Budget Committee. While he views the growth of Social Security and Medicare spending as a dire problem, he has enough of a sense of political self preservation to advise his GOP colleagues not to propose cuts to those programs unilaterally.

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“I’d say that’s probably not the smartest thing to do politically,” he said.

Instead, Johnson wants them to lay out a “solution menu” of options to extend the solvency of those programs.

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The domestic side of national security (The Hill)

By James Joyner

February 10, 2015

The Hill

The Obama administration has released its long-awaited update to the "National Security Strategy." While ostensibly a report to Congress on the president's priorities for safeguarding U.S. interests globally, around which to base funding and procurement discussions, a fair amount of the domestic political agenda inevitably creeps in. This go-around, though, this was flipped on its head; the domestic focus predominates.

The second sentence of the report posits that, "America's growing economic strength is the foundation of our national security and a critical source of our influence abroad," and a remarkable amount of text that follows is related to that premise. Before any mention of external threats or challenges, we're told that "we have created nearly 11 million new jobs during the longest private sector job growth in our history," that "[u]nemployment has fallen to its lowest level in [six] years," "[w]e are now the world leader in oil and gas production," and "[w]e continue to set the pace for science, technology, and innovation in the global economy."

Flattery abounds, with kudos given to our "young and growing workforce" and the "entrepreneurial spirit of our workers." We're told that "[o]ur higher education system is the finest in the world" and that "we continue to attract immigrants from every corner of the world who renew our country with their energy and entrepreneurial talents." It shouldn't come at all as a surprise, then, that "[o]ur economy is the largest, most open, and innovative in the world."

The first mention of conflict is to proclaim that "we have moved beyond the large ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," followed by a nod to "a military whose might, technology, and geostrategic reach is unrivaled in human history."

To be sure, that's followed by serious talk about violent extremism, the terrorist threat, cybersecurity, a resurgent Russia, a nuclearizing Iran and various other honest-to-goodness national security issues. And, as I argue elsewhere, the agenda set forth for global "leadership" is unbounded by geography or time.

Still, seldom a paragraph and nary a page goes by without a sop to the American public. Indeed, the very "model of American leadership" extolled in the document is allegedly founded on "the values of the American people." The "American exceptionalism" the president rejected early in his tenure is now enthusiastically embraced and attributed at least partly to "the grit, talent, and diversity of the American people."

Congress, the ostensible target audience of the report, gets a few shout-outs as well, although they're mostly either perfunctory or backhanded. We're told that the document "serves as a compass for how this administration, in partnership with Congress, will lead the world though a shifting security landscape." That the institution has just turned over to the opposition party, which opposes much of the agenda set forth in the document, is left unstated.

There's an olive branch in that direction, with a note that "[m]any achievements of recent years were made possible by Democrats and Republicans," but it's followed by the caveat that "we face continued challenges, including political dysfunction in Washington that undermines national unity, stifles bipartisan cooperation, and ultimately erodes the perception and strength of our leadership abroad." While it's perhaps axiomatic that "American leadership is always most powerful when we are able to forge common ground at home around key national priorities," it's neither appropriate for a national security strategy nor a circumstance that occurs in a vacuum.

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The economy has substantially rebounded from the Great Recession and the “National Security Strategy” mentions this fact repeatedly. It professes to build “on the progress of the last [six] years, in which our active leadership has helped the world recover from a global economic crisis and respond to an array of emerging challenges.” A couple pages later, we’re reminded, “[i]n the last [six] years alone, we arrested the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and catalyzed a new era of economic growth.”

Despite the fact that “economy is the largest, most open, and innovative in the world” and “an engine for global economic growth and a source of stability for the international system,” the administration is “investing in a new foundation for sustained economic growth that creates good jobs and rising incomes.” In turn, this requires an impressive domestic agenda, including “expanding access to early childhood and affordable higher education,” the “further acceleration of our manufacturing revolution” to “create the next generation of high technology manufacturing jobs,” “immigration reform that combines smart and effective enforcement of the law with a pathway to citizenship,” “quality, affordable healthcare to more and more Americans,” “opening markets and leveling the playing field for American workers and businesses abroad” and a “more modern and reliable infrastructure.”

Sustaining our “competitive edge” in technology, which in turn “secures our military advantage, propels our economy, and improves the human condition” has long been part of our national security strategy, going back at least to the Manhattan Project and the “missile gap.” Still, the agenda which flows in this iteration is impressive indeed; it

“requires robust Federal investments in basic and applied research”; that we somehow “strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to produce tomorrow’s discoverers, inventors, entrepreneurs, and high-skills workforce”; and translates into “preparation and compensation for STEM teachers, broadband connectivity and high-tech educational tools for schools, programs that inspire and provide opportunities for girls and underrepresented minorities, and support for innovation in STEM teaching and inclusion in higher education.”

In a section on homeland security, the administration posits that they “have countered terrorism and transnational organized crime” — very much traditional national security threats — “in ways that enhance commerce, travel, and tourism.” While the combination is surely desirable if true, one would think a national security strategy might focus on lives saved rather than tourists attracted as the key metric.

Climate change, legitimately a national security issue if one not amenable to traditional hard power solutions, gets 15 mentions, including inclusion among the eight “top strategic risks to our interests” that they administration will “prioritize.”

Indeed, even “improv[ing] our banking practices and forg[ing] ahead with regulatory reform” are somehow matters of national security.

No section of the report is more indicative of the predominance of U.S. domestic policy than the one entitled “Advance Equality.” We’re told that “American values are reflective of the universal values we champion all around the world.” In addition to ones that, while certainly not universal, are widely embraced at home “including the freedoms of speech, worship, and peaceful assembly; the ability to choose leaders democratically; and the right to due process and equal administration of justice,” the document declares that “[w]e will be a champion for communities that are too frequently vulnerable to violence, abuse, and neglect — such as ethnic and religious minorities; people with disabilities; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) individuals; displaced persons; and migrant workers.”

Now, I happen to think that’s a noble sentiment. But, given the fact that we’re simply not going to place a

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premium on LGBT rights in our negotiations with our closest allies, let alone our adversaries and frenemies in less savory cultures, there's simply no reason but domestic politics to include these platitudes in a national security strategy. While they may be aspirational, publicizing them in this manner is likely counterproductive in the actual conduct of U.S. foreign relations.

Similarly, the document makes repeated references to "the political and economic participation of women and girls — who are too often denied their inalienable rights and face substantial barriers to opportunity in too many places." That focusing on the particular plight of women and girls is critical to development efforts is supported by years of social science research. The administration has, to its credit, made this a point of emphasis from the outset, notably during Hillary Clinton's time at the helm in Foggy Bottom. But, again, the intended audience here are American voters, not the heads of government in places where we routinely overlook horrific human rights abuses — much less a second-class role for women — in the furtherance of other interests.

Public-facing foreign policy documents like the "National Security Strategy" naturally have many audiences and the president's employers, the American public, are certainly among them. Selling his national security policy — which after all requires the lion's share of the discretionary budget — in terms that appeal to their interests, including the impact on their pocketbooks, is perfectly reasonable. But this document goes well beyond that, sending political messages at best tangentially related to security while failing to take seriously the business of prioritizing our national interests. And it seeks to score political points while poking a finger in the eye of the party that controls the purse strings, making the restoration of "the bipartisan center that has been a pillar of strength for American foreign policy in decades past" just a bit more difficult.

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Three reasons why markets would love a President Hillary Clinton (Business Insider)
By Akin Oyedele
February 10, 2015
Business Insider

Greg Valliere at Potomac Research says Hillary Clinton, “has to be considered the favorite to win the presidency.”

And for the markets, Valliere thinks a Clinton presidency would be a positive.

“Our very early bottomline is that the markets could gladly live with her,” Valliere wrote in a note Tuesday.

Valliere gives three main reasons why:

A divided government is good for markets: Stocks rose over 200% when Bill Clinton was president. Hillary would have to deal with a Republican-controlled house – currently a 246 - 188 majority, and the GOP is likely to be in control until the next redistricting exercise in 2021.
She’ll avoid the “us-versus-them rhetoric” against Wall Street, with a more moderate approach to big business than President Obama.
She’s a crony capitalist, or someone who would develop a close relationship with businesses and give them incentives to invest in the economy. While some like senator Elizabeth Warren see this as a problem, it’s actually a plus for Clinton because she would look to market leaders for advice more than Obama has. Regulations on business would not be as tough as they are under Obama, if she wins.
And what’s more, Valliere adds that if the 2016 presidential race turns out to be Hillary Clinton versus Jeb Bush, markets will find either winner acceptable.

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Axelrod: Hillary not a 'healing figure' (Washington Times)
By Dave Boyer
February 11, 2015
The Washington Times

Political adviser David Axelrod told Barack Obama prior to the 2008 Democratic presidential primary that rival Hillary Rodham Clinton was not a "healing figure" and would have difficulty convincing voters that she was as a candidate of the future.

Mr. Axelrod's memoir, released Tuesday, includes a 12-page strategic memo written for Mr. Obama after Thanksgiving 2006, when the then-senator from Illinois was gearing up for his presidential campaign.

The Chicago adviser wrote: "Hillary... and her team have played this course many times before. They know every bunker, sand trap and the lay of the greens. And she has the best caddy in the business. But for all of her advantages, she is not a healing figure. ... The more she tries to moderate her image, the more she ... compounds her exposure as an opportunist."

And in an observation that could have implications for Mrs. Clinton's anticipated presidential bid in 2016, Mr. Axelrod wrote nearly 10 years ago: "After two decades of the Bush-Clinton saga, making herself the candidate of the future will be a challenge."

Mr. Axelrod's memoir, "Believer: My Forty Years in Politics," was published Tuesday by Penguin Press.

In interviews promoting his book this week, Mr. Axelrod said Mrs. Clinton will need to run "like an insurgent" in 2016.

"She needs a very well-conceived message about where she wants to lead the country," he said. "If she doesn't have that, then it does become a problem. ....I think she has to approach this campaign like a challenger, not like a front-runner — like an insurgent."

The Republican National Committee said Tuesday that Mrs. Clinton is behaving like someone "in hiding" as the 2016 campaign begins to heat up.

"She's made a strategic decision that the only way to ensure she is the Democratic nominee is to make everyone think she's inevitable," said RNC spokesman Sean Spicer. "The last time she had to face voters and actually compete for the nomination, she lost to a newcomer. She doesn't want to make the same mistake twice."

The RNC said it will be keeping a tally "of just how secretive she's been," including:

Days since last press conference: 202

Days since she's done an interview: 184

Days since she's been in Iowa: 103

Days since she's been in New Hampshire: 100

Days since she's done an event that didn't require significant speaking fees: 69

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Dukakis: Hillary will be '16 nominee (The Hill)
By Kevin Cirilli
February 10, 2015
The Hill

Michael Dukakis, the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee, says Hillary Clinton is going to be the party's 2016 standard-bearer — and he's okay with that.

"Look, I consider myself part of that liberal base. I'm very comfortable with her as a candidate, as a nominee and as the president of the United States," Dukakis said Monday on Fox Business Network's "Cavuto." "Hillary is going to be the nominee and I'd like to see as many of us as possible get behind that effort now."

Many progressives have raised concerns about Clinton's ties to Wall Street, a relationship they see as too cozy.

But Dukakis pushed back against that idea, suggesting that Clinton's views are more skeptical of Wall Street than progressive critics would suggest. That being so, he asserted that she will likely not have to change those opinions to rebuff a primary challenge from the left.

"I don't think she will be forced to vary her view dramatically. ... She's a very progressive Democrat and one who's not soft on the kinds of financial fooling around that virtually sucked the country dry," Dukakis, a former governor of Massachusetts, told Fox Business Network.

Liberal groups such as Democracy For America and MoveOn.org are trying to move Clinton to the left and in some cases draft candidates such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who has insisted she's not running.

"I don't think these folks have anything to worry about and frankly — I'd feel a lot better if they were out organizing 200,000 precincts in this country and getting ready for what is going to be a very tough contest in 2016," Dukakis told Fox Business Network.

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Hillary Clinton to be in D.C. on same day as Bibi speech (Politico)
By Gabriel Dibenedetti
February 10, 2015
Politico

When Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads to Washington to deliver a controversial address to Congress on March 3, he won't be the only big name in town who might soon be facing an election.

Hillary Clinton is also scheduled to be in the capital city on that day, to be honored by EMILY's List, the group supporting female Democratic candidates.

Clinton's spokesman did not respond to a question about whether the two plan to meet, but the convergence of the prime minister and former secretary of state brings together two of the most talked-about figures in politics, at a crucial time for both of them.

While Clinton's all-but-certain 2016 campaign will be nearing its likely launch, Netanyahu's speech will generate major attention after drawing condemnation from many Democrats who are critical of him and of House Speaker John Boehner's invitation of the prime minister despite the White House's disapproval.

Neither President Barack Obama, nor Vice President Joe Biden will attend the speech, which will address the Iran nuclear deal. Biden will be out of the country, Obama has ruled out meeting with Netanyahu just before Israel's March 17 election. Secretary of State John Kerry is also expected to avoid seeing Netanyahu.

Clinton has repeatedly spoken about her role in Middle East policy since leaving the State Department in 2013, but she has not commented on Netanyahu's upcoming address. Her Washington event is sure to draw the attention of many political observers, as it will be one of her first public events in months. The former senator and first lady has been busy building her campaign team.

And while Clinton is the presumptive front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2016, a potential rival — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders — grabbed headlines Monday by becoming the first senator to announce he would boycott the speech.

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Word by word; New Chicago program aims to prevent achievement gap by teaching parents (Grand Forks Herald)
By Sara Neufeld
February 10, 2015
Grand Forks Herald

CHICAGO - On the third-floor hospital maternity ward at the University of Chicago Medical Center, Bionka Burkhalter had just given birth to her first child, a 7-pound, 4-ounce boy named Josiah. There was a knock on the door, and two women asked to give a presentation on how to build her baby's brain. The 21-year-old single mother gave them her attention.

In the next 15 minutes, she heard about the importance of talking a lot to Josiah, whose thick dark hair poked out from under a swaddle blanket in a bassinet beside her bed. She heard about tuning into his cues and responding when he cries, and about giving him a chance to communicate back to her, even if just through eye contact.

Burkhalter is a test subject in one of many initiatives being piloted by the Thirty Million Words Project, which aims to prevent the achievement gap from starting with the power of parent-child talk - beginning at day one. In this intervention with newborns, mothers still in the hospital learn research-based parenting practices less commonly known in poor households.

There will soon be follow-up lessons at pediatric checkups.

This winter, Thirty Million Words is embarking on a major long-term study of a home-visiting program that teaches communication skills to parents of slightly older babies. Children will be trailed from about 15 months old through at least kindergarten.

Thirty Million Words was founded by University of Chicago pediatric surgeon Dana Suskind, who performs cochlear implant surgery on deaf children, allowing them to hear. Suskind was disturbed to discover that, after the same operation, some patients from poor families had more difficulty learning to speak than children from affluent homes. She became intrigued by a famous study finding that a hearing child born into poverty hears 30 million words fewer before age 4 than a middle-class peer.

This so-called "word gap" has been getting a lot of attention lately, thanks to Hillary Clinton making it a pre-campaign campaign of sorts. Her Too Small to Fail partnership has spurred a White House conference on the topic, public service announcements on Spanish-language Univision, and strategic dialogue on TV shows like "Orange Is the New Black" and "The Fosters." The American Academy of Pediatrics released a policy in June asking its 62,000 member doctors to encourage parents to read to their babies daily. There are now text message campaigns to give parents talking reminders and tips.

Thirty Million Words has promising results from a small pilot home-visiting program, and the national buzz has helped catapult the organization into a rapid expansion in Chicago. Suskind and her 13-member staff, plus graduate student interns and volunteers, are trying several approaches to reach families while measuring impact for potential widespread replication.

These strategies do not simply involve the quantity of words spoken; they target parent-child relationships, in line with new research that the quality of communication matters most.

"Obviously, language can in itself be a key part of building a child's brain, but the parent relationship really is the basis for all of child development," said Suskind, 46, a widowed mother of three school-age kids who sits on the Too Small to Fail advisory council.

"We're using the lever of parent talk to get into the parent-child relationship." Language, though, can be quantified where relationships can't. In the long-term study that began in December, babies will wear a device recording how many words adults say to them in a day and how many chances they get to respond.

Results will be collected for 200 children recruited from Early Head Start and other city programs. All families will receive six months of home visits, but parents won't all learn about the same thing. Half in a control group will get lessons on nutrition. The other 100 will see the Thirty Million Words video curriculum, explaining scientifically backed communication skills.

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Parents will be taught to weave back-and-forth conversation into daily activities, from diaper changing to cooking dinner, and to explain to children why they are being asked to do things, rather than just directing them. They'll be urged to go on a "technology diet," since children need human interaction; their brains don't build connections with televisions and computers.

In partnership with the city of Chicago, Suskind's team will follow all 200 children overtime to measure their kindergarten readiness.

Suskind also is in talks with the Chicago Children's Museum to create targeted conversation points for the 400,000 children and parents who visit each year.

She is applying for a grant to train low-income parents to be ambassadors promoting the cause. (Her organization gets a mix of public and private funding.) "The ultimate answer is the whole society understanding how important parents are in their children's development," Suskind said. In low-income communities, "they've been told the opposite, that they're not powerful." Burkhalter, who holds a GED and lives with her mother on the South Side of Chicago, was one of 80 new moms who got the newborn presentation after giving birth at the University of Chicago in recent months.

Feedback from these women will be incorporated into a video to roll out this summer in the maternity wards of the hospitals at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, shown when newborns have their hearing tested.

Similar videos are being developed to show parents on iPads while waiting to be seen at pediatric checkups.

Before her presentation began, Burkhalter filled out a survey. She checked "somewhat agree" to the statement, "How smart an infant will be depends mostly on their 'natural' intelligence at birth." She then turned to Beth Suskind and Iara Fuenmayor Rivas, who led her through a 59-slide Power Point. Beth is Dana Suskind's sister-inlaw and runs Thirty Million Words' daily operation.

Despite having just been through 17 hours of labor, Burkhalter listened attentively as Beth Suskind explained that 85 percent of baby Josiah's brain will develop in the next three years. Her talking, responding and caring for him will make his brain grow strong.

Every snuggle, every diaper change counts.

She debunked a common myth that infants can be spoiled with too much attention, explaining that their short-term memories are still developing for the first six months - so Josiah needs to be reminded that Mommy is there to comfort him when he's upset.

"There are no perfect parents," she said. "You're teaching him he can count on you." Asked for "brutally honest" feedback at the end of the presentation, Burkhalter didn't have anything negative to say. She learned a lot. "I'm gonna talk to him when I'm changing his Pampers," she said.

She then took the same survey again. Beside the statement "How smart an infant will be depends mostly on their 'natural' intelligence at birth," she had a new answer: "Strongly disagree."

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/11/2008 6:51:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting Hudson, WI 07/11/08

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Sara who is on the ground in Hudson, WI today. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain falsely claimed he supports equal pay for equal work and has the record to prove it
- McCain said Obama will make it "harder on women"
- McCain said that Americans know nuclear power is safe and nuclear power is the right kind of change
- McCain given question where woman says -- 'this is your chance to separate yourself from Bush'
- When asked about the prisoners at Guatanomo, McCain responded: ' I don't think we have to read them their Miranda rights, okay.'
- McCain told crowd that Social Security is "going bankrupt"
- Audience member calls Democrats, Obama "socialists" and "Marxists" and gets standing ovation
- McCain mentions Yucca Mountain as a place to store nuclear waste

Hudson, WI - McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/11/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:
- Event for women, nearly entire audience women
- Audience extremely enthusiastic -- lots of applause, cheering
- Carly Fiorina in the audience
- Local woman gave remarks, introduces Cindy McCain
- Cindy McCain spoke, introduced McCain

Speech Highlights:
- Thank you's.
- 16 years ago, Cindy was on a medical mission in Bangladesh -- she met two babies who were really sick and they were likely not going to live; Cindy took one of the babies home and when I met her at the airport she said -- meet your new daughter
- I'm proud of the work Cindy has done -- she just returned from a trip with Operation Smile
- ONE is a great organization, doing amazing work and Cindy will be joining them on a trip soon
- My mother is 96 years old and she's very spry; went to France and they wouldn't let her rent a car because of her age, so she bought one
- A number of years ago I wrote a book with my friend about my experience as a P.O.W.
- One of those experiences I wrote about was how I use to yell obscenities at our keepers -- well those obscenities appeared in an article later that my mom read and she called me up and told me that she was going to wash out my mouth with soap
- We now have a woman who is the head of the House -- I wish she'd switch parties
- Hillary Clinton ran for President -- and almost secured the nomination
- One of my main supporters -- Carly Fiorina, she's right here, she started as a secretary and became CEO of Hewlett Packard
- Proud to have the support of Ebay CEO, Meg Whitman
- **I want to make sure there is equal pay for equal work -- and my record shows that**
- Americans are worried about the security of their jobs -- the cost of everything is rising
- Juggling family and career can be hard enough -- but now you have to deal with the dwindling economy
- I believe the role of government is to unleash the ingenuity of the American people
- Nothing is more pressing right now is our dependence on foreign oil
- We need to solve this problem -- our jobs and security depend upon it
- That's why I introduced the Lexington Project last year -- and it will create hundreds of thousands of jobs
- We need do invest in nuclear energy
- The people of Wisconsin get 65% of their energy from coal -- we need to develop clean coal technology
- Obama doesn't want to do anything -- for someone who is suppose to be "Yes we can" he is a lot of "No, we can't."
- Senator Obama will raise your taxes, I will not
- When you raise taxes in a bad economy, you eliminate jobs. I am not going to let that happen.
- The differences between Obama and me is stark -- he wants to make everything harder for you
- On education we must do more to empower women for 21st century jobs
- I will veto every single bill with wasteful spending - you will know their names and I will make them famous
- I have never received an earmark or pork-barrel spending during my career; Obama has received several million dollars with
- I will never ask for a pork-barrel project my friends
- Nothing is inevitable in America -- we've always been captains of our fate
- I will fight for your future -- not for politicians and bureaucrats
- I make you one promise, I will always keep. In war and in peace. I've been an imperfect servant, but I've been a servant first, now and last. Nothing has never mattered more to me than the honor of serving America. I will always put America first. I will keep that promise.

Question and Answer:
1 Q) Will you agree to drill in ANWR to get oil?

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MCCAIN: I believe we should drill off our coasts. I believe ANWR is a pristine area. I believe we should drill off our coasts and Obama is against that. We are sending 700 billion dollars of our money overseas to countries that don't like us that much. And sometimes that ends up in the hands of terrorists. We've got to decrease our dependence on foreign oil. We've got to have clean coal, wind, solar and nuclear. Senator Obama opposes nuclear power. France is using nuclear for 80% of their energy needs!

2 Q) You intend to build 45 new nuclear power plants. How will you move this country toward accepting the need for new nukes?
MCCAIN: Americans are smart. They know what we have to do and they know that nuclear power is safe. Americans understand and Americans are sick and tired of us doing nothing in Congress. Their approval rating is at 9%. Americans have figured it out -- they're demanding we move forward. Nuclear energy is key to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. This election is a mandate for change -- it's either the right kind of change of the wrong kind of change and nuclear energy is the right kind of change.

3 Q) Our soveirgnty. American is truly the last great hope for the world. How do we deal with a group like the U.N who takes away our power?
MCCAIN: I understand your frustration. I'm sure you heard about Iran testing missiles. And Russia at the U.N. is preventing us from doing what we need to do. We have to unite with nations like France, etc. We will remain the world's super power. We are seeing the rise of India and China -- we have to work with them. I'd also like to talk about Afghanistan. We have to urge our friends and allies to get more involved there because the Taliban is getting stronger. It's important for us to lead, but not do it alone.

4 Q) My father was a solider in WW11 -- he was injured there. Given your strong stand on the environment, what is your opinion on the revelation that VP Cheney forced scientists to doctor the facts on global warming?
MCCAIN: Thank you for your father's service. Our veterans health care has to be better. We have to take care of the greatest generation. As I hope you know, I've had strong disagreements with this administration on climate change. I've traveled the world -- often at your expense and I've seen the effects of climate change. But suppose I'm wrong, but we still move to develop all these alternative energy sources and we hand off to our children a cleaner planet. But suppose, I'm right and we do nothing - then we hand off a worse world to our children. But I also believe there's lots of economic opportunity in the development of green technology. I am not familiar with the allegation you said. But as the chair of the commerce committee, I didn't see anything that was inappropriate, but I did think they were not forthcoming enough. I believe that young Americans are committed to cleaning up our nation. And we Republicans are the party of Theodore Roosevelt.

5 Q) What do you think of the release of 1 in 5 prisoners held at Guantanamo says about the ability of the Bush Administration to fight terrorism? This is a chance for you to separate yourself from George Bush.
MCCAIN: I don't believe in torture. I disagree with the Supreme Court's decision. It's not in my view that these non-citizens should have the full rights of American citizens. Let me point out to you, some have already joined and again attacked the United States. So lets be careful on how we address this. I don't think we have to read them their Miranda rights, okay.

6 Q) Thank you. A year and a half ago I became a widow. I asked if I would lose my benefits if I got remarried. They said no. Then I got remarried, and then I asked again and they said yes. Is there some way that widows that have worked so hard can keep their benefits? I'm a teacher.
MCCAIN: All I can say is that I will do everything to fix that problem. I will look into it.
FOLLOW-UP: We talk about family values. I teach my kids -- and then I just go live with someone and not get married.
MCCAIN: I understand. Thank you. It's a compelling story and I will look into it.

MCCAIN: The entire social security system is going to go bankrupt. It's not going to be there for young Americans. We gotta reform it, fix it. Democrats and Republicans have to work together.

7 Q) Most Democrats are moving to the center to get elected and will say and do anything to get elected and this is certainly your opponent. Will you hammer away at this? They have moved so far to the left! Will you hammer away at their socialist, Marxist ways?
MCCAIN: Yes! I give the American people great credit for their intelligence and knowledge. I am sorry that Barack Obama has not taken up the request to have these town hall meetings together. We should stand in front of you and listen to the American people. The American people deserve more than the soundbyte, the gotcha moment. They deserve to see us with the voter. These things are great and wonderful. It's the most fun thing and informative thing I've ever done. I promise you this makes me a better candidate and also a better president.

8 Q) My husband is a WWII veteran and I promised him I would shake your hand. Wisconsin is the leader of health care -- we do not have a crisis. What we have is a health care, care crisis. Medicare is failing. It puts a burden on all of us. Do you have a plan to help us out there a bit?
MCCAIN: You remind me of my mother. Thank you and thank your husband. You put your finger on the problem -- it's not the quality of care that's the problem, it's the skyrocketing cost. We've got to put incentives into place that keep health care costs down. I want to give every family in American a $5000 tax credit. I want to start giving people with chronic diseases outpatient care. We need walk-in clinics and community centers. We need to look at the issue of the uninsurables. We need to have government approved plans for these people. We need to establish risk-pools. Wellness and fitness, wellness and fitness. This is very important. The rise of obesity among young people is staggering. We should know what the school lunch is and what the phys-ed is in schools. Get fit and get in shape. We can have health insurance provide incentives for people to get healthy and fit as well.

9 Q) Many JROTC programs are not getting Phys Ed credits, funding, etc. We're getting the boot in high schools. What are you opinions of JROTC programs?
MCCAIN: I think that program is an outstanding one. I do not know that about California -- and I will bring this up with the Governor. I think its a great program.

10 Q) Thank you for your work with Feingold on campaign finance reform. I was going to ask you about the Iraq war and its costs but instead, I'll have to ask you about what everyone is thinking: Is Brett Farve coming out of retirement?
MCCAIN: That's a great example of wellness and fitness. And I'd just like to add what a great state this is. Let me recognize the mayor here. Let me tell you about my story running for the Senate - and I was elected. Tells story.

11 Q) How would you address the growing problem of all the illegal entries into our country.
MCCAIN: It's a big problem and it's a federal responsibility. My friends our borders are broken. I tried twice to get comprehensive immigration reform. We have to secure our borders first. Then, we need tamper-proof biometric document that temporary workers can

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use. We also have to address this in a human way as well. It's a federal responsibility and we must act and quickly.

12 Q) I'm from Minnesota. Please take Pawlenty as your VP.
MCCAIN: Gov. Pawlenty is a wonderful person. He's the next generation of leadership.

13 Q) Nuclear power. What do we do with the waste of 45 nuclear power plants?
MCCAIN: We have to store and reprocess. France reprocesses. I'd like to set up a reprocessing facility in Russia -- they've offered, but I don't know if they are serious. There's some issues we have to figure out with Yucca Mtn, but we should pursue that.

14 Q) I'm an undecided voter. I'm tired of all these crises! I think we all have to work together. I'm tired of the war when there's so many things we have to fix here. What can you tell me as I am an undecided voter?
MCCAIN: Thank you for coming here. What it really comes down to is what Americans want us to do. And my records shows me doing that. Now someone mentioned Feingold -- I've worked with him. I've worked with Lieberman and Kennedy. Americans want us to sit down together and figure out these problems. I have a proven record of reaching across the aisle. Sometimes I have not succeeded -- like immigration -- but at least we sat down together. Americans are so frustrated. Most Americans think we are on the wrong track. The last time Social Security was in danger -- Democrat Tip O'Neil and Republican Ronald American sat down together and fixed it. My record shows me having done this as well.

Conclusion
A long time ago I had the opportunity to leave the prison camp before others who had been their longer. I declined. I put my country first. I've done what I thought was right and I've put my country first, even when it made others made. I will always put my country first.

--
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202-609-7679 (office)
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 4:23:46 AM
Subject: RE: Immigration remarks

Oof. That's the trap Obama fell into with unhappy results.

On May 4, 2015 9:13 AM, "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Apologies if this was already discussed, but I thought one of the constructs of this would be “if Congress doesn’t act in X time, I will do y and z.” If that is still the case, I think we should change the “right away as president” formulation.
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2015 10:52 AM
> **To:** Joel Benenson; John Podesta; Kristina Schake; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; Huma Abedin; Jennifer Palmieri; Jake Sullivan; Brian Fallon; John Anzalone; David Binder; Jim Margolis; Teddy Goff; Oren Shur; Tony Carrk
> **Cc:** Marissa Astor
> **Subject:** Immigration remarks
>
> Here's a revised topper for tomorrow that spells out a bit more of what we're talking about in terms of the sympathetic cases. Also takes Joel's point about punching up the "can't wait" up top.
>
> On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 11:57 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > In advance of this discussion, here's a draft of her Las Vegas topper. It's a little long so I'm going to try to tighten it up, but this attempts to lay out the contrast on path to citizenship and move the ball forward with the parents of dreamers.
> >
> > On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Agree with Jake and John
> > >
> > > We're not running against King.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > On May 3, 2015, at 7:28 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.
> > > >
> > > > On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.

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On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.

Mandy Grunwald

Grunwald Communications

202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:

- Immigration plan

- Clinton Cash update

Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call

Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays

Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first

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in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.

--

Kristina Schake

Hillary for America

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/25/2015 2:16:45 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.25.15
Attachments:	H4A 5.25.15 Clips.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 25, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Today Hillary Clinton will march in the Memorial Day parade in Chappaqua, NY. CNN does a profile of the campaign strategy including Clinton continuing her tradition of marching in the parade with President Clinton.

The campaign announced plans for Wednesday's trip to South Carolina including Hillary Clinton giving the keynote address at the third annual 2015 Day in Blue. Clinton will also hold a roundtable discussion with minority small business owners and make brief remarks to the S.C. House and Senate Democratic caucuses.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

A Memorial Day test for Hillary Clinton // CNN // John King - May 24, 2015

Jitters about Jeb, some praise for Rick Perry, the meaning of Hillary Clinton's holiday weekend parade march and some coming Democratic competition filled our Sunday trip around the "Inside Politics" table. Plus, a take from conversations with a couple dozen younger voters that was both interesting and a bit depressing.

1. Hillary's hometown parade & a test of 2016 style

Memorial Day parades are a popular place to find politicians this holiday weekend, whether one is running for sheriff or president. Count Hillary Clinton among those marching, and it is both a familiar stroll for her and perhaps a glimpse at her style as she moves past early events that have been carefully scripted.

Maggie Haberman of The New York Times reminded us that Secretary Clinton -- formerly Senator Clinton -- has walked in her local New York parade before and gotten a great reception. Perhaps there's a tad more scrutiny this time because she is back in the running for president -- and because she is about to enter a somewhat new phase of the 2016 effort -- including the big official rollout rally.

"There has not been a sense of great energy around her candidacy so far," said Haberman. "So that is one thing to keep an eye on."

"So far, she's keeping these events small. They're doing it for a reason, but you lose something when you do it that way and they need to really kind of galvanize and mobilize people."

2. The summer of Bernie?

So far, the Clinton strategy is pretty obvious: lay out her positions in a way that both protects her standing as the prohibitive Democratic front-runner and, when possible, exposes GOP divisions.

Can she stick to what at times seems to be already a general election approach? Stay tuned.

CNN's Jeff Zeleny notes that the Democratic field is about to become bigger, at least officially, when Bernie Sanders launches his campaign on Tuesday.

"He's going to have a big rally, probably reminiscent of Howard Dean's big entry into the race in '03-'04," said Zeleny.

"The question is, will this be the summer of Bernie? Will he be able to rally things? He's already getting a lot of online support and a lot of interest from that side."

Zeleny adds that he will be watching Sanders and O'Malley, who will launch later in the week, to see how much "space they occupy" in the Democratic 2016 presidential field.

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3. Jitters about Jeb, even as he says the ship has been righted

It's a bit off when the candidates get into self-analysis, but there was Jeb Bush this past week saying all is well and the ship is righted.

He felt compelled to make that statement after a stretch in which he seemed to have a hard time talking about the Iraq War and his brother's judgment in launching it.

So is his self-assessment shared by other Republicans? Not so fast, reports Robert Costa of The Washington Post.

"When I was in Iowa and New Hampshire this past week, I sat down with a lot of Republican officials and donors in those states and I said, you know, really just give me a sense of what's on your mind behind the scenes," said Costa.

"And the topic almost all of them brought up was angst about Jeb Bush, angst about his candidacy. They're anxious that he's not getting momentum, that he doesn't have energy in any way in this primary. They're not sure how he's going to get it."

4. Is Rick Perry the new Rick Santorum?

Rick Perry torpedoed his 2012 run for the presidency. The trademark moment was, of course, when he couldn't -- in a debate -- name three Cabinet agencies he would eliminate if elected.

This time, as he explores another run, the former Texas governor is but a blip in most polls.

But Julie Pace of The Associated Press, just back from some time on the ground in Iowa, says Perry is getting some favorable reviews from activists as he works the state and seeks political redemption. And, Pace says, he has a model for his 2016 plan: the rise of former Senator Rick Santorum from 1% or 2% in early polls to victory on caucus night.

"He is spending a ton of time in Iowa," said Pace. "He's doing all of the big campaign forums. He went to the Eagle Scout dedication of a local activist. He's just doing the things that people in Iowa want to see candidates do."

5. Some Sanders buzz, plus a lot of disillusionment among younger voters

I spent a good deal of time last week talking to younger voters, and possible voters. As always, these conversations were refreshing -- the energy is inspiring and I was involved in several interesting conversations about big 2016 campaign issues. But some of it was a tad depressing.

At a Boston dinner for the remarkable community service organization City Year, I was approached by a handful of young people who wanted me to know how eager they were to help Sen. Sanders in his Democratic bid.

Many others said they were unimpressed with the candidates so far. Many expressed views consistent with what we see in public opinion polling: Many young people lean conservative or libertarian on issues such as taxes and regulation and NSA surveillance, but see the Republican Party as trapped in a time warp when it comes to issues

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such as immigration, climate change and same-sex marriage.

My casual, and unscientific, focus groups included my older children. My son, Noah, graduated from Boston College on Monday. We drove back to Washington on Wednesday, with all his stuff, plus 18-year old Hannah King and "almost four" Jonah King.

We don't talk politics much because they have always viewed it as dad's job -- and boring. But for a chunk of our drive we did, and they had thoughtful observations about the big issues and about many of the candidates in the 2016 race.

But -- this is the tad depressing part -- like many of those at the City Year dinner, they voiced the opinion that nothing gets done on the big and hard stuff anyway, so why waste their time worrying about the campaign?

Whether you were happy with the results or not, the enthusiasm of younger voters in the Obama campaigns was good for our politics.

There is a huge opportunity -- and a huge potential campaign talent pool -- available to the 2016 contenders. But most of the young people I talked to were skeptical about politics, if not outright disillusioned.

All of the candidates, regardless of party, need to do a better job convincing these voters -- and possible voters -- that they are listening, and that it does matter.

Hillary Clinton to speak at S.C. Democratic women's event in Columbia // The State // Jamie Self - May 24, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton is coming to Columbia on Wednesday for her first trip back to the Palmetto State since her 2008 presidential campaign.

The former secretary of state will give the keynote address at the third annual 2015 Day in Blue, the event's co-hosts announced Sunday.

Clinton also will hold a roundtable discussion with African American small business owners and make brief remarks to the S.C. House and Senate Democratic caucuses.

Hosted by the S.C. Democratic Women's Council and the S.C. House Democratic Women's Caucus, the Day in Blue brings together S.C. Democratic women to the State House for a conference.

Clinton will give her keynote address at 1:45 p.m. at the Columbia Marriott.

Clinton's visit comes more than a month after her April 12 entry into the race and after she has campaigned in early primary states Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

Clinton's stops so far have consisted of small, controlled events and roundtable discussions.

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The campaign has announced a larger campaign kick-off event scheduled for June 13, but the location has not been announced.

An ongoing congressional inquiry into Clinton's leadership of the U.S. Department of State during the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and revelations that she used a private email account and server to conduct state department business have followed her on the campaign trail.

Last Friday, on her second visit to New Hampshire, Clinton took questions from a gaggle of reporters, marking a shift from the distance she has kept from the media since entering the race.

Also the heavy favorite in the race, Clinton returns to the Palmetto State after a seven-year absence. She last was in South Carolina during the January 2008 Democratic presidential primary debate in Myrtle Beach. She lost the S.C. primary to then-Sen. Barack Obama who won all but two counties.

The former first lady's S.C. trip also trails visits by her rivals, including U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who was first to announce he's seeking the nomination. Former governors Martin O'Malley of Maryland and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island are expected to announce soon. Former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia also is eyeing a run.

Clinton will head to Florida on Thursday and Friday followed by a June 3-4 trip to Texas, according to media reports.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton's full embrace of immigration // MSNBC // Amanda Sakuma - May 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton's embrace of immigration reform has been an unusually bold gesture for a public figure best known for her caution. By hiring onto her campaign staff a 26-year-old grassroots activist who lived in the U.S. without documentation for more than a decade, the 2016 Democratic front runner has signaled she's serious about going all-in on the single-most contentious issue roiling the immigration debate – full citizenship for potentially millions of undocumented immigrants – all the while hitting a key Republican pressure point with precision.

The effort may reflect a heartfelt change in Clinton's views on immigration, nearly 8 years after a question in a nationally televised debate on whether she supported driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants sent her into a fit of verbal contortion. But the move largely political, severely undercutting her likely GOP opponents' ability to compete in drawing support from Latinos, one of the fastest growing voting blocs in the country, and one that will be crucial for any party to claim future presidential elections.

As the former secretary of state's stance on the issue takes shape with increased clarity, the spotlight falls squarely on the crowded Republican field, where candidates' murky policy positions are being pushed further and further to the right.

The strategy could risk alienating voters in areas of the country where illegal immigration remains a hot button issue. But by coming out early and strong on the matter, Clinton appears willing to take that risk – clearly acknowledging that Latinos have led the way in turning many historically red states purple.

"She's concerned about the swing states where it's crucial for her to win: Nevada, Colorado and certainly Florida," said William Frey, an expert in U.S. demographics with the Brookings Institute. "Immigration is not the most

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important issue, but it's a symbolic. That enthusiasm is going to be very important for her."

Clinton outpaced Obama's Latino support during the 2008 primaries by a nearly two-to-one margin, throwing her support behind comprehensive immigration reform before stumbling at that infamous primary debate. She eventually come out against driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. This month Clinton went much further, saying she supported a full and equal pathway to citizenship, while also vowing to take Obama's controversial executive actions a step further to extend work permits and a temporary legal status to millions more undocumented immigrants.

While Clinton has been aggressively pushing her position on immigration forward, Republicans have been scrambling to pull theirs back. Sen. Marco Rubio was the architect of the comprehensive immigration plan in Congress before he abruptly began sprinting away from the bi-partisan bill; Govs. Scott Walker, Chris Christie and Jeb Bush favored a pathway to citizenship before they suddenly didn't; and former Govs. Rick Perry and Mike Huckabee have advocated for tighter border security without detailing what exactly that means.

It was not by mistake that Clinton chose to unveil her immigration platform in Nevada, a swing state that Obama visited immediately after announcing his sweeping executive actions last November. Nor was it by accident that Clinton chose to make her announcement while sitting at a table with young, undocumented student activists – a group the former secretary of state knows she needs to win over – rather than by giving a barn-burning speech before hundreds of supporters.

Lorella Praeli, who was appointed this week to lead Clinton's immigrant outreach, sits atop a very short list of young DREAMers who can seamlessly shift between roles as an activist, cable news commentator and honored White House guest. Immigration advocacy is inevitably divided into two separate camps – those who influence from within the halls of power and those on the outside who build political pressure from the ground up. Few organizations, like Praeli's, have managed to do both, proving that the young people directly impacted by immigration policy are some of the most effective messengers for reform.

DREAMers often note that they've been burned before. Obama made sweeping promises early in his first term to pass comprehensive immigration reform, but instead the community watched as more people were deported under his administration than any other. Obama later followed through with his series of sweeping executive actions, but with the programs tied up in the courts, it's now up to the next occupant of the Oval Office to finish what he started.

The obstacles facing Clinton on immigration remain formidable. She faces an uphill battle in actually accomplishing most policy positions she has staked out on immigration: creating a pathway to citizenship and ending bed-quotas at immigrant detention centers would both require support from Congress. Meanwhile, the Obama administration maintains that the president's executive actions are as far-reaching as possible within the confines of the law – anything further, as Clinton has promised, would almost certainly be challenged in the courts.

The question remains whether Clinton's early immigration platform could come back to bite her with undecided voters in the general election, should she secure the Democratic nomination. Clinton's campaign has not been defined by immigration yet, but she carries the risk of being defined in negative terms on the issue with some white voters in Iowa, said Dennis Goldford, a political scientist at Drake University in Iowa.

"For your average, rural, small town Republican voter, illegal immigration is an assault on their culture," Goldford said.

Just a month into her official campaign, Clinton's consistency on immigration only amplifies the disarray within the GOP 2016 field over how to address immigration without alienating base voters. In 2012, Republican leaders made adopting a more welcoming tone toward Latinos a top priority after the party's "self-deportation" platform set them back dramatically in the last presidential election. But 2016 Republican candidates have since seized on

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the anti-immigrant sentiment of the party's base, pushing their platforms further to the right.

While flip-flopping on his own position on a pathway to citizenship this week, New Jersey governor and likely 2016 GOP presidential candidate Chris Christie called out Clinton for "pandering" to immigration advocates. Some immigrant rights groups, however, are saying that they're shamelessly accepting the attention.

"It was a brilliant electoral strategy and it's a strong commitment," said Frank Sharry, executive director of the advocacy group America's Voice. "If there's any pandering going on, it's the Republicans who are lurching to the right to pander to the nativists."

Clinton, Secret Service go way back // TH Online // William Garbe -May 24, 2015 - May 24, 2015

Carrie Tedore's home was packed with people as a member of Hillary Clinton's Secret Service detail stood watch at the front door, a star-shaped badge emblazoned with the White House facade pinned to the chest of his shirt.

Among those impressed with the Secret Service was Tedore's 10-year-old son, Bobby, who greeted the Democratic presidential candidate with his parents before dashing upstairs.

"I didn't expect him to be quiet the whole time," Tedore said. "That's a 10-year-old for you."

The Secret Service detail has followed Clinton since the successful 1992 presidential campaign of her husband, Bill. More than two decades later, the same type of detail followed her to Dubuque Regional Airport after she departed the Tedore residence.

"On Tuesday afternoon in Dubuque, Iowa, a few dozen passengers waited for their routine American Airlines flight to Chicago, one of only three flights scheduled from the tiny airport that day," wrote MSNBC journalist Alex Seitz-Wald.

Clinton neither passed through TSA security, nor did she converse with passengers or talk to Seitz-Wald, a passenger himself. Instead, she sat on the plane, sunglasses on, BlackBerry in hand, surrounded by the Secret Service, he reported.

Jeb Bush tidbits

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush hasn't run for any office since 2002, and he technically isn't running for one now -- at least yet. But should the Republican choose to do so, he'll be ready to take selfies.

"By the way, I found a new way of doing this," he said to a supporter during his May 16 visit to Loras College. The supporter had just asked to take a cellphone photo with Bush.

"You turn it back to the way it was, go like this," Bush said, fiddling with an iPhone in his hand. "I found out yesterday. I take a lot of these."

Bush continued working the room when another attendee approached.

"Gov. Bush, since the tallest candidate always wins," said Russ Furhman, of Dubuque.

"George Pataki?" Bush said interrupting Furhman, referring to the also-tall former governor of New York.

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"Now that I've seen you I'm going to run out and put 10 bucks on you," Furhman said.

"Well, it's a long path, man," Bush said. "Wait until the odds get really, really bad and then buy."

FUNDRAISING FOR BUSTOS

If you're in the market to see Taylor Swift in concert, you might consider making a $2,500 donation to U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill.

According to an invitation obtained by the Sunlight Foundation, a nonpartisan, open government nonprofit, Bustos is offering tickets to donors willing to make the per-person donation. The concert will be held July 13 at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C.

POLITICAL CALENDAR

* Saturday, June 6 -- U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, will host "Joni's 1st Annual Roast and Ride." Most GOP declared and potential presidential candidates are expected to attend. Ernst will lead a motorcycle trip from Des Moines to the Central Iowa Expo in Boone. Tickets are $30 and are available at jonipac.com .

'16 race feeds Benghazi talk // Boston Globe // Owen Boss - May 24, 2015

The sister of a Navy SEAL killed in the Benghazi terrorist attack is wary that Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential run will mean her family will have to deal with nonstop news coverage

focused on the former secretary of state's failure to boost security at the embassy.

"What's unfortunate for us is Hillary Clinton running for president is going to keep this story on the news," Kate Quigley of Marblehead told the Herald yesterday. "It would've been lovely a long time ago if she accepted her responsibility in it but that never happened and that most likely will never happen."

Quigley's brother, Glen Doherty of Winchester, and fellow Navy SEAL Tyrone Woods were killed by mortar fire while holding off dozens of insurgents on Sept. 11, 2012, at the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith also were killed in the attack.

The State Department released nearly 900 pages of Clinton's personal correspondence Friday, some of which reinforced the notion that the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination received numerous warnings about security at the American diplomatic compound prior to the deadly attack.

One email shows Clinton received a message from Stevens warning of the deteriorating police presence near the compound.

"The police chief is a university professor who took on these police duties after the revolution. According to the police chief, there are only 3,000 police in the Benghazi area, down from 6,000 prior to the revolution," Stevens wrote. "Many police simply did not return to their jobs after the revolution, as they feared retaliation."

Another email, sent just seven months before the attack by then-Ambassador to Libya Gene Cretz, warned of

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"concern here that continuing rivalries among the militias remains dangerous from the perspective of the havoc they can wreak with their firepower and their continued control of select turf."

Quigley said the release of Clinton's personal emails hasn't provided her family any bombshell revelations.

"We've known this all along," Quigley said of the lack of security at the compound. "I have heard that now there are new restrictions pertaining to how embassies are supposed to be staffed but this is nothing new for us. We still are not going to blame the government, we still lay blame where we always have — with the people who planned and executed the attack."

Clinton campaign strategy catching flak // Sentinel Source // Anita Kumar - May 24, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — Here's how Hillary Clinton campaigned for president this week: She took a private 15-minute tour of a bike shop that had closed for her visit. She spoke to four small-business owners chosen by her staff in front of an audience of 20, also chosen by her staff. She answered a few questions from the media following weeks of silence.

And after a little more than an hour, Clinton was off, whisked away by aides and Secret Service agents, into a minivan and on to the next event.

Members of the public who wanted to go inside the building to support her, oppose her or merely ask a question of her were left outside on an unseasonably cool Iowa day. Most didn't bother showing up.

"I am troubled that so far in this caucus cycle she hasn't had any public town halls," said Chris Schwartz, a liberal activist from Waterloo, as he stood outside the bike store hoping to talk to Clinton about trade. "If she had a public town hall then we wouldn't be out here. We would much rather be in there engaging with her."

Welcome to Hillary Clinton 2.0. Mindful of her defeat by Barack Obama in 2008, Clinton has embraced a new strategy — one that so far does not include town hall meetings and campaign rallies, media interviews, even public events.

Instead, she holds small controlled events with a handful of potential voters in homes, businesses and schools. She repeats many of the same lines ("I want to be your champion" is a favorite), participants are handpicked by her staff or the event host, and topics are dictated by her campaign.

Clinton's approach — made possible by her lack of strong competition for the Democratic nomination — comes as she works to relate to working American families after years of being criticized as an out-of-touch Washington insider garnering hefty paychecks for her speeches and books.

But the campaign to show the world that she's never forgotten her middle-class, Middle America sensibilities can be a tough sell from inside a bubble of armored cars, Secret Service agents and wary aides.

"It's going to come back and haunt her," said Eric Herzik, chairman of the political science department at the University of Nevada, Reno. "I think it will backfire."

Clinton's distance from the public stands in contrast to other candidates in both parties, who routinely mix and mingle with the public, hold town hall meetings and appear on TV news programs.

So far, Clinton has not held one event open to the public since she launched her campaign, though aides say she

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eventually will hold bigger events..”

Andrew Smith, director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, said that while there’s value in hearing what potential voters say, the Clinton campaign has ensured she only gets friendly audiences even if she doesn’t know exactly what they will say.

“There’s not the same level of pushback. It’s always going to be artificial,” he said. “She shouldn’t be afraid to talk to voters and really campaign.”

Sliver of Clinton Emails Hint at Lingering Political Trouble // Real Clear Politics // Lisa Lerer, Matthew Lee & Jack Gillum - May 24, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton received information on her private email account about the deadly attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi that was later classified "secret" at the request of the FBI, underscoring lingering questions about how responsibly she handled sensitive information on a home server.

The nearly 900 pages of her correspondence released Friday are only a sliver of the more than 55,000 pages of emails Clinton has turned over to the State Department, which had its plan to release them next January rejected this week by a federal judge.

Instead, the judge ordered the agency to conduct a "rolling production" of the records. Along with a Republican-led House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks, the slow drip of emails will likely keep the issue of how Clinton, the front-runner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, used a personal email account while serving as the nation's top diplomat alive indefinitely.

Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., said that the released emails were incomplete, adding that it "strains credibility" to view them as a thorough record of Clinton's tenure.

The prospect for political complication in Clinton's choice to use a personal email account, rather than one issued by the government, was evident in the messages released Friday. They included several that were deemed sensitive but unclassified, contained details about her daily schedule and held information - censored in the documents as released - about the CIA that the government is barred from publicly disclosing.

Taken together, the correspondence provides examples of material considered to be sensitive that Clinton received on the account run out of her home. She has said the private server had "numerous safeguards."

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Clinton said Friday she was aware that the FBI now wanted some of the email to be classified, "but that doesn't change the fact all of the information in the emails was handled appropriately."

Asked if she was concerned it was on a private server, she replied, "No."

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said, "It was not classified at the time. The occurrence of subsequent upgrade does not mean anyone did anything wrong."

It's not clear if Clinton's home computer system used encryption software to communicate securely with government email services. That would have protected her communications from the prying eyes of foreign spies, hackers, or anyone interested on the Internet.

Last year, Clinton gave the State Department 55,000 pages of emails that she said pertained to her work as

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secretary sent from her personal address. Only messages related to the 2012 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, were released by the department on Friday. The 296 emails had already been turned over to the House Benghazi committee.

A Nov. 18, 2012, message about arrests in Libya was not classified at the time, meaning no laws were violated, but was upgraded from "unclassified" to "secret" on Friday at the request of the FBI to redact information that could contain information damaging to national security or foreign relations.

Twenty-three words were redacted from the message, which detailed reports of arrests in Libya of people who might have connections to the attack, Harf said.

The redacted portion appears to relate to people who provided information about the alleged suspects to the Libyans. That part of the email had been categorized by the State Department as "NOFORN," meaning that foreign nationals weren't allowed to read it, including close U.S. allies.

The message, originally from Bill Roebuck, then director of the Office of Maghreb Affairs, was forwarded to Clinton by her deputy chief of staff, Jake Sullivan, with the comment: "fyi."

No other redactions were made to the collection of Benghazi-related emails for classification reasons, officials said. They added that the Justice Department had not raised classification concerns about the now-redacted 1 1/2 lines in the Nov. 18 email when the documents were turned over to the Benghazi committee. The committee retains an unredacted copy of the email, the officials said.

Clinton also appeared to send and receive protected information about the CIA, which was withheld on Friday because the State Department said federal law prevented its disclosure. The department did not offer a detailed description of what it was withholding, such as a name or other sensitive information.

A number of the messages were marked with codes indicating that the information had been censored for reasons related to the U.S. intelligence community, law enforcement or personal privacy - a process that happened after they'd already been circulated through Clinton's home server.

Much of the correspondence concerned the mundane matters of high-level government service, press clippings, speech drafts, and coordination of calls with other top officials as well as chit-chat about shopping between Clinton and top aide Huma Abedin.

"What a wonderful, strong and moving statement by your boss," Christian Brose, a top adviser to Sen. John McCain, writes in an email to Sullivan, forwarded to Clinton just after Stevens' death. "Please tell her how much Sen. McCain appreciated it. Me too."

There are repeated warnings of the unrest in Libya, though Clinton has said she was never personally involved in questions of security in Benghazi before the attack. One message describes a one-day trip by Stevens in March 2011 to "get a sense of the situation on the ground" and prepare for a 30-day stay in the future. A request for Defense Department support was made, the email adds, but no approval had yet been received. Stevens was killed in Benghazi on Sept. 11, 2012.

As early as April 2011, Clinton was forwarded a message sent to her staff that the situation in the country had worsened to the point "where Stevens is considering departure from Benghazi," The email was marked "Importance: High."

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8 things we learned from the Clinton emails // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood - May 23, 2015

The highly selective trove of Hillary Clinton emails released by the State Department Friday revealed both the seemingly strong influence Sidney Blumenthal wielded over the secretary of state and the preoccupation with media coverage exhibited by her closest aides.

If the 296 published emails are to be considered a complete collection, they would suggest Clinton relied almost exclusively on an aide that had been banned from the State Department, Blumenthal, to provide her intelligence on a country at war.

The emails show that Clinton's staffers often circulated and debated press clippings amongst themselves and occasionally discussed how to respond to certain media criticisms.

They also provide a narrow glimpse of how the State Department's top ranks operated in the weeks before and after the greatest crisis of Clinton's tenure.

Clinton asked State Dept. aides to prepare speech for Clinton Foundation

An email dated Sept. 22, 2012 shows Clinton appeared to discuss a speech for the Clinton Global Initiative less than two weeks after the Benghazi attack.

Jake Sullivan, a top Clinton aide, sent Clinton a draft of the speech that day and encouraged her to "let me know your thoughts."

The entire speech is redacted under a FOIA exemption that allows agencies to hold back internal deliberations.

What is unclear is why Clinton was using State Department aides to prepare a speech for her family's foundation, or why the text of that draft would be considered an internal government communication.

The day of Benghazi attacks, Clinton asked for a film she made a cameo in

Hours before the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Clinton asked a pair of her top staffers to find her a copy of the Bernard Henri Levy documentary, "The Oath of Tobruk."

Levy had directed the film about the Libyan war, which featured a cameo from Clinton herself.

But elsewhere in the emails, Levy's name surfaced again, although it was redacted in the version released by the State Department.

In a memo to Clinton dated March 27, 2011, Blumenthal noted that French President Nicolas Sarkozy had asked Levy, a sociologist, to use his "long established ties to Israel, Syria, and other nations in the Middle East" to assess the level of influence al Qaeda and other terrorist groups wielded in the Libyan government.

'This will be exciting when it's FOIA'd'

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A light-hearted exchange between Philippe Reines, Thomas Nides and Caroline Adler — all top Clinton aides — revealed the staffers had FOIA in mind when emailing with their government accounts.

Describing an interview Clinton gave to Wall Street Journal reporter Monica Langley in which the reporter sat too close to the secretary, Reines said he didn't "think you see that behavior among any type of mammal."

"Was like the dental hygienist rolling around the floor to get the best access to your mouth depending on what tooth she was trying to get access to," he wrote.

"I may go and throw up since I am laughing so hard," Nides said.

Adler, who was copied on the chain, added, "this will be exciting when it's FOIA'd."

Clinton confused names of slain Americans

In the hours after Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were murdered in a terrorist raid, Clinton sought advice from her aides about when to announce Stevens' death.

But critics quickly pounced on the fact that Clinton seemingly jumbled the ambassador's name with that of Sean Smith, a foreign service information management officer who was also killed in the attack, by referring to the slain diplomat as "Chris Smith" instead of Chris Stevens.

Blumenthal and Clinton had secret meeting just after Benghazi attack

Clinton appears to have visited Blumenthal just weeks after the Benghazi attack.

Blumenthal told his old friend it was "great to see you" on October 6, 2012, and encouraged her to "drop in again," the emails show.

A day later, he invited Bill and Hillary Clinton to his home after the election.

"Post-election, we'd like to have you over for dinner," Blumenthal wrote. "Bill can come too, if he's in town. Whatever works."

"Will do," she replied.

The exchange was yet another illustration of the close ties between the former Clinton aide and secretary of state that has sparked controversy in recent days.

Emails between Blumenthal and Clinton made up a significant portion of the records released Friday.

In 9 months leading up to Benghazi, there's only 35 Clinton emails

The State Department emails span most of Clinton's final two years in office, but the cache contains long stretches of time when either no emails were sent, or none were disclosed.

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In the two weeks before the Benghazi attack, Clinton and her staff either did not send each other a single email regarding the atmosphere in Benghazi that led to the death of four Americans in a raid on the U.S. consulate there, or the emails during that time were not disclosed.

In the nine months of 2012 before the Sept. 11 attack, Clinton and her aides exchanged just 35 emails that the secretary of state evidently deemed fit to give the State Department.

Private server emails contained sensitive data FBI classified just hours before release

The FBI classified information in one of Clinton's emails just hours before their release, the Associated Press reported Friday.

State Department officials told the AP Clinton's emails from Nov. 18, 2012, contained the names of suspects that had been arrested in Libya in connection with the attacks.

Twenty-three words were redacted from that particular email published on the State Department website.

Reporters pressed State Department spokesperson Marie Harf on why information sensitive enough to be considered classified, even retroactively, was handled on a private server.

"It's possible that the degree of sensitivity ... evolved over time," Harf said at a briefing Friday.

State Dept. made political, helpful redactions

Leaked emails published by the New York Times just one day before the State Department officially released the email trove show that the agency redacted a number of passages before publishing the documents.

The State Department had redacted parts of emails that revealed officials' personal opinions about prominent Libyans.

The agency also removed some of Clinton's own words, such as her suggestion to explore arming the Libyan rebels using "private security experts."

Clinton's attempt to warn the White House to prepare for Republican attacks on the Obama campaign using Benghazi as fodder was also redacted, although it is unclear how that information would affect national security.

Possible Clinton running mate decries Benghazi 'witch hunt' **// The Hill // Devin Henry - May 24, 2015**

Julian Castro, an Obama Cabinet secretary floated as a potential running mate for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, said on Sunday the release of State Department emails relating to Benghazi is part of "basically a witch hunt."

"What you have here with these emails is basically a witch hunt, and Congressman [Trey] Gowdy [R-S.C.], who is leading this, is very intentionally trying to manipulate this witch hunt to play politics," Castro, the Housing and Urban Development Secretary, said on CNN's "State of the Union."

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Under public pressure, the State Department on Friday released hundreds of emails between Clinton and other department officials related to the 2012 attack on the American embassy in Benghazi, Libya. Gowdy, who is chairing a congressional investigative committee into the events around the attack, has called Clinton to testify on the matter before Congress later this year.

“This thing has been studied to death, by Republicans and by Democrats, several committees, including in Congress, that have all said, ‘Yes, of course what happened was tragic, but Secretary Clinton was not in any way at fault,’ ” Castro said.

Democrats have pitched Castro as a potential running mate for Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, speculation he has brushed off as “flattering.”

“If I had a dime for every amount of speculation that happens in DC, I think all of us would be wealthy,” he said.

Clinton inevitable? Really? **// Miami Herald // Editorial Board - May 23, 2015**

The aura of inevitability in which Hillary Clinton basked for so long has smacked up against the reality of the rough-and-tumble of a presidential campaign. And both she and the Democratic Party are worse off.

She deigned to speak at length to the media last week after about a month of giving reporters, and the public she seeks to represent, the silent treatment. At a time when Republican wannabes are grabbing every microphone, gabbing at length to differentiate themselves from each other, Mrs. Clinton, until last week, had taken another, less winning approach.

Really, the Republican campaign so far, with its cast of seemingly thousands, has been fun to watch, informative and revealing.

Mrs. Clinton, however, has seemed imperious, remote and tone-deaf to the clamor to hear directly from her instead of being defined by the people who hope to oppose her next Election Day. She’s already lost one presidential campaign; it’s up to her now to persuade Americans that she really wants to be president and is not just going through the motions because of ...inevitability.

Of course, it’s way early in this campaign, and she may yet find her mojo. Maybe it’s part of her strategy to not expend a lot of energy before it’s clearer who her Republican opponent will be.

Still, it’s no longer too early for Mrs. Clinton to make the case that she’s hungry for this job, that she’s the better choice for the position. So far, though, she hasn’t really moved the needle of her poll numbers since declaring her candidacy. And despite the intimate, unrecorded chats Mrs. Clinton has held with small groups of voters, her 27-day silence let others fill the void and tell the public who she is, and mostly in negative terms.

Thing is, when she engages in straight talk, as she did this week in unequivocally declaring that the U.S. invasion of Iraq was a mistake, she plays to her strengths. Yes, it’s past time for her foes to give up on their Benghazi allegations — they have been a nonstarter from the outset.

But, like every other candidate, Mrs. Clinton comes with baggage, the contents of which should be examined, explained. The dubious sources of donations to the Clinton Foundation, for instance, are fair game.

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Mrs. Clinton's hurdles are short-term — she only has to make it to Election Day — but the Democratic Party's challenges are long-term. Despite having one of its own in the White House for six years, party leaders seem complacent, not hungry to maintain occupancy at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., not just in 2016, but 2024, 2032 and beyond.

In other words, the Democratic bench isn't very deep, and that stands to cause enduring damage to the rich mix of ideas and ideology that has propelled American politics for centuries now.

If tomorrow Mrs. Clinton decided, "You know, maybe I don't want to be president after all," who would step into the void? So far, Sen. Elizabeth Warren has a large, cultish following that could translate into a credible, popular campaign. Joe Biden? Experienced and personable, but like Mrs. Clinton, and even Jeb Bush on the Republican side, there's a freshness lacking, though it's not a deal-killer.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders is in there pitching, and former Maryland Gov. Mike O'Malley is exploring. But where the country is only benefiting from the scrappy fighters on the Republican side, from the credible to the far-out, Mrs. Clinton and her party lack that "oomph." They must keep in mind that inevitability is hardly a winning strategy.

Can Hillary Clinton Keep it Cool? **// Elle // Sarah Lindig - May 24, 2015**

The old adage says, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." And then there's also "Learn from your mistakes," which is always good advice, right? Just ask Hillary Clinton. She's taking both these themes to heart with her #Hillary2016 campaign.

Back in 2008, she had her work cut out for her. It was a battle of competing "firsts": Hillary Clinton as the first female vs. Barack Obama as the first African American. Both were undeniably progressive, but Obama had the cool factor. He (along with his stylish wife) was new, inspiring, savvy, and just really, really likable—and with that he had a lock on the lucrative Generation Y demographic. The celebrities, digital media users and cultural trendsetters that made up this group of voters championed Obama's cause as their own, turning support for his campaign into a lifestyle, if not a social status symbol. No Hope posters and t-shirts for Hillary.

Despite her legacy as a feminist and political icon, other elements of Mrs. Clinton's (or the Clintons, general) reputation precede her. Before she ever officially announced she'd be running, there was already a circulation of criticism about a second-time-around regime returning to the White House and skepticism about what will be different, plus endless spoofs and parodies that painted her as an icy, power-hungry, headband and skirt suit-wearing woman and played up her husband's notoriety. (We're looking at you, SNL.) In the face of it all, the political powerhouse seems to be operating under a new strategy that seeks to shake these stereotypes. The new Hillary isn't cold—she's cool.

This time around though, the former Secretary of State is taking cues from the exiting president's success. Hillary's official announcement video focused on communities and individuals before ever mentioning her name or the word "campaign"—a far cry from the stiff talking head that she showed us in 2008. Her online presence is revamped from her active social media use, complete with the requisite Beyoncé references, gifs, memes and selfies, down to her website's humorous 404 page (which, it just so happens, would make for a great #tbt). And let's not forget her new campaign headquarters, located in the heart of Brooklyn Heights. Because, "Brooklyn, U.S.A. How can you beat that?"

The question we're left wondering is this: Can Hillary Clinton keep it cool? Popularity is fleeting, especially with the Millennial crowd where technology is tantamount to oxygen and the window for what's trending refreshes daily. Will Hillary successfully excite and engage young voters the way Obama did, or will the level of interest rest firmly at apathetic? She's got a jumpstart on the campaign trail and numerous heavy-hitting stars in her corner, but there's still a year and change left to tell.

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OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary: hiding in plain sight // Baltimore Sun // Jules Witcover – May 25, 2015

Has Hillary Clinton learned the lessons of 2008? Her reticence on TPP says no.

In President Barack Obama's struggle with Congress to win fast-track authority on trade with 12 Pacific nations, a conspicuously missing voice has been that of his former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, now a declared 2016 presidential candidate. It's in keeping with her obvious strategy to campaign in a defensive crouch.

Her reintroduction to the American electorate, delayed well into 2015, was deliberately — yet transparently — low key, to counter the widespread perception not only that she is entitled but also that her coronation for the next Democratic nomination is assured.

Rather than kicking off her campaign with a large and raucous televised rally and full-throated campaign speech, she settled for a brief Internet video pitched to the "everyday Americans" she pledged to represent, in which she appeared and spoke only for a few closing moments.

In an obvious gesture of calculated humility, the former first lady eschewed a lightning-swift opening visit to Iowa, the state in which she had placed an embarrassing third behind Mr. Obama and Sen. John Edwards in its 2008 caucuses. Instead, she elected to endure a 1,000-mile bus ride.

That endurance was tempered by her use of a large luxury van driven by a Secret Service agent. But she maintained a facade of just-folks normality by stopping off at a Chipotle, where photographers managed to capture her consorting with the hoi polloi.

Throughout the Iowa visit and in the following days, Hillary Clinton continued to hold small conversations with her intended targets in neighborly chats. They were designed to combat an impression left by her failed 2008 presidential campaign that she was too impersonal and aloof to warm hearts of other than the already committed and faithful.

But a bump in the road came early. After leaving the Obama cabinet, it turned out she had complied with a government requirement to forward business-related emails yet chose to erase personal emails from the private Internet server she had used in office. She defended the action as a right of privacy in a rare press conference of limited duration, and thereafter took few questions from the press.

All of this conduct inevitably worked against the campaign strategy of presenting a Hillary Clinton who had learned lessons from her 2008 campaign, widely criticized in the press at the time as excessively closed, cautious and isolated her from the voters.

Then the other day, a serious policy question was in the news that saw her on the sidelines in a potentially disadvantageous manner. President Obama's major effort to gain fast-track trade authority from Congress, as part of the effort to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement (TPP), suffered a temporary setback when all but one Democratic senator voted against it, leaving the measure eight votes short of the margin necessary for it to advance.

Candidate Clinton is no longer in the Senate, and she remained essentially silent on the matter that she once as secretary of state said would "create a new high standard for multilateral trade." Her reticence drew a jibe from House Speaker John Boehner last week on "Meet the Press," who remarked that "she can't sit at the sidelines and

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let the president swing in the wind here."

Her failure to step into the fray came as Democrat Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, emerging as the party's strongest liberal voice in the Senate, has pointedly taken on Mr. Obama on the pending trade deal. She contends the deal could jeopardize the financial reforms on Wall Street and investments set in place by Congress after the Great Recession, and that the text of the deal, now classified, should be made public before any binding vote.

Mr. Obama in turn lashed out personally, saying Ms. Warren is "absolutely wrong" on the point, adding he would be "pretty stupid to sign a provision that would unravel" the reforms enacted with his support.

The disagreement within the Democratic ranks would ordinarily be an invitation to a presidential candidate like Ms. Clinton to express her views on it. Yet to date she has looked like a referee standing in a neutral corner, letting the boxers untangle each other on their own. With the fate of TPP still to be resolved, Hillary's cautious election strategy compromises her claim to be a decisive leader.

If Hillary Falters, Why Not Joe? **// Real Clear Politics // Carl M. Cannon - May 24, 2015**

Ten years ago, I wrote an article making the case for Hillary Clinton in 2008. The former first lady, then a senator from New York, was popular with Democrats and boasted near-total national name identification. She'd proven her fundraising prowess, was improving her résumé, and had ambition to burn. "Why Not Hillary?" my essay was titled.

It didn't happen for Clinton in that election cycle. She ran up against a historical juggernaut in the person of Barack Obama, who'd been in the Senate only a few months when I assessed Hillary's chances. In a long primary season they essentially split their party's votes, but Obama narrowly edged her out in delegates, mainly with superior organizational skills.

When it came to dividing the spoils, Clinton seemed to get short shrift again. Although she would become Obama's first secretary of state, Joe Biden—a distant also-ran in the Democratic primaries—was tapped as Obama's running mate. But Biden seems to have been informed by his boss that this was as far as he was going in politics. Clinton was told no such thing, not that she would have accepted such a restriction anyway, and she's running again.

For those who care about good government, this is problematic. Eight years ago, Bill and Hillary Clinton hadn't yet perfected the sophisticated money-making operation that has Republicans salivating and Democrats fretting. The details are only now coming to light, but the scheme seems to work like this: huge corporations and wealthy individuals—and foreign governments—donated millions to the Clintons' foundation, while also paying Bill huge speaking fees, and then turned around and lobbied the administration in which Hillary was a high-ranking official for various favorable decisions that will generate great profits. The projects we're talking about range from transnational oil pipelines to uranium mines.

Democratic Party professionals are understandably worried about the atmospherics. On Thursday, I had lunch with three former White House officials, all Democrats, who were discussing possible alternatives. "Hillary's campaign is going to implode," one of them said. The question was who could pick up the pieces. None of my lunch companions gave any love to the three Democrats who have expressed interest in running against Clinton. (If you're keeping score, that's former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. James Webb, and former Socialist Bernie Sanders, currently representing Vermont in the Senate.)

Three other names arose, however: California Gov. Jerry Brown, former vice president Al Gore, and 2004 Democratic nominee John Kerry—the man who replaced Hillary Clinton at the State Department. I added a fourth: Joe Biden.

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Why not Joe?

For the pros and cons, let's start with the positive: On paper, he may be the most qualified presidential candidate in America: two terms as vice president, three decades in the U.S. Senate, including chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Foreign Relations Committee. He's run for president twice before. He's been scandal-free in all that time, save for a 1987 plagiarism beef that looks mild by today's standards. He has working-class roots, connects with blue-collar "Reagan Democrats," and is respected by military families. He has easy sense of humor.

Unlike other Democrats I could name, he hasn't amassed a personal fortune. He's a public servant committed to public service. As vice president, he's been exceedingly valuable to Obama, on politics and policy. I'll cite two examples.

Remember when the intransigence of House Republicans and the petulance of Senate Democrats—and the president himself—threatened to take the country over a "fiscal cliff" in 2013? Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell called Biden, his former and longtime colleague, with a simple question: "Does anyone down there know how to make a deal?"

There was, and once Obama tasked his vice president with getting it done, a deal happened. It's called governing, and Joe Biden knows how to do it.

He's savvy on politics, too. The prevailing wisdom holds that Bill Clinton rescued the Democrats' 2012 humdrum nominating convention in Charlotte with a stemwinder that pumped up the delegates. But Biden is the one who may have actually saved that convention four months earlier when he blurted out his support for same-sex marriage on "Meet the Press."

"I think you may have just gotten in front of the president on gay marriage," his communications director told him afterward. This was true, but after Education Secretary Arne Duncan did the same thing on "Morning Joe," the president realized that the Democrats' days of having it both ways on gay marriage were over.

White House officials didn't know it then but Biden may have saved the convention. Delegates would have raised hell over this issue in Charlotte. Some would have walked out over it. That would have been a bigger news story than Bill Clinton's speech.

So those are the pros. There are cons—Joe is only human—and I won't gloss over them. For one, he will be nearly 74 on Election Day 2016. Also, he's famous for his blooper reel. That sense of humor I mentioned? Sometimes it's inadvertent. Everybody, it seems, has their favorite Biden gaffe. Two of my favorites came on the 2012 campaign trail. "My mother believed and my father believed that if I wanted to be president of the United States, I could be, I could be vice president!"

Three weeks earlier, he told a college audience, "I promise you, the president has a big stick. I promise you."

At a White House conference on violent extremism earlier this year, Biden said he has "great relationships" with Somalis because "there is a large, very identifiable Somali community" in Wilmington, Delaware and "an awful lot [of them are] driving cabs and are friends of mine. For real. I'm not being solicitous. I'm serious."

This might have been problematic even if Biden's premise were true; actually there are hardly any Somalis in Wilmington, let alone a huge squadron of taxi drivers. But nobody is perfect, and after eight years of Obama's cautious and detached diffidence—and after only two months of fresh Clinton scandals—maybe Biden's genuine, if flawed, "Uncle Joe" persona is what the American people want.

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“Joe Biden is what you see,” says Republican former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. “Yes, he’s prone to gaffes publicly, and he'll admit that. He’s very self-deprecating like that. And I'm certainly not one who agrees with Joe Biden on all things ... but from a human and relationship standpoint, the guy’s awesome.”

Sanders opens presidential campaign headquarters in downtown BTV // WPTZ // Stewart Ledbettr - May 24, 2015

BURLINGTON, Vt. —Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has leased office space in downtown Burlington for his presidential campaign headquarters on the eve of the national kickoff here Tuesday.

The insurgent candidate will challenge Hillary Clinton for the 2016 Democratic nomination.

Staffers already occupy part of the third floor space at 131 Church Street, a stone's throw from City Hall where Sanders' political career first gained traction with his election as mayor in 1981.

Nostalgia, aides said, played a role in selecting the location.

Sanders has hired former Chief of Staff Jeff Weaver to manage the presidential effort.

"This campaign is going to be a grassroots campaign," Weaver said. "It's going to take advantage of the tens and tens of thousands of volunteers we already have, and the tens and tens of thousands more we're going to get, and he is going to go from one end of Iowa to the other, one end of New Hampshire to the other, and we're going to be in a whole bunch of other states as well."

Weaver said they're looking to open satellite offices in Ohio and New Hampshire soon.

Sanders will hold a rally and formally begin his campaign on Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Waterfront Park in Burlington.

Bernie Sanders Is Over Social Media Gaffe Stories // Bloomberg // Ali Elkin -May 24, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders says he's grown weary of campaign coverage that focuses more on the horse race and outrage than on the policy issues shaping the election.

“In terms of campaign coverage, there is more coverage about the political gossip of the campaign, about raising money, about polling, about somebody saying something dumb, or some kid works for a campaign and sends out something stupid on Facebook, right?” the Vermont senator said in an appearance Sunday on CNN's Reliable Sources, a program about media. “We can expect that to be a major story. But what your job is, what the media's job is, is to say, 'Look, these are the major issues facing the country.' We're a democracy. People have different points of view. Let's argue it.”

Controversies about social media posts by aides to figures including Jeb Bush and Scott Walker, likely Republican presidential candidates, have captured the political media's attention repeatedly in this early stage of the race.

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"We can expect that to be a major story."

Senator Bernie Sanders

Sanders, who identifies as an independent in the Senate, said last week on the network that he likes Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and wants to avoid attacking her but, to his dismay, isn't sure he can get any media attention with that approach. During Sunday's appearance, Sanders said he would much rather see news outlets focus on climate change or income inequality than on some of the other stories they deem newsworthy.

"I think that instead of coming up with the next news of the moment, 'Breaking news! There was an automobile accident and a cat got run over,' here's breaking news: For 40 years the American middle lass has been disappearing and the rich have been getting richer. Why?" Sanders said.

Step aside, Bernie Sanders has a big week // Washington Times // Jennifer Harper - May 24, 2015

He is the busiest of all the presidential hopefuls this week. Sure, Sen. Marco Rubio will celebrate his birthday in Las Vegas on Thursday, and Carly Fiorinaand Gov. Scott Walkerwill head for New Hampshire later in the week, but it's Sen. Bernard Sanders who has the wall-to-wall schedule punctuated by the rallying cry, "A political revolution is coming." So step aside, folks.

On Tuesday, the Vermont senator kicks off his formal campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination with a Zydeco band and free Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Company founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfieldwill be by his side, incidentally. Mr. Sanders rushes to New Hampshire on Wednesday for town meetings in Concord, Portsmouth and Eppington. By Thursday, he will be in Iowa for more town meetings in Davenport, Muscatine, West Branch, Iowa City and Kensett and pushing his new "Agenda for America" wherever he goes. And Mr. Sanders, 75, is in a fighting mood when it comes to the press.

"In terms of campaign coverage, there is more coverage about the political gossip of the campaign, about raising money, about polling, about somebody saying something dumb or some kid works for a campaign and sends out something stupid on Facebook, right?" Mr. Sanders told CNN on Sunday. "The media's job is to say, 'Look, these are the major issues facing the country. We're a democracy. People have different points of view. Let's argue it.'"

Bill de Blasio: The Boring Progressive // American Thinker // David Lawrence - May 24, 2015

I am so sick of de Blasio promoting his Progressive agenda. The job of a politician is to pragmatically play among various ideologies and to satisfy the majority of his constituents rather than to dogmatically stick to his opinions.

De Blasio has been traveling around the country giving feeble, redundant Progressive speeches. New Yorkers feel that he should stay home attending to New York's problems rather than campaign for political-philosophical clichés.

In Washington, our resident of Gracie Mansion spoke about income inequality. He spoke with another quasi-communist – Elizabeth (phony Indian) Warren.

Hey, I earn a lot less than either one of them. Yet I don't feel I deserve income equality. I used to be a businessman and earn millions of dollars. I lost it all. I didn't feel that because I had been rich, I deserved to be rich again. I am not a jealous person.

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I now live modestly as a boxing coach. If you asked me if I wanted to go back to the insurance industry and earn a fortune, I'd tell you no. If income equality demands working a lot in a field that doesn't stimulate you, then you can shove it. I don't want to be an accountant or an insurance man even if it would pay me bundles.

De Blasio promotes fiscal jealousy; Obama promotes divisive racism. They both believe in divide and conquer. However, they are conquering themselves and their constituents, us.

De Blasio instituted paid sick leave and universal kindergarten. I don't think you should get paid for being sick. If you can't afford a few days off, you haven't managed your money correctly. Universal kindergarten? I don't know. I didn't learn a thing in kindergarten.

Where do the handouts stop? Maybe we should give people free cars, marijuana, and prostitutes? Maybe we should breathe and eat for them?

De Blasio's still pushing for a minimum wage of $15. As if that wouldn't turn around and bite us down the line. I don't want to pay ten dollars for a Big Mac or see inflation go through the roof just so de Blasio can pretend that he's helped the poor with his $15-an-hour concession. With inflation it washes out to be nothing. Also, it does little to put the poor in dream coops.

Mr. de Blasio said an issue like mass incarceration is "exceedingly pertinent" to income inequality. Crime is a lifestyle not necessarily driven by greed. I knew a gangster who was part of the Whitey Bulger crew in Boston. He told me that he got a football scholarship to college but chose instead to join the mob because it was more exciting. He even told me that he'd rather be John Gotti than Paul McCartney.

Even the poor are not always motivated by money. There's glamour, style, and leading a proper life.

Give the income inequality a break. It's boring.

One of de Blasio's simple-minded cohorts, Ms. Greenberg, ballyhooed gay marriage. Gay marriage is an oxymoron, and the rephrasing of a negative. De Blasio seems to be behind everything that is new, as if the continuity of the world were meaningless.

Marijuana doesn't need to be decriminalized. Alcohol is enough to get us high; we don't need marijuana, too. I had some bad trips on it when I was young and almost flipped out.

Now de Blasio wants to stop arresting drug dealers over 40. He figures that concentrating on younger drug dealers would bring down the gun violence. If he wants to bring down the shootings, which have been going up, why doesn't he just reinstitute Stop & Frisk?

Oh, that's right – that would hurt the feelings of the minority criminals who might get profiled. Better to let drugs flow and people get shot. Who cares if the murder rate has gone up?

De Blasio is a tone-deaf egotist. He doesn't hear that New Yorkers don't approve of his selfie travels.

He moans again about affordable housing. Hey, let some of these people move to cheaper places outside the city so that New York can become a classier place that attracts businesses, hotels, and posh condos. We don't need a

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leprous city like Mumbai. We don't need bums on every street corner and subway.

New York City is beautiful. Why does de Blasio want to turn it into a slum? As it goes downhill, the crime will only worsen. The windows will all be broken.

Let de Blasio admit that progressivism is a failure. Its goal is progress, but its results are chaos, destruction, and a depressed society. Because "progressivism" has the word "progress" in it, it fools de Blasio and his followers.

De Blasio is impressed by his own borrowed rhetoric. His progress is really regress into his shortsighted failures.

GOP

Carly Fiorina Talks, Iowa Swoons, as Polls Shrug **// NYT // Amy Chozick - May 24, 2015**

DES MOINES — After 11 Republican presidential contenders spoke to a huge gathering of Iowa party activists at the Lincoln Day Dinner this month, they moved to hospitality suites to greet people one on one.

Jeb Bush's suite looked sparse, with a handful of visitors asking the former Florida governor for a photo. Rick Santorum said hello to a scattering of old supporters.

But the line to meet one candidate, Carly Fiorina, a former Silicon Valley executive whose name recognition is negligible among voters, snaked down the hallway. For more than an hour, Iowans filed into the suite for their chance to meet Ms. Fiorina.

Ms. Fiorina, a former chief executive at Hewlett-Packard with a flair for biting one-liners, had just delivered a speech that included references to God and a joke about former President Bill Clinton's hormones. When a timekeeper cut off her microphone, indicating that she had used up her allotted 10 minutes, the audience broke out in catcalls and groans. The crowd wanted more Carly.

"It was the most exciting speech all night," said Cait Suttie, 27, who waited to meet Ms. Fiorina and now wants to volunteer with her campaign.

Iowa voters are known to fall in love with firebrand candidates and underfunded outsiders, from Pat Buchanan in 1996 to Howard Dean in 2004. And this cycle, Republicans here are starting to swoon over Ms. Fiorina, who is so unknown in national polls that she may not even be included in the first presidential debate in August.

Ms. Fiorina, whose net worth is between $30 million and $119 million, has generated headlines and steady crowds of conservative voters. In April, nearly 300 people showed up to see her deliver the keynote address at the Clinton County Republican Party dinner in Iowa, twice as many as were expected. On Saturday, when she spoke at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City, she was interrupted by several standing ovations.

Whether Ms. Fiorina, the only woman in the Republican race, can build from her status as a crowd-pleasing speaker and curiosity into a serious competitor is not clear. But something is happening on the ground here.

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While supporters in Iowa noted that she had doubled her standing in state polls, it was a statistically insignificant change from 1 percent to 2 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released May 6. (That may seem piddling, but the same poll had Mr. Santorum, who won the Iowa caucuses in 2012, also at 2 percent, while 5 percent supported Mr. Bush.)

Not even Ms. Fiorina's aides predicted that she would become the surprise hit at the Lincoln Day Dinner on May 16, which 1,300 Republican stalwarts paid $75 a plate to attend.

"She walked on the stage, and they said, 'Who is she?' " said Steve DeMaura, the executive director of Carly for America, a "super PAC" that supports her candidacy. "And then she walked off the stage, and they said: 'She's impressive. I want to see her six more times.' "

Gender clearly separates Ms. Fiorina from the pack. And she seems to be building on the popularity of Joni Ernst, the state's motorcycle-riding senator, who became the first woman to represent Iowa in Congress after a campaign last fall in which she promised to cut pork in Washington much the way she had castrated pigs on her farm.

But another element of Ms. Fiorina's appeal is an experience often lost in her biography: She spent much of her technology career in marketing, and has a talent for reading an audience and crafting pithy, and sometimes cutting, comments.

Ms. Fiorina says she writes all of her own remarks, including some choice jabs at the Democratic front-runner, Hillary Rodham Clinton. "Flying is not an accomplishment, it's an activity," she likes to say, knocking Mrs. Clinton's boast that she traveled 956,733 miles as secretary of state. In her announcement video, Ms. Fiorina watched — and critiqued — Mrs. Clinton's own announcement video.

She is prepared with answers on issues from the Islamic State to the California drought (which she has blamed on "overzealous liberal environmentalists") and distills them into one-liners that play to the party's base.

Of the Affordable Care Act, Ms. Fiorina likes to say, "The law is longer than a Harry Potter novel and not nearly as interesting."

But at times, Ms. Fiorina, 60, also speaks in deeply personal terms about her faith, her struggles to conceive a child, her survival of breast cancer and the death of a stepdaughter, experiences that seem to resonate with a heavily evangelical party base. "It was my husband Frank's and my personal relationship with Jesus Christ that saved us from a desperate sadness," she has said.

Her favorite remark on the trail — after bashing Mrs. Clinton — is to relay the advice of her mother, who taught Sunday school: "What you are is God's gift to you, and what you make of yourself is your gift to God."

Ms. Fiorina has been among the most frequent visitors to Iowa in the Republican field. She has spent 10 days in the state this year, according to a tally kept by The Des Moines Register, and on a five-day swing last month, she held 13 events. On June 6, she will be back, attending a "Roast and Ride" event with Ms. Ernst, a fund-raiser that includes a 38-mile ride on a Harley-Davidson, followed by barbecue and horseshoes.

Her campaign is expanding in the state faster than those of some better-known rivals, and aides hope a strong showing in Iowa will give Ms. Fiorina the money, infrastructure and enthusiasm to continue to make her case in New Hampshire, South Carolina and beyond.

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Supporters are careful not to call it a groundswell. “Everyone, understand the challenges she faces,” said Boris Feldman, a Silicon Valley lawyer and fund-raiser for Ms. Fiorina. The Republican establishment is “ready to declare the messiah before the three wise men arrive,” he said, but independent-minded Iowans can help stem the tide.

Ms. Fiorina — who lived all over the world as a child, was educated at Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was once criticized for her reliance on private jets at Hewlett-Packard — is not traveling in grand style here. In April, she was driven around the state in a Honda CRV owned by Mary Earnhardt of West Des Moines, who is the Iowa director of Carly for America.

Continue reading the main story

“To me it’s quite fun to see people in their element where they’re comfortable,” Ms. Fiorina said in a telephone interview.

Still, she has not caught on to all the local customs.

“You meet people over breakfast, you talk to them while they’re eating gigantic cinnamon rolls or a Pizza Palace breakfast or whatever it is,” she said. (A spokeswoman said Ms. Fiorina was referring to Pizza Ranch, an evangelical-owned pizza chain and must-stop for candidates here.)

The most immediate aim for the Fiorina campaign is making the threshold for the first debate, which Fox News has said will include only the top 10 contenders.

In perhaps the most meaningful sign that Ms. Fiorina is gaining, she is starting to annoy others in the back of the pack. After the Lincoln Day Dinner, a flustered Donald Trump, told The Register that more people had come to his hospitality suite than to Ms. Fiorina’s, which seemed a debatable claim. “I had people counting. I was curious,” he said.

“She’s a nice woman,” said Mr. Trump, who is expected to announce his own plans next month. “But she got fired viciously from Hewlett-Packard.”

Ohio Gov. John Kasich edges closer to 2016 run // Washington Times // Tom Howell Jr. - May 24, 2015

Ohio Gov. John Kasich hinted Sunday that he is ready to jump into the GOP race for president, saying he’s “very optimistic about where we’re headed.”

Mr. Kasich, a Republican, said his team is “getting closer” to making a firm decision about the 2016 contest and he is soliciting financial support while he tests the waters in key primary states.

“I’m pretty qualified for this kind of a job,” he told ABC’s “This Week,” citing his executive work in a large state and 18 years in Congress.

While Mr. Kasich boasts a long resume, some in the GOP have lambasted his positions as inadequately conservative, notably his embrace of Medicaid expansion under Obamacare.

Also, he would enter the presidential race as a late underdog who wouldn’t qualify for a spot on the stage in early

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debates.

Unfazed, Mr. Kasich said there's plenty of time for him to catch fire.

"You go to New Hampshire and you do well and you're on a rocket ship," he said.

Perry Seeks to Win Over Iowa, One Handshake at a Time // RCP // Catherine Lucey & Steve Peoples- May 24, 2015

LE MARS, Iowa (AP) -- Rick Perry is working his way through small-town Iowa one handshake, bear hug and backslap at a time.

The early, hands-on approach from the 2016 presidential prospect contrasts with his failed bid four years ago, when he entered the race relatively late and stumbled in the debates. The former Texas governor says he has more policy knowledge under his belt buckle now and more time for the early states.

"Nobody came to Iowa more in 2014 than I did," Perry said after speaking to about 20 people at a Pizza Ranch in Sioux Center this past week. "And I will suggest to you that will probably be the case in 2015. If somebody is going to spend more time in Iowa than I am, they better bring their lunch."

Although politicking in diners and pizza places is hardly new in the leadoff caucus state, Perry has been notably active in some of Iowa's more out-of-the-way places, which get less frequent traffic from presidential hopefuls. Since 2014, he has made more than a dozen visits to Iowa.

"I think it's a good strategy," said Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, noting that former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum employed a similar tactic in 2012 and narrowly won the caucuses. "It's not a bad strategy to be kind of under the radar and just kind of build."

Perry, 65, has also been spending time in other early voting states, such as New Hampshire and South Carolina. He says he will announce on June 4 whether he's running for president again.

Perry launched his 2012 presidential bid with fanfare and high expectations, but quickly went from being a front-runner to an also-ran because of gaffes and poor debate performances. This time, Perry is hoping his energetic pursuit of each vote will help people forget his "oops" moment, when he was unable to recall the third of three federal agencies he said he would close if elected president.

Perry's aides have said he wasn't prepared when he entered the last presidential race and have blamed his debate problems on a busy schedule and pain medication he was taking after back surgery. After finishing fifth in the Iowa caucuses and sixth in New Hampshire's primary, Perry quit the race.

"I hadn't spent the time and the preparations that I should have," he says now.

During stops in conservative northwestern Iowa, Perry boasted about his record as the longest-serving governor in Texas history, citing his state's low taxes, limited regulation and caps on civil lawsuit damages. An animated speaker, Perry gestures dramatically as he talks about his farm upbringing, military record and experience in office.

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"I don't just talk about 'here's what I would do,' but I say 'here's what I've done,'" he said. "This is going to be a show-me, don't-tell-me election. Executive experience has been what's been missing out of the White House."

Texas has a booming population and posted solid job growth during much of Perry's three terms as governor, from December 2000 to January of this year. But it has the nation's highest rate of residents without health insurance and the economy has been hurt in recent months by falling oil prices.

One shadow hanging over him this time: Perry is facing a criminal abuse-of-power indictment in Austin for threatening in 2013 to veto state funding for public corruption prosecutors, then doing so.

If he runs, Perry will enter a race packed with contenders, some of them also former or current governors.

Still, former Iowa Republican Party Chairman Matt Strawn saw opportunity for Perry in the state.

"The good news is, Iowans are going to give Gov. Perry a second chance, and he's doing all the right things," Strawn said. "The bad news is, it's a stronger field of options than four years ago."

As Perry packs in appearances in early voting states, he's also quietly expanding his national network, with an advisory board of donors and Republican officials. Many are prominent GOP names from Texas, but the board also has people from financial centers around the country.

Several Iowa Republicans said they were impressed by Perry, though not ready to commit.

"He's got a great personality," said Leann Bohlken, 56, of Le Mars, who chatted with Perry in an ice cream parlor. "He didn't have to share a personal story with me, but he did."

Huckabee: Distrust of government at new high **// The Hill // Mark Hensch - May 24, 2015**

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-Ark.) said on Sunday that American skepticism of the government has reached the highest peak he has ever encountered.

“Frankly, there’s never been a time in my lifetime where people are more distrustful of government,” Huckabee told host Chris Wallace on “Fox News Sunday.”

Huckabee, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate, blamed the National Security Administration (NSA) and its bulk phone records collection program as a major force behind citizen unease.

“If this is so effective, why hasn’t it foiled potential terrorist plots?” he asked.

“Not one of them has been tied to the NSA’s collection of metadata,” Huckabee said of the program’s warrantless collection of phone records for countering terrorism.

“It seems like we’re spending billions of dollars on the whiz-bang technology and not enough on human resources,

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which have proven to be the most effective way of stopping terrorism," he added.

Huckabee's remarks follow the Senate's decision to adjourn early on Saturday without reforming NSA practices or renewing the controversial Patriot Act portion relating to them.

The upper congressional chamber departed on Saturday morning without a clear strategy for revisiting the Patriot Act's intelligence-gathering provisions, parts of which expire at the end of the month.

Huckabee argued on Sunday that the Constitution offered one tried and true method for combating terrorism – the rule of law.

"I think the Constitution already provides what we should do," he said.

"If you have probable cause to suspect Chris Wallace is going to commit criminal acts you go to a judge and get a warrant and then you can listen to his phone calls," Huckabee told Wallace.

Huckabee also noted on Sunday that mystery surrounding the NSA program's effectiveness mirrored the greater opaqueness of both President Obama and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

"The secrecy with which this government has operated and specifically Hillary Clinton operating outside State Department protocol is extremely troubling," he said.

Huckabee additionally argued that the Supreme Court had abused its legal power with recent decisions, thus eroding the public's faith in the institution.

"Judicial review is exactly what we have operated under," he said of the judicial branch historically. "Judicial supremacy is not what we have operated under."

"One can't overrule the other two," he added of the three branches of government.

"We learned that in ninth grade civics," Huckabee said. "It's a matter of balance of power."

Huckabee suggests government should have a warrant before spying // MSNBC // Aliyah Frumin - May 24, 2015

Mike Huckabee is the latest Republican to weigh in on the controversial issue of government surveillance, going as far on Sunday to suggest authorities should get a warrant if they want to listen in on Americans' phone calls.

Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," the presidential candidate and former Arkansas governor criticized the National Security Agency's controversial collection of millions of Americans' phone records, asking host Chris Wallace, "If this is so effective, why hasn't it foiled potential terrorists plots?"

He argued the NSA program – recently deemed illegal by a federal appeals court – was just one of the reasons

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Americans are so distrustful of government. Huckabee pointed to the U.S. Constitution, saying it “provides what we should do.” He added, “If you have probable cause to suspect Chris Wallace is going to commit criminal acts you go to a judge and get a warrant. Then you can listen to his phone calls.”

If no action is taken by the end of May, some provisions of Patriot Act will expire – including the ability to conduct roving wiretaps, business record searches and gathering information on individuals who are suspected of terrorist activity but aren’t necessarily affiliated with a particular group.

It’s an issue that has divided the emerging 2016 Republican field.

Critics have spent years condemning the Patriot Act – which was instituted after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and allows the government to obtain telecommunication, financial and credit records without a court order – arguing it tramples on civil liberties and allows the government to spy on innocent people. In 2011, Obama signed a four-year extension of the act, allowing the government to conduct roving wiretaps in an effort to thwart terrorists.

Some like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie – who have not officially declared their 2016 intentions but are expected to run – have defended the programs, arguing they are vital to national security. Similarly, declared candidate Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida Recently argued on the Senate floor that a perception has been created “that the United States government is listening to your phone calls or going through your bills as a matter of course,” said Rubio. “That is absolutely and categorically false.”

Others like Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky (who spearheaded an 11-hour filibuster like speech against the NSA program) have hailed the court decision as “monumental” for “all lovers of liberty” and called on the Supreme Court to “strike down the NSA’s illegal spying program.” Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said the ruling confirmed what many Americans already know – that the NSA “went too far in collecting the phone records.”

Mike Huckabee on Fox News Sunday // Fox News // May 24, 2015

CHRIS WALLACE: all right now on "fox news sunday." hello from fox news in washington. it's not just barbecue on the menu this memorial day weekend. there's also politics and national security. we begin with former arkansas governor Mike Huckabee who ran second for the gop presidential nomination in 2008, became a star on fox news channel, but then left television to run again. governorHuckabee joins us now and welcome back to fox news sunday.

MIKE HUCKABEE: thank you, chris. great to be back.

CHRIS WALLACE: i want to start with a couple of breaking stories. first of all, the release on friday by the state department of 296 of hillary clinton's e-mails concerning benghazi. here's the reaction that you gave.

MIKE HUCKABEE: we expect these charades and masquerades in ussr, the old soviet union, not the u.s. explain what you mean by that. h which this government has operated and specifically, hillary clinton using a private e-mail server outside the bounds of normal state department protocol is very troubling, especially because we have yet to give an answer to what happened in benghazi. i know that sounds like something an old broken record, we need to know why did four different times an ambassador call for help and no help came? the one thing american soldiers and american diplomats need to know wherever they are stationed across the world is when they are under fire and being shot at, we will move heaven and earth to try to get to them, to rescue them and to protect them. and we didn't do that on the night of benghazi. hillary's phone rang 3:00 in the morning and she let it go to voice mail. we need to know why.

CHRIS WALLACE: let me ask you about another breaking question. congress is more deadlocked than ever what

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to do about the nsa's bulk data collection of phone records with the program set to expire on june 1st. here's what you had to say about that this week.

MIKE HUCKABEE: does the constitution allow the government to read the mail and to listen to the phone calls, even to collect them without a warrant or probable cause? i think the obvious answer is no, it does not.

CHRIS WALLACE: a couple of points here. section 215 of the patriot act, which is the section that is going to expire on June 1st, has nothing to do with listening in on phone calls. it's just recording the fact that my phone number called your phone number. so aren't you wrong there when you talk about listening in? secondly what do you think we need to do about this bulk data collection?

MIKE HUCKABEE: i think the constitution already provides what we should do. if you have probable cause to suspect that Chris Wallace is acting in a nefarious manner, you go to the judge and listen on his calls because you have the other branch of government that is constitutionally required to be part of that process. you don't give unlimited resources, unlimited power. our founders were very concerned about too much power being invested in any one, any branch. the balance of power is fundamental to our system. i don't want to be made unsafe, but Chris, 225 different terrorist plots over the past year since 9/11, and so far not one of them has been tied directly to the NSA collection of meta data. if this is so effective, how come it hasn't resulted in the foiled terrorist plots? those have been foiled by old-fashioned police work, human intelligence. it seems like we are spending billions of dollars on wiz bang technology and not enough money on human resources which has proven to be the most effective way of stopping terrorism.

CHRIS WALLACE: let's turn now to your candidacy. you announced it three weeks ago. i was struck listening to your campaign announcement. you laid out bold policies. i want to drill down into those. you said first of all, no cuts, no changes to medicare or social security. here you are.

MIKE HUCKABEE: if congress wants to take away someone's retirement, let them in their own congressional pensions, not your social security.

CHRIS WALLACE: but government trustees say without any changes, for instance, medicare's hospital instance, medicare's hospital insurance fund will run out of money by 2030 and the social security trust fund will run out of money by 2033. governor, don't we have to find some way, raising the eligibility age, cutting benefits perhaps for the wealthier people to keep these programs solvent for people 55 or younger.

MIKE HUCKABEE: the problem with people 55 or younger, they've been paying in 40 years. this was not a voluntary extraction from their paycheck. it was involuntarily lifted from them under the guise that the government would then provide for them, their money, back in that social security or medicare fund. this is not an entitlement as much as it is an earned benefit that people have paid in. there are some factors here. one of the reasons i'm for the fair tax, it means everybody will help fund social security and medicare, not just the working people of america. right now the only people paying in are the people who work for wages. people who get their money off dividends are not paying anything in. social security and medicare funds are being short shrifted because we limit the manner which people pay in. if everybody was under a consumption tax, which is what the fair tax does, all americans would be contributing.

CHRIS WALLACE: i want to stay on this entitlement reform. back in to 2011 here is what you told neil cavuto.

MIKE HUCKABEE: we keep saying that 60 is the new 40. okay. let's treat 60 like it's the new 40. let's raise that eligibility age up to 70 for the people under 55.

CHRIS WALLACE: you favored reforms to entitlements back then what's changed?

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MIKE HUCKABEE: well, the main thing i feel like that has happened, as i understand, if we start breaking promises to people and we start making changes in a program people have been into for years, i think it adds to the distrust we have of government. frankly, there's never been a time in my lifetime where people are more distrustful of government. i say go back to people who are d 15 just entering the work force -- and here is another suggestion.

CHRIS WALLACE: if i may briefly, it was only four years ago you were saying we do need to change it for people who were 55 and younger, because frankly people are living longer.

MIKE HUCKABEE: i think the fact is that we can't make those changes because, as i talk to people across the country, they feel like that is a gut punch and if we are going to make the changes, let the individual. for example, if you want to give me the option to take my retirement benefits in one lump sum, but let me make that choice, okay. give me the tax-free benefits, but i don't think you can go and give seniors the sense that everything they have been involuntarily paying in for is now going to be taken from them.

CHRIS WALLACE: okay. let's talk about the fair tax which you just brought up. you want to abolish the income tax, you want to abolish the irs and create a fair tax, as you say, is a national sales tax. critics say the problem with that is it's too regressive. the tax policy center said that the average rate for the lowest income group would exceed 33%, while the average for the top group would fall to less than 16%. the argument, governor, is that the rich who spend less of their income are going to end up making out pretty well under this. and the poor who spend almost all their income and are going to be paying this sales tax are going to pay the most, or at least the highest percentage.

MIKE HUCKABEE: they have it exactly wrong. in fact, it's the bottom third of the economy who benefit the most from the fair tax. the people of the top of the economy benefit the least. although everybody benefits some. that tax study is one that has been discredited by the people who spend over $20 million, very thorough economic study developing the fair tax. it's not ome political idea.

CHRIS WALLACE: doesn't it just stand to reason if i make 5,000, i'm going to spend a higher percentage of my income just for the necessities, and if i make $1 million, i probably am not going to spend as much a percentage of my income because i've got a lot of income.

MIKE HUCKABEE: well, the difference is who, and this is where a lot of people don't understand, the fair tax has what's called the prebate, if you are at the bottom third, chances are you don't pay any effective tax in the consumption tax because you are consuming less and getting a prebate in advance of what you would have spent. that's why the poorest people come out better. i recommend people going to the fair tax website, reading books on the fair tax, but getting it from people who actually know what it does rather than those who don't want to see the fair tax. i'll tell you what the fair tax does, it empowers the consumer and lets people have their whole paycheck and takes the power out of the hands of congress and puts it in the hands of the consumer. that's power to the people.

CHRIS WALLACE: governor, i want to keep moving along. there are a lot of things you said in your announcement. you indicate as president you wouldn't necessarily obey court rulings, even the supreme court. here you are.

MIKE HUCKABEE: many of our politicians have surrendered to the false god of judicial supremacy, which would allow black robed and unelected judges the power to make law as well as enforce it.

CHRIS WALLACE: we have operated under the principle of judicial review since 1803.

MIKE HUCKABEE: judicial review is actually what we've operated under. we have not operated under judicial

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supremacy. presidents lincoln, jefferson, jackson, presidents understood that the supreme court cannot make a law. they cannot make it. the legislature has to make it, the executive branch has to sign it and enforce it, and the notion that the supreme court comes up with the ruling and that automatically subjects the two other branches to following it defies everything there is about the three equal branches of government. the supreme court is not the supreme branch. for god's sake, it isn't the supreme being. it is the supreme court.

CHRIS WALLACE: but sir, george will, the conservative columnist pointed out back in 1957, another governor of arkansas, orville forbis decided to disregard and refuse to obey the ruling to desegregate schools. president eisenhower had to call in the 101st airborne. are you saying president Huckabee might decide he wasn't going to obey the ruling on desegregation or president nixon to turn over the tapes? that it's up in the air whether you are going to obey the supreme court?

MIKE HUCKABEE: you know george will is no fan of mine. he recently called me appalling. i'm not surprised he would make such a false comparison. in that case the supreme court had ruled the legislature and executive branch agreed with the supreme court and precisely what happened is what should happen. the president ordered the airborne to come in and enforce the law. the law that did exist. it wasn't that the president defied the law, the president was carrying out the law and using all the forces at his resources to do it.

CHRIS WALLACE: let's say he said i don't want to turn over the tapes and the court can't make me?

MIKE HUCKABEE: the president has to follow whatever the law is. does congress have a law that tells him what he is going to do? in that case, the congress was ready to impeach nixon and he ultimately resigned. i want to get back to the main point. it's a matter of balance of power. if the supreme court could just make a ruling and everybody has to bow down and fall on their faces and worship that law, it isn't a law because it hasn't been passed, what if the supreme court ruled they were going to make the decision as to who was going to be the next president and save the taxpayers and voter from all the expense and trouble of voting, and they'll just pick a president. we would say, they can't do that. why can't they do it? they can't do it because it's not in the law. we are sworn to uphold the constitution and law. it has to be consistent and agreed upon with three branches of government. one can't overrule the other two. that's all i'm saying. we learned that in ninth grade civics. i'm convinced a lot of ivy league law schools must have forgotten that simple basic civic lessons along the way.

CHRIS WALLACE: governor Huckabee, an awful lot of interesting things you said in your announcement. interesting things you'll say in this campaign. thank you for coming in today and thank you for sharing your holiday weekend with us. we'll see you on the campaign trail.

MIKE HUCKABEE: thank you.

CHRIS WALLACE: and we'll keep asking you questions.

MIKE HUCKABEE: all right, chris. thanks.

When Huckabee Also Wanted Us To Forgive Mel Gibson // The Daily Beast // Aswain Suebsaeng - May 24, 2015

GOP Presidential contender Mike Huckabee not only wants you to forgive an admitted sexual predator, he wants Mel Gibson off the hook too.

On Friday, 2016 Republican presidential hopeful and professional Beyoncé opponent Mike Huckabee took to Facebook to publicly convey his support for accused sexual predator Josh Duggar.

“Josh’s actions when he was an underage teen are as he described them himself, ‘inexcusable,’ but that doesn’t

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mean 'unforgivable,'" the former Arkansas governor wrote. "No purpose whatsoever is served by those who are now trying to discredit Josh or his family by sensationalizing the story. Good people make mistakes and do regrettable and even disgusting things."

He goes on to chide the "blood-thirsty media" for covering the fact that Duggar—a social-conservative activist and reality-TV star—was accused of molesting five underage girls when he was a teen.

Huckabee, being the devout Christian that he is, has plenty of forgiveness to throw around at controversial, similarly devout figures in entertainment. (Again, provided they are not Beyoncé.) For instance, last year, Huckabee took to his verified Facebook account to urge Hollywood and America to make up with Mel Gibson.

"Will Hollywood ever forgive Mel Gibson?" his post reads. He, again, spots an opportunity for casual media-bashing, this time unfair "showbiz journalists."

"[Gibson has] also quietly given millions of dollars to Jewish charities, and not just to polish his image, because nobody knew about it," Huckabee added. You can read the whole post below:

Huckabee is a fan of Gibson's controversial 2004 film, The Passion of the Christ. In fact, Huckabee owes some of the early momentum during his last presidential campaign to a Christian-voters email list that had its roots in the marketing strategy for The Passion of the Christ.

Gibson fell out with much of Hollywood over accusations of anti-Semitism, and his widely covered ugly, racist, misogynistic rant.

But again, the "blood-thirsty media" are the real problem here.

Jeb Bush having new mansion built for him on family compound in Maine: report // Daily News // Adam Edelman - May 24, 2015

Jeb Bush is going for Maine over Main Street.

The all-but-certain 2016 candidate is having a huge house built for him at the Bush family compound at Walker's Point, in Kennebunkport, Maine, the Boston Globe reported Sunday.

The former Florida governor's new home will be built on a 1.3-acre site worth at least $1.4 million, the Globe reported, and was ordered built by Bush's parents, former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush.

The 3,000 square-foot, 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom "cottage" is expected to have a gorgeous wraparound porch and feature panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean. The construction of the house, which is expected to be completed in July, is thought to be around $600,000, the Globe reported.

"I'm incredibly blessed to be George and Barbara's son and am thankful that they have built a special place for their family to gather," Bush, who currently owns a home in Coral Gables, Fla., with his wife worth at least $1.3 million, said in an email to the Globe. "We are so lucky."

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According to the Globe, the potential 2016 candidate didn't take part in the design of the new mansion, yielding instead to his mother Barbara.

"Barbara dictated most things," Kristi Kenney, the architect of the new house as well as another one built nearby for Jeb's younger brother Marvin, told the Globe.

The extended Bush clan has enjoyed a decades-long relationship with the Kennebunkport area, where multiple generations of the iconic political family have vacationed, and where Jeb's four siblings already have homes "set aside for them," the Globe reported.

The land for the "Bush Compound," which serves as the summer home for George H.W. Bush and Barbara, was originally purchased by the 41st president's great-grandfather, and has been kept in family since. It now houses several homes for the Bushes as well as a unit for Secret Service agents.

For Jeb Bush, however, who is already struggling both with making inroads with middle-America Republicans and with distancing himself from his family's political legacy, another mansion in a New England vacation town given to him by his parents may not provide him the relaxation it was intended to.

Bush has faced continued criticism over his inability to articulate how he would govern differently than his brother, former President George W. Bush, experiencing particular difficulty in stating his position on the failed 2003 invasion of Iraq.

He has also been on the receiving end of attacks from a growing number of rivals for the 2016 GOP nomination, who have suggested he won't be a friend to middle-class voters.

Christie's curse-fest, and how the media blew it **// Star Ledger // Tom Moran - May 24, 2015**

I don't usually rush to defend someone who calls me an angry drunk, but I'm making an exception today.

The crack came from Gov. Chris Christie, and it was part of a good-natured roast at an annual dinner where journalists and politicians trade jabs while raising money for a good cause.

He's wrong about me, first of all. I'm not angry.

But Christie is taking heat because his speech was packed with obscenities, including a generous helping of the f-word, and some of the media broke custom and reported every scrap of it.

This won't hurt Christie here in Jersey, where our sensibilities have been worn down to a nub. But evangelical Christians might see things differently.

"In South Carolina and other states with a conservative religious tradition, it could be a big deal," says Brigid Harrison, a political scientist at Montclair State University.

My concern is not for Christie's campaign. If he becomes commander in chief, I'm building a bomb shelter and investing my money in gold bullion. Scary.

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He regards me now as something akin to toe fungus. But he feels free to joke, and I feel free to laugh.

But this event, the Legislative Correspondents Dinner, just suffered a wound that could be mortal. And that's a pity. This is one night a year when we all put down our weapons and share a drink and a few laughs.

The dinner, which raises about $10,000 a year for scholarships, began in 1890. I don't know what they talked about back then, but the speeches these days are full of obscenity and personal attacks. People laugh hard. Christie broke no new ground; he was just a lot funnier than most of them.

Normally, that stuff stays in house. The speeches used to be strictly off the record, and most journalists still treat it that way. But the rules changed in 1994 after the editor of The Record of North Jersey objected.

Even now, though, most reporters treat the dinner as off the record. Until last week, I thought it was still officially off the record. Christie did, too, clearly.

"Probably more than half the audience thinks that," says Mike Symons, a reporter for Gannett New Jersey Newspapers, and the director of the show.

The tradition of restraint died Thursday morning when a small consulting firm, Jaffe Communications, printed the meat of Christie's speech, including the f-words, in its daily newsletter to clients and media.

Bruno Tedeschi, a former Star-Ledger reporter who is a partner in the firm, had recorded the speech.

"How do you have a gathering of 350 people and tell them it's off the record when everyone has a recording device," Tedeschi says. "And how does being off record give you license to say thing that are just crude, quite frankly?"

After the newsletter broke this, Bloomberg News ran a story, as did the International Business Times, and the New York Times. Then the social media world exploded. The Star-Ledger declined to publish a news story until Saturday.

You can now send friends a recording of Christie using the f-word over and over. Why that is considered newsworthy is a mystery. Seems to me more like teenager staring through a keyhole for thrills.

Christie is considering a boycott next year, and who can blame him? Will the next governor play ball?

Symons worries the whole event could collapse. To some editors and ethicists, that would be welcome. They warn that politicians and journalists have become too chummy.

I get the concern, but I don't see much evidence of it on the ground. Most journalists I know salivate at the prospect of uncovering a scandal and sending a politician to jail.

We can laugh at Christie's jokes, and then skewer him the next day. We can walk and chew gum at the same time.

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My own relationship with Christie is a good example. When he was a prosecutor, we had many lunches together, used first names, joked and chatted frequently.

Then he started screwing up as governor, and I wrote that he was screwing up. He regards me now as something akin to toe fungus. But he feels free to joke, and I feel free to laugh.

It strikes me as healthy for pols and journalists to be reminded once a year that the other guy is a human being, that banging heads on the job doesn't have to make us personal enemies.

That's probably lost now. And for what?

This was not a noble fight for a free press, or the public's right to know. This was a cheap shot on the governor, first from a communications firm eager for attention, then from mainstream media that followed the path without thinking.

It's not a week when I'm proud to wear the uniform.

Can Feingold come back from defeat? **// Milwaukee Journal Sentinel // Craig Gilbert - May 23, 2015**

For almost two decades, Russ Feingold had a winning image in Wisconsin politics — the liberal maverick. He galvanized Democrats, won independents and made small but critical inroads among Republicans.

That election formula abandoned him in the conservative wave of 2010, when the three-term senator lost his seat to Republican newcomer Ron Johnson.

Can Feingold come back from defeat?

Can he recover his “maverick” brand?

Can he reconstruct the appeal he once had to voters outside his Democratic base?

Early polls seem to offer that hope. In fact, his numbers right now are more reminiscent of the Feingold victories of 1992, 1998 and 2004 than the Feingold rejection of 2010 (see chart).

In surveys by the Marquette University Law School, Feingold’s popularity ratings are better than almost any politician Marquette has asked about in its three and a half years of statewide polling. He led Johnson by 16 points in last month’s poll. He led by almost 20 points among independents — after losing them by 12 in 2010.

Even among Republicans, a sizable minority — 27% — viewed Feingold favorably. That may not sound like much, but it’s practically unheard of these days in a polarized state where big-name politicians get almost no support from voters in the other party.

These numbers are so promising for Feingold it’s hard to know how much stock to put in them. Is a 27% favorability rating among Republicans sustainable for a Wisconsin Democrat trying to unseat a Republican

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senator? No. Is a 16-point lead sustainable in a state as divided as this one? Almost certainly not.

It's worth remembering that what Feingold is trying to do — win back his old Senate seat — is rare for a reason. Rejection isn't usually a building block to victory.

But it's also worth asking why someone who lost his job less than five years ago is polling so well.

Let's start with something both sides can agree on about Feingold's political history.

Even in his losing 2010 campaign, voters didn't come to view him all that negatively.

"Both candidates ended up with pretty good image ratings after the 2010 race," says Johnson strategist Brad Todd.

"In the last week of the campaign, his favorability rating was coming back up," says Paul Maslin, who polled for Feingold in 2010.

But they take different lessons from that. Todd says Feingold's loss wasn't about "personal animus" but political rejection based on Feingold's voting record on issues like the stimulus and the new health care law. That record will remain a problem whatever voters think of him personally, Todd argues.

"It has been since the 1930s that a senator (last) came back to beat the person that took him out of office. The reason that is nearly impossible to do is because the voters have already made that choice," says Todd. "You can't escape the fact that Russ was fired, despite the fact that he had a positive image among Wisconsin voters. It was pleasant, it was amicable, but it was a firing. He can't come back and say, 'I'm going to make the case I made before,' and expect to be rehired."

Feingold has a different reading of his defeat: that it had much more to do with a national political wave than an individual repudiation.

"I do not believe and didn't believe then it was a personal judgment or rebuke (by voters)," says Maslin. As a three-term senator "in the midst of the Obama administration, it was very difficult for him to maintain the Feingold brand…But I don't think voters concluded Russ Feingold's time had come and gone," Maslin says.

In last month's Marquette poll, Feingold was viewed favorably by 47% and unfavorably by 26% of registered voters, a better "net favorable" rating than almost any politician Marquette has asked about since it started polling in Wisconsin in 2012. At the moment, voters are much less polarized over him than over Gov. Scott Walker, President Barack Obama or either of the state's two U.S. senators, Republican Johnson and Democrat Tammy Baldwin.

Marquette pollster Charles Franklin says all that is a "positive signal" for Feingold.

"It says the voters' rejection of him in 2010 did not turn into a lasting antipathy toward him," says Franklin.

There are some caveats, however. The one other Wisconsin politician with numbers like Feingold's in recent years

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was former GOP Gov. Tommy Thompson at the outset of his own 2012 Senate race. Like Feingold, Thompson had been out of partisan politics for several years, making him a less polarizing figure. Like Feingold, he scored well with independents and did unusually well with voters in the opposing party.

But in Thompson's case, his popularity and crossover appeal didn't survive the polarizing brawl of the 2012 election, which he lost to Baldwin.

"Thompson started at plus 18," says Franklin, referring to the difference between his positive and negative rating. "But he finished at minus 14. It's a powerful example of how a campaign can change a politician's image with the voters in the state."

So Feingold's early polling numbers should be taken with some caution. He won't end up with 12% of the GOP vote against Johnson, as he did in last month's Marquette poll. The state has grown too polarized for that to happen. In recent state elections, only about 5% of voters in each party have crossed over to vote for the other party's candidate.

And Feingold will be hard-pressed to win independents by 20 points as he did in last month's Marquette poll, since those independents include many voters who lean Republican and usually vote that way in the end.

On the other hand, Feingold doesn't need to make the kind of Republican inroads he made in the 1990s to win in 2016, and he doesn't need to win independents by double digits.

The presidential electorate in Wisconsin usually includes more Democrats than Republicans. It's usually better for Democratic candidates than the midterm electorate. If that turns out to be the case next year, Feingold only needs to hold his own among independents to win.

That makes it sounds easy, but broadly speaking, what Feingold is trying to do is not easy. He's trying to persuade Wisconsin voters to make a different choice between the same two options they had a few years ago. He has to do that by getting people to switch their votes, or by relying on the added voters that turn out in a presidential election, or both.

It's a challenging path. But the early polling suggests that Feingold starts out with less baggage than you might expect for someone who was voted out of office in his last election.

The road to the White House // The Tampa Tribune // Blaise Ingooglia - May 23, 2015

The road to the White House goes through Florida, and that means it goes through each one of us. Voters across our great state get to play a key role in electing the next president of the United States. Moms and dads, students and recent grads, hardworking employees and job seekers all alike will have the opportunity to decide which candidate has the leadership and plan for our country.

This is why the Republican Party of Florida is committed to having an open conversation on our vision of a better future for all people through greater opportunity, economic growth and individual empowerment.

At our recent spring quarterly meeting, I introduced our plan for 2016: Project 29. Our first goal of Project 29 will be to fully engage with all communities, Hispanics and African-Americans, seniors and millennials, students and taxpayers, to talk about the issues facing our nation.

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Project 29 will help shape how our party operates during the 2016 elections, and it is my hope that these changes will make a lasting impression on our state.

We are not only fighting for Florida's 29 electoral votes, but we are fighting to keep control of Florida's U.S. Senate seat, increase Florida's Congressional majority and maintain majorities in the Florida House and Senate.

Our Party will accomplish these goals by being present and embedded in communities where we have been absent in the past. We plan to engage with churches and faith leaders, local community leaders and organizations. We plan to have one-on-one conversations about the future of our economy and discuss your concerns and ideas for the future of our country.

A key part of our plan is to provide support for local races in addition to moving back toward the grass roots by opening Victory Offices throughout the state.

Florida will now be the first winner-take-all primary in the country, ensuring that all presidential campaigns will have to spend a considerable amount of time in our neighborhoods speaking to Floridians from Pensacola to Key West and everywhere in-between.

Our party is going to be called on to do more than ever before. We're going to knock on more doors. We're going to make more phone calls. We're going to reach out to voters that may never have heard from us before. I know that Republicans in this state are ready to hear your opinion and talk about our future.

The Democratic Party believes it is ready for Hillary Clinton, but I can promise it that it won't be nearly as ready as we will. From being embedded early on in all communities to building up the technology infrastructure needed for digital outreach, our party will be ready to play a key role on the national stage.

Project 29 is not just about outcomes, but changing the way our party engages with communities as well. With the launch of our new website, Florida.GOP, we are fulfilling our commitment to modernize the way we engage with voters across the state. As we prepare our path to victory in 2016, this new website provides a digital platform to interact with voters and empower volunteers with the tools they need to be effective.

We now have a clear road map with Project 29, and if we work hard and spread our message I know we can be successful. Florida's 29 electoral votes can only be delivered by the voters of Florida. We need to make sure that we make our votes count. Florida will decide the next President of the United States, and our Party will make sure Project 29 is successful.

Blaise Ingoglia is the chairman of the Florida Republican Party.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Two dead as south-central U.S. storms force evacuations **// Reuters // Jim Forsyth - May 24, 2015**

Two people were killed in flash flooding and severe storms in Texas and Oklahoma that forced evacuations and rooftop rescues and left thousands without power, officials said on Sunday.

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The National Weather Service reported river flooding across southern Oklahoma and central Texas, where 6 to 9 inches of rain fell overnight. Flash flooding remained a threat on Sunday from central Iowa into southern Texas, where the heaviest rainfall was expected, the NWS said.

Tornado watches were in effect in the Midwest and south on Sunday evening, including Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas and Louisiana, the NWS said.

As much as 3 inches of rain could fall in east central Texas on Monday, and possibly more in certain areas, the NWS said.

"They haven't seen flooding like this for probably a good decade, probably more like 25 years, even longer, on some of these rivers," said Kurt Van Speybroeck, a NWS meteorologist in Fort Worth, Texas.

He said soil was saturated from heavy rainfall over the past three weeks.

Helicopters rescued people off rooftops in Hays County in central Texas.

More than 1,000 people were rescued or evacuated from 400 homes, county officials reported on Sunday.

The county, which includes the small cities of Wimberley and San Marcos, about an hour's drive north of San Antonio, ordered a Sunday night curfew.

Local officials at an afternoon news conference said debris piles were nearly 20 feet high. An unidentified man was found dead from the flooding in San Marcos.

Three people who had been reported missing in San Marcos were found safe, a representative for emergency management operations said.

In San Antonio, electric utility CPS Energy said it would take up to 48 hours for power to be restored to 2,600 customers.

In Oklahoma, which also had weekend flooding, a firefighter died overnight in Claremore, about 30 miles northeast of Tulsa.

Captain Jason Farley, a 20-year veteran of the department, had been responding to a call to help about 10 people trapped in their homes by floodwater, said Claremore Fire Chief Sean Douglas. Farley was swept into a storm drain and died.

Another firefighter who rushed to his aid was also swept into a drain but survived with minor injuries, he said.

"It is a tragic event and a devastating loss for us," Douglas said.

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Dozens of streets were closed, and the Red Cross had opened shelters.

Here are the cities that need a $15 minimum wage the most **// Fortune // Claire Zillman - May 24, 2015**

Californian cities have plenty of work to do.

The Los Angeles City Council this week voted 14-1 to pass a $15 minimum wage for the city. The hike, which will go into effect over the next five years, further solidifies the $15 minimum as the new national standard.

New York City seems poised to follow suit. This month, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced plans to convene a panel to consider a wage increase for the fast-food industry, a change that can become law without a vote in the legislature.

There are plenty of arguments against this high of a minimum wage, including one made by Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett on Friday, in which he called for an expanded earned income tax credit rather than a $15 per hour wage. But like it or not, the $15 per hour train is gaining steam. It had already made stops in Seattle and San Francisco before pulling into L.A. Should others follow suit? That question prompted Fortune to examine which U.S. city residents would benefit the most from a $15 per hour minimum wage. We asked David Cooper, an economic analyst at the Economic Policy Institute, for help.

We first wanted to determine which cities had the largest share of sub-$15 per hour earners, where a minimum wage boost to $15 would presumably have the biggest direct effect, not in absolute numbers but by percentage of the working population. (One caveat here: we used the Bureau of Labor Statistics' data for metropolitan statistical areas—geographical areas with high population density and consistent economies that don't necessarily contain just one city and might reach beyond a city's official limits.)

It turns out that there are plenty of metropolitan areas—especially in the South—where 45%, 50%, and even 55% of the working population earn less than $15 per hour. (Another caveat, because of the size of some of these areas, some percentages have margins of error up to 4.3%.) For example, in the part of Texas that encompasses McAllen, Edinburg, and Pharr, which is located in the state's southeast corner near the Mexican border, just over 68% of its workforce earns less than $15 per hour.

But when you examine how much it costs to live in that region—which Cooper measured using regional price parity, the price of goods and services in that area versus the national average—you get a different picture. The RPP there is 85, on a scale where the overall national RPP is equal to 100, which means goods and services in that area are cheaper than the national average. To take that factor into account, we looked at the most expensive places to live, as measured by RPP, and used the U.S.'s average share of sub-$15 per hour earners—42.4%—as a cutoff for the share of low-wage workers.

The map above shows the metropolitan areas that turned up. L.A., which will soon have a $15 per hour minimum wage when Mayor Eric Garcetti signs the recently passed measure into law, makes the list. It's one of five California areas in the top 10.

The list picks up on the fact that there's "greater inequality in cities where there's a high cost of living and where wages are low," says Chris Tilly, director of the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.

In the old, rust belt wage structure, there was a healthy population of middle wage income earners. Men worked in manufacturing; women held clerical jobs. But the bottom has dropped out of the middle class, in part, because of the reduction in traditional manufacturing jobs. As cities begin to orient themselves to newer, techonology-driven

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economies, there's very little middle ground. You either work in high tech (engineers, etc.,) and its ecosystem (lawyers, accountants) or you're left at the bottom, Tilly says. Cities with large immigrant populations also tend to have a wide disconnect between the cost of living and wages.

Missing from this list is, notably, New York City. The metropolitan statistical area that includes New York (plus parts of New Jersey and Long Island) has the second highest regional price parity on our list—122.2, behind only Honolulu's 122.9. But the New York area's share of sub-$15 per hour workers is 36%, considerably lower than the the national average of 42.4%. Then again, with a national average as high as 42.4%, it sounds like there's plenty of room for improvement all across the U.S.

GM: Criminal charges likely in ignition case **// Fortune // Stephen Gandel - May 24, 2015**

Fine is likely to eclipse $1.2 billion paid by Toyota last year.

General Motors is facing a criminal prosecution and may have to pay a record fine to resolve charges related to its faulty ignition switches. The switches, which shut some cars off while traveling at high speeds, have been linked to over 100 deaths.

The Department of Justice's soon-to-be-unveiled criminal case against the company appears to revolve around the fact that GM failed to disclose the problem with the switches in Chevrolet Cobalts and other older cars. The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan believes the company hid problems with misstatements for over a decade.

The Justice Department is also considering charges against former GM employees, but has not finalized whether those charges will be brought.

GM's fine is likely to eclipse the $1.2 billion Toyota paid last year for concealing acceleration problems in its cars. GM could also plead guilty to criminal charges, but a deferred-prosecution agreement is also possible in the case.

The ignition switch problems emerged more than a year ago, and have weighed on GM's stock. The possible criminal charges were first reported by the New York Times.

John Nash dies in car accident leaving behind incredible legacy: 6 remarkable life lessons **// True Jersey // Ann Brasco - May 24, 2015**

American mathematician, John Forbes Nash Jr., and his wife, Alicia, were suddenly killed in a taxi accident on the New Jersey Turnpike today.

I never knew John Nash. I never met him. I never was fortunate enough to be his student, or to stand in a room with him. Like most everyone else, I came to know of his story through the 2001 movie A Beautiful Mind.

The unexpected news was startling. There is something about tragedy when it unexpectedly strikes in the middle of a sunshine day. It is as if the tragedy grabs your being by its lapels and shakes you to essence of your core, reminding you to look inward at what matters.

A remarkable, gifted man best known for providing the world with insight into the factors that govern chance taught us, in fitting irony, leaves behind great lessons both the orderly and expected and all that is possible. His brilliant life reminds us of how these seemingly adverse pieces of a complex puzzle fit together.

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The legacy of a courageous and tireless genius speaks to us all in many ways. Here are just six of many lessons that a remarkable teacher has left us with:

1. Don't believe everything you are told. When Nash was sold a bill of goods about his prognosis, he didn't buy it. If John Nash would have believed his mental condition to be limiting, it would have been.

Nash didn't let the limitation of others dictate who he became and what he could achieve. He didn't let ordinary assumption dull his potential for extraordinary achievement.

2. Non-conformity is a gift. Nash was not valued solely because he was one of the most talented mathematicians of the century. John Nash was incredibly wonderful because he embraced, especially in his latter years, an offbeat authenticity that was completely unique and completely himself.

John Nash's life, both his remarkable body of work and who he was as an individual, remain inexplicably intertwined and boldly remind us of that being ordinary should never be the goal. It is in our authenticity that our gifts, talents, and self-truths are tangled.

Nash embraced his unique perspective. He explained, "One aspect of this is that rationality of thought imposes a limit on a person's concept of his relation to the cosmos."

3. Egotism is sheer madness. In his eighty-six years of life, John Nash's achievements were truly extraordinary. Nash was on the mathematics faculty at MIT and a Senior Research Mathematician at Princeton University. Nash was awarded the 1994 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences with two other game theorists and recently won the notable Abel Prize in 2015. Nash had much to proudly boast about and yet he did not.

Nash, never a fan of egotism, thrived in humility. Those who knew him are quick to point out that he always focused on his work before he even mentioned his own accomplishments. Nash understood his own contributions to be part of something infinitely greater.

Nash candidly admitted, "When I started thinking irrationally, I imagined myself as really on a Number 1 level. I was the most important person of the world."

4. Believe in second chances. When it came to love, Nash remarried his first wife, Alicia, in 2001. When it came to work, Nash was indefatigable and understood his value in a larger context. He persevered through struggle with tenacity, grit and a passion for creativity.

Nash explained, "The only thing greater than the mind is the power of the heart." Nash showed us through constant example that authenticity is far more interesting and outstanding than a pursuit of ghostly perfection.

5. Be careful not to judge. Long before I was a mom and a writer, I had the unique privilege of working as a clinical social worker in a long-term inpatient adult psychiatric ward. I only say this because after spending over half a decade in this setting, I have a slight understanding of a fraction of Nash's uphill climb.

Nash was treated in a medical field that was just emerging in terms of treatment and not very fair to its patients. He was existing in a society that, at its worst, stigmatizes those with a different brain composition, and at its best, pities them.

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John Nash said it best when he explained, "People are always selling the idea that people with mental illness are suffering. I think madness can be an escape. If things are not so good, you maybe want to imagine something better."

6. Believe you matter. Several great athletes in the past century have overcome physical limitations. Many of our greatest thinkers throughout history have been those affected by adversity, whether it was a neurological limitation, a disorder related to concentration, a problem related to reading, depression, mania, or even delusion.

It seems that that the concurrence of great adversity and extraordinary accomplishment is more than coincidental. It also appears that the way that person perceives themselves to be a determining factor.

Whether we hear our subconscious as a literal voice or a soft echo, it shapes who we become and what value we add to the world around us. The thoughts we think undoubtedly shape the actions we take.

Few of us will solve complex mathematical theorems, yet we all have talents, gifts, and purpose and it is up to no one but ourselves to remain committed to these gifts. As parents, caregivers, and teachers, we must build up our children to know that they matter because they do.

The world is often too eager to separate and classify madness from genius, obstacle from advantage, misapplication from accuracy, and weakness from strength. Nash's life brilliantly reminds us that these things are not so easily separated or even classified for that matter. Perhaps it is only the total sum of these things that matters anyway.

INTERNATIONAL

Defense Secretary Ash Carter: Iraqis lack 'will to fight' **// MSNBC // Aliyah Frumin - May 24, 2015**

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter offered a stinging criticism of the recent takeover of Ramadi by the terrorist group known as ISIS, arguing it demonstrated Iraqi forces lacked the "will to fight."

Carter's remarks are the most strident yet from the Obama Administration since the crucial city fell to extremists a week ago. He told CNN's Barbara Starr in an interview that aired on Sunday that Iraqi forces were not outnumbered. "In fact, they vastly outnumbered the opposing force, and yet they failed to fight, they withdrew from the site. And that says to me, and I think to most of us, that we have an issue with the will of the Iraqis to fight [ISIS] and defend themselves," he said.

The defense secretary called the situation "very concerning," arguing while the U.S. and allies could provide Iraqis with training and equipment, they can't give the forces motivation to fight.

"We can't make this happen by ourselves, but we can assist it to happen, and we are counting on the Iraqi people to come behind a multi-sectarian government in Baghdad," said Carter.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's office dismissed Carter's assessment, telling NBC News that the takeover by ISIS was an anomaly and that the government has "started its on investigation to punish those who neglected their duty." Dr. Sa'ad Al-Hadithi, the media director for Al-Abadi, added, "...we cannot consider one or two failures committed by our forces as a failure of all Iraqi troops."

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According to NBC News, Iraqi forces on Sunday, recaptured territory near Ramadi on Sunday – an effort to head back toward the key city that fell to ISIS a week ago.

Separately, according to Syrian state television, members of ISIS reportedly killed at least 400 people in the ancient city of Palmyra. Just days ago, the terrorist group claimed it had taken over Palmyra as well.

How to combat ISIS was a central issue on the Sunday news shows. Sen. John McCain of Arizona accused the White House of having no game plan. The Republican said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that "there is no strategy, and anybody that says that there is, I'd like to hear what it is, because it certainly isn't apparent…" McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee argued in favor of a more militaristic strategy. "We need to have a more robust strategy. We need more troops on the ground, we need forward air controllers - we're just referring to air strikes," he said.

On the other hand, Democratic California Rep. Adam Schiff said on the same show that there will be no victory unless the Iraqi government can resolve its own issues. He added, "I wouldn't say that we're winning. I don't think we're losing either, but I think we're seeing an ebb and flow, and largely a stalemate situation in the war against ISIS."

Vote serves as beacon of hope for those still facing oppression // Irish Times // Dennis Staunton - May 24, 2015

Ireland's vote in favour of same-sex marriage is a milestone in the global struggle for equality for gays and lesbians that has seen dramatic progress in many western countries while others slide backwards into further repression.

Homosexual activity remains illegal in almost 80 countries and in many, including Uganda, Nigeria, Russia and Egypt, the situation for gays and lesbians has worsened. Our Yes vote can serve as a beacon of hope not just for LGBT people on the brink of achieving equality but for those millions throughout the world who continue to face persecution, oppression and violence.

Marriage equality, which was a marginal, almost eccentric demand only two decades ago, is now a reality in 20 countries and in many sub-national regions, including 37 of the 50 states of the United States.

Crowds react in the court yard at Dublin Castle on Saturay. Photograph: Dara Mac Dónaill Campaign to promote Ireland as same-sex wedding destination

Yes Equality Roscommon said it 'watched in envy as well-known politicians in almost every other area in the country got publicly and deeply involved in the campaigns in their areas'. Photograph: Cyril Byrne / The Irish Times Yes Equality Roscommon says politicians did not support campaign

A dog waiting outside a polling station on Friday while his owner casts his vote. Photograph: Dave MeehanWorking class areas embracing change faster, campaigners claim

A supporter holds a sign reading 'Thank You - You're All Invited to the Wedding' as he celebrates outside Dublin Castle following the result of the same-sex marriage referendum in Dublin on May 23rd, 2015. Photograph: Paul Faith/AFP/Getty ImagesAll churches in Ireland in need of 'reality check'

'It made me cry': Generation Emigration expresses pride at same-sex marriage result

'A day when hope and history rhyme': writers and artists react to same-sex marriage vote

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Scenes Dublin Castle on Saturday for the referendum count. Photograph: Stephen Collins/Collins PhotosSame-sex marriage: Northern Ireland 'last bastion of discrimination' says Amnesty

Singer Miley Cyrus tweeted in response to the same-sex marriage referendum result: 'Fuck yeah Ireland!' Photograph: George Pimentel/Getty ImagesCelebrities react to Ireland legalising gay marriage

It is an entirely 21st century phenomenon, with the Netherlands becoming the first country in the world to allow gays to marry in 2001. It is also essentially a conservative one, which was initially resisted by radical gay rights campaigners who saw marriage as a repressive, patriarchal institution.

Tragic

The Aids crisis of the 1980s and early 1990s brought into sharp, tragic relief the consequences of the lack of legal recognition of gay partnerships as men were denied access to their dying partners in hospitals, were evicted from the homes they shared when loved ones died and had no inheritance rights. The initial response came in the form of domestic partnerships.

It was the gay conservative writer Andrew Sullivan who first put gay marriage on the agenda in the US in 1989 with a groundbreaking essay in the New Republic called "Here Comes the Groom". He argued that marriage would help to "humanise and traditionalise" gays by strengthening their relationships and providing emotional and economic security.

As in Ireland, what brought marriage equality into the mainstream in the US was the growing number of gays and lesbians coming out to friends and family. Greater visibility not only made gays and lesbians appear less exotic, it gave more straight people a stake in the debate as they backed equal rights for friends or family members.

Some 60 per cent of Americans now approve of same-sex marriage and the US supreme court will next month rule on Obergefell v Hodges, a set of four challenges to state bans on gay marriage. It is expected to rule that the bans are unconstitutional, a move that would effectively legalise same-sex marriage throughout the US.

Until 2010, when the states of Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington approved same-sex marriage in referendums, the conventional wisdom in the US was that the issue could not win popular approval at the ballot box.

Progress

Most progress on the issue in the US has come through the courts, with referendums more often called to introduce bans on same-sex marriage than to lift them.

But the courts are not deaf to public opinion and the head of the European Court of Human Rights suggested in 2012 that the court could reconsider its view that same-sex marriage is not a human right if enough countries introduced it. The European Parliament last March passed a resolution recognising such a right, although just 10 European Union member-states, including Ireland, have marriage equality, with two more – Slovenia and Finland– set to join them within months.

Ireland has shown marriage equality can win popular support and Friday's vote will encourage legislators and activists elsewhere in Europe to be bolder. The lessons of Ireland's campaign will be useful elsewhere, just as the successful campaigns in the US in 2012 helped to guide Ireland's campaigners.

Perhaps the central lesson is that it is less effective to simply demand rights than to persuade through personal testimony. It was stories such as those of Ursula Halligan, Pat Carey and Una Mullally that cut through the noise and appealed to the better nature of undecided voters. And straight allies such as Mary McAleese and Noel

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Whelan were eloquent in making the case that marriage was so important to them that they wanted to allow equal access to it.

Women activists cross DMZ between North and South Korea // CNN // Jethro Mullen - May 24, 2015

Paju, South Korea (CNN)An international group of female activists crossed the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea on Sunday in a controversial effort to bring attention to the need for peace between the two nations.

The group of about 30 members, called WomenCrossDMZ, included feminist Gloria Steinem and two Nobel Peace laureates, Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland and Leymah Gbowee of Liberia.

On Sunday morning, a bus picked them up from the North Korean side and ferried them across the Demilitarized Zone that has separated the two Koreas for more than half a century.

"We feel very celebratory and positive that we have created a voyage across the DMZ in peace and reconciliation that was said to be impossible," Steinem said after the group, which had originally planned to walk across the zone, arrived in South Korea.

The activists said they acted as "citizen diplomats" in North Korea, speaking with women at a series of events during their time there.

"We can learn on paper and on screen," Steinem said. "But the ability to understand, not just learn, happens when we are together and able to empathize."

The group says women need to be involved in the peace-building process. It calls for reuniting families divided by the Korean War, and replacing the 1953 armistice with a permanent peace treaty -- demands similar to those made by the North Korean government.

Criticism from other activists

Other activists have criticized the event, saying the group is overlooking major problems faced by women under Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule.

"It is absolutely outrageous that they completely ignore the suffering of the North Korean people, especially North Korean women," said Suzanne Scholte, head of the North Korea Freedom Coalition.

"If they truly cared, they would cross the China-North Korea border instead, which is actually more dangerous now than the DMZ," Scholte said ahead of the event.

North Korean women who cross into China often become victims of human trafficking, ending up being forced to work in the sex industry or sold as brides to rural Chinese men.

The reported abuses for North Korean women are not limited to the Chinese border. North Korean defectors have testified of rape and abuse in prison camps by fellow inmates or guards.

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Maguire, who became known for organizing peace demonstrations during the conflict in Northern Ireland, suggested the human rights situation would improve if the two Koreas were to sign a full peace treaty.

"You can get to human rights when you have a normal situation and not a country at war," she said Sunday.

Sympathy for North Korea?

Christine Ahn, one of the event's organizers, has been called a North Korea sympathizer -- an allegation she denies.

"Basically that is a Cold War, McCarthyist mentality," she told CNN in April. "And that kind of framework has enabled Korea to remain divided. I am pro-peace. I am pro-engagement. I am pro-dialogue. I am pro-human rights."

She says she is for ending "the state of war on the Korean peninsula."

Her critics include Human Rights Foundation's Alex Gladstein, who accused Ahn of "whitewashing the North Korean regime for more than a decade, always excusing the Kims, saying they aren't so bad, and blaming North Korea's problems on South Korea and the U.S."

Observers say that a group being allowed by both North and South Korean authorities to hold this kind of event is unusual but not unheard of.

A group of bikers from New Zealand crossed the border in 2013, and another group drove through the DMZ last year.

Last week, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the North Korean government abruptly canceled his planned visit to an industrial zone. Situated to the north of the DMZ, the Kaesong Industrial Complex contains factories that are owned by South Koreans and staffed by thousands of North Koreans.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

The Center Needs a Voice **// WaPo // David Ignatius - May 22, 2015**

WASHINGTON -- Hillary Clinton's move to the left on trade and other issues is a reminder of the growing power of activists on the wings in presidential nominating politics -- and a corresponding diminution of the power of the center.

"Social and demographic shifts mean that no left-leaning position Clinton takes now would be likely to hurt her" in the 2016 general election, writes The Washington Post's Anne Gearan in a recent assessment of Clinton's strategy. Meanwhile, GOP candidates are doubling down in the other direction, as they move toward their party's right wing.

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The disenfranchisement of the center is a fact of modern politics. That should be worrisome even if you think the center is an ideological muddle. As we've seen in recent years, in a world dominated by the political wings, the compromises necessary for passing any legislation become difficult. As the center disappears, so does governance.

To illustrate how the current system works, a would-be reformer named Peter Ackerman recently showed me a diagram that estimates party affiliation: "Democrats: Less than 30 percent," "Republicans: Less than 30 percent," and in the middle "Unaffiliated: Greater than 40 percent." He argues that if you include left-leaning and right-leaning voters in the "moderate" camp, it makes up two-thirds of the electorate.

Yet as we head toward the presidential nominating season, the voice of this broad center is barely audible. Politics is pulled toward the left and right by campaign-finance rules, redistricting and other issues discussed in countless essays and op-ed pieces. This centrifugal force seems to increase in every election cycle, with a resulting paralysis in Washington.

Ackerman has launched a campaign dubbed "Change the Rule" to address one piece of this puzzle of America's political dysfunction. The rule in question is imposed by the Commission on Presidential Debates, which the two major parties created in 1987 to administer the televised debates that are the nexus of modern presidential campaigns. Ackerman argues that this rule, as currently applied, prevents the emergence of an independent candidate who might empower the underrepresented middle.

The current debate rule requires that any third-party candidate must average 15 percent support in five polls taken in the two weeks before the debates begin in October of the election year. To get the necessary name recognition and support, Ackerman's group estimates that an independent candidate would have to spend $266 million. Because of contribution limits, this effectively precludes anyone who's not a billionaire from joining the debates as an independent.

Ackerman argues that the entry ticket to the debate should instead be getting on the ballots by the end of April in an election year in states that together have at least 270 Electoral College votes. To avoid chaotic debates, just one such independent candidate should be added -- the one with the highest number of ballot-access signatures nationwide. Such a signature drive would cost less than $15 million, Ackerman estimates, opening the field to less-wealthy candidates who could mobilize volunteers and small donations.

Supporters are a "who's who" of the bipartisan center: John Anderson, a Republican former congressman who ran as an independent in the 1980 presidential race; William Cohen, a Republican former senator who served as secretary of defense for a Democratic president; Lee Hamilton, a Democratic former congressman who co-chaired bipartisan commissions on 9/11 and the Iraq War; Jon Huntsman, a Republican former governor whose moderate positions vaporized his 2012 presidential campaign; and Joe Lieberman, a Democratic former senator and vice presidential nominee. Other backers include retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal and retired Adm. James Stavridis.

To bolster the case, Ackerman commissioned a survey last July by pollster Douglas Schoen. In the sample of 1,000 likely voters, 86 percent said the political system is broken and doesn't serve ordinary people; 89 percent said they wished politicians would work together and compromise; and, interestingly, 66 percent said they thought presidential debates could do a better job of informing the electorate.

Other surveys reflect this deep mistrust of the system. A January 2015 Pew Research Center poll reported a 48 percent unfavorability rating for the Democratic Party and a 53 percent negative for the Republicans. An August 2014 Gallup survey found that 83 percent disapproved of the job Congress is doing.

Yet the system grinds forward with a perverse set of incentives that rewards extremism and punishes compromise. I don't know if opening the presidential debates would fix this mess, but it might pull candidates back toward the center, where the public lives and where problems get solved.

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Who's going 'Iowa heavy,' 'Iowa light' // **Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs - May 25, 2015**

Presidential contenders often tell Iowa voters some variation of "I'll be back soon" or "You'll see a lot of me."

Their travel histories, however, reveal which ones truly have an "Iowa heavy" strategy and which ones are playing "Iowa light" — at least so far.

Of the 15 GOP White House hopefuls knocking around Iowa these days, a Des Moines Register review of days spent in Iowa pegs five as Iowa light, six in the middle range and four as Iowa heavy.

At the lightest end of the scale among top-tier candidates is Florida U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, with just two days here in calendar year 2015.

No one has had more face time in Iowa than Rick Perry. The former Texas governor is looking for redemption after a 2012 presidential bid he admits was pock-marked with mistakes, including spending only 36 days here last cycle. He has already tabulated 30 this time, with nine months to go before caucus night, scheduled for Feb. 1.

"If anyone spends more time in Iowa over the next year, God bless them," Perry said in an interview with the Quad-City Times last week. "They'd better pack a lunch because I will be here often."

Because of the record number of Republicans slicing up the positioning for the Iowa caucuses, the amount of time a contender spends connecting with voters could be more critical this year than in earlier cycles, Iowa politics watchers said.

"In a crowded field, personal retail interaction becomes even more important," said Republican strategist Matt Strawn, a former state party chairman. "That may be the differentiation between candidates that are very closely aligned ideologically."

STRAW POLL:

And with polling showing the GOP field tightly clustered, the dicey game of beating expectations may be another factor that weighs more heavily than ideology in determining victory, said Dennis Goldford, a Drake University political science professor.

"For candidates high in the polls, failing to do well in the caucuses hurts worse than a win helps," Goldford said.

Appearances in Iowa are one of the most visible measures of commitment to the first-in-the-nation presidential voting state, but appearances may not be what they seem when it comes to an Iowa footprint, strategists cautioned.

Contenders seeking to keep expectations low are likely doing more than meets the eye, said campaign veteran Craig Schoenfeld, who is unaligned with any 2016 candidate. Subterranean work includes private telephone calls to Iowans from the contender, tele-town halls (a speech or Q&A by mass conference call), social media outreach and online advertising — which can all happen without the candidate ever stepping foot in Iowa, and sometimes without the media or rivals knowing about it, Schoenfeld said.

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And in the new era of super PACs taking on more campaign-style voter recruitment duties rather than just doing TV advertising, a candidate's Iowa footprint may be even less obvious than when the traditional campaign structure handled them.

To sum it up, strategists said, "Iowa heavy" for 2016 candidates means: Be here. Be here virtually even when you're not. Have your friends and super PAC allies here when you're here — and when you're not.

Historically, there hasn't always been a direct correlation between days spent in Iowa and victory in the caucuses, said Goldford, who co-authored a book on the caucuses. The Rick Santorum model of hitting all 99 counties is merely a way for candidates who aren't well known or well funded to gain an edge, he said.

Mitt Romney, who spent just 19 days in Iowa on his second go at the White House in 2012, fell just 34 votes shy of Santorum, a little-known Pennsylvania senator who blew apart the GOP record book with 105 days here. But Romney had built his Iowa network by spending 77 days here in the 2008 cycle. (Historical days in Iowa are from Goldford's book, "The Iowa Precinct Caucuses," co-authored with Hugh Winebrenner.)

Eventual caucus winners such as Kansas U.S. Sen. Bob Dole in 1996 (41 days) and Texas Gov. George W. Bush in 2000 (29 days) were well-known figures who didn't need to camp out in Iowa to establish a following.

What about the Democrats?

Democrats reign as king of the road warriors in the Iowa caucuses, according to "The Iowa Precinct Caucuses" co-authors Hugh Winebrenner and Dennis Goldford.

While Rick Santorum set the Republican record with 105 days in 2012, his total pales compared with the all-time leader: Democrat Dick Gephardt, a U.S. representative from neighboring Missouri who campaigned 148 days in Iowa in the 1988 cycle. The time Gephardt put in paid off with a caucus win. Eventual nominee Mike Dukakis, who campaigned in Iowa 82 days, came in third.

In the Democrats' most recent competitive caucus, in 2008, six candidates spent more than 75 days each in Iowa. Then-Delaware U.S. Sen. Joe Biden led the way with 120 days, but placed a disappointing fifth and left the race. The caucus winner and eventual president, Barack Obama, spent 89 days in Iowa. Hillary Clinton, a candidate again this cycle, spent 74 days.

Welcome, candidates: Some answers, please **// TH Online // Editorial Board - May 24, 2015**

When presidential hopefuls visit with Iowans, let's press them to talk about the real issues.

The next presidential election is still a year and a half away, but campaigning is ramping up in Iowa, where citizens are treated to an "early bird special" of candidate visits.

Its status as first-in-the-nation caucus state makes Iowa a choice destination for presidential hopefuls. Thus, Iowans, more than citizens in nearly all other states, have more chances to see and hear the candidates. Just in the past week or so in Dubuque, Republicans Jeb Bush and Rick Perry made public appearances and Democrat Hillary Clinton attended a private event.

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But a stump speech is a stump speech, whether you see it from the front row or on YouTube. Citizens want more from candidates than platitudes and promises, one-liners and tweets. One of the reasons Iowa maintains its first-caucus status is because Iowans have a reputation for being no-nonsense and interested in the issues, not just the personalities.

While the candidates are appearing in Iowa's town halls and coffee shops -- come January, they will be gone -- Iowans should be proactive in directing the conversation.

The problems facing our country are complex and will require thoughtful planning and collaboration. Detailing a solution won't fit in a sound bite. A quip won't do justice to a difficult problem. Pointing out what's wrong is not the same as explaining how to make it right.

Rather than sit back and let the candidates choose the topics and spin them their way, Iowans would be doing themselves and the country a monumental favor if they pressed the candidates to be more specific on how they would address major issues.

For example:

* Infrastructure: Some 20 percent of the country's 900,000 miles of highways are in desperate need of reconstruction. About a quarter of its 600,000 bridges are categorized as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. In Iowa, that accounts for more than a quarter of the bridges people use every day. Fixing infrastructure means spending.

What's your plan for paying for the infrastructure work the country so desperately needs?

* Debt: While issues like infrastructure will require spending, fiscal responsibility must be a key element to any candidate's platform. U.S. debt is on an unsustainable track. As a share of the economy (GDP), the debt has grown from 35 percent of GDP in 2007 to 74 percent today, according to the Concord Coalition. The debt is projected to exceed the entire economy by the 2030s.

What steps will you take to address the unsustainable growth of debt? Will reforming the tax code and changing the Social Security formula be part of the plan?

* Immigration: Politicians of every stripe know that immigration reform is long overdue. Still, we have yet to see anyone with the leadership to make that happen. It has been seven years since the Postville, Iowa, raid that resulted in nearly 400 employees of Agriprocessors being arrested and hauled away. That event put a face on the issue of illegal immigration in the Heartland, and still reform has languished.

What plan do you have for immigration reform? Should there be a path to citizenship for undocumented people living here now?

* Health care: Ever since the landmark Affordable Care Act was passed, it's been a tale of two Obamacares. Opponents will tell you this legislation will drive up prices, limit health care options and critically damage our whole health care system. Supporters will talk about how many people have insurance coverage for the first time and the benefits, rights and protections now in place.

Is there a way to keep the elements of the Affordable Care Act that are working well and discard the parts that have failed? Who will make those assessments and how?

* Economy/jobs: Though the economy has shown great strides of improvement, memories of the recession and job losses are still fresh in the mind of many Americans. The availability of better-paying jobs is part of the American Dream.

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How would you continue to grow the economy and spur business and industry to create jobs and increase wages?

* Environment: As evidence of climate change caused by human action piles up, government has been slow to react. A global issue like this shouldn't divide people down party lines, but it has. Regardless of political persuasion, there ought to be some basic tenets upon which everyone can agree. Increasing research on and production of renewable fuels, for example, and mandating greater fuel-efficiency. Meanwhile, the quality of our air and water, while better than it was a half-century ago, remains an issue of concern.

What environmental rules would you support to decrease humans' footprint on our world, improve sustainability and protect our air and water?

* Partisanship: The preceding laundry list of challenging issues all have one thing in common -- they are stymied in large part because of partisan politics.

How will you break through partisan gridlock and be a leader for all Americans? Everyone knows collaboration needs to happen to effect change. How will you get the two sides to work together?

None of these questions is easy to answer. But anyone running for president should have taken the time to think not just about campaigning but about governing and what it will require. The candidate who can answer these questions -- no matter what the answer is -- will go a long way toward winning credibility among Iowans during caucus season and all Americans come November 2016.

Fusion Media Aims at Millennials, but Struggles to Find Its Identity **// NYT // Ravi Somaiya - May 24, 2015**

From left, Dodai Stewart, Fusion's director of culture; Hillary Frey, executive editor; and Joyce Tang, managing editor. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

In 2011, when Isaac Lee, president of news for Univision, set out to persuade his company and Disney to back Fusion, a digital news service and cable channel he wanted to start, he promised nothing less than the holy grail: young viewers for the older media conglomerates.

He played a slide show in which a middle-aged white man transformed into a young brown woman. The executives present were dazzled.

"It's very hard to say no to Isaac Lee," said Ben Sherwood, president of the Disney/ABC Television Group, describing him as "extremely charismatic and dynamic and a visionary." Randy Falco, president and chief executive of Univision, said of Mr. Lee: "Oh, my God. He is really a force of nature."

The reality, since Fusion began in October 2013, has been more complex. Many inside and outside the company are hard pressed to define what exactly Fusion does. Traffic to its website has been anemic at times, and it has yet to deliver the kind of attention-getting stories that digital media rivals like Buzzfeed and Vice have produced.

The site was originally aimed at young Latinos who spoke English as a first language, but it quickly shifted its target audience to young viewers of all ethnicities. In April, it shuffled its news and features editorial team and appointed a new editor in chief.

Fusion has grown quickly, with 250 employees and offices in Miami, New York, Washington, D.C., Boulder, Colo., and Oakland, Calif. Mr. Lee and his senior editors say the organization is young and quickly finding its way — they

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point to an interview with Marco Rubio as an example of the kind of noteworthy journalism they strive for.

They believe that Fusion will eventually fulfill a mission that news organizations across the world see as vital to survival: reaching younger and more diverse audiences on the platforms they go to for news, like Snapchat and YouTube.

In an interview, Mr. Lee, 44, said his employees “have the ability to bet and to make mistakes, and the results are there,” specifying both written and visual storytelling and investigative reporting. “I think that this is one of the very few organizations that is about journalism and talent,” he added.

Fusion is, in many ways, the archetype for broader movements in media. As traditional news organizations have struggled to adapt to the rhythms of the web, a new generation of media companies, like Buzzfeed and Vox, have moved from bright ideas to full-fledged businesses at breakneck speed. They are often backed by big corporations — Disney is also behind the websites Grantland and FiveThirtyEight — or venture capital firms making big bets that all the people browsing the web on their phones will demand fresh content.

Many covet millennials — a group loosely defined as those born after 1980, or about one-third of the current American work force, according to the Pew Research Center. Nobody has quite figured out what they want or if it is possible to tell stories that appeal universally to a huge number of Americans who sometimes seem united only in the dreams of marketers.

Disney and Univision supplied Fusion with an additional $30 million in financing recently, according to a person involved with the deal who spoke on the condition of anonymity. But the cultures of the companies and Fusion have already clashed. For instance, according to two senior Fusion staff members, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Disney put the organization on notice that it would not take kindly to coverage that might dent its standing with consumers. The warning came after Fusion published several stories based on documents that hackers stole from Sony.

Fusion is not alone: In negotiations to create a Vice cable channel, Disney and Hearst insisted on a clause protecting the companies in the event that Vice content “embarrasses Hearst or Disney in any way,” according to people with knowledge of the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private negotiations.

Fusion has offered lavish wages to hire a number of highly regarded journalists. Big names include the financial writer Felix Salmon and The Atlantic’s Alexis Madrigal, who was named editor in chief in late April in a broad reshuffling of the organization’s management ranks.

Mr. Lee made his name starting and editing a series of publications aimed at audiences in Mexico and his native Colombia. He became the head of news at Univision in 2010 and is known in media circles to be funny, profane and inclined to go off on philosophical tangents.

He said that no one, however close to him they are, receives preferential treatment. Addressing high wages, he said he believed that journalists, “not just suits,” should be paid well.

Though Fusion was recently nominated for two Livingston Awards for its investigative work, the network is perhaps best known for sifting through hacked Sony emails — something that made Disney the target of criticism in Hollywood — and for using foul-mouthed puppets in its State of the Union coverage in January.

Recently, Fusion’s website had stories on the potential dangers of virtual-reality pornography and on new emojis, and an investigation into industrialized chicken farms titled “Cock Fight.” Its television offerings include “America with Jorge Ramos,” the popular Univision news anchor, and the Cannabusiness Report, on “the mainstreaming of

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marijuana."

Several current and former Fusion employees mentioned a masculine and raucous office culture inside the organization.

Last year, when the company instituted what it described as a routine training program on appropriate sexual behavior, some employees took it as a reaction to widespread rumors of office liaisons. David Ford, a spokesman for Fusion, said that, just like other corporations, it conducted "respect in the workplace training as part of our overall compliance program."

Its web traffic late last year, according to internal figures obtained by The New York Times, dropped as low as 23,000 page views on some days. Fusion said its traffic this past December reached 1.9 million unique users and increased to about five million by April. The media measurement company Nielsen said it did not measure Fusion's viewership on television.

Mr. Madrigal described the organization in simple terms: "Fusion is a cable and digital network that is championing a more diverse and inclusive America." It will do so by hiring those who are "naturally and natively interested in things that the rising generation of people in America are interested in," he added. That will include television shows on topics like prisons and technology, with matching content online, on social media and in live events.

Mr. Falco said Fusion was "different, experimental." It should act as a kind of ideas lab, he said, that feeds the lessons it learns back to its parent companies. One goal, he said, was to expand Fusion's cable channel from its current reach of 40 million homes to as many as 70 million homes over the next few years.

It is a complex time to introduce a new cable channel — the pressure from consumers is to narrow the bundle of networks sold to them, not to expand it. But Fusion, one of the most modern of media enterprises, is supported in part by one of the most old-fashioned of revenue streams: cable fees.

For his part, Mr. Sherwood, the president of Disney/ABC Television Group, repeatedly compared the service to ESPN, which began as a small-town Connecticut cable channel and grew into a media behemoth.

"It's going to be a big success," Mr. Sherwood said of Fusion. "You have to take the long view when you're building a multiplatform service." He added that he was "excited" about the comedy news program with the puppets, which is called "No, You Shut Up!"

Mr. Lee projected confidence, too.

"I have nothing to worry about," he said. "I know exactly what I am doing. I know that we don't know everything, but we are running the best possible process to figure it out. This is a marathon."

Only Capitalism Can Save the Planet **// The Daily Beast // Eleanor Clift - May 23, 2015**

Lester Brown, environmentalist nonpareil, isn't waiting for government. He thinks the free market is the way to address climate change.

A warming planet poses a threat to our way of life whether it's man-made or a natural phenomenon, and government efforts to combat and slow its impact so far have been minimal. President Obama says our failure to

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act weakens national security, yet Congress is beholden to climate-change deniers and no real action is likely to happen anytime soon.

This isn't surprising in the least to Lester Brown. A pioneering environmentalist who decades ago warned of the "manhandling of nature" and its dire consequences, Brown isn't looking to government to save the planet. "Government helped get some of these things going (like solar energy and wind farms), but now government is less and less important," he says. "The important thing is that the market is now driving this."

As the founder of two nonprofit research organizations, the Worldwatch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute, and the recipient of a MacArthur genius grant for his work on sustainable development, Brown is an unlikely champion of capitalism. But he predicts a half-century's worth of change is possible in the next decade as corporate America and billionaire investors move into profit-making new-energy ventures.

He cites Wal-Mart's decision last year to move toward solar energy—not to save the planet, but to save money. "It's a business decision," Wal-Mart CEO Bill Simon said in May 2014. "The renewable energy we buy meets or beats prices from the grid."

The beauty of this quiet revolution is that it's more than the usual suspects. Billionaires Michael Bloomberg and Warren Buffett are on the front lines, investing in new sources of energy, but so is conservative oilman Philip Anschutz, owner of the conservative outlets The Weekly Standard and The Washington Examiner, who a year ago invested $15 billion to build a 3,000-megawatt wind farm in Wyoming. "Anschutz has jumped into this with all four feet, he's pulling out all the stops," says Brown. "He sees Wyoming as a huge gold mine, and he's building a transmission line to California. Wyoming has 600,000 people; California has 28 million." Do the math, he says.

Renewable energy is an issue that divides conservatives. Some see its value; others see it as a threat to oil and gas. When the business-friendly American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) developed legislation for state legislatures requiring consumers who use solar to pay an added fee, the Tea Party joined with the Sierra Club in some states to fight the fee, dubbing itself the Green Tea Party.

Shifting alliances in energy can be dizzying. Texas has gone from being the country's leading oil producer to being the biggest wind producer, getting 10 percent of its power from wind and building transmission lines to Mississippi and Louisiana. Texas billionaire T. Boone Pickens, an early believer in wind power, backed away in the face of early challenges. Brown tells of listening indifferently as Pickens lectured him on how oil is forever. "You're not listening to me, are you?" Pickens said. "No," Brown replied.

Trim and fit in his 80s, still jogging, and with a full head of white hair, Brown cemented his reputation as a seer with a 1994 article on who will feed China that ran in The Washington Post under the headline, "How China Will Starve the World." It said that to feed 1.2 billion people, China would have to import so much grain that world food prices would rise, and nations would move away from emphasizing military preparedness to insuring and protecting food supplies.

Chinese officials angrily denied any such looming crisis. But they quietly revamped their agriculture policies to accommodate population growth that Brown said was the equivalent of a new Beijing each year. Several years later, a top Chinese official who was in power at the time told Brown his book, Who Will Feed China? Wake-up Call for a Small Planet, was very helpful.

It may seem unusual for a leading environmentalist to place his faith in the power of capitalism to move the country, and indeed the world, away from the cheap oil and coal economy that has powered America's economic success since the Industrial Revolution. Brown does hedge, writing in his new book, The Great Transition, that no one can say with any certainty that the change that's underway will proceed fast enough to avoid catastrophic climate change.

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Ted Turner, long an advocate on climate change and a funder of Brown's work, purchased 4,000 copies of The Great Transition and is distributing them to members of Congress and elected officials across the country. It is a rare optimistic look at evidence that the economy is moving away from oil and coal to solar and wind and battery-powered vehicles. "That's the most exciting for me, how fast things are moving," says Brown, citing a UBS survey that says rooftop solar panels with backup batteries for home and cars will be cost-competitive in Europe by 2020.

Obama's "war on coal" was a feature in the 2014 midterm election, and there's still plenty of pushback in Congress. But 188 of the nation's 523 coal plants have closed or are scheduled to close, and the $80 million donated by Michael Bloomberg to the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign is a game-changer, says Brown. As the economy transitions, so does the investor class. Brown points out that Goldman Sachs pulled out of coal, and Morgan Stanley is out of oil. Even the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, whose ancestor founded Standard Oil, divested its investments in fossil fuels last year. "When you get the billionaires moving out, that's smart money," says Brown.

Pressure to divest is also cropping up on college campuses. Stanford is out of coal, and Syracuse University is out of all fossil fuels. Harvard students staged a sit-in in February demanding the university shed its investments in fossil-fuel companies. The administration refused, but the pressure will continue. More than 200 faculty members have signed a letter asking Harvard's governing body to reconsider, and Harvard law students have filed a lawsuit in an effort to force the change that everybody knows is coming. For those who worry about the health of the planet, help is on the way.

ISIS rises, the economy falters, and Obama's legacy falls apart **// NY Post // John Podhoretz - May 23, 2015**

Deep into the seventh year of his tenure, Barack Obama is thinking about his post-presidential legacy. We know this because he's telling us so.

In an interview this week with The Atlantic about the potential deal with Iran regarding its nuclear program, the president sought to use the fact of his relative youth and his consciousness about how history might judge him to his advantage: "Look, 20 years from now, I'm still going to be around, God willing. If Iran has a nuclear weapon, it's my name on this. I think it's fair to say that in addition to our profound national-security interests, I have a personal interest in locking this down."

In one sense, this is what we want presidents to worry about. We want them to be restrained by the cautionary examples provided by history and by the fact that history will judge them.

But what if the desire to tip the scales of history's judgment in his favor leads a president to take dangerous risks?

In fact, we know that is what Obama has done with the Iran deal because his aides have told us so.

His deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, put it this way last year to a roomful of liberal activists when talking about the initial November 2013 agreement to begin talking about Iran's nuclear program: "Bottom line is, this is the best opportunity we've had to resolve the Iranian issue diplomatically…This is probably the biggest thing President Obama will do in his second term on foreign policy. This is health care for us, just to put it in context."

But this "opportunity" didn't just emerge organically — which is actually where "opportunities" are supposed to come from. It did not result from changing conditions that opened a new possibility of finding common ground.

Iran's behavior didn't change, and its pursuit of nuclear weapons didn't change. Obama manufactured what

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Rhodes called an opportunity by pursuing a deal with Iran and dangling all kinds of carrots in front of the mullahs.

And why? Because he wants a foreign-policy legacy to match the size and scope of his key legacy in domestic policy.

And who can blame him? After the failure of the Arab Spring, the collapse of Libya, the failure to act on his self-imposed "red line" in Syria, Russia's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine and the terrifying rise and forward march of ISIS, the only unmitigated positive on his foreign-policy spreadsheet remains the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Masked Iraqi fighters prepare to battle ISIS who have risen to prominence on Obama's watch.

Look, the guy will need something impressive to fill the exhibition space at his brand-new presidential library in Chicago.

Obama's asking us to trust him because, he says, you can't think he would want to look like the man who allowed Iran to go nuclear at some point in the future.

So what explains the president's own unprompted comments in an NPR interview in April that, under the terms already announced, Iran would have the right to go nuclear by 2028 — when he will,

God willing, be a mere 67 years of age?

"A more relevant fear," he said, "would be that in year 13, 14, 15, they have advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium fairly rapidly, and at that point, the breakout times would have shrunk almost down to zero."

Obama offered an answer. "The option of a future president to take action if in fact they try to obtain a nuclear weapon is undiminished," he said.

So it will be up to his successors to bail him out in the eyes of history and make it appear as though his legacy wasn't the nuclear destabilization of the Middle East!

For all of Obama's posturing, he has done little to curb the nuclear ambitions of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Speaking of legacies, how's that key domestic-policy legacy going? Not so hot.

ObamaCare remains unpopular; far more Americans oppose than favor it.

People still remember the disaster of the October 2013 rollout, which still casts a shadow over the program today.

Those hard feelings were deepened last year by the discovery of a series of talks by key ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber in which he bragged that it had been falsely marketed to the American people to take advantage of their stupidity.

Its defenders say the program is beginning to work, in the sense that it's covering more people — but it's not covering as many as the administration said it would by this time.

They tout the fact that the cost of the program is lower than it was supposed to be by now.

But that's an inconsistent claim; it's only less expensive because it isn't meeting its target numbers, not because cost savings have suddenly materialized from the ether.

Meanwhile, at some point over the next month, the entire policy may be thrown into terminal chaos when the Supreme Court issues its judgment in a case called King v. Burwell — which challenges the legality of a central component of ObamaCare.

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Modal Trigger

Obamacare is the president's key domestic achievement, but the gargantuan piece of legislation might not even be legal.

As the Supreme Court debates and writes its opinions, the overall economy continues to sputter. Over the past five years, it grows and halts, grows and halts, in a somewhat mystifying pattern that has kept the American people on guard and on edge.

In the latest RealClearPolitics polling average, 62% say the country is on the wrong track — more than seven years after Obama moved into the White House.

Obama still has 18 months to go, and presidents have staged remarkable turnarounds in public opinion in such a time frame. Bill Clinton did it before his re-election in 1996, which seemed like a ludicrous prospect in early 1995.

Ronald Reagan was at low ebb in mid-1987 and left office on a triumphant high in early 1989.

But we've also seen the opposite. Indeed, we've seen the opposite more recently. George W. Bush was in bad shape in mid-2007, unquestionably — worse than Obama, because he'd lost the confidence of some Republicans, while Obama seems not to have lost any of his base.

But in 2008 the bottom fell out when a financial crisis that began in the spring turned into a total meltdown by the fall. Bush left office with one poll showing his approval rating at 22%.

Right now, would you bet on things getting substantially better for Barack Obama, or substantially worse? Does it look like we're going to triumph over ISIS?

Does it feel like the economy is going to improve or that ObamaCare will suddenly gain public support? Does it seem like the deal with Iran is a good one?

If you answer these questions in the affirmative, then you are likely to be the sort of person who's kept your 2008 Obama "Hope" poster on your wall and your 2012 Obama bumper sticker on your car.

Alas for America and the world, a poster and a bumper sticker do not a legacy make.

The Making of a Great Ex-President **// NYT // Justin S. Vaugh - May 23, 2015**

Though deeply engaged in his presidency — battling for the Trans-Pacific Partnership and against ISIS — Barack Obama is also casting an eye beyond Jan. 20, 2017, when his post-presidency begins. We've learned that his presidential library will be in Chicago, and he will continue to advocate for young minority men.

Mr. Obama's slow pivot to his retirement coincides with renewed controversy over how Bill Clinton has conducted his, especially around donors to the Clinton Global Initiative and possible conflicts of interest during Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. Some assessments of Mr. Clinton's post-presidential career have become extremely critical.

Which of Mr. Obama's predecessors have been the best ex-presidents and which have been the worst? ...

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Best

Engaged in important work, sometimes at a level that exceeded White House accomplishments.

John Quincy Adams

After losing badly to Andrew Jackson in 1828, he re-entered politics almost immediately and served nearly 20 years in the House of Representatives. While in Congress, he was chairman of multiple committees, fought vigorously against slavery and helped bring the Nullification Crisis to an end. He was instrumental in ensuring that James Smithson's fortune built the Smithsonian Institution and successfully argued before the Supreme Court on behalf of African slaves who had revolted against their Spanish captors and seized the slave ship Amistad.

Jimmy Carter

President Carter has been out of office for 34 years and counting. He is renowned for his work with Habitat for Humanity, and his foundation, the Carter Center, has done extraordinary work promoting democracy, human rights and global health. Of particular note is the foundation's effort to eradicate the Guinea worm, which has helped lead to infections dropping from 3.5 million in 1986, when the foundation began combating the problem, to around 100 in 2014. Critics, however, allege the foundation gave its approval to questionable election processes in Venezuela in 2004.

William Howard Taft

Eight years after leaving the presidency, Taft became chief justice of the United States. He held the post, which had long been his dream job, from 1921 to 1930. Taft was the author of more than 250 opinions and became well respected for his role as a jurist, appearing in the Top 20 in some academic rankings of the greatest Supreme Court justices. He also led reform efforts to streamline the Supreme Court's organization and give it greater control over which cases it hears, and led the charge for a new Supreme Court building, though it would not be completed until after his death.

Herbert Hoover

He lived three decades after leaving office at 58. He campaigned against Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and rebuked Harry Truman's decision to drop the bomb on Japan in 1945 and his aggressive approach to the Cold War. But he also led essential administrative efforts, including international relief in Europe during World War II and food distribution in famine-stricken parts of the world. Hoover later was chairman of the Hoover Commission, from 1947 to 1949, which proposed reforms to strengthen the executive branch and helped make the modern presidency.

Worst

Took strong positions against the national interest and undermined successors for personal and political reasons.

John Tyler

Tyler became an advocate for Southern secession from the Union and was elected to the Confederacy's House of Representatives, though he died before he could be sworn in. At the time of his death, many in the North considered him a traitor, a position Jefferson Davis's political exploitation of his funeral did little to combat. Even though his coffin was draped with a Confederate flag, it should be noted that Tyler was chairman of the 1861 Virginia peace convention in a commendable, if failed, effort to avert civil war.

Millard Fillmore

After leaving office in 1853, Fillmore ran again as the Know-Nothing Party's candidate in 1856. He lost, but still helped prevent John C. Frémont, a Republican, from defeating James Buchanan, who went on to be the worst president in American history, according to numerous scholarly studies. Fillmore continued to take positions on the wrong side of history, from his support of the Constitutional Union Party (which placed priority on

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maintaining the union above all else, including ending slavery) in 1860 to his disdain for the Emancipation Proclamation.

Franklin Pierce

A staunch critic of Abraham Lincoln throughout the Civil War, Pierce's opposition to the 16th president was so renowned he became the subject of rumors that he was involved in a planned uprising against the government, which would replace Lincoln's administration with a provisional government and put in office a president more sympathetic to the Southern states. Although these claims would ultimately be revealed as a hoax, the public remained suspicious of his loyalty to the country. A longtime drinker, Pierce ultimately succumbed to cirrhosis of the liver in 1869.

Teddy Roosevelt

After leaving office, he went on an African safari with a group that killed hundreds of animals, including rare species like the white rhino. Upon his return, he undermined his chosen successor, William Howard Taft. After a failed challenge to Taft for the 1912 Republican presidential nomination, Roosevelt formed the Progressive Party, known as the Bull Moose Party, which split the Republicans and helped elect Woodrow Wilson. Roosevelt railed against Wilson, too, helping the Republicans win back Congress in 1918, which would play a key role in the defeat of Wilson's League of Nations plan.

Studies and rankings in that area are rare, compared with those that rate or rank presidential greatness, which has become something of an intellectual cottage industry. Indeed, in the most recent poll of professional presidency watchers — which I conducted with Brandon Rottinghaus of the University of Houston — Mr. Obama found a place at No. 18.

In looking at the recipe for post-presidential greatness, an analysis of his predecessors suggests equal parts opportunity, activity and incentive.

First, presidents need to stay alive after leaving office long enough to have a chance to provide meaningful service. Those who do need to also accomplish something significant beyond campaigning for their fellow partisans, burnishing their legacy and cutting the ribbon at the groundbreaking of their library.

Many of our greatest presidents would not — indeed, could not — make the list. Fully one-half of all presidents died either in office or within a decade of decamping from the White House. Favorites like Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy died as presidents, and others, including near-greats Woodrow Wilson, Ronald Reagan and Lyndon B. Johnson, suffered health problems that severely constrained their post-presidential activities.

As one study shows, the presidents most likely to engage in ambitious post-presidencies were those who either resigned or failed to win re-election. Consider, for example, Richard M. Nixon's purposeful post-presidency: In addition to writing several books, he represented presidents abroad in sticky diplomatic situations and became a respected elder statesman.

Our greatest ex-presidents have engaged in important work, sometimes at a level that rivaled their accomplishments in the White House. Our worst ex-presidents, on the other hand, have been noteworthy for taking strong positions against the national interest and consistently undermining their successors for personal and political reasons.

If Mr. Obama seeks an alternative to Mr. Clinton's path, George H. W. Bush offers a model. He has been the very picture of post-presidential dignity, retiring to Houston, where he is loath to criticize his successors or appear on the national stage, except for the occasional birthday sky-dive or to raise funds for natural disaster relief.

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President Obama would do well to chart an active course that makes a difference but avoids partisan entanglements and financial controversy.

MISCELLANEOUS

N.H. political veterans talk about what it takes to throw a good campaign event // Concord Monitor // Casey McDermott - May 24, 2015

If you're a presidential candidate looking to make your mark in New Hampshire, the old adage rings true: Location, location, location.

There's no shortage of iconic campaign stops that have produced legendary primary moments over the years, but when voters show up to a town hall, a house party, a Politics and Eggs breakfast, a parade or any other pre-planned event, they're only seeing half of it.

Just about any veteran strategist who's navigated the Granite State campaign trail agrees that a location can say a lot about a candidate.

"You can tell a lot about a candidate's strategy – where they think their voters are – by where they go," said veteran Republican strategist Tom Rath.

As much as the place itself, a good campaign stop is also about the people who show up or lend a hand behind the scenes, about the potential for photo ops, about the press access, about the broader message, about paying homage to New Hampshire traditions without revisiting the same list of places candidates have been frequenting for decades.

"New Hampshire primary history is filled with really historic and meaningful sites, it is a challenge to find the right balance," said Jim Merrill, who's handled his fair share of location scouting assignments through the years and serves as a senior adviser to Marco Rubio's campaign. "The challenge and the joy of each cycle is finding the new places folks haven't gone to before."

There are places like the Merrimack VFW post or the Old Bow Town Hall — no better way to illustrate a candidate's appreciation for New Hampshire's civically active electorate than to meet them at one of these community institutions.

Then there are the greasy spoons and cafes: Chez Vachon, the Red Arrow, the Tilt'n Diner and the like. Candidates are almost guaranteed to find people who otherwise might not attend a political event, and it makes for a fun photo op. There's little control over who's in the room, and these can yield especially unscripted moments with voters. And those who don't win the presidency can at least get their name or campaign sticker adorned on a booth.

Large rallies like the ones held in the past at the State House, Concord High School or local colleges attract plenty of attention in the media and otherwise, but these venues come with some risk as candidates have to place bets on whether they'll draw large enough crowds to fill the space.

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In the summer, candidates benefit from the state's lineup of parades and festivals – which offer great exposure and require little energy from campaign staff. Candidates often just have to show up, shake hands and smile.

And for more formal policy conversations, presidential hopefuls can tailor "roundtable" discussions to suit their intended themes: a community college to talk about education, a high tech company to talk about business or energy, a defense firm to talk about national security, and so on.

And that thrill Merrill mentioned about finding just the right New Hampshire spot for a presidential candidate's appearance crosses party lines. Mike Vlacich, who's leading Hillary Clinton's team in New Hampshire after years of working on local campaigns, approaches the challenge with equal enthusiasm.

"What I like about this cycle is the conversations both parties are having about how to bring candidates back to the living room and back to the small businesses," Vlacich said. "While there is always going to be a role for the large venues. . . . What's important is that we're all working hard to get back to a place where we can keep the primary unique and special and having the candidates have a conversation with people, not talk at people."

The way Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern sees it, the candidates who visit New Hampshire can be broken up into three tiers. There's the first tier, the lowest: These are the ones who focus mostly on optics, using the state "as a backdrop for the national media." Then there's the next level: These ones recognize that the first-in-the-nation primary state gives them an opportunity to "shake a lot of hands and meet a lot of people," and to make a dent in their standing. "That's valuable," Van Ostern noted, "because we're not a big state."

And then there are, in his eyes, the top-tier candidates: the ones who take the time to do more than shake hands and take pictures, and use it as a chance to really listen.

"Not only does it help them win over New Hampshire voters," said Van Ostern, a Hillary Clinton supporter whose resume includes work on a few high-profile campaigns, "but it makes them a better candidate."

Advice for beginners: Try 'borrowing' a crowd

New Hampshire is especially well-suited for underdogs who might not have the kind of staff and resources to launch a campaign with lots of bells and whistles.

"Oftentimes, you'll see candidates borrowing someone else's crowd," said Fergus Cullen, a former state Republican Party chairman who's working on a book about the history of the New Hampshire primary.

Local civic organizations – like, say, a rotary club or a VFW post – can help on this front. Often, these groups can also boost a candidate's turnout by spreading the word to their existing members and encouraging them to share with their networks.

Likewise, Cullen and other strategists said, long-running traditions like "Politics and Eggs" can be ideal for candidates in the early stages of a campaign. That event, hosted by the New Hampshire Institute of Politics and the New England Council, has the added benefit of bringing out people from both parties – regardless of who's speaking.

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“Those are great events for the beginning of a campaign and newer candidates,” said Terry Shumaker, a Hillary Clinton supporter and a former co-chair of Bill Clinton’s campaign in New Hampshire. “It doesn’t take a lot of staff. The event is built – you just pretty much have to show up, make your remarks and take questions.”

These pre-packaged events, however, can only take a candidate so far.

“The real point of graduation is, can they start doing events where they’re responsible for their own audience?” Cullen added. “Some of them never get to that point.”

Setting the stage

Back in the 1960s, when Rath was getting his start working on political campaigns as a student at Dartmouth, his pre-event responsibilities mostly consisted of showing up somewhere in Grafton County a few hours before the event and making some coffee.

“The advance was not nearly as glamorous,” he said, now with the benefit of decades of presidential campaigns under his belt.

Today, Rath and others said campaigns live and die by their ability to solicit interest and size up a potential crowd before an event even begins. A candidate can use his or her list of supporters (or in some cases, a list of voters rented from another campaign) to send invitations to precisely the kind of voters they want to attend.

“It’s not just where you go, it’s how you get the people in the room that you want there,” Rath said. “That’s become much more focused and pinpointed as we have data. ‘Oh, you should call Voter X because he or she is likely to be a Romney supporter.’ ”

With larger venues, it becomes especially important for campaigns to figure out how many people they think they can get to show up. Too few people to fill a room, and they risk looking like they’re lacking interest.

“You want to make the point that you are cresting here, that you have momentum,” Rath said.

Too many people, on the other hand, and they run the risk of getting into trouble with local authorities. Though, as Shumaker can attest, that’s not always necessarily a bad thing.

Recalling a Clinton campaign event back in October 1991 at a Merrimack venue, Shumaker said: “The place was so full you couldn’t move, the fire marshal threatened to close the event down.” When the press heard about it and pushed out reports over the wires, he said, “the national campaign was ecstatic.”

Both Rath and Shumaker said it’s important, too, to strike a balance between creating an environment that allows for robust press coverage without allowing the media circus to overtake the event. Clinton’s team used a press pooling system to cover some of the private stops during her first New Hampshire visits, and other campaigns’ staffers have privately floated the possibility of pooling events to keep the media logistics more manageable.

“You don’t want the gaggle to get in the way of the others, you’ve got to think that through. You want the coverage, but you don’t want to make the voters unhappy with it,” Rath said. “You’ve got to be very careful with the care and feeding of the press.”

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Scaling back

The Clinton campaign, in particular, has drawn some criticism for its approach thus far on the campaign trail. During her first visit to New Hampshire as a 2016 presidential candidate, Clinton stuck to small gatherings at supporters' homes, roundtables at a small business and NHTI, and a meeting with Democratic legislators at the party's headquarters in Concord this time around.

The contrast between 2008 and 2016 isn't lost on the campaign or its closest supporters. Last time around, Clinton launched her campaign here with larger public events. Vlacich says the initial roll-out with smaller events is meant to breed more meaningful discussions.

"While that might result in us not necessarily being able to see thousands of people as you would in a gym, you're able to have that more intense conversation," Vlacich said.

Shumaker, who's been through campaign cycles with both Clintons, said balancing the need for a certain level of security with access is a challenge – but not necessarily a new one. When Bill Clinton was running for re-election in the mid-1990s, Shumaker said, the president's secret service teams came up with all sorts of new security approaches to allow him to mingle with crowds without being too inhibited by bodyguards.

Now, Shumaker said Hillary Clinton's high profile – and a heightened sensitivity to security, overall – also necessitates a certain layer of protection for the candidate.

"You just have to grin and bear it," Shumaker said. "It's a sign of the times. We're learning how to work with it."

Playing host

Outside of diner stops or town halls, there's also the living rooms, the backyards and – in some cases – the barnyards. For candidates who are really looking to solidify their first-in-the-nation credentials, it's hard to overstate the importance of getting an influential local to invite them into their home.

These events are ideal for making personal connections with potential voters who can then go and tell all of their friends about the presidential hopeful they just met, strategists on both sides say.

"If a really important supporter or somebody you want to be a supporter wants you to do a house party at (their) house, it would probably be unwise not to do it," Shumaker said. "And also people are generally able to make sure that house is full."

If that supporter also happens to own one of New Hampshire's famous political farms, even better. Luckily for those on both sides, each party has one of their own: For the Democrats, it's been former State senator Peter Burling's farm in Cornish; for Republicans, it's been former state lawmakers' Doug and Stella Scamman's farm in Stratham. These settings can offer the best elements of a New Hampshire campaign – a connection to a politically active host, an atmosphere that feels personal but still offers plenty of space for crowds, and a great backdrop for photos.

In Burling's case, the events at his place also acted as prime fund-raising opportunities for the House Democratic Caucus. When it came to preparing food, setting up chairs or otherwise preparing, Burling also said he was lucky

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to have plenty of help.

“At the very least there were 100 active Democrats who were eager to help and participate in whatever event there was,” Burling said. “I started out with one of the largest armies of volunteers anybody in the country could assemble.”

Doug Scamman said he hasn’t yet finalized plans to host another party at his farm this year.

“People keep asking me if we’re going to, we haven’t decided whom we’re going to support yet,” he said in an interview a few weeks ago.

Like Burling, he doesn’t see the ordeal of hosting candidates to be too much of a burden, and he likes giving crowds – in one case, several thousand who turned out to see George W. Bush – another chance to see a candidate.

“I think people put a little stock in the fact that we’ve studied candidates and we feel strongly about it,” Scamman said. “To allow people who come and listen to see what candidates have to say, and they decide if they agree with us or not.”

And while Burling said he, too, hasn’t finalized any plans for hosting a party this year, he’s watching eagerly as the Democratic field – while substantially smaller than the Republican one – starts to take shape.

“One of the reasons I’m so delighted to see Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley get into the Democratic primary – that’s going to make all of this possible,” Burling said of traditional New Hampshire campaign festivities. “Otherwise, I think it’s very easy to have Secretary Clinton’s campaign become a scripted, controlled event.”

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | Communications

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/19/2015 4:14:33 AM
Subject: News Update -August 19, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, August 19

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **France Laying Groundwork to Recognize 'Palestine'**
- **US may Pull Out Sinai Force that Helps Keep Israel-Egypt Peace**
- **Palestinian Hunger Striker: Resolve my Case or I'll Step Up Fast**
- **Five Israelis Hurt from Stone Throwing in East Jerusalem**
- **US 'Concerned' over Treatment of Arab-Americans at IL Airport**
- **Zionist Union Official: Talk of Ashkenazi Joining 'Premature'**
- **Huckabee in Israel: 'Lose the Land, Lose the Peace'**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Netanyahu Scoring an Own Goal against Israel with Danon Appointment"**
  - By Ben Dror Yemini
- **Ha'aretz: "Fractured American Jewish Community Is First Victim of Iran Nuclear Deal"**
  - By Chemi Shalev

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Jerusalem Post

France Laying Groundwork to Recognize 'Palestine'

Indications the French do not intend to bring a Middle East peace resolution to the UN Security Council in the coming months were strengthened Tuesday after Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius met his Palestinian Authority counterpart and made no mention of the resolution in a statement after the meeting. Following a meeting in Paris between Fabius and PA Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki, the French Foreign Ministry issued a statement that indicated Paris was beginning to set the groundwork for future French recognition of "Palestine." "The meeting," according to the statement "also provided an opportunity to prepare for the first French-Palestinian intergovernmental seminar, the first session of which will be aimed at strengthening our relations in the political, economic and cultural spheres."

Times of Israel

US may Pull Out Sinai Force Keeping IL-Egypt Peace

The Obama administration is quietly reviewing the future of America's three-decade deployment to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, fearful the lightly equipped peacekeepers could be targets of escalating Islamic State-inspired violence. Options range from beefing up their protection or even pulling them out altogether, officials told The Associated Press. The American forces have helped marshal peace in the peninsula since Egypt's 1979 historic peace treaty with Israel. They mainly monitor and verify compliance, and have little offensive capability. Egypt has battled militants in northern Sinai for years, but attacks against its military and police have expanded since the July 2013 coup of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. Egypt's army under current President Sissi is trying to snuff out the insurgency. For the United States, the fighting is troublesome, centered in the heart of the volatile Middle East near key maritime trading routes and alongside the most durable peace yet established between Israel and an Arab state. And it risks putting the so-called Multinational Force and Observers in the cross-hairs.

Ynet News

Pal. Hunger Striker: Resolve my Case or back to Fast

Palestinian security prisoner on a two-month hunger strike emerged from a coma Tuesday and warned he will step up his fast if Israel does not resolve his case within 24 hours, a Palestinian group said. The detainee, 31-year-old Mohammed Allaan, "declared in front of his doctors that if there is not any solution to his case within 24 hours he will ask for all treatment to stop and will stop drinking water," the Palestinian Prisoners' Club said in a statement. A lawyer by profession, Allaan has been held in administrative detention — a preventative security measure when intelligence suggests suspects may be involved in terror activities — since last November over his alleged membership in the Islamic Jihad terror group. He has been on hunger strike since June 18, taking only water, and lost consciousness Friday morning at the Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon, where he is being treated. Allaan was awakened from his coma and his condition has stabilized, doctors at Barzilai said Tuesday. Doctors had been giving Allaan water and salts intravenously, and he had also been connected to a respirator.

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Ynet News

Five Israelis Hurt from Stones in East Jerusalem

A bus and two private cars were pelted with stones on Tuesday evening in the At-Tur neighborhood in East Jerusalem, leaving five people lightly wounded. One Arab Israeli and four Jewish Israelis, passengers who were on the bus, were wounded. Three Jewish teens aged 16-17 who were lightly hurt from broken glass, and a woman in her 50s from At-Tur, were taken to the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem's Ein Karem. A fifth person was very lightly hurt and was not taken to hospital. Damage was caused to the windshields of the vehicles. Israeli security forces were searching the area for the perpetrators.

Jerusalem Post

US 'Concerned' over Treatment of Arab-Americans

US State Department spokesman John Kirby on Tuesday expressed concern over the treatment of Palestinian-Americans traveling to Israel. According to the US State Department's website, "many Palestinian nationals or dual nationals seeking to enter via Ben-Gurion have been sent back to the United States upon arrival." "Others have been allowed to enter Israel but told they cannot depart Israel via Ben-Gurion without special permission, which is rarely granted," the website explains. "The US government seeks equal treatment and freedom to travel for all US citizens regardless of national origin or ethnicity," Kirby announced. "Specifically, the US government remains concerned at the unequal treatment that Palestinian-Americans receive at Israel's borders and checkpoints."

Ha'aretz

Zionist Union: Talk of Ashkenazi Joining 'Premature'

Even though recent days have seen senior officials from the Zionist Union party issue calls to former Israel Defense Force Chief-of-Staff Gabi Ashkenazi to join the party, a senior party official clarified Tuesday that as of now, no negotiations were taking place with the retired general. The offers extended to Ashkenazi were contingent on him being cleared of wrongdoing by the attorney general in what has been called the "Harpaz affair" in which claims were made that documents were forged in order to prevent now Construction Minister Yoav Galant from succeeding Ashkenazi as head of Israel's military. "As long as the attorney general hasn't made the final decision not to prosecute (Ashkenazi) there is nothing to talk about. It's premature. As far as I know, no one is holding substantial talks with him on our behalf," said the senior official.

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Ynet News

Huckabee in Israel: 'Lose the Land, Lose the Peace'

Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee reiterated Israel's connection to Judea and Samaria, and stated that peace cannot be possible with ongoing incitement in Palestinian schools, during a special interview with Ynet on Wednesday. Huckabee dismissed criticism of Israel's settlement policy, saying, "I would love to see a true peace in the world, but the question is does Israel have a right to build bedrooms for the expanding number of people who are coming here, who are making aliyah, to make sure there people have a secure land they can defend; I don't know why anyone on this earth would think that they should surrender that right. "Land for peace has not worked for Israel, They lose the land and they lose the peace."

See also, Ynet Interview (Ynet)

Yedioth Ahronoth – August 18, 2015

Netanyahu Scoring an Own Goal against Israel with Danon Appointment

Danny Danon is as right wing as one can be: He opposes the two-state solution, wants to annex the entire West Bank but give no civil rights to the Palestinians and in general, he's the wet dream of every Israeli hater. So why is Netanyahu sending him to represent Israel at the UN?

By Ben Dror Yemini

Danny Danon is a serious man, who has a very clear and solid worldviews. He's not just another right-winger, he is the rightest of the right. He supports annexing the territories; he supports the further expansion of settlements, and not just in the main blocs; he is actually against the term "settlement blocs"; he is against the two-state solution; he staged a campaign against Netanyahu's too soft - in his opinion - policy against Hamas; and above all, Danon is a perfect representation of the wet dream of every Israeli hater. This is how they love to hate us. Now, Danon is moving to Israel's display window. They can't possible ask for a better gift.

Danon caused quite a lot of problems for Netanyahu in the Likud party, so Netanyahu had to get rid of him. When faced with the choice between Netanyahu's narrow political interests and Israel's national interests - Netanyahu once again chose Netanyahu. Israel loses.

It's not that an excellent ambassador at the UN, a combination of Abba Eban and Yaakov Herzog, would have made Sweden vote in favor of Israel. But Israel's ambassador to the UN is a sort of a symbol. So far, Danon represented the dazed right wing, now he's representing Israel.

Ron Prosor, the current ambassador, is doing an amazing job. He's not nice, professionally. Far from it. He knows how to be blunt and aggressive. But he also knows that speaking in support of outposts, for example, is like scoring an own goal against the national interest.

Israel is facing a massive campaign of demonization and de-legitimization, but the problem is not with the extremists in the core of the BDS movement - they're a lost cause. The fight against them,

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however, is not. When their true faces are revealed - they're against peace, they're against the two-state solution, they want the destruction of Israel, they lie incessantly - they can be fought against.

But what exactly is Danon going to say? That he's also against the two-state solution? That he is both in favor of annexation and against giving civil rights to Palestinians? It would be a hard sale even to the worshipers at the Orthodox synagogues of New York. But this is what Danon is selling.

Israel's biggest defenders in North America are Professor Alan Dershowitz and Irwin Cotler. They know how to deal with every claim against Israel. Well, almost. Because there is still no serious audience, and that includes supporters of Israel, that is willing to buy the positions held by our new ambassador to the UN.

Danon might have been able to serve as the Likud's emissary to the Chabad institutions in Brooklyn, but an official representative of Israel?

When Avigdor Lieberman said Israel should accept John Kerry's peace deal draft a year and a half ago, it was Danny Danon who put his foot down to Netanyahu and clarified he will not allow that to happen. When Naftali Bennett is talking about annexing Area C of the West Bank, Danon is talking about an annexation of even more territories. So Netanyahu decided to appoint him, of all people, to represent Israel?

It was only a few weeks ago that Netanyahu declared the anti-Israel campaign was a serious threat. He's right. But it was also Netanyahu that fired Danon, because he knows his positions only serve to bolster the anti-Israel campaign. It's easy to understand why Netanyahu wants to get rid of him. But why is he punishing Israel?

I wonder what's next. Is Daniella Weiss on her way to become Israel's ambassador to the European Union?

Ha'aretz – August 18, 2015

Fractured American Jewish Community Is First Victim of Iran Nuclear Deal

Netanyahu and AIPAC have sparked a battle royal of Jew vs. Jew, with the most riveting skirmishes playing out in the local Jewish Federations.

By Chemi Shalev

In the campaign to convince American Jewish groups to come out against the Iran nuclear deal, Israeli opposition leader Isaac Herzog has emerged as a strategic asset.

In some of the heated deliberations taking place in national Jewish organizations and local Jewish Federations across America, opponents of the deal with Tehran are using Herzog as a trump card to challenge the motives and loyalties of its supporters: How can a good Jew defend Obama's deal, they ask, when Herzog and the rest of Israel oppose it?

Herzog may have subsequently dissociated himself from the all-out

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war that Benjamin Netanyahu and AIPAC are waging against the Obama administration in Congress, but the nuance is lost in the fierce firefights that have broken out among American Jews since the July 14 Vienna signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the P5+1 countries and Iran. It is a battle royal that is taking place in the boardrooms of Jewish organizations from coast to coast, in synagogues, community centers and social gatherings, behind closed doors or out in the open, in polite debate or, increasingly, in heated emotional dispute. It pits Jews against Jews, conservatives vs. liberals, hawks and doves, Republicans and Democrats, donors against professionals, rabbis against their flock and, in recent days, against one another.

For every statement for or against there is an immediate rebuttal, for every argument a counterargument, for each manifesto a harsh rebuke. Both sides swear allegiance to the greater good of both Israel and America, but as time goes by, the acrimony grows acute, resentment festers, the bitterness strikes roots. Whether the deal is as good as the Obama administration claims or as bad as Netanyahu says, it has already claimed its first victim: a fractured American Jewish community.

Already divided in recent years against the backdrop of unprecedented tensions between Obama and Netanyahu and growing disenchantment with many Israeli policies, the community is polarizing, perhaps, as some claim, even splitting at the seams. And it is doing so out in the open, for the world to see.
Along with its internal convulsions, American Jews are also the subject of intense external scrutiny, justifiable and malicious. A few minutes after New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez predictably announced on Tuesday that he would be joining his Jewish colleague from New York Chuck Schumer in opposing the Iran deal, he was subjected to a harsh torrent of insults and diatribes on social media that were mostly anti-Jewish in nature. These manifestations of anti-Semitism are then cultivated and inflated by cynical Iran deal critics and artificially linked to legitimate if sometimes injudicious remarks made by Obama and other administration officials.

While the pro-Israel lobby ducks under cover of this alleged incitement, the community reels from the reemergence of long dormant insinuations and accusations of dual loyalties and undue influence. GOP activists, meanwhile, stoke these flames in the hope that next time around, Jews will finally see the error of their ways and vote Republican.

On the national level, AIPAC has set the tone, with mainstream organizations such as the American Jewish Committee and the Anti Defamation League following suit; J-Street and smaller organizations stand mostly alone in support of the deal. Many Jewish professionals and executives concur with criticism of the Iran deal, but even those who don't are wary of their conservative donors, whose voices are often louder and financial pressures more direct than those of their liberal counterparts. Some activists feel compelled to speak out, fearing that silence will render them irrelevant on the most dramatic Jewish issue of the day; others are wary of accusations that they were ignoring the collective opinion of Herzog and other Israelis or repeating the sins of their forefathers who stood by as the Holocaust engulfed the Jews of Europe.

The most riveting showdowns by far are taking place in the 151

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Jewish Federations that have traditionally steered clear of divisive political issues, preferring to stick with fundraising for Israel and Jewish education while providing social services to their community. The Federations' foray into disputed territory has sparked dissent and outrage among Obama supporters and among some of his opponents as well: a few have threatened to reassess their contributions. Many Federation bigwigs are concurrently active in AIPAC: in recent weeks, the powerful Washington-based lobby has made a point of beginning conference calls with activists with a tally of the Federations that have joined the fight and those that are still sitting on the fence. Some Federation officials have complained of direct pressures being exerted by the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem or in its name.

To date, 18 Federations have come out against the Iran deal, with most urging their members to lobby members of Congress to vote it down. The list of fighting Federations is slightly more than 10% of the total number, but it includes most of the big hitters, including Chicago, where a fierce battle was waged between opposing sides; Los Angeles, which was forced to issue an acknowledgement of the "complexity" of the issue and the "diversity" of opinions after its original statement of opposition sparked a fierce backlash, along with Boston, Miami, Philadelphia and other major Metropolitan areas. The biggest of them all, however, the New York UJA-Federation, has decided to maintain neutrality and steer clear of the divisive battle.

It's hard to tell with which side enjoys more support in the community. The very definition of the target audience is in dispute: does it include all self-professed Jews or only those who participate in communal life or take an interest in Israel. The only reliable poll, at least in this writer's view, was conducted by Professor Steve Cohen and published in the Jewish Journal a few days after the JCPOA was signed. It showed solid support for the nuclear deal, but that was before Netanyahu, the Republicans and right wing pundits sank their teeth into it, and before AIPAC and other groups began spending tens of millions of dollars advertising its dangers and pitfalls. Among American Jews, like their Israeli brethren, fear and suspicion have a home turf advantage over optimism and hope.

Jewish officials I have spoken to in recent days are worried, perhaps even scared: they feel helpless despite the earthquake beneath their feet and the irreparable damage that it may cause. Many are frustrated that Netanyahu has chosen to lead the charge without devoting a second thought to how it might weaken the Jewish community. In a few months Netanyahu will try to enlist American Jews to do battle against the boycott movement, one senior Jewish figure told me, but he could be facing a demoralized and disoriented community that has alienated and distanced many of its members while wasting precious resources and limited goodwill on a campaign that was doomed from the outset.

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/15/2014 6:39:52 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday July 15, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday July 15, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton appointed 1st Special Envoy on climate change, sent message of importance of energy policy #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-protecting-the-environment/ … [7/15/14, 12:30 p.m. EDT]

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: Excited to be spending the next 8 days visiting @ClintonFdn's partners & projects in SE Asia. First stop: Jaipur, India. #CFAsia2014 [7/15/14, 8:16 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: The Clintons donate their speaking fees to the @ClintonFdn, what does @NYTimesDowd do with hers? http://mediamatters.org/blog/2014/07/14/maureen-dowd-is-paid-less-than-half-of-what-che/200093 … [7/14/14, 5:55 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@NYTimesDowd continues her pattern of misleading and smarmy attacks on the Clintons: http://correctrecord.org/attack-maureen-dowd-goes-after-the-clintons-charitable-work/ …[7/14/14, 3:15 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Associated Press: "More Clinton White House Records to be Released"

"The National Archives says it plans to release more documents from former President Bill Clinton's administration on Friday, part of a months-long disbursement of White House records."

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Washington Post: "Leading the State Department's 'Virtual Student Foreign Service' internship program"

"Launched by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Virtual Student Foreign Service is an eInternship program that enables college and graduate students to engage with the department's ongoing diplomatic efforts."

Politico: "Mideast crisis strains Clinton legacy"

"When it comes to the Israelis and Palestinians, close observers say Clinton achieved what was possible then in a complicated, often-cyclical conflict, and that that's how she should frame her record."

National Review: "Charlie Cook: 40 Percent Chance Hillary Doesn't Run"

"Analyst Charlie Cook, a 40-year veteran of Washington politics who often reflects the consensus of political handicappers in Washington, told a National Journal audience in Washington today that he is increasing the chances that Hillary Clinton doesn't seek the Democratic nomination in 2016 to 40 percent, up from 30 percent."

Washington Post opinion: Catherine Rampell: "Celebrities — Chelsea Clinton or Kim Kardashian — are paid what the market will bear"

"Lest there be any confusion, most compensation — but especially compensation that's accompanied by a flock of flashbulbs — is determined not by some intrinsic measure of worldly achievement or moral worth but by what the market will bear."

Schenectady Daily Gazette (N.Y.): "Tickets go fast to see Clinton in Saratoga"

"Within the first hour of business, Northshire had already sold 200 copies of the political memoir, which has been at the top of the New York Times best-seller list. By later afternoon, 500 more copies had been sold."

Newsday: "Schumer disputes claim he coached Lazio vs. Hillary Clinton"

"In 2000, Sen. Charles Schumer so feared being upstaged by Hillary Clinton that he coached her GOP opponent for senator from New York, Rick Lazio. That's the claim of Lazio, according to a new anti-Clinton book to be published July 22 -- and Schumer denies it."

Articles:

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Associated Press: "More Clinton White House Records to be Released"

By Ken Thomas

July 15, 2014, 12:05 p.m. EDT

The National Archives says it plans to release more documents from former President Bill Clinton's administrationon Friday, part of a months-long disbursement of White House records.

About 20,000 pages of records from Clinton's two terms have been released since February. The papers are being closely monitored by media organizations and historians as former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton considers a second presidential campaign.

About 1,000 pages of memos, transcripts and speech drafts will be disseminated Friday by the National Archives through the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark.

Previously released papers have shed light on the Clinton administration's unsuccessful attempt to overhaul the health care system, Republicans' sweeping victories in the 1994 mid-term elections and Bill Clinton's handling of foreign policy.

Washington Post: "Leading the State Department's 'Virtual Student Foreign Service' internship program"

By Partnership for Public Service

July 15, 2014, 9:56 a.m. EDT

For the past four years, 32 year-old Bridget Roddy has been the mastermind behind a Department of State internship program that enables students to work virtually on projects in countries as far flung as Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Botswana, Cambodia and Egypt.

Launched by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Virtual Student Foreign Service is an eInternship program that enables college and graduate students to engage with the department's ongoing diplomatic efforts. Since the program's inception, more than 1,200 eInterns have made vital contributions to the mission and work of the State Department.

"The Virtual Student Foreign Service is a key tool to drive innovation, support new initiatives and bring in fresh ideas and perspectives to government by tapping in to an immense resource pool of talented volunteers – U.S. students," said Roddy.

Students work remotely an average of 10 hours per week on their eInternship projects, which last the duration of the academic year running from fall through spring semesters. Roddy said the flexibility of the program enables students to continue with their classes, work and other commitments.

The scope of work can range from research and analysis, redesigning websites, building a mobile app or contributing to reports on a wide-range of issues such as human rights, economics and the environment.

Past projects include researching and drafting public health information to communicate about emerging diseases to the Vietnamese people, identifying strategies to improve scientific collaboration between the United States and Mongolia, facilitating weekly, virtual meet-ups to identify and discuss journalism trends with Egyptian youth, and digitally mapping the dangerous effects of air pollution in south China mainland.

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Projects for the upcoming academic year range from creating a database of Bahrain's publicly available economic data and covering Botswana's general elections to conducting research and analysis related to Cambodia's migrant labor force.

"The Virtual Student Foreign Service has opened up a pool of students to us who may not have the financial means to participate in a full-time internship in D.C," said Dan Sheerin, who heads the State Department's diplomatic innovation division. "These students are bringing in new perspectives, ideas and skills and are helping the department do some significant initiatives that we wouldn't have the capacity to do without them."

Applications are currently open on USAJOBS.gov for the 2014-2015 academic year, and there are 323 projects available, which Roddy said is 50 more than last year.

Roddy also noted that applications have almost doubled every year since the program's launch.

"The program started with one sentence and now has grown to be the largest virtual internship program at State," she said.

"This program had a very limited start, and Bridget has been instrumental in making it much larger and much more successful. She did that through hard work, some creative thinking, collaboration and innovation," said Sheerin.

Sheerin said one reason for this growth is due to Roddy's idea to expand the program to 11 agencies that have overseas activities, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Smithsonian Institution and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"People want to be part of this because they understand the opportunity it provides to bring students in to help further the diplomatic efforts of our colleagues working on the ground around the world," said Sheerin.

Roddy, whose father was in the Foreign Service, has always wanted to find new ways of supporting and contributing to the important work of the State Department. Roddy strongly believes her work leading the Virtual Student Foreign Service is allowing her to do this.

"Through this program, young people with diverse backgrounds are introduced to the work of the State Department and the broad career opportunities. The program also encourages participation by civil society. It is one more way students can participate in government and we can all benefit greatly by their participation."

This article was jointly prepared by the Partnership for Public Service, a group seeking to enhance the performance of the federal government, and washingtonpost.com . Go to the Fed Page of The Washington Post to read about other federal workers who are making a difference. To recommend a Federal Player of the Week, contact us atfedplayers@ourpublicservice.org .

Politico: "Mideast crisis strains Clinton legacy"

By Katie Glueck

July 15, 2014, 11:03 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton often points to the 2012 cease-fire between Israel and Hamas as one of her biggest accomplishments as secretary of state.

She may have to add an asterisk to that story.

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The truce Clinton helped forge has fallen apart less than two years later, and Israel and the Palestinian militant group that runs the Gaza Strip are again deep in military conflict. The parties briefly considered a ceasefire agreement from Egypt, but by Tuesday morning it looked unlikely to take hold, and hostilities continued.

The developments over the last several days underscore the challenge Clinton faces should she try to use her State Department record as a plank on which to run for president. With crises flaring up all over the world, foreign policy achievements are often fleeting. In Clinton's case, some of her proudest moments have the potential to be tarnished by events beyond her control.

Clinton's efforts to reset the U.S. relationship with Russia, for example, were once billed as a success. She has since had to defend that approach, especially following Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggressive steps against Ukraine, and she now criticizes Putin at every turn. Negotiations over Iran's nuclear program are another case where she continues to walk a fine line: on one hand touting success in bringing Tehran to the table; on the other, expressing skepticism about the still-unfolding talks, creating distance for herself should they fail.

When it comes to the Israelis and Palestinians, close observers say Clinton achieved what was possible then in a complicated, often-cyclical conflict, and that that's how she should frame her record.

"I think she can talk about it in terms of what the context was at the time, what the reality of Gaza [was]" said Dennis Ross, a veteran Middle East hand who served as a special adviser to Clinton at State. "And the fact that there are no simple answers to Gaza."

Ziad Asali, the president of the American Task Force on Palestine, echoed that sentiment: "She could point to [the cease-fire] as an accomplishment … But it is an accomplishment that did not stand the test of time."

Clinton was a highly visible secretary of state who logged visits to 112 countries during her four years on the job, often trying to repair relationships strained under the Bush administration. Insulated from the political fray, Clinton saw her approval ratings soar during her time at Foggy Bottom.

Foreign policy analysts are now debating her legacy, with some calling her among America's best-ever secretaries of state and others arguing that she lacks a signature achievement or doctrine.

Clinton has laid out her side in her new memoir, "Hard Choices," which recounts her State Department days. The book offers a detailed account of the final moments leading up to the 2012 cease-fire agreement, a deal in which the Egyptian government, led then by the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi, played a crucial role. That year, after days of clashes between Hamas militants and Israel, the latter looked poised for a ground invasion into Gaza as retaliation for Hamas rockets aimed at Israeli cities.

The Clinton memoir's section on the cease-fire highlights anxieties that persisted about such a deal, noting that she wondered at the time "how long — or even if — the cease-fire would hold," concluding the chapter on the issue by noting that it "held better than anyone expected."

On her book tour in the United State and Europe, and in several speeches before the book's release, she has singled out the deal repeatedly as one of which she is particularly proud — and still intact. In a C-SPAN interview that aired over the July 4 weekend, right before hostilities broke out in a concerted fashion, Clinton was asked about her "favorite" story from the book. She offered several anecdotes, but noted the Gaza ceasefire first.

"It was a very tense period of time and we were successful," she said. "We got an agreement, we got a cease-fire and to this day it has held, but it's the kind of story that could have gone wrong at any point."

The new fighting between Israel and Hamas was triggered by the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens, followed by the apparent retaliatory killing of a Palestinian teen. Israel has launched airstrikes in Gaza, while Hamas is fighting with rockets. Israel's security cabinet on Tuesday accepted a ceasefire proposal laid out by Egypt, but Hamas rejected it, saying it hadn't been consulted, and fighting continued.

Clinton hasn't publicly offered her prescription for today's situation in the Middle East. But one Clinton adviser said that the duration of the cease-fire she helped achieve last time was fairly standard for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where attempts to reach a lasting peace deal have gone nowhere in recent years.

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William Daroff, the senior vice president for public policy at the Jewish Federations of North America, said Clinton deserves credit for 18 months of "relative peace."

"Eighteen months is better than 17 months," Daroff said. "But there was never the expectation that this would be the peace to end all peaces."

The situation in Gaza and Israel comes amid deepening turmoil in Iraq, Syria and other parts of the Middle East.

Khaled Elgindy, a fellow at the Brookings Institution who has advised the Palestinians in negotiations with Israel, said that the last ceasefire was "important, to the extent that it was adhered to," though he gave the lion's share of the credit to the Egyptians.

"The process repeatedly fails," Elgindy said. The U.S. has frequently sought to serve as a peace broker, so it "has to share some of the blame. That includes Hillary Clinton as well as her boss, President Obama, and her successor, John Kerry, and their predecessors, going back to President Clinton and before that. There are historical problems with the way the U.S. has managed this process and we need to acknowledge those."

Nonetheless, having gone through that cease-fire negotiation, Clinton can present herself as someone with the fortitude to take on the challenge posed by the seemingly endless conflict, said Michael Oren, who was serving as Israel's ambassador to the United States in 2012.

Oren, now the ambassador-in-residence at the Atlantic Council, praised Clinton as "very formidable and indefatigable" during the last crisis.

"We can judge — we have to judge — her accomplishments by what was achievable then," he said. The "fact that [the cease-fire] hasn't held up is no reflection on her, because there's always going to be a breakdown, eventually, with anything in this area."

National Review: "Charlie Cook: 40 Percent Chance Hillary Doesn't Run"

By John Fund

July 15, 2014, 10:32 a.m. EDT

Analyst Charlie Cook, a 40-year veteran of Washington politics who often reflects the consensus of political handicappers in Washington, told a National Journal audience in Washington today that he is increasing the chances that Hillary Clinton doesn't seek the Democratic nomination in 2016 to 40 percent, up from 30 percent. "She didn't have a great time on the book tour, and people in their late 60s usually don't make a nine-year commitment (to run and serve as president) easily," he said. He described running for president in the modern era as "a horrific marathon process of groveling to people you may not even like."

A 2016 campaign without Hillary would open up the Democratic nomination to candidates ranging from Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren and Maryland governor Martin O'Malley on the left to former Indiana senator Evan Bayh (who expressed interest in running last week) on the right.

Cook also said he would be surprised if Jeb Bush ran for the Republican nomination in 2016 because the party's base "is moving away from him on the two issues he cares about most: immigration and education with a strong element of support for the Common Core in it." Cook also said that the weak economy and President Obama's failure to accomplish more in office gives Republicans a 60 percent chance of retaking the U.S. Senate this fall.

Washington Post opinion: Catherine Rampell: "Celebrities — Chelsea Clinton or Kim Kardashian — are paid what the market will bear"

By Catherine Rampell

July 14, 2014, 8:08 p.m. EDT

Talons drawn, the media have descended upon Chelsea Clinton. Again.

Not for her frizzy hair, now smoothed with a killer blowout, or for that preteen metal mouth, now braces-free and pearly white.

This time the attacks are over how much money she makes — for her network television fluff pieces and well-attended gigs on the lecture circuit — despite her stick-thin résumé.

"The former First Daughter has never run for office, held a public policy job or done philanthropic work outside her family business," sneered the New York Daily News. "But that hasn't stopped the speaking fees from rolling in — along with a reported $600,000 salary as 'special correspondent' for NBC News."

Likewise, upon learning that Clinton Fille pulls in $75,000 per speaking engagement, the New York Times's Maureen Dowd asked, "Why on earth is she worth that much money? Why, given her dabbling in management consulting, hedge-funding and coattail-riding, is an hour of her time valued at an amount that most Americans her age don't make in a year?"

To which my reaction is: Since when do you need talent or skills to be a well-paid celebrity?

Lest there be any confusion, most compensation — but especially compensation that's accompanied by a flock of flashbulbs — is determined not by some intrinsic measure of worldly achievement or moral worth but by what the market will bear.

Witness famous-for-being-famous reality star Kim Kardashian.

Kardashian vastly out-earns Clinton and more accomplished public figures such as Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. The new Mrs. Kanye West charges $100,000 per appearance, according to the fine celebrity journalists at OK! Magazine, and at those gigs no one even expects her to deliver prepared remarks on eradicating waterborne illnesses or racial tensions. (In fact, it wouldn't surprise me if her contracts explicitly forbid such pontification.) On some occasions, Kardashian has commanded as much as $500,000, her reported payout for attending the recent Vienna Opera Ball. It's not clear what talents Kardashian possesses that make her "worth" $500,000 per appearance, except maybe a talent for identifying people willing to pay her $500,000 per appearance.

It's more than that, of course. Hollywood celebrities like Kardashian — and political personalities like Clinton or Sarah Palin — can command big appearance fees because the organizations hiring them derive some value from the appearance, too.

Several years ago, I did a back-of-the-envelope calculation to determine why nightclubs might be paying "Jersey Shore" starlet Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi the head-scratchingly high fee of $25,000 merely to drink, dance and socialize for a few hours. It turned out that once you took into account the extra revenue streams that Snooki's name brought in — from cover charges, bottle service and publicity in glossy magazines — her attendance might actually have been worth several multiples of what she charged clubs.

The exact numbers probably no longer hold up today, since in recent years Snooki's star, if not her tan, has faded. But the same principles apply to other celebrities and political scions getting big bucks for appearances on TV and red-carpet events.

After all, having a brand name like Chelsea Clinton keynote your conference or college lecture series can attract better attendance, bigger donations and more press coverage. Televising her recognizable visage can likewise draw in valuable eyeballs. Same goes for other politicians'

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children, such as Jenna Bush Hager, Meghan McCain and Ron Reagan, who have also been paid contributors for the NBC family of channels. What these political starlets lack in actual journalistic training they make up for in name recognition and precious political connections, both of which — fairly or not — are highly valuable to broadcast outlets.

Whatever the optics, I don't begrudge Kardashian or Clinton the money they can make by charging the market rate for their services; I instead blame audiences for endowing these celebrity brands with value and cash-strapped state schools for wasting money on star appearances that could instead be used for scholarships.

If there is any objection I have to Clinton's speaking gigs, it's not the size of her paycheck. It's the possibility that her hosts and employers are hiring her in order to buy influence with a possible future president (Clinton Mère), an aspect of Chelsea Clinton's lucrative speaking career that for some reason has not been emphasized in most media reports. This possibility is particularly troubling given the family's resistance during the 2008 primaries to releasing information about donations to the Clinton Foundation, where Clinton's speaking fees reportedly go. When it comes to the Clintons, exposure is easy to come by; transparency, less so.

Schenectady Daily Gazette (N.Y.): "Tickets go fast to see Clinton in Saratoga"

By Justin Mason

July 15, 2014

On foot several blocks away and with only minutes remaining before the Northshire Bookstore's scheduled opening Monday, Teri Morrow wasn't leaving anything to chance.

The city resident figured tickets for former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's book signing later this month would go fast and that she might not have enough hustle to get there while some were still left.

At a red light, she politely knocked on a random motorist's window and asked if she could get a lift down to the store.

Hitching a ride turned out to be overkill: Morrow easily nabbed two copies of Clinton's memoir, "Hard Choices," after waiting in line for only about five minutes. But that didn't diminish her enthusiasm to see the first lady-turned-New York senator-turned-member of the Obama cabinet.

"I think she's very Machiavellian," Morrow said outside the bookstore. "My god, she's done a lot in her life. She's an impressive person."

Only 1,000 tickets were available for the signing and they were going fast Monday morning. A crowd of roughly three dozen people was waiting outside the Broadway entrance to purchase the book to receive the complimentary ticket.

Within the first hour of business, Northshire had already sold 200 copies of the political memoir, which has been at the top of the New York Times best-seller list. By later afternoon, 500 more copies had been sold.

Tight Controls

The event will be tightly controlled. Customers must have a ticket, wristband and Clinton's book to enter onto the line; there's also a limit of one signature per customer, with no personalization.

People attending the signing won't be allowed to pose for pictures with Clinton, but can take a photograph from a designated area in the store. And

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no bags or personal items will be allowed in the event space.

Though Clinton is no stranger to Saratoga Springs -- she made several appearances as the state's junior senator and again as head of the State Department -- her visit this time around comes as she's the presumptive favorite to run for president on the Democratic ticket in 2016. A Quinnipiac University National Poll conducted last week found that 58 percent of Democrat or Democratic-leaning voters would select her in a primary over U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Vice President Joe Biden and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Clinton was also given the edge over potential Republican candidates. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush -- both trailing Clinton by seven percentage points -- were the closest potential GOP rivals, according to the poll.

No doubt, Clinton's chances at becoming the nation's first female commander-in-chief resonated with Northshire customers rushing to the store after it publicly announced her book signing Monday morning. Joan Malone of East Greenbush bought a pair of the books for her adult sons, one of whom is Phillip Malone, a Democratic candidate for the state's 107th Assembly District this fall.

"It's very exciting" she said. "She could be our next president."

Clinton, who still hasn't indicated whether she'll run for the Oval Office, launched her memoir with a flurry of signings last month. Many of her large-city signings drew large crowds, including at a Barnes & Noble in New York City, where customers lined up more than eight hours in advance of her appearance.

Since the book's release June 10, Clinton has done signings from coast to coast. Some media pundits have already likened the events to a thinly-veiled trial run for her presidential campaign.

But if "Hard Choices" is a precursor, Clinton might want to consider retooling her strategy. A Boston Globe reviewer described it as "a book that is destined to be purchased but not read, a volume given but not opened."

"It may even sell a lot of copies, but only because a good number of people may be willing to spend $35 for the privilege of joining the queue at Costco for a brisk hello and an India-ink autograph on the title page," wrote Globe reviewer David Shribman last month.

Intriguing Figure

Indeed, customers at Northshire seemed more intrigued about the prospect of meeting Clinton than the content of her memoir. Amy Marlette of Ballston Spa purchased one copy when the store first opened, only to venture back an hour later for second -- a copy so her wife could also meet Clinton.

"I'll probably have to come back for two more books later," she said, alluding to a pair of family members who she predicted will also want to see Clinton.

For Sue Paciola of Broadablin, the book was an impulse buy. She was browsing through Northshire when she heard about Clinton's forthcoming appearance.

"But I'd also like to see what she has to offer," she said of the book.

Newsday: "Schumer disputes claim he coached Lazio vs. Hillary Clinton"

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By Tom Brune

July 15, 2014

In 2000, Sen. Charles Schumer so feared being upstaged by Hillary Clinton that he coached her GOPopponent for senator from New York, Rick Lazio.

That's the claim of Lazio, according to a new anti-Clinton book to be published July 22 -- and Schumer denies it.

Lazio has not responded to an email query.

The book is "Clinton, Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine, " by Daniel Halper, the online editor of the neocon Weekly Standard.

According to the NY Post story by its Washington bureau chief Geoff Earle, Lazio said: "I thought he was generally . . . He was supportive. Quite helpful to me behind the scenes and encouraging."

Not so, said Schumer spokeswoman Meredith Kelly.

"Sen. Schumer was a die-hard Hillary supporter from the moment she announced she was running for the Senate. He and Mr. Lazio had a fine relationship and worked well together in the New York delegation, but Mr. Lazio's recollection of the campaign just doesn't match reality," she said.

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 9:17:35 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

That works too Joel.
I think her using it shows strength
Not worried about credit for Bernie

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:59 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:
>
> I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.
>
> Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.
>
> If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.
>
> Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"
>
> **From:** Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
> **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
> **To:** Robby Mook
> **Cc:** Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
> I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.
>
> Jim Margolis
> Sent from my iPhone.
> Please excuse typos.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
> >
> > > All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
> > > Thinking.
> > >
> > > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
> > > **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> > > **Cc:** Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >,

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"dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Not ninnies.
>
> We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > That's because you love your own joke.
> >
> > But I think it is okay.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I don't think so.
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.
> > >
> > > Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.
> > >
> > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > **Grunwald Communications**
> > > **202 973-9400**
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----
> > > From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > > To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >

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Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

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I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't

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popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 3:47:50 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report: Morning 08/05/08

Main Topics: energy, negative ads

Summary: Edouard continues to rain on the gulf. Wrigley field empties amidst extremely powerful winds. According to the *LA Times*, US Agents captured an al-Qaeda sleeper agent in Afghanistan. The Pentagon plans to spend $300M on PTSD and traumatic brain injury, *USA Today* reports. Bush lands in South Korea. Ron Suskind's book claims the Bush Admin ordered the CIA to forge a hand-written document to link S. Hussein to al-Qaeda to justify the Iraq war. Bob Novak retires after a dim prognosis on his brain cancer. Morgan Freeman's injury grabs a lot of headline time. Al-Sadr pledges to turn his paramilitary force into a charity organization. China limits internet access around the Olympic village. Obama's hair turns grey under the pressures of campaigning.

Highlights:
1. Drilling and oil
   a. MSNBC: Nicole Wallace dodges Scarborough's questions
   b. CBS: Crist pushes McCain's energy plans
   c. ABC: *Good Morning America* fact checks McCain's
2. CC: Stephen Colberrt mocks McCain

No YouTube
1) MSNBC – DYLAN RATIGAN: 'Imagine you lost your job. Imagine you haven't had a job in 10 years. Now imagine you want to go on vacation to […] some place real expensive […] and then you come back from the holiday and you got more bills than when you left. That's kind of McCain's gas holiday. It's like an unemployed person going on vacation to the south of France.'
2) WPSG CW: McCain told workers in Fayette Hill that offshore drilling is needed to achieve energy independence.

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Spokesperson Avoids Question on Gas Prices (MSNBC 08/05/08 7:38am)
NICOLE WALLACE: […] John McCain would fire, in a nanosecond, anyone that dared to play the race card […] John McCain is very hopeful. He said last Friday that he's looking to the future and he hopes that, from this point forward [race] will not be a factor.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Some republicans think the ads with Britney Spears and Paris Hilton are childish, that it's unbecoming of a presidential candidate […]. Should a presidential candidate really run those types of ads […]?

WALLACE: John McCain is anything but not childish. He is trying to have a deadly serious argument about how crucial it is that we begin drilling now […].

SCARBOROUGH: […] Why do you have to have Paris Hilton in an energy ad?

MIKA BRZEZINSKY: Why do you have to have two skanky celebrities? […]

WALLACE: We were not making a point about pornography. We were making a point about drilling and we were making a point about taxes —

BRZEZINSKY: Using two skanky celebrities.

WALLACE: Here we are talking about it seven days later. The ad was meant to draw our attention to what we think is a real gap between his celebrity and his ability to draw 200,000 screaming Europeans and being wrong on the policies that people care about.

MIKE BARNICLE: […] Does John McCain see the ads before they hit the air?

WALLACE: Sure. This is his campaign. You know, I think this is something he's involved in in every level […].

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BARNICLE: So he knew who Paris Hilton—he saw that and said, you know….

WALLACE: Sure.

SCARBOROUGH: Not on the internet, but he had heard. His staffers had told him—don't let him admit again that he doesn't—

BRZEZINSKI: I just don't think Paris Hilton or whatever the other one is would generate a crowd of 200,000 in Berlin to listen about the world.

[…]

SCARBOROUGH: […] John McCain is still saying, still believing that Barack Obama would rather lose a war in Iraq if that's what was required to win the presidency.

WALLACE: Mmhmm.

SCARBOROUGH: That's extraordinarily harsh. Do you really believe that he would willing to have US troops die [sic] so he could advance his political career?

WALLACE: Well, look. The natural extension of what I understand to be his current position on the surge is that he still opposes it. […] I think some of what [Obama's] facing now is a result of coming back from Europe, at odds with Admiral Mullen on a conditions vs. unconditional withdrawal; at odds with General Petraeus as far as whether the surge has worked or has not worked and, for whatever logistical reasons, which I accept, not visiting those wounded troops in Germany.

So, I think there is a worldview that people are very concerned about. I think it illustrates either, at best, a lack of knowledge, at worst, wrong judgment when it comes to how to end the war in Iraq.

BARNICLE: How is he at odds with Admiral Mullen?

WALLACE: Well he said that an unconditional withdrawal would be dangerous. He said that on Sunday before Barack Obama departed for the war zone. I believe probably hopeful that he would change his mind.

He came back. I think he fudged it a little bit, as he often does, but he still came back committed to a 16-month timetable.

BARNICLE: But Admiral Mullen has also said the troops' strength is so stretched so thin—something very similar to what Barack Obama has said…. I don't understand how they're at odds.

WALLACE: Well, look. You know I always think there are discussions to be had, but I think there is a black and white distinction between what John McCain believes is the right way to end this war and victory, with a conditions-based withdrawal, that's frankly where the Iraqis are too. I know that got a little muddied.

And I think there is a yes or no answer to the question, 'Did the surge work?' which I again—I didn't read everything this morning. He may have wriggled around on that too, but I understand his answer on the surge to have been, 'No way. Not a good idea,' and he still has about eight different explanations for why we've been successful. Not all of them include the surge.

SCARBOROUGH: […] how long has John McCain been serving in congress, either in the house or the senate?

WALLACE: […] many years.

SCARBOROUGH: […] How long has Barack Obama been serving in Washington?

WALLACE: 15 minutes.

SCARBOROUGH: […] So how can you blame the guy that's been in Washington for 15 minutes with higher gas prices than the guy [sic] that's been in Washington probably since you were in kindergarten?

WALLACE: Well, look. Admittedly we don't have much to work with, but I think you have to look at someone's record for the best indication of where they will lead and elections are about the future, but we care a lot more, sitting here, about the past than voters do. They look to the future and the best way to figure out what he's going

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to do in the future is to look at his record.

SCARBOROUGH: His 15-minute record.

Crist Pushes McCain's Energy Plan (ABC 08/05/08 7:14am)
[Clip of Obama's tire inflation remarks]
DEAN REYNOLDS: McCain supporters ridiculed that idea, passing out tire gauges, with the words, 'Obama's Energy Plan.'

JOHN MCCAIN: We're not gonna achieve energy independence by inflating our tires.

REYNOLDS: McCain favors a gas tax holiday for consumers and, though he used to oppose offshore drilling as well, now he's a big fan of the idea, an about face, which was followed by a million dollars worth of donations to his campaign from the oil and gas industry in June.

[Clip of Obama's oil ties ad]

REYNOLDS: The Obama campaign noticed, but, with polls showing energy eclipsing concerns about even the Iraq war in several major battleground states, the pressure to come up with a plausible plan is mounting on both campaigns.

[...]

CHARLIE CRIST: [...] Senator Obama seems to be playing follow the leader when he talks about offshore oil drilling. [...]

HARRY SMITH: [...] you have our own energy department who say it'll be ten years before we see a drop of that oil

CRIST: Well, I disagree with that respectfully. I've talked to people in the business who say that, within a year and a half they can have oil coming out of the Gulf of Mexico, helping people at the pump, reducing this problem. Senator McCain understands that. He's talked to those executives as well.

You know, people that actually can get the job done get it done quickly, in a way that helps people and that's what we have to do. We have to have a leader who understands that and Senator McCain certainly does.
SMITH: So it's gonna be nukes and offshore drilling and that's gonna solve our energy problem.

CRIST: Well, I think it's all hands on deck. I think it's nuclear. Senator McCain will be at a nuclear plant today. Senator Obama opposes that. Senator McCain understood, before Senator Obama, that drilling and raising our domestic supply of oil is important but he also understands that conservation, wind, solar, nuclear, tide energy: all of these are things that we have to be exercising in order to make America strong.

Good Morning America Debunks McCain's Drilling Claims and Attack ads (ABC 08/05/08 07:12am)
JAKE TAPPER: […] This big energy debate is fueling many misrepresentations. **Energy conservation did not seem on John McCain's mind as he visited a biker rally** in South Dakota yesterday. And drilling for oil offshore was not on his agenda 9 months ago.

[Clip of McCain]

JOHN MCCAIN: "I don't support drilling offshore of Florida or California."

TAPPER: "Today however:"

MCCAIN: "We need to drill more, drill now, and pay less at the pump."

TAPPER: "But how soon will we see savings?"

MCCAIN: "I met with independent oil company executives recently who told me that they could utilize existing facilities to increase our oil supply in a matter of months and build new facilities in a very short space of time. "

TAPPER: **"Most experts say that's false."**

EXPERT: "In a five to ten year time frame it's reasonable to assume that we would have significant

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new supplies in US waters."

TAPPER: "In this TV ad McCain also says he knows who's responsible for high gas prices."

[McCain attack ad on Obama]

TAPPER: " False."

EXPERT: "It's not any one person or country, we've seen prices rise for oil for the last few years. "

[…]

TAPPER: "And what about the Obama charge that John McCain wants to give oil and gas companies a four billion dollar tax break. Well Robin, that's barely true. Senator McCain wants to lower the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25%. That would help oil and gas companies, it would also help every other company."

[…]

ROBIN ROBERTS: "And now John McCain is receiving quite a bit of attention. In fact Monday we saw him in South Dakota shaking hands with bikers and his campaign was even passing out tire gauges to, of course, mock what Senator Obama said. Someone here in the studio said it's like Senator McCain found his mojo."

COKIE ROBERTS: **"Well I think he had to find a way to basically shout above the media coverage of Barack Obama. And his way of doing it has been to make little jokes**. […] You're going to have McCain trying to get in here and say watch out for this guy. You don't know who he is, he's risky. **And he's playing to voter's fears**. […]"

John McCain's Attacks Obama at Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (FNC 08/05/08 08:04am)
ANDREW NAPOLITANO: 91 days until the election. John McCain is rallying supporters, watch him take a shot at Barak Obama:

JOHN MCCAIN: "Not long ago a couple hundred thousand Berliners made a lot of noise for my opponent, I'll take the roar of 50,000 Harleys any day! Any day my friends!"

Highlight #2
Colbert Scrutinizes the 'Celeb' Ad (MSNBC 08/05/08
STEPHEN COLBERT: Nation, with weeks to go before the conventions, both presidential candidates are doing anything for publicity. First, Obama goes on a world tour, then McCain washed up on the shore in Montauk [image of 'monster of Montauk' appears over Colbert's shoulder]. [...] Electing a celebrity is something the Republican Party would never do [image of Reagan, Schwarzenegger and Sonny Bono].

[...] The ad even led to a furious phone call from Paris Hilton's grandfather. Apparently when he heard McCain had made video with Paris, he assumed the worst. [...] This ad is a disaster for the McCain campaign [...]. Everything in the ad was true, but it was still a mistake for McCain [...].

[Britney Spears] has the same strong policy positions as John McCain.

BRITNEY SPEARS: I think we should just trust our president in every decision that he makes.

COLBERT: What a maverick. Of course, they aren't exactly the same. I think Britney knows the difference between Sunnis and Shia. Plus, Britney has got the necessary toughness.

[Also thinks Lieberman is creepy]

McCain may have been a prisoner of war for five years, but Britney was a Mouseketeer. [...] John McCain, because of your own ad your only hope is to accept this nomination while wearing an albino snake. If nothing else, it'll make you look tan.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/10/2014 7:39:38 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday August 10, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday August 10, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

The Atlantic: "Hillary Clinton: 'Failure' to Help Syrian Rebels Led to the Rise of ISIS"

"Clinton responded to this idea with great enthusiasm: "That's how I feel! Maybe this is old-fashioned." And then she seemed to signal that, yes, indeed, she's planning to run for president. "Okay, I feel that this might be an old-fashioned idea, but I'm about to find out, in more ways than one.""

Politico: "Hillary Clinton takes on Obama"

"Hillary Clinton has taken her furthest and most public step away from President Barack Obama, describing his decision against helping build a 'credible' force that could battle the Assad regime in Syria early on as a 'failure.'"

Politico: "Barack Obama rebukes Syrian 'fantasy'"

"The president's interview with op-ed columnist Thomas Friedman, published online Friday, offered an inherent rebuke of Hillary Clinton, whose memoir revealed that the former secretary of state wanted to arm moderate Syrian rebels in the nascent stages of the war. In a newly published interview with The Atlantic given before Obama's interview, Hillary Clinton said the failure to build a strong rebel force against the Assad regime 'left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled.'"

Politico: "Clinton hint at future fuels 2016 talk"

"Hillary Clinton says she expects her view of America's role in the world to be tested in the future 'in more ways than one,' a comment fueling speculation about her presidential ambitions."

Washington Examiner: "Hillary Clinton distances herself from President Obama's foreign policy"

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“Hillary Clinton is stepping away from President Obama on foreign policy."

The Hill: “Hillary Clinton: PR battle 'tilted against' Israel”

“Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ratcheted up her language supporting America's strongest Middle East ally, saying the world opinion is ‘historically tilted against Israel.’”

Articles:

The Atlantic: “Hillary Clinton: 'Failure' to Help Syrian Rebels Led to the Rise of ISIS”

By Jeffrey Goldberg

August 10, 2014, 12:01 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The former secretary of state, and probable candidate for president, outlines her foreign-policy doctrine. She says this about President Obama's: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

President Obama has long-ridiculed the idea that the U.S., early in the Syrian civil war, could have shaped the forces fighting the Assad regime, thereby stopping al Qaeda-inspired groups—like the one rampaging across Syria and Iraq today—from seizing control of the rebellion. In an interview in February, the president told me that “when you have a professional army ... fighting against a farmer, a carpenter, an engineer who started out as protesters and suddenly now see themselves in the midst of a civil conflict—the notion that we could have, in a clean way that didn’t commit U.S. military forces, changed the equation on the ground there was never true.”

Well, his former secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton, isn’t buying it. In an interview with me earlier this week, she used her sharpest language yet to describe the "failure" that resulted from the decision to keep the U.S. on the sidelines during the first phase of the Syrian uprising.

“The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled,” Clinton said.

As she writes in her memoir of her State Department years, Hard Choices, she was an inside-the-administration advocate of doing more to help the Syrian rebellion. Now, her supporters argue, her position has been vindicated by recent events.

Professional Clinton-watchers (and there are battalions of them) have told me that it is only a matter of time before she makes a more forceful attempt to highlight her differences with the (unpopular) president she ran against, and then went on to serve. On a number of occasions during my interview with her, I got the sense that this effort is already underway. (And for what it's worth, I also think she may have told me that she’s running for president—see below for her not-entirely-ambiguous nod in that direction.)

Of course, Clinton had many kind words for the “incredibly intelligent” and “thoughtful” Obama, and she expressed sympathy and understanding for the devilishly complicated challenges he faces. But she also suggested that she finds his approach to foreign policy overly cautious, and she made the case that America needs a leader who believes that the country, despite its various missteps, is an indispensable force for good. At one

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point, I mentioned the slogan President Obama recently coined to describe his foreign-policy doctrine: “Don’t do stupid shit” (an expression often rendered as “Don’t do stupid stuff” in less-than-private encounters).

This is what Clinton said about Obama’s slogan: “Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle.”

She softened the blow by noting that Obama was “trying to communicate to the American people that he’s not going to do something crazy,” but she repeatedly suggested that the U.S. sometimes appears to be withdrawing from the world stage.

During a discussion about the dangers of jihadism (a topic that has her “hepped-up," she told me moments after she greeted me at her office in New York) and of the sort of resurgent nationalism seen in Russia today, I noted that Americans are quite wary right now of international commitment-making. She responded by arguing that there is a happy medium between bellicose posturing (of the sort she associated with the George W. Bush administration) and its opposite, a focus on withdrawal.

“You know, when you’re down on yourself, and when you are hunkering down and pulling back, you’re not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward,” she said. “One issue is that we don’t even tell our own story very well these days.”

I responded by saying that I thought that “defeating fascism and communism is a pretty big deal.” In other words, that the U.S., on balance, has done a good job of advancing the cause of freedom.

Clinton responded to this idea with great enthusiasm: “That’s how I feel! Maybe this is old-fashioned.” And then she seemed to signal that, yes, indeed, she’s planning to run for president. “Okay, I feel that this might be an old-fashioned idea, but I’m about to find out, in more ways than one.”

She said that the resilience, and expansion, of Islamist terrorism means that the U.S. must develop an “overarching” strategy to confront it, and she equated this struggle to the one the U.S. waged against Soviet-led communism.

“One of the reasons why I worry about what’s happening in the Middle East right now is because of the breakout capacity of jihadist groups that can affect Europe, can affect the United States,” she said. “Jihadist groups are governing territory. They will never stay there, though. They are driven to expand. Their raison d’etre is to be against the West, against the Crusaders, against the fill-in-the-blank—and we all fit into one of these categories. How do we try to contain that? I’m thinking a lot about containment, deterrence, and defeat.”

She went on, “You know, we did a good job in containing the Soviet Union but we made a lot of mistakes, we supported really nasty guys, we did some things that we are not particularly proud of, from Latin America to Southeast Asia, but we did have a kind of overarching framework about what we were trying to do that did lead to the defeat of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism. That was our objective. We achieved it.” (This was one of those moments, by the way, when I was absolutely sure I wasn’t listening to President Obama, who is loath to discuss the threat of Islamist terrorism in such a sweeping manner.)

Much of my conversation with Clinton focused on the Gaza war. She offered a vociferous defense of Israel, and of its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, as well. This is noteworthy because, as secretary of state, she spent a lot of time yelling at Netanyahu on the administration's behalf over Israel’s West Bank settlement policy. Now, she is leaving no daylight at all between the Israelis and herself.

“I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the rockets,” she told me. “Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command-and-control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult.”

I asked her if she believed that Israel had done enough to prevent the deaths of children and other innocent people.

“[J]ust as we try to do in the United States and be as careful as possible in going after targets to avoid civilians,” mistakes are made, she said. “We’ve made them. I don’t know a nation, no matter what its values are—and I think that democratic nations have demonstrably better values in a conflict position—that hasn’t made errors, but ultimately the responsibility rests with Hamas.”

She went on to say that “it’s impossible to know what happens in the fog of war. Some reports say, maybe it wasn’t the exact UN school that was

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bombed, but it was the annex to the school next door where they were firing the rockets. And I do think oftentimes that the anguish you are privy to because of the coverage, and the women and the children and all the rest of that, makes it very difficult to sort through to get to the truth."

She continued, "There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict. … So the ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas and the decisions it made."

When I asked her about the intense international focus on Gaza, she was quick to identify anti-Semitism as an important motivating factor in criticism of Israel. "It is striking … that you have more than 170,000 people dead in Syria. … You have Russia massing battalions—Russia, that actually annexed and is occupying part of a UN member-state—and I fear that it will do even more to prevent the incremental success of the Ukrainian government to take back its own territory, other than Crimea. More than 1,000 people have been killed in Ukraine on both sides, not counting the [Malaysia Airlines] plane, and yet we do see this enormous international reaction against Israel, and Israel's right to defend itself, and the way Israel has to defend itself. This reaction is uncalled for and unfair."

She went on, "You can't ever discount anti-Semitism, especially with what's going on in Europe today. There are more demonstrations against Israel by an exponential amount than there are against Russia seizing part of Ukraine and shooting down a civilian airliner. So there's something else at work here than what you see on TV." Clinton also blamed Hamas for "stage-managing" the conflict. "What you see is largely what Hamas invites and permits Western journalists to report on from Gaza. It's the old PR problem that Israel has. Yes, there are substantive, deep levels of antagonism or anti-Semitism towards Israel, because it's a powerful state, a really effective military. And Hamas paints itself as the defender of the rights of the Palestinians to have their own state. So the PR battle is one that is historically tilted against Israel."

Clinton also seemed to take an indirect shot at administration critics of Netanyahu, who has argued that the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in the Middle East means that Israel cannot, in the foreseeable future, withdraw its forces from much of the West Bank. "If I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have control over security, because even if I'm dealing with [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas, who is 79 years old, and other members of Fatah, who are enjoying a better lifestyle and making money on all kinds of things, that does not protect Israel from the influx of Hamas or cross-border attacks from anywhere else. With Syria and Iraq, it is all one big threat. So Netanyahu could not do this in good conscience."

She also struck a notably hard line on Iran's nuclear demands. "I've always been in the camp that held that they did not have a right to enrichment," Clinton said. "Contrary to their claim, there is no such thing as a right to enrich. This is absolutely unfounded. There is no such right. I am well aware that I am not at the negotiating table anymore, but I think it's important to send a signal to everybody who is there that there cannot be a deal unless there is a clear set of restrictions on Iran. The preference would be no enrichment. The potential fallback position would be such little enrichment that they could not break out." When I asked her if the demands of Israel, and of America's Arab allies, that Iran not be allowed any uranium-enrichment capability whatsoever were militant or unrealistic, she said, "I think it's important that they stake out that position."

What follows is a transcript of our conversation. It has been edited for clarity but not for length, as you will see. Two other things to look for: First, the masterful way in which Clinton says she has drawn no conclusions about events in Syria and elsewhere, and then draws rigorously reasoned conclusions. Second, her fascinating and complicated analysis of the Muslim Brotherhood's ill-fated dalliance with democracy.

***

JEFFREY GOLDBERG: It seems that you've shifted your position on Iran's nuclear ambitions. By [chief U.S. negotiator] Wendy Sherman's definition of maximalism, you've taken a fairly maximalist position—little or no enrichment for Iran. Are you taking a harder line than your former colleagues in the Obama administration are taking on this matter?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: It's a consistent line. I've always been in the camp that held that they did not have a right to enrichment. Contrary to their claim, there is no such thing as a right to enrich. This is absolutely unfounded. There is no such right. I am well aware that I am not at the negotiating table anymore, but I think it's important to send a signal to everybody who is there that there cannot be a deal unless there is a clear set of restrictions on Iran. The preference would be no enrichment. The potential fallback position would be such little enrichment that they could not break out. So, little or no enrichment has always been my position.

JG: Am I wrong in saying that the Obama administration's negotiators have a more flexible understanding of this issue at the moment?

HRC: I don't want to speak for them, but I would argue that Iran, through the voice of the supreme leader, has taken a very maximalist position—he wants 190,000 centrifuges and the right to enrich. And some in our Congress, and some of our best friends, have taken the opposite position—absolutely no enrichment. I think in a negotiation you need to be very clear about what it is going to take to move the other side. I think at the moment there is a big debate going on in Tehran about what they can or should do in order to get relief from the sanctions. It's my

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understanding that we still have a united P5+1 position, which is intensive inspections, very clear limits on what they can do in their facilities that they would permitted to operate, and then how they handle this question of enrichment, whether it's done from the outside, or whether it can truly be constrained to meet what I think our standard should be of little-to-no enrichment. That's what this negotiation is about.

JG: But there is no sign that the Iranians are willing to pull back—freezing in place is the farthest they seem to be willing to go. Am I wrong?

HRC: We don't know. I think there's a political debate. I think you had the position staked out by the supreme leader that they're going to get to do what they want to do, and that they don't have any intention of having a nuclear weapon but they nevertheless want 190,000 centrifuges (laughs). I think the political, non-clerical side of the equation is basically saying, "Look, you know, getting relief from these sanctions is economically and politically important to us. We have our hands full in Syria and Iraq, just to name two places, maybe increasingly in Lebanon, and who knows what's going to happen with us and Hamas. So what harm does it do to have a very strict regime that we can live under until we determine that maybe we won't have to any longer?" That, I think, is the other side of the argument.

JG: Would you be content with an Iran that is perpetually a year away from being able to reach nuclear-breakout capability?

HRC: I would like it to be more than year. I think it should be more than year. No enrichment at all would make everyone breathe easier. If, however, they want a little bit for the Tehran research reactor, or a little bit for this scientific researcher, but they'll never go above 5 percent enrichment—

JG: So, a few thousand centrifuges?

HRC: We know what "no" means. If we're talking a little, we're talking about a discrete, constantly inspected number of centrifuges. "No" is my preference.

JG: Would you define what "a little" means?

HRC: No.

JG: So what the Gulf states want, and what the Israelis want, which is to say no enrichment at all, is not a militant, unrealistic position?

HRC: It's not an unrealistic position. I think it's important that they stake out that position.

JG: So, Gaza. As you write in your book, you negotiated the last long-term ceasefire in 2012. Are you surprised at all that it didn't hold?

HRC: I'm surprised that it held as long as it did. But given the changes in the region, the fall of [former Egyptian President Mohamed] Morsi, his replacement by [Abdel Fattah] al-Sisi, the corner that Hamas felt itself in, I'm not surprised that Hamas provoked another attack.

JG: The Israeli response, was it disproportionate?

HRC: Israel was attacked by rockets from Gaza. Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command-and-control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult. Of course Israel, just like the United States, or any other democratic country, should do everything they can possibly do to limit civilian casualties.

JG: Do you think Israel did enough to limit civilian casualties?

HRC: It's unclear. I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the rockets. And there is the surprising number and complexity of the tunnels, and Hamas has consistently, not just in this conflict, but in the past, been less than protective of their civilians.

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JG: Before we continue talking endlessly about Gaza, can I ask you if you think we spend too much time on Gaza and on Israel-Palestine generally? I ask because over the past year or so your successor spent a tremendous amount of time on the Israel-Palestinian file and in the same period of time an al Qaeda-inspired organization took over half of Syria and Iraq.

HRC: Right, right.

JG: I understand that secretaries of state can do more than one thing at a time. But what is the cause of this preoccupation?

HRC: I've thought a lot about this, because you do have a number of conflicts going on right now. As the U.S., as a U.S. official, you have to pay attention to anything that threatens Israel directly, or anything in the larger Middle East that arises out of the Palestinian-Israeli situation. That's just a given.

It is striking, however, that you have more than 170,000 people dead in Syria. You have the vacuum that has been created by the relentless assault by Assad on his own population, an assault that has bred these extremist groups, the most well-known of which, ISIS—or ISIL—is now literally expanding its territory inside Syria and inside Iraq. You have Russia massing battalions—Russia, that actually annexed and is occupying part of a UN member state—and I fear that it will do even more to prevent the incremental success of the Ukrainian government to take back its own territory, other than Crimea. More than 1,000 people have been killed in Ukraine on both sides, not counting the [Malaysia Airlines] plane, and yet we do see this enormous international reaction against Israel, and Israel's right to defend itself, and the way Israel has to defend itself. This reaction is uncalled for and unfair.

JG: What do you think causes this reaction?

HRC: There are a number of factors going into it. You can't ever discount anti-Semitism, especially with what's going on in Europe today. There are more demonstrations against Israel by an exponential amount than there are against Russia seizing part of Ukraine and shooting down a civilian airliner. So there's something else at work here than what you see on TV.

And what you see on TV is so effectively stage-managed by Hamas, and always has been. What you see is largely what Hamas invites and permits Western journalists to report on from Gaza. It's the old PR problem that Israel has. Yes, there are substantive, deep levels of antagonism or anti-Semitism towards Israel, because it's a powerful state, a really effective military. And Hamas paints itself as the defender of the rights of the Palestinians to have their own state. So the PR battle is one that is historically tilted against Israel.

JG: Nevertheless there are hundreds of children—

HRC: Absolutely, and it's dreadful.

JG: Who do you hold responsible for those deaths? How do you parcel out blame?

HRC: I'm not sure it's possible to parcel out blame because it's impossible to know what happens in the fog of war. Some reports say, maybe it wasn't the exact UN school that was bombed, but it was the annex to the school next door where they were firing the rockets. And I do think oftentimes that the anguish you are privy to because of the coverage, and the women and the children and all the rest of that, makes it very difficult to sort through to get to the truth.

There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict and wanted to do so in order to leverage its position, having been shut out by the Egyptians post-Morsi, having been shunned by the Gulf, having been pulled into a technocratic government with Fatah and the Palestinian Authority that might have caused better governance and a greater willingness on the part of the people of Gaza to move away from tolerating Hamas in their midst. So the ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas and the decisions it made.

That doesn't mean that, just as we try to do in the United States and be as careful as possible in going after targets to avoid civilians, that there aren't mistakes that are made. We've made them. I don't know a nation, no matter what its values are—and I think that democratic nations have demonstrably better values in a conflict position—that hasn't made errors, but ultimately the responsibility rests with Hamas.

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JG: Several years ago, when you were in the Senate, we had a conversation about what would move Israeli leaders to make compromises for peace. You've had a lot of arguments with Netanyahu. What is your thinking on Netanyahu now?

HRC: Let's step back. First of all, [former Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhak Rabin was prepared to do so much and he was murdered for that belief. And then [former Israeli Prime Minister] Ehud Barak offered everything you could imagine being given under any realistic scenario to the Palestinians for their state, and [former Palestinian leader Yasir] Arafat walked away. I don't care about the revisionist history. I know that Arafat walked away, okay? Everybody says, "American needs to say something." Well, we said it, it was the Clinton parameters, we put it out there, and Bill Clinton is adored in Israel, as you know. He got Netanyahu to give up territory, which Netanyahu believes lost him the prime ministership [in his first term], but he moved in that direction, as hard as it was.

Bush pretty much ignored what was going on and they made a terrible error in the Palestinian elections [in which Hamas came to power in Gaza], but he did come with the Roadmap [to Peace] and the Roadmap was credible and it talked about what needed to be done, and this is one area where I give the Palestinians credit. Under [former Palestinian Prime Minister] Salam Fayyad, they made a lot of progress.

I had the last face-to-face negotiations between Abbas and Netanyahu. [Secretary of State John] Kerry never got there. I had them in the room three times with [former Middle East negotiator] George Mitchell and me, and that was it. And I saw Netanyahu move from being against the two-state solution to announcing his support for it, to considering all kinds of Barak-like options, way far from what he is, and what he is comfortable with.

Now I put Jerusalem in a different category. That is the hardest issue, Again, based on my experience—and you know, I got Netanyahu to agree to the unprecedented settlement freeze, it did not cover East Jerusalem, but it did cover the West Bank and it was actually legitimate and it did stop new housing starts for 10 months. It took me nine months to get Abbas into the negotiations even after we delivered on the settlement freeze, he had a million reasons, some of them legitimate, some of them the same old, same old.

So what I tell people is, yeah, if I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have control over security [on the West Bank], because even if I'm dealing with Abbas, who is 79 years old, and other members of Fatah, who are enjoying a better lifestyle and making money on all kinds of things, that does not protect Israel from the influx of Hamas or cross-border attacks from anywhere else. With Syria and Iraq, it is all one big threat. So Netanyahu could not do this in good conscience. If this were Rabin or Barak in his place—and I've talked to Ehud about this—they would have to demand a level of security that would be provided by the [Israel Defense Forces] for a period of time. And in my meetings with them I got Abbas to about six, seven, eight years on continued IDF presence. Now he's fallen back to three, but he was with me at six, seven, eight. I got Netanyahu to go from forever to 2025. That's a negotiation, okay? So I know. Dealing with Bibi is not easy, so people get frustrated and they lose sight of what we're trying to achieve here.

JG: You go out of your way in Hard Choices to praise Robert Ford, who recently quit as U.S. ambassador to Syria, as an excellent diplomat. Ford quit in protest and has recently written strongly about what he sees as the inadequacies of Obama administration policy. Do you agree with Ford that we are at fault for not doing enough to build up a credible Syrian opposition when we could have?

HRC: I have the highest regard for Robert. I'm the one who convinced the administration to send an ambassador to Syria. You know, this is why I called the chapter on Syria "A Wicked Problem." I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place.

JG: That's the president's argument, that we wouldn't be in a different place.

HRC: Well, I did believe, which is why I advocated this, that if we were to carefully vet, train, and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army, we would, number one, have some better insight into what was going on on the ground. Two, we would have been helped in standing up a credible political opposition, which would prove to be very difficult, because there was this constant struggle between what was largely an exile group outside of Syria trying to claim to be the political opposition, and the people on the ground, primarily those doing the fighting and dying, who rejected that, and we were never able to bridge that, despite a lot of efforts that Robert and others made.

So I did think that eventually, and I said this at the time, in a conflict like this, the hard men with the guns are going to be the more likely actors in any political transition than those on the outside just talking. And therefore we needed to figure out how we could support them on the ground, better equip them, and we didn't have to go all the way, and I totally understand the cautions that we had to contend with, but we'll never know. And I don't think we can claim to know.

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JG: You do have a suspicion, though.

HRC: Obviously. I advocated for a position.

JG: Do you think we'd be where we are with ISIS right now if the U.S. had done more three years ago to build up a moderate Syrian opposition?

HRC: Well, I don't know the answer to that. I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled.

They were often armed in an indiscriminate way by other forces and we had no skin in the game that really enabled us to prevent this indiscriminate arming.

JG: Is there a chance that President Obama overlearned the lessons of the previous administration? In other words, if the story of the Bush administration is one of overreach, is the story of the Obama administration one of underreach?

HRC: You know, I don't think you can draw that conclusion. It's a very key question. How do you calibrate, that's the key issue. I think we have learned a lot during this period, but then how to apply it going forward will still take a lot of calibration and balancing. But you know, we helped overthrow [Libyan leader Muammar] Qaddafi.

JG: But we didn't stick around for the aftermath.

HRC: Well, we did stick around. We stuck around with offers of money and technical assistance, on everything from getting rid of some of the nasty stuff he left behind, to border security, to training. It wasn't just us, it was the Europeans as well. Some of the Gulf countries had their particular favorites. They certainly stuck around and backed their favorite militias. It is not yet clear how the Libyans themselves will overcome the lack of security, which they inherited from Qaddafi. Remember, they've had two good elections. They've elected moderates and secularists and a limited number of Islamists, so you talk about democracy in action—the Libyans have done it twice—but they can't control the ground. But how can you help when you have so many different players who looted the stuffed warehouses of every kind of weapon from the Qaddafi regime, some of which they're using in Libya, some of which they're passing out around the region?

So you can go back and argue either, we should we have helped the people of Libya try to overthrow a dictator who, remember, killed Americans and did a lot of other bad stuff, or we should have been on the sidelines. In this case we helped, but that didn't make the road any easier in Syria, where we said, "It's messy, it's complicated, we're not sure what the outcome will be." So what I'm hoping for is that we sort out what we have learned, because we've tried a bunch of different approaches. Egypt is a perfect example. The revolution in Tahrir Square was not a Muslim Brotherhood revolution. It was not led by Islamists. They came very late to the party. Mubarak falls and I'm in Cairo a short time after, meeting the leaders of this movement, and I'm saying, "Okay, who's going to run for office? Who's going to form a political party?" and they're saying, "We don't do that, that's not who we are."

And I said that there are only two organized groups in this country, the military and the Muslim Brotherhood, and what we have here is an old lesson that you can't beat somebody with nobody. There was a real opportunity here to, if a group had arisen out of the revolution, to create a democratic Egyptian alternative. Didn't happen. What do we have to think about? In order to do that better, I see a lot of questions that we have to be answering. I don't think we can draw judgments yet. I think we can draw a judgment about the Bush administration in terms of overreach, but I don't know that we can reach a conclusion about underreach.

JG: There is this moment in your book, in which Morsi tells you not to worry about jihadists in the Sinai—he says in essence that now that a Muslim Brotherhood government is in charge, jihadists won't feel the need to continue their campaign. You write that this was either shockingly sinister or shockingly naïve. Which one do you think it was?

HRC: I think Morsi was naïve. I'm just talking about Morsi, not necessarily anyone else in the Muslim Brotherhood. I think he genuinely believed that with the legitimacy of an elected Islamist government, that the jihadists would see that there was a different route to power and influence and would be part of the political process. He had every hope, in fact, that the credible election of a Muslim Brotherhood government would mean the end of jihadist activities within Egypt, and also exemplify that there's a different way to power.

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The debate is between the bin Ladens of the world and the Muslim Brotherhood. The bin Ladens believe you can't overthrow the infidels or the impure through politics. It has to be through violent resistance. So when I made the case to Morsi that we were picking up a lot of intelligence about jihadist groups creating safe havens inside Sinai, and that this would be a threat not only to Israel but to Egypt, he just dismissed this out of hand, and then shortly thereafter a large group of Egyptian soldiers were murdered.

JG: In an interview in 2011, I asked you if we should fear the Muslim Brotherhood—this is well before they came into power—and you said, 'The jury is out." Is the jury still out for you today?

HRC: I think the jury would come back with a lesser included offense, and that is a failure to govern in a democratic, inclusive manner while holding power in Cairo. The Muslim Brotherhood had the most extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate the potential for an Islamist movement to take responsibility for governance, and they were ill-prepared and unable to make the transition from movement to responsibility. We will see how they respond to the crackdown they're under in Egypt, but the Muslim Brotherhood itself, although it had close ties with Hamas, for example, had not evidenced, because they were kept under tight control by Mubarak, the willingness to engage in violent conflict to achieve their goals. So the jury is in on their failure to govern in a way that would win the confidence of the entire Egyptian electorate. The jury is out as to whether they morph into a violent jihadist resistance group.

JG: There's a critique you hear of the Obama administration in the Gulf, in Jordan, in Israel, that it is a sign of naiveté to believe that there are Islamists you can work with, and that Hamas might even be a group that you could work with. Is there a role for political Islam in these countries? Can we ever find a way to work with them?

HRC: I think it's too soon to tell. I would not put Hamas in the category of people we could work with. I don't think that is realistic because its whole reason for being is resistance against Israel, destruction of Israel, and it is married to very nasty tactics and ideologies, including virulent anti-Semitism. I do not think they should be in any way treated as a legitimate interlocutor, especially because if you do that, it redounds to the disadvantage of the Palestinian Authority, which has a lot of problems, but historically has changed its charter, moved away from the kind of guerrilla resistance movement of previous decades.

I think you have to ask yourself, could different leaders have made a difference in the Muslim Brotherhood's governance of Egypt? We won't know and we can't know the answer to that question. We know that Morsi was ill-equipped to be president of Egypt. He had no political experience. He was an engineer, he was wedded to the ideology of top-down control.

JG: But you're open to the idea that there are sophisticated Islamists out there?

HRC: I think you've seen a level of sophistication in Tunisia. It's a very different environment than Egypt, much smaller, but you've seen the Ennahda Party evolve from being quite demanding that their position be accepted as the national position but then being willing to step back in the face of very strong political opposition from secularists, from moderate Muslims, etc. So Tunisia might not be the tail that wags the dog, but it's an interesting tail. If you look at Morocco, where the king had a major role in organizing the electoral change, you have a head of state who is a monarch who is descended from Muhammad, you have a government that is largely but not completely representative of the Muslim party of Morocco. So I think that there are not a lot of analogies, but when you look around the world, there's a Hindu nationalist party now, back in power in India. The big question for Prime Minister Modi is how inclusive he will be as leader because of questions raised concerning his governance of Gujurat [the state he governed, which was the scene of anti-Muslim riots in 2002]. There were certainly Christian parties in Europe, pre- and post-World War II. They had very strong values that they wanted to see their society follow, but they were steeped in democracy, so they were good political actors.

JG: So, it's not an impossibility.

HRC: It's not an impossibility. So far, it doesn't seem likely. We have to say that. Because for whatever reason, whatever combination of reasons, there hasn't been the soil necessary to nurture the political side of the experience, for people whose primary self-definition is as Islamists.

JG: Are we so egocentric, so Washington-centric, that we think that our decisions are dispositive? As secretary, did you learn more about the possibilities of American power or the limitations of American power?

HRC: Both, but it's not just about American power. It's American values that also happen to be universal values. If you have no political—small "p"—experience, it is really hard to go from a dictatorship to anything resembling what you and I would call democracy. That's the lesson of Egypt. We didn't invade Egypt. They did it themselves, and once they did it they looked around and didn't know what they were supposed to do next.

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I think we've learned about the limits of our power to spread freedom and democracy. That's one of the big lessons out of Iraq. But we've also learned about the importance of our power, our influence, and our values appropriately deployed and explained. If you're looking at what we could have done that would have been more effective, would have been more accepted by the Egyptians on the political front, what could we have done that would have been more effective in Libya, where they did their elections really well under incredibly difficult circumstances but they looked around and they had no levers to pull because they had these militias out there. My passion is, let's do some after-action reviews, let's learn these lessons, let's figure out how we're going to have different and better responses going forward.

JG: Is the lesson for you, like it is for President Obama, "Don't do stupid shit"?

HRC: That's a good lesson but it's more complicated than that. Because your stupid may not be mine, and vice versa. I don't think it was stupid for the United States to do everything we could to remove Qaddafi because that came from the bottom up. That was people asking us to help. It was stupid to do what we did in Iraq and to have no plan about what to do after we did it. That was really stupid. I don't think you can quickly jump to conclusions about what falls into the stupid and non-stupid categories. That's what I'm arguing.

JG: Do you think the next administration, whoever it is, can find some harmony between muscular intervention—"We must do something"—vs. let's just not do something stupid, let's stay away from problems like Syria because it's a wicked problem and not something we want to tackle?

HRC: I think part of the challenge is that our government too often has a tendency to swing between these extremes. The pendulum swings back and then the pendulum swings the other way. What I'm arguing for is to take a hard look at what tools we have. Are they sufficient for the complex situations we're going to face, or not? And what can we do to have better tools? I do think that is an important debate.

One of the reasons why I worry about what's happening in the Middle East right now is because of the breakout capacity of jihadist groups that can affect Europe, can affect the United States. Jihadist groups are governing territory. They will never stay there, though. They are driven to expand. Their raison d'être is to be against the West, against the Crusaders, against the fill-in-the-blank—and we all fit into one of these categories. How do we try to contain that? I'm thinking a lot about containment, deterrence, and defeat. You know, we did a good job in containing the Soviet Union, but we made a lot of mistakes, we supported really nasty guys, we did some things that we are not particularly proud of, from Latin America to Southeast Asia, but we did have a kind of overarching framework about what we were trying to do that did lead to the defeat of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism. That was our objective. We achieved it.

Now the big mistake was thinking that, okay, the end of history has come upon us, after the fall of the Soviet Union. That was never true, history never stops and nationalisms were going to assert themselves, and then other variations on ideologies were going to claim their space. Obviously, jihadi Islam is the prime example, but not the only example—the effort by Putin to restore his vision of Russian greatness is another. In the world in which we are living right now, vacuums get filled by some pretty unsavory players.

JG: There doesn't seem to be a domestic constituency for the type of engagement you might symbolize.

HRC: Well, that's because most Americans think of engagement and go immediately to military engagement. That's why I use the phrase "smart power." I did it deliberately because I thought we had to have another way of talking about American engagement, other than unilateralism and the so-called boots on the ground.

You know, when you're down on yourself, and when you are hunkering down and pulling back, you're not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward. One issue is that we don't even tell our own story very well these days.

JG: I think that defeating fascism and communism is a pretty big deal.

HRC: That's how I feel! Maybe this is old-fashioned. Okay, I feel that this might be an old-fashioned idea—but I'm about to find out, in more ways than one.

Great nations need organizing principles, and "Don't do stupid stuff" is not an organizing principle. It may be a necessary brake on the actions you might take in order to promote a vision.

JG: So why do you think the president went out of his way to suggest recently that that this is his foreign policy in a nutshell?

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HRC: I think he was trying to communicate to the American people that he's not going to do something crazy. I've sat in too many rooms with the president. He's thoughtful, he's incredibly smart, and able to analyze a lot of different factors that are all moving at the same time. I think he is cautious because he knows what he inherited, both the two wars and the economic front, and he has expended a lot of capital and energy trying to pull us out of the hole we're in.

So I think that that's a political message. It's not his worldview, if that makes sense to you.

JG: There is an idea in some quarters that the administration shows signs of believing that we, the U.S., aren't so great, so we shouldn't be telling people what to do.

HRC: I know that that is an opinion held by a certain group of Americans, I get all that. It's not where I'm at.

JG: What is your organizing principle, then?

HRC: Peace, progress, and prosperity. This worked for a very long time. Take prosperity. That's a huge domestic challenge for us. If we don't restore the American dream for Americans, then you can forget about any kind of continuing leadership in the world. Americans deserve to feel secure in their own lives, in their own middle-class aspirations, before you go to them and say, "We're going to have to enforce navigable sea lanes in the South China Sea." You've got to take care of your home first. That's another part of the political messaging that you have to engage in right now. People are not only turned off about being engaged in the world, they're pretty discouraged about what's happening here at home.

I think people want—and this is a generalization I will go ahead and make—people want to make sure our economic situation improves and that our political decision-making improves. Whether they articulate it this way or not, I think people feel like we're facing really important challenges here at home: The economy is not growing, the middle class is not feeling like they are secure, and we are living in a time of gridlock and dysfunction that is just frustrating and outraging.

People assume that we're going to have to do what we do so long as it's not stupid, but what people want us to focus on are problems here at home. If you were to scratch below the surface on that—and I haven't looked at the research or the polling—but I think people would say, first things first. Let's make sure we are taking care of our people and we're doing it in a way that will bring rewards to those of us who work hard, play by the rules, and yeah, we don't want to see the world go to hell in a handbasket, and they don't want to see a resurgence of aggression by anybody.

JG: Do you think they understand your idea about expansionist jihadism following us home?

HRC: I don't know that people are thinking about it. People are thinking about what is wrong with people in Washington that they can't make decisions, and they want the economy to grow again. People are feeling a little bit that there's a little bit happening that is making them feel better about the economy, but it's not nearly enough where it should be.

JG: Have you been able to embed your women's agenda at the core of what the federal government does?

HRC: Yes, we did. We had the first-ever ambassador for global women's issues. That's permanent now, and that's a big deal because that is the beachhead.

Secretary Kerry to his credit has issued directions to embassies and diplomats about this continuing to be a priority for our government. There is also a much greater basis in research now that proves you cannot have peace and security without the participation of women. You can't grow your GDP without opening the doors to full participation of women and girls in the formal economy.

JG: There's a link between misogyny and stagnation in the Middle East, which in many ways is the world's most dysfunctional region.

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HRC: It's now very provable, when you look at the data from the IMF and the World Bank and what opening the formal economy would mean to a country's GDP. You have Prime Minister [Shinzo] Abe in Japan who was elected to fix the economy after so many years of dysfunction in Japan, and one of the major elements in his plan is to get women into the workforce. If you do that, if I remember correctly, the GDP for Japan would go up nine percent. Well, it would go up 34 percent in Egypt. So it's self-evident and provable.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton takes on Obama"

By Maggie Haberman

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Hillary Clinton has taken her furthest and most public step away from President Barack Obama, describing his decision against helping build a "credible" force that could battle the Assad regime in Syria early on as a "failure."

In an interview with The Atlantic, she also rejected the core of Obama's self-described foreign policy doctrine and stood firmly with Israel in the Gaza conflict.

The interview was conducted early last week before Obama authorized airstrikes in Iraq, and it is one of the longest Clinton has given on policy since she stepped down as Secretary of State early in 2013. At the end of the week, Obama, in his own one-on-one interview with New York Times columnist Tom Friedman, reiterated his view that early arming of Syrian rebels in that conflict was a "fantasy." He's expressed that view repeatedly over recent months.

The Clinton interview — lengthy and detailed — is consistent with a view of American exceptionalism that she has discussed throughout her book tour this summer.

Syria, where the civil war has contributed to the current conflict in Iraq, was on track to become a clear flash point between Clinton and Obama before she even left the administration. But her comments make clear how much of a divide there is between the two on the topic.

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," Clinton said in the interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg last week, amid images of a world on fire across American television screens.

The temptation will be to characterize Clinton as calibrating against a president whose poll numbers are sinking and as a the globe has plunged into chaos, with a downed jet in Ukraine and the U.S. pulled back into military action in Iraq, where Islamic State fighters have gained strength and where conflict has threatened Kurdish allies of the U.S.. And there is no question she is making these remarks as Obama's agenda is being dictated by world events, and as critics are questioning his goal of trying to minimize U.S. intervention overseas.

His foreign policy doctrine as a whole has been slammed by his critics as too timid, too slow to respond, too passive instead of proactive.

Yet the reality is that Clinton has always been more of a hawk than Obama, and the interview is less about her triangulating away from him than talking about her views on policy. For an almost-certain presidential candidate who has viewed the world through a different lens than the president and whose aides have insisted she is being blunter about her views than the canned version of herself in the 2008 presidential campaign, the separation from him was, as Goldberg himself notes, only a matter of time.

A recent POLITICO battleground poll showed Clinton's own numbers as Secretary of State have taken a hit, coming after months of Republican focus on Benghazi but also as international events have dominated the news.

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On Obama's self-described foreign policy doctrine — "Don't do stupid shit," or "Don't do stupid stuff," if, as Goldberg noted, uttered in public — Clinton was blunt: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle. … I think he was trying to communicate to the American people that he's not going to do something crazy. I've sat in too many rooms with the president. He's thoughtful, he's incredibly smart, and able to analyze a lot of different factors that are all moving at the same time. I think he is cautious because he knows what he inherited, both the two wars and the economic front, and he has expended a lot of capital and energy trying to pull us out of the hole we're in."

She added, "I think that that's a political message. It's not his worldview, if that makes sense to you."

On the question of the raging conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, she said, " If I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have control over security [on the West Bank], because even if I'm dealing with [Mahmoud] Abbas, who is 79 years old, and other members of Fatah, who are enjoying a better lifestyle and making money on all kinds of things, that does not protect Israel from the influx of Hamas or cross-border attacks from anywhere else."

A source familiar with the interview said Clinton's team gave the White House a warning that it had taken place. Clinton aides would not explain the timing, other than describing the interview as one intended to promote her book, "Hard Choices." It may not have been a specific effort to escape from the creeping shadow of global chaos that has stretched over the White House, but it will be viewed that way.

Still, the comments were with a columnist who is widely viewed as the pre-eminent voice of the moderate-right foreign policy establishment.

And Clinton did not denounce the president - she made clear she "advocated" for arming the Syrian rebels, but acknowledged there was no way to know with absolute certainty whether it would have made a difference.

"I did believe, which is why I advocated this, that if we were to carefully vet, train, and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army, we would, number one, have some better insight into what was going on on the ground," she said.

"Two, we would have been helped in standing up a credible political opposition, which would prove to be very difficult, because there was this constant struggle between what was largely an exile group outside of Syria trying to claim to be the political opposition, and the people on the ground, primarily those doing the fighting and dying, who rejected that, and we were never able to bridge that. … So I did think that eventually, and I said this at the time, in a conflict like this, the hard men with the guns are going to be the more likely actors in any political transition than those on the outside just talking. And therefore we needed to figure out how we could support them on the ground, better equip them, and we didn't have to go all the way, and I totally understand the cautions that we had to contend with, but we'll never know. And I don't think we can claim to know."

The topic of Syria has been fraught between the Clintons and Obama for much of the last 18 months. At a closed-press event for Sen. John McCain's institute last year, as POLITICO first reported, Bill Clinton, in a question-and-answer session with the senator, said that Obama should act more forcefully to help the Syrian rebels and that any president risked looking like a "total fool" if they over learned from public opinion polls.

With Goldberg, Hillary Clinton pushed back when he asked whether Obama could be accused of "underreaching" in his foreign policy approach.

"You know, I don't think you can draw that conclusion," she said. "It's a very key question. How do you calibrate, that's the key issue. I think we have learned a lot during this period, but then how to apply it going forward will still take a lot of calibration and balancing."

Still, over the last 18 months, Clinton has crept around the edges of separation from the unpopular president in whose Cabinet she served, but the interview marks the most declarative daylight between them. Clinton discussed the suggested plan to arm Syrian rebels, an idea she and then-CIA head Gen. David Petraeus both pushed, as one of the fights she'd lost internally.

But now she is using the word "failure," a pointed description that, according to several people familiar with her thinking, dovetails with her frustration with the administration in recent months.

A number of Democrats have privately insisted for months that while they expected Clinton to move away from Obama on the margins of foreign policy, it would be risky to separate too broadly. That risk? Affronting Democrats who did not support her in the 2008 presidential primary against Obama, and whose backing she'll need.

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Clinton pointed to growing anti-Semitism in Europe as she defended Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and said, “I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the rockets. … Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command-and-control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult.”

Her successor, Secretary of State John Kerry, was caught on a hot mic on “Fox News Sunday” appearing to criticize Netanyahu’s description of the Gaza operation as “pinpoint,” given the number of civilian casualties.

“I don’t know a nation, no matter what its values are — and I think that democratic nations have demonstrably better values in a conflict position — that hasn’t made errors, but ultimately the responsibility rests with Hamas,” said Clinton.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict. … So the ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas and the decisions it made.”

Yet, Clinton has clearly decided that she disagrees with Obama on specific issues, and that the greater danger is in silence.

Poll after poll has shown that the American public has little stomach for conflict abroad, or for engaging U.S. troops in drawn-out battles.

When Goldberg noted that she “symbolizes” a type of foreign policy engagement that has dwindled in popularity in the U.S., Clinton said, “That’s because most Americans think of engagement and go immediately to military engagement. That’s why I use the phrase ‘smart power.’ I did it deliberately because I thought we had to have another way of talking about American engagement, other than unilateralism and the so-called boots on the ground.”

She added, “You know, when you’re down on yourself, and when you are hunkering down and pulling back, you’re not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward. One issue is that we don’t even tell our own story very well these days.”

Goldberg said he considers defeating communism and fascism to be “a big deal,” to which Clinton exclaimed, “That’s how I feel! Maybe this is old-fashioned. OK, I feel that this might be an old-fashioned idea — but I’m about to find out, in more ways than one.”

Goldberg interpreted that declaration from Clinton as essentially a statement of candidacy. Clinton has made similar asides in other interviews, but reading the tea leaves about whether she is going to run sort of misses the point — everything in her actions suggests she already is.

Politico: “Barack Obama rebukes Syrian ‘fantasy’”

By Nick Gass

August 10, 2014, 12:48 p.m. EDT

In a wide-ranging interview with The New York Times, President Barack Obama defended his administration’s foreign-policy approach in the Middle East. In Syria, Obama said the idea that arming rebels would have made a difference has “always been a fantasy.”

The president’s interview with op-ed columnist Thomas Friedman, published online Friday, offered an inherent rebuke of Hillary Clinton, whose memoir revealed that the former secretary of state wanted to arm moderate Syrian rebels in the nascent stages of the war. In a newly published interview with The Atlantic given before Obama’s interview, Hillary Clinton said the failure to build a strong rebel force against the Assad regime “left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled.”

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The president, though not mentioning his former secretary of state by name, said such a plan was unlikely to work and was never going to happen.

"This idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards," the president said.

When asked to explain the U.S. military response to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the mountains of northern Iraq, Obama said there's "an obligation" to prevent genocide of the Yazidis at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Obama repeated the line that he doesn't want the U.S. to become the Kurdish air force, adding that it's up to Iraqis to unify and maintain a stable government.

"We're not going to let [ISIL] create some caliphate through Syria and Iraq, but we can only do that if we know that we've got partners on the ground who are capable of filling the void," Obama said.

Politico: "Clinton hint at future fuels 2016 talk"

By Katie Glueck

August 10, 2014, 1:05 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton says she expects her view of America's role in the world to be tested in the future "in more ways than one," a comment fueling speculation about her presidential ambitions.

In a wide-ranging foreign policy interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg the former secretary of state and possible Democratic presidential frontrunner agreed with Goldberg when he said that America's defeat of "fascism and communism is a pretty big deal."

"That's how I feel! Maybe this is old-fashioned," she said, adding, "Okay, I feel that this might be an old-fashioned idea, but I'm about to find out, in more ways than one."

In Goldberg's view, that was a likely nod at a 2016 run.

But Clinton — who has been on tour promoting "Hard Choices," her new memoir about her time at the State Department — has in other interviews made similar comments about her future, though nothing concrete about a White House run.

She also has indulged "hypothetical" questions about what a secretary of state would bring to the presidency.

A spokesman for Clinton did not immediately respond Sunday to an emailed request for comment on her statement.

Washington Examiner: "Hillary Clinton distances herself from President Obama's foreign policy"

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By Rebecca Berg

August 10, 2014, 1:12 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is stepping away from President Obama on foreign policy.

The likely Democratic presidential candidate is distancing herself more sharply than ever before from some important facets of President Obama's foreign policy that evolved under her watch as secretary of state.

That includes calling the administration's lack of engagement in Syria a "failure" and questioning Obama's guiding doctrine.

In an interview with the Atlantic magazine published Sunday, Clinton diverged notably from her public record of support for decisions made by the White House during her tenure, as she acknowledged key areas of disagreement between her and President Obama.

Indeed, Clinton outright dismissed President Obama's guiding doctrine on foreign policy, characterized repeatedly in media reports as, "Don't do stupid stuff," rejecting that it could even be considered an "organizing principle."

“Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle," Clinton said.

But, she qualified, "I think that that's a political message. It’s not [Obama's] worldview."

"I think he was trying to communicate to the American people that he’s not going to do something crazy," Clinton said, adding that she considers Obama "incredibly smart" and "thoughtful."

Still, Clinton was willing to offer up her own organizing principle: "Peace, progress, and prosperity."

Clinton also used strikingly harsh language — including the word "failure" — to assess the administration's efforts to prevent the growth of ISIS, the jihadist group with roots in Syria which is now driving conflict, and threatening genocide, in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

The United States has responded within the past week with airstrikes and relief drops. But, Clinton said, the current situation might have been prevented had the U.S. aided groups fighting the oppressive government led by President Bashar Assad, a position Obama opposed.

"I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," Clinton said.

Clinton's remarks hint at a political conundrum she would face should she run for president. While her tenure as secretary of state would be central to her claim to the presidency, Clinton will also need to tactfully create separation between her individual role and the administration for which she worked, which has been dogged by low approval ratings and could be a drag on her bid.

Clinton is currently wrapping up a nationwide tour to promote her memoir, Hard Choices, which detailed her tenure as secretary of state. She plans to spend the last three weeks of August in the Hamptons with former President Clinton.

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The Hill: "Hillary Clinton: PR battle 'tilted against' Israel"

By Jesse Byrnes

August 10, 2014, 1:34 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ratcheted up her language supporting America's strongest Middle East ally, saying the world opinion is "historically tilted against Israel."

Clinton said this week in a sweeping interview published in The Atlantic on Sunday that the nearly month-long conflict in Gaza has been "effectively stage-managed" by the terrorist group Hamas.

"It's the old PR problem that Israel has," Clinton said. "Yes, there are substantive, deep levels of antagonism or anti-Semitism towards Israel, because it's a powerful state, a really effective military. And Hamas paints itself as the defender of the rights of the Palestinians to have their own state."

"So the PR battle is one that is historically tilted against Israel," she added.

Since fighting began July 8, more than 1,900 Palestinians and 67 Israelis have been killed, many on the Palestinian side being civilians, according to The Associated Press. Thousands have been wounded.

"There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict" for political leverage, Clinton said, noting the difficulty placing blame for civilian deaths in the "fog of war."

"The ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas and the decisions it made," she said, later adding, "I would not put Hamas in the category of people we could work with."

Clinton, who in her book Hard Choices touts her diplomatic work securing the last long-term cease-fire in 2012, noted that her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who is "adored in Israel," got Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to give up territory and highlighted her own ability to work with the Israeli leader.

"Dealing with Bibi is not easy, so people get frustrated and they lose sight of what we're trying to achieve here," she said.

When asked why Secretary of State John Kerry had spent so much time focusing on the Israel-Palestinian situation while Islamic extremists captured large portions of Iraq and Syria, Clinton was frank on the U.S. commitment to Israel.

"As the U.S., as a U.S. official, you have to pay attention to anything that threatens Israel directly, or anything in the larger Middle East that arises out of the Palestinian-Israeli situation. That's just a given," she said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

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- August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)
- August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)
- August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)
- September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/26/2008 4:50:17 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/26/08

Main Topics: McSame, McDifferent, Nuclear Power, Oil

Summary of Shift: Foreign policy was the word, today began with an address from President Bush announcing the easing of sanctions on North Korea. This prompted some discussion of the candidates' foreign policy strategies and abilities as well as the obligatory comparisons to Bush. The Supreme Court ruled the DC gun ban unconstitutional. Fires continue in California and rains fall in Missouri, worsening the situation there.

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: McCain is "aggressive," more of a neocon than Bush, "more confrontational" than Bush
2. Romney interviews
   a. CNN: Romney talks McCain and partisanship, state of the Republican Party
   b. FNC: Romney talks McCain on Korea and drilling
   c. MSNBC: Romney on energy and green technology
3. MSNBC Shrum: McCain has the style of Dole and the substance of Bush
4. FNC: Nancy Pfotenhauer talks McCain, oil and energy
5. ABC: Religion and politics examined, McCain's pastor problems highlighted
6. CNN: McCain is computer illiterate, importance of president and internet examined

Local Highlights:

7. KTNV ABC NV: Protestors dog McCain in Nevada

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain is "Aggressive," More of a Neocon than Bush, "More Confrontational" than Bush (MSNBC 06/26/08 7:39am)
RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE: We've just seen a step forward in North Korea. We have a presidential campaign in which this is a big, big difference between the two candidates.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: you are exactly right, I mean John McCain's position is even tougher than, I don't know if you'd say more conservative but it's more of a neocon approach than even George W. Bush's . . .

HOLBROOKE: You just made a very important point for the voters . . . I've been taking the McCain positions and the Obama positions and looking at them and what's really interesting is that McCain, on issue after issue, McCain is taking positions tougher than Bush, there's kind of an aggressive. He knows his issues but—on Russia, he wants to kick Russia out of the G8. You can't do that. On Iran he says the only thing worse than war with Iran is a nuclear Iran. On Iraq we know his positions. He is taking very, very hard line positions.

SCARBOROUGH: Let's underline this point right now . . . John McCain's positions are even further, let's say more confrontational than Bush's. There is a greater distance between Obama and McCain than Obama and Bush.

Highlight #2
Romney Talks McCain and Partisanship, State of Republican Party (CNN, 06/25/08, 7:24am)
JOHN ROBERTS: John McCain is launching a new line of attack this morning, his campaign released a memo just a couple of hours ago saying, Barack Obama has consistently put his party and his own self interests ahead of the nation. This comes after Karl Rove said that the democratic candidate was quote "arrogant".

[…]

MITT ROMNEY: […] The fact, and reality is that he's not a very experienced person. He's not someone who has shown, if you will, the kind of leadership that I think America needs right now in such a critical time. He has consistently voted with his party on the most partisan issues and put his party's and his personal interests ahead of those of the nation. And I think been unable during his career, at any time, to reach across the aisle, find compromise, find ways to get things done, other than simply toeing the party line. I think people feel we've had too much of that in Washington and that's in part why I think John McCain will be successful. His reputation and record is as a leader, who reaches across the line, sometimes, you know, he's thumbed his nose at his own party

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and said, look you guys are wrong. He does what he thinks is right.

[…]

ROMNEY: John, there's no question there are a number of republicans, and that's John McCain included, who are willing to reach across the aisle and work with democrats. […]

ROBERTS: You know, there's an interesting column that Robert Novak has got out there today. He's talking about this group of people called the Obama-cons, conservatives who may support Barack Obama. And he suggests that Senator John McCain is at risk of losing some conservative votes, not necessarily because they agree with Senator Obama's positions, but because they do not like the Bush administration and they are looking for something different. And he quotes a conservative, Larry Hunter, who says quote, "The Republican party is a dead rotting carcass with a few decrepit old leaders stumbling around like zombies in a horror version of weekend with Bernie, handcuffed to a corpse." Do you agree with any of that? Is that what the Republican party is these days?

ROMNEY: Gee, I don't think so. You know you're going to find some discontents in any party. And are there things that our party could do better? Absolutely. And are there opportunities for new ideas and strong leadership? Absolutely. And I think John McCain represents that. At the same time, I think you're finding in our party that people are rallying strongly around Senator McCain. I've had the chance to speak now at convention in Maine, Nevada, and frankly all over the country, Texas. And people are enthusiastic about Senator McCain, in party because they recognize how critical the times are right now and how wrong Barack Obama is. Look, he's a very nice fellow, but on the issues of the day he's just simply wrong. […]

Romney Talks McCain on Korea and Oil Drilling/Energy (FNC, 06/25/08, 7:57am)
[…]

BRIAN KILMEADE: Governor, when you talk about six party talks, there's a lot of people who think that we should not have been in them, there's a lot of democrats in particular that say, let's just go and talk to our enemies. Does John McCain subscribe to the six party talks? I know you're also a worker, trying to get John McCain in that White House.

MITT ROMNEY: Well, Senator McCain recognizes that in order for us to make progress in negotiations diplomatically with other nations, we have to strength at our side. That when you bargain with a position of strength, that when you have leverage, you're able to get more done. When you're dealing with a nation like Iran for instance, that it's critical to have Europe combined with us, in putting in place the kind of sanctions to get Iran to move. And the same is true in regards to North Korea. You have to have our friends around the world, and even some of those, if you will, are partners with the same interests, come in together and put in pressure on a regime like Kim Jong Il's regime. The idea of just showing up and saying, hey let's talk, no preconditions, no pressure, no leverage, that's something that accomplished virtually nothing. I think history has shown that where that was done, America's interests were not advanced.

CLAYTON MORRIS: Governor, you just mentioned leverage, the President mentioning leverage in asking how it was actually working in North Korea and he said you had to do it with leverage. John McCain in an interview about a week ago said, he didn't think the United States had sufficient leverage. Where's the disconnect there between John McCain and the Bush White House?

ROMNEY: Well, actually I don't think it's a disconnect. The President indicated that the United States alone doesn't have the kind of leverage on a nation like North Korea that the United States has if we're combined with Russia, and South Korea, and China, and Japan. And particularly China, 2/3rds of the trade that goes on in North Korea goes on with China. And so when China sits at the table, which they did last Fall. Which they're saying you know, we're going to pull back on our shipments of gasoline into North Korea. That's a message that's heard loud and clear by Kim Jong Il.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: Governor, I want to ask you a quick question, this of course was breaking news this morning, but I do want to ask you about the gas situation in the United States. Because, it's interesting to watch our political season this year, who would have known that this would become the hot topic now. You would like to point out that you feel that John McCain and Senator Barack Obama have very differing plans when it comes to how to control high gas prices.

ROMNEY: Well, there's no question about that. Barack Obama I think, pretty consistently through his career has proven that he puts the partisan interests of the left-wing of the Democratic party first. And with regards to energy, that means he has to be, and he is, anti-nuclear power. He stands in favor of putting a new tax on coal

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and natural gas, those are of course the two big domestic sources of energy that we have to tap into. He's against offshore drilling, ANWR drilling, and so forth. John McCain, on the other hand , is saying look, we got to get ourselves off of our dependence on foreign sources of energy. And so John McCain is saying, look, let's explore drilling offshore, let's think again about ANWR. Let's certainly fast-track nuclear power plants. Everybody agrees we ought to have all of the renewable sources of energy that we can. Solar, wind power, agriculturally based sources of energy. We all agree on that. But we also need those additional sources, which John McCain supports and of course, Barack Obama, unwilling to part with the partisan part of his party. He's unwilling to take those steps.

Romney on Energy and Green Technology (MSNBC 06/26/08 8:03am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: . . . you're a Michigan guy. Tell me, why can't Americans make a car like Toyota that gets fifty miles to the gallon?

MITT ROMNEY: It's one of the great imponderables . . . we have been so far behind on the technology front . . . and I'd like to see us as a nation invest dramatically more in terms of energy efficiency. That's something I think you're going to see coming out of a McCain White House . . . investments in technology to help us become energy independent.

[. . .]

ROMNEY: We haven't had an energy policy. We haven't been investing in technology to find new sources of energy . . . we got to be far more committed to spending the research dollars it takes to find new sources of energy . . . we can do that and that's why I'm convinced that John McCain's right. We need more drilling, more nuclear power, clean burning coal, you need all of the sources that really have great promise for us to finally get us energy indepndent.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: But doesn't he need to demand it? . . . at this point I think that the criticism has been that there hasn't been real leadership on this issue? . . . what does John McCain need to do to really draw the line on this?

[. . .]

ROMNEY: Well, I think you're going to see over the course of this campaign that people are going to listen to both candidates and people are going to make their assessment as to what they really think about the candidates when they've heard from them. And this is a little early and I think with time . . . people are going to recognize the Barack Obama consistently puts the partisan interests of his party and his own personal interests . . . ahead of the country.

Highlight #3
Shrum: McCain has the Style of Dole and the Substance of Bush (MSNBC 06/26/08 7:12am)
BOB SHRUM: And I'm not sure so far that John McCain has shown he's a much better candidate than President Ford was.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Really?

SHRUM: Right now, John McCain, who I said was the strongest Republican nominee . . . is coming across as a combination, stylistically, of Bob Dole, and, substanitvaly, of George Bush.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: That's how I see.

SCARBOROUGH: What's happened to him?

SHRUM: . . . they had three or four months where they had the nomination consolidated and they didn't seem to do anything with it. They didn't seem to come up with a long-term game plan. They didn't seem to come up with a big positive argument about how he does represent change. Maybe he is just so determined to spend his time talking about the Iraq War, talking about international policy, not really addressing the economy and placating the Republican base that he's never going to do it.

SCARBOROUGH: But as long as the news is good out of Iraq, which it has been, at least over the last couple weeks . . . Americans don't care about Iraq, they don't want to hear about Iraq. . .

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Highlight #4
Pfotenhauer Talks McCain and Oil and Energy (FNC, 06/25/08, 8:51am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: First off, Nancy, you're getting a lot of grief foe, according to Barack Obama, Senator McCain's getting some grief because he used the term "psychological effect" when it comes to drilling at home, not a financial effect.

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well that just reveals ignorance of the future markets. I mean on the one hand, people complain about speculators, on the other hand Obama wants to dismiss the role that they play on oil prices. So, when we announce that we are no longer going to be relying on foreign sources for our oil , and that we're going to take our destiny into our own hands, if you will, by increasing domestic production. That sends an immediate signal to the market, and the market reacts very very quickly. Also, Obama people, and Obama himself would like you to believe that it's going to be about a decade before we actually see oil out of the ground. They exaggerate that by about twice as long as what we've heard it to be. So about 5 years until we see that oil actually come online, but an immediate short term effect on prices is absolutely possible.

Pfotenhauer Talks McCain and Oil and Energy Cont. (FNC, 6/25/08, 9:03am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: McCain yesterday did say that he's setting a goal of weaning the U.S. off of foreign oil by 2025. Sounds like a long way off, but it's really not, right?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: It's not, you know, and if I can just say that this is really emblematic of Senator McCain. He's the type of person who has always put his country first and has been willing to take on controversial issues when they were essential to ensuring our prosperity and our peace. And this is very emblematic of him. I have to say, I think it is also emblematic of Senator Obama's unwillingness to ever break with his party leadership, to do something that is difficult but in our country's interest. And you see, he has no short term policy solutions, because he would alienate the left, the hard left part of his base.

BRIAN KILMEADE: Will you confirm some reports that say that the Senator is revisiting ANWR and might consider supporting drilling there?

PFOTENHAUER: I can't confirm that, I certainly have not heard anything along those lines.

Highlight #5
Religion and Politics Examined, McCain's Pastor Problems Highlighted (ABC, 06/25/08, 7:16am)
DAN ABRAMS: So why is religion playing such a combustible role in this election? In part, some observers say, because we have an unusual situation where the democrat seems more comfortable talking about his faith than the republican. Obama is trying to turn that to his advantage by aggressively courting evangelicals.

[…]

ABRAMS: It's worth noting that John McCain has had pastor problems too. Choosing to renounce endorsements from John Hagee and Rob Parsley after their controversial comments came to light.

ROD PARSLEY: Islam is an anti-Christ religion.

ABRAMS: At this point John McCain has a solid lead among evangelical voters, but some observers believe that Obama may have a real shot at peeling off some moderates. Which is why you can expect Obama to keep emphasizing his faith, despite Robin, what we've seen to be the obvious risks of this strategy.

Highlight #6
McCain is Computer Illiterate, Importance of President and Internet Examined (CNN, 06/25/08, 6:55am)
JOHN ROBERTS: It turns out that the man who could be our next president is far from computer savvy.

[…]

JEANE MOOS: We don't expect the president to be the Liberace of the keyboard. But still, should the next President of the United States know how to work a computer?

CHILD: I mean, yeah, I guess so, it would be helpful. Why not?

MOOS: Ask John McCain. Here's how he describes his computer skills.

JOHN MCCAIN: I am an illiterate that has to rely on my wife for all of the assistance that I can get.

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ANNONYMOUS: Oh that's absolutely ridiculous. It's the 21st Century and you should know how to do it. He's got people to do that! He's got to be thinking of more important things.

MOOS: While Cindy McCain's been spotted scrolling her blackberry. John McCain tends to be handed a blackberry to talk on. Barack Obama on the other hand is one of those guys so intent on reading his blackberry that he could run into something. He is a blackberry fiend, says his spokesperson, has a laptop on the road and sometimes uses it to talk to his daughters, and surfs the web when he is in need of important information such as sports scores. A far cry from this guy [Bush]

GEORGE BUSH: I hear there's rumors on the internets. And on of the things I've used on the Google is […]

MOOS: Just the other day President Bush did it again.

BUSH: They can go on their computers and dial up volunteer.org .

MOOS: At least John McCain isn't still dialing up, he knows to leave off the "the". But McCain's admission that he was computer illiterate was fodder for debate at something called the Personal Democracy Forum. The online expert who had worked for John Edwards got into it with the internet expert for the McCain campaign. […] But when McCain's guy said this, "John McCain is aware of the internet" became a joke on the internet. But do we really want a president that sits around the oval office googling all day? This 74 year old likes to Google.

74 YEAR OLD WOMAN: I mean this is such an easy thing to learn, I taught myself how to use the computer.

MOOS: At least John McCain knows the difference between a laptop and a lap dance. Even if jokers made a mockup of McCain's real website with "How does this thing work?" and "Should I double click here?"

Local Highlight #1
STEVE WOLFORD: Along with supporters, there were also a number of protestors at UNLV for McCain's visit. A group of disabled veterans asked McCain to "walk the walk" by supporting the troops and green energy to create jobs in Nevada.

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From: "Rabbi Michael Lerner" <rabbilerner@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 11/9/2015 2:22:58 AM
Subject: Obama & Netanyahu

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Obama & Netanyahu's "Make Nice" Meeting: Bad for Peace, Bad for Israel

By Rabbi Michael Lerner

When Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Obama meet in the White House today, their goal will be to make amends in light of Netanyahu's unprecedented attempts to manipulate the U.S. Congress and the American public into opposition to the Iran Nuclear deal negotiated by six countries including the U.S.

But instead of Netanyahu repenting for what he has done and now agreeing to support the deal, the chutzpah-filled leader of Israel will seek new military weaponry from the U.S. and Obama has already made clear that he will be agreeing to new advanced military weapons. The Israelis seek U.S. weapons that will allow them to blast through the mountains under which some of Iran's peaceful-use nuclear energy has been developed. Their stated reason: to provide them with a way to strike at Iran should they determine that the terms of the nuclear deal be violated by Iran.

This is bad news for peace. The likely scenario that will result once Israel ahs this technology is not hard to imagine. Israel wlll wait till after the 2016 elections, and then sometime in the following two years strike at Iranian sites where Iran is developing nuclear capacities for peaceful usage. It will use the new weapons to destroy those sites where Israel "suspects" that this is happening, and announce that it has classified information that proves to them that these sites violated the deal and that it had to strike in order to protects its own security.

Iran might plausibly be expected to strike back at Israel, and the U.S. would soon be pulled into yet another Middle East War (hopefully by that time the U.S. will have already defeated ISIL, ISIS, the Islamic State). Israel could then sit back and watch the U.S. attempt to destroy much of Iranian society, as it did with Iraq. There is no potential Democratic or Republican nominee for President willing to say that s/he would not be dragged into such a war.

Netanyahu, to sweeten the package, will likely announce some "confidence building measures" that might reduce tensions with the Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation. Perhaps he will announce a partial freeze on new construction of housing for Israeli settlers in Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank, or perhaps a reduction in the number of check points through which Palestinians must pass to go from one Palestinian town to another in the Occupied Territories. While this might play well with the U.S. media, most of the rest of the world, not to mention the Palestinian people, understand these as token gestures that mean very little. Palestinians are not seeking a slightly less oppressive Occupation—they want an end to this 48 year Occupation. Think of this as more analogous to Jefferson David, head of the Confederacy during the U.S. civil war 1861-65 announcing that the Confederate states had decided to give all slaves a full day and a half off of work every week. But the slaves wanted emancipation and freedom, not a slightly better work schedule as slaves. The anger and outrage that burst into public view with the recent (and in my mind quite tragic) slaying of some Israeli citizens by random Palestinians (and a far greater number of Palestinians in response by Israel) will likely reappear periodically until the

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Occupation itself ends. Yet Prime Minister Netanyahu won reelection by promising the Israeli public that he would not allow a Palestinian state to emerge under his rule, which can continue for another 4.5 years.

So why doesn't Obama make the ending of the Occupation a condition for delivering these new weapons to Israel? The more cynical answer is that he is concerned to prevent losses to the Democratic Party in the next election that might come from some section of American Jews defecting toward Republicans who would certainly denounce such a demand. Others believe that some Democrats who supported the Iranian nuclear deal only did so once Obama promised these weapons to Israel, and they might join Republicans in undermining the deal should Obama stand up for an end to the Occupation.

But an equally persuasive analysis points to Obama's consistent refusal to stand for any principle in a principled way. One day he speaks for environmental sanity at the U.N. but only after opening the Arctic to new drilling for oil and gas, then cancels the pipeline from Canada on the grounds of his caring about the environment but then reveals the terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership that will give multinational corporations the ability to sue any country that is imposing environmental restrictions that might cut into their profits. It has been this way on every important issue, from health care to ending U.S. wars to challenging America's economic elites—one step forward and one step back. Some dare call this his wimpy-ness, others his psychological background that makes him want to please everyone (and ending up pleasing very very few). But whatever the reasons, the upshot is bad for the world, and in this case, bad for Israel (which really needs peace rather than the U.S. being an enabler for further conflict with Israel's neighbors), the Palestinians, and for the American people.

If Obama had any backbone or self-respect, here's what he'd do: 1. Publicly present the U.S. plan for what a peace agreement should look like--one like that proposed by Tikkun which provides for significant compromises on both sides but also provides both sides with adequate security from the extremists on the other side, and equal dignity and national self-determination. That might be a valuable step for a President who bemoans the inability to control the gun lobby in the U.S. but in true hypocritical fashion supplies the rest of the world with armaments that are used against civilians 2. Tell Netanyahu that the U.S. is not going to deliver any new military hardware till Israel stops all expansion of settlements and begins the process of dismantling the mechanisms of the Occupation of the West Bank 3. That the U.S. will support full Palestinian membership in the U.N. and 4. That the U.S. will not do business with or buy products from any of the West Bank Israeli settlements or any company helping Israel enforce or extend the Israeli West Bank settlements.

Of course, Obama doesn't have the backbone to do any of this. No wonder, then, that Netanyahu can insult Obama, have members of his cabinet say that Obama is an anti-Semite, come to the U.S. and do something no other foreign leader has ever done (namely, try to go over the head of the President to manipulate the Congress and the public into supporting what Israel wants even though what they wanted was insane from the standpoint of global nuclear security), and then, when he fails to torpedo the Iran nuclear deal, comes here and demands a reward of more military hardware so that Obama can "prove" that he isn't anti-Israel.

Yet this most arrogant behavior is only possible because Obama won't stand up for the best interests of Israel and the U.S.--namely, ending the Occupation (and hence the struggle between Israel and Palestine) and using our economic and diplomatic power to achieve that goal. This weakness makes Obama an enabler of the Middle East's neighborhood bully. Yet we know that bullies do not have a long shelf-life, which is why we Jews who want Israel to survive would appreciate a US President who could use all the tools the most powerful country in the world has at its disposal to reverse Israeli policy before it creates a global consensus that Israel should not be permitted to exist--something we do not want to see happen!

[If you like this perspective, help us continue to promote this approach--join our interfaith and secular-humanist welcoming Network of Spiritual Progressives at www.spiritualprogressives.org/join, subscribe to Tikkun magazine, or make a tax-deductible contribution to Tikkun, 2342 Shattuck Ave, #1200, Berkeley, Ca. 94704.

Rabbi Michael Lerner is editor of Tikkun Magazine, winner of the mainstream media's Religion Newswriters Association "Best Magazine of the Year" Award in 2014 and again in 2015 (www.tikkun.org). He is also chair of the interfaith and secular-humanist-welcoming Network of Spiritual Progressives, and author of 11 books including the national best seller *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back our Country from the Religious Right*, *Jewish Renewal: A Path to Healing and Transformation*, *The Politics of Meaning*, and most recently *Embracing Israel and Palestine*.

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From: "Eddie Vale" <evale@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/16/2008 4:00:52 AM
Subject: [big campaign] PMUSA Helps McCain's Advisors Fill Out Their Lobbyist Disclosure Forms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 16, 2008

CONTACT: Eddie Vale: 202-609-7692

PROGRESSIVE MEDIA USA HELPS SENATOR MCCAIN'S ADVISORS FILL OUT THEIR LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE FORMS

Senator McCain Has 115 Lobbyists Working or Fundraising for Him

(Washington, DC) - In the wake of the resignations of two McCain associates who had lobbied for the oppressive regime of Myanmar, Senator McCain's staff has now been asked to fill out a questionnaire disclosing their lobbying activities.

Progressive Media USA has been working to highlight for the media extensive ties of conservative leaders to lobbyists. Completed forms for Charlie Black, Rick Davis, Tom Loefler, Peter Madigan, and John Green can be found at www.mccainsource.com

Senator John McCain has at least 115 lobbyists on staff or fundraising for him - check out www.mccainsource.com for more information on these lobbyists.

McCain Staff Lobbyist Survey

NAME: Charlie Black_____

CAMPAIGN ROLE: Senior Political Adviser_____

Have you ever registered as a federal lobbyist? Yes

Have you ever been a registered foreign agent? Yes

Please list all of the foreign governments, political and other interests you lobbied for:

Jonas Savimbi (leader of UNITA rebels in Angola)

Stepan Matirosyan (Armenia)

News Corp. (Australia)

Government of the Bahamas

Government of the Barbados

Government of Bermuda Horsahm (Canada)

Nordion International (Canada)

Forest Product Association of Canada

Chinese National Off-Shore Oil Corporation

Noemi Sanin (Colombia)

Institute for Financial and Fiscal Studies of Curacao

Government of Cyprus

Government of the Republic of Djibouti

Government of the Dominican Republic

Government of Ecuador Government of El Salvador

Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River (El Salvador)

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Government of Equatorial Guinea

Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd. (Great Britain)

National Convention for Reconstruction and Development (Great Britain)

Government of Greece

Government of Haiti

Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

Vittoria Consultants (Isle of Man)

Magal Security Systems Ltd. (Israel)

Fiat Ferroviaria (Italy)

Eitaro Itoyama (Japan)

Government of Kenya

Intercultural Association of Korea

Korea Silo Company, Ltd.

Adcom Group (Lebanon)

Government of Liberia

Maldives Democratic Party

Government of Nigeria

His Excellency Ibrahim Sarninu Turaki, Governor, Jigawa State, Nigeria

Minpeco U.S.A. Inc. (Peru)

Government of Peru

Union for National Action (Philippines)

Chamber of Philippine Manufacturers, Exporters & Tourism

League of Leaders for Philippine Development

Luso American Foundation for International Relations (Portugal)

Russian Information Agency

Government of Somalia

Government of St. Lucia

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S. (Taiwan / China)

Thailand

Government of the Republic of Togo

Agency for Humanitarian Technologies (Ukraine)

Government of Zaire

Please list any clients you think could potentially cause a conflict of interest for the McCain Campaign:

Yukos Oil

Philip Morris

JP Morgan

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Johnson & Johnson

G-Tech

United Technologies

Washington Mutual Bank

U.S. Smokeless Tobacco

Occidental Petroleum Group

Accenture

Fluor

AT&T

Lincoln Group

Lockheed Martin

National Association of Mortgage Brokers

Ocean Duke Corp.

SAP America

Please list the times you have lobbied Senator McCain or his office:

NOT DISCLOSED

McCain Staff Lobbyist Survey

NAME: Rick Davis_____

CAMPAIGN ROLE: Campaign Manager

Have you ever registered as a federal lobbyist? Yes

Have you ever been a registered foreign agent? Yes

Please list all of the foreign governments, political and other interests you lobbied for:

Alberto Pierri (Argentine Politician)

Please list any clients you think could potentially cause a conflict of interest for the McCain Campaign:

Bell South

G-TECH

SBC Telecommunications

Verizon

Airborne Express

Deutsche Post World Net USA

ImageSat Intl.

Omni Computer Products

Please List the times you have lobbied Senator McCain or his office:

NOT DISCLOSED

McCain Staff Lobbyist Survey

NAME: Thomas Loeffler_____

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CAMPAIGN ROLE: National Campaign Co-Chairman; National Finance Committee Co-Chairman

Have you ever registered as a federal lobbyist? Yes

Have you ever been a registered foreign agent? Yes

Please list all of the foreign governments, political and other interests you lobbied for:

Saudi Arabia

Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office

Please list any clients you think could potentially cause a conflict of interest for the McCain Campaign:

EADS

AT&T

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Capitol One Financial

Edison Electric Institute

Motorola

PhRMA

Toyota

CitiGroup

SBC Communications

Free Trade Alliance San Antonio

Introgen Therapeutics

Nuclear Energy Institute

Purdue Pharma

Yamaha

Please list the times you have lobbied Senator McCain or his office:

NOT DISCLOSED

McCain Staff Lobbyist Survey

NAME: Peter Madigan_____

CAMPAIGN ROLE: Fundraiser; Reagan Alumni For McCain

Have you ever registered as a federal lobbyist? Yes

Have you ever been a registered foreign agent? Yes

Please list all of the foreign governments, political and other interests you lobbied for:

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

El Salvador

Colombia

Panama

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Canada

Taiwan Research Institute

Please list any clients you think could potentially cause a conflict of interest for the McCain Campaign:

Accenture

Philip Morris

Amgen

Arthur Andersen

Bank of New York

Bell South

Charles Schwab

Goldman Sachs

Microsoft

Shell Oil

U.S. Telecom Association

United Technologies

Verizon

American Insurance Association

DCI Associates (public affairs firm of Doug Goodyear and Doug Davenport)

NYSE Group Inc.

Oracle Corp.

Peruvian Asparagus Institute

Please List the times you have lobbied Senator McCain or his office:

NOT DISCLOSED

McCain Staff Lobbyist Survey

NAME: Jon Green_____

CAMPAIGN ROLE: Congressional Liaison; Fundraiser

Have you ever registered as a federal lobbyist? Yes

Have you ever been a registered foreign agent? No

Please list all of the foreign governments, political and other interests you lobbied for:

N/A

Please list any clients you think could potentially cause a conflict of interest for the McCain Campaign:

EADS

Philip Morris

AmeriChoice

Chevron

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Texaco

Pfizer

Hoffman-La Roche

CitiGroup

Blackstone Group

Fidelity

Pernod Ricard

National Beer Wholesalers Association

Amerada-Hess

American Petroleum Institute

AT&T

Bell South

Motorola

Time Warner

Verizon

Viacom

Aflac

United Health Group

America's Health Insurance Plans

Please List the times you have lobbied Senator McCain or his office:

NOT DISCLOSED

-30-

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From: "Manatos and Manatos" <manatos@manatos.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/8/2015 5:19:48 AM
Subject: Turkish-Russian Missile Deal

Manatos & Manatos
1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-393-7790 / (fx) 202-628-0225
Manatos@Manatos.com
www.Manatos.com

We wanted to make sure you saw yesterday's news report regarding a Turkey-Russia missile deal.

Note in particular:

- "Russia and Turkey also conducted joint tests of a missile defense system and reached several arms deals with Turkish firms."
- "Turkish officials also expressed interest in the acquisition of Russian short-range missile defense systems."
- "News of Turkey's purported collaboration with the Russian arms exporter came weeks after Russian officials disclosed military contracts with China and Thailand."

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

http://www.ibtimes.com/russia-offers-turkish-navy-hovercrafts-missile-defense-system-technology-1912272

Russia Offers Turkish Navy Hovercrafts, Missile Defense System Technology

By Thomas Barrabi @TBarrabi t.barrabi@ibtimes.com on May 07 2015 10:24 AM EDT

State-owned Russian arms company Rosoboronexport has offered to collaborate with Turkey to create amphibious hovercraft for the Turkish Navy's use, a company spokesman said Thursday. A spokesman for the Russian arms exporter said **Russia and Turkey also conducted joint tests of a missile defense system and reached several arms deals with Turkish firms.**

"We have been cooperating on the creation of smaller amphibious hovercraft, as well as the integration of combat systems of Russian manufacture with Turkish naval platforms," Rosoboronexport spokesman Anatoly Aksyonov said, according to Russian news agency TASS .

Rosoboronexport operates at Russian President Vladimir Putin's behest and accounts for the vast majority of Russia's arms sales. Aside from the amphibious hovercrafts, **Turkish officials also expressed interest in the acquisition of Russian short-range missile defense systems**, Aksyonov said. Turkey would be responsible for the manufacture of the systems.

News of Turkey's purported collaboration with the Russian arms exporter came weeks after Russian officials disclosed military contracts with China and Thailand. Chinese officials finalized their purchase of Russia's S-400 air defense systems in September 2014 and became the first country other than Russia to possess the system, Rosoboronexport CEO Antoly Isaykin confirmed to

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Russian-owned Sputnik News last month.

"I will not disclose the details of the contract, but yes, China has indeed become the first buyer of this sophisticated Russian air defense system," Isaykin said.

Top Russian officials, including Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Trade Minister Denis Manturov, held high-level meetings with Thai officials last month, during which the two sides discussed the potential sale of Russian military aircraft. The meeting took place at the same time Thai officials met with Chinese representatives for a defense summit, Reuters reported.

Western nations have expressed growing concern in recent months about a marked uptick in Russia's military activity, both in Eastern Europe and abroad. Russia's armed forces have conducted extensive military exercises that reached as far as the Arctic.

Manatos and Manatos, 1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/26/2015 1:00:00 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 7.26.15
Attachments:	7.26.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

July 26, 2015

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Stung in 2008, Hillary Clinton Builds a Formidable Team in Iowa // NYT // Trip Gabriel - July 25, 2015

Two or three days a week, for up to five hours, Liz Mueller plants herself in a coffee shop called Uncle Nancy's.

She posts to Facebook, makes calls and meets one on one with people over bottomless mugs of flavored black coffee. Her goal is to become known throughout this farming community of 15,000 as "the Hillary girl."

Ms. Mueller, who at 24 is already a disciplined veteran of political campaigns in Virginia, New York and Arkansas, is one of Hillary Rodham Clinton's 47 paid organizers in Iowa, a sizable and growing army. The formidable infrastructure, larger than any other candidate's for either party in Iowa, shows Mrs. Clinton's determination not to leave anything to chance in the state with the first nominating contest, where she suffered a bruising setback in her last presidential run.

That is no surprise, given that Mrs. Clinton hired a campaign manager, Robby Mook, who rose through the ranks of field organizing, which has revolutionized modern campaigns.

"One of the things that I learned last time is it's organize, organize, organize," Mrs. Clinton said in a recent interview with CNN. "And you've got to get people committed, and then they will follow through, and then you bring more people."

What the news media sometimes misses in mocking Mrs. Clinton's visits to Iowa, which have included many small encounters in coffee shops and homes, is that the events are designed to build her organization by enlisting volunteers. She is "the closer" at house parties to which the campaign invites prospective recruits, said Jerry Crawford, a senior Clinton adviser in Iowa.

With Mrs. Clinton returning to the state for three days on Saturday, she had house parties scheduled in Carroll and the Beaverdale section of Des Moines, which was nicknamed "Obamadale" during the 2012 race for its deep well of Democratic activists.

At a recent house party in a former Grange hall in Newton, which Mrs. Clinton did not attend, about 45 Democrats and independents were asked to sign commitment cards to caucus for Mrs. Clinton, or to check boxes indicating that they would volunteer to "Knock on doors!" or "Be a captain!"

Jane Johnson, a retired music teacher, came after Ms. Mueller had pursued her on Facebook and invited her for a chat at Uncle Nancy's.

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In 2008, Ms. Johnson caucused for Barack Obama, who won in Iowa as Mrs. Clinton finished third. “He figured out how to get little people involved in his campaign,” Ms. Johnson said. “I think Hillary has learned that. This time she’s on the ground, meeting with people where they work, where they socialize.”

What the campaigns of President Obama showed, especially in key states where the margin of victory could be as thin as two percentage points, is that organizing can be the most potent campaign tool of all.

“Getting people engaged in the campaign is how you win,” said Marlon Marshall, who runs Mrs. Clinton’s national field organizing efforts.

The Clinton campaign says it has opened 10 field offices and recruited more than 7,000 volunteers in Iowa.

No state is more of a proving ground. The Iowa caucus system and yearlong intraparty competition pare the electorate for each candidate to only the most committed supporters.

“Most of the best Democratic campaign leaders have worked in Iowa at some point,” said Mr. Crawford, a Des Moines lawyer. “The experience here has been viewed as the gold standard.”

Mrs. Clinton’s Iowa caucus director, Michael Halle, worked for the Obama campaign here in 2008 and 2012. He is a protégé of Mr. Mook, Mrs. Clinton’s campaign manager. While working on the 2004 presidential campaign of Howard Dean, Mr. Mook adopted the organizing techniques of labor groups like the United Farm Workers.

Rather than having paid organizers responsible for all of the recruiting, Mr. Halle said, the Obama campaign used volunteers to bring in other volunteers, usually people in their circles. He called it a “paradigm shift.”

In 2012, the concept was turbocharged with digital technology, most notably a platform called VoteBuilder, which logged every door knock and phone call.

Now the Clinton campaign has further adapted the model, dividing the most committed volunteers into “engagement directors,” who are responsible for bringing in new volunteers, and “captains,” who oversee specific tasks like canvassing.

“Engagement directors help focus on building our internal organization, and the captains work on building relationships with supporters out in the communities,” said Michelle Kleppe, the Iowa organizing director, who reports to Mr. Halle.

The careful, ground-up organizing seems designed to counter the kind of threat to Mrs. Clinton that has emerged from Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, whose hard-left policies have inspired huge crowds at rallies. Many at the Clinton house party in Newton said Mr. Sanders was the candidate they were most drawn to. “I like everything he says,” said Dean Lane, who farms 1,800 acres of corn and soybeans.

“I’m a pretty wealthy farmer,” he added. “I think it’s ridiculous the way we treat poor people. Nobody wants to pay a dime in taxes.”

Few of the 45 in attendance signed the Clinton commitment cards or said they were ready to volunteer for her.

Amid the generous pouring of rosé and trays of local Maytag blue cheese, the house party seemed likely to leave a lasting glow with attendees when the time came to choose between Mrs. Clinton and an alternative. Ms. Mueller considered it a success because she had met many people she intended to contact over and over until the caucuses next year.

The challenge for Mr. Sanders, who is months behind Mrs. Clinton in organizing in Iowa, is to channel the passion of the many who turn out to hear him speak into a campaign infrastructure. His campaign says it has hired 33 organizers and also has 10 field offices in Iowa.

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“The misconception is that there’s not organizing going on around” the impressive crowds, said Pete D’Alessandro, the campaign coordinator for Mr. Sanders in Iowa.

A third Democratic candidate, former Gov. Martin O’Malley of Maryland, plans to hire staff “across the state” by the end of the summer, his Iowa director, Jake Oeth, announced in a recent memo. In addition, a “super PAC” supporting Mr. O’Malley, Generation Forward, is gearing up to “knock on doors across Iowa soon,” according to its Facebook page.

Most of the Republicans in the party’s field of 16 have small staffs in Iowa and have scarcely begun to organize.

But for Mrs. Clinton, stung by the lessons of 2008, it is never too early to develop an outreach plan for the state that can grow and be tinkered with as the caucuses approach.

“If we do our job in Iowa — if Hillary were to win in Iowa and New Hampshire — I’d kind of think it’s over,” Mr. Crawford said of the Democratic nominating race. “If she had won Iowa last time, it would have been over.”

Clinton says she's confident about proper handling of emails **// AP // Catherine Lucey - July 25, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said Saturday she never knowingly sent or received classified information using her private email server and did not know what messages were being cited by intelligence investigators as examples of emails containing classified information.

Clinton spoke briefly about the email matter after a Democratic gathering at the Madison County Historical Complex in which she stressed her commitment to a variety of issues, including her support for pre-kindergarten education and abortion access. Reporters raised the topic of the email during a brief news conference.

"I am confident that I never sent or received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received. What I think you're seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion, to some extent disagreement among various parts of the government, over what should or should not be publicly released," she said.

The front-runner for her party's nomination said she wanted the information in question to be made public as soon as possible and suggested there was confusion over the issue.

"I think there's so much confusion around this that I understand why reporters and the public are asking questions, but the facts are pretty clear. I did not send nor receive anything that was classified at the time," she said.

Intelligence investigators told the Justice Department in a letter this week that secret government information may have been compromised in the unsecured system she used at her New York home during her tenure as secretary of state.

Asked if the Justice Department should investigate, Clinton said: "They can fight over it or argue over it. That's up to them. I can tell you what the facts are."

In addition to alerting the Justice Department to the potential compromise of classified information, the inspector general of the U.S. intelligence community sent a memo to members of Congress indicating that "potentially hundreds of classified emails" were among the 30,000 that Clinton had provided to the State Department.

The office said it also raised that concern with FBI counterintelligence officials and was recommending changes in how the emails are being reviewed and processed for public release. The State Department is reviewing 55,000 pages of emails with the goal of releasing all of them by Jan. 29.

The intelligence inspector general, I. Charles McCullough, and his counterpart at the State Department, Steve Linick, said that McCullough's office found

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four emails containing classified information in a limited sample of 40 emails.

Whether the Justice Department would investigate the potential compromise the intelligence inspector general highlighted was not clear. The referral to the Justice Department does not seek a criminal probe and does not specifically target Clinton.

In its letter to congressional oversight committees, the inspector general's office said that it was concerned that "these emails exist on at least one private server and thumb drive with classified information and those are not in the government's possession," Andrea Williams, a spokeswoman for McCullough, said earlier this week.

The letter said none of the emails was marked "classified" at the time it was sent or received but that some should have been handled as such and sent on a secure computer network.

Clinton has said she used the private server at her home as a matter of convenience to limit her number of electronic devices.

New York Times corrects 'criminal' aspect of Clinton email story // Politico // Dylan Byers - July 25, 2015

The New York Times report claiming that inspectors general had sought a criminal investigation relating to Hillary Clinton's personal email account was finally changed early Saturday morning, one day after all parties involved in the story—the two inspectors general, the Justice Department, and the Clinton campaign—issued public statements disputing the language in the Times report.

"[G]overnment officials who initially said the request was for a criminal investigation later said it was not a 'criminal referral' but a 'security referral' pertaining to possible mishandling of classified information," the Times noted in its correction. The Times also updated its headline, removing the word "criminal" from "Criminal Inquiry Sought in Hillary Clinton's Use of Email."

In a new article on Saturday, about four emails on Clinton's private server "that contained government secrets," the Times also provided a lengthy explanation for the language.

"The discovery of the four emails prompted [the Intelligence Community Inspector General] to refer the matter to F.B.I. counterintelligence agents, who investigate crimes related to the mishandling of classified information," the article reads. "On Thursday night and again Friday morning, the Justice Department referred to the matter as a 'criminal referral' but later Friday dropped the word 'criminal.' The inspectors general said late Friday that it was a 'security referral' intended to alert authorities that 'classified information may exist on at least one private server and thumb drive that are not in the government's possession.'"

"Irrespective of the terminology, the referral raises the possibility of a Justice Department investigation into Mrs. Clinton's emails as she campaigns for president," the report continues. "Mishandling classified information is a crime. Justice Department officials said no decision had been made about whether to open a criminal investigation."

Sources with knowledge of the situation had likewise told the On Media blog on Friday that the error was caused by misinformation provided to the Times by a Justice Department official. But numerous emails to the On Media blog from journalists, political operatives and even Times staffers expressed surprise at how long it took the Times to correct the report.

On Friday, the Justice Department, the Intelligence Community and State Inspectors General all issued statements saying that the referral was not "criminal" in nature, and the Clinton campaign issued a statement calling the Times report about a criminal inquiry "false."

Eileen Murphy, the Vice President of Corporate Communications at the Times, has not responded to repeated requests for comment on the corrections to the article.

The "criminal" correction is the second correction the Times has added to its story. As previously reported, the Times initially reported that the two inspectors general had asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation "into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account she used as secretary of state." That clause, which suggested Clinton was a target in the potential

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criminal probe, was later changed to eliminate that suggestion: the inquiry was now into "whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account."

In a new statement on Saturday, Clinton spokesperson Nick Merrill announced that Clinton has agreed to appear at an October public hearing before the House Benghazi Committee. But his statement began with a dig at the Times: "Friday began with the printing of a story that was false," he wrote. "Entities from the highest levels of two branches of government have now made that clear."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Aides for Hillary Clinton and Benghazi Committee Dispute Testimony Plan // NYT // Michael S. Schmidt and Maggie Haberman - July 25, 2015

Amid renewed controversy surrounding Hillary Rodham Clinton's use of private email for government work, a dispute erupted on Saturday over when and how she would publicly testify before the House select committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks on the American diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya.

Mrs. Clinton's aides announced Saturday morning that she had accepted an invitation to testify on Oct. 22. But a spokesman for the Republican-led committee said hours later that no agreement had been reached.

And by day's end, it was not clear what exactly they were arguing over.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton said she accepted the committee's invitation on Friday, the same day that inspectors general for the State Department and the nation's intelligence agencies said they had discovered classified information on the private email account Mrs. Clinton used while she was secretary of state. The inspectors general said the secret information should never have been stored outside secure government systems.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign, said in a statement Saturday that the campaign had reviewed the statements by the inspectors general.

"We want to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed as these emails are reviewed while not unduly delaying the release of her emails," Mr. Merrill said. "We particularly do not want their release to be hampered by bureaucratic infighting among the intelligence community. More emails are slated to be released by the State Department next week, and we hope that release is as inclusive as possible."

But the committee's spokesman issued a statement a few hours later asserting that Mrs. Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, had stipulated that acceptance of the October date would depend on the committee's agreeing to question Mrs. Clinton only about the Benghazi attacks, not about her private email account, and on a commitment that the date of the hearing would not change.

"Secretary Clinton's campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer," the committee spokesman, Jamal Ware, said. "As of last night, Mr. Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance."

Mr. Merrill, however, responded with a second statement disputing this. "We have made clear that we understand emails are in their jurisdiction," he said. "So unless the committee now believes emails are no longer in its jurisdiction, we are in agreement."

The Benghazi committee, in the course of its investigation, discovered that Mrs. Clinton had used her personal email account for State Department business.

Mrs. Clinton has said for months that she kept no classified information on the private server she had set up in her house so that she would not have to carry both a personal phone and a work phone. Her campaign said on Friday that any government secrets found on the server had been classified after the fact.

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But the two inspectors general said on Friday that the information they found was classified when it was sent and remains so. Information is considered classified if its disclosure would be likely to harm national security. The investigators said the information was not marked as classified but should have been stored only on government computer networks with special safeguards.

“This classified information never should have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system,” Steve A. Linick, the State Department inspector general, said in a statement signed by him and I. Charles McCullough III, the inspector general for the intelligence agencies.

Saturday’s testy back-and-forth seemed to boil down to a spat about who should have announced Mrs. Clinton’s agreement to testify. It also pointed up how contentious the subject of her email account remains — and that it is only likely to grow as 2016 draws near.

The Oct. 22 date would give the committee months to receive from the State Department, and then digest, troves of email traffic involving Mrs. Clinton’s aides. And her testimony would take place when more people were focused on her campaign.

But her testimony also is expected to be public, as pressed for by her aides, who were pleased with how she fared in January 2013 when she last testified before Congress in relation to the Benghazi attacks. The committee had sought to question Mrs. Clinton in private about the emails.

Mr. Kendall told the committee on May 4 that Mrs. Clinton was willing to testify the week of May 18. But the committee chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, never scheduled the hearing. He said he would not call her to testify until the State Department had turned over all the documents he had requested.

Since then, Mr. Gowdy has repeatedly criticized the State Department for withholding documents. This month, he postponed the testimony of several of Mrs. Clinton’s aides, saying he could not question them until he had all of the relevant documents from the State Department.

The inspectors general said the State Department had agreed to allow intelligence officials with expertise in Freedom of Information Act releases to play a role in the review. But the inspectors general said the department had still not created a process for resolving disputes between the department and other parts of the government about differences over how to classify documents.

“There have been recent examples, such as the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on torture, where release of information was delayed because of disagreements among agencies,” Mr. Merrill said in his statement, “and we hope that will not happen here.”

Clinton may testify to Benghazi committee in October // WaPo // Anne Gearan - July 25, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton’s campaign said Saturday that she will testify on Oct. 22 before the House select committee investigating her role in connection with the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya — an assertion that was almost immediately challenged by a spokesman for the committee.

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill announced the date and said her testimony would be public.

But Jamal Ware, a spokesman for the committee, said the timing is not set because of ongoing negotiations with Clinton’s lawyer over ground rules.

The wrangling is of a piece with months of back-and-forth between the Republican-led committee and Clinton, whose allies accuse the panel of conducting a fishing expedition for damaging material that might be used against her as she runs for president in 2016.

U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others were killed when militants overran two U.S. compounds in Benghazi in September 2012, in the waning months of Clinton’s term as secretary of state. She has said that she had no direct role in security decisions surrounding the U.S. facilities, but Republican critics claim that her State Department denied protections that might have prevented the attack.

As of Friday, Clinton’s attorney, David Kendall, was still negotiating terms for his client’s appearance, Ware said.

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“On the grounds of simple fairness and in order to make appropriate preparation possible, the scope of the questioning [should] be consistent with the scope set forth in the resolution establishing the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi,” Kendall wrote Friday, according to an excerpt of the letter that the committee released Saturday.

Clinton had long offered to testify in public, but the committee chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), had initially said he preferred a private interview. Although Gowdy said he was trying to keep the session from becoming a circus, Clinton’s team objected on grounds that a closed session could allow Republicans to selectively leak unflattering details.

Gowdy has also said that he needs more documents from the State Department before he questions Clinton.

The committee on Saturday appeared to reject Kendall’s terms, which included that the scope of questioning be limited and that the hearing date, once set, would not change.

Ware also said in the news release that Kendall had previously agreed that Clinton would answer questions about “her unusual e-mail arrangement,” referring to her use of a private e-mail system for government business, including a server in her home.

“Her e-mail arrangement clearly falls within the scope of the Select Committee’s jurisdiction,” Ware continued.

“The Committee will not, now or ever, accept artificial limitations on its congressionally-directed jurisdiction,” Ware said in the statement. “Once there is an agreement on the date and a better understanding of how, if at all, Secretary Clinton’s lawyer’s latest writing differs from previous ones, the Committee will announce said hearing date.”

Clinton’s lawyer has also accused the committee of trying to drag out its investigation into 2016 to use it as a cudgel against the Democratic front-runner.

Her campaign also said Saturday that it does not want any delay in the release of Clinton's e-mails from the private account she used while she was secretary of state because of “bureaucratic infighting among the intelligence community.”

The inspector general of the intelligence community said he had found information that should have been classified in a small sample of Clinton’s e-mails and made a “security referral” to the Justice Department under a federal law that requires the FBI to be alerted to any possible compromise of national security information.

Clinton addressed questions about her e-mails after a Democratic Party event in Iowa on Saturday, telling reporters, "I am confident that I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent or received."

She said she had "no idea" what the e-mails cited by the inspector general were about and that it was her desire to be transparent with the e-mails that had led to the dispute.

"What I think you're seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion, to some extent a disagreement between various parts of the government, over what should or should not be publicly released," she said.

Clinton turned over 30,000 e-mails to the State Department after her use of a private e-mail system became an issue. The e-mails are being reviewed for release to Congress and the public.

Clinton Sent Classified Information Over Email While at State Department, Review Finds // WSJ // Byron Tau - July 25, 2015

A government intelligence watchdog found that Hillary Clinton sent at least four emails from her personal account containing classified information

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during her tenure as secretary of state.

In a letter to members of Congress on Thursday, the inspector general of the intelligence community concluded that Mrs. Clinton's email contains material from the intelligence community that should have been considered "secret"—the second-highest level of classification—at the time it was sent. A copy of the letter to Congress was provided to The Wall Street Journal by a spokeswoman for the inspector general.

The four emails in question "were classified when they were sent and are classified now," said Andrea Williams, a spokeswoman for the inspector general. The inspector general's review covered about 40 emails in Mrs. Clinton's inbox, which suggests the trove of more than 30,000 emails may contain more potentially confidential, secret or top-secret information.

The inspector general referred the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counterintelligence division. An official with the Justice Department said Friday that it had received a referral to open an investigation into the potential mishandling of classified information. Initially, a Justice Department official said Friday morning the investigation was criminal in nature, but the department reversed course hours later without explanation.

The inspectors general of both the intelligence community and the State Department released a joint statement Friday afternoon saying that they made a counterintelligence referral to the FBI, not a criminal one.

The disclosures roiled her presidential campaign. Mrs. Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on Friday in New York that there were "inaccuracies" in reports about her email usage, but didn't offer specifics. She noted that she has voluntarily released 55,000 pages of email and offered to testify before a congressional committee.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," Mrs. Clinton said. "We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part. But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

The investigation concluded that Mrs. Clinton should have used a secure network to transmit the emails in question. The information in four of Mrs. Clinton's emails "should never have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system," the inspectors general determined.

It isn't clear whether Mrs. Clinton was aware she was sending classified information. "None of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings," wrote Inspector General I. Charles McCullough in the letter to Congress.

The joint statement from the inspectors general indicated the referral to the FBI was routine. It said the intelligence community inspector general is required by law "to refer potential compromises of national security information" to appropriate security officials.

The emails in question left government custody and were on both Mrs. Clinton's personal home email server as well as a thumb drive of David Kendall, Mrs. Clinton's personal attorney. The concerns about classified information being in private hands led the intelligence community watchdog to alert law-enforcement officials about potential loss of classified information.

Because the information allegedly mishandled in Mrs. Clinton's email archive remains classified and unavailable to the public, it is difficult to know the severity of the breach.

"Realistically, I don't think there's any serious concern about anything criminal in this case," said Mark Zaid, a lawyer who specializes in national-security law. "But it raises a whole host of administration questions for the State Department and will also have political fallout separate from the legal questions."

The federal law governing removal of classified information provides for up to a year for prison for "knowingly" mishandling or removing classified information. Most high-profile investigations into the mishandling of classified information have ended in plea agreements without jail time.

Mrs. Clinton's email arrangement involving a personal server has sparked several lawsuits, a congressional probe and several inspectors general investigations. The arrangement was legal at the time for unclassified information, but discouraged by Obama administration and State Department guidance.

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The State Department is facing lawsuits from news organizations and advocacy groups over access to her records, while the Republican-run House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks has repeatedly requested that her email server be turned over to a third party for forensic examination.

Members of Congress immediately seized on the latest disclosure, calling for a renewed investigation into Mrs. Clinton's email arrangement.

"If Secretary Clinton truly has nothing to hide, she can prove it by immediately turning over her server to the proper authorities and allowing them to examine the complete record," House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) said in a statement.

Experts on government classification have noted that as head of the State Department, Mrs. Clinton had wide latitude to determine within her own department what information was classified and what information wasn't. But she also had an obligation to respect classification determinations made by other agencies, including intelligence services and other cabinet departments.

"Within the State Department, her classification authority is supreme. The only caveat to that is that not all the information in the State Department originates within the State Department," said Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists. "If it comes from CIA or other agencies, she is normally obligated to respect the classification judgments of those agencies."

The State Department has long played down concerns about the classified material found in Mrs. Clinton's emails, saying that information is often reclassified. The State Department said on Friday that it didn't believe any of the emails Mrs. Clinton sent during her time in office contained classified material.

"To our knowledge, none of them needed to be classified at the time," said Mark Toner, a department spokesman. Mr. Toner acknowledged that the department had determined that many of her emails now contained classified information, but believed it was unclassified at the time.

Thousands of pages of Mrs. Clinton's emails already have been posted online, and the State Department is reviewing thousands more for public release. In one instance, classified information has already been released to the public, the inspector general found.

Hillary Clinton to Testify Before Benghazi Panel // WSJ // Byron Tau - July 25, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify before a House committee investigating the deaths of four Americans in a 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, said Saturday that she had accepted House Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy's invitation for an October appearance before the Republican-led panel.

A spokesman for the Benghazi committee said negotiations over Mrs. Clinton's appearance were ongoing and that her attorney's proposed ground rules for her testimony could yet derail an October date.

The committee said David Kendall, an attorney for Mrs. Clinton, was insisting that the questioning remain about only the Benghazi attacks and not Mrs. Clinton's use of personal email and that the hearing date would be fixed regardless of future developments. Republicans on the panel said they haven't agreed to those conditions and would push her on her use of a personal server.

"Her email arrangement clearly falls within the scope of the Select Committee's jurisdiction, which is charged by the House under the Resolution to look at Executive Branch efforts to comply with congressional oversight as well as the administration's response in the aftermath of the tragic attacks in Benghazi," said Jamal Ware, a spokesman for the Republicans on the committee.

Mr. Kendall didn't respond to a request for comment.

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Mr. Merrill disputed the characterization that Mrs. Clinton wouldn't answer questions about her emails.

"We have made clear that we understand emails are in their jurisdiction. So unless the Committee now believes emails are no longer in its jurisdiction, we are in agreement," Mr. Merrill said in an email. He added: "We have no doubt Hillary Clinton can handle any question that they throw at her. And as the committee notes, her attorney has stated flatly that her emails are a part of that. Nothing about that has changed."

The committee has been investigating the attack on an American diplomatic facility in Benghazi that occurred while Mrs. Clinton was serving as secretary of state. That attack killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, as well as Central Intelligence Agency contractors Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty.

The attack occurred in the midst of President Barack Obama's re-election campaign and has been a flash point for criticism of the administration's foreign policy and Mrs. Clinton's management of security issues at the State Department.

Emails released by the State Department this year show that Mrs. Clinton received warnings from her top aides about the deteriorating security conditions in Libya in the months and years leading up to the attack.

Obama administration officials also initially blamed the attack on a spontaneous demonstration in response to an anti-Islamic Internet video before later acknowledging that it was likely carried out by an organized terrorist group.

The committee also has been investigating Mrs. Clinton's decision to use a personal email server while serving as head of the State Department. Mr. Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, has repeatedly called for Mrs. Clinton turn over the server to a neutral third party to ensure that all relevant emails were in the hands of the committee.

Republicans on Capitol Hill have been pushing Mrs. Clinton to appear more than once to answer questions about the server. Mr. Gowdy requested a private transcribed interview with Mrs. Clinton in March to discuss her email arrangement.

Representatives for Mrs. Clinton haven't agreed to a closed-door session with the panel, saying there was "no reason" any questions couldn't be answered in public.

The select committee has also been probing the role that Sidney Blumenthal , a close confidante of the Clinton family, played during Mrs. Clinton's time at the State Department. The committee subjected Mr. Blumenthal to eight hours of closed-door testimony last month, probing his business dealings and professional relationship with Mrs. Clinton.

Democrats have charged that the committee's work has moved far away from its original mandate of investigating the terrorist attacks and has become a partisan tool to investigate a Democratic candidate for president.

"This Benghazi select committee has become the committee to investigate Hillary Clinton. Period," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, in June.

The committee has previously said a final report on the attacks likely isn't due before next year.

Hillary Clinton Says She Didn't Use Personal Email Account to Send or Receive Secret Data // WSJ // Colleen McCain Nelson - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton said she didn't use her personal email account to send or receive classified information when she was Secretary of State, disputing a government intelligence watchdog's finding that her emails contained material that should have been considered secret.

Although the inspector general of the intelligence community concluded Mrs. Clinton sent at least four emails that included classified information, the

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front-running Democratic presidential hopeful was adamant on Saturday that she had sent only unclassified material from her personal account. “The facts are pretty clear: I did not send nor receive anything that was classified at the time,” Mrs. Clinton told reporters in Iowa.

The inspector general revealed its findings in a letter to Congress this week, reporting the emails in question contained material from the intelligence community that was classified when it was sent.

Mrs. Clinton said she didn’t know which specific emails had been flagged, but she suggested that perhaps the information had been classified at a later date. “What I’m hearing from the discussion that’s going on is that something that wasn’t classified should have been or maybe now should be,” she said. “That’s a very different issue.”

A spokeswoman for the inspector general has said the four emails “were classified when they were sent and are classified now.”

Mrs. Clinton cast questions about her emails as little more than an interagency squabble over which emails should be made public under freedom of information laws. “What I think you’re seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion, to some extent disagreement, among various parts of the government over what should or should not be publicly released,” she said.

The debate among government agencies “has nothing to do with me,” Mrs. Clinton added. “They can fight over it or argue over it. That’s up to them.”

The inspector general has referred the matter to the counterintelligence division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Justice Department initially said it had received a referral to open a criminal investigation but later reversed itself and said it wasn't a criminal referral.

Mrs. Clinton said very few issues had emerged in the 55,000 pages of emails she turned over from her own personal server. “We’re talking about four or fewer,” she said.

The inspector general has reviewed only about 40 of Mrs. Clinton’s emails, though, suggesting that more secret or top-secret information could be found in the thousands of pages that remain. The inspector general wrote that Mrs. Clinton should have used a secure network to transmit the four emails in question and that they shouldn’t have been transmitted with an unclassified personal system.

More bickering between Clinton team, House Benghazi panel // AP // Ken Thomas - July 25, 2015

The bickering has flared once more between Hillary Rodham Clinton's team and the Republican-led House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks, this time over negotiations for the former secretary of state's possible testimony.

A spokesman for the Democrat's presidential campaign, Nick Merrill, said Saturday she would testify in a public session Oct. 22 before lawmakers examining the deaths of four Americans in the 2012 attacks in Libya. Not so fast, the committee said.

Committee spokesman Jamal Ware said in an interview that the committee and Clinton's lawyer were "still in negotiation" and nothing has been finalized, including the date of an appearance and the terms under which she would testify.

Any Clinton testimony is likely to reverberate through the 2016 race. The committee is investigating the deaths of U.S. ambassador and three other Americans in the attack on the diplomatic facility in Libya. At the time, Clinton was the country's top diplomat.

In recent months, the inquiry has devolved into a political fight over Clinton's emails and private computer server. Republicans have seized upon revelations that Clinton chose to use a private email server, instead of a government one, and later deleted thousands of emails she said were not related to her work.

On Friday, government investigators disclosed that they had recently alerted the Justice Department to the potential compromise of classified information from Clinton's server.

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The inspector general of the U.S. intelligence community sent a memo to members of Congress saying that "potentially hundreds of classified emails" were among those that Clinton had provided to the State Department.

Clinton last testified at two congressional hearings in January 2013, when she denied that the Obama administration tried to mislead the country about the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks. She took responsibility for the department's missteps and said it was attempting to strengthen security at diplomatic posts worldwide.

Hillary Clinton denies sending classified info from private server // Politico // Hadas Gold - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton said she is confident none of the emails she sent using her private email server while secretary as state contained information that was classified when she sent them.

Clinton, speaking to reporters Saturday after a presidential campaign event here, said she has “no idea” which are the four emails an inspector general review has determined were classified “secret” at the time.

“I am confident I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received,” Clinton said. “What I think you’re seeing is a very typical kind of discussion to some extent, disagreement among various parts of the government over what should or what should not be publicly released.”

Clinton went on to say that she turned over 55,000 pages of emails to help the State Department, which had asked all living former secretaries to do the same in order to help with their record-keeping efforts. Clinton then said it was her own desire for transparency that had led to the arguments over levels of classification.

“Then I said, ‘Well let’s make it public.’ If I just turned it over, we would not be having this conversation, but when I said, ‘Hey I want this to be public’, it has to go through the FOIA process.

“That’s what’s going on here. I’m going to continue to say I want it to be made public as soon as it possibly can. And we will do whatever we can to try to get that process to move along,” she said.

Reports surfaced late this week that an inspector general review had found that at least four emails Clinton had kept on her server were classified “secret” at the time — a finding that calls into question her assertion in March that she took care to avoid sending classified materials.

News of the inspector general’s review was first reported late Thursday night by the New York Times — prompting a furious pushback from the Clinton campaign. The Times altered its initial story after complaints from the Clinton camp, along with the Justice Department’s clarification that the inspector general had not requested a criminal investigation.

Clinton said the question over classification is a common disagreement in the government.

“[T]he argument is over ‘this should’ve been done’ or ‘this now should be done.’ That has nothing to do with me. That is a discussion among various agencies within the government,” Clinton said. “This material is all on the unclassified system of the State Department. If we were not asking for it to be made public, there would not be a debate. This is all about my desire to have transparency and make the information public.”

Asked whether she thought the Justice Department should investigate the emails, Clinton said it’s up to them.

“They can fight or argue over it, that’s up to them. I can just tell you what the facts are, and there’s nothing contradicted in those facts I’m telling you by anything anyone has said so far,” she said.

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Hillary Clinton agrees to appear before Benghazi panel // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti and Rachael Bade - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton agreed on Friday to appear at an October public hearing before the House Benghazi Committee, her campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement.

But the House Select Committee on Benghazi is pushing back against the 2016 Democratic frontrunner's Saturday-morning announcement.

A panel Republican source said although GOP staff and Clinton's legal team have been discussing dates for the past week or so — and seem to have settled on Oct. 22 — her lawyer David Kendall has asked for two basic conditions they've not agreed to: that the date not be moved and that the panel keep its questions within certain parameters.

"There is no agreed-upon date because there are no agreed upon conditions," said a Benghazi Republican source. "It's a leak by Nick Merrill because he wants you all to stop talking about her classified information."

Merrill, in response, disputed this characterization.

"We have no doubt Hillary Clinton can handle any question that they throw at her. And as the committee notes, her attorney has stated flatly that her emails are a part of that," he told POLITICO. "Nothing about that has changed."

But the negotiations between Clinton's lawyer and the committee do not appear settled. The panel released a statement Saturday afternoon saying it "will not, now or ever, accept artificial limitations on its congressionally-directed jurisdiction."

"Accordingly, once there is an agreement on the date and a better understanding of how, if at all, Secretary Clinton's lawyer's latest writing differs from previous ones, the Committee will announce said hearing date," said communications director Jamal Ware in the statement.

That both sides are trading dates and discussing conditions, however, is significant. Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, who is leading the investigation into the events of Sept. 11, 2012 — when four Americans, including U.S. Amb. Chris Stevens, were killed in Benghazi, Libya — initially requested private meetings with the former secretary of state, but Clinton's camp had long insisted on a public hearing.

Democrats have accused Gowdy of continuously delaying the hearing in hopes of dragging the investigation into the 2016 presidential election cycle. But Gowdy has said he needs all the relevant documents first, since he only gets one bite at the apple — and the State Department has come under fire for its slow pace in producing key emails.

News of their discussions came hours following reports that an inspector general review found that at least four emails Clinton had kept on her server were classified "secret" at the time — a finding that calls into question her assertion in March that she took care to avoid sending classified materials. The Clinton camp's statement on Saturday morning did not directly address this finding.

News of the inspector general's review was first reported late Thursday night by the New York Times — prompting a furious pushback from the Clinton campaign, which continued to attack the story on Saturday morning. The Times altered its initial story after complaints from the Clinton camp, along with the Justice Department's clarification that the inspector general had not requested a criminal investigation.

"Friday began with the printing of a story that was false. Entities from the highest levels of two branches of government have now made that clear," Merrill said.

"We have had a chance to review the statement released by the Inspectors General of the State Department and Intelligence Community outlining their concerns with regard to the State Department's review and release of Hillary Clinton's work emails," he added.

"None of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included [Intelligence Community]-derived classified information

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and should have been handled and transmitted via a secure network," Intelligence Community Inspector General I. Charles McCullough III said in a letter to congressional committee leaders Thursday.

Clinton aides deny that she knowingly handled classified information improperly, and point to a dispute between government agencies over what should be classified.

"We want to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed as these emails are reviewed while not unduly delaying the release of her emails. We particularly do not want their release to be hampered by bureaucratic infighting among the Intelligence Community. More emails are slated to be released by the State Department next week, and we hope that release is as inclusive as possible," Merrill said.

"There have been recent examples, such as the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on torture, where release of information was delayed because of disagreements among agencies, and we hope that will not happen here," he said.

Clinton addressed the controversy directly at a campaign event in Iowa on Saturday.

"I am confident I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received," she said. "What I think you're seeing is a very typical kind of discussion to some extent, disagreement among various parts of the government over what should or what should not be publicly released."

The Benghazi committee is pushing back against the notion that they scheduled the hearing specifically because of the news of Clinton's classified emails. GOP panel sources said discussions about dates and a public hearing for Clinton were ongoing well before Thursday's news.

Although Kendall, Clinton's lawyer, approved the October date Friday, he also asked that the date wouldn't change and for assurances that questions would remain within certain parameters.

The former requirement is significant because the panel has pushed back not only Clinton's hearing but also interviews with top Clinton staff, such as Huma Abedin, because, Gowdy has said, the State Department hasn't turned over relevant documents. Republicans say they can't formulate their questions until they have all of Clinton and her staff's relevant communications. The department counters that document production just takes time, though even federal judges have blasted State in recent days for the slow pace.

The sources say the latter requirement — limiting the scope of questions — is the bigger issue, particularly if Clinton's lawyers seek to limit the panel from looking into her involvement with the Clinton Foundation or her email practices, which they believe may have influenced U.S. Libya policy and, therefore, happened that tragic day.

And until those conditions are agreed upon, having a date means nothing.

"You don't ask a girl to dance then set a wedding date," the source said. "We've gone from eating snow cones to picking out baby names in 24 hours."

Even before the the GOP announced its pushback to the Clinton announcement, Democrats sniped that the date could change:

"Given how Republicans have denied scheduling hearings and other events [in] the past, however, all we can confirm at this point is that the date was offered and accepted, not that the Republicans will stick to it," said a Benghazi Democratic spokesperson.

Republicans, Hillary Clinton Team Bicker Over Scope of Benghazi Hearing // Bloomberg // Chris Strohm - July 25, 2015

House Republicans and the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton sparred Saturday over the details of having her testify publicly before a House panel investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

The tensions came one day after a report from the U.S. intelligence community's inspector general that a personal e-mail account used by Clinton when

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she was secretary of state contained some information that should have been classified and secured. The inspector general said no e-mails reviewed by its office were labeled as classified.

The latest squabble centered on the ground rules for an expected public hearing with Clinton before the House Select Committee on Benghazi. The committee is investigating actions taken by Clinton, a 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, following the attacks that left U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others dead.

Clinton's spokesman, Nick Merrill, said on Saturday that Clinton had reached an agreement with the panel's chairman, Republican Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, to testify on Oct. 22.

The claim was quickly challenged by the committee's spokesman, Jamal Ware, who said there was no deal yet and that the two sides were still hashing out the timing and scope of Clinton's appearance. Ware said in an e-mailed statement that negotiations were "ongoing" between the committee and Clinton's lawyer David Kendall.

Clear Front-Runner

Holding a hearing in late October would come little more than three months before voters head to the polls to start choosing the Democratic nominee for president. Clinton leads her nearest Democratic competitor by about 40 percentage points, according to an average of recent polls by Real Clear Politics.

Some of the tension apparently has to do with how far the committee can go in questioning Clinton's use of a private e-mail account and server while she was secretary of state. The account contained some information that should have been classified and transmitted over a secure network, according to a report from the U.S. intelligence community's inspector general, Charles McCullough III.

The federal watchdog asked the FBI to review whether potentially classified material had been jeopardized during a State Department review of the documents in preparation for releasing them publicly.

Classified Material

The FBI referral followed a June 29 memo that McCullough and the State Department's inspector general sent to Undersecretary of State Patrick Kennedy, saying that hundreds of e-mails in Clinton's private account may improperly have contained classified material.

The Benghazi panel believes that Clinton's e-mail arrangement falls within the scope of its jurisdiction, Ware said.

"The committee will not, now or ever, accept artificial limitations on its congressionally-directed jurisdiction or efforts to meet the responsibilities assigned to the committee by the House of Representatives," Ware said.

Merrill said in response that Clinton's camp has "made clear that we understand e-mails are in their jurisdiction. So unless the committee now believes e-mails are no longer in its jurisdiction, we are in agreement."

More Clinton e-mails are expected to be released by the State Department next week, Merrill also said.

"We want to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed as these e-mails are reviewed while not unduly delaying the release of her e-mails," he said. "We particularly do not want their release to be hampered by bureaucratic infighting among the intelligence community."

Hillary Clinton to Lay Out Climate, Renewable Energy Policy in Iowa // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - July 25, 2015

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Democrat Hillary Clinton will unveil her policy agenda on climate and renewable energy on Sunday and Monday in Iowa, the center of the U.S. ethanol industry.

"We also have to finally get serious about climate change and clean renewable energy," Clinton said Saturday, She spoke at an event in a private home in the Des Moines neighborhood of Beaverdale, a center of Democratic activism in the state that will hold the first presidential nominating contest of 2016.

"It is not only the obviously right thing to do -– there is a lot of economic opportunity," said Clinton.

Comparing her climate objectives to the ambitious goals that former President John F. Kennedy set at the beginning of the 1960s on travel to the moon, Clinton said she she plans to "set some really ambitious goals for our country that, once again, I know we can meet."

Iowa is the nation's largest producer of ethanol, a renewable fuel that in the U.S. is made mostly from corn. It accounted for 28 percent of U.S. fuel ethanol production in 2014, according to the Renewable Fuels Association.

Clinton, frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic nomination, has been gradually laying out her policy proposals. On Friday she spoke of a plan to raise capital gains taxes and discourage the "hit-and-run" tactics of some activist investors.

Hillary Clinton Says She Didn't Send or Receive Information Classified at the Time // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - July 25, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Saturday that she neither sent nor received materials considered classified at the time through the private e-mail account she used while serving as secretary of state.

"I am confident that I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received," she told reporters in Winterset, Iowa, after news emerged this week that a federal watchdog had asked the FBI to review whether potentially classified material in her e-mails had been jeopardized during a State Department review of the messages ahead of public release.

"The facts are pretty clear," she said, reiterating her campaign's message on Friday as news of the referral unfolded.

The current confusion, Clinton said, comes from disagreements between federal agencies about whether certain information should have been characterized as classified at the time.

"What I think you're seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion—to some extent disagreement—among various parts of the government over what should or should not be publicly released," she said.

In a line of argument similar to the defense from the candidate and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, about some of the Clinton Foundation's controversial donors, Hillary Clinton said the debate over whether some messages should have been classified had only become an issue because of her request that the State Department release her e-mails in the interest of transparency.

"If I just turned it over, we would not be having this conversation," she said. "But when I said, 'Hey, I want it to be public,' it has to go through the FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] process. That's what's going on here. And I am going to continue to say that I want it to be made public as soon as it possibly can. And we will do whatever we can to try to get the process to move along."

Clinton ducked a question about whether the Justice Department should investigate the possible transmission of classified materials through unsecured channels.

"They can fight over it or argue over it. That's up to them," she said, holding up her palms to the reporters questioning her. "I can just tell you what the

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facts are. And there is nothing contradicted in those facts by anything that anybody has said so far."

A report from the federal watchdog said the office had found four e-mails out of a sample for 40 containing classified intelligence community information that should have been marked and handled at the secret level.

Asked whether she knew what those four e-mails were, Clinton said, "I have no idea."

Clinton: I did not send or get classified emails on private account **// Reuters // Alana Wise - July 25, 2015**

U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said on Saturday that she did not use a private email account to send or receive classified information while she was secretary of state, in response to a government inspector's letter this week.

"I did not send nor receive anything that was classified at the time," Clinton said at a campaign stop in Iowa.

The email controversy has dogged Clinton's bid for the presidency, fuelling worries that the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination has tried to sidestep transparency and record-keeping laws.

At least four emails from the private email account that Clinton used while secretary of state contained classified information, Inspector General Charles McCullough, who oversees U.S. intelligence agencies, told members of Congress in a letter on Thursday.

Clinton said on Saturday she had "no idea" what were the emails mentioned in the letter.

McCullough's letter said a sampling of 40 of about 30,000 emails sent or received by Clinton found at least four that contained information the government had classified as secret.

The information was classified at the time that the emails were sent, McCullough said.

The use of her private email account, linked to a server in her New York home for work, has drawn fire from political opponents since coming to light in March.

Republicans have accused Clinton of trying to avoid disclosure laws through her use of private systems.

The frontrunner to represent the Democratic Party in the November 2016 election, Clinton has repeatedly said she broke no laws or rules by eschewing a standard government email account.

While Clinton faces little competition for the Democratic Party's nomination, several recent polls have found a majority of voters find her untrustworthy, a perception potentially exacerbated by controversy over her emails.

Exclusive: AFL-CIO may delay endorsement of Clinton as 2016 presidential candidate – sources // Reuters // Luciana Lopez - July 25, 2015

In a possible setback for Hillary Clinton, the AFL-CIO's political committee has recommended the nation's largest labor union federation delay endorsing a candidate for the 2016 presidential race as it seeks to push her to be more supportive of its policies on issues such as trade and wages.

The committee on Monday voted unanimously to support the proposal, three union sources told Reuters. The recommendation will be presented at a July

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29-30 meeting of the executive council of the federation, which will make the final decision. It could reject the recommendation and still go ahead with an endorsement, though one of the sources said that is unlikely.

The move highlights the pressures Clinton is facing to take a tough stand against the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a proposed free trade deal backed by President Barack Obama but vigorously opposed by unions who see it as detrimental to jobs and wages in the U.S. Unions also want her to back labor-friendly policies on other issues, such as the minimum wage and the Federal Reserve.

The length of any delay in an endorsement may depend on how satisfied union leaders are with Clinton's stance on TPP over the next few months.

Clinton, as well as Democrat rivals for the party's nomination in the presidential race, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, and one of the candidates in the Republican race, Mike Huckabee, will be grilled by union leaders on the TPP and other issues at next week's meeting.

"There will not be an endorsement now," said a source who was at the political committee meeting on Monday. "There will be a lot of healthy discussion about how we approach the election."

QUELLING REVOLT

Delaying an endorsement would also give the affiliated unions time to hear from their members and let the democratic process play out as labor eventually coalesces behind a candidate, the source said.

An endorsement now from the AFL-CIO would be a major boon to Clinton. It would provide her with both a symbolic and practical boost given labor's traditional role in raising money and mobilizing voters for the Democratic Party. That would be especially helpful to Clinton as she seeks to build a broad coalition within her party to fend off a challenge on her left from Vermont Senator Sanders, who has eaten away at her lead in recent polls.

While the federation, an umbrella group of 56 unions representing more than 12.5 million workers, is expected to support the eventual Democratic nominee, an early nod could help Clinton build grassroots support so that she could go into a presidential election from a stronger position.

A request for comment to the AFL-CIO was not immediately returned. Its President Richard Trumka said earlier this year that it was "conceivable" that the AFL-CIO would not endorse any candidate in the 2016 race.

The federation has been trying to quell a revolt in its ranks as some local unions have declared their support for Sanders, who is known for his progressive stance and who has spoken out strongly against the TPP.

In contrast, Clinton has simply said that any final trade agreement needs to include strong worker protections and that she will reserve judgment until a completed deal is presented. Negotiators from the U.S, and 11 other nations from the Pacific Rim, including Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Australia, Mexico and Canada, are meeting in the next week in Hawaii in an attempt to reach a final agreement.

The trade deal will likely be the top issue at the two-day gathering of the AFL-CIO, which represents workers in a wide range of occupations, from brick layers to machinists to nurses.

The issue is a difficult one for Clinton, who was secretary of state in Obama's first term and an influential player in the administration's effort to build stronger ties with Asia. Obama administration officials view the TPP as a crucial part of its "pivot" to Asia.

But Clinton has found some support, as well. The American Federation of Teachers earlier this month announced its endorsement of her – despite a request from Trumka recently that the affiliated unions hold off on such moves until the federation makes its own pick. The endorsement was contentious within the AFT, with a number of members posting angry comments to the union's Facebook page after the decision was announced.

Even if the federation holds off on its endorsement, more of the affiliated unions could pick candidates soon.

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At a meeting of the Utility Workers Union of America in Florida this week, Bernie Sanders won 65 percent of the vote in cell phone poll of the 400 elected delegates to the convention. Clinton won 23 percent, with Martin O'Malley taking 7 percent and the combined Republican field winning 5 percent.

Still, some labor leaders suggest Sanders is highly unlikely to get official AFL-CIO backing unless he brings off a shock win and defeats Clinton to become the party's nominee. Most unions are expected to endorse Clinton if, as widely expected, she gets the nomination.

"At the end of the day there's not going to be a split," Thomas Buffenbarger, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, told Reuters earlier this month. "I don't see any union running to any Republican candidate."

Clinton, congressional Benghazi panel at odds over appearance date // Reuters // Bill Trott - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign said on Saturday the former secretary of state will testify on Oct. 22 before a House committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi, Libya, attacks, but a spokesman for the panel said no date had been set.

Republican Representative Trey Gowdy, chairman of the Benghazi investigation committee, had sought to hear from Clinton on the attacks, in which four Americans were killed, and her use of a private email account while she was America's top diplomat.

A spokesman for Clinton, the front-runner in polls for the Democratic nomination in next year's presidential election, said she had accepted an offer from the committee to testify on Oct. 22.

"Earlier this week we were pleased for Secretary Clinton to receive an offer from Congressman Gowdy to appear before the committee in a public hearing in October, and yesterday accepted his invitation," campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said in an emailed statement. He said the date was Oct. 22.

A few hours after the Clinton campaign announced her planned appearance, Jamal Ware, spokesman for the Benghazi committee, said the date was not firm.

"Secretary Clinton's campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer, Mr. David Kendall, with whom the Committee has had ongoing conversations," Ware said in a statement. "As of last night, Mr. Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance."

Ware said the conditions proposed by Kendall were that the date of her testimony not change once it was set and that questioning of Clinton stay within parameters set by the resolution that established the committee.

However, a Democratic spokesman for the Benghazi committee said Gowdy's staff had proposed dates in October and that Clinton's attorney had accepted Oct. 22.

Clinton was secretary of state at the time of the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks by Islamic militants on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, which resulted in the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Congressional Republicans have scrutinized Clinton's handling of the incident and criticized the lack of security at the U.S. compound.

Clinton has also been engulfed in a controversy over her use of a private email server instead of a government account while she was secretary of state.

At least four emails out of some 30,000 from that private account contained classified information, according to a government inspector's letter to Congress this week.

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House Benghazi panel says no date set for Clinton testimony // Reuters // Eric Beech - July 25, 2015

The U.S. House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, said on Saturday that no date has been set for Hillary Clinton's testimony before the panel, contradicting a Clinton campaign spokesman who said the former secretary of state would appear on Oct. 22.

"Secretary Clinton's campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer, Mr. David Kendall, with whom the Committee has had ongoing conversations. As of last night, Mr. Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance," the committee said in a statement.

Clinton campaign, Republicans clash over Benghazi testimony // CNN // Dan Merica - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign said Saturday morning that she will publicly testify before the House Select Committee on Benghazi on Oct. 22. But a committee spokesman later said the former secretary of state's lawyer was demanding limitations on the questioning, casting doubt over whether she'll appear.

Clinton was invited to appear before the committee investigating the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attack earlier this week, and the former secretary of state and 2016 presidential candidate accepted that invitation on Friday, campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said.

Merrill said Clinton was "pleased" to receive the invitation to a public hearing from committee chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy. A Democratic Benghazi Commitee spokesperson told CNN that Gowdy offered several dates in October.

But Jamal Ware, the select committee's communications director, disputed that a date had been set, saying that Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, was insisting that the scope of the questioning be limited to the Benghazi attack -- and not other subjects, such as Libya and her use of a private email server, as Ware claims Kendall had previously agreed to -- and that the hearing date would not change.

"The committee will not, now or ever, accept artificial limitations on its congressionally-directed jurisdiction or efforts to meet the responsibilities assigned to the committee by the House of Representatives," Ware said in a statement. "Accordingly, once there is an agreement on the date and a better understanding of how, if at all, Secretary Clinton's lawyer's latest writing differs from previous ones, the committee will announce said hearing date."

A message left with Clinton's campaign regarding Ware's statement was not immediately returned Saturday afternoon.

The latest development on Clinton's testimony comes after a protracted back and forth between the Republican-controlled committee and Clinton's allies on Capitol Hill and in Washington. Republicans contend that the committee is solely interested in looking into the terrorist attack that killed four Americans -- including Ambassador Christopher J. Stevens -- while Clinton was secretary of state. Clinton's supporters argue that Gowdy's committee has become nothing more than a political arm of the Republican Party, looking to score points against Clinton ahead of the 2016 presidential campaign.

Clinton agreed to testify before the committee in May. Gowdy, however, rejected that offer and asked the secretary to appear twice -- once on her exclusive use of a private email server while at State and another in regard to the Benghazi attack.

Kendall, who has spearheaded Clinton's communication with the committee, said the former first lady would only testify once on both topics and offered to do it during the week of May 18 or later.

The date came and went, however, with no testimony.

When it became clear Clinton would have to testify before the committee, her allies and campaign aides had hoped that testimony would happen earlier rather than later in the hopes of not allowing Gowdy to drag the testimony into the heat of the 2016 contest. Clinton's aides, however, have told reporters that they are confident the former senator would be able to hold her own in front of the committee.

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The top Democrat on the committee, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, accused Gowdy last week of overstepping the bounds of his committee.

"It appears that much of the Select Committee's work has been shelved while Republicans pursue every possible avenue of political attack against Secretary Clinton," Cummings said in a letter to Gowdy. "These actions by the Select Committee -- which lack any legitimate basis -- serve only to delay its work further into the election season and subject it to increasingly widespread criticism for its highly partisan actions."

Gowdy has maintained, however, that he is only interested in getting to the bottom of the Benghazi attack and Republicans have complimented him for leaving politics out of it.

Clinton's email gained renewed focus on Friday after the inspector general for the intelligence community has informed members of Congress that some material Hillary Clinton emailed from her private server contained classified information, but it was not identified that way when they were sent. Because it was not identified, it is unclear whether Clinton realized she was potentially compromising classified information.

The story emboldened Republicans on Friday to call for Clinton to turn over the private email server she used as secretary of state.

"The number of questions surrounding Secretary Clinton's unusual email arrangement continues to grow," Gowdy said in a statement on Friday. "The best -- the only way -- to resolve these important factual questions is for her to turn over her server to the proper authorities for independent forensic evaluation."

Clinton turned over 55,000 pages of emails to the State Department earlier this year and the Benghazi committee is in the process of going through those messages.

Clinton on emails: 'The facts are pretty clear' **// CNN // Eugene Scott - July 25, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Saturday said she did not send classified emails from her private server while she was secretary of state.

"I am confident that I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received," Clinton told reporters in Winterset, Iowa.

She added that the latest controversy is an example of disagreement among various parts of the government about what should or should not be publicly released.

Clinton's remarks come after The New York Times reported Thursday night that inspectors general for the intelligence community and the State Department had asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation into Clinton's possible mishandling of classified email. But the paper significantly revised its story the next day to say the matter was referred to Justice to examine whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with Clinton's account -- but not necessarily by Clinton.

On Friday, CNN reported that the inspector general for the intelligence community had informed members of Congress that some material Clinton emailed from her private server contained classified information, but it was not identified that way.

Because it was not identified, it is unclear whether Clinton realized she was potentially compromising classified information. The IG reviewed a "limited sampling" of her emails, and among those 40 reviewed, found that "four contained classified (intelligence community) information," wrote the IG Charles McCullough in a letter to Congress.

The inspector general's office has confirmed it has asked the Justice Department to look into how the State Department handled the classification of documents, but emphasized it was not requesting a criminal investigation.

Clinton said she has no idea what are the four specific emails the inspector general was talking about in his letter to Congress.

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"But the facts are pretty clear," Clinton said. "I did not send or receive anything that was classified at the time."

Clinton told reporters she turned over 55,000 pages of emails to help the State Department, because officials asked all former secretaries to provide any information possible to help with their record keeping.

"So I did, but then I said, 'Okay, so let's make it public,'" she said. "Now if I had just turned it over, we would not be having this conversation."

Clinton said her desire to make things public requires that it goes through the public records request process.

"If we were not asking for it to be made public, there would not be a debate. This is all about my desire to have transparency and make the information public," she said.

All of the emails are already on the unclassified system of the State Department, Clinton said.

"The vast majority of anything that I sent or received was already on the State Department system, the unclassified State Department system," she said. "In order to respond to freedom of information requests, you'd have to go through the same process."

Hillary Clinton agrees to testify before Benghazi committee in October // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - July 25, 2015

For more than four years, Wyatt Cenac held one of the most coveted jobs in American comedy, serving as a writer and on-air contributor for “The Daily Show.” But in 2012, Cenac quit that job, even though he had no new gig lined up to replace it. On a recent episode of Marc Maron’s “WTF” poodcast, Cenac revealed that his departure was the product of an emotionally traumatizing fight he’d had with Jon Stewart, over whether or not one of the host’s jokes was racially insensitive.

In 2011, African-American pizza magnate Herman Cain was – briefly – a leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. Among Cain’s signature policies was a proposal for all congressional bills to be limited to three pages. On “The Daily Show,” Stewart mocked the anti-intellectualism of Cain’s proposal by impersonating the candidate, saying in an approximation of Cain’s own loud, affectedly southern voice, “Bills will be three pages! If I am president, treaties will have to fit on the back of a cereal box! From now on, the State of the Union address will be delivered in the form of a fortune cookie! I am Herman Cain, and I do not like to read.”

Cenac told Maron that the bit made him cringe.

“I don’t think this is from a malicious place, but I think this is from a naïve, ignorant place,” Cenac said he remembered remembered thinking, when he first watched the segment.

“I represent my community, I represent my people,” Cenac continued. “I gotta be honest if something seems questionable, because if not, then I don’t want to be in a position where I am being untrue not just to myself but to my culture, because that’s exploitative.”

In a writer’s meeting, Cenac told Stewart that the voice reminded him of Kingfish, an African-American caricature from the show “Amos ‘n’ Andy.” According to Cenac, Stewart then “exploded.”

“He got incredibly defensive. I remember he was like, ‘What are you trying to say? There’s a tone in your voice.’ I was like, ‘There’s no tone. It bothered me. It sounded like Kingfish.’ And then he got upset. And he stood up and he was just like, ‘F— off. I’m done with you.’ And he just started screaming that to me. And he screamed it a few times. ‘F— off! I’m done with you.’ And he stormed out. And I didn’t know if I had been fired.”

Spokespeople for “The Daily Show” did not immediately respond to msnbc’s request for comment.

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Stewart would later apologize for yelling at Cenac, but maintained his belief that the voice was an exaggeration of Cain's, and not a racist caricature, a position shared by at least some black commentators at the time.

Cenac said the dispute devastated him. The comedian told Maron that his father was murdered when he was very young, and that the loss left him looking for substitute father figures for the rest of his life. Cenac said he had hoped that Stewart might serve as a personal mentor. But the host kept his relationship with the show's writers strictly, coldly professional, according to Cenac, who said the shouting match was the first real conversation the two had ever had.

"It's a sobering moment when you see that this person you've turned into a hero is just a mortal," he said of the encounter.

Cenac's disappointment with Stewart was exacerbated by the sense of isolation that came with always being the only African-American in the writer's room. After the fight, Cenac walked to the baseball field across from the studio and broke down.

"I was shaking, and I just sat there by myself on the bleachers and f—— cried. And it's a sad thing. That's how I feel. That's how I feel in this job. I feel alone," he said.

He stayed on the show for a year after the incident but never stopped feeling sad and uncomfortable with what had happened.

When Stewart announced his retirement, Cenac sent him an email offering his congratulations, and thanked Stewart for giving the opportunity to contribute to the show.

"He wrote back. And it seemed like a nice fence-mending," Cenac said. "We tossed back and forth a joke about football."

Recently, Cenac received an invitation to appear on Stewart's final episode as host of "The Daily Show," which will air on August 6. Cenac told Maron that he didn't want to attend because he and Stewart had never resolved what had happened between them.

He ended up writing Stewart a long email, laying out all his feelings on the fight and the tense year that followed.

"He thought that fight we got into was just two people having an argument. And so the emotion of it, he never really saw," Cenac said. "He apologized as much as he could, for if I felt hurt and he said, 'I'd love for you to be at the last show because I helped to build this thing' … And I appreciated that. I still don't know if I'm going to show up."

Hillary Clinton: Emails were not marked as classified // MSNBC // Kristen Welker - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Saturday said she's confident nothing marked classified was relayed in her private emails while she was secretary of state.

Two inspectors general have asked the Department of Justice to investigate whether classified information was mishandled in relation to Clinton's use of a private email account.

The Justice Department mistakenly told reporters that the request was for a criminal investigation, then corrected itself and said the request was not a criminal referral.

Clinton, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, said "there was a disagreement between various agencies" as to whether the four emails in question should have been classified when they were sent.

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“I did not receive anything that was marked as classified,” Clinton told reporters after a campaign event in Winterset, Iowa.

“What I think you’re seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion, to some extent disagreement, among various parts of the government over what should or should not be publicly released,” Clinton said.

Clinton has been under fire by critics for her use of a private email kept on a private server while she served as secretary of state. Clinton has said she wanted the emails to be public, and turned over 55,000 pages of emails to the State Department for release.

A Justice Department official said Friday afternoon that “The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information,” but noted that it was not a criminal referral.

In a joint statement, the two inspectors general who made the referral said that it was “a security referral made for counterintelligence purposes.”

But, they added, they found that a sample of 40 of Clinton’s emails from Clinton’s server contained four with classified information that should “never have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system.”

Hillary’s inconceivably stupid capital-gains tax scheme // NBC // Larry Kudlow - July 25, 2015

In her latest economic speech, Clinton proposes doubling the capital-gains tax rate on the profit made from asset sales (stocks, bonds, real estate) held a day less than one year up to two years. Right now, if you take a capital gain a day more than one year, you are taxed at a 20 percent rate. Actually, it's 23.8 percent when you include the health-care surtax. So under Clinton's brilliant new play, you'd be taxed at 43.4 percent — the top individual cap-gains rate of 39.6 percent plus the 3.8 percent Obamacare surtax.

That means, instead of keeping 80 cents on the additional dollar of profit, you'd only keep 56.6 cents — a 30-percentage-point reduction in the take-home-pay reward for taking an extra dollar's investment risk.

This will create a tall barrier to investment — what we don't need. If you tax something more, you get less of it.

Clinton complains about too much "short-termism" in the economy. But her program might well create more of it. That's because she has a sliding tax-rate scale, whereby assets held two to three years would be taxed at 39.8 percent and assets held three to four years at 35.8 percent. And you don't get back to the statutory 20 percent cap-gains rate unless you hold an asset for six-plus years.

Who's going to lock themselves into that? What if new investment opportunities arise? Want to convert your current holding into cash so you can invest in your brother-in-law's start-up? Maybe it's the next Facebook. Who knows? The point is, the Clinton plan exacts a huge tax penalty on the movement from old capital to new.

Read MoreClinton rakes in Wall Street cash amid tough talk

The late Jude Wanniski called this re-oxygenating the economy. Ms. Clinton would snuff that out. Her short-termism fear will lock us into long-term economic stagnation.

By the way, the numbers are actually worse, because capital gains are already taxed as corporate profits. What investors pay is a double tax.

So let's go back to Hillary's top cap-gains rate of 43.8 percent. The government takes 35 percent of your profit in corporate taxes, leaving 65 cents to be taxed a second time as capital gains at the new 43.8 percent rate. That results in a take-home profit of 37 cents on the dollar.

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Is that enough to reward the risk of investing in the next Uber? Except for Mayor Bill de Blasio, who hates Uber, most people would say no.

But that's Hillary's plan.

How powerful is the capital-gains tax? The non-partisan Tax Foundation rates it among the top three economic-growth influences on the economy, along with full cash-expensing for new investment in plants and equipment and the corporate tax. And compared with the rest of the world, the U.S. has fallen far behind in terms of this investment-tax-penalty grouping.

This is government tinkering at its worst. The reality is that Hillary Clinton is attempting to punish success and redistribute income.

Did someone say tax the rich? Clinton proposes an income threshold of $484,850 for married couples filing jointly. Oh my gosh! Successful economic activists! Let's get 'em!

Ironically, history shows that periods of higher capital-gains tax rates produce less revenue as a share of all federal revenue and as a fraction of GDP. Hillary's not even redistributing efficiently.

And then there's what some call the "Charles Gibson effect." Gibson interviewed then-Senator Obama in 2008 for ABC News. Obama said he'd raise the cap-gains tax from 15 percent to 28 percent. But Gibson reminded Obama that when Bill Clinton and George Bush lowered cap-gains tax rates, revenues actually increased. In other words, the Laffer curve. But Obama said it didn't matter because he wanted to be "fair."

It also doesn't matter to Hillary. She wants to beat Bernie Sanders, or at least cuddle up to the Vermont socialist. What nonsense. Bad economics and bad politics. Voters will understand this.

Personal income, corporate profits, capital gains, dividends — everything. But that still leaves me with a double-tax problem for investment and savings. So it's probably time to blow up the corporate-tax code altogether. That would get us to the 4-percent-plus growth path advocated by some of the Republicans on the campaign trail.

And that would get us some "long-termism" economic growth — just what the country yearns for.

Hillary Clinton Says She's 'Confident' She Did Not Send or Receive Classified Information // ABC // Liz Kreutz - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton today brushed off a new investigation into whether she sent or received classified information on her personal email address while at the State Department, telling reporters she is "confident" she did not.

"First, let me say that I am confident that I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received," Clinton told reporters at the Third District Democrats Summer Wine Down in Winterset. "I think you're seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion, to some extent disagreement, among various parts of the government over what should or should not be publicly released."

Clinton went on to explain that she did not have to make all of her emails available to the public when she turned them over to the State Department, and argued that the new investigation is only a consequence of her doing so.

"If I just turned it over, we would not be having this conversation. But when I said, 'Hey, I want it to be public,' it has to go through the FOIA process. That's what's going on here," Clinton said. "This is all about my desire to have transparency and to make the information public."

Clinton's comments come amid a new development into Clinton's controversial use of a private email address while at the State Department.

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Internal investigators for the intelligence community say that of the 55,000 emails Clinton turned over to the State Department, at least four –- and potentially hundreds more –- included classified national security information when they were sent on her private email account and home server.

The investigation has renewed questions about whether Clinton did send classified material over email, something she adamantly denied back in March when it was first revealed that she used her private server for business.

Today Clinton doubled down on her beliefs, saying, "The facts are pretty clear: I did not send nor receive anything that was classified at the time."

Clinton also revealed today that she is planning to testify before the House Committee investigating the Benghazi terrorist attacks in late October. During the hearing, which will be public, Clinton will likely also take questions on her use of email.

Dispute Continues Over Hillary Clinton Testifying Before Benghazi Panel // TIME // Zeke J. Miller - July 25, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's campaign and the House Benghazi Committee remain at loggerheads over the conditions under which she would testify before the committee, probing the killing of four Americans in the September 2012 attack in Libya.

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill announced Saturday that Clinton had agreed to testify before the committee in a public hearing in October, but the committee's communications director, Jamal Ware, said no agreement had in fact been reached.

"Earlier this week we were pleased for Secretary Clinton to receive an offer from Congressman Gowdy to appear before the committee in a public hearing in October, and yesterday accepted his invitation," Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement.

"Secretary Clinton's campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer, Mr. David Kendall, with whom the Committee has had ongoing conversations," Ware said. "As of last night, Mr. Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance."

According to Ware, Kendall had two conditions for Clinton testify: that the questions be limited in scope to the Benghazi committee's jurisdiction, and that the date remain firm despite the State Department's alleged slow production of documents to the committee.

In recent months the committee has expanded its purview into investigating Clinton's use of a private email server rather than a government email account. On Friday, a pair of inspectors general announced that they had found messages containing classified information among the 30,000 emails Clinton has turned over from the server, contrary to Clinton's assertion in March. The inspector general for the intelligence community also notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the possible compromise of classified information being kept outside of government control, in reference to Clinton's private server.

Ware said the committee believes that the email issue is well within its purview.

"Her email arrangement clearly falls within the scope of the Select Committee's jurisdiction, which is charged by the House under the Resolution to look at Executive Branch efforts to comply with congressional oversight as well as the administration's response in the aftermath of the tragic attacks in Benghazi," he said.

A public hearing would mark a small victory for Clinton, who has pushed to testify in public, despite committee chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy's hopes for her to testify in a classified setting.

Clinton Aide: Hillary Clinton To Testify Before Benghazi Committee In October // HuffPo // Sam Levine - July 25, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will publicly testify before the House Select Committee on Benghazi on Oct. 22, a Clinton spokesperson told The Washington Post on Saturday.

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That date was disputed by Jamal Ware, the committee's communications director, who said in a Saturday statement that the panel and Clinton's lawyer were still negotiating the conditions of her appearance as of Friday evening.

“Secretary Clinton's campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer, Mr. David Kendall, with whom the Committee has had ongoing conversations. As of last night, Mr. Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance," Ware said in the statement.

A Clinton spokesman did not return a request for comment.

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), the committee's chairman, asked Clinton in March to appear before a closed-door meeting of the committee to discuss her use of a private email server. Clinton, a Democratic candidate for president, has indicated for months that she is willing to appear before the panel, but would like to do so in public. Clinton's team preferred a public hearing to a private one out of concern that Republicans on the committee would selectively leak unflattering details, the Post reported.

The committee is reviewing 55,000 pages of emails that Clinton voluntarily turned over. In June, the panel interviewed former Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal about some of the messages in a session that largely focused on domestic politics.

Gowdy's committee is charged with conducting a full investigation of all of the events surrounding the 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, which killed four, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. Critics say that the committee is just a vehicle for Republicans to attack Clinton.

Hillary Clinton's campaign says she will testify before Congress about Benghazi terrorist attacks in October // NY Daily News / / Cameron Joseph and Denis Slattery - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign said Saturday that a deal is in place for the Democratic presidential front-runner to testify about the Benghazi terrorist attacks before Congress in October.

The committee’s response: Not so fast.

Jamal Ware, a spokesman for the House committee investigating the attacks, said details were still being hashed out — and took a jab at the Clinton team.

“Secretary Clinton’s campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer, Mr. David Kendall,” Ware said. “As of last night, Mr. Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance.”

The committee is investigating Clinton’s actions during the attacks when she was Secretary of State. The attacks left U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens and three others dead.

Clinton had offered to testify publicly, leaving at issue the timing and the scope of questions from the committee, headed by Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.).

“Finally, earlier this week we were pleased for Secretary Clinton to receive an offer from Congressman Gowdy to appear before the committee in a public hearing in October, and yesterday accepted his invitation,” a Clinton campaign spokesman, Nick Merrill, said.

The back and forth over Clinton’s testimony comes as she faces intensified scrutiny for using a personal email account and private computer server while secretary of state.

The Justice Department was asked to launch an investigation into whether potentially classified information was contained in some of the emails, though the emails were not labeled by the State Department as classified.

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Since the use of the private email account was revealed in March, Clinton has staunchly denied she ever sent or received any classified emails.

Another batch of emails Clinton turned over to the State Department is scheduled to be released to the public next week.

“We want to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed as these emails are reviewed while not unduly delaying the release of her emails,” said Merrill, the Clinton spokesman.

Hillary Clinton to Testify Before Congress About Benghazi Emails // Gawker // Brendan O’Connor - July 25, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has accepted an invitation to testify before the Republican-led committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Libya now ominously referred to as “Benghazi,” the New York Times reports.

According to a Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton’s presidential campaign, the candidate accepted the committee’s invitation to testify in October on Friday, the Times reports. Also on Friday, the inspectors general for the State Department and the nation’s intelligence agencies announced that they had discovered classified information on Clinton’s private email account.

“We have had a chance to review the statement released by the inspectors general of the State Department and intelligence community outlining their concerns with regard to the State Department’s review and release of Hillary Clinton’s work emails,” Merrill wrote in an emailed statement.

“We want to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed as these emails are reviewed while not unduly delaying the release of her emails,” the statement continued. “We particularly do not want their release to be hampered by bureaucratic infighting among the intelligence community. More emails are slated to be released by the State Department next week, and we hope that release is as inclusive as possible.”

The Times reports that Clinton’s testimony is expected to be public. Clinton last testified before Congress on Benghazi in January 2013.

There appears to be some confusion in Washington, however, over whether Clinton has actually agreed to appear. “Secretary Clinton’s campaign may want to reach out to her lawyer, Mr David Kendall, with whom the committee has had ongoing conversations,” the Benghazi committee said in a statement on Saturday. “As of last night, Mr Kendall was still negotiating conditions for her appearance.”

But Merrill told the Times that this was incorrect. “As the committee’s own statement says, we have made clear that we understand emails are in their jurisdiction,” he said. “So unless the committee now believes emails are no longer in its jurisdiction, we are in agreement.”

Hillary Clinton accepts invitation to testify before Benghazi committee // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood - July 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton accepted on Friday an invitation to testify before the House Select Committee on Benghazi in October.

Chairman Trey Gowdy asked Clinton to appear before the committee earlier this week, according to campaign spokesman Nick Merrill.

Merrill also disputed media reports that Clinton had handled classified information improperly on her private email server, which prompted two inspectors general to refer the matter to the Justice Department for a possible criminal investigation.

"Friday began with the printing of a story that was false," Merrill said in a statement. "Entities from the highest levels of two branches of government have now made that clear."

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Gowdy had asked Clinton to testify before the committee about her use of personal email address and server to shield her official communications from the government network and her role in the security failures that led to the 2012 terror attack in Benghazi.

Clinton has been forced to respond to questions about her emails, among other points of controversy, in the early days of her campaign as details of the unusual arrangement have emerged.

She has repeatedly maintained that she broke no laws by using a personal account and that no classified information passed through the server.

But a report in the New York Times Friday indicated hundreds of the private emails she chose to give the State Department could contain classified intelligence.

Clinton has not yet appeared before the Benghazi committee, whose sole purpose is to investigate the circumstances surrounding the attack.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

O'Malley college debt was self-inflicted by unwise decisions // Baltimore Sun // Jerry Rodkey - July 25, 2015

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley's college debt unfortunately mirrors those of many who fail to plan, prioritize, work, sacrifice, save and live within their means ("O'Malley's $339,200 college debt," July 20).

While working for the federal government, and with a wife who was a "stay-at-home mom," our three children were free of college debt within 18 months after they completed their undergraduate and post-graduate degrees.

They attended in-state schools, had summer jobs and began saving for college while in middle school. My sons served as college resident hall advisers. All applied for numerous scholarships; all received one or more.

All pursued degrees sought in today's job markets. After my daughter completed her undergraduate degree, she accepted a position with AmeriCorps to teach at-risk students in Colorado. Upon fulfilling her commitment, she received money that was sufficient to pay off the balance of her college loans. She is currently working part-time while enrolled in a full-time master's degree program.

As for myself, I performed odd jobs within my neighborhood while in middle school, had a part-time job at a hospital while attending high school, and worked in factories during my college summer and Christmas breaks.

I commuted to a state university for two years then sold my car after successfully competing for a partial two-year ROTC scholarship that enabled me to reside on campus during my last two years. I incurred a four-year, active duty military obligation that resulted in an army career.

I am extremely proud of the work ethic, values, sacrifices and accomplishments of my children. I'm thankful to God that they, unlike Mr. O'Malley, were humble and fiscally prudent. The formula for success is well known. Unfortunately, too many lack the will and determination to implement it.

SANDERS

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For Bernie Sanders, a lot riding on a Louisiana visit // WaPo // John Wagner - July 25, 2015

Louisiana traditionally doesn't rank up there with Iowa and New Hampshire as important destinations for presidential candidates at this point on the calendar. But Bernie Sanders has a lot riding on a swing through the Bayou State this weekend.

In seeking the Democratic nomination, the independent senator from Vermont has acknowledged that one of his key challenges is demonstrating an ability to connect with black voters. Sanders, who has emerged as the leading alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton, represents a state that is 95 percent white. Unlike most of his Democratic rivals, his elections have never required much outreach to the African American community.

Sanders is also fresh off an awkward experience last weekend at the liberal Netroots Nation conference in Phoenix, where both he and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley were heckled by protesters aligned with the Black Lives Matter movement. To many in the crowd, Sanders seemed dismissive as activists demanded specific prescriptions for dealing with police brutality and other issues. At one point, Sanders offered to leave the stage.

Which brings us to this weekend: Sanders has four events booked in a state where one-third of the population is black.

He is scheduled to appear in Baton Rouge on Saturday night at a national gathering of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a storied African American civil rights organization whose first president was Martin Luther King Jr.

From there, the self-described democratic socialist heads to New Orleans to address a Jefferson-Jackson dinner later that night sponsored by the Louisiana Democratic Party. There is certain to be a sizable African American turnout there as well. And on Sunday, Sanders has both a house party and large-scale rally planned in the New Orleans area.

In recent weeks, Sanders has seen his crowds swell into the thousands at rallies around the country. But they have been largely white. This isn't surprising in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two presidential nominating states, which have small minority populations. But the same has been true in larger locales around the country.

In Louisiana, Sanders has an opportunity to demonstrate a broader appeal.

"If he's going to be considered a serious candidate, he needs to make inroads in the black community," said state Rep. Randal L. Gaines, a member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus.

Gaines said Sanders has come to the attention of a lot of Democrats in the state, particularly younger ones, in just the last 30 days. Clinton, by contrast, is well known, both for her own political career and for that of her husband, who was the governor of neighboring Arkansas before he became president.

The Sanders campaign sees potential here. The 73-year-old senator has a long history on civil rights, having attended the 1963 March on Washington and witnessed King's "I Have a Dream" speech in person.

During a swing through New Hampshire last month, Sanders pledged "a significant expansion" in outreach to minority voters and suggested his economic message should resonate.

"The views that we hold are important to all Americans … but to be honest with you, they're probably more relevant to black and Hispanic voters … because the poverty rate in those communities is even higher than whites," Sanders told reporters.

Sanders cited his support to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour and offer free college tuition as examples.

During appearances in Texas this week, Sanders also spoke out about the case of Sandra Bland, the 28-year-old African American woman found dead in her jail cell 60 miles northwest of Houston after being arrested for a traffic stop. Her family has disputed a medical examiner's finding that the death was

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a suicide.

Sanders will also be watched closely in coming days to see what he has to say about gun violence in the wake of Thursday's fatal shootings in a movie theater in Lafayette, La. His record on Capitol Hill is mixed when it comes to gun control, an issue of interest to black voters.

African Americans are a key constituency in the Democratic nominating process. Once the process moves beyond Iowa and New Hampshire, their influence will be felt, starting with the South Carolina primary.

As he tries to build bridges, aides say Sanders will make stops in several other Southern states in coming weeks, including in South Carolina.

Bernie Sanders is in with the enemy, some old allies say // WaPo // David A. Fahrenthold - July 25, 2015

It was one of the first political events Bernie Sanders ever went to in Vermont: a 1971 discussion by a small group of left-wingers, the Liberty Union Party.

These people were not winners, in the electoral sense. The closest they had come to winning a statewide race, at that point, was losing by 56 points. So someone in the audience asked: Why don't you become Democrats? Why not sacrifice third-party purity for a chance at actual power?

Sanders — a transplanted Brooklynite, known in Vermont for his overheated writing and underwhelming carpentry — spoke up from the crowd. The sacrifice wasn't worth it.

"He felt strongly that you worked outside the Democratic Party," said Jim Rader, a longtime friend who took Sanders to the meeting. "He felt there were too many compromises that had to be made, too many compromises of political principles."

Last week, 44 years later, a group of socialists gathered in a Vermont library to have a strikingly similar debate. This time, they were deciding whether they could support Bernie Sanders himself.

Sanders was not at this meeting. The scruffy socialist of the '70s — who later became a mayor, congressman and U.S. senator — is out on the campaign trail now, drawing huge crowds as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In Vermont, the socialists' speaker said his answer was no. The purest socialist in mainstream American politics was no longer pure enough.

"When Sanders decided to run as a Democrat," that was the last straw, said Jim Ramey at the meeting of the International Socialist Organization's Burlington branch. "People on the left should not support him."

The story of Bernie Sanders's life in politics is the distance between those two meetings.

Sanders got his start on Vermont's left fringe. In multiple third-party runs for office, he learned the craft of politics, which has been the only steady work he has ever had. Sanders also developed the same policy ideas that still define him: taxing the rich, expanding the safety net for the poor and weakening the influence of Wall Street.

But if Sanders kept the fringe's ideas, he quickly discarded its small-bore tactics — and began making allies, and compromises, that would bring him bigger audiences and higher office.

The result is that Vermont is strewn with dissatisfied socialists, denouncing Sanders for perceived sins that go back to the '70s.

And Bernie Sanders is running for president.

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“A very skilled and savvy politician,” said Rader, who later worked in Sanders’s congressional office, so close to Sanders that they shared one well-used necktie. “He’s not a purist. He’s consistent. He holds very deep convictions. But he is not a purist.”

Sanders was born in Brooklyn, the son of a paint salesman, and became involved in left-wing politics at the University of Chicago. He arrived in Vermont in a wave of newcomers, back-to-the-landers. They didn’t make a habit of asking one another where they had come from.

“He was poor as a church mouse back then … living in an apartment that I always referred to as dark, stark and cluttered,” said Darcy Troville, a friend from those early days. Sanders had been divorced years before. He had a son, whose mother and he never married. “I was wondering how he ended up with this baby alone. I didn’t know what he did for work,” Troville said.

If Bernie Sanders had a great talent at that time, it was not obvious.

He wrote for the Vermont Freeman, a counter-culture newspaper, for $10 or $15 a story, including an especially strange piece about dark sexual fantasies. Sanders also did some carpentry. Nobody remembers the writing or the woodworking well.

The thing Sanders was good at, it turned out, was politics.

But even that wasn’t clear right away.

“We didn’t have a chance in hell,” John Bloch said, recalling a meeting of the Liberty Union Party in 1971, when members were seeking nominees to run for the U.S. Senate. “I said, ‘Is there anybody that can be lion bait for the Senate race? We need a body.’ ”

Sanders volunteered.

In his first radio interview as a candidate, he later recalled, his nervous knees knocked the table so loudly that the microphone picked it up. “A strange thumping noise traversed the airwaves,” Sanders wrote in his 1997 autobiography, as the sound engineer waved at him to stop it.

The message that Sanders used in that campaign is present in this one. “Wealth=power, lack of wealth=subservience. How could we change that?” he recalled in his autobiography, called “Outsider in the House.” “The ideas I was espousing were not ‘far out’ or ‘fringe.’ Frankly, they were ‘mainstream.’ ”

Maybe. But Sanders wasn’t. He got 2 percent of the vote.

In 1974, Sanders ran for Senate again. Four percent.

In 1976, he ran for governor. Six percent. He was getting better at debates and retail politics. And at this rate, he would be up to an electoral majority in only … 44 more years.

So, in 1977, Sanders quit the party.

In the media, he called Liberty Union “a failure.”

“I didn’t really think he had a right to do that,” said Doris Lake, a former House candidate who had campaigned alongside Sanders in his first race. She meant bad-mouthing the party. “We were still keeping it alive.” Not for the last time, Sanders had alienated one of the true believers with whom he had started out.

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“Enough was enough,” Sanders told himself, he recalled in his autobiography. “My political career was over.”

Trouble was, his other career was worse.

Sanders made slide shows with audio for Vermont schools. But his operation was so painfully low-tech that he was stymied by the need for a “beep” to tell the teacher to advance to the next slide. He couldn’t afford a professional beep. “He tried banging a pot lid with a spoon,” friend Terry Bouricius said. That wasn’t a beep. Finally: “His son’s walkie-talkies, if you pushed both the buttons at the same time, it would make a beep sound.”

Sanders also tried to be a documentary filmmaker, with a movie about a personal role model: Eugene V. Debs, leader of the Socialist Party of America. Sanders did his hero’s voice himself: “One class is small and rich and the other lahwge and poor,” he read in his Brooklyn accent, according to audio discovered by Mother Jones magazine. He continued: “One consists of capitalists, and the other of work-uhs.”

Debs was from Indiana.

“I said, ‘Bernie, you’re not going to sell this thing. The soundtrack, Debs has a Brooklyn accent you can cut with a knife,’ ” Bloch, his friend, remembered saying. Vermonters wouldn’t understand it. “He said, ‘They’ll luuhn.’ ”

It still wasn’t much of a living. Sanders’s landlord raised his rent, and he moved in with a friend.

Then that friend, a University of Vermont professor, persuaded him to go back into politics — running for Burlington mayor as an independent, without the baggage of a larger party behind him. This time, Sanders focused on local issues: a waterfront development, fighting a tax increase, keeping a hill open for snow-sledding.

He won by 10 votes. That year, Sanders recalls, his friends chipped in and bought him something a mayor needs: a leather briefcase. He was 40 years old.

Sanders first faced strong opposition from Republicans and Democrats. He did some things that his old allies liked — he hung a picture of Debs in City Hall, he criticized U.S. policy in Central America, he set up an office to increase affordable housing, and he tried make cable TV cheaper for the poor.

But he still alienated some on the left, at times, by acting like a mayor instead of a socialist.

In 1983, for instance, some of Sanders’s old allies planned to block the gates of a General Electric plant in Burlington that made guns for military helicopters. They would demand that the factory start making something peaceful instead.

“He said he would have us arrested,” said Greg Guma, who had known Sanders since 1972. “Then the day came. And he did.” The socialist mayor sat quietly on a guardrail, watching them being handcuffed.

In the same period, Sanders also began a political relationship with the Democratic Party. He still denounced the party as ideologically bankrupt, part of a closed and corrupt two-party system.

But, when big elections came, he also campaigned for its candidates, as he did for Walter Mondale in 1984.

That lost him another socialist ally.

“The friendship could not stand him storming around the state for Fritz Mondale,” said Peter Diamondstone, one of Sanders’s friends from the Liberty

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Union Party and Doris Lake's husband.

In the good old days, Diamondstone used to stay over at Sanders's house in Burlington, and the two men stayed up late shouting political arguments at each other.

One such row had been over whether all children should be allowed to vote. Diamondstone said yes. Sanders said only after puberty. "I said, 'Waddya want, the town clerks to start doing examinations?" Diamondstone remembered yelling.

Now, that was over. Diamondstone staked out a Mondale event. He caught Sanders coming in and handed his friend a leaflet that called him a "Quisling."

Since then, as Sanders rose through the political ranks, Diamondstone has continued to run as a third-party candidate for state and federal offices. He has run 16 times. He has never won. He has never even cracked 6 percent.

"It was who we were. I mean, he was the best politician. But I watched how he changed. And those changes seemed to be related to moving to the right" to build a bigger following, Diamondstone said. "I was myself, and he was himself. He became a Democrat. And I stayed where I was."

Sanders served as mayor of Burlington for eight years, leaving office in 1989. Later that year, he and Frank Kochman — his old publisher, from his threadbare days as a $15-per-story writer — found themselves alone at a party, looking out over Lake Champlain.

"He's looking off in the distance, and he says … 'I think I ought to run for governor or Congress.' I said, 'Bernie, I don't think that you'll ever get elected governor,' " Kochman said.

The state might not want to be governed by a socialist. But it might send one to Washington. "Congress," Kochman said. "I think you got a real shot."

Sanders ran, and now it appeared that his courting of the Democrats paid off.

Their big guns stayed out of the way, apparently assured that Sanders was close enough to being a Democrat already. With the help of the National Rifle Association, which hated the Republican incumbent, Sanders won.

His association with Democrats continued to pay off.

By 1991, Sanders — although still officially an independent — was part of the Democratic caucus in Congress, climbing the party's seniority ladder. He has not faced a serious challenge from a Democrat in all the elections since.

"Why would you run against him, you know what I mean?" said Jeff Weaver, a longtime Sanders staffer and current campaign manager. For Democratic leaders in Congress, he said, Sanders "was a more reliable vote than a lot of other people down there who had a 'D' after their name."

But, in this election, Sanders is running as a Democrat — officially, fully, within the party system he decried for so long. Sanders said the party's structure makes it easier to get on ballots, into debates and into the media.

He has said that if he loses in the Democratic primary, he will not run as an independent.

"His decision to run this election in the Democratic primary was completely informed by Ralph Nader," said John Franco, a longtime friend who is a lawyer in Burlington. He said Sanders did not want to draw votes away from a Democrat and elect a Republican in the process, as happened when Nader ran and George W. Bush won in 2000. "That really turned out swimmingly," Franco said.

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What about those on the left who think Sanders has sold out by refusing to go it alone?

"Frankly, those people — they have their meetings in a phone booth," Franco said.

Or, at least, in an upstairs meeting room at the Burlington public library.

There were 28 people there at the International Socialist Organization meeting Wednesday night. They called one another "comrade." They praised Nader for having the guts to challenge the two-party system in 2000. No matter who got elected instead.

"My first vote was for Ralph Nader," said Patrick St. John, 32.

"Good for you!" somebody called out, and meant it.

Ramey, a forklift operator for a chocolate company, was in charge of answering the question: "Should the Left Support Bernie Sanders?" He listed some of Sanders's policy goals: a higher minimum wage. Equal pay for women. Free college tuition. A single national health-care system.

"I'm not going to lie. That would be pretty good," Ramey said.

But it wasn't good enough, he said, because of Sanders's choice of tactics: He was running as a Democrat. Which meant that he could lose and deliver his voters to Hillary Clinton, a mainstream Democrat with ties to Wall Street and big business. Deliver them to the system they all wanted to defeat.

"Warts and all, the [Sanders] campaign has a lot going for them," Ramey said. "But the Democratic Party is not a wart." It is a fatal flaw, he said.

So, if Sanders wasn't good enough, what should the socialists do? They didn't settle on a plan. After an hour of discussion, a man in a straw hat stood up.

"I'm tired of being powerless!" said Albert Echt, 66. He wanted to support Bernie Sanders, warts and all. "Let's jump on Bernie's coattails. . . . That would actually be doing something, instead of sitting around!"

The room was not moved. The moderator called on the next person who had raised a hand. Echt, frustrated, walked out.

"They're such fools!" he told a reporter, in a too-loud whisper, as he left.

The meeting broke up amicably without him. In the next week, Sanders was planning big rallies in Iowa and Louisiana. The socialists had a plan to meet again on Thursday in Burlington.

Bernie Sanders heads to Louisiana // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood - July 25, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders will head to Louisiana this weekend for a series of campaign events that will include a town hall and a civil rights convention.

The Vermont Independent is set to host his town hall meeting Sunday at the same venue where Gov. Bobby Jindal launched his presidential campaign earlier this month, according to the New Orleans Advocate.

Sanders, who has drawn impressive crowds to campaign events around the country in recent weeks, will likely be forced to confront the shooting that

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claimed two lives in a Lafayette movie theater earlier this week.

The Democratic presidential candidate will head to Baton Rouge for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's annual convention before departing for New Orleans to attend the state party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner.

OTHER

Democrats woo activists in key Des Moines neighborhood // AP // Catherine Lucey- July 25, 2015

Four years ago, the Beaverdale neighborhood in Des Moines organized big for President Barack Obama's re-election, building an uber-volunteer group skilled at phone-banking, door-knocking and boosting caucus and general election participation. The volunteers dubbed their leafy neighborhood Obamadale.

Now the 2016 Democratic presidential hopefuls are visiting this liberal stronghold, trying to rename it once more.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley hung out at a local bar Friday night and Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a house party Saturday afternoon. But they may have to keep wooing for a while. The neighbors are split among the candidates or undecided.

"I think Obamadale is still kind of an open target for candidates at this point," said Brad Anderson, a resident who served as Obama's state director in 2012.

Anderson said that in the last presidential election, the Obamadale group "over-performed by every metric that was set." The group of about 20 core activists and dozens more participants got training from the campaign and put in long hours working the phones and going door to door. They turned out big numbers on caucus night and again in the November general election, when the incumbent Obama won the state. Their organizing methods were so successful that they were sent to other areas to boost participation.

"You get off work and clock in volunteering," recalled founding member Kimberly Boggus, 36. "Phone banks Monday and Wednesday. Saturdays and Sundays were canvassing."

Political engagement is a longtime tradition in the neighborhood. Located a short drive from downtown, the tidy streets are lined with small Tudor-style homes, known as Beaverdale Bricks. The shopping district features a candy shop and an independent bookstore. People mark the seasons with community gatherings and festivals.

It's the kind of group any Democratic hopeful would like to scoop up. Clinton featured a local organizer in her announcement video and has picked up some key support here, including backing from the local Democratic state Sen. Janet Petersen. O'Malley has visited more than once, and played his guitar in a local tavern in the spring.

"It's great to be in Beaverdale," O'Malley told dozens packed into a local pub Friday night. "You guys have been terrific to me."

He stood on a chair for a lengthy question-and-answer session that touched on raising the minimum wage and banking reform before accepting a guitar from an audience member and leading the enthusiastic crowd in song.

Clinton spoke to about 200 people in a Beaverdale backyard Saturday afternoon, calling the area "one of the most active, productive, effective areas in the whole state, not just in Polk County or Des Moines."

She also told the crowd that she planned to release policies on climate change and renewable energy in Iowa on Sunday and Monday.

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Back in the 2008 race, Obama had strong support in Beaverdale and spent July 4, 2007, here. Beaverdale Democrats said Clinton's campaign was less active in the area during that campaign, when she placed third in the Iowa caucuses. But many said that she appears more committed to grassroots organizing here, as she is across the state.

"Her campaign this time around feels more like Obama '08, more grassroots, bottom up," said Petersen, who endorsed Obama in 2008.

For now, it looks like the Obamadale gang will not lock arms behind one candidate for the caucuses. Boggus is with O'Malley, "somebody that I relate to."

But Sean Bagniewski, 31, who was featured in the Clinton video and hosted the Saturday house party, said "there's quite a bit of support for Hillary right now."

Bagniewski said he was thrilled to have the event at his home. "It takes a little bit longer to get their support over here, but when you get their support, they are in whole hog," he said.

Rose Mary Pratt, 67, another member of the group, said she was still weighing her decision.

"I've had calls from all campaigns," she said. "Because I'm an activist they want my commitment early."

"I like all of them. Hillary's my generation; I want to see a woman president. That's meaningful to me. I think O'Malley is a new voice in the party and he's quite articulate in his statements. I could go there. "

As for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, she said, "I'm an old liberal, so he says all the things I like to hear."

Sanders has not done an event here, though Pratt said she saw him in the coffee shop several months ago and chatted with him. Sanders' Iowa director, Pete D'Alessandro, said the campaign will organize in the neighborhood and Sanders probably will come for an event.

Whatever happens in the February caucuses, activists agree they'll come together later on for the party nominee.

"We go our separate ways, we support the people that are more in mind with what we think," said Ben Guise, 69. "We're really close friends, all of us. We will have no trouble transitioning back."

Netroots disruption energizes black activists // Politico // Maya Park and Daniel Strauss - July 25, 2015

Protesters who hijacked a presidential forum in Arizona last Saturday demanding that the candidates spend more time addressing problems in the black community left feeling dissatisfied.

But a week later, what at the time felt like a disastrous disruption has supercharged the Black Lives Matter movement — and pushed Hillary Clinton and her rivals for the Democratic nomination to speak to the concerns of an African-American community that is enraged by high-profile incidents of police misconduct and is demanding that its voice be heard.

“We’re not having this conversation because [the protesters] haven’t been polite,” NAACP President Cornell William Brooks told POLITICO on Friday. “We’re having this conversation because the presidential candidates are not being sufficiently precise.”

At the forum, hosted by the liberal activist group Netroots Nation, protesters clashed with Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley, commandeering the stage as they accused the two Democrats of ignoring police brutality against blacks.

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O'Malley at one point said, "black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter" — a statement that offended many in the Black Lives Matter movement, who recall the phrase being used to diminish their cause.

Sanders came across as defensive, saying he spent 50 years "fighting for civil rights" and "if you don't want me to be here that's OK."

"During the action, you saw Bernie Sanders trying to talk us down, trying to speak over us," Angela Peoples, one of the organizers of the protest at Netroots and the co-director of GetEqual, an LGBTQ rights advocacy group. "Basically it was as if he was trying to pretend that there weren't 15 people in the room screaming 'black lives matter."

Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC), a leading member of the Congressional Black Caucus, said that the protesters should have let the candidates speak.

"If I ask you a question, I must want your answer. And so if I ask you a question and talk over your answer, what have I done?" Clyburn said, stressing the importance of substance over symbolism and cautioning against anyone who wants to "make a headline rather than make headway."

Yet, as Peoples noted, all three major Democratic candidates have spent the week showing their concern for the black community.

Clinton, who skipped Netroots Nation, used a Facebook chat on Monday to emphasize that "everyone in this country should stand firmly behind" the notion that "black lives matter."

Sanders began working the phrase 'black lives matter' into his stump speech and social media efforts, while O'Malley apologized and has made sure to repeatedly say he's "listening and speaking to leaders" from the Black Lives Matter movement.

The candidates were acknowledging that, Brooks said, "the campaign rhetoric has not risen to the level of reality."

Seizing the moment, the Black Lives Matter group —a movement organizing action on topics important to the black community and racial injustice — decided to quickly put together a summit in Cleveland, Ohio. The summit describes itself as "hundreds of Black freedom fighters from around the country" coming together to coordinate and build a new coalition for action in the black community. The conference offers panels on, for instance, self defense and organizing for black activists.

It comes after national attention fell on Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old African-American woman from Chicago who was pulled over by a Texas state highway patrolman for not signaling before changing lanes and then was jailed for not putting out her cigarette in her car, even though that's not illegal. She died in jail, allegedly by hanging herself.

Bland's death has further galvanized black leaders to demand that their concerns be heard. Many appreciate how the Democratic candidates talk about the black community's economic disadvantages, but want them to more explicitly tie those gaps to racism — while others note that Bland was a college graduate.

"We get that the solution to the structural racism that black folks are facing is connected to fair wages, issues of access to education," Peoples said. "The piece that's missing is talking about how the legacy of racism, anti-blackness, and racial violence plays out in all of those issues."

There were also setbacks. Sanders, for instance, reportedly skipped a meeting with Black Lives Matters protesters during the Netroots Nation weekend and ended up sending campaign manager Jeff Weaver instead. That resulted in some grumbling.

"Bullshit — I'm sorry," Jamal Simmons, a Democratic consultant, said. "If he was scheduled to meet with activists, then he should have met with activists. You can't not show up. You gotta show up."

Other black leaders said that merely showing up wouldn't be enough, either.

"The day is over for [the candidates] saying 'I believe in justice,' and 'Everyone should have equality, whether black or white, male or female, young or

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old,'" Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) said in a phone interview from Nairobi on Friday.

Talking about how economic inequality affects African Americans is fine, legislators, activists and strategists said — but specific plans to address it are better.

For instance, Clyburn said, Sanders should offer a plan for dilapidated schools and Medicaid expansion in states that have resisted Obamacare.

"Yes, the criminal justice stuff is big," said Democratic strategist and pollster Cornell Belcher. "If you're talking to African-American women who will be a plurality in a lot of these Democratic primary states, education and not losing a lot of young people to crime and violence is still tops. And yeah, they have angst economically about jobs."

Of the three main Democratic candidates, Clinton has been the most assertive in speaking to those issues.

Earlier in the year, she unveiled a set of criminal justice reform proposals with mentions of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio, and Trayvon Martin in Florida. On Thursday, Clinton continued to beat that drum, saying in a panel at South Carolina's influential Brookland Baptist Church, "It's essential that we all stand up and say, loudly and clearly, that yes, black lives matter.'"

Speeches like that have helped Clinton stay visible in the African-American community, Belcher said.

"I think that most of the polling that you see right now is that Sanders and O'Malley are not very well known figures in the community," Belcher said. "What's important is for you to build a strategy around how to introduce yourself in the black community in a way that resonates with the value of the community and that's not hopefully tone-deaf which is what Bernie came across with."

It's something O'Malley seems to have realized. On Wednesday, he released a statement saying his "heart breaks for Sandra Bland and her family" and called for a "thorough and independent investigation of the traffic stop, the arrest and Ms. Bland's tragic death in custody."

He also called Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree on Wednesday to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement and topics important to the African-American community, as part of a series of discussions ahead of unveiling his criminal justice platform.

"We had a robust and informative and strikingly candid conversation about the past, present, and future," Ogletree said, adding he expected to talk more with O'Malley going forward.

Meanwhile, Sanders has made sure to try and offer more specifics in media interviews and over social media.

"We have more people in jail than any other country on Earth," Sanders said in an MSNBC interview on Wednesday. "Millions of lives have been destroyed because people are in jail for non-violent crimes, so we have to take a look at mandatory minimums and the drug policy and the militarization of police forces all over the country. We have to take a look at use-of-force policy. That is what you saw in that dreadful and painful video of Sandra Bland."

"We've got a lot of work in front of us," Sanders added.

GOP

DECLARED

RUBIO

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Marco Rubio Is Ticked Off About The Iran Deal (And He Wants Everyone To Know) // ABC // Ines de la Cuetara - July 25, 2015

He hasn't been as outspoken as some GOP contenders in condemning Donald Trump, he's been reluctant to criticize other Republicans and he was off the campaign trail for a bit over the past week getting over a cold.

But when it comes to Iran, Marco Rubio, the Florida senator and presidential candidate, is speaking up, loud and clear.

"The Iranian regime and the world should know that a majority of members in this Congress do not support this deal and that the deal could go away on the day President Obama leaves office," a noticeably angry Rubio told Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday.

Rubio added: "The Iranian regime and the world should know this deal -- this deal is your deal with Iran."

That same day, in one of three national television interviews since the hearing, Rubio made it clear that as president he would "absolutely" re-impose sanctions on Iran.

"What the President is using is a national security waiver. He's in essence saying, 'I'm using this waiver to prevent the sanctions from still being imposed'," Rubio said in an interview on Fox News. "The next President could just lift that with the stroke of a pen."

Although many other Republicans candidates have also been critical of the deal to keep Iran's nuclear ambitions in check, the issue seems to send Rubio fuming. On Wednesday, Rubio said President Obama had "no class" for going "on comedy shows to talk about something as serious as Iran", referring to the President's interview on the Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Rubio has made his opposition to the deal a pillar of his campaign, emerging as one of the its harshest and most outspoken critics.

One of the outside groups backing his presidential bid, the Conservative Solutions Project, has already released two ads criticizing the deal, calling it a "bad deal" and claiming it would give Iran "a clear path to a nuclear bomb."

At the Senate hearing, Kerry told Rubio he was confident the next president would have enough common sense to not arbitrarily end the deal if it was being properly implemented.

"If you think the Ayatollah is going to come back and negotiate again with an American, that's fantasy," Kerry said. "You're never going to see that because we will have proven we're not trustworthy."

"The fantasy is in believing that they're going to even live to the accord," Rubio shot back in an interview with CBS on Friday. "This is a country that has a long history, at least the leaders of Iran do, of violating agreements and of always having a secret nuclear program."

WALKER

In Iowa, Donald Trump Takes Aim at Scott Walker, for a Change // NYT // Trip Gabriel - July 25, 2015

To the list of Republican rivals he has insulted, Donald J. Trump on Saturday added a new name: Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, whom he accused of mismanaging his state's budget and creating a disaster for its roads, schools and hospitals.

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Mr. Walker, who has been restrained in criticizing Mr. Trump's provocative remarks compared with other Republican presidential candidates, is leading in the polls in Iowa, a fact that seemed to gall Mr. Trump, the golf course entrepreneur and former reality star.

"I can't believe I'm in second place,'' Mr. Trump told several hundred people who filled a high school auditorium and an overflow room to see him. "Folks, will you please put me in first place so I feel better?"

Mr. Trump's criticism of Senator John McCain's war record one week ago at an Iowa forum set off a furious round of attacks between him and other Republicans. On Saturday, he said he felt free to add Mr. Walker to his hit list after a Walker supporter called Mr. Trump "DumbDumb" in a fund-raising appeal.

"I said, 'Finally, I can attack him,' '' Mr. Trump said to laughter.

He went down a list of criticisms that seemed the result of an overnight opposition-research effort. "Wisconsin is doing terribly,'' he said. "The roads are a disaster because they don't have any money to rebuild them, and they're borrowing money like crazy.''

He cited figures for the state's budget deficit. "I wrote this stuff all down but I don't need it because I have a really good memory," he said.

He also accused Mr. Walker of flip-flopping on the Common Core education standards, having once supported them. "Scott Walker changed when he saw he was getting creamed, so now he's not in favor,'' he said.

Mr. Trump gave $10,000 to Mr. Walker's re-election campaign last year, something he alluded to in a meandering, backhanded way: "I've been nice to Scott Walker," he said. "He's a nice guy. He came up to my office three or four months ago and presented me with a plaque because I helped him with his election. I liked that he was fighting.

"I didn't know what the hell he was doing, but he was fighting, and I like a fighter," Mr. Trump added. "Does that make sense?"

The leader in national polls of the Republican candidates, Mr. Trump dropped in to Oskaloosa, about 70 minutes east of Des Moines, and treated the crowd to a picnic lunch of hamburgers and pulled pork. He was applauded and cheered throughout a one-hour, free-associative speech, especially when he bragged that he had barred reporters from The Des Moines Register from the event after its editorial page called on him to quit the race for the good of the Republican Party.

Talking to reporters after his speech, Mr. Trump seemed to set his characteristic hubris aside when discussing the Republican debate on Aug. 6, presumably to lower expectations for his performance. He said he had no debating experience compared with the politicians he is likely to face on stage.

"I'm going to be there much to the chagrin of many people, but I'm no debater,'' he said. "From what I've heard, everyone is going to come after me.''

Yet he said he was not undertaking any debate preparation. "I am who I am,'' he said.

Trump goes on the attack again, with Scott Walker as his latest target **// WaPo // David Weigel - July 25, 2015**

First Donald Trump questioned whether Sen. John McCain was truly a war hero.

The he revealed to a South Carolina crowd the personal phone number of Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.), one of his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination.

On Saturday Trump went for the hat trick, gleefully insulting Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker because one of Walker's fundraisers called the billionaire real estate mogul 'DumbDumb.'

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“Finally, I can attack!” Trump said at a packed rally at Oskaloosa High School. “Wisconsin’s doing terribly. It’s in turmoil. The roads are a disaster because they don’t have any money to rebuild them. They’re borrowing money like crazy. They projected a $1 billion surplus, and it turns out to be a deficit of $2.2 billion. The schools are a disaster. The hospitals and education was a disaster. And he was totally in favor of Common Core!”

The mention of the state-driven education standards — from which Walker, like many Republican governors, has walked away — incited a prolonged boo. That was not enough for Trump, who told a story about Walker giving him a “beautiful plaque” out of gratitude for campaign donations and wondered if “Wisconsin paid for it.”

Republicans’ hopes of banishing Trump from their presidential primary may have wilted in the heat of the Iowa summer. On his first visit to the caucus state since the McCain insult, Trump drew a crowd of 1,300 in a city of 11,463. He cleaned up his remarks about veterans, from the stage and in the crowd. He talked with characteristic gusto about “killing in the polls and” securing a spot in the party’s first sanctioned debate, scheduled for Aug. 6.

“I’m going to be there,” Trump told reporters, “much to the chagrin of many people.”

Trump did all of this at a four-hour spectacle — the Make America Great Again Rally and Family Picnic — that felt like a New York cinematographer’s idea of an “Iowa event.” A campaign bus stood unused until Trump posed in front of his, giving a double thumbs-up before hopping into an SUV. The outdoor barbecue was so large that Trump endorser Tana Goertz — who had been a contestant on Trump’s NBC series, “The Apprentice” — asked the crowd to gorge themselves a little more. “Mr. Trump can’t take all this food home on the plane,” she said.

As they lined up for the speech, conservative Iowans fell into two camps. One group adored Trump’s brio, but wished he hadn’t gotten personal with McCain (R-Ariz.). The larger camp egged Trump on for again refusing to play nice. Although a Washington Post/ABC News poll showed Trump’s ratings slipping after his comments about McCain, the crowd in Oskaloosa saw another reason to trust him. Some Republican voters, who had dutifully turned out for “anti-establishment” candidates and been disappointed, insisted that Trump was just the man to blow up the system.

“The dude’s badass, no question about it,” said Dave Moore, 30, a National Guard veteran and welder. “Republicans keep sending chihuahuas to a pitbull fight and being nice, and the only time they’re mean is to each other.”

The McCain spat, Moore said, was an example of that. “People applied that to all soldiers,” he said. “Trump was trying to protect his people.”

That was Trump’s official line. In the seven days since he suggested that merely being “captured” did not make McCain a hero, Trump has alternately denied that he said it, talked up his work for veterans, and said that he was only responding to McCain for calling opponents of immigration reform “crazies.”

Trump deployed all of those arguments here Saturday. One of his warm-up speakers, 20-year Navy SEAL Brad Nagel, insisted that Trump respected veterans, unlike “people who think we’re crazies.” (McCain had not been referring to veterans.) Event staffers who found veterans in the crowd handed them “Veterans for Trump” signs. Late into his 56-minute speech, Trump beckoned to someone offstage, and a woman in a black dress delivered a stack of paper wrapped in a red bow.

This, Trump said, represented one day of “more than 700 letters from veterans, thanking me.” They appreciate his charity, he said, and trust him to reform Veterans Affairs, even though he did not serve.

“I might not have been a great soldier,” Trump said. “I don’t know. Maybe I would, maybe I wouldn’t.”

Trump’s cleanup seemed to do the trick. Tammy Sparks, 54, came to the event because she interpreted the comment as an insult to her father, a prisoner of war during World War II.

“I heard he’d been saying some bad stuff about prisoners of war, and I was so irritated,” Sparks said. “One of the guys in suits explained it to me. And when Mr. Trump saw me again, he said, ‘That was not what I meant.’ ”

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Others said there was nothing to apologize for as far as McCain was concerned. “He’s done nothing for veterans, nothing to secure our borders,” said Randy Binns, who wore a hat and pin commemorating his service in the 1991 and 2003 Iraq invasions. “If he was running again, I’d tell him to get out of town.”

In Oskaloosa, Trump told his main audience, of 700, about his Thursday visit to the U.S.-Mexico border. He told an overflow audience that President Obama had failed POWs by winning Bowe Bergdahl’s release from the Taliban but not getting Iran to turn over hostages.

He also won cheers for telling how he denied credentials to the Des Moines Register, Iowa’s largest newspaper, after its editorial board called on him to quit the race. In a back-and-forth with reporters, with the Register’s team kept outside his event, Trump proved that he was comfortable being playful with the facts.

“I didn’t ban them,” he insisted. “They just couldn’t get credentials.”

Trump slams Walker as governor leads in early voting Iowa // AP // Thomas Beaumont - July 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump opened up a line of attack Saturday on Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, accusing the leader in recent polls in Iowa of running his neighboring state into financial trouble.

It's the latest broadside against a rival of the outspoken New York billionaire. Last week, Trump went after South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham for calling him a "jackass." The New York businessman has characterized other candidates as unfit for the office and said the party's 2008 nominee, Sen. John McCain, was not a war hero in spite of his years as a prisoner in Vietnam.

Spurred on by a raucous audience of more than 1,000 at a central Iowa high school, Trump said Walker has an advantage in Iowa because he's from a neighboring state but that the edge is undeserved because Walker has mismanaged Wisconsin's budget.

"He grew up right next door. A little advantage, right?" Trump said. "Except Wisconsin is doing terribly."

Trump faulted Walker, popular for stripping public employees of many of their collective bargaining rights, for falling short of budget projections and changing his position on Common Core education standards. The voluntary state-based benchmarks for achievement in math, reading and language arts are unpopular among a segment of conservatives who view them, if incorrectly, as a federally mandated curriculum.

Walker showed tacit support for the standards during his first term when he signed budgets that paid for implementing them. Last year, he called for their repeal and replacement with standards set in Wisconsin.

"He was totally in favor of Common Core, which I hate, I hate," Trump said. Walker changed course on the topic, his rival said, when he saw "he was getting creamed."

Trump said Walker deserved the criticism because a top fundraiser to the governor referred to Trump in a recent fundraising email as "Dumb dumb."

Trump criticized Graham, a close friend of McCain, after Graham chided Trump for faulting McCain for being shot down as a Navy fighter pilot during the Vietnam War. McCain, held as a prisoner of war for five years, was heralded by Republicans as a war hero during his 2008 campaign.

"I'm very disappointed in him for one reason. He's done a bad job with the vets," said Trump, who has sharply criticized Congress for inaction on calls for improvements for services under the Department of Veterans Affairs.

While Graham and other GOP presidential candidates have sharply criticized Trump for his comments about McCain, Trump held up a stack of paper during his Iowa speech that he said were letters of support he'd received from veterans.

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Before Trump arrived at the event, hundreds lined the sidewalk in front of the high school. At the end was a catered picnic lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips and cold drinks.

Standing in the 90-degree sun, Jill Jepsen held a sign that said, "The Beltway talks, Trump works!"

"He works, and he doesn't back down," said Jepsen, a political independent from Oskaloosa. "He'll get things done."

At the National Governors Association meeting in West Virginia, two Republicans gave Trump's campaign little chance of succeeding.

"At the end of the day, I don't think (Trump) will do very well in Iowa because Iowans like leaders who are humble and hardworking, and people who go to all parts of the state," Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said when asked about the reality TV star.

Oklahoma's governor, Mary Fallin, said she didn't think Trump would be the next president "because I think the people of our nation want to see someone who will be able to bring people together to get things done."

Asked about Trump, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory said: "You see some outspoken people who jump up in the polls, but then they also falter very quick. It'll be interesting to see if that same dynamic occurs."

Not one to suffer criticism silently, Trump denied press credentials for Saturday's event to reporters at The Des Moines Register after the newspaper published an editorial calling him a "feckless blowhard" who is "unfit to hold office" and saying that he should leave the race.

Register editor Amalie Nash said Friday that the paper's editorial board is independent of its news reporters and editors.

Trump on debates: 'I'm going to be in the lion's den' **// CNN // Eugene Scott - July 25, 2015**

Real estate magnate Donald Trump might be an expert when it comes to bear markets and bull markets, but put him on the debate stage next month amid a crowd of determined GOP contenders and, in the candidate's words, he's "going to be in the lion's den."

"I'm by far number one, so I'm going to be there. But I'm not a debater. I create jobs. I've never stood at a podium and debated a bunch of people," Trump told reporters Saturday at Oskaloosa High School in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

He added: "From what I hear, every one of them's going to come at me. For two hours, I'm going be in the lion's den, but I don't do that for a living."

And: "I hear everyone saying I'll be great at debate. I don't know if I'll do good. I look forward to debate, but I've never done it before."

The remarks, a rare moment of public self-doubt for the brash and cocky mogul, come as Trump continues to lead 2016 GOP contenders in national polls while his Republican contenders anxiously await a chance to knock him down.

Fox News, which on Aug. 6 is sponsoring the first debate, has said it will only invite the top 10 finishers in recent opinion polls to its event. However, CNN's first debate on Sept. 16 will be split into two parts: One will have the candidates that national polls rank as the top 10 GOP contenders, and the other with the candidates who didn't make that cut.

Currently, it appears Trump is a lock to make the top 10.

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But Trump told reporters Saturday that because he is not a politician, he will have the least experience of those participating.

"They say Jeb Bush hasn't been on stage lately. I haven't been on stage my whole life. And nobody talks about that," he said. "I have to be honest. I am who I am."

Trump takes aim at Walker in Iowa // CNN // Eugene Scott - July 25, 2015

Donald Trump has spent much of the early days of his presidential campaign taking on Jeb Bush.

But in Iowa on Saturday, the real estate mogul took shots at Scott Walker, who's long stood atop polls in the Hawkeye State, home to the critical first-in-the-nation caucuses.

Trump -- who is in second place in Iowa polls behind Walker -- slammed the Wisconsin governor's leadership.

"Wisconsin is doing terribly. It's in turmoil," Trump said at Oskaloosa High School in Oskaloosa. "The roads are a disaster because they don't have money to rebuild them."

He also accused Walker's administration of borrowing due to a budget deficit, and painted him as a supporter of Common Core education standards, which are opposed by much of the Republican base.

"Schools are a disaster. Hospitals and education are a disaster," Trump said. "And he was totally in favor of Common Core, which I hate."

Walker recently has been a fierce opponent of Common Core, leading Trump on Saturday to label him a flip-flopper.

A Monmouth University poll of Iowans released Monday and conducted over last weekend showed Walker continues to maintain a solid lead in the Iowa Republican caucus, though Trump has gained an edge over the rest of the field and now stands alone in second place.

Of likely caucus attendees, 22% told pollsters that they'd support the Wisconsin governor in next winter's matchup, but 13% said they would back Trump, who has suddenly catapulted to the front of some national polls. Trump only earned 4% of Republicans' support in a Des Moines Register/ Bloomberg survey conducted in May, a month before Trump announced his campaign and made a string of controversial comments that came alongside his rise.

Trump's remarks come one day after a fundraiser for Walker's campaign called Trump "DumbDumb."

Gregory Slayton, a New Hampshire venture capitalist who served in the George W. Bush administration, challenged Trump's intelligence in a fund-raising invitation, The Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

"As you've seen Gov Walker is now well ahead of everyone not named DumbDumb (aka Trump) in the national polls," the email invitation said.

Slayton told the paper that intelligence is not required to gain the wealth that Trump has acquired.

"I didn't mean that to be public but obviously I stand behind it," he said. "Look, this is a great country. Guys who are not that smart can get rich, it's wonderful. But Donald Trump is not going to be president of the United States ever, period, end of story."

Also on Saturday, Trump made reference to the Des Moines Register, to which his campaign denied press credentials following a negative editorial this

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week in which the paper called for Trump to drop out of the race.

"We have so many people standing outside ... actually, the Des Moines Register is standing outside, too," Trump said, to laughter.

Jennifer Jacobs, the Register's chief political reporter, tweeted that Henry Hahn, another reporter for the paper, was in the main auditorium covering the event. She said the campaign staff was polite to her earlier Saturday, but that the candidate himself was "silent" when he saw her.

Could North Carolina be Scott Walker's big prize? // CBS // Jacqueline Alemany - July 25, 2015

March Madness is about to get a whole new meaning in North Carolina come next year.

With two Floridians, two Texans and an Ohio governor in the Republican presidential race, three delegate-rich presidential primary states might be left uncontested by the rest of the expansive GOP field.

What's a candidate looking for a big early win to do? Head toward Tobacco Road.

North Carolina state legislators voted this week to hold the state's 2016 primary on March 15 of next year, bringing to a close a lengthy squabble over when to hold the primary. But the change also has serious implications for the huge field of Republican presidential candidates as they draw up their nomination roadmaps. North Carolina has in recent years held its primary in May, and by May, the nominee is usually a foregone conclusion. There hasn't been a competitive Republican primary in May in 40 years.

But assuming there is no clear nominee by early March, "There is real opportunity here," said State Sen. Andrew Brock, a co-sponsor of the bill moving the primary to March. "You can win with 15 or 16 percent of the vote. You're going to have to run a campaign. And it doesn't benefit one candidate or another in this race who is looking in our state."

March is full of big primary states packed with delegates, but three of the biggest have hometown candidates that could take those states off the map: Ohio's governor John Kasich just joined the race, Florida has Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, and Texas has Rick Perry and Ted Cruz all claiming support back home.

That leaves North Carolina as the biggest primary prize in March: 72 delegates will be at stake in a winner-take-all contest.

Republican candidates are taking notice. Supporters of Scott Walker and Rand Paul have been jockeying behind the scenes for months to establish a North Carolina primary date that favors their preferred candidate. While Paul supporters weren't banking on the Kentucky senator winning the state, they had hoped to make the state's primary proportional, giving him a chance to nab some of its delegates.

Walker has greater ambitions for North Carolina, too. The Wisconsin Governor made a detour last month to address the North Carolina GOP convention in Raleigh, and he was slated to make a second trip this weekend before canceling his plans to attend the funeral of one of the Marines slain in last week's Chattanooga shootings.

Sources told CBS News that the Walker campaign also made it known to allies in the state legislature -- namely state Sen. Bob Rucho, a powerful state Republican -- that a March 15 winner-take-all contest would be its preference. According to one source, Walker "put the squeeze" on Rucho to make North Carolina an early winner-take-all primary.

"The 15th was communicated to Senator Rucho as the preferred date by the Walker campaign," said another GOP source involved in the maneuvering. "If you're Walker, you're not going to go to Florida - why would you spend money there? You got Kasich's Ohio on the same day. You're not going to put a lot of resources there. North Carolina is a big fish."

Moving the primary to March marked a change of heart for Rucho, who was locked in a dispute earlier this year with national Republican officials over his desire to move the primary to February - showcasing the state early in the nomination process. But that would have been in flagrant violation of

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Republican National Committee rules protecting February for the first four voting states: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

The Walker campaign declined repeated requests for comment.

Though multiple North Carolina Republicans said Rucho has been pulling the strings for Walker behind the scenes, Rucho denies being an outright supporter of the governor, despite heaping praise on him.

"I was very pleased to watch and see Governor Walker and see the message he put out," Rucho told CBS News, praising Walker's conservative record in Wisconsin. "My feeling is lot of people can talk about what they would like to do, but very few of them can actually achieve it."

North Carolina might seem an unusual cultural fit for the Wisconsin governor as he plots his nomination strategy, but Republicans in the state say his appeal is rooted in his tough-minded approach to the slashing the state budget in Madison.

The high-profile battles over union benefits and voter ID laws during Walker's first term beginning in 2010 mirrored similar fights in North Carolina, and won Walker fans down south.

Former North Carolina GOP Chairman Claude Pope, who has supported changing the date of North Carolina's primary, told CBS News that the state is thrilled to have a chance at the national spotlight once again, pointing to Ronald Reagan's North Carolina upset over Gerald Ford in 1976.

"He had not yet won a state at all during 1976, and he was primarying a sitting president," Pope told CBS News. "So he kept losing and losing and it wasn't until he won North Carolina and got enough momentum. Not enough to get the nomination - but enough to make a significant impact and that propelled him to set up the stage for a win in 1980."

Donald Trump on Scott Walker: 'Finally, I Can Attack' // ABC // Jessica Hopper, Alec Goodwin, and Cristina Ochoa - July 25, 2015

Donald Trump came under fire all week for questioning John McCain's status as a war hero and for giving out Lindsey Graham's personal cell phone number, but today he might have found a couple of safe targets for his attacks: GOP rival Scott Walker and the scandal swirling around Hillary Clinton and her email.

"I don't know how a person with that cloud over their head could be running for president," Trump said of Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner in the race for the White House.

Trump said if the allegations are true that Clinton sent classified email from her private server, it's "criminal."

Trump went on to compare Clinton and her email scandal to the downfall of Gen. David Petraeus, who was forced to resign as director of the CIA after it was revealed he was having an extramarital affair and had shared classified information with his lover.

"They destroyed him. He's like a ruined man," Trump said of Petraeus.

Trump argued that Petraeus "did much less than Hillary in terms of information, in terms of importance and in terms of volume," of the classified material leaked.

Trump didn't reserve all his criticism for Clinton. He moved onto Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. He said that the state of Wisconsin is doing "terribly" and accused Walker of being a flip-flopper.

"He was totally in favor of Common Core," Trump said. "Scott Walker changed when he saw he was getting creamed."

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Trump said he was retaliating for nasty comments made by a Walker fundraiser.

"Today I read this horrible statement from his fundraiser guy about Trump, and I say, 'Finally, I can attack. Finally,'" Trump said.

Trump, currently leading the GOP race nationally in the polls, is trailing Walker in Iowa. And Trump let the more than 1,000 people filling an Oskaloosa auditorium know that it was bothering him that he wasn't in first place in the Hawkeye state.

"I can't believe I'm in second place," Trump said. "Folks, will you please put me in first place, so I feel better."

Before Trump arrived in Oskaloosa, people waited in the heat for two hours to catch a glimpse of the billionaire mogul and reality television star. Trump's whirlwind week of criticizing Sen. John McCain's war hero status and giving out Sen. Lindsey Graham's phone number didn't seem to deter people from coming to hear him speak.

"One thing I really like is he's not afraid to say what he thinks and stand up for it," said Karen Lambert of Des Moines, Iowa. "I'm tired of the Republicans just caving for pressure and they really need to stand their ground and I think that Trump is someone who will do that."

Lambert is undecided on who her favorite candidate is in the Republican field, but she said she appreciates Trump for not always being politically correct.

"I really feel like the GOP leadership has completely ignored the roots, the grassroots, the base of their party and they're trying to be Democrats and we really need a conservative option," she said.

Carl Drost, a native of Oskaloosa, called Trump, the "epitome of the American dream."

"I want to shake his hand before he gets out of here today," Drost said.

Drost, a Vietnam veteran, wasn't bothered by Trump's comments about McCain last week.

"He's kind of outspoken and I've been president of the school board for a couple of years and sometimes being outspoken is not real positive and that needs to be done to let people know what's going on," Drost said.

Trump didn't back down from his comments made about McCain, reiterating that he believes McCain has done little for veterans. To highlight how much Trump says veterans love him, he called for a box of letters to be brought to the stage that contained what he called "one day of letters, about a half a foot wide stack."

Of his candidacy, Trump said he was in it for the long haul. He joked that there were other more relaxing things he could be doing, but he wants to be president.

"I love you people. I love Iowa, but it's hot as hell in this room. I could be doing something else right now," said Trump, generating laughter in the room.

In a press conference following his speech, Trump talked about his campaign's future and his preparation for the first GOP debate, which is scheduled for Aug. 6.

"I'm going to be there, much to the chagrin of everyone. I never did that before. I never stood at a podium and debated a large number of people and from what I heard, every one of them is going to come at me," Trump said.

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Trump said he knows he'll likely be in the "lion's den."

"I don't know if I'm going to be good," Trump said of the debate. "Politicians do it every night, but they don't produce jobs."

PAUL

Senator Rand Paul makes history in small N.H. town // Boston Globe // James Pindell - July 26, 2015

US Senator Rand Paul on Saturday became the first presidential candidate in recent history to visit this small town nestled in the White Mountain National Forest.

In a state that boasts a presidential candidate visit nearly every day since this spring, Warren gets little attention from White House hopefuls.

"This is a really big deal for Warren," said Bob Giuda, the town's moderator. "We often feel a bit ignored by the presidential campaign because we are a small town a bit out of the way, but his visit will have people talking for a while."

This marked Paul's second visit to the town, where the common has displayed a rocket since 1971. He campaigned there in 2007 for his father, former US representative Ron Paul of Texas, when he ran for president.

Paul said that coming to Warren was just the latest example of how he is willing to campaign where others won't. He recently spoke at historically black colleges and campaigned in Detroit, Missouri, and Maryland.

The Kentuckian spent Saturday campaigning in northern New Hampshire for his own presidential aspirations. He also held town hall meetings in West Lebanon and Littleton, visited the North Haverhill town fair, and was scheduled to attend an evening event Saturday night in Tilton.

On Sunday he will host a meet-and-greet at a Windham diner.

But on Saturday afternoon, Paul spent about an hour at the Moose Scoops ice Cream store, where he bought two scoops in a waffle cone. He also signed a taxpayer pledge, in which he appeared with a giant ax with the words "ax the tax."

At the Warren town hall, across the common, a couple celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary.

Bryan Flagg, the owner of the Moose Scoops Ice Cream store and the local weekly newspaper, said that Paul's visit highlights the importance of smaller communities.

"It is small towns where government policies can have a big impact," Flagg said. "His visit here says he respects us. I hope we can have others visit."

Has Rand Paul stalled? // The Hill // Niall Stanage - July 25, 2015

A year ago, Rand Paul, the libertarian-minded senator from Kentucky, was among the leading potential candidates in the GOP presidential race, topping at least three national polls in spring and early summer.

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Now, he is stuck in seventh place in the RealClearPolitics (RCP) national average, with less than 6 percent support.

The Kentuckian's campaign, once the subject of intense media interest, is struggling for attention, and faces the danger that it could fizzle.

"There are so many new entrants into this sweepstake that I think he has been overshadowed by all the attention given to every new declaration of candidacy," said Ross Baker, a professor of political science at Rutgers University. "I think he, and his message, are getting lost — and it shows the dangers of a too-early announcement."

One dynamic of the race since Paul announced his candidacy on April 7 is particularly stark. Back then, most pollsters were not even including Donald Trump's name on the menu of choices for Republican voters. The one poll that had done so, from Fox News, had given the mogul 3 percent support.

Now Trump sits atop the field with an 18.2 percent RCP average.

Paul's standing in the first states to vote, Iowa and New Hampshire, is better than in the national polls, but not strong enough to suggest he will mount a serious challenge to the frontrunners.

Paul is fourth in the RCP average in New Hampshire, behind former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Trump and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. In Iowa, he is tied for third with Trump, behind Walker and Bush. Walker's support is more than twice as high as Paul's.

The issue for candidates like Paul — and others — is not just Trump's poll ratings. The businessman is so adept at creating controversy that he denies all but the very biggest candidates the spotlight.

"Donald Trump is taking all the oxygen out of the debate," said David Winston, a longtime Republican strategist and pollster. "That is a short-term dynamic, but when people aren't talking about your ideas, that is a challenge."

Still, Winston stressed that this did not mean all was lost for Paul or for other candidates who are now starved of attention. The first GOP debate, set for Cleveland on Aug. 6, provides an opportunity for them to break through — and for Trump to stumble of his own accord or be sidelined by rivals.

Paul is also more adept than some others at garnering media attention himself. He has proven this in the past, particularly in his use of filibusters to protest Obama administration policies on national security. Last week alone, he pushed an amendment to defund Planned Parenthood and illustrated his desire to replace the existing tax code with a video in which he attacked the current version with a chainsaw, fire and a wood chipper.

Meanwhile, his campaign is pushing back against the perception that he is anything less than a leading candidate.

"Recent polls continue to show Rand Paul in the top tier," Sergio Gor, a spokesman for the Paul campaign told The Hill. "A new Economist poll in the last couple weeks had Rand in second place behind only Trump, and the Real Clear Politics average of polls show Rand in third and fourth place in Iowa and New Hampshire ahead of other Republicans like [Sen. Marco] Rubio, [New Jersey Gov. Chris] Christie and [Sen. Ted] Cruz."

Gor also insisted that Paul had "laid out the boldest proposals" of any candidate, including a flat tax.

Still, it remains to be seen whether Paul can expand on the constituency that backed his father, former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas), in his two most recent presidential runs, in 2008 and 2012.

Ron Paul came second in the 2012 New Hampshire primary with 23 percent support and third in Iowa with 22 percent. Either of those results would be at the very high-end of expectations for his son at the moment.

"It's just gone kinda quiet," said Jamie Burnett, a longtime GOP strategist in New Hampshire, referring to chatter about Paul in the state. "It's just odd but people aren't talking about Rand Paul — or Ted Cruz — right now."

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Burnett, who is not affiliated with any campaign but who personally favors Bush, added that he was always skeptical that Rand Paul could really pull together much more support than Ron Paul.

“I’ve always believed that … his support is capped; that there was a ceiling to it,” he said. “He was going to have a really hard time broadening his appeal where he could peel off enough mainstream conservatives.”

The news agenda, many people believe, has also not done Paul any favors. Over the past year, foreign policy issues such as the rise of ISIS and the negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program have become more prominent. Paul, who is not so isolationist as his father but nonetheless favors a markedly restrained foreign policy, has problems with the base in that regard.

“He has got a very different view that is clearly, within the party, controversial,” said Winston. “He is going to have to work through an explanation of how his policies will address terrorism, ISIS, Iran possibly getting a nuclear weapon. That is one of the challenges he faces.”

Still, Paul could gain steam if other candidates falter. And even some observers unaffiliated with his campaign warn that it’s much too early to write him off.

“Maybe some people expected more out of a Rand Paul campaign — that it was going to be bigger, more flamboyant,” said Craig Robinson, a former political director for the Republican Party of Iowa. “But these are the months when campaigns need to be on the ground, working and organizing — and sometimes that doesn’t get a lot of headlines. It’s clear to me that his campaign is functioning very well in Iowa.”

Rand Paul defies McConnell to defund Planned Parenthood // Washington Examiner // Barbara Boland - July 25, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., announced late Friday that he will "use every Senate rule" to force his Senate colleagues on the record after fellow Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., blocked his amendment to defund Planned Parenthood.

If Paul gets enough senators to sign his petition, he can go around McConnell and force a vote.

"I'm prepared to use every Senate rule at my disposal to force my colleagues on record whether they like it or not," Paul wrote Friday night. "Under Senate rules, if enough Senators are willing to stand with me and sign a petition demanding a vote, there will be no stopping you and me."

"The more I learn about Planned Parenthood's racket, aborting unborn children and then selling off their organs, the more my head spins," he wrote. "I'm not about to let Planned Parenthood off the hook. And I'm not about to let politicians and our media sweep this scandal under the rug."

Paul is referencing two recent undercover videos which show Planned Parenthood officials haggling the price of aborted fetal organs. In one video, Planned Parenthood Dr. Deborah Nucatola says: "You know, we've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm going to basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact," describing how she alters the abortion procedure to best harvest whatever organs are in demand.

"One video even showed Planned Parenthood officials squabbling over the price of aborted baby parts because one official joked she wanted to buy a Lamborghini," Paul wrote.

Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the U.S. About 45 percent of Planned Parenthood's 2014 revenue — $540.6 million — was provided by taxpayer-funded government health services grants, an analysis of their annual report reveals.

Paul's petition to defund Planned Parenthood is his second buck to fellow McConnell's leadership; after Paul defied McConnell in May and killed a segment of the Patriot Act that enabled NSA mass data collection on Americans.

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Rival Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, garnered headlines with a viral video where he accused Sen. Majority Leader McConnell on the Senate floor this week of "flat-out" lying for the last-minute addition of an amendment that would extend the unpopular Export-Import Bank, while excluding amendments he had offered to a "must-pass" highway bill.

Paul's two amendments, one to defund Planned Parenthood, and another to arm service members on military bases, were also blocked using a maneuver called "filling the tree" that was a favorite of Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., during his time as Senate Majority Leader.

The multi-billion highway bill the senators wished to add their amendments to is considered "must-pass" legislation because it will fund highways, roads and mass transit systems over the next ten years.

Paul hopes he can garner the signatures for his bill and win support from the pro-life community, after he earned kudos in April when he turned a "rape and life of the mother" abortion question around on a reporter and asked: "Why don't we ask the DNC: Is it okay to kill a seven-pound baby in the uterus? You go back and you ask Debbie Wasserman Schultz if she's OK with killing a seven-pound baby that is just not yet born."

The Senate will be in session Sunday and voting could extend throughout the week, depending on what maneuvers the senators make.

CRUZ

First on CNN: Billionaire brothers give Cruz super PAC $15 million // CNN // Theodore Schleifer - July 25, 2015

Two low-profile Texas brothers have donated $15 million to support Sen. Ted Cruz, a record-setting contribution that amounts to the largest known donation so far in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Farris and Dan Wilks, billionaires who made their fortunes in the West Texas fracking boom, have given $15 million of the $38 million that the pro-Cruz super PAC, Keep the Promise, will disclose in election filings next week, according to sources outside the super PAC with knowledge of the giving.

The siblings earned their riches with the sale of their company Frac Tech for $3.5 billion in 2011, and since then have shuffled large contributions to the leading social conservative nonprofit groups that aren't required to reveal their donors. But they will no longer be able to avoid detection after giving a historically large and early donation that now make the brothers two of America's most prominent political donors.

"Our country was founded on the idea that our rights come from the Creator, not the government. I'm afraid we're losing that," Farris Wilks, a 63-year-old pastor in the small town of Cisco, said in a statement to CNN. "Unless we elect a principled conservative leader ready to stand up for our values, we'll look back on what once was the land of opportunity and pass on a less prosperous nation to our children and grandchildren. That's why we need Ted Cruz."

Keep the Promise is technically four separate committees that give three families more control over their own super PAC. Most of the attention has focused on Robert Mercer, a New York hedge fund magnate who gave the second-most money to conservative groups in 2014 than any other Republican donor. Mercer has given $11 million of the $38 million raised, according to a leader of the super PACs. Another $10 million comes from Toby Neugebauer, a Houston investor and a personal friend of Cruz's. The involvement of the Wilks brothers was first reported by National Review.

Together, their donations give Cruz and his allies more money than any other Republican except Jeb Bush, a surprising achievement for a firebrand senator more embraced at a Tea Party rally than at a black-tie business gala.

Friends and associates of the Wilks brothers say they are unaffected and unassuming, depicting them as hometown-loving Texans who morphed into billionaires over the course of a decade. Intensely private, those close to the pair say they are nervous about the spotlight that will shine on their church and their family thanks to the donations.

"If Dan and Farris walk into a room, they don't want ever to be known, to be announced. They just come in and sit in the back," said Luke Macias, a Texas political strategist who has worked with the family. "They are normal people. They dress normal. They show up normal."

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Several other Republican donors will make seven-digit contributions to super PACs, which can accept unlimited donations, that will dwarf sums recorded in 2012: Norman Braman, a Florida auto dealer, will reportedly give up to $10 million to Marco Rubio's. Several Jeb Bush supporters are expected to have given $1 million to his and to be eager to give more. But the Wilks family's $15 million donation -- split between two people -- is likely to be the largest gift to a candidate on next week's reports.

Unlike some other mega-donors with an affinity for the ideological slugfest, the brothers shun giving that is meant purely for firepower in partisan fights. They choose specific projects over broad platforms. Through their $100 million family philanthropy, The Thirteen Foundation, the brothers gave nearly $19 million as part of their tithing to religious and conservative nonprofit groups like the Family Research Council and Online for Life in 2013, according to the most recent tax filings.

Driven mostly by their opposition to abortion and their fear that their religious sect -- which interprets every word of the Bible literally -- is under attack, Dan and Farris Wilks have slowly become more accustomed to funding campaigns. As recent billionaires, however, they haven't yet risen to the profile of the other conservative siblings that have revolutionized outside spending: the Koch Brothers.

Now, though, they are prepared to step right into the middle of a potentially nasty Republican nomination fight that could cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We need a true leader in Washington," Farris' younger brother, Dan, 59, said in the statement. "A leader that will stand up for biblical morals. We need a leader who is proud of America, not one who apologizes for us. We need a leader who encourages hard work, not one who tells people who don't work that they should make the same living as people who do. We need a leader who will make sure America doesn't end up a socialist nation."

Born to a poor family that once lived in a former goat shed, Farris and Dan Wilks spent their careers as brick-builders with their own masonry business. In 2002, they founded Frac Tech, which became one of the best positioned companies to capitalize on the growth of fracking, a controversial practice that involves the removal of natural gas or oil from rock formations.

Slowly, they marched toward a bigger role in the fracking industry. When competing Texas frackers looked to freeze the brothers out from the companies that distribute the sand needed to drill, the siblings opened their own sand quarry to thrive. Just as the West Texas fracking business began to boom, the brothers invested in their own line of trucks and became some of the largest fracking truck-producers in the country.

In 2011, they cashed out -- and began to buy enormous amounts of land in Montana for elk hunting and fly fishing. As of last year, they owned more than 310,000 acres of land in the state, making them Montana's largest private landowners, according to The Billings Gazette.

Today, Forbes pegs their net worth at about $1.4 billion each.

At the heart of their life, still, is the Assembly of Yahweh, which preaches a mix of Christianity and Judaism and holds the Bible as infallible. A different Wilks family member gives a sermon many Saturdays. Last week, it was Farris' turn.

"He was a pastor before he was a billionaire and he continues to pastor after being a billionaire," said Mat Staver, a prominent conservative activist close with the family.

It is not yet clear how the brothers plan to spend their money in the Cruz super PAC, or whether any strings are attached to the $15 million contribution. But the pair are said to have a particular desire to fund breakthroughs in social media and digital organizing, eyeing long-term opportunities to mobilize Christian voters on emerging or created-from-scratch platforms online.

Much of their giving is directed by Jon Francis, a family son in-law who heads The Thirteen Foundation, but those who have pitched projects to the brothers say that their philanthropy is very much a family affair. It is not uncommon for entrepreneurs to face questions from a half-dozen Wilks family members when asking for money.

That includes Republican presidential candidates. The brothers have been familiar with Cruz since he used the office of Texas solicitor general to launch several high-profile legal fights to defend Christian causes. But other Republican presidential candidates, aware of the Wilkses' net worth, have

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nevertheless courted their checkbook. The candidates most aggressively pining for their support, according to multiple people familiar with the outreach, were Wisconsin governor Scott Walker and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee.

The Wilks family's eventual pledge to Cruz was driven by his emphasis on preserving Christian organizations' ability to operate amid cultural victories for the left. But it was also motivated by the Texas senator's ability to speak about policy in the entrepreneurial terms that the brothers use when evaluating projects.

"One of the pleasures of doing business with them is they kind of treat like you like you might be the next Wilks," said Jeremy Boering, a California filmmaker who has successfully won grants from them.

Boering said that's the philosophy that Cruz pitched to Farris Wilks -- and why he's funding him.

"He thinks he's one of the only guys in the movement that seems to authentically wants to preserve the market, authentically preserve the way of life that allows people to move from bricking walls to being a billionaire," Boering said.

Report: Ted Cruz super PAC gets $15 million from two billionaire donors // USA Today // Deirdre Shesgreen - July 25, 2015

Two billionaire brothers who made a fortune in the fracking business have donated $15 million to a super PAC supporting Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential bid, according to CNN.

Citing unnamed sources, CNN reported that Farris and Dan Wilks are by far the biggest donors to Keep the Promise, a pro-Cruz PAC. The brothers founded Frac Tech, a hydraulic fracturing and oil field services business in 2002, and then sold it in 2011 for $3.5 billion, according to Forbes.

Farris Wilks, who is also pastor of the Assembly of Yahweh 7th Day Church near Cisco, said he and his brother support Cruz because the country needs "a principled conservative leader."

"Our country was founded on the idea that our rights come from the Creator, not the government. I'm afraid we're losing that," Wilks said in a statement to CNN. "Unless we elect a principled conservative leader ready to stand up for our values, we'll look back on what once was the land of opportunity and pass on a less prosperous nation to our children and grandchildren."

The Wilks' contributions — along with other funds raised by the PAC — will become public in filings due to the Federal Election Commission at the end of this month.

Cruz's allies have created several PACs to boost his presidential ambitions, all with similar names: Keep the Promise PAC, Keep the Promise II and Keep the Promise III.

Super PACs can raise unlimited sums but are required to operate independently of the candidates they support.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie Claims He Will Pursue the Trans-Hudson Tunnel Project as President // NYT // Rick Rojas - July 25, 2015

Several days of severe delays for rail commuters trying to cross the Hudson River this week has been a painful reminder of the deteriorating state of the tunnels that carry the trains and brought renewed attention to a decision made years ago to halt a project that might have helped improve the situation.

In a radio interview that will be broadcast this weekend, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey made clear his reasoning for blocking the construction of a new

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tunnel and other infrastructure in 2010 that was intended to increase passenger service capacity between his state and Manhattan. He said it was a regional project that would have left New Jersey taxpayers to bear the brunt of its cost.

The governor, a Republican candidate for president, added that if he were to make it to the White House, he would push for an equitable solution.

“If I am president of the United States, I call a meeting between the president, my secretary of transportation, the governor of New York and the governor of New Jersey and say, ‘Listen, if we are all in this even Steven, if we are all going to put in an equal share, then let’s go build these tunnels under the Hudson River,’ ” Mr. Christie said in an interview with the radio talk show host Larry Kudlow, which will be broadcast on Saturday on WABC-AM.

“Then, everyone has an incentive to have the project run right, to run efficiently because everybody is on the hook,” Mr. Christie added.

The governor’s comments — and his hypothetical phrasing — has attracted the attention of his critics, who say his statements emphasize how little he has done to help improve transportation.

“This is not a hypothetical issue, this is a real issue, and he could be doing something about it,” said Martin Robins, the founding director of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, who was the director of the tunnel project during the mid-1990s. “The question is, what has he done, what will he do in the next 18 months as the governor of New Jersey?”

Commuters have faced severe delays several days this week, including on Friday, because of electrical problems in the aging tunnels beneath the river.

In a separate statement on Friday, Mr. Christie placed blame for the delays on Amtrak. “N.J. Transit commuters were victimized by nearly an entire week of extreme delays and cancellations for one reason only: Amtrak’s indifference to New Jersey commuters and its abject neglect of the infrastructure that New Jersey and our entire region relies upon,” he said.

Amtrak did not directly respond to Mr. Christie’s pointed remarks, but a spokesman did say the agency “regrets and apologizes for the inconvenience.”

“These power failures demonstrate the urgent need for a funding solution so we can build and renew the infrastructure needed to keep this region and the economy moving,” the spokesman, Craig Schulz, said in a statement.

The governor has argued that he recognized the need for additional rail capacity across the Hudson, as long as the cost does not disproportionately fall on New Jersey. But his critics said they were surprised by Mr. Christie’s response on Friday, saying they struggled to recall a previous instance when he had acknowledged the issue and its severity.

Christie knocks candidates for being 'vague' on entitlement reform // CNN // Ashley Killough - July 25, 2015

Chris Christie is positioning himself as the candidate in the race who's offering specific policy proposals, while other candidates, he says, are being "vague."

Holding a town hall event in Davenport, Iowa, on Friday, the New Jersey governor appeared to single out one candidate in particular, though not by name.

"I heard a candidate complain the other day that, you know, 'my positions' -- meaning that candidate's positions -- 'on comments I made about entitlement reform are being misconstrued by the press.' Well, it's much harder to be misconstrued by the press if you're specific," Christie said. "If you continue to speak in generalities, then you're going to have other people interpret what you mean."

Meanwhile, Christie said, "we've put forward more detail than any other candidate in this race."

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His comments come one day after Jeb Bush argued that he was "taken out of context" when he said Thursday night that entitlement programs like Medicare should be "phased out." He emphasized that he wants to reform such programs and replace them with more sustainable policies, and floated the idea of raising the retirement age.

But Bush, who says he's planning to outline more policy proposals in the coming weeks, did not go into great detail.

Asked later Friday if Christie was specifically referring to Bush, the governor said he was talking about "everybody who's not talking about it."

"Everybody who doesn't talk about this stuff says they're mischaracterized," he continued, talking to reporters after shaking hands and meeting voters at the Davenport Street Fest. "Be specific. Then you won't be mischaracterized."

For his part, Christie made a major policy speech earlier this summer listing a series of policy proposals on entitlement reform. For one, he'd like to means test Social Security and raise the retirement age for Social Security by two months every year until it hits 69.

"People don't have to interpret what I mean about Social Security," he said Friday. "It won't be mischaracterized ... the more vague you are because you're trying to have it both ways, the more you're subject to that kind of misinterpretation."

He was asked by a voter at the town hall if he would still raise the retirement age for people who work manually intensive jobs and can't work as long. Because of improvements in medicine, Christie argued that even laborers will be able to work for longer periods in their lives.

"I think that if you give it 25 years, which is what we're giving it, you're going to see advances in medical science ... and pharmaceutical treatments that are going to allow us to even have manual laborers who will be able to work longer, much longer than they're able to work now," he said.

"Even to 65?" the voter asked

"Yeah, listen, I think so. I really do. There will always be early retirement available for some people," he said, noting how people can take that now in Social Security.

Democrats, who zeroed in on Bush's comments about Medicare, were also quick to jump on Christie's comments on Friday.

The Democratic research group American Bridge blasted out video of Christie's town hall as "proof that Republicans really do believe that the problem isn't income inequality, it's that all those workers just don't put in enough effort."

Chris Christie Fires Back At Gun Rights Activist In Iowa // HuffPo // Samantha-Jo Roth - July 25, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) got into a heated exchange with a skeptical voter who accused the presidential candidate of being “anti-gun” during a town hall on Saturday, citing New Jersey’s tough gun control laws.

Responding to the man, who did not identify himself but mentioned he was part of the Iowa Gun Owners organization, Christie defended his record, refuting every claim the voter mentioned, and, at times, even raising his voice.

“Come up with one fact that shows one thing I’ve done as governor in New Jersey that’s done anything, anything not to support the rights of legal gun owners,” Christie said as the crowd gathered inside a local community college auto body shop erupted in applause. “Don’t come in front of this group of people and lie about my record, which is what you did.”

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) got into a heated exchange with an activist over gun control in Iowa on Saturday.

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The voter accused Christie of proposing to ban .50-caliber rifles, requiring a government-issued ID for every firearms purchase and setting up a statewide firearms registry of guns and gun owners. Christie responded harshly, holding true to the theme of his campaign, "Telling it like it is."

"I don't know where you're getting your information from, but your information is wrong," Christie told the man.

Christie noted that he vetoed the .50-caliber ban, the statewide ID system and the law that was passed to reduce magazine sizes from 15 to 10.

The man in the crowd then asked if Christie is planning on pardoning Brian Fletcher, a North Carolina man who is facing prison time after telling a police officer in New Jersey that he had a gun in his vehicle, which is the customary and legal thing to do in his home state. Christie said he hasn't made a decision yet, but is reviewing the situation.

"I'm not going to make that decision in 15 minutes nor should I. Nor should you want me to," Christie said. "I see you shrugging your shoulders, why are you shrugging your shoulders about? You have your point of view, but have some facts about it."

The confrontation lasted over five minutes, as others in the crowd seemed to shift uncomfortably in their seats. The voter brought up an ad that ran in 1995, which shows Christie criticizing his opponent for wanting to repeal the assault weapons ban in New Jersey. Christie pointed out that his views have changed over the last 20 years.

"If you haven't changed your mind once in 20 years on any issue, then I'll tell you, you're not a thinking, breathing, living human being," Christie said as the crowd applauded.

"If you want to debate me, come to the top 10, run for president and come to Cleveland on Aug. 6, and I'll happily debate you," he added.

In Iowa, Christie's favorability ratings are under water. A recent poll of Iowa caucus-goers shows 45 percent of registered Iowa voters have negative feelings about Christie, while only 24 percent view him favorably.

At the town hall, Christie continued to blame New Jersey's Democratic-controlled legislature for anti-gun measures occurring in his state.

"As governor and as president, you're not an emperor or dictator," Christie said. "You want better gun laws, elect a Republican legislature, and these laws will be changed."

GRAHAM

John McCain to campaign in New Hampshire with Lindsey Graham // WaPo // James Hohmann - July 25, 2015

John McCain will spend next weekend campaigning around New Hampshire with his pal Lindsey Graham.

The Arizona senator, who twice won the state's Republican primary, will headline a barbecue at the VFW post in Littleton on Aug. 1 for the dark horse GOP presidential candidate and South Carolina senator, according to the Graham campaign. Then the duo will travel to additional events, which campaign officials said are still being planned.

McCain's trip will be his first foray out on the campaign trail since Donald Trump, leading in the national polls of Republicans, suggested he is not a true war hero because he got captured by the North Vietnamese. Graham responded by calling Trump a "jackass." Trump retaliated by announcing Graham's personal cellphone number on national television during a rally in South Carolina.

That prompted Graham to destroy his cellphone, but it has also generated buzz that could give him enough momentum to get into the first Republican

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debate on Aug. 6 on Fox News.

McCain has already been helping Graham, one of his best friends. They recently appeared together at an event in New York to oppose President Obama's deal with Iran. And McCain has helped Graham raise money. They share a hawkish foreign policy, and Graham was an all-in surrogate during McCain's run for president in 2008. Along with former senator Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), they called themselves "the three amigos."

Several of Graham's senior staff are veterans of McCain's 2008 campaign. Campaign manager Christian Ferry was McCain's deputy manager. Senior adviser Jon Seaton was McCain's national field director. Communications director Brittany Bramell also worked in McCain's communications shop.

John McCain to campaign with Graham in New Hampshire // Politico // Katie Glueck - July 25, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham is getting an assist in New Hampshire from a man with a track record of success in the Granite State: Sen. John McCain will campaign with him there next weekend.

McCain, the Arizona Republican and 2008 GOP nominee, saw his presidential run take off in New Hampshire that year after a string of setbacks. Next weekend, he will join Graham, who is perhaps his closest colleague in the Senate, for a swing through the first-in-the-nation state that begins Saturday at a VFW hall in Littleton, N.H.

The Arizona senator also won the 2000 New Hampshire primary and remains a respected figure among many Republicans there.

Graham (R-S.C.), who is lagging in the polls, is a vocal advocate for a muscular foreign policy and robust national security strategy. McCain, who shares those views, will help him amplify that message.

While this will be McCain's first early-state campaign trail foray on behalf of Graham, there is plenty of overlap between their worlds: Graham's campaign is run by several veterans of McCain's orbit, and the two appeared together last week at a New York City fundraiser for Graham, as well as at a town hall centered on highlighting their concerns about the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran.

John McCain to Campaign for Lindsey Graham Next Week // TIME // Zeke K. Miller - July 25, 2015

Arizona Sen. John McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, will campaign for the first time on behalf of his friend Sen. Lindsey Graham in New Hampshire next week.

According to a Graham spokesperson, McCain, who won the 2000 and 2008 New Hampshire primaries, will appear with the South Carolina senator at a barbecue at a VFW hall in Littleton, N.H. on Saturday, Aug. 1. The pair will campaign in the state throughout the weekend.

McCain's in-person assistance is critical for Graham, who is casting his message as the natural successor to McCain's "straight talk," combining a hawkish foreign policy with calls to reform the immigration system, preserve the environment and modernize entitlement programs. It comes as a bevy of 2016 contenders are hoping to deploy a "tell-it-like-it-is" campaign in the Granite State.

The pair traveled extensively together in 2008, when Graham was a ubiquitous presence on McCain's campaign bus and plane. Together with former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, the trio branded themselves as "the three amigos." (The three were united in New York last week at an event opposing President Barack Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran.)

In an interview with TIME last month, McCain praised Graham for being a "happy warrior" on the campaign trial.

"He's been on it with me for so long, he knows that one of the things that's important about a campaign is to enjoy it, and that enjoyment many times will transmit itself to the voter," McCain said. "He's going to be a happy warrior. He already is. And sometime that's very helpful in getting support, particularly when sometimes the face-to-face contact is what you get with voters in Iowa, and particularly New Hampshire."

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In 2012, McCain held off endorsing anyone until the day after the Iowa Caucuses, when he appeared with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney at a joint New Hampshire town hall as the eventual GOP nominee, and McCain's once bitter primary rival, sought to consolidate the party's support.

SANTORUM

Rick Santorum's slow build: campaigning 'has a way of weeding out candidates' // Guardian // Ben Jacobs - July 25, 2015

Rick Santorum spent the summer of 2011 crisscrossing Iowa, meeting handfuls of voters. For a long time he was mired at the bottom of the polls in the Republican primary, but his hard work paid off. The former Pennsylvania senator, an ardent social conservative, won Iowa and 10 other states in the race for the presidential nomination, finishing second to Mitt Romney.

A second-place finish is normally a springboard to frontrunner status in the GOP primaries next time round. But this summer, Santorum is doing the same thing, with the same low fundraising numbers and threadbare campaign.

The difference is that instead of being driven in the passenger seat of a pickup truck owned by a campaign aide, Santorum is travelling from town to town in a two-SUV caravan, driven by young staffers equipped with earpieces.

Santorum's campaign is relatively informal. Recently, he went into the back of Misty's Malt Shop in Keosauqua, Iowa, and made a milkshake for the Guardian. Not long afterwards, he could be spotted in Des Moines airport, alone, before flying back to his northern Virginia home.

In an interview with the Guardian, Santorum sounded relatively confident about his prospects despite having lower fundraising numbers in the last quarter than all but two other serious Republican candidates.

In his opinion, "the most important thing is getting to the finish line and, for me, the best way to get the finish line is to get to the start line". He said he was confident his campaign had "the money we need to do what we want to do" and was "way ahead of where we were four years ago".

Santorum also seemed to be taking a strategic decision to de-emphasize fundraising.

"I don't spend all my time raising money," he said. "Most candidates are not now doing seven or eight town hall meetings a day, they are spending most of their time on the phone, going to fundraisers, doing those things.

"That's the way they want to run their campaign and they can have nice reports which show lots of money. I'll show lots of caucus captains and lots of volunteers and impressions that while people may not say 'I'm for you now' [they might say] 'You're on my list and I might find myself supporting you on caucus night.'"

Santorum has also differentiated himself from other candidates with a relatively low-key approach at campaign events and at larger gatherings such as the Family Leadership Summit, a GOP presidential cattle call held in Ames, Iowa, last weekend. While others went for applause lines, Santorum consistently pushed his message of "blue-collar conservatism".

At every campaign stop, Santorum asked how many working-age Americans didn't have college degrees. He would get a guess or two and then give the answer: "74%".

The economically heterodox candidate, who opposes the TPP free trade agreement and favors the renewal of the Export-Import Bank, then talked about his plans to revive manufacturing in the US and the importance of using the tax code to incentivize two-parent families.

Santorum's skepticism towards free trade strikes a unique tone in the GOP field. At a business roundtable in Fairfield, Iowa, he argued: "A level playing

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field is not just domestic tax policy, because manufacturers in Iowa, by and large, don't compete against manufacturers in Wisconsin, they compete against manufacturers in Mexico and China."

Instead, he expressed his support for "a level global playing field".

Unlike some Republican rivals, Santorum made a point of not mentioning the campaign's insurgent force, the real-estate mogul Donald Trump, by name. Instead, in an interview which took place before Trump's controversial remarks about John McCain, he simply noted that in the past two election cycles, "almost everyone that's gone up has come down".

The former Pennsylvania senator said: "Every candidate could surprise me and go up and never come down and be the candidate that can run wire to wire. But this process has a way of weeding out candidates."

He added: "I've always been the candidate who tries to have that slow steady build and build off of that foundation."

That approach was displayed as Santorum went from voter to voter to voter. In the small town of Keosauqua, Santorum walked the block and a half from the malt shop to the bar and restaurant where he was holding an event. On the way, he stopped at every business to shake hands.

"Hi, I'm Rick Santorum and I'm running for president," he said. A waitress, eating lunch alone at the pizzeria, was unimpressed. A teller asked what he would do to help community banks. Santorum seemed excited to share his desire to repeal Dodd-Frank.

Of course, there were Iowans who didn't recognize the candidate but, upon hearing he was running for president, wanted to take selfies. At the end of the walk, Santorum arrived at his event. In a town of just over 1,000, there were seven people waiting.

This approach has some real benefits. The Guardian talked to two voters who said they were considering Bernie Sanders and Santorum, having talked to the latter.

One, Tai Ward, a fantasy sports software developer from Fairfield, said Santorum piqued his interest when he said he was a fantasy sports fan as well. Ward, who caucused for the libertarian Ron Paul in 2012, said he liked candidates who stood up to corporations and seemed genuine, a description he felt applied to Santorum. He didn't agree with Santorum on everything, but appreciated that he seemed like "he believed everything he says".

The key for Santorum is whether he can successfully woo voters one on one in small towns over the next six months. The defending champion of the Iowa caucuses was in eighth place in the most recent poll of the Hawkeye State and he is doing even worse nationally, in danger of not qualifying for the first GOP debate, on 6 August.

He told the Guardian his campaign "was better positioned from the standpoint of being able to take this race beyond Iowa" than it was at the same time four years ago. But as in that campaign, he must hope that Republicans polling ahead of him flame out and give him, the slow and steady candidate, an opportunity to pull ahead.

Santorum: Iran deal is 'greatest betrayal' of US security ever // The Hill // Jordain Carney - July 25, 2015

Former Sen. Rick Santorum on Saturday called the Iran nuclear agreement the "greatest betrayal" of U.S. national security in the history of the United States.

"This is the greatest betrayal of American national security in our history," Santorum, who is running for president, said at the National Security Action Summit in New Hampshire. "[Iran] will cheat. They will violate the agreement. They will continue to sponsor terror all over the world."

Santorum's comments come as the administration is in the middle of trying to sell Congress on the agreement, announced earlier this month.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz met with lawmakers in multiple closed-door briefings

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and public hearings this past week, and they are expected to testify again next week.

Santorum slammed lawmakers, who he suggested don't want to stand up to the administration and have "Stockholm syndrome" when it comes to Obama.

"They are so afraid to fight," he added. "They have now decided that the only way to survive is to go along with him."

Lawmakers passed legislation earlier this year that gives them the ability to review and vote on the Iran deal before congressional sanctions can be lifted. But measures from Republicans that would have required it be considered as a treaty — which includes a higher threshold for approval — were rejected.

Santorum said the fact that senators weren't able to get enough votes to back requiring that the Iran agreement be submitted as a treaty — which the administration argues it is not — underscores "how little respect they have for you and how little belief they have in themselves."

Under legislation passed earlier this year, Obama ultimately needs to convince 34 lawmakers in the Senate to back the Iran agreement, which would give him enough support to uphold a potential veto of a resolution undercutting the deal in the Senate.

So far, Republicans have largely lined up against the agreement, while Democrats remain skeptical, with only one member of Senate leadership — Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) — throwing his support behind the deal so far.

Santorum, like other Republican presidential candidates, suggested Saturday he would walk away from the Iran agreement on "day one" if he's elected.

"Go through the process of on day one, saying this agreement is no longer enforced for the United States of America," he said, adding that the next president should "draw a line" and tell the Iranian government if it crosses it "we will take actions that make sure you are no longer a threat to the rest of the world."

Santorum: Lawmakers have 'Stockholm syndrome' with Obama // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood - July 25, 2015

Rick Santorum blasted lawmakers for their "Stockholm syndrome," implying Saturday at an appearance in New Hampshire that lawmakers have bonded to their kidnapper, the Obama administration.

Speaking at the National Security Action Summit, Santorum said the nuclear agreement with Iran was "the greatest betrayal of American national security in our history" and urged members of Congress to stand up to the president in opposition of the deal.

"[Iran] will cheat. They will violate the agreement. They will continue to sponsor terror all over the world," the former Pennsylvania senator said Saturday, according to The Hill.

Secretary of State John Kerry and other cabinet members spent much of this week trying to sell lawmakers on the agreement, which is currently awaiting rejection or approval in Congress.

Obama has promised to veto any legislation that dismantles his signature diplomatic achievement.

Other Republican candidates for president have railed against the Iran deal and suggested they would eliminate it immediately upon taking office.

If Congress approves the agreement or fails to muster the support needed to override Obama's veto, the sanctions against Iran will be lifted.

TRUMP

Donald Trump: I Pay My Own Way, Unlike Bush, Walker or Clinton // WSJ // Heather Haddon - July 25, 2015

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Donald Trump said there was no cap in the amount of money he would be willing to put into his campaign for the Republican nomination for president if his message continues to resonate with voters.

Speaking at a free-wheeling press conference following a rally in this city east of Des Moines, Mr. Trump also attacked Republican rivals Jeb Bush and Scott Walker and Democrat Hillary Clinton with accusations that they were beholden to wealthy donors.

Mr. Trump, a real-estate developer and television personality, has almost entirely self-financed his campaign so far.

“Bush is controlled by those people. Walker is controlled by those people. Hillary Clinton is controlled by those people. Trump has none of those people,” he said Saturday afternoon. “I’m not controlled. I do what’s right for the people.”

Mr. Trump was particularly pointed in his attacks of Mr. Walker. He criticized the Wisconsin governor’s handling of his state’s economy and accused him of flip-flopping his stance on the Common Core education standards.

While once friendly with the governor, Mr. Trump said he felt free to criticize Mr. Walker after a fundraising invitation sent by one of his donors called Mr. Trump a “DumbDumb.”

“I said ‘hey now, the gloves are off,’” said Mr. Trump, who called the fundraiser a “stupid person.”

A spokeswoman for Mr. Walker’s campaign didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Trump spoke before more than 1,000 people who gathered for a “family picnic” and speech that his campaign sponsored. Attendees filled the auditorium of the city’s high school and spilled into a space in the neighboring middle school, with 1,300 people registering to attend, a campaign official said.

The rally was originally scheduled to be held at a city park in Oskaloosa last month, but was rescheduled for a larger facility, Mr. Trump’s state director said.

The largely white crowd ate hamburgers cooked on long grills and salads served in silver chafing dishes.

“He’s saying the things we really feel,” said Gary Staggs, a 55-year-old small business owner from Oskaloosa. “Politicians can’t say them because they are so afraid of somebody they will offend.”

Mr. Trump delivered a nearly hourly long monologue without notes that touched on the imbalance of trade with China, his wealth and Iowa’s hot weather.

“I love you people. I love Iowa. But it’s hot as hell and I’m sweating like a dog,” said Mr. Trump, who wore a full suit.

Mr. Trump stuck to his criticisms of Mexico and illegal immigration to the U.S. from his country. He called for a system of immigration based on merit, but didn’t discuss specifics of his plan when asked about it after the speech.

After being criticized by veterans groups for attacking Arizona Sen. John McCain’s war record, Mr. Trump brought on stage a stack of papers he claimed to have been sent to him from former military men who supported him. Audience members waved printed signs stating “Veteran for Trump.”

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Mr. Trump has lobbed colorful attacks at rivals since declaring he was running for president last month. He said he would tone down his criticisms if he was elected president, and singled out Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and neurosurgeon Ben Carson for maintaining a civil tone towards him.

Mr. Trump declined to discuss specific in response to a wide-range of questions posed to him by reporters. He would not say if he was preparing for the debates or if he was taking pointers from policy advisers. He couldn't say who would make up a Trump cabinet.

Asked if he would join some Republicans' calls to cut Social Security benefits, Mr. Trump said it wasn't necessary because he would bring so much economic activity back to the U.S.

Flanked by a large security detail in suits, Mr. Trump stood with well-wishers who snapped photos with him as he left. He posed before a "Trump" campaign bus, but then got into a black SUV to leave Iowa by plane.

How Does Trump End? // Politico // July 25, 2015

Donald Trump's rapid ascendency to the top of the Republican polls—and the blinding media spotlight surrounding him that has rendered all other 2016 contenders seemingly mute—has baffled nearly every observer. Even his longtime friends (and enemies) are fascinated. When I reached him this week on vacation, Las Vegas developer mogul Steve Wynn, who has been on both the enemies and the friends side of that equation with Trump, said simply, "I am as mystified about it as you are." As he continued, "It certainly is a spectacular and perverse moment in political history. There's no precedent for this."

"What I am certain of," the gaming mogul averred, "is that when you and I have this conversation next year, we will both agree unequivocally how convoluted and how mercurial the events of the world are. Neither one of us will have ever predicted the political environment of America [a year from now] as surely as I know my own name."

Added Wynn, "Intervening events will be dramatic and unpredictable. That's the kind of world we're living in." The Trump boomlet, too, Wynn insisted, shall pass.

But how it shall pass is a serious point of debate among campaign observers. With some help from Politico Magazine, Wynn's challenge was put to top political thinkers: how does Trump's unprecedented campaign end? Will Trump fizzle out soon, or endure for months? Will he succumb to pressure from the RNC, the GOP establishment and other candidates? Or only earn more attention as the race drags on? And is Trump ever truly "done"—or would he jump back into the race as a third party candidate?

"Maybe people will get tired of me," Trump mused Friday in an interview with Morning Joe. Or perhaps they won't. Below appear the best predictions collected from the respondents who dared speculate about how The Donald's spectacular rise ends – Jon Ralston, Politico Magazine contributing editor.

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'There's a more-than-reasonable chance that he pulls a Perot and runs as an independent.'

By Bob Shrum, Democratic presidential strategist.

Trump is ripe for a Bentsen-Quayle moment in the first debate. Bush, Rubio, et al—no longer reticent in the face of Trump's pandering to the basest elements of the base, the "crazies"—are preparing the putdown right now. The question is who gets the right opening first. But one candidate who won't be looking for the opportunity is Cruz; he's angling to take the reins of Trump's buckboard of bigotry when Trump falls off and then ride it to the nomination.

He may have to wait. Trump can be scorched in the debate; but he won't flame out because he won't run out of money, even if he is a few billion shy of ten. He can hold on indefinitely, and he's not the type to recognize reality and retreat from the race. In the end, denied a nomination he can't win, there's a more-than-reasonable chance that he pulls a Perot and runs as an independent. That's what I'm rooting for and would advise the Great Bloviator to do. The "crazies" deserve a voice, and he's it. And the GOP deserves to pay a price—the presidency—for appeasing and exploiting the

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politics of nativism and resentment that has spawned and nourished the low, mean Know-Nothingism of Donald Trump.

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'If the GOP keeps pounding Trump instead of ignoring him, they buy him time.'

By Erick Erikson, frequent commentator, radio host and founder of the blog RedState.

Congress goes on recess in August, you have the GOP debate and people will start to take a look at all the other candidates in relation to Trump. I think he begins a decline toward Iowa. If you delve into the polling, a lot of people who are right now saying they intend to vote for Trump are really saying they just like what he is saying. As others begin to get attention, he fades. One caveat though: if the GOP keeps pounding Trump instead of ignoring him, they buy him time. The longer the party elite bash Trump, the more the base loves him.

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'Donald Trump is not only not hurting the GOP, he is a boon to it.'

By Mary Matalin, Republican political strategist.

With apologies to, and respect for, my conservative friends and colleagues, Donald Trump is not only not hurting the GOP, he is a boon to it. Candidates would be well advised to pay close attention to the forensics of his approach, and apply their own unique personalities and policies to their campaign efforts. And the GOP leadership should quit insulting him, giving him an excuse to mount a third party candidacy.

Among other strategic and tactical triumphs, Trump is exhibiting in pulsing neon colors the contemporary political parallel universes of Common Sense America and Conventional Wisdom Establishment. CS America is, and has been for some time been, so over the incompetent, posturing national politicians as well as their irrelevant agenda issues and their counterproductive policies. They are aching for candidates with authenticity who will address their everyday concerns. AND do not presume a preference for their common sense world makes them redneck philistines.

Further he is exposing the multiple fallacies of CW Establishment politics, to wit: appealing to nontraditional GOP voters requires narrow and corrupt Identity Politics tactics; message resonance demands mandatory acceptance of any and all CW Politically Correct premises, including gratuitous, phony, solicitous kowtowing to the media; that strict avoidance of establishmentarian "third rail" issues is political kamikaze.

Once he gets to the debates, he will have to connect his bombastic iconoclastic antics to authentic policy prescriptions, as well as demonstrate his potential effectiveness by past performance metrics

Bottom line: he will not blow up, but could pump up overly-reserved candidacies.

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'He is the voice of the GOP. Hell, he's even the hair of the GOP.'

By Paul Begala, political analyst for CNN and counselor to President Bill Clinton.

When it comes to Mr. Trump, I know this: he reflects the views of today's Republican Party. Here's proof: 64 percent of Republicans agree with the broader statement that, "President Obama is hiding important information about his background and early life." And 34 percent of Republicans go full-on birther: saying of Republicans think it's likely that president Obama is not a US citizen; that he was not born in America (Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. poll, Dec., 2014). This, of course, is an issue Mr. Trump has highlighted.

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68 percent of Republicans say Mr. Trump is right on immigration. (Fox News poll, July 17, 2015). This was after he said those rather, umm, controversial things about Mexican immigrants. 22 percent of Republicans even agree with his hateful attack on John McCain—saying McCain was not a war hero (PPP Poll 7/22/15).

Mr. Trump is the face of the GOP: angry, white and male. He is the voice of the GOP. Hell, he's even the hair of the GOP.

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'How long? As long as he wants.'

By Joe Trippi, Democratic political strategist.

Never, ever ever underestimate Trump's staying power and ability to dominate media attention. In a field this large he could be around for a long time—potentially a lot longer than many of the other GOP candidates who have derided his chances of being their nominee. On running as a 3rd party candidate—someone should remind the GOP that Trump is a tough as nails negotiator and he would have plenty of leverage. How long? As long as he wants.

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'He can't sustain the weight of multiple attacks.'

By Rick Wilson, national Republican message and media strategist.

The Trump show ends when the other candidates follow Perry and Rubio, get off their asses and knock his dick in the dirt. Do a deep oppo dive on Trump and go to work. Trump's verbal incontinence prevents him from being able to restrain himself, and as they start banging him on his liberal political background, his casino deals, rickety real estate empire, multiple bankruptcies, the Trump-U scam, and so on, Trump will respond, over and over. He can't sustain the weight of multiple attacks.

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'There is nobody strong enough to stop him.'

By Van Jones, former Obama administration special advisor for green jobs.

Do not underestimate Donald Trump. He is in this race to stay. He will be a defining force through the primary season. As long as there are a dozen or more other candidates, there is nobody strong enough to stop him. A man who has no shame cannot be embarrassed or hounded out of the race—no matter how many offensive, racist or ludicrous things he says. Also: the media is addicted to Trump. They hate themselves for indulging him, but they refuse to go to rehab. Hold onto your hats! This guy is for real. And he will go the distance in the GOP primary—and maybe beyond the GOP primary, as an independent candidate.

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'The first debate will tell us all we need to know.'

By SE Cupp, conservative political commentator.

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The first debate will tell us all we need to know. Does Trump come with policy points and substantive responses? Will he respect the other candidates, the format, the moderator? Will he attempt to look presidential? Or will he interrupt, call people “dummies,” and punt on any real questions? If next to Walker, Jeb, Rubio, et al he looks like a cartoon, we’ll probably see the polls reflect that. If that gives him an off ramp to exit, maybe he’ll take it. If on the other hand he performs well, why would he go anywhere?

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‘He doesn’t have to be even remotely viable to be a dangerous.’

By Ed Kilgore, liberal commentator, blogger at Washington Monthly’s Political Animal and Managing Editor at The Democratic Strategist.

It’s early to predict much of anything about anybody, but I’d say Donald Trump has the ego, the money and probably the motivation to take his campaign into the general election as an independent. That doesn’t mean he’ll succeed as well as Ross Perot in 1992 or even 1996. But in a campaign that could be a very close major party barnburner, he doesn’t have to be even remotely viable to be a dangerous and impossible-to-ignore factor, especially for Republican Party elites he clearly enjoys tormenting. And his appeal is heavily concentrated in a white working class demographic that Republicans just cannot afford to lose much of—Romney won 61 percent in 2012—and still hope to win.

What else is a 70-year-old narcissist going to do with all the attention he’s mustered? Retire? Do another TV show? I don’t think so.

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‘Donald Trump will ... exit before the parade of judgement days we call elections.’

By Stuart Stevens, Republican strategist and the chief advisor for the 2012 Romney presidential campaign.

Put me down in the camp of being highly skeptical that Donald Trump will be on the ballot in Iowa or NH. Running for President is a uniquely humbling experience for all involved. The process has no respect for wealth, status or power. All of that argues, to me, that Donald Trump will use the system to make the points he is making and exit before the parade of judgement days we call elections.

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‘Trump's act will grow tiresome.’

By Peter Wehner, former deputy director of speechwriting for President George W. Bush.

How the Trump campaign for president ends is hard to predict, since Trump himself is a deeply erratic individual. He shifts positions literally within hours, so knowing what he'll do months from now is impossible. But I do have a better feel, I think, for how Trump will play over time with Republican voters. The short answer: Not well.

My guess is that Trump’s candidacy is best understood as a months-long political conflagration that will begin to burn itself out by the late summer. Mr. Trump is a genius at getting attention, and he's clearly tapped into a deep vein of unhappiness among Republican voters—unhappiness with the politicians and the political class, with government and the media and with the state of America. Right now he’s a vehicle for lots of people's outrage.

But Trump's act will grow tiresome. The intensity surrounding him can't be sustained. And reality will soon take hold. His own past (and recent) liberal positions—there are many of them—are going to create serious doubts among the conservative base. Mr. Trump’s lack of substance and shallowness will catch up to him. And his non-stop crudity and insults, which some people might have found amusing at first, will wear thin. (In my experience, presidential candidates who ridicule POWs who were tortured usually don’t have a lot of staying power.) People who were initially drawn to him will begin to be embarrassed by him. Even now, while he leads several national polls in a splintered field, his negatives are extreme high. They'll go higher. He’s a

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stunningly target-rich environment.

This is the time in a political campaign when people's impressions are fluid, their views of the candidates unsettled, and they feel they have the luxury to indulge even circus clowns. This, too, shall pass. So even if Trump doesn't lose interest in the race, more and more Republican voters will lose interest in him. For a narcissist like Trump, that's the worst possible fate.

It hard for many people to imagine now, when Trump is the focal point of American politics, but come early fall—and maybe even sooner than that—my guess is that what many people will think of when they think of Donald Trump is boring. Tedious. The crazy uncle in the attic.

If Trump doesn't end this charade, Republican voters will happily do it for him.

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'I'll go with the scenario that has Trump leaving the Republican party to run as an independent candidate.'

By Anita Dunn, Democratic political strategist and the White House Communications Director from April through November 2009.

The Trump Show will last longer than your typical summer blockbuster that has a glitzy opening, gets bad reviews, makes plenty of noise, has lots of explosions, attracts a lot of eyeballs the first weekend out and then disappears until it runs endless loops on cable.

Ignore the similarities! His financial disclosure suggests a serious effort at a campaign, and he is tapping a chord with a segment of the Republican electorate that no one else is right now. So I'll go with the scenario that has Trump leaving the Republican Party to run as an independent candidate, sometime before Iowa but after a number of debates (so he gets maximum publicity but never loses a primary or caucus). Hey, he's got the money to go the independent route!

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'The air is coming out of the balloon.'

By John Feehery, president of QGA Public Affairs.

The air is coming out of the balloon. Trump will hurt himself with undisciplined comments and he will cease to be a candidate by the end of the year. He will not run as a third party candidate, unless his daughter and Chelsea Clinton have some sort of private agreement that we know nothing about.

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'Believe that Trump has more staying power.'

By Douglas Schoen, pollster for President Bill Clinton.

Believe that Trump has more staying power than some may think because of the profound anger the Republican base has with the Republican establishment.

A recent Quinnipiac poll in Colorado, Virginia and Iowa showed high negatives for Trump, but so, too, do Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton have high negatives—indicating that the American electorate is disaffected across the board. Trump ultimately will not be the Republican nominee, and he almost certainly won't run as an Independent, though he may well hint at the possibility.

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What Trump's candidacy does is to underscore profoundly, as does Bernie Sanders, how much anger there is across the board in America. With very good reason!

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'His candidacy is shining a bright light on some of the most intolerant factions in the right wing.'

By Bill Burton, former senior strategist for Priorities USA Action, a super PAC in support of President Barack Obama.

My view is that there is great value in the fact that his candidacy is shining a bright light on some of the most intolerant factions in the right wing. My hope is that he sticks around just long enough for America to snuff out some of the worst of what he represents.

My friend Paul Begala taught me that cockroaches are around even if you don't see them—but you'll never be able to kill them unless you turn the lights on.

***

'Who the hell knows.'

By Ana Navarro, Florida-based Republican strategist.

Who the hell knows what the final episode of the Trump telenovela will be. You are better off asking that question of a psychiatrist, not a political analyst.

Donald Trump in Iowa: 'Drudge is amazing' // Politico // Hadas Gold - July 25, 2015

Speaking here at a campaign event in Iowa, Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump had high praise for a site that's an important factor among conservatives and the media: The Drudge Report.

"Drudge, who is great by the way, Drudge is amazing," Trump said as he was retelling his story of visiting the border in Laredo, Texas.

Trump had little good will for the rest of the media in his speech here in front of a packed auditorium of more than 600 people at Oskaloosa high school (with at least 400 in an overflow room). The billionaire real estate mogul opened his speech by bashing the Des Moines Register —whose reporters he had banned from the event, his team said on Friday, because the paper had published an editorial calling on Trump to drop out of the race.

"The Des Moines Register is standing outside too," Trump said to cheers from the audience. "It's a super liberal rag that's not respected around here."

(During the event, the Register's chief political correspondent Jennifer Jacobs tweeted that the paper did in fact have a reporter inside the auditorium covering the event).

Trump said the press often misquotes him and doesn't accurately report how many people come out to see him or how much he's worth.

"A lot of political press is great like 30, 35 percent," he said. "Some are so dishonest. You'll have a crowd like this and they'll say it's miniscule."

Trump also claimed that reporters have been calling him to apologize for mischaracterizing his remarks about Mexican immigrants.

Donald Trump Turns His Gaze to Scott Walker in Iowa // Bloomberg // Ben Brody - July 25, 2015

During an appearance in Iowa Saturday, real estate mogul Donald Trump turned his attention to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, a chief rival for the Republican presidential nomination and the current front-runner in the state that holds the nation's first presidential nominating event.

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"Wisconsin is doing terribly," Trump said. The tycoon, who is leading the Republican pack of 16 in several national polls, said Wisconsin had seen budget deficits and high borrowing which led to poor infrastructure under Walker. "The hospitals and education is a disaster."

Trump also pointed out that Walker, who has repeatedly visited neighboring Iowa and was the first choice of 22 percent of likely Republican caucus-goers there in a recent poll, had supported the Common Core education standards that much of the GOP base now derides. Trump received support from 13 percent of people in the poll, putting him in second place.

The attacks, which focused on the record of a strong rival, contrasted with Trump's personal attacks on a past candidate and a low-polling candidate, respectively, in the past week. He told an Iowa audience on July 18 that Arizona Senator John McCain, a former prisoner of war who was the Republican presidential nominee in 2008 and who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, was a war hero only because he had been captured. On July 21, he gave out the personal phone number of South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, who attacked Trump over the McCain comments and statements on immigration, but who hardly registers in polls.

Trump said that he had been holding back on Walker, whom he called "a nice guy," until he read that an ally of the governor had insulted the businessman. A Walker fundraiser had called Trump "DumbDumb" in an event invitation, according to the Wall Street Journal.

"I say, 'Oh finally I can attack,'" Trump said in relating the story Saturday at the "Make America Great Again" rally and picnic in Oskaloosa. "I would have never done this. I didn't know. Because I hear the only one beating me in Iowa is Scott Walker, and not by that much."

He then had a request for the audience: "Will you please put me in first place so I feel better?"

Trump supporters in Iowa shrug off McCain controversy // CNN // MJ Lee and Ashley Killough - July 26, 2015

Donald Trump returned to Iowa on Saturday one week after setting off a national firestorm about Arizona Sen. John McCain's service in war.

But rather than condemn the billionaire businessman for his flamboyant attacks on other Republicans, including McCain, many Trump fans here seemed to give the presidential candidate a different message: Go get 'em.

Trump admirers showed up in droves to a rally and picnic at Oskaloosa High School, eager to catch a glimpse of the reality TV star who has dominated the 2016 campaign with both his inflammatory comments and his signature unapologetic and brash persona.

Around a dozen Trump supporters -- many of whom endured the sweltering heat outside for hours -- told CNN that they were enamored by Trump's unfiltered rhetoric, as well as the stark contrast between the New York real estate magnate and other more seasoned politicians in the GOP field.

Larry Howe, a 77-year-old retired veteran from Blakesburg, said Trump's McCain comments from last weekend never bother him.

"He's honest. He tells is like it is. A lot of people don't like that but I think we need a president that will tell it like it is," Howe said.

Tammy Runnalls, a 50-year-old Trump fan from the nearby town of Eddyville, arrived at the school at 6 a.m. to get the first spot in line.

"He doesn't need anybody's money, he's not a career politician, he's not a lawyer. I'm excited because he's not like everybody else in the field," Runnalls said. She added that Trump's McCain comments "went a little overboard," but that they didn't make her less supportive of the candidate.

At a summit in Ames, Iowa, last weekend, Trump drew widespread condemnation when he quipped that McCain was a "war hero because he was captured" during the Vietnam War.

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"I like people that weren't captured, OK?" Trump said.

Though Trump partly backtracked from those original comments, saying that he does in fact believe McCain is a war hero, he has not apologized to the 2008 GOP presidential nominee. He has also since gone after his GOP competitors for criticizing him for those remarks, particularly training his ire on South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham for calling Trump a "jackass."

In one of the most colorful moments of the 2016 cycle, Trump read out loud Graham's cell phone number on national television earlier this week, inviting his supporters to give the senator a call.

Even undecided voters here in Oskaloosa said they found Trump's bombastic style refreshing.

"He's really stirring things up. I do like that about him. I like his outspokenness," said Steve Wickenkan, 58, a custodian for the Oskaloosa schools who has previously supported President Barack Obama.

This weekend, Trump once again demonstrated that when critics come after him, he only hits back harder.

The Des Moines Register said Friday that its journalists had been denied credentials to Trump's Saturday rally because the paper's editorial board penned a scathing piece calling Trump a "feckless blowhard" candidate asking that he drop his White House bid.

Trump mocked the paper on Twitter, writing: "The the ultra liberal and seriously failing Des Moines Register is BEGGING my team for press credentials to my event in Iowa today-but they lie!"

His supporters egged him on, cheering when Trump gleefully kicked off his hourlong rally by noting that the Des Moines Register had been kept outside.

Crystal Breuklander, an employee of the Oskaloosa Municipal Water Department, said it was Trump's willingness to take on anybody that she found so appealing.

"I like that he will speak his mind and is not swayed by others," Breuklander, 40, said. "I like his open-mindedness, and he's not intimated by anybody."

What is Trump's actual position on illegal immigration? **// CNN // Maeve Reston - July 25, 2015**

Donald Trump rose to the top of the GOP presidential field by harnessing the anger of many conservative Republicans about illegal immigration. But he has softened his tone in recent days -- going so far as to say that he would favor a "merit-based system" for undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

After weeks of criticism over the harsh tone of his presidential campaign announcement -- where he claimed that Mexican immigrants were bringing drugs and crime to the U.S., and calling some of them rapists -- Trump seems to be edging toward a more moderate position.

On the campaign trail in recent weeks, Trump has shed little light on his actual plans for dealing with illegal immigration beyond generalizations that have often seemed far-fetched. Initially, he said he would build a wall and make Mexico pay for it. On Thursday, during a visit to the U.S.-Mexico border, he seemed to reverse course under questioning by CNN's Dana Bash.

"In certain sections, you have to have a wall," he said.

His position on immigration -- which has been a huge part of his appeal among conservative voters nationally -- grew even more muddled Friday when he highlighted his support for a "merit-based system" for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

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Though he did not explain the mechanics of the system in any detail, it sounded similar to the calls by some moderate Republicans for a path to citizenship for undocumented workers, which has been an anathema to hardline conservatives.

On MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Friday, Trump insisted that he would secure the border first and "take the bad ones" -- referring to undocumented immigrants -- "and get them the hell out."

"We give them back to Mexico or we make sure they stay where they came from," Trump told the show's hosts, noting that he would "secure the border" first. But, he added in regard to the millions of undocumented immigrants in this country, "I'm a very big believer in (the) merit system."

"I have to tell you, some of these people have been here; they've done a good job; in some cases sadly they've been living under the shadows," Trump said in his telephone interview. "We have to do something, so whether it's merit, or whether it's whatever, but -- I'm a believer in the merit system. Somebody's been outstanding, we (ought to) try to work something out."

It wasn't the first time that Trump had raised the possibility of a kinder, gentler immigration policy. In fact, a number of conservative writers have noted the irony of his appeal to the right flank of the Republican Party given his moderate statements on immigration, as well as abortion, over the years.

In a newsletter to his readers earlier this month entitled "Trump fans, it's time for an intervention," National Review columnist Jonah Goldberg noted that Trump told Fox News host Bill O'Reilly in 2011 that he favored a system where the U.S. determined which undocumented immigrants could stay in this country on a "case by case" basis. The Glenn Beck program has also cited that interview as a reason conservatives should not support the real estate magnate.

In the 2011 interview, O'Reilly had asked Trump what he would do with "15 million illegal aliens already in the United States."

"You know, it's hard to generalize, but you're going to have to look at the individual people, see how they've done, see how productive they've been, see what their references are, and then make a decision," Trump said.

O'Reilly pointed out that kind of system would take a long time and require a great deal of manpower.

"A long time," Trump responded, "but you know, you have some great productive people that came in."

Trump's harsh vitriol about immigrants from Mexico in his announcement speech also seems ironic, given his criticisms of what he cast as the "mean-spirited" tone of 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney on the topic.

Trump told the conservative outlet Newsmax in 2012 that Romney harmed the Republican Party's image with his hard line views on illegal immigration.

"He had a crazy policy of self-deportation, which was maniacal," Trump told Newsmax. "It sounded as bad as it was, and he lost all of the Latino vote." Trump added that the GOP should develop better policies "with respect to people wanting to be wonderful, productive citizens of this country."

Trump's visit to the U.S.-Mexico border this week brought a fresh round of scrutiny to his positions -- and left more questions than answers. He was once again effusive about his love for Mexico and said he thought he would win "win the Hispanic vote," because "thousands and thousands of Hispanics have worked for me."

When pressed by a reporter about what he would do with the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., he dodged the question: "The first thing we have to do is secure our borders and after that we're going to have plenty of time to talk about it."

That dodge once again caught the attention of the conservative blogosphere. The headline on the blog of the conservative Weekly Standard illustrated the perils for Trump on the issue: "Trump suggests he may be open to amnesty."

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Republican Support for Trump Surges but his Unfavorable Ratings are Also Rising // Slate // Daniel Politi - July 25, 2015

Donald Trump is not going away anytime soon. That much is clear from the latest Economist/YouGov poll of the 2016 Republican presidential hopefuls that claims support for the real estate magnate soared to 28 percent, up from 15 percent the previous week. That means more than twice the number of Republicans describe Trump as their first choice than former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who is backed by 14 percent of Republicans, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who has 13 percent support.

“There is clearly a core group of registered voters who identify as Republicans that has coalesced around Trump’s tough talk and proposals,” notes YouGov. “He is even more clearly in first place than he was two weeks ago when Republicans are asked to choose among the current candidates.”

Yet it’s not all good news for Trump. Even as he solidifies his first-place slot among Republican contenders, his unfavorable ratings are on the rise. In the previous YouGov poll, Trump had the highest favorable ratings. In a week, the reality TV star has seen his favorable ratings drop 11 points to 53 percent and his unfavorable ratings rise 15 points to 42 percent. And despite the growing support, Republicans still don’t see him as the likely nominee and largely expect Bush will be the party’s candidate.

Trump's unfavorable ratings are likely to increase considering that it’s unclear how much the poll was affected by Trump’s criticism of Arizona Sen. John McCain. The poll began on the same day Trump questioned McCain’s status as a war hero so some of the respondents may not have been aware of the controversy yet.

Donald Trump is still rocketing up polls in dominating fashion // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani - July 25, 2015

Donald Trump is still the clear front-runner of the 2016 GOP presidential field.

A new Economist/YouGov poll released on Friday actually showed Trump gaining support in the last week, despite a controversy over his comments questioning Sen. John McCain's (R-Arizona) status as a "war hero."

According to the poll, the number of registered Republican primary voters who responded that Trump is their first choice jumped from 15% at the beginning of July to 28% last week. Another 10% of voters pick him as their second choice.

That puts the real-estate magnate far ahead of the next Republican candidate, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), as well as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), who saw his numbers jump following his campaign announcement earlier this month.

The poll comes only a week after many analysts declared that Trump's comments about McCain would mark a turning point in his campaign.

The line of thinking was that Republican primary voters — who are generally much more hawkish — wouldn't take kindly to Trump's dismissive comments about McCain's status as a prisoner of war.

But so far, no backlash appears to have materialized. In fact, Trump has only gained support in the survey. And the poll found that 32% of GOP primary voters don't think that Trump needed to apologize.

And the YouGov poll isn't the only poll to show that Trump is still comfortably in the lead. A Monmouth University poll of GOP voters in Iowa showed that Trump's support remained unchanged following the McCain flap. And an ABC/Washington Post poll released earlier this week found him nearly doubling Bush's support, as well.

Donald Trump planeLM OteroRepublican presidential hopeful Donald Trump arriving at the airport for a visit to the US-Mexico border in Laredo, Texas.

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Pollsters have warned that early polls are not reliable indicators of real support that will translate into votes. Voters are still not tuned into to the election, and, at this point, candidates with high name recognition who can dominate the news cycle can see inflated support. Trump — a media sensation with decades of high-profile entertainment ventures, real-estate deals, and reality-television show experience — is perfectly positioned to take advantage of that.

Many pollsters have pointed to Trump's unfavorability rating, which remains higher than other GOP candidates in most polls. The Economist/YouGov poll showed the real-estate magnate's unfavorability ratings did rise slightly following his comments about McCain.

"The poll results with regard to candidate standing are ephemeral at this stage, primarily a function of name recognition," University of Michigan political science professor Michael Tractor, a polling expert, told Business Insider last month, as Trump began his surge. "Trump has greater name recognition than many of the others, especially the governors. But name recognition is not the same as support."

Some polls, however, have shown Trump's favorability numbers climbing. And the real-estate mogul has bulldozed his way into the forefront of issues that are hugely important in the 2016 race — especially with Republican primary voters.

Trump was one of the first 2016 candidates to call attention to the death of Kathryn Steinle, a 32-year-old woman who was allegedly murdered by an immigrant living in the US without permission.

Trump got a shout-out during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing this week from one of the witnesses, who thanked him for bringing attention to the issue of violent crime committed by immigrants living in the US illegally.

And earlier this week, House Republicans passed an immigration bill that Democrats dubbed "The Donald Trump Act."

OTHER

'It sucks': The Republican criticism of their own debate process is starting to heat up // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani - July 25, 2015

When the first Republican debate takes place on next month, 10 Republican presidential candidates — including a billionaire reality-television star and a retired neurosurgeon with zero executive experience — will likely be onstage.

But six other candidates will be shut out — including, possibly, a former US senator who won 11 states in the 2012 Republican primary, a Republican senator with 20 years of congressional experience, and the governor of the state where the debate is being held.

That's because Fox News and CNN, which are hosting the first two Republican debates, decided to grant spots on the stage to the top 10 candidates based on averages of several national, nonpartisan polls.

But many Republican Party strategists and some of the candidates themselves are intensifying their criticism of how the networks are choosing candidates for the debates. Curt Anderson, a former top Republican National Committee official and now an adviser to candidate and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, argued in a Wall Street Journal op-ed this week that the RNC should "let all 16 candidates debate."

In an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Thursday, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) again criticized Fox News and the Republican National Committee for sticking by those rules, which look increasingly likely to exclude him and some of the other lower-polling candidates from the August 6 debate.

"It sucks," Graham said, bluntly.

Opponents of the Fox/CNN model argue that it's unfair to rely heavily on early polls, which tend to heavily favor candidates with higher name

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recognition who can dominate the news cycle. Several times in making his case about the debate rules, Graham has said that Brad Pitt would likely be on the debate stage at this point if he had decided to run as a Republican.

University of Michigan polling expert Michael Traugott told Business Insider that relying on early polls to determine who gets to debate represents "a conflict between production values and the realities of early political positioning."

"In this early phase, name recognition and media coverage means a lot for recognition levels on national polls," Traugott said. "The dynamic is that media exposure is positively correlated with poll standing (a la Trump), so Graham is correct about suffering from a double whammy."

Other pollsters agreed.

"I think most pollsters agree that using our surveys more than six months before anyone even votes to decide who gets to be in the debates is a terrible process," Public Policy Polling Director Tom Jensen told Business Insider.

Donald TrumpREUTERS/Dominick ReuterBusinessman and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump greets supporters in Bedford, New Hampshire, June 30, 2015.

Some strategists argue that the lower-tier candidates are diverse and could help bring other voters into the Republican tent.

Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett Packard chief executive, is the only woman running on the Republican side — and it's looking like she won't make the debate stage. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a pro-immigration-reform Republican who has also embraced the Affordable Care Act, also looks poised to be shut out unless he sees a bump from his announcement earlier this week.

The format also could prevent lesser known and lesser funded candidates who perform well in the debates from breaking out into the mainstream. Jensen noted that in 2012, a strong debate performance helped provide a needed boost for former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), who went on to win the South Carolina primary.

"When they can't all face off against at least a few of the others or more than a few of the others ... it's hard to really measure the quality of each individual candidate or get a sense of how they would actually perform if nominated," Republican strategist Liz Mair told Business Insider.

On Thursday, Graham pointed out that he has only been able to raise his own profile by attacking Trump — who has high unfavorability ratings and who observers consider unlikely to actually win the GOP nomination.

“If my numbers go up just because I call Donald Trump a 'jackass,' that’s not why I want to rise in the polls,” Graham said on Morning Joe. “The bottom line is, I think the criteria in July of 2015 makes no sense. You’re testing celebrity and name ID.”

Indeed, attacking Trump seems to be an actual strategy by some Republican candidates to get onstage.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), who is teetering on the edge of the bubble, has managed to raise his media profile by bashing Trump in a series of online videos, tweets, and speeches.

rick perryScott OlsonRepublican presidential candidate and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry fields questions at The Family Leadership Summit.

As NPR has reported, there's also a statistical problem with leaning on polls. The poll numbers determining who gets onstage — Perry currently qualifies with 2.4% — are so small that the difference-making percentage point could be within the margin of error.

“There's no difference between John Kasich and Bobby Jindal except one's going to be in and one is going to be out,” Doug Usher of Purple Strategies

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said, according to Bloomberg Politics. “Or maybe they're both going to be out.”

Some observers have floated alternatives.

Mair has suggested that the Republican debates should be split up, with candidates randomly assigned to each. Pollster Stu Rothenberg has agreed.

It should be noted that the lower-tier candidates have received media coverage on Fox News and on CNN. Former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), who appears unlikely to make it onto the stage despite winning nearly a dozen states in the 2012 primary, spent an hour on the Fox morning show 'Outnumbered' on Wednesday. He fielded softball questions and was interviewed by his daughter. Graham himself has sat for interviews with Fox more than 10 times this year.

And there's also a chance that some of the lower-tier candidates could benefit from the early debates. The candidates who don't make the main stage will participate in a forum airing before the official debate on Fox News. If they manage to stand out in this arena, it could boost them, allowing them a spot on the CNN debate in September.

A Fox News spokesperson declined to comment for this piece, and CNN did not respond to requests for comment from Business Insider.

GOP presidential race will dominate Sunday shows // USA Today // Deirdre Shesgreen - July 25, 2015

GOP presidential hopeful Donald Trump won't be on any of the Sunday talk shows, but the New York billionaire will be center stage nonetheless.

Featured guests—including several of Trump's rivals for the GOP nomination—will talk about Trump's controversial comments on immigration, his blistering criticism of other Republicans, and his high standing in the national polls. The Republican candidates will also, of course, tout their own presidential prospects.

On the other side of the aisle, Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent, and others will talk about the success of his populist message. And other panelists will discuss gun violence after the recent shootings in Louisiana and Tennessee, along with the controversy surrounding Planned Parenthood's handling of fetal tissue.

Here's the full lineup:

•CBS' Face the Nation: Former Texas Governor and GOP presidential candidate Rick Perry; Kentucky GOP Sen. Rand Paul, also a presidential contender; Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia; ex-Obama National Security Adviser Tom Donilon; and former House Intelligence Committee chairman Mike Rogers, R-Michigan.

•NBC's Meet the Press: Sanders; Jon Nichols, Washington correspondent for The Nation; Patrick J. Buchanan, the one-time adviser to Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan; and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the 16th Republican to jump into the presidential race.

•CNN's State of the Union: Perry will appear again, along with: S.E. Cupp, a CNN political commentator; Bakari Sellers, former South Carolina House of Representative; Ken Cuccinelli, former Virginia attorney general; and Neera Tanden, president of the Center for American Progress, a liberal advocacy group.

•Fox News Sunday: GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

•ABC's This Week: Attorney General Loretta Lynch, South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is also running for president; and Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood.

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•WUSA9 Capital Download: Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md; Paul S. Ryan of the Campaign Legal Center; political roundtable with Politico's Manu Raju and NPR's Domenico Montanero.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Presidential Race Just Started? Not According to the Spending // NYT // Nicholas Confessore, Sarah Cohen, and Eric Lichtblau - July 25, 2015

Since late last year, presidential hopefuls have been romancing donors, hiring staff and haunting the diners and senior centers of Manchester and Dubuque.

But on paper, most of the candidates spent virtually no money exploring a presidential bid until very recently. According to campaign disclosures filed with the Federal Election Commission last week, the much-promoted campaign staff they hired had other jobs. And their many, many trips to New Hampshire and Iowa had nothing to do with running for president.

Such accounting — which the campaigns defended as perfectly appropriate but some election lawyers said violated the law — has allowed would-be candidates to spend months testing the presidential waters while saving cash to use later in the primaries.

It also let them tap their most loyal donors for additional funds that will not count against the limits on contributions to their official campaigns. And it has contributed to what some experts described as a kind of campaign Wild West, with candidates and their lawyers testing or crossing legal boundaries stretched thin by the advent of "super PACs" and by Federal Election Commission deadlocks.

"We're in uncharted territory," said Kenneth Gross, a Washington election lawyer and former Federal Election Commission general counsel. "This campaign cycle more than any other, we've seen more pre-announcement activity being paid for through essentially unregulated money."

Senators Ted Cruz and Rand Paul have billed hotel rooms in New Hampshire and consulting fees for Iowa strategists to their re-election campaigns in Texas and Kentucky. Gov. Scott Walker billed fees to a Texas-based fund-raiser, hired in March, to his Wisconsin state campaign, months after he was re-elected governor and years away from a potential 2018 Statehouse bid.

Several candidates, including former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, reported to the Federal Election Commission that they spent almost nothing to explore a presidential bid until a few days before they jumped into the race. Federal law requires declared candidates to retroactively report "exploratory" expenses once they enter the race.

Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, reported hundreds of thousands of dollars of exploratory spending, dating to May last year, on political and legal advice. But he did not report any travel expenses before June, though he traveled extensively during the winter and spring to meet with donors and attend town-hall-style meetings in early primary states.

Mr. Bush and some other White House contenders say those expenses are unrelated to their presidential campaigns and were paid for by other political organizations — typically not subject to the same disclosure rules and contribution limits as presidential candidates. The campaigns argued that any costs paid for by such groups were unrelated to exploring a presidential bid and did not need to be repaid once the candidates announced their bids.

One such group, Conservative Solutions Project, a nonprofit set up by allies of Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, picked up the tab for extensive research of Republican primary voters, the kind of expense that would-be candidates bore in the past.

Other White House contenders have assigned months' worth of expenses to campaigns for other offices.

Last summer, Mr. Paul hired Steve Grubbs, a former chairman of the Iowa Republican Party and an expert on the state's first-in-the-nation caucuses, to assist with his national political efforts.

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Mr. Grubbs indicated in an email that he is currently advising Mr. Paul about Iowa, and Mr. Paul's presidential campaign paid his firm, Victory Enterprises, about $200,000 during the second quarter of 2015.

But during the first quarter of 2015, Mr. Grubbs's fees — about $15,000 — came out of Mr. Paul's Senate account. A spokesman for Mr. Paul, Sergio Gor, said those earlier payments were unrelated to the senator's presidential campaign.

Mr. Cruz is not up for re-election in Texas until 2018. But his Senate campaign committee was billed thousands of dollars in meals, hotels, car services and other travel expenses in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Mr. Cruz's Senate committee also paid $12,903 in April and May to a company controlled by Bryan English, the Iowa campaign director for Mr. Cruz's presidential bid. Mr. English's LinkedIn profile states that he began working for Mr. Cruz's presidential campaign in April.

Another payment, billed to his Senate campaign in early March, appears to correspond with Mr. Cruz's trip to Iowa for the Iowa Agriculture Summit. The gathering is described on its website as "a unique forum for potential and likely presidential candidates from both major parties to discuss issues of vital importance to the Iowa and national economies."

Catherine Frazier, a spokeswoman for Mr. Cruz, said his presidential campaign intended to reimburse his Senate committee for any 2016-related expenses once they had all been identified and calculated. She also said that the dates on Mr. Cruz's reports did not necessarily reflect the actual dates the expenses were incurred, and that it was "standard practice to use the credit card payment date for all the ultimate vendors."

"We are well aware of the expenses, as they will be part of a larger reimbursement from the presidential committee to the Senate committee that will be disclosed on our next F.E.C. report," Ms. Frazier said.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who announced in April that she would seek the Democratic nomination, was among the more conservative candidates in accounting for her spending. Her campaign reported $278,821 in exploratory expenses, including office rent, staff travel and employee salaries and benefits, which she paid for out of her own pocket.

And unlike other candidates, Mrs. Clinton maintained a low profile before entering the race in April: A tally kept by the National Journal showed only five public trips before April, four of them for paid speeches and none in the early primary states.

Mr. Walker did not enter the campaign until after the period covered by the most recent federal filings. But the committee for his campaign for Wisconsin governor, Friends of Scott Walker, collected $6 million from January to July, according to reports filed with regulators in Wisconsin.

His state committee, bound by Wisconsin law, was entitled to raise far more money per donor than a presidential campaign would be. And during the first six months of his second term, when Mr. Walker made more than 30 out-of-state trips, Friends of Scott Walker spent $5.7 million, more than five times what the committee spent during the equivalent six months of Mr. Walker's first term.

With any Wisconsin re-election bid at least three years away, Mr. Walker's committee paid out nearly $500,000 in salaries and benefits. Friends of Scott Walker also spent $114,000 on fund-raising events, 10 times what it spent on fund-raising during the equivalent period during his first term.

His Wisconsin re-election campaign paid for hotels and meals in Iowa and New Hampshire from January to April. The committee has paid $2.5 million to his direct mail fund-raising firm this year, more than Mr. Walker spent with the company during his entire 2014 re-election campaign.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Walker, Kirsten Kukowski, said the Iowa and New Hampshire expenses covered employees who "continued to assist in staffing and fund-raising for the Friends of Scott Walker committee." The direct mail firm, she said, was raising money only for his campaign for governor.

Mr. Bush's schedule in the months before he announced his candidacy was packed with the kind of appearances that would-be candidates typically use to explore their chances in a presidential race. He made three trips to New Hampshire, two to Iowa and two to South Carolina from January to May, according to public reports, and held numerous meetings with donors around the country.

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But while Mr. Bush's presidential campaign reported spending more than $300,000 on "testing the waters" activity as far back as May 2014, he reported no travel expenses for himself before June 15, the day of the official announcement.

"He was traveling constantly in what appears to me to be 'testing the waters' if not actually campaigning," said Paul S. Ryan, senior counsel to the Campaign Legal Center, which has filed complaints with the Justice Department about Mr. Bush's early fund-raising and spending.

Kristy Campbell, a spokeswoman for Mr. Bush, said the travel expenses were covered by Right to Rise PAC, a political committee of which Mr. Bush was "honorary chairman," and were not related to his presidential bid. "Governor Bush has attended events as a featured guest for organizations that have a mission and philosophy he shares," Ms. Campbell said.

Mr. Jindal reported only $21,000 in spending before his official announcement on June 23, mostly on facility rentals shortly before the announcement. Yet before that date, the Louisiana governor took high-profile trips to New Hampshire and Iowa to explore a possible run.

Curt Anderson, the chief strategist for Mr. Jindal's campaign, said in an interview that those trips were paid for by two other groups, one of them a nonprofit policy organization that Mr. Jindal founded in 2013. The campaign's own low burn rate, Mr. Anderson suggested, was merely an indication of Mr. Jindal's thrift.

"We'll run a very lean operation for some time and get a foothold in the early states," Mr. Anderson said. "We're going to want every dollar."

Candidates Caught in Middle as Words Ring Hollow to Activists // NYT // Jonathan Martin and Maggie Haberman - July 25, 2015

In the space of a few hours last week, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush showed how their parties' two best-funded candidates are grappling with insistent, intensifying demands from activists on the left and the right who are deeply disenchanted with the political establishment.

Before a heavily African-American audience in South Carolina, Mrs. Clinton sought to outflank her Democratic rivals who have struggled with questions of race. "It's essential that we all stand up and say, loudly and clearly, that, yes, black lives matter," she said on Thursday. "And we all have a responsibility to face these hard truths about race and justice honestly and directly."

But Mrs. Clinton offered little in the way of ideas to satisfy activists in search of far-reaching solutions to systemic discrimination.

Later the same day in rural New Hampshire, Mr. Bush sought to strike a balance between his view that Republicans must be inclusive to win and a desire not to give in to what he called excessive political correctness.

"A Republican will never be elected president of the United States again unless we campaign like this," he said, spreading his arms wide. It was an implicit rejection of Donald J. Trump's incendiary remarks about immigrants.

Yet, talking to reporters after the event, Mr. Bush was nearly incredulous that Martin O'Malley, a Democratic contender and former Maryland governor, had apologized for telling demonstrators who interrupted him at Netroots Nation last weekend that "all lives matter."

"We're so uptight and politically correct now that you apologize for saying lives matter?" he said, dismissing "black lives matter" as "a slogan."

The well-organized "Black Lives Matter" movement against discrimination and police brutality, on the one hand, and conservatives uneasy about immigration and assimilation, on the other, reflect sharply different currents of anger in American life. But the demands that each constituency is placing on the leading presidential candidates reflect a growing unwillingness to accept the usual assurances, an expectation of action — and discomfiting strains on the political center.

"There's tension at the seams of both political coalitions," said Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator, who has run Republican and third-party

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campaigns for president.

On the left, young black activists, furious about discrimination and inequities in criminal justice, say the usual rhetorical nods toward equality, incremental increases in funding for housing or education, and vague promises of change from mainstream political leaders are inadequate. Instead, they are confronting Democrats, imploring them to offer specific solutions for what they see as an urgent crisis.

Tia Oso, the black activist who interrupted Mr. O'Malley's speech at the progressive Netroots gathering in Phoenix, cited "an emergency."

"The most important and urgent issue of our day is structural violence and systemic racism that is oppressing and killing black women, men and children," Ms. Oso wrote on Mic.com.

And Jamilah Nasheed, a Missouri state senator from heavily black northern St. Louis, near the center of protests over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man in Ferguson last year, said the anger was moving "beyond protest."

"You're seeing a movement now," Ms. Nasheed said, describing a "boil-over of anger and hopelessness."

Mrs. Clinton was praised for a speech on race she delivered days after the massacre at a black church in Charleston, S.C., last month. But several black leaders questioned whether her early words would translate into calls for substantive changes beyond the debate over policing.

In the eyes of many black liberals, no candidate is addressing race and poverty with the boldness of a Robert F. Kennedy.

On the right, by contrast, blue-collar conservatives have responded to Mr. Trump, who has given voice to their fears about what they see as America's identity crisis.

"It's not only illegal immigration, but mass immigration and the changing character and composition of the country that unsettles people," Mr. Buchanan said.

Mr. Trump's success so far suggests that the eventual Republican nominee could face difficulties persuading many in the party to adopt a more accommodating tone and policies toward immigrants.

A recent Washington Post-ABC poll found that his support came largely from white voters with high school diplomas, a constituency that was most likely to believe that immigration does not strengthen American society.

While Mr. Bush has continued to advocate a pathway to legal status for those in the country illegally, some of his rivals have mused about a harder line. "The next president and the next Congress need to make decisions about a legal immigration system that's based, first and foremost, on protecting American workers and American wages," Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin said in April. And in an ad aired by his "super PAC" in Iowa, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana took on the matter of assimilation directly, saying that he was "tired of hyphenated Americans" and that immigrants must "adopt our values."

Should the two parties nominate Mr. Bush and Mrs. Clinton, heirs in the country's leading political families, it is not difficult to imagine a conservative candidate's mounting a populist third-party run, much as Mr. Buchanan once did, that taps into anti-trade and anti-immigration fervor on the right.

The enhanced expectations and louder shouting from both ends of the political spectrum are a natural outgrowth of President Obama's administration, said Michael Kazin, a Georgetown University historian. Ambitious presidents who usher in or oversee periods of sweeping change, he said, often lead to the creation of pressure groups on their own side and a fiercer backlash from the opposition.

The John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson presidencies, Mr. Kazin said, did not just spawn an idealistic generation of Democratic baby boomers. "They created the New Left and black freedom movement, both of which became quite critical of Kennedy, Johnson and the entire political establishment," he said.

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The sense, then and now, is that “their problems are not being addressed, and nobody in either party is truly addressing them,” Mr. Kazin said

But Elon James White, the founder of “This Week in Blackness,” a digital media platform, who also works with Netroots Nation, said that would have to change.

“Folks are going to have to learn,” he said, “that people are not going to sit around anymore and let this ride.”

All 2016 presidential candidates should disclose campaign bundlers // WaPo // Editorial Board - July 25, 2015

APOLLO, VOYAGER, Endeavour. These familiar names no longer belong only to space shuttles: They’re also how Jeb Bush is categorizing his top donors in the 2016 presidential race. We hope Mr. Bush will attach identities to those titles and make them public, as he has promised. We also hope other candidates who have not yet disclosed their campaign bundlers will do the same.

Mr. Bush has pledged to release the names of high-achieving individual fundraisers in October at the third-quarter Federal Election Commission deadline. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has made the same promise. That’s a big change from 2012, when no Republican candidate volunteered any more information than the law required, and a welcome one. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton has already released the names of bundlers dubbed “Hillblazers” who have raised at least $100,000 for her campaign.

Candidates such as Mr. Bush and Mr. Walker are right to follow Ms. Clinton’s lead. The rest of the pack should, too. Bundlers get huge perks for their fundraising efforts — for many of President Obama’s campaign supporters, even ambassadorships. The public deserves to know who these favored backers are and how much they are giving.

In fact, even Ms. Clinton has not gone far enough. Though she has provided a blanket list of bundlers who have raised more than $100,000, she has not broken that list down by the amounts raised, as Mr. Obama did for donations above $50,000 in his two campaigns. Who is hauling more than $500,000 for Ms. Clinton? How about $1 million? We do not know. When asked, a campaign spokesman declined to provide any answers.

It’s heartening that Mr. Bush and Mr. Walker — serious contenders for the Republican nomination — have made a move toward transparency, especially when so many fell short last cycle. Today, super PACs package billions of dollars for candidates. Almost every major candidate except Bernie Sanders has at least one as a backer. “Dark money” also streams into presidential and congressional races from nonprofit corporations that can donate unlimited amounts without disclosing individual contributors.

Recently, these issues might have overshadowed bundling on the national stage, but in many ways it is as important as ever. The FEC caps individual contributions at $2,700 for good reason: to limit any one person’s influence on a race and prevent corruption. Yet bundlers retain the ability to exert power and then reap the rewards.

When Mr. Bush and Mr. Walker release the names of their bundlers, they should do it right — with a low threshold for disclosure and a breakdown of bundlers into brackets according to gross amounts raised. Ms. Clinton should also go the extra distance. And those candidates who have done nothing so far should move quickly.

No rest for the candidates in this summer of discontent // WaPo // Dan Balz - July 25, 2015

Dissatisfaction and protest are roiling the politics of summer 2015. They are evident in the response to the angry rhetoric from Donald Trump, in the crowds that come to hear Bernie Sanders bash Wall Street and in the rallies demanding racial justice. For presidential candidates, there is no safe harbor. Ignore the mood at your peril; engage it at your peril.

The discontent is real, whether economic, racial or cultural. It knows no particular ideological boundaries. It currently disrupts both the Republican and Democratic parties. It reflects grievances that long have been bubbling. It reflects, too, the impatience with many political leaders — what they say and how they say it.

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The economic collapse of 2008 continues to ripple through the lives of many families, despite the drop in unemployment. Steady but slow growth has not been balm enough to give these families, many of whom see a system rife with inequity, much optimism about the future. Instead, they see the American Dream as part of the nation's past.

The uproar over illegal immigration underscores the anger over what many still see as broken borders, an issue heightened by the recent killing in San Francisco of a young woman by an illegal immigrant with a criminal record who had been deported but returned to the country. But immigration also is tied to the broader cultural reaction to demographic changes that continue to remake the face of the country and generate tensions that are at the heart of political differences.

Racial issues remain front and center, whether the killings in a black church in Charleston by a young man who wanted to start a race war or repeated episodes that have raised hard questions of how police and law enforcement officials treat African Americans. All this is a reminder that, almost seven years after the election of the nation's first black president and all of the progress that made that possible, work remains to be done.

It is tempting to try to dismiss Trump for what he is — a reality TV showman who talks as much about himself as anything else. The support he is receiving in national polls, however, suggests more than just a response to a celebrity with a loud voice. He has tapped into something.

Trump is not particularly conservative — or, more accurately, he seems to have no fixed ideology. He amplifies dissatisfaction without proposing real solutions to the country's problems, other than building a big wall. Yet he speaks about things in a language so blunt and uncharacteristic of politicians that it wins visceral approval from disaffected Americans.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) says Trump brings out the "crazies" in the Republican Party on the issue of immigration. In fact, Trump's candidacy highlights the reality that there is an unresolved debate within the GOP about what to do about it. This is an argument of long standing. Each time McCain and other Republicans have stepped up to solve it with a comprehensive solution, they have been rebuffed by the party's conservative base. Trump has scratched at the wound again this summer.

Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who is running for the Democratic nomination, seems to be an extension of the Occupy Wall Street movement that began four years ago. That movement struggled to find political traction the way the tea party movement had two years earlier. But it nonetheless had an indelible impact on the political dialogue by framing the economic debate as the 99 percent vs. the 1 percent.

Obama carefully subsumed the unrest represented by the Occupy Wall Street movement into his middle-class message in 2012. In Mitt Romney, he found the perfect foil, an opponent he portrayed as an out-of-touch plutocrat. That was enough to win reelection.

Yet four years later, the Democrats find themselves debating not just Republicans about the economy but one another, as well. They debate how far left they should move to deal with the issues of income and wealth inequality and the power of what Sanders calls "the billionaire class."

Hillary Rodham Clinton is part of the way there in responding to the economic unrest, at least rhetorically. Sanders says that she and he continue to have major disagreements on the particulars of what to do. The outpouring of support he has seen at events around the country and the recent rise in his poll numbers in New Hampshire and Iowa will keep the pressure on Clinton to keep responding. She will try to calibrate the extent of her move to the left.

The signs of discontent have flummoxed many of the presidential candidates. Each party wants this election to be about the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of the other. Yet the intraparty strife cannot easily be ignored.

Republican candidates were slow to challenge Trump's language on immigration — both those who strongly disagree with his positions and those who generally agree. Engaging Trump carries risks. He swings back hard, sometimes wildly but sometimes with the nimbleness and precision of a practiced politician.

Many Republicans want Trump to go away. But they are wary about trying to hasten his fall because they fear they will pay too high a price among those for whom he has provided a voice.

Sanders and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley went to the Netroots Nation convention a week ago, no doubt looking to find a sympathetic audience for their populist economic message. It was an event, after all, that Clinton did not attend, for the obvious reason that she likely would not have been welcomed.

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Instead, though, Sanders and O'Malley were caught unprepared for the interruptions from the Black Lives Matter movement, and neither looked particularly adept or comfortable as they responded. Sanders seemed to throw up his hands in frustration over the interruption. Then he invoked his civil rights work as evidence that he stood with African Americans. O'Malley said that "all lives matter" and later apologized. Clinton was the lucky one for not having attended, but she will not escape the issue, either.

Few Republicans expect Trump to become their party's nominee. They worry that his candidacy alone, if left to run for months, could condemn them to another defeat in November 2016, even if he eventually disappears. Their other concern is that Trump might eventually run as an independent, in which case he could drain more than enough votes from their nominee to cost them the general election.

Not many Democrats yet think Sanders has the staying power to defeat Clinton, even if he can give her a good scare. Strange things happen in nomination contests. But Clinton's advisers vow they will not be caught by surprise by an insurgency from the left.

Even if both Trump and Sanders end up merely as interesting characters rather than long-distance runners, the unrest that has contributed to the attention they are now receiving will remain. Distrust of the political class will infect the campaign, adding to the burdens the major party nominees will carry into the general election and beyond. It is embedded in the politics of now.

2016 candidates on campaign trail miss votes and home-state duties as they juggle day job // Fox // Joseph Weber - July 25, 2015

Elected officials making a 2016 White House bid are facing questions about missing votes, hearings and other official duties so they can hit the campaign trail.

On Capitol Hill, the four Republican and one Democratic senator have since January collectively missed 208 roll call votes, with Election Day still roughly 15 months away.

Florida GOP Sen. Marco Rubio as of Monday had missed the most, 72 out of 249, or 29 percent, while Kentucky GOP Sen. Rand Paul had missed just three, according to the website GovTrack.us.

"Sen. Rand Paul never stops fighting for the people of Kentucky," campaign Communications Director Sergio Gor told FoxNews.com. "He takes his job immensely seriously. And unlike other candidates, he has missed only 1 percent of all votes."

Rubio campaign spokesman Alex Conant points out that a senator missing votes while running for president is not unusual. And he argued that Rubio is on Capitol Hill to cast "decisive" votes and continues to attend important committee meetings including this week's Foreign Relations hearing on Iran.

"As Marco travels the country talking about his agenda to help the middle class, there is no doubt where he stands on important issues before the Senate," Conant said.

Kendra B. Stewart, a professor at South Carolina's College of Charleston, said Wednesday that missing votes is generally not a liability for political candidates "unless somebody misses an excessive number and is portrayed as being lazy or not doing their job."

"It is hard to say what exactly an acceptable number of missed votes is because there is no clear line," she said. "But in general, candidates do not get much flack."

Stewart also argues that missing a vote could work for a candidate who would not want to go on the record voting either way.

In April, 2016 GOP candidate Texas Sen. Ted Cruz was criticized for attending a campaign fundraiser at home instead of taking a final confirmation vote for Loretta Lynch as President Obama's choice for U.S. attorney general.

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However, Cruz argued that he had already voted twice against Lynch being confirmed and that his absence was equivalent to another ‘no’ vote.

Political author Ira Shapiro on Thursday pointed to two cases in which White House candidates -- Senate Democratic Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson (1960) and Republican Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (1980) -- mistakenly assumed they could win support for their candidacy by staying in Washington and using their leadership roles to help pass key legislation.

“They thought their position and accomplishments would give them real visibility and credibility. They didn’t realize that they needed to get out of Washington and run for president,” said Shapiro, author of “The Last Great Senate: Courage and Statesmanship in Times of Crisis?”

The four governors in the race -- all Republicans -- have faced similar criticism, particularly about leaving behind important state business just to build a campaign.

None of them has taken more heat than New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who last year as president of the Republican Governors Association, a job with enormous potential to build name recognition and a donor network, spent about one-third of his time out of the state.

And this year, prior to Christie officially announcing his bid, he was spending roughly 46 percent of his time outside of New Jersey.

"It's outrageous," said John Currie, chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. "Anyone else who skipped work so often would be fired. … If he is truly committed to seeking the presidency, he should just resign.”

A poll released last month showed Christie’s approval rating at a record-low 30 percent but also showed low marks for state legislators.

The Christie campaign declined to comment.

Christie, Louisiana’s Bobby Jindal, New Jersey’s Scott Walker and Ohio’s John Kasich all waited until they wrapped up 2016 budget negotiations before officially entering the race, weeks and months after most of the other candidates had joined, perhaps putting them at a disadvantage.

Walker, whose second term doesn’t expire until 2019, jumped in just one day after signing the state budget on July 12. And this week he was still taking care of statehouse business, signing a bill Monday that outlaws non-emergency abortions at or beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy.

All of the governors, in fact, entered the race within days of signing their respective budgets, except for Kasich who joined Tuesday, about three weeks after signing the 2016 Ohio budget.

Conant also pointed out that senators in the most recent presidential elections also missed votes during campaigns.

In the 2004 race, Democratic nominee and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry voted 10 percent of the time that year on Capitol Hill. And he voted 36 percent the year before.

In 2008, the top Democrat candidates -- Sens. Hillary Clinton, N.Y., and eventual White House winner, Obama, then an Illinois senator -- voted 51 percent and 36 percent. They voted 77 percent and 62 percent, respectively, the year before.

The Republican presidential nominee that year, Arizona Sen. John McCain, voted 20 percent of the time in 2008 and 44 percent in 2007.

Still, the less-than-perfect records are not an indication of how senators running for president always vote.

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Kerry's voting percentage, for example, was no less than 98 percent in 10 of the 12 previous years.

The missed-vote median score for senators currently serving is 1.6 percent.

South Carolina GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of other senators running for president, has missed 24 percent of the 249 roll call votes this year but was a perfect 112-122 his first year, 2003.

Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, running on the Democratic ticket, has missed 6 percent of his votes. And Cruz has missed 28 percent.

Shapiro argues that senators don't get a lot of criticism for being off Capitol Hill to run for president because voters are never surprised that a White House bid is the next step in their careers.

He noted many examples of senators who failed to reach the White House but came back to be long-serving and powerful senators, most notably the late Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Bush, O'Malley among candidates added to Register's Soapbox lineup // Des Moines Register // Brianne Pfannestiel - July 25, 2015

Six more presidential candidates have committed to speaking at The Des Moines Register's State Fair Soapbox during the 2015 Iowa State Fair.

Democrats Martin O'Malley and Lincoln Chafee will join Republicans Jeb Bush, Carly Fiorina, Rick Perry and Ted Cruz. They will speak at the following times:

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley: 4 p.m., Aug. 13.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush: 9:30 a.m., Aug. 14.

Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee: 11:30 a.m., Aug. 15.

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina: 11 a.m., Aug. 17.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry: 10 a.m., Aug. 19.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas: 1:30 p.m. Aug. 21.

Speeches from the soapbox, an Iowa State Fair tradition, attract national media coverage during years leading up to the Iowa presidential caucuses.

The soapbox generally operates every day of the fair, this year Aug. 13 to 23. Candidates will have 20 minutes to speak from a stage in front of the Horner Service Center on the Grand Concourse.

Anyone wishing to see the candidates at the soapbox must pay admission to the fair.

A special presentation by President George Washington, portrayed by Ron Carnegie, will kick off the 2015 soapbox. He'll speak on the importance of

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voting and will field questions from fair attendees.

Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz also will speak.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

U.S. Fears Data Stolen by Chinese Hacker Could Identify Spies // NYT // Mark Mazzetti and David E. Sanger - July 25, 2015

American officials are concerned that the Chinese government could use the stolen records of millions of federal workers and contractors to piece together the identities of intelligence officers secretly posted in China over the years.

The potential exposure of the intelligence officers could prevent a large cadre of American spies from ever being posted abroad again, current and former intelligence officials said. It would be a significant setback for intelligence agencies already concerned that a recent data breach at the Office of Personnel Management is a major windfall for Chinese espionage efforts.

In the days after the breach of records of millions of federal workers and contractors became public last month, some officials in the Obama administration said that the theft was not as damaging as it might have been because the Chinese hackers did not gain access to the identities of American undercover spies.

Katherine Archuleta, director of the Office of Personnel Management, in Congress on Tuesday.Attack Gave Chinese Hackers Privileged Access to U.S. Systems JUNE 20, 2015

The records of the C.I.A. and some other intelligence agencies, they said, were never part of the personnel office's databases, and were protected during the breach. Officials said intelligence agencies were taking steps to try to mitigate the damage, but it is unclear what they are specifically doing.

But intelligence and congressional officials now say there is great concern that the hackers — who government officials are now reluctant to say publicly were working for the Chinese government — could still use the vast trove of information to identify American spies by a process of elimination. By combining the stolen data with information they have gathered over time, they said, the hackers can use "big data analytics" to draw conclusions about the identities of operatives.

"The information that was exfiltrated was valuable in its own right," said Representative Adam B. Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. "It's even more compromising when it is used in combination with other information they may hold. It may take years before we're aware of the full extent of the damage."

The C.I.A. and other agencies with undercover officers would be cautious about immediately withdrawing spies from China because that would raise suspicions among Chinese counterintelligence operatives. A C.I.A. spokesman declined to comment.

The C.I.A. and other agencies typically post their spies in American embassies, where the officers pose as diplomats working on political affairs, agricultural policy or other issues. The American Embassy in Beijing has long housed one of the largest C.I.A. stations in the world, with intelligence officers gathering information on China's political maneuvering, economic development and military modernization.

Several current and former officials said that even if the identities of the agency officers were not in the personnel office's database, Chinese intelligence operatives could run searches through the database on everyone granted visas to work at American diplomatic outposts in China. If any of the names are not found in the stolen files, those individuals could be suspected as spies by a process of elimination.

The director of the National Security Agency, Adm. Michael S. Rogers, alluded to that problem Thursday night during an interview at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

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“From an intelligence perspective, it gives you great insight potentially used for counterintelligence purposes,” Admiral Rogers said. “If I’m interested in trying to identify U.S. persons who may be in my country — and I am trying to figure out why they are there: Are they just tourists? Are they there for some other alternative purpose? — there are interesting insights from the data you take from O.P.M.”

Admiral Rogers suggested another possible motive of the hackers: The data could be used for developing sophisticated “spear phishing” attacks on government officials. In those attacks, victims click on what seem to be innocent emails from known sources, allowing viruses into their computer networks.

Admiral Rogers said it was “not perhaps unrelated that in the past nine months I am watching huge spear phishing campaigns targeted at the United States,” though he would not name the countries that are the sources of the attacks.

Officials said it was not yet clear how Chinese officials were using — or might use — the stolen files, which include personal information gathered during background checks of government workers, many who now hold Top Secret clearances.

“As a practical matter, you have to assume that all of the information has been exposed and can be exploited,” said Mr. Schiff, who added that it was prudent to plan for “worst-case scenarios.”

Some former officials said they were not overly alarmed that the data breach could do long-term damage to American intelligence collection, saying it was uncertain how many hard conclusions about American spies the Chinese could draw from the millions of personnel files — a mountain of data that could become overwhelming.

“The Chinese have created their own big data problem,” said Rob Knake, a former director of cybersecurity policy issues at the National Security Council and now a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Knake said the C.I.A. and other intelligence agencies would be able to adapt in the event that secrets were exposed. Still, he said, the breach had the potential for “a whole bunch of C.I.A. case officers spending the rest of their careers riding desks.”

Sophisticated computers equipped to analyze millions and even billions of files allow intelligence operatives to make use of information that was once of uncertain value.

Joel Brenner, the former head of counterintelligence for the director of national intelligence, said the Chinese could search the database with the names of suspected spies they had gathered over the years. “You run 200 of those people through, and you have a pretty good idea of what they are and are not keeping in the system,” he said.

In the United States government there is little debate that China was the source of the attack on the Office of Personnel Management, which unfolded over at least 18 months. Last month the director of national intelligence, James R. Clapper Jr., said, “You’ve got to salute the Chinese for what they did,” before retreating to say China was the “leading suspect” in the case.

One former senior C.I.A. officer and one congressional official, both speaking on the condition of anonymity because they have received classified briefings about the data breach, said the hackers also managed to get personal information of retired C.I.A. officers that was in the databases.

Current and former American officials said that the hacking of the security clearance information will be a problem for years. The highly personal and potentially embarrassing information in the background questionnaires includes details about finances, drug and alcohol use, contacts with foreigners and mental health issues.

Mr. Clapper said Friday in Aspen that O.P.M.’s contractors had fallen so far behind in conducting security clearances — partly because of the hacking — that the intelligence agency’s periodic review of employees was far behind. But he was philosophical about the breach.

“If we had the opportunity to do the same thing,” he said, “we’d probably do it.”

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Is it lights out for Puerto Rico? **// WaPo // Steven Mufson - July 25, 2015**

For a case study in how to run a company into the ground, look no further than the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.

The island's government-owned electric utility has $9 billion in debt, falling sales and rising costs. Its electricity rates for consumers run 2 1/2 times the national average and higher than any U.S. state except isolated, oil-dependent Hawaii.

All that money has purchased precious little. The utility's power plants, with a median age of 44 years, lack pollution controls and violate Environmental Protection Agency mercury limits. The plants burn dirty residual fuel oil and diesel to generate about two-thirds of the island's power. And thanks to aging infrastructure, frequent and costly power failures plague customers. The calls of customers bold enough to phone the utility to complain about service are dropped more than 50 percent of the time.

Now, however, PREPA is running out of cash and its creditors — including the major bond funds Oppenheimer and Franklin Templeton — can't be put on hold.

The utility lies at the epicenter of a mounting financial crisis in Puerto Rico, frequently called "America's Greece." The territory's governor recently called the island's $73 billion of debts "unpayable." With hundreds of millions of dollars of payments looming and little cash on hand, PREPA has been thrust to the forefront of a fight over whether the Puerto Rican commonwealth should be able to resort to U.S. bankruptcy courts for protection while it restructures its debts.

That in turn is part of a larger debate over the status of Puerto Rico — tethered to the United States ever since it was seized in the Spanish-American War of 1898, yet treated neither as a state nor as a country. Bankruptcy rules are part of that. In 1984, Congress passed legislation barring municipalities, agencies and government-owned utilities in Puerto Rico from declaring bankruptcy, while allowing those located on the mainland to do so.

Amid all this, PREPA stands out as what Puerto Rican Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla in an interview called "the biggest mess."

A report issued by three veteran International Monetary Fund economists said the utility's poor performance not only ruined its own balance sheet but also undermined the Puerto Rican economy's competitiveness because of needlessly high electricity rates.

"As a key input cost, this cascades down to locally produced goods and services and stunts potential growth sectors such as tourism," the report said.

The cost and availability of energy "is probably the most serious issue we face today," said Eric Spackey, chief executive officer of Bluewater Defense, a manufacturer of uniforms and protective clothing for the military. "My largest fixed cost is energy, and sadly service in the area of my plant is intermittent."

Spackey said that every time there is a power failure, more than 450 machines in his complex just west of San Juan "turn off and production stops until the generator kicks in and the machines can reboot — disrupting the production flow, machine circuit boards and ultimately morale." He said that while the government is aware of the problems, he fears the liquidity crisis will only make things worse.

Problems with plants and politics

Fixing the mess at PREPA — whose chief executive and several other top officials resigned in June — will be no small task.

"This is not something where a few tweaks will do," said Anne O. Krueger, former chief economist at the World Bank and former No. 2 official at the International Monetary Fund. She helped write the report on Puerto Rico's finances.

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One of the main problems is PREPA's overwhelming dependence on oil for power generation, a function of poor planning. Moreover, its antiquated power plants burn the oil inefficiently. As a result, high oil prices over the past 10 years have helped strangle the utility and at one point drove electricity rates over 30 cents a kilowatt hour.

But PREPA's problems run deeper than that and are rooted in the island's political culture.

The Krueger-led report called PREPA "an inefficient and over-staffed public enterprise using technologies decades out of date." Three-quarters of the utilities service trucks are "obsolete" and frequently out of service, said a presentation by Lisa J. Donahue, a managing director of New York-based Alix Partners who is now acting as the utility's restructuring officer.

Donahue has vowed to fix the trucks and shrink the bloated payroll, which is twice as big as the average utility payroll on the mainland, according to a June 2010 report by the Center for a New Economy.

Both of the island's political parties have been complicit; they have padded the payrolls with loyalists in equal number as part of an unwritten pact to feed off the utility's revenues. More than a thousand of these "trust employees" work more — and earn more — when their party is in power.

"So when your party is in the majority, you might be given more responsibilities, and if it is out of power then you are sent to the basement for four years," said former Puerto Rico secretary of state Kenneth McClintock, who tried in vain to reform PREPA when he was in office. He said that the political parties also raised money by pressing the utility's suppliers to buy tickets to utility raffles or social events whose earnings go to the parties.

The EPA's experience with PREPA suggests not just political meddling but a pattern of disregard of laws and regulations. In 1993, the utility was found to have committed multiple violations of air, water and storage-tank regulations. In 1997, it was fined for failing to fix those. In 1999, the EPA won a criminal case under the Clean Water Act to force the utility to comply with orders after a sulfuric acid spill. In 2004, PREPA was fined again for failing to meet terms of an earlier consent decree.

Not all of PREPA's woes are of its own making. The Puerto Rican government, no matter what party was in power, has in the past used its ownership of public utilities to extend subsidies to lure new investors or keep businesses from leaving, Eugenio J. Alemán, senior economist of Wells Fargo, wrote in a May 24, 2012, note to investors.

"In the past, some of the hotels that have gone bankrupt over the years on the island had been delinquent in their public utility bill payments and phone bills for years before the bankruptcy, but state-owned public utilities never enforced the collection of their bills from those hotel chains," Alemán said.

"This meant that public utilities would have to recoup the costs of these subsidies either by not investing or by charging a higher rate to other businesses or individuals or a combination of both strategies," he wrote. "For many decades, they did not do either. This is one of the reasons why public utilities are in such dismal conditions today."

As the commonwealth's finances have crumbled, PREPA also has had trouble collecting money owed by the government itself. According to the last report, from 2013, the government owed the utility $250 million.

Stealing electricity has grown more prevalent too, by some estimates draining as much as 15 to 25 percent of output.

Refusing to innovate

Many investors have put forth a different vision of PREPA, offering to build a variety of solar, wind, hydro and natural-gas-powered plants to make the utility's electricity cheaper and greener.

Yet PREPA, reluctant to relinquish its grip on power supplies, has turned away many of those investors. Although sunlight is plentiful and breezes steady, the island has only about 150 megawatts of wind and solar installed — barely 1 percent of total consumption. Although many wind and solar developers have signed contracts with PREPA, virtually all of them have shelved the projects for now.

In late 2012, Robert Sternthal, president of CohnReznick Capital Markets Securities, predicted that Puerto Rico would become "the next hot

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development spot in the U.S. solar market." After all, with nationwide tax incentives and the high cost of oil-fired electricity, solar would be significantly cheaper than business as usual.

Today, a frustrated Sternthal admits he was wrong. PREPA demanded that independent solar power developers meet "minimum technical requirements" or PREPA would close off the solar project's access to the grid for an unspecified amount of time, with no clear guidance on when a project could come back online, Sternthal wrote in a November 2013 online solar industry publication.

Complying with PREPA's requirements "is a near impossibility" and "would make nearly all of the projects uneconomic to build," wrote Sternthal, whose firm has arranged financing for more than $4 billion in renewable energy projects. By the time PREPA's finances are sorted out, the federal tax incentives for solar will probably have expired.

"To me it's astounding that you look at the world and the creation of renewables, at how many megawatts are built every day, and these guys cannot get out of their own way," Sternthal said in an interview. "They would save millions, if not hundreds of millions of dollars, a year."

Now PREPA is attracting conventional firms and financiers who see the potential for big savings and profits.

York Capital, a New York-based investment firm, and NRG, one of the country's largest electric utilities, teamed with ITC Holdings, a transmission company, and recently came up with a grand vision for Puerto Rico's electricity sector. The three firms said they would invest $3.5 billion to install a natural-gas-fired plant, about 400 megawatts of solar, and transmission lines to take power from the gas plant in the south of the island to the north.

The group would sell electricity to PREPA — without getting involved in the utility's debt headaches, its four trade unions or its aging power plants.

Within a couple of years, the group says, the island would save $1.5 billion annually, or 9 cents a kilowatt hour, more than 40 percent of retail rates — enough to pay creditors and still slash consumers' bills.

"Our interest in the project comes from being distress investors and restructuring experts," said William Vrattos, partner and head of global credit at York. "At PREPA, we felt that not only would more value be created for the PREPA bankruptcy estate or the company but also for the island and all the stakeholders."

Trying to reorganize

For now, PREPA is at the mercy of its creditors while a team hired by the Puerto Rican government scrambles to restructure — and get some financial relief.

On July 13 at Citigroup's midtown Manhattan headquarters, advisers to PREPA spelled out to a room crowded with creditors how dire the island's situation is.

Jim Millstein, former head of restructuring at the Treasury during the financial crisis, warned at the meeting that "if this turns into a donnybrook, with creditors litigating against one another and litigating with the commonwealth," it would hurt the economy and tax revenues needed to meet payments. Millstein's firm has been working with Puerto Rico's Government Development Bank.

PREPA proposed deferring principal payments and most interest payments for five years, delaying more than $600 million a year in payments and providing the utility with enough capital to build more efficient power plants that would be cheaper to operate because they wouldn't burn petroleum.

The biggest creditors initially insisted that the utility could cover interest costs by raising electricity rates about 4 cents a kilowatt hour. The utility's advisers replied that higher rates would only accelerate the fall in demand, which has sliding about 2.5 percent a year for the past decade.

Franklin Templeton and Oppenheimer have about $10 billion in Puerto Rican bonds, valued by investors because interest on such bonds is exempt from federal, state and local taxes. Together with Blue Mountain, a hedge fund, Franklin Templeton and Oppenheimer won an appeals court ruling that threw

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out Puerto Rican legislation that would have allowed government entities there to use bankruptcy, saying that power belonged to Congress.

But on Thursday, a group representing holders of 40 percent of PREPA's bonds — including Franklin, Oppenheimer, Blue Mountain and Knighthead, another hedge fund — made a counterproposal, offering to exchange old bonds for new ones with lower average interest rates and a mixture of deferred payments.

For PREPA, it would be a mixed bag. It would still pay $1.6 billion in the first five years but would save $2.5 billion in interest and principal payments over 10 years. Electricity rates would be lower than Hawaii's but would remain high compared with rates on the mainland.

A big obstacle to a compromise could be the two companies that insured much of PREPA's bonds — National, formerly known as MBIA, and Assured. They have guaranteed $10 billion of Puerto Rican debt; about $3 billion of that was issued by PREPA. If PREPA and its bondholders agree on terms, National and Assured, which also guaranteed mortgage securities caught in the housing collapse of 2008, would still have to pay investors in insured bonds the shortfall.

To Wolfe, co-author of the Krueger report, the PREPA crisis echoes the earlier U.S. financial crisis.

"To me, this is second example of where financial markets have completely failed because of bad information," Wolfe said. Just as ratings agencies rated sub-prime mortgages without any idea what they were rating, he said, "here investors were lending to a governmental agency, and no one knew what its financial situation was."

INTERNATIONAL

Spy's Release Is Unlikely to Assuage Israel on Iran Nuclear Deal **// NYT // Jodi Rudoren - July 25, 2015**

The two issues with perhaps the broadest consensus and resonance in Israeli politics are opposition to the Iran nuclear deal and support for the release of Jonathan J. Pollard, the convicted Israeli spy, from a North Carolina prison. Now the two could be tied together, as some in Washington appear to be highlighting Mr. Pollard's likely parole in November in hopes of quieting the vigorous campaign by Israel and some of its American supporters against congressional approval of the deal.

But while Mr. Pollard has long been bandied about as a potential diplomatic chit the United States might use to force Israeli concessions, analysts said Saturday that such a linkage had little chance of working now, and could instead provoke a backlash.

Iran is seen as too serious a threat for the kind of horse-trading suggested in previous proposals to free Mr. Pollard in exchange for compromise on the Palestinian front, they said. Mr. Pollard has been expected to get out this year in any case, having served the required 30 years of a life sentence, so efforts to portray his release as a grand gesture are already being described as cynical, cheap and misguided.

"If this is the motive, it's naïve," said Amnon Rubinstein, a law professor at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, who joined the growing movement calling for Mr. Pollard's release in recent years. "The two things are totally separate. One is a human consideration, and one is a strategic issue, which most Israelis, including myself, regard as existential."

Aaron David Miller, a State Department veteran on Middle East affairs who is now at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, said any such move would look bad for President Obama, given that Americans remain in Iranian prisons. And he added that it would probably make Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel "fight harder" against the Iran deal "so he's not thought to have colluded."

"Pollard is apples and the Iran deal is oranges," Mr. Miller said. "The Pollard card is not just of limited value, but potentially damaging." A spokesman for the National Security Council said Friday, "There is absolutely zero linkage between Mr. Pollard's status and foreign policy considerations," denying a report in The Wall Street Journal that American officials were pressing for his release in part to allay Israel's anger over the nuclear accord. But while Obama administration officials have previously emphasized that they expect Mr. Pollard to serve out his term, on Friday a Justice Department spokesman punctuated that sentiment with the caveat, "which in this case is a 30-year sentence as mandated by statute."

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That spin may be aimed not at Israel but at Democratic — and Jewish — lawmakers like Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, who has long lobbied for Mr. Pollard's release and could be among the pivotal votes in Congress on Iran. Even if it does not change either the substance or the tenor of criticism of the nuclear deal, freeing Mr. Pollard would at least remove one item from the lengthy list of complaints about Mr. Obama by Israelis and their backers.

A senior Israeli official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the delicacy of the situation, said Saturday that the government had not "been told anything at all" about developments regarding Mr. Pollard, and that he did not think it had been discussed as part of a so-called compensation package Washington might provide to appease Israel on the Iran front.

"Our longstanding position has been, we have made repeated requests over the years, that for humanitarian reasons he should be released," the official said. "It comes up routinely. I'm not aware that the issues are in any way connected."

Israel on Saturday issued a stern statement that the country would continue to criticize the nuclear agreement with Iran and could not be pressured to stop voicing its objections. The statement was in response to comments made Friday by Secretary of State John Kerry, who warned that the international community might blame Israel if Congress blocked the accord and that as a result Israel might "wind up being more isolated."

"We reject the threats directed at Israel in recent days," an Israeli official said in a statement provided Saturday to The New York Times. "The U.S. Congress will make its decision based on American interests, which include consideration of U.S. allies," added the official, who asked not to be named because of the diplomatic sensitivities. "The regrettable attempt to intimidate Israel will not prevent us from voicing our concerns about this deal, which poses direct threats to Israel's security."

Mr. Pollard, 60 and ailing, was born in Texas to a Zionist family, and shortly after being hired in 1979 as a naval intelligence analyst, started passing suitcases stuffed with classified documents to an Israeli handler, who paid him $1,500 a month, bought his wife a diamond and sapphire ring, and sent the couple on expensive European vacations.

He was disavowed by Israelis upon his 1985 arrest, but later embraced — he was granted citizenship in 1995 and, by 2013, had become the focal point of a protest movement that went beyond the original right-wing core to become a coalition of Nobel Prize-winning scientists, retired generals, celebrated authors and dovish politicians like Shimon Peres, then the president of Israel. An online petition demanding clemency drew 175,000 signatures.

Mr. Netanyahu has made the fight against Iran's obtaining a nuclear weapon the centerpiece of his career, but the Pollard case could be a close second.

In 1998, Mr. Netanyahu nearly secured Mr. Pollard's release during a summit meeting with President Bill Clinton regarding the Palestinians at Wye Mills, Md., but it was thwarted when George J. Tenet, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, threatened to resign.

Mr. Netanyahu's aides in 2010 floated to the Obama administration the idea of trading Mr. Pollard's freedom for an extension of a 10-month freeze on construction in West Bank settlements. And last year, Secretary of State John Kerry persuaded Mr. Obama to put Mr. Pollard on the table as part of a package to save Mr. Kerry's collapsing peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, but the negotiations fell apart for other reasons.

"It is clear that since the 1990s he's been a chip, he's been a playing card," said Michael B. Oren, Israel's former ambassador to the United States, who visited Mr. Pollard in prison in 2011 and writes about him in his new book, "Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide." "It's become sort of built into the peace process."

In Washington, debates about how to maximize Mr. Pollard's leverage have raged; in 2014, for example, many thought freeing him only to extend the talks, rather than to move Israel on the core issues of conflict with the Palestinians, would be a mistake. As the clock ticks toward the 30th anniversary of his arrest — at the time, parole was generally mandated after 30 years for federal inmates serving life sentences — the value inevitably drops. Amir Oren, a journalist who has covered the case from its first day, said Israelis would "pocket this gesture; they will not even agree that it's a gesture, they will say it's a make-believe gesture because he was going to be released anyway."

Mr. Pollard's ex-wife, Anne, said on Israeli television Saturday night that he would want to live in Israel. With the 30-year mark approaching, Mr. Pollard "deserves to be released based on the American system of justice."

"I just want to see him out," she added. "I can't bear it anymore that he sat and lost all of his life in jail."

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Oded Eran, a longtime Israeli diplomat who is now a researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, said the anonymous reports coming out of Washington are “a cheap shot to try and change the tone on Iran, and therefore we are not going to be swayed one way or the other.” Mr. Eran, who served in Israel’s embassy in Washington, said Mr. Pollard’s release would be a 24-hour story of national celebration, while the Iran issue “will be with us for months, if not years.”

“I want to be very clear and very categorical,” he added. “If anyone in Washington believes that this is going to change the tone of the debate on Iran, the nature of the debate on Iran, the votes on Iran, he is absolutely, categorically, misleading himself.”

Obama in Kenya: An Upbeat Tone, but Notes of Discord, Too // NYT // Peter Baker and Marc Santora - July 25, 2015

The return of the long-lost son, as President Obama is widely seen by Kenyans, had all the elements of a family reunion. They hugged, they caught up, they talked about shared interests, they agreed they should get together more often, and they had their sibling spats.

In his first visit as president to his father’s home country, Mr. Obama struck a relentlessly upbeat tone, declaring, “Africa is on the move”; praising progress toward democracy and economic growth; and marveling over the changes he saw on the streets of this locked-down capital.

But he found himself at odds with his hosts on human rights and same-sex marriage and gingerly tried to nudge them to change their ways. At a news conference, he said the fight against terrorism in Kenya should not be used to justify a crackdown on dissent and argued that no nation should discriminate against gays and lesbians, comparing it to the era of segregation of African-Americans.

“If somebody is a law-abiding citizen who is going about their business and working in a job and obeying the traffic signs and doing all the other things good citizens are supposed to do and not harming anybody, the idea that they are going to be treated differently or abused because of who they love is wrong,” Mr. Obama said. “Full stop.”

Standing to his left on the lush lawn of the colonial-era State House, President Uhuru Kenyatta accepted the advice on human rights without argument, saying Kenya was trying to improve its handling of security and liberty. “This issue of terrorism is new to us,” he said, “and as it is new, we learn with each and every step.”

But in a country where homosexuality is widely condemned, he flatly rejected Mr. Obama’s views on gay rights. “There are some things we must admit we don’t share; our culture, our society don’t accept,” he said. “It is very difficult for us to be able to impose on people that which they themselves do not accept.”

The disagreement was quickly papered over, though, as both Mr. Obama and Kenyans focused on the historic nature of his visit. While Mr. Obama came here three times before taking office, many Kenyans had bristled that he waited until the seventh year of his presidency to return.

He joked in public events that he had not wanted to make the rest of Africa jealous by coming too soon, but expressed a strong connection to Kenya. “I’m proud to be the first U.S. president to visit Kenya, and obviously, this is personal for me,” he said at a business forum. “There’s a reason why my name is Barack Hussein Obama. My father came from these parts and I have family and relatives here. And in my visits over the years, walking the streets of Nairobi, I’ve come to know the warmth and the spirit of the Kenyan people.”

He held out Kenya as a model in a fast-growing region. “Kenya is leading the way,” Mr. Obama said. “When I was here in Nairobi 10 years ago, it looked very different than it does today.”

He added, however, that the greatest threat to continued growth in Kenya is the scourge of corruption, found here from the local police officer to the highest politicians. Mr. Obama and Mr. Kenyatta released a 29-point plan for fighting corruption in Kenya. They also signed an “action plan” to bolster Kenya’s security in its fight against the Shabab, the Qaeda affiliate based in Somalia.

Mr. Obama could not get out of his armored car to wander the streets as in the past. Instead, his most intimate encounter with Kenya beyond its official leadership came during a dinner Friday at his hotel with three dozen members of his extended family.

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Readers from about a dozen African countries shared their views on President Obama's time in office, pointing out successes, failures and hopes for the future.

The Effects of Obama's Presidency in Africa: Readers' Opinions

Over a buffet of Kenyan food, including chicken, fish and beef, the president heard his relatives talk about life in Kenya, and he told them a little about life in the White House. Some of them told Mr. Obama they wished he could spend more time in Kenya, and with them. He later said he spent part of the meal "begging for forgiveness" that his schedule did not allow it. "Once I'm a private citizen, I will have more freedom to reconnect," he said.

Said Obama, his uncle, said his relatives understood. "He explained to the family members the nature of his work," Said Obama said in an interview. "But he said his mind is always with them, his heart is always here."

The president generally has only remote connections to most relatives living here. He is closest to his half sister, Auma Obama, who hosted him for his first visit as a young man. Also present on Friday night was his step-grandmother, known as Mama Sarah but whom he calls Granny.

His Kenyan relatives have not been regular visitors to the White House. The only Obamas who show up in publicly released White House visitor logs are Said Obama and Sarah Obama, an aunt, who have visited just once in more than six years, and the president's half brother Abongo, also known as Roy, who has visited three times.

Indeed, the president acknowledged that some at dinner here on Friday were strangers. "In these extended families, there are cousins and uncles and aunties that show up that you didn't know existed but you're always happy to meet," the president said with a laugh. "And there were lengthy explanations in some cases of the connections. But it was a wonderful time."

Mr. Obama had a long day of activities. He addressed the sixth annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit meeting, laid a wreath at a memorial to the victims of the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy here and attended a state dinner in the evening, where he was serenaded in English and Swahili by a group that sang a song called "Coming Home." In his toast, Mr. Obama joked that critics back home no doubt believed he had come "to look for my birth certificate," adding, "That is not the case."

He made no mention of Mr. Kenyatta's indictment for crimes against humanity. Mr. Kenyatta and his deputy, William Ruto, were charged in the International Criminal Court with instigating violence after disputed 2007 elections that killed more than 1,000. The case against Mr. Kenyatta was dropped in December, but the charges stand against Mr. Ruto, who met with Mr. Obama.

Guests at a welcoming ceremony for President Obama in Nairobi, Kenya, on Saturday were quick to take out their cameras. Credit Doug Mills/The New York Times

Mr. Obama referred obliquely to that violence but praised a revised constitution adopted afterward, and said the subsequent election in 2013 that elevated Mr. Kenyatta and Mr. Ruto "showed growth in the election process."

He defended his Power Africa initiative, a multibillion-dollar effort announced two years ago that has produced little electricity for a power-starved continent. "I would just point out that if you wanted to start a power plant in the United States, it doesn't take a year to get that done," he said.

Rejecting comparisons to President George W. Bush, whose efforts to curb AIDS and malaria in Africa are warmly remembered, he said, "This isn't a beauty contest between presidents."

The excitement at his visit was palpable from the gated homes with manicured lawns in grand old wealthy neighborhoods like Muthaiga and Karen to the slums of Kibera, where sewage runs in the street and families live in mud and tin shacks. "Obama is a source of inspiration to many," said Babu Owino, president of the Kenya University Students Organization. "The students here love him so much. They are die-hard fans. When they look at his background, he's someone they are able to identify with."

So much so that before the visit, Mr. Owino wrote to the American ambassador here claiming at least 17 students had threatened to commit suicide if Mr. Obama did not visit the University of Nairobi. (The president did not, but no suicides were reported.)

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Mr. Obama transcended the tribal differences that have divided society. Mr. Obama's family is Luo while Mr. Kenyatta and his ruling elite are Kikuyu. But Solomon Wekesa, 31, a security guard who himself is Luya, said it did not matter to most Kenyans.

"In Obama, they see a man who does not see tribe, a man who is an open man," he said. "He sees Kenya as one nation."

Others hoped the visit would bring change. "I want Obama to push for reforms in Kenya's fight against corruption to enable the poor access to a better livelihood," said Nancy Ayako, 21, who lives in the Kibera slum settlement. "There are so many young people who have been marginalized, like slum dwellers."

But expectations may have surpassed reality. For Rogers Mogaka, a community organizer, Mr. Obama's visit came too late. "Why now?" he asked. "Look, he is not coming here to meet with the common man on the street."

He added, "There are a number of issues that we think need to be addressed that affect the common man in Kenya."

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 3/25/2015 3:47:18 AM
Subject: Israel and Hillary

Dear Jake,

The Obama White House-Bibi relationship is obviously deteriorating to the point of no return. It is more poisonous than US-Israeli relationship in my lifetime. Even during the Nixon/Kissinger flaps with Prime Minister Meir and then Rabin after the Yom Kippur War, including Kissinger's threat of a "reassessment" of U.S. policy; the George H.W. Bush/James Baker-Shamir period, when there was an effort to freeze loan guarantees; the Carter-Begin relationship leading up to Camp David and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty; or the several "reassessments" by Reagan as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and other actions, there was nothing like the public personal animosity that exists now. The Prime Minister's efforts to back-off his immediate pre-election statements about Israeli Arab voting and opposition to a two-state solution have not only been rebuffed by both the President, and most recently, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, but they have effectively questioned the Prime Minister's candidness. Olive branches have been spurned. Fuel was added to the fire with the allegation of Israeli intelligence intervention in the Iran talks. There is a distinct possibility that the Administration may seek a new UN Security Council Resolution embodying the two-state solution, with 1967 lines and agreed land swaps, and some vague statements about Jerusalem.

If and when an Iran framework agreement is announced this week, this combustible situation will explode. I sent you a lengthy memo March 17 on the Iran nuclear talks, based upon my chairmanship of the Atlantic Council's Iran Task Force.

This obviously places Hillary in an extremely difficult position, caught between the President she served and the organized parts of the Jewish community, I have talked several times recently, including yesterday afternoon, with Malcolm Honlein, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. They have refrained from directly criticizing the President, but he told me that he and most of his organizations are extraordinarily concerned about the situation, and highly desirous of Hillary making some statement to calm the turbulent waters. At the same time, more liberal Jews are incensed at Bibi. However, as the NYT reports today, the vehemence of the President's reaction, even to Bibi's "peace offering", is turning the tide in Israel in the Prime Minister's favor, and may do so here, as well.

Permit me to suggest some points she might make. By way of background, I have very deep connections to the State of Israel and to its elected officials and leading academics. I go to Israel two to three times a year, perhaps 50 times since my first visit in 1965. My grandfather and great-grandfather are buried in Israel, and I have scores of relatives and friends there. During the Clinton Administration, I was responsible for the economic dimension of the peace process, working with Yasir Arafat, the Jordanians and the Israeli government on initiatives like Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZs) in Gaza and Jordan; construction of the airport in Gaza; facilitating some 50,000 Palestinian workers coming to Israel daily, and 20,000 trusted Palestinian businessmen who could enter Israel with their own cars. I co-chair with Dennis Ross the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem(JPPI), a think tank funded by the Jewish Agency and major American Jewish federations and foundations, focusing on strategic challenges facing Israel and the Diaspora around the world.

First, she should stress the need to "lower the temperature level" of rhetoric on all sides. The overall political, military, defense relationship with Israel is too important to allow personal differences to intrude on the future direction of U.S. policy. It is time to look to the future and not fixate on campaign statements, which often in all democracies can be excessive, as they were here. Moreover, we must respect the democratic process in Israel, just as we would expect Israeli leaders to accept the election and re-election of our President. It is time to put the election behind us, and roll-up our collective sleeves and get back to work on rebuilding confidence and trying to develop the parameters to return to the negotiating table.

Second, she should stress the enduring commitment of the United States to Israel's security interests, not only direct military threats, but attacks against Israel in the form of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign, on campuses in the U.S. and Europe. She should express grave concern for the increase in anti-Semitism in Europe and violent attacks by radical Islamic terrorists (Obama refuses to use this term; she will need to decide what language to use and then stick with it) against Jews in Europe (Paris, Toulouse, Malmo) which
conflate their hatred of Israel with Jews in their country.

Third, and critically, she should express a strong feeling that Israel MUST remain a bipartisan issue, as it has been since its formation. She should sharply criticize those in the U.S. and in Israel who are injecting Israel into a partisan context. The invitation to Bibi was not only done without prior notice to the President, but also to the Democratic leadership.

Fourth, she should reiterate the long-standing support for the two-state solution, as the only one which will ensure Israel remains a majority Jewish democratic state. Indefinite control over two million Palestinians is not in Israel's interests nor theirs. This will require compromises neither side has been willing to make, despite Secretary Kerry's herculean efforts. It is important for her to remind people that in both the year 2000 with Prime Minister Barak and in 2008 with Prime Minster Olmert, Israel offered to withdraw from 95% of the West Bank, make East Jerusalem the capital of a Palestinian state, and to allow up to 50,000

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Palestinians to return to Israel for family reunions, and it was not accepted. No Palestinian leader is willing to forego their "right of return". At the same time, settlement expansion under Bibi and his insistence that Palestinians accept not just the "State of Israel" but "the Jewish State of Israel", does not create an environment for mutual sacrifice.

Fifth, she should call for all sides to avoid unilateral actions, like the Palestinian effort to seek a "war crimes" investigation against Israel in the International Criminal Court (interestingly, just this week, the ICC indicated it would also investigate Hamas); settlement expansion; and efforts to seek a new UN Resolution to supersede UN Resolution 242, with the consent of neither Israel or the Palestinians (this would be controversial with the Obama Administration, as they would see this as a preemptive action by Hillary to preempt their effort; thus she might hold her powder on this until there is more certainty what the Administration will do; still, at some point, she may have to take a position; this would not negate the need for her to advise against unilateral actions). It is time to get back to the negotiating table.

Sixth, realistically, there is no clear way to break the current impasse. Thus, she should suggest the following (I call it the diplomatic equivalent of the medical Hippocratic oath: "do no harm"; do not do anything that makes a two-state solution less possible) :

(1) There will be an expansion of settlements because couples have babies. But these should be within established settlement blocks, which in the Clinton Parameters and other plans, would be part of Israel in any peace agreement. In fact, over 80% of all settlement expansion is within the footprint of these major blocks. She should call for the Israeli government to remove settlement outposts which are illegal under their own law, and project deeper and deeper into Palestinian territory and make a two-state solution impossible. There has never been a mapping exercise with the Israelis on what they consider the parameters of the existing blocks. This should be jointly done.

(2) There should be an expansion of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation, which is important for Israel in working with the Palestinians on intelligence sharing against terrorists, and avoids an unsustainable military takeover of the whole West Bank. This could take the following forms:

(a) Establish several QIZs in the West Bank. This allows duty-free treatment of products within the QIZ into the U.S., if there is as little as 10% Israeli content. I visited the QIZ in Gaza in July 2000, and it was a beautiful thing to see. There were 30 plants employing over 1000 Gazans, and a second phase was being built. The only Israeli presence, was an unarmed Israeli soldier, who watched the products being loaded onto trucks, where they were whisked through the border and to the airport in Gaza. I also visited a QIZ in Irbid, Jordan. There are some dozen in Jordan and, I believe, around four to six in Egypt. Astonishingly, there are none in the West Bank. In late January, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I met with the deputy prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, and raised this possibility; he was very positive.

(b) Restore the $400 million in tax revenues, the Israeli government is withholding in response to the Palestinians going to the ICC.

(c) Begin to carefully allow vetted Palestinians to work in Israel. Again, at its peak, it was well over 50,000; some estimates were as high as 100,000.

(d) Increase the territory in the West Bank under control of the Palestinian Authority.

(e) Reduce the number of check points within the West Bank, given the security fence. I have a close friend in Israel (David Harman, the son of former Israeli Ambassador to the US Abe Harman), who teaches at Bard College, Hebrew University, and al-Quds university in the West Bank. He has told me it takes up to 2 hours or more each way for some of his Palestinian students to get to class. This only increases anger in the Palestinian community.

(f) Allow carefully vetted Gazans to travel to and from the West Bank, if the PA controls the passages, along with Israelis. Also, increase the range of products that can be imported and exported from Gaza, and the range of fishing rights off the Gaza coast.

Jake, she may not wish to have all of this in one statement, and limit herself to the First through Fifth points. But she needs to say enough to be substantive.

I have sent you separately, at your request, Jewish leaders to whom she should reach out. She needs to make a statement sooner rather than later, as things are spiraling out of control.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

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COVINGTON

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/4/2008 1:26:20 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/4

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 4th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11am McCain: Town Hall in Baton Rouge, LA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
1pm McCain: Blogger Call

1:30pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in Baton Rouge, LA

5pm McCain: Finance Reception in St. Petersburg, FL

News Clips:

MCCAIN 'CHANGE' SPEECH NEWS

McCain Mounts Immediate Attack on Obama's Record (Washington Post 6/4/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Juliet Eilperin; A01
Republican Sen. John McCain wasted no time Tuesday night in launching his first general-election broadside against Sen. Barack Obama, casting the Democrat as an out-of-touch liberal who offers a false promise of change.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/03/AR2008060303059.html
Link to transcript of McCain speech: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/03/AR2008060303837.html
Link to video of McCain speech: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/06/03/VI2008060304247.html

McCain Distances Himself From Bush and Jabs Obama (NYT 6/4/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
Senator John McCain marked the unofficial beginning of the general election with a speech here Tuesday in which he sought to distance himself from President Bush and to argue that he has stronger credentials as an independent agent of change than his all-but-certain Democratic rival, Senator Barack Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/04/us/politics/04mccain.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&ref=politics&adxnnlx=1212577697-5lUkBcoXSVTevPhdxhclwQ

McCain Sells His Kind of Change (TIME 6/4/08)
By James Carney
Can a 72-year-old white male Republican who has served in Congress for more than a quarter century represent change to a nation that craves it? Can he win the White House in a year when his party is in widespread ill repute, and is led by the most unpopular incumbent President in the history of polling? And most importantly, can he do it against the youthful, multi-ethnic, charm-infused, walking, talking embodiment of change that is his Democratic opponent?
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1811620,00.html

McCain tackles Obama and Bush in Kenner appearance (The Times-Picayune 6/4/08)
By Richard Rainey
As the polls closed on the two final Democratic primaries Tuesday, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain painted himself the candidate of change who could reform a lethargic, unresponsive government, a claim his campaign hoped would have added gravitas by his speech's proximity to New Orleans.
http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-10/1212556808257440.xml&coll=1

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McCain kicks off general election fight (USA TODAY 6/4/08)
By David Jackson
John McCain launched a five-month general election campaign against the new presumptive Democratic nominee Tuesday night by seeking to cast Barack Obama as a novice who advocates "failed ideas" of change in contrast to his own proven record as a reformer.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-03-McCain_N.htm

McCain welcomes Obama with fresh criticism (AP 6/4/08)
By LIBBY QUAID
Republican John McCain welcomed Democrat Barack Obama to the fall campaign for the White House on Tuesday with a blistering attack on his judgment and a charge that he "voted to deny funds to the soldiers who have done a brilliant and brave job" in Iraq.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/03/AR2008060303403.html

A McCain-Clinton Ticket? (CBS blog 6/4/08)
Posted by Vaughn Ververs
Ok, so that's not going to happen, but John McCain didn't at all try to hide his flirtation with Hillary Clinton's supporters who may be, to put it mildly, upset with Barack Obama's victory. Here's some text from McCain's speech last night:
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/06/04/politics/horserace/entry4151484.shtml

The Lime Green Monster: McCain's Speech Widely Panned (Huffington Post 6/3/08)
It may be a superficial quip with Senator McCain's speech tonight, but as Marc Ambinder of the Atlantic noted, in presidential politics, "theatrics matter." The choice of a lime green backdrop was, to put it kindly, not wise. Beyond representing a jarring visual for even the most colorblind political viewer, the set up was clearly a distraction from the speech itself. Take a look at some of the reviews:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/03/the-lime-green-monster-mc_n_105044.html

McCain's Speech (TIME blog 6/3/08)
Posted by Joe Klein
John McCain simply can not give a formal speech--especially one with a rhetorical conceit ("And that's not change you can believe in")--in a manner that is even vaguely convincing. Everything about him screams: I. Am. Reading. A. Speech. His weird ghostly grins and false chuckling whenever the rhetoric device came around were totally distracting...and they were very much unlike John McCain, when he plays to his great oratorical strength, which is speaking off the cuff in town meeting settings.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/06/mccains_speech_1.html

McCain Campaign Using Hillary's "Commander In Chief" Line To Attack Obama (TPM ElectionCentral 6/3/08)
By Greg Sargent
This seems significant: The McCain campaign, as predicted, is already using Hillary's "commander in chief test" line to attack Obama.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/mccain_campaign_using_hillarys.php

McCain's 'Change' Speech (Newsweek 6/3/08)
By Holly Bailey
As Barack Obama secured enough delegates to win the Democratic nomination, John McCain wasted no time painting him as an inexperienced partisan.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/139906

McCain: Obama stands for 'the wrong change' (The Hill 6/3/08)
by Klaus Marre
Presumptive GOP nominee Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) kicked off the general election campaign Tuesday night with a broadside against Sen. Barack Obama, saying that the Illinois Democrat stands for the wrong change.
http://mobile.thehill.com/campaign-2008/mccain-obama-stands-for-the-wrong-change-2008-06-03.html

McCain draws sharp contrast with Bush, Obama (Politico 6/3/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Offering his most pointed critique yet of both President Bush and Barack Obama, John McCain entered the general election fray Tuesday night by attempting to distance himself from an unpopular incumbent while also leveling a series of harsh attacks on the Democrat's new nominee-in-waiting.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10825.html

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McCain General Election Message Launch, Take Three (Or So) (TIME blog 6/4/08)
Posted by Michael Scherer
The Drudge siren is whirring, and the Associated Press is reporting: Barack Obama has done it. The primaries are over. ... it's time for the big show. And John McCain is going to try to seize the moment--again. The first time he debuted a November campaign message on an election night, you will remember, was in February, at an Alexandria, Va., Holiday Inn.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/06/mccain_general_election_messag.html

MCCAIN-OBAMA NEWS

As McCain awaits, nominee will seek to unite Democrats (USA TODAY 6/4/08)
By Susan Page and Jill Lawrence
Illinois Sen. Barack Obama clinched the Democratic presidential nomination on the final day of an unprecedented primary season Tuesday, making history by prevailing over Hillary Rodham Clinton, the New York senator once seen as the inevitable nominee.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-03-clinton-delegates_N.htm
Link to transcript of Obama speech: http://i.usatoday.net/news/mmemmottpdf/obama-nominee-6-3-2008.pdf
Link to video of Obama speech: http://www.cnn.com/video/#/ video/politics/2008/06/03/ sot.obama.nominee.cnn
Link to transcript of Clinton speech: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/03/AR2008060303850.html
Link to video of Clinton speech: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/06/03/VI2008060304311.html

It's Obama Versus McCain, as Democrat Moves To Unite Party (NY Sun 6/4/08)
By RUSSELL BERMAN
Senator Obama's declared victory in the Democratic presidential primary last night sets the stage for a fall general election campaign that will pit the nation's first black major party nominee against a decorated war hero, Senator McCain of Arizona.
http://www.nysun.com/national/its-obama-versus-mccain-democrat-moves-to-unite/79280/

McCain's camp believes Obama weaker than Clinton (Chicago Sun-Times 6/4/08)
By ROBERT NOVAK
That Sen. Barack Obama limped through the final Democratic primaries, unexpectedly losing to Sen. Hillary Clinton in South Dakota Tuesday after being trounced in Puerto Rico Sunday, is reason for hope by dispirited Republicans.
http://www.suntimes.com/news/novak/986593,CST-NWS-novak04.article

McCain, Obama Kick Off Groundbreaking Battle (WSJ 6/4/08)
By Laura Meckler
The general-election campaign began in earnest Tuesday as Barack Obama and John McCain squared off for a groundbreaking presidential race between men with very different personal stories and opposing agendas.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121254317369143655.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Election pits McCain vs. Obama (AP 6/4/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Change is coming, that much Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama agree on as they plunge into a five-month campaign for the White House.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/04/AR2008060400450.html

McCain Camp: Obama Too Liberal...And He Sides With Bush (Huffington Post 6/3/08)
By Sam Stein
Preempting Barack Obama's remarks tonight, the McCain campaign sent out a statement highlighting the fact that the Illinois Democrat had, on many occasions, voted in line with President Bush.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/03/mccain-camp-obama-too-lib_n_105035.html

Exit polls: Obama, McCain both have weaknesses (AP 6/4/08)
By ALAN FRAM
Barack Obama and John McCain start their showdown for the White House as a pair of vulnerable candidates, including real doubts about how each would right a struggling economy, according to exit polls of voters in this year's primaries. The crucial question: Whose weaknesses will cost him the election?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/04/AR2008060400511.html

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Obama vs. McCain: sharp differences on key issues (Reuters 6/4/08)
By John Whitesides
Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain head into their general election race for the White House with vastly different approaches to the thorniest political issues, from Iraq and diplomacy to taxes and health care.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/04/AR2008060400545.html

Game on: McCain-Obama on economy (CNNMoney 6/4/08)
By Jeanne Sahadi
Taxes. Social Security. Housing. Gas prices. Get ready for lively debate between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/04/news/economy/mccain_obama_econplans/

Thoughts About Obama's Speech (Atlantic Online 6/3/08)
By Marc Ambinder
What a different emotional register from John McCain's; Obama seems on the verge of tears; the enormous crowd in the Xcel center seems ready to lift Obama on its shoulders; the much smaller audience for McCain's speech interrupted his remarks with stilted cheers. (Note: there was a large overflow crowd for McCain's speech, and he repeated his remarks for them later in the evening.)
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/06/thoughts_about_obamas_speech.php

McCain Surrogate To Clinton Supporters: Come, Join Us (Huffington Post 6/3/08)
By Sam Stein
A key surrogate to John McCain and a member of the Senator's vice-presidential list, made overt overtures on Tuesday for disaffected Hillary Clinton supporters to join the Arizona Republican. Speaking on a conference call to preempt Barack Obama's appearance in Minneapolis, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty asserted that Clinton backers would find a natural affinity to McCain's experience, judgment and political leadership.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/03/mccain-surrogate-to-clint_n_104967.html

Next on Agenda Is Clinton's Role (NYT 6/4/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Senator Barack Obama heads into the general election with obvious advantages: He is a Democratic candidate running in a sour atmosphere for Republicans, in a contest where voters are hungry for change and coming out of a campaign in which he filled arena after arena with supporters. Yet while he would like to shift his attention fully to the onslaught already coming from Senator John McCain and the Republicans, Mr. Obama still has problems in his own party that may overshadow everything else until he addresses them: How to repair relations with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and her supporters and whether to offer her a spot on the ticket.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/04/us/politics/04assess.html?hp

Clinton is willing to take No. 2 spot, but she doesn't have a lock on it (LA Times 6/4/08)
By Peter Nicholas
There is still lingering bitterness to be resolved between her camp and Obama's. And the ticket that some see as a 'dream,' others view as a nightmare.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-veep4-2008jun04,0,7413605.story

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain's Brains Trust (Newsweek 6/3/08)
By Robert McMahon, Council on Foreign Relations
A new series from the Council on Foreign Relations profiles the main foreign policy advisers for John McCain
http://www.newsweek.com/id/139898

McCain Vs. Holtz-Eakin On The Line Item Veto (ThinkProgress 6/3/08)
veto.gifA story in this week's edition of The New Republic points out an interesting policy contradiction between John McCain and his top adviser, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, on the line item veto. McCain, who is well known for his rhetorical crusade against earmarks and 'pork barrel spending,' had this to say about the controversial practice of allowing the top executive to scratch a single item off a spending or budget bill:
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/06/03/mccain-vs-holtz-eakin-on-the-line-item-veto/

Dems accuse McCain on climate (The Hill 6/3/08)
by Manu Raju
Sen. John McCains (R-Ariz.) hesitation to endorse climate change legislation on the Senate floor this week has

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Democrats charging the presumptive GOP nominee with paying lip service to the issue.
http://mobile.thehill.com/leading-the-news/dems-accuse-mccain-on-climate-2008-06-03.html

Exposing John McCain's Record of Opposing the Interests of GLBT Americans (Huffington Post 6/3/08)
By Allison Herwitt
As the general election kicks off, Senator John McCain will tout his reputation as a maverick, an independent, a moderate who will work with both parties to get things done. However, on issues important to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans, that's just not true.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/allison-herwitt/exposing-john-mccains-rec_b_105002.html

McCain, Obama, and American Power (Slate 6/3/08)
By Stephen Sestanovich
The next president's first foreign-policy task will be to overcome the Bush legacy.
http://www.slate.com/id/2192819/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain Will Not Change or Reform Washington (Huffington Post 6/3/08)
By David Donnelly
Today, John McCain will deliver a speech, according to the Associated Press, in which he will make the case that he's the presidential candidate with a "history of fighting to reform government" and that Barack Obama's rhetoric doesn't match up to McCain's accomplishments.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-donnelly/mccain-will-not-change-or_b_104885.html

Is McCain Building An Iran War Drum? (Huffington Post 6/3/08)
By Matthew Palevsky
...Kowtowing to an Israeli fear of Iran, McCain used the AIPAC forum to reinforce his three most dubious and dangerous policy claims. First, that Iran posses an imminent "existential threat" to both Israel and the U.S., despite the recent National Intelligence Estimate stating that 2015 is the earliest Iran could produce a nuclear weapon. Second, that direct presidential talks with adversarial nations render zero substantive benefits. And finally, that passing the kind of sanctions that burdened Iraq for nearly a decade would somehow promote Democracy instead of Totalitarianism in Iran.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/matthew-palevsky/is-mccain-building-an-ira_b_105010.html

Why We Went to Iraq (WSJ 6/4/08)
By FOUAD AJAMI
Of all that has been written about the play of things in Iraq, nothing that I have seen approximates the truth of what our ambassador to Baghdad, Ryan Crocker, recently said of this war: "In the end, how we leave and what we leave behind will be more important than how we came."
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121253706422142819.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

The Obama We Don't Know (WSJ 6/4/08)
With Barack Obama clinching the Democratic Party nomination, it is worth noting what an extraordinary moment this is. Democrats are nominating a freshman Senator barely three years out of the Illinois legislature whom most of America still hardly knows. The polls say he is the odds-on favorite to become our next President.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121254834844844045.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

BUSH NEWS

Iran, Mideast peace on Bush-Olmert agenda (AP 6/4/08)
By MATTI FRIEDMAN
Israel's fears that Iran could obtain nuclear weapons and the Israeli government's attempts to negotiate peace with the Palestinians and Syria are top agenda items when Israel's beleaguered prime minister, Ehud Olmert, meets President Bush.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iN15Gwjk9HSha_Oiv0J-T7vXOu5wD91342NG0

The Science of Denial (NYT 6/4/08)
The Bush administration has worked overtime to manipulate or conceal scientific evidence — and muzzled at least one prominent scientist — to justify its failure to address climate change.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/04/opinion/04wed2.html?ref=opinion

True irony: Bush on personal responsibility (Boston Globe 6/4/08)
By Scot Lehigh

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TO THE LIST of President Bush's many shortcomings, we can now add another failing. Our poor president - no, make that our exceedingly poor president - is obviously irony impaired. How else could he go to Furman University on Saturday and celebrate his time-tested - and now, time-graded and time-failed - theme of personal responsibility? Unless, that is, he intended to offer himself as a counter-example to the idealistic young collegians.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/04/true_irony_bush_on_personal_responsibility/

Bush: We'll Be in Iraq for 40 Years, Hamas Election Was "Good Thing" (Muckraked 6/3/08)
When NBC News correspondent Richard Engel sat down with President Bush last year for an interview, he had little idea how much Bush would reveal about his true intentions and his real sentiments about the war on terror and America's allies and enemies.
http://www.muckraked.com/wordpress/2008/06/03/bush-well-be-in-iraq-for-40-years-hamas-election-was-good-thing/

OTHER TOP NEWS

RESULTS: South Dakota - REPUBLICAN PRIMARY (CNN 6/3/08)
McCain - 70%
Paul - 17%
Huckabee - 7%
Uncommitted - 3%
http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/state/#SD

RESULTS: South Dakota - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY (CNN 6/4/08)
Clinton - 55%
Obama - 45%
http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/state/#SD
Link to Dem exit polls in SD: http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/state/#SD

RESULTS: Montana - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY (CNN 6/4/08)
Obama - 57%
Clinton - 41%
http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/state/#MT
Link to Dem exit poll in MT: http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/epolls/index.html#MTDEM

Extension of Benefits For Jobless Is at Risk (Washington Post 6/4/08)
By Paul Kane; A08
House Democrats are likely to drop a 13-week extension of unemployment insurance benefits from a major spending package that includes continued funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and that would create a new education benefit for military veterans returning from the battlefields.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/03/AR2008060303237.html

Daughters of Iraq: Women take on a security role (LA Times 6/4/08)
By Alexandra Zavis
To counter the threat of female bombers, the women frisk female visitors at hospitals and government offices. But the program faces resistance from those who believe fighting insurgents is men's work.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-fg-daughters4-2008jun04,0,4727945.story

Iran challenge looms large for next U.S. president (Reuters 6/4/08)
By Alistair Lyon
The next U.S. president will have no easy policy options on Iran -- attacking, accommodating or boxing it in are all fraught with risks and difficulties.
http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USPAR43425220080604

Pentagon charges 'dirty bomb' conspirator (Reuters 6/3/08)
By Paul Eckert
Pentagon prosecutors have charged an Ethiopian-born prisoner with conspiring to commit terrorist attacks in the United States, including planning to use a radioactive "dirty bomb," according to documents released Tuesday.
http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/2008/06/pentagon_charges_dirty_bomb_co.php

Bernanke: Gloomy on growth (CNNMoney 6/3/08)

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By Aaron Smith
Fed chairman says housing continues to hold down economy but hints that central bank is done cutting rates, saying 'policy seems well positioned.'
http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/03/news/economy/bernanke/index.htm?cnn=yes

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director, Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/30/2015 9:02:48 AM
Subject: AP1000 Update

Hi John, Possible to review the info below via email? I assume that's probably a better idea than printing at hotel, but will happily print if you assume differently.

*****
Hi Melanie,
Here's the brief state of play. (To remind—the Chinese have their own technology, French technology etc—they don't NEED us to get to their targets with nuclear—but there are folks within China that are backing these technologies.) Below is a reminder background with a high level state of play.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL AP1000 QUESTIONS RAISED BY CHINA

Westinghouse Electric Company has a long history of working with the Chinese in nuclear power technology transfer activities beginning in 1985. That work was suspended due to the sanctions imposed following the Tiananmen Square event. Once these sanctions were lifted in 1998 by President Clinton, WEC began to discuss sales of their new advanced passive reactor technology (AP1000) to China. In 2003, WEC applied for and was granted exclusive advocacy by the Department of Commerce for its proposal to design and construct two two-unit nuclear power plants in China. In 2007, a contract to provide four AP1000 reactors, which are currently under construction at two sites, Sanmen and Haiyang, was signed between WEC and the State Nuclear Power Technology Corporation (SNPTC) of China. The value of the projects is approximately $5 billion, including up to $2 billion in U.S. export content. The four AP1000 units in China have undergone construction delays, in part due to the reactors being "first of a kind" construction and, in part due to difficulties integrating U.S. and Chinese project teams. The first unit was originally envisioned to come on line in November 2013. The Chinese government was anxious to get the first unit on line by the end of 2015 and pressed the Chinese firms, as well as the U.S. Government, in hopes that we would in turn, press WEC. The latest challenges to the Reactor Coolant Pump will push back the "on-line" date until sometime in mid-2016, but the Chinese customer has not officially make that announcement. [N.B. We believe that the RCP issue is resolved. The testing will be completed in June and then the pump will be taken apart and examined, and we expect that it will pass testing and examination.]

WEC is also seeking contracts with SNPTC to support six additional AP1000 plants as part of China's "Wave 2" of reactors and just signed a contract for the instrumentation and control portions of those reactors. With further contracts for other work with those reactors, Westinghouse estimates the procurement value of the Wave 2 reactors could be up to an additional $2.5 billion in U.S. export content. [N.B. Instead of contracting for a reactor, the Chinese are contracting across reactors for different portions of the project: instrumentation and control, fuel, pumps etc. WEC expects to see more contracts from this wave.]

WEC has told US officials that WEC and SNPTC will be looking to sign commercial agreements for scope of work in 20+ new AP1000 reactor sites by September 2015—"Wave 3." According to WEC, the Chinese may approach us to announce this during President Xi's visit to the United States as a big deliverable.

The USG, while supportive of such contracts, is concerned that a big announcement at that time may be problematic because the renewal of the U.S.-China Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (so-called 123) will still undergoing Congressional review during the time of the Xi visit. We are expecting some resistance to this Agreement from some members of Congress and a big nuclear announcement may be counterproductive to our Hill strategy. That said, we are wanting to take a "wait and see" approach to determine what the Hill reaction would be and whether or not another commercial contract would have a positive or negative effect. [N.B. The Agreement hasn't yet been signed, although both sides have agreed on text. We are each going through our interagency processes. We expect to sign around April 12/13, after the President makes his determination and the Chinese have gone through their processes. We'll then submit to the Hill. Happy to talk off line about Hill and concerns that will be raised.]

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy

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Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/9/2008 1:54:14 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/9

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 9th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

2:30pm McCain: Town Hall in Portsmouth, OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event
7:20pm McCain: Tour Stop in Romulus, Michigan

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Candidates Refine Their Stances on a Changing Iraq (Washington Post 7/9/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut and Michael D. Shear; A04
Sen. Barack Obama on Tuesday dismissed criticism that he is abandoning his principles to move toward the political center, saying he has been consistent in embracing moderate views on several issues, especially his belief that pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq must be done "carefully."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/08/AR2008070803127.html

Close Kerry-McCain Kinship Has Dissolved Since 2004 (Washington Post 7/9/08)
By Chris Cillizza; A04
Those who know them say they once shared a genuine affection for each other, born in large part from their shared experiences serving in the Vietnam War and their work together in the early 1990s on a Senate committee investigating the fate of prisoners of war and of those missing in action during the conflict.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/08/AR2008070802687.html

McCain Adviser Rejects Talk of Becoming Chief Strategist (NYT 7/9/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Mike Murphy, Senator John McCain's longtime adviser and friend who had been rumored to be joining the McCain campaign as a chief strategist, said Tuesday that he would not be doing so.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/us/politics/09murphy.html?ref=politics
See Politico's "McCain team shapes up without Murphy": http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11591.html

McCain Health Plan and That High-Risk Pool (NYT 7/9/08)
By KEVIN SACK
PIKESVILLE, Md. — If Senator John McCain's radical plan for remaking American health care is to work, he will have to find a way to cover people like Chaim Benamor, 52, a self-employed renovator in this Baltimore suburb. Mr. Benamor never found it necessary to buy insurance before having a mild heart attack last year and now, 13 years shy of Medicare, has little hope of doing so.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/us/politics/09health.html?ref=politics

McCain shifts his message toward Latino immigrants (LA Times 7/9/08)
By Peter Wallsten and Maeve Reston
He says their needs matter as much as border security and helping businesses. ... John McCain, angling to win a bigger share of the fast-growing Latino vote, is taking the risky step of placing an immigration overhaul at the center of his appeal.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign9-2008jul09,0,3146989.story
Link to video: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/07/08/VI2008070801372.html
Link to transcript of speech: http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/08/AR2008070801465.html

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McCain to Latino Group: Secure The Borders First (CBS blog 7/8/08)
By John Bentley
Despite having failed to achieve immigration reform in the Senate, John McCain told the nation's largest Hispanic advocacy group he would "fix our broken borders."
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/07/08/politics/fromtheroad/entry4241766.shtml

¿Quien Es Mas Macho? (ABC blog 7/8/08)
By Jake Tapper
Speaking before the 79th Annual League of United Latin American Citizens today, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., tried to explain his position on comprehensive immigration reform.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/07/quien-es-mas-ma.html

A Focus on the '60s, When McCain Was a P.O.W. (NYT 7/9/08)
By JIM RUTENBERG
This 60-second commercial for Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, began running on stations in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday and is expected to be included in Mr. McCain's regular advertising rotation on television stations in more than a dozen swing states, and on national cable networks.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/us/politics/09madbox.html
Link to video of ad ("Love"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpyOSLZw8qo
***See* TIME's "McCain's Summer of Love Strategy":** http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/07/mccains_summer_of_love_strateg.html

McGovern: War heroism doesn't make a president (Boston Globe 7/9/08)
By Susan Milligan
He was a pilot in World War II, bombing targets in Europe to stop Hitler. But former senator and 1972 Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern says that didn't qualify him to run the country - and the same goes for GOP presumptive nominee John McCain.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/07/09/mcgovern_war_heroism_doesnt_make_a_president/

McCain Responds to Maliki's Call for an Iraq Withdrawal Timetable (Washington Post blog 7/8/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Sen. John McCain, who has repeatedly derided anyone who advocated a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, now suddenly finds himself in a political box as the American-backed Iraqi leadership yesterday raised the prospect of exactly that.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/08/mccain_responds_to_malikis_cal.html#more
***See* NYT's blog "McCain Dismisses Iraqi Idea of Troop Withdrawal":** http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/08/mccain-dismisses-iraqi-idea-of-troop-withdrawal/

McCain: US Withdrawal in Iraq Will Come in Time (The Page 7/8/08)
The Arizonan downplayed reports that Iraqi officials are increasing pressure on the U.S. to agree to a specific timeline to withdraw its forces, says al-Maliki would only ask troops to leave if the situation warranted it. ...Also makes an off-the-cuff joke about an increase in cigarette exports to Iran."Maybe that's a way of killing them." He quickly followed up that it was a joke.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/08/mccain-us-withdrawal-in-iraq-will-come-in-time/
Link to Pool Report of McCain's Pittsburgh Stop: http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-of-mccains-pittsburgh-stop/

McCain can't resist the Iran joke (LA Times 7/9/08)
By Maeve Reston
By this late in the campaign, one might think that John McCain would have learned to steer clear of jokes about Iran.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailjoke9-2008jul09,0,3014815.story

McCain's Mixed Fiscal Policy (Washington Post blog 7/8/08)
By Dan Balz
John McCain has been around Washington long enough to remember the days when Republicans constantly clashed among themselves over fiscal policy. Were they the party of Jack Kemp, of supply-side economics and big tax cuts, or the party of Bob Dole and the green eyeshade economics of deficit reduction?
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/08/mccains_mixed_fiscal_policy.html?hpid=topnews

In theory, economists support McCain (Politico 7/9/08)
By: Alexander Burns and Avi Zenilman and
But many contacted by Politico did not want to associate themselves too closely with his campaign and its policy prescriptions.

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http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11618.html

McContradiction (The New Republic 7/9/08)
by Robert Gordon and James Kvaal
What's worse than flip-flopping? Consistently promising two opposing goals at the same time
http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=f32048af-6a69-4594-8a9f-e99d213578c1

McCain details differences with Bush in interview with Trib (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review 7/9/08)
By David M. Brown and Brad Bumsted
Drawing the sharpest distinctions yet between himself and the man he hopes to replace, Sen. John McCain said Tuesday his presidency would focus on climate change issues, reducing federal spending, closing the Guantanamo Bay detention center and eliminating torture by the U.S. government.
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_576687.html

McCain lunches in the Strip (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 7/9/08)
By James O'Toole
At Primanti's, GOP candidate talks up state's importance to election bid
http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08191/895726-176.stm
Link to video: http://www.post-gazette.com/multimedia/?videoID=100750

McCain Statement on Iran Missile Launch (McCain press release 7/9/08)
U.S. Senator John McCain issued the following statement on Iran's missile tests today: "Iran's most recent missile tests demonstrate again the dangers it poses to its neighbors and to the wider region, especially Israel...."
http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-on-iran-missile-launch/

McCain aide: DOJ scandal 'nonsense' (The Swamp 7/8/08)
by Andrew Zajac
Steve Schmidt, the new man in day-to-day charge of the McCain presidential campaign, stoutly defended his lobbying and PR firm's hiring of Tim Griffin, a former prosecutor who figured in the U.S. attorneys firing scandal.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/07/mccain_aide_doj_scandal_nonsen.html

Errors en Español (FactCheck.org 7/8/08)
McCain's new radio ad, in Spanish, aims to show Florida would benefit from the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which he supports. But every number in the ad is wrong, except one, a prediction of job gains taken from a group favoring the trade deal. And even that number is rounded upward so generously as to flunk third-grade arithmetic.
http://www.factcheck.org/elections-2008/errors_en_espantildeol.html

The $32,000 Question (FactCheck.org 7/8/08)
The McCain campaign falsely claims that Obama voted to raise income taxes on individuals earning "as little as $32,000 per year."
http://www.factcheck.org/elections-2008/the_32000_question.html

McCain campaign screening questions? (MotherJones 7/8/08)
John McCain has cultivated the rep of a politician unafraid of questions. When he campaigned for president in 2000, he often hung out with reporters on his bus and fielded questions until the journalists were out of queries. In the 2008 campaign, as he did eight years earlier, McCain has held town hall meetings during which he called on attendees who were obviously not McCain supporters. (It was during one such exchange that McCain said it would be "fine" by him if U.S. troops remained in Iraq for "a hundred years.") So why then does it seem that the McCain campaign has been screening questioners during the conference calls featuring campaign aides and top-level surrogates it mounts for reporters?
http://www.motherjones.com/washington_dispatch/2008/07/john-mccain-screening-conference-call-questions.html

McCain to Lay Out Market-Oriented Technology Policy (Congressional Quarterly 7/8/08)
By Adrianne Kroepsch
Few presidential candidates have had as much experience with technology topics as John McCain, though you wouldn't know it by looking at his presidential campaign Web site or listening to his stump speeches.
http://public.cq.com/docs/cqt/news110-000002912191.html

McCain at NAACP, talking education (AP 7/8/08)
Sen. John McCain intends to talk about how teachers are paid and tutoring for poor kids when he goes before the NAACP convention next week. The likely Republican presidential nominee isn't expected to roll out an

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education platform until the end of the summer, but his remarks July 16 to the [NAACP] annual meeting in Cincinnati are expected to touch on his support for expanding merit-pay programs for teachers who improve their students' academic performance.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_EDUCATION?SITE=TNJAC&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Bob Barr on Brody File: McCain Can't be Trusted on Judges (Brody File 7/8/08)
Libertarian presidential candidate Bob Barr tells the Brody File that when it comes to judges John McCain can not be trusted. Basically what he is saying is that voters shouldn't just accept the line that McCain will nominate judges like Roberts and Alito.
http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/405637.aspx

McCain Looking to Fix Mojo Problem (CNN 7/8/08)
It's being billed as the new and improved Sen. John McCain -- a sure-footed candidate working to reconnect with voters and recapture the magic that made him a political maverick. But will it work?
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/08/mccain.mojo/index.html?eref=rss_politics

McCain's math (MSNBC 7/8/08)
by Mark Murray
Earlier this morning, we noted how both McCain and Obama -- after their economic remarks yesterday -- were receiving extra scrutiny over whether their economic numbers were adding up.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/07/08/1186982.aspx

Dems to target McCain for Medicare non-vote (The Hill 7/8/08)
By Manu Raju and Jeffrey Young
Senate Democratic leaders are poised to blame Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) for the chamber's failure to advance Medicare legislation.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/dems-to-target-mccain-for-medicare-non-vote-2008-07-08.html

Obama ad attacks McCain on energy solutions (AP 7/8/08)
By JIM KUHNHENN
In his first negative ad of the general election campaign, Democrat Barack Obama said John McCain is "part of the problem" of high gas prices and tried to parry Republican criticism of his own energy policy.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gbENfaT7YaeWuH7e20fYcRLJXCGAD91PU1001

Obama calls McCain part of problem with bankruptcy (AP 7/8/08)
By Liz Sidoti
Barack Obama called on Tuesday for changing federal bankruptcy laws to help military families, seniors and victims of natural disasters, and accused John McCain of repeatedly siding with the banking industry when Congress acted on the issue.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/07/08/obama_slaps_mccain_on_bankruptcy_laws/

McCain and Birth Control (Atlantic Online 7/8/08)
By Matthew Yglesias
… Carly Fiorina… was discussing consumer-driven health insurance at a breakfast with reporters when she proposed "a real, live example which I've been hearing a lot about from women: There are many health insurance plans that will cover Viagra but won't cover birth-control medication. Those women would like a choice." Unfortunately for her, McCain had an opportunity to vote in congress on a measure that would guarantee that health insurance plans cover birth control and he voted against it .
http://matthewyglesias.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/mccain_and_birth_control.php

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's bad G-8 judgment call (LA Times 7/9/08)
By Madeleine K. Albright and William J. Perry
Booting Moscow out of the group of wealthy democracies would deal a major blow to U.S.-Russia relations.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-albright9-2008jul09,0,4103569.story

A stark choice on the economy (Boston Globe 7/9/08)
BARACK OBAMA and John McCain both reloaded their presidential campaigns this week with a renewed focus on the dire state of the nation's economy. With gasoline more than $4 a gallon, 438,000 jobs lost since January, and 3 million Americans facing possible mortgage default, you don't need a pollster to know the economy is the voters' top concern. And on the economy, as with much else, the contrast between the two candidates is stark.

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http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/07/09/a_stark_choice_on_the_economy/

Maliki's Withdrawal Card (WSJ 7/9/08)
Page A14
A year ago, the conventional Beltway wisdom had it that Iraq was a failed state. Today, the same wisdom holds that it is less chaotic but still fragile, dependent entirely on a U.S. presence to survive. But judging by recent comments from Nouri al-Maliki, even this view may be out of date.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121555940908737365.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

Climate Change Economics (Washington Post 7/9/08)
By Peter R. Orszag; A15
President Bush and other leaders of the Group of Eight pledged yesterday to try to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2050. A key consideration in evaluating climate policies is the economic cost of cutting emissions. That cost could be reduced, perhaps by a lot, depending on two key questions about domestic climate policies: whether flexibility is provided when emissions are reduced and whether allowances to emit carbon are sold or given away.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/08/AR2008070802465_pf.html

Poor excuses from G-8 (LA Times 7/9/08)
Rising food and oil prices should not keep the leaders from boosting aid to impoverished nations.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-summit8-2008jul08,0,4294380.story

BUSH NEWS

White House apologizes for insult to Italian premier (CNN 7/9/08)
* Unflattering biography distributed to White House press corps
* Outsourced piece associates Silvio Berlusconi with corruption in Italy
* Apology calls biography's wording an "unfortunate mistake"
* Italian newspapers feature gaffe, apology on front pages

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/08/bush.berlusconi.ap/index.html

Bush pushes US-India nuclear deal (AP 7/8/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
President Bush says a troubled deal to sell India nuclear fuel and technology is good for both nations, even though it has drawn fire in both countries.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iDhfdxlthyulzNbmR8KGjPKvNzaAD91PVPS80

Pelosi Calls On Bush To Tap Strategic Reserves (Politico blog 7/8/08)
By Patrick O'Connor
In the ongoing showdown over high gas prices, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) called on President Bush Tuesday to dip into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to lower the price at the pump.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/08/politics/politico/thecrypt/main4243120.shtml

Cheney wanted testimony cut, ex-EPA official says (CNN 7/9/08)
* Six pages were cut from testimony on climate change by CDC last October
* Cheney's office deeply involved in cutting testimony, former EPA adviser says
* EPA currently is examining whether carbon dioxide poses a public health risk

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/08/cheney.climate.ap/index.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Iran Tests Missiles in Persian Gulf (AP 7/9/08)
By ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Iran test-fired nine long- and medium-range missiles Wednesday during war games that officials said aimed to show the country can retaliate against any U.S. and Israeli attack, state television reported.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1821160,00.html

Fed Sees Turmoil Persisting Deep Into Next Year (NYT 7/9/08)
By STEPHEN LABATON
Federal policy makers have concluded that the turmoil plaguing the housing and financial markets is likely to spill deep into 2009, becoming one of the most significant domestic problems to confront the next president when he steps into the White House in January.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/business/09housing.html?_r=1&ref=us&oref=slogin

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New GI Bill shows changed priorities (Politico 7/9/08)
By: David Rogers
Many argue that Washington is finally getting it right by returning to World War II-style education benefits.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11616.html

Woman ticketed outside McCain event (AP 7/8/08)
The lawyer for a woman who received a trespassing ticket after a liberal group's protest outside John McCain's town hall event in Denver says she will contest the ticket.
http://www.aurorasentinel.com/main.asp?SectionID=8&SubSectionID=8&ArticleID=19744

Obama Denies Shifting to Reach Political Center (AP 7/8/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Asked by a voter about accusations of flip-flopping, Democrat Barack Obama dismissed the notion Tuesday that he has been shifting stances on Iraq, guns and the death penalty to break with his party's liberal wing and court a wider swath of voters.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1820966,00.html
Link to McCain camp response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-response-to-obama-denying-shift-to-center/

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Sidney Blumenthal" <sidney.blumenthal@gmail.com>
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Date: 10/21/2015 10:16:23 AM
Subject: The truth...

http://www.newsweek.com/benghazi-biopsy-comprehensive-guide-one-americas-worst-political-outrages-385853

1. Key Section. Then whole article below ...

NEWSWEEK

Benghazi Biopsy: A Comprehensive Guide to One of America's Worst Political Outrages

BY KURT EICHENWALD 10/21/15 AT 4:18 PM

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Secrets, Lies and Sidney Blumenthal

Trey Gowdy was demanding answers: What is the definition of unsolicited?

At a hearing in June, the Benghazi committee's questioning of Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime associate of Hillary Clinton, had dragged on for hours. Republicans had yet to ask him a single question about the attack or anything related to it, although as the Democrats on the committee established quickly that morning, Blumenthal had never been to Libya and knew nothing about the assault. In fact, more than eight hours would pass in the hearing before a Republican asked anything about Benghazi.

They did, however, spend an enormous amount of time on Blumenthal's outside work and email communications with Hillary Clinton. According to people who have seen the transcript of the hearing—which the Republicans have refused to release—Gowdy's opening inquiries were off-topic, bizarre and totally political. He asked Blumenthal many questions about a series of articles posted on Media Matters, a liberal website, that proved embarrassing to his friend, Republican Representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah. One post said Chaffetz had attacked Clinton and Obama about Benghazi although he had voted to cut funding to the State Department for security at diplomatic outposts. Gowdy asked Blumenthal if he wrote the articles, commissioned them, edited them or read them. He inquired about his relationship to Media Matters, Democratic political commentators and organizations connected to the Democratic Party.

Eventually, Gowdy's questions turned to emails that Blumenthal had sent to Clinton. The former secretary of state had said publicly that they were unsolicited emails from an old friend. In question after question, Gowdy grilled Blumenthal about the definition of unsolicited. The meaning of the word, Gowdy proclaimed, was "unwanted"—yet Clinton had clearly made statements in her emails that she appreciated Blumenthal's input. The congressman persisted with his incorrect definition to prove Clinton lied about a topic unrelated to Benghazi until Blumenthal's lawyer suggested looking up unsolicited in the dictionary (it means "not requested," as the Democrats later pointed out). Gowdy immediately moved on to another topic unrelated to the Benghazi attack.

The hearing was littered with other irrelevant questions. Gowdy and his staff asked Blumenthal more than 50 questions about the Clinton Foundation, the charitable organization established by Bill Clinton and where Blumenthal had worked. Republicans also asked more than 45 questions about David Brock, who operates Media Matters and other related groups, and over 160 questions about Blumenthal's relationship and contacts with the Clintons.

Nine hours of questioning achieved nothing in advancing the investigation into the Libyan terrorist attack, since Blumenthal had no firsthand knowledge related to Benghazi; the closest he had come to providing information to Clinton about the area was by forwarding a report written by Tyler Drumheller, a long-retired CIA officer who had been head of the European division for clandestine operations.

So what was Blumenthal doing in front of the committee? A former White House aide to President Clinton, he had not been in government for more than 14 years. Blumenthal also had plenty of contacts from his years as a journalist—including Drumheller, whom he had mentioned in a few stories for Salon. He was a friend of Hillary Clinton and—like scores of civilians and former government officials before him—he provided information he believed to be important to the former secretary, who then passed any of it she considered worthwhile to her staff for review. Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state under Richard Nixon, played the same role for the Bush administration in the lead-up to the Iraq War. Robert Murphy, a former American diplomat, provided similar information to Kissinger during his years with Nixon. In fact, Nixon himself frequently reached out to then-President Bill Clinton to offer analysis and information. Former journalist and think tank veteran Michael Ledeen has funneled his thoughts and details of things he had learned to numerous Republican administrations and brokered introductions with people overseas. A conservative think tank scholar used his contacts to set up a meeting between senior Pentagon officials with the Bush administration and two former member of the Iranian government in December 2001. One White House official with the Bush administration even reached out to me in 2002 for information about Osama bin Laden's financial network. (As a journalist, I was required to decline the request.)

In other words, there was nothing unusual about someone like Blumenthal directing his analysis and information to Hillary Clinton. Had the secretary instructed Blumenthal to stop providing potentially valuable intelligence, it would have been not only likely unprecedented but also bordering on incompetence.

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The only point in subpoenaing Blumenthal to testify was for the Republicans to traffic in Benghazi-related conspiracy theories, including one explicitly stated on Sunday by a member of the Benghazi committee, Representative Mike Pompeo of Kansas. In an appearance on Meet the Press, he said Clinton had "relied on Mr. Blumenthal for most of her intelligence" on Libya. Gowdy, in a letter he made public on October 8, made the same statement

Think about that for a moment. Either Pompeo and Gowdy were being completely disingenuous, or irrationally believe that Clinton (who was cleared to review any classified intelligence developed by the State Department, the CIA and other agencies throughout government) instead decided to make decisions based primarily on information from a man who had never been to Libya.

Andrea Mitchell, NBC's longtime diplomatic correspondent who hosted the program, responded quickly to Pompeo's assertion. "That is factually not correct," she told Pompeo. "No, it is absolutely factually correct," Pompeo responded.

"Relied on Mr. Blumenthal for most of her intelligence?" Mitchell repeated. "I cover the State Department. That is just factually not correct, and I've been as tough on this issue as anyone."

But that was not the only fantastical conspiracy theory about Blumenthal. In the October 8 letter, Gowdy claims that Blumenthal was a primary driver for the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya based on an email he sent to Clinton in February 2011, more than a year and a half before the Benghazi attack. Gowdy fails to mention a relevant fact: This was hardly Blumenthal's idea. Diplomats who had defected from the tyrannical government of Muammar el-Qaddafi, then the Libyan leader, were calling on the United Nations to impose a no-fly zone. So had Libya's ambassador to the U.N. Britain and France were already drafting a resolution to put in place a restricted area where aircraft would be forbidden to fly. Within days, Republican Senator John McCain announced his support for the idea, and Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, said it was worth considering. But in the world of the Benghazi committee, none of these voices—major Western governments allied with the United States, the analysis of ambassadors and Libyan government exiles, and the input of American senators—were as important in making a such critical decision as an email from Blumenthal.

After ignoring the history of the no-fly zone debate, Gowdy then makes the most incredible accusation of all: that Blumenthal was using his (imaginary) role as Clinton puppet master to impose a no-fly zone so that he could make money. In the October 8 letter, Gowdy wrote that Blumenthal was pushing for war in Libya to profit from his financial stake in a company called Osprey Global Solutions. At the time, Osprey was attempting to arrange a contract to provide humanitarian assistance including housing, medical clinics and schools in five sites.

But once again, Gowdy's assertions are false. David Grange, a retired Army major general who is president and chief executive of Osprey, says Blumenthal had no stake in his company at all. In fact, Grange says he has met Blumenthal only once, for no more than 15 minutes. While Blumenthal may have played a small role brokering efforts by a third party consultant to facilitate the humanitarian assistance project, he had no contract to obtain any money, according to an executive from another corporation involved in the proposed deal. While there may have been an unpromised possibility that Blumenthal could have obtained a finder's fee, this executive says, nothing was ever paid to anyone. In the end, Grange says, Osprey "didn't make a dime" from its efforts, in large part because the situation in Libya was so chaotic; it was impossible to determine who had the authority to sign an agreement.

Ever since Blumenthal gave his testimony, he, his lawyer and Democratic members of the committee have been demanding that the transcript be made public. That document would reveal the sham of the committee, the fact that Republicans cared more about articles in Media Matters than about the Benghazi attack. It would, according to people who have seen it, prove critically embarrassing. An agreement was reached to have a vote on releasing the transcript at the next business meeting of the committee. But Gowdy canceled the meeting. More than 100 days have passed; no business meetings that would allow for the testimony to be released have been scheduled or held.

2. THE ENTIRE ARTICLE:
http://w w w .new sw eek.com/benghazi-biopsy-comprehensive-guide-one-americas-w orst-political-outrages-385853

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BY KURT EICHENWALD 10/21/15 AT 4:18 PM

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The death of four Americans stationed at the hands of al-qaeda aligned militants in the 2012 attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya was a tragic lose for the US. But unlike other embassy attacks, this one has become the subject of one of America's longest congressional investigations and the root of many right-wing conspiracy theories. MARK PETERSON/REDUX

FILED UNDER: Opinion , Hillary Clinton Email , Benghazi , Hillary Clinton , Barack Obama , George W. Bush , 2016 election , Susan Rice , Christopher Stevens, Libya , Trey Gowdy , Darrell Issa , Congress , House Republicans

Moussa Koussa.

That is the name of the “classified source” in an old email from Hillary Clinton released last week by Republicans purportedly investigating the 2012 attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Under the instructions of the Benghazi committee’s chairman, Republican Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, Koussa’s name was blacked-out on the publicly issued email, as Republicans proclaimed revealing his identity would compromise national security. The media ran with it, saying Clinton had sent classified information through her personal email account.

But the CIA never said the name was secret. Nor did the Defense Intelligence Agency or the FBI. No, Koussa’s role as an intelligence source is about as classified as this column. He is the former intelligence chief and foreign minister of Libya. In 2011, he fled that country for Great Britain, where he provided boodles of information to MI6 and the CIA. Documents released long ago show Koussa’s cooperation. Government officials have openly discussed it. His name appears in newspapers with casual discussions about his assistance. Sanctions by the British and the Americans against Koussa were lifted because of his help, and he moved to Qatar. All of that is publicly known.

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As U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton responds to questioning on the September attacks on U.S. diplomatic sites in Benghazi, Libya, during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington January 23, 2013. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

But, as they have time and again, the Republicans on the Benghazi committee released deceitful information for what was undoubtedly part of a campaign—as Kevin McCarthy of the House Republican leadership has admitted—to drive down Clinton's poll numbers. Republicans have implied—and some journalists have flatly stated—that Clinton was reckless and may have broken the law by sending an email that included thirdhand hearsay mentioning Koussa's name. The reality is that the Republicans continue to be reckless with the truth.

The historical significance of this moment can hardly be overstated, and it seems many Republicans, Democrats and members of the media don't fully understand the magnitude of what is taking place. The awesome power of government—one that allows officials to pore through almost anything they demand and compel anyone to talk or suffer the shame of taking the Fifth Amendment—has been unleashed for purely political purposes. It is impossible to review what the Benghazi committee has done as anything other than taxpayer-funded political research of the opposing party's leading candidate for president. Comparisons from America's past are rare. Richard Nixon's attempts to use the IRS to investigate his perceived enemies comes to mind. So does Senator Joseph McCarthy's red-baiting during the 1950s, with reckless accusations of treason leveled at members of the State Department, military generals and even the secretary of the Army. But the modern McCarthys of the Benghazi committee cannot perform this political theater on their own—they depend on reporters to aid in the attempts to use government for the purpose of destroying others with bogus "scoops" ladled out by members of Congress and their staffs. These journalists will almost certainly join the legions of shamed reporters of the McCarthy era as it becomes increasingly clear they are enablers of an obscene attempt to undermine the electoral process.

The consequences, however, are worse than the manipulation of the electoral process. By using Benghazi for political advantage, the Republicans have communicated to global militants that, through even limited attacks involving relatively few casualties, they can potentially influence the direction of American elections. The Republicans sent that same message after the Boston Marathon bombing, where they condemned Obama for failing to—illegally—send the American perpetrators to Guantanamo, among other things.They slammed the president because federal law enforcement agents read the failed underwear bomber his rights after they arrested him in 2009. Never mind that federal agents did the exact same thing under President George W. Bush when they arrested the failed shoe bomber years earlier. Republicans even lambasted Obama when he spoke about ISIS decapitating journalists, saying the president did not sound angry enough.

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When Richard Reid, left, was arrested in 2001 for attempting to use a bomb in his shoe to blow up a plane, authorizes arrested him, read him his rights and convicted him after a trial in Boston. However, when "underwear bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was arrested Republicans cried foul, angered that he was read his rights, and accused President Obama of being weak on terrorism. REUTERS

But there is an enormous difference between politicizing tragedy and using the levers of government to achieve that goal. Put simply, the transformation of the Benghazi attacks into a political drama now serves as one of the most dangerous precedents in American history, one whose absurdity and irrationality can be seen just by reviewing the past. This single Benghazi committee has been “investigating” the attack for longer than Congress conducted inquiries into Pearl Harbor, 9/11, Iran-Contra, Watergate and intelligence failures in Iraq.

Worse still, Congress convened 22 hearings about the 9/11 attack that killed almost 3,000 citizens working in the World Trade Center in downtown Manhattan; this week, Congress will be holding its 21st hearing about an attack that killed four people working in Libya, with many more sessions left to come. Do Republicans actually think that terrorists killing four agents of the government who willingly assumed the risks of residing in one of the most dangerous places in the world is more important than terrorists murdering 3,000 unsuspecting civilians who were working at their offices in New York City?

In fact, no previous assault on a diplomatic outpost has received this kind of relentless expression of congressional outrage. There weren’t investigations that were anything on this scale about the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983 (63 killed), on the U.S. Embassy annex northeast of Beirut in 1984 (24 killed) or on the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, in 2008 (18 killed). Republicans didn’t believe these exact same scenarios that took place under Republican presidents merited similar zeal to dig down to some unexposed, imaginary “truth.”

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The damaged U.S. Special Mission after it was attacked in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012. FBI

In fact, Benghazi was just one of 21 major assaults on an American diplomatic facility in the last 20 years; the personnel murdered there were among about 90 other Americans hired by the government to work in diplomatic outposts who were killed in terrorist attacks from 1998 through 2012, according to a State Department report. Apparently, their killings—like the deaths of thousands of Americans at Pearl Harbor and in the World Trade Center—were seen as less important than murder of four people in a North African country in the midst of a government overthrow.

'Anybody but Hillary'

One important point has been universally acknowledged by the nine previous reports about Benghazi: The attack was almost certainly preventable. Clinton was in charge of the State Department, and it failed to protect U.S. personnel at an American consulate in Libya. If the GOP wants to raise that as a talking point against her, it is legitimate.

The earlier reports—two from the Senate, one from an independent board and six from the Republican-controlled House—were released before the 2014 election; after that, the House voted to form a special Benghazi committee, with the expectation that it would drag out its work until shortly before the 2016 election—four years after the armed assault took place. Despite all the work that has already been done investigating the attacks, the Benghazi committee has demonstrated that its members either have not read the reports or do not care about the conclusions they reached. Its members ask questions of witnesses that have already been answered—again and again. In fact, some of the questions that Republicans say have yet to be addressed have answers that are so well known they already appear on the Wikipedia page about the Benghazi attacks, sourced to the previous government reports.

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A combination of surveillance photos released by the FBI on May 2, 2013 show three men who the agency is seeking information regarding the attack on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. FBI/ REUTERS

Despite the repeated claims by Gowdy that he is objective, the conclusions he will reach are already clear; he publicly stated them before the committee was formed in May 2014. In November 2012, Gowdy released a statement proclaiming as fact that the Obama administration "intentionally misled the American people" about the Benghazi attack. About a year later, in September 2013, he put out another press release in reference to Benghazi, stating, "If you can't trust the information your government is giving you, how can you trust your government on any issue?" Eight months afterward, he was appointed to run the Benghazi committee, and in apparent disregard of his previous publicly issued conclusions, announced, "My goal is to conduct an inquiry that is rooted in fairness."

But to fully understand how political this latest Benghazi investigation has become, look at the records. Since March, the committee has issued almost 30 press releases related to Clinton; only five have been put out on every other topic combined. Then there is the committee's interim report from this past May. The word Obama—who cannot run for commander-in-chief again—is not mentioned. Neither is the word president. Or Ansar al-Sharia, the group suspected of engineering the attack. White House makes only 13 appearances. Imagine an investigation on 9/11 that did not mention Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden or President Bush; that is what has been done with the Benghazi committee's first public report.

It gets worse. The name Ahmed Abu Khatalla, the man arrested as the mastermind of the attack, shows up once. The word "terrorist" appears only 10 times. As for references to Clinton, the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination? Those show up 36 times in just 13 pages, an astonishing number given that the word "Benghazi" only appears 38 times. But the winner for the most mentions are the 39 references to emails from Clinton and the State Department. Clinton and her emails are referenced 49 percent more than the location where the attack took place and 197 percent more than the word terrorist.

This rampant politicization of the Benghazi tragedy has delighted Republican voters in an offensive and inappropriate way, given that the issue is about the murder of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and the three other brave Americans killed in Benghazi. At a recent GOP rally I attended, a speaker declared herself to be "Benghazi truth-seeking" in the same sentence in which she referenced gun rights, abortion, illegal immigration and other top conservative political issues. Political lapel buttons for candidates were sold right alongside others referencing Benghazi.

Online stores for political merchandise have entire sections committed to Benghazi. The most common items: buttons. Those manufactured before the 2014 election had Obama's face or name alongside accusations of a cover-up while the new ones reference only Clinton. The latest political buttons contain phrases like "Anybody but Hillary Because Benghazi," and "Hillary 2016: Remember Benghazi?" One has a drawing of devil-horned Clinton with the words "The Beast of Benghazi" emblazoned underneath. Other are simply ghoulish, with dripping blood and grave sites. (Benghazi buttons sold before the 2014 election frequently used the symbol of the Obama campaign with pools of blood pouring out; now the blood is shown on Clinton.) I couldn't find any that criticize the terrorists who murdered Americans; I found only two in memory of the fallen. Then there are the bumper stickers calling Clinton "The Butcher of Benghazi," or saying "People Died, Hillary Lied," "Benghazi: Hillary's Only Accomplishment," "Hanoi Jane, Benghazi Hillary" and other phrases.

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Demonstrators protest the Obama administration's handling of the Benghazi attack on the University of Cincinnati campus in Cincinnati, Ohio on November 4, 2012. The politicization of the Benghazi tragedy, initiated by several Republican lawmakers, has made its way to voters; political buttons and other merchandise related to the tragedy blame Hillary Clinton for her actions in the wake of the attacks, and echo criticisms made by her opponents as she campaigns in advance of the 2016 presidential election, nearly four years after the Benghazi attacks. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY

Nothing like this happened after 9/11. Yes, there were scores of buttons and bumper stickers with words on them like “We Will Never Forget” and “America Salutes Its Fallen Heroes.” These were intended to unify the country and honor those who had died; in a widespread search, I could find none showing the blood of the murdered splattered on anyone in the Bush administration.

The Republicans’ unseemly delight in Benghazi has even spread to political fundraising. There is the Stop Hillary PAC, which broadcast an ad about Clinton and Benghazi. The Virginia GOP held a “Beyond Benghazi” fundraiser where donors had to pay $75 to attend and $5,000 to sponsor the event. A blog post before the 2014 election by the National Republican Senate Committee stated, "Americans deserve the truth about Benghazi, and it's clear Democrats will not give it to them. Donate today and elect a Republican Senate majority."

But by far the most egregious examples of Republicans trying to raise money on the backs of the dead was by the National Republican Congressional Committee, the official GOP group that works to elect Republicans to the House. In a blog post on its fundraising website, the NRCC told supporters, “House Republicans will make sure that no one will get away from Gowdy and the Select Committee.’’ The NRCC also sent out an email that contained a link that led to part of the NRCC’s site with a URL that ended with the words “Benghazicoverup-contribute.” That page directly sought money for the committee’s political efforts under the words “You’re now a Benghazi Watchdog. Let’s go after Obama and Hillary Clinton.” Beneath that, and directly next to the suggested contribution levels, was a photograph of Clinton and Obama surrounded by the sentences “Benghazi Was a Coverup. Demand Answers.”

Secrets, Lies and Sidney Blumenthal

Trey Gowdy was demanding answers: What is the definition of unsolicited?

At a hearing in June, the Benghazi committee‘s questioning of Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime associate of Hillary Clinton, had dragged on for hours. Republicans had yet to ask him a single question about the attack or anything related to it, although as the Democrats on the committee established quickly that morning, Blumenthal had never been to Libya and knew nothing about the assault. In fact, more than eight hours would pass in the hearing before a Republican asked anything about Benghazi.

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Clinton adviser

Sidney Blumenthal arrives at the U.S. Capitol as a witness during the Benghazi hearings, June 16, 2015. Republicans on the committee would later tell the press Blumenthal was at the center of a conspiracy to start a war in Lybia and had been there the day of the attack; both were untrue statements. BILL CLARK/CQ ROLL CALL/AP

They did, however, spend an enormous amount of time on Blumenthal's outside work and email communications with Hillary Clinton. According to people who have seen the transcript of the hearing—which the Republicans have refused to release—Gowdy's opening inquiries were off-topic, bizarre and totally political. He asked Blumenthal many questions about a series of articles posted on Media Matters, a liberal website, that proved embarrassing to his friend, Republican Representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah. One post said Chaffetz had attacked Clinton and Obama about Benghazi although he had voted to cut funding to the State Department for security at diplomatic outposts. Gowdy asked Blumenthal if he wrote the articles, commissioned them, edited them or read them. He inquired about his relationship to Media Matters, Democratic political commentators and organizations connected to the Democratic Party.

Eventually, Gowdy's questions turned to emails that Blumenthal had sent to Clinton. The former secretary of state had said publicly that they were unsolicited emails from an old friend. In question after question, Gowdy grilled Blumenthal about the definition of unsolicited. The meaning of the word, Gowdy proclaimed, was "unwanted"—yet Clinton had clearly made statements in her emails that she appreciated Blumenthal's input. The congressman persisted with his incorrect definition to prove Clinton lied about a topic unrelated to Benghazi until Blumenthal's lawyer suggested looking up unsolicited in the dictionary (it means "not requested," as the Democrats later pointed out). Gowdy immediately moved on to another topic unrelated to the Benghazi attack.

The hearing was littered with other irrelevant questions. Gowdy and his staff asked Blumenthal more than 50 questions about the Clinton Foundation, the charitable organization established by Bill Clinton and where Blumenthal had worked. Republicans also asked more than 45 questions about David Brock, who operates Media Matters and other related groups, and over 160 questions about Blumenthal's relationship and contacts with the Clintons.

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Chairman Jason Chaffetz, left, speaks with Rep. Trey Gowdy during a House Committee hearing on federal funding for Planned Parenthood, September 29, 2015. During his questioning of a former Clinton advisory during the Benghazi investigation, Gowdy spent hours off-topic asking the witness if he was involved in negative comments in articles about Chaffetz, leading some to wonder if Gowdy was more interested in finding a cause for the attack in Benghazi or defending Republican allies. TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL/GETTY

So what was Blumenthal doing in front of the committee? A former White House aide to President Clinton, he had not been in government for more than 14 years. Blumenthal also had plenty of contacts from his years as a journalist—including Drumheller, whom he had mentioned in a few stories for Salon. He was a friend of Hillary Clinton and—like scores of civilians and former government officials before him—he provided information he believed to be important to the former secretary, who then passed any of it she considered worthwhile to her staff for review. Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state under Richard Nixon, played the same role for the Bush administration in the lead-up to the Iraq War. Robert Murphy, a former American diplomat, provided similar information to Kissinger during his years with Nixon. In fact, Nixon himself frequently reached out to then-President Bill Clinton to offer analysis and information. Former journalist and think tank veteran Michael Ledeen has funneled his thoughts and details of things he had learned to numerous Republican administrations and brokered introductions with people overseas. A conservative think tank scholar used his contacts to set up a meeting between senior Pentagon officials with the Bush administration and two former member of the Iranian government in December 2001. One White House official with the Bush administration even reached out to me in 2002 for information about Osama bin Laden's financial network. (As a journalist, I was required to decline the request.)

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Manipulating the Press

The Benghazi committee's secrets go well beyond what Blumenthal had to say. Unlike almost every congressional committee investigation in history, the Republican congressman has insisted that much of the relevant questioning be conducted behind closed doors. Even when directors of the CIA appear before Congress, unclassified portions of the statements and questioning occur in public, while classified information is delivered in private.

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Rep. Trey Gowdy is surrounded by media as he leaves the House Republican Conference meeting in the basement of the U.S. Capitol on Friday Oct. 9, 2015. Gowdy has accused other reports on Benghazi of being biased or inconclusive—two from the Senate, one from an independent board, and six from the Republican-controlled House—maintaining there is need for yet another report. BILL CLARK/CQ ROLL CALL/GETTY

The secrecy is all the more incomprehensible given the subject matter. The committee has called previous investigations incomplete. It even suggested that the original review by an independent Accountability Review Board was rushed and tainted. The board was co-chaired by Thomas Pickering, who served in high posts under both Democratic and Republican presidents, and was selected by President George H.W. Bush as his administration's ambassador to the United Nations. His fellow chair was retired Admiral Michael Mullen, who was named as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President George W. Bush. The board came up with innumerable recommendations on changes that should be put in place to better protect American diplomats. The State Department rapidly adopted them.

But if the members of the Benghazi committee truly believe that the findings of the review board were inadequate, shouldn't whatever information they obtain be made public as fast as possible? Taking the Republicans at their word, why are they willing to leave diplomatic personnel potentially in grave danger by hiding whatever flaws they discover in the protection protocols?

Unless, of course, they are not pursuing issues that could lead to better protection for diplomats. Indeed, by keeping testimony secret, Gowdy, a former prosecutor, either does not care about keeping diplomats safe or considers the Benghazi committee to serve the same role as a grand jury. He refuses requests by witnesses to testify in public or to release transcripts of the questioning, suggesting that—just like in a criminal case—he does not want those who have been compelled to appear before the committee to coordinate their answers based on what they hear. The explanation is utter nonsense; unlike a prosecutor with a grand jury, the committee can neither instruct nor even request that witnesses don't speak with one another about their testimony. Even lawyers for witnesses have the right to share information about what the committee asked and what the answers were. And, of course, there is no problem with discussing classified information; that can be delivered in closed session.

However, while Gowdy has intoned that certain information was going to be treated "as if it was classified," he is making that designation himself, with no authority to do so since classification is handled by the executive branch, not Congress. Staff members of the committee who do not have security clearance attended testimony that involved such supposedly top-secret information. The government did not authorize even the transcriber of the testimony to hear classified information.

What possible reason, then, could the committee have for playing hide the ball with the testimony? Two possibilities come to mind. After the first public hearing, which was a serious and sober affair, Gowdy and the Republicans were derided by conservative zealots for failing to demand answers about every right-wing conspiracy theory or engage in the political theater of rage. "They have been beating the drums about this, and polls have shown that Americans want answers about this!" Harris Faulkner of Fox News intoned after the hearing. "I was shocked there was so little passion."

The other reason to keep the testimony secret has rapidly become clear: so that they can selectively—and often incorrectly—portray to reporters what was said in the statements. For example, prior to the committee's interview with Cheryl

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Mills, Clinton's chief of staff asked to testify in public out of concern that the Republicans would leak and misrepresent details of what she said. Her request was denied, and the committee made one of its proclamations about treating the unclassified information as classified.

Yet shortly after Mills's nine hours of questioning ended, one committee member, Representative Lynn Westmoreland of Georgia, rushed to the studios of Fox News to discuss what Mills had to say. Politico published a report sourced to Republicans saying that the committee had been stunned to learn that Mills had reviewed the Accountability Review Board report by Pickering and Mullen, saying that it was "raising alarms on the right" that the independent investigation had been compromised.

These sources were either lying or woefully ignorant, not only of how government works but also of the previous information already made public. Almost all government reports—including ones as secret as independent inquiries of operational divisions in the CIA—are circulated among the relevant officials seeking comments and for help to determine any errors.

Worse still, this supposedly shocking information had been public for more than two years. In a June 4, 2013, sworn statement in another Benghazi investigation conducted by another GOP-led committee, Pickering stated that the review board had submitted an advanced copy of the report to confirm "the accuracy and the focus of our recommendations." He also stated that the review board considered some of Mills's input, adding that neither she nor Clinton had the right to edit the document, nor did they try to influence the outcome.

Pickering was not the only one to make this statement. In September 2013—again, two years before the supposedly shocking revelations in Mills's statements to the Benghazi committee—the inspector general for the State Department issued a report stating that the members of the review board had limited their contact with senior officials in the department and that they all unanimously agreed there was no attempt "to impede, influence, or interfere with their work at any time or on any level."

No matter. A new bogus script had been written and was trumpeted by the press. The Benghazi committee had discovered a deep, dark secret. In the eyes of Republicans, the review board's findings could be dismissed out of hand as corrupt.

Other false stories repeatedly found their way into the press. There was the "criminal investigation of Hillary Clinton" article that appeared in The New York Times; once the story was knocked down, the Times sheepishly acknowledged its sources included officials from Congress. (The "Clinton is under criminal investigation" story has continued; she's not.) The Daily Beast falsely reported that Blumenthal testified he was in Libya on the day of the Benghazi attack.

Articles in other publications even falsely portrayed documents obtained by the committee. For example, on June 18, Politico ran an article stating that, based on information obtained from "a source who has reviewed the email exchange" that Clinton and Blumenthal were sending emails back and forth to utilize Media Matters and the White House to neutralize criticism of her about Benghazi. But the representation to Politico was a lie: The quoted emails had nothing to do with each other, but were literally different discussions about different topics conducted days apart. The article also stated that the "sources" claimed that a particular Clinton email had never been produced by the State Department, in one of many suggestions of a cover-up. In truth, the email had been turned over by the department four months earlier. It is marked with identification numbers STATE-SCB0045548-SCB00450.

Just this week, more false statements by members of the committee that is supposed to be reserving its judgment until it hears the facts have been trotted out. Gowdy, Pompeo and Westmoreland all claimed on news shows in recent days that no previous committee had ever gained access to emails from Ambassador Stevens, one of the victims of attack Benghazi. "None of the seven previous committees bothered to access the emails of our ambassador," Gowdy said on Face the Nation. "How on earth could any of the other committees have completed their work properly without access to the senior person on the ground's emails?" Pompeo asked on Meet the Press. "We've just now gotten those emails,'' Westmoreland said. "Nobody else had requested them."

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Christopher Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, smiles at his home in Tripoli June 28, 2012. Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the attacks on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. ESAM AL-FETORI/REUTERS

The statements were either a coordinated attempt to mislead or a universal display of ignorance. An array of emails from Stevens had been produced years ago to congressional committees investigating the Benghazi attack, including a number that expressed the ambassador's concern about the security situation for the diplomats in Libya and the violence there. The same emails were produced to the Benghazi committee on November 24 and December 9 of last year. Perhaps the State Department found additional emails. That would be likely given the millions of documents that have been demanded from the agency by the various congressional committees, all of which must be reviewed before release.

The emails are part of a broader pattern by the committee's Republicans, who have repeatedly claimed that old information is new. On October 7, Gowdy stated that the committee had questioned 50 witnesses who had never been interviewed before. That statement, like so many others, was false. Committee records show that there are only transcripts of 54 people have been interviewed or provided sworn statements. Of those, the Pickering-Mullen review board from three years ago already interviewed 23 of them. Of the remaining 31, the majority included State Department employees, current and former campaign officials, press officers, employees involved in information technology and an array of others who could not be expected to know a thing about the Benghazi attack.

But more important is who has not been interviewed. The committee has never asked a single question of the Secretary of Defense. In fact, no one from the Pentagon has testified in any hearings, and only four members of the department have been questioned at all.

The Truth About Clinton's Emails

Since March, the Benghazi committee has delved into another topic with almost zero relevance to the attack: Clinton's use of a private email system. Emails that have been produced have done nothing to refute the conclusions by all of the other government investigations of the attack. Indeed, if the Benghazi committee truly believes that the private email issue is of such importance, it needs to pass the issue to another congressional committee for investigation so that the inquiry into the terrorist attack can resume.

The email set-up for Clinton—who is widely known as technologically incompetent—has been criticized as a mistake, including by Obama and the former secretary herself. But it has been repeatedly misrepresented, not only by the committee but also in the press.

For example, the committee's interim report from May included the false—and clearly political statement—describing Clinton's

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use of a personal account as “the former secretary of state’s unusual email arrangement with herself.” No, this was an arrangement made with the State Department allowed under the rules listed in the Federal Register, which is why Colin Powell had the exact same set-up when he was secretary of state under former President George W. Bush. While that doesn’t mean the approach is wise, it’s hardly unusual given that a Republican who held Clinton’s job did it too.

Senior White House staffers and presidential advisers did the same thing during the Bush Administration; at least 88 officials—including the White House Chief of Staff and Karl Rove, the president’s senior advisor—used personal emails to conduct official business over a private internet domain called gwb43.com , which was maintained on a server at the Republican National Committee. More than 22 million of those emails were deleted.

As for Clinton, her first use of the personal email account for work purposes while serving as Secretary of State occurred on March 18, 2009. Before that date, she continued to utilize her Senate email address. According to current government officials, State Department experts briefed Clinton about the requirements for record preservation under the law; no evidence has yet been produced to suggest that she violated those rules. From March 18, 2009 until she left the department on February 1, 2013, government records show she sent 62,320 emails, including 30,490 that were designated as work emails. Of those, more than 90 percent were preserved on servers maintained by the federal government because Clinton sent them to accounts ending with “.gov.”

This was not, however, the only email address Clinton used. The State Department maintains a separate, closed system for classified information. With the exception of one email with a member of the British government, none of Clinton’s communications with foreign officials went through her personal email account.

Hillary Clinton has been at the center of a firestorm over the use of a private server for e-mails but she wasn't the first; Colin Powel also used a private e-mail server while working for the Bush administration, as did Karl Rove who deleted some 20,000 e-mails from public record from his account. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

By comparison, Clinton’s use of her personal email was more limited than Powell’s. In his book, It Worked For Me, he wrote that he used a personal email account set up on a laptop to exchange information not only with his principal assistants and ambassadors, but also with foreign ministers overseas. Like Clinton, he used a second email account for classified information. Powell has also said he did not preserve any of the emails from his personal account from the time, either by printing them or saving them on a storage device. None of this is to suggest that Powell did anything wrong. It does, however, raise a question Republicans have yet to answer: Why is Clinton’s use of private emails a controversy, much less a scandal, if Powell’s was proper?

Critics also rage that Clinton’s emails on the non-classified personal system were not secure. Yet no one ever points out that hackers have proven the State Department’s non-classified system that she otherwise could have been using to be one of the more insecure systems in government. In 2006, unknown foreign intruders hacked into the State Department system and downloaded terabytes of information, including emails and attached documents. This year, Russian hackers gained access to

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State's unclassified email system despite repeated efforts by American government experts to lock them out. The hackers used the State Department system as a "backdoor" to crack into the White House's unclassified system, which allowed them to obtain documents like Obama's non-public schedule. So if Clinton had used the State Department's unclassified system for the emails she sent from her personal account, they almost certainly would now be in the hands of Russian hackers.

But government records show that no hacker has been found to have gained access to Clinton's private server, something that is far easier to determine given the limited number of accounts it holds and the comparative ease of running security analytics through such a small system. Nor was there any other form of unauthorized intrusion into the email and no one else had access to the account itself. In fact, after Clinton left government, multiple hackers tried to break into the system, but failed. The server was located at Clinton's home, which is guarded by the Secret Service. Numerous security consultants, IT specialists and government experts put systems in place to prevent breaches; those systems were continuously updated to account for new spyware, malware, viruses and related hacking techniques.

Finally, despite the relentless yet failed effort to locate information sent through Clinton's email system that was deemed classified at the time, one major point has been overlooked: The Secretary of State had the power to declassify any department document she chose. Every modern president has issued rules regarding the authority to classify and declassify documents. During the Bush Administration, for example, Vice President Dick Cheney held that authority, so he often decided on his own to declassify documents that his office then provided to members of Congress and the press.

The finalized public version of the rules under Obama were issued on December 29, 2009 through a document called "Executive Order 13526-Classified National Security Information." Through that order, a senior official with the authority to deem a document in an agency or department as classified also had the power to declassify it. So the question is moot. Clinton could take a classified State Department document, declare it unclassified and send it to whomever she chose. Of course, that would not apply to classified information she received from say, the CIA—but remember, if an intelligence organization deemed the material to be secret, it would have been sent to Clinton through the closed system at the State Department and not to her personal email.

Then comes the controversy about Clinton erasing emails. The words sound terrible, but the reality is not. Think of it like this: before there were emails, government employees had work documents and personal documents. Both might be kept at home or at the office. Work documents needed to be preserved and often were stored in the national archives. Even in the event that someone filed a Freedom of Information Act request or Congress issued a subpoena, no one had to turn over every piece of paper, whether personal or not. The Federal Records Act places the responsibility of determining which documents are official and which are personal on the government official whose records they belong to. A government official must retain or turn over all work records, but has every right to take boxes of personal, private material and throw it out.The same holds true for emails.

The State Department delivered the first request for emails was delivered by the State Department on October 28, 2014 to several previous Secretaries, including Clinton; this was done as part of an effort by the agency to update its record keeping to stay in compliance with federal requirements. Powell, as he publicly stated, had none to provide because they had all been deleted. Clinton instructed her lawyers at Williams & Connolly to review all of the emails on her behalf to determine which were work related and which were not.

Multiple methods were used. First, a computerized search was conducted of every email sent to an account ending with ".gov," which would include all of the documents sent to every official government email. That found 27,500 emails, all of which were already preserved in federal systems. Then, another search was conducted using the first and last names of more than 100 officials with the State Department and others in the government. Next, manual reviews were performed in case there were unrecognized email addresses or typographical errors that would have prevented those documents from being located. In addition, the lawyers searched for a number of other specific terms, including the words "Benghazi" and "Libya." These last three steps located more than 2,900 other emails. Printouts of the 30,490 emails were then provided to the State Department. Some critics have suggested there was something untoward about the fact Clinton sent paper records. But that is the procedure that is required by the State Department in a document called the Foreign Affairs Manual.

Once all of the reviews were completed, Clinton deleted all of the remaining emails deemed to be unrelated to her work. While at first that struck me as foolish, it is now clear it was necessary. The committee, which has leaked misleading information and publicly accused Clinton of wrongdoing, was demanding access to the server so it could decide, contrary to the requirements of law, which documents should be produced. It's safe to assume that every personal, private detail of Clinton's life that might have been captured in her emails would immediately appear as "scoops" in the morning newspaper or discussed by committee members on national television.

Of course, in a world of wild Republican irrationality, suspicions exist that some of the work emails that didn't go to other government officials or into government systems might have been intentionally destroyed. But the question is, why? Why would some of Washington's most prominent lawyers take a risk that could ultimately result in disbarment by intentionally hiding work-related emails that might turn up anywhere—in the accounts of recipients, or in the accounts of people who received copies from the recipient, or even in the hands of an unknown hacker? The idea if far-fetched. But it is that kind of lunacy that has pushed the

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Benghazi investigation forward for so many years.

A Collapse Into Fantasy

Conspiracy theories have become a driving force in Washington, and the Benghazi investigation is no exception. What started as a legitimate, important inquiry into the circumstances and failures that led to the tragic deaths of four Americans has transmogrified into a tale of secret plots and treachery in which malicious officials manipulate the government and act as virtual co-conspirators with the terrorists who murdered their colleagues.

Protesters destroy an American flag pulled down from the U.S. embassy in Cairo September 11, 2012. Egyptian protesters scaled the walls of the U.S. embassy, tore down the American flag and burned it during a protest over a film being produced in the United States that insulted Prophet Mohammad. The protest outside the Cairo embassy occurred within hours of the attacks in Benghazi. MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY/REUTERS

This is emblematic of a phenomenon that the historian Richard Hofstadter called “the paranoid style of American politics.” As Hofstadter said in a speech at Oxford University in November 1963, “We are all sufferers from history, but the paranoid is a double sufferer, since he is afflicted not only by the real world with the rest of us, but by his fantasies as well.” Proponents of a vast Benghazi conspiracy approach the topic with absolute certainty that something sinister took place in Washington that involved far more than a bureaucratic failure to utilize the correct procedures for protecting diplomats. Policy blunders are boring; tales of conniving and evil are the stuff to engender fevered passions.

The collapse into fantasy began on the day of the Benghazi attack, but not because of the events in Libya. Many of the Benghazi-obsessed seem unaware that the chaos at that consulate was occurring across the Muslim World. The first protest exploded outside of the American Embassy in Cairo. There, Muslim protesters overran the embassy perimeter fences and stormed the compound in what CNN described at the time as “an all out assault.” They were driven, protesters said, by anger about a video posted on the Internet that they believed insulted the Prophet Mohammed. Then, angry Muslims gathered outside of the Benghazi mission and soon the attack erupted. Before those two crises played out, protests started at the American Embassy in Tunis which the participants attributed to the same Internet video. As the protesters made their way to the embassy’s perimeter walls, the police stopped them. With angry Egyptians still roaming the Cairo compound and the Benghazi consulate smoldering from arson, the next demonstration began, as protesters stormed the compound of the American Embassy in Sana’a, Yemen where they began looting and setting fires.

In other words, what the modern critics either do not realize or consider is that the American government was facing chaos in multiple diplomatic facilities around the Middle East and North Africa. Even as terrorists were attacking in Benghazi, angry Muslims who also might launch a terrorist strike were roaming the grounds of the Cairo Embassy, as they would for days to come. As each crisis calmed, another erupted.

On the day of the attacks, according to government records and testimony before other committees conducting investigations, Clinton learned of the Benghazi assault at 4:05pm. Forty-nine minutes later, a cable arrived at the State Department saying that the shooting had stopped and the compound had been cleared.

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In the hours that followed, Clinton spoke with Obama, the National Security Advisor, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the director of the CIA and scores of others. At 6:41pm, she called the President of the Libyan General National Congress seeking his help. During the eight minute call, Clinton asked for the Libyan government to provide additional firefighters and security personnel to the Benghazi mission as well as guards to the U.S. diplomatic facility in Tripoli. Another eight minutes passed and she called deputy chief of mission at the American Embassy in Tripoli for an update and to reach out to any sources he had in the Libyan government to seek more assistance. . Six minutes later, she was on a conference call with eight other U.S. government officials. At 7:45pm, she joined a Secure Video Tele-Conference with senior officials with the White House, the Department of Defense and the intelligence agencies. Then she called Obama to consult with him and keep him updated on developments. At almost midnight came new information that a safe house where American personnel had taken refuge was under attack.

Over at the Pentagon, officials had taken action rapidly after word of the attack arrived.. An operations officer with the United States Africa Command who was controlling an unarmed Predator drone flying over the Libyan city of Darnah was told to redirect it to Benghazi, about an hour away. After a meeting with the White House, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta ordered two Marine FAST platoons in Rota, Spain to prepare to deploy; one was going to Benghazi and the other to Tripoli. He also dispatched a special operations unit from the United States. Finally, a team of American military commandos training in Croatia were ordered to head to Benghazi. The group, called the Commander's In-extremis Force, was formed to rapidly handle unexpected emergencies; it was the only unit close to Benghazi with the skills necessary to conduct a rescue, kill the terrorists and avoid civilian deaths.. The group got as far as the Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, Italy, placing them about an hour from Benghazi. But by that point, the assault in the Libyan city was over.

In the midst of all the bedlam came the first attempt to politicize the events of that day, although the Republicans were not yet focusing their attention on Benghazi. At that point, officials inside the Cairo Embassy were working to calm the situation outside by communicating a message to the protestors that denounced the video, saying they opposed "continuing efforts by misguided individuals to hurt the religious feelings of Muslims—as we condemn efforts to offend believers of all religions."

Almost immediately Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee for President, rushed to meet with reporters with such speed that his hair was in disarray so that he could attack the statements being issued by American diplomats in Egypt who were trying desperately to save their own lives. His message: "It's disgraceful that the Obama Administration's first response was not to condemn the attacks on our diplomatic missions, but to sympathize with those who waged the attacks.'

Former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney leaves the podium after making comments on the killing of U.S. embassy officials in Benghazi in Jacksonville, Florida on September 12, 2012. Romney rushed to address the press following news of the attacks, drawing ire from both Republicans and Democrats at the time for inserting politics into the middle of an ongoing crisis, during his presidential campaign. CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

Democrats and Republicans lambasted Romney for inserting politics into the middle of an ongoing international crisis. But the backlash against Romney's craven effort to capitalize on the circumstances did not end the Republican focus on the attacks on American diplomatic facilities. Given the embarrassment, Romney and other Republicans largely dropped talking about Cairo.

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With the news that Ambassador Stevens and several others had been killed, the GOP turned their attention to that tragedy, while essentially ignoring what was happening in Tunis and Sana'a.

As occurs in most rapidly-moving crises, American intelligence officials were struggling to sift through conflicting information to determine what had really happened. (A similar struggle led the CIA to initially—and incorrectly—conclude, that the Islamist group Hezbollah was behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 9/11.) CIA analysts had written a report stating that the evidence suggested the Benghazi attack was a spontaneous one that grew out of the protests. After those intelligence officers headed home, a senior CIA editor with knowledge of the military, but not of Libya or the events in Benghazi added a sentence saying that the weaponry possessed by the attackers suggested it was a planned attack.

By that afternoon, Clinton had heard the same thing. Notes she received for a 4:30pm meeting said a terrorist group called Ansar Al-Sharia was responsible for the attack. The embassy in Tripoli reported that the assault appeared to be pre-planned. Later, Clinton spoke by phone with the Prime Minister of Egypt, telling him they knew the events in Benghazi had nothing to do with the controversial video.

Then, that intelligence began to fall apart. Ansar Al-Sharia disavowed any role in the attack and the American intelligence analysts who covered Libya, who had been complaining about the sentence added by the senior CIA editor, began assembling a thorough review that was fully coordinated between the relevant intelligence officers in multiple agencies. That report, titled "Extremists Capitalized on Benghazi Protests" and completed on September 13, stated, "We assess the attacks on Tuesday against the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi began spontaneously,'' and added, "the attacks began spontaneously following the protests at the U.S. embassy in Cairo." It also stated that extremists connected to Al-Qaeda were involved in the attacks, although there are no known operational connections between Ansar Al-Sharia and Al-Qaeda. The statement about Al-Qaeda would prove to be wrong.

The intelligence community assembled its information into talking points for Susan Rice, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, for her to use when speaking on Sunday morning talk shows. Her statements on September 16 lined up perfectly with the information provided by the intelligence agencies; a statement from the agencies would later be released attesting to that fact

Susan Rice, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, speaks during an appearance on "Meet The Press" in Washington on September 16, 2012. Rice's statements on September 16, drawn directly from U.S. government intelligence at the time, have come to form the basis of criticisms with the administration's handling of the tragedy. WILLIAM B. PLOWMAN/NBC/NBC NEWSWIRE/GETTY

"The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi and subsequently its annex,'' she said. "There are indications that extremists participated in the violent demonstrations."

Rice's statement—or, more accurately, a misrepresentation of Rice's statement—became the first and most important piece of the Republicans' Benghazi conspiracy theory. It is now an article of faith among many Republicans that Rice said the Benghazi attack was caused by the video, when in fact she said no such thing. Instead, she said that the then-current intelligence suggested that

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the video inspired the Cairo protests—which it did. The Cairo protests then inspired the Benghazi protests and the Benghazi protests led to the attack.

While Rice perfectly cited the intelligence as it then existed and never said the Benghazi attack was the result of the video, so what if she had? Republicans have attached themselves to their own form of bizarre political correctness that requires the word "terrorist" to be uttered, even when the intelligence is unclear, and that somehow this single word will change everything. Islamic extremists attacked an American embassy and murdered the Ambassador and other diplomats. The act of using violence to advance a political or religious cause is terrorism. The motives, methods, and operational allegiances of the perpetrators were still under investigation. It was pointless to say "terrorist" if no one could identify the group responsible. Did Republicans actually consider the American people so obtuse that Islamic extremists murdering United States officials was an act of terrorism?

But the spin had begun. The administration supposedly hadn't said the attackers were terrorists; Romney even made that point in a presidential campaign debate with Obama. But the president had said three times in the two days following the attack that it was "an act of terror." Romney persisted, as if "terrorist" was a magic word that would give all new meaning to the act of terror at Benghazi. Finally, in a statement that outraged conservatives—and was in fact inappropriate—the debate moderator, Candy Crowley of CNN, told Romney he was wrong.

By that time, many Republicans believed Romney was headed for a landslide victory; Fox News and other commentators throughout the conservative media bubble repeated the mantra time and again. They dismissed the scores of polls showing he would lose as biased. Finally, when the results came in with a decisive Obama victory, just as the polls predicted, many Republicans were stunned. Soon, a new conspiracy theory emerged: Obama had won the election because he had lied about Benghazi. What precisely the lie was remained unclear, although the imaginary statement by Rice saying the attack was caused by the video and Obama's refusal to immediately use the word "terrorist" rather than "act of terror" were frequently cited.

The Pickering-Mullen review board soon issued its findings and recommendations. It concluded that "systemic failures and leadership and management deficiencies" in two bureaus of the State Department resulted in inadequate security for Benghazi. However, it also found that the intelligence community had no warning of the attack. Although Congress was not named, the board also directed some of its criticism at the legislators. A constantly inadequate budget had led State Department officials to husband resources for the highest priorities; the Benghazi mission was not one of them. Staffing was transitory, and it was not designated with the status of a temporary residential facility. The consulate's future after 2012 was deeply uncertain and it was being neglected. The review board made recommendations, and the State Department adopted them.

In normal times, that would have been the end of any "scandal." But, with the Republicans feverish with conspiracy theories, Benghazi was not about to end. The false "Rice lied" story persisted, even as Republican-led Congressional committees concluded it was not true. In fact, in a report issued in 2014, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence declared that, even by that time, it was impossible to state exactly what had happened. "Much of the early intelligence was conflicting and two years later, intelligence gaps remain," the report said. "To this day, significant intelligence gaps regarding the identities, affiliations and motivations of the attackers remain."

Hearing after hearing produced precious little new information, but each added more speculation to the growing blaze of Republican theories. Each was more illogical than the next.

The Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, chaired by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-California) held numerous contentious hearings about Benghazi. But they developed little in terms of new information. With the mid-term elections coming, Issa tossed out in a conspiracy theory in February 2014 that not only had no factual basis, but contradicted itself.

"Why was there not one order given to turn on one Department of Defense asset?'' Issa asked the crowd. "I have my suspicions, which is Secretary Clinton told [Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta] to stand down, and we all heard about the stand down order for two military personnel. That order is undeniable."

No one ordered military assets to move, but Clinton gave an order to stand down. Of course, military assets were moved, but were unable to get any further than Italy before the Benghazi attack was complete. And there is no doubt that any State Department would be concerned about the procedures for having an American military force attack in a sovereign nation. But was there such an order? Contrary to Issa's statement, it is not only completely deniable, it has been denied by everyone involved, including all of the witnesses interviewed by the Benghazi committee.

Like so many other statements made by Republicans about Benghazi, it is wrong in every particular. Despite his investigation, Issa either lied or did not know of the multiple military orders that went out that night—diverting Predator drones, dispatching the Commander's In-Extremis Force from Croatia, sending a special operations unit from the United States and instructing Marine platoons from Spain to prepare for deployment. On the other hand, Issa's statement is literally true: Not one order was given to one Defense Department asset; that's because four were given to four assets.

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Then came the conspiracy theory that Clinton herself had personally signed a cable denying a request for increased security at Benghazi. This one was advanced by the chairmen of five Republican House committees and Senator Rand Paul. But the Republicans who continue to traffic in this claim are either lying or almost criminally ignorant about the processes of government.

To make the claim, these politicians cite a cable that went out with Clinton's name on it in a pro-forma signature. This is standard procedure for every cable issued by the State Department in every administration. There are millions of cables with Clinton's name on them, with likely more than 1,000 generated each day throughout the State Department during her tenure, just as with every other Secretary of State. This fantasy or falsehood, which has been repeatedly denied by every witness interviewed and is directly contradicted by the Pickering-Mullen report, persists as true in Republican circles, and is often mentioned by GOP presidential candidates. A cable was issued rejecting the appeal for more security, but Clinton never saw it or signed it.

President Barack Obama and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton deliver remarks during a transfer ceremony of the remains of Chris Stevens, U.S. Ambassador to Libya, and three other Americans killed in Benghazi at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington on September 14, 2012. JASON REED/REUTERS

Today, there are many bogus claims still advanced by Republicans, which the Benghazi committee continues to pursue. But the all-time classic—which again, has been adopted as an article of faith among many Republicans—is that Clinton and other senior government officials were using the Benghazi mission to transfer weapons from Libya to Turkey, or in another version of the tale, from Libya to Syria. No one advancing this fantasy ever explains how a Secretary of State could be directing an intelligence operation that would be handled by the CIA. However, this has been a favorite myth offered up by Senator Paul, who raised it both in a Senate hearing and in media interviews.

This theory, again, is completely false. In January 2014, Republican Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence issued a report that definitively shot it down.. The report read, "All CIA activities in Benghazi were legal and authorized. On-the-record testimony establishes that CIA was not sending weapons (including MANPADS) from Libya to Syria, or facilitating other organizations or states that were transferring weapons from Libya to Syria.'' No matter. Six months later, in a radio interview, Paul raised the allegation again, citing news reports that weapons were shipped from Libya to Syria.

Few noticed that 17 days after this renewed claim by Paul, the House Intelligence Committee adopted its final report, once again declaring the allegation to be nothing but a myth. The report read that, "Multiple media outlets have reported allegations about CIA collecting weapons in Benghazi and facilitating weapons from Libya to Syria. The eyewitness testimony and thousands of pages of CIA cables and emails that the Committee reviewed provide no support for this allegation."

Beyond Disgraceful

In the end, one thing is clear: This rabid partisanship or unmitigated deception or utter incompetence conflicts with everything this country stands for. Four men died serving their country; it is beyond disgraceful that their memories are used for cartoons and political buttons and television shows all for the purpose of advancing outright falsehoods just to gain political points. ,

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In their refusal to read documents or accept facts over fantasies, Republican conspiracy theorists have damaged this country in ways that cannot yet be fully comprehended. No doubt, the terrorists set on attacking America are cheering them on..Nothing could delight some terrorist sitting in a Syrian or Libyan or Iraqi hovel while hearing a top Republican Congressman brag on television that a relatively small attack on a U.S.compound continues to threaten to transform a presidential election in the most powerful country in the world.

Ambassador Stevens and the three other men who died on that terrible day in Benghazi are not

shiny objects to be dangled for political entertainment. They are American heroes. Serve their memories: Disband this inexcusable Benghazi committee, throw out the buttons and bumper stickers and fundraising letters. Allow the dead to finally rest in peace.

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From: "Trevor Houser" <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com>
To: "Nikki Budzinski" <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/23/2015 7:07:10 AM
Subject: Re: KXL

Thanks Nikki, we'll huddle and get back to you.

On Aug 23, 2015, at 1:58 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Hi guys
> Ok, some feedback for your consideration regarding the Op Ed and fact sheet. Would you be willing to let me know if any of these suggestions you think are possible? I'd appreciate knowing where you finally land. I think with the trades one of the most important things is to provide them a heads up, even if we're going to be in different places. I'd like to be able to do that when appropriate.
>
> Not surprising I know, but the trades are going to go nuclear (so to speak) on the Administration once this announcement comes out. They will likely attack around the argument that this decision will lead to increased energy prices for those on fixed incomes. They will also point out that if his rationale is increased CO2 exposure, HRC's State Department said there will negligible traces. Just a fyi.
>
> 1. Thank you Trevor for breaking it down, that was really helpful. I do think the grid piece and the pipeline infrastructure piece will be liked.
> 2. Could we include the terminology around "current baseload needs" in the current energy economy in both the fact sheet and Op Ed? This will at least tip the hat to where we are today with the acknowledgement that we are transitioning to green.
> 3. When we talk about infrastructure standards, could we please mention prevailing wage and project labor agreements as one good set of standards?
> 4. Could we beef up the mentioning jobs? O'Malley made the mistake with the trades of stating that energy jobs are temporary. They really bristle at that. Could we mention that these are "jobs and careers" for many workers and as we transition HRC wants to create more careers within the new energy economy? Careers is their buzz word.
> 5. As I mention above, the Trades will attack Obama on raising energy prices, could HRC's OpEd and Fact sheet mention that she wants to see protections for consumers for those potential rising prices?
>
> The Op Ed will be read as very celebratory, and maybe that's it. But I think if we could incorporate a little of these suggestions above and tone, it could be helpful.
>
> I'd love to hear what you think and if anything is possible. Thank you again for the heads up. I appreciate it.
>
> Thanks
> Nikki
>
> On Sun, Aug 23, 2015 at 4:06 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>> Ideally to get passed the Sept 9 meeting with the Building trades would be a personal god-send.
>>
>> Will we move forward with the op Ed and fact sheet with or with Obama KXL action?
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:52 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>>> Good to know. Maybe they decided to push it until after the Canadian election on 10/19.
>>>
>>> On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:47 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Now I am hearing it's back to late October. So this may again end up as just an HRC answer to a q. John, you hearing otherwise?

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On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:46 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Got it. Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:43 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:

That should work for us. Earlier in the evening is better if possible.

On Aug 22, 2015, at 2:42 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Thank you Trevor. Very much appreciated. Is feedback by tomorrow evening ok for you? Or are you moving on a quicker timeline?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:37 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:

Amanda and Nikki,

Attached is the current draft of an op-ed on KXL and our overall energy infrastructure package and a detailed fact sheet on the latter. Remains to be seen whether the op-ed will be released before or after the President decides on the pipeline so it's been drafted both ways.

A few things to flag from the fact sheet that should help soften the blow to the Building Trades of the KXL decision:

1. **National Infrastructure Bank** – HRC mentioned this in her launch speech but it's called out more specifically here (positive for all the trades).

2. **Modernizing our Pipeline System –** A pledge to repair or replace thousands of miles of outdated pipeline by the end of her first term, through a new "Pipeline Partnership" that supports rate relief for states, cities and rural communities that accelerate replacement of outdated pipes (good for LiUNA and UA).

3. **Increase Rail Safety** – Accelerate the phase-out of outdated tank cars and repair track defects (will create jobs for affiliates with exposure on the tank car manufacturing and track repair fronts, though the Teamsters may be negative if they see it as slowing oil-by-rail volumes).

4. **Enhance Grid Security** - Provide new tools and resources to states, cities and rural communities to make the investments necessary to improve grid resilience to both cyber-attack and extreme weather events (positive for IBEW).

5. **Expanding Consumer Choice:** Offer financing tools for grid investments that support the integration of distributed energy resources and for gas pipeline investments that enable households and businesses to switch away from heating oil and other petroleum

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products (the trades won't love the distributed energy piece but the expanded natural gas pipeline network to enable replacement of old fuel oil furnaces with natural gas furnaces is positive for LiUNA, UA and the Boilermakers) .

6. **Transmission Investment:** Ensure the federal government is a partner in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to market through improved federal coordination and cooperation with local governments and power companies (positive for IBEW).

7. **Transportation Funding:** Work with Congress to close corporate tax loopholes and increase invest investment in transportation solutions that expand transit access and reduce congestion, commute times, oil consumption, and pollution (positive for IBEW, ironworkers and other public transit-exposed trades).

More broadly, we are calling for a North American Climate Compact that would provide a coordinate, continent-wide energy and climate framework so we don't have to keep battling it our pipeline-by-pipeline and can provides infrastructure investment certainty. That section of the factsheet includes the following line, which the trades should like:

Infrastructure Standards: Develop common, world-class standards for North American infrastructure that create good jobs and ensure energy transportation across the continent is clean, safe, reliable and affordable.

Happy to discuss this weekend if you'd like. I'm at 917-755-5446 .

Best,

Trevor

From: Amanda Renteria [mailto:arenteria@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:09 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com >; Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: KXL

Can we make sure that Nikki sees the statement before it goes out? Just want to make sure we don't catch anyone by surprise. We are so close to getting bldg trades and if we do this right, it will be ok even though they won't like it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 6:02 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Your in trouble, girl. Seriously, doubt we'll say we "encouraged" but assume we'll support if it goes that way.
>
> On Thursday, August 20, 2015, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi guys

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The Building Trades are flagging for me that they hear the Obama Administration will deny KXL on Monday. I just wanted to try to politically get ahead of this and where we are on the issue if this in fact happens. The trades are also hearing that HRC will put out a statement stating that she encouraged Obama to take this position. Politically with the building trades, this would be a very dangerous posture. Just curious what your thoughts will be if the situation goes this way on Monday.

Appreciate it.

--

Nikki Budzinski

Labor Outreach Director

Hillary for America

646-854-1442 (direct)

<08.21 Modernizing infrastructure fact sheet - 3pm.docx>

<08.21 KXL oped draft - 3pm.docx>

--
Nikki Budzinski
Labor Outreach Director
Hillary for America
646-854-1442 (direct)

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/6/2015 11:31:46 PM
Subject: News Update -July 7, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, July 7

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Hopes Fading for Iran Nuclear Deal by Tuesday Deadline**
- **Iranian Deal set to Make Hardline Revolutionary Guards Richer**
- **Rivlin: Next Gaza Conflict Could be Worse**
- **Clinton 'Alarmed' by BDS Attempts to 'Delegitimize Israel'**
- **Gold to Thank Indians for Apparent Shift in UN Voting Pattern**
- **Ex-Iran President: Israel a Fake, Temporary Regime**
- **Greece, Deep in Crisis, is Keen on Axis of 'Security' with Israel**
- **Netanyahu Bars Mossad Head from Briefing Opposition Party**

Commentary:

- **Ha'aretz: "Netanyahu Prepares to Fight World over Iran Deal"**
  - By Barak Ravid
- **Jerusalem Post: "No Holds Barred: Will Samantha Power be the First American UN Ambassador to Abandon Israel?"**
  - By Shmuley Boteach

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Ha'aretz

Hopes Fading for Iran Deal by Tuesday Deadline

Hopes of a nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers by Tuesday's deadline faded on Monday, with the consensus being that an agreement will only be reached by week's end. This feeling emerged when the Iranian delegation talked of a possible extension being required to conclude talks beyond Tuesday's deadline. An Iranian diplomat who briefed Western correspondents said, "We are not committed to any deadline," and urged the West to "make decisions." The Iranian statements are, in effect, a mirror image of the messages of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday, when he said Iran and the world powers "are not yet where we need to be on several of the most difficult issues."

See also, "Iran nuclear talks hit potential snag over arms embargo" (Washington Post)

Ynet News

Iran Deal set to Make Revolutionary Guards Richer

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards have done very well out of international sanctions - and if a nuclear deal is done in Vienna this week under which those sanctions are lifted, they are likely to do better still. The Revolutionary Guards Corps is more than just a military force. It is also an industrial empire with political clout that has grown exponentially in the last decade. A Western diplomat who follows Iran closely told Reuters that the IRGC's recent annual turnover from all of its business activities was estimated to be around $10-12 billion. "Lifting sanctions will boost the economy; it will help them to gain more money." said an Iranian official in Tehran who asked not to be named.

Times of Israel

Rivlin: Next Gaza Conflict Could be Worse

Israel held an official ceremony marking a year since last summer's war with Gaza and memorializing 67 soldiers killed in the fighting, with President Reuven Rivlin warning that the next confrontation with Palestinian fighters in the Strip would be even tougher. Speaking to mourners at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery Monday, Rivlin warned that a new conflict would be inevitable if sporadic rocket fire from the Strip was not stemmed. "The next conflict will be even more difficult than the last. It is clear that such a conflict will require a decisive and difficult decision," he said.

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Ynet News

Clinton 'Alarmed' by BDS call to 'Delegitimize Israel'

Leading Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton is "alarmed" by the boycott movement against Israel, she told Jewish media mogul Haim Saban in a letter. In a letter dated July 2, Clinton seeks Saban's advice on "how we can work together - across party lines and with a diverse array of voices - to reverse this trend with information and advocacy, and fight back against further attempts to isolate and delegitimize Israel." Clinton expressed concerns over comparisons between Israel and the apartheid regime in South Africa, and added that as anti-Semitism is on the rise worldwide, now is the time "to repudiate forceful efforts to undermine Israel and the Jewish people."

Jerusalem Post

Gold to Thank India for Shift in UN Voting Pattern

Foreign Ministry director- general Dore Gold is expected to thank India for an apparent change in its voting pattern on Israel-related issues at the UN when he leads a high level Israeli- Indian dialogue in the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. In a historic first in UN votes on Israel, India did not vote for the Palestinians, but rather abstained, in an anti-Israel resolution in the UN Human Rights Council last Friday. Indian government sources were quoted in the Indian media in December as saying that India, under the new government of Narendra Modi, was considering changing its automatic support for Palestinians at the UN, and abstaining on those votes. The Hindu newspaper at the time said such a move would be tantamount to a "tectonic shift" in the country's foreign policy.

See also, "Report: Jerusalem asked Britain to vote for anti-Israeli resolution" (Jerusalem Post)

Times of Israel

Ex-Iran President: Israel a Fake, Temporary Regime

Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Hezbollah-affiliated outlet that he was confident that the "forged and temporary Israeli entity" would be wiped off the map, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. According to the report, Rafsanjani, often described by Western media as a moderate in Iranian politics, said that Israel was an alien existence forged into the body of a nation which would eventually be destroyed. "When, and how that will happen, depends on conditions which are rapidly changing. Those conditions can be provided very soon if the usefulness period of Israel will expire," he said. Rafsanjani said the destruction of the Jewish state could take some time since Israel's supporters reaped significant benefits from its existence.

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Jerusalem Post

Greece is Keen on Axis of 'Security' with Israel

With Greece's future shrouded in great uncertainty, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias spoke in Jerusalem on Monday of developing an axis of security and stability among Israel, Greece, and Cyprus. Speaking alongside Prime Minister Netanyahu before their meeting, Kotzias said that, "We are living inside a triangle of destabilization," which he said begins "at the top" with Ukraine, and extends on one side to Libya, and on the other through Iraq and Syria. "We have to create inside this triangle a security and stability framework, and the relations between Israel, Cyprus and Greece are very important," he said. "I call it the stabilization line in this area."

Ha'aretz

PM Bars Mossad Head from Briefing Opposition

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has forbidden the head of the Mossad to brief Zionist Union Knesset members on the threat posed by ISIS (Islamic State) in the Sinai Peninsula. Zionist Union faction chairwoman Merav Michaeli, who submitted the request, said Netanyahu claimed such a briefing would set a precedent, and therefore, he didn't want to approve it. "Netanyahu is wrong to think that senior civil servants are his personal advisers and work for him," said Michaeli. "In Israel, they are public servants, and it's completely unreasonable and inappropriate to prevent them from speaking to the public's elected representatives."

Ha'aretz – July 7, 2015

Netanyahu Prepares to Fight World over Iran Deal

With communications between Washington and Jerusalem all but severed, Netanyahu is hedging his bets and preparing to fight Obama on Capitol Hill once a nuclear deal is announced.

By Barak Ravid

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing for a world war. The reason, what else, is Iran's nuclear program. This offensive will not involve jet fighters descending on the nuclear facilities in Natanz or Fordo, but rather a frontal charge on Capitol Hill. Netanyahu's goal was and remains to enlist enough members from both houses of Congress to vote against the nuclear deal with Iran when President Obama puts it on the docket.

An Israeli source noted that Netanyahu seems optimistic about his chances. According to the source, Netanyahu recently told Jewish-American leaders that the battle is not lost. Those who heard the prime minister's remarks say that it is hard to tell if he actually believes his own words or is only using the rhetoric to try and rally the troops. Either way, Netanyahu conveyed to his interlocutors that he believes that with the right steps, enough Democratic lawmakers with enough political clout can be swayed to stop the deal in its tracks.

The question remains of when the opening shot of this war will be fired. The assessment among Netanyahu and the Israeli establishment

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is that a comprehensive deal with Iran is a matter of days to a few weeks away. The issues that remain to be resolved between Iran and world powers cast in a doubtful shadow the chances of reaching a deal by the July 9 deadline – the final date Obama can submit the agreement to Congress before it takes its summer recess a month later.

If no deal emerges by July 9 there is a possibility that the White House will choose to continue negotiations without presenting any deal until Congress reconvenes on September 9. The rationale for this being the White House's desire to give Congress the minimum 30 day oversight period stipulated by law to examine the deal's wording. Should it be presented before Congress returns from recess, the deal's detractors will have double the time to plan for its demise in Congress.

Israel is not completely in the dark about the talks in Vienna, but it has relatively limited information regarding the developments from recent weeks. On occasion a French or British diplomat will pass on a snippet of information and once every few days National Security Advisor Yossi Cohen receives a succinct briefing from U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman or from EU representative Helga Schmidt, but Israeli officials closely involved in the Iranian issue admit that Israel does not have the full picture and that uncertainty in Jerusalem is amassing.

One of the main reasons Israel finds itself in such a bind stems from the fact that communications between Netanyahu and Obama administration officials has been almost non-existent over the last three weeks. The last time the two sides spoke in-depth about the issue was during Yossi Cohen's mid-June visit to Washington D.C. Cohen met with his counterpart, Susan Rice, as well as Sherman, who heads the U.S. negotiation team, but besides reiterating the regular disagreement between the two nations, no progress was made on the issue. Cohen returned much the same as he had left.

Communications between Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry have also been all but severed in recent weeks. Since arriving in Vienna 10 days ago for the latest round of talks with Iran, Kerry has not spoken with Netanyahu even once. Netanyahu for his part made little to no effort to get Kerry on the phone either.

Both sides have come to understand that at this point of the talks they have little to talk about. The positons are known and both sides have abandoned the pretense of trying to convince each other. All that is left for Obama and Netanyahu to do now is gear up with helmets and flak jackets, and prepare for the political and media battle that will take Washington by storm the moment a deal is announced.

Jerusalem Post – July 7, 2015

No Holds Barred: Will Samantha Power be the First American UN Ambassador to Abandon Israel?

If President Obama compels her to support this resolution, she must consider her position and her ability to continue as ambassador.

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By Shmuley Boteach

Last week mega-philanthropist Michael Steinhardt, co-founder of Birthright Israel, which has brought 500,000 young Jews to Israel, joined with our organization The World Values Network in a full-page New York Times ad about Ambassador Samantha Power. In the ad Steinhardt reminded the ambassador of her commitment at her Senate confirmation hearings: "I will stand up for Israel and work tirelessly to defend it" at the United Nations.

At the AIPAC Annual Policy Conference in Washington, DC, in March, Power avowed, "It is a false choice to tell Israel that it has to choose between peace on the one hand, and security on the other. The United Nations would not ask any other country to make that choice, and it should not ask it of Israel."

Power, of course, was correct – security is the foundation of any sustainable peace framework in the Middle East. To its credit, the United States has long stood for justice and served as an essential check against overreach, anti-Semitism and double standards by Arab and European nations at the UN.

Reports have emerged that France plans to put a resolution before the UN Security Council that will call for immediate resumption of peace talks between Israel and the PA with a hard cap of 18 months for a final deal. Under the French proposal, if no deal is reached in 18 months, the UN would recognize the Palestinian state, effectively granting legitimacy to an organization that has consistently proven incompetent, corrupt, hostile to democratic values and openly supportive of terrorism.

While the global Jewish community has come to expect little from France, Hamdallah said France and the US are "coordinating" on the diplomatic catastrophe. There also exists the possibility that should Israel refuse to accept a UN Security Council Resolution authorizing a timetable for the unilateral creation of a Palestinian state, economic sanctions could be levied against the Jewish state.

For starters, the very notion of this process – which rewards the PA for failure – is patently absurd. In practice, if Israel doesn't capitulate to every demand of the Palestinian negotiators, the Palestinians are granted statehood. There is zero incentive for Palestinians to even pretend to negotiate in good faith. The mortifying results of the American discussions with Iran on nuclear weapons lowered the world's estimation of the US State Department's ability to negotiate, but this framework would be a historic nadir.

It's also worth questioning whether this proposal is even in the best interests of the Palestinian people. The PA's leadership has repeatedly proven itself incapable of adhering to basic democratic principles, transparency and rule of law. The PA's history of graft, support of terrorism and lack of accountability is staggering.

But at a personal level, it's not simply the concept of this proposal that is mortifying – it's the person who would be central to the decision for the United States to betray its closest ally if this proposal moved forward: Ambassador Samantha Power.

As many know, long before she became Ambassador Power, she was a well-regarded academic studying human rights at Harvard's Kennedy

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School. It was there she wrote the Pulitzer-winning book that launched her career into orbit, A Problem from Hell, the stirring and essential indictment of the inability of the US to act against genocide over the past 100 years.

But as her star rose in the Obama administration, many began paying attention to other early statements and writing, including specific ones that raised great concern about her feelings toward Israel and understanding of the conflict. These might have gone unnoticed for any ordinary academic speaking loosely early in her career, but Power was no ordinary academic.

Due to those earlier statements, Power wasn't implicitly trusted by members of the Jewish community when she took her role in the National Security Council. After writing an op-ed where I encouraged her to clarify her statements, she did just that.

We met in the White House and spoke candidly – and even quite emotionally – about Israel, the challenges in the region and the real concerns of anti-Semitism that some had regarding her earlier statements. Her passion and emphatic support of Israel was self-evident and convincing. From that moment on, I became intent on transforming the Jewish community's opinion of her, working side-by-side to persuade others that she was someone whose judgment and understanding of the conflict could be trusted when it came to issues related to Israel. Ultimately, when the time came for her nomination to serve as US ambassador to the United Nations, the Jewish American community registered strong, widespread support.

Yet in recent months, the person currently representing America before the United Nations has been a far cry from the Samantha I knew. It has pained me to see her embrace the disastrous Iran deal, even as its leadership repeatedly and unapologetically threatened Israel with genocide. Even unrelated to issues involving Israel, she failed to recognize the Armenian genocide by its proper name on its 100th anniversary in April, joining the ranks of that "problem from hell." The latter was particularly breathtaking given her impassioned plea to the Armenian-American community in 2008 to support President Barack Obama entirely predicated on his commitment to recognize the slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks as genocide.

Still, I concede Iran and the Armenian genocide are issues somewhat tangential to her role. This French proposal, however, is not. It is squarely and unambiguously her responsibility, and will be remembered as a turning point for her legacy. She will be confronted with a stark choice between doing what's right or giving in to the misguided rhetoric of the UN. For the sake of justice as well as her legacy, she must stand firm and act on the commitment to Israel she impressed so many with when her nomination was considered.

The path forward is clear: the US – and specifically Ambassador Power – must stand in the way of any attempt to move this resolution through the UN Security Council. Moreover, if President Obama compels her to support this resolution, she must consider her position and her ability to continue as ambassador.
This resolution proposed by the French and the pledges she made to the Jewish community to stand by Israel's side are completely incompatible, especially in light of the PA's collaboration with Hamas whose genocidal charter against Israel remains in full force.

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In recent years, the UN has shown shocking hostility to Israel that would be comical if it were not so serious. From the modern-day blood libel of the Goldstone Report to the laughable double standards applied by any number of UN General Assembly resolutions. As anti-Israel and anti-Semitic fervor has captured the imagination of the UN, the US has stood by the Negroponte doctrine and proudly asserted its support for the only true democracy and ally of the US in the region time and time again.

I am supremely confident the Samantha Power I knew would hold up this tradition. Her legacy and the security of the State of Israel depend on it.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From:	KWhite@nea.org
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	3/9/2011 3:24:40 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] NEA President Dennis VanRoekel Statement on Wisconsin Senate Vote
Attachments:	DVR Statement on Wisconsin Senate Vote.doc

Note our wonderful WI NEA Member quote at end!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Speight, NEA Communications
March 9, 2011
492-1281; aspeight@nea.org

CONTACT: Anitra

202-822-7823 or 202-

Wisconsin Senate strips workers' collective bargaining rights

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel reacts

WASHINGTON—In a blatant abuse of power, Wisconsin Republican lawmakers dealt a blow to the working class tonight with passage of the anti-union provisions of Gov. Walker's Budget Adjustment Bill on an 18-1 vote. No Democratic Senators were present. The bill strips collective bargaining rights for public workers. The Wisconsin Senate requires a quorum to take up any measures that spend money. But Republicans on Wednesday split from the legislation a proposal to curtail union rights, and a special conference committee of state lawmakers approved that bill a short time later.

"Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers met in the dark of night, in a near-empty Capitol, and stretched their authority to the breaking point in an attempt to ram through legislation that the public does not support and that will harm thousands of the American working class," said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. "Its legality is dubious. Its intent is mean spirited. It is perhaps the most grievous example of how democratic decision making should not take place. The Governor and his legislative minions should be ashamed of what they've done."
"In exercising the nuclear option to impose their will on Wisconsites, Governor Walker and Senate Republicans attacked middle class families, from students to seniors, in their state," said Van Roekel. "This is an affront to teachers, nurses, students, firefighters, construction workers and other everyday people who stood up, spoke out, and learned how much their voice mattered to their elected leaders. The response will be unified and the collective voice of millions of working Americans from all across this nation will only grow louder."

Van Roekel added, "Just listen to Brad Lutes, a physical education and health teacher in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. He summed it up: 'We can't be defeated. There's not really an alternative. You can take away my collective bargaining rights. You can take away my pension and some of my health care, but the one thing you can't take away from me is my vote. I think that's how a large majority of Wisconsinites and Americans feel right now.'"

# # #

The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.

****
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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/15/2008 6:44:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 06/15/08

Main Topics: McCain's Tax Policy, *McSame* or *McDifferent*?, Potential VPs, RIP Tim Russert

Summary of Shift: Pundits reminisced about the legendary Tim Russert this morning. Tom Brokaw hosted "Meet the Press" and dedicated the entire show to his remembrance. Fred Thompson and John Edwards were interviewed on "This Week". Bobby Jindal and Newt Gingrich appeared on "Face the Nation", where vice presidential selection was a major topic of discussion.

Highlights:
1) Newt Gingrich interview on "Face the Nation"
a. Says inexperience argument against Obama "won't work", points to Lincoln's "one term in Congress" as proof that experience doesn't matter
b. Calls Jindal "far and away the best candidate for vice president"
c. Argues recent Supreme Court decision granting enemy combatants access to civilian courts is the worst in its history, even "worse than Dred Scott"
2) McCain's flawed tax policies
a. Edwards: McCain's continuation of Bush's tax cuts is "favoring wealth over work"
b. Robert Reich: McCain's tax cuts do more for wealthy than even Bush has
3) Jindal implies he won't accept VP position if asked, reveals he's a skeptic about evolution and for teaching intelligent design in schools
4) On "This Week": McCain having trouble finding his voice
5) Fred Thompson interview on "This Week"
a. Says Supreme Court will be a major voting issue
b. Thompson: Tax policy gulf between candidates vast, Americans better off now than eight years ago

Clips:

Highlight #1
Newt Gingrich Says Inexperience Argument Against Obama "Won't Work", Points to "one term" of Lincoln As Proof Experience Doesn't Matter; Calls Jindal "far and away the best candidate for vice president" and the recent Supreme Court Case "Worse than Dred Scott" (CBS 06/15/08 10:45am)
CHIP REID: Well let's start with Bobby Jindal. You just heard him and you were obviously impressed by him. A lot of Republicans are incredibly impressed by him. 37 years old. Would you recommend to John McCain that he pick him as his vice presidential...

NEWT GINGRICH: Absolutely, I think Governor Jindal would be far and away the best candidate for vice president in the country. I think he is a future presidential candidate. I think he has enormous capacity to keep growing. He was, at 24 state medicaid director of Louisiana. He then headed Bro-Thomas commission on reforming medicare. He then became an assistant secretary of health and human services in the Bush Administration. He then went back home and ran for Governor and lost. Won a congressional seat. Came to Washington for two terms, then became the first person in Louisiana history to win the governorship without a runoff, defeating eleven people with a majority. And has since been just spectacular. Louisiana is a state that had no tradition of ethics reform, he drove through the toughest ethics legislation in the country. As he said, he's now driven through six tax cuts, he's already had a major corporation announce they are moving their corporate headquarters to Baton Rouge. He is just an all around talented human being.

REID: But here's one problem, that McCain has run largely on his ability to step in and become Commander in Chief from Day one.

GINGRICH: Right.

REID: Bobby Jindal doesn't have that. Do you think McCain will pick him? Or is that a real problem?

GINGRICH: Look Bobby Jindal at 37 is fully as prepared to be Commander in Chief as Senator Obama. I mean, you could argue that in fact Jindal's experience in the executive and legislative branches is greater than Senator Obama's [...]

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REID: And you believe Senator Obama is qualified? He has the experience?

GINGRICH: Look, in the American tradition, Abraham Lincoln served one term in Congress. I think it's a fundamental mistake to focus on whether or not he is qualified to be president and a powerful question on what kind of president he would be.

REID: But that is largely what McCain and his people are focusing on now. It's inexperience, inexperience, inexperience. They just keep hammering away.

GINGRICH: It won't work. It's a mistake.

REID: It is a mistake.

GINGRICH: The country is not gonna reject Senator Obama on inexperience. The country may reject Senator Obama because of his relationship to Reverend Wright and his relationship to the hard left, William Ayers. And because his policies include tax increases and because there's some big decisions coming on energy, on education, on the Court, and Senator Obama may turn out to represent a position so far to the left the country won't tolerate him. But if the country ends up not electing Senator Obama, it will be on large principled decisions, not on, I mean, I think both campaigns the last two weeks have been totally off their stride [...]

REID: Well along those lines, you said in a recent column in Human Events, you said "the Republican brand has been so badly damaged that if Republicans try to run an anti-Obama, anti-Reverend Wright campaign, they are simply going to fail." [...]
GINGICH: I will say, I think the recent Supreme Court decision to turn over to a local district judge decisions of national security and life and death that should be made by the president and the congress is the most extraordinarily arrogant and destructive decision the Supreme Court has made in it's history.

REID: In it's history?

GINGRICH: In it's history. Worse than Dred Scott, for the following reason: The court has now knowingly stepped in, this mourning's newspaper say, smugglers had actually gotten the design of a nuclear weapon, that we now have the evidence that people out there had a nuclear weapon design. And this court is saying that any random district judge, based on whatever their personal caprice is, whatever their personal ideological bias, can intervene with a terrorist in such a way, and this is something the Italians will tell you about fighting the mafia...
[...]

Highlight #2
McCain's Continuation of Bush's Tax Cuts is "Favoring Wealth over Work" (ABC 06/15/08 10:09am)
JOHN EDWARDS: What we're doing under Sen. McCain and George Bush over the last eight years is we're favoring wealth over work. We keep raising the burden on working middle class families at the same time that we're giving tax breaks to people who earned their income from investment, from wealth. All I'm saying and Sen. Obama's saying is we ought to treat people's hard work with the dignity and respect that it's entitled to, just as it is with wealth. And giving more tax breaks to the biggest corporations in America, tax breaks that are absolutely skewed, even more so than George Bush's, to the wealthiest Americans instead of those who need the help, doesn't work. And you don't need me or any policy analyst to tell you that. They've had eight years, George, to try their way and it hasn't worked. Isn't it time that we try something different?

Robert Reich: McCain's Tax Cuts Do More For Wealthy Than Even George Bush (ABC 06/15/08 10:38am)
ROBERT REICH: I don't think you can really separate economic security from national security. This is why John McCain's position is so interesting because he wants to and needs to separate himself from Bush, a failed presidency, particularly if you look at the polls. And yet, on Iraq and on the economy he is going beyond what George Bush has done. His tax cuts are beyond anything that, particularly for the wealthy, beyond anything that George Bush has proposed or did implement.

Highlight #3
Jindal Implies He Won't Accept VP Position if Asked, Reveals He's a Skeptic About Evolution and For Teaching Intelligent Design in Schools (CBS 06/15/08 10:30am)
CHIP REID: Now you've been asked this question many times, the running mate question about John McCain. And you have

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said you love your job, you've got a lot of work to do, you don't think McCain's gonna ask you anyway, but what if he does? What if he decides that you're the person he needs, would you turn it down?

BOBBY JINDAL: Well, you know, again, the speculation is flattering. I've talked to the Senator several times, we've never talked about the topic. The reality is I've got the job that I want. This is a historic time for my state [...]

REID: You have said the Republican Party has "lost it's way." Why do you believe John McCain, how have they lost their way, and why do you believe John McCain's the guy to bring them out of the woods.

JINDAL: Well you look at when the Republican Party first got the majorities in Congress, when many Governors, many state houses, the reason was the party stood against wasteful spending, against corruption, it was a party of ideas like welfare reform, stood for conservative principles. The problem was the party went to Washington to change Washington and instead became captured by Washington. All of a sudden started defending the bridge to nowhere, earmarks, wasteful spending, things they would have rightfully condemned if the other party had proposed it. So I think the party got off track, I think that the way we start winning elections again is by being conservative, sticking to our principles, and not condoning, it's not enough to say you want power for the sake of having power, it's not enough to criticize the other side to win an election [...]The reason why I'm supporting Senator McCain, we might not have always agreed on every policy issue, but now we've got a choice between two candidates, I think Senator McCain's policies, I think he's more likely to cut our taxes, more likely to defend our interests overseas effectively, I think he's more likely to keep government out of health care, he's got a long record opposing earmarks and wasteful spending. The good news is that you've got two candidates that are good, decent, people, that I think are patriotic, smart people. I think we've got different views on what the government should be doing [...]I personally think we're a center conservative country, I think Senator McCain's views are more consistent with the majority of American voters. But the good news is voters don't have to got to the voting booth voting against somebody in this election.

REID: Let me take a sharp turn here to a different issue, an issue that has raised some controversy. Now you were a biology major in college, I think you were a double major, but a biology major. And you support the teaching of intelligent design in schools, do you have doubts about the theory of evolution?

JINDAL: A couple of things. One, I don't think this is something the federal or state government should be imposing it's views on local school districts. You know, as a conservative, I think government that's closest to the people governs best. I think local school boards should be in a position to deciding their curriculum and also deciding what students should be learning. Secondly, I don't think students learn by us withholding information from them. Some want only to teach intelligent design, some only want to teach evolution, I think both views are wrong.

REID: But how about you personally? How do you stand personally on the issue?

JINDAL: As a parent when my kids go to school, when they go to public schools I want them to be presented with the best thinking. I want them to be able to make decisions for themselves. I want them to see the best data. I personally think that the life, human life, and the world we live in wasn't created accidentally. I do think that there's a creator. I'm a Christian. I do think that god played a role in creating not only earth, but mankind. Now the way that he did it, I certainly want my kids to the very best science. I don't want them to be, I don't want any facts or theories or explanations to be withheld from them because of political correctness [...]

Highlight #4

McCain Having Trouble Finding His Voice (ABC 06/15/08 10:45am)

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: That leads to another question, Torie, about Sen. McCain's campaign. How does he find his voice on the economy right now . . . I don't think it's going to cut to come out and say, you know, things are going fine, people just don't get it, unemployment is actually at historic lows. That cannot work when people are feeling that the country's going in the wrong direction. Even if they are wrong.

TORIE CLARKE: You're absolutely right . . . it's very difficult for him because politically he has to divorce himself from, separate himself from the Bush administration. Substantively he agrees with them on basic policies. Months and months and months ago I heard him giving a speech and in a very thoughtful way he laid it out: Look, things are working, let's not throw those out, but there are a lot of people hurting badly, what is it we can do to help them, can we say honestly that those people in Michigan, those jobs aren't coming back but we're going to help train you and educate you to get different jobs, those sorts of things. But look, it took me thirty seconds, it's very hard for a politician to wrap that up in thirty seconds. So I think it's going to be hard for him and especially, he's the first one to admit it, this isn't his strong suit, he's got a voice on national security since he was born.

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ROBERT REICH: Why wasn't he able to simply say, "I opposed the Bush tax cuts for the rich in 2001 and 2003, I oppose them today"? Why couldn't he have said that?

STEPHANOPOLOUS: He wouldn't've gotten the nomination.

[. . .]

REICH: Do you really think so George? Do you really think so?

STEPHANOPOLOUS: Absolutely. He was dead in the water a year ago. He had no hope.

SAM DONALDSON: That's the problem with trying to find his voice, I mean he's still trying to secure his base. We concentrate on the Democratic Party and how they're so split now . . .the real problem, at least for Republicans is he still can't decide if he's got the nomination.

[. . .]

STEPHANOPOLOUS: In 2006 when he was the front runner far and away, when he was raising money, before immigration destroyed his campaign, he might have had a chance of pulling off some differentiation on taxes but when you had immigration there was no way you could do both.

Highlight #5
Supreme Court Will Be a Major Voting Issue (ABC 06/15/08 10:10am)
GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: Do you think that the supreme court's going to be a voting issue this year?

FRED THOMPSON: Absolutely, I can't think of anything that more starkly points out the differences in these two presidential candidates in terms of the kind of justices that they would appoint to the Supreme Court. Barack Obama opposed Chief Justice Roberts . . . I think this a pretty good issue to highlight the differences in these two candidates at a time when our judiciary is arrogating more and more power to itself.

Thompson: Tax Policy Gulf Between Candidates Vast, Americans Better Off Now Than Eight Years Ago (ABC 06/15/08 10:13am)
GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: There's . . . a huge difference on tax policy, on economic policy, you heard Sen. Edwards say . . . John McCain's tax policies are an extension of what we've seen under President Bush and it hasn't worked.

FRED THOMPSON: What hasn't worked, either substantively or politically is the old rich vs. poor, don't worry about it, we'll soak the rich . . . kind of approach . . . we have the second highest corporate tax rate in the world. . .
STEPHANOPOLOUS: You mentioned the cost of Sen. Obama's proposal but that same tax policy institute study said that more revenue would be lost under Sen. McCain's proposals. . .

THOMPSON: That's the static analysis that . . . the beltway has operated under for a long, long time . . .

[. . .]

THOMPSON: . . . of course people act like now we've had a terrible economy for the last eight years, that's not true . . .

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TO: CLINTON CAMPAIGN

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008 6:30 AM EST

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Sen. Clinton's Campaign:

CLINTON, OBAMA REACH OUT TO EDWARDS SUPPORTERS IN POLITE DEBATE. In their first one-on-one debate last night at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton sought to limit their differences to policy questions, engaging in what media reports called "cordial," "congenial," or "civil" banter. The rivals marked the absence of recently departed contender John Edwards by making a play to his supporters.

The AP (2/1, Raum, Pickler) reports Obama and Clinton "kicked off their final debate before Super Tuesday contests on a cordial note, and reached out to backers of former rival John Edwards in their scrappy chase for delegates." Facing "only each other in a debate for the first time, both candidates acknowledged policy differences but also sought to ratchet back what had become increasingly personal attacks." Obama said, "I was friends with Hillary Clinton before we started this campaign. I will be friends with Hillary Clinton after this campaign is over." The AP adds the two "walked briskly together onto the stage of the Kodak Theater, home of the Academy Awards, with Clinton walking in front of Obama and both waving to the audience. There was no attempt to shake hands, avoiding an uncomfortable moment."

The Wall Street Journal (2/1, A4, Chozick, Cooper, 2.06M) reports "several weeks of political jabs largely took hiatus" on Thursday night when Clinton and Obama "set aside differences and threw darts at the Republicans in their first one-on-one debate." The two "sparred sporadically but did not appear to spark any controversy that would dramatically change the race as it heads into a critical stage." Instead of politics, "the debate leaned heavily on policy -- especially in areas such as health-care reform, where the two candidates continue to insist there are differences in their proposals but the public -- and even pundits -- often have trouble seeing them."

The Politico (2/1, Smith) reports that the debate "did little to change a race in which each campaign argues that it has an advantage: Clinton's aides pointing to polls showing she has been leading since the race began, Obama's backers claiming that the momentum is on his side after a week of huge crowds around the country and a month of raising more than $1 million a day." Clinton and Obama "associated themselves repeatedly and obsequiously to" Edwards, "whose endorsement both are seeking, and they shifted toward the assumption that Sen. John McCain will be the Republican nominee for president. 'Somewhere along the line, the Straight Talk Express lost some wheels,' said Obama, referring to McCain's new loyalty to Republican fiscal doctrine."

The Los Angeles Times (2/1, A1, Martelle, 881K) reports in a front page story that Clinton "sought tonight to derail some of the momentum behind rival Sen. Barack Obama in their final debate heading into the coast-to-coast balloting Tuesday that could determine the Democratic presidential nomination." The "two main surviving

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Democratic contenders struck a congenial tone as they drew distinctions not only between themselves but against whoever emerges as the Republican presidential nominee." Both said they "would fund their proposals by rolling back the Bush administration tax cuts and, in Obama's case, through focusing on preventive care and, in Clinton's case, by finding efficiencies in the delivery of the care itself."

ABC's Nightline (1/31, 11:25 p.m., Moran) reported, "Both candidates came in with a clear plan. Be nice. No nasty swipes or bitter arguments tonight."

SUPER TUESDAY PRIMARIES UNLIKELY TO SETTLE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION. The Wall Street Journal (1/31, Kronholz, 2.06M) reports that if the Super Tuesday primaries don't determine the Democratic nominee, it "isn't likely to be settled on the floor of this summer's convention, political experts say. But that doesn't mean that a nomination brokered by party leaders is impossible -- or that things won't get even nastier." Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute said, "We don't know what will happen if we end up with two candidates going into the Democratic National Convention with 40% of the delegates each." The Journal ads that at "that point, the loyalty of the candidates' pledged delegates, the intentions of hundreds of currently unpledged 'superdelegates,' the negotiating skill of party leaders and the outcome of a dispute over whether to seat delegates from Florida and Michigan each could prove decisive." The "possibility of a protracted fight and some sort of brokered settlement seems to be growing, taking the party into uncharted territory."

ABC World News (1/31, story 2, 2:25, Stephanopoulos, 8.78M) reported, "If Barack Obama upsets Hillary Clinton in California, that is going to be the story of the night. Also, Massachusetts, Hillary Clinton's had a big lead there all year long. But Barack Obama has the Kennedy endorsement, the Kerry endorsement, Governor Duval Patrick. And right in the middle of the country, Missouri, that's a bell weather state."

NBC Nightly News (1/31, story 9, 2:10, Yang, 9.87M) reported, "The Democrat needs 2,025. Barack Obama is ahead. But those numbers will change in a big way next Tuesday, Super Tuesday, a virtual national primary. It's the mother load of delegates with about 40% of all of them in each party up for grabs." Tad Devine, Democratic strategist: "There is an opportunity to come out on the 6th of February with a large delegate advantage." Under "some Democratic state rules, the candidates that do poorly statewide and still pick up delegates by doing well in individual Congressional districts. It happened in Nevada where Hillary Clinton won more votes, but Barack Obama won more delegates."

The CBS Evening News (1/31, lead story, 2:15, Couric, 7.66M) reported, "We're just five days away now from the Super Tuesday showdown between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. What happens that day will go a long way towards deciding which one of them will be the Democratic nominee for President. Clinton is leading in the two biggest delegate prizes of the night California and New York. Obama is ahead in his home state of Illinois and in Georgia. In all the other Super Tuesday states, it's either too close or there is not enough data to say who is leading."

Clinton, Obama Target Each Others' Turf. The Christian Science Monitor (2/1, Sabar, 58K) reports, "New York was once seen as impenetrable. Clinton was reelected in 2006 with more than two-thirds of the vote. Her campaign boasts at least 20,000 volunteers and 35 offices statewide and is backed by much of the political establishment, including Gov. Eliot Spitzer and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. But Obama has made splashy visits to Manhattan and Brooklyn and has built an energetic grass-roots network in New York City. ... Illinois is Obama country, and he is leading by nearly 30 percentage points in the polls. But Clinton also has roots there; she was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs." Clinton's camp "claims a database of more than 5,000 Illinois volunteers and is focusing particular attention on voters downstate, where Obama didn't perform as well in his 2004 election. Campaign ads in St. Louis reach many Illinois voters, and on Wednesday the campaign dispatched Bill Clinton to an event in downstate Edwardsville, Ill."

CLINTON TO ADVERTISE IN SEVERAL BIG SUPER TUESDAY STATES. The Wall Street Journal (2/1, A4, Rutkoff, 2.06M) reports, "In the face of Mr. Obama's broad-brush approach, the Clinton campaign responded Wednesday with a targeted ad buy in the biggest Super Tuesday states, including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and California. The Clinton campaign yesterday also announced a 90-minute 'town hall'-style live event that will be broadcast nationally on the Hallmark Channel on Monday evening. The Clinton campaign also released two new economic-themed ads Wednesday. In one, dubbed 'Freefall,' a skydiver plummets through the air before his parachute opens, as an announcer tells voters that Mrs. Clinton can 'fix the economy and protect our future.'"

CLINTON, OBAMA BATTLE FOR GOLDEN STATE'S LATINO VOTES. The San Francisco Chronicle (1/31, Hendricks, 395K) reported on its website, "Statewide public opinion polls over the past couple of weeks have given" Hillary Clinton "a 2-to-1 or 3-to-1 edge over" Barack Obama "among Latino Democrats and a double-digit lead in the state overall. But the most recent polling shows the race might be tightening. Analysts say Clinton

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leads among Latinos because she has tremendous name recognition, she secured early endorsements from key California Latino leaders, including Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and State Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez. And many Latinos liked Bill Clinton's presidency. But Obama has lined up some influential endorsements of his own and appears to be attracting the interest of some Latino voters because of his willingness to allow driver's licenses for illegal immigrants."

The Los Angeles Times (2/1, La Ganga, 881K) reports Obama "told a Los Angeles audience Thursday that he helped Mexican Americans as well as blacks and whites during his days as a community organizer, and that the nation must continue working to bridge its ongoing 'black-brown divide.'" In his speech, he said, "I'm reminded of the Latino brothers and sisters that I worked alongside on the streets of Chicago over two decades ago." Obama faces "questions about his ability to draw Latino voters. ... At the technical college" in Los Angeles, "Obama said the nation's ills affected Latinos and African Americans equally and could only be solved by working together. From higher dropout rates to a greater incidence of diabetes and infant mortality, Obama said, the two groups suffer more than any others in the country."

BILL CLINTON TAKES MORE SUBDUED ROLE IN CAMPAIGN. The New York Times (2/1, Seelye, Hernandez, 1.18M) reports the "new Bill Clinton, playing to crowds in New Mexico, New Jersey and Ohio, is earnest and on script, telling crowds to vote for his wife, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, in the 22 Democratic presidential nominating contests Tuesday." There is "no criticism of her rival, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois. And no extemporaneous interviews with the news media." But even "as the campaign reins in Mr. Clinton, his statements from last week in the heat of the South Carolina primary are reverberating among some Democratic voters." In the process, "Mr. Clinton also raised the specter of a co-presidency and the possibility that if Mrs. Clinton could not control him on the campaign trail, she could not control him back in the White House."

Clinton's Role In Kazakh Uranium Deal Noted. NBC Nightly News (1/31, story 3, 2:50, Mitchell, 9.87M) reported Hillary Clinton "says if she became president he would be her goodwill ambassador. He says he would still raise money for his foundation. But while he is circling the globe doing good works and raising billions for his foundation, some of his connections could create ethical and diplomatic conflicts for his wife. Like Kazakhstan, in December 2005, Bill Clinton went there with Canadian tycoon Frank Giustra on his private jet. They say to inspect AIDS projects." Frank Giustra: "We spent many hours flying around the world, many long flights and it gave us an opportunity to chat on a variety of topics." Mitchell: "But while there as first reported by 'Newsweek' and 'The New York Times,' Clinton praised the country's widely criticized dictator, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Only days later, Clinton's friend won three uranium deals with Nazarbayev's state-run mines worth tens of millions of dollars. Months later, Giustra donated $31 million to Clinton's foundation. Since then he has pledged $100 million more. Critics say praise from Bill Clinton is invaluable to a strong man, like Nazarbayev."

CLINTON CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR TOOK CHECKS FROM REZKO. The AP (2/1, Blood) reports from Los Angeles that Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, "a national co-chair of Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign, banked at least $1,500 in political donations from an indicted Chicago businessman whose past connections to Barack Obama have been used by Clinton to criticize her rival's judgment and ethics. City records show Antoin Rezko, chairman of Rezmar Corp. of Chicago, contributed $1,000 to Villaraigosa's mayoral campaign in May 2001. Those records show Rezko also donated $500 to another Villaraigosa political committee in March 2003. Villaraigosa's office did not respond" to requests for comment. The AP adds, "The donations could prove to be a political embarrassment for Clinton."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OPPOSES JUDICIAL WATCH LAWSUIT OVER CLINTON PAPERS. The AP (2/1, DeMillo) reports, "The National Archives wants a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit seeking quick access to records about a health care task force Hillary Rodham Clinton headed as first lady, or delay the release for about a year. Judicial Watch, a conservative public interest group, has complained in a lawsuit that the National Archives isn't moving fast enough on its April 2006 request to see the documents. The archives says Judicial Watch is trying to jump ahead of those who made earlier requests" under the FOIA and argued in federal court, "At an estimated three million pages, the size and scope of Judicial Watch's present FOIA request makes it the largest FOIA request that the Clinton presidential library has received to date." Sen. Hillary Clinton "has faced criticism from her rivals about the number of documents from her husband's administration that have not been made public."

OBAMA CAMPAIGN RAISED RECORD $32 MILLION IN JANUARY. The Los Angeles Times (1/31, Morain, Muskal, 881K) reports Barack Obama's campaign "reported this morning that in January it had raised $32 million that can be used for the primary battle against New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. That one-month take was more than Obama raised in any three-month period in 2007, campaign aides said this morning."

ABC World News (1/31, lead story, 3:00, Gibson, 8.78M) reported, "Today, the Obama campaign said it had raised $32 million in January alone, more than $1 million a day. And many of those donations came right after he

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lost in New Hampshire. The Clinton campaign would only say they have raised at least $10 million this month." The CBS Evening News (1/31, lead story, 2:15, Reynolds, 7.66M) reported, "Barack Obama had some good news beyond the sunny Southern California weather today. His campaign announced it has raised $32 million in January alone. That matches the best three-month showing he's ever had. He signed up 170,000 new donors as well, and it looks like he will need every one of them."

Obama Spending $10 Million On Ad "Blitz" In February 5 States. The Washington Post (2/1, A8, Kurtz, 723K) reports while Obama "plans to spend more than $10 million on a blitz that will run through Tuesday, the two leading Republican presidential candidates are spending far less on the air wars. Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, who delayed airing any Super Tuesday commercials, plans to spend $2 million to $3 million in the remaining five days and has released only one ad in California. His chief rival, Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), plans a modest buy on national cable networks." Obama is "on the air in all but three of the Feb. 5 states -- he is bypassing his home state of Illinois -- and is to begin advertising today in Maryland, Virginia and the District, which vote Feb. 12."

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Reply-To: "NBC News Today" <reply-ff2a11787067-60_HTML-4189601-7204487-50@mail.nbcnews.com >

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First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

The Sound of Silence (Almost) From the '16 Candidates on Drone Deaths

If you've been following American politics over the last six years, President Obama could sneeze, and it would produce a flurry of negative statements and reactions from his political opponents. That's what makes yesterday's silence -- or backtracking -- from Republican 2016 presidential candidates regarding the accidental drone killing of two hostages so striking. As the Wall Street Journal writes, some Republican 2016ers chose not to comment on yesterday's news (Jeb Bush, Scott Walker), while two others who staged a 2013 filibuster against U.S. drone policy had no stomach to protest it (Rand Paul and Ted Cruz). "It is a tragedy that these hostages lost their lives," Paul said in a brief statement, per the Journal . "My prayers and thoughts are with their families." Cruz called for investigation into the deaths, but added: "Make no mistake: responsibility for their deaths lies firmly and unequivocally with the terrorists who kidnapped them and forcibly held them in their command center."

But it's a conversation and debate worth having

Meanwhile, Lindsey Graham -- a hawkish supporter of U.S. intervention overseas -- said, "Collateral damage is part of war. I've got no problem at all with anything that happened, other than my deepest sympathies for those who were held by al Qaeda that became collateral damage." And Marco Rubio added, "We are all safer because of the actions taken every day around the world by our government to go after those who wish Americans harm and to prevent

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future attacks against us here at home." But what's amazing is that an issue that sparks so much political debate -- Should drones be used in these kinds of operations? What about against American citizens, even those with al Qaeda ties? Should there be more checks and balances? -- the 2016ers essentially punted. These are ALL questions American voters should get answers from the people vying to become the next commander-in-chief. But no one was comfortable having that conversation yesterday. It's a reminder of just how unprepared many of these campaigns are to debate some of the true heavy issues out there.

The Clinton campaign strikes back

Hours after the New York Times reported on a Canadian mining company -- whose principals donated heavily to the Clinton Foundation over the years -- sold its uranium business to Russia (which had to be approved by Hillary Clinton's State Department), the Clinton campaign struck back at the newspaper. It issued these rebuttals to attempt to knock down any quid-pro-quo:

1. Hillary wasn't involved in the State Department's review; it is the assistant secretary of state for economic, energy, and business affairs who makes the call;
2. The main Clinton Foundation donor, Frank Giustra, sold his stake in the Canadian mine business in 2007, so before Hillary became secretary of state;
3. The State Department was one of nine U.S. agencies to review the sale.

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication. But if there's a legitimate criticism of the Clintons here -- especially when it comes to the other articles about the Clinton Foundation and Bill's speaking fees (here and here) -- it's that they were sloppy, bordering on being greedy. As Jonathan Chait writes . "All sorts of unproven worst-case-scenario questions float around the web of connections between Bill's private work, Hillary Clinton's public role as secretary of State, the Clintons' quasi-public charity... But the best-case scenario is bad enough: The Clintons have been disorganized and greedy." Just a reminder: Going after the Clintons on personal money and appearances of conflict of interest was a successful message for candidate Barack Obama in 2007-2008.

Why Ted Cruz skipped the Loretta Lynch vote

He had to catch a flight to a Texas fundraiser: Ted Cruz, who was one of the most vocal critics against Loretta Lynch's nomination for Attorney General, was the only senator to miss her final confirmation vote today because he needed to catch a flight for a previously scheduled commitment in Texas, his campaign told NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Frank Thorp. "He had to catch a flight for a commitment in Texas," Cruz campaign spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said. According to a fundraising invite obtained by Real Clear Politics , Cruz has a fundraiser in Dallas, TX scheduled for 6:00 pm. Cruz spoke on the Senate floor Thursday morning against Lynch's nomination, and then voted against the procedural vote to move forward with consideration of her nomination, something called "cloture." But Cruz missed the actual vote on Lynch's nomination.

Conservative writer

"John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare": Here's a reason you might not want to buy stock in John Kasich's POSSIBLE presidential candidacy: He expanded Medicaid in Ohio. And here's the headline from the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein , one of top conservative wonks: "John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare."

Saturday's two GOP cattle calls

Saturday brings two GOP cattle calls. One is the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition spring kick-off, featuring nine 2016ers -- Cruz, Fiorina, Huckabee, Jindal, Paul, Perry, Rubio, Santorum, and Walker. And the other one is the Republican Jewish Coalition confab in Las Vegas, which will also hear from Cruz and Perry, as well as George W. Bush, John Boehner, and Mitt Romney.

On "Meet" this Sunday

Finally, on "Meet the Press" this Sunday, here's an early look at some of guests: David Boies and Ted Olson (to talk about the Supreme Court's upcoming gay-marriage decision), Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, and cartoonist Garry Trudeau.

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FIRST READ: MONEY-IN-POLITICS STORIES TO WATCH FOR 2016

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

Two other money-in-politics stories to watch in the 2016 race

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With all the attention on the Clinton Foundation story -- and with its potential conflicts of interest (see our piece on it yesterday) -- there are two other money-in-politics that should be on everyone's radar screens:

1. **The Koch and Adelson Primaries:** On Monday, the NYT reported that the Koch Brothers had settled on their preferred 2016 candidate - Scott Walker. Then Koch World pushed back on that story, saying they are still holding auditions for their favorite 2016 candidate. But here is a key question: If the Koch Brothers (and their network of wealthy donors) are going to dole out millions and millions of dollars and they're currently auditioning candidates, what are they getting in return for that support? Check out this quote from Charles Koch: "We're telling [GOP candidates] that if they want our support, one way to get it is articulating a good message to help Americans get a better understanding and a better appreciation of how certain policies ... will benefit them and will benefit all America." What policies are those? Here's NBC's Leigh Ann Caldwell on Scott Walker's ties to the Koch Brothers.

And it's just not the Koch Primary. This coming Saturday, at least two Republican presidential contenders -- Ted Cruz and Rick Perry -- are going to Las Vegas to speak at the Sheldon Adelson-backed Republican Jewish Coalition confab. In the 2012 cycle, Adelson and his wife donated nearly $100 million to GOP outside groups, including Super PACs supporting Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

2. Jeb Bush in uncharted Super PAC waters: On Tuesday, the AP reported that Jeb Bush plans to outsource his TV ads, direct mail, and data gathering to his Super PAC, Right to Rise. What's noteworthy here is that, according to campaign-finance laws, there is supposed to be NO coordination between a candidate and a Super PAC. But Jeb Bush is exploiting a loophole -- and potentially violating at least the SPIRIT of these laws -- because he's not officially a presidential candidate. So he's raising money for this Super PAC and putting his key personnel there. The moment he declares his candidacy (in June?), he'll stop his role with the Super PAC. But by then, it will have all the money (through unlimited donations) and infrastructure it needs.

Bank on it: The Super PACs will outspend the campaigns -- at least during the primary season

When it comes to Jeb Bush's Super PAC, maybe the biggest consequence of it is that, in 2016, we're going to see the Super PACs outspend the actual campaigns, at least during the primary season. As the New York Times' Nick Confessore points out, the Romney campaign spent about $76 million in the 2012 primary season, while the main pro-Romney Super PAC spent $49 million. As Confessore mused, it's easy to see how that ratio shifts for Jeb Bush -- and perhaps the other GOP candidates as well.

Obama visits Florida Everglades to mark Earth Day

USA Today : "President Obama spends Earth Day on Wednesday in the Florida Everglades, promoting his climate change policies. After touring Everglades National Park in the afternoon, Obama will speak 'on the threat that climate change poses to our economy and to the world,' says the White House schedule. The president will stress his efforts to reduce carbon emissions, while criticizing congressional Republicans for opposing his environmental policies." Obama delivers his remarks at 3:55 pm ET.

Hillary vague on trade deal

Turning back to the 2016 race, Hillary Clinton was incredibly vague when talking about the political fight over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security," she said in New Hampshire yesterday. "And we need to do our part to make sure we have the capacity and the skills to be competitive." As we've written before, this trade deal -- as well as a battle over "fast-track" trade authority for President Obama -- puts Hillary in a tough spot. Does she back Obama and her husband Bill? Or does she side with organized labor, as well as the likes of Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, who have come out against it? Other questions: Will Hillary be able to look credible if she opposes the TPP? Would it add to a perception she'll say or do anything? Could the better position for her actually be supporting it, showing that she's willing to buck her base (especially since Obama is for it)? Also on the trade-deal front, here's a Wall Street Journal op-ed by Paul Ryan and Ted Cruz supporting giving Obama fast-track authority.

Walker comes out against LEGAL immigration?

Don't miss this piece by MSNBC's Benjy Sarlin : "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's newfound skepticism of legal immigration levels is a potential turning point in the still nascent presidential race, potentially dragging the Republican Party further to the right than Mitt Romney's hardline immigration platform in 2012. 'In terms of legal immigration, how we need to approach that going forward is saying - the next president and the next Congress need to make decisions about a legal immigration system that's based on, first and foremost, on protecting American workers and American wages,' Walker said Monday in an interview with Glenn Beck. 'It is a fundamentally lost issue by many in elected positions today - what is this doing for American workers looking for jobs, what is this doing to wages, and we need to have that be at the

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forefront of our discussion going forward.'" A Walker spokeswoman told the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein: "Gov. Walker supports American workers' wages and the U.S. economy and thinks both should be considered when crafting a policy for legal immigration. He strongly supports legal immigration, and like many Americans, believes that our economic situation should be considered instead of arbitrary caps on the amount of immigrants that can enter."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OBAMA AGENDA: The latest in Yemen

The New York Times: "Warplanes from a Saudi-led military coalition conducted airstrikes in the southwestern Yemeni city of Taiz on Wednesday, hours after Saudi officials had announced they were halting their nearly monthlong bombing campaign against the Houthi rebel movement. The warplanes bombed Houthi positions during heavy clashes in Taiz on Wednesday morning, according to a local official in the city. The new airstrikes, combined with reports of continued fighting in other parts of the country, including the southern port city of Aden, dampened hopes that the Saudi announcement would quickly result in a broader cease-fire."

Obama is headed to Florida - the home state of two GOP presidential hopefuls - to talk climate change.

DEA chief Michele Leonhart is stepping down amid disagreements with the Obama administration and criticism of her handling of a scandal.

The Baltimore Sun has the latest on the DOJ probe of Freddie Gray's death.

CONGRESS: The deal that paved the way for Loretta Lynch's nomination

NBC's Frank Thorp reports on the deal that paved the way for a vote on Loretta Lynch's nomination this week.

National Journal first reported last night that Mitch McConnell is introducing a bill to reauthorize the surveillance authority of the Patriot Act until 2020.

Rep. Ken Buck of Colorado has an AR-15 in his office, exempt from D.C. law because of his status as a congressman, reports the Washington Post.

Kate Snow writes about Rep. Mike Honda's 8-year-old granddaughter, who is transgender.

OFF TO THE RACES: The Koch Brothers' Five Favorites

USA Today reports that the Koch brothers have identified five candidates that they could consider backing: Walker, Bush, Cruz, Paul and Rubio.

Writes the Des Moines Register: "Hot-button issues such as clean power, water quality regulations and renewable fuels are expected to get a bigger stage in the 2016 Iowa Caucuses, as environmental activists put more pressure on presidential contenders to address controversial issues such as climate change."

CLINTON: From the Associated Press, on Bill Clinton's role: "Aides say the ex-president will stay behind the scenes initially and that Hillary Clinton's focus on her parents and grandchild allow her to fill in other aspects of her biography. Invoking Bill Clinton, who has high approval ratings, also can bring up positives from his administration, such as a strong economy, but at the risk of revisiting the Monica Lewinsky scandal and subsequent impeachment drama."

The Washington Post writes about how Clinton's trade comments are kicking off a public intra-party trade war.

The Huffington Post reports that top campaign officials have a goal of $100 million for the Democratic primary race.

POLITICO describes her as "unrunning" for president.

Bloomberg writes that the findings of the House Benghazi probe likely won't be released until next year.

CRUZ: The New York Times does a deep dive into Cruz's career as a college debater.

He and Paul Ryan co-authored a Wall Street Journal op-ed in favor of fast-track authority.

RUBIO: He's been reaching out to gay Republicans.

TRUMP: He's heading back to New Hampshire on Monday.

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WALKER: Leigh Ann Caldwell reports on Walker's long history with the Koch brothers.

And here's her report on Walker's leadership style, which has some Republicans concerned.

He's suggesting limiting legal immigration.

The Journal Sentinel: "Taking action as gun violence captures particular attention across the state and especially in Milwaukee, the state Senate on Tuesday approved a repeal of the state's two-day waiting period for handgun purchases, sending the bill to the Assembly on a voice vote."

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Wednesday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with NBC's Tom Costello in Baltimore on the latest about the death of Freddie Gray, Ron Mott on the latest on the Boston Marathon bombing trial, and hip hop legends Cheryl "Salt" James and Sandra "Pepa" Denton of Salt N' Pepa about the resurgence of their career.

*** **Wednesday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** NBC's Peter Alexander fills in for Andrea and will interview msnbc's Chris Matthews, msnbc Food Contributor Tom Colicchio, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold Levy and NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Tom Costello.

FIRST READ: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CLINTON FOUNDATION STORY

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

Everything you wanted to know about the Clinton Foundation-money story but were afraid to ask

With the Clinton Foundation's fundraising practices once again in the news as Hillary Clinton runs for president -- especially with a new controversial book on the subject -- here are the basics of what you need to know:

- **ORIGINAL CONCERN ABOUT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

At Hillary Clinton's Jan. 13, 2009 confirmation hearing to be secretary of state, then-Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) summed up the potential conflict of interest between the Clinton Foundation receiving donations from foreign countries and Clinton's new job. "The core of the problem is that foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favor with the secretary of state. Although neither Senator Clinton nor President Clinton has a personal financial stake in the foundation, obviously its work benefits their legacy and their public service priorities."

Hillary Clinton agreed about the perception problem. "[T]he foundation and the president-elect decided to go beyond what the law and the ethics rules call for to address even the appearance of conflict and that is why they signed a memorandum of understanding, which outlines the voluntary steps that the foundation is taking to address potential concerns that might come up down the road."

- **THE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING**

The "Memo of Understanding" that Hillary Clinton reached with the Obama administration had two main objectives:

-- to prohibit President Clinton from soliciting funds or accepting foreign-government contributions to the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI);

-- to disclose foreign countries that INCREASED their commitments to all Clinton Foundation entities, or that became a NEW contributor

(The memo of understanding was signed by Valerie Jarrett and Bruce Lindsey of the Clinton Foundation. It also was under supervision by John Kerry and Dick Lugar of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

- **THE 2010 ALGERIA DONATION**

In Feb. 2015, we learned that the Clinton Foundation FAILED TO DISCLOSE a $500,000 donation in 2010 to assist with earthquake relief in Haiti. This was a NEW donation, and thus should have been disclosed to the State Department.

The Clinton Foundation issued a statement saying that the donation SHOULD have been

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disclosed. "Immediately following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Embassy of Algeria made an unsolicited donation of $500K to Clinton Foundation Haiti Relief fund. As the Clinton Foundation did with all donations it received for earthquake relief, the entire amount of Algeria's contribution was distributed as aid in Haiti. This donation was disclosed publicly on our website, however, the State Department should have also been formally informed. This was a one-time, specific donation to help Haiti and Algeria had not donated to the Clinton Foundation before and has not since."

- **CURRENT POLICY NOW THAT THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY**

The Clinton Foundation is no longer accepting new donations from foreign governments. But it is still CONTINUING existing programs that were up and running before Hillary began her campaign. There are six countries that had EXISTING programs -- Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the U.K. As a Clinton Foundation official tells NBC News, "You just can't pull the plug" on existing programs, especially when they involve multi-year grants.

Also under current policy, all disclosures will be listed quarterly instead of yearly (as was the case under the older Memo of Understanding). And after the Clinton Global Initiative completes its already-planned Morocco conference, it will no longer have foreign countries sponsor or co-sponsor CGI events.

Hillary's Day 2 in New Hampshire

Hillary Clinton has a 10:20 am ET event in Concord, NH, where she'll focus on community college programs.

On the trail

Chris Christie speaks at the Washington Conference on the Americas at 12:25 pm ET... Carly Fiorina has events in Council Bluffs, Sioux City and Denison, IA... And former President Bill Clinton gives an address on public service at Georgetown University at 10:30 am ET.

A breakthrough on Loretta Lynch and the anti-trafficking bill?

It looks that way. Politico : "The Senate is nearing a resolution to a monthlong dispute that's halted a human trafficking bill and confirmation of attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch, even as Minority Leader Harry Reid on Monday resumed his rhetorical assault on Republicans for the delay." More: "Top sources in both parties - and even Reid himself - said negotiators had made headway toward a compromise on abortion language included in the sex trafficking bill that Democrats have strongly opposed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has vowed that the trafficking bill must be completed before the Senate votes to confirm Lynch."

Yet ANOTHER Republican says no to running for FL SEN

This is getting weirder and weirder. "Two weeks after floating the idea of a 2016 run for U.S. Senate, Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Okeechobee, said today he has decided against seeking the seat Sen. Marco Rubio is giving up to run for president," the Palm Beach Post writes . "'For the last several days I considered running for the U.S. Senate representing the great state of Florida. While I feel like I could mount a successful statewide campaign, the toll I believe the process would take on my family is something I cannot put them through,' Rooney said in a statement released by his office."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OFF TO THE RACES: Jeb to rely heavily on Super PAC

BUSH: The AP reports that he will delegate a lot of his campaign tasks - like advertising, direct mail, and data gathering - to his Super PAC. More: "The architects of the plan believe the super PAC's ability to legally raise unlimited amounts of money outweighs its primary disadvantage, that it cannot legally coordinate its actions with Bush or his would-be campaign staff."

CHRISTIE: More bad news for the NJ gov, from the Washington Post : "New Jersey state Sen. Joseph M. Kyrillos, who chaired Christie's 2009 gubernatorial campaign and ushered his agenda through a Democratic-controlled legislature, is backing former Florida governor Jeb Bush's all-but-certain presidential bid."

He has hired an Iowa political director for his PAC, reports the Des Moines Register.

Bloomberg writes that Christie is hoping (again) to jumpstart his flagging presidential hopes with a speech in DC.

CLINTON: The New York Times digs into how Hillary Clinton is working to embrace Elizabeth

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Warren's populist rhetoric. And/but: "Nothing stings her inner circle more than the suggestion that their candidate is late to these issues. Mrs. Clinton was the original Elizabeth Warren, her advisers say, a populist fighter who for decades has been an advocate for families and children; only now have the party and primary voters caught up."

The Wall Street Journal writes on how Mayor Rahm Emanuel's run-off victory in Chicago could provide lessons for Clinton.

Yesterday in New Hampshire, she said she's "ready" for Republican attacks.

WMUR previews her community college pitch today.

WALKER: The New York Times writes that David Koch has been indicating that Scott Walker is his favorite Republican candidate.

And around the country...

FLORIDA: Republican Tom Rooney says he won't seek Marco Rubio's Senate seat.

NEVADA: Gov. Brian Sandoval is confusing some folks in his own party, writes the Wall Street Journal.

VIRGINIA: Former First Lady Maureen McDonnell is hoping to get her public corruption convictions tossed out.

OBAMA AGENDA: Deploying the USS Theodore Roosevelt

From the AP : "In a stepped-up response to Iranian backing of Shiite rebels in Yemen, the Navy aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is steaming toward the waters off Yemen to beef up security and join other American ships that are prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the Houthi rebels."

An Egyptian court has sentenced former president Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison for charges of inciting violence.

The Baltimore Sun has the latest on the death of Freddie Gray, a 25 year-old black man who suffered a spinal injury while in police custody.

CONGRESS: Business vs. Labor on trade

The Hill writes that business and labor groups are back in their corners as they battle over trade legislation.

The New York Times writes that Congress is pushing forward on Obama's agenda, even as the Hill is now dominated by the GOP.

It's still not clear when Loretta Lynch will get her confirmation vote.

John McCain and Ted Cruz are in a bit of a dust-up over the possibility of hearings on troops carrying personal firearms on military installations.

It looks like Capitol Police Chief Kim Dine is staying on after all, Roll Call reports.

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

***** Tuesday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with NBC News Foreign Correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin about U.S. warships sent to block Iran ships from delivering arms to Yemen rebels, Capt. John Kowalczyk of the Baltimore Police department on the 6 cops suspended after the death of Freddy Gray, Indiana State Department of Health Deputy State Health Commissioner Jennifer Walthall about the HIV health emergency in Scott's County IN, Brady Granier Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer of BioCorRx, Inc and former actor on Growing Pains Jeremy Miller about a new drug implant that slowly releases over a number of months blocking alcohol cravings and reduces the pleasure seeking impulses alcoholics experience.

***** Tuesday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** On today's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" live from Concord, NH, Andrea will interview Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Sen. Chris Murphy, Fmr. Sen. John Sununu, Baltimore Sun Investigative Reporter Mark Puente, AP's Julie Pace, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza and NBC's Ron Mott.

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- Comcast Drops $45B Bid For Time Warner Cable
- Naked Ambition: China to Crack Down on Funeral Strippers
- After Whiskey Gang Arrests, Woman Begs Gov. For Pardon -- For the Bourbon

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
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Subject: Weekly Reader: Energy Dept. Labs Seek Exemption from IT Oversight

POGO PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Weekly Reader: Energy Dept. Labs Seek Exemption from IT Oversight

Editor's Choice

SASC Finally Reports Breakdown of Vote to Close NDAA

With little fanfare, the Senate Armed Services Committee finally released its NDAA report—and with it, the rulebreaking roll call vote from April 23, 2015. A month after the vote was held.
Read more

Energy Dept. Labs Seek Exemption from IT Oversight

POGO has learned that the Department of Energy National Laboratories are seeking an exemption from a new law that would increase transparency and accountability of spending on IT.
Read more

Afghanistan Watchdog Hunts $36 Million White Elephant

The Afghanistan reconstruction watchdog released its findings regarding an unused command facility at Camp Leatherneck that cost taxpayers $36 million.
Read more

A National Action Plan for Contract Reform

For the upcoming 3rd National Action Plan, POGO is proposing 8 commitments that will advance contracting transparency.
Read more

From the World of POGO

POGO Joins Groups in Defending the Office of Congressional Ethics

The Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) has done much over the last seven years to increase the integrity and credibility of the House ethics process. That is why we are disturbed by the recent effort by former House Ethics Committee staff director Dan Schwager to blame, without any evidence, the leak of a recent Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) investigative report on OCE.
Read more

POGO Senior Investigator Peter Stockton Retires

“Peter’s work holding the nuclear weapons complex accountable led to many critical safety and security improvements at federal facilities across the country and made millions of people who live near these sites safer,” said POGO Chief Operating Officer Keith Rutter.
Read more

24 Groups Object to DoD's Attempt to Amend FOIA in the NDAA

22 organizations joined POGO and Openthegovernment.org in reaching out to Senate leadership to express our opposition to the Department of Defense's request to change how they are subject to FOIA in FY16's National Defense Authorization Act.
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	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphilipps@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/3/2015 2:28:11 AM
Subject:	News Clips - 5.3.15
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H4A Press Clips
May 2-3, 2015

SUMMARY OF THE WEEKEND NEWS

Hillary Clinton's campaign hit back against Peter Schweizer, the author of a controversial book that questions Clinton's impartiality while at the State Department, and attacked him for referring to himself as part of the conservative cause during a Koch Brothers-funded conference. Politico article gives a process analysis of Hillary Clinton campaign fundraising tactics and predicts that Jeb Bush will have raised more money that Hillary Clinton by the end of June. In addition, the New York Times had a story about the progressive groups pushing Hillary Clinton to move to the left in her agenda.

In the case of Freddie Gray's death, in Baltimore's chief prosecutor charged six police officers with a range of crimes including manslaughter and murder. Gov. Chris Christie's former ally pleads guilty to his role in the intentional closing in 2013 of the George Washington Bridge and two others were indicted. Gov. Christie has been cleared of any charges brought against him at this time. The Obama Administration has imposed tougher safety regulations for trains carrying crude oil, responding to growing alarm about a series of fiery derailments that killed dozens of people in a small Canadian town and have rattled U.S. communities from North Dakota to Alabama to Virginia.

WEEKEND'S KEY STORIES 5

Hillary Clinton's big-money dilemma // Politico // Glenn Thrush and Anna Palmer – May 1, 2015.....5

There is a growing realization inside Hillary Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters and among the wider circle of Democratic operatives that coming up with the requisite $1 billion to $2.5 billion in campaign and super PAC cash for the 2016 campaign will be a lot tougher than anticipated — and demands a more aggressive approach to out-of-the-gate fundraising.

6 Baltimore Police Officers Charged in Freddie Gray Death // New York Times // Alan Blinder and Richard Pérez-Peña – May 1, 2015.....9

Baltimore's chief prosecutor charged six police officers on Friday with a range of crimes including murder and manslaughter in the arrest and fatal injury of Freddie Gray, a striking and surprisingly swift turn in a case that has drawn national attention to police conduct. The state's attorney for Baltimore City, Marilyn J. Mosby, filed the charges almost as soon as she received a medical examiner's report that ruled Mr. Gray's death a homicide, and a day after the police concluded their initial investigation and handed over their findings.

Key Christie ally pleads guilty to role in Bridgegate, two others indicted // Washington Post // Rosalind S. Helderman – May 1, 2015.....13

A onetime ally of Christie pleaded guilty Friday, while two others were indicted, in connection with an intentional 2013 traffic jam leading to the George Washington Bridge. David Wildstein, who as an official at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey had ordered the closure of two of the bridge's toll lanes, confirmed to a federal judge Friday that he closed the lanes to punish the mayor of Fort Lee, Democrat Mark Sokolich, who declined to endorse the Republican governor's reelection bid.

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Hillary Clinton's smartest move: Say no to TPP, and join the Warren/Krugman forces // Salon // Elias Iquith – May 2, 2015.....16

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Clinton Accelerates Fundraising Efforts for Primaries in Presidential Bid // Wall Street Journal // Peter Nicholas - May 1, 2015 23

Clinton ramps up fundraising as GOP candidates surge ahead // USAToda // Fredreka Schouten – May 1, 2015 25

Hillary Clinton and the Tragic Politics of Crime // The Atlantic // Peter Beinart - May 1, 2015 27

Liberals urge Clinton to go left, where she risks losing swing votes // LA Times // Evan Halper - May 1, 2015.....28

Hillary Clinton Courts the Democratic Left, but Is Pressured to Take Progressive Stands // New York Times // Jonathan Martin and Nicholas Confessore – May 1, 2015.....30

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton's big-money dilemma // Politico // Glenn Thrush and Anna Palmer – May 1, 2015

There is a growing realization inside Hillary Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters and among the wider circle of Democratic operatives that coming up with the requisite $1 billion to $2.5 billion in campaign and super PAC cash for the 2016 campaign will be a lot tougher than anticipated — and demands a more aggressive approach to out-of-the-gate fundraising.

The pace of donations to Clinton's three-week-old campaign is surpassing forecasts — but the candidate herself wants to accelerate the timetable and just added several new New York City fundraisers to her May schedule, people close to Clinton tell POLITICO.

Democratic operatives and fundraisers in contact with the campaign cite an array of concerns about the deliberately slow ramp-up to date. There are worries about the willingness of big progressive donors to commit to Clinton before the general election and the campaign's focus on mid-sized donations. The lack of high-impact hires on the finance team have raised eyebrows. Then there is the general unease about the ability of the party's pro-Clinton super PAC to compete with Republican counterparts that will raise hundreds of millions in mega-contributions.

Over it all looms a larger problem – the optics. Barack Obama's huge haul in the first half of 2007 overshadowed Clinton's solid fundraising numbers and shattered her façade of inevitability. The 2016 campaign's decision to solicit only primary election contributions fits the campaign's work-for-every vote ethos, but it's left some donors reluctant to contribute to a race that seems so one-sided already. That means her first campaign finance report — likely due in late July — will fall far short of Jeb Bush, who is expected to raise a jarring $100 million in just the first three months of his unofficial campaign.

"The expectations have always been too high, it's Hillary so everybody expects her to just rake in the money and that was never going to happen," said a veteran Democratic fundraiser who raised $1 million for President Obama but is adopting a wait-and-see-approach before helping out Clinton. "My feeling is that 2015 will be hard, but that things will pick up once we get into 2016. It's not a bad situation, but people have to realize we're in for a long, slow process."

A Clinton spokesperson said the methodical build-up isn't a sign of weakness, but a commitment to creating a system that creates a bigger, broader base of contributors. "Big donors are welcome but with the current finance limits we are better off expanding the donor base and bringing new people in, and it is smarter to bring those new people in May of 2015 than October of 2016," the spokesman said in an emailed statement.

Clinton herself echoed some of those concerns this week when she threw herself onto the fundraising circuit in New York, Washington and California, weeks before she had planned to, in an effort to jump-start the campaign's fundraising – the better to compete with Bush's fundraising juggernaut. "I need to get out there earlier," she told an aide recently.

Clinton has already agreed to appear at two or three additional events in New York the week of May 13th, a senior

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Democrat familiar with the planning told POLITICO.

And she isn't the only Clinton expected to hit the cash trail – two people close to the situation said they expected Bill Clinton to attend fundraisers, most likely for the super PAC Priorities USA Action, which is hoping to raise a minimum of $150 million and as much as $300 million in the 2016 cycle.

Under executive director Buffy Wicks and longtime Clinton adviser Harold Ickes, Priorities is recruiting a new team of well-connected fundraisers – including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's former adviser and veteran fundraiser Brian Wolff – and streamlining its internal financial procedures to increase transparency after a nasty internal spat spilled into public view earlier this year.

In a shake-up, board chairman Jim Messina, Obama's 2012 campaign manager, is being moved to an advisory role — and longtime Clinton adviser Guy Cecil will adopt a major role in the super PAC, according to sources familiar with the situation. The moves were first reported in the Washington Post.

In February, POLITICO's Kenneth P. Vogel reported that the group was struggling to come up with 30 or more pledges of at least $1 million apiece to be unveiled when Clinton formally jumped into the race; to date, they have only secured five million-dollar commitments and a handful of smaller donations, according to a source with knowledge of the organization's finances.

And some of Clinton's leading donors aren't committing, including hedge fund billionaire Marc Lasry, who set out to raise $270,000 for Clinton's campaign in its first week. But when he was approached recently about writing a big check to Priorities, he did not immediately commit, instead explaining he'd think about it, according to sources familiar with the group's fundraising.

Priorities' struggles have stoked serious concerns among many Clinton aides, especially from Charlie Baker, a former Priorities board member who stepped down to work on the campaign.

Wicks and other Priorities representatives, including veteran Clinton adviser Paul Begala, are hoping to change that – and will be meeting in small groups with donors in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and New York over the next few weeks to recruit more contributors. "We'll see what the appetite out there is," said one senior Democratic fundraiser.

The first round of fundraisers hosted by Clinton's own campaign finance team were intentionally small, in keeping with the low-key approach to the kick-off. But organizers of the California events — in which bundlers are encouraged to collect the $2,700 maximum individual primary contributions from ten people — said they are meeting expectations.

"All three events will be at capacity. But the singular thing that is happening here is not only are people contributing but everyone is raising," says Andy Spahn, a veteran Democratic fundraiser with deep connections in Hollywood. "I am making calls for contributions and the only "no's" I get are from people who are saying, 'I'm trying to raise ten checks too.'"

Insiders expressed confidence in Dennis Cheng, the campaign's relatively unknown campaign finance director, whose selection was seen as a signal the campaign was avoiding another mistake of '08: The empowering of celebrity donors who crowded out the younger, more aggressive bundlers who helped power Barack Obama's money machine.

Yet in recent days, as Clinton has assessed her daunting challenge, it's become clear that the force behind the fundraising operation is campaign chairman John Podesta, who has been quietly cultivating big donors and coordinating fundraising strategy.

Podesta, people close to the campaign say, supports the Cheng-led strategy of creating an army of small- to medium-scale campaign bundlers – a "flat" fundraising structure that would give donors the sense of ownership in the campaign. Podesta jokingly refers to himself as the "Sultan of Flat," but more than a dozen older generation Clinton fundraisers and donors interviewed over the past two weeks said they believed the new structure would eventually give way to a more conventional fundraising apparatus that would empower mega-donors on the coasts.

Managing the friction between the old lions of Clinton fundraising – who have no use for the flat organizational chart — and the younger players Cheng hopes to recruit, won't be easy. Cheng recently angered several former Obama fundraisers by offering them their old regional finance jobs – even though they had gone onto to bigger, more lucrative careers in Washington over the years; they turned him down, according to a former Obama campaign official. The campaign's low pay, and the rule that fundraisers must cut ties to other clients, have also been an impediment to getting top-level fundraisers to sign on in key money states like California and New York.

Meanwhile, there's been concern in Democratic finance circles that some of the operatives selected to head

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regional fundraising efforts are not ready for the big leagues of presidential fundraising.

The regional finance directors' efforts to recruit new bundlers are also being stymied by a perception that the Clinton's fundraising circle is so well-established that it's tough for anyone new to break through.

Cheng, for his part, has also been trying to reassure Obama bundlers and even former lower level Clinton administration aides, who have now gone on to successful careers, that they won't be marginalized. "Their sense is that unless they raise zillions of dollars, they're never going to be noticed and certainly never going to infiltrate their already tight-knit inner circle, so why bother," one New York-based fundraiser said. "Everyone knows who Clinton's inner circle is, that they are going to raise a boat load of money with relatively little effort, and that there is little that can be done by a new person to make their mark."

Even Washington events like the one campaign chairman Podesta and campaign manager Robby Mook did last week in D.C. have drawn criticism for being a little too old-boys-club-ish, including one hosted by Bill Clinton's close friend Vernon Jordan. Meanwhile, other major donors are complaining about being asked to give early and often to Clinton toward the 2016 primary – and not the far more competitive general election. One veteran Democratic operative said that's where they had heard the most complaining.

Another major question that remains unanswered: When will Clinton create a joint fundraising committee with the Democratic National Committee, which would allow her to ask for $35,000 from individuals?

In the meantime, as Clinton and her team fine-tune their strategy, a key critic on the left was peppering her campaign with questions about her family's charitable and political fundraising practices.

"So do I have concerns about the Clinton Foundation and that money? I do," newly announced Clinton primary opponent Sen. Bernie Sanders told ABC on Thursday. "But I am concerned about Sheldon Adelson and his billions. I'm concerned about the Koch brothers and their billions. We're looking at a system where our democracy is being owned by a handful of billionaires."

Kenneth P. Vogel contributed to this report.

6 Baltimore Police Officers Charged in Freddie Gray Death // New York Times // Alan Blinder and Richard Pérez-Peña – May 1, 2015

Baltimore's chief prosecutor charged six police officers on Friday with a range of crimes including murder and manslaughter in the arrest and fatal injury of Freddie Gray, a striking and surprisingly swift turn in a case that has drawn national attention to police conduct.

The state's attorney for Baltimore City, Marilyn J. Mosby, filed the charges almost as soon as she received a medical examiner's report that ruled Mr. Gray's death a homicide, and a day after the police concluded their initial investigation and handed over their findings. Officials had cautioned that it could take considerable time for her office to complete its own investigation and decide whether to prosecute.

In a city rocked by unrest this week, and now under curfew and patrolled by National Guard troops, Ms. Mosby's announcement on the steps of the War Memorial downtown drew cheers from the assembled crowd while a nearby cordon of officers in riot gear looked on stonily. As word spread, people in parts of the city took to the streets in spontaneous celebration.

By nightfall a large demonstration wound its way through the streets and the scene became confrontational shortly after the curfew began with small disruptions in front of City Hall and at Pennsylvania Avenue and West North Avenue, where people blocked traffic and taunted the police. Some arrests were made and the crowds disbanded as the police and National Guard closed in.

The officers who were arrested, three white and three black, include a lieutenant with 17 years on the force, several near-rookies and a woman who had just been promoted to sergeant.

The most serious charges were brought against Officer Caesar R. Goodson Jr., who was driving the van that carried Mr. Gray to a police station after his April 12 arrest. Along with involuntary manslaughter, Officer Goodson, 45, was charged with "second-degree depraved heart murder," which means indifference to human life.

All six officers were arrested and appeared before a judicial officer. Bail was set at $350,000 for four of the officers and $250,000 for the other two, according to court records. By late Friday, court records showed the officers had been released from jail.

The death of Mr. Gray, 25, a week after he suffered a spinal cord injury brought to a boil long-simmering tensions between the police and poor neighborhoods in this majority-black city, culminating in rioting and looting on Monday. More peaceful demonstrations continued through the week after a curfew was put in place. And the swift

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action by the prosecutor seemed to some to mark a turning point after months of debate and demonstrations around the country over police violence.

"The larger message, if there is one, is that we're moving on these things," said David A. Harris, a law professor and expert on police racial issues at the University of Pittsburgh. "We're taking them seriously, and there's no longer going to be any kind of slowing down and taking it to the point where people wonder, 'Whatever happened to that?' "

In Washington, President Obama declined to comment on the charges directly, but said that what mattered was for the justice system to work properly. "What I think the people of Baltimore want more than anything else is the truth," he said. "That's what people around the country expect."

The Gray family said it was satisfied with the charges. "We must seize this opportunity to reform police departments throughout this country," said the family's lawyer, William H. Murphy Jr.

The Baltimore chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police called the speed of the prosecutor politically motivated. "The actions taken today by the state's attorney are an egregious rush to judgment," said Michael E. Davey, the union's lawyer. "We believe that these officers will be vindicated, as they have done nothing wrong."

Ms. Mosby faulted the police conduct at every turn. The officers who arrested him "failed to establish probable cause for Mr. Gray's arrest, as no crime had been committed," she said, describing the arrest as illegal. Officers accused him of possession of a switchblade, but Ms. Mosby said, "The knife was not a switchblade and is lawful under Maryland law."

Ms. Mosby said Mr. Gray suffered a spinal injury while being transported in a police van — and not earlier, while being arrested — and pointed to the failure of the police to put a seatbelt on him as a crucial factor.

"Mr. Gray suffered a severe and critical neck injury as a result of being handcuffed, shackled by his feet and unrestrained inside the B.P.D. wagon," she said.

Despite repeated stops to check on Mr. Gray, the van driver, Officer Goodson, and other officers never belted him in, she said, at times leaving him face-down on the van floor with his hands behind him. Though there has been speculation that the police intentionally gave Mr. Gray a "rough ride," intended to slam him against the metal sides of the van, Ms. Mosby did not refer to that possibility. She charged only Officer Goodson with second-degree murder, the most serious crime facing the six officers; he was also accused of manslaughter, assault and misconduct in office.

Mr. Gray's condition deteriorated, she said, as officers repeatedly ignored his pleas for medical attention and ignored obvious signs that he was in distress. At one point, she said, when officers tried to check on him, Mr. Gray was unresponsive, yet no action was taken. He died of his injuries a week later.

Lt. Brian Rice was charged with manslaughter, assault, misconduct in office and false imprisonment. Officer William G. Porter and Sgt. Alicia White were charged with manslaughter, assault and misconduct in office. Officers Edward M. Nero and Garrett E. Miller were charged with assault, misconduct in office and false imprisonment.

As Ms. Mosby finished reading her announcement, the news began to ripple through a crowd of African-American residents and activists who had pooled around her. Edward Jenkins, 44, a motivational speaker and musician who goes by the name Voyce, approached and could hardly contain his surprise when he was told of the charges. "Are you serious?" he said.

Like many Baltimore residents, Mr. Jenkins, who grew up in Mr. Gray's neighborhood, said he thought the announcement might put a damper on further unrest. "I think this will take some of the nervousness off of it, but they'll still want a guilty verdict," he said. "It means that we're absolutely getting a start on justice."

Standing on a nearby street corner, Renee James, 48, said, "There's no need to go tear up the city no more."

Her friend Antoinnette White, 53, said of the riot: "Hurting innocent people was nonsense. I cried."

But Abdullah Moaney, 53, an information technology worker from East Baltimore, said that "peace has lost its credibility." Seeking to justify the violence that broke out Monday, he said that "if it wasn't for the riot," charges would not have been filed.

Homicide Charges in Gray Case Announced

Marilyn J. Mosby, the state's attorney for Baltimore, said that Freddie Gray's arrest was illegal and that there was probable cause to file manslaughter charges against the police officers involved.

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“This is a great day, and I think we need to realize that,” said Representative Elijah E. Cummings, Democrat of Maryland. “I think a message has been sent by our state’s attorney that she treasures every life, that she values every person.”

Elsewhere Friday, rallies celebrating May Day and calling attention to police killings of black men emerged in cities across the country, including Oakland, Calif., Seattle and Portland, Ore. In Manhattan, protesters marched from Union Square to Foley Square, some chanting, “Make them pay for Freddie Gray!”

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake of Baltimore said most of the city’s officers were good, but added, “To those who choose to engage in violence, brutality, racism and brutality, let me be clear: There is no place in the Baltimore Police Department for you.”

Mr. Gray started the fateful ride on the floor of the police van, Ms. Mosby said. A short time later, Officer Goodson “proceeded to the back of the wagon in order to observe Mr. Gray,” she said.

“At no point did he seek, nor did he render, any medical help for Mr. Gray,” Ms. Mosby said.

President Obama on Freddie Gray Charges

The president commented on the filing of homicide, manslaughter and misconduct charges against police officers in the death of Mr. Gray.

A few blocks later, he called a dispatcher to say that he needed help checking on his prisoner. Another officer arrived, and the back of the van was opened. “Mr. Gray at that time requested help and indicated that he could not breathe,” and asked twice for a medic, Ms. Mosby said. While the officers helped him onto the bench in the back of the van, she said, they still did not belt him in.

While they were there, she said, a call went out for a van to pick up and transport another person who had been arrested. “Despite Mr. Gray’s obvious and recognized need for assistance, Officer Goodson, in a grossly negligent manner,” answered that call, rather than seeking medical help, Ms. Mosby said.

At the van’s next stop, Officer Goodson met the officers who made the initial arrest, and a sergeant who had arrived on the scene. Opening the van once again, they “observed Mr. Gray unresponsive on the floor of the wagon,” Ms. Mosby said.

The sergeant, she said, spoke to the back of Mr. Gray’s head, but he did not respond. “She made no effort to look, or assess, or determine his condition,” Ms. Mosby said.

When the van finally arrived at the Western District police station and officers tried to remove him, “Mr. Gray was no longer breathing at all,” she said. A medic was summoned and found Mr. Gray in cardiac arrest. Then he was rushed to a hospital.

A. Dwight Pettit, a lawyer who handles police brutality cases in Baltimore — and worked to help elect Ms. Mosby — said her emphasis on the officers’ lack of probable cause in arresting Mr. Gray was significant. Rarely, he said, are police officers prosecuted for making false arrests — and too often, they do not worry about lacking probable cause.

He called the charges of false imprisonment “something new for police activity, which offends the constitutional rights of citizens.”

Key Christie ally pleads guilty to role in Bridgegate, two others indicted // Washington Post // Rosalind S. Helderman – May 1, 2015

A onetime ally and former high school classmate of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie pleaded guilty Friday, while two other former members of Christie’s inner circle were indicted, in connection with an intentional 2013 traffic jam leading to the George Washington Bridge.

David Wildstein, who as an official at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey had ordered the closure of two of the bridge’s toll lanes, confirmed to a federal judge Friday that he closed the lanes to punish the mayor of Fort Lee, Democrat Mark Sokolich, who declined to endorse the Republican governor’s reelection bid.

Indicted Friday were Christie’s former deputy chief of staff Bridget Anne Kelly and William E. Baroni Jr., a top political appointee at the Port Authority. Wildstein said he had conspired with the two to engineer the traffic jam and falsely claim it was part of a traffic study.

U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman said he did not anticipate further charges related to the traffic jam. But a federal

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investigation into other matters sparked by the bridge inquiry continues.

The attorney for ex-Christie ally David Wildstein said his client "deeply regrets" his involvement in the George Washington Bridge lane closure scheme for which he pleaded guilty Friday and reiterated his claim that New Jersey Gov. Christie knew about it. (AP)
Fishman said that the three officials “callously victimized the people of Fort Lee, who were just trying to get to school, go to work or travel wherever else they needed to go.”

Fishman said the plan was hatched in August 2013, after Sokolich withheld his endorsement, but it was not implemented until early September when the Christie allies knew the start of school would worsen gridlock. As part of the scheme, prosecutors allege that the three ignored Sokolich’s increasingly desperate entreaties about the traffic and lied to the media.

Christie has maintained that he was not given advance warning when two toll lanes of the busy bridge were closed in September 2013. An internal investigation that he commissioned cleared Christie of personal wrongdoing in the episode but found that the closure had been purposeful and politically motivated. Fishman declined to comment on those claims.

In a statement, Christie said Friday that the charges confirmed what he has long said about the incident.

“I had no knowledge or involvement in the planning or execution of this act,” he said. “The moment I first learned of this unacceptable behavior I took action, firing staff believed to be accountable, calling for an outside investigation and agreeing to fully cooperate with all appropriate investigations, which I have done,” he said.

Still, fallout from the scandal has significantly deflated Christie’s presidential prospects, which were extremely bright two years ago after he easily won reelection in a deep blue state and was encouraged to seek the White House by some of the GOP’s biggest donors. In the painful aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, he cultivated an image as a hands-on, can-do chief executive.

A recent Quinnipiac University poll shows 56 percent of New Jersey voters disapproving of Christie’s performance as governor, with 38 percent approving — Christie’s lowest ratings ever in that poll.

Christie and his advisers breathed a sigh of relief Friday, saying that the indictments bring finality to the controversy that had stunted his presidential campaign. “It’s been the elephant in the room,” one adviser said, but also saying, “It’s not like anyone’s doing backflips.”

Christie’s advisers acknowledged that he still has a lot of work to do to persuade voters and donors to give him a second look. Over the next three weeks, Christie is planning several trips to New Hampshire, where he will hold town-hall style gatherings, as well as private meetings with prospective donors. These events will help him gauge whether he has a viable path forward in the presidential race. He plans to make his decision about whether to launch a campaign late this month or in early June.

But Alan Zegas, Wildstein’s attorney, has said “evidence exists” that Christie knew about the closures, despite his denials. Speaking to reporters outside the U.S. District Court in Newark on Friday, Zegas stood by that claim, indicating that “there is a lot more that will come out.” Fishman repeatedly refused to comment on who else, including Christie, may have known about the plot to clog traffic.

As the long-running scandal came to a head in New Jersey, Christie was in the Washington region, delivering a speech Friday morning to the politically connected Northern Virginia Technology Council in McLean.

He had been scheduled to attend an afternoon fundraiser for Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), but that event was canceled because Hogan is dealing with the aftermath of unrest in Baltimore.

In 2013, a legislative inquiry revealed Wildstein received an e-mail from Kelly indicating that it was “time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee,” the town at the foot of the bridge affected most by the closures. The e-mail exchange, which first suggested that the closure had been orchestrated, prompted the 16-month investigation into the incident that culminated in charges Friday.

Wildstein pleaded guilty to two criminal counts, misusing federal property and denying Fort Lee residents their civil rights. Baroni and Kelly were each charged with seven felony counts in a joint indictment, including wire fraud.

Kelly quickly launched a Web site to appeal for donations to a legal defense fund. At a news conference, she said it was “ludicrous” to suggest that she was the only person in the governor’s office with knowledge of the scheme. She also said she was embarrassed by the tone of her e-mails but insisted she is not guilty of criminal activity.

“I will fight relentlessly to clear myself of these charges and will work to regain my reputation and restore a sense

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of normalcy for my children," she said.

Baroni's legal team released a statement calling Wildstein a "criminal and liar" who had falsely led Baroni to think that a legitimate traffic study was underway on the bridge; they said he is not guilty of the charges.

Although the criminal investigation began with the bridge incident, it has broadened to include an investigation of the activities of the Port Authority and allegations that Christie's staffers had leveraged public resources as political tools in other ways. Those investigations are thought to be ongoing.

"Every organization behaves in a fashion in concert with the leader of that organization," said New Jersey Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski (D), who led legislative investigations into Christie's staff. "When we see a governor who routinely told people to sit down and shut up, who routinely engaged in name-calling and intimidation, you can see how this kind of behavior fit right in and perhaps was even condoned."

Wisniewski said his committee will reexamine statements made to legislators under oath by a series of Christie aides who insisted that the traffic jam was caused by a traffic study.

Beyond his fading first-tier status in GOP circles, Christie also has seen his grip on power in New Jersey loosening — rapidly losing support among a handful of prominent home-state donors and power brokers who are either hesitant to back him or shifting allegiance to former Florida governor Jeb Bush.

New Jersey state Sen. Joseph M. Kyrillos, chairman of Christie's 2009 gubernatorial campaign and a longtime personal friend, bolted last month to Bush's camp. New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a onetime Christie booster, attended a major Bush fundraiser in Miami last weekend.

Speaking in March at the state Capitol, Kyrillos lambasted Christie's management of the Port Authority: "Rogue managers in place . . . toll increases: outrageous. Bridgegate: outrageous. Outrageous." He added, "Biggest bridge in the world. An embarrassment to everybody, including the governor, who said as much at the outset."

There have been other bumps along the way. Christie's remarks about child vaccinations on a trip earlier this year to London drew scathing criticism and alarmed some of his supporters. He had to make a series of calls to assure contributors that he supports vaccination for diseases such as measles. His embrace of wealthy Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and a New York Times report on his penchant for private planes and luxury hotels made headlines.

Embattled but nonetheless determined to rebuild his political standing, Christie has moved aggressively in the past year to regain his footing with party leaders and activists, traveling frequently to early primary states and in 2014 raising more than $100 million for GOP candidates as chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Christie's political team, which once envisioned a robust early campaign, has narrowed its focus mostly to New Hampshire, where Christie has held a series of town-hall meetings meant to reintroduce him to skeptical Republicans and regenerate some of the electricity that was a hallmark of his town-hall meetings in New Jersey in his first term, when his loud clashes with public employees became popular on YouTube.

Nationally, Christie still counts several financiers as allies, including Kenneth G. Langone, the billionaire co-founder of Home Depot, and Ray Washburne, a Dallas real estate developer leading the fundraising push for Christie's political-action committee.

But the lane closures continued to haunt his comeback efforts. In December, he was interviewed by federal investigators at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the New Jersey governor, before he traveled to Iowa, home to the first-in-the-nation Republican presidential caucuses.

While shaking hands at a Manchester, N.H., restaurant this month, Christie was teased by Buck Mercier, 69, who told the governor that he made sure when he heard of Christie's visit that "the bridges were going to be open." Christie smiled. "Which direction is the bridge?" he asked. "I'll make sure it's open."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton's smartest move: Say no to TPP, and join the Warren/Krugman forces // Salon // Elias Iquith – May 2, 2015

Hillary Clinton's smartest move: Say no to TPP, and join the Warren/Krugman forces
Sports obsessive that he is, President Obama likes to refer to the final two years of his second term as his administration's "fourth quarter." He does this because it's a useful shorthand; but I'd guess his vanity, which is a characteristic of any successful politician, is motivational, too. By referring to himself as in the fourth quarter,

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Obama reminds an increasingly distracted press corps that the game isn't officially finished for him quite yet — and, until it is, he intends to keep playing.

Since being the center of attention usually means being the focal point of criticism as well, that's probably a role that Hillary Clinton, Obama's former secretary of state and would-be successor, is happy to leave him for the time being. Better he suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune (a.k.a. the Republican Party) from the comfort of the White House than she do so while pretending to enjoy Iowa's signature cuisine.

But while there may currently be a sort of harmony between the Democratic Party's two most influential figures, their respective self-interests are only complementary up to a point. Sooner or later, it'll be time for Obama to cede the spotlight and the stage to the Clintons yet again; and sooner or later, Clinton will have to accept her role as the party's de facto leader while establishing how (and why) her stewardship will be different. The guardians of American politics' unwritten rules will expect nothing less.

Rather than delay the inevitable until it's foisted upon her by the press, wouldn't it be easier if Clinton got ahead of the meta-narrative and established where she breaks with the president herself? I think the answer is quite clearly yes. The harder it is for the press to succumb to its weakness for narcissism and frivolity, the better. And Clinton's at her best when talking about policy — not her own "authenticity" or how the press corps' feels — to boot.

Author: Clinton Foundation Disclosures 'Sloppy At The Very Least' // NPR // Scott Simon – May 2, 2015

NPR's Scott Simon talks with Joshua Green of Bloomberg News about the Clinton Foundation and its apparent lack of transparency over donors.

SCOTT SIMON, HOST:

This is WEEKEND EDITION from NPR News. I'm Scott Simon. Hillary Clinton is drawing more attention right now for the foundation that bears her family's name than her run for president. Clinton Foundation is under scrutiny for contributions from foreign donors that were made while Mrs. Clinton was Secretary of State. During that time, a Canadian mining financier donated millions of dollars to the Clinton Foundation. He also secured a lucrative mining deal that required approval of the State Department while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State. Joshua Green of Bloomberg News joins us in our studios. Thanks very much for being with us.

JOSHUA GREEN: Good to be with you.

SIMON: These connections were first unearthed, to my knowledge, by Peter Schweizer, who wrote the book that's coming out next week, "Clinton Cash." The New York Times has been advancing the story. You certainly have at Bloomberg News. Give us, if you could, a quick picture about what's known about the relationship between the Clinton's and this Canadian business person.

GREEN: Well, Frank Guistra is his name. I interviewed him about a week or so ago. And he explained to me he met Bill Clinton at a fundraiser for tsunami victims. He was dazzled by him, was invited to become involved in his charities and has in a very big way - not only pledging or giving tens of millions of dollars but also pledging half the profits of his mining company in perpetuity to the Clinton Foundation. He landed on the board of the Clinton Foundation and actually started up the Canadian wing, something called the Clinton-Guistra Enterprise Partnership.

SIMON: But the fact that it's the Canadian affiliate is what has incited so much interest because at least, as I have been given to understand, they don't have to disclose donors the way they would here in the U.S.

GREEN: Well, that's not so clear. I mean, what happened was Peter Schweizer, the author of "Clinton Cash," does a chapter or two on Guistra and his relationship with Bill Clinton. And they have flown around the globe on Guistra's plane, including to Kazakhstan, where they had dinner with the president. And shortly thereafter, Guistra secured a lucrative uranium mining deal. But it's caused, for Schweizer - now other journalists, including myself - to kind of dive into the Clinton Foundation's tax filings and receipts. And look at, OK, well, who really is giving money? And what Schweizer discovered was that there were about half a dozen Canadian donors who hadn't disclosed millions of dollars in donations, including the chairman of this uranium company that Guistra founded. And that's problematic because as a condition of Hillary Clinton becoming Secretary of State, the Clinton Foundation signed an agreement with the Obama White House saying we pledge to disclose all of our donors on an annual basis. All of this was going to be done out in the open. And it turns out that it hasn't.

SIMON: Yeah. So the implication of your reporting is that whatever it means politically, it violated the agreement between the White House and Hillary Clinton about becoming Secretary of State.

GREEN: Oh, absolutely. There's no real dispute about that. In fact, the president of the Clinton Foundation came out last weekend and issued an odd statement saying, you know, we've made some mistakes. We're going to re-file our taxes. And, oh, by the way, Canadian law forbids us from disclosing people who donate through our Canadian

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affiliate. At the time, we only knew about four or five in Schweizer's book who hadn't been disclosed. But it turns out now - we're up to 1,100 and counting.

SIMON: Any indication that laws have been violated?

GREEN: I don't think there is, no. There is no indication yet that any laws have been violated. I think a lot of reporters who have read the book and done reporting on it would say, well, there may not be criminality, but there certainly do appear to be lots of examples of sloppiness, at the very least, and conflict of interest or maybe something worse. But I think in the months and, I'm afraid, years ahead as we go through this presidential campaign, that's what reporters are going to be looking into.

SIMON: Joshua Green, national correspondent for Bloomberg Politics, thanks so much.

GREEN: Thank you.

Hillary Clinton's conflict-of-interest problems // LATimes // Doyle McManus – May 2, 2015

The harshest charges against Hillary Rodham Clinton — that she made decisions that favored donors to her family's charitable foundation when she was secretary of State — aren't sticking. Yes, the Obama administration approved a donor's sale of U.S. uranium mines to a Russian firm, but Clinton does not appear to have been involved. Yes, the administration concluded a trade treaty with Colombia that benefited Clinton Foundation donors, but that was President Obama's decision, not Clinton's. And yes, Clinton lobbied foreign governments on behalf of donors such as General Electric and Boeing — but that's part of every secretary of State's job description.

Still, that doesn't mean candidate Clinton has emerged unmuddied from the swamp of accusations and innuendoes stirred up by conservative author Peter Schweizer in a book scheduled for publication this week. The front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination still has some explaining to do.

When she was nominated as secretary of State in 2009, Clinton promised that she would bend over backward to avoid potentially compromising situations.

“Out of [an] abundance of caution and a desire to avoid even the appearance ... of a conflict,” Clinton said, the foundation would agree to strict rules: It would disclose all its donors and clear new contributions from foreign governments with the State Department.

Only that didn't happen. The biggest branch of the Clintons' charitable network, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, never complied with the agreement at all, according to the Boston Globe. It neither disclosed its donors nor cleared new contributions. (A spokesman said they didn't think it was necessary. After media inquiries, the program published a list of donors last month.) The Clinton Foundation also failed to clear a donation of $500,000 from Algeria. (An oversight, the foundation said.) And the foundation's Canadian affiliate collected millions of dollars without disclosing donors' names. (Canadian law guarantees privacy to donors, but the foundation could have asked them to voluntarily disclose their identities; it didn't until last week.)

Beyond the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates, former President Bill Clinton's personal income has raised eyebrows, too.

[She] has tried to deal with bad press by either ignoring it or deploying underlings to attack her critics. That's not going to work; Clinton's problems won't just go away.
-
Thanks to the Washington Post, we have learned that Bill Clinton made almost $105 million giving speeches from 2001 to 2012 — and his biggest fees came from foreign hosts while his wife was secretary of State: $1.4 million from a Nigerian media firm (for two visits to Lagos); $750,000 from the Swedish telecommunication giant Ericsson; $600,000 from Dutch financial firm Achmea; and $500,000 from Renaissance Capital, a Russian investment bank with ties to Vladimir Putin's Kremlin.

The former president did take one sensible precaution: He cleared his speech gigs with State Department ethics lawyers. According to records obtained by the gadfly group Judicial Watch, the lawyers approved every one of the 215 speeches that were proposed.

There's nothing illegal about any of that; other former presidents have accepted giant speaking fees, too. Ronald Reagan once picked up $2 million for a trip to Japan — and that was in 1989 dollars.

But there's nothing pretty about that picture, either. Even though the lawyers approved the deals, dozens of the firms that paid Bill Clinton were doing business with the U.S. government at the time. Surely Hillary Clinton's 2009 promise to avoid “even the appearance” of any conflict of interest should have applied to her spouse as well as the family foundation — right?

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The Clinton Foundation has taken one step in the direction of reform: It said it would stop taking money from most foreign governments while one of its namesakes is running for president. For the most part, though, Clinton has tried to deal with bad press by either ignoring it or deploying underlings to attack her critics.

A successful candidate, at least in the Democratic primaries, needs to reassure voters that she can reduce the impact of money in politics and restore confidence in government. Right now, Clinton can't do that credibly.

And Clinton's conflict-of-interest problems will dog her in the debates that will begin in August. “The Clinton Foundation ... that's a fair issue,” Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont said Thursday as he announced his candidacy. (The bigger issue, he added, is “the huge amount of money it takes to run a campaign.”)

Hillary Clinton can't undo the past. But here are four things she can do to improve the situation now: She can press the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates for disclosure of all donors, in belated compliance with the agreement they made in 2009. She can ask the foundation to tighten its limits on foreign donations — for example, to cover individuals with close ties to foreign governments. She can ask her husband to tighten his criteria for speaking fees, too, and make it clear that he'll donate his biggest paychecks to charity. Most important, she can spell out the rules she expects her family to live under if voters decide to put her in the White House.

Last week, I asked the Clinton campaign if they saw merit in any of those ideas. I haven't heard back.

Hillary campaign pans 'Clinton Cash' author for comments at Koch event //The Hill // Ben Kamisar - May 1, 2015

The Hillary Clinton campaign is hitting back against Peter Schweizer, the author of a controversial book that questions Clinton’s impartiality while at the State Department, attacking him for referring to himself as part of the conservative cause.

The Clinton camp has honed in on Schweizer’s comments at a 2014 summit sponsored by the conservative multimillionaire donors Charles and David Koch, where he gave attendees a call to action.

“Politicians today are not going to let up, the left and the academic sphere is not going to let up,” he said, according to the Lady Libertine blog, which has released a number of audio tracks of prominent conservatives speaking at the retreat.

“The question is: Are we going to let up? And I would contend to you that we cannot let up.”

Brian Fallon, the Clinton campaign’s national press secretary, bashed the comments as indicative of political motivations.

"This is the clearest evidence yet that this widely discredited book is part of a coordinated Republican attack strategy,” he told The Hill exclusively.

“The author's remarks at a Koch fundraiser pull the curtain back on his true purpose in going after Hillary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation."

A Clinton aide added that the campaign plans to highlight the quote on social media.

Schweizer also told the audience during his remarks that “the left doesn’t dislike you or hate you because of what you do, they dislike you and hate you because of who you are.”

Kurt Bardella, who helps represent Schweizer, downplayed the remarks in a statement to the Lady Libertine Blog.

“As he has in several speeches as a lifelong conservative, Schweizer was espousing his view that conservatives should be informed, engaged, and active,” he said.

“The real politically motivated attacks are coming from Team Clinton as they try the tired and, at this point, very desperate strategy of drawing attention to things that have been in the public domain for sometime in the hopes that Bill and Hillary can continue avoiding the press and their questions."

The Clinton camp’s criticism comes as liberals and conservatives spar over the revelations in Schweizer’s book. He lays out a number of instances where Clinton Foundation donors directly benefited from Clinton’s conduct as secretary of State and repeatedly said in media appearances that the evidence suggests she played favorites.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who’s in the midst of his own presidential candidacy, has repeatedly called for an investigation into Clinton’s conduct at State based off of the allegations.

Fellow White House hopeful Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has called for her foundation for return all foreign

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donations in light of the accusations.

But Clinton allies and other Democrats have panned the book as politically motivated and Fallon previously told the New York Times that its allegations of favoritism are "baseless."

Clinton Loyalist Joins Priorities 'Super PAC' // First Draft – New York Times – May 1, 2015

A longtime leading operative for Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton will join Priorities USA Action, the dominant "super PAC" that will seek big-ticket donations to finance what is expected to be the long and expensive presidential campaign of Mrs. Clinton.

The move by the operative, Guy Cecil, was described by three people familiar with the discussions as a brushback to Jim Messina, President Obama's campaign manager in 2012 and now the co-chairman of Priorities's board.

Mr. Cecil, who had been a top contender to run Mrs. Clinton's campaign, had long been expected to sign on to the PAC, which will rev up its fund-raising efforts as Jeb Bush's super PAC has already kicked into overdrive.

It is not yet clear exactly what role Mr. Cecil, whose move was first reported by The Washington Post, will play at the PAC. Priorities was dormant during the 2014 mid-term elections and starts out behind in the money race to several super PACs supporting Republican candidates.

But officials involved with the group are aware that they need to begin fund-raising aggressively, as Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, and other Republicans rake in major contributions to their own super PACs.

Mr. Cecil, a favorite of Bill Clinton's, is a Clinton loyalist coming into a role that initially was supposed to be played by John D. Podesta. But Mr. Podesta went to the White House to work for Mr. Obama, and then became Mrs. Clinton's campaign chairman.

At the same time, Mr. Messina, who has been viewed with suspicion for years by many of Mrs. Clinton's advisers, had become more representative of the super PAC than some of her allies were comfortable with.

In recent months, Mr. Messina and David Brock, Mrs. Clinton's staunchest defender and the founder of Media Matters, had a public fight that prompted Mr. Brock's resignation from the Priorities USA board. (He has since reopened discussions with the board.)

Lately, the Clinton campaign has started to signal to donors that Priorities is, as one person briefed on the pitch put it, "the preferred super PAC" to help support her bid for the White House. But there has been little specificity beyond that.

At the same time, Mrs. Clinton has held a series of fund-raisers in New York and Washington this week as she builds the "Hillstarters" program that requests that donors raise $27,000 for the campaign (or the maximum of $2,700 allowed in a nominating contest from 10 supporters).

Next week, Mrs. Clinton will host a discussion in Nevada and will attend fund-raisers in Los Angeles, where Democrats who were split between Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama in 2008 have expressed early support for her 2016 bid. Meanwhile, senior campaign staff members have been on a road show across the country to explain the campaign's strategy and approach to prospective donors.

In February, tensions between Clinton loyalists and former Obama aides erupted, and Mr. Messina's allies worried that a strategist who was closer to Bill and Hillary Clinton would replace him.

Mr. Cecil, who was previously the executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, had been widely expected to be that strategist. It is unclear what his role will mean for Mr. Messina and the existing leadership at the super PAC, including Buffy Wicks, who serves as executive director. A spokesman for the group declined to comment. Mr. Cecil did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

One Democrat close to the talks to bring Mr. Cecil into Priorities called him as "loyal to the Clintons as they are to him — he is a Clinton person, and funders need that." The Democrat was quick to describe Mr. Cecil and Ms. Wicks as a "team."

Another Clinton loyalist, Harold Ickes, who was an original adviser to Priorities in 2012, has stepped up his role recently, according to people involved with the group. Mr. Cecil is also a former employee of the Dewey Square Group, and a founding partner of the group, Charlie Baker, was just named Mrs. Clinton's chief administrative officer.

Mrs. Clinton has made campaign finance reform one of the "four fights" of her presidential campaign, vowing to get unaccountable money out of politics. When stopped on the campaign trail in Iowa last month and asked by

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Post reporters about the role of Priorities, Mrs. Clinton shrugged.

"I don't know," she said.

Clinton Accelerates Fundraising Efforts for Primaries in Presidential Bid // Wall Street Journal // Peter Nicholas - May 1, 2015

Hillary Clinton is ramping up fundraising for her presidential campaign, packing her schedule with donor events that are at the same time designed to signal that she will be more frugal than in her last race.

Mrs. Clinton attended a half-dozen fundraising receptions in New York City and Washington, D.C., this week and plans to go to several in California over three days next week. There, she will draw on long-standing support in the entertainment industry. A co-host of one event is Jeffrey Katzenberg, chief executive of DreamWorks Animation SKG and a longtime Democratic donor.

As with other elements of her campaign, Mrs. Clinton is taking steps intended to avoid the mistakes of her first presidential bid, in 2008. People familiar with her plans said she is setting a lower dollar threshold needed for designation as a "Hillstarter," or top fundraiser, in an effort to draw in more supporters. "Hillstarters" need to bring in $27,000, or 10 times the maximum individual donation allowed in the primary, compared with $100,000 in the previous campaign.

Mrs. Clinton was often criticized in 2008 for spending lavishly on consultants and other expenses. The campaign says it is trying a more thrifty approach this year and is signaling that to donors. At a morning fundraising event in New York, donors were given name tags with plastic holders. At the end of the reception, campaign aides asked them to return the holders for reuse.

The breakfast itself was a no-frills affair: coffee and Danish. "Nobody was making omelets," said one participant, Jay Jacobs, chairman of the Nassau County Democrats on Long Island.

One Clinton campaign adviser said, "The frugality is to make sure our donors know the money is going toward things that matter: staff, organization and communication."

While she is raising money now only for the Democratic primaries, Mrs. Clinton accelerated her schedule in part because of the aggressive fundraising efforts of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a Republican who is seen as one of her strongest potential opponents in a general election, people familiar with the matter said. The idea is for Mrs. Clinton to show a robust total when her first federal campaign-finance report is due on July 15.

Mrs. Clinton told a group of more than 100 supporters in Manhattan this week that she plans to raise $100 million for the Democratic primary, about half of what she collected in the 2008 campaign. In that race, she needed every cent in a protracted contest against then-Sen. Barack Obama. So far this time around, no other potential Democratic rival is within 50 points of Mrs. Clinton in public-opinion surveys.

Still, in raising money only for the primary, Mrs. Clinton is trying to signal she isn't taking the nomination for granted. Her only formal rival so far, Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent from Vermont, said Friday he had raised $1.5 million online since announcing his campaign on Thursday. Some 35,000 people donated, Mr. Sanders' campaign said.

Mrs. Clinton is getting plenty of outside help. A super PAC called Priorities USA Action, whose mission is to help Mrs. Clinton win the White House, has been asking donors for money that will be used to underwrite TV and Internet advertising. A co-chairman of the super PAC is Jim Messina, who managed Mr. Obama's 2012 re-election campaign.

Priorities USA hasn't ruled out targeting Democratic rivals if they pose a threat to Mrs. Clinton's bid for the nomination. Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and a potential White House candidate, has been getting bolder in his criticism, telling a TV interviewer in March that the presidency is "not some crown to be passed between two families"—a clear reference to Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Bush, whose brother and father are former presidents.

One person close to Priorities USA said: "If "O'Malley gets in and really goes after Hillary and attacks her hard, one of Priorities' functions is to rise to her defense."

Clinton ramps up fundraising as GOP candidates surge ahead // USAToday // Fredreka Schouten – May 1, 2015

Hillary Clinton is stepping up her race for campaign money, holding three invitation-only events in the nation's capital Thursday ahead of a fundraising swing next week through California.

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The Democrat front-runner, who is deliberately focusing on raising her money in relatively modest amounts, may need every penny. Several Republicans vying for their party's presidential nomination are pulling in staggering sums through new super PACs that can collect unlimited contributions, setting up a 2016 campaign that will be awash in cash.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who declared his interest in the GOP nomination last December, has yet to officially join the campaign, giving him the leeway to raise big sums for his Right to Rise super PAC.

At this pace, spending in the 2016 race could top $4 billion — or about twice the amount that President Obama, Republican Mitt Romney and their allies collected in the 2012 contest, said Anthony Corrado, an elections expert at Colby College in Maine.

"It's a radically different approach to structuring campaigns," he said of the Republican contenders' use of super PACs.

Clinton, who has made overhauling the nation's "dysfunctional" campaign-finance system one of the four pillars of her budding campaign, is building a decidedly low-key fundraising system. Bundlers, for instance, need only to collect a total of $27,000 from 10 or more individuals for the primary to earn the title of "Hillstarters."

Between 110 and 170 people were expected to attend each of the three fundraising events Thursday in Washington. The cost: $2,700 per person. Hosts include State Department official and long-time Democratic fundraiser Elizabeth Bagley. She served as U.S. ambassador to Portugal during Bill Clinton's presidency.

Next week, Clinton heads to California where her stops include a May 6 fundraiser at the home of billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer and his wife, Kat Taylor. Steyer, who pumped more than $73 million of his fortune into 2014 midterm races, will help Clinton "in a considerable way," said Chris Lehane, Steyer's top political adviser.

Even so, Lehane said he expects Steyer's efforts will be overshadowed by Republican giving.

Clinton also is slated to attend a fundraising event at the home of Esprit clothing co-founder Susie Tompkins Buell, along with fundraisers in southern California hosted by Homeland co-creator Howard Gordon and other Hollywood luminaries.

Clinton's campaign has not released any fundraising totals, and a super PAC supporting her candidacy, Priorities USA Action, raised no money in 2014 to avoid siphoning cash away from the party's Senate races. Presidential candidates and the super PACs supporting their bids will not have to disclose fundraising and spending figures until July.

Signs abound, however, that Republicans are setting a blistering pace. Bush told donors this week that he's already set a 100-day fundraising record for Republican politics. Bush reportedly is weighing delegating core campaign functions, such as advertising and data-gathering, to the super PAC, the Associated Press recently reported. Super PACs are supposed to operate independently of the candidates they support.

Allies of several other Republicans, such as Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, have claimed raising tens of millions in super PAC donations already.

Last week, billionaire industrialist Charles Koch told USA TODAY that he might provide financial support to as many as five Republican presidential contenders. His political network will invest about $300 million in electoral politics in 2016, he said.

"We have never seen the kind of money we anticipate being spent in this election cycle," said Michael Podhorzer, political director of the Democratic-aligned AFL-CIO. Democrats' best defense, he said, will be appealing to voters concerned about pocket-book and quality-of-life issues, such as income inequality and paid family leave.

Clinton's push to curb unlimited campaign spending could be "part of an approach of saying, 'I'm going to be on your side, not Wall Street's side,' " he said.

Republican National Committee spokeswoman Allison Moore said Clinton already is guilty of "faux populism" on that front, given that her campaign's first fundraisers earlier this week in New York were attended by hedge-fund managers and venture capitalists.

Steve Elmendorf, a lobbyist and veteran Democratic strategist, said Clinton has ample time to build her campaign account.

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"It's not like being a Republican in a crowded field of 15 candidates," he said of Clinton's candidacy. "She can do it in a slow, steady way."

Hillary Clinton and the Tragic Politics of Crime // The Atlantic // Peter Beinart - May 1, 2015

With the exception of gay rights, no public-policy debate has shifted more dramatically in my adult lifetime than the debate over crime. In 1992, when Bill Clinton flew back to Arkansas to oversee the execution of a mentally retarded African American murderer, the move helped him in New Hampshire's Democratic primary. In 1994, Clinton's crime bill—which among other things, expanded the death penalty, encouraged states to lengthen prison sentences and eliminated federal funding for inmate education—garnered the votes of every Democratic Senator except one.

Today, by contrast, Hillary Clinton is loudly repudiating the "tough on crime" policies that she and her husband once championed. Even more remarkably, prominent Republicans are nodding along.

To those who see Hillary's new crime agenda as a flip-flop, her campaign has a rejoinder: Different policies make sense at different times. As Clinton spokesperson Jesse Ferguson tweeted, "HRC policy on internet might also be different than WJC policy in 1994. Not b/c he was wrong but b/c times change."

The problem with this argument is that many of the crime policies the Clintons supported in the 1990s were probably wrong even back then. Yes, the crime bill did some good: It put more cops on the street and increased penalties for sex crimes. But it also helped spawn the very "era of mass incarceration" that Hillary now denounces. It's not just that the bill allocated almost $10 billion in federal-prison construction money. It only allocated it to states that adopted "truth-in-sentencing" laws that dramatically increased the amount of time criminals served. As NYU Law School's Brennan Center has noted, the number of states with such laws rose from five when the bill was signed to 29 by Clinton's last year in office. Over the course of Clinton's presidency, the number of Americans in prison rose almost 60 percent.

All this might—I underscore, might—be justified if such prison expansion produced dramatic declines in crime. But while crime has indeed dropped dramatically—it's about half what it was at its peak in 1991—the best evidence suggests that locking people up is not the primary reason. After spending close to two years testing 14 different potential causes of the reduction in crime, the Brennan Center this year concluded that "incarceration was responsible for approximately five percent of the drop in crime in the 1990s," and an even lower percentage since then. A report last year by the National Academies' National Research Council found that "the growth in incarceration rates reduced crime, but the magnitude of the crime reduction remains highly uncertain and the evidence suggests it was unlikely to have been large." Even a 2004 investigation by University of Chicago economist Steven D. Levitt, who considers increased imprisonment more effective, only found that it accounted for roughly one-third of the crime drop.

Liberals urge Clinton to go left, where she risks losing swing votes // LA Times // Evan Halper - May 1, 2015

Richard Trumka mentioned no names as he vowed recently that labor would not endorse yet another presidential candidate who talks big about confronting inequality but offers an agenda that merely fiddles around the edges of the economy, meeting Wall Street's needs before throwing workers "scraps."

Yet it was a clear warning to Hillary Rodham Clinton. Trumka, the AFL-CIO president, had just summarized the collective progressive angst around her.

Clinton's agenda is largely a mystery, reflecting a candidate who has not been engaged in domestic policy since the country first plunged into the Great Recession, and who is in no rush to box herself into positions.

But the left is not giving her the benefit of the doubt. A day has not gone by since she launched her run three weeks ago without some group of progressives calling on her to make a pledge. That she will oppose the big Pacific trade agreement. That she will support a debt-free college plan. That she will commit to raising the minimum wage to $15.

They want promises that she would upend the tax system, guarantee child care for everyone, expand Social Security.

"America doesn't need relentlessly cautious half-measures," Trumka said at his speech this week in Washington. Then he spelled out the consequences of an uninspired base: the door-knocking, phone banking and other mobilizing efforts that labor can offer in the general election may just not materialize.

The message was clear. The coalition that propelled Barack Obama to victory is disenchanted, and it will fray with every step Clinton takes toward the center to appeal to swing voters.

Clinton's long association with liberal causes, from Hillarycare to family leave, is cold comfort to progressive

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organizers. So are her words on the campaign trail, where she has gradually sought to assure restive liberals that she is one of them, lamenting that "the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top." One day her campaign hired Gary Gensler, a former regulator who is a nemesis of big banks, and another, as the Supreme Court considered gay marriage, it refashioned her avatar on Twitter as a rainbow flag.

She also wrote the tribute when Time magazine named Clinton frenemy Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), the lefty standard-bearer and constant source of heartburn to Clinton's campaign, one of its 100 most influential people. After Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont socialist, announced Thursday that he was running against her in the Democratic primary, Clinton tweeted that she agreed with him that the "focus must be on helping America's middle class."

Clinton is running in a very different Democratic Party than she was eight years ago, and its base expects much more from her. Activists are angry that even the end of the recession is doing little to stem economic inequality. They resent her husband's legacy on the economy, saying Clintonian policies that emphasized creating opportunity over structurally lifting those workers at the bottom have resulted in chronically low wages and a deteriorating quality of life for too much of America.

"The problems have become so big that it feels to many of us like systemic solutions are required," said Deepak Bhargava, executive director of the Center for Community Change, which advocates for low-income Americans. "Whether she is prepared to go there is an open question."

It is all irritating to the Clinton campaign. Her advisors argue that the groups unfairly gloss over her lengthy record of pursuing liberal legislation and instead harp on Bill Clinton's association with the Democratic Leadership Council, the pro-growth think tank that helped shape his economic agenda as president. The council shut down on the verge of bankruptcy in 2011, and the currency of its ideas in the Democratic party has withered.

The idea generators likely to have the biggest effect in driving Hillary Clinton's agenda now are at a very different group, the Center for American Progress. The think tank is an incubator for many of the policies that progressive organizations are pushing Clinton to adopt. Its founder, John Podesta, is Clinton's campaign chairman. The current president of the center, Neera Tanden, was Clinton's policy director in the last campaign.

"Just because Bill Clinton had some ideas in the 1990s, it doesn't mean Hillary Clinton is going to have the same ideas in 2015," Tanden said. "I categorically reject that … these are new times with new challenges."

A lengthy report that Tanden's group released this year is putting some progressives at ease. It was notable not just because it acknowledges the growth-focused strategies pursued by Bill Clinton no longer adequately address stagnant wages and widening economic inequality, but also because of who wrote it. The co-author was Larry Summers, the relentlessly centrist Treasury secretary under Bill Clinton who played a key role in pushing the Democratic Party to the right in the 1990s.

Now, Summers is warning of an erosion of democracy if unions are not strengthened and government does not pursue policies that force wage growth.

Hillary Clinton could face a litmus test very soon. She is under pressure to take a position on a massive Pacific free-trade agreement sought by President Obama. Legislation supporting the pact is moving through Congress, and the left is mobilizing to fight it.

"This is a chance to separate herself from what people fear about her, which is a continuation of some of the Clintonian economic policies that did not work out so well," said Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy institute, a progressive think tank.

For now, Mishel is reserving judgment. He said the candidate could yet delight liberal activists, noting that Clinton had the more progressive agenda when she ran unsuccessfully against Obama eight years ago. But he also pointed out that she would be spending a lot of time with Wall Street in the coming months, soliciting donations for her campaign.

"We just don't know where she is yet," he said. "The unstated concern of some people, I think, is that she is too close to the financial center and needs to raise a lot of money. That can make someone shy about addressing the 1%. And it can push them into emphasizing 'opportunity' over inequality.

Hillary Clinton Courts the Democratic Left, but Is Pressured to Take Progressive Stands // New York Times // Jonathan Martin and Nicholas Confessore – May 1, 2015

Months before Hillary Rodham Clinton started delivering Democratic primary voters a liberal-minded message about a "stacked deck" in favor of the wealthy and the need for criminal-justice reform, she met quietly at Esca, a

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Mario Batali restaurant in Midtown Manhattan, with four powerful labor leaders.

There, in February, she treated representatives of the biggest teachers', service employees' and government workers' unions to a seafood dinner and a lengthy discussion of policy issues. Her meaning was unmistakable: She wanted them to feel like an important part of her coming campaign.

But Mrs. Clinton is not just conveying veiled messages to her party's left-leaning base. She is also receiving them.

On Tuesday, Richard L. Trumka, president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., gave an address here aimed ostensibly at any White House contender. Without naming Mrs. Clinton, he urged candidates for president to resist "cautious half-measures."

Interactive Feature | Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)? At least a dozen Republicans and a handful of Democrats have expressed an interest in running for their party's 2016 presidential nomination.

He also called for "a commitment, from the candidate down through his or her economic team," to steer a progressive agenda to completion. A senior labor official later called it the most important line in Mr. Trumka's speech.

That is because he was publicly amplifying, however obliquely, an argument that liberals have made to Mrs. Clinton and her team more bluntly in private: They do not wish to see the likes of Robert E. Rubin and Lawrence H. Summers, both former treasury secretaries to Bill Clinton, become fixtures in her circle.

It is unclear if Mrs. Clinton will bow to such demands; a senior campaign aide said only that she receives a range of policy advice.

On Thursday, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a self-proclaimed socialist, said he would seek the Democratic nomination. But the push and pull between Mrs. Clinton's pursuit of the liberal base and its desire for assurance before consummation may be a more significant source of tension within the party.

Mrs. Clinton cheerily welcomed Mr. Sanders into the race, even as she works to deny Mr. Sanders or any other liberal an issue on which to bloody her from the left.

She and her top aides have begun an aggressive charm offensive, calling, emailing, meeting and dining with scores of progressive officials and activists. John Deeth, a well-read blogger in Iowa City ("the People's Republic of Johnson County," he joked), said that Matt Paul, Mrs. Clinton's Iowa director, called him after she announced.

"Mostly he listened," recalled Mr. Deeth, who said he would probably remain neutral in the primary.

With labor opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, Mrs. Clinton's staff has been in touch with Senator Sherrod Brown, Democrat of Ohio, who has been battling President Obama over the agreement.

"People are seeing that the Democratic Party is again standing for things," Mr. Brown said of the energy on the left. (He added that he was not ready to commit to Mrs. Clinton's candidacy — but had "zero" interest in a presidential bid of his own.)

Liberal organizations say they are gearing up to mobilize their memberships around issues like campaign reform, trade and net neutrality. Their goal, leaders of some of the groups said, is to make clear to Mrs. Clinton that committing to their issues could be the difference between tens of thousands of additional enthusiastic volunteers going door to door for her and making contributions to her campaign or simply casting their ballot for her.

"The American people are pretty smart, and they're used to being lied to in campaigns," said Becky Bond, the political director of Credo, a progressive group that has raised about $76 million for liberal causes and has many members in states like Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. "They want some kind of reassurance that Hillary Clinton will back up her words with actions."

The apprehensiveness is two-way. Mrs. Clinton's campaign reached out through intermediaries to campaign finance activists, some of whom have been privately discussing a public effort in New Hampshire to pressure her on the issue. Campaign reform groups, in turn, have argued that she will be unable to persuade voters to back an activist government agenda unless she first addresses their concerns about Washington corruption.

Mrs. Clinton faces even more intense pressure to confront income inequality and make clear she is not beholden to the business-friendly policies preferred by some of her contributors. While aligning herself with the left on cultural issues like immigration and same-sex marriage, she has so far been less explicit on economic policies — avoiding taking a position, for example, on a controversial trade pact with Pacific Rim countries.

"No candidate can be all things to all people," Mr. Trumka said in his speech, demanding that White House

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aspirants resist “the politics of hedged bets.”

That afternoon, Mrs. Clinton’s political director, Amanda Renteria, sent an email to leading union officials saying that the campaign had tapped an official from the United Food and Commercial Workers union as Mrs. Clinton’s “labor outreach director.”

“Filling this position has been a top priority for us given the importance of labor issues to Hillary and everyday Americans across the country,” Ms. Renteria wrote, noting Mrs. Clinton’s “longstanding relationships” with labor and her desire to nurture those ties “as a team.”

But a far weightier personnel matter is who will serve as Mrs. Clinton’s economic advisers, both on the campaign and, should she win, as president. Many on the left, who wish but are deeply skeptical that she will surround herself with advisers from the Elizabeth Warren school, believe both Mr. Obama and Mr. Clinton were overly captive to Wall Street-oriented economic aides.

Mrs. Clinton’s aides noted that she is taking economic advice from outspoken progressives like Gary Gensler, a former Wall Street regulator.

But Dean Baker, a liberal economist, said, “I would be very surprised if we had a President Clinton and the administration didn’t include the usual suspects.”

Mr. Baker, who has been frank about the need for a transaction tax on financial investments, said he was called by an adviser to Mrs. Clinton soliciting his input and ideas, but was unmoved by the approach.

“They’re being polite,” he said. “But I’m not optimistic. It may change if blood is drawn by Sanders or somebody. Maybe then they’ll have to sit down and talk seriously.”

Why Is Hillary Running Left? // Real Clear Politics// Sean Trende – May 1, 2015

Brian Beutler has a thoughtful piece up at The New Republic discussing Hillary Clinton’s leftward shift vis-à-vis her 2008 run for president (and especially vis-à-vis Bill Clinton’s presidency). The piece is well worth reading in its entirety, but these are the relevant sections for our purposes:

“There’s an ongoing debate in American politics over the extent to which the Obama coalition is unique to Obama, who is himself a unique historical figure. Are the younger, more progressive Democrats who swept him into office ready to do the same for a candidate who doesn’t check all of the same characterological boxes—youth, charisma, diversity? . . .

“Perhaps more importantly, Hillary Clinton also thinks the answer is yes—if, that is, you buy the cynical (but possibly accurate) interpretation of her leftward shift. In fact, this might be the most hopeful interpretation as far as liberals are concerned. Because if Clinton doesn’t have any core convictions, and is only saying whatever she thinks she has to say to win—if indeed she's merely betting that things like campaign finance reform, same-sex marriage, and immigration reform will add up to a winning platform—then it's a nod to her belief that the Obama coalition is stable, loyal, and larger than the Republican electorate.”

I tend to think overall that the 2016 election will be decided much more by the state of the economy than Hillary Clinton’s positioning on marriage equality or ability to increase youth participation rates. In that respect, Wednesday’s GDP report was much worse news for Democrats than anything we might discern about youth turnout in 2016 (though it remains to be seen if there is a summer “bounce-back” for the economy, as there was last year).

But I do think party coalitions matter, however, at least on the margins. In that respect, I think Beutler identifies the most important issue, by several orders of magnitude, for 2016: Is Obama’s coalition transferrable to Clinton (or other Democrats)? I think we need to flesh out this question a bit before we can turn to Beutler’s second question, which actually asks what Hillary Clinton’s positioning tells us about the answer to the first question.

From a demographic standpoint, an election consists of two components: Turnout levels among different demographic groups and levels of support among different demographic groups. Barack Obama won the demographic battle on both fronts: He boosted turnout levels among African-Americans to match those of non-Hispanic whites, and he blew the proverbial roof off in terms of support levels from minorities.

This was critical to his victory in 2012: If Mitt Romney had matched George W. Bush’s level of support among minorities, Romney would have been elected president (even if he had dropped to George W. Bush’s level of support among non-Hispanic whites). Likewise, if black participation had dropped back to 2004 levels, the election would have been too close to call (how you evaluate it would depend on whether you think new African-American voters in 2008 were even more likely to vote for Obama than returning African-American voters).

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So is this coalition transferable? Obviously, Obama's 2012 re-election effort is a very good data point for Democrats on the turnout front. Many analysts, myself included, were skeptical that Obama could re-create the turnout from 2008, much less improve upon it (although much of the demographic change that occurred was due to whites staying home, rather than African-American or Hispanic turnout increasing).

Another positive data point for Democrats is turnout in the 2014 elections. The fact that African-Americans were 12 percent of the electorate in 2014, vs. 10 percent in 2006 and 11 percent in 2010, suggests that many of the marginal voters Obama turned out are no longer marginal. In the battle between voting as a socio-economic phenomenon and voting as habit, what evidence we have suggests that habit may be winning (although turnout was so unusually low in 2014 that it may be tough to generalize from this data).

Things are dicier, however, on the question of support. If we look at support for the parties in the 2004, 2010 and 2014 elections among racial groups, we see an awful lot of stability. Republicans won 59 percent of the non-Hispanic white vote in 2004, 62 percent in 2010 and 61 percent in 2014 (these statistics exclude votes cast for third parties, a common practice when comparing across elections).

Among African-Americans, Republicans won 11 percent, 9 percent and 10 percent in 2004, 2010 and 2014, respectively. For Hispanics, according to the exit polls, Republicans won 45 percent in 2004 (though that is probably an overestimate; the true number is likely closer to 40 percent), 39 percent in 2010 and 37 percent in 2014. Among Asian-Americans, it was 44 percent in 2004, 41 percent in 2010 and 51 percent in 2014. Among "other," the numbers are 43 percent, 45 percent and 49 percent.

There are differences there, but overall those electorates look roughly alike. This is important, because if the Republican wins the same share of whites, blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and "other" voters in 2016 as Republicans did in any of 2004, 2010 or 2014 elections, the Republican would win the popular vote. This would be true even if the white share of the electorate falls another two points, and the Hispanic and Asian/other shares rise another point apiece. To look at this a shade differently, Republicans just had a landslide win in an electorate that, according to the exit polls, had pretty much the same racial demographics as the one in 2008 (which was supposed to be a more or less unwinnable electorate for Republicans).

So how do we evaluate the "support" data? We have two basic ways of looking at it. Democrats prefer to look at this as a midterm/presidential electorate dynamic. There's doubtless at least some truth here, although this argument is neutralized somewhat by breaking things down by race: Seen through this lens, you have to demonstrate not just that the voters who stayed home were more Democratic, but that they were more Democratic after controlling for race (see more here).

Republicans, on the other hand, think of this as an Obama coalition vs. a "normal" coalition. The thought is that if you remove the historic nature of Obama's candidacy, the racial breakdowns will look much more like they did in 2004, 2010 and 2014. There are problems with this view as well – most notably that 2010 and 2014 were wave elections – but the idea that Democrats would have a hard time maintaining 80 percent support among non-whites without the positive stimulus of a non-white presidential candidate isn't far-fetched. Here's political scientist John Sides:

"Second, the 'Obama coalition' may prove to be exactly that: a coalition specific to Obama. When he is no longer at the top of the ticket, will groups like Latinos and African-Americans turn out in such numbers, and with such strong support for the Democratic candidate? At a University of Denver election panel last week, political scientist Matt Barreto noted that 79% of African-American are "very enthusiastic" about the Democratic Party now, but only 47% say they will be after Obama's presidency ends (see slide 18). It's unlikely that African-Americans are going to vote for a Republican candidate in large numbers, but will they turn out in such high numbers for whichever Democrat wants to succeed Obama?"

This brings us back to Beutler's argument that the decision to shift leftward is made by the Clinton campaign from a position of strength, and provides evidence of a belief that Obama's coalition is both transferable and larger than the Republican coalition.

I would call this the optimistic interpretation (from a liberal perspective) of her moves, even if you accept that this is simply cynical gamesmanship on her part. The pessimistic interpretation would stem from one of the theses of my book, "The Lost Majority": that Obama modified Bill Clinton's coalition into a narrower, deeper one. This enabled Obama to win a victory in 2008 that was almost as large as Clinton's 1996 win without bringing Appalachians or working-class whites on board. The problem with such a coalition is that it doesn't allow for much flexibility: At least for now, Democrats have to run up the score with different groups in order to win.

Under the pessimistic take, the Clinton Coalition is simply gone. Bill Clinton had managed to keep Appalachian voters and working-class whites in the Democratic camp through skillful positioning and a bit of luck. But over the course of the next decade, these voters finally broke with the Democrats. This occurred at the presidential level in 2004 and 2008, then occurred at the senatorial level in 2010 and 2014, when relatively conservative Democrats

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like Mark Pryor and Mary Landrieu found they could no longer win with a Clintonian formula (in fact, they couldn't come close to winning). This was a break that was a long time coming, but given that it has filtered down to congressional and even state legislative offices, it seems like it will be difficult to reverse.

So from the pessimistic standpoint (again, from the liberal perspective), Clinton is running leftward not because she believes it is the best way to win, but because she believes that she has no choice.

AP-GFK POLL: Doubts About Clinton's Honesty After Emails // AP // Lisa Lerer and Emily Swanson – May 1, 2015

Americans appear to be suspicious of Hillary Rodham Clinton's honesty, and even many Democrats are only lukewarm about her presidential candidacy, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

Is she strong and decisive? Yes, say a majority of people. But inspiring and likable? Only a minority think so.

Clinton's struggles to explain her email practices while in government, along with questions about the Clinton Foundation and Republican criticism of her openness, wealth and trustworthiness seem to have struck a nerve in the public's perception of the dominant Democratic figure in the 2016 campaign. In the survey, 61 percent said "honest" describes her only slightly well or not at all.

Nearly four in 10 Democrats, and more than six in 10 independents agreed that "honest" was not the best word for her.

Even so, she is viewed more favorably than her potential Republican rivals, none of whom are as well-known as the former secretary of state, senator and first lady.

With Clinton facing little competition on the Democratic side, Republicans are trying to make questions about her integrity central to the early 2016 campaign. They paint her as a creature of Washington who flouts the rules to get ahead.

Her use of a private email account run from a server kept at her New York home while serving as secretary of state has fed perceptions that she had things to hide. And questions are swirling about foreign donations to the family's charitable foundation and whether that money influenced her work at the State Department.

James Robins, an independent voter from North Carolina, says his generally positive opinion of Clinton has shifted over the past few months, as more details have emerged about her email usage and foundation fundraising practices.

"She and her family think they're above everything," he said. "She intentionally destroyed all the evidence on that server. And when you look at some of her other stuff recently it's equally as bad."

Clinton said last month that she used a personal account out of convenience. She deleted about 30,000 emails that she has described as personal in nature and has declined requests from congressional Republicans to turn over her server for an independent review.

The survey suggests that many Americans aren't buying Clinton's explanation: A majority said they believe she used a private address to shield her emails from transparency laws and they think she should turn her server over to a third party for further investigation.

At the same time, the public is split over whether her email usage is a significant issue for her presidential aspirations: Less than a third -- 32 percent -- said it was a major problem, 36 percent rated it a minor problem, and 31 percent said it's not a problem at all. Only 20 percent said they're paying very close attention to the email story.

"We don't have the whole picture and all the information that we need to make a judgment," said Ruth Johnson, of Moorhead, Minnesota. "Will she show everything that was emailed? Or has she eliminated a lot of stuff we'll never know about?"

Still, Clinton's overall ratings remain the strongest in the emerging presidential field and are essentially unchanged since two AP-GfK polls conducted last year. Forty-six percent of Americans express a favorable view of Clinton, slightly more than the 41 percent who express a negative opinion. No potential Republican candidate in the poll had significantly greater positive than negative ratings.

Polls generally showed Clinton with a much higher approval rating while she was secretary of state. Opinions of her have become more polarized as she has re-entered partisan politics, as they were when she vied for the Democratic nomination for president in 2008.

Despite Clinton's dominance in the early primary field, the survey suggests that some in her party would be open

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to a challenger.

Among Democrats, only 34 percent said they were excited by her candidacy while 36 percent described themselves as merely satisfied. Another 19 percent said they were neutral, and 9 percent were disappointed or angry.

"I wish there was somebody else," said Kenneth Berger, of New York City. "She always has a problem."

The AP-GfK Poll of 1,077 adults was conducted online April 23-27, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using phone or mail survey methods, and later interviewed online. People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't otherwise have access to the Internet were provided access at no cost to them.

Online: AP-GfK Poll: http://www.ap-gfkpoll.com

Hillary Clinton a Free Trader, or Not, Depending on the Moment // Bloomberg // Mike Dorning – May, 1 2015

Three years ago Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised a proposed deal to reduce trade barriers among Pacific Rim nations as “the gold standard” for such pacts.

Now, the presidential candidate Clinton has nothing to say as President Barack Obama fights to win expanded negotiating authority to complete the agreement over furious opposition from organized labor and progressives in his own party.

Her silence on the premier economic issue dividing Democrats is consistent with a long history of wavering under pressure on trade. She has even alternately praised and criticized the landmark North American Free Trade Agreement signed by her husband in 1993, calling it good for America or a “mistake,” depending on the audience and circumstances.

“What she does could make a difference on the outcome.”

Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch

Critics of the current deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, are frustrated by Clinton’s ambiguous stance as she tries to hold together a political coalition that includes party activists on the left and major financial supporters from business and Wall Street.

“We expect those who seek to lead our nation forward to oppose fast track,” AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said in a speech Tuesday without naming Clinton. “There is no middle ground, and the time for deliberations is drawing to a close.”

Some opponents of the trade accord believe a clear statement from their party’s almost-certain presidential nominee opposing fast-track authority, which allows Congress to vote up or down on trade deals but not to amend them, might seal its defeat and kill the entire agreement.

“What she does could make a difference on the outcome,” said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch. Opposition from Clinton “would spotlight how isolated President Obama is among Democrats.”

Lines Drawn

Democratic backers of the deal aren’t pressing as hard for her to express clear support and anger key constituencies such as unions and environmentalists whose enthusiasm Clinton would need in an election. Unions consider the Pacific trade agreement a job killer and activists worry that certain provisions could be used to override environmental, health and safety regulations.

A public Clinton stand on fast track “would be a factor but I don’t think it would be particularly dispositive at this point,” said Representative Gerald Connolly, a Virginia Democrat who supports the initiative. “The lines have been drawn.”

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe traveled to Washington this week and delivered an address to Congress to promote expanded trade as Congress moves closer to a vote on negotiating authority. The measure would allow Obama and his successor to negotiate trade deals for up to six years and submit them to Congress for votes.

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Only 13 Democratic House members have publicly expressed support for the legislation, considered necessary to complete the Pacific trade deal, which would cover the U.S. and 11 other nations accounting for 44 percent of American goods exports in 2013.

Trade Links

No recent Democratic political name has been more closely linked to the cause of expanded international trade than the Clintons'. NAFTA was a signature achievement of Bill Clinton's presidency, won only after he took on the labor movement, key Democratic congressional leaders and much of his party's rank and file in Congress.

Then-first lady, Clinton praised NAFTA in 1996 as "proving its worth." At a meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in 1998, she thanked business leaders for lobbying for the trade deal with Mexico and Canada and criticized them for not making a more vigorous effort to give the administration fast-track authority to negotiate more such agreements.

In 2000, while campaigning for the U.S. Senate in New York, where upstate manufacturing jobs had declined, Clinton called NAFTA "flawed." After she was elected, she listed the trade agreement as an example of her husband's "good ideas and courage" in a 2002 speech to the centrist Democratic Leadership Council. In 2004, she said "on balance NAFTA has been good for New York and America."

As she began to gear up for her 2008 White House run, she turned more skeptical. She voted against the Central American Free Trade Agreement in 2005, saying it lacked sufficient protection for foreign workers. She joined fellow New York Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer in sponsoring legislation calling for sanctions on Chinese exports unless that country stopped holding down the value of its currency.

By 2007, she called NAFTA a "mistake" in a CNN presidential debate. During the campaign she called for a "trade timeout" on additional agreements and promised to appoint a "trade prosecutor" to more vigorously pursue violations by U.S. commercial partners. A Washington Post editorial in 2007 called her evolution on trade issues "opportunism under pressure."

Clinton wasn't the only candidate to court voters in industrial states unhappy with trade deals. Obama criticized her on NAFTA during hard-fought primaries in Ohio and Pennsylvania and promised to renegotiate the agreement if he were elected. He never followed through.

After House and Senate leaders negotiated compromise language on fast-track legislation in April, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill issued a statement on the Pacific trade talks that didn't take a position on the vote facing Congress.

"She will be watching closely to see what is being done to crack down on currency manipulation, improve labor rights, protect the environment and health, promote transparency, and open new opportunities for our small businesses to export overseas," Merrill said.

"Any new trade measure has to pass two tests," he added in the statement. "First it should put us in a position to protect American workers, raise wages and create more good jobs at home. Second, it must also strengthen our national security."

Perhaps mindful of his own history on trade, Obama has declined to criticize his former secretary of state for withholding public support on the fast-track debate.

"She said what she should be saying, which is that she is going to want to see a trade agreement that is strong on labor, strong on the environment, helps U.S. workers, helps the U.S. economy," Obama said in an interview Tuesday with the Wall Street Journal. "That's my standard as well, and I'm confident that standard can be met."

Bill Galston, a domestic policy adviser in the Clinton White House, said he'd be surprised to see the former first lady take a position on fast-track authority, which she can always characterize as "a procedural issue.'

"It's clearly her assessment that it has become a very volatile issue," Galston said. Should a complete treaty come before Congress, he added, it would become "increasingly difficult for her to avoid taking a position."

On Clinton's age, Republican rivals imply -- but never say -- she's old // Reuters // James Oliphant – May 1, 2015

Her campaign barely three weeks old, Hillary Clinton already has been attacked by Republicans on everything from donations to her family's charitable foundation, to her tenure as secretary of state and her ties to Wall Street. But her rivals, and the political action committees that support them, are treading more carefully on one incendiary subject: her age.

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If elected in November 2016, Clinton would be, at 69, the second-oldest person to take the presidential oath for the first time, behind only Ronald Reagan, who turned 70 weeks after being sworn into office in 1981.

Questions of health and fitness for the presidency dogged two former candidates of a similar age, Bob Dole in the 1996 election and John McCain in 2008, each of whom was 71 at this point in the race. Time magazine featured Dole on the cover asking whether he was "too old" for the job. McCain was so determined to show that he was healthy that he often put in back-breaking campaign days.

"I do think age is an issue in a presidential campaign," said Steve Schmidt, who was McCain's campaign manager. "There is a thin line between seasoned and decrepit."

But several Republican campaigns that seem best positioned to exploit it don't want to touch the issue - at least directly. That's a shift from just a few months ago, when presidential hopefuls Senator Rand Paul, 52, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, 47, explicitly referenced Clinton's age as a possible disqualifier, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell likened her to a cast member of the hit TV show "The Golden Girls," which featured four older women living together.

"It's a rigorous physical ordeal, I think, to be able to campaign for the presidency," Paul said in November, referring to Clinton's age. Now, however, Paul's presidential campaign doesn't want to talk about the issue. It declined further comment. As did Walker's political action committee, even though last fall, he, too, noted that he could run for president "20 years from now" and be the same age Clinton is today.

Campaign aides to Paul, Walker and Senator Marco Rubio, 43, as well as Republican strategists, told Reuters there was little appetite in the party at the moment for a direct assault on Clinton on the issues of her age and fitness for office, even after a 2012 fall that gave her a concussion and caused a potentially life-threatening blood clot.

Similarly, anti-Clinton political action committees such as American Crossroads, America Rising, and Citizens United said they had no plans to launch ads centered on her age.

POLL SHOWS DEMOCRATS UNFAZED

"It's unwise to attack a political opponent based on her immutable characteristics, like race, gender and age," said Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway. She said she has met with at least five Republican presidential campaigns seeking her services and none of them has indicated they want to go after Clinton on issues involving her age.

With Clinton swamped by questions about foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation and criticism of her use of a private email server while at the State Department, there is also simply no reason at the moment to engage in an attack that could be more divisive than beneficial, Republican strategists said.

They fear that highlighting Clinton's age could alienate women voters whom Republicans need to be competitive in next year's general election.

Democratic pollster Anna Greenberg said women older than 50 would likely comprise the largest bloc of voters in 2016.

There is little evidence that Democrats and independent voters are concerned about having another president in their 70s. A Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted this month showed that Clinton's age would not influence how 67 percent of Democrats and 72 percent of independents voted in November 2016.

And rather than downplay her age, Clinton in recent campaign events in Iowa and New Hampshire embraced her role as a grandmother, striking sympathetic notes with other older women in the room about the responsibility of raising a grandchild.

Supporters have also sought to dismiss any concerns about her age as sexist, noting that she's the same age as Mitt Romney when he ran four years ago. Romney largely avoided any protracted discussion about his health.

IT'S A GENERATIONAL THING

While eschewing direct attacks, some of the Republican presidential hopefuls have found other ways to strongly hint that Clinton's age should be an issue for voters. They have repackaged the issue as "generational" and suggested she is a product of the politics of the 20th Century. That argument will grow more vivid should Clinton face a candidate who could be a generation younger than her in the general election.

"When you look at Hilary Clinton's age, it becomes an issue in a general election if she's running against a 40-something new face as opposed to Governor Bush," said Schmidt. Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, is 62.

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Rubio, a quarter century younger than Clinton, referred to her as a "leader from yesterday" when he announced his candidacy last month.

"We welcome the contrast (with Clinton)," said a top adviser to Rubio. "This election is going to be about the future."

Clinton's campaign declined to comment on the various statements by the Republican hopefuls, referring questions to Correct the Record, a rapid-response operation run by the pro-Clinton group American Bridge. A spokeswoman, Adrienne Watson, said it was Clinton's rivals, not her, who were behind the times.

"Republican politicians are stuck in the 90s - the 1890s," Watson said. "I'm sure all Americans, Republicans included, would appreciate it if Republican leaders would join (Clinton) in talking about our future."

She saw Rubio's comments as a coded attack on Clinton's age.

"Marco Rubio basically disqualifies himself to be president when he diminishes any American for being too young or old or anything else," Watson said.

BILL CLINTON'S PLAYBOOK

Yet Rubio's approach is similar to the one employed by Clinton's husband, Bill, in his reelection campaign against Dole in 1996.

"I don't think Senator Dole is too old to be president," Clinton said at one debate. "It's the age of his ideas that I question."

Dick Morris, who served as Bill Clinton's campaign manager, said it was a subtle enough way to remind voters of the age difference between the two candidates.

"We obviously couldn't attack age directly because of older voters," Morris told Reuters. "What we did is adopt a whole strategy based on issues that would summon the memories and ideas of age without articulating it."

Dole released his medical records in 1995 to assuage concerns about his age. But the damage control was not entirely successful: he mistakenly called the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team "Brooklyn," and he tumbled off a stage during a rally.

Hillary Clinton, too, had what her husband seemed to term a "senior" moment in 2008 when she erroneously claimed she had come under sniper fire while on a trip to Bosnia as first lady.

Bill Clinton blamed the episode on his wife being exhausted, adding that her critics, "when they're 60, they'll forget something when they're tired at 11 at night, too."

The bipartisan corruption of American politics // vox // Ezra Klein – May 1, 2015

The money at the nexus of the Clinton Foundation, Bill Clinton's speaking shop, and Hillary Clinton's State Department is unnerving. But the amount of coverage it's getting might make you think it's unusually unnerving by the standards of modern American politics.

Nope. In fact, it's not even the most unnerving part of Hillary Clinton's campaign.

The Clinton Foundation is a great topic to investigate because its structure is strange, it namesake is an ex-president, and there are lots of documents and disclosures that can power stories. These investigations are worthy, and these pieces should be written — which is why we've been writing them at Vox.

But it's also worth looking past the smoke to the purported fire: the basic concern is that the Clinton Foundation gave corporations and even foreign governments a way to donate huge amounts of money to the Clintons without seeming like they were donating huge amounts of money to the Clintons — and those donations could have given them unusual access or influence in Hillary Clinton's State Department, or to her hypothetical future White House.

When you look at it that way, what becomes clear is that whatever the conflicts in the Clinton Foundation's finances, the daily corruption that powers modern presidential campaigns is much, much worse.

How to buy a Clinton

With the Clinton Foundation, there is at least the possibility that donors wanted to give money to an actual philanthropy trying to save and improve lives in poor countries. The same can't be said for the daily money-

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grubbing that fuels modern political campaigns.

Take, well, Hillary Clinton. She kicked off her presidential fundraising on Tuesday with a series of events on Wall Street. Guests paid $2,700 to attend, while hosts had to bundle $27,000 in donations each. These are big, direct donations to Hillary Clinton's campaign. They are being made by people who have paid to be in a room with Hillary Clinton. They are being made with the express purpose of helping Hillary Clinton win the presidency. They are being made by people whose livelihoods are regulated by the very agencies Clinton seeks to control.

The thing that people worry was quietly happening at the Clinton Foundation, in other words, is publicly happening with the Clinton campaign.

You might argue, of course, that individual donors are limited by that $2,700 cap. How much influence can anyone really buy for $2,700? How much goodwill is really purchased by getting 10 of your friends to bundle their contributions alongside yours? Particularly when Chicago businessman Fred Eychaner gave more than $25 million to the Clinton Foundation. One guy. More than $25 million. How can you compare that to donations capped at $2,700?

You can't. But donations to the Clinton campaign aren't really capped at $2,700. Clinton, like every other major candidate in the race (and probably a few of the not-so-major ones), will have a number of allied Super PACs. The Super PACs will supposedly be independent of Clinton's campaign, but they won't be, not really. Hillary Clinton will be raising money for them directly. Her top surrogates will quietly be urging her richest donors to fund send them bigger and bigger checks. And those checks will get eye-poppingly big.

Donations to Super PACs, like to the Clinton Foundation, are unlimited. Eychaner can give another $25 million, or another $100 million, if he so chooses. Indeed, one of the reasons Clinton announced so early was that her Super PAC was having trouble raising those big checks until she officially entered the race.

The dynamics behind Clinton's Super PAC are the precise dynamics that people fear existed in the Clintons' foundation. Extremely rich individuals and institutions will give extremely large sums of money in order to get Clinton elected. These donors will get access, influence, and a certain measure of power over her administration — after all, if Clinton wants to run again, she's going to need them to fund her next campaign, too. And there will be no chance that these donors simply wanted to help Bill Clinton distribute HIV/AIDS drugs in the world's poorest countries.

How to buy the entire Republican primary field

Anti-Koch Brothers Protest Held Outside Their Manhattan Apartment
Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images
That's not how you spell Coke.

It's not just Clinton, of course. The Republican candidates will have their own Super PACs. The Koch Brothers, for instance, are coordinating a network of rich Republicans who intend to spend nearly a billion dollars — yes, billion with a "B" — on the 2016 election. And there, the corruption has become almost comically explicit.

Rand Paul wrote them a love letter in Time magazine. "Charles and David Koch are well known for their business success, their generous philanthropic efforts and for their focus on innovation in management," he wrote. "Some also know them for their activism in the political realm." Yes, I think I heard something about that activism.

But it's not just Paul. Republican presidential hopefuls are literally flying across the country to audition for the Kochs' support:

In another surprise, a top Koch aide revealed to POLITICO that Jeb Bush will be given a chance to audition for the brothers' support, despite initial skepticism about him at the top of the Kochs' growing political behemoth.

Sen. Marco Rubio, Sen. Rand Paul and Sen. Ted Cruz debated at the Koch network's winter seminar in January, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker made a separate appearance. Those were the candidates who appeared to have a chance at the Koch blessing, and attendees said Rubio seemed to win that round.

And unlike the donors to the Clinton Foundation, whose political aims are hypothetical and speculative, the Kochs are political activists trying to change the nature of the Republican Party — and the country. And it's working. As Andrew Prokop wrote, there's no serious Republican presidential hopeful who breaks with the Kochs' core policy commitments — and that's partly because no Republican presidential hopeful who breaks with the Kochs' core policy commitments is going to have the resources needed to be taken seriously:

The Kochs have longed seem to prioritize economic issues — shrinking government, slashing entitlement spending, cutting taxes, and reducing regulations — far above other matters. And it hasn't been too long since the big-spending, Medicare-expanding George W. Bush administration drew their ire.

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The prospect of the GOP nominee pledging a major entitlement expansion seems unimaginable now. Instead, the entire party has backed Paul Ryan's plans to overhaul Medicare, to reduce government spending on the program. More broadly, this year's contest features the spectacle of every major hopeful competing to trash the Export-Import Bank — a longtime target of the Kochs, who view the agency as exemplifying government interference in the free market. Support for action on climate change, for Obamacare, or for campaign finance reform are all anathema for the vast majority of the expected presidential field — as they are for the GOP in general.

It actually, unimaginably, gets worse. The Clinton Foundation has agreed to make its donors public, and presidential campaigns and even Super PACs are required by law to make their donors public. We know, sooner or later, who gave money and how much they gave. But there's also the world of 501(c)4 and 501(c)6 organizations, like Karl Rove's Crossroads GPS, where the donations are simply secret: the public has no way to know who gave, or how much, even though the candidate might know exactly whom they owe, and why.

This "dark" money has gone from a minor feature of campaign spending to a powerful one. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the 2004 presidential election had less than $6 million in dark money; the 2012 election had more than $310 million.

That means the stories being written about the Clinton Foundation, or about the Koch brothers, simply can't be written about the 501(c)4s — not because the corruption isn't more grievous, but because the information is so much more limited.

The influence-purchasing that people are worried might have happened, in a loose and indirect way, with the Clinton Foundation, is happening in an obvious and direct way around every single one of the major presidential campaigns —and what's worse is that we're getting used to it, inured to it, tired of complaining about it. The Clinton Foundation is getting so much coverage in part because it's novel. But the much more significant, more daily corruption of American politics is, sadly, becoming routine.

Clinton Charities Raked in Millions of Taxpayer Dollars // Free Beacon // Elizabeth Harrington – May 1, 2015

The Clinton Foundation and its major health charity have raked in more than $7 million from the U.S. government in recent years, according to an analysis of public records conducted by the Washington Free Beacon.

The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), chaired by Bill Clinton and run by the former president's long-time associate Ira Magaziner, has received $6,010,898 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 2010. CHAI, the biggest arm of the Clinton family's charitable efforts, accounting for 60 percent of all spending, received $3,193,500 in fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012, according to federal contracts, during Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. The organization received an additional $2,817,398 from the CDC in FYs 2013, 2014, and 2015.

The grants, including $200,000 awarded as recently as January, have gone to CHAI's Global AIDS program, and are filed under "Global Health and Child Survival." The CDC is listed as a $1 to $10 million contributor to CHAI, according to its donor list released earlier this month.

The Boston-based health arm of the Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for failing to disclose donations from foreign governments—in violation of a pledge Clinton made to the Obama administration before she assumed office as secretary of state.

A Reuters report found that the health initiative stopped making its annual disclosure in 2010 and that "no complete list of donors to the Clintons' charities has been published" since. The group only recently published a partial donor list, which its spokesperson Maura Daley told Reuters "made up for" CHAI's "oversight" of failing to meet the disclosure agreement.

When asked whether the CDC has any concern regarding its funding of CHAI or plans to provide grants to the organization in the future, an agency spokesperson told the Washington Free Beacon that it "can't predict who will apply for and be awarded grants."

"CDC and potential grantees must follow federal guidelines when applying for or awarding and monitoring grants," said Shelly Diaz. "CHAI, like any other organization meeting federal requirements, may apply for CDC grants. They would also be expected to meet the same ongoing requirements for grantees (e.g. reports, audits, performance standards)."

CHAI received hundreds of millions from foreign nations between 2009 and 2014, including: the United Kingdom ($79.7 million), Australia ($58.6 million), Norway ($38.1 million), Canada ($12.1 million), Ireland ($11.7 million), Sweden ($7.2 million), and New Zealand ($1.2 million).

The Boston Globe found that foreign donations "sharply accelerated" to CHAI when Hillary Clinton became secretary of state.

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“Government grants, nearly all from foreign countries, doubled to $55.9 million in 2013 from $26.7 million in 2010, according to the records,” the report said.

The health initiative broke off into a nonprofit separate from the Clinton Foundation in 2010, though it is still chaired by Bill and Chelsea Clinton.

The charities have remained intertwined. CHAI received a $2 million cash grant from the Clinton Foundation for “Haiti relief,” according to the group’s 2013 tax filing. It received a $4 million cash grant from the foundation for “program service” in 2012.

CHAI’s chief executive officer and vice chairman, Ira Magaziner, a 1960s student activist who tried to “convert a small American city into a model of municipal socialism,” is a long time associate of the Clintons. Magaziner was a Rhodes scholar with Bill Clinton in the late 1960s, a senior advisor in the Clinton White House, and the architect of Hillary Clinton’s failed health-care plan in the 1990s.

Magaziner formerly ran the foundation’s Clinton Climate Initiative while also running CHAI, though he ceded control over the environmental group late last year. He was paid $415,000 in salary and consulting fees from the Clinton Foundation in 2013, according to Politico. Bruce Lindsey, Bill Clinton’s longtime lawyer and chairman of the board of the Clinton Foundation, was the highest paid official at CHAI, paid $398,159 in salary and benefits in 2013 as a board member.

CHAI’s website says they are a “frugal” charity that focuses on saving lives, rather than “compensating ourselves excessively.”

CHAI’s spokesperson, Maura Daley, said that taxpayer funding to her organization is being provided by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and distributed through the CDC for AIDS work in Ethiopia.

“The CDC agreement with CHAI was a 5-year grant to support work in Ethiopia, which began prior to Secretary Clinton becoming Secretary,” Daley told the Free Beacon. “The work includes building the management capacity in government hospitals throughout Ethiopia to maximize the productivity of their resources and deliver higher quality services.”

She said the funding is going towards enrolling hospital CEOs in masters programs for hospital management.

“CHAI had been working with the Ethiopian Government to begin this hospital management program with funding from other donors prior to the CDC getting involved,” Daley said. “The CDC came in later to add funding for the work so it made sense for the Ethiopian Government and the CDC to have CHAI continue the work we had already been doing.”

Daley said CHAI does not normally accept grants from the U.S. government, but said the Clinton charity was the “ideal” group for the CDC.

“While CHAI does not typically take USG work, it agreed to do so on contract in this instance because it was the ideal NGO to successfully complete the work required,” she said. “Again, CHAI’s involvement in the work, which has continued, was at the request of the Ethiopian Government along with the CDC.”

Aside from millions given to the health initiative, the Clinton Foundation itself has received more than $1.4 million in U.S. taxpayer funding from federal agencies and the 2009 stimulus law.

The Clinton Foundation lists several state and federal agencies as financial contributors, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The EPA is listed as having contributed between $1,001 and $5,000.

EPA spokesperson Laura Allen said her agency “does not have any record of a donation” to the Clinton Foundation.

Another agency, entitled the “Office of Minority Health and Human Services,” is also listed as having contributed between $1,001 and $5,000. The Free Beacon was unable to determine what this donation referred to, or which federal or state office it came from.

The Department of Health and Human Service’s Office of Minority Health (OMH) was unable to locate any donation to the Clinton Foundation. The Office of Minority Health and Human Services, a state agency in Nebraska that recently changed its name to the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity, said the donation could not have come from their office because they do no solicit or issue funding.

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State agencies in Arkansas have also given financial contributions to the Clinton Foundation, according to the organization's website.

The Arkansas Minority Health Commission gave between $1,001 and $5,000. Michael Knox, executive director of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, told the Free Beacon that the donation was for the Clinton Center's annual "Head of the Class Bash" in June 2011 that paid for "car seat inspections, immunizations and health screenings, and backpacks with school supplies to the children of Arkansas."

The Arkansas Energy Office is also listed as donating between $500,001 and $1 million to the Clinton Foundation, though the contribution actually came from spending authorized by the 2009 stimulus law.

Scott Hardin, director of communications for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, told the Free Beacon that the Clinton Foundation received nearly $800,000 from his office, through a grant funded by the stimulus.

"The Energy Office distributed more than $50 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds a few years ago and the money provided to the Clinton Foundation was part of this effort," he said.

The grant, amounting to $758,123, was provided to the Clinton Foundation in October 2009, Hardin said.

The funds went to the Clinton Foundation's Home Energy Affordability Loan (HEAL) program, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings through "energy-efficiency and monitoring strategies."

The Clinton Foundation received another stimulus grant on Sept. 28, 2009 for $639,711, through the Department of Energy. The grant also went to the HEAL program and to "support the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in Arkansas."

The project is listed as creating zero jobs.

The Free Beacon found one case where an agency was listed as a Clinton Foundation contributor, even though it has never donated to the organization.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is currently listed for a donation between $1,000 and $5,000. However, the state agency never paid the Clinton Foundation, and only helped host a conference at the Clinton Center. The state agency nonetheless received a gift receipt from the Clinton Foundation.

In this case, the Clinton Foundation did receive $1,350 from the U.S. taxpayers, but through another federal agency: the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Amy Webb, director of communications for the Arkansas Department of Human Services, told the Free Beacon that her agency helped the Clinton Foundation host an event honoring AmeriCorps in Little Rock, Ark. last year.

"Our Division of Community Service and Non-profit Support, along with other local entities, co-hosted an AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary event at the Clinton Center in September 2014," she said. "Via a grant, the Corporation for National and Community Service provided our agency with $1,350 to help cover costs associated with that event."

Webb provided an invoice from the Clinton Foundation detailing the $1,350 charge, which she said was for refreshments.

"The money was not a donation to the Clinton Foundation," Webb said. "In January, we incorrectly received a 'gift receipt' for a donation for the money we used for that event, and we notified the foundation of that error."

In all, state and federal agencies have contributed between $1,402,187 and $1,414,184 directly to the Clinton Foundation.

Together with the health initiative, taxpayers have contributed roughly $7.4 million to Clinton charities.

The Clinton Foundation admitted it has "made mistakes" in disclosing donors after a barrage of recent news reports. Among its failures was disclosing a $2.35 million donation from the chairman of Uranium One, a company acquired by the Russians and later used to assume control of 20 percent of U.S. uranium production through a deal that was signed off in part by Hillary Clinton's State Department.

The Clinton Foundation is also expected to refile some of its tax forms, according to a blog post written by Maura Pally, the foundation's acting chief executive, who said that the organization "mistakenly combined" government grants with other donations.

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The Clinton Foundation did not return requests for comment.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Sanders draws warm welcome in New Hampshire // Washington Post // Aaron C. Davis - May 2, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders on Saturday gave a version of the same speech about the nation's struggling middle class and greedy billionaires that he has delivered for the past 30 years. But two days into his long-shot bid for the presidency, the oft-repeated words amounted to something new — a barometer of frustration on the liberal left that could begin to reshape the Democratic primary.

With almost 100 people packed into the house of an acupuncturist here and dozens more craning to listen from outside, Sanders (I-Vt.) had a growing audience. And the warm reception he received suggested there is room alongside front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton in the nation's first presidential primary state for Sanders's rumpled and irreverent attacks on the country's political establishment.

"My intention in this campaign," the senator from nearby Vermont began, "is to talk about the real issues impacting working people throughout New Hampshire, Vermont and America." To growing rounds of applause, Sanders ticked off a list of stagnating wages, dwindling family savings and out-of-reach college costs. They are all getting worse, Sanders said, because the political system in Washington is rigged to send an unfair share to the rich.

Speaking to a convention of labor leaders hours later on a mountaintop, Sanders drew more applause. He blasted a proposed trade pact with Pacific Rim countries backed by President Obama and that Clinton first negotiated as secretary of state as dangerous to what U.S. manufacturing jobs remain.

"Pushed by corporate America, pushed by Wall Street . . . the function of these trade agreements is to allow companies in America to shut down here, move to low-wage countries abroad and bring their products back to America," Sanders said. "Enough is enough, we do not need another disastrous trade policy."

As dozens pushed in for pictures with him after, the scenes followed an announcement by Sanders's campaign on Friday that in the first 24 hours after he launched his candidacy, he raised $1.5 million: A grass-roots surge from 35,000 online donors who gave an average of just $43.54 apiece. On Saturday, his campaign said the two-day tally topped $2.1 million, that most had signed up to continue contributing in monthly installments. A larger group of 145,000 people had also signed up online to volunteer, the campaign said.

The first day in New Hampshire also brought a new indication of Sanders's seriousness about the race. Congress's longest-serving independent and a self-described socialist, Sanders backtracked just two days after announcing his candidacy to say that he would abandon the "I" beside his name and register as a Democrat if needed to compete in the party's primary in all 50 states.

Outside the U.S. Capitol on Thursday, the senator rejected any suggestion that he register as a Democrat. "No," Sanders said, "I'm an independent." But a day later, questions surfaced in New Hampshire about whether he would be eligible. The Granite State requires candidates to fill out a form declaring party registration.

"We're going to fulfill all the rules," Sanders said, "I made the decision that the best way to be effective in this campaign, the best way to win was to do it through the Democratic primary process. We will meet all of the requirements of all of the states, including New Hampshire," he said.

In almost every way, Sanders first day on the trail contrasted sharply with Clinton's first trip to the state last month. Clinton held a series of small and often scripted events, one a roundtable in a quiet warehouse staged with a table and chairs and a place for reporters to watch.

Before Sanders arrived, it was unclear how he would reach a music stand set up as a podium in a corner of the living room. Elizabeth Ropp, wearing a People's Organization of Community Acupuncture T-shirt, took the microphone to ask anyone feeling claustrophobic to step outside "if they need air."

Without Sanders having a paid campaign staffer yet in New Hampshire, or even a campaign office in Vermont, Ropp said she got a call asking to host earlier in the week "from a friend of a friend" who had started volunteering for the campaign.

Ropp introduced Sanders as the candidate of the "12-hour filibuster and the $12 haircut," referring to his opposition to tax cuts during Obama's first term, and his frizzy white, often disheveled hair.

Sanders took the microphone, unfolded notes scratched on a piece of yellow legal paper, and said he's the one with

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ideas to win.

He said he wants a $1 trillion infrastructure campaign to create 13 million jobs. He said he will soon introduce legislation in the Senate for a $70 billion plan to make public colleges and universities tuition-free. The plan could be funded, he said, by eliminating tax loopholes that allow companies to keep profits overseas. And he said the nation needs to move toward a single-payer Medicare system for health care and increase Social Security benefits

“Our job is to think big, not small,” Sanders said. “Our job is to say that in the wealthiest country in the history of the world . . . that we can create a nation in which every person has health care as a right . . . and can get a higher education,” he said.

“We can create a nation where anybody who wants to can run for office, even if they are not a billionaire,” Sanders said. After more photos, he piled into a dented Subaru with three aides and drove away.

Many in both audiences were graying but not as white-haired as Sanders. There was also a smattering of teens and 20-somethings at each event.

“This is someone who could actually keep a lot of young people like me in the fold” of the Democratic Party, said Chace Joe Jackson, 23. “Our generation just isn’t going to have anything like the world that came before us and actually enjoyed the American middle class for what it was.”

Jackson said he’s been disappointed by Obama and thinks of Clinton as a “right-leaning, big-business Democrat. . . . When they become president, they all give in to the status quo. You know that’s not what Bernie Sanders is going to do.”

Sanders will register as a Democrat if needed // Washington Post // Aaron C. Davis – May 2, 2015

Bernie Sanders, Congress’s longest-serving independent and a self-described socialist, backtracked just two days into his presidential campaign on Saturday, saying he would register as a Democrat if needed to compete in the party’s primary in all 50 states.

Announcing his candidacy Thursday outside the U.S. Capitol, the senator from Vermont rejected any suggestion that he register as a Democrat. “No,” Sanders said, “I’m an independent.” But a day later, questions surfaced in New Hampshire about whether he would be eligible to compete next year in the nation’s first presidential primary.

New Hampshire requires candidates to fill out a form declaring party registration. Sanders also rejected the Democratic nomination for Senate twice in Vermont, New Hampshire news media noted.

On Saturday, after addressing a mosh pit of more than 100 supporters stuffed in a Manchester home and spilling out into a yard, Sanders said: “We will do what we have to do” to make sure his name appears on the ballot alongside Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Sanders’s new openness to registering as a Democrat follows his campaign’s statement that he raised an impressive $1.5 million in the first 24 hours of his announcing: A grass-roots surge from 35,000 donors who gave an average of $43.54 apiece, the campaign reported.

Sanders stressed repeatedly Saturday that he is in the race to win it. Known in Washington as a pragmatic politician, his party affiliation appeared to be an early compromise, though he often sits with the Democratic caucus.

“We’re going to fulfill all the rules,” Sanders said, when asked about the potential roadblock. “You know, I am the longest-serving independent in congressional history. I made the decision that the best way to be effective in this campaign, the best way to win was to do it through the democratic primary process. We will meet all of the requirements of all of the states, including New Hampshire,” he said.

Even If that requires registering as a Democrat?

“We will do what we have to do. We are going to be on the ballot in 50 states. You don’t win unless you do that,” Sanders said.

In every other way, Sanders remained the idealist Saturday, acknowledging his long-shot campaign will rise or fall on an idealistic vision for bolstering the middle class.

Sanders said he wants a $1 trillion infrastructure campaign to create 13 million jobs. He said he will soon introduce legislation in the Senate for a $70 billion plan to make public colleges and universities tuition-free. He suggested funding for the plan could come from eliminating corporate tax loopholes that allow companies to keep profits

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overseas. And he said the nation needs to move toward a single-payer Medicaid system for health care and increase social security benefits.

“We are going to run a campaign unlike any before,” Sanders said. “I’m running because this country faces more serious crises than at any time since the Great Depression.”

Elizabeth Warren praises Bernie Sanders’ prez bid // Boston Herald // Prisca Pointdujour – May 2, 2015

Bay State U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren welcomed fellow liberal from the north, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, into the presidential sweepstakes yesterday, even as she continues to resist efforts to draft her into the race.

“I’m glad to see him get out there and give his version of what leadership in this country should be,” Warren said while at Middlesex Community College in Lowell yesterday. “I think that Bernie Sanders is going to play out a vision for America and that it is important for people to hear what he has to say.”

Warren has repeatedly said she will not run for president, despite a nationwide campaign urging her to throw her hat in the ring. Sanders shares many of Warren’s causes, such as breaking up big Wall Street banks, and many see him as the party’s only real chance to force Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton to tackle more liberal issues.

Sanders will make his first visit to New Hampshire today since launching his campaign Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Warren also said it’s time to rebuild ties between police and communities.

“People are angry and frustrated, and they have a reason to be,” Warren said. “That never excuses violence against the police, but we need to have a more serious conversation about what’s gone wrong in Baltimore and other places throughout this country and how to repair that.”

Warren said outrage over Freddie Gray, the Baltimore man who died in police custody, was due to mounting frustrations.

“It’s something we must address,” she said. “We have shoved this problem out of the spotlight for years and that’s been part of what’s erupted now in Baltimore.”

Chris Cassidy contributed to this report.

Bernie Sanders Yells His Mind // New York Times – Opinions // Gail Collins – May 1,2015

Our topic today is: Bernie Sanders for president?

“My fifteen minutes of fame,” the Vermont senator said gruffly over the phone. Gruff is pretty much his normal way of speaking, but Sanders was actually in a good mood at this point in the conversation. Later, the volume would escalate.

He announced he was running for the Democratic nomination on Thursday, first in an email, then in a makeshift press conference on the lawn outside the Capitol. There are worse approaches. One of the few previous presidential candidates from Vermont was George Dewey, the hero of the Spanish American War. Dewey started his campaign off with a statement that read, in part: “Since studying the subject I am convinced that the office of the president is not such a very difficult one to fill . . .” It was pretty much downhill from there.

Sanders’s beginning was more auspicious. His infant campaign raised more than $1.5 million in donations in the first 24 hours: “Thirty-five thousand donations averaging $43 apiece!”

For you, concerned citizen, this is nothing but good news. For one thing, we can now spend the winter entertaining the idea of a President Bernie. Plus, competition is always better. Hillary Clinton is no longer in danger of spending the next year just listening to average voters and denying she feels entitled.

Besides the two announced candidates, there will probably be other contenders, including former Maryland governor Martin (“former Maryland governor”) O’Malley. Also interested are ex-Senator Jim Webb of Virginia and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, a former Republican senator turned former independent governor who is now a Democrat.

Question: What about Elizabeth Warren?

Answer: As a rule, when somebody says they are not running for president more than 100 times, it is a strong indication that they are not running for president.

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Question: Sanders self-identifies as a “democratic socialist.” Aren’t people going to think that’s a little extreme?

Answer: This week, the governor of Texas announced he was putting a special watch on U.S. military exercises this summer, due to public speculation that the soldiers might take over the state and confiscate everyone’s guns. Also, the Idaho Legislature recently killed a bill that would have provided federal aid in tracking down deadbeat dads, due to concern that it might involve the use of Shariah law. I do not want to hear you calling Bernie Sanders an extremist.

Sanders said his campaign goal is to “lay down a progressive agenda which speaks to the needs of working people.” This would include making “the wealthiest people and corporations start paying their fair share of taxes.”

Now this is a problem for Democrats who envision the senator as a tool to push Hillary Clinton to the left. We already know she’s going to talk endlessly about bridging the economic divide. It might help if there were more specific specifics.

“You don’t know much about me, right?” asked Sanders, launching into another list of his causes: tax reform, health care, fixing the crumbling infrastructure.

Continue reading the main story
“I voted against DOMA — you know what DOMA is?” he demanded, referring to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act, which Clinton once supported during her husband’s presidency. “I’m not evolving when it comes to gay rights. I was there!”

The sun was sinking over this conversation. (“You got me riled up here!”) The problem was that I was talking about his potential as a debating partner who could turn Clinton into a more progressive candidate, while Bernie Sanders wants to be regarded as a potential president of the United States.

“I do resent that,” he agreed. “I am in this race to win.”

Sanders doesn’t really want Democratic voters to compare him with Clinton to see who has the best positions on the issues. He wants them to decide who has the most consistent record in fighting for those issues, and there is absolutely no question in the world that when it comes to consistency, Bernie Sanders is Mount Rushmore to Hillary Clinton’s Sheila the Shapeshifter.

Her political life has been a continual, sometimes unedifying, struggle to get the power to do what she believed were the right things for the country. His began with a long list of principled and totally hopeless campaigns whose dismal outcomes he recounts proudly in speeches: “... I received 2 percent of the vote. Not dissuaded, I ran a year later for governor of the State of Vermont, and received 1 percent of the vote . . .”

Then came an improbable win for mayor of the small city of Burlington, which he governed well. Then it was off to the House and the Senate, where he fought for progressive causes. He has now been in Congress for 24 years — longer, he likes to point out, than any other independent in American history.

You’ve got to give him credit. Welcome to the race, Bernie.

Bernie Sanders raises $1.5 million in 24 hours, says his campaign // Washington Post // Philip Rucker - May 1, 2015

Advisers to Bernie Sanders have argued that his grassroots network of small-dollar donors could raise him the roughly $50 million the independent senator from Vermont will need to run a credible, competitive campaign in the Democratic presidential primaries.

They may be right.

On Friday, the Sanders campaign announced that it has raised more than $1.5 million online in the 24 hours since he announced his candidacy. It is a surprisingly heavy haul for a candidate whom some in the Democratic chattering class have cast off as a gadfly and viewed as unable to wrest the nomination from the overwhelming favorite, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The donations came from a broad base of supporters -- some 35,000 donors who gave an average of $43.54 a piece, according to the Sanders campaign. The campaign also said it signed up more than 100,000 supporters through its website, building what it calls a "mass movement."

Clinton has not released any details about her fundraising totals, online or otherwise. But the Sanders haul outpaces the three major Republican candidates who already have announced. In the first 24 hours since launching their campaigns, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) raised $1.25 million and Sens. Rand Paul (Ky.) and Ted Cruz

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(Texas) raised about $1 million each, according to their campaigns.

“This is a remarkable start for Bernie's campaign," Sanders adviser Tad Devine said in a statement. "People across America are yearning for authentic leadership that tells them the truth about what is holding back our nation."

As a self-described socialist, Sanders does not have a deep base of wealthy donors and corporate PACs who give to his campaigns; he jokes that he doesn't know any millionaires or billionaires. He said Thursday he is taking on the "billionaire class" he says are controlling the U.S. political system, and would make the surge in political spending in recent years -- especially through super PACs fueled by unlimited donations -- a major theme of his campaign.

Bernie Sanders Could Curb Hillary's Enthusiasm // U.S. News and World Report The Run 2016 // David Catanese - May 1, 2015

He’s a cantankerous, bespectacled, balding New Yorker who is inclined to see the glass half-empty.

Born to Jewish parents, he’s devoutly irreligious and fiercely liberal. He’s not one to engage in small talk, like the stop-and-chat. And his mood is perpetually sullen, with dashes of cutting humor.

Larry David isn’t running for president. But his political doppelgänger – Bernie Sanders – is.

One is a renowned comedian currently performing on Broadway. The other is a grizzled politician – a second-term senator representing Vermont – who will be putting on his own show in cities like Bedford, New Hampshire, and Bettendorf, Iowa.

But the similarities between the two – in likeness, demeanor and even substance – are uncanny.

First, there’s the appearance. Separated by just six years in age, there’s the wispy white hair split by a shiny cranium. And the trademark glasses, which do little to hide a face that usually looks either mildly irked or unimpressed.

Yes, Bernie dons the dark suit and white shirt required of male public officials, whereas Larry prefers khakis and a plain navy corduroy jacket. But there’s a striking simplicity to both men’s wardrobes. These are guys with bigger things to stew on than what they put on in the morning.

Bernie and Larry also share a prickly streak that places Larry in countless sticky situations on the HBO program “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and could prove fraught for Bernie in those mandatory warm-and-fuzzy moments on the campaign trail. Larry can be awkward, amusing and irritating all at once in daily interactions. And while Bernie is not expected to engage a potential supporter about the propriety of using a handicapped-accessible restroom stall, if he’s offered a house tour in an early primary state, as Larry found, it’s best to zip your lip and endure it.

But Bernie has also shown a proclivity for not playing along.

When he appeared on Bloomberg Politics' “With All Due Respect” program last fall, he was pelted with a bunch of personality questions meant to “get to know him” better. Amid a string of inquiries that ranged from his grandchildren to his athletic ability, Sanders let slip: “I’m not a great fan of media in general.”

Neither is Larry.

When he was being interviewed by “60 Minutes” for a March episode to promote his play “Fish in the Dark,” he made clear he wasn’t comfortable.

“I had to be talked into '60 Minutes.' You think I wanted to do this? I didn’t want to do it! 'Cause I knew you’d be asking questions like this!” he told interviewer Charlie Rose.

Bernie’s Bloomberg interview took a similar path.

Mark Halperin pitched a question thousands were yearning to know: Was he – and not Larry – the actual voice of George Steinbrenner on "Seinfeld"?

Of course not.

But Halperin handed Bernie some lines to try it out. Bernie obliged, but didn’t seem excited.

He bowed his head, averting his eyes, seemingly thinking, “Why did I agree to do this?”

“Did you do the voice of George Steinbrenner?” Halperin pressed.

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"No," Bernie replied, tapping his hands on the upholstered chair he was seated in.

Then, the Bernie broadside: "Now that we've dealt with the important issues facing America, what else do we have?"

Personality isn't central to selecting our political candidates, Bernie said. "What's more important is there are enormous problems facing this country and we don't talk about them."

It was full curmudgeon. Larry would be proud.

Larry and Bernie are quite copacetic when it comes to their politics, from tax cuts to climate change.

But Bernie embodies Larry's dour view of the world – that if it could go wrong, it probably will.

A challenge for Bernie's 2016 campaign will be infusing sun into his rather gloomy outlook of the current political atmosphere.

The Iraq War was "the worst foreign policy blunder in modern American history," Bernie's lamented.

The Citizens United Supreme Court decision that opened the floodgates of political spending showed that the "foundations of American democracy" are in serious danger, he has warned.

Bernie has also repeatedly suggested that what he's attempting – to make a credible run for the Democratic nomination against a billion-dollar front-runner – may not be possible.

"If that is the case, what a sad state of affairs that is for American democracy," he said Wednesday on the lawn in front of the U.S. Capitol.

In February, he stated quite grimly that the game might be over before it has even started, referring to the libertarian Koch brothers and the eye-popping sum of money they're planning deploy in the 2016 election.

"Can you take that on? I don't know the answer. Maybe the game is over. Maybe they have bought the United States government. Maybe there is no turning back. Maybe we've gone over the edge," he said.

It conjures up the cover image of Season 3's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" box set, in which Larry is staring contemplatively into a glass half-full.

Bernie understands the odds against an avowed socialist. But as the first official Democratic alternative to Hillary Clinton, he immediately fills a void for those progressives who feel ignored or taken for granted.

Larry would probably tell Bernie his ultimate goal is out of reach, too hard to obtain, maybe even silly. But Bernie will raise the uncomfortable issues – whether it be trade, money in politics or foreign intervention – that could put Clinton in some sticky situations.

He won't win, but ultimately, Bernie may – ahem – curb Hillary's enthusiasm.

Baltimore riots hurt O'Malley's already slim chances // Politico // James Hohmann – May 1, 2015

Martin O'Malley's political career, which started on the streets of Baltimore, may also end there: Half of Democratic insiders in the early states believe this week's riots have hurt the former mayor's already long-shot presidential hopes.

The POLITICO Caucus, our weekly bipartisan survey of the most important activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire, found that Democrats are evenly split over whether racial unrest will be a minor or significant issue in the presidential campaign.

Story Continued Below

"I really like and respect O'Malley, so it pains me to write that I think the Baltimore violence will essentially disqualify him as a viable presidential candidate for a broad swath of Americans," said a New Hampshire Democrat, who – like all 73 respondents – completed the questionnaire anonymously in order to speak candidly. "The renaissance of Baltimore has been such a huge part of his biography when he speaks to Democrats, so when your TV shows Baltimore on fire, riot police on the streets and baseball at an empty Camden Yards, one can only wonder what kind of lasting progress he made there."

On the Republican side, six in 10 insiders think the turmoil between African Americans and the police has injured Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul politically, though three-quarters of Republicans believe it will either be a non-issue or a

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minor one.

“Rand is advocating, in part, for reduced sentences for non-violent crimes,” said an Iowa Republican. “However, all anyone is going to see and hear is ‘Put more criminals back out on the street,’ and overlay that with the images that everyone is watching from the mayhem in Baltimore. How does he argue that being softer on crime would alleviate the rioting???”

Here are the six main takeaways from Week 12 of The POLITICO Caucus:

Changing his travel plans may not have helped O’Malley.

The former mayor and governor canceled paid speaking gigs in Europe to return home after the rioting on Monday. The attempt at damage control, which included an op-ed, failed to quell growing doubts about O’Malley’s rationale for seeking the presidency and spotlighted his controversial approach to policing during his eight years as mayor from 1999 to 2007.

“Returning to Baltimore was an odd move, especially considering there’s not much he can actually do about the unrest,” said a New Hampshire Democrat. “By coming back he also made it easier to link his own police policies as mayor to the current situation.”

“Any mention of Baltimore will now draw people’s attention to the events of the last few days — not any of the progress he claims to have made while mayor,” said an Iowa Democrat.

“This is absolutely a hit on his executive experience,” added another. “He is running on his ability to turn Baltimore around and to lead Maryland in a progressive direction. His city is now seen for riots and racial injustice and his chosen successor [former Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown] lost the race to succeed him as governor.”

Several Democrats complained about O’Malley’s embrace of zero-tolerance policing tactics, which have been widely criticized this week by people like David Simon, the creator of the HBO crime drama “The Wire.” More than 108,400 arrests were made in 2005, according to the Baltimore Sun. For context, only about 600,000 people live in the city.

“The Anyone-But-Clinton crowd is on the left, and police-racial issues are a litmus test now,” said an Iowa Democrat.

O’Malley’s campaign-in-waiting said Thursday night that Baltimore saw a greater reduction of serious crimes during his tenure than any other major U.S. city. “When O’Malley was elected mayor in 1999, Baltimore was the most violent, addicted, and abandoned city in America,” spokeswoman Lis Smith emailed reporters .”His policies — including proactive policing, policing of the police, increased drug treatment, and earlier intervention with at-risk youth — fundamentally changed the trajectory of the city of Baltimore.”

Six in 10 Republicans agreed that the events of this week are damaging to O’Malley, and many of those who didn’t argued that it’s not damaging because he was already irrelevant. “It’s difficult for O’Malley to sink any lower than the 1 percent current polls have him at,” said a Granite Stater. “Right now, he has the ability to luxuriate in the purity of his irrelevance.”

Most think Rand mishandled the Baltimore blow-up.

Paul has closely identified himself with criminal justice reform, traveling to Ferguson, Mo., last year and spending a lot of time engaging with the African-American community.

More than six in 10 Republicans surveyed said that they thought the violence in Baltimore would benefit candidates who back more traditional Republican positions on crime at Paul’s expense.

“The more there is chaos both abroad and at home — the less Republican caucus-goers are going to take a risk on libertarian-oriented policies that Paul is selling,” said an Iowa Republican. “On the domestic front, personal security still trumps civil liberties with GOP voters.”

“The events in Baltimore break down neatly along ideological lines,” added a New Hampshire GOPer. “For Republican voters, this is another reason to stress the rule of law and a strong police presence. For Democrats, this is another instance of the breakdown of race relations and the need for ‘criminal justice reform.’ Both are unhelpful for Rand, who risks looking soft on crime, and [Hillary] Clinton, who now has to explain the change in tone on her tough on crime rhetoric from the 1990s to her speech this week talking about the need for cameras on cops everywhere.”

Democrats were evenly split 50-50 on whether Baltimore is good or bad for Paul.

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The third of Republican insiders who think Baltimore is a plus for Paul predicted he will ultimately get credit for tackling this tough issue once the imagery of the moment dies down.

“While the violence is inexcusable, the frustration and peaceful protests are legitimate,” said an Iowa Republican. “Rand Paul is the only Republican who’s getting it. If the GOP fails to understand why people are unhappy with what they’re getting from the criminal justice system, then the Democrats hold the White House. It really is that simple.”

Another Iowa Republican staked out a more nuanced position: “Baltimore probably tilts to helpful for Rand to get his message out, but for every non-traditional supporter he appeals to on the issue, he likely turns off a social conservative he’s desperately trying to secure.”

Since announcing his presidential campaign last month, Paul has discernibly shifted his tone. On Tuesday, he told conservative radio host Laura Ingraham that he was “glad” his train hadn’t stopped in Baltimore on the way back to D.C. the night before as he expressed concern about “the plight of police.” Then, during the same radio hit, he blamed the violence on “the breakdown of the family structure, the lack of fathers, the lack of sort of a moral code in our society.”

This was too much for many Democratic respondents to The Caucus, who pointed out that the senator’s 22-year-old son was charged just last week for driving under the influence of alcohol after crashing into a parked car.

“He would have gotten a pass on the incident regarding his son because it’s not fair game, but he made it fair game with his remarks about fathers’ responsibilities for their sons in Baltimore,” said a New Hampshire Democrat. “Voters don’t like hypocrisy.”

There’s bipartisan agreement: Hillary’s tough-on-crime rhetoric from the ‘90s makes no difference now.

Seventy percent of both Republican and Democratic insiders said the 21-year-old crime bill signed by Bill Clinton, which temporarily led to 100,000 more cops on the street while fueling the massive surge in incarceration, is neither helpful nor hurtful to Hillary Clinton’s presidential hopes.

After the former secretary of state delivered a speech Wednesday calling for the end of mass incarceration and recommended police departments have their officers wear body cameras, Paul issued a press release pointing out that she was a cheerleader for the policies that created the underlying problems at First Lady: “Not only is Hillary Clinton trying to undo some of the harm inflicted by the Clinton administration, she is now emulating proposals introduced by Senator Rand Paul over the last several years, and we welcome her to the fight.”

An overwhelming number of Democratic insiders said Bernie Sanders could not carry their state against the Republican nominee in a general election | Getty

Two-thirds of Republican insiders don’t think this line of attack has legs, while one-third said it will be harmful for Clinton.

“Hillary is advocating for sentencing and prison reforms that lighten punishment for certain crimes,” said an Iowan. “That’s her position, not some long-forgotten crime bill her husband signed.”

“Opinions on Hillary are set,” said another. “All these issues do is cement what you already think.”

One in five Democrats said the 1994 efforts will be helpful, while one in 10 said they are harmful.

“Bill Clinton showed that you can reduce crime and offer support to law enforcement without blowing up race relations in the country,” said a New Hampshire Democrat.

Democrats are divided over how big of a deal this issue will be in 2016.

About half of Democratic insiders think that the racial unrest will become a significant issue in 2016, and the other half say it will be a minor issue.

“This is our 7.8 earthquake,” said a New Hampshire Democrat. “Just like Nepal, we should have expected it, and just like Nepal we did nothing to prepare but chose to ignore. The difference is Nepal is poor, and we are rich. A pox on us!”

“We are now likely at a tipping point and can expect to see more marches and rallies moving toward the presidential elections,” said another. “Moreover, this is not simply a matter of racial tensions. It also involves income inequality and the fact that we are leaving millions of our citizens behind. Our candidates are going to be pressed for their plans to address these issues.”

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The Democrats who said it will be a minor issue explained why it is such a tough topic to talk about.

“Man, this is complicated,” said another New Hampshire Democrat. “Libertarian Republicans and progressive Democrats both have been complaining about the militarization of the police, and the use of Homeland Security resources to obtain military equipment. On the other hand, most cops are good cops, and I think most people get that. Candidates will have to walk a fine line on how to be supportive of racial justice without throwing good cops under the bus. These guys are out there every day, working for us and putting their lives at risk, but meanwhile way too many African Americas are getting killed or incarcerated.”

Republicans were much more likely to say that racial tensions will be a minor issue.

“They don’t involve constituencies that vote in Republican primaries,” said a New Hampshire Republican.

“There have been too many incidents for them not to matter, but the campaign will be about bigger-scope issues,” said another.

Many Republican strategists said the party needs to offer smart solutions.

“Republicans need to be careful to not pigeonhole this simply as a failure of government and a repudiation of the Great Society program,” said an Iowan.

Very few take Bernie Sanders seriously.

The Vermont independent senator formally kicked off his bid for the Democratic nomination on Thursday, but more than 90 percent of Democratic insiders in the two early states said there is no way Sanders could win their state’s caucus or primary. GOP insiders answered similarly.

The same overwhelming number said Sanders could not carry their state against the Republican nominee in a general election.

“A socialist winning outside of Vermont? Hard to believe,” said a New Hampshire Democrat.

“The Clinton campaign should be ecstatic,” said another. “Sen. Sanders gives Hillary the benefit of a credible primary opponent who has absolutely no chance of winning. She can now comfortably continue her progressive window-dressing while still looking practical and moderate in comparison.”

“He isn’t the right messenger,” said a third. “He will get some support in our primary. But, people want to win, and New Hampshire Democrats have been very astute in recent years in nominating candidates who can win, like [Sen.] Jeanne Shaheen, [former Gov.] John Lynch and [Gov.] Maggie Hassan, even if the candidates are more moderate than the primary base voters. They will want Secretary Clinton to be more moderate than Bernie Sanders because they will want a candidate who can win.”

As a Republican put it, “he is only a fly in the ointment.”

Several GOP insiders lamented that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) did not get into the race. “Unlike the Senator from the state on New Hampshire’s southern border, Sanders doesn’t have the polish of a Warren needed to play in New Hampshire,” said a Republican there. “The Granite State has typically eschewed the angry candidates — Pat Buchanan in 1996 aside — in favor of the more composed.”

New Hampshire Democrats are far more likely to believe Sanders will pull Clinton to the left than the Iowans.

Overall, Democratic insiders were evenly split when asked whether the Sanders challenge will force the frontrunner to tack left. But opinions varied by state: A majority in New Hampshire did, but a majority in Iowa did not.

“He’s just a gnat buzzing around the Scooby Van right now,” said an Iowa Democrat. “She has written off the college towns and Fairfield to Sanders. But that is his ceiling.”

“He absolutely will pull her to the left in New Hampshire,” responded a Democrat there. “He will enjoy significant support in western cities and towns bordering Vermont — Hanover, Lebanon, Claremont and Keene — and may earn some key liberal supporters on the college campuses, in Concord and along the Seacoast too.”

Iowa Democrats said that Clinton, to the extent she goes left, will be forced in that direction by the outside influence of Warren and others like New York Mayor Bill de Blasio or O’Malley.

“Clinton has already been pulled to the proverbial left — a great example is her focus on economic inequalities and criminal justice reform,” said an Iowa Democrat. “But do I think she’s going to go down the single-payer route

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because Bernie is in the race? No. Will she be as hard charging against Wall Street as Bernie? No. Will this enable him to garner support? Yes."

A lot of Republicans said it all depends on how seriously progressive activists take him. "Folks thought little of Howard Dean in the beginning as well," a New Hampshire Republican said of another Vermonter.

"Not sure if HRC will take the bait," said an Iowa Republican, "but it'll be entertaining as hell to watch Sanders try."

GOP

Cleveland's 2016 convention plan: Don't be Baltimore // Politico // Daniel Lippman – May 2, 2015

City officials are taking steps to make sure demonstrations — or worse — don't disrupt the Republicans' big show. Could Cleveland be next?

Cleveland, the host city for the 2016 Republican convention, has its own Freddie Gray incident — the killing by police last year of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old African American boy who turned out to be brandishing a toy gun.

It has its own Ferguson-style Justice Department investigation, a damning 58-page report that found "the trust between the Cleveland Division of Police and many of the communities it serves is broken." The report condemned the CDP's widespread use of "unnecessary and excessive deadly force" symbolized by a militarized sign hung in one district station: "Forward Operating Base." In one high-profile 2012 case, two motorists were killed during a 22-minute car chase in which police shot at the fleeing vehicle 137 times.

And Cleveland, like Baltimore, consistently ranks among America's most segregated cities, with the country's second-highest rate of children living in poverty — 54 percent, trailing only Detroit.

Landing the RNC was a major coup, but city leaders now find themselves trying to avoid a nightmare scenario ahead of next year's convention: riots that could disrupt planning and hurt the city's image.

On Tuesday, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson emailed a letter to "Community Leaders" saying the city was "planning for a variety of contingencies and are being very proactive in both communication and outreach."

Republicans seeking White House say it's all about stopping Hillary Clinton // Post and Courier // Schuyler Kropf - May 2, 2015

Republicans running for the White House did their best to portray a Hillary Clinton presidency as the third term of President Barack Obama as they defended religious liberty and an expanded war on radical Islam to the hundreds of party faithful who gathered for the S.C. GOP State Convention here Saturday.

"We need to understand that the Obama foreign policy has been an unmitigated disaster," former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said as he made his case for a probable White House run.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said he was particularly offended by Republicans who stepped away from legislation in Indiana and Arkansas this spring that would have allowed merchants to decide if they wanted to serve gay patrons on religious grounds.

"It's sad to see how many Republicans have run for the hills and hidden in the caves," said Cruz, the only one of the five potential candidates here this weekend who has formally declared a bid.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham did not discuss his own interest in a White House run, but led the chorus of those taking shots at Clinton and Obama. The president, he said, has missed "an opportunity to take America to a better place" during his presidency.

"He ran from the middle of the road, but he governed from the left ditch," Graham said, and "this what happens when you elect a commander-in-chief who doesn't know what they hell they are doing."

Among the likely candidates, Graham spoke first at the convention before heading to New Hampshire for two days of stumping there. He's expected to announce a bid by June.

Graham was the only candidate who mentioned the situation in Baltimore where rioting last week followed the death of Freddie Gray in police custody. Graham said Republican ideas could aid the city, such as by closing failing schools.

Bush was also the only candidate to play up his anti-union credentials, saying he battled teacher unions in Florida.

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Other speakers included former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Both men also took shots at the administration, with Santorum saying that not enough has been done to appeal to the working class in America, many of whom are becoming jobless in the changing economy.

“You want to appeal to the people who feel left behind?” he asked. “Make jobs for the workers,” he answered.

Perry said conservatives live in a world of “reality based thinking” when it comes to identifying world threats, something he charged the White House has not handled effectively. “We are in the early years of a struggle with radical Islamic extremists and it’s going to last a long time,” he said.

Perry also differed with what he identified as the liberal view on gun control, saying “the best defense against crime is an armed citizenry.” He drew loud applause for the comment.

The state convention was an opportunity for 1,000 county delegates to get together under one roof at the Columbia Convention Center to hear speeches, trade strategies and conduct party business. The biggest internal business was that Matt Moore was re-elected state party chairman by a wide margin, turning back a challenge from Anderson County Republican Mark Powell.

Still, the draw was the GOP presidential hopefuls, all of whom have made previous stump visits to the state in the buildup toward next year’s first-in-the-South presidential primary, probably on Feb. 20.

While the candidates attacked Obama’s seven years in office, there was little discussion of how the country could be turned around economically, beyond cutting taxes and increasing de-regulation.

Globally, all five candidates recommitted their support for Israel, saying Obama’s foreign policy and pursuit of a nuclear treaty with Iran will make the world less safe. Several also pointed to Clinton’s role as Secretary of State in contributing to the decline of U.S. influence abroad.

“You shouldn’t be riding ‘shotgun’ with the person who pulled us back,” Bush said of Clinton, adding “she has her fingerprints on all these foreign policy disasters.”

Cruz also returned to his dislike of the Affordable Care Act, saying anger against it among conservatives is enough to affect the upcoming election. “Millions of Americans are ready to appeal Obamacare,” he said.

Each of the candidates had about 15 minutes to speak, and they left the meeting hall right afterward.

While the gathering ended quietly after about four hours, Gov. Nikki Haley did note that presidential primary fights in South Carolina have a reputation for getting out of hand. She asked the delegates to keep 2016 friendly.

“Stand up for the person you believe in but make sure you are respectful about it,” she told the crowd.

Jeb Bush exploits major loophole in campaign finance rule // MSNBC // Aliyah Frumin- May 2, 2015

Today, thanks to a Supreme Court decision that unleashed unlimited money into politics, even the unlikeliest of long-shot presidential candidates needs only one very wealthy patron to run a credible campaign. It’s a system that many campaign finance reform advocates see as messy and bordering on corrupt. But now, Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is taking things to an entirely new level: putting off his official entry into the 2016 race so he can raise vast sums for a super PAC that’s supposed to be entirely independent of his all-but-certain campaign.

“Until he says the magic words ‘I’m running for president,’ he can raise as much money as he wants.”

The 2016 GOP field is already crowded. Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky are in, with announcements expected next week from former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Arkansas Gov. Huckabee. Missing from that group is Bush, an early GOP frontrunner who says he’s still “exploring” a possible candidacy. Why is he waiting? In a word, money.
By not officially jumping in the race, the former Florida governor doesn’t have to abide by the “hard money” rules of presidential campaigns, which cap primary donations at just $2,700 per individual. He’s raising unlimited funds for his Right to Rise super PAC instead.

Super PACs, which sprang to life in the wake of the Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision, can accept unlimited donations from wealthy individuals and from corporations. The only rule: they must operate independently of a candidate’s official campaign operation.

The word ‘candidate’ is key. Since Bush isn’t yet an announced candidate, he is essentially exploiting a loophole in the law and soliciting for his own super PAC.

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According to the Sunlight Foundation, a non-partisan group that advocates for government transparency, Bush has headlined at least 47 appearances –many of them fundraisers – on behalf of Right to Rise since January. Indeed, he recently bragged to have raised more money in 100 days (estimated to be as much as $100 million) than any other political operation in his party.

It may seem obvious that Bush is competing for the GOP nomination. “But until he says the magic words ‘I’m running for president,’ he can raise as much money as he wants,” said Bill Allison, a senior fellow at the Sunlight Foundation. “He’s really using the super PAC like we’ve never seen before.”

That’s especially true because Team Bush reportedly has plans to have his super PAC essentially take control of the many operations that a candidate’s campaign would typically handle, like expensive television advertising and direct mail. The advantage is simple: the super PAC can raise unlimited funds, while his campaign will be subject to much stricter rules. And by waiting to declare his candidacy, Bush is giving himself plenty of time to coordinate with the super PAC and come up with a winning strategy for how it will later spend money on his behalf. According to the Associated Press, Mike Murphy – Bush’s longtime strategist – is likely to take the super PAC’s reins when the GOPer officially announces.

A Bush spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

Of course, there are other ways to skirt the spirit of campaign finance rules too. One popular way in recent cycles has been to score a billionaire donor who will set up a super PAC for a specific candidate – like Sheldon Adelson did for Newt Gingrich or Foster Friess did for Rick Santorum in 2012, keeping those candidacies alive far longer than they would have under the old rules.

“The whole theory behind Citizens United is large money can’t corrupt because it’s independent … What Jeb Bush is doing undermines that.”

In this presidential cycle, Rubio has already bagged the support of Florida billionaire Norman Braman, while Ken Langone, the billionaire co-founder of Home Depot, has lined up behind New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Even Bush recently acknowledged to msnbc that the conservative, billionaire Koch brothers will likely play a big role in the 2016 presidential race, and that if he does run for president he’ll reach out to reach out to every sector of the party, including the Kochs.

“If you have a big backer, it buys you additional chances to make your case,” said Rick Hasen, a campaign finance regulation expert and professor of law and political science at UC-Irvine School of Law.

But even in a post-Citizens United world, Bush’s moves regarding his super PAC are new territory.

“The whole theory behind Citizens United is large money can’t corrupt because it’s independent. It might not even help the candidate because it’s not being done with any coordination,” said Hasen. “What Jeb Bush is doing undermines that … Giving money to the super PAC is just about the same as giving it to him.”

Bush is not the only GOPer coming under criticism over how he’s operating early in the game. Similar complaints have been lobbed against former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and Democratic former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley. The Campaign Legal Center and Democracy 21 have filed complaints with the FEC accusing the four of “actively organizing and running early presidential bids without abiding by federal rules related to fundraising limits and disclosure.”

Some allege that what Bush is doing is more than squeezing through a fundraising loophole, arguing his behavior is flat-out illegal. The liberal American Democracy Legal Fund this week filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission against the ex-governor’s super PAC, alleging it is breaking campaign finance laws by coordinating directly with Bush.

Is Jeb Bush struggling?

“Bush’s motivation for failing to declare his candidacy is to skirt the prohibition on federal candidates raising soft money. By failing to declare himself a ‘candidate,’ he takes the position that he can fundraise for Right to Rise super PAC, Inc. without violating the law,” the complaint says. It adds that Bush “triggered” candidate status several months ago when he began traveling the country to raise money in excess of what would be reasonably expected for someone who is merely considering running.

Ben Ray, a spokesman for ADLF, said “it is clear this is the mechanism [Bush] is using to escape campaign finance law and he needs to be held accountable for it,” asking, “On what planet do we need $10, $20, $30 million for someone who is just thinking about running?”

FEC Spokeswoman Julia Queen verified receipt of the complaint but said the commission was prohibited from discussing any aspects of an open case.

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Several experts said the likelihood that the FEC would take any action before the next election cycle is unlikely. "The FEC's wheels turn very slowly ... If we do see any action, it will likely be after the [2016] election," said Hasen.

Also the composition of the FEC – made of six committee members split along party lines – matters. "If there's a 3-3 split, that means no action is taken and they close the case," said Scott Thomas, a former FEC chairman and Democrat. The three conservatives, Thomas said, would likely cite First Amendment rights and be "hesitant to find anything that will be a violation of the law."

Jeb's secret Jersey mission // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – May 2, 2015

NASHUA, NH - APRIL 17: Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks at the First in the Nation Republican Leadership Summit April 17, 2015 in Nashua, New Hampshire. The Summit brought together local and national Republicans and was attended by all the Republicans candidates as well as those eyeing a run for the nomination. (Photo by Darren McCollester/Getty Images)
Jeb Bush is quietly waging a behind-the-scenes offensive to pick off disillusioned home-state supporters of Chris Christie, the New Jersey governor whose presidential prospects have dimmed in recent months.

Bush's effort to undermine Christie's network of donors, power-brokers, and political players is conducted mainly through emails and phone conversations — and he tracks the progress closely.

At a get-together with donors in Miami last weekend, Bush sat down for a private conversation with Lawrence Bathgate, a prominent New Jersey attorney and former Christie donor who is now behind the Florida Republican. During the talk, Bathgate, a former Republican National Committee finance chairman, outlined to Bush a plan to have a majority of the state's 16 Republican state senators endorse him.

Bush responded with a question. How soon, he wanted to know, would the endorsements start to roll in? And could some of them be announced sooner rather than later?

The former Florida governor is said to court Christie boosters with frequent emails and makes himself accessible to them. "He's a great emailer," said Hersh Kozlov, a major Republican Party fundraiser in New Jersey and former Christie supporter who's now with the former Florida governor.

The attempts to crack the Christie network — both are in competition for the same group of moderate and establishment Republicans — dates back at least to January, not long after Bush launched his presidential exploratory committee. At the time, Bush met with around a dozen New Jersey Republicans for dinner at New York City's Union Club. He started out the meeting in a surprising way, telling those gathered that they should feel free to ask him anything — no holds barred. One person took him up on the challenge, posing a question to him about his daughter's struggle with drug addiction.

For months, Bush and his finance chief, Heather Larrison, have been reaching out to New Jersey donors. Once a financial commitment is secured, they typically ask that person for names of friends or associates in the state who might also want to give.

As Christie's fortunes have seemed to fade amid his sagging polling numbers, fiscal problems at home and fallout from the Bridgegate scandal — on Friday a former political ally of the governor pleaded guilty and two other former officials were indicted for their alleged roles in the affair — Bush's efforts have ramped up.

Last month, Bush landed his biggest catch yet: Joe Kyrillos, a longtime state senator who chaired Christie's 2009 campaign. When Kyrillos, a former New Jersey Republican Party chairman, appeared at a Bush donor event in Miami last week, he was greeted with a hero's welcome. At a private dinner, which was attended by around 350 of the former governor's biggest benefactors, the senator was rewarded with a round of applause and a seat at Bush's table.

Among the other recent public converts to Bush: Brian Nelson, an up-and-coming, 37-year-old lobbyist who less than six years ago helped lead Christie's gubernatorial transition team and John Crowley, a biotech executive whose compelling life story was the subject of a 2010 Harrison Ford movie. Crowley had contributed over $7,000 to Christie's campaigns.

"I think there is a very broad effort to win over the traditional fundraising community, especially the people who supported Chris Christie," said Crowley, who plans to cut Bush a check. "Here in New Jersey, I think there is very broad support for Governor Bush."

So far, Bush has yet to hold a fundraiser in New Jersey or to campaign there — a decision, those close to him say, reflecting a belief that doing so would be seen as an intentional provocation to Christie, whose team keeps an iron-fisted grip over the party apparatus in the state. Most often, Bush has chosen to hold his face-to-face meetings

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with the state's Republicans across the border in New York City. But that calculus is now changing. In recent days, Bush's camp has been in talks with its supporters in the state about holding an early summer fundraiser there.

Publicly, the Bush team is saying little. Tim Miller, a spokesman, declined to comment on the push other than to say: "We're happy to earn the support of any like-minded individuals across the country that want to support Gov. Bush."

Christie's team insists Bush's effort will have little overall impact, arguing that the Florida Republican's support in the state represents just a small fraction of the party. Christie continues to maintain the public backing of the state's 21 influential GOP county chairmen and a number of other key players, including Dale Florio, a Trenton lobbyist, Jon Bramnick, the GOP leader in the state Assembly, and George Gilmore, an attorney and the Ocean County Republican Party chairman.

"I am not concerned about it. Ninety-nine percent of the state GOP political establishment will be with Christie if he runs," said Mike DuHaime, a Christie adviser. "The few defectors will have their own personal reasons for doing so, but it will be of no concern in the long run."

One reason for that high level of confidence is the reluctance of GOP officeholders to buck the incumbent governor — constitutionally one of the most powerful governorships in the nation. Regardless of Christie's standing in the presidential race at the moment, his term in office doesn't expire until January 2018 — and he has a reputation for playing hard-ball politics, especially against those he deems disloyal. Many of those contacted for this story declined to speak for the record out of fear, they say, of inflaming Christie.

Among many ex-Christie backers, an often-stated reason for defecting is a longstanding relationship with the Bush family. Kyrillos first met Bush in 1986, back when Bush was serving as chairman of the Miami Dade Republican Party. Clifford Sobel, a prominent GOP fundraiser, served in the George W. Bush administration as ambassador to Brazil. Kozlov said he'd forged a relationship with Jeb Bush ahead of the 2000 presidential campaign. In 1998, Bush flew up to Cherry Hill, N.J. for a fundraiser he was hosting.

"I've known Jeb for a long, long time," he said. "For me, it was a very easy choice."

For others, the issue is Christie's hard-charging personal style. Gail Gordon, an influential Republican lobbyist in the state who is with Bush, found herself at odds with Christie after he targeted her husband, a Democrat in the state Senate, for defeat. Bathgate, who raised money for George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, clashed with the governor over his plan to construct sand dunes across the state's coastline.

Christie, for his part, has remained stoic.

During an appearance on a local radio station this week, Christie was asked about the Kyrillos defection.

"This is politics," he shrugged. "It's not personal."

"It doesn't change my view of him," he added. "I love him."

No charges, but Christie's troubles persist // USAToday // Michael Symons – May 2, 2015

Although New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie wasn't charged Friday in the George Washington Bridge scandal, his political problems from the illegal, intentional lane closures may have gotten worse.

The good news for Christie was that U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman said that he expects no one else, beyond the three people implicated by his office, to face criminal charges in connection with the lane closures.

The bad news is, it is now law enforcement, not merely the media or political partisans, decrying what Fishman described as a political vendetta — one carried out on behalf of Christie's re-election by people he entrusted with high-ranking positions of power.

Christie's primary defense since the sinister origins of the September 2013 traffic jams first came to light: He didn't know.

Such an excuse is not very presidential, in the opinion of Claira Monier, a resident of Goffstown, N.H. Her view should matter to Christie, who has been courting Republican voters in her state's first-in-the-nation-presidential primary.

"If you're a president, you have to trust the people close to you. If you cannot appoint people that are trustworthy and ethical, that raises some issues about you being an excellent administrator," Monier said. "And I think the president of the United States has to be a top-notch administrator."

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Early Friday, ending months of speculation, one of the architects of the politically motivated lane closures pleaded guilty to federal charges that he conspired to cause the traffic jams that gripped Fort Lee over four days during the busy first week of school.

David Wildstein, the former director of capital projects for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, admitted his role in causing the lane closures at the approach to the George Washington Bridge.

Wildstein also identified two alleged co-conspirators, Bridget Anne Kelly, a former deputy chief of staff to Christie, and Bill Baroni, the former deputy executive director of the Port Authority.

Kelly and Baroni denied any criminal wrongdoing following word of their indictment Friday, contending that Wildstein was lying. Windstein said the trio acted in concert, as part of a plant to punish the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee for not endorsing Republican Christie's 2013 re-election.

All three — Wildstein, Kelly and Baroni — were longtime Christie insiders.

Brigid Harrison, Montclair State University political scientist, said it's "almost irrelevant" that Christie didn't consent to the retaliation scheme; he enabled the atmosphere where people thought such conduct was allowed. She said Christie was already on shaky political ground and his opponents now have been handed a hammer.

"This is a real serious blow to his presidential bid," Harrison said. "It is not that a scandal of this type is insurmountable, but when you are at 4% of the GOP vote share nationally and key members of your staff are indicted, that is as close as you can come to a death knell."

Adding to the uncertainty is that there are likely more shoes to drop. Fishman was careful to limit his statements Friday to the GWB lane closures, not the other Port Authority issues his office is investigating, as evidenced by subpoenas disclosed by the authority.

Fishman made reference to unindicted co-conspirators who could be revealed later. Wildstein's agreement to plead guilty to two counts of conspiracy was signed in January, so he has been cooperating with federal investigators for many months.

Gov. Chris Christie's former deputy chief of staff
Gov. Chris Christie's former deputy chief of staff Bridget Anne Kelly. (Photo: Mel Evans, AP)
At least one avenue of inquiry led nowhere. Federal authorities told attorneys for public officials being investigated for possibly threatening to withhold Superstorm Sandy aid — unless a Hoboken development was approved — that their clients were in the clear.

But if charges are eventually brought against former Port Authority Chairman David Samson, for example, that would shine still more light onto Christie's inner circle, as Samson was his 2009 campaign counsel. Some of the subpoenas issued in the wide-ranging investigations are focused on potential conflicts of interest in actions Samson took at the authority.

"Hillary Clinton is embroiled in scandal. Scott Walker is embroiled in scandal. But they're their party's front-runners," Harrison said. "If you're a stronger candidate, you can weather a storm like this. But the fact of the matter is that the governor is really damaged goods."

Christie's allies see things differently. They say investigations by the outside counsel hired by Christie's office, the state Legislature and the U.S. Attorney's Office all found he wasn't involved in the lane closures.

But few allies stepped forward to defend the governor: Only Christie's office and the Republican Party state chairman issued supportive statements, compared with 10 critical ones from Democrats.

At a minimum, Christie now knows more about the GWB scandal's scope as he mulls whether to run for president, said Joseph Marbach, the incoming president of Georgian Court University and a former president of the New Jersey Political Science Association.

"It certainly is a poor reflection on the part of any leader when you've got folks working for you either operating without your consent or without your knowledge, particularly when they're engaged in wrongdoing, as apparently Wildstein was, and it remains to be seen what Baroni and Kelly's roles have been," Marbach said.
Bill Baroni, former deputy executive director of the Port Authority. (Photo: Julio Cortez, AP)
He added: "You could certainly be criticized about how you're managing your office. To the governor's credit, when he apparently did find out, he took action in relieving people, Kelly in particular, of their jobs. But is that too little, too late? I guess that's what people will have to evaluate."

Baroni and Kelly were indicted on conspiracy and wire fraud charges. Both made lengthy statements Friday in which they maintained their innocence and lashed out at Wildstein. Wildstein's lawyer repeated assertions that the

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governor knew about the lane closures and that there was proof to that effect.

Christie's campaign hopes aren't over, said Seton Hall University political scientist Matthew Hale. The latest developments did not contradict what's been known for 16 months. And so long as wealthy donors like Home Depot cofounder and billionaire Ken Langone continue to back him, fundraising through the early states, in the GOP primaries, won't be an issue.

"He has an easy answer to everything that we heard today, and that is that everything that came out today is something that we already know, that we already heard. He's got a response, and I think that means he can keep going," Hale said. "We didn't see a smoking gun."

"I don't by any stretch think he's got a good shot," Hale said, "but I think he has a shot."

That will depend on early-state voters like Monier. She attended Christie's recent speech in New Hampshire about Social Security and Medicare and thought it was excellent. But Monier said she has too many questions right now about Christie to support him, at least until those issues play out.

"Every time something negative hits the news, it raises questions about Christie and the stereotypes some of us in New Hampshire have of New Jersey politicians," Monier said. "Whether it's true or not, it does exist. It raises concerns. It will take away from his message."

As Ben Carson bashes Obama, many blacks see a hero's legacy fade // Washington Post // Robert Samuels - May 2, 2015

The black man courting crowds of white conservatives doesn't seem like the same guy that H. Westley Phillips once idolized. Phillips still relishes the day he heard Ben Carson inspire minority students at Yale University with his story of persistence. He can still feel the nervous anticipation he had while waiting in line to shake Carson's hand.

After the speech, Phillips followed Carson's path and began to study neurosurgery.

"I had come from a public school in Tulsa and came from a single-parent household and thought I was the admissions mistake," said Phillips, now 27. "But he gave me the comfort to know that if I did struggle — and I thought I would — that I wouldn't have been the first, and there are ways to handle it. The message he gave was this backup artillery when times were hard."

For many young African Americans who grew up seeing Carson as the embodiment of black achievement — a poor inner-city boy who became one of the world's most accomplished neurosurgeons — his emergence as a conservative hero and unabashed critic of the United States' first black president has been jarring.

Carson has been a black icon since 1987, when he became the first person to successfully separate twins conjoined at the backs of their heads. He was a rare and much-desired role model: a black man who became known for his intellect, not for telling jokes or shooting basketballs.

Carson poses for a photo with Page High School students Lizabeth Schaede, Anna Bateman and Atie Thomas while signing his book after a speech at the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro, N.C. (Jerry Wolford/For The Washington Post)
Posters of Carson hung on bulletin boards in classrooms. Reading "Gifted Hands," his 1992 autobiography, was practically a rite of passage.

But now retired from his medical career, Carson, 63, has become known more widely since using his speech at the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast to offer a conservative critique of U.S. health-care and spending policies, while standing a few feet from President Obama.

In the ensuing months and years, Carson's attacks grew sharper — deriding Obama's signature health-care law as the "worst thing to have happened in this nation since slavery" and, in the pages of GQ, likening Obama to a "psychopath." Carson's 2014 book, "One Nation," assails a decline of moral values in America and its government.

As Carson prepares to announce his candidacy for president on Monday in his home town of Detroit, his political base is now whiter and more rural.

Carson's personal accomplishments — and the work he has done to help black communities — still garner respect and pride among African Americans. Yet, while he has been a conservative for as long as he has been famous, many worry that he risks eroding his legacy in their community and transforming himself into a fringe political figure.

Some black pastors who were Carson's biggest promoters have stopped recommending his book. Members of

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minority medical organizations that long boasted of their affiliations with him say he is called an “embarrassment” on private online discussion groups.

Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, delivers his speech at the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro, N.C. (Jerry Wolford/ For The Washington Post)

“Has he lost his sense of who he is?” said the Rev. Jamal Bryant, a prominent black pastor in Baltimore, where Carson lived for decades when he was director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. “He does not see he is the next Herman Cain.”

Mark Terrelonge, 26, who is in his final year at Stanford University School of Medicine, said he feels his heart sink every time another clip of Carson shows up on his Facebook feed.

Reading “Gifted Hands” as a teenager, Terrelonge said he saw Carson’s story as an affirmation of his own ambitions to become a doctor. Never before had he heard of a black man in the upper echelons of medicine. But Terrelonge, who is gay, was stung when he heard Carson say that homosexuality was a choice.

“I don’t know how to say it exactly,” Terrelonge said. “I don’t want to attack him because he’s done great things in medicine, but the role-model aspect of him has kind of diminished in my life.”

Carson, too, is trying to fully understand his new place in black America. He spoke recently at the National Action Network, the civil rights group headed by the Rev. Al Sharpton, who once ran for president as a Democrat. Carson also issued a statement criticizing Baltimore demonstrators protesting after the death of Freddie Gray — urging parents to “please take control of your children and do not allow them to be exposed to the dangers of uncontrolled agitators on the streets.”

In an interview, Carson said he laments that many in the black community “drank the Kool-Aid and think I have forsaken them.”

“People write things. They say things. It saddens me,” Carson said. “There are forces in this country that really like to foster division and conflict, particularly in the black community, because they don’t want the synergy of them working together. Because that would advance them.”

The admiration many blacks have long felt for Carson differentiates him from past black conservative presidential candidates such as Cain, the former pizza executive who briefly rose in the polls during the 2012 primary season, Carson’s political supporters say. He has won the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded by Republican President George W. Bush, and the Spingarn Medal, the top honor given by the traditionally liberal NAACP.

His stature, Carson supporters say, helps him combat the perception that the far right is exclusive and out of touch. Critics, these supporters say, underestimate Carson’s potential impact on the race at their own peril.

“I would be elated if the left felt this too shall pass and he is just the chocolate flavor of the election cycle,” said Vernon Robinson, a fellow black conservative and chairman of the National Draft Ben Carson for President Committee. So far, Robinson said, the group has raised $16 million.

“Despite everything so far,” Robinson said, “he still has a reservoir of residual admiration.”

Carson’s renown — and his stature in black America — dates to his early years as a pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins. Even then, Carson said, he always felt a sense of duty to help advance his race.

When the hospital started to receive publicity in the late 1980s for its attempt to separate German twins conjoined at the back of the head, Carson took the unusual step of asking not to be initially identified as the lead surgeon.

He said he worried that the procedure might not be treated as groundbreaking or important if the media and the broader public saw a black man in charge.

“Historically, when black people had done things of a scientific nature, many times either it wasn’t appropriately covered or someone else received most of the credit,” he said.

“And I was thinking what more of a tremendous thing it would be for young black kids to know something of this magnitude and this complexity was done by someone who looked like them,” Carson said.

After the surgery, Carson — young and soft-spoken — stepped forward. Intrigued journalists became “more interested in me than they were in the twins,” Carson recalled with a chuckle.

Someone suggested he write an autobiography. Agents kept calling for him, Carson said, “and then I thought to

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myself, 'I should write a book.' "

"Gifted Hands" chronicles his unlikely journey into medicine. His mother, a devout Seventh-day Adventist, raised Carson and his brother alone. She taught them that they could be anything they wanted to be. Carson was the worst student in his class and suffered a debilitating anger after his father walked out on his family, he wrote.

The autobiography described how Carson's mother barred television from the house and mandated her children read two books a week. He wrote that he prayed to God to cleanse him from his angry feelings. His grades soared, and he went on to graduate from Yale and then the University of Michigan Medical School.

He became the youngest director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins and the first black person to hold the position.

Carson said his agent expected the memoir to sell about 14,000 copies. According to its publisher Zondervan, the Christian arm of HarperCollins, it has sold 1.7 million.

Religious leaders in the black community emphasized the spiritual overtones and recommended the book to their youth groups. Teachers saw the narrative of achievement and social mobility and taught the book in their schools.

The legend of Ben Carson took flight. He became a regular speaker at graduations and churches, encouraging parents to find positive role models for their children — particularly black men. He asked them to instill pride by teaching minorities about the many inventions of black people, including the traffic light, the gas mask and the hair products of entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker.

He founded a nonprofit called the Carson Scholars Fund. The group has distributed nearly $700,000 for scholarships to middle- and high-schoolers, awarding them with big trophies so academic success could be put on the same plane as athletic success.

Carson has also raised money to refurbish libraries in nearly 150 of the country's poorest schools. A Detroit public school was named for him, as was a medical school in Nigeria. By 2009, "Gifted Hands" was adapted to a made-for-TV movie.

Matt Dean Campbell, 25, remembers being tucked into bed growing up in South Florida as his mother read "Gifted Hands" to him. His mother, a domestic worker, struggled to pay the bills, but she wanted to imbue her son with stories of uplift, he said.

Campbell, now a high school teacher near Miami, said he has drawn on that message any time he has faced adversity. He was one of the slowest sprinters on his track team at the University of Michigan, Campbell said. He graduated as the captain. He continued pushing himself, because "that's what Ben Carson would do."

Sara McLaughlin, a teacher in Virginia Beach who works with troubled middle-schoolers, thought the book would be perfect for her class. Students wrote essays about Carson's resilience and got queasy when they watched the surgery scenes from the movie.

"Is this the same Ben Carson who is running for president?" she recalled a student asking.

Then came more questions: But he's not a politician, he's a doctor. Why would he run? A reading assignment became a civics lesson.

McLaughlin said she could offer no answer.

"It's funny," she said. "A lot of people are asking the same thing."

Presidential politics was not originally in Carson's plans, he said.

Retirement, he said, meant relaxing in his Florida home, playing golf, maybe a television appearance here or there.

That all changed after his appearance at the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast. It was the second time Carson was invited to speak at the event. The first time, in 1997, he made quips about the unfairness of HMOs. But this time, he went further. With repeated references to his tendency to be politically incorrect and offend the "PC police," he offered an alternative view of health-care reform in which people would simply have private accounts to pay for their own care with pre-tax income. He railed against the debt and tax policies that seek to force the wealthy to pay a higher share than others — endorsing a flat tax, similar to tithing.

Carson, who does not often speak with notes, insisted that this was not a political speech but an exhale of frustration of the state of the country. But then new admirers started suggesting he run for president. Within days,

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the Wall Street Journal published an editorial proclaiming “Ben Carson for President.” He began thinking maybe he should.

The political turn was unexpected for many who knew him. The Rev. Frank Reid of Bethel AME Church in Baltimore found it “astounding.” When they were at Yale together, Reid said, Carson was universally regarded as brilliant and hard-working. Reid could not recall Carson participating in student activism because he was too busy studying with his future wife, Candy, in the library.

When Carson first promoted “Gifted Hands,” Reid invited him to his church so his congregation could hear the story. But if Carson were to speak today, Reid said he would ask him to come in for a “family session, with our leaders, behind closed doors, to find out what is really going on.

“I am hedging about what to say, because you cannot take away the impact that he’s had,” Reid said. “But before we turn on the brother, we have to hear him out. As shocking as some of the things he’s said are, I would rather have a discussion than attack someone who has done respectful work.”

[The worst thing Ben Carson could do for ‘Ben Carson’ is run for president]

Carson says he is willing to put his legacy aside to do what he thinks is best for the country. Still, it matters to him.

Sitting at the Sheraton Hotel in New York last month, Carson seemed anxious as he prepared to address the National Action Network a few hours later. This audience, a mostly black group seeking the advancement of black people, used to be an easy crowd for Carson. But times had changed.

“I have no idea how they are going to receive me,” Carson said.

As Carson waited to go on stage, Sharpton pleaded with the crowd to give him a fair hearing. Carson got some applause when he reiterated his belief that marriage was between a man and a woman. He said it was “a bunch of crap” for critics to say he doesn’t like black people anymore.

“I love black people. My wife is a black woman,” he said.

Then came the Carson of old, borrowing parts of the speeches he used to give in the 1990s.

He talked about the need for black role models and the importance of teaching young people about those black inventors. His voice shook as he described the horrors of growing up in neighborhoods crippled by drugs and overrun by rodents, and of losing families members to gun violence. He asserted that hard work and faith were able to lift him — and anyone else — out of poverty.

The crowd rose to their feet.

The next week, Carson returned to more comfortable terrain for a prospective GOP presidential candidate: the convention of the National Rifle Association. There, he spoke of how he thinks the need to control gun violence on the streets does not outweigh the need to combat “radical Islamic terrorists.”

Days later, he appeared at a fundraiser for a faith-based medical clinic in the lush upstate South Carolina city of Greenville. He talked about the importance of putting God first and speaking honestly. The emcee of the event said Carson would help fill in the gap of having “good, godly leaders to stand up for what is right.” The neurosurgeon received another standing ovation.

Carson then sat at a table to sign copies of his books. A line of mostly white attendees formed. Near the end was Landry Assinesi, a 19-year-old student at Piedmont College in Georgia who came back home to listen to Carson speak.

Assinesi said he never read “Gifted Hands,” but he devoured “One Nation.” Reading Carson’s words, Assinesi said he found a new political hero.

Carly Fiorina to launch presidential campaign Monday // CBS News // Stephanie Condon – May 1, 2015

Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, will announce on Monday that she's seeking the 2016 Republican presidential nomination.

Fiorina will be the first woman to throw her hat into the ring for the GOP nomination. The other announced Republican candidates so far include Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida. On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont have announced their candidacies.

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Despite HP, Fiorina touts business experience for possible 2016 bid

After Fiorina officially announces her candidacy, she'll take questions Monday afternoon during a live, online "town hall" event, via the app Periscope.

The next day, the former tech executive speaks at TechCrunch in New York City. After that, she embarks on a tour of the early-nominating states: She stops in Iowa on Thursday, New Hampshire on Friday and South Carolina on Saturday.

Also, Fiorina's new book will be released on Tuesday. Fiorina's share of all proceeds from the book are going to a charitable foundation, according to a spokesperson for the candidate.

Fiorina, who lost a bid for the U.S. Senate in 2010, has touted her business experience as an asset in the race.

Ted Cruz Says He Has Asked the Pentagon for Answers on Jade Helm 15 // Bloomberg // David Weigel – May 2, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said Saturday that he'd been hearing concerns about Jade Helm 15, a domestic military training exercise that has become a fount of conspiracy theories, and that he wanted questions about it to be answered.

"My office has reached out to the Pentagon to inquire about this exercise," Cruz, a Texas senator, told Bloomberg at the South Carolina Republican Party's annual convention. "We are assured it is a military training exercise. I have no reason to doubt those assurances, but I understand the reason for concern and uncertainty, because when the federal government has not demonstrated itself to be trustworthy in this administration, the natural consequence is that many citizens don't trust what it is saying."

The paranoia about Jade Helm, which started on websites like Alex Jones's InfoWars, had started with familiar fulmination about a mass seizure of firearms or a cover-up for American "death squads." This week, Texas Governor Greg Abbott channeled the concerns of voters in the Southwest, asking the Texas state guard to monitor the exercise for any violations of freedom. "It is important that Texans know their safety, constitutional rights, private property rights and civil liberties will not be infringed," said the governor.

Not every Republican was so concerned. Last week, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul told Iowa radio host Jan Mickelson that he'd "gotten a few questions" about Jade Helm and would "look at it." Today, South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham told Bloomberg that he had never heard of the Jade Helm panic.

Cruz was more plugged in. "I have a great deal of faith and confidence in Governor Abbott," said the senator. "He is a long-time friend and mentor of mine. You know, I understand a lot of the concerns raised by a lot of citizens about Jade Helm. It's a question I'm getting a lot. And I think part of the reason is we have seen, for six years, a federal government disrespecting the liberty of the citizens. That produces fear, when you see a government that is attacking our free speech rights, or Second Amendment rights, or religious liberty rights. That produces distrust."

Later, in his speech to the convention, Cruz told South Carolina Republicans about his fights in Texas and Washington for religious liberty. The backlash to Indiana's religious-freedom law, he said, was a "perfect storm of the Democratic Party and big business coming together." Anyone who doubted that gay-marriage supporters could declare culture war on Christians needed only look at the 2014 fight between Houston pastors and a city that was trying to pass a gay rights ordinance.

"Just because you're paranoid," said Cruz, "doesn't mean they're not out to get you."

F.E.C. Can't Curb 2016 Election Abuse, Commission Chief Says // New York Times // Eric Lichtblau – May 2, 2015

The leader of the Federal Election Commission, the agency charged with regulating the way political money is raised and spent, says she has largely given up hope of reining in abuses in the 2016 presidential campaign, which could generate a record $10 billion in spending.

"The likelihood of the laws being enforced is slim," Ann M. Ravel, the chairwoman, said in an interview. "I never want to give up, but I'm not under any illusions. People think the F.E.C. is dysfunctional. It's worse than dysfunctional."

Her unusually frank assessment reflects a worsening stalemate among the agency's six commissioners. They are perpetually locked in 3-to-3 ties along party lines on key votes because of a fundamental disagreement over the mandate of the commission, which was created 40 years ago in response to the political corruption of Watergate.

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Some commissioners are barely on speaking terms, cross-aisle negotiations are infrequent, and with no consensus on which rules to enforce, the caseload against violators has plummeted.

The F.E.C.'s paralysis comes at a particularly critical time because of the sea change brought about by the Supreme Court's decision in 2010 in the Citizens United case, which freed corporations and unions to spend unlimited funds in support of political candidates. Billionaire donors and "super PACs" are already gaining an outsize role in the 2016 campaign, and the lines have become increasingly stretched and blurred over what presidential candidates and political groups are allowed to do.

Watchdog groups have gone to the F.E.C. with complaints that probable presidential candidates like Jeb Bush and Martin O'Malley are skirting finance laws by raising millions without officially declaring that they are considering running.

Ms. Ravel, who led California's state ethics panel before her appointment as a Democratic member of the commission in 2013, said that when she became chairwoman in December, she was determined to "bridge the partisan gap" and see that the F.E.C. confronted such problems. But after five months, she said she had essentially abandoned efforts to work out agreements on what she saw as much-needed enforcement measures.

Now, she said, she plans on concentrating on getting information out publicly, rather than continuing what she sees as a futile attempt to take action against major violations. She said she was resigned to the fact that "there is not going to be any real enforcement" in the coming election.

"The few rules that are left, people feel free to ignore," said Ellen L. Weintraub, a Democratic commissioner.

Republican members of the commission see no such crisis. They say they are comfortable with how things are working under the structure that gives each party three votes. No action at all, they say, is better than overly aggressive steps that could chill political speech.

"Congress set this place up to gridlock," Lee E. Goodman, a Republican commissioner, said in an interview. "This agency is functioning as Congress intended. The democracy isn't collapsing around us."

Experts predict that the 2016 race could produce a record fund-raising haul of as much as $10 billion, with the growth fueled by well-financed outside groups. On their own, the conservative billionaires Charles G. and David H. Koch have promised to spend $889 million through their political network.

With the rise of the super PACs and the loosening of legal restrictions on corporate spending, campaigns and groups are turning to creative new methods of raising money. Writing in March in The Washington Post, Ms. Ravel charged that some candidates — she did not name names — appeared to have been amassing large war chests at fund-raisers this year without acknowledging that they were at least considering a presidential run, which would trigger campaign finance limits and disclosure.

She said it was "absurd" to think that such politicians were not at least considering a White House run under federal law.

"It's the Wild West out there in some ways," said Kate A. Belinski, a former lawyer at the commission who now works on campaign finance at a law firm. Candidates and political groups are increasingly willing to push the limits, she said, and the F.E.C.'s inaction means that "there's very little threat of getting caught."

As a lawyer in Silicon Valley who went after ethics violators in California during her time there, Ms. Ravel brought to Washington both a reformer's mentality and a tech-savvy background, and she has used Twitter and other media to try to attract young people and women to politics.

But her aggressive efforts have angered some Republicans, who charged that an F.E.C. hearing she scheduled for next week on challenges facing women in politics was not only outside the commission's jurisdiction but a thinly veiled attempt to help the presidential bid of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Ms. Ravel called the accusations "crazy."

Some disputes between the commissioners have gotten personal.

A disagreement over how to treat online political ads, for instance, turned tense when Ms. Ravel received anonymous online threats over charges that she was trying to "regulate" the Internet. She angrily confronted Mr. Goodman, charging that he had unfairly "fanned the flames" against her by mischaracterizing her position in an interview he did on Fox News. But Mr. Goodman said he had no regrets about challenging her position, which he saw as opening the door to greater regulation of Internet activities.

Relations between the two have been difficult ever since.

Last fall, Ms. Ravel did join Republicans on the commission — and took some criticism from the left — in a 4-to-2

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decision that eased rules growing out of the Citizens United decision and a related case. But she has had little success in persuading Republicans to vote with her on enforcement measures.

She said she was particularly frustrated that Republican commissioners would not support cases against four nonprofit groups — including Crossroads GPS, founded by Karl Rove — accused of improperly using their tax-exempt status for massive and well-financed political campaigns.

A surge in this so-called "dark money" in politics — hundreds of millions of dollars raised by nonprofits, trade associations and other groups that can keep their donations secret — has alarmed campaign-finance reformers who are pushing to make such funding public.

But Mr. Goodman said the problem was exaggerated. He and other Republicans defend their decisions to block many investigations, saying Democrats have pushed cases beyond what the law allows.

"We're not interested in going after people unless the law is fairly clear, and we're not willing to take the law beyond where it's written," said Caroline C. Hunter, a Republican commissioner. Democrats view the law "more broadly," she said.

The commission has not always been so hamstrung. In 2006, it unanimously imposed major fines against high-profile groups — liberal and conservative — for breaking campaign finance laws two years earlier by misusing their tax-exempt status for political fund-raising and campaigning. The penalties put political groups on notice, and experts credited them with helping curb similar abuses in the 2008 campaign.

These days, the six commissioners hardly ever rule unanimously on major cases, or even on some of the most minor matters. Last month at an event commemorating the commission's 40th anniversary, even the ceremony proved controversial. Democrats and Republicans skirmished over where to hold it, whom to include and even whether to serve bagels or doughnuts. In a rare compromise, they ended up serving both.

Standing in front of a montage of photos from the F.E.C.'s history, Ms. Ravel told staff members and guests that there was a "crisis" in public confidence, and she stressed the F.E.C.'s mandate for "enforcing the law." But the ranking Republican, Matthew S. Petersen, made no mention of enforcement in his remarks a few minutes later, focusing instead on defending political speech under the First Amendment.

As guests mingled, Ms. Weintraub — the commission's longest-serving member at 12 years — lamented to a reporter that the days when the panel could work together on important issues were essentially over.

She pointed to a former Republican commissioner standing nearby — Bradley A. Smith, who left the agency in 2005 — and said she used to be able to work with commissioners like him even when they disagreed on ideology.

Laughing, Mr. Smith assumed a fighting stance and yelled at Ms. Weintraub: "Let's go right now, you speech-hating enemy of the First Amendment!"

A few feet away, Mr. Goodman was not laughing. As Ms. Weintraub condemned the F.E.C.'s inertia, he whispered a point-by-point rebuttal to show that things were not as bad as she made them sound.

With the commission so often deadlocked, the major fines assessed by the commission dropped precipitously last year to $135,813 from $627,408 in 2013. But like most things at the F.E.C., commissioners differ over how to interpret those numbers.

Republicans say they believe the commission's efforts to work with political groups on training and compliance have kept campaigns within the legal lines and helped to bring down fines.

The drop in fines "could easily be read as a signal that people are following the law," said Ms. Hunter, the Republican commissioner.

Ms. Ravel scoffed at that explanation.

"What's really going on," she said, "is that the Republican commissioners don't want to enforce the law, except in the most obvious cases. The rules aren't being followed, and that's destructive to the political process."

Why Does Rand Paul Keep Missing His Moment? // Bloomberg // David Weigel - May 1, 2015

Can two years of hard work be undone with a few seconds of talk radio chatter? Rand Paul's campaign is about to find out.

Its problems started on Tuesday morning, right after what seems to have been the apex of civil unrest in

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Baltimore. President Obama had spoken out about the angry, occasionally violent reactions to the death of 25-year old Freddie Gray. Paul, asked by Laura Ingraham to critique the president, talked briefly about "the breakdown of the family structure," then tried to land a joke.

"I came through Baltimore on the train yesterday," he said. "I'm glad the train didn't stop."

The Ingraham comment was published first by Brendan James at Talking Points Memo. It took a little time for the "train" line to become a problem. By Wednesday morning, The Washington Post was placing the comment into a narrative about how Paul's "language seems to have shifted" on criminal justice. By Wednesday evening, Gawker was asking why Paul wouldn't "tell the truth," and admit that all Amtrak trains were still stopping in Baltimore. (The area around Baltimore's Penn Station was perfectly calm throughout the unrest.) And by Thursday night, the most popular story on Politico was about how "Rand Paul blew it on Baltimore," complete with quotes from black leaders saying that the Kentucky senator had been exposed as a phony.

Paul's campaign aides were alternately baffled and apoplectic. "We're listening and learning every day and we learned from this," said Paul advisor Elroy Sailor in one of several defensive clean-up interviews. "We're also leading this conversation." This was one reason for the harsh tone of a Wednesday campaign statement, criticizing Hillary Clinton's criminal justice speech by accusing her of "emulating proposals introduced by Senator Rand Paul over the last several year." Paul's team was quietly furious at how years of work on criminal justice reform—five of Paul's bills are waiting for votes—was tossed aside for a quick story about a guy "missing his moment."

The problem is that Paul never used to miss these moments. In 2013 and 2014, as Paul established himself as a Republican leader on NSA reform, drone warfare, police abuse and the war on drugs, he seemed to weigh in on everything. In those years, a call or email to the right spokesman would elicit either a quote, a plea to hold on while the quote was composed, or—surprisingly often—a link to the column Paul had just written. He wrote three pieces for Time magazine, a few more columns for Politico, and eighteen pieces for Breitbart, most of them to start or win arguments that were in the news.

The last of these columns ran in February—which happens to be when his communications chief, Brian Darling, left for the private sector. Darling declined to speak on the record, but it's easy to infer that Paul's missed a step since his Senate communications team was reduced to one person, Jillian Lane. Last week, Paul responded to drone strikes that had killed turncoat American citizens—an issue he'd become an expert on—with a short statement and a brief discussion on Fox and Friends.

Three weeks earlier (as noted in every "Rand Paul blows it" column), Paul arrived in Charleston, South Carolina for a speech and addressed the killing by police of Walter Scott in some media interviews. His comments to CNN, the New York Times, and Bloomberg were overwhelmed when he did not explicitly mention Scott during the speech itself. "In the midst of this national discussion on an issue that he wants to be known for," snarked MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, "Senator Rand Paul, bravely today, while he was in South Carolina, said nothing about it."

In Paulworld, this feels like a pile-on, both unfair and unlearned. The senator simply isn't inclined to leap into the story of the day. He largely eschews the hallway interviews that other senators use to quickly make news. He prefers to sit and compose an argument, then shoot it into the conversation, on his own terms. It took him days to respond to the Ferguson unrest, and he followed up his column on it with a personal visit to the city. Where was the backlash then?

There was no backlash, because Paul was not yet a candidate for president. The hunger for him to react is insatiable now; the press that dubbed him the "most interesting man in politics" and a "one-man think tank" is less forgiving. In his first month as a candidate, Paul missed three major opportunities to lead on his causes.

Columba Bush, Wife of Jeb Bush, Takes on Greater Role in Campaign // Wall Street Journal // Rebecca Ballhaus - May 1, 2015

Columba Bush, the famously private wife of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, appears to be taking on an increasingly prominent role in her husband's nascent presidential campaign.

Columba Bush, the famously private wife of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, appears to be taking on an increasingly prominent role in her husband's nascent presidential campaign.

Later this month, Mrs. Bush will headline a fundraiser for her husband's leadership PAC, Right to Rise, in Miami. This week, she attended a retreat for Mr. Bush's donors at an oceanfront luxury hotel in Miami Beach, where she gave a heartfelt speech about her husband, according to those present. Her name has also been popping up with increasing frequency in fundraising emails — last week she asked supporters to "join with my family and commit to stopping Hillary today."

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Mrs. Bush's rising prominence in her husband's campaign is notable because she has often avoided the public eye. She rarely gives interviews to the press, and her reluctance to join her husband in the media spotlight reportedly weighed on Mr. Bush's decision to run for president.

Any presidential candidate's spouse is bound to get a hefty share of media attention. In 2012, for example, Ann Romney's dressage avocation yielded fodder for critics and late night comedians. Comedian Stephen Colbert cracked, "This is exactly what Mitt needs. He's had a little trouble relating to Joe Sixpack."

President Barack Obama's wife Michelle actively campaigned for her husband in both campaigns and was considered a significant asset. But she, too, learned the hard way about the perils of the spotlight, facing criticism in 2008 for telling voters she was proud of her country "for the first time in my adult life." GOP nominee John McCain's wife, Cindy, quickly declared to audiences later that week: "I'm very proud of my country."

Mrs. Bush, who is from Mexico, is likely to draw attention as Mr. Bush seeks to appeal to the Hispanic voters who in recent election cycles have spurned the Republican Party. Mr. Bush, who argues that he is uniquely qualified to win over that part of the electorate, recently spoke about his love for his wife to a group of Hispanic evangelicals in Houston.

The May 18 Miami fundraiser—a rare event raising money for the Bush PAC, not the super PAC of the same name—will be hosted by three current and former members of Congress, Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida. The event at the Jorge Mas Canosa Youth Center costs $25 to attend. Fundraisers for Mr. Bush's super PAC, by contrast, have carried ticket prices ranging up to $100,000.

Individuals can give unlimited amounts to super PACs, while leadership PACs—which are largely intended to raise money to give to other candidates but can also pay for expenses considered unrelated to a campaign—can only accept up to $5,000 per individual.

With Bridge Case Charges, a Cloud Descends on Christie's White House Hopes // New York Times // Michael Barbaro – May 1, 2015

In an era of maddeningly careful politics, Gov. Chris Christie rocketed to national stardom as brazenly incautious. His excesses defined him: the scorching rants, the seductive oversharing, the caustic insults and endless public feuds.

Harmless theatrics, he said.

But the in-your-face instincts and boundary-breaking behavior that Mr. Christie brought to public life found a vindictive host in the fiercely loyal circle around him, as the federal indictment of a top appointee and a former deputy chief of staff in the George Washington Bridge lane-closing scandal laid bare on Friday.

The 37-page charging document recounts a ruthless act of political retribution: To punish a small-town mayor for refusing to endorse Mr. Christie's 2013 re-election, the governor's confidants unleashed a major traffic jam that gridlocked ordinary commuters, emergency responders and children on the first day of school.

Nowhere does the indictment say Mr. Christie, a Republican, knew of the scheme or was involved in it.

Yet it was a crime of political vengeance, the indictment makes clear, that was conceived in furtherance of Mr. Christie's political ambitions, and carried out in his name.

Now, the growing risk for Mr. Christie is that the very belligerence that electrified voters, the press and the Republican Party, and catapulted him into a credible contender for the White House, may wind up putting the presidency out of his reach.

Brigid Harrison, a professor of political science at Montclair State University who has studied Mr. Christie closely for years, said the indictments of Bridget Anne Kelly and Bill Baroni, once two of the governor's most loyal and trusted lieutenants, spelled the death knell for his national aspirations.

"Even if he is not directly connected to the indictments," Professor Harrison said, "he is guilty of creating a political culture in which corruption was allowed to flourish."

Mr. Christie faces the specter of a lengthy and embarrassing criminal trial overshadowing the 2016 presidential campaign, in which the star witness — David Wildstein, a onetime Christie loyalist who pleaded guilty on Friday to two counts of conspiracy — still maintains the governor was aware of the lane-closing plot as it happened.

Even so, Mr. Christie treated the outcome of the federal investigation as a personal exoneration.

"Today's charges make clear that what I've said from day one is true," the governor posted on Twitter. "I had no

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knowledge or involvement in the planning or execution of this act."

But exoneration of the man is not exoneration of his leadership style.

Mr. Christie and his staff have a history of punishing those who have crossed him. There was the state college professor whose budget was vetoed after he failed to sign off on a project that Mr. Christie favored. The mayor of Jersey City whose meetings with the governor's staff were summarily canceled hours after he said he would not endorse Mr. Christie's re-election. The attempt, even before the lane closings, to freeze out the mayor of Fort Lee for failing to back Mr. Christie.

"There was a level of arrogance," Ms. Harrison said, "that would seem to be coming from the top down."

Mr. Christie, whose bipartisan popularity and fund-raising prowess were once the envy of his party, is now a man without a clear path to the Republican nomination. His poll numbers are sagging badly. Voters openly taunt him at public events about the bridge episode. Donors fret about his viability. And longtime allies are defecting to rival campaigns.

Two weeks ago, State Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos of New Jersey, a trusted Christie friend who served as chairman of his 2009 campaign for governor, declared his support for Jeb Bush.

In candid moments, close allies of Mr. Christie acknowledge that his shot at winning the White House, which seemed so plausible a year ago, may have passed.

Mr. Christie is fond of talking about the "kill shot" in politics: the fatal moment when a candidacy switches from viable to moribund. But over the past year, the governor has suffered a series of smaller, but still significant, wounds: He oversaw nine downgrades of New Jersey's credit rating; the repeated overestimation of state revenue projections; and the failure to make a $1.6 billion payment to New Jersey's deeply underfunded pension system.

A growing number of Republican operatives say that Mr. Christie has, in a sense, already bled out.

"Politically, he's been dead for a year," said Rick Wilson, a longtime Republican political strategist, who is not aligned with any campaign for the 2016 race.

"It wasn't just the bridge," Mr. Wilson continued. "It was that there were any number of better, more conservative, more electable candidates."

New Jersey, he added, "isn't the kind of economic success story that he could build a campaign around."

As a parade of comparatively unblemished Republican rivals declare their candidacies, Mr. Christie has put off an announcement until late spring or early summer.

Presidential candidates have weathered messy campaign-season scandals. In 1992, Bill Clinton survived revelations of a longtime sexual affair with Gennifer Flowers, the existence of which he vigorously denied.

But Americans are historically most forgiving of personal scandals involving deeply contrite officials. The problem for Mr. Christie is that the closing of access lanes to the George Washington Bridge stand as a unique case of public betrayal, an act mystifying in its meanness and unsettling in its indifference to the thousands of motorists involved.

From the start, Mr. Christie treated the closings as a nuisance, suggested the episode did not merit his attention and derided those who wondered whether his administration had played a role.

"I was the guy out there, in overalls and a hat," he declared mockingly during a news conference in early December 2013. "I actually was the guy working the cones out there."

Within a few weeks, damning emails emerged showing that Ms. Kelly, his top political aide, had been deeply involved.

Those close to Mr. Christie vow that he will push ahead with a presidential campaign, regardless of his standing in the polls or his fund-raising totals.

He is a practiced political gambler with a history of defying odds.

Little was expected of him when President George W. Bush chose Mr. Christie, a little-known corporate lawyer and Republican fund-raiser, to take on the high-profile job of United States attorney for New Jersey in 2001. He turned it into a national platform for fighting public corruption. He faced daunting electoral math in 2009 when he challenged a wealthy, incumbent Democratic governor, Jon S. Corzine, in a reliably blue state. Mr. Christie

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prevailed, then won re-election by an overwhelming margin.

These days, friends said, Mr. Christie is realistic about his chances in a crowded Republican nominating contest. He has devoured the polls. He has assessed the field.

But no matter the outcome, they said, Mr. Christie feels he has one more in-your-face battle left to wage.

Ted Cruz, Barack Obama and the biggest vote-missers in the Senate // Washington Post // Philips Bump – May 1, 2015

When Ted Cruz missed the confirmation vote for Attorney General Loretta Lynch, his spokesman dismissed criticism by pointing out that Cruz had already "made the case against her." On Thursday, Cruz himself explained it away by saying that an "absence is the equivalent of a no vote." In which case Cruz has had a lot of "no" votes lately; as we pointed out, he's missed 70 percent of the votes this month.

When we noted that, defenders of Cruz were quick to demand that we compare Cruz's absenteeism to Barack Obama's. Which: That ship has sailed? But regardless, we compared Cruz to Obama and other confirmed and likely 2016 candidates with Senate experience, using data at GovTrack to do some exploration.

First and foremost: Cruz has missed the most votes over his career of any 2016 candidate, but Obama's brief Senate career was much worse. Still, it's not really a fair comparison yet, for reasons we'll discuss.

We actually ran this data for every member of the Senate who'd been born in the year 1900 or later, which revealed some interesting patterns. (And which provides the yellow "average" bar above.) Here is a selection of that 400-plus group, showing how regularly each missed votes.

Missed votes

1. Maryon Allen: 43.4% (355 total votes)
2. Ross Bass: 35.8% (497 total votes)
3. David Clark: 35.7% (677 total votes)
6. Eugene McCarthy: 31.2% (3,135 total votes)
7. Barry Goldwater: 30.8% (10,807 total votes)
10. Mike Gravel: 29.5% (6,264 total votes)
24. Barack Obama: 24.2% (1,300 total votes)
25. George McGovern: 23.8% (7,891 total votes)
36. Al Gore: 19.8% (2,731 total votes)
57. Walter Mondale: 16.3% (5,149 total votes)
64. John Edwards: 15.7% (1,980 total votes)
114. Ted Cruz: 10.7% (825 total votes)
131. Hillary Rodham Clinton: 9.5% (2,616 total votes)
150. Marco Rubio: 8.3% (1,311 total votes)
222. Lindsey O. Graham: 4.5% (3,984 total votes)
279. Rand Paul: 3.1% (1,311 total votes)
290. Bernie Sanders: 2.9% (2,664 total votes)
327. Jim Webb: 2% (1,839 total votes)
332. Rick Santorum: 1.9% (4,156 total votes)
428. Charles E. Grassley: 0.3% (10,923 total votes)
430. Benjamin L. Cardin: 0.3% (2,664 total votes)
433. Olympia J. Snowe: 0.2% (5,995 total votes)
436. William Proxmire: 0.1% (12,108 total votes)

You'll notice that a number of the most frequent vote-missers were also presidential candidates (including Mike Gravel, who ran a bit later). Obama's misses almost certainly link to his success on the national stage; he's the only one of the candidates on our graph who spent a full year of his time while in the Senate campaigning non-stop, given that he won his party's nomination. So it's not quite an apples-to-apples comparison with the nascent Cruz campaign.

Congrats to William Proxmire, by the way, Democrat of Wisconsin. He barely ever missed a vote at all.

Since we had the data in-hand, we decided to also see who the most positive and negative members of the Senate had been. And something surprising happened.

But first, here are the 2016ers (plus a 2008er) who had the highest percentage "yes" and "no" votes.

That "no" chart is particularly interesting. All the Republicans higher than average, save Rick Santorum; all of the Democrats below. Have we stumbled onto some greater truth about the parties?

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No. There's a reason Santorum is the outlier on the right. He served longer -- and at a different time.

Here are the top lists among all senators for "yes" and "no" votes.

Senators voting "yes"

1. John Walsh: 93.5% (340 total votes)
2. Dean Barkley: 85.7% (14 total votes)
3. Joe Donnelly: 82.2% (825 total votes)
4. Cory Booker: 80.8% (600 total votes)
5. Angus King: 80.2% (825 total votes)
6. Heidi Heitkamp: 79.8% (825 total votes)
7. Martin Heinrich: 79.8% (825 total votes)
8. Tim Kaine: 79.5% (825 total votes)
9. Tammy Baldwin: 79.5% (825 total votes)
10. Mazie Hirono: 79.5% (825 total votes)
86. Jim Webb: 65.5% (1,839 total votes)
100. Rick Santorum: 64.5% (4,156 total votes)
101. Hillary Rodham Clinton: 64.4% (2,616 total votes)
103. Bernie Sanders: 64.3% (2,664 total votes)
263. Lindsey O. Graham: 55.7% (3,984 total votes)
311. Barack Obama: 52.4% (1,300 total votes)
392. Marco Rubio: 45.2% (1,311 total votes)
409. Rand Paul: 43.3% (1,311 total votes)
440. Ted Cruz: 36.6% (825 total votes)

Senators voting "no"

1. Mike Lee: 55.9% (1,311 total votes)
2. Tim Scott: 55.4% (825 total votes)
3. Hugh Mitchell: 54.1% (242 total votes)
4. Deb Fischer: 53.5% (825 total votes)
5. Rand Paul: 53.3% (1,311 total votes)
6. Ted Cruz: 52.7% (825 total votes)
19. Marco Rubio: 46.5% (1,311 total votes)
81. Lindsey O. Graham: 39.7% (3,984 total votes)
237. Rick Santorum: 33.5% (4,156 total votes)
279. Bernie Sanders: 32.6% (2,664 total votes)
295. Jim Webb: 32.3% (1,839 total votes)
415. Hillary Rodham Clinton: 26.1% (2,616 total votes)
429. Barack Obama: 23.5% (1,300 total votes)

A number of recent senators top both lists! What gives?

Partisanship. Lee, Scott, Walsh and Booker got to the Senate recently, when it was controlled by Democrats and when there weren't very many votes. So Democrats voted yes, along with party leaders, most of the time. Republicans voted no. In the 2016 field are a number of Republicans who are new to the Senate and a number of Democrats who didn't serve very long. (Staying in the Senate long enough to see control switch parties is a good way to diversify your voting patterns.)

To put a fine point on it, here's how the total number of votes for each of our 2016ers (and that Obama fella) compare to the average number of votes cast by those 400-plus senators.

They're all new kids, which basically every graph above reinforces. Can a new kid to the Senate who missed a lot of votes win the presidency, just like that?

Hard to say. It hasn't happened in almost seven years.

Rubio: A bad Iran deal 'almost guarantees war' // CNN // Alexander, Jaffe - May 1, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio on Friday warned that a bad deal with Iran on its nuclear program "almost guarantees war," and defended his controversial amendment to the Senate's bill requiring congressional approval for the final deal.

"The argument the White House uses is if you're not in favor of this deal, you are in favor of war," Rubio said at the National Review Institute Ideas Summit. "I would argue that a bad deal almost guarantees war, because Israel is not going to abide by any deal that they believe puts them and their existence in danger."

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Speaking to a crowd of conservative scholars and donors, the Republican presidential contender said that Iran would "exploit any loophole in a deal that it can find." He predicted a future in which Iran used the West's "short attention span" to snooker investors into pouring money into the country, which it would ultimately just use to attack the West.

Rubio mused that Iran would plot: "We'll blow up a bomb in one of their cities. We'll blow up their embassies in Latin America. We'll kill Americans. We're going to punish them -- a stronger Iran."

The final deal hasn't yet been released, but Rubio said he doesn't like what he's heard of the framework. And he defended his effort with Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) to use a procedural tactic to try to force a vote on an amendment that would require Iran to recognize Israel's "right to exist."

That tactic has stalled activity on a bipartisan bill requiring congressional approval on the final deal, raising doubts about its passage.

"The criticism of that is that there are a bunch of countries in the Middle East that don't recognize Israel's right to exist, which is true," Rubio said. "But none of them are trying to build a nuclear weapon. And none of them have billions of dollars of sanctions, and if we lift those sanctions, we are handing over billions of dollars to the Iranian regime."

He also weighed in on immigration policy, accusing President Barack Obama's policy allowing children brought to the U.S. illegally to remain here of being abused by drug traffickers.

"I've had leaders of the Northern Triangle in Central America -- Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador -- tell me that DACA was used by trafficking groups in the Northern Triangle to recruit people to send their children here illegally," Rubio said.

The senator again distanced himself from the failed 2013 bill that he helped shepherd through the Senate. He now backs a piecemeal approach to reform, and said the first step has to be securing the border. After that, Rubio floated the possibility of revising legal immigration limits every year "on the basis of what our economic needs are," and suggested after securing the border and modernizing the legal immigration system, there should be a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

That pathway would require illegal immigrants have lived in the U.S. for a decade or longer and not violated any laws, and they would need to undergo a background check, pay a fine, start paying taxes and learn English.

"In exchange for all of that, what you would get is the equivalent of a non-immigrant, non-permanent work visa to be in the US," he said.

After holding that status for a period, Rubio said immigrants could apply for full citizenship.

Marco Rubio Courts Right on Iran and Immigration // First Draft - New York Times // Ashley Parker - May 1, 2015

Senator Marco Rubio, who described the possibility of his becoming president as “an increasingly optimistic hypothetical,” spent Friday morning answering questions both immediate and, yes, hypothetical at the National Review’s ideas summit.

On the Iran bill sputtering its way through the Senate, the Florida Republican defended the so-called poison pill amendments he was offering, including one that says Iran must recognize Israel’s right to exist as a precondition for any nuclear deal.

“The criticism of that is there are a bunch of countries in the Middle East that don’t recognize Israel’s right to exist, which is true,” Mr. Rubio said. “But none of them are trying to build a nuclear weapon, and none of them have billions in dollars in sanctions, which, if we lift those sanctions, we are turning over billions of dollars to the Iranian regime.”

Mr. Rubio also warned that he fully expected Iran to cheat on any deal.

“Iran is going to exploit any loophole in the deal they can find,” he said, adding that “the West has a very short attention span,” focusing on an issue for a few weeks before moving on.

“At some point, in a couple of years, in five years, six years, eight years, whatever it may be, a stronger Iran can then re-emerge and say, ‘You know what, guys? We believe that our enemies have nuclear weapons, too, so we believe we need to build one,’ ” he added.

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On immigration, an issue that has dogged Mr. Rubio as he has transitioned from an architect of a broad bipartisan immigration bill to a Republican candidate for president, the senator called for increased security at the nation's southern borders; beefing up internal enforcement; and overhauling the nation's legal immigration system.

But after those things are accomplished, Mr. Rubio said, he could support a pathway to legal status for the 11 million undocumented immigrants already in the country, as he laid out a vision that largely mirrored the Senate immigration compromise he helped to write.

"I think a reasonable way to approach it is, if you are in this country a decade or longer, have not otherwise violated our laws, you would have to come forward, undergo a criminal background check," Mr. Rubio said. "You would have to pay a fine for having broken our laws, you would have to start paying taxes, you would have to learn English."

In exchange, he continued, those undocumented immigrants could then receive a visa that would allow them to legally work in the United States.

"You'd have to be in that status for a significant period of time, and at some point, if you choose, you could apply for permanent residency, but you'd have to do it through that modernized legal immigration system and you'd have to do it just like everybody else," he said.

Huckabee gears up for presidential announcement with new video // MSNBC // Emma Margolin – May 1, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee broke through the closed doors of "Bill Clinton's Arkansas" and is ready to take on another Clinton in 2016, boasts a new video that will introduce the Republican as a presidential candidate during his official announcement next week in Hope, Arkansas.

The video, entitled "Nailed Shut," casts Huckabee as a come-from-behind leader who fought "huge Democratic majorities" in his state and will continue to "fight for what matters most."

"Every day of my life in politics was a fight, and sometimes it was an intense one," Huckabee says in the two-minute, 18-second spot, which was released Friday. "But any drunken redneck can walk into a bar and start a fight. A leader only starts a fight that he's prepared to finish."

"Any drunken redneck can walk into a bar and start a fight. A leader only starts a fight that he's prepared to finish."
Former Gov. Mike Huckabee

The governor will officially announce his candidacy on May 5 at an event in Hope, Arkansas – a city that featured prominently in President Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign, which dubbed him "The Man from Hope." Though Huckabee will be the fourth Republican to join the race and will have to take on Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Marco Rubio of Florida in the primaries, the video makes clear that the former governor sees Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton as his primary foe.
"On his first day in office, Gov. Huckabee's door was nailed shut. It was in Bill Clinton's Arkansas," says Rex Nelson of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in the video. "You had all the apparatus of the Democratic party aligned against Mike Huckabee, and all of a sudden this Republican comes out of nowhere and wins."

A former Baptist pastor, Huckabee won the Iowa caucuses during his 2008 presidential bid, thanks in large part to overwhelming support from Christian conservatives. In the past few months, the governor has made headlines for his sometimes perplexing remarks about gay marriage, religious freedom, swear words, and even Beyoncé.

But the culture wars were nowhere to be found in Friday's video, save for a promise to "lead with moral clarity in a dangerous world." Instead, Huckabee highlights his commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare, helping Americans earn their "maximum wages," and keeping "all options on the table in order to defeat the evil forces of radical Islam."

Kasich Undecided on 2016: 'Without Resources, You Can't Do It' // NBC News // Mark Murray - May 1, 2015

At a lunch on Friday with reporters, Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he's still weighing a presidential bid, but he explained that his ability to raise money will largely determine if he runs. "Without the resources, you can't do it," he said. "I've tried it before," referring to his short-lived bid in 2000.

Kasich, a Republican, declined to lay out any date or timetable for a final decision. "There is not a date, but we'll know."

Last month, Kasich told NBC's Chuck Todd on "Meet the Press" that he was "more and more serious" about a White House bid. "Look, all my options are on the table here. And I'm, you know, more and more serious, or I

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wouldn't be doing these things." That includes forming a 527 political organization as he mulls a potential run.

Also at the lunch sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, Kasich defended expanding Medicaid under the federal health-care law in his state - which angered some conservative Republicans. "I got money that I can bring home to Ohio," he said.

Kasich also said he believes that marriage is between a man and woman. But if the Supreme Court legalizes gay marriage in the state - voters in 2004 passed a constitutional amendment banning it in Ohio - he would attend a gay wedding, if invited by friends. "I have a number of friends who are gay," he said. "They know how I feel about it."

Ohio's Kasich says 2016 presidential run depends on money // Reuters // Steve Holland – May 1, 2015

Ohio Governor John Kasich said on Friday his 2016 presidential aspirations depend on whether he can raise enough money to compete with a host of rivals for the Republican nomination.

Kasich, 62, is considering a run for his party's nomination, which would make him a potentially potent force in the Republican field as he represents an important swing state in presidential elections.

But with more than a dozen Republicans either already in the race or about to enter it, Kasich could easily be just another face on a crowded stage searching for his own breakout moment.

Kasich, a former chairman of the House of Representatives Budget Committee who was re-elected as Ohio's governor in November, sounded like a presidential candidate during a 45-minute session with reporters at a lunch sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor.

Kasich, who considered running for the White House in 2000 before bowing out of the race, said he was optimistic that he will be able to move forward with launching a campaign, but did not indicate when he would make up his mind.

"I'm going to determine whether I'll have the resources to win. If I don't have the resources and I can't see a path to victory, I'm not going to do that," Kasich said.

Kasich, who served 18 years in Congress, touted his experience as a key selling point for why Republican voters would want to give him a look.

A fiscal conservative with an independent streak, he said he would want to take on the role of problem-solver.

"The country's got a lot of problems. I think whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, the anxiety is not much different," he said.

Kasich's decision to expand Medicaid, a government-funded health program for the poor, in Ohio through President Barack Obama's signature 2010 healthcare law has drawn scorn from conservatives.

Many Republican governors have opted not to expand Medicaid out of opposition to the law, also known as Obamacare. The White House says that position deprives the residents of those states of the federal dollars that would be available to them.

Kasich defended his decision, saying the money is being used to treat 10,000 mentally ill inmates in Ohio prisons.

"Here's what I'm faced with. I've got money I can bring home to Ohio ... It's not Washington's. It's the money that belongs to the people of our state," he said.

Kasich also was unwilling to give his unabashed support to free trade legislation that Obama and Republicans are trying to get passed in Congress, saying he was concerned about its impact on the U.S. labor market.

Kasich wades into presidential waters, says he's an unconventional Republican // Washington Post // Philip Rucker - May 1, 2015

Ohio Gov. John Kasich waded into the presidential waters on Friday, casting himself as an unconventional Republican who governs as a compassionate reformer and arguing that among a field of nearly two dozen White House hopefuls, he would stand out as the most experienced.

Although not formally a candidate, Kasich signaled he has the will to run for president in 2016, if not necessarily the resources. The governor said he has been talking to prospective donors to gauge whether, in an historically deep and competitive field of GOP contenders, he can raise the millions of dollars necessary to wage a competitive primary campaign.

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"If I don't have the resources and I don't see a path to victory, I'm not going to do that," said Kasich. He's had the presidential bug before, running briefly in 1999 before dropping out in the face of the George W. Bush juggernaut. Kasich boasted of what he sees as unique political strengths -- "I'm a retail guy," he said -- but acknowledged, "Either I got it or I don't." If he calculates that he cannot raise the resources to run, he added jokingly, he could still live out his dream of being a PGA tournament golfer.

Kasich's comments came during an hour-long luncheon with reporters at a downtown Washington hotel hosted by the Christian Science Monitor.

Should he run, Kasich said, his campaign would focus on restoring productive relationships -- both among Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill and among the United States and its allies in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere. He said foreign alliances have deteriorated and suggested that the last Bush presidency shared in the blame with President Obama, although he did not cite Bush specifically.

"I think those relationships have eroded over time -- not just with Obama, [but] over time," Kasich said. "We don't have the deep relationships we need in order to be unified and send strong messages."

Kasich sharply criticized Obama's nuclear negotiations with Iran, arguing that the president is so "in love" with getting a deal that he was giving in to the Iranian regime. He compared it to going to a car dealership and "you're so hungry to get that car you'll pay anything for it."

More broadly, Kasich said, "I'm not a believer in nation-building. We should have a military that's mobile, that's lethal, where we can go and exert force and then come home."

Kasich also said he was looking at sweeping changes to the tax code, including reducing the corporate tax rate. He said he has been talking with Steve Forbes, the wealthy publishing executive who ran unsuccessfully for president as a Republican in 1996 and 2000, about his flat tax idea.

Kasich declined to draw contrasts with his potential Republican primary opponents; when one reporter asked him to compare his record in Ohio with Gov. Scott Walker's in Wisconsin and Gov. Rick Snyder's in Michigan, he snapped, "I'm not going to take your bait." But he suggested that being the governor of the premier general election battleground state gave him an edge. "You can't be president if you don't win Ohio," Kasich said.

Kasich has made a mark with his efforts to lift up Ohio's poorest residents. He expanded Medicaid in his state, a move that drew the ire of some fellow Republican governors, and has enacted mental health, criminal justice and educational programs designed to help what he calls people living in the shadows.

"My view of it is all people are made in the image of God and everybody deserves respect," he said. "To me, there's no lost human beings."

On the issue of gay rights, which has left many Republican leaders twisted in rhetorical knots, Kasich voiced some openness to accepting same-sex marriages as legal.

"I am for marriage defined as between a man and a woman," Kasich said. "If the Supreme Court changes that, those changes have to be respected. I have a number of friends who are gay. I like them."

Asked whether he would attend a friend or relative's gay marriage, Kasich said he would. "I don't usually go to weddings of people that I don't know, okay? I don't go to 'em. But if somebody that I like is getting married in the traditional sense or in the non-traditional sense, I'm not hung up about it. I'll be celebrating with them."

Would-be presidential candidates like Pataki test waters with a wink // Washington Post // David A. Fahrenthold – May 1, 2015

The tall man in a blazer burst into the Chipotle in the middle of the afternoon. He had a smile, a TV camera following him, and the jovial air of a man who expects to be recognized.

“George Pataki, from New York,” he said, shaking hands with the first two diners he met. “We’re doing the non-Hillary tour. We’re actually saying ‘hi’ to people.”

Then the tall man moved on, to quiz the next table about their food. (“Chicken burrito? I gotta try something new.”) When he was gone, the first two diners wondered: Who was that? Do they not have Chipotle where he lives?

“It’s like, ‘Oh, I’m from New York,’ ” said Aaron Lee, 22. “What are you doing here, then?”

Officially, what George E. Pataki is doing is flirting — for the fourth time in 16 years — with the idea of running for president of the United States.

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The Republican ex-governor of New York is raising money, visiting early-primary states and telling people that he's close, close, close to making a decision. "I'm strongly leaning toward making the run," he told a radio station in New Hampshire. The first three times he considered running, he didn't.

This is the flirting season in American politics: Right now, more than 20 politicians are officially "considering" or "exploring" a run for president. The key to understanding this strange every-four-years ritual is to understand that there are actually two kinds of flirting.

For the big-name candidates, the presidential flirt is a useful, temporary, legal dodge. They will run. They are basically running already. But they don't want to admit it yet, because that would bring on tighter fundraising rules.

For the others — particularly the eight or so who had fallen out of the political spotlight — the flirt can be an end in itself. It allows them to experience some of the most pleasant parts of a campaign: audiences, media attention, a chance to raise money. And then it lets them escape before they have to face the less-pleasant parts. Like getting crushed.

"I make a joke that every four years, there's the Olympics, there's the World Cup and I come to New Hampshire thinking about running for president," Pataki told a crowd of 15 people during a speech at a Sea-Doo and snowmobile dealership in Laconia, N.H.

Nobody laughed. Then Pataki said this election was different: "This time, in all honesty, I see things differently."

That might be true. But it is also the thing you have to say if you're a good flirt.

Pataki, 69, has already lived a remarkable political life. He is the son of a postman, who unseated liberal icon Mario Cuomo (D) in a 1994 governor's race — one of New York's legendary upsets. Pataki then won second and third terms by large margins. He led New York through the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the rebuilding of Ground Zero.

But he has not held office since 2007. Since then, his political star has faded somewhat.

"Who is Bloomberg?" a "Jeopardy!" contestant said in January while looking at a photo of Pataki.

The category was "New York governors," and the clue was "He took New York into the 21st century."

"No," host Alex Trebek said. The other two contestants stared blankly at the same photo, without buzzing in, until time ran out.

Another sign: There used to be a museum about Pataki in his hometown of Peekskill, N.Y.. It opened after he left office, complete with an exhibit where schoolkids could see Pataki's actual gubernatorial desk.

Then, in 2013, it closed. Its leaders thought maybe more schoolkids would visit if it was a Web site.

"Basically, it would be like a monkey flying out of a unicorn's [posterior]," if Pataki won the 2016 Republican nomination, said Florida-based GOP strategist Rick Wilson. If he got into the GOP primary, Pataki would face obstacles that go far beyond his meager name recognition. He is pro-choice. He signed strict gun-control laws. He let state government spending grow rapidly.

In recent polls, his best showing has been 1 percent.

"Let's just say a meteor strikes the first debate, and kills everyone except Pataki, who is stuck in traffic. Let's hypothesize for a moment," Wilson said. He thought. No. It still wouldn't be Pataki. They'd find somebody else.

But despite those long odds, Pataki came to New Hampshire last month for his eighth flirting-related visit since September. He is planning a ninth visit next week.

"I know I can appeal — not just to Republicans and conservatives — but to independents and intelligent Democrats as well," Pataki told an audience of eight College Republicans at the University of New Hampshire.

This is the heart of Pataki's pitch to voters. He's a Republican who won big in a blue state. He's a reformer who would tame Washington's bureaucracy. "I go there today, and it's like I'm on an alien planet," Pataki said of Washington. "They are an insular world. They talk a language you don't understand."

In New Hampshire, Pataki's crowds were not big. At the official opening of his super PAC's office in Manchester, for instance, 25 people turned up. And one of them turned out to be an incognito staffer for Donald Trump. Think

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about that. If this was an intentional act of flirter-against-flirter espionage (which the Trump staffer denied), it might be the most pointless dirty trick in the history of American politics.

Nevertheless, wherever Pataki went, the crowds were pleasant and admiring.

“Under a Pataki administration,” one man asked him at a diner, how would Middle East policy change?

“You’d change everything,” Pataki told him.

This is one of the things that makes flirting worthwhile: for an ex-politician, it is an unlocked door back into the American political arena.

That can mean new audiences for men used to audiences. The same College Republicans, for instance, had recently hosted a 2016 flirter whose odds are even longer than Pataki’s: former Virginia governor James Gilmore III (R). Gilmore left office in 2002.

“I mean, thank God for Wikipedia,” said UNH senior Elliot Gault, 22.

And the same kind of magic works on the news media. Before former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee (D) announced he was exploring a presidential run on April 9, The Washington Post had not quoted him about anything in nine months.

Since then, The Post has quoted him eight times. Er, nine.

“Clinton is just too hawkish,” Chafee said in an interview, repeating his signature attack line on the Democratic front-runner, former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The other great thing about flirting is the money. While you flirt, you can raise it. And if you don’t run, you can spend it anyway.
In 1999, for instance, Pataki flirted with a campaign, then gave up and endorsed George W. Bush. In 2007, he did it again. “I was very serious about it” that time, Pataki says now. “But: Mayor Giuliani.” The former New York City mayor was in the race, and Pataki didn’t think there was room for two New Yorkers. So he got out.

Both times, Pataki raised more than $1 million in donors’ money. Both times, the New York Times reported, Pataki spent it — giving to allied Republican candidates, paying for Pataki’s travels, and paying a circle of Pataki’s own advisers, strategists and fundraisers.

Then came 2012.

“I was very serious about it,” Pataki says. “But everywhere I went, people had committed to Mitt Romney.” He pulled the plug but still raised and spent more than $600,000 via a political nonprofit.

This year, Pataki is raising money again — for a super PAC called “We the People, Not Washington.” Among those leading the fundraising are several Pataki associates who got paid from the money he raised in past flirtations. Aides wouldn’t say how much he’d raised or spent this time.

“Because he was my friend, I wouldn’t feel cheated [if Pataki didn’t run]. I’m never one to say that a guy should be a suicide lunatic,” said Peter Kalikow, a New York real estate titan who donated to Pataki’s super PAC this year. In the last presidential cycle, Kalikow was a major backer of another long shot: pizza executive Herman Cain.

Pataki’s aides say they have a strategy ready if their man really gets into the race. He’ll stand out in the debates with his genial wit and executive experience. Then he’ll surge in New Hampshire, by appealing to libertarian-leaning . . .

Wait.

Perhaps we’re getting ahead of ourselves.

“When I heard the name, I was like, ‘Pataki. Pataki. Pataki.’ But I didn’t know that he was the mayor of New York,” Tony Coutee, 42, a crane operator who was at the second table Pataki visited in that Manchester Chipotle, said incorrectly. After Pataki left his table, Coutee said, “I Googled him and found out.”

“So he is running?” asked Coutee’s lunch companion, Jason Soto, 35.

Yes, Coutee said.

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While the two of them were talking, Pataki was into a full-blown, campaign-style restaurant schmooze. He bumped elbows with the grill man. He walked back to greet employees in the walk-in cooler ("He just shook my hand and I said I didn't want to be on camera, and he asked if I was on parole," one said, bewildered.) Pataki went through the line and loudly asked if he could leave a tip.

Then he came back and sat down with Coutee and Soto. "I'm trying the chicken burrito," Pataki told them.

The two men quickly got up to leave.

"Kinda normal," Soto said of this only-in-flirting-season interaction, a pseudo-conversation with a pseudo-candidate, who never said what he was running for. "But abnormal."

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

Thousands Gather Peacefully in Baltimore in a Mix of Anger and Jubilation // New York Times // Sheryl Gay Stolberg – May 2, 2015

This beleaguered city took on a festive, almost celebratory feel Saturday as thousands of people of all ages and races rallied peacefully in front of City Hall to call for an end to police mistreatment of black men, but also an end to the curfew imposed by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake amid riots set off by the death of Freddie Gray, who sustained a fatal spinal cord injury in police custody.

The gathering, bookended by marches through city streets, felt at times like a street carnival, with a dash of black power militancy. It came a day after six police officers were charged in the death of Mr. Gray, 25. The rally stood in stark contrast to the looting and arson that took place here Monday night, and the scattered violence after a similar demonstration on April 25.

As one speaker after another addressed the crowd on a grassy plaza in front of City Hall, Julian Burke, 23, a painter, handed out balloons, saying, "We're spreading good vibes." A group called Food Not Bombs served free vegan meals.

Not long after the 10 p.m. curfew began, the police used pepper spray and made several arrests. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times
"The public got an answer yesterday," Ms. Adams said, explaining the change in mood. "I just hope that the changes stick. I'm really hopeful that it doesn't turn."

The presence of thousands of camouflage-clad National Guard troops and armored vehicles was a sign that the city was not quite back to normal. While many protesters called for an end to the citywide curfew that Ms. Rawlings-Blake put in place Tuesday night — and the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland said it had "outlived its usefulness" — Police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts said it would remain in effect Saturday night "for everyone's safety."

The mood changed again at night. Not long after the 10 p.m. curfew began, someone threw a water bottle at a passing truck carrying National Guard troops, and a lone, shouting pedestrian would not leave the intersection of West North and Pennsylvania Avenues. The police used pepper spray to subdue the man, who was then thrown down and dragged by his hair. A small group of other people began throwing rocks and bottles across the intersection toward police officers, who made several arrests.

In his first public comments since Marilyn J. Mosby, the state's attorney for Baltimore City, announced she would prosecute six officers for charges including murder and manslaughter, Mr. Batts defended his department, but said he would not "tolerate any misconduct." He refused to comment on specifics of the case, but said, "Now we will have the confidence that the truth will come out."

As Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland called for a statewide "day of prayer and peace" on Sunday, a spokesman for Ms. Rawlings-Blake, Kevin Harris, said in an interview that the mayor was re-evaluating the curfew on a daily basis and was "very encouraged the demonstrations over the last few days have been peaceful." He added, "We know that the curfew is having an economic impact on the city."

Many people here, especially those who work night shifts, say the 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew has been difficult for them. In West Baltimore on Saturday, J. R. White, 36, who owns a car detailing business, said the restrictions were forcing him to cut back his hours. "They need to end that now," Mr. White said after taking a selfie photo in front of a makeshift graffiti memorial to Mr. Gray at the spot where he had been arrested. "People can't pay the bills if they can't work."

Thousands of people gathered at a rally at City Hall in Baltimore a day after six police officers were charged in the

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death of Freddie Gray while he was in custody.

Even though the scene outside City Hall was calm, Governor Hogan's office announced in an email sent during the demonstration that the National Guard had increased its presence in the city. Mr. Hogan's office said 3,000 soldiers and airmen had been deployed, up from 2,500 on Friday.

Saturday's protest and rally had been called by Black Lawyers for Justice, a Washington-based group whose leader, Malik Shabazz, clearly makes Baltimore's mainstream black leadership nervous. Mr. Shabazz, a former chairman of the New Black Panther Party, has been labeled an extremist by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which calls him a "racist black nationalist" who is "particularly skilled at orchestrating provocative protests."

A protest he led on April 25 turned briefly violent after he told demonstrators at City Hall to go out into the streets of Baltimore and "shut it down!" But on Saturday, it was Mr. Shabazz himself who was shut down, by members of the crowd who shouted, "It's not about you!" and implored him to "let the youth speak!" when his own speech went on at length.

The march was organized by Malik Shabazz, president of the Washington-based group Black Lawyers for Justice and a former chairman of the New Black Panther Party.

When the rally ended, a boisterous but peaceful crowd marched back toward West Baltimore, pooling at West North and Pennsylvania, where a CVS drugstore was looted and burned on Monday night. The intersection had been blocked earlier in the week by officers in full riot gear; now the crowd broke into a happy call-and-response chant: "Take back! Baltimore! Take back! Baltimore!"

Someone turned on a loudspeaker, and the crowd began to dance.

Earlier in the day, volunteers handed out bags of supplies and food at the Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, a block from the intersection, where the sign on the church proclaimed, "Praying for the Freddie Gray Family." Joyous Jones, a church lay leader wearing an "I Bleed Baltimore" T-shirt, said that the food giveaway was a regular event but that more people turned out to help Saturday, and more companies, including the grocery chains Trader Joe's, Safeway and Giant, donated food.

A Young Leader in Baltimore

Melech E. M. Thomas, a divinity student and community organizer in Baltimore, said his generation has an important role to play in transforming the city.

By Axel Gerdau and A. J. Chavar on Publish Date April 29, 2015. Photo by Axel Gerdau.
"It makes me feel warm, to see so many people helping," she said.

City officials had been bracing for Saturday's demonstration, but the day got off to an almost sleepy start. Just past noon, a small crowd, including a group of New Yorkers, started gathering near the intersection of Mount and Presbury Streets, in Gilmor Homes, at the spot where Mr. Gray had been arrested.

A few blocks away, children played with a toy car on a stoop, and church members emerged from the Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church after attending the funeral of their bus driver.

"It's gonna be peaceful. Yes, it is," said Delphie Horne, 86, who sat in a wheelchair with her granddaughter, Michelle Lennon, 12, at her side. Ms. Lennon shook her head shyly when asked if she expected to attend the protest and rally at City Hall.

Across the street, the Guard troops stood ready. Another church member, Sharon Ann Hargrove, 62, who works as a tax preparer here, stopped to thank them. "I know y'all give up your life every day for us," she told them. Turning to a reporter, she added, "They're not our enemies."

Continue reading the main story
But on the minds and lips of many was Ms. Mosby's announcement. "I think they charged the officers just to calm the city down," said Tajhi Cooper, 22, a lifelong resident of the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood. "But I don't think they're going to get convicted."

Cleaning Up Baltimore

After a night of violent clashes with the police, protests, vandalism and arson, Baltimore residents aim to put their city back together.

By A.J. Chavar on Publish Date April 28, 2015.
The protests, he said, were "showing that we want change, that we want something different."

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Many people came with a sense that they were watching history unfold, with origins in the civil rights era but an ultimate path still unknown. Several hundred marched from the Gilmor Homes to meet the much larger group that had massed at City Hall.

Crystal Miller, 47, marched down Pennsylvania Avenue with the youngest of her eight children, 18-month-old Noah, on her hip. “It could have been my children,” said Ms. Miller, who has four sons and four daughters.

Ms. Miller, who is in a training program to get a certificate for nursing home care, said Friday’s charges had spurred her to march. She said she had feared that the officers would not be charged and that the city would be ablaze in anger.

“I was scared. I was praying on it,” she said, adding that she hoped Mr. Gray’s death would inspire lawmakers to expand the use of police cameras from cars and bodies to the interior of transport vans. “They need video cameras in these vans,” she said. “That would stop some of this.”

Amid the celebration, there was an undercurrent of anger, not only over police treatment of black men, but over the lack of jobs and recreation centers, as well as dilapidated housing for Baltimore’s poor.

“Eye Contact is NOT a Crime,” one sign said — a reference to police admissions that Mr. Gray had been arrested after a lieutenant made eye contact with him, which contributed to Ms. Mosby’s assertion that the officers had made an illegal arrest.

Salesmen hawked T-shirts with the phrase “Black Lives Matter.” There was also a thread of the 1960s; black power advocates raised their fists, and communists distributed Marxist literature.

Rashaan Brave, a division chief in the Baltimore Parks and Recreation Department; Rashad Vance, who teaches in a middle school and at Morgan State University; and Travis Vance, a civil engineer, all of whom live in Baltimore, made their way on bicycles to City Hall. Each was trying to understand the aftermath of Mr. Gray’s death, the anger of youths and ways to help them.

“This is history. I just wanted to be involved,” said Rashad Vance, 32. “I’ve been telling my students, ‘Protest, but nonviolently.’ ”

Correction: May 2, 2015
An earlier version of this article misstated the start and end times of the curfew in Baltimore. It is 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., not 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SurveyMonkey CEO, husband of Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg, dies suddenly // CNET // Scott Olson – May 2, 2015

Goldberg's brother, Robert Goldberg, announced the news in a post on Facebook, requesting that people share their memories of David via the site.

"No words can express the depth of loss we feel, but we want his children to learn how much he meant to all of you," Robert Goldberg wrote.

There has also been an outpouring of support and condolences across the tech community, including from Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who called Goldberg "an amazing person."

Goldberg had a long, varied career, which spanned companies like Capitol Records and Yahoo before he ultimately became chief of SurveyMonkey. As CEO there, Goldberg oversaw a company with about 500 employees, which has grown to become a recognizable Web-based survey platform. The service is used by more than 20 million people worldwide and receives 2.8 million survey responses every day, with 473,000 surveys deployed every month.

He began dating Sandberg in 2002, and they married two years later. Though both had successful careers, Sandberg often discussed how they divvied up household responsibilities. Their partnership was key to her successful career, she has said.

One of the keys to their success was that they both left work at about 5:30 p.m. every day. Goldberg told The Los Angeles Times two years ago that both he and Sandberg worked hard to ensure their home life didn't suffer despite their high-profile jobs. "I am at home with my kids from 6 to 8. If I have a work dinner, I'll schedule to have dinner after 8. But we're working at night," he said. "You'll get plenty of emails from me post-8 p.m. when my kids go to bed."

Tech VIPs paid tribute to Goldberg on Saturday.

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"Dave's passing is unfathomable," Jim Lanzone, chief executive of CNET parent CBS Interactive, said of his longtime friend. "There was no one like him. A lot of people try to be as good a person as Dave Goldberg, but no one else I know pulls it off. It's just a huge, huge loss for family, friends and our community as a whole."

Twitter CEO Dick Costolo, Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff, PayPal co-founder Max Levchin and former MySpace President Jason Hirschhorn offered elegies via Twitter:

Six officers charged in death of Freddie Gray // Washington Post // By Lori Aratani, Paul Duggan and Dan Morse – May 1, 2015

Six police officers were charged Friday in the death of Freddie Gray as Baltimore's top prosecutor acted with surprising swiftness in a case that ignited protests and rioting here. She described how Gray allegedly was arrested illegally, treated callously by the officers, and suffered a severe spine injury in the back of a police van while his pleas for medical help were ignored.

Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby publicly delivered her stunning, detailed narrative of extensive police misconduct in the latest of several cases nationwide that have fueled anger over heavy-handed law enforcement tactics in low-income communities.

Her decision to file charges brought joy and relief to low-income West Baltimore and beyond, at least temporarily. By nightfall, thousands of residents had taken to the streets in peaceful demonstrations.

One officer is accused of second-degree murder, and three others were charged with manslaughter.

Events leading to Gray's arrest and hospitalization View Graphic
"To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America, I have heard your call of 'No justice, no peace,' " Mosby declared. Her announcement of the charges came after days of angry yet nonviolent marches in the city and overnight rioting and looting on Monday, mostly in West Baltimore.

"Your peace is sincerely needed as I work to deliver justice on behalf of this young man," Mosby said of Gray, 25, who died in a hospital April 19 — a week after three of the officers took him into custody on a West Baltimore street in what Mosby said was an illegal arrest. She said Gray was carrying a folding knife, which is legal in Maryland.

Gray's family said it was "satisfied" by the filing of the charges. Richard Shipley, Gray's stepfather, also issued a plea for demonstrators to assemble peacefully this weekend.

"Where there is no justice, there is no peace," Shipley said. "But let us have peace in pursuit of justice."

An attorney for Baltimore's police union reacted angrily to the charges, calling them "an egregious rush to judgment" and saying that "these officers did nothing wrong."

Except for the allegedly illegal arrest — which resulted in false- imprisonment charges against the three officers who first encountered Gray — allegations in the case stem not so much from what the six officers did to Gray as from what they failed to do after he was taken into custody the morning of April 12.

Mosby said Gray, in handcuffs, was placed in the back of a police van but was not secured by a seat belt, as required by police rules. At one point during a trip that involved four stops, he was removed from the van and then put back in "on his stomach, headfirst, onto the floor," Mosby said. After the first stop, Gray "suffered a severe and critical neck injury as a result of being handcuffed, shackled by his feet and unrestrained" by a seat belt, she said.

Some of the officers checked on Gray in the van, Mosby said, and Gray asked for medical attention several times. However, Mosby said, "despite Mr. Gray's seriously deteriorating medical condition, no medical assistance was rendered or summoned." She said Gray was taken by ambulance to a hospital only after suffering cardiac arrest.

The officer who drove the van faces the most serious charge: second-degree murder, punishable by up to 30 years in prison. Three other officers, including a lieutenant, are accused of involuntary manslaughter, which carries a possible 10-year term.

In addition, those four officers, along with two others, were charged with second-degree assault and misconduct in office. Three of the six also are accused of false imprisonment.

Gray was black, as are three of the accused officers. Three of the officers are white.

By late Friday, the six officers had been released on bail, online court records show. This is the start of what is

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expected to be a protracted legal process.

The union attorney, Michael E. Davey, representing Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3, told reporters, “We have grave concerns about the fairness [and] integrity of the prosecution” of the six officers.

“No officer injured Mr. Gray, caused harm to Mr. Gray, and they are truly saddened by his death,” he said.

Mosby, a daughter and granddaughter of police officers, has been the city’s elected top prosecutor since January. The unexpected announcement of the charges Friday was greeted with applause by many community leaders and residents who said police misconduct occurs routinely in poor sections of the city.

The charges came less than two weeks after Gray’s death — a stunningly rapid turnaround for such an investigation.

It was more than three months between the Aug. 9 shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and St. Louis County prosecutor Robert McCulloch’s announcement that a grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. Nearly five months after Eric Garner died during his arrest by New York police officer Daniel Pantaleo, a Staten Island grand jury declined to issue an indictment.

Studies have found that in cases in which officers are charged, particularly in incidents that occurred on duty, prosecutors historically have had a hard time getting guilty verdicts because juries are often sympathetic to police officers.

The accused Baltimore officers are Lt. Brian W. Rice, 41, a 17-year member of the force; Sgt. Alicia D. White, 30, who joined the department in 2010; Officer Caesar R. Goodson Jr., 45, a member of the department for 16 years; and Officers Garrett E. Miller, 26, Edward M. Nero, 29, and William G. Porter, 25, all of whom joined the force in 2012.

Rice, Miller and Nero were on bicycle patrol the morning of April 12 when Rice “made eye contact” with Gray near North Avenue at Mount Street in West Baltimore, Mosby said. She said Gray then ran, with the officers in pursuit, before he was caught a few blocks away on Presbury Street.

Gray “was then placed in a prone position with his arms handcuffed behind his back,” Mosby said. “It was at this time that Mr. Gray indicated that he could not breathe and requested an inhaler, to no avail.”

Miller and Nero moved Gray to a sitting position on the sidewalk and frisked him, finding the folding knife “clipped to the inside of his pants pocket,” Mosby said. She said Gray was then placed “back down on his stomach, at which time [he] began to flail his legs and scream” as Miller and Nero forcibly restrained him.

The van arrived, driven by Goodson, and Rice, Miller and Nero loaded the handcuffed Gray into the back, without securing him with a seat belt, Mosby said. She said the van initially was bound for a police facility downtown. After a short distance, though, Goodson stopped on Baker Street so that Rice, Miller and Nero could “complete required paperwork.”

There, Rice, Miller and Nero took Gray out of the van and placed shackles on his ankles, and then returned him to the van, headfirst, on the floor, Mosby said.

She said Gray suffered a critical neck injury after the van left Baker Street. After traveling nearly a mile, Goodson stopped the van at Mosher Street and Freemont Avenue “in order to observe Mr. Gray,” Mosby said. “Despite stopping for the purpose of checking on the status of Mr. Gray’s condition, at no point did he seek or did he render” medical aid.

Goodson stopped again after several blocks, at Dolphin Street and Druid Hill Avenue, and radioed to a dispatcher that he needed to check on the condition of his prisoner, Mosby said. She said Porter, on patrol, met Goodson at the intersection.

She said Goodson and Porter checked on Gray, “who at that time requested help and indicated that he could not breathe.” Porter asked Gray “if he needed a medic, at which time Mr. Gray indicated at least twice that he was in need of a medic.”

Porter helped Gray off the floor and onto a bench, Mosby said, but neither officer summoned medical help for him. Instead, Goodson, “in a grossly negligent manner,” chose to drive to North and Pennsylvania avenues to pick up another man who had just been arrested, Mosby said. “Once the wagon arrived, Officer Goodson walked to the back of the wagon and again opened the doors . . . to make observations of Mr. Gray.”

White met the van at North and Pennsylvania avenues. She “observed Mr. Gray unresponsive of the floor of the wagon” and “spoke to the back of Mr. Gray’s head,” Mosby said. “When he did not respond, she did nothing

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further, despite the fact that she was advised that he needed a medic."

The van eventually arrived at the Western District police station, where officers left the ailing Gray in the van while the other prisoner was processed, Mosby said. By the time White and two other officers, who were not charged, went to remove Gray from the van, he had suffered cardiac arrest and "was no longer breathing at all."

Goodson was charged with second-degree murder under the legal theory of "depraved heart," which doesn't require an intent to kill. He also was charged with involuntary manslaughter, manslaughter by vehicle, second-degree assault and misconduct in office.

"Depraved-heart murder requires what I call super-gross negligence," said Robert Bonsib, a Greenbelt defense lawyer and former prosecutor who is not involved in the case.

The most serious charge against White, Porter and Rice is involuntary manslaughter. Each also was charged with second-degree assault and other crimes. Nero and Miller were charged with second-degree assault, false imprisonment and misconduct in office.

"This appears to be a complicated set of facts," Bonsib said.

Glenn F. Ivey, a former Prince George's County state's attorney, said this about Mosby: "What she's saying is, [Goodson's] actions were outrageous, and he should have known the actions, or inaction, could cause Mr. Gray's death."

DOT issues final rules on flammable oil trains // Politico // Elana Schor and Kathryn A. Wolfe – May 1, 2015

The Obama administration imposed tougher safety regulations Friday for trains carrying crude oil, responding to growing alarm about a series of fiery derailments that killed dozens of people in a small Canadian town and have rattled U.S. communities from North Dakota to Alabama to Virginia.

Details of the rules provoked a furious rebuke from the railroad industry's main lobbying group, which called DOT's mandate for advanced brakes "a rash rush to judgment," while oil refiners said its requirements for retrofitting tens of thousands of older tank cars by as early as 2018 are "unrealistic" and may disrupt commerce. On the other hand, the rules fall far short of some environmental groups' call for banning oil train shipments altogether, and they don't require oil companies to process their fuel to make it less volatile before shipping it.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said the long-awaited regulations are meant to absorb the lessons of the oil train accidents of recent years, including the July 2013 derailment and explosion that incinerated 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. The rules are also a response to the huge surge in oil production that has taken root in heartland states like North Dakota, thanks to the shale revolution that has made the U.S. a growing oil and gas superpower.

"Since 2008, we have seen a staggering, staggering 4,000 percent increase in the transport of crude by rail," said Foxx, who was accompanied by Canadian Transport Minister Lisa Raitt.

"The truth is, 99.9 percent of these shipments reached their destination safety," Foxx said, quoting a statistic that the railroad industry likes to cite. But he added: "The accidents involving crude and ethanol that have occurred, though, have shown us that 99.9 percent isn't enough. We have to strive for perfection."

Acting Federal Railroad Administrator Sarah Feinberg dismissed the railroad industry's objections to the newly required braking systems, which will have to be in place as early as 2021.

"We are not an agency with a goal of making things convenient or inexpensive for industry," she said. "Our entire goal and mission is safety."

Friday's announcement came one day after the first anniversary of an oil train derailment and explosion in Lynchburg, Va., that dumped crude into the James River.

Last year saw an all-time record of 144 oil train incidents in the U.S. — up from just one in 2009 — causing a total of more than $7 million in damage. The trend has continued this year, including derailments and breaches in West Virginia, Ontario and Illinois, all of which involved a newer model of tank car that had been billed as more sturdy and puncture-proof.

While members of Congress largely welcomed the new rule, several faulted DOT for not getting the most dangerous tank cars off the tracks faster. They said the department should also require oil companies to make their fuel less prone to explosions and should force railroads to provide more information to state and local emergency responders.

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“The new DOT rule is just like saying let the oil trains roll,” said Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), whose state has seen protests against crude rail shipments. “It does nothing to address explosive volatility, very little to reduce the threat of rail car punctures, and is too slow on the removal of the most dangerous cars.”

Cantwell, the top Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said she would look for legislative options to mandate even tougher standards, perhaps through the appropriations process or an upcoming passenger rail authorization.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) agreed that DOT needs to do more. “While I am glad that the administration is finally taking steps to protect our communities, I have serious concerns with these rules,” she said in a statement. “Inadequate tank cars will be allowed to continue carrying volatile crude oil until 2020 and in some cases—indefinitely.”

“The good news is that the standards for tank cars are tough and provide certainty, but the phase-out timeline lets the railroads take too long to implement it,” said Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York.

In a more positive vein, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said the new tank car standards “appear to move in the right direction and should help prevent future tragedies.” And Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, the top Democrat on the House Transportation Committee, said that “at first glance, this rule will provide certainty to manufacturers, shippers, and railroads and better protect the American public” — though he noted that “the National Transportation Safety Board first recommended replacing and retrofitting these cars more than 20 years ago.”

The Association of American Railroads would not rule out challenging the regulations in court, even though it welcomed the tank car requirements overall and noted that it had been advocating tougher standards for years. In particular, the group objected to DOT’s mandate for the oil-carrying trains to use electronically controlled pneumatic brakes, saying there’s no evidence they would reduce accidents.

“The DOT couldn’t make a safety case for ECP but forged ahead anyhow,” railroads association President Ed Hamberger said in a statement. “This is an imprudent decision made without supporting data or analysis. I have a hard time believing the determination to impose ECP brakes is anything but a rash rush to judgment.”

Foxx maintained that the brakes could prevent a repeat of incidents like a December 2013 collision in which an oil train slammed into a derailed grain train, setting off a series of explosions outside Casselton, N.D.

“ECP brakes can reduce how long it takes a train to stop,” Foxx said. “They can prevent cars from slamming into each other, they can decrease the number of cars that derail, they can greatly reduce the probability that tank cars will puncture. This is proven technology.”

Besides the brake provisions, the rules also include stiffer construction standards for rail tank cars made after Oct. 1 and permanent versions of the speed limits that DOT had previously announced.

The oil industry group American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers said it’s concerned that DOT’s “aggressive retrofit schedule is unrealistic and may be disruptive to transporting crude oil to markets across the country.” It also repeated its call for DOT to take on what it calls the “root causes of train derailments: track integrity and human error.”

Important aspects of the rules go beyond what the oil and railroad industries had suggested — for example, new tank cars designed to transport crude that are made after Oct. 1 will have to have steel walls that are 9/16th-inch thick, compared with the half-inch thickness both industries had jointly called for last fall. And the rule requires trains to use the advanced electronically controlled pneumatic brakes that they had aggressively fought against — within eight years at the most.

The rules also make permanent the provisions of an emergency order DOT issued last month that limits oil trains containing at least one older-model tank car to only 40 mph in “high-threat” urban areas. All crude-by-rail service would be restricted to 50 mph, in line with a voluntary speed limit that railroads adopted in 2013.

The regulations also include provisions affecting ethanol, another flammable liquid frequently shipped by rail.

DOT said the rules would impose $2.5 billion in costs from 2015 to 2034, while the benefits would range over the same period range from $912 million to $2.9 billion.

Timothy Butters, acting chief of DOT’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, said regulators are still looking at the issue of decreasing the volatility of the fuel before it can be shipped. “We need the science to drive that,” he said.

West Virginia’s two senators, Republican Shelley Moore Capito and Democrat Joe Manchin, urged Foxx and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in a letter Friday to move faster on studying oil volatility.

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The rules came well beyond the date that Foxx originally promised lawmakers — he had said repeatedly in hearings last year that it would not be allowed to go into 2015. Friday's announcement comes amid serious and growing pressure from lawmakers in both chambers to get a handle on the issue, especially against the backdrop of Canada's own actions on oil trains, which at times seemed faster and more aggressive than DOT's.

Congress attempted to prod DOT into action last year by setting a Jan. 15 deadline to complete the crude-by-rail regulations, but the administration blew past that deadline. While Democrats pressed DOT for the strongest possible rules, Republicans have amplified concerns from the oil industry and other shippers that an unattainable retrofitting timeline for tank cars could lead to further delays and congestion.

Last May, DOT issued a "safety advisory" asking — but not requiring — shippers of Bakken crude to discontinue using older DOT-111 models of tank cars and instead use newer cars with the model name CPC-1232. But weeks earlier, Canada had announced a series of mandates including the phase-out or retrofitting of DOT-111 tank cars in the next three years, prompting grousing among U.S. regulators.

"When can we expect the U.S. DOT to raise the bar, to up the ante?" asked NTSB member Robert Sumwalt during a safety forum around the time Canada acted.

"Right now in three years, those communities that live alongside railroad tracks that are transporting crude oil in Canada, those communities will ostensibly have a higher level of safety than will those communities here in the U.S.," he added at the time. "So when is the DOT going to step up to the plate?

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Why Larry Flynt Is Endorsing Hillary Clinton // Bloomberg // John Heilemann - May 1, 2015

The Hustler honcho has long supported Democrats–and thinks Clinton could get a chance to shift the balance of the Supreme Court.

When Larry Flynt is feeling righteous, he describes himself as a crusader: for civil liberties in general and free speech in particular, against capital punishment, political correctness, and hypocrisy in high places. In more mischievous moments, the sobriquets he applies are earthier, funnier—and more on point. His 1996 autobiography was titled An Unseemly Man: My Life as Pornographer, Pundit, and Social Outcast. The slogan of his quixotic 2003 campaign for the California governorship was "the smut peddler who cares." But now Bloomberg Politics can exclusively report that the impresario behind the Hustler empire is adding a new element to his persona: Flynt is officially ready for Hillary.

The bestowal of Flynt's blessing on Clinton occurred this week in his sprawling, surreal aerie—with its jumbled-up mix of American southern and Italianate décor, the place has the look of an unholy, Hollywood Babylon hybrid of Tara and the Uffizi—high above Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. Flynt's people had lured me out West with the promise that he had something of import to say about the Democratic front-runner. It took little prompting to get it out of him. "I'm endorsing Hillary Clinton for president!" Flynt declared.

Flynt's backing of Clinton is, on the face of it, unsurprising. His support for Democrats at the presidential level has been lifelong and unfailing; one of his better friends in politics is California Governor Jerry Brown, who, as it happened, was next in line to see Flynt after I exited the building. His famous/infamous practice of trawling for the sexual indiscretions of public figures—which reached its apogee during the impeachment furor around Bill Clinton and claimed the scalp of House Speaker-to-be (and then not-to-be) Bob Livingston—has been directed almost entirely at Republicans. On his desk the day we met were galleys from the next issue of Hustler, including an column that confers on George W. Bush the honorific "A--hole of the Century."

Few Clinton supporters will take issue with the animating impulse behind Flynt's endorsement: the future makeup of the Supreme Court. "We've had a right-leaning court for half a century," he says from the gold-plated wheelchair he's occupied since being shot and paralyzed in 1978. "But if Hillary gets in, chances are she's going to have an opportunity to appoint two, maybe three justices … and we could shift the balance there."

But no small number of Clinton's ardent fans, and especially those who regard her as a feminist icon, may find it unsettling—or queasy-making—to have a man who has made a vast fortune in the skin trade squarely in her, and their, corner. For his part, Flynt brushes off the apparent incongruity. He thinks of himself as a feminist (of a kind), he tells me, though he acknowledges that "people in Gloria Steinem's world, they don't–they think I'm the misogynist of the century." As for his candidate, Flynt laughs and says, "I'm sure that Hillary doesn't necessarily approve of everything I do."

For Clinton, a raft of endorsements from Capitol Hill to Hollywood have been a rare bright spot in a campaign launch filled with poor reviews and worse headlines. But whatever her private views of Flynt and his profession, it

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beggars belief that she and her team will be issuing any press releases touting the latest bold-faced name to clamber aboard her bandwagon.

Flynt is well aware of that most politicians prefer to keep their distance from him, and that Hillary will likely be among them. And he professes not to care. “Hillary doesn’t need no help from me,” he says. “All she needs to do is start fighting back”—in particular against Clinton Cash author Peter Schweizer, whose campaign against Hillary Flynt likens to that of his bete noire Jerry Falwell against Bill Clinton in 1992. “One of the biggest evangelists in the world put out a video accusing President Clinton of murder—[and Schweizer’s book] is the same kind of smear tactic.”

That Flynt holds a special place in his heart for 42 is evident, and Flynt claims that the feeling is mutual. In 2006, the two men ran into each other at a fundraiser in Las Vegas for Jimmy Carter’s son, Jack, who was running for Senate in Nevada. According to Flynt, Bill Clinton—apparently still grateful for the porn king’s role in the downfall of Bob Livingston, a key moment in the deflation of the impeachment bubble—walked over, shook Flynt’s hand, and said, “You’re my hero.” As I prepare to leave, Flynt shows me a photo on his desk of him and Clinton from the fundraiser, noting that the former president has denied the quote in question. “He can say whatever he wants,” Flynt chuckles. “I have three witnesses.”

Veep Creator on Hillary Clinton and the Intense Pressure to Say Nothing: Candidates running now define themselves by their inaction // Hollywood Reporter // Armando Iannucci – May 1, 2015

It’s possibly no coincidence that Hillary Clinton started her presidential run the same week that astronomical scientists at the University of Hawaii in Manoa announced the discovery of a Supervoid, a structure in space 18 billion light-years across and “distinguished by its unusual emptiness.” The Supervoid sits in a part of the cosmos known as the Cold Spot, where there’s far less matter to observe than elsewhere throughout the universe.

It’s a perfect analogy for how Hillary Clinton’s opponents seek to characterize her: as someone who is profoundly visible yet hard to identify. She is politics’ Dark Matter: We know she’s there, but we just can’t describe her. Is she on the left or the right, is she a friend of the rich or the poor, is she a testosterone-fueled superhawk or a grandmatronly van-driver popping into Chipotle for a chat with the staff?

Yet Hillary’s identity problem is prominent only because she has been on the public stage for so long. It’s a magnified version of a debilitating crisis of identity that sits at the heart of national American politics, the real Supervoid that constricts and confines most presidential candidates: and that is, the intense pressure to say nothing. Knowing that your every speech and interview sits in the digital archive, ready to be analyzed by an army of opponents with time to spare and money to spend, can kill spontaneity dead. Far better to sit contentious debates out. If you hold public office, be careful how you vote on any piece of legislation, no matter how obscure. Your voting record will be used by your opponents just as savagely as if it were a criminal one.

And far better to stand for president before you’ve done anything. It worked for Obama, who moved swiftly in the space of two years from senator to president and kept out of trouble as much as he could while still in the Senate chamber. It’s the same be-a-senator-for-a-few-years-then-jump strategy now being used by Marco Rubio. When you’ve not got much to show for yourself other than your face, you enter the presidential race without baggage and with the opportunity to attack all those who have. You enter not as someone with a legacy but someone who is a brand. The difference with Hillary is that she’s been around a lot longer, so she has had more time in which to try not doing very much. That’s a tougher challenge, and the fact she’s more or less managed it shows what a formidable candidate she’s going to be.

When I first started researching Veep, my comedy show for HBO with Julia Louis-Dreyfus playing Vice President Selina Meyer, I was much taken by the portrayal of LBJ in Robert Caro’s monumental biography of the president. What hooked me was the tragicomic dilemma of a once-powerful senator found sitting in his vice president’s office twiddling his thumbs and waiting for something to do. Looking at it again, I’m reminded of a state of politics now gone: When Johnson was majority leader, he got things done. Here was a Democrat, working alongside a Republican White House under Eisenhower and getting legislation passed by extending a hand across the aisle. He sometimes twisted the arm that was extended back; the negotiations certainly weren’t pretty, but they did achieve positive results. This was a time when the two parties in Congress talked to each other and found common ground. It’s worth remembering the Constitution is predicated on people at opposite ends of the political spectrum being forced to compromise.

Now, though, that doesn’t happen. The conversation is stalled, the vote delayed, the bill dropped. Which is why candidates running now define themselves by their inaction: “Vote for me because I voted against this, I stopped it from happening, I got this overturned, I will oppose this measure, I’ll make sure this is thrown out.”

This is the ultimate Supervoid now at the heart of politics. It’s the reason why for most presidential candidates today, the only significant thing they can say about themselves is that they are running for president.

Iannucci is the creator and executive producer of HBO’s ‘Veep.’

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To:
Date: 11/30/2007 1:06:55 AM
Subject: Clips: Fri 11/30

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Friday, November 30th, 2007

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Hillary Clinton's Money Issues (New Yorker)
By John Cassidy
February 13, 2015
The New Yorkers

This week, as the Democratic National Committee was preparing to announce that Philadelphia will host the Party's 2016 convention, Hillary Clinton's still undeclared Presidential campaign was running into a media squall about money—two of them, actually. First, David Brock, the conservative activist turned liberal activist, resigned from Priorities USA Action, a big money-raising group that is supporting Clinton, and accused the group of taking part in an "orchestrated political hit job" on two other pro-Clinton groups that Brock is involved with. Then, the Guardian revealed that a number of wealthy donors to the Clinton Foundation, a philanthropic organization set up by Bill Clinton, were clients of the Swiss division of H.S.B.C., a big bank that is embroiled in a tax-avoidance scandal.

The upshot of the Brock story was that Hillary's money guys and gals are squabbling, and that Priorities USA Action, the political-action committee that spent seventy-five million dollars supporting Barack Obama, in 2012, is off to a slow start this year. (According to Politico, it had less than half a million dollars in the bank at the end of 2014.) The Guardian story, which was based on leaked documents from H.S.B.C., identified seven rich donors to the Clinton Foundation who had bank accounts at H.S.B.C.'s Geneva branch. One of them, Richard Caring, a British entrepreneur, "used his tax-free Geneva account to transfer $1m into the New York-based foundation," the newspaper reported. "The HSBC records suggest Caring's $1m donation was paid in return for former president Bill Clinton's attendance at a lavish costume charity ball organised by Caring in St Petersburg, Russia."

Outside of the political bubble, I doubt that one likely 2016 voter in twenty noticed either of these articles, or the follow-ups. But, at a moment when Hillary is reported to be consulting with numerous experts about how to tackle rising inequality, the articles raise anew an awkward question: How far will the Clinton family's ties to moneyed interests complicate Hillary's efforts to fashion a populist campaign built around the theme of defending the middle class?

One way of seeking to answer that question is to point out that, in politics (and philanthropy, too), cultivating donors and raising a lot of money are unavoidable parts of the business. And, although some people, myself among them, will never be wholly persuaded that he who pays the piper doesn't call the tune, the average voter doesn't seem to judge candidates by their financial backers. In 2008, and, to a lesser extent, 2012, Barack Obama's campaign received a lot of cash from Wall Street. That didn't prevent him from running as an agent of change, and as someone who was willing to take on vested interests. Hillary, too, has already shown some aptitude in this regard. After falling behind Obama in the campaign of 2007 and 2008, when she seemed to lack a defining theme, she did a pretty good job of reinventing herself as a scrappy fighter for the working stiff, even

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if, ultimately, it wasn't enough to save her campaign.

Perhaps Clinton can recapture the spirit and message she displayed in the summer and fall of 2008. First, though, she will need to reinforce her defenses against the attacks that are sure to come from the left and the right.

One way to do that is to put together a formidable campaign apparatus and a big war chest. Until the Brock story broke, few people in the political world had believed that these objectives would present a major issue. Evidently, they might. The first task facing John Podesta, the departing White House official who is slated to become chairman of the Clinton campaign, will be to gather together the various Democratic fund-raising groups and persuade them to coöperate. That won't necessarily be easy. The Brock flap made clear that there are residual tensions between veteran Clintonites, like Brock, and some Obamaites who are preparing to support Hillary. Priorities USA Action was created by two former officials of the Obama Administration, and its co-chairman is Jim Messina, Obama's 2012 campaign manager. In a Times article that appeared after Brock's departure, Nicholas Confessore and Amy Chozick noted that "the marriage between the two camps … now appears more uneasy than at any time since Mr. Obama asked Mrs. Clinton to serve in his administration after the 2008 election."

The issues relating to the Clinton Foundation, which Bill Clinton founded in 2001, go beyond internecine conflict and bruised egos. Some people close to the Clintons have long been concerned that the foundation's biggest venture, the Clinton Global Initiative, could present some vulnerabilities for Hillary. In its own words, the C.G.I. "convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges," For years, it was managed by a handful of longtime aides to Bill Clinton, at least one of whom, Douglas Band, also acted as a highly paid consultant to some of its corporate donors—a fact highlighted in a lengthy 2013 Times article by Confessore and Chozick. The C.G.I.'s high-profile annual conferences, which bring together politicians, chief executives, and celebrities, have always attracted as much attention, or more, than its efforts to tackle problems like hunger, disease, and environmental degradation. Plus, there has been lingering suspicion that some of the organization's donors were motivated by a desire to gain access to the Clintons.

In the past couple of years, perhaps partly in an effort to counter some of these concerns, the Clinton Foundation and the C.G.I. have both been overhauled. A new leadership team was appointed to the foundation, Band left the C.G.I., and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton took much more central roles. Today, they are both directors of the Clinton Foundation, and Chelsea is its vice-chair. The Clinton Foundation's Web site says that she "focuses especially on the Foundation's health programs, including the Clinton Health Access Initiative, which strengthens health care and access to lifesaving services in the developing world; the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, which fights childhood obesity in the United States; and the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, which addresses preventable disease in the United States." In 2013, the foundation was officially renamed as the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, and last month a longtime aide to Hillary, Maura Pally, was appointed as its interim chief executive.

The Guardian story, by highlighting the fact that some of the Clinton Foundation's donors have been maintaining bank accounts in Switzerland, has focussed attention on its sources of financing rather than its makeover or its philanthropic activities. Among the donors named by the Guardian were the British retail mogul Richard Caring; Frank Giustra, a Canadian mining magnate who appeared earlier this week at C.G.I.'s annual winter meeting, in New York; and Jeffrey Epstein, a New York financier who was jailed in 2008 for soliciting prostitution from underage girls. According to the Clinton Foundation's donor database, Giustra and charities linked to him have donated at least fifty million dollars. In 2006, Epstein gave twenty-five thousand dollars, the Guardian said. Other donors to the foundation who were identified as clients of H.S.B.C.'s Geneva office included Eli Broad, the Californian entrepreneur and philanthropist, and Denise Rich, whose former husband, the fugitive commodities trader Marc Rich, was pardoned by Bill Clinton just before he left office, in 2001.

The Guardian was careful to avoid any suggestion of illegality. "It is not unlawful for US or other non-Swiss citizens to hold accounts in Geneva and there is no evidence any of the Clinton donors with Geneva accounts evaded tax," the story said. The paper cited lawyers for Giustra saying his H.S.B.C. account was for investment purposes and complied with Canadian laws. Caring was "legitimately permitted to keep his assets offshore by a hereditary quirk of UK tax law, under which he is registered as 'non-domiciled', courtesy of his Italian-American father," the story noted. And, in addition, "it is not against US law or charity regulation to accept donations from non-US citizens, or from overseas accounts."

Still, to the public at large, Swiss bank accounts are often associated with tax avoidance. In Britain, the allegation that H.S.B.C. helped some of its wealthy clients dodge taxes has become a hot political issue. The Guardian story quoted a speech that Hillary gave at a C.G.I. meeting in 2012, when she said, "One of the issues that I have been preaching about around the world is collecting taxes in an equitable manner, especially from the elites in every country…. There are rich people everywhere. And yet they do not contribute to the growth of their

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own countries. They don't invest in public schools, in public hospitals, in other kinds of development internally."

What should we make of all this? In a statement to the Guardian, a spokesman for the Clinton Foundation, Craig Minassian, said, "We are a philanthropy through and through, and we take pride in our programs, our efficiency, and our transparency…. The Clinton Foundation has strong donor integrity and transparency practices that go well beyond what is required of US charities, including the full disclosure of all of our donors. The contributions of these donors are helping improve the lives of millions of people across the world."

The organization has some evidence to back up this claim. Unlike other philanthropies, C.G.I. doesn't hand out grants or develop its own programs from scratch, such as building schools and hospitals in Africa. Instead, it identifies specific challenges somewhere in the world, solicits commitments from governments and nongovernmental organizations to meet them, finds corporate sponsors willing to finance the projects, and undertakes to help out with expertise, contacts, and encouragement. Last year, it released the results of an internal review of nearly three thousand such commitments made since 2005. The review concluded that they had affected the lives of four hundred and thirty million people in a hundred and eighty countries.

To be sure, this was an internal study, which relied on data provided by C.G.I.'s partners. An independent appraisal would have carried more weight. But when you read about some of the projects C.G.I. is involved with, as I have been doing, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that its staff of three hundred and fifty people is doing some good in the world—or, at least, trying to do good. Here, selected more or less at random, are a few examples:

• In 2007, C.G.I. teamed up with F.H.I. 360, a New York-based not-for-profit that, among other things, promotes family planning and reproductive health in poor countries. F.H.I. 360 made a commitment to increase the number of women and children it tested for H.I.V./AIDS, and to provide antiretroviral therapy for those who tested positive. By 2012, according to an update on the C.G.I.'s website, F.H.I. 360 had tested more than four million women and children, in such countries as Kenya and Rwanda, and had enrolled nearly thirty thousand children in retroviral therapy.

• In 2010, C.G.I. partnered with the Mexican government, a classical-music foundation, and a bus company called Estrella Blanca to expand youth orchestras throughout Mexico. By September of 2013, according to a press release from C.G.I., this effort had established working orchestras in twenty-nine of Mexico's thirty-one states, serving more than ten thousand young musicians.

• In 2011, C.G.I. partnered with Women for Women International, a Washington, D.C.-based charitable organization, to help female farmers in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo. Women for Women International committed to enrolling ten thousand Congolese women in a series of classes covering topics like crop rotation, numeracy, and coöperation with other farmers. By March of 2014, according to a C.G.I. update, more than six thousand women had taken the classes, and twenty-seven new farming coöperatives had been formed.

Would some of the many projects with which C.G.I. is involved have gone ahead anyway, without its intervention? Perhaps. But in bringing together charitable organizations and corporations looking to make philanthropic donations, it has carved out a unique role. In the words of Tom Watson, the founder of Cause Wired, a consulting firm that advises not-for-profits, "It's an investment banking service—old style—for causes and philanthropy." These days, investment banks aren't exactly popular, of course. When they were originally formed, however, they played a valuable role in raising capital for entrepreneurs and businesses that needed funding. C.G.I. does the same for not-for-profits.

In some circles, it should be noted, the tactic of partnering with large companies is controversial because it tends to promote market-based approaches to economic development. Earlier this week, for example, at its winter meeting, the foundation teamed up with Unilever, the multinational home-products company, and Acumen, another New York City-based not-for-profit, to launch a ten-million-dollar program called the Enhanced Livelihoods Investment Initiative, which is aimed at turning small farmers in Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean into suppliers of foodstuffs and raw materials for multinationals. Giustra, the Canadian mining magnate who is also helping to fund the project, said in a statement, "Under this model, entrepreneurs and farmers will gain access to capital and skills training—all essential tools needed to pull them out of poverty."

It can be debated whether C.G.I.'s approach is the best one. Some left-leaning critics say that the organization promotes a neoliberal, inequality-accentuating agenda of the type pursued by the Clinton Administration during the nineteen-nineties. Commenting in the Huffington Post about a forum C.G.I. held in Denver last year, Michele Swenson, an author and social activist, said that it "seems nothing if not a meeting of one-percenters." The Clinton Foundation's employees and defenders would probably reply that if you can get the one-per-centers to

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support reducing poverty, eradicating horrible diseases, and empowering poor women, it's surely a positive development.

This is a legitimate debate to have—and Hillary, at some point, may well be obliged to engage in it. Indeed, she might be eager to do so. From her perspective, discussing how many lives the Clinton Foundation has improved in sub-Saharan Africa and other deprived regions would be a lot more palatable than getting dragged into the tax affairs of some rich "friends of Bill" or the infighting among her fundraisers.

Will war powers vote haunt senators weighing higher office? (AP)
By Julie Pace
February 14, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 2002, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton cast a vote in favor of the Iraq war that would later come to haunt her presidential campaign.

Now, a new crop of senators eyeing the White House — Republicans Marco Rubio of Florida, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas — will face a similar choice over authorizing military action in the Middle East.

A vote in favor of President Barack Obama's use-of-force resolution would give the potential candidates a share of the responsibility for the outcome of military action in a combustible region. And as Clinton learned well, the public's support for a military campaign can quickly fade, making the long-term implications of the vote difficult to predict.

Obama asked lawmakers this week to approve a three-year offensive against the Islamic State group and affiliated forces. His request includes no constraints on geographical boundaries but would bar "enduring offensive combat" — intentionally vague language that some lawmakers fear leaves open the prospect of a U.S.-led ground war.

So far, most of the 2016 hopefuls currently in Congress have sidestepped questions about how they would vote on Obama's measure, which could be amended before they have to say yes or no. Among Republicans, Rubio has been perhaps the most specific in outlining his views, saying he opposes the president putting constraints on his ability to use military force against an enemy.

"What we need to be authorizing the president to do is to destroy them and to defeat them, and allow the commander in chief — both the one we have now and the one who will follow — to put in place the tactics, the military tactics, necessary to destroy and defeat ISIL," Rubio said.

A spokesman for Paul said Friday that the senator is reviewing the legislation but has not decided how he would vote. Cruz has called for Congress to "strengthen" the legislation by making sure the president is committed to clear objectives. He also has suggested the authorization should include a provision to directly arm the Iraqi Kurds, but it is unclear what other changes he wants to see.

Despite Americans' war weariness, there is public support for formally authorizing the mission. An NBC News/ Marist poll released Friday showed that 54 percent of respondents want their member of Congress to vote for Obama's request.

Clinton, who is laying the groundwork for another presidential run, will also be pressed to take a position. But this time around, she will have the advantage of weighing in from the outside, without the pressure of voting.

"You can talk about the subject without actually being pinned down on a particular vote that you're going to have to defend for years to come," said Jim Manley, a longtime aide to the late Edward Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat who worked to get Clinton and other Democrats to vote against the 2002 war authorization.

Clinton has made no public comments since Obama sent lawmakers the draft legislation earlier this week, and her spokesman did not respond to a fresh request for her position Friday.

The former secretary of state has previously called the fight against the Islamic State group a "long-term struggle" and has said military action is essential to prevent the group from making further advances.

The military campaign against the Islamic State militants began six months ago, and Obama is, in effect, seeking Congress' approval retroactively. He has said the current mission is legally justified under the 2002 authorization

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President George W. Bush used to start the Iraq war — the resolution Clinton voted for.

By the time Obama and Clinton faced off in the 2008 Democratic primary, the Iraq war was deeply unpopular. Obama saw Clinton's vote for the military conflict as a way to draw a distinction with his better-known rival, arguing that while he was not in the Senate in 2002, he would have voted against giving Bush the war powers.

The 2002 vote and its political implications have continued to shadow the way lawmakers have responded to war-power requests.

In 2013, Congress balked at Obama's request to authorize strikes in Syria and never held a vote. And while congressional leaders pushed the president for months to seek authorization for the Islamic State campaign, lawmakers insisted Obama be the one to actually draft a resolution.

As with Obama's current request, there was public support for Bush's Iraq resolution in 2002. A Gallup Poll a few weeks before the high-stakes vote found that 57 percent of Americans said Congress should "pass a resolution to support sending American ground troops to the Persian Gulf in an attempt to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq." About 38 percent said it should not.

As the Iraq war dragged on, and the death toll and financial costs mounted, the conflict became deeply unpopular.

By the time Clinton and Obama were facing off for the Democratic nomination, surveys showed a majority of Americans believed going into Iraq was the wrong decision — a warning for potential 2016 candidates trying to read the tea leaves ahead of their own war powers vote.

Time for Europe to get tough with Russia, urges Clinton (Times)
Matt Spence
February 14, 2015
The Times

Hillary Clinton believes Europe has been "too wimpy" with Vladimir Putin over Ukraine and must be far tougher to stop Russia's expansionist ambitions, Boris Johnson revealed yesterday.

The mayor of London, who was in New York as part of a six-day tour of the US east coast, said Mrs Clinton believed Russia would try to expand its influence into what was the old Soviet Union, unless it was challenged more robustly.

Mr Johnson, who held talks with Mrs Clinton during a closed meeting on Wednesday, said yesterday that she believed, "Putin, if unchallenged and unchecked, would continue to expand his influence in the perimeter of what was the Soviet Union".

It is possible that Mr Johnson and Mrs Clinton's political trajectories may coincide, with them leading their respective nations and sharing stewardship of the "special relationship" between the US and the UK.

Her comments in their meeting came hours before President Hollande of France and Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, backed a "last chance" peace deal to stop fighting in Ukraine, involving Russian-backed rebels and forces loyal to Kiev. The deal is widely viewed as being favourable to Russia. The US has threatened to arm Ukrainian forces if the deal falls apart.

Mr Johnson said Mrs Clinton had also urged greater diversification of energy independence away from Russia, and added they had discussed further measures to tackle the rise of Islamic State. He said they had agreed that more needed to be done to support Kurdish forces fighting the fanatics.

"Clearly she feels, like me, that we should be doing more to support the Kurdish peshmerga," he said.

The mayor, who holds joint US citizenship, also revealed that he has settled his debts with the US taxman, telling audiences he had "coughed up in full" an amount believed to be just under £30,000, stemming from the profit from the sale of his family home in north London.

US citizens are required to declare their income to the American tax authorities irrespective of where it was derived and may then face a bill.

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“I’m a massive taxpayer in the UK and in America,” Mr Johnson told one audience. “All I can say is I hope very much people will requite my generosity in America by coming to London in ever growing numbers.” Remarking on a US tax arrangement he once called “outrageous”, Mr Johnson blamed his predicament on Britain’s 1773 tax on tea, which sparked the Boston Tea Party revolt, the American revolution and independence.

He described the tea tax as “irrational attack on fair trade”, without which “we would all remain part of the same great Churchillian commonwealth”.

As part of his visit the mayor has held talks with the Smithsonian Institution about plans to bring the museum’s first foreign outpost to the Olympic Park in east London. Accompanied by members of the London Legacy Development Corporation, the organisation in charge of the park, Mr Johnson cautioned that he was not “counting his chickens,” but hoping to reach an agreement to make the Smithsonian an anchor tenant in his envisioned “Olympicopolis” cultural hub.

David Goldstone, the corporation’s chief executive, met his Smithsonian counterparts last night to iron out details of the potential arrangement. The Smithsonian’s governors, its Board of Regents, which includes Joe Biden, the US vice-president, are expected to consider the London proposal when they meet on April 13.

Hillary Clinton thinks Europe ‘too wimpy’ with Putin, London mayor says (CNN)
By Stephen Collinson
February 13, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN)Hillary Clinton is worried that European governments are being “too wimpy” in dealing with Russian President Vladimir Putin, London’s mayor Boris Johnson said Friday.

Johnson, on a trade mission to the United States, said that he was struck by the former secretary of state’s insistence that Europe must do more to stand up to the Russian leader over Ukraine.

“One thing in particular she really wanted to get across -- that was she thought the Europeans were being too wimpy in dealing with Putin,” Johnson said, at a Politico Playbook Breakfast event in Washington.

Stressing he was not quoting Clinton word for word, two days after meeting her in New York, Johnson said that he was impressed by the likely Democratic presidential candidate’s “brilliant mastery” of foreign policy.

“She thought in particular that we in Britain should be less dependent on Russian hyrdrocarbons and she thought we should get on with seeking alternative sources,” Johnson said.

“Her general anxiety was that Putin, if unchallenged and unchecked, would continue to expand his influence in the perimeter of what was the Soviet Union. She spoke of alarm in Estonia and the Baltic states. I was very, very struck by that.”

“I was struck by the firmness with which she wanted us in Britain to stick it, to take it to Putin,” he said, once again underlining he was not using Clinton’s exact words but offering a “brutal summary” of what she said.

Johnson, who is known for his scruffy shock of blond hair and colorful turn of phrase, said Clinton backed President Barack Obama’s strategy on tackling ISIS and thought there was more everybody could be doing to support Kurdish Peshmerga forces fighting the extremist group.

The mayor, who recently visited Kurdish areas in Iraq, quipped that he would not overstate the danger of his trip -- in a reference to NBC newsman Brian Williams who was suspended for six months for exaggerating his experiences during the Iraq war.

“You get in trouble over here .. I was nearish to the front line. I wouldn’t say bullets were wanging over my head.”

Johnson also said that Clinton was “particularly gracious and charming” in their meeting, considering his comments about her in a Daily Telegraph article in 2007 in which he accused her of “purse-lipped political correctness” and said she reminded him of a “sadistic nurse in a mental hospital.”

“She was so nice and so kind that even in that article she found something to agree with,” he said Friday.

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Johnson also weighed in on the controversy stoked up by a possible Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal who said in London last month after the Paris terror attacks that Muslim communities had made parts of the British capital and other European cities “no go areas” for people who did not share their faith.

He said that Louisiana Gov. Jindal and those who shared his views were in need of some “gentle education” on the issue. “I would be more than happy personally to escort Governor Jindal around any area of London that he thinks is a no go zone. It really isn’t true, it is complete nonsense ... there are no no go zones and nor will there be.”

The flamboyant Johnson, while remaining mayor of London, is running for a seat in parliament at the next UK general election in May, and has long been tipped as a future leader of the Conservative Party and possible future prime minister.

Why April Will Trigger Campaign Announcements (US News)
By David Cantanese
February 13, 2015
US News & World Report

With the exception of exploratory committees set up by former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., formal 2016 presidential campaign announcements have been few and far between.

That hasn’t stopped a proliferation of pre-candidacy political action committees, of course.

But those aren’t formal campaign committees with the express intent of gauging a White House run.

Look for that to change in April.

Former Federal Election Commissioner Michael Toner says he foresees five to 10 2016 presidential campaign committees being created in April, in order for candidates to take advantage of a full fundraising quarter.

“That’s going to be a popular lane. I bet some heavy hitters file in early April. It’s soon enough to do the spadework by the summer to be in the best position,” he tells U.S. News. “It will create a ripple effect.”

In politics, fundraising timespans are divvied up like quarters in football – there are four of them every year, each covering three months. The second quarter begins April 1 and runs through June 30. So, for instance, if a candidate was to wait until June 1 to announce, he or she would only have 30 days to raise money before having to report the totals to the FEC. That risks producing a smaller number, which will be thoroughly scrutinized by political pundits and the media for immediate signs of weakness.

And that’s why it’s no coincidence Hillary Clinton is eyeing April as a point to pull the trigger.

It’s not only fundraising that’s of priority, notes Toner. Serious contenders can only delay constructing a campaign infrastructure for so long. If a Republican plans to compete in Iowa’s August straw poll, volunteers must be enlisted. Many states also require thousands of signatures to qualify for the primary ballot. (In 2012, both Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry were kept off the ballot in Virginia because they failed to corral the necessary signatures in time.)

“The ballot access issue is a nightmare, and you have to be on top of it for the summer and fall. You can’t push that off indefinitely,” Toner says.

If he’s right, April will shower down candidates as much as it will raindrops.

Obama bundlers slow to back Clinton super PACS (USAT)
By Fredreka Schouten and Christopher Schnaars
February 13, 2015
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Only a tiny fraction of the fundraisers who helped President Obama secure a second term have made significant contributions to the committee backing a potential run by Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, a USA TODAY analysis shows.

Of the 769 individuals and couples who raised money for Obama, just 54 people and firms have donated at least $5,000 to Ready for Hillary, the super PAC that has spent two years working to build grass-roots support for a

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Clinton campaign, according to the analysis.

South Carolina lawyer Richard Harpootlian collected more than $500,000 for Obama's re-election, according to figures released by the president's campaign. However, Harpootlian, a former two-time chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, is sitting on the sidelines in the early stages of the 2016 campaign. "I don't know that she has generated any sort of enthusiasm or excitement," he said of Clinton.

"In 2007, the Clinton campaign was more a corporate entity with layers and layers and layers of consultants — Clinton, Inc. — as opposed to a campaign," Harpootlian said, referring to the early months of Clinton's unsuccessful primary battle with Obama.

"I had hoped that this time around the Clinton campaign would be more agile. But there's no real feeling that there's a campaign. They are acting as if she's the nominee, which is what happened in 2007 — and good golly — that went wrong."

The reluctance of some of Obama's biggest backers to make significant early contributions to the Ready for Hillary super PAC underscores Clinton's slower-than-expected campaign start. The former secretary of State initially had signaled she might make a decision on the 2016 race as early as last month. More recently, the timetable for an announcement was adjusted to as late as July, Politico and other news media outlets report.

Ready for Hillary spokesman Seth Bringman said Obama's supporters are playing "an essential and inspiring role" in the super PAC's operations. Some of Obama's fundraisers have not written big checks themselves but have joined the group's "finance council" and are encouraging others to contribute, he said.

Ready for Hillary's ranks also include people who donated to Obama's campaign or the super PAC supporting him, but who did not have a formal fundraising role in his campaign.

David Garrison, a Nashville lawyer who raised money for both of Obama's campaigns, has not donated to Ready for Hillary. He said some of Obama's success relied on giving a broad group of party activists and fundraisers — many of whom were new to politics — meaningful roles early in his campaign. He hasn't seen those opportunities emerge so far.

"While the Clintons have established ties with Democrats in Tennessee and all around the country, what we haven't seen yet is a Clinton campaign that's built an infrastructure at all various levels of donors and activists," Garrison said.

"What she didn't do in 2008 — and she has to do now — is build a new coalition beyond the Clintons' storied history in the party," he said.

In a statement, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said Clinton will "take nothing for granted" if she runs and will "fight for every vote."

As Clinton devises her plans, a crowded field of Republican candidates is jockeying for an edge. Several prominent contenders, including former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, launched their own fundraising committees in recent weeks.

The Republican National Committee has seized on Clinton's slower timetable. On Thursday, RNC operatives posted a mobile billboard at Vice President Biden's events in Iowa, arguing that Clinton's absence from the campaign trail demonstrates that she's "hiding from voters."

At the same time, squabbling in the network of groups preparing for Clinton's candidacy broke into public view this week when David Brock, a liberal activist who oversees several super PACs backing Clinton, resigned from the board of another pro-Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA Action, in a dispute over fundraising tactics. (Both sides sought to quickly defuse the situation, and Brock has said he will willing to rejoin Priorities' leadership.)

Priorities USA Action, which raised nearly $80 million to back Obama's re-election in 2012, was formally reorganized last year to support Clinton. The group raised virtually no money in 2014, which officials said was an intentional plan to avoid siphoning contributions from other Democratic groups working on last year's congressional elections. But it has been dogged by headlines in recent days that it is having problems securing financial commitments for the upcoming campaign.

Billionaire financier George Soros, a prominent Democratic donor, has been among the major backers of Brock's organizations. He's also donated $25,000 to Ready for Hillary but has not contributed to Priorities since it was

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reorganized to back Clinton.

Michael Vachon, Soros' political adviser, warned against reading too much into that. Soros will "enthusiastically support Hillary Clinton," he said.

"To what degree he will be involved in independent expenditures is not something he has yet considered," Vachon said, adding that Soros has spent the last year focused "almost exclusively" on the crisis in Ukraine.

Officials with Priorities USA Action — which includes a mix of veteran Clinton and Obama political operatives and supporters — insist they will raise ample money once Clinton's campaign to become the nation's first female president is in full swing.

"Make no mistake, we will have the resources we need to be effective and to work with our allies to help elect Hillary Clinton in 2016," Jonathan Mantz, Clinton's 2008 finance director and a senior adviser to Priorities, said in a statement.

The USA TODAY analysis compared the list of 769 individuals and couples who raised money for Obama's 2012 campaign with donors who contributed at least $5,000 to Ready for Hillary since the super PAC's launch in January 2013. The 54 matches include companies and spouses of Obama fundraisers that USA TODAY could identify.

As a super PAC, Ready for Hillary can accept unlimited funds but has capped its contributions at $25,000. It has built a list of 3 million supporters that will be a valuable asset for a Clinton campaign.

Jerome Pandell, a lawyer in Walnut Creek, Calif., who raised about $400,000 for Obama, has attended several Ready for Hillary fundraisers but has focused more on local races in the last year.

Although he has not written big checks yet, Pandell said he stands ready to help Clinton in any way he can. He also maintains that Clinton doesn't need to rush into the 2016 fray.

"She's a known quality," he said. "She doesn't have to introduce herself."

Activists bristle at Hillary Clinton fundraising pleas (Politico)
By Ben Schreckinger
February 14, 2015
Politico

In early November, with her party on eve of an electoral walloping, Democrat Mary Tetreau had had enough. The Londonderry, New Hampshire activist was sick of the constant emails begging for money for a candidate who wasn't even running for office yet.

When another plea landed in her inbox the day before the election, she unsubscribed.

"I'm not going to be ready for Hillary until she announces she's running for president," said Tetreau, a three-decade veteran of New Hampshire primary politics, who called Ready for Hillary's early-and-often email approach "annoying."

Three months later, Hillary Clinton remains officially undeclared, but her campaign-in-waiting's emails continue to flood inboxes of Democratic activists in early voting states. Though it amounts to little more than a nuisance in the grand scheme of the 2016 election, it does point to a downside of Clinton's strategy of staying out of the public eye while her supporters campaign on her behalf. Namely, that it could create Clinton fatigue among activists and fuel concerns that she's taking the Democratic nomination for granted.

"I'll be ready for Hillary when Hillary's ready for Hillary," said Bill Verge, a Democratic activist who played a key role in John Kerry's 2004 New Hampshire campaign. Like Tetreau, Verge, who said he has been "inundated with emails daily," counts himself a likely Clinton supporter — but one turned off by the aggressive fundraising on behalf of a candidate who appears intent on postponing an official entry into the race possibly until July.

Clinton is conducting a charm offensive from afar: Democrats in both early states report receiving handwritten notes from her. In the meantime, Ready for Hillary, a super PAC formed on Clinton's behalf in April 2013 that has no formal ties to the former secretary of state, will keep laying the groundwork. One of the group's main purposes is to rebuild Clinton's list of supporters, dormant since 2008, which it would rent or sell to an eventual Clinton campaign.

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“People are tired of people asking for money every time they look at their email,” said Pat Sass, chairwoman of the Blackhawk County Democrats in Iowa. “They feel the election is far away.”

A spokesman for Ready for Hillary did not respond to requests for comment.

The delay of an official presidential campaign puts more pressure on Ready for Hillary to raise money in order to continue operating longer than initially planned. Tension over fundraising in Clinton’s political apparatus spilled out into the open this week when Clinton loyalist David Brock resigned from the board of the pro-Clinton Priorities USA.

Brock claimed that Priorities’ leaders had planted a critical story in the New York Times about a fundraising consultant — used by Brock’s pro-Clinton groups and Ready for Hillary — who charges commission, a controversial practice. POLITICO reported this week that Priorities is having trouble meeting its fundraising goals, in part because many wealthy donors have already given to other groups in Clinton’s orbit.

As frequently as Ready for Hillary sends its solicitations — recipients say they arrive daily — experts say barraging inboxes has become the new norm.

“The best practice used to be that you would only send a couple per day at max,” said Michael Whitney, an email campaigning specialist at the progressive communications firm Revolution Messaging. But in recent years, he said, email campaigners have become more aggressive without registering any meaningful backlash.

The new consensus is that constant emailing “might annoy a lot of people, but it doesn’t mean they’re going to unsubscribe and it doesn’t mean they’re not going to donate in the future.”

“Three years ago, the idea of sending more than two emails a day was considered abusive,” he added. “That’s gone out the window.”

As for the distaste among the grass roots, Iowa City activist John Deeth said there’s one obvious way to dispel it.

“The grumbling isn’t so much about hearing so much from Ready for Hillary and is more about not hearing anything from actual Hillary,” said Deeth, who is eager for the nominating process to kick into gear. “I don’t think anybody would mind if an email landed in their inbox that said, ‘Hillary’s going to be in Des Moines next week.’ That would be fine. Everybody would love to get that email.”

Liberals Work To Lure Warren Into White House Race (Reuters)
By Scott Malone
February 14, 2015
Reuters

MANCHESTER, N.H. - The scene in the New Hampshire office is one common to any nascent U.S. presidential campaign in the state that holds the country’s first primary contest: Young staffers peck away at laptops and unpack boxes of signs with their candidate’s name.

But the Democrat they are working for, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, adamantly denies plans to seek the presidency.

Backed with $1.25 million from liberal advocacy groups MoveOn.org and Democracy for America, the “Run Warren Run” group has opened offices in New Hampshire and Iowa, hoping she will jump in and contending Warren’s message of populist economics could propel her into the White House in 2016.

This core of supporters believe Warren could beat presumed party frontrunner and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who is expected to formally launch her campaign in coming months and who holds a huge lead over other possible Democratic candidates in opinion polls.

Even outside the Warren camp, some other Democrats says a challenger to Clinton could help the party’s chances by ensuring she entered the general election campaign well-prepared, and by focusing attention on economic issues that matter to middle and lower income Americans, such as promoting a higher minimum wage and student loan reform.

MoveOn.org, which wants to see Warren in the race and her ideas heard, is a political powerhouse with a grass-roots organization that helped elect and re-elect President Barack Obama, including his long and hard-fought

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battle with Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 2008. Democracy for America has its own strong pedigree, dating back to Vermont Democrat Howard Dean's 2004 presidential run.

"We believe that she would be the strongest candidate in the general election," said Kurt Ehrenberg, a veteran political operative who is heading up the Run Warren Run operation in New Hampshire. "Our job is not only to convince Senator Warren to get into the race, it's to focus the race on these issues."

At Run Warren Run's Manchester office, Ehrenberg and three young staffers were busy organizing volunteers to hit the streets of four New Hampshire cities this weekend to spread the Warren message.

"The plan is for us to build a campaign, to show Senator Warren that if she does decide to get into the race, there is a ready-made structure here in New Hampshire and Iowa," Ehrenberg said. "We're going to build an organization that is ready to go it she decides to run for president."

Despite 300,000 signatures on a petition urging Warren, 65, to run, that is still a big if. "As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president and doesn't support these draft campaigns," Warren's spokeswoman, Lacey Rose, said in an e-mail.

Shaking Up The Primary Race

Warren's progressive views would make her chances of defeating a moderate Republican for the White House unlikely, but her appeal to the liberal flank of the Democratic Party is rooted in dogged opposition to perceived Wall Street excesses.

She grew up on what she has called the "ragged edge of the middle class," and as a Harvard law professor was among the first to warn of the looming sub-prime mortgage crisis that triggered the financial crisis of 2008.

She was a key architect of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau set up after the crisis and since winning a Senate seat in 2012 has been a strong voice on financial issues, including helping block a former Lazard banker from winning a top job at the Treasury Department.

Publicly, Democratic strategists in Washington back Clinton's White House bid and say it is unlikely another viable candidate will emerge unless she decides not to run. Privately, many of the same people say they would like to see a more progressive candidate enter the race, if only to push the conversation to the left during the primary contests.

Clinton's potentially smooth path to the nomination stands in sharp contrast to the crowded Republican field, where about a dozen candidates are at various stages of exploring runs.

The Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary will take place early next year, kicking off a series of primary contests that culminate in each party picking its candidate to run in the November election.

"Candidates don't like primaries, but primaries traditionally will make candidates stronger for the general election," said Neil Levesque, executive director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics. "While all the Republicans are fighting amongst themselves, they're all having a chance to get on TV for a year. When there's only one candidate, it's more difficult to do that."

Clinton has a commanding lead among Democrats who are likely to vote in the New Hampshire primary, with 58 percent saying she would be their choice if the primary was held today, according to a University of New Hampshire/WMUR poll released last week.

Warren ran second, with the support of 14 percent of 297 likely voters polled Jan. 22-Feb. 3, leading third-placed Vice President Joe Biden. The poll had a 5.7 percent margin of error.

But a poll commissioned by Run Warren Run found that 98 percent of likely Democratic voters in New Hampshire and Iowa wanted a competitive race. Some 79 percent of 800 respondents polled Jan. 30 through Feb. 5 said they would like to see Warren run, though that did not mean they would vote for her.

Think Hillary Clinton is likely to win? Think again. (National Journal)
By Alex Roarty
February 14, 2015
National Journal

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Ask around: Washington is pretty certain Hillary Clinton is the favorite to win the White House. Democrats have a natural turnout advantage in presidential years, seasoned political operatives reason. Five of the past six popular-vote tallies have gone to the Democratic candidate. And early polls that show Clinton sporting a big lead, especially among women, have strategists wondering how the Republican nominee could ever catch up.

But outside of the capital, from Georgia to New York to California, there's another set of political professionals watching this race: academics and model-makers. And based on the data they track, Democrats have little reason to be so bullish about Clinton's chances.

"Viewing her as a prohibitive favorite at this point is misplaced, definitely," says Alan Abramowitz.

Abramowitz isn't a Republican pollster or a professional Clinton-hater. He's a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta. And he and his ilk—the wonky academics who research in anonymity while pundits predict races on TV—offer the most compelling case for reconsidering Clinton as the likely winner.

"I would feel comfortable saying that it's a 50-50 race right now," says Drew Linzer, a political scientist who is an independent analyst in Berkeley, California. "But I don't think anyone would be wise going far past 60-40 in either direction."

Veteran political operatives regard these predictions as nothing more than musings from the Ivory Tower. But political scientists who specialize in presidential-race forecasts aren't relying on their guts. They've built statistical models that draw on the history of modern presidential campaigns (since Harry Truman's reelection in 1948) to determine with startling accuracy the outcome of the next White House contest.

The best-known forecasting tool of the bunch—and one that plainly spells out Clinton's looming trouble—is Abramowitz's "Time for Change" model. He first built it before George H.W. Bush's 1988 election, and he has used it to predict the winner of the popular vote in the seven White House races since. (The model predicted that Al Gore would win the presidency in 2000, when he became the first person since Grover Cleveland to earn the majority of the popular vote nationally but lose the Electoral College.)

The model uses just three variables to determine the winner: the incumbent's approval rating, economic growth in the second quarter of the election year, and the number of terms the candidate's party has held the White House. Official forecasts aren't made until the summer before the presidential election. But reasonable estimates rooted in current political and economic conditions demonstrate Clinton's vulnerability.

Consider this scenario: President Obama retains equal levels of approval and disapproval, better than he has had most of his second term; and gross domestic product growth in the second quarter of 2016 holds at 2.4 percent, the same as last year's rate of growth. Under this scenario, the "Time for Change" model projects that Clinton will secure just 48.7 percent of the popular vote.

In other words, she loses.

Slight increases in Obama's approval rating and economic growth aren't enough to change the outcome for Clinton. Every 10-point improvement in the president's approval—if, for example, 55 percent of voters approved of Obama while 45 percent didn't—earns Clinton only an additional 1 percentage point of the popular vote. It takes an extra 1 percent year-over-year GDP growth to give Clinton an extra half percentage point of the popular vote.

For Clinton to reach 50 percent of the popular vote, under this model's rules, the president would need to see a 5-point increase in his approval rating and GDP growth would have to hit 3.5 percent. It's certainly possible, but it's fair to call that a best-case scenario for Obama in his final year as president.

So while Democrats see the recent gains in both Obama's approval and economic growth as signs that Clinton enters the race as the favorite, the academic modeling suggests that assessment is far too sunny. In fact, the recent uptick is the only thing keeping her from being a prohibitive underdog.

The reason Clinton struggles under seemingly decent conditions is obvious. After one party holds the presidency for two terms, voters want change. In the model, this desire for a new direction manifests itself as a 4-point reduction in the candidate's take of the popular vote compared with what candidates could expect had their party held the White House for just one term.

"One of the regularities you'll find for all presidential elections since World War II is, after a party has been in

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power eight years and is trying to hold on to the White House for a third consecutive term, it gets harder," Abramowitz says. "Another way of looking at it: In the first election after a party takes over the White House, you have a significant advantage. And the next time, after you've held another term, you lose that advantage."

Campaign operatives love to hate this academic assessment of politics, much like Wall Street belittles the technical analysts who use past performance to predict stock-market moves.

The tension between the strategists and the scientists speaks to the distinct approaches they employ: Political professionals (including journalists) study strategy, tactics, the day-to-day activities of a campaign, while political scientists see fundamentals shaping every election, almost no matter the strength of a candidate.

In 2012, for example, most strategists think Obama won because he ran one of the best presidential campaigns in American history while Mitt Romney ran one of the worst. According to political scientists, however, Obama's victory was a product of favorable conditions, such as an improving economy, decent approval ratings, and his incumbency. The unemployment rate was high, yes, but the state of the economy matters little compared with the direction it's headed.

In an era of hyper-professionalized, financially flush campaigns, it is this set of fundamentals that will make the difference between winning and losing, the scientists argue.

"The notion the campaign doesn't matter, it's not that simple," says Michael Lewis-Beck, a political science professor at the University of Iowa. "It doesn't matter so much because everyone is campaigning so hard that they cancel each other out."

Lewis-Beck showcased his own presidential model—one of many that now dot the political landscape—on the political science blog Monkey Cage. Academics began developing statistics-based predictions as early as the 1970s, but they have become more popular and mainstream since Nate Silver correctly forecast the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections.

Silver is a controversial figure in the political science world, where he's seen as a practitioner who went mainstream and came to define the entire forecast-model genre. As Romney supporters can attest, Silver's forecasts have been accurate, but they also depend on polls—many of which are not yet available or are of little use this far from Election Day. This means that Silver's forecasts might not be accurate untila couple of months before an election, and to political scientists who develop models, the goal is not just to be accurate but to be accurate long enough before an election to make a true forecast.

Other methods abound. Political scientists have used job growth and state-based economic indicators in their models, for example, while Abramowitz tried to update his own to account for increased polarization among voters. (He plans to scrap the update after it was less accurate about the 2012 election than his old model.) Lewis-Beck says the public's expectations for how a presidential race will turn out are predictive, while a historian at American University has a checklist of conditions that must be met for an incumbent party to win reelection.

One political scientist, Helmut Norpoth at Stony Brook University in New York, bases his model entirely on which party holds the White House, and for how long. It lets him make predictions years in advance: He has already forecast that Republicans have a 65 percent chance at winning the presidency next year.

"There's a cyclical pattern in the elections," Norpoth said. "It swings back and forth. And you can see it in the time lines since 1828."

Models can be wrong, of course. Norpoth says his 2008 prediction missed in part because he made it before the onset of a financial crisis that tanked the economy. And even models with a better track record aren't perfectly calibrated.

The biggest assumption that all the models make is that Republicans and Democrats will nominate someone from the mainstream of their party—and that might amount to a fatal flaw in predicting 2016, when the GOP could pick a candidate, such as Ted Cruz or Rand Paul, who's not favored by the establishment.

And other potential problems lurk: Models that suggest Clinton would earn 49 percent of the vote come with a margin of error that might make the difference; Abramowitz worries that because there have been only six modern-day presidential elections in which no incumbent from either party is running, his model's sample size might be too small; and in a race between Clinton and an equally talented, outsized personality, such as Jeb Bush, the qualities of the individual candidates might matter more.

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But conceding that the models aren't perfect isn't the same as saying they're not effective. When I talked with Linzer, I argued that Clinton has an advantage. It comes down to women, I said, especially educated white women who, early polling shows, have a special affinity for the former senator and first lady. How can the GOP hope to persuade enough members of this group to break away to win swing states such as Colorado and Pennsylvania?

"It's just way more complicated than that," Linzer said. "For every argument that you can pick out of the cross-tabs, I can pick a counterargument. Off the top of my head: She's not going to earn the same enthusiasm that Obama did among nonwhite voters."

As he put it, our brains trick us into believing things that seem plausible but don't hold up to scrutiny. It might seem plausible that Clinton is a favorite, but the historical record simply says otherwise.

"I'm sorry," Linzer said, "to rain on your thought parade."

Because, yes, to the scientists, it's not our thoughts about this election that count. It's the data.

Hillary Targets Grandmother Voters (Waycross Journal-Herald)
Cokie Roberts and Steven V. Roberts
February 13, 2015
Waycross Journal-Herald

Hillary Rodham Clinton has played many roles in her 67 years: first lady and Secretary of State, U.S. Senator and presidential candidate. All those titles have one thing in common: They are intensely political and largely partisan.

One identity Clinton recently acquired is very different from all the others: Grandmother. That title transcends politics. It's about personal relationships, not professional ones. It's about the real you, not the image crafted by your media consultant.

As Clinton clearly knows, however, being a grandmother has enormous political implications. That's why she recently tweeted an endorsement of childhood vaccinations with the hashtag "#GrandmothersKnowBest."

Since we are blessed with six grandkids of our own, we admit to being prejudiced here. We know full well what Clinton means when she describes her "grandmother glow." We agree with her adage that age and experience provide a perspective that youth can never duplicate.

But the practical implications of her new role go far beyond gauzy sentiment. There are 70 million grandparents in this country — a pretty formidable voting bloc, and one that Democrats have struggled to attract. In 2012, Barack Obama won only 44 percent of voters over 65. Grandma Hillary should have a better shot.

Remember, too, a key word in her hashtag: "mother." She didn't use "#GrandparentsKnowBest," after all. And Democrats simply cannot win the presidency without a large advantage among women voters.

It's also instructive that she used the hashtag to weigh in on vaccinations. She'll probably use it again on a range of issues relating to child welfare that Obama has already signaled will be part of the 2016 campaign: increased tax credits for parents, more pre-K education and better family leave policies.

The importance of Granny Power goes far beyond age and gender. Hillary lost to Obama for many reasons, but one of the most important is this: She failed to connect with voters on a human, personal level.

We've covered a dozen presidential elections and talked to countless voters, and they almost never say, "I just voted for someone based on his 16-point program on climate change."

To most voters, personal qualities are far more important than policy positions. What they do say is, "I like him, he understands me, he knows what my life is like."

The best way to convey those qualities is through stories. Obama was far better than Clinton at doing that, and his favorite tales are now so familiar we can all recite them. The grandmother who hit a glass ceiling at her bank; the mother who struggled with paying her medical bills; the father-in-law who hobbled on two canes every day to reach his job.

We know about the student loans the young Obamas had to pay off. We can describe the car he drove on their

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first date that was so old the floorboards were rusted through.

All of these stories carry one message: I've endured the same pains and pressures that you have. I'm just like you.

Clinton has struggled to find the language that conveys that level of personal empathy. One of her few attempts to do so in 2008— she liked to say "I grew up in a middle-class family in the middle of America" — never really connected.

"As we saw in 2008, she had a more difficult time relating to voters on a personal level," Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University, told Time magazine. "(Telling) stories about having a first grandchild might serve as one way to connect with the millions of Americans who watched Chelsea grow up, and who are now grandparents themselves."

Baby Charlotte is not Clinton's only female relative we'll hear more about. There's her late mother, Dorothy, who grew up in an abusive household and left home at 14 to support herself as a nanny. It's the kind of story about grit and determination and overcoming adversity that touches a resonant chord in American mythology.

Sure, there are risks here. In our youth-obsessed culture, age is not always an asset. Ask Bob Dole and John McCain, who ran for president in their 70s and lost to much younger opponents.

And there is still a double standard when it comes to gender. Women have to prove their toughness in ways men never do. Being Grandmother-in-Chief doesn't automatically qualify you to be Commander-in-Chief.

But in the end, Hillary Clinton has to embrace who she is: a woman with the wounds and wisdom that come with age.

Hillary Clinton, Bill Frist: Reauthorize children's health insurance program (CBS News)
By Jake Miller
February 13, 2015
CBS News

Hillary Clinton joined forces with former Senate Republican leader Bill Frist on Thursday to push Congress to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) well ahead of a late September deadline, arguing that "our most vulnerable children shouldn't be caught in the crossfire" of the continued fighting over the budget and Obamacare.

Clinton, the early but undeclared frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, and Frist, a physician and former Senate majority leader, made their case in an op-ed published in the New York Times.

"Despite strong bipartisan support, we are concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program," they wrote. "As parents, grandparents, and former legislators, we believe that partisan politics should never stand between our kids and quality health care."

Federal funding for CHIP is due to dry up at the end of September, when the bill currently funding the government expires, but Clinton and Frist urged Congress to act now to keep the program afloat. "With more than four-fifths of state legislatures adjourning by the end of June, lack of action and clarity from Washington by then will make budgeting and planning virtually impossible," they wrote.

Clinton and Frist acknowledged that the Affordable Care Act is helping to extend health insurance to families who might not have been able to afford it previously, but they added that "substantial gaps still exist - and too many children can still fall through them."

One such gap, which they labeled the "family glitch," prevents families from receiving subsidized insurance through an Obamacare exchange if they're offered "affordable coverage" by their employer.

"In this case, 'affordable' is defined as less than roughly 9.5 percent of household income for that parent to sign up alone - even though the actual cost of available family coverage is far higher," Clinton and Frist wrote. "For families affected by this glitch, CHIP may be the only affordable option for making sure their children are covered."

A failure to reauthorize the program, they warned, could have dire consequences: "As many as two million

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children could lose coverage altogether. Millions more will have fewer health care benefits and higher out-of-pocket costs."

CHIP, created in 1997, was designed to cover families who made too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not enough money to afford private insurance. It offered money to states but allowed them flexibility to tailor the program to fit their specific needs. Some states created a new program while others expanded Medicaid to cover more children.

Clinton, who was then first lady, aggressively pushed Congress to approve the program, and many of its architects on Capitol Hill credited her public advocacy with pushing a bill over the finish line.

"She was a one-woman army inside the White House to get this done," an aide to then-Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Massachusetts, who co-sponsored the bill, told the New York Times several years after its passage.

Joe Biden: Running away from Obama in 2016 would be 'mistake' for Dems (Washington Times)
By Dave Boyer
February 13, 2015
The Washington Times

Vice President Joseph R. Biden said Democratic presidential candidates in 2016 should embrace President Obama's economic policies and "run on what we have done" instead of running away from the administration.

"In my view, those seeking to lead the nation should protect and defend and run, yes run, on what we've done and own what we have done," Mr. Biden said in a speech in Des Moines, Iowa. "Stand for what we have done. Acknowledge what we have done. And be judged on what we have done, if we have any chance for continued resurgence in 2016."

He added, "Some say that would amount to a third term of the president. I call it sticking with what works."

Mr. Biden hinted at his own presidential plans, saying he will decide whether to run in 2016 by the end of this summer.

"That's a family personal decision that I'm going to make sometime at the end of the summer," Mr. Biden told reporters. "In the meantime, though, this is about convincing the public and in turn some of our Republican friends that what we're proposing in the budget is a continuation of the stuff that works."

Mr. Biden, who has not formed an exploratory committee for 2016, said he wasn't in the state for campaigning.

"I've been here a lot, I have a lot of friends. I'm going to see some of my friends are still in the Legislature and they're here today," he said. "But no, I'm not doing any organization if that's what you mean."

He didn't mention former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, although Mrs. Clinton has tried to distance herself from the administration's foreign policy and tweeted last month that Democrats need to "deliver" on Mr. Obama's economic proposals, implying his programs haven't helped the middle class enough.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts Democrat and a darling of the left, has been more vocal in her criticism of the president's economic agenda for failing to improve middle-class wages.

In his speech at Drake University, Mr. Biden criticized Democrats who would separate themselves from the administration's policies.

"It wasn't that long ago that even members of my own party were saying our economic path hadn't worked," Mr. Biden said. "And they were looking to distance themselves between what the president and I had done and the policies we put in place. I think that would be a terrible mistake."

Iowa Republican Party officials said Mr. Biden's visit served mainly to highlight that Mrs. Clinton hasn't been in the state for 104 days.

"Hillary Clinton has never had a warm relationship with Iowa voters, which might explain why she is hiding from them now," said Iowa GOP Chairman Jeff Kaufmann. "It's been months since Hillary has taken a question that wasn't vetted by her professional handlers. It's been nearly four months since she's met an actual Iowa voter. It's time for Hillary to stop hiding and start proving whether she has anything new to say since her disastrous defeat in 2008."

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The vice president said the 2016 campaign will determine how the economy performs for the next decade, and will be a battle between Democrats' proposals to help the middle class versus Republicans' "top-down" plans for tax cuts to benefit mainly wealthier families.

"That's what the next presidential election is going to be about," he said. "Are we going to continue this resurgence, focus on growing the middle class, or are we going to return the policies that have failed the middle class?"

Mr. Biden gave a robust defense of the administration's $840 billion economic recovery plan of 2009, even referring to it as "stimulus," a much-mocked term that Obama officials usually avoid.

He called out Republican critics of the stimulus plan by name, including House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, House Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio, former presidential candidate Mitt Romney and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and others who said the recovery act wouldn't work.

"They were wrong, dead wrong," Mr. Biden said. "Now every Main Street economist agrees what we did prevented us from sliding into depression. Stimulus can and does revive the economy."

Obama's Third Term? (Slate)
By John Dickerson
February 13, 2015
Slate

Vice President Joe Biden spoke in Iowa on Thursday saying exactly what you'd expect him to say about the success of the Obama administration and how it should be carried on: "Those seeking to lead the nation should protect and defend and run, yes run, on what we've done; own what we have done. Stand for what we have done, acknowledge what we have done, and be judged on what we have done. ... Some say that would amount to a third term of the president. I call it sticking with what works and what we oughta do."

A third Obama term. The vice president isn't the only one who feels this way. This, of course, is what Republicans have been saying Hillary Clinton's presidency would be for months. Biden didn't introduce this idea, but it's one thing for Republicans to say it, it's another thing for the vice president to bolt it onto the eventual Democratic nominee.

When I heard it, I was fresh from having read David Axelrod's book Believer about his life in politics from his first political rally at age 5 to the celebration of Obama's re-election in Chicago on election night in 2012. In the book, he recounts the details of the 2008 campaign, when Obama repeatedly said he didn't want to give "John McCain the chance to serve out George Bush's third term."

This is a standard attack. Indeed, Democrats are raising money today playing on the idea that Jeb Bush is a third George W. Bush term. The big obvious difference in 2016 is that Obama is much more popular right now than George Bush was at the end of his presidency. Bush's approval rating was 28 percent in the 2008 election night exit poll. Right now Barack Obama's approval rating is 47 percent in the Gallup poll, almost 20 points higher. If the economy continues to improve, that number could climb higher still and you could imagine Hillary Clinton saying, If by third term you mean another 59 months of continuous job growth and falling unemployment, then yes I'll be a third term.

But what Axelrod's book highlights is the way in which this kind of attack presents challenges that go well beyond mere association. In the 2008 campaign, the Bush's "third term" charge was a way to highlight the contrast between the old and the new. McCain was a part of the Washington system, Obama was from outside that system. The attack created an appetite for the new, the flavor that Obama happened to be selling. Hillary Clinton may be a strong candidate, but she will never be able to pull off new.

Axelrod writes about a crucial lesson he learned from working on so many mayoral races. Voters want a "remedy, not [a] replica" in the next candidate, even when the incumbent leaving office is well-liked. He says this rule—which he learned most directly in the 1989 race for the mayor of Cleveland where Michael White, the Democrat, followed the popular incumbent Republican George Voinovich—applies to presidential campaigns, too. He wrote to Sen. Obama in 2008: "When incumbents step down, voters rarely opt for a replica of what they have, even when that outgoing leader is popular. They almost always choose change over the status quo." This is a different formulation of what President Obama was talking about recently when he said voters wanted "that new car smell." Clinton is associated with the status quo even more because she has the Obama years and the

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Clinton years attached to her.

Given this view, simple distinctions between Obama and Clinton on policy or positioning won't be enough to break the third-term lock. It will be very hard for Clinton to offer herself as a remedy because there is nothing that makes her so constitutionally different from Obama that voters will notice. She is probably, for example, a better deal-maker and would work harder at connecting with Republicans, but that's hardly a vast distinction that makes voter sit up. Gender is an obvious distinction, but that's not the basis for a presidential platform.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons Clinton is working so hard to come up with a message that is so unique and powerful it looks new. Amy Chozick of the New York Times reports that Clinton has consulted more than 200 experts in her effort to craft an economic message. She's not just trying to come up with a policy that creates distance, but one that achieves escape velocity.

Were Clinton actually campaigning right now, she'd probably have had to spend the day answering questions about where she stands relative to President Obama. Is she a third term or not? Perhaps she would ace that test, but this charge is also a trap to make Clinton bungle into the most damaging caricature of her—that she is excessively political. If the public doesn't think there's any big difference between what she's offering and what President Obama would offer in a third term, Clinton's efforts will look like Third Term Monte, a sleight of hand confidence game.

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/11/2008 10:27:22 AM
Subject: [big campaign] John McCain Tracking Video: Week in Review 07/11/08

Hi All,

In case you missed it, check out the top clips we captured this week at McCain town hall meetings:

- In "women's event" McCain misrepresents himself, record on equal pay http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6gbv0dO1G0
- McCain to woman in wheelchair: Program to support disabled Americans is not the "right kind of legislation" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3O5UcOKJJ_4
- McCain on Social Security: "It's an absolute disgrace." http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOjUVLxVoGQ
- McCain referring to young blond woman, tells college student, "you have very attractive friends" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpvlMuhVlrQ
- McCain gets into tense exchange with Vietnam Vet; falsely claims he has a perfect voting record from "all … veterans service organizations" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG77dI_ZSI8
- McCain on FISA: Telecommunications companies "should not be held responsible in the way that they're to be sued" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncuE6AxK9Xo
- McCain on education: Thankful we had "the money to send … our kids to Catholic school" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmTnTjFNrZM
- McCain tells woman who's parents died of cancer "Nuclear power is safe... a vital part of our nation's energy future" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFE95gsSa4k
- McCain gives crying woman losing her job "some straight talk," doubts he'll be able to help keep her job http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYxrevYydL8
- McCain Predicts War With Iran, Calls 16-Year-Old Boy "Attractive" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAjgwu4wv8E

Blast from the Past:
With Phil Gramm dominating the news, here's an old clip with some new meaning.
McCain, "I want you to judge me by the company that I keep …"
JOHN MCCAIN: "I do want you to judge me by the company that I keep... I do want you to judge me by the company that I keep... Every homeowner in this state and across the gulf region that are threatened by hurricanes we will work together and get the insurance that you need so that you will be able not to risk everything you worked for in your life."
(Speech; Orlando, FL 01/28/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuOYWX9Q4nc
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/n3if133swo

Enjoy!

- Cammie

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P.S. Here are full transcripts:

VIDEO with FULL TRANSCRIPTS

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In "womens event" McCain misrepresents himself, record on equal Pay

JOHN MCCAIN: "We haven't done enough. We have not done enough. And I'm committed to making sure that there's equal pay for equal work. That there is equal opportunity in every aspect of our society. And that is my record and you can count on it."
(Town Hall Meeting; Hudson, WI 07/11/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6gbv0dO1G0

McCain to woman in wheelchair: Program to support disabled Americans is not the "right kind of legislation"
QUESTIONER (in wheelchair): "Senator McCain, [...] my friends and I—we are members of a group called ADAPT. We were in Washington in April. And 40 people with disabilities were arrested. We came to your office to ask you to support our national legislation, the Community Choice Act. What that would do is it would end the institutional bias and allow people with disabilities to choose where we would live and would receive services. [...] We come from all over the country [...] Will you sign on to support the Community Choice Act?

JOHN MCCAIN: "I will not because I don't think that it's the right kind of legislation. [...] The Community Choice Act is not a piece of the legislation that I support [...]"

(Town Hall Meeting; Denver, CO 07/07/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3O5UcOKJJ_4

TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/a07um6qcck

McCain on Social Security: "It's an absolute disgrace."

QUESTIONER: "[...] Many of the proposals that are being created for people of my generation no longer include Social Security because of the belief it will not be there. Tell me how you plan to fix it."

JOHN MCCAIN: "Thank you very much. **I'd like to start out by giving you a little straight talk. Under the present setup, because we've mortgaged our children's futures, you will not have Social Security benefits that present-day retirees have unless we fix it. And Americans have got to understand that. Americans have got to understand that we are paying present-day retirees with the taxes paid by young workers in America today. And that's a disgrace. It's an absolute disgrace, and it's gotta be fixed**."

MCCAIN: "Now how do you fix it? [...] You fix it by reaching across the aisle and you say to the Democrats: sit down with me at the table. Sit down with me the way Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did the last time that Social Security was in deep trouble. And that was way back in 1983. Ronald Reagan, conservative President from California, and Tip O'Neil, the liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, sat down together and they walked out of the White House together and they say, we're gonna fix Social Security. And they did for about 20, 30 years. Right, Hank? Hank and I were part of the Congress at the time. And we were proud. We were proud to see the kind of bipartisanship that was exhibited for future generations.

MCCAIN: "Well now it's broken again. [...] Nothing is forever in American. I want to promise you, that I'll say to the Democrats and I'll say to the American people, here's a chart, here's a chart, here's how much is coming in, here's how much is going out, and here's where there's more money going out than coming in, and here's where there's no money left. Now are we going to hand it off to your generation to fix it, or are we gonna do the hard things? I wanna be President to do the hard things. [...] It's gonna change and it's got to change. And I will change it."

(Town Hall Meeting; Denver, CO 07/07/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOjUVLxVoGQ

TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/gxpxxfq0wo

McCain referring to young blond woman, tells college student, "you have very attractive friends"
JOHN MCCAIN: "Do you have any passion?"

STUDENT: "Senator, [...] college students are graduating with an unprecedented rate of debt [...]. What do you plan to do to alleviate these student loans and reduce the cost of school?"

JOHN MCCAIN: "Thank you. [turning to blond girl sitting next to student asking question] Is this, [...] You're the

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photographer here, is that--?"

FRIEND: [inaudible]

MCCAIN: "Oh the paparazzi for this rock star, I see." [points to blond woman next to her] I see. Thank you. Skylar, thank you; you have very attractive friends."

(Town Hall Meeting; Denver, CO 07/07/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpvIMuhVIrQ

TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/xtfthp5kwc

McCain gets into tense exchange with Vietnam Vet; falsely claims he has a perfect voting record from "all … veterans service organizations"
JOHN MCCAIN: "I see a person with a funny hat on that says Vietnam Veterans, so I'd love to recognize you first, sir."
[...]
QUESTIONER: "Senator, veterans and all Americans admire your service [...] but we know that you voted against—well, actually you didn't vote on the GI bill and you spoke out against it. We understand you have a difference on that but we [...] haven't heard an explanation of why you voted against your colleagues' proposals to increase health care funding in 2004, [2005], [2006] and [2007] when we had troops coming back from two wars."

MCCAIN: "[...] I have great respect for Sen. Webb and I appreciate his efforts. [...] The problem that some of us had [...] was that there were studies that showed that we didn't have incentives for people to become career military people. [...]"

MCCAIN: "With that all I can say is, I don't know what you're pointing to but I've received every award from every major veterans' organization in America—I've received every organization in America their awards—but sir I don't know what you're referring to [...] But the reason **why I have a perfect voting record from organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and all the other veterans service organizations is because of my support of them**. But you can go ahead and respond if you want to. Go ahead."

QUESTIONER: "**You do not have a perfect voting record by the DAB and the VFW; that's where these votes are recorded**. And the votes were proposals [...] by your colleagues in the Senate to increase health care funding of the VA in 2003, [2004], [2005] and [2006] for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And you voted against those proposals. I can give specific Senate votes, the numbers of those Senate votes right now."

(Town Hall Meeting; Denver, CO 07/07/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG77dl_ZSl8

TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/m6z0m6u4g0

McCain on FISA: Telecommunications companies "should not be held responsible in the way that they're to be sued"
JOHN MCCAIN: "On FISA, I believe it's very dangerous [...] to hold the telecommunications corporations liable for them acting in cooperation with the govnernment after 9/11 to help us monitor the communications of Al-Qaeda and terrorists. [...] **I believe the telecommunications company, or any other organization, when called upon by their government, to do something that is in the national security interest, that they should not be held responsible in the way that [...] they're to be sued**."

MCCAIN: "[...] Now it's my view that we should have the ability, with certain court procedures observed, to monitor the communications—particularly with the dramatic modernization and ability of communicate [sic] between organizations that want to do America harm. And so, I'm glad you're recording this because I'd like to make sure you show it to all your friends. Have no doubt where I stand: that the telecommunications companies should not be held liable for cooperation they provided the government of the United States after 9/11, when we were trying to stop further attacks on the United States of America. And to say that you want them to be held liable is something in my view that would be a trial lawyer's dream. And I strongly oppose it. Sen. Obama supports it. That's the difference in our views."

(Town Hall Meeting; Denver, CO 07/07/08)

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TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncuE6AxK9Xo

McCain on education: Thankful we had "the money to send … our kids to Catholic school"
QUESTIONER: "I've been a teacher for about 31 years. What is your feeling about No Child Left Behind?"

JOHN MCCAIN: "Thank you. By the way, **did I mention that Cindy was a teacher of special education before I took her out of that honest line of work**?

MCCAIN: "[...] I think No Child Left Behind needs to be fixed. However, I think it was a right beginning. I think we need to be able to judge [...] students' performance all over America. [...] But now [...] we need to go back and sit down together again Republican and Democrat and fix what needs to be fixed.

MCCAIN: "And [...] some of what needs to be fixed is more full funding for some of the programs that were never adequately funded, as you know. Including special education. Including this terrible problem that you're very aware of in this rise in autism amongst children in America. It's a terrible thing that's happening. And it's going to require additional educational capabilities.

MCCAIN: "So I want to fix it but I also have to give you a little more straight talk. I'm for choice and competition. **Now Cindy and I had the money to send—the ability to send our kids to Catholic school. I want every American to be able to send their child to the school of their choice.**

MCCAIN: "[...] Charter schools work. Charter schools are good competition. Some of them don't work. Some of them don't work, so they should fail. But if you look at New York City today and if you look at New Orleans [...] New York City's education has improved rather dramatically. And also, New Orleans because they had to start from Square One because of the tragedy of Katrina; they know have 30 charter schools there. And the quality of education is improving.

MCCAIN: "Learn the lessons of No Child Left Behind. Fix the problem. Reward good teachers. Find bad teachers another line of work. Fix education, which is the future of America."

(Town Hall Meeting; Portsmouth, OH 07/09/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmTnTjFNrZM

McCain tells woman who's parents died of cancer "Nuclear power is safe... a vital part of our nation's energy future"
JOHN MCCAIN: "I did see a person over here with a 'no nukes' sign so maybe we can't start with you. Because obviously you know I am a supporter of nuclear power. [...]"

QUESTIONER: "[...] I live here in Portsmouth. And my father also worked in the Piketon plant and he also died young of cancer. He had 4 cancers. My mother died of cancer as well. And I feel strongly about getting the Piketon plant cleaned up and bringing alternative energy industry into Portsmouth [...] We've done this for 50 years. We deserve better. We don't want our young people to continue to have to work in a highly toxic industry. And I believe that a lot of people here probably feel the same way and are afraid to say anything. Because I know the outcome in my personal life has been very detrimental to me in fighting this nuclear industry."

MCCAIN: "I know I speak on behalf of all of us [...] and extend our sympathy at the loss of your parents. There's no way that I can provide proper consolation except to say to you that I believe that nuclear power is and can be safe. [...] We have sailed Navy ships around the world for more than 60 years with nuclear power plants on them. There has never been any recorded case that I know of that someone was either injured or killed or had any effects of, of those nuclear power plants. I know that there's been Three Mile Island. And we know about Chernoble. But I do believe that nuclear power is safe. [...] But the evidence that I have that I'd like to share with you, is that nuclear power is safe. And it is, I think, a vital part of our nation's energy future[...]

QUESTIONER: "One of the things that I've been striving for is to make sure that workers that go into the Piketon site are protected, and I haven't been able to get that affirmation from the NRC or the EPA or any of the DOE or any of the groups that are in charge of that cleanup and that site. And I think that's one of the things that many people are concerned about here.

MCCAIN: "Well I will (1) try to get that information from you, (2) myself try to contact the nuclear regulatory [...] commission and any other oversight organization and get the information [...] I promise you I will learn, and I will read the information that you send me, and I will act on it as I think would be appropriate."

(Town Hall Meeting; Portsmouth, OH 07/09/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFE95gsSa4k

McCain gives crying woman losing her job "some straight talk," doubts he'll be able to help keep her job
QUESTIONER: "[...] I'm the founder of a small, non-profit hospice in Wilmington, Ohio. [...] I'm sure you are aware that DHL is closing that airpark in Wilmington. We will lose 8,600 jobs. [starts to cry] Will you call for Senate hearings to investigate the DHL-UPS joint venture, which could be an antitrust issue? [...] We're just small people trying to live a life. And I want to be able to keep our nonprofits alive. Thank you."

JOHN MCCAIN: "I have been briefed, and I know about this situation. [...] This is a terrible blow. Um, if there's an anitrust implication that's associated with this, I certainly would seek a thorough investigation [...] **We are in a period of transition to a global economy. That is of no consolation to anyone who is losing their job.** [...] But we have to offer them an opportunity to get the education and re-training programs so they can re-enter the job market.

MCCAIN: "[...] **I've got to look you in the eye and give you some straight talk; I don't know if I can stop it or not. Or if it will be stopped it. [...] In fact, some more straight talk: I doubt it. Ok? But I am for a thorough examination of this situation.** [...]

MCCAIN: "In the meantime, there are manufacturing jobs that have been lost all over the state of Ohio, and it's been a terrible trauma and we have got to give people another opportunity. And you do that by going to the community colleges and saying: design education and training programs that are designed for the local job market and implement those programs. The private programs today do not work. They are total failures.

MCCAIN: "[...] But I also want to make a commitment [...] if someone has a high-paying job, particularly an older worker, and that worker has to take a low-paying job just to survive [...] that we would subsidize, with some of this job training money that's being wasted, that worker's salary [...] while they're undergoing their re-training and education programs.

MCCAIN: "[...] I believe in free trade; I believe that it's important to the economy."
(Town Hall Meeting; Portsmouth, OH 07/09/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYxrevYydL8

McCain Predicts War With Iran, Calls 16-Year-Old Boy "Attractive"
QUESTIONER: "Senator McCain, how can world leaders take the President of Iran seriously with his outrageous claims to wipe Israel off the face of the earth? And, as a follow-up question, would you consider a 16-year-old running mate?"

JOHN MCCAIN: "If that individual happens to be as **attractive and articulate** as you are, I certainly would—consider it. Thank you.

MCCAIN: "Um, I'm worried that the President of Iran, Ahmadinejad's comments are not just crazy talk. [...] We all know that they just tested uh, uh a missile. Uh, which,by the way, was done by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Which is a terrorist organization that supports terrorists and in my view-- We had a vote on the floor of the Senate to label the same organization as a terrorist organization.

MCCAIN: "[...] If there is a outbreak of conflict [...] with Iran and Israel, or because of Iran's continued aggressive behavior-- [...] **If there's an outbreak of conflict, then I worry very much that the United States will be drawn into it**. [...] And I worry about brave young Americans who are serving in the military today."

MCCAIN: "[...] By the way, if there's anyone concerned about the fact that we don't have communications with Iran, we have plenty of communications with them."

(Town Hall Meeting; Portsmouth, OH 07/09/08)

TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAjgwu4wv8E

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/2/2015 9:46:19 PM
Subject: News Update - August 3, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, August 3

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Cabinet Authorizes New Measures against Jewish Terrorists**
- **Hundreds Hold Vigils for Victim of Pride Parade Attack**
- **Rabbis, Pal. Activists Unite in Solidarity against Violence**
- **Rivlin to File Police Complaint After Threatened**
- **Benki Family: We Wish for Less Hatred and More Tolerance**
- **Tibi: Anger and Rage, Could be Right before an Explosion**
- **Khamenei Reportedly Publishes Book on How to Destroy Israel**
- **U.S. Democrats see 'Fire Wall' Holding to Preserve Iran Deal**

Commentary:

- **Al Monitor: "AIPAC Chooses Sides: It Picks Bibi over its Own Supporters, US Jews"**
  - By Uri Savir
- **Ynet News: "It Takes Courage to Deal with Jewish Terrorists"**
  - By Smadar Perry

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Ynet News

Cabinet Authorizes Measures against Jewish Terror

In wake of Jewish terrorist attack in Duma, gov't authorizes use of administrative detentions, while Justice Ministry team recommends changing classification of 'price tag' perpetrators to 'terrorists'. The Security Cabinet decided Sunday to adopt recommendations providing law enforcement agencies with new tools to combat Jewish terrorism. "The Cabinet views the arson and murder in Duma as act of terror in every aspect, and has called on all the relevant authorities to use all necessary measures in order to bring the perpetrators to justice, and prevent similar incidents," a statement issued after the cabinet meeting said.

See also, After Palestinian baby's death, Israelis say condemnation not enough" (Times of Israel)

Times of Israel

Hundreds Hold Vigils for Victim of Pride Parade Attack

Hundreds of people turned out at Jerusalem's Zion Square Sunday night to attend a memorial vigil in honor of Shira Banki, who succumbed earlier in the day to wounds sustained in a stabbing attack at Jerusalem's Gay Pride Parade last week. Ceremonies were also held for Banki at Tel Aviv's Meir Park and in Beersheba. In Jerusalem, "Shira's Song," written for the 16-year-old victim of the attack, was played at the request of her family. "Who would believe that on Jerusalem's streets, an innocent young girl, talented, which such good values and love would be killed in cold blood for nothing. Murder that's nothing but hate," said Sara Kala, head of the Jerusalem Open House for Pride.

Jerusalem Post

Rabbis, Palestinian Activists Unite against Violence

In the sweltering heat of Sunday afternoon and the bitter atmosphere of recent days, some 150 people gathered in the Etzion settlement bloc to condemn the slaying of Ali Dawabsha. The event, staged at the Gush Etzion junction, was designed as a prayer vigil and a show of solidarity against violence, initiated by Shorashim, a joint Israeli-Palestinian coexistence organization based in the area. The crowd was comprised entirely of Israelis, including many residents of the settlements in the area. Those who spoke included several notable rabbis, Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid, and two Palestinian peace activists and local residents, Sheikh Ibrahim Abu El-Hawa and Ziad Sabateen.

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Ha'aretz

Rivlin to File Police Complaint After Threatened

The President's Office is to file a police complaint over threats made against President Reuven Rivlin, following his condemnation of the arson attack last week. Rivlin harshly condemned the perpetrators of the attack, who are suspected to be Jewish extremists. Rivlin also spoke out against the public atmosphere of incitement that bred the incidents. "Flames have engulfed our country," Rivlin said at a demonstration in Jerusalem's Zion Square Saturday night over the stabbing at the Gay Pride Parade in the capital. "Flames of violence, flames which permit bloodshed in the name of the Torah, in the name of the law, in the name of morality, in the name of a love for the land of Israel."

Channel 2 News

Benki Family: We Wish for More Tolerance

The family of Shira Benki, the 16-year-old girl who succumbed to her wounds today after being stabbed by a religious fundamentalist during the Gay Pride Parade in Jerusalem, issued a statement where they related to the circumstances that caused their daughter's death: "It was without any purpose and because of malice as well as negligence that the life of the wonderful flower of our life was cut short." "Our wonderful Shira was murdered only because of the fact that she was a happy 16-year-old, full of love and life that respected that each person can live according to their own ways," the family stated. "The family wishes for less hatred and more tolerance."

Jerusalem Post

Tibi: Anger and Rage, Could be before an Explosion

Palestinians feel their lives are worthless and that tensions may be on the verge of exploding, Ta'al chairman Ahmad Tibi told The Jerusalem Post on Sunday. Tibi, who was at the Aksa mosque on the Temple Mount on Sunday morning, said all of the gates were closed, but that some Jewish groups were allowed to enter, which served as an "unnecessary provocation." "This is adding fuel to the fire," he said, saying al-Aksa is "a most sensitive place." "There is great anger and rage," he said. "This could be the moment right before an explosion." The fact that the attack occurred in the middle of the village meant that it was "well planned," Tibi said, expressing concern that this would not be the last attack. "We will probably see more of these criminals breaking the law," he said.

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Ha'aretz

Khamenei Publishes Book on How to Destroy Israel

Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has published a book on how to destroy Israel and outsmart the U.S., arguing that his position is based on "well-established Islamic principles," The New York Post reported Saturday. The 416-page book, entitled "Palestine," reportedly reached The Post through a source Iran - the only place the book is said to be currently available in. The report has yet to be confirmed independently and was written by Amir Taheri – an Iranian expat whose reports have been mired in controversy amid claims of fabrications. The book's blurb reportedly bills it as "The flagbearer of Jihad to liberate Jerusalem."

See also, "Iran publishes book on how to outwit US and destroy Israel" (New York Post)

Reuters

Democrats see 'Fire Wall' Holding to Preserve Deal

U.S. backers of the Iran nuclear deal are increasingly confident of enough Democratic support to ensure it survives review by Congress, despite fierce opposition by majority Republicans and a massive lobbying drive. By the time the House of Representatives recessed for the summer last week, no senior Democrat in the chamber had come out formally against the agreement and several central figures, including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, were strongly in favor. Pelosi said she was confident that if, as expected, Republicans pass a "resolution of disapproval" to try to sink the deal, a promised veto of that measure by President Barack Obama would be sustained. "More and more of them (House Democrats) have confirmed to me that they will be there to sustain the veto," Pelosi told reporters.

Al Monitor – August 3, 2015

AIPAC Chooses Sides: It Picks Bibi over its Own Supporters, US Jews

By Uri Savir

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is now at his best. He thrives when he runs political campaigns; he is the master of using scare tactics to elicit public support. His current campaign is geared toward members of the US Congress and Israeli public opinion. He is determined to fight US President Barack Obama on his own political turf, siding with the Republicans, and to be perceived in Israel as the ultimate "defender of the Jewish people." To him, this is about history, or rather about history books.

Netanyahu has engaged the most effective lobby in Congress — the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) — to pressure all members of Congress, especially the 13 Democratic senators needed to override the eventual veto that Obama will use on a negative congressional vote.

The focus in the "nay" camp is on the struggle, not its consequences. Given that Obama has placed his credibility and legacy on the line, with the support of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, the

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Republican-Netanyahu-AIPAC battle is virtually a hopeless cause.

A senior member of AIPAC's political leadership told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity, "We have decided to go all out on the issue, despite this being a partisan cause. We cannot stand by when the prime minister of Israel makes defeating the Iran deal his cause celebre. This is the first time in AIPAC's history that the lobby challenges a US president on such an issue; an issue where the president's political credibility is on the line. Secretly, some of us pray not to succeed in this battle."

Indeed, AIPAC has galvanized all its troops, urgently calling its constituents to appeal to their respective congressmen, demanding them to oppose the Iran deal. For this purpose, AIPAC followers were offered long and argumentative fact sheets on the alleged flaws of the agreement. These sheets look very much like the talking points of the Republicans in Congress. Tens of millions of dollars have been allocated, and many of the influential AIPAC funders have been called to convince key senators.

It seems that all sides are focused on a fierce political battle. At the same time, apparently not many of those who oppose the agreement for legitimate or political reasons are actually considering the consequences of a Republican-Netanyahu-AIPAC win.

If the deal is defeated, the agreement will still stand with regard to the European, Russian and Chinese decision to gradually remove the sanctions. Their business representatives are already exploring possible deals with Tehran. In the eyes of the world, Iran will be depicted as the more moderate party, while Israel will be perceived as an obstacle to global peace. At the same time, the Iranians might feel less compelled to stick to their side of the bargain (considering that the Europeans seem to be easier to fool). Thus, they might continue secretly to develop nuclear weapons. If this happens, the United States would lose its leading position in the world for a long time to come.

As aforementioned, this Israeli move initiated by Netanyahu and spearheaded by Ron Dermer, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, is conducted in full coordination with AIPAC and the heads of the Republican Party in Congress. But within it lie many dangers both to Israel and to the American Jewish community.

Even before the congressional debate got started, Netanyahu's campaign has already provoked unprecedented and, for the foreseeable future, irreversible damage to US-Israel relations. It has seriously harmed Israel's influence mostly within the Democratic Party and its voters.

On the international level, as Netanyahu continues his campaign, Israel's power of deterrence will increasingly suffer. The image of its alliance with the Unites States will erode in the eyes of the Arab world and others. This move also hastens Israel's isolation. US Secretary of State John Kerry already warned July 24 on NBC that, should the agreement be rejected, Israel would be blamed. This is tantamount to accusing Israeli policies of potentially endangering world peace. A field day for the Iranians.

As for the American Jewish community, Netanyahu's call to arms, with AIPAC marching to his beat, places American Jews in direct

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confrontation with their president. AIPAC's right-wing position on Iran contradicts the majority opinion of American Jews. According to a survey conducted by the Los Angeles Jewish Journal on July 22, 49% of American Jews support the deal, while only 31% oppose it. Yet, AIPAC's high-profile anti-Iran deal campaign, coupled with aggressive activities of some other Jewish organizations, depicts the entire American Jewish community as "objectionist."

By turning the Iran issue into a political battle against Obama, Netanyahu has pushed American Jewry into a corner: They must allegedly choose between an allegiance to their president and loyalty to the Israeli prime minister. The sensitive question of dual loyalty by American Jews may surface again, to the detriment of the community. This is not only Netanyahu's fault, but also the making of American Jewish community leaders, such as the AIPAC chief and leaders of the US Jewry umbrella body — the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The executive vice chairman of the latter, Malcolm Hoenlein, bitterly criticized Obama's policies and the Iran agreement in a radio interview on July 19. These leaders seem to align their concerns with those of the Israeli government before addressing the concerns of their Jewish constituency. Together with Netanyahu, they place Israel and America Jewry on a collision course with Israel's No. 1 ally.

Ynet News – August 3, 2015

It Takes Courage to Deal with Jewish Terrorists

Israel must turn every stone, catch the people who burned Palestinian baby Ali Dawabsheh alive, prosecute them and destroy their homes. Unless our side makes a real move after they are caught, there will be fire.

By Smadar Perry

It takes courage to catch them and give them the punishment they deserve. The people who burned Palestinian baby Ali Dawabsheh to death, scorched his four-year-old brother Ahmad and his parents Saad and Reham, who are fighting for their lives, have to pay. It's a test for all of us.

Anyone who has any doubts should look for the chilling testimony of Ibrahim Dawabsheh, the neighbor from the adjacent house in the village of Duma. At 2 am he was busy talking to his fiancée on the phone, when he heard the yelling. He managed to see two masked people standing above their victims to confirm their deaths. The masked people tried to chase Ibrahim. Had he not escaped, he would have suffered a similar fate.

This time there must be no cover up. We must turn every stone, catch them, prosecute them and destroy their homes. Without a brave decision, once and for all, this affair will not calm down. There is no excuse in the world to justify the horror at the village of Duma.

So far, everything has been going according to routine: Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon condemned the attack, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telephoned Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and the security organizations are working on the need to curb the other side's revenge, to convince that "they" are not "us."

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Abbas is threatening to approach international institutions, while we are afraid of a third intifada. In the state of Tel Aviv I hear from young people that they are hopeless over what is happening here. In the state of the settlers, people are waiting to see what the Shin Bet will do. It's not a simple situation. The pictures of 18-month-old Dawabsheh are circulating around the world. Unless our side makes a real move after the arsonists are caught, there will be fire.

Let's not forget: We are the ones who invented the punishment of destroying terrorists' homes. A Palestinian man or woman who launch an attack against Israelis take into account that the punishment will arrive, that their family will pay. Granted, rabbis will cry out and right-wing Knesset members will search for excuses, launch a "din rodef" (law of the pursuer," permitting extrajudicial killings) against the legal system and the security organizations. And despite political pettiness, the person who telephoned Abbas on Friday night and ran to the hospital – and I believe that Netanyahu really is shocked – must take one step further and show that Israel knows how to deal with brave decisions.

All kinds of self-righteous people in Israel wrote on social media that we must not make generalizations, that we must remember that Palestinian terrorists have murdered Israeli babies and children in cold blood. I have the pictures of Jewish baby Shalhevet Pass and the children of the Fogel family fixed before my eyes. I haven't forgotten. There is no forgiveness. I hope we are better than the other side. We carried a heavy baggage on our way to establish a state. We will never forget the revenge for the blood of a little child which has yet been devised by Satan.

In October 1985, Egyptian soldier Suleiman Khater murdered a group of Israeli tourists in Ras Burqa. When he was caught, the Egyptians rushed to declare him "insane" and sentenced him to life in prison. His imprisonment burdened the government, and one day he was found hanging in his cell.

In 1997, Jordanian soldier Ahmed Daqamseh murdered a group of Israeli high school girls who were on a trip in Naharayim. Jordan's King Hussein cut short his visit to Spain and rushed to the mourners' homes in Beit Shemesh, got down on his knees and asked for forgiveness. The opponents of peace are still, to this very day, calling for the murderer's release. He was also declared "insane."

I find it hard to believe that the arsonists of the Dawabsheh family's home will not be found. One doesn’t have to be a big Shin Bet expert to find out who didn't come home or who left the yeshiva over the weekend. The group of delusionists is already dreaming of kissing the hands contaminated with blood. Courage, decision makers. Give them what they deserve.

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S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 7:48:13 AM
Subject: RE: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

Right, but if we wanted to have a reporter cover the Israel support now, a leak of the letter could probably get written.

Otherwise, we can work around the Israel support for reporters covering Iran.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Christina Reynolds
Cc: Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin; Oren Shur; John Podesta; Nick Merrill
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

We have a two pager I'm getting clearance from her on. That is what we have to ship around.

On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:17 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> We could either get a donor to leak it or just give it to a reporter if we want to get it out there. I'm semi-surprised it's not out yet.
>
> On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?
> >
> > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.
> > >
> > > On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?
> > > >
> > > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.
> > > > >
> > > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > > >
> > > > > Begin forwarded message:
> > > > >
> > > > > **From:** Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > > **Date:** July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
> > > > > **To:** Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > > **Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO**
> > > > >
> > > > > http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

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Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

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"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was? "

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal . "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's security. "She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel," recalled Jacobs. "And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer."

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. "She said 'I'm going to do what's in the best interest of the U.S.,' and that was the end of it," Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, "although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it's got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people." He urged Jewish donors "to

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take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits," adding: "I'd hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support."

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton's senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

"It's a tricky issue for her," said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran "are going to put her in a box."

Clinton's allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. "I know where she stands, but I can't talk about it," Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, "She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this."

He soon backtracked, saying "I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal."

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House

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and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

"For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy," said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street's PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

"She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community."

Authors:

View Comments

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Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/8/2015 3:22:35 AM
Subject:	July 8 Morning Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	7.8.15 Morning Cable.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

CNN's *New Day:* HRC's first national interview was conducted by Briana Keilar. Keilar claims that HRC's campaign is keeping an eye on Sanders. During her interview Keilar brings up Sanders as a potential threat. HRC responds by saying that she always thought that this race would be competitive, and that she believes that Sanders has a right to run his campaign the way that he sees fit. HRC claims that she is very confident and content with where her campaign stands at this point. She claims that she has learned that organizing is the key to winning an election. HRC claims that she has her own economic policy, and HRC claims that she will begin to tell people what she proposes to fix the economy and on taxes. HRC comments on the dishonesty vulnerability that she possesses. Carl Bernstein claims that HRC is facing the complexity of her relationship as a woman and to the truth. HRC is at the heart of the cultural warfare. Bernstein claims that HRC has been on the right side of this cultural revolution. Bernstein claims that HRC has been in a difficult position, and that HRC has great strengths and has gone through many struggles. Nia-Malika Henderson claims that some donors do not approve of HRC ducking national interviews and the press. Henderson claims that the national interview showed strengths and weaknesses of HRC. Henderson claims that her weakness comes with her defensiveness on being untrustworthy. Henderson claims that HRC believes that she has a strength over her opponents. Bernstein claims that she must win New Hampshire and Iowa, and that is what she is concentrating on. He claims that HRC's themes play into her strengths, and that she wants to get out there in a way that she is visible. Democrats and HRC know that the press will be her worst enemy throughout the campaign. HRC on television is not spontaneous, and she is on talking points. Bernstein claims that in person, she is incredibly spontaneous and has a great sense of humor. Donald Trump in Damage Control. There are many companies that are breaking ties with Trump. Trump claims that most of these brands will come back to him. Howard Bragman claims that Trump has not done even half the damage that he is planning on doing. Bragman claims that Trump believes that all press is good press, and that any day that they mention him is a good day. Bragman claims that Trump has no idea as to what is actually going on in the world. Bragman claims that Trump is racist and xenophobic with his comments, and that these comments do not come off as brash, but much worse. Bragman claims that Trump should focus on his brands and not on being president. Bragman claims that Trump's businesses would have been much more secure if he had not joined the presidential race.

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Segment about the illegal immigrant that killed a woman in San Francisco; played clip of Trump who said Mexico forces illegal immigrants across across the border into the United States, and the killing in San Francisco vindicates his view; played a clip of Rick Perry saying that Washington did not do it's Constitutional duty by leaving the border with Mexico unsecured; Doocy said it is well documented that some illegal immigrants are violent criminals, just as Trump said, yet some people still think he doesn't belong in the race; played a clip of a man who's son was killed by an illegal immigrant supporting Trump's comments on illegal immigrants; Hasselbeck said HRC supported sanctuary cities back in 2008; Hasselbleck said HRC decided to "play victim" in her first interview yesterday; played a clip of HRC's interview where she said questions about her trustworthiness were attacks from the right; Kilmeade quoted HRC saying she had no obligation to release the emails that she did, and criticized HRC for joking about the matter; Kilmeade quoted Trey Gowdy who said HRC did have a statutory duty to preserve her records, and to be cooperative, neither of which she has done; Hasselbeck said 6 out of 10 Americans don't trust HRC, which will be a problem for her going into 2016; Doocy said HRC's 2 problems are that people don't trust her, and Bernie Sanders is whipping up enthusiasm while she is not; quoted journalists who said HRC is having an excitement problem. Interview with Carly Fiorina; played a clip of HRC criticizing Republicans for their stances on immigration; Hasselbeck said HRC apparently wanted to lump all Republicans together with Donald Trump on immigration; Carly Fiorina said HRC comments were "vintage" Clinton, and that she was wrong to equate not supporting a pathway to citizenship with being against illegal immigrants; Fiorina said HRC is just using the same old Democratic playbook, using "identity politics" to pit one group against another; Fiorina said HRC accepted no accountability for anything, was not asked a single question about her time at the State Department, and blamed the vast right-wing conspiracy for everything; Fiorina said sanctuary cities are a "travesty of our justice system," but that Republicans allowed them go on in their states as well; Fiorina said Americans are tired of a professional political class who only talks about solving problems; Fiorina said Federal immigration laws need to be enforced in all cities in the United States; Hasselbeck played a clip of HRC saying she did not have an obligation to turn over any of her emails, but did nonetheless so that people could see what she was doing behind the scenes at the State Department; Fiorina said HRC's comments about her emails, and her Foundation, show HRC doesn't recognize her various conflicts of interest; Fiorina said the media won't ask her questions about her State Department days, yet she should explain why she

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called Bashar Al-Assad a reformer, or why a “gimmicky” red button would reign in Vladimir Putin, why she declared victory in Iraq for 2011, and what really happened in Benghazi.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* Panel discussion about HRC and her CNN interview. Said there was a tonal problem and she comes across as not wanting to be asked these tough questions, which was more of a problem than the substance (the accuracy or inaccuracy of her answers). They said she needs to have a manner with the press that when you're asked the questions that doesn't across as so defensive or so irritated by the fact that you're being asked tough questions. Back to HRC’s CNN interview. Panelist Harold Ford agreed that HRC was being attacked by Republicans but there was balance. Noted HRC has several polls now that suggest she has a problem with trust. Richard Hass said her line that everything she did was permitted by law or regulation sounded like an accountant. He said it’s hard to watch and not be struck by the irony that she deleted the emails so no one would talk about them. She’s on the defense rather than the offense of personal questions. Joe Scarborough asked isn't it true the Obama administration themselves said what she did was not in fact permitted by their guidelines and regulations? Jonathan Capehart said he’s never been clear on the State Department law and what law HRC supposedly broke and said HRC was the only former Sec of State who sent in her documentation. Willie Geist read the regulation out loud. Joe Scarborough says HRC said any emails she sent to the State Department are saved but what about emails sent to Sidney Blumenthal, etc. those weren’t saved. Said HRC turned over what she wanted to turn over and destroyed the rest and isn’t anywhere near adhering to the regulations. Joe kept repeating that she didn’t have good answers and doesn’t tell the truth. He said her campaign needs to figure out a smart way to get it behind her so she can start talking about the issues. Noted HRC is still beating every Republican head-to-head in every battleground state and the purpose is to win the presidency so if she does, then she prevailed. Said HRC did not tell the truth about is saying that people trust her. Pointed out that every job she’s had she’s earned their trust because of her performance. The panel said this issue does not have an impact with voters that it may have with some of the panel. Joe Scarborough said the specifics don’t matter to the voters but the slipperiness does stick and that’s why Sanders who goes out and tells it like it is does. she doesn't look totally comfortable answering the questions. she doesn't look as if she wants to be on the stage answering the questions. but that's separate from whether or not this exercise she’s engaged in which is to win the presidency, Americans aren’t going to prevent her from reaching the White House. Joe Scarborough just wants the Clintons to come out and say “I screwed up” without the press having to drag it out of them. Willie Geist says she believes in her heart that she didn’t do anything wrong. On HRC, Chuck Todd said on the email questions, she was more forthcoming and showed remorse in the press conference and she was extra defiant on the issue. She was amazingly prepared on Trump and immigration and Jeb Bush. Scott Wallker is going to announce an RV tour through Iowa which is a big contrast to HRC’s Scooby Van.

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From: "Fernandez, Jose W." <JFernandez@gibsondunn.com>
To: "'John Podesta' (john.podesta@gmail.com)" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/17/2015 4:12:29 PM
Subject: Helping with the Campaign

John,

It was good to talk to you this afternoon, and I appreciate your taking the time to call. As I mentioned, I would like to do all I can to support Secretary Clinton, and would welcome your advice and help in steering me to the right persons in the campaign.

Below is a summary of the issues I have been working on since I left State nearly 18 months ago, and suggestions for a couple of areas where I could perhaps be of use.

ISSUES

Since coming back from Washington, I have focused my public policy work on the following three issues:

(a) Foreign Policy: My professional career has mostly involved the emerging markets, and while in DC most of my work had to do with Latin America, MENA and Africa. Since coming back I have written and spoken at many conferences involving foreign policy, with an emphasis on the intersection of business and development. For example, I published an article in *Foreign Affairs* on the global infrastructure boom and why it is important for strategic reasons that US companies become more active in helping countries build roads, energy plants, water systems, etc. The article was well received and think tanks such as CSIS had me speak on the subject. *Foreign Affairs* recently published another of my articles, this time on the Cuba opening. *Americas Quarterly*, the publication of the Council of the Americas, ran a long piece that suggested an approach to Latin America based on economic development, poverty reduction and social inclusion. I was also invited by the State Department to speak on Middle East issues, and was the keynote speaker on the Arab Spring at the NUSACC annual forum. In the next couple of weeks I will be the keynote speaker at a US-Spain business forum in Madrid, and at the inauguration of the UC San Diego School of Public Policy and Strategy, and in both cases will speak on business and foreign policy topics. I am also on the board of directors of Iberdrola SA, a Spanish utility which is the largest electricity provider in the Northeastern United States, and the largest renewable energy company in the world (2nd largest in the US), so I can talk energy security.

(b) Immigration. I have worked and spoken on this issue since before the Obama Administration and have continued to do since coming back from DC, both at conferences and in the media. The point I try to make is that all sides recognize that any solution must include a combination of border security and a path to regularization, but that the political noise is keeping us from reaching a common-sense compromise. Demonizing immigrants cuts against our values. I have also pointed out that there is plenty of research from both the left and the right showing the economic benefits of immigration reform. As an immigrant myself, this issue is personal to me.

(c) Latino Voting. During the 2014 elections I was a regular guest on Spanish-language TV and radio on the subject of voting restrictions imposed by some states, and also –importantly—on the need for Latinos to vote. Using some of the materials prepared by CAP, I pointed out that while the achievements of this Administration in the areas of health care, immigration relief and job growth have benefited Latinos more than any other demographic, by voting less than just about any other group Hispanics abandon those who have fought for our rights and leave the door open for opponents who would roll back these gains. Sometimes I have summarized my point by concluding with the slogan "Vota o Calla" ("Vote or Shut Up"), which (somewhat to my surprise) often works.

MEDIA

Almost every week, I am interviewed on the above subjects on radio and TV, mostly in Spanish-language media.

(a) Radio: In Miami I appear every two weeks on the most conservative and "Cuban" of the radio stations ("*La Cubanisima*", owned by Univision) to speak about Latin America, most recently on the Cuba sanctions liberalization. I am told I am the only Democrat regularly featured. I have also made many appearances on another Miami station, *Radio Actualidad*, which is geared to non-Cuban Latinos. I have also gone on many other radio stations around the U.S., both English (including NPR) and Spanish-speaking, to talk about economics and international trade topics.

(b) Television: I am a regular guest on issues of immigration, voting rights and foreign policy on *NTN24*, a Colombian-owned TV station that targets both US Latinos and Latin America. Jorge Ramos has invited me to both his Sunday talk show *Al Punto* and in the new station *Fusion,* to speak about Latino voting as well as foreign policy. I have also spoken on these topics on Telemundo, Bloomberg and CNN. And starting next month, I will become a weekly commentator for *TV Azteca*, which is a network geared to Mexican-American communities in California and the Southwest.

I have clips for most of these appearances and can forward them to the person you suggest.

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SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN

If the campaign feels that I can be useful, I would offer to contribute by:

(a) Formulating policy and position papers: In 2008 I helped to prepare position papers and daily responses to potential press questions for candidate Obama. This time I would again be willing to write on issues of foreign policy (with an emphasis on Latin America and MENA), economics, energy and business.

(b) Outreach to the business community: My professional career has been as a business lawyer. At the State Department one of my tasks was to advocate for US companies abroad and to encourage foreign investment in the US. I think I could be a credible interlocutor to help with Secretary Clinton's outreach to business.

(c) Surrogate Work with Latinos: My experience with the Hispanic community and appearances on Spanish and English-language media geared to Hispanics, outlined above, could help communicate the message to Latino voters and provide feedback to the campaign.

(d) Help with campaign in Florida, Southwestern US, and New Hampshire: I am familiar with the Hispanic communities that will be critical in South Florida, California and the Southwest. I also know New Hampshire well: I went to Dartmouth, served on its Board of Trustees for 8 years (then-governor Shaheen was *ex officio*), and helped a bit with the recent campaigns for Sen. Shaheen and Congresswoman (and classmate) Annie Kuster.

Of course, I am also prepared to help with fundraising by tapping my network, and participating in the outreach to business, lawyers, Hispanics, and other potential contributors.

John, thanks again for taking the time to speak during what must be a very hectic period. Please count on me for full support within the confines of my day job. I look forward to your suggestions on what I can do to help. In addition to the office number below, please feel free to call my cell number (917-648-4951) at any time.

All the best, Jose

Jose W. Fernandez

GIBSON DUNN

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166-0193
Tel +1 212.351.2376 • Fax +1 212.351.6276
JFernandez@gibsondunn.com • www.gibsondunn.com

This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <milia.fisher@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/16/2015 2:24:06 PM
Subject: Logistics for Tomorrow @HQ

Hi John- Here's the logistics for tomorrow:

HQ Address:
300 Cadman Plaza West
Brooklyn, NY
11th Floor
-- Elizabeth Gramling will meet you in the lobby to give you need keycard access--

Subway Directions:
From Penn Station:
Take **[2,3]** downtown-- get off **Borough Hall**
Walk north along Cadman Plaza W and you'll see the building on your left. Grassy park across the street on your right.
(walking directions and street view attached)

Other close subway stops, FYI:
[4,5] Borough Hall
[N,R] Court St

HQ Contact:
Elizabeth (Liz) Gramling
egramling@hillaryclinton.com
Cell: **202-834-6849**

Confirmed tonight that Elizabeth will meet you downstairs in the lobby around 10:05 (assuming approx 20 mins in transit from Penn Station-- although it's probably a little longer).

Marissa Astor (Robby's Assist) is another contact if you need it:
mastor@hillaryclinton.com
Cell: 301-613-3675

Meetings/Calls:

Marissa will come find you to make sure you know where to go for each of these meetings, and calls if they're taking them in a conference room-

12:00-1:00pm: standing political meeting
1:30-2:39pm: finance roadshow training meeting
2:30-3:00pm: HRC call
3:30-4:00pm: HOLD: (if it works) Call with Jose Fernandez
4:00-6:00pm: HRC scheduling meeting

My timing:
I hope to be in around 5:00pm if not earlier. I'll send you an update with precise timing. If for some reason I'm later than that and I miss you I'll plan on seeing you at the office Saturday around 8am. Feel free to call at any point!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Fernandez, Jose W." <JFernandez@gibsondunn.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/29/2015 7:06:20 PM
Subject: Meeting

Hi John, I trust you are getting a brief rest after a job well done. Thanks no doubt to your recommendation I have joined the CAP board of trustees, which I'm finding extremely rewarding.

I'm writing because I'm planning to be in DC on Thursday April 9th and was hoping to have the chance to meet with you. Would you be free that day for bkfast, lunch or just coffee?---Best, Jose

_____
This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.
_____

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From: "Angel Urena" <aurena@hillaryclinton.com>
To:
Date: 5/19/2008 4:55:52 AM
Subject: Puerto Rico Clips

Puerto Rico Clips
Monday, May 19, 2008

Florida "*boricuas*" feel disenfranchised *The San Juan Star*
The San Juan Star reports today in a front page article that **Clinton's** Puerto Rican supporters in Florida are urging relatives in the Island to vote for her in the June 1 primary because they feel disenfranchised. "We are not willing to be disenfranchised. We do not want 50 percent or 75 percent, but 100 percent of the votes counted," said Jose Fernandez, head of the Orlando of the Hispanic Democratic Caucus.

Obama's Symbolic Claim *El Nuevo Día*
http://www.elnuevodia.com/diario/noticia/mundiales/noticias/reclamo_simbolico_de_obama/406933
El Nuevo Día reports today (World Affairs lead Story) that Barack Obama will symbolically claim the Democratic Presidential nomination after tomorrow's KY and OR primary. Obama will be in Iowa -- which to most political analysts signals that he has begun his national campaign against Republican Candidate John McCain. Regardless, **Sen. Clinton** promised on Sunday to improve Puerto Rico's security if elected President through a crime reduction strategy (which includes a greater number of police on the streets and a greater cooperation between the Justice Dept and certain communities in the Island. Puerto Rico's 55 delegates represent one of the last chances for her to take the lead. After OR and KY, Obama will need less than 100 votes to clinch the 2,025 mark.

Frictions rise as Primary nears *El Nuevo Día*
http://www.elnuevodia.com/diario/noticia/politica/noticias/crecen_las_fricciones_al_acercarse_la_primaria/406843
El Nuevo Día reports today (Politics section) that friction between the **Clinton** and Obama local camps started to rise yesterday on the possibility that the Democratic Presidential primary might be decided on the Island. Apart from the political attacks both sides brought up who has better proposals and more supports. The **Clinton** campaign struck first when **Roberto Prats** and **Kenneth McClintock** announced an increase in the number of police, in Justice Assistance grants and in drug trafficking monitoring in Puerto Rico an USVI. **McClintock** underlined that Obama has no specific proposals regarding crime in Puerto Rico. The **Clinton** campaign announced its campaign structure. Meanwhile, Eduardo Bhatia, Co-President of the Obama campaign in Puerto Rico, announced the support of Miguel Hernandez-Agosto, former Chairman of the Puerto Rico Democratic Committee.

Clinton Promises more Police and Security in the Island *Primera Hora, El Vocero. The San Juan Star*
http://www.primerahora.com/noticia/politica/noticias/clinton_promete_mas_policias_y_seguridad_en_la_isla/191505
Primera Hora reports today that **Hillary Clinton** will put more police officers in the streets of Puerto Rico if elected President (mentioned programs include: COPS and the Puerto Rico and USVI high-intensity drug trafficking area. **Clinton** quotes on day one readiness and security highlighted on page). ***El Vocero*** and the ***San Juan Star*** also pick up the Spanish language version of the **AP** article**.**

Obama's campaign support rises *Primera Hora, El Vocero. The San Juan Star*
http://www.primerahora.com/noticia/politica/noticias/crece_el_apoyo_a_la_campana_de_obama/191506
Primera Hora reports today that Miguel Hernandez-Agosto, former Chairman of the Puerto Rico Democratic Committee, announced yesterday his support for *Obama*'s Presidential Bid (his remarks centered on foreign policy and Puerto Rican culture). Eduardo Bhatia says that the leadership of the PPD is unequivocally with *Obama.* ***El Vocero and San Juan Star*** **also report the endorsement.**

US Primaries bring NPP and PPD rivals together *The San Juan Star*
The San Juan Star analysis report on the support of members of the NPP and PDP for both **Hillary Clinton** and Barack Obama mentioned leaders on the **Clinton** side: **Roberto Prats, Kenneth McClintock, Jose A. Hernandez Mayoral, Ico Zayas, Mayita Melendez, Damaso Serrano** and **Evelyn Delerme**. On the Obama side: Pedro Pierluisi, Anibal Acevedo-Vila, Eduardo Bhatia, Rafael Hernandez Colon, Juan Eugenio Hernandez Mayoral. Article closes mentioning that Fortuño supports John McCain.

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President

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 2/23/2016 9:57:34 AM
Subject: Fwd: fyi

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gary HIRSHBERG** <GHIRSHBERG@stonyfield.com >
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Subject: fyi
To: John Podesta <John.Podesta@gmail.com >

This is what is going around the activist/progressive network about HRC. See my earlier email. A solid statement in opposition to the Roberts bill and in favor of "consumers' right to know" would go a long way to putting an end to this flank of Bernie's support.

gh

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Michael Hansen" <mhansen@consumer.org >
> **Date:** February 23, 2016 at 1:27:37 PM PST
> **To:** "Arran Stephens" <AStephens@naturespath.com >
> **Cc:** "David Bronner" <allone@drbronner.com >, "jeffrey@seedsofdeception.com " <jeffrey@seedsofdeception.com >, "Rebecca Spector" <RSpector@centerforfoodsafety.org >, "Tara Cook- Littman" <taracook.littman@gmail.com >, "Dave Murphy" <dave@fooddemocracynow.org >, "Ronnie Cummins" <ronnie@organicconsumers.org >, "Ken Cook" <ken@ewg.org >, "Mark Kastel" <kastel@cornucopia.org >, "Paul Schiefer" <paul.schiefer@amys.com >, "Stacie Orell" <stacieorell@gmail.com >, "Steve Crider" <steve.crider@amys.com >, "Andy Kimbrell" <AKimbrell@centerforfoodsafety.org >, "Paul Towers" <ptowers@panna.org >, "Mark Schlosberg" <mschlosberg@fwwatch.org >, "Colin O'Neil" <colin@ewg.org >, "Gary Hirshberg" <GHIRSHBERG@stonyfield.com >, "Alex Beauchamp" <abeauchamp@fwwatch.org >, "Adam Eidinger" <adam@mintwood.com >, "Alexis Baden-Mayer" <alexis@organicconsumers.org >, "Dr Vandana Shiva" <vandana@vandanashiva.com >, "Alisa Gravitz" <alisagravitz@greenamerica.org >, "Arjan Stephens" <arjans@naturespath.com >, "Bill Weiland (PMIDPI-MW)" <bweiland@pmidpi.com >, "Christina Volgyesi" <christina@drbronner.com >, "Christopher Miller" <christopher.miller@benjerry.com>, "T. Cody Swift" <cody@riverstyxfoundation.org >, "Dana Perls" <dperls@foe.org >, "Errol Schweizer (CE CEN)" <errol.schweizer@wholefoods.com >, "miguel robles" <etereas@gmail.com >, "Brent Foster" <foster.brent@ymail.com >, "Gary Ruskin" <gary@usrtk.org >, "George Kimbrell" <GKimbrell@centerforfoodsafety.org >, "Grant Lundberg" <grant@lundberg.com >, "hrnorth@hevanet.com " <hrnorth@hevanet.com >, "Jean Halloran" <jhalloran@consumer.org >, "Jim Leahy" <jim@leahymg.com >, "Julie Norton" <jnorton@skdknick.com >, "John Roulac" <john@nutiva.com >, "Katherine Paul" <katherine@organicconsumers.org >, "Katrina Staves" <katrina@justlabelit.org >, "Kari Hamerschlag" <khamerschlag@foe.org >, "Karen Olick" <kolick@skdknick.com >, "Karen Swift" <kswifta@gmail.com >, "Lisa Archer" <larcher@foe.org >, "Lisa Stokke" <lisa@fooddemocracynow.org >, "mark@genatural.com " <mark@genatural.com >, "Matthew Dillon" <mdillon@clifbar.com >, "Monika Heinbaugh (PMIDPI-RM)" <mheinbaugh@pmidpi.com >, "Michael Sligh" <msligh@rafiusa.org >, "Paul Schiefer" <paulschiefer@amyskitchen.net >, "Manimala" <plarry@labelgmos.org >, "Sarah Alexander" <salexander@fwwatch.org >, "Joe Sandler" <sandler@sandlerreiff.com >, "Steve Blackledge" <sblackledge@pirg.org >, "Stacy Malkan" <stacy@safecosmetics.org >, "Steve Crider" <stevecrider@amyskitchen.net >, "Steve A. Rye" <stever@mercola.com >, "Timothy Marvin" <tmarvin@consumer.org >, "Paul Wallace" <wallacep333@gmail.com >, "will@thewaronbugsbook.com " <will@thewaronbugsbook.com >, "Scott Faber" <sfaber@ewg.org >, "Paige Richardson" <paigeme@mac.com >, "April Israel" <AIsrael@centerforfoodsafety.org >
> **Subject: Re: Sanders letter graphic & message**

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I don't know if you can put much faith in Hillary's public statements about GE labeling. Back in 2008, I believe both Hillary and Barack said they supported mandatory labeling--I believe at events in Iowa, but Dave Murphy would know about that. In spite of this, no movement toward labeling. During both the Clinton and Obama administrations, I can say that the US vehemently opposed mandatory labeling and tried to block any international consensus on this topic at Codex. In the Obama administration, the US took the position that any mention of GMO on a label was inherently false and misleading because it implied a difference where there was none. Even if Hillary now said she supported labeling, that would probably be because Sanders was saying. Would I trust her to push for mandatory labeling if she became president? No. Sanders, on the other hand, has consistently supported labeling and, back in the day, was the one getting GAO to do investigations into conflicts on interest and other things vis-a-vis the rbGH debate. He clearing supported the rbGH labeling bill that passed in VT. Gov. Dean was against that bill and his AG did not properly support it, which is why it was overturned by the US Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit back in 1996.

Just my 2 cents. Would sure like to hear if anyone has evidence of Hillary recently saying she supports mandatory labeling.

Best,

Michael
Michael Hansen, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Consumers Union
101 Truman Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10703
o: 914-378-2452
c: 917-774-3801

On Tue, Feb 23, 2016 at 3:58 PM, Arran Stephens <AStephens@naturespath.com > wrote:

> That's great news about Bernie. I've also heard from an insider that Hillary has expressed verbal support for mandatory GMO labeling (really surprised me!), even though she has made very pro-GMO statements. Can anyone corroborate Hillary's position on Mandatory GMO labeling?
>
> Arran
>
> ---
>
> **From:** David Bronner <allone@drbronner.com >
> **Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9:25 AM
> **To:** Jeffery Smith <jeffrey@seedsofdeception.com >, 'Rebecca Spector' <RSpector@CenterforFoodSafety.org >, 'Tara Cook- Littman' <taracook.littman@gmail.com >, Dave Murphy <dave@fooddemocracynow.org >, Ronnie Cummins <ronnie@organicconsumers.org >, Ken Cook <ken@ewg.org >, Mark Kastel <kastel@cornucopia.org >, 'Paul Schiefer' <paul.schiefer@amys.com >, 'Stacie Orell' <stacieorell@gmail.com >, 'Steve Crider' <steve.crider@amys.com >, Andy Kimbrell <akimbrell@CenterforFoodSafety.org >, Paul Towers <ptowers@panna.org >, Mark Schlosberg <mschlosberg@fwwatch.org >, 'Colin O'Neil' <colin@ewg.org >, Gary Hirshberg <ghirshberg@stonyfield.com >, 'Alex Beauchamp' <abeauchamp@fwwatch.org >, 'Adam Eidinger' <adam@mintwood.com >, 'Alexis Baden-Mayer' <alexis@organicconsumers.org >, 'Dr Vandana Shiva' <vandana@vandanashiva.com >, 'Alisa Gravitz' <alisagravitz@greenamerica.org >, Arjan Stephens <arjans@naturespath.com >, Arran Stephens <astephens@naturespath.com >, "'Bill Weiland (PMIDPI-MW)'" <bweiland@pmidpi.com >, Christina Volgyesi <christina@drbronner.com >, 'Christopher Miller' <christopher.miller@benjerry.com >, "'T. Cody Swift'" <cody@rivers tyxfoundation.org >, 'Dana Perls' <dperls@foe.org >, Errol Schweizer <Errol.Schweizer@wholefoods.com >, 'miguel robles' <etereas@gmail.com >, 'Brent Foster' <foster.brent@ymail.com >, 'Gary Ruskin' <gary@usrtk.org >, 'George Kimbrell' <GKimbrell@CenterforFoodSafety.org >, Grant Lundberg <grant@lundberg.com >, "hrnorth@hevanet.com " <hrnorth@hevanet.com >, 'Jean Halloran' <jhalloran@consumer.org >, 'Jim Leahy' <jim@leahymg.com >, 'Julie Norton' <jnorton@skdknick.com >, 'John Roulac' <john@nutiva.com >, 'Katherine Paul' <katherine@organicconsumers.org >, 'Katrina Staves' <katrina@justlabelit.org >, 'Kari Hamerschlag' <khamerschlag@foe.org >, 'Karen Olick' <kolick@skdknick.com >, 'Karen Swift' <kswifta@gmail.com >, 'Lisa Archer' <larcher@foe.org >, Lisa Stokke <lisa@fooddemocracynow.org >, Mark Squire <mark@genatural.com >, 'Matthew Dillon' <mdillon@clifbar.com >, "'Hansen Michael Ph.D.'" <mhansen@consumer.org >, "'Monika Heinbaugh (PMIDPI-RM)'" <mheinbaugh@pmidpi.com >, 'Michael Sligh' <msligh@rafiusa.org >, 'Paul Schiefer' <paulschiefer@amyskitchen.net >, Pamm Larry <plarry@labelgmos.org >, 'Sarah Alexander' <salexander@fwwatch.org >, Joe Sandler <sandler@sandlerreiff.com >, 'Steve Blackledge' <sblackledge@pirg.org >, 'Stacy Malkan' <stacy@safecosmetics.org >, 'Steve Crider' <stevecrider@amyskitchen.net >, "'Steve A. Rye'" <stever@mercola.com >, 'Timothy Marvin' <tmarvin@consumer.org >, 'Paul Wallace' <wallacep333@gmail.com >,

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"will@thewaronbugsbook.com " <will@thewaronbugsbook.com >, 'Scott Faber' <sfaber@ewg.org >, 'Paige Richardson' <paigeme@mac.com >
Cc: April Israel <AIsrael@CenterforFoodSafety.org >

Subject: RE: Sanders letter graphic & message

Sanders standing strong and sounding tough in this morning's Politico ttp://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-agriculture

Read about our commitment to you and Spaceship Earth in our All-One Report .

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Gary HIRSHBERG" <GHIRSHBERG@Stonyfield.com>
To: "John Podesta" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/23/2016 2:40:02 PM
Subject: fyi

This is what is going around the activist/progressive network about HRC. See my earlier email. A solid statement in opposition to the Roberts bill and in favor of "consumers' right to know" would go a long way to putting an end to this flank of Bernie's support.

gh

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Michael Hansen" <mhansen@consumer.org >
Date: February 23, 2016 at 1:27:37 PM PST
To: "Arran Stephens" <AStephens@naturespath.com >
Cc: "David Bronner" <allone@drbronner.com >, "jeffrey@seedsofdeception.com " <jeffrey@seedsofdeception.com >, "Rebecca Spector" <RSpector@centerforfoodsafety.org >, "Tara Cook- Littman" <taracook.littman@gmail.com >, "Dave Murphy" <dave@fooddemocracynow.org >, "Ronnie Cummins" <ronnie@organicconsumers.org >, "Ken Cook" <ken@ewg.org >, "Mark Kastel" <kastel@cornucopia.org >, "Paul Schiefer" <paul.schiefer@amys.com >, "Stacie Orell" <stacieorell@gmail.com >, "Steve Crider" <steve.crider@amys.com >, "Andy Kimbrell" <AKimbrell@centerforfoodsafety.org >, "Paul Towers" <ptowers@panna.org >, "Mark Schlosberg" <mschlosberg@fwwatch.org >, "Colin O'Neil" <colin@ewg.org >, "Gary Hirshberg" <GHIRSHBERG@stonyfield.com >, "Alex Beauchamp" <abeauchamp@fwwatch.org >, "Adam Eidinger" <adam@mintwood.com >, "Alexis Baden-Mayer" <alexis@organicconsumers.org >, "Dr Vandana Shiva" <vandana@vandanashiva.com >, "Alisa Gravitz" <alisagravitz@greenamerica.org >, "Arjan Stephens" <arjans@naturespath.com >, "Bill Weiland (PMIDPI-MW)" <bweiland@pmidpi.com >, "Christina Volgyesi" <christina@drbronner.com >, "Christopher Miller" <christopher.miller@benjerry.com >, "T. Cody Swift" <cody@riverstyxfoundation.org >, "Dana Perls" <dperls@foe.org >, "Errol Schweizer (CE CEN)" <errol.schweizer@wholefoods.com >, "miguel robles" <etereas@gmail.com >, "Brent Foster" <foster.brent@ymail.com >, "Gary Ruskin" <gary@usrtk.org >, "George Kimbrell" <GKimbrell@centerforfoodsafety.org >, "Grant Lundberg" <grant@lundberg.com >, "hrnorth@hevanet.com " <hrnorth@hevanet.com >, "Jean Halloran" <jhalloran@consumer.org >, "Jim Leahy" <jim@leahymg.com >, "Julie Norton" <jnorton@skdknick.com >, "John Roulac" <john@nutiva.com >, "Katherine Paul" <katherine@organicconsumers.org >, "Katrina Staves" <katrina@justlabelit.org >, "Kari Hamerschlag" <khamerschlag@foe.org >, "Karen Olick" <kolick@skdknick.com >, "Karen Swift" <kswifta@gmail.com >, "Lisa Archer" <larcher@foe.org >, "Lisa Stokke" <lisa@fooddemocracynow.org >, "mark@genatural.com " <mark@genatural.com >, "Matthew Dillon" <mdillon@clifbar.com >, "Monika Heinbaugh (PMIDPI-RM)" <mheinbaugh@pmidpi.com >, "Michael Sligh" <msligh@rafiusa.org >, "Paul Schiefer" <paulschiefer@amyskitchen.net >, "Manimala" <plarry@labelgmos.org >, "Sarah Alexander" <salexander@fwwatch.org >, "Joe Sandler" <sandler@sandlerreiff.com >, "Steve Blackledge" <sblackledge@pirg.org >, "Stacy Malkan" <stacy@safecosmetics.org >, "Steve Crider" <stevecrider@amyskitchen.net >, "Steve A. Rye" <stever@mercola.com >, "Timothy Marvin" <tmarvin@consumer.org >, "Paul Wallace" <wallacep333@gmail.com >, "will@thewaronbugsbook.com " <will@thewaronbugsbook.com >, "Scott Faber" <sfaber@ewg.org >, "Paige Richardson" <paigeme@mac.com >, "April Israel" <AIsrael@centerforfoodsafety.org >
Subject: Re: Sanders letter graphic & message

I don't know if you can put much faith in Hillary's public statements about GE labeling. Back in 2008, I believe both Hillary and Barack said they supported mandatory labeling--I believe at events in Iowa, but Dave Murphy would know about that. In spite of this, no movement toward labeling. During both the Clinton and Obama administrations, I can say that the US vehemently opposed mandatory labeling and tried to block any international consensus on this topic at Codex. In the Obama administration, the US took the position that any mention of GMO on a label was inherently false and misleading because it implied a difference where there was none. Even if Hillary now said she supported labeling, that would probably be

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because Sanders was saying. Would I trust her to push for mandatory labeling if she became president? No. Sanders, on the other hand, has consistently supported labeling and, back in the day, was the one getting GAO to do investigations into conflicts on interest and other things vis-a-vis the rbGH debate. He clearing supported the rbGH labeling bill that passed in VT. Gov. Dean was against that bill and his AG did not properly support it, which is why it was overturned by the US Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit back in 1996.

Just my 2 cents. Would sure like to hear if anyone has evidence of Hillary recently saying she supports mandatory labeling.

Best,

Michael
Michael Hansen, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Consumers Union
101 Truman Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10703
o: 914-378-2452
c: 917-774-3801

On Tue, Feb 23, 2016 at 3:58 PM, Arran Stephens <AStephens@naturespath.com > wrote:

> That's great news about Bernie. I've also heard from an insider that Hillary has expressed verbal support for mandatory GMO labeling (really surprised me!), even though she has made very pro-GMO statements. Can anyone corroborate Hillary's position on Mandatory GMO labeling?
>
> Arran
>
> ---
>
> **From:** David Bronner <allone@drbronner.com >
> **Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9:25 AM
> **To:** Jeffery Smith <jeffrey@seedsofdeception.com >, 'Rebecca Spector' <RSpector@CenterforFoodSafety.org >, 'Tara Cook- Littman' <taracook.littman@gmail.com >, Dave Murphy <dave@fooddemocracynow.org >, Ronnie Cummins <ronnie@organicconsumers.org >, Ken Cook <ken@ewg.org >, Mark Kastel <kastel@cornucopia.org >, 'Paul Schiefer' <paul.schiefer@amys.com >, 'Stacie Orell' <stacieorell@gmail.com >, 'Steve Crider' <steve.crider@amys.com >, Andy Kimbrell <akimbrell@CenterforFoodSafety.org >, Paul Towers <ptowers@panna.org >, Mark Schlosberg <mschlosberg@fwwatch.org >, 'Colin O'Neil' <colin@ewg.org >, Gary Hirshberg <ghirshberg@stonyfield.com >, 'Alex Beauchamp' <abeauchamp@fwwatch.org >, 'Adam Eidinger' <adam@mintwood.com >, 'Alexis Baden-Mayer' <alexis@organicconsumers.org >, 'Dr Vandana Shiva' <vandana@vandanashiva.com >, 'Alisa Gravitz' <alisagravitz@greenamerica.org >, Arjan Stephens <arjans@naturespath.com >, Arran Stephens <astephens@naturespath.com >, "'Bill Weiland (PMIDPI-MW)'" <bweiland@pmidpi.com >, Christina Volgyesi <christina@drbronner.com >, 'Christopher Miller' <christopher.miller@benjerry.com >, "'T. Cody Swift'" <cody@rivers tyxfoundation.org >, 'Dana Perls' <dperls@foe.org >, Errol Schweizer <Errol.Schweizer@wholefoods.com >, 'miguel robles' <etereas@gmail.com >, 'Brent Foster' <foster.brent@ymail.com >, 'Gary Ruskin' <gary@usrtk.org >, 'George Kimbrell' <GKimbrell@CenterforFoodSafety.org >, Grant Lundberg <grant@lundberg.com >, "hrnorth@hevanet.com " <hrnorth@hevanet.com >, 'Jean Halloran' <jhalloran@consumer.org >, 'Jim Leahy' <jim@leahymg.com >, 'Julie Norton' <jnorton@skdknick.com >, 'John Roulac' <john@nutiva.com >, 'Katherine Paul' <katherine@organicconsumers.org >, 'Katrina Staves' <katrina@justlabelit.org >, 'Kari Hamerschlag' <khamerschlag@foe.org >, 'Karen Olick' <kolick@skdknick.com >, 'Karen Swift' <kswifta@gmail.com >, 'Lisa Archer' <larcher@foe.org >, Lisa Stokke <lisa@fooddemocracynow.org >, Mark Squire <mark@genatural.com >, 'Matthew Dillon' <mdillon@clifbar.com >, "'Hansen Michael Ph.D.'" <mhansen@consumer.org >, "'Monika Heinbaugh (PMIDPI-RM)'" <mheinbaugh@pmidpi.com >, 'Michael Sligh' <msligh@rafiusa.org >, 'Paul Schiefer' <paulschiefer@amyskitchen.net >, Pamm Larry <plarry@labelgmos.org >, 'Sarah Alexander' <salexander@fwwatch.org >, Joe Sandler <sandler@sandlerreiff.com >, 'Steve Blackledge' <sblackledge@pirg.org >, 'Stacy Malkan' <stacy@safecosmetics.org >, 'Steve Crider' <stevecrider@amyskitchen.net >, "'Steve A. Rye'" <stever@mercola.com >, 'Timothy Marvin' <tmarvin@consumer.org >, 'Paul Wallace' <wallacep333@gmail.com >, "will@thewaronbugsbook.com " <will@thewaronbugsbook.com >, 'Scott Faber' <sfaber@ewg.org >, 'Paige Richardson' <paigeme@mac.com >
> **Cc:** April Israel <AIsrael@CenterforFoodSafety.org >
>
> **Subject:** RE: Sanders letter graphic & message
>
> Sanders standing strong and sounding tough in this morning's Politico http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-agriculture

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Read about our commitment to you and Spaceship Earth in our All-One Report .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Fernandez, Jose W." <JFernandez@gibsondunn.com>
"Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
Date: 3/30/2015 3:43:45 AM
Subject: Re: Meeting

I'm in China. Let you know later in the week?

On Mar 29, 2015 10:06 PM, "Fernandez, Jose W." <JFernandez@gibsondunn.com > wrote:

> Hi John, I trust you are getting a brief rest after a job well done. Thanks no doubt to your recommendation I have joined the CAP board of trustees, which I'm finding extremely rewarding.
>
> I'm writing because I'm planning to be in DC on Thursday April 9th and was hoping to have the chance to meet with you. Would you be free that day for bkfast, lunch or just coffee?---Best, Jose
>
> _____
> This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.
> _____

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From: "Fernandez, Jose W." <JFernandez@gibsondunn.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/30/2015 9:41:23 AM
Subject: RE: Meeting

Thanks. Later in the week is fine; I also responded to Eryn earlier today that I might be able to move my trip one day before or one day afterwards if that helped with scheduling. Enjoy Beijing!
Jose W. Fernandez

GIBSON DUNN

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166-0193
Tel +1 212.351.2376 • Fax +1 212.351.6276
JFernandez@gibsondunn.com • www.gibsondunn.com

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:44 AM
To: Fernandez, Jose W.; Eryn Sepp
Subject: Re: Meeting

I'm in China. Let you know later in the week?

On Mar 29, 2015 10:06 PM, "Fernandez, Jose W." <JFernandez@gibsondunn.com > wrote:
Hi John, I trust you are getting a brief rest after a job well done. Thanks no doubt to your recommendation I have joined the CAP board of trustees, which I'm finding extremely rewarding.

I'm writing because I'm planning to be in DC on Thursday April 9th and was hoping to have the chance to meet with you. Would you be free that day for bkfast, lunch or just coffee?---Best, Jose

This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.

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From:
To:
Date: 10/17/2016 3:58:23 PM
Subject:

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From: "Erika Gudmundson" <erika@chelseaoffice.com>
To: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/22/2016 8:12:02 AM
Subject: Re: CVC Policy Call
Attachments: CVC background_012115 clean.docx

Yes! My apologies

From: Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Friday, January 22, 2016 at 10:05 AM
To: Erika Gudmundson <erika@chelseaoffice.com >
Cc: "john.podesta@gmail.com " <john.podesta@gmail.com >, "mharris@hillaryclinton.com " <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: CVC Policy Call

thanks Erika!

could you send us the Q&A doc too ?

thx,
Sara

On Fri, Jan 22, 2016 at 10:01 AM, Erika Gudmundson <erika@chelseaoffice.com > wrote:

> Hi John and Maya,
>
> Thank you for being available to hop on the phone with Chelsea this afternoon at 4pm. Much appreciated!
>
> We've let her know this call is similar to the ones her dad has done and is meant as a quick update on policies and sort of a substantive briefing, since so much has changed in the last few weeks.
>
> She has a modified version of the q&a which I worked on with Kristina C (so it's in her voice and substantively makes sense for her, as opposed to her mom).
>
> She's pretty well read on the policies of course but because things have changed since Sanders has released his pay fors and health care plan - and the tone has changed - would be great to highlight for her where contrasts should be made and where we want to ease based on how things have changed.
>
> ON that: her format is town hall style. She gets asked at every event "what's the difference between Sanders and your mom on XYZ" or "why should we vote for your mom over Sanders" and that's where she's made contrasts previously. She will make contrasts when asked to do so, so suggesting staying in affirmative isn't going to work. That said, if there are good ones you want her to make, it'd be great to communicate that here. If there are ones we are staying away from, it'd be helpful to explain that as well (so long as the answer isn't that you don't want her to be substantive because she will be!)
>
> Notably, we don't want this call to be any kind of course correction or critical because really her q&a sessions are going great! But I do want to give her an opportunity to hear from you on where policy contrasts or distinctions are helpful as well as anything sensitive or big that's changed in the last few weeks since she started campaigning for her mom.
>
> I am not sure how WJC's have gone but doubt she'll pepper you with questions off the bat, so may be most helpful to run through the top policies you want to highlight in closing weeks.
>
> Sorry for the long email! Let me know if you have any questions
>
> Erika
>
>
>
> **CVC Prep Call**

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Scheduled: Friday, Jan 22, 2016 from 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Location: 1(718) 839-6957 // no pin
Invitees: John Podesta, slatham@hillaryclinton.com, mfisher@hillaryclinton.com, mharris@hillaryclinton.com, erika@chelseaoffice.com, awoolheater@hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jim Margolis" <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/6/2015 7:58:19 AM
Subject: guidance for Dan

I am taking the reins.

You two seem the closest in coming to consensus - so wanted to run by you what I think the definitive guidance to Dan should be for next round of edits because right now he is getting a lot of conflicting advice. And get your reax. I will go to others before giving this to Dan - but wanted to get your early reax.

GUIDANCE

1) reference to Beau Biden- maybe at beginning with discussion of POTUS, FDR, WJC etc.

2) more Dorothy

3) Embrace her belief that everyone has a role to play to contribute to the health of the economy and strength of the country. But make clear that the middle class has borne both the brunt of the Great Recession and bulk of the work to bring us back from the Great Recession and now wealthy and corporations need to step it and do their part.

4) Use John's formulation of unlocking each American's potential unlocks America's potential to build lasting, shared prosperity. (John - I know I dont have this right, please correct me). Make clear that lasting prosperity means that she is going to tackle the problems that has been holding middle class back.

5) Embrace "it's your time" as manifestation of that belief and while it does not need to be a call and response, it needs to be in the draft more.

6) Change the nurse story so it is not so self-congratulatory. In Dan's defense I would note that the nurse was added by Lissa and Jon and they used her as a way to tell the story that progress is hard and takes a long time. I think that is an Obama story, not a HRC story. So Dan was trying to HRC-ize the anecdote but agree it does not work as revised. I dont like the nurse story at all, but others do. So I guess we go back to the way Jon and Lissa had it.

7) Take out the reference to 2008 and renewing America's promise.

8) Jim did not like the "I am not going to quit now. I am going to run for POTUS" formulation bc it will be the line that gets quoted and is too much about her. This is Favreau's formulation and I LOVE it because it ties the Methodist creed to her ambitions. If her true creed is you have to do good all the time, etc....of course she has to keep going and run for POTUS. So perhaps we can edit this to address Jim's concern, but I would not want to lose the concept all together because I think it is the best, most altruistic explanation I have heard for her running.

9) More humor, first woman, ass kicker and coloring her hair.

HEADLINES

Hillary Clinton Promise to Middle Class: It's Your Time

Hillary Clinton Promises to Unlock America's Potential

Hillary Clinton Promises Lasting Prosperity Built By All

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From: "Robert Mook" <robbymook@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/27/2014 4:34:38 AM
Subject: You have a sec to talk today?

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Sara Latham" <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/4/2009 5:31:56 AM
Subject:

Do you need to let Rahm know the timing we agreed?

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 12/2/2015 12:13:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: Georgetown Law Spring 2016 Teaching Schedule
Attachments: Podesta.pdf

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Dominique Brown** <brownd2@law.georgetown.edu >
Date: Wed, Dec 2, 2015 at 12:48 PM
Subject: Georgetown Law Spring 2016 Teaching Schedule
To: "John Podesta (fwd)" <john.podesta@gmail.com >

Dear Professor Podesta,

Attached is your final teaching schedule for Spring 2016, including your room assignment(s).

As always, it is important to take a minute to review the attached form so we can correct any errors right away. Here's a quick guide on what to check for in the attached form:

1. Course title – is it correct?
2. Credits – Correct?
3. Day/time – Correct? Very important to let us know if you had a different understanding of your schedule.
4. Course Requirements:
    a. Courses with an in-class exam will have a specific date in this column along with a letter code for the time the exam will be held. "A" = 9:00 a.m., "B" = 1:30 p.m., "C" = 6:00 p.m., "D" = 10:00 a.m., and "E" = 2:30 p.m.
    b. Take-home exams are noted with the abbreviation "TK".
    c. Writing requirement seminars are noted with the "WR" abbreviation.
    d. Seminars that do not meet the writing requirement are listed as "Paper" seminars.
    e. "SR" means a special requirement other than an exam or paper.

Please contact me immediately (x9352) if there is a problem with your schedule.

In addition, here is a link to the 2015 - 2016 academic calendar, http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/course-registration/academic-calendars.cfm.

Thanks,

Dominique

Dominique Brown | Associate Director, J.D. Academic Services

GEORGETOWN LAW | brownd2@law.georgetown.edu
600 New Jersey Avenue, NW | Washington, D.C. 20001-2075
Office: 202.662.9352 | Fax: 202.662.9489

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/15/2015 4:52:59 AM
Subject: GMF's World Wire | MMF Nominations Open | Grexit | Eastern Mediterranean Gas Papers Out & More

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

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GMF's World Wire

July 15, 2015

Marshall Memorial Nominations Open Today

The Marshall Memorial Fellowship is now accepting nominations for potential fellows from the United States and Europe to embark on 24 days of cultural and policy exchanges across the Atlantic. Potential fellows must meet these guidelines for selection .

APPLY HERE

Expert Analysis on the Greece Debt Crisis

GMF's experts have been examining the causes and consequences of the Greek debt crisis. Read, watch, and listen to their analyses.

READ MORE

Two New Publications on Eastern Mediterranean Gas Projects

Financing Gas Projects in the Eastern Mediterranean and *Egypt: A Market for Natural Gas from Cyprus and Israel?* Explore the gains and risks of funding in the Eastern Med and the export gas market in the region.

READ MORE

Tweet of the Week

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@bjornly :
Reassuring to hear Rep @GregoryMeeks & @EUAmbUS speak about vital importance of the Transatlantic Relationship @gmfus .

RETWEET

Emerging Leaders 2015 Call for Applications

Applications are open to rising leaders who have demonstrated leadership in their sector and are dedicated to strengthening ties across the Atlantic. Read more about the program.

APPLY HERE

Transatlantic Academy Fellowship Applications

The Transatlantic Academy seeks candidates to serve as resident fellows from September 2016 – June 2017, examining the theme "Germany and the United States in the 21st Century."

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Recent & Upcoming Events

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Find an Expert

Manage preferences | Forward email | Unsubscribe | Subscribe

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From: johnson_lo <johnson_lo@mail2000.com.tw>
To:
Date: 12/28/2008 6:18:24 AM
Subject: 2009 --
Attachments: - for2009.ppt

2009 --

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From:	john.podesta@gmail.com
To:	laurasnichols@yahoo.com
Date:	10/29/2008 9:09:12 PM
Subject:	Delivered: Clinton
Attachments:	Attach 1

Your message was delivered to the recipient.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/14/2014 9:06:20 PM
Subject: Re: Update

How about Capitol Hill Classic this Sunday? Hoping the father son thing still on. You still signed up from Phoenix days?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On May 15, 2014, at 1:43 AM, Gabe Podesta <gpodesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> I won't lie--I did wonder if you might be able to make it to Bagram while I'm here. If you can make it here on the 27th we're running a 10k on base for Memorial Day.
>
> On Wed, May 14, 2014 at 9:20 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > All is good. Trying to figure out which senior defense official I can hitch a ride with to come visit you.
> >
> > On May 13, 2014 8:24 AM, "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > The legal office is on the move! We got word late last week that Bagram had room for us so we were forced to abandon our comfortable digs and come to this overcrowded, dirty, marginally dangerous installation. At first it was going to be all of us. Then an hour later we learned that three of the four will be continuing to Qatar--and leaving me in Afghanistan. The plan may change again, however. They are leaving me in a couple days, but it may be for only a week or two before I join them in Qatar (or five months).
> > >
> > > We all came over this morning via helicopter. Since I may only be here for a couple weeks they can't get me into permanent housing yet and thus the three legal guys will share the transient "can." It is a tiny storage container with bunk beds in it. My coworkers, who will leave in a matter of days for Qatar, were kind enough to grab the bottom bunks while I humped their weapon cases into the compound. Then they showed us the legal office. There are two desks. They were kind enough to claim those as well. Odd, considering that I AM STAYING TO WORK HERE!
> > >
> > > I've concluded that this place can bring out the best or the worst in a person. My coworkers have clearly allowed this place to bring out the worst in them and that it is every man for himself. I've decided to go in the opposite direction: I'll get one chance to make a positive contribution here so I'm going to make the most of it. I'm actually glad to be here as I'm surrounded by other people and I can escape my coworkers' constant complaining.
> > >
> > > I should know more about where I'll end up in a couple days (I've been saying that since I got here). Nonetheless, I'll keep you all posted.
> > >
> > > Love and miss you!
> > >
> > > --
> > > Gabe Podesta
>
> --
> Gabe Podesta

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/5/2015 6:41:28 AM
Subject: Mark Pincus email

Mark Pincus' email is mark@zynga.com .

Per Manny. Thanks!

Milia Fisher
(858) 395-1741

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Amanda Renteria" <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Mini Timmaraju" <mtimmaraju@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 9/10/2015 2:28:14 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT: OH and WI Remarks for today

Wonderful!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 10, 2015, at 9:24 PM, Mini Timmaraju <mtimmaraju@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Just left Maria Hamilton, her son and her friend. They were very moved by meeting her and by the speech and want to continue to engage with the campaign.
>
> Maria also did several interviews and made supportive statements.
>
> HRC got thunderous applause when she talked about Dontre.
>
> Will debrief more with LaDavia but wanted to give that quick update.
>
> Mini Timmaraju
> Women's Outreach Director
> Hillary for America
> (832) 452-7038
>
> On Sep 10, 2015, at 12:23 PM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Yes def ok to keep the reference
> > She never wants to look like we are taking political advantage of a tragedy with a family but tone seems right here
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Sep 10, 2015, at 12:58 PM, Mini Timmaraju <mtimmaraju@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > But for Women for Hillary organizing purposes the NH speech + Walker works.
> > >
> > > On Thu, Sep 10, 2015 at 12:56 PM, Mini Timmaraju <mtimmaraju@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > Defer to the larger group on this but flagging- can we keep the reference to the Dontre Hamilton case and his mother? That's going to be important for our local politics here.
> > > >
> > > > On Thu, Sep 10, 2015 at 12:53 PM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > HRC would prefer to use the speech she gave with shaheen. Ohio seemed quite different to her. For WI she wants to use what she used in NH along with the walker contrast.
> > > > > Could we do that?
> > > > >
> > > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > > >
> > > > > On Sep 10, 2015, at 9:07 AM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > > > Hi everyone - re-sending these remarks for today, which we need to finalize ASAP. The Ohio version still has the line about transgender women of color as well as an added line about reforming our criminal justice system, per Karen.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > The Wisconsin event now has two paragraphs on Dontre Hamilton, which mirror the language Congresswoman Moore and Senator Baldwin have been using.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Please send any edits as soon as possible, or let me know if this works.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Thank you!

###

And so is saying loudly and clearly that yes, black lives matter. As a mother and a grandmother, my heart breaks for the family of Dontre Hamilton. And I join Maria Hamilton, Senator Tammy Baldwin, and Congresswoman Gwen Moore in encouraging the Department of Justice to expedite the investigation into Dontre's death.

We need to restore the trust that has been lost between law enforcement and the people they serve. We need to end the violence that has cast a shadow over Milwaukee and too many of our communities. And we need to recognize that the ability of black mothers across this country to raise their children in safety is a women's issue, too.

<2015-09-10 OH Organizing Event 9 am.docx>

<2015-09-10 WI Organizing Event 12 am.docx>

--
Mini Timmaraju
Women's Outreach Director | Hillary for America
mtimmaraju@hillaryclinton.com
832.452.7038

--
Mini Timmaraju
Women's Outreach Director | Hillary for America
mtimmaraju@hillaryclinton.com
832.452.7038

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From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Mary Podesta" <podesta.mary@gmail.com>
Date: 5/24/2014 6:26:52 PM
Subject: Fwd: U around for a brief telephone update

Latest
See below

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: SAin <SAin@ainbanklaw.com<mailto:SAin@ainbanklaw.com>>
Date: May 25, 2014 at 6:42:03 AM GMT+7
To: Leslie` Dach <leslie.dach@outlook.com<mailto:leslie.dach@outlook.com>>
Cc: Tony Podesta <podesta@podesta.com<mailto:podesta@podesta.com>>
Subject: Re: U around for a brief telephone update

She is sitting in the agreement that her lawyers said is fine. Meanwhile Washingtonian is gathering more info. She is acting in a very self destructive manner. It will soon be too late to change the way this is portrayed.

Sanford K. Ain, Esquire
Ain & Bank, P.C.
1900 M Street, N.W. - Suite 600<x-apple-data-detectors://0/0>
Washington<x-apple-data-detectors://0/0>, D.C. 20036-3565
202-530-3300<tel:202-530-3300> Office
202-530-4411<tel:202-530-4411> Facsimile
sain@ainbanklaw.co<mailto:sain@ainbanklaw.com>m
Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

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530-3300<tel:530-3300> as soon as possible. Thank you. Ain & Bank, P.C.

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On May 24, 2014, at 7:26 PM, "Leslie` Dach" <leslie.dach@outlook.com<mailto:leslie.dach@outlook.com>> wrote:

Did tony settle?

On May 20, 2014, at 10:01 AM, "SAin" <SAin@ainbanklaw.com<mailto:SAin@ainbanklaw.com>> wrote:

I can do 8:30

Sanford K. Ain, Esquire
Ain & Bank, P.C.
1900 M Street, N.W. - Suite 600<x-apple-data-detectors://0/0>

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Washington<x-apple-data-detectors://0/0>, D.C. 20036-3565
202-530-3300<tel:202-530-3300> Office
202-530-4411<tel:202-530-4411> Facsimile
sain@ainbanklaw.co<mailto:sain@ainbanklaw.com>m
Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

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530-3300<tel:530-3300> as soon as possible. Thank you. Ain & Bank, P.C.

U.S. TREASURY CIRCULAR 230 NOTICE

Any tax advice contained in this communication (including any
attachments) was not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (a) avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code or by any other applicable tax authority; or (b) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any tax-related matter addressed herein. We provide this disclosure on all outbound e-mails to assure compliance with new standards of professional practice, pursuant to which certain tax advice must satisfy requirements as to form and substance.

On May 20, 2014, at 8:57 AM, "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com<mailto:podesta@podesta.com>> wrote:

I can
Sandy early meet with leslie??

Tony Podesta
Office: 202-879-9300
Cell: 202-352-4645
Podesta@podesta.com<mailto:Podesta@podesta.com>
1001 G St. NW, Suite 1000 West
Washington, DC 20001

----- Original Message -----
From: Leslie` Dach [mailto:leslie.dach@outlook.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 09:47 AM
To: Tony Podesta
Subject: Re: U around for a brief telephone update

Can we do 8 or 830 am?

On May 20, 2014, at 5:13 AM, "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com<mailto:podesta@podesta.com>> wrote:

Any chance u have a half hour on friday to meet with me and sandy to plot june 4 court appearance strategy

Tony Podesta
Office: 202-879-9300
Cell: 202-352-4645
Podesta@podesta.com<mailto:Podesta@podesta.com>
1001 G St. NW, Suite 1000 West
Washington, DC 20001

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/12/2015 4:14:47 AM
Subject: Re: Remarks for OTR Trump Protest

A little after 5:00 vegas time.

On Oct 12, 2015 9:31 AM, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Great

Anyone know what time this is happening?

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 12, 2015, at 9:27 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

John thought we should prepare some talking points for the OTR at the culinary protest against Trump's hotel. Do these look ok to folks?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS AT CULINARY WORKERS PROTEST

AT TRUMP TOWER

LAS VEGAS, NV

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015

Hello, Local 226! I'm here to stand with you in solidarity and add my voice to yours:

Yes to the right to organize. Yes to a safe workplace. Yes to a living wage.

And we say just as loudly and clearly: No to union busting. No to hateful rhetoric against immigrants. No to Donald Trump.

Some people find Mr. Trump entertaining. They laugh when he insults Mexicans or demeans women. But this isn't reality TV. It's your life. It's your job. It's our country. So I have just one word for Mr. Trump: "Basta! [**BAHS-ta!**] Enough!"

You're on the front lines of the fight for a better future and a fairer, stronger America. We need you out here. I know it gets tough, but don't get discouraged. We've got your back.

You can count on me to get up every day and fight for you. I'm fighting for an America that works for everyone, not just those at the top. For the struggling, the striving, and the successful. For everyone who's ever been knocked down, but refused to be knocked out. That's you. That's this union. That's this city. So keep up the fight!

###

<2015-10-12 Trump protest.docx>

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/7/2015 1:08:32 AM
Subject:

Do you mind if I have access to ur email? I'm spending a lot of time piecing the puzzle together...and still not on a lot of the emails re schedule requests/changes

Sent from my iPhone

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From:	"Loyola University Maryland" <academicevents@loyola.edu>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	7/16/2015 3:02:19 AM
Subject:	Join Loyola University Maryland in Celebrating 50 Years of the National Endowment for the Humanities

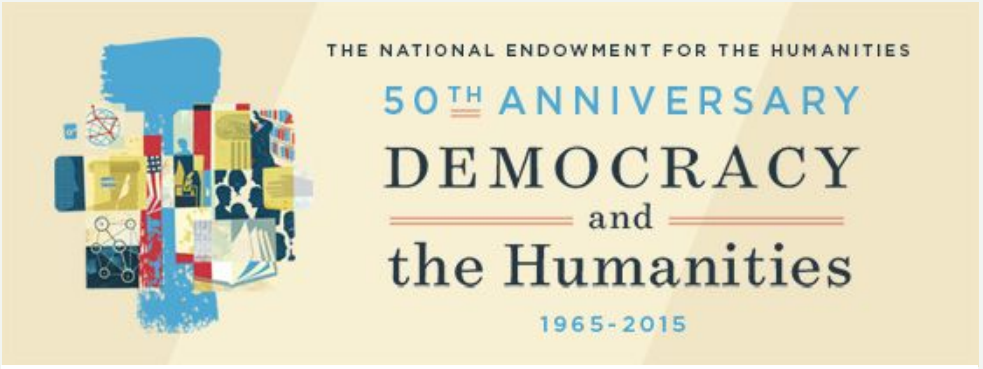

The Center for the Humanities at Loyola University Maryland invites you to a two-day Symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Endowment for the Humanities:

Democracy and the Humanities
Friday, Sept. 25 – Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015
Loyola University Maryland
4501 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, Md. 21210

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of promoting excellence in the humanities—both at Loyola and in the United States at large. You are invited to attend the Symposium as our guest with no cost.

Featured speakers include:

- William Adams, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Danielle Allen, Professor of Government and Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University
- Richard Brodhead, President of Duke University
- Alan Wolfe, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Boisi Center for Religion and Public Life at Boston College

The Symposium will also feature breakout panel discussion sessions exploring the humanities' connections with the sciences, technology, democratic citizenship, current politics, and more. These sessions will feature many members of the Loyola faculty as well as distinguished guests, including Sandra Bermann, Patricia Bizzell, David Bromwich, D. Graham Burnett, Scott Casper, Lisa Dowling, Timothy Eatman, Neil Fraistat, Matthew Gold, George Greenia, Donna Heiland, Paul Jay, Stephen Kidd, Lynn Pasquerella, Kenneth Sacks, Christopher Scalia, Phoebe Stein, Sarah Werner, and Kathleen Woodward.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating, however, is limited, and attendees are encouraged to register for individual sessions by Sept. 1.

Learn more about the Symposium , including the full schedule of events and information about all the participants, accommodations, directions to Loyola's campus, and parking.

The Democracy and the Humanities Symposium is being co-sponsored by the American Association of Learned Societies, the

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Council of Graduate Schools, the Council of Independent Colleges, the Maryland Humanities Council, the National Humanities Alliance, and the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The Symposium is funded by Loyola's Center for the Humanities, with assistance from the Messina first-year program and the office of academic affairs.

For questions about the program, contact Paul Lukacs. For questions about logistics, contact Kristen Fisher.

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Loyola University Maryland
4501 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21210
Opt Out

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From: "Tom Hendrickson" <tom@lookoutnc.com>
To: "Hans Goff" <hgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
MMarshall@HillaryClinton.com <MMarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
"David Huynh" <dhuynh@hillaryclinton.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 3/16/2016 10:53:46 AM
Subject: North Carolina Update

I just found out that the CD allocations that we were given by the NCDP last night were based on just the Election Day & provisional ballots (65%), and did not account for the early voting #s (35%). The SBOE has not yet released that data. Of 1,076,699 votes cast, 35 % were EV (373,429). The EV demographics (61% Female, 39.6% AA, 38% 65+ and 74.8% 46+) should push us over the next delegate threshold in a couple of the CDs resulting in a couple of extra CD delegates. As of now, we are either tied, +1 or +2 for delegates in each CD. I know that we need to look ahead, but I'm still counting here!! I'll let you know as soon as the SBOE releases the EV data by CD.

It's a beautiful day in North Carolina!!
Tom

Tom Hendrickson
Lookout Ventures, Inc.
PO Box 1166
Zebulon, NC 27597
(m) 919-880-1367
www.BennettBunn.com
www.VerideaNC.com

From: Jesse Presnell [mailto:JessePresnell@ncdemocraticparty.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:51 PM
To: Tom Hendrickson <tom@lookoutnc.com>; Arrowood, John <JArrowood@jmdlaw.com>; Dave Hoffman <dave@deborahross.com>
Cc: Doug Wilson <DougWilson@ncdemocraticparty.org>; Kimberly Reynolds <KimberlyReynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org>
Subject: RE: Delegate Breaks so far

	Total	Bernie	Hillary
1	8	3	5
2	4	2	2
3	4	2	2
4	8	4	4
5	5	2	3
6	5	2	3
7	4	2	2
8	4	1	3
9	5	2	3
10	5	2	3
11	4	2	2
12	8	3	5
13	6	3	3
	70	30	40

NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Jesse Presnell
Data Director
North Carolina Democratic Party
Email: jpresnell@ncdp.org
Phone: 919.821.2777

Visit www.ncdp.org to make a secure online contribution or mail contributions to PO Box 1926 Raleigh, NC 27602

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From: Jesse Presnell
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:51 PM
To: 'tom@lookoutnc.com' <tom@lookoutnc.com >; 'Arrowood, John' <JArrowood@jmdlaw.com >; 'Dave Hoffman' <dave@deborahross.com >
Cc: Doug Wilson <DougWilson@ncdemocraticparty.org >; Kimberly Reynolds (kimberlyreynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org) <kimberlyreynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org >
Subject: RE: Delegate Breaks so far

Jesse Presnell
Data Director
North Carolina Democratic Party
Email: jpresnell@ncdp.org
Phone: 919.821.2777
Visit www.ncdp.org to make a secure online contribution or mail contributions to PO Box 1926 Raleigh, NC 27602

From: Jesse Presnell
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:50 PM
To: 'tom@lookoutnc.com' <tom@lookoutnc.com >; 'Arrowood, John' <JArrowood@jmdlaw.com >; 'Dave Hoffman' <dave@deborahross.com >
Cc: Doug Wilson <DougWilson@ncdemocraticparty.org >; Kimberly Reynolds (kimberlyreynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org) <kimberlyreynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org >
Subject: RE: Delegate Breaks so far

CD	Total Delegates	Bernie	Hillary
1	8	3	5
2	4	1	3
3	4	2	2
4	8	4	4
5	5	2	3
6	5	2	3
7	4	1	3
8	4	1	3
9	5	2	3
10	5	2	3
11	4	2	2
12	8	3	5
13	6	3	3
	70	28	42

Jesse Presnell
Data Director
North Carolina Democratic Party
Email: jpresnell@ncdp.org
Phone: 919.821.2777
Visit www.ncdp.org to make a secure online contribution or mail contributions to PO Box 1926 Raleigh, NC 27602

From: Jesse Presnell
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:27 PM
To: 'tom@lookoutnc.com' <tom@lookoutnc.com >; 'Arrowood, John' <JArrowood@jmdlaw.com >; 'Dave Hoffman' <dave@deborahross.com >
Cc: Doug Wilson <DougWilson@ncdemocraticparty.org >; Kimberly Reynolds (kimberlyreynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org) <kimberlyreynolds@ncdemocraticparty.org >
Subject: RE: Delegate Breaks so far

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01	8	2.0	6.0
02	4	1.0	3.0
03	4	2.0	2.0
04	8	4.0	4.0
05	5	2.0	3.0
06	5	2.0	3.0
07	4	1.0	3.0
08	4	1.0	3.0
09	5	2.0	3.0
10	5	2.0	3.0
11	4	2.0	2.0
12	8	2.0	6.0
13	6	2.0	4.0

CD, Total, Bernie, Hillary

Jesse Presnell
Data Director
North Carolina Democratic Party
Email: jpresnell@ncdp.org
Phone: 919.821.2777

Visit www.ncdp.org to make a secure online contribution or mail contributions to PO Box 1926 Raleigh, NC 27602

From: Jesse Presnell
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:20 PM
To: 'tom@lookoutnc.com' <tom@lookoutnc.com >; 'Arrowood, John' <JArrowood@jmdlaw.com >; 'Dave Hoffman' <dave@deborahross.com >
Subject: RE: Delegate Breaks so far

Precinct Results + AfAm Percent of Precinct where available.

Jesse Presnell
Data Director
North Carolina Democratic Party
Email: jpresnell@ncdp.org
Phone: 919.821.2777

Visit www.ncdp.org to make a secure online contribution or mail contributions to PO Box 1926 Raleigh, NC 27602

From: Jesse Presnell
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:17 PM
To: 'tom@lookoutnc.com' <tom@lookoutnc.com >; Arrowood, John <JArrowood@jmdlaw.com >; 'Dave Hoffman' <dave@deborahross.com >
Subject: Delegate Breaks so far

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

01	8	2.0	6.0
02	4	1.0	3.0
03	4	2.0	2.0
04	8	4.0	4.0
05	5	2.0	3.0
06	5	2.0	3.0
07	4	1.0	3.0
08	4	1.0	3.0
09	5	2.0	3.0
10	5	2.0	3.0
11	4	2.0	2.0
12	8	2.0	6.0
13	6	2.0	4.0

CD, Total Delegates, Bernie, Hillary in order

Jesse Presnell
Data Director
North Carolina Democratic Party
Email: jpresnell@ncdp.org
Phone: 919.821.2777

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From: "Vanessa Kritzer, League of Conservation Voters" <feedback@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/11/2012 4:15:41 AM
Subject: Test it, maybe?

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Tell your senators to protect us from toxic chemicals, then watch our "Call Me, Maybe" parody video supporting the Safe Chemicals Act.

John,

We've used almost every tactic to convince Congress to pass the Safe Chemicals Act, which would help us keep toxic chemicals out of our everyday products. We've held stroller brigades, sent tens of thousands of emails, staged rallies at the U.S. Capitol, joined twitter town halls, and more. But there's one thing we haven't tried yet: **a music video**.

Since everyone from Justin Bieber to the U.S. Olympic Swim Team has done their own renditions of the summer hit "Call Me, Maybe," we decided it was time for us to make our own video to raise awareness about why Congress must pass the Safe Chemicals Act now.

Join our call for safer products by sending a message to your senators now and watching our "Test It, Maybe" video.

Yesterday, Congress returned from their August recess. But since it's an election year, they will only be in session for *eight days* before hitting the campaign trail until November's elections. We can't wait any longer for legislation that will keep cancer-causing BPA out of canned food or dangerous flame retardants out of our couches. So, we must convince the Senate to vote now to protect our health and our families.

Tell your senators to pass the Safe Chemicals Act this fall!

Watch our video.

How do we do that? We have to flood their inboxes with thousands of messages that they cannot ignore. To get the numbers that will make them pay attention, we need to rally everyone who cares about this issue and educate everyone who doesn't know about it yet. That's why we made this "Test It, Maybe" video along with a series of other videos from our state LCV partners featuring testimonies from people who have been affected by the toxic chemicals in our everyday products that have gone unregulated for decades.

Will you email your senators now and then share our video with everyone you know?

Right now, our nation's primary chemical law is the Toxic Substances Control Act, which has not been updated since it was passed in 1976. The law is badly broken, allowing the EPA to test only a few hundred of the over 84,000 chemicals on the market today. This means that most of the chemicals in our products — everything from the backpacks our children wear to the furniture in our houses — are not tested for their long term effects on our health and the environment.

Rising rates of diseases like asthma, diabetes, childhood cancers, infertility, and learning and behavioral disorders have been linked to toxic chemical exposure. We need our government to protect our families from these chronic illnesses by requiring adequate testing of chemicals before they accumulate in our bodies and environment. The Safe Chemicals Act will ensure that the chemicals surrounding us every day are safe, but we'll only be able to make it a reality if you speak out today.

Tell your senators to pass the Safe Chemicals Act this fall!

After you send your email to your senators, we'll set you up with a page where you can watch and share the "Test It, Maybe" video. So, don't wait to take action. **Make your voice heard now.**

Together, we can hold the chemical industry accountable to safer standards and protect our families from harmful chemicals. So let's go!

Best,

Vanessa

Vanessa Kritzer
Online Campaigns Manager
League of Conservation Voters

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Washington, DC 20036
202-785-8683

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From: "Cheri Bustos" <cheri@cheribustos.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/14/2013 9:22:00 AM
Subject: A quick update

Dear John,

It's been a while since we last touched base about what I've been up to during my short time in Congress.

Let me start by saying it has been an honor to represent you and your family and to fight for the middle class values that we hold dear.

Within a month of taking office, I introduced my first bill, the Government Waste Reduction Act.

This common sense, bipartisan bill reduces the deficit in a balanced way by cutting down redundant programs and rooting out waste in government, while preserving Medicare and Social Security.

There are ways to get back on the road toward a balanced budget that Democrats and Republicans can agree on-starting with making government more effective and efficient and reducing waste.

My bill does just that.

I'm also standing up against attempts to privatize Medicare by turning it into a voucher system.

The budget put forth by Congressman Paul Ryan earlier this week does just that.

I opposed the Ryan Budget on the campaign trail and will continue to oppose it in Congress. His approach would raise out-of-pocket health care costs by thousands of dollars for far too many hard-working people across our region.

This is unacceptable.

I look forward to staying engaged with you and hearing from you on the issues of the day as I continue to fight for you, your family and Illinois in the weeks and months ahead.

Kindest personal Regards,

Cheri

CONTRIBUTE

Paid for by Friends of Cheri Bustos

PO Box 77
East Moline, IL 61244

send to a friend

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From: "League of Conservation Voters" <feedback@lcv.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/23/2008 9:50:27 AM
Subject: LCV eNews: Tell Congress to resist drilling

LCV E-News

Spotlight Action

June 2008

Anti-Environmentalists Push Drilling - Act Today!

Support LCV

In a misguided attempt to address rising gas prices, some Members of Congress beholden to Big Oil are adding amendments to bills that call for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, off our coasts, and other pristine areas. **Instead of drilling for dirty energy we should be promoting efficiency and clean, renewable energy to address our nation's growing energy crisis.**

Tell your Members of Congress to resist calls for drilling and instead promote efficiency and clean energy solutions!

Support LCV

Become an LCV monthly pledge partner!

Support LCV

The election - only five months away - is our best shot at addressing critical priorities like reversing global warming and achieving a clean energy future. **Every minute and every cent matter!** Pledging a monthly gift to LCV will go a long way to help us achieve victories on Capitol Hill and at the ballot box.

Click here to become an LCV monthly pledge partner today!

Getting Results

Second Annual Lobby Day a Success!

Support LCV

Last Wednesday, LCV board members, staff, and state league members met with about 50 Members of Congress and staff to lobby for immediate action on serious environmental issues, such as global warming. **The meetings were a huge success, sending a strong bipartisan message that the environment must be a top priority.**

Click here to read our blog entry.

Latest News

In This Issue

- Spotlight Action
- Supporting LCV
- Getting Results
- Latest News

Action Counter

344,025

actions taken by LCV supporters since January

Meet LCV

Meet LCV

Tim Greeff
LCV's Deputy Legislative Director loves football and hates global warming.

Click here to read more!

LCV in the States

LCV In Your State

Find out more about the State LCVs in your area.

Trivia Question

Q. By what percentage has the price of gas increased since George W. Bush became president?

Click here to submit your trivia question answer!

William Samuel from Silver Spring, MD knew the answer to last month's question: Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK)

Check the eNews for next month's winner.

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Latest News

- *Denver Post:* LCV Impacts CO Senate Race
- Former LCV Board Member Elected to Congress
- LCV Statement on the Climate Security Act
- LCV Statement on McCain's Flip Flop on Drilling
- LCV Partners with 50 Simple Things®
- Latest List of State LCV Scorecards

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Support LCV and help ensure a clean, safe and healthy future for America

Click to donate now!

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The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) turns your environmental values into national priorities. To secure the environmental future of our planet, LCV's mission is to advocate for sound environmental policies and to elect pro-environmental candidates who will adopt and implement such policies.

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From: "Gabriel Guerra" <guerraassociates@yahoo.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/25/2016 4:07:18 PM
Subject: Guerra

John she finally did it she hit the spot!!! Onwards.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/15/2008 6:15:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/15/08

Main Topics: McCain interview on NBC, Afghanistan, McCain's Tech knowledge, The Economy

Summary of Shift: The New Yorker cover remains to be the main focus of political news. The economy also had its share of coverage with segments about failing banks and high oil prices. Despite President Bush's example, it is unlikely that congress will lift the federal ban on offshore drilling. A video of a Guantanamo interrogation was released, stirring conversations about torture, prisoner's rights and the recent Supreme Court ruling. Despite recent rumors, Jesse Ventura will not be running for Senate in Minnesota. President Ahmadinejad is planning a trip to New York and to speak to the UN, he would also like to speak to US officials. In other news, with The Dark Knight premiering this weekend, talks of an Oscar nomination for the late Health Ledger were common.

Highlights:
1. NBC: John McCain interviewed, asked about Immigration Reform, jobs
2. CNN: "Two Wars, one Military": Pentagon Officials say troops are needed in Afghanistan but they are all being used in Iraq
3. FNC: John McCain flip flops on immigration, tries to please conservatives while still attracting moderate Hispanic voters
4. FNC: Hazelbaker blasts Obama on Iraq, repeats McCain endorsement of surge strategy
5. McCain's computer literacy still in question
   a) MSNBC: Contessa Brewer mocks McCain's age, lack of tech ability
   b) MSNBC: Morning Joe hosts mock McCain's Ludditism
6. NBC: local NBC host highlights Cindy McCain's negative statements regarding not raising children in DC
7. CNN: Bush Fundraiser, Steven Payne, caught on tape promising access for cash
8. MSNBC: Morning Joe feature Bush-McCain embrace picture, highlight hug
9. CNN: a billboard in Florida depicting the burning trade towers behind the statement "Please don't vote for a Democrat" outrages residents [No Clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
John McCain Interviewed, Asked About Immigration Reform, Jobs (NBC 07/15/08)
MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ: I would like to ask you a news of the day question if I may. Have you seen the cover of the New Yorker?

JOHN MCCAIN: Yes

RODRIGUEZ: Your feeling? Is satire acceptable?

MCCAIN: I don't think so. I will leave that judgment to the American people I can only state my personal opinion. I think, if it is an attempt at satire, it's wrong and it's offensive.

RODRIGUEZ: In regard to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac do you feel that a government bailout is the solution?

MCCAIN: I think that the proposal that has been made, which I don't call it quote bailout but it is certainly is significant assistance in a number of ways, is an appropriate measure to take. Americans are angry. They are angry and they are upset and they are sick and tired of Washington doing nothing for them.

RODRIGUEZ: How much blame should the Bush administration take for that?

MCCAIN: I think that the problem has been festering for many many years. Fannie and Freddie were not created by the Bush administration... there is plenty of blame to go around

RODRIGUEZ: You championed the immigration reform bill that now as the nominee you admit you wouldn't vote for if it came up today. Why not?

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MCCAIN: The point is not that I would vote or not vote for it. The point is it failed twice. Senator Kennedy and I and a group of senators brought it up twice and it failed twice.

RODRIGUEZ: the fact that it failed does that tell you that the American people didn't want it or that your party didn't want it?

MCCAIN: The American people didn't support. I still believe that we reflect the views of the majority.

RODRIGUEZ: Some political annalist say and in fact Senator Obama made the comments here yesterday, that when you became the nominee when you could no longer risk alienating your conservative base you started emphasizing boarder security over a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, what about that?

MCCAIN: Actually as soon as we failed I said that obviously we had, for the second time, I lead on the issue. I didn't have to do this Maggie, I knew that it was going to hurt me in my quest for the nomination of my party because it was not popular with a lot of the base of my party. But because I put my country first, and I always put my country first. Senator Obama had a choice of doing the bidding of the labor unions or putting his country first, he chose the special interest. Senator Obama supported measure which would have killed the comprehensive approach.

RODRIGUEZ: What do you say to the American worker who feels that the undocumented worker is taking his or her job?

MCCAIN: I agree with them, but I would also point out that there are jobs that it is clear that still need to be filled. Americans want the confidence that we will have secure boarders and then I believe that the overwhelming majority of them will support a humane and compassionate approach to a temporary worker program and to comprehensive immigration reform.

RODRIGUEZ: But securing the boarder could take years what if it never happens when will you get to comprehensive immigration reform?

MCCAIN: Oh we are moving forward right now with securing our boarders.

RODRIGUEZ: If in one year or two years the boarder isn't secure what will you do?

MCCAIN: It will be secure, it will be secure, sure, it will be secure in a relatively short period of time.

RODRIGUEZ: Like a year?

MCCAIN: It will be done in a very short period of time.

Highlight #2

"Two Wars, one Military", Pentagon Officials say Troops are Needed in Afghanistan but They are all Being Used in Iraq
(CNN 07/15/08 09:30am)
BARBARA STARR: Barack Obama and John McCain may be about to find out that the road home from Iraq goes right through Afghanistan. With Taliban fighters staging deadlier and more sophisticated attacks, Afghanistan is now the hotter war facing John McCain and Barack Obama. […] Commanders say more troops and armor must be sent to Afghanistan to fight the rising violence. But first the pentagon says US troops have to get out of Iraq.

ADMIRAL MICHAEL MULLEN: I've made no secret of my desire to fly more forces, US forces to Afghanistan just as soon as I can. Nor have I been shy about saying that those forces will not be available unless or until the situation in Iraq allows us to do so.

STARR: Obama still focused on getting out of Iraq. […] McCain still focused on criticizing Obama:

MCCAIN: His proposals would jeopardize the success we've achieved.

STARR: But little discussion of what US commanders are urgently recommending, sending up to ten thousand additional troops and a lot more equipment. […]

Highlight #3

John McCain Flip Flops on Immigration, Tries to Please Conservatives While Still Attracting Moderate Hispanic Voters
(FNC 07/15/08 07:20am)
CLAYTON KELLY: […] John McCain having to go on the defensive for his shifting position on immigration. Or what he says is not really a shift. This comes on the heels of John McCain before supporting a path to citizenship, now saying that

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he would like to have the border first secured, whether that's a wall there or not, and then look to other options for citizenship.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: In fact he said he would vote against his own legislation if it came up today. So I think the Barack Obama camp does potentially have a flip-flop on their hands as far as being able to attack John McCain on this. […] Democrats are now going to say that John McCain is changing or altering his stance before November.

REPORTER: […] Did he probably make this decision for political purposes, yes. The man trying to get elected, the man is trying to please his party. Isn't that just the reality of politics though?

KELLY: […] Is he trying to support or play to his party. It's interesting for Barack Obama who's moving to the center, he's trying to appeal to independents. Though John McCain has one foot in one camp where he's trying to appeal to conservatives, that's a real conservative position putting a wall down there at the border. And trying also to move toward the center and appeal to Hispanics, they certainly don't want a wall down there. Trying to go after those Reagan Republicans.

CARLSON: Well I think it's interesting at all that we would see McCain in any situation where he's appealing to any particular group because he is known as the maverick and sort of the straight talker. So he needs to be extra careful when he does something like this because he has the reputation as being the straight talker and telling it like it is, and that's frankly what people like about him. For those that are John McCain fans. […]

Highlight #4

Hazelbaker Blasts Obama On Iraq, Repeats McCain Endorsement of Surge Strategy (FNC 07/15/08)

GRETCHEN CARLSON: Senator John McCain putting his roadmap for the war in the spotlight for this week. For more on his strategy, I'm joined by the communications director for the McCain campaign, Jill Hazelbaker. Good morning to you Jill.

JILL HAZELBAKER: Good morning Gretchen, thank you for having me.

CARLSON: Yes, of course. Well, we want to talk about this speech that John McCain is going to be giving on Thursday because its my understanding he's going to touch on Iraq and also now the situation in Afghanistan. You know its interesting to see how, with regard to foreign policy, things are changing at a moments notice.

HAZELBAKER: Absolutely. As you know Senator Obama is going over seas this week. He seems to be more interested in how that trip might further his political ambitions rather than how it could shape his world view. I thought it was interesting Gretchen how yesterday how he laid out his strategy for the way forward in Iraq and Afghanistan prior to setting foot in the ground or visiting with any of the commanders in Iraq. Generally those fact-finding missions go the other way.

CARLSON: You're talking about the editorial he wrote and I just had on his communications director. And I asked him since he wrote that report before he went to Iraq if he would also write one when he comes back. Do you think he will?

HAZELBAKER: Well I don't know. Senator Obama was on the wrong side of the surge. You know John McCain, when he saw the situation in Iraq deteriorate, he stood up in stop for a new strategy. The surge strategy is working today. John McCain said he would rather lose a political campaign than lose this war. And, he's been fighting for the right strategy ever since. It would be very interesting to see what Barack Obama has to say after getting on the ground Iraq you know he hasn't been there for almost 900 days. In terms of Afghanistan, Barack Obama has direct oversight on the issue in the United States Senate and yet he has failed to hold a single hearing. He also voted against money for the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Its going to be interesting to see how he restores and credibility on the issue.

CARLSON: But Jill this isn't all necessarily good news for John McCain in a sense and I don't have a lot of time because the more we talk about foreign policy. It may be a good thing for John McCain with regard to experience. But it may bring the American pubic back to talking about Iraq, which may be not a good thing for John McCain.

HAZELBAKER: Well I disagree Gretchen. Senator John McCain put his principle above politics when everyone said the war on Iraq is lost, John McCain stood up and fought for the strategy that's working today. I think voters when they go into the voting booth ought to remember the fact that John McCain always been, never been afraid to tackle the big issues. He's always worked across the aisle and his principles always go ahead of the political ambition of the day.

Highlight #5

Contessa Brewer Mocks McCain's Age, Lack Of Tech Ability (MSNBC 07/15/08)

CONTESSA BREWER: When John McCain was born, there wasn't even FM radio. And forget about computers, they weren't even a blip on the technological horizon. And while his opponent is using the Internet to bring in unprecedented

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funds, McCain himself has said he doesn't e-mail and is just now getting up to speed on the web. (begin playing clip of Conan O'Brien)

O'BRIEN: John McCain admits that his staff has to show him websites because he has trouble getting on the Internet by himself. That's what he said. Yea yesterday McCain tried to surf the Internet for half an hour until his staff told him he was actually holding an etcher sketch.

BREWER: On a serious note here voters say age is an issue. A new poll said a 38% McCain is just too old. Just 30% say Obama is too young. John McCain is 72 this year. If elected, he would be the oldest President in U.S. history. Andy Borowitz is a comedian and a satirist and is the man behind BorowitzReport.com It's good to see you today Andy.

ANDY BOROWITZ: It's good to be here Contessa.

BREWER: The fact that McCain doesn't use computers at a time when young people are overwhelmingly turning out to vote, is that a problem going into a general election?

BOROWITZ: Look clearly he's uncomfortable with technology. All these newfangled inventions like the teleprompter, the telephone, these are confusing to him. And I think it might be a problem. I think he has to show he is comfortable with technology, for example the cotton gin. Very very comfortable with that. Also the butter churn. We need to see more moments like that.

BREWER: And that resonates with so many voters out there. I say come on get with- my grandmothers are both proficient with computers and the Internet.

BOROWITZ: They could be a possible VP pick for McCain then. Very helpful around the web.
[…]
BREWER: I mean here's the problem Czechoslovakia has not existed for 20 years.

BOROWITZ: That is a problem. Czechoslovakia broke up awhile ago. This would sort of be like referring to Jennifer Aflek and Ben Aflek and Bennifer today. You just can't do that.
[…]
BREWER: You saw the gears start to turn he meant that as a joke. But there is medical research that says as people start to age that's why perhaps grandma says something that's inappropriate at Thanksgiving dinner its not really her fault. They lose the ability to be socially appropriate. Is that what we're seeing?

BOROWITZ: Well what you are saying then is if we have John McCain as President would sort of be like Estelle Getty from the Golden Girls in the White House, which I think would be awesome.

BREWER: Highly entertaining.

BOROWITZ: I love that show.

BREWER: And effective?

BOROWITZ: First of all, very hip choice to quote a fifty year old beach boys song. Kids dig that. I think that's a good way to go.

Morning Joe Hosts Mock McCain's Ludditism (MSNBC 07/15/08)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: You know, the late night comedians bash McCain all the time on the age issue. Andrea, is there anything McCain people can do about that? They obviously have to be very concerned about the age issue because it remains- you ask Americans what they think about John McCain and when they hear his name, the top issue in all of these latest polls- old.

ANDREA MITCHELL: Well, I think one thing they should do is not have him give interviews with the New York Times about how he's not comfortable using the Internet or 'Internets.' Wish he hadn't said that.

SCARBOROUGH: That's bad. Yeah when you say yeah I have my wife and a couple aides stand around me and they get me on the Internet and get me- that's just not good.

MIKE BARNICLE: 'Harold, can you make a call for me?'

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HAROLD FORD: On the talking machine?

SCARBOROUGH: On the talking machine, Harold! Where does that voice come from?

FORD: The typewriter. (laughter)

SCARBOROUGH: Andrea, thank you for being with us that's a great point. Don't let those flying machines scare you.

Highlight #6
Local NBC Host Highlights Cindy McCain's Negative Statements Regarding Not Raising Children in DC (NBC 07/15/08)
MIKE WALTER: Senator McCain's wife Cindy is raising eyebrows in our region this morning. In our interview recently she talked about the McCains talked about why the McCains raised their children in Arizona and not in Washington."

CINDY MCCAIN: We didn't feel Washington was a healthy environment for young kids, particularly doing what we were doing. So, we made the right choice. And it wasn't because I didn't like Washington so much, but I cared more about my children and wanted the best for them.

WALTER: DC Councilman Marion Barry disagreeing with those comments, saying Mrs. McCain needs to learn more about the district.

Highlight #7
Bush Fundraiser, Steven Payne, Caught on Tape Promising Access for Cash (CNN 07/15/08 07:37am)
JOHN ROBERTS: An investigation into promises made by a former Bush fundraiser. It was all caught on tape as the lobbyist promises access to the Vice President and other top administration figures for money. […]

ED HENRY: the lobbyist involved here, Steven Payne, says this is just a big misunderstanding. The problem: There's a tape.

[Clip of Tape]

ED HENRY: Promises of access to the Presidents top aides in exchange for contributions to the George W. Bush library and some cold hard cash on the side for the man brokering the deal.

STEVEN PAYNE: A couple of hundred thousand, I think that would probably get the attention of people raising the money.

ED HENRY: That's Texas lobbyist and Bush fundraiser Steven Payne. […] The White House does admit Payne helped with logistics on foreign trips and he did raise $200,000 for Bush's reelection campaign. […]

Highlight #8
Morning Joe Hosts Feature Bush-McCain Embrace Picture, Highlight Hug (MSNBC 07/15/08)
WILLIE GEIST : Loving embrace…

MIKA BREZINSKI: They also kissed but that's…

JOE SCARBOROUGH: That's cruel. That's cruel.

GEIST: He is. He's a better hugger.

SCARBOROOUGH: Loving embrace. His dear friend.

MIKE BARNICLE: They're friends.

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From: "Aniello Alioto" <aniello@progressnow.org>
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Date: 6/7/2011 5:56:00 AM
Subject: [big campaign] WI: State Capitol 'Run Against Walker' to Focus on Walker, GOP Attacks on Health Care, Middle Class to Pay for $600 Million Corporate Tax Cuts

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **One WI Now** <own@onewisconsinnow.org >

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One Wisconsin Now Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2011

Contact: Cody Oliphant
Phone: 608-772-9202

State Capitol 'Run Against Walker' to Focus on Walker, GOP Attacks on Health Care, Middle Class to Pay for $600 Million Corporate Tax Cuts

Walker Budget Slashes Middle Class Priorities to Pay for Corporate Tax Payoffs to Special Interest Donors

Madison -- Massive attacks against health care, education and middle class priorities launched by Gov. Scott Walker and the Republican legislative majority are the focus of a "Run Against Walker," scheduled at the State Capitol today. The "Run Against Walker," a run/walk for citizens organized by One Wisconsin Now as part of the "Walkerville" activities on the State Capitol Square, will accommodate both runners and walkers who are united against Walker's attacks on the middle class.

The run will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the top of State Street, travel down State Street to the University of Madison-Wisconsin Terrace and along the lake and back to the Capitol in advance of the "Walkerville" health care events scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

"Gov. Scott Walker and the Republicans call for 'shared sacrifice,' while attacking the working people of Wisconsin," said Scot Ross, One Wisconsin Now Executive Director. "But their idea is to sacrifice the health care, public education and priorities of the middle class, while allowing special interests to share more than $600 million dollars every two years in new corporate tax breaks and giveaways."

Walker and the Republicans have already passed into law $140 million in new tax breaks that help corporations and the wealthy. In the recently completed Joint Finance Committee budget writing, the Republican-led committee passed nearly $500 million coming biennial new corporate tax giveaways. [Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau]

The unprecedented corporate giveaways by Republicans come at the same time Walker and his allies have attempted to pass the following attacks on the middle class, including:

- Allowing the Secretary of the Department of Health Services to cut, without full legislative approval, 70,000 Wisconsinites who pay for health care through the BadgerCare program;
- Increasing the health care costs for potentially 1 million Wisconsinites;
- Refusing to protect seniors from being forced after next year out of the successful SeniorCare prescription drug program and into the more expensive Medicare Part D federal plan that would result in higher costs for seniors.

Walker and his allies are also making drastic cuts to public education and higher education, including $1.6 billion in less funding for public schools, $71 million in cuts to the Technical College System and $250 million in cuts the University of Wisconsin system. Republicans have even voted to increase taxes on the working poor by $60 million.

"We will 'Run Against Walker' as long as Walker runs against the values of the people of Wisconsin and remains in the pocket of corporate special interests," said Ross. "'Run Against Walker' is our effort to make Wisconsin a healthier place for the middle class and workers across Wisconsin."

# # #

One Wisconsin Now is a statewide communications network specializing in effective

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earned media and online organizing to advance progressive leadership and values.

Media Inquiries: (608) 204-0677 | Email: own@onewisconsinnow.org

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From: "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/25/2014 8:17:27 PM
Subject: Re: Update

Love you, too. Have a great trip! I'll keep my eye out for you on AFN and resist the urge to say "that's my dad!" to whoever happens to be on the treadmill next to me at the time.

On Sat, Apr 26, 2014 at 12:43 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
I'm at the airport with Mom who just got back. I just wanted to wish you happy birthday, but I'll wait to talk till when I'm back.
Love you,
Dad

On Apr 25, 2014 12:14 AM, "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com> wrote:
When do you leave for the Vatican?

On Fri, Apr 25, 2014 at 7:12 AM, Gabe Podesta <gpodesta@gmail.com> wrote:
Maybe email when you wake up and I can call from the office.

On Fri, Apr 25, 2014 at 7:10 AM, Gabe Podesta <gpodesta@gmail.com> wrote:
I just woke up. I need to get dressed, eat breakfast, etc. I could call in an hour when I get to the office. Too late?

On Fri, Apr 25, 2014 at 5:09 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
I'm home email if you have time to talk

On Apr 24, 2014 6:39 AM, "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com> wrote:
What time? But I think I could call provided not too early or late.

On Thu, Apr 24, 2014 at 9:11 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
Any chance we can talk Friday morning your time?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Apr 22, 2014, at 11:57 AM, Gabe Podesta <gpodesta@gmail.com> wrote:

> I feel I should write you all an update but I'm not sure what to write. It is very much Groundhog Day around here. I wake at the same time every morning and eat the same breakfast in more or less the same seat at the same DFAC every single day of the week. The first couple days I was here they served mango yogurt and it was the best. Every morning I excitedly approach the yogurt bin to discover, again, no mango. Friday is Steak Night. Saturday lunch is Mongolian Grill. Thursday is Afghan (I seem to be the only one that actually eats it).
>
> I suppose that I should be thankful that my experience here is routine. Excitement is likely synonymous with danger. But the days go slow.
>
> Having said that, I'm somehow 16% of the way done. As slow as the days seem to pass, the weeks have gone by quickly. We're down to a skeleton staff at Camp Phoenix as folks redeploy to the states or move within Afghanistan. Amazingly, I am now the senior USAF Captain in the legal office. In a matter of weeks I've seen three go home and as a result I'm no longer the new guy; I'm the experienced veteran.
>
> Hope you all are well. I love and miss you!

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Gabe Podesta

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Gabe Podesta

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From: "Lucey, Chris" <CLucey@ngkf.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/2/2015 11:57:21 AM
Subject: RE: CAP

Thanks, John. I really appreciate it. Yes, Katie and I were both at the event – all in!

Christopher Lucey
Managing Director
Newmark Grubb Knight Frank
T 202.312.5471
M 202.731.6566
clucey@ngkf.com

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From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2015 2:46 PM
To: Lucey, Chris
Subject: Re: CAP

Chris,
I'll raise with Neera.
John
PS thx for your help with HRC. Did Katie go to the event?

On Jul 2, 2015 2:36 PM, "Lucey, Chris" <CLucey@ngkf.com > wrote:
John and Mary:

I hope you and the whole clan are doing well.

I thought of you last night as Katie and I were at the home of Lee Satterfield and Patrick Steel for a fundraiser for Hillary.

I wanted to reach out to you regarding CAP. My business partner, Doug Damron, was part of the team that represented CAP in its most recent office lease transaction in 2010. He worked closely with Sarah Wartell and Kaliope Poulianos. Also I understand that there were serious conversations about buying a building as well as leasing at that time.

The current lease expiration is 3/31/2021 (into Hillary's 2nd Presidential term!) and while that is several years away it may make sense for us to get re-engaged to do a strategic real estate plan for CAP – especially if building ownership is something that is to be considered. Given the administrative changes at CAP with Sarah Wartell and Kaliope Poulianos no longer with the organization, we no longer have the appropriate contacts to keep CAP informed on the real estate market.

Any help in reaching out to the powers that be would be greatly appreciated. We want to continue to count CAP as a client and be a resource for them at all times.

I wish you a happy and safe 4th of July!

Best,

Chris

Christopher Lucey
Managing Director

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/26/2015 10:47:30 AM
Subject: Henry A. Giroux | Death-Dealing Politics in the Age of Extreme Violence

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Henry A. Giroux | Death-Dealing Politics in the Age of Extreme Violence

Henry A. Giroux, Truthout: US society is in a free fall, as all vestiges of social and economic equality disappear, public provisions evaporate and the financial elite controls government. To resist this growing authoritarianism, politics must not only inform, but also energize people to take collective action within deeply committed bonds of solidarity.

Read the Article

Arizona Court Vacates Monica Jones' Prostitution Conviction

Mike Ludwig, Truthout: An appeals court in Phoenix vacated activist Monica Jones' prostitution conviction today, citing an unfair trial. In March 2013, she was arrested shortly after protesting a controversial

BuzzFlash

French Version of "The Daily Show" Forces Fox Into a Triple Apology

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: The factual debunking from across the Atlantic forced Fox to retreat. Remember, however, that the original outlandish and dishonest Islamophobic assertions are likely to stay embedded in the heads and emotional prejudices of the network's viewers.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

How the CIA Made Google

Read the Article at Medium

Syriza's Alexis Tsipras Sworn in as Prime Minister After Greek

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"rescue" program, which used sweeping police stings to round up suspected sex workers.
Read the Article

ECB: The Ultimate Enforcer of the European Neoliberal Project?

C.J. Polychroniou, Truthout: The European Central Bank's quantitative easing measures and other interventions in the eurozone economy under the current regime are designed to keep the neoliberal euro game going - not to help Europe's ailing economies or its populations.
Read the Article

The Ghastly, Remotely Piloted, Robotic Reaper Drone

Ed Kinane, Truthout: The MQ9 Reaper - now used by the United States 24/7 over Pakistan, Afghanistan and elsewhere - makes killing too easy. Despite the propaganda in mainstream media, drones are not deployed in a "war on terror." Weaponized drones are terror.
Read the Article

Fracking Boom Expands Near Chaco Canyon, Threatens Navajo Ancestral Lands and People

Julie Dermansky, DeSmogBlog: The oil and gas industry is expanding in northwestern New Mexico. Flares light up the night sky at drilling sites along Route 550, which passes through the San Juan Basin. Much of the land belongs to the federal government. The rest is a mixture of private and Navajo Nation land.
Read the Article

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Will Sink the Middle Class

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Two decades of free-trade deals have bloodied the "American dream." If President Obama goes ahead and signs us onto another free-trade deal, especially one as destructive as the TPP, that will be like tying a cement block to the feet of a drowning man.
Read the Article

Solitary Not Yet Over at Rikers, but Advocates Keep Fighting

Victoria Law, Waging Nonviolence: A group of prisoners' rights activists didn't stop a new isolation unit from being approved on January 13, but they did manage to push through some changes to the proposal, as well as long-overdue limitations to solitary confinement at Rikers Island.
Read the Article

Gaza in Arizona: How Israeli High-Tech Firms Will Up-Armor the US-Mexican Border

Todd Miller and Gabriel M. Schivone, TomDispatch: In February 2014, US Customs and Border Protection, the agency in charge of policing US borders, contracted with Israel's private military

Government Coalition Formed With Right-Wingers
Read the Article at The Guardian

Super Bowl for the Rich: Upper-Class 91, Middle-Class 9
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Search Warrants Against WikiLeaks Staff: Justice Department, Google and Media Silence Threaten Press Freedom
Read the Article at Firedoglake

Chemical Industry and Republican Lawmakers Succeed in Stalling EPA Chemical Regulation Process
Read the Article at AllGov

"It Was Cold, Very Cold": Migrant Children Endure Border Patrol "Ice Boxes"
Read the Article at The Guardian

Divesting the United States of Ozone-Destroying Energy Sources
Read the Article at

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manufacturer Elbit Systems to build a "virtual wall" in the Arizona desert. That company will bring the same databank of technology used in Israel's borderlands to southern Arizona.

Read the Article

Amy Goodman | New Film on Jordan Davis Captures Family's Struggle to Convict White Vigilante

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: A new film takes on the subject of the growing nationwide protests over the killing of unarmed African-Americans by examining one of the cases to make national headlines in recent years: the killing of 17-year-old Jordan Davis.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Federal Prison Sentence Begins for Anti-Drone Activist

Medea Benjamin, PINKtank: On January 23, Kathy Kelly, co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, a campaign to end US military and economic warfare, began a three-month jail sentence in federal prison for a protest against drones at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Read the Article

Kymone Freeman: #DCFerguson Poet, Playwright and Guerilla Artist

Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, Black Agenda Report: Papi Kymone Freeman is one of the leaders of #DCFerguson, an organization devoted to exposing police terror in the Washington, DC area. Kymone has helped lead nonviolent demonstrations that have shut down major economic arteries in the nation's capitol.

Read the Interview

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Since *Citizens United*, Alarming Trends Have Emerged, and More

In today's On the News segment: In the election cycles since the *Citizens United* ruling, we've seen "a tidal wave of dark money"; school districts around the United States are doing more to make sure kids aren't going hungry; most lawmakers refuse to fight for single-payer health care, but most voters say that they should; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
Date: 1/7/2014 2:43:35 PM
Subject: Re: Column

To you only: Brent Budowsky. Leftie with no following, but clearly Roy sort of agrees with concerns .

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Jan 7, 2014, at 8:49 PM, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com > wrote:

> i will send some thoughts for collective point of view - agree with pir - over the top and not accurate and i want to give you points to respond
>
> On Tue, Jan 7, 2014 at 8:18 PM, Roy Spence <Roy.Spence@gsdm.com > wrote:
>
> > Hey I kept it confidential…he/she is kinda serious writer-but that is not my point…just want to get clear on our collective POV at this stage of the journey…
> >
> > **From:** PIR [mailto:preines.hrco@gmail.com]
> > **Sent:** Tuesday, January 07, 2014 7:07 PM
> > **To:** Roy Spence; Jim Kennedy; Minyon Moore; Cheryl Mills; Judy Trabulsi; John Podesta; Maggie Williams
> > **Subject:** Column
> >
> > Roy, I can't tell from the chain - who sent you that original e-mailing saying they were about to write a column? It's awfully belligerent. But if it's someone serious, we should start by presenting an alternative view.
> >
> > **From:** Jim Kennedy <jkennedy2006@gmail.com >
> > **Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 1:23 PM
> > **To:** Minyon Moore <Mmoore@deweysquare.com >
> > **Cc:** Roy Spence <Roy.Spence@gsdm.com >, CDM <Cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, Judy Trabulsi <Judy.Trabulsi@gsdm.com >, PIR <preines@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Maggie Williams <williamsbarrett@aol.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: Hi there...this is from a Writer Friend of mine-who do I talk to about stuff like this???
> >
> > yes, agreed. happy to participate and brainstorm. as noted, stories will keep coming no matter what (and it's almost always the political reporters doing it, not policy-focused ones - and maybe one thing to do - and it may well be happening - is figure out some of the key policy wonk journalists who would be interested in a deeper dive into her work on early childhood, women & girls and economic development for young people in order to at least balance the other coverage a bit. Plus force-feed some coverage through scheduling that involves camera-ready (and twitter-ready) events that also yield more substantive coverage).
> >
> > On Tue, Jan 7, 2014 at 11:48 AM, Minyon Moore <MMoore@deweysquare.com > wrote:

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As number 25 and now that have the dubious distinction of not only looking like HRC but being named an organizer of said briefing “to frankly preserve her options” I agree with Cheryl a small call to talk about how to recalibrate (if that is even real) would be great.

Minyon.m

"Seize this very minute; what you can do or dream, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic."

enVision.Believe.Create

From: Roy Spence [mailto:Roy.Spence@gsdm.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 11:37 AM
To: Cheryl Mills

Cc: Judy Trabulsi; Philippe Reines; Minyon Moore; John Podesta; Maggie Williams; Jim Kennedy

Subject: RE: Hi there...this is from a Writer Friend of mine-who do I talk to about stuff like this???

Hi all…!!!

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 10:36 AM
To: Roy Spence
Cc: Judy Trabulsi; Philippe Reines; Minyon Moore; John Podesta; Maggie Williams; Jim Kennedy
Subject: Re: Hi there...this is from a Writer Friend of mine-who do I talk to about stuff like this???

Here is the real challenge: truth vs. reality.

1. she has no paid consultants doing politics

2. she is as horrified as all of us that maggie H wrote this piece but shutting down these articles is hard given they have decided to cover her.

3. news maker attribute to her what others are doing - so the PACS are treated as her even though she can't and isn't involved with them.

so it would be great to brainstorm how that changes.

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I am happy to convene such a gathering/call - though it will get reported if someone talks as a political meeting rather than one designed to preserve her options.

adding others (john p, pir, minyon, maggie, jim K) who can be reflective about this.

cdm

On Tue, Jan 7, 2014 at 11:23 AM, Roy Spence <Roy.Spence@gsdm.com > wrote:

Roy-Don't be surprised if I write a column soon that Hillary is going to blow it, and is repeating her mistakes of 2008, with stories about her "shadow campaign" of consultants milking her for a lot of money, while she gives paid speeches to banks, while she acts like an incumbent, and says virtually nothing important about what Democrats stand for, while the most admired person in the world is the pope for saying the kind of things she should be saying but isn't about economic fairness. This has got to be the worst pre-campaign in my memory. Imagine running as the candidate for the Democratic nomination as the

candidate of banks, consultants and insiders. Unbelievable.

Ride at Dawn

_____

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From:	"Light, Betty" <blight@steptoe.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	5/12/2015 11:47:51 AM
Subject:	April Statement
Attachments:	20150512142537.PDF

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From: "Jennifer Frost, Friends of Cheri Bustos" <jennifer@frostgroup.net>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/12/2014 3:01:49 AM
Subject: September 18th Breakfast with Congresswoman Cheri Bustos & Senator Barbara Boxer

You are cordially invited to a breakfast in honor of

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos

(IL-17)

with special guest

Senator Barbara Boxer

Thursday, September 18, 2014
8:30am – 9:30am

The Monocle Restaurant

107 D Street, NE

Washington, DC

Suggested Contributions:
$5,000 Host | $2,500 Co-host | $1,000 Sponsor | $500 Guest

For more information or to RSVP, please contact

Jennifer Frost at 202-285-0966 or jennifer@frostgroup.net

Friends of Cheri Bustos

3701 Porter Street, NW

Washington, DC 20016

FEC ID: C00498568

www.cheribustos.com

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From: "Georgetown Law" <newsbrief@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "All Faculty and Staff" <AllFacultyandStaff@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 12/17/2015 7:45:40 AM
Subject: News In Brief - December 2015

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News In Brief

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Washington Post Highlights D.C. Affordable Law Firm
"There are signs that Big Law is coming around to low-bono, recognizing a critical need to make legal services affordable to working people," say Dean William M. Treanor and Vice Dean Jane H. Aiken in the op-ed.
Read more

Celebrating 10 Years of the WTO Academy
The 10th annual Academy of WTO Law and Policy held at Georgetown Law was a tribute to the man colleagues say literally coined the name of the World Trade Organization: Georgetown Law Professor John H. Jackson, who died November 7.
Read more

Probing the Causes of Economic Inequality
"If we are going to talk about economic inequality in our country, we have to talk about it all the way to the bottom...not just go down as far as the middle class," said Professor Peter Edelman.
Read more

Scholars, Officers and Activists Convene at Police/State Symposium
"Police/State: Race, Power and Control" examined the excessive reliance on criminal law throughout American society and how it disproportionately affects African Americans.
Read more

Taxation Interview Program
Are you looking to hire a well-trained tax attorney? Private and public sector employers are invited to participate in our annual interview program, composed of Tax LL.M. students from Georgetown Law and NYU Law, in Washington D.C. on February 26, 2016.
Read more

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Law Center in the News

"Law Professors Ask Congress to Delay Changes in Debt Law," coverage in *The New York Times*, featuring a letter to congress co-authored by **Professor Adam Levitin**.

"Chicago Police Chief's Firing And Efforts To Boost Public Trust In Police," coverage by NPR's Diane Rehm Show, interviewing **Professor Paul Butler**.

"Does the United States Have a Gun Problem or a Terrorism Problem?," a *Foreign Policy* podcast with **Professor Rosa Brooks**.

More Law Center in the News

Alumni in the News

"IAC Places Next Bet on Digital Media," *The Wall Street Journal*, quoting **Doug Leeds (L'96)**.

"Who are the prosecutors trying to win convictions in the death of Freddie Gray?," *The Washington Post*, featuring **Michael Schatzow, LL.M.'78**.

"DraftKings, FanDuel File Responses In Advance Of NY Daily Fantasy Sports Hearing," an opinion piece by **David Yellin, L'11**, in *Legal Sports Report*.

More Alumni in the News

Alumni Corner

February 25-26, 2016 — International Trade Update (Alumni Rate Available)

March 4, 2016 — Georgetown Law Women's Forum

March 10-11, 2016 — Corporate Counsel Institute (Alumni Rate Available)

April 27, 2016 — Issues in Nonprofit Governance (Alumni Rate Available)

April 28-29, 2016 — Representing and Managing Tax-Exempt Organizationse (Alumni rate available)

May 25-26, 2016 — Cybersecurity Law Institute

October 21-23, 2016 — Georgetown Law Reunion Weekend

More Upcoming Alumni Events

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 12/3/2015 12:29:33 PM
Subject: Recent developments

Dear Jake,

First, I would like to propose an over-arching theme for the campaign, with domestic and foreign policy ramifications; "Rebuilding America". Under this theme she could fit her major infrastructure proposal (which will have broad support), education and job skills for the 21st century economy, a tax system that discourages companies moving abroad and encouraging those abroad to repatriate their earnings,. But this theme can also be used for national security policies--retooling the US military and NATO to combat the new asymmetrical battles we face; modernization of our intelligence capabilities; using our economic strength to help our allies combat terrorism, and build more prosperous societies that reduce the attraction of radicalism.

More broadly, she needs to focus on bread and butter issues of building a 9ompetitive 21st century that lifts the middle class and not just the wealthy. But she also needs to deemphasize (without changing her correct positions) abortion, gay rights, and gun control. Of course, she should continue to support these issues, but not have them dominate her broader economic message.

Second, the Paris attacks (I just returned last night), and those in Lebanon and Mali have changed the political equation. Although at one level this may benefit the "get tough" Republicans, it can play to Hillary's strong suit against Sanders and their likely nominee Rubio: "this is no time for on the job training".

But Jake, if the California tragedy is also a terrorist attack, this could have profound political ramifications that could be harmful. Again, to just talk about gun control and doing more outreach to the Muslim community will be off-putting. There would need to be a tough, uncompromising response.

I will be pleased to help in any of these areas. I will be having a private breakfast with Israeli Ambassador Dermer next week, and will pass along anything of interest.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From: "Hannah Brown, ActBlue" <replies@actblue.com>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/19/2015 1:36:17 PM
Subject: Kochs' spies

ActBlue

Dear John,

The Koch brothers are proving to be even more insidious than we could have imagined.

***Politico* reported yesterday that the Kochs have built a $17 million, 25 person arm dedicated to spying on their liberal rivals — complete with an ex-CIA operative.**

The Kochs bankrolled the Republicans in 2012, and they, along with the rest of the party, were stunned by the huge loss.

So the brothers vowed never to be surprised by Democrats' tactics. And their solution wasn't to be better, but rather to spy on operatives on the left.

ActBlue is the antidote to that kind of big money excess and power. We help thousands of Democrats build powerful grassroots campaigns, one small-dollar donation at a time.

Will you chip in $15 a month to help us scale up our tools to handle millions of contributions in 2016?

Because you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

Express Donate: $15 a month

Express Donate: $25 a month

Express Donate: $50 a month

Express Donate: $100 a month

Or donate another amount:

https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/stunned

We'd bet money on the fact that ActBlue is on the Kochs' list of Democratic targets — they are obsessed with money, after all.

It's terrifying how power-hungry the Kochs are, but it's also pathetic. Instead of investing in their own tools and really organizing communities, they're relying upon Kafka-esque tactics.

They can spy all they want, though. **The reason ActBlue has become a powerful force for Democrats is because we are transparent, and we make our tools available to every Democrat.** The Kochs could never copy that kind of collectivism.

We've got something far more important than money on our side, and that's millions of supporters who believe in Democrats' mission and are willing to chip in through ActBlue to help build strong grassroots campaigns.

Will you chip in $15 a month so we can expand our tools and help Democrats

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overpower the Koch machine in 2016?

Because you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

Express Donate: $15 a month

Express Donate: $25 a month

Express Donate: $50 a month

Express Donate: $100 a month

Or donate another amount:

https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/stunned

From all of us at ActBlue, thanks.

— Hannah, Lauren, Evan, and the rest of the team

ActBlue is the nation's largest source of funds for Democrats. Launched in 2004, ActBlue created and deployed the next generation of online fundraising tools, enabling individuals and groups to raise money for the Democratic candidates of their choice at secure.actblue.com .

Wondering how you can make the most of ActBlue? We're always happy to help. Email us at info@actblue.com.

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From: "Marissa Astor" <marissa.astor@icloud.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
"Philippe Reines" <pir@hrcoffice.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
"Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Teddy Goff" <teddy@precisionstrategies.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
"Ian Mandel" <ian.mandel@gmail.com>
"David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 11:06:54 AM
Subject: [CANCELING] Earned Media Call

All—per Robby and Nick, we will be discontinuing the weekly Earned Media Call on Wednesdays. There will not be a call this week or going forward. Thanks!

From: marissa.astor@icloud.com
When: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM March 18, 2015
Subject: Earned Media Call
Location: Dial-In Number: (712) 775-7031 // Passcode: 348-729-735

Dial-In Number: (712) 775-7031 // Passcode: 348-729-735

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmier I" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
Date: 2/26/2015 1:43:54 AM
Subject: Re: Plan for bhccf - 10 am call

Can get on around 10:15 for 15 minutes.

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

> On Feb 26, 2015, at 8:20 AM, Jennifer Palmier I <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> I am going to talk to Craig at ten am to try and get sense of full landscape and figure out plan for going forward and managing next two weeks of bhccf activities. You want to join? If not, will follow up after .
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Joe Sestak, Democrat for US Senate" <info@joesestak.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/31/2010 4:00:07 AM
Subject: This is it

Dear John,

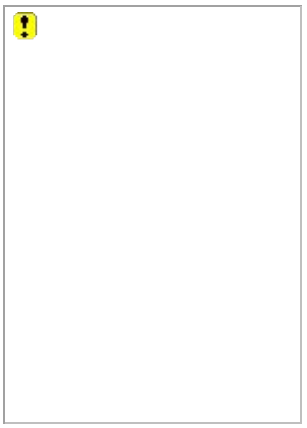

This is it ...

the **expiration of our matching $2 for $1 program** and the last day of our last full-fundraising quarter (midnight tonight) before the May Primary.

We are almost where we need to be ... in reaching our goal!

Please don't let this terrific opportunity to help slip away, without having made a contribution today. Your contributions of $15, $25, $50, $100 -- and more -- are inspiring others to give these past couple of days!

We've set sail for victory ... **Operation True Democrat** is in motion.

Help "make it happen" today ... a final contribution of any size ... and it will be matched.

Warmly,
Joe

P.S. **If you have contributed already, please consider one further contribution. Every dollar is making a difference in our fight to bring real change to Washington D.C. and leadership to Pennsylvania.**

Contribute | Volunteer

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From: "MileagePlus Shopping" <email@mileageplusshoppingnews.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/17/2015 3:03:31 PM
Subject: Exclusive offer for Premier members: Earn 750 bonus miles

Turn your online shopping into 750 bonus miles and more. View in browser

MileagePlus Shopping | UNITED

Home | Special offers | All stores | Sign up

Earn 750 bonus award miles with MileagePlus Shopping*

We're pleased to present this special offer to our valued United MileagePlus® Premier® members. Simply register and shop at MileagePlus Shopping and spend a cumulative $75 by 6/21 to earn 750 bonus miles in addition to regular miles earned.*

Sign up today

Other MileagePlus Shopping membership benefits include:

- Special offers and coupons
- Free shipping offers
- Exclusive seasonal specials
- More bonus miles opportunities

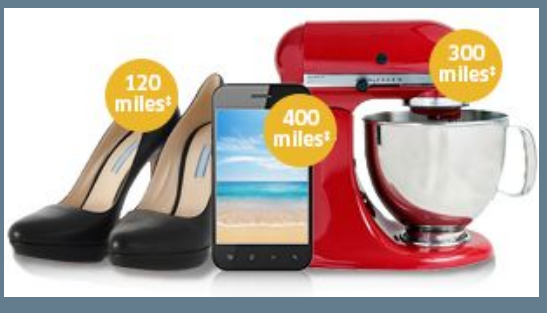

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See all 850+ stores

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Shop MileagePlus Shopping | How it works | Help | Like us on Facebook

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*Bonus mile offer: 6/18/15 to 6/21/15 11:59PM ET receive a one-time bonus of 750 MileagePlus® miles from MileagePlus Shopping. Spend a cumulative amount of $75 or more to earn 750 bonus miles. Returns, shipping, taxes, gift card purchases, and certain products are not eligible for bonus; please see site for details on any coupon code details or usage restrictions. Please allow 8-10 weeks for bonus miles to post to your account. Void where prohibited by law. This bonus offer is only available to members who received this email from MileagePlus Shopping.

‡Sample mileage offers are for illustrative purposes only. Please refer to individual merchant detail pages for specific offer terms & conditions and applicable mileage earning rates.

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From: "Brett Goldstein" <bgoldstein@intlblind.com>
To: "RESIDENT MANAGER" <huyscondo@gmail.com>
"Fran Shapiro" <fran@mercedesberk.com>
"Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/8/2015 11:56:50 AM
Subject: Re: Shades unit 12C

I can stop by tomorrow around 3pm, let me know if that is ok. Thanks

Brett

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: RESIDENT MANAGER
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Brett Goldstein; Fran Shapiro; Tony Podesta; John Podesta
Subject: Re: FW: Shades unit 12C

Good morning Brett hope all is well. I have gotten to OK from the owners to access the unit to check the shades. Please advise of site visit (Monday-Friday)

Best,

Joseph

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:37 PM, RESIDENT MANAGER <huyscondo@gmail.com > wrote:

> Thank you for your prompt response. I have copied the owner and broker as I/we will need authorization. Mae/ Fran please advise. Copy all
>
> Joseph
>
> On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:31 PM, Brett Goldstein <bgoldstein@intlblind.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi Joseph,
> >
> > Ricky asked that I help with your issues. I would like to come by and take a quick look to see what we will need to do and if any special parts are needed for when our carpenter comes. Please let me know the availability of the apartment for the next few business days.
> >
> > Thank you for your consideration,
> >
> > Brett M. Goldstein
> >
> > (917) 557-0576
> >
> > INTERNATIONAL BLIND CONTRACTORS LTD
> > 274 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10016-0701
> > Phone: 212-473-2000 Fax: 212-353-3400
> >
> > -------- Original Message --------
> > Subject: Fwd: Shades unit 12C
> > From: RESIDENT MANAGER <huyscondo@gmail.com >
> > To: Ricky Janowitz <rjanowitz@intlblind.com >
> > CC: Mae Podesta <mpodesta@gmail.com >,Fran Shapiro <fran@mercedesberk.com >

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Good morning Ricky hope all is well. Linda from Distinctive Windows gave me your contact information. Can we set up an appointment to look at the shades in unit 12C. I have copied owner/broker as well. I am the resident manager at Huys Condominium 404 Park Avenue South.

Best,

Joseph

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Linda Farahnik** <Linda@distinctivewindows.com >
Date: Mon, Nov 23, 2015 at 9:17 AM
Subject: RE: Shades unit 12C
To: RESIDENT MANAGER <huyscondo@gmail.com >

Joseph,

Good morning.

As you probably know, we only manufactured the shades, we did not install nor program. While we could certainly make a service stop, there would be a minimum service charge of $250 + tax for this kind of repair.

I suggest you contact International Blind who did both the installation and programming and who should still be providing this service. We of course are responsible for any additional window treatments we have and will be providing to residents.

Ricky Janowitz rjanowitz@intlblind.com

<image001.gif>

Best,

Linda Farahnik : Showroom Director
Distinctive Window Treatment Plus
"The Premier Source For All Window Treatments"
Custom Fabricator & Motorization Experts

Trade Showroom
499 Canal Street : #2
New York : NY : 10013

Tel : 212.620.5261 Fax : 212.620.5263

Linda@distinctivewindows.com

www.distinctivewindows.com

<image002.png>

Happy Thanksgiving!

In celebration, Distinctive Window Treatment Plus will be closed November 26th and 27th.

From: RESIDENT MANAGER [mailto:huyscondo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 7:58 AM
To: Linda Farahnik
Cc: Mae Podesta; Fran Shapiro

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Subject: Shades unit 12C

Good morning Linda hope you are keeping well. In middle bedroom shade in unit 12C is not responding to the remote and has come detached from the roller mechanism. Please advise of schedule for a site visit. I have copied the broker and resident as well. Mae/Fran please advise of PTE.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/22/2015 3:21:22 PM
Subject:	Fwd: Attorney-Client Communication
Attachments:	Memorandum on Interactions with Priorities USA.pdf

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Elias, Marc (Perkins Coie)** <MElias@perkinscoie.com >
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2015 at 8:38 PM
Subject: Attorney-Client Communication
To: John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, Dennis Cheng <dcheng@hillaryclinton.com >, Charles Baker <cbaker@hillaryclinton.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: "Berkon, Jonathan (Perkins Coie)" <JBerkon@perkinscoie.com >, "Bull, Leslie (Perkins Coie)" <LBull@perkinscoie.com >

Memo re interaction with Priorities. Attached is a memo addressing several recent questions regarding interacting with Priorities.

--
Marc E. Elias
Perkins Coie LLP
700 13th St, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-434-1609 (ph)
202-654-9126 (fax)
melias@perkinscoie.com

NOTICE: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you have received it in error, please advise the sender by reply email and immediately delete the message and any attachments without copying or disclosing the contents. Thank you.

--
JP
jp66@hillaryclinton.com
For scheduling: mfisher@hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Megan Rouse" <meganrouse@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/13/2015 2:14:28 AM
Subject: Re: Joule/Red Rock to Merge

Thanks. I also got official word through Joule via John Cobb at Steptoe. Looks to be good news for the company, as the merger is intended to expand their reach.

I checked in and no action is required as investors at this time; they will let me know if/when there is a to do to complete the merger.

On Fri, Nov 13, 2015 at 9:07 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Phillip Caplan** <pcaplan@renovacapitalpartners.com >
Date: Friday, November 13, 2015
Subject: Joule/Red Rock to Merge
To: John and Mary Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >

John, don't know if you're still following this, but just an FYI.

Hope you are well and keeping your head above water.

http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2015/11/12/joule-red-rock-biofuels-to-merge-forming-industry-leading-carbon-neutral-fuel-production-platform/

Phillip Caplan
Renova Capital Partners
303-945-2939 - office
703-307-0455 - cell
pcaplan@renovacapitalpartners.com

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From: "Molly McUsic" <mcusic@live.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/19/2014 2:57:44 AM
Subject: RE:

Just got back from Columbia where we managed not to get kidnapped. I'll call on Saturday and find a time. I'm really grateful. Thank you

> Subject: Re:
> From: john.podesta@gmail.com
> Date: Fri, 14 Nov 2014 06:02:16 -0500
> To: mcusic@live.com
>
> Sure
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> > On Nov 13, 2014, at 2:52 PM, Molly McUsic <mcusic@live.com> wrote:
> >
> > Dear John
> >
> > Congratulations on your triumph in China. I wondered if you might have fifteen minutes some time next weekend (22nd). I have a couple things I would love to discuss of a personal nature. I know that may not be possible.
> >
> > Best,
> >
> > Molly
> >

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
Date: 2/3/2015 2:22:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: Launch Concept Call

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Caitlin Merchant <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com >
> **Date:** February 3, 2015 at 7:08:30 PM EST
> **To:** Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >
> **Cc:** Sawsan Bay <sbay@hrcoffice.com >, Marissa Astor <marissa.astor@icloud.com >, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >, "maria@precisionstrategies.com " <maria@precisionstrategies.com >, "Roberts, Abigail" <Abigail.Roberts@gmmb.com >, "hellowendyclark@me.com " <hellowendyclark@me.com>, "jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com " <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Dennis Cheng <d.cheng@me.com >, Joanne Laszczych <jlaszczych@cdmillsGroup.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
> **Subject: Re: Launch Concept Call**
>
> Mandy is free before 2pm EST
>
> Caitlin Merchant
> Grunwald Communications
> 1306 30th St NW
> Washington, DC 20007
> P: 202-973-9400
> C: 202-306-8660
> Caitlin@grunwald-communications.com
>
> On Feb 3, 2015, at 6:43 PM, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com > wrote:
>
> > John can do 9am - 12pm EST
> >
> > Mona Thinavongsa
> > Executive Assistant
> > Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> > Mona@algpolling.con
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Feb 3, 2015, at 5:32 PM, Sawsan Bay <sbay@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Huma can do 1pm but not 2pm.
> > >
> > > ---
> > >
> > > **From:** Marissa Astor [mailto:marissa.astor@icloud.com]
> > > **Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 6:30 PM
> > > **To:** Sawsan Bay; Shannon Currie; maria@precisionstrategies.com ; Mona Thinavongsa; Caitlin Merchant; Roberts, Abigail; hellowendyclark@me.com ; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; Kristina Schake; Dennis Cheng; Joanne Laszczych; John Podesta
> > > **Cc:** Robby Mook
> > > **Subject:** Launch Concept Call

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hi all—We would like to set up a call to discuss launch concepts on Monday, February 9. Please let me know if you can make 1:00 – 2:00pm EST work for this call.

Thank you,
Marissa

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/3/2014 6:51:35 AM
Subject: Invitation: Special Event: World War One: What Were They Thinking?

To view this email as a web page, click here

Special Event

Wilson Center

THOMSON REUTERS

WORLD WAR ONE

Co-Hosted With Thomson Reuters
Why did a small number of European statesmen take the world into the seminal catastrophe of the Great War? The German Chancellor Otto Bismarck had warned in 1880 that "some damned foolish thing in the Balkans" might lead to a terrible war. The shots at Sarajevo did just that a hundred years ago. What have we learned?

Introduction:

The Honorable Jane Harman
Director, President and CEO, Wilson Center

Moderator:

Sir Harold Evans
Editor-at-Large, Reuters and Author of *The American Century*

Speakers:

A. Scott Berg
Winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize, Biographer of Woodrow Wilson

Kati Marton
Award-Winning NPR and ABC News Correspondent and Author of *Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America*

Dr. Sean McMeekin
Professor of History, Bard College and Author of *July 1914: Countdown to War*

RSVP NOW »

Forward to a Friend

RSVP NOW

Wednesday, September 10, 2014
12:30-2:00 pm

6th floor Flom Auditorium

Directions

Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Phone: 202.691.4000

wwics@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tony.carrk@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/14/2014 10:50:33 AM
Subject: Re: Hello, sir

Sir,

Can we get coffee/breakfast in the next week or so?

All the best,

Tony

On Wed, Sep 10, 2014 at 5:31 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Et's try
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> > On Sep 9, 2014, at 10:47 AM, Tony Carrk <tony.carrk@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > Hi sir,
> >
> > I just wanted to drop you a line now that summer is over to see how you were doing. It looks as though our team's transition is going to happen this week, with Lori leaving for HHS and all. I hope to see you at some upcoming events, and would love to catch up.
> >
> > All the best,
> >
> > Tony

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "MileagePlus Partner" <MileagePlus_Partner@news.united.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/10/2015 11:10:50 PM
Subject: Save 10% on your next hotel stay with this limited-time offer

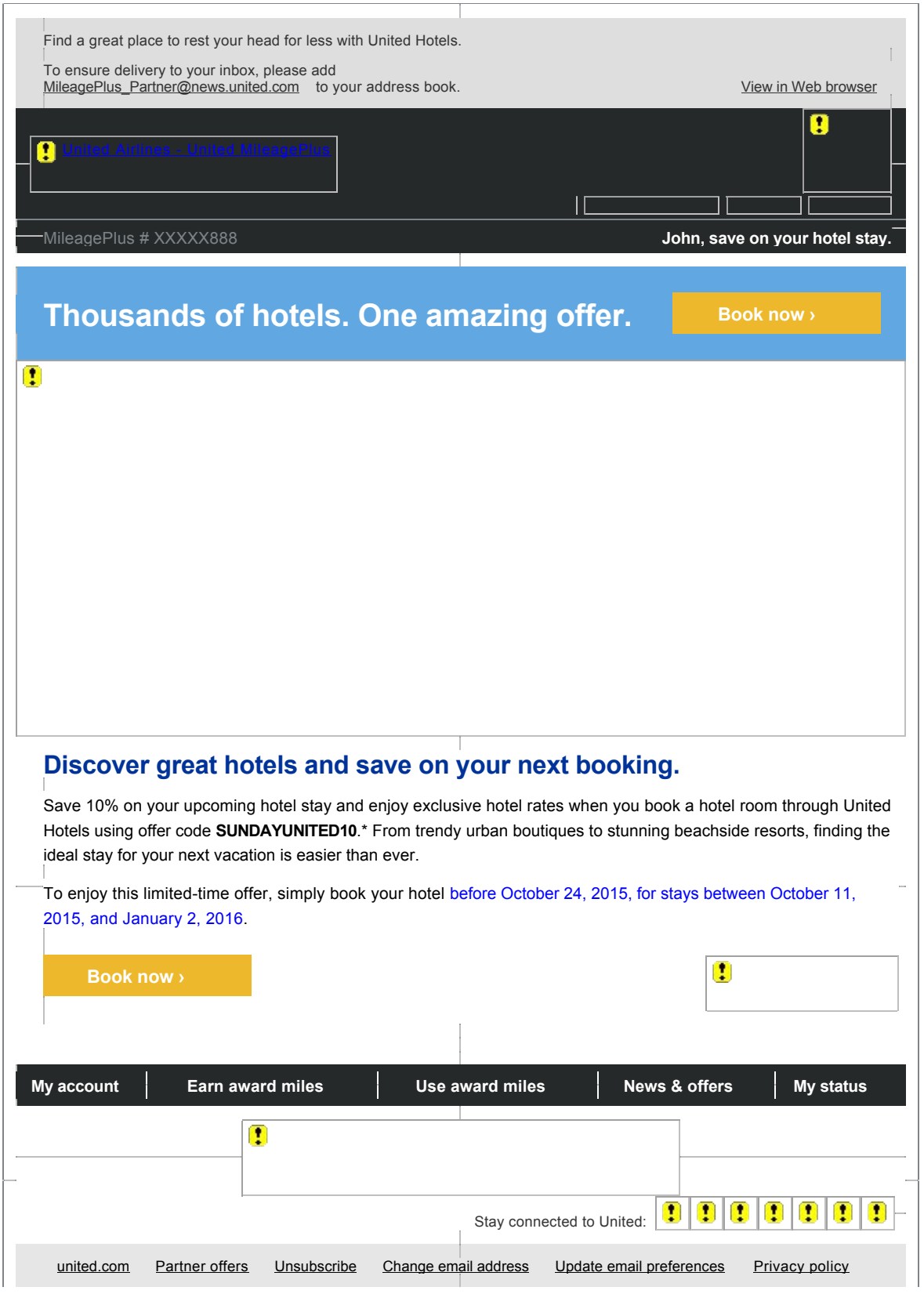

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United MileagePlus
900 Grand Plaza Dr.
Houston, TX 77067

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

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From: "Harwood, John \(NBCUniversal\)" <John.Harwood@nbcuni.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/4/2015 9:57:04 AM
Subject: Lunch in NYC tomorrow?

John Harwood
CNBC/NYT
202 669 0751

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Robert Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/18/2015 7:36:50 AM
Subject: Re: List of Ideas

Adding Marlon who discussed this with Brandon as well, I believe

On Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 11:06 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Fyi

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Mary Kay Henry" <marykay.henry@seiu.org >
Date: Mar 18, 2015 10:40 AM
Subject: List of Ideas
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

We just ended our Ignite! Conference in St. Louis, where 1,000 of our best member leaders gathered to recommit to fighting to build economic and political power for all workers!

I'm following up on our conversation on how Secretary Clinton can engage with SEIU members and non-union workers. As you know our members are putting their hearts and souls into the Fight for $15 and a union, commonsense immigration reform, delivering on the promise of ACA, Blacks Lives Matter, and voting rights for everyone.

I'm looking forward to working together to think about how we can create spaces for the Secretary to have a dialogue with our members and non-union workers, so she can hear their stories, and they can hear how she's thinking about the issues that matter to working people. Here are a few ideas:

1. **April 15 -- Fight for $15 Day of Action:** The movement that started with fast food workers in NYC has exploded to include Walmart workers, airport baggage handlers and passenger service attendants, home care providers, child care workers, adjunct college faculty, and other underpaid people who want to create jobs that pay people enough to actually live on. On April 15, workers will take action in a major mobilization in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City and two hundred other cities across the globe. These workers are taking a huge risk by taking a stand and need public support in the media and at actions.

2. **Workers' Roundtables:** These would provide an opportunity to have a conversation with workers about the challenges they face and to test drive solutions together. For example, we could pull together a group of childcare providers and fast food workers to talk with the Secretary about the challenges of our nation's lack of affordable, accessible, and universal childcare for low-wage workers and providers.

3. **"Walk a Day" with our members**. Sec. Clinton spending a day with childcare, homecare or other workers would be incredibly compelling and lift up the courageous, important and difficult work that service sector workers do every day to take care of our children, elderly and the disabled.

4. **Conversations with SEIU Leadership:** The SEIU Executive Committee (approx. 30 local union leaders) will meet in May in Chicago, and our full International Executive Board (70 local union leaders) will meet in Detroit in June. We could also pull together any subsection of leaders based on geography, industry, or other criteria.

Here's a list of some of what's on our calendar already. We're surprisingly nimble and could add public or private events with relatively fast turnaround.

March 30 – April 3	National Week of Action for Commonsense Immigration Reform
April 15	Fight for $15 Day of Action
May 1	May Day Actions for Commonsense Immigration Reform

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May TBD	SEIU Executive Committee Meeting, Chicago
May/June TBD	SCOTUS decision on King v. Burwell
June 8-12	SEIU International Executive Board Meeting, Detroit

I look forward to talking more. Will be in Eastern time zone the rest of the week.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Al Gore" <feedback@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/20/2012 3:00:52 AM
Subject: An Environmental Champion for Washington State

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Contribute directly to Jay Inslee's campaign for Washington State governor. With just 17 days until Election Day, there's still a lot of ground to cover. Please join me in helping make sure Jay wins in November.

John,

Jay Inslee is running for governor of Washington State and I'm proud to support him.

As an LCV member, I hope you will support him too. He's got a tough fight on his hands and with just 17 days left until the election, his team still has thousands of dollars to raise, doors to knock on, and phone calls to make.

Will you join me and make a contribution to Jay's campaign today?

As a 15-year member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Jay put much of his effort into building a clean energy economy and protecting the air we breathe and the water we drink. He is exactly the kind of governor who will put protecting our environment at the top of his agenda--right alongside sustainably growing our economy.

As governor, Jay will provide visionary leadership that not only strengthens our current industries, but also grows a new economy based on the clean-energy jobs of the future.

But that means that, right now, Jay is battling against millions in special interest money that's pouring into Washington State, and he needs our help. I hope I can count on you.

Will you take a moment, right now, to contribute directly to Jay's campaign?

The 112th U.S. House of Representatives was considered by many to be the worst ever on environmental issues, but Jay Inslee stood out as an environmental leader and champion. In 2011, Inslee earned an impressive 100 percent score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

If we can get Jay Inslee elected as governor, his administration is sure to be a model on environmental issues. Here's why:

Jay Inslee has been one of the strongest and most influential voices on environmental issues. He is one of the foremost advocates and leaders on the advancement of clean energy, climate policy, and the protection of natural resources.

This race is just about as close as it gets. Public polls show Jay neck-and-neck with his opponent.

That's why I'm asking LCV members like you to contribute to Jay Inslee for Washington.

I hope you'll join me in making sure Jay Inslee has the resources his campaign needs to win on Election Day. Will you chip in with a contribution today?

Jay can win this. **If we hope to protect our planet for our children and grandchildren, we need Jay Inslee as the next governor of Washington State. Please, give what you can today.**

Sincerely,

Al Gore

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202-785-8683

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From: "Anna Canfield" <acanfield@americanprogress.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/23/2008 6:55:25 AM
Subject: Todd Stern Cell Phone

(202) 641-3207. Said he'd be out of the office most of the day.

Anna Canfield | Special Assistant to Sarah Wartell, EVP | Center for American Progress |
1333 H Street NW, 10th Floor | Washington DC 20005 | 202.478.6324 (P) | 202.682.1867(F)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: tyson@haas.berkeley.edu
Date: 7/23/2015 2:02:56 PM
Subject: Re: friday speech

Thanks Laura.

On Thursday, July 23, 2015, Laura D'Andrea TYSON <tyson@haas.berkeley.edu > wrote:

> Dear John,
>
> The speechwriters and policy team are considering my concerns. They are meant to be helpful, not critical. I like working with this very talented and energetic team.
>
> Laura

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Marisa McAuliffe" <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/18/2015 7:03:34 AM
Subject: call in number

Hi John, the call in information for the 9am with Robby and the Secretary is:
605-475-4000
Code: 381629#

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Leslie de Leon" <ld333@law.georgetown.edu>
To: Announcements <Announcements@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 8/12/2015 1:02:34 PM
Subject: Walking Challenge Fitbit Winners!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Microgrid Knowledge" <news@microgridknowledge.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/6/2015 9:05:18 AM
Subject: Posts Microgrid Newsletter for 08/06/2015

Microgrid Knowledge :: Tracking the News and Opportunities with Microgrids

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MICROGRID KNOWLEDGE

Microgrid Knowledge Newsletter from the Editors of Energy Efficiency Markets

Weekly Newsletter for 08/06/2015

How the Clean Power Plan Advances Microgrids

By Elisa Wood on Aug 06, 2015 11:44 am

The Clean Power Plan advances microgrids with a new and different kind of public policy support. But don't expect the carbon-cutting rule to change the market overnight.

Get the full story here .

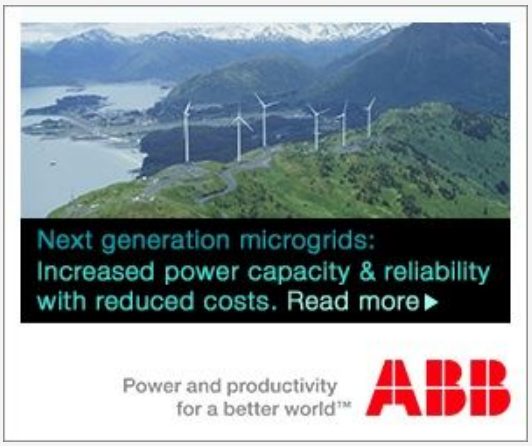

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From: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To: "Jamie Williams" <jamie_williams@tws.org>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/20/2015 6:27:09 AM
Subject: Re: Draft Podesta Press Release

Thanks Jamie--confirming receipt, and I've printed this for John. He's traveling today. When are you aiming to send this out?

Best,
Eryn

On Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 1:16 PM, Jamie Williams <jamie_williams@tws.org > wrote:

> HI John,
>
> I have attached our draft press release for the Ansel Adams award. It would be great if you could give us a quote to insert in here.
>
> Let me know if there any changes, deletions, additions you would suggest. We would like to get this release out next week.
>
> And we greatly look forward to presenting the award to you the night of June 18t with our Governing Council and guests.
>
> Thanks!!
>
> Jamie
>
> **From:** Liese Dart
> **Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 1:07 PM
> **To:** Jamie Williams
> **Subject:** Draft Podesta Release
>
> **DRAFT 3-20-15**
>
> # John Podesta to Receive
>
> # the Ansel Adams Award from The Wilderness Society
>
> ***Award recognizes leadership and tireless work to protect America's wild public lands***
>
> **Contact:** Michael Reinemer, 202-429-3949 , michael_reinemer@tws.org
>
> **WASHINGTON, DC** (March XX, 2015) – Today the Wilderness Society announced that its Ansel Adams Award is being presented to John Podesta for his tireless work in protecting America's wild public lands. Mr. Podesta served as Counselor to President Obama from January 2014 to March 2015 and as White House Chief of Staff in the Clinton administration, from 1998 to 2001.

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T**he** Ansel Adams **Award** is conferred on current or former federal officials who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the cause of conservation and the fostering of an American land ethic.

"John Podesta has played a tremendous leadership role in shaping our nation's conservation legacy," said Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society . "In the Obama administration, he led efforts to protect some the most magnificent wild places across the country, and he implemented a critically important action plan to address climate change."

In presenting the award to Podesta, The Wilderness Society cited his key role in major conservation actions over the past two decades. Those actions include the Obama administration's protection of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, the San Gabriel Mountains and Pacific Remote Islands as national monuments and the proposed wilderness designation for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. During his tenure as Counselor to President Obama, John Podesta oversaw the designation and expansion of seven national monuments, protecting more than 258 million acres federal lands and waters. Podesta has also been a champion of the President's efforts to tackle climate change, including EPA's proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions from coal fired power plants and a path-breaking agreement with China to reduce global warming emissions.

During the Clinton administration, he was instrumental in the establishment of the "roadless rule," which protected millions acres of our national forests from logging and road-building. Among his many other conservation achievements in the Clinton administration, he led efforts to establish 19 national monuments, including the California Coastal and the Grand Canyon-Parashant national monuments, which all together protect more than three million acres of invaluable natural and cultural resources. He is the author of *The Power of Progress: How America's Progressives Can (Once Again) Save Our Economy, Our Climate and Our Country.*

[Mr. Podesta should feel free to add a comment to the release if he's inclined]

The Ansel Adams Award is presented on behalf of the renowned photographer who was an outspoken advocate for defending the nation's natural heritage. Past winners include former Secretaries of the Interior Ken Salazar and Bruce Babbitt, former Arizona Congressman Mo Udall, Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, President Jimmy Carter, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and Senators Bill Roth, John Chafee, John Kerry and Joe Lieberman as well as Congressmen Phillip Burton and John Lewis.

###

The Wilderness Society is the leading conservation organization working to protect wild public lands and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Founded in 1935, and now with more than 500,000 members and supporters, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect 110 million acres of wilderness and to ensure sound management of our shared national lands. www.wilderness.org .

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From:	"Ethan Gelber" <egelber@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
	"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date:	2/3/2015 6:24:44 AM
Subject:	Re: 10-page Policy memo
Attachments:	2015-02-03 - Small Businesses - 8am.docx

All,

In response to Joel's questions below, I've attached some stats on small businesses/microbusinesses. Please let us know if you have questions/suggestions.

Thanks,
Ethan

_____
From: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2015 3:45 PM
To: Jake Sullivan
Cc: Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; Dan Schwerin; Ethan Gelber; Jeff Liszt; John Podesta
Subject: Re: 10-page Policy memo

Ditto on trade.
Adding John on here.
For the purpose of being authentic to our candidate, I was just thinking to myself what issues I've heard from her repeatedly so we can try to reflect that when she sees the draft. Aside from Carbon, my list would be:
--family leave
--early childhood Ed/development
--raising wages
I think we touched on all three on the call but I wanted to flag them. Others here know her brain better than me so please correct me if I'm wrong. I just want to stay tethered to her motivations, even if that means explaining why these ideas won't work.

> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:28 PM, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Totally agree on trade.
>
> We'll get you the facts on the micro-entrepreneurs.
>
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:20 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>>
>> All,
>> With all that's on the plate, let's really confirm the micro entrepreneur jobs #s. I love small business symbolically but most manufacturers are small, high tech and employ a decent # of people. Americans love both small business and manufactures and it's where the growth has been coming from. It's why Obama frequently uses the phrase "small business manufacturers." I would rather focus on that -- which also connects to a lot of the job training programs than chase the mom & pop businesses until we can clarify the #s on that.
>>
>> And given the debate unfolding on trade and where this President is and where WJC was -- I would ratchet up trade as an issue. We're going to be navigating some trick waters there.
>>
>> That's it for now.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: John Anzalone
>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:38 PM
>> To: Dan Schwerin
>> Cc: Jake Sullivan; Ethan Gelber; Robby Mook; Jeff Liszt; Joel Benenson

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>> Subject: Re: 10-page Policy memo
>>
>> Dan-Jake
>>
>> I meant to tell you that this memo was very helpful. I have given it one look-see and plan on reviewing it in more depth tomorrow.
>>
>> One thing I think we should think about are the different parts of the economy. we tend to all get wrapped up in the 21st century techno stuff but we are still make great stuff in America as well. Anyway, I wonder if we explore the economy by:
>>
>> 1. small scale entrepreneurship: Prior to Obamacare the number one reason someone would stay in a shitty job is that they needed healthcare and did not have any options. There are a ton of people who want to start new businesses but were handcuffed to their own employer because of healthcare. I don't know if we are seeing any evidence of Obamacare unleashing a new wae of entrepreneurship but I hope it is coming. (I realize access to capital is another big problem)
>>
>> I think sole proprietorships, self-employed, micro businesses and small businesses should be one of our focuses. How do we ignite a new age of entrepreneurship that will continue to feed the American dream? And this is not the next Zuckerberg, as your memo states. It is every imaginable type of service, product and artistry. We need to help create the environment for new, self-employment, take the mystification out of it, aid in the logistics of creation, and yes, help with capitol. Also reward these small businesses with tax credits for new jobs created.
>>
>> Joel sent around some stats about how small a universe micro businesses truly are so we will have to keep that in mind but the general "small business" definition is still a big driver of our economy and new jobs. Also, I would like some clarification between the SBA stats which makes it seem like sole proprietorship is a big chunk of small businesses and the numbers Joel sent around which makes it seem a speck.
>>
>> 2: Manufacturing: I am not sure you can say that manufacturing is alive and well in the U.S. but it is certainly becoming more vibrant and is important to the American economy. We should be encouraging it and I think we will see more manufacturing coming back from China and Mexico for many different reason.
>>
>> 3: Internet, technology, etc. While we certainly need to encourage this sector this is also where venture capital and angel investors already fill the void. I do see a need for state and federal venture capital funds especially in struggling economies (think detroit and new orleans but also among the very young)
>>
>> 4: Infrastructure: America is good at building shit and very good at building roads, bridges, sewer and water systems, airports, ports, etc. And $1 billion in infrastructure spending supports 28,000 jobs. Where else in the economy do we get a return like that. And the multiplier effect is tremendous for the economy. An of course the unions love it.
>>
>> 5: New Energy. Another "all of the above" approach and good return on the number of jobs. Not sure I have a lot to add here.
>>
>> 6: Healthcare: Curious if this should get more attention as our population ages and as cities like Pittsburgh go from a core industry like steel driving their economy to medical driving their economy (and fracking). We have big shortages in health care workers. These are good paying jobs. One idea I had was also to just have the federal gov't come up with the 10% match they are requiring states to pitch in for Medicaid Expansion under Obamacare. This is clearly making winners and losers for working families. If you live in a red state with a GOP governor you are screwed. So just pay for the Medicaid Expansion for states and create literally hundreds of thousands of jobs.
>>
>> 7: for the life of my I had one more and it just flew out of my brain.
>>
>>
>> The following are not sectors but help drive or stunt economic growth:
>>
>> 7: Tax code. Right now it picks the winners and losers and the winners buy all their breaks with lobbyists and lawyers. I would add in this realm onerous regulations.
>>
>> 8: The federal deficit: We know it holds economic growth back and I think we have to talk about fiscal responsibility.

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>>
>> 9: Trade. I like your "fair competition" approach. We are also a bit hamstrung given WJC's focus on NAFTA.
>>
>>
>> Anyway, i am just thinking out loud here. You have most of this in your big research book but reading your memo just made me want to type thoughts out.
>>
>> John Anzalone
>> Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
>> 334-387-3121
>>
>> PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: john@ALGpolling.com www.ALGpolling.com
>>
>> twitter: @AnzaloneLiszt
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>> On Jan 29, 2015, at 7:49 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Hi all, here¹s the memo. I look forward to talking with you on Sunday.
>>> Dan
>>>
>>>> On 1/29/15, 8:34 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> All - Dan will send around a memo we've prepared that encapsulates
>>>> the policy work to date. It may be of some use for this call, or it
>>>> may not
>>>> - we'll let you be the judges!
>>>>
>>>> (Dan I'm on my bb so can you shoot a copy to this chain?)
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>> On Jan 28, 2015, at 12:57 PM, Marissa Astor
>>>>> <marissa.astor@icloud.com>
>>>>> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Dial-In Number: (712) 775-7031 // Passcode: 348-729-735
>>>>> <meeting.ics>
>>>
>>> <01-27-15 policy update.pdf>

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From: "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/22/2014 9:51:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: heather bushey

I sent this only to you.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Sandler, Susan" <ses@sandlerfoundation.org >
> **Date:** June 11, 2014 at 9:34:42 AM PDT
> **To:** "Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org >, "Daetz, Steve" <sdaetz@sandlerfoundation.org >
> **Subject: FW: heather bushey**
>
> **From:** Oakes, Jeannie [J.Oakes@fordfoundation.org]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:50 AM
> **To:** Sandler, Susan
> **Subject:** Fwd: heather bushey
>
> A bit more Ford praise for Heather that I thought you'd like to see.
>
> Jeannie
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Pennington, Hilary" <H.Pennington@fordfoundation.org >
> > **Date:** June 10, 2014 at 8:58:01 PM MDT
> > **To:** "Neuborne, Helen" <H.Neuborne@fordfoundation.org >, "Oakes, Jeannie" <J.Oakes@fordfoundation.org >
> > **Cc:** "Briggs, Xavier" <X.Briggs@fordfoundation.org >, "Barzilay, Jonathan" <J.Barzilay@fordfoundation.org >
> > **Subject: Re: heather bushey**
> >
> > I agree she's a star, Helen—and she was so eloquent about the difference that you have made in her trajectory and development. Listening to her made me feel very proud. You've made a big impact with consistent and deeply committed nurturing of talent.
> >
> > **From:** <Neuborne>, Helen <H.Neuborne@fordfoundation.org >
> > **Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 8:48 PM
> > **To:** Hilary Pennington <h.pennington@fordfoundation.org >, "Oakes, Jeannie" <J.Oakes@fordfoundation.org >
> > **Cc:** "Briggs, Xavier" <X.Briggs@fordfoundation.org >, "Barzilay, Jonathan" <J.Barzilay@fordfoundation.org >
> > **Subject:** Re: heather bushey
> >
> > Thanks for the update on Heather's new agenda. I started funding Heather when she was a young feminist economist at CEPR. When she moved to EPI, I funded her there. Then she moved to CAP and Anna and I supported both her on-going work and family research, but also gave her the first grant (and Ford hosted her first economists' convening) to start her project with senior economists to get them to translate their economic analysis into concepts the public would understand and also work hard to get it into the wider public discourse.
> >
> > We were thrilled when John Podesta and the Sandlers gave her this shot. I think she's a star.

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From: Pennington, Hilary
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 08:27 PM
To: Neuborne, Helen; Oakes, Jeannie
Cc: Briggs, Xavier; Barzilay, Jonathan
Subject: heather bushey

Thanks to Helen and Jeannie's encouragement, I had a fabulous meeting today with Heather and Elisabeth Jacobs, who will be leading their policy and academic outreach work. As you know, they are not seeking additional funding this year thanks to the grant from the Sandlers (but will next year).

I love what they're doing and the model of commissioning hard hitting economic research from established and emerging economists, but also focusing on translating and packaging and networking it with journalists, speech writers, and people on the Hill. Really interesting.

As you probably know, they are looking at HOW inequality affects growth across 4 categories: human capital, institutions, entrepreneurship, and demand (markets). Jeannie: they are doing some work on student loan debt, early learning and parenting, schooling, and --near and dear to my heart—they may look at transitions to adulthood as well.

I mentioned the convening we hope to do with Brookings and hopefully engaging them too—to put powerful ideas and research in the hands of grantee activist partners, and they were very enthusiastic. We should follow up when you're ready.

Also, JB: they are working with WA Monthly to do an edition (maybe 25 pages) on their early research—with perhaps different segments by stage of life cycle. You and I can discuss more tomorrow. May be a content play of interest to us.

They have the potential to be a key ally and partner in our work. Thanks so much for making the link for me.

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From: "Ilyse Hogue" <ilyse@moveon.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/18/2009 4:51:01 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Fwd: Meet Dawn

We wanted to draw your attention to our e-mail today introducing Dawn Smith, who is a MoveOn member locked in a battle with Cigna to receive adequate coverage for a rare brain tumor. We think personalizing the fight at this critical juncture is an effective way of identifying the true villains in this fight. Dawn is an amazing fighter, and we're hoping to help her get her story far and wide.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Justin Ruben, MoveOn.org Political Action** <moveon-help@list.moveon.org >
Date: Fri, Sep 18, 2009 at 11:07 AM
Subject: [Bounce] (50,000; ID7f2047; 17254) Meet Dawn (sender: daniel@moveon.org)
To: Johnny Neumann <john.von.neumann@example.com >

Dear MoveOn member,

Meet Dawn. She's lives in Atlanta.

Four years ago, Dawn was diagnosed with a rare, but treatable brain tumor. Dawn's doctors are ready to help her. But **CIGNA, Dawn's insurer, refuses to pay for her care** because the only hospitals qualified to treat her are out-of-network.

Dawn has been fighting CIGNA on her own for years, but now she's asking for help. **What's happening to Dawn could happen to any one of us.** And if we all stand with Dawn to shine a light on Big Insurance's abusive practices, we can get Dawn the care she needs and make sure they don't do this to anyone ever again.

I just signed a statement supporting Dawn. CIGNA may be able to ignore Dawn, but they won't be able to ignore millions of us standing together. **Will you join me?**

http://pol.moveon.org/dawnsmith/?id=&t=4

The statement says, "*I stand with Dawn Smith. CIGNA must provide the treatment she needs and stop rejecting legitimate care for all the others who are suffering.*"

Unfortunately, Dawn's story isn't unique—she's one of the millions of Americans who are suffering—but what she's doing about her situation is. Instead of suffering in silence, she's sharing her painful, powerful story so that, as she says, "no one else has to go through what I have."

Dawn has been fighting CIGNA for the care she needs for years. They may be able to ignore her, but they won't be able to ignore all of us standing together. **Will you join me and stand with Dawn?**

Click Here

Since she got sick, Dawn's life has been a struggle. She has terrible pain and sudden seizures that can knock her off her feet. She's had to move back in with her mom so she can have constant care. But through all that, she's kept her spirits up.

The worst part is that her condition is treatable. But CIGNA's refusal to treat her has brought her to "the end of my rope," as she puts it. CIGNA gladly accepts Dawn's premium payments, but when she needed care, they refused to pay for it, coming up with new reasons as they went.

Dawn's story is a symptom of a much bigger problem. But if we all rally behind her, we can help not just her, but everyone else who's suffering under our broken system, too. Together, we have the power to make Dawn's story different, and in the process, to remind Congress and the American people why we so desperately need health care reform.

I'm standing with Dawn. Will you join me?

http://pol.moveon.org/dawnsmith/?id=&t=5

Thanks for all you do.

–Justin, Marika, Daniel, Kat, and the rest of the team

Want to support our work? We're entirely funded by our 5 million members—no corporate contributions, no big checks from CEOs. And our tiny staff ensures that small contributions go a long way. Chip in here .

PAID FOR BY MOVEON.ORG POLITICAL ACTION, http://pol.moveon.org/ . Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. This email was sent to Johnny Neumann on September 18, 2009. To change your email address or update your contact info, click here . To remove yourself from this list, click here . .

--

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Ilyse G. Hogue
Director of Political Advocacy and Communications
MoveOn.org

ph: 202-822-4780 x219
mobile: 202-731-2656

Hope is a feeling that life and work have meaning. You either have it or you don't, regardless of the state of the world that surrounds you.

----Vaclav Havel

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/26/2015 6:23:52 AM
Subject: **Hillary Clinton to Visit the Palmetto State Tomorrow**

Friends -

Hope all of you had a great Memorial Day weekend!

Hillary Clinton will be making her first trip as a 2016 presidential candidate to South Carolina tomorrow and as such, we wanted to share with you a smattering of the grassroots energy and enthusiasm that's happening on the ground.

Please see a sample of local news clips below, previewing Clinton's trip below.

Thanks!

AE

Here's what South Carolinians are hearing:

ABC News 4 Charleston - Morning News

Hillary Clinton will make her first campaign visit to the Palmetto State Wednesday. She will deliver a key note address to the House Women's Caucus and the South Carolina women's council. A grassroots phone bank opened last week in Colombia.

ABC Columbia – 6 PM Evening News

The Clinton campaign is open for business in South Carolina. Happening right now Hillary Clinton staffers are celebrating the opening of the democratic presidential candidate's palmetto state headquarters on Richland Street. Hillary Clinton is scheduled to visit South Carolina next week.

WCCB Charlotte – 6 PM Evening News

It's a block party for Hillary Clinton, a few dozen people, came out to celebrate the run for President and, find out how they can get involved in the campaign, this the last of the palmetto state and, should get her pumped-up.

ABC Columbia – Morning News

A Democratic presidential hopeful will have her sights set on South Carolina next week. Hillary Clinton has a visit set for Wednesday, but tonight her campaign is hosting a neighborhood party here in the capital city. It starts at 7:30 on Killian Green Drive. Volunteers say the ideas to share ways for the community to get involved in the political process.

Count on 2 NBC Charleston – Morning News

Hillary Clinton's campaign hosting neighborhood parties across South Carolina. It begins at 6:30 tonight at south Hampton community room. Friends will meet with their neighbors to share their stories and get involved in Hillary Clinton's run for the White House.

WACH Fox Columbia – 10 PM Evening News

The Hillary Clinton campaign is opening its first office in Columbia. The 2016 presidential candidate will be in the state one week from today. It will be her first visit to the state since announcing her second white house bid. TheClinton campaign plans to host a dozen neighborhood parties from low country to the upstate.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

WIS News 10 Columbia - 10 PM Evening News

The 2016 presidential election is less than 18 months away, but already volunteers for democratic front- runner Hillary Clinton are making calls try to drum-up support. The Hillary for South Carolina campaign opened its first state office in Columbia this evening. It was a busy night for volunteers making calls at tonight's phone bank, located on Richland Street. Next week, Clinton will make her first visit to the palmetto state since announcing her candidacy for the 2016 primary.

Fox Carolina Greenville – 6 AM Morning News

Tuesday's launch is Clinton's first grassroots event, which is a volunteer phone bank organizers say they're focused on sharing Clinton's vision to build the south Carolina economy --and that Clinton will work hard to earn every vote in the first southern primary [….] We're told that in the coming weeks the campaign will kick off nearly a dozen house parties from the Lowcountry to theUpstate. You like that, don't you? Keep it real. The good old house party.

CBS News 19 Columbia – 6 PM Evening News

Meanwhile, the Hillary Clinton Presidential campaign announced that its first office in the state with the grassroots phone bank on Wednesday. The office is located in Columbia at 1529 Richland Street. Mrs. Clinton will be visiting South Carolina on Wednesday, May 27.

ABC Columbia – Morning News

The campaign to elect Hillary Clinton for president has launched in South Carolina. Campaign staffers hosted a house party in Greenville Saturday. Supporters and friends were able to come out and learn how they could get involved.

WSOC ABC Charlotte – Midday News

Hilary Clinton will visit South Carolina later this month […] Her campaign in thestate will also hold grassroots events, including one in Rock Hill in the next few weeks.

ABC News 4 Charleston – Morning News

Every vote counts. Hillary Clinton has pledged to work hard every day to earn every vote. The democrat's South Carolina campaign launched its first midlands grassroots eventWednesday. Volunteers held a phone bank focused on sharing Clinton's vision to build an economy to help South Carolinians get ahead and stay ahead.

WBTW Myrtle Beach – Morning News

With more presidential hopefuls announcing their candidacy, campaigning has started across the county. In the upstate, Hillary Clinton supporters started a phone bank. Addie Hampton reports: It's the first local campaign event for Clinton voters.

Here's what South Carolinians are reading:

Hillary Clinton to speak at SC Democratic women's event in Columbia

Jamie Self // The State

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton is coming to Columbia on Wednesday for her first trip back to the Palmetto State since her 2008 presidential campaign. The former secretary of state will give the keynote address at the third annual 2015 Day in Blue, the event's co-hosts announced Sunday.

Get ready for presidential politics

Greenville News // Dolph Bell

South Carolina Democrats, meanwhile, are anticipating the arrival of their party's presidential frontrunner, former First Lady, Senator and Secretary ofState Hillary Clinton, whose campaign has said she will visit the state this month, though details haven't been released. Clinton's South Carolina campaign gathered volunteers for a phone bank in Greenville on Tuesday and is promising nearly a dozen house parties at various locations around thestate in coming weeks.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Clinton camps in Columbia

The State // Jamie Self

Hillary Clinton has a home in South Carolina. The campaign for the 2016 Democratic presidential front-runner has opened its South Carolina headquarters at 1529 Richland St. in Columbia's Robert Mills District.

Clinton campaign holding house party in Greenville

AP

The campaign to elect Hillary Rodham Clinton president is kicking off in South Carolina with a house party in Greenville. Campaign staffers for theDemocratic presidential candidate are hosting an event Saturday at Allen Temple AME Church's Community Room where supporters and friends can meet and learn how they can get involved. More are planned for other cities. Clinton is planning her first trip to the early voting state since announcing her second White House bid on May 27.

Hillary Clinton opens Columbia campaign headquarters

Cola Daily // Allen Wallace

The race to be the next president of the United States is heating up, and Hillary Clinton on Wednesday became the first candidate to establish a South Carolina campaign headquarters […]"I knew I wanted to support Hillary Clinton as soon as I found out about her campaign," said volunteer Rachel Catalano. Catalano is an Irmo resident, who is home for the summer after her freshman year at the University of Virginia. She was one of the younger volunteers on hand Wednesday in a very diverse group in terms of age, race, and gender.

Hillary Clinton's Campaign to Open SC Office

Columbia Free Times // Chris Trainor

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's Hillary for South Carolina campaign is set to open its first South Carolina office in Columbia […] "Hillary will work hard to earn every vote in the First in the South primary and not take anything for granted," Hillary for America state director Clay Middleton said.

Presidential Race "Lucrative" To Upstate

WSPA // Addie Hampton

With more presidential hopefuls announcing their candidacy, you might notice a rise in campaign stops in the Upstate, as well as grassroots efforts. Tuesday marked the first local campaign event for the Hillary Clinton camp in an election that experts say could be lucrative for the Upstate. "They've been waiting 8 years for this," said volunteer, Meghan Meier of Greenville.

Hillary Clinton kicks off her S.C. campaign

WYFF // Liz Lohuis

Days before a huge Republican summit in downtown Greenville, Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton kicks off her South Carolina grassroots campaign.

Clinton campaign officials promise 'different kind of campaign' in 2016

Live 5 // Nick Minock

Hillary Clinton is taking no vote for granted in South Carolina, according to Senior Campaign Officials. In a phone call Friday afternoon, two senior campaign officials with Hillary Clinton's 2016 Presidential campaign said theformer U.S. Secretary of State will run a campaign that is technology driven with an emphasis on "old school organizing.

Independent Mail Letter to the Editor: Clinton backs everyday Americans

As a longtime Hillary Clinton supporter, I am more excited than ever to support her candidacy. Already in her campaign, she is making it clear that her priorities are education and supporting those who are not in the top one percent.

--

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Adrienne K. Elrod
Spokesperson
Hillary For America
www.hillaryclinton.com
@adrienneelrod

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Michael Kieschnick" <MKieschnick@credomobile.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	12/28/2008 7:44:11 AM
Subject:	Michael Kieschnick to DC?
Attachments:	MHKresume.rtf

Dear John:

Thank you for all you have been doing. I take great comfort from your presence in the transition.

I think that you know that my primary focus during the past eight years has been resisting the damage done by the Bush Administration, often from the platform of our successful telecommunications company. I would like to return to the more positive focus of creating change, and if there is an appropriate spot within the Obama administration from which I might do that, nothing would please me more. I am prepared to leave Working Assets, live in Washington for four years, and have the ardent support of my wife and college age kids.

I realize of course that there are hundreds of thousands who similarly wish to contribute, and often with quite different backgrounds than mine. I don't think that we have ever substantively discussed my non-DA life, but I have a PhD in public policy from the Kennedy School, early public experience at EPA and then as economics advisor to then Gov. Jerry Brown of California, and then several decades of business life, all with a public focus. I have also long taught part time, currently at Stanford, previously at UC Berkeley, on social entrepreneurship (now) and financial innovation (then).

I also realize that you may be utterly the wrong person to send a note such as this, but you have the misfortune of being the person I know. If there is someone more appropriate, I hope that you might pass my interest along, or, with your usual candor, tell me that I am just the kind of person that would not fit!

My conclusion about possible positions of interest is narrowed by an assumption that something with a long history of advocacy would face difficulties in a Senate confirmation process. Looking around, there are several positions that strike me as having the potential for significant impact, so I list them for illustration. Of course, my interests are broader, with lots of work over the years in tax policy, climate change, labor markets, and civil liberties, and I would be delighted to contribute however I could.

Director, Office of Information and Regulatory Analysis (OMB) – would love to help unwind all the bad regulations and shepherd through much needed new ones;

Associate Administrator, Policy, Economics and Innovation, EPA – I started at EPA out of graduate school working for Bill Drayton, and retain a passion for the analytics of getting it right. I suspect much of the climate change work will need to happen without legislation.

Senior advisor or special assistant, Undersecretary for Domestic Finance, Treasury. I know quite a bit about financial markets, and clearly there is a great deal to fix.

Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Treasury. I wrote a book on development finance some time ago, and retain much interest in the field.

Again, thank you for all you have been doing. I would appreciate your consideration in this extraordinary time.

Sincerely,

Michael Kieschnick

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Erin Green" <egreen@americanprogress.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/24/2014 5:58:40 AM
Subject: RE: Elizabeth Connolly application for a CAP internship for Summer 2014

Thanks! We were quietly telling people, and then I told Larry who said "who's the lucky guy?" He had no idea. He then proceeded to tell all of the 10th and 11th floors! Thought you would appreciate that.

Hope to see you soon.

Erin

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 12:36 AM
To: Erin Green
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Connolly application for a CAP internship for Summer 2014

Fantastic! So happy for you.

JP
--Sent from my iPad--

john.podesta@gmail.com

For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Apr 23, 2014, at 8:45 AM, Erin Green <egreen@americanprogress.org > wrote:

> Hi John,
>
> Sorry for not responding to this email earlier……..I was waiting to be able to tell you that Alex and I are engaged! We went to CT this weekend and told my parents. Of course, this would not be possible had you not started CAP and hired us! THANK YOU!!!
>
> Erin

> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Saturday, April 12, 2014 3:33 AM
> **To:** Erin Green
> **Subject:** Re: Elizabeth Connolly application for a CAP internship for Summer 2014
>
> Grazie! Everything going well?
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
>
> john.podesta@gmail.com
>
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Apr 11, 2014, at 7:04 PM, Erin Green <egreen@americanprogress.org > wrote:
>
> > Hi John,
> >
> > Just wanted to let you know that I hired Elizabeth Connolly today. Hope you are well!
> >
> > Erin
>
> ---
>
> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2014 10:11 PM
> **To:** Erin Green

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Subject: Fwd: Elizabeth Connolly application for a CAP internship for Summer 2014

Claudia is an old friend. If you can at least keep a look out. Miss me?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--

john.podesta@gmail.com

For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Claudia James <james@podestagroup.com >
> **Date:** February 24, 2014 at 3:24:40 PM EST
> **To:** "'John.Podesta@gmail.com '" <John.Podesta@gmail.com >
> **Cc:** "'Eryn.Sepp@gmail.com '" <Eryn.Sepp@gmail.com >
> **Subject: Elizabeth Connolly application for a CAP internship for Summer 2014**
>
> Hi John, hope all is well.
>
> Following up on my conversation with Eryn last Thursday, I wanted to flag that my daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) has applied to Erin Green at CAP for a Summer 2014 internship (either the Race Policy/ Progress 2050 internship, the Immigration Policy internship or the Half in Ten Anti- Poverty Campaign Internship). I would greatly appreciate it if you could put a good word in for Lizzie. Attached are her cover letter, resume, and writing sample. She is a sociology major at Connecticut College in New London (my hometown) with a 3.08 average and strong writing skills. As part of her Sociology major she has taken several courses on race relations, which is a special interest of hers as an Asian American adoptee from South Korea. In addition, she also studied immigration issues as part of her Danish Politics course during her semester abroad in Copenhagen. She has also focused on global women's empowerment, child exploitation, education and special needs children issues through internships with Child Plan, a global non-profit focused on young women and children, For Love of Children (FLOC) a DC based tutoring program and an Arlington County School Summer Life Skills Program for special needs children. Lizzie is very committed to making a contribution on important public policy issues like race relations, immigration, human trafficking and child exploitation. She is a hard worker, capable of juggling many tasks and would be honored to have the opportunity to work at CAP.
>
> Thanks very much for any assistance you can provide, Claudia

Claudia James | Principal

Podesta Group | 1001 G Street, NW Suite 1000 West, Washington, DC 20001

202.879.9310 (d) | 202.270.9310 (c) | james@podestagroup.com | www.podestagroup.com

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From: "Nico Pitney" <nico.pitney@gmail.com>
To: nico.pitney@gmail.com
Date: 10/2/2008 9:02:08 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain camp's pre-debate spin

is fairly unbelievable. It is essentially, Palin is uninformed just like "regular people," and that's why they'll like her.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/10/02/mccain-camps-pre-debate-s_n_131295.html

McCain Camp's Pre-Debate Spin: Palin Doesn't Need To Pass IQ Test

Listening to surrogates and aides to John McCain on Thursday, one is left with the impression that there is no great need for Gov. Sarah Palin to actually answer questions during tonight's vice presidential debate.

Indeed, the spin coming from McCain surrogates and strategists is that Palin has to do is pass a sort of artificial personality test, in which she strikes an emotional thread with the average voter -- question, answers, or intellectual capacity be damned.

Such were the talking points mere hours before the debate in St. Louis, which peaked with Sen. Joe Lieberman - a man not unaccustomed to the pressures of such a forum - actually proclaiming that Palin's relative ignorance helped her relate to "regular people."

"She's not lived in the world of Washington, so she doesn't know every detail of all the questions senators deal with," Lieberman told NBC's Andrea Mitchell. "But, frankly, that's her strength. I think that's why a lot of regular people out across America think she's going to be their voice."

Mitchell interjected, "Senator, she wants to be a heartbeat away from the presidency. You know, that doesn't mean just being an average mom, it means bringing other skills."

But Lieberman stayed on the point, stating later, "I think tonight is not a kind of final college exam. I think the point is who is she as a person... Whether she can answer every detailed question, I don't think that ultimately matters to the American people so long as they think she passes those other personal thresholds."

It was the ultimate setting of expectations -- a political get-out-of-jail-free card should Palin stumble this evening. And it wasn't an isolated incident. Over on Fox News, Chris Wallace was relaying a conversation with a McCain "strategist" in which the metrics for debate success were once again defined in strictly personal terms.

"They say they want to show that she is plain spoken, that she relates to Joe Six-Pack and embrace the contrast her to a smooth-talking Washington insider like Joe Biden," Wallace reported. "I said: 'But what if she does not know some of the answer to something?' They said, 'Look, she should not be embarrassed by that. She should say 'I'm not a Washington insider. I'm going to learn about that but I was a reformer in Alaska and I shook things up.'"

Earlier in the day on Fox News, McCain aide Meg Stapleton was also playing up Palin's "Joe Six-Pack" attributes, even arguing that Palin's "experience as an ordinary American" qualified her to be "one heartbeat away" from the Oval Office... "god forbid."

"So if it's the economic crisis, she can certainly speak to the fact that she carries a mortgage. She's got kids ready to go to college, she has a son who is also heading off to the military. So from a military perspective, she is engaged just like any ordinary American. So if she is one heartbeat away, as she is one heartbeat away as a vice presidential candidate, and she assumes the presidency, god forbid -- in terms of John McCain, I don't wish ill, but as your question points -- if she becomes president of the United States, she is ready, and that is because she has the experience of an ordinary American who can get in there and knows what is on people's minds and what people need."

Nico Pitney
The Huffington Post

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

P: 202.834.0301
AIM: njpitney
GTalk/MSN: nico.pitney@gmail.com

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Denise Bailey" <dbailey@knox.edu>
To: "Trustees at Knox" <trustees@knox.edu>
Date: 5/22/2015 5:24:18 AM
Subject: TKS Online

Dear Trustees,

Here is a link to this week's issue of *The Knox Student*: http://www.theknoxstudent.com/

Have a good weekend,
Denise

DENISE BAILEY
Executive Assistant to the President

Knox College
Office of the President | Old Main, Room 109
309-341-7211 | Fax: 309-341-7856
www.knox.edu

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to trustees-user+unsubscribe@knox.edu.

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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date: 11/12/2015 3:06:23 PM
Subject: Re: Friday Debate Prep Thread + Tricky Questions

I talked to Matt Paul a little tonight who focused on the following:

1. The venue is small and HRC should focus on where our supporters are, not Bernie's
2. HRC has met tons of Iowans whose stories she tells all the time. Very important to him, that HRC is warm and personal/people oriented
3. A question like one to Bernie on whether he tried to get someone to primary Obama should be an opportunity to emphasize how long and how deeply she has been committed to helping elect Democrats and build the party. Here's what he wrote:

> "I learned a long-time ago that for our party to be strong, we have to support Democrats from the Court House to the White House. And that's why my husband and I have spent so much time supporting Democrats right here in Iowa. When you help elect people like Tom Harkin and Tom Vilsack you are building a better future with more opportunity and security for working families Its been an honor to criss-cross Iowa and the country on behalf of Democrats--and as President, I'll do everything I can to build that opportunity."

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Nov 12, 2015, at 9:48 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

> I think people have hit most of the tough issues.
> I do think we should lock down a couple moments to be Iowa specific. Let's take care of that business.
>
> **From:** Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >
> **Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 9:44 PM
> **To:** Ron Klain <ron.klain@revolution.com >
> **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, Karen Dunn <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com >, Karen Dunn <KDunn@BSFLLP.com >, "Sara Solow (ssolow@hillaryclinton.com)" <ssolow@hillaryclinton.com >, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Costa <kcosta@hillaryclinton.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, "John Podesta (john.podesta@gmail.com)" <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Bob Barnett <RBarnett@wc.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, "Jennifer Palmieri (jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com)" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Ron Klain <rklain@aol.com >
> **Subject:** Re: Friday Debate Prep Thread + Tricky Questions
>
> Not sure if these are tricky or just should be part of mock, but I think she needs to have thought through what she'd say to these:
>
> 1. Patriot Act
> 2. Name three programs you would cut
> 3. For Iowa -- rural economics, water issues
> 4. Foundation/pay to play
> 5. Benghazi/Chelsea letter
>
> Mandy Grunwald
> Grunwald Communications
> 202 973-9400
>
> On Nov 12, 2015, at 9:22 PM, Ron Klain <ron.klain@revolution.com > wrote:

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Team,

First, use this thread for Friday debate prep matters.

Second, I want to set some time in the afternoon for quick, hard questions – to avoid doing it hours before the debate, as we did in Las Vegas. I have started a list below. Feel free to add. But then we will lock this list, and not bomb her with tricky nasty things right before the debate (unless something new comes up). (Also, we have a separate list of Iowa questions. Send any Iowa things to KC/SS.)

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Did you actually consider joining the Marines?
2. You supporting building a border fence with Mexico. What is the difference between a fence and a wall? And should be have either on the Canadian border?
3. You say your plan won't raise taxes on the middle class. What is middle class?
4. What should be the highest tax rate?
5. Do you think the fight over gender identity & restrooms is eroding support for vital LGBT issues, as we saw in the Houston vote?
6. Are you sympathetic with college protestors who are demanding the ouster of university administrators over an alleged lack sensitivity to minority concerns on campus? Do you think the journalism professor who tried to ban reporters from covering a protest should be disciplined?
7. At the last debate, you avoided answering this question: Do black lives matter, or do all lives matter?
8. What do you think the top tax rate, on the top earners, should be?
9. Knowing what you know now about how it was abused, do you regret your vote for the Patriot Act?

Please add on THIS THREAD so I can keep them all together!!!

Ron

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From: "Bobby Mandell" <bobbymand@aol.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/21/2016 1:32:06 PM
Subject: Today

John . Thank you for taking the time this afternoon to meet me and provide some insight into your current thinking about the election. I enjoyed the conversation and was very impressed with your organization. From talking to Gary Gensler afterwards, it was apparent you have established a wonderful organization and a very tightly run ship.

I look forward to hearing from you as to how I can help Secretary Clinton and you achieve success. I believe her election is critical to our nation's future.

Best
Bobby Mandell

Robert A Mandell
US Ambassador (Ret.)
2700 Woodley Rd NW
PH 9
Washington DC 20008
Cell. 407 491 1811

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 2/20/2016 2:08:48 PM
Subject: Fwd: Incredible!

If we do a Latino event, let's get them there.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Mary Kay Henry** <marykay.henry@seiu.org >
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2016
Subject: Incredible!
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >

Congrats. Proud of HRC and our members heart and determination.
Impressed that HRC and campaign focused and connected with the people
that matter.
Thanks so much John.

ps - our LA janitor local would love to host HRC in LA on Monday with
immigrant women
This is the local that had highest number of volunteers in NV the past 2 weeks.

Sent from my iPad

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Thomas DELONGE" <t.delonge@me.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/26/2015 11:13:25 AM
Subject: Important things-

Hi John-

Tom DeLonge here, The one who interviewed you for that special documentary not to long ago.

Things are moving with the project. The Novels, Films and NonFiction works are blooming and finishing. Just had a preliminary meeting with Spielberg's Chief Operating Officer at DreamWorks. More meetings are now on the books-

I would like to bring two very "important" people out to meet you in DC. I think you will find them *very interesting,* as they were principal leadership relating to our sensitive topic. Both were in charge of most fragile divisions, as it relates to Classified Science and DOD topics. Other words, these are A-Level officials. Worth our time, and as well the investment to bring all the way out to you. I just need 2 hours from you.

Just looking to have a casual, and private conversation in person.

--Here are some photos from the material I am using as I meet with Studio Partners.

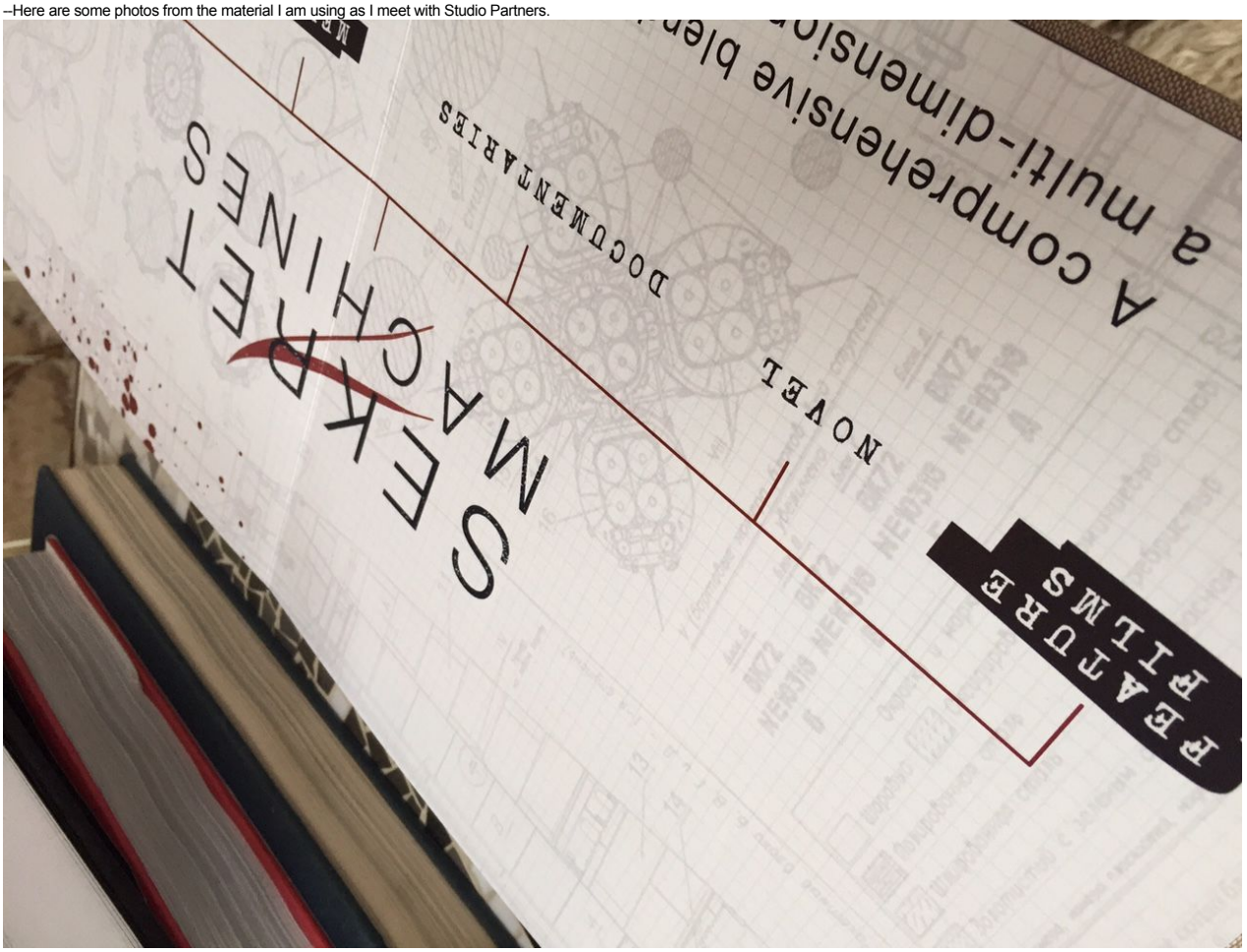

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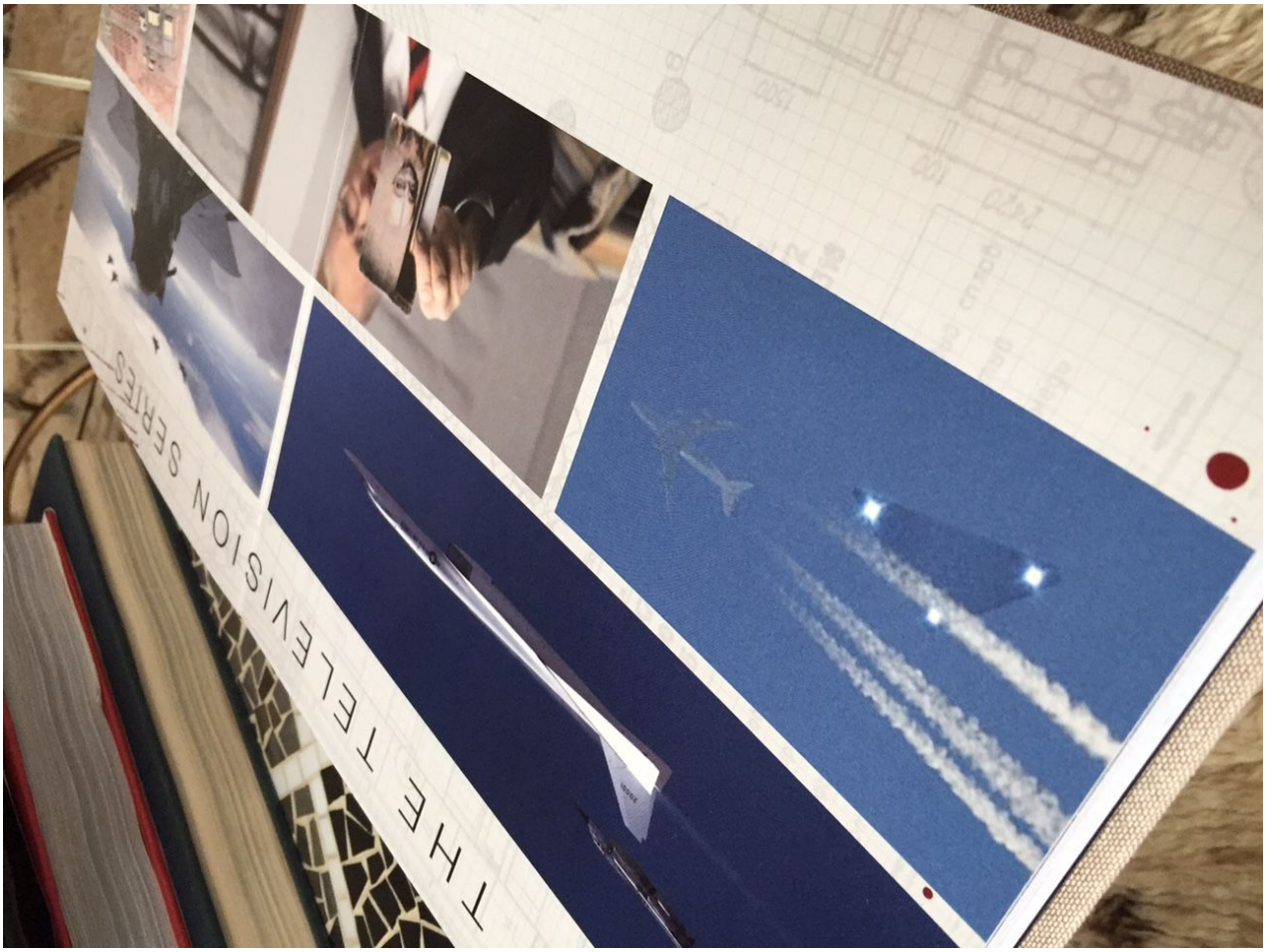

Best,
Tom DeLonge

TOM DELONGE | FOUNDER

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TOM@TOTHESTARSINC.COM | (760) 518-7801 | TO THE STARS MEDIA
SAN DIEGO | 1053 S Coast Hwy 101 Encinitas, CA 92024

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From:	"Mary Podesta" <podesta.mary@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Mae Podesta at Work" <Mae_Podesta@mckinsey.com> "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com>
Date:	12/9/2014 2:59:44 PM
Subject:	

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From: "Fran Shapiro" <fran@mercedesberk.com>
To: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
Date: 1/6/2016 10:04:44 AM
Subject: Re: Showing 3:45 PM Thursday, January 7

Thx

Fran Shapiro
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Engel & Völkers Mercedes/Berk
783 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10065
Tel: +1 646-661-2079
Cell: +1 347-556-4409
mercedesberk.com

On Jan 6, 2016, at 4:52 PM, Tony Podesta <podesta@podesta.com > wrote:

Ok

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2016, at 4:01 PM, Fran Shapiro <fran@mercedesberk.com > wrote:

> Thx
>
> Fran Shapiro
> Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
>
> **Engel & Völkers Mercedes/Berk**
> 783 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor
> New York, NY 10065
> Tel: +1 646-661-2079
> Cell: +1 347-556-4409
> mercedesberk.com

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From: "Georgetown Law Events" <rsvp2@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "Faculty and Visitors Lunch" <FVLunch@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 3/14/2016 8:59:48 AM
Subject: Dean's Wednesday Lunch

Dear Faculty Members:

This is a friendly reminder that you are invited to join your fellow faculty for lunch on , Wednesday March 16,, 2016. Please note that the lunch will commence at 12:00PM and end at 2:00PM.

The Menu includes:

- Vegetable Tomato Bisque Soup
- Arugula and Beet Salad
- Grilled Chicken Wraps
- Smoked Turkey Sandwiches
- Falafel Wraps
- Chips and Pretzels
- Cookies
- Middle Eastern Platter with Humus, Stuffed Grape Leaves and Pita Chips

Manger bien et juste!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "Mae Podesta" <mpodesta@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/24/2015 8:31:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: Gym

Dear roommates
See below

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diana Babayeva <dbaba@halstead.com >
Date: March 24, 2015 at 4:56:05 PM GMT+2
To: Belmont LLC <podesta@podesta.com >
Subject: Gym
Reply-To: Diana Babayeva <dbaba@halstead.com >

Technogym will be offering an introduction/operational use of gym equipment on Tuesday, March 31st and all are cordially invited to attend. The equipment operation use session will take place between 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the gym on March 31st. We hope to see you there.

Diana Babayeva, Assistant Property Manager

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Erin Green" <ehgreen@yahoo.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/23/2015 5:16:32 PM
Subject: Re: embarrassing

That sounds great, thank you. We wish you could come, but understand.

Erin and Alex
Xoxo

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2015, at 11:58 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Sorry Erin can't make it work, but we would love to host a dinner for you this fall in celebration of the wedding in DC.
>
> On Sep 23, 2015 11:48 PM, "Erin Green" <ehgreen@yahoo.com > wrote:
> > Hey John,
> >
> > Just checking in again. I am so sorry that you and Mary didn't get the invite. My parents don't understand that dc people don't get mail.
> >
> > We would love for you and Mary to be there. Very close to ny city (90miles). Let us know. Or not-we have a table for you either way
> >
> > Erin & Alex
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Sep 14, 2015, at 1:07 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I never saw an invite. Did you send to the house? We did get an invite to a post-wedding brunch. Is the wedding on the 26th in RI?
> > >
> > > On Sep 13, 2015 10:04 PM, "Erin Green" <ehgreen@yahoo.com > wrote:
> > > > Hey, John!
> > > >
> > > > I hope you are doing well, we have not seen you around the office in a while!
> > > >
> > > > Just wondering if you and Mary are coming to our wedding, and making sure you got the invite. My Mother says "make sure John and Mary know Hillary and Bill are invited too". Hahaha, we would love to see you and Mary if you can make it.
> > > >
> > > > Let us know when you can, thanks!
> > > >
> > > > Erin and Alex
> > > >
> > > > ---
> > > >
> > > > **From:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > > > **To:** Erin Green <ehgreen@yahoo.com >
> > > > **Sent:** Saturday, November 8, 2014 8:21 PM
> > > > **Subject:** Re:
> > > >
> > > > We're marking the calendars. Thanks Erin.
> > > > JP
> > > > --Sent from my iPad--
> > > > john.podesta@gmail.com
> > > > For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Nov 7, 2014, at 10:51 PM, Erin Green <ehgreen@yahoo.com > wrote:

John,
Thanks so much for replying to this email! I think Brooke winning this is a huge deal; this is one of the reasons CAP started, yes? We are training the next generation of progressives. I really believe that.
How are you? Alex and I are well. We have a wedding date-and we hope you and Mary will come, but we understand if you are too busy. It is September 26, 2015...so mark your calendar!
We hear that you may run Hillary's campaign. Not sure if this is true, but Alex and I both will help in any way we can. I hope you are well, and that I run into you soon. I miss you. (Neera is great, but I don't have the relationship with her that I had with you).
Erin

From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: "brookeelierman@gmail.com " <brookeelierman@gmail.com >
Cc: "sonalshah68@gmail.com " <sonalshah68@gmail.com >; Erin Green <egreen@americanprogress.org >; "american-progress-alumni-network@googlegroups.com " <american-progress-alumni-network@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2014 10:26 PM
Subject: Re: [Amprog Alumni] Brooke Lierman

Yay! At least someone is around to keep Larry Hogan (ugh) honest.
JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
On Nov 5, 2014, at 1:44 PM, Brooke Lierman <brookeelierman@gmail.com > wrote:

Thanks Erin and Sonal! It was an exciting win in an otherwise pretty ugly night. Hope everyone is doing great. Let me know if you're ever in Baltimore.
My best,
Brooke
Brooke Lierman
cell: 410-350-4353
www.brookelierman.com
On Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 1:38 PM, Sonal Shah <sonalshah68@gmail.com > wrote:

Congrats Brooke!
On Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:33 PM, Erin Green <egreen@americanprogress.org > wrote:

Congratulations to former CAP staffer Brooke Lierman on her election to the Maryland House of Delegates! Brooke will represent Maryland's 46th district. Very exciting news!

--
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "American Progress Alumni Network" group.
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Andy Sowers" <asowers@shangrila.us>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/27/2015 4:47:02 AM
Subject: RE: Email from Steve Bing

Also,
What's the best way for my office to set a call for you and Jeff Martin for next week?
Steve

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Andy Sowers
Subject: Re: Email from Steve Bing

202-999-0738 cell
I found Jeff Martin's proposal really interesting and will discuss this weekend with senior people in campaign. I'd like to set up a call with him next week if you could let him know.

On Wednesday, May 27, 2015, Andy Sowers <asowers@shangrila.us > wrote:
John,
Whats the best number to call you at? All I have is a home number and don't want to bug you there.
Steve

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Pete Rouse" <prouse@barackobama.com>
Date: 8/23/2008 1:49:56 PM
Subject: Re: You in Denver Sunday?

Meet at 2:00 or 4:00?

On 8/23/08, Pete Rouse <prouse@barackobama.com> wrote:
> I should be at the Westin by early afternoon tomorrow.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 5:11 PM
> To: Pete Rouse
> Subject: You in Denver Sunday?
>
> Any time to talk?
>
> --
> Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com
>

--
Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com

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From:	"Huma Abedin" <Huma@clintonemail.com>
To:	jake.sullivan@gmail.com john.podesta@gmail.com cheryl.mills@gmail.com mmoore@deweysquare.com Roy_Spence@gsdm.com Judy.Trabulsi@gsdm.com williamsbarrett@aol.com kennedy2004@tmail.com
Date:	6/18/2014 3:10:37 PM
Subject:	Officially 1# on NYT bestseller list
Attachments:	bsl_062914.pdf

From: Barnett, Robert [mailto:RBarnett@wc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 05:09 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Huma Abedin; 'preines.hrco@gmail.com' <preines.hrco@gmail.com>; 'nmerrill.hrco@gmail.com' <nmerrill.hrco@gmail.com>; 'lvalmoro.hrco@gmail.com' <lvalmoro.hrco@gmail.com>
Subject: Fw:

Number One.

From: Barnett, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 05:04 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Barnett, Robert
Subject:

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From: "Pete Ogden" <progden@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/29/2015 4:10:43 AM
Subject: Missing a tie?

McDonough just told the audience at a CAP climate event that he was wearing a tie of yours that you left behind at the White House.

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From: "ABA CLE - Criminal Justice Section" <cle@americanbar.org>
To: "John D Podesta" <podesta@LAW.GEORGETOWN.EDU>
Date: 11/12/2015 5:30:00 AM
Subject: Internal Investigations: Navigating the Ethical Minefields

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Internal Investigations: Navigating the Ethical Minefields

New CLE Webinar!

Internal Investigations: Navigating the Ethical Minefields

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET
Webinar

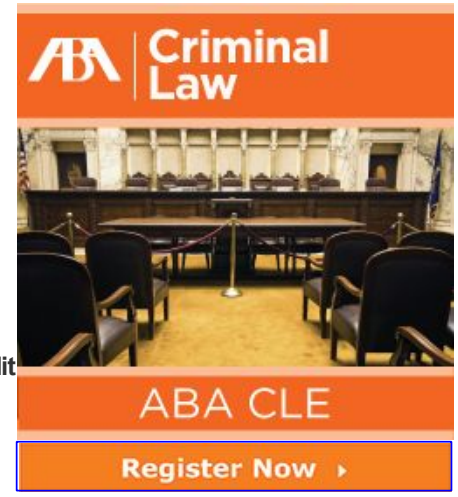

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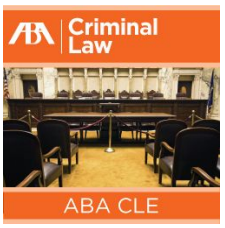

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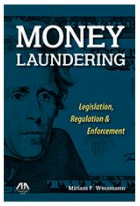

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800-285-2221 | 312-988-5522

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From: SportsAuthority.com <SportsAuthority.com@em.sportsauthority.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/7/2013 12:00:53 AM
Subject: Take 20% Off Entire Order

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Gabe Podesta" <gpodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/6/2014 2:50:06 PM
Subject: Re: Maj Ali Beach, SJA

That's great. Does she support NSA?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

> On May 5, 2014, at 8:57 AM, Gabe Podesta <gpodesta@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Ali was appointed to be the SJA at Ft Meade. As in the Col Alison, Col Spath, and Lt Col Momber position.
>
> The Ft Meade office is pretty small and a Major usually gets the job, but this is nonetheless a big deal. She skipped right over Deputy to take the reins of a Wing-level legal office. As always, I'm super-proud and happy for her. Thought you all might care to know.
>
> Love and miss you. It was great catching up yesterday.
>
> --
> Gabe Podesta

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From: "Practical Progress" <PracticalProgress@agendaproject.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 6/25/2015 12:01:13 AM
Subject: 6/25/15: Charleston Tragedy, TPA Betrayal, Climate Encyclical

PRACTICAL PROGRESS

The Most Important News from the Progressive Movement brought to you by the Agenda Project Action Fund

WE, AS A COUNTRY, HAVE TO RECKON -- Advancement Project Co-Director Judith Browne Dianis summed up the tragedy of the Emmanuel AME Church shooting last week in Charleston: "We must call racism and White supremacy what it is and continue the work toward dismantling all forms of discrimination" ... Since South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley (R) urged the removal of the Confederate flag from government grounds on Monday, six major corporations--including Wal-Mart, Target, and Amazon--removed Confederate flag merchandise from their stores, and five other Southern states have taken steps to remove Confederate symbols from parks, license plates, and government buildings.

... **BUT SYMBOLS ONLY GO SO FAR**. NAACP North Carolina President and Forward Together Movement Leader Rev. Dr. William J. Barber hit the nail on the head: "[The families of the victims] are challenging the schizophrenia of American morality, which allows political leaders to condemn the crime but embrace the policies that are its genesis." GOP efforts blocked the last federal bill to expand background checks for firearm owners and the National Rifle Association supported an amendment to the CDC budget that prevents research that could be used to advocate for gun control .

READ "The Greatest Threats to American National Security are Guns and the Police " over at *The Nation*, **JOIN** Everytown for Gun Safety in #RisingForCharleston HERE and **SIGN** a Rising for Charleston postcard to your members of Congress telling them to pass stronger gun control laws HERE .

TPA BETRAYAL -- Despite massive opposition from the public, labor unions, and progressive organizations including Demos , Fight for the Future , Public Citizen , Common Cause , and Presente , the Senate voted on Tuesday to grant President Obama Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to push the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership through Congress. Democracy for America Chair Jim Dean unequivocally outlined the consequences for the few Senate Democrats who voted in favor of TPA: "This vote will be remembered, it will not be erased, and we will hold you accountable. "

SIGN a petition from Stop Fast Track telling your Senators, "If you vote yes on Fast Track, we pledge to vote against you in the next election" HERE .

NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS INDIFFERENT TO US -- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) President Rhea Suh applauded Pope Francis' Encyclical on climate change: "Putting belief into action drives progress." The Encyclical comes as nations around the world prepare for the World Climate Summit in Paris this December. **READ** "From Bonn to Paris: Navigating the Course to an Effective International Climate Agreement" over at Center for American Progress (CAP) and **CHECK OUT** a map of oil and pipeline spills in the US at the Center for Effective Government HERE .

ONE FLEW OVER THE FEC -- This week, Public Citizen refiled Federal Election Commission (FEC) Chairman Ellen Weintraub's earlier petition in which she pleaded with her own agency to do its job and regulate dark money corruption in campaign spending. Weintraub reiterated what 84% of Americans already know: campaign finance needs a complete overhaul. **READ** suggested provisions from the American Anti-Corruption Act HERE and **SIGN** a petition over at Public Citizen urging President Obama to get big money out of politics HERE .

POLICE BODY CAMERA CONVERSATION **TODAY** -- The Brennan Center for Justice is hosting "Candid Cameras?: The Impact of Body Cameras on Privacy, Law Enforcement, and Community Policing" ****TODAY**** at 12:00 PM in Washington, DC. The event will feature Police Foundation President Jim Bueermann, Brennan Center Senior Counsel Rachel Levinson-Waldman, Streetwise and Safe Senior Policy Counsel Andrea Ritchie, and ACLU Senior Policy Analyst Jay Stanley. **RSVP** HERE .

IN THE FINE PRINT -- Despite the 78,000 consumers and 71 Progressive organizations --including Alliance for Justice, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and National Council of La Raza--calling on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to end the practice of forced arbitration clauses , House Republicans introduced new legislation last week intended to keep these clauses alive and well. **SIGN** a petition over at Other98 telling the CFPB to reign in forced arbitration clauses HERE .

HOW TO MONETIZE YOUR OWN DISASTER -- The same Wall Street firms that triggered the 2008 housing crash have profited over $20 billion by buying the titles of 200,000 foreclosed homes , according to a new report from the Center for Popular

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Democracy. **READ:** "Do Hedge Funds Make Good Neighbors? How Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac & HUD are Selling Off Our Neighborhoods to Wall Street."

GAY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS -- A new report from CAP reveals that 50 million LGBT people worldwide flee persecution from their countries for their sexual orientation. **READ** "Humanitarian Diplomacy: The U.S. Asylum System's Role in Protecting Global LGBT Rights" and **CHECK OUT** Immigration Equality , an organization that provides legal resources to LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants.

FROM THE WONK WIRE ...

... **FAILURE TO ENFORCE COMMISSION**: Brennan Center Fellow and Top Wonk **Ciara Torres-Spelliscy** details the rule of law failure in the FEC's selective enforcement of campaign finance regulations.

... **MORE GAINS AT THE TOP**: Center for Economic and Policy Research Co-Director and Top Wonk **Dean Baker** shows exactly who will benefit from the growth that TPP is supposed to bring.

... **A TALE OF TWO LEGACIES**: Demos Senior Fellow and Top Wonk **Nomi Prins** thinks that in the dynastic presidential battle of Clinton vs. Bush, the real winners are the bankers and billionaires.

Find out more at www.TopWonks.org .

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From: "Sara Latham" <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/25/2008 2:49:10 AM
Subject: NEW SCHEDULE, as of 8:45am CST - Rahm added a mtg re HRC at 12pm

9:45am Briefing
10:45am

11:00am OMB Announcement
11:45am

12:00pm- PE lunch
12:30pm
12:45pm- PE Tape Weekly Radio address
1:00pm
1:15pm PE Intel briefing
2:00pm
2:00pm- PE Personnel meetings - Noreiga
2:45pm PE Personnel meetings – Gupta

12:00pm Rahm, Pete, Jim, JDP re HRC (Amanda finding mtg room)

1:30pm phone call with John Sweeney
202 637 5221 (Bill Samuel)

2:30pm Appropriations meeting with Rahm

3:30pm- PE Personnel meeting
4:30pm

6:15pm CST Press call
866 527 5760 pin: 2424318#

7:05pm CST United flight 626, arrive DCA 9:52pm

10:15pm EST Daily call
866 741 9371 pin: 1857092#

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From: "Sawsan Bay" <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
"Alex Hornbrook" <ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com>
"Ashley Woolheater" <awoolheater@hillaryclinton.com>
"Brynne Craig" <bcraig@hillaryclinton.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Digital Intern" <digitalintern@hillaryclinton.com>
"Elan Kriegel" <ekriegel@hillaryclinton.com>
"Emily Samsel" <esamsel@hillaryclinton.com>
"Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jen Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kate Offerdahl" <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Krystal Ortiz" <kortiz@hillaryclinton.com>
"Lona Valmoro" <lvalmoro@hillaryclinton.com>
"Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
"Maya Harris" <mharris@hillaryclinton.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
"Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
"Elizabeth Renda" <erenda@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Sawsan Bay" <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 3/16/2016 6:18:47 AM
Subject: Re: [Update] Strategic Scheduling Meeting

We are moving this to 3:30pm to accommodate John's schedule and aiming for a 30mins meeting/call.
Thanks all

On Tue, Mar 15, 2016 at 4:19 PM, <sbay@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> This call/meeting will start at 5:45pm
> Thanks
>
> **Strategic Scheduling Meeting**
>
> When: Tue Mar 15, 2016 5:30pm – 6:30pm Eastern Time
>
> Where: 772-212-0079 or Huma's Office (map)
>
> Video call: https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/hillaryclinton.com/strategic

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Who

- sbay@hillaryclinton.com - organizer
- jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com
- kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com
- ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com
- esamsel@hillaryclinton.com
- lvalmoro@hillaryclinton.com
- erenda@hillaryclinton.com
- ha16@hillaryclinton.com
- dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
- digitalintern@hillaryclinton.com
- mharris@hillaryclinton.com
- awoolheater@hillaryclinton.com
- John Podesta
- slatham@hillaryclinton.com
- re47@hillaryclinton.com
- ekriegel@hillaryclinton.com
- mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
- aelrod@hillaryclinton.com
- kschake@hillaryclinton.com
- tgoff@hillaryclinton.com
- jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
- kortiz@hillaryclinton.com
- creynolds@hillaryclinton.com
- bcraig@hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/17/2015 3:47:36 PM
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Interesting that Bernie's talking about not getting shot in the street.

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:40 PM
To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: HRC did great

Oh. It's not bad in the room.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:39 PM, Christina Reynolds
> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>
> I think he meant Bernie shouting at the crowd. It feels awkward on TV.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Lily Adams [mailto:ladams@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:38 PM
> To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
> Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Christina
> Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook
> <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>;
> Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>
> It's from one corner of the room where his tables are
>
>
> ---------
> Lily Adams
> cell: (202) 368-4013
>
>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:36 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>> wrote:
>>
>> How is the shouting in the room?
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:32 PM
>> To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin

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>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony
>> Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>
>> Bernie is up.
>>
>> It's really like listening to Robby.
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Christina Reynolds
>>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Worth noting:
>>> @Lis_Smith
>>> BIG THEME of @MartinOMalley's speech tonight: Actions, not Words. As
>>> progressives, we need someone who can get. things. done.
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:16 PM
>>> To: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com;
>>> Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>
>>> Not yet. O'Malley is speaking now.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:14 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Fantastic. Any incoming from the others?
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:13 PM, Jennifer Palmieri
>>>>> <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Passionate, great response in the room.
>>>>>
>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Harwood, John \(NBCUniversal\)" <John.Harwood@nbcuni.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/28/2016 4:58:23 PM
Subject: She was good here in Newton

John Harwood
CNBC/NYT
202 669 0751

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From:	"Michael Weil" <mweil@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	
Date:	12/24/2007 11:01:48 PM
Subject:	Campaign Clips, 12.25.07
Attachments:	12.25.07 Campaign Clips.doc

Campaign Clips
December 25, 2007

DEMOCRATS

HRC

Interest Groups Plan a Barrage of Attack Ads, Mailings in Iowa, *Washington Post*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/24/AR2007122401867.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Clinton, Obama offer chance to fix US image *Boston Globe*
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/12/25/clinton_obama_offer_chance_to_fix_us_image/

In Iowa, Bill Stays on Message *Politico*
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1207/7548.html

Hill soars ahead again *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/25/2007-12-25_campaign_takeout.html

Will First-Time Caucus Goers Show Up? *AP*
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jSVCAZhxy-N-McWO5l30YagAFYsQD8TNVEC00

Two Iowa Paper Back Clinton, McCain *AP*
http://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/500903.html

Independent Groups Dole Out Lumps of Coal *The Trail (WP)*
http://blMWog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2007/12/24/independent_groups_dole_out_lu_1.html?hpid=topnews

Koch: Endorsed Clinton, Likes McCain *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/2007/12/koch-endorsed-clinton-likes-mc.html

Bill Clinton will Need a New Tie for Christmas *Reuters*
http://www.suntimes.com/news/politics/obama/711047.CST-NWS-obama24.article

Column: **Politics: We'll Take Good Cheer** *The Los Angles Times*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-goldberg25dec25,0,6260749.column?coll=la-news-comment

Obama

'Law Professor' Obama Embraces Nuance on Trail *Boston Globe*
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/12/25/law_professor_obama_embraces_nuance_on_trail/

Edwards

When Private Struggles Become Public Displays, *The New York Times*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/us/politics/25personal.html?ref=us

Dodd

Dodd mixes politics, holiday service, *Des Moines Register*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071224/NEWS/71224030

Richardson

Bill Richardson: An energetic troubleshooter, *Des Moines Register*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071225/NEWS09/712250367/-1/caucus

Dem. Misc.

Democrats Try to Rein in Fees on Consulting *The New York Times*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/us/politics/25consult.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Twas the Week Before Christmas, *Chicago Tribune*
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/politics/chi-iowa_tuedec25,1,6034139.story?ctrack=2&cset=true

Notable Scenes from the YouTube Election *The Caucus (NYT)*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/24/us/politics/25cnd-web-seelye.html

Dems Flock to Trendy Des Moines Bistro *Politico*
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1207/7549.html

Unofficial Candidate Carols *The Caucus (NYT)*
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/12/24/unofficial-candidate-carols/

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GOP

Giuliani

Profile: Rudy Giuliani, *Austin Statesman*
http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/nation/12/25/1225giuliani.html

Republican Giuliani say he does not have cancer *Reuters*
http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN24324087

Giuliani Says He's Cancer Free *AP*
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iQGOFv4hph661h-rSpaqBB3LMgSgD8TO1NUO0

Giuliani: Terrible Headache Sent Me to the Hospital *The Trail (WP)*
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2007/12/22/giuliani_says_terrible_headach.html

Rudy Giuliani: I'm Cancer Free *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/24/2007-12-24_rudy_giuliani_im_cancer_free.html

Huckabee

Huckabee's "Merry Christmas" as sparks controversy *Radio Iowa*
http://www.radioiowa.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=FF255518-F2D9-B8D2-9E7E1BBD169A8A8C

Romney and Huckabee Campaign's Go Head-to-Head *Quad City Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/25/news/local/doc476a024d01444499603856.txt

Mike Huckabee Hints at a Hidden Agenda *Top of the Ticket (LAT)*
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2007/12/hucko.html

Faced with Fatal Illness, Iowa Woman Confronts Presidential Candidates *AP*
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1698156,00.html

McCain

Pretty Amazing, Here He Comes Again *Top of the Ticket (LAT)*
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2007/12/here-he-comes-a.html

Paul

Here We Go Again, Not Ignoring Ron Paul *Top of the Ticket (LAT)*
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2007/12/ronpaulrules.html

Romney

Exactly How Reganesque is Romney? *Desert Morning News*
http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695238851,00.html

Romney's Big Ad Buys Don't Preempt Foes *Chicago Tribune*
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-ads_tuedec25,1,3077036.story

Romney Hasn't Forgotten Father's Best Qualities *The Los Angles Times*
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationwsorld/nation/la-na-romneydadson25dec25,1,4269420.story?coll=la-headlines-nation

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From: "Carmia N. Caesar" <cnc33@law.georgetown.edu>
To: Announcements <Announcements@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 7/14/2015 1:41:25 PM
Subject: Teacher attending GW Graduate School Looking for Room for Rent
Attachments: DavidKFreeman_Resume.pdf

Hello,

I recently made the acquaintance (through a friend of over 40 years) of a young teacher looking for housing. He will be returning to New York most weekends to be with his wife. You may contact David directly. His contact information is included in the introduction that he wrote below.

Carmia

Carmia N. Caesar
Director, JD Externships and PILS
Adjunct Professor of Law
Georgetown Law Center
carmia.caesar@law.georgetown.edu
(202) 661-6677

Hello,
My name is David Freeman. I'm currently living in Brooklyn and work as a teaching artists (music). I'll be attending the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at George Washington University in the fall and am looking for a room beginning September 1st, 2015 with a 10 - 12 month lease. I'll be spending most of my time in the Foggy Bottom campus so a room close by with access to the metro would be ideal but am open to accommodating a longer commute. I'm married and my wife will be holding up the fort back in New York so I'll most likely be spending most weekend back there. I am family friendly, clean. kind and creative. Willing to barter music lessons as well. Feel free to reach me at dkfproductions@gmail.com or visit my website to get to know a bit more about me - www.davidkfreeman.com

David

David Freeman

www.davidkfreeman.com

www.thebiryaniboys.com

www.outerbridgemusic.com

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From: "Rich Sestak, Campaign Director" <info@joesestak.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/1/2010 11:12:41 AM
Subject: Reuters: "Key PA Senate race in dead heat"!

Dear John,
This race is this close!!!

Reuters reporting this afternoon:

- ***"Key PA Senate race in dead heat."***

Washington Post:

- "Sestak … is in a close Senate race … against Toomey. ***Democrats are pushing hard***."

We are pushing hard in the closing 27 hours!!

Pennsylvania's *Patriot News* is reporting of Joe this afternoon:

- "Pennsylvania's two U.S. Senate nominees are c***apping a hotly contested and watched campaign season today*** with a flurry of last-minute stumps before supporters ....

  Democrat Joe Sestak focused his attention on Philadelphia and its outskirts, a critical battleground where turnout could tip election results. ***Sestak scheduled an amazing 12 stops***, beginning at dawn at 30th Street Station. He is scheduled to end the day at a University of Pennsylvania rally with First Lady Michelle Obama."

While Philadelphia's *Fox 29* says of Congressman Toomey:

- " Mr. Toomey, did not see him yet. But the rally, not one of those Obama-type rallies. Jared, what would you say, a hundred people? >> Or less. >> Or less Jared said. So it's not a massive rally out here in Northeast Philly the day before election day. ***Not a lot of excitement in there***, some balloons, some red and white pom poms, but ***not super excited***. So, a little surprising this morning."

Energy … Momentum … and Enthusiasm … are all on our side!!

And we've got an "amazing candidate" who will not be out-worked and is stumping for every last vote in these closing hours!!

Let's give Joe and your team, the closing resources they need to bring this race home to victory! Please make a contribution … we are just $17,000 short of reaching our goal to help pay for the costs of our ELECTION DAY "Get-Out-The-Vote" ("GOTV") operation!

The next shift of phone-bankers has enthusiastically reported to our offices … and our army of evening canvassers has just departed energetically from our staging areas located throughout the state!!

In 10 short hours … we unleash our ELECTION DAY "Bring It On Home" GOTV operation!

Please support our winning ELECTION DAY "Bring It On Home" GOTV OPERATION by making a quick contribution of $5, $10, $15, $25, $50, $75, $100 - whatever you are able to afford!!

We are raring to go ... optimism and excitement within our campaign … it's time to "bring this race on home" for

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Pennsylvania and the nation!

Best regards,

Rich Sestak
Campaign Director

Contribute | Volunteer

Contributions are not tax deductible.

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Twitter

Paid for by Sestak For Senate

Sestak For Senate
PO Box 1936
Media, PA 19063
Click Here to Unsubscribe | http://JoeSestak.com | (610) 891-8956

empowered by Salsa

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Marc Elias" <melias@perkinscoie.com>
"Robert Mook" <robbymook@gmail.com>
Date: 4/5/2015 6:23:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: RE: quick phone call?

Try phone number below. Email definitely works.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Jennifer M. Granholm" <jennifer@jennifergranholm.com >
Date: Mar 5, 2015 4:55 PM
Subject: RE: quick phone call?
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

Great. My phone number is 517-515-3990 .

Talk to you then.

JMG

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 1:54 PM
To: Jennifer M. Granholm
Subject: RE: quick phone call?

4:00 east coast is perfect
Can I call you? Best #?

On Mar 5, 2015 4:48 PM, "Jennifer M. Granholm" <jennifer@jennifergranholm.com > wrote:

Yes. I'll be flying into Arizona, so how about 2:00 MT/4:00 ET, or any time after that?

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 1:44 PM
To: Jennifer M. Granholm
Subject: Re: quick phone call?

Of course
Any time tomorrow work?

On Mar 5, 2015 3:19 PM, "Jennifer M. Granholm" <jennifer@jennifergranholm.com > wrote:

John,

Can I schedule a quick phone call with you?

Thanks very much.

Jennifer Granholm

Jennifer Granholm

Director, The American Jobs Project

Senior Research Fellow, Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute

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Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society

Faculty, Schools of Public Policy, Law

U.C. Berkeley

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From: "Tom Wolf" <info@joshshapiro.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 2/21/2016 6:11:39 PM
Subject: John, join me in supporting Josh Shapiro for AG

John --

Today, I am proud to endorse Josh Shapiro for Attorney General.

Josh Shapiro is a proven reformer who will restore integrity to Harrisburg and he is the best choice to be our next Attorney General.

He'll bring a fresh approach that's focused on putting the law on the side of all Pennsylvanians -- and I hope you'll share my endorsement with your friends.

As the executive of Pennsylvania's third-largest county, Josh led in the fight for marriage equality. He stood up to Republican attempts to implement a Voter ID law that would have disenfranchised tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians. And Josh has taken on the Wall Street money managers in order to protect taxpayers.

Josh also knows a thing or two about cleaning up a mess. Back when he first took office, Montgomery County faced a fiscal crisis so severe they didn't have enough money to make payroll -- but Josh got people together, made smart decisions, and turned things around.

John, I'm going to be doing everything I can to help him win this election, and you can join me by sharing my endorsement on Facebook and Twitter:

Share on Facebook:

http://act.JoshShapiro.org/Wolf-Endorses-Shapiro-FB

Tweet on Twitter:

http://act.JoshShapiro.org/Wolf-Endorses-Shapiro-TW

Thank you,

Tom Wolf

Paid for by Shapiro for Pennsylvania

Contributions or gifts to Shapiro for Pennsylvania are not tax deductible.

This email was sent to: **podesta@law .georgetow n.edu**
If that is not your preferred email address, you can update your information here
We believe that emails are an important way for the campaign to stay in contact with supporters like you, but you can let us know if you'd like to receive fewer emails. This campaign appreciates any feedback you might have -- positive or negative. Click here to contact the campaign with any questions, concerns, or ideas. We'd hate to see you go, but but if you need to do so, click here to unsubscribe.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <milia.fisher@gmail.com>
"Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 2:04:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Funny or Die

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Kristina L. Costa** <kristinacosta@gmail.com >
Date: Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 7:26 PM
Subject: Re: Funny or Die
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >

https://www.hightail.com/download/UlRUa3NlcTIyWGYwZXNUQw

As promised. You have to download it from there, it's not posted online. Will let you know if we do a call.

Looks like things went well today.
/KLC

On Fri, Apr 10, 2015 at 3:19 PM, Kristina L. Costa <kristinacosta@gmail.com > wrote:
> Ok - will let you know.
>
> /KLC
>
> > On Apr 10, 2015, at 1:56 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > Thanks. If you are doing calls with them, I might want to get on and say thanks.
> >
> > JP
> > --Sent from my iPad--
> > john.podesta@gmail.com
> > For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
> >
> >> On Apr 10, 2015, at 1:54 PM, Kristina L. Costa <kristinacosta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >>
> >> Video is slated to come out on the 15th. Clean Air Campaign doing a push at the same time around 100 days of congressional inaction so should be a fun week. Funny or Die folks are hoping to share a cut as soon as COB (west coast time) today -- know things are probably pretty busy but will share it with you when I get it.
> >>
> >> KLC

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From: "Jennifer Argueta" <jenniferdargueta@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/10/2015 7:30:36 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Guate

Stella - loving the fact that she had to come to the third world to get a private yard.

On Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 1:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Send updates
Would love to visit although that seems a ways off at this stage.

On Jun 10, 2015 3:34 PM, "Jennifer Argueta" <jenniferdargueta@gmail.com > wrote:

Hi John -

Just found your gmail address and seeing your bus journey story brought you to mind once again. Glad you are at the helm.

Greetings from Guate. No new news to report. Just settling in. Thinking of you and sending much love.

Jenny

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jennifer Argueta** <jenniferdargueta@gmail.com >
Date: Fri, May 15, 2015 at 9:04 AM
Subject: Guate
To: Mary Podesta <podesta.mary@gmail.com >

Dear Mary and John,

Just a quite note to tell you Luis and I are headed to Guate for an undetermined amount of time. As I mentioned to Mary in the fall, we are in the process of doing a domestic adoption there.

Yes, I am the salmon swimming upstream, having obtained my permanent residency in Guate in February. But had to get the "green card" in order to proceed.

We do not know yet who the little guy is, but he does exist somewhere, since he will be between 4 and 6 years old. We leave on June 6 and will keep you posted.

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A big hug to you both,

Jenny

PS - I don't have John's gmail, so only send through Mary

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From: "Mail Delivery Subsystem" <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/1/2015 7:31:47 AM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

bearak@nytimes.com

Technical details of permanent failure:
Google tried to deliver your message, but it was rejected by the server for the recipient domain nytimes.com by aspmx.l.google.com. [2a00:1450:4010:c04::1a].

The error that the other server returned was:
550 5.2.1 The email account that you tried to reach is disabled. dc7si7004035lad.31 - gsmtp

----- Original message -----

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=gmail.com; s=20120113;
h=mime-version:date:message-id:subject:from:to:content-type;
bh=XclXGVsc7XofOAN3CPiSZ+7OsLz6TeSU6Qv37HIHQ3A=;
b=WiNlgQPv609KR7bQn+kATRcgpAu6iGr7soKge29FuMFYyIadUIFYGH89iFhGZcnyJ5
CElW0/x3Gx8eISzW69b4AfyhSQEBcebJY/flZfr5mV8Eq3JetyMoadlR2ADWuWQ9C+8L
yn41nlR8OVUahxl49UuZtn6EmTgsPFAlf9rnkY0CtDe8tMFXdflNM905BHVMzO54c3dg
Ste8pwZm51vZbYjDg1T5KKDUBMV4IQRMXG1F9jqhDbzJr3YhZ7NfxpudbS6Yc0LuyyQX
aGYaAAKGIr0gb/NVrsYYyqFx2T9Y3+xTFZOfAIGcM724NE4whxbz3k2tpcsWxzg6nthJ
8EPw==
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Received: by 10.152.43.134 with SMTP id w6mr7757099lal.120.1438439507715;
Sat, 01 Aug 2015 07:31:47 -0700 (PDT)
Received: by 10.25.63.6 with HTTP; Sat, 1 Aug 2015 07:31:47 -0700 (PDT)
Date: Sat, 1 Aug 2015 10:31:47 -0400
Message-ID: <CAE6FiQ_B5gMhxcibZgAxnpe2p8ZLSTUnwMaWmQB5ONRR51J56w@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: Cecil the lion
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Barry Bearak <bearak@nytimes.com>
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=001a11c1a808e370fe051c40cb0d

as the only person anyone knows who has spent time in a Zimbabwe jail, you
should pen an oped calling for his killer's extradition. What an asshole.
Missed you at the mini-reunion.

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From: "Steve C. Bachar" <Steve.Bachar@moyewhite.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/6/2015 12:24:20 PM
Subject: Quick mtg this week

John,

I will be in NYC tues night through early aft Thurs. Can we find time to get together for a half hour? I'd like to run something by you tangentially related to our last conversation in Brooklyn.

Steve

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From:	"David Blumenthal" <djb2151992@gmail.com>
To:	johnpodesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/12/2015 5:05:20 PM
Subject:	Hillary for America - David Blumenthal
Attachments:	DavidJamesBlumenthalResume2015FINAL.pdf

Dear Mr. Podesta,

It's been a privilege to work for Hillary for New Hampshire, and thank you for the opportunity to email you. Since mid-June I have been a Summer Fellow in the Keene area -- now, I would love to continue the push for victory in Communications. I am willing to relocate as necessary.

I have substantial work experience in journalism: I was a reporter at a N.H. newspaper for eight months and made staff at my college newspaper, *Yale Daily News*; my resume is attached with more details.

Thanks for your time. All best,

David

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/10/2015 9:59:54 AM
Subject: Mexico: The Murder of the Young

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Mexico: The Murder of the Young

Alma Guillermoprieto, The New York Review of Books: As anger over 43 missing students in Iguala continues to fester, there is no history of passivity by the inhabitants of the Mexican state of Guerrero in the face of the violence that has been exercised against them over the generations.

Read the Excerpt

Smoke and Mirrors Will Not Save Us From Anthropogenic Climate Disruption

Robert James Parsons, Truthout: Six years ago, climate scientists were saying we need an 80 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2015 to dodge the worst in anthropogenic climate disruption. Where does that leave us now?

Read the Article

Beating Swords into Plowshares: A Review of *Killing Is Not a Way of Life*

Eleanor J. Bader, Truthout: We are making a choice: It would cost some $50 billion a year to end starvation and provide clean water to all human beings compared with the $1.9 trillion spent yearly on militarism, David Swanson writes in his new book.

Read the Review

The First Four Things Republicans Are Trying to Change May Scare You

Kevin Mathews, Care2: Voters may be a little surprised - and horrified - to see that the change the new Republican majority in Congress will bring actually means regression.

Read the Article

Nation's Largest Mental Health Worker Strike Takes Aim at Woeful Care by Kaiser Permanente

Gabriel San Roman, Truthout: National Union of Healthcare Workers and the mental health clinicians whom it represents see themselves as catalysts to finally effect the parity between mental health care and physical health care federal law mandates.

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Boko Haram's "Deadliest Massacre": 2,000 Feared Dead in Nigeria
Read the Article at The Guardian

Nigeria Market Blast: At Least 16 Dead in Maiduguri
Read the Article at the BBC

Storm Adds to Misery of Gaza's Most Vulnerable
Read the Article at The New York Times

Muslim Employee Saved Lives in Attack on Paris Kosher Supermarket
Read the Article at Haaretz

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Read the Article

Rand Paul: Kicking Palestinians Is a Freebie

Robert Naiman, Truthout: It seems Senator Paul has made a cynical political calculation that a good way to inoculate himself from neocon charges that he is soft in his so-called "support for Israel" is to be "more 'pro-Israel' than thou" in kicking Palestinians.

Read the Article

Teachers on Trial: Five Times the Media Failed Educators in 2014

Hilary Tone, Media Matters for America: Teachers faced an unprecedented level of scrutiny in 2014, thanks to a landmark legal case dismantling teacher tenure in California. In part due to this increased scrutiny, educators also encountered attacks from mainstream and conservative media over the year.

Read the Article

Integrated Farming: The Only Way to Survive a Rising Sea

Manipadma Jena, Inter Press Service: In India, where 56 percent of the workforce is engaged in agriculture, of which some 80 percent are small and landless farmers, experts say that concerted efforts at the federal level are needed to safeguard millions whose lives and livelihoods are bound up with changing weather patterns.

Read the Article

George Zimmerman Arrested Again on Domestic Violence Charges in Florida

Read the Article at Rawstory

Climate Change Will Create More Environmental Refugees

Read the Article at Colorlines

France's Far-Right Leader Exploits the Paris Attack and Calls for Reviving the Death Penalty

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Why Do Republicans Reject Human-Made Climate Change?

Pierce Nahigyan, Planet Experts: It is a testament to money in politics and the political spin machine that an issue like climate change can be so polarizing. Once upon a time, the health of our climate was a bipartisan issue.

Read the Article

How the Sydney Siege Was Reported by the Public and News Professionals

Julie Posetti, The Conversation: Social media both speeds up the coverage of a story and risks magnifying inaccuracies. The ability to weigh ethical issues is a fundamental requirement for the practice of professional journalism.

Read the Article

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/10/2016 12:07:14 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT: Stump Inserts for Iowa on Monday

Matt told us we had to hug Bernie.

Can we do both?

Also - Z, think a reporter would write up a story on his stepped up attacks?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2016, at 6:51 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> It wasn't in Iowa, so may not be helpful, but the flip flop broadside on Morning Joe was just this past week.
>
> On Jan 10, 2016, at 6:26 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Here are the quotes by category.
> >
> > **Guns**
> >
> > **Lauren Gambino** @LGamGam
> >
> > Bernie Sanders says Clinton's attacks are coming as her "panicky" campaign is getting "nervous" about losing in Iowa and New Hampshire
> >
> > **Kevin Hardy** @kevinmhardy
> > In addressing guns, Sanders brought up Obama calling @HillaryClinton Annie Oakley in 2008, days there's been some "vacillating" from her.
> >
> > **MaryAlice Parks** @maryaliceparks
> > .@BernieSanders says on Cinton's gun record: "I think we have seen some vacillation there" talks about her record in 2008 - Marshalltown Iowa
> >
> > **Electability**
> >
> > **Iowa Starting Line** @IAStartingLine
> > "What happens when suddenly the candidate who was ordained by the establishment to win ... suddenly finds her position is not so strong?"
> >
> > **Kevin Hardy** @kevinmhardy
> > On @HillaryClinton electability argument, @BernieSanders says "Well, she's wrong and the facts tell us she is wrong."
> >
> > **Keystone**
> >
> > **Danny Freeman** @DannyEFreeman
> > Asked to contrast his views on climate issues with Hillary Clinton, Sanders hits hard on her delayed opposition to Keystone Pipeline.
> >
> > **Kevin Hardy** @kevinmhardy
> > On @HillaryClinton opposition to Keystone Pipeline, @BernieSanders tells Boone crowd "I don't think it should have taken quite so long.
> >
> > **Paid Leave**
> >
> > **Rebecca Morin @RebeccaMorin_**Sanders said he supports legislation for 12 week paid family and medical leave legislation, that he says Clinton doesn't support. #iacaucus
> >
> > On Sun, Jan 10, 2016 at 5:12 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > Defer to you all on how she'd be comfortable characterizing it but by any reasonable definition he's been attacking her this week throughout Iowa.
> > >
> > > On Sun, Jan 10, 2016 at 5:02 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > Well, we could do something like this:
> > > >
> > > > • But Senator Sanders and I do have differences. **He hasn't been shy about pointing them**

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out recently. So let me tell you how I see it. I'm a progressive who likes to get things done.

On Jan 10, 2016, at 5:58 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Having her reference that he's been attacking her.

On Sun, Jan 10, 2016 at 4:48 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Are you saying she personally make that point or that we make sure reporters know that?

On Jan 10, 2016, at 5:46 PM, 'Mandy Grunwald' via Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

I totally agree with Lily. Joel and I were just discussing this. The Sanders team plays victim very well. Let's not let them. He's been attacking HRC for weeks.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Jan 10, 2016, at 5:30 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

I wonder if it's worth noting anywhere that Sanders has been attacking her in Iowa - which he has been throughout this trip.

On Sun, Jan 10, 2016 at 3:52 PM, Emily Aden <eaden@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
research edits attached

On Sun, Jan 10, 2016 at 4:31 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Team, attached are inserts for HRC to add to her normal stump in Iowa on Monday. It includes:

-- Anthony Foxx endorsing and a brief riff building on the progress we've made on infrastructure and not letting GOP rip it away.
-- A riff on her differences with Sanders on health care and taxes and that he's a risky choice (thanks to Podesta and Robby for their suggestions on this)
-- A preview of the millionaire's surcharge and a hit on GOP tax plans
-- Re-upping guns contrast and the Giffords endorsement.
-- "First line of defense" call to action

Covering a lot of ground here, so please take a look.
Thanks
Dan

--
Lily Adams
Iowa Communications Director
Hillary for America
c: 202-368-4013

--

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> > Lily Adams
> > Iowa Communications Director
> > Hillary for America
> > c: 202-368-4013

--
Lily Adams
Iowa Communications Director
Hillary for America
c: 202-368-4013

--
Lily Adams
Iowa Communications Director
Hillary for America
c: 202-368-4013

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/8/2015 3:18:43 AM
Subject: Gwen Ifil?

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From:	"Environmental Justice EPA" <environmental-justice@epa.gov>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	11/10/2014 4:48:45 AM
Subject:	[epa-ej] 3rd Annual Symposium on Environmental Justice and Environmental Health Disparities in Maryland and Washington, DC

Environmental Justice Mailing List

3rd Annual Symposium on Environmental Justice and Environmental Health Disparities in Maryland and Washington, DC

Spaces are still available!!!

The Symposium will be held on December 6-7, 2014, 9:00-AM to 4:00-PM; and will take place at the Adele H. Stamp Student Union Building, located at University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

The goal of this year's symposium is to expand the discussion on the Chesapeake Bay to include environmental justice and health issues with a focus on vulnerable and at-risk populations who live in the region, and rely on the ecological goods and services of the Chesapeake Bay and rivers and streams in the watershed. Some of the expected outcomes and benefits of the symposium are:

- Increased awareness of environmental justice and public health issues in the Chesapeake Bay region;
- Increased knowledge of underserved and economically disadvantaged groups about issues in the Chesapeake Bay region; and
- Increase in the level of environmental decision-making in the region that includes environmental justice and health issues.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. Please feel free to share this information with colleagues and other interested parties. We look forward to seeing you on December 6 and 7, 2014.

To register, and for complete information visit http://www.ceejh.org/symposium

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00574

If you are not already a member, the Office of Environmental Justice would like to invite you to join the EJ ListServ. The purpose of this information tool is to notify individuals about activities at EPA in the field of environmental justice. By subscribing to this list you will receive information on EPA's activities, programs, projects grants and about environmental justice activities at other agencies. Noteworthy news items, National meeting announcements, meeting summaries of NEJAC meetings, and new publication notices will also be distributed. Postings can only be made by the Office of Environmental Justice. To request an item to be posted, send your information to environmental-justice@epa.gov and indicate in the subject "Post to EPA-EJ ListServ"

To join the listserv go to: https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=epa-ej

To change the way you receive these emails, go to: https://lists.epa.gov/read/?forum=epa-ej and click "My Account."

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-1518181-526356.442cc20a1800a5e69c3b9dd57d2ef9d0@lists.epa.gov .

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From: "Alexa P. Freeman" <apf5@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "All Faculty and Staff" <AllFacultyandStaff@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 7/30/2014 2:53:01 PM
Subject: Incoming SJD class fall 2014

Greetings all:

I am delighted to introduce our incoming S.J.D. class. Joining us this fall will be:

Guan-Wei Chao, from Taiwan. His topic is, "The Private Enforcement of China's Securities Law: Exploring Optimal Institutional Design through a Taiwanese Legal Framework." He earned his LL.M. at University of Pennsylvania. Professor Jim Feinerman will be his supervisor.

Han-Hsi Lui, from Taiwan. His topic is, "Vision of Big Data and Risk of Privacy Protection: The Dilemma Ahead with the Taiwan Health Data Project." He earned his LL.M. at University of Washington. Professor Larry Gostin will be his supervisor.

Hisham Alsabt, from Saudi Arabia. His topic is, "Identifying Corporate Governance Models that Work in Family Owned Companies: A Comparison between Saudi Arabia and U.S. Governance Laws." He earned his LL.M. at Georgetown. Professor Jim Feinerman will be his supervisor.

Ido Kilovaty, from Israel. His topic is, "Between Soft Power and Armed Force: Emerging Cyberspace Capabilities." He earned his LL.M. at Berkeley. Professor Rosa Brooks will be his supervisor.

Jorge Farinacci, from Puerto Rico. His topic is, "What We Said Then, What We Want Now: A Model of Judicial Interpretation for Modern, Programmatic and Ideological Constitutions around the World." He earned his LL.M. at Harvard. Professor Larry Solum will be his supervisor.

Nasredeen Abdulbari, from Sudan. His topic is, "Diversity and the Legal Principle of Self-Determination: A Paradoxical Relationship." He earned his LL.M. at Harvard. Professor Susan Weld will be his supervisor.

Congratulations to our new colleagues! I know I speak for all of us in welcoming them to Georgetown.

Best,

Lexi

Alexa P. Freeman
Visiting Professor of Law and Director, S.J.D. Program
Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202-662-9231
apf5@law.georgetown.edu
www.law.georgetown.edu/go/sjd

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From: "[CRITICAL] End Citizens United" <admin@endcitizensunited.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 10/30/2015 2:24:52 PM
Subject: Ending on a bad note...it'd be a shame

ENDCITIZENSUNITED.ORG

We've been hitting a lot of milestones lately:

- 5OO,OOO Citizen Co-Sponsors to the Constitutional Amendment to overturn *Citizens United*
- 1OO,OOO dedicated Founding Members
- 3OO,OOO online donations

It would be a shame to end the month on a bad note.

But John, that's exactly what would happen if we miss tomorrow's goal.

With just 24 hours to go, we're well short of our $1,OOO,OOO goal. That's why we're coming directly to you. **Will you make a donation right now?**

Chip in $5 immediately >>

Chip in $35 immediately >>

Chip in $50 immediately >>

Chip in $100 immediately >>

Chip in $250 immediately >>

Or donate another amount >>

We don't ask right-wing billionaires for money.

We rely on the generosity of everyday Americans like yourself -- folks who can afford to chip in $5 and $25 at a time.

We can compete with Republican corporate money. But only by hitting each and every goal -- starting with tomorrow's end-of-month deadline.

John, will you do your part?

http://act.endcitizensunited.org/Donate

Thank you,

-EndCitizensUnited.org

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End Citizens United PAC
1050 17th Street, NW Suite 590
Washington, DC 20036

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This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here.

Thank you for supporting End Citizens United PAC. We're proud to be funded exclusively by grassroots donors. Your support is critical to helping us counter the disastrous effects of *Citizens United* and reform our campaign finance system.

Emails are a crucial way to stay in touch with our top supporters. If we're going to pass a Constitutional Amendment to overturn this decision, we need you with us every step of the way.

If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to receive fewer emails, you can click here . If you'd like to donate to help fund our efforts to fix America's broken campaign finance system, please click here .

From the entire *End Citizens United* team, thanks for your support!

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From: "John Graham" <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com>
To: "Loretta Weinberg" <lorettaweinberg@aol.com>
"Jennifer Holdsworth" <jennifer@njdems.org>
Date: 2/1/2016 1:20:34 PM
Subject: RE: Iowa..

Proud of you all. Help hillary win. Pascrell coming up on friday. Bless u all.xxoo

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Loretta Weinberg <lorettaweinberg@aol.com>
Date: 2/1/2016 2:54 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Jennifer Holdsworth <jennifer@njdems.org>
Cc: John Graham <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Huma Abedin <habedin@hillaryclinton.com>, "Ruth B. Mandel" <rmandel@rci.rutgers.edu>, Chairman John Currie <pcdemsrita@gmail.com>, Kelly Maer <kellysmaer@gmail.com>, Buteas Chrissy <chrissy@homecarenj.org>, Chris James <chrisdjames06@aol.com>, Sylvia Larsen <SenSyllars@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Iowa..

You are great....good genes Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 1, 2016, at 2:52 PM, Jennifer Holdsworth <jennifer@njdems.org > wrote:

> We had great energy this weekend in New Hampshire! The big group of vets and military families I was with received such a warm welcome and knocked on hundreds of doors.
>
> Looking forward to the Secretary's victory this evening!
>
> Jennifer
>
> On Jan 31, 2016, at 12:08 PM, John Graham <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com > wrote:
>
> > Time to win .....let's take control nationally..
> >
> > Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®|PRO

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From: "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 1:40:13 PM
Subject: Katzenberg

Just got download
Trying to work on fixing what we can on my end for next week but want to touch base.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Stan Greenberg" <sgreenberg@gqrr.com>
To: tom@zzranch.com
"Paul Begala" <pbegala@hatcreekent.com>
"Susan McCue" <susan@messageinc.com>
"John Podesta" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
"Anna Greenberg" <agreenberg@gqrr.com>
"Tara McGuinness" <tara@campaigntodefendamerica.org>
"Zach Schwartz" <zschwartz@shangrila.us>
Date: 2/6/2008 2:51:27 AM
Subject: Re: Next steps

Agreed on all counts

On 2/6/08 8:45 AM, "Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com> wrote:

> Well, things are less clear on the Republican side than we thought and they
> will continue to beat each other up. I think this means we have a little
> maneuvering space until R candidates start dropping out. It does still look
> like McCain will win it in the end.
>
> Here is where I think we go:
>
> 1. Continue our McCain focused research. Groups, probably a message poll in
> lieu of state baselines.
>
> 2. Start prepping the "McCain is just like Bush. Same old thing." materials.
> We will all want to open on that even if we don't make that the big play.
> People need something to say about McCain if asked. Tara's draft talking
> points serve that purpose.
>
> 3. Continue to develop economic scripts and produce economic ads.
>
> Any thoughts? I will ask Ryan to see if we can reconvene for a call this week.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Eryn Sepp" <esepp@who.eop.gov>
Date: 6/10/2014 1:42:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: Herzliya speech by Sandy Berger
Attachments: Sandy Berger Herzliya 2014 Speech.pdf

Can you print speech. Thx.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Suzy George" <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com >
Date: Jun 10, 2014 5:01 PM
Subject: Herzliya speech by Sandy Berger
To: "Ben Chang" <bchang@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Anne Hall" <Anne.Hall@aporter.com >, "Bill Antholis" <wantholis@brookings.edu >, "Bill Woodward (blackwoodward@gmail.com)" <blackwoodward@gmail.com >, "bill.danvers@gmail.com " <bill.danvers@gmail.com >, "Brian Katulis" <bkatulis@americanprogress.org >, "Bruce Riedel" <briedel@brookings.edu >, "Caitlin McDonnell" <cmcdonnell@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Carol Browner" <cmbrowner@me.com >, "Carole Hall" <chall@brookings.edu >, "Catherine Whitney" <Catherine.Whitney@skadden.com >, "Chris Roberts" <croberts@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Dan Benjamin" <dbenjam61@hotmail.com >, "Daniel Silverberg" <danielsilverberg@yahoo.com >, "Denis McDonough" <denis.mcdonough@gmail.com >, "Derek Chollet" <dhchollet@gmail.com >, "Don Gips (don.gips@gmail.com)" <don.gips@gmail.com >, "donkerrick" <donkerrick@comcast.net >, "Eryn M. Sepp (eryn.sepp@gmail.com)" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com >, "Frank Lowenstein" <frankl03@yahoo.com >, "Greg Craig" <gcraig@skadden.com >, "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, "Jamie Rubin" <JamesPRubin1960@gmail.com >, "Jan Stewart" <jstewart@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Jeff Smith" <jeffrey_smith@aporter.com >, "Jeremy Bash" <jeremybash@gmail.com >, "Jessica Lewis" <lewisje03@yahoo.com >, "Jim Miller - Department of Defense (james.n.miller.jr@gmail.com)" <james.n.miller.jr@gmail.com >, "Jim O'Brien" <jobrien@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Joanna Nicoletti (info@forwardengagement.org)" <info@forwardengagement.org >, "Joe Cirincione" <jcirincione@ploughshares.org >, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >, "Julianne Smith" <julsmi@gmail.com >, "Ken Lieberthal" <klieberthal@brookings.edu >, "Kurt Campbell" <kurtmcampbell@yahoo.com >, "Laura Huber" <lhuber@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Leon Fuerth" <hdpf@msn.com >, "Maida Stadtler" <mstadtler@apcoworldwide.com >, "Marcel Lettre" <mlettre@verizon.net >, "Mariah Sixkiller (mariah6@gmail.com)" <mariah6@gmail.com >, "Marisa DeAngelis" <MDeAngelis@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Martin Indyk" <mindyk@brookings.edu >, "Michele Flournoy" <micheleflournoy3@gmail.com >, "Pat Griffin" <pgriffin@pmj-dc.com >, "Rich Verma" <rverma@steptoe.com >, "Rob Malley" <rmalley555@gmail.com >, "Samuel Berger" <sberger@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Steve Ricchetti" <sricchetti@cox.net >, "Strobe Talbott" <stalbott@brookings.edu >, "Susan Rice" <ricesusane@aol.com >, "Tara Sonenshine" <tsonenshine@earthlink.net >, "Theodore Waddelow" <twaddelow@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Tim Roemer" <tjroemer@gmail.com >, "Tom Daschle" <tom.daschle@dlapiper.com >, "Tom Donilon" <tdonilon@gmail.com >, "Tom Downey" <tdowney@dmggroup.com >, "Tommy Ross" <tommy_ross@reid.senate.gov >, "Toni Verstandig" <tonigverstandig@gmail.com >, "Tony Blinken" <ablinken@aol.com >, "Veronica Pollack" <Veronica.Pollock@dlapiper.com >, "Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com >
Cc:

Attached is a speech Sandy gave this week at the Herzliya Conference in Israel.

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Todd Stern" <Todd.Stern@wilmerhale.com>
Date:	10/27/2008 10:20:09 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Note from Les Gelb
Attachments:	Strategy Paper - October 27, 2008.doc

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jeanne-Paloma Zelmati <jzelmati@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 27, 2008 at 4:04 PM
Subject: Note from Les Gelb
To: John.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: Leslie Gelb <billwill15@earthlink.net>

Dear John,

As we agreed, please find attached the final draft of our group's overall strategy paper, topped by a letter of transmittal to the president-elect. I'm sending you the final draft so that you might flag for me any problems you would want us to consider removing from the final document itself.

Please also find below my email to the group members discharging my responsibilities and theirs and the track ahead. You will note I ask for their final comments by Thursday, 11 a.m.

I will send you the final document Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

As I stressed, we have kept our deliberations entirely private and we have no pride of authorship. Our only aim is, as we state, to help our nation's new leader design an overall strategy -- a thought process and discipline we all believe essential to his and our nation's success.

You can reach me at either 212.472.7320 or 212.988.9313.

Allbest,
Les Gelb

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jeanne-Paloma Zelmati <jzelmati@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 27, 2008 at 3:50 PM
Subject: Note from Les Gelb
To:
Cc: Leslie Gelb <billwill15@earthlink.net>

To: Strategy Group Members
From: Les Gelb
Re: Final Draft and Road to Finish Line

Attached find the final draft of our strategy paper topped by a cover note to the president-elect. We are told there is a window of reading opportunity this coming weekend and so -- with apologies -- I must have your comments no later than Thursday, 11 a.m.

I have put in disclaimers that this is not a consensus document and that there are disagreements on many points. Nonetheless, if you feel exercised by any particular point or argument, you should send me a paragraph or two on that point which I will append to the document.

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Some of you may be more than exercised and feel disinclined to associate yourself with the paper, and you may want to remove your name from the list at the end of the cover letter to the president-elect. IF YOU WANT YOUR NAME REMOVED, YOU MUST EMAIL ME TO THAT EFFECT NO LATER THAN 11 A.M. ON THURSDAY. OTHERWISE, YOUR NAME WILL BE INCLUDED.

You will also note that no authors are listed and no division of responsibilities in our group stated.

Please also note that we invite the president-elect to put us back to work if he would like to hear more. If not, we should feel that we have discharged our agreed duty to help the president do what he should immediately -- develop an overall strategy for his administration.

You should also know that I am sending a copy of this paper to John Podesta, Michael Froman, and Brian Mathis. They are aware of this enterprise in detail, have seen earlier drafts, and will be responsible for transmitting the document to higher authorities.

Lastly, I want to thank certain people in particular. I leaned on Bo Cutter heavily throughout the process and he was of enormous help. I want to thank colleagues on the staff -- Will Wechsler, Liz Colagiuri, and Jeanne Zelmati -- for their intelligent and hard labors. Not least, deep appreciation goes to Erica Payne for her constant counsel and Rob McKay for his enduring support for an enterprise that really had to be tried for the good of our country.

Allbest,
Les Gelb

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From: "Megan Rouse" <meganrouse@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/30/2014 11:30:00 PM
Subject: Ebola part 2

I did some reading (excellent think progress piece got me started) and am much less concerned about ebola. Its not likely to outbreak here given it needs body contact and fluids to pass on.
I am still worried about the safety in the WH for the family -- and all of you there. Am I overreacting on that?
Xo

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From: "Connolly Keigher" <ckeigher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: sara.solow@gmail.com
Date: 11/14/2015 3:35:12 PM
Subject: Come to Savery restaurant for some food!

HRC just wrapping at the watch party but wants to see folks in the Savery restaurant in hotel lobby.

See you soon!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/20/2015 3:45:33 AM
Subject: TWEETS 11/20

TWEETS 11/20

Proud of @HillaryforIA: "They came in and they made friends and they recruited" #iacaucus http://fw.to/Ov0SIAU

Re-imagining our world's energy future will take a shared sense of urgency. Great video from @NatGeo @unfoundation http://on.natgeo.com/1T3FicL

RETWEET RESPONSES 11/20

Hard to believe. Even from @therealDonaldTrump.

RETWEETS 11/20

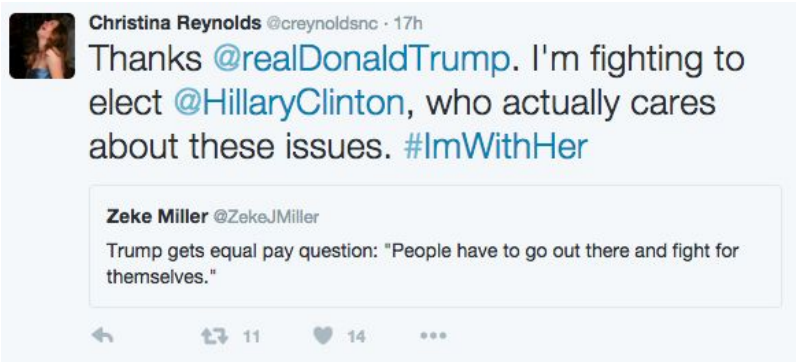

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
c: 858.395.1741

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "The Broad Foundation" <press@broadfoundation.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/5/2013 1:03:08 AM
Subject: America's Top Urban Public Charter School System Eradicates Achievement Gaps, Sends All Students to College

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

the broad prize for public charter schools

news release

America's Top Urban Public Charter School System Eradicates Achievement Gaps, Sends All Students to College

Broad Foundation releases research on best practices of Houston's YES Prep Public Schools, winner of Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Contact: Erica Lepping, The Broad Foundation,
elepping@broadfoundation.org, 310.954.5053
Trisha Cornwell, YES Prep Public Schools,
Trisha.Cornwell@yesprep.org, 281.513.8149

LOS ANGELES - A report detailing the practices behind the 2012 Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools winner's success in eliminating achievement gaps and reaching 100 percent college admission for all its students was released today by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation.

The report details how YES Prep Public Schools, a network of 11 middle and high schools in Houston, has achieved unprecedented success with a high-poverty, high-minority student population. Since YES Prep's inception in 1998, all of its seniors have graduated from high school and been accepted to four-year colleges and universities, and more than 90 percent of its students attend college without the need for remediation.

RMC Research Corporation, a national education consulting company, led a team of education researchers and practitioners through a four-day site visit to YES Prep. RMC evaluated the school system against a research-based framework and multiple rubrics of effective charter school and school system policies and practices. Researchers interviewed administrators, teachers, principals, parents, students and community leaders, analyzed extensive documents, and observed classrooms.

Among the strategies researchers found likely to be contributing to YES Prep's outstanding results with low-income and minority students:

1. Challenging curriculum back-mapped from objectives measured by Advanced Placement exams
2. Longer school days and a longer school year
3. Talented teachers and administrators carefully selected based on qualities exhibited by YES Prep's most successful teachers and administrators
4. Regular teacher professional development, coaching and individualized support

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5. Character building and community service integrated into the academic curriculum
6. Preparation for students to thrive in a "college culture," including travel opportunities to colleges and other trips, as well as assistance with college and financial aid applications, so students can envision themselves as successful college students
7. Critical academic and social-emotional support for students even after high school on their college campuses
8. Continuous improvement loops built into strategies

"YES Prep not only implements a challenging curriculum, rigorous instruction, careful teacher selection and in-depth professional development for teachers and administrators, but also goes beyond these methods to address other student needs, such as building student character and motivating students-during and after high school, enabling students to envision themselves as successful college students," said Dr. Shelley Billig, vice president of RMC Research Corporation and the lead researcher of the report. "Together, these strategies represent a winning combination to help disadvantaged students both graduate high school on time and thrive in college."

The Broad (rhymes with "road") Prize for Public Charter Schools is an annual award honoring urban public charter school systems that have demonstrated the most outstanding overall student performance and improvement in the nation in recent years while reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students. YES Prep was chosen as the 2012 winner by a 14-member review board of prominent education researchers, policy leaders, practitioners and executives from around the country who evaluated publicly available student achievement data on 20 large established urban charter school systems. The Broad Foundation did not play a role in selecting the winner.

From 2007 to 2011, publicly available data shows that YES Prep had the best overall student academic performance. For example, YES Prep eliminated nearly all income and ethnic achievement gaps, and its students outperformed higher income and white peers statewide in most cases, achieved higher average Advanced Placement participation and passing rates than their peer average and outperformed their peer average on SAT participation and scores.

"This groundbreaking report reveals what makes this public school system work," said Nina Rees, CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. "I encourage charter school practitioners and policy-makers alike to use these findings to help many more public schools-charter and traditional-learn from this successful model."

For more information about YES Prep's student outcomes and The Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools, visit: http://www.broadprize.org/publiccharterschools/2012.html .

The winner of the 2013 Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools will be announced July 2 at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools conference in Washington, D.C.

For a list of organizations eligible for the 2013 award: http://broadprize.org/publiccharterschools/eligible.html. Organizations cannot apply for the award nor be nominated.

Founded by self-made entrepreneur Eli Broad and his wife Edythe, both graduates of Detroit Public Schools, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is a philanthropy that seeks to ensure that every student in an urban public school has the opportunity to succeed. Bringing together top education experts and practitioners, the foundation funds system-wide programs and policies that strengthen public schools by creating environments that allow good teachers to do great work and enable students of all backgrounds to learn and thrive. For more information, visit: www.broadeducation.org .

# # #

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Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe
This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com by press@broadfoundation.org |
Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe ™ | Privacy Policy .

The Broad Foundation | 10900 Wilshire Boulevard | 12th Floor | Los Angeles | CA | 90024

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From: "Teresa Amott" <tamott@knox.edu>
To: "Trustees at Knox" <trustees@knox.edu>
trusteesemeriti <trusteesemeriti@knox.edu>
Date: 10/11/2015 3:24:35 PM
Subject: Faculty Members Attending Thursday's Dinner at the Board Meeting

Dear Trustees,

As you know, it is customary to invite the newly tenured (and promoted) faculty to Thursday's dinner with the Board during the October meeting. So that you know a little more about those faculty members, please see below a message I sent to the Knox community last June after the Board meeting at which these appointments were approved.

Looking forward to seeing you shortly, and wishing you safe travels to Galesburg. Next week looks to be perfect fall weather.

Best,

Teresa

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Teresa Amott** <tamott@knox.edu >
Date: Sun, Jun 7, 2015 at 5:58 PM
Subject: Tenure and Promotion Congratulations
To: campus-bulletin <campus-bulletin@knox.edu >

Dear Knox Community,
It gives me very great pleasure to announce formally that at its June meeting, the Knox College Board of Trustees accepted my recommendations and awarded tenure to two faculty members: **Todd Heidt,** Modern Languages--German and **Weihong Du,** Asian Studies--Chinese. I brought these valued colleagues forward to the Board upon the recommendations of the Faculty Personnel Committee and Dean Behling. In addition, **Greg Gilbert,** Art & Art History, was promoted to the rank of Full Professor.

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Todd Heidt, Modern Languages and Literatures--German, earned his Ph.D. University of Cincinnati; M.A. University of Chicago; and his B.A. University of Cincinnati. Todd teaches a variety of courses in German language and culture, including courses focused on narrative and film in Weimar Germany and contemporary German Culture; film studies. Along with colleagues, he has developed the December travel seminar, Modern European Identities: Berlin and Istanbul, supported by a DAAD Group Study Visit Grant. Todd's scholarship includes: "Aldred Döblin." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*; "Double-Take: Béla Balázs and the Visual Disorientation of G.W. Pbst's *Dreigroschenoper*," *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*; "Image and Text, Fact and Fiction: Narrating W.G. Sebald's *The Emigrants* in the First Person," *image [&] narrative*; "Two Tales of a City: Photographing Weimar Berlin," *Moderne und Antimoderne in Europa*; "*Kuhle Wampe or Who Owns the World*. Kleiner Muggelsee," *World Film Locations*; and editor of *Focus on German Studies* (15). His engagement with the campus and community has included service on the Admission, Retention, and Placement Committee, the Vovis Center Advisory Board, and various search committees; he also serves as a peer reviewer and section co-chair for the German Studies Association.

Weihong Du, Asian Studies--Chinese, earned her Ph.D. University of Minnesota; B.A. and M.A. Nanjing University, China. Weihong's teaching includes teaching focused on modern and contemporary Chinese language, literature, and culture; Chinese Film; women and modern Chinese literature; and Chinese popular culture. Weihong's scholarship includes "A Turning Point for *Guohua*? Xu Beihong and Transformative Encounters with the Socialist Spirit," *Twentieth-Century China*; "S. I. Hsiung: New Discourse and Drama in Early Chinese Theatrical Exchange," *Asian Theatre Journal*; "Of Memes and Men: A Lingual Trail of Heightened Efficacy in Real and Virtual Chinese Spaces"; and "Espionage on Screen: Narrative, Nostalgia, and Commercialized Historical Discourse in Contemporary Chinese TV Drama; and a translation of "Ma Bole," by Xiao Hong. Her engagement with the campus and community includes service on the Campus Diversity Committee, the First-Year Preceptorial Steering Committee, and the Conduct Council. Weihong will serve as the on site ACM-Shanghai program faculty director in Fall 2017.

Promotion to Full Professor

Gregory Gilbert, Art & Art History, earned his M.A. and Ph.D. Rutgers University and his B.F.A. University of Kansas. Greg has taught a wide variety of courses, including Modern American art; visual culture theory; American art, architecture, and culture; Andy Warhol

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and the visual culture of the Sixties; and Native Arts of the Americas. In 2002, he was awarded the Philip Green Wright/Lombard College Prize for Distinguished Teaching. Greg's scholarship and curatorial experience includes his appointment as Senior Curator, Figge Art Museum; Dedalus Foundation Visiting Scholar in the Archives of American Art Fellowship;*New Deal for Illinois: The Federal Art Project Collection of Western Illinois*; *Scale: Ceramic Forms and Photographic Landscapes*; *Beyond Fifteen Minutes of Fame: Andy Warhol's Photographic Legacy*; and "Robert Motherwell's World War II Collages: Signifying Was as Topical Spectacle in Abstract Expressionist Art," *Oxford Art Journal*. Greg also has served on campus as the chair of the Broadcast, Internet, and Publications Committee and the Campus Environment Committee; and as the College's advisor for the ACM Chicago Arts and Newberry Library Seminar programs.

In addition, three members of the faculty were promoted to emeritus status:

R. Lance Factor, Philosophy, George Appleton Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor

M.A. and Ph.D. University of Georgia; B.A. The Ohio State University; at Knox since 1969

George Steckley, History, Robert M. and Katherne A. Seeley Distinguished Professor of History,M.A. and Ph.D. University of Chicago; A.B. Oberlin College; at Knox since 1973

Jon Wagner, Anthropology

M.A. and Ph.D. Indiana University; B.A. Wichita State University; at Knox since 1973

Please join me in congratulating each of these members of the Knox faculty on this milestone in their careers and in thanking our new Emeriti for their distinguished service to Knox.

Best,

Teresa

--
TERESA L. AMOTT
President

Knox College
309-341-7211 | Fax: 309-341-7856
www.knox.edu

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to trusteesemeriti+unsubscribe@knox.edu .

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From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/24/2015 10:47:46 AM
Subject: Daily Media Clips 6.24.15

National:

-- One-and-a-half minute report on HRC saying "all lives matter" near Ferguson; showed footage of HRC saying "all lives matter" within the context of the speech; panel with Sara Murray and Maeve Reston; Tapper reported that comment raised the eyebrows of parishioners in attendance; Tapper reported on an NPR report which detailed a woman who was offended by the remarks; Murray said it was perplexing to people around HRC why HRC didn't say that Black Lives Matter because HRC had said it before; Murray said HRC could have said Black Lives Matters; Murray said it was a letdown to audience members if they came to hear HRC say Black Lives Matter. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jake Tapper on HRC saying All Lives Matter.mp4

-- Report on how the removal of Confederate flag sparked backlash; showed Ann Coulter's comment from Fox News Business on Tuesday about HRC being an immigrant; panel with Ari Berman, John Mcwhorter, Brittany Cooper, and Michael Steele; shifted into a discussion about whether the Charleston shooting was an inflection point on America's conversation about race; Cooper noted that HRC was talking about dealing with the problem of mass incarceration – "the problem that her husband helped create" – then something was changing as a whole regarding race in society. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brittany Cooper on HRC and mass incarceration.mp4

-- Discussion about how people are calling to remove Confederate symbols and statues across the US; one panelist noted that Democrats have the Jefferson-Jackson dinners; Andrea Tantaros said she thought Democrats should rename their dinners, said HRC just stopped in Virginia to speak at a Jefferson-Jackson dinner. Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Andrea Tantaros said HRC spoke at a JJ dinner.mp4

-- Report on the state of the conversation on race; showed footage of HRC talking about race in Missouri; interviewed Marc Morial; Morial said we can see that with HRC and others there was a door to address how we talk about race and act on it. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Marc Morial on HRCs race comments.mp4

-- Report that HRC spoke about the Confederate flag in Missouri on Tuesday; panel with Jessica Ehrlich; Ehrlich said we need people like HRC who have a long history of fighting for equality in the United States but that have solid programs moving forward.Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jessica Ehrlich on HRCs response to Charleston.mp4

-- Report on the growing call for Confederate memorabilia to come down; panel with Ana Navarro and Paul Begala; Navarro said this was a watershed moment; Carol Costello said she thought the move was largely symbolic, brought up that the unemployment rate among AfAms has been high throughout BHO's tenure; Costello asked whether Democrats were taking the black vote for granted; Begala said Democrats were going to fight for every vote; Begala noted HRC went to an AfAm church near Ferguson; Begala noted that a participant in HRC's roundtable where a professor brought up length-of-life disparity between white and black zip codes; Navarro noted that WJC was the Governor of Arkansas over the Confederate flag. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ana Navarro and Paul Begala on Clintons and race.mp4

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-- Report on immigration reform; interviewed Luis Gutierrez; Gutierrez noted that HRC waffled on driver's licenses for illegal immigrants, said now HRC is saying she'd use her executive authority for DREAMers and their parents; Gutierrez used this as an example of momentum building for immigration reform. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Luis Gutierrez on HRC immigration evolution.mp4

-- Brief report that a would-be intern for HFA turned down the internship after she learned the internship wouldn't pay; reported that the woman moved to Nevada but was told she would have to work full-time on her own dime; noted that the woman still said she would vote for HRC. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Unpaid intern oped about HFA.mp4

-- Report on HRC's Missouri discussion on race; Steve Doocy noted that HRC got there in her private jet, said this was the third time HRC spoke about race on the campaign trail; Doocy said HRC is trying to turn race into a campaign issue; Hasselbeck questioned whether this was an honest discussion or a campaign ploy to win black voters; showed footage of Brit Hume from The Kelly File talking about BHO's race comments; Ed Henry (guest host) said HFA pushed back and said it was HRC's idea – not her pollster's idea – to talk about race on Tuesday instead of the economy; Henry said he questioned HFA about whether this event would help HRC's effort to keep the BHO coalition together, reported that HFA said, "of course we want African American turnout;" Henry said there was politics at play here; Doocy said one of Michael Brown's friends asked HRC where she had been for 10 months. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Fox and Friends questions HRCs motives on race.mp4

-- Report on the SC Confederate flag; reported that HRC applauded the momentum for removing the flag; used footage of HRC saying the flag has no place in our present; broadened into larger report about the Confederate flag controversy. CNN's New Day ,2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC condemning Confederate flag.mp4

-- Brief report on Media Matters potentially breaking IRS rules by helping HRC in a recent opinion piece that was published; reported that Brock wants Sidney Blumenthal's deposition released but that nonprofits cannot work to help political candidates. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Media Matters Sidney Blumenthal IRS.mp4

-- Report that Mika got an email from a close member of the Morning Joe family who was upset about the show's Donald Trump interview; Mika said if HRC came on the set that she would get the same interview. MSNBC's Morning Joe, 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Mika Brzezinski on interviewing HRC.mp4

-- Report that HRC spoke about race for the third time since the Charleston massacre in a church near Ferguson; Elisabeth Hasselbeck said some people are questioning whether people in politics are pushing a race war narrative for political gain; showed footage of Brit Hume on The Kelly File talking about BHO's race comments; Steve Doocy said HRC's trying to turn race into a voting issue, read HRC's statement about convincing the 50 million Americans who don't vote to vote; Doocy said HRC would need 51 percent of the black vote to turn out for her to win. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 2015 06 24 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Fox and Friends on HRC and the black vote.mp4

States:

Nevada:

--Report on HRC speaking about Charleston Shooting: Clip of HRC speaking about families of the Church in

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Charleston. Reporters claim that Clinton commented on removing the flag from the South Carolina statehouse. KRXI(FOX)'s Mornings on Fox 11, Reno (NV) . 2015.06.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC speech.mp4

--Report on HRC Church Shooting: Reporters claim that HRC called the Charleston shooting an act of "racist terrorism", and that the Confederate flag should not fly anywhere. KTNV-LV(ABC)'s World News Now, Las Vegas (NV). 2015.06.24, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Confederate flag.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC and her words on the Confederate flag: Reporters claim that HRC had strong words in her speech in Missouri claiming that the Confederate flag is a symbol of America's racist past. KWQC-DAV(NBC)'s KWQC Today at 6 am , Davenport (IA) .2015.06.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC speech racism.mp4

--Report on HRC and her opinion on Confederate flag: Reporters showcased HRC calling the Confederate flag a symbol of our country's racist past, and that the Confederate flag should be removed. KCCI-DM(CBS)'s KCCI 8 News This Morning, Des Moines (IA). 2015.06.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Confederacy.mp4

--Report on HRC speaking out about Confederate flag: Reporters showed a clip of HRC speaking about the need to remove the confederate flag. KGAN-IOW(CBS)'s CBS2 This Morning, Iowa City (IA). 2015.06.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Confederate clip.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and the Confederate flag: Reporters show the clip of HRC speaking of America's racist past, and how the Confederate flag should not fly anywhere. WOLO-COL(ABC)'s Good Morning Columbia, Columbia (SC). 2015.06.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Confederate flag HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC and Charleston shooting: Reporters show clip of HRC speaking about the bible study and Charleston. The clip showcases HRC as claiming that the Charleston bible study graciously invited Roof without knowing who he was. Reporters claim that the Confederate flag should be removed. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s WTOC News at Daybreak 6am , Savannah (GA) . 2015.06.24., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC speech clip.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Bernie Sanders in NH: Reporters claim that Sanders will be in NH this weekend with 6 events. He will also attend a house party. A recent Suffolk University poll put Bernie within 10 points of HRC. WMUR-MAN' News 9 Tonight, Manchester (NH).2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders in NH: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders could potentially win New Hampshire because he is from around that area. Reporters claim that HRC's campaign has stated that if they lose New Hampshire and Vermont, it will not be a big deal to the campaign. Reporters claim that HRC will set themselves up for failure. Fox Business Network's Varney & Company .2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders in NH.mp4

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--Report on Bernie Sanders Likeability: Reporters claim that Sanders drew massive crowds in Denver. Reporters claim that his message is to go after the banks and Wall Street. He claims that there should be massive taxes for the rich. Reporters claim that Sanders neither agreed to nor denied 90% tax rates for the rich. Reporters claimed that Sanders' policy measures were not feasible. Fox News' FOX & Friends , 2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders opinions.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Trade Vote: Reporters claim that Sanders has voted against the Trade policy. Reporters show a clip of Sanders claiming that he strongly disagrees with the Majority Leader on the trade issue. Fox News' The Kelly File .2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders trade.mp4

--Report on Sanders' opinion on Confederate Flag: Bernie Sanders has called the Confederate flag a sad reminder of our nation's racist past, according to reporters. CNN's Early Start with John Berman and Christine Romans. 2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Confederate flag.mp4

--Report on Sanders Interview on Morning Joe: Sanders speaks about his campaign success. He claims that Americans understand the income inequality that is present in the United States. Sanders draws a clear distinction between himself and HRC. Sanders claims that HRC must take a strong stance on the trade issue. Sanders claims that he will not take on HRC on any personal issues, but just on political issues in which they both draw clear distinctions. Sanders speaks about education and minimum wage. He claims that policy must eliminate loopholes that allow major corporations to keep money overseas.MSNBC's *Morning Joe with Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski.* 2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National. Sanders on Morning Joe.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and his appeal to the public: Reporters claim that Sanders has a grass roots appeal that is working for them to gain advantages. Reporters claim that Sanders speaks about how D.C. has been completely disconnected from the American people. Reporters claim that he appeals to and speaks about issues that other politicians avoid. Fox News' Your World with Neil Cavuto . 2015.06.24., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders grassroots.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM in Iowa: Reporters claim that MOM will be in Sioux City at a house party this weekend. KMEG(CBS)'s CBS This Morning, Sioux City (IA). 2015.06.24., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM in Iowa.mp4

--Report on MOM in Iowa: Reporters claim that MOM will be in Sioux City and Ames this weekend, and he will be in Cedar Rapids on July 17th. KGAN-IOW(CBS)'s CBS2 This Morning, Iowa City (IA). Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM iowa.mp4

-- Report on MOM in Iowa: Reporters claim that MOM will be in Sioux City at a house party this weekend. MOM will also visit Ames and Cedar Rapids. KMEG(CBS)'s Siouxland News at 10 on KMEG, Sioux City (IA). 2015.06.24., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM visit.mp4

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From:	"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	11/23/2008 1:52:47 PM
Subject:	Debt Memo
Attachments:	2008-11-23 Debt Retirement Memorandum.doc

John:

Per our earlier conversation, attached is a memo on addressing HRC's debt. As you will see, it's time sensitive for some of these decisions, especially those related to BO campaign.

Once you read this, call me so we can address.

cdm

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From: "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
To: "Robert Mook" <robbymook@gmail.com>
Date: 11/7/2014 10:08:22 PM
Subject: Re: Revised topics list

Are the only levers spending / not spending ?

cdm

> On Nov 7, 2014, at 6:37 PM, Robert Mook <robbymook@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Attached is a revised document that we can discuss tomorrow morning.
>
> I made one change that we can discuss tomorrow, which was to swap out the POTUS messaging section for a timeline discussion (more on that below) during the Thursday session. It would be really helpful to at least get her absorbing and thinking about that as soon as possible, unless you guys think that does more harm than good. It also makes sense to lump in POTUS with the legislative outreach and some of the political items in the second session.
>
> On the timeline piece, I'm working now on a doc that will have three different launch options:
>
> #1: no personal spending, but earlier exploratory
> #2: some personal spending, but later exploratory
> #2: no personal spending, late exploratory, but later launch
>
> I think this will both present some real choices, but also help her to understand the basic building blocks of the timeline itself.
> <Big Picture Discussion Topics 11-7 V2.docx>

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From: response@kirkpatrickforarizona.com <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 8/25/2014 11:45:02 AM
Subject: [UPDATE] FW: please

The Arizona primary is TOMORROW, our race is in a dead heat, and we're up against FIVE different outside groups.

If you were thinking of making a donation for Ann, it's critical you do immediately >>

---------- Original Email ----------

From: Ann Kirkpatrick
Subject: please

John -- I need your urgent support. Here's why:

- The NRCC just dropped $1,76O,OOO on the Arizona airwaves to blast my record.
- My race is in a DEAD-HEAT.
- **The Arizona primary is TOMORROW.**

I'm fighting as hard as I can for the people of Arizona's 1st district. But if we're going to get the facts out to voters, it's absolutely critical we hit our Rapid Response goal before midnight tomorrow.

As of 9am, we're still $2,467 short. John, can I count on your support?

John Podesta
Deadline: 24 HOURS
Your Support: $5.00

If you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

Chip in $5 immediately >>

Chip in $35 immediately >>

Chip in $50 immediately >>

Chip in $100 immediately >>

Chip in $250 immediately >>

Or click here to donate another amount >>

Thank you,

Ann

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

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This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here . We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters. Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages. Thanks for your support!

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From: "Denise Bailey" <dbailey@knox.edu>
To: "Trustees at Knox" <trustees@knox.edu>
Date: 6/10/2014 8:42:21 AM
Subject: Message from Duke Petrovich

Dear Trustees,

At the June Knox College Board of Trustees meeting, the Board chose to honor Teresa Amott's leadership of the College with a one-time bonus paid by trustees. It was requested that each trustee consider a gift of $500 or more. Gifts are to be made to Knox College with President on the memo line of a check or in the comment box of an online gift. It would be wonderful to receive these gifts by June 30. This gift is over and above other commitments you may have with the College for fiscal year end.

Thanks for your support of this effort to honor the wonderful leadership President Amott is providing to Knox.

- Duke

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to trustees-user+unsubscribe@knox.edu.

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From: FES33@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
amy@fundforamerica.net
Date: 2/5/2008 8:50:06 AM
Subject: Re: Update from Matzzie

In a message dated 2/5/08 5:47:01 AM, john.podesta@gmail.com writes:
yes. The only caveat is the primary date(march 4th). I think we should start right after that because the Ohio media noise before then will likely be focussed on the Dem primary. Before that we also run the risk that Mitt or Citizens United are running ads attacking from the right. If the CDA was up in the same markets, he may seem like Goldilocks to an independent voter.

> I had a tough conversation with the CDA team minus Bing earlier in the day. I said that my own judgment was that we didn't have the cash to come close to their spend rate in Feb and March. My view is that early media is important to help frame the race and get competitive in some of the must win states. Better, again in my view, to spend seriously in fewer states. I think for a host of reasons, one of those states should be Ohio. After that, it seems like we should be in 3 or 4 other states, but not the universe they are considering. That kind of plan will give us what we need to push the free media story, give us a decent test of the media/messaging and help raise $ going forward. Is this consistent with your all's views?
>
> On 2/4/08, **Amy Dacey** <amy@fundforamerica.net > wrote:
> Tom said he and his team believe in a front loaded plan, "even if we have to close up shop by memorial".
>
> We explained to him that FFA cash flow did not match that plan
> He is coming back to us with a budget for operation and an early message plan in up to 4 states.
>
> As soon as we have that information we will share it with you.
> And then we can decide on a final allocation plan for Feb/ March.
>
> Thank you
> Amy

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Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.
(http://music.aol.com/grammys/pictures/never-won-a-grammy?NCID=aolcmp00300000002548)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Ilyse Hogue" <ilyse@moveon.org>
To: bigcampaign <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 10/8/2010 3:35:28 AM
Subject: [big campaign] MoveOn members pose as "RepubliCorp" at Boehner fundraiser last night

Our members are bird dogging Republican candidates in character all over the country. They dress up as execs from "RepubliCorp" a not-so-fictitious merger between the Republican party and multi-national corporations and go to events. We got a great hit last night at the Boehner event. Made broadcast television, and was pitch perfect on message. Check it out:

http://www.buffalonews.com/city/politics/article214303.ece

Meanwhile, members of MoveOn.org and Citizen Action were scheduled to picket Boehner's appearance at the Gioia home on Meadow Road. They were posing as representatives of a fictitious entity called "RepubliCorp," which the protesters said emphasizes "the close allegiance between corporate interests and their Republican allies who together plan to spend at least $400 million this election cycle to try and take back control of Congress."

"When oil billionaires and health insurance front groups are spending $400 million to take over Congress for the Republicans, how can we expect Boehner to be on the side of America's working families?" said Andrew A. Skolnick, a local MoveOn member.

"Between now and Election Day, we'll continue to remind people that John Boehner, and his Republican counterparts, repeatedly sided with corporations and against the other 98 percent of us not represented by corporate lobbyists."

--
Ilyse G. Hogue
Director of Political Advocacy and Communications
MoveOn.org

ph: 202-822-4780 x219
mobile: 202-731-2656

Hope is a feeling that life and work have meaning. You either have it or you don't, regardless of the state of the world that surrounds you.

----Vaclav Havel

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Pete Ogden" <progden@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/18/2009 12:54:39 PM
Subject: tickets and update from Todd

Hi John --

I dropped by CAP this afternoon but I didn't see the inaugural tickets on your desk. If you're planning on going into the office tomorrow then I can go by the in the afternoon, but if not then it's also easy for me to pick them up at your house (just let me know what time would be convenient).

Also, you may already know this but, unfortunately, Todd was told that one of the slots he was hoping to offer me was filled by an HRC staffer and they wouldn't let him bring on anyone else for the time being (his message is below). This is really too bad, and your help or guidance on where I should go from here would be valuable to me.

Thanks again for everything.

Pete

From: Todd Stern
To: Peter Ogden
Sent: Sun Jan 18 16:52:31 2009
Subject: update
Hi Pete. I'm disappointed to say that I can't clear this right now. Might be able to down the road a bit, but you're probably wiser taking a bird in the hand, if there are any. Cheryl told me most people are only getting one outside person for the time being. I'm getting my #2 (top negotiator under me) + a Senate staffer from HRC, whom HRC is interested in bringing in. Cheryl said things might free up for another person, but no guarantees. I made a direct and strong pitch for you, including that I'll lose you if we can't close the deal now, but they won't do more at this point.

Keep me posted on what you do. But I don't want you hanging around for me only to end up with nothing. And feel free to call if you want to discuss this or anything else. My cell is 202-641-3207 and home is 202-237-2933. Thanks Pete. Sorry I don't have better news -- and more sorry for me!

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From: "Erin Green" <ehgreen@yahoo.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/27/2016 7:47:21 PM
Subject: Woo-Hoo

Hi John,

Alex and I are dancing in our little apartment! We are so excited! GOOOO HILLARY!!!!

I know we have told you this before, but if there is anything we can do, please let us know. I am from CT, Alex is from here but his parents now live in RI. Anything we can do, John, we are with you!

Great to see you this week.

Erin

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/28/2015 3:38:26 AM
Subject: Hillary Clinton plans to get "aggressive" on climate. Here's what that might look like.

http://www.vox.com/2015/5/28/8673339/hillary-clinton-climate-policy

Hillary Clinton plans to get "aggressive" on climate. Here's what that might look like.

Hillary Clinton's advisers say she plans to take "aggressive" steps on global warming if elected president. Here's John Podesta **last week** :

> Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is "quite" involved in climate change policy as a 2016 presidential candidate and will carry on with President Obama's limits on coal-fired power plants if she is elected, her campaign chairman, John Podesta, said yesterday. ...
>
> "I have no doubt that she will move forward with an aggressive program to move the country to a cleaner energy system and do what the United States needs to do to meet the target," he said.

But what would an "aggressive program" entail? One place to look is in **this big new report** by the World Resources Institute. To be clear, the report isn't affiliated with the Clinton campaign at all. But it does lay out, in detail, what policies the next president could pursue to cut US emissions sharply — even without Congress. If Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders or Jeb Bush wants to go big on climate, this would be a place to start.

First, the backdrop: As part of the UN climate talks, President Obama **has pledged** that US greenhouse gas emissions will be 26 to 28 percent lower in 2025 than they were in 2005. That's the "target" Podesta is talking about. The Obama administration has already put out a battery of regulations toward that end, like stricter fuel economy standards for cars and the EPA's proposal to curtail CO2 from coal plants.

But as the WRI report notes, all of Obama's climate policies so far aren't yet sufficient to hit that big climate goal. (Right now, US greenhouse gas emissions are only about 8 percent below 2005 levels.) So that's where the next president comes in, whether it's Hillary Clinton or whoever else.

10 big things the next president could do to cut emissions — without Congress

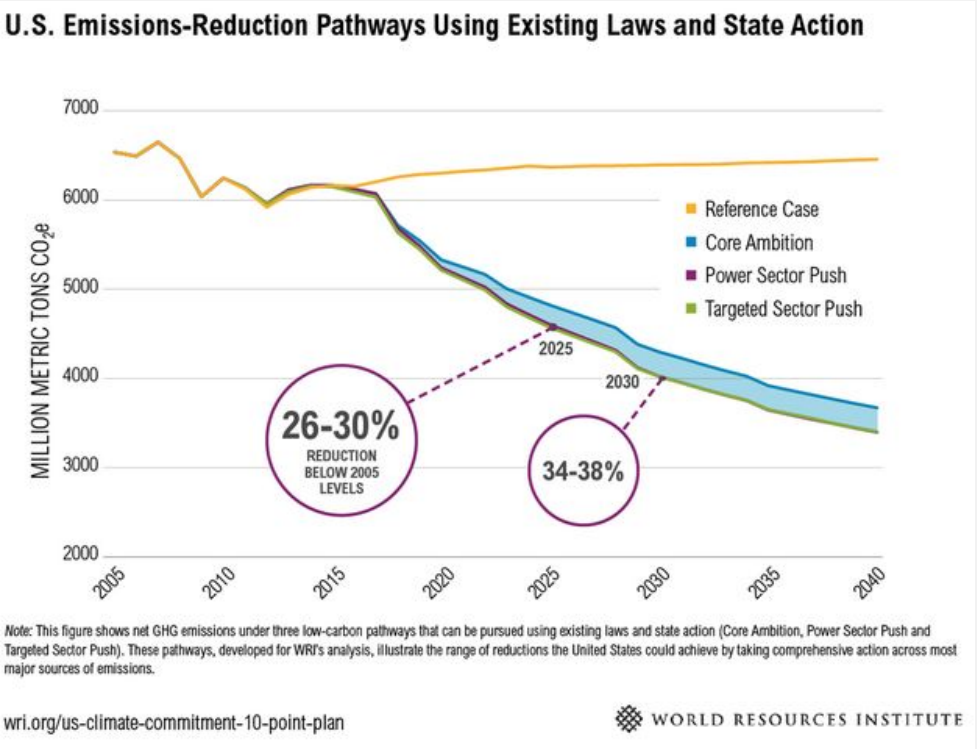

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(**World Resources Institute**)

The bulk of the WRI **report** looks at various policies the next president could pursue to build on Obama's existing regulations and hit or even exceed that 2025 target. Most of these things could be done without Congress, mainly by harnessing the EPA's existing authority to regulate greenhouse gases:

1) Follow through on Obama's Clean Power Plan. This summer, the EPA plans to finalize its Clean Power Plan to curtail CO2 emissions from existing coal-fired plants. The WRI report suggests that the Obama administration strengthen this rule *before* it's finalized, though it concedes this isn't absolutely necessary for the US to hit its 2025 climate target.

The Clean Power Plan would then need to survive all legal challenges, and the next administration would have to make sure the rule gets fully implemented. As I've **written before** , whoever gets elected president in 2016 will have a ton of leeway over implementation of the power plant rule. Podesta's comments above suggest that Clinton already wants to see these through. So that's step one...

2) Strengthen energy efficiency standards for homes and buildings. Next, the Department of Energy could scale up or tighten various energy efficiency standards for household appliances, residential boilers, commercial ventilation equipment, and so forth. This would help reduce energy demand and CO2 emissions.

3) Expand programs to reduce HFCs. The Obama administration has already begun **cracking down on HFCs** , a potent greenhouse gas often used in refrigeration and air conditioning. In theory, the next president could direct the EPA to accelerate the phase-out of the worst of these gases and help bolster recycling programs and pursue alternatives.

4) Start regulating industrial CO2 sources. Similarly, the next president could set the EPA loose regulating *other* sources of CO2 emissions. Under Obama, the EPA has only regulated CO2 from vehicles and power plants. But the agency does have the authority to regulate refineries, cement plants, petrochemical plants, and so on. The WRI report suggests that the EPA under the next president could use this power to improve end-use efficiency and fuel switching in the industrial sector and bring down US emissions further.

5) Crack down on methane leaks from oil and gas infrastructure. Again, the EPA has already begun setting standards for **methane leaks from new oil and gas wells** . The next president could expand this authority to *existing* oil and gas wells as well as other natural gas infrastructure.

6) Expand fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks. Federal fuel economy standards for new cars and light trucks are currently set to keep rising each year until they reach 54.5 miles per gallon in 2025. The WRI report points out that the next president could tighten these standards further during the 2017 midterm review, or even extend them further — say, to 63 mpg by 2030.

7) Set new standards for heavy trucks. Similarly, the EPA has already set standards to improve fuel efficiency for medium- and heavy-duty trucks between 2014 and 2018. Either the Obama administration or the next president could extend these standards in the period after that, reducing gasoline consumption.

8) Set CO2 rules for aircraft. Countries around the world are planning to come to some sort of agreement on reducing emissions from flying in the next few years. The WRI report notes that either this administration or the next one could work with the EPA to set a rule to improve the fuel efficiency of new aircraft in the range of 2 to 3 percent annually.

9) Reduce methane from landfills and agriculture. The EPA **has already proposed** regulations on methane emissions from new landfills. It could go further to restrict emissions from existing landfills and coal mines, as well as look into ways to reduce emissions from agriculture (yes, that means tackling **cow burps**).

10) Tackle miscellaneous greenhouse gases. On a smaller scale, the WRI notes that the EPA and Department of Energy could likely make inroads on other sources of greenhouse gases, like "off-highway vehicles" or "nitric and adipic acid manufacturing." this wouldn't be world-changing, but it's a small cut that could add up.

About 70 percent of these expand on policies that Obama has already set in motion. But some of them, particularly CO2 rules for industrial sectors, would involve brand-new regulations on entire parts of the economy. Far from simple.

Add these up, and the US could hit its 2025 goal

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Next up, oil refineries. (David McNew/Getty Images)

It depends on how hard the next president wants to push. Many of these regulations are likely to be extremely controversial, so it's far from a given they'll happen. The WRI report models a number of different scenarios here.

In one scenario, called "core ambition," the Obama administration finalizes its CO2 rule for power plants and whoever gets elected in 2016 fully implements it. The next president*also* sets new efficiency standards for appliances, bolsters fuel economy rules for trucks, sets new CO2 rules for industry, expands emissions standards for natural gas systems, and cuts down on HFCs. Add it up, and greenhouse gas emissions fall roughly 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

The WRI also models another scenario, called "Targeted Sector Push," in which, on top of the above, the next administration strengthens existing CAFE standards for vehicles during the midterm review in 2017 and sets even stricter CO2 regulations for industrial sources, plus some other steps. The result? Emissions fall roughly 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Granted, there are other outside variables here that could potentially sway US emissions, too. If, say, solar power prices plummet faster than expected, that might push emissions down even further. Or maybe self-driving cars **will revolutionize transportation**. The future's never certain. The point of this paper is to show what an aggressive federal climate policy looks like, given what we know now.

Would Clinton actually do any of this?

Podesta and Clinton, presumably talking HFC phase-outs. (Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

Well, that's the big question. All Podesta has said is that Clinton would move forward with an "aggressive program" to hit that 2025 emissions target. The WRI report sketches out, broadly, what regulatory steps could meet that goal. But maybe Clinton's thought of options no one else has.

Mind you, this analysis also assumes that Congress remains gridlocked on climate change for the foreseeable future. The WRI report points out that there's only so much *any*administration can do on its own to nudge down emissions — particularly for the deeper cuts that will likely prove needed after 2025 for the world to fend off drastic climate change . (Of course, other nations will have to respond in kind.)

"New federal legislation will likely be needed to drive these deeper reductions," the report notes, "for example, a carbon tax, cap-and-trade program, or national clean energy standards." Some of those legislative policies, like a steadily rising carbon tax, would be more cost-effective than having the EPA continue to regulate CO2 from various industrial sectors, chunk by chunk.

In other words, an ambitious climate agenda by the next president could nudge down US emissions quite a bit. An ambitious climate agenda by Congress could go much, much further.

Read more: This **earlier piece** looks at the flip side — ways in which a more conservative president could dismantle Obama's climate agenda, if he or she so chooses.

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Jim Messina" <Jim.Messina@ptt.gov>
To: "Sara Latham" <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov>
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/15/2008 10:37:06 AM
Subject: Re: Tina Flournoy / AFT

Done

From: Sara Latham
To: Jim Messina; 'john.podesta@gmail.com'
Cc: Kristin Sheehy
Sent: Mon Dec 15 17:29:52 2008
Subject: Tina Flournoy / AFT
Jim - the Arne Duncan news is about to hit the wire - John just called from Chicago to see if you could call Tina Flournoy / AFT and let them know.
John spoke to NEA.

202-393-6334 (direct office
(202) 879-4500 office / main

thx,
Sara

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From: "Daniel Poneman" <dponeman@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/20/2015 5:12:50 AM
Subject: Congratulations and a heads-up

John:

Hope this message finds you well. Had hoped to see you at the Aspen US-India Strategic Dialogue recently, though surprised to see you listed on the program in light of how crazy your life must be right now (what else is new?). BTW perhaps you heard but the day before the dialogue Joe and Molly Nye rolled over their car three times and Molly ended up in the hospital; last I heard she was recovering well but thought you should know.

I thought a lot about you when the Paris climate agreement was concluded, as so much of the important ground work, much not visible to the public, was laid by you. In particular I recall flying back from Beijing with you after the major commitments you helped secure from Xi Jinping last November, which created important momentum to gain other national commitments. I know there is a long row to hoe, but getting that level of consensus in support of these goals, with reporting, transparency, etc., is a big deal. Congratulations!

There is one matter that I wanted to put on your radar for situational awareness in light of your other responsibilities if possible. I am heading to Europe tonight through Tuesday, then away with family December 24-29, but otherwise in DC if you want to get together for coffee or lunch. If you are too busy for that these days then of course we can connect by phone. Let me know.

Warmest holiday wishes to you and yours!

Best,

Dan

On Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 9:15 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> I'm best between 1:00 and 2:45 or after 6:00. Kind of jammed up with meetings otherwise. If there is a good time for him, I can probably step out and call him.
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Mar 27, 2015, at 7:40 AM, Daniel Poneman <dponeman@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > John: Hank would like to give you a call re his recent china trip before you take off. What is a good time/number to reach you?
> >
> > Best
> >
> > Dan
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Feb 18, 2015, at 21:57, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Thx I think we have McWilliams headed to China thanks to my call with Hank. Look forward to hearing how it went when you are back.
> > >
> > > On Feb 18, 2015 7:14 PM, "Daniel Poneman" <dponeman@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > John:
> > > >
> > > > Greetings from Jo'burg, where I have been working on possible solar deals all week. On the fly susie and I decided to add a Botswana safari starting tomorrow, so will be offline for 9 days. Unprecedented!

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Just wanted to thank and congratulate you for the tremendous contributions you made to the president and to the Nation in your most recent tour in government. You made a huge difference on so many issues that matter, and as always you managed it with grace and good humor. The dinner you and Mary hosted for the big data team was just one of the typically generous things you did.

And your efforts will continue to bear fruit, as you started a lot of great things in motion. The upcoming Paulson institute seminar in China is only the most recent example.

Hope you get at least some down time. And as I said before if I can help in any way on energy and security issues please let me know.

All best

Dan

Sent from my iPhone